

# Python Course GIS-introduction

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# GIS – Geographic Information System

# Geographic Information System - GIS

“A system for  
capturing,  
storing, checking,  
integrating,  
manipulating,  
analyzing and  
displaying  
spatial data”

GIS recreates real world spatial  
data

as digitized themed data  
“layers” (e.g. locations, boundaries,  
infrastructure, socioeconomic  
hydrology, land use/cover)

assembled in any combination  
and overlaid for analysis

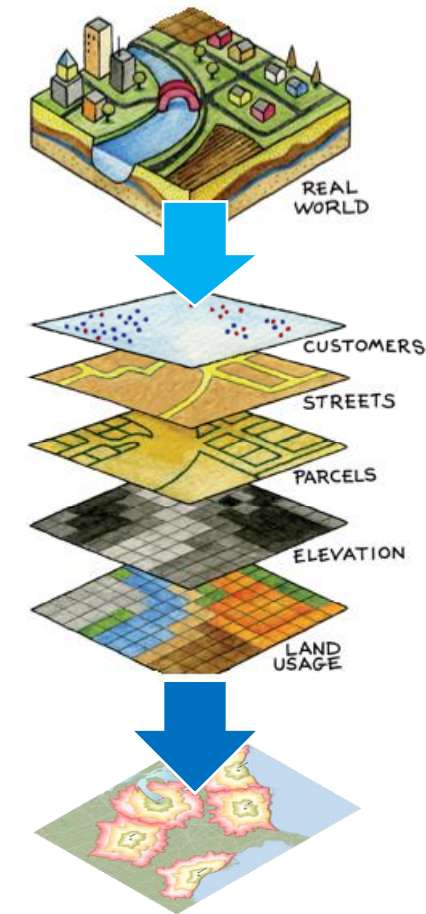


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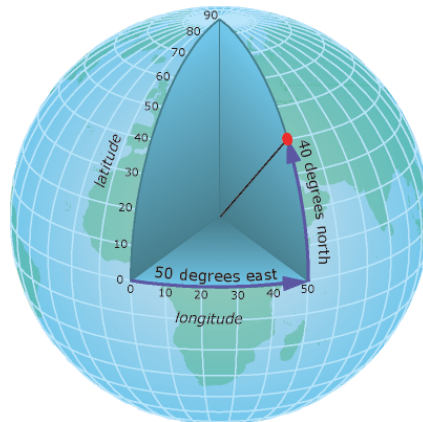
# GIS: Coordinate System

