BMVA News

The Newsletter of the British Machine Vision Association and Society for Pattern Recognition

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http://www.bmva.ac.uk/

BMVA News[1] is published every three months. Contributions on any activity related to machine vision or pattern recognition are eagerly sought. These could include reports on technical activities such as conferences, workshops or other meetings. Items of timely or topical interest are also particularly welcome; these might include details of funding initiatives, programmatic reports from ongoing projects and standards activities. Items for the next edition should reach the editor by 1 December 2007.

Contents

[1]The British Machine Vision Association and Society for Pattern Recognition is a Company limited by guarantee, No. 2543446, registered in England and Wales. Registered Office: Granta Lodge, 71 Graham Road, Malvern, WR14 2JS. The Association is a non-profit-making body and is registered as charity No. 1002307.

Editorial: *Exotic Locations, Exotic Conferences*

Now that the summer season is over, and with it the majority of the annual conferences, it is time to ponder where we will be going next year. Already, preparations are under way by all the notable conference organisers, so that for delegates it is more a question of selecting which ones to attend, or submit papers to, than of advising where they should be held. On the other hand, organising conferences is big business, with venues touting for placements, and the costs being quite high – there also being the need for at least a year's advance booking, which can involve thousands of pounds of deposit. Success or failure depends on attracting a lot of papers and delegates, so the risk needs to be limited. Also, with so many conferences in one subject area, the possibility of clashes is significant and in any case it is difficult for delegates to attend two or more conferences in close proximity. For example, the recent BMVC, IMVIP and AVSS were all in adjacent weeks and I could realistically only attend one of them: not only are there the cost and time factors, but also there is a distinct limit to how much one can take in, and 3 days at a stretch is my own practical limit (of course one can take the proceedings home and study it later, but if one adopts that policy, should one bother to actually attend at all?). Of course, one attends conferences not just for the oral and poster sessions but also to meet people, but here again a degree of saturation cuts in – better to spread the load over the whole year.

Another aspect is the 'perk' of being able to attend conferences in exotic locations. VIE (the IET Professional Network) offered India last year and is offering China next year. CVPR (and with it VS) moves around and was last year in Graz (highly scenic) and

this year in Minneapolis (scenic parts within reach) – and similarly for ICPR and others. But does one actually benefit from this? First, few students can afford the fare to distant places; second, many of us, once there, are desperate to return quickly because of the relentless pressure of work, so one has to be content with a fleeting glance through the aeroplane window at a fabulous coast or skiing resort. (Incidentally, I also remember the 1980 ICPR at Miami Beach, which didn't impress me despite the name – *and* one day I heard that someone had been shot near the location of my late-evening walk the previous day, within minutes of my being there.)

So why is there this pressure to go so far? Of course, a *workshop* in an exotic location is one thing, but an international conference far away, effectively preventing most students from attending, is quite another. I used to find that it was difficult to combine holidays with conference visits: for the latter I was more 'keyed up', and hardly in the mood for a holiday. Maybe I have now mellowed, as my recreational photographs in this and other recent issues of BMVA News may indicate. But while I seem to have benefited from Graz, Edinburgh and Warwick, I have met few who seem to have taken the time to do the same. So why the cost and virtual elimination of students by exotic locations? Note also that BMVC has enjoyed huge successes by (and perhaps because of) resisting all this, and I think it should go on doing so. In fact, leaving local organisation to outsiders in the Far East or Caribbean, for example, can so easily spell financial ruin or a dearth of delegates or both. Also, the quality aspect can plummet out of control: indeed, one of BMVC's prime achievements over time has been having a known body of home-trained referees, use of whom can foster and maintain quality.

On a not unrelated topic, I have observed a new sign of the times – that conferences are now much less inclined to offer banks of PCs for delegates to keep up-to-date with their emails. However, large portions of the campus at the Warwick BMVC had wireless access to the internet, which meant that one had to take one's own laptop – for me a dubious pleasure because of the risk of accidents. And accidents do occur, as I can attest on presenting at the BMVA Summer School this July: I tripped over a step and my laptop went flying, but nevertheless on *this* occasion it lived on to record another set of editorial thoughts.

Professor Roy Davies
Editor, BMVA News
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BMVA Distinguished Fellow 2006

Professor Maria Petrou, BMVA Distinguished Fellow 2006

The recipient of the 2006 BMVA Distinguished Fellowship is Maria Petrou, Professor of Signal Processing and the Head of the Communications and Signal Processing Group in the Electrical and Electronic Engineering Department at Imperial College London.

Maria obtained a B.Sc. in Physics in 1975 from the Aristotelion University of Thessaloniki, Greece where at the entrance tests of the university she obtained the top mark amongst 4000 candidates for all Science and Engineering Departments in Greece. She went on to do the Part III, Mathematical Tripos at the University of Cambridge in 1977, continuing there to obtain a Ph.D. in Astronomy in 1981. Until the age of 12 Maria had wanted to be an Astronaut, so clearly she settled for an Astronomer instead!

Following academic posts at the Kapodistrian University of Athens and at the University of Oxford and Reading, Maria then spent 17 years at the University of Surrey, from Lecturer through to Professor, moving to her current post at Imperial College recently in 2005. She is a Fellow of IEE, a Fellow of the IAPR, and a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering. These days Maria describes herself as a Physicist by training, an Engineer by profession and a Mathematician at heart!

Today Maria's research interests include many topics in Image Processing, Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition and her contributions to these areas have been immense. She has won several million pounds in grants for her research. She has published more than 250 papers with more than 100 in refereed journals. She has written two books on Image Processing: The first one was printed in 1999, reprinted twice since, and translated into Chinese in 2006. The second edition is in

preparation. Her second book on Texture was published in 2006. Both books are self-contained and wholly structured around a series of questions and answers.

