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CARTOGRAPHY LAB
University of Wisconsin-Madison



Geospatial Data Science Lab
UW-Madison

A Review and Synthesis of Recent GeoAI Research for Cartography: Methods, Applications, and Ethics

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The Booming AI



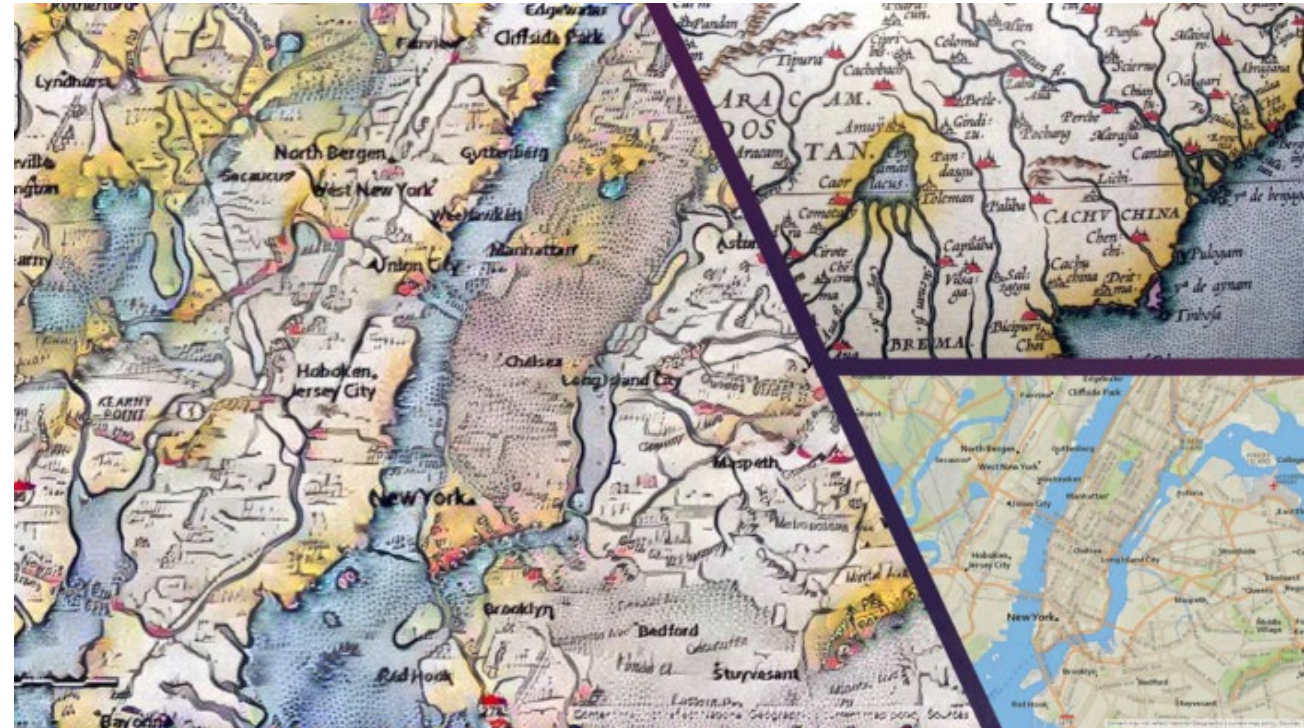
grille	mushroom	cherry
convertible	agaric	dalmatian
grille	mushroom	grape
pickup	jelly fungus	elderberry
beach wagon	gill fungus	fordshire bullterrier
fire engine	dead-man's-fingers	currant

GeoAI: The integration of geospatial studies and AI

Deep Learning for Object Detection from Images



AlphaGo with Deep Learning



Transfer Map Styles with GeoAI

Gao, S., 2021. *Geospatial Artificial Intelligence (GeoAI)*. Oxford University Press.

