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Proceedings

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Volume Editors

José Ruiz-Shulcloper
Advanced Technologies Applications Center, CENATAV
Ciudad de La Habana, Cuba
E-mail: jshulcloper@cenatav.co.cu

Walter G. Kropatsch
Pattern Recognition and Image Processing Group
Faculty of Informatics
Vienna University of Technology
Vienna, Austria
E-mail: krw@prip.tuwien.ac.at

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Preface

The 13th Iberoamerican Congress on Pattern Recognition (CIARP 2008, Congreso IberoAmericano de Reconocimiento de Patrones) was the 13th event in a series of pioneer congresses on pattern recognition in the community of Iberoamerican countries.

As was the case for previous conferences, CIARP 2008 attracted participants from around the world with the aim of promoting and disseminating ongoing research on mathematical methods and computing techniques for pattern recognition, computer vision, image analysis, and speech recognition, as well as their application in such diverse areas as robotics, industry, health, entertainment, space exploration, telecommunications, data mining, document analysis, and natural language processing and recognition to name only few of them. Moreover, it provided a forum for scientific research, experience exchange, share of new knowledge and an increase in cooperation between research groups in pattern recognition and related areas.

It is important to underline the fact that these conferences have contributed significantly to the growth of national associations for pattern recognition in the Iberoamerican region, all of them as members of the International Association for Pattern Recognition (IAPR).

This year, the forum attracted participants from 34 countries (8 from Iberoamerica), who submitted a total of 182 papers. After a serious reviewing process in which all the submissions where double-blind reviewed by at least two prestigious reviewers, 93 papers by 180 authors from 29 countries were accepted, all of them with a scientific quality above overall mean rating.

This year the conference had three new characteristics. CIARP 2008 was a single-track conference in which 27 of the papers were presented orally and the remaining 66 presented as posters with short poster teasers. The presentations were grouped in 16 sessions. It is important to say that the breakdown in oral or poster paper does not signify at all a quality grading.

CIARP has become established as a high-quality conference. Its proceedings have appeared in the Lecture Notes in Computer Science series. To enhance the visibility of the best submissions and to stimulate further good scientific papers, this year, after the discussions during the conference, we invited the authors of the best papers to prepare extended versions for special issues of the prestigious journals Pattern Recognition and Pattern Recognition Letters, respectively.

In addition, an IAPR-CIARP 2008 award was given to the author(s) of the best paper accepted and presented at CIARP 2008. The aim of this award is to acknowledge and encourage excellence, originality and innovativeness of new models, methods and techniques with an outstanding theoretical contribution and practical application to the field of pattern recognition and/or data mining.

The selection of the winner is based on the wish of the author to be considered for the prize, the evaluation and recommendations from members of the Program Committee and the evaluation of the Award Committee. This committee, carefully chosen to avoid conflicts of interest, evaluates each nominated paper in a second review process, which includes the quality of the poster and/or oral presentation.

We would like to express our gratitude to the prestigious professors Josef Kittler, from Surrey University, UK; Gabriella Sanniti di Baja, from the National Research Council of Italy, Pozzuoli, Naples, Italy; Karl Tombre, from the Institut National Polytechnique de Lorraine, France; Michael Berry, from the University of Tennessee, USA; and Alberto Del Bimbo, from the Università degli Studi di Firenze, Italy, for their contribution to this task.

CIARP 2008 also benefited from the scientific contributions of the invited speakers, the well-known professors Gabriella Sanniti di Baja, Karl Tombre, and Michael Berry, whose papers appear in these proceedings. Furthermore, together with the prestigious professor Xiaoyi Jiang, from the University of Münster, they held four attractive and interesting tutorials about "Representation and Analysis of 3D Digital Objects", "Graphics Recognition", "The Art and Science of Text Mining", and "Computer Vision", respectively.

In the framework of this conference, the annual meeting of the Steering Committee of CIARP was held.

This congress was organized by the Advanced Technologies Applications Center (CENATAV) and the Cuban Association for Pattern Recognition (ACRP) with the rewarding support of the International Association for Pattern Recognition (IAPR), and also of the Cuban Society for Mathematics and Computer Sciences (SCMC), the Chilean Association for Pattern Recognition (AChiRP), the Mexican Association for Computer Vision, Neural Computing and Robotics (MACVNR), the Special Interest Group of the Brazilian Computer Society (SIGPR-SBC), the Spanish Association for Pattern Recognition and Image Analysis (AERFAI), and the Portuguese Association for Pattern Recognition (APRP). We wish to acknowledge their contributions to the success of this conference.

We are particularly grateful to the Organizing Committee and the Program Committee for their serious work during the reviewing process.

We wish to give a heartfelt acknowledgment to the members of the Local Committee for their unflagging work in the organization of CIARP 2008, which ensured an excellent conference and well-prepared proceedings.

Finally, we hope that the participants enjoyed a fruitful conference and made many personal and professional contacts.

September 2008

Walter Kropatsch
José Ruiz-Shulcloper

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