

Editor-in-Chief's Opening Message

DEAR readers, as you might have read in my year-end message in the December 2020 Issue, the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON INSTRUMENTATION AND MEASUREMENT (TIM) is now (as of 2021) an online-only Volume-only journal. Since TIM is no longer printed on paper, I thought it would be helpful for TIM authors to know what changes to expect.

Rapid Publication of Accepted Papers: An accepted paper will still first appear as Early Access on IEEE Xplore about ten business days from the time IEEE receives the correct final files from the authors. However, since TIM no longer has Issues, there is no longer a noticeable waiting time to be assigned to an Issue: the paper will be assigned to a Volume and will be given an article sequence number in a matter of a few days after it appears as Early Access. At this time, we anticipate about three weeks between IEEE receiving the correct final files from the authors and the paper being assigned to a Volume with an article sequence number. This is a tremendous speedup compared to the printed system and practically eliminates the backlog.

General Topics: We have revamped our general topics into 20 high-level topics, each consisting of various subtopics. The list can be seen on TIM's website on the EDICS page.¹ When authors submit a paper to TIM, they need to choose two of these high-level topics as classifications for their submission. These classifications will be used to select the most appropriate Associate Editor and reviewers for the paper; therefore, it is crucially important for authors to select the correct classifications during submission. If the paper is accepted, the first of these two classifications will be used to categorize the paper in the end-of-year table of content, which is described next.

Table of Content (ToC): At the end of each calendar year, we will publish two ToCs. The first ToC will first order papers based on their topic, as explained above, and then based on the article sequence number. The second ToC will first order papers based on their type (survey papers, short papers, regular papers, special section papers), then based on their topic, and finally based on the article sequence number. This way, papers for a given Special Section, for example, I²MTC 2020 Special Section, can be grouped together even if they individually appeared at various times.

Special Sections: Since TIM no longer has Issues, the name Special Issue now changes to Special Section. Actually, Special Sections are not a new concept for TIM and have existed for many years already. A Special Section consists of a few papers but is not large enough to fill an entire Issue. In fact, for the past few years, the only TIM Special Issues have been the I²MTC Special Issue and the CPEM Special Issue. The rest have been Special Sections. Therefore, the only change now is that I²MTC and CPEM will also appear as Special Sections. TIM will also continue to have Guest Editorials for its Special Sections, which remains unchanged.

I am very excited about this new chapter in TIM's life, especially that it coincides with TIM's 70th Anniversary.² Looking forward to a fantastic 2021!

Sincerely,

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¹<http://tim.ieee-ims.org/content/editors-information-classification-scheme-edics>

²<http://tim.ieee-ims.org/70>