

Three-Dimensional Imaging Metrology

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Editors

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Contents

vii	<i>Conference Committee</i>
ix	<i>Introduction</i>

SESSION 1 THEORY AND NEW METHODS FOR 3D SURFACE SENSING I

- 7239 02 **Basic theory on surface measurement uncertainty of 3D imaging systems** [7239-01]
J. A. Beraldin, National Research Council Canada (Canada)
- 7239 03 **Design and implementation of an inexpensive LIDAR scanning system with applications in archaeology** [7239-02]
A. Willis, Y. Sui, The Univ. of North Carolina at Charlotte (United States); W. Ringle, Davidson College (United States); K. Galor, Brown Univ. (United States)

SESSION 2 THEORY AND NEW METHODS FOR 3D SURFACE SENSING II

- 7239 04 **Characterization of modulated time-of-flight range image sensors (Invited Paper)** [7239-04]
A. D. Payne, A. A. Dorrington, M. J. Cree, The Univ. of Waikato (New Zealand);
D. A. Carnegie, Victoria Univ. of Wellington (New Zealand)
- 7239 05 **Range imager performance comparison in homodyne and heterodyne operating modes** [7239-05]
R. M. Conroy, A. A. Dorrington, R. Künnemeyer, M. J. Cree, The Univ. of Waikato (New Zealand)
- 7239 06 **Three-dimensional shape measurement of aspheric refractive optics by pattern transmission photogrammetry** [7239-06]
M. Petz, M. Fischer, R. Tutsch, Institut für Produktionsmesstechnik (Germany)
- 7239 07 **A 3D imaging system for inspection of large underwater hydroelectric structures** [7239-07]
F. Mirallès, J. Beaudry, M. Blain, Hydro-Quebec (Canada); R. M. De Santis, Ecole Polytechnique de Montréal (Canada); R. Houde, Hydro-Quebec (Canada); R. Hurteau, Ecole Polytechnique de Montréal (Canada); S. Sarrailon, Hydro-Quebec (Canada)
- 7239 08 **Subtraction stereo: a stereo camera system that focuses on moving regions** [7239-33]
K. Umeda, Y. Hashimoto, T. Nakanishi, K. Irie, K. Terabayashi, Chuo Univ., CREST, JST (Japan)

SESSION 3 MEASUREMENT STANDARDS AND CALIBRATION

- 7239 09 **Target penetration of laser-based 3D imaging systems** [7239-08]
G. S. Cheok, K. S. Saidi, M. Franaszek, National Institute of Standards and Technology (United States)

- 7239 0A **Surface-dependent 3D range camera self-calibration** [7239-09]
D. D. Lichti, Univ. of Calgary (Canada); D. Rouzaud, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (Switzerland)
- 7239 0C **Phase coding and absolute calibration for a low-cost fringe projection system** [7239-11]
G. Sansoni, M. Trebeschi, Univ. of Brescia (Italy)
- 7239 0D **Range camera calibration based on image sequences and dense comprehensive error statistics** [7239-12]
W. Karel, N. Pfeifer, Vienna Univ. of Technology (Austria)

SESSION 4 COORDINATE METROLOGY

- 7239 0E **Dimensional measurement traceability of 3D imaging data (Invited Paper)** [7239-13]
S. Phillips, National Institute of Standards and Technology (United States); M. Krystek, Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (Germany); C. Shakarji, National Institute of Standards and Technology (United States); K. Summerhays, MetroSage LLC (United States)
- 7239 0F **An industrial comparison of coordinate measuring systems equipped with optical sensors: the VideoAUDIT Project** [7239-15]
S. Carmignato, A. Voltan, Univ. of Padova (Italy)
- 7239 0G **Traceable optical coordinate metrology applications for the micro range** [7239-16]
W. Ehrig, U. Neuschaefer-Rube, M. Neugebauer, R. Meeß, Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (Germany)
- 7239 0H **Tactile-optical 3D sensor applying image processing** [7239-17]
U. Neuschaefer-Rube, M. Wissmann, Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (Germany)
- 7239 0I **Experimental study on performance verification tests for coordinate measuring systems with optical distance sensors** [7239-18]
S. Carmignato, Univ. of Padova (Italy)

SESSION 5 APPLICATIONS

- 7239 0J **Stereo optical tracker for standoff monitoring of position and orientation (Invited Paper)** [7239-19]
W. D. Sherman, T. L. Houk, J. M. Saint Clair, P. F. Sjöholm, M. D. Voth, The Boeing Co. (United States)
- 7239 0K **Scan image registration in industrial inspection of propeller blades** [7239-20]
D. W. Allen, J. J. Reiser, J. D. Machin, Propulsor Technology, Inc. (United States);
C. J. Madden, Naval Surface Warfare Ctr. (United States)
- 7239 0L **Using 3D range cameras for crime scene documentation and legal medicine** [7239-21]
G. Cavagnini, G. Sansoni, M. Trebeschi, Univ. of Brescia (Italy)

SESSION 6 ARTIFACT-BASED CHARACTERIZATION

- 7239 ON **Characterization of three algorithms for detecting surface flatness defects from dense point clouds** [7239-23]
P. Tang, B. Akinci, D. Huber, Carnegie Mellon Univ. (United States)
- 7239 OO **Resolution characteritazion of 3D cameras** [7239-24]
G. Guidi, M. Russo, G. Magrassi, M. Bordegoni, Politecnico of Milan (Italy)
- 7239 OP **Evaluating laser range scanner lateral resolution in 3D metrology** [7239-25]
D. MacKinnon, J. A. Beraldin, L. Cournoyer, F. Blais, National Research Council of Canada (Canada)

