



GEOSPATIAL DATA APPLICATIONS

John P. Wilson
CSCI 587
January 14, 2025

USCDornsife

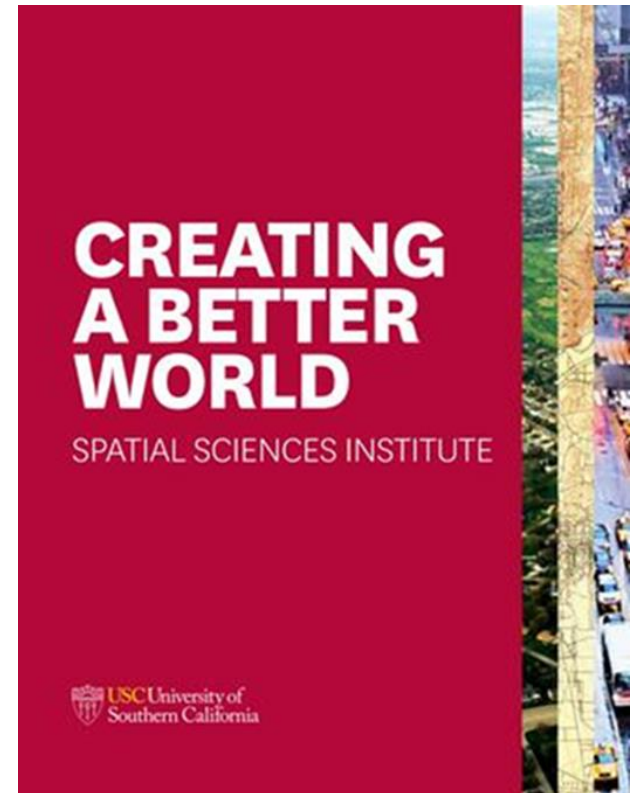
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College of Letters, Arts and Sciences

Spatial Sciences Institute



Outline

- **The Spatial Sciences**
- **Geospatial Big Data**
- **Geospatial Applications**
 - Fitness for Use and Geospatial Metadata
 - Choice of Data Model (Part I)
 - Choice of Data Model (Part II)
 - Choice of Map Projection and Coordinate System
- **The Geospatial Value Proposition**
- **Geospatial Applications**
 - Natural resources
 - Protecting critical infrastructure
 - Food and nutrition security
 - Urban tree canopy
- **Closing Comments**





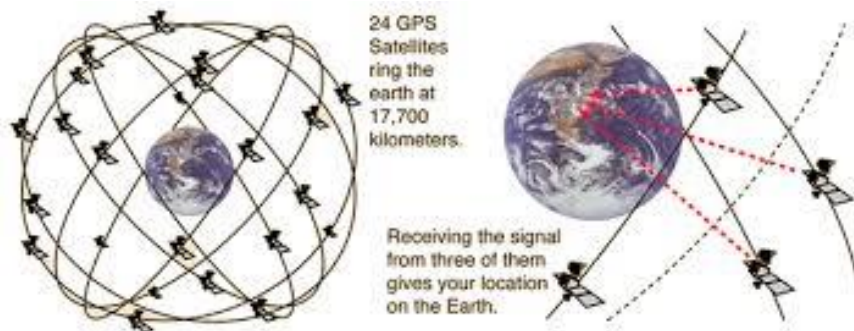
The Spatial Sciences

as a field of study and body of knowledge and skills
around which one might build a successful career

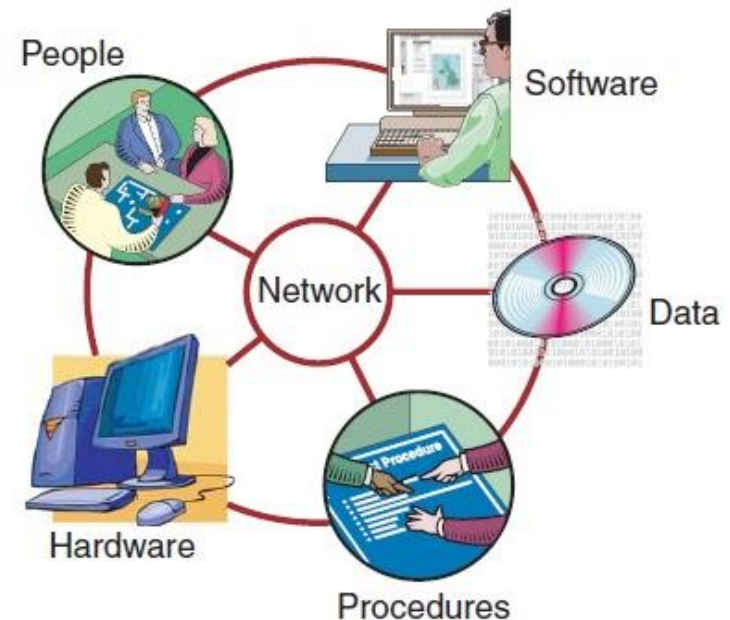
The spatial sciences ...



Combine multidisciplinary fields of scientific study with geospatial technologies including Geographic Information Systems, Global Positioning Systems, and Remotely Sensed Imagery



<http://hyperphysics.phy-astr.gsu.edu/hbase/gps.html>



<https://umar-yusuf.blogspot.com/2016/11/Difference-between-GISystem-GIScience-and-GIService.html>

Spatial sciences graduates ...



- Will possess an advanced knowledge of these technologies, experience in the interpretation and processing of satellite images as well as other digital data streams, a broad understanding of computer applications and database management ...



and the spatial principles and methods used to characterize the role of location in the functioning of the Earth and everything people do on it

The current geospatial domain ...



University
Consortium for
**GEOGRAPHIC
INFORMATION
SCIENCE**



**acm
SIGSPATIAL**



alteryx



CARTO
Geospatial database on the cloud



GRASS GIS
Bringing advanced geospatial technology to the world



MapBox

Matlab

PostGIS



pysal
Python Spatial Analysis Library



QGIS
Trademark



SuperMap



+tableau

Whitebox

FGDC
FEDERAL GEOGRAPHIC
DATA COMMITTEE

USGIF
Build the Community
Advance the Tradecraft
Accelerate Innovation

OGC
Open Geospatial Consortium, Inc.



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THE SPATIAL SCIENCES | 6

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Esri's Geospatial Ecosystem ...



User styles

Maps
ModelBuilder
Python notebooks
Runtime SDKs
AI Assistants

Analytics

Spatial analysis
Spatial modeling
—
Artificial Intelligence
Deep learning
Machine learning

Powered by cloud computing and a growing geospatial infrastructure

Esri's Living Atlas of the World



Thousands of Ready-to-Use Maps
and Datasets

Basemaps **Soils**
Agriculture Topo Maps Addressing
Ecology Sentinel Earthquakes **Traffic** Rainfall
Geology **Vegetation** Roads
Imagery **Land Cover** **Scientific**
Stream Landsat Species NAIP Planes
Gauges Water MODIS Biology **Elevation** Lifestyle
POIs
Demographics Protected Areas
Hazards Climate DigitalGlobe Distribution
Weather Historical Maps Landscape Oceans **Floodplains**
Population **Boundaries** Stream Forecasts
Sea Temperature Wildfires OSM
Railroads

Millions of Maps and Layers
Shared by Users

*The Foremost Collection of Global Geographic Information . . .
. . . A Living Atlas for the Planet*

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Geospatial Big Data

Geospatial Applications in a World Awash with Geospatial Data

Geospatial data sources and styles

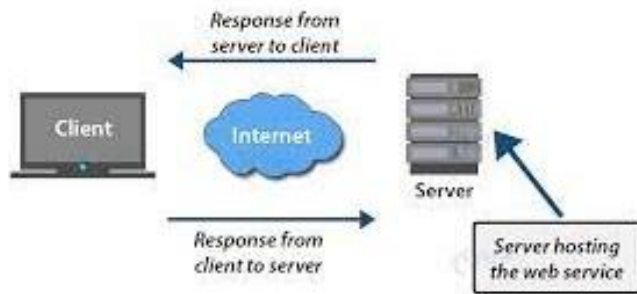
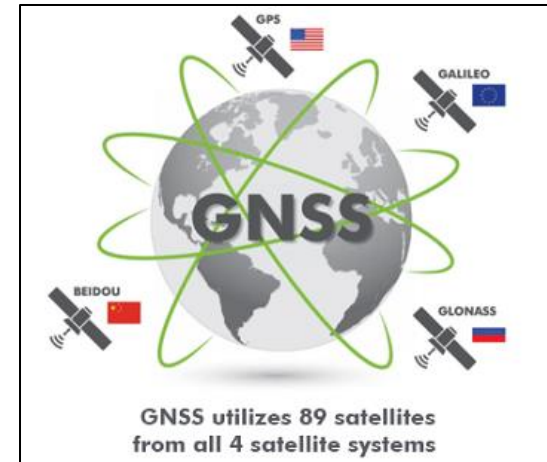


- Location-based devices and services
- Volunteered and ambient geographic information
- Remote sensing
 - In-situ sensing
 - Traditional satellite and high-altitude airborne remote sensing systems
 - Nanosatellites
 - Street-level imagery
 - Unmanned aerial systems
- Sensor networks and the Internet of Things
- 3D modeling, video, and virtual and augmented reality systems
 - Digital twins and building information models
 - 3D city models
 - Spatial video
 - Virtual and augmented reality systems

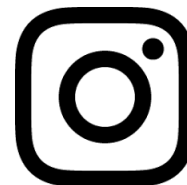
Location-based devices and services



Smart phone

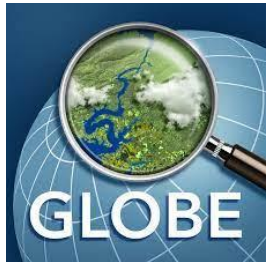


Web services





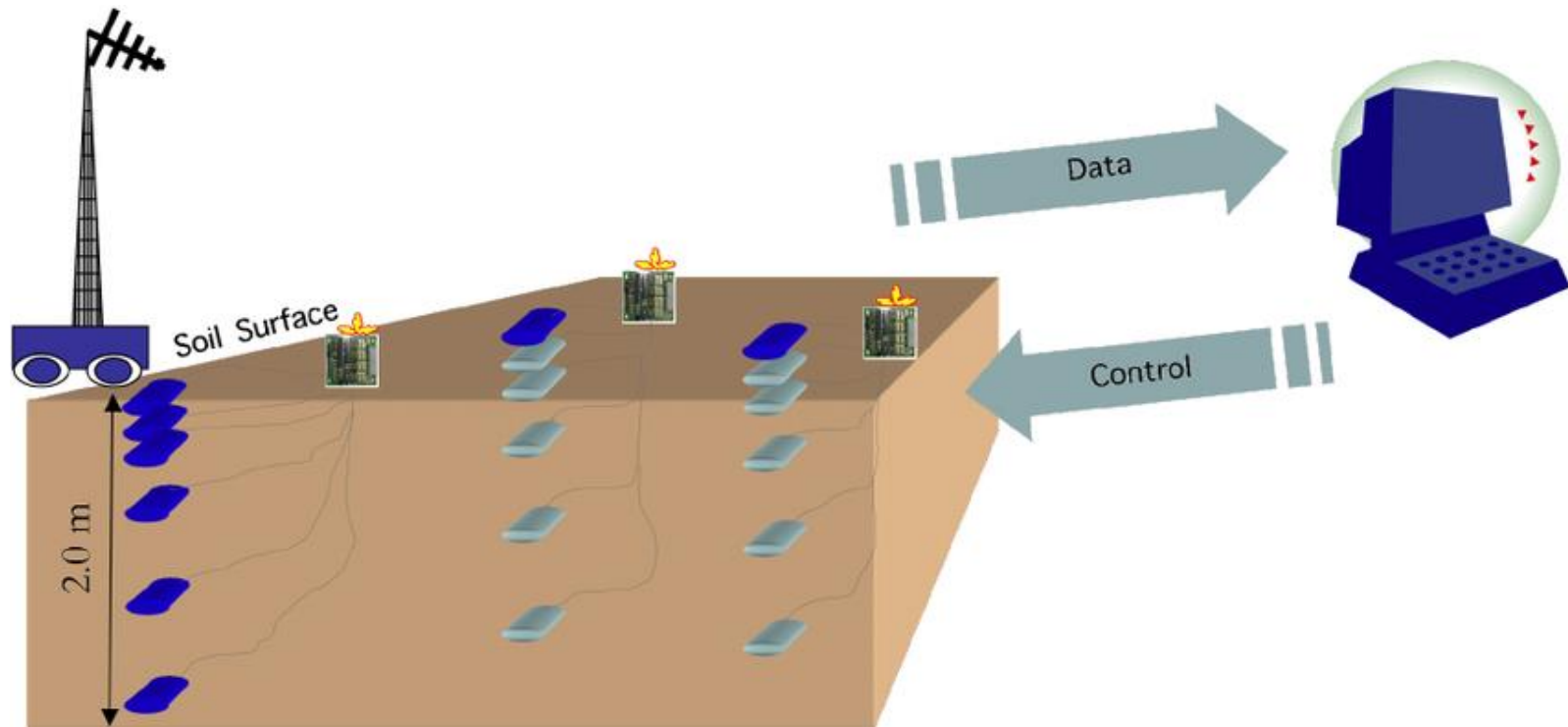
Volunteered and ambient geographic information



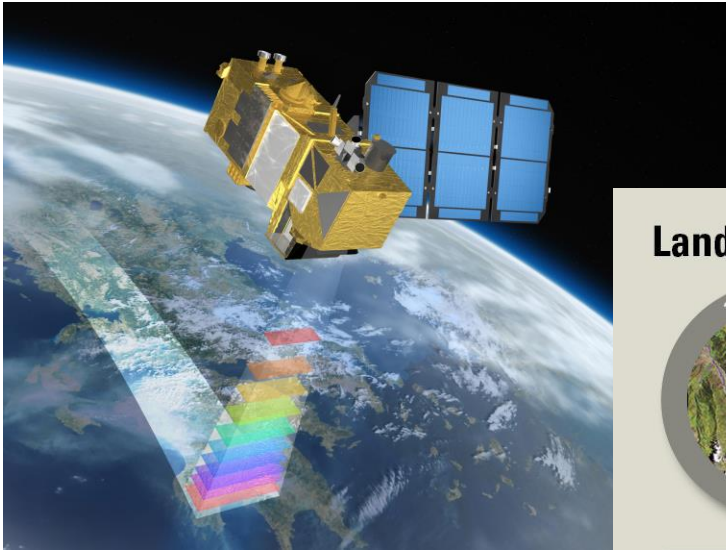
OpenStreetMap
The Free Wiki World Map



In-situ remote sensing



Satellite remote sensing



Pantone Colors
2728CVC = Blue 485C2x = Red



Landsat Missions: Imaging the Earth Since 1972





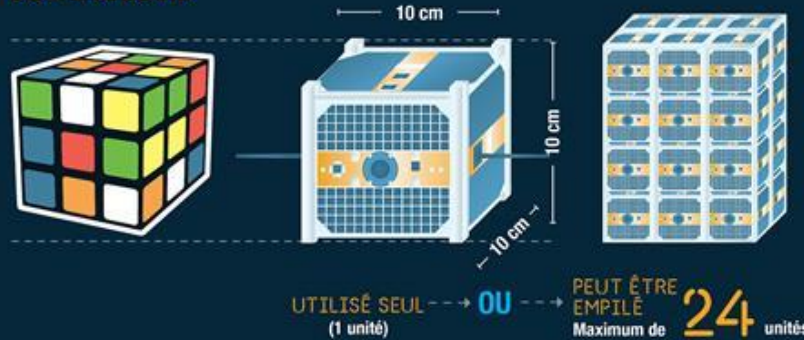
CUBESAT

UN PETIT CUBE PLEIN DE TECHNOLOGIES



Un
CUBESAT
est un
**SATELLITE
CUBIQUE
MINIATURE.**

DIMENSIONS



AVANTAGES

- FABRICATION RAPIDE**
(en moins de 24 mois)
- TECHNOLOGIE SIMPLE**
Pièces vendues dans le commerce
- CONCEPTION SIMPLE**
- AUCUN DÉBRIS SPATIAL**
Désintégration dans l'atmosphère après la mission
- FAIBLE COÛT**

4

**TYPES
DE
MISSIONS**



Démonstration
de technologies



Recherche
scientifique



Projets
éducatifs



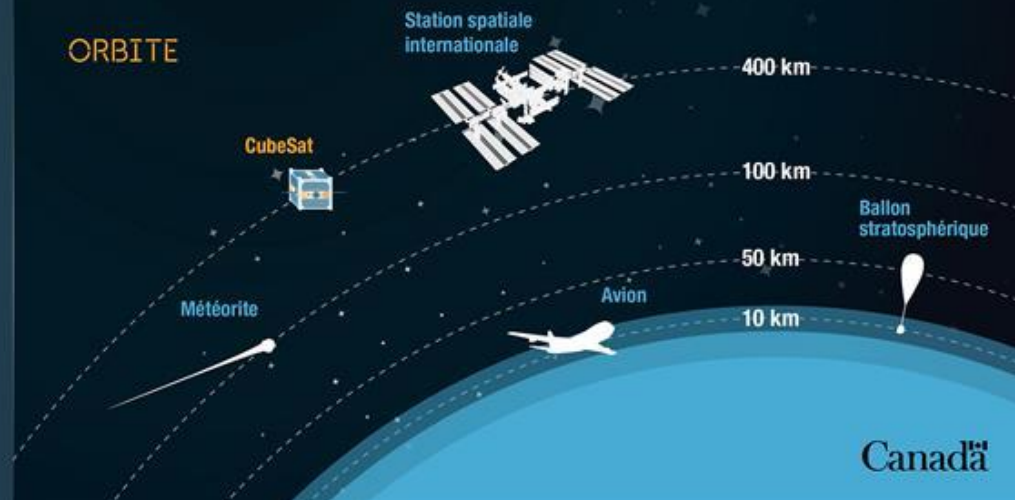
Nanosatellites
commerciaux



Agence spatiale
canadienne

Canadian Space
Agency

ORBITE



Canada

Street-level imagery



OpenStreetCam



Mapillary



Bing maps

cyclomedia

Smart Imagery Solutions



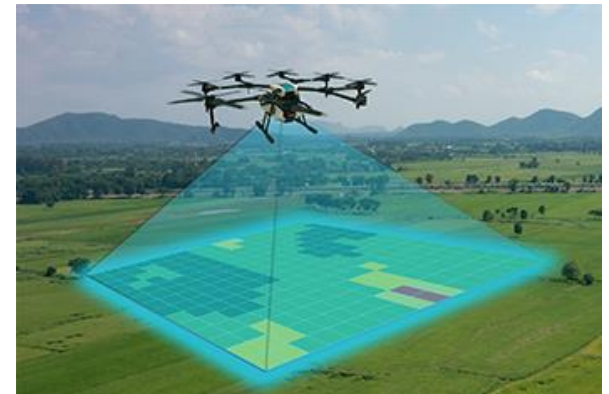
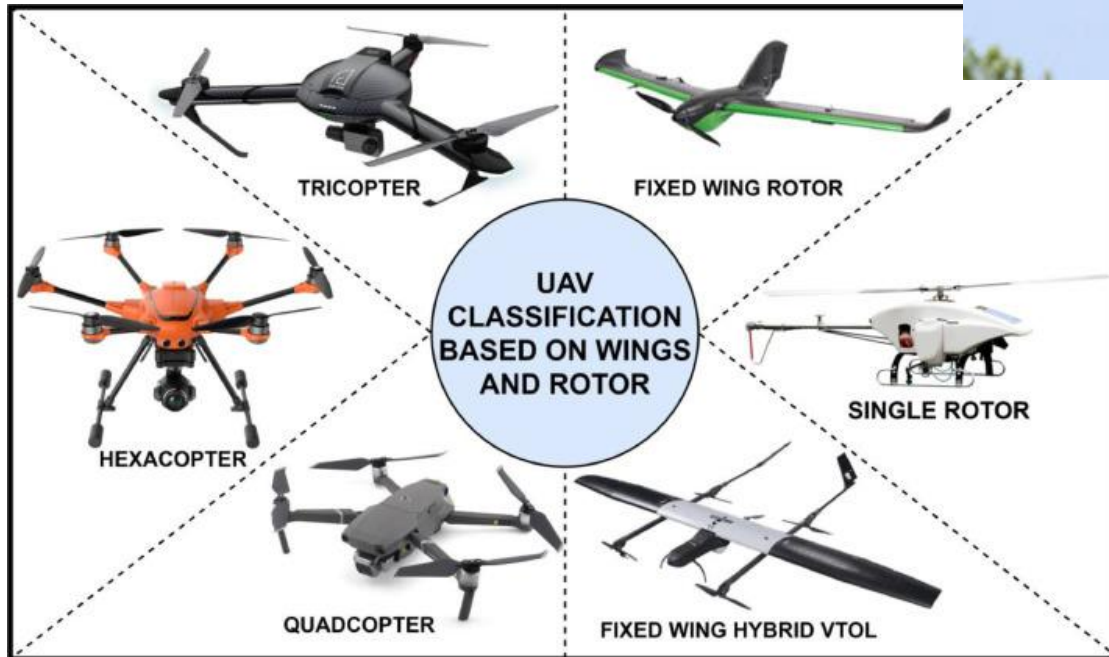
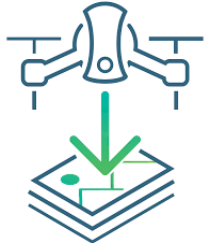
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Unoccupied aerial systems



