# An intro to working with geospatial data in Python

Including rasterio and geopandas.

### Based loosely on:

- Capentries Incubator tutorial
- GeoPanas docs
- Rasterio docs

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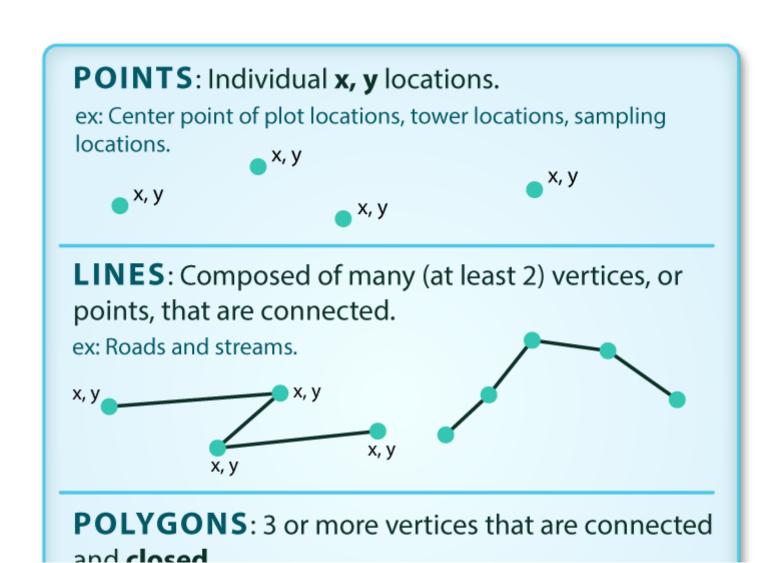
13 April 2021

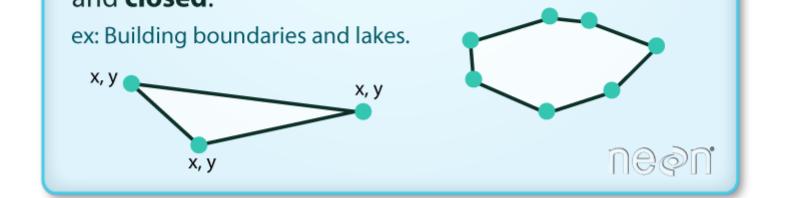
## Overview

- What is a vector, raster and CRS?
- Using geopandas to work with vectors
- Using rasterio to work with rasters
- Linking rasterio to xarray
- Using geopandas and rasterio together

### What are vectors?

Vectors are discrete geometric locations (vertices) that define the shape of a spatial object on the Earth's surface.



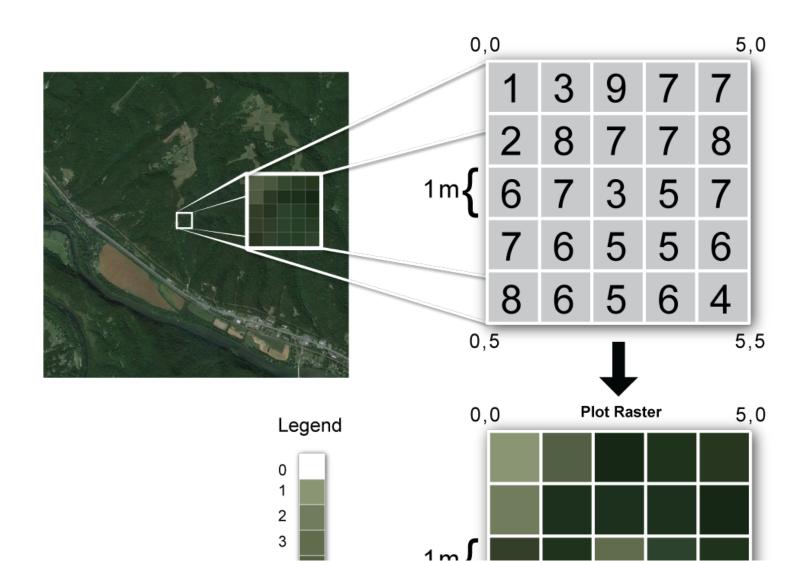


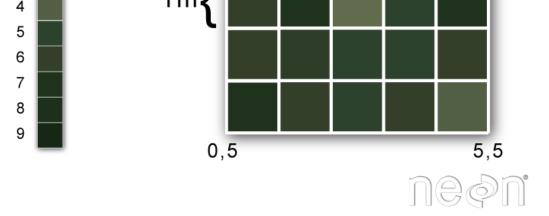
#### Vector data can be stored in lots of formats:

- Shapefiles: .shp
- GeoJSON: .json
- XYZ file: .xyz
- CSV file with lat/lon columns: .csv
- etc...

