

Preface — COLT 2013

Shai Shalev-Shwartz

*School of Engineering and Computer Science
The Hebrew University
Jerusalem, Israel*

SHAIS@CS.HUJI.AC.IL

Ingo Steinwart

*Institute for Stochastics and Applications
Faculty for Mathematics and Physics
University of Stuttgart
Stuttgart, Germany*

INGO.STEINWART@MATHEMATIK.UNI-STUTT.GART.DE

These proceedings contain the 47 papers accepted to, and presented at, the 26th Conference on Learning Theory (COLT), held in Princeton, New-Jersey, USA, on June 12-14, 2013. These papers were selected from 98 submissions by the program committee, with additional help from external expert reviewers. Of the 47 accepted papers, the following awards were given:

- The paper “Complexity Theoretic Lower Bounds for Sparse Principal Component Detection” by Berthet and Rigollet received the best paper award.
- The paper “Learning Using Local Membership Queries” by Awasthi, Feldman, and Kanade, received the best student paper award.
- The paper “Honest Compressions and Their Application to Compression Schemes” by Livni and Simon, received the Mark Fulk best student paper award.

These proceedings also contain the three open problems selected from among ten submitted. Selection of the open problems was handled by Elad Hazan, the Open Problem Chair, and was based on reviews of the submitted open problems by members of the program committee as well as additional external reviewers (in one case of a conflict of interest with the Open Problem Chair, a decision was made by the Program Chairs).

In addition to the 47 papers and three open problems published in these proceedings, the conference also included three invited talks, one by Sanjeev Arora on “Is Intractability a barrier for machine learning?”, one by Ralf Herbrich on “The Sum-Product Algorithm for Factor Graphs Revisited”, and one by Yann LeCun.

In addition to the entire program committee and all the external reviewers, we would like to thank the COLT General Chairs, Sebastien Bubeck and Philippe Rigollet, and the COLT Publications Chair, Alon Gonen.

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Shai Shalev-Shwartz and Ingo Steinwart

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