

User's Guide of **ڏ** (*dād*),
a Simple Arabic Typesetting System
for Mixed Latin/Arabic Alphabet Documents

Version 1.0/2014-09-06

Yannis Haralambous*

ڏ is a package for typesetting Arabic in the simplest possible way. It is particularly well suited for mixed Arabic/Latin documents. “Simplest possible” means:

- it is compatible with all L^AT_EX style files, since the code is minimal and all the complexity is in the font;
- input can be done in Unicode or in transliteration, the latter being often the best choice when mixing left-to-right and right-to-left scripts;
- the only T_EXnical requirement is LuaT_EX, not because of the Lua language (which is not used, for the moment), but because of features that have survived from luaT_EX's Ω origins: bidirectionality and use of large fonts (OVF, OFM).

Choose luaT_EX as your T_EX engine, load the package into your document, and اهلاً شاداً!, just start writing in Arabic using command \arab.

More information about **ڏ** (history, evolution, rationale of technical choices, T_EXnicalities) can be found in [1].

ATTENTION! **خطير!** Because of bugs in luaT_EX, in some cases appear mysterious blank spaces on the left of the text, word parts are

*Institut Mines Télécom, Télécom Bretagne, UMR CNRS 6285 Lab-STICC, Technopôle Brest Iroise CS 83818, 29238 Brest Cedex 3, France, yannis.haralambous@telecom-bretagne.eu

duplicated, and sometimes TeX breaks with an error message `This can't happen (sub_disc_widths)`. These errors have been submitted to the luatex team (<http://tracker.luatex.org/view.php?id=912&history=1#history>), which will provide the necessary corrections
إِن شاء اللَّهُ.

1 The name

Thanks to the Internet, search engines, social media, and the like, people are becoming more and more aware of other languages and writing systems. Why not give this package an Arabic name, be it a single letter?

The author has chosen letter `ض`, called *dād*, because Arabic is traditionally called the “language of the *dād*,” since this sound was considered as being unique to Arabic.

The reader is probably wondering how to pronounce this letter, technically called a “pharyngealized voiced alveolar plosive” (dixit Wikipedia). Here is how [3, p. 10] describes its pronunciation:

Pronounce the regular sound ‘d’ and you will find that the tip of your tongue will touch in the region of the upper front teeth/gum. Now pronounce the sound again and at the same time depress the *middle* of the tongue. This has the effect of creating a larger space between the tongue and the roof of the mouth and gives the sound produced a distinctive ‘hollow’ characteristic, which also effects the surrounding vowels. It is difficult to find a parallel in English, but the difference between ‘Sam’ and ‘psalm’ (standard English pronunciation) gives a clue. Tense the tongue muscles in pronouncing ‘psalm’ and you are nearly there. Now pronounce the a-vowel of ‘psalm’ before and after ‘d’, saying ‘ada’, keeping the tongue tense, and that’s as near as we can get to describing it in print.

2 How to use `ض`

The package provides three PostScript Type 1 fonts (plain, bold and type-writer), “real” fonts (regular TFM) and large virtual fonts (OVF and OFM files). There are also rudimentary FD and STY files, a MAP file, Perl scripts

for conversion to (and from) UTF-8, the Perl script which builds the font and finally adjustment files, in case the user wants to change kerning and diacritic placement.

Once the package is installed, to use it just call

```
\usepackage{dad}
```

Notice however that it requires LuaTEX (for change of direction and OVF/OFM compliance).

To typeset in Arabic, one uses the command `\arab` (which is “long”: paragraph changes are allowed in its argument).

Arabic text can be input in transliteration, as described in Table 1 or in Unicode UTF-8 (§ 2.2).

For example, to obtain ﴿الكتاب﴾ one would write in transliteration `\arab{AlkitAb}` or in Unicode `\arab{أ}{ل}{ك}{ت}{اب}`. By writing `\arabtt{AlkitAb}` one obtains the typewriter version ﴿الكتاب﴾ (which is less appealing, but fits quite nicely with the Computer Modern Typewriter font).

