Independent Component Analyses, Wavelets, Unsupervised Nano-Biomimetic Sensors, and Neural Networks VI

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Editors

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Contents

vii  Conference Committee
ix  Introduction

SENSORS, BIOMETRICS, AND SECURITY

6979 02  Fixed analysis adaptive synthesis filter banks [6979-01]
C. A. Lettsome, Georgia Institute of Technology (USA); M. J. T. Smith, Purdue Univ. (USA);
R. M. Mersereau, Georgia Institute of Technology (USA)

6979 03  Texture based iris recognition system [6979-02]
H. Mehrotra, P. Gupta, Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (India); A. K. Kaushik, Ministry
of Communication and Information Technology (India)

6979 04  Sensor performance evaluation analysis of imitation fingerprint [6979-04]
K. Yu, H. Lee, Y. Bae, Korea Polytechnic Univ. (South Korea)

6979 05  A non-cooperative long-range biometric image tracking and recognition (BITAR) method
for maritime surveillance [6979-05]
X. Li, Intelligent Automation, Inc. (USA); G. Chen, DCM Research Resources, LLC (USA);
E. Blasch, Air Force Research Lab. (USA); H. H. Szu, T. McKenna, Office of Naval Research
(USA)

DIGITAL PROGRAMMABLE LOGIC

6979 06  FPGA design of MOMS-based sampling rate converters [6979-06]
U. Meyer-Bäse, Florida State Univ. (USA)

6979 07  DSP with FPGAs: a Xilinx/Simulink-based course and laboratory [6979-07]
U. Meyer-Bäse, Florida State Univ. (USA); A. Vera, Univ. of New Mexico (USA);
A. Meyer-Bäse, Florida State Univ. (USA); M. Pattichis, Univ. of New Mexico (USA); R. Perry,
Florida State Univ. (USA)

6979 08  Performance evaluation of a FPGA implementation of a digital rotation support vector
machine (Invited Paper) [6979-08]
H. Lamela, J. Gimeno, M. Jiménez, M. Ruiz, Univ. Carlos III de Madrid (Spain)

6979 09  An analogue circuit for sequential minimal optimization for support vector machines
(Invited Paper) [6979-09]
M. Jiménez, H. Lamela, J. Gimeno, Univ. Carlos III de Madrid (Spain)

APPLICATIONS IN MEDICINE

6979 0A  Robust stability analysis of the heat shock response in E. coli [6979-10]
A. Meyer-Bäse, R. van Engelen, S. Cappendijk, Florida State Univ. (USA)
West meets East: psychophysics studies for understanding mysterious Oriental health promoting practices [6979-11]
H.-W. Chen, Consultant (USA)

Gene regulatory networks simplified by nonlinear balanced truncation [6979-12]
A. Meyer-Bäse, Florida State Univ. (USA); F. Theis, Helmholtz Ctr. Munich (Germany)

Dependent component analysis applied to lesions' characterization in breast MRI [6979-13]
A. Meyer-Bäse, O. Lange, Florida State Univ. (USA); T. Schlossbauer, Ludwig-Maximilians-Univ. München (Germany); A. Wismueller, Univ. of Rochester (USA)

NANOSCIENCE AND NANOTECHNOLOGY

Nanotechnology for aerospace: potential transitions from university research (Invited Paper) [6979-14]
F. J. Agee, Rice Univ. (USA)

Plasmon-enhanced terahertz near-field microscopy for nanometer-scale sensing [6979-15]
D. Mittleman, V. Astley, H. Zhan, F. Hao, P. Nordlander, F. J. Agee, Rice Univ. (USA)

IP PROTECTION OF ELECTRONICS AND WIRELESS NETWORKS

HDL-level automated watermarking of IP cores [6979-16]
E. Castillo, Univ. of Granada (Spain); U. Meyer-Baese, Florida State Univ. (USA); L. Parrilla, A. Garcia, A. Lloris, Univ. of Granada (Spain)

Dynamic digital watermark technique based on neural network [6979-17]
T. Gu, X. Li, North China Institute of Science and Technology (China)

Fuzzy neighborhood filters for UWB range radios in multipath environments [6979-18]
K. C. Cheok, Oakland Univ. (USA); G. R. Hudis, J. L. Overholt, U.S. Army TACOM-TARDEC (USA)

NEURAL NETWORKS APPLIED

Classifiers utilized to enhance acoustic based sensors to identify round types of artillery/mortar [6979-20]
D. Grasing, S. Desai, A. Morcos, U.S. Army RDECOM (USA)

IMAGING APPLICATIONS

Using a genetic algorithm to find an optimized pulse coupled neural network solution [6979-21]
R. Edmondson, M. Rodgers, M. Banish, Polaris Sensor Technologies (USA)
Graph theoretic segmentation of airborne lidar data [6979-22]
L. Wang, John Chance Land Surveys, Inc. (USA) and Univ. of Louisiana at Lafayette (USA);
H. Chu, Univ. of Louisiana at Lafayette (USA)

Thresholding for higher-order statistical denoising [6979-23]
S. P. Kozaitis, T. Young, Florida Institute of Technology (USA)

The canonical minimised Adder graph representation [6979-24]
U. Meyer-Bäse, Florida State Univ. (USA); O. Gustafsson, Linköping Univ. (Sweden);
A. Dempster, Univ. of New South Wales (Australia)

