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**Wolfgang Osten
Dmitry Nikolaev
Jianhong Zhou**
Editors

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Contents

ix *Conference Committee*
xiii *Introduction*

TARGET DETECTION AND TRACKING

- 12701 02 **Development, optimization, and deployment of thermal forward vision systems for advance vehicular applications on edge devices** [12701-36]
- 12701 03 **Using attention mechanism and improved YOLOX vehicle taillight detection** [12701-22]
- 12701 04 **A comparative analysis of deep learning algorithms for optical drone detection** [12701-3]
- 12701 05 **Human fall detection using spatial temporal graph convolution** [12701-8]
- 12701 06 **Tracking objects using QR codes and deep learning** [12701-43]
- 12701 07 **Time-gated-single-pixel-camera: a promising sensor for robust object detection in adverse weather conditions for autonomously driven vehicles** [12701-49]
- 12701 08 **F2SD: a dataset for end-to-end group detection algorithms** [12701-47]
- 12701 09 **Deep learning based compressed sensing in machine vision: an iterative approach to multi-object detection** [12701-70]
- 12701 0A **Event-based YOLO object detection: proof of concept for forward perception system** [12701-12]

IMAGE SEGMENTATION

- 12701 0B **Log-Base2 of Gaussian kernel for nuclei segmentation from colorectal cancer H and E-stained histopathology images** [12701-2]
- 12701 0C **Semantic segmentation of crop areas in remote sensing imagery using spectral indices and multiple channels** [12701-10]
- 12701 0D **Video-TransUNet: temporally blended vision transformer for CT VFSS instance segmentation** [12701-20]
- 12701 0E **Semantic food segmentation for health monitoring** [12701-34]
- 12701 0F **City-scale ground segmentation of aerial LiDAR by image-analogous gradients** [12701-53]

12701 OG **Two-stage semantic segmentation in neural networks** [12701-42]

IMAGE RECOGNITION AND IMAGE MODEL

12701 OH **Adaptive spatial and temporal aggregation for table tennis shot recognition** [12701-23]

12701 OI **Ontology based approach using a systemic knowledge model for surface defect classification** [12701-62]

12701 OJ **Fine-tuning ConvNets with novel leather image data for species identification** [12701-17]

12701 OK **How certain are transformers in image classification: uncertainty analysis with Monte Carlo dropout** [12701-24]

12701 OL **Reinforcement learning transformer for image captioning generation model** [12701-61]

12701 OM **Basketball action recognition algorithm based on global context awareness** [12701-67]

12701 ON **Copyright protection for image classification models using pseudo-holographic watermarks** [12701-52]

12701 OO **Pyramid histograms of oriented gradient for age and gender recognition using finger veins** [12701-66]

12701 OP **From tomographic reconstruction to automatic text recognition: the next frontier task for the artificial intelligence** [12701-51]

INTELLIGENT IMAGE DETECTION AND APPLICATION

12701 OQ **A coarse-to-fine angle automatic correction method for glassivation passivation parts wafer** [12701-21]

12701 OR **Performance analysis of deep neural networks for COVID-19 detection from chest radiographs** [12701-27]

12701 OS **Real-time CNN-based key point detector with Sobel filter and descriptor trained with key point candidates** [12701-46]

12701 OT **Drowsiness and tiredness detection system by observing the visible properties of human eyes** [12701-45]

12701 OU **Tiny convolution contextual neural network: a lightweight model for skin lesion detection** [12701-32]

12701 OV **Detection and correction of image distortions induced by parasitic light sensitivity using deep learning methods** [12701-26]

- 12701 0W **A graph-based approach to video anomaly detection from the perspective of superpixels** [12701-29]
- 12701 0X **An active learning approach for support device detection in chest radiography images** [12701-11]
- 12701 0Y **A feature selection method for driver stress detection using heart rate variability and breathing rate** [12701-57]
- 12701 0Z **Neuromorphic sensing for yawn detection in driver drowsiness** [12701-54]
- 12701 10 **In-cabin occupant monitoring system based on improved Yolo, deep reinforcement learning, and multi-task CNN for autonomous driving** [12701-55]