Singh, R., 2019. *Integrating Deep Learning with GIS*.

GeoAI

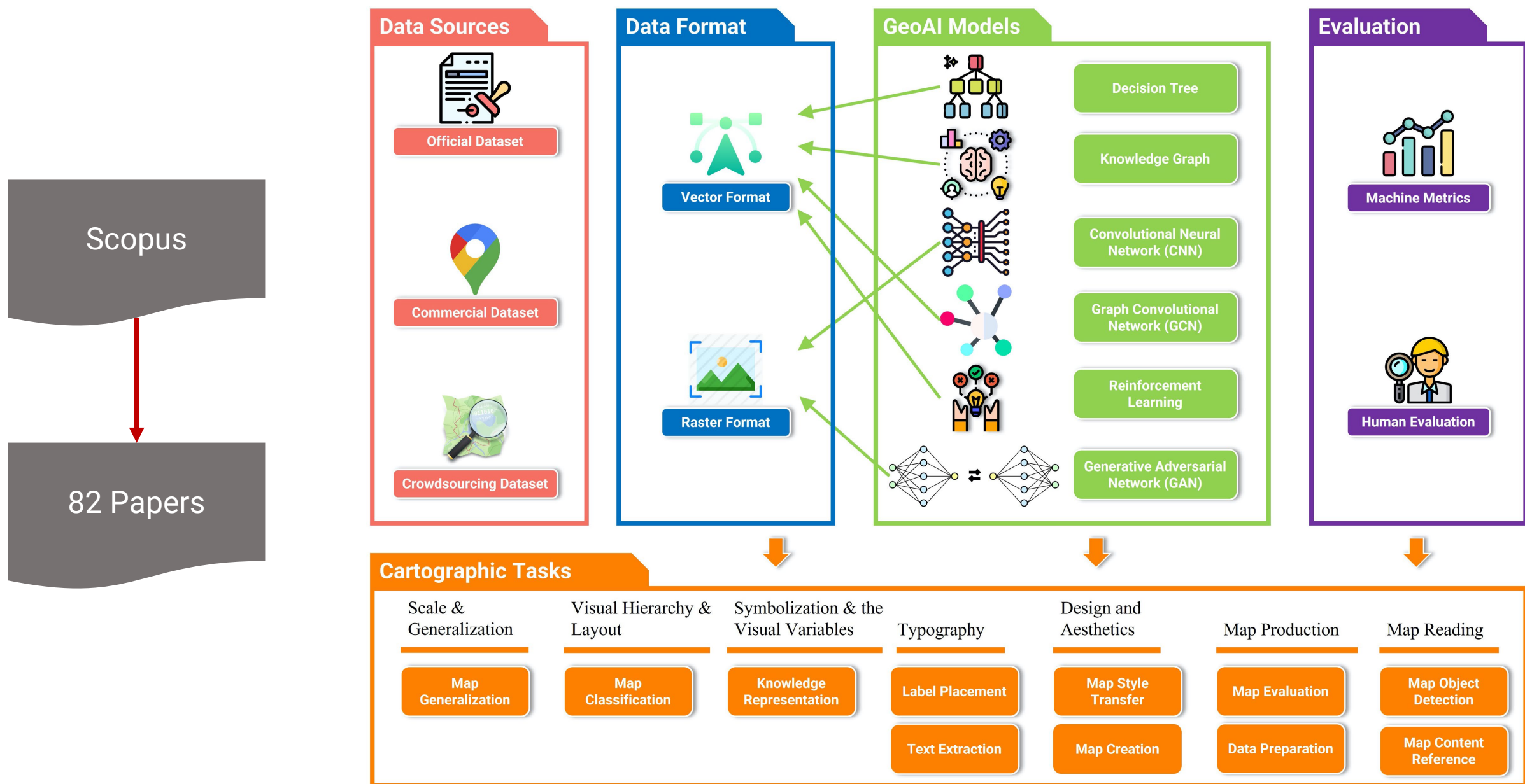
Can we develop an artificial GIS analyst that passes a domain-specific Turing Test by 2030?

