Predicting focus countries from news articles' text

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The task

Given the text of a newspaper article:

"Godolphin's Thunder Snow wins \$10m Dubai World Cup. Dubai may have been hot and humid over the past week but thunder and snow rained on the city on Saturday night. And the royal blue silks, the colours of Godolphin, hung over the spectacular Meydan Racecourse as Thunder Snow won the 23 rd renewal of the \$10 million Dubai World Cup..."

Predict the article's focus country as: AE (the 2-letter ISO country code for UAE)

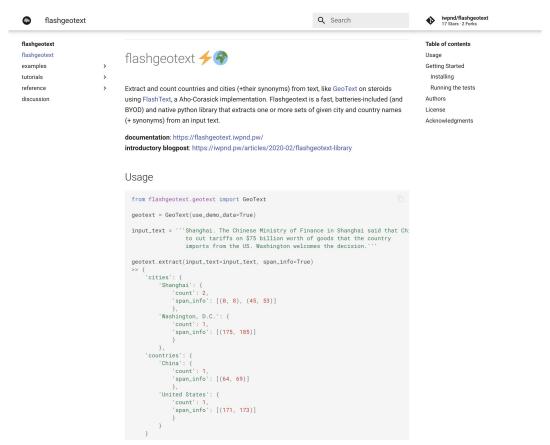
Why is predicting the focus country important?

- To be able to filter news articles from particular countries (main reason)
- To know what locations are present within a news article
- To measure how many articles talk about domestic issues vs international issues
- To be able to quickly annotate articles with their countries at large-scale for further analysis

Why not use neural networks for this task?

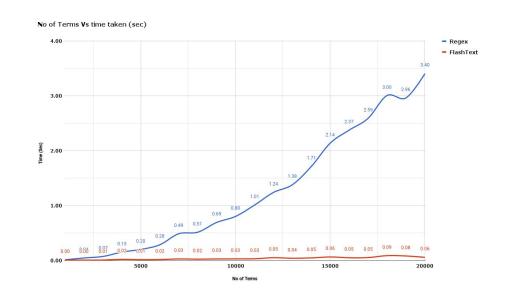
- Since there are 196 countries, there would be 196 different output classes
- To train the model, a dataset with at least 1000 articles for each country would be needed. This means 196*1000 = 196,000 articles in total
- Not only did we not have the time to create such a dataset, but also it is not guaranteed that neural networks would give us a better result
- Existing python libraries like geotext and spacy already had location extraction features are were much more lightweight

The Approach: Flashgeotext



Flashgeotext vs geotext: advantages and drawbacks

- Geotext does not allow the user to add or modify the list of cities, it only relies on a hardcoded list of 22,000 cities
- Flashgeotext includes the inbuilt library of geotext but also allows the user to add their own countries and cities
- However, in practice, I found that the vanilla version of flashgeotext had problems differentiating between normal English words like 'March', 'Of', 'Man', 'Police', 'Central' and city names. It was treating these words as cities



- 1. Remove punctuation mistakes from the original news article text
- 2. Delete normal English words that are not supposed to represent city names from the original text
- 3. Add missing countries and cities which are not in the vanilla version of flashgeotext
- 4. Assign points to the cities, states, and countries outputted from Flashgeotext based on their occurrence location

1. Remove punctuation mistakes like special characters, words in all-caps, words like 'New York' which were also being recognized as 'York', 'New England' as 'England', etc.

```
(Original word, replaced word)
                                                        (Original word, replaced word)
("Saint George's", 'Stgeorges')
                                                        ('New YORK'.'Newvork')
("Port of Spain", 'Portofspain')
                                                        ('St. Peter's Square', 'petersq1')
("Porto-Novo", 'Portonovo')
                                                        ('St. Peters Square', 'petersq1')
("Porto Novo", 'Portonovo')
                                                        ('St Peter's Square', 'petersq1')
("Port-au-Prince", 'Portauprince')
                                                        ('Latin America','Latin A')
("East Jerusalem", 'Eastjerusalem')
                                                        ('South America', 'South A')
("Equatorial Guinea", 'Equatorialguinea')
                                                        ('Copa America','Copa A')
("Marshall Islands", 'Marshallislands')
                                                        ('North America', 'North A')
("Papua New Guinea", 'Papuanewguinea')
                                                        ("Xi'an", 'Xian')
("Saint Kitts and Nevis", 'Saintkittsandnevis')
                                                        ("Democratic Republic of Congo", 'DRC')
("Saint Kitts & Nevis", 'Saintkittsandnevis')
                                                        ("Guinea-Bissau", 'Guineabissau')
("Saint Kitts", 'Saintkittsandnevis')
                                                        ("British Columbia", 'Britishcolumbia')
```

