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Visualization and Data Analysis 2012

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23–25 January 2012
Burlingame, California, United States

Sponsored and Published by
IS&T—The Society for Imaging Science and Technology
SPIE

Cosponsored by
Hewlett Packard Company (United States)
Kitware Inc. (United States)
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (United States)
SAGE Publications Ltd. (United Kingdom)
U.S. Department of Homeland Security (United States)

Volume 8294

Proceedings of SPIE, 0277-786X, v. 8294

The papers included in this volume were part of the technical conference cited on the cover and title page. Papers were selected and subject to review by the editors and conference program committee. Some conference presentations may not be available for publication. The papers published in these proceedings reflect the work and thoughts of the authors and are published herein as submitted. The publishers are not responsible for the validity of the information or for any outcomes resulting from reliance thereon.

Please use the following format to cite material from this book:
Author(s), "Title of Paper," in *Visualization and Data Analysis 2012*, edited by Pak Chung Wong, David L. Kao, Ming C. Hao, Chaomei Chen, Robert Kosara, Mark A. Livingston, Jinah Park, Ian Roberts, Proceedings of SPIE-IS&T Electronic Imaging, SPIE Vol. 8294, Article CID Number (2012).

ISSN 0277-786X
ISBN 9780819489418

Copublished 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
and
IS&T—The Society for Imaging Science and Technology
7003 Kilworth Lane, Springfield, Virginia, 22151 USA
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imaging.org

Printed in the United States of America.

Paper Numbering: Proceedings of SPIE follow an e-First publication model, with papers published first online and then in print and on CD-ROM. Papers are published as they are submitted and meet publication criteria. A unique, consistent, permanent citation identifier (CID) number is assigned to each article at the time of the first publication. Utilization of CIDs allows articles to be fully citable as soon as they are published online, and connects the same identifier to all online, print, and electronic versions of the publication. SPIE uses a six-digit CID article numbering system in which:

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Introduction

Welcome to the 19th SPIE Conference on Visualization and Data Analysis (VDA 2012). The annual conference is a major international forum for researchers and practitioners interested in data visualization and analytics research, development, and applications. VDA 2012 will be held in the city of Burlingame outside San Francisco, California, on January 23–25, 2012.

Five of the VDA 2011 conference chairs and co-chairs, Pak Chung Wong, David Kao, Ming Hao, Chaomei Chen, and Jinah Park, have returned to serve on the 2012 conference committee. They are joined by three new co-chairs, Mark Livingston, Ian Roberts, and Robert Kosara, to organize the conference. David Kao and Ming Hao also serve as the proceedings chairs and Chaomei Chen as the best paper chair. Ian Roberts and Robert Kosara design and manage the conference website at http://vda-conference.org.

Each year, the conference continues to grow and attract more submissions, participants, and presenters. This year, the conference received 50 high quality submissions from the United States and around the world. Based on the results of the peer reviews, the conference accepted a total of 24 submissions for full conference presentations, which is an acceptance rate of 48%. The conference program will also feature 16 interactive poster presentations. The continued success of the program has prompted SPIE to expand our program from two days in the past to two and a half days this year.

Based on the nominations of the proceedings chairs, the best paper chair independently selected eight submissions as the best papers at VDA 2012. Authors of the best papers are invited to extend their work for potential publication in *Information Visualization* (IVS) in 2012. The lead student authors of the best papers will also receive a modest monetary award sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

The two VDA 2012 keynote speakers are Professor Patrick Hanrahan at Stanford University and Thomas Malzbender at Hewlett Packard Labs. The two world-renowned researchers will bring their research and experience to the conference. Pat Harahan is scheduled to speak on Monday and Tom Malzbender on Tuesday.

VDA continues to enjoy success in corporate and government sponsorships. The conference sponsors in 2012 are (in alphabetical order) Hewlett Packard Labs, Kitware, National Visualization and Analytics Center, Sage Publications, and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Their financial and promotional support allows us to continue to grow the conference and serve the community of visualization and data analytics.

The conference cannot succeed without the contributions of the authors, program committee members, paper reviewers, and the staff at SPIE. We gratefully acknowledge their support and commitment to the conference. Finally, your feedback and suggestions for future VDA conference is important to us. Please send your thoughts by email to one of the conference chairs.

Pak Chung Wong
David L. Kao
Ming C. Hao
Chaomei Chen