

# A Novel Approach to Search Top K Spatial Objects Using Inverted Linear Quadtree Method

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**Abstract:** The advances in geo-positioning technologies and geo-location services, has paved way for the rapid growth of spatio-textual objects. These are the objects that are collected in many applications such as location based services and social networks. The spatio-textual objects are the objects in which an object is described by its spatial location and a set of keywords (terms). The approach to handle the spatio textual objects can be done we study two fundamental ways: top k spatial keyword search (TOPK-SK), and batch top k spatial keyword search (BTOPK-SK). Given a set of spatio-textual objects, a query location and a set of query keywords, the TOPK-SK retrieves the closest k objects each of which contains all keywords in the query. BTOPK-SK is the batch processing of sets of TOPK-SK queries. We also take into consideration a data structure which is based on the inverted index and the linear quadtree, a novel index structure, called inverted linear quadtree (ILQuadtree). This data structure is carefully designed to exploit both spatial and keyword based pruning techniques to effectively reduce the search space. To deal with BTOPK-SK, a new computing paradigm is to be implemented which partitions the queries into groups based on both spatial proximity and the textual relevance between queries. To efficiently support BTOPK-SK, we implement IL-Quadtree technique in this paper.

**Keywords:** Spatial, Spatio-textual objects, Keyword, Batch processing.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

*Spatio-textual objects* are available in many applications. For example, the local search service provides the location information as well as short descriptions of the businesses. In the GPS navigation system, a geographically anchored pushpin called Point Of Interest (POI) is used. It is usually annotated with texture information. These uploaded images are usually associated with multiple text labels. As a result, in recent years various spatial keyword query

models and techniques have emerged such that users can effectively exploit both spatial and textual information of these spatiotextual objects. In the paper, we investigate the problem of conducting *top k spatial keyword search* (TOPK-SK) [1], [2]; that is, given a set of spatio-textual objects, a query location  $q$  and a set of keywords, we aim to retrieve the  $k$  closest objects each of which contains all keywords in the query. The top  $k$  spatial keyword search is important in spatial keyword queries and has a wide range of applications. Below is the example

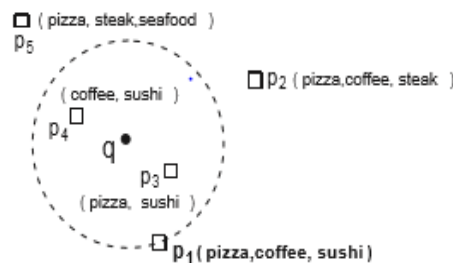


Fig. 1: Online Yellow Pages Example

In Fig. 1, suppose there are a set of businesses whose locations (represented by squares) and service lists (a set of keywords). When a GPS-enabled smartphone user wants to find a nearby restaurant to have a piece of pizza and a cup of coffee, she may send the local search server two keywords, coffee and pizza. Based on the user's current location (e.g., the point  $q$  in Fig. 1) derived from the smartphone and the two query keywords, business  $p_1$  is returned by the server. Note that although businesses  $p_3$  and  $p_4$  are closer to  $q$  than  $p_1$ , they do not satisfy the keyword constraint.

In many real applications, the query workload may vary from time to time, and the system may encounter a burst of queries. In this scenario, the system throughput is poor if a large number of queries are processed one by one. The batch query processing technique handles a large number of queries in the queue with a reasonable delay. A large number of fake spatial keyword searches may be issued in order to protect the user's privacy. This may lead to

dramatic degrade of the system throughout if queries are processed individually. To alleviate this issue, we also investigate the problem of batch spatial keyword query (BTOPK-SK) which aims to efficiently support a large number of spatial keyword queries at the same time.

**Motivation.** The performance of the spatial keyword query is poor if objects are separately organized by textual index and spatial index. Therefore, the main challenge is how to effectively combine the spatial index and textual information. In the paper, we propose the inverted linear quadtree (ILQuadtree) indexing technique which naturally combines the spatial and textual features of the objects. Specifically, for each keyword we build a linear quadtree for the related objects so that the objects which do not contain any query keyword can be immediately excluded from computation. Besides facilitating spatial search, the quadtree for each keyword can also serve as the signature of the objects in the sense that we can effectively prune a group of objects based on the AND semantics. Moreover, as the space filling curve technique is employed by the linear quadtree, the objects are clustered on the disk based on their spatial proximity, which enhances the I/O efficiency of our search algorithm. We further enhance the pruning capability of the signature technique by partitioning objects into groups. The key challenge of the BTOPK-SK problem is the computation sharing of the spatial keyword queries. In this paper, we develop effective partition approach to group queries such that the queries in the same groups can share computation costs because they are likely to have common search paths. Based on the inverted linear quadtree (IL-Quadtree) and the groups of the queries, we devise efficient batch processing algorithm to support BTOPK-SK queries.

