

Lecture Notes in Geoinformation and Cartography

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Advances in GIScience

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Preface

The Association of Geographic Information Laboratories for Europe (AGILE) was established in early 1998 to promote academic teaching and research on GIS at the European level. Since then, the annual AGILE conference has gradually become the leading GIScience conference in Europe and provides a multidisciplinary forum for scientific knowledge production and dissemination.

GIScience addresses the understanding and automatic processing of geospatial information in its full breadth. While geo-objects can be represented either as vector data or in raster formats these representations have also guided the research in different disciplines, with GIS researchers concentrating on vector data while research in photogrammetry and computer vision focused on (geospatial) raster data. Although there have always been small but fine sessions addressing photogrammetry and image analysis at past AGILE conferences, these topics typically played only a minor role. Thus to broaden the domain of topics the AGILE 2009 conference it is jointly organized with a Workshop of the International Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS), dedicated to High Resolution Satellite Imagery, organized by Prof. Christian Heipke of the Leibniz Universität Hannover.

This collocation provides opportunities to explore commonalities between research communities and to ease exchange between participants to develop or deepen mutual understanding. We hope that this approach enables researchers from the different communities to identify common interests and research methods and thus provides a basis for possible future cooperations.

The topics of the 2009 AGILE conference span the wide spectrum of GIScience ranging from data acquisition, data fusion and integration over spatio-temporal modelling and analysis to generalization, visualization and perception. The Programme Committee conducted a very selective double blind review process to choose the best quality papers for inclusion in these proceedings. A total of 71 full papers were submitted, of which 22 were selected for inclusion in this book (acceptance rate 32%).

Organizing the programme of an international conference and editing a volume of scientific papers requires significant time and effort. This is on-

ly possible with the commitment and help of many people. We would like to thank all those helping hands who assisted with various tasks in preparing AGILE 2009. Above all we thank Birgit Kieler who managed the conference tool together with Tobias Dahinden, designed the AGILE 2009 logo and the front cover of this book and integrated all submissions into a coherently formatted document.

We gratefully acknowledge the efforts of the AGILE Programme Committee for their excellent support and for adhering to our strict timetable. Finally, we would like to thank all authors for handing in their best work to AGILE 2009.

Monika Sester, Lars Bernard, Volker Paelke

Hannover and Dresden
March 2009

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