

# Preface

By bringing together scientists working in optimization and machine learning, LION aims to provide delegates with the opportunity to learn more about other research areas, where the algorithms, methods and theories on show are likely to be relevant to their own research.

Optimization and machine learning researchers are now forming their own community and identity. The International Conference on Learning and Optimization is proud to be the premiere conference in the area. As its organizers, we are honored to have such a variety of innovative and original scientific articles presented this year.

LION 2013 is the seventh international conference dedicated entirely to the field of optimization and machine learning. It was held in Catania - Italy, during January 7–11, 2013.

There were three plenary lectures:

*Youssef Hamadi, Microsoft Research - UK*

*Mauricio G.C. Resende, AT&T Labs Research - USA*

*Qingfu Zhang, University of Essex - UK,*

and four tutorial speakers:

*Paola Festa, University of Napoli “Federico II” - Italy,*

*Mario Guarracino, CNR - Italy,*

*Boris Goldengorin, National Research University, Moscow, Russia,*

*Yaroslav D. Sergeyev, University of Calabria, Italy.*

We had more submissions than ever this year, each manuscript was independently reviewed by at least three members of the Programme Committee in a blind review process. So, in these proceedings there are 49 research articles written by leading scientists in the field, from 47 different countries on 5 continents, describing an impressive array of ideas, technologies, algorithms, methods and applications in Optimization and Machine Learning.

We couldn't have organized this conference without these researchers, so we thank them all for coming. We also couldn't have organized LION without the excellent work of all of the Programme Committee members, the session chair Giovanni Stracquadanio, the publicity chair, and the chair of the local Organizing Committee, Patrizia Nardon.

We would like to express our appreciation to the keynote and tutorial speakers who accepted our invitation, and to all authors who submitted research papers to LION 2013.

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