

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(*)
2 from (select user from ways union all select user from nodes)
3 where user = 'OSMF Redaction Account';
```








	user	count(*)
1	OSMF Redaction Account	130

1	select user, count(*) as count		
2	from nodes_1		
3	group by user		
4	order by count;		

	user	count
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

```

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

```

	count(distinct user)
1	2087

Top 10 Contributing Users

```

1 select user, count(*) as count
2 from (select user from nodes union all select user from ways)
3 group by user
4 order by count desc
5 limit 10;

```

	user	count
1	_jcaruso	1289685
2	jumbanho	1213221
3	houston_mapper1	997749
4	woodpeck_fixbot	601164
5	Omnific	545194
6	WashuOtaku	283206
7	Becker_MN_Import_Acc	271978
8	dmich9	161753
9	MikeNBulk	101361
10	maxerickson	81045

Number of Nodes, Ways, and Both

```

1 select count(*) from nodes;
2

```

	count(*)
1	6910866

1	<code>select count(*) from ways;</code>
2	
	count(*)
1	830386
1	<code>select count(id)</code>
2	<code>from (select id from nodes union all select id from ways);</code>
3	
	count(id)
1	7741252

Number of Shops

1	<code>select count(*)</code>
2	<code>from nodes_tags</code>
3	<code>where key='shop';</code>
	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:

```
'PkwY': {'Ballantyne Commons PkwY',
         'Cloverleaf PkwY',
         'Northeast PkwY',
         'Northlake Centre PkwY',
         'Steelecroft PkwY'},
'PkwY.': {'Metromont PkwY.'},
'Pky': {'Matthews Township Pky'},
```

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

2	from nodes_tags	
3	where key='shop'	
4	group by value	
5	order by count desc	
6	limit 10;	

	value	count
1	clothes	195
2	supermarket	108
3	beauty	96
4	hairdresser	81
5	yes	74
6	convenience	67
7	mobile_phone	50
8	shoes	46
9	variety_store	42
10	jewelry	40

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.

1	select value, node_id, count(node_id) as count			^
2	from ways_tags			
3	join ways_nodes on ways_tags.id=ways_nodes.id			
4	where ways_tags.key='street'			
5	group by node_id			
6	order by count desc;			v
<				>

	value	node_id	count	^
1	East Dixon Boulevard	6525511318	5	
2	Phifer Road	4363352145	5	
3	Statesville Avenue	3313178942	5	
4	University City Boulevard	8041303258	4	
5	Steele Creek Road	7172153582	4	
6	North Main Street	6555290519	4	
7	South Main Street	6555222726	4	
8	East Dixon Boulevard	6525528676	4	
9	East Dixon Boulevard	6525511313	4	
10	East Dixon Boulevard	6525511312	4	v

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.