

# APPENDIX A. GEOLOGIC MAP SYMBOLS, COLORS, AND PATTERNS

This [normative] appendix contains the geologic map symbols and their descriptions, their cartographic specifications, and notes on their usage. Also included are the CMYK Color Chart and the Pattern Chart (enclosed in sleeve on inside back cover), which contain colors and patterns for use on geologic maps.

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## PREFACE TO APPENDIX A

In this preface to Appendix A, we include some general guidelines for using the "FGDC Digital Cartographic Standard for Geologic Map Symbolization," as well as some basic information on the newly implemented standard for the scientific confidence and the locational accuracy of geologic features. For more specific information, please refer to the following sections in the accompanying introductory text: "Geologic Mapping Concepts and Definitions" (Section 3); "Scientific Confidence and Locational Accuracy of Geologic Features" (Section 4); "Guidelines for Map Color and Pattern Selection" (Section 5); "Guidelines for Map Labeling" (Section 6); and "Technical Specifications Used in the Preparation of this Standard" (Section 7).

### ABOUT THIS VERSION OF THE STANDARD

This now formally approved version of the standard incorporates revisions that reflect reviewers' responses to the "Public Review Draft — Digital Cartographic Standard for Geologic Map Symbolization" (Federal Geographic Data Committee, 2000). We thank all the reviewers for their contributions, and we are pleased that most of the comments and suggestions could be accommodated (see [http://ngmdb.usgs.gov/fgdc\\_gds/geolsymstd/development.php](http://ngmdb.usgs.gov/fgdc_gds/geolsymstd/development.php)). Note, however, that we were able to fully address suggestions for the inclusion of new symbols only if examples of the proposed symbol additions were provided.

We intend this standard to be a "living standard" — that is, we recognize that an existing symbol's usage may need to be modified, or a new symbol or set of symbols created, to more fully express local geologic conditions or to keep pace with evolving geologic mapping concepts and practices. Accordingly, such new or modified symbols, if found to be of wide applicability, will be incorporated into this standard through planned, periodic revisions. You are invited to submit comments and suggestions for updates or other improvements to this standard by email to [mapsymbol@flagmail.wr.usgs.gov](mailto:mapsymbol@flagmail.wr.usgs.gov).

In response to reviewers' comments, we tested various cartographic specifications for dashed and ornamented line symbols in several different software packages (Adobe Illustrator v.8.0.1, ArcInfo v.7x, and ArcGIS v.8x) to ensure that symbols would render correctly and consistently. As a result, we found it necessary to modify the cartographic specifications (dash/gap lengths and ornament spacings) of many line symbols in this standard from the specifications found in previous versions of the standard.

### HOW TO USE THIS STANDARD

The contents of this standard are not intended to be used inflexibly or in a manner that will limit one's ability to communicate the observations and interpretations gained from geologic mapping. On the contrary, we recognize that, in certain situations, a symbol or its usage might need to be modified in order to better represent a particular feature on a geologic map or cross section.

To that end, we emphasize that this standard allows the use of any symbol that doesn't conflict with others in the standard, provided that it is clearly explained on the map and in the database. In addition, modifying the size, color, and (or) linewidth of an existing symbol to suit the needs of a particular map or output device also is permitted, provided that the modified symbol's appearance is not too similar to another symbol on the map. Be aware, however, that reducing linewidths below .125 mm (.005 inch) may cause symbols to plot incorrectly if output at higher resolutions (1800 dpi or higher). For more information, please refer to Section 7 ("Technical Specifications Used in the Preparation of this Standard") in the accompanying introductory text.

