International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis
IIASA www.iiasa.ac.at

science for global insight

Spatial data and analysis in R

ESM – CDAT course series

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Course plan

Introduction talk

(14 - 15pm, 22th October 2020)

Self study tutorials

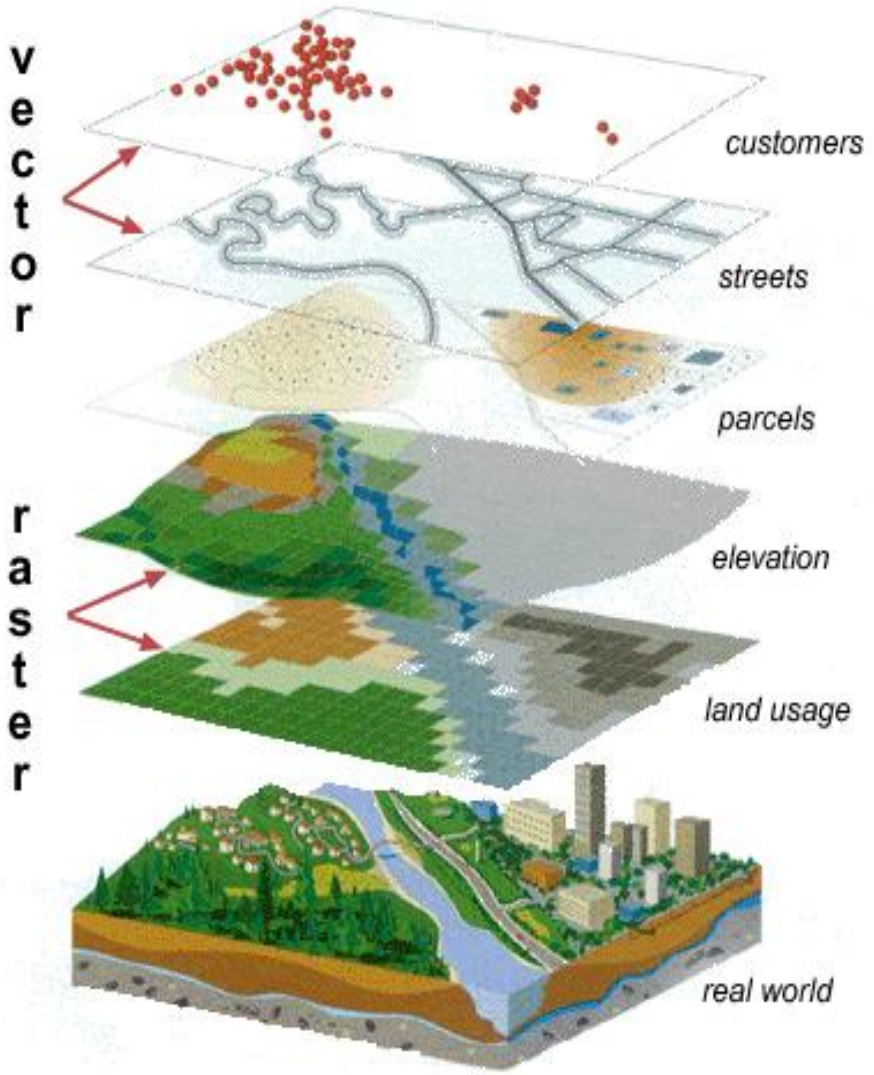
(online self paced, link at end of slides)

All slides and materials online

What is GIS?

*A geographic information system (**GIS**) is a system designed to capture, store, manipulate, analyze, manage, and present types of geographical data.*

Types of spatial data



Source: maprabu.blogspot.com

Format:
*.shp, *.gpkg, *.gpx, *.kml, ...

Format:
*.tif, *.vrt, *.hdr, *.asc, ...

Vector

Advantage: Accuracy, more visually pleasing

Disadvantage: Space-inefficient. Every vertex needs to be stored. Algorithms computational intensive.

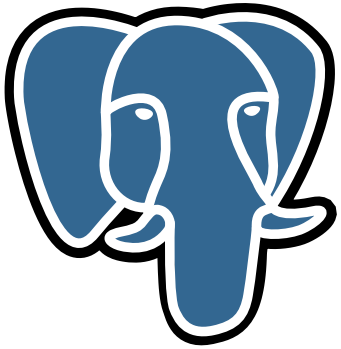
Raster

Advantage: Geogr. Position associated with data, easier for analysis

Disadvantage: Resolution dependent on cell-size. Lack of attributes, MAUP

Spatial databases

SpatiaLite



PostgreSQL & PostGIS

And many more...

Stop using shapefiles!

