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Preface

CIARP 2003 (8th Iberoamerican Congress on Pattern Recognition) was the eighth event in a series of pioneering congresses on pattern recognition in the Latin American community of countries. This year, however, the forum was extended to include worldwide participation. The event has been held in the past in Mexico, Cuba, Brazil and Portugal; it took place this year in Havana (Cuba). The aim of the congress was to promote and disseminate ongoing research into mathematical methods for pattern recognition, computer vision, image analysis, and speech recognition, as well as the application of these techniques in such diverse areas as robotics, industry, health, entertainment, space exploration, telecommunications, data mining, document analysis, and natural language processing and recognition to name a few. Moreover it was a forum for scientific research, experience exchange, the sharing of new knowledge, and establishing contacts to improve cooperation between research groups in pattern recognition, computer vision and related areas.

The congress was organized by the Institute of Cybernetics, Mathematics and Physics of Cuba (ICIMAF) and the Center for Computing Research (CIC) of the National Polytechnic Institute of Mexico, and was sponsored by the University of La Salle, Mexico, the University of Oriente, Cuba, the Polytechnic Institute “José A. Echevarría,” Cuba, the Central University of Las Villas, Cuba, the National Center of Scientific Research, Cuba, the Cuban Association for Pattern Recognition (ACRP), the Portuguese Association for Pattern Recognition (APRP), the Spanish Association for Pattern Recognition and Image Analysis (AERFAI), the Mexican Society for Artificial Intelligence (SMIA), and the International Association for Pattern Recognition (IAPR).

This year the event captured the attention of a significant group of researchers who contributed with over 140 full papers from 19 countries. Out of these, 82 papers were accepted as full papers and are included in this proceedings volume, and 28 papers were accepted as poster presentations. The review process was carried out by the Program Committee, each paper being assessed by at least two reviewers who, in conjunction with other reviewers, prepared an excellent selection dealing with ongoing research. We are especially indebted to them for their efforts and the quality of the reviews.

Three professors were invited to give keynote addresses on topics in computer vision, robot vision and pattern classification: Dr. Rangachar Kasturi, IAPR President, and a professor in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at Pennsylvania State University, Dr. Gerhard Ritter, Chairman of the Computer and Information Science and Engineering Department at the University of Florida, and Dr. Alberto Sanfeliu, past President of AERFAI, and a professor at the Technical University of Catalonia.

We appreciate very much all the intense work done by the members of the organizing committee that allowed for an excellent conference and proceedings. We hope that this congress was a fruitful precedent for future CIARP events.

Organization

CIARP 2003 was organized by the Institute of Cybernetics, Mathematics and Physics of Cuba (ICIMAF) and the Center for Computing Research (CIC) of the National Polytechnic Institute of Mexico.

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