Searching non-text information objects

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Non-text digital objects

- Music
- Speech
- Images
- 3D models
- Video
- ?

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Ways to query for something

1. Query by category/ theme
   – easiest - work done ahead of time
2. Query by describing content
   – text-based query
   – text-based retrieval?
3. Query by example
   – “similar to”
   – imprecise example - sketch

- query text docs and non-text objects with 2
- don’t often do doc search by 3
- big move to do music, images by 3

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Query by describing content

- text-based queries
- where get text-based content?
  - author labels
    - metadata
  - URLs
  - text near imbedded objects
    - html pages
  - group tagging
    - Flickr

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Query by example
"content-based search"

- How represent objects?
  - features of a class of objects (e.g. image)
  - how compare features?
  - what data structures?
  - what computational methods?
- Issues
  - large number of objects
  - accuracy of representation
  - large size of representation
  - complexity of computations

tradeoffs

tradeoffs

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Features

- typically vector of numbers characterizing object representation
- query and collection in same representation
- "similar to" ≡ close in vector space
  - threshold
  - Euclidean distance?
  - other choices for distance metric

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Example: content- based image search

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First example method: color histogram

- k colors
- Picture as histogram $\boldsymbol{x}$: % pixels each color
- k×k matrix A of color similarity weights
- histogram defines feature vectors
- $\text{dist}_{\text{histo}}(\boldsymbol{x}, \boldsymbol{y}) = (\boldsymbol{x}\text{-}\boldsymbol{y})^t A(\boldsymbol{x}\text{-}\boldsymbol{y})$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^{k} \sum_{j=1}^{k} a_{ij}(x_i - y_i)(x_j - y_j)$$

  - cross-talk: quadratic terms needed
    - not Euclidean distance

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color histograms: reducing complexity

- compute RED_{avg}, $GREEN_{avg}$, $BLUE_{avg}$
  - over all pixels
- use to construct 3D-vector for picture
- use Euclidean distance
- get close candidates
- examine close candidates with full histogram metric

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color histograms: observations

- works for certain types of images
  - sunset canonical example
- color histogram global property

- this only small part of work:
  QBIC system, IBM, 1995

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Second example method: a region-based representation

- region-based features of images
- query processed in same way as collection
- space-conscious: use bit vectors
- levels of representation:
  - store bit vector for each region
  - store bit vector for each image
- get close candidates: compare image bit vectors
- compare top k candidates using region bit vectors

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Processing images of collection & query

- segment into homogeneous regions
  - 14 dimensional feature vectors
- threshold and transform
  - high-dimensional bit vectors - store
  - Hamming distance between regions (XOR)
- build image feature vector
  - n region bit-vectors + weights ⇒
    1 m-dimensional real-valued image feature vector
  - L_1 distance between feature vectors
- transform image vector
  - one high-dimensional bit vector for image - store

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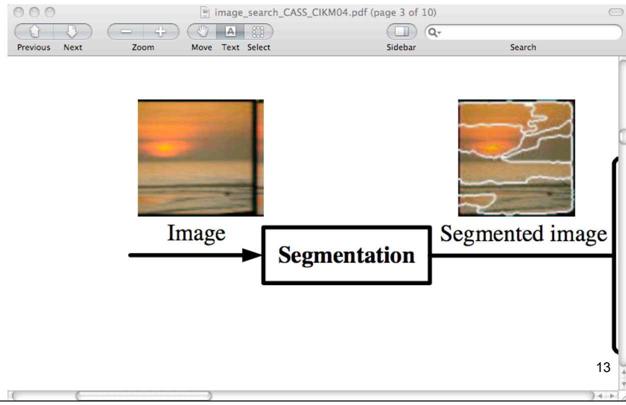
From
Image Similarity Search with Compact Data Structures, Qin Lv, Moses Charikar, and Kai Li. *13th Conf. on Information and Knowledge* 2004.



