

# Computer Aided Archaeology

08 - GIS I

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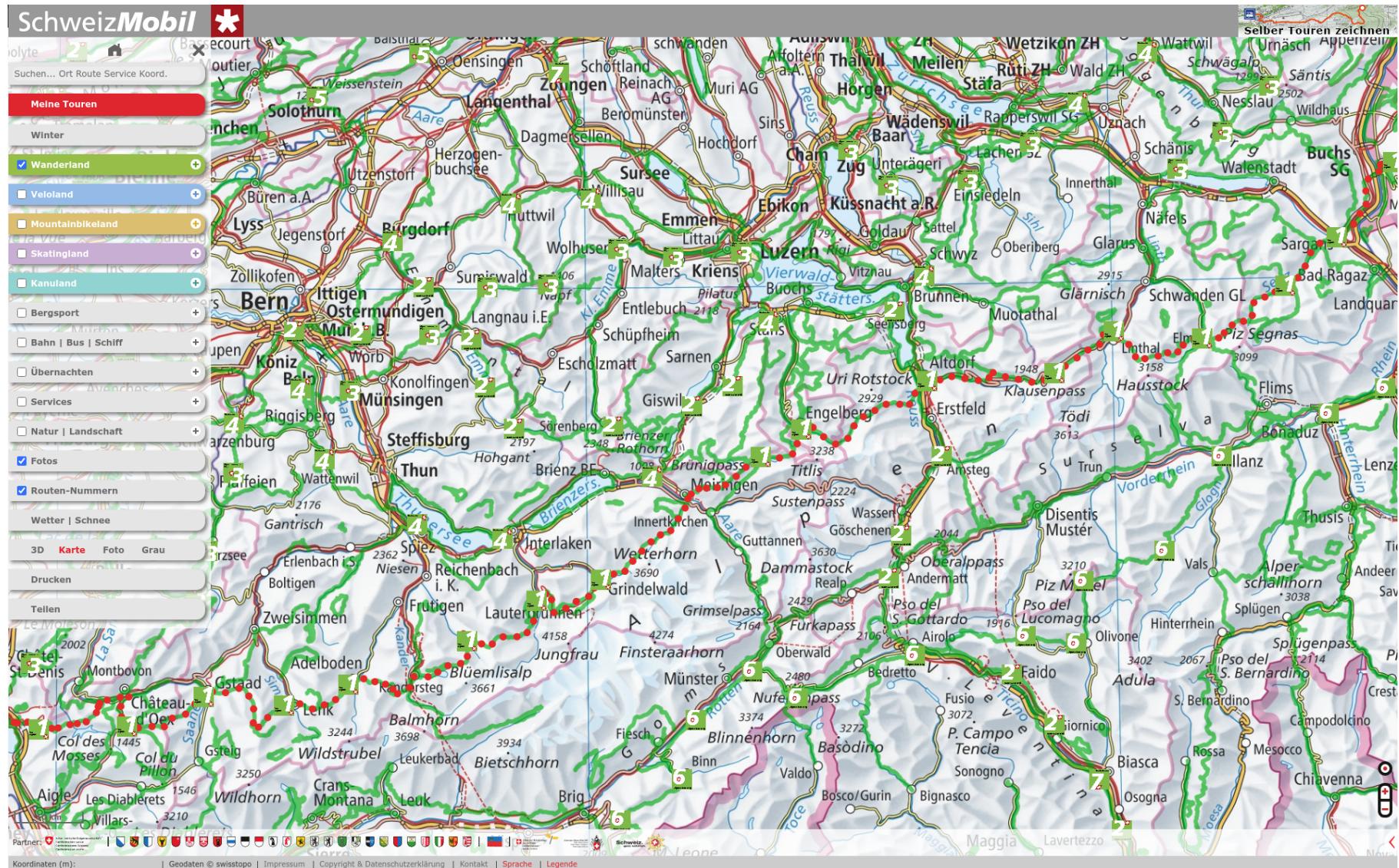
08/11/23

# Why Do We Create Maps?

# Types of Maps

# General Reference Maps

- Show important physical features of an area
- Include natural and man-made features
- Usually meant to help aid in the navigation or discovery of locations
- Usually fairly simple
- Can be stylized based on the intended audience (tourists vs locals)



Source: <https://map.schweizmobil.ch/>

# Thematic Maps

- Focuses on a specific theme or subject area
- Features on the map represent the phenomenon being mapped
- Spatial features used for reference

# Distribution Map

298

Heiko Steuer

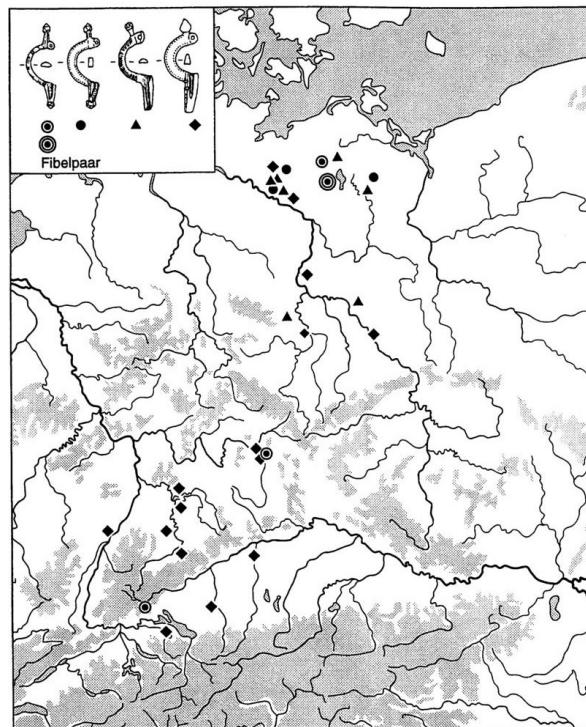


Abbildung 6. Verbreitungskarte der Bügelknopffibeln. Punktkreis: Typ Leipferdingen; Kreis: Typ Groß Nemerow; Dreieck: weitere Fibeln mit gestieltem Bügelknopf; Rhombus: Typ Leutkirch (nach Voß 1993, 174 Karte Abb. 27 mit Ergänzung).

