

Outgoing Editorial

DEAR Readers,

Time flies and it is being already six years since I began my service in the Editorial Board (EB) of the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON CIRCUITS AND SYSTEMS—PART II: EXPRESS BRIEFS (TCAS-II), first as Deputy Editor-in-Chief (DEiC) and later as Editor-in-Chief (EiC). During these years, we have lived difficult situations, and very specially in the last two years, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, this term at the front of our journal has been a wonderful adventure in which I have had the privilege to work with a great team of people, including our associate editors, our reviewers and our Associate Editors-in-Chief, Prof. Yajun Ha and Prof. Edoardo Bonizzoni, who have done a fantastic job to improve the quality, impact and visibility of our journal. Thank you so much Yajun, Edoardo!

I am also in debt with my predecessor, Prof. C. K. Tse, from whom I learnt a lot, and showed me the way to make TCAS-II a first-tier flagship journal of IEEE Circuits and Systems Society (CASS). I greatly appreciate the hard work and assistance of IEEE staff, and very specially of Ms. Desiree Noel, who was always there to help when we needed. Of course, none of our activities and initiatives would have been possible without the support and leadership of IEEE-CASS officers, and very specially CASS past presidents Prof. Franco Maloberti and Prof. Yong Lian, present president Prof. Amara Amara, and Vice Presidents (VP) Publications, Dr. Manuel Delgado-Restituto and Prof. Mohamad Sawan, who guided me during my term as DEiC and EiC. Thanks to the excellent job and intense dedication of all these people, the performance metrics of IEEE TCAS-II have significantly improved in the last years.

We have put a lot of efforts in reducing the time from submission to publication, in order to make IEEE TCAS-II a fast publication vehicle. At the time of writing this editorial, the average times from submission to first and final decision are 33 days and 36 days, respectively. The overall time from submission to publication in a printed issue is about six months, which places our journal in a very good position as compared with other letter journals. Our page budget has significantly increased, what allowed us to publish issues with record number of papers, such as the December 2020 issue, with 160 papers – the highest number ever published in our Transactions!

We have consolidated the tradition of publishing special issues on IEEE-CASS conferences, based on a conference/journal co-publication format. The first special issue following this format was that on the 2018 IEEE International Symposium on Circuits and Systems (ISCAS) – the CASS flagship conference, and this year we have published the fourth edition. Special sections have been published in 2021 based

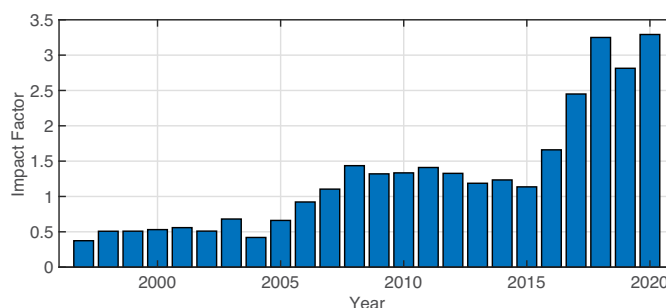


Fig. 1. IF of IEEE TCAS-II over time.

on the IEEE-CASS regional flagship conferences – such as LASCAS in February and APCCAS in December. There will be more special sections on NEWCAS, MWSCAS and ICECS in the coming years. Another successful format of special issues is the so-called journal-track symposium, published for the first time in 2018 at the International Symposium on Integrated Circuits and Systems (ISICAS) – published yearly since then.

In a continuous effort to improve the quality and impact of our journal, we have also implemented some other initiatives – such as the new format for the last page of the papers, and a series of Tutorial Briefs published in the first months of 2021. The scope of TCAS-II has expanded to include some emerging topics such as neuromorphic computing, artificial intelligence and beyond-CMOS technologies, to cite a few. With the aim of increasing the visibility of TCAS-II, our LinkedIn site was launched in 2020, where we periodically posted break news of interest for our readers and we have started publishing some short videos on TCAS-II papers.

We are starting to see the fruits of this work. The number of submissions has significantly increased to 3082 in 2021 – one of the highest score in CASS periodicals. As illustrated in Fig. 1, our Impact Factor (IF) has improved over the years, booming in the last six years from 1.136 in 2015 to 3.292 in 2020 – the highest IF in the history of TCAS-II.

None of these numbers would make sense if we do not pay attention to give the best service to our authors and readers. This has been my priority during these years and I am convinced that the incoming EB, led by Prof. Yajun Ha, will continue working hard to steer this ship in great condition and even better course. To conclude, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to you, our anonymous readers. Without your active participation and constructive feedback, none of this would make sense. Thank you so much for your contributions to make TCAS-II a better journal.

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