Building foot-print extraction using deep learning at Lantmäteriet

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The context

- Sweden has an area of appr. 455 000 sqkm
- Appr. one third of the area is flown and photographed every year
- It is divided into three sub-areas which are updated at different intervals
- One 6-10 year region, one 4 year and one every 2 year
- The area which is updated every 2 years is captured with a 0.15m resolution
- Other areas have 0.38m resolution



Background

- Our main topographic database contains 200+ object types, within eleven themes
- The majority of these object types are captured manually, using 3D and 2D
- Object/change detection using machine learning would substantially speed up the revision time



Input data

- The images is taken in R, G, B, IR bands
- To use the images in the machine learning model they are converted into true ortho images
- The true ortho images have a resolution of 0.25m
- Along with the images a normalized digital surface model is also used as input to the model

Elevation models



Model specifications

- Unet model
- Resnet101 backbone
- Relu activation function
- Tversky loss function (alpha = 0.7, beta =0.3, gamma = 0.75)
- Batch_size of 6
- Learning_rate 0.01



Model specifications

- The environment used for these results is pytorch
- Trained on 15000 True ortho photos
- Divided images into 512x512 pixels as input
- 25 cm resolution true ortho
- IR, R, G, B bands is used at input with a nDSM
- We train the model for 2-4 days
- Overall accuracy is about 92-93%

Results

- Approximately 92% accuracy
- Improvement during training















- Ground truth data is very important, both in quality and quantity
- Big difference between urban and rural areas, important to have data of all areas "class balancing"



- nDSM helped a lot in Åre which is located approximately at 700 meters elevation
- Some buildings are larger than the 512x512 image (meaning the entire image is a building) more training data

• Hard to find buildings near water – more training data



- Example of bad data
- Example of building which is hidden









Conclusion

- Our goal is to create a tool to improve quality and speed in aerial image analysis.
- Both to find buildings as many buildings as possible, and be as geometrically correct as possible.
- In the near future we are looking at doing the same thing on roads, powerlines and possibly landcover.

Thank you for listening

• Any questions?

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