Like all great scientists, Maria is not just consumed with research and she loves teaching. In fact, she has loved teaching from an early age, starting professionally at 15, tutoring pupils and students in maths. Her first fee was 50 cents an hour. At some stage, while at University, she used to teach arithmetic to a 7 year old, crystallography to her fellow students, and Ancient Greek to a 16 year old! Once she even taught Trigonometry to a 16 year old Arab student, using an Arab text, without her knowing Arabic (and the student good English)! Even the Q and A style of her two books are testament to her love of teaching in an easily communicative, no nonsense fashion.

Maria has served the national and international vision community through her tireless participation for many years. She has been IAPR Newsletter editor for 5 years, IAPR treasurer for 4, BMVA Chairman for 3, BMVA/EPSRC Summer School Organiser for 5, plus numerous other activities, like member of the GB of IAPR and member of the Executive Committee of the BMVA for several years, and several editorships and editorial boards of journals. Most recently she became a trustee of IET. She has supervised 36 PhD theses to successful completion and she has examined nearly 100.

The BMVA is proud to award a Distinguished Fellowship to such an inspiring colleague ... Professor Maria Petrou.

Dr Majid Mirmehdi
BMVA Chairman
email: chair@bmva.ac.uk

Reminder – Student Bursaries

If you are a PhD student at a UK university, and are presenting a paper at a major vision conference, then you are eligible to apply for a BMVA bursary worth up to £500.

Further details are available though the BMVA website:

http://www.bmva.ac.uk/admin/bursaries.html

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BMVA Thesis Archive

In order to promote and improve access to the large base of high quality PhD research undertaken in Computer Vision in the UK, the British Machine Vision Association has launched a new online repository. This will act as a single-source archive of all past, current and future PhD work undertaken in this area in UK academic institutions. The service will allow students to quickly and easily share the results of their work with the Computer Vision community, nationally and internationally, and it will be a tremendously useful database for searching and reviewing previous PhD research work undertaken in the UK.

The real value of this service can only be realised if the UK community support the effort and so the BMVC would like to encourage all members to use and, where possible, contribute material to the repository. Contributions are required to be in PDF format and supplementary material such as videos and images are welcome.

The PhD repository can be accessed through the main BMVA website (www.bmva.ac.uk). If you have any problems submitting your thesis to the repository please contact Dr Aphrodite Galata.

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Elections to the BMVA Executive Committee

Members of the BMVA Executive Committee (ExCo) are elected to serve for two years. There are ten elected members, with the period of service interleaved for five of the ten. This results in five members of the ExCo standing down each year and new elections being held for the five vacant positions. Sometimes, as in this year, there are no elections if there are five or fewer candidates seeking election to the ExCo. The members who stood down this summer were:

Roy Davies
Tim Ellis
Andrew Fitzgibbon
Peter Hall
Majid Mirmehdi

Candidates nominated and elected to the ExCo for the next two years starting October 2007 are:

Roy Davies
Andrew Fitzgibbon
Peter Hall
Dimitrios Makris
Majid Mirmehdi

The BMVA would like to extend its sincere thanks to Professor Tim Ellis for his invaluable contributions and hopes to see him again on the Committee in future years.

Following the elections, the directors of the BMVA with specific responsibilities are now:

Chairman: Majid Mirmehdi
Secretary: Andrew Fitzgibbon
Treasurer: Mike Chantler
Meetings Organiser: Simon Prince
Newsletter Editor: Roy Davies
Publicity Officer: Aphrodite Galata
Bursaries Officer: Peter Hall
IAPR Reps: Edwin Hancock and Mark Nixon

Other ExCo members are:

Adrian Clarke, Tim Cootes, Dimitrios Makris and Neil Thacker.

Finally, the ExCo is complemented by co-opted members who have been invited to join to help serve the purposes of the BMVA, e.g. the chair(s) of the previous and next BMVC and industry representatives. The currently co-opted members are:

Abhir Bhalerao, Patrick Courtney, Mark Everingham, John Gilby, John Illingworth, Stephen Pollard, Nasir Rajpoot.

Dr Majid Mirmehdi
BMVA Chairman
email: chair@bmva.ac.uk

Prizes and Awards

The following prizes and awards were presented at the BMVC banquet on Wednesday 12 September 2007. Photographs of the event appear on pp. 4–8 of this issue.

Best Science Paper Prize

The Best Science Paper prize is awarded to a paper with the most novel and significant contribution to the science of computer vision. The paper is expected to have been ranked highly by its reviewers. The final decision is made by a committee of experts in the area.

The Best Science Paper prize for BMVC 2007 was awarded to Donner, Micusik, Langs and Bischof for their paper entitled “Sparse MRF appearance models for fast anatomical structure localisation”.

Best Security Paper Prize

The Siemens and Warwick Warp Prize of £300 was awarded to the best paper on a security topic. Papers on image analysis and computer vision methods applied to biometrics (fingerprint, face, iris, gait recognition etc.), people and activity monitoring and video surveillance etc. were eligible for this award. The prize was selected by Josef Birchbauer, Technology Manager, Siemens IT Solutions and Services, Biometrics Center, Austria and Dr Li Wang, CTO, Warwick Warp, UK.

The Best Security Paper prize was awarded to Wu, Smith and Hancock for their paper entitled “Gender classification using shape from shading”.

Best Poster Prize

The Best Poster prize is awarded based on the poster quality, its technical contents, and its presentation. The final decision is made by members of the review committee.