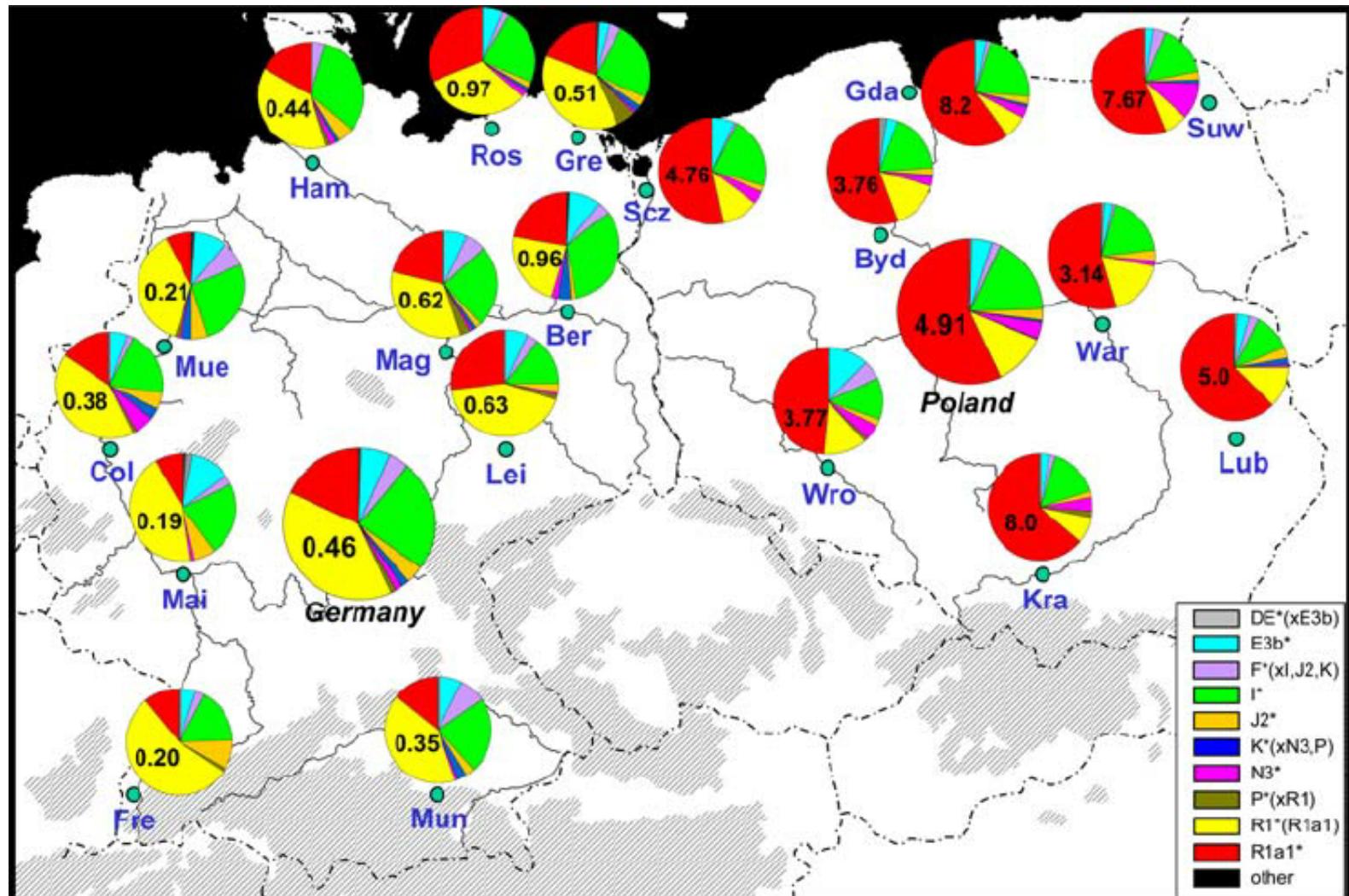
Source: Steuer 1998

# "Cultural" Map



Terberger et al. 2014

# "Genetic" Map

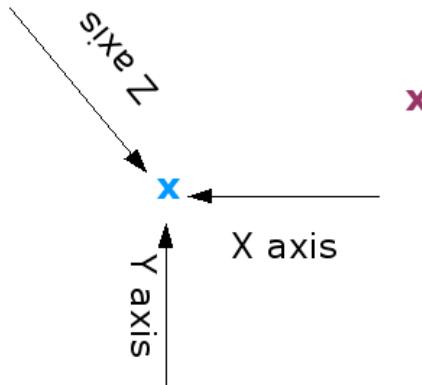


# Basic Map Elements

# Points

## Vector Point Feature

**Point Geometry (indicates the x,y and z position of the feature)**



**Point attributes (describe the feature)**

*Id, Name, Description*

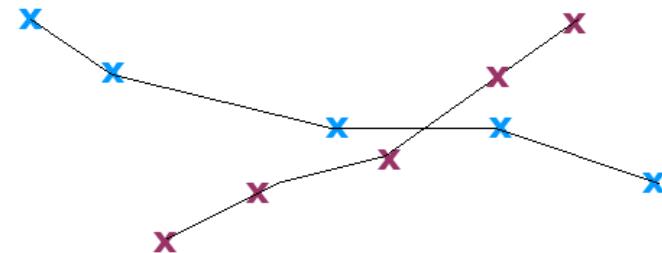
- 1, Tree, Outside our classroom
- 2, Light post, At the school entrance

[http://docs.qgis.org/2.8/en/docs/gentle\\_gis\\_introduction/vector\\_data.html#overview](http://docs.qgis.org/2.8/en/docs/gentle_gis_introduction/vector_data.html#overview)

# Lines

## Vector Polyline Feature

**Polyline Geometry (a series of connected vertices that do not form an enclosed shape)**



**Polyline attributes (describe the feature)**

*Id, Name, Description*

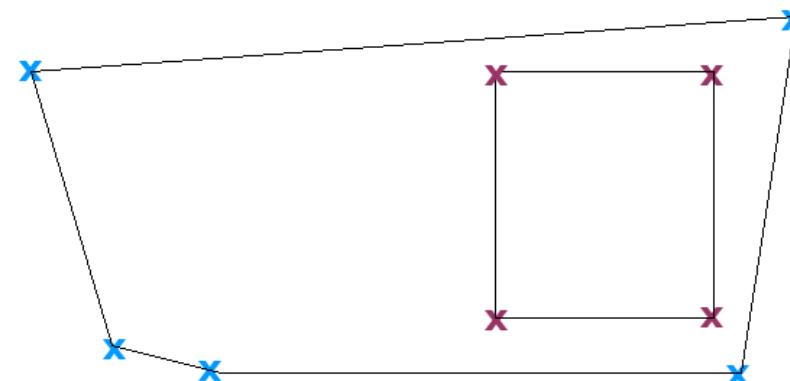
- 1, Footpath 1, From class to the playground
- 2, Footpath 2, From the school gate to the hall

[http://docs.qgis.org/2.8/en/docs/gentle\\_gis\\_introduction/vector\\_data.html#overview](http://docs.qgis.org/2.8/en/docs/gentle_gis_introduction/vector_data.html#overview)

# Polygons

## Vector Polygon Feature

**Polygon Geometry (a series of connected vertices that do form an enclosed shape)**



**Polygon attributes (describe the feature)**

*Id, Name, Description*

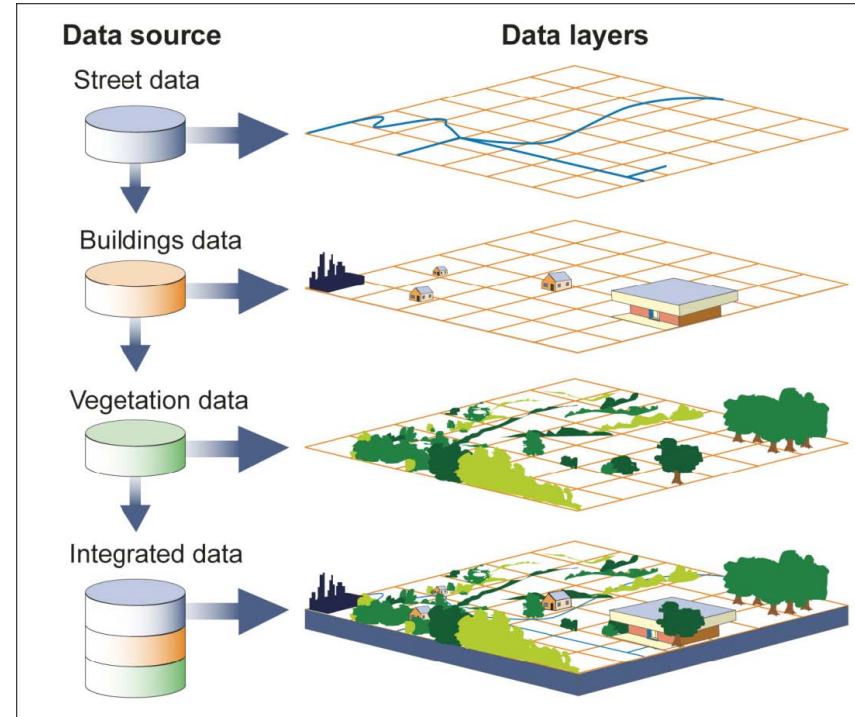
- 1, School Boundary, Fenceline for the school
- 2, Sports Field, We play soccer here

[http://docs.qgis.org/2.8/en/docs/gentle\\_gis\\_introduction/vector\\_data.html#overview](http://docs.qgis.org/2.8/en/docs/gentle_gis_introduction/vector_data.html#overview)

# How do we make maps?

# GIS [1]

A geographic information system (GIS) is a system designed to capture, store, manipulate, analyze, manage, and present spatial or geographic data. - Wikipedia



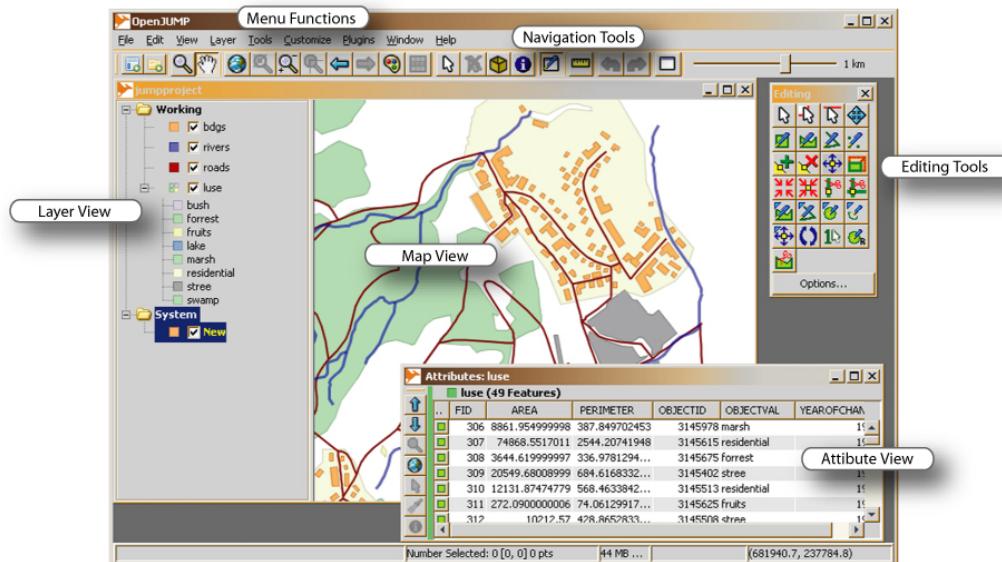
Source: GAO.

Or more simply

In a GIS, you connect **data** with **geography**. [GISgeography.com](http://GISgeography.com)

# Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

- Create interactive queries (user-created searches)
- Analyze spatial information
- Edit data in maps
- Present the results of all these operations



# What can we do with a GIS?



Viewing (exploration)



Creation (& extend dataset)



Editing (modify dataset)



Conflation (integrating datasets from different sources)



Transformation (coordinate systems, raster/vector, resampling,...)



Query (new views/selections)



Analysis (new datasets with new information)



Create maps

# GIS is relevant

It might become your job, or at least an important part of it...



stellen.gr.ch  
**GRAUBÜNDEN**

Die Kantonale Verwaltung – eine moderne Arbeitgeberin für motivierte Mitarbeitende wie Sie.

