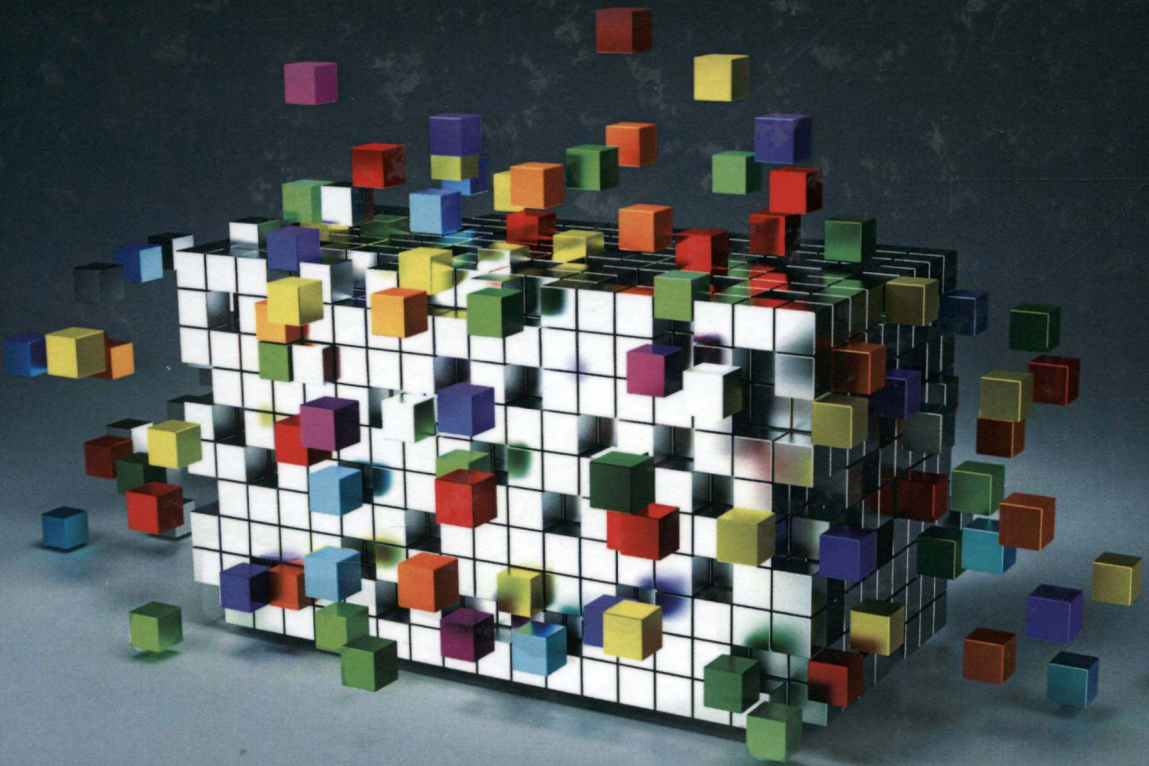




CRC Press
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Multisensor Data Fusion

From Algorithms and Architectural Design to Applications



Edited by
Hassen Fourati

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EDITED BY

Hassen Fourati

GIPSA-LAB

DEPARTMENT OF CONTROL SYSTEMS

UNIVERSITY GRENOBLE ALPES

GRENOBLE, FRANCE

Krzysztof Iniewski GENERAL MANAGING EDITOR
CMOS EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES RESEARCH INC.
VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA



CRC Press

Taylor & Francis Group

Boca Raton London New York

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CRC Press
Taylor & Francis Group
6000 Broken Sound Parkway NW, Suite 300
Boca Raton, FL 33487-2742

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Printed on acid-free paper
Version Date: 20150309

International Standard Book Number-13: 978-1-4822-6374-9 (Hardback)

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Printed and bound in Great Britain by
TJ International Ltd, Padstow, Cornwall

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*Dedicated to my wife, Emna, whose Zen-like patience continues to amaze;
to my parents, without whom I would not be where I am today.*

Hassen Fourati

Preface

The technology of multisensor data fusion seeks to combine information coming from multiple and different sources and sensors, resulting in an enhanced overall system performance with respect to separate sensors and sources. Multisensor data fusion has gained in importance over the last decades and found applications in an impressive variety of areas within diverse disciplines: navigation, sensor networks, intelligent transportation systems, security, medical diagnosis, biometrics, environmental monitoring, remote sensing, measurements, robotics, and so forth. Different concepts, techniques, and architectures have been developed to optimize the overall system output in applications for which sensor fusion might be useful and enables development of concrete solutions.

