Toponym Recognition in Historical Maps by Gazetteer Alignment

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Old Maps Online

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Reader

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1000 1250 1500 1750 2010

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Instant Search Results: Fulltext

Isothermal chart.
1:95 000 000
1824 - Woodbridge, William C.

Isothermal chart, or, View of climates & productions / drawn from the accounts of Humboldt & others, by W.C. Woodbridge.
1823 -

Inhabited World.
1:93 000 000
1824 - Woodbridge, William C.

Isothermal chart, productions.
1:80 000 000
1837 - Woodbridge, William C.

Animals - World.
1837 - Woodbridge, William C.

Ocean Atlantique et Ocean Indien.
1:50 000 000
1937 - Vivien St Martin, L.

JISC University of Portsmouth KLOKAN TECHNOLOGIES

Media Information

Collection:
David Rumsey Historical Map Collection
Author:
Colton, G.W.
Date:
1856
Short Title:
Iowa.
Publisher:
J.H. Colton
New York
Type:
Atlas Map
Obj Height cm:
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Obj Width cm:
41
Scale 1:
1,440,000
Note:
In full color by county.
Reference:
P816.
State/Province:
Iowa
Full Title:
Iowa. Published By J.H. Colton & Co. No. 172 William St. New York. Entered ... 1855 by J.H. Colton & Co. ... New York. No. 47.
List No:
0149.052
Series No:
57
Publication Author:
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Pub Date:
1856
Pub Title:
Colton's Atlas Of The World, Illustrating Physical And Political Geography.

Iowa. Published By J.H. Colton & Co. No. 172 William St. New York. Entered ... 1855 ...

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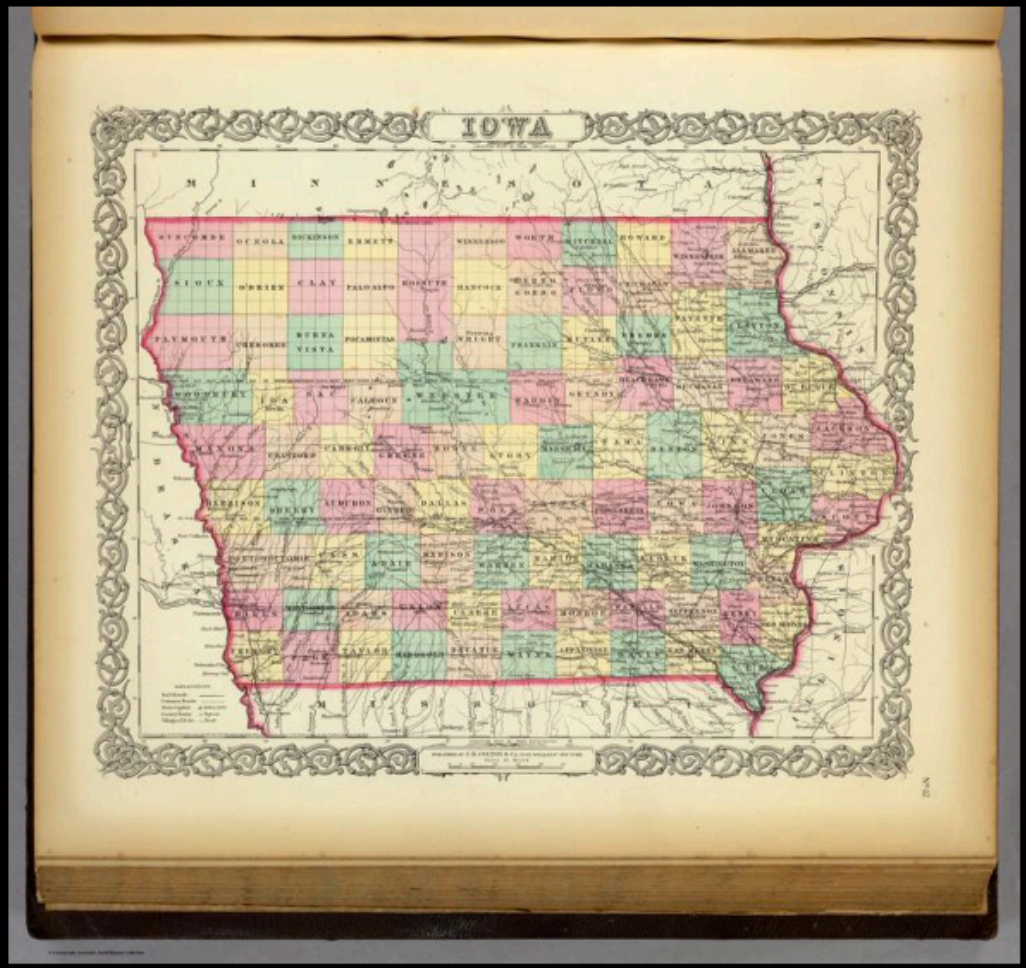

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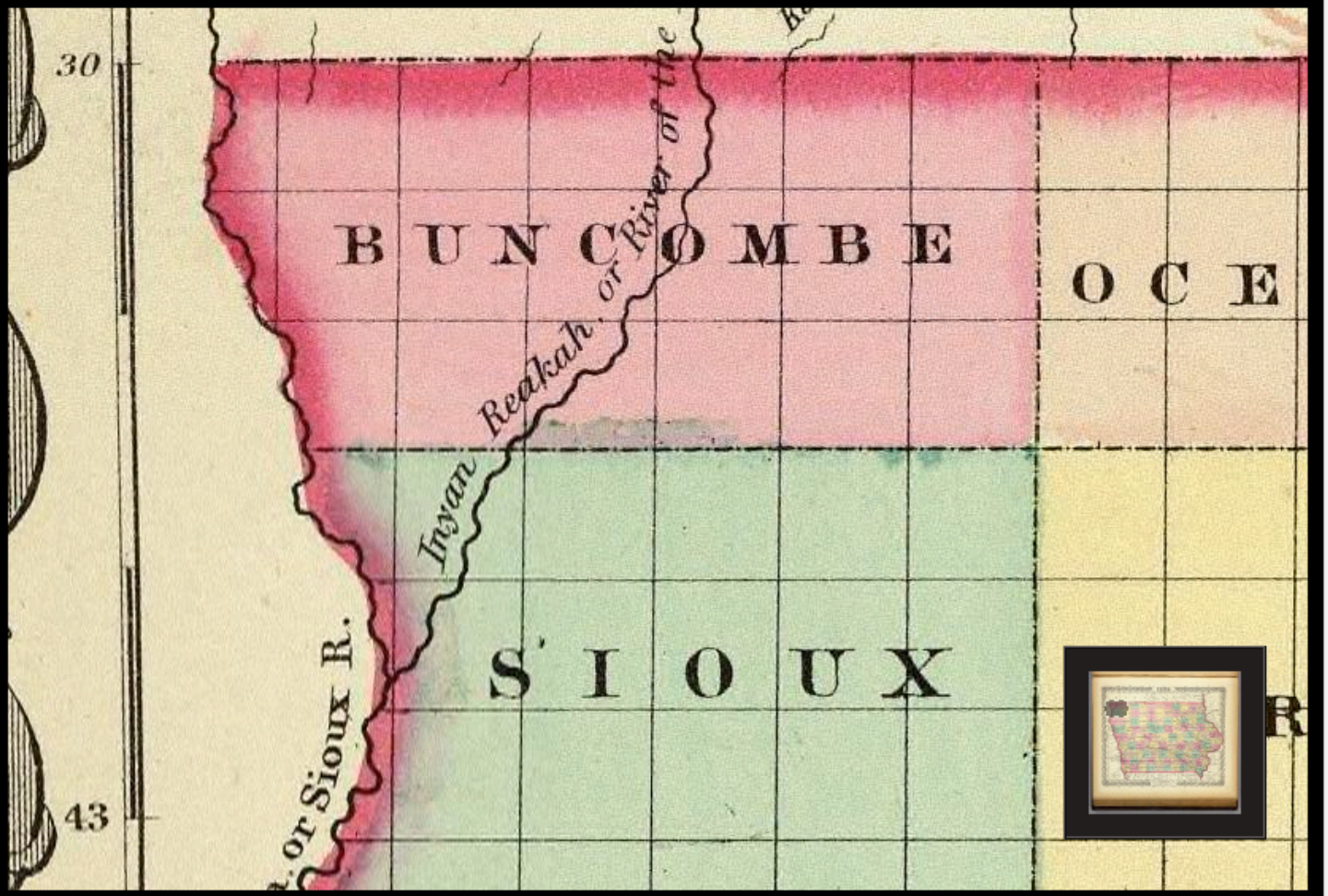


Related Work

- Text/graphics separation in maps
  Myers *et al.* (GREC '96), Luo & Kasturi (GREC '98), …

- Recognition in modern or specialized maps
  Li *et al.* (ICDAR '99), Velázquez & Levachkine (GREC '03),
  Pouderoux *et al.* (ICDAR '07), Chiang & Knoblock (ICPR '10),
  Pezeshk & Tutwiler (Trans. GeoSci & Rem. Sens. '11)

- Recognition using geographical information
  Gelbukh et al. (GREC '04)