Sensor networks & the Internet of Things



Internet of Things (IoT)



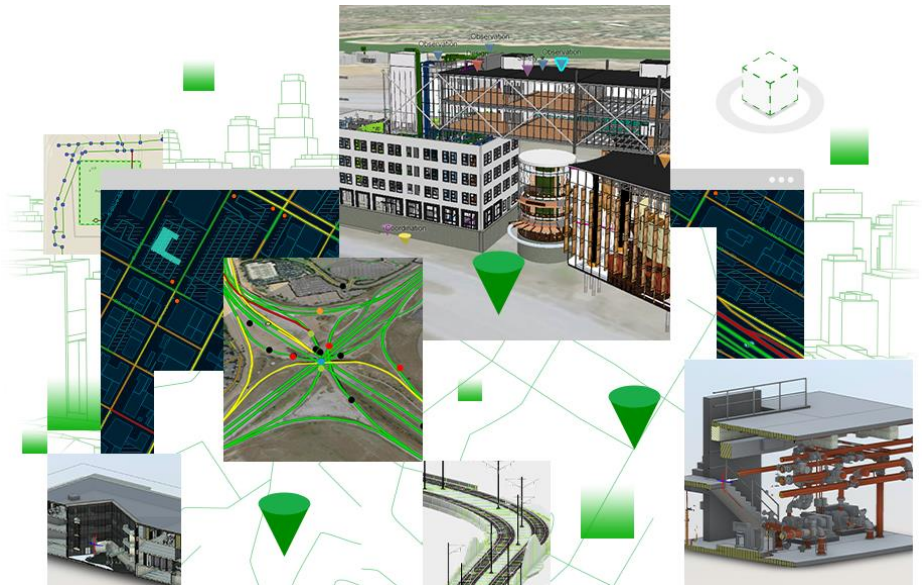
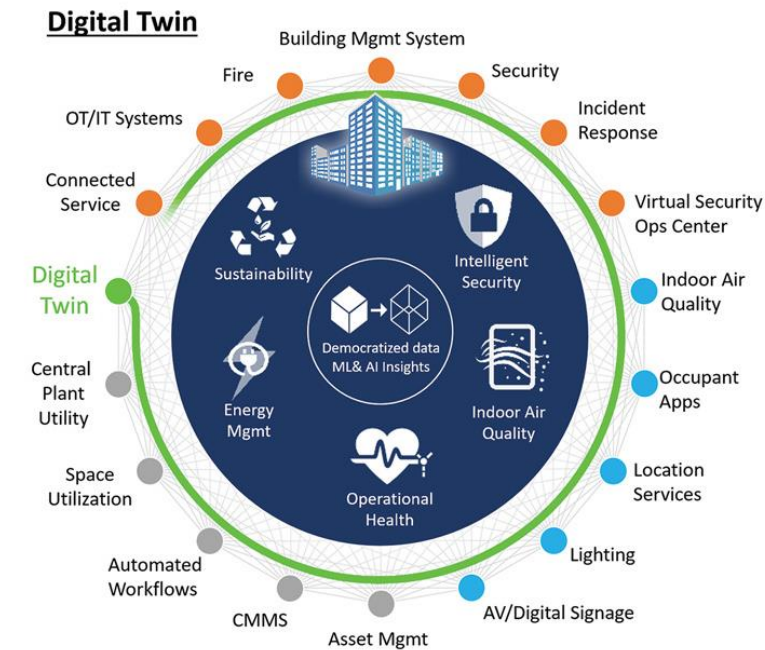
Randall Frantz,
President at RCF
Consulting,
predicted in 2018
that there will be
> 75 billion
installed IoT
devices by 2025



3D modeling, spatial video, augmented and virtual reality systems



ArcGIS GeoBIM



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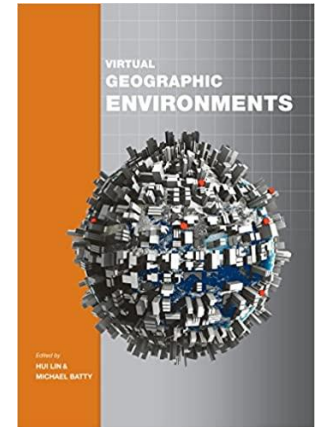
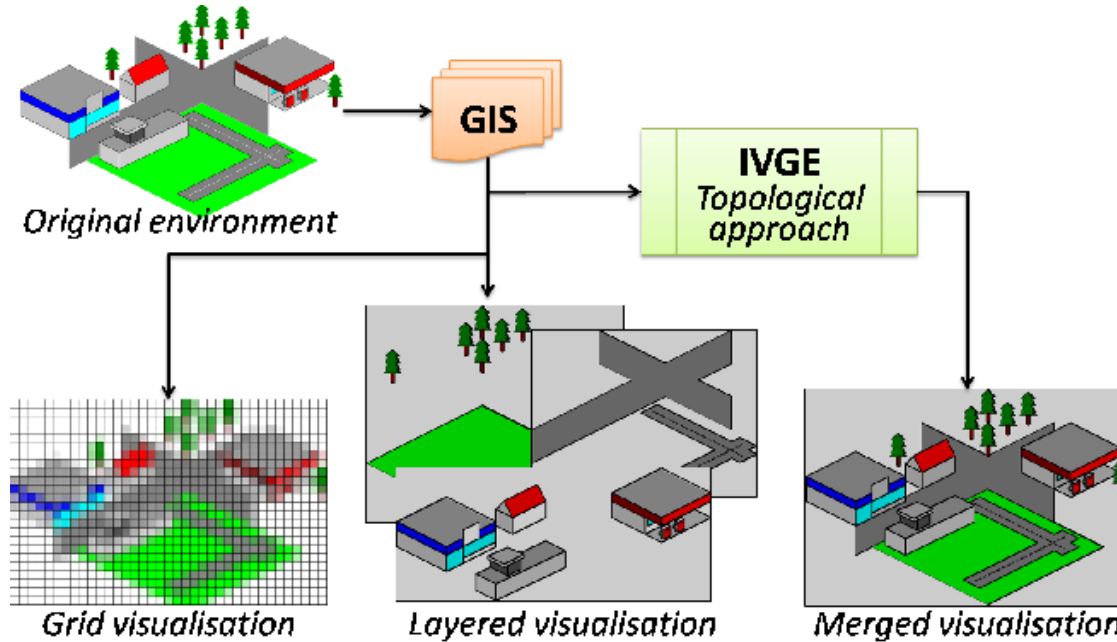
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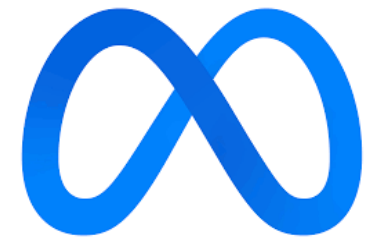
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3D modeling, spatial video, augmented and virtual reality systems



Lin & Batty (2011)



Hudson-Smith
& Batty (2021)





Digital twins

☰

South Boston Dot Ave

Scenario 2 - Proposed Zone Change ▾

Zoning ▾

Development

← Overview

✓ Schematic

Satellite

Underground

Future buildings

✓ Existing buildings

✓ Trees

✓ Parcels

✓ Warning labels

✓ Zoning envelopes

✓ Zoning layers

Future_buildings_scenario...

boston_slr_5ft_3D

✓ Visibility_dot_ave_pzc_panels

✓ Boston_major_projects

boston_slr_5ft_3D_poly

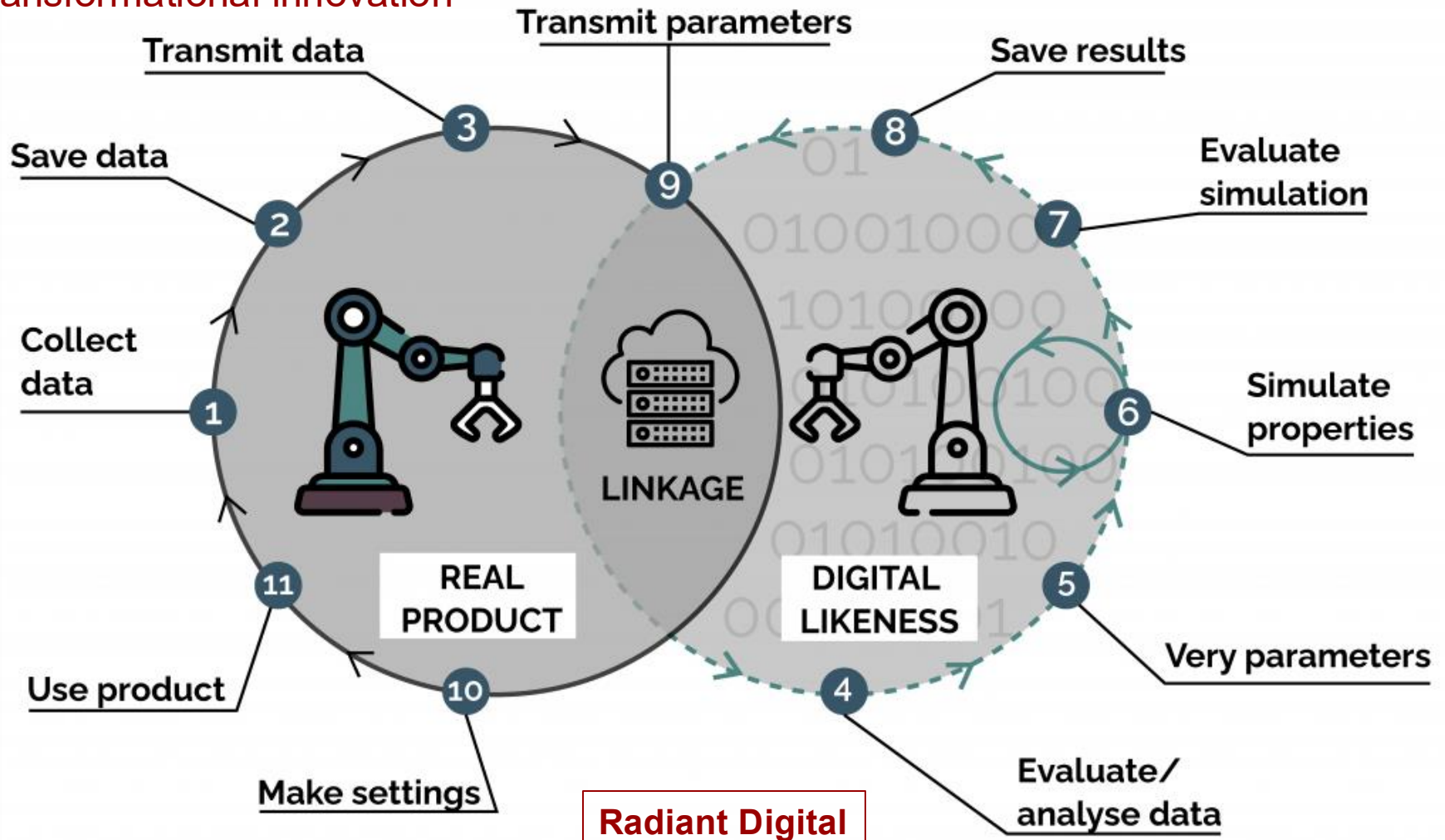
Take a screenshot

Get help

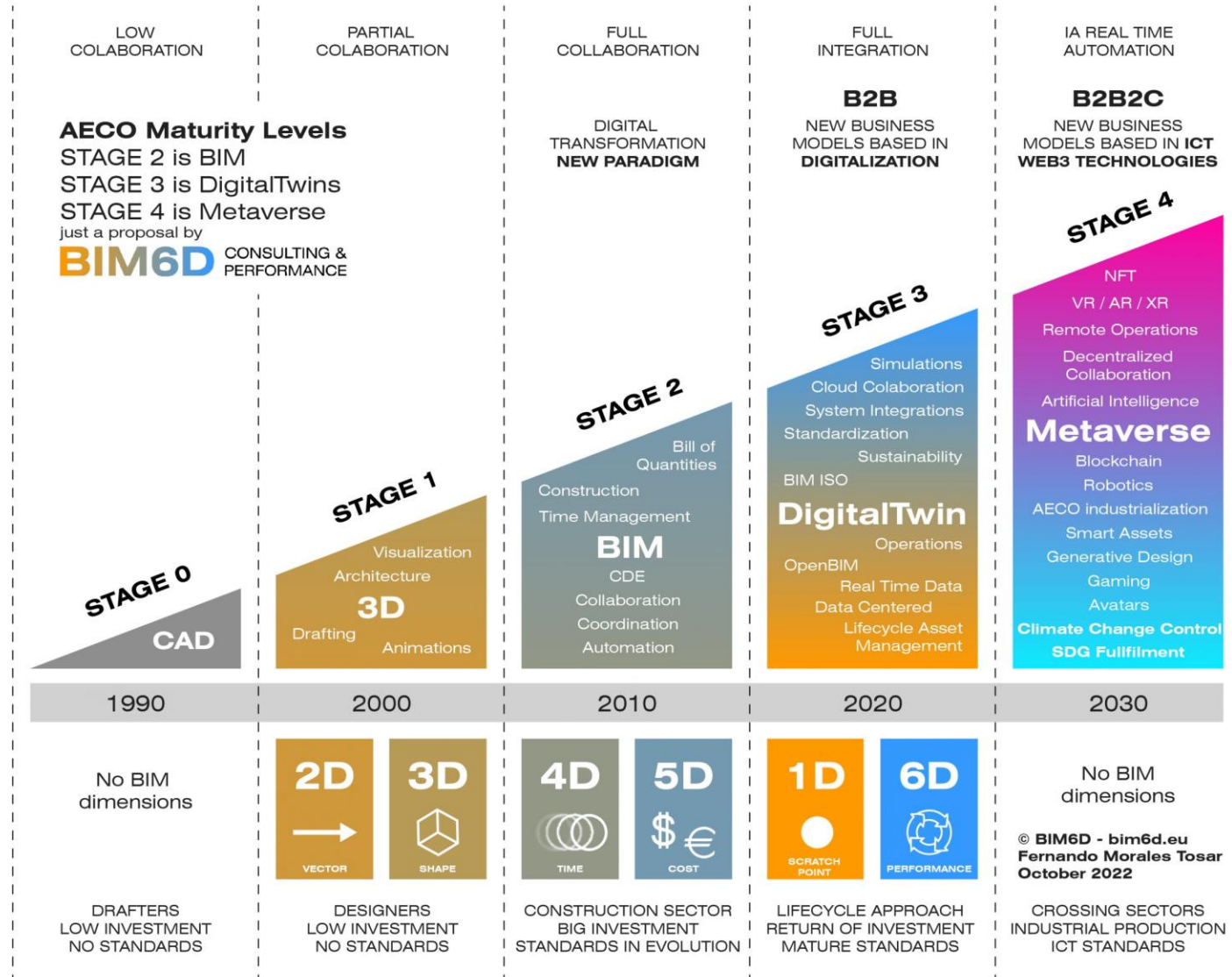
Terms of use

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Digital Twin: Connecting the virtual and physical worlds to accelerate transformational innovation



Digital twins and the Metaverse





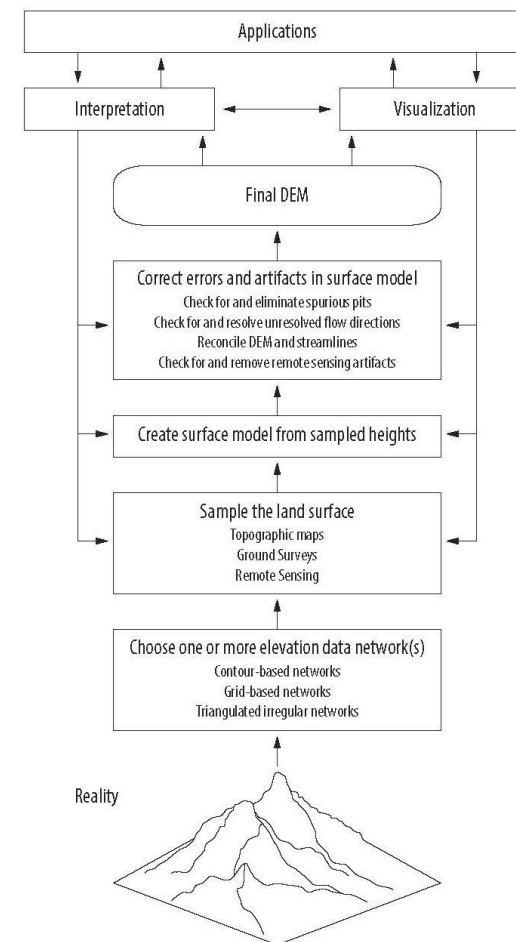
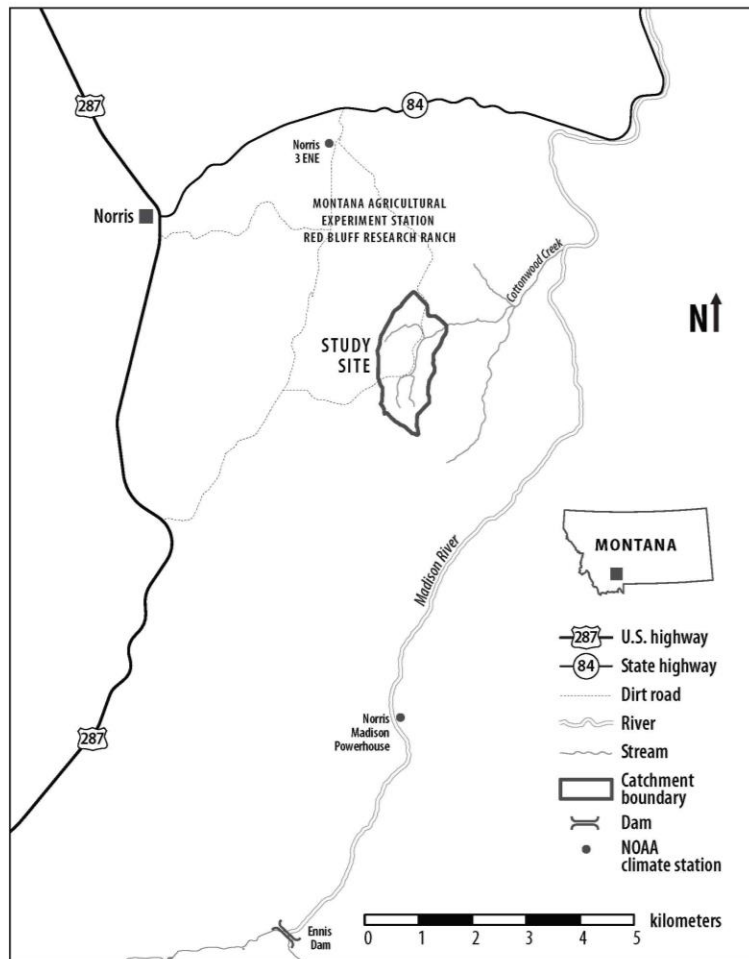
Geospatial Applications

Fitness for Use and Geospatial Metadata

A typical Montana landscape ...

