Contents

vii Authors
ix Conference Committee
xiii Introduction to Part A: Electro-Optical Remote Sensing

Part A Electro-Optical Remote Sensing

NEW DEVICES AND TECHNOLOGY

9250 03 Statistical analysis of dark count rate in Geiger-mode APD FPAs [9250-2]
9250 04 Design and performance analysis of multilayer nested grazing incidence optics [9250-3]
9250 05 Image reconstruction and optimization using a terahertz scanned imaging system [9250-4]
9250 06 Non-contact measurement of an object’s angular position by means of laser goniometer [9250-5]

LIDAR/LADAR SENSING I

9250 08 Range resolution improvement of phase coded lidar system utilizing detector characteristics for short codes acquisition [9250-10]
9250 09 Lidar on small UAV for 3D mapping [9250-7]
9250 0A Passive and active EO sensing close to the sea surface [9250-8]
9250 0B Synthetic aperture ladar concept for infrastructure monitoring (Invited Paper) [9250-9]

LIDAR/LADAR SENSING II

9250 0C 3DLASE-M: three-dimensional-LIDAR airborne system emulator -maritime (Invited Paper) [9250-11]
9250 0D Underwater laser imaging experiments in the Baltic Sea [9250-14]
9250 0E Processing of airborne lidar bathymetry data for detailed sea floor mapping [9250-13]
9250 0F 3D laser gated viewing from a moving submarine platform [9250-12]
9250 0G Low-cost commodity depth sensor comparison and accuracy analysis [9250-15]
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LIDAR/LADAR SENSING III</td>
<td>New fiber laser for lidar developments in disaster management (Invited Paper) [9250-16]</td>
<td>9250 0H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Automatic change detection using mobile laser scanning (Invited Paper) [9250-17]</td>
<td>9250 0I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Investigation of frame-to-frame back projection and feature selection algorithms for non-line-of-sight laser gated viewing [9250-18]</td>
<td>9250 0J</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PASSIVE SENSING AND PROCESSING I</td>
<td>Detection of people in military and security context imagery (Invited Paper) [9250-19]</td>
<td>9250 0K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Image quality of optical remote sensing data [9250-20]</td>
<td>9250 0L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Obtaining spectral information from infrared scenarios using hyper-spectral cameras and cameras with spinning filter wheel [9250-21]</td>
<td>9250 0M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Performance evaluation of image-based location recognition approaches based on large-scale UAV imagery [9250-22]</td>
<td>9250 0N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Geometric calibration of multi-sensor image fusion system with thermal infrared and low-light camera [9250-23]</td>
<td>9250 0O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PASSIVE SENSING AND PROCESSING II</td>
<td>Mobile device geo-localization and object visualization in sensor networks [9250-24]</td>
<td>9250 0P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POSTER SESSION</td>
<td>Remote screening and direct control of the bacterial infection of gardens [9250-28]</td>
<td>9250 0U</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Part B**

**Military Applications in Hyperspectral Imaging and High Spatial Resolution Sensing**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MILITARY APPLICATIONS IN HYPERSONTICAL IMAGING AND HIGH SPATIAL RESOLUTION SENSING I</td>
<td>Hyperspectral data collection for the assessment of target detection algorithms: the Viareggio 2013 trial [9250-31]</td>
<td>9250 0V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Combining spectral matching and anomalous change detection for target rediscovery in hyperspectral images [9250-32]</td>
<td>9250 0W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sun-glint false alarm mitigation in a maritime scenario [9250-33]</td>
<td>9250 0X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MILITARY APPLICATIONS IN HYPERSPECTRAL IMAGING AND HIGH SPATIAL RESOLUTION SENSING II

9250 0Z Extraction of incident irradiance from LWIR hyperspectral imagery [9250-35]

9250 11 Non-linear sampling for efficient implementation of the projection-slice synthetic discriminant function filter [9250-38]

MILITARY APPLICATIONS IN HYPERSPECTRAL IMAGING AND HIGH SPATIAL RESOLUTION SENSING III

9250 12 Automatic representation of urban terrain models for simulations on the example of VBS2 [9250-39]

9250 13 Underwater monitoring experiment using hyperspectral sensor, LiDAR and high resolution satellite imagery [9250-40]

9250 14 Wideband radar imaging for space debris based on direct IF sampling signals [9250-41]
Authors

Numbers in the index correspond to the last two digits of the six-digit citation identifier (CID) article numbering system used in Proceedings of SPIE. The first four digits reflect the volume number. Base 36 numbering is employed for the last two digits and indicates the order of articles within the volume. Numbers start with 00, 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, 0A, 0B...0Z, followed by 10-1Z, 20-2Z, etc.