**Mitarbeiter/-in Geodaten & Raumplanung im Archäologischen Dienst (80 %)**

Amt für Kultur / Archäologischer Dienst Graubünden  
Gürtelstrasse 89  
7001 Chur

**Ihr Aufgabengebiet:** Als Mitarbeiter/-in Geodaten & Raumplanung arbeiten Sie an der Schnittstelle zwischen den Bereichen Archive/Datenbanken/GIS und Bau-/Bodenforschung. Sie bereiten Geodaten aus digitalen und analogen Quellen auf und machen diese in Zusammenarbeit mit dem kantonalen GIS-Kompetenzzentrum für verschiedene Nutzer zugänglich. Neben Pflege und Unterhalt des archäologischen Geodatenmodells beteiligen Sie sich an der Weiterentwicklung der Geoinfrastruktur. Außerdem unterstützen Sie den Archäologischen Dienst beim systematischen Monitoring von Bodeneingriffen im Bereich archäologischer Fundstellen, indem Sie Baugesuche sowie Raum- und Nutzungsplanungen termingerecht überprüfen, mögliche Konflikte mit dem Schutz der Bodendenkmäler ermitteln und entsprechende Stellungnahmen verfassen.  
Mit Ihren Kenntnissen im Bereich Vermessung beraten Sie die Abteilung Bau-/Bodenforschung nicht nur im Büro sondern auch bei Ausgrabungen und bauarchäologischen Untersuchungen.

**Ihr Profil:** Sie verfügen über einen Bachelorabschluss in Raumplanung, Geomatik oder Archäologie oder können eine gleichwertige Ausbildung vorweisen. Der versierte Umgang mit den gängigen GIS-Anwendungen (QGIS, ArcGIS, PostGIS, FME) sowie mit CAD-Programmen (BricsCAD, ArchäoCAD) gehört zu Ihren Stärken. Idealerweise verfügen Sie über Erfahrung mit Scripting (PyQGIS), Photogrammetrie und sind vertraut mit den gängigen Vermessungsgeräten. Komplexe Datenstrukturen, grosse Datenbestände und das Einarbeiten in neue Software bereiten Ihnen keine Schwierigkeiten. Zudem sind Sie es gewohnt, selbstständig und termingerecht zu arbeiten und freuen sich auf ein motiviertes Team. Kenntnisse einer zweiten und allenfalls einer dritten Kantonssprache runden Ihr Profil ab.

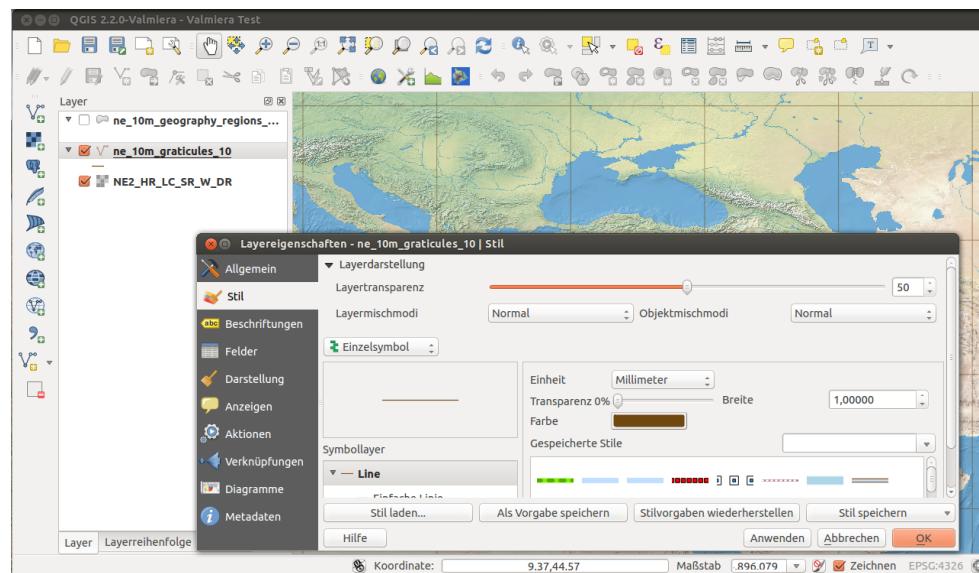
**Arbeitsumfang:** 80 %  
**Arbeitsbeginn:** 1. März 2022 oder nach Vereinbarung  
**Arbeitsort:** Chur  
**Anmeldefrist:** 28. November 2021  
**Kontaktperson:** Ivo Dobler, Telefon 081 257 48 65, ivo.dobler@adg.gr.ch

[Online bewerben >](#)

Wir freuen uns auf Ihre vollständige online Bewerbung.

# QGIS

- a free and open source GIS software
- <https://www.qgis.org/>
- If you not have already installed QGIS, please do now!



# Layers

**Layers  
(Vector Data)**

**Basemap  
(Raster Data)**

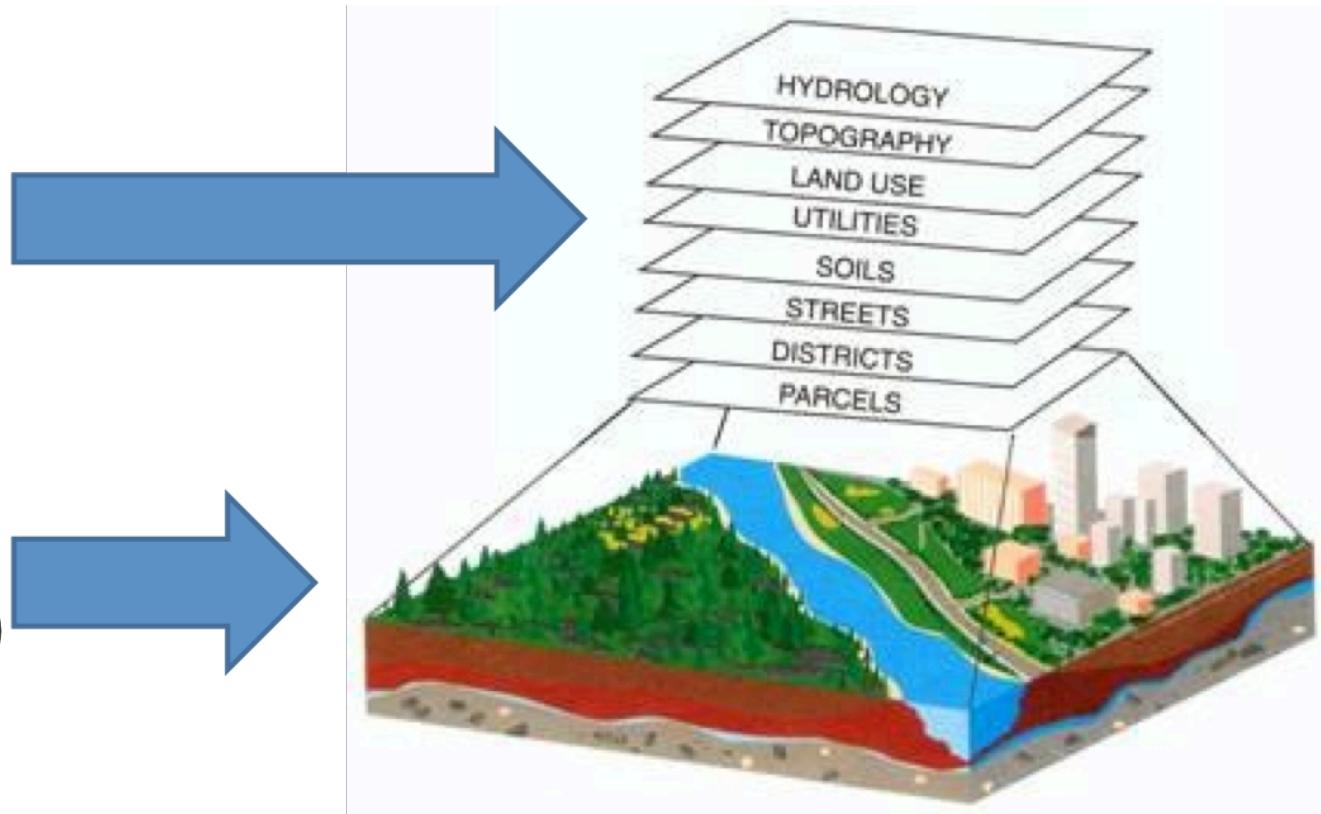
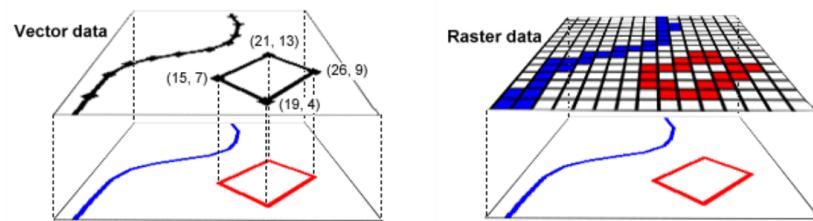


Image Source: <http://www.geocontrolling.com/co-je-gis.htm>

# Raster vs. Vector



The raster view of the world	Happy Valley spatial entities	The vector view of the world
 A 5x5 grid where the central cell and its immediate neighbors are filled with black, representing a building's footprint.	 A drawing of a multi-story building with several windows and a chimney. x Points: hotels	 A 2D coordinate system with X and Y axes. Four blue dots represent the locations of the hotel buildings.
 A 5x5 grid where the central cell and its immediate neighbors are filled with black, representing the area under a ski lift chair.	 A drawing of a ski lift chair suspended from a cable, with a building visible in the background. x Lines: ski lifts	 A 2D coordinate system with X and Y axes. Two blue dots are connected by a straight red line segment, representing the path of a ski lift.
 A 5x5 grid where all cells are filled with black, representing a dense forest area.	 A drawing of several tall evergreen trees standing next to a grey, irregularly shaped area representing a body of water. x Areas: forest	 A 2D coordinate system with X and Y axes. A closed red polygonal line forms a boundary around a cluster of blue dots, representing the extent of a forest.