The idea for this book arose as a response to the immense interest and strong activities in the field of multisensor data fusion during the last few years, both in theoretical and practical aspects. This book is targeted toward researchers, academics, engineers, and graduate students working in the field of sensor fusion, estimation and observation, filtering, and signal processing.

This book captures the latest data fusion concepts and techniques drawn from a broad array of disciplines. With contributions from the world's leading fusion researchers and academicians, this book has 34 chapters, divided roughly into two sections, and covers the fundamental theory and recent theoretical advances, as well as showcasing applications of multisensor data fusion. Each chapter is complete in itself and can be read in isolation or in conjunction with other chapters of the book. Chapters 1 through 23 in Section I are devoted to the state of the art and novel advances in multisensor data fusion algorithm design. New materials and achievements in optimal fusion and multisensor filters are provided. In Section II, Chapters 24 through 34 mostly showcase multisensor data fusion advancements in fields such as medical applications, navigation, traffic analysis, and so on.

We are grateful to all the contributors for sharing their valuable knowledge and we expect this book to offer a good balance between academic and industrial research throughout the different chapters. We sincerely hope that this book will be a source of inspiration for new concepts and applications and stimulate further the development of data fusion architecture. We would also like to acknowledge CRC Press and its staff for technical and editorial assistance that improved the quality of this book and resulted in its publication. Finally, we hope readers will enjoy this book and that it will prove to be a useful addition to the increasingly important and expanding field of data fusion.

Hassen Fourati

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Editors

Hassen Fourati, PhD, is currently an associate professor in the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Department at the University Grenoble Alpes, Grenoble, France and a member of the Networked Controlled Systems Team (NeCS), affiliated with the Automatic Control Department of the Laboratoire Grenoble Images Parole Signal Automatique (GIPSA-LAB) and the Institut National de Recherche en Informatique et en Automatique (INRIA). He received the B.Eng. in Electrical Engineering from the National Engineering School of Sfax, Tunisia, a MS in Automated Systems and Control from the University of Claude Bernard, Lyon, France, and a PhD in Automatic Control from the University of Strasbourg, France, in 2006, 2007, and 2010, respectively. His research interests include nonlinear filtering, estimation, and multisensor fusion with applications in navigation, inertial and magnetic sensors, robotics, and traffic management. He has published several research journal articles, papers in international conferences, and book chapters. He can be reached at hassen.fourati@gipsa-lab.fr.

Krzysztof (Kris) Iniewski is managing R&D at Redlen Technologies Inc., a start-up company in Vancouver, Canada. Redlen's revolutionary production process for advanced semiconductor materials enables a new generation of more accurate, all-digital, radiation-based imaging solutions. Kris is also a president of CMOS Emerging Technologies Research Inc. (www.cmosetr.com), an organization of high-tech events covering communications, microsystems, optoelectronics, and sensors. In his career, Dr. Iniewski held numerous faculty and management positions at University of Toronto, University of Alberta, SFU, and PMC-Sierra Inc. He has published over 100 research papers in international journals and conferences. He holds 18 international patents granted in the United States, Canada, France, Germany, and Japan. He is a frequently invited speaker and has consulted for multiple organizations internationally. He has written and edited several books for CRC Press, Cambridge University Press, IEEE Press, Wiley, McGraw-Hill, Artech House, and Springer. His personal goal is to contribute to healthy living and sustainability through innovative engineering solutions. In his leisurely time, Kris can be found hiking, sailing, skiing, or biking in beautiful British Columbia. He can be reached at kris.iniewski@gmail.com.