2.1 Rationale of the transliteration

Here are the rules of the proposed transliteration:

1. emphatic consonants ($\text{ج} = \text{H}$, $\text{ط} = \text{T}$, $\text{ص} = \text{S}$, $\text{ض} = \text{S}$, $\text{ض} = \text{D}$) as well as long vowels ($\text{ا} = \text{A}$, $\text{و} = \text{U}$, $\text{ي} = \text{Y}$) and *alif maqṣūra* ($\text{ى} = \text{I}$) are *uppercased*;
2. some consonants are modified by adding a character h ($\text{ذ} = \text{dh}$, $\text{ث} = \text{th}$, $\text{ش} = \text{sh}$, $\text{ك} = \text{kh}$, $\text{ز} = \text{zh}$);
3. the stand-alone *hamza* is obtained by a vertical bar $|$ and letter *ayn* by a grave accent (which, in legacy T_EX produces an inverted curly apostrophe, which is sometimes used to transliterate this letter);
4. to avoid confusion between pairs of letters and letters obtained by digraphs, one has to use a dash to separate characters: compare $\text{س}-\text{ه} = \text{s-h}$ and $\text{ش} = \text{sh}$, or $\text{ت}-\text{ه} = \text{t-h}$ and $\text{ث} = \text{th}$;
5. more generally, the dash plays the rôle of *zero-width joiner*¹: when writing $\text{ب} = \text{-b}$, the letter bā' will be in final form; $\text{ب} = \text{b-}$ and $\text{ب} = \text{-b-}$

¹Except for the case of letter $\text{ب} = \text{dh}$ which is biform and hence is not connected with the following letter. By writing $\text{د}-\text{ه} = \text{d-h}$ one obtains letters *dāl* and *hā'*, but the *hā'* is not in medial form, as it would be in any other case when preceded by a dash.

Table 1: Transliteration of ض system

will produce initial and middle letters, provided of course the letter is quadriform (as is letter *bā'* in this example). This is very useful when describing grammar rules, to signify that a letter (or letter group) is an affix;

6. the dash can also be used to reestablish contextual forms when combined with TeX commands, for example, to colorize letters. There is only one special case: when we want to colorize a letter of an isolated ligature *ſ*, instead of a dash, we use digit 4. For the final ligature *ſt* it will be a digit 5. Example: to colorize the *lāms* of *ſtſt*, write

\arab{t-\textcolor{red}{-15}-A5%
\textcolor{red}{14}-A4}

7. finally, there is yet another use of the dash: when doubled, it produces a keshideh stroke: compare لیل = 1Y1 and لیل = 1--Y--1. There

is also a `\kesh` command for extensible keshideh (it is equivalent to a `\hrulefill` using the default rule thickness font dimension `\fontdimen8`):
`1--\kesh--Y--\kesh--1.` will produce:

لـ . يـ .

8. some digraphs start with an apostrophe: it is the case of *hamza*-carriers ا = 'a, ا = 'i, ا = 'u, ا = 'I, ا = 'A but also of undotted letters bā' ب = 'b, nūn ن = 'n, fā' ف = 'f and qāf ق = 'q;
 9. other digraphs end with one or more asterisks: the most frequent one is the tā' *marbuṭa* ة = t* (which can be used also in initial and medial, and then becomes a regular tā'). The asterisk is also used for the *wasla* (which is only placed on the 'alif) ا = A* as well as for the vertical *fatha* (as in ها = ha*dhA) and the *madda*. The latter is normally used only on the 'alif (ا = 'A) but can be found also in the notorious *muqatta'a* 'at in the Koran, as in عَسْقَ (Koran 42:2) or كَهْيَعَصَ (Koran 19:1)—sometimes it is even combined with a šadda (as in الْمَحْصَن, Koran 7:1 and [4, p. 111] for the šadda);
 10. there is a special transcription for the ligature الله = LLh used for the noun of majesty, which is the name of God الله: in this case—and in this case only—an uppercase L is used. The reason is that we wish to avoid ambiguity with other uses of the trigram lām-lām-hā', for example يُخْلِلُهُ (Koran 6:39) where we encounter letters ل but not with the meaning "God." Contrarily to other systems, the الله ligature is available also in final form (for فَلَهُ which occurs six times in the Koran, for example Koran 6:149), and it is possible to add diacritics to its first glyph (as in وَاللهُ, Koran 2:115 or إِلَهُكَ, Koran 2:165).

2.2 Unicode input

Input can be transliterated or provided directly in Unicode Arabic: \arab-{YAnis} or \arab{يَانِسٌ} or even \arab{بِيَانِس} or \arab{نِيَانِس} will produce the same result: يانس.

