Geographic and Style Models for Historical Map Alignment and Toponym Recognition

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Main Theme

Region Meta-Data

Text Recognition

Map-Atlas Alignment

Challenges

- Predict text label location for regions and rivers
Challenges

- Predict text label location for regions and rivers
- Model text style to
  - predict label category
  - correct text recognition errors
- Adapt model to each map or atlas automatically
Overview

- Data
- Bayes net model
- Inference process
- Results
- Conclusions

US Geographical Survey

- Geographic Names Information System (GNIS)
  - Official and historic names
  - Geographical coordinate
  - 65 feature classes (Arch, Bay, Cape, Dam, …, Valley, Woods)
- National Hydrography Dataset
  - Polygons and polylines
  - Covers classes Bay, Canal, Lake, Reservoir, Stream, and Swamp

Annotated Map Benchmarks

- 30 maps, 1866–1927 AD
- 12,500 word boxes
- Ground truth text
- Marker coordinate
- GNIS feature identifier

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Bayes Net Model

![Bayes Net Diagram](image)

Properties of each identified word

Map properties

Text Recognition

![Text Recognition Diagram](image)

CNN + wFST $\rightarrow$ Beam Search
(Weinman et al., TPAMI 2014)

Feature Prediction

![Feature Prediction Diagram](image)

\[
\text{Prob}(\text{Feature} | \text{Category}, \text{Word Text}) \propto \begin{cases} 
1, & \text{if word text matches feature from category} \\
0, & \text{otherwise}
\end{cases}
\]
Projection and Alignment

Coordinate Space
- Spherical: $[\lambda, \phi]^T$
- Cartesian: $[u, v]^T$
- Image: $[x, y]^T$

Projection and Alignment

Figure: Snyder 1989, USGS PP 1453

Hassler Polyconic

Equal Area Cylindrical

Unsupervised clustering of word image features

Word Image ➔ Text Style ➔ Style Clusters

SRS-LBP

Latent Dirichlet Allocation

Document ➔ Word Image
Topic ➔ Style
Word ➔ LBP

[Nicolaou et al., ICDAR 2015]

[Bei et al., JMLR 2003]
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Inference Process

Region Meta-Data → Text Recognition → Map-Atlas → Alignment

OCR → RANSAC

Point features
Category: Inlier/Outlier
Alignment, scale, inlier prior
Choose projection
All features, categories
Image-style prior
Category-style prior
Word, feature posteriors
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Conclusions

• Fine-tuning geographic/cartographic correction improves word, feature, and category recognition …
• but still strongly limited by original OCR quality
• Style model greatly improves feature/category recognition

Thank You!

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