

Valery A. Petrushin
Latifur Khan (Eds)

Multimedia Data Mining and Knowledge Discovery

TP 311.13
M961

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 Springer



E2007000938

Valery A. Petrushin, MS, PhD
Accenture Technology Labs
Accenture Ltd
161 N. Clark St.
Chicago, IL 60601, USA

Latifur Khan, BS, MS, PhD
EC 31
2601 N. Floyd Rd.
Richardson, TX 75080-1407, USA

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data
A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Control Number: 2006924373

ISBN-10: 1-84628-436-8 Printed on acid-free paper
ISBN-13: 978-1-84628-436-6

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Preface

In recent years we witnessed the real revolution in media recordings and storage. Because of advances in electronics, computing engineering, storage manufacturing, and networking, the market is flooded with cheap computers, mass memory, camera phones, and electronic devices for digitizing and producing visual and audio information. Ten years ago only a professional studio could create an audio CD or a DVD, but today everybody can do it, using a home computer. Under threat of the digital expansion, the entertainment, show, and education industries started changing their business models. Tomorrow nobody will be surprised to find that a personal computer has a terabyte hard disk and four gigabyte RAM. This phenomenon has made corporate, public, and personal multimedia repositories widespread and fast growing. Currently, there are some commercial tools for managing and searching multimedia audio and image collections, but the need for tools to extract hidden useful knowledge embedded within multimedia collections is becoming pressing and central for many decision-making applications. The tools needed today are tools for discovering relationships between objects or segments within images, classifying images on the basis of their content, extracting patterns in sound, categorizing speech and music, recognizing and tracking objects in video streams, etc.

Today data mining efforts are going beyond the databases to focusing on data collected in fields like art, design, hypermedia, and digital media production, medical multimedia data analysis and computational modeling of creativity, including evolutionary computation. These fields use variety of data sources and structures, interrelated by the nature of the phenomenon. As a result there is an increasing interest in new techniques and tools that can detect and discover patterns that can lead to a new knowledge in the problem domain, where the data have been collected. There is also an increasing interest in the analysis of multimedia data generated by different distributed applications, like collaborative virtual environments, virtual communities, and multiagent systems. The data collected from such environments include record of the actions in them, audio and video recordings of meetings and collaborative sessions, variety of documents that are part of the business process, asynchronous threaded discussions, transcripts from synchronous communications, and other data records. These heterogeneous multimedia data records require sophisticated

preprocessing, synchronization, and other transformation procedures before even getting to the analysis stage.

On the other hand, researchers in multimedia information systems, in the search for techniques for improving the indexing and retrieval of multimedia information are looking into new methods for discovering indexing information. Variety of techniques from machine learning, statistics, databases, knowledge acquisition, data visualization, image analysis, high performance computing, and knowledge-based systems, have been used mainly as a research handcraft activity. The development of ontologies and vocabularies for multimedia data fosters the adoption and merging with the Semantic Web technology. The emerging international standards for multimedia content description (MPEG-7) and multimedia resources delivery and usage (MPEG-21) promise to expedite the progress in the field giving a uniform data representation and the open multimedia framework.

This book is based mostly on extended and updated papers that have been presented at the two Multimedia Data Mining Workshops—MDM KDD 2003 and MDM KDD 2004 that held in conjunction with the ACM SIGKDD Conference in Washington, DC, August 2003 and the ACM SIGKDD Conference in Seattle, WA, August 2004, respectively. The book also includes several invited surveys and papers. The book chapters give a snapshot of research and applied activities in the multimedia data mining.

The editors are grateful to the founders and active supporters of the Multimedia Data Mining Workshop Series Simeon Simoff, Osmar Zaiane, and Chabane Djeraba. We also thank the reviewers of book papers for their well-done job and organizers of ACM SIGKDD Conferences for their support.

We thank the Springer-Verlag's employees Wayne Wheeler, who initiated the book project, Catherine Brett, and Frank Ganz for their help in coordinating the publication and editorial assistance.

Chicago, IL
Dallas, TX
January 2006

Valery A. Petrushin
Latifur Khan

List of Contributors

Nitin Agarwal

Department of Computer Science and
Engineering
Arizona State University
Tempe, AZ 82857
USA
nitin.agarwal@asu.edu

Muhammad A. Ahmad

Rochester Institute
of Technology
102 Lomb Memorial Drive
Rochester, NY 14623-5608
USA
maa2454@cs.rit.edu

Sergio A. Alvarez

Computer Science Department
Boston College
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467
USA
alvarez@cs.bc.edu

Marie-Aude Aufaure

Computer Science Department
SUPELEC
Plateau du Moulon
3, rue Joliot Curie
F-91 192 Gif-sur-Yvette Cedex
France
Marie-Aude.Aufaure@supelec.fr

Robert P. Biuk-Aghai

Faculty of Science and Technology
University of Macau
Avenida Padre Tomás Pereira, S.J.
Taipa
Macau S.A.R.
China
robertb@umac.mo