## What a rasters?

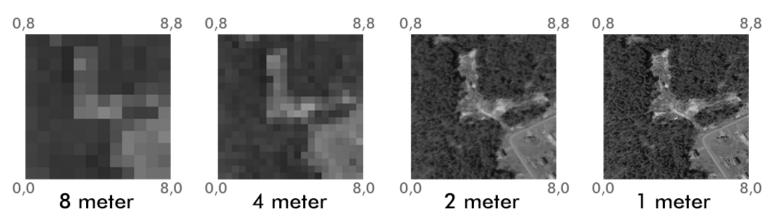
Rasters are **pixelated/gridded** data where each pixel is associated with a specific geographic location.



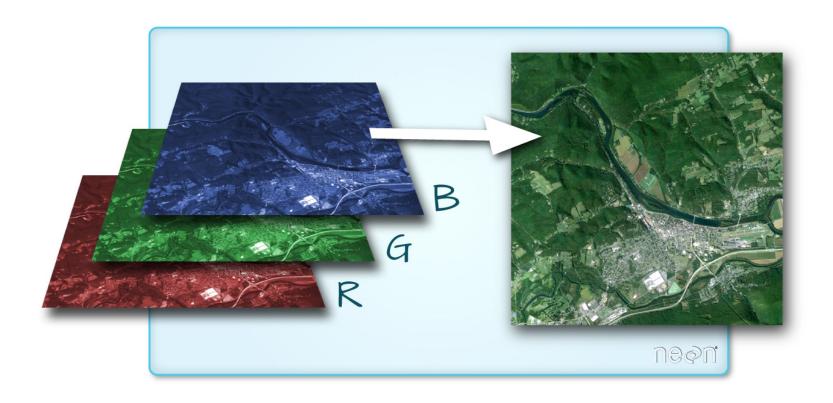


Rasters can have different resolutions, from metres to >kilometres:

### Raster over the same extent, at 4 different resolutions



Rasters can have one or more bands. Bands could represent colours in a colour image, or other dimensions of interest (e.g. time).



### Rasters can be stored in lots of formats:

- GeoTIFF: .tiff
- ASCII/Esri grid: .grd
- NetCDF following CF Conventions: .nc
- JPEG2000: .jpeg

## What is a CRS?

Coordinate Reference System

**Data are only geospatial if they have a CRS.** The CRS connects the data to the Earth's surface and detail how the 3D globe should be flatten onto a 2D image.



CRSs can be *geopgrahic* or *projected*.

- *Geographic* CRSs use units of latitude and longitude (and sometimes height). Popular example: WGS 84. Geographic coordinate systems are generally best for working on large (global) scales.
- *Projected* CRSs project lat/lon values to a 2D plane (eastings and northings). Popular example: EPSG:3857, a spherical projection using by e.g. Google.

### CRSs can be uniquely described by:

- EPSG codes: a database of CRS information maintained by the International Association of Oil and Gas Producers.
- Well-Known Text (WKT): Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) standard. Nested listed of parameters describing CRS. Difficult to read, but can represent more complex geopgrahic information.
- PROJ string: Simpler than WKT, but now deprecated in favour of WKT.

British National Grid, EPSG: 27700: https://epsg.io/27700.