Janowicz, K. et al., 2020. GeoAI: spatially explicit artificial intelligence techniques for geographic knowledge discovery and beyond. *International Journal of Geographical Information Science*.

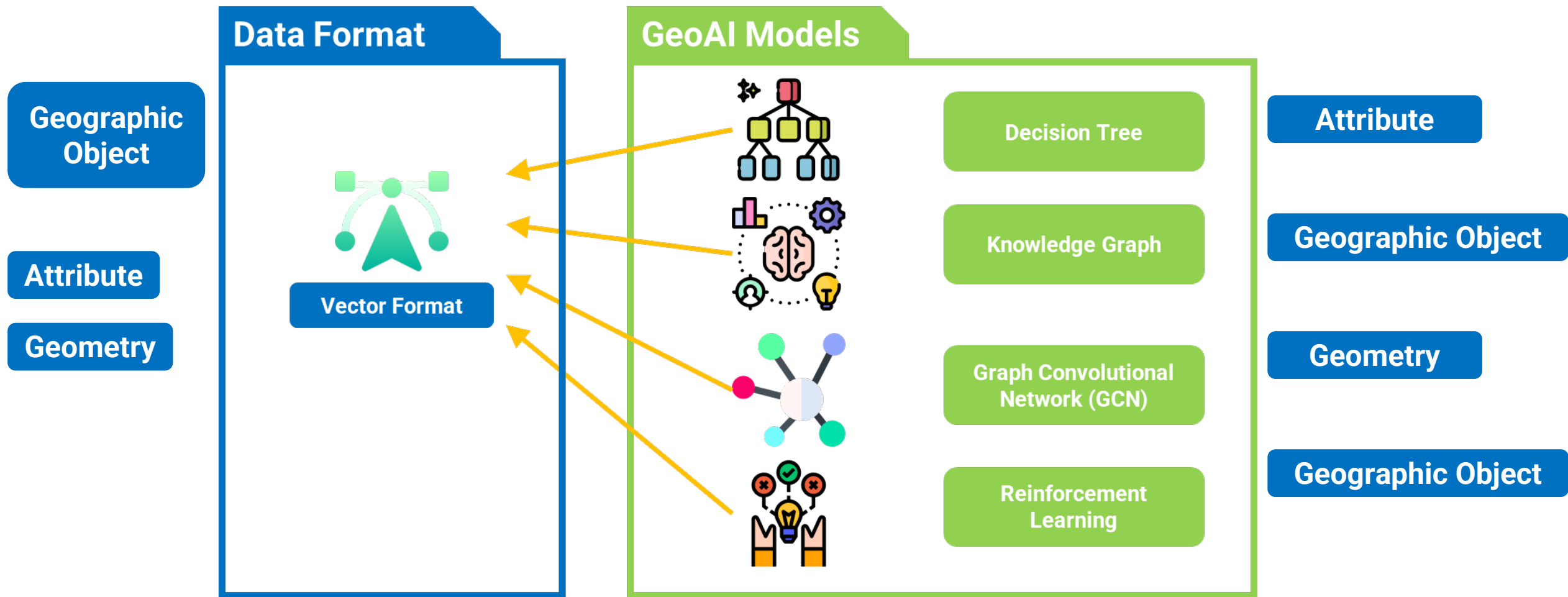
GeoAI for Cartography

Can we develop an artificial cartographer assistant so that cartographers are no longer focused on the usage of cartographic tools and technical details but more on artistic map creation?