The Best Poster prize for BMVC 2007 was awarded to Ruta, Li and Liu for their poster entitled “Towards real-time traffic sign recognition by class-specific discriminative features”.

Sullivan Thesis Prize

The annual Sullivan Doctoral Thesis Prize, administered and awarded by the BMVA, is given to the author of the best thesis in a calendar year.

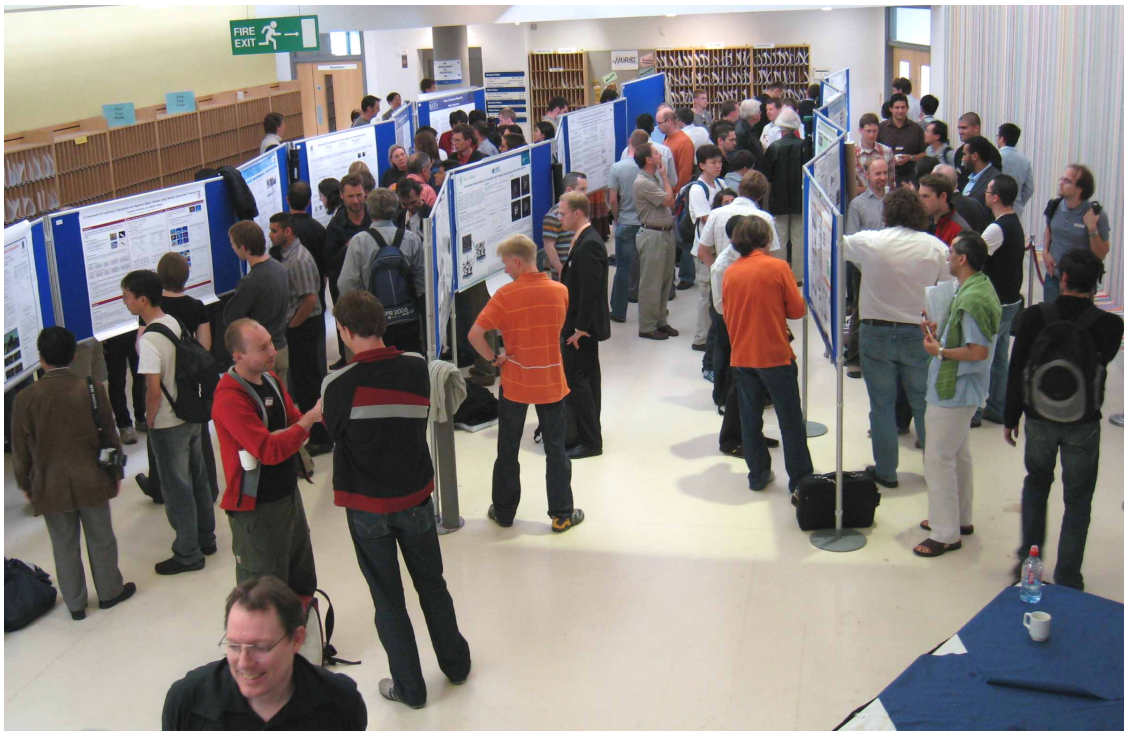
The 2006 Sullivan Thesis prize was awarded to Josef Sivic for his PhD thesis entitled “Efficient visual search of images and videos”.

