

REPORT OF ITALIAN ACTIVITIES FOR ISPRS COMMISSION III

Gianfranco Forlani
Politecnico di Milano
DIAR - Sezione di Rilevamento
Piazza Leonardo da Vinci 32
20133 Milano - ITALY

Commission VI

ABSTRACT:

Italian contributions to research on subjects covered by ISPRS Commission III have been provided both by traditional photogrammetrists and relative newcomers, like experts in electronics and computer vision. The research group of photogrammetrists most involved in Commission III activities is that of the Politecnico di Milano.

1. INTRODUCTION

This paper tries to give an overview of Italian activities in the period 1988-1992 for the field covered by ISPRS Commission III. At the end of the article, a list is given of publications, prepared at Italian research establishments, for the mentioned field and mentioned time period. In order to restrict the list to publications of possible interest to the international community, papers written in Italian are excluded.

The preparation of this report is a difficult task, because the number of active research groups is very large. They are mostly small and scattered along different departments and institutes of different research establishments. Besides, a significant number papers are published outside the traditional photogrammetric information channels. The list can therefore only be indicative.

2. RESEARCH OF TRADITIONAL PHOTOGRAMMETRISTS

The traditional photogrammetric experts are organized in the SIFET, the Italian national organisation for photogrammetry and surveying (Società Italiana di Fotogrammetria e Topografia). Its task is to give a contribution to the study of and research in photogrammetry and surveying. It resides at the same address as the author. The SIFET publishes a trimestral bulletin with papers of national interest written in Italian and organises an annual congress. The most active members of the SIFET are the Institutes for Surveying and Photogrammetry of the various Universities. However, the majority of efforts are directed towards application based activities. In the period of 1988 - 1992 areas of special interest were support of GPS to photogrammetry, digital image processing for industrial and architectural photogrammetry and creation of a GIS by digitizing maps.

Unfortunately research in the field covered by Commission III is limited. Traditionally, the research group most interested in Commission III activities is that of the Politecnico di Milano; with this group collaborate a number of researchers in other establishments. In addition to traditional fields like block adjustments and surface reconstruction new topics were studied, like aerotriangulation with SPOT imagery and automated DEM production from digital images. At the moment, research on digital image processing algorithms is shifting from small scale SPOT imagery to the larger scale imagery of close range photogrammetry. Topics of interest and of probable future research are the combination of aerotriangulation and aircraft trajectory reconstruction with GPS data, and GIS data structures.

Besides the SIFET, a second organisation in the field is the AIT (Associazione Italiana del Telerilevamento), which is active in the field of remote sensing (Commission VII).

3. RESEARCH OF OTHERS

With the traditional photogrammetric experts involved primarily with direct applications, the sector of data analysis and mathematical modelling is to some extent neglected. This provides an opportunity for newcomers like experts in electronics and computer vision. In fact, from these fields, significant contributions have been made. Areas of special interest were processing of satellite imagery and computer vision.

4. CONGRESSES

At Centre for International Mechanic Studies in Udine, each year an advanced school is held with renowned international speakers on topics regarding surveying and photogrammetry. The topics in the year between 1988 and

1992 were respectively deformation analysis, digital photogrammetry, geodetic and photogrammetric applications of the Global Positioning System (GPS) and geographic information systems (GIS).

Two of the four tutorials of the ISPRS intercommission III/VI working group Mathematical aspects of data analysis were held in Italy. The first tutorial was held in 1989 in Pisa on occasion of the 25th anniversary of the death of prof. Gino Cassinis, the third in 1991 in Milan on occasion of the 70th anniversary of prof. Mariano Cuniatti. The first has been the president of ISPRS Commission III in the period 1956-1960, the second has been the secretary of the same Commission for the mentioned period.

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