Multifile system (.shp,.shx,.dbf,.prj, …)

Limited to 2GB (4GB)

Attribute names limitation

Etc...

http://switchfromshapefile.org/

Solution → OGC Geopackages

Why use R for spatial analyses?

- ✓ Open source
- ✓ Efficiency (‘Don’t repeat yourself’)
- ✓ Cross system availability (Win,*Nix, MacO$
- ✓ Extendable and rich functionality
- ✓ Clean coding (also for ‘tidy’ data concept)
- ✓ Parallel computing support
- ✓ Integration of C, C++ code for speed

Many spatial packages

ELSEVIER

Environmental Modelling & Software

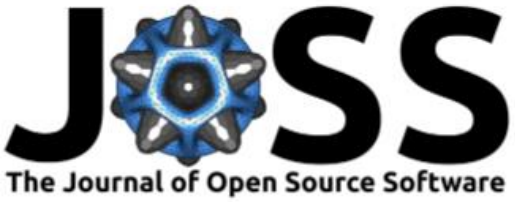
Volume 133, November 2020, 104799

Position Paper

Harmonise and integrate heterogeneous areal data with the R package arealDB

Steffen Ehrmann [a, d], Ralf Seppelt [b, c], Carsten Meyer [a, c, d]

Source: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envsoft.2020.104799



geemap: A Python package for interactive mapping with Google Earth Engine

Qiusheng Wu[1]

1 Department of Geography, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37996, United States

DOI: 10.21105/joss.02305

One comprehensive list of spatial packages

https://cran.r-project.org/web/views/Spatial.html

Why/When not to use R for spatial analyses?

- R can be slow
- Many (sp) packages not memory efficient
- Often little support
- No GUI
- Greater proficiency in other languages

(Personal opinion)

The diversity of open source GIS solutions is both its greatest strength and weakness

The backbone of most open-source GIS

OGC®

Making location count.

Standards like WMS, KML, GML, SFC

PROJ

GEOS Geometry Engine Open Source

C/C++ libraries

R as a GIS

Main packages: 'sp', 'raster' and 'rgdal' still go-to functions to use

Problem: Each have their own object-based model, often inefficient code

Tidy data and simple features

Simple Features are a set of OGC standards how spatial (vector) data is to be stored

Source: https://r-spatial.github.io/sf/articles/sf1.html

```
## Simple feature collection with 100 features and 6 fields
## geometry type:  MULTIPOLYGON
## dimension:      XY
## bbox:           xmin: -84.32385 ymin: 33.88199 xmax: -75.45698 ymax: 36.58965
## epsg (SRID):    4267
## proj4string:    +proj=longlat +datum=NAD27 +no_defs
## precision:      double (default; no precision model)
## First 3 features:
##   BIR74 SID74 NWBIR74 BIR79 SID79 NWBIR79                           geom
## 1  1091     1      10  1364     0      19 MULTIPOLYGON(((-81.47275543...
## 2   487     0      10   542     3      12 MULTIPOLYGON(((-81.23989105...
## 3  3188     5     208  3616     6     260 MULTIPOLYGON(((-80.45634460...
```

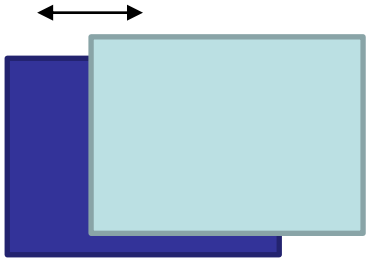
Simple feature

Simple feature geometry list–colum (sfc)

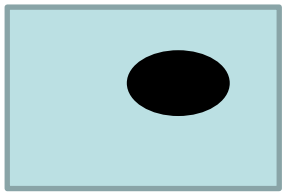
Simple feature geometry (sfg)

Common spatial tasks I do in R

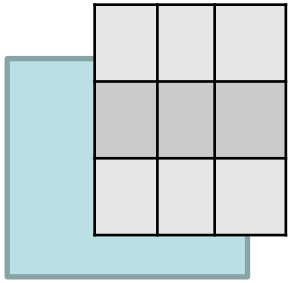
Aligning raster input data



Extracting zonal statistics



Joining spatial and non-spatial data



What to do if things don’t work

Too slow

→ Check memory requirements, consider tiling

No Function

→ Check external tools. Is there a wrapper?

Visualization

→ Use QGIS for quick queries

Free online books and materials

Welcome

This is the online home of *Geocomputation with R*, a book on geographic data analysis, visualization and modeling.