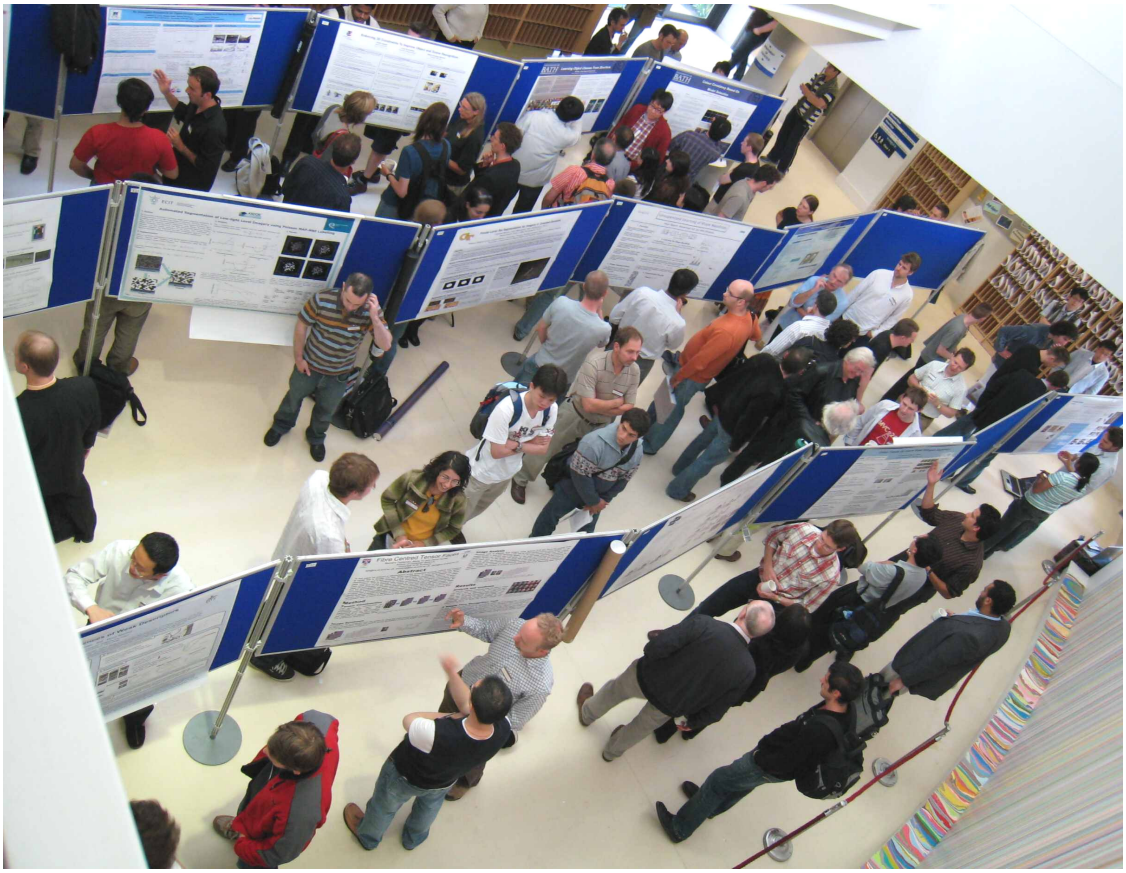
BMVA Distinguished Fellow 2006

Professor Maria Petrou was presented with her award as *BMVA Distinguished Fellow 2006*. This prestigious award is given to one person only each year in recognition of their services to the British Machine Vision community. The recipient of the BMVA Distinguished Fellow 2007 award will be announced later this year.

Dr Majid Mirmehdi
BMVA Chairman
email: chair@bmva.ac.uk

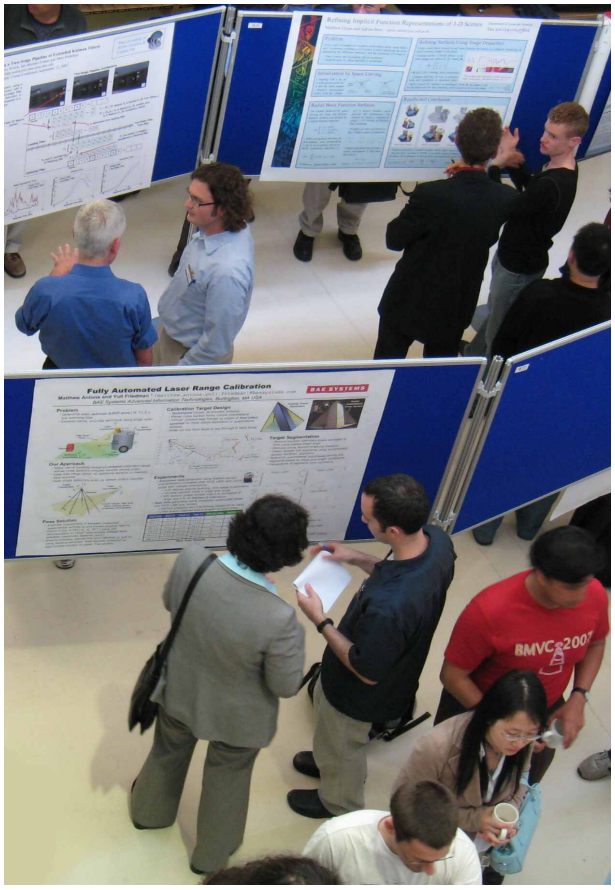
BMVC 2007 – A Pictorial Record





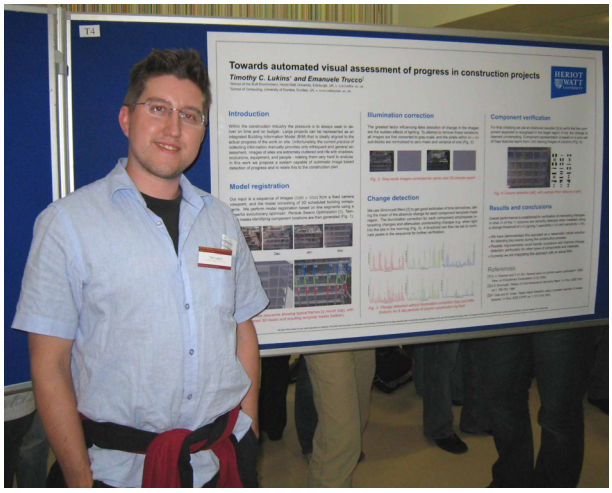
The poster sessions were held in a pleasant, airy room, and were immensely stimulating.

On the left, conference organiser Abhir Bhalerao with (left) keynote speaker Hans Knudsson and (middle) Hans's close colleague Roland Wilson. On the right, an animated discussion develops between John Gilby (left) and Neil Thacker.

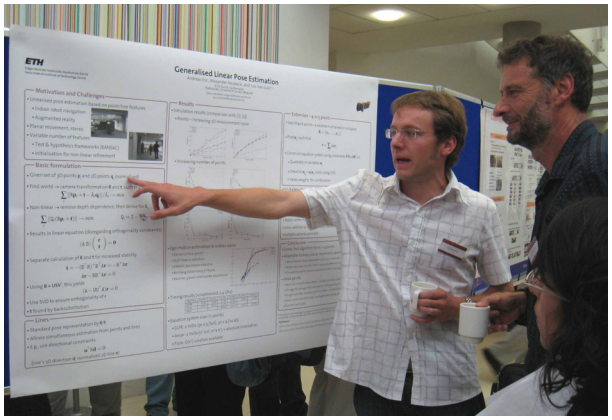


Details of some of the posters. In the foreground, Maria Petrou talks to Matthew Antone about his work on laser range calibration.