Research Questions

1. How accurate is a general robust word recognition system on historical maps?

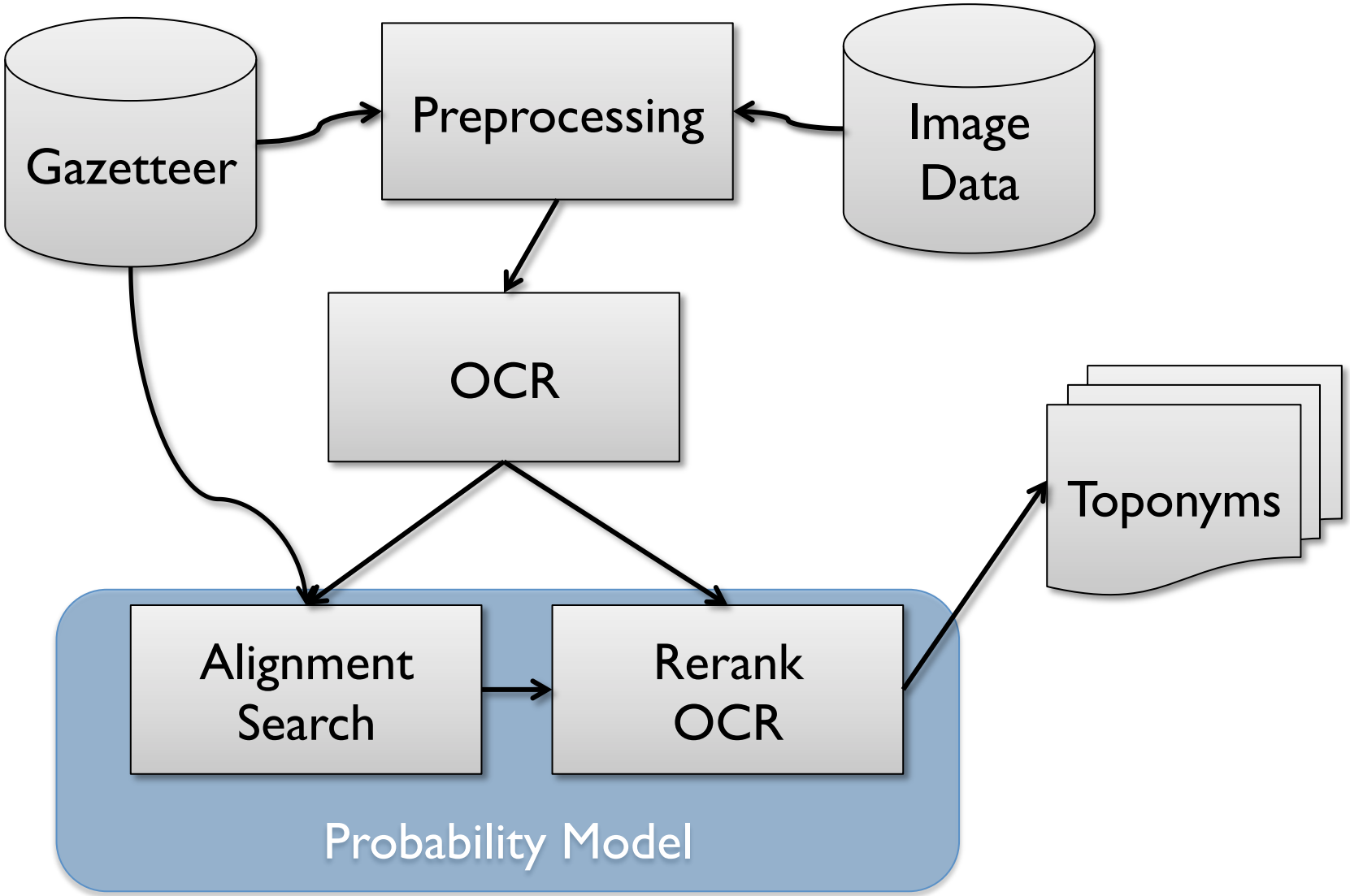
2. How well can we automatically align a map image to known geography using OCR?

3. How much does alignment improve word recognition?

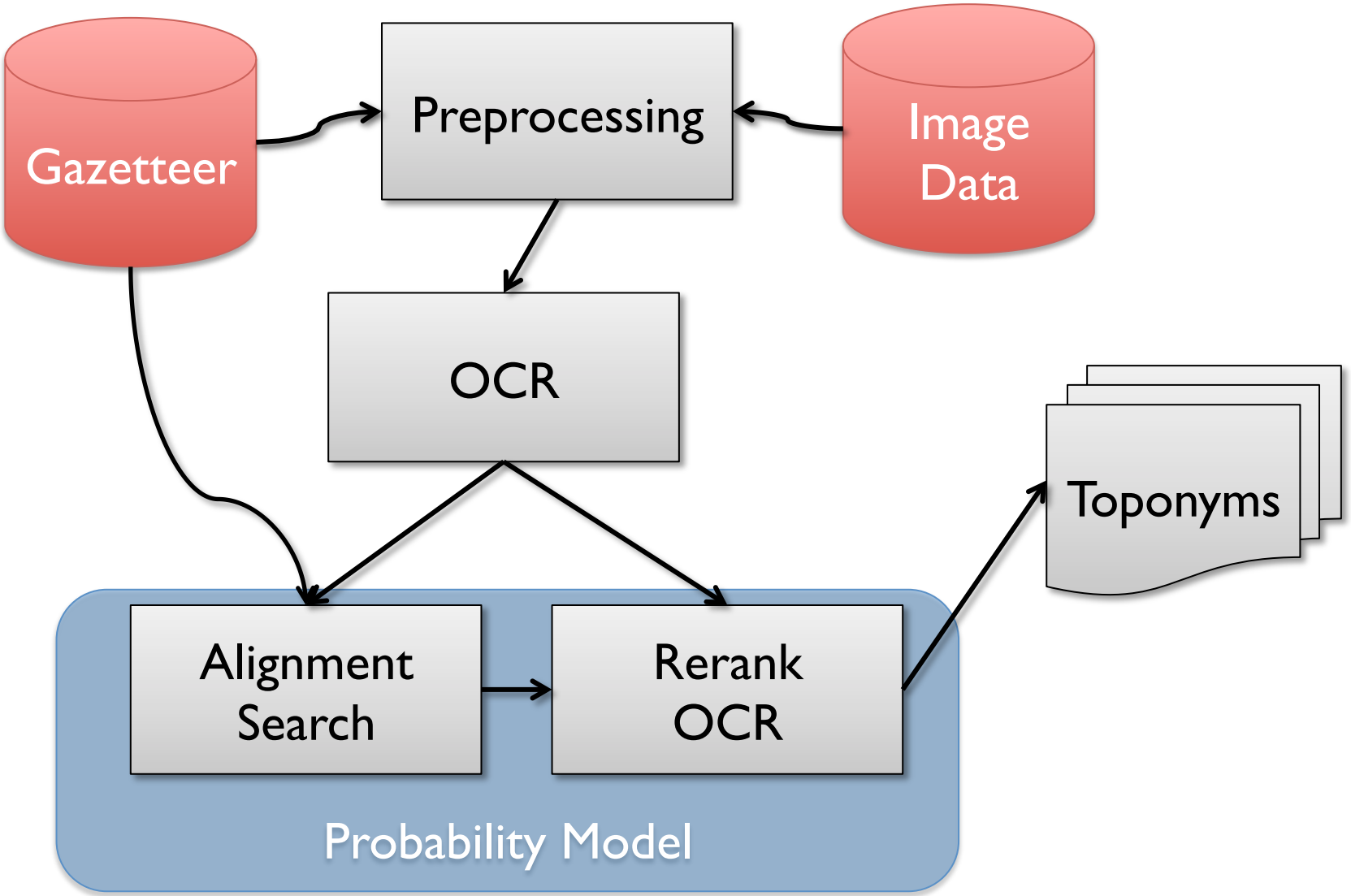
Contributions

- Robust search for coordinate alignment given word hypotheses
- Bayesian update of word hypotheses given alignment
- Experimental data set

Overview


Gazetteer
Preprocessing
Image Data
OCR
Toponyms
Alignment Search
Rerank OCR
Probability Model

Overview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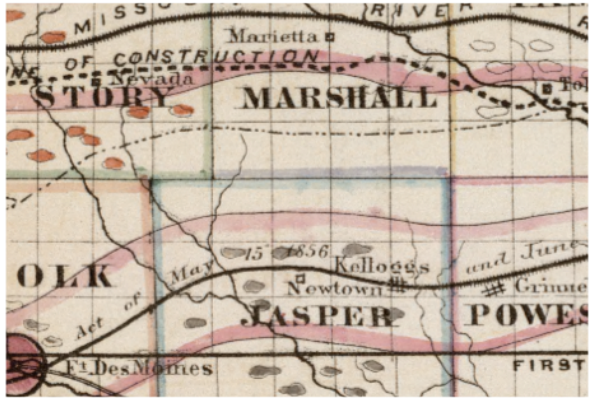
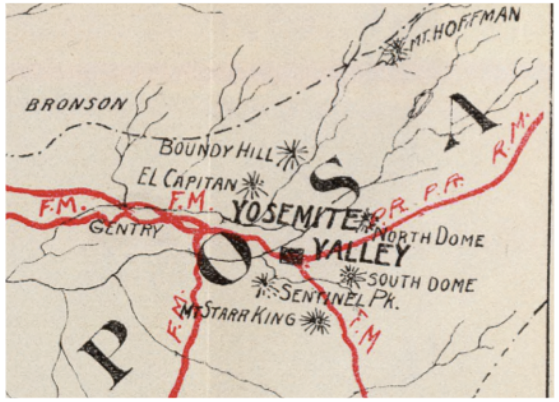
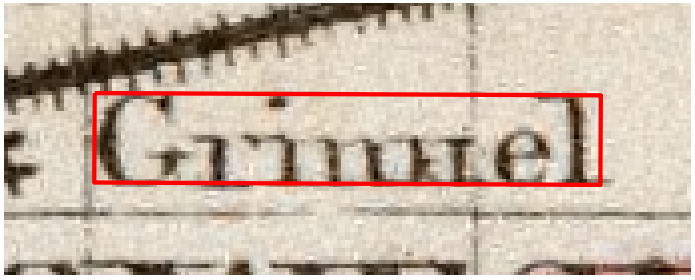
Experimental Data

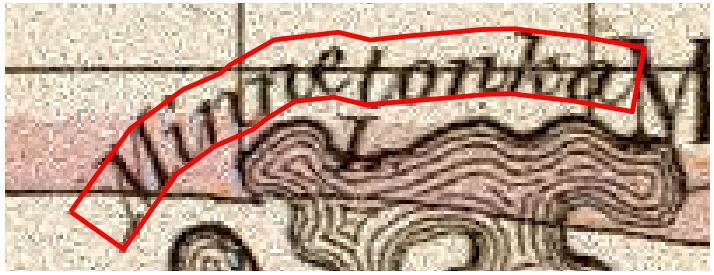
- Map Images
  - Nineteenth century US state and regional maps
  - Tight word bounding polygons, ground truth text
  - `http://hdl.handle.net/11084/3246`

