OpenStreetMap Data Wrangling Case Study

Map Area

The map I chose was of Charlotte, NC, the closest major city to me, and the city I visit fairly often.

• https://www.openstreetmap.org/relation/177415

Problems Encountered in the Data

I encountered a few problems in the data set; they are as follows:

- Variance in street names and types
- Missing or redacted usernames
- Odd values in second level 'k' tags

Variance in Street Names and Types

After auditing the data in python, it was clear that there was quite a lot of variance in street types. I used the code from the Udacity practice quizzes to standardize most of the street types.

```
street_type_re = re.compile(r'\b\S+\.?$', re.IGNORECASE)

def update_name(name, mapping):
    m = street_type_re.search(name)
    if m:
        street_type = m.group()
        if street_type in mapping:
            name = name.replace(street_type, mapping[street_type])
    return name
```

Missing or Redacted Usernames

After porting the data into a SQL database and exploring it a bit, I found that there were many users' names who were labelled as 'OSMF Redaction Account' and although it's possible this was an actual user's name, I assumed that this was a mishap and replaced those names with a default value of 'No User'.

```
1 select user, count(*) as count
2 from nodes 1
3 group by user
     order by count;
                                        count
                     user
1102 omsboa
                                          126
1103 Reboot01
                                          127
1104 abbum
                                          127
1105 semwalas
                                          127
1106 No User
                                          128
1107 skar123
                                          129
1108 thwright
                                          129
1109 AbeautyfulMess06
                                          130
1110 w4bamf
                                          132
1111 eric22
                                          133
```

Data Queries and Additional Thoughts

File Sizes

Charlotte_map.osm	4/22/2021 11:56 AM	OSM File	1,484,035 KB
Data_Wrangling_DB.db	4/29/2021 1:29 PM	Data Base File	810,080 KB
nodes.csv	4/29/2021 10:50 AM	CSV File	574,926 KB
nodes_tags.csv	4/29/2021 10:51 AM	CSV File	6,136 KB
ways.csv	4/29/2021 10:51 AM	CSV File	49,700 KB
ways_nodes.csv	4/29/2021 10:51 AM	CSV File	185,455 KB
ways_tags.csv	4/29/2021 10:51 AM	CSV File	84,859 KB

Number of Distinct Users

```
select count(distinct user)
from (select user from nodes union all select user from ways);

count(distinct user)
2087
```

Top 10 Contributing Users

```
select user, count(*) as count
1
2
      from (select user from nodes union all select user from ways)
3
      group by user
      order by count desc
5
      limit 10;
                         count
           user
   _jcaruso
                        1289685
  jumbanho
                        1213221
  houston_mapper1
                         997749
3
  woodpeck_fixbot
                         601164
   Omnific
                         545194
  WashuOtaku
                         283206
7
  Becker_MN_Import_Acc 271978
   dmich9
                         161753
   MikeNBulk
                         101361
10 maxerickson
                          81045
```

Number of Nodes, Ways, and Both

```
1 select count(*) from nodes;
2 count(*)
1 6910866
```

Number of Shops

```
1    select count(*)
2    from nodes_tags
3    where key='shop';

count(*)
1    1492
```

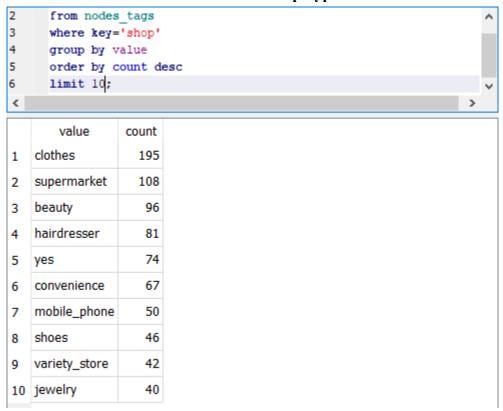
Additional Thoughts

One of the major problems with the data from OpenStreetMap is the variance in street names and abbreviations of street types. Because the data is user entered and open for anyone to submit data, nothing is standardized. There can even be multiple different abbreviations of the same street submitted by different users. A small example is this:

There were three different abbreviations for the street type Parkway; Pkwy, Pkwy., and Pky. A script could be made and implemented on the website to run over data that is entered and

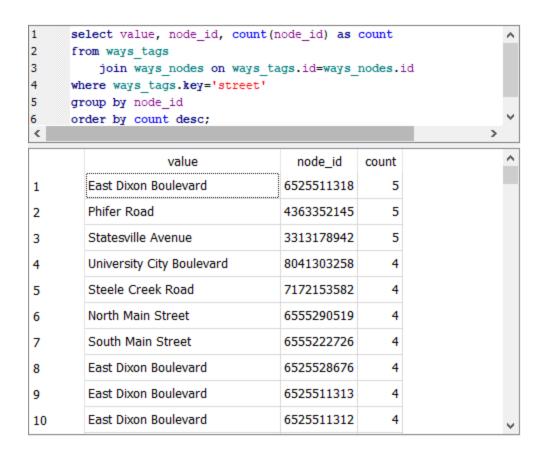
standardize at least the most common street types. Benefits of this are that cleaning the data for anyone who wants to use it would be easier and quicker if most street types were corrected upon entering the data into OpenStreetMap. The difficulty in doing this however is that so many different abbreviations exist for streets, and OpenStreetMap has data from all over the world meaning streets are in so many different languages, it would take a lot of time and effort for one or a few people to even write the scripts for English speaking countries, let alone every other country the site has data for.

Additional Statistics Most Common Shop Types



Multiple Copies of Streets

Although this one is a statistic due to errors of a kind, I still felt it should be included here, as it was interesting and supports my script addition. This statistic shows that there are multiple instances of the same node_id appearing in the same street, in different way tags. This means that there are multiple redundant copies of the same nodes under the streets.



Conclusion

In conclusion, it is clear that the data entered for Charlotte, NC is varied and incomplete. For the purposes of this project I believe the data has been cleaned thoroughly enough. However, it is clear that the data needs to be cleaned and standardized more thoroughly when it is entered into OpenStreetMap. It's interesting to see that there is so much redundancy in the nodes included in the streets. With scripts to standardize the street types and prevent multiple copies of the same street, the data on OpenStreetMap.org could be cleaned and organized much better and more intuitively, making it easier to work with and reducing the file size.