

TC-CNN: Trajectory Compression based on Convolutional Neural Network

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Keywords: Automatic Identification System, Trajectory Compression, Convolutional Neural Networks, Threshold.

Abstract: With the Automatic Identification System installed on more and more ships, people can collect a large number of ship-running data, and the relevant maritime departments and shipping companies can also monitor the running status of ships in real-time and schedule at any time. However, it is challenging to compress a large number of ship trajectory data so as to reduce redundant information and save storage space. The existing trajectory compression algorithms manage to find proper thresholds to achieve better compression effect, which is labor-intensive. We propose a new trajectory compression algorithm which utilizes Convolutional Neural Network to perform points classification, and then obtain a compressed trajectory by removing redundant points according to points classification results, and finally reduce the compression error. Our approach does not need to set the threshold manually. Experiments show that our approach outperforms conventional trajectory compression algorithms in terms of average compression error and fitting degree under the same compression rate, and has certain advantages in time efficiency.

1 INTRODUCTION

In recent years, with the continuous expansion of the scale of global trade, shipping has gradually become the main means of trade transportation among countries. In order to ensure the safety of the marine navigation vessel, position the vessel in real-time (G. Pallotta, M. Vespe, and K. Bryan, 2013), plan the channel for the management of maritime traffic, and improve the efficiency of the ship (Al-Zaidi R, Woods J. C., Al-Khalidi M., et al., 2018), the International Maritime Organization demands that ships with more than 300 tons must be equipped with Automatic Identification System (AIS) (Muckell J., Hwang J. H., Lawson C. T., et al., 2010), through which a ship sends its own position coordinates to nearby base stations. The shore-based equipment can generate the corresponding ship trajectory data based on these time series containing the real-time coordinates of the ship. However, due to the large number of ships, the daily generated data will be huge, and there are a lot of redundant data, which not only consume a great

amount of memory space, but also increase the burden of server analysis and route data processing (Vries G., Someren M. V., 2012). Therefore, how to compress the AIS trajectory data effectively has attracted many researchers.

Trajectory compression algorithms are mainly classified to offline algorithm and online algorithm. This paper focuses on the offline trajectory compression algorithm. An offline trajectory compression algorithm obtains a complete original track and then compresses it. Douglas Peucker algorithm (DP) is the most classical offline compression algorithm. It determines which points need to be eliminated by recursive segmenting of tracks, from whole to local, and gradually refining compression interval (Liu J., Li H. & Yang Z., et al, 2019). Singh et al. (Singh A. K., Aggarwal V. & Saxena P., et al., 2017) proposed a SPM algorithm based on the DP algorithm. It adjusts the selection of baseline of error measurement and compares the error of trajectory points in turn using new error measurement methods. Long et al. (Long Hao et al., 2018) proposed a Trajectory Compression algorithm

with Adaptive parameters (ATC), where the automatic threshold calculation is realized by inputting an expected compression rate λ by users. Kangasuan et al. (Hansuddhisuntorn K., Horanont T., 2019) proposed Improvement of TD-TR Algorithm.

Inspired by the success of deep learning in recent years, this paper aims to improve the performance of trajectory compressing by using Convolutional Neural Network (CNN). A new algorithm, named Trajectory Compression based on Convolutional Neural network (TC-CNN) is proposed, which utilizes CNN to perform points classification, and then obtain a compressed trajectory by removing redundant points according to points classification results, and finally reduce the compression error. The contributions of this paper are as follows:

- 1 To the best of our knowledge, it is the first work to utilize deep learning technique on the problem of offline trajectory compression. The CNN-based recognition of feature points and non-feature points is leveraged to compress tracks.
- 2 The designed CNN can classify the feature points and redundant points in the track with high precision, and significantly reduces the cost of labour-intensive threshold adjustments required by most of the existing trajectory compression algorithms;
- 3 Experiments are conducted to compare the performance of the proposed approach with several benchmark algorithms. The results show the efficacy of the proposed approach.