Experimental Data









http://hdl.handle.net/11084/3246

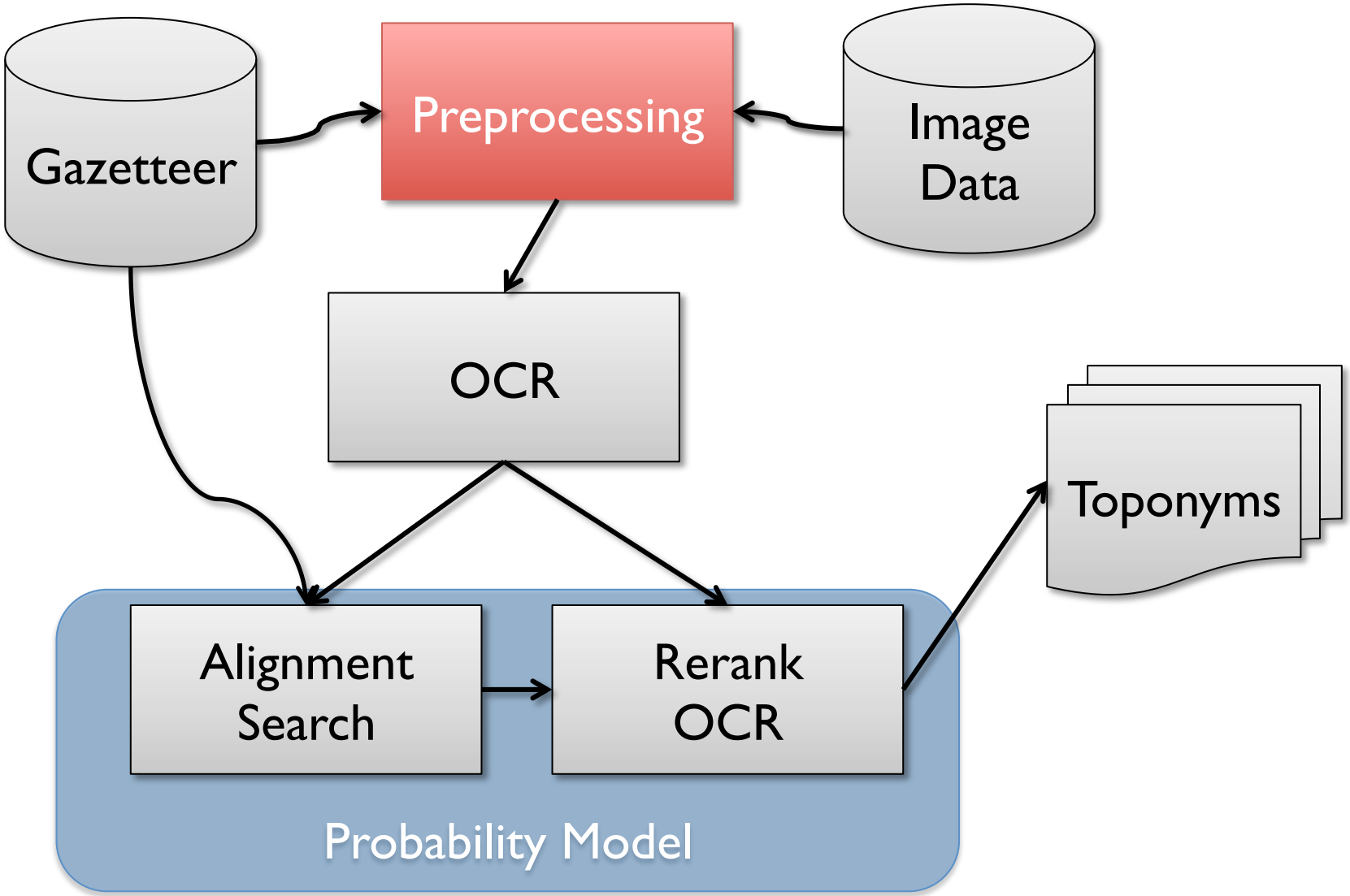
davidrumsey.com

Central Calif. (1896), Geo. W. Blum
Florida (1875), Cram Atlas Company
Iowa (1866), U.S. General Land Office
Minnesota (1866), U.S. General Land Office

Experimental Data

- Map Images
  - Nineteenth century US state and regional maps
  - Tight word bounding polygons, ground truth text
  - `http://hdl.handle.net/11084/3246`
- Gazetteer
  - USGS Board of Geographical Names
  - Two million entries in sixty-five categories
  - Historical features and alternate names/spellings
  - Primary lon/lat coordinates, county, state

Overview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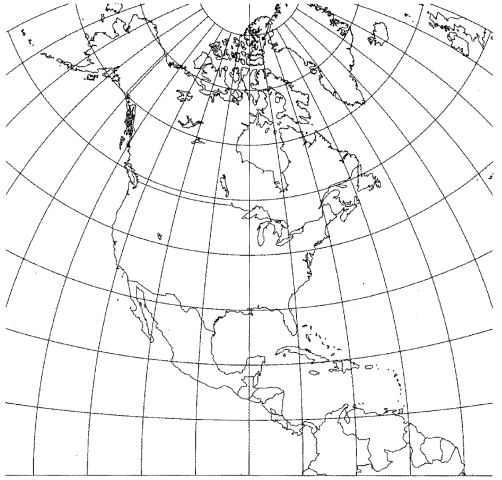
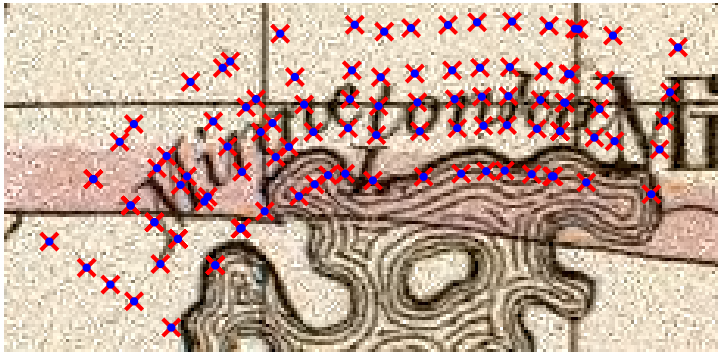
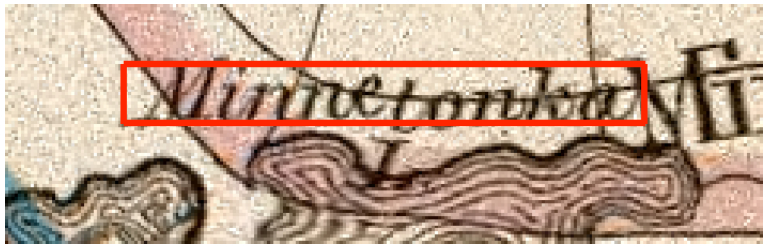
Preprocessing

- Gazetteer restricted to map region
- Spherical → 2D Projection
  - Earth shape: Clarke 1866 geoid
  - Hassler polyconic
- Normalize word images for OCR



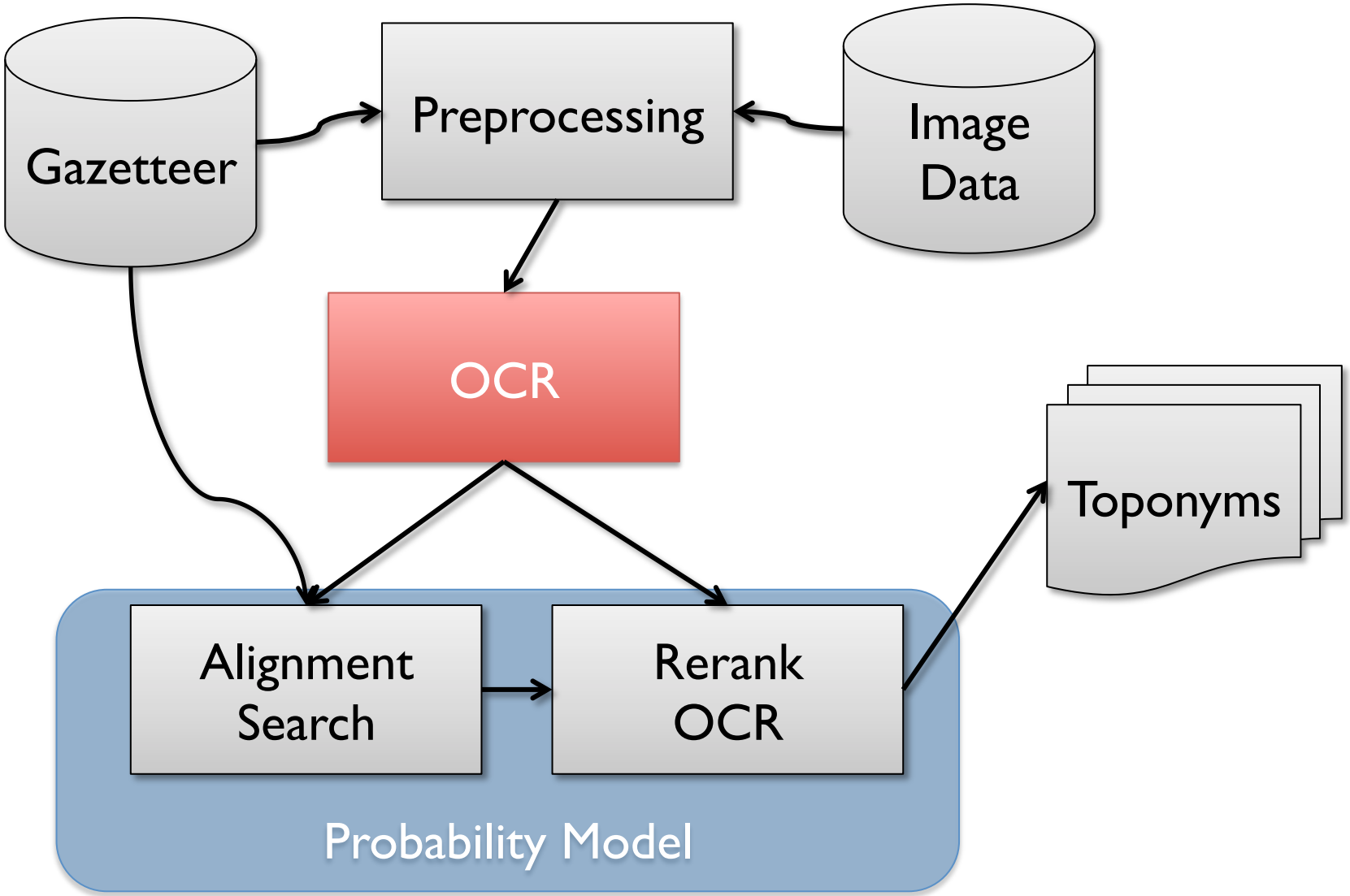
[Snyder 1989, USGS PP 1453]





