Conference on Learning Theory 2014: Preface

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These proceedings contain the 52 papers accepted to and presented at the 27th Conference on Learning Theory (COLT), held in Barcelona, Spain on June $13 - 15$, 2014. These papers were selected from 140 submissions by the program committee with additional help from external expert reviewers.

These proceedings also contain the eight open problems selected from among 10 submitted. Selection of the open problems was handled by Avrim Blum, 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 addition to the papers and open problems published in these proceedings, the conference program also included two invited talks, one by Michael Jordan titled "On the Computational and Statistical Interface and Big Data" and one by Yishay Mansour titled "Implementing the Wisdom of the Crowd".

The paper "Belief Propagation, Robust Reconstruction and Optimal Recovery of Block Models" by Mossel, Neeman, and Sly received the best paper award, and the paper "The Complexity of Learning Halfspaces using Generalized Linear Methods" by Daniely, Linial, and Shalev-Shwartz received the best student paper award. The best paper award committee was composed of Peter Auer, Avrim Blum, Nicoló Cesa-Bianchi, Yishay Mansour, and the two program chairs. The best student paper award committee consisted of Shai Ben-David, Alexander Rakhlin, Philippe Rigollet, and the two program chairs.

The local arrangements chairs were Sébastien Bubeck and Gábor Lugosi and the publication chair was Vitaly Feldman. We would like to express our gratitude to the entire program committee and to the external reviewers for their invaluable contributions to the success of conference. Finally, we would like to thank our generous sponsors: Centre de Recerca Matemàtica, Google, IBM Research, Microsoft Research and Springer.

Maria-Florina Balcan and Csaba Szepesvári
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