To facilitate the use of this standard, we include in this preface tables showing conversion values from inches to points to millimeters (Table 1), abbreviations used (Table 2), and spot color specifications and their equivalent colors in other color models (Table 3). We also offer the following illustrations of a few key terms and concepts used when preparing this standard:

LINE SYMBOLS	POINT SYMBOLS	TYPE EXAMPLES	
<p><b>Right-Hand Rule:</b></p>	<p><b>Point of Observation (at center of cyan circle):</b></p>	<p><b>Sans-Serif Font:</b></p> <p>Ꞥv Qls                  HAYWARD FAULT</p>	<p><b>Serif Font:</b></p> <p>Triassic volcanic rocks  <i>Columbia River</i></p>

## THE NEWLY IMPLEMENTED STANDARD FOR THE SCIENTIFIC CONFIDENCE AND LOCALATIONAL ACCURACY OF GEOLOGIC MAP FEATURES

In response to reviewers' comments, we have implemented a new standard (concepts and terminology) for the scientific confidence and the locational accuracy of geologic map features (note that, at this time, we have applied these new concepts only to line features). Scientific confidence expresses a geologist's level of certainty about the identity or perhaps even the existence of a feature. Locational accuracy is based on the relation between a feature's location in the field and its position on the base map. For a more detailed discussion of these concepts and their associated terminology, please refer to Section 4 ("Scientific Confidence and Locational Accuracy of Geologic Features") in the accompanying introductory text.

### FEATURE ATTRIBUTES FOR SCIENTIFIC CONFIDENCE AND LOCALATIONAL ACCURACY

The following is a list of the feature attributes (in italics) that are used to express these concepts:

Scientific Confidence:

Identity — '*certain*' or '*questionable*'

Existence — '*certain*' or '*questionable*'

Locational Accuracy:

Locatability — '*observable*,' '*inferred*' (between outcrops or beneath rubble or vegetation), or '*concealed*' (beneath overlying map unit, ice, or water)

Zone of Confidence — [*value, in ground units*]; [*unit of measurement*]

Positioning Confidence — '*within zone of confidence*' or '*may not be within zone of confidence*'

### LEVELS OF SCIENTIFIC CONFIDENCE AND LOCATIONAL ACCURACY





Discrete levels of scientific confidence and locational accuracy have been developed to use as a terminology that can clearly yet concisely communicate the identity, existence, locatability, and positioning of geologic map features. These levels are directly derived from, or are closely associated with, the feature attributes (for more information, see Figures 1 and 2 in the accompanying introductory text). The following diagram shows how the various levels of scientific confidence and locational accuracy relate to the feature attributes; it also shows examples (in italics) of geologic situations to which the levels may be applied.

SCIENTIFIC CONFIDENCE		
Feature Attributes for Scientific Confidence		Levels of Scientific Confidence
Identity: • certain • questionable	Existence: • certain • questionable	Identity and existence certain ( <i>"I am certain that the planar feature I see in this outcrop is a fault"</i> ) Identity or existence questionable ( <i>"I can see some kind of planar feature in this outcrop, but I cannot be certain if it is a contact or a fault"</i> )
LOCATIONAL ACCURACY		
Feature Attributes for Locational Accuracy		Levels of Locational Accuracy
Locatability: • observable • inferred • concealed	Zone of Confidence: • [value, in ground units] • [unit of measurement]  Positioning Confidence: • within zone of confidence • may not be within zone of confidence	Location accurate ( <i>"I can clearly see this contact in outcrop, and I can accurately plot its position on the map"</i> ) Location approximate ( <i>"I can see this contact in outcrop, but I can't tell exactly where it is located because I am surrounded by trees"</i> ) Location inferred ( <i>"I can see by the change in debris materials visible around these gopher holes that a contact runs through here, but I can't locate it precisely"</i> ) Location concealed ( <i>"I can see that a contact is present on both sides of this lake, but I can't tell where it is located beneath the water"</i> )

The levels of scientific confidence and locational accuracy have been used to identify and describe the line symbols in this standard. The following example is extracted from Appendix A (see p. A-1-1).

DESCRIPTION	SYMBOL	DESCRIPTION	SYMBOL
Contact—Identity and existence certain, location accurate	—————	Contact—Identity and existence certain, location inferred	-----
Contact—Identity or existence questionable, location accurate	-----?	Contact—Identity or existence questionable, location inferred	-----?
Contact—Identity and existence certain, location approximate	-----	Contact—Identity and existence certain, location concealed	.....
Contact—Identity or existence questionable, location approximate	-----?	Contact—Identity or existence questionable, location concealed	.....?

