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Preface

The past decade has seen a rapid growth in the demand for biometric-based authentication solutions for a number of applications. With significant advances in biometric technology and an increase in the number of applications incorporating biometrics, it is essential that we bring together researchers from academia and industry as well as practitioners to share ideas, problems and solutions for the development and successful deployment of state-of-the-art biometric systems.

The International Conference on Biometric Authentication (ICBA 2004) was the first major gathering in the Asia-Pacific region devoted to facilitating this interaction. We are pleased that this conference attracted a large number of high-quality research papers that will benefit the international biometrics research community. After a careful review of 157 submissions, 101 papers were accepted either as oral (35) or poster (66) presentations. In addition to these technical presentations, this conference also presented the results and summaries of three biometric competitions: Fingerprint Verification Competition (FVC 2004), Face Authentication Competition (FAC 2004), and Signature Verification Competition (SVC 2004). This conference provided a forum for the practitioners to discuss their practical experiences in applying the state-of-the-art biometric technologies which will further stimulate research in biometrics.

We are grateful to Jim L. Wayman, Edwin Rood, Raymond Wong, Jonathon Philips, and Francis Ho for accepting our invitation to give keynote talks at ICBA 2004. In addition, we would like to express our gratitude to all the contributors, reviewers, program committee and organizing committee members who made this a very successful conference. We also wish to acknowledge the Croucher Foundation, the International Association of Pattern Recognition, IEEE Hong Kong Section, the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, the National Natural Science Foundation in China, and Springer-Verlag for sponsoring this conference. Special thanks are due to Ajay Kumar, Vivien Lau, Jane You, George Baciú, Yunhong Wang, Jie Zhou, Michael Wong, Jie Guo, Jingqi Yan, Guangming Lu and Jiannong Cao for their dedication and hard work in various aspects of conference organization.

We hope that the fruitful technical interactions made possible by this conference will benefit your research and development efforts in biometrics.

March 2004

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Table of Contents

Fingerprint Verification Competition 2004

FVC 2004: Third Fingerprint Verification Competition

*Dario Maio, Davide Maltoni, Raffaele Cappelli, Jim L. Wayman,
and Anil K. Jain* 1

Face Authentication Competition 2004

Face Authentication Competition on the BANCA Database

*Kieron Messer, Josef Kittler, Mohammad Sadeghi, Miroslav Hamouz,
Alexey Kostyn, Sebastien Marcel, Samy Bengio, Fabien Cardinaux,
Conrad Sanderson, Norman Poh, Yann Rodriguez, Krzysztof Kryszczuk,
Jacek Czyz, L. Vandendorpe, Johnny Ng,
Humphrey Cheung, and Billy Tang* 8

Signature Verification Competition 2004

SVC 2004: First International Signature Verification Competition

*Dit-Yan Yeung, Hong Chang, Yimin Xiong, Susan George,
Ramanujan Kashi, Takashi Matsumoto, and Gerhard Rigoll* 16

Face

Watch List Face Surveillance Using Transductive Inference

Fayin Li and Harry Wechsler 23

Matching 2.5D Scans for Face Recognition

Xiaoguang Lu, Dirk Colbry, and Anil K. Jain 30

Constructing SVM Multiple Tree for Face Membership Authentication

Shaoning Pang 37

A Combination of Shape and Texture Classifiers
for a Face Verification System

*Sanun Srisuk, Maria Petrou, Rerkchai Fooprateep, Khamron Sunat,
Werasak Kurutach, and Pichet Chopaka* 44