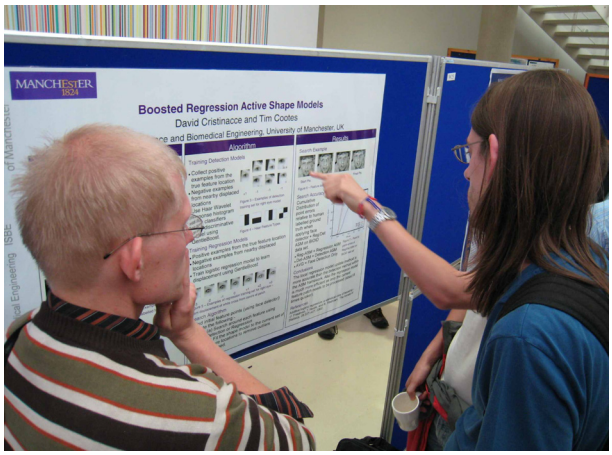
This and one or two other views were photographed from the upstairs gallery where past and future posters were exhibited (this represents a neat solution to a logistics problem – Ed.).



Timothy Lukins ready to explain his work on automated visual assessment. (Readers may remember him in a kilt this time last year!)



Andreas Ess explains a fine point about his work to Andrew Wallace.



David Cristinacce pondering questions from Mark Everingham and a mystery delegate.

Keynote speaker Mubarak Shah answers a question after his lecture.

Conference delegates were fortunate in being able to take part in a conducted tour around Coventry Cathedral to hear some of the history of the site, before returning to the Guildhall for the conference banquet. Prominent to many will be the juxtaposition of the old and the new in a highly effective symbiosis: although the old Cathedral was bombed during the war, some of its shell survives and helps to create a unique atmosphere (see photographs on pp. 14–15).

Mubarak Shah waiting for dinner with (left to right) Majid Mirmehdi, Andrew Calway and Neil Thacker. (A number of us ventured as far as Kenilworth for the Seetar,[2] a renowned Indian restaurant.)

Peter Hall (right) and another delegate in discussion at the conference banquet held in the Coventry Guildhall,[3] with its impressive old-world décor.

[2]'Seetar' – alternative spelling of 'sitar', the well-known Indian stringed instrument, with some similarity to a guitar. – Ed.

[3]St Mary's Guildhall is one of the finest medieval guildhalls in England. It has stood at the heart of Coventry for over 650 years and has witnessed events of both national and local importance.

Conference organisers Abhir Bhalerao and Nasir Rajpoot about to announce the awards and prizes.

Matthew Grum (York) receiving the 'Best Security Paper' prize on behalf of his colleagues Jing Wu, Will Smith and Edwin Hancock. The presentation is being made by Li Wang.

Andrzej Ruta (Brunel) receiving the 'Best Poster' prize from Abhir Bhalerao.

Peter Roth (Graz) receiving the 'Best Science Paper' prize on behalf of his colleagues René Donner, Branislav Micusik, Georg Langs and Horst Bischof.

Nick Apostoloff (Oxford) receiving the Sullivan Thesis prize on behalf of his colleague Josef Sivic.

Majid Mirmehdi makes the *Distinguished Fellow* presentation to Maria Petrou.

Maria receives her *Distinguished Fellow* certificate.

Maria giving her presentation speech.[4]

Professor Roy Davies
Editor, BMVA News
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[4]Note the tapestry lining the whole wall behind the high table, adding further to the splendid décor of the Guildhall, and also to the atmosphere of the occasion.

Report on IbPRIA 2007

The 3rd Iberian Conference on Pattern Recognition and Image Analysis was held in Girona, Spain during 6–8 June 2007. Although nominally 'Iberian', the conference has gained a considerable following and this year attracted visitors from the US to Japan, with many from across Europe. The presentations and posters were generally of a high standard and I understand the conference had a 47% acceptance rate. The proceedings were published as volumes in the LNCS series.

The conference began early on Wednesday 6 June in the Auditorium and Conference Centre in Girona. Each of the three days began with an invited talk of approximately one hour before launching into the first session of presentations. Wednesday's invited talk, by Professor Chris Williams (University of Edinburgh), was entitled "Known unknowns: novelty detection in condition monitoring". Professor Williams presented an interesting talk describing his work on condition monitoring of patients in hospital intensive care.

Presentation sessions on the Wednesday included "Pattern recognition", "Human language technology", "Special architectures and industrial applications" and "Motion analysis". Many of the talks presented very interesting research, though Thursday's talks were generally of more relevance to my own work. The presentation sessions were separated by long lunch and coffee breaks/poster sessions which allowed people to mingle and network extensively.

Thursday morning began with an invited talk by Professor Michal Irani (Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel) who presented a fascinating talk entitled "Seeing the invisible and predicting the unexpected". The work involved using local descriptors to perform many tasks in image analysis, from object recognition to filling in deleted regions, both in still pictures and video. The results that Professor Irani presented were very promising for the examples used; however, she admitted that the method was not particularly robust to changes in scale, orientation or speed (in video).

The day continued with the second "Pattern recognition" session, and sessions on "Image analysis", "Biomedical applications" and "Shape and texture analysis". My paper "Risk classification in mammograms using anatomical linear structure and density information" was presented during the "Biomedical applications" session on the Thursday afternoon, and was well received.

On the Thursday evening, activities began with a guided tour around the old city of Girona, which took us through the narrow streets of the old Jewish Quarter and gave us a brief glimpse at the city's history. The tour finished at the coaches ready to take us to the conference dinner – a farmhouse converted to a restaurant a few miles out of the city centre. The dinner was a great opportunity for networking and the food was delicious, although my stomach didn't entirely agree!

Friday's invited talk was from Dr Andrew Davison (Imperial College) entitled "Vision-based SLAM in real-time". Dr Davison described his work on SLAM using image features which are tracked during camera motion in order to maintain position information. The method as presented worked well in a small room environment and with reasonably slow camera motion; however, he said that increasing the frame-rate of the camera would allow for faster camera motion. The talk was well-presented and extremely interesting and the work described looked very promising.

