

PREFACE

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The papers in this special book edition were rigorously selected from the 6th International Workshop on Frontiers in Handwriting Recognition (IWFHR'98), held in Taejon, Korea, in August 12–14, 1998. IWFHR has been one of the most prestigious technical meeting, bringing together a large number of scientists and engineers from all over the world to express their innovative ideas and reports on their latest achievements in the area of handwriting recognition.

It is worth mentioning that the papers were chosen for its original and substantial contributions to the workshop theme and for this special book edition. Among 64 papers that were presented by authors from 18 countries at the IWHFR'98 after critical reviews by at least three experts, we have carefully selected 57 papers for this special edition. For the purpose of publication, most of the contributions here have been expanded or extensively revised to include helpful discussions, suggestions or comments made at the workshop. The papers deal with a wide range of researches on handwriting recognition and handwritten document recognition such as design principles, theoretical analysis, implementation techniques, and experimental results.

According to the main topics of the handwriting recognition research, the contributed papers of this special book edition are organized into nine sections:

Part 1: The State of the Art in Handwriting Recognition

Part 2: One-line Handwriting Recognition

Part 3: Handwritten Form Processing

Part 4: Handwritten Word Recognition

Part 5: Segmentation

Part 6: Oriental Script Processing

Part 7: Numeral Recognition

Part 8: Emerging Techniques

Part 9: Applications

This book is primarily addressed to researchers involved in handwriting recognition and handwritten document recognition who wish to increase their knowledge and expertise of these topics. It furthermore aims at an audience of scientists who are working in the various disciplines represented in the sections of the book.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all the contributors and reviewers, without them this special edition would have not been possible for publication. The reviewers contributed generous amount of time in the review process. They include N. Bartneck (Siemens ElectroCom, Germany), H. Bunke (University of Bern, Switzerland), S.-I. Chien (Kyungpook National University, Korea), A. Downton (Univeristy of Essex, UK), J. Franke (Daimler-Benz Research Center, Germany), H. Fujisawa (Hitachi Central Research Laboratory, Japan), M. Gilloux (Service de Recherche Technique de la Poste, France), J. Hull (Ricoh California Research Center, USA), S. Impedovo (Universita di Bari, Italy), G. Kim (Sogang University, Korea), H. J. Kim (Kyungpook National University, Korea), J. Kim (Yonsei University, Korea), J. H. Kim (KAIST, Korea), S.-H. Kim (Cheonnam National University, Korea), H.-J. Lee (National Chiao Tung University, Taiwan), S.-W. Lee (Korea University, Korea), Y. Lee (Yonsei University, Korea), G. Leedham (Nanyang Technological University, Singapore), G. Lorette (IRISA, France), K. M. Mohiuddin (IBM Almaden Research Center, USA), S. Mori (University of Aizu, Japan), Y. Nakano (Shinshu University, Japan), H.-S. Park (Samsung Electronics, Korea), R. Plamondon (Ecole Polytechnique de Montreal, Canada), P. K. Rhee (Inha University, Korea), L. Schomaker (University of Nijmegen, the Netherlands), B.-K. Shin (Korea Telecom, Korea), S. N. Srihari (State University of New York at Buffalo, USA), J. Subrahmonia (IBM T. J. Watson Research Center, USA), C. Y. Suen (Concordia University, Canada), Y. Y. Tang (Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong), T. Wakahara (NTT, Japan), and K. Yamamoto (Gifu University, Japan).

Finally, I also would like to acknowledge all the authors and participants of the workshop who have facilitated the communication between investigators and created an insightful and stimulating environment. I also want to express my appreciation to Steven Patt, Editor of World Scientific Publishing Co. for his patience and help in guiding me through this publication. I hope that this book will further promote research in handwriting recognition and handwritten document recognition.