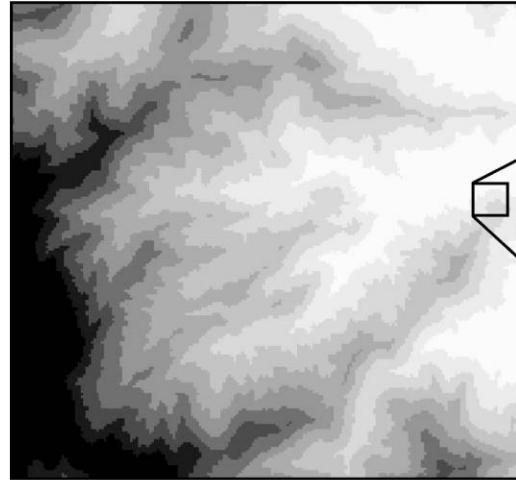


Building blocks ...





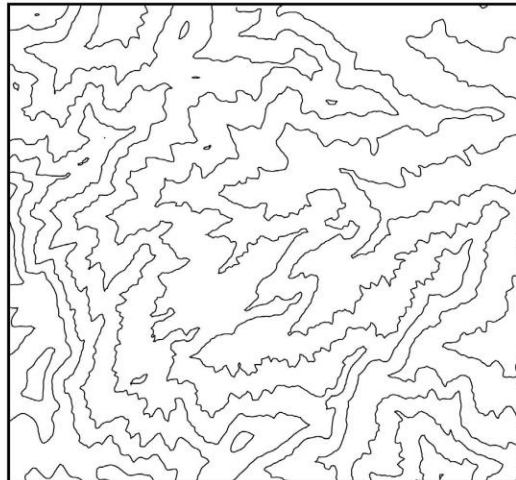
Raster DEM



Detailed view of raster cells

645	650	654	658	653	648
664	666	670	672	668	659
678	682	684	693	689	680
703	708	714	721	719	716
728	732	738	744	745	732
730	739	744	749	748	735

Vector contours



TIN

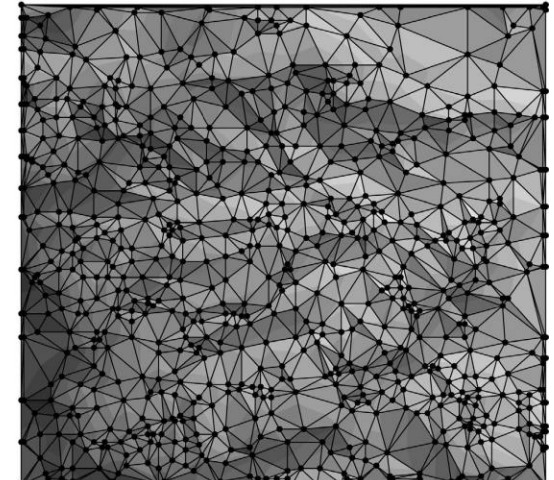
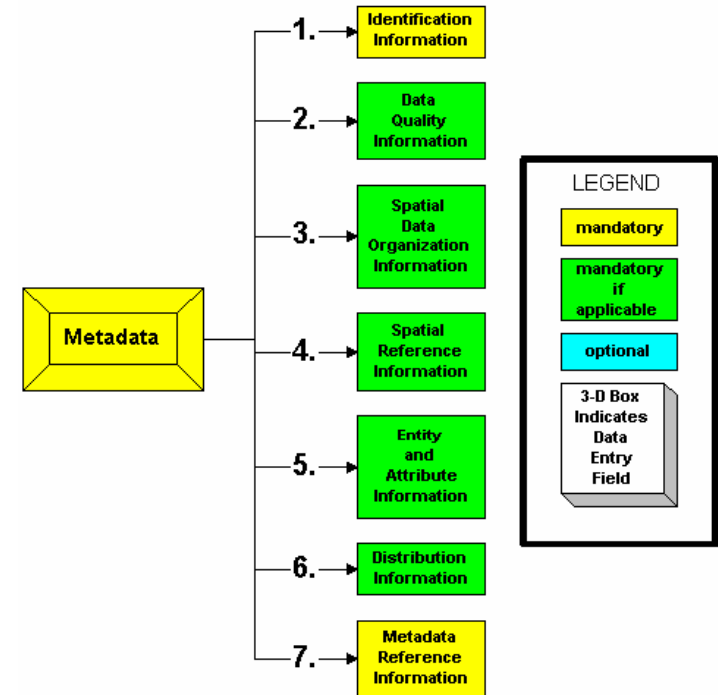


Fig. 2-42: Data may often be represented in several data models. Digital elevation data are commonly represented in raster (DEM), vector (contours), and TIN data models (Bolstad)

Role of metadata and fitness-for-use



- How can one judge the quality and fitness-for-use of a data set?
- **The most popular answer is likely to suggest one checks the metadata**
- A metadata report is an explicit assessment of the quality of a data set and something that should accompany the data
- Numerous organizations have created standards for spatial data quality metadata, including the U.S. Federal Geographic Data Committee



Metadata



- Metadata is information about data
- Similar to a library catalog record, metadata records document the who, what, when, where, how, and why of a data resource
- Geospatial metadata describes maps, Geographic Information System (GIS) files, imagery, and other location-based data resources
- The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) is tasked by Executive Order 12906 to enable access (see GeoPlatform.gov) to National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) resources and by OMB Circular A-16 and the A-16 Supplemental Guidance to support the creation, management, and maintenance of the metadata required to fuel data discovery and access



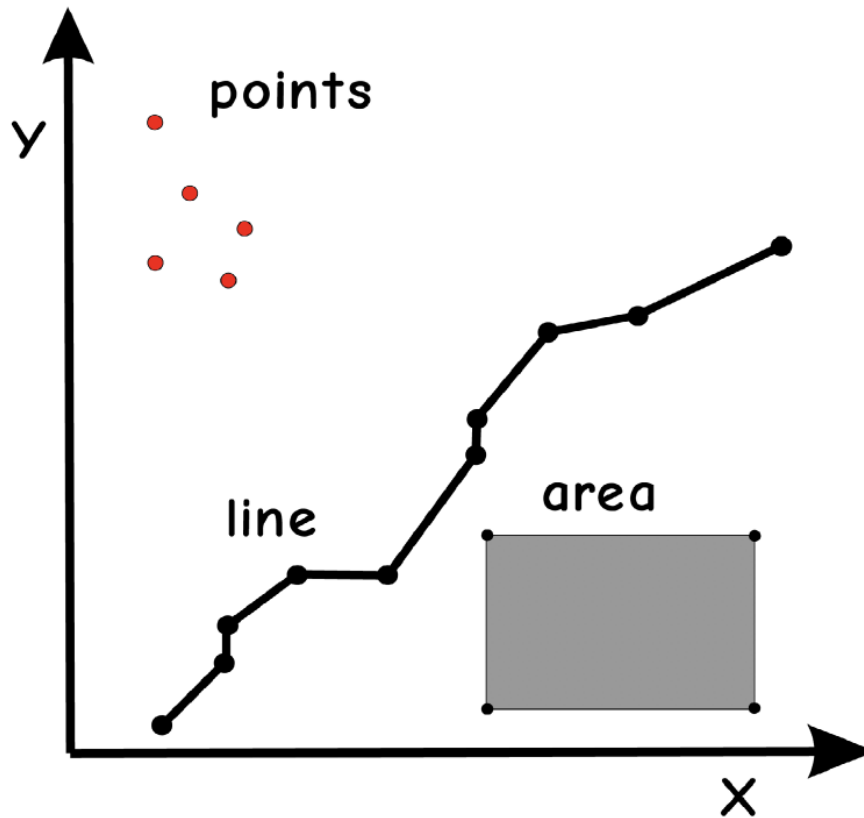


Geospatial Data Applications

Choice of Data Model (Part I)



Vector



Raster

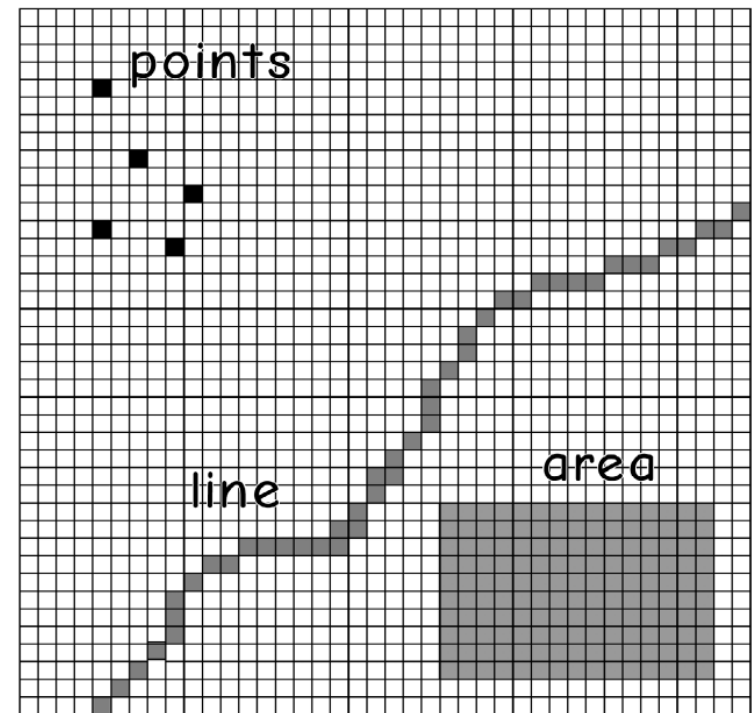


Fig. 2-19: Vector and raster data models (Bolstad)

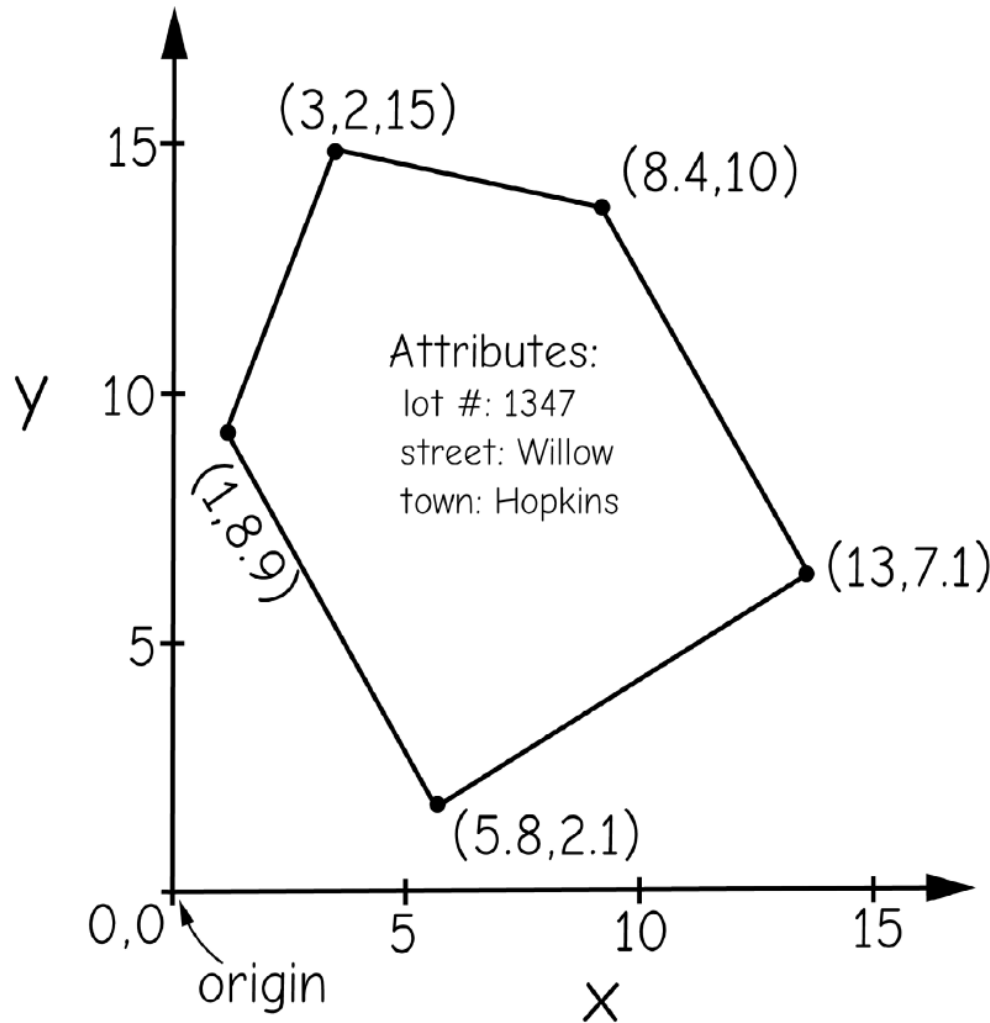


Fig. 2-4: Coordinate and attribute data are used to represent spatial entities (Bolstad)

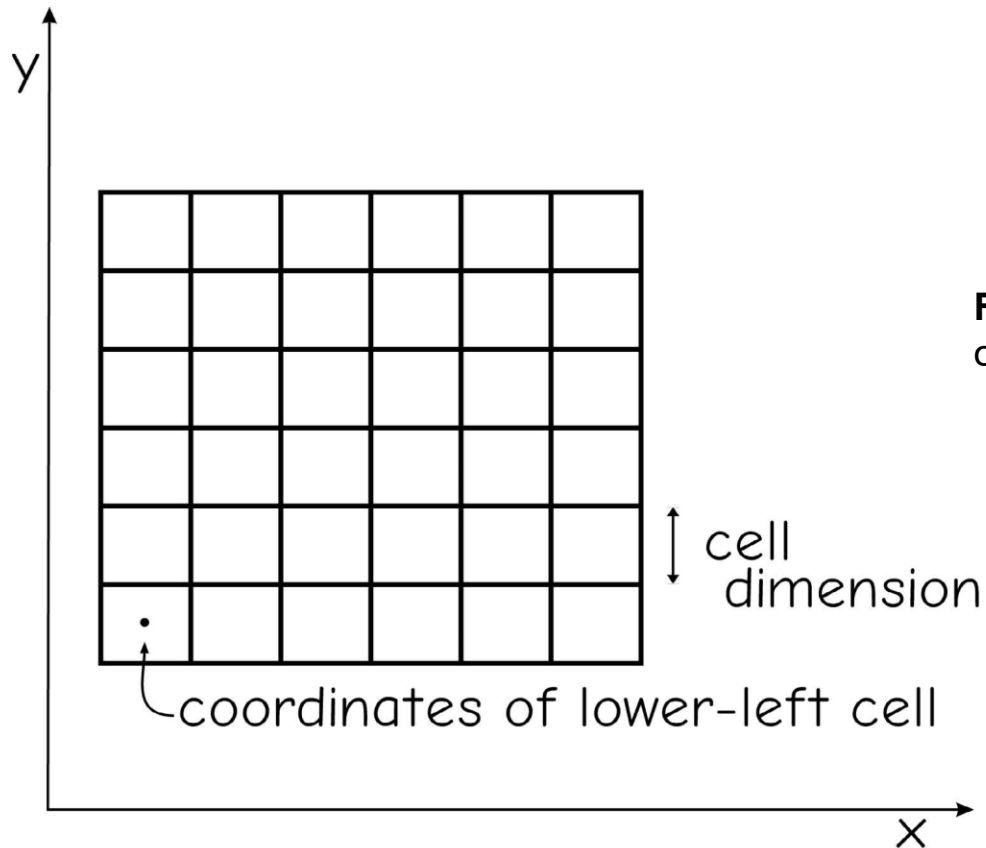


Fig. 2-30: Important defining characteristics of a raster data model (Bolstad)

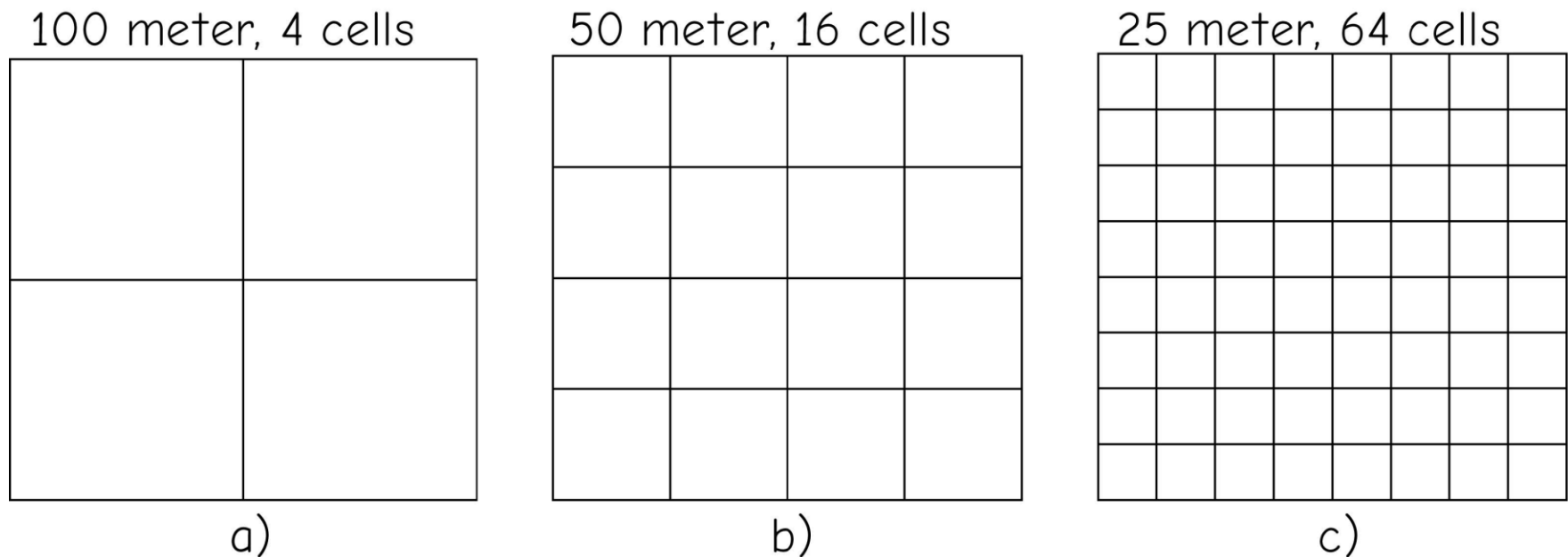


Fig. 2-31: The number of cells in a raster data set depends on the cell size. For a given area, a linear decrease in cell size causes an exponential increase in cell number, e.g., halving the cell size causes a four-fold increase in cell number (Bolstad)



a	a	a	a	r	f	f	a	a	a	a	a
a	a	a	a	r	f	f	a	a	a	a	a
a	a	a	f	r	f	f	a	a	a	a	a
a	a	a	r	r	f	f	a	a	a	a	a
a	a	a	r	f	f	f	a	a	a	a	a
a	f	f	r	f	f	f	a	a	a	a	a
a	f	f	r	f	u	f	a	a	a	a	a
h	h	h	h	h	h	h	h	h	h	h	h
f	f	r	u	u	u	u	a	a	a	a	a
f	f	r	f	u	u	a	a	a	a	a	a
f	f	f	r	f	f	a	a	a	a	a	a
f	f	f	f	r	f	a	a	a	a	a	a

a = agriculture u = developed
f = forest r = river
h = highways

Fig. 2-32: Discrete or categorical data may be represented by codes in a raster data layer (Bolstad)

