

Mohammad R. Salavatipour

Curriculum Vitae

Personal Info

Address:

Department of Computing Science,
University of Alberta,
Edmonton, Alberta,
T6G2E8, Canada

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Positions:

JAN 2023 - Associate Dean (Grad), Faculty of Science, University of Alberta
PRESENT
JULY 2018 - Professor, Department of Computing Science, University of Alberta
PRESENT
JULY 2009 - Associate Professor, Department of Computing Science, University of Alberta
JUNE 2018
JULY 2010 - On sabbatical leave at Toyota Tech. Inst. at Chicago
JUNE 2011
JULY 2004 - Assistant Professor, Department of Computing Science, University of Alberta
JUNE 2009:
SEPT 2003 - Postdoctoral fellow and instructor, Department of Combinatorics and Optimization, University of Waterloo
JULY 2004:

Education

PH.D. 2003: Department of Computer Science, University of Toronto
Advisor: Prof. Michael Molloy
Thesis: Graph Colouring via the Discharging Method
M.Sc. 2000: Department of Computer Science, University of Toronto
Advisor: Prof. Derek G. Corneil
Thesis: On Sum Coloring of Graphs
B.Sc. 1998: Department of Computer Engineering, Sharif University of Technology
Advisor: Prof. Mohammad Ghodsi
Thesis: Parallel Delaunay Triangulation

Awards and Grants

- NSERC Discovery Grant, 2023-2028 (\$48,000/year)
- NSERC Discovery Grant, 2018-2023 (\$48,000/year)
- NSERC Discovery Grant, 2013-2018 (\$44,000/year)
- NSERC Discovery Grant, 2008-2013 (\$24,000/year)
- Alberta Ingenuity New Faculty Award 2008-2011 (\$96,000/year)
- NSERC Discovery grant, 2005-2007 (\$20,000/year)

- Department of Computing Science Research Excellence Award, 2007.
- Faculty Start-up grant, University of Alberta, 2004-2006 (\$20,000/year)
- NSERC postdoctoral fellowship, 2003-2005 (used only for 1 year)
- Killam postdoctoral fellowship, Dalhousie University 2003 (declined)

Research Interests

Approximation Algorithms, Hardness of approximation, Combinatorial Optimization, Combinatorics and Algorithmic Graph Theory.

Teaching Experience

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA:	2025: CMPUT498/501: Advanced Algorithms. 2019: CMPUT675 Algorithms for streaming and big data. 2022, 2018, 2015, 2013, 2011, 2007: CMPUT675 Topics on Approximation Algorithms and Approximability. 2009: CMPUT675 Topics on Algorithms and Combinatorial Optimization. 2005: CMPUT675 Randomized and Probabilistic Algorithms. 2012, 2013: CMPUT175 Intro. to Foundations of Comp. Science II. 2017, 2016, 2008: CMPUT304 Algorithms II. 2019, 2012, 2009, 2007, 2005, 2004: CMPUT 204, Algorithms I. 2015-2025, 2009, 2007: CMPUT272 Formal Systems and Logic in Computing Science. 2005: CMPUT675 Approximation Algorithms. 2005: CMPUT495 Honors Seminar.
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO:	Summer 2003: Computational Complexity and Computability (CSC 364). Fall 2002: Discrete Mathematics for Computer Science (CSC 238).

Service

- Associate Dean Grad (Faculty of Science), 2023-now.
- Faculty of Science Appeal Committee (Chair), 2021-2024.
- Faculty of Science Appeal Committee, 2019-21, 2025.
- FGPS Graduate Admission Advisory Committee, 2023-2025.
- Rep. of Faculty of Science on Engineering Faculty Council 2011-14, 2022-2025.
- Faculty hiring committee CS (Chair), 2024, 2025.
- Faculty hiring Committee CS 2012-13.
- Member of Faculty Evaluation Committee, FEC (2016-2018).
- Graduate Admission Committee Chair 2014-2017.
- Graduate Admission Committee (2006-2025).
- Graduate Mentoring Award Committee, FOS (2018-19).

- Faculty of Science Research Award committee (2019-20, 2021-22).
- Undergraduate curriculum committee 2013-14, 2018.

