1. Introduction. Meitei is a Tibeto-Burman language spoken chiefly in Manipur State in India, with Myanmar on its eastern border. Its earliest use is dated to between the 11th and 12th centuries CE. The script derives from the Tibetan group of scripts, themselves deriving from Gupta Brahmi. A stone inscription found at Khoibu in Tengnoupal District contains royal edicts of Kiyamba; the royal chronicle Cheitnarol Kumbaba commenced from his time. King Khagamba (1597-1652) popularized the spread of education and the production of manuscripts in the script. The script continued to be used until to write the Meitei language until the late 18th century CE. King Garibnawas (1709-1748) embraced Hinduism during his reign and many Hindu texts, such as the Ramayana and the Mahabharata, were translated into the Meitei language written in the Meitei script. But after the Meitei adopted Hindu practices in 1729, many literary works written about the pre-Hindu religion as well as other historical documents were burnt, and Bengali script was adopted to write Meitei. The Meitei Mayek script has been revived in recent times, omitting nine letters which are not used in modern Meitei. There are, however, at least 437 pre-20th century inscriptions and manuscripts written in the traditional version of the script, so the encoded script must be able to support both traditional and modern repertoires. The Khoibu inscription shows that 35 base letters were used in the Meitei Mayek script from its inception. Although modern Meitei texts do not make use of the letters cha, cha, cha, cha, cha, cha, cha, cha, and cha, these characters are attested as historical letters and are therefore included here. This encoding caters for a “unified Meitei Mayek” script supporting both modern Meitei and historical Meitei texts.

Reviewers should note that the historical version of the script is more complicated than the modern version of the script, which is why there is somewhat more discussion of it in the document below than of the modern version. But it is the modern version which enjoys the most use at the present day.

Structure. The Meitei Mayek script was originally of the Brahmic type: consonants bear the inherent vowel, and vowel matras modify it. Unlike most other Brahmic scripts, Meitei Mayek makes use of explicit final consonants which have no inherent vowel. Consonant conjuncts are not formed productively in the modern script, although some conjuncts are known in earlier texts (see “Conjunct consonants” below). The MEITEI MAYEK KILLER does not cause conjunct formation, and is always visible when used. Its use is an optional feature of spelling. The use of the KILLER with letters (like cha) which have an explicit final consonant (cha) is not attested, and would not be expected because of the existence of explicit finals. In other contexts, the KILLER helps to show the absence of an inherent vowel—while cha may be read either kara or kra, cha must be read kra. When word internal, the glyph of the KILLER
typically extends beneath the killed letter and the letter following. A syllable is structured (and represented in the backing store) as follows:

Vi = \[ Å, Ç, É, Ñ \]

C = \[ Ä, Ö, Ü, á, à, â, ä, ã, å, ç, é, è, ê, ë, í, ì, î, ï, ñ, ò, ô, ö, õ, ú, ù, û, ü, †, °, ¢, £, §, • \]

Vm = \[ @¶, @ß, ®@, @©, @™, @´, @¨, @≠, @Æ, @Ø, ∞@, @± \]

F = \[ Å, Ç, Ñ, ∂, ∑, ∏, π, ∫, ª, º, @≤, @≥ \]

(Vi | (C Vm? F?)), where “Vi” is an independent vowel, “C” is a consonant (including the independent vowel Ä A), “Vm” is a vowel matra, “F” is an independent vowel used in final position or a final consonant or ANUSVARA or VISARGA. In the unusual and historic abbreviations described below, the syntax is (Vi | (C Vm* F*)).