2 RELATED WORK

2.1 Trajectory Compression Algorithm

Douglas–Peucker (DP) (Singh A K, Aggarwal V & Saxena P, 2017) is the most classic algorithm in the off-line trajectory compression algorithm. It needs to set a distance threshold ϵ , and then calculate the maximum vertical distance between the other points in the track and the starting and ending points of the track. If the distance is less than the threshold, then all the points except the starting and ending points of the track will be removed as redundant points. If the distance is greater than the threshold, the trajectory is split from the point, and then the sub trajectory is recursively processed. DP is used widely as a benchmark of trajectory compression algorithm.

Trajectory compression algorithm with adaptive parameters (ATC) (Long Hao et al., 2018) abandoned

the compression threshold in the traditional trajectory compression algorithm by setting the compression ratio λ , and used the compression ratio to calculate the threshold automatically. At the same time, the compression algorithm is divided into three stages.

Firstly, the synchronous Euclidean distance of each trajectory data point is calculated, and the maximum value is selected.

Secondly, the compression threshold ϵ is calculated according to the preset compression ratio λ and the maximum synchronous Euclidean distance. If the current Trajectory compression ratio is greater than the preset value λ , the current Trajectory compression threshold will be adjusted to 90% of the previous compression threshold each time except for the first time to achieve the purpose of automatic calculation of the threshold until the compression ratio is less than λ .

Finally, the first point whose synchronous Euclidean distance is greater than ϵ will be found as the dividing point. At the same time, all the track points whose synchronous Euclidean distance is less than ϵ will be eliminated. According to the dividing point, the track composed of the remaining points will be divided into two new tracks, and then the ATC algorithm will be used recursively to compress until the compression ratio is less than or equal to λ .

ATC achieves a relatively high fitting degree, but incurs a low execution efficiency.

2.2 Trajectory Compression Evaluation Metric

The widely used evaluation metric is Trajectory Compression Ratio (TCR). The main purpose of trajectory compression algorithm is to fit the original trajectory with as few data points as possible, so as to reduce the memory occupation of trajectory while reducing the distortion of trajectory as much as possible. Therefore, TCR is usually an important metric for measuring the effectiveness of a trajectory compression algorithm. TCR is defined as the percentage of the number of track points P_c after compression and the number of track points P_u before compression, as shown in Eqn. (1).

$$\lambda = \frac{P_c}{P_u} \quad (1)$$

Another metric is Average Compression Error (ACE). It is the difference between the original track and the compressed track in geometry. The

calculation of ACE is as follows. First, label the original track in time order. Second, calculate the vertical Euclidean error of each removed point in the compressed track. Third, use the reserved point label in the current track and its closest two points as the reference point to calculate the vertical Euclidean distance of the datum line. Finally, the sum of all calculated values is divided by the number of original trajectory points to obtain ACE. An ACE δ can be calculated by Eqn. (2):

$$\delta = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^m d_{(r_i, x_i, y_i)}}{m}, \quad (2)$$

where m is the number of original trajectory points; r_i ($i = 1, \dots, n$) is a removed point; The subscript i is the label of the point in the original trajectory; x_i and y_i are the front and back points of r_i ; d is the vertical Euclidean distance between r_i and the line determined by x_i and y_i .

3 PROBLEM DEFINITION

In this section, the trajectory compression related definitions are provided.

Define 1. Trajectory. The AIS data generated by a ship on the sea can be regarded as a two-dimensional coordinate point with time dimension and geographical location dimension (T_i, G_i) . The line segment formed by the same ship in order of time coordinates is the ship's navigation track in a period of time. The trajectory includes the location, time, direction, route, and geographical area of the ship. The two most important attributes are time and geographical coordinates, so the ship's moving trajectory can be regarded as a mapping relationship from time to space $M: T_i \rightarrow G_i$. Among them, M is a continuous function based on time change, and its independent variable time t belongs to T_i . Through this function and a certain time value, a two-dimensional coordinate corresponding to the ship at this time point can be obtained (x_i, y_i) .

Define 2. Redundant Points and Feature Points. In a track with multiple points, if some of them are removed, only the remaining points can fit the original track well, and the information loss is within the acceptable range, the removed track points are called redundant points, and the remaining points are called feature points.