Student/Postdocs supervision

Ph.D. and M.Sc. students supervised:

- Zachary Friggstad, M.Sc., 2007.
Winner of departmental outstanding M.Sc. thesis award.
- Zhipeng Cai, Ph.D. (co-supervised with Guohui Lin), 2008.
Winner of 2008 Queen Elizabeth II Doctoral award
- Reza Khani, M.Sc. (2011 now at Microsoft).
- Zachary Friggstad, Ph.D., Aug 2011.
Winner of departmental outstanding Ph.D. thesis award (now Faculty at U. Alberta).
- Babak Behsaz, Ph.D. (2012 now at Google).
- Saber Khakpash, M.Sc. (2012).
- Amin Jorati, M.Sc. (2013 now at Intel).
- Sina Khankhajeh, M.Sc. (2015 now at Google).
- Rohit Sivakumar, M.Sc. (2015).
- Chris Martin, M.Sc. (2016).
- Arnoosh Golestanian, M.Sc., Aug 2017 (now Ph.D. student at U. Toronto).
- Dylan Hyatt-Denesik, M.Sc. (2019).
- Haozhou Pang, M.Sc. (Aug 2020).
- Aditya Jayaprakash, M.Sc. (2021).
- Mirmahdi Rahgoshay Ph.D. (2021)
- Ismail Naderi M.Sc. (2022)
- Lijiangnan Tian M.Sc. (2023)
- Kinter Ren M.Sc. (2024)
- Benyamin Ghaseminia M.Sc. (2024)
- Kinter Ren Ph.D. (2025-current)
- Mohsen Mohammadi M.Sc. (2023-current)
- Parsa Zarezadeh M.Sc. (2024-current)
- Keven Qiu M.Sc., co-supervised with Zac Friggstad (2025-current)

Postdocs:

- MohammadAli Safari, 2007 - 2008 (now at Google).
- Zoya Svitkina, 2008-2010 (now at Google).
- Imran Pirwani, 2008 - 2010 (now at Nvidia).
- Babak Behsaz, 2014 (now at Exai Bio).
- Mohsen Rezapour, 2015-2016. (now at IBS software)

- Kamyar Khodamoradi, 2017-2019 (now Faculty at U. of Regina).
 - Hao Sun (PDF, 2022-2024)
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Publications

Note: Papers that have appeared both at a conference proceedings and then later at a journal appear only ONCE in the following list. In all the publications except [8,9, 10, 25], the authors' names have been in alphabetical order.

a) Articles Published or Accepted in Refereed Journals

- [58] Z. Friggstad, K. Khodamoradi, and M.R. Salavatipour,
Exact Algorithms and Lower Bounds for Stable Instances of Euclidean k -Means,
To appear in SICOMP. Earlier version in Proc. of SODA 2019.
- [57] Z. Friggstad, R. Mousavi, M. Rahgoshay, and M.R. Salavatipour,
Improved Approximations for CVRP with Unsplittable Demands,
To appear in Math. of. Opr. Research. Earlier version in Proc. of IPCO 2022.
- [56] M.R. Salavatipour and Lijiangnan Tian,
Approximation Algorithms for the Airport and Railway Problem
J. Comb. Optimization 49(1):8 (2025). Earlier version in Proc. of SWAT 2024.
- [55] I. Naderi, M. Rezapour, and M.R. Salavatipour,
Approximation Schemes for Min-Sum k -Clustering
Discrete Optimization 54:100860, 2024. Earlier version in Proc. of ESA 2023: 84:1-84:16.
- [54] A. Jayaprakash and M.R. Salavatipour,
Approximation Schemes for Capacitated Vehicle Routing on Graphs of Bounded Treewidth, Bounded Doubling, or Highway Dimension
In ACM Trans. Algorithms 19(2): 20:1-20:36 (2023). Preliminary version in Proc. of SODA 2022.
- [53] D. Hyatt-Deneski, M. Rahgoshay and M.R. Salavatipour,
Approximations for Throughput Maximization
Algorithmica 86(5):154-1577, 2024. Preliminary version in proceedings of ISAAC 2020.
- [52] M. Rahgoshay and M.R. Salavatipour,
Asymptotic Quasi-polynomial Time Approximation Scheme for Resource Minimization for Fire Containment
Algorithmica 84(9): 2462-2479 (2022). Earlier version in Proc. of STACS 2020.
- [51] Z. Friggstad, K. Khodamoradi, M. Rezapour, and M.R. Salavatipour,
Approximation Schemes for Clustering with Outliers,
ACM Trans. Algorithms 15(2): 26:1-26:26 (2019). Earlier version in Proceedings of SODA 2018.
- [50] Z. Friggstad, A. Golestanian, K. Khodamoradi, C. Martin, M. Rahgoshay, M. Rezapour, and M.R. Salavatipour,
Scheduling Problems over Network of Machines, J. Scheduling 22(2): 239-253 (2019). Earlier version in Proceedings of APPROX 2017.
- [49] J. A. Soto, M. Rezapour, Z. Friggstad, and M. R. Salavatipour,
LP-based Approximation Algorithms for Facility Location in Buy-at-Bulk Network Design,
Algorithmica 81(3): 1075-1095 (2019). Earlier version in Proceedings of WADS 2015.