Enhance the Alignment Accuracy of Active Shape Models

Using Elastic Graph Matching

Sanqiang Zhao, Wen Gao, Shiguang Shan, and Baocai Yin 52

Reconstruction of High-Resolution Facial Image Using Recursive Error Back-Projection <i>Jeong-Seon Park and Seong-Whan Lee</i>	59
Biometrics of Asymmetrical Face <i>Leonid Kompanets</i>	67
Face Authentication from Cell Phone Camera Images with Illumination and Temporal Variations <i>Saim Qidwai, Krithika Venkataramani, and B.V.K. Vijaya Kumar</i>	74
Facial Expression Recognition Based on Dimension Model of Emotion with Autonomously Extracted Sparse Representations <i>Young-suk Shin</i>	81
Hallucinating Face by Eigentransformation with Distortion Reduction <i>Xiaogang Wang and Xiaou Tang</i>	88
An Optimal Subspace Analysis for Face Recognition <i>Haitao Zhao, Pong C. Yuen, and Jingyu Yang</i>	95
A Still-to-Video Face Verification System Using Advanced Correlation Filters <i>Chunyan Xie, B.V.K. Vijaya Kumar, S. Palanivel, and B. Yegnanarayana</i>	102
What Can I Tell from Your Face? <i>Enrico Grosso and Massimo Tistarelli</i>	109
An Integrated Dual Factor Authenticator Based on the Face Data and Tokenised Random Number <i>Andrew B.J. Teoh, David C.L. Ngo, and Alwyn Goh</i>	117
A New Enhanced Nearest Feature Space (ENFS) Classifier for Gabor Wavelets Features-Based Face Recognition <i>Jianke Zhu, Mang I Vai, and Peng Un Mak</i>	124
A Two-Stage Dimensional Reduction Approach to Low-Dimensional Representation of Facial Images <i>Jongmoo Choi and Juneho Yi</i>	131
Face Recognition with 3D Model-Based Synthesis <i>Xiaoguang Lu, Rein-Lien Hsu, Anil K. Jain, Behrooz Kamgar-Parsi, and Behzad Kamgar-Parsi</i>	139
ICA Based Face Recognition Robust to Partial Occlusions and Local Distortions <i>Jongsun Kim, Jongmoo Choi, and Juneho Yi</i>	147
One-Pass Incremental Membership Authentication by Face Classification <i>Shaoning Pang, Seiichi Ozawa, and Nikola Kasabov</i>	155

Face Recognition Using Asymmetric Faces <i>Srinivas Gutta and Harry Wechsler</i>	162
Performance versus Computational Complexity Trade-Off in Face Verification <i>Thirimachos Bourlai, Kieron Messer, and Josef Kittler</i>	169
An Application of Fractal Image-Set Coding in Facial Recognition <i>Hossein Ebrahimpour, Vinod Chandran, and Sridha Sridharan</i>	178
Corrupted Face Image Authentication Based on Noise Model <i>Ho-Choul Jung, Bon-Woo Hwang, Sang-Woong Lee, and Seong-Whan Lee</i>	187
Eigenspace-Based Face Hashing <i>David C.L. Ngo, Andrew B.J. Teoh, and Alwyn Goh</i>	195
Point to Point Calibration Method of Structured Light for Facial Data Reconstruction <i>Dongjoe Shin and Jaihie Kim</i>	200
Biometrics Person Authentication Using Projection-Based Face Recognition System in Verification Scenario <i>Hyeonjoon Moon</i>	207
Extraction of Glasses in Human Face Images <i>Yi Xiao and Hong Yan</i>	214
Ant Colony Optimization for Feature Selection in Face Recognition <i>Zhong Yan and Chunwei Yuan</i>	221
Face Recognition from Color Images in Presence of Dynamic Orientations and Illumination Conditions <i>Xiabo Yu and George Baci</i>	227
Dynamic Local Feature Analysis for Face Recognition <i>Johnny Ng and Humphrey Cheung</i>	234

Fingerprint

A Fingerprint Matching Using Minutiae Triangulation <i>Giuseppe Parziale and Albert Niel</i>	241
Estimating Fingerprint Deformation <i>Arun Ross, Sarat C. Dass, and Anil K. Jain</i>	249