2. Delete normal English words that are not supposed to represent city names from the output of vanilla flashgeotext. If they are country or state names ('Palestine', 'Goa', etc.) then be sure to add them later manually.

```
delete_these_words = ['March','Of', 'Union', 'Police', 'Normal', 'Central', 'Most','Man','Mary','Roy','Bedi','Date','Along','Much',
'University','Split','Tata','Nagar','Golden','George', 'Sale','Stuart','Bar','Antony','Chidambaram','Wedding'
'Antony','District','Correspondent','March','Photo','Mode', 'IST', 'City', 'George','Corona','Ath','Frome','Federal','count', 'Onex','David',
'Inđija', 'Plantation', 'Delta', 'Mission', 'Punch', 'Wedi', 'Metro', 'West', 'Independence', 'Bay', 'Mon', 'Mons', 'Babu',
'Begun','Sabha','Since','Zlin','Kars','Rugby','Marks', 'Gary','Country Club','Van','Lopez','Tours','Parys','Stade',
'Mora', 'Morsi', 'Temple', 'Nelson', 'Sparks', 'Siena', 'Anna', 'Rama', 'Since', 'Caen', 'Apex', 'Sabhā', 'Sincé', 'Mataram', 'Clinton',
'Obama','Kandahār','Tamils','Alliance','Nokia','Tak','Maun', 'Samara','Rodriguez','Kati','Soma','Tomar','Dara','Marshall',
'Paka', 'Best', 'Wādi', 'Thatta', 'The Valley', 'Swords', 'Pandi', 'Pearl', 'Santee', 'Goa', 'Nago', 'Karaman', 'Nandu', 'Hammond', 'Buta',
'Bid','Hassan','Mon','Pen','Amb','Martin','Hercules','Pen','Asia', 'Male','Robert','Le Robert','Bani','Bern', 'Cordeirópolis', 'Pinto', 'Whitney',
'Middleton', 'Edison', 'Alvin', 'Barry', 'Melo', 'Carnegie', 'Clive', 'Mercedes', 'Ron', 'Liberal', 'Nigel', 'Borna',
'Matthews','Warren','Mitchell','Stanton','Fairfax Media','Pinewood', 'Bath','Bell','Brak','Lindi','Metz','San','Tyler','Wright','Elizabeth', 'Nancy',
'Roth', 'Toba', 'Posse', 'Laurel', 'Holiday', 'Hastings', 'Graham', 'Greeley', 'Deal', 'Bello', 'Alma','Young','Norman',
'Columbia', 'Pop', 'Sake', 'Papa', 'Vic', 'Spring', 'Franklin', 'Griffin', 'Como', 'Baar', 'Hamilton', 'Marina', 'Sunset', 'Bais', 'Lakewood', 'Green',
'Pérez', 'Roseburg', 'Sebastian', 'Adam', 'Westlake', 'Cary', 'Harper', 'Latin America', 'Stanley', 'Gap', 'Bryan', 'Cerro', 'Jos',
'Machado','Torres','Garcia','Bentley','Nehe','Helena','Damme', 'Mobile','Beqūn','Nevers','Tara','Adler','Vladimir','Harper',
'Bela','Dome','Gap','Reading','Frederick','Biga','Arona','Salt', 'Phrae','Vitória','Santos','Izmayil','Dixon','Pérez', 'Molina',
'Gálvez','Khanna','Kara','Ghat','Indija','Split','Castro','Minas', 'Fleet','Ipoh','Summit','Manqa','English','Manage','Worms','Banning', 'Prince
George', 'Vogan', 'Le Port', 'Flint', 'Dig', 'Durg', 'Osh', 'Trento', 'Wa', 'Longview', 'Buy', 'Erba', 'Bear', 'Born', 'La Trinidad', "Nuku'alofa",
"Port-au-Prince", "Port-of-Spain", "Saint George's", "St. John's", 'Gay', 'Sulphur', 'Co.', 'Brent', 'Una', 'Goes', 'Hi', 'Grasse', 'Münster',
'Opportunity', 'Wyckoff','Gallup','Honda','Plunge','Luce','Surprise','Thān', 'Than','Scarborough', 'La Possession', 'Superior','Voi','Prince Albert',
'Dráma', 'Bam', 'Mi', 'Drama','Brits','Dax','Kula','Sim', 'Shingū','Boo','Klin','Lucé','Lota','Aba','Peer','Ieper','Cañete',
'Canning','Colón','Babat','Dour','Fatwa','Iba','Laon','Sama','Uman', 'Saki','Bagé','Fargo','Logan','Pátra','Eagle','Palín','Chebba', 'Humble','Rio
Tinto', 'Gao', 'Palo', 'Centenario', 'Hong Kong', 'Rio Tinto', 'Crystal', 'Magna', 'Itu', 'Butterworth', 'Pio', 'Salwá', 'Jena', 'Praia',
'Cocoa','Asha','Benoy','Wedding','Leer','Liberty','Melle','Kaka','Nidda<sup>'</sup>, 'Ripley','Achim', 'Safed','Auerbach','Albany','Cambridge','Nederland',
'Loni', 'Derby', 'Kashi', 'Dalai', 'Lamu', 'Shangri-La', 'Terrace', 'Sami', 'Barking', 'Fleetwood', 'Weston', 'Porto', 'George Town', 'Granada', 'Palestine',
'Guinea-Bissau','Jawhar','Mexico','Mexico City','Ho','Roses','Rifu','Ode','Or.', 'Polish','Dabou','Lala','Nysa','Vidin','Kleve','Perm'
```

This list was created manually. However, there is also an automated way to come up with a list like this (next slide)

2A. Use the Stanford NER (Named Entity Recognition) tool to remove names from the list of cities

```
delete_these_also=['Widnes','Sabhā','Columbus','Indi','Wakefield','Blaine','Christiana','Molina','Rheine','Samara','Esperanza
','Clifton','Burton','Dole','Babu','Safi','Melville','Fuwah','Bria','Fontaine','Horst','Perris','Dādri','Numan','Kari','Keene
','Napoli','Harwich','Keller','Altena','Haydock','Fondi','Chekhov','Randolph','Toki','Rezé','Saky','Gaspar','Massa','Takahash
i', 'Brody', 'Norton', 'Easley', 'Alameda', 'Eden', 'Sherwood', 'Irving', 'Voerde', 'Sutton', 'Caivano', 'Antony', 'Terrell', 'Estelle', 'G
resham', 'Mercedes', 'Ara', 'Thornton', 'Selby', 'Markham', 'Hull', 'Vigo', 'Medina', 'Sari', 'Kasūr', 'Matiāri'. 'Ōhara'. 'Pau'. 'Warburto
n','Tupi','Roosevelt','Bartlett','Mariano','Carrefour','Saint-André','Arona','Rafah','Ghazni','Hatfield','Ajalpan','Ramsey','C
arolina', 'Buffalo', 'Soria', 'Milas', 'Nizhniy', 'Novgorod', 'McDonough', 'Blyth', 'Assen', 'Burke', 'Salvador', 'Albemarle', 'Dyer', 'Ny
borg', 'Saint-Louis', 'Kanda', 'Kalyān', 'Pinto', 'Baar', 'Rosenberg', 'Siuri', 'Bedford', 'Oviedo', 'Tiel', 'Mendoza', 'Morton', 'Yola', '
Chiba', 'Saint', 'Mahe', 'Radcliffe', 'Hille', 'Slonim', 'Oran', 'Sidi', 'Slimane', 'Aki', 'Werne', 'Huntley', 'Griffith', 'Gori', 'Ruma',
Teresa', 'Girona', 'Hammond', 'Morsi', 'Westlake', 'Amos', 'Córdoba', 'Ānand', 'Kanekomachi', 'Melton', 'Miri', 'Canela', 'Murakami', 'Bel
a','Cranston','Monzón','Mariupol','Mariana','Marrero','Barrie','Vernon','Alicia','Cornelius','Hof','Barbosa','Zama','Sogcho',
'Mansfield','Troyan','Aso','Zemun','Hod','HaSharon','Enna','Nāwa','Sheridan','Kazan','Milton','Keynes','Kōnan','Roxas','Valls
','Hatton','Speyer','Hagen','Lafayette','Matsumoto','Cairns','Lawton','Lancaster','Cueto','Patti','Alegre','Mut','Gulu','Alès
','Goiás','Homer','Glen','Bilgi','Juba','Harper','Stirling','Garland','Wāling','Durant','Santee','Ajaccio','Tipton','Halle','
Lacey', 'Biga', 'Monroe', 'Castro', 'Mandi', 'Sousa', 'Vista', 'Mendes', 'Pimentel', 'Borås', 'Kenner', 'Franca', 'Roth', 'Plato', 'La', 'Ma
deleine', 'Nanterre', 'Sevilla', 'Griffin', 'Middleton', 'Rosso', 'Sinan', 'Glan', 'Al', 'Mukallā', 'Stafford', 'Empoli', 'Palu', 'Rahden'
,'Ramos','Leduc','Conde','Passos','Izumi','Bo','Westminster','Iqlesias','Balfour','Rhondda','McKinney','Bissau','Preston','Ar
iana','Nehe','Metz','Marino','Parys','Hurst','Talladega','Saint-Germain-en-Laye','Lens','Jonesboro','Maldonado','Amancio','Br
ak', 'Malyn', 'Newton', 'Antioch', 'Norwood', 'Mons', 'Bais', 'Nowa', 'Sól', 'Vaughan', 'Jāwad', 'Prospect', 'David', 'Elizabeth', 'Chester
','Lopez','Howard','Rosario','Morales','Rodriquez','Moore','Kyle','Corona','Ādam','Walker','Le','Robert','Los','Reyes','Whitl
ey', 'Bay', 'Allen', 'Graham', 'Ron', 'Martin', 'Bello', 'León', 'Nancy', 'Arnold', 'Tucker', 'Lamont', 'Franklin', 'Tyler', 'Anderson', 'Ro
y','Nirmal','Douglas','Masuda','Langley','Harvey','Carney','Mitcham','Yara'...]
```

