

Preface

This proceedings volume includes papers accepted for presentation at the 4th International Workshop on Visual Form (IWVF4), held in Capri, Italy, 28–30 May 2001. IWVF4 was sponsored by the International Association for Pattern Recognition (IAPR), and organized by the Department of Computer Science and Systems of the University of Naples “Federico II” and the Institute of Cybernetics of the National Research Council of Italy, Arco Felice (Naples). The three previous IWVF were held in Capri in 1991, 1994, and 1997, organized by the same institutions.

IWVF4 attracted 117 research contributions from academic and research institutions in 26 different countries. The contributions focus on theoretical and applicative aspects of visual form processing such as shape representation, analysis, recognition, modeling, and retrieval. The reviewing process, accomplished by an international board of reviewers, listed separately, led to a technical program including 66 contributions. These papers cover important topics and constitute a collection of recent results achieved by leading research groups from several countries. Among the 66 accepted papers, 19 were selected for oral presentation and 47 for poster presentation. All accepted contributions have been scheduled in plenary sessions to favor as much as possible the interaction among participants. The program was completed by seven invited lectures, presented by internationally well known speakers: Alfred Bruckstein (Technion, Israel), Horst Bunke (University of Bern, Switzerland), Terry Caelli (University of Alberta, Canada), Sven Dickinson (University of Toronto, Canada), Donald Hoffman (University of California, Irvine, USA), Josef Kittler (University of Surrey, UK), and Shimon Ullman (The Weizmann Institute of Sciences, Israel). A panel on the topic *State of the Art and Prospects of Research on Shape at the Dawn of the Third Millennium* has also been scheduled to conclude IWVF4.

IWVF4 and this proceedings volume would not have been possible without the financial support of the universities, research institutions, and other organizations that contributed generously. We also wish to thank contributors, who responded to the call for papers in a very positive manner, invited speakers, all reviewers and members of the Scientific and Local Committees, as well as all IWVF4 participants, for their scientific contribution and enthusiasm.

March 2001

Carlo Arcelli
Luigi P. Cordella
Gabriella Sanniti di Baja

IWVF4 Organization

The 4th International Workshop on Visual Form (IWVF4) was organized jointly by the Department of Computer Science and Systems of the University of Naples “Federico II”, and by the Institute of Cybernetics of the National Research Council of Italy. IWVF4 was sponsored by the International Association for Pattern Recognition.

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