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Second Term as Editor-in-Chief

As some of you may know, the term for the IEEE CIM Editor-in-Chief is two years. Thanks to the great support of our authors, reviewers, associate editors and guest editors, I managed to publish all eight issues on schedule in 2014–2015. My second term has just started this January. The good news for 2016 is that we have received a 20-page increase in our annual page budget from 320 pages to 340 pages. Working within the constraints of a page budget can be a headache. First of all, I had to accept only a small number of papers from a large number of submissions. Secondly, I needed to ask the accepted papers' authors to decrease the paper length. I also had to delay the publication of a review article and a conference report from November 2015 to February 2016 due to our 2015 annual page budget shortage. Before I started working as the IEEE CIM Editor-in-Chief, I really thought that four CIM issues with 80 pages could be published every year under a 320-page budget. This seemed like simple mathematics to me. However, I soon found out that my calculation was incomplete. Four pages for the front and back covers need to be counted too. An 80-page issue needs an 84-page budget.

Another headache is the highly discretized nature of the number of pages. The number of pages in each CIM issue has to be a multiple of 8. For example, when 68 pages need to be published, they are included in an 72-page CIM issue. Thus four conference call-for-paper pages are inserted between articles for adjusting the number of pages from 68 to 72 as in this issue. Also, it is very difficult to accurately estimate the length of each article before the proof reading stage. As a result, making a publication schedule for each article is a highly discretized combinatorial optimization problem under article length uncertainty. Another concern is our impact factor. The impact factor for 2014 is 2.571. This impact factor was calculated from the citations in 2014 of articles published in 2012–2013. The current impact factor is almost the same as its previous 2013 impact factor of 2.706. I hope that the impact factor will increase in the near future since it was 4.629 two years ago.

In 2014–2015, the CIM published 37 technical articles in total. They are categorized into the following articles: 22 Features, 5 Research Frontiers, 6 Application Notes, 2 Review Articles, and 2 Discussion Forums. A two-column format is used only for feature articles while other articles are published using a three-column format. Typically three feature articles on a specific topic are included in each CIM issue together with a couple of other articles. A feature topic for each CIM issue is decided about a year and a half before its publication.

The feature topic of the current CIM issue is "Brain Computer Interface", which is an exciting application area of Computational Intelligence. I believe that you will enjoy all articles in the current CIM issue. In our upcoming issues, you will also enjoy interesting articles on "Computational Intelligence Software", "Big Social Data Analysis" and "Model Complexity, Regularization and Sparsity".