Acito, Nicola, 0V, 0W
Alatan, Hakan, 05
Arens, Michael, 0G, 0I, 0N, 0P
Augere, B., 0H
Bacher, Emmanuel, 0D
Bergeron, Alain, 0B
Berglund, Folke, 0A
Besson, C., 0H
Bodensteiner, Christoph, 0G, 0N, 0P
Brendhagen, Erik, 0M
Breuer, Timo, 0G
Bulatov, Dimitri, 12
Canat, G., 0H
CezaR, N., 0H
Chau, Quan, 03
Chen, Zengping, 14
Chirantini, Leandro, 0V
Christmacher, Frank, 0D, 0F
Corsini, Giovanni, 0V, 0W
De Ceglie, Sergio Ugo, 0V
Deng, Loulou, 04
De Weert, Michael J., 0C
Diani, Marco, 0V, 0W
Dolfi-Bouteyre, A., 0H
Entwistle, Mark, 03
Filatov, Yu., V., 06
Fleury, D., 0H
Gimelsdal, Eirik, 0M
Gordon, M., 0I
Goular, D., 0H
Gustafsson, Frank, 0A
Hammer, M., 0I
Häufel, Gisela, 12
Hebel, M., 0I
Heen, Lars Trygve, 0M
Hesse, Nikolaus, 0N
Idikut, Firat, 05
Itzler, Mark A., 03
Jiang, Xudong, 03
Kim, Sun-Hwa, 13
Kocic, Jelena, 00
Krishnamachari, Uppili, 03
Laahaie, Pierre, 02
Landini, Stefano, 0X
Larsson, Håkan, 0D
Laurensz, Martin, 0D, 0F, 0J
Lemaire, Simon, 0P
Li, Liansheng, 04
Li, Na, 14

Liu, Yang, 14
Lombard, L., 0H
Lukic, Vojislav, 0O
Lv, Zhengxin, 04
Marchese, Linda, 0B
Mei, Zhiwu, 04
Metzger, Nicolas, 0D, 0F
Mennin, D., 0F
Nikolaev, M. S., 06
Ohgren, Johan, 0A
Owens, Mark, 03
Özkan, Vedat Ali, 05
Pavlov, P., A., 06
Peric, Dragana, 0O
Persson, Rolf, 0A
Planchat, C., 0H
Qiao, Tianyuan, 08
Renard, W., 0H
Reulke, Ralf, 0L
Riasati, Vahid R., 11
Riccobono, Aldo, 0V, 0X
Rossi, Alessandro, 0V, 0W, 0X
Şahin, Asaf Behzat, 05
Säuberlich, Thomas, 0L
Schertzer, Stefane, 0D, 0F
Schmiltt, G., 0F
Scholz, Thomas, 0D, 0F
Sekulic, Radmila, 0O
Shannon, Thomas M., L., 0K
Shavanova, Kateryna E., 0U
Smolkowski, Krystyna, 03
Solbrig, Peter, 12
Son’ko, Roman V., 0U
Spanovic, Milana, 0O
Spier, Emmet H., 0K
Starodub, Nickolaq F., 0U
Steinvall, Ove, 0A
Takan, Taylan, 05
Teroux, Marc, 0B
Thomassen, Jan Brede, 0M
Tulidahl, H. Michael, 09, 0E
Turbide, Simon, 0B
Valla, M., 0H
van Rheenen, Arthur D., 0M
Velten, Andreas, 0J
Venediktov, V. Yu, 06
Wemerus, Peter, 12
Wiltshire, Ben, 0K
Wu, Long, 0B

vii
Xu, Shiyou, 14
Yang, Chan-Su, 13
Yıldırım, İhsan Ozan, 05
Zhang, Jun, 08
Zhang, Yong, 08
Zhao, Yuan, 08
Zuo, Fuchang, 04
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1 New Devices and Technology
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6 Military Applications in Hyperspectral Imaging and High Spatial Resolution Sensing I
Ainsley Killey, BAE Systems (United Kingdom)
Military Applications in Hyperspectral Imaging and High Spatial Resolution Sensing II
Ainsley Killey, BAE Systems (United Kingdom)

