

SPECIAL ISSUE ON INFORMATION HIDING AND MULTIMEDIA SIGNAL PROCESSING

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Whether we are aware of it or not, multimedia signal processing is now a part of our daily lives. For instance, lots of people these days regularly enjoy watching video and listening to music through the Internet, by tuning in to digital broadcasting, or by viewing DVD media. State-of-the-art signal processing technologies are needed in such an information-rich environment. The explosion of multimedia content on the Internet has also meant that the copyrights of that content can be easily violated. Copyright protection has become an essential concern for authors and researchers of multimedia content.

This special issue on Information Hiding and Multimedia Signal Processing is dedicated a variety of original papers presented at *The Fourth International Conference on Intelligent Information Hiding and Multimedia Signal Processing*, held in Harbin, China, August 15 to 17, 2008. The papers were invited after the conference on a wide range of topics in signal processing and information hiding, including watermarking of stereo audio signals, contention-aware QoS routing, path virtualization system for wireless networks, image inpainting for multi-view video sequences, watermarking for maps, anonymous fingerprinting, queuing property analysis, robust image watermarking, benchmark tools for watermarking, database hiding for digital forensics, watermarking based on cochlear delay characteristics, packet loss concealment for MDCT-based audio codecs, recognition of emotions in finger braille, multi-view video services, robust audio data hiding, watermarking based on adaptive bit-labeling, video authentication, software integration, multipurpose image authentication, and perceptual speech hashing. We received more than 30 submissions, which went through peer review according to the Journal's standard review procedure, and we eventually accepted 20 papers for this special issue.

We believe that the work presented in this special issue is representative of recent progress in signal processing and information hiding. We hope that our readers will share our evaluations and make this special issue a reference in their research.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all the contributors and reviewers for their hard work. We would especially like to thank Professor Yan Shi, Executive Editor of IJICIC, who offered us the opportunity to work on this special issue.