Independent vowel letters. The unified Meitei Mayek script can represent five initial vowels with the unique independent vowel characters Ä A, Å I, Ç U, É E, Ñ O; these may occur word-internally as well as in initial position, as in the title of the newspaper Hueiyen Lanpao: ÅÅçÇè huiyen lānpuā. Modern Meitei only makes use of the first three of these vowel letters; where pa¯u is written in modern orthography it might be written ô¶Ç in traditional orthography. Other vowels which do not have independent forms are represented by vowel matras applied to the letter Ä A: ĵa¯, Äß i, ®Ä î, Ä© u, ĵu¯, Ä´ e, Ï ei, ĵa¯i, ãou, ãou, ãah, ĵah, (including here ® ANUSVARA and Ø VISARGA which are not strictly speaking vowel letters, but rather consonants which behave in the same way as vowel letters and are therefore listed here). Of these, only ĵa¯, Äß i, ãou e, ãou ei, ãou o, ãou ou, and ãah are used in modern orthography—note that Äß i and ãou are usually represented by the independent forms Ä and Ñ U).

Dependent vowel signs. The full set of attested dependent vowels is as follows (shown with SA):

\begin{align*}
\text{sa} & \quad \text{sā} & \quad \text{si} & \quad \text{sī} & \quad \text{su} & \quad \text{sū} \\
\text{se} & \quad \text{sē} & \quad \text{sāi} & \quad \text{sāi} \\
\text{so} & \quad \text{sō} & \quad \text{sāu} & \quad \text{sāu} \\
\text{sān} & \quad \text{sān} & \quad \text{sā} & \quad \text{sā} \\
\end{align*}

In modern orthography, only the following are used:

\begin{align*}
\text{sa} & \quad \text{sā} & \quad \text{si} & \quad \text{sū} \\
\text{se} & \quad \text{sē} & \quad \text{sā} \\
\text{so} & \quad \text{sō} & \quad \text{sā} \\
\text{sān} & \quad \text{sā} \\
\end{align*}

Unusual abbreviations sometimes occur, with a single consonant carrying more than one vowel matra: ÅÅçÇè pepupā ‘the carrying of an umbrella’ can be written ÅÅçÇè; Æåo keke may be written Æåo. This is similar to Tibetan practice; for example, བྲུ་ཞེ་ི། bcu gcig ‘eleven’ can be written བྲུ་ཞེ་ི། bcuig.

Diphthongs can be written in a number of ways. In traditional orthography, the following syllable-initial combinations occur:

\begin{align*}
\text{ai} & \quad \text{åi} & \quad \text{au} & \quad \text{ãou} \\
\text{ui} & \quad \text{üi} & \quad \text{oi} & \quad \text{ou} \\
\end{align*}
In modern orthography, the choice of spelling sometimes distinguishes words by tone.

- kañ ်ိ ‘chariot’ (in older orthography ်ိ; not used today)
- kàn ်ိ ‘mosquito’ with falling tone (in older orthography ်ိ; not used today)
- kài ်ိ ‘tiger’
- kàn ်ိ ‘grain, barn’ with falling tone (in older orthography ်ိ; not considered proper today)
- kàw ်ိ ‘call’
- kaw ်ိ ‘short’ with falling tone (in older orthography ်ိ; not used today)

This encoding supports both orthographic conventions.

**Final consonants.** Final consonants are indicated in three ways: by explicit final consonants (်ိ K, ်ိ NG, ်ိ T, ်ိ N, ်ိ P, ်ိ M, ်ိ L; ်ိ is now often counted as a final ်ိ, but it is independent ်ိ), by combining marks (်ိ ANUSvara, ်ိ VISarga, discussed under “Independent vowel signs”, above), and by ်ိ I and ်ိ U (and in traditional orthography ်ိ o), which function as a final consonant without modification.

