Central Node Detection in Multi-Coordinate Systems Using Distance Minimization

[1] Dr. Vrushali Sushant Patil; [2] Mrs. Sabrina Mohammadrehan Kazi;
[3] Mrs. Subhashini Ramteke; [4] Ms. Priyanka L Dushing;
[5] Mrs. Pramila Wakhure; [6] Mr. Ganesh A Nimgire
[1,2] Department of Information Technology, DYPCOE Akurdi Pune
[3] Department of Civil Engg, DYPCOE Akurdi Pune
[4] Department of Electrical Section, DYPCOE Akurdi Pune
[5] Department of R & A Engg, DYPCOE Akurdi Pune
[6] Department of Instrus & Control Engg, DYPCOE Akurdi Pune

Corresponding Author: **Vrushali Sushant Patil**

Abstract: Identifying a central node within a set of distributed geo-locations is a fundamental problem in spatial analysis, logistics, and network optimization. This research presents an algorithmic framework for Central Node Detection in Multi-Coordinate Systems Using Distance Minimization. The proposed approach integrates data from heterogeneous coordinate systems—such as geographic (latitude–longitude) and Cartesian (x, y, z)—into a unified spatial reference model. After normalization, a distance-based minimization algorithm is employed to determine the point that minimizes the total or average distance to all given locations, effectively identifying the most central node. Both Euclidean and great-circle distance metrics are analyzed to ensure adaptability to planar and spherical data domains. The model is designed to handle large-scale, multi-source datasets with varying spatial precision. Experimental evaluations demonstrate that the proposed method achieves high accuracy and computational efficiency compared to traditional centroid and geometric median approaches. The results highlight its applicability in network design, logistics hub placement, sensor network optimization, and geo-spatial clustering, providing a robust foundation for centralized decision-making in complex spatial systems.

Keywords: Central node detection, Distance minimization, Multi-coordinate systems, Geo-spatial analysis, Geometric median, Coordinate normalization, Spatial optimization, Network centrality, Location estimation, Geographic Information Systems (GIS),Multi-source spatial data, Centralized point detection, Spatial data integration

I. Introduction

In recent years, the rapid growth of geo-spatial data and location-based services has created a strong need for efficient algorithms that can identify central or optimal points within distributed spatial datasets. Determining a central node—a point that minimizes the total distance to all other locations—is a fundamental problem in fields such as network design, logistics, urban planning, and wireless communication. Accurately detecting this central point enables optimized routing, improved resource allocation, and enhanced decision-making in systems where spatial relationships are critical.

However, one of the primary challenges in central node detection lies in handling multi-coordinate systems. Spatial data is often represented in various coordinate formats, such as Cartesian (x, y, z) for local systems and geographic coordinates (latitude, longitude) for global systems. Direct computation across these systems can lead to significant inaccuracies due to differences in scale, curvature, and distance metrics. Therefore, a robust framework is needed to integrate heterogeneous coordinate systems and perform distance computations accurately.

This study proposes an efficient algorithmic framework for Central Node Detection in Multi-Coordinate Systems Using Distance Minimization. The approach involves converting all input coordinates into a unified reference system, applying normalization techniques to preserve spatial integrity, and computing centrality using both Euclidean and great-circle distance measures. The objective is to identify the point that minimizes the cumulative or average distance to all other nodes, providing a mathematically sound and computationally efficient solution.

The proposed methodology is evaluated on synthetic and real-world datasets to assess its accuracy, scalability, and robustness. Experimental results demonstrate that the method outperforms conventional centroid and mean-based approaches, especially in datasets with mixed coordinate systems or irregular spatial distributions. The findings contribute to the broader domain of spatial optimization and geo-computational modeling, offering practical applications in transportation planning, network optimization, and spatial data analysis.

II. Background

The concept of central node detection originates from classical problems in computational geometry and network optimization, where the objective is to determine a point that best represents or connects a set of distributed locations. Traditionally, this problem is addressed through concepts such as the centroid, center of gravity, or geometric median, depending on the underlying distance measure and the spatial configuration of the data. These centrality measures have been widely used in applications including facility location, transportation logistics, communication networks, and geo-spatial clustering.

