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Advisory Board: W. Brauer D. Gries J. Stoer

Gerald Sommer Kostas Daniilidis
Josef Pauli (Eds.)

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Volume Editors

Gerald Sommer

Kostas Daniilidis

Josef Pauli

Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel, Institut für Informatik

Preußerstr. 1-9, D-24105 Kiel, Germany

E-mail: (gs/kd/jp)@informatik.uni-kiel.de

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Preface

This volume presents the papers accepted for the 7th International Conference on Computer Analysis of Images and Patterns, CAIP'97 held in Kiel, Germany, September 10-12, 1997. The CAIP conference series was founded twelve years ago in Berlin. The goal of the conference was the establishment of a forum for the exchange of ideas between Western and Eastern-bloc scientists in the areas of image processing and pattern recognition. Fortunately, the political circumstances hindering such contacts were eliminated. However, economic circumstances do still not allow scientists from Central and Eastern Europe to cover the participation expenses of conferences around the world. Although the scientific quality of CAIP is comparable to other well known conferences, CAIP differs from them in the insistence on supporting and keeping high the participation of C & E European scientists.

We received 150 submissions which were reviewed double blind in responsibility of three members of the program committee. Final decisions were based on the reviewers' ratings and were taken in electronic communication with the members of the steering committee. The final program consisted of 61 oral and 31 poster presentations.

The geographic spectrum of the submissions spanned over 30 countries with 67 submissions from Central and Eastern European countries. The proportion of the latter among the accepted papers is 25 out of 92. We succeeded in entirely covering the expenses of 16 scientists from C & E Europe thanks to the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft and partially supporting another 13 from the same area. The high quality of submissions and the active participation of C & E Europe researchers proves the need to continue the CAIP conference series in the same spirit as until now.

Our thanks go to all the authors for the high quality of their work and for their cooperation in meeting the time and layout schedules. In the name of the steering committee we would like to thank the program committee members and the additional reviewers for their time and their conscientious work. We thank the International Association for Pattern Recognition for taking CAIP'97 under its auspices, the Christian-Albrechts-Universität Kiel for hosting the conference, and the industrial and institutional sponsors for financial support. Springer-Verlag Heidelberg and especially Alfred Hofmann are gratefully acknowledged for publishing the CAIP proceedings in the LNCS series. Last but not least, the conference could not take place without the extraordinary commitment of the local organizing committee.

Kiel, June 1997

Gerald Sommer

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