Comparison of Classification Methods for Time-Series Detection of Perspiration as a Liveness Test in Fingerprint Devices <i>Stephanie A.C. Schuckers, Sujan T.V. Parthasaradhi, Reza Derakhshani, and Lawrence A. Hornak</i>	256
On Optimal Estimate of Directional Maps for Fingerprint Images <i>Wei Gong</i>	264
Fingerprint Reference Point Detection <i>Manhua Liu, Xudong Jiang, and Alex Chichung Kot</i>	272
Direct Gray-Scale Minutiae Extraction <i>A. Wahab, E.C. Tan, and A. Jonatan</i>	280
Improving Fingerprint Recognition Based on Crease Detection <i>Jie Zhou, Chenyu Wu, Zhaoqi Bian, and David Zhang</i>	287
Image-Based Approach to Fingerprint Acceptability Assessment <i>Kaoru Uchida</i>	294
Reducing Silicon Fingerprint Sensor Area <i>Jean-François Mainguet, Wei Gong, and Anne Wang</i>	301
Externalized Fingerprint Matching <i>Claude Barral, Jean-Sébastien Coron, and David Naccache</i>	309
A Robust Fingerprint Minutiae Matching Algorithm Based on the Support Model <i>Xiaohui Xie, Fei Su, Anni Cai, and Jing'ao Sun</i>	316
Fingerprint Classification: An Approach Based on Singularities and Analysis of Fingerprint Structure <i>Xin Wang and Mei Xie</i>	324
Characteristics of the Identification Algorithm Using a Matching Score Matrix <i>Takuji Maeda, Masahito Matsushita, and Koichi Sasakawa</i>	330
Fingerprint Matching Integrating the Global Orientation Field with Minutia <i>Jin Qi, Yangsheng Wang, Zhongchao Shi, Ke Xu, and Xuying Zhao</i>	337
A Systematic Approach for Feature Extraction in Fingerprint Images <i>Sharat Chikkerur, Chaohang Wu, and Venu Govindaraju</i>	344
Fingerprint Minutiae Matching with Orientation and Ridge <i>Jiangang Cheng, Jie Tian, and Hong Chen</i>	351
A Hierarchy Approach for Singular Point Detection in Fingerprint Images <i>Furong Wang, Xuan Zou, Yuan Luo, and Jiaxi Hu</i>	359

Compensatory Algorithm for Fingerprint Recognition <i>Hong Hui and Jian-hua Li</i>	366
A Hierarchical Hough Transform for Fingerprint Matching <i>Chaoqiang Liu, Tao Xia, and Hui Li</i>	373
Fingerprint Alignment Using Line Segments <i>Cristiano Carvalho and Hani Yehia</i>	380
Private Fingerprint Verification without Local Storage <i>Florian Kerschbaum, Mikhail J. Atallah, David M'Raihi, and John R. Rice</i>	387
Multi-unit Biometric Fusion in Fingerprint Verification <i>Kangrok Lee, Kang Ryoung Park, Sanghoon Lee, and Jaihie Kim</i>	395
Fast Separable Gabor Filter for Fingerprint Enhancement <i>Vutipong Areekul, Ukrit Watchareeruetai, and Sawasd Tantaratana</i>	403
Iris	
A Real-Time Focusing Algorithm for Iris Recognition Camera <i>Kang Ryoung Park and Jaihie Kim</i>	410
Improving Iris Recognition Accuracy via Cascaded Classifiers <i>Zhenan Sun, Yunhong Wang, Tieniu Tan, and Jiali Cui</i>	418
Iris Recognition for Palm-Top Application <i>Chun-Nam Chun and Ronald Chung</i>	426
Using Multi-matching System Based on a Simplified Deformable Model of the Human Iris for Iris Recognition <i>Xing Ming, Tao Xu, and Zhengxuan Wang</i>	434
An Iris Recognition Algorithm Using Local Extreme Points <i>Jiali Cui, Yunhong Wang, Tieniu Tan, Li Ma, and Zhenan Sun</i>	442
Multi-unit Iris Recognition System by Image Check Algorithm <i>Jain Jang, Kang Ryoung Park, Jinho Son, and Yillbyung Lee</i>	450
Iris Based Human Verification Algorithms <i>Bhola Ram Meena, Mayank Vatsa, Richa Singh, Phalguni Gupta</i>	458
Individual Recognition Based on Human Iris Using Fractal Dimension Approach <i>Peik Shyan Lee and Hong Tat Ewe</i>	467
Iris Recognition in Wearable Computer <i>Jeong Jun Lee, Seungin Noh, Kang Ryoung Park, and Jaihie Kim</i>	475

