

Special Issue

AI-Enabled and Secure Space–Air–Ground Systems: Integrated Sensing, Communication, and Autonomous Intelligence for UAV Networks

Message from the Guest Editor

The rise of non-terrestrial networks, AI, and autonomous aerial platforms is driving space–air–ground systems (SAGIN). UAVs act as agile sensing, communication, and computing nodes linking satellites and terrestrial networks. ISAC, edge intelligence, and secure networking are shaping future 6G ecosystems, but challenges remain in multi-domain coordination, autonomous decision-making, and cyber–physical security. Overcoming these is key for scalable, trustworthy next-generation systems. This Special Issue focuses on AI-enabled, secure SAGIN, emphasizing integrated sensing, communication, and autonomous intelligence for UAV networks. Original research and reviews are welcome. Topics include:

- Space–air–ground architectures and 6G networks
- ISAC for UAVs
- AI-driven networking and edge intelligence
- Secure aerial communications
- Cross-domain orchestration and digital twins

Guest Editor

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Machines is an international, peer reviewed journal on machinery and engineering. It publishes research articles, reviews and communications.

Our aim is to encourage scientists to publish their experimental and theoretical results in as much detail as possible. There is no restriction on the length of the papers. Full experimental and/or methodical details must be provided.

There are, in addition, unique features of this journal: Manuscripts regarding research proposals and research ideas will be particularly welcomed; Electronic files or software regarding the full details of the calculation and experimental procedure - if unable to be published in a normal way can be deposited as supplementary material.

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