- [48] Z. Friggstad, M. Rezapour, and M.R. Salavatipour,
Local Search Yields a PTAS for k -Means in Doubling Metrics,
 SIAM J. on Computing (selected papers of FOCS'16) 48(2): 452-480. Earlier version in Proc. of FOCS 2016.
- [47] B. Behsaz, Z. Friggstad, M.R. Salavatipour, and R. Sivakumar,
Approximation Algorithms for Min-Sum k -Clustering and Balanced k -Median, Algorithmica 81(3): 1006-1030 (2019)
 Earlier version in Proc. of ICALP 2015.
- [46] S. Ahmadian, B. Behsaz, Z. Friggstad, A. Jorati, M.R. Salavatipour, and C. Swamy,
Approximation Algorithms for Minimum-Load k -Facility Location, ACM Trans. on Algorithms 14(2), Article 16, 2018. Earlier version in Proceedings of APPROX 2014.
- [45] C. Martin and M.R. Salavatipour, *Approximation Algorithms for Capacitated k -tours*,
 Algorithmica 80(8): 2492-2511 (2018)
 Earlier version in Proc. of ISAAC 2016.
- [44] B. Behsaz, M.R. Salavatipour, and Z. Svitkina,
New Approximation Algorithms for the Unsplittable Capacitated Facility Location Problem,
 Algorithmica 75(1): 53-83 (2016).
 Earlier version in Proc. of SWAT 2012.
- [43] Sarel Har-Peled, Amir Nayyeri, Mohammad R. Salavatipour, Anastasios Sidiropoulos,
How to Walk Your Dog in the Mountains with No Magic Leash,
 Discrete and Computational Geometry 55(1): 39-73 (2016).
 Earlier version in Proc. of SoCG 2012.
- [42] M. Reza Khani, Mohammad R. Salavatipour,
Improved approximations for buy-at-bulk and shallow-light k -Steiner trees and $(k, 2)$ -subgraph,
 J. Comb. Optim. 31(2): 669-685 (2016).
 Earlier version in Proc. of ISAAC 2011.
- [41] Babak Behsaz, Mohammad R. Salavatipour,
On Minimum Sum of Radii and Diameters Clustering,
 Algorithmica 73(1): 143-165 (2015).
 Earlier version in Proc. of SWAT 2012
- [40] M. Reza Khani, Mohammad R. Salavatipour,
Improved Approximation Algorithms for the Min-max Tree Cover and Bounded Tree Cover Problems,
 Algorithmica 69(2): 443-460 (2014).
 Earlier version in Proc. of APPROX 2011.
- [39] Nikhil Bansal, Zachary Friggstad, Rohit Khandekar, Mohammad R. Salavatipour,
A logarithmic approximation for unsplittable flow on line graphs,
 ACM Trans. Algorithms 10(1): 1 (2014).
 Earlier version in Proc. of SODA 2009.
- [38] Zachary Friggstad, Mohammad R. Salavatipour, Zoya Svitkina,
Asymmetric Traveling Salesman Path and Directed Latency Problems,
 SIAM J. Comput. 42(4): 1596-1619 (2013).
 Earlier version in Proc. of SODA 2010.
- [37] R. Khandekar, G. Kortsarz, V. Mirrokni, and M.R. Salavatipour,
Approximation and hardness results for robust network design with exponential scenarios,
 Algorithmica 65(2): 391-408 (2013).
 Earlier version in Proc. of ESA 2008.