Final sessions on the Friday included "3D" and "Image coding and processing". The conference finished at lunchtime on Friday with a short slide show by the organisers of the next IbPRIA, to be held in Porto, Portugal in 2009. The conference was very successful and provided a fascinating insight into the work of other computer vision researchers. Perhaps the largest criticism was that the audience was rather timid throughout and seemed reluctant to ask many questions; however, many questions were asked during the poster sessions and lunch breaks, making the visit very worthwhile.

I would like to thank the British Machine Vision Association for their generous funding, making my trip to IbPRIA possible.

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Report on CVPR 2007

This conference was held during 18–23 June, Minneapolis, MN, USA. I attended the conference and presented our work. CVPR is a top-ranked conference in the computer vision area. In its multi-track programme, researchers from all over the world exchanged ideas on commonly interested topics:

- Sensors and Early Vision
- Color and Texture
- Segmentation and Grouping
- Motion and Tracking

- Stereo and Structure from Motion
- Image-Based Modeling
- Illumination and Reflectance Modeling
- Shape Representation
- Object Recognition
- Video Analysis and Event Recognition
- Face and Gesture
- Statistical Methods and Learning
- Performance Evaluation
- Medical Image Analysis
- Image and Video Retrieval

On the first day of the conference, there were five tracks of nine short courses, which addressed basic topics from machine learning to higher level applications such as object recognition. Those courses can be found on the CVPR 2007 website: http://cvpr.cv.ri.cmu.edu/call.htm. On that day there were also interesting workshops on biometrics, projector–camera systems, online learning etc.

During the next three days, the main conference was held in Hyatt hotel, Minneapolis. Altogether, there were 60 oral sessions and about 200 poster presentations. It was beyond one person's ability to attend them all. I will try to give a panorama from my particular point of view.

There were two tracks of oral sessions about "Matching and features" and "Motion segmentation" in the morning of 19 June. In the following poster session, I also presented our work about hierarchically structuring data on manifold for fast retrieval. In the afternoon, there was a talk about topics in 3D shape analysis. On the following day, the oral sessions were on "Recognition, learning and optimization", which is a very promising and basic topic in my point of view and from which the best paper prize was also awarded. On 21 June, searching and optimization problems and applications like face and handwriting recognition were discussed.

Personally, I prefer to exchange ideas directly in a poster session. This was my first international conference; I find it is very helpful to exchange ideas with other people – even to be challenged by them. This is an efficient way to improve our work. Also, the banquet/other social affairs provide an occasion with much leisure to get helpful advice from more senior researchers.

Jun Li
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Report on Visual Surveillance Workshop (VS 2007)

The 7th International IEEE workshop on Visual Surveillance (VS 2007) took place in Minneapolis on 22 June, in conjunction with CVPR 2007. The programme consisted of one invited talk, 10 oral presentations and 14 poster presentations. The workshop proved very successful as reflected in the number of attendants – more than 70 – which made it one of the most popular in CVPR 2007.

Dr Harpreet S. Sawhney, technical director of Vision and Learning Technologies at Sarnoff Corporation was the keynote speaker of the workshop. His presentation on "Visual intelligence from video and 3D sensor analytics" discussed how 2D and 3D sensors are combined to provide solutions for scene monitoring, event detection, object recognition, video retrieval, etc.

Oral paper presentations included Ambrish Tyagi *et al*. from Ohio State University who presented a "Kernel-based 3D tracking" method that extends the concept of the mean-shift algorithm in the 3D domain. The proposed 3D Kernel-based tracker fuses appearance features from multiple cameras and illustrates that such an approach outperforms the fusion of 2D kernel trackers.

Many presentations addressed the fundamental problem in visual surveillance – motion segmentation. For instance, advances on background modelling methods were presented by Jian Yao and Jean-Marc Odobez (IDIAP Research Institute) on "Multi-layer background subtraction based on color and texture" and Tao Zhang *et al*. (University of Colorado) who suggested that "Two thresholds are better than one". Rogerio Feris *et al*. (IBM Research) who discussed "Capturing people in surveillance video" and Keni Bernardin *et al*. (Universität Karlsruhe) who presented "Automatic person detection and tracking using fuzzy controlled active cameras" proposed appearance-based detection of object models. Vinay Sharma and James W. Davis, (Ohio State University) combined background modelling and appearance-based approaches in "Simultaneous detection and segmentation of pedestrians using top-down and bottom-up processing".

Geoffrey R. Taylor *et al*. from ObjectVideo Inc. presented "OVVV: Using virtual worlds to design and evaluate surveillance systems" describing a platform that allows the production of synthetic surveillance videos for evaluation purposes. The platform is based on the Half-Life 2 game engine. Configuration of cameras (number, type, orientation) to cope with illumination and weather conditions, number of targets,

etc is a significant advantage that may revolutionise the way that we evaluate surveillance systems.

Dr Dimitrios Makris
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Security and Surveillance: Performance Evaluation

Call for Participation

One-day BMVA symposium at the British Computer Society, Southampton Street, London, on 12 December 2007.

www.bmva.ac.uk/meetings

Chair

Andrea Cavallaro – Queen Mary, University of London

Performance evaluation and validation is an important open problem for computer vision algorithms applied to security and surveillance applications due to the lack of commonly accessible datasets and commonly accepted evaluation protocols. Although in recent years important efforts have been devoted to the design of evaluation metrics and the comparison of algorithms (e.g., PETS, ETISEO, CLEAR, AMI, CAVIAR), these are not yet taken up by the research community at large. Moreover, computer vision algorithms need be evaluated with large test corpora containing significant statistical data variability as the accuracy of the results is highly data-dependent.

