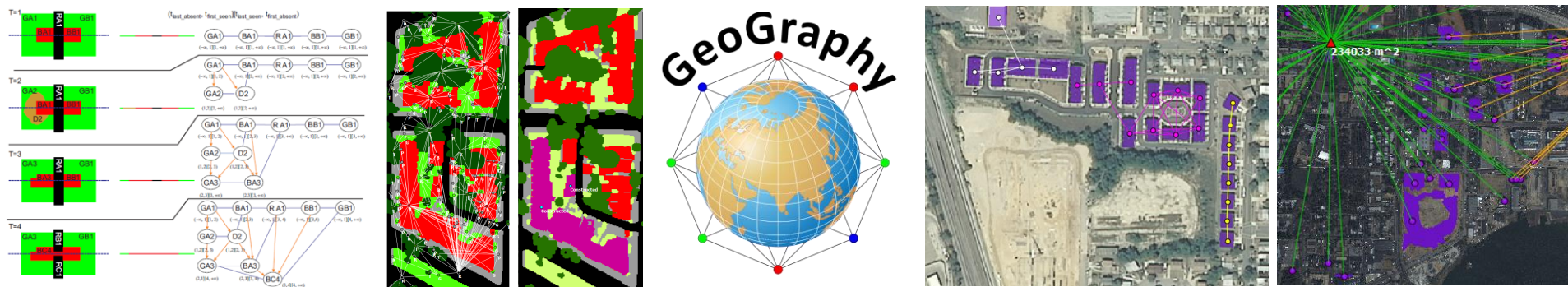


Exceptional service in the national interest



A Computational Framework for Ontologically Storing and Analyzing Very Large Overhead Image Sets

Randy C. Brost, Ph.D.

November 4, 2014

Acknowledgements

Co-Authors:

- Will McLendon
- Ojas Parekh
- Danny Rintoul
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- Diane Woodbridge


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- Sandia LDRD Office.

Overview

- 
- Motivation.
 - Computation.
 - Results.
 - Discussion.

Motivation



Motivation:

- Overwhelming remote sensing data.
- Wide-area search is tedious, error-prone.
- Reasoning over time is even more difficult.
- We don't want to miss important items (proliferation, weapons production...).

General approach:

- Automatically find items of potential interest.
- "Cue" to user for review.

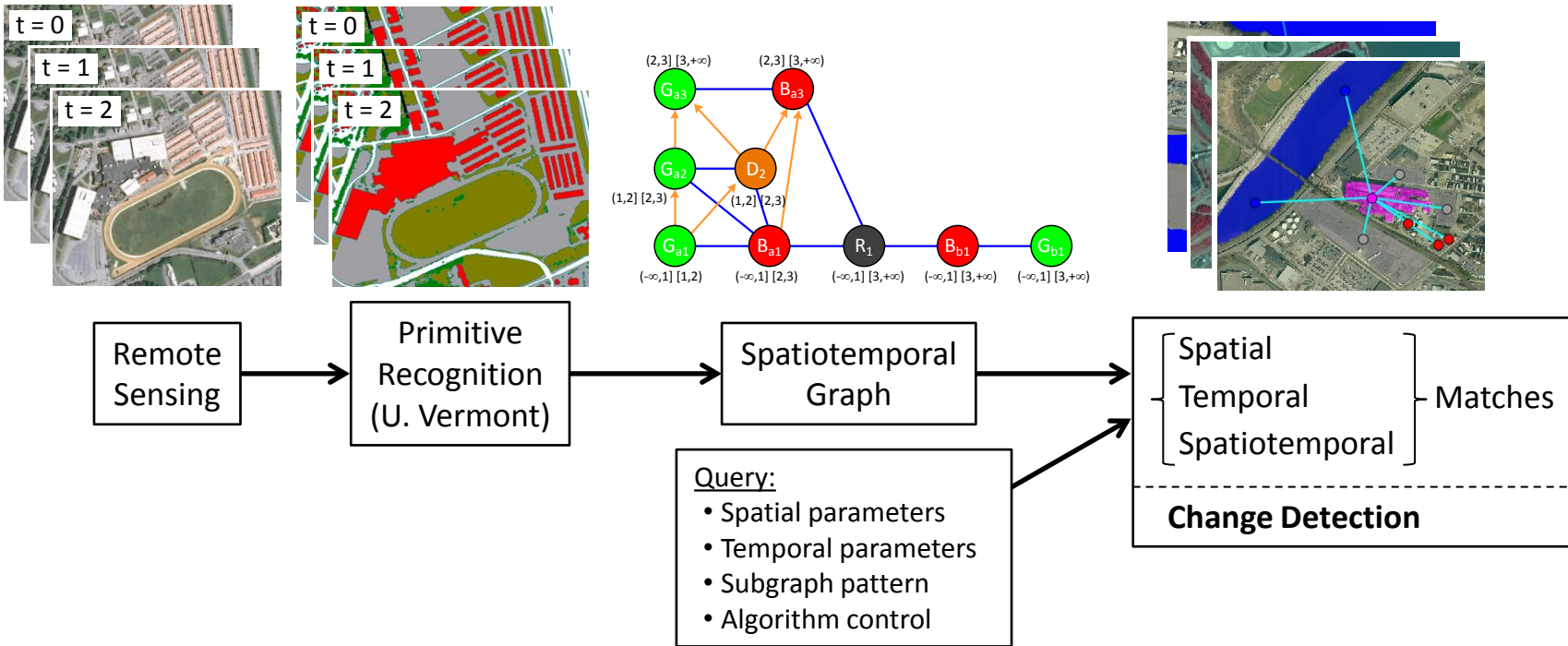
Types of questions:

- Geospatial: Find all power plants.
- Temporal: Find all changes.
- Geospatial-temporal: Find all power plants that changed.
- Multi-modality: Find new construction near points of interest.
Find industrial facilities with unusual emissions.

Overview

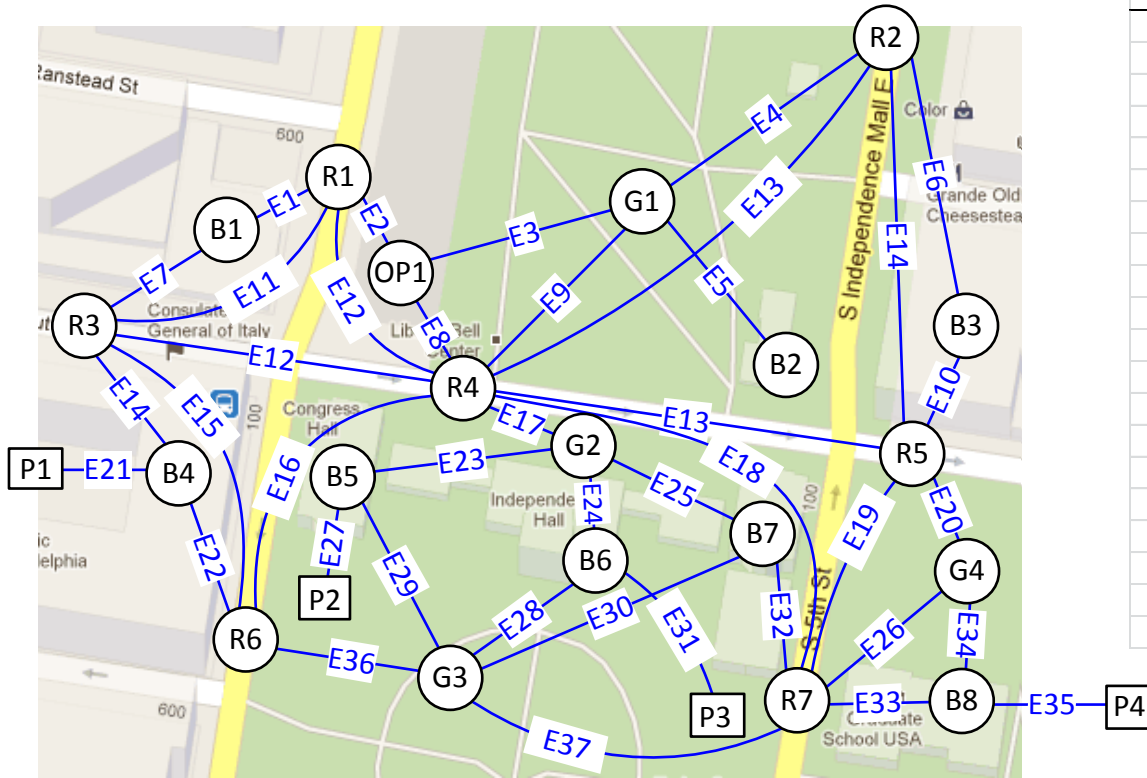
- Motivation.
- ■ Computation.
- Results.
- Discussion.

Geospatial-Temporal Graph Data Flow



Example Geospatial Semantic Graph

Independence Hall, Philadelphia:



Point node table:

id	Name	Address	Latitude	Longitude
P1	Consulate of Italy	150 S. Independent Mall West #1026	-75.14895	39.94884
P2	Congress Hall	41 N 6th Street	-75.14920	39.94899
P3	Independence Hall	520 Chestnut Street	-75.15000	39.94889
P4	Graduate School USA	150 S. Independence Mall West #674	-75.15090	39.94819

Region node table:

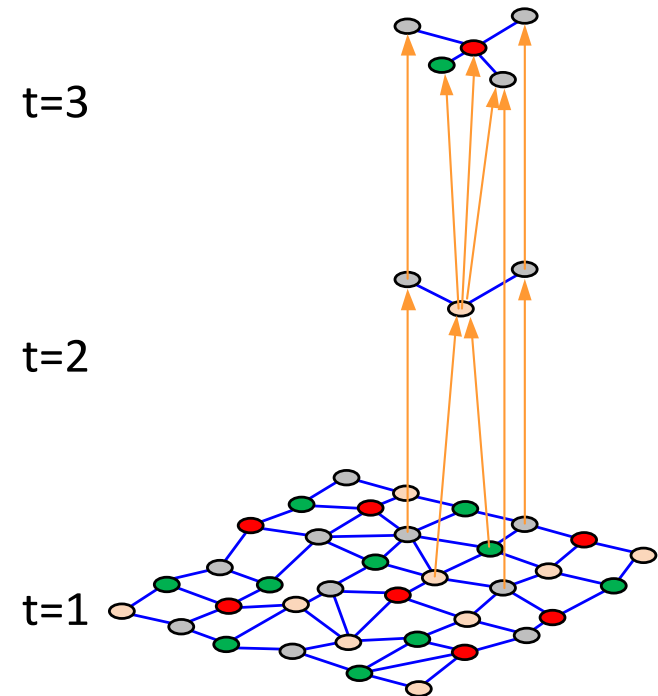
id	type	area	centroid x	centroid y
B1	building	3200	-75.14900	39.94939
R1	road	1800	-75.14910	39.94949
OP1	paved	4700	-75.14935	39.94934
G1	grass	22000	-75.15010	39.94944
R2	road	1900	-75.15060	39.94999
R3	road	1100	-75.14885	39.94934
R4	road	2200	-75.14980	39.94924
B2	building	780	-75.15045	39.94931
B3	building	6000	-75.15075	39.94944
B4	building	12000	-75.14895	39.94884
B5	building	2100	-75.14920	39.94899
G2	grass	7700	-75.14990	39.94906
R5	road	870	-75.15065	39.94896
B6	building	2000	-75.15000	39.94889
B7	building	3150	-75.15040	39.94884
G4	grass	15300	-75.15080	39.94869
R6	road	1970	-75.14905	39.94844
G3	grass	25000	-75.14960	39.94829
R7	road	1810	-75.15050	39.94834
B8	building	2700	-75.15090	39.94819

Edge table:

edge_id	node_1	node_2
E1	B1	R1
E2	R1	OP1
E3	OP1	G1
E4	G1	R2
E5	G1	B2
E6	R2	B3
E7	R3	B1
E8	OP1	R4
E9	R4	G1
.	.	.
.	.	.
.	.	.

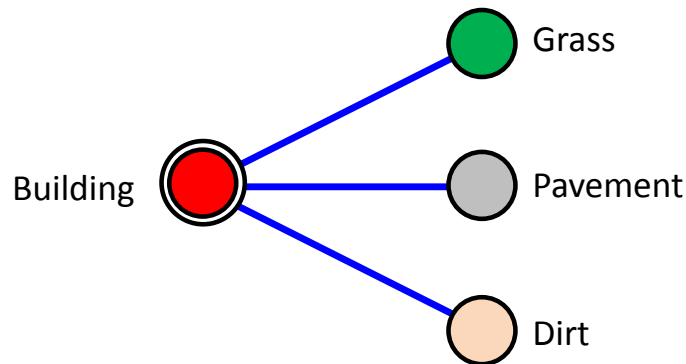
Representing Change Over Time

- Encode change:
 - Node attributes include duration seen.
 - Only construct new nodes for changes.
 - “Changed-to” arcs encode time evolution.
 - Graph complexity focuses on change areas.

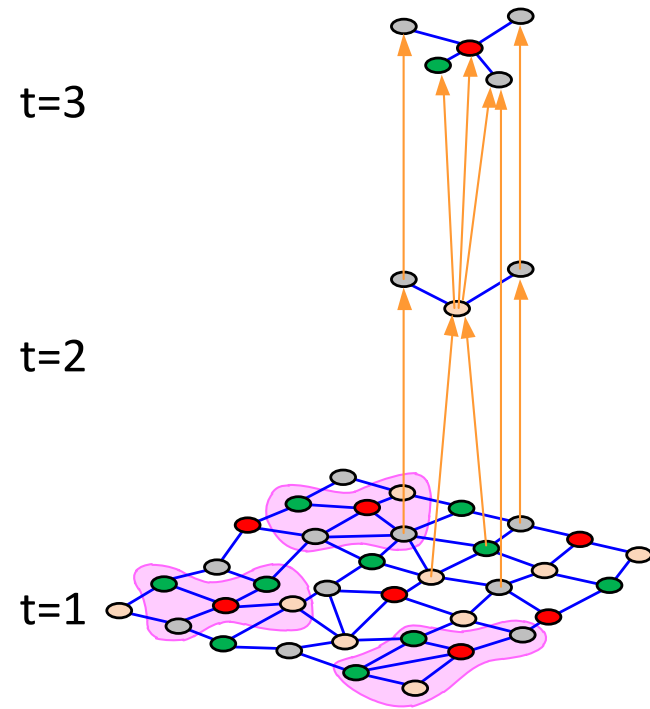


Signature Search

- A signature encodes a desired question.
- Example: “Where are buildings with nearby grass, pavement, and dirt?”

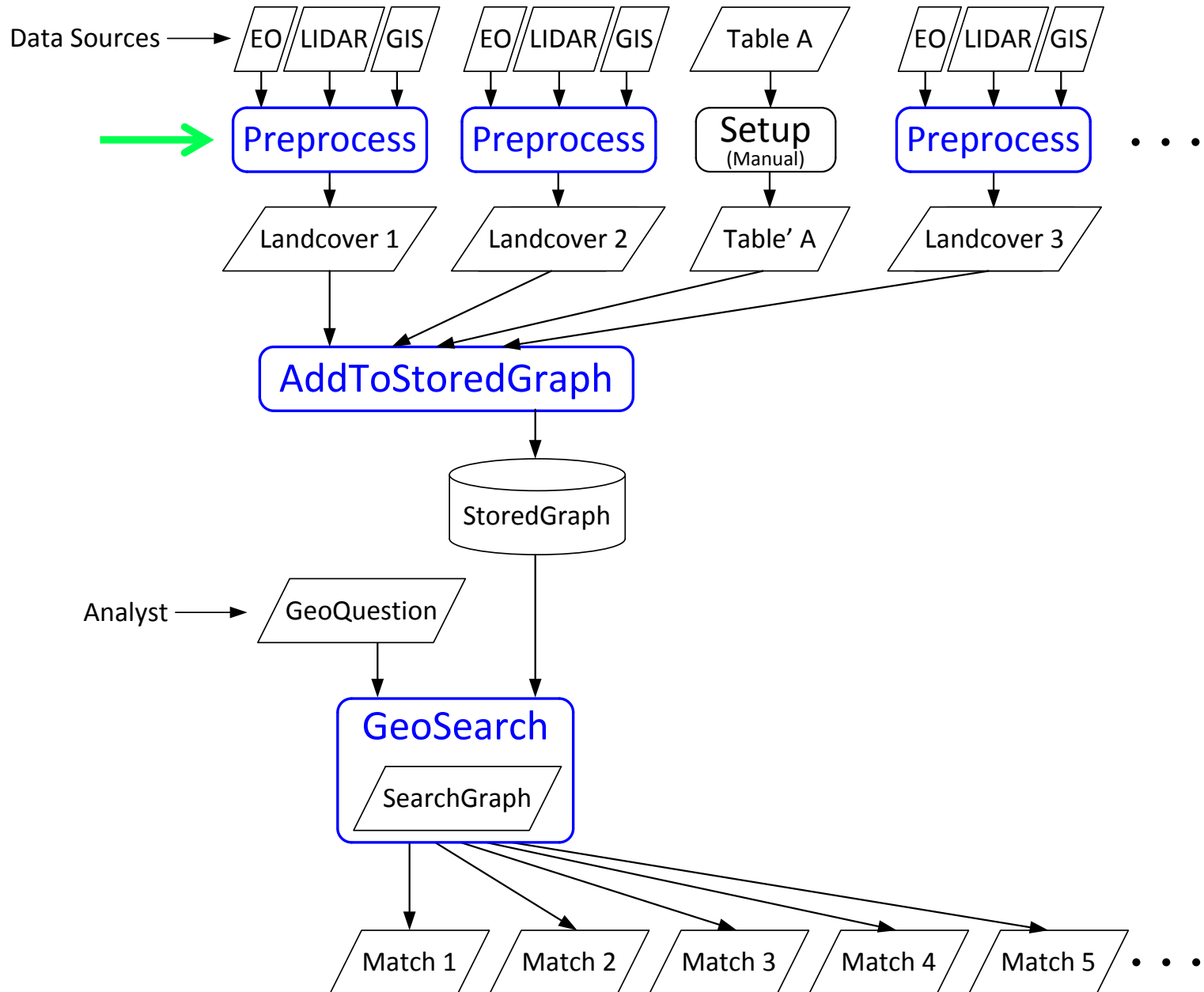


Query Template

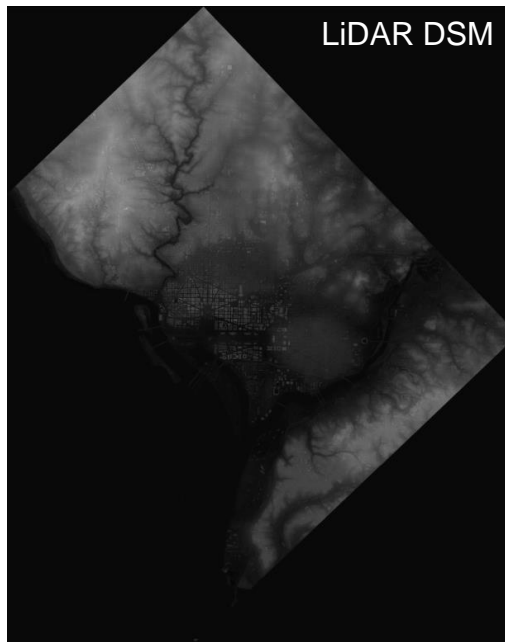


Search Results

Primary Data Flow



Input Data



GIS Road Polygons

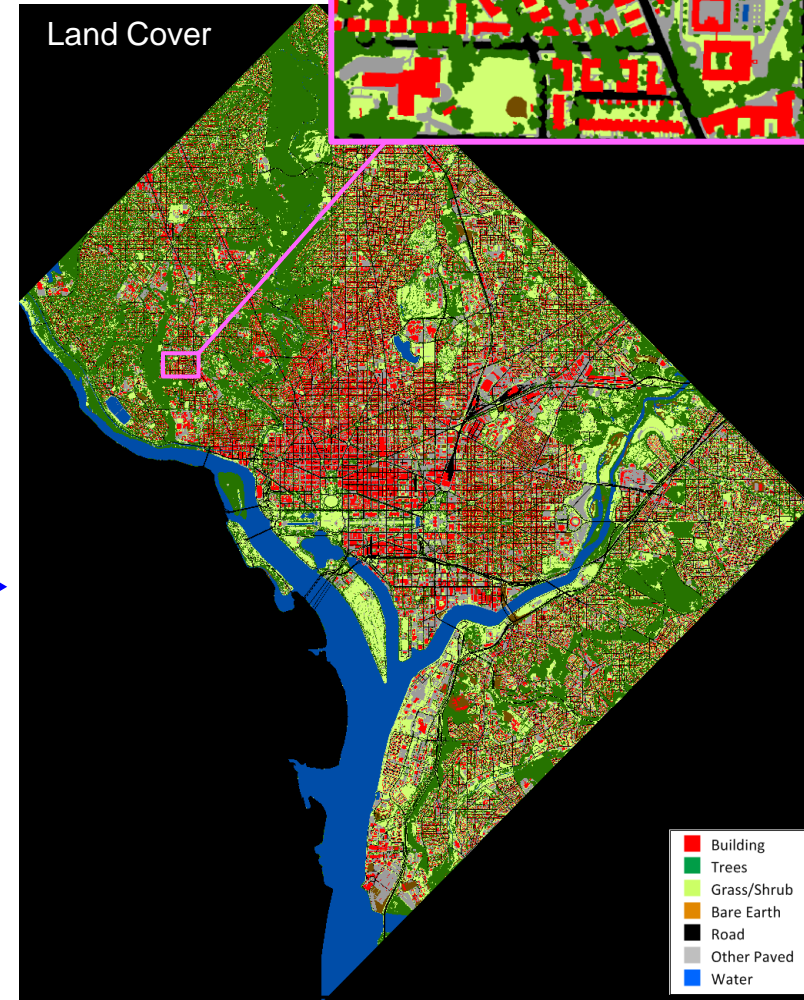
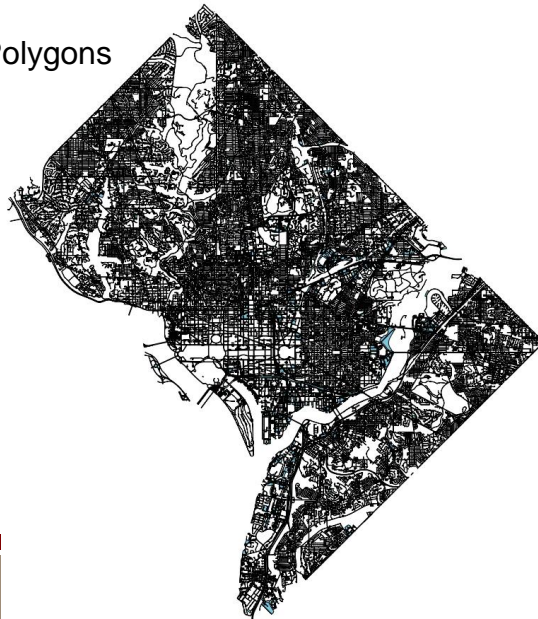
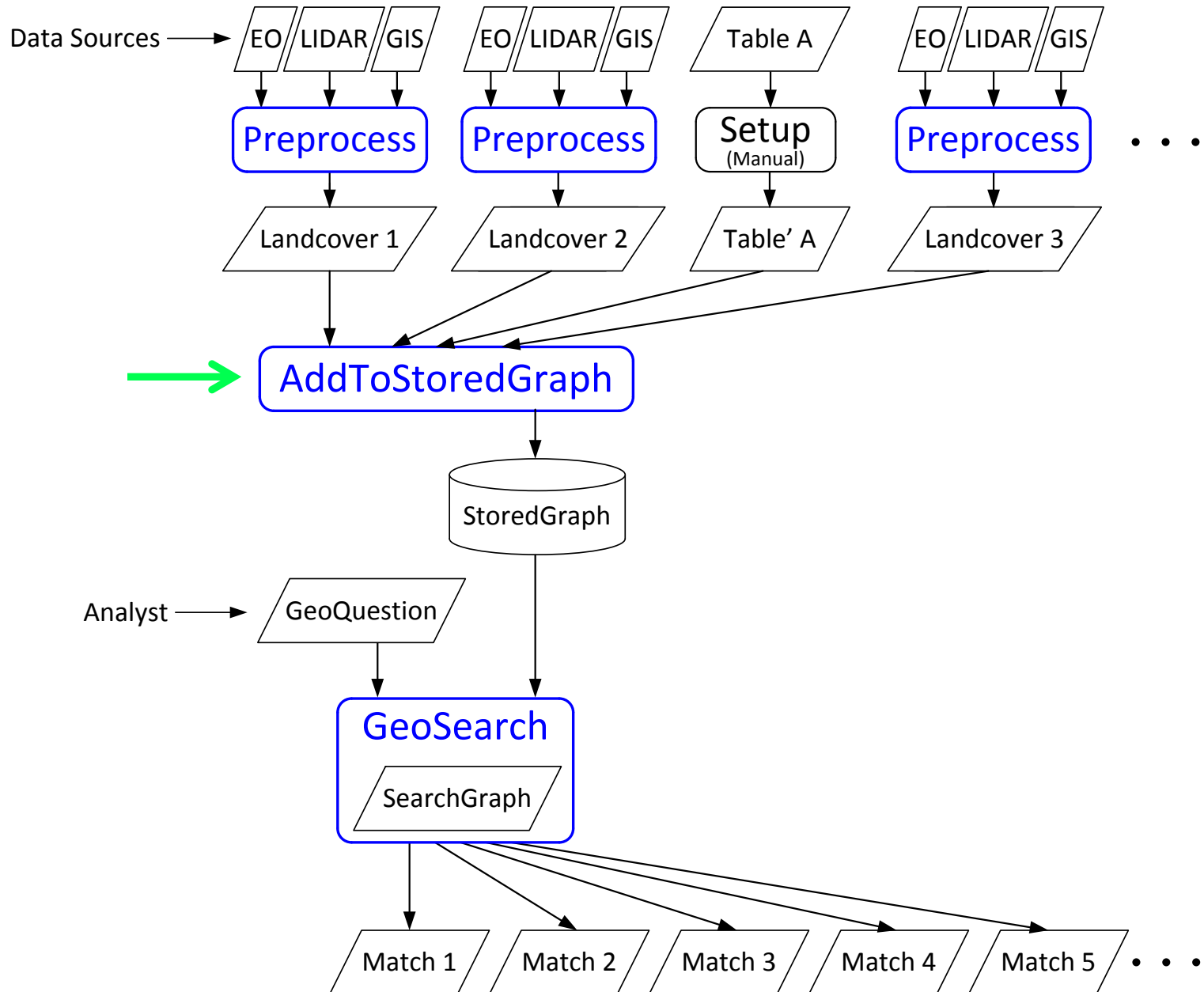