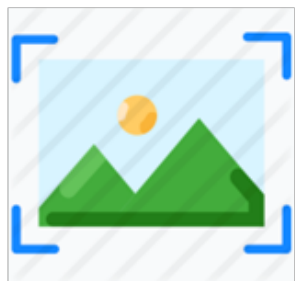
Computational Framework



GeoAI Approaches for Vector Data

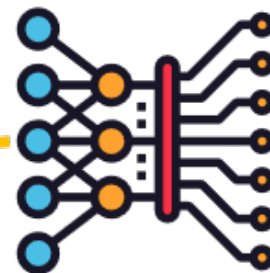


Data Format

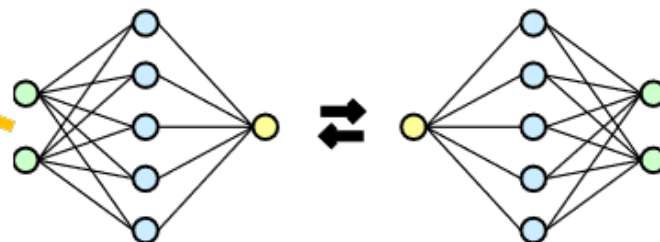


Raster Format

GeoAI Models



Convolutional Neural
Network (CNN)



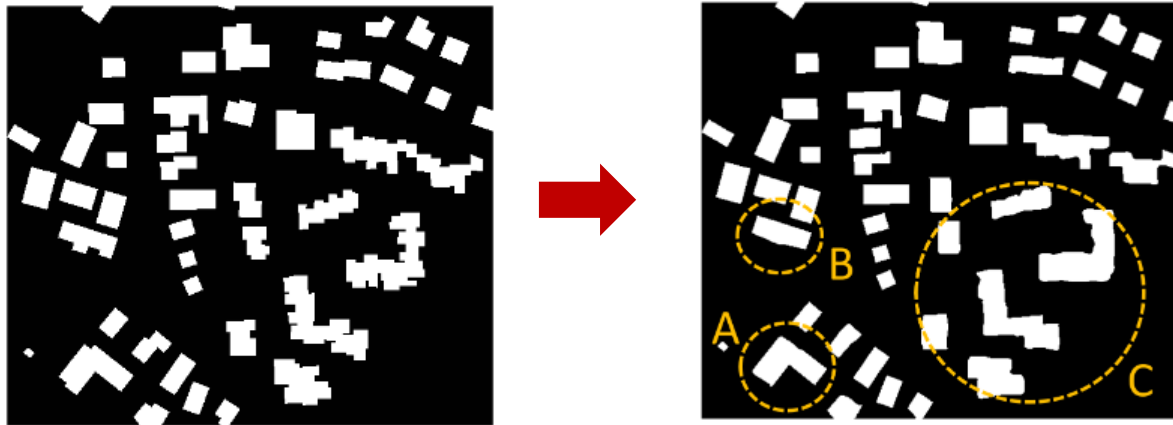
Generative Adversarial
Network (GAN)



Applications: Map Generalization

Tasks

Simplification



Smooth



Methods

Decision Tree

Convolutional Neural
Network (CNN)

Generative Adversarial
Network (GAN)

Graph Convolutional
Network (GCN)

Applications: Typography

Tasks

Automatically place labels



Automatically generate map labels



Methods

Generative Adversarial Network (GAN)

Convolutional Neural Network (CNN)

Reinforcement Learning

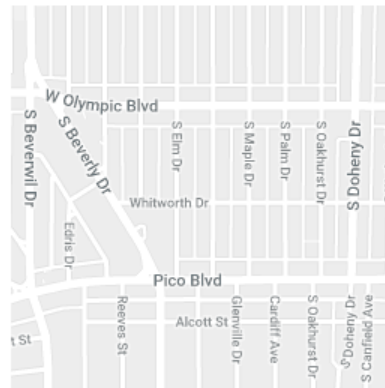
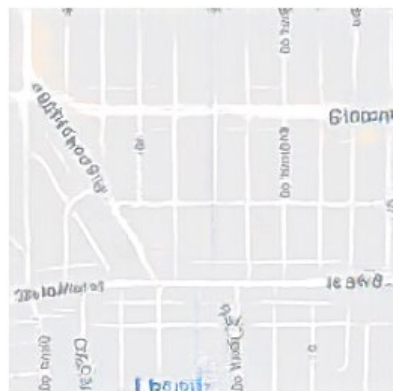
Pokonieczny, K. et al., 2019. Using artificial neural network for labelling polygon features in topographic maps. *GeoScape*.

