

Preface

This volume contains the proceedings of the 19th FST&TCS conference (Foundations of Software Technology and Theoretical Computer Science), organized under the auspices of the Indian Association for Research in Computing Science (<http://www.imsc.ernet.in/~iarcs>).

This year's conference attracted 84 submissions from as many as 25 different countries. Each submission was reviewed by at least three independent referees. After a week-long e-mail discussion, the program committee met on the 7th and 8th of August, 1999, in Chennai and selected 30 papers for inclusion in the conference program. We thank the program committee members and the reviewers for their sincere efforts.

We are fortunate to have five invited speakers this year, providing for a very attractive program: *Martín Abadi* (Bell Labs - Lucent Technologies, Palo Alto, USA), *Lila Kari* (Univ. Western Ontario, Canada), *Jean-Jacques Lévy* (INRIA, Paris, France), *Micha Sharir*, (Univ. Tel Aviv, Israel), and *Seinosuke Toda* (IEC, Tokyo, Japan). Moreover, the conference is preceded by a two-day workshop (December 11–12, 1999) on **Data Structures** and succeeded by a two-day workshop (December 16–17, 1999) on **Foundations of Mobile Computation**. The conference also features two joint sessions with the **International Symposium on Automata, Algorithms and Computation** (December 16–18, 1999, Chennai): *Monika Henzinger* (Compaq Systems Research, Palo Alto, USA) is presenting a tutorial on Web algorithmics as the last event of FST&TCS and *Kurt Mehlhorn* (Max-Planck-Institut, Saarbrücken, Germany) is giving a talk on algorithm engineering as the first event of ISAAC. We thank all the invited speakers for agreeing to talk at the conference, as well as for providing abstracts and articles for the proceedings.

The Institute of Mathematical Sciences and the Indian Institute of Technology, both at Chennai, are co-hosting the conference. We thank these Institutes, as well as the others who extended financial support, agencies of the Government of India and private software companies in India.

We thank the members of the organizing committee for making it happen. Special thanks go to the staff of our institutes and to Alfred Hofmann of Springer-Verlag for their help with the proceedings.

September 1999

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