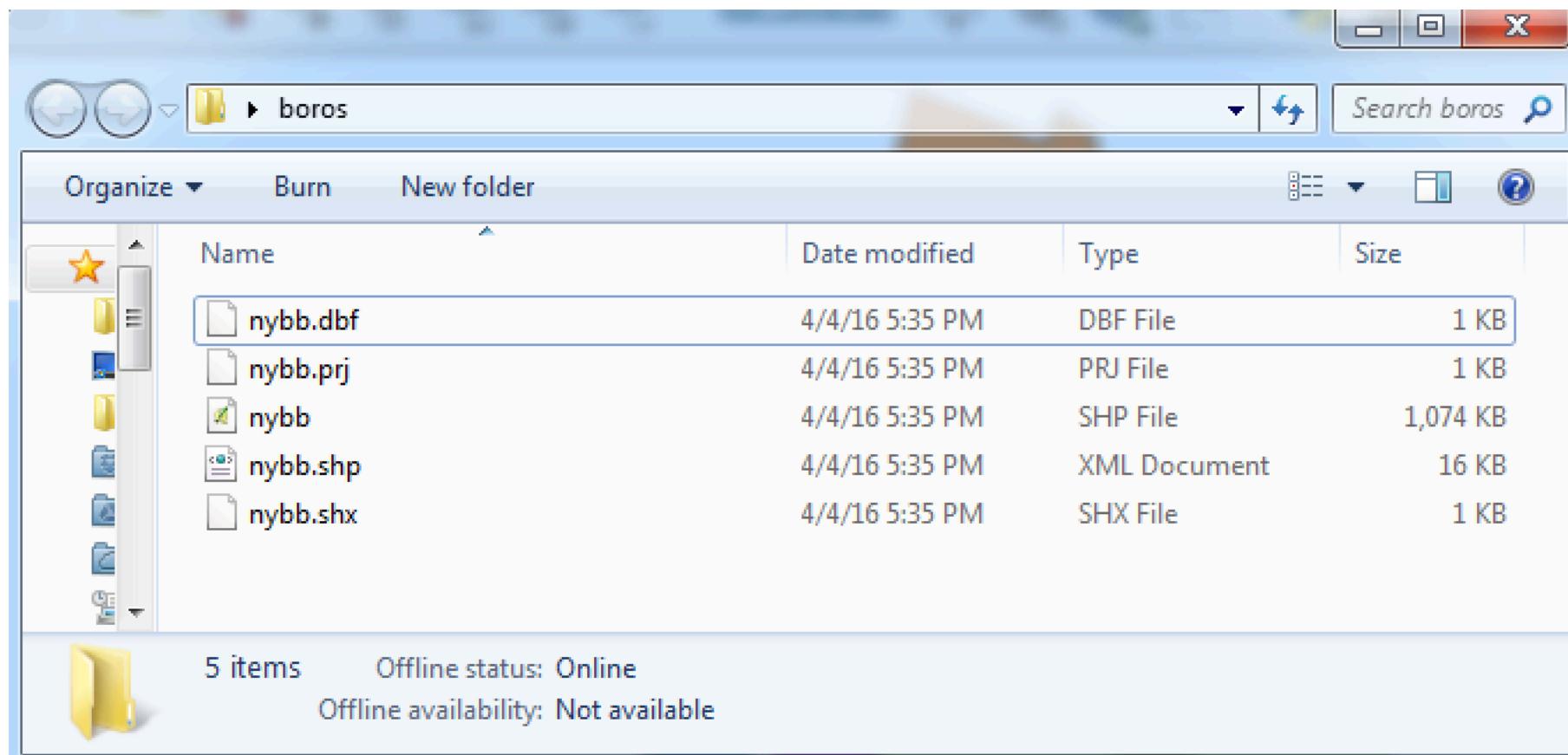
# Raster (files)

- essentially an image with geographic information, which is georeferenced
- mostly used for background maps
- can also contain continuous spatial information (altitude, precipitation, site density, ...)
- Multiple formats are available (.img, .grid, .tiff, ...)
- GeoTiffs are a quasi standard

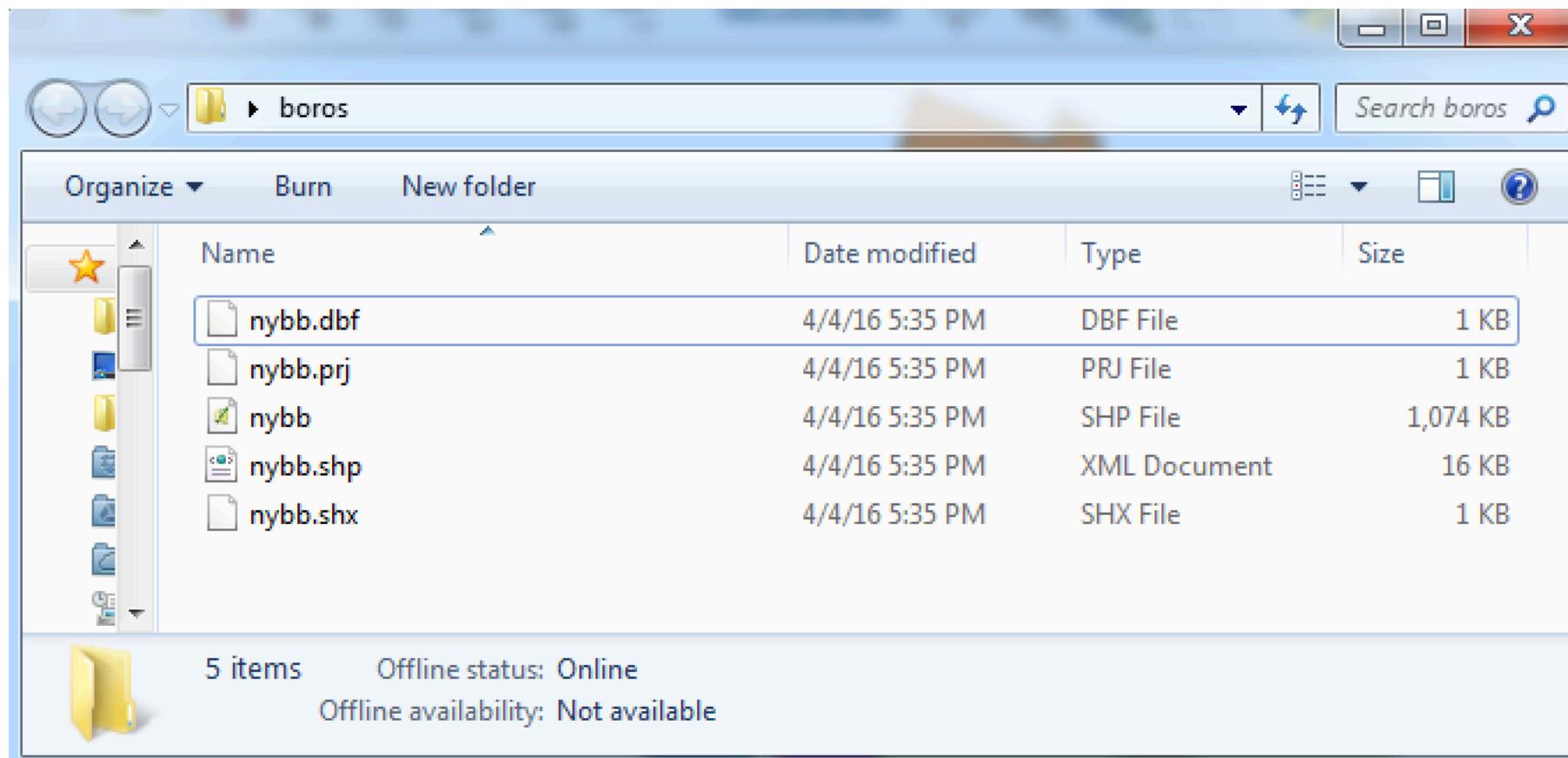


# Shapefiles

- Basic file for storing map elements
- Stores spatial data, like points, lines, and polygons
- Multiple files comprise a "shapefile"

