Summer 2014 Research in the Vision, Learning, and Robotics Lab

Jerod Weinman

Research Goals

- Recognize text in historical maps
  - Searching
  - Graphing
  - Stuff no one has even thought of yet
- Fame and profit
- Bridge human-computer performance gap

Research Questions

1. How accurate is a general robust word recognition system on historical maps?
2. How well can we automatically align a map image to known geography using OCR?
3. How much does alignment improve word recognition?

Student Projects Preview

1. Find text on map images
2. Improve text recognition (given text image)
3. Expand universe
4. Refine alignment search

System Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gazetteer</th>
<th>Preprocessing</th>
<th>Image Data</th>
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Experimental Data

http://hdl.handle.net/11084/3246

System Overview

Probability Model

Preprocessing

• Now: Normalize hand-labeled word images for OCR

• New: Detect word images automatically!
  – Algorithms
  – Image processing
  – Machine learning

Preprocessing

System Overview

Probability Model

Text Recognition

Question 1

How accurate is a general robust word recognition system on historical maps?

Error (%) vs. (Mean Recip. Rank)^-1
Text Recognition

- Now: Simple features and linear classifier
- New: Use multi-layer neural network!
  - Algorithms
  - Image processing
  - Machine learning (mostly math)

System Overview

Probability Model

Probability model

- Now: Only point features
- New: Area/linear features, complex relations
  - Lots of basic programming
  - GIS
  - Some probability

System Overview
Alignment Search

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Score</th>
<th>Inliers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86</td>
<td>-4403</td>
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<tr>
<td>156</td>
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<td>721</td>
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<td>29</td>
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<tr>
<td>1332</td>
<td>-3523</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Alignment Search

- Now: Randomized consensus search with fixed error scale
- New: Improved adaptive-scale search
  - Algorithms
  - Probability

System Overview

- Given: Map image
- Find:
  - Text boxes
  - Better character recognizer
  - More detailed probability model
  - Improved alignment search
- Use: Image features, statistical estimation, and geometry or linear algebra
- Programming OR mathematical skills desired, esp.
  - Image processing
  - Probability / Statistics (e.g., MAT-336)

Questions?

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- Web: [http://www.cs.grinnell.edu/~weinman](http://www.cs.grinnell.edu/~weinman)