

(Basic concepts of Geographic Information Systems)

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Management

Characteristics of spatial data

- **Description:** Kingston University, PenrhynRoad Centre
- Post Code: KT1 2EE
- Grid Reference:
- Latitude/Longitude: 17.62"N

0° 21' 55.38"W, 49° 36'

Characteristics of spatial data



Geometry

- The shape of a building or county
- The course of a river, the route of a road
- The shape of the landscape, relief

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Geo-referencing data

- Capturing data
 - Scanning: all of map converted into raster data
 - Digitising: individual features selected from map as points, lines or polygons
- Geo-referencing
 - Initial scanning digitising gives co-ordinates in inches from bottom left corner of digitiser/scanner
 - Real-world co-ordinates are found for four registration points on the captured data
 - These are used to convert the entire map into a realworld co-ordinate system

Example of geo-referencing



Source: ESRI (1997)



• Heads-up digitizing

Often "drawing" features over an orthophoto base

Examples of Applied GIS

- Urban Planning, Management & Policy
 - Zoning, subdivision planning
 - Land acquisition
 - Economic development
 - Code enforcement
 - Housing renovation programs
 - Emergency response
 - Crime analysis
 - Tax assessment

Environmental Sciences

- Monitoring environmental risk
- Modeling stormwater runoff
- Management of watersheds, floodplains, wetlands, forests, aquifers
- Environmental Impact Analysis
- Hazardous or toxic facility siting
- Groundwater modeling and contamination tracking

Political Science

- Redistricting
- Analysis of election results
- Predictive modeling

- Civil Engineering/Utility
 - Locating underground facilities
 - Designing alignment for freeways, transit
 - Coordination of infrastructure maintenance
- Business
 - Demographic Analysis
 - Market Penetration/ Share Analysis
 - Site Selection

Education Administration

- Attendance Area Maintenance
- Enrollment Projections
- School Bus Routing
- Real Estate
 - Neighborhood land prices
 - Traffic Impact Analysis
 - Determination of Highest and Best Use
- Health Care
 - Epidemiology
 - Needs Analysis
 - Service Inventory

What GIS Applications Do:

- *manage, analyze, communicate*make possible the <u>automation</u> of activities involving geographic data
 - map production
 - calculation of areas, distances, route lengths
 - measurement of slope, aspect, viewshed
 - logistics: route planning, vehicle tracking, traffic management
- allow for the **integration** of data hitherto confined to independent domains (e.g property maps and air photos).
- by tieing data to maps, permits the succinct **communication of** • complex spatial patterns (e.g environmental sensitivity).
- perform complex **spatial modelling** (*what if* scenarios for transportation planning, disaster planning, resource management, utility design)

BENEFITS OF GIS

- Improves/enhances the effects of physical/environmental growth
- Higher quality analysis
- Better management of resources /Better information management
- adding new value-added services
- Perform analysis on spatial and non spatial components
- Fast recall of data
- Ability for complex analysis
- Ability to carry out "what if?" scenarios
- Recalling of non spatial data through object location
- Display of information in a different light/view
- Multiple scenario in planning can be performed easily

Why GIS is unique?

- GIS handles SPATIAL information
 - Information referenced by its location in space
- GIS makes connections between activities based on spatial proximity



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Cross-disciplinary nature of GIS

Spatio-temporal perspectives

•"Information" Science for spatio-temporal phenomenon

•Empirical – capture the spatio-temporal properties of lakes, cities, forests etc as accurately as possible

•Formal– based on properties of lines, points, area as pixels and on the constraints of the digital representation

•Experimental – using devices to convert graphics and other computer generated signs back into expert geographical understanding

Spatial Representation

The real world consists of many geographic entities which can be represented as a number of data layers

What is to be represented?

- 'Entities' vs. 'Objects'
- Entities things in real world
- Objects things in digital world

Digital objects and associated attributes and values represent geographical entities





Data input and verification

•Entering spatial data

- -Manual input to a vector system
- -Manual input to a grid system
- -Digitizing
- -Automated scanning
- •Entering the non-spatial associated attributes
- Linking spatial and non-spatial data
- -Special programs
- -Procedures
- Format conversion
- Data reduction and generalization
- •Error detection and editing
- Merging of points into lines and lines into polygons
- •Edge matching
- Rectification/registration
- Interpolation
- Photo-interpretation