**Conjunct consonants.** Conjuncts sometimes occur in pre-1800 texts. Although the reformed, modern script does not form conjuncts, the encoding model for Meitei Mayek includes a VIRAMA to form conjuncts in older orthography, which behaves as other Brahmic scripts do. For example, ်ိ NGA + ်ိ VIRAMA + ်ိ HA = ်ိ nha; ်ိ PA + ်ိ VIRAMA + ်ိ RA = ်ိ pra; ်ိ MA + ်ိ VIRAMA + ်ိ HA = ်ိ mha; and ်ိ SSA + ်ိ VIRAMA + ်ိ NNA = ်ိ sña. An example: ်ိ ်ိ ်ိ ်ိ ်ိ Sri Jay Sinh, which could be spelled in modern orthography ်ိ ်ိ ်ိ ်ိ ်ိ Sri Jay Sinh. An inventory of conjuncts is a matter for specialists in traditional Meitei, and as such they are not discussed further here. The letter ်ိ kša which as in other Brahmic scripts has its own place at the end of the alphabet, is written as ်ိ KA + ်ိ VIRAMA + ်ိ SHA. In modern Meitei fonts which do not support conjuncts, this would render simply as ်ိ KA + ်ိ SHA (assuming that the font supported a glyph for SHA).

**Character names.** The name of the script itself has a number of different names and spellings: Meitei Mayek, is found alongside Methei and Meetei as well as the older Manipuri. In the modern version of the script, each letter but the last is named after a part of the body:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Translit.</th>
<th>IPA</th>
<th>Gloss</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>်ိ KA</td>
<td>kok</td>
<td>/kok/</td>
<td>‘head’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>်ိ SA</td>
<td>sam</td>
<td>/səm/</td>
<td>‘hair’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>်ိ LA</td>
<td>lai</td>
<td>/lai/</td>
<td>‘forehead’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>်ိ MA</td>
<td>mit</td>
<td>/mit/</td>
<td>‘eye’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>်ိ PA</td>
<td>pa</td>
<td>/pa/</td>
<td>‘eyelash’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>်ိ NA</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>/na/</td>
<td>‘ear’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>်ိ CA</td>
<td>cil</td>
<td>/cil/</td>
<td>‘lips’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>်ိ TA</td>
<td>til</td>
<td>/til/</td>
<td>‘saliva’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>်ိ KHA</td>
<td>khou</td>
<td>/kʰou/</td>
<td>‘throat’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>်ိ NGA</td>
<td>ngou</td>
<td>/ŋou/</td>
<td>‘pharynx’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>်ိ THA</td>
<td>thou</td>
<td>/tʰou/</td>
<td>‘chest’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>်ိ WA</td>
<td>wāi</td>
<td>/wāi/</td>
<td>‘navel’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>်ိ YA</td>
<td>yang</td>
<td>/jɑŋ/</td>
<td>‘backbone’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>်ိ HA</td>
<td>huk</td>
<td>/huk/</td>
<td>‘lower spine’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>်ိ U</td>
<td>un</td>
<td>/un/</td>
<td>‘skin’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>်ိ I</td>
<td>i</td>
<td>/i/</td>
<td>‘blood’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>်ိ PHA</td>
<td>pham</td>
<td>/pʰam/</td>
<td>‘placenta’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>်ိ A</td>
<td>atiya</td>
<td>/ətiya/</td>
<td>‘sky’.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The unified version of the script uses the Brahmic names for the convenience of implementers who may find familiar names helpful.

**Digits and punctuation.** Digits have distinctive forms in Meitei Mayek. Five punctuation marks are attested for Meitei Mayek: the \| DANDA, || DOUBLE DANDA, and \# QUESTION MARK are in current use, but the \$ SYLLABLE REPETITION MARK and \% WORD REPETITION MARK seem to have fallen out of use. The shape of the DOUBLE DANDA shows some variation; the width varies from the distance between the verticals in \[ GA and those in \] M. (Like the other minority scripts Balinese, Lepcha, Ol Chiki, Saurashtra, Kayah Li, Lanna, and Cham, the MEITEI MAYEK DANDA and MEITEI MAYEK DOUBLE DANDA are encoded as script-specific characters for Meitei Mayek. A unification with the Devanagari DANDAs is inappropriate; in particular, the use of those in Bengali script—as well as the existence of another pair of Bengali-specific DANDAS which are likely to require encoding—could cause confusion to Meitei Mayek users, who feel very strongly about the uniqueness of their script and its relation to Bengali.) The symbol \& ANJI is a philosophical symbol representing the primordial act of creation between the male and the female principles and is similar to the DEV ANAGARI OM; N. Debendra Singh 1990 gives it this name and lists it first in a table of consonants, preceding \( KA. It is used emblematically to represent the auspicious. Generic ASCII punctuation is also expected in Meitei Mayek fonts: ! " # $ % & ' ( ) * + , - . / : ; < = > ? @ ` [ \ ] ^ _ { | } ~.

