



# GEOSPATIAL DIGITAL HUMANITIES USE CASES

Using machine learning, large language models, and generative AI

Sven Schlarb

DLM Forum Members' Meeting in Brussels 2024, Tuesday, 28th May 2024

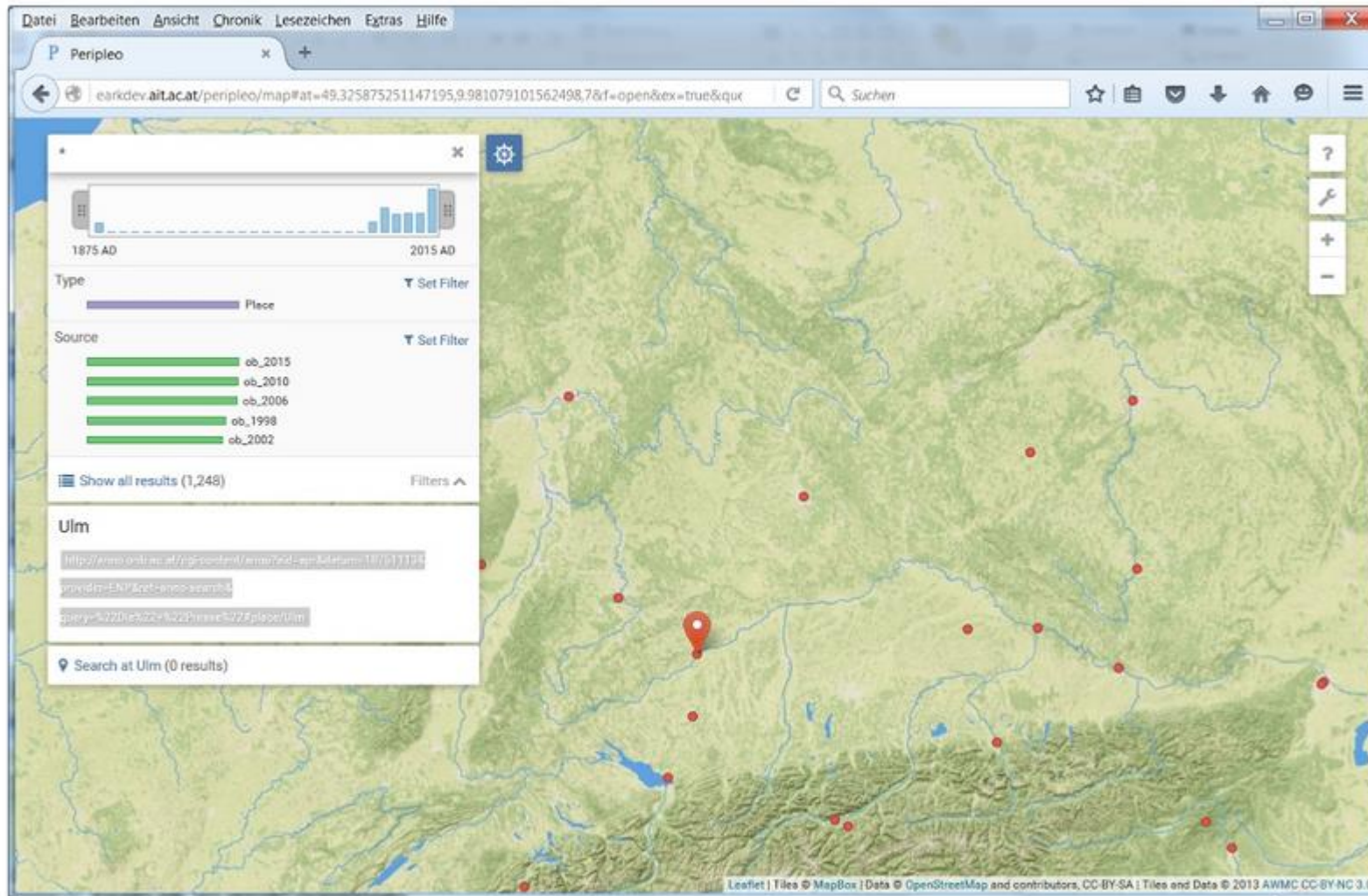
State Archives of Belgium, Rue de Ruysbroeck 2, 1000 Brussels