## Using geopandas to work with vectors

GeoPandas combines Pandas and Shapely to be able to manage vector data in a Pandas DataFrame

See <a href="https://geopandas.org/">https://geopandas.org/</a>. Recommended installation is via Conda: conda install -c conda-forge geopandas.

```
import geopandas as gpd

# This could be a path to e.g. a Shapefile, GeoJSON file etc.
# Here we're using a dataset provided with GeoPandas
file_path = gpd.datasets.get_path("naturalearth_lowres")
gdf = gpd.read_file(file_path)
```

### Out[35]:

gdf

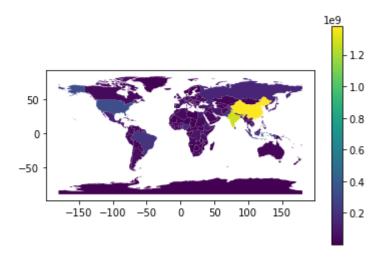
	pop_est	continent	name	iso_a3	gdp_md_est	geometry
0	920938	Oceania	Fiji	FJI	8374.0	MULTIPOLYGON (((180.00000 -16.06713, 180.00000
1	53950935	Africa	Tanzania	TZA	150600.0	POLYGON ((33.90371 -0.95000, 34.07262 -1.05982
2	603253	Africa	W. Sahara	ESH	906.5	POLYGON ((-8.66559 27.65643, -8.66512 27.58948
3	35623680	North America	Canada	CAN	1674000.0	MULTIPOLYGON (((-122.84000 49.00000, -122.9742
4	326625791	North America	United States of America	USA	18560000.0	MULTIPOLYGON (((-122.84000 49.00000, -120.0000
•••						
172	7111024	Europe	Serbia	SRB	101800.0	POLYGON ((18.82982 45.90887, 18.82984 45.90888
173	642550	Europe	Montenegro	MNE	10610.0	POLYGON ((20.07070 42.58863, 19.80161 42.50009
174	1895250	Europe	Kosovo	-99	18490.0	POLYGON ((20.59025 41.85541, 20.52295 42.21787
175	1218208	North America	Trinidad and Tobago	TTO	43570.0	POLYGON ((-61.68000 10.76000, -61.10500 10.890
176	13026129	Africa	S. Sudan	SSD	20880.0	POLYGON ((30.83385 3.50917, 29.95350 4.17370,

177 rows × 6 columns

## Plotting

```
In [37]: gdf.plot("pop_est", legend=True)
```

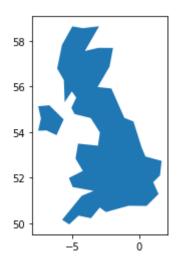
Out[37]: <AxesSubplot:>



## Pandas filtering

```
In [38]: # Filter the dataset where column iso_a3 equals GBR and then plot
gdf[gdf['iso_a3'] == 'GBR'].plot()
```

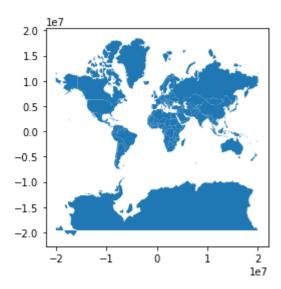
### Out[38]: <AxesSubplot:>



## Changing the projection

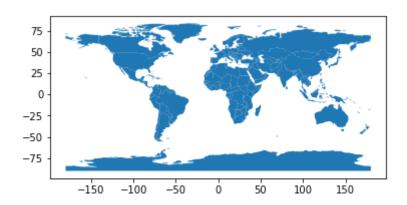
```
In [39]:
    gdf_wm = gdf.to_crs('EPSG:3857')
    gdf_wm.plot()
```

### Out[39]: <AxesSubplot:>



In [40]: gdf.plot()

### Out[40]: <AxesSubplot:>



## Areas, centroids and distances

We can easily measure the area of polygons:

```
In [41]:
# Create a new column 'area' that is the area of each geometry (country)
gdf_wm['area'] = gdf_wm.area
gdf_wm.sort_values('area', ascending=False)
```