Define 3. Precursor Point and Successor Point. Hypothesis p_i is a point on the trajectory $T = \{p_{i-2}, p_{i-1}, \dots, p_{i+n}\}$, of the same ship in a continuous time series, Then the two points adjacent to each other in the time series are the adjacent points of the trajectory. The point earlier than p_i is called the precursor point of p_i , and the point later than p_i is called the successor point of p_i .

Definition 4. Synchronous Euclidean distance (Singh A K, Aggarwal V & Saxena P, 2017). Hypothesis p_i is a point in the original trajectory, Connect the starting and ending points of the datum of p_i (which can be the precursor and successor points of the point). If the ship is regarded as moving at a constant speed during this period, the distance between p_i and the projection point p_i' of its synchronous position on the starting and ending line of the datum is its synchronous Euclidean distance, which is greater than or equal to the vertical distance from p_i to the starting and ending line of the datum. As shown in Fig. 1.

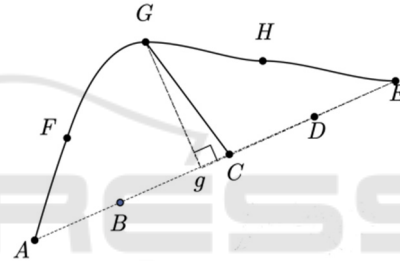


Figure 1: Illustration of synchronous Euclidean distance.

The solid line segment is a track from point A to point E, AE is the connecting line segment composed of the datum starting and ending points A and E of G, the perpendicular foot of point G on the AE connecting line is point C, and the time interval between A and G is t_1 , The time interval of AE is t_2 , and AE can be regarded as a function of time interval t_d , Where $0 \leq t_d \leq t_2$, Then the coordinate point of projection point C of G on AE should be

$$t_i = t_i \quad (3)$$

$$x_i = x_m + \frac{t_1}{t_2} \times (x_n - x_m) \quad (4)$$

$$y_i = y_m + \frac{t_1}{t_2} \times (y_n - y_m) \quad (5)$$

In AIS trajectory processing, in order to facilitate practical use, improve calculation accuracy and

reduce errors, the longitude and latitude coordinates in AIS data are usually converted to their corresponding Mercator coordinates (Walkenhorst B T, Nichols S, 2020). Eqn. (6-9) are used to calculate Mercator coordinate, where r_0 is the radius of the datum latitude circle, a is the radius of the major axis of the earth's ellipsoid, q is the equivalent dimension, and e is the first eccentricity of the earth's ellipsoid (Li Houpu, Li Haibo & Tang Qinghui., 2019). Suppose that the longitude and latitude coordinates of G are (x_i, y_i) , and its corresponding Mercator coordinates are (φ, ω) .

$$r_0 = \frac{a}{\sqrt{1 - e^2 \sin^2 \varphi \times \cos \varphi}} \quad (6)$$

$$q = \ln \tan\left(\frac{\pi}{2} + \frac{\varphi}{4}\right) - \frac{e}{2} \ln \frac{1 + e \sin \varphi}{1 - e \sin \varphi} \quad (7)$$

$$x_i = r_0 \times \omega \quad (8)$$

$$y_i = r_0 \times q \quad (9)$$

Suppose that the coordinate of point G is (x_i, y_i, t_i) . The coordinate of projection point C of its synchronous position is (x_i', y_i', t_i') . Then the coordinate calculation of C is:

$$x_i' = x_{i-1} + \frac{t_i - t_{i-1}}{t_{i+1} - t_{i-1}} \times (x_{i+1} - x_{i-1}) \quad (10)$$

$$y_i' = y_{i-1} + \frac{t_i - t_{i-1}}{t_{i+1} - t_{i-1}} \times (y_{i+1} - y_{i-1}) \quad (11)$$

From the Mercator coordinates (φ, ω) of G and the Mercator coordinates (φ', ω') of the projection point C of its synchronous position, the synchronous Euclidean distance of G can be obtained by Eqn. (12).

$$\text{sed} = \sqrt{(\varphi_i' - \varphi_i)^2 + (\omega_i' - \omega_i)^2} \quad (12)$$

Eqn. (12) is the length of the GC segment, as shown in Fig. 1.