Co-funded by  
the European Union



# Location names occurring in texts



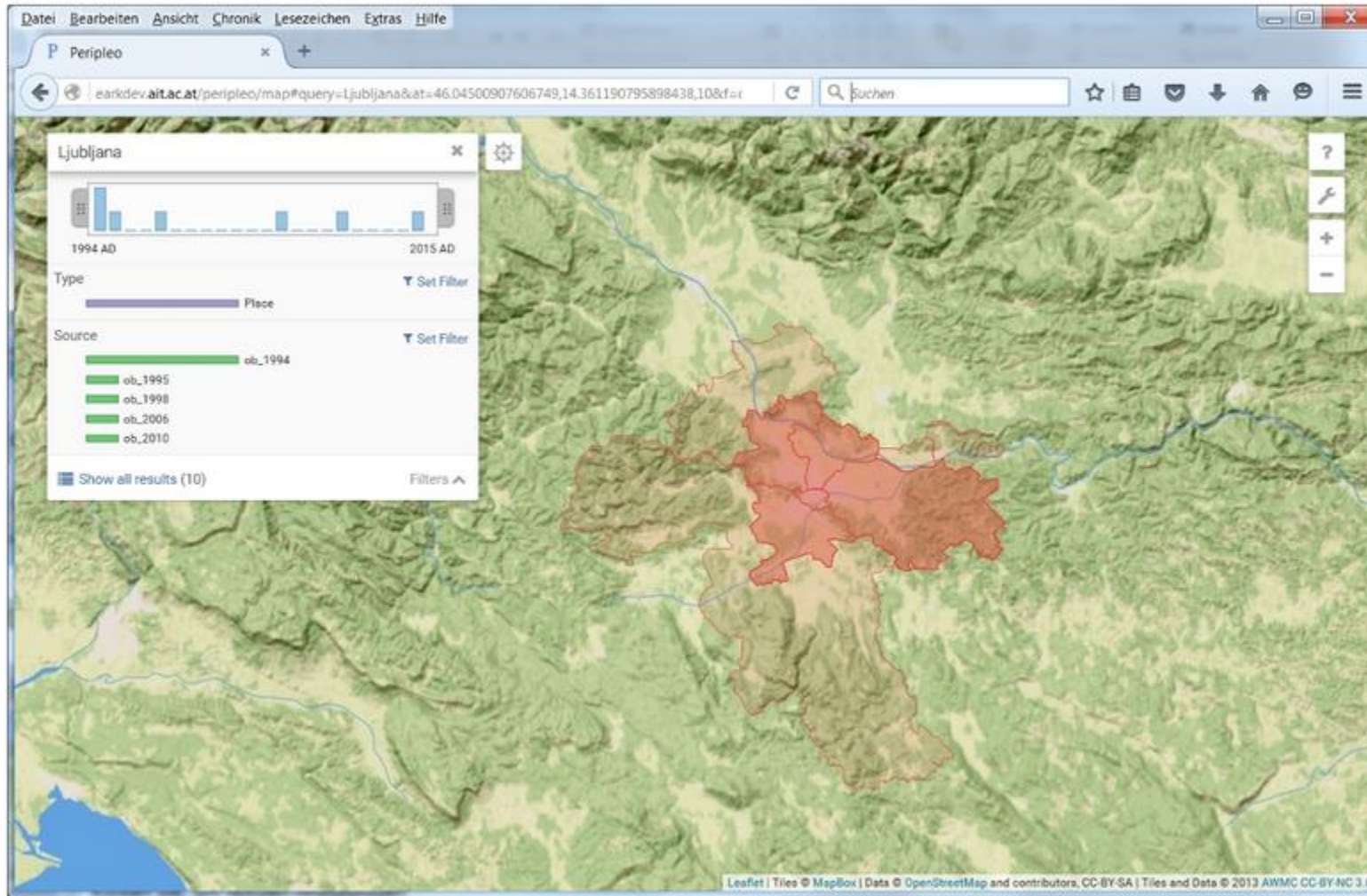
*E-ARK  
datamining  
showcase*

*Presented at  
iPRES 2016*

*Peripleo lead developer:  
Rainer Simon*



# Geographical/timeline search



*E-ARK  
datamining  
showcase*

*Presented at  
iPRES 2016*

*Peripleo lead developer:  
Rainer Simon*

# WHAT IS A LANGUAGE MODEL

This evening I am going to the

cinema ▾

cinema

theater

restaurant

What is the  
probability of this  
token?

Given these  
preceeding  
tokens.

$$\underbrace{P(\text{"cinema"} \mid \text{"going to the"})}_{\text{Conditional Probability}} = \frac{\text{Count}(\text{"going to the cinema"})}{\text{Count}(\text{"going to the"})} = \frac{100}{1000} = 0,1$$

# TRAINING DATA IN A NEW DIMENSION



*GPT-3 was trained on about 45 terabytes of text data; Common Crawl (60%), Web (22%), Books (16%), Wikipedia (3%)*

*$\triangleq$  2.9 billion pages in MS Word*

$\approx$  10 Million Books

Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., United States: 170 million items

# TRAINING DATA IN A NEW DIMENSION

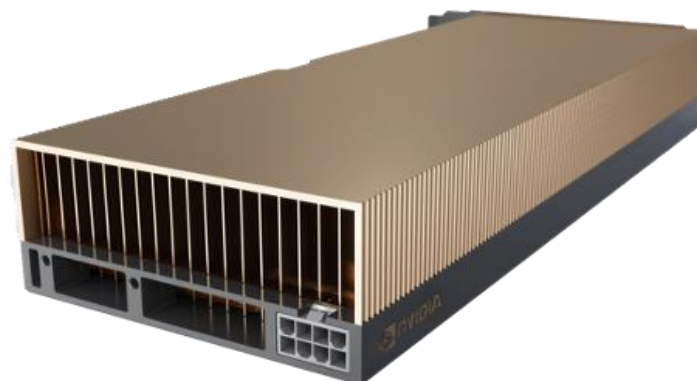


GPT-4 uses a more diverse and larger database of about 1 petabyte

Source: <https://medium.com/predict/gpt-4-everything-you-want-to-know-about-openais-new-ai-model-a5977b42e495>

According to OpenAI the cost was about \$100 million, and the training took 100 days, utilizing 25000 NVIDIA A100 GPUs.

Source: <https://medium.com/@daniellefranca96/gpt4-all-details-leaked-48fa20f9a4a>



19.058<sup>82</sup> €

Lieferung für 6,10 € 23. - 28.

**Mai.** [Details](#)

📍 [Liefern nach Österreich](#)

**Nur noch 2 auf Lager**



Co-funded by  
the European Union



# GEOAI IS MULTIMODAL

...the grass-roots rescue operations in different cities during the  
...authorities started deporting Jews from the Netherlands, Belg-  
...ed themselves in Brussels, Paris and Lyon when Jews who were trying to get L.

...members of the Dutch expat community who were mostly businessmen and students created  
... nederlandse Oorlogsbuizen in België (Committee for the Support of Dutch War Victims  
... had found hiding places for Jews and supported them with money, false documents and ration cards.  
... category of fugitives known as Engelandvaarders. Dutch men and women who made their way out of  
... ed Holland to England) asked the committee for help getting to Spain.<sup>17</sup> Some of the people the Comité  
... a member of the group for help. Others were passed to them by other resistance groups in Belgium and the  
... islands. For example, one of the leaders of the Comité, Benno Repark, also served as treasurer of the Comité  
... des Juifs en Belgique (Committee for the Defense of Jews in Belgium).<sup>18</sup>

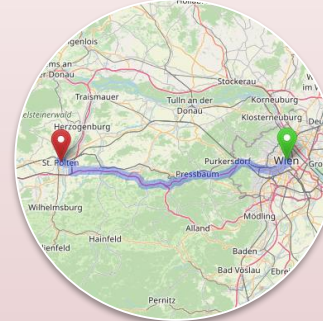
...several Dutch expats began helping Dutch Jews and Engelandvaarders either on their own or in separate  
... is. One of these groups was led by a minor official at the Dutch embassy, Herman Lubman.  
... is, a Dutch expatriate named Joan Wiedner and his wife, Elisabeth Carter, created an escape line for Jews  
... ed the fugitives through the Desert of Aravim and over the Israeli border near the village of Cotgones by  
... Carter made sure that every one of their proteges had legal permission to remain in Switzerland as a

...gh money to support the people they were helping posed a constant problem for all of these  
... (1) the Dutch ambassador in Switzerland, who was loyal to the Dutch government in exile.  
... deal. The London Dutch would fund Wiedner's rescue operations if the (1) expatri-  
... Netherlands to Spain as well as to Switzerland and (2) created a counter res-  
... Dutch Resistance and a Dutch representative in Geneva (the Swiss gov-  
... Dutch citizens from the Netherlands to Spain so they could  
... Allied forces. Wiedner, however, would never

