

Lecture Notes in Computer Science

2245

Edited by G. Goos, J. Hartmanis, and J. van Leeuwen

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FST TCS 2001: Foundations of Software Technology and Theoretical Computer Science

21st Conference
Bangalore, India, December 13-15, 2001
Proceedings



Springer

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Cataloging-in-Publication Data applied for

Die Deutsche Bibliothek - CIP-Einheitsaufnahme

Foundations of software technology and theoretical computer science :
21th conference ; proceedings / FST TCS 2001, Bangalore, India, December
13 - 15, 2001. Ramesh Hariharan ... (ed.). - Berlin ; Heidelberg ; New York ;
Barcelona ; Hong Kong ; London ; Milan ; Paris ; Tokyo : Springer, 2001
(Lecture notes in computer science ; Vol. 2245)
ISBN 3-540-43002-4

CR Subject Classification (1998): F.3, D.3, F.4, F.2, F.1, G.2

ISSN 0302-9743

ISBN 3-540-43002-4 Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg New York

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Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg New York
a member of BertelsmannSpringer Science+Business Media GmbH

<http://www.springer.de>

© Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg 2001
Printed in Germany

Typesetting: Camera-ready by author, data conversion by Steingraber Satztechnik GmbH, Heidelberg
Printed on acid-free paper SPIN: 10845907 06/3142 5 4 3 2 1 0

Preface

This volume contains the proceedings of the 21st international conference on the Foundations of Software Technology and Theoretical Computer Science (FSTTCS 2001), organized under the auspices of the Indian Association for Research in Computing Science (IARCS).

This year's conference attracted 73 submissions from 20 countries. Each submission was reviewed by at least three independent referees. In a departure from previous conferences, the final selection of the papers making up the program was done through an electronic discussion spanning two weeks, without a physical meeting of the Program Committee (PC).

Since the PC of FSTTCS is distributed across the globe, it is very difficult to fix a meeting whose time and venue is convenient for a substantial fraction of the PC. Given this, it was felt that an electronic discussion would enable all members to participate on a more equal footing in the final selection. All reviews, scores, and comments were posted on a secure website, with a mechanism for making updates and automatically sending notifications by email to relevant members of the PC. All PC members participated actively in the discussion. The general feedback on the arrangement was very positive, so we hope to continue this in future years.

We had five invited speakers this year: Eric Allender, Sanjeev Arora, David Harel, Colin Stirling, and Uri Zwick. We thank them for having readily accepted our invitation to talk at the conference and for providing abstracts (and even full papers) for the proceedings.

Two satellite workshops were organized in conjunction with FSTTCS this year. The conference was preceded by a two-day workshop (December 11–12) on Quantum Computing in Bangalore, organized by Harry Buhrman and Umesh Vazirani. Following the conference, on December 17–18, there was a two-day workshop on Reasoning about Large and Infinite State Systems in the nearby city of Chennai (Madras), organized by P.S. Thiagarajan.

We thank all the reviewers and PC members, without whose dedicated effort the conference would not have been possible. We thank the Organizing Committee for making the arrangements for the conference. As usual, Alfred Hofmann and his team at Springer-Verlag were very helpful in preparing the proceedings.

December 2001

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