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**Henri Maître
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Enmin Song**
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Contents

xi	<i>Symposium Committees</i>
xiii	<i>Preface</i>

MULTISPECTRAL IMAGE PROCESSING

6787 02	Self-adaptive evolutionary algorithm for multispectral remote sensing image clustering D. Chang, X. Zhang, Tsinghua Univ. (China); C. Zheng, Institute of Software (China)
6787 03	Road detection in SAR images using a tensor voting algorithm D. Shen, C. Hu, B. Yang, J. Tian, J. Liu, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China)
6787 04	Algorithm research on extracting terrain parameters using data of multi-return signal LiDAR S. Li, X. Zhi, Wuhan Univ. (China); G. Su, Academy of Opto-Electronics (China)
6787 05	EO-1 ALI panchromatic and multispectral image fusion based on sensor spectral response J. Xu, Z. Guan, J. Du, Wuhan Univ. (China)
6787 06	Atmospheric correction algorithm for MODIS data of inland waters by using short-wave infrared bands J. Li, B. Zhang, Q. Shen, X. Zhang, Z. Chen, Institute of Remote Sensing Applications (China) and Beijing Normal Univ. (China)
6787 07	New feature extraction algorithm method based on gray multi-channel decomposition J. Tian, F. Zi, Y. Li, K. Zhang, D. Zhao, Northwestern Polytechnical Univ. (China)
6787 08	Fast processing of imaging spectrometer data cube based on FPGA design Y. Luo, N. Liao, X. Wang, M. Liang, J. Fen, P. Yang, Beijing Institute of Technology (China)
6787 09	Simulation of atmospheric profile retrieval sensitivity with cloud from hyperspectral infrared data L. Guan, Nanjing Univ. of Information Science and Technology (China); H. L. Huang, Univ. of Wisconsin (USA)
6787 0A	Design and implementation of the portable IR targets automatic detecting and tracking system based on USB2.0 W. Dong, H. Wang, M. Cheng, Z. Chen, National Univ. of Defense Technology (China)
6787 0B	A region-cutting InSAR phase unwrapping algorithm based on SDFP Y. Wang, R. He, Hunan Univ. (China)
6787 0C	IHS and support value integrated approach to improve pan-sharpening quality of QuickBird image S. Zheng, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China) and China Three Gorges Univ. (China); C. Yang, China Three Gorges Univ. (China); J. Liu, J. Tian, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China)

- 6787 OD **Speckle reduction for target extraction in synthetic aperture radar images using adaptive space separation based on independent component analysis**
X. An, Northwestern Polytechnical Univ. (China); Y. Li, Shanghai Jiaotong Univ. (China)
- 6787 OE **Bayesian network software system development and application demonstration in remote sensing data processing: BayesNetEX**
Q. Wen, Institute of Remote Sensing Applications (China) and Graduate School, Chinese Academy of Sciences (China); J. Ma, Institute of Remote Sensing Applications (China)
- 6787 OF **Novel image fusion method using multiwavelet transform**
Z. Wang, Beijing Institute of Technology (China) and Inner Mongolia Univ. (China); B. Zhao, T. Shen, Beijing Institute of Technology (China)
- 6787 OG **Analysis on hyperspectral target detection ability and target feature in different spatial resolution**
W. Luo, L. Zhong, B. Zhang, Institute of Remote Sensing Applications (China); S. Luo, South China Normal Univ. (China)
- 6787 OH **Hyperspectral image compression using SPIHT based on DCT and DWT**
H. Wei, B. Zhao, P. He, Beijing Institute of Technology (China)
- 6787 OI **Study on the retrieval of the at-surface radiances for thermal infrared channels by using NOAA-AVHRR data**
S. Zhu, G. Zhang, J. Chen, Nanjing Univ. of Information Science and Technology (China)
- 6787 OJ **Filter algorithm for airborne LIDAR data**
Q. Li, H. Ma, J. Wu, L. Tian, F. Qiu, Wuhan Univ. (China)
- 6787 OK **MAP algorithm to super-resolution of infrared images**
G. Sun, Q. Li, L. Lu, Xidian Univ. (China)
- 6787 OL **Double regularization approach to iterative blind multispectral image restoration**
L. Chen, Wuhan Univ. of Science and Technology (China); C. Wang, The Second Ship Research and Institute of Wuhan (China)
- 6787 OM **New model of region extraction based on salient region detection and scale-space primal sketch**
J. Xiao, M. Ding, C. Cai, C. Zhou, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China)
- 6787 ON **Fusion algorithm of high spatial and spectral resolution images based on contourlet transform**
L. Wang, Wuhan Univ. (China); G. Liu, Wuhan Univ. (China) and Changsha Univ. of Science and Technology (China); Q. Qin, Wuhan Univ. (China); Q. Zhang, Geophysical Prospecting Corp. of Jilin Petroleum Group (China)
- 6787 OO **Image fusion algorithm based on wavelet transform and fuzzy reasoning**
J. Wu, Z. Yang, X. Ding, Y. Chen, Z. Wang, Y. Su, Tianjin Univ. (China)
- 6787 OP **Blind image restoration based on a new wavelet edge detection**
H. Wang, J. Guo, L. Liu, Changchun Univ. of Technology (China)

