Bernd Jähne

Digital Image Processing

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6th revised and extended edition

With 248 Figures , 155 Exercises, and CD-ROM



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Library of Congress Control Number: 2005920591

ISBN 3-540-24035-7 Springer Berlin Heidelberg New York ISBN 978-3-540-24035-8 Springer Berlin Heidelberg New York

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Typesetting: Digital data supplied by author Cover-Design: Struve & Partner,Heidelberg Production: medionet AG, Berlin

Printed on acid-free paper 62/3141 Rw 543210

Preface

The sixth edition of this worldwide used textbook was thoroughly revised and extended. Throughout the whole text you will find numerous improvements, extensions, and updates. Above all, I would like to draw your attention to two major changes.

Firstly, the whole textbook is now clearly partitioned into basic and advanced material in order to cope with the ever-increasing field of digital image processing. The most important equations are put into framed boxes. The advanced sections are located in the second part of each chapter and are marked by italic headlines and by a smaller typeface. In this way, you can first work your way through the basic principles of digital image processing without getting overwhelmed by the wealth of the material. You can extend your studies later to selected topics of interest.

The second most notable extension are exercises that are now included at the end of each chapter. These exercise help you to test your understanding, train your skills, and introduce you to real-world image processing tasks. The exercises are marked with one to three stars to indicate their difficulty. An important part of the exercises is a wealth of interactive computer exercises, which cover all topics of this textbook. These exercises are performed with the image processing software **heurisko**[®] (http://www.heurisko.de), which is included on the accompanying CD-ROM. In this way you can get own practical experience with almost all topics and algorithms covered by this book. The CD-ROM also includes a large collection of images, image sequences, and volumetric images that can be used together with the computer exercises. Information about the solutions of the exercises and updates of the computer exercises can be found on the homepage of the author at http://www.bernd-jaehne.de.

Each chapter closes with a section "Further Reading" that guides the interested reader to further references. The appendix includes two chapters. Appendix A gives a quick access to a collection of often used reference material and Appendix B details the notation used throughout the book. The complete text of the book is now available on the accompanying CD-ROM. It is hyperlinked so that it can be used in a very flexible way.

You can jump from the table of contents to the corresponding section, from citations to the bibliography, from the index to the corresponding page, and to any other cross-references. It is also possible to execute the computer exercises directly from the PDF document.

I would like to thank all individuals and organizations who have contributed visual material for this book. The corresponding acknowledgements can be found where the material is used. I would also like to express my sincere thanks to the staff of Springer-Verlag for their constant interest in this book and their professional advice. Special thanks are due to my friends at AEON Verlag & Studio, Hanau, Germany. Without their dedication and professional knowledge it would not have been possible to produce this book and, in particular, the accompanying CD-ROM.

Finally, I welcome any constructive input from you, the reader. I am grateful for comments on improvements or additions and for hints on errors, omissions, or typing errors, which — despite all the care taken — may have slipped attention.

Heidelberg, January 2005

Bernd Jähne

From the preface of the fifth edition

As the fourth edition, the fifth edition is completely revised and extended. The whole text of the book is now arranged in 20 instead of 16 chapters. About one third of text is marked as advanced material. In this way, you will find a quick and systematic way through the basic material and you can extend your studies later to special topics of interest.

The most notable extensions include a detailed discussion on random variables and fields (Chapter 3), 3-D imaging techniques (Chapter 8) and an approach to regularized parameter estimation unifying techniques including inverse problems, adaptive filter techniques such as anisotropic diffusion, and variational approaches for optimal solutions in image restoration, tomographic reconstruction, segmentation, and motion determination (Chapter 17). Each chapter now closes with a section "Further Reading" that guides the interested reader to further references.

The complete text of the book is now available on the accompanying CD-ROM. It is hyperlinked so that it can be used in a very flexible way. You can jump from the table of contents to the corresponding section, from citations to the bibliography, from the index to the corresponding page, and to any other cross-references.

