

Editor's Introduction

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Issue 12.1 of SIGecom Exchanges includes a letter from the program chairs of EC'13, a survey, and six research letters. The purpose of the first letter is to update the community about some of the decisions and discussions surrounding EC'13. The previous Exchanges issue—11.2—included a letter from the SIG chair David Parkes, and going forward the plan is to alternate between these two types of updates, publishing a letter from the SIG chair in each December issue and a letter from the EC chairs in each June issue.

The survey continues a new tradition that started with Eric Budish's survey in issue 11.2. This tradition actually turned out to be very useful—when I want to catch up on a hot area all I need to do is invite a survey, wait a few months, and voilà! This time I invited Mallesh Pai and Aaron Roth to contribute a survey on differential privacy and mechanism design. There has been a lot of action in this space lately, including very recent workshops at Caltech and in NYC, and an upcoming EC workshop organized by Mallesh and Aaron. Their survey is a 22-page masterpiece that is as readable and intuitive as it is comprehensive (the area is still young enough to be covered in full). Tip: don't miss footnote 11!

Puzzle-loving readers may have noticed that issue 11.2 did not include a new puzzle, and indeed the puzzle section has been discontinued. If you sorely miss the puzzles, please drop me an email. I want to thank Daniel Reeves for his contributions as puzzle editor. As usual, Felix Fischer (the SIG's information director) played an important role in putting the issue together; thanks!

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