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Volume Editors

David Forsyth

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Computer Science Department

3310 Siebel Hall, Urbana, IL 61801, USA

E-mail: daf@cs.uiuc.edu

Philip Torr

Oxford Brookes University, Department of Computing

Wheatley, Oxford OX33 1HX, UK

E-mail: philiptorr@brookes.ac.uk

Andrew Zisserman

University of Oxford, Department of Engineering Science

Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3PJ, UK

E-mail: az@robots.ox.ac.uk

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Preface

Welcome to the 2008 European Conference on Computer Vision. These proceedings are the result of a great deal of hard work by many people. To produce them, a total of 871 papers were reviewed. Forty were selected for oral presentation and 203 were selected for poster presentation, yielding acceptance rates of 4.6% for oral, 23.3% for poster, and 27.9% in total.

We applied three principles. First, since we had a strong group of Area Chairs, the final decisions to accept or reject a paper rested with the Area Chair, who would be informed by reviews and could act only in consensus with another Area Chair. Second, we felt that authors were entitled to a summary that explained how the Area Chair reached a decision for a paper. Third, we were very careful to avoid conflicts of interest.

Each paper was assigned to an Area Chair by the Program Chairs, and each Area Chair received a pool of about 25 papers. The Area Chairs then identified and ranked appropriate reviewers for each paper in their pool, and a constrained optimization allocated three reviewers to each paper. We are very proud that every paper received at least three reviews.

At this point, authors were able to respond to reviews. The Area Chairs then needed to reach a decision. We used a series of procedures to ensure careful review and to avoid conflicts of interest. Program Chairs did not submit papers. The Area Chairs were divided into three groups so that no Area Chair in the group was in conflict with any paper assigned to any Area Chair in the group. Each Area Chair had a “buddy” in their group. Before the Area Chairs met, they read papers and reviews, contacted reviewers to get reactions to submissions and occasionally asked for improved or additional reviews, and prepared a rough summary statement for each of the papers in their pool.

At the Area Chair meeting, groups met separately so that Area Chairs could reach a consensus with their buddies, and make initial oral/poster decisions. We met jointly so that we could review the rough program, and made final oral/poster decisions in groups. In the separate meetings, there were no conflicts. In the joint meeting, any Area Chairs with conflicts left the room when relevant papers were discussed. Decisions were published on the last day of the Area Chair meeting.

There are three more somber topics to report. First, the Program Chairs had to deal with several double submissions. Referees or Area Chairs identified potential double submissions, we checked to see if these papers met the criteria published in the call for papers, and if they did, we rejected the papers and did not make reviews available. Second, two submissions to ECCV 2008 contained open plagiarism of published works. We will pass details of these attempts to journal editors and conference chairs to make further plagiarism by the responsible parties more difficult. Third, by analysis of server logs we discovered that

there had been a successful attempt to download all submissions shortly after the deadline. We warned all authors that this had happened to ward off dangers to intellectual property rights, and to minimize the chances that an attempt at plagiarism would be successful. We were able to identify the responsible party, discussed this matter with their institutional management, and believe we resolved the issue as well as we could have. Still, it is important to be aware that no security or software system is completely safe, and papers can leak from conference submission.

We felt the review process worked well, and recommend it to the community. The process would not have worked without the efforts of many people. We thank Lyndsey Pickup, who managed the software system, author queries, Area Chair queries and general correspondence (most people associated with the conference will have exchanged e-mails with her at some point). We thank Simon Baker, Ramin Zabih and especially Jiří Matas for their wise advice on how to organize and run these meetings; the process we have described is largely their model from CVPR 2007. We thank Jiří Matas and Dan Večerka, for extensive help with, and support of, the software system. We thank C. J. Taylor for the 3-from-5 optimization code. We thank the reviewers for their hard work. We thank the Area Chairs for their very hard work, and for the time and attention each gave to reading papers, reviews and summaries, and writing summaries.

We thank the Organization Chairs Peter Sturm and Edmond Boyer, and the General Chair, Jean Ponce, for their help and support and their sharing of the load. Finally, we thank Nathalie Abiola, Nasser Bacha, Jacques Beigbeder, Jerome Bertsch, Joëlle Isnard and Ludovic Ricardou of ENS for administrative support during the Area Chair meeting, and Danièle Herzog and Laetitia Libralato of INRIA Rhône-Alpes for administrative support after the meeting.

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