

# Preface

The International Conference on Semigroups, Algebras and Operator Theory (ICSAOT-2014) focused on the recent advances in semigroup theory and operator theory. The scientific programs emphasized on the research related to the structure theory of semigroup, semigroup approach to Von Neumann regularity and operator algebras. The conference was hosted by the Department of Mathematics, Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT), Kochi, Kerala, India during 26–28 February 2014.

Leading researchers from 11 different countries working in these areas were invited to participate. A total of 63 delegates including Ph.D. students from eight countries participated. The following plenary lectures were given:

1. John C. Meakin, University of Nebraska, USA—*Amalgams of Inverse Semigroups of  $C^*$ -Algebras*.
2. Laszlo Marki, Budapest, Hungary—*Commutative Order in Semigroups*.
3. M.V. Volkov, University of Ekaterinburg, Russia—*The Finite Basis Problem for Kauffman Monoids*.
4. Alessandra Cherubini, Milano, Italy—*Word Problem in Amalgams of Inverse Semigroups*.
5. K.S.S. Nambooripad, Kerala, India—*von Neumann Algebras and Semigroups*.
6. M.K. Sen, Kolkata, India—*Left Clifford Semigroups*.
7. Pascal Weil, LaBRI-CNRS, Talence Cedex, France—*Logic, Language and Semigroups: from the lattice of band varieties to the quantifier alternation hierarchy within the 2-variable fragment of first order logic*.
8. Jorge Almeida, Alegre, Portugal—*Irreducibility of Pseudovarieties of Semigroup*.
9. B.V. Limaye, Mumbai, India—*Operator Approximations*.
10. S.H. Kulkarni, Chennai, India—*The Null Space Theorem*.
11. M. Thamban Nair, Chennai, India—*Role of Hilbert Scales in Regularization Theory*.

The daily program consisted of lectures, paper presentations and discussions held in an open and encouraging atmosphere.

In addition to the above speakers there were invited talks and paper presentations. We are grateful to all participants for their valuable contributions and for making the ICSAOT-2014 a successful event. Moreover, we would like to thank the National Board for Higher Mathematics, DAE, Mumbai; CSIR, New Delhi; SERB-DST, New Delhi; KSCSTE, Thiruvananthapuram for providing us with financial support. We are also thankful to the Cochin University of Science and Technology for additional support and practical assistance related to the preparation and organization of the conference. We thank all our referees for their sincere cooperation, which enabled the successful completion of the refereeing processes.

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