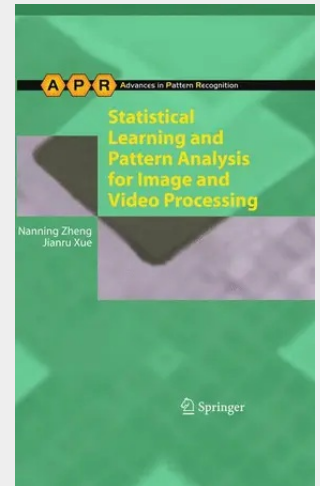


Statistical Learning and Pattern Analysis for Image and Video Processing

Why are We Writing This Book? Visual data (graphical, image, video, and visualized data) affect every aspect of modern society. The cheap collection, storage, and transmission of vast amounts of visual data have revolutionized the practice of science, technology, and business. Innovations from various disciplines have been developed and applied to the task of designing intelligent machines that can automatically detect and exploit useful regularities (patterns) in visual data. One such approach to machine intelligence is statistical learning and pattern analysis for visual data. Over the past two decades, rapid advances have been made throughout the field of visual pattern analysis. Some fundamental problems, including perceptual grouping, image segmentation, stereomatching, object detection and recognition, and motion analysis and visual tracking, have become hot research topics and test beds in multiple areas of specialization, including mathematics, neuron-biometry, and cognition. A great diversity of models and algorithms stemming from these disciplines has been proposed. To address the issues of ill-posed problems and uncertainties in visual pattern modeling and computing, researchers have developed rich toolkits based on pattern analysis theory, harmonic analysis and partial differential equations, geometry and group theory, graph matching, and graph grammars. Among these technologies involved in intelligent visual information processing, statistical learning and pattern analysis is undoubtedly the most popular and important approach, and it is also one of the most rapidly developing fields, with many achievements in recent years. Above all, it provides a unifying theoretical framework for intelligent visual information processing applications.

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