- 6787 0Q **Anomaly detection for hyperspectral images based on improved RX algorithm**
L. Ma, J. Tian, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China)
- 6787 0R **SAR image de-noising by wavelet transform based on lifting scheme**
X. Ding, W. Huang, State Oceanic Administration (China)
- 6787 0S **Color fusion algorithm for visible and infrared images based on color transfer in YUV color space**
L. Wang, S. Shi, W. Jin, Y. Zhao, Beijing Institute of Technology (China)
- 6787 0T **Color component prediction in multispectral space based on rotated principal component analysis**
F. Xu, X. Wan, Wuhan Univ. (China); Y. Zhu, Shenzhen Polytechnic (China)
- 6787 0U **Ocean features separation from multi-band polarimetric SAR imagery**
Q. Xiao, W. Huang, J. Yang, B. Fu, P. Chen, State Key Lab. of Satellite Ocean Environment Dynamics (China) and State Oceanic Administration (China)
- 6787 0V **IR scene image generation from visual image based on thermal database**
B. Liao, Z. Wang, X. Ke, Y. Xia, Q. Peng, Zhejiang Univ. (China)
- 6787 0W **Adaptive fused Kalman filter based on imaging laser radar for TAN**
J. Gong, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China); H. Xu, Huazhong Normal Univ. (China); J. Tian, H. Cheng, J. Zhang, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China)
- 6787 0X **Effective method to evaluate the complex degree of the sea-sky infrared backgrounds**
C. Gao, J. Tian, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China); Z. Wang, Tongji Univ. (China); Y. Wang, P. Wang, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China)
- 6787 0Y **Robot map building based on fuzzy-extending DSMT**
X. Li, X. Huang, Z. Wu, G. Peng, M. Wang, Y. Xiong, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China)
- 6787 0Z **Subbands threshold effect factors and second version contourlet transform based image denoising method**
X. Chen, Huazhong Univ of Science and Technology (China) and Xinyang Normal Univ. (China); W. Liu, J. Tian, X. Shen, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China)
- 6787 10 **Wavelet-based SAR images despeckling using joint hidden Markov model**
Q. Li, G. Wang, J. Liu, S. Chen, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China)
- 6787 11 **SAR image adaptive MAP filtering based on the generalized Gaussian model**
S. Chen, J. Liu, G. Wang, Q. Li, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China)
- 6787 12 **Study of urban objects stepping classification based on spectral feature**
J. Wang, W. Song, Liaoning Technical Univ. (China)
- 6787 13 **Residual-scaled local standard deviations method for estimating noise in hyperspectral images**
L. Gao, B. Zhang, J. Wen, Q. Ran, Institute of Remote Sensing Applications (China)