Contributions. The principle contributions of this paper are as follows.

- To facilitate the top k spatial keyword search (TOPK-SK), we propose a novel indexing structure called IL-Quadtree to effectively organize spatio-textual objects.
- Based on IL-Quadtree, we develop an efficient top k spatial keyword search algorithm
- Efficient batch spatial keyword query processing techniques are developed to improve the throughout of the system when there are a large amount of spatial keyword queries.

## 2 PRELIMINARY

### 2.1 Problem Definition

Let us denote the spatio-textual object as  $o$  and denote the location by  $o.loc$  and the keyword of terms by  $o.T$  from the vocabulary  $V$ . The top k spatial keyword search (TOPK-SK) yields the following result. Consider a set  $O$  of spatio-textual objects, a query object  $q$  where  $q.loc$  is the query location and  $q.T$  is a set of query keywords, we obtain the closest k objects each of which contains all of the query keywords. In this paper, a batch top k spatial keyword query, denoted by  $Q$ , consists of a set of top k spatial keyword queries. The minimum bounding rectangle of the locations of the queries in  $Q$  is denoted by  $Q.mbr$ ;  $Q.T$  represents the union of the keyword sets of the queries in  $Q$ ; and  $Q.\mu$  is the smallest keyword set size of the queries in  $Q$ . BTOPK-SK. Given a set  $O$  of spatio-textual objects, and a batch spatial keyword query (BTOPK-SK)  $Q$ , we try to get the best top k results for each top k search.

## 3 IL-QUADTREE

In Section 3.1 we show the disadvantages of the existing indexing approaches. Section 3.2 is written to overcome the disadvantages shown in the existing system.

**3.1 Motivation** The two great challenges faced by current works that uses TOPSK search may be listed as follows: i) how to effectively reduce the number of objects with the search region. ii) how to effectively decrease the average surviving probability of these objects. These disadvantages has to be tackled with a new index structure has following properties. Firstly, It should involve inverted index i.e., related objects are grouped by a spatial index for each keyword. In this way, the objects which do not contain any query keyword is immediately eliminated. Secondly, the new index structure should be adaptive to the distribution of the objects for each keyword. Thirdly, we need to exploit the AND semantic for the computation of the results.

### 3.2 IL-Quadtree Structure

In this paper, we have introduced a datastructure called as quadtree. A quadtree is a used for space partitioning in which a d-dimensional space is recursively subdivided into  $2d$  regions. This structure is very simple. As shown in Fig. 2(a), assuming that quadtrees resulting from a split are numbered in the order SW, SE, NW and NE, which are represented by 00, 01, 10 and 11 respectively. As shown in Fig. 2(c), in the paper, we use two conventions i.e. a circle and a square to denote the non-leaf node and leaf node respectively. Moreover, a leaf node is set black if it is not empty, i.e., it contains at least one point. Otherwise, it is a white leaf node. In Fig. 2(b)

and (c), the codes of the leaf nodes are labelled by the corresponding integer number of their split sequences (i.e., Morton code).

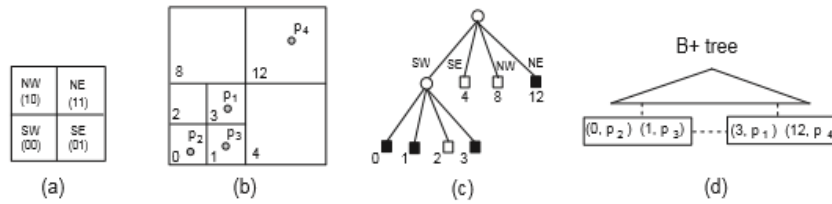


Fig. 2: Linear Quadtree Example

Note that in the paper the quadtree structure is kept as the space partition based signature of the objects. Fig. 2(d) shows an ordering results of these black leaf nodes as well as the objects resident on them, where the node codes are represented as integer numbers.

