Editorial

Gerhard X. Ritter

This is my 41st volume and final issue as Editor in Chief of the *Journal of Mathematical Imaging and Vision*, better known as JMIV. My journey as founding editor has been a wonderful and humbling personal experience as well as a very challenging enterprise. From its modest beginnings with the appearance of the first issue of volume 1 in March 1992, JMIV has steadily improved in its position to become the premier applied mathematics journal dedicated to imaging science and computer vision. It is ranked in three ISI categories, namely Applied Mathematics, Computer Science (Artificial Intelligence), and Computer Science (Software Engineering). The number of citations has increased from 671 in 2007 to 1074 in 2009. Yearly submissions have also steadily increased to the current rate of approximately 200/year.

When the journal was first launched, the question as to the need for another journal in the area of computer vision was raised. The founders of the journal felt that JMIV would fill a void in that articles would be judged on mathematical content. Its contributors and readership would consist of researchers and scientists interested in advancing the frontiers of imaging science and vision through the establishment of first principles and sound mathematical foundations. Emphasis would be placed on innovative or established mathematical techniques applied to vision and imaging problems in a novel way as well as new developments in mathematics arising from these applications. Based on these aims, the journal would provide a forum for authors whose research was deemed too mathematical or theoretical by journals emphasizing engineering, application, and implementation aspects, and—at the same time—too applied by many mathematics journals. In this context, it is worthwhile to note that several of the founding members of JMIV were also instrumental in establishing SIAM's activity group in imaging science (SIAG/IS), of which I was appointed the first chair. Thus, it is not a coincidence that the aims and scope of SIAG/IS mirrors that of JMIV. It is my sincerest hope that close relations and cooperation between SIAM's SIAG/IS members and JMIV will continue in the future.

The excellent reputation that JMIV enjoys is the result of the hard work of a team of outstanding scientists and coworkers. I am in particular greatful to the past and present members of the Editorial Board and the countless numbers of reviewers who voluntarily spent a great amount of their valuable time in service to the journal. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the staff at Springer's editorial office for their help and support. These are the people who work tirelessly behind the scenes but are rarely recognized for their contributions. It was a pleasure and a privilege to work with them. I am proud of what we have achieved, but it is also with a feeling of nostalgia that this phase of my involvement with JMIV is coming to an end. However, I am happy to inform you that the journal will be left in very capable hands. My successor will be Joachim Weickert, Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science at Saarland University, where he heads the Mathematical Image Analysis Group. Dr. Weickert brings a wealth of experience as a researcher and published author to JMIV. I am confident that under his leadership the journal will continue to grow in stature and in quality of its service to the imaging science and computer vision community.

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