Iris Recognition Based on Location of Key Points <i>Wen Yang, Li Yu, Guangming Lu, and Kuanquan Wang</i>	484
Iris Identification Using Wavelet Packet for Images in Visible Light Illumination <i>Emine Krichen, M. Anouar Mellakh, Sonia Garcia-Salicetti, Kamel Hamrouni, Nouredine Ellouze, and Bernadette Dorizzi</i>	491
Signature	
Target Dependent Score Normalization Techniques and Their Application to Signature Verification <i>J. Fierrez-Aguilar, J. Ortega-Garcia, and J. Gonzalez-Rodriguez</i>	498
Skilled Forgery Detection in On-Line Signatures: A Multimodal Approach <i>Anoop M. Namboodiri, Shailesh Saini, Xiaoguang Lu, and Anil K. Jain</i> ...	505
Writer Identification Using Dynamic Features <i>Kun Yu, Yunhong Wang, and Tieniu Tan</i>	512
Searching for an Optimal Reference System for On-Line Signature Verification Based on (x, y) Alignment <i>Juan J. Igarza, Lorea Gómez, Inma Hernández, and Iñaki Goirizelaia</i>	519
Reduction of Feature Statistics Estimation Error for Small Training Sample Size in Off-Line Signature Verification <i>B. Fang and Y.Y. Tang</i>	526
Biometric Personal Authentication Based on Handwritten Signals <i>Miguel G. Lizárraga and Lee L. Ling</i>	533
On-Line Signature Verification Based on PCA (Principal Component Analysis) and MCA (Minor Component Analysis) <i>Bin Li, Kuanquan Wang, and David Zhang</i>	540
Biometric User Authentication on Smart Cards by Means of Handwritten Signatures <i>Olaf Henniger and Katrin Franke</i>	547
Writer Identification Method Based on Forensic Knowledge <i>Marino Tapiador and Juan A. Sigüenza</i>	555
A Window-Based Hybrid Signature Verification System <i>Alessandro Zimmer and Lee Luan Ling</i>	562
On-Line Signature Verification by Explicit Solution to the Point Correspondence Problem <i>Jakob Sternby</i>	569

New Features for Authentication by On-Line Handwritten Signatures <i>M. Wirotius, J.Y. Ramel, and N. Vincent</i>	577
---	-----

On-Line Signature Verification Based on Discrete Wavelet Domain Adaptive Signal Processing <i>Isao Nakanishi, Naoto Nishiguchi, Yoshio Itoh, and Yutaka Fukui</i>	584
---	-----

Speech

Speaker Modeling with Various Speech Representations <i>Ke Chen</i>	592
--	-----

Using Otoacoustic Emissions as a Biometric <i>Matthew A. Swabey, Stephen P. Beeby, Andrew D. Brown, and John E. Chad</i>	600
---	-----

A Pruning Approach for GMM-Based Speaker Verification in Mobile Embedded Systems <i>Cheung Chi Leung, Yiu Sang Moon, and Helen Meng</i>	607
---	-----

Speaker Identification Using Higher Order Spectral Phase Features and their Effectiveness vis-a-vis Mel-Cepstral Features <i>Vinod Chandran, Daryl Ning, and Sridha Sridharan</i>	614
---	-----

High Performance Speaker Verification System Based on Multilayer Perceptrons and Real-Time Enrollment <i>Tae-Seung Lee and Ho-Jin Choi</i>	623
--	-----

