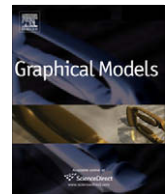


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Preface

SMI 2008 Special Issue

Started in 1997 as a bi-annual event by Professor Tosiya Kunii and his colleagues in Japan, the International Conference on Shape Modeling and Applications is now run as an annual event alternating among Asia, Europe, and America. SMI conferences address all aspects of shape acquisition, processing, retrieval, and understanding and provide a forum for the dissemination of new computational techniques for modeling and processing digital representations of shapes and their properties to a community of experts across a wide range of areas in academia and industry.

The IEEE International Conference on Shape Modeling and Applications 2008 (Shape Modeling International 2008 or SMI '08) was organized by Prof. Hong Qin at the Stony Brook University (Stony Brook, New York, USA) June 4–6, 2008. In response to the call for papers, 52 papers were submitted. After a thorough review process, 24 full papers were selected. In addition, 10 short papers have been carefully selected among the submitted short and full papers for poster presentations.

This special issue collects five papers that were selected by a pool of members of the SMI '08 International Programme Committee and who were invited to submit an extended and revised version of their contribution to the *Graphical Models* journal. The five papers are a good example of the variety of topics featured by SMI '08, from applied results on the performance of 3D laser scanners to the extraction of skeletal structures, from issues related to aligning and matching 3D shapes to the use of reasoning for an easy selections of patterns of 3D objects.

We thank the members of the paper selection committee and all the reviewers of the revised paper contributions.

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