Lecture Notes in Computer Science 5112

Commenced Publication in 1973
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Image Analysis and Recognition

5th International Conference, ICIAR 2008
Póvoa de Varzim, Portugal, June 25-27, 2008
Proceedings

Springer

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Library of Congress Control Number: Applied for

CR Subject Classification (1998): I.4, I.5, I.3.5, I.2.10, I.2.6, F.2.2

LNCS Sublibrary: SL 6 – Image Processing, Computer Vision, Pattern Recognition, and Graphics

ISSN 0302-9743
ISBN-10 3-540-69811-6 Springer Berlin Heidelberg New York
ISBN-13 978-3-540-69811-1 Springer Berlin Heidelberg New York

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© Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg 2008
Printed in Germany

Typesetting: Camera-ready by author, data conversion by Scientific Publishing Services, Chennai, India
Printed on acid-free paper SPIN: 12279685 06/3180 5 4 3 2 1 0

Preface

ICIAR 2008, the International Conference on Image Analysis and Recognition, held in Póvoa do Varzim, Portugal, June 25–27, was fifth in the ICIAR series of annual conferences alternating between Europe and North America. The original idea of organizing these conferences was to foster the collaboration and exchange between researchers and scientists mainly from Portugal and Canada. However, during the years the conferences became a forum with a strong international participation from many countries around the world. The conference addresses recent advances in theory, methodology and applications of image analysis and recognition.

For ICIAR 2008, we received a total of 226 full papers from 42 countries. The review process was carried out by members of the Program Committee and other reviewers; all are experts in various image analysis and recognition areas. Each paper was reviewed by at least two reviewers and checked by the conference Co-chairs. A total of 109 papers were finally accepted and appear in these proceedings. The high quality of the papers in these proceedings is attributed first to the authors and second to the quality of the reviews provided by the experts. We would like to sincerely thank the authors for responding to our call, and to thank the reviewers for their careful evaluation and feedback provided to the authors. It is this collective effort that resulted in the strong conference program and high-quality proceedings.

We were very pleased to be able to include in the conference program keynote talks by three world-renowned experts: Max Viergever, Utrecht University, Netherlands; Mohamed Cheriet, University of Quebec, Canada; and Fernando Pereira, Technical University of Lisbon, Portugal. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the keynote speakers for accepting our invitation to share their vision and recent advances in their specialized areas of image analysis and recognition.

We would like to thank Khaled Hammouda, the webmaster of the conference, for maintaining the Web pages, interacting with the authors and preparing the proceedings. Special thanks are also due to the members of the Local Organization Committee for their advice and help. We are also grateful to Springer's editorial staff, for supporting this publication in the LNCS series.

Finally, we were very pleased to welcome all the participants to ICIAR 2008. For those who did not attend, we hope this publication provides a good view into the research presented at the conference, and we look forward to meeting you at the next ICIAR conference.

June 2008

Aurélio Campilho
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