All cells of Table 1 can be obtained by the corresponding Unicode characters (mostly via a single character, except for *sadda* + vowel combinations which require two characters). There is a special case, though: the **ڻ** ligature (see next section).

For the convenience of the user who wants to write keshideh (so that Arabic input is not disrupted) we have defined a command (in Arabic characters) ط (tatwyl) are the first two letters of تطويل = *tatwyl*, the Arabic name of

رباعيات الخيام

سمعت صوتا هاتقا في السحر نادى من الغيب رفات البشر
هبا ملأوا كأس المني قبل أن تملأ كأس العمر كف القدر
لا تشغل البال بماضي الزمان ولا بآت العيش قبل الأوان
وأغمض من الحاضر لذاته فليس في طبع الليالي الأمان
غد بظهر الغيب واليوم لسي وكم يخيب الظن في المقابل
ولست بالغافل حتى أرى جمال دنياي ولا اجتنبي
القلب قد أضناه عشق الجمال والصدر قد ضاق بما لا يقال
يا رب هل يرضيك هذا الظلماء والماء ينساب أمامامي زلال
أولى بهذا القلب أن يخفقا و في غرام الحب أن يحترقا
ما أضيع اليوم الذي مر بي من غير أن أهوى وأن أعشقا
أفق خفيف الظل هذا السحر نادى دع النسوم وناغ الوتر
فما أطوال النسوم عمرا ولا قصر من الأعمار طول الشهر
فكם تولى الليل بعد النهار وطال بالأنجام هذا المدار
فأمش الهوينة أن هذا الشرى من أعين ساحرة الاحوار
لا توحش النفس بخوف الظنوون وأغمض من الحاضر أمن اليقين
فقد تساوى في الشرى راحيل غدا وماض من الوف السنين
اطفى لظى القلب بشهد الرضاب فإنما الأيام مثل السحاب
وعيشنا طيف خيال فنل حظك منه قبل فوت الشباب
لبست ثوب العيش لم استشر وحررت فيه بين شتى الفكر
وسوف أنضسو الثوب عنى ولم أدرك لماذا جئت أين المغر
يا من يحار الفهم في قدرتك وتطلب النفس حمى طاعتك
اسكرني الإثم و لكنني صحوت بالأعمال في رحمتك
إن لم أكن أخلصت في طاعتك فإنتي أطمئن في رحمتك
 وإنما يشفع لي بائنني قد عشت لا أشرك في وحدتك
نخفي عن الناس سنى طاعتك فإنتي أطمئن في رحمتك
فأنت مجلاده وأنت الذي ترى بديع الصنع في آيتك
ان تفضل القطرة من بحرها ففي مدادها متنهى أمرها
تقاربت يا رب ما بيننا مسافة بعد على قدرها
يا عالم الأسرار علم اليقين يا كاشف الضر عن البايسين
يا قابل الأعذار عدننا إلى ظلك فأقبل توبة التائبين