Minnesota (1866), U.S. General Land Office, davidrumsey.com

Overview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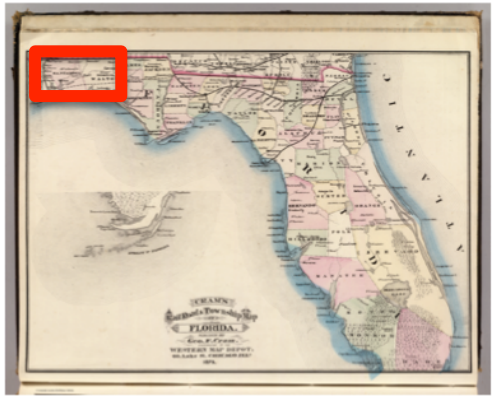
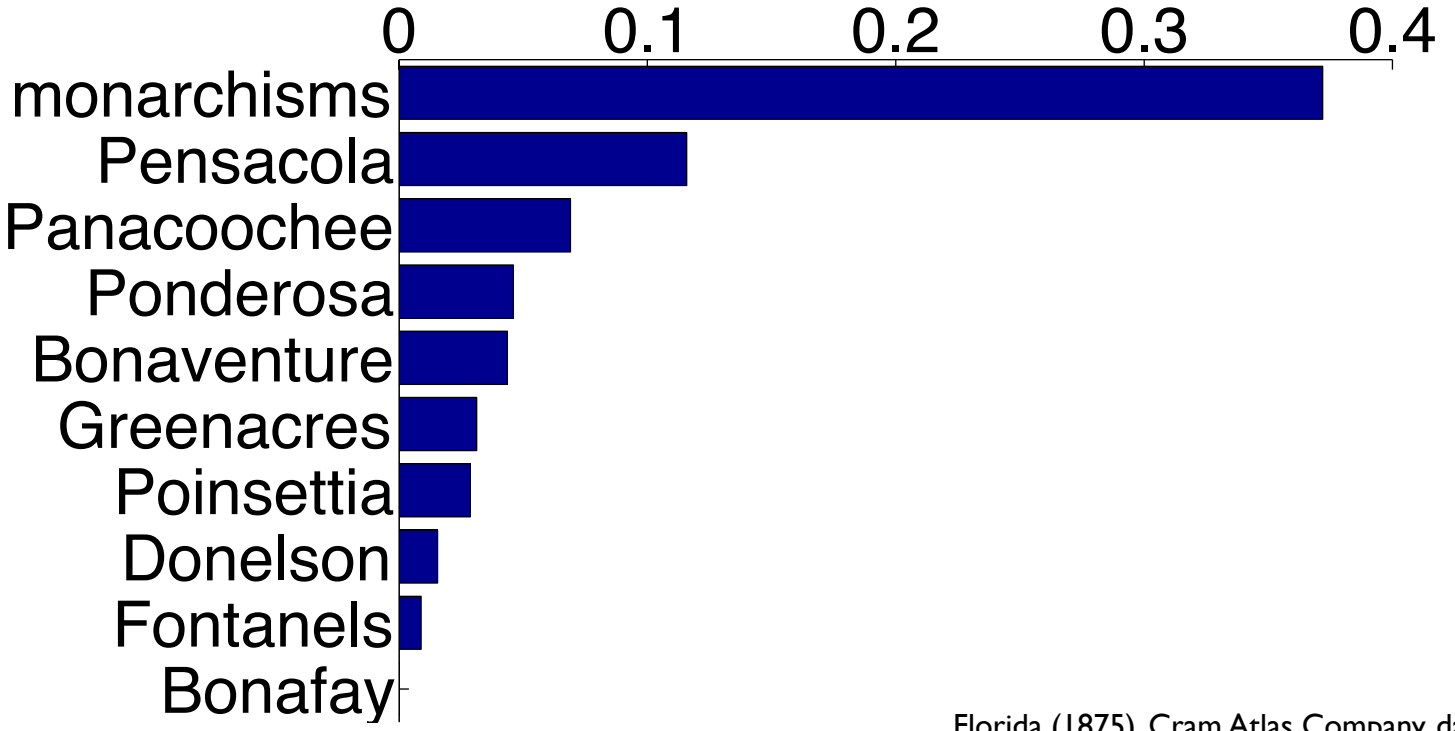
Text Recognition

- Discriminative Semi-Markov Model
  Weinman *et al.* Toward Integrated Scene Text Reading (PAMI 2013)
  - Unified segmentation/recognition
  - Lexicon (82,000 English words; Gazetteer words)
- Trained for robust reading competition
- ★ Produces a list of top word probabilities

Text Recognition





Florida (1875), Cram Atlas Company, davidrumsey.com

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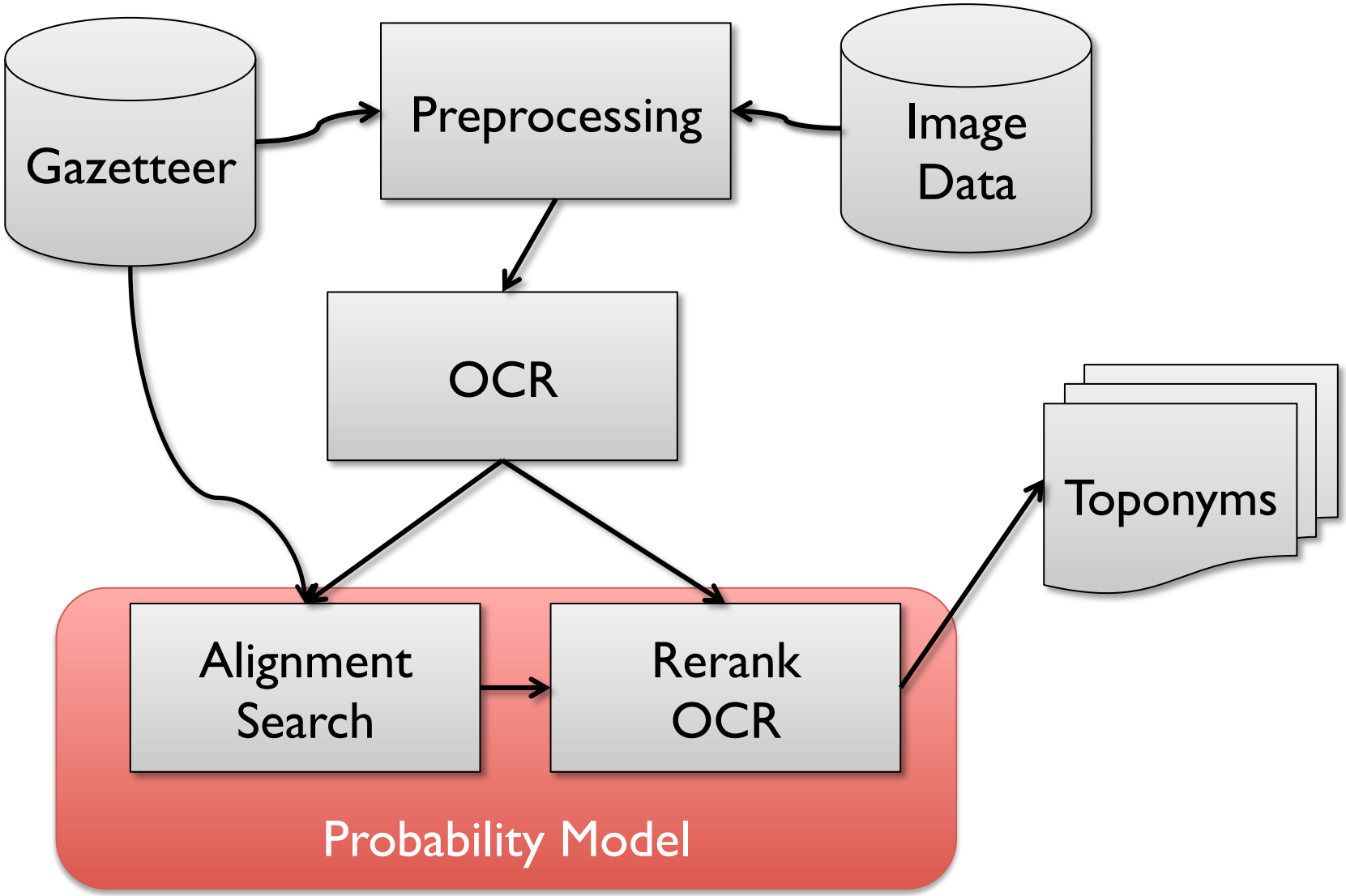
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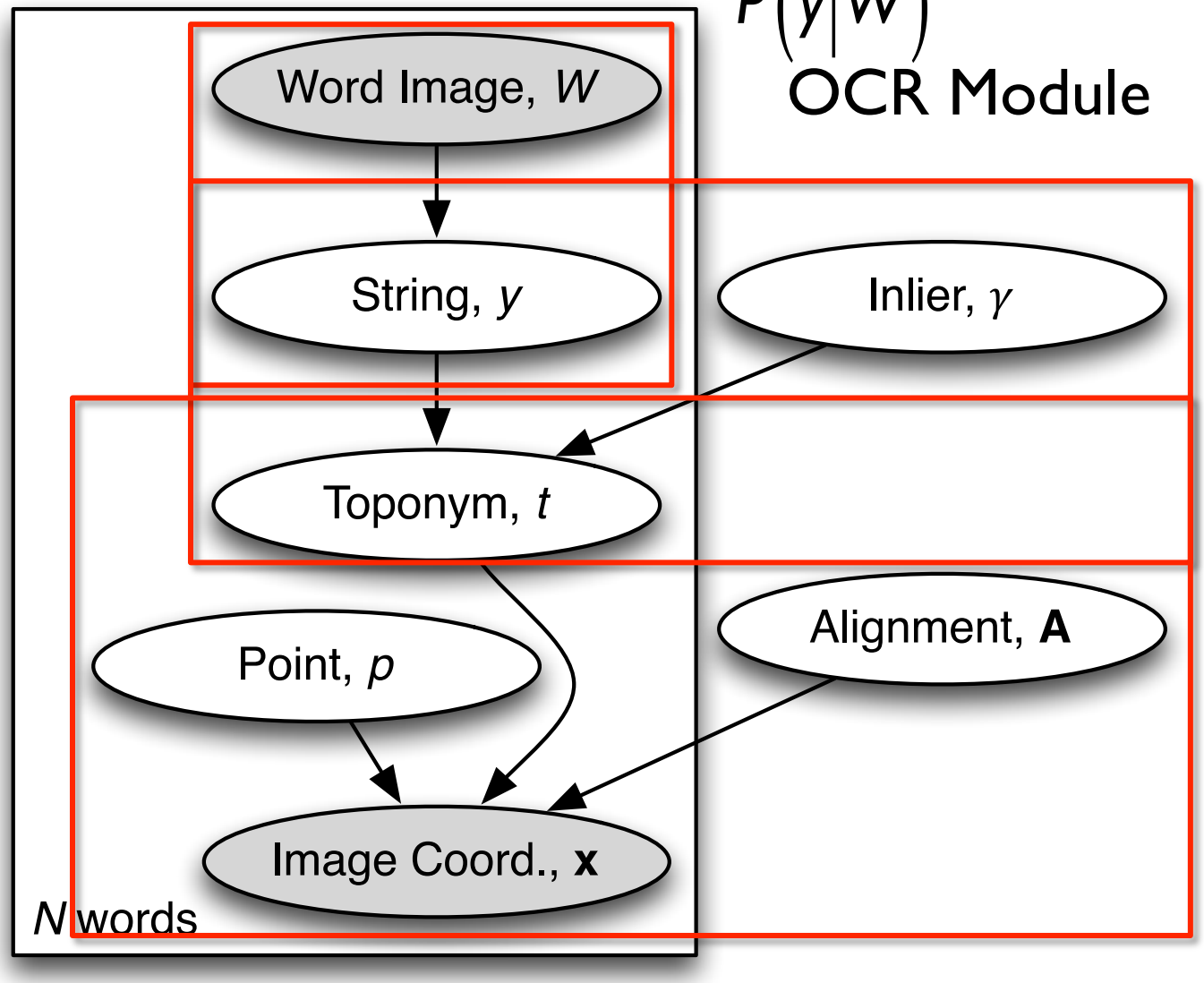


$P(y|W)$

OCR Module

$P(t|y,\gamma) \propto$

Match(y,t)

