

PROCEEDINGS OF SPIE

MIPPR 2009

Pattern Recognition and Computer Vision

Mingyue Ding
Bir Bhanu
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Editors

30 October–1 November 2009
Yichang, China

Organized by
Huazhong University of Science and Technology (China)

Sponsored by
The National Laboratory for Multi-spectral Information Processing Technologies (China)
Huazhong University of Science and Technology (China)
National Natural Science Foundation of China (China)
China Three Gorges University (China)

Published by
SPIE

Volume 7496

Proceedings of SPIE, 0277-786X, v. 7496

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Please use the following format to cite material from this book:

Author(s), "Title of Paper," in *MIPPR 2009: Pattern Recognition and Computer Vision*, edited by Mingyue Ding, Bir Bhanu, Friedrich M. Wahl, Jonathan Roberts, Proceedings of SPIE Vol. 7496 (SPIE, Bellingham, WA, 2009) Article CID Number.

ISSN 0277-786X
ISBN 9780819478078

Published by

SPIE

P.O. Box 10, Bellingham, Washington 98227-0010 USA
Telephone +1 360 676 3290 (Pacific Time) · Fax +1 360 647 1445
SPIE.org

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Contents

xi *Symposium Committee*
xiii *Introduction*

PATTERN RECOGNITION AND COMPUTER VISION

- 7496 02 **Human recognition in a video network (Invited Paper)** [7496-200]
B. Bhanu, Univ. of California, Riverside (United States)
- 7496 03 **The guaranteed cost switch control of BTT vehicle based on RBF-NN compensation** [7496-54]
Z. Deng, Y. Wang, C. Li, Z. Wang, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China)
- 7496 04 **A novel method for evaluating the validity of the visual attended regions based on SIFT descriptors** [7496-81]
J. Xiao, M. Ding, C. Cai, C. Zhou, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China)
- 7496 05 **Human body motion tracking based on quantum-inspired immune cloning algorithm** [7496-51]
H. Han, L. Yue, L. Jiao, X. Wu, Xidian Univ. (China)
- 7496 06 **Object detection with geometric context of keypoints described as lifetime** [7496-57]
C. Gao, J. Gao, Q. Tang, N. Sang, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China)
- 7496 07 **SVM based classification of moving objects in video** [7496-74]
A. Sun, M. Bai, Y. Tan, J. Tian, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China)
- 7496 08 **A combined feature latent semantic model for scene classification** [7496-72]
Y. Jiang, R. Wang, National Univ. of Defense Technology (China)
- 7496 09 **Stereo vision based 3D game interface** [7496-78]
P. Lu, Y. Chen, C. Dong, Peking Univ. (China)
- 7496 0A **Spectral clustering with eigenvector selection based on ensemble ranking** [7496-82]
F. Zhao, L. Jiao, H. Liu, Xidian Univ. (China)
- 7496 0B **To generate a finite element model of human thorax using the VCH dataset** [7496-99]
H. Shi, Q. Liu, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China)
- 7496 0C **A point-pattern matching method based on maximal subset of one-to-one mapping** [7496-50]
J. Hu, T.-X. Zhang, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China)
- 7496 0D **Three-dimensional building reconstruction using highly overlapped aerial images** [7496-59]
T.-A. Teo, National Chiao Tung Univ. (Taiwan); L.-C. Chen, National Central Univ. (Taiwan);
H.-K. Cheng, S.-H. Lee, CECI Engineering Consultants, Inc. (Taiwan)

