

Submission paper types for the IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Magazine

The IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Magazine (GRSM) provides a venue to publish high-quality technical articles that by their very nature do not find a home in journals requiring scientific innovation but that provide relevant information to scientists, engineers, end-users, and students who interact in different ways with the geoscience and remote sensing disciplines. Therefore, **GRSM publishes tutorial and review papers, as well as technical papers on geoscience and remote sensing topics, but the last category (technical papers) only in connection to a Special Issue.**

Specifically, a feature article (i.e., a tutorial or review paper) **should not include new ideas, or very detailed studies**, as might appear in IEEE Transactions Geoscience and Remote Sensing, for example. A typical feature article is focused on a topic that is narrow enough to be adequately covered, with enough breadth to be inclusive of the perspectives from different authors.

Good feature articles will introduce the area, provide a novel perspective on different technical directions, and, most importantly, highlight directions for future work. Feature articles can focus on a hot topic or may provide a new perspective on an established topic. For example, an article that reviews fundamentals and highlights new applications of a family of techniques would be a good fit for a feature article.

Finally, a **GRSM submission must be non-redundant** in the sense that there are not already appropriate papers readily accessible to the readers of IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Magazine. The paper must be of interest to the Remote sensing community in the sense that it covers a topic that either uses or impacts Remote Sensing technology and applications.

“White Papers” for GRSM

Tutorial, review and Special Issue papers must be initially submitted to GRSM in the form of a “White Paper”. The scope of a GRSM White Paper is on the one side to provide to GRSM Editorial Board enough information to understand whether the proposed full paper is in line with the requirements of the journal scope (“GRSM publishes ... high-quality technical articles that by their very nature do not find a home in journals requiring scientific innovation but that provide relevant information to scientists, engineers, end-users, and students who interact in different ways with the geoscience and remote sensing disciplines...”).

On the other side, the submission of a White Paper is important to the authors, because they will receive preliminary feedback by expert reviewers about their full paper, together with comments and suggestions to improve it. Therefore, without the burden of a full review, and without the effort required to write a full paper, the submission of a White Paper ensures that the authors and the Editorial Board shape the full article in a way that it will be easier to review, and hopefully accept, it.

The White Paper stage is an opportunity for the authors to get early feedback, for example, that their article is not a good fit for the magazine. This avoids spending time on a paper that cannot be resubmitted to a different publication with different requirements.

Please note: According to what is mentioned here above, it does not seem wise to complete the writing of the full paper before and then “downsizing” it to the White Paper format. It is indeed very likely that the Editorial Board asks for improvements and suggest changes to the White Paper. A reasonable draft of the full paper will therefore suffice to start working on the White Paper submission. We suggest the

final draft of the full paper – together with a letter stating how the authors addressed the comments by the Editorial Board while writing it – should be written after receiving the acceptance of the white paper.

Instructions on how to write a GRSM White Paper

General format of a GRSM White Paper

IEEE journal page format (A4/letter paper, two columns). A white paper is usually 6 pages (or fewer) and **is expected to contain the following parts.**

Proposed title: this is important to set the stage for the scope of the article. Good titles should not be too long, but they should not be too generic. Be sure to check the titles of related papers and be sure to differentiate your title.

Abstract (half a column max)

It should describe clearly if your paper is a tutorial, a review or a special issue paper, and it should describe the topic of the work and the main novelties and results of the paper.

Main body (4 pages max)

It should be a shorter version of the full paper, with all the necessary information to understand how the full paper will be structured and what would be the main topic, analyses and results described in it. It can be structured with “introduction”, “methodology and data” and “results” if it is a special issue paper, with “introduction”, “review” and “comments” in case of a review paper, and with “introduction”, “state of the art” and “tutorial” in case of a tutorial paper. This is the place to make the case that an article will be of broad interest to the remote sensing community. It is useful to cite some references in this section. It is also important to highlight differences with other tutorial, overview, or survey papers on related topics. Here one should also provide a section and subsection outline of the final paper. It is useful to briefly mention the content of each section and to list the (main) papers that you plan to cite in this section.

Equations

Given the importance of mathematics in remote sensing, it would be unusual to find a feature article without any equations. Due to the tutorial nature of the papers, though, it would not be typical to see the pages filled with equations either. Mathematical equations should be limited in scope and complexity. If one feels that the paper needs more equations, references, figures, or tables than the magazine guidelines allow, this may be an indication that it's too technical for a magazine article and is more suitable for publication in a regular journal.

References (1 page max)

References in the White Paper are a subset of the references of the full paper. They should be cited and included to guide readers to more information on the topic. For feature papers the reference list should not include every available source. For instance, in a tutorial paper one should only include the key references that are important to explain a topic and the most influential and well-understood papers for an overview.

Authors list and bios (half a page max)

This part should be short enough to avoid not being read, yet long enough to explain why the authors feel that they are adequate to write the special issue paper/review/tutorial that they are willing to submit to GRSM. This list is used to determine if the authors have expertise in the area. Good feature articles will be coauthored by different research groups. This helps to ensure the diverse perspective on different research lines as expected in tutorial and overview papers.