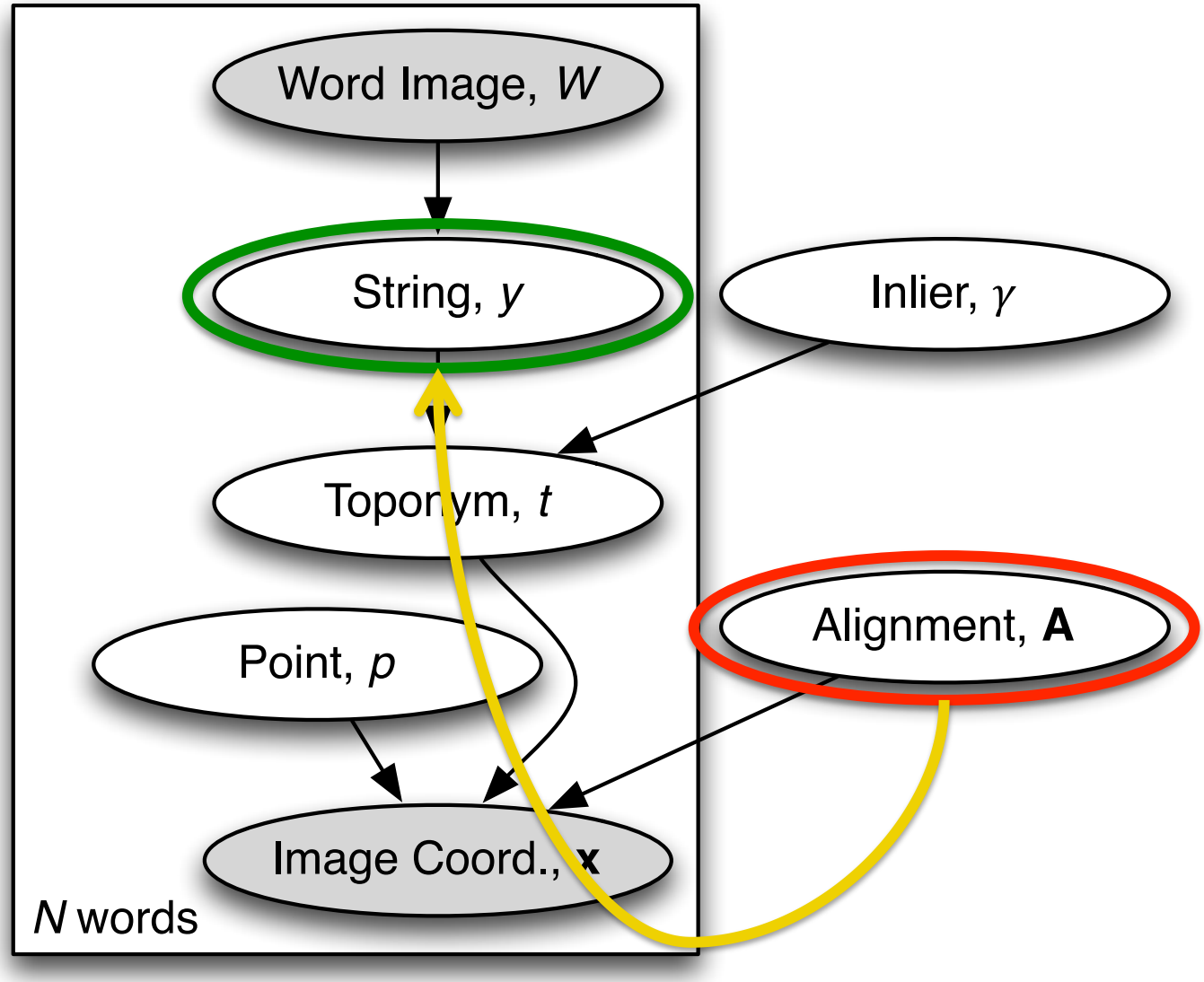
$P(t_0|y,\gamma) = 1-\gamma$

$P(\vec{x}_p|p,\mathbf{A},t) =$

$\mathcal{N}(\vec{x}_p;\mathbf{A}\vec{c}_t,\sigma^2)$

$P(\vec{x}_p|p,\mathbf{A},t_0) \propto 1$

Probability Model



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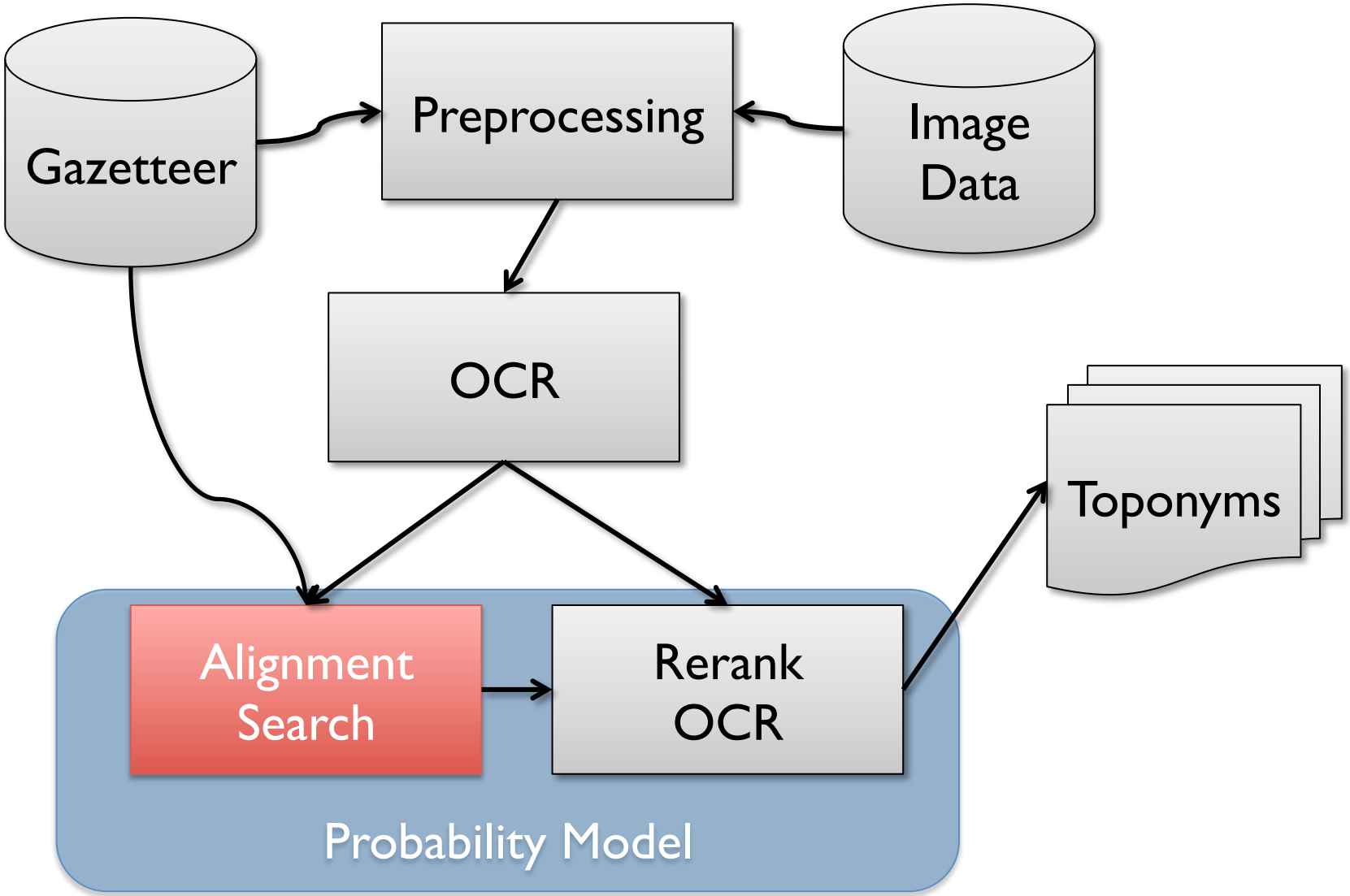
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Alignment Search

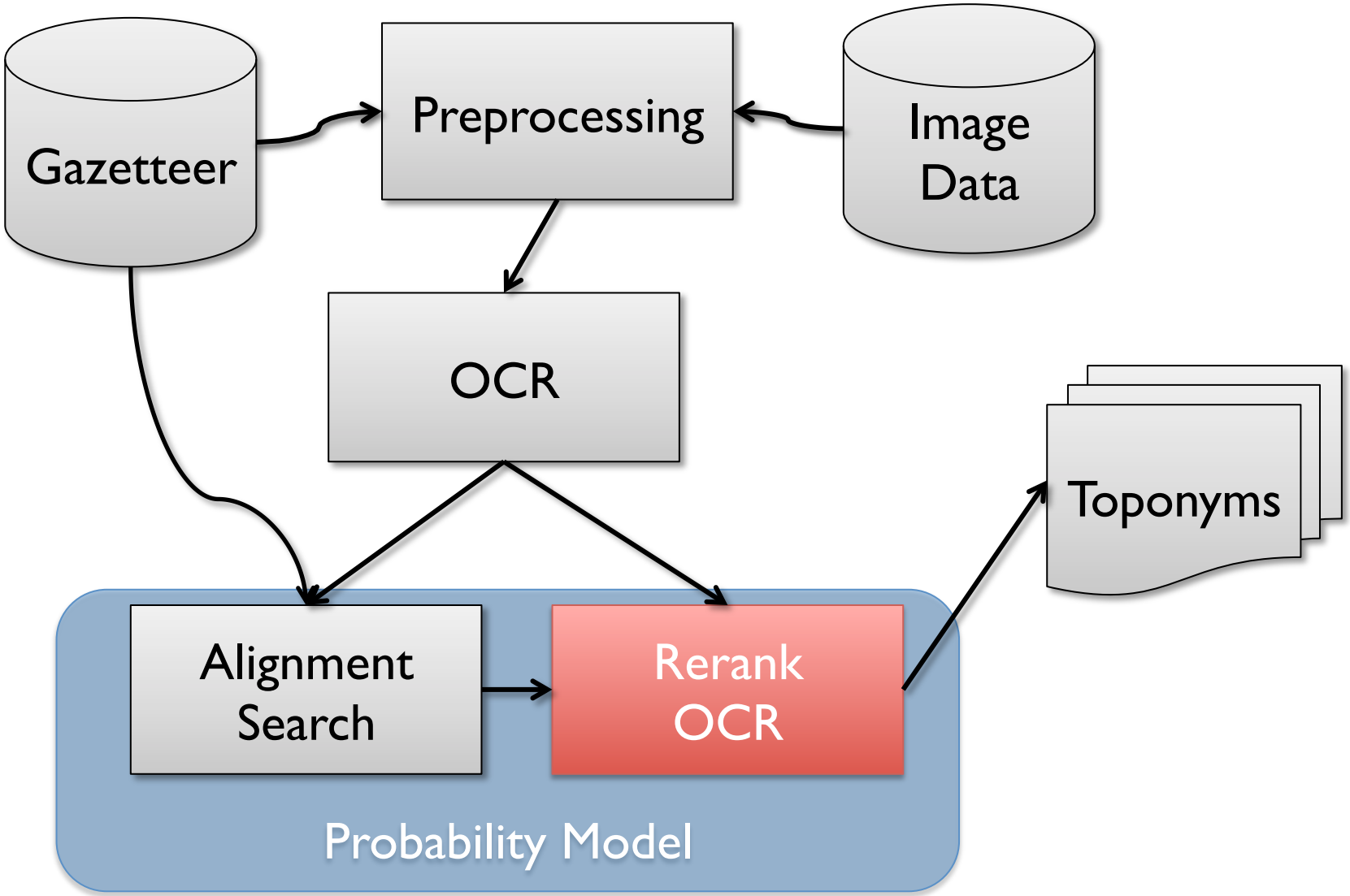
- Generalized RANSAC / MLESAC Variant
  Fischler & Bolles (CACM '81), Torr & Zisserman (CVIU '00),
  Zhang & Kosecká (3DDPVT '06)
- Repeat
  - Choose three words
  - Sample image point, toponym correspondences
  - Calculate affine transform $\mathbf{A}$
  - Estimate inlier bias γ
  - Score marginal probability $P(\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{A}, \gamma, W)$
- Return best-scoring parameters $\hat{\gamma}, \hat{\mathbf{A}}$