DIGITAL IMAGE ANALYSIS AND METHODS

- 12701 11 **Floor-plan generation from noisy point clouds** [12701-15]
- 12701 12 **Deep learning for blood cells classification and localisation** [12701-7]
- 12701 13 **Event-based high-speed low-latency fiducial marker tracking** [12701-30]
- 12701 14 **On background bias in deep metric learning** [12701-5]
- 12701 15 **Image calibration using ensemble of transformer and CNN-based frameworks** [12701-50]
- 12701 16 **Inducing and obtaining cognitive load ground truth data in automotive scenarios** [12701-65]
- 12701 17 **Fusion of CNN and feature extraction methods for multiple sclerosis classification** [12701-33]
- 12701 18 **Automatic UAV-based airport pavement inspection using mixed real and virtual scenarios** [12701-35]

COMPUTER VISION AND COMPUTER AIDED IMAGING

- 12701 19 **Efficient loss functions for GAN-based style transfer** [12701-1]
- 12701 1A **Deep learning for segmentation of optic disc and retinal layers in peripapillary optical coherence tomography images** [12701-56]
- 12701 1B **A lightweight network with multi-scale information interaction attention for real-time semantic segmentation** [12701-68]
- 12701 1C **An extended computer-aided diagnosis system for multidomain EEG classification** [12701-4]

- 12701 1D **Autoencoders with deformable convolutions for latent representation of EEG spectrograms in classification tasks** [12701-39]
- 12701 1E **Relative attributes classification via transformers and rank SVM loss** [12701-58]
- 12701 1F **Method for the automatic measurement of camera-calibration quality in a surround-view system** [12701-9]
- 12701 1G **Mean projection image application to the automatic rotation axis alignment in cone-beam CT** [12701-48]
- 12701 1H **An integral computer vision system for apple detection, classification, and semantic segmentation** [12701-64]
- 12701 1I **Control and evaluation of event cameras output sharpness via bias** [12701-37]
- 12701 1J **3D reconstruction of gastrointestinal regions using shape-from-focus** [12701-13]

IMAGE CLASSIFICATION AND ENCRYPTION

- 12701 1K **An efficient approach for age-wise rice seeds classification using SURF-BOF with modified cascaded-ANFIS algorithm** [12701-19]
- 12701 1L **Image encryption based on Beta discret wavelet transform, new Beta wavelet chaotic map, and Latin square** [12701-31]
- 12701 1M **Face attribute classification with evidential deep learning** [12701-60]
- 12701 1N **B-CNN: Betadeep Convolutional Neural Network over encrypted data** [12701-18]
- 12701 1O **Automatic mixed precision and distributed data-parallel training for satellite image classification using CNN** [12701-40]

IMAGE AND SIGNAL ANALYSIS

- 12701 1P **Classification of imbalanced bioassay data with features learned using stacked autoencoder** [12701-28]
- 12701 1Q **Structural representative network for remote sensing image captioning** [12701-6]
- 12701 1R **Crowd-sourced optical indoor positioning updated by WiFi fingerprint localization** [12701-16]
- 12701 1S **Theoretical evaluation of the performance of ambient LoRa backscatter communication** [12701-41]

- 12701 1T **Dual autoencoder-based framework for image compression and decompression** [12701-38]
- 12701 1U **Confidence-aware calibration and scoring functions for curriculum learning** [12701-14]
- 12701 1V **Dataset creation pipeline for camera-based heart rate estimation** [12701-44]

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Introduction

There are some signs that this time of uncertainty and less welcome restrictions will come to an end. During the past two years we have learned that there are alternative ways to organize a scientific conference: with personal appearance and direct discussion, fully separated and only virtually connected by the Internet, and a mixture of both. After two years of all virtual conferences, this year we made the first step towards a traditional and most effective scientific meeting by taking the chance to offer a hybrid conference, where the participants could decide between remote access and onsite participation. And is there a better place for an inspiring conference than the eternal city Rome. Three days filled with new findings, interesting discussions, and unforgettable encounters made the Fifteenth International Conference on Machine Vision another successful event.

