PROCEEDINGS OF SPIE

MIPPR 2007

Multispectral Image Processing

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Editors

15–17 November 2007
Wuhan, China

Sponsored by
State Key Laboratory for Multi-spectral Information Processing Technologies (China)
Chinese Education Ministry Key Laboratory for Image Processing and Intelligence Control (China)
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Supported by
National Natural Science Foundation of China (China) • Education Ministry of China (China)

Published by
SPIE

Volume 6787

Proceedings of SPIE, 0277-786X, v. 6787

Please use the following format to cite material from this book:
Author(s), "Title of Paper," in *MIPPR 2007: Multispectral Image Processing*, edited by Henri Maître, Hong Sun, Jianguo Liu, Enmin Song, Proceedings of SPIE Vol. 6787 (SPIE, Bellingham, WA, 2007) Article CID Number.

ISSN 0277-786X
ISBN 9780819469519

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

Printed in the United States of America.

Publication of record for individual papers is online in the SPIE Digital Library.

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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 "multispectal" 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