In the symbol explanation on a published map, the levels of scientific confidence and locational accuracy also are used to identify and describe the various types and styles of line symbols that appear on the map; however, not every style of a particular line symbol needs to be listed individually in the explanation, as the following two examples show.

<p>————— <b>Contact</b>—Solid where location is accurate; long-dashed where location is approximate; short-dashed where location is inferred; dotted where location is concealed. Queries added where identity or existence may be questionable</p> <p>————— <b>Fault</b>—Solid where location is accurate; long-dashed where location is approximate; short-dashed where location is inferred; dotted where location is concealed. Queries added where identity or existence may be questionable</p> <p>▼▼▼ <b>Thrust fault</b>—Solid where location is accurate; long-dashed where location is approximate; short-dashed where location is inferred; dotted where location is concealed. Queries added where identity or existence may be questionable. Sawteeth on upper plate</p> <p><b>Folds</b>—Solid where location is accurate; long-dashed where location is approximate; dotted where location is concealed. Queries added where identity or existence may be questionable. Showing direction of plunge where appropriate</p> <p> <b>Anticline</b></p> <p> <b>Syncline</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SYMBOL EXPLANATION</b></p> <p>[For all line symbols: lines are solid where location is accurate; long-dashed where location is approximate; short-dashed where location is inferred; dotted where location is concealed. Queries added where identity or existence may be questionable]</p> <p>————— <b>Contact</b></p> <p>————— <b>Fault</b></p> <p>▼▼▼ <b>Thrust fault</b>—Sawteeth on upper plate</p> <p><b>Folds</b>—Showing direction of plunge where appropriate</p> <p> <b>Anticline</b></p> <p> <b>Syncline</b></p>
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**Table 1.** Chart showing conversion values from inches (in) to points (pts) to millimeters (mm).