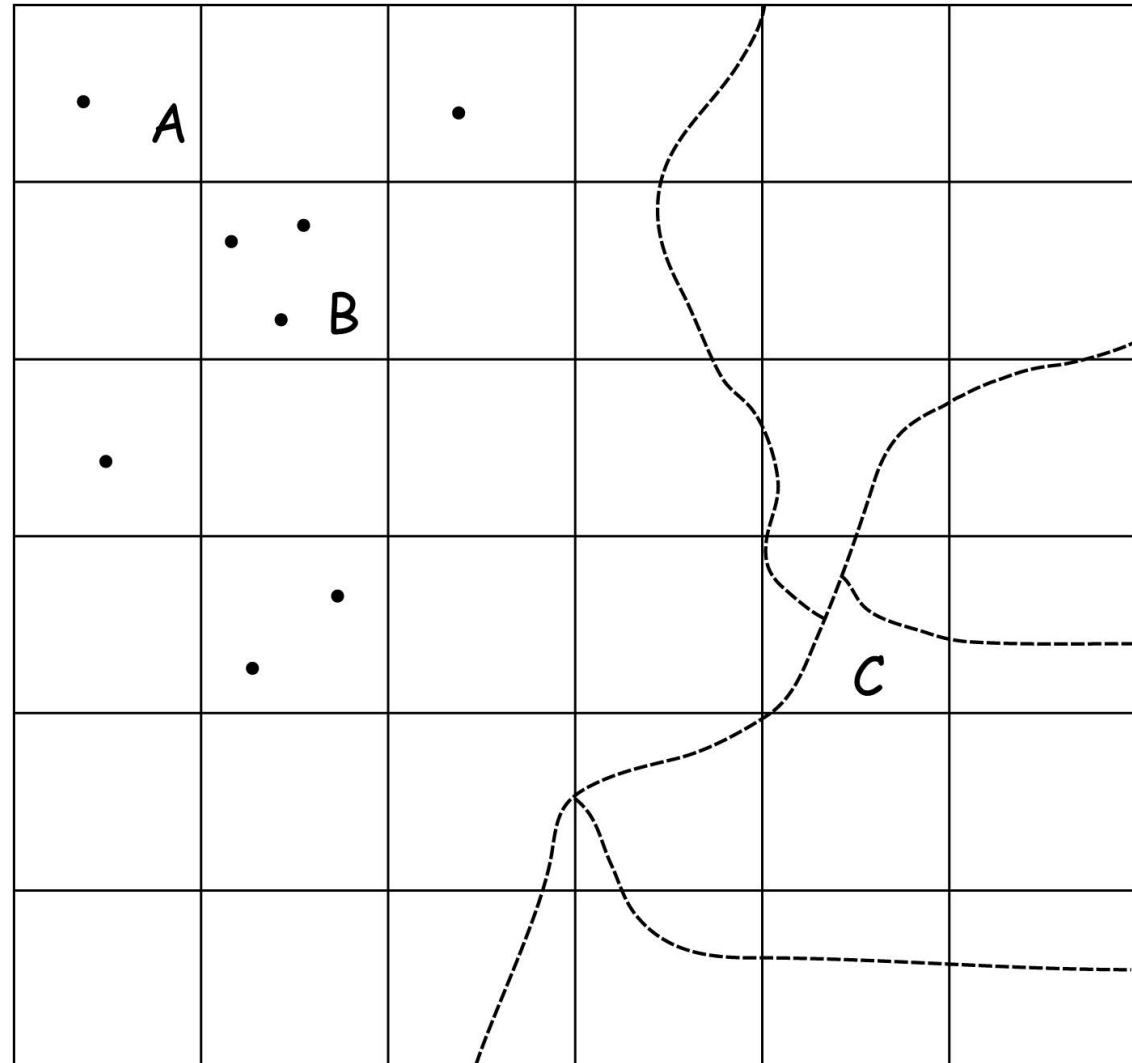


Fig. 2-33: Raster cell assignments requires decisions when multiple objects occur in the same cell (Bolstad)

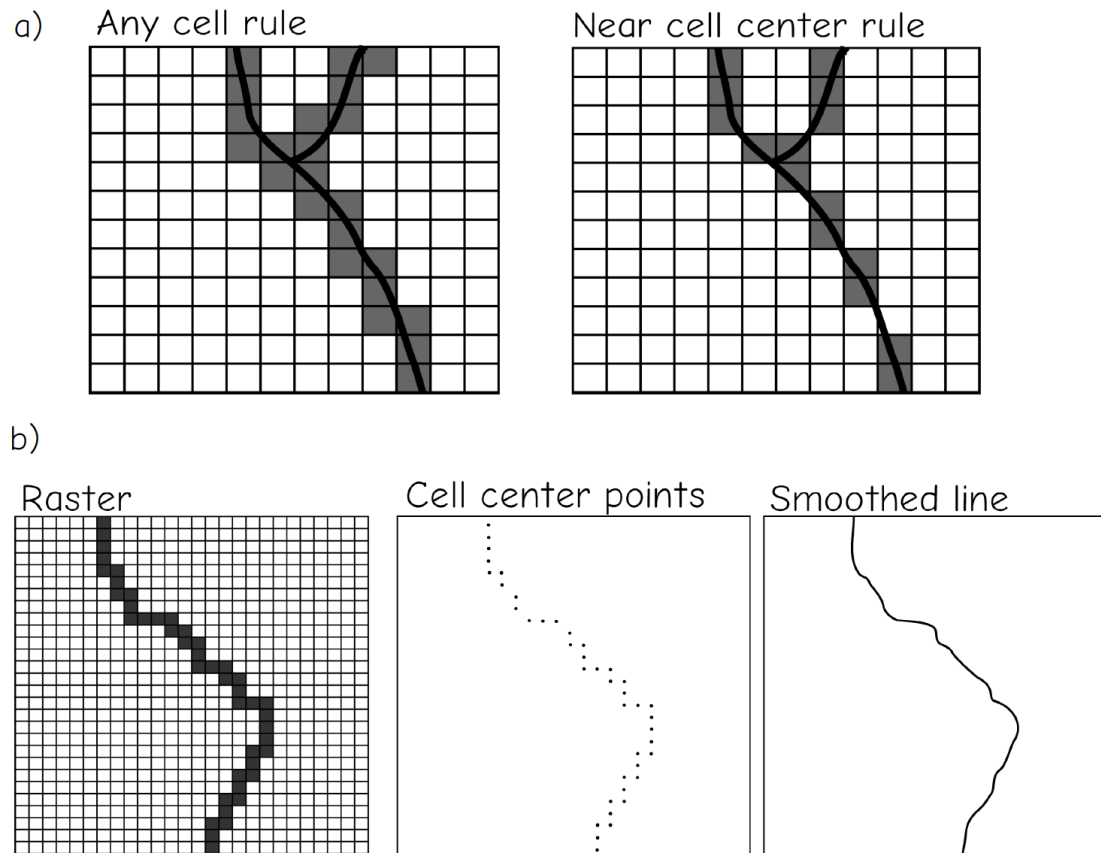


Fig. 2-36: Vector to raster conversion (a) and raster to vector conversion (b). In (a), cells are assigned to a raster if they intersect with a converted vector. The left and right panels show how two assignment rules result in different raster coding near lines. Panels in (b) show how raster data may be converted to vector formats, and may involve line smoothing or other operations to remove the “stair-step” effect (Bolstad)



Geospatial Data Applications

Choice of Data Model (Part II)

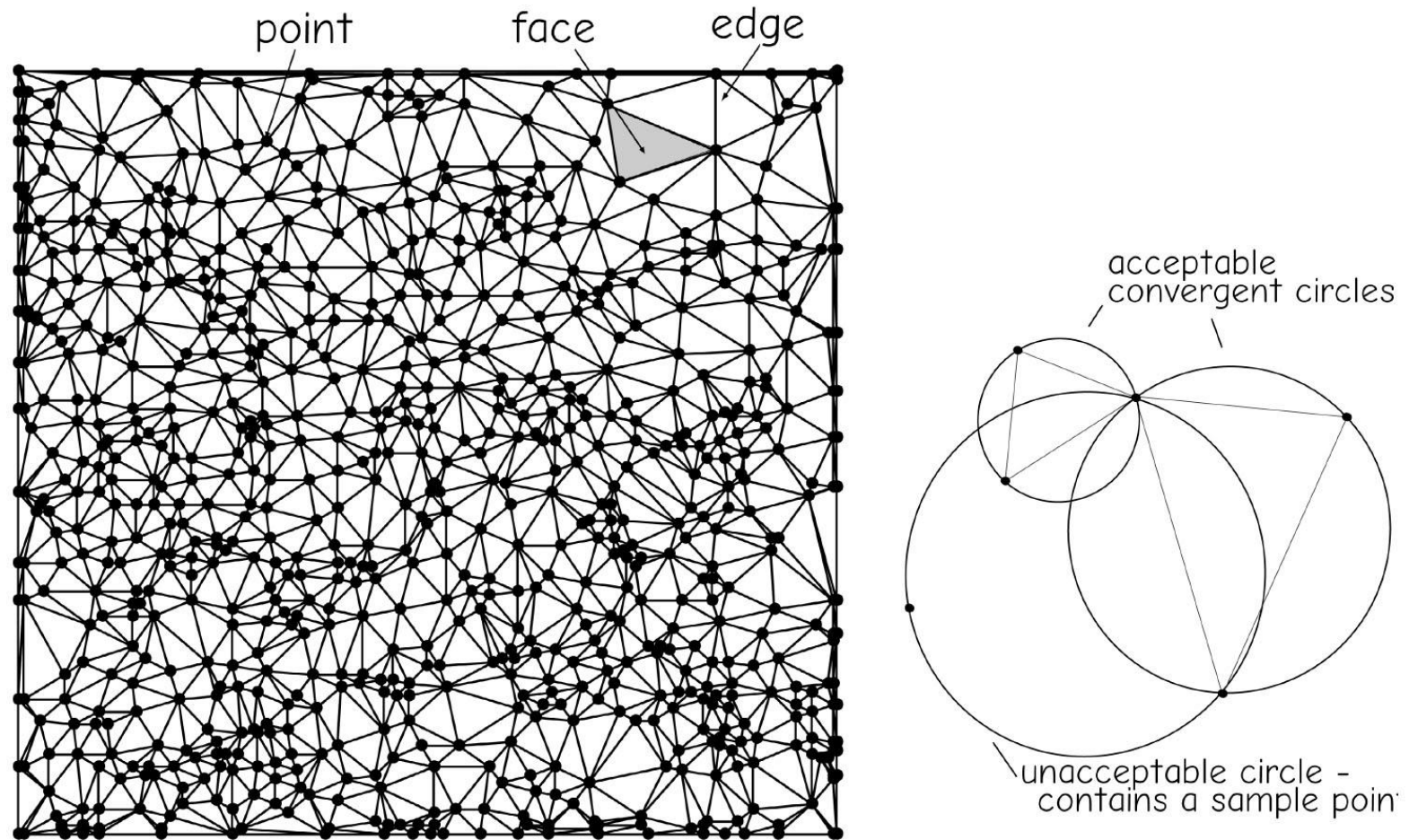


Fig. 2-37: A TIN data model defines a set of adjacent triangles over a sample space (left). Sample points, facets, and edges are components of TIN data models. Triangles are placed by convergent circles. These intersect the vertices of a triangle and contain no other possible vertices (right) (Bolstad)

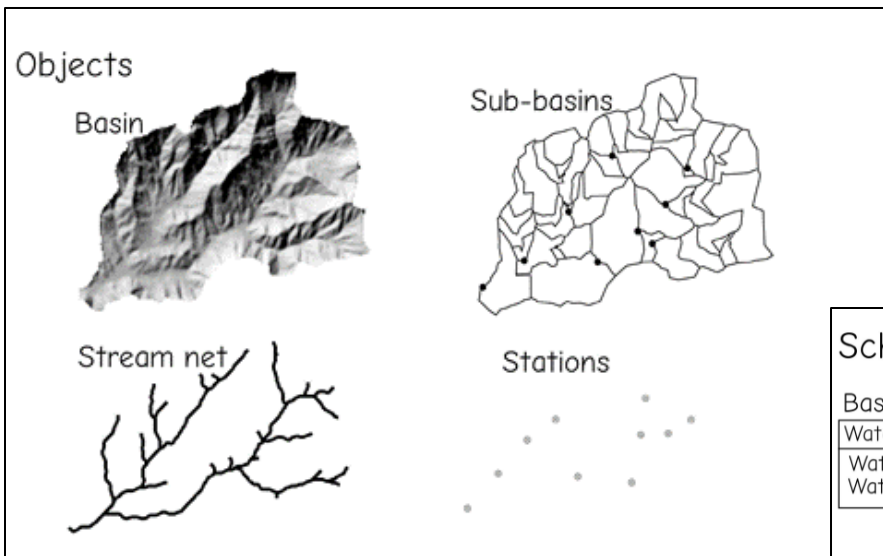
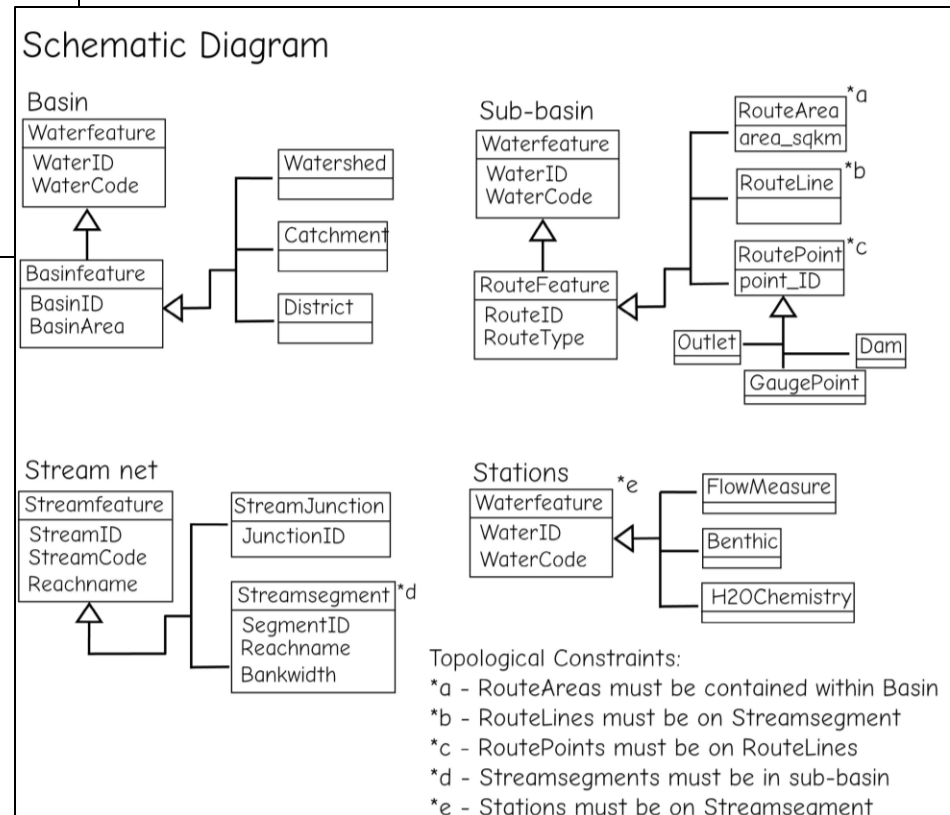


Fig. 2-39: Object-oriented data models allow us to encapsulate complex objects that may be a combination of many different features and feature types, while explicitly identifying the embedded complexity in a standard way. Constraints such as topological relationships across objects may also be represented (Bolstad)



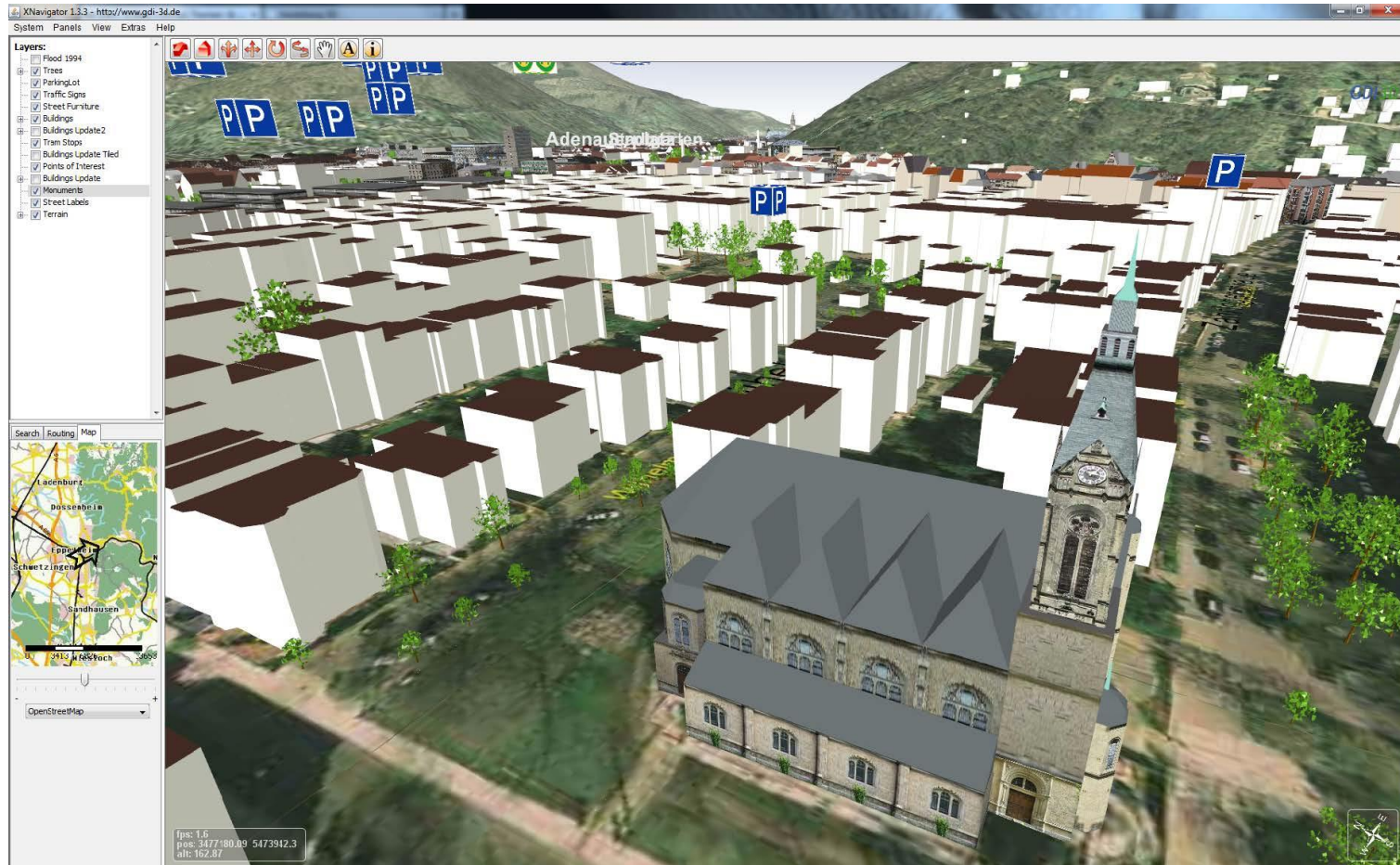


Fig. 2-41: An example of a reality mesh as a 3-D model. Surface geometry is recorded in a 3-D triangulated irregular network, while a corresponding “texture” surface is projected on to corresponding facets (Bolstad)