Fatma Bouali

LIFL UMR CNRS 8022
France
Fatma.Bouali@univ-lille2.fr

Marinette Bouet

LIMOS – UMR 6158 CNRS
Blaise Pascal University of
Clermont-Ferrand II
Campus des Cézeaux 24, avenue des
Landais
F-63173 Aubiere Cedex
France
Marinette.Bouet@cust.univ-
bpclermont.fr

Stefan Brecheisen

Institute for Computer Science
University of Munich
Oettingenstr. 67, 80538 Munich,
Germany
brecheis@dbis.fwi.lmu.de

K. Selcuk Candan

Department of Computer Science and Engineering
Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ 82857
USA
candan@asu.edu

Min Chen

Distributed Multimedia Information System Laboratory
School of Computing & Information Sciences
Florida International University
Miami, FL 33199
USA
mchen005@cs.fiu.edu

Shu-Ching Chen

Distributed Multimedia Information System Laboratory
School of Computing & Information Sciences
Florida International University
Miami, FL 33199
USA
chens@cs.fiu.edu

Charles Daniel

Pennsylvania State University – Harrisburg
Middletown, PA 17057
USA

Marten J. den Uyl

VicarVision b.v.
Singel 160, 1015 AH
Amsterdam
The Netherlands
denuy@vicarvision.nl

Qin Ding

Pennsylvania State University – Harrisburg
Middletown, PA 17057

USA

qding@psu.edu

Chabane Djeraba

LIFL – UMR USTL CNRS 8022
Universite de Lille1, Bât. M3
59655 Villeneuve d'Ascq Cedex
France
djeraba@lifl.fr

Jianping Fan

Dept of Computer Science
University of North Carolina – Charlotte
Charlotte, NC 28223
USA
jfan@uncc.edu

Farshad Fotouhi

Department of Computer Science
Wayne State University
Detroit, MI 48202
USA
fotouhi@wayne.edu

Roger Gaborski

Rochester Institute of Technology
102 Lomb Memorial Drive
Rochester, NY 14623-5608
USA
rsg@cs.rit.edu

Yuli Gao

Dept of Computer Science
University of North Carolina – Charlotte
Charlotte, NC 28223
USA
ygao@uncc.edu

Anatole V. Gershman

Accenture Technology Labs
Accenture Ltd.
161 N. Clark St.
Chicago, IL 60601
USA
anatole.v.gershman@accenture.com

William Grosky

Department of Computer and
Information Science
University of Michigan – Dearborn
Dearborn, MI 48128
USA
wgrosky@umich.edu

Dimitrios Gunopulos

Computer Science & Engineering
Department
University of California, Riverside
Riverside, CA 92521
USA
dg@cs.ucr.edu

Amaury Hazan

Music Technology Group
Pompeu Fabra University
Ocata 1, 08003 Barcelona
Spain
ahazan@iua.upf.es

Koichi Ideno

Graduate School of Science and
Technology
Kobe University,
Nada, Kobe, 657-8501
Japan
ideno@ai.cs.scitec.kobe-u.ac.jp

Menno Israël

ParaBot Services b.v.
Singel 160, 1015 AH Amsterdam
The Netherlands
m.israel@parabots.nl

James M. Kang

Department of Computer Science and
Engineering
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, MN 55455
USA
jkang@cs.umn.edu

Takeshi Kawato

Computer Science Department
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Worcester, MA 01609
USA
takeshi@wpi.edu

Eamonn Keogh

Computer Science & Engineering
Department
University of California, Riverside
Riverside, CA 92521
USA
eamonn@cs.ucr.edu

Latifur Khan

Department of Computer Science
University of Texas at Dallas
75083 Richardson, Texas
USA
lkhan@utdallas.edu

Jong Wook Kim

Department of Computer Science and
Engineering
Arizona State University
Tempe, AZ 82857
USA
jong@asu.edu

Hans-Peter Kriegel

Institute for Computer Science
University of Munich
Oettingenstr. 67,
80538 Munich
Germany
kriegel@dbi.lmu.de

Peer Kröger

Institute for Computer Science
University of Munich
Oettingenstr. 67, 80538 Munich,
Germany
kroegerp@dbi.lmu.de

Chuanjun Li

Department of Computer Science
The University of Texas at Dallas
Richardson, Texas 75083
USA
chuanjun@utdallas.edu

Xin Li

Department of Computer Science
Oklahoma City University
Oklahoma City
OK 73106
USA
xinli@okcu.edu

Jessica Lin

Department of Information and Software
Engineering,
George Mason University
Fairfax, VA 22030
USA
jessica@ise.gmu.edu

Huan Liu

Department of Computer Science and
Engineering
Arizona State University
Tempe, AZ 82857
USA
huan.liu@asu.edu

Hangzai Luo

Dept of Computer Science
University of North Carolina – Charlotte
Charlotte, NC 28223
USA
hluo@uncc.edu

Libor Machala

Department of Experimental Physics
Palacky University
Svobody 26
779 00 Olomouc
Czech Republic
machala@sloup.upol.cz

Esteban Maestre

Music Technology Group
Pompeu Fabra University
Ocata 1, 08003 Barcelona, Spain
emaestre@iaa.upf.es