- 3. Add missing countries and cities to the vanilla version of flashgeotext
- A. Indian cities
- B. US states and their abbreviations
- C. Canadian states and their abbreviations
- D. Plural versions of nationalities
- E. 31 countries for which vanilla flashgeotext was not giving any output at all
- F. Numerous other cities which were mislabeled (for example, the capital of India 'Delhi' was being labeled as 'US')
- G. City-states like Singapore, Vatican City, Monaco and transnational entities like UN, EU

3A. Added Indian cities

- I was provided with a list of 2339 Indian cities
 by my advisor. This list had been manually created by another team previously. Adding them significantly improved the quality of predictions for news articles talking about India
- Additionally, I created a list with all Indian states and added it to the list of Indian cities as well so that they would be picked up by Flashgeotext

```
indian_state_names = ["Andhra Pradesh", "Arunachal Pradesh
", "Assam", "Bihar", "Chhattisgarh", "Goa", "Gujarat", "Haryana", "Himachal
Pradesh", "Jammu and Kashmir", "Jharkhand", "Karnataka", "Kerala", "Madhya
Pradesh", "Maharashtra", "Manipur", "Meghalaya", "Mizoram", "Nagaland", "Odisha", "
Punjab", "Rajasthan", "Sikkim", "Tamil Nadu", "Telangana", "Tripura", "Uttar
Pradesh", "Uttarakhand", "West Bengal", "Andaman and Nicobar
Islands", "Chandigarh", "Dadra and Nagar Haveli", "Daman and
Diu", "Lakshadweep", "National Capital Territory of Delhi", "Puducherry"]
```

1	State	City	District	COORD_X	COORD_Y		
2	Uttar Pradesh	Agra	Agra	78.5325729	26.88660294		
3	Uttar Pradesh	Agra	Agra	77.9902797	7 27.15731954		
4	Rajasthan	Pali	Bali	73.15426383	25.14652137		
5	Maharashtra	Pune	Bhor	73.82704729	18.18031484		
6	Madhya Pradesh	Dhar	Dhar	75.38378363	22.55063457		
7	Chhattisgarh	Durg	Durg	81.32568244	21.14344278		
8	Uttar Pradesh	Etah	Etah	78.66418024	27.55456811		
9	Bihar	Gaya	Gaya	84.94307465	24.72639441		
10	Maharashtra	Pune	Ghod	73.85364002	19.04152249		
11	Madhya Pradesh	Guna	Guna	77.19997779	24.80387644		
12	Haryana	Jind	Jind	76.35810997	29.34641657		
13	Maharashtra	Kaij	Kaij	76.07783271	18.75886362		
14	Rajasthan	Kota	Kota	75.88464036	25.0454217		
15	Puducherry	Mahe	Mahe	75.28279161	12.00638841		
16	Punjab	Moga	Moga	75.15987779	30.75492753		
17	Rajasthan	Pali	Pali	73.19444088	25.77594508		
18	Maharashtra	Pune	Paud	73.54902371	18.51629811		
19	Nagaland Phek F		Phek	94.56595408	25.63264549		
20	Odisha Puri		Puri	86.07152387	7 19.91992727		
21	Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh Rewa Rewa		81.3742883	24.55198482		
22	Rajasthan	Tonk	Tonk	75.76826196	26.28768003		
23	Rajasthan	Jalor	Ahor	72.84914157	25.50151092		
24	Maharashtra	Akola	Akot	77.07880323	21.03654431		
25	Himachal Pradesh	Solan	Arki	76.9176186	31.21578827		
26	Rajasthan	Baran	Atru	76.65398792	24.75239841		
27	Maharashtra	Latur	Ausa	76.54271136	18.19802315		
28	Bihar	Bihar Patna Barh 85.7		85.72936064	25.40263112		
29	Gujarat Patan Sami		71.70550604	23.62428897			
30	Arunachal Pradesh	esh Anjaw Tezu		96.95527941	28.0527876		
31	Arunachal Pradesh	chal Pradesh Lohit Tezu		96.18558787	27.86239019		
32	Madhya Pradesh Ratlam		Alot	75.46822199	9 23.72825235		
33	Karnataka	Karnataka Hassan		75.95380874	12.91910205		
34	Rajasthan	Jaipur	Amer	75.75994432	27.0263653		
35	Maharashtra	Maharashtra Wardha Arvi 78.35					
36	Raiasthan	Jaipur	Dudu	75.13583697	26.67481896		