Alignment Search

Iter.	Log Lik.	Inliers
40	-4487	3
86	-4403	7
156	-4244	12
187	-4120	16
628	-3192	19
721	-3693	29
1352	-3523	44

Ohio (1866), U.S. General Land Office, davidrumsey.com

Overview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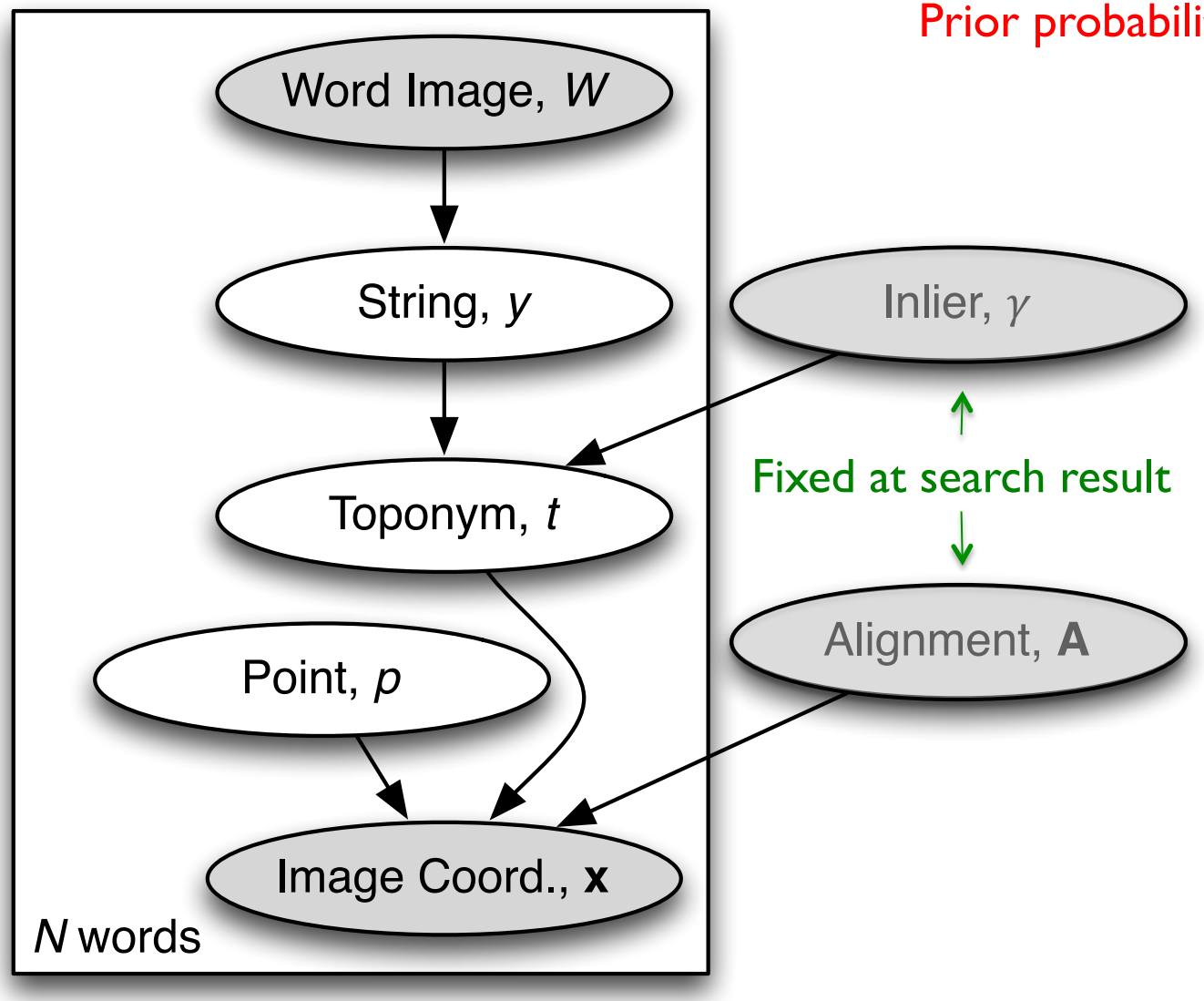
Rerank OCR

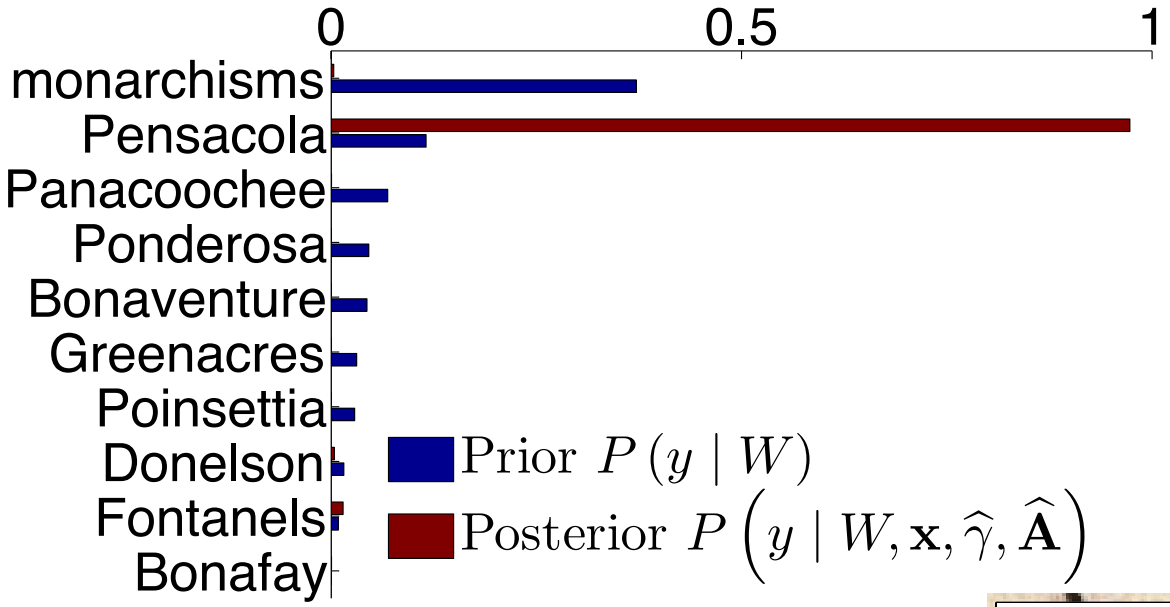


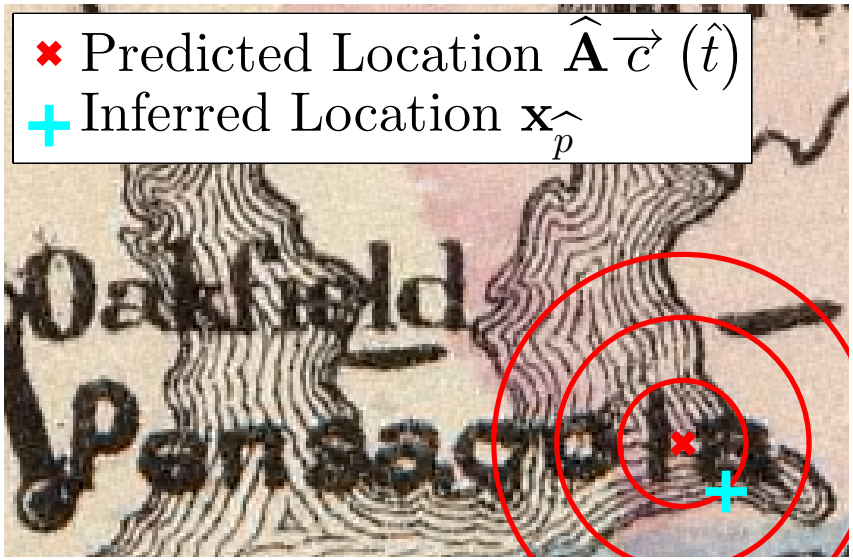
Prior probability $P(y|W)$

Calculate posterior probabilities

$P(y|\mathbf{x}, \hat{\gamma}, \hat{\mathbf{A}}, W)$

Text Recognition





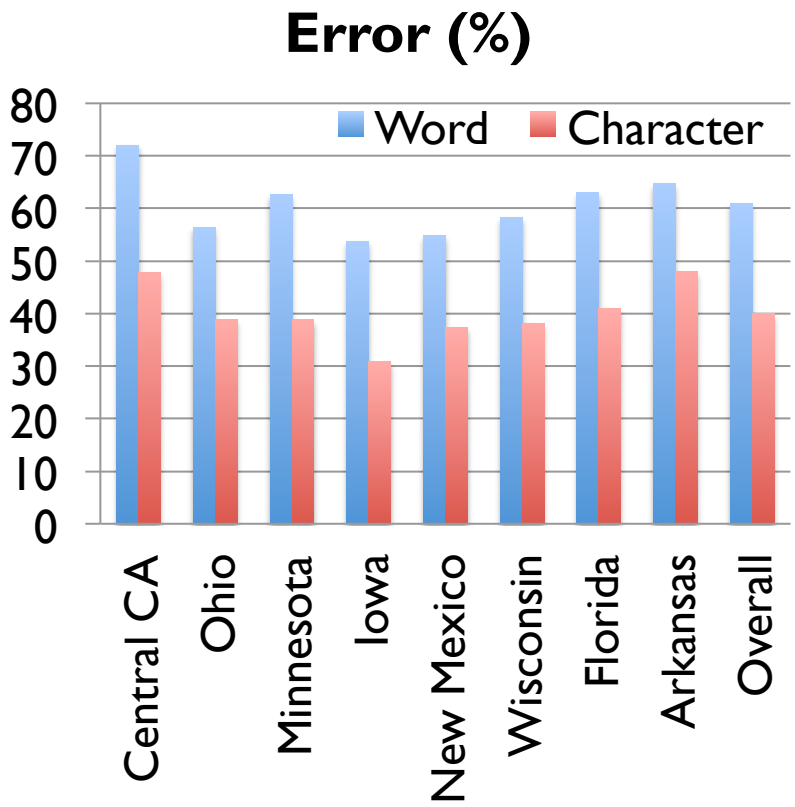
Florida (1875), Cram Atlas Company, davidrumsey.com