4 TC-CNN

The proposed approach TC-CNN consists of two part: the point classification CNN and the trajectory compression algorithm, which are elaborated as follows.

4.1 Point Classification CNN

We use an 8-layer CNN to classify the track points into redundant points and feature points, whose architecture is shown in Fig. 2. The input layer is followed by a fully connected layer, and then a flattening layer is connected to transform the input into data with appropriate dimension. The third layer is a convolution layer, which is followed by a max pooling layer. After the data are reshaped by another flatten layer, they are feed into two fully connected layers one after another. Finally, the data are classified by the output layer into two categories.

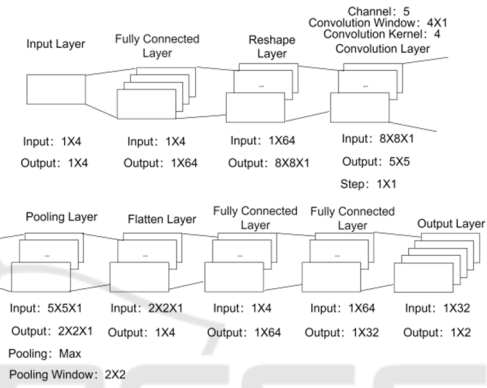


Figure 2: Architecture of the Point Classification CNN.

In the training phase the CNN, the epoch is 150, the optimizer is Adam, the batch size is 64, the initial learning rate is 0.005, and the cross entropy function is used as the loss function.

4.2 Trajectory Compression Algorithm

The flowchart of the proposed trajectory compression algorithm is shown in Fig. 3. The process of the algorithm consists of five phases.

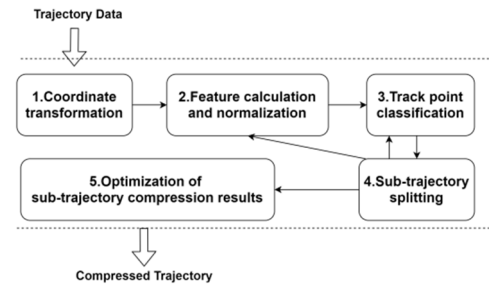


Figure 3: Flow chart of the proposed algorithm.

The first phase is coordinate transformation. Because the coordinates of original trajectory data are

longitude and latitude coordinates, in order to ensure the accuracy of feature calculation, it is necessary to convert longitude and latitude coordinates into Mercator coordinates.

The second phase is feature calculation and normalization. For each point in the track, the synchronous Euclidean distance of the corresponding reference starting and ending points (i.e., the original track or the split sub-track starting and ending points) and the deflection angle, adjacent time difference and adjacent speed difference based on the precursor point and the successor point are calculated, respectively. Then, the normalization operation is carried out, after which the four features form a vector of features corresponding to the trajectory point.

The third phase is track point classification. The feature vector sequence corresponding to each point of the original trajectory is input into the trained point classification CNN, where each point is classified into either redundant or feature points.

The fourth phase is sub-trajectory splitting. Based on the output of the point classification CNN, the original trajectories are divided into sub-trajectories by using Alg. 1. The sub-trajectories are further processed through the second and third phase. Then, the redundant points in the sub-trajectories are identified and removed.

The fifth phase is the optimization of sub-trajectory compression results. According to the classification results and Alg. 2, the compressed sub-trajectory is optimized, and the optimization results are combined into a complete compression track.

4.2.1 Sub-trajectory Compression

The feature of each point in a preprocessed original trajectory $T_0 = \{t_1, t_2, \dots, t_n\}$ requires to be calculated.

Firstly, the synchronous Euclidean distance of the rest points in the trajectory is calculated based on the global view, with the starting point t_1 and the ending point t_n as the reference points. At the same time, the deflection angle, adjacent time difference and adjacent speed difference are calculated based on the precursor and successor points of each point

Secondly, the calculated feature sequence is input into the trained network model for trajectory point classification. The maximum synchronous Euclidean distance of one or more trajectory points classified as redundant points are used as the threshold, with which the original track is split. The specific splitting process is as follows: if the maximum synchronous Euclidean distance of the track points except t_1 and t_n

is less than the threshold, the synchronous Euclidean distance of other points in the sub-track is updated with the starting and ending point of the current sub-track as the reference point, and then the sub-track is split. The trace is compressed. If the maximum synchronous Euclidean distance of the point except t_1 and t_n is greater than the threshold, the track is split from the point.