3B. Added US states and their abbreviations

- I created a list of traditional abbreviations used by US states and added it to the list of locations for the US
- I also added all US state names and their 2 letter abbreviations mixed with special characters, such as 'N.Y.', 'N.Y', 'NY,', 'NY.', 'Ca.'

```
us_state_names = ["Alaska", "Alabama", "Arkansas", "American Samoa",
"Arizona", "California", "Colorado", "Connecticut", "Delaware", "Florida",
"Guam", "Hawaii", "Iowa", "Idaho", "Illinois", "Indiana", "Kansas",
"Kentucky", "Louisiana", "Massachusetts", "Maryland", "Maine", "Michigan",
"Minnesota", "Missouri", "Mississippi", "Montana", "North Carolina", "North
Dakota", "Nebraska", "New Hampshire", "New Jersey", "New Mexico", "Nevada",
"Ohio", "Oklahoma", "Oregon", "Pennsylvania", "Puerto Rico", "Rhode Island",
"South Carolina", "South Dakota", "Tennessee", "Texas", "Utah", "Virginia",
"Virgin Islands", "Vermont", "Wisconsin", "West Virginia", "Wyoming"]

us_abbreviations = ["AL", "AK", "AZ", "AR", "CA", "CO", "CT", "DC", "DE",
"FL", "GA", "HI", "ID", "IL", "IN", "IA", "KS", "KY", "LA", "ME", "MD",
"MA", "MI", "MN", "MS", "MO", "MT", "NE", "NV", "NH", "NJ", "NM", "NY",
"NC", "ND", "OH", "OK", "OR", "PA", "RI", "SC", "SD", "TN", "TX", "UT",
"VT", "VA", "WA", "WV", "WI", "WY", "PR", "AS", "MP", "CZ", "VI"]
```

abb1	abb2	abb3
Ala.		
Alaska		
Ariz.		
Ark.		
Calif.	Cal.	
Colo.	Col.	
Conn.		
Del.		
Fla.	Flor.	
Ga.		
	H.I.	
Idaho	Ida.	ld.
III.		
Ind.		
Iowa	la.	
Kans.	Kan.	
Ky.	Ken.	Kent.
La.		
	Me.	
Md.		
Mass.		
Mich.		
Minn.	M.N.	MN
Miss.		
Mo.		
Mont.		
Nebr.	Neb.	
Nev.		
N.H.		

3C. Added Canadian states and their abbreviations along with special characters. Removed 'Oh.', 'On,' as they were occurring as English words in news articles

```
can_province_names = { 'AB': 'Alberta', 'BC': 'British Columbia',
'MB': 'Manitoba', 'NB': 'New Brunswick', 'NL': 'Newfoundland and
Labrador', 'NS': 'Nova Scotia', 'NT': 'Northwest Territories',
'NU': 'Nunavut', 'ON': 'Ontario', 'PE': 'Prince Edward Island',
'QC': 'Quebec', 'SK': 'Saskatchewan', 'YT': 'Yukon' }

can_abbreviations2=
['AB', 'Ab.', 'AB.', 'AB,', 'Ab,', 'A.B.', 'A.b.', 'BC', 'Bc.', 'BC.', 'BC,',
'Bc,', 'B.C.', 'B.c.', 'MB', 'Mb.', 'MB.', 'MB,', 'Mb,', 'M.B.', 'M.b.', 'N
B', 'Nb.', 'NB.', 'NB,', 'Nb,', 'N.B.', 'N.b.', 'NL', 'NL', 'NL.', 'NL,', 'N
1,', 'N.L.', 'N.1.', 'NS', 'NS.', 'NS.', 'NS,', 'N.S.', 'N.S.', 'NT',
'Nt.', 'NT.', 'NT,', 'Nt,', 'N.T.', 'N.t.', 'NU', 'Nu.', 'NU.', 'NU,', 'Nu,', 'N.U.', 'N.u.', 'ON,', 'O.N.', 'O.N.', 'O.N.', 'Qc,', 'Qc.', 'Q.C.', 'Qc.', 'SK', 'SK.', 'SK.', 'SK,', 'SK.', 'S.K.', 'S.K.', 'YT', 'YT.', 'YT.', 'Yt,', 'Y.T.', 'Y.T.',
```

3D. Added 276 plural nationalities with their country code

<u>Cuba</u>	Cuban	CU		
<u>Curacao</u>	Curacaoan	cw		
Cyprus	Cypriot	CY		
<u>Djibouti</u>	Djiboutian	DJ		
Dominica	Dominican	DM		
East Timor	Timorese	TL		
Equatorial Guinea	Equatorial Guinean	GQ		
<u>Eritrea</u>	Eritrean	ER		
Falkland Islands	Falkland Islander	FK		
Faroe Islands	Faroese	FO		
<u>Fiji</u>	Fijian	FJ		
French Polynesia	French Polynesian	PF		
Gabon	Gabonese	GA		
<u>Gambia</u>	Gambian	GM		
<u>Georgia</u>	Georgian	GE		
<u>Gibraltar</u>	Gibraltar	GI		
Greenland	Greenlandic	GL		
<u>Grenada</u>	Grenadian	GD		
Guam	Guamanian	GU		
Guernsey	Channel Islander	GG		
Guinea	Guinean	GN		
Guinea-Bissau	Bissau-Guinean	GW		
Guyana	Guyanese	GY		
Hong Kong	Cantonese	НК		
Isle of Man	Manx	IM		
Jersey	Channel Islander	JE		
<u>Kiribati</u>	Kiribati	KI		
Kosovo	Kosovar	XK		
Kuwait	Kuwaiti	KW		
Kyrgyzstan	Kyrgyzstani	KG		