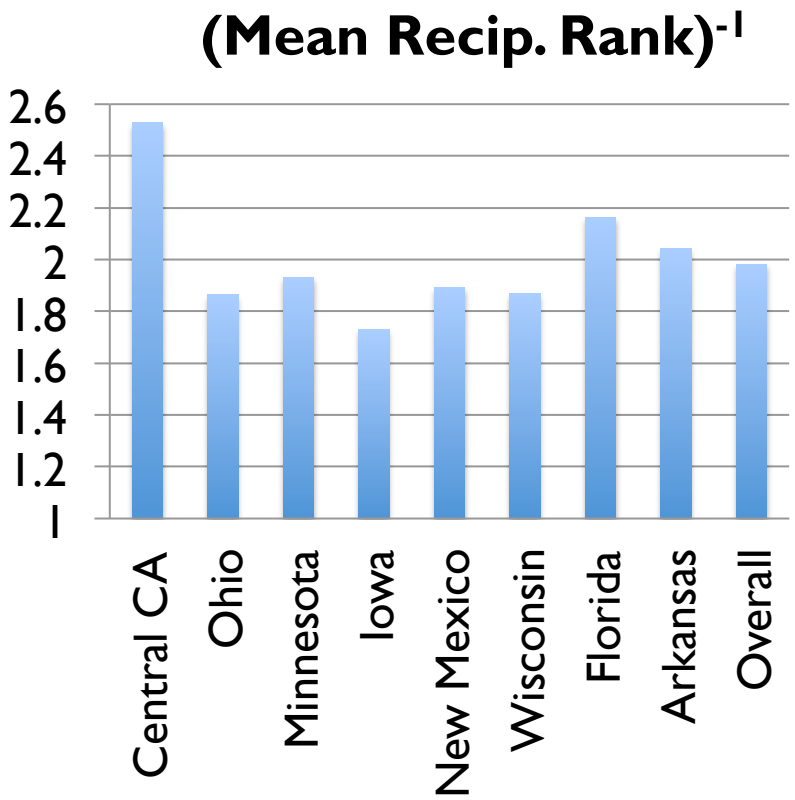
Experimental Results

- 12 carefully annotated maps (+18 to verify)
  - Four for training/tuning
  - Eight for evaluation
- 2325 test words (291 ± 30 / map)
  - 1800 (77%) appear in gazetteer
  - 1585 (68%) appear in gazetteer and OCR list

Question 1

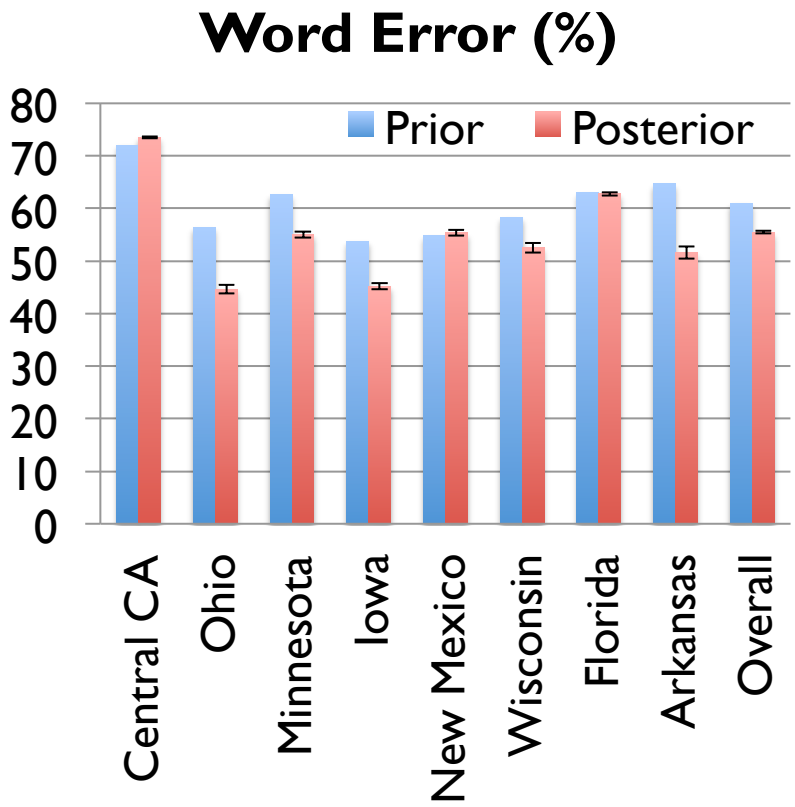
How accurate is a general robust word recognition system on historical maps?

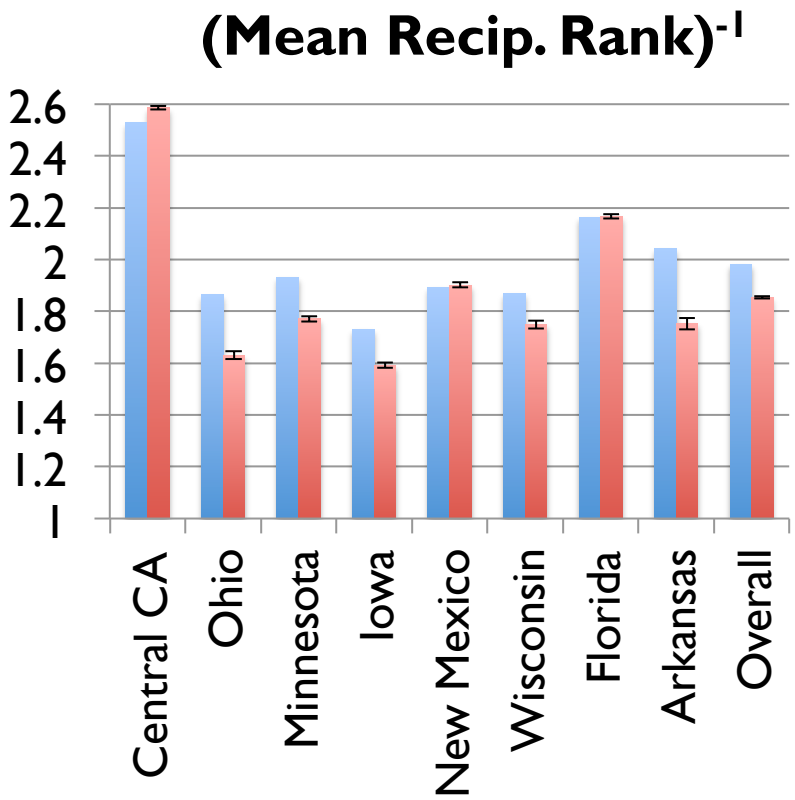




Question 3

How much does alignment improve word recognition?

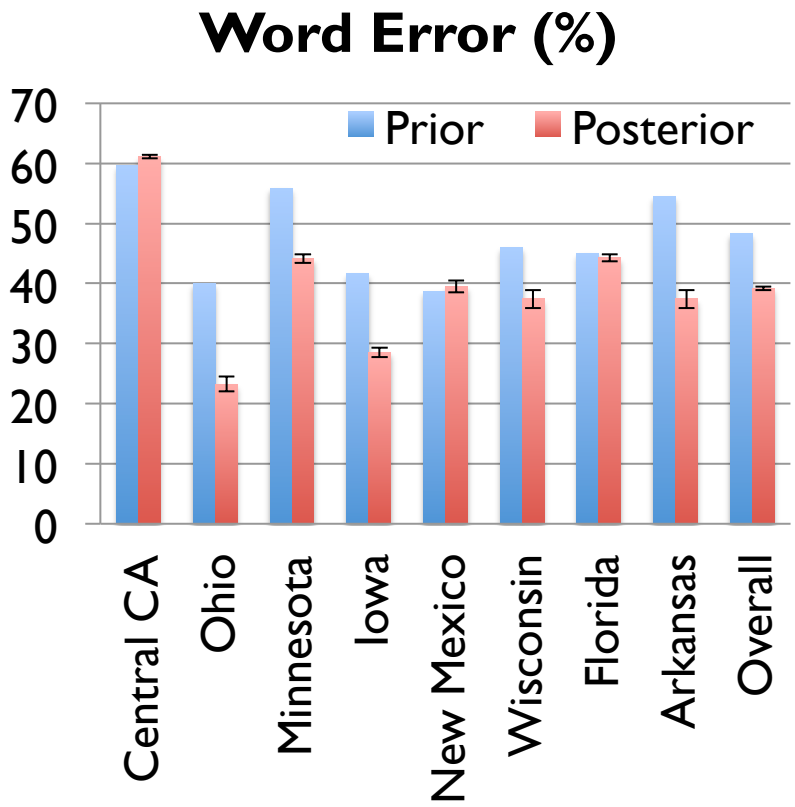


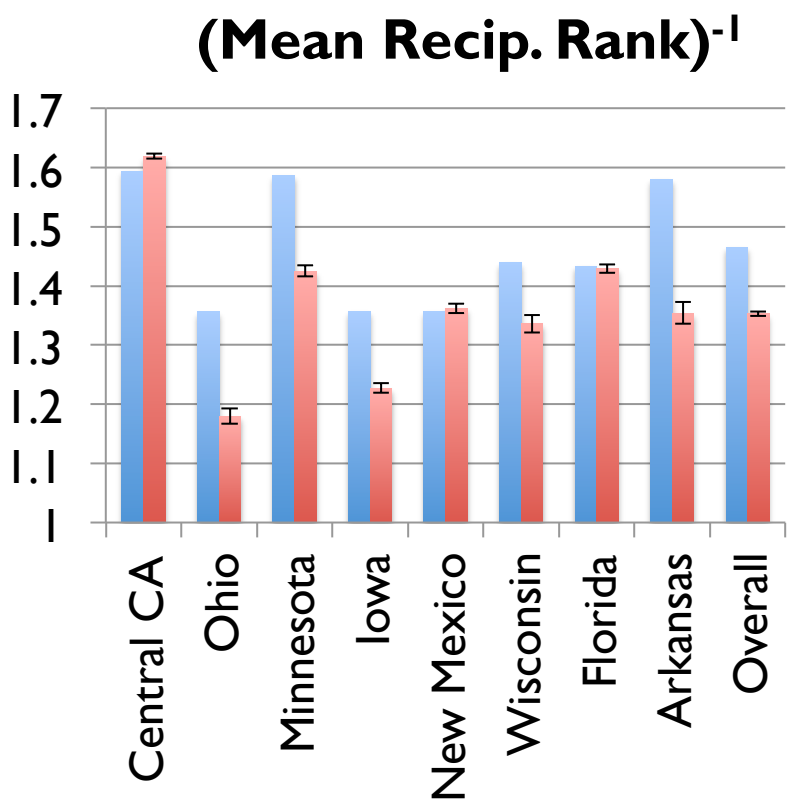


Question 3

How much does alignment improve word recognition?