### 3.3 IL-QUADTREE BASED TOPK-SK QUERY

Here, we introduce an efficient TOPK-SK query algorithm assuming that objects are organized by an IL- Quadtrees. Same as other inverted index based approaches, we also conduct incremental nearest neighbor search on the IL-Quadrees. The main difference is that we can make use of the space partition based *signatures* (i.e., quadtree structures) to eliminate non-promising objects.

#### Algorithm 1: TOPK-SK (Q, q, k)

Input :LQ : the IL-Quadtree, q : the *spatio-textual* query

k : number of objects returned,

Output :R : TOPK-SK query result.

$R = \emptyset ; H = \emptyset ; \lambda = \infty ;$

For each LQi where i belongs to I(q,T) do

Push root node of LQi into H;

While H not equal to  $\emptyset$  do

e ← the quadtree node popped from H;

if e is a black leaf node then

suppose e is from LQi;

for each LQj where j not equal to i and j belongs to I(q,T) do

**CheckSignature**(e,LQj);

If e passed the signature test then

Load objects contained by e;

For each object o contained by e do

Ohit=Ohit+1;

If Ohit=1 then

*Compute* $\delta(o, q)$ ;

if  $\delta(o, q) > \lambda$  then

Break;

Else

Update  $\lambda$  and R;

Else if e is a non-leaf node then

For each child node e' of e do

If e is not a white leaf node and  $\delta_{\min}(e', q)$  less than or equal to  $\lambda$  then

Push e' into H;

Return R

## 4 BATCH TOP k SPATIAL KEYWORD SEARCH

In this Section, we investigate how to effectively process the batch top-k spatial keyword queries.

### 4.1 Motivation

The system efficiency may reduce and it is time consuming if we separately process each individual query in the BTOPK-SK, especially when there are more number of queries. Therefore, it is advisable to partition the queries into

groups. By grouping the queries, it may share computation and hence significantly reduce the overall costs. Moreover, novel query processing techniques are mandatory to cope with groups of queries based on the IL-Quadtree proposed in this paper.

#### 4.2 Effective query partition.

Query partition plays an important role in batch query processing because it can notably reduce the processing time by grouping similar queries so that the CPU and I/O costs can be shared between queries in the same group. This strategy has been widely adopted in many research papers such as [4]. However, this method only considers spatial information, and does not consider textual composition. Thus, we can take both spatial feature and textual information into consideration to further improve the effectiveness of query partition.

#### Algorithm 2: Partition(O, Q, D)

**Input** :O : the spatial textual objects,  
 Q : the query log  
 D : the depth of recursion

$hfSet = \Phi; hpSet = \Phi; fpSet = \varphi; fpList = \varphi;$

$hfSet \leftarrow$  extracts the terms whose local frequency larger than  $\gamma$ ;

$fpSet \leftarrow$  enumerates all unique term pairs from  $hfSet$ ;

$hpSet \leftarrow$  from objects in O enumerate the unique term pairs;

$fpList \leftarrow fpSet \setminus hpSet$ ;

$Q \leftarrow$  extracts the query whose terms covered by O from Q;

$cList_1 = \varphi; cList_2 = \varphi; min = inf; pset = \varphi;$

for each pair  $p_i$  belongs to  $fpList$  do

  assume  $t_j$  is the  $j$ th term from  $p_i$ ;  $tList_1 = \varphi; tList_2 = \varphi$ ;

$tList_1 \leftarrow$  the objects in O contains  $t_1$ ;

$tList_2 \leftarrow$  the objects in O contains  $t_2$ ;

  the other objects assigned to the list that has higher similarities;

  if  $\mathcal{E}(Q, CtList_1) + \mathcal{E}(Q, CtList_2) \leq min$  then

    Update  $min, cList_1, cList_2$  and  $pset$ ;

$fpList \leftarrow fpList \setminus pset; D += 1$ ;

  if  $\eta > 2^D$  then

$c \leftarrow c \cup Partition(cList_1, fpList, Q, \eta/2)$ ;

$c \leftarrow c \cup Partition(cList_2, fpList, Q, \eta/2)$ ;

  Else

    Update C by  $cList_1$  and  $cList_2$ ;

#### 4.3 Efficient batch query processing

After dividing the batch query into a set of groups, it is essential to devise new query processing techniques based on IL-Quadtree structure proposed in this paper. The key is the computation sharing strategies. We carefully maintain the objects loaded during the query processing so that the location information of these objects can be used to facilitate the computation. More specifically, assume there are a set of objects loaded from cell  $c$  of LQt where  $c$  is a black leaf node of LQt. If there are some candidate queries on  $c$ , we can further push down these objects for LQt, i.e., generate refined signatures for child cells of  $c$  on the fly, to facilitate the signature tests of these queries.

