# Introduction

Gender discrimination is a problem, especially in the technology industry. A recent study by XYZ looked at GitHub, one of the most popular software repositories with 14 million users, to see if the effect can be seen by comparing pull requests between male and female contributors. A pull request happens when someone proposes changes on a software code repository that is being hosted on GitHub. The request can either be accepted or denied by the owners of the repository. The researchers found that the approval rates of pull requests, when made without revealing ones gender, were comparable between both genders. The rate of approval for women fell significantly if the coder’s gender was identifiable upon requesting a pull whereas the rates for men did not change much.

Wikipedia, the largest encyclopedia mankind has ever created, also has a gender problem. Estimations about exact numbers are difficult to find but it is undisputed, that the vast majority of contributors and even editors are of male gender. Especially the latter is important since editors, specifically veteran editors, do have the powers to reject articles and restrict access of other contributors which has a severe impact on the acceptance rate regarding articles that are written about female figures. The resulting bias with respect to the variety of content is increasingly recognized leading to Wikipedia’s gender gap to be an ever increasing topic of interest, drawing the attention of scholars of new media and similar fields. Discussing the systemic bias on Wikipedia is important as the platform poses the most powerful source of information worldwide. It is available in 275 languages and is being accessed by millions of people regularly. Many assistive devices and applications such as Smartwatches, Google Assistant, Alexa, Siri or Cortana draw their knowledge directly from Wikipedia without informing their users about the source or authors. Through these developments, the world, as it is represented by Wikipedia, is widely being considered as natural and obvious.

In this thesis we address gender bias discrepancies within the technology industry by providing facts on historical developments and current events. Additionally, we try to measure possible trends for the future of digital environments that have collaborative characteristics, draw implications for the quality of publicly available information and participation rates and provide suggestions that may have an impact on future developments.