Autonomous mental development with selective attention, object perception, and
knowledge representation (Invited Paper) [6979-27]
S.-W. Ban, Dongguk Univ. (South Korea); M. Lee, Kyungpook National Univ. (South Korea)

Spatiotemporal sharpening of sub-pixel super-resolution by means of two infrared
spectrum cameras for early cancer detection [6979-33]
C.-Y. Lee, H.-Y. Hsieh, S.-C. Lee, National Taiwan Univ. (Taiwan); C.-S. Huang, Y.-C. Chang,
National Taiwan Univ. Hospital (Taiwan); C.-M. Chen, H. Szu, National Taiwan Univ. (Taiwan)

2008 NANOENGINEERING AWARD

Micro- and nano-robotic technologies [6979-35]
T. Fukuda, M. Nakajima, P. Liu, Nagoya Univ. (Japan)

FAST PARALLEL PROCESSING USING GPU AND APPLICATIONS IN SPACE TIME ADAPTIVE
PROCESSING

Overview of DARPA MTO GPU program (Invited Paper) [6979-29]
D. Healy, MTO, DARPA (USA); D. Braunreiter, J. Furtek, H.-W. Chen, Science Applications
International Corp. (USA)

Overview of implementation of DARPA GPU program in SAIC (Invited Paper) [6979-30]
D. Braunreiter, J. Furtek, H.-W. Chen, Science Applications International Corp. (USA);
D. Healy, MTO, DARPA (USA)

Advanced image registration techniques and applications (Invited Paper) [6979-31]
H.-W. Chen, D. Braunreiter, Science Applications International Corp. (USA); D. Healy, MTO,
DARPA (USA)

Author Index
Conference Committee

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Introduction

The SPIE proceedings Volume 6979, *Independent Component Analyses Wavelets, Unsupervised Learning, Nano-Bio-mimetic Sensors, and Neural Networks VI*, has a special significance, representing a decade-long history of several new trans-disciplines merging together naturally. This synergy can help us design smart sensors for a safer and better home care system for an aging population of baby boomers.

Along with an Office of Naval Research (ONR) ad hoc think tank led by me, Veteran Affairs (VA) has explored ways to establish the degree of user-friendliness for the majority of healthy retirees in their second or third careers, in terms of four known principles: “noninvasive, noncontact, nontethered, and non-stop-to-measure,” in order to collect personalized biomedical data called “wellness baseline profiling (WBP).” These four known rules were derived from retired 60-year-old navy veterans who received routine clinical visits with an attached questionnaire. In a typical breakdown of 60-year-old seniors, 90% considered themselves healthy, while 10% considered themselves to be feeble and/or ill. The cohort statistics viewpoints are distinctly different between the 10% of seniors who are feeble or ill versus those who are healthy and often in a second career.

Thus, we are the basic group of “jack of all trades.” Applied researchers decided to involve, other than the traditional Wavelet Pioneer Award presented during the last 15 years and the Unsupervised Learning ICA Award for the last five years, a new category of Nanoengineering Award related to the nano-robot controlled by the computer-aided design (CAD), such as the automated nano-manipulator, which can produce a reliable productivity beyond 25%. Moreover, in 2007 we introduced another new category called the Biomedical Wellness (BMW) Engineering Award. The reason behind the incorporation of new award categories is that we must encourage the development of smart pair devices to save the exorbitant cost of health care for the aging population. Federal Reserve Chair Ben Bernanke has warned Congress that federal government fiscal budgets will not be sustainable when all the post-war baby boomers retire (78 million will cost 1/5~1/4 of the GDP in the U.S. alone). We need affordable and effective household devices for the daily sampling of wellness baseline profile to compile unsupervised learning of personnel diagnostic aids: A stitch in time saves nine.

The selection procedure for a qualified recipient is identical to the Wavelet Pioneer Award and the Unsupervised Learning ICA Award. Namely, the new winners of the Nanoengineering Award and the Biomedical Wellness (BMW) Engineer Award will automatically assume the position of next year’s chair of the selection committee for the following year’s award recipients, and will also participate or replace the next retired committee member as the new member of the committee to select subsequent recipients. In other words, the
management of the conference shall not be involved in the selection process of awardees, but rather will facilitate the information for the new award recipients who are responsible for giving an extended presentation at the conference, submitting a manuscript for publication in the conference proceedings, organizing/chairing an hour-long panel discussion and a special session, and teaching a short course.

This procedure of separating the honor from the management has maintained the credibility of these awards over the years, and we are sure this will work for these two new awards. This useful education process will ensure that all in attendance can fully benefit from his or her presence at the conference and record in the proceedings and tutorial notes. Also, the money gained from teaching the course can sustain and financially support his or her travel and lodging expenditure. Such a quality assurance will be extended to the Nano-Engineering Award and Biomedical Wellness (BMW) Award in 2008.

We look forward to your advice and active participation. We are planning a new “System Biology Award” category; we believe system biology is a new trend of computational intelligence approach to biology, covering nine orders of magnitude: from DNA (SNP) to cells; from molecular signaling to organ; to the wellness physiology. If you would like to contribute to such a specific talk, chair a session, or recommend old or new speakers including yourself, please write the conference management.

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