#### Algorithm 3: Grouping(Q, k)

**Input**: Q: a set consisting of spatio textual queries  
 k: the number of assigned group

**Output**: G: a set consisting of queries assigned to k groups.

*foreach* query  $q_i \in Q$  *do*

$q_i.val \leftarrow$  calculate z-order value for  $q_i$ ;

$G \leftarrow$  sample k points which is uniformly based on z-order values queries;

$isMove \leftarrow true$ ;

**while**  $isMove$  **do**

```

foreach query  $q_i \in Q$  do
  score  $\leftarrow -\infty$ , set  $\leftarrow -0$ ;
  foreach cluster  $g_j \in G$  then
    if  $f(g_j, q_i) < \text{score}$  then
      score  $\leftarrow f(g_j, q_i)$ ; set  $\leftarrow j$ ;
  Gset  $\leftarrow$  Gset  $\cup$   $q_i$ ;
  recalculate the k centroids;
  if the k centroids can no longer move then
    isMove  $\leftarrow$  false;
  return G
  
```

**Algorithm 5: Node Processor( $Q^*, e', R$ )**

**Input:**  $Q^*$ : the term constraint of satisfied spatio-textual queries,  $e'$ : current node,  $R$ : top-k results of each subquery for  $Q$

**Output:**  $R$ : top-k results of each subquery for  $Q$

```

foreach  $q_i \in Q^*$  do
  hit  $\leftarrow 0$ ;
  foreach  $t \in q_i.T$  do
    if  $e'$  is a leaf node belonging to  $LQ_t$  then
      hit = hit + 1;
      *if  $e'$  belongs to the object list of  $LQ_t$  is empty then
        load the objects from  $LQ_t$  and then update  $e'$ ;
      if hit =  $|q_i.T|$  then
        objs  $\leftarrow$  intersects the objects of related terms in  $e'$ ;
        foreach  $o \in \text{objs}$  do
          if  $\delta \min(q_i, o) < q_i.\lambda$  then
            update  $R$  by  $(o, \delta \min(q_i, o))$ 
            update  $\lambda \max$ ;
    else
      update  $e'$  by  $q_i$ ;
  return R
  
```

**Algorithm 4: BTOPK-SK( $Q, k$ )**

**Input:**  $k$ : number of objects returned,  $Q$ : the query group,

**Output:**  $R$ : top-k results of each query in  $Q$

$R := \Phi; H := \varnothing; \lambda \max = \infty; Q.T = \varnothing$

```

e  $\leftarrow$  new a root node;
for each subquery  $q_i$  belongs to  $Q$  do
   $R_i \leftarrow$  new max heap;
  Initialise  $R_i$  with k null object with distance infinity;
  let  $q_i.\lambda$  be the maximum distance in  $R_i$ ;  $q_i.\lambda \leftarrow \infty$ 
  e.Q  $\leftarrow$  e.Q  $\cup$   $q_i$ ;
  for each  $LQ_t$  where  $t$  belongs to  $I(q_i.T)$  do
    if  $t$  does not belong to  $e.T$  then
      e.T  $\leftarrow$  e.T  $\cup$   $t$ ;
    update  $e$  by the root node of  $LQ_t$ ;
  push  $e$  into  $H$ ,  $\lambda \max \leftarrow \infty$ 
  while  $H$  not equal to  $\emptyset$  do
    e  $\leftarrow$  the node popped from  $H$ ;
  if  $e$  min greater than or equal to  $\lambda \max$  then
  
```

break;

$Q' \leftarrow \{q_i \in e.Q \mid \delta_{\min}(q_i, e) \leq q_i.\lambda \wedge q_i.T \in e.T\};$

If  $Q'$  is  $\emptyset$  then

Continue the while-loop;

For each  $t \in e.T$  do

If the object list of  $e'$  of  $t$  is not empty then

Split the objects into child entries  $e'$ ;