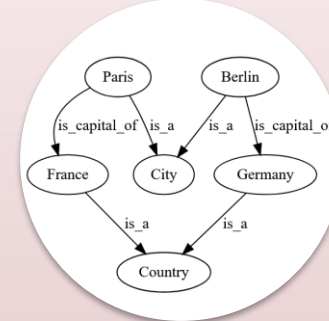
**Text**  
**Location  
descriptions**



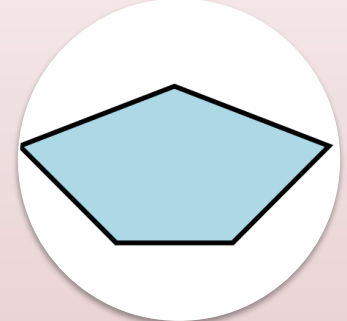
**Image**  
**Satellite,  
Street View**



**Trajectory,  
Route**

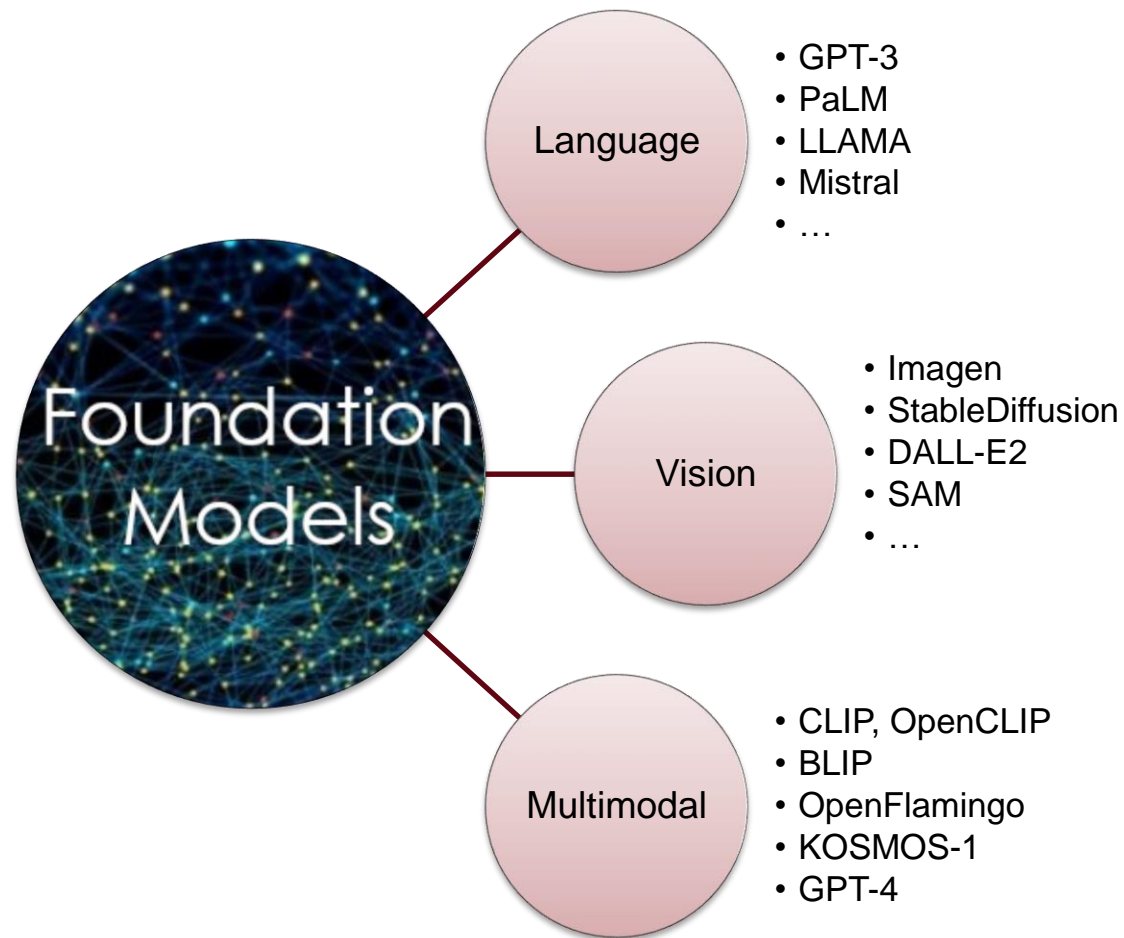


**Knowledge  
Graph**



**Vector Data  
(Poligons,  
Lines)**

# MULTIMODAL FOUNDATION MODEL



„Eiffel Tower“



„Eiffel Tower“



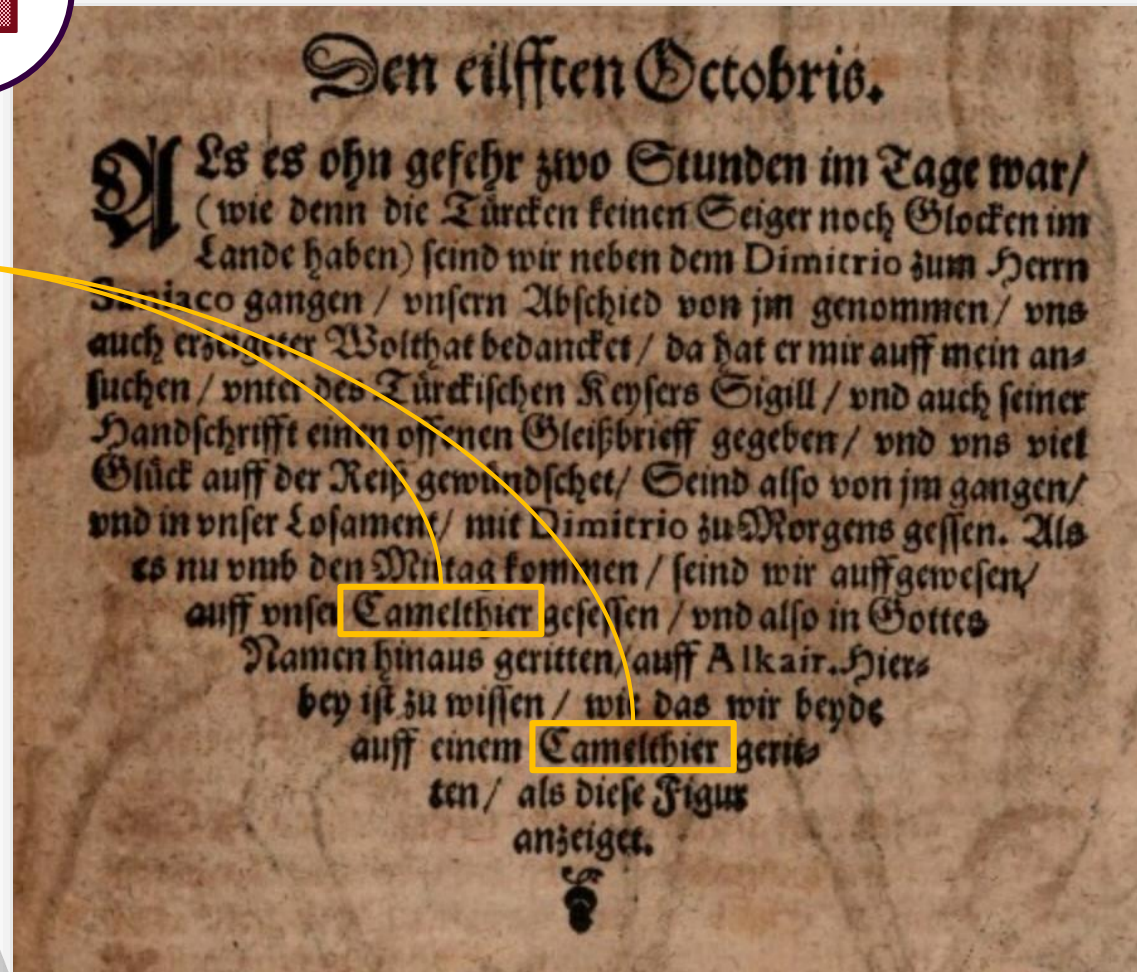
**Images and text** are encoded into a **shared latent space** where similar concepts from different modalities are close to each other.



## THE ONIT-PROJECT

- **Goal:** Analyse representations of "nature" in travel accounts on the Ottoman empire
- **Innovation:** Interdisciplinary method for AI-driven analysis of image-text relations in digitised historical prints

AI



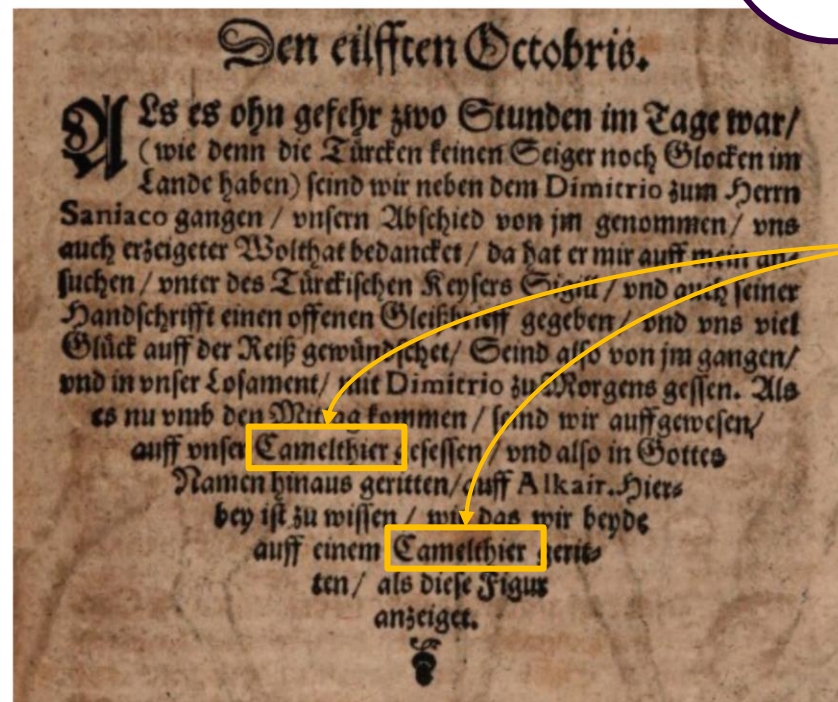
Bildquelle: <http://data.onb.ac.at/rep/1032B57A>, pp. 91-92



# THE ONIT-PROJECT

**Corpus:** Western Travelogues to Ottoman empire

- 2500 early modern book prints (1501-1850)
- 30'000 images (woodcuts, engravings, etc.)
- 4 languages (DE, FR, EN, LAT)
- **Analysis:** Role of nature representations?
- Flora, fauna, landscapes, maps



Bildquelle: <http://data.onb.ac.at/rep/1032B57A>, pp. 91-92

Search by Text:

Search...

Number of Results:

50

Search

Clear

Select Corpora:

✓ All

✓ D16

✓ D17

✓ D18

✓ D19

✓ E17

✓ E18

✓ E19

✓ F16

✓ F17

✓ F18

✓ F19

✓ L16

✓ L17

✓ L18

✓ L19

Begin your search by entering text in the form located at the top left.

To search for similar images, click on the magnifying glass icon (Q) associated with an image.

To view more details of an image, simply click on it.

## WHICH “VIENNA”?

① If you’ve read many of these articles about things to see and do around a Stuckey’s, you’ll notice that nothing turned a fledgling town into a boom town quite like the railroad. **Vienna** was no exception. Where families worked to just to survive before the railroad, after the Cairo and Vincennes Railroad was built through **Vienna** around 1872, the town and its people became more prosperous as they were now able to ship goods farther across the nation.

② **Vienna** is no Berlin when it comes to club culture, but there are a few places where it comes close. If you’re looking for a dance-until-dawn, hard-techno experience, Das Werk, on the banks of the Danube Canal, is the place to go (though unlike some exclusive clubs in Berlin, Das Werk’s bouncers do not care how you dress). Here, the party doesn’t start before 11 p.m., when the crowd becomes hypnotized by the D.J. — or by the light show on the walls around her.