SESSION 7 MEASUREMENT UNCERTAINTY

- 7239 OQ **Unified computation of strict maximum likelihood for geometric fitting** [7239-26]
K. Kanatani, Okayama Univ. (Japan)
- 7239 OR **Ways to verify performance of 3D imaging instruments** [7239-27]
R. E. Bridges, FARO Technologies, Inc. (United States)
- 7239 OS **Proposed procedure for a distance protocol in support of ASTM-E57 standards activities on 3D imaging** [7239-28]
J. A. Beraldin, L. Cournoyer, M. Picard, F. Blais, National Research Council Canada (Canada)
- 7239 OT **A 3-D anisotropic diffusion filter for speckle reduction in 3-D ultrasound images** [7239-30]
J. Tang, Q. Sun, Alcorn State Univ. (United States)

INTERACTIVE PAPER SESSION

- 7239 OU **Three-dimensional reconstruction from multiple reflected views within a realist painting: an application to Scott Fraser's "Three way vanitas"** [7239-31]
B. M. Smith, Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison (United States); D. G. Stork, Ricoh Innovations, Inc. (United States) and Stanford Univ. (United States); L. Zhang, Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison (United States)
- 7239 OV **Three dimensional map construction using a scanning laser range finder** [7239-32]
Y.-Z. Chang, Chang Gung Univ. (Taiwan); S.-T. Lee, Chang Gung Memorial Hospital (Taiwan)
- 7239 OX **System for conveyor belt part picking using structured light and 3D pose estimation** [7239-35]
J. Thielemann, Ø. Skotheim, J. O. Nygaard, SINTEF ICT (Norway); T. Vollset, Tordivel AS (Norway)
- 7239 OY **3D imaging acquisition, modeling, and prototyping for facial defects reconstruction** [7239-36]
G. Sansoni, M. Trebeschi, G. Cavagnini, G. Gastaldi, Univ. of Brescia (Italy)

7239 0Z

Estimating angle-dependent systematic error and measurement uncertainty for a conoscopic holography measurement system [7239-14]

A. Paviotti, S. Carmignato, A. Voltan, N. Laurenti, G. M. Cortelazzo, Univ. of Padova (Italy)

Author Index

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- 1 Theory and New Methods for 3D Surface Sensing I
Geraldine S. Cheok, National Institute of Standards and Technology
(United States)
- 2 Theory and New Methods for 3D Surface Sensing II
Derek D. Lichti, University of Calgary (Canada)
- 3 Measurement Standards and Calibration
J. Angelo Beraldin, National Research Council Canada (Canada)
- 4 Coordinate Metrology
David K. MacKinnon, National Research Council Canada (Canada)
- 5 Applications
Gabriele Guidi, Politecnico di Milano (Italy)
- 6 Artifact-based Characterization
Robert E. Bridges, FARO Technologies Inc. (United States)
- 7 Measurement Uncertainty
Ulrich Neuschaefer-Rube, Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt
(Germany)

Introduction

This is the first conference on 3D Imaging Metrology under the auspices of The Society for Imaging Science (IS&T) and SPIE. It provides a unique forum for researchers, developers, users and policy makers to present the latest advances in 3D imaging and modeling of existing objects and sites along with the most recent National Measurement Institutes (NMI) activities and work on standard definitions.

3D Imaging Metrology is one of 24 technical conferences that are featured at the joint annual symposium of IS&T and SPIE, known as IS&T/SPIE Electronic Imaging Science and Technology. The symposium covers all aspects of electronic imaging, from image sensing to display and hardcopy. The topics include sensors, digital photography, color hardcopy, human vision, image processing and compression, image quality, image security, and multimedia imaging systems. The sub-group of conferences in the 3D Imaging, Interaction and Measurement track, include Stereoscopic Displays and Applications, The Engineering Reality of Virtual Reality, and 3D Imaging Metrology.

3D Imaging Metrology is new in 2009 and was developed in response to the rapidly growing interest in 3D imaging technology. This technology provides high speed, non-contact dense 3D surface data. Three-dimensional imaging methods include coded-light projection systems, triangulation and time-of-flight systems for distances from a few centimeters to several kilometers. Three-dimensional imaging systems are now widely available, but standards, best practices and comparative data are limited. The need for standards is mainly driven by users and product developers who are concerned with: 1) the applicability of a given system to the task at hand (fit-for-purpose), 2) the ability to fairly compare across instruments, 3) instrument performance issues, and 4) costs savings through 3D imaging.

This conference focuses on two topics. The first topic is the performance of 3D imaging sensors and algorithms where the performance of a system is usually evaluated using quality parameters such as resolution, uncertainty, accuracy and complexity. Performance metrics provide a framework to assess and characterize the overall performance of a system and a way of reporting the assessment and characterization. The second topic focuses on the development of the much needed metrology artifacts and documented standards for 3D imaging systems. Applications and disciplines requiring 3D imaging metrology include 3D modeling (e.g., structures, human body), rapid product development, manufacturing, construction, forensics, medicine, and exploration of remote and hazardous sites, to name a few.

We invited submissions of original research contributions, state-of-art summaries, as well as demonstrations of successful and less successful applications in the following technical areas: performance evaluation of 3D sensing methods; sensor calibration; data processing; surface modeling; and, emerging and new standards for 3D imaging systems. The accepted papers were divided in the following categories: Theory and New Methods for 3D Surface Sensing, Measurement Uncertainty, Measurement Standards and Calibration, Coordinate Metrology, Artifact-based Characterization, and Applications.

The chairs and the scientific committee of 3D Imaging Metrology conference welcome and acknowledge the efforts of the authors, presenters and audience in contributing to the success of this meeting. We hope to have fostered a series of presentations and papers dedicated to this important topic.

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