#### Out[41]:

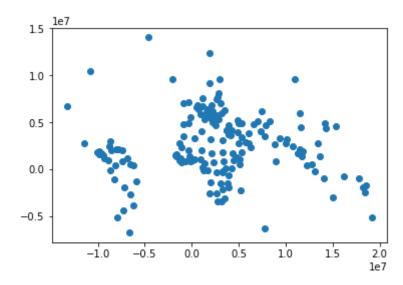
	pop_est	continent	name	iso_a3	gdp_md_est	geometry	area
18	142257519	Europe	Russia	RUS	3745000.00	MULTIPOLYGON (((19895609.388 11436139.118, 200	8.304514e+13
3	35623680	North America	Canada	CAN	1674000.00	MULTIPOLYGON (((-13674486.249 6274861.394, -13	5.216648e+13
22	57713	North America	Greenland	GRL	2173.00	POLYGON ((-5205721.290 17490757.185, -4831982	3.628550e+13
4	326625791	North America	United States of America	USA	18560000.00	MULTIPOLYGON (((-13674486.249 6274861.394, -13	2.186228e+13
139	1379302771	Asia	China	CHN	21140000.00	MULTIPOLYGON (((12186724.586 2060702.116, 1209	1.497731e+13
•••							
175	1218208	North America	Trinidad and Tobago	TTO	43570.00	POLYGON ((-6866186.192 1204901.071, -6802177.4	8.051555e+09
79	4543126	Asia	Palestine	PSE	21220.77	POLYGON ((3940438.428 3696430.498, 3888101.327	7.015327e+09
128	594130	Europe	Luxembourg	LUX	58740.00	POLYGON ((672711.849 6468481.737, 694939.873 6	5.785823e+09
160	265100	Asia	N. Cyprus	-99	3600.00	POLYGON ((3643685.108 4182926.430, 3651554.656	5.686154e+09
159	4050	Antarctica	Antarctica	ATA	810.00	MULTIPOLYGON (((-5416874.996 -14393907.644, -5	NaN

177 rows × 7 columns

We can get the centre of the polygons:

```
In [42]:
# Create a new column that is the centroid of each geometry (country)
gdf_wm['centroid'] = gdf_wm.centroid
gdf_wm['centroid'].plot()
```

#### Out[42]: <AxesSubplot:>



We can calculate distances between these centroids. E.g. say we want to calculate the distance from the UK:

name iso a3 adp md est

#### In [43]:

# Get the row that is for the UK
uk\_centroid = gdf\_wm[gdf\_wm['name'] == 'United Kingdom']['centroid'].iloc[0]
# Create a new column and use the distance() method to calculate the distance to the UK centroid
gdf\_wm['distance\_to\_uk'] = gdf\_wm['centroid'].distance(uk\_centroid)
gdf\_wm.sort\_values('distance\_to\_uk', ascending=False)

aeometry

area

centroid distance to uk

#### Out[43]:

pop est continent

	pop_est	continent	name	iso_as	gap_ma_est	geometry	area	centroia	distance_to_uk
136	4510327	Oceania	New Zealand	NZL	174800.0	MULTIPOLYGON (((19690839.812 -4875534.642, 196	5.005072e+11	POINT (19211133.527 -5143927.928)	2.310196e+07
134	279070	Oceania	New Caledonia	NCL	10770.0	POLYGON ((18454544.055 -2401420.887, 18545826	2.686859e+10	POINT (18427504.310 -2423487.891)	2.107120e+07
89	282814	Oceania	Vanuatu	VUT	723.0	MULTIPOLYGON (((18614489.182 -1792201.332, 186	8.119409e+09	POINT (18598636.273 -1752068.573)	2.092808e+07
0	920938	Oceania	Fiji	FJI	8374.0	MULTIPOLYGON (((20037508.343 -1812498.413, 200	2.128334e+10	POINT (18248781.791 -1958098.338)	2.070252e+07
135	647581	Oceania	Solomon Is.	SLB	1198.0	MULTIPOLYGON (((18047007.277 -1173496.191, 180	2.549835e+10	POINT (17807849.653 -989994.877)	1.989061e+07
•••									
129	11491346	Europe	Belgium	BEL	508600.0	POLYGON ((685356.051 6586647.408, 672711.849 6	7.485603e+10	POINT (509597.156 6561035.236)	1.043256e+06
130	17084719	Europe	Netherlands	NLD	870800.0	POLYGON ((768676.624 7072687.677, 789483.757 7	1.067734e+11	POINT (614065.187 6856791.175)	9.944941e+05
133	5011102	Europe	Ireland	IRL	322000.0	POLYGON ((-689945.390 7145114.483, -671588.863	1.626143e+11	POINT (-891472.831 7020537.812)	5.929234e+05
143	64769452	Europe	United Kingdom	GBR	2788000.0	MULTIPOLYGON (((-689945.390 7145114.483, -7740	7.223808e+11	POINT (-323128.917 7189485.698)	0.000000e+00