Spectral Subband Centroids as Complementary Features for Speaker Authentication <i>Norman Poh Hoon Thian, Conrad Sanderson, and Samy Bengio</i>	631
---	-----

Maximum Likelihood and Maximum a Posteriori Adaptation for Distributed Speaker Recognition Systems <i>Chin-Hung Sit, Man-Wai Mak, and Sun-Yuan Kung</i>	640
---	-----

Fuzzy Normalisation Methods for Pattern Verification <i>Dat Tran</i>	648
---	-----

Biometric Fusion and Risk Analysis

A Hyperbolic Function Model for Multiple Biometrics Decision Fusion <i>Kar-Ann Toh, Xudong Jiang, and Wei-Yun Yau</i>	655
--	-----

Combining Fingerprint and Voiceprint Biometrics for Identity Verification: an Experimental Comparison <i>Yuan Wang, Yunhong Wang, and Tieniu Tan</i>	663
--	-----

An Evolutionary Algorithm Based Approach for Dynamic Thresholding in Multimodal Biometrics <i>Kalyan Veeramachaneni, Lisa Ann Osadciw, and Pramod Varshney</i>	671
Fusion of Auxiliary Information for Multi-modal Biometrics Authentication <i>Kar-Ann Toh, Wei-Yun Yau, Eying Lim, Lawrence Chen, and Chin-Hon Ng</i>	678
Decision Fusion for Face Authentication <i>Jacek Czyz, Mohammad Sadeghi, Josef Kittler, and Luc Vandendorpe</i>	686
User Authentication through Typing Biometrics Features <i>Livia C.F. Araújo, Luiz H.R. Sucupira Jr., Miguel G. Lizárraga, Lee L. Ling, and João B.T. Yabu-uti</i>	694
When Faces Are Combined with Palmprints: A Novel Biometric Fusion Strategy <i>Guiyu Feng, Kaifeng Dong, Dewen Hu, and David Zhang</i>	701
Biometric User Authentication for Heightened Information Security <i>Qinghan Xiao</i>	708
BioEVA: An Evaluation Tool for Biometric Algorithms <i>Luiz H.R. Sucupira Jr., Livia C.F. Araújo, Miguel G. Lizárraga, and Lee L. Ling</i>	716
Application of Multi-criteria Analysis for the Creation of a Risk Assessment Knowledgebase for Biometric Systems <i>Christos K. Dimitriadis and Despina Polemi</i>	724
 Other Biometrics	
Soft Biometric Traits for Personal Recognition Systems <i>Anil K. Jain, Sarat C. Dass, and Karthik Nandakumar</i>	731
A New Approach to Personal Identification in Large Databases by Hierarchical Palmprint Coding with Multi-features <i>Jane You, Wai-Kin Kong, David Zhang, and King Hong Cheung</i>	739
Watermarking of MPEG-4 Videos <i>Abhinav Gupta and Phalguni Gupta</i>	746
Hand Recognition Using Geometric Classifiers <i>Yaroslav Bulatov, Sachin Jambwalikar, Piyush Kumar, and Saurabh Sethia</i>	753
Feature-Level Fusion for Effective Palmprint Authentication <i>Adams Wai-Kin Kong and David Zhang</i>	761

A Palmprint Acquisition Device with Time-Sharing Light Source Used in Personal Verification <i>Weinan Zhao, Wenxin Li, Tao Wang, and Zhuoqun Xu</i>	768
HMMs Based Palmprint Identification <i>Xiangqian Wu, Kuanquan Wang, and David Zhang</i>	775
Personal Identification and Verification: Fusion of Palmprint Representations <i>Carmen Poon, David C.M. Wong, and Helen C. Shen</i>	782
Towards an Automated Dental Identification System (ADIS) <i>Gamal Fahmy, Daa Nassar, Eyad Haj-Said, Hong Chen, Omaina Nomir, Jindan Zhou, Robert Howell, Hany H. Ammar, Mohamed Abdel-Mottaleb, and Anil K. Jain</i>	789
Author Index	797