- [36] I. Pirwani and M.R. Salavatipour,
A Weakly Robust PTAS for Minimum Clique Partition in Unit Disk Graphs,
 Algorithmica 62(3-4): 1050-1072 (2012).
 Earlier version in Proc. of SWAT 2010.
- [35] M.A. Safari and M.R. Salavatipour,
A constant factor approximation for minimum λ -edge-connected k -subgraph with metric costs,
 SIAM J. Discrete Math. 25 (3): 1089-1102 (2011).
 Earlier version in Proc. of APPROX 2008.
- [34] Z. Friggstad and M.R. Salavatipour,
Minimizing movement in mobile facility location problems,
 ACM Transactions on Algorithms 7(3): 28 (2011).
 Earlier version in Proc. of FOCS 2008.
- [33] Z. Friggstad and M.R. Salavatipour,
Approximability of packing disjoint cycles,
 Algorithmica 60(2): 395-400 (2011).
 Earlier version in Proc. of ISAAC 2007.
- [32] C. Chekuri, M. Hajiaghayi, G. Kortsarz, M. Salavatipour,
Approximation algorithms for non-uniform buy-at-bulk network design,
 SIAM J. on Computing (SICOMP) 39(5):1772–1798, 2010.
 Earlier version in Proc. of SODA 2007.
- [31] L. Lau, S. Naor, M.R. Salavatipour, and M. Singh,
Survivable network design with degree or order constraints,
 SIAM J. on Computing (special issue for selected papers of STOC 2007), Vol.39, No.3 pp
 1062-1087, 2009.
 Earlier version in Proc. of STOC 2007.
- [30] M. Hajiaghayi, G. Kortsarz, and M.R. Salavatipour,
Approximating Buy-at-Bulk and Shallow-light k -Steiner tree,
 Algorithmica, Volume 53(1), pp 89-103, 2009.
 Earlier version in APPROX 2006.
- [29] E. Demaine, U. Feige, M. Hajiaghayi, and M.R. Salavatipour,
Combination can be hard: approximability of the unique coverage problem,
 SIAM J. on Computing, Volume 38, No 4, pp. 1464-1483.
 Earlier version in Proc. of SODA 2006.
- [28] M. Krivelevich, Z. Nutov, M.R. Salavatipour, J. Verstraete, and R. Yuster
Approximation algorithms and hardness results for cycle packing problems,
 ACM Transactions on Algorithms, Volume 3(4), November 2007.
- [27] J. Cheriyan and M.R. Salavatipour,
Packing element-disjoint steiner trees,
 ACM Transactions on Algorithms, Volume 3(4), November 2007.
 Earlier version in Proc. of APPROX 2005.
- [26] M. Molloy and M.R. Salavatipour,
The resolution complexity of random constraint satisfaction problems,
 SIAM J. on Computing 37(3): 895-922, 2007. Earlier version in FOCS 2003.
- [25] Z. Cai, R. Goebel, M.R. Salavatipour, and G. Lin,
Selecting dissimilar genes for multi-class classification, an application in cancer subtyping,
 BMC Bioinformatics 2007, 8(206), 15 pages.

- [24] J. Cheriyan and M.R. Salavatipour,
Hardness and approximation results for packing steiner trees,
Algorithmica 45(1):21-43, 2006.
The special issue for selected papers of ESA 2004.
- [23] M.R. Salavatipour,
Large induced forests in triangle-free planar graphs,
Graphs and Combinatorics 22(1):113-126, 2006.
- [22] M. Molloy and M.R. Salavatipour,
A bound on the chromatic number of the square of a planar graph,
J. of Combinatorial Theory (Series B), Volume 94(2), pp 189-213, 2005.
Earlier version (with a different title) in Proc. of ESA 2002.
- [21] O.V. Borodin, A.N. Glebov, A. Raspaud, M.R. Salavatipour,
Planar graphs without cycles of length from 4 to 7 are 3-colorable,
J. of Combinatorial Theory (Series B), 93:303-311, 2005.
- [20] M.R. Salavatipour, *A $(1+\epsilon)$ -approximation algorithm for partitioning hypergraphs using a new algorithmic version of the Lovász local lemma*,
Random Struc. & Algorithms 25(1) 68-90, 2004.
Earlier version in Proc. of SODA 2003.
- [19] M.R. Salavatipour,
A polynomial time algorithm for strong edge coloring of partial k-trees,
Discrete Applied Mathematics 143:(1-3) 285-291, 2004.
- [18] M.R. Salavatipour,
On sum coloring of graphs,
Discrete Applied Math. 127(3) 477-488, 2003.
- [17] M. Mahdian, E.S. Mahmoodian, A. Saberi, M.R. Salavatipour, and R. Tousekani,
On a Conjecture of Keedwell and the Cycle Double Cover Conjecture,
Disc. Math. 216: (1-3), pp 287-292, 2000.

