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**Pak Chung Wong
David L. Kao
Ming C. Hao
Chaomei Chen**
Editors

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Contents

vii	Conference Committee
ix	Introduction

HIGH DIMENSIONAL AND MULTI-FOCUS VISUALIZATION

- 8654 02 **An interactive visual testbed system for dimension reduction and clustering of large-scale high-dimensional data** [8654-1]
J. Choo, H. Lee, Z. Liu, J. Stasko, H. Park, Georgia Institute of Technology (United States)
- 8654 03 **Multi-focus and multi-level techniques for visualization and analysis of networks with thematic data** [8654-2]
M. Cossalter, O. J. Mengshoel, T. Selker, Carnegie Mellon Silicon Valley (United States)

MULTIVARIATE TIME SERIES

- 8654 04 **Visual analytics of cyber physical data streams using spatio-temporal radial pixel visualization** [8654-3]
M. Hao, M. Marwah, Hewlett-Packard Labs. (United States); S. Mittelstaedt, H. Janetzko, D. Keim, Univ. Konstanz (Germany); U. Dayal, C. Bash, C. Felix, C. Patel, M. Hsu, Y. Chen, Hewlett-Packard Labs. (United States); M. Hund, Univ. Konstanz (Germany)
- 8654 05 **Exploring large scale time-series data using nested timelines** [8654-4]
Z. Xie, Oracle America Inc. (United States); M. O. Ward, E. A. Rundensteiner, Worcester Polytechnic Institute (United States)

FLOW AND VOLUME VISUALIZATION

- 8654 06 **Visibility-difference entropy for automatic transfer function generation (Best Student Paper)** [8654-5]
P. Schlegel, R. Pajarola, Univ. of Zürich (Switzerland)
- 8654 07 **Coherent view-dependent streamline selection for importance-driven flow visualization** [8654-6]
J. Ma, C. Wang, C.-K. Shene, Michigan Technological Univ. (United States)
- 8654 08 **Single-pass GPU-raycasting for structured adaptive mesh refinement data** [8654-7]
R. Kaehler, T. Abel, SLAC National Accelerator Lab. (United States)

HIGH PERFORMANCE COMPUTING

- 8654 09 **Multi-user smartphone-based interaction with large high-resolution displays** [8654-8]
L. Nguyen, J. P. Schulze, Univ. of California, San Diego (United States)
- 8654 0A **Stereo frame decomposition for error-constrained remote visualization** [8654-9]
S. Martin, H.-W. Shen, The Ohio State Univ. (United States)

KEYNOTE SESSION I

- 8654 0B **Why high performance visual data analytics is both relevant and difficult (Keynote Presentation)** [8654-10]
E. W. Bethel, P. Prabhat, S. Byna, O. Rübel, K. J. Wu, M. Wehner, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab. (United States)

BIOMEDICAL VISUALIZATION

- 8654 0C **Three-dimensional volume analysis of vasculature in engineered tissues (Best Student Paper)** [8654-11]
M. YousefHussien, Rochester Institute of Technology (United States); K. Garvin, D. Dalecki, Univ. of Rochester (United States); E. Saber, M. Helguera, Rochester Institute of Technology (United States)
- 8654 0D **3D surface reconstruction and visualization of the *Drosophila* wing imaginal disc at cellular resolution** [8654-12]
L. Bai, Drexel Univ. (United States); T. Widmann, Centro de Genómica e Investigación Oncológica (Spain); F. Jülicher, Max-Planck-Institut für Physik komplexer Systeme (Germany); C. Dahmann, Dresden Univ. of Technology (Germany); D. Breen, Drexel Univ. (United States)

HUMAN FACTORS

- 8654 0E **Visual exploration and analysis of human-robot interaction rules** [8654-13]
H. Zhang, M. J. Boyles, Indiana Univ. (United States)
- 8654 0F **Emotion scents: a method of representing user emotions on GUI widgets** [8654-14]
D. Cernea, Technische Univ. Kaiserslautern (Germany) and Linnaeus Univ. (Sweden); C. Weber, A. Ebert, Technische Univ. Kaiserslautern (Germany); A. Kerren, Linnaeus Univ. (Sweden)