Geospatial Data Applications

Choice of Map Projection and Coordinate System

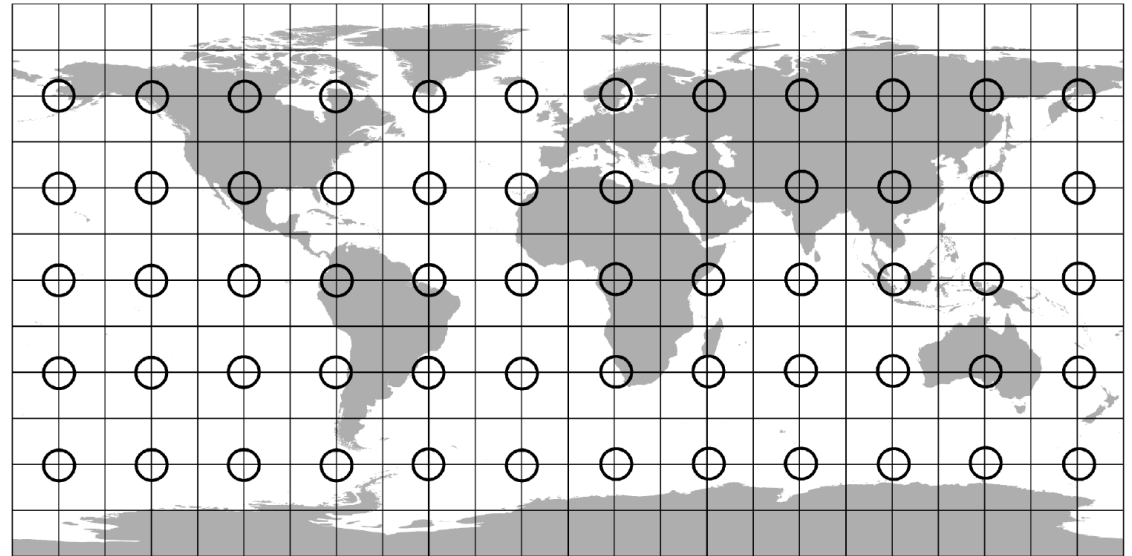
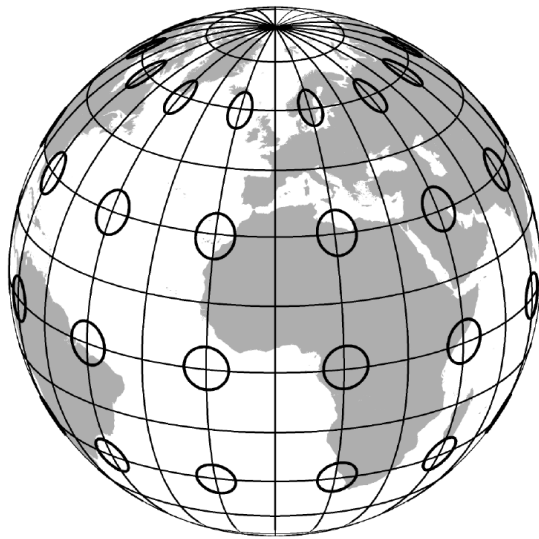


Fig. 2-7: Geographic coordinates on a spherical (left) and Cartesian (right) representation. Notice that “circles” defined by a 5-degree radius do not form circles on the Earth’s surface near the poles, as shown on the spherical representation (left), but appear as circles on the highly distorted Cartesian plot of geographic coordinates (right). This figure illustrates both that (a) the surface distance for a unit of longitude changes depending on your location on Earth, and (b) a Cartesian plot of geographic coordinates is highly distorted (Bolstad)

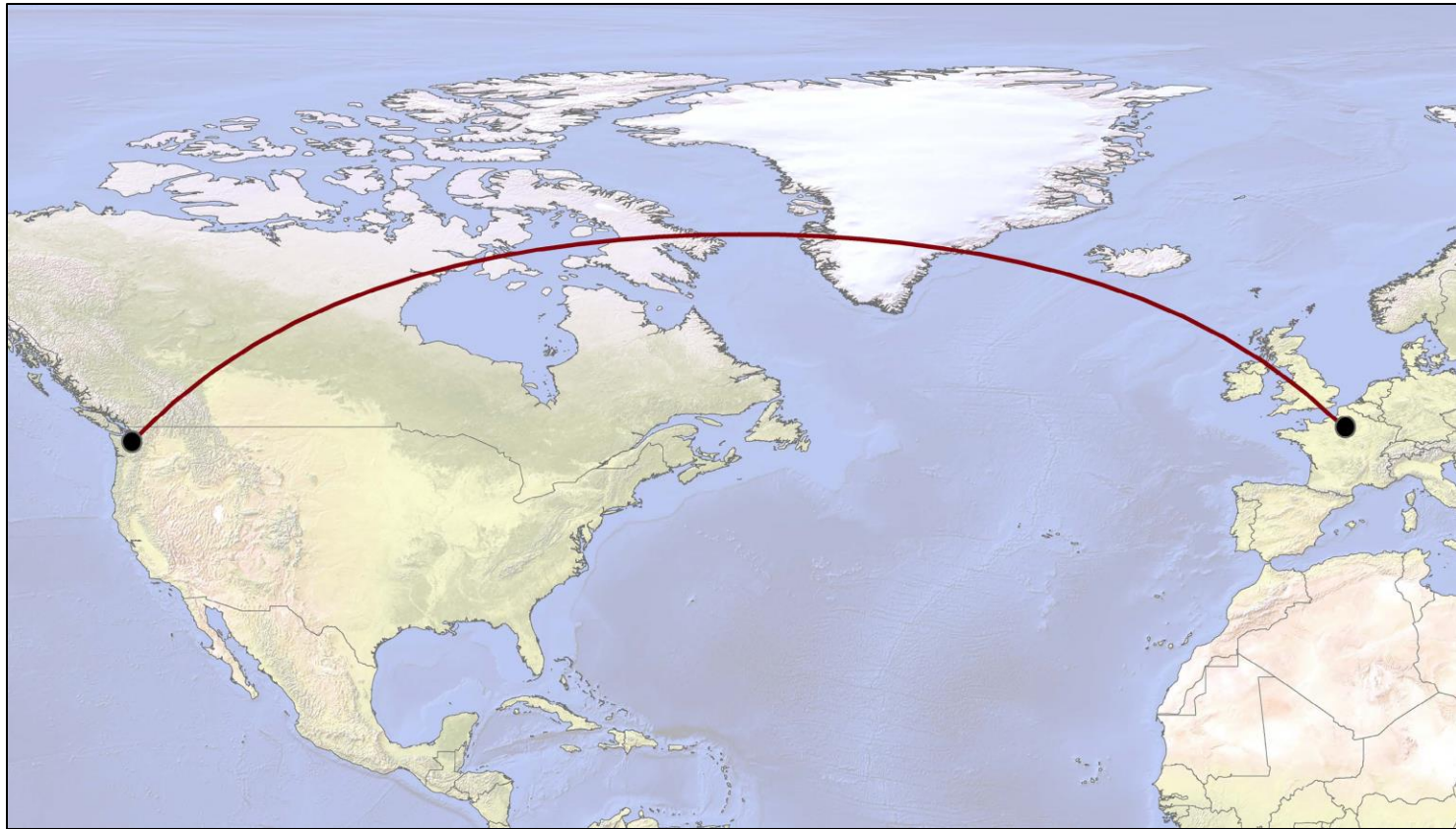


Fig. 3-36: Curved representations of straight lines are a manifestation of projection distortion. A great circle path, shown above, is the shortest route when flying from Paris to Seattle, and commonly appears distorted when displayed (Bolstad)

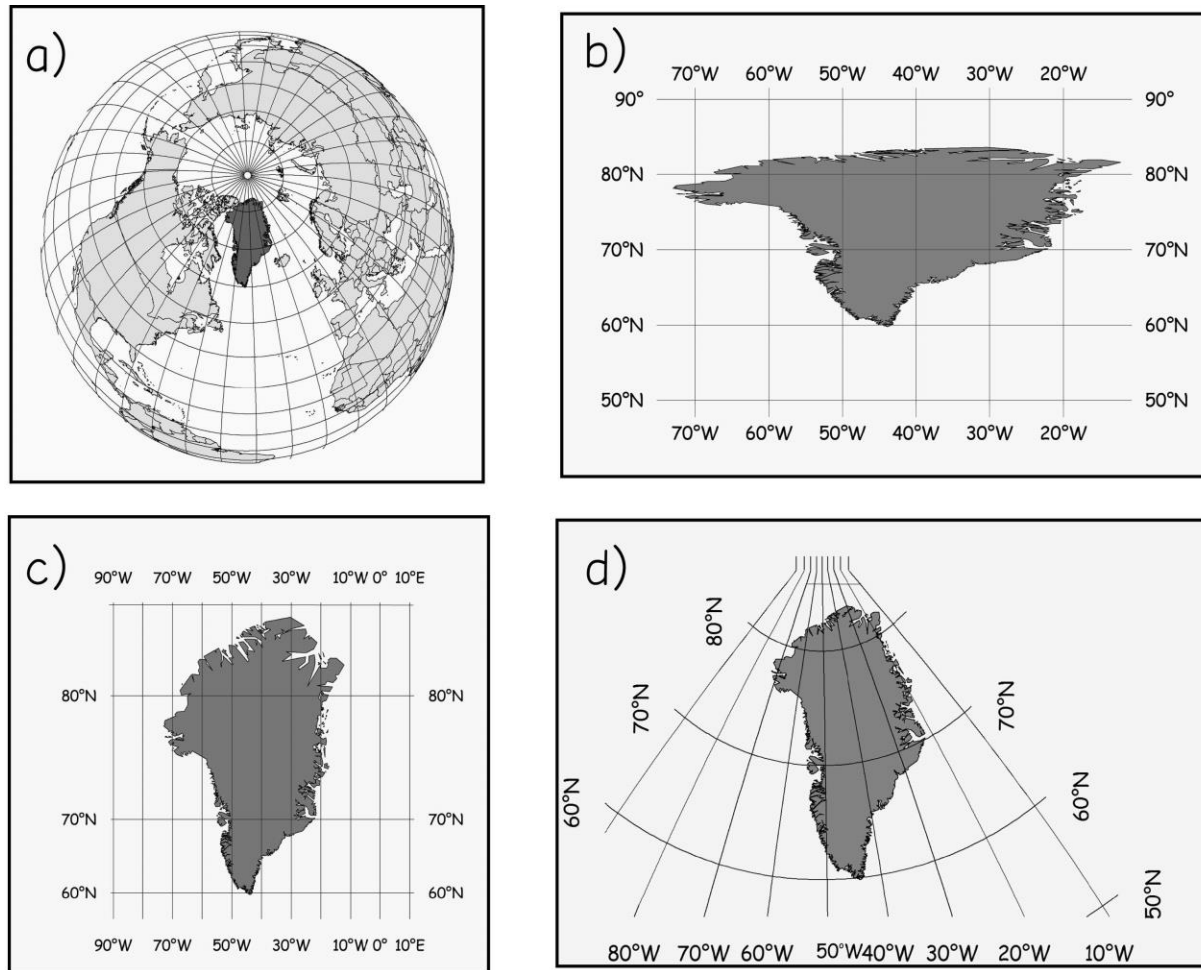
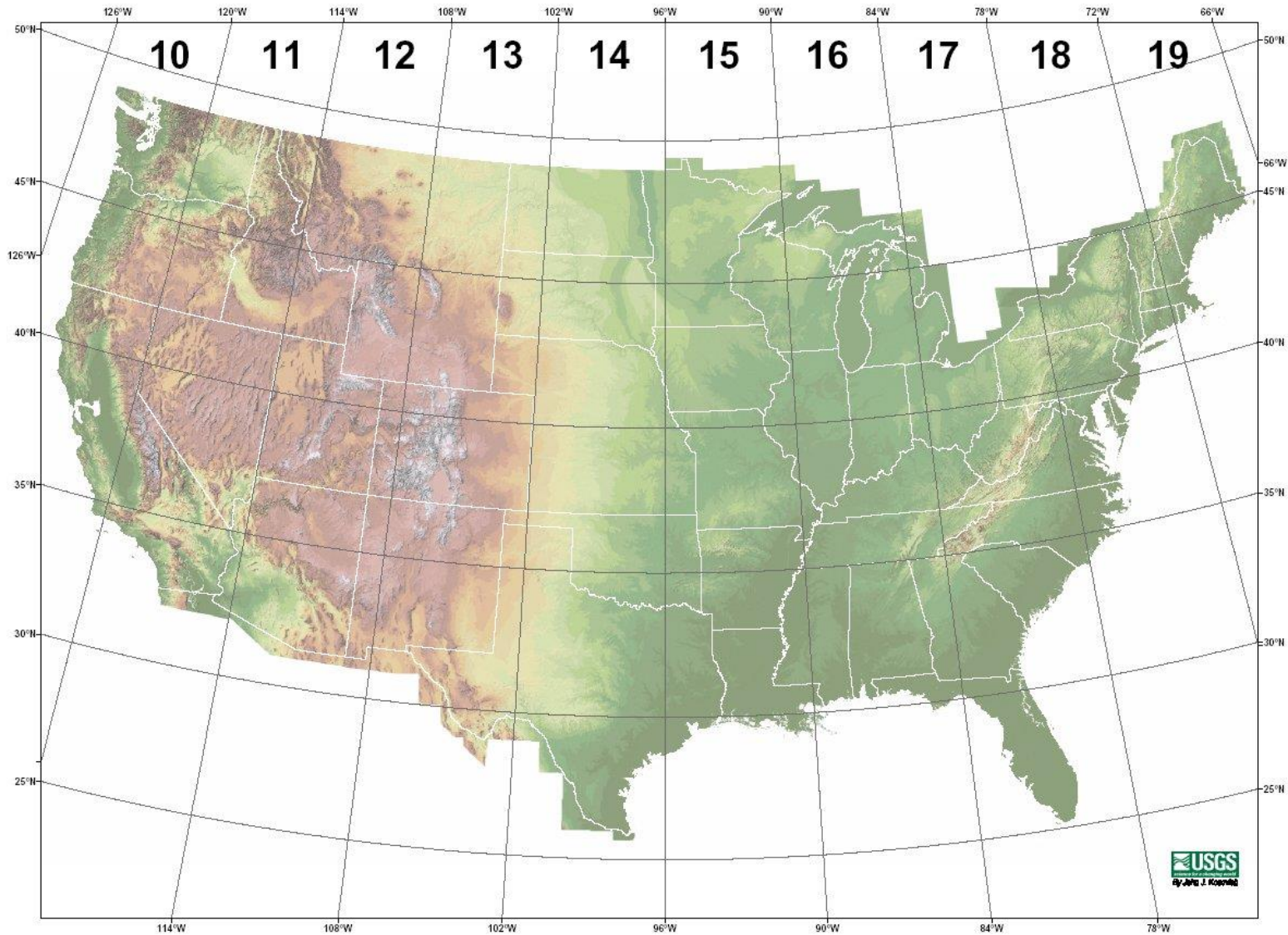


Fig. 3-37: Map projections can distort the shape and area of features, as illustrated with these various projections of Greenland, from (a) approximately unprojected, (b) geographic coordinates on a plane, (c) a Mercator projection, and (d) a transverse Mercator projection (Bolstad)