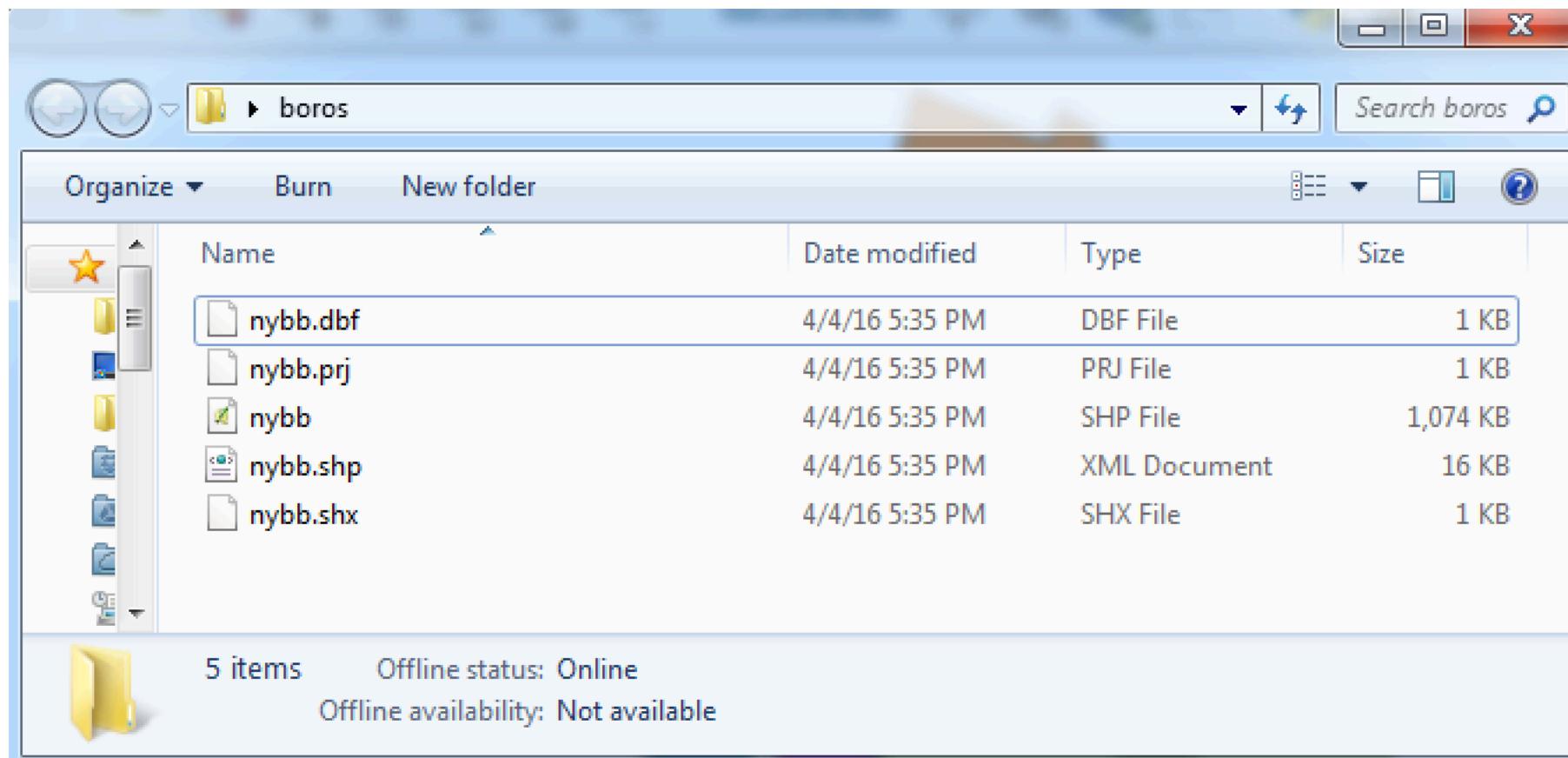


# Shapefiles



- .shp—The main file that stores the feature geometry
- .dbf—The dBASE table that stores the attribute information of features

# Shapefiles



- .prj—The file that stores the coordinate system information
- .shx—The index file that stores the index of the feature geometry

## You might also see

- .cpg—Identifies the character set to be used
- .sbn and .sbx—The files that store the spatial index of the features

# Shapefiles

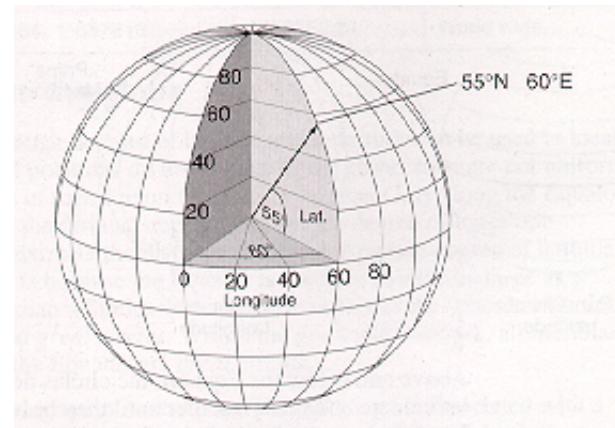
- Have a few limitations
- One geometry type (Point, Line, Polygon) per shapefile
- So sometimes you end up with this:

Name		Size	Type	Modified
 osm_line.dbf		24.7 MB	Document	Feb 4
 osm_line.prj		143 bytes	Unknown	Feb 4
 osm_line.shp		1.5 MB	Unknown	Feb 4
 osm_line.shx		37.1 kB	Unknown	Feb 4
 osm_point.dbf		4.8 MB	Document	Feb 4
 osm_point.prj		143 bytes	Unknown	Feb 4
 osm_point.shp		24.9 kB	Unknown	Feb 4
 osm_point.shx		7.2 kB	Unknown	Feb 4
 osm_polygon.dbf		939.4 kB	Document	Feb 4
 osm_polygon.prj		143 bytes	Unknown	Feb 4
 osm_polygon.shp		4.6 MB	Unknown	Feb 4
 osm_polygon.shx		1.5 kB	Unknown	Feb 4

# Coordinates

Lat/long system measures angles on spherical surfaces

- $60^\circ$  east of PM
- $55^\circ$  north of equator
- Lat/long values are NOT Cartesian (X, Y) coordinates
- constant angular deviations do not have constant distance deviations
- $1^\circ$  of longitude at the equator  $\neq 1^\circ$  of longitude near the poles

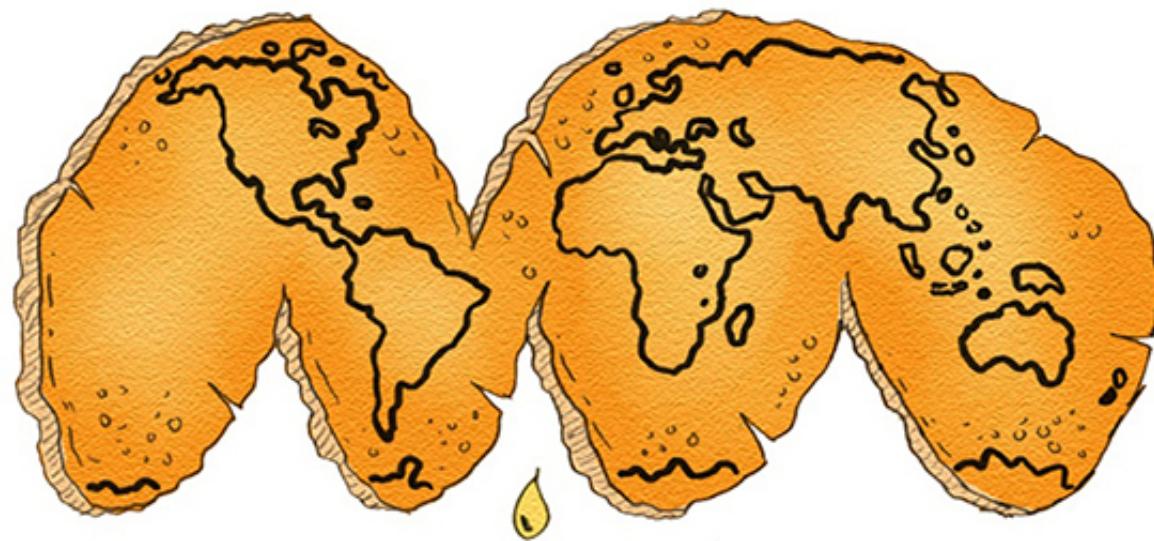


A basic Coordinate Reference System

# So what is a Coordinate Reference System?

# Projections

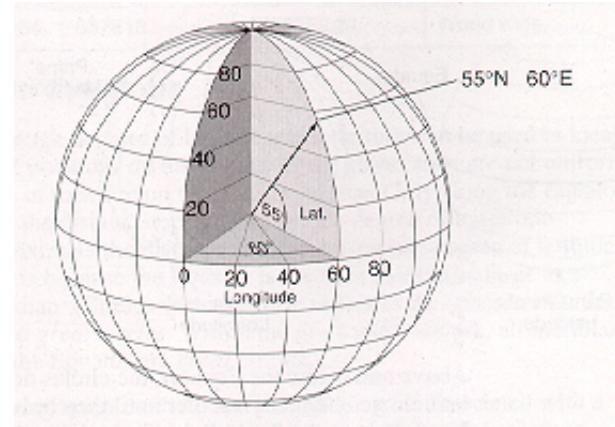
- No one's favorite part of GIS
- But a necessary part of it nonetheless
- Convert points on the 3-dimensional Earth (**latitude** and **longitude**) to x and y coordinates on a 2-dimensional map