Li, Z., Guan, R., Yu, Q., Chiang, Y.Y. and Knoblock, C.A., 2021, November. Synthetic Map Generation to Provide Unlimited Training Data for Historical Map Text Detection. In *Proceedings of the 4th ACM SIGSPATIAL International Workshop on AI for Geographic Knowledge Discovery* (pp. 17-26).

Applications: Design and Aesthetics

Tasks

Map Style Transfer



“Deep Fake Geography”



Simple styled maps

Transfer styled maps

Target styled maps

Urban Structure

Fake Image

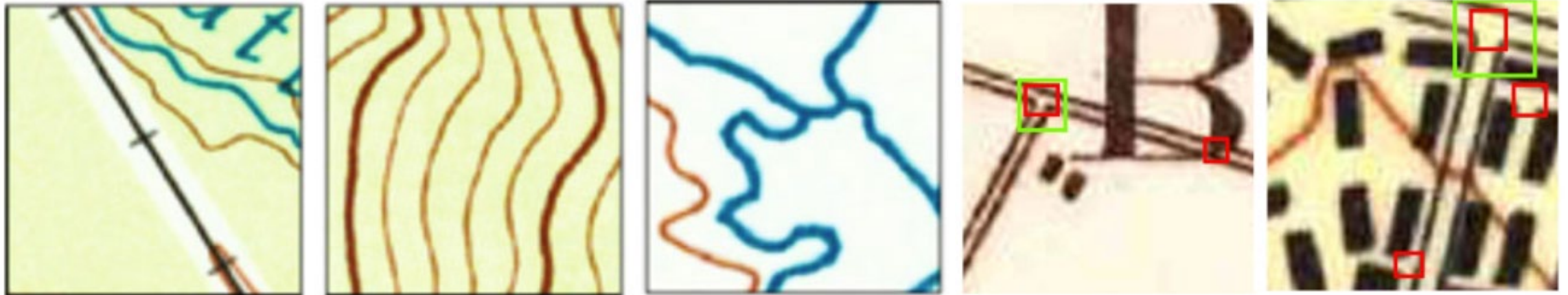
Methods

Generative Adversarial
Network (GAN)

Convolutional Neural
Network (CNN)

Tasks

Map Object Detection



Methods

Convolutional Neural
Network (CNN)

Graph Convolutional
Network (GCN)

Chiang, Y.Y., et al., 2020. Training deep learning models for geographic feature recognition from historical maps. In *Using historical maps in scientific studies*.

Saeedimoghaddam, et al., 2020. Automatic extraction of road intersection points from USGS historical map series using deep convolutional neural networks. *International Journal of Geographical Information Science*.

Applications: Map Reading

Tasks

Map Content Reference



Iran
0.999



Andorra
0.991



Finland
0.999



Argentina
0.998



Nepal
0.991



Italy
0.998

Methods

Convolutional Neural
Network (CNN)