**Collating order.** The traditional Brahmic order would have been used for ordering Meitei Mayek, and Sanskrit texts in Meitei Mayek script are likely to follow this practice. Contemporary Meitei uses a different order, given below. As this order omits a number of letters, they are given at the end in their Brahmic order. Localized software for Meitei users should follow this order. The letters which are not used in the modern orthography are given in [square brackets]. The KILLER is ignored in sorting.

\[ ka < sa < la < ma < pa < \varnothing na < ca < ta < kha < \varnothing na < tha < wa < ya < ha < i < pha < a < ga < jha < ra < ba < ja < da < gha < dha < bha < e < o < cha < n' \varnothing na < \varnothing da < dha < \varnothing na < \varnothing sa < \varnothing ksa| < u | \varnothing a | i |< i |< i | \varnothing a | e |< o |< \varnothing ou< |\varnothing ei |< \varnothing ai |< \varnothing au |< \varnothing a |< \varnothing h |< \varnothing k |< \varnothing l |< \varnothing m |< \varnothing p |< \varnothing n |< \varnothing i |< \varnothing n |< \varnothing m. \]

**Linebreaking.** Opportunities for hyphenation occur after any full orthographic syllable. Meitei Mayek punctuation marks can be expected to have behaviour similar to that of Devanagari DANDA and DOUBLE DANDA.

**Unicode Character Properties**

- MEITEI MAYEK LETTER A: Lo;0;L;1;1;N;1;atiya;
- MEITEI MAYEK LETTER I: Lo;0;L;1;1;N;1;
- MEITEI MAYEK LETTER U: Lo;0;L;1;1;N;1;
- MEITEI MAYEK LETTER E: Lo;0;L;1;1;N;1;
- MEITEI MAYEK LETTER O: Lo;0;L;1;1;N;1;
- MEITEI MAYEK LETTER KA: Lo;0;L;1;1;N;1;kok;
- MEITEI MAYEK LETTER KHA: Lo;0;L;1;1;N;1;khou;
- MEITEI MAYEK LETTER GA: Lo;0;L;1;1;N;1;gok;
- MEITEI MAYEK LETTER CHA: Lo;0;L;1;1;N;1;
- MEITEI MAYEK LETTER JA: Lo;0;L;1;1;N;1;gou;
- MEITEI MAYEK LETTER NGA: Lo;0;L;1;1;N;1;
- MEITEI MAYEK LETTER CA: Lo;0;L;1;1;N;1;cill;
- MEITEI MAYEK LETTER CHA: Lo;0;L;1;1;N;1;
- MEITEI MAYEK LETTER JA: Lo;0;L;1;1;N;1;jill;
- MEITEI MAYEK LETTER NRA: Lo;0;L;1;1;N;1;
- MEITEI MAYEK LETTER NVA: Lo;0;L;1;1;N;1;
- MEITEI MAYEK LETTER TPA: Lo;0;L;1;1;N;1;
- MEITEI MAYEK LETTER TTHA: Lo;0;L;1;1;N;1;
- MEITEI MAYEK LETTER DDA: Lo;0;L;1;1;N;1;
- MEITEI MAYEK LETTER DDHA: Lo;0;L;1;1;N;1;
- MEITEI MAYEK LETTER NNA: Lo;0;L;1;1;N;1;
- MEITEI MAYEK LETTER TA: Lo;0;L;1;1;N;1;
- MEITEI MAYEK LETTER THA: Lo;0;L;1;1;N;1;
- MEITEI MAYEK LETTER DA: Lo;0;L;1;1;N;1;
Bibliography


