# The luaotfload package

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# Abstract

This package is an adaptation of the ConTEXt font loading system, providing the ability to load OpenType fonts with extended font loading syntax supporting a large selection of OpenType font features.

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# 1 Introduction

Font management and installation has always been painful with TEX. A lot of files are needed for one font (tfm, pfb, map, fd, vf), and as TEX is 8-bit each font is limited to

256 characters. But the font world has evolved since  $T_EX$ , and new font technologies have appeared, most notably the so called *smart font* technologies like OpenType fonts. These fonts can contain a lot of characters, and additional functionalities like ligatures, old-style numbers, small capitals, etc., and support more complex writing systems like Arabic and Indic<sup>1</sup> scripts. They are widely deployed and available for all modern operating systems and are becoming the de facto standard fonts for advanced text layout. Until now the only way to use them directly in the TEX world was by using them with X=TEX.

Unlike X<sub>3</sub>T<sub>E</sub>X, LuaT<sub>E</sub>X does not provide direct support for using these fonts by default, but it provides a way to hook Lua code in some points of the T<sub>E</sub>X processing; for instance, we can improve the font loading system, and text procession, which what this package is about.

# 2 Loading fonts

luaotfload supports an extended font loading syntax which looks like:

\font\foo={\prefix}: \font name \: \font features \} \TFX font features \}

The curly brackets are optional and are used for escaping spaces in font names (double quotes can also used for the same purpose).

**Prefix** The  $\langle prefix \rangle$  be either file: or name:, which specify whether to use a select the font from its filename or font name, respectively. If no prefix is specified, then file: is assumed.

For compatibility with  $X_{fl}EX$ , surrounding the (*font name*) with square brackets is synonymous to using the file: prefix.

Accessing fonts by fontname allows loading system installed fonts as well as TEXMF ones, and requires a font names database; see Section 3 for more information.

**Font name** The  $\langle font name \rangle$  can be either a font filename or actual font name based on the  $\langle prefix \rangle$  as mentioned above.

Fonts loaded by filename may either include their absolute path in the filesystem or consist of just the filename with a path. If no path is specified then kpathsea is used to locate the font (which will typically be in the TEXMF tree or the current directory).

For example,

```
\font\1={file:ec-lmr10} at 10pt
\font\2={/Users/Shared/Fonts/aldus.otf} at 11pt
\font\3={name:TeX Gyre Pagella} at 9pt
```

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Unfortunately, luaotfload doesn't support Indic scripts right now

**Font features** (*font features*) are a list of items separated by semi-colons, which are either key=value font parameters, or switches to enable/disable certain font features in the form of +feat/-feat. The supported keys are:

### mode

luaotfload has two OpenType processing modes; base and node. base mode works by mapping OpenType features to traditional TEX ligature and kerning mechanisms, thus supporting only non-contextual substitutions and kerning pairs, but is slightly faster. node works by direct processing of the node list at Lua end and have more wide support of OpenType features but can be slow especially with complex fonts and can't be used in math mode.

By default node mode is used, and you have to manually force base mode when needed e.g. for math fonts.

#### script

OpenType script string, default value is dflt. Some fonts don't assign features to the dflt script, in which case the script need to be set explicitly.

### language

OpenType language string, default value is latn.

## featurefile

feature files are textual representation of OpenType tables and can be used to extend OpenType features of the font on fly. The file name of the feature file is passed, then features defined in the file can be enabled/disabled like any other feature. The syntax is documented in Adobe's OpenType Feature File Specification.

For example, to set a tkrn feature from mykern.fea file:

\font\lmr=Latin Modern Roman:featurefile=mykern.fea;+tkrn

#### color

font color, defined as a triplet of two-digit hexadecimal RGB values, with optionally another value for the transparency (where 00 is completely transparent and FF is opaque.)

For example, to set text in semitransparent red:

\font\lmr=Latin Modern Roman:color=FF0000BB

## protrusion & expansion

Both keys control microtypographic features of the font, namely glyph protrusion and expansion. The value of the key is the name of predefined Lua tables of protrusion and expansion values; see the end of otfl-font-dum.lua file for an example of such tables. The only predefined value is default.

