Title: Ordering rules for Khmer, Thai, and Lao; suggestions for annex C.2 changes and a new annex B.5

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1 Suggested changes to annex C.2

The collation rules for Thai in the 14651 CTT (and the UTS 10 data files) do not follow the collation rules given in annex C.2, Thai string ordering, of ISO/IEC 14651. Firstly, the informal rules need some corrections. Secondly, the CTT should follow the updates to the order given in annex C.2 (see companion paper “Ordering rules for Khmer, Thai, and Lao; CTT suggestion”). Thirdly, add a new annex B.5 with a Khmer/Thai/Lao tailoring (detailed below).

The following text is a corrected quote (in seriffed font) from ISO/IEC 14651 beginning of annex C.2 (new annex B.5). The actual text of ISO/IEC 14651 should incorporate the corrections below.

The widely accepted standard for Thai lexicographical ordering is defined in the Royal Institute Dictionary 2525 B.E. Edition (1982 A.D.), the official standard Thai dictionary. The ordering principles are:

- Words are ordered alphabetically, not phonetically. Consonants order is:
  ก ข ค ฅ ฆ ง จ ฉ ช ซ ฌ ญ ฎ ฏ ฐ ฑ ฒ ณ ด ต ถ ท
  เ ฏ ฏ ฐ ฑ ฒ ณ ด ต ถ ท

- Vowels, and nikhahit, are also ordered by written forms, not by sounds. Vowels and nikhahit order is:
  ํ  -ะ  - ั  -า  -ๅ  -ำ  - ิ  - ี  - ึ  - ื  - ุ  - ู  เ-  แ-  โ-  ใ-  ไ-  - ฺ
(侘侘侘 are always ordered as consonants, although they sometimes act as vowels.)

- Tones and diacritics are ignored at level 1, at level 2 the order is:
  licted images of symbols
- String comparison is performed from left to right, but considering initial consonants before vowels in the same syllable.

LAKKHANGYAO (ๅ) is a vowel letter, a variant of SARA AA (aceut). LAKKHANGYAO should be ordered as a compatibility variant of SARA AA, and no collating elements (contractions) should be defined for combinations using LAKKHANGYAO.

Annex C.2 later should continue:

- Leading vowels (เ- แ- โ- ใ- ไ- ฤ- ฦ- ฦๅ- ฦๅๅ, corresponding to characters U+0E40-U+0E44), which are written before consonants, must be considered after the initial consonant. Therefore, the rearrangement is needed before comparison.
- Diacritics and tone marks (FileNotFoundException) must be ignored in the first pass, and be considered at later pass if the first pass yields equality.

Even later:

When punctuation marks (๑ ๒ ๓ ๔ ๕ ๖ ๗ ๘ ๙ ๐ ฯ ฯ ฯ ฯ ฯ) are concerned, another level of weights is required for them.

Dependent vowels (and would-be dependent vowels) are ordered like dependent vowels for Indic scripts, at the very end of the weighting scale for level 1, along with Hangul vowels.

Note also that PAIYANNOI (*)& and repeat mark (¶) are regarded as punctuation marks.

Below, formal ordering rules (for the suggested new annex B.5), as a tailoring of the suggested CTT part for Khmer, Thai, and Lao that attempt to follow the informal description (as amended above, after discussions) for Thai in annex C.2 are given.

The tailoring rules below contain a number of contractions. Using these contractions, special prehandling for Thai and Lao (which is now specified in UTS 10) is not needed. This method works very well with ISO/IEC 14651, which does not require that there is any prehandling at all.
2 Suggestion for a new annex B.5, a Khmer, Thai, and Lao, tailoring of the CTT

There is a separate suggestion for updating the CTT regarding Khmer, Thai, and Lao (see the companion paper “Ordering rules for Khmer, Thai, and Lao; CTT suggestion”). However, in order to keep that suggestion relatively simple, and also avoid bringing some optional features into the common CTT, a tailoring (of the new CTT) is here suggested as an informative annex.

