Conflation of Maps for the Integration of Geospatial Data and Enhancement of Building Registry Quality

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The Building Census: From Field Survey to Building Registry

Matching Statistical Units with Census sections

Geo-Referencing in Cadastre: An Unresolved Issue

Conflation: Comparing Cadastre Positioning and Integrating Data in Registry

ASI (Aggregate Shape Similarity Index): A Tool for Geodatabase Record Linkage

From ASI to ASIR: towards a Relocating Algorithm

Empirical Findings: Case Study, The Municipality of Cassino (FR)

Conflation: Comparing Cadastre Positioning and Integrating Data in Registry

Conclusions: A New Starting Point
Traditional Building Censuses until 2011 required field visits by enumerators.

Tools such as section maps and address lists were utilized to determine building locations.

This enabled matching buildings and their characteristics to their corresponding census sections.
After 2011, the Census of Buildings was modified to rely on administrative registers, particularly the Cadastre.

The Cadastre is a database of polygons.

In Italy, the Cadaster does not contain any indication regarding census sections.

Furthermore, the Cadaster is not georeferenced in a geographic system.

The Cadaster has been repositioned by Istat.

Through a "spatial join," each building was assigned the census section within which the building lies.
Geo-Referencing in Cadastre: An Unresolved Issue

- Georeferencing the Cadastre is a highly time and labor-intensive process.
- The result can lead to wrong, unclear or ambiguous situations.
- The registry system assigns the census section based on various components. In addition to the Cadastre, the assigned census sections are also validated through the building address.
- In Italy, each municipality declares in which census section the addresses are located, allowing us to cross-check.
To solve inconsistencies, a vertical conflation approach was adopted.

A reference database was selected, in this case, the polygons database from the Italian Military Geographic Institute (IGM) (a layer of buildings in DBSN geodataset format).

Since there is no identifier enabling a deterministic record linkage between the georeferenced cadastre and IGM databases, polygon shape recognition is used to integrate the data.
ASI (Aggregate Shape Similarity Index): A Tool for Geodatabase Record Linkage

- ASI (Aggregate Shape Similarity Index) proposed by Šuračiová.

- It is a fuzzy indicator that allows classifying the type of polygon correspondence between the two databases.

- This enables us to understand if the buildings have been positioned correctly and therefore proceed with data integration, particularly the assignment of the census section.
Metrics comparing the overlapping surface

Jaccard index in Tanemoto version

\[ \text{sim}_T = \frac{A \cap B}{A + B - (A \cap B)} \]

Sorensen

\[ \text{sim}_{SD} = \frac{2(A \cap B)}{A + B} \]
ASI (Aggregate Shape Similarity Index): A Tool for Geodatabase Record Linkage

Metrics comparing boundaries:

- These metrics approximate how much similar or different two contours are, thus aiding in polygon recognition.
  - Hausdorff Distance: Measures the maximum distance between the contours of two polygons.
  - Fréchet Distance: Assesses the similarity between the contours of two polygons, considering the order of points along the path.
Metrics comparing only shapes

- Finally, we have metrics to compare shapes regardless of their position.

- These metrics consider similarity between shapes based on intrinsic characteristics such as area, number of vertices, and perimeter length.

- This means that two polygons with similar shapes will have similar values for these characteristics, regardless of their position on the map.

\[
simA = 1 - \frac{|A - B|}{\max(A, B)}
\]

\[
simP = 1 - \frac{|A - B|}{\max(A, B)}
\]

\[
simV = 1 - \frac{|A - B|}{\max(A, B)}
\]
Cleaning and prepare data

- The main issue in the two databases is the lack of a one-to-one correspondence between elements.

- Situations regarding buildings feature disjointed polygons, leading to discrepancies even if they identify the same buildings or groups of adjacent buildings.