Finally, the synchronous Euclidean distance of the sub-trajectory is calculated with its start and endpoints again.

The above process is carried out recursively, and summarized as Alg. 1.

Algorithm 1: SubTrajCompress.

```

Input: trace(trajectory to be split) · threshold(The max Synchronous Euclidean distance of each point)
Output: CompressedTrajectory
1: splitIndex ← 0
2: maxSed ← 0
3: CompressedTrajectory ← ∅
4: for i ∈ [1, length(trace)] do
5:   sed ← GetSed(trace, Index = i)
6:   if sed > maxSed then
7:     maxSed ← sed
8:     endIndex ← i
9:   end if
10: end for
11: if maxSed > threshold then
12:   // Get the first segment trajectory
13:   leftTrace ← GetSubTrace(trace, StartIndex = 0, endIndex = endIndex)
14:   // Get the last segment trajectory
15:   rightTrace ← GetSubTrace(trace, StartIndex = endIndex + 1, endIndex = length(trace) - 1)
16:   // The track of the segment before recursion processing
17:   compressResult ← compressResult + SubTrajCompress(leftTrace, threshold)
18:   // Segment trajectory after recursive processing
19:   compressResult ← compressResult + SubTrajCompress(rightTrace, threshold)
20: else
21:   // Feature extraction of each point of trajectory
22:   ClassifyResult ← Classify(trace)
23:   // The redundant points are identified and eliminated according to the features
24:   CompressedTrajectory ← PointsDelete(trace, ClassifyResult)
25: end if
26: return CompressedTrajectory

```

4.2.2 Compression Error Reduction

It is possible to further reduce the compression error of the obtained trajectory.

Firstly, the data points in the original trajectory are labeled according to their time order, and the intervals are divided according to the trajectory splitting results of Alg. 1.

Secondly, the original trajectory is divided into optimized intervals according to the split sub-trajectory, and then the two trajectory points belonging to different categories are replaced by categories, so as to ensure that the compression ratio will not be changed. After each transformation, the average compression error and Hausdorff distance between the current trajectory segment and the original trajectory segment are calculated, and the result with the smallest error is retained as the optimization result of the current trajectory segment.

Finally, the optimized compressed trajectory can be obtained by combining the optimization results of

each trajectory segment.

The above process is summarized as Alg. 2.

Algorithm 2: ReduceCompressErr.

```

Input: trace(Original trajectory) · judgeResult(Classification label for each point) · beforeCompress(Compressing sub-trajectories before optimization)
Output: afterCompress
1: afterCompress ← ∅
2: minMae ← GetMae(trace, beforeCompress)
3: minHausdorff ← GetHausdorff(trace, beforeCompress)
4: for i ∈ [1, length(trace)] do
5:   if judgeResult[i] == true then
6:     // Current point is determined as redundant;
7:     swapA ← i
8:     for b ∈ [1, length(trace)] do
9:       if judgeResult[b] == true then
10:        swapB ← b
11:        newTrace ← swapPoint(redundance = swapA, keyPoint = swapB)
12:        // The label of the feature points and the redundant points is exchanged, and the new
        compression track is obtained;
13:        curMae ← GetMae(trace, newTrace)
14:        // Calculate the average compression error of the new compression trajectory;
15:        curHausdorff ← GetHausdorff(trace, newTrace)
16:        // Calculating the average Hausdorff distance of the new compressed trajectory;
17:        if curMae < minMae and curHausdorff < minHausdorff then
18:          // The trajectory with smaller compression error is retained;
19:          minMae ← curMae
20:          minHausdorff ← curHausdorff
21:          afterCompress ← newTrace
22:        end if
23:      end if
24:    end for
25:  end if
26: end for
27: return afterCompress

```

5 EXPERIMENTS

5.1 Data Set for CNN Training

The training data are from AIS records. The sample of feature points and redundant points are obtained by using several conventional trajectory compression algorithms, e.g. SPM algorithm based on synchronous Euclidean distance, improved top-down time ratio compression algorithm, ATC algorithm based on an adaptive threshold. In the end, we build a training data set with 18,000 feature points and 18,000 redundant points.

