

“PIA11 - Photogrammetric Image Analysis“, October 5 - 7, 2011 in Munich, Germany

This joint workshop of the ISPRS working groups I/2, III/1, III/4, and III/5 took place on 5 -7 October 2011 at the Technical University Munich (*TUM*). The local organization was carried out by the Department of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, headed by Uwe Stilla, the chairman of ISPRS working group WGIII/5.

The topics of the conference were in accordance with the terms of reference of the ISPRS working groups involved in the workshop, namely “*LiDAR, SAR and Optical Sensors*“ (WG I/2), “*Pose Estimation and Surface Reconstruction*“ (WG III/1), “*Complex Scene Analysis and 3D Reconstruction*“ (WG III/4), and “*Image Sequence Analysis*“ (WG III/5). The scientific focus was on methodology for the automatic extraction of topographic objects from various data sources. The combination of working groups from ISPRS Commissions I and III resulted in contributions ranging from sensor-related issues to aspects of automated data processing. PIA11 did not only focus on scientists from universities or other research institutions, but also tried to attract participants from industry and governmental institutions, thus providing an ideal platform for the discussion of the latest developments and future trends. The conference organisers were Uwe Stilla (Technical University Munich), Franz Rottensteiner (Leibniz University Hannover), Helmut Mayer (University of the Armed Forces, Munich), Boris Jutzi (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology), and Matthias Butenuth (Technical University Munich).

In the call for papers, prospective authors were encouraged to submit full papers for a double-blind peer review process. Altogether 54 full papers coming from authors of 18 different countries were submitted to the conference. On average, each paper was reviewed by three of the 29 members of the technical committee. Thirty of the submitted papers were accepted after the review process, which corresponds to an acceptance rate of 56%. Twenty-five of the accepted papers were published in printed form in the renowned Springer series “*Lecture Notes in Computer Science (LNCS)*“, whereas the five remaining contributions appeared on CD-ROM in the first part of *International Archives of the Photogrammetry, Remote Sensing and Spatial Information Science (IAPRSSIS)* Vol. 38, Part 3/W22, which also contains the abstracts of the remaining papers accepted based on full papers. In addition, authors who intended to present application-oriented work particularly suitable for interactive presentation were invited to submit extended abstracts. The second part of *IAPRSSIS* Vol. 38, Part 3/W22 contains 24 of these papers. In the selection process for the interactive track of PIA, papers that were rejected in the full-paper peer-review process were also considered.

Both the book and the CD-ROM containing the proceedings were available to conference participants at the beginning of the conference. The proceedings can be accessed via the ISPRS web site, but also via the conference web site (http://www.pf.bv.tum.de/isprs/pia11/pia11_pro.html). The conference program consisted of seven oral sessions, *Orientation, Matching, Object Detection, 3D Reconstruction and DEM, Classification, People and Tracking*, and *Image Processing and Visualization*, with altogether 28 oral presentations, and one poster session with 27 contributions. In addition, there were two invited keynotes that were very inspiring for the audience. Daniel Cremers presented methods for convex optimisation and their applications in Computer vision, whereas Horst Bischof discussed approaches for the fully-automatic acquisition of city models.



Uwe Stilla at the welcome session.

PIA11 was attended by 130 participants. Following the tradition of previous PIA events, there were no parallel sessions, and the schedule of the oral presentations left sufficient time for discussion. A special highlight of PIA11 was the poster session directly under the roof of the Technical University, from where the participants had an excellent view of the city of Munich. The poster session gradually evolved into the *ice breaker* party, featuring an excellent buffet and allowing for continuing discussions at the posters. On the second evening of PIA11, the participants could enjoy a uniquely Bavarian experience during the conference dinner at the world-famous Hofbräuhaus of Munich.



Ice Breaker Party



Conference dinner at the Hofbräuhaus

In the closing session of PIA11, awards for the best oral paper and for the best poster presentation were distributed. The award for the best oral presentation was given to Falco Schindler for his paper, “*Fast Marching for Robust Surface Segmentation*“. The best poster award was given to Phillip Meixner for his presentation of the paper, „*Interpretation of 2D and 3D Building Details on Facades and Roofs*“.



Falco Schindler and Phillip Meixner together with the chairs and co-chairs of PIA11

The conference was organized in an excellent way by Uwe Stilla’s team, consisting of F. Burkert, K. Eder, C. Elmauer, L. Hoegner, D. Iwaszczuk, M. Schmitt, S. Tuttas, and others. This is true for the preparation of the conference including the timely notifications and the preparation of the proceedings, but also for the organization of the technical program and, last but not least, for the social events. The presentations were on a very high level, and there was sufficient room for interesting discussions and networking. PIA11 ended on another specifically Bavarian note: the farewell-snack consisted of Bavarian white sausages, pretzels, and beer. Having experienced the successful events of 1999, 2003, 2007, and 2011, one can only look forward to future events in Munich.

Boris Jutzi and Franz Rottensteiner