Editors' Introduction

IRENE LO
Stanford University
and
SAM TAGGART
Oberlin College

We are pleased to present another exciting issue of the SIGecom Exchanges. The Exchanges seeks to keep the EconCS community abreast of relevant news and exciting research directions. This Summer 2025 issue has some of both. On the news side, we have a letter from the SIGecom executive committee, summarizing ongoing and upcoming SIG activities, and a recap of the 2025 Winter Meeting on Generative AI and Market Design. We also have three letters, a research survey, and an annotated reading list, previewed below.

The first of our three letters, by Nikhil Devanur, Renato Paes Leme, and Okke Schrijvers, discuss some of the common pitfalls they've seen among those transitioning from academic work in EconCS to work in industry. They highlight some of the most helpful skills to pick up in preparation, e.g. in the domains of software engineering and machine learning, and suggest resources for those looking to improve and hit the ground running.

Our second letter, from Pranav Garimidi, Michael Neuder, and Tim Roughgarden, explores connections between blockchain technologies and the well-studied model of Tullock contests from game theory. They show how several protocols in use in major blockchains can be modeled and understood as Tullock contests. These applications further suggest new open problems in the theory of Tullock contests.

Our final letter, from Nikhil Garg, reflects on systems that elicit and aggregate individual preferences—such as participatory budgeting and school matching—to improve public decisionmaking. He argues that participation often skews toward more advantaged individuals, and calls for the design of mechanisms that still learn from participants while ensuring fair outcomes for those less able to engage.

We have one research survey in this issue, from Parikshit Gopalan and Lunjia Hu. They explore recent advances in approximate calibration, which helps ensure probabilistic predictions in machine learning are reliable and interpretable for real-world decisions. They highlight challenges in defining well-behaved, computationally tractable measures of calibration error. They also present an indistinguishability perspective for understanding calibration error, and discuss implications for decision making and algorithm design.

The issue concludes with an annotated reading list contributed by Suho Shin and MohammadTaghi Hajiaghayi. They overview the recent, lively activity on the *delegation* problem. In this classical problem from microeconomic theory, an uninformed decisionmaker seeks to make a choice of action, and designs a mechanism to

delegate this choice to a more-informed agent. They overview the many interesting variants of the problem, as well as connections to well-loved models in EconCS such as prophet inequalities and Pandora's box.

As always, we would like to thank communications chair Yang Cai and technical lead Jinzhao Wu for their help publishing the issue. Please continue to volunteer letters, surveys, annotated reading lists or position papers; your contributions are what keep the Exchanges a lively venue for the SIGecom community. We hope you enjoy this issue.