Acknowledgements. This project was made possible in part by a grant from the U.S. National Endowment for the Humanities, which funded the Universal Scripts Project (part of the Script Encoding Initiative at UC Berkeley) in respect of the Meitei Mayek encoding.
TABLE XX - Row 1C: MEITEI MAYEK

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G = 00
P = 00
### TABLE XXX - Row 1C: MEITEI MAYEK

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<tr>
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<th>Name</th>
<th>hex</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>80</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK LETTER A (allerya)</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK LETTER TA (til)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>81</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK LETTER I</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK LETTER DA (dil)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>82</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK LETTER U (un)</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK LETTER GA (gok)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK LETTER E</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK LETTER NA</td>
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<td>MEITEI MAYEK LETTER O</td>
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<td>MEITEI MAYEK LETTER PA</td>
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<td>MEITEI MAYEK LETTER KA (kok)</td>
<td>9A</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK LETTER PHA (pham)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>MEITEI MAYEK LETTER KHA (khou)</td>
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<td>MEITEI MAYEK LETTER BA</td>
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<td>MEITEI MAYEK LETTER GA (gok)</td>
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<td>MEITEI MAYEK LETTER BHA (bham)</td>
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<td>MEITEI MAYEK LETTER GHA (ghou)</td>
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<td>MEITEI MAYEK LETTER MA (mit)</td>
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<td>89</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK LETTER NGA (ngou)</td>
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<td>MEITEI MAYEK LETTER YA (yang)</td>
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<td>8A</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK LETTER CA (chil)</td>
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<td>MEITEI MAYEK LETTER RA (rai)</td>
</tr>
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<td>8B</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK LETTER CHA</td>
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<td>MEITEI MAYEK LETTER SSA</td>
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<td>MEITEI MAYEK LETTER SA (sam)</td>
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<td>MEITEI MAYEK LETTER THA</td>
<td>A5</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK LETTER PHA (pham)</td>
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<td>91</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK LETTER DDA</td>
<td>A6</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK VOWEL SIGN AA (aatap)</td>
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<tr>
<td>92</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK LETTER DDHA</td>
<td>A7</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK VOWEL SIGN I (inap)</td>
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<td>93</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK LETTER NNA</td>
<td>A8</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK VOWEL SIGN II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK LETTER TA (til)</td>
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<td>MEITEI MAYEK VOWEL SIGN U (unap)</td>
</tr>
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<td>95</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK LETTER THA (thou)</td>
<td>AA</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK VOWEL SIGN UU</td>
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<tr>
<td>96</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK LETTER DA (dil)</td>
<td>AB</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK VOWEL SIGN E (yetnap)</td>
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<tr>
<td>97</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK LETTER GHA (ghou)</td>
<td>AC</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK VOWEL SIGN EI (ceinap)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>98</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK LETTER NA</td>
<td>AD</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK VOWEL SIGN AAI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>99</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK LETTER PA</td>
<td>AE</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK VOWEL SIGN O (otnap)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9A</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK LETTER PHA (pham)</td>
<td>AF</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK VOWEL SIGN OU (sounap)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9B</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK LETTER BA</td>
<td>B0</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK VOWEL SIGN AU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9C</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK LETTER BHA (bham)</td>
<td>B1</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK VOWEL SIGN AAU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9D</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK LETTER MA (mit)</td>
<td>B2</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK VOWEL SIGN ANUSVARA (nung)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9E</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK LETTER YA (yang)</td>
<td>B3</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK VOWEL SIGN VISARGA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9F</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK LETTER RA (rai)</td>
<td>B4</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK VOWEL SIGN SIGN IU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A0</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK LETTER LA (lai)</td>
<td>B5</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK VOWEL SIGN ANUSVARA (nong)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A1</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK VOWEL SIGN U</td>
<td>B6</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK VOWEL SIGN SIGN IU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A2</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK VOWEL SIGN UU</td>
<td>B7</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK LETTER K (kok lonsum)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A3</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK VOWEL SIGN E</td>
<td>B8</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK LETTER NG (ngou lonsum)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A4</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK VOWEL SIGN E</td>
<td>B9</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK LETTER N (na lonsum)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A5</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK VOWEL SIGN E</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK LETTER P (na lonsum)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A6</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK VOWEL SIGN E</td>
<td>BB</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK LETTER M (mit lonsum)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A7</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK VOWEL SIGN I</td>
<td>BC</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK LETTER L (lai lonsum)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A8</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK VOWEL SIGN I</td>
<td>BD</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK VOWEL SIGN SIGN IU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A9</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK VOWEL SIGN II</td>
<td>BE</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK VOWEL SIGN SIGN IU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AA</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK VOWEL SIGN O</td>
<td>BF</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK VOWEL SIGN SIGN IU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK VOWEL SIGN E</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>MEITEI MAYEK VOWEL SIGN SIGN IU</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Group 00** | **Plane 00** | **Row 1C**
Figures