- The approach proposed by Žuračiová is to merge buildings within a certain distance and then compare the aggregates.

\[Fan \text{ et al. (2014)}\]
ASI (Aggregate Shape Similarity Index): A Tool for Geodatabase Record Linkage

- ASI a fuzzy indicator

\[
\text{Sim}_D = \max \text{ between:}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{sim}_H & \text{— Hausdorff distance similarity index,} \\
\text{sim}_F & \text{— Fréchet distance similarity index,}
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\text{Sim}_S = \min \text{ between :}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{sim}_T & \text{— Tanimoto (Jackard) similarity index,} \\
\text{sim}_{SD} & \text{— Sørensen–Dice similarity index,}
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\text{Sim}_{Sh} = \min \text{ between :}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{sim}_A & \text{— area similarity index,} \\
\text{sim}_P & \text{— perimeter similarity index,} \\
\text{sim}_V & \text{— vertices similarity index.}
\end{align*}
\]
ASI (Aggregate Shape Similarity Index): A Tool for Geodatabase Record Linkage
## ASI (Aggregate Shape Similarity Index): A Tool for Geodatabase Record Linkage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>parameters</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Identical</td>
<td>ASI &gt; 0.85</td>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Identical Example" /></td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Generalised</td>
<td>sim_d &gt; 0.75, sim_s &gt; 0.75, sim_sh &gt; 0.75</td>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="Generalised Example" /></td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Moved</td>
<td>sim_v &gt; 0.75, sim_s &lt; 0.75, sim_sh &gt; 0.75</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Different</td>
<td></td>
<td><img src="image4.png" alt="Different Example" /></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
From ASI to ASIR: towards a Relocating Algorithm

- ASI measures the correspondence between two building geodatabases, assuming they are accurately positioned.
- The comparison is typically done by overlaying corresponding pairs.
- In our case, the accuracy of the Cadastre positions is uncertain, requiring us to expand the comparison to all buildings within a certain distance.
- ASIR (Aggregate Shape Similarity Index for Relocation) is an automated procedure which relocates Cadastre buildings to match IGM ones.

From ASI to ASIR: towards a Relocating Algorithm

- Sequential procedure: on map sheet basis (meaning a subset of buildings designed respecting their relative distances).
- ASIR evaluates the proportion of unrecognized buildings, observing those that do not match between the two databases.
- The comparison is typically done by overlaying corresponding pairs. In our case, for each cadastral building, pairs are created with IGM buildings within 500 meters using Geopandas' geodataframe.
- Once the map sheet is repositioned, the ASI is recalculated to assess the improvement compared to the initial situation.
- ASIR integrates Duročiová’s qualitative approach with Liu’s matrix comparison and adds geographical displacements to enhance quality.

Step 1 - DBSN data

Step 2 – ASI comparison

Step 3 – ASIR relocation
From ASI to ASIR: towards a Relocating Algorithm

Data preparation
- Reprojection to EPSG 32632
- Merging elements within 1 meter

Iterative comparison of all relationships between buildings within 500 meters of similar buildings.

- Distance matrix
- Identity matrix
- Displacement matrix

Cadastral Cluster

DBSN Cluster
- Calculation of comparison indicators
- Selection of potential matches
- Cadastral Map relocation

Have we reached the minimum quality threshold?

Yes
- Repositioned cadastral buildings
  Type of correspondence found based on ASI

No
- only between cadastral buildings and DBSN buildings within 500 meters
The urban fabric of Cassino is complex and densely populated, with an intricated road network. The municipality is divided into 154 map sheets.

Before the application of ASIR, no buildings had been identified, indicating a critical situation.

ASIR identified identical buildings and those with different resolutions, significantly improving the situation.

After the application of ASIR, 130 out of 154 map sheets were correctly positioned, without any human intervention.

### Classification of buildings in the municipality of Cassino before and after the application of ASIR.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Before ASIR application</th>
<th>After ASIR application</th>
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<tbody>
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<td></td>
<td>abs</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Identical</td>
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<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>total</td>
<td>25.494</td>
<td>100.00</td>
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Empirical Findings: Case Study, The Municipality of Cassino (FR)
Empirical Findings: Case Study, The Municipality of Cassino (FR)
1. The Cadastre lacks certain crucial information, such as building height.

2. This information can only be retrieved if we are certain that the buildings are correctly positioned, utilizing Lidar survey data.

3. ASIR ensures the quality level of this operation by accurately repositioning the buildings, facilitating the retrieval of missing information.

Thanks to ASIR, recognizing buildings in the IGM database allows us to reassign to the Cadastre the characteristics detected by the IGM.

This process serves to validate the information registered in the Cadastre and integrate any missing data.

ASIR facilitates the integration and validation process, improving the overall completeness and accuracy of information in the Cadastre.
Conclusions: A New Starting Point

- Conflation represents a significant enhancement for our registry, enriching it with information and improving the positioning of elements.

- However, these benefits come with costs in terms of resources.

- ASIR greatly reduces processing time.

- New scenarios and opportunities in our geospatial data management process may be envisaged.
Thank you!

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