5.2 Experimental Results

In this section, the run time, TCR and ACE of TC-CNN are evaluated and compared with the DP and ATC. Due to the large amount of AIS data, only part of the ship data is randomly selected as experimental data to verify the algorithm model effect. In order to ensure the preciseness of the experimental results, all the experimental results are based on the compression ratio of the proposed approach. The threshold or compression ratio of the compared algorithms are tuned to be close to each other with a variance of no more than 2%. The database is MongoDB, the GPU card is gtx1060ti, the memory is 16GB, the CPU is 3.4GHz Core i7 7700hq.

5.2.1 Comparison of Run Time and TCR

The time complexity of the considered algorithms are all $O(n \log n)$. In order to compare the actual time performance of each algorithm, we use 1200 AIS trajectories (including 1657647 data points) to test the time cost of each algorithm under different compression rates, and the results are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Run Time under different TCR.

Algorithm	TCR	RunTime/ms
DP	0.859	371,348.00
ATC	0.876	762,596.00
TC-CNN	0.872	621,574.00

It can be seen from table 1 that ATC algorithm has the largest time cost, DP algorithm has the lowest time cost, and TC-CNN algorithm is in between the time cost of TC-CNN algorithm is higher than that of DP algorithm because of the time consumption of data preprocessing. If the ideal trajectory data is compressed, the time performance cost of TC-CNN algorithm will be close to that of DP algorithm. Therefore, compared with the ATC algorithm, TC-CNN algorithm has some advantages in running time.

5.2.2 Comparison of ACE

The author randomly selected 10, 50, 100, 200 and 500 ship trajectories from AIS actual data to carry out the average compression error experiments (compression rate ranges are [0.914,0.928], [0.938,0.954], [0.851,0.869], [0.925,0.942], [0.872,0.889]). The results are shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Comparison of ACE.

#traj.	10	50	100	200	500
DP	3.51	3.01	4.86	3.34	4.35
ATC	3.09	2.66	4.18	2.97	3.82
TC-CNN	3.18	2.47	3.64	2.85	3.23

As can be seen from Table 2, the average compression error of DP algorithm is the highest. Due to the introduction of synchronous Euclidean distance to measure the time and space characteristics of the trajectory, the compression error of ATC algorithm is lower than that of DP algorithm. The average

compression error of TC-CNN algorithm is close to that of ATC algorithm. Although the average compression error of TC-CNN algorithm is slightly higher than that of ATC algorithm when the number of experimental samples is small (10 data), with the increase of the number of experimental samples, the average compression error of TC-CNN algorithm is gradually lower than that of ATC algorithm. Considering that there may be some specific trajectories in the experiment of a small number of data samples, which have better agreement with some algorithms, the average compression error of TC-CNN algorithm is higher than that of ATC algorithm. This part of the algorithm performs better, so a large number of data sample experiments can better reflect the overall effect of the algorithm, so on the whole, the average compression error of TC-CNN algorithm is the lowest. The results show that the accuracy of TC-CNN algorithm is higher.

6 CONCLUSIONS

This paper proposes a trajectory compression approach based on convolutional neural network. Trace compression algorithm can not only eliminate the blindness of threshold determination, but also has better applicability. It can improve the compression accuracy of the network model by using a training set with better feature differentiation or adding training set data. The experimental results show that the proposed approach can retain the key features of the original trajectory and fit the original trajectory well, and its compression effect is better than some traditional offline trajectory compression algorithms. But the algorithm still has some shortcomings, such as the time cost is still large, in addition, how to obtain typical data sets for model training, in order to improve the accuracy of model compression results, this is the direction of the next step.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This work is funded by Open Fund Project of Science and Technology on Communication Networks Laboratory (Grand No HHX21641X003).

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