EXPLORATORY DATA ANALYSIS

- 8654 0G **Visual analysis of situationally aware building evacuations (Best Student Paper)** [8654-15]
J. Guest, T. Eaglin, K. Subramanian, W. Ribarsky, The Univ. of North Carolina at Charlotte (United States)

- 8654 OH **Improving projection-based data analysis by feature space transformations** [8654-16]
M. Schaefer, L. Zhang, T. Schreck, A. Tatu, Univ. Konstanz (Germany); J. A. Lee,
M. Verleysen, Univ. Catholique de Louvain (Belgium); D. A. Keim, Univ. Konstanz (Germany)
- 8654 OI **Does interactive animation control improve exploratory data analysis of animated trend visualization?** [8654-17]
F. A. Abukhodair, Simon Fraser Univ. (Canada) and King Abdulaziz Univ. (Saudi Arabia);
B. E. Riecke, H. I. Erhan, C. D. Shaw, Simon Fraser Univ. (Canada)

DATA ANALYSIS TECHNIQUES

- 8654 OK **iMap: a stable layout for navigating large image collections with embedded search (Best Paper)** [8654-19]
C. Wang, J. P. Reese, H. Zhang, J. Tao, R. J. Nemiroff, Michigan Technological Univ. (United States)
- 8654 OL **uVis Studio: an integrated development environment for visualization** [8654-21]
K. Pantazos, M. A. Kuhail, S. Lauesen, S. Xu, The IT Univ. of Copenhagen (Denmark)

INTERACTIVE TECHNIQUES

- 8654 OM **Interactive visual comparison of multimedia data through type-specific views** [8654-22]
R. Burtner, S. Bohn, D. Payne, Pacific Northwest National Lab. (United States)
- 8654 ON **Evaluating multivariate visualizations on time-varying data** [8654-23]
M. A. Livingston, J. W. Decker, Z. Ai, U.S. Naval Research Lab. (United States)
- 8654 OO **Multi-focus and multi-window techniques for interactive network exploration (Best Student Paper)** [8654-24]
P. K. Sundararajan, O. J. Mengshoel, T. Selker, Carnegie Mellon Silicon Valley (United States)

INTERACTIVE PAPER SESSION

- 8654 OP **Effective color combinations in isosurface visualization** [8654-25]
S. Einakian, T. S. Newman, The Univ. of Alabama in Huntsville (United States)
- 8654 OQ **Web tools for rapid experimental visualization prototyping** [8654-26]
J. W. Decker, M. A. Livingston, U.S. Naval Research Lab. (United States)
- 8654 OR **Time-based user-movement pattern analysis from location-based social network data** [8654-27]
H. L. Chuan, I. Kulkumjon, S. Dangi, Carnegie Mellon Silicon Valley (United States)
- 8654 OS **Visualizing vascular structures in virtual environments** [8654-28]
T. Wischgoll, Wright State Univ. (United States)

- 8654 OT **A combined multidimensional scaling and hierarchical clustering view for the exploratory analysis of multidimensional data** [8654-29]
P. Craig, Univ. Tecnológica de la Mixteca (Mexico); N. Roa-Seiler, Univ. Tecnológica de la Mixteca (Mexico) and Napier Univ. (United Kingdom)
- 8654 OU **Visualization of decision processes using a cognitive architecture** [8654-30]
M. A. Livingston, A. Murugesan, D. Brock, W. K. Frost, D. Perzanowski, U.S. Naval Research Lab. (United States)
- 8654 OV **Vortex core timelines and ribbon summarizations: flow summarization over time and simulation ensembles** [8654-31]
A. Y. L. Chan, J. Lee, R. M. Taylor II, The Univ. of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (United States)
- 8654 OW **X3DBio2: A visual analysis tool for biomolecular structure comparison** [8654-32]
H. Yi, S. Thakur, Renaissance Computing Institute (United States); L. Sethaphong, Y. G. Yingling, North Carolina State Univ. (United States)
- 8654 OX **Improvement of web-based data acquisition and management system for GOSAT validation lidar data analysis** [8654-33]
H. Okumura, S. Takubo, T. Kawasaki, I. N. Abdullah, Saga Univ. (Japan); O. Uchino, I. Morino, T. Yokota, National Institute for Environmental Studies (Japan); T. Nagai, T. Sakai, T. Maki, Meteorological Research Institute (Japan); K. Arai, Saga Univ. (Japan)
- 8654 OY **Optimizing threshold for extreme scale analysis** [8654-35]
R. Maynard, Kitware, Inc. (United States); K. Moreland, Sandia National Labs. (United States); U. Atiyachit, B. Geveci, Kitware, Inc. (United States); K.-L. Ma, Univ. of California, Davis (United States)
- 8654 OZ **Perceptualization of geometry using intelligent haptic and visual sensing** [8654-36]
J. Weng, Zhejiang Univ. of Media and Communications (China); H. Zhang, Indiana Univ. (United States)
- 8654 IO **Review of chart recognition in document images** [8654-37]
Y. Liu, Peking Univ. (China), Peking Univ. Founder Group Co., Ltd. (China), and Zhongguancun Haidian Science Park (China); X. Lu, Y. Qin, Z. Tang, Peking Univ. (China); J. Xu, Peking Univ. Founder Group Co., Ltd. (China)

