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To achieve these objectives, we felt that two key ingredients were needed. The first was to select image processing material that is representative of material covered in a formal course of instruction in this field. The second was to select software tools that are well supported and documented, and which have a wide range of applications in the "real" world.

To meet the first objective, most of the theoretical concepts in the following chapters were selected from *Digital Image Processing* by Gonzalez and Woods, which has been the choice introductory textbook used by educators all over the world for over three decades. The software tools selected are from the MATLAB® Image Processing Toolbox™, which similarly occupies a position of eminence in both education and industrial applications. A basic strategy followed in the preparation of the current edition was to continue providing a seamless integration of well-established theoretical concepts and their implementation using state-of-the-art software tools.

The book is organized along the same lines as *Digital Image Processing*. In this way, the reader has easy access to a more detailed treatment of all the image processing concepts discussed here, as well as an up-to-date set of references for further reading. Following this approach made it possible to present theoretical material in a succinct manner and that we were able to maintain a focus on the software implementation aspects of image processing problem solutions. Because it works in the MATLAB computing environment, the Image Processing Toolbox offers some significant advantages, not only in the breadth of its computational