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Preface

The Eighth Italian Conference on Theoretical Computer Science (ICTCS 2003) was held at the University Residential Center of Bertinoro, Italy, on October 13–15 2003. The center is composed of three large historical and monumental buildings not far from one another, forming a united complex on the top of the built up area of the ancient town of Bertinoro.

Previous conferences took place in Pisa (1972), Mantova (1974 and 1989), L'Aquila (1992), Ravello (1995), Prato (1998), and Torino (2001).

The conference aims at bringing together computer scientists, especially young researchers, to foster cooperation and exchange ideas and results. Its main topics include: analysis and design of algorithms, data types and data structures, theory of logical design and layout, computability, complexity, automata, symbolic and algebraic computation, security, cryptography, specification and verification, formal languages, foundations of functional programming, foundations of logic programming, term-rewriting, semantics, type theory, new computing paradigms, parallel and distributed computation, theory of concurrency, theory of databases, theory of knowledge bases, theory of robotics.

The program committee, consisting of 14 members, considered 65 papers and selected 27 for presentation. These papers were selected on the basis of originality, quality, and relevance to theoretical computer science. These proceedings include the revised versions of the 27 accepted papers and the invited talks by Marios Mavronicolas (*Extreme Nash Equilibria*), Martin Hofmann (*Certification of Memory Usage*), and Gérard Boudol (*On Programming Models for Mobility*).

Paper selection was a difficult and challenging task, and many good submissions had to be rejected. Each submission was refereed by at least three reviewers and some had four reports or more. We are very grateful to all the program committee members, who devoted much effort and valuable time to reading and selecting the papers. In addition, we gratefully acknowledge the help of a large number of colleagues who reviewed submissions in their area of expertise. They are all listed on page VII. We apologize for any inadvertent omissions.

Following the example of ICTCS 2001, we encouraged authors to submit their contributions in electronic format. We handled the submissions with CyberChair (<http://www.CyberChair.org>) a free Web-based paper submission and reviewing system. With reference to this, we would like to thank Luca Padovani who helped us a lot at various stages of the whole process. His computer skills and the time and effort he invested were crucial ingredients of our ability to run the program committee.

Finally, we would like to thank all the authors that submitted their papers for making this conference possible, the program committee members, as well as all the conference participants.

October 2003

C. Blundo
C. Laneve

ICTCS 2003

October 13–15 2003, Bertinoro, Italy

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