The aim of this meeting is to provide a forum for the discussion of recent algorithms, results, protocols and datasets for the evaluation and validation of computer vision algorithms for security and surveillance. Contributions describing recent work on performance evaluation of object detection, object classification, target tracking, activity analysis and event recognition are welcome. Manuscripts describing new or consolidated datasets and metrics for the evaluation and comparison of algorithms are also sought.

Potential topics include, but are not limited to: metrics for the evaluation computer vision algorithms applied to surveillance; benchmarking protocols and their application; metrics for evaluating the complexity of a scene/situation; metrics for evaluating the performance of single and multi-target trackers; dataset distribution and privacy issues; ground truth definition and XML schemas; experience from previous evaluation campaigns.

Interested participants should submit an extended summary of about one page A4 (max two pages), preferably in PDF format. Send contributions by email attachment (max 1MB, please!) to Andrea Cavallaro (andrea.cavallaro@elec.qmul.ac.uk) by 30 October 2007.

Dr Andrea Cavallaro
Queen Mary, University of London
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Shape Representation, Analysis and Perception

This one-day BMVA symposium will be held at University College London, London, UK on 5 November 2007.

www.bmva.ac.uk/meetings

Chairs

Will Smith and Edwin Hancock, University of York.

Computer vision draws on a diverse range of methods to represent shape for the purposes of recognition. Broadly speaking, the available methods are informed by a number of disciplines including geometry, statistics, neuroscience and psychophysics. Recent advances in the area include the use of ideas from differential geometry to construct representations for complex non-Euclidean forms of data and the use of ideas from statistics to construct shape spaces and shape-priors for objects that exhibit subtle modes of shape-variation. Moreover, there have been significant advances in the structural representation of shape, allowing hierarchical models and symbolic reasoning to be applied to high level analysis tasks such as the learning of shape-classes. Brain imaging studies using MEG and fMRI have also furnished information concerning the mechanisms involved in the perception of visual form.

The aim of this meeting is to provide a forum for the discussion of recent results in shape representation, analysis and perception.

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VIE 2008 scheduled for China!

5th International Conference on Visual Information Engineering (VIE 2008)

Bridging the Gap Between Theory and Applications

29 July – 1 August 2008, Xi'an, China

General Co-chairs

Ebroul Izquierdo (QMUL, UK)
Guizhong Liu (Xi'an Jiaotong University, China)

Call for Papers

The Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) Visual Information Engineering conference aims at bringing together leading international researchers, developers, creators, educators, and practitioners in networked media, image processing, machine vision, computer graphics, virtual and augmented environments, and visual communications to share our latest achievements and explore future directions and synergies.

In 2008 the 5th VIE conference will focus on fostering closer links to China by both academia and industry. VIE 2008 is sure to provide the ideal forum for researchers, practitioners and educators in the VIE community to discuss results and advancements in a high quality, peer reviewed environment.

VIE 2008 will be held at Xi'an International Conference Centre in one of the most beautiful and historical cities of China. The scientific program will include presentations by invited internationally-renowned plenary speakers, special sessions, and tutorial and regular sessions with contributed research papers.

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- Application of visual information engineering
- Architectures
- Data hiding and watermarking
- Distributed camera networks for surveillance
- Distributed virtual reality
- Entertainment and gaming
- Graphics, visualisation, animation, rendering
- Image acquisition hardware
- Image and video analysis, segmentation
- Image and video-based model synthesis
- Medical imaging and healthcare
- Motion analysis and tracking for surveillance
- Multimedia database management
- Multimedia processing and semantic web
- Networked multimedia systems
- Scalable source and channel coding
- Semantic multimedia and applications
- Synthetic image generation and manipulation
- Visual information retrieval
- Visual media management

Paper Submission

Prospective authors are invited to submit papers using the on-line system at the conference website http://vie08.qmul.net/. Accepted papers will be published in the Conference Proceedings. Extended versions of VIE papers will be reviewed and considered for publication in Special Issues of the IET Image Processing, IET Computer Vision (formerly IEE Proceedings Vision, Image and Signal Processing) and the EURASIP journal on Image and Video Processing.

Important deadlines

- Submission of full papers: 17 March 2008
- Notification of acceptance: 30 April 2008
- Submission of camera-ready papers: 20 May 2008

Professor Ebroul Izquierdo
Queen Mary, University of London
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Dimitrios Makris joins the BMVA Executive Committee

Dr Dimitrios Makris, a senior lecturer in the Faculty of Computing, Information Systems and Mathematics, joined the Digital Imaging Research Centre (DIRC) at Kingston University, London in 2003. He received his first degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering from Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece in 1999 and his PhD in Computer Vision from City University, London in 2004.

Dr Dimitrios Makris (Kingston University)

His research interests are in the area of motion analysis, visual surveillance and pose recovery. He is currently investigator for three EPSRC and two KTP projects and the Workshop Organiser of the IEEE International Workshops on Visual Surveillance. Recently, he lectured at the EPSRC/BMVA Summer School in Computer Vision.

Dr Dimitrios Makris
Kingston University
email: d.makris@kingston.ac.uk

Xianghua Xie moves to Swansea

Dr Xianghua Xie (Jason) has recently moved from Bristol to Swansea. Following his earlier interests in image segmentation, texture analysis, active contours, and medical applications, he has now joined the Visual and Interactive Computing Group, Department of Computer Science, University of Wales Swansea as an RCUK Academic Fellow. The VIC group focuses mainly on computer graphics, particularly visualisation. Jason's new email address and web page are:

email: x.xie@swansea.ac.uk
http://www.cs.swan.ac.uk/~csjason

Dr Xianghua (Jason) Xie, with one of his oil paintings in the background.

