

A Little Dotty? * is an Artifact

The Urth list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 22 Dec 1999

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/2053>

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Talarican — 22 Dec 1999, 21:29

Dan,

" Hmmm, I always assumed the plate read: M . Million

Sometimes a dot is used to indicate multiplication. "Monsieur" is often abbreviated to "M." "

You're right, of course. I would actually have preferred to more correctly use a "bullet" dot floating at mid-line height for this, but of course the email character set wouldn't support it, so far as I know.

But that's how _I_ envisioned what Number Five sees. His hungover revelation comes when he realizes that the dot is not a period but a dot at half-height in the line of text.

I tried to approximate it with an asterisk, which of course is also used as a multiplication sign, esp. in most programming languages.

BTW I apologize to all for my mishap last couple of posts; I didn't realize my new email software defaulted to HTML.

mark millman — 23 Dec 1999, 09:47 · follows Talarican

At 9:29 pm Wednesday 22 December 1999, "Talarican"

<chemmie at mindspring.com> wrote:

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I just got back from a business trip to England, where I saw people use a dot, not at half-height in the line, but at the bottom of the line (just like a punctuation period), to indicate multiplication. Whether this is also customary in France, or among Francophone mathematicians, I can't say, but it seems possible.

Mark Millman