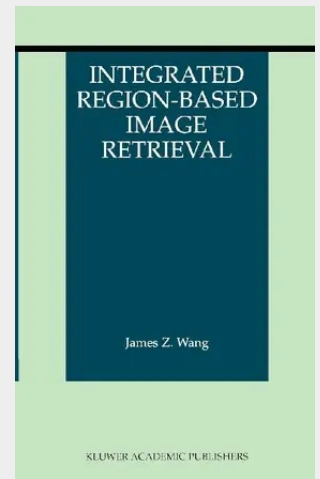


Integrated Region-Based Image Retrieval

Content-based image retrieval is the set of techniques for retrieving relevant images from an image database on the basis of automatically derived image features. The need for efficient content-based image retrieval has increased tremendously in many application areas such as biomedicine, the military, commerce, education, and Web image classification and searching. In the biomedical domain, content-based image retrieval can be used in patient digital libraries, clinical diagnosis, searching of 2-D electrophoresis gels, and pathology slides. I started my work on content-based image retrieval in 1995 when I was with Stanford University. The project was initiated by the Stanford University Libraries and later funded by a research grant from the National Science Foundation. The goal was to design and implement a computer system capable of indexing and retrieving large collections of digitized multimedia data available in the libraries based on the media contents. At the time, it seemed reasonable to me that I should discover the solution to the image retrieval problem during the project. Experience has certainly demonstrated how far we are as yet from solving this basic problem.

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