Figure 1: The lyrics of the song (رباعيات الخيام) (Oum Kalthoum, 1950) [2]

```

\documentclass{article}
\usepackage{dad}
\begin{document}
\arab{
\begin{center}
\textbf{rba'YAt AlxYAm}

\medskip

\begin{minipage}{10cm}
sm't SUtA hAtfA fY AlSH--\kesh--r n--\kesh--AdI mn ALRYb rfAt Albsh--\kesh--r \\
hbUA Aml'a k'as AlmnI qb--\kesh--l 'an tml'a k--\kesh--'as Al'm--\kesh--r kf \\
Alq--\kesh--dr\\
1A tshRl AlbAl bmADY Alzm--\kesh--An U1A b--\kesh--'At Al'Y--\kesh--sh qb--\kesh--l \\
Al'aUAn\\
U'aR--\kesh--nm mn AlHAD--\kesh--r ldhAt--\kesh--h f1Ys f--\kesh--Y Tb--\kesh--' \\
AlYAl--\kesh--Y Al'am--\kesh--An\\
Rd bZhr ALRYb UA1YUm l--\kesh--Y Ukm YxYb AlZ--\kesh--n f--\kesh--Y Almqb--\kesh--l\\
Uls--\kesh--t bAlRAf--\kesh--l Ht--\kesh--I 'arI jm--\kesh--Al dnY--\kesh--AY U \\
1A Ajtl--\kesh--I\\
Alqlb qd 'aDnAh 'shq Aljm--\kesh--Al UA1s--\kesh--dr q--\kesh--d D--\kesh--Aq bm--\kesh--A \\
1A Yq--\kesh--Al\\
YA rb hl YrDYk hdhA AlZlm--\kesh--A UAlm--\kesh--A| Yns--\kesh--Ab 'am--\kesh--Am--\kesh--Y \\
z1al\\
'aUII bhdhA Alqlb 'an Yxfq--\kesh--A U fY RrAm AlH--\kesh--b 'an YHtrq--\kesh--A\\
mA 'aDY' AlYUm AldhY m--\kesh--r b--\kesh--Y mn RYr 'an 'ahUI U 'an 'a'shq--\kesh--A\\
'afq xfYf AlZl hdhA AlsH--\kesh--r n--\kesh--AdI d' Aln--\kesh--Um Un--\kesh--AR \\
AlUt--\kesh--r\\
fm--\kesh--A 'aT--\kesh--Al Aln--\kesh--Um 'm--\kesh--rA U1A qSr mn Al'a'mAr TUL \\
Als-h--\kesh--r\\
fk--\kesh--m tUl--\kesh--I AlY--\kesh--l b'--\kesh--d Alnh--\kesh--Ar UT--\kesh--Al \\
bAl'anj--\kesh--m h--\kesh--dhA Alm--\kesh--dAr\\
f'amsh AlHUYnt* 'an hdhA Alc--\kesh--rI m--\kesh--n 'a'Y--\kesh--n sAH--\kesh--rt* \\
AlAH--\kesh--UrAr\\
1A tUHsh Alnfs bxUf AlZn--\kesh--Un U'aRnm mn AlHADr 'amn AlYqY--\kesh--n\\
fqd tsAUI fY AlcrI rAH--\kesh--l RdA UmAD mn AlUf AlsnY--\kesh--n\\
ATf'I 1ZI Alqlb bshhd AlrD--\kesh--Ab f'inm--\kesh--A Al'aY--\kesh--Am mc--\kesh--l \\
AlsH--\kesh--Ab\\
U'yshn--\kesh--A TY--\kesh--f xY--\kesh--Al fn--\kesh--l HZ--\kesh--k mn--\kesh--h \\
qb--\kesh--l f--\kesh--Ut Alshb--\kesh--Ab\\
lbst cUb Al'Ysh lm Astsh--\kesh--r UH--\kesh--rt fY--\kesh--h bY--\kesh--n sht--\kesh--I \\
Alfk--\kesh--r\\
UsUf 'anDU AlcUb 'nY Ul--\kesh--m 'adrk lm--\kesh--AdhA j'I--\kesh--t 'aY--\kesh--n \\
AlmR--\kesh--r\\
YA mn YHAr Alfhm fY qdrt--\kesh--k UtTl--\kesh--b Alnf--\kesh--s Hm--\kesh--I TA't--\kesh--k\\
Askrn--\kesh--Y Al'ic--\kesh--m U lknn--\kesh--Y SH--\kesh--Ut bAl'am--\kesh--Al \\
f--\kesh--Y rHmt--\kesh--k\\
'in lm 'akn 'ax1St fY TA't--\kesh--k f'inm--\kesh--Y 'aTm--\kesh--' f--\kesh--Y \\
rHmt--\kesh--k\\
U'inm--\kesh--A Yshf--\kesh--' l--\kesh--Y b'ann--\kesh--Y q--\kesh--d 'sh--\kesh--t \\
1A 'ash--\kesh--rk fY UHdt--\kesh--k\\
nxFY 'n AlnAs snI Tl't--\kesh--k f'inm--\kesh--Y 'aTm--\kesh--' f--\kesh--Y rHmt--\kesh--k\\
f'an--\kesh--t mj--\kesh--lh U'an--\kesh--t Al--\kesh--dhY t--\kesh--rI bdY--\kesh--' \\
AlSn--\kesh--' f--\kesh--Y 'AYt--\kesh--k\\
An tfDl AlqTrt* mn bHrh--\kesh--A ff--\kesh--Y m--\kesh--dAh--\kesh--A mnt-h--\kesh--I \\
'amrh--\kesh--A\\
tqArb--\kesh--t Y--\kesh--A rb m--\kesh--A bYnn--\kesh--A msAf--\kesh--t* Alb'--\kesh--d \\
'1--\kesh--I qdrh--\kesh--A\\
YA 'Alm Al'asrAr 'lm AlYq--\kesh--Y--\kesh--n Y--\kesh--A kAsh--\kesh--f AlD--\kesh--r \\
'--\kesh--n Alba'IsY--\kesh--n\\
Y--\kesh--A qAb--\kesh--l Al'a'--\kesh--dhAr 'dn--\kesh--A 'il--\kesh--I Zl--\kesh--k \\
f'aqb--\kesh--l tUb--\kesh--t* AltA'IbY--\kesh--n
\end{minipage}
\end{center}
}
\end{document}