For example, to enable default protrusion<sup>2</sup>:

\font\lmr=Latin Modern Roman:protrusion=default

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>You also need to set \pdfprotrudechars2 \pdfadjustspacing2 to activate protrusion and expansion, respectively. See PDFTFX manual for details

**Non-standard font features** luaotfload defines some additional font feature not defined in OpenType, currently three features are defined:

- anum: replaces European numbers with eastern Arabic numbers or Persian numbers, depending on the value of language.
- itlc: compute italic correction values (on by default).
- tlig: applies legacy TFX ligatures (``''-- -- !` ?` <<>>).
- trep: applies legacy T<sub>E</sub>X replacements (`'").

(For X<sub>4</sub>T<sub>E</sub>X users: these last two are the equivalent of writing mapping=text-tex using X<sub>4</sub>T<sub>E</sub>X's input remapping feature.)

# 3 Font names database

As introduced in the previous section, luaotfload uses a database to keep track of fonts available to LuaTEX. Using this database, fonts can be loaded by font name as well as filename.

When luaotfload is asked to load a font by font name, it will check if font names database exists and load it, or generate a new database if non exists. This is all done automatically without user intervention. When the asked font is missing from the database, it will attempt to update the database and try to find the font again, so that the user can install new fonts without worrying about manually updating the database.

However, it is sometimes desirable to update the database manually, so luaotfload provides a mkluatexfontdb utility to manually update the database. mkluatexfontdb is a lua script that can be either run directly or as an argument to texlua, depending on your system<sup>3</sup>.

The first time the database is generated may take quite some time to process every font on your computer. This is particularly noticeable if it occurs during a typesetting run. Subsequent runs to update the database will be quite fast, however.

luaotfload will parse standard places for fonts in your system to build the font database. On Linux, it will read fontconfig configuration files to find the font locations; on Windows and Mac OS X, it will search in the standard font locations, %WINDIR%\Fonts in Windows and ~/Library/Fonts, /Library/Fonts, /System/Library/Fonts, and /Network/Library/Fonts in Mac OS X.

If you do not wish the standard font locations be searched by default but would rather specify the exact locations in which to find your fonts, set the OSFONTDIR environment variable instead. When this variable is set, only the specified directories will be searched.

mkluatexfontdb.lua --help provides a brief summary of the functionality of the script and includes some advanced options that we have not mentioned here.

# 3.1 Blacklisting fonts

Some fonts are problematic in LuaT<sub>E</sub>X, if you found that your document takes too long to compile, or eats all the free memory, you can find the culprit file by running

 $<sup>^3</sup>On$  MS Windows it can be run either by calling the wrapper application <code>mkluatexfontdb.exe</code> or with <code>texlua.exe</code> <code>mkluatexfontdb.lua</code>

mkluatexfontdb utility with -v option to see which font file it is stuck with. You can then instruct luaotfload to ignore this font by adding it to the blacklist configuration file.

Simply, create a file named otfl-blacklist.cnf and added the to be blacklisted files, one per line. Then put the file some where kpse can find. You can either use the base name or the full path. Any thing after a % sign is ignored.

# 4 Required ConT<sub>E</sub>Xt files

This package is a wrapper for several files taken from the ConTEXt macro package. The philosophy is to let ConTEXt do all the implementation and update these files from time to time. So we try not to modify the files taken from ConTEXt as far as possible, but we changed their names to prevent name clashes.

The ConTEXt files are renamed by adding the prefix otfl- to them (otfl as OTF Load). The files are:

| • font-ott.lua | • font-otc.lua   |
|----------------|--|
| • font-otf.lua | • font-def.lua   |
| • font-otd.lua | • font-xtx.lua   |
| • font-oti.lua | • font-map.lua   |
| • font-otb.lua | • font-dum.lua   |
| • font-otn.lua |  |
| • font-ota.lua |  |
|                | <ul> <li>font-otf.lua</li> <li>font-otd.lua</li> <li>font-oti.lua</li> <li>font-otb.lua</li> <li>font-otn.lua</li> </ul> |

The following files have been written for this package:

| • font-clr.lua • font-nms.lua • luat-ovr.lua |
|--|
|--|

# 5 Troubleshooting

If you encounter problems with some fonts, please first update to the latest version of this package before reporting a bug, as this package is under active development.

