XibeErechun Implementation
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SIL INTERNATIONAL
Disclaimers

- I am a Mongolian script novice.
- I have no personal knowledge of Xibe.
- I had no involvement in the development of this font.
XibeErechun

- Intended for Xibe, a language in northern China
  - Not intended to support the Mongolian language
- Uses a combination of standard Mongolian characters and “Sibe” characters (185D..1872)
  - 7 Mongolian consonants (Na, Ba, La, Sa, Ya, Wa, Ka)
  - 2 Mongolian vowels (A, O)
  - 17 Sibe consonants (Ang, Ka, Ga, Qa, Pa, Sha, Ta, Da, Ja, Fa, Gaa, Haa, Tsa, Za, Ra, Cha, Zha)
  - 5 Sibe vowels (E, I, Iy, Ue, U)
- Implemented using Graphite, SIL’s smart-font technology
Font processing

1. Apply FVS markers
2. Apply special rules - about 14
   - Example: Ka uses FVS1 form before a consonant
   - Example: Ue uses FVS1 form after Ta or Da, unless there is a FVS2 marker, in which case it uses FVS3 form
3. Assign and choose initial/medial/final forms
4. Generate ligatures
   - 25 CV combinations form ligatures
   - These are perfectly consistent and unambiguous
The extra Sibe characters seem to provide extra disambiguation compared to the standard Mongolian characters:

- Ta/Da
- Ga/Qa

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S Ta</th>
<th>1868</th>
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<tbody>
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- Ta/Da
- Ga/Qa

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<th>1864</th>
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<td>S Ga</td>
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<th></th>
<th>1865</th>
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<td>S Ha/Qa</td>
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<td>FVS1</td>
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Font Complexities

- The extra Sibe characters seem to provide extra disambiguation compared to the standard Mongolian characters
  - Ta/Da
  - Ga/Qa
- Remaining ambiguities
  - Sibe Ue (1860) / Mongolian O (1823)
  - Sibe E (185D) / Mongolian A (1820) / Mongolian Na (1828)
- Maximum number of variations – 3 (Sibe Ue)
- Keyboard is very simple