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Editorial

“Special Issue on Handwriting recognition and other PR applications”

This volume contains the enhanced versions of the best papers presented in two important international conferences: the International Conference on Frontiers in Handwriting Recognition (ICFHR) 2012 held in Monopoli, Bari, Italy, September 18–20, 2012 and the Chinese Conference on Pattern Recognition (CCPR 2012) held in Beijing, September 24–26, 2012. More precisely, the volume contains 16 papers from the ICFHR 2012 and four papers from CCPR 2012. Each paper has been carefully reviewed by two experts at least and only high quality papers have been included in the volume.

Papers from ICFHR 2012 are focused on topics related to handwriting processing and recognition. The main topics concern on-line and off-line handwriting recognition, pen-based interface systems, form processing, handwritten-based digital libraries, web document access and retrieval. Furthermore in the first chapter of this volume a description of the contents related to each presentation to ICFHR 2012 and to all the previous conferences of the same series is reported. Instead papers from CCPR 2012 cover a wide range of fundamentals and applications of Pattern Recognition, including dimensionality reduction, computer vision, handwriting analysis, and multimedia retrieval. For CCCP 2012 conference four papers are included and specifically they treat: in the paper Enhanced Iterative Projection for Subclass Analysis under EM Framework, by Yuting Tao, Jian Yang and Heyou Chang, proposes a subclass discriminant analysis (SDA) method which performs subclass division iteratively on the transformed subspace so as to overcome the insufficiencies of previous mixture discriminant analysis and SDA methods. The paper Object Tracking Across Non-Overlapping Views by Learning Inter-Camera Transfer Models, by Xiaotang Chen, Kaiqi Huang and Tieniu Tan, concerns object tracking across multiple non-overlapping cameras facing pose and illumination variations. They propose to track using two transfer models, a spatio-temporal transfer model and an appearance transfer model. The paper Contextual Text/Non-Text Stroke Classification in Online Handwritten Notes with Conditional Random Fields, by Adrien Delays and Cheng-Lin Liu, presents a comprehensive study of contextual information modeling for text/non-text stroke classification in online handwritten documents. Under the Conditional Random Field (CRF) framework, they evaluated several types of spatial and temporal interactions. The paper Latent Topic Model for Audio Retrieval, by Pengfei Hu, Wenju Liu, Wei Jiang and Zhanlei Yang, introduces a Gaussian Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA) model for audio retrieval, which considers continuous emission probability and directly models each topic as a Gaussian distribution over audio features.

Therefore, the collection of papers in this Special Issue would give the new researchers a good introduction to some of the most

promising state-of-the-art researches in the field of Handwriting Recognition and other Pattern Recognition Applications while for an expert, this would serve as a good reference and a source of significant new ideas in this field.

As Guest Editors of this Special Issue, We would like to thank all the authors for their valuable contributions to this volume. We would like also to thank all reviewers for cooperation. The high quality of the papers are mostly due to their efforts in reviewing papers and making valuable recommendations. The idea of this Special Issue came up due to the inspiration and encouragement from Ching Yee Suen, the Editor-in-Chief, but also from solicitations of Sargur N. Srihari and Réjean Plamondon. We express our sincere gratitude to them. Also We thank Sophie Herbert, Manager of the Pattern Recognition Journal, for her cooperation and precious suggestions in all phases of the publication of this issue.

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