Since these scripts are mainly used in neighbouring countries, all of these three scripts should be covered by a single tailoring (rather than one tailoring per script).

reorder-after <MAX>

% Thai:
collating-element <U0E5A_0E30> from "<U0E5A><U0E30>" % special end symbol
% Thai pre-vowels:
collating-element <U0E40_0E01>..<U0E40_0E2E> from "<U0E40><U0E01>..<U0E2E>

collating-element <U0E41_0E01>..<U0E41_0E2E> from "<U0E41><U0E01>..<U0E2E>

collating-element <U0E42_0E01>..<U0E42_0E2E> from "<U0E42><U0E01>..<U0E2E>

collating-element <U0E43_0E01>..<U0E43_0E2E> from "<U0E43><U0E01>..<U0E2E>

collating-element <U0E44_0E01>..<U0E44_0E2E> from "<U0E44><U0E01>..<U0E2E>

collating-element <U0E4D_0E32> from "<S0E4D><S0E32>" % AM

% Lao:
% Lao pre-vowels:
collating-element <U0EC0_0E81>..<U0EC0_0EAE> from "<U0EC0><U0E81>..<U0EAE>

collating-element <U0EC0_0EC0_0E81>..<U0EC0_0EC0_0EAE> from "<U0EC0><U0EC0><U0E81>..<U0EAE>

collating-element <U0EC1_0E81>..<U0EC1_0EAE> from "<U0EC1><U0E81>..<U0EAE>

collating-element <U0EC2_0E81>..<U0EC2_0EAE> from "<U0EC2><U0E81>..<U0EAE>

collating-element <U0EC3_0E81>..<U0EC3_0EAE> from "<U0EC3><U0E81>..<U0EAE>

collating-element <U0EC4_0E81>..<U0EC4_0EAE> from "<U0EC4><U0E81>..<U0EAE>

% LAO HO NO
collating-element <U0EC0_0EDC> from "<U0EC0><U0EDC>"
collating-element <U0EC0_0EC0_0EDC> from "<U0EC0><U0EC0><U0EDC>"
collating-element <U0EC1_0EDC> from "<U0EC1><U0EDC>"
collating-element <U0EC2_0EDC> from "<U0EC2><U0EDC>"
collating-element <U0EC3_0EDC> from "<U0EC3><U0EDC>"
collating-element <U0EC4_0EDC> from "<U0EC4><U0EDC>"

% LAO HO MO
collating-element <U0EC0_0EDD> from "<U0EC0><U0EDD>"
collating-element <U0EC0_0EC0_0EDD> from "<U0EC0><U0EC0><U0EDD>"
collating-element <U0EC1_0EDD> from "<U0EC1><U0EDD>"
collating-element <U0EC2_0EDD> from "<U0EC2><U0EDD>"
collating-element <U0EC3_0EDD> from "<U0EC3><U0EDD>"
collating-element <U0EC4_0EDD> from "<U0EC4><U0EDD>"

% U+0EAB LAO LETTER HO SUNG, U+200D ZERO WIDTH JOINER, U+0EA5 LAO LETTER LO LOOT
collating-element <U0EC0_0EAB_200D_0EA5> from "<U0EC0><U0EAB><U200D><U0EA5>"
collating-element <U0EC0_0EC0_0EAB_200D_0EA5> from "<U0EC0><U0EC0><U0EAB><U200D><U0EA5>"
collating-element <U0EC1_0EAB_200D_0EA5> from "<U0EC1><U0EAB><U200D><U0EA5>"
collating-element <U0EC2_0EAB_200D_0EA5> from "<U0EC2><U0EAB><U200D><U0EA5>"
collating-element <U0EC3_0EAB_200D_0EA5> from "<U0EC3><U0EAB><U200D><U0EA5>"
collating-element <U0EC4_0EAB_200D_0EA5> from "<U0EC4><U0EAB><U200D><U0EA5>"
collating-element <U0EC0_0EAB_200D_0EA5> from "<U0EC0><U0EAB><U200D><U0EA5>"
collating-element <U0EC0_0EB2> from "<S0ECD><S0E32>" % AM
collating-element <U0EB2_0ECD> from "<S0EB2><S0ECD>" % AM
reorder-after <SFFFF>

order_start forward;forward;forward;forward

<U0E5A_0E30> IGNORE;IGNORE;IGNORE;<U0E5A_0E30> % THAI CHARACTER ANGKHANKHU, THAI CHARACTER SARA A

<U1794_17C9> <S1794_17C9>;<BASE>;<MIN>;<U1794_17C9>
% • KHMER LETTER BA, KHMER SIGN MUSIKATOAN (PA)

<U1794_17CA> <S1794_17CA>;<BASE>;<MIN>;<U1794_17CA>
% • KHMER LETTER BA, KHMER SIGN TRIISAP

%% The Robat contractions should be used only in an “advanced” tailoring for
%% Khmer/Thai/Lao, since ROBAT is rather rarely used, and these contractions
%% may impact on the efficiency of the key computation even if ROBAT does not
%% occur, since these contractions begin with commonly used letters.