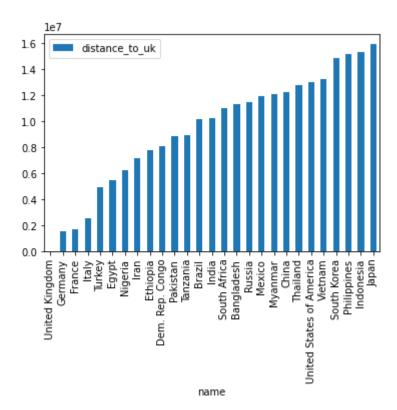
	pop_est	continent	name	iso_a3	gdp_md_est	geometry	area	centroid	distance_to_uk
159	4050	Antarctica	Antarctica	ATA	810.0	MULTIPOLYGON (((-5416874.996 -14393907.644, -5	NaN	POINT EMPTY	NaN

177 rows × 9 columns

Remember this is just a Pandas DataFrame, so we can do all the usual Pandas stuff with the data.

```
In [44]:
# Get only countries with populations of >50 million and plot on a bar chart
gdf_big = gdf_wm[gdf_wm['pop_est'] > 50000000]
gdf_big = gdf_big.sort_values('distance_to_uk')
gdf_big.plot.bar(x='name', y='distance_to_uk')
```

Out[44]: <AxesSubplot:xlabel='name'>



## Writing to file

```
In [45]:
            gdf_big[['name','geometry','distance_to_uk']].to_file('./data/big_countries.geojson',
                                                                   driver='GeoJSON')
             "type": "FeatureCollection",
             "crs":{ 🖃
                "type": "name",
                "properties":{ □
                  "name": "urn:ogc:def:crs:EPSG::3857"
              "features": 🖃
                { □
                  "type": "Feature",
                  "properties":{ ⊟
                    "name": "United Kingdom",
                    "distance_to_uk":0.0
                  "geometry":{ ⊟
                    "type": "MultiPolygon",
                    "coordinates": [ + ]
                  "type": "Feature",
                  "properties":{
                    "name": "Germany",
                    "distance_to_uk":1560271.9499936707
```

## Using rasterio to work with rasters

In [46]:

Rasterio is library that wraps around the ubiquitous GDAL library to give a user-friendly interface for dealing with raster data.

See https://rasterio.readthedocs.io/en/latest/. Recommended installation is via Conda: conda install -c conda-forge rasterio.

```
import rasterio as rio
           rs = rio.open('./data/rainfall 5km 2017.tif')
           rs.crs
Out[46]:
           CRS.from wkt('PROJCS["unnamed",GEOGCS["OSGB 1936",DATUM["OSGB 1936",SPHEROID["Air
           y 1830",6377563.396,299.324964600004,AUTHORITY["EPSG","7001"]],AUTHORITY["EPS
           G", "6277"]], PRIMEM["Greenwich", 0], UNIT["degree", 0.0174532925199433, AUTHORITY["EPS
           G", "9122"]], AUTHORITY["EPSG", "4277"]], PROJECTION["Transverse Mercator"], PARAMETER
           ["latitude of origin",49],PARAMETER["central meridian",-2],PARAMETER["scale facto
           r",0.9996012717],PARAMETER["false easting",400000],PARAMETER["false northing",-10
           0000],UNIT["metre",1,AUTHORITY["EPSG","9001"]],AXIS["Easting",EAST],AXIS["Northin
           g", NORTH]]')
In [47]:
           rs.res
Out[47]: (5000.0, 5000.0)
```

Out[50]:

366

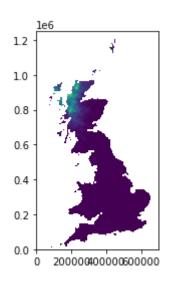
Rasterio is really just adding some metadata to NumPy arrays:

```
In [51]:
         arr = rs.read(300, masked=True)
         arr
         masked array(
Out[51]:
           data=[[--, --, --, ..., --, --],
                 [--, --, --, ..., --, --, --],
                 [--, --, --, ..., --, --, --],
                 [--, --, --, ..., --, --],
                 [--, --, --, ..., --, --, --],
                 [--, --, --, ..., --, --, --]],
           mask=[[ True, True, True, True, True, True],
                 [ True, True, True, True, True, True],
                 [ True, True, True, True, True, True],
                 . . . ,
                 [ True, True, True, True, True, True],
                 [ True, True, True, True, True, True],
                 [True, True, True, ..., True, True, True]],
           fill value=-3.4e+38,
           dtype=float32)
```

