

**Saharon ROSSET, Ph.D.**

## **CURRICULUM VITAE**

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Date and place of birth: 26/6/1969 Evanston, IL  
ZAHAL (Israeli) Military Service: 1987-1992  
Marital status: Married+2  
Citizenship: Israel and USA  
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## **EDUCATION**

1992–1994 B.Sc., Mathematics  
Tel Aviv University  
Date of award: 1995 (Summa Cum Laude)

1995–1999 MSc., Statistics  
Tel Aviv University  
Date of award: 2000 (Summa Cum Laude)  
Title of Masters Thesis: *Ranking: Methods for Flexible Evaluation  
and Efficient Comparison of Classification Performance*  
Name of Supervisor: Professor David Steinberg

1999–2003 Ph.D., Statistics  
Stanford University, Stanford, CA  
Date of award: 2003  
Title of Doctoral Dissertation: *Topics in Regularization and Boosting*  
Name of Supervisors: Professors Jerome Friedman and Trevor Hastie

## **ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

2007–present Senior Lecturer, Dept. of Statistics and Operations Research, Tel  
Aviv University, Israel.

- 2003–2007      Research Staff Member, Mathematical Sciences Dept., IBM T.J. Watson Research Center, NY.  
*Developing algorithmic and statistical solutions to problems in business and scientific domains.*
- 2001–2003      Teaching assistant, Statistics Dept., Stanford University, CA.
- 1999–2001      Research assistant, Statistics Dept., Stanford University, CA.  
*Data analysis project funded by Blue Martini Ltd.*
- 1997–2003      Data Mining researcher/consultant, Amdocs Ltd (USA & Israel).  
*Developing data mining solutions for the telecommunications industry.*
- 1993–1997      Mathematical programmer, Ron Soferman Image Processing Ltd., Israel  
*Developing image processing and fax encryption software.*

### **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

- 2005–2006      Participated in Genographic project’s media campaign: interviewed for dozens of media outlets worldwide.
- 2006–2007      Chair of IBM Research’s Knowledge Discovery PIC (Professional Interest Community).
- From Jun. 2006      Action Editor for Journal of Machine Learning Research.
- From Dec. 2006      Member of the Editorial Board of Machine Learning Journal.
- From Apr. 2008      Associate Editor for Technometrics.
- From Sep. 2008      Statistics seminar organizer at Tel Aviv University.
- Jun. 2009      Program organizer for the 2009 meeting of the Israeli Statistical Association.
- 2011      Senior program committee member for KDD-2011, the 17th ACM SIGKDD Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining.
- Jun. 2011 (Expexted)      Invited as visitor to Australia Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO).

### **INVITED TALKS (last five years)**

- Apr. 2005      Invited talk at Genographic project launch, Washington D.C.
- Jan. 2006      Invited talk at Shiluvim entrepreneurship forum, Tel Aviv University Engineering Dept. alumni club, Israel.
- May 2006      Invited talk at Genographic project yearly meeting, Capetown, South Africa.

- Aug. 2006      Invited tutorial titled *Data Analytics for Marketing Decision Support* given at Twelfth ACM SIGKDD International Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining, KDD-06, Philadelphia, PA.  
(with Naoki Abe)  
(also given at SIAM Data Mining 2007, SDM07)
- Aug. 2007      Invited talk at Joint Statistical Meetings, Salt Lake City, UT. (did not attend, talk given by colleague)
- Aug. 2007      Invited talk at Genographic project yearly meeting, Shanghai, China.
- Aug. 2007      Winner's talk at KDD-07 workshop on the KDD/Netflix Cup, San Jose, CA.
- Jun. 2008      Invited talk at IBM Haifa Research Center Machine Learning day, Haifa, Israel.
- Jun. 2008      Invited talk at Israeli Statistical Association meeting, Herzeliya, Israel.
- Nov. 2008      Invited talk at inaugural meeting of the Israeli branch of the European Network for Business and Industrial Statistics (IsENBIS), Tel Aviv, Israel.
- Jun. 2009      Invited tutorial titled *Predictive Modeling in the Wild* given at Fifteenth ACM SIGKDD International Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining, KDD-09, Paris, France.  
(with Claudia Perlich)
- Oct. 2009      Invited talk at CIBB-09, the Sixth Intl. Meeting on Computational Intelligence Methods for Bioinformatics and Biostatistics.
- Oct. 2009      Invited talk at TIGEM, Napoli, Italy.
- May 2010      Invited keynote talk at Israeli Statistical Association meeting 2010.
- Dec. 2010      Invited talk at workshop titled *Practical Applications of Sparse Modeling: Open Issues and New Directions* at the Neural Information Processing System conference in Whistler, Canada.

**OTHER ACADEMIC SEMINARS AND COLLOQUIA (last five years)**

- Apr. 2005      Statistics seminar at University of Michigan, MI.
- Nov. 2005      Statistics seminar at Stanford University, CA.
- Nov. 2005      Statistics seminar at University of California, Berkeley, CA.
- Jan. 2006      Statistics seminar at Tel Aviv University, Israel.