c) Articles in Refereed Conferences (without a journal version)

- [16] B. Ghaseminia and M.R. Salavatipour
A PTAS for TSP with neighborhoods over parallel line segments,
In Proc. of SoCG 2025.
- [15] Z. Friggstad, M.R. Salavatipour, and H. Sun
Approximation Algorithms for the Generalized Point-to-Point Problem
In Proc. of WADS 2025.
- [14] Z. Friggstad, M. Rezapour, M.R. Salavatipour, and H. Sun
A QPTAS for Facility Location on Unit Disk Graphs
In Proc. of WADS 2025.
- [13] K. Ren and M.R. Salavatipour
Approximation Schemes for Orienteering and Deadline TSP in Doubling Metrics
Inn Proc. of APPROX 2025.
- [12] H. Pang and M.R. Salavatipour,
Approximation Algorithms for Generalized Path Scheduling
In proceedings of ISAAC 2020.
- [11] Z. Friggstad, M. Rezapour, and M.R. Salavatipour,
Approximating Connected Facility Location with Lower and Upper Bounds via LP Rounding,
In Proceedings of SWAT 2016.

- [10] O. Madani, W. Greiner, D. Kempe, and M. Salavatipour,
Recall systems: efficient learning and use of category indices,
In Proceedings of the Eleventh International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics (AISTAT) 2007.
- [9] Z. Cai, R. Goebel, M. Salavatipour, Y. Shi, Lizhe Xu, and G. Lin,
Selecting genes with dissimilar discrimination strength for sample class prediction,
In Proceedings of the Fifth Asia-Pacific Bioinformatics Conference (APBC) 2007, pp 81-90.
- [8] Z. Cai, L. Xu, Y. Shi, M. Salavatipour, R. Goebel, and G. Lin,
Using gene clustering to identify discriminatory genes with higher classification accuracy,
In Proceedings of IEEE 6th Symposium on Bioinformatics and Bioengineering (BIBE) 2006, pp 235-242.
- [7] C. Chekuri, M. Hajiaghayi, G. Kortsarz, M. Salavatipour,
Approximation algorithms for non-uniform buy-at-bulk network design problems,
In Proceedings of the 47th Annual IEEE Symposium on Foundations of Computer Science (FOCS) 2006, pp 677-686.
- [6] M.R. Salavatipour and J. Verstraete,
Disjoint cycles: integrality gap, hardness, and approximation,
In Proceedings of the Eleventh Conference on Integer Programming and Combinatorial Optimization (IPCO) 2005, pp 51-65.
- [5] K. Jain, M. Mahdian, and M.R. Salavatipour,
Packing steiner trees,
In Proceedings of the fourteenth Annual ACM-SIAM Symposium on Discrete Algorithms (SODA) 2003, pp 266-274.

d) Non-refereed Contributions

- [4] M. Rahgoshay and M.R. Salavatipour,
Hierarchical Clustering: New Bounds and Objective
<https://arxiv.org/abs/2111.06863>
- [3] M.R. Salavatipour,
The three color problem for planar graphs, Technical Report CSRG-458, Department of Computer Science, University of Toronto, 2002.

e) Theses

- [2] M.R. Salavatipour,
Graph Colouring via the Discharging Method,
Ph.D. thesis, Department of Computer Science, University of Toronto, Aug 2003.
- [1] M.R. Salavatipour,
On Sum Coloring of Graphs,
M.Sc thesis, Department of Computer Science, University of Toronto, Jan 2000.

f) Patents

- “Packing Steiner trees”, joint with K. Jain and M. Mahdian, patent No. 302152.01, Filed 11/20/2003 in USA.

