Bugs (sigh) in Knuths 'Computers & Typesetting'

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1 Introduction

In may/june this year a discussion started on the TEX-NL listserver (by Kees van der Laan and Nico Poppelier) about the releases of Knuths book series: it was not sure that Addison-Wesley was selling only the latest book editions.

The problem is that references to the corresponding software release (the software changes strongly in TEX 3.x and METAFONT 2.7) are missing at the cover of the books. Besides that it is not clear which 'edition' and/or 'number' and/or 'ISBN' reflects the latest TEX (3.x) or METAFONT (2.7) software. The only way to check the actual version is e.g.:

- Does the index contains \language?
- Does the index contains \emergencystretch?

We have forwarded that discussion directly to Addison-Wesley in Amsterdam. The answer is included in next section.

Rita Snaddon informed me also that for 'The TEX Book' (Volume A; pb), the 22st printing will be expected very soon. This will be the final printing corresponding with the current book number.

The upgrades of the books since 1984 are described in a set of errata sheets (section 4). These errata sheets can directly be ordered by Addison Wessley (attn Rita Snaddon) but are also available by ftp (see section 3).

2 Answer from Addison-Wesley

Rita Snaddon from Addison-Wesley[1] informed me about the printing dates of the books with the following message:

After much research into the problem of the Knuth 'Computers and Typesetting' Series reprints, I hope that I have now come up with a solution to your satisfaction.

If I can explain: Normally when a book is reprinted with major changes, it turns into a new edition with a new ISBN number. The old editions can then normally be destroyed. When a book is reprinted with major changes (in case of the TEX and METAFONT books), but does not go into a new edition, we still keep stock of the older prints. It's an unusual problem which we do not encounter often.

I have obtain Errata Sheets from Donald Knuth that detail all the changes in the following volumes. If you would like to notify your NTG members about these erratas, we will be pleased to send them out free of charge.

Below is an overview of the latest printings:

Code	Vol	Title	Edition	Number	Date
13447	A	The TEX Book	1	12th	3/92
13437	B	TEX:The Program	1	4th	5/91
13445	C	The METAFONT Book	1	4th	9/91
13438	D	METAFONT: The Prog	1	4th	2/92
13446	E	Comp. Modern Type	1	3rd	9/92
13448	A	The TEX Book (pb)	1	21st	5/92
13444	C	The METAFONT Book (pb)	1	7th	5/92

[1] Rita Snaddon, Sales Support Manager, Addison-Wesley, Concertgebouwplein 25, 1071 LM Amsterdam, phone: 020-6717296, fax: 020-6645334

3   Availability of errata sheets

Errata steets for Knuths 'Computers & Typesetting' are available by anonymous ftp at:

        labrea.stanford.edu

Directory:

        pub/tex/errata

This directory contains the following files:

```
  24569 Aug 11  1989 errata.one
  15006 Aug 11  1989 errata.two
  60085 Aug 11  1989 errata.three
  31881 Sep 26  1989 errata.four
  42967 Mar 16  1992 errata.five
  15838 Jan 29  1991 errata.six
  29683 Mar 16  1992 errata.seven
   2473 Mar 16  1992 errata.tex

   4110 Oct 19  1991 logmac.tex
  87397 Jan 25  1992 mf84.bug
  56228 Mar  6  1992 cm85.bug
 305187 Mar 16  1992 tex82.bug
 150372 Mar 16  1992 errorlog.tex
```

4   Contents of ftp files

In the following subsections, the headers of the errata sheets are listed.

errata.one

This is a list of all corrections made to *The TEXbook* between the first and second printings. If your copy says '*Second printing (October 1984)*' on the copyright page, you've already got all of these things corrected. Otherwise, you're a lucky owner of the rare first edition; read on.

errata.two

This is a list of all corrections made to *The TEXbook* since the second printing. If your copy doesn't say '*Second printing (October 1984)*' on the copyright page, you should also look at the previous bug list. In fact, the most important corrections to the first printing were discovered first, so they've already been made.

errata.three

This is a list of all corrections made to *Computers & Typesetting*, Volumes A–E, between the date of publication (May, 1986) and 15 June 1987. It also includes corrections made to the softcover version of *The TEXbook*, beginning with the sixth printing (January 1986); these are the same as corrections to Volume A. Corrections to the softcover version of *The* METAFONT *book* are the same as corrections to Volume C.

errata.four

This is a list of all corrections made to *Computers & Typesetting*, Volumes A–E, between 16 June 1987 and 20 February 1989. Corrections made to the softcover version of *The TEXbook* are the same as corrections

to Volume A. Corrections to the softcover version of *The* METAFONT *book* are the same as corrections to Volume C. Some of these corrections have already been made in reprintings of the books. Some of these corrections affect the indexes and mini-indexes of Volumes B and D in ways not shown here. Corrections made up to 15 June 1987 appear in other files.