- Jan. 2007 Short course titled *Regularization and Boosting* at 9th School of Probability and Statistics, CIMAT, Guanajuato, Mexico.
- Feb. 2007 Computational biology seminar at University of Arizona, AZ.
- Feb. 2007 Statistics seminar at Stanford University, CA.
- Mar. 2007 Statistics seminar at Rutgers University, NJ.
- Oct. 2007 Statistics seminar at Tel Aviv University, Israel.
- Sep. 2008 Talk at Workshop on the Future of Theoretical Statistics, Banff, Canada.
- Mar. 2008 Industrial Engineering seminar at Ben Gurion University, Beer Sheva, Israel.
- Nov. 2008 Statistics Seminar at Haifa University, Israel.
- Oct. 2009 Statistics Seminar at Tel Aviv University, Israel.
- Jan. 2010 Statistics Seminar at Hebrew University, Israel.
- Apr. 2010 Statistics Seminar at Technion, Israel.
- May 2010 School of Mathematical Sciences Colloquium at Tel Aviv University, Israel.

## GRANTS, ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

- 1999 Nimrod Lapid award for best master's thesis in Statistics at Tel Aviv university.
- 1999 Arik Peretz award for best masters thesis with applications in Biostatistics.
- 1999 Headed team that won the knowledge discovery task of KDD-Cup 99, the yearly international data mining competition.
- 2000 Advised team that won two of five sub-competitions at KDD-Cup 00.
- 2002 IBM Graduate Fellow, Frontiers of Engineering meeting, September 02, Irvine, CA.
- 2002 Primary author of best application paper award winner at KDD-2002.
- 2005–2008 NSF grant DMS-0505432 for \$115,597 (co-PI with Ji Zhu of Univ. of Michigan).

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|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2006      | IBM Research Outstanding Technical Achievement Award.                                            |
| 2007      | IBM Research Outstanding Technical Achievement Award.                                            |
| 2007–2011 | EU FP7 International Reintegration Grant for 100,000 Euros.                                      |
| 2007      | Headed team that won one of two sub-competitions at KDD-Cup 07.                                  |
| 2008      | Participated on team that won both sub-competitions at KDD-Cup 08.                               |
| 2008      | Participated on team that won one of two sub-competitions at INFORMS 2008 data mining challenge. |
| 2008–2011 | Alon Fellowship for young faculty.                                                               |
| 2009–2012 | ISF grant 1227/09 for \$95,000.                                                                  |
| 2010–2011 | One-year grant for functional genetics research from IBM Research Israel for \$22,000.           |

## REFEREEING AND PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Journals    | Journal of the Royal Statistical Society; Journal of the American Statistical Society; Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics; Statistica Sinica; Journal of Machine Learning Research; Machine Learning Journal; Data Mining and Knowledge Discovery Journal; AI in Medicine; Journal of Statistical Planning and Inference; Technometrics; Annals of Applied Statistics; Journal of Interactive Marketing; PLoS ONE; Theoretical Population Biology; Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence |
| Conferences | Neural Information Processing Systems (NIPS); Intl. Conf. on Knowledge Discovery in Databases (KDD); Intl. Conf. on Machine Learning (ICML); IEEE Conf. on Data Mining (ICDM); Conf. of the American Assoc. of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI); International Symposium on Molecular Biology (ISMB)                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

## STUDENTS SUPERVISED

### Postdoctoral researcher

1. Ronny Luss (PhD 2009, Princeton): advised 2009-2011, (2009-2010 jointly with Mark Teboulle of Tel Aviv University)  
Area: Isotonic regression with applications in Genetics

**PhD Students**

1. Shlomi Lifshits: started in 2007; jointly advised with Yaniv Assaf of Tel Aviv University  
Area: Computational Neuroscience  
Topic: Brain segmentation from MRI images
2. Aya Vituri: Started in 2009  
Area: Statistical Learning, with applications in Genetics  
Current research topic: Isotonic regression methodology and applications
3. David Golan: Started in 2010  
Area: Statistical Genetics  
Current research topic: Applications of random effect models for estimating heritability

**Master's Students**

1. Giora Simchoni: Graduated in December 2010  
Topic: Canonical correlation analysis with applications to text corpora
2. Adi Sarid: Started thesis work in 2009 (Expected graduation: early 2011)  
Topic: Testing monotonicity in empirical distributions, with applications in genetics
3. Danny Leshem: Started thesis work in 2009 (Expected graduation: early 2011)  
Topic: Algorithms for traffic prediction
4. Osnat Ravid-Amir: Started thesis work in 2009 (Expected graduation: 2011)  
Topic: Mutation models in Y-chromosome short tandem repeats
5. Slava Borodovski: Started thesis work in 2010  
Topic: Applications of the negative Binomial distribution in A-B testing and beyond
6. Shcahar Kaufman: Started thesis work in 2010  
Tentative topic: Leakage in data mining: definitions, detection and prevention

Date: December 2010