Figure 1. Sample from Damant 1877.
SPECIMEN OF MANIPURI WRITING.

TRANSLITERATION.

हायाराुाा 1877.

Figure 2. Sample from Damant 1877.
マンプール文字

ベンガル地方からのヒンドゥー教ヴィシュヌ信仰の
普及に伴い、18-19世紀以降、サンスクリット語、ベ
ンガル語、ヒンディー語など、インド・アーリア系の
語彙を大量に吸収することになった。インド・アーリ
ア系の言語に親しんだ階層のメイテイ語には、有声有
気の頭子音素/bh, dh, gh/など、外来の音節が加わ
ることもなかった。しかし、もっとも異音としてメイ
テイ語にあたる/h, d, g, z/以外は、新しい音節として
定着していない、借用語の表記上の区別にとどま
って、縦り発音として用いられたにすぎない。
こうして、借用語表記のために採用された文字を加
えて、次のような字母表（頭子音字）が作られた。

本来のメイテイ語にはなかった子音結合を表記する
縦子字（kw, kr, ky, kl, rk, sk, ēk, kr, sn, tm）なども
考案された。

尾子音字は、次の通りである。

母音符号は、次の通りである（＜k＞について）。

二重母音表記は、次の通りである（＜oy＞について）。

＜oy, au＞を除いて、声調の書き分けをする。前者は
‘light tone’、後者が ‘heavy tone’ である。

なお、頭子音字にも尾子音字にも異字体がいくつか
認められる。たとえば,

k；m, p, n, t, th, bh, dh, gh

ph；p, q, m, f, th, b, w, h

などである。

＜表＞1980年認可の旧マンプール文字

（母音符号）（8字）

＜尾子音字＞（8字）

また、インド系文字に一般的な省略表記も見られる。

1980年4月、マンプール州知事により認可された「メ
イテイ・マイネック」（メイテイ文字＝旧マンプール文
字）の字母表を掲げる（＜表＞）。これは、この伝統的な
民族文字復興をめざしてメイテイ文字専門委員会が知
事に提出した報告書に示されたものである（母音符号の
書き分けによる声調表記は廃している）。

句読点は、句点を１、読点を２で表わす。

数字（1〜10）は、次の通りである。

このメイテイ文字の改良版をメイテイ語の話し手の
間で普及させようという運動があり、州都インポール
の町にはメイテイ文字による看板なども見かけられる
ようになった。しかし、現地でも、メイテイ語の文字
体系をベンガル文字による現行の新マンプール文字か
ら旧マンプール文字（メイテイ文字）に替えることは
難しいであろうと見られるが、現行の文字体系の
普及度がきわめて高いからである。

