

Message from the Program and General Chairs

Welcome to Minneapolis and the 25th IEEE Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR). Following in the tradition of its distinguished predecessors, CVPR has a number of events co-located with the main conference, including short courses and workshops. A passport system allows registrants easy access to these other events, and their proceedings are available on the CVPR 2007 DVD.

The 2007 edition of this conference was over two years in the making. While we originally intended to locate the conference in Chicago, it became clear that there was no affordable venue there for a conference of this size. We considered several other possible cities, but rapidly converged on Minneapolis, largely due to the excellent facilities that the Hyatt provides. In particular, there is far more space for posters than has ever been available in the past. Since most papers at CVPR are posters, we spent significant effort trying to ensure that poster presenters would have the best possible experience. For example, each poster has a dedicated space that is available throughout the entire conference, as well as a dedicated session during which the author will be available. We also structured various events to encourage attendees to browse the posters, by locating the receptions and breaks amid the posters.

Over the past few years, CVPR has grown considerably in terms of the number of submissions, and this year marks yet another all-time high. We received 1,256 submissions, a number which places significant strain on all aspects of the selection process. We selected 30 senior vision researchers as Area Chairs (ACs), most of whom had previous AC experience at CVPR or a comparable conference, and many of whom had even served as previous program chairs. Each paper was assigned to an AC, who proposed 5 reviewers, out of which 3 were selected taking conflicts into account. This reviewer assignment process, which was first used at CVPR 2006, again proved to work quite well. Decisions about a paper were made by consensus among several ACs. As a result, 60 papers were accepted for oral presentation, and 292 for posters, for an overall acceptance rate of 28%. These numbers are in line with recent historical norms.

The program chairs spent considerable effort on refining the selection process. Our overriding goal was to make decisions by as fair and uniform a process as possible. In particular, we made great efforts to ensure that every paper, whether by an AC or not, received identical treatment. To this end, the program chairs did not submit papers to CVPR07. To ensure that papers by ACs were handled fairly, we divided the ACs into 3 panels, each of which made its own decisions with the program chairs ensuring consistency between panels. The system was designed so that an AC had no involvement in the fate of their paper, and papers by ACs were handled exactly like any other paper.

In terms of the acceptance criteria, our policy was to assemble a distinguished group and to let them make decisions by consensus. While we provided the ACs with a minimum

number of orals, there was no upper bound, either on the number of orals or posters. We did, however, require that all decisions be made by at least two ACs, so that every paper got a fair hearing. As a matter of policy, the program chairs did not over-rule decisions made by the area chairs, although on a few occasions we asked them to provide a more detailed justification for their decision. While it is inevitable in a process of this scale that some incorrect decisions were made, we believe that the overall process worked well, and the feedback we received was overwhelmingly positive.

Perhaps the two most noteworthy changes at CVPR 2007 involve the program format and the proceedings. The program format at CVPR has generally involved two parallel oral tracks, with posters in between. The previous CVPR went back to single track, but overlapped the poster sessions with the orals. We felt that the idea of single track papers was a worthy experiment, but wished to provide the poster presenters with dedicated sessions. Our compromise was to go back to the previous schedule, but to dedicate a day to single track orals. The decision as to which orals were in the single track was not purely a matter of quality, although we did ensure that all prize-winning papers were single track. Instead, the program chairs obtained recommendations from the ACs, regarding orals that they felt would be of broad interest.

In terms of the proceedings, CVPR 2007 is the first CVPR ever not to offer hardcopy proceedings produced by the IEEE Computer Press. We moved all the CVPR deadlines forward by a few weeks, with the goal of ensuring that attendees saw material that was as fresh as possible. (Indeed, the final versions of papers were due on May 1, so the material distributed at the conference is only 7 weeks old!) This, however, resulted in a time schedule that IEEE production could not meet, and so we chose to self-publish. While this caused a great deal of additional work for our publications chair, Pat Flynn, he handled the burden with uncommon grace. We also chose this opportunity to dispense with hardcopy proceedings entirely, a change which was clearly inevitable given the ever-growing importance of the electronic version of the proceedings. We do, however, provide attendees with a formatted pamphlet containing paper abstracts and other pertinent information. Of course, all papers will be indexed by IEEE, and available through the IEEE Digital Library.

We wish to thank a number of previous program and general chairs and other senior researchers in computer vision, who provided very helpful advice on a wide range of topics. We also thank the other chairs (local, workshop, short courses, demo, and exhibit) and the workshop organizers to their contribution in making CVPR 2007 a premier event. Our primary thanks, however, go to everyone involved in the submission process: the area chairs, reviewers and authors. We believe that the final output of this intensive process is well worth the enormous effort behind it.

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Program Chairs

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General Chairs