
FOREWORD

Special Section on Image Recognition and Understanding

The past decade has seen a rapid increase in research activities in the field of image recognition and understanding. This recent trend is remarkable, considering that this field continues to expand even after a long history of research and development. This special section of the Institute of Electronics, Information and Communication Engineers (IEICE) Transactions on Information and Systems and its Japanese edition, devoted to the topic of image recognition and understanding, presents a selection of the finest work in this field, including the papers presented at the ninth Meeting on Image Recognition and Understanding (MIRU2006) held in the city of Sendai from July 19 to 21, 2006.

MIRU is an annual symposium mainly supported by PRMU (Group on Pattern Recognition and Media Understanding) of IEICE and SIG CVIM (Special Interest Group of Computer Vision and Image Media) of IPSJ (Information Processing Society of Japan). Reflecting the growing activity in this field, MIRU2006 attracted more than 220 submissions of high-quality research papers and more than 460 attendees, making MIRU the largest symposium on computer vision and pattern recognition in Japan. Following the success of MIRU2006, the editorial committee decided to organize this special section. In response to the call for papers, we received 69 Japanese papers and 37 English papers. Among them, 41 Japanese papers and 9 English papers were accepted for publication after being carefully reviewed. This volume carries the English papers.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all the authors for their efforts in preparing and submitting their excellent manuscripts, and to all the reviewers for their professional and voluntary work. Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the guest editorial managers and the editorial committee members for their tremendous efforts in completing the editorial processing of so many papers under a very tight schedule.

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Yoichi Sato, Guest Chief Editor

Yoichi Sato (*Member*) received the BSE degree from the University of Tokyo in 1990, and the MS and PhD degrees in robotics from the School of Computer Science, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in 1993 and 1997 respectively. He is an associate professor jointly affiliated with the Graduate School of Interdisciplinary Information Studies, and the Institute of Industrial Science, at the University of Tokyo, Japan. His research interests include physics-based vision, reflectance analysis, image-based modeling and rendering, tracking and gesture analysis, and computer vision for HCI. He is currently serving as an associate editor of IEEE Transactions on PAMI and has actively participated in international conferences in the fields of computer vision and computer graphics as an organizing committee member and a program committee member. He is a member of the IEEE, the ACM, the IPSJ, and the VRSJ.