in	pts	mm	in	pts	mm	in	pts	mm	in	pts	mm
0.001	0.072	0.025	0.051	3.672	1.295	0.101	7.272	2.565	0.151	10.872	3.835
0.002	0.144	0.051	0.052	3.744	1.321	0.102	7.344	2.591	0.152	10.944	3.861
0.003	0.216	0.076	0.053	3.816	1.346	0.103	7.416	2.616	0.153	11.016	3.886
0.004	0.288	0.102	0.054	3.888	1.372	0.104	7.488	2.642	0.154	11.088	3.912
0.005	0.360	0.127	0.055	3.960	1.397	0.105	7.560	2.667	0.155	11.160	3.937
0.006	0.432	0.152	0.056	4.032	1.422	0.106	7.632	2.692	0.156	11.232	3.962
0.007	0.504	0.178	0.057	4.104	1.448	0.107	7.704	2.718	0.157	11.304	3.988
0.008	0.576	0.203	0.058	4.176	1.473	0.108	7.776	2.743	0.158	11.376	4.013
0.009	0.648	0.229	0.059	4.248	1.499	0.109	7.848	2.769	0.159	11.448	4.039
0.010	0.720	0.254	0.060	4.320	1.524	0.110	7.920	2.794	0.160	11.520	4.064
0.011	0.792	0.279	0.061	4.392	1.549	0.111	7.992	2.819	0.161	11.592	4.089
0.012	0.864	0.305	0.062	4.464	1.575	0.112	8.064	2.845	0.162	11.664	4.115
0.013	0.936	0.330	0.063	4.536	1.600	0.113	8.136	2.870	0.163	11.736	4.140
0.014	1.008	0.356	0.064	4.608	1.626	0.114	8.208	2.896	0.164	11.808	4.166
0.015	1.080	0.381	0.065	4.680	1.651	0.115	8.280	2.921	0.165	11.880	4.191
0.016	1.152	0.406	0.066	4.752	1.676	0.116	8.352	2.946	0.166	11.952	4.216
0.017	1.224	0.432	0.067	4.824	1.702	0.117	8.424	2.972	0.167	12.024	4.242
0.018	1.296	0.457	0.068	4.896	1.727	0.118	8.496	2.997	0.168	12.096	4.267
0.019	1.368	0.483	0.069	4.968	1.753	0.119	8.568	3.023	0.169	12.168	4.293
0.020	1.440	0.508	0.070	5.040	1.778	0.120	8.640	3.048	0.170	12.240	4.318
0.021	1.512	0.533	0.071	5.112	1.803	0.121	8.712	3.073	0.171	12.312	4.343
0.022	1.584	0.559	0.072	5.184	1.829	0.122	8.784	3.099	0.172	12.384	4.369
0.023	1.656	0.584	0.073	5.256	1.854	0.123	8.856	3.124	0.173	12.456	4.394
0.024	1.728	0.610	0.074	5.328	1.880	0.124	8.928	3.150	0.174	12.528	4.420
0.025	1.800	0.635	0.075	5.400	1.905	0.125	9.000	3.175	0.175	12.600	4.445
0.026	1.872	0.660	0.076	5.472	1.930	0.126	9.072	3.200	0.176	12.672	4.470
0.027	1.944	0.686	0.077	5.544	1.956	0.127	9.144	3.226	0.177	12.744	4.496
0.028	2.016	0.711	0.078	5.616	1.981	0.128	9.216	3.251	0.178	12.816	4.521
0.029	2.088	0.737	0.079	5.688	2.007	0.129	9.288	3.277	0.179	12.888	4.547
0.030	2.160	0.762	0.080	5.760	2.032	0.130	9.360	3.302	0.180	12.960	4.572
0.031	2.232	0.787	0.081	5.832	2.057	0.131	9.432	3.327	0.181	13.032	4.597
0.032	2.304	0.813	0.082	5.904	2.083	0.132	9.504	3.353	0.182	13.104	4.623
0.033	2.376	0.838	0.083	5.976	2.108	0.133	9.576	3.378	0.183	13.176	4.648
0.034	2.448	0.864	0.084	6.048	2.134	0.134	9.648	3.404	0.184	13.248	4.674
0.035	2.520	0.889	0.085	6.120	2.159	0.135	9.720	3.429	0.185	13.320	4.699
0.036	2.592	0.914	0.086	6.192	2.184	0.136	9.792	3.454	0.186	13.392	4.724
0.037	2.664	0.940	0.087	6.264	2.210	0.137	9.864	3.480	0.187	13.464	4.750
0.038	2.736	0.965	0.088	6.336	2.235	0.138	9.936	3.505	0.188	13.536	4.775
0.039	2.808	0.991	0.089	6.408	2.261	0.139	10.008	3.531	0.189	13.608	4.801
0.040	2.880	1.016	0.090	6.480	2.286	0.140	10.080	3.556	0.190	13.680	4.826
0.041	2.952	1.041	0.091	6.552	2.311	0.141	10.152	3.581	0.191	13.752	4.851
0.042	3.024	1.067	0.092	6.624	2.337	0.142	10.224	3.607	0.192	13.824	4.877
0.043	3.096	1.092	0.093	6.696	2.362	0.143	10.296	3.632	0.193	13.896	4.902
0.044	3.168	1.118	0.094	6.768	2.388	0.144	10.368	3.658	0.194	13.968	4.928
0.045	3.240	1.143	0.095	6.840	2.413	0.145	10.440	3.683	0.195	14.040	4.953
0.046	3.312	1.168	0.096	6.912	2.438	0.146	10.512	3.708	0.196	14.112	4.978
0.047	3.384	1.194	0.097	6.984	2.464	0.147	10.584	3.734	0.197	14.184	5.004
0.048	3.456	1.219	0.098	7.056	2.489	0.148	10.656	3.759	0.198	14.256	5.029
0.049	3.528	1.245	0.099	7.128	2.515	0.149	10.728	3.785	0.199	14.328	5.055
0.050	3.600	1.270	0.100	7.200	2.540	0.150	10.800	3.810	0.200	14.400	5.080

