

“P+”-signs symbol study

Attempting alternatives

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P+-signs: Introduction

The 1968 Convention on Road Signs and Signals, under '12. "Parking" sign' requires signs to indicate available public transport (PT) in word or symbol (e.g. P+Tram), in addition to "P" and "+".



These signs have a high visual detail density – resulting in large scale depiction for adequate discrimination by drivers on dedicated (large) 'P+'-signs, which seems the opposite to how they are mostly needed today.

P+-signs: Situation

In metropolitan areas, vast amounts of car commuters drive every (working-)day to switch to PT to travel to the city, on roads bearing a high density of signs. Putting up additional (large-scale) 'P+'-signs – as the Convention suggests – is impossible.



Instead, the meaning of 'P+'-signs needs to be (and is) incorporated in direction signs. This requires a symbol of low visual detail density (small but still visually discriminable with ease).

P+-signs: Park and Ride

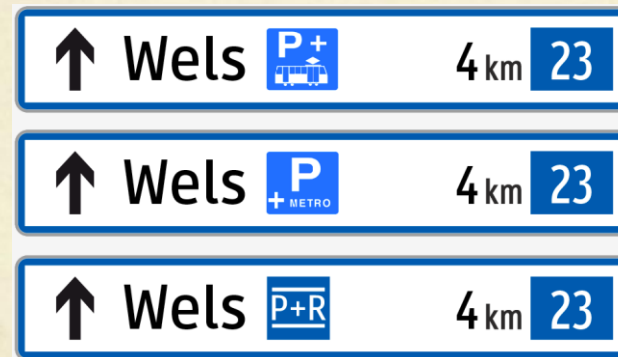
This may explain why P+R (Park and Ride) is widely used:

- Low visual detail density (good discriminability)
- Taking advantage of a form of umbrella term – “R”=“Ride”, incorporating all means of local transport (including PT) that avoid or reduce traffic congestion, pollution, high parking costs, stress etc.
- Hence known, due to its catchy and easily pronounceable name, it can be referred to verbally, making it even more popular.



P+-signs: Park and Ride - Discriminability

At same (small) size, P+R maintains legibility best.



A symbol according to the convention will become even more detailed, if several modes of PT are available that would need to be shown.

P+-signs: Goal

Attempt to find an alternative to the 'R' in 'P+R',
having the same properties with regard to:

- As low visual detail density
- Able to represent any mode of PT
- Same comprehensibility

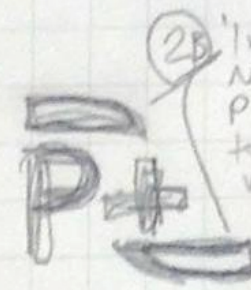
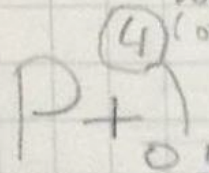
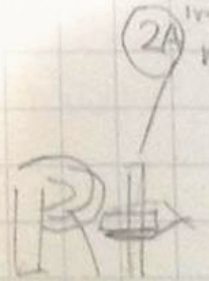
P+-signs: alternative to 'R' – Considerations

Pressure Head
VCRSS

Pinet shaft
VCRSS

Spec:
AS DISCRIMINABLE AS PTR (Direction Signs)
Concept known from conditions addition to expect

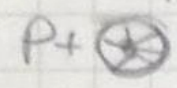
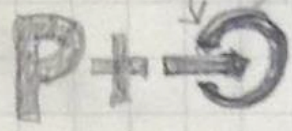
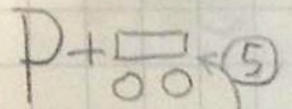
CAN AN ARROW REPRESENT - TRANSP. VEHICLES?
impossible, plus a plus, not an arrow



Dots: implying continuation (other vehicle, cont. travel)

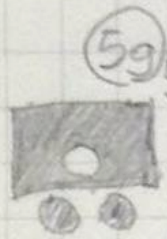
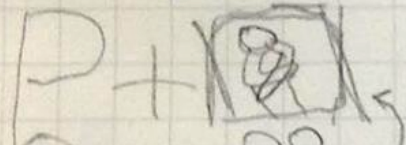
Common issue! Travel to city. Combine P+ with "Conte Symbol" -> too vague, unclear message

Interchange No. corrupting P and +. Symbol has to be addition as vehicle

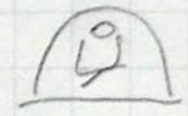


5A How to show ride? An idle person - not driving. what about bicycles? doesn't work to be able for discrimination

Simplest possible form to stand for "any wheeled vehicle"



5g Being in simplest vehicle? Not necessary, vehicle more unclear.

