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Preface

The purpose of VLBV 2003 was to provide an international forum for the discussion of the state of the art of visual content processing techniques, standards, and applications covering areas such as: video/image analysis, representation and coding, communications and delivery, consumption, synthesis, protection, and adaptation. The topics of special interest include all the areas relevant to image communications nowadays, from representation and coding to content classification, adaptation, and personalization.

A meeting covering such a wide range of topics takes many years to develop. So, please follow a brief story of the evolution of this relevant and specialized forum and of its adaptation to the prevailing interests along time.

At the beginning of 1993, the idea of a specialized workshop to discuss topics in advanced image communications came in Lausanne, Switzerland, at a meeting of the steering committee of the International Picture Coding Symposium. Therefore, the so-called International Workshop on Coding Techniques for Very Low Bit-rate Video VLBV was born as low bit-rate research was considered to be the leading edge. The first workshop was held at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA, in 1993; the second at the University of Essex in Colchester, UK, in April 1994; the third at NTT in Tokyo, Japan, in November 1995; the fourth at the University of Linköping, Sweden, in July 1997; the fifth in Urbana (again) in October 1998. Until this last workshop, VLBV life was closely tied with MPEG-4, that is to low bit-rate research. However in 1998 MPEG-7 came to life and so the workshop included feature extraction and segmentation; video representation, coding, and indexing; and MPEG-7 issues.

A new era began in 1999, when the workshop's name was shortened to VLBV, keeping the established initials, but losing the low bit-rate flavor. So image and video representation, coding, indexing, and retrieval became the core areas of the workshop. Besides, the structure was changed to favor open debate on state-of-the-art trends through several specialized panels, and the success of this new format has been retained since that date. It was also perceived that a regular interval of two years increased the high standing of the workshop. VLBV has always been held right after the IEEE International Conference on Image Processing (ICIP) in odd numbered years. So, the sixth workshop was held at the Kyoto Research Park in Kyoto, Japan, in October 1999 and the seventh was held at the National Technical University of Athens in October 2001. This was the eighth in the series and was held in September 2003.

One additional step in the evolution of the workshop has been the publication of the proceedings in the well-known Lecture Notes in Computer Science series of Springer-Verlag. Another additional step has been the sponsor by The European Association for Signal, Speech, and Image Processing, Euraspip.

The VLBV 2003 call for papers resulted in 89 submissions. Following a thorough reviewing process, 38 papers were selected for presentation at the mee-

ting. In addition, two world-wide known distinguished guests delivered the two keynote speeches: Leonardo Chiariglione on the difference between the availability and the use of technology, and Gary J. Sullivan on the emerging H.264/AVC and the evolution of video coding from now on. Finally, open debates by relevant researchers were arranged around four panels on Image and Video Analysis (chaired by Thomas Sikora with the participation of Touradj Ebrahimi, Philippe Jolly, Julien Signès, and Murat Tekalp), Content Adaptation (chaired by Fernando Pereira with the participation of Jan Bormans, Andrew Perkins, John R. Smith, and Anthony Vetro), Video Coding, Present and Future (chaired by Ralf Schäfer with the participation of Kiyoharu Aizawa, Jim Beveridge, and Bernd Girod), and 3D Graphics Standards (chaired by Gauthier Lafruit with the participation of Nadia Magnenat-Thalmann, Jackie Neider, and Marius Preda).

The response to the call for papers for VLBV 2003 was most encouraging and the organizing committee is grateful to all those who contributed and thus assured the high technical level of the meeting. Equally the organizing committee would like to thank the reviewers for their excellent and hard work and for meeting the tight time schedule. I should also like to record my thanks to the members of the international steering committee for their advice and to the members of the organizing committee for all their hard work to guarantee the success of VLBV 2003.

Finally, I hope that all participants enjoyed their stay in Madrid and had a fruitful and wonderful meeting.

September 2003

Narciso García

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Table of Contents

PANEL I: Image and Video Analysis: Ready to Allow Full Exploitation of MPEG Services?	1
<i>Chairman: Thomas Sikora (Technische Univ., Berlin, Germany)</i>	
What Can Video Analysis Do for MPEG Standards?	3
<i>A. Murat Tekalp</i>	
PANEL II: Content Adaptation	7
<i>Chairman: Fernando Pereira (Instituto Superior Técnico, Portugal)</i>	
Content Adaptation: The Panacea for Usage Diversity?	9
<i>Fernando Pereira</i>	
Towards Semantic Universal Multimedia Access	13
<i>John R. Smith</i>	
Transcoding, Scalable Coding, and Standardized Metadata	15
<i>Anthony Vetro</i>	
PANEL III: Video Coding: Present and Future	17
<i>Chairman: Ralf Schäfer (Heinrich-Hertz-Institut, Germany)</i>	
Panel Position Notes – Video Coding: Present and Future	19
<i>Kiyoharu Aizawa</i>	
SESSION A	
Template-Based Eye and Mouth Detection for 3D Video Conferencing . . .	23
<i>Jürgen Rurainsky, Peter Eisert</i>	
Face Recognition for Video Indexing: Randomization of Face Templates Improves Robustness to Facial Expression	32
<i>Simon Clippingdale, Mahito Fujii</i>	
Simple 1D Discrete Hidden Markov Models for Face Recognition	41
<i>Hung-Son Le, Haibo Li</i>	
Tracking a Planar Patch by Additive Image Registration	50
<i>José Miguel Buenaposada, Enrique Muñoz, Luis Baumela</i>	
Diatom Screening and Classification by Shape Analysis	58
<i>M. Forero-Vargas, R. Redondo, G. Cristobal</i>	
Combining MPEG-7 Based Visual Experts for Reaching Semantics	66
<i>Medeni Soysal, A. Aydın Alatan</i>	