Author Index

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Introduction

Celebrating 20 Years of Community Participation at SPIE Conference on Visualization and Data Analysis 2013

Welcome to the SPIE Conference on Visualization and Data Analysis (VDA) 2013. This year we proudly celebrate the 20th anniversary of the VDA conference that supports the international community of visualization and data analysis. VDA 2013 will be held in the city of Burlingame near San Francisco, CA on February 4-6, 2013.

VDA 2013 is organized by a team of chairs (Pak Chung Wong, David Kao, Ming Hao, and Chaomei Chen) and co-chairs (Mark Livingston, Christopher Healey, Thomas Wischgoll, and Ian Roberts). David Kao and Ming Hao also serve as the paper chairs and Chaomei Chen as the best paper chair. Ian Roberts designs and maintains the VDA conference website at <http://vda-conference.org>. The entire conference committee supports all aspects of conference organizing activities including paper review, publicity and sponsorship development, and keynote speaker invitation.

This year, the conference received 36 high-quality manuscript submissions from the visualization and data analysis community from around the world. Each submission received at least three peer reviews. The two paper chairs examined the reviewers' comments and selected 21 manuscripts as full papers for conference presentation. The best paper chair independently selected five best conference papers from the accepted full papers. Authors of the best papers are invited to extend their VDA manuscripts for potential publication in *Information Visualization (IVI)* in 2013. Lead student authors of the best papers will also receive a modest monetary award from the VDA conference. The best papers at VDA 2013 are:

1. [8654-5] Visibility-difference entropy for automatic transfer function generation – Student Paper
2. [8654-11] Three-dimensional volume analysis of vasculature in engineered tissues – Student Paper
3. [8654-15] Visual analysis of situationally aware building evacuations – Student Paper
4. [8654-19] iMap: a stable layout for navigating large image collections with embedded search – Paper
5. [8654-24] Multi-focus and multi-level techniques for interactive network exploration – Student Paper

The conference also accepted 12 poster papers for interactive presentation on Wednesday during the conference week.

Two renowned visualization and data analysis researchers will deliver their keynotes addresses at VDA 2013. Dr. Wes Bethel of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory will present on Monday, and Dr. Meichun Hsu of HP Labs will present on Tuesday. Their presentations will cover both the scientific and information aspects of visualization and data analysis areas.

VDA 2013 has received corporate sponsorships from (in alphabetical order) HP Labs, Kitware, SPIE, and VA Community. Their financial support allows the conference to maintain the conference website, offer four best student paper awards in 2013, and host the annual dinner party for all paper authors, presenters, and conference organizers on Monday evening during the conference week. We gratefully appreciate the continued support of the VDA conference sponsors.

We thank the paper and poster authors, program committee members, and paper reviewers, who continue to support the VDA conference. We also thank the staff at SPIE, who patiently and effectively supports VDA throughout the year. We encourage all VDA participants to share their conference improvement ideas and thoughts with the conference chairs. Finally, on behalf of the entire conference organizing committee, we look forward to serving the VDA community and the SPIE society for another 20 years.

Pak Chung Wong
David L. Kao
Ming C. Hao
Chaomei Chen