Military Applications in Hyperspectral Imaging and High Spatial Resolution Sensing III
John D. Gonglewski, European Office of Aerospace Research and Development (United Kingdom)
Introduction to Part A: Electro-Optical Remote Sensing

This conference attracted 31 papers, however some were withdrawn. The Lidar/Laser Radar Systems and Applications dominated with about 13 papers. Passive sensing involved about eight papers, and the rest were devoted to components and other related technologies.

In the session for New Devices and Technology, Prof. Charbon (Univ. of Delft) discussed recent advances in the field of time-resolved imaging sensors based on single-photon avalanche diode (SPAD) technology and silicon photomultipliers (SiPMs), and also showed a number of applications of these devices in the medical and other fields. Mark Itzler from Princetown Lightwave followed by describing Geiger mode APD arrays used for wide area mapping and imaging. Future development points towards large detector arrays (2556*256 or larger) with very high range resolution (< 10 cm).

The rest of this session was devoted to papers on THz scanning (I.O. Yildirim, et al., from Yildirim Beyazit Univ., Turkey), design and performance analysis of multilayer nested grazing incidence optics for X rays (F. Zuo, et al., Beijing Institute of Control Engineering, China), and non-contact measurement of an object’s angular position by means of laser goniometer (Yuri V. Filatov, Saint Petersburg Electrotechnical Univ., Russian Federation).

In the Lidar/Ladar sessions, Agata M. Pawlikowska, et al. from Selex and Heriot-Watt Univ. (United Kingdom) showed results from long-range, high-range resolution imaging using a scanning single photon system. M. Tulldahl, et al. from FOI (Sweden) presented the integration of a new miniature ladar on a small UAV. Compared to lidar mapping from manned full-size aircraft, a small unmanned aircraft can be cost-efficient over small areas and more flexible for deployment.

Steinvall, et al. also from FOI, presented passive and active EO sensing close to the sea surface, and showed the advantage in using an eye safe laser ranger type of lidar to measure atmospheric extinction coupled to the performance of the other sensors. A synthetic aperture ladar concept for infrastructure monitoring was presented by Simon Turbide, et al. from INO (Canada). A laboratory demonstration of a scaled-down infrastructure deformation monitoring with an Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Ladar (IFSAL) system operating at 1.5 µm was described. Results show sub-millimeter precision on the deformation applied to the target.

L. Wu, et al. from Electronics Technology Group Corp. and the Harbin Institute of Technology (China) discussed range resolution improvement of a phase-coded lidar system utilizing detector characteristics for short codes acquirement. A laboratory experiment was shown. The results prove that the technique allows for
the use of multi-element detectors, such as CCD cameras that typically have slow read time.

The following lidar session had four papers on underwater lidar and imaging applications: Michael J. DeWeert, BAE Systems USA talked in an invited paper about 3DLASEM, which is a 3D flash lidar imaging simulation tool for ocean applications. M. Laurenzis, et al. from the French-German institute ISL described underwater laser imaging experiments in the Baltic Sea using both line scanner and gated viewing systems. Both laser-based system resolutions were much higher than those of side scan sonar or even synthetic aperture sonar (SAS) used on autonomous underwater vehicles (AUV), allowing ULS or LGV to be an effective additional technology for the classification and identification of underwater objects. In another paper from the same group, F. Christnacher, et al. described a new method for stabilizing the images from a gated viewing underwater systems to allow for accurate 3D reconstruction. They investigated a new method based on a combination between image registration by homography and 3D scene reconstruction through tomography or two-image technique. In the different experimental examples a cm resolution could be achieved.

Tulldahl from FOI (Sweden) showed how advanced processing of the lidar data a detailed mapping of the sea floor with various objects and vegetation is possible. This mapping capability has a wide range of applications, including detection of mine-like objects, mapping marine natural resources and fish spawning areas, as well as supporting the fulfillment of national and international environmental monitoring directives. Although data sets collected by subsea systems give a high degree of credibility, they can benefit from a combination with airborne lidar for surveying and monitoring larger areas.

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