- 7496 0E **Study on human vision model of the multi-parameter correction factor** [7496-01]
B.-W. Wu, Yuanpei Univ. (Taiwan); Y.-C. Fang, National Kaohsiung First Univ. of Science and Technology (Taiwan); L.-S. Chang, Yuanpei Univ. (Taiwan)
- 7496 0F **Stereo 3D vision adapter using commercial DIY goods** [7496-31]
K. Sakamoto, T. Ohara, Konan Univ. (Japan)
- 7496 0G **Face recognition based on multi-AdaBoost** [7496-19]
Y. Zhang, W. Cui, Wuhan Univ. (China)
- 7496 0H **Improvised super-resolution algorithm for face recognition** [7496-162]
P. Rastogi, M. Singh Chauhan, IIT Delhi (India)
- 7496 0I **A hybrid registration approach in super-resolution reconstruction for visual surveillance application** [7496-173]
L. Guo, Q. Chen, Wuhan Univ. (China)
- 7496 0J **Pre-extracting boundary vectors for support vector machine using pseudo-density estimation method** [7496-171]
L. Zhang, W. Zhou, G. Chen, H. Zhou, N. Ye, L. Jiao, Xidian Univ. (China)
- 7496 0K **Realistic generation of natural phenomena based on video synthesis** [7496-174]
C. Wang, H. Quan, C. Li, Z. Xiao, X. Chen, P. Li, L. Shen, East Normal Univ. (China)
- 7496 0L **Face super-resolution reconstruction from real low-resolution video sequences** [7496-03]
D. Zhang, Shaoguan Univ. (China) and South China Univ. of Technology (China); J. He, Shaoguan Univ. (China); H. Peng, South China Univ. of Technology (China)
- 7496 0M **Automatic reconstruction for small archeology refining TIN model by multi-view matching** [7496-07]
Z. Ji, J. Zhang, Z. Zhan, Wuhan Univ. (China)
- 7496 0N **Hyperspectral imagery classification based on relevance vector machines** [7496-10]
G. Yang, X. Yu, W. Feng, W. Xu, P. Zhang, Zhengzhou Institute of Surveying and Mapping (China)
- 7496 0O **Facial expression recognition with facial parts based sparse representation classifier** [7496-11]
R. Zhi, Q. Ruan, Beijing Jiatong Univ. (China)
- 7496 0P **Combining variable precision rough set and neural network in remote sensing image classification** [7496-14]
Q. Wang, J. Liu, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China)
- 7496 0Q **Weakly supervised specific object modeling for recognition** [7496-15]
S. Xia, J. Liu, R. Song, J. Zhang, National Univ. of Defense Technology (China); E. R. Hancock, Univ. of York (United Kingdom)

- 7496 OR **A novel global relaxation iteration algorithm for panoramic annular 3D terrain registration** [7496-22]
J. Chul, L. Wang, Nanchang Hangkong Univ. (China); C. Jiao, Unit 95972, PLA (China); J. Miao, G. Zhang, Nanchang Hangkong Univ. (China)
- 7496 OS **On the selection of ICA features for texture classification** [7496-39]
X. Yang, D. Yang, Hefei Univ. of Technology (China); J. Shen, Hefei Normal Univ. (China)
- 7496 OT **Mean shift-based object tracking in FLIR imagery using multiple features** [7496-40]
W. Yang, J. Li, D. Shi, W. Cheng, Xi'an Research Institute of High Technology (China)
- 7496 OU **A content-based news video retrieval system: NVRS** [7496-43]
H. Liu, T. He, Central China Normal Univ. (China);
- 7496 OV **Online and unsupervised face recognition for continuous video stream** [7496-46]
H. Huo, J. Feng, Peking Univ. (China)
- 7496 OW **A new artificial immune network classifier for SAR image** [7496-115]
R. Liu, M. Niu, L. Jiao, Xidian Univ. (China)
- 7496 OX **Boosted distance based on local and global dissimilarity representation** [7496-124]
H. Yin, Y. F. Cao, H. Sun, Wuhan Univ. (China)
- 7496 OY **Point pattern matching using modified ant colony optimization** [7496-131]
Y. Guo, M. Lu, Z. Tan, National Univ. of Defense Technology (China); G. Ren, S. Liu, Key Lab. of Beam Control (China)
- 7496 OZ **Robust traffic sign detection using fuzzy shape recognizer** [7496-148]
L. Li, J. Li, J. Sun, Nanjing Univ. of Science and Technology (China)
- 7496 10 **A study on autonomous video navigation in close range with a cooperative target** [7496-159]
X. Wei, Harbin Institute of Technology (China) and Aerospace System Engineering Shanghai (China); M. Guo, Harbin Institute of Technology (China); F. Chen, J. Huang, X. Zhang, Aerospace System Engineering Shanghai (China)
- 7496 11 **A kernel density estimation based Bayesian classifier for celestial spectrum recognition** [7496-180]
J. Yang, M. Li, N. Yu, Beijing Univ. of Technology (China)
- 7496 12 **A comparative study of radial basis function neural networks in dynamic clustering algorithm** [7496-182]
P. Zhou, D. Li, H. Wu, J. Zeng, F. Chen, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China)
- 7496 13 **3D reconstruction of buildings based on image sequence** [7496-166]
B. Guo, C. Li, M. Chen, Wuhan Univ. (China)
- 7496 14 **Center matching scheme for k-means cluster ensembles** [7496-69]
L. Zhang, W. Zhou, C. Wu, J. Huo, H. Zou, L. Jiao, Xidian Univ. (China)

