

**Information technology — Automatic identification and data  
capture techniques — Data Matrix Rectangular Extension (DMRE)  
bar code symbology specification**

*Technologies de l'information — Techniques de l'identification et de saisie de données automatiques — Data  
Matrix Rectangulaire Etendu (DMRE) — spécification de symbologie de code à barres*

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**Foreword**

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## Foreword.

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The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of document should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see [www.iso.org/directives](http://www.iso.org/directives) or [www.iec.ch/members\\_experts/refdocs](http://www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs)).

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This document was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 31, *Automatic identification and data capture techniques*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO/IEC 21471:2020), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows: information duplicated from ISO/IEC 16022 has been removed

~~Document depends on ISO/IEC 16022 and only shows the difference. The prior version was a stand-alone document. This version is dependent upon ISO/IEC 16022 and does not include duplicate information.~~

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at [www.iso.org/members.html](http://www.iso.org/members.html) and [www.iec.ch/national-committees](http://www.iec.ch/national-committees).

## Introduction

Data Matrix Rectangular Extension (DMRE) is a two-dimensional matrix symbology which is made up of nominally square modules arranged within a perimeter finder pattern. Though primarily shown and described in this document as a dark symbol on light background, Data Matrix Rectangular Extension symbols can also be printed to appear as light on dark.

This document is an extension of ISO/IEC 16022, to which it adds rectangular formats. Maximum compatibility is a design goal. This document only describes the required extension. Common properties are not repeated. It is a long time goal to join those documents, when DMRE is widely adopted.

This document is published separately because existing equipment supporting ISO/IEC 16022 will not recognize DMRE symbols. Only equipment that is enabled and configured to support DMRE will be capable of printing and scanning the new rectangular formats.

Manufacturers of bar code equipment and users of the technology require publicly available standard symbology specifications to which they can refer when developing equipment and application standards. The publication of standardized symbology specifications is designed to achieve this.

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# Information technology — Automatic identification and data capture techniques — Data Matrix Rectangular Extension (DMRE) bar code symbology specification

## 1 Scope

This document defines the requirements for the symbology known as ~~extended rectangular data matrix~~ Data Matrix Rectangular Extension (DMRE). This document specifies the DMRE code symbology characteristics, data character encodation, symbol formats, dimensions and print quality requirements, error correction rules, decoding algorithm, and user-selectable application parameters.

This document applies to all DMRE code symbols produced by any printing or marking technology.

Original Data Matrix code sizes are not covered by this document but defined in ISO/IEC 16022 using the same matrix placement, decoding and error correction algorithm.

## 2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO/IEC 15415, Automatic identification and data capture techniques — Bar code symbol print quality test specification — Two-dimensional symbols

ISO/IEC 16022, *Information technology — Automatic identification and data capture techniques — Data Matrix bar code symbology specification*

ISO/IEC 15415, Information technology — Automatic identification and data capture techniques — Bar code symbol print quality test specification — Two-dimensional symbols

ISO/IEC 19762, *Information technology — Automatic identification and data capture (AIDC) techniques — Harmonized vocabulary*

ISO/IEC 29158, *Information technology — Automatic identification and data capture techniques — Direct Part Mark (DPM) Quality Guideline*

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO/IEC 19762 apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>

## 4 Symbols

|     |  |
|-----|--|
| $e$ | number of erasures                         |
| $k$ | total number of error correction codewords |

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| $n$           | total number of data codewords                   |
| $N$           | the numerical base in an encodation scheme       |
| $p$           | number of codewords reserved for error detection |
| $S$           | symbol character                                 |
| $t$           | number of errors                                 |
| $X$           | horizontal and vertical width of a module        |
| $\varepsilon$ | error correction codeword                        |

## 5 Symbol description

### 5.1 Basic characteristics

DMRE is a two-dimensional matrix symbology. It is an extension of the ISO/IEC 16022 Data Matrix symbology.

The characteristics of DMRE are:

- a) ~~a) An~~ encodable character set ~~of~~:
  - 1) ~~1) —~~ values 0 to 127 ~~in accordance with~~ according to the ISO/IEC 646 (International Reference Version) IRV, ~~[2]~~ i.e. all 128 ASCII characters;
  - 2) ~~2) —~~ values 128 to 255 in ~~accordance with~~ according to ISO/IEC 8859-1 (these are referred to as extended ASCII);
  - 3) ~~3) —~~ additional characters can be encoded using the ECI capabilities.
- b) ~~b) Representation of data:~~ Data is represented as a dark module ~~is a for the~~ binary one and a light module ~~is a for~~ zero.

This document specifies DMRE symbols in terms of dark modules marked on a light background. However, 5.2 ~~5.2 provides indicates~~ that symbols may also be produced with the module's colours reversed. In such symbols, dark modules would be a binary zero, and light modules would be a binary one.

