

Preface

This book, *The Unicode Standard, Version 2.0*, is the authoritative source of information on the Unicode character encoding standard, an international character code for information processing that includes all major scripts of the world. As well as encoding characters used for written communication in a simple and consistent manner, the Unicode Standard defines character properties and algorithms for use in implementations.

The Unicode Consortium, incorporated in 1991 as *Unicode, Inc.*, has the charter to maintain the Unicode Standard and promote its use worldwide. Members of the Consortium include major corporations and institutions involved in international computing. Membership is open to any organization or individual interested in contributing to the design, implementation, and promotion of the Unicode Standard.

Version 2.0 consolidates and expands on material from earlier publications.

- *The Unicode Standard, Version 1.0, Volume 1* (1991)
- *The Unicode Standard, Version 1.0, Volume 2* (1992)
- *The Unicode Standard, Version 1.1, Prepublication Edition* (1993)

In addition, it documents decisions made by the Unicode Technical Committee since 1993. The major additions in Version 2.0 are

- comprehensive new information about how to implement the standard
- a substantially clarified specification of conformance
- the full encoding of modern Korean Hangeul
- the full encoding of the Tibetan script
- the surrogate mechanism for future character extension

The Unicode Standard maintains consistency with the International Standard ISO/IEC 10646-1:1993 (including recent amendments), as specified in *Appendix C, Relationship to ISO/IEC 10646* in this book.