- 7496 15 **A new incremental learning algorithm based on Support Vector Machines** [7496-60]
Z. Miao, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China) and South-Central Univ. for Nationalities (China); N. Sang, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China)
- 7496 16 **Monocular 3D display system for presenting correct depth** [7496-32]
K. Sakamoto, T. Hosomi, Konan Univ. (Japan)
- 7496 17 **A new method of remote sensing image classification based on FSVM** [7496-02]
H. Cai, Y. Tan, C. Tao, J. Tian, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China)
- 7496 18 **Fast and robust face detection with skin color mixture models and asymmetric AdaBoost** [7496-65]
X. Wang, H. Xu, X. Chen, H. Li, Wuhan Digital Engineering Institute (China)
- 7496 19 **Feature-based eye corner detection from static images** [7496-107]
H. Xia, G. Yan, C. You, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China)
- 7496 1A **3D tunnel model reconstruction from monocular image** [7496-135]
M. Sun, Peking Univ. (China); D. Zhang, China Univ. of Mining and Technology (China); Z. Hu, Central South Univ. (China)
- 7496 1B **Nose pore recognition based on discriminant locality preserving projections** [7496-157]
S. Song, Shandong Univ. (China); K. Ohnuma, Chiba Univ. (Japan); Z. Liu, L. Mei, Shandong Univ. (China)
- 7496 1C **A flower algorithm for autonomous star identification in space surveillance** [7496-83]
J. Gong, L. Wu, J. Gong, J. Ma, J. Tian, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China)
- 7496 1D **Adaptive dynamic inversion robust control for BTT missile based on wavelet neural network** [7496-109]
C. Li, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China), Luoyang Institute of Science and Technology (China), and Key Lab. of Ministry of Education for Image Processing and Intelligent Control (China); Y. Wang, Z. Deng, H. Wu, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China) and Key Lab. of Ministry of Education for Image Processing and Intelligent Control (China)
- 7496 1E **A conditional random field model for 3D reconstruction in image sequences** [7496-90]
D. Zhang, J. Gong, Y. Wang, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China)
- 7496 1F **Maximum likelihood estimation by random sample and local optimization** [7496-189]
W. Tian, H. Wang, F. Xu, Q. Cai, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China)
- 7496 1G **Bhattacharyya distance based video scene change detection** [7496-195]
B. Shen, Chongqing Univ. of Posts and Telecommunications (China) and Univ. of Massachusetts Dartmouth (United States); C. H. Chen, Univ. of Massachusetts Dartmouth (United States)
- 7496 1H **An incremental learning algorithm based on Support Vector Machine for pattern recognition** [7496-37]
L. Zou, T. Zhang, Z. Cao, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China)

