Modified Maximum Spanning Tree Clustering for Large-Scale Image Retrieval

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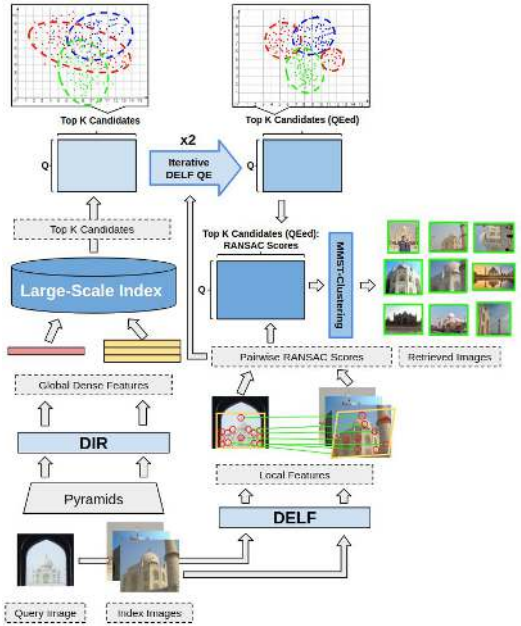
Motivation

Challenges:

- Retrieve all the images depicting the same landmark **regardless of visual similarity**.
- Ranking is necessary for the MAP metric.

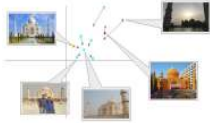
Architecture



Iterative DELF Query Expansion

Put images with the same landmark closer to the approximated centers of the landmark clusters iteratively.

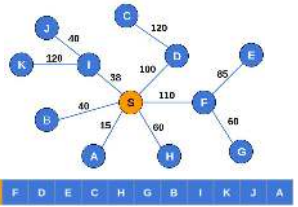
- Involve local descriptors and geometric verification.
- Test images can be used as additional bridging.



Iter*	VMAP*	VMD*
0	66.43%	1.02
1	76.68%	0.60
2	77.89%	0.45
3	75.84%	0.39
4	74.28%	0.36

Modified Maximum Spanning Tree Clustering

- Solves the problem: as long as there is a bridging image, visually not similar images can be connected.
- Ranking is accomplished since we are adding the most confident image at a time.



Results

Google Landmark Retrieval Challenge:

- Largest public dataset for image retrieval.
- 15K unique landmarks, 1M training images, 1M index images, 100K test images.
- Images have various sizes and high resolution, 329GB in total.

Highlights:

- No fine-tuning.
- Single model without ensemble.

Validation:

Experiment Results:

Method	PubMAP
DIR	42.3%
DIR + AQE	47.9%
DIR + ID-QE	55.7%
DIR + ID-QE + MMST-C^	62.7%

Competition Results:

Team	PvtMAP
1. CVSSP & Visual Atoms	62.7%
2. Layer 6 AI	**60.8%**
3. SeventSpace	59.8%
4. Naver Labs Europe	58.6%
5. VPP	58.3%

Conclusion

- Iterative DELF QE constraints the global feature space.
- Clustering resolves the challenge of visually not similar images through transition of bridging images.
- Modified maximum spanning tree algorithm ranks the candidates across the connected images.

- Scalability: fast approximate update for both new images in index and in test.
- Flexibility: limit depth to constraint visual similarity.

References

[1] Noh H et al. Large-Scale Image Retrieval with Attentive Deep Local Features. Proc. ICCV 2017.
[2] Gordo A et al. Deep Image Retrieval: Learning Global Representations for Image Search. ECCV 2016.
[3] Gordo A et al. End-to-end Learning of Deep Visual Representations for Image Retrieval. IJCV 2017.