Special Issue

Ship Detection and Maritime Monitoring Based on SAR Data

Message from the Guest Editors

Ship detection and monitoring is essential for a wide range of purposes such as maritime surveillance, traffic and migration control and environmental protection. Since the launch of Seasat in 1978, SARs have proven to be a unique tool for ship detection and maritime monitoring, able to provide high-resolution data and large spatial coverage, and are capable of operating even at night, in the presence of clouds and with no cooperation from the targets. The pool of satellites with a SAR sensor onboard has increased in the last two decades, thus dramatically improving the temporal coverage. Since 2014, VDS has widely demonstrated the benefits of SAR sensors for ship monitoring, identifying and pursuing illegal unreported and unregulated fishing activities in areas where they entail economic, social, and environmental threats. Several challenges remain: detection performance is sometimes insufficient, the number of false positives is still too high in some cases and the intervention of a trained human operator is still a required. Furthermore, the absence of extensive ground truth often prevents the practical demonstration, validation, and comparison of methods and algorithms.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Remote Sensing is now a prominent international journal of repute in the world of remote sensing and spatial sciences, as a pioneer and pathfinder in open access format. It has highly accomplished global remote sensing scientists on the editorial board and a dedicated team of associate editors. The journal emphasizes quality and novelty and has a rigorous peer-review process. It is now one of the top remote sensing journals with a significant Impact Factor, and a goal to become the best journal in remote sensing in the coming years. I strongly recommend *Remote Sensing* for your best research publications for a fast dissemination of your research.

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