Lecture Notes in Computer Science 2184
Edited by G. Goos, J. Hartmanis, and J. van Leeuwen

Springer
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Maurizio Tucci (Ed.)

Multimedia Databases and Image Communication

Second International Workshop, MDIC 2001
Amalfi, Italy, September 17-18, 2001
Proceedings

Springer

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Cataloging-in-Publication Data applied for

Die Deutsche Bibliothek - CIP-Einheitsaufnahme

Multimedia databases and image communication : second international workshop ; proceedings / MDIC 2001, Amalfi, Italy, September 17 - 18, 2001. Maurizio Tucci (ed.). - Berlin ; Heidelberg ; New York ; Barcelona ; Hong Kong ; London ; Milan ; Paris ; Tokyo : Springer, 2001
(Lecture notes in computer science ; Vol. 2184)
ISBN 3-540-42587-X

CR Subject Classification (1998): H.5.1, H.3, E.4, C.2, I.7.2, H.4.3

ISSN 0302-9743
ISBN 3-540-42587-X Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg New York

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

http://www.springer.de

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Printed in Germany

Typesetting: Camera-ready by author, data conversion by Christian Grosche, Hamburg
Printed on acid-free paper SPIN 10840533 06/3142 5 4 3 2 1 0

Foreword

Multimedia technologies are rapidly attracting more and more interest every day. The Internet as seen from the end user is one of the reasons for this phenomenon, but not the only one. Video on Demand is one of the buzzwords today, but its real availability to the general public is yet to come. Content providers – such as publishers, broadcasting companies, and audio/video production firms – must be able to archive and index their productions for later retrieval. This is a formidable task, even more so when the material to be sorted encompasses many different types of several media and covers a time span of several years.

In order for such a vast amount of data to be easily available, existing database design models and indexing methodologies have to be improved and refined. In addition, new techniques especially tailored to the various types of multimedia must be devised and evaluated. For archiving and trasmission, data compression is another issue that needs to be addressed. In many cases, it has been found that compression and indexing can be successfully integrated, since compressing the data by filtering out irrelevancy implies some degree of understanding of the content structure.

Image and audio data cannot be effectively managed with the exclusive use of older, keyword-based search techniques. Video sequences present similar, possibly even harder, problems. As broadband communications become more and more viable for the general public, video data is bound to dominate the data flow on the Internet. The issue of video coding and indexing is therefore of maximum practical usefulness, especially since there is as of yet no general method for content-based video indexing and retrieval.

The 2nd International Workshop on Multimedia Databases and Image Communication (MDIC 2001), which took place in Amalfi, Italy, on September 17–18, 2001, addressed these topics. I am proud to say that we received several interesting contributions by outstanding authors from all around the world.

However, research can hardly improve on its own results if young researchers are not trained in order to follow the lead of the more experienced ones. Education is, in my opinion, an important issue that should not be underestimated. For this reason, MDIC 2001 had an educational side, too – the Summer School on Multimedia Databases and Image Communication.

A word of thanks goes to all the people who contributed towards MDIC 2001: the anonymous referees who donated their time in order to review the numerous submissions; the sponsors who offered financial aid; the researchers and grantees who assisted the organization by managing the accepted papers, maintaining contacts with the sponsors, talking to travel agencies, and in several other ways. In particular, I would like to thank Monica Sebillo, Michele Nappi, and Riccardo Distasi for their precious assistance.

Granted: organizing an international workshop *and* a summer school is no easy task; however, when things eventually work out and the contributions are significant, the reward is definitely worth the effort.

September 2001 Maurizio Tucci

Organization

MDIC 2001 was organized by the Dipartimento di Matematica e Informatica (DMI) of the Università di Salerno.

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