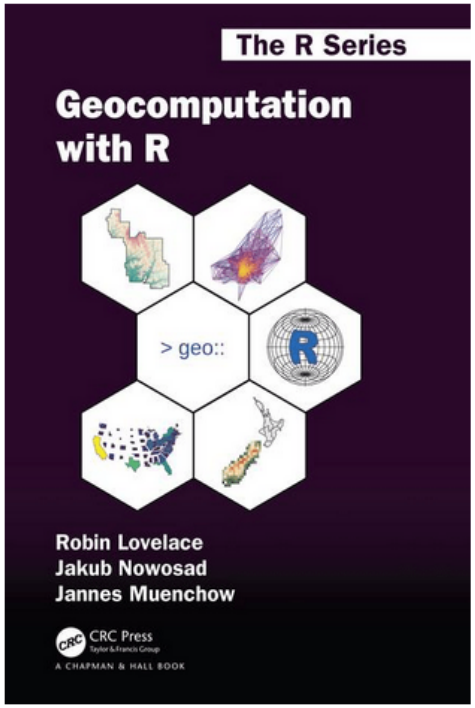
Note: This book has now been published by CRC Press in the R Series. You can buy the book from CRC Press, Wordery, or Amazon.

Inspired by **bookdown** and the Free and Open Source Software for Geospatial (FOSS4G) movement, this book is open source. This ensures its contents are reproducible and publicly accessible for people worldwide.

The online version of the book is hosted at geocompr.robinlovelace.net and kept up-to-date by GitHub Actions, which provides information on its 'build status' as follows:

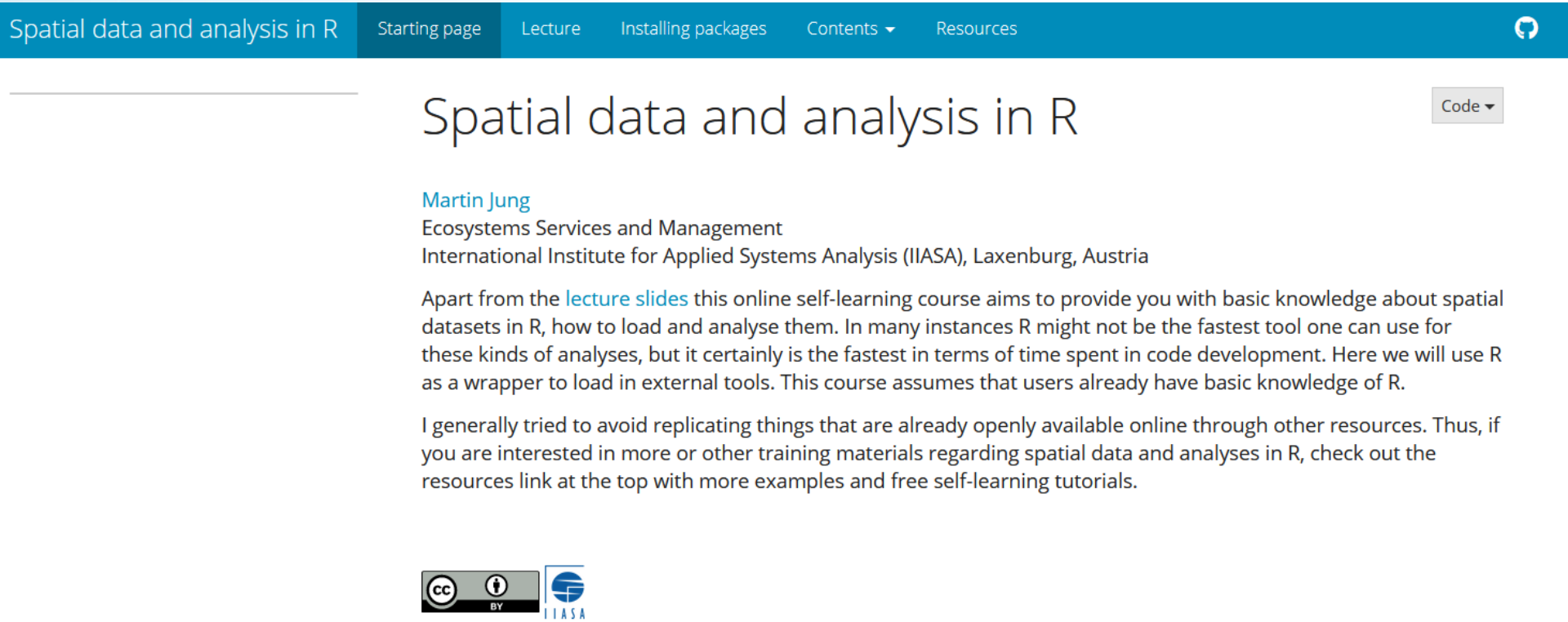
Render-Book-from-master passing

This version of the book was built on GH Actions on 2020-10-06.



https://geocompr.robinlovelace.net/index.html

Online course materials



<URL>

Thank you for your attention.

Good success with your spatial data!