Automated extraction of objects from remotely sensed data is an important topic of research in Computer Vision, Photogrammetry, Remote Sensing, and Geoinformation Science. In order to discuss recent developments and future trends in research in automatic object extraction and their influence on sensors and processing techniques, the two well known ISPRS workshops "Photogrammetric Image Analysis" (PIA) and "High Resolution Earth Imaging for Geospatial Information" (HRIGI, also known as the ISPRS-Hannover Workshop) are held as a common event for the first time.

While in the past PIA specialised on the automatic exploitation of the image content, the strongest side of HRIGI was the geometric processing of aerial and in particular of space imagery. Realising that both areas - geometry and semantics - can significantly support each other when considered together in photogrammetric image exploitation, the two events, organised under a common roof, are held at Technische Universität München (TUM) in March 2015. At the same time they keep their identity, as the meeting is organised as two parallel workshops with common plenary sessions and common proceedings.

The aim of the common event is to seek, exploit and deepen the synergies between geometry and semantics, and to give the two scientific communities the possibility to discuss with and to learn from each other. The joint event addresses experts from research, government, and private industry. It consists of high quality papers, and provides an international forum for discussion of leading research and technological developments as well as applications in the field. The range of topics covered by the conference is reflected by the terms of reference of the cooperating ISPRS working groups:

- WG I/2: LiDAR, SAR and Optical Sensors for Airborne and Spaceborne Platforms
- WG I/4: Geometric and Radiometric Modeling of Optical Airborne and Spaceborne Sensors
- WG III/1: Orientation and Surface Reconstruction
- WG III/4: 3D Scene Analysis
- WG IV/1: Methods for the Update and Verification of Geospatial Databases
- WG VII/2: DEM Generation and Surface Deformation Monitoring from SAR Data
- ICWG III/VII: Pattern Analysis in Remote Sensing

Prospective authors were invited to submit either full papers or abstracts. In total we received 120 contributions from 27 countries.

Full papers (max. 8 pages) underwent a rigorous double blind peer review process. We received 59 full papers coming from 19 countries for review. Most papers were reviewed by three members of the program committee. In total we received 182 full paper reviews from 34 reviewers. The maximum number of full papers per reviewer was 8. Altogether 38 papers were accepted based on the reviews for publication in the “ISPRS Annals of the Photogrammetry, Remote Sensing and Spatial Information Sciences” which correspond to an acceptance rate of 64%. The fact that the full papers were peer reviewed is mentioned on each paper.
Papers not passing the full paper peer review process were considered in the following abstract review process. In total 82 contributions were reviewed for publication in “The International Archives of the Photogrammetry, Remote Sensing and Spatial Information Sciences”. Finally 43 final papers were accepted for publication. Altogether PIA15+HRIGI15 featured 9 oral sessions, 3 poster sessions and 2 invited talks, namely “Solving minimal problems for 3D reconstruction from images” given by Tomas Pajdla and “TerraSAR-X, TanDEM-X and beyond” given by Richard Bamler.

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Uwe Stilla and Christian Heipke
Conference Chairs of PIA15+HRIGI15