Depth-Based Indexing and Retrieval of Photographic Images	76
<i>László Czúni, Dezsó Csordás</i>	
Stochastic Models of Video Structure for Program Genre Detection	84
<i>Cuneyt M. Taskiran, Ilya Pollak, Charles A. Bouman, Edward J. Delp</i>	
1-D Mosaics as a Tool for Structuring and Navigation in Digital Video Content	93
<i>W. Dupuy, J. Benois-Pineau, D. Barba</i>	
Summarizing Video: Content, Features, and HMM Topologies	101
<i>Yağiz Yaşaroğlu, A. Aydın Alatan</i>	
Automatic Generation of Personalized Video Summary Based on Context Flow and Distinctive Events	111
<i>Hisashi Miyamori</i>	
Multi-criteria Optimization for Scalable Bitstreams	122
<i>Sam Lerouge, Peter Lambert, Rik Van de Walle</i>	
Real-Time Audiovisual Feature Extraction for Online Service Provision over DVB Streams	131
<i>Jesús Bescós, José M. Martínez, Narciso García</i>	
MPEG-4-Based Automatic Fine Granularity Personalization of Broadcast Multimedia Content	139
<i>Avni Rambhia, Jiangtao Wen, Spencer Cheng</i>	
A Way of Multiplexing TV-Anytime Metadata and AV Contents to Provide Personalized Services in Digital Broadcasting	148
<i>Young-tae Kim, Seung-Jun Yang, Hyun Sung Chang, Kyeongok Kang</i>	
Automatic Videoconference Objects Watermarking Using Object Adapted Qualified Significant Wavelet Trees	156
<i>Paraskevi K. Tzouveli, Klimis S. Ntalianis, Stefanos D. Kollias</i>	
A New Self-Recovery Technique for Image Authentication	164
<i>Roberto Caldelli, Franco Bartolini, Vito Cappellini, Alessandro Piva, Mauro Barni</i>	
Video Denoising Using Multiple Class Averaging with Multiresolution . . .	172
<i>Vladimir Zlokolica, Aleksandra Pizurica, Wilfried Philips</i>	
Multi-resolution Mosaic Construction Using Resolution Maps	180
<i>Cheong-Woo Lee, Seong-Dae Kim</i>	
A Method for Simultaneous Outlier Rejection in Image Super-resolution	188
<i>Mejdi Trimeche, Jukka Yrjänäinen</i>	

SESSION B

Lossless Coding Using Predictors and Arithmetic Code Optimized for Each Image	199
<i>Ichiro Matsuda, Noriyuki Shirai, Susumu Itoh</i>	
On Optimality of Context Modeling for Bit-Plane Entropy Coding in the JPEG2000 Standard	208
<i>Alexandre Krivoulets, Xiaolin Wu, Søren Forchhammer</i>	
Tile-Based Transport of JPEG 2000 Images	217
<i>Michael Gormish, Serene Banerjee</i>	
Efficient Method for Half-Pixel Block Motion Estimation Using Block Differentials	225
<i>Tuukka Toivonen, Janne Heikkilä</i>	
Motion Vector Estimation and Encoding for Motion Compensated DWT	233
<i>Marco Cagnazzo, Valéry Valentin, Marc Antonini, Michel Barlaud</i>	
Video Coding with Lifted Wavelet Transforms and Frame-Adaptive Motion Compensation	243
<i>Markus Flierl</i>	
Design Options on the Development of a New Tree-Based Wavelet Image Coder	252
<i>Jose Oliver, M.P. Malumbres</i>	
On Content-Based Very Low Bitrate Video Coding	260
<i>D. Furman, M. Porat</i>	
A Real-Time N-Descriptions Video Coding Architecture	267
<i>Nicola Franchi, Marco Fumagalli, Rosa Lancini</i>	
A New Approach for Error Resilience in Video Transmission Using ECC	275
<i>Bing Du, Anthony Maeder, Miles Moody</i>	
Improved Error Concealment Using Scene Information	283
<i>Ye-Kui Wang, Miska M. Hannuksela, Kerem Caglar, Moncef Gabbouj</i>	
Error Resilient Video Coding Using Unequally Protected Key Pictures...	290
<i>Ye-Kui Wang, Miska M. Hannuksela, Moncef Gabbouj</i>	
Online Gaming and Emotion Representation	298
<i>A. Raouzaïou, K. Karpouzis, S. Kollias</i>	

Reconstructing 3D City Models by Merging Ground-Based and
Airborne Views 306
Christian Frueh, Avideh Zakhor

Extraction of 3D Structure from Video Sequences 314
Fernando Jaureguizar, José Ignacio Ronda, José Manuel Menéndez

A Scalable and Modular Solution for Virtual View Creation in
Image-Based Rendering Systems 323
Eddie Cooke, Peter Kauff, Oliver Schreer

Directly Invertible Nonlinear Divisive Normalization Pyramid for
Image Representation 331
Roberto Valerio, Eero P. Simoncelli, Rafael Navarro

Image Cube Trajectory Analysis for Concentric Mosaics 341
Ingo Feldmann, Peter Kauff, Peter Eisert

Author Index 351