country	plural_country	match	country_code
Afghanistan	Afghan	240	AF
Algeria	Algerian	239	DZ
Angola	Angolan	238	AO
Argentina	Argentine	237	AR
Austria	Austrian	236	AT
Australia	Aussie	235	AU
Australia	Australian	235	AU
Australia	Aust'n		AU
Bangladesh	Bangladeshi	234	BD
Belarus	Belarusian	233	BY
Belgium	Belgian	232	BE
Bolivia	Bolivian	231	во
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnian	230	BA
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Herzegovinian	230	ВА
Brazil	Brazilian	229	BR
Britain	Brit	#N/A	GBX1
Britain	British	#N/A	GBX1
Bulgaria	Bulgarian	228	BG
Cambodia	Cambodian	227	KH
Cameroon	Cameroonian	226	СМ
Canada	Canadian	225	CA
Central African Republic	Central African	224	CF
Chad	Chadian	223	TD
China	Chinese	222	CN
Colombia	Colombian	221	со
Costa Rica	Costa Rican	220	CR
Croatia	Croatian	219	HR
Czech Republic	Czech	218	CZ
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Congolese	217	CD
Denmark	Danish	216	DK
Ecuador	Ecuadorian	215	EC
Egypt	Egyptian	214	EG
El Salvador	Salvadoran	213	sv
England		#N/A	GB
Estonia	Estonian	212	EE
Ethiopia	Ethiopian	211	ET
Finland	Finnish	210	FI
France	French	209	
Germany	German	208	
Ghana	Ghanaian		GH
Greece	Greek	206	
Guatemala	Guatemalan	205	
Holland	Dutch	#N/A	NL

3E. Added 31 countries and their capitals for which vanilla Flashgeotext was not giving any output

```
missing_countries =
['IT','JM','GD','CL','MV','AG','CR','TT','LR','TO','CH','PE','BO','BG','TD','HT','PW','PA','FM'.'IE'.'CA'.'P
R','NL','NR','AZ','SC','LK','MD','BN','GY','MM']
missing_countries_names = {'IT': 'Italy', 'JM': 'Jamaica', 'GD': 'Grenada', 'CL': 'Chile', 'MV': 'Maldives',
'AG': 'Antiqua and Barbuda', 'CR': 'Costa Rica', 'TT': 'Trinidad and Tobago', 'LR': 'Liberia', 'TO':
'Tonga', 'CH': 'Switzerland', 'PE': 'Peru', 'BO': 'Bolivia', 'BG': 'Bulgaria', 'TD': 'Chad', 'HT': 'Haiti',
'PW': 'Palau', 'PA': 'Panama', 'FM': 'Federated States of Micronesia', 'IE': 'Republic of Ireland', 'CA':
'Canada', 'PR': 'Puerto Rico', 'NL': 'Kingdom of the Netherlands', 'NR': 'Nauru', 'AZ': 'Azerbaijan', 'SC':
'Seychelles', 'LK': 'Sri Lanka', 'MD': 'Moldova', 'BN': 'Brunei Darussalam', 'GY': 'Guyana', 'MM':
'Mvanmar'}
missing_countries_capitals = {'IT': 'Rome', 'JM': 'Kingston', 'GD': "St. George's", 'CL': 'Santiago', 'MV':
'MalÃo', 'AG': "St. John's", 'CR': 'San Jose', 'TT': 'Port of Spain', 'LR': 'Monrovia', 'TO': "Nuku'alofa",
'CH': 'Bern', 'PE': 'Lima', 'BO': 'Sucre', 'BG': 'Sofia', 'TD': "N'Djamena", 'HT': 'Port-au-Prince', 'PW':
'Ngerulmud', 'PA': 'Panama City', 'FM': 'Palikir', 'IE': 'Dublin', 'CA': 'Ottawa', 'PR': 'San Juan', 'NL':
'Amsterdam', 'NR': 'Yaren', 'AZ': 'Baku', 'SC': 'Victoria, Seychelles', 'LK': 'Sri Jayewardenepura Kotte',
'MD': 'Chisnau', 'BN': 'Bandar Seri Begawan', 'GY': 'Georgetown', 'MM': 'Naypyidaw'}
```