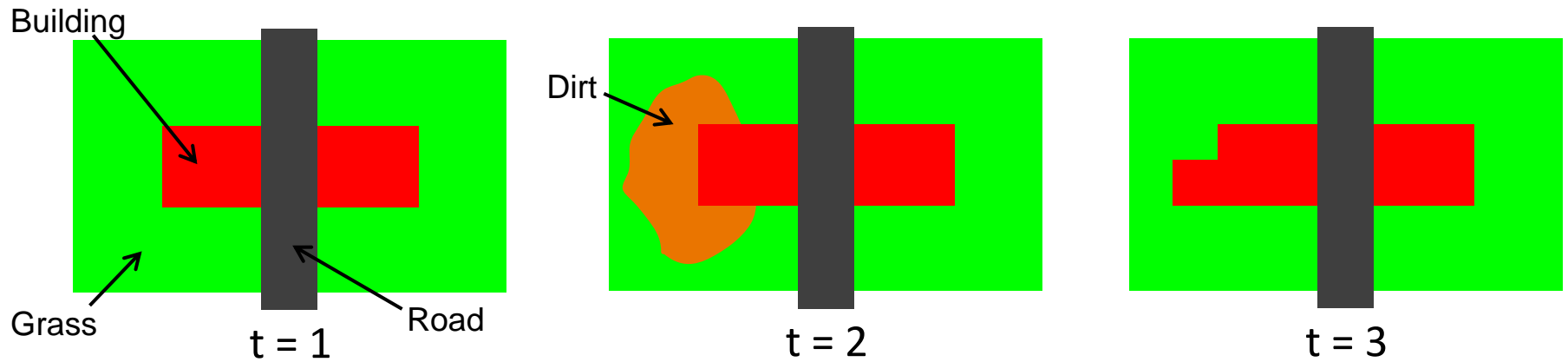
Image data and processing by University of Vermont
Spatial Analysis Lab [O'Neil-Dunne 2012].

Primary Data Flow



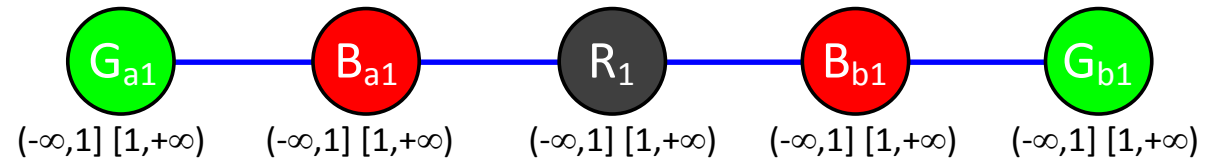
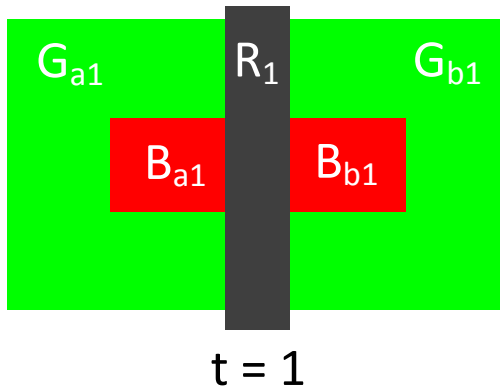
Example Scenario

Data sequence:



StoredGraph Construction

Start with land cover #1:



Data semantics:

Building	B
Grass	G
Dirt	D
Road	R

Each node has several attributes:
area, centroid, moments,
eccentricity, orientation,
bounding box, etc...

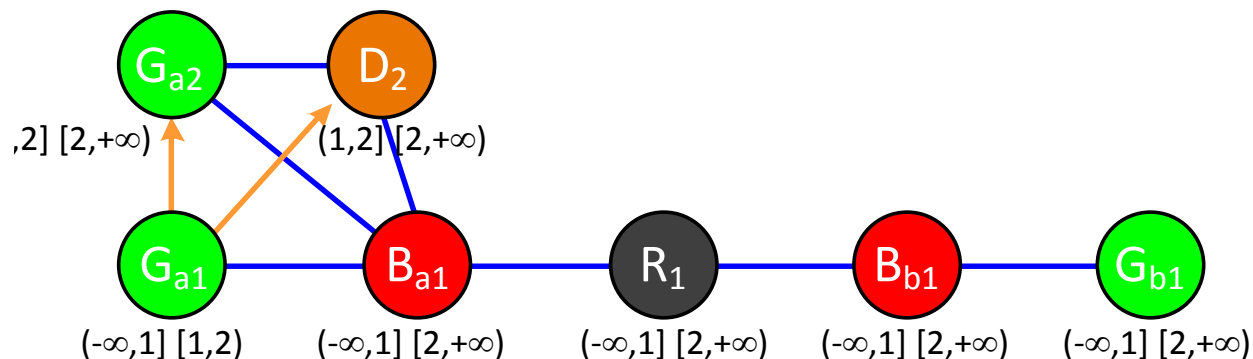
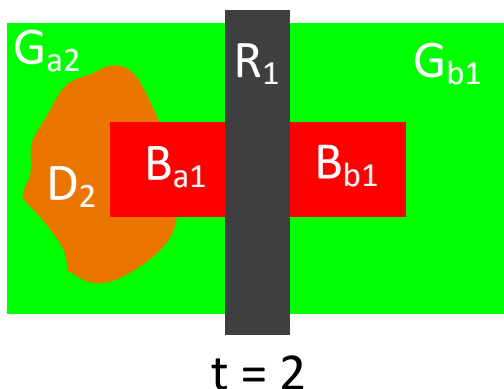
Legend:

\bigcirc G Durable nodes
— Adjacency edges

* Road \leftrightarrow Grass edges omitted for clarity throughout.

StoredGraph Construction

Add land cover #2:



Legend:

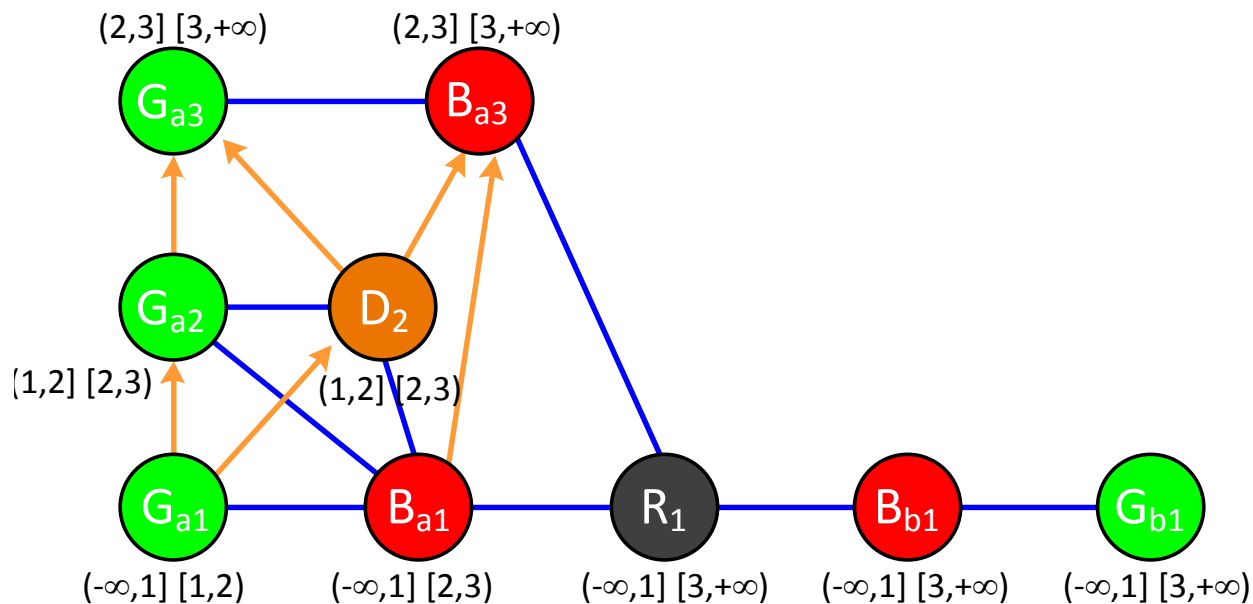
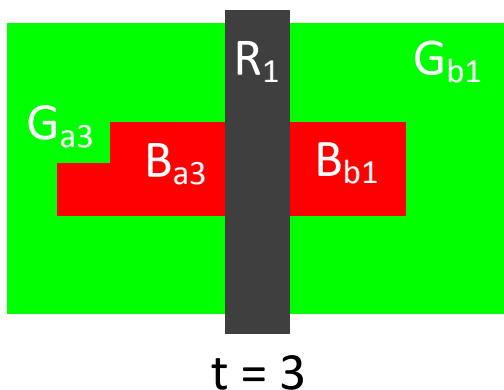
- G Durable nodes
- Adjacency edges
- Change edges

Data semantics:

Building	B
Grass	G
Dirt	D
Road	R

StoredGraph Construction

Add land cover #3:



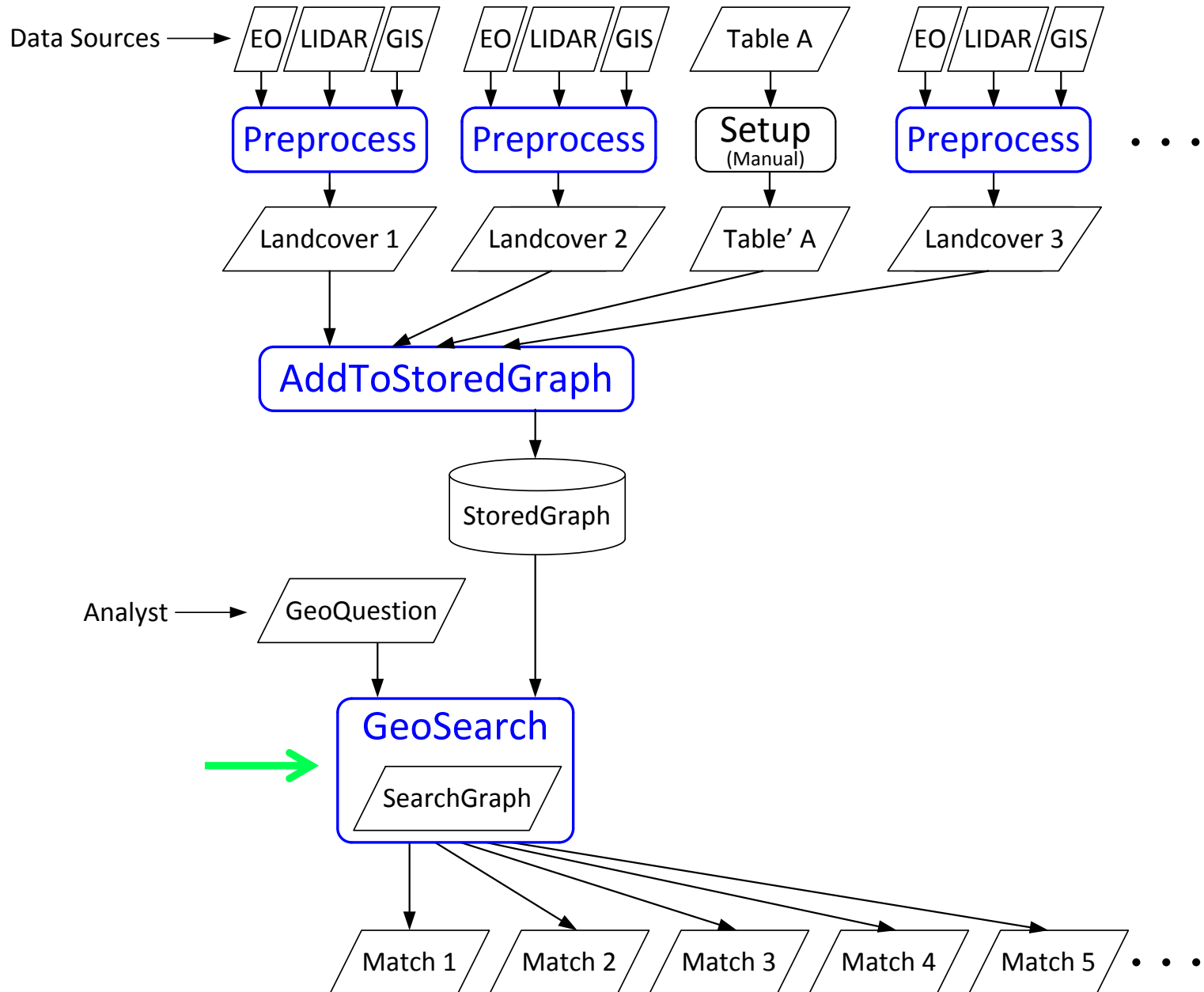
Data semantics:

Building	B
Grass	G
Dirt	D
Road	R

Legend:

- G Durable nodes
- Adjacency edges
- Change edges

Primary Data Flow



Query Definition

Question: Where is a new luxury office building?

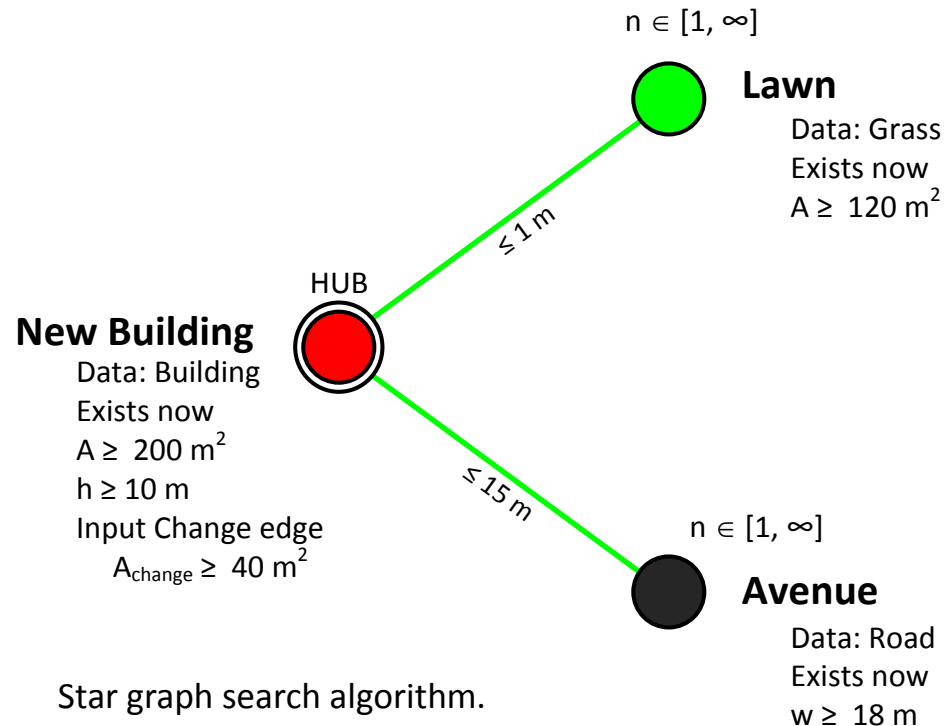
Star graph template:

Question semantics:

New Building	N
Lawn	L
Avenue	A

Data semantics:

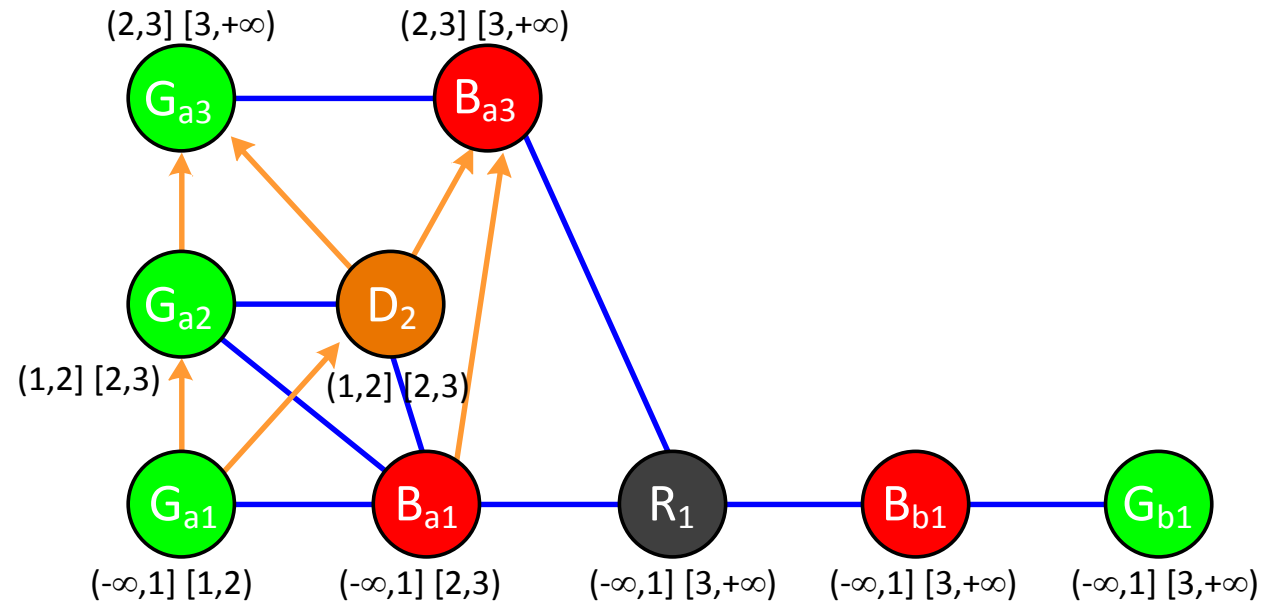
Building	B
Grass	G
Dirt	D
Road	R



This configuration is consistent
with a luxury office building.

Search Graph Source: StoredGraph

Available StoredGraph:



Data semantics:

Building	B
Grass	G
Dirt	D
Road	R

Legend:

- \bigcirc G Durable nodes
- Adjacency edges
- \rightarrow Change edges

Constructed SearchGraph

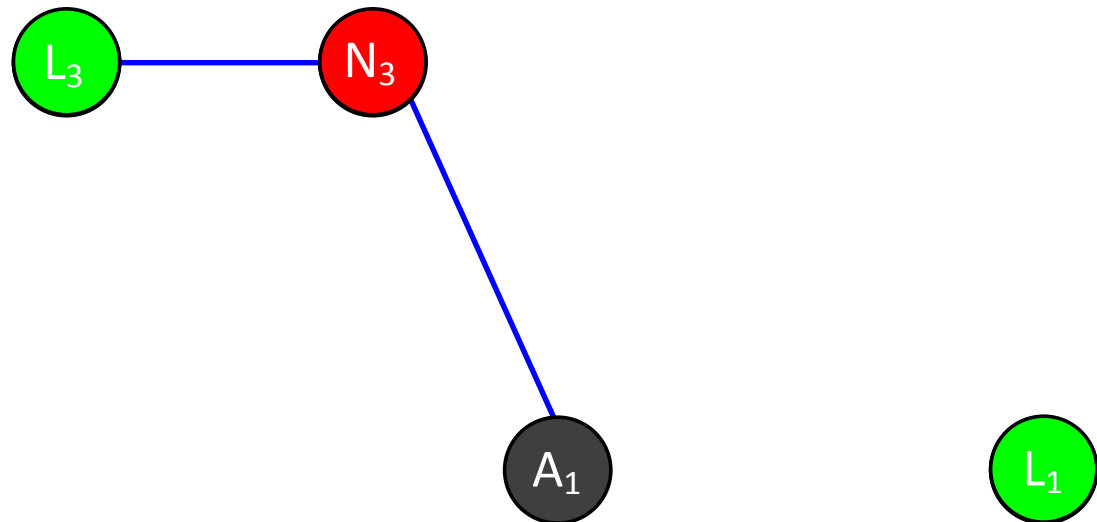
After adding edges:

Signature nodes:

- New Building
- Lawn
- Avenue

Signature edges:

- New Building \leftrightarrow Lawn
- New Building \leftrightarrow Avenue





Question semantics:

New Building	N
Lawn	L
Avenue	A

SearchGraph only contains elements relevant to the question.