- 7496 1I **A spatial-temporal contextual classification approach based on Markov random fields using multi-temporal imagery** [7496-52]
W. Fu, Z. Guo, Q. Zhou, Institute of Remote Sensing Applications (China) and Beijing Normal Univ. (China)
- 7496 1J **Automatic complex building reconstruction from LIDAR based on hierarchical structure analysis** [7496-77]
L. Li, J. Zhang, W. Jiang, Wuhan Univ. (China)
- 7496 1K **Implementation of digital human modeling and skin deformation based on flexible model and multi-joints-binding method** [7496-96]
Q. Tian, X. Li, B. Ge, Tianjin Univ. (China)
- 7496 1L **A novel search coding method for generic object recognition based on shared features** [7496-92]
P. Zheng, N. Sang, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China)
- 7496 1M **Modeling of cortical signals using echo state networks** [7496-108]
H. Zhou, Y. Wang, J. Huang, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China)
- 7496 1N **Classification of multispectral remote sensing image using Kernel Principal Component Analysis and neural network** [7496-143]
J. Yu, Z. Zhang, H. Ke, P. Guo, G. Zhang, Wuhan Univ. (China)
- 7496 1O **A comparative study of two kernel ideas for nonlinear feature extraction** [7496-155]
C. Yang, L. Wang, J. Feng, Peking Univ. (China)
- 7496 1P **Stereo cameras calibration for vehicle based multi-sensors integrated system** [7496-169]
C. Chen, Y. Liu, Q. Mao, G. Wang, Wuhan Univ. (China)
- 7496 1Q **Stereo matching based on orthogonal Gaussian-Hermite moments** [7496-179]
W. Shen, Y. Xiao, Sun Yat-sen Univ. (China); M. Daoudi, Institut Telecom, LIFL, CNRS (France)
- 7496 1R **Research on the selection of innovation compound using Possibility Construction Space Theory and fuzzy pattern recognition** [7496-190]
S. Xie, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China) and Wuhan Univ. of Technology (China); D. Li, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China); H. Nie, Hubei O&F Technology Co. (China)
- 7496 1S **Camera lens calibration based on virtual model for scanning system** [7496-196]
X. Sun, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China) and Hubei Univ. of Technology (China); D. Li, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China); Y. Jie, C. Xiong, Hubei Univ. of Technology (China)
- 7496 1T **A weighted block-PCA infrared face recognition method based on blood perfusion image** [7496-12]
Z. Xie, Jiangxi Sciences and Technology Normal Univ. (China) and Jiangxi Univ. of Finance and Economics (China); G. Liu, S. Wu, Z. Fang, Jiangxi Univ. of Finance and Economics (China)

- 7496 1U **Effective discriminative TCM-KNN for incremental learning** [7496-64]
X. Huang, W. Zheng, Southeast Univ. (China)
- 7496 1V **Facial feature extraction based on GSLDA** [7496-129]
L. Meng, Y. Cai, Y. Li, M. Wang, Academy of Military Transportation (China)
- 7496 1W **Feature selection based on fusing mutual information and cross-validation** [7496-136]
W. Li, C. Liu, Soochow Univ. (China); N. Chen, Suzhou Unimap Software Co. Ltd. (China);
Z. Wang, Soochow Univ. (China)
- 7496 1X **Passive geometric camera calibration for arbitrary camera configuration** [7496-71]
B. Lei, S. Sun, S. Zheng, China Three Gorges Univ. (China)
- 7496 1Y **Local manifold spectral clustering with FCM data condensation** [7496-80]
H. Liu, L. Jiao, F. Zhao, Xidian Univ. (China)
- 7496 1Z **Infrared face recognition using linear subspace analysis** [7496-123]
W. Ge, D. Wang, Y. Cheng, Changchun Institute of Optics, Fine Mechanics and Physics
(China) and Graduate School of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (China); M. Zhu,
Changchun Institute of Optics, Fine Mechanics and Physics (China)
- 7496 20 **Object tracking by using active basis model** [7496-160]
B. Lai, D.-Y. Zhang, C.-Z. Qu, Wuhan Univ. (China)
- 7496 21 **A novel super-resolution image fusion algorithm based on improved PCNN and wavelet transform** [7496-175]
N. Liu, K. Gao, Y. Song, G. Ni, Beijing Institute of Technology (China)
- 7496 22 **Study of point spread function and optical transfer function in blind deconvolution**
[7496-194]
B. Shen, Chongqing Univ. of Posts and Telecommunications (China) and Univ. of
Massachusetts Dartmouth (United States); C. H. Chen, Univ. of Massachusetts Dartmouth
(United States); G. Wang, Chongqing Univ. of Posts and Telecommunications (China)
- 7496 23 **An integrated bottom-up and top-down computing process for car parsing** [7496-86]
X. Yang, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China); T. Wu, Lotus Hill Institute for
Computer Vision and Information Science (China); N. Sang, Huazhong Univ. of Science and
Technology (China)
- 7496 24 **Relevance units machine based on Akaike's information criterion** [7496-35]
J. Zhang, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China); J. Gao, Charles Sturt Univ.
(Australia); J. Tian, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China)
- 7496 25 **Hardware neural network on an SOPC platform** [7496-42]
Y. Liu, Xianning Institute (China); M. Ding, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology
(China); X. Hu, Y. Zhou, Xianning Institute (China)
- 7496 26 **A wide baseline matching method based on scale invariant feature descriptor** [7496-47]
J. Miao, J. Chu, G. Zhang, R. Feng, Nanchang Hangkong Univ. (China)

