

Incoming Editorial

Dear TCAS-I reader,

It is an honor and privilege to begin my term as the Editor-in-Chief of the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON CIRCUITS AND SYSTEMS: PART I—REGULAR PAPERS (TCAS-I), which has its roots in the TRANSACTIONS OF THE IRE PROFESSIONAL GROUP ON CIRCUIT THEORY (1952). Without doubt, these Transactions have been and continue to be *the* forum for disseminating significant results in the area of circuits and systems. Thanks to the diligence and dedication of prior editorial boards led by Profs. Gianluca Setti, Wouter Serdijn, and Dr. Gabriele Manganaro, I am in the particularly fortunate position of inheriting a ship on a good course and in great condition. The timeliness of these Transactions—time to first decision, sub-to-epub, and sub-to-pub times have been steadily improving. The hard work of the previous boards, apart from further enhancing the prestige of the journal, is reflected in the improvements in multiple scientometric figures of merit. The current acceptance ratio is about 27%, making it very selective. The special issues initiated by the previous boards (covering well received papers from ISCAS and CICC) and the practice of soliciting vision papers from industry leaders will continue. These serve the twin objectives of rapid publication of recent results, as well as cross-pollination with our sister-societies (and industry).

In spite of all the above, the main issue that needs attention is the average time an article takes to appear in print (the sub-to-pub time). The work of the previous editorial board (of which I was privileged to be part of) has resulted in a more streamlined review process, with a reduction of much of the “slack” in the system. As a result, it is now not an uncommon occurrence that a well written paper submitted to TCAS-I is accepted within two months of first submission, after having gone through two cycles of review. In spite of the reduced time-to-first-decision, the average time from submission to appearance in print is still long at 9 months—and this is in spite of a generous increase in the page budget (which now stands at 3400 pages a year). A perusal of the print edition of the Transactions indicates that most papers are about 11–12 pages long. While this is warranted in many cases, I cannot help but notice that there is a fair amount of wasted space in terms of poorly scaled or redundant figures, diagrams that (unnecessarily) span two columns, superfluous equations, tables and appendices—the list is long. In a few cases, the last page of the paper consists only of the photograph and biography of the author! As authors, it is our duty to make responsible use of every square inch of space in the printed version of the Transactions. With many papers, it

seems to be very easy to reduce the page count without losing any technical clarity by simply paying attention to the issues I have raised above. If a bit of care on each of our parts can reduce the average page count by 20%, the publication backlog can be reduced without increasing the page budget. This will involve authors working more proactively with the IEEE publication department upon receipt of the final proofs prior to publication. One of our endeavors will be to focus on reducing average paper length with an aim to provide more technical value to you in every issue.

Much has changed in the world since the inception of these Transactions. No conversation about information (scientific or otherwise) dissemination is complete today without mention of the internet. This medium has revolutionized the world of information creation, presentation and distribution. It is only apt therefore, that we explore ways of making scientific information more expressive than has been possible in the past. Another effort of this board would be to examine the possibility of allowing authors to add supplementary material online. This could be in the form of code or multimedia content. We expect this to enrich reader experience.

In powering the TCAS-I ship further, I am fortunate to have Prof. Mario di Bernardo of the University of Bristol serving as the Deputy Editor-in-Chief. Many of the associate editors on the board were identified by him. He has a long record of distinguished service to the Circuits and Systems Society, and I thank him for agreeing to take on this new additional responsibility. We are assisted by an editorial board comprising of energetic experts in various areas of interest to these Transactions. The board, as you can see from the inner cover of this issue, is a geographically diverse mix of individuals from industry and academia. Many of them are outstanding associate editors who have served on the previous board.

In closing, I would like to thank several people—Gabriele Manganaro for his guidance and understanding during my term as Deputy Editor-in-Chief, Wouter Serdijn for his support, and Gianluca Setti for getting me into all of this, when he invited me to serve on the editorial board of the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON CIRCUITS AND SYSTEMS: PART II—EXPRESS BRIEFS in 2006. Last but not least, I would like to thank all the reviewers for their prompt and detailed reviews, and authors for their excellent contributions. On behalf of the entire editorial board, I wish all of you a wonderful year ahead!

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Digital Object Identifier 10.1109/TCSI.2013.2296393