Components region feature vector

- color moments - 9 dim
  - role similar to histogram
- bounding box region - 5 dim
  - ln(aspect ratio)
  - ln (bounding box size)
  - density = # pixels / bounding box size
  - centroid x
  - centroid y

weight regions proportional to sq. root of area

Interesting details

- Choices of distance:
  - prove that preserve distance relationships when go from real-valued vectors to bit vectors
- Nature of sampling:

  Example: region bit vectors -> 1 **m**-dim real image vector

  To get the value for one component of real vector

  1. choose **h** positions of region bit vectors (mask)
  2. choose an h-dim. bit vector as pattern
  3. For each region bit vector

     If bit values at h positions of region vector equal pattern

     add weight of region to component of image vector

  h (just 1) and **m** are parameters to choose

Observations: region based

- Example of one regional method
  - lots of research, lots of places!
- This method uses sampling heavily
  - produce bit vectors
- Part of larger project - multiple media
  - CASS, Princeton, 2004

Third example method: Combining simple ideas

- Goals
  - reduce search space
  - reduce disk I/O cost
- Simple ideas
  - K-means clustering of image database
  - B+ trees
  - heuristic search limits
- New ideas
  - search beyond cluster containing query image
  - limit search within each cluster

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Image representation

- Inpute: non-texture RGB images
- Process
  - resize to uniform 128x128 pixels
  - transform to different color space
    - relate to human perception
  - transform to 964 dimensional feature vector
    - Apply Daubechies wavelet tranformation
    - use several applications

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Data space representation

- Cluster data space using K-means
  - search for "most cost effective" K
    - search space size vs result accuracy
    - use cluster validity indexes
    - use majority vote of different indexes
- Find cluster centroids
- For each cluster build a B+ tree
  - B+ tree contains each image in cluster
  - search key for i^{th} image in cluster is distance of feature vector of ith image to cluster center

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Search space for query

- don't search things know probably too far
- don't limit search to just cluster containing query
- Chose similarity threshhold c for data set
- search images in outer shell of cluster
  - range d-c to d+c for d=distance query to its centroid
  - B+ tree good for range queries
- Same principle whether q in boundry of a cluster or not
  - but use different c : c_{same}, c_{diff}

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Results

- find best 5 matches to a query image
- most interesting result:
  resourses used versus value find
- sample numbers (1000 images):
  - average distance
    - K-means & B+ tree 51.887
    - K-means 52.212
    - linear search 50.881
  - size search space
    - K-means & B+ tree 147
    - K-means 92.39
    - linear search 900

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Other Results

- visually:
  - not beating other methods for image quality
- calculate precision of top 5 returns
  - 10 pre-existing image categories
    - crude
  - sample numbers:
    - them 0.568, linear search 0.576

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Observations

- dynamic capability of B+ trees
- color based
- no region analysis of images
- image representation and data space representation independent

citation: "Integrating wavelets with clustering and indexing for effective content-based image retrieval" 2012

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Fourth example method: Image ranking

- given similarity measures
- use PageRank style
- define

$$\boldsymbol{v} = \alpha(1/n) + (1-\alpha)S\boldsymbol{v}$$

- where
  - n is the number of images to be ranked
  - S is a matrix of image-image similarities
    column normalized, symmetric
  - $\boldsymbol{v}$ is the vector of VisualRanks
  - α is the usual parameter

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Testing:Google image search

See
VisualRank: Applying PageRank to Large-Scale Image Search, Yushi Jing and Shumeet Baluja, *IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence,* 30(11), p 1877 - 1890, IEEE, 2008.

- Table 1
- Figure 11

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Observations: Image rank

- intention to use on images returned by other means
  - e.g. text based
- graph undirected
- Deployed?

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Image search: Summary of techniques

- Techniques seen
  - aggregate/average features
  - sample
  - course screening followed by more accurate
- Goals
  - reduce dimension
  - reduce complexity of distance metric
  - reduce space

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Image search: Commercial search engines

- Use everything you can afford to use
- Text still king!?

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DEMOS

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