Professional Activities

Member of Program/Organizing Committee for:

PC Chair for Algorithms and Data Structures Symposium (WADS) 2019, 2021, 2023

Steering Committee for WADS (2021-2030), Workshop on Approximation Algorithms and Hardness of Approximation (Banff, Canada, 2011, 2014, 2017).

First Canadian Discrete and Algorithmic Mathematics Conference (2007),

ESA 2024, SODA 2023, SWAT 2014, SODA 2013, COCOON (2007,2009).

Referee/Review for the Following Journals/Conferences/Grant Agencies:

Journals and Conferences: SIAM J. on Computing, SIAM J. on Discrete Math, J. of Combinatorial Theory (Series B), ACM Transactions on Algorithms, J. of Graph Theory, Theory of Computing, Algorithmica, J. of Discrete Algorithms, Discrete Applied Mathematics, Discrete Mathematics, Networks, Discrete Optimization, Electronic J. of Combinatorics, Random Structures and Algorithms, FOCS, STOC, ACM/SIAM (SODA), (STACS), European Symposium on Algorithms (ESA), Workshop on Approximation Algorithms for Combinatorial Optimization Problems (APPROX), International Colloquium on Automata, Languages and Programming (ICALP), Conference on Integer Programming and Combinatorial Optimization (IPCO), International Symposium on Algorithms and Computation (ISAAC), Italian Conference on Theoretical Computer Science (ICTCS).

Grant Agencies: NSERC, Israel Science Foundation (ISF), National Security Agency Mathematical Sciences Program (NSA), European Research Council (ERC), National Science Centre, Poland.

Collaborators

List of my collaborators in alphabetic order:

Sara Ahmadian (U. Waterloo), Nikhil Bansal (IBM research), Babak Behsaz (UAlberta), Oleg Borodin (Institute of Mathematics, Novosibirsk, Russia), Zhipeng Cai (University of Alberta), Chandra Chekuri (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), Joseph Cheriyan (University of Waterloo), Erik Demaine (MIT), Uriel Feige (Weizmann Inst), Zachary Friggstad (University of Alberta), Benyamin Ghasemini (U. Alberta), Alexei Glebov (Institute of Mathematics, Novosibirsk, Russia), Randy Goebel (University of Alberta), Arnoosh Golestanian (U. Alberta), Wile Greiner (Los Angeles Software), Mohammadtaghi Hajiaghayi (AT&T Research), Sarel Har-Peled (UIUC), Dylan Hyatt-Deneski (U. Alberta), Kamal Jain (Microsoft Research), Aditya Jayaprakash (U. Alberta), Amin Jorati (U. Waterloo) David Kempe (University of Southern California), Rohit Khandekar (IBM Research), M. Reza Khani (U. Maryland), Kamyar Khodamoradi (U. Alberta), Guy Kortsarz (Rutgers University), Michael Krivelevich (Tel Aviv University), Lap Chi Lau (Chinese University of Hong Kong), Guohui Lin (University of Alberta), Omid Madani (Yahoo! Research), Mohammad Mahdian (Yahoo! Research), Ebad Mahmoodian (Sharif University of Tech.), Chris Martin (U. Alberta), Michael Molloy (University of Toronto), Vahab Mirrokni (Microsoft Research), Ramin Mousavi (U. Alberta), Ismail Naderi (U. Alberta), Seffi Naor (Microsoft Research and Technion, Israel), Amir Nayyeri (University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign), Zeev Nutov (Open University of Israel), Haozhou Pang (U. Alberta), Imran Pirwani (University of Alberta), Mirmahdi Rahgoshay (U. Alberta), Andre Raspaud (Université Bordeaux, France), Kinter Ren (U. Alberta), Mohsen Rezapour (U. Alberta), Amin Saberi (Stanford University), MohammadAli Safari (University of Alberta), Yi Shi (University of Alberta), Mohit Singh (Carnegie Mellon University), Rohit Sivakumar (U. Alberta), Anastasios Sidiropoulos (Toyota Tech. Inst, Chicago), Jose Soto (Universidad de Chile), Hao Sun (U. Alberta), Zoya Svitkina (University of Alberta), Chaitanya Swamy (U. Waterloo), Lijiangnan Tian (U. Alberta), Roozbeh Tusserkani (Sharif University of Tech.), Jacques Verstraete (University of California, San Diego), Lizhe Xu (University of Alberta), Raphael Yuster (University of Haifa).