

Preface

This volume contains the Proceedings of the Third Irish Conference on the Mathematical Foundations of Computer Science and Information Technology (MFCSIT 2004). The conference was a two-day event and took place in the University of Dublin, Trinity College (TCD) in the 22nd and 23rd of July 2004.

MFCSIT2004 is the third in the series of conferences to be held in Ireland whose main focus is the mathematical and foundational issues arising out of computer science and information technology. The first of these conferences, MFCSIT2000, was held at NUI Cork on 20/21 July 2000 and the proceedings were published as Volume 40 of the Electronic Notes in Theoretical Computer Science (ENTCS), (T. Hurley, M. Aircinnigh, M. Schellekens and A. Seda (eds)). The second, MFCSIT2002, took place in NUI Galway on the 18th and 19th of July 2002 and were published as Volume 74 of the ENTCS (S. Flynn, T. Hurley, M. Aircinnigh, N. Madden, M. McGettrick, M. Schellekens and A. Seda (eds)).

This extract from the introduction to the first conference, quoted in the introduction to the second, remains relevant: *“It is now widely recognised that there has been a very significant increase in Ireland over the last few years in activities relating to the production of software and hardware by many computer manufacturers, including some of the world’s best-known names in the computer industry. However, it was felt by a number of people... that a need had emerged for a forum which could provide the means for discussions ... of related theoretical questions, and so help maintain a balance between theory and practice. The MFCSIT conferences are intended to provide such a forum and hence to help maintain this balance.”*

It is my pleasure to record a debt of gratitude to the very many people who made this meeting a success, both on my own behalf and on behalf of my fellow editors: Ted Hurley, Michael Mac an Aircinnigh, Michel Schellekens and Athony Seda. First, we were fortunate in having four internationally-known speakers who gave keynote addresses: Samson Abramsky, David Parnas, Michael Huth and Joseph Halpern. They set the themes for the conference excellently with their fascinating talks.

On the editing side, we are extremely grateful to all those who refereed the proceedings, and assisted in their preparation, and who assisted with preparing the web site for the conference. A conference cannot exist, of course, without

participants and our thanks go out also to those who attended, and to those who submitted papers and chaired sessions.

Finally, we wish to acknowledge the support of our sponsors, as follows:

The Department of Computer Science, Trinity College, Dublin

School of Mathematics, Applied Mathematics and Statistics, NUI, Cork

The Department of Computer Science, NUI, Cork

Anthony K. Seda

(Mathematics, NUI, Cork)

Ted Hurley

(Mathematics, NUI, Galway)

Michel Schellekens

(Computer Science, NUI, Cork)

Micheal Mac an Airchinnigh

(Computer Science, Trinity College, Dublin)

Glenn Strong

(Computer Science, Trinity College, Dublin)