Heidelberg, November 2001

Bernd Jähne

From the preface of the fourth edition

In a fast developing area such as digital image processing a book that appeared in its first edition in 1991 required a complete revision just six years later. But what has not changed is the proven concept, offering a systematic approach to digital image processing with the aid of concepts and general principles also used in other areas of natural science. In this way, a reader with a general background in natural science or an engineering discipline is given fast access to the complex subject of image processing. The book covers the basics of image processing. Selected areas are treated in detail in order to introduce the reader both to the way of thinking in digital image processing and to some current research topics. Whenever possible, examples and image material are used to illustrate basic concepts. It is assumed that the reader is familiar with elementary matrix algebra and the Fourier transform.

The new edition contains four parts. Part 1 summarizes the basics required for understanding image processing. Thus there is no longer a mathematical appendix as in the previous editions. Part 2 on image acquisition and preprocessing has been extended by a detailed discussion of image formation. Motion analysis has been integrated into Part 3 as one component of feature extraction. Object detection, object form analysis, and object classification are put together in Part 4 on image analysis.

Generally, this book is not restricted to 2-D image processing. Wherever possible, the subjects are treated in such a manner that they are also valid for higherdimensional image data (volumetric images, image sequences). Likewise, color images are considered as a special case of multichannel images.

Heidelberg, May 1997

Bernd Jähne

From the preface of the first edition

Digital image processing is a fascinating subject in several aspects. Human beings perceive most of the information about their environment through their visual sense. While for a long time images could only be captured by photography, we are now at the edge of another technological revolution which allows image data to be captured, manipulated, and evaluated electronically with computers. With breathtaking pace, computers are becoming more powerful and at the same time less expensive, so that widespread applications for digital image processing emerge. In this way, image processing is becoming a tremendous tool for analyzing image data in all areas of natural science. For more and more scientists digital image processing will be the key to study complex scientific problems they could not have dreamed of tackling only a few years ago. A door is opening for new interdisciplinary cooperation merging computer science with the corresponding research areas.

Many students, engineers, and researchers in all natural sciences are faced with the problem of needing to know more about digital image processing. This book is written to meet this need. The author — himself educated in physics — describes digital image processing as a new tool for scientific research. The book starts with the essentials of image processing and leads — in selected areas — to the state-of-the art. This approach gives an insight as to how image processing really works. The selection of the material is guided by the needs of a researcher who wants to apply image-processing techniques in his or her field. In this sense, this book tries to offer an integral view of image processing from image acquisition to the extraction of the data of interest. Many concepts and mathematical tools that find widespread application in natural sciences are

also applied in digital image processing. Such analogies are pointed out, since they provide an easy access to many complex problems in digital image processing for readers with a general background in natural sciences. The discussion of the general concepts is supplemented with examples from applications on PC-based image processing systems and ready-to-use implementations of important algorithms.

I am deeply indebted to the many individuals who helped me to write this book. I do this by tracing its history. In the early 1980s, when I worked on the physics of small-scale air-sea interaction at the Institute of Environmental Physics at Heidelberg University, it became obvious that these complex phenomena could not be adequately treated with point measuring probes. Consequently, a number of area extended measuring techniques were developed. Then I searched for techniques to extract the physically relevant data from the images and sought for colleagues with experience in digital image processing. The first contacts were established with the Institute for Applied Physics at Heidelberg University and the German Cancer Research Center in Heidelberg. I would like to thank Prof. Dr. J. Bille, Dr. J. Dengler and Dr. M. Schmidt cordially for many eye-opening conversations and their cooperation.

I would also like to thank Prof. Dr. K. O. Münnich, director of the Institute for Environmental Physics. From the beginning, he was open-minded about new ideas on the application of digital image processing techniques in environmental physics. It is due to his farsightedness and substantial support that the research group "Digital Image Processing in Environmental Physics" could develop so fruitfully at his institute. Many of the examples shown in this book are taken from my research at Heidelberg University and the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. I gratefully acknowledge financial support for this research from the German Science Foundation, the European Community, the US National Science Foundation, and the US Office of Naval Research.

La Jolla, California, and Heidelberg, spring 1991

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