

Preface

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The International Conference on Shape Modeling and Applications was started by Prof. Kunii and his colleagues in 1997, as a biannual event taking place in Japan. Thanks to the fast growing of the community interested in the conference, the event is now run annually and alternating between Asia, Europe and America. SMI conferences address all aspects of shape modeling, from the acquisition and processing to the retrieval and understanding, and provide a unique forum for discussing computational techniques for shape modeling and processing with a community of experts across a wide range of areas in academia and industry.

The IEEE International Conference on Shape Modeling and Applications 2008 (Shape Modeling International 2008 or SMI'08) was organized by Prof. Hong Qin at the Stony Brook University (Stony Brook, New York, USA) on June 4–6, 2008. In response to the call for papers, 52 papers were submitted. After a thorough review process, 24 full papers were selected. In addition, 10 short papers have been care-

fully selected among the submitted short and full papers for poster presentations.

This special issue collects four papers that were selected by a pool of members of the SMI'08 International Programme Committee and that were invited to submit an extended and revised version of their contribution to the Visual Computer journal. The four papers well illustrate the variety of topics featured by SMI'08: techniques to robustly fitting implicit surfaces to point sets, definition of new distances based on anisotropic geodesic measures, conversion of quad meshes into polynomial surfaces, and finally, the development of a topological matching technique for shapes represented by quad meshes.

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