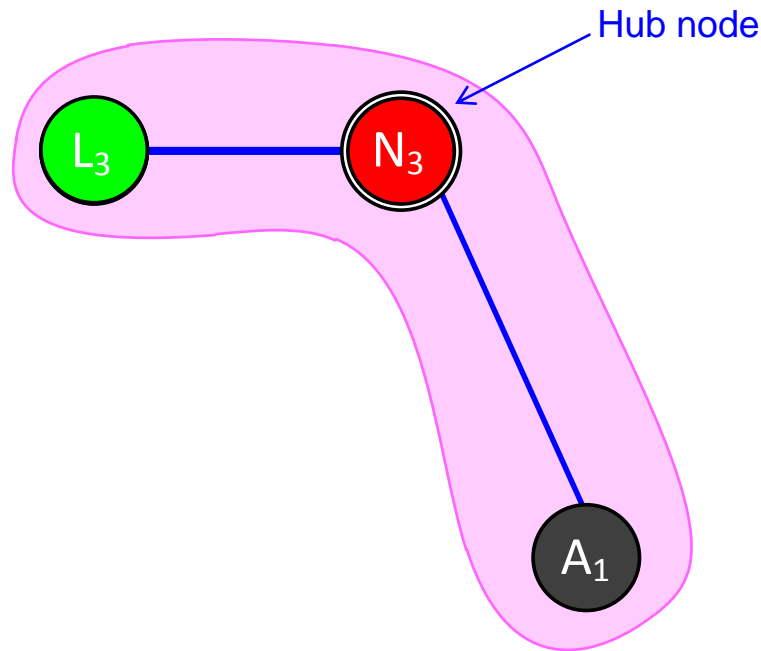
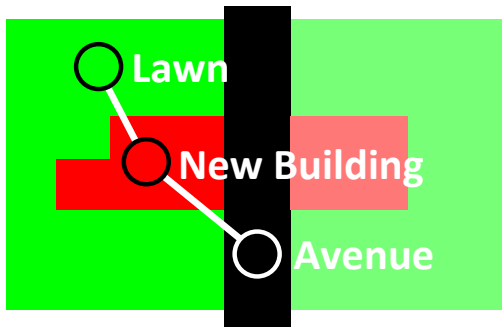
Semantics are now in terms of the question.

Legend:

 Nodes
 Edges

Search Result

Matches found:



Remarks:

- This match is consistent with hypothesized signature.
- It does not “prove” this is a luxury office building --- this template might also match a movie star’s mansion.

Graph Search

Initial implementation [Watson 2010]:

- Subgraph isomorphism.
- NP-complete! [Cook 1971, Ullmann 1976]

Current approach:

- Identify relevant portion of StoredGraph.
- Lazy constraint, distance edge evaluation, with caching.
- Simple graph search algorithms:
 - Star graph.
 - Connected component.
 - Interrupted star, using transitive closure.
- Postprocessing calculations.

[Cook 1971] S. A. Cook, "The Complexity of Theorem-Proving Procedures," 3rd ACM Symposium on Theory of Computing, pp. 151–158, 1971.

[Ullmann 1976] J. R. Ullmann, "An Algorithm for Subgraph Isomorphism," Journal of the ACM 23(1), pp. 31–42, 1976.

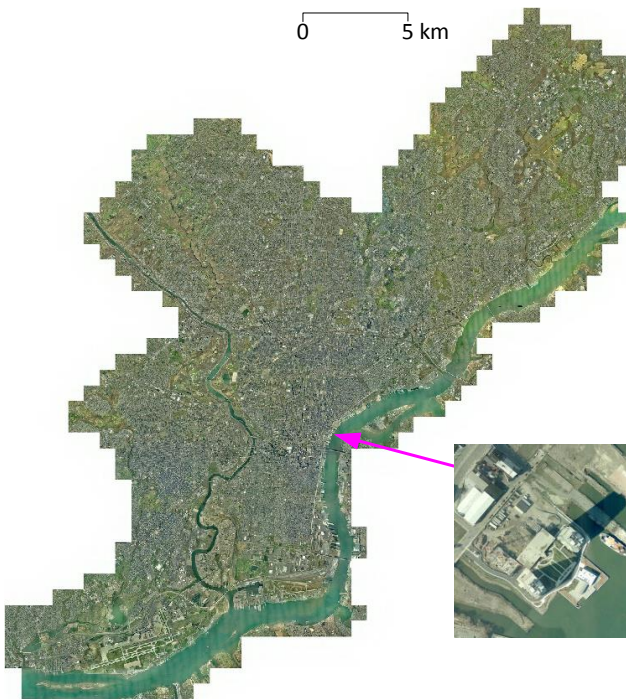
[Watson 2010] J. P. Watson, "Complex Signature Detection Using Geospatial/Temporal Semantic Graphs," Simulations, Algorithms, and Modeling Program Review Meeting (SAM2010), April 2010.

Overview

- Motivation.
- Computation.
- ■ Results.
 - Data.
 - Power Plant Search.
 - Refinery search.
 - Change Analysis.
 - New Building complex search.
- Discussion.

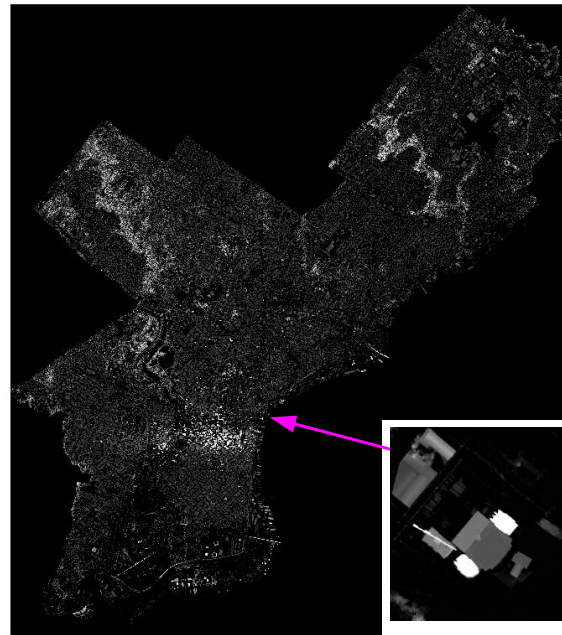
Philadelphia 2008

Primary input:



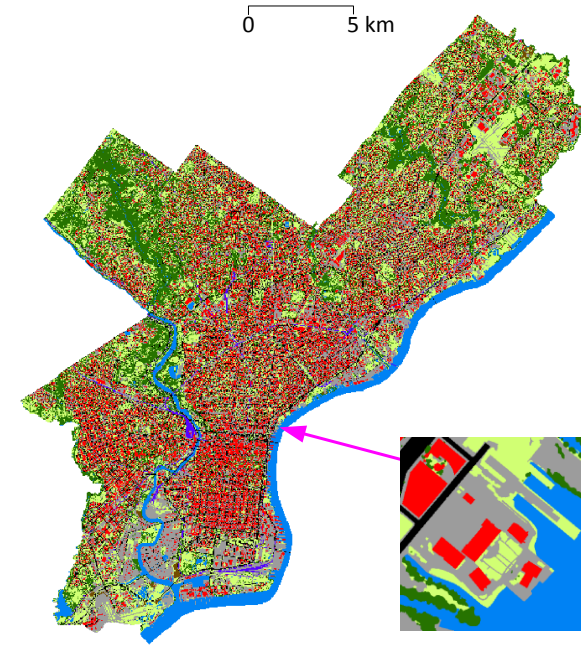
Optical Image

Pixel size 0.1 m
307,531 × 330,033 pixels
(101.5 Gpix)
7,669 MB



LiDAR nDSM

Pixel size 0.3 m
89,540 × 100,294 pixels
(9.0 Gpix)
2,084 MB

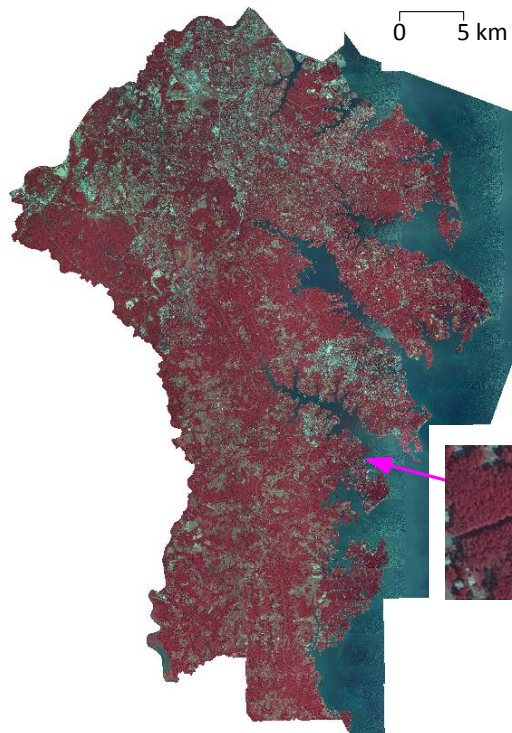


Land Cover

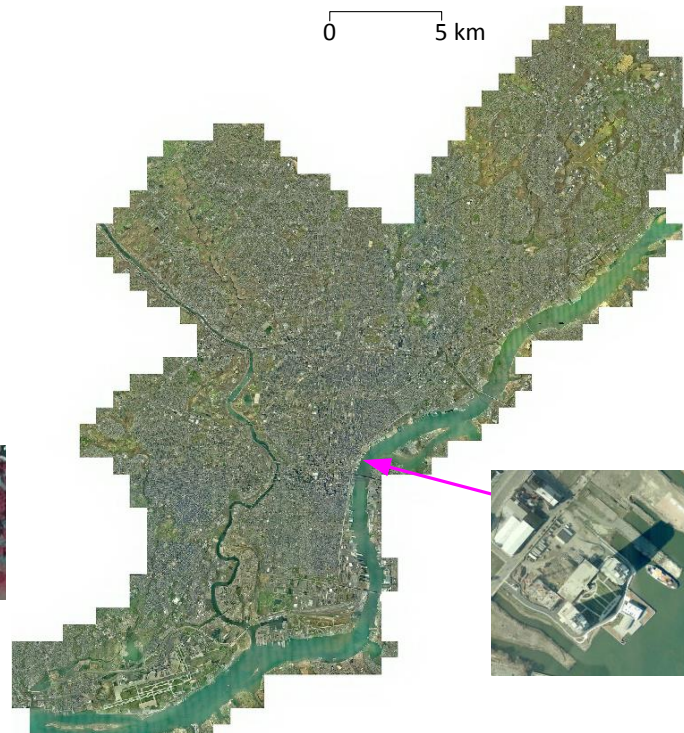
Pixel size 0.3 m
89,548 × 100,303 pixels
(9.0 Gpix)
8,775 MB

Three Data Regions

Search results:



Anne Arundel County, MD



Philadelphia, PA



Washington, DC

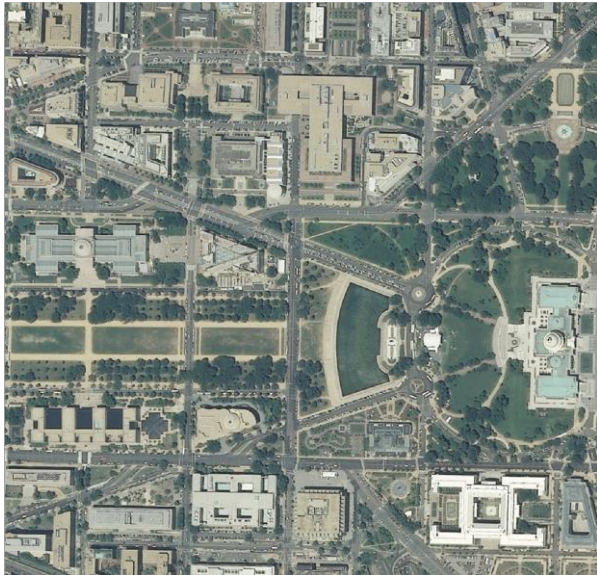
Total:

2,067 km² total area
135 billion Pixels
3.6 million Features

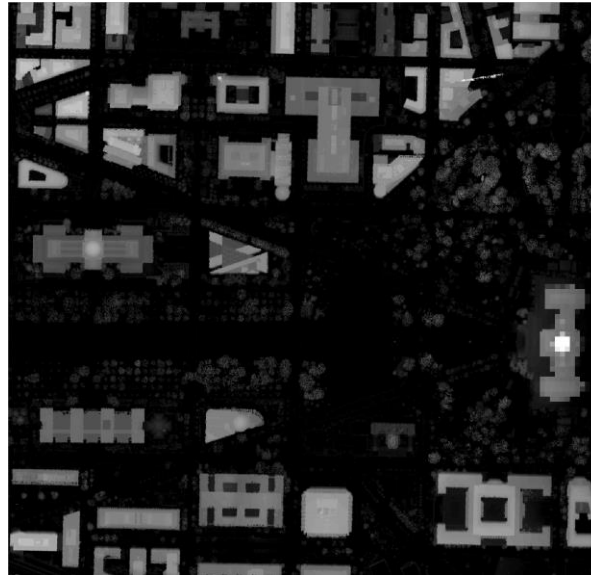
Total file size was about 88 GB.

Washington, DC Data

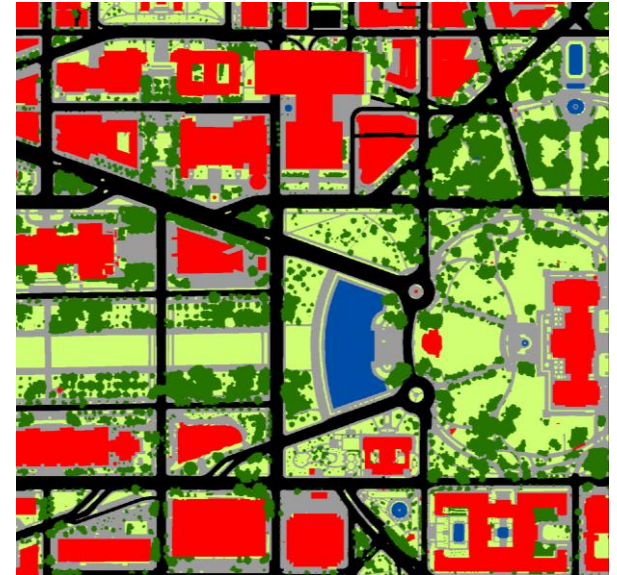
Zoomed in:



RGB+IR Optical Image



LiDAR Height Map (nDSM)



Posterized Land Cover

All of our wide-area data sets include this level of detail (roughly).

Power Plant Search

Query specification:

A power plant is a heat building with a transformer, and optional storage tank, evaporation pond, coal pile, body of water.

Question semantics:

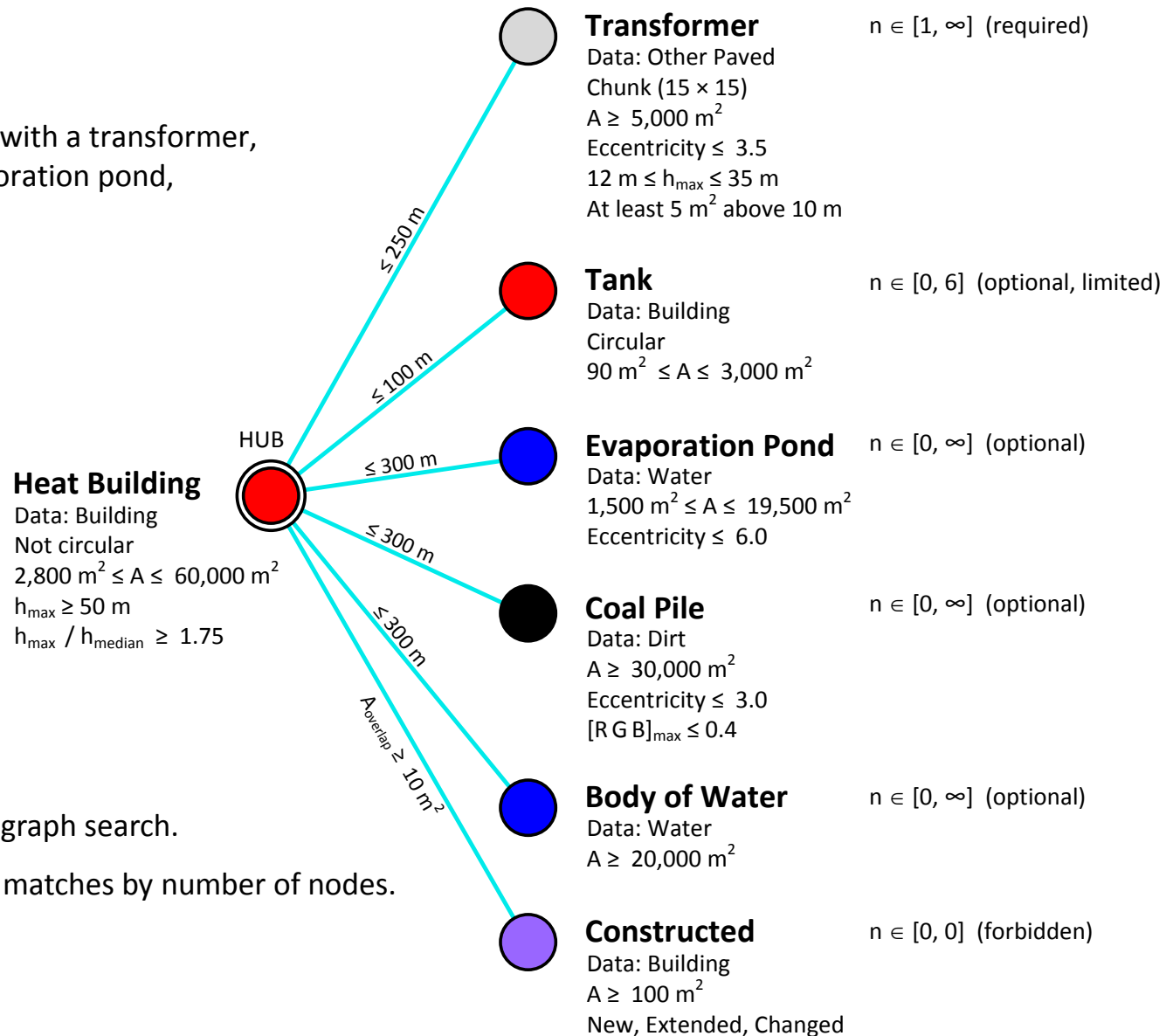
Heat Building
Transformer
Cooling Tower
Evaporation Pond
Body of Water
Coal Pile
Storage Tanks
Processing Tower
Pipe Network
⋮

Data semantics:

Building
Road
Other Paved
Grass/Shrub
Trees
Dirt
Water

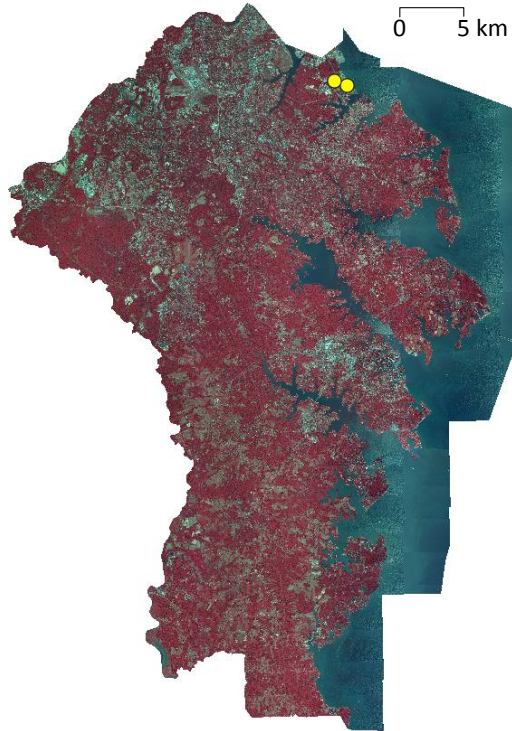
Star graph search.

Sort matches by number of nodes.

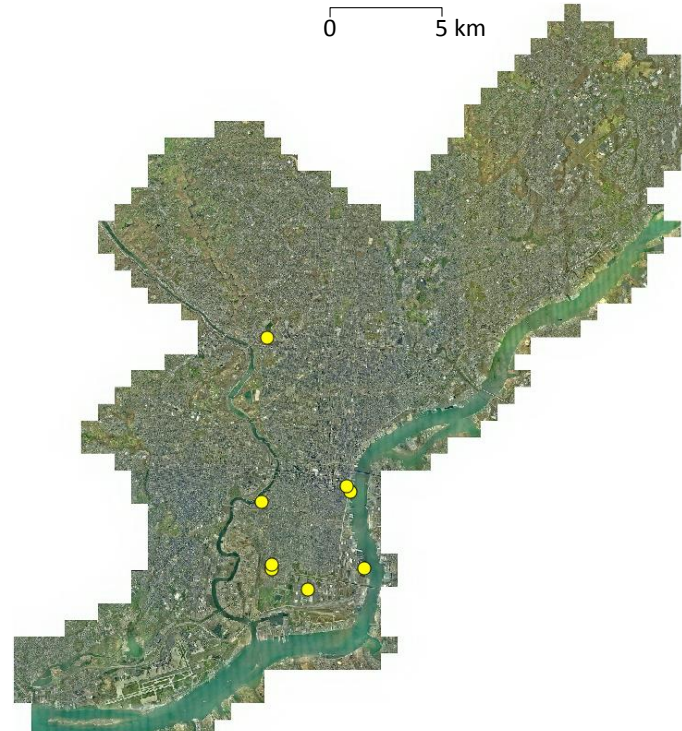


Power Plant Search

Search results:



Anne Arundel County, MD



Philadelphia, PA



Washington, DC

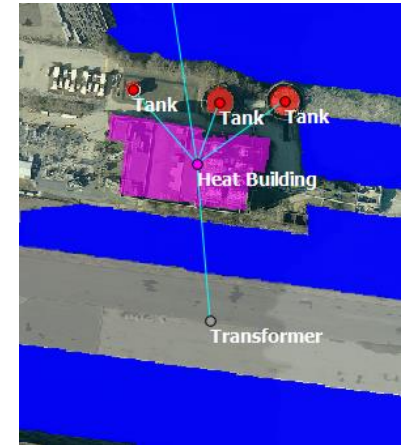
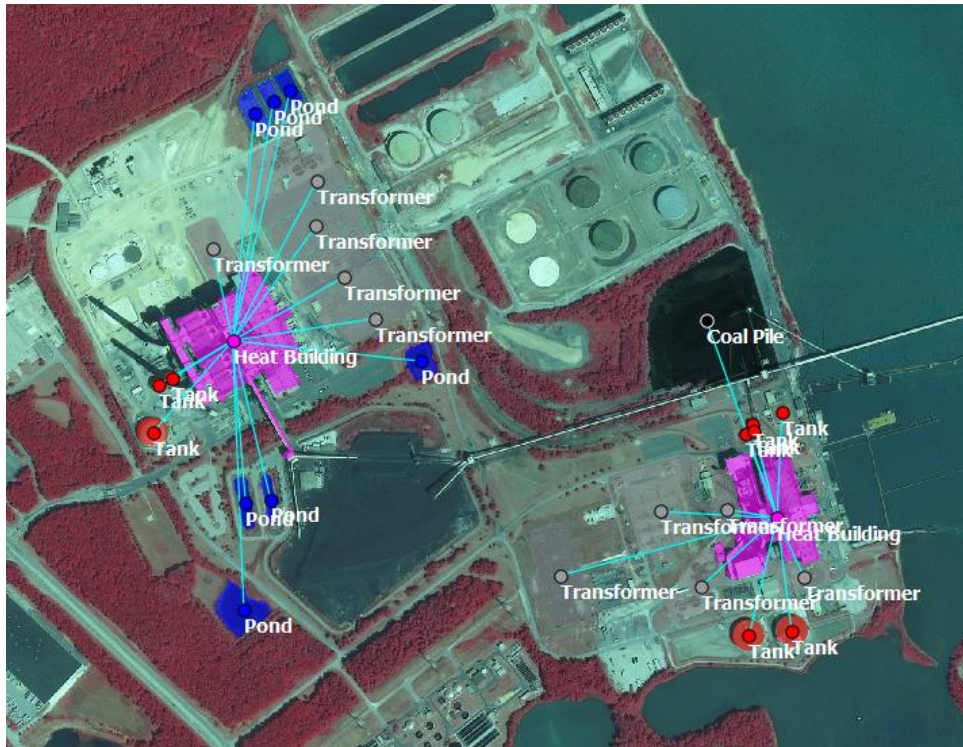
Input:

2,067 km² total area
135 billion Pixels
3.6 million Features

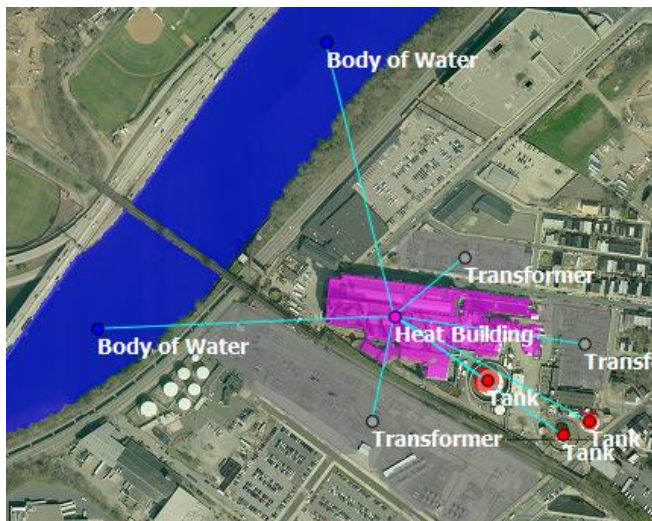
Output:

6 True positives
9 False positives
2 False negatives

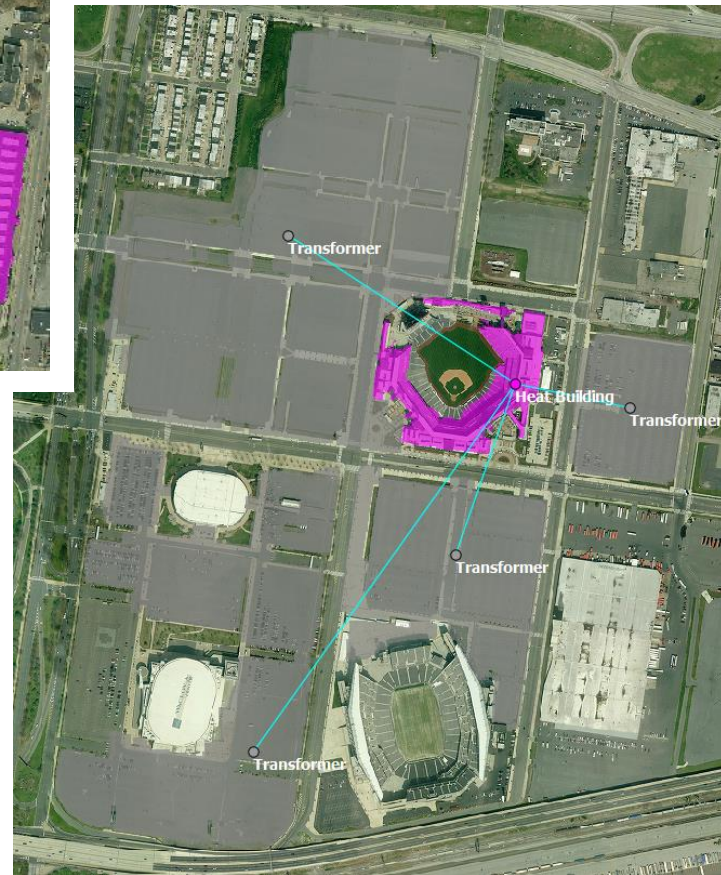
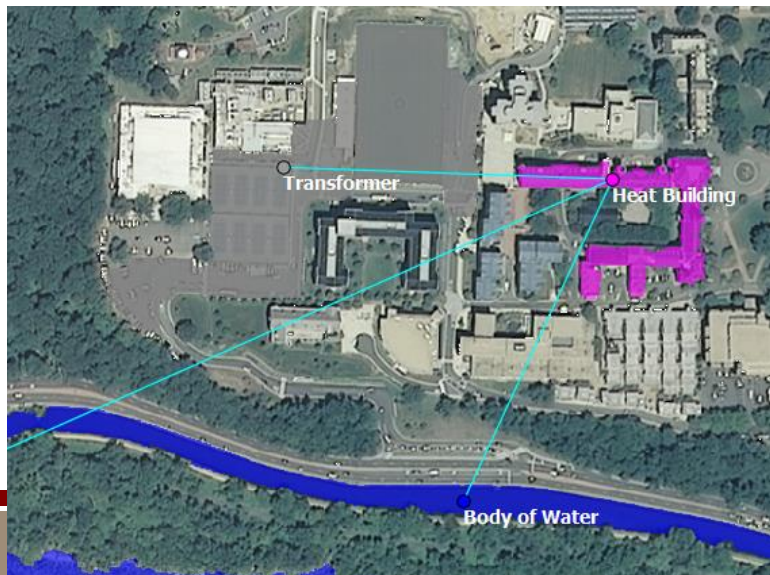
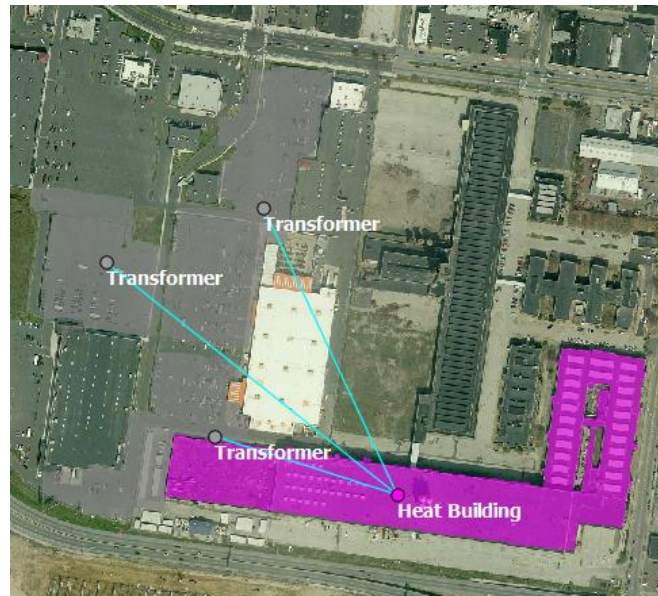
Power Plant Results: True Positives



Note that power plants were found despite several land cover classification errors.

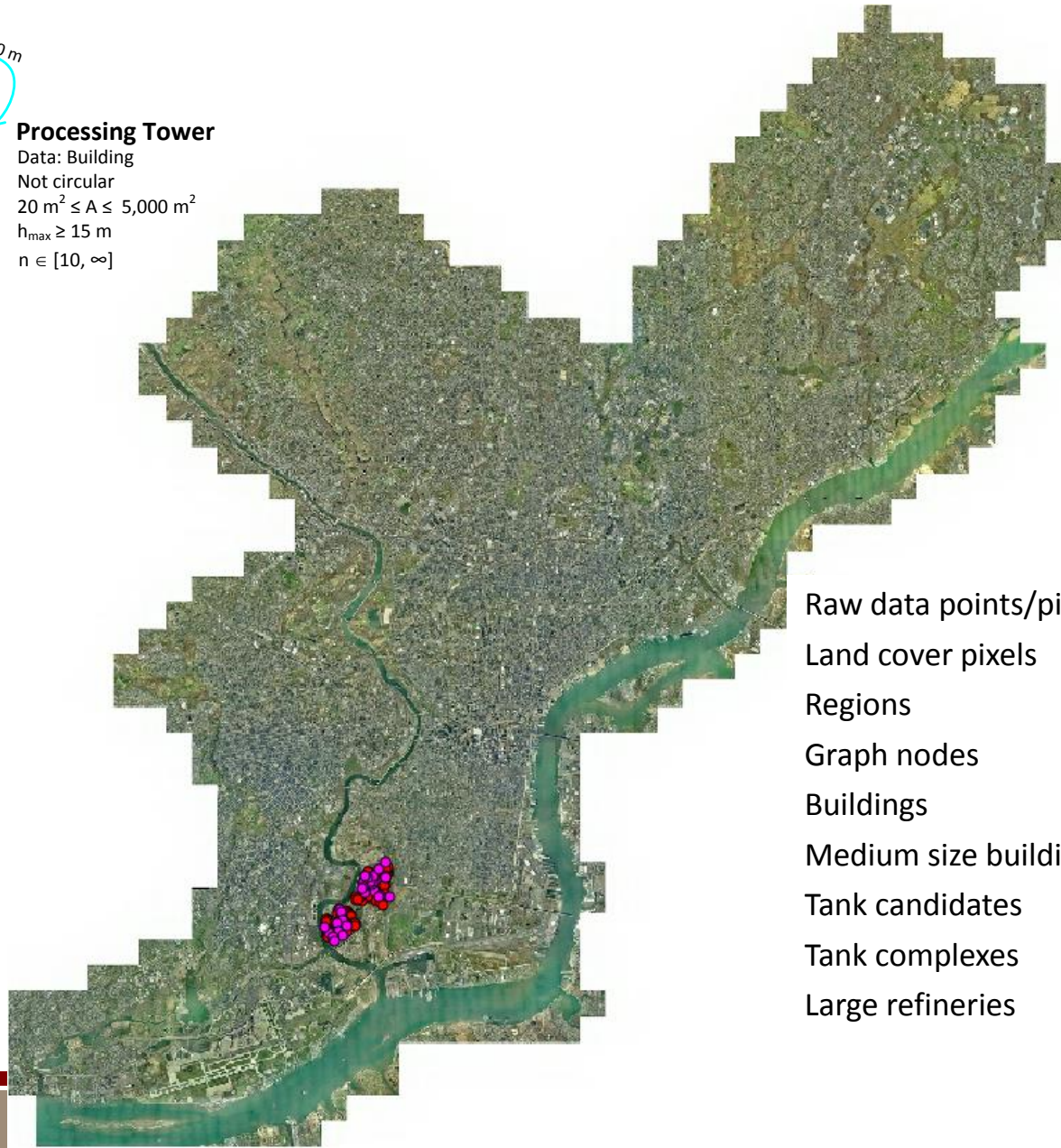
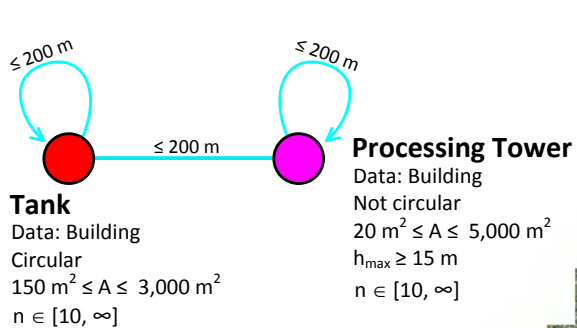


Power Plant Results: False Positives



A better transformer filter would eliminate these.

Large Refinery Search

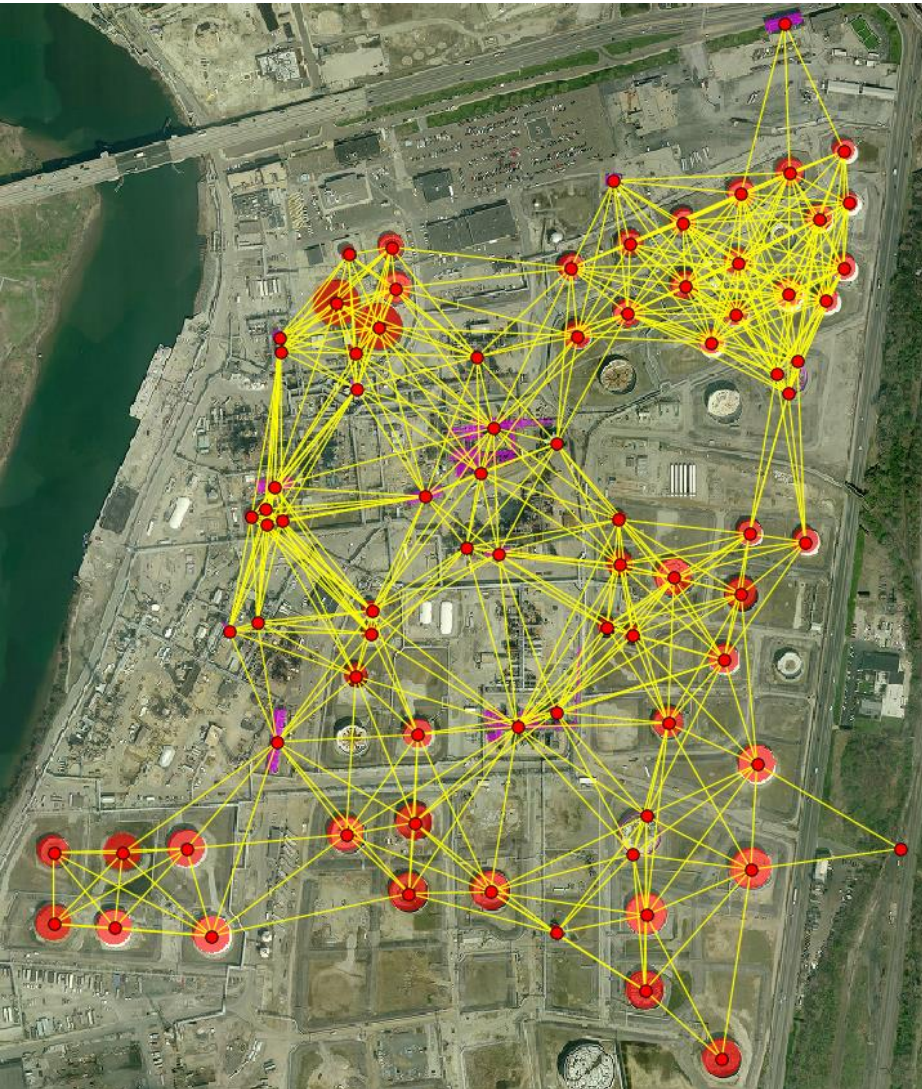


0 False positives
0 False negatives

Raw data points/pixels	101,495,378,523
Land cover pixels	8,981,933,044
Regions	1,133,822
Graph nodes	1,133,822
Buildings	154,062
Medium size buildings	87,170
Tank candidates	371
Tank complexes	28
Large refineries	2

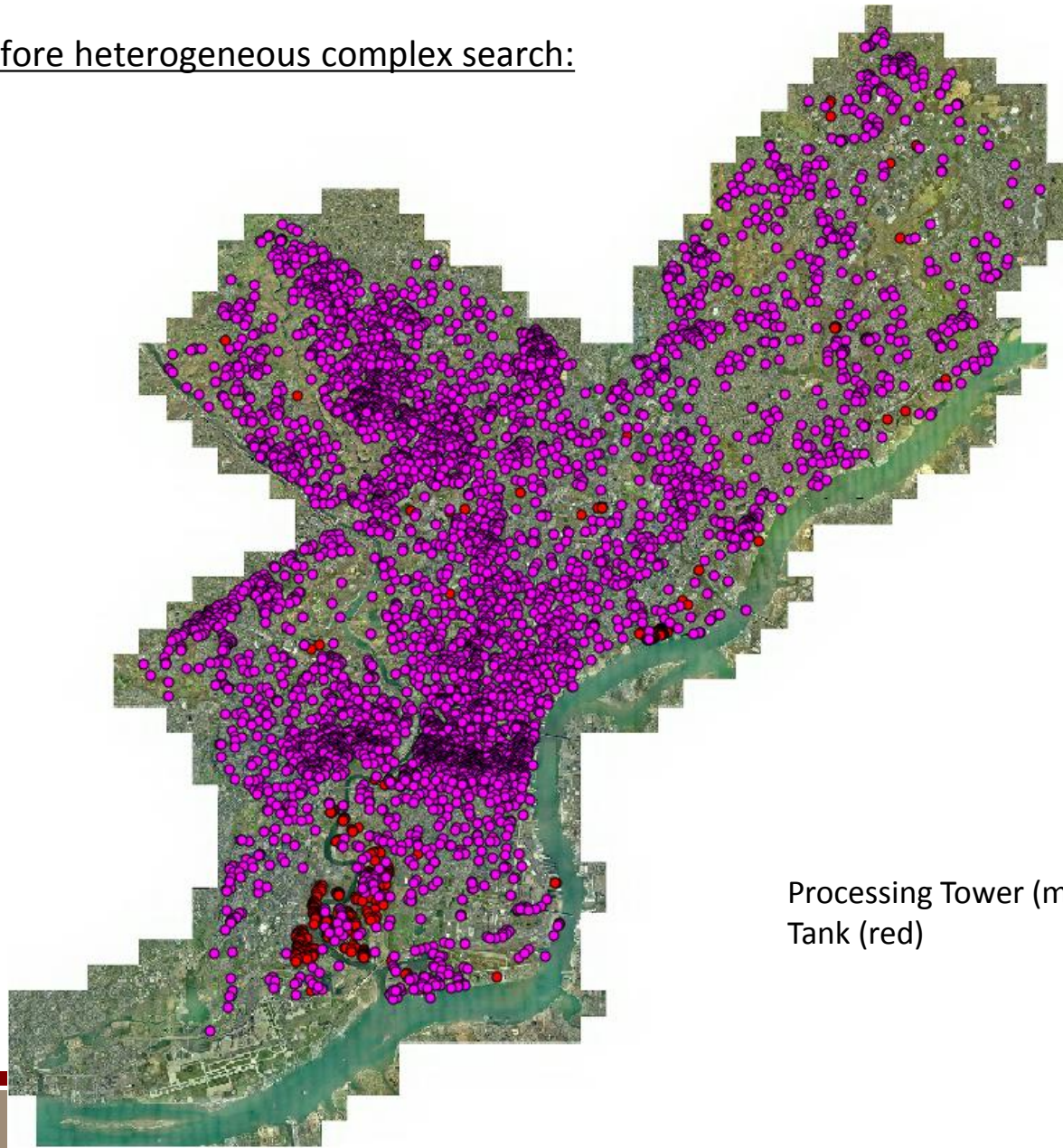
Large Refinery Search

Refineries found:



Large Refinery Search

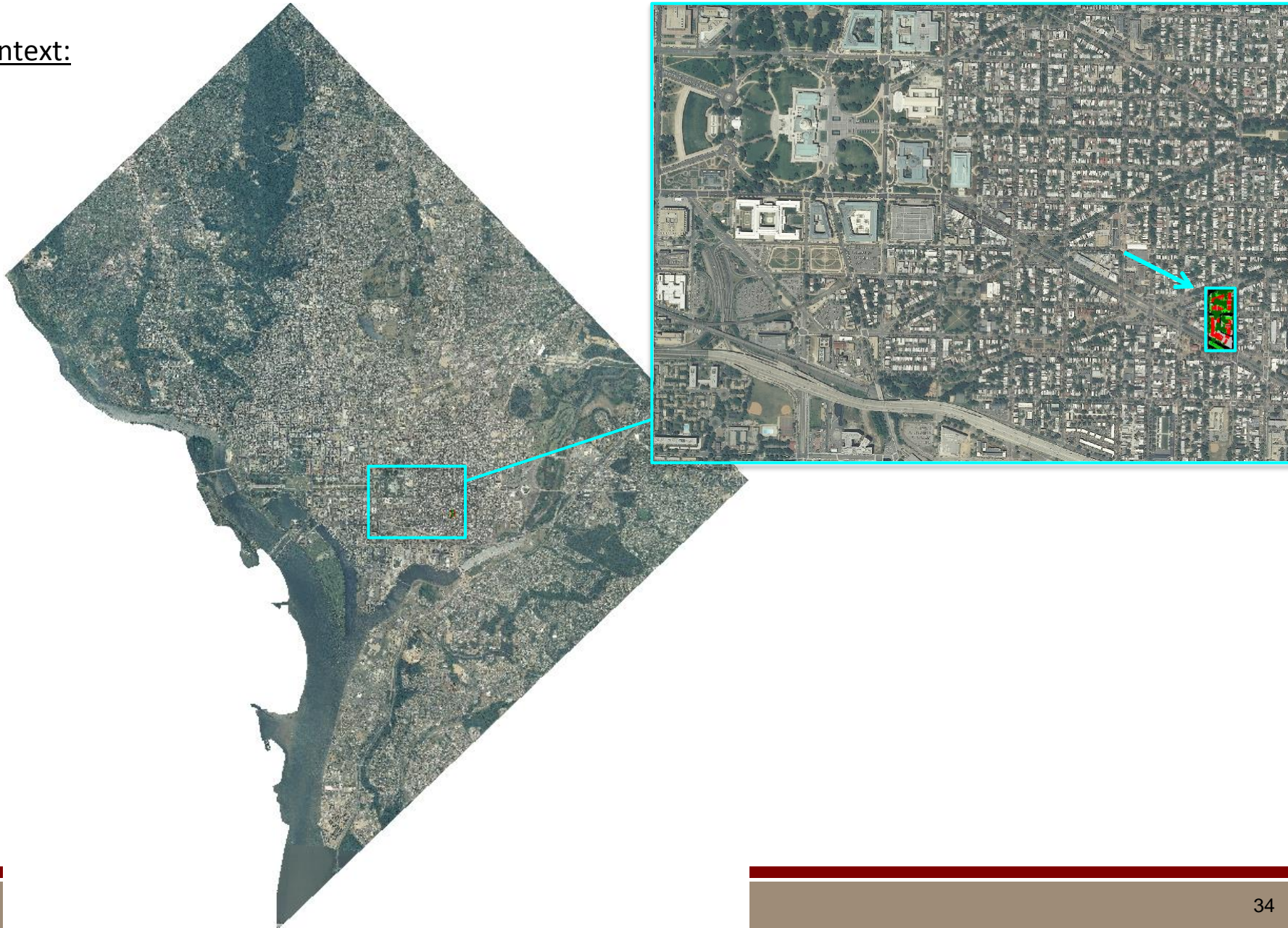
SearchGraph, before heterogeneous complex search:



Processing Tower (magenta)	4,909
Tank (red)	371

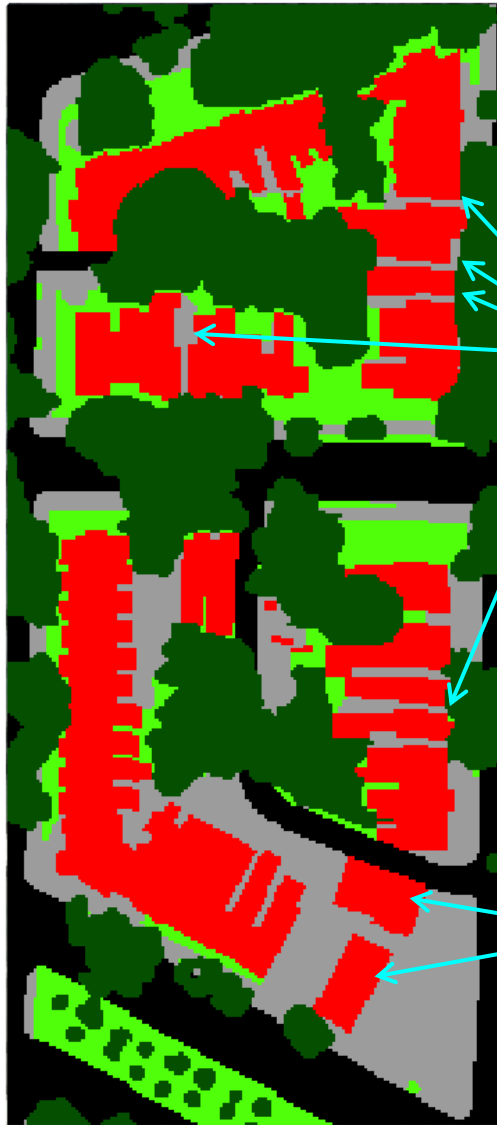
Simple Change Example

Context:



Simple Change Example

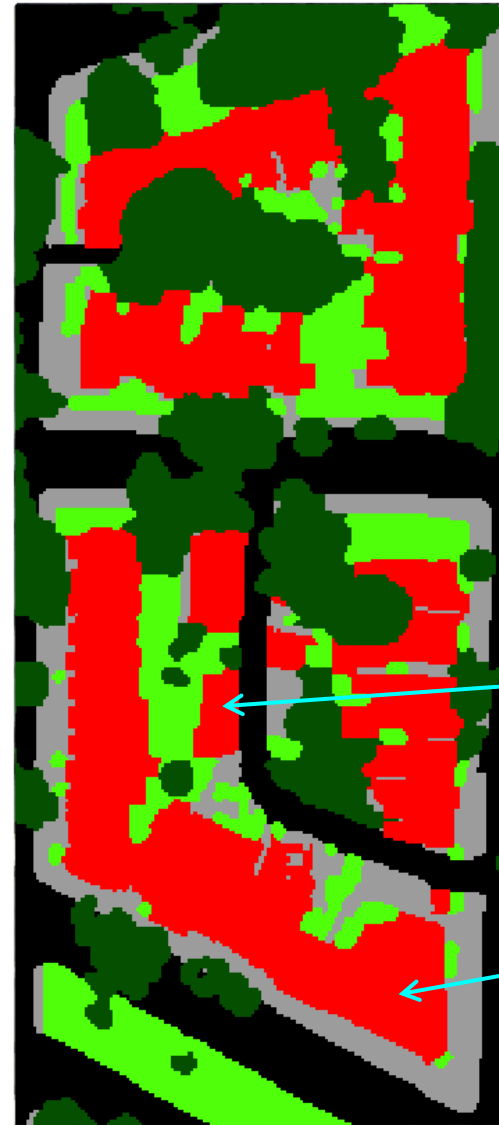
Input land cover:



2006

split

removed



2011

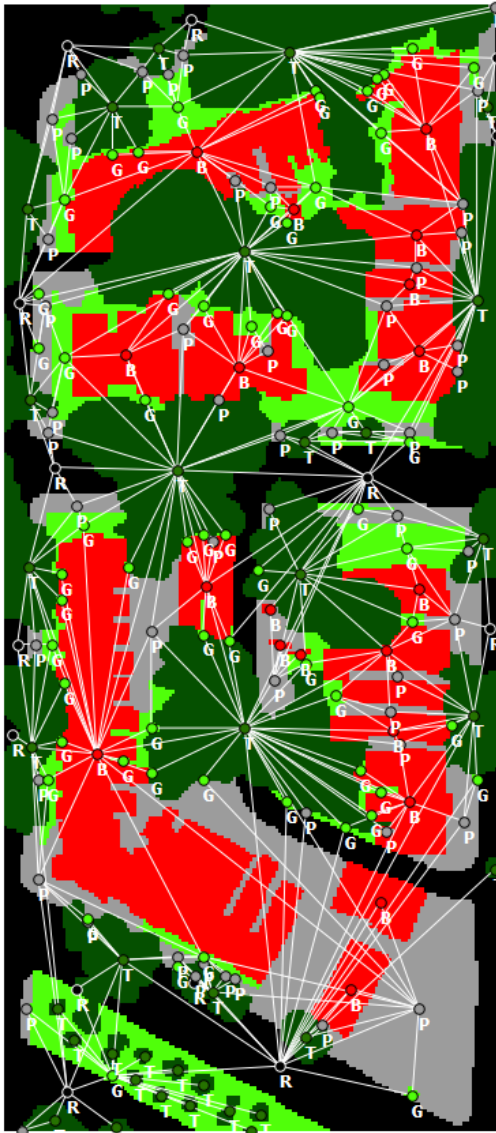
new

added

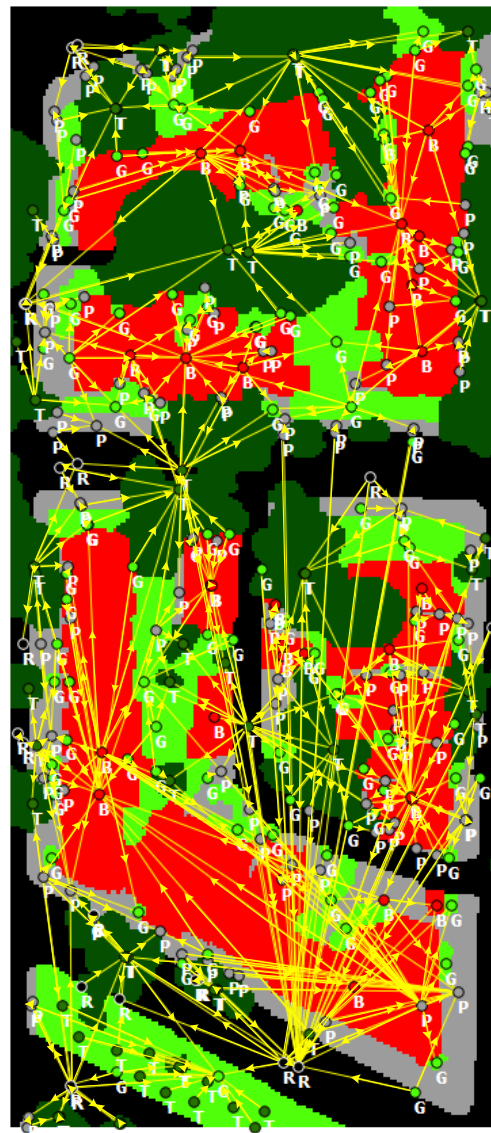
Graph-Based Analysis

Geospatial-temporal graph:

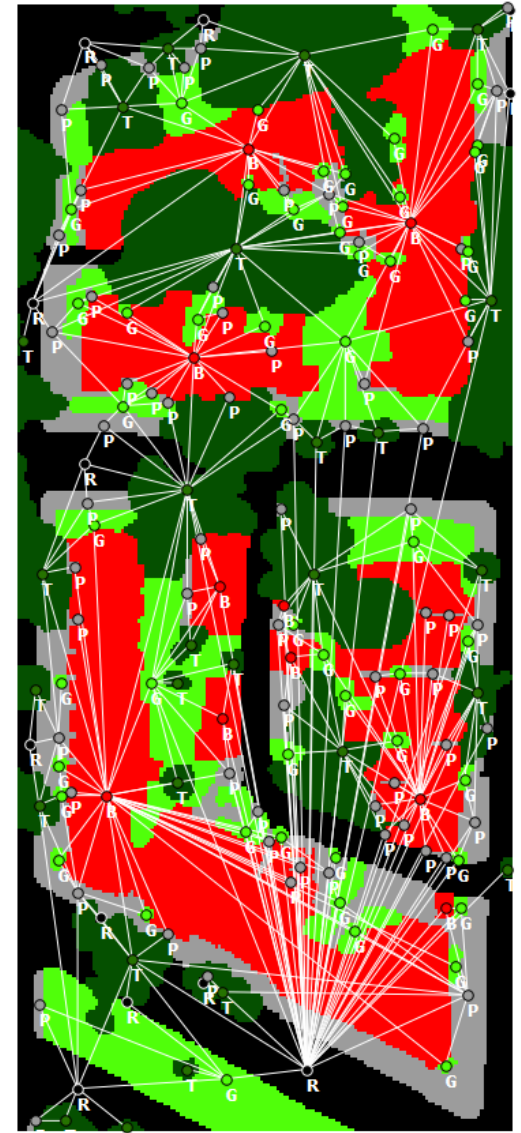
342 nodes
808 adjacency edges
559 change edges
0 distance edges



2006 Adjacency



2006 → 2011 Change



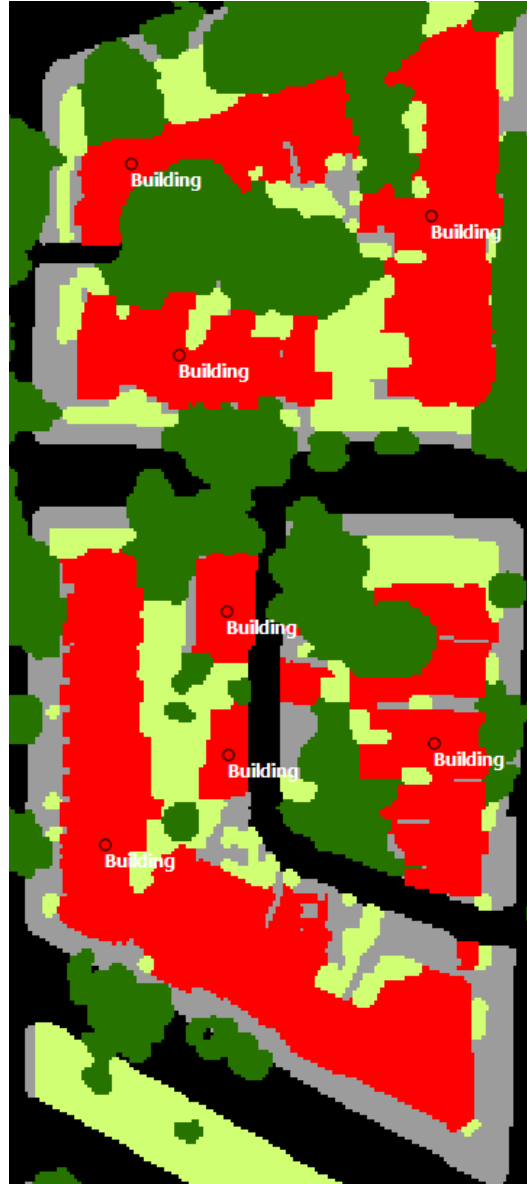
2011 Adjacency

Simple Change Example – Graph-Based

Before graph-based change analysis:



Graph-based diagnosis:

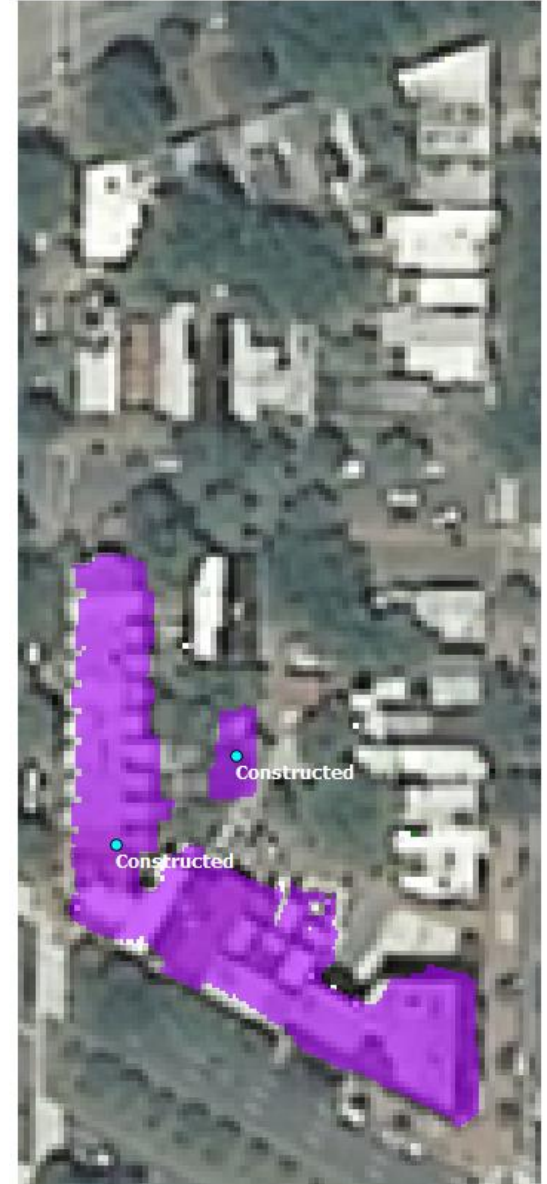


Differentiating Important Change

Significant change diagnosis:



Shown over latest image:



New Complexes

Seek complexes of new buildings,
across the entire city:

$\leq 40 \text{ m}$
 $A_{\text{relative}} \leq 1.5 \times$
 $\text{Eccentricity}_{\text{relative}} \leq 1.5 \times$

Constructed

Data: Building

Exists now

$A \geq 100 \text{ m}^2$

New, Extended, Changed

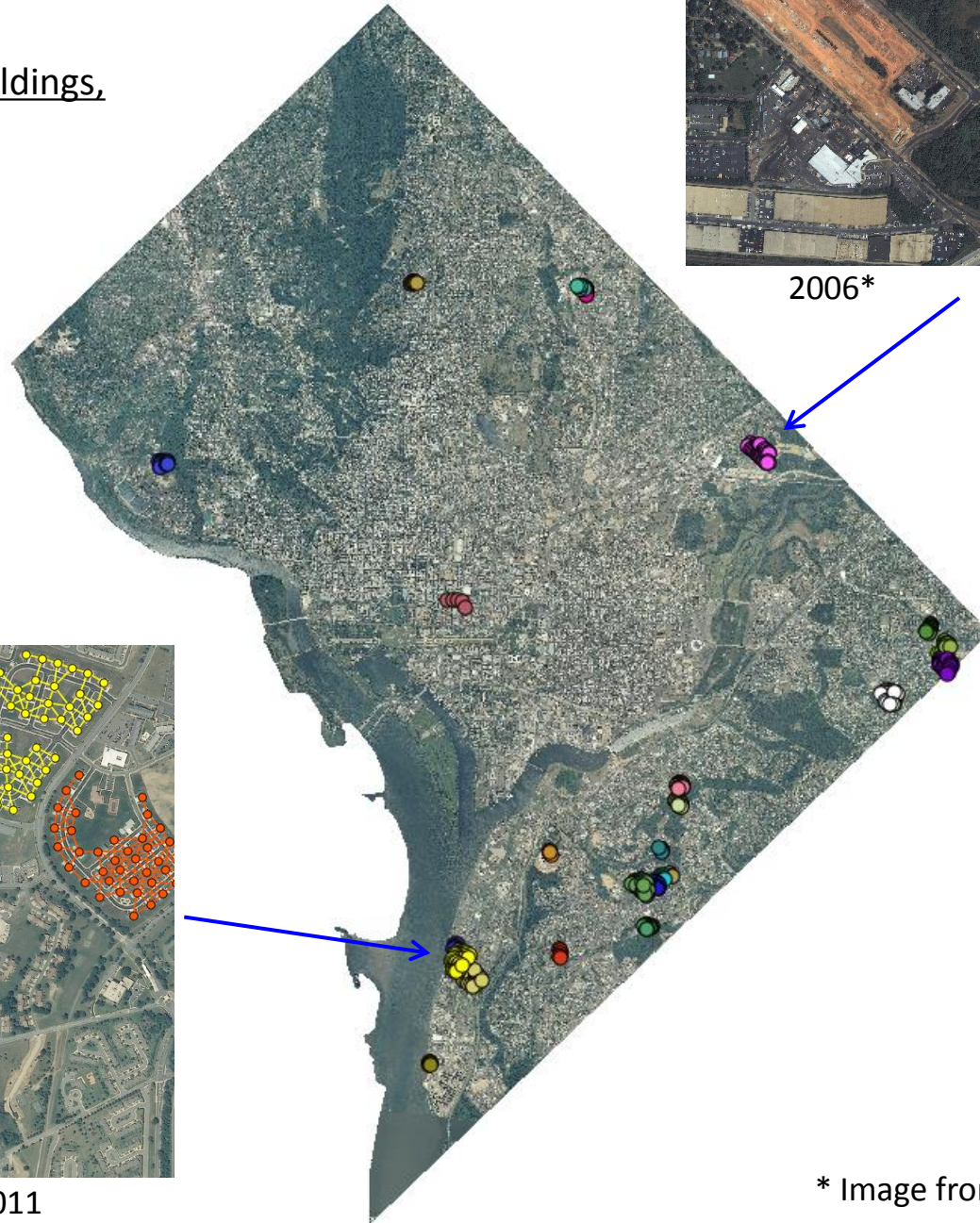
$n \in [5, \infty]$



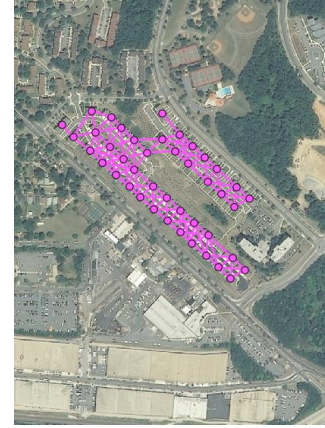
2006*



2011



2006*



2011

* Image from DigitalGlobe.

Overview

- Motivation.
- Computation.
- Results.
- ■ Discussion.

Summary

What we have shown:

- Imagery + LiDAR + GIS \Rightarrow Land cover model [O'Neil-Dunne 2012].
- Sequence of above \Rightarrow Geospatial-temporal graph.
- Given query, spatial search for power plants, refineries, high schools...
- Given query, spatial-temporal search for change, construction complexes...
- Over a wide area (2,067 km², 135 billion pixels, 3.6 million graph nodes).

What we have NOT shown:

- Continent-scale robust image pre-processing.
 - Recognition scope.
 - User-friendly query construction.
 - Complex multi-step change analysis.
- } Areas of on-going work.

An aerial photograph of an industrial facility, likely a refinery or chemical plant, featuring numerous large storage tanks and processing units. A network graph is overlaid on the image, with nodes (white circles with red centers) placed on various tanks and connected by lines, illustrating the complex's structure. The text "Tank Complex Search" is visible in the top left corner, and "Activity" is partially visible in the bottom right corner.

Site Activity Analysis

This figure is an aerial photograph of a site with three commercial buildings highlighted in different colors: blue, yellow, and green. Each building is labeled "Commercial Building". Numerous lines radiate from each building to various points on the ground, representing activity or connections. The blue building at the top has purple lines connecting to a cluster of purple triangles. The yellow building in the middle has yellow lines connecting to a cluster of yellow triangles. The green building at the bottom has green lines connecting to a cluster of green triangles. The background is a dark, textured aerial view of the site.

An aerial photograph of a city block. A large red building is labeled "Replaced Building". A yellow building is also labeled "Replaced Building". The surrounding area includes other buildings, trees, and a road.

An aerial photograph of a residential development. Two buildings are highlighted in red and labeled 'Constructed' with red dots. The surrounding area includes green trees, a grey road, and other buildings in various colors (blue, yellow, green).

An aerial photograph of a residential development. Two buildings are highlighted in red and labeled 'Constructed' with red dots. The surrounding area includes green trees, a grey road, and other buildings in various colors (blue, yellow, green).

Activity Analysis -- Interrupted Signature

Activity Analysis -- Interrupted Signature

42

BACKUP SLIDES

Discussion

- Graph-based search tolerates varying topology.
- Query templates do not need to specify particular shapes, or all features.
- Search can tolerate some pre-processing errors.
- Change detection can be challenging if data methods are not consistent across time.
- Our approach is to assemble simple pieces into an effective sequence.
- We did not attempt to optimize run time.
- Our search approach exploits context, and can be viewed as analogous to context-based image preprocessing (GEOBIA), at a higher level of abstraction.

Comparison to GEOBIA*

Same as:

- Analyzes multi-modality overhead image data.
- Includes shrink/grow operations.
- *Future: Direct output of graph tables.*

System Difference:

- Rule sets must be programmed for a new query.
- Queries with multi-constraint filtering or variable topology require difficult manual setup.
- Re-usable distance edges.
- *Quality score/sort.*

Mathematical Difference:

- Heterogeneous complex.
- Temporal graph, chronology representation.
- Explicit representation of multi-step change.
- Interrupted star algorithm.
- Infer connected tree.
- *Multi-step sequence analysis.*
- *Forward/backproject, with temporal feasibility.*
- *Path sequence analysis.*

Shortfalls:

- Shape file input.
- Particular functions.

...eCognition might output graph tables directly.

* Geospatial Object-Based Image Analysis, particularly eCognition. See GEOBIA 2014 for recent publications. Preliminary.

Comparison to Spatial SQL Databases*

Same as:

- Superset of SQL.
(*Future: Spatial SQL.*)
- R trees.
- Coarse/fine tests.
- Star-graph equivalent through complex query.

Shortfalls:

- Shape file input.
 - Particular functions.
- ...would be resolved by converting to Spatial SQL.

System Difference:

- Direct scan from raster image.
- Lazy constraints (circularity, height, RGB, *shape scan, transformer*).
- Caching.
- Some variables, such as area, pre-computed.
- Provenance fetch.
- Re-usable distance edges.
- Temporal chronology representation/history.
- Chunking to provide separation of joined spatial regions into semantic components.
- Some queries conceptually simpler (?).
- *Quality score/sort.*

Mathematical Difference:

- Transitive closure.
- Heterogeneous complex.
- Temporal graph, automatic change analysis.
- Interrupted star algorithm.
- Infer connected tree.
- *Multi-step sequence analysis.*
- *Forward/backproject, with temporal feasibility.*
- *Path sequence analysis.*
- Heterogeneous relation types: Distance, change, adjacency, spatiotemporal constraints, *is-a, component-of.*
- *Layers of abstraction.*

Key Data Structures

StoredGraph

- Accumulates all observed data.
- Large, persistent.
- Semantics match data: Building, Trees, Grass_Shrub, Dirt, Road, Other_Paved, Water, ...¹

GeoQuestion

- Defines semantics of interest.
Example: “Where are high schools?” \Rightarrow Classroom_Building, Football_Field, Parking_Lot.
- Defines signature: items and relationships.
- Defines desired search procedure.

SearchGraph

- Parts of the StoredGraph relevant to the question.
- Smaller, with full topology.
- Semantics match question: Classroom_Building, Football_Field, Parking_Lot.¹

Match

- A set of SearchGraph nodes and edges, satisfying the signature.

1. Contrast with:

- Kolas, Dean, and Hebel, "Geospatial semantic web: architecture of ontologies," IEEE Aerospace Conference, page 10, 2006.
- Arpinar, et al, "Geospatial ontology development and semantic analytics," Transactions in GIS, 10(4):551–575, 2006.
- Ashish and Sheth, eds, Geospatial Semantics and the Semantic Web, Springer, 2011.

StoredGraph Representation

Data semantics.

Node types:

- Region, Durable (building, tree,...).

- Region, Ephemeral (cloud, tire tracks,...).

- Point, Durable (hospital name and address,...).

- Point, Ephemeral (concert date and location,...).

- Ensemble (high school complex,...). [PENDING]

Attributes:

- Region: class, area, eccentricity, orientation,...

- Point: specialized semantics. [FULL-FEATURED PENDING]

- All have back-pointers to original data.

Time attributes:

- Durable: $(t_{\text{last.absent}}, t_{\text{first.seen}}] [t_{\text{last.seen}}, t_{\text{first.absent}})$.

- Ephemeral: t

- Also parameter history (durable only).

Edge types:

- Adjacency.

- Distance.

- Change.

- Component-Of. [PENDING]

GeoQuestion Representation

GeoQuestion

Semantics: Node, edge “roles.”

SearchGraph node specs.

SearchGraph edge specs.

} These define the SearchGraph.

Search method type and
parameters.

