

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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Welcome to the January 2022 issue of the *IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics (TVCG)*. This is traditionally the time of the year when we feature the IEEE VIS special issue and this year is no different. But there is one significant difference – IEEE VIS is now fully unified. There is no more IEEE VAST, IEEE InfoVis and IEEE SciVis; there is just IEEE VIS, tiled into six overarching areas: Applications (24 papers), Analytics & Decisions (19), Theoretical & Empirical (24), Representations & Interaction (19), Data Transformations (14) and Systems & Rendering (11). The conference was scheduled to take place in New Orleans (LA) but was moved to a virtual event due to the global coronavirus pandemic. This virtual conference took place from October 24-29, 2021. Contained in this special issue are the top 110 papers selected by the unified program committee from a total of 441 submissions. In addition, this issue also contains the Best Paper of the 2021 IEEE Large Scale Data Analysis and Visualization (LDAV) Symposium and the Best Paper of the 2021 IEEE Symposium on Visualization for Cyber Security (VizSec).

Founded in 1990 as the IEEE Conference on Visualization, IEEE VIS has a long tradition as the premier venue where new research results in theory, methods, and applications of visualization and visual analytics are presented. *TVCG* and VIS have enjoyed a fruitful cooperation for more than a decade, and both the number of publications in the special issue and the number of attendees at IEEE VIS have been growing steadily. The special issue format combines speed of publication with all the established advantages of an archival journal. All papers published here have undergone a rigorous and competitive two-round review process to ensure the highest quality possible.

The benefits of the collaboration between *TVCG* and IEEE VIS go both ways. Not only are VIS papers published in the *TVCG* VIS special issue, but also authors of VIS-themed *TVCG* regular papers can accept our call to give an oral presentation of their work at IEEE VIS. This provides a unique opportunity for both the authors of these papers as well as for the conference audience. *TVCG* authors get to highlight their important work to their peers, and the conference audience gets to see more exciting VIS research and also learns about the high-quality VIS research featured in *TVCG*. This year, 50 *TVCG* regular papers were presented at IEEE VIS.

I would like to sincerely thank the many colleagues who have committed their valuable time and effort to the creation of this *TVCG* issue. In particular, I thank the guest editors of this special issue – the three overall papers chairs Bongshin Lee, Silvia Miksch, and Anders Ynnerman, and the 12 area chairs Anastasia Bezerianos, Jian Chen, Wei Chen, Christopher Collins, Michael Gleicher, Eduard Gröller, Alex Lex, Bernhard Preim, Jinwook Seo, Rüdiger Westermann, Jing Yang, and Xiaoru Yuan for organizing the two-round review process, leading the unified program

committee, and making sure that academic quality was maintained at the highest level. I also thank the 199 domain experts on the unified program committee who played a very significant role by securing the help of additional expert reviewers and also participating in a second review round for papers that were accepted with minor revision.

Furthermore, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the *TVCG* Associate Editors-in-Chief Jean-Daniel Fekete, Shixia Liu, and Han-Wei Shen for their invaluable support in overseeing the review process. Furthermore, I would also like to recognize the outstanding efforts that went into the timely production of this issue by the IEEE and IEEE Computer Society staff, especially Patrick Kellenberger, Erin Pacino, Pilar Etuk, Katelyn Seyffart, and Kimberly Sperka. Thanks are also due to Christine Shaughnessy and Alison Larkin for their *TVCG* peer review support. Further, I would also like to acknowledge the support from behind the scenes by the IEEE VIS 2021 Conference Committee, the IEEE VGTC Executive Committee under the leadership of James Ahrens, and the IEEE Computer Society Publications Board. I would particularly like to thank the IEEE VIS 2021 Conference Co-Chairs Brian Summa and Luis Gustavo Nonato, the IEEE VIS 2021 Program Chairs Gautam Chaudhary and Joshua A. Levine, the IEEE VIS 2021 Executive Committee under the leadership of Lisa Avila, and the IEEE VIS 2021 Steering Committee for coordinating and working on the integration of the *TVCG* papers with the VIS 2021 program.

TVCG is one of the top journals presenting important research results and state-of-the-art seminal papers in scientific and information visualization, visual analytics, computer graphics and virtual and augmented reality. *TVCG* is also the venue to find extended versions of the best papers of many leading conferences, symposia, and workshops in the field. Accepted papers can be orally presented at our partner conferences (see <https://www.computer.org/digital-library/journals/tvcg/tvcg-partners-with-conferences>). *TVCG* is well known for its fast reviewing cycles and for the early availability of preprints in the IEEE Computer Society Digital Library and in IEEE Xplore. *TVCG* offers a great opportunity for the presentation of high-profile research results and survey papers on important new topics. I encourage you to browse through www.computer.org/tvcg, to continue submitting your best work to *TVCG*, to consider contributing as a reviewer, and to become a personal subscriber of *TVCG*.