Conference Report

DICTA 2010—The 11th International Conference on Digital Image Computing: Techniques and Applications

1–3 December 2010, Sydney, Australia
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The 11th International Conference on Digital Image Computing: Techniques and Applications (DICTA) is the main Australian conference on machine vision, image processing and pattern recognition and was held on 1–3 December 2010 in Sydney, Australia. DICTA 2010 was organized by the Australian Pattern Recognition Society (APRS) and sponsored, among others, by IAPR and IEEE. The proceedings were published by IEEE; the editors are J. Zhang, C. Shen, G. Geers and Q. Wu.

The conference was organized as single track conference with multiple oral sessions and one poster session on each day. The content of the sessions was well-spread, ranging from "Low-level Image Processing" to "Statistical Pattern Recognition and Application" and even "Facial Expression and Face Recognition". The latter was a really interesting session in which the two talks by Simon Lucey were outstanding. Overall the quality of the presented work was good and justified the established ranking as good B-class conference.

Distributed across the 3 conference days were 5 interesting invited keynote talks which covered a wide range of interesting topics: "Towards global energy models for scene understanding" (Prof. P. Torr; Oxford Brookes University, UK), "Visual surveillance in crowded spaces" (Prof. S. Gong; Queen Mary College, University of London, UK), "Kernel methods for large data sets" (Prof. J. Kowk; University of Hong Kong, China), "Social Media—An Image Processing Perspective" (Prof. T. Sikora; TU Berlin, Germany) and "Computer aided detection in medical screening: Potential and current state of art" (Prof. N. Karssemeijer; Radboud University Medical Centre Nijmegen, Netherlands). All of these talks were quite interesting, but these two talks were particularly remarkable: the motivational talk by Thomas Sikora about how to bridge content and users for future social media applications and the technically interesting talk by Philip Torr about a uniformed framework for object recognition, 3D reconstruction and optical flow estimation.

On the 2nd day, the conference dinner took place on the S.S. South Steyne, the world's largest operational steam ferry located in the interesting Darling Harbour of Sydney, a rich area of local attractions such as, e.g., the National Maritime Museum and Sydney Aquarium. During the dinner, the best paper awards were handed over.

Altogether, DICTA 2010 was interesting and worthwhile, especially because the quality of the conference was surprisingly high when considering its relatively low degree of popularity in the German computer vision and pattern recognition community. Furthermore, I liked the good atmosphere as well as the flawless organization of the conference. In conclusion, I can recommend the DICTA as an interesting conference option; but be aware of the high travel costs and distance. The next DICTA will take place on 6–8 December 2011 in Noosa, Queensland, Australia (see http://archive.itee.uq.edu.au/~dicta2011/).