- 6787 14 **Registration of LIDAR and optical images using multiple geometric features**
F. Deng, S. Li, J. Zhang, Wuhan Univ. (China); G. Su, Academy of Opto-electronics (China)
- 6787 15 **Imaging lidar based 3D terrain matching using feature vector**
H. Cheng, J. Tian, J. Ma, J. Gong, L. Wu, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China)
- 6787 16 **Improved nonlinear method of nonuniformity correction for infrared focal plane arrays**
H. Jiang, Q. Li, Xidian Univ. (China)
- 6787 17 **Infrared image segmentation with 2D OTSU method based on particle swarm optimization**
G. Zhao, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China) and Wuhan Univ. of Technology (China); G. Zhu, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China); Y. Zeng, Hubei Univ. of Economics (China); T. Zhang, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China); H. Xu, Wuhan Univ. of Technology (China)
- 6787 18 **Estimating foliar water content of winter wheat with hyperspectral image**
X. Zhang, Q. Jiao, D. Wu, B. Zhang, L. Gao, Institute of Remote Sensing Applications (China)
- 6787 19 **Research on fusing panchromatic image and multiresolution images of Beijing-1 DMC+4 microsatellite**
Y. Zhang, Q. Liu, B. He, X. Liu, M. Li, Univ. of Electronic Science and Technology of China (China) and Southwest Ctr. of Application on Beijing-1 Microsatellite Data (China)
- 6787 1A **Monitoring urban subsidence with coherent target analysis method**
X. Tian, L. Lu, M. Liao, D. Li, Wuhan Univ. (China); Z. Fang, H. Wang, Shanghai Institute of Geological Survey (China)
- 6787 1B **Algorithm for the blind deconvolution of images based on neural networks**
B. Zuo, J. Tian, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China); L. Zu, China Univ. of Geology Science (China); A. Chen, National Defense Key Lab. for Aerospace Intelligent Control Technology (China)
- 6787 1C **Infrared texture simulation using non-parameteric random field model**
X. Shao, C. Gong, J. Xu, Xidian Univ. (China)
- 6787 1D **A spectral preservation fusion method based on band ratio and weighted combination**
W. Zhu, X. Pang, Y. Pan, B. Jia, X. Yang, Beijing Normal Univ. (China)
- 6787 1E **Region based image fusion using SVM**
Y. Liu, J. Cheng, H. Lu, Institute of Automation (China)
- 6787 1F **Target recognition of laser radar using correlation filter with in-plane rotation invariance**
J. Sun, Q. Li, W. Lu, Q. Wang, Harbin Institute of Technology (China)
- 6787 1G **Optimal fusion method for multi-focus images**
J. Wen, Institute of Remote Sensing Applications (China); H. Gong, Institute of Automation (China); B. Zhang, Institute of Remote Sensing Applications (China)
- 6787 1H **Detection of buried objects in multi-temporal and multi-band infrared imagery using dynamic Bayesian networks**
S. Gao, Y. Zhao, K. Wei, Y. Cheng, Northwestern Polytechnical Univ. (China)

- 6787 1I **Fast and accurate automatic SAR image registration using seven invariant moments and improved chain coding of region boundaries**
S. Wang, J. Xiao, L. Jiao, L. Zeng, Xidian Univ. (China)
- 6787 1J **Fusion of multispectral and panchromatic images using improved GIHS and PCA mergers based on contourlet**
S. Yang, L. Zeng, L. Jiao, J. Xiao, Xidian Univ. (China)
- 6787 1K **Adaptive projected Landweber super-resolution algorithm for passive millimeter wave imaging**
X. Zheng, J. Yang, Univ. of Electronic Science and Technology of China (China)
- 6787 1L **Feature enhancement of SAR imagery using Wiener filtering in multi-wavelet domain**
X. Zhang, Beijing Institute of Environmental Features (China); P. Huang, China Aerospace Science and Industry Corp. (China); P. Zhou, Beijing Institute of Environmental Features (China)
- 6787 1M **PCA-based visualization of terahertz time-domain spectroscopy image**
J. Pei, Y. Hu, W. Xie, Shenzhen Univ. (China)
- 6787 1N **Image fusion algorithm using nonsubsamped contourlet transform**
Y. Xiao, Z. Cao, K. Wang, Z. Xu, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China)
- 6787 1O **Hyperspectral data classification using image fusion based on curvelet transform**
A. Sun, Wuhan Institute of Technology (China); Y. Tan, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China)
- 6787 1P **Application and comparison of resolving methods in SAR image ortho-rectification based on G. Konecny model**
B. Yang, China Remote Sensing Satellite Ground Station (China) and Graduate Univ. of Chinese Academy of Sciences (China); C. Wang, H. Zhang, B. Zhang, China Remote Sensing Satellite Ground Station (China)
- 6787 1Q **Real time infrared video expansion based on edge**
Y. Wu, J. Hong, H. Chen, Xiamen Univ. (China)
- 6787 1R **Infrared image pre-processing based on nonsubsamped contourlet transform**
J. Li, X. Zhang, Xi'an Research Institute of High Technology (China); K. Li, Xidian Univ. (China); X. Li, Xi'an Research Institute of High Technology (China)
- 6787 1S **Novel feature extraction method for hyperspectral remote sensing image**
C. Liu, H. Zhao, Beijing Univ. of Aeronautics and Astronautics (China)
- 6787 1T **Improved model for dielectric behavior of moist saline soil**
H. Gong, Y. Shao, J. Liu, Institute of Remote Sensing Applications (China); Q. Hu, China Aerospace Science and Industry Corp. (China); W. Tian, Institute of Remote Sensing Applications (China)
- 6787 1U **Edge-enhanced despeckling method for SAR images**
L. Wang, B. Hou, L. Jiao, J. Xu, Xidian Univ. (China)

