Request to change the Unicode chart font for Tamil

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I had requested in my Tamil fractions and symbols proposal L2/12-231 §9.5 (p 62) and again in the revised document N4430 L2/13-047 p 2 that the Lohit Tamil font which is freely publicly available under the Open Font Licence may be used for the official code charts of the Tamil and Tamil Supplement blocks.

This font is of good aesthetic quality and is in fact more pleasing to the native eye than the current chart font. The fact that this is seen as the default screen font for Tamil in the most popular Linux distributions like Ubuntu and Fedora is also evidence of its good quality. Further, the glyphs I designed for the proposed Tamil fractions and symbols characters are based on the existing Tamil glyphs in it. Since these are a significant (55/75 = 73%) increase to the number of Tamil characters in Unicode, it is not trivial to develop glyphs for these new characters based on the existing Tamil chart font.

Hence all around it would be best if Lohit Tamil is used for the Tamil code chart.

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While the official homepage of this font is https://fedorahosted.org/lohit/, the download available there does not yet contain these glyphs as they are not encoded as yet. A derivative version available from http://pravins.fedorapeople.org/tamil-fraction-symbol-proposal-fonts/ (kindly uploaded by Pravin Satpute of Fedora/RedHat) contains my new glyphs. These will be added to the upstream font upon final encoding and publication of these characters. See https://bugzilla.redhat.com/show_bug.cgi?id=839303.

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For the convenience of the commitees I here present a visual comparison of the current chart font vs Lohit Tamil. I have also included (highlighted in yellow) the newly proposed Tamil fractions and symbols as per N4430 L2/13-047.

Current Chart

	0B8	0B9	0BA	0BB	0BC	0BD	0BE	0BF
0		ஜ 0B90		ர 0BB0	௦ 0BC0	ௐ 0BD0		ய 0BF0
1				ற 0BB1	�...◌ 0BC1			௰ 0BF1
2	◌ஂ 0B82	ஒ 0B92		ல 0BB2	◌ 0BC2			௲ 0BF2
3	◌ஃ 0B83	ஓ 0B93	ண 0BA3	ள 0BB3				௳ 0BF3
4		ஔ 0B94	த 0BA4	ழ 0BB4				௴ 0BF4
5	அ 0B85	க 0B95		வ 0BB5				௵ 0BF5
6	ஆ 0B86		ம 0BB6	◌ொ 0BC6		௦ 0BE6	௶ 0BF6
7	இ 0B87		ஷ 0BB7	◌ே 0BC7	◌ள 0BD7	௧ 0BE7	௷ 0BF7
8	ஈ 0B88	ந 0BA8	ஸ 0BB8	◌ை 0BC8		௨ 0BE8	௸ 0BF8
9	உ 0B89	ங 0B99	ன 0BA9	ஹ 0BB9		௩ 0BE9	௹ 0BF9
A	ஊ 0B8A	ச 0B9A	ப 0BAA		◌ொ 0BCA	௪ 0BEA	௺ 0BFA
B					◌ோ 0BCB	௫ 0BEB	
C		ஜ 0B9C			◌ௌ 0BCC	௬ 0BEC	
D					◌் 0BCD	௭ 0BED	
E	எ 0B8E	ஞ 0B9E	ம 0BAE	◌ா 0BBE		௮ 0BEE	
F	ஏ 0B8F	ட 0B9F	ய 0BAF	◌ி 0BBF		௯ 0BEF	

Proposed Charts

	0B8	0B9	0BA	0BB	0BC	0BD	0BE	0BF
0		ஐ		ரா	்ᵉ	ஓ		ധ
1				ற	ஂ			൱
2		ஒ		ல	ஂ			கூ
3	ஃ	ஓ	ண	எ				ட
4		ஔ	த	ழ				மீ
5	அ	க		வ				ஹை
6	ஆ			யா	ெ		௦	பூ
7	இ			ஷ	ே	�ை	க	ஈட
8	ஈ		ந	ஸ	ை		உ	ஷெ
9	உ	ங	ன	ஹ			�	ரூ
A	ஊ	ச	ப		ொ		ச	நீ
B					ோ		௬	ஈட
C		ஐ			ௌ		சூ	வூ
D					ஂ		எ	சூ
E	எ	௫	ம	ா			அ	பீ
F	ஏ	ட	ய	ி		நூ	கூ	ஆூ

Tamil Supplement

	11FC	11FD	11FE	11FF
0	ஷத	கீ�}	குௗ	
1	�	ஐ	லீௗ	
2	ஊ	ஹூௗ	ஙூ	
3	ஃௗ	ஹூ	பூௗ	
4	சு	வரி	நீ	
5	சூௗ	ஙத	ஆு	
6	கூ	ஹது	வூ	
7	கௗ	ஙூ	ழீ	
8	ப	டசு	மி	
9	உ	ஆௗு	வூ	
A	ஹு	கூ	சீௗ	
B	ஙூ	பு	பௗு	
C	ஙௗ	கௗ	ஙௗ	
D	சு	ஹூ	ஐ	
E	உ	பு	யு	
F	ஒ	கீௗ	வு	ணௗ

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