



Journal of real-time image processing: sixth issue of volume 18

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Published online: 3 November 2021

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This is the sixth and final issue of volume 18 in 2021. We begin by mentioning some good news. We are pleased to indicate that the 2020 impact factor of JRTIP has risen to 2.358 and its five-year impact factor to 2.137. Also, the number of downloads of the JRTIP papers increased to over 96,000 in 2020. These measures are indicative of the enhancement in the stature of JRTIP which is the only journal dedicated to the real-time aspects of image and video processing.

In 2021, 83 accepted papers submitted to 6 special issues were published in addition to 60 accepted regular papers. In this regular issue, 52 regular papers appear. Although last year, the backlog of accepted papers that were appearing as Online First articles was shortened, this year by publishing a total of 145 papers we have practically removed the backlog that existed in Online First articles waiting to appear in a print issue.

Two online meetings of the JRTIP editorial board were held in 2021 and based on the discussions at these meetings, several steps were taken to shorten the review cycle time to one month for the first round of reviews and two weeks for the second round of reviews. Assuming that the SPIE Conference on Real-Time Image Processing and Deep Learning in 2022 will be held in-person, it is planned to have an editorial board meeting of JRTIP at this conference in April 2022.

We find it important to remind our readers that JRTIP is a member of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) and we thus urge authors who wish to submit their manuscripts to JRTIP to follow the ethical items described at https://www.springer.com/journal/11554/submission-guidelines#Instructions%20for%20Authors_Ethical%20Responsibilities%20of%20Authors.

Here, we would like to mention the changes that have taken place in the editorial board. The Associate Editors M. Atiquzzaman, R. Lukac, P. Dang and M. Mehrubeoglu have left the editorial board in 2021 due to various personal and professional reasons. We would like to thank them for their service and contributions in conducting reviews of submitted manuscripts. The following Associate Editors have joined the editorial board: M. Hassaballah, Chiou-Shann Fuh, Chi-Yi Tsai, M.P. Malumbres, Tomasz Krzeszowski, Hongying Meng, David Barina, Morteza Biglari-Abhari, A. Aguilar-González, Khalid M. Hosny, Firas Hassan, Chih-Peng Fan, Abdelhafid El Ouardi, Wattanapong Kurdthongmee, and Gaobo Yang. We welcome these new editorial board members and look forward to working with them.

A new publication model is being considered and discussed with Springer for Volume 19 in 2022 which is called Continuous Article Publishing (or CAP). According to the previously applied first-in first-out publication pipeline, a CAP transition plan (soft-CAP) would first be put in place where the oldest papers that are Online First would be published first in early 2022. Then, the journal would become fully online after this transition time. During the transition time, the print versions would still appear. Although this new model would not allow arranging a line-up of papers for the issues, it will be of great benefit to authors as they do not need to wait for their papers to appear in a print issue and get cited with their DOIs, i.e., no more print issue backlog. Furthermore, since the new impact factor computational approach now includes online papers with DOIs, impact factor would not get affected by adopting the CAP model.

As far as special issues are concerned, in the CAP model, special issues are identified as “Topical Collections”, i.e., they are categorized online under a special issue Topic. In other words, the papers of a special issue do not appear in a single dedicated issue but appear as they are accepted across a number of online issues which can be searched by the topic of the special issue. When the CAP model is activated or becomes operational, further details about it will be mentioned in future editorials.

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As always, we express our gratitude to our readers, authors, reviewers, editors, and Springer publishing team for their contributions and wish all those involved in JRTIP health and safety in this challenging pandemic time.

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