Foreword

The papers in these proceedings were presented at the 44th Annual Symposium on Foundations of Computer Science (FOCS 2003) sponsored by the IEEE Technical Committee on Mathematical Foundations of Computing. The conference was held in Cambridge, MA, October 11-14, 2003.

The program committee consisted of
Manindra Agarwal (IIT Kanpur),
Paul Beame (U. Washington),
Ran Canetti (IBM),
Chandra Chekuri (Lucent),
Erik Demaine (MIT),
Monika Henzinger (Google),
Valentine Kabanets (U.C. San Diego),
Anna Karlin (U. Washington),
Jon Kleinberg (Cornell),
Eyal Kushilevitz (Technion),
Daniele Micciancio (U.C. San Diego),
Michael Mitzenmacher (Harvard),
Dana Randall (Georgia Tech.),
Dana Ron (Tel Aviv),
Madhu Sudan (MIT),
John Watrous (U. Calgary),
and Avi Wigderson (IAS and Hebrew U.).

The program committee met on June 13-14, 2003 and selected 62 papers (of which one was later withdrawn) from 254 submissions (nine of which were later withdrawn). The submissions were reviewed as carefully as time permitted, but not formally refereed. It is expected that many of them will appear in a more polished and complete form in scientific journals in the future. In addition to the regular program the committee also invited three tutorial lectures from Avrim Blum, Dana Randall, and Eli Upfal.

The committee selected “On the Impossibility of Dimension Reduction in $\ell_1$” by Bo Brinkman and Moses Charikar for the best paper award and “Hardness of Approximating the Shortest Vector Problem in High $L_p$ Norms” by Subash Khot for the Machtey Award for the best student paper.

The committee wishes to thank all those who submitted papers for consideration, as well as the external reviewers who helped evaluate the submissions. A list of all external reviewers appears under the heading "Reviewers". The program committee wishes to thank the SIGACT Electronic Publications Board for use of their electronic submission and deliberations services, and Frances Titsworth for the production of these proceedings.