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Preface

Over the past two decades, the Foundations of Software Technology and Theoretical Computer Science (FSTTCS) conferences have been providing an annual forum in India for the presentation and publication of results in computer science from around the world. This volume contains the proceedings of the 23rd FSTTCS, organized under the aegis of the Indian Association for Research in Computing Science (IARCS).

FSTTCS 2003 attracted over 160 submissions from 29 countries. After obtaining 521 referee reports within a period of one month, the programme committee accepted 33 contributed papers, the maximum that could fit into a two-and-half-day programme. Unfortunately, many good papers had to be turned away. We thank all the authors for submitting their papers to FSTTCS 2003. We thank the reviewers for the tremendous support they provided to the conference through their informed and thorough reviews of the papers. We sincerely thank the members of the programme committee for lending their names to the conference and for meeting the challenge arising out of the increased number of submissions this year. We are especially grateful to Kamal Lodaya who came down to Mumbai to assist us during the PC meeting.

FSTTCS programmes have always featured highly eminent computer scientists as invited speakers. It is our great pleasure to thank the invited speakers of FSTTCS 2003, Randal Bryant, Moni Naor, Joseph Sifakis, Osamu Watanabe and Avi Wigderson, who graciously agreed to speak at the conference and contribute to this volume.

For several years now, topical workshops have been organized together with FSTTCS conferences. This year, the conference was preceded by a workshop on *Advances in Model Checking*, and was followed by a workshop on *Algorithms for Processing Massive Data Sets*. We thank the organizers and speakers for agreeing to come and share their expertise.

The PC meeting was held electronically using software originally developed by V. Vinay. We thank our colleagues at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research who came forward to help us, in particular, Vishwas Patil, who got the software up and kept the system running. We thank the Department of Computer Science, IIT Bombay, for hosting the conference. We thank Springer-Verlag for agreeing to publish the proceedings of this conference, and its editorial team for helping us bring out this volume.

October 2003

Paritosh Pandya and
Jaikumar Radhakrishnan

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