

# Thai Languages and METAFONT

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## ABSTRACT

The Thai languages poses new challenges for typesetting with  $\text{\TeX}$ . 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  $\text{\TeX}$  for use with Thai text.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 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.



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