Special Issue

Multimedia Steganography and Watermarking in the AI Era: Methods, Robustness and Applications

Message from the Guest Editors

As multimedia technologies continue to rapidly evolve, the fields of steganography and watermarking are expanding in both technical depth and their breadth of applications. From copyright protection and tamper detection to covert communication and digital forensics, there is a growing demand for secure, adaptive, and explainable techniques across visual, audio, textual, and multimodal content. With the rise of artificial intelligence —particularly deep learning, generative models, and representation learning—researchers are rethinking the foundations of multimedia steganography and watermarking. At the same time, traditional signal processing, frequency-domain embedding, and cryptographic approaches remain vital to achieving interpretability, controllability, and robustness in real-world settings. This Special Issue will capture the state of the art in multimedia steganography and watermarking in the AI era, with balanced emphases on theory, models, robustness, and applications. We welcome contributions focusing on both AI-powered and conventional approaches that advance security, resilience, and effectiveness in multimedia steganography, watermarking, and data hiding.

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

30 March 2026

Applied Sciences

Applied Sciences

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

As the world of science becomes ever more specialized, researchers may lose themselves in the deep forest of the ever increasing number of subfields being created. This open access journal *Applied Sciences* has been started to link these subfields, so researchers can cut through the forest and see the surrounding, or quite distant fields and subfields to help develop his/her own research even further with the aid of this multi-dimensional network.

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