Postprocessing options.

Quality spec (not implemented).

The design of an effective user interface
to design queries remains an important
topic for PANTHER research.

GeoQuestion Details

GeoQuestion

Bookkeeping: Name, directory.

Node role map.

Edge role map.

List of SearchGraphNodeSpecs

 List of LazyConstraintSpecs

List of SearchGraphEdgeSpecs

 List of InterNodeConstraintSpecs

GraphSearchMethodEnum

 Entire graph.

 Connected components:

 Min, max components allowed.

 Star Graph, Interrupted Star:

 Hub role

 List of SpokeSpecs (spoke role, min/max counts).

 List of SpokeConstraintSpecs (spoke role, other role, list of
 InterNodeConstraintSpecs)

List of PostprocessMatchSpec (calculation type, roles to consider, min/max limits).

Quality spec (not implemented).

We do not expect analysts to program this!
The design of an effective query input method
is an important PANTHER research topic.

SearchGraph Representation

SearchGraph

- Lightweight nodes.

- Can be viewed as a graph with colored nodes and edges.

- Attributes not included, but points back to original StoredGraph nodes.

- Full topology included in memory.

- Typically much smaller than StoredGraph.

- It is convenient to think of SearchGraph as subset of StoredGraph.

- But in general, StoredGraph nodes map many-to-many to SearchGraph nodes.

- Also has edges that may not exist in the StoredGraph.

Match Representation

Match

A set of SearchGraph nodes and edges.

Associated post-process results (quality score, etc).

AddToStoredGraph Summary

1. Read data file name and auxiliary info.
2. Add provenance lookup pointers to StoredGraph.
3. Scan the image, adding nodes and adjacency edges to StoredGraph.
 - Perform change analysis for each node, creating change edges.

Use streaming algorithms to process very large files without exceeding memory.

AddToStoredGraph Context

Context: For each input data set:

1. Prepare the input.
2. Add auxiliary provenance files.
3. Run AddToStoredGraph program.

...Repeat as new data arrives.

AddToStoredGraph Algorithm

Input:

- Posterized image file.
or
csv table file.
- Companion file explaining time window, background information.

Algorithm (for image):

Write observation context to StoredGraph.

Scan image file lines, grouping pixels into regions. ← Streaming algorithm allows very large images to be processed without exceeding memory.

Each time a durable region* R_i closes:

Use R_i 's bounding box to look up candidate overlap nodes in the StoredGraph.

Analyze whether R_i is new, a repeat, or a change to a previous node.

New \Rightarrow write R_i node to StoredGraph.

Repeat \Rightarrow update time history of existing StoredGraph node.

Change \Rightarrow write R_i node to StoredGraph, and

for each overlapping prior node:

write change edge to R_i and update prior node's time history.

GeoSearch Algorithm

Primary steps:

1. Load data, construct GeoQuestion.
2. Construct SearchGraph.
 - Nodes
 - SQL query constraints.
 - Lazy-evaluated node constraints.
 - Edges
 - Generate node pairs.¹
 - Evaluate inter-node constraints.
 - If passes, construct edge.
3. Graph search.
 - Graph search algorithm → set of Matches.
 - Postprocess each match, filter by result.
 - Quality scoring and sorting.*
4. Save results to database.*

* Not implemented yet.

1. Among other techniques, R-Trees are used to limit average-case complexity. See: Guttman, "R-Trees: A Dynamic Index Structure for Spatial Searching," ACM SIGMOD 1984, p. 47. Boost Geometry Library. <http://www.boost.org> (2013).

GeoSearch Detail: Graph Search Algorithms

- **Subgraph isomorphism** – General template match (not supported).¹
- **Connected components** – Find groups of related items.²
- **Star graph** – Hub and spokes, with various constraints.
- **Interrupted star** – Allows interruption of hub and/or spokes.
- **Heterogeneous complex** – Useful when there is no obvious hub.

1. Ullmann, "An algorithm for subgraph isomorphism", Journal of the ACM 23 (1): 31–42, 1976.

2. Hopcroft and Tarjan, "Efficient algorithms for graph manipulation," Communications of the ACM 16(6), 372-378, June 1973.

GeoSearch Detail: Star-Graph Search

Input:

- Hub role r_h .
- Spoke specs: $\{ \langle \text{role } r_j, n_{j.\min}, n_{j.\max} \rangle, \dots \}$ ← Spoke $[n_{j.\min}, n_{j.\max}]$ interval enables:
 - Variable match topology (set $n_{j.\min} \neq n_{j.\max}$).
 - Allowable and preferred configurations.
 - Optional items (set $n_{j.\min} = 0$).
 - Forbidden items (set $n_{j.\max} = 0$).
- Spoke-to-spoke constraints.

Algorithm:

For each candidate hub node $h_i \in \mathcal{H}$:

Walk neighbors of h_i , collect candidate spoke nodes $\{s_j\}$.

Check spoke-to-spoke constraints, mark s_j nodes that pass.

Discard unmarked nodes from $\{s_j\}$.

Check $[n_{j.\min}, n_{j.\max}]$ bounds:

If not met, discard hub h_i .

Else assemble star $\mathbf{S}_i \leftarrow h_i \cup \{s_j\}$, add \mathbf{S}_i to match list \mathcal{M} .

endfor

Return \mathcal{M} .

- This algorithm solves a restricted class of problems.
- More efficient than general subgraph isomorphism.
- More flexible than subgraph isomorphism (see above).
- Narrower class of templates.
- Geospatial problems allow edge replacement.

GeoSearch Detail: Post-Processing Algorithms

- Count nodes – Count nodes in match
 - Optional node filtering.
 - Min/max thresholds.
- Sum area – Sum node area in match, with optional filtering.
 - Optional node filtering.
 - Min/max thresholds.
- Break cycles – Removes redundant chain edges (preliminary).

Land Cover Primitive Recognition

Steps:

1. Assemble input:
 - RGB+IR imagery.
 - LiDAR data.
 - GIS road polygons.
2. Construct normalized digital surface model (nDSM).
3. Using nDSM, identify buildings and trees.
4. Using RGB+IR, identify grass, bare earth, water, impervious.
5. Using GIS data, distinguish roads from other paved.

Primitive recognition algorithm and data results due to Jarlath O'Neil-Dunne, et al, University of Vermont Spatial Analysis Lab.

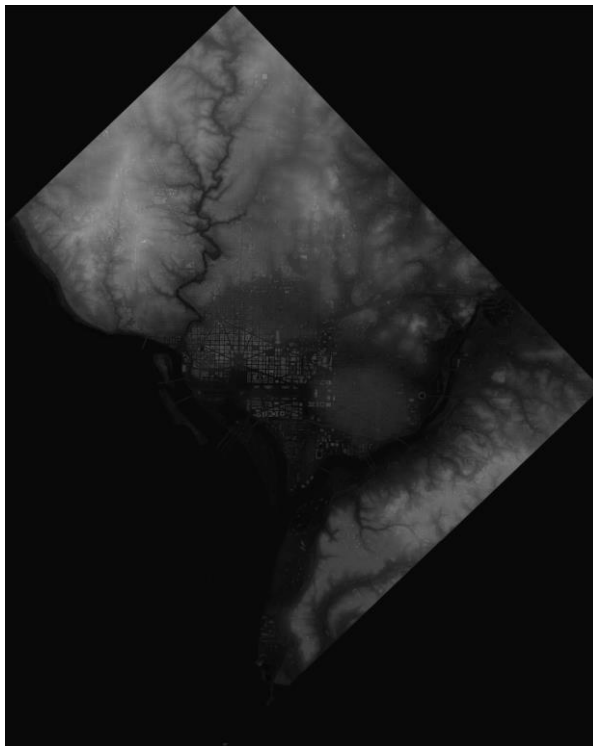
For details, see O'Neil-Dunne, et al, "An Object-Based System for LiDAR Data Fusion and Feature Extraction," Geocarto International, 2012.

Input

Washington, DC example:



4-Band (RGB+IR) Imagery

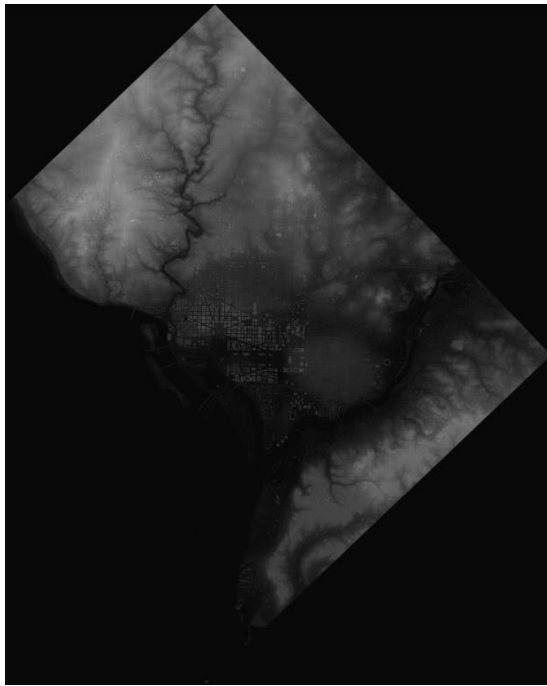


Digital Surface Model, from LiDAR

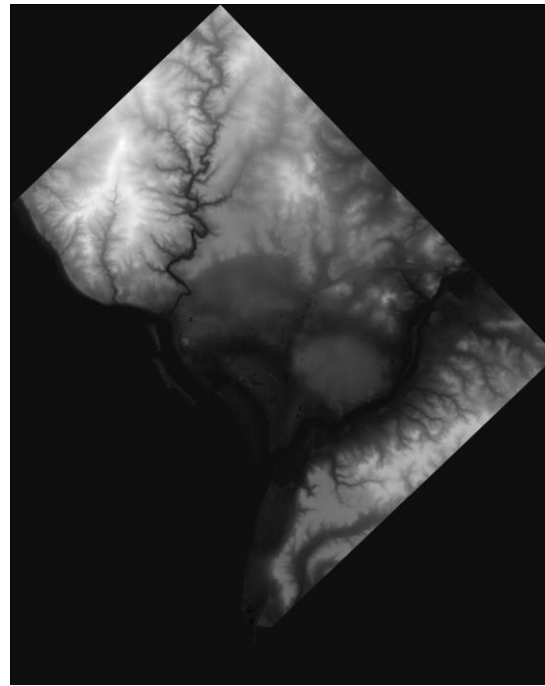


GIS Road Polygons

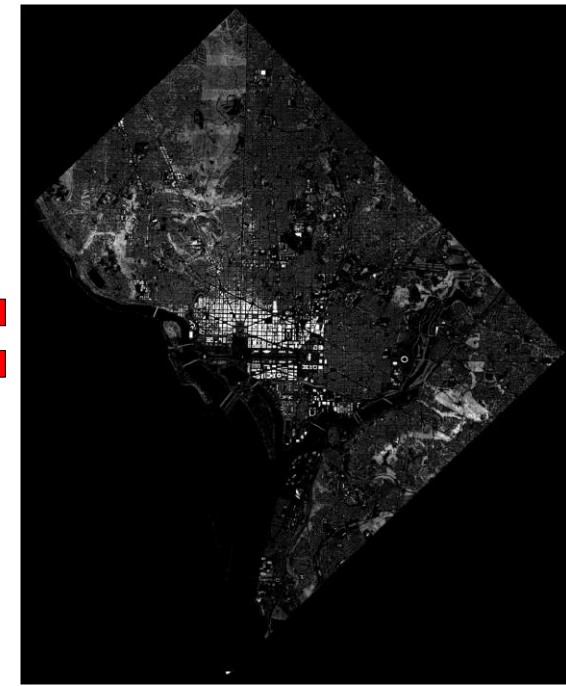
nDSM Generation



Digital Surface Model
(DSM)



Digital Elevation Model
(DEM)



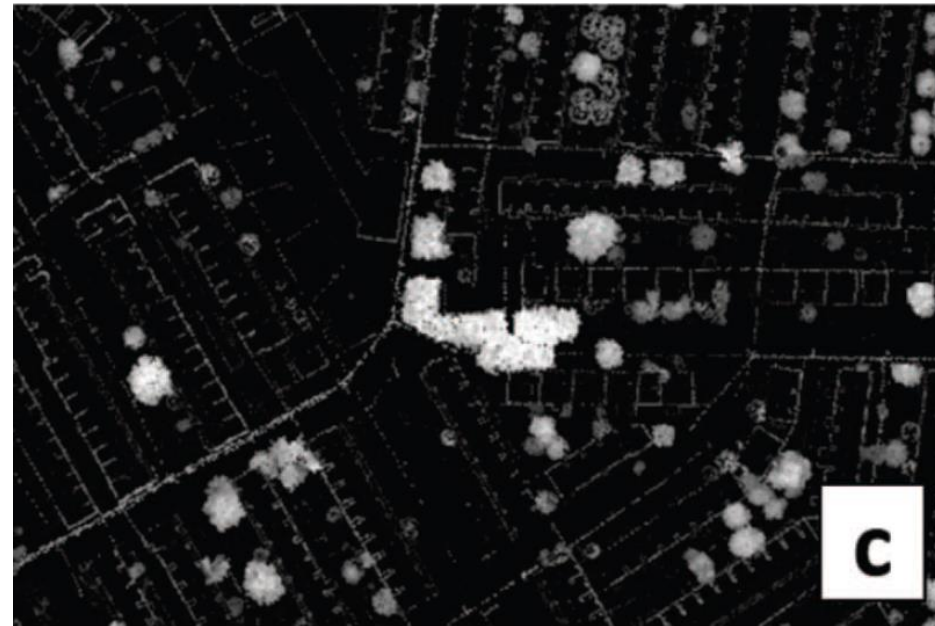
Normalized Digital Surface Model
(nDSM)

Building and Tree Segmentation

Distinguishing buildings and trees:



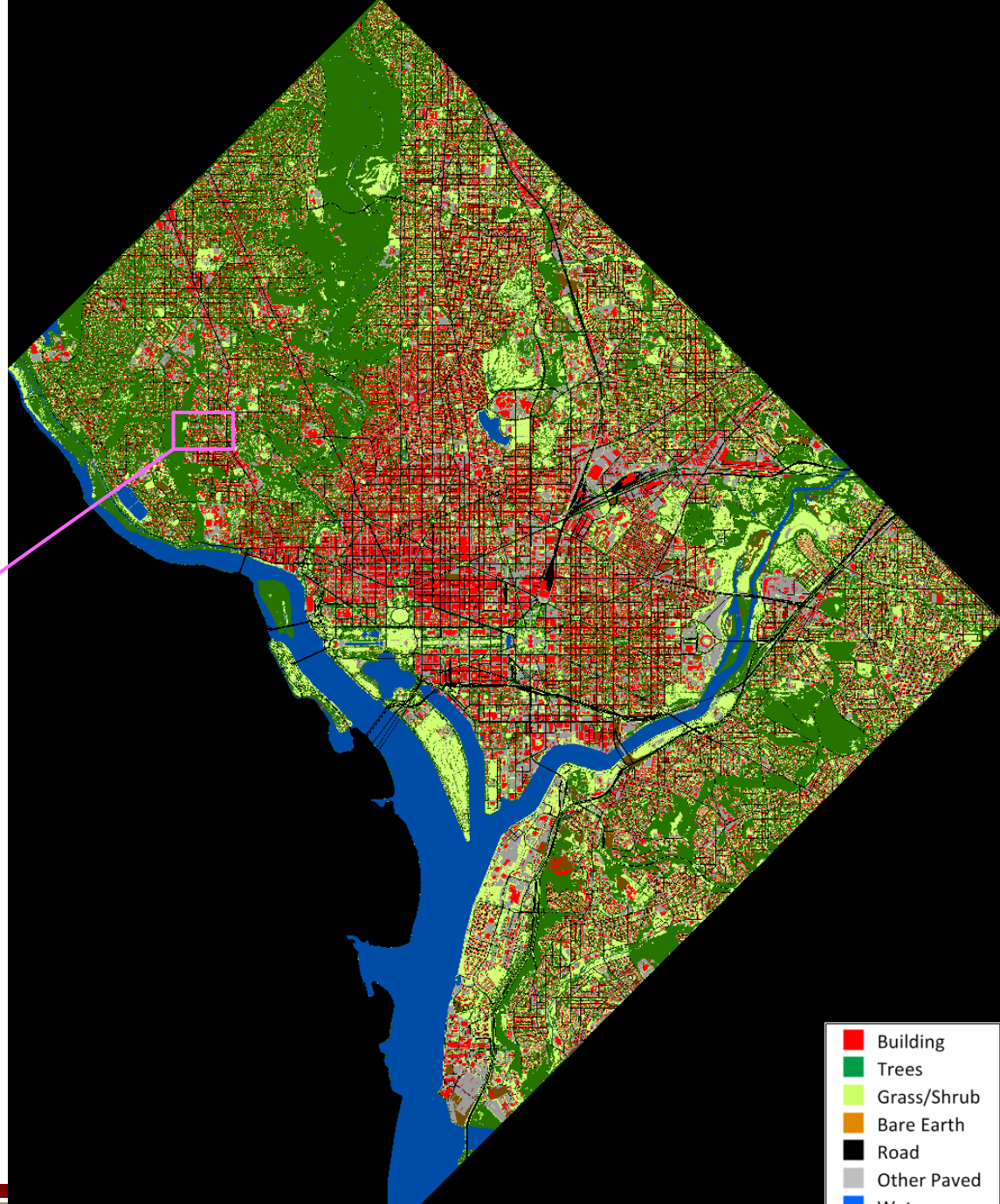
Z Height



Z Deviation

From O'Neil-Dunne, et al, "An Object-Based System for LiDAR Data Fusion and Feature Extraction," Geocarto International, 2012.

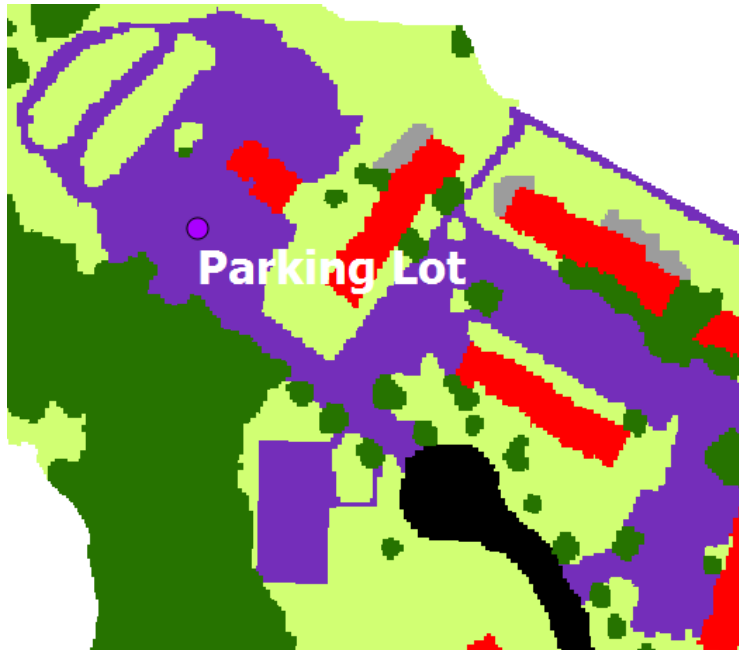
Output



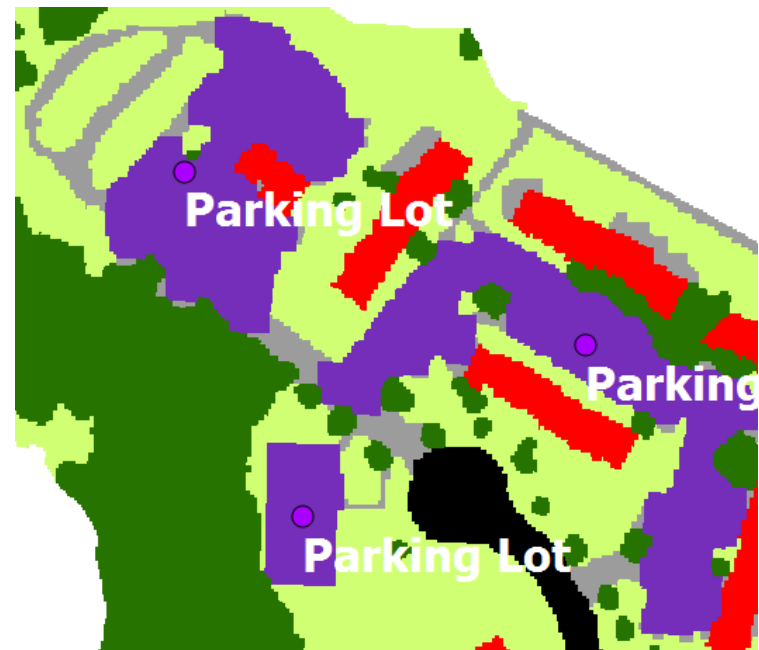
Chunk Operation

Chunking breaks up linked regions into significant sub-regions:

Before Chunking



After Chunking



Implemented by a geometric shrink/grow operation, with controllable magnitude.

GeoGraphy Code Implementation

Implementation details:

- C++, a few scripts.
- Third-party libraries:
 - Boost (www.boost.org) - Smart pointers, Program options, R-trees, variable data types.
 - SQLite (www.sqlite.org) – Lightweight and efficient SQL database storage.
 - GDAL (www.gdal.org) – Tools for abstracting geospatial data.
- Roughly 53,000 lines of C++ code, 370 files.
- Three major applications, six supporting utility programs.
- Externalized semantics.
- Maturity level:
 - Code runs fully automatically.
 - Single processor, single thread – multi-processor speedups deferred.
 - Input format designed for programmers.
 - Output rendering capabilities support technical communication.
 - No interface built for user community.

Data Collected



Data sets in hand:

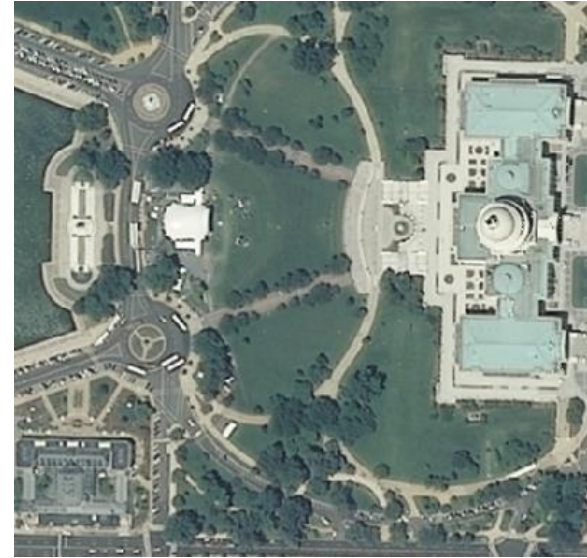
- Single time:
 - Anne Arundel County.
 - Greater Baltimore
(Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Howard County, Anne Arundel County).
- Two-time:
 - Washington, DC.
 - Philadelphia (2nd-generation pre-processing):
 - Improved feature recognition.
 - Railroad separated from road.
 - Shapes based on prior landcover, vary only if significant change.
- The above include provenance data (imagery, LiDAR, GIS).
- Also prepared many sample tiles of varying size, for development.