<SW_17CC_1780>.<SW_17CC_17A7> "<S179A><S17D2><S1780>..<S17A2>";
"<BASE><VRNT1><BASE><BASE>";"<MIN><MIN><MIN><MIN>"; <SW_17CC_17A7>..<SW_17CC_17A5>
% KHMER LETTER KA, KHMER SIGN ROBAT..KHMER LETTER QA, KHMER SIGN ROBAT

<SW_17CC_17A5>..<SW_17CC_17A6> "<S179A><S17D2><S17A2><S17B7>..<S17A2>";
"<BASE><VRNT1><BASE><BASE>";"<MIN><MIN><MIN><MIN>"; <SW_17CC_17A6>..<SW_17CC_17A7>
% KHMER INDEPENDENT VOWEL QI, KHMER SIGN ROBAT..KHMER
% INDEPENDENT VOWEL QII, KHMER SIGN ROBAT

<SW_17CC_17A7> "<S179A><S17D2><S17B7><S17B8>";"<BASE><VRNT1><BASE><BASE>";
"<MIN><MIN><MIN><MIN><MIN><MIN>";<SW_17CC_17A8>
% KHMER INDEPENDENT VOWEL QU, KHMER SIGN ROBAT

<SW_17CC_17A8> "<S179A><S17D2><S17A2><S17BB>";"<BASE><VRNT1><BASE><BASE>";
"<MIN><MIN><MIN><MIN><MIN><MIN>";<SW_17CC_17A9>
% KHMER INDEPENDENT VOWEL QUK; • KHMER SIGN ROBAT

<SW_17CC_17A9> "<S179A><S17D2><S17A2><S17BC>";"<BASE><VRNT1><BASE><BASE>";
"<MIN><MIN><MIN><MIN><MIN><MIN>";<SW_17CC_17AA>
% KHMER INDEPENDENT VOWEL QUU; • KHMER SIGN ROBAT

<SW_17CC_17AA> "<S179A><S17D2><S17A2><S17BC>";"<BASE><VRNT1><BASE><BASE>";
"<MIN><MIN><MIN><MIN><MIN><MIN>";<SW_17CC_17AF>
% KHMER INDEPENDENT VOWEL QUV; • KHMER SIGN ROBAT

<SW_17CC_17AF>..<SW_17CC_17B1> "<S179A><S17D2><S17A2><S17C2>..<S17C4>";
"<BASE><VRNT1><BASE><BASE><VRNT1><BASE>";"<MIN><MIN><MIN><MIN><MIN><MIN>";
<SW_17CC_17B1> % KHMER INDEPENDENT VOWEL QE, KHMER SIGN ROBAT..KHMER
% INDEPENDENT VOWEL QOO TYPE ONE; • KHMER SIGN ROBAT

<SW_17CC_17B2> "<S179A><S17D2><S17A2><S17C4>";"<BASE><VRNT1><BASE><BASE>";
"<MIN><MIN><MIN><MIN><MIN><MIN>";<SW_17CC_17B2>
% KHMER INDEPENDENT VOWEL QOO TYPE TWO; • KHMER SIGN ROBAT

<SW_17CC_17B3> "<S179A><S17D2><S17A2><S17C5>";"<BASE><VRNT1><BASE><BASE>";
"<MIN><MIN><MIN><MIN><MIN><MIN>";<SW_17CC_17B3>
% • KHMER INDEPENDENT VOWEL QAU; • KHMER SIGN ROBAT

%%% Thai consonants’s swap for pre-vowels (note that SARA AE is ordered as <SARA E, SARA E>):
%% Lao consonants's swap for pre-vowels (note that VOWEL EI is ordered as <VOWEL E, VOWEL E>:
%% (The code point ranges contain some code points which are not assigned to any character. 
%% However, the (level 1) weights should be declared and appropriately weighted.)

