

Visualization of Large and Unstructured Data Sets – Applications in Geospatial Planning, Modeling and Engineering

IRTG 1131 Workshop, March 19–21, 2010, Bodega Bay, U.S.

Edited by

Ariane Middel
Inga Scheler
Hans Hagen



Editors

Ariane Middel
Decision Center for a
Desert City
Arizona State University
ariane.middel@asu.edu

Inga Scheler
Regionales Hochschulrechenzentrum
Kaiserslautern (RHRK)
University of Kaiserslautern
scheler@rhrk.uni-kl.de

Hans Hagen
Computer Graphics and
Visualization Group
University of Kaiserslautern
hagen@informatik.uni-kl.de

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■ Preface

The International Research and Training Group (IRTG) Visualization of Large and Unstructured Datasets Applications in Geospatial Planning, Modeling and Engineering is a joint effort of the University of Kaiserslautern (Germany) and the U.S. partners University of California Davis, Arizona State University and University of Utah. It is funded by the German research foundation (DFG) under grant DFG GK 1131/2. In July 2009 the second 4.5 years phase of the IRTG started. The primary research goal of this graduate program is the enhancement of scientific and information visualization techniques applied to large and unstructured datasets. Every visualization task is based on application data. For providing these data, we integrate applications from the domain Geospatial Planning, Modeling and Engineering, which produce these huge amounts of unstructured data that are of interest for the visualization tasks at hand. This integration is necessary to allow a deeper understanding of the provided data due to the sharing of knowledge through the projects. Up to now, visualization of large and structured or small and unstructured datasets is the state of the art. Large and unstructured datasets are still not very well understood, especially with respect to visualization. In order to address these questions, we have defined a set of projects aiming at solving these problems. In detail, we are handling visualization problems, with respect to modeling, feature detection, and comparison tasks. For doing this, both the extension of existing techniques and the development of new ones are investigated. In the application areas there is an increasing need to handle huge amounts of unstructured data produced either by data from field measurements like environmental observation stations, from experiments, and from simulation. For example, environmental monitoring systems are capable of measuring data at a very high resolution and in a large number of frequency bands. On the other hand, scaled-down earthquake laboratory experiments within a centrifuge improved sensor technology permit the measurement of an increased number of participants at higher sampling rates. Finally, earthquake simulations produce more and more data because of more elaborate simulation techniques. All these improvements in measurement technology lead to large, high-dimensional data sets. Visualizing these data is very useful to get new insights into the problems involved. The visualizations themselves are based on improved or newly developed visualization techniques like volume modeling, feature detection and visualization, etc. In the issue of OASICs - OpenAccess Series in Informatics we present the results of the annual workshop of this IRTG held in Bodega Marine Laboratory, Bodega Bay, California, U.S, March 19th to March 21st 2010. Aim of the workshop was to bring together all project partners, PHD students and advisors to report on the different research projects. After three days of presentations and discussions the graduates spent their time on writing papers that cover the outcome of the program and give surveys on related topics.

■ List of Authors

Jan C. Aurich
University of Kaiserslautern
Faculty Mechanical and Process Engineering
FBK - Institute for Manufacturing
Technology and Production Systems
Building 42, Room 468
aurich@cpk.uni-kl.de

Daniel Burkhart
University of Kaiserslautern
Computer Graphics and HCI Group
P.O. Box 3049
Building 36, Room 234
67653 Kaiserslautern
burkhart@informatik.uni-kl.de

Fang Chen
University of Kaiserslautern
Computer Graphics and HCI Group
P.O. Box 3049
Building 36, Room 220
67653 Kaiserslautern
chen@informatik.uni-kl.de

Eduard Deines
Institute for Data Analysis and Visualization
(IDAV)
University of California, Davis
One Shields Ave
Davis, CA 95616, USA
edeines@ucdavis.edu

