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*Pattern Recognition* is a mature but exciting and fast developing field, which underpins developments in cognate fields such as computer vision, image processing, text and document analysis and neural networks. It is closely akin to machine learning, and also finds applications in fast emerging areas such as biometrics, bioinformatics, multimedia data analysis and most recently data science. The journal *Pattern Recognition* was established some 50 years ago, as the field emerged in the early years of computer science. Over the intervening years it has expanded considerably.

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