Dear information theory community member,

As part of several efforts to improve inclusivity in the information theory community, we ask that you fill out this demographics and inclusion survey. This should take about 5 to 15 minutes.

Why? The Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) Committee in the Information Theory Society (ITSoc) is very interested in knowing how we can improve in ways that make everyone feel welcome and included. We are also collecting demographic information (following NCWIT and CRA-W) so that we can (a) understand where we stand as a community, and (b) identify areas in which the society can improve and develop strategies to address challenges that exist.

Privacy: All questions are optional and this survey is anonymous.

The ITSoc D&I Committee has appointed a sub-committee consisting of Nihar Shah, Stark Draper, and Tara Javidi to conduct this survey. The raw (anonymous) survey data will only be accessed by this subcommittee. Only aggregate statistics will be made public, and only statistics about groups that include at least 25 individuals to ensure privacy. Any information from text boxes will be anonymized and aggregated and only reported in ways that protect your identity.

Please contact Nihar Shah (nihars@cs.cmu.edu) or Stark Draper (stark.draper@utoronto.ca) or Tara Javidi (tjavidi@eng.ucsd.edu) with any concerns or questions.

Note: This survey will remain open until August 31, 2021. If you wish to fill the survey in more than one sitting, you may edit it even after you submit it (by hitting "Done" at the end) later from the same computer and browser (surveymonkey uses cookies to enable this). The survey does not track any IP addresses etc. for privacy.

Acknowledgements: Parts of this survey are based on the NeurIPS 2018 diversity and inclusion survey, and are used here with permission.

We value your time and your candor in responding to this survey. Thank you very much.

Do you consider yourself a native English speaker or functionally equivalent to a native English speaker?

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Are there other demographics with which you identify that you believe are relevant to our goal of inclusivity?

[ ]

We are interested to know any challenges you may have faced participating in the information theory community, particularly so that we can work on strategies for improving it. Please remember that all questions are optional.

Have you ever felt like any of the factors listed in the previous section, or any other demographic attributes, have led to challenges in participating fully in the information theory community or in feeling excluded from the community?

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Please describe how.

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Do you know where to report in case of any issue of discrimination or harassment at an Information Theory Society event (such as ISIT or ITW)?

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Information about the reporting process and other D&I resources is available here _____ Please let us know if you have any comments in this regard.

The ITSoc Conference Committee recently sent out a survey about the future of the ISIT conference. Have you completed this survey?

The pandemic has dramatically changed the landscape of conferences. It presents us with various possibilities for their format going ahead: in-person vs. virtual vs. hybrid. Please let us know if you have a preference on formats, and if you have faced any challenges in any particular format.

Have you participated in activities organized by the Student and Outreach Subcommittee or Women in Information Theory (WITHITS) in the past 3 years?

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YES
NO

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What recommendation(s) would you make to the Student and Outreach Subcommittee and WITHITS leadership to represent the interests and needs of students, women, and groups currently underrepresented in ITSoc better, or to facilitate interactions among students and other members of the information theory community, or to make our community more inclusive?

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In this final section, please let us know if you have any other feedback for us. All questions are optional.

If you have any additional feedback about how information theory could be a more inclusive community, or any other comments pertaining to the topics of this survey, please let us know.

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If you have any feedback on this survey in particular (e.g., other things we could have asked in the survey), please let us know.

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