Bugs (sigh) in Knuth’s ‘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 Poppe-lier) 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 Wesley (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:

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<th>Code</th>
<th>Vol</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Edition</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<td>13447</td>
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<td>12th</td>
<td>3/92</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>4th</td>
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<tr>
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<td>7th</td>
<td>5/92</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\)Rita Snaddon, Sales Support Manager, Addison-Wesley, Concertgebouwplein 25, 1071 LM Amsterdam, phone: 020-6717296, fax: 020-6645334

Dutch TeX Users Group (NTG), P.O. Box 394, 1740 AJ Schagen, The Netherlands

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3 Availability of errata sheets

Errata sheets for Knuth’s ‘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 \TeX{}book since 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 \TeX{}book 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 \TeX{}book, 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. Some of these corrections have already been made in reprints 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 16 June 1987 and 20 February 1989. Corrections made to the softcover version of The \TeX{}book 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 reprints 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.six

This is a list of all corrections made to Computers & Typesetting, Volumes A, C, and E, between 30 September 1989 and 15 March 1992. Corrections made to the softcover version of The \TeX{}book 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 reprints of the books. Some of the corrections below have already been made in reprints 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{}; it will unfortunately be impossible to document all of those changes. Therefore, 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 \TeX{}book 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 reprints 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 META\,FONT 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 \TeX\,book 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. 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 META\,FONT 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 META\,FONT84 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 bug fixes 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.