

From the Editor-in-Chief:

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JAIF Special Issues

In order to make the journal more attractive, JAIF aims at regularly publishing and encouraging proposals for special issues from highly qualified guest editors. Special issues are an effective means for communicating state-of-the-art knowledge in a specific research field to interested readers, and are intended to cover hot research topics with a large audience in the area of information fusion.

In addition to being of high value to readers, a special issue also gives distinct advantages for the guest editors and authors of individual papers. The guest editors gain international visibility in the research field and build their reputation, which is especially helpful for junior scientists. For authors, special issues provide a convenient publication platform for their research results, where the embedding into similar research topics typically leads to an increased number of readers and a higher level of citations.

Articles in a special issue are both invited and openly submitted based on the general Call-for-Papers. These may include regular papers and short correspondence papers, as deemed appropriate by the guest editors. Organizers of special sessions at ISIF's annual FUSION conference are welcome to propose a JAIF Special Issue based on extended versions of special session papers presented at the conference. All manuscripts for a special issue must meet the same standards as regular submissions and undergo exactly the same peer review procedure.

Potential guest editors should submit a formal proposal for expressing their desire to organize a special issue. These proposals should provide the biographical information of the guest editors, the motivation for the special issue, a general call for contributed papers to the special issue, a candidate list of papers with authors for direct invitation, and a schedule for delivery and review of the papers for the special issue. Typically, one or two guest editors will be responsible for overseeing the peer reviews of each special issue, and they will be supported by a small team of predefined reviewers in order to expedite the review process. Additional reviewers will be recruited from the general JAIF reviewer database.

The editorial board of JAIF makes an accept/reject decision based on the information in the formal proposal. The selection is based on the relevance of the proposed topic, its fit to the ISIF community, its interest to readers of JAIF, its potential for both attracting new authors and increasing the readership, the broadness and quality of the papers in the candidate list, and the qualifications of the guest editors. In addition, a special issue should be well-timed and focus on topics with significant publications in the last five years. Topics already treated in special issues of other journals in recent years should be avoided.

After acceptance of the proposal, an official Call-for-Papers is assembled by the editorial board in close cooperation with the guest editors based on the material provided. The Call-for-Papers will then be posted at <http://www.isif.org> and distributed to all ISIF members.

The timeline for a special issue details the steps required from posting the Call-for-Papers to the final publication. This includes a submission deadline for potential authors, review deadlines, and deadlines for the revision of accepted papers. All deadlines should include an official date and a buffer. In addition, a time slot for final copy editing of accepted papers

should be allocated that involves a reading/annotation phase by a copy editor and another subsequent revision phase by the authors. A typical publication timeline for JAIF manuscripts can be found in the editorial of JAIF, Volume 5, Number 1.

A published special issue will contain the final accepted papers together with an introduction provided by the guest editors. This introduction should comprise a summary of the topic, a synopsis for each article, and biographical information of the guest editors.

Currently, there is an open Call-for-Papers for a special issue on “Nonlinear Derivative-Free Filters: Theory and Applications”. Guest editors are Jindrich Dunik and Ondrej Straka from the Department of Cybernetics, Faculty of Applied Sciences, University of West Bohemia in Pilsen, Czech Republic. The deadline for paper submission is March 31, 2015.

Future Special Issues are planned in the areas of “Extended Object and Group Tracking”, “Estimation Involving Directional Quantities”, and “Probabilistic RGBD Data Fusion”.

Uwe D. Hanebeck
Editor-in-Chief