- 6787 1V **Study of identifying airdrome algorithm in the infrared image**
Q. Ping, G. Xia, Beijing Institute of Technology (China)
- 6787 1W **Ground extraction from airborne laser data based on wavelet analysis**
L. Xu, State Oceanic Administration (China); Y. Yang, Nanjing Univ. (China); B. Jiang, J. Li, State Oceanic Administration (China)
- 6787 1X **Estimation vegetation fraction by remote sensing based on Beijing-1 microsatellite data**
T. Chen, P. Li, L. Zhang, Wuhan Univ. (China); Y. Liu, Institute of Remote Sensing Applications (China)
- 6787 1Y **Performance evaluation of pattern painting camouflage based on the texture characteristic of multi-spectral images**
X. Li, X. Lv, Y. Wang, C. Cui, PLA Univ. of Science and Technology (China); Y. Huang, People's Liberation Army (China)
- 6787 1Z **Speckle reduction of SAR images using adaptive regularized least square support vector machines**
D. Peng, J. Tian, J. Liu, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China)
- 6787 20 **Fusion of multi-spectral and panchromatic images based on MNF and wavelet transform**
H. Li, Chinese Academy of Surveying and Mapping (China); H. Gu, Chinese Academy of Surveying and Mapping (China) and Liaoning Technical Univ. (China); Y. Han, J. Yang, Chinese Academy of Surveying and Mapping (China)
- 6787 21 **Semi-empirical model for topographic/atmospheric correction in Jiangxi rugged area, China**
J. Wen, Q. Liu, Institute of Remote Sensing Applications (China); Q. Xiao, Institute of Remote Sensing Applications (China) and Beijing Research Institute of Uranium Geology (China); X. Li, Institute of Remote Sensing Applications (China)
- 6787 22 **Parallel algorithm of VLBI software correlator under multiprocessor environment**
W. Zheng, D. Zhang, Shanghai Astronomical Observatory (China)
- 6787 23 **Coherent simulation of high resolution SAR natural terrain scene image**
Q. Wang, H. Zhang, C. Wang, Y. Tang, China Remote Sensing Satellite Ground Station (China)
- 6787 24 **Atmosphere turbulence phase compensation in synthetic aperture ladar data processing**
Z. Hua, H. Li, Y. Gu, Ocean Univ. of China (China)
- 6787 25 **Restoration algorithm for turbulence-degraded images based on multi-scale blind deconvolution**
H. Hong, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China) and Wuhan Institute of Technology (China); T. Zhang, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China); J. Yu, Wuhan Institute of Technology (China)

- 6787 26 **Ascertainment on abnormality component and classification on grades for alteration information extracted by principal component analysis from ETM data**
Z. Zhao, China Univ. of Geosciences (China), Beijing Key Lab. of Research and Exploration Information of Land Resources (China), York Univ. (Canada), and Yunnan Institute of Geology Survey (China); Y. Zhang, China Aero Geophysical Survey and Remote Sensing Ctr. for Land and Resources (China); J. Chen, China Univ. of Geosciences (China) and Beijing Key Lab. of Research and Exploration Information of Land Resources (China); Q. Cheng, York Univ. (Canada)
- 6787 27 **Comparison of data fusion methods with high preservation based on multi-spectral and panchromatic images**
W. Li, Q. Zhang, G. Hu, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China)
- 6787 28 **Nitrogen content estimation using Hyperion hyperspectral image based on normalized band depth method**
J. Yuan, Hebei Normal Univ. (China) and Institute of Remote Sensing Applications (China); Z. Niu, Institute of Remote Sensing Applications (China); L. Long, Hebei Normal Univ. (China); S. Li, Institute of Remote Sensing Applications (China)
- 6787 29 **Generation of multi-spectral scene images for ocean environment**
C. Wang, K. Ji, East Normal Univ. (China); Q. Huang, Tongji Univ. (China); Y. Xia, East Normal Univ. (China)
- 6787 2A **Unsupervised multi-spectral image segmentation using watershed transform and MRF model by integrating multi-cue information**
H. Zhou, R. Wang, National Univ. of Defense Technology (China)
- 6787 2B **Vector quantization with reversible variable-length coding for ultra-spectral sounder data compression: an application to future NOAA weather satellite data rebroadcast**
B. Huang, S.-C. Wei, Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison (USA)
- 6787 2C **Multisensor data fusion based on the second generation curvelet transform**
M. Xiao, Z. He, Wuhan Univ. (China)
- 6787 2D **Automatic framework for highly efficient natural image matting**
F. He, Y. Wu, D. Zhang, Z. Huang, L. Wei, C. Xiao, Wuhan Univ. (China)
- 6787 2E **Feasibility of various remote sensing data for mapping snow cover area around Gangotri Glacier**
K. Mohite, G. Singh, G. Venkataraman, IIT Bombay (India)
- 6787 2F **Research on algorithms of change detection**
X. Li, AFEU (China)
- 6787 2H **Hybrid method to improve abundance estimation of hyperspectral mixture pixel**
B. Wu, Fuzhou Univ. (China) and The Chinese Univ. of Hong Kong (Hong Kong China); Y. Zhao, China Univ. of Mining and Technology (China)
- 6787 2I **SAR image despeckling based on sparse representation**
Y. Zhao, S. Wang, L. Jiao, K. Li, Xidian Univ. (China)

