EDITORIAL

Editorial

1 | A TIME OF CHANGE

At this time last year I wrote of the effects of the COVID-19 virus and that, although it had caused unprecedented changes to the way in which we work, the process of scientific publication has continued. But few would have predicted the extent to which COVID-19 would still be with us.

At that time the IET had just entered into a partnership with Wiley and moved to an Open Access model. That has proved to be very successful, and the operation of the *IET Radar, Sonar & Navigation* journal has continued and even strengthened. The journal is gaining a reputation for rapid publication: the average time from submission to first decision is currently 27 days and from submission to final decision 37 days.

2 | PREMIUM AWARD

It is a pleasure to report that the Premium Award for the best paper published in the journal in 2019 is made to Ahmet M. Elbir of the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Duzce University, Turkey, and Kumar Vijay Mishra and Yonina C. Eldar of the Andrew and Erna Viterbi Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa, Israel, for their paper *Cognitive radar antenna selection via deep learning*, which appeared in the June 2019 issue (Vol.13 No.6, pp. 871–880).

Cognitive radar is something of a hot topic, but it is very difficult to demonstrate cognitive behaviour in a radar system in a realistic and consistent manner, whether by simulation or by experimental measurements. This paper addresses a specific question, which is the determination of the direction of a target by optimum choice of the subarrays of a phased array radar in an intelligent and adaptive way. The approach is rigorous, and the paper is presented in a notably clear manner. The numerical experiments show that the proposed Convolutional Neural Network structure provides 22% better classification performance than a support vector machine and the resulting subarrays yield 72% more accurate DoA estimates than random array selections.

We warmly congratulate the authors on this award.

3 | EDITORIAL BOARD

The names of the members of the Editorial Board are listed inside the front cover of this journal; the members are distinguished researchers who represent the full scope of the journal, and they come from all over the world. They help with reaching decisions on submitted papers, encouraging authors to submit their work to the journal, and proposing topics for Special Issues and Special Sections.

4 | REVIEWERS

Finally, we express our gratitude to the reviewers for their time, expertise and hard work in refereeing papers and maintaining the reputation of the journal, both for quality and for rapid publication. This is an essential part of the publication process, but necessarily the reviewers must remain anonymous. This editorial is one place where we can acknowledge their contribution and record our thanks to them.

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