USA Lower-48 UTM Zones



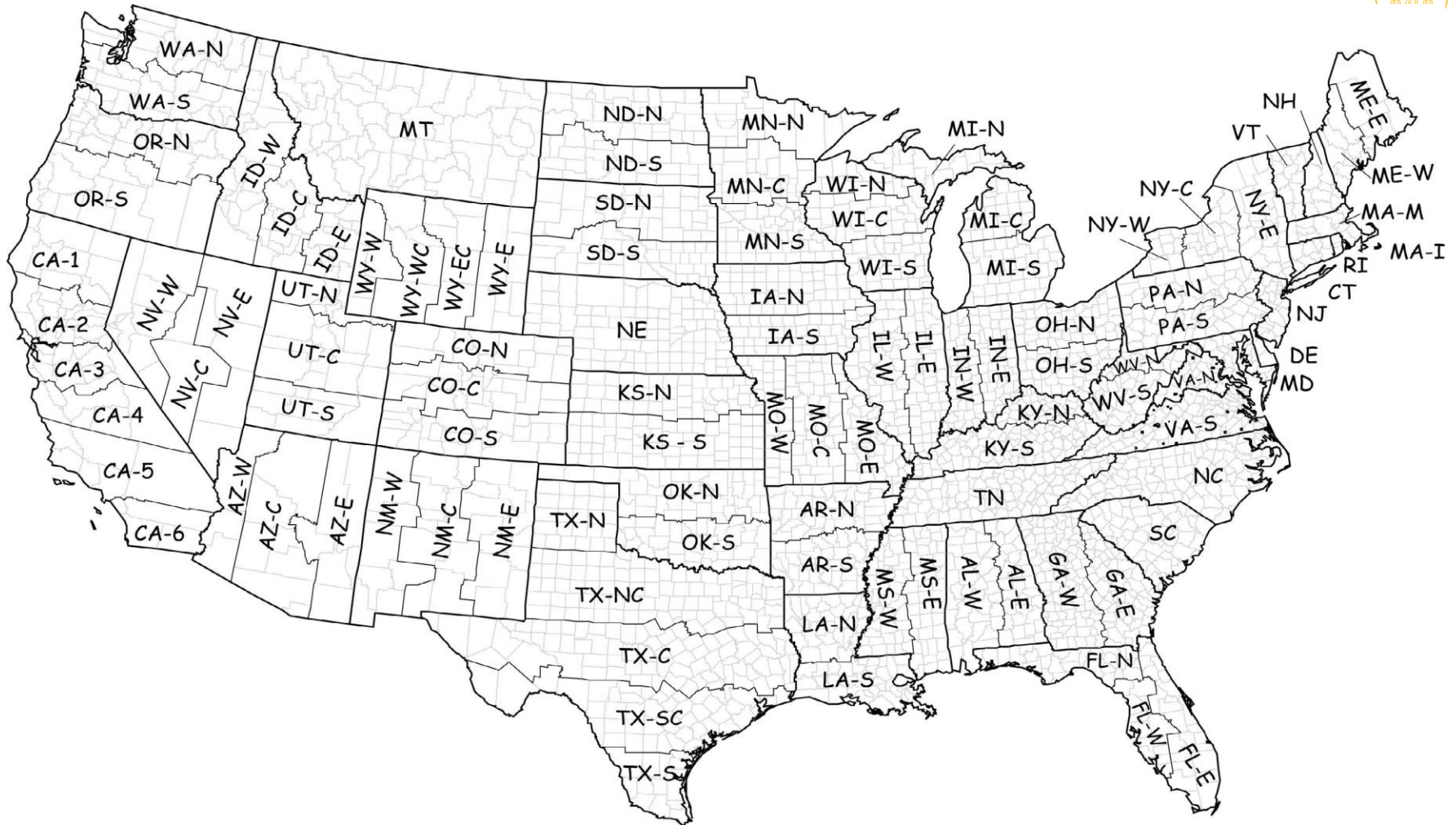
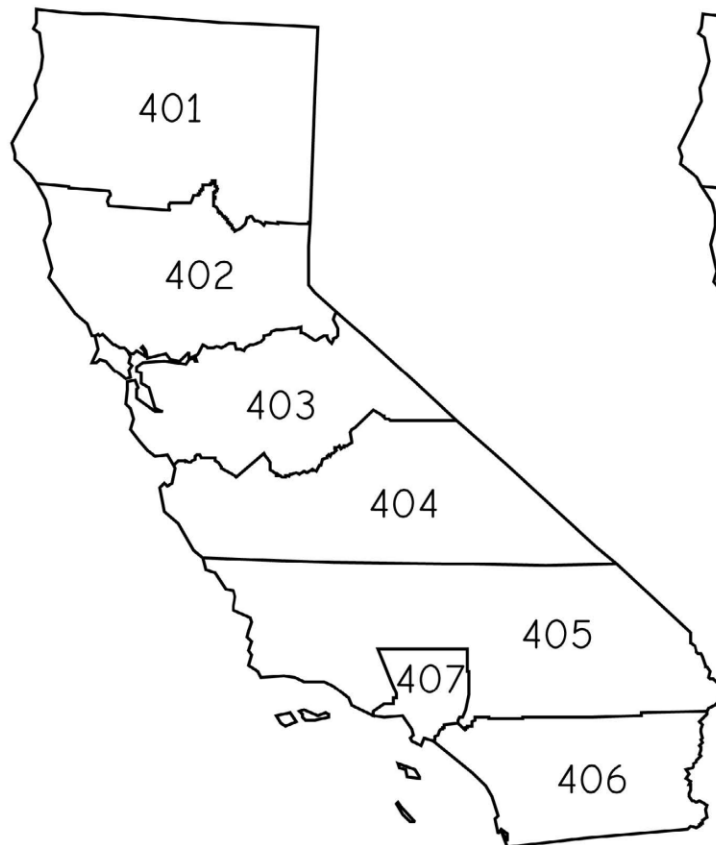


Fig. 3-41: State plane zone boundaries, NAD83 (Bolstad)



FIPS codes of State Plane
zones for use with NAD27



FIPS codes of State Plane
zones for use with NAD83

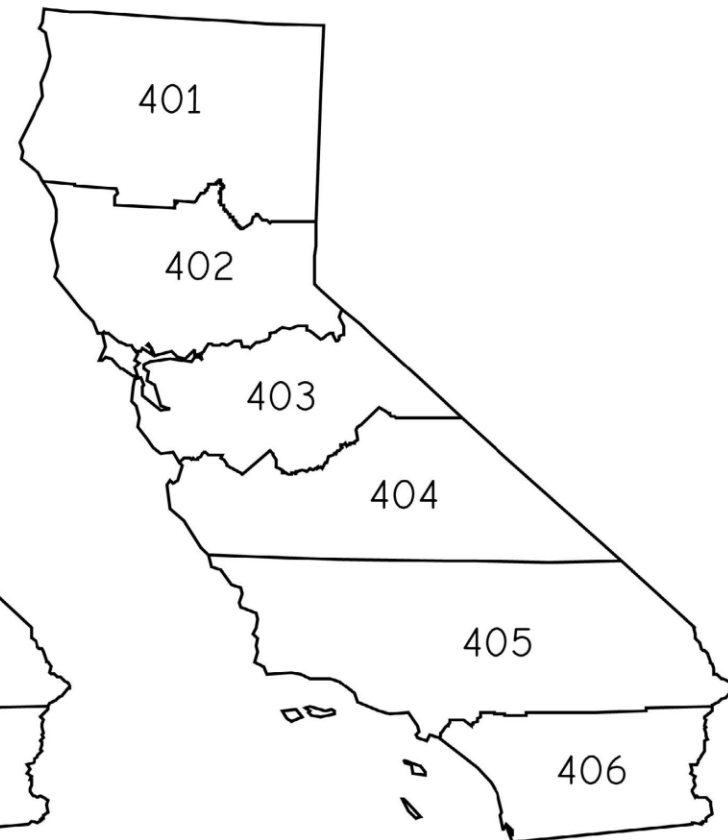


Fig. 3-43: State Plane coordinate system zones and FIPS codes for California based on the NAD27 and NAD83 datums. Note that zone 407 from NAD27 is incorporated into zone 405 in NAD83 (Bolstad)

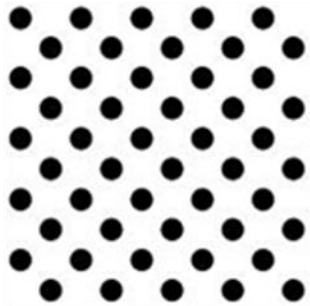


Geospatial Value Proposition

A world awash with geospatial big data ...



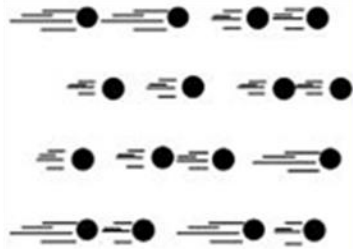
Volume



Data at Rest

Terabytes to
Exabytes of existing
data to process

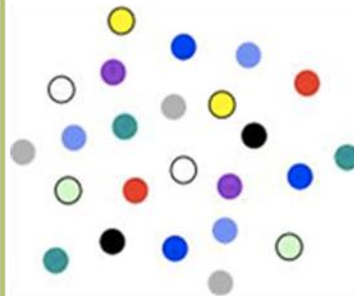
Velocity



Data in Motion

Streaming data,
requiring milliseconds
to seconds to respond

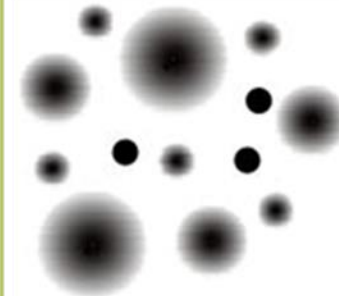
Variety



Data in Many Forms

Structured,
unstructured, text,
multimedia,...

Veracity



Data in Doubt

Uncertainty due to
data inconsistency &
incompleteness,
ambiguities, latency,
deception, model
approximations

Value



Data into Money

Business models can
be associated to the
data

Adapted by a post of Michael Walker on 28 November 2012



Geospatial Data Applications

Managing Natural Resources

Montana State University's Red Bluff Research Ranch

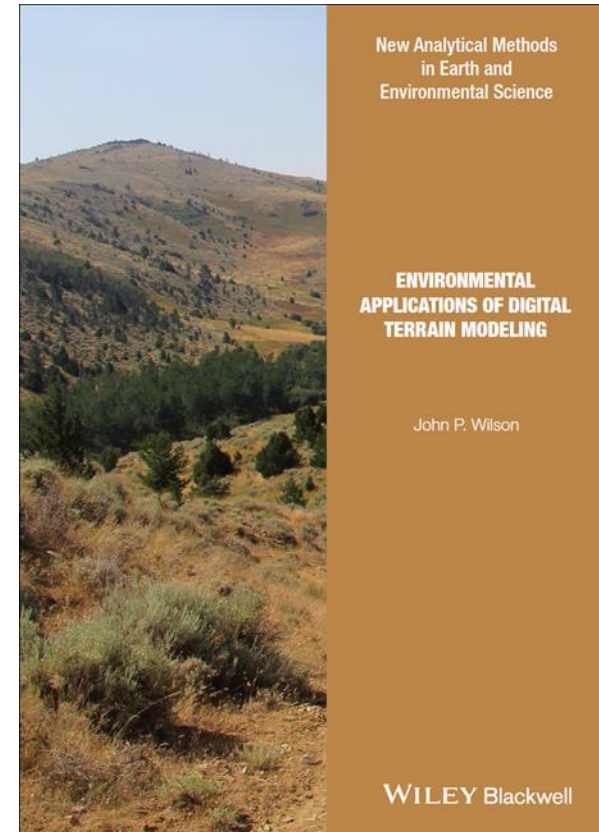
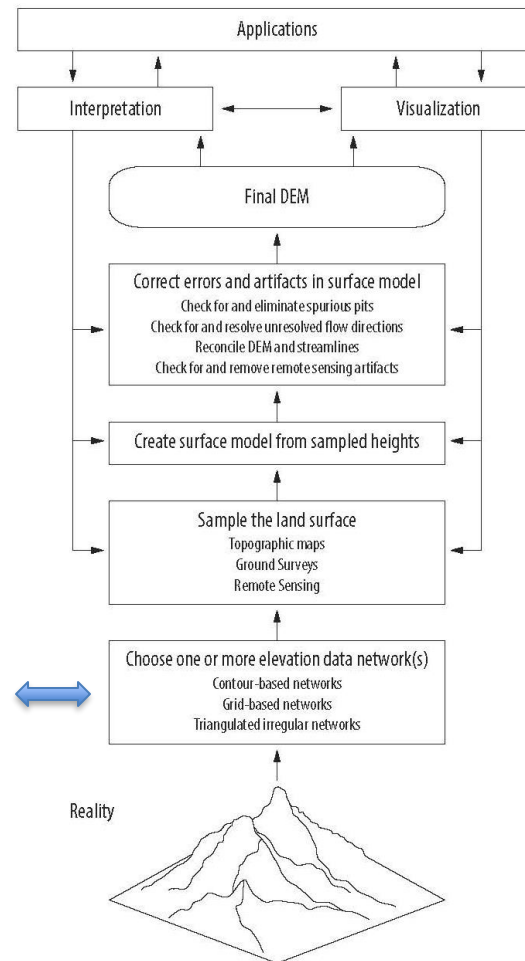




Modeling soil and water resources

**Choice 1 or more
elevation data network(s)**

- Contour-based networks
- Grid-based networks
- Triangulated irregular networks
- LiDAR point clouds



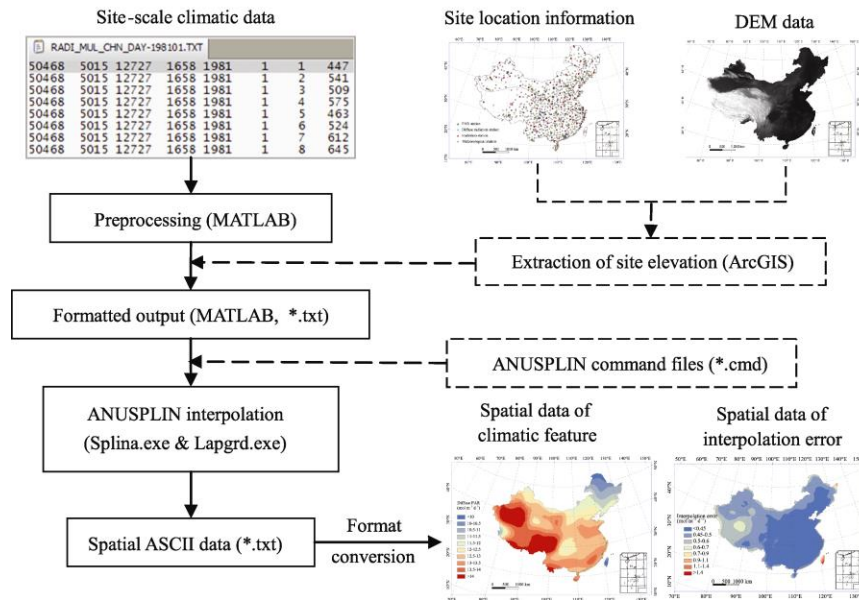
Spatial analytics | Actionable information



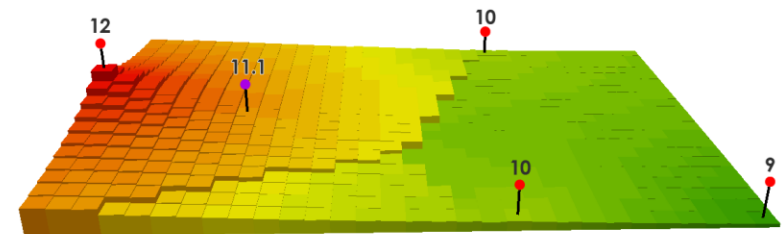
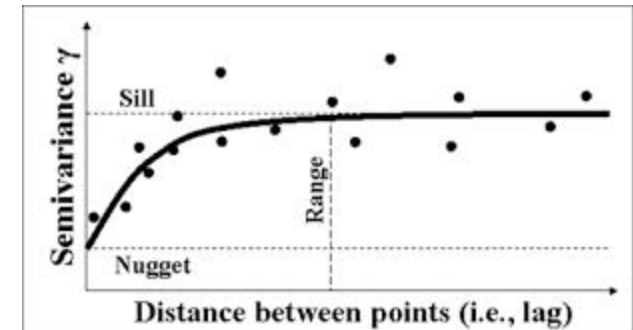
Geographically weighted regression

$$y_i = \sum_{j=0}^M \beta_j x_{ij} + \varepsilon_i$$

dependent variable: y_i
 regression coefficients: β_j
 residual variable: ε_i
 the j'th variable at observation i: x_{ij}
 $i = 1 \dots N$ (number of observations)
 $j = 0 \dots M$ (number of ind. variables)

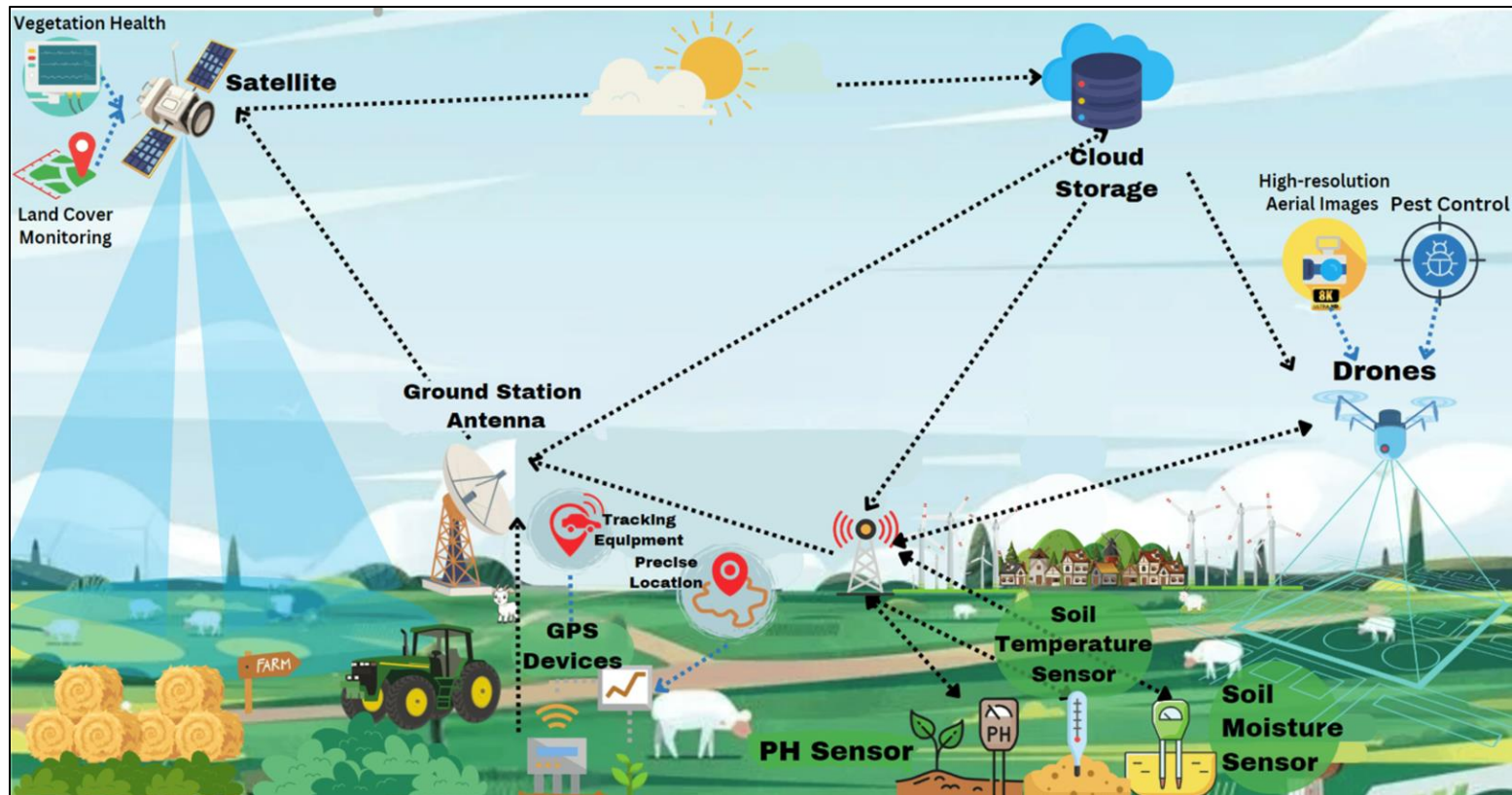


Thin plate splines



Kriging

Precision farming ...