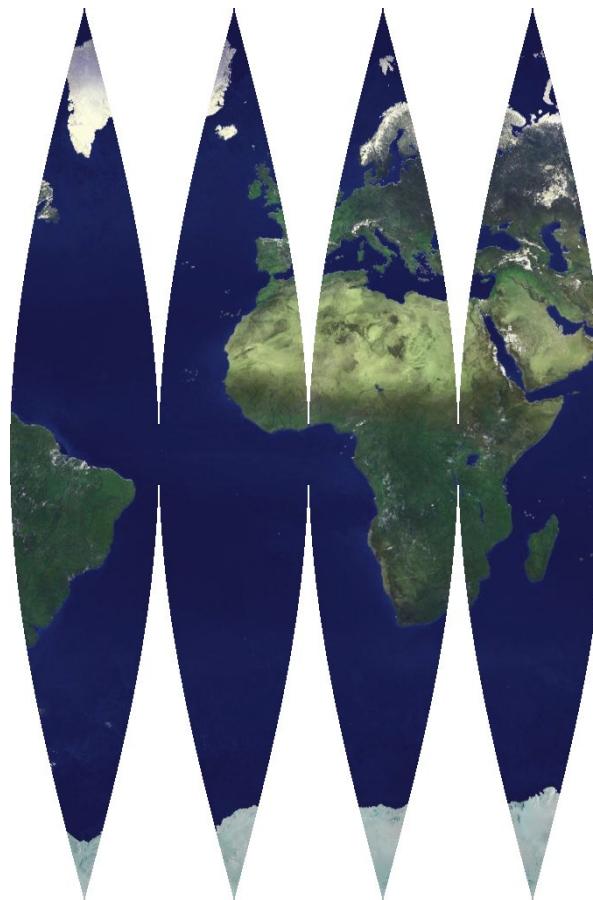
Digital Coast Geozone

# Coordinate Reference Systems

- Features on spherical surfaces are not easy to measure
- Features on planes are easy to measure and calculate
  - distance
  - angle
  - area
- Coordinate systems provide a measurement framework

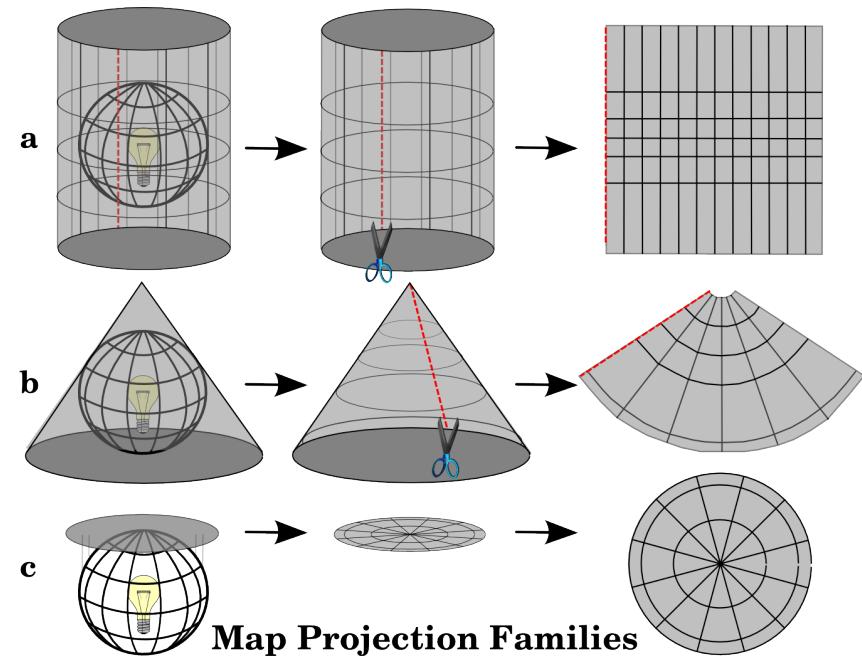


# Coordinate Systems and Projection [1]



# Coordinate Systems and Projection [2]

- an imaginary light is “projected” onto a “developable surface”
- a variety of different projection models exist
- Map projections always introduce error and distortion



# Projections

- Every projection distorts some part of your map

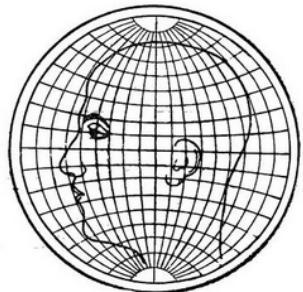


FIG. 42.—Man's head drawn on globular pro-  
jection.

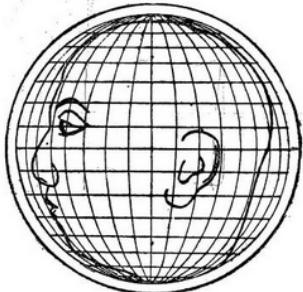


FIG. 43.—Man's head plotted on orthographic pro-  
jection.

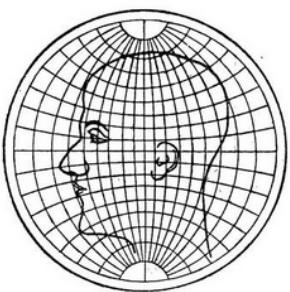


FIG. 44.—Man's head plotted on stereographic  
projection.

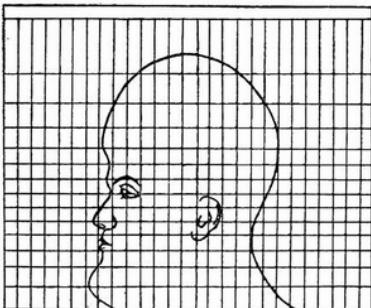
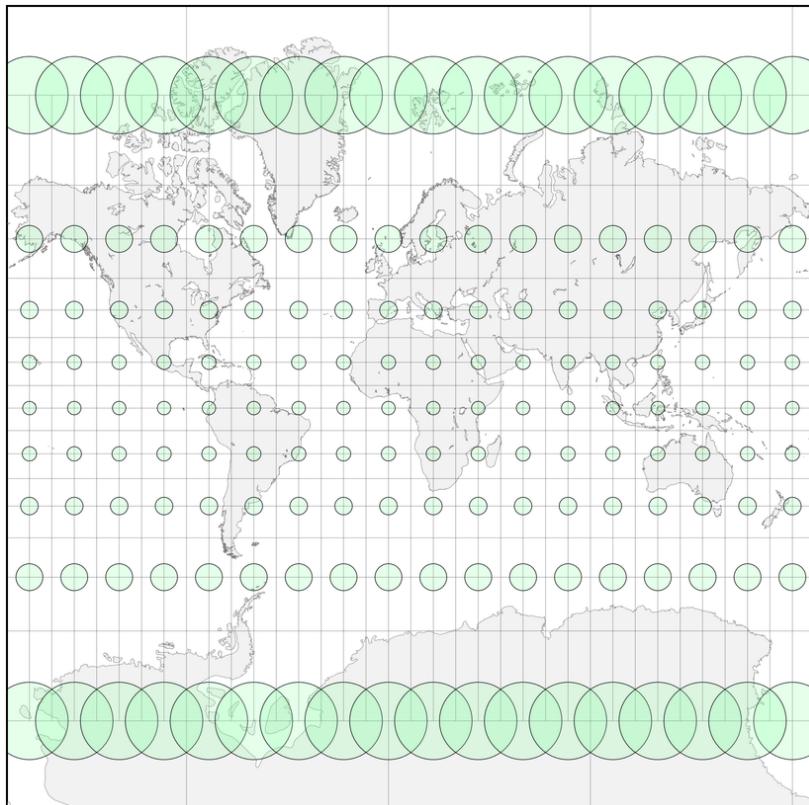


FIG. 45.—Man's head plotted on Mercator projec-  
tion.

FlowingData

# Projections Matter

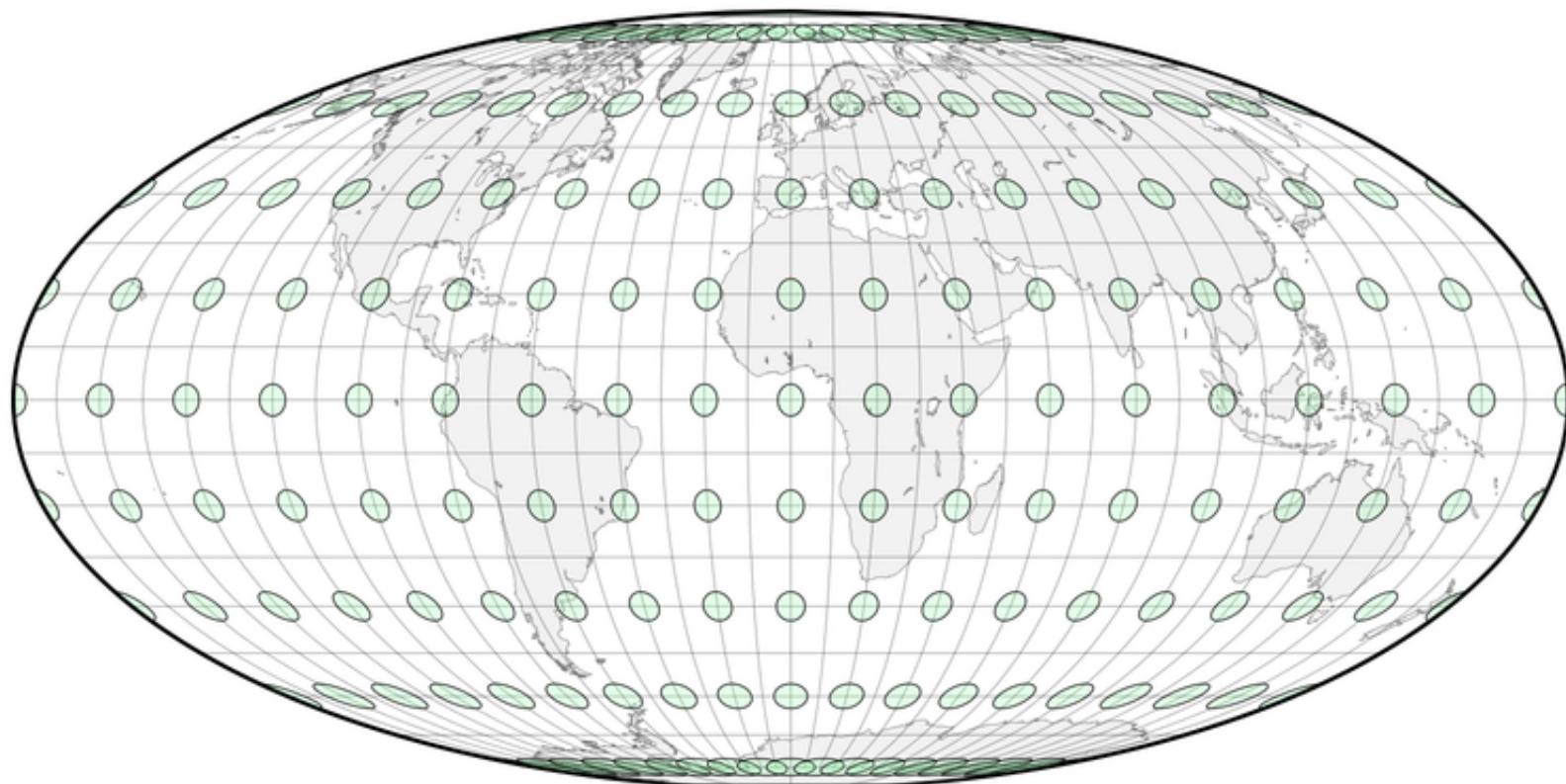
- These circles are all the same size on the globe:



Progonos

# Projections Matter

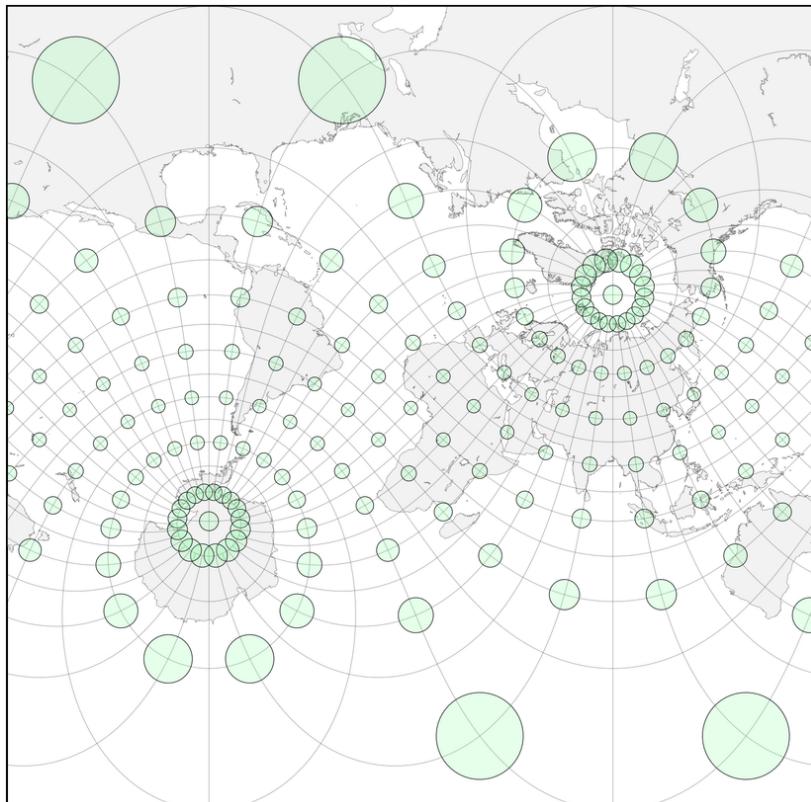
- As are these:



Progonos

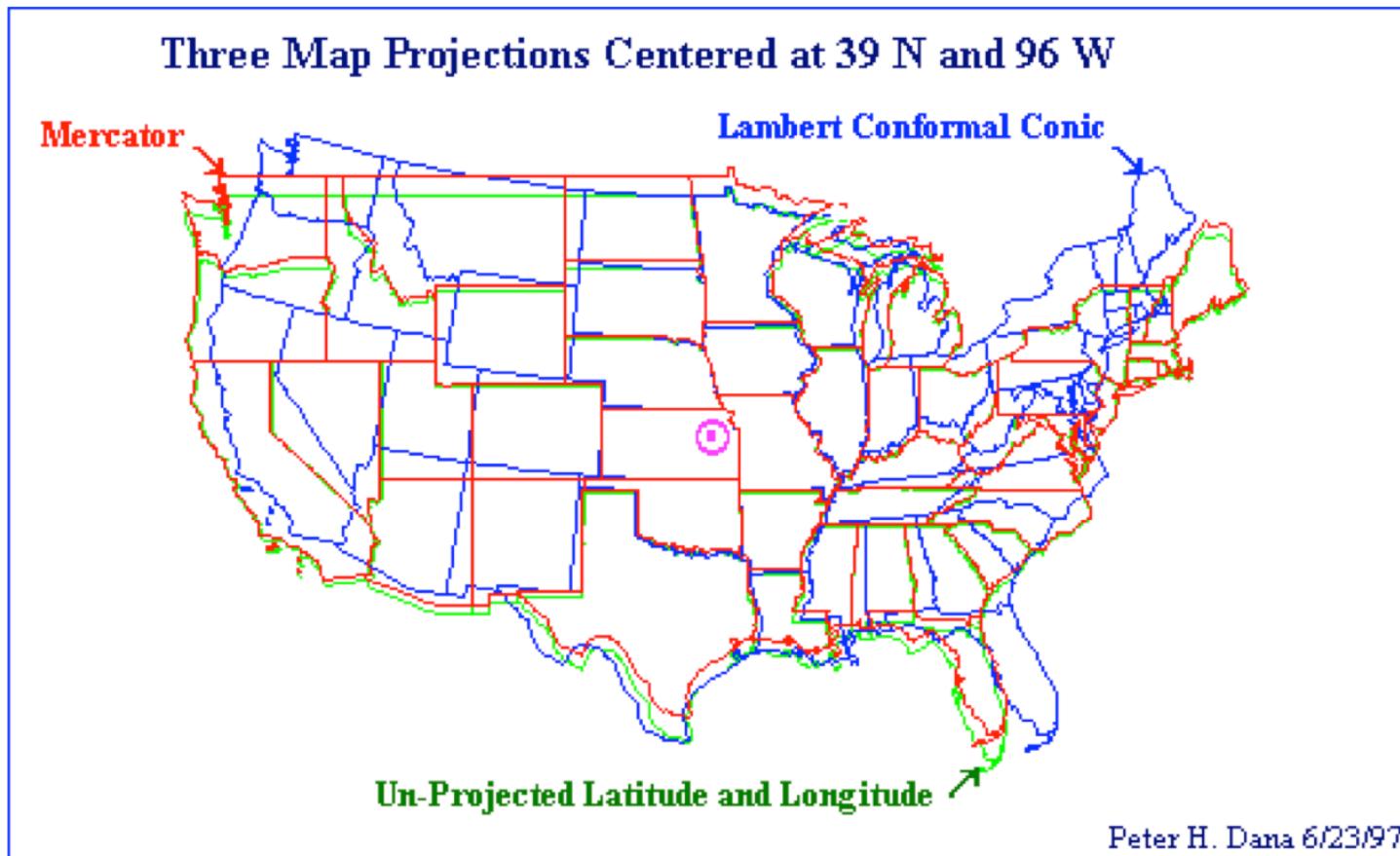
# Projections Matter

- And these:



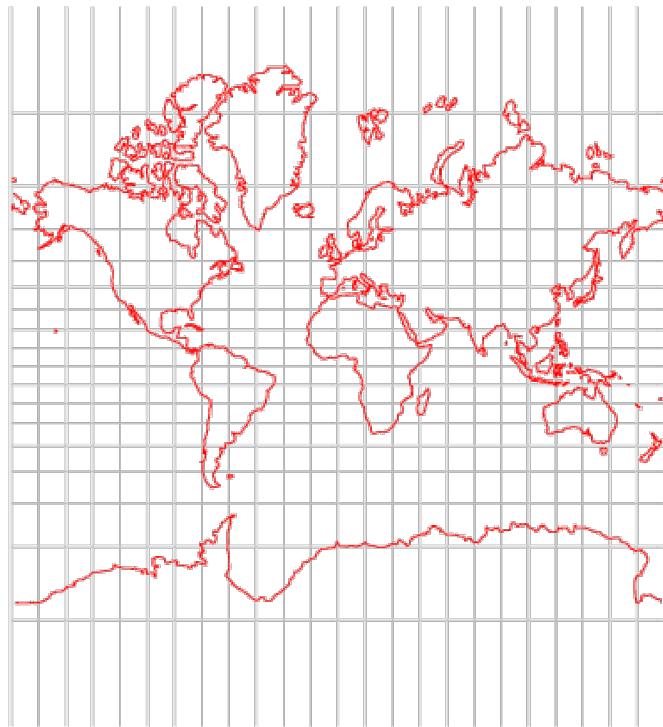
Progonos

# Projections Matter



# Mercator Projections

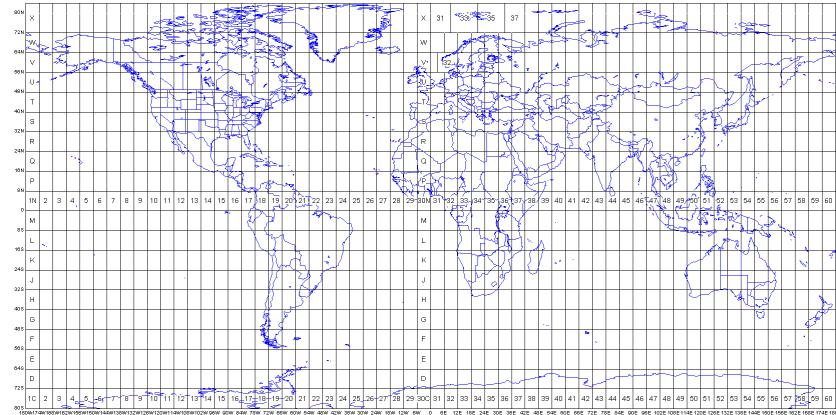
- A common map projection
- Makes geometries near poles look bigger than geometries near the equator