Find Similar Regions



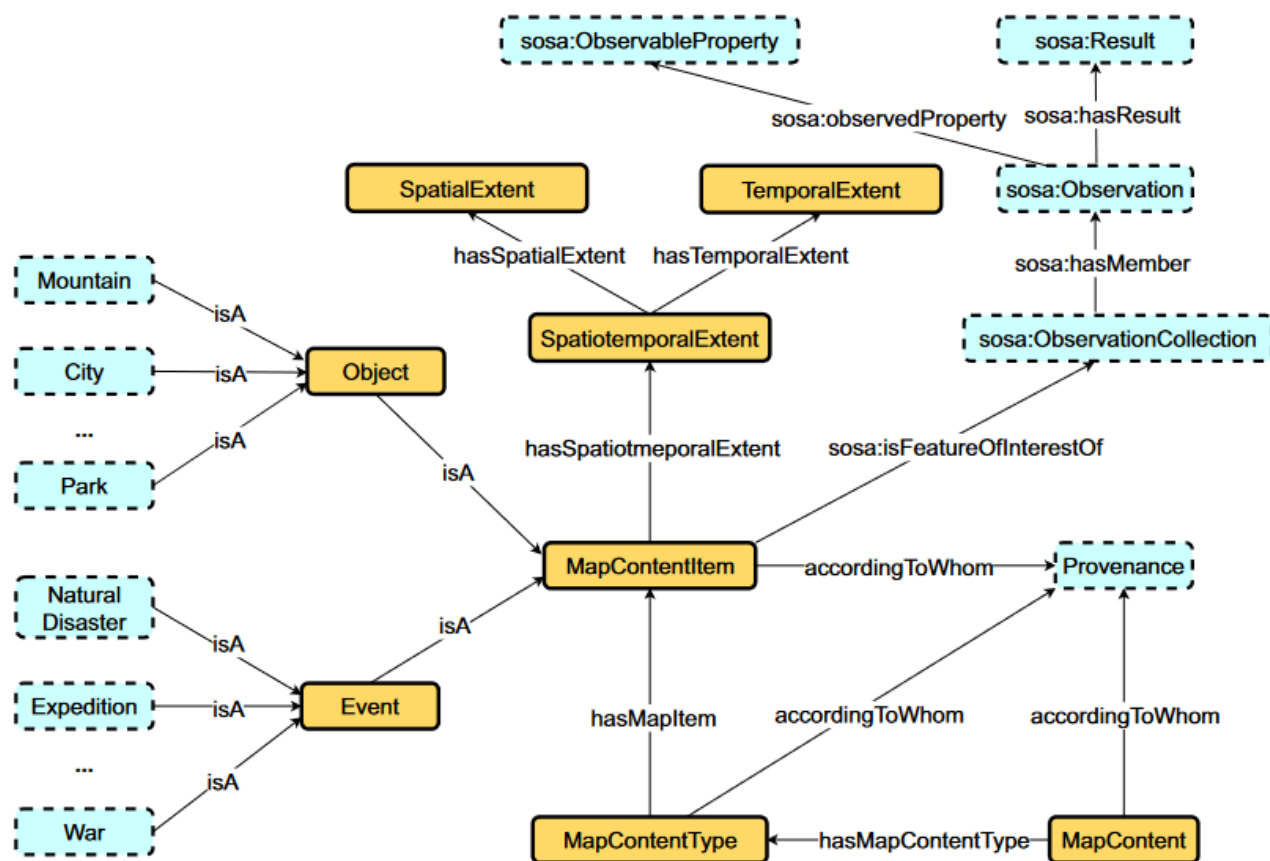
Evans, M.R., et al., 2017, November. Livemaps: Learning geo-intent from images of maps on a large scale. In *Proceedings of the 25th ACM SIGSPATIAL international conference on advances in geographic information systems*.

Dobesova, Z., 2020. Experiment in finding look-alike European cities using urban atlas data. *ISPRS International Journal of Geo-Information*.