%% HO LO is a ligature which does not have its own code point, so ZWJ is used.
%%
%% Thai SARA AM is ordered as <SARA AA, NIKHAHIT>, but can be written the other way around:
<0E4D_0E32> "<0E32><0E4D>";"<BASE><BASE>";"<MIN><MIN>";<0E4D_0E32>
% THAI CHARACTER NIKHAHIT, THAI CHARACTER SARA AA; reorder characters (sort of)

%% Lao VOWEL AM is ordered as <VOWEL AA, NIGGAHITA>, but can be written the other way around:
<0EB3> "<0EB3>";"<BASE>";"<COMPAT>";<0EB3> % LAO VOWEL SIGN AM
<0EB2_0ECD> "<0EB3>";"<BASE>";"<MIN>";<0EB2_0ECD> % LAO VOWEL SIGN AA, LAO NIGGAHITA
<0ECD_0EB2> "<0EB3>";"<BASE>";"<MIN>";<0ECD_0EB2> % LAO NIGGAHITA, LAO VOWEL SIGN AA; reorder characters (sort of)

%% Khmer OM and AAM:
<17BB_17C6> <17BB_17C6>;<BASE>;<MIN>;<17BB_17C6>
% KHMERNAMISINGSIGNU,KHMERNAMISINGSIGNNIKAHIT:nasalisedU
<17C6_17BB> <17BB_17C6>;<BASE>;<MIN>;<17C6_17BB>
% KHMERNAMISINGSIGNNIKAHIT,KHMERNAMISINGSIGNVOWELSIGNU:nasalisedU
<17B6_17C6> <17BB_17C6>;<BASE>;<MIN>;<17B6_17C6>
% KHMERNAMISINGSIGNVOWELSIGNAA,KHMERNAMISINGSIGNNIKAHIT:nasalisedAA
<17C6_17B6> <17BB_17C6>;<BASE>;<MIN>;<17C6_17B6>
% KHMERNAMISINGSIGNNIKAHIT,KHMERNAMISINGSIGNVOWELSIGNAA:nasalisedAA

%% The following may be included to shorten the Khmer collation keys somewhat.
%% Adding these contractions will not affect efficiency very much, since they
%% begin with the COENG, which occurs in only a fraction of the syllables.
<17D2_1780>..<17D2_1794> <C1780>..<C1794>;<BASE>;<MIN>;<17D2_1780>..<17D2_1794>
% COENG,KHMERNAMISINGSIGNKA..COENG,KHMERNAMISINGSIGNBA
<17D2_1795>..<17D2_179A> <C1795>..<C179A>;<BASE>;<MIN>;<17D2_1795>..<17D2_179A>
% COENG,KHMERNAMISINGSIGNPAH..COENG,KHMERNAMISINGSIGNBO
<17D2_177A>..<17D2_177B> <C177A>..<C177B>;<BASE>;<MIN>;<17D2_177A>..<17D2_177B>
% COENG,KHMERNAMISINGSIGNINDEPENDENTVOWELRY
<17D2_177C>..<17D2_177D> <C177C>..<C177D>;<BASE>;<MIN>;<17D2_177C>..<17D2_177D>
% COENG,KHMERNAMISINGSIGNINDEPENDENTVOWELRYY
<17D2_178B>..<17D2_179B> <C178B>..<C179B>;<BASE>;<MIN>;<17D2_178B>..<17D2_179B>
% COENG,KHMERNAMISINGSIGNLETTERLO
<17D2_179C>..<17D2_179D> <C179C>..<C179D>;<BASE>;<MIN>;<17D2_179C>..<17D2_179D>
% COENG,KHMERNAMISINGSIGNLETTERQA
<17D2_17A7>..<17D2_17A8> <C17A7>..<C17A8>;<BASE>;<VRNT1>;<BASE>;<MIN>..<MIN>..<17D2_17A7>
% COENG,KHMERNAMISINGSIGNINDEPENDENTVOWELQU
<17D2_17AF>..<17D2_17B2> <C17A7>..<C17B2>;<BASE>;<VRNT1>;<BASE>;<MIN>..<MIN>..<17D2_17AF>
% COENG,KHMERNAMISINGSIGNINDEPENDENTVOWELQR

reorder-end

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