

Preface

The present book includes extended and revised versions of a set of selected papers from the Third International Conference on Pattern Recognition Applications and Methods (ICPRAM 2014), held in Angers, France, during March 6–8, 2014. The conference was sponsored by the Institute for Systems and Technologies of Information, Control and Communication (INSTICC) in cooperation with the ACM Special Interest Group on Applied Computing (SIGAPP) and the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI). ICPRAM 2014 was also technically co-sponsored by the Portuguese Association for Pattern Recognition (APRP).

Since its creation, the purpose of the International Conference on Pattern Recognition Applications and Methods has been to become a major point of contact between researchers, engineers, and practitioners in the different areas of pattern recognition, to foster a productive debate from both theoretical and application perspectives. The privileged focus was on contributions describing up-to-date applications of pattern recognition techniques to real-world problems, interdisciplinary research, and experimental and/or theoretical studies yielding new insights that advance pattern recognition methods. The final ambition was to spur new research lines and provide the occasion to start novel collaborations, most of all in interdisciplinary research scenarios.

ICPRAM 2014 received 179 submissions, from 44 countries in all continents, of which 14 % were presented at the conference as full papers, and their authors were invited to submit extended versions of their papers for this book. In order to evaluate each submission, a double-blind paper review was performed by the Program Committee. Finally, only the 18 best papers were included in this book.

We would like to highlight that ICPRAM 2014 included four plenary keynote lectures, given by internationally distinguished researchers, namely: Harry Wechsler (George Mason University, USA), Josef Kittler (University of Surrey, UK), John Shawe-Taylor (University College London, UK), and Robert Zlot (CSIRO, Australia). We must acknowledge the invaluable contribution of all keynote speakers who, as renowned researchers in their areas, presented cutting-edge work and thus contributed toward enriching the scientific content of the conference.

We especially thank the authors, whose research and development efforts are recorded here. The knowledge and diligence of the reviewers were essential to ensure the quality of the papers presented at the conference and published in this book. Finally, a special thanks to all members of the INSTICC team, whose involvement was fundamental for organizing a smooth and successful conference.

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Ana Fred
Maria De Marsico
Antoine Tabbone



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