Klaus Denker
Konstanz University of Applied Sciences
Faculty Informatics
Room E205
Brauneggerstrasse 55
78462 Konstanz
klaus.denker@ktwg-konstanz.de

Subhrajit Guhathakurta
Arizona State University
University Drive and Mill Avenue, Tempe
AZ, USA
School of Geographical Sciences and Urban
Planning GIOS 348
subhro.guha@asu.edu

Hans Hagen
University of Kaiserslautern
Computer Graphics and HCI Group
P.O. Box 3049
Building 36, Room 226
67653 Kaiserslautern
hagen@informatik.uni-kl.de

Stefanie Hahmann
Laboratoire Jean Kuntzmann (LJK)
BP 53
38041 Grenoble cedex 9 (France)
Stefanie.Hahmann@imag.fr

Bernd Hamann
Department of Computer Science
University of California, Davis
1 Shields Avenue
Davis, CA 95616, USA
hamann@cs.ucdavis.edu

Martin Hering-Bertram
Rhein-Waal University of Applied Sciences
Faculty Informatics
Room 1.1.03
Nollenburger Weg 115
46446 Emmerich
martin.hering-bertram@hochschule-rhein-
waal.de

Taimur K. Khan
University of Kaiserslautern
Computer Graphics and HCI Group
P.O. Box 3049
Building 36, Room 229
67653 Kaiserslautern
tkhan@informatik.uni-kl.de

Johannes Köhler
DFKI GmbH
Augmented Vision
Trippstadter Strasse 122
67663 Kaiserslautern
Johannes.Koehler@dfki.de

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Jörg Kuhnert
The Fraunhofer-Institut für Techno-
und Wirtschaftsmathematik ITWM
Fraunhofer-Platz 1
67663 Kaiserslautern
joerg.kuhnert@itwm.fhg.de

Tobias Nöll
DFKI GmbH
Augmented Vision
Trippstadter Strasse 122
67663 Kaiserslautern
tobias.noell@dfki.de

Harald Obermaier
The Fraunhofer-Institut für Techno-
und Wirtschaftsmathematik ITWM
Fraunhofer-Platz 1
67663 Kaiserslautern
harald.obermaier@itwm.fhg.de

Alain Pagani
DFKI GmbH
Augmented Vision
Trippstadter Strasse 122
67663 Kaiserslautern
alain.pagani@dfki.de

Sebastian Petsch
University of Kaiserslautern
Computer Graphics and HCI Group
P.O. Box 3049
Building 36, Room 231
67653 Kaiserslautern
petsch@cs.uni-kl.de

Didier Stricker
DFKI GmbH
Augmented Vision
Trippstadter Strasse 122
67663 Kaiserslautern
didier.stricker@dfki.de

Sebastian Thelen
University of Kaiserslautern
Computer Graphics and HCI Group
P.O. Box 3049
Building 36, Room 229
67653 Kaiserslautern
thelen@informatik.uni-kl.de

Georg Umlauf
University of Applied Science Constance
Department of Computer Science
Computer Graphics Lab
Room F 020
78462 Constance
umlauf@htwg-konstanz.de

Christian Wagner
German Aerospace Center
Simulation and Software Technology,
Software for Space Systems and Interactive
Visualization, Braunschweig
and
University of Kaiserslautern
Computer Graphics and HCI Group
P.O. Box 3049
Building 36, Room 233
67653 Kaiserslautern
wagner@cs.uni-kl.de

Christopher Weber
University of Kaiserslautern
Computer Graphics and HCI Group
P.O. Box 3049
Building 36, Room 237
67653 Kaiserslautern
christopherweber80@googlemail.com

Rolf Westerteiger
German Aerospace Center
Simulation and Software Technology,
Software for Space Systems and Interactive
Visualization, Braunschweig
and
University of Kaiserslautern
Computer Graphics and HCI Group
P.O. Box 3049
Building 36, Room 233
67653 Kaiserslautern
rolf.westerteiger@googlemail.com