There were 86 participants (38 online and 48 onsite) that took part in the 12 sessions across the 3 conference days. We started again with 3 keynote lectures and one invited talk, all given by recognized international experts in machine vision. Prof. Zhang from the State University of New York reported online about Learning with Knowledge Distillation. Dr. Ferraro from the Institute of Applied Sciences & Intelligent Systems in Naples informed the audience about the latest research of his famous group in the field of Tomographic Flow Cytometry by Digital Holography. "Learning strategies for the recognition and classification of micro-objects through holographic footprints". In his talk he showed in a very impressive way the potential of 3D visualization and quantification of cells by the fusion of both techniques. One high point of the keynote session was presented then by Prof. Ahlers, founder of ProxyVision. In his mix of a historic review and future outlook, he discussed the paradigm shift in image processing and machine vision. Several application domains such as automotive and aerospace were addressed. The final invited talk was given by Dr. Elandaloussi, founder of Syperion, and was about several aspects of automation by visual sensing in open cast mining. It was reported on the advantages of point cloud transformation of rough distance data for complex information processing with respect to the derivation of relevant landscape data for the mining procedure.

The conference was continued with fourteen contributed papers presented in 2 special sessions:

- Machine Vision for Autonomous Vehicles (chaired by Prof. Wolfgang Osten) with 7 presentations,
- Machine Vision based Stress, Cognition, and Emotion Sensing in Driver/Occupant Monitoring Systems (chaired by Prof. Peter Corcoran) also with seven presentations.

Afterwards 8 technical sessions with 57 papers completed the program that ended with an award ceremony for the best papers given in all sessions. Eight awardees could be recognized for their outstanding presentations. that were selected by the respective chairs.

What we would like to highlight also for this Fifteenth International Conference on Machine Vision the participation of scientists from all over the world. Especially many young researchers from developing countries came together and contributed to the very special international flair of that conference.

These proceedings are a collection of 66 papers that were presented at the conference. For the structure of that volume, we used the following classification into 8 topics:

- 1 – Target Detection and Tracking with 9 papers,
- 2 – Image Segmentation with 6 papers,
- 3 – Image Recognition and Modeling with 9 papers,
- 4 – Intelligent Image Detection and Application with 11 papers,
- 5 – Digital Image Analysis and Methods with 8 papers,
- 6 – Computer Vision and Computer Aided Imaging with 11 papers,
- 7 – Image Classification and Encryption with 5 papers,
- 8 – Image and Signal Analysis with 7 papers.

We hope that the reader gets this way a good impression about the wide diversity of new approaches and applications in Machine Vision. In fact, Machine Vision is not a very young but nevertheless an emerging field. Many aspects of the Digitization and Artificial Intelligence hype such as the Internet of Things IoT, the digital factory, universal public safety, machine learning, deep learning, computer vision, computational imaging, active vision, robotics, and autonomous vehicles are affected by new technologies that are developed and implemented in this field.

Therefore, we look ahead with great interest to the 16th International Conference on Machine Vision which will take place as hybrid event again in the autumn of 2023, in Yerevan, Armenia. Until then, the collection of articles presented in this volume will hopefully find an interested audience and will be a source of new inspirations for future innovations and findings.

Our thanks go to all participants of the Fifteenth International Conference on Machine Vision, and especially to the organizing committee group, who did a great job to ensure a wonderful hybrid event in Rome.

**Wolfgang Osten
Dmitry Nikolaev
Jianhong Zhou**