errata.five

This is a list of all corrections made to *Computers & Typesetting*, Volumes A–E, between 20 February 1989 and 30 September 1989 (when TEX Version 3.0 and METAFONT Version 2.0 were fully defined). Corrections made to the softcover version of *The TEXbook* are the same as corrections to Volume A. Corrections to the softcover version of *The* METAFONT *book* are the same as corrections to Volume C. Some of these corrections have already been made in reprintings of the books. Several minor changes to Volumes A and C are not shown here because they simply make room for the more substantive changes needed to describe the new features of TEX Version 3.0 and METAFONT Version 2.0. Hundreds of changes will soon be made to Volumes B and D because of the upgrades to TEX and METAFONT; it will unfortunately be impossible to document all of those changes. Therefore, readers who need up-to-date information on the TEX and META-FONT programs should refer to the |WEB| source files until new printings of Volumes B and D are issued.

errata.six

This is a list of all corrections made to *Computers & Typesetting*, Volumes A, C, and E, between 30 September 1989 (when the revisions for TEX Version 3.0 and METAFONT Version 2.0 were made) and December 31, 1990. Corrections made to the softcover version of *The TEXbook* are the same as corrections to Volume A. Corrections to the softcover version of *The* META-FONT *book* are the same as corrections to Volume C. Some of the corrections below have already been made in reprintings of the books. Hundreds of changes, too many to list here, have been made to Volumes B and D because of the upgrades to TEX and METAFONT. Readers who need up-to-date information on the TEX and METAFONT programs should refer to the |WEB| source files until new printings of Volumes B and D are issued.

errata.seven

This is a list of all corrections made to *Computers & Typesetting*, Volumes A, B, C, and D, between 1 January 1991 and 15 March 1992. Corrections made to the softcover version of *The TEXbook* are the same as corrections to Volume A. Corrections to the soft-cover version of *The* METAFONT *book* are the same as corrections to Volume C. Some of the corrections below have already been made in reprintings of the books. Changes to Volume B refer to the fourth printing (1991),

which differs markedly from earlier printings because it includes all the revisions for TEX3.0. Changes to Volume D refer to the third printing (1991), which differs markedly from earlier printings because it includes all the revisions for METAFONT 2.0. Changes to the mini-indexes and master indexes of Volumes B and D are not shown unless they are not obviously derivable from what has been shown. Dozens of changes, too many to list here, have been made to Volume E because of recent upgrades to the Computer Modern font source files. Those changes, which affect only the digitization at low resolution and the appearance of lowercase delta and some characters in the math symbols fonts (but not the TFM files), are documented at the end of file `cm85.bug`.

errata.tex

This is a list of all corrections made to *Computers & Typesetting* since 15 March 1992. Corrections made to the softcover version of *The TEXbook* are the same as corrections to Volume A. Corrections to the softcover version of *The* METAFONT *book* are the same as corrections to Volume C. Some of the corrections below have already been made in reprintings of the books. Changes to Volume B refer to the fourth printing (1991), which differs markedly from earlier printings because it includes all the revisions for TEX3.0. Changes to Volume D refer to the third printing (1991), which differs markedly from earlier printings because it includes all the revisions for METAFONT 2.0. Changes to the mini-indexes and master indexes of Volumes B and D are not shown here unless they are not obviously derivable from what has been shown.

errorlog.tex

Appendix to the Errors of TEX paper (updated) Section numbers now adjusted to TEX 3.0 equivalents

logmac.tex

Macros for the appendix to "Errors of TEX" paper

mf84.bug

This file has been updated periodically ever since METAFONT84 was born. What you are about to read is "authentic source material" from the early days before the program converged. Module numbers on the first entries may bear little relation to those in Volume D.

cm85.bug

This file is a log of changes made to the "new generation" of Computer Modern fonts, after the first output proofs were ready. I had a great deal of advice from Neenie Billawala, Matthew Carter, and Richard Southall while I was making these revisions.

tex82.bug

This file has been updated periodically ever since TEX82 was born; it has been summarized in "The errors of TEX," Software Practice & Experience, July 1989. Entries are in chronological order; thus the most recent news (including all bugfixes made since that article was published) appears at the bottom of the file.

Add 519 to these entry numbers to get the corresponding number in the published article. The article also translates all module numbers to their final form; what you are about to read is "authentic source material" from the early days before TEX converged.]

First updates to the TEX82 listing published in September, 1982. (These changes were included in the original Version 0 of TEX, but they were discovered after the listing went to press.)

cm85.bug

This file is a log of changes made to the "new generation" of Computer Modern fonts, after the first output proofs were ready.