

Thai Languages and METAFONT

BOB BATZINGER

Bob Batzinger
UBS Tech Support Center
Box 116
Chiang Mai MAI 50000
Thailand

ABSTRACT

The Thai languages poses new challenges for typesetting with \TeX . The high degree of curvature in the script requires special attention to the discreteness of the METAFONT generated fonts. Different traditional styles of the Thai font have radically different loops. While diacritical marks of the Thai script could be handled by methods already published, the lack of white space between words requires a new approach. Since many lines are longer than the width of a page, intercharacter glue is required. This special glue must be able to center some diacritical marks over the expandable intercharacter space. Thai typesetting tradition requires line breaks only between words instead of between syllables. This paper will describe the methods and auxiliary programs we have used to adapt \TeX for use with Thai text.¹

¹ Due to travel difficulties, the final version of this paper will not be included in the Proceedings. However, it will be published in a forthcoming issue of *TUGboat*, as soon as it becomes available —Ed.



TEX Users Group

Stanford University, August 13-24, 1984

Terman Engineering Center Auditorium and The Graduate School of Business