Washington, DC Data

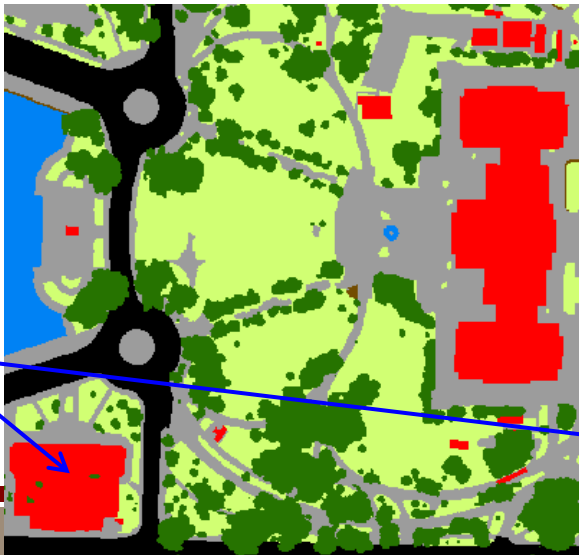
Comparing 2006 and 2011:



2006



2011



Difference in precision causes pseudo-change.

Graph Construction



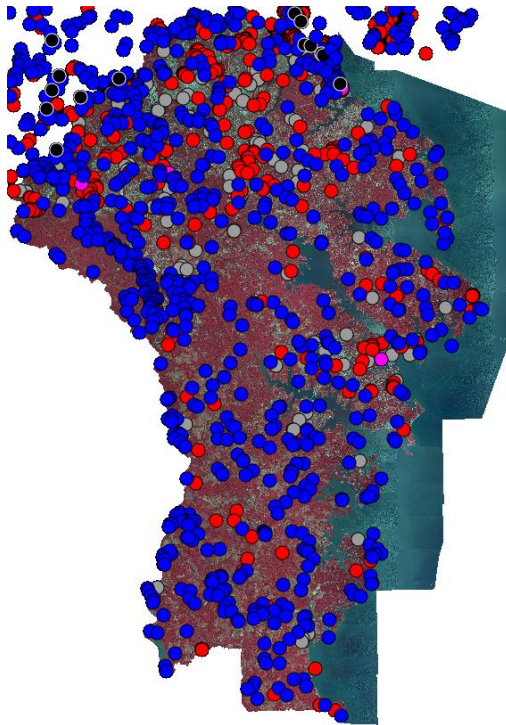
Large graphs constructed so far:

■ Single-time:	<u>Landcover Pixels*</u>	<u>Nodes</u>	<u>Graph File</u>
■ Anne Arundel County.	4.1 GPix	1,204,087	1.6 GB
■ Greater Baltimore (sliced).	11.3 GPix	3,488,712	4.5 GB
■ Two-time:			
■ Washington, DC.	1.0 GPix	1,326,212	1.7 GB
■ Philadelphia.	3.8 GPix	1,540,909	2.0 GB

* Only includes land-area pixels,
not blank filler space.

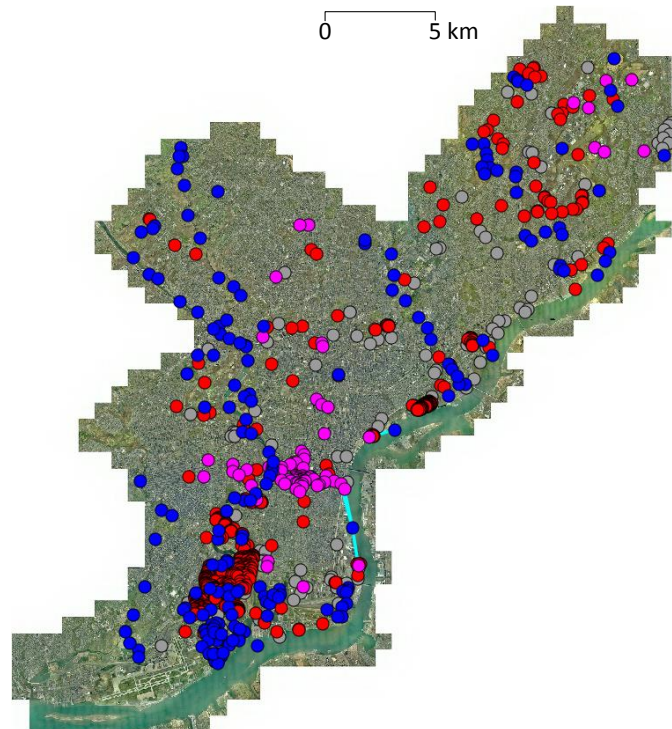
Power Plant SearchGraph

SearchGraph, before star graph search algorithm:



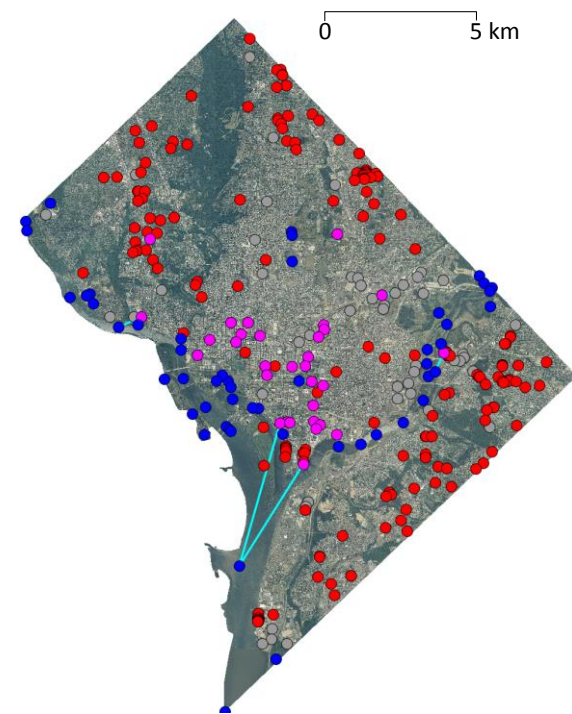
Anne Arundel County, MD

Heat Building (magenta)	5
Transformer (grey)	128
Tank (red)	500
Evaporation Pond (blue)	774
Coal Pile (black)	14 *
Body of Water (blue)	62



Philadelphia, PA

Heat Building (magenta)	77
Transformer (grey)	104
Tank (red)	520
Evaporation Pond (blue)	138
Coal Pile (black)	0
Body of Water (blue)	53



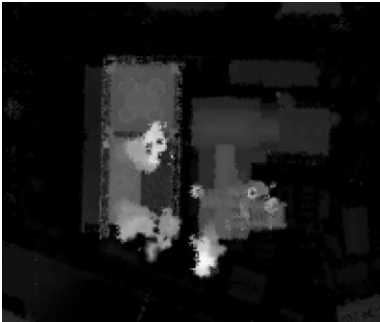
Washington, DC

Heat Building (magenta)	31
Transformer (grey)	52
Tank (red)	174
Evaporation Pond (blue)	20
Coal Pile (black)	0
Body of Water (blue)	31

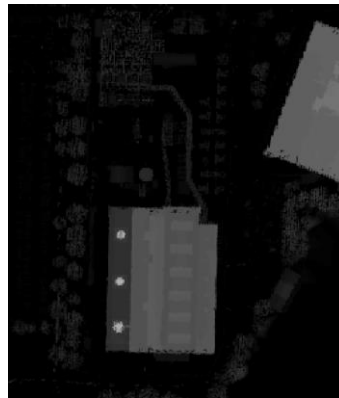
(Rejected construction nodes not shown.)

Individual Heat Buildings – Correct

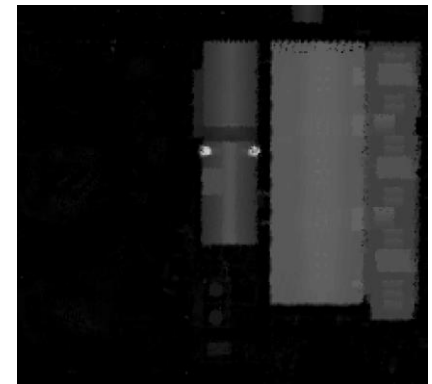
A: Capitol Power Plant



B: Buzzard Point Power Plant



C: Surprise Power Plant

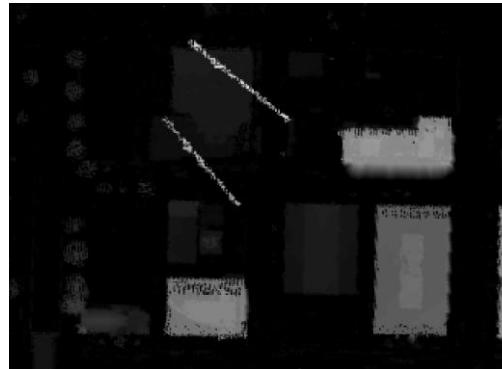
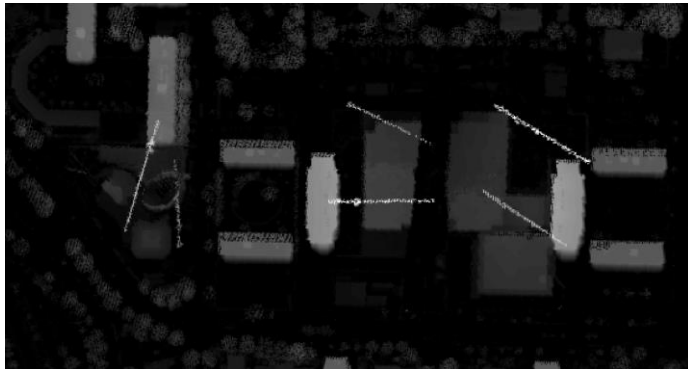


Individual Heat Buildings – False Positive

D



E



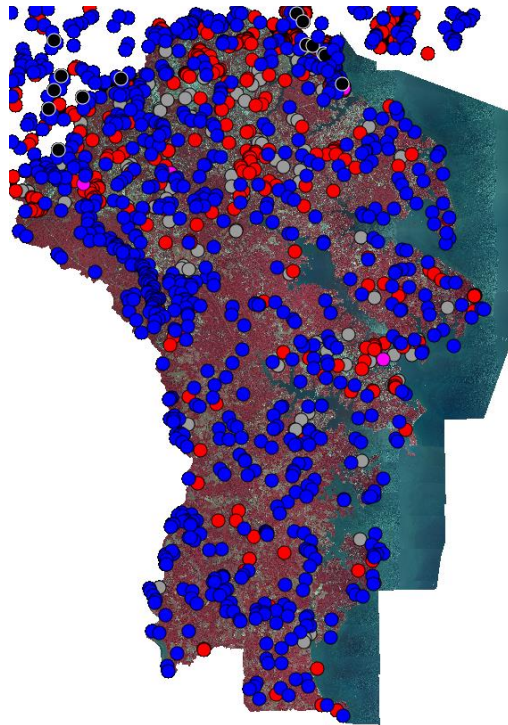
Construction cranes are interpreted as thin tall building components (like exhaust stacks).



Note: This reinforces the importance of providing provenance back-pointers to the user.

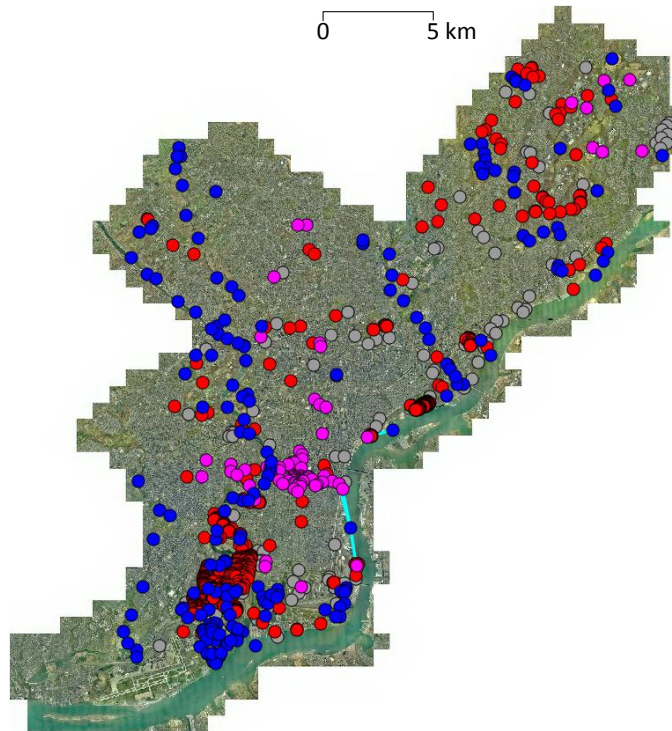
Power Plant SearchGraph

SearchGraph, before star graph search algorithm:



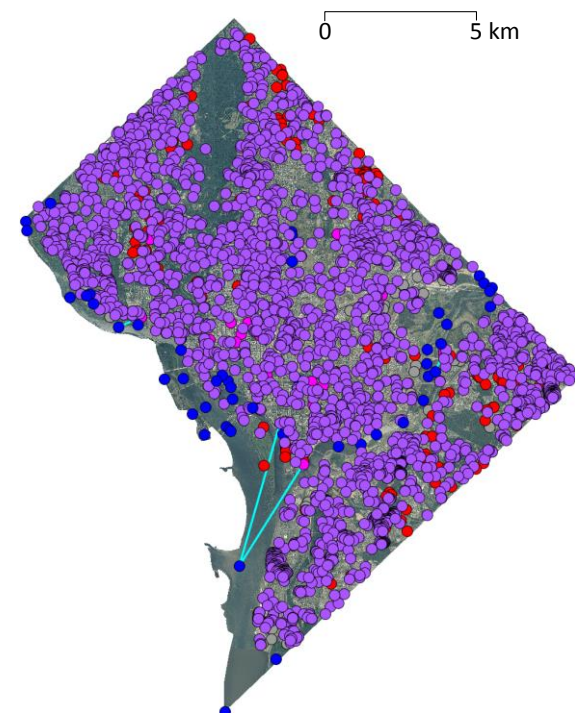
Anne Arundel County, MD

Heat Building (magenta)	5
Transformer (grey)	128
Tank (red)	500
Evaporation Pond (blue)	774
Coal Pile (black)	14 *
Body of Water (blue)	62
Constructed (purple)	N/A



Philadelphia, PA

Heat Building (magenta)	77
Transformer (grey)	104
Tank (red)	520
Evaporation Pond (blue)	138
Coal Pile (black)	0
Body of Water (blue)	53
Constructed (purple)	N/A



Washington, DC

Heat Building (magenta)	31
Transformer (grey)	52
Tank (red)	174
Evaporation Pond (blue)	20
Coal Pile (black)	0
Body of Water (blue)	31
Constructed (purple)	5,979

* Some coal piles due to image clipping.

A Predicted False Negative

If we searched for medium-to-small refineries, this would be missed:



The pipe network caused tanks and processing towers to be linked into one large region. Redefining the query to utilize chunking is likely to solve this.

Simple Change Example

Resulting land cover:



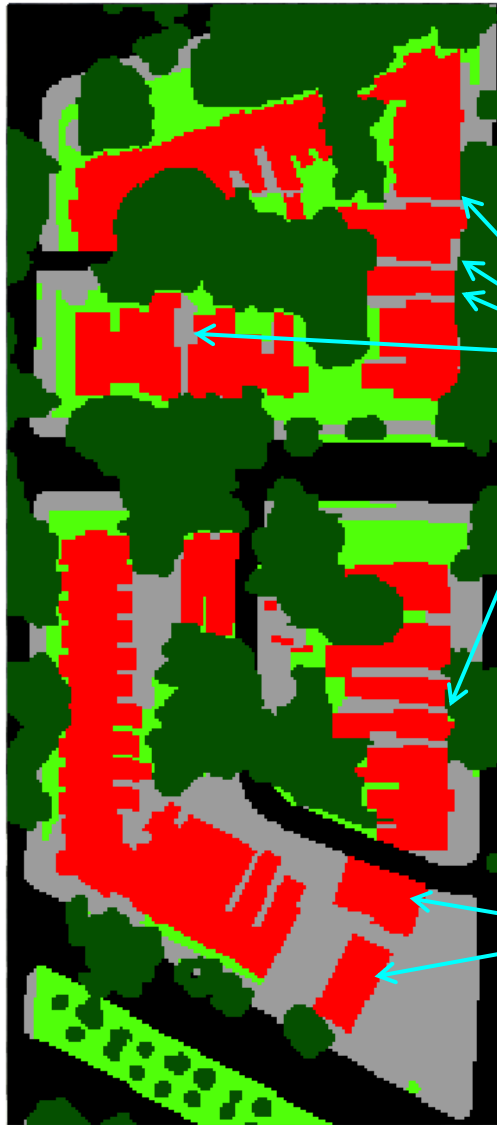
2006



2011

Geometric Change Analysis

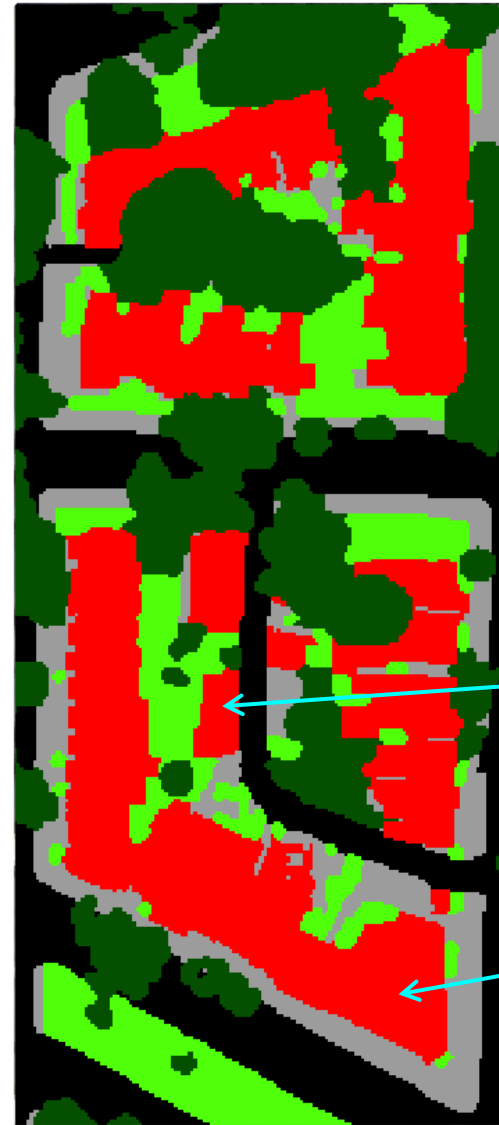
Input land cover:



2006

split

removed



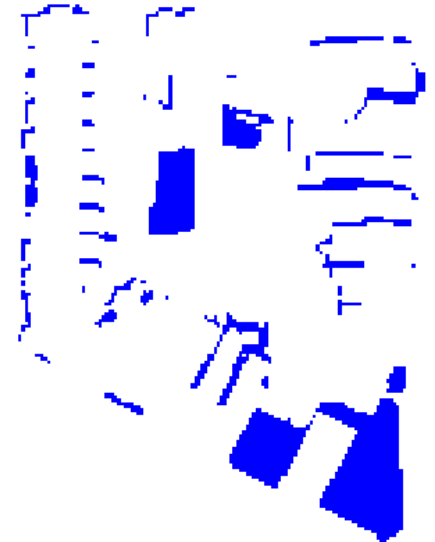
2011

new

added

Geometric Change Analysis

Geometric subtraction:



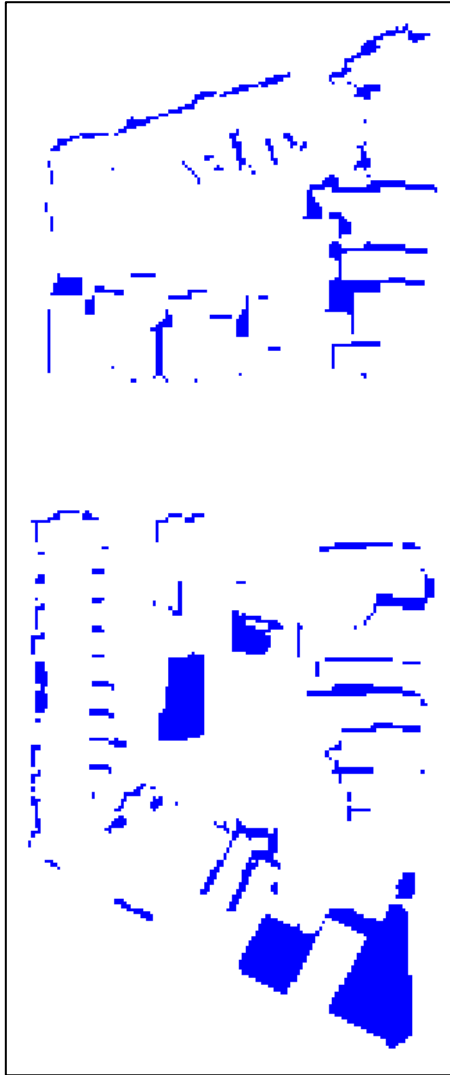
2006 Buildings

2011 Buildings

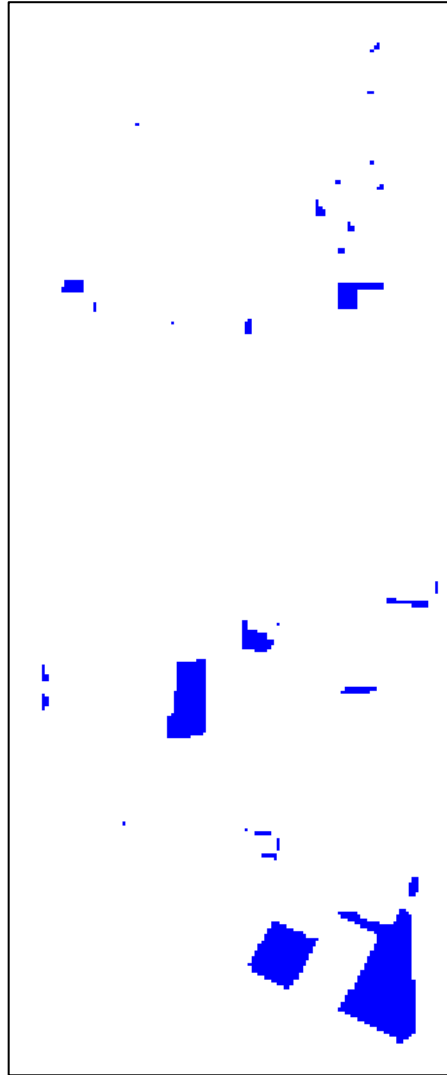
2011 minus 2006

Geometric Change Analysis

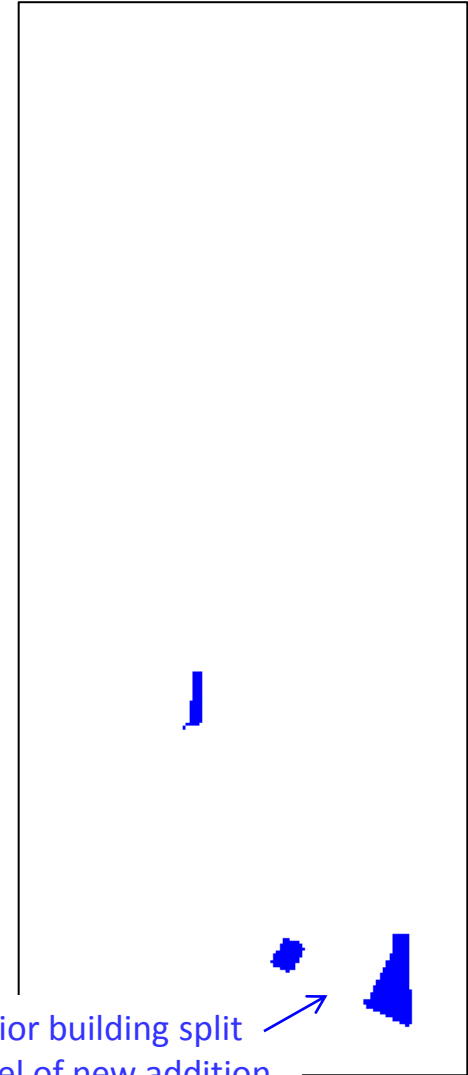
Shrinking to remove ghost boundaries:



2011 minus 2006



Shrink 1 Pixel



Prior building split
model of new addition.