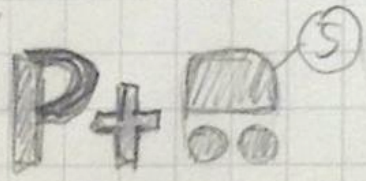
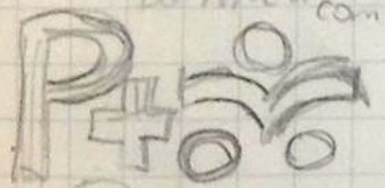


5b ride sleeping person - No! Discrimination to reach conc. etc.



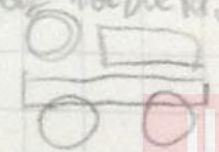
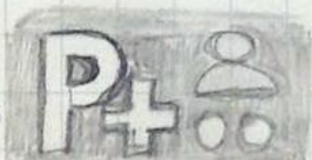
5c Idle person reclining, to be described for discrimination

5d idle person sleeping, etc. to 150 foot-wrap interpretation

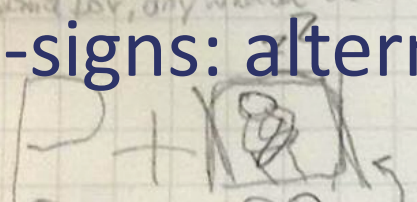


5e combine idle person (bus) with

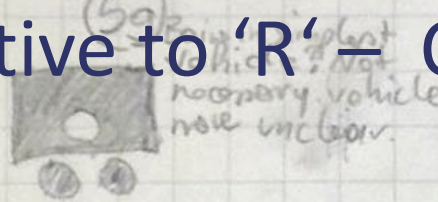
combine of 36 Person with



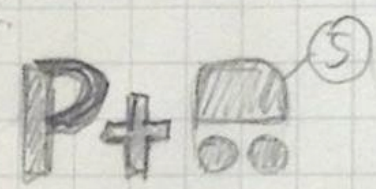
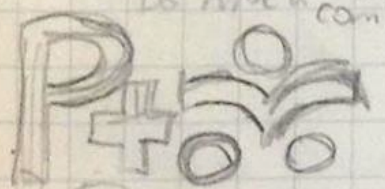
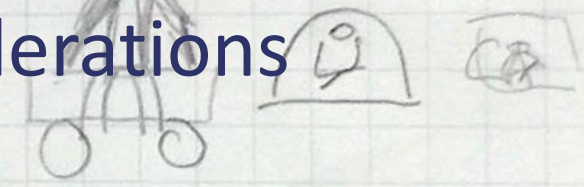
P+-signs: alternative to 'R' - Considerations



5b ride, sleeping person - No! Discrimination to much, combine.



5a necessary vehicle not unclear.

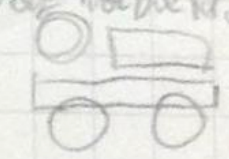


5c combine idle person (bush) with vehicle, too abstract.

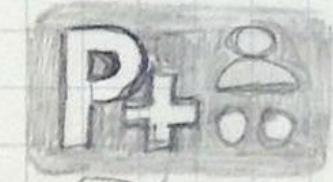


5c idle person resting, to described for discrimination

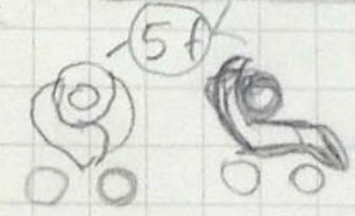
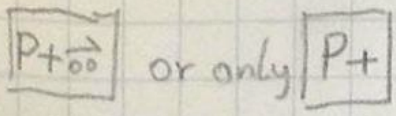
5d idle person sleeping, etc. to 150 foot-wrap interpretation



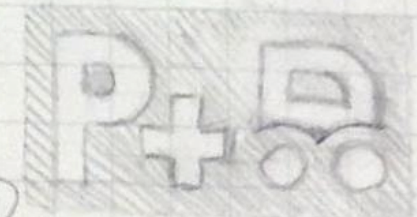
combine Person with vehicle



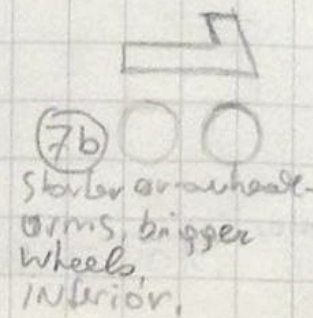
conclusion:



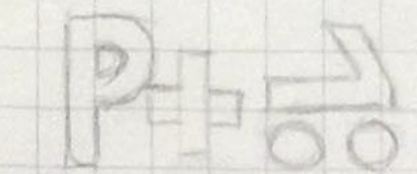
5f



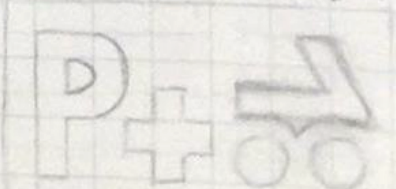
6 simplest vehicle combined with element from 'truck'. Don't concept kept! Veh concept too, close resemblance to P+R. Good! Bad! Not all veh. have a roof.