```

Figure 2: TeX code of Fig. 1, transliterated input

Figure 3: T_EX code of Fig. 1, Unicode input

keshideh) which is exactly equivalent to \kesh and has to be placed between Unicode U+0640 ARABIC TATWELL characters.

2.2.1 The ﷺ ligature and Unicode

The ﷺ ligature is traditionally used for writing the name of God: ﷺ. It can be found in religious texts, but also in expressions (for example, إن شاء الله ﷺ which means “hopefully” appears even in French language as *inchallah* and in Portuguese as *oxalá*) and in the very common surname عبد الله ﷺ Ab-dallah.

The problem with this ligature is that it contains a rather rare diacritic (a *šadda* combined with a vertical *fathā*—the latter us available on Apple Arabic keyboard layout but not on the Microsoft one) and, as a convenience, most standard fonts will replace the character string *lām-lām-hā'* (which would normally look like ﷺ) by the complete ligature ﷺ (in other words: the font not only changes the glyphs but, at the same time, also adds the diacritics). This behavior is barely legitimate: a ligature (as in ‘fi’ or ‘ڙ’) is normally limited to a change of glyphs, and should not add new characters (in this case, characters U+0651 ARABIC SHADDA and U+0671 ARABIC LETTER SUPERSCRIPT ALEF) since this means that what is rendered does not correspond anymore to the underlying Unicode character string.

Nevertheless, for the user’s convenience, we have adopted that behavior also in ﷺ, but only in the case of Unicode input. Therefore when the user types Unicode *lām-lām-hā'* (the first *lām* must not be preceded by a quadriform letter), the system will produce the ﷺ ligature.

This method will not work if a diacritic is inserted between the two *lāms*, or if the first *lām* follows a quadriform letter and hence will be medial. For that case, we have defined a macro ﻒـ/ـلـلـ (the macro name is in Arabic script so that right-to-left direction is not disrupted) which takes an argument: the vowel between the two *lāms*. Hence, to obtain ﷺ the user can choose between one of the following two:

و{و}هـ/ـلـلـ

faLiLhi

(The dotted circle, used to show the combining nature of short vowels and other diacritics, can be obtained by the macros \arabdottedcircle or داڻرہ / with the macro name in Arabic script.)

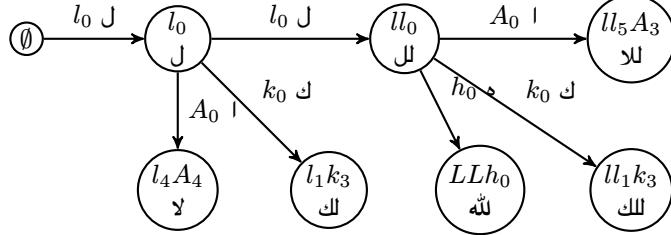


Figure 4: Finite state automaton starting with an isolated *lām* (‘alif ! stands for the set of letter $\mathcal{A} = \{ \text{ا}, \text{أ}, \text{إ}, \text{ي}, \text{ه} \}$; ك stands for any Arabic letter besides ئ and set \mathcal{A} .

3 T_EXnicalities

More information about خ (history, evolution, rationale of technical choices, T_EXnicalities) can be found in [1].

References

- [1] Yannis Haralambous. خ (*dād*), a simple arabic typesetting system for mixed latin/arabic alphabet documents. Submitted to *TUGboat*, 2014.
- [2] ام كلثوم كلمات اغاني كوكب الشرق السيده ام كلثوم موسوعه كامله ساحرالبسملة <http://alsabbah.yoo7.com/t417-topic>, 2008.
- [3] John R. Smart. *Arabic*. Teach yourself books, 1986.
- [4] Barakat Ahmad Syed. *Introduction to Quranic script*. Curzon Press, 1984.