Vasilis Kontonis

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University of Texas Austin	**IFML Postdoctoral Fellow** *2023 – present, University of Texas at Austin* Working on the foundations of reliable and efficient ML. My research aims at designing algorithms to learn from imperfect or corrupted datasets such as learning from noisy labels or from biased or censored data. I am particularly interested in developing principled, efficient, and practical algorithms.
Google	**Research Intern** *2022, Google Research, Mountain View* Worked on semi-supervised distillation. Developed a new practical distillation method called Student Label Mixing Distillation (SLaM) that improved the SOTA (published at NeurIPS 2023) and used it to improve distillation in Google products.
Grnet	**Systems and Services Engineer** *2016, Greek Research and Technology Network, Athens* Monitoring services, network, and servers, automation of procedures, development and maintenance of administration tools.

Education

University of Wisconsin-Madison	**Ph.D., Computer Science**, 2018 – 2023 Thesis: Learning From Imperfect Data: Noisy Labels, Truncation, and Coarsening Advisor: Christos Tzamos
National Technical Uni. of Athens	**MEng, Electrical & Computer Engineering**, 2011 – 2017 Thesis: Learning Powers of Poisson Binomial Distributions Advisor: Dimitris Fotakis

Selected Publications [1]

COLT 2024	**Smoothed Analysis for Learning Concepts with Low Intrinsic Dimension** Gautam Chandrasekaran, Adam Klivans, Vasilis Kontonis, Raghu Meka, Konstantinos Stavropoulos *37th Annual Conference on Learning Theory*
NeurIPS 2023 Oral Presentation	**Optimizing Solution-Samplers for Combinatorial Problems:** **The Landscape of Policy Gradient Methods** Constantinos Caramanis, Dimitris Fotakis, Alkis Kalavasis Vasilis Kontonis, Christos Tzamos *37th Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems*
NeurIPS 2023	**SLaM: Student Label Mixing for Distillation with Unlabeled Examples** Vasilis Kontonis, Fotis Iliopoulos, Khoa Trinh Cenk Baykal, Gaurav Menghani, Erik Vee *37th Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems*
NeurIPS 2022	**Linear Label Ranking with Bounded Noise**

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[1] See vkonton.github.io and my Google scholar for the complete list. Alphabetical author order unless otherwise.

Oral Presentation	Dimitris Fotakis, Alvertos Kalavasis, Vasilis Kontonis, Christos Tzamos *36th Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems*
STOC 2022	**Learning General Halfspaces with General Massart Noise under the Gaussian Distribution** Ilias Diakonikolas, Daniel M. Kane, Vasilis Kontonis, Christos Tzamos, Nikos Zarifis *54th Annual ACM Symposium on Theory of Computing*
COLT 2021	**A Statistical Taylor's Theorem and Extrapolation of Truncated Densities** Costis Daskalakis, Vasilis Kontonis, Christos Tzamos, Manolis Zampetakis *34th Annual Conference on Learning Theory,*
COLT 2021	**Efficient Algorithms for Learning from Coarse Labels** Dimitris Fotakis, Alvertos Kalavasis, Vasilis Kontonis, Christos Tzamos *34th Annual Conference on Learning Theory*
STOC 2021	**Learning Halfspaces with Tsybakov Noise** Ilias Diakonikolas, Vasilis Kontonis, Christos Tzamos, Nikos Zarifis *53rd Annual ACM Symposium on Theory of Computing*
NeurIPS 2020	**Non-Convex SGD Learns Halfspaces with Adversarial Label Noise** Ilias Diakonikolas, Vasilis Kontonis, Christos Tzamos, Nikos Zarifis *34th Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems*
COLT 2020	**Learning Halfspaces with Massart Noise Under Structured Distributions** Ilias Diakonikolas, Vasilis Kontonis, Christos Tzamos, Nikos Zarifis *33th Annual Conference on Learning Theory*
FOCS 2019	**Truncated Statitistics with Unknown Truncation** Vasilis Kontonis, Christos Tzamos, Manolis Zambetakis *60th Annual IEEE Symposium on Foundations of Computer Science*
Teaching ***University of*** ***Wisconsin-Madison***	Spring 2022, TA *Introduction to Artificial Intelligence* Fall 2021, TA Introduction to Numerical Methods Spring 2021, Spring 2020 Spring 2019, Fall 2018, TA *Introduction to Algorithms* Fall 2020, TA *Programming II*
National Technical ***Uni. of Athens***	Fall 2017, TA *Algorithms and Complexity* Fall 2016, TA *Operating Systems*
Awards	Recipient of the Bodossakis Fellowship 2022 Recipient of the Gerondellis Fellowship 2020 Recipient of the Eurobank Grant "The great moment for Education" in 2010 for graduating first in my high-school. Recipient of the Touramanoglou Grant in 2010 for ranking among the top high school graduates of the cities of Ilioupolis and Ymittos.
Languages and Skills	English, Greek (native), German Python, Pytorch, Tensorflow, LaTeX, GNU/Linux