7b Stylized arrowhead - arms, bigger wheels, interior.



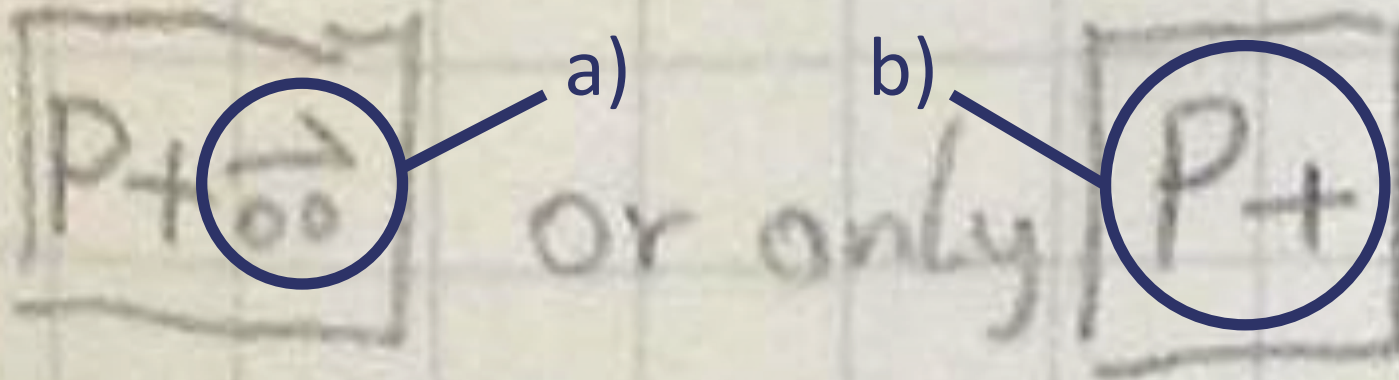
7A Arrow shape iterated (simplified). No improvement. Arrowhead not too pointy.



7 simplest vehicle combined with arrow-like shape. (old even be of bicycle or motorcycle! Good, Arrow emphasizes overall travel, bar.

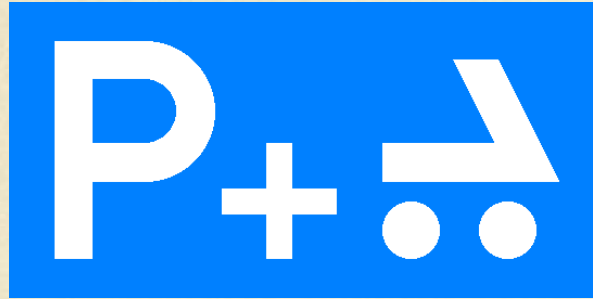
P+-signs: alternative to 'R' – Conclusions

a) Simplest found symbol that may stand for “any transport”. Arrow shape indicating onward journey, but may also imply direction in opposition to actual arrow on direction sign.



b) Only 'P+' to stand for the concept of any onward ride (symbolised by '+'), using existing concept of the Convention.

P+-signs: alternative to 'R' – Conclusions

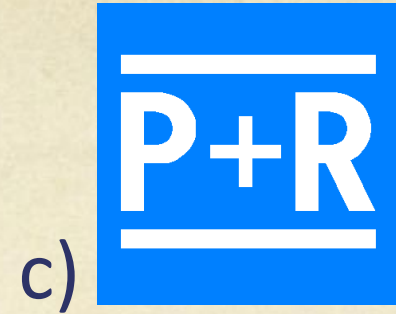
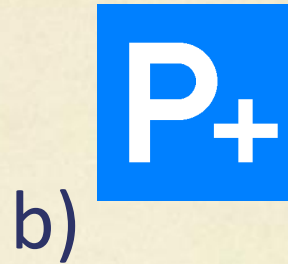
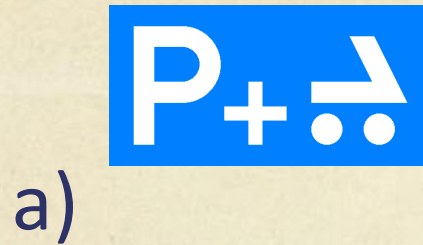


Symbol is (needed to be)
generic = hard to learn
or interpret.



Might imply
misinterpretations:
e.g. a certain parking
quality standard etc.

P+-signs: alternative to 'R' – Conclusions



Comprehension: By nature, all three variants are generic and ambiguous, if c) wasn't so widely introduced.

Discrimination: visual detail density in a) & b) is even lower than c's.

Recommendation: Due to results it is unlikely, that P+R can be substituted satisfyingly. Propose to include c) in the Convention as an addition.

Thank you!

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