- 6787 2J **Efficient implementation of MQ arithmetic coder**
Z. Gao, C. Xiong, J. Hou, South-Central Univ. for Nationalities (China)
- 6787 2K **New edge detection method for multispectral images**
G. Sun, Q. Liu, Y. Zhou, Institute of Remote Sensing Applications (China)
- 6787 2L **SAR image speckle noise reduction based on second generation bandelets and a kernel-based possibilistic C-means clustering**
S. Liu, B. Hou, L. Jiao, G. Zhang, Xidian Univ. (China)
- 6787 2M **New feature selection method for EO-1/Hyperion image classification: a case study of Subei region, China**
X. Jiang, X. Li, Academy of Opto-Electronics (China); H. Xie, B. Fang, Academy of Opto-Electronics (China) and Graduate Univ. of Chinese Academy of Sciences (China); X. Xi, Academy of Opto-Electronics (China)
- 6787 2N **Detail preserving robust anisotropic diffusion for image enhancement and noise reduction**
Y. Wang, R. Niu, China Univ. of Geosciences (China); L. Zhang, P. Li, Wuhan Univ. (China)
- 6787 2O **Reconstruction of penumbral imaging based on a band-filtering algorithm**
X.-H. Han, Central South Univ. of Forestry and Technology (China) and Ritsumeikan Univ. (Japan); C. Lin, S. Dai, J. Li, Central South Univ. of Forestry and Technology (China)
- 6787 2P **Novel approach for precise and fast location of irises**
D. Zhou, Q. Yang, G. Pu, Sichuan Univ. of Arts and Science (China)
- 6787 2Q **Deformable object simulation based on an improved numerical integration**
X. Hu, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China) and Wuhan Univ. of Science and Engineering (China); D. Li, Huazhong Univ. of Science and Technology (China)

Author Index

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Preface

Universities in Wuhan have a long history of outstanding research in multispectral image processing and related areas. Thus, it is most fitting that the Fifth International Symposium on Multispectral Image Processing and Pattern Recognition has chosen Wuhan as its venue. Professor Deren Li, Wuhan University, is one of the leading authorities in remote sensing in the world. We are very happy that he is honorary chair of the symposium. Wuhan was established about 3,500 years ago, and is of great importance in China's cultural, military, economical, and political history. There are many important historical sites within the city's limits. We hope that the participants of the symposium will not only be hard working at the conference, but also finding time to see some of these historical sites.

The Symposium has a broad charter. 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 696 papers presented at this Symposium, we will find 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 the cues 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 1,400 papers were submitted, of which 696 were selected for presentation. The proceedings of the Symposium have 5 volumes:

- Automatic Target Recognition and Image Analysis; and Multispectral Image Acquisition
- Multispectral Image Processing
- Pattern Recognition and Computer Vision
- Medical Imaging, Parallel Processing of Images, and Optimization Techniques
- Remote Sensing and GIS Data Processing and Applications; and Innovative Multispectral Technology and 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 many people. We would like to thank everyone on the organization committee, all of whom are responsible for making this conference a success.

Thomas S. Huang
Bo Zhang