A very common problem is the lack of features for some OpenType fonts even when specified. It can be related to the fact that some fonts do not provide features for the dflt script, which is the default one in this package, so you may have to specify the script in the command line, for example:

\font\myfont = MyFont.otf:script=latn;+liga;

# File I luaotfload.lua

First some usual initializations.

```
1module("luaotfload", package.seeall)
2
3luaotfload.module = {
     name = "luaotfload",
4
     version
                  = 1.27,
5
     date
                 = "2012/05/28",
6
7
     description = "OpenType layout system.",
     author = "Elie Roux & Hans Hagen",
8
     copyright = "Elie Roux",
license = "CCO"
9
10
11 }
12
13 local error, warning, info, log = luatexbase.provides_module(luaotfload.module)
```

This is a necessary initalization in order not to rebuild an existing font. Maybe 600 should be replaced by \pdfpkresolution or texconfig.pk\_dpi (and it should be replaced dynamically), but we don't have access (yet) to the texconfig table, so we let it be 600. Anyway, it does still work fine even if \pdfpkresolution is changed.

```
14 kpse.init_prog("", 600, "/")
```

The minimal required LuaTEX version.

```
15 local luatex_version = 60
16
17 if tex.luatexversion < luatex_version then
18 warning("LuaTeX v%.2f is old, v%.2f is recommended.",
19 tex.luatexversion/100,
20 luatex_version /100)
21 end</pre>
```

## 5.1 Module loading

We load the ConTEXt files with this function. It automatically adds the otfl- prefix to it, so that we call it with the actual ConTEXt name.

```
22 function luaotfload.loadmodule(name)
     local tofind = "otfl-"..name
23
      local found = kpse.find_file(tofind,"tex")
24
25
      if found then
          log("loading file %s.", found)
26
          dofile(found)
27
      else
28
          error("file %s not found.", tofind)
29
30
      end
31 end
```

We start loading some lua files. These two are some code not used by ConT<sub>E</sub>Xt at all that allow other modules to be used, it provides some low-level ConT<sub>E</sub>Xt functions.

```
32 luaotfload.loadmodule("luat-dum.lua") -- not used in context at all
33 luaotfload.loadmodule("luat-ovr.lua") -- override some luat-dum functions
34 luaotfload.loadmodule("data-con.lua") -- maybe some day we don't need this one
```

A hack to remove a warning from node-dum.lua as it is ConTFXt specific.

35 tex.attribute[0] = 0

Node support modules.

```
36 luaotfload.loadmodule("font-ini.lua")
```

37 luaotfload.loadmodule("node-dum.lua")

38 luaotfload.loadmodule("node-inj.lua")

By default ConT<sub>E</sub>Xt takes some private attributes for internal use. To avoide attribute clashes with other packages, we override the function that allocates new attributes, making it a wraper around luatexbase.new\_attribute(). We also prefix attributes with otfl@ to avoid possiple name clashes.

39 function attributes.private(name)

```
40 local attr = "otfl@" .. name
41 local number = luatexbase.attributes[attr]
42 if not number then
43 number = luatexbase.new_attribute(attr)
44 end
45 return number
46 end
```

Font handling modules.

```
47 luaotfload.loadmodule("font-tfm.lua")
48 luaotfload.loadmodule("font-cid.lua")
49 luaotfload.loadmodule("font-ott.lua")
50 luaotfload.loadmodule("font-otf.lua")
51 luaotfload.loadmodule("font-otf.lua")
52 luaotfload.loadmodule("font-ott.lua")
53 luaotfload.loadmodule("font-ott.lua")
54 luaotfload.loadmodule("font-ott.lua")
55 luaotfload.loadmodule("font-ott.lua")
56 luaotfload.loadmodule("font-ott.lua")
57 luaotfload.loadmodule("font-ott.lua")
58 luaotfload.loadmodule("font-ott.lua")
59 luaotfload.loadmodule("font-ott.lua")
60 luaotfload.loadmodule("font-dum.lua")
```

This is a patch for otfl-font-def.lua, that defines a reader for ofm fonts, this is necessary if we set the forced field of the specification to ofm.

```
61 if fonts and fonts.tfm and fonts.tfm.readers then
62 fonts.tfm.readers.ofm = fonts.tfm.readers.tfm
63 end
```

luaotfload specific modules.

64 luaotfload.loadmodule("font-nms.lua") 65 luaotfload.loadmodule("font-clr.lua")

## 5.2 Post-processing TFM table

Here we do some final touches to the loaded TFM table before passing it to the T<sub>E</sub>X end. First we create a callback for patching fonts on the fly, to be used by other packages.