3F. Numerous other cities and entities which were mislabeled or not present in vanilla Flashgeotext

```
(["Stjohns"], 'AG17')
(["St. George's"], 'GD17')
(["Portofspain"], 'TT17')
(["Malé"],'MV17')
(["Nuku'alofa",'Nukualofa'],'T017')
(["BSE", 'Bse', 'B.S.E.', 'B.s.e.', 'Rbi', 'RBI', 'Cbi', 'Cid', 'CBI', 'CID'], 'IN17')
(['Kempegowda Nagar', 'Kempegowdanagar', 'Perambur', 'Vallanadu', 'Thoothukudi', 'Bombay Stock
Exchange', 'Kashmir', 'Kashmiri', 'Erragadda', 'Nagapattinam', 'Nagappattinam', 'Taj Mahal', 'Tiruchi', 'Bollywood', 'Keerapakkam',
'Tambaram', 'Kannada', 'Indrakeeladri', 'Dhinkia', 'Havelock Island', 'Budaun'], 'IN18')
(["dharna", 'Dharna'], 'IN19')
(['Hobart','Sydney','Perth','Melbourne','NSW','New South Wales','Queensland','Tuggeranong','Bondi
Beach', 'Flemington', 'Warracknabeal', 'Tasmania', 'Belconnen', 'Lesmurdie', 'Donvale', 'Weetangera', 'Lancefield'. 'Cobaw'. 'Benloch'.
'Pastoria', 'Baynton', 'Saint George', 'St George', 'Kogarah', 'Victoria'], 'AUX')
(['Dhaka']. 'BDX')
(['Athens','Moria'], 'GRX')
(['Jalalabad', 'Kandahar', 'Herat'], 'AFX')
(['Paris','Lyon','Dordogne','Stade de France'], 'FRX')
(['Niger Delta', 'Borno', 'Nigeria', 'Lagos', 'Ogun'], 'NGX')
(['EU', 'European Union', 'E.U.', 'Eu', 'European Commission', 'European Investment Bank', 'Euro', 'euro'], 'EUX')
(['UN','United Nations','U.N.','Un'], 'UNX')
(['Bali'],'IDX')
(['Damascus'], 'SYX')
                                                                                                                      ... 1 of 6
(['Santa Maria', 'Rio Olympic', 'Rio Olympics', 'Rio 2016'], 'BRX')
```

```
(['Moscow', 'Saint Petersburg', 'St. Petersburg'], 'RUX')
(['Newengland', 'Albany', 'Tippecanoe', 'St. Augustine', 'Vilano Beach', 'St. Tammany', 'District of Columbia', 'Bryant Park', 'Charlotte', 'Boro
Park'.'Roseburg'.'Marrero'.'Montauk'.'Long Island'.'Capitol Hill'.'Syracuse'.'Georgetown'.'New Smyrna Beach'.'Palm Beach'.'North Little Rock'.'St.
Louis', 'Port Saint Lucie', 'Central Park', 'America', 'Queens', 'Lawrence', 'Williamsburg', 'Washington', 'Washington, D.C.', 'Prairie View', 'Santa
Clara', 'San Jose', 'Santa Cruz', 'Hudson Valley', 'Kitsap County', 'Harvard', 'Mount Sinai', 'Putnam County', 'Goddard
Park', "Hawai'i", 'Davis', 'Calaveras County', 'Wall Street', 'Carroll County', 'Humboldt County', 'Neshannock', 'Penn', 'Yale', 'Federal
Reserve', 'NYC', 'N.Y.C.', 'San Francisco', 'San Mateo', 'Worcester', 'Johnson City', 'Cdc', 'Harlem', 'NYPD', 'St Louis', 'Fox
Lake', 'Pentagon', 'Richmond', 'Telluride', 'White House', 'York', 'Newyork'], 'USX1')
(['Newmexico','Usa','Dow','Buffalo','BUFFALO','Democrat','Democrats','Republican','Republicans','Senator','FBI','Fbi','F.B.I.','Us','Nasa','NASA',
'Sen.', 'Fed', 'GOP', 'Gop', 'Centers for Disease Control and Prevention' l. 'USX2')
(us_state_names, 'US11')
(['Haiti', 'Portauprince'], 'HTX')
(['Mali'],'MLX')
(['Cabo Delgado', 'Ancuabe', 'Mozambique'], 'MZX')
(['Pama'], 'BFX')
(['Papuanewguinea'],'PGX')
(['Grimsby','Lincolnshire','Widnes','Middlesex','Cambridge','Oxford','London','Ascension
Island', 'Newcastle', 'Somerset', 'Bristol', 'Carterton', 'Derbyshire', 'West Hampstead', 'Romsey', 'Tottenham', 'Sky Sports', 'West
Hamostead'.'Kent'.'Brighton'.'Cornwall'.'Westminster'.'Boosbeck'.'Yorkshire'.'Chelsea'.'Manchester'.'Norwich'.'Norfolk'.'Birmingham'. 'England'.
'Wales', 'Northern Ireland', 'Scotland', 'Manchester', 'Richmond and Twickenham', 'Britain', 'Clogher', 'Wandsworth', 'Cronton', 'Inverurie', 'Peak
District', 'Snowdonia', 'Dorset', 'Dundee', 'Salisbury', 'Suffolk', 'York'], 'GBX3')
(['Uk','Gbr','GBR','Boris Johnson','NHS','Nhs','nhs','£'],'GBX4')
(['Viqui'], 'PAX')
(['Somalia'], 'S011')
(['Wellington','Albert Town','Queenstown','Napier','Waitarere','Levin'],'NZ11')
(['Frankfurt', 'Nürnberg', 'Nuremberg', 'Cologne', 'Jena', 'Melle', 'Achim', 'Auerbach'], 'DE11')
                                                                                                                             ... 2 of 6
(['Venice', 'Milan', 'San Siro', 'San Donato Milanese'], 'IT11')
```

(['Qatar'],'QA11')

```
(['Vienna','Nickelsdorf','Sölden','Soelden'],'AT11')
(['Syria','Idlib'],'SY11')
(['Yemen', 'Mokha', 'Mocha', "Sa'dah", 'Saada'], 'YE11')
(['Vernon', 'Trans Mountain', 'TransMountain', 'Newfoundland', 'Labrador', 'Harrison Hot Springs', 'Victoria'], 'CA11')
(['Tiananmen Square'.'Guangdong'.'Peking'.'Urumgi'."Xi'an"."Xi'an".'Xian'.'Jiangsu'.'Hunan'.'Kashgar'].'CN11')
(['Duma', 'Hamas', 'Eastjerusalem'], 'PS11')
(['Roszke'], 'HU11')
(['El Salvador'], 'SV11')
(['DRC', 'Kasai', 'Drc'], 'CD11')
(['Rcongo'], 'CG11')
(['Naguru','Kampala','Uganda','Entebbe'],'UG11')
(['Cotopaxi', 'Ecuador'], 'EC11')
(['Jerusalem','Hadera','Yerushalayim','Bnei Brak','Safed'],'IL11')
(['Cyprus'], 'CY11')
(['Santo Domingo', 'Dominican Republic'], 'DO11')
(['Chiang Mai'], 'TH11')
(['Holland', 'Nederland'], 'NL12')
(['Bermuda'], 'BM11')
(['Kim Jong Un', 'DPRK', 'Dprk', 'D.P.R.K.'], 'KP11')
(['Tenerife', 'Canary Islands', 'Barcelona', 'Catalonia'], 'ES11')
(['Tshwane','Limpopo','Maritzburg','Mankweng','Manenberg','Ficksburg','Bellville','Ekurhuleni','Suikerbosrand','Eastern Cape','Western Cape','De
Doorns', 'Daveyton', 'Gauteng', 'De Deur', 'Nongoma', 'Khayelitsha', 'Modderpoort', 'Free State', 'Mafikeng', 'Mosselbay', 'Mossel
Bay', 'Pollsmoor', 'Tlokwe', 'Brandfort', 'Boikhutso', 'Welgevonden', 'Goedgevonden', 'Kakamas', 'Sterkspruit', 'Engcobo', 'Ngcobo', 'Gugwini',
'Silindile', 'Moyeni'], 'ZA11')
(['Mahé','Seychelles'],'SC11')
(['Gorgan', 'Golestan', 'Tehran', 'Bandar Abbas'], 'IR11')
```