## **Plotting**

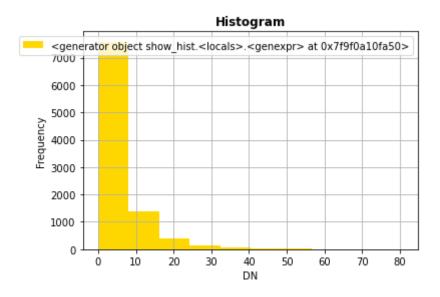
Rasterio has a convert rasterio.plot.show() function, which wraps around Matplotlib:

```
In [53]: from rasterio.plot import show, show_hist
    show(rs)
```



Out[53]: <AxesSubplot:>

```
In [54]: show_hist(rs.read(300, masked=True))
```



## Commond line interface

Rasterio has a fairly extensive CLI capable of performing common useful tasks:

```
$ rio --help
Usage: rio [OPTIONS] COMMAND [ARGS]...
  Rasterio command line interface.
Options:
 -v, --verbose
                         Increase verbosity.
 -q, --quiet
                         Decrease verbosity.
 --aws-profile TEXT
                         Select a profile from the AWS credentials file
  --aws-no-sign-requests Make requests anonymously
  --aws-requester-pays
                        Requester pays data transfer costs
  --version
                         Show the version and exit.
  --gdal-version
 --help
                         Show this message and exit.
Commands:
  blocks
            Write dataset blocks as GeoJSON features.
 bounds
            Write bounding boxes to stdout as GeoJSON.
  calc
            Raster data calculator.
  clip
          Clip a raster to given bounds.
  convert Copy and convert raster dataset.
  edit-info Edit dataset metadata.
            Print information about the Rasterio environment.
  env
            Print ground control points as GeoJSON.
  gcps
  info
            Print information about a data file.
  insp
            Open a data file and start an interpreter.
  mask
        Mask in raster using features.
            Merge a stack of raster datasets.
  merge
  overview Construct overviews in an existing dataset.
  rasterize Rasterize features.
  rm
            Delete a dataset.
  sample
            Sample a dataset.
            Write shapes extracted from bands or masks.
  shapes
            Stack a number of bands into a multiband dataset.
  stack
  transform Transform coordinates.
```

warp

Warp a raster dataset.

rio insp and rio info are particularly useful for having a quick look at files. For example, to quickly get metadata about a file:

```
$ rio info rainfall_5km_2015-300.tif --verbose

{"bounds": [0.0, 0.0, 700000.0, 1250000.0], "checksum": [8245], "colorinterp":
["gray"], "compress": "lzw", "count": 1, "crs": "PROJCS[\"unnamed\",GEOGCS[\"Airy
1830\",DATUM[\"unknown\",SPHEROID[\"airy\",6377563.396,299.3249753150345],TOWGS84[44]
"descriptions": [null], "driver": "GTiff", "dtype": "float32", "height": 250,
"indexes": [1], "interleave": "band", "lnglat": [-2.7933739244523172,
55.516181609501864], "mask_flags": [["nodata"]], "nodata": -3.4e+38, "res":
[5000.0, 5000.0], "shape": [250, 140], "stats": [{"max": 20.69357681274414, "mean": 3.7167322386771935, "min": 0.0}], "tilled": false, "transform": [5000.0, 0.0, 0.0, 0.0, 0.0, -5000.0, 1250000.0, 0.0, 0.0, 1.0], "units": [null], "width": 140}
```

#### Quickly plotting a file:

```
$ rio insp rainfall_5km_2015-300.tif
Rasterio 1.0.25 Interactive Inspector (Python 3.7.3)
Type "src.meta", "src.read(1)", or "help(src)" for more information.
>>> rasterio.plot.show(src)
```

Quickly reprojecting (changing coordinate system) and resampling (changing resolution) is very easy with rio warp:

Change CRS to British National Grid:

```
$ rio warp input.tif output.tif --dst-crs EPSG:27700
```

Resample to 1x1 km grid using cubic interpolation:

```
$ rio warp input.tif output.tif --res 1000 --resampling cubic
```