- 7496 27 **K-means selective cluster ensembles based on multiple feature subsets** [7496-76]
L. Zhang, W. Zhou, H. Zou, J. Huo, C. Wu, L. Jiao, Xidian Univ. (China)
- 7496 28 **Face recognition using SURF features** [7496-79]
G. Du, F. Su, A. Cai, Beijing Univ. of Posts and Telecommunications (China)
- 7496 29 **A new heuristic reduction algorithm based on general binary relations** [7496-88]
S. Teng, J. Sun, Z. Li, G. Zou, National Univ. of Defense Technology (China)
- 7496 2A **Ortho updating by aerial triangulation based on existing ortho-photos and DEM** [7496-104]
Y. Zhang, Wuhan Univ. (China); H. Ding, L. Tang, Surveying and Mapping Institute Lands and Resource Dept. of Guangdong Province (China); J. Zhang, Wuhan Univ. (China)
- 7496 2B **Learning to detect objects in natural image using Texton cues** [7496-120]
T. Jin, Xiamen Univ. (China); L. Li, Zhengzhou Institute of Aeronautical Industry Management (China); C. Li, H. Shi, Xiamen Univ. (China)
- 7496 2C **Algorithm for point inclusion testing based on vector** [7496-134]
X. Sun, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China) and Hubei Univ. of Technology (China); D. Li, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China); Y. Jie, B. Xiao, Hubei Univ. of Technology (China)
- 7496 2D **Automatic geo-registration of aerial image sequence with untextured LIDAR data using line features** [7496-149]
J. Wu, Guilin Univ. of Electronic Technology (China)
- 7496 2E **Research on super-resolution based on random fields for low-level vision** [7496-168]
M. Li, Univ. of Electronic Science and Technology of China (China) and Guilin Academy (China); F. Wang, S. Li, Univ. of Electronic Science and Technology of China (China); X. Liu, Univ. of Electronic Science and Technology of China (China) and Sichuan Univ. of Science and Engineering (China); H. Jin, Guilin Academy (China); H. Luo, Univ. of Electronic Science and Technology of China (China)
- 7496 2F **SAR image classification based on correlation of directional features in frequency domain** [7496-18]
H. Zhong, X. Yang, L. Jiao, Xidian Univ. (China)
- 7496 2G **A vision system for landing an unmanned helicopter in a complex environment** [7496-21]
H. Shi, H. Wang, Tsinghua Univ. (China)
- 7496 2H **Neural network algorithm for solving numerical derivative problem** [7496-36]
Z. Zhou, Wuhan Univ. of Science and Engineering (China) and Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China); L. Chen, L. Wan, Wuhan Univ. of Science and Engineering (China); J. Xu, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China)
- 7496 2I **Local graph cut criterion for supervised dimensionality reduction** [7496-44]
X. Zhang, S. Zhou, L. Jiao, Xidian Univ. (China)
- 7496 2J **The study of refractive index distribution of 3-D optical waveguide in cross-sectional** [7496-66]
Q. Wang, Z. Zhou, Y. Yang, G. Sun, Southwest Univ. of Science and Technology (China)