... 3 of 6

```
(['Zurich', 'Geneva'], 'CH11')
(['Sint Maarten', 'St. Maarten', 'St Maarten'], 'SX11')
(['UAE','Uae','U.A.E.'],'AE11')
(['Bahamas'], 'BS11')
(['Hanoi', 'Ha Noi', 'Vu Duc Dam', 'Ho Chi Mihn City', 'Hà Nội'], 'VN11')
(['Gothenburg', 'Sweden'], 'SE11')
(['Muranga'], 'KE11')
(['Belize','Bdf'],'BZ11')
(['Antarctica'],'AQ11')
(['Niger'],'NE11')
(['Murilo'], 'FM11')
(['Fukushima','Omura','Fukuoka'],'JP11')
(['Porto'], 'PT11')
(['Apia','Samoa'],'WS')
(['Libya'],'LY11')
(['Istanbul'],'TR11')
(['Fiji'],'FJ11')
(['Nuuk','Greenland'],'GL11')
(['Tajikistan'],'TJ11')
(['Uzbekistan'],'UZ11')
(['Auki', 'Solomon Islands'], 'SB11')
(['Chernobyl'], 'UA11')
(['Hong KONG'], 'HK12')
(['Malta'],'MT11')
(['Namibia'],'NAX11')
(['Bosnia-Herzegovina'], 'BA11')
```

(['Dominica'],'DM11')

... 4 of 6

```
(['Togo'], 'TG11')
(['St. Peter's Square', 'Saint Peter's Square', 'St. Peter's Basilica', 'Saint Peter's Basilica', 'petersq1', 'peterbas2'], 'VA11')
(['Ashanti Region', 'Ho Municipal', 'Ho Municipality'], 'GH11')
(['Praia'],'CV11')
(['Mullaitivu'],'LK14')
(['Mexiclocity','Mexicocountry','Iguala'],'MX14')
(['Sierra Leone'], 'SL14')
(['Porto-Novo', 'Porto Novo', 'Portonovo'], 'BJ14')
(['San José'], 'CR14')
(["Stgeorges"].'GD14')
(["Chisinau"], 'MD14')
(["Victoria"], 'SC14')
(["Juba"], 'SS14')
(["Sri Jayawardenapura Kotte"], 'LK15')
(['George Town'], 'MY15')
(['Angola'],'A021')
(['Antiqua and Barbuda', 'Antiqua & Barbuda', 'Antiqua', 'Barbuda'], 'AG21')
(['Bosnia and Herzegovina', 'Bosnia & Herzegovina', 'Bosnia', 'Herzegovina'], 'BA21')
(['EquatorialGuinea'],'GQ21')
(['Eritrea'], 'ER21')
(['Gambia'],'GM21')
(['Granada'],'NI21')
(['Guinea'], 'GN21')
(['Honduras'], 'HN21')
(['Liechtenstein'], 'LI21')
(['Macedonia'],'MK21')
```

(['Marshallislands'],'MH21')

... 5 of 6

```
(['Mauritius'],'MU21')
(['Micronesia'], 'FM21')
(['Mongolia'],'MN21')
(['Nicaragua'],'NI21')
(['Palestine'], 'PS21')
(['Paraguay'], 'PY21')
(['Senegal'], 'SN21')
(['Swaziland'],'SZ21')
(['Turkmenistan'],'TM21')
(['Uruguay'],'UY21')
(['Saintkittsandnevis'],'KN21')
(['Saintlucia'],'LC21')
(['Saintvincentandthegrenadines'],'VC21')
(['Southsudan'], 'SS21')
(['Trinidadandtobago'], 'TT21')
(['Unitedarabemirates'], 'AE21')
(['Guineabissau', 'Bissau'], 'GW21')
(['Georgia'], 'GE21')
(['Britishcolumbia'], 'CA21')
(['Ciudad Constitución'], 'PE21')
(['Polish2'], 'PL21')
(['Dabou'],'CI21')
(['Balochistan', 'Khyber Pakhtunkhwa', 'Sindh'], 'PK11')
(['Killarney', 'Dublin'], 'IE11')
(['Saint Joseph', 'St. Joseph'], 'TT11')
(['Hong Kong', 'HK', 'H.K.', 'Causeway Bay', 'Mong Kok', 'Lung Wo Road'], 'HK11')
```

- 4. Assign points to the cities, states, and countries outputted from Flashgeotext based on their occurrence in the body of the news article text
 - +17 points if the city/state/country is in the first 20 characters of the news article text
 - +10 points if the city/state/country is between the first 20 & 100 characters of the news article text
 - +8 points if the city/state/country is between the first 100 & 250 characters of the news article text
 - +2 points if the city/state/country is between the first 250 & 1000 characters of the news article text
 - +1 point if the city/state/country is after 1000 characters of the news article text
 - +3 points if the city/state/country has no month names (January, February, etc.) within 20 characters in front of it or behind it, and if it is located in the first 250 characters of the news article text
 - +25 points if 'in' is in the 3 characters preceding the location's first character and the location is in the first 50 characters of the news article text
 - +20 points if 'in' is in the 3 characters preceding the location's first character and the location is between the first 50 and 100 characters of the news article text
 - +15 points if 'in' is in the 3 characters preceding the location's first character and the location is between the first 100 and 250 characters of the news article text

4. Assign points to the cities, states, and countries outputted from Flashgeotext based on their occurrence in the body of the news article text

```
{'ae11_cities': {
                                              'span_info': [(427, 430), (1965, 1968)]}},
Added
         'aeyc106_cities': {
                                 'Emirati': {
                                                 'count': 2
places
                                                     'span_info': |
                                                                       (724, 731),
                                                                       (2858, 2866)]}},
         cities': {
                        'Dubai': {
                                      'count': 9,
                                          'span_info':|
                                                            (35,
                                                            (52,
                                                                               Points
                                                            (317, 322)
                                                                              calculated
                                                             (444, 449)
                                                                             based on first
Inbuilt
                                                             (521, 526)
                                                                              character's
places
                                                             (600,
                                                                  605)
                                                                               location
                                                                    1273),
                                                             (1403
                                                                    1408)
                                                                                                    Output from Flashgeotext
                                                            (1625
                                                                   1630)]}
                            'Pisa': {'count': 1, 'span_info': [(3928, 3932)]}},
        'countries': {'United States': {'count': 1, 'span_info': [(910, 913)]}},
         'us11_cities': {
                             'California': {
                                                 'count': 2,
                                                      span info': |
                                                                       (1717, 1727).
                                                                        (4229. 4239)]}.
                                                                                                                           AE is the country code with
                                 'Kentucky': {'count': 1, 'span_info': [(3622, 3630)]}},
                                                                                                                          maximum points (only look at
         'usx1_cities': {'<u>America</u>': {'count': 1, 'span_info': [(1952, 1960)]}},
Added
                                                                                                                           the first 2 characters, ignore
        'usx2_cities': {},
places
         'usyc107_cities': {
                                 'American': {
                                                  'count': 2.
                                                                                                                           numbers or extra alphabets)
                                                       span info': [
                                                                        (961, 969).
                                                                        (2387, 2395)]},
                                     'Americans': {
                                                        count': 1,
                                                       'span_info': [(2139, 2148)]}}}
        OrderedDict([('BEYC10', 1), ('IT', 2), ('USX1', 13), ('USX1', 13), ('USYC107', 13), ('US', 13), ('AE11', 52), ('AEYC106', 52), ('AE', 52)])
```