## Geographic Coordinate System (GCS)

- angular unit of measure
- prime meridian
- datum based on a spheroid



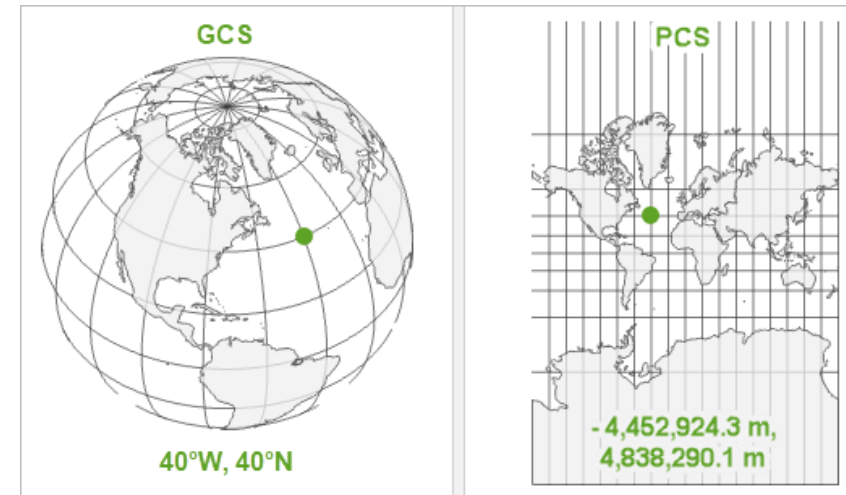
GCS  
→



**WGS84** is the most widespread

## Projected Coordinate Systems (PCS)

from the sphere to the map



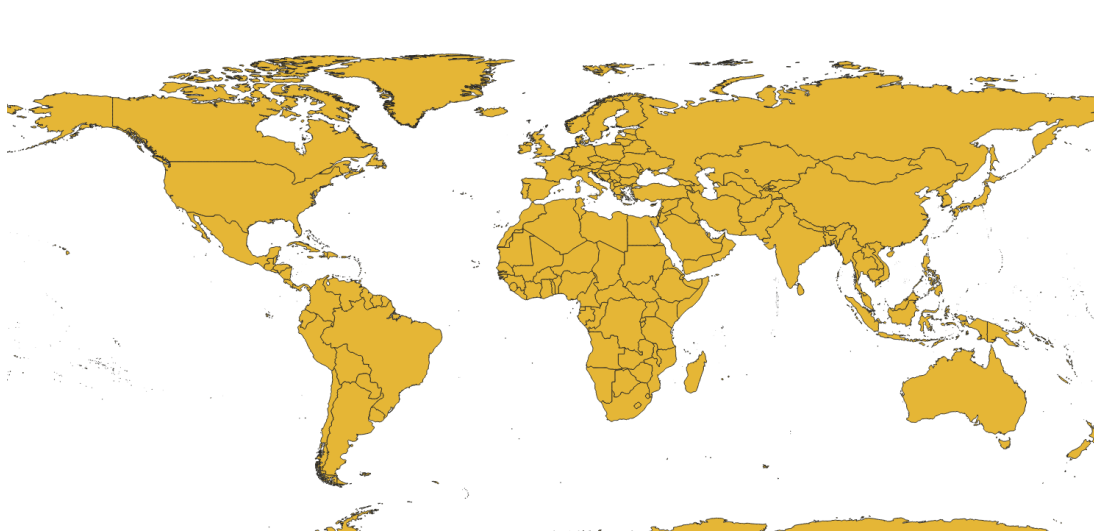
PCS creates local distortion and affect area, angle and distance

- The GCS tells your data where to draw. The PCS tells the map how to **stretch the GCS out flat**.
- Which **GCS you choose** depends on where you are mapping.
- **Which PCS you use** depends on where you are mapping, but also the nature of your map, for example, should you distort area to preserve angles, or vice versa?

# GIS: Coordinate Reference System CRS=GCS+PCS

## EPSG:

public registry of geodetic datums, spatial reference systems, Earth ellipsoids, coordinate transformations and related units of measurement, originated by a member of the European Petroleum Survey Group (EPSG) in 1985



**EPSG 4326:** grid longitude = -180 to 180 and latitude = -90 to 90

- Projection: Plate Carree
- GCS = WGS84
- used by the GPS system

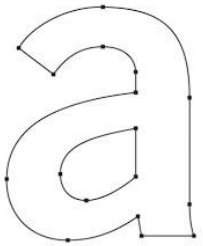
**EPSG 3035:** conserve distance in Europe (<1m)

- Projection: Lambert Azimuthal Equal Area
- GCS = WGS84

# GIS: Data Representation

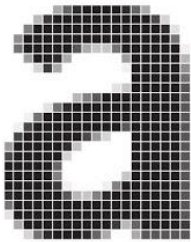
Information can be stored in **vector** or **raster** format.