For each child entries  $e'$  of  $e$  do

If  $|Q'.T \cap e'.T| \geq Q'.\mu$  and  $\delta_{\min}(Q', e') < Q'.\lambda$  then

$Q^* \leftarrow \{q_i \in Q' \mid \delta_{\min}(q_i, e') \leq q_i.\lambda \wedge q_i.T \in e'.T\};$

If  $Q^*$  is not  $\emptyset$  then

If  $e'.level \geq w$  then

Node-processor( $Q^*, e', R$ );

Else

Update  $e'$  by  $Q^*$ ;

Push  $e'$  into  $H$ ;

Return  $R$

## 5 PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

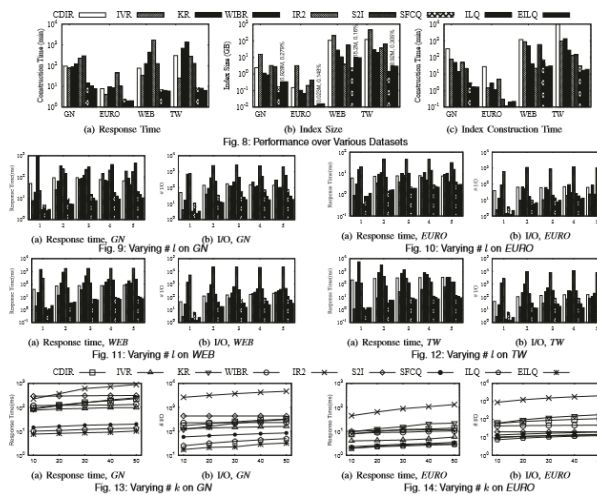
The results of the performance study to evaluate the efficiency and scalability of the proposed techniques in the paper is analysed here. The following algorithms are evaluated for the TOPK-SK query.

- **ILQ.** IL-Quadtree based TOPK-SK algorithm.
- **IVR.** The inverted R-tree based TOPK-SK algorithm.
- **IR2.** The enhanced IR2-tree technique based TOPKSK algorithm.
- **KR\*** TOPK-SK algorithm developed based on the KR\*tree [8].
- **WIBR.** The WIBR-tree technique is proposed in [4].
- **CDIR.** The CDIR-tree technique is proposed in [9].
- **S2I.** The S2I3 technique is proposed in [7].
- **SFCQ.** The SFCQ4 technique is proposed in [6].
- **EILQ.** Enhanced IL-Quadtree by object partition technique.

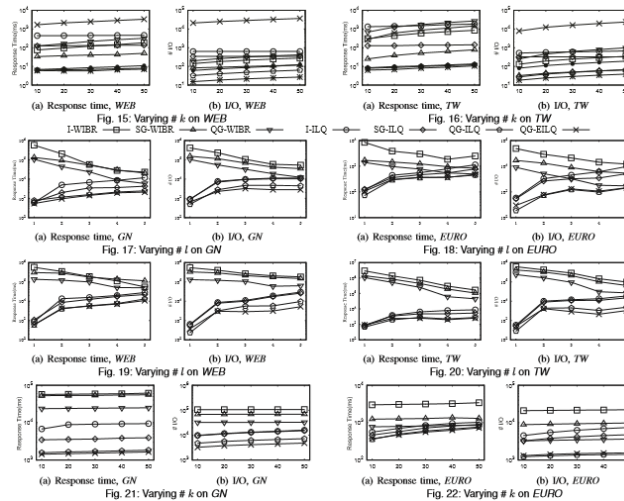
To evaluate the efficiency of batch algorithm, the following algorithms are evaluated for the BTOPK-SK query.

- **I-ILQ.** The IL-Quadtree based TOPK-SK algorithm.

### 5.1 Evaluating TOPK-SK query



## 5.2 Evaluating BTOPK-SK Query



## 6 CONCLUSIONS

The *spatio-textual* objects are used in a wide range of applications. Hence the problem of top k spatial search is important which uses this technique. In the paper, we propose a novel index structure, namely IL-Quadtree, to organize the *spatio-textual* objects. An efficient algorithm is developed to support the top k spatial keyword search by taking advantage of the IL-Quadtree. We further propose a partition based method to enhance the effectiveness of the signature of linear quadtree. To facilitate a large amount of spatial keyword queries, we propose a BTOPK-SK algorithm as well as a query group algorithm to enhance the performance of the system. The main of our project convincingly demonstrate the efficiency of our techniques.

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