Jason tells me that oil painting keeps him busy while he is not doing research. Judging from the picture below, I'd say he has developed an excellent line in stimulating enjoyment from recognition – not yet experienced by computers!

Professor Roy Davies
Editor, BMVA News
email: e.r.davies@rhul.ac.uk

Sad Event

I am very sad to have to report that Dr Farzin Mokhtarian passed away a few days ago, just as BMVA News was being sent to press.

I am sure that his colleagues at the University of Surrey will wish to write a full obituary by the time of the next issue. Let me just say that Farzin was widely known throughout the Machine Vision community – not least through his recent authoritative volume on Curvature Scale Space. I'm sure you will all be with me in wishing his family and colleagues every sympathy.

Professor Roy Davies
Editor, BMVA News
email: e.r.davies@rhul.ac.uk

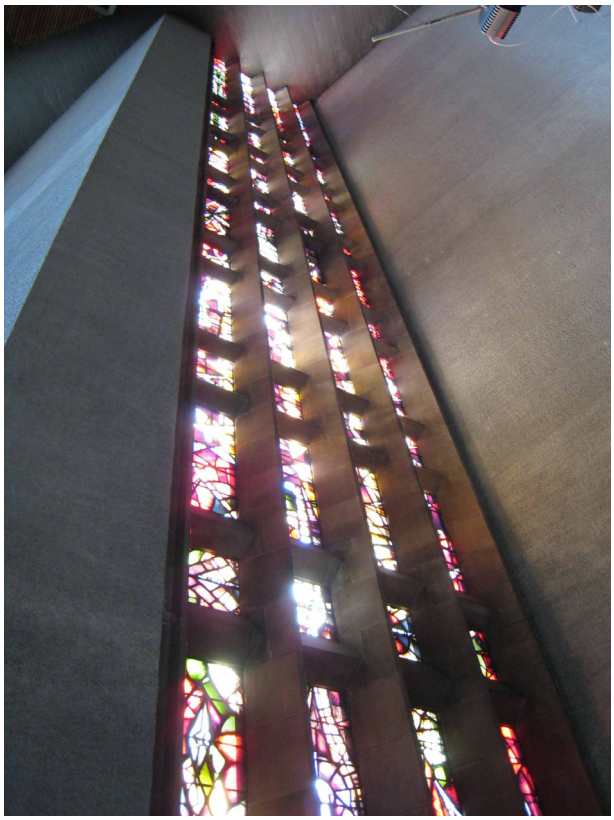
Book for Review

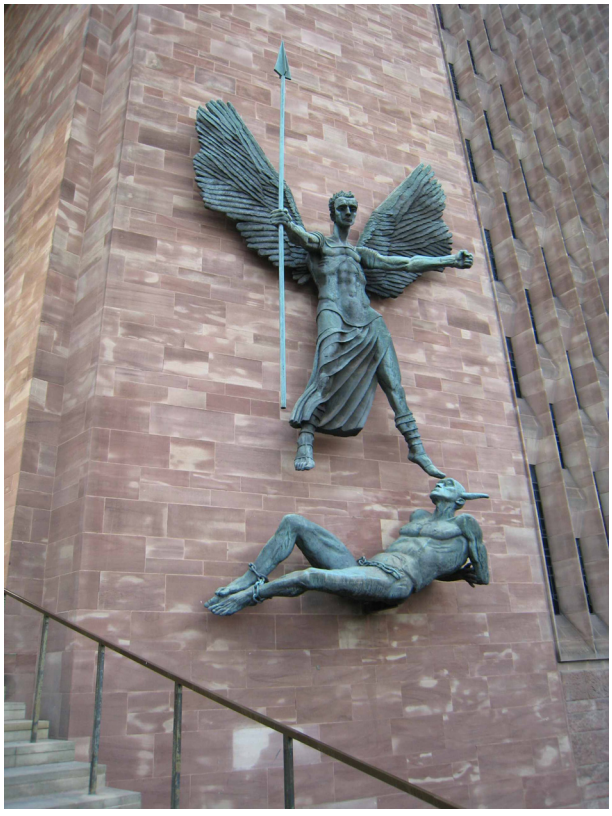
The following book is on offer for review. As always, it will be sent out on a first come–first served basis, so contact me immediately if you would like to review it. (If you are doubtful, go for the *quick view* option, and then return the book to me if you would rather not do the review.)

S. G. Hoggar. *Mathematics of Digital Images: Creation, Compression, Restoration, Recognition.* Cambridge University Press, 2006, ISBN-13: 9780521780292, ISBN-10: 0521780292, 860 pp.

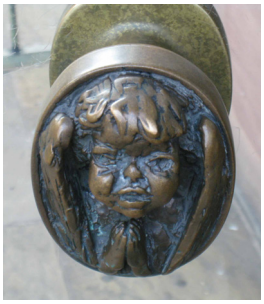
Professor Roy Davies
Editor, BMVA News
email: e.r.davies@rhul.ac.uk

Testament to Coventry Cathedral





Juxtaposition of the old and the new. Bottom right: Jacob Epstein's famous sculpture of Saint Michael defeating Satan.



'Ecce homo' (Jacob Epstein)

Notice (top) the crown of thorns, and Sutherland's tapestry (with the green surround): this is the largest tapestry in the world *made in one piece* and weighs over a ton. Note also two more sculptures by Epstein (in fact, the door handle is only one of many by Epstein throughout the cathedral). Any guesses who the saint might be?