

Lecture Notes in Computer Science

2749

Edited by G. Goos, J. Hartmanis, and J. van Leeuwen

Springer

Berlin

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Josef Bigun Tomas Gustavsson (Eds.)

Image Analysis

13th Scandinavian Conference, SCIA 2003
Halmstad, Sweden, June 29 – July 2, 2003
Proceedings



Springer

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Gerhard Goos, Karlsruhe University, Germany
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Volume Editors

Josef Bigun
Halmstad University
Box 823, 30118 Halmstadt, Sweden E-mail: josef.bigun@ide.hh.se

Tomas Gustavsson
Chalmers University of Technology
Department of Signals and Systems
41296 Göteborg, Sweden
E-mail: gustavsson@s2.chalmers.de

Cataloging-in-Publication Data applied for

A catalog record for this book is available from the Library of Congress

Bibliographic information published by Die Deutsche Bibliothek
Die Deutsche Bibliothek lists this publication in the Deutsche Nationalbibliografie;
detailed bibliographic data is available in the Internet at <<http://dnb.ddb.de>>.

CR Subject Classification (1998): I.4, I.5, I.3

ISSN 0302-9743

ISBN 3-540-40601-8 Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg New York

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Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg New York
a member of BertelsmannSpringer Science+Business Media GmbH

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© Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg 2003
Printed in Germany

Typesetting: Camera-ready by author, data conversion by PTP Berlin GmbH
Printed on acid-free paper SPIN 10929308 06/3142 5 4 3 2 1 0

Preface

The excellently received call for papers of the 13th Scandinavian Conference on Image Analysis, June 29–July 2 (SCIA 2003) resulted in the selected articles of this proceedings. Additionally the volume also contains invited contributions from

- Ivar Austvoll, Stavanger University College (NO),
- Lars Bååth, Halmstad University (SE),
- Ewert Bengtsson, Uppsala University (SE),
- Rasmus Larsen, Technical University of Denmark (DK),
- Jussi Parkkinen, University of Joensuu (FI),
- Pietro Perona, California Institute of Technology (US)

which brings the total number of articles to 152.

The theme of the papers are dominated by the categories

- Feature extraction
- Depth and surface
- Medical image processing
- Shape analysis
- Segmentation and spatial grouping
- Coding and representation
- Motion analysis
- Texture analysis
- Color analysis
- Indexing and categorization

which also represent the topical groupings of this book.

The particularly strong response to the *feature extraction*, *depth and surface*, and *medical image processing* themes makes us believe that these areas are currently expansive, partly because of the rich set of problems which remain to be addressed.

The first SCIA was held a quarter of a century ago, even before the organizers of this SCIA started to work in the image analysis field. As such, SCIA proceedings constitute a rare commodity with which to measure the trends and opportunities in image analysis. Few proceedings have such a long tradition in this field. Consequently, a contribution of this book that cannot be ignored lies in its particular diversity, which represents a snapshot of the themes that our fellow image analysis workers have invested their resources in. In an effort to improve the distribution and accessibility of it beyond the time and location of the conference, the proceedings of this SCIA is, for the first time, published outside of the publishing facilities of the Scandinavian universities.

Our own observation is that image analysis as a science is maturing. We see a trend away from a cookbook style collection of recipes to encountered problems toward more general theories and methods verified by independent applications. It is likely that image analysis science will continue to enable technical systems to come up with many more solutions that will matter to humanity. We hope that this book will contribute to image analysis in that sense.

Last, but not least, we gratefully acknowledge the contributions of the Program Committee, the external reviewers, and the sponsoring organizations.

May 2003

Josef Bigun and Tomas Gustavsson

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The Scandinavian conference SCIA 2003 was organized by the Swedish universities



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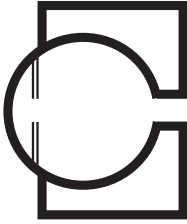
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