Contributors

Andrea Abrardo

University of Siena
Siena, Italy
abrardo@dii.unisi.it

Nisar R. Ahmed

University of Colorado Boulder
Boulder, Colorado, USA
Nisar.Ahmed@Colorado.EDU

T. Ajitha

Indian Institute of Technology Madras
Chennai, Tamilnadu, India
tajitha98@gmail.com

Murat Akcakaya

University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA
akcakaya@pitt.edu

Ienkarán Arasaratnam

Apple Inc.
Cupertino, California, USA
haran@ieee.org

Erik Blasch

Air Force Research Laboratory
Rome, New York, USA
erik.blasch@us.af.mil

Jean-Marc Le Caillec

Telecom Bretagne
Brest Cedex 3, France
jm.lecaillec@telecom-bretagne.eu

Mark E. Campbell

Cornell University
Ithaca, New York, USA
mc288@cornell.edu

Kumar Pakki Bharani Chandra

University of Exeter
Exeter, UK
b.c.k.pakki@exeter.ac.uk

Sébastien Changey

GNC Department
ISL–French-German Research Institute of
Saint-Louis
Saint-Louis Cedex, France
sebastien.changey@isl.eu

Chee-Yee Chong

Independent Consultant
Los Altos, California, USA
cychong@ieee.org

Thyagaraju Damarla

US Army Research Laboratory
Adelphi, Maryland, USA
thyagaraju.damarla.civ@mail.mil

Belur V. Dasarathy

Independent Consultant
Huntsville, Alabama, USA
fusion-consultant@ieee.org

François Delmotte

Université Lille Nord de France
Béthune, France
francois.delmotte@univ-artois.fr

Jacques Demongeot

Laboratoire AGIM
Université Grenoble-Alpes
La Tronche, Grenoble, France

and

Institut Universitaire de France
Paris, France

and

Mines Douai
IA
Douai, France
jacques.demongeot@yahoo.fr

Bruno Diot

Laboratoire AGIM
 Université Grenoble-Alpes
 Grenoble, France

and

IDS

Montceau-les-Mines, France
 bruno.diot@ids-assistance.com

Gregorio E. Drayer

Georgia Institute of Technology
 Atlanta, Georgia, USA
 drayer@gatech.edu

Zhansheng Duan

Center for Information Engineering Science
 Research
 Xi'an Jiaotong University
 Xi'an, China
 zduan@uno.edu

Deniz Erdogmus

Northeastern University
 Boston, Massachusetts, USA
 erdogmus@ece.neu.edu

António J. Falcão

Uninova-CA3
 Monte da Caparica, Portugal
 ajf@uninova.pt

Nour-Eddin El Faouzi

Transport and Traffic Engineering Laboratory
 Bron, France

and

ENTPE

LICIT

Vaulx-en-Velin, France

and

University of Lyon

Lyon, France

nour-eddin.elfaouzi@ifsttar.fr

Gianluigi Ferrari

University of Parma
 Parma, Italy
 gianluigi.ferrari@unipr.it

Anthony Fleury

Mines Douai
 IA
 Douai, France
 anthony.fleury@mines-douai.fr

José M. Fonseca

Uninova-CA3
 Monte da Caparica, Portugal
 jmf@uninova.pt

Céline Franco

Laboratoire AGIM
 Université Grenoble-Alpes
 La Tronche, Grenoble, France

and

Institut Universitaire de France
 Paris, France

and

Mines Douai
 IA
 Douai, France
 celine.franco@imag.fr

Shrikant Fulari

Indian Institute of Technology Madras
 Chennai, India
 shrikant.f@gmail.com

Robert X. Gao

Department of Mechanical and Aerospace
 Engineering
 Case Western Reserve University
 Cleveland, Ohio, USA
 robert.gao@case.edu

Wei Gao

College of Automation
 Harbin Engineering University
 Harbin, China
 gaow@hrbeu.edu.cn

Jean-François Grandin

THALES Systèmes Aéroportés
 Elancourt, France
 jean-francois.grandin@fr.thalesgroup.com