# KNOWLEDGE GRAPH

```
PREFIX rdfs: <http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#>
PREFIX dbo: <http://dbpedia.org/ontology/>
PREFIX dbp: <http://dbpedia.org/property/>
PREFIX dbr: <http://dbpedia.org/resource/>
```

```
SELECT ?city
WHERE {
  ?city a dbo:City ;
        dbo:country dbr:United_States ;
        rdfs:label ?label .
  FILTER(CONTAINS(LCASE(?label), "vienna"))
}
LIMIT 1
```



[https://dbpedia.org/page/Vienna,\\_Illinois](https://dbpedia.org/page/Vienna,_Illinois)



**Vienna, Illinois, United States**

```
SELECT ?city
WHERE {
  ?city a dbo:City ;
        dbo:country dbr:Austria ;
        rdfs:label ?label .
  FILTER(CONTAINS(LCASE(?label), "vienna"))
}
LIMIT 1
```



<https://dbpedia.org/page/Vienna>



**Vienna, Austria**

<https://dbpedia.org/sparql>

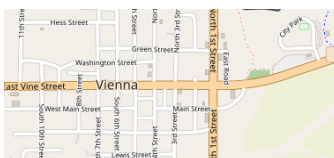
# WHICH “VIENNA”?

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Let’s ask a well known LLM ...

The text is likely referring to **Vienna, a town in Illinois, United States**. This conclusion is drawn from the mention of the Cairo and Vincennes Railroad, which ran through Vienna, Illinois, around 1872, facilitating the shipment of goods across the nation.



Vienna, Illinois, United States

Based on the mention of the Danube Canal and the club culture described, it's highly likely that the text is referring to **Vienna, the capital city of Austria**.



Vienna, Austria

# TOPONYM/LOCATION DESCRIPTION RECOGNITION

	Model	#Param	Toponym Recognition		Location Description Recognition		
			Hu2014	Ju2016	HaveyTweet2017		
			Accuracy ↓	Accuracy ↓	Precision ↓	Recall ↓	F-Score ↓
(A)	Stanford NER (nar. loc.) [30]	-	0.787	0.010	<b>0.828</b>	0.399	0.539
	Stanford NER (bro. loc.) [30]	-	-	0.012	0.729	0.44	0.548
	Retrained Stanford NER [30]	-	-	0.078	0.604	0.410	0.489
	Caseless Stanford NER (nar. loc.) [30]	-	-	0.460	0.803	0.320	0.458
	Caseless Stanford NER (bro. loc.) [30]	-	-	0.514	0.721	0.336	0.460
	spaCy NER (nar. loc.) [44]	-	0.681	0.000	0.575	0.024	0.046
	spaCy NER (bro. loc.) [44]	-	-	0.006	0.461	0.304	0.366
	DBpedia Spotlight[99]	-	0.688	0.447	-	-	-
(B)	Edinburgh [7]	-	0.656	0.000	-	-	-
	CLAVIN [134]	-	0.650	0.000	-	-	-
	TopoCluster [23]	-	0.794	0.158	-	-	-
(C)	CamCoder [33]	-	0.637	0.004	-	-	-
	Basic BiLSTM+CRF [77]	-	-	0.595	0.703	0.600	0.649
	DM NLP (top. rec.) [139]	-	-	0.723	0.729	0.680	0.703
	NeuroTPR [135]	-	0.675 <sup>†</sup>	<b>0.821</b>	0.787	0.678	<b>0.728</b>
(D)	GPT2 [115]	117M	0.556	0.650	0.540	0.413	0.468
	GPT2-Medium [115]	345M	0.806	0.802	0.529	0.503	0.515
	GPT2-Large [115]	774M	0.813	0.779	0.598	0.458	0.518
	GPT2-XL [115]	1558M	0.869	<b>0.846</b>	0.492	0.470	0.481
	GPT-3 [15]	175B	<b>0.881</b>	0.811*	0.603	<b>0.724</b>	0.658
	InstructGPT [106]	175B	0.863	0.817*	0.567	0.688	0.622
	ChatGPT (Raw.) [104]	176B	0.800	0.696*	0.516	0.654	0.577
	ChatGPT (Con.) [104]	176B	0.806	0.656*	0.548	0.665	0.601

NeuroTPR

Supervised training on 599 labeled tweets and labeled sentences generated from 3000 Wikipedia articles.

GPT2-XL

Using 8 few-shot examples in the prompt.

[Mai et al. 2023, p. 6]

[Mai et al. 2023]

# PROMPT

## Input Text

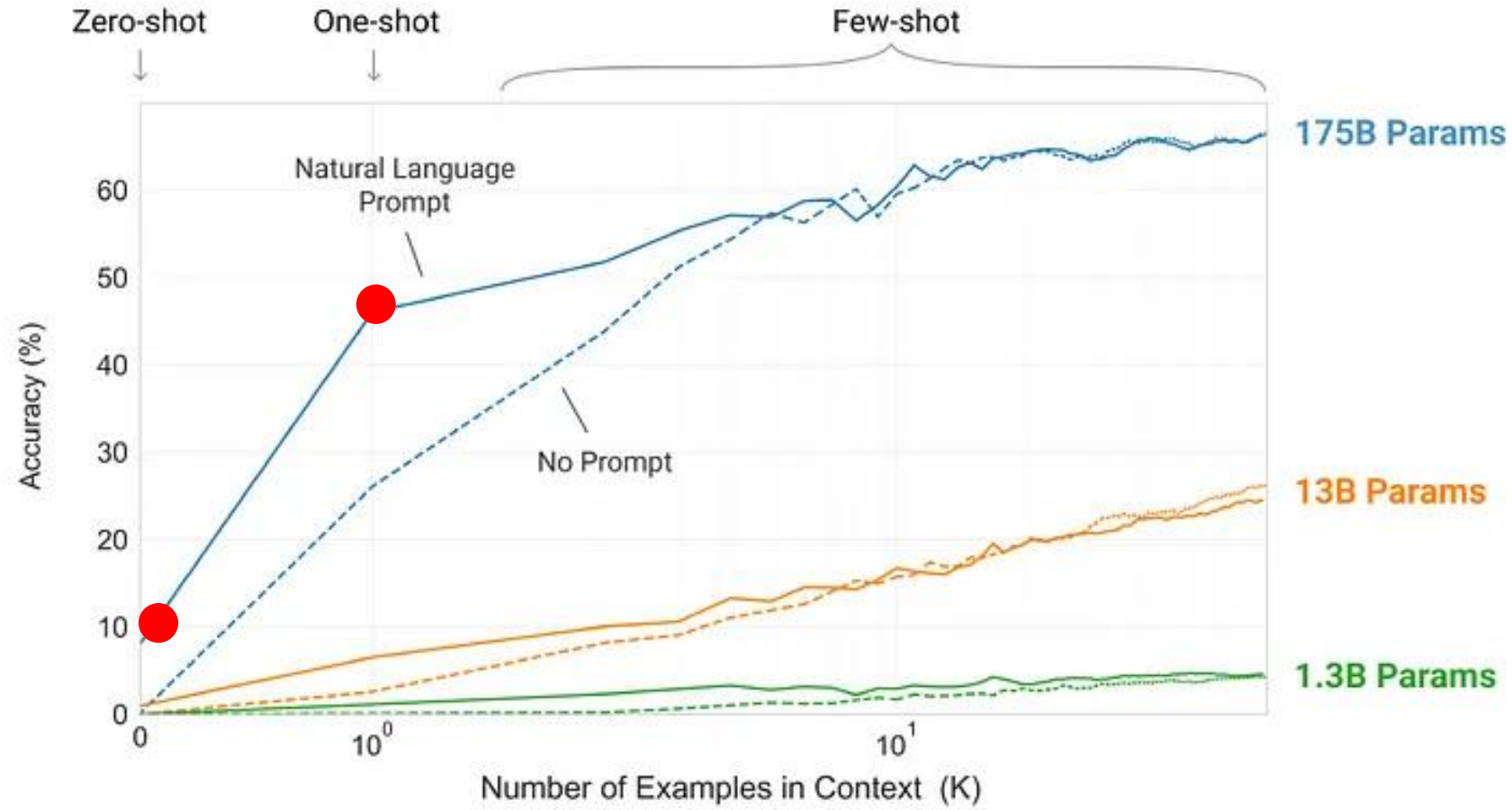
In June 2013, heavy flooding affected Central Europe, with significant impacts on cities such as Prague in the Czech Republic and Dresden in Germany. The Elbe River overflowed its banks, reaching a peak flow at 50.1° N, 14.4° E. Many bridges in Prague were closed, and the historic city center of Dresden was submerged under several feet of water. Rescue operations were launched across affected regions, including Austria and Hungary.