一方、1992年、インドの連邦政府は、難民を改正し
マンプール州の希望に沿ってマンプール語（メイテイ
語）を連邦公務語に指定した。このマンプール語は、ベ
ンガル文字による現行の新マンプール文字によるもの
を制定している。

17世紀にベンガル文字がマンプールに伝わった時、

Figure 3. Sample from The Sanseido Encyclopaedia, showing old and new orthographies for Meitei.
Figure 4. Samples from Jensen, following Greerson’s report in the Linguistic Survey of India.

Figure 5a. Discussion in Chelliah 1997 describing traditional Meitei orthography.
Figure 5b. Discussion in Chelliah 1997 describing traditional Meitei orthography.

Table 5. Consonant graphemes in Meitei Mayek

Consonants have two representations, a grapheme for syllable initial position and a grapheme for non-initial position. Syllable initial consonant graphemes are given in Table 5. Note that the consonant is read as a combination of the consonant and a schwa. Syllable initial consonant graphemes are given in Table 6.

Table 6. Syllable final consonant graphemes in Meitei Mayek

I provide a sample of handwriten Meitei Mayek in (2) which illustrates a marginally different style of the script (note the graphemes for [y] and [ø]). Explanation of different styles of Meitei Mayek is given in Tenusba (1993). A longer example of the Meitei Mayek, with interlinear and free translation in English, can be found in Grierson (1903–1928: 32–39).

Figure 5c. Discussion in Chelliah 1997 describing traditional Meitei orthography.
Table 3 shows the results of the tumor growth and regression study. The table includes the treatment groups and the corresponding tumor volume measurements. The data is presented in a tabular format with columns for treatment, tumor volume on day 0, tumor volume on day 7, and tumor volume on day 14. The treatment groups include control, treatment A, treatment B, and control. The tumor volumes are measured in cubic centimeters (cm³).
Figure 6c. Sample text in Chelliah 1997 written in modern Meitei orthography.

**= लुङ द्रेयेक शिकिन्तुवती खुबसुः:-**

प्रेक्षा = धारा (धारा= पोंग धारा, to eat) - अरुः
प्रेक्षा = धारा (ध्विन्दु धनः धारा) - अरा
(* लुङ द्रेयेक छसि Dictionary इंग्लिश खुलासातः)

--- = अङ्गुङ द्रेयेक शिकिन्तुवती खुबसुः: - उम्र व (फुळ)

Figure 7. Text from the Manipuri Gazette 1980 discussing Meitei punctuation.
Figure 8. Article in modern Meitei Mayek orthography.
Figure 9. A poem from an anthology of Meitei literature in modern Meitei Mayek orthography.
A. Administrative
1. Title
Proposal to encode the Meitei Mayek script in the BMP of the UCS
2. Requester’s name
UC Berkeley Script Encoding Initiative (Universal Scripts Project)
3. Requester type (Member body/Liaison/Individual contribution)
Liaison contribution.
4. Submission date
2007-08-07
5. Requester’s reference (if applicable)
6. Choose one of the following:
6a. This is a complete proposal
Yes.
6b. More information will be provided later
No.

