Preface

Visual information systems are information systems for visual computing. Visual computing is computing on visual objects. Some visual objects such as images are inherently visual in the sense that their primary representation is the visual representation. Some visual objects such as data structures are derivatively visual in the sense that their primary representation is not the visual representation, but can be transformed into a visual representation. Images and data structures are the two extremes. Other visual objects such as maps may fall somewhere in between the two. Visual computing often involves the transformation from one type of visual objects into another type of visual objects, or into the same type of visual objects, to accomplish certain objectives such as information reduction, object recognition, and so on.

In visual information systems design it is also important to ask the following question: who performs the visual computing? The answer to this question determines the approach to visual computing. For instance it is possible that primarily the computer performs the visual computing and the human merely observes the results. It is also possible that primarily the human performs the visual computing and the computer plays a supporting role. Often the human and the computer are both involved as equal partners in visual computing and there are visual interactions. Formal or informal visual languages are usually needed to facilitate such visual interactions.

In this conference various research issues in visual information systems design and visual computing are explored. The papers are collectively published in this volume. We would like to express our special thanks to the sponsorship of the National Science Council, ROC, the Lee and MTI Center of National Chiao Tung University, ROC, and Knowledge Systems Institute, USA.

January 2002   Shi-Kuo Chang, Zen Chen, and Suh-Yin Lee

VISUAL 2002 Conference Organization

General Chair   Shi-Kuo Chang, USA
American General Co-chair   Ramesh Jain, USA
European General Co-chair   Arnold Smeulders, The Netherlands
Asian General Co-chair   Horace Ip, ROC

Program Co-chairs   Zen Chen, ROC
                                     Suh-Yin Lee, ROC

Steering Committee   Shi-Kuo Chang, USA
                                     Horace Ip, Hong Kong
                                     Ramesh Jain, USA
                                     Tosiyasu Kunii, Japan
                                     Robert Laurini, France
                                     Clement Leung, Australia
                                     Arnold Smeulders, The Netherlands

Program Committee

Jan Biemond, The Netherlands   Carlo Meghini, Italy
Josef Bigun, Switzerland   Erich Neuhold, Germany
Shih Fu Chang, USA   Eric Pauwels, Belgium
David Forsyth, USA   Fernando Pereira, Portugal
Theo Gevers, The Netherlands   Dragutin Petkovic, USA
Luc van Gool, Belgium   Hanan Samet, USA
William Grosky, USA   Simone Santini, USA
Glenn Healey, USA   Stan Sclaroff, USA
Nies Huijsmans, The Netherlands   Raimondo Schettini, Italy
Yannis Ioanidis, Greece   Stephen Smoliar, USA
Erland Jungert, Sweden   Aya Soffer, USA
Rangachar Kasturi, USA   Michael Swain, USA
Toshi Kato, Japan   Hemant Tagare, USA
Martin Kersten, The Netherlands   George Thoma, USA
Inald Lagendijk, The Netherlands   Marcel Worring, The Netherlands
Robert Laurini, France   Jian Kang Wu, Singapore
Yi-Bin Lin, ROC   Wei-Pan Yang, ROC

Sponsors   National Science Council, ROC
                                     National Chiao Tung University, ROC
                                     Knowledge Systems Institute, USA