- 7496 2K **Adaptive algorithm of scale parameter based on scale-space** [7496-158]
L. Liu, Univ. of South China (China) and Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China);
F. Peng, L. Yang, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China)
- 7496 2L **Divert visual angle through eyeball recognition** [7496-163]
Q. Cao, Y. Qiao, Donghua Univ. (China); Y. Cheng, Tongji Univ. (China); H. Cui, Shanghai
Jiao Tong Univ. (China); L. Sun, Donghua Univ. (China)
- 7496 2M **3D reconstruction of microminiature objects based on contour line** [7496-177]
C. Li, Wuhan Univ. (China); Q. Wang, Wuhan Univ. (China) and Hunan City Univ. (China);
B. Guo, Wuhan Univ. (China)
- 7496 2N **Photogrammetric system for tree measurement based on gray-level co-occurrence matrix
method** [7496-183]
X. Wu, L. Gao, J. Kan, W. Li, Beijing Forestry Univ. (China)
- 7496 2O **A novel reduced category specific SIFT descriptor based on affinity propagation for CBIR**
[7496-181]
Y. Zhang, X. Han, Z. Zhou, Y. Fu, Beijing Institute of Technology (China)
- 7496 2P **Texture analysis for ear recognition using local feature descriptor and transform filter**
[7496-91]
J. Feng, Shijiazhuang Institute of Railway (China) and Univ. of Science and Technology
Beijing (China); Z. Mu, Univ. of Science and Technology Beijing (China)
- 7496 2Q **Robust descriptors for matching irregular regions automatically** [7496-70]
Z. Wang, H. Liu, Henan Polytechnic Univ. (China)
- 7496 2R **Fast detection and symptom analysis of cracks in highway asphalt pavement** [7496-49]
H. Hong, Wuhan Institute of Technology (China) and Deakin Univ. (Australia); X. Zhang, J. Yu,
Wuhan Institute of Technology (China)
- 7496 2S **Design and implementation of virtual fault diagnosis system for photoelectric tracking
devices based on OpenGL** [7496-187]
M. Hou, C. Li, Y. Zhang, Huaihai Institute of Technology (China); L. Su, Chongqing Institute of
Technology (China)
- 7496 2T **Interactive sketch animation by graph matching integrated with learning boundary
detection** [7496-146]
L. Hu, H. Qu, Hefei Univ. of Technology (China); H. Lv, Huazhong Univ. of Science and
Technology (China)

Author Index

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Introduction

The Three Gorges Dam is one of the most spectacular engineering feats in the modern world, and has become a famous site for admiring visitors from afar. We are proud to have chosen Yichang, the nearest city to the Three Gorges Dam, as the venue of the Sixth International Symposium on Multispectral Image Processing and Pattern Recognition. Professor Deren Li, Wuhan University, is one of the leading authorities on remote sensing in the world. We are very happy that he has agreed to serve as honorary chair of the symposium.

We hope that the participants of the symposium will not only be hard working at the conference, but also find time to see the sites around the area. The symposium has a broad reach: Instead of interpreting "multispectral" in its narrow sense of multiple-wavelength, we consider it in a very broad sense to include "multimodal" (e.g., audio and visual) and "multimedia" (e.g., text, graphics). In the 672 papers presented at this symposium, there are discussions on almost all aspects of this broad field. Important and novel tools in signal processing and machine learning will be presented and applied to remote sensing, GIS data processing, automatic target recognition, biometrics, medical imaging, and other problems. One crucial issue in multispectral/multimodal/multimedia processing and analysis is: How do we fuse from multiple sources? There are three possibilities: Low or feature-level fusion, middle level fusion, and high or decision level fusion. This issue will be discussed in some of the papers.

The response to the call for papers was overwhelming. Around 1,300 papers were submitted, of which 672 were selected for presentation. The proceedings of the symposium includes 5 volumes:

1. Multispectral Image Acquisition and Multispectral Image Processing
2. Automatic Target Recognition and Image Analysis
3. Pattern Recognition and Computer Vision
4. Parallel Processing of Images and Optimization Techniques and Medical Imaging and Processing
5. Remote Sensing and GIS Data Processing and Other Applications.

This symposium provides a forum for scientists and engineers from universities, industry and government labs to meet and exchange ideas. We expect that there will be ample discussions both inside and outside the lecture halls, and we can guarantee that this will be a most exciting event. The realization of a symposium depends on the hard work of all people related and interested. We would like to thank all members of the organization committee who are responsible for making this conference a success.

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