**Vectors** are composed of coordinates



VECTOR

**Raster's** are composed of pixels

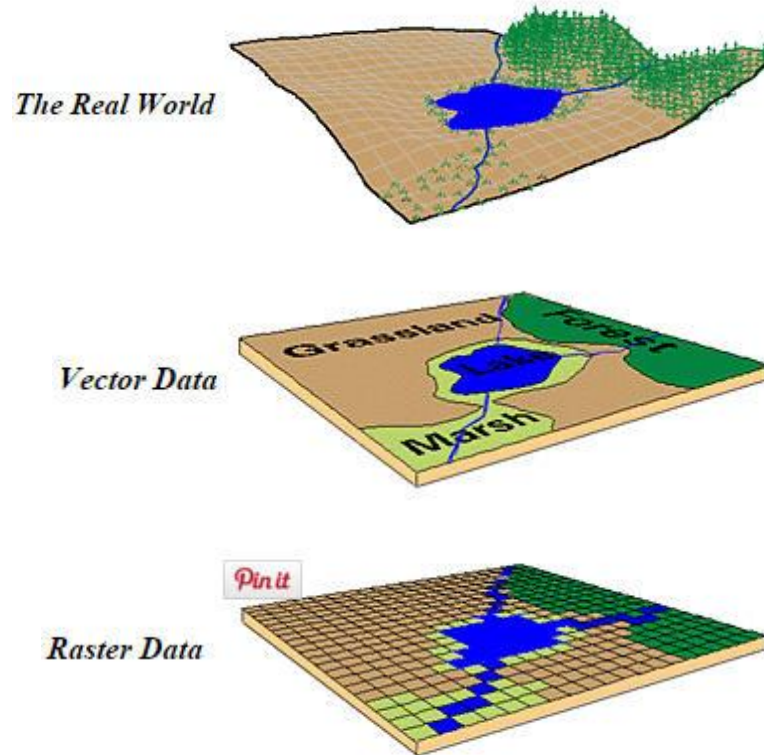


RASTER

These are often used for variables with:

defined borders, e.g. manmade

continuous surface, e.g. environmental



Geospatial or coordinate data can be represented in two different data formats:

**Vector:**

e.g. points, lines, and polygons

**Fire Font can be stored as polygon**

**Raster:**

e.g. row and column matrix

**Fuel Class Map can be stored as raster**

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# GIS: Software

Type	Analysis Power	Example(s)
<b>Geobrowser</b>	<b>Weak</b> (mainly only to display data)	Google Maps, Google Earth, Apple Maps, Waze, etc.
<b>Web-based</b>	<b>Medium</b> (able to upload additional data, customize display, and perform basic analyses)	Carto, ArcGIS Online, Mapbox, Google MyMaps, etc.
<b>Desktop</b>	<b>Strong</b> (installed locally, provides full control of map creation, and perform advanced analyses)	ArcGIS Pro <b>QGIS</b> <b>Python library</b>



## QGIS:

- Free, open-source tool
- Runs on any operating system
- Smaller program that will not affect performance of your computer
- Many available tools, but lacking some for specific functions, such as network analysis (i.e. routing) and spatial statistics
- Basic tutorials by QGIS developers and users
- Tools can be developed by anyone so performance and documentation is inconsistent.
- Support via forums

# Practical

Here you have a series of example showing basic example of GIS task in python



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## Python and GIS

A Geographic Information System (GIS) is a computer system that analyzes and displays geographically referenced information. It uses data that is attached to a unique location.

Data are generally of two form:

- **raster data:** it is made up of pixels (also referred to as grid cells). They are usually regularly spaced. Rasters often look pixelated because each pixel has its own value.
- **vector data:** it is made of vertices and paths and therefore not attached to grid of pixels.

In this course, several notebooks shows example of how to deal with raster and vector data. See the list below:

- [05a-GIS-rasterio.ipynb](#) shows an example of loading and plotting a raster image using the `rasterio` and `matplotlib` libraries.
- [05b-GIS-geopandas.ipynb](#) shows an example of how to create vector data and plot them using `geopandas` and `matplotlib`
- [05c-GIS-vector2raster.ipynb](#) shows an example of projecting a vector polygon onto a raster using `rasterio` and `geopandas`.
- [05d-GIS-netcdf-cartopy.ipynb](#) shows an example of loading 2D map stored in netcdf file using `netcdf4` and plotting them on projected map using `cartopy`.