B. Technical – General
1. Choose one of the following:
1a. This proposal is for a new script (set of characters)
Yes.
1b. Proposed name of script
Meitei Mayek.
1c. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block
No.
2. Number of characters in proposal
78.
3. Proposed category (A-Contemporary; B.1-Specialized (small collection); B.2-Specialized (large collection); C-Major extinct; D-Attested extinct; E-Minor extinct; F-Archaic Hieroglyphic or Ideographic; G-Obscure or questionable usage symbols)
Category A.
4a. Is a repertoire including character names provided?
Yes.
4b. If YES, are the names in accordance with the “character naming guidelines” in Annex L of P&P document?
Yes.
4c. Are the character shapes attached in a legible form suitable for review?
Yes.
5a. Who will provide the appropriate computerized font (ordered preference: True Type, or PostScript format) for publishing the standard?
Michael Everson.
5b. If available now, identify source(s) for the font (include address, e-mail, ftp-site, etc.) and indicate the tools used:
Michael Everson, Fontographer.
6a. Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts etc.) provided?
Yes.
6b. Are published examples of use (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, or other sources) of proposed characters attached?
Yes.
7. Does the proposal address other aspects of character data processing (if applicable) such as input, presentation, sorting, searching, indexing, transliteration etc. (if yes please enclose information)?
Yes.
8. Submitters are invited to provide any additional information about Properties of the proposed Character(s) or Script that will assist in correct understanding of and correct linguistic processing of the proposed character(s) or script. Examples of such properties are: Casing information, Numeric information, Currency information, Display behaviour information such as line breaks, widths etc., Combining behaviour, Spacing behaviour, Directional behaviour, Default Collation behaviour, relevance in Mark Up contexts, Compatibility equivalence and other Unicode normalization related information. See the Unicode standard at http://www.unicode.org for such information on other scripts. Also see Unicode Character Database http://www.unicode.org/Public/UNIDATA/UnicodeCharacterDatabase.html and associated Unicode Technical Reports for information needed for consideration by the Unicode Technical Committee for inclusion in the Unicode Standard.
See above.

C. Technical – Justification
1. Has this proposal for addition of character(s) been submitted before? If YES, explain.
Yes. See N3158, N2042.
2a. Has contact been made to members of the user community (for example: National Body, user groups of the script or characters, other experts, etc.)?
Yes.
2b. If YES, with whom?
2c. If YES, available relevant documents
3. Information on the user community for the proposed characters (for example: size, demographics, information technology use, or publishing use) is included?

Speakers of Meitei.
4a. The context of use for the proposed characters (type of use; common or rare)
Commonly used for modern texts as well as study of historical texts.
4b. Reference
5a. Are the proposed characters in current use by the user community?
Yes.
5b. If YES, where?
In Manipur State in India.
6a. After giving due considerations to the principles in the P&P document must the proposed characters be entirely in the BMP?
Yes.
6b. If YES, is a rationale provided?
Yes.
6c. If YES, reference
Modern use and accordance with the Roadmap.
7. Should the proposed characters be kept together in a contiguous range (rather than being scattered)?
Yes.
8a. Can any of the proposed characters be considered a presentation form of an existing character or character sequence?
No.
8b. If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?
8c. If YES, reference
9a. Can any of the proposed characters be encoded using a composed character sequence of either existing characters or other proposed characters?
No.
9b. If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?
9c. If YES, reference
10a. Can any of the proposed character(s) be considered to be similar (in appearance or function) to an existing character?
Yes.
10b. If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?
10c. If YES, reference
Like the other minority scripts Balinese, Lepcha, Ol Chiki, Saurashtra, Kayah Li, Lanna, and Cham, the MEITEI MAYEK DANDA and MEITEI MAYEK DOUBLE DANDA are encoded as script-specific characters for Meitei Mayek. A unification with the Devanagari DANDAS is inappropriate; in particular, the use of those in Bengali script (as well as the existence of another pair of Bengali-specific DANDAS which are likely to require encoding) could cause confusion to Meitei Mayek users, who feel very strongly about the uniqueness of their script and its relation to Bengali.
11a. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences (see clauses 4.12 and 4.14 in ISO/IEC 10646-1: 2000)?
No.
11b. If YES, is a rationale for such use provided?
11c. If YES, reference
11d. Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided?
No.
11e. If YES, reference
12a. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as control function or similar semantics?
No.
12b. If YES, describe in detail (include attachment if necessary)
13a. Does the proposal contain any ideographic compatibility character(s)?
No.
13b. If YES, is the equivalent corresponding unified ideographic character(s) identified?