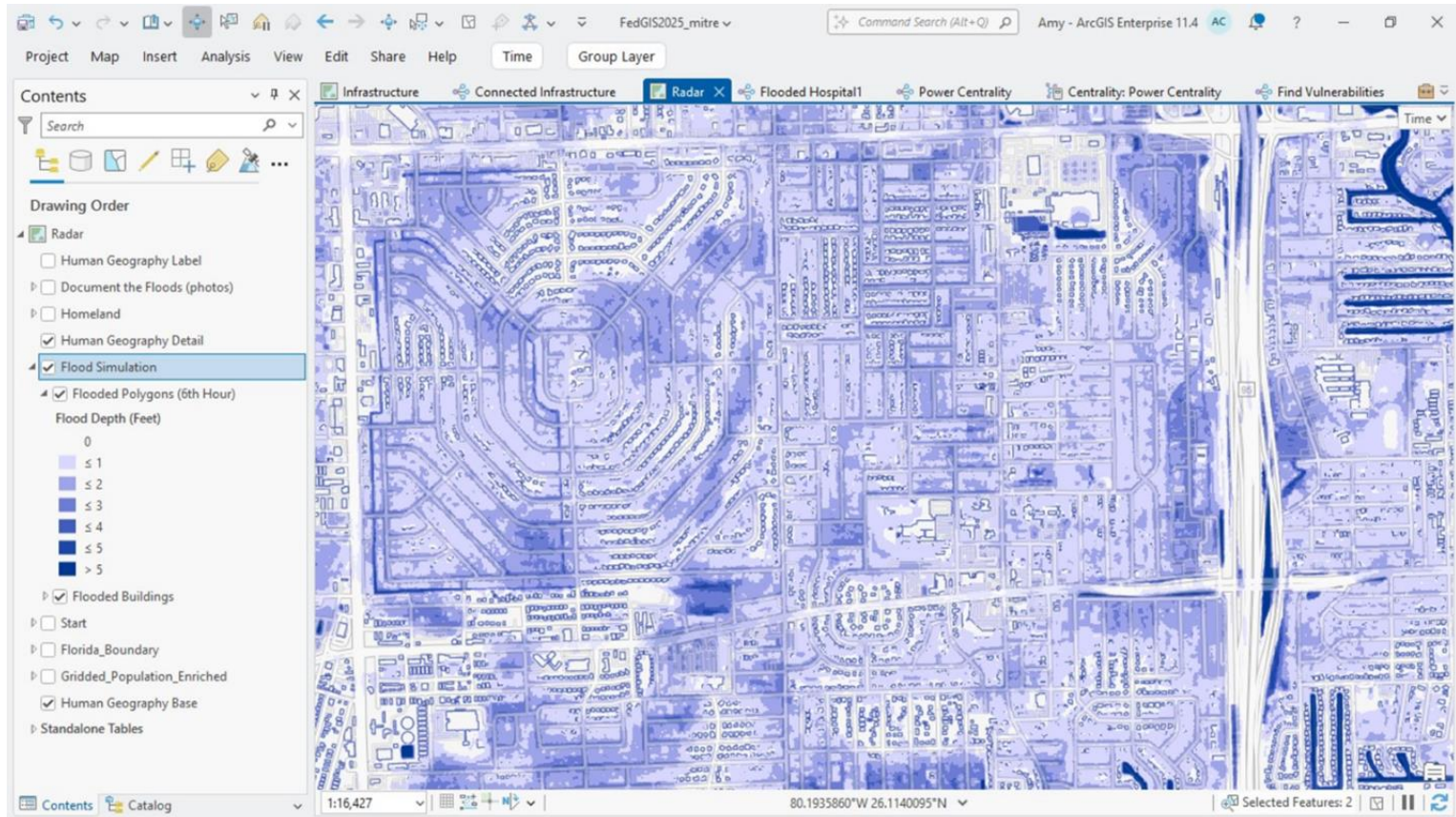
Geospatial technologies in agriculture (GIS, GPS, IoT) is revolutionizing farming by optimizing planting, water management, crop monitoring, and more, leading to increased yields, less soil and water degradation and reduced costs



Geospatial Data Applications

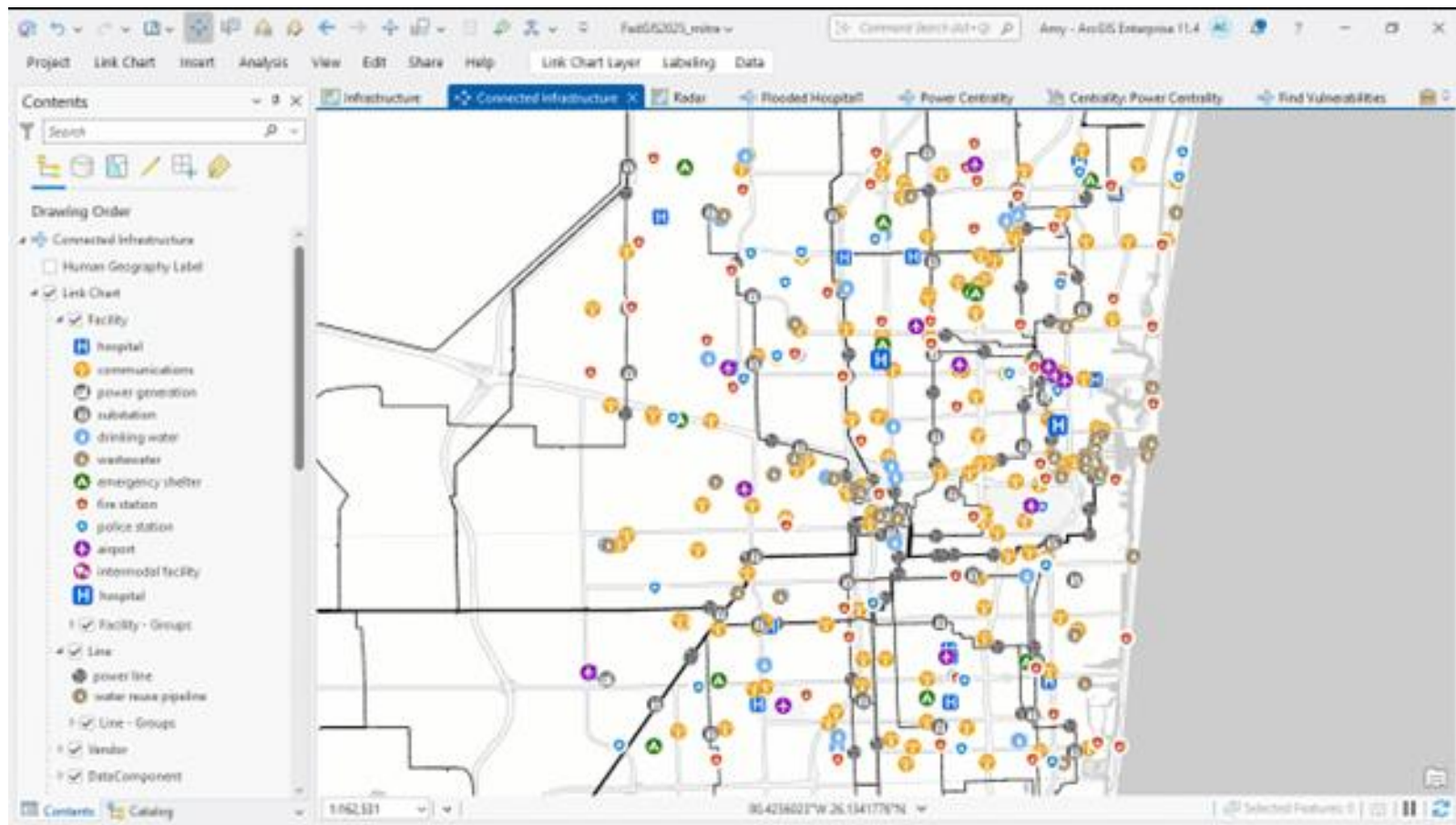
Protecting Human Life and Critical Infrastructure
During Natural Disasters

MITRE Uses ArcGIS Knowledge To Analyze Critical Infrastructure Dependencies



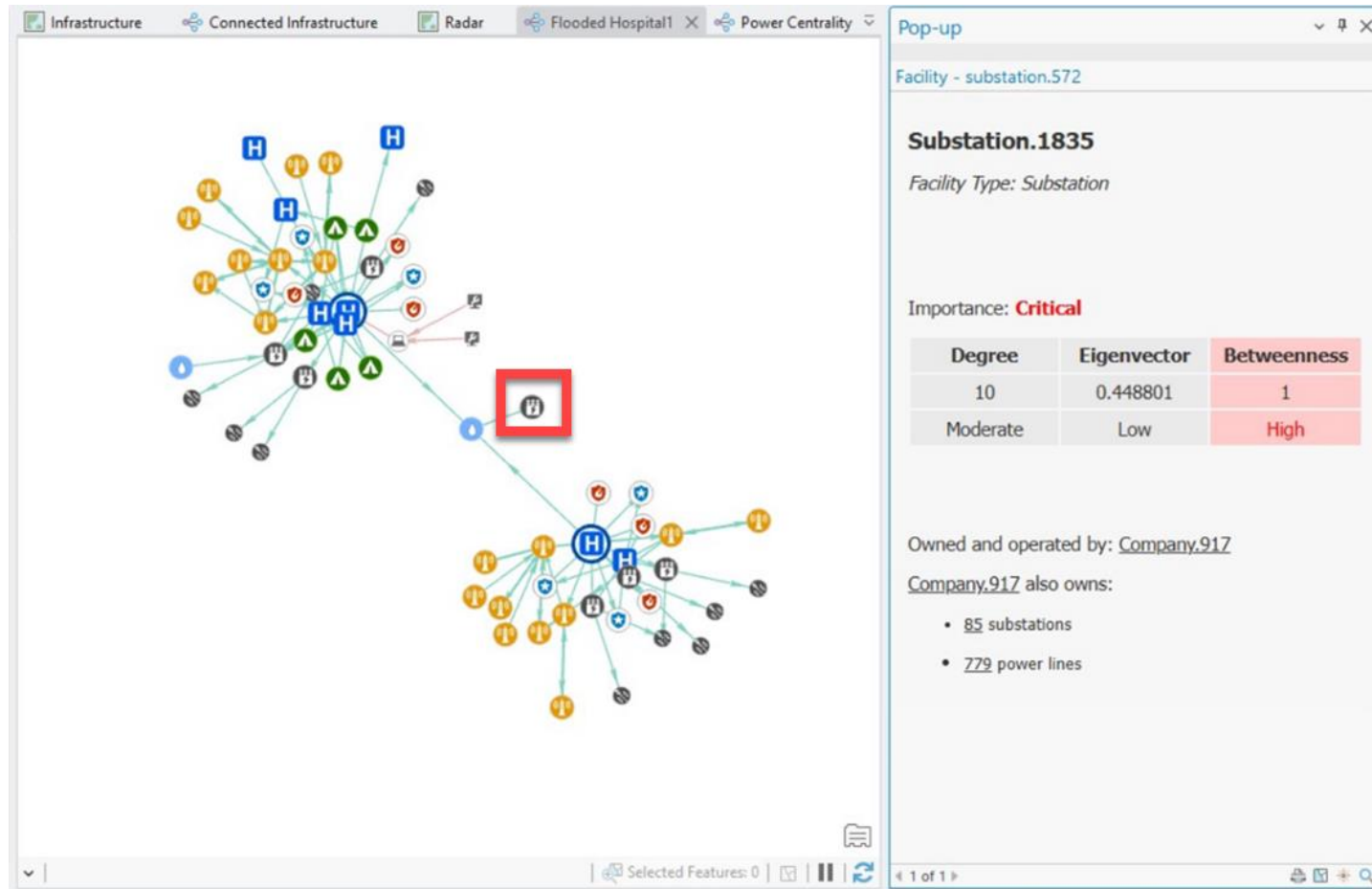
This ArcGIS Pro layer shows simulated flood water in Fort Lauderdale. The simulation is based on 25 inches of rain falling over 24 hours, similar to the historic rainfall on April 12, 2023. The deeper blues show deeper water.

MITRE Uses ArcGIS Knowledge ...



Infrastructure facilities drawn as separate map layers vs. infrastructure drawn as connected entities in a knowledge graph

MITRE Uses ArcGIS Knowledge ...

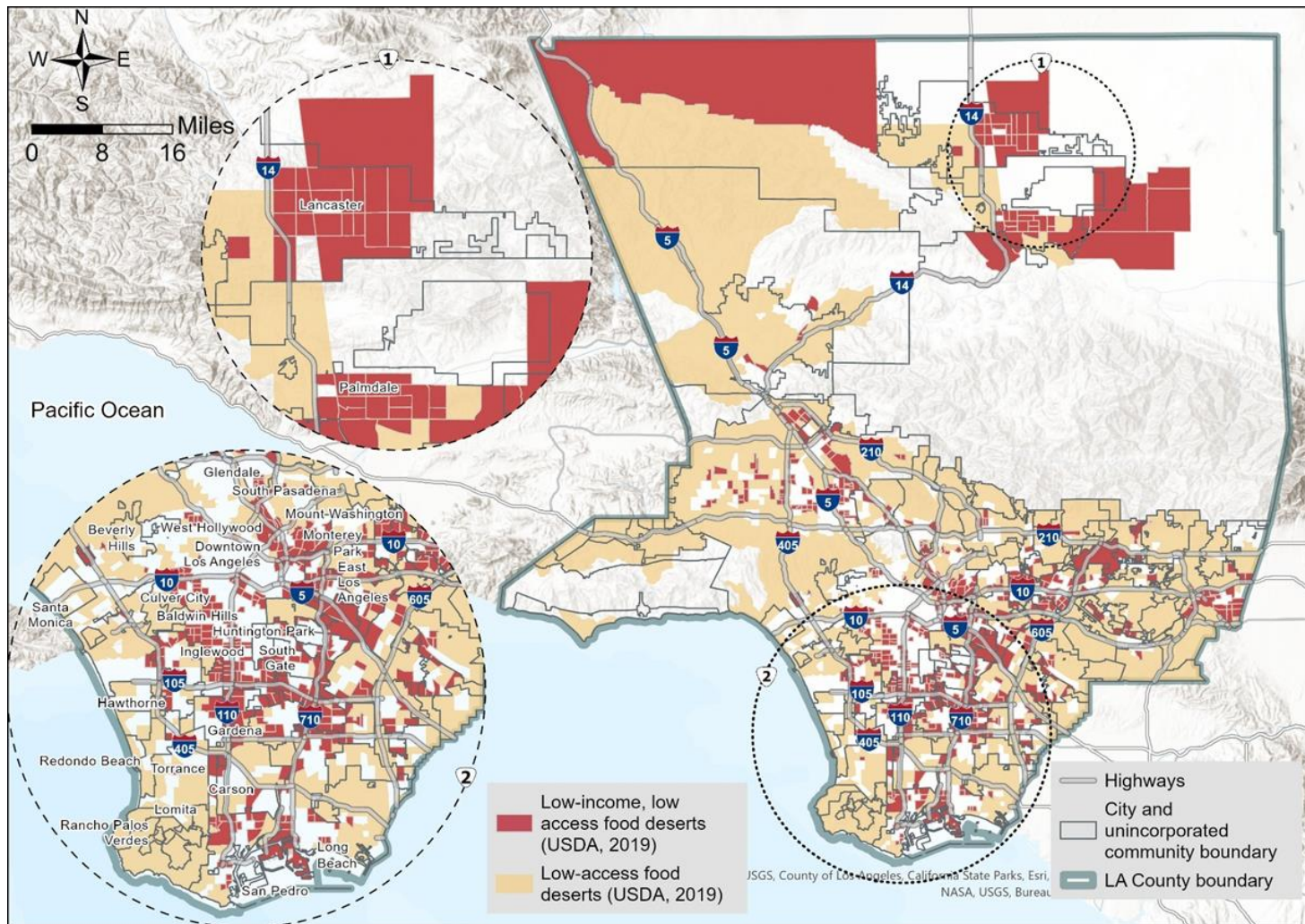


This link chart depicts the critical infrastructure facilities that two key hospitals depend on. Graph analysis tools help to quickly reveal the most critical dependencies based on the entire system of systems.

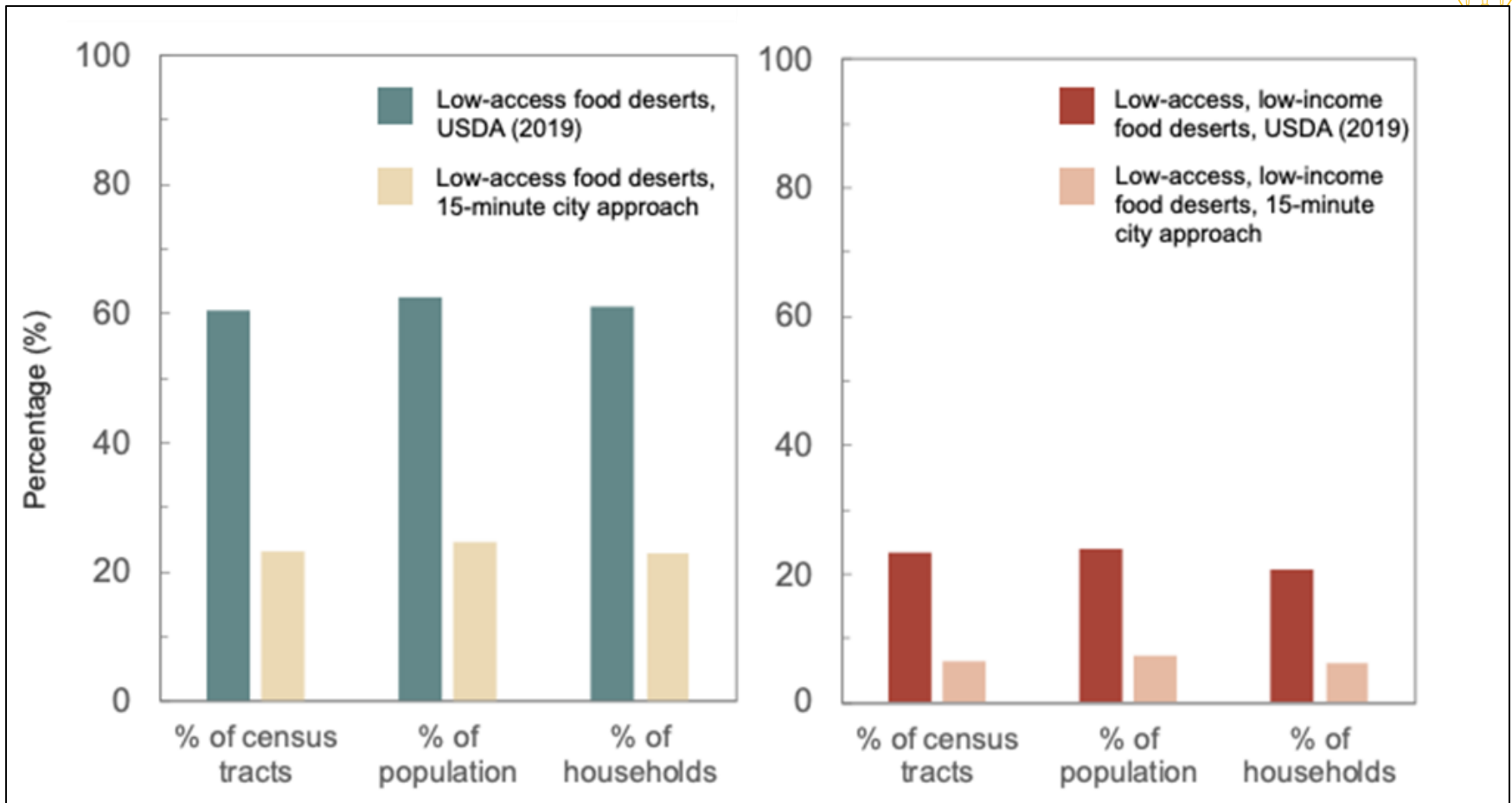


Geospatial Data Applications

Tackling Food and Nutrition Security in
Specific Neighborhoods



Census tracts identified by the USDA (2019) as food deserts in LA County: 1409 are “low access,” and 545 tracts are “low access and low income” out of 2344 total census tracts



Comparisons showing food desert census tracts using the USDA (2019) and the 15-minute city approaches



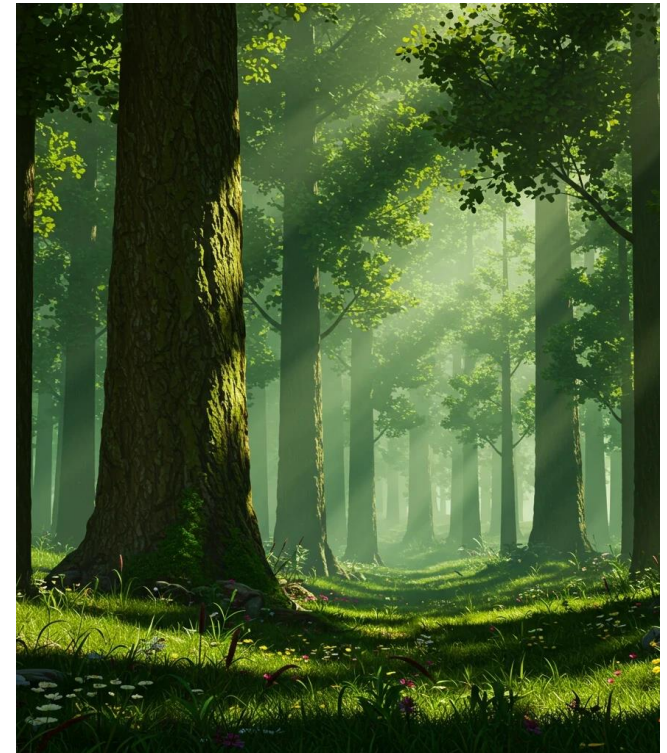
Geospatial Data Applications

Using Trees to Mitigate Rising Temperatures



Mapping urban tree canopy at scale

- The open-source U-NET segmentation and YOLOv9e object detection models were combined, optimized, and used to map urban tree canopy
- Various technical advances have led to significant gains in small-object detection tasks, such as identifying trees in aerial imagery
- A series of experiments were conducted to show how these models can be used to depict the tree canopy extent in previously unseen areas without retraining



Study workflow ...