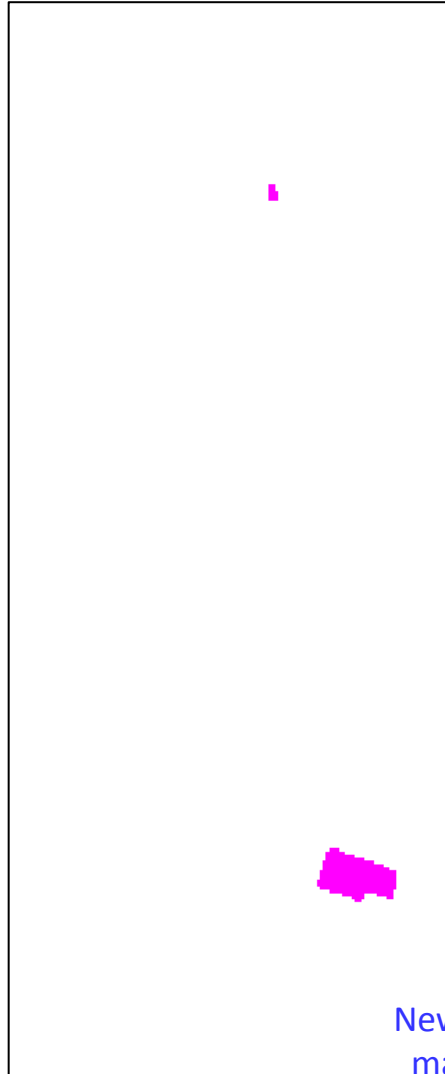
Shrink 4 Pixels

Geometric Change Analysis

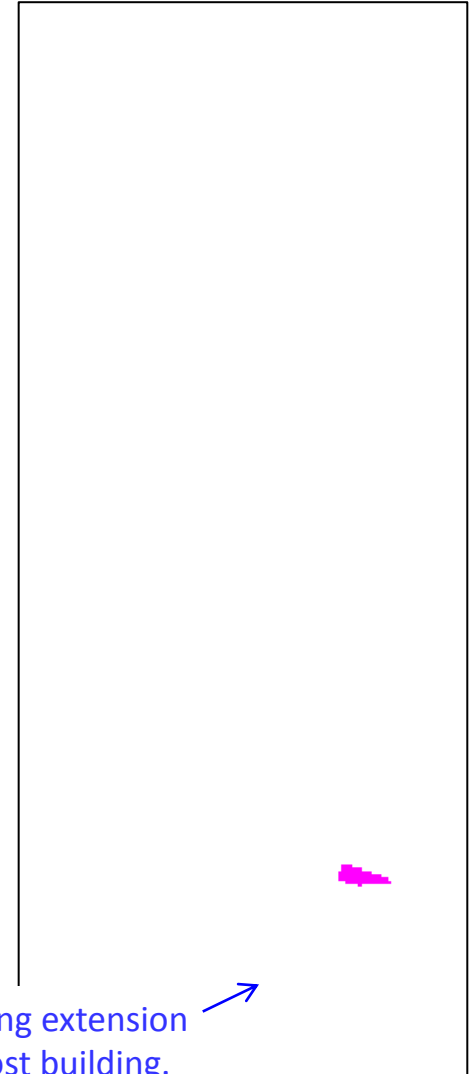
Finding lost buildings (old minus new):



2006 minus 2011



Shrink 1 Pixel



New building extension
masked lost building.

Shrink 4 Pixels

Geometric Change Analysis Results

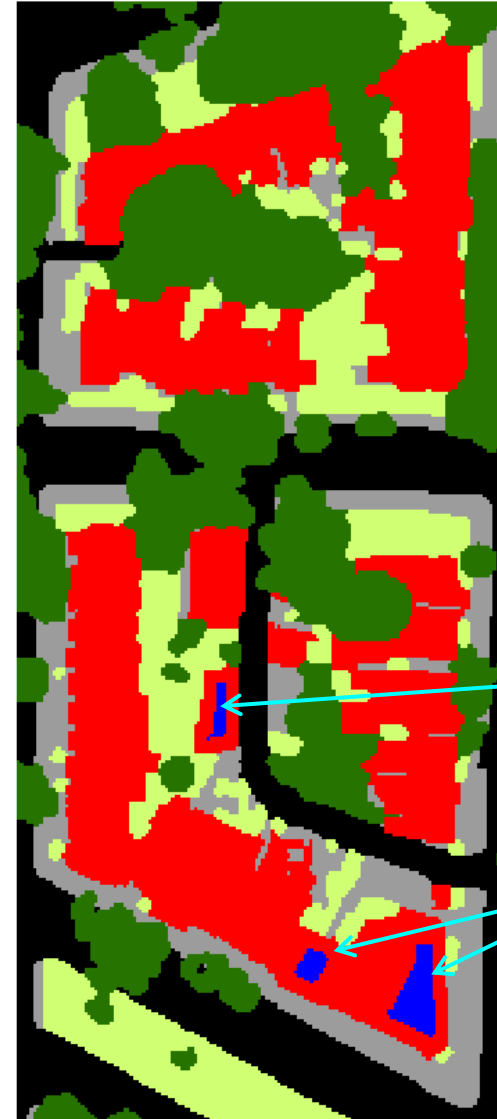
Input land cover:



2006

removed

missed
this one



2011

Change results
do not match
full shape.

new

added
split in two;
misses interior
change section.

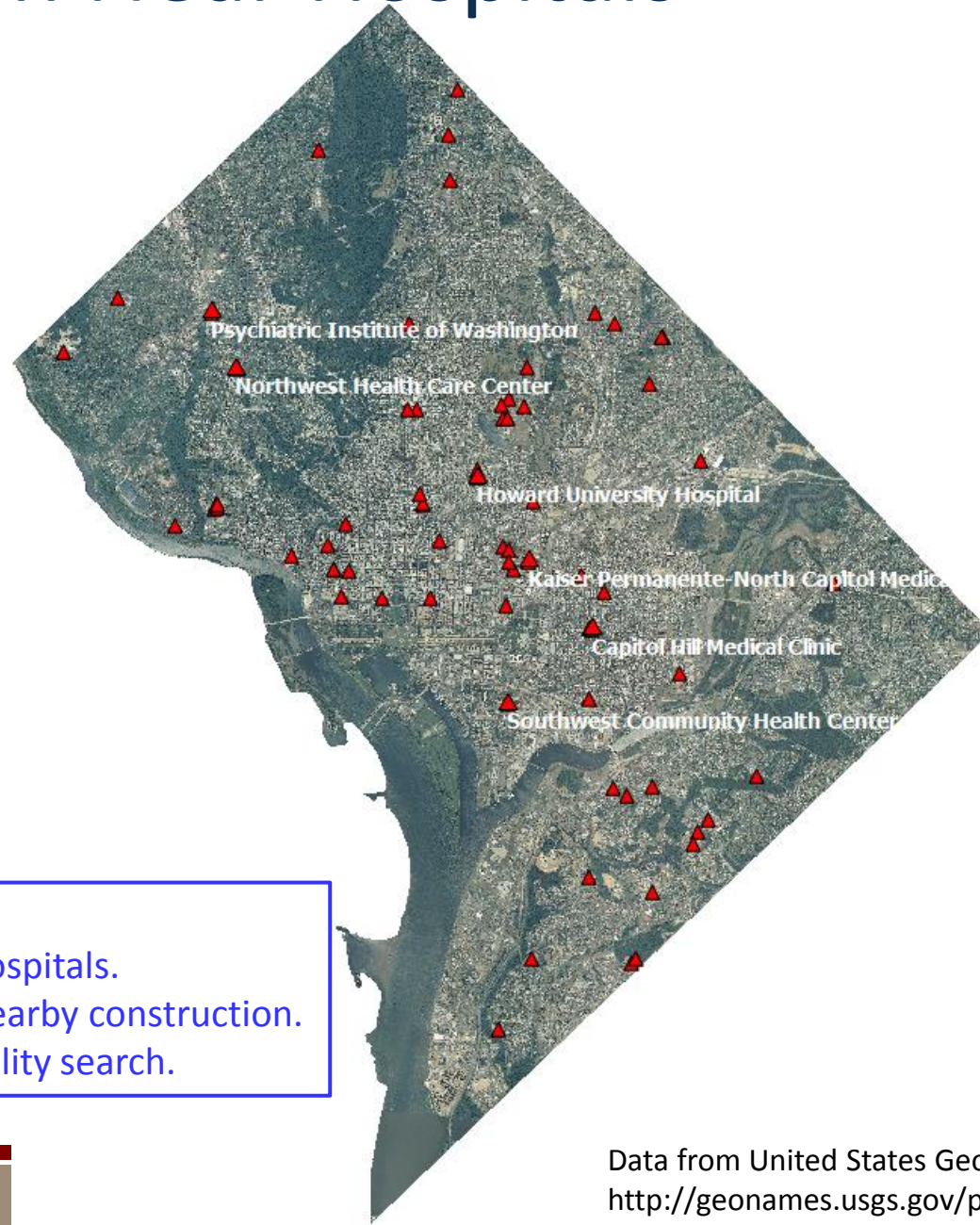
Review of Change Analysis Methods

Approaches to change detection:

1. Pure pixel-based change analysis.
 - Simple, but image changes can result from illumination, color balance, moving shadows, etc., which are not real changes in the world.
2. Geometric feature-based change analysis.
 - Better, but noise and geometric interference can lead to confusing or misleading results.
3. Graph-based change analysis.
 - Can reject false change, clarify change relationships, and present correct before/after representations.

Construction Near Hospitals

Hospitals in the DC area:



Goals:

1. Find construction near hospitals.
2. Estimate magnitude of nearby construction.
3. Demonstrate multi-modality search.

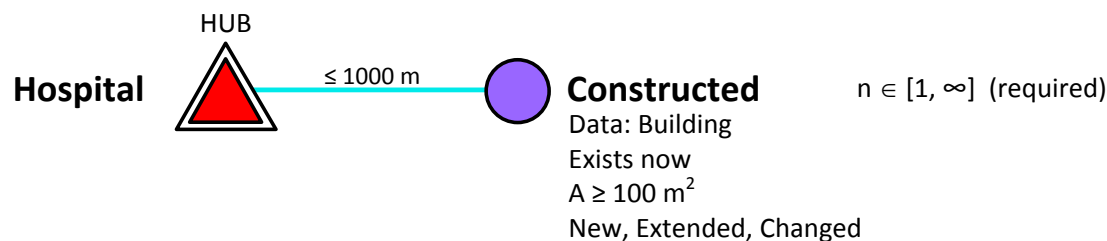
Construction Near Hospitals

Query specification:

How much construction has occurred within 1 km of each hospital?

Question semantics:

Building
Changed Building
Extended Building
Merged Building
New Building
Replaced Building
Constructed
Hospital
⋮



Data semantics:

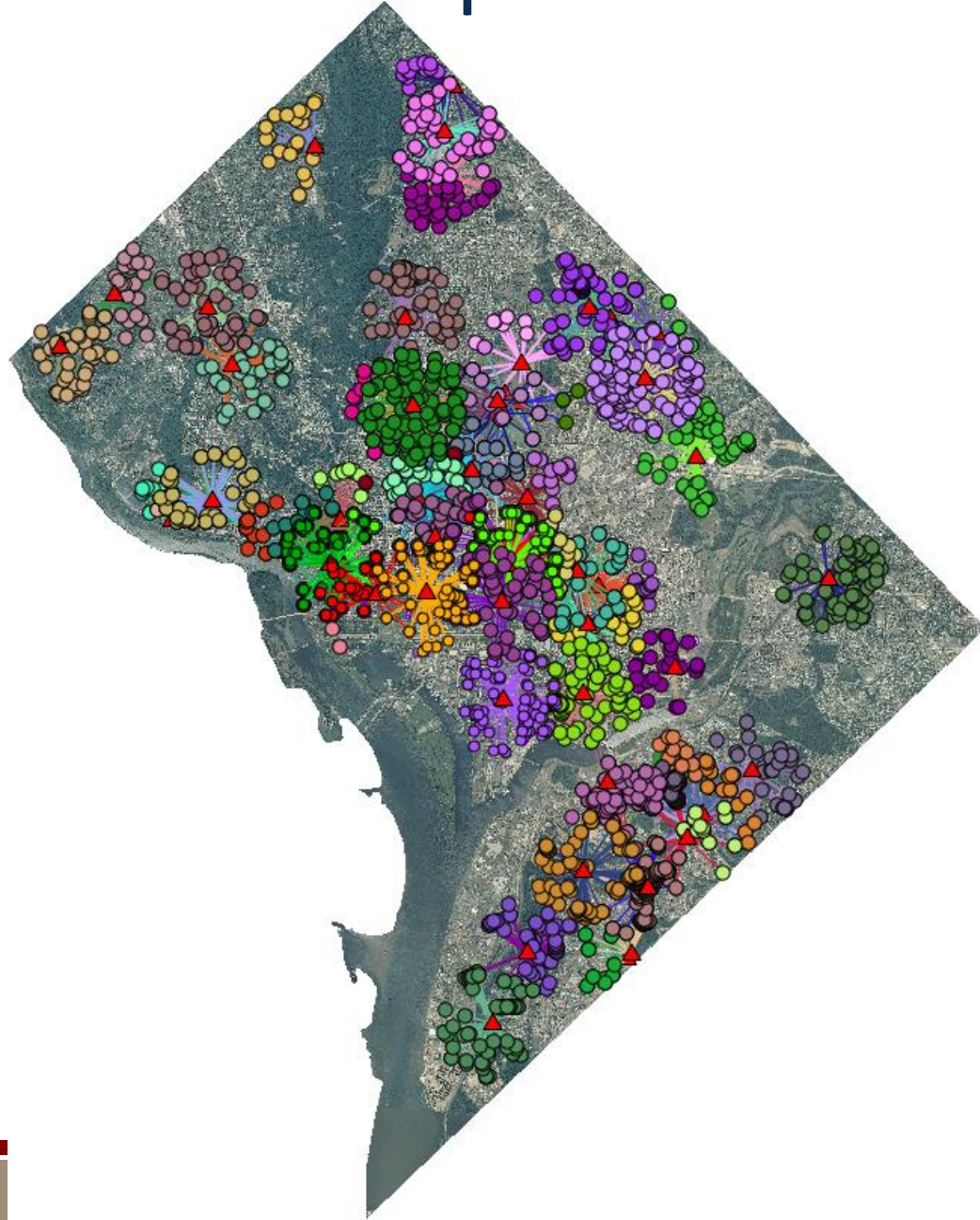
Building
Road
Other Paved
Grass/Shrub
Trees
Dirt
Water
Hospital

Star graph search.

Rank in order of most construction first.

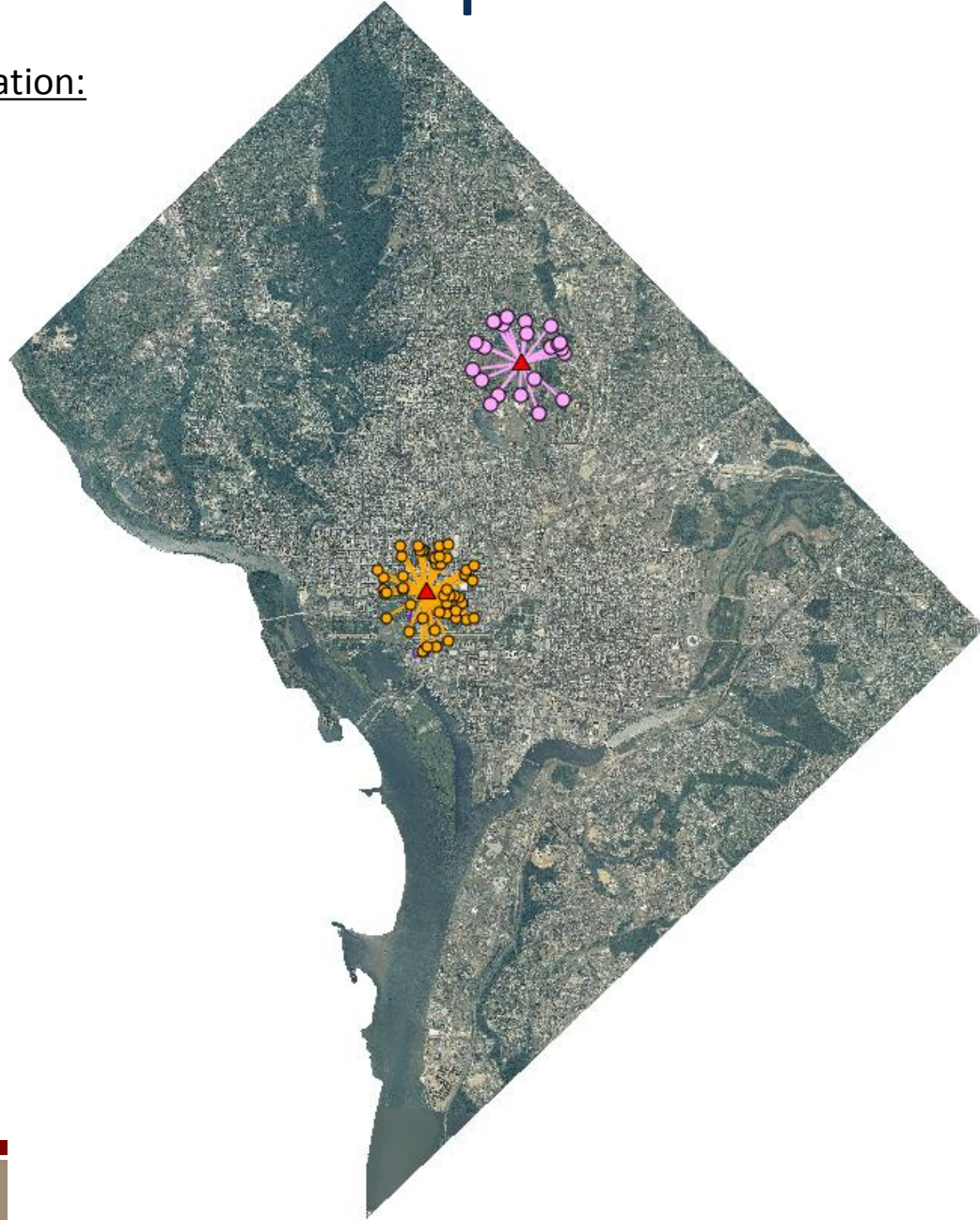
Construction Near Hospitals

All matches:



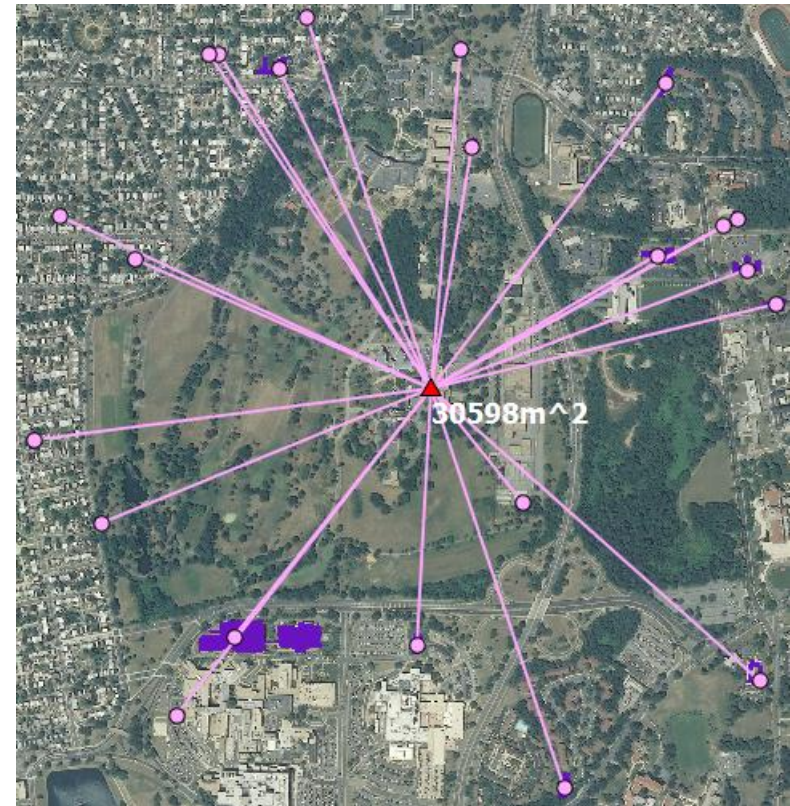
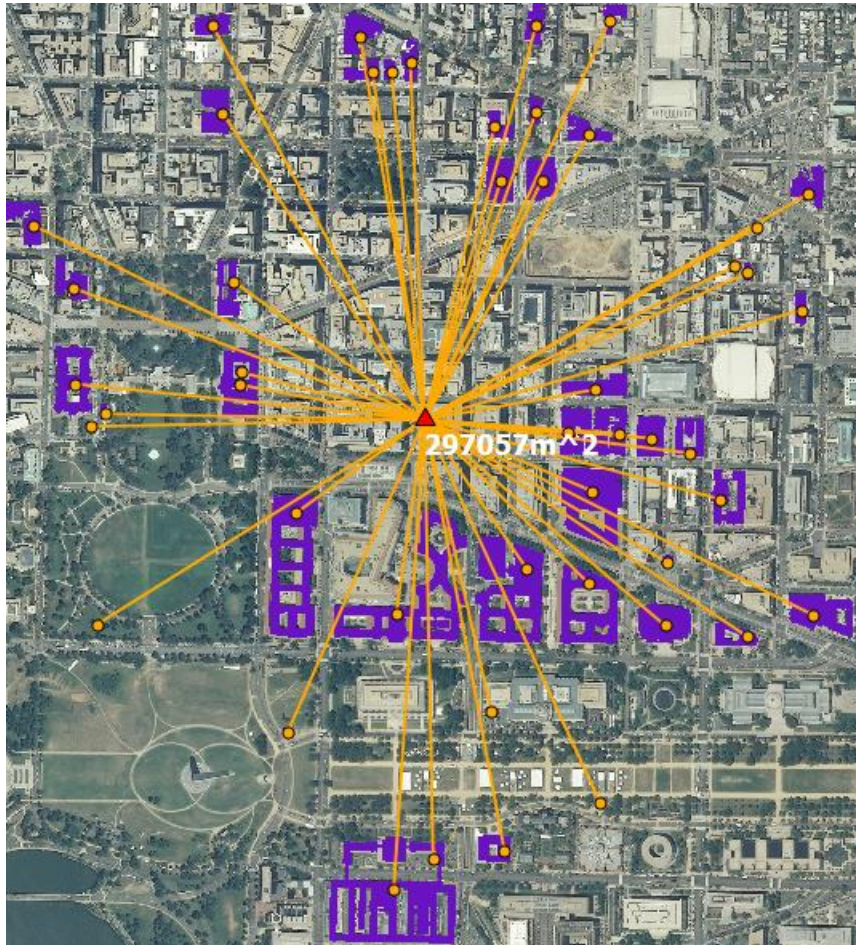
Construction Near Hospitals

Select two for close examination:



Construction Near Hospitals

Hospital with different amounts of nearby construction:*



One computation includes:

- Temporal change detection.
- Construction diagnosis.
- Image and text data.
- Post-processing numerical sum.

* Includes pseudo-construction. See above.