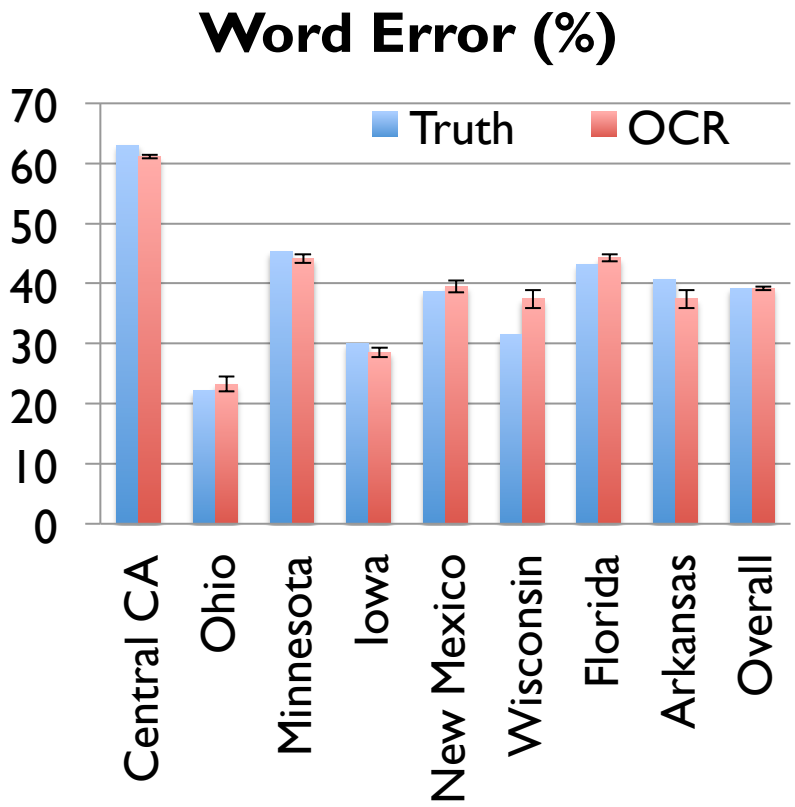
improveable

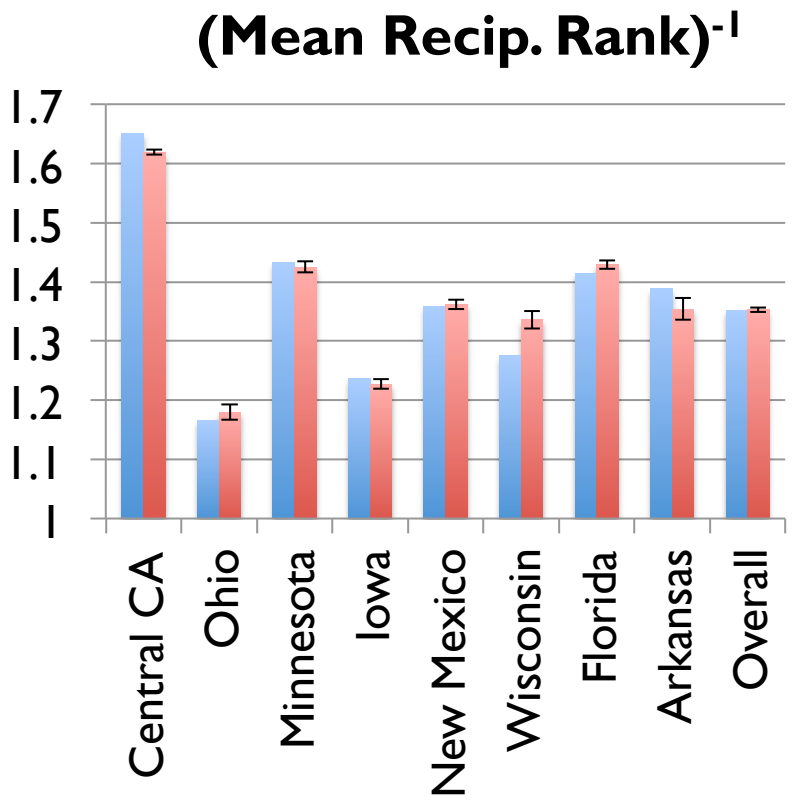




Question 2

How well can we automatically align a map image to known geography using OCR?

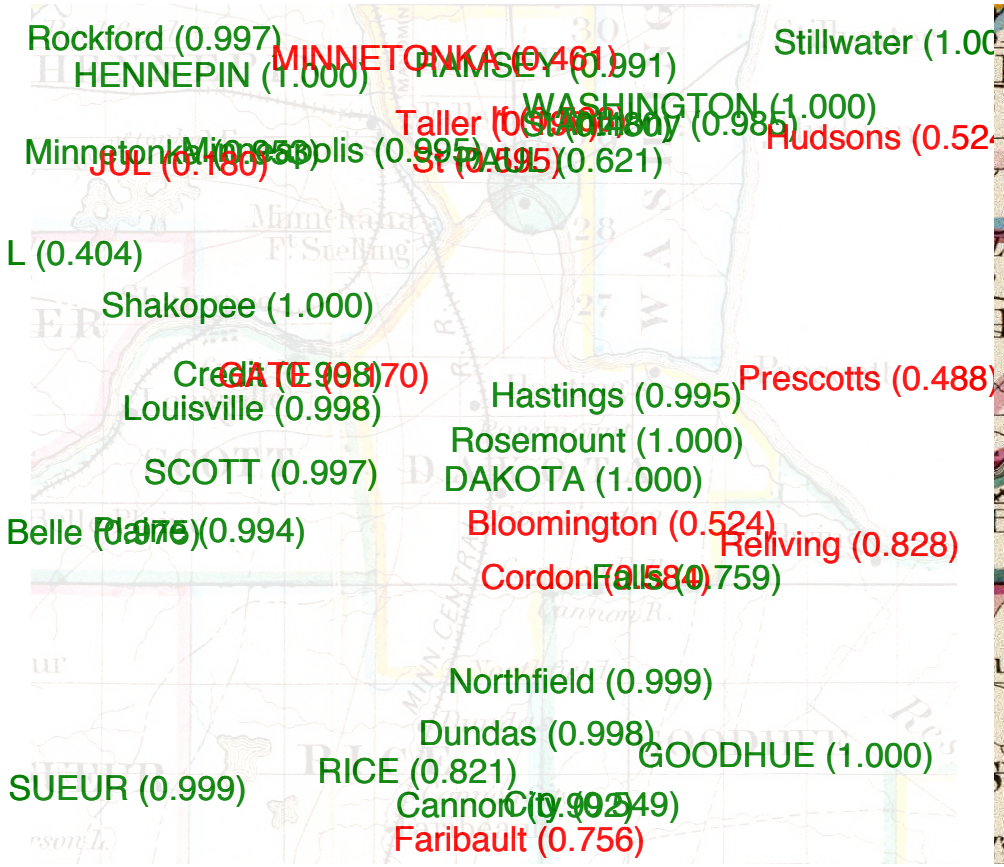


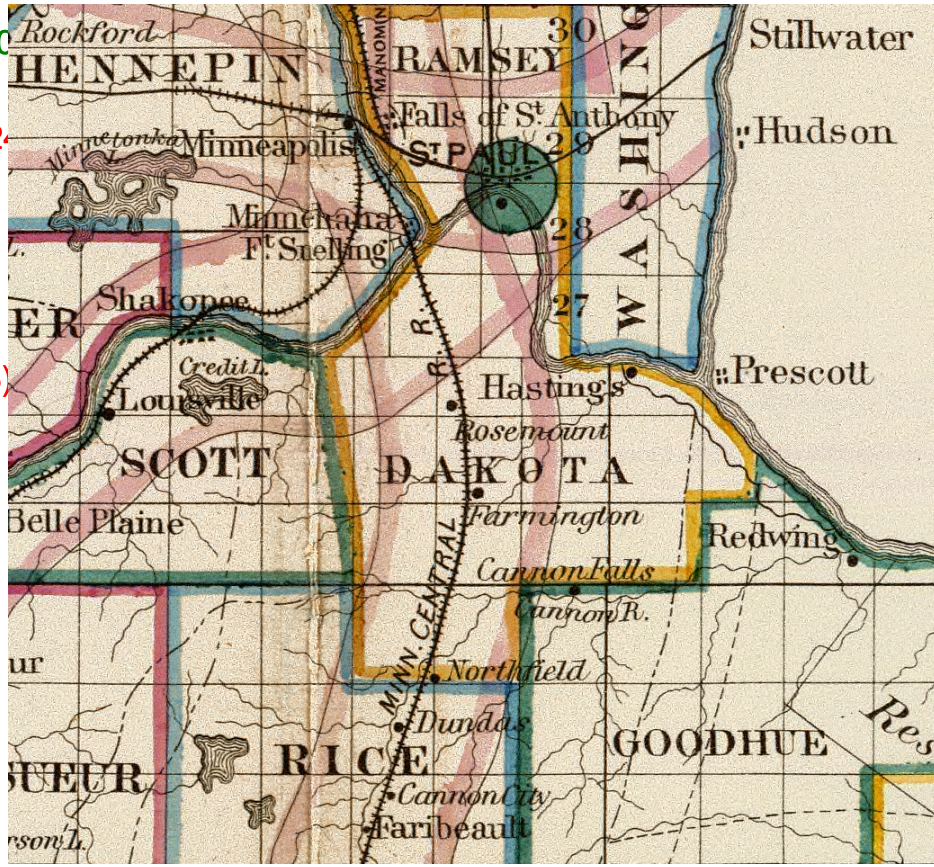


Conclusions

- Robust word recognition works well enough
- RANSAC search usually finds good alignments
- Gazetteer improves word accuracy by ≈20%
- Future work
  - Expectation-maximization; adapt error scale
  - Restrict OCR vocabulary using initial alignment
  - Expand feature classes
  - Incorporate regional and linear toponym likelihoods
  - Integrate word detection

Discussion





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