**Table 2. Abbreviations used in this standard.**

Abbreviation	Meaning	Example of usage
B	brown [ink]	422-B (pattern)
C	cyan [ink]	132-C (pattern)
CMYK	cyan/magenta/yellow/black	CMYK color model
DO	dropout [pattern]	204-DO (pattern)
FG-8	FGDCGeoAge [font], 8 pt type	ƒg (unit label containing geologic age character)
H-8 <sup>1</sup>	Helvetica [font], 8 pt type	GOLDEN FAULT (name of fault)
HB-8 <sup>1</sup>	Helvetica Bold [font], 8 pt type	? (query indicating "identity or existence questionable" fault)
HI-6 <sup>1</sup>	Helvetica Italic [font], 6 pt type	40 (dip value)
HSV	hue/saturation/value	HSV color model
K	black [ink]	134-K (pattern)
M	magenta [ink]	313-M (pattern)
R	red [ink]	405-R (pattern)
RGB	red/green/blue	RGB color model
T-9 <sup>2</sup>	Times [font], 9 pt type	UNITED STATES (label on national boundary)
TBI-12 <sup>2</sup>	Times Bold Italic [font], 12 pt type	A—A' (cross section labels)
TI-8 <sup>2</sup>	Times Italic [font], 8 pt type	Bass Lake (name of lake)
Y	yellow [ink]	CMYK color model

<sup>1</sup> Although Helvetica has been specified, any sans-serif font (such as Univers or Arial) may be used. Note, however, that if other fonts are used, their appearance will not match that of FGDCGeoAge, whose character size and spacing is based on Helvetica.

<sup>2</sup> Although Times has been specified, any serif font (such as Times New Roman or Souvenir) may be used.

**Table 3. Spot color specifications used in this standard, and their equivalent colors in other color models.**

[Abbreviations: C, cyan; M, magenta; Y, yellow; K, black (standard process-color inks combined during offset printing). CMYK, cyan/magenta/yellow/black color model. R, red; G, green; B, blue (primary colors transmitted by computer monitors and televisions). RGB, red/green/blue color model.]

Spot color <sup>1</sup>	Pantone color <sup>2</sup>	Directly converted CMYK color <sup>3</sup>	Color on CMYK Color Chart <sup>4</sup>	Directly converted RGB color <sup>5</sup>	"Web-safe" RGB color <sup>6</sup>
red	485 U	0/100/91/0	0/100/100	254/0/12	255/0/0
50% red	485 U (screened 50%)	0/50/45.5/0	0/50/40	251/128/104	255/102/102
green	354 U	91/0/83/0	100/0/100	24/150/76	51/153/102
50% green	354 U (screened 50%)	45.5/0/41.5/0	40/0/40	139/207/144	153/204/153
violet	253 U	47/91/0/0	50/100/0	136/22/135	153/0/153
purple	2735 U	100/94/0/0	100/100/0	18/12/128	0/0/153
brown	470 U	0/56/94/34	30/70/100	168/74/9	153/51/0
orange	1585 U	0/56/87/0	0/60/100	254/112/24	255/102/0

<sup>1</sup> Generic name of spot color, as specified in this standard (note that cyan, magenta, yellow, and black are process-color inks, not spot colors, and so they have not been included in this table).

<sup>2</sup> Suggested Pantone color for offset printing on uncoated paper.

<sup>3</sup> Color value after direct conversion of suggested Pantone color to CMYK (C/M/Y/K) by Adobe Illustrator 8.0.1.

<sup>4</sup> Closest color on CMYK Color Chart (in pocket) to directly converted CMYK color value.

<sup>5</sup> Color value after direct conversion of suggested Pantone color to RGB (R/G/B) by Adobe Illustrator 8.0.1.

<sup>6</sup> Closest "web-safe" color (see discussion in Section 7.3, entitled "Color Specifications for Line and Point Symbols," in the introductory text) to directly converted RGB color value.