Output and conclusion

А	В	С	D	Е	F	G	Н	1	J	К	L	M	N	0	Р	Q	
	text	locations	cleaned_text	try_list_fl	untry_flash	ountry_list	_names										
0	Krewe du V	['Frenchme	Krewe du Vieux 2018: Take a virtual tou	Ordered	US	['Mandevi	lle', 'Chartre	es', 'New Or	leans', 'Was	hington', 'Lo	uisiana', 'N	/lississippi', '	French', 'G	erman', 'Gre	eek', 'Irish', '	Americans']	
1	Turkey she	['Afrin', 'Br	Turkey shells Syrian city as it pushes int	Ordered	TR	['Beirut', '	'Afrīn', 'Turk	ey', 'United	Kingdom', '	Britain', 'Syri	a', 'Syrian	', 'Turkish']					
2	A new deve	['Jamison',	A new development in Gainesville, Va.,	Ordered	US	['Gainesvi	lle', 'Charles	ton', 'Granv	ville', 'Somer	ville', 'Mana	ssas', 'Fair	fax', 'Centre	ville', 'Long	Island', 'Va.	', 'Virginia',	'Vienna']	
3	Laura Ingra	['The Wash	n Laura Ingraham takes an Easter break a	Ordered	US	['Parkland	', 'San Marc	os', 'Anglet'	, 'Gillette', '	Washington'	, 'America	', 'Florida', 'C	California']				
4	Perm Secre	['Transforr	Perm Secretary Launches Book for Afric	Ordered	NG	['Abuja', 'I	Nigeria', 'Nig	gerian']									
5	Putin's spo	['Russian F	H Putins spokesman likens Weinstein accu	Ordered	RU	['Hollywoo	od', 'Pskov',	'Douma', 'R	lussia', 'Dum	a', 'Russian'							
6	News and r	['corner', '	News and notes from the Ncaa women'	Ordered	US	['Louisville	e', 'Victoria',	'Charlotte',	'Connecticu	ıt', 'Ohio', 'N	lississippi'	, 'North Card	olina', 'Victo	oria', 'Victor	ia', 'Irish', 'A	merican']	
7	Pope in Eas	['Nigerian'	, Pope in Easter Vigil to baptize Nigerian	Ordered	NG	['Rome', 'I	Nigerian']										
8	Muscat Filr	['Oman', '0	Muscat Film Festival ends amid fanfare.	Ordered	OM	['Muscat',	'Şalālah', 'C	man', 'Bolly	/wood', 'Om	ani']							
9	Barr cites c	['bondage'	, Barr cites conspiracy theory in support	Ordered	US	['New Yor	k City', 'Whi	te House', '`	York', 'Demo	crats', 'Illino	is', 'York']						
10	New 'Belov	['pageants	' New 'Below Deck Mediterranean' crew t	Ordered	US	['Oceansic	le', 'Bellmor	e']									
11	Cardinal Ta	['tomb', 'to	Cardinal Tagle on Easter 2018: Roll awa	Ordered	PH	['Manila',	'Bethany', 'F	hilippines',	'Filipinos']								
12	Air France,	['EU', 'avia	t Air France, easyJet, lag, Lufthansa and R	Ordered	FR	['Brussels'	, 'France', 'B	Belgium', 'Gr	reece', 'Spaiı	n', 'Eu', 'Cypr	us', 'Italy']						
13	Story Cour:	['Iran', 'sch	Story Course: A chef's life, in six dishes.	Ordered	US	['New Orle	eans', 'New '	York City', 'S	South Korea	', 'Iran', 'Ame	rica', 'Yorl	<', 'York', 'Ko	rean']				
14	Charles Bar	['schools',	'Charles Barkley lashes out at Ncaa, Fbi a	Ordered	US	['San Anto	nio', 'Louisv	ville', 'Russia	a', 'Fbi', 'Den	nocrats', 'Rep	oublicans',	'Arizona']					
15	Iran's non-	['regions',	' Irans non-oil trade with Cis on fall. By Ti	Ordered	IR	['Iran']											

Screenshot from the output of the Country Extractor program run on the GeoWebNews dataset

Output and conclusion

- 99.5% news articles in the 200 GeoWebNews benchmark dataset have 1+ locations in common with the locations found by Country Extractor
- It took approximately 43 seconds to label 200 news articles of length 800+ words with their focus country (running on Google Colab)
- The ability to add and remove countries/cities/states is present in Country Extractor, but not in geotext or spacy.
 Moreover, Country Extractor improves upon vanilla Flashgeotext in a number of ways, such as by removing names that were identified as cities, adding numerous locations and state abbreviations, etc.

Comparison with locations from GeoWebNews

Number of common locations	Count	Percentage
0	1	0.5%
>=1	199	99.5%
>=2	184	92%

Comparison with spaCy's Part-of-Speech tagging

Map plot showing extracted locations from Ch. 1 of 'Poetry of Belonging' by Ali Khan Mahmudabad



From Country extractor

From spaCy

Further improvements

- Preprocessing the news article text to remove more typing errors, falsely identified cities/countries
- Adding more cities for each country (this is a pertinent issue)
- Cleaning up the code, writing more helper functions, organizing the notebook, adding comments
- More robustly testing the Country Extractor program by comparing its output to hand-coded focus countries
- Finding ways to collaborate with news agencies, researchers, or anyone else who want to use the Country Extractor program in their operations (currently it is only being used by Koç University)

