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Contents

1	Revealing the Mysteries of the Maya Script	1
1.1	Introduction	1
1.2	The Mayan script and problems that researchers face	2
1.2.1	Similarities to English orthography	2
1.2.2	Difficulty in deciphering the characters	2
1.3	High quality representations of the Mayan script digitized	2
1.3.1	Digitizing the work and the catalogue	2
1.3.2	Machine Learning	2
1.4	Conclusion	2

1 Revealing the Mysteries of the Maya Script

1.1 Introduction

Ancient writing systems from the Egyptians to the Mayan civilizations used elaborate and enormous character sets to record phonological, morphological, and sentential information. Because of the enormity of the character corpus, researchers working on the translation of these corpora have not been able to completely translate the surviving Mayan literature, despite over two hundred years of effort[3]. Recent advances in machine learning and other statistically based classification algorithms have allowed researchers to build databases that allow researchers the ability to use machine translation and search to move translation ahead[2]. This paper examines the news article [1] and paper [2] which looks at this process in depth.

1.2 The Mayan script and problems that researchers face

1.2.1 Similarities to English orthography

1.2.2 Difficulty in deciphering the characters

The fact that there are still people who speak a descended form of Mayan language helps researchers decipher the meaning of Mayan text; however, one of the greatest difficulties we face in translating these texts is figuring out when a glyph represents a single phoneme, an entire word, or an entire sentence.

1.3 High quality representations of the Mayan script digitized

1.3.1 Digitizing the work and the catalogue

1.3.2 Machine Learning

1.4 Conclusion

References

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