Sylvain Mongy

LIFL – UMR USTL CNRS 8022
Universite de Lille1, Bât. M3
59655 Villeneuve d’Ascq Cedex
France
mongy@lifel.fr

Clark F. Olson

Computing and Software Systems
University of Washington, Bothell
18115 Campus Way NE
Campus Box 358534
Bothell, WA 98011-8246
USA
cfolson@u.washington.edu

Nilesh Patel

Department of Computer and
Information Science
University of Michigan – Dearborn
Dearborn, MI 48128
USA
patelnv@umich.edu

Valery A. Petrushin

Accenture Technology Labs
Accenture Ltd.
161 N. Clark St.
Chicago, IL 60601
USA
valery.a.petrushin@accenture.com

Martin Pfeifle

Institute for Computer Science
University of Munich
Oettingenstr. 67
80538 Munich
Germany
pfeifle@dbs.ifi.lmu.de

Balakrishnan Prabhakaran

Department of Computer Science
University of Texas at Dallas,
75083 Richardson, Texas
USA
praba@utdallas.edu

Pavel Praks

Department of Mathematics and
Descriptive Geometry
Department of Applied Mathematics
VSB – Technical University of
Ostrava
17 Listopadu 15, 708 33 Ostrava,
Czech Republic
pavel.praks@vsb.cz

Daniela Stan Raicu

Intelligent Multimedia Processing
Laboratory
School of Computer Science,
Telecommunications, and
Information Systems (CTI)
DePaul University
Chicago, Illinois
USA
draicu@cs.depaul.edu

Rafael Ramirez

Music Technology Group
Pompeu Fabra University
Ocata 1
08003 Barcelona
Spain
rafael@iua.upf.es

Carolina Ruiz

Computer Science Department
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Worcester, MA 01609
USA
ruiz@cs.wpi.edu

Matthias Schubert

Institute for Computer Science

University of Munich
Oettingenstr. 67,
80538 Munich
Germany
schubert@dbs.ifi.lmu.de

Xavier Serra

Music Technology Group
Pompeu Fabra University
Ocata 1, 08003 Barcelona
Spain
xserra@iua.upf.es

Ishwar K. Sethi

Department of Computer Science and
Engineering
Oakland University
Rochester, MI 48309
USA
isethi@oakland.edu

Kimiaki Shirahama

Graduate School of Science and
Technology
Kobe University
Nada, Kobe 657-8501
Japan
kimi@ai.cs.scitec.kobe-u.ac.jp

Mei-Ling Shyu

Department of Electrical and Computer
Engineering
University of Miami
Coral Gables, FL 33124
USA
shyu@miami.edu

Simeon J. Simoff

Faculty of Information Technology
University of Technology,
Sydney
P.O. Box 123
Broadway NSW 2007
Australia
simeon@it.uts.edu.au

Vaclav Snasel

Department of Computer Science
VSB - Technical University of
Ostrava
17 Listopadu 15, 708 33 Ostrava
Czech Republic
vaclav.snasel@vsb.cz

Reshma Suvarna

Department of Computer Science and
Engineering
Arizona State University
Tempe, AZ 82857, USA
reshma.suvarna@asu.edu

Ankur Teredesai

Rochester Institute of Technology
102 Lomb Memorial Drive
Rochester, NY 14623-5608, USA
amt@cs.rit.edu

Kuniaki Uehara

Graduate School of Science and
Technology
Kobe University
Nada, Kobe 657-8501
Japan
uehara@ai.cs.scitec.kobe-u.ac.jp

Egon L. van den Broek

Center for Telematics and Information
Technology (CTIT) and
Institute for Behavioral Research (IBR)
University Twente
P.O. box 217, 7500 AE Enschede,
The Netherlands
e.l.vandenbroek@utwente.nl

Peter van der Putten

LIACS
University of Leiden
P.O. Box 9512
2300 RA Leiden
The Netherlands
putten@liacs.nl

Michail Vlachos

IBM T. J. Watson Research
Center
Hawthorne, NY 10532
USA
vlachos@ibm.com

Lei Wang

Department of Computer Science
University of Texas at Dallas,
75083 Richardson, Texas
USA
leiwang@utdallas.edu

Gang Wei

Accenture Technology Labs
Accenture Ltd.
161 N. Clark St.
Chicago, IL 60601
USA
gang.wei@accenture.com

Chengcui Zhang

Department of Computer & Information
Science
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Birmingham, AL 35294-1170
USA
zhang@cis.uab.edu

Ruofei Zhang

Computer Science Department
Watson School
SUNY Binghamton
Binghamton, NY, 13902-6000
USA
rzhang@cs.binghamton.edu

Zhongfei (Mark) Zhang

Computer Science Department
Watson School,
SUNY Binghamton
Binghamton, NY 13902-6000
USA
zhongfei@cs.binghamton.edu

Arthur Zimek
Institute for Computer Science
University of Munich

Oettingenstr. 67, 80538 Munich
Germany
zimek@dbis.fh-lmu.de

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