Geospatial Data - The Perfect Food for AI

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Prof. Dr. Jürgen Döllner

Hasso-Plattner-Institut, Digital Engineering Fakultät, Universität Potsdam Hasso Plattner Insitute, Hudson Yards, NYC GraphicsVision.AI, Malaga Topics



- About Al
- AI for 3D Point Clouds
- AI for Location Intelligence
- Conclusions

About Al

The Public Image of AI

Famous AI Characters

• HAL 9000: "Heuristically Programmed ALgorithmic Computer" in "2001: A Space Odyssey".





The Public Image of AI



Famous AI Characters

- ELIZA, the famous first chatbot in computer science
- Built by Josef Weizenbaum in 1966
- A speech-based simulation of a psychologist's interaction with a patient

ELIZA: Is something troubling you ? life is meaningless ELIZA: Do you feel strongly about discussing such things ? everyone is born, grows and dies ELIZA: Who, for example? vou ELIZA: You're not really talking about me -- are you ? me ELIZA: That is interesting. Please continue. what is the purpose of sucess and happiness ELIZA: Are such questions much on your mind ? all the time ELIZA: Tell me more about that. why should i study ELIZA: That's guite interesting. i cant take my knowledge with me ELIZA: Is it important to you that your knowledge with you ? i cant take anything with me ELIZA: Have you tried ? i'll have to die for that ELIZA: Can you elaborate on that ?

Basic Conceptual Difficulties



What is intelligence?

- Human intelligence
- Natural intelligence
- Artificial intelligence
- General-purpose intelligence
- Dark side of intelligence
- ...

"AI is going to amplify human intelligence not replace it, the same way any tool amplifies our abilities."

(Yann LeCun, Turing Award 2018)



Artificial Intelligence (AI) is changing the way IT solutions are designed, built and operated, whereby AI is not being limited to specific application areas—it is currently finding its way into all industries.

(HPI, AI Lab for IT Systems Engineering, 2019)

AI Technology Arenas





Image: www.quora.com

...a well-known, widely accepted view but also a limited view that ignores others key ingredients such as evolutionary algorithms...

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Real-Time Immersive Visualization of Indoor Environments



Image: HPI, Data: DLR



As-Is Building Models



Image: HPI



Virtual 3D City Models



Image: HPI, Data: Stadt Landshut

3D Point Clouds



Hardware and Software for Generating 3D Point Clouds

- Remote Sensing
- Photogrammetry

• ...

- Model Discretization
- Procedural Generation



3D Point Clouds



- Represent geometry by discrete, unstructured sets of points (e.g., in an Euclidian space)
- Approximate *any shape, any topology, and any geometry*
- *No assumptions* regarding density, regularity, or statistic properties
- Simple and powerful approach to *geometric modeling*
- Big spatial data

Dataset	Area	Density	# Points
Berlin	890 km²	100 pts/m ²	80 billion
Baden-Württemberg	36,000 km ²	25 pts/m ²	900 billion
Frankfurt	250 km ²	15-20 pts/m ²	7.1 billion
Netherlands (AHN2)	42,000 km ²	6-10 pts/m ²	>600 billion

4D Point Clouds

- Spatio-temporal point clouds
- Frequent acquisition (e.g., day-to-day, on-demand, real-time, ...)
- High density, high redundancy
- High degree of redundancy
- Irregularily distributed
- Overlapping extensions, but no exact matches





AI-Based "Interpretation"

- Computing Segmentations and Classifications
- Distilling Semantics
- Building Spatial Models
- Deriving Descriptions

• ...

• Representing Phenomena



ML-Based Vegetation Detection





Change Detection based on 4D Point Clouds



Image: HPI



ML-based Analysis of Mobile Mapping Scans





ML-based Analysis of Mobile Mapping Scans





ML-Based Analysis of Railroad Scans





ML-Based Analysis of Railroad Scans





ML-Based Asset Detection using Ground Penetration Radar





ML-Based Asset Detection using Ground Penetration Radar





Point Cloud Cleansing



Removing artifacts from mobile scanning (Image: HPI)

Complex Classifications





Image: HPI

Examples for 3D Point Cloud Interpretation

Compound Classifications



Image: HPI





APSP as Generic Spatial Access Function

- Road Networks
- Public Transportation Networks
- Infrastructure Networks

A to B (SPSP) Single-Point Shortest-Path

 "What is the shortest path from a specific location to another specific location?"



A to X (SSSP) Single-Source Shortest-Path

 "How many people can reach a particular location in a particular time?"



Universide E Statum



• "Where's the location most people can reach?"



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For a moment, let us think of

- each address (e.g., street + street number)
- each customer address
- each road segment
- each bus station
- each infrastructure element
- each household
- ...

as a **geo-referenced**, **high-dimensional feature vector** in a high-dimensional feature space (i.e., high-dimensional point cloud space).



AI-Based Prediction for Location Analytics



AI-Based Prediction for Location Analytics



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Conclusions





Naturalness Hypothesis

Most human utterances are far simpler and much more repetitive and predictable.

Conclusions



Computer programs seen as text corpora

"Programming languages, in theory, are complex, flexible and powerful, but the programs that *real people actually write* are mostly simple and rather repetitive..."

"The measure *perplexity* used in its log-transformed version is called *cross-entropy*—roughly speaking, it tells how surprised a model is for a document."



Figure 1. Comparison of English cross-entropy versus the code crossentropy of 10 Java projects.

¹A. Hindle, "On the Naturalness of Software", ACM, 2016

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Conclusions



Naturalness Hypothesis for Point Clouds

" The *3D point cloud* is a form of *natural communication; point cloud corpora* have similar statistical properties to natural language corpora; and these properties can be exploited to build new geospatial tools. In fact, these "utterances" can be very usefully modeled using modern statistical methods. "

"Most 3D point clouds are just repetitive and predictable."

AI simplifies data processing pipelines

Conclusions

• Vanishing need for explicit models





Conclusions



• AI reduces software complexity

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Prof. Dr. Jürgen Döllner

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Contacts

- **Prof. Dr. Jürgen Döllner** juergen.doellner@hpi.de
- Dr. Rico Richter

Point Cloud Analytics www.pointcloudtechnology.com rico.richter@pointcloudtechnology.com

• Henning Hollburg

Location Intelligence Boardroom www.targomo.com henning.hollburg@targomo.com

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