Applications: Knowledge Representation

Tasks

Summarize Cartographic Knowledge



```
@[prefix definitions]
CONSTRUCT {?battle symbolizer:isSymbolizedBy portrayal:
  ↳ symbolizer_3}
WHERE
{
  ?battle wdt:P31 wd:Q178561.           # the entity is a battle
  {wd:Q362 wdt:P527* ?battle .}       # the entity is x-degree
  ↳ away from the World War II node with 'has part' relation
  union
  {?battle wdt:P361* wd:Q362 .}       # the entity is x-degree
  ↳ away from the World War II node with reverse 'part of'
  ↳ relation
  ?battle wdt:P580 ?start_time .       # Query the battle's
  ↳ start time
  FILTER(?start_time > "1939-01-01T00:00:00"^^xsd:dateTime) #
  ↳ Keep the battles whose start time is later than Jan 1,
  ↳ 1939
  FILTER(?start_time < "1940-01-01T00:00:00"^^xsd:dateTime) #
  ↳ Keep the battles whose start time is earlier than Jan 1,
  ↳ 1940
}
order by ?start_time
```

Methods

Knowledge Graph



Commodification

Charging issues of dataset, visual styles, and generalization outcomes

The copyright and responsibility issue for the cartographic outcomes produced by GeoAI

Bias

Toward trustworthy cartographic results generated by GeoAI

Biased dataset (e.g., spatial bias, population bias)

Interpretability

The “black-box” issue of the GeoAI in cartography



When should we use GeoAI for cartography?

How to integrate cartographers' experience into GeoAI for cartography?

What would be the big picture of GeoAI for cartography?



Promote the Global Cartography/GIS Education

The GISphere Project



The GISphere Project has summarized more than **400** Cartography/GIS-related programs (e.g., urban planning, remote sensing) in more than **70** countries or regions across the world

Programs

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Madison, Wisconsin, USA

Unit: [Department of Geography](#)

The geography department at UW-Madison has a long history and is a powerhouse in human geography, spatial analysis, and cartography. Famous Chinese-American geographer Yi-Fu Tuan and cartographer Arthur Robinson worked here. There are 2 types of GIS-related programs in this department. The research-based program is for those who want to land a career in academia. Those who have completed their undergraduate studies could enter the joint Masters/PhD (2 + 3 years) program while those who have a master's degree could enter the 4-year PhD program. The course-based program is for those who want to work for the industry. GIS-related courses include cartography, spatial analysis, geospatial big data, etc.

Twitter: GISphere
YouTube: GISphere
Website:

<https://gisphere.github.io/>



Professors

Professors:

- **A-Xing Zhu**: soil mapping, ecology, spatial analysis, environment modeling;
- **Song Gao**: spatio-temporal data mining, human mobility, urban computing, GeoAI;
- **Qunying Huang**: high performance computing, natural hazards, social media data analytics;
- **Robert Roth**: cartography, story map, WebGIS;
- **Christian Andresen**: arctic ecosystems, remote sensing, surface hydrology, wetlands, environmental change, carbon cycling, geospatial analytics, LiDAR, photogrammetry, unmanned aerial systems;
- **John W. (Jack) Williams**: paleoecoinformatics, geo-cyberinfrastructure, paleoecology, paleoclimatology, novel ecosystems, vegetation dynamics, global climate change, quaternary environments;
- **Zhou Zhang** (Department of Biological System Engineering): multi-source remote sensing, LiDAR, digital agriculture;
- **Anna Pidgeon** (Department of Forest & Wildlife Ecology): ecological field work, remote sensing, GIS, statistics;
- **Volker C. Radeloff** (Department of Forest & Wildlife Ecology): biodiversity, spatial analysis;
- **Tristan L'Ecuyer** (Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences): remote sensing, arctic climate;
- **Steve Ackerman** (Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences): remote sensing, cloud physics, climate change;
- **Angela Rowe** (Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences): remote sensing, cloud physics, weather process;
- **Shanan Peters** (Department of Geoscience): geoinformatics, geo-database, machine reading and learning, quantitative stratigraphy;
- **Basil Tikoff** (Department of Geoscience): tectonics, structural geology, geo-database, geology-related spatial cognition;
- **Min Chen** (Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology): earth system science.

Thank You!

I look forward to discussing with you!



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The end