2021 4611 Committee
Geoff Webb (Monash University)
Chang Xu (The University of Sydney)
Ben Rubinstein (The University of Melbourne)
Ling Chen (University of Technology Sydney)
Peter Flach (University of Bristol)

COLT was identified as requiring review. The conference Chairs were notified of the review and offered the opportunity to submit further supporting evidence. The committee's assessment was based on the data provided together with data obtained from the proceedings, Google Scholar and Scopus.

Factors indicating high quality and prestige include
* the Google Scholar h5-index of 54 is identical to that of FOCS (120 papers in COLT20 vs. 127 in FOCS20) which is second only to STOC and both considered equivalently CORE-A*. This is a strong result for a theoretical computer science conference;
* acceptance rate of 30% for all categories of papers (compared to 29% for FOCS);
* the proportion (approximately 45%) of established researchers in the senior program committee;
* senior PC members publish significantly in A* venues NeurIPS and ICML. While these are substantially more than in COLT, this reflects the dichotomy between publishing applied vs. theoretical work; and
* the reputation of the conference.

Factors less supportive include
* the CCF rank of B.

The committee was unanimous in assessing COLT should retain its
current rank of Exceptional (A*).