# UTM

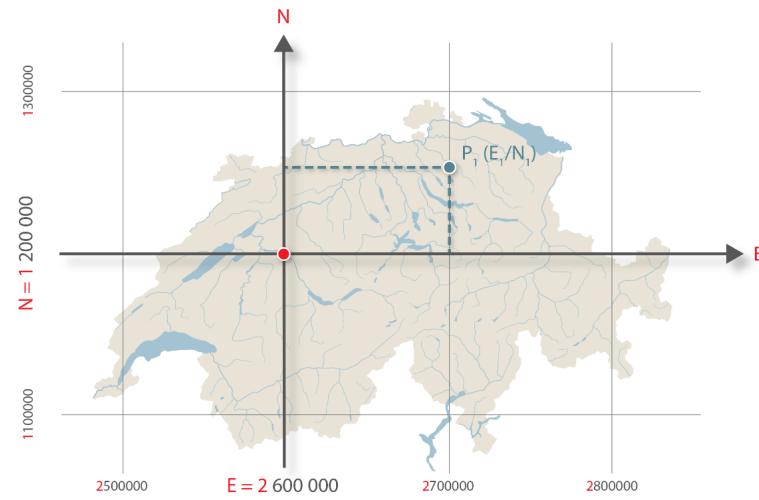
## Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM)

- Based on the Transverse Mercator projection
- 60 zones (each  $6^\circ$  wide)
- false eastings
- Y-0 set at south pole or equator



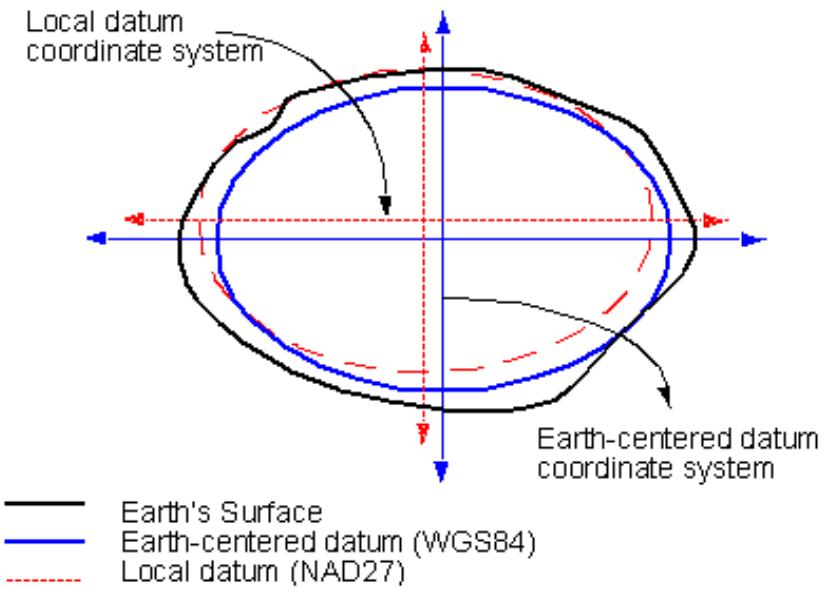
# Schweizer Landeskoordinaten

- a geographic coordinate system used in Switzerland for maps and surveying by the Swiss Federal Office of Topography (Swisstopo)
- The map projection used is Oblique Mercator on an 1841 Bessel ellipsoid.
- All coordinates are always positive, since Switzerland is located in the 1st quadrant of the coordinate system.



# Datums and Ellipsoids

- The earth is essentially a potatoe...
- Ellipsoids are geometric estimations of the shape of the earth with more or less accuracy
- a datum is a system that allows us to place a coordinate system on the earth's surface based on a specific ellipsoid
- examples:
  - WGS84 (Lat/Lng, UTM)
  - Bessel 1841 (Schweizer Landeskoordinaten)



# Projections

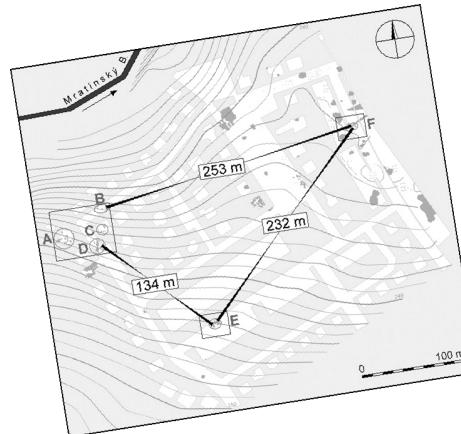
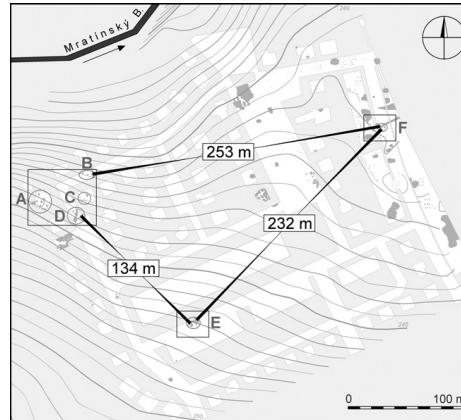
- Identified by unique IDs (**EPSG**) that make it easier to talk about them
- EPSG: European Petroleum Survey Group Geodesy (it was introduced, because Oil companies were annoyed by the incredible number of different systems)
- WGS 84 is referred to as **EPSG:4326**
- Google Maps and other online sources often uses WGS 84 / Pseudo-Mercator (**EPSG:3857**)
- CHTRS95 is referred to as **EPSG:2056**

Remember these three and you should be set

# Georeferencing

The process of orienting a image in geographical space

- Every map comes with its own projection. Sometimes known, more often not
- Every mapping results in errors or imprecision. Every digitalisation adds errors up to that.
- Scale matters: digitised information on large scale might be precise enough, on small scale not. It is necessary to keep meta-data to know how the data were digitised (on what scale) to be able to understand on what scale they might be used.

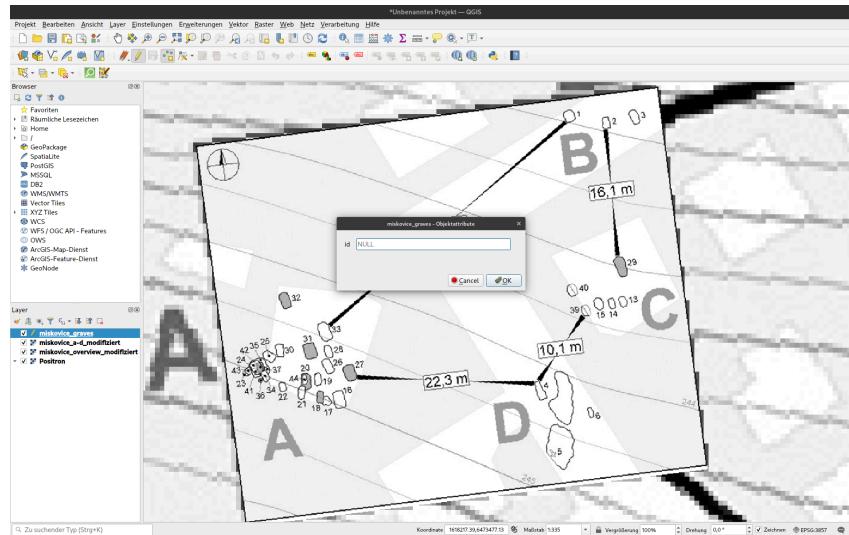


# Digitising

The process of attaching geocoordinates to points on georeferenced maps

Rather straight forward:

- You have a layer of a certain geometry
- You make it editable
- You click on the feature of the scanned map
- You specify additional information for that point
- Rinse and repeat
- Finally, save the layer



# Any questions?

You might find the course material (including the presentations) at

<https://berncodalab.github.io/caa>

You can contact me at

[martin.hinz@iaw.unibe.ch](mailto:martin.hinz@iaw.unibe.ch)

- Steiniger 2009, Free and Open Source Desktop GIS Projects and Software
- Briggs 2019, GIS Fundamentals
- Leeds, Raster GIS
- Lawler/Schiess 2010, Projections and Coordinate Systems