## Example Output

Locations	Central Europe, Prague, Czech Republic, Dresden, Germany, Elbe River, Austria, Hungary
Coordinates	50.1° N, 14.4° E
Distances and Directions	several feet of water
Geographical Features	Elbe River
Human-made Features	bridges, historic city center
Events	June 2013 heavy flooding, Elbe River overflow, bridge closures, rescue operations

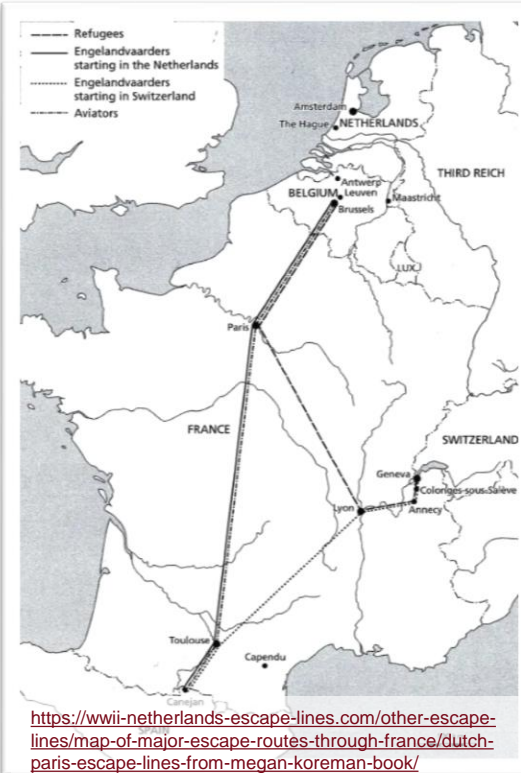


# CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION (FEW-SHOT)



[Tsang 2022]

# DUTCH-PARIS ESCAPE LINE (WW II)



Can you give me the GeoJSON of the Dutch-Paris Escape Line?

Can you list the cities through which the Dutch-Paris Escape Line went?

Can you create a path in GeoJSON that connects all these cities?

"coordinates": [

[4.895, 52.370], // Amsterdam, Netherlands  
 [5.121, 52.090], // Utrecht, Netherlands  
 [4.300, 52.067], // The Hague (Den Haag), Netherlands  
 [4.477, 51.922], // Rotterdam, Netherlands  
 [4.352, 50.850], // Brussels, Belgium  
 [2.352, 48.856], // Paris, France  
 [4.835, 45.764], // Lyon, France  
 [1.444, 43.604], // Toulouse, France  
 [2.895, 42.698], // Perpignan, France  
 [2.347, 42.573], // Carcassonne, France  
 [1.610, 42.966], // Foix, France  
 [1.521, 42.505], // Andorra la Vella, Andorra  
 [0.045, 43.076], // Lourdes, France  
 [-0.371, 43.295], // Pau, France  
 [-1.474, 43.494], // Bayonne, France  
 [-1.986, 43.321], // San Sebastián (Donostia), Spain  
 [-1.645, 42.816], // Pamplona (Iruña), Spain  
 [-0.880, 41.656], // Zaragoza, Spain  
 [2.176, 41.385], // Barcelona, Spain  
 [2.824, 41.979], // Girona, Spain  
 [2.895, 42.698], // Perpignan, France (again)  
 [3.877, 43.611] // Andorra la Vella, Andorra (again)

]

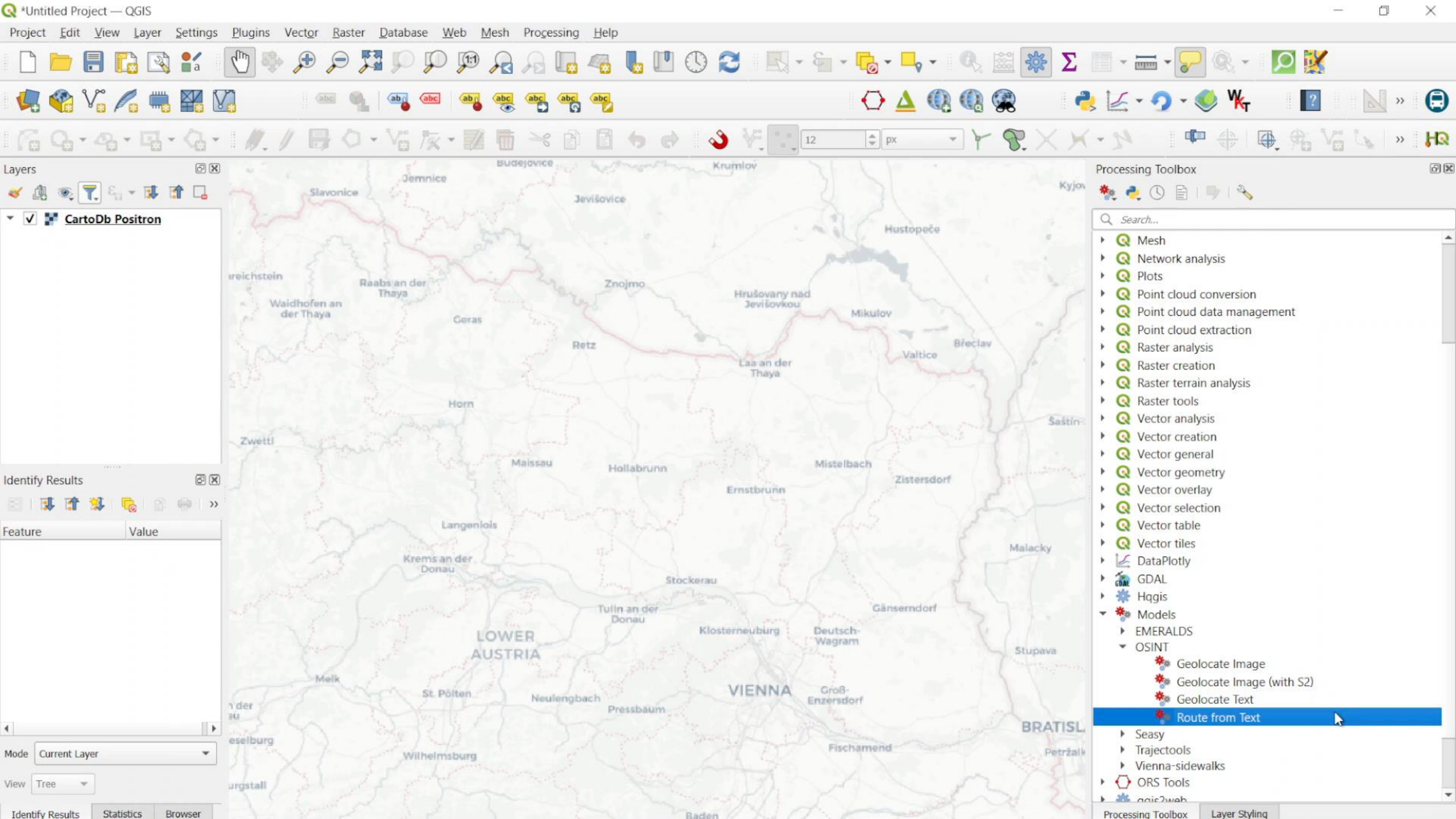
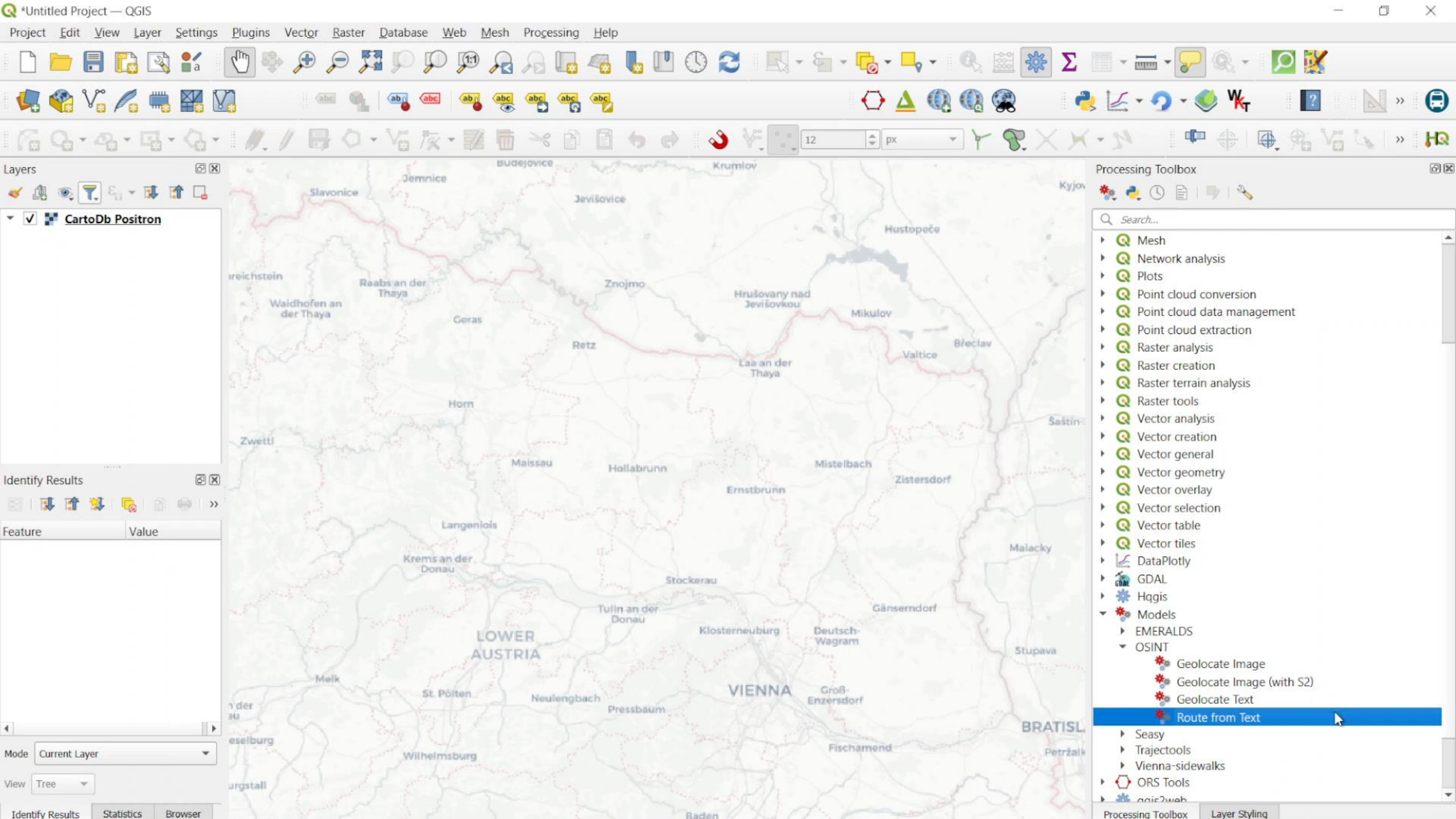
# QGIS LLM ROUTE EXTRACTION

by Anita Graser

The provisional appointment date for 72 April 2024 in St Pölten has been set for those born in 2006 in the municipality of Poysdorf. On this occasion, the municipality of **Poysdorf** is organising a bus trip to **St. Pölten** and back in cooperation with the company Schiefer Personenbeförderung GmbH. The bus will be provided free of charge by the municipality.

I am born in **Retz**, studied in **Tulln**, and now I live in **Vienna**.



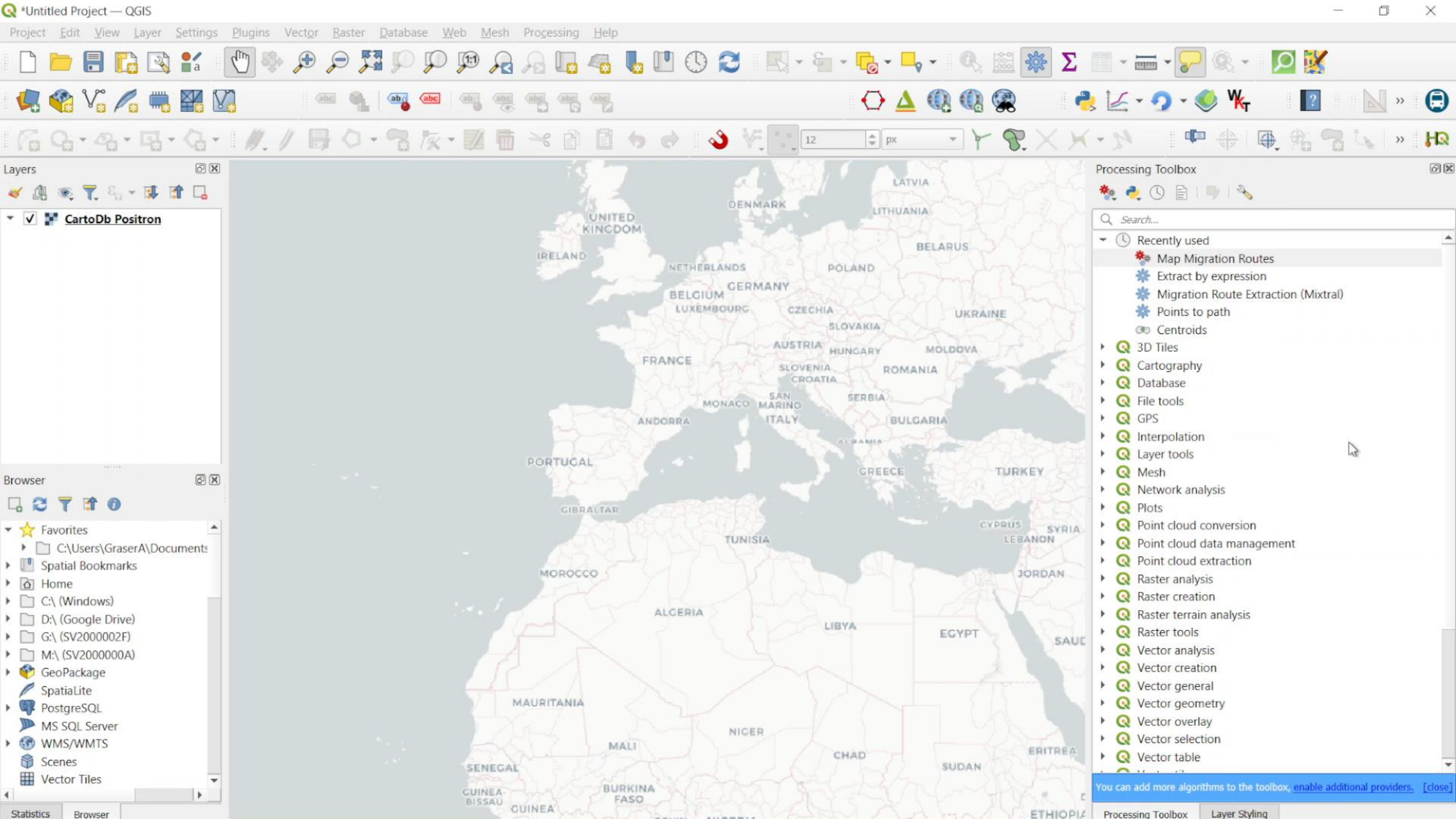




# QGIS LLM ROUTE EXTRACTION

by Anita Graser

The western Mediterranean route consists of two major sub-routes. One leads across the westernmost part of the Mediterranean or the **Strait of Gibraltar** from **Morocco** and **Algeria** towards the Spanish mainland. Migrants also occasionally land on the **Balearic Islands**. This sub-route is primarily used by migrants of Algerian and Moroccan nationality. The second sub-route leads from **Morocco**, **Western Sahara** and **Mauritania** to the **Canary Islands**. It is primarily Moroccan nationals and citizens of various West African countries who land here. Migration from North Africa to Spain (directly, via **Ceuta**, via **Melilla** or via the Canary Islands) fell significantly compared to the previous year. A total of around 31,800 people travelled to Europe in this way (previous year 43,200). The proportionate distribution among the sub-routes largely corresponds to that of the previous year. Around 15,700 people arrived in the **Canary Islands** (previous year 23,050) and 14,200 in **mainland Spain** and the **Balearic Islands** (previous year 18,930). 1,900 people arrived in the two exclaves of Ceuta and Melilla, 650 more than in the previous year. Spanish-Moroccan relations improved significantly over the course of 2022. This is likely to be one of the reasons for the decline in Uber journeys to the Canary Islands and, in particular, the slump in landings in November and December. This route is of secondary importance for migration to Switzerland.



# THANKS TO MY COLLEAGUES AT AIT



## MICHELA VIGNOLI

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## ANITA GRASER

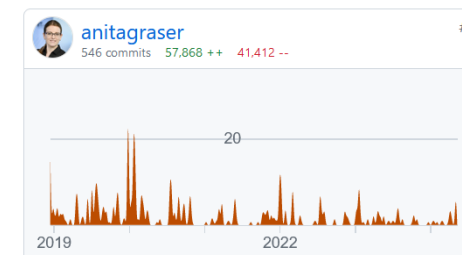
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## THE ONiT-PROJECT



## QGIS LLM EXPERIMENTS [movingpandas](#)



# THANK YOU!

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# BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

- [Mai et al. 2023] Mai et al., “On the Opportunities and Challenges of Foundation Models for Geospatial Artificial Intelligence.” 2023.
- [Tsang 2022] Sik-Ho Tsang, „Review — GPT-3: Language Models are Few-Shot Learners”, 2022.