

Editorial

MY term as the Editor-in-Chief of the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON MULTIMEDIA (T-MM) ended on December 31, 2022. It has been my distinct honour and privilege to serve as the Editor-in-Chief of this prestigious journal since January 1, 2020.

The past three years have been extraordinary in the history of humankind and in each of our lives, as well as in the history of T-MM. The world witnessed the biggest pandemic in human history, while our lives and work have been profoundly affected and changed. Yet, T-MM has seen the biggest growth by every measure, including the number of submissions and impact factor, since its inception in 1999 by the IEEE Computer Society, IEEE Communications Society, IEEE Circuits and Systems Society, and IEEE Signal Processing Society.

I have had a very rewarding experience working with the outstanding editorial board, steering committee, technical committees (TCs) from the four societies, guest editors, publication staff, and reviewers, as well as numerous authors who have contributed to the high-quality content in T-MM. Together, we have brought T-MM to a new height.

Over the past three years, T-MM has been significantly gaining popularity and impact in the multimedia community. First, the number of paper submissions approached 3000 in 2022 compared to just over 1000 at the end of 2019, and the page budget for publication has also grown from 3300 in 2019 to 4600 in 2022. Second, the impact factor of T-MM is reported to be 6.051 in 2019, 6.513 in 2020, and 8.182 in 2021, with a significant increase compared with 5.452 in 2018. In 2021, T-MM eliminated print and became online only with a single volume for each year.

One main goal I set personally at the beginning of my term is to significantly improve the reviewing time of papers. We implemented several new measures, including more rigorous

desk screening by the EiC, quarterly recognition of Outstanding Reviewers, and annual recognition of Outstanding Associate Editors. With the tremendous effort by an enlarged editorial board of capable, responsive, and diverse Associate Editors, the first-round decision time was reduced from ~ 18 weeks to ~ 15 weeks halfway through my 3-year term, on pace to achieve the target of 13 weeks (3 months) I set at the beginning. Despite the explosive growth in the number of submissions, to the tune of 40% annually in the last two years, the improved first-round decision time was maintained at ~ 15 weeks at the end of my term, placing T-MM much better than the average among competing IEEE Transactions. With the help of the T-MM staff and Associate Editors, we also took a more vigilant stance against the increasing and evolving academic misconducts including double submissions and plagiarism. Overall, the journal has been steadily reducing the acceptance rate and become more and more selective.

I am very pleased to leave T-MM in a stronger state to the capable hands of Prof. Yonggang Wen, who has long been an active researcher and leader in the multimedia community. He served on the T-MM Steering Committee and was instrumental to the success of T-MM. I am confident that T-MM will accelerate its march to greater excellence under his stewardship.

I am looking forward to working with Yonggang, T-MM and the multimedia community in other capacities, including General Co-Chair of 2024 IEEE ICME. Best wishes to you all and hope to see you in person soon!

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Jiebo Luo (Fellow, IEEE) is currently the Albert Arendt Hopeman Professor of engineering and a Professor of computer science with the University of Rochester, Rochester, NY, USA, which he joined after a prolific career of fifteen years with Kodak Research Laboratories in 2011. He has authored nearly 600 technical papers and holds more than 90 U.S. patents. His research interests include computer vision, NLP, machine learning, data mining, multimedia, computational social science, and digital health.

Prof. Luo has been involved in numerous technical conferences, including serving as the Program Co-Chair of ACM Multimedia 2010, IEEE CVPR 2012, ACM ICMR 2016, and IEEE ICIP 2017, and the general Co-Chair of ACM Multimedia 2018, and IEEE ICME 2024. He has served on the editorial boards of the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON PATTERN ANALYSIS AND MACHINE INTELLIGENCE, IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON MULTIMEDIA, IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON CIRCUITS AND SYSTEMS FOR VIDEO TECHNOLOGY, IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON BIG DATA, ACM TRANSACTIONS ON INTELLIGENT SYSTEMS AND TECHNOLOGY, *Pattern Recognition, Knowledge and Information Systems, Machine Vision and Applications*, and *Intelligent Medicine*. He was the Editor-in-Chief of IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON MULTIMEDIA from 2020 to 2022. Professor Luo is also a Fellow of ACM, AAAI, SPIE, and IAPR, and a Member of Academia Europaea and the US National Academy of Inventors.