- c) ~~c) The~~ symbol size in modules (not including quiet zone) ~~are~~: ~~8 × × 48~~ to ~~26 × × 64~~ even values only (see ~~Table 1~~ ~~Table 1~~).

Symbol sizes ~~8 × 18~~, ~~8 × × 32~~, ~~12 × × 26~~, ~~12 × × 36~~, ~~16 × × 36~~ and ~~16 × 48~~ are defined by ISO/IEC 16022 and are not covered by this document. These rectangular Data Matrix sizes are fully compatible with this document.

NOTE ~~Only~~ this characteristic is different to ISO/IEC 16022 Data Matrix symbology.

- d) ~~d) Data~~ characters per symbol (for maximum symbol size) ~~are as follows~~:
  - 1) ~~1) —~~ alphanumeric data: up to 175 characters;
  - 2) ~~2) —~~ 8-bit byte data: 116 characters;
  - 3) ~~3) —~~ numeric data: 236 digits.
- e) ~~e) The~~ code type ~~is~~ rectangular matrix.

~~f)~~ Orientation independence: yes.

~~f) g)~~ The orientation is independent.

~~f) g)~~ Error detection and correction: Reed Solomon.

## 5.2 Summary of additional features

~~The following summarizes~~ Additional features which are inherent or optional in DMRE are:

- a) ~~a)~~ Reflectance reversal (inherent): symbols are either dark on light or light on dark (see ~~Figure 1~~ Figure 1). The specifications in this document are based on dark images on a light background, therefore references to dark or light modules should be taken as references to light or dark modules respectively in the case of symbols produced with reflectance reversal.
- b) ~~b)~~ Extended channel interpretations (ECI) (inherent): this mechanism enables characters from other character sets (e.g. Arabic, Cyrillic, Greek, Hebrew) and other data interpretations or industry-specific requirements to be represented.
- c) ~~c)~~ Structured append (optional): this allows files of data to be represented in up to 16 Data Matrix Rectangular Extension symbols. The original data can be correctly reconstructed regardless of the order in which the symbols are scanned. If the feature is not implemented, ~~reader data~~ should not ~~transmit~~ data be transmitted in case of a structured append symbol.

NOTE All those additional features are identical to ISO/IEC 16022 Data Matrix symbology.

## 5.3 Symbol structure

### 5.3.1 General

Each DMRE symbol consists of data regions which contain nominally square modules set out in a regular array. In larger symbols, data regions are separated by alignment patterns. The data region is surrounded by a finder pattern, and this shall be surrounded on all four sides by a quiet zone border. ~~Figure 1~~ Figure 1 illustrates two representations of a Data Matrix Rectangular Extension symbol, dark on light and reflectance reversal.

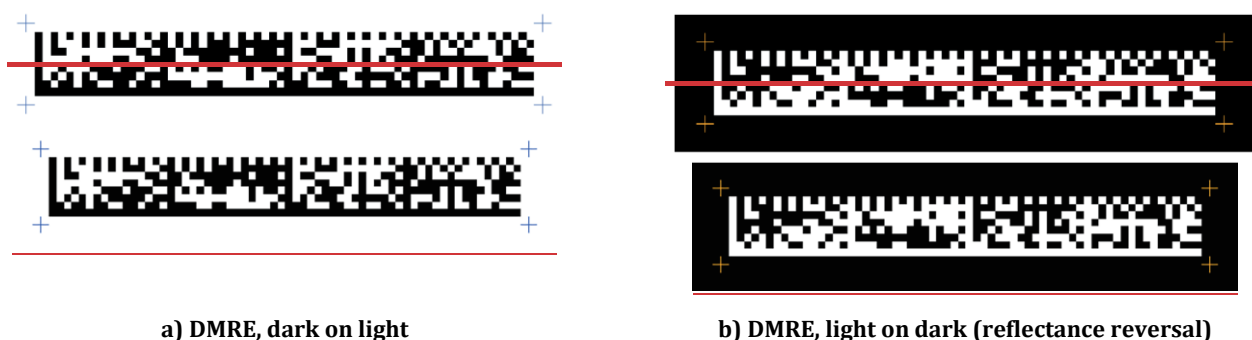


Figure 1 — DMRE "A1B2C3D4E5F6G7H8I9J0K1L2"

### 5.3.2 Finder pattern

The finder pattern is a perimeter to the data region and is one module wide. Two adjacent sides, the left and lower sides, forming the L boundary, are solid dark lines; these are used primarily to determine physical size, orientation and symbol distortion. The two opposite sides are made up of alternating dark and light modules. These are used primarily to define the cell structure of the symbol, but also can assist in determining physical size and distortion. The extent of the quiet zone is indicated by the corner marks in ~~Figure 1~~ Figure 1.