66 luatexbase.create\_callback("luaotfload.patch\_font", "simple", function() end)

then define a function where font manipulation will take place.

```
67 local function def_font(...)
68 local fontdata = fonts.define.read(...)
69 if type(fontdata) == "table" and fontdata.shared then
```

Then we populate MathConstants table, which is required for OpenType math.

```
70
          local otfdata = fontdata.shared.otfdata
          if otfdata.metadata.math then
71
72
              local mc = \{ \}
73
              for k,v in next, otfdata.metadata.math do
74
                   if k:find("Percent") then
75
                       -- keep percent values as is
                       mc[k] = v
76
                   else
77
                       mc[k] = v / fontdata.units * fontdata.size
78
79
                   end
80
              end
              -- for \overwithdelims
81
              mc.FractionDelimiterSize
                                                      = 1.01 * fontdata.size
82
              mc.FractionDelimiterDisplayStyleSize = 2.39 * fontdata.size
83
84
85
              fontdata.MathConstants = mc
86
          end
```

Execute any registered font patching callbacks.

```
87 luatexbase.call_callback("luaotfload.patch_font", fontdata)
88 end
89 return fontdata
90 end
```

# 5.3 ConTEXt override

Here we override some defaults set in ConTFXt code.

```
91 fonts.mode = "node"
```

The following features are useful in math (e.g. in XITS Math font), but luaotfload does not recognize them in base mode.

```
92 local register_base_sub = fonts.otf.features.register_base_substitution
93 local gsubs = {
94   "ss01", "ss02", "ss03", "ss04", "ss05",
95   "ss06", "ss07", "ss08", "ss09", "ss10",
96   "ss11", "ss12", "ss13", "ss14", "ss15",
97   "ss16", "ss17", "ss18", "ss19", "ss20",
```

```
98 }
99
100 for _,v in next, gsubs do
      register_base_sub(v)
101
102 end
   Finally we register the callbacks
103 luatexbase.add_to_callback("pre_linebreak_filter",
                                 nodes.simple_font_handler,
104
                                "luaotfload.pre_linebreak_filter")
105
106 luatexbase.add_to_callback("hpack_filter",
                                 nodes.simple_font_handler,
107
                                "luaotfload.hpack_filter")
108
109 luatexbase.reset_callback("define_font")
110 luatexbase.add_to_callback("define_font",
                                 def_font,
111
                                "luaotfload.define_font", 1)
112
113 luatexbase.add_to_callback("find_vf_file",
                                 fonts.vf.find,
114
                                "luaotfload.find_vf_file")
115
```

XXX: see https://github.com/wspr/unicode-math/issues/185

LuaTEX does not provide interface to accessing (Script)ScriptPercentScaleDown math constants, so we emulate XATEX behaviour by setting \fontdimen10 and \fontdimen11.

```
116 local function set_sscale_diments(fontdata)
      local mc = fontdata.MathConstants
117
      if mc then
118
119
           if mc["ScriptPercentScaleDown"] then
               fontdata.parameters[10] = mc.ScriptPercentScaleDown
120
           else -- resort to plain TeX default
121
               fontdata.parameters[10] = 70
122
123
           end
           if mc["ScriptScriptPercentScaleDown"] then
124
               fontdata.parameters[11] = mc.ScriptScriptPercentScaleDown
125
           else -- resort to plain TeX default
126
               fontdata.parameters[11] = 50
127
           end
128
      end
129
130 end
131
132luatexbase.add_to_callback("luaotfload.patch_font", set_sscale_diments, "unicodemath.set_sscale
```

# File II luaotfload.sty

Classical Plain+LATEX package initialization.

```
1\csname ifluaotfloadloaded\endcsname
    \verb?let\ifluaotfloadloaded\endinput
    3
    {\tt 4 \ bgroup \ expandafter 
    5\expandafter\ifx\csname ProvidesPackage\endcsname\relax
                 \input luatexbase.sty
    6
    7\else
                       \NeedsTeXFormat{LaTeX2e}
    8
                       \ProvidesPackage{luaotfload}%
    9
                                     [2012/05/28 v1.27 OpenType layout system]
10
                 \RequirePackage{luatexbase}
11
12\fi
13
14 \RequireLuaModule{lualibs}
```

Finally we load the lua module.

15 \RequireLuaModule{luaotfload}

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