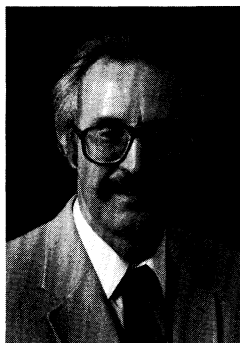

EDITORIAL



Edward R. Dougherty
Editor

We hope to make timely reviews a regular feature of JEl. It is easy for me to say this, but the burden to make timely reviews a reality falls on the reviewers who volunteer their time and expertise for the success of the journal.

I have reviewed many papers for various journals, and to be honest I am not usually overjoyed when a long paper with difficult mathematical arguments (the kind I usually get) appears in my mail. Yet like all of us actively engaged in research, I recognize the importance of the reviewing process and therefore try to provide a sincere, detailed review within a reasonable time frame. Often this can take a couple of days of struggle trying to understand the equations. But I'm aware of the frustration of having my papers await a first review for over a year, or longer—and of the frustration of the journal editors who are handling the papers. A year-long delay can date the work in light of new work carried on over the year. Or new work may end up being published prior to the work on which it was founded. Or the entire line of investigation might be seriously hindered or stifled by interminable delay. Our responsibility as scientists is to not let this happen.

Sometimes I enjoy reviewing a paper. I've had the privilege of reviewing excellent work and studying the impact of the work on my area well before the appearance of the paper in print. I recall giving a review in which I strongly criticized the style and presentation, but at the same time gave my opinion that the paper was the best of the year in morphological image processing. Reviewing such a paper is hard work, but in this case it was well rewarded by the success of a young researcher and the excellent research that followed.

But there is no joy in reviewing a paper in which one sees serious problems. Nevertheless, recommending rejection places a strong responsibility on the reviewer to support the rejection, and this typically requires very careful reading.

Even when recommending rejection, one should try to recommend ways to the authors that the work might lead to some good end.

In the middle, between acceptance and rejection, lies a recommendation for major revision. Here, too, there is responsibility. A recommendation for a major overhaul without clear suggestions may leave the authors in a quandary. Had they known the problem beforehand, they likely would have fixed it prior to submission. Moreover, if my objections are met in resubmission, I feel obligated to keep my criticism in focus and not wander about with new criticisms. Hence, the first review had better have been complete.

What is the reward for all this effort? Only that you are participating responsibly in your profession to help to keep the research process functioning and that you are encouraging the beneficiaries of your efforts to participate actively themselves in promoting a satisfactory review process. You also have the appreciation of journal editors and society staff who could not function without your help.

On a separate matter, we have put a lot of emphasis on generating a number of special sections in diverse areas of electronic imaging and hope to make this a continuing feature of JEl. The first special issue on digital document imaging will appear in January 1996 and others will follow during subsequent issues. Special sections supplement and enhance the journal, but the mainstay of the journal is and must continue to be regularly submitted papers of high quality. Regular papers will not be delayed to make room for special sections. When there is a special section, the plan is that an issue will be made up of regularly submitted papers together with the special section. Should the paper count increase, we plan to increase the number of pages to accommodate the increase. We remain committed to a very fast turnaround once a paper has been accepted—and with the help of our reviewers the acceptance process will not involve long delays.

EDITORIAL SCHEDULE

January 1996

Digital Document Imaging

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This special section will cover image processing topics that are relevant to creation, acquisition, storage, transmission, recognition, analysis, and rendering of digital documents. Specific topics of interest are OCR, compression, document structure analysis, digital magnification, resolution conversion, enhancement, restoration, halftoning, and color management.

April 1996

Multimedia Systems

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Manuscripts due Aug. 1, 1995

July 1996

Nonlinear Image Processing

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In the past decade, there has been significant progress in nonlinear image processing techniques. Not only have new methods been developed, but deep connections have also been found between the various nonlinear image processing methods that have grown from different origins. Our understanding of nonlinear image processing techniques has evolved to the level where rigorous design procedures based on mathematical modeling of the target application have become possible. The aim of this special section is to present a comprehensive overview of the recent advances in both the theory and applications of nonlinear image processing.

Manuscripts due December 1, 1995.

October 1996

Real-Time Imaging

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This special section will cover the application of real-time imaging in the following technologies: robotics, virtual reality, multimedia, medical imaging, industrial inspection, high-definition television, advanced simulators, computer-integrated manufacturing, and intelligent vehicles.

Manuscripts due January 1, 1996.

January 1997

Random Models in Imaging

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This special section will present recent advances in random models in imaging. Papers are invited for submission in the following areas: theory and applications of random models to image processing (coding, filtering, pattern recognition, and segmentation), image analysis (including model-based measurements), and simulations of random fields.

Manuscripts due April 1, 1996.

April 1997

Image Coding

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This special section aims at presenting new image coding techniques for various applications, bit rate, quality, and complexity. Novelty of the approach and superiority of the performances will be determinant.

Manuscripts due May 1, 1996.