Tree Crown Annotations
Boyle Heights, CA

Tree Crown Annotations
City Terrace, CA

Step 1: Data Preparation

Model Selection
U-NET Segmentation
YOLO Detection

Model Optimization
Model Hyperparameters
Training Data Size

Step 2: Model Development

NAIP CIR Imagery
Boyle Heights, CA

Model Metrics
Precision, Recall
F1-Score, Dice

Model Outputs
U-NET - Segmentation
Masks
YOLO - Bounding-box
Shapefiles

Step 3: Quantitative Performance Evaluation

NAIP CIR Imagery
City Terrace, CA

NAIP CIR Imagery
San Francisco, CA

NAIP CIR Imagery
Phoenix, AZ

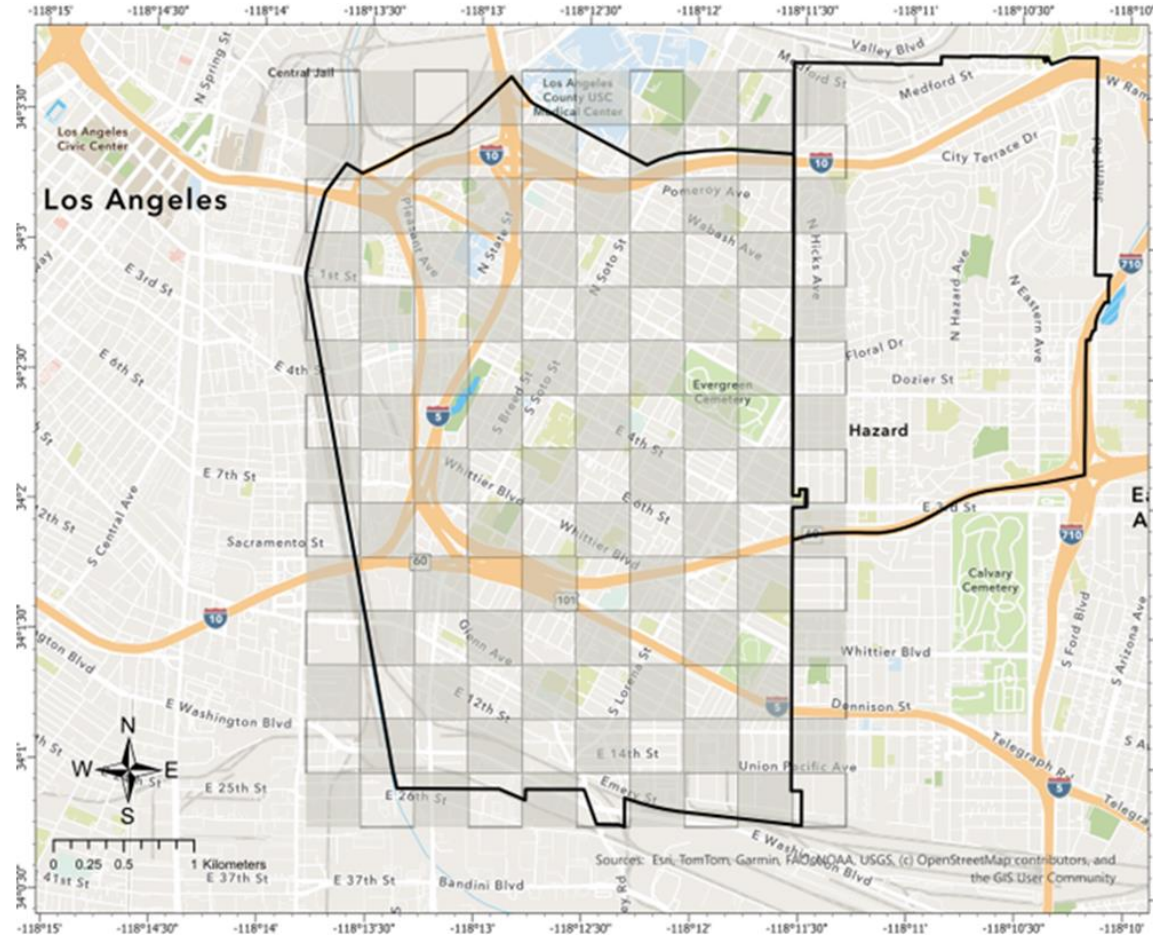
Step 4: Model Transferability Tests



Manually labeled tree crowns ...

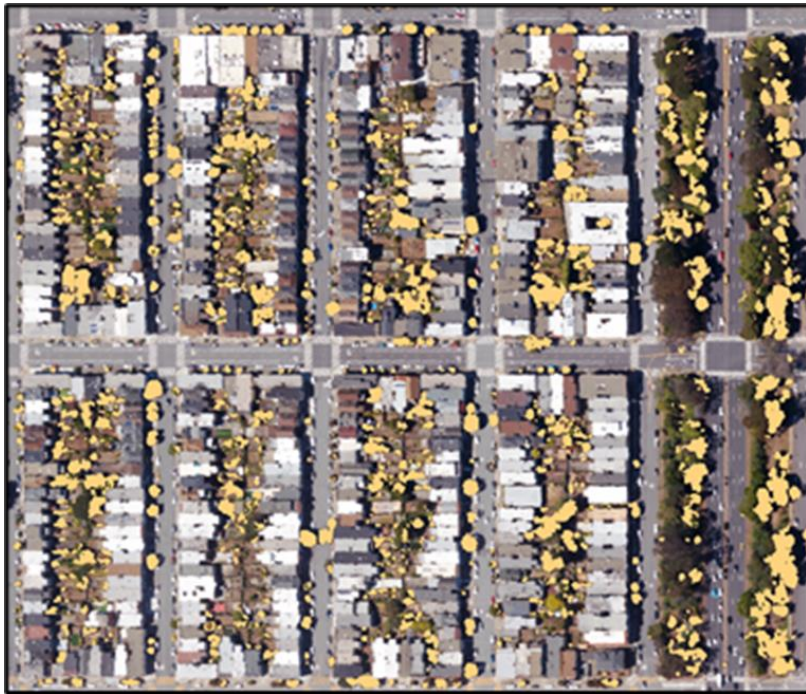


Boyle Heights and City Terrace



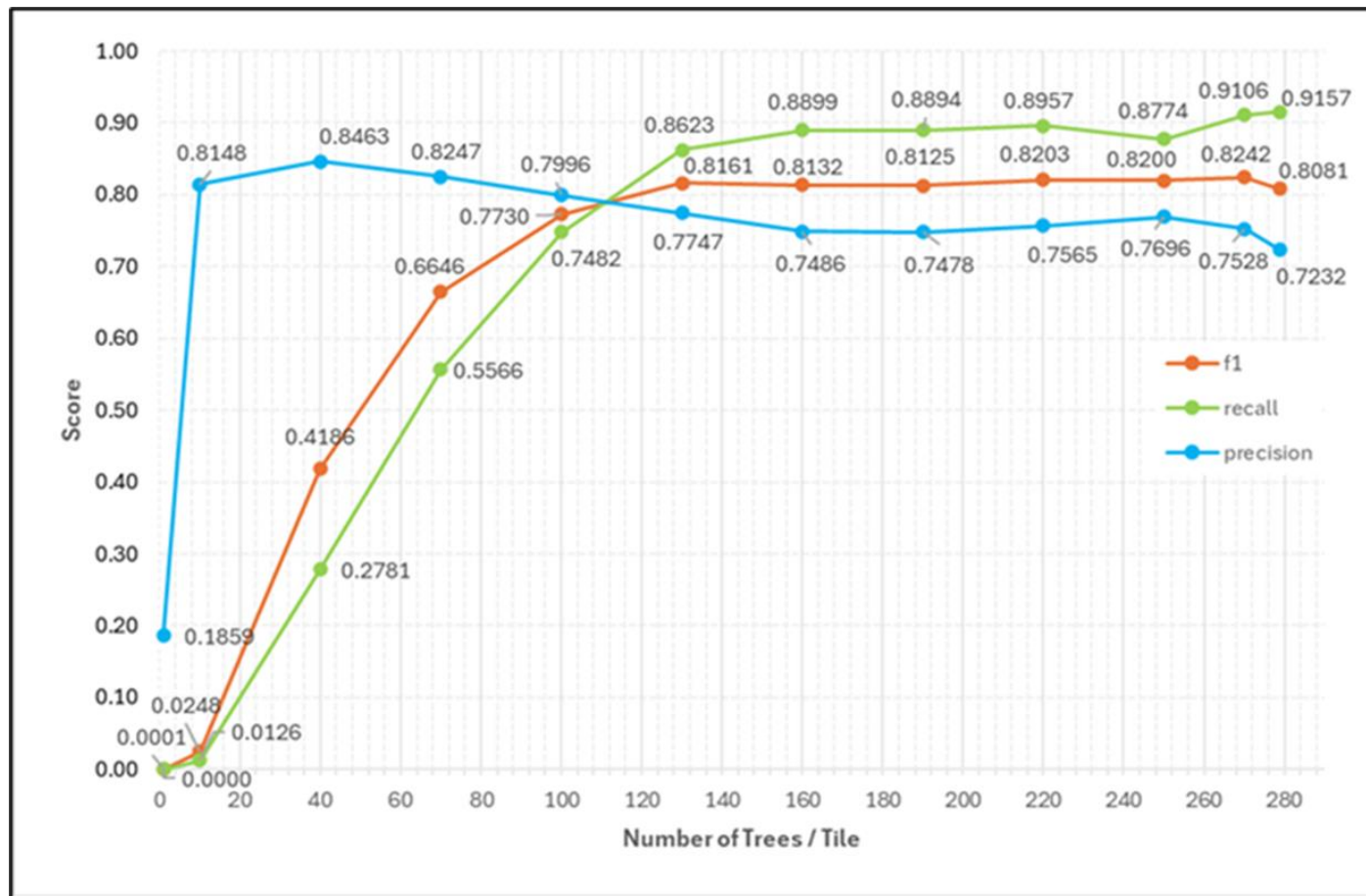


Data augmentation and overlap ...



The San Francisco, CA model, trained without data augmentation and overlap, on the left failed to segment the dense urban tree areas, particularly along continuous rows of street trees, leading to substantial under-segmentation (orange overlay) and the model trained with both data augmentation and 50% overlap on the right produced more complete and accurate segmentation in high-density canopy areas, with improved coverage and boundary continuity (green overlay)

Tree numbers and model performance



The variation in model performance with increasing numbers of trees per tile



Major takeaways ...

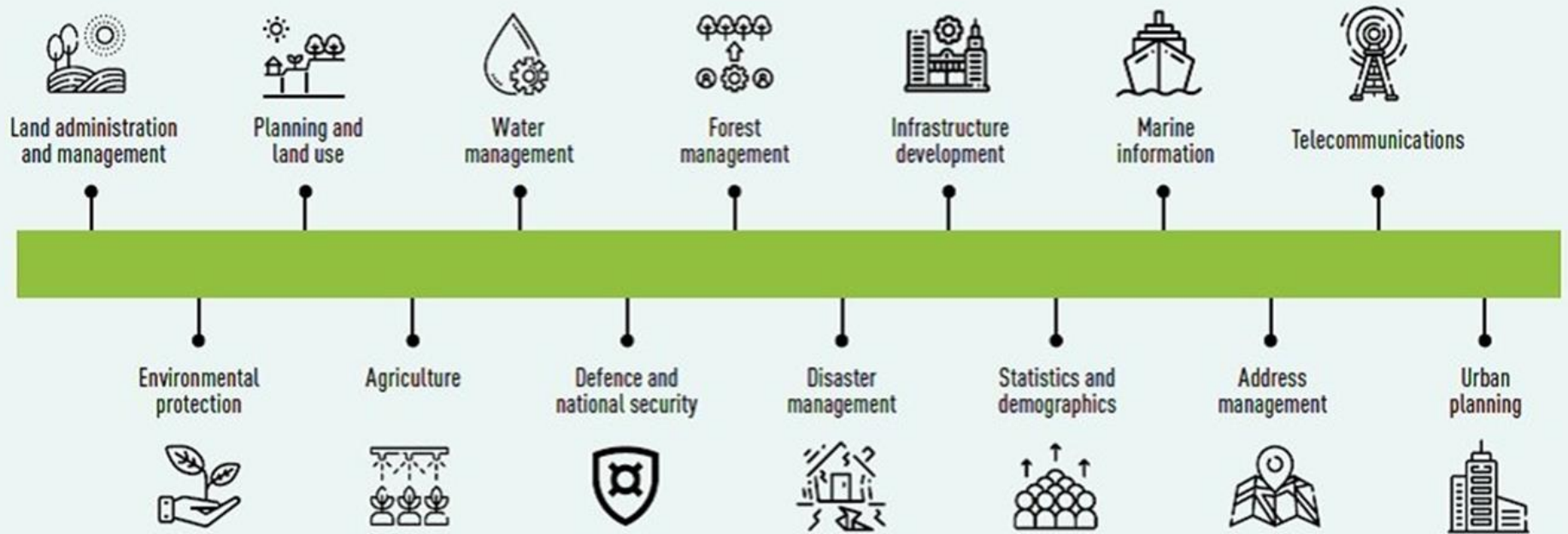
- The deployment of this deep learning framework and publicly available imagery achieve performance comparable to models trained on costly lidar and commercial satellite data
- This workflow provides a standardized, bottom-up framework that bridges the gap between complex deep learning techniques and the practical needs of urban foresters, and empowers local stakeholders to create accurate, affordable, and timely urban tree inventories and foster data-driven decision-making to support the sustainable management of vital tree canopy in a warming world





Closing Comments

Spatial connects everything ...



Source: GW Consulting Analysis

Spatial connects the local to the global

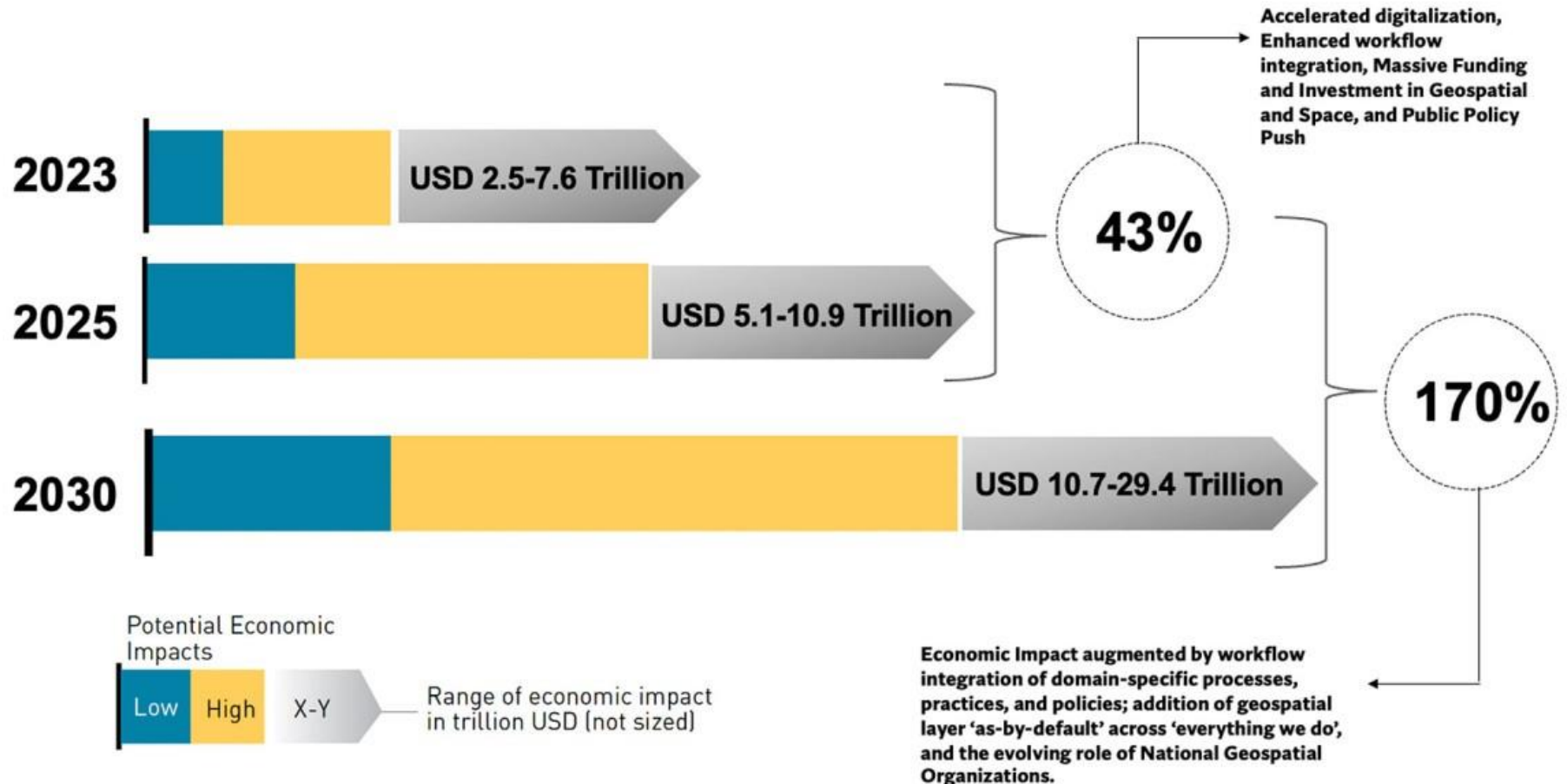


Night light images paint accurate picture of China GDP



Barcelona's car-free 'superblocks' could save hundreds of lives

Geospatial Technologies' Direct Economic Impact to Rise by Almost **290 Percent** Between 2023 - 2030



Source: GW Consulting Analysis



Questions

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<http://dornsife.usc.edu/spatial>

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Spatial Sciences Institute