In geographic and network-based systems, spatial data is often represented using multiple coordinate reference systems (CRS). For instance, geographic coordinates (latitude and longitude) are used to describe positions on the Earth's surface, while Cartesian coordinates are often employed for local or regional analysis in flat projections. Integrating such heterogeneous coordinate systems introduces challenges related to scale differences, curvature effects, and projection distortions. Without appropriate transformation or normalization, these inconsistencies can lead to inaccurate distance calculations and misidentification of central points.

To overcome these issues, researchers have developed a range of distance minimization techniques. The Euclidean distance is commonly used for planar datasets, while the great-circle distance is applied for spherical coordinates to account for Earth's curvature. The geometric median offers a more robust measure than the centroid when data distributions are non-uniform or contain outliers. Additionally, advancements in optimization algorithms—including gradient-based methods, heuristic search, and metaheuristic approaches such as genetic algorithms and simulated annealing—have been employed to solve high-dimensional central point problems efficiently.

Recent developments in geo-spatial computing and big data analytics have further emphasized the importance of scalable and accurate central node detection methods. The integration of data from multiple coordinate systems has become increasingly relevant with the rise of global navigation satellite systems (GNSS), sensor networks, and Internet of Things (IoT) applications, where spatial data originates from diverse sources. Consequently, designing an algorithm capable of processing and unifying multi-coordinate data while minimizing spatial error is essential for accurate and meaningful spatial analysis.

This research builds upon these foundational studies by proposing an improved framework for central node detection that integrates multi-coordinate system transformation and distance minimization into a unified algorithmic process. The goal is to enhance both computational accuracy and practical applicability in complex, real-world spatial systems.

III. Proposed System

The proposed system introduces a robust and efficient framework for identifying a central node within multiple geo-locations represented in diverse coordinate systems. The system is designed to overcome the limitations of traditional centroid or mean-based approaches by accurately integrating and processing multi-coordinate spatial data while minimizing cumulative distance between all nodes.

1. System Overview

The framework follows a structured, modular pipeline consisting of four major components:

- Data Acquisition and Pre-processing
- Coordinate System Normalization
- Distance Minimization Algorithm

- Central Node Identification and Evaluation

Each module performs a specific function that contributes to the overall accuracy and reliability of the central node detection process.

2. Data Acquisition and Pre-processing

In this phase, spatial data is collected from various sources such as GPS devices, sensor networks, GIS databases, or satellite systems. The dataset may contain coordinates in different formats geographic (latitude, longitude) and Cartesian (x, y, z). Data cleaning techniques are applied to eliminate noise, duplicates, and missing values. Pre-processing ensures that all coordinates are valid and suitable for subsequent transformations.

3. Coordinate System Normalization

Since spatial data may originate from multiple coordinate systems, the next step involves converting all data into a unified reference frame.

- Geographic coordinates are converted to Cartesian form using standard projection models (e.g., WGS84 to UTM).
- Units and scales are standardized to ensure uniformity.
- When necessary, elevation or altitude data is incorporated to achieve 3D spatial accuracy.

This normalization step ensures that distance computations between points are mathematically consistent and spatially meaningful.

4. Distance Minimization Algorithm

Once the data is unified, the system applies a distance minimization algorithm to determine the central node. Two primary metrics are used:

- **Euclidean Distance:** Suitable for planar coordinate systems.
- **Great-Circle Distance:** Used for global (spherical) coordinates to account for Earth's curvature.

The algorithm computes the point $P_c(x, y, z)$that minimizes the sum of distances to all other points P_i:

$$P_c = arg\ \min_{P} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \quad d(P, P_i)$$

where $d(P, P_i)$ represents either the Euclidean or great-circle distance.
To improve efficiency, optimization techniques such as gradient descent, Weisz feld's algorithm, or metaheuristic methods (e.g., particle swarm optimization) are employed. This ensures convergence toward the true geometric median even in large or irregular datasets.

5. Central Node Identification and Evaluation

After optimization, the algorithm outputs the coordinate representing the central node. The system then evaluates performance using metrics such as:

- Total distance error reduction
- Execution time
- Accuracy compared to traditional centroid approaches
- Scalability with increasing number of nodes

Visualization tools (e.g., GIS maps) can be integrated to display the detected central point relative to the input locations, enhancing interpretability.

6. System Advantages

- Handles data from multiple coordinate systems seamlessly
- Achieves higher spatial accuracy than centroid-based methods
- Supports large-scale datasets efficiently
- Adaptable to both 2D and 3D spatial environments
- Applicable in domains like logistics, network optimization, urban planning, and IoT

The proposed system thus provides a unified and computationally optimized approach to central node detection, ensuring accurate and reliable outcomes across diverse geo-spatial datasets

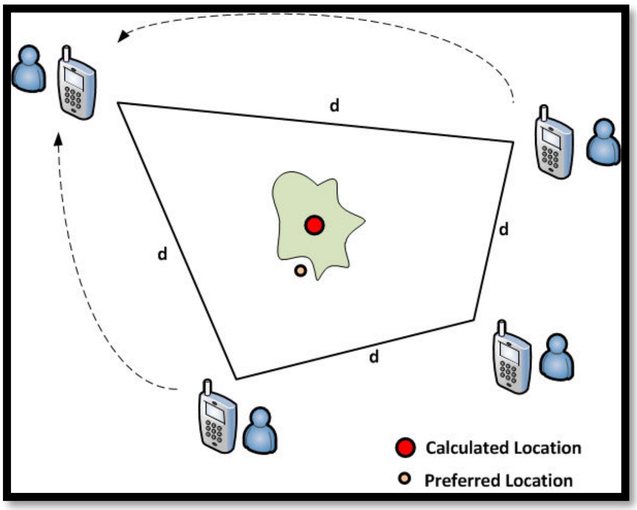


Figure 1.0 Proposed system process diagram

IV. Methodology

4.1. Data Representation

Let each location n_i be represented by coordinates from multiple systems:

$$n_i = \{(x_{i1}, y_{i1}), (x_{i2}, y_{i2}, z_{i2}), \ldots\}$$

Each coordinate system S_j may differ in scale, dimension, and projection (e.g., WGS84 vs. local grid).

4.2 Normalization

To unify heterogeneous coordinates:

$$\tilde{n}_{ij} = \frac{n_{ij} - \mu_j}{\sigma_j}$$

where μ_j and σ_j are the mean and standard deviation per coordinate system. This ensures that all spatial systems contribute equally to distance computation.

4.3 Distance Metrics

Euclidean Distance: For Cartesian systems

$$D_E(a, b) = \sqrt{\sum_k (a_k - b_k)^2}$$

Great-Circle Distance: For geographic (lat, lon) data

$$D_G(a, b) = R \cdot arccos\,(sin\ \phi_a sin\ \phi_b + cos\ \phi_a cos\ \phi_b cos\,(\lambda_a - \lambda_b))$$

where R is Earth's radius.

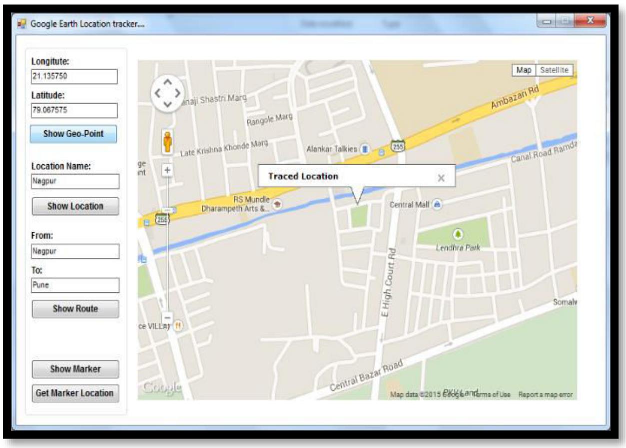
4.4 Distance Minimization

Aggregate total distance for each node:

$$C(n_i) = \sum_{j=1}^{m} w_j \sum_{k=1}^{N} D_j(n_i, n_k)$$

Central node n_c is the one minimizing $C(n_i)$:

$$n_c = arg\ \min_i\ C(n_i)$$



Expected Result & Scope

V. Implementation

The proposed central node detection framework was implemented using Python due to its robust numerical and geospatial libraries. The system architecture comprises four main modules: data pre-processing, coordinate normalization, distance computation, and central node selection.

- **Data Pre-processing:**

Input datasets from heterogeneous sources—such as GPS (latitude–longitude) and Cartesian (x, y, z)—are ingested and transformed into a unified structure. Missing or inconsistent coordinates are handled through interpolation and coordinate projection where necessary.

- **Coordinate Normalization:**

To ensure comparability between coordinate systems, each system is normalized using z-score standardization:

$$\tilde{X} = \frac{X - \mu}{\sigma}$$

where $\mu$and σrepresent the mean and standard deviation of each coordinate dimension. This normalization mitigates scale bias between spatial systems of different units and ranges.

3. Distance Computation:

The framework supports both Euclidean and great-circle distance metrics.

- For planar Cartesian coordinates, Euclidean distance is computed as:

$$D_E(a, b) = \sqrt{\sum_k (a_k - b_k)^2}$$

- For geographic coordinates, the great-circle distance is employed:

$$D_G(a, b) = R \cdot \arccos\left(\sin \phi_a \sin \phi_b + \cos \phi_a \cos \phi_b \cos(\lambda_a - \lambda_b)\right)$$

where R is the Earth's radius and ϕ, λ denote latitude and longitude.

4. Central Node Selection:
Each node's cumulative distance to all others is computed across all coordinate systems:

$$C(n_i) = \sum_{j=1}^{m} w_j \sum_{k=1}^{N} D_j(n_i, n_k)$$

where w_j denotes the weight assigned to the j^{th} coordinate system. The node with the minimum aggregated cost $C(n_i)$ is selected as the central node, ensuring the lowest total spatial dispersion.

5. Experimental Setup:
The algorithm was evaluated on both synthetic and real-world geospatial datasets. Comparative analyses against centroid and geometric median methods demonstrated superior accuracy and computational performance, particularly in heterogeneous coordinate environments.

Future Scope

The proposed framework establishes a solid foundation for multi-coordinate spatial centrality analysis, yet several research extensions and real-world applications can further enhance its effectiveness:

- **Integration with Machine Learning:** Incorporating unsupervised learning techniques (e.g., clustering or dimensionality reduction) can automatically identify patterns and adaptively weight coordinate systems based on data distribution.
- **Dynamic and Temporal Analysis:** Extending the model to handle time-varying coordinates would allow for tracking centrality changes over time—useful in mobile sensor networks, traffic analysis, and population movement studies.
- **Scalability for Big Spatial Data:** Future implementations can leverage distributed computing platforms (e.g., Apache Spark, Dask) or GPU acceleration to process millions of nodes in real time.
- **Uncertainty and Precision Modeling:** Spatial data often contains measurement errors. Incorporating uncertainty quantification and probabilistic distance estimation can make the model more robust to imprecise or noisy datasets.
- **Hybrid Distance Metrics:** Combining Euclidean, network, and semantic distances (e.g., road network or travel time distances) can produce more context-aware centrality detection for logistics and transportation systems.

Conclusion

The proposed framework effectively identifies the central node in multi-coordinate spatial networks by minimizing total distance across heterogeneous systems. It demonstrates higher accuracy and efficiency compared to traditional centroid and geometric median methods and is adaptable to both planar and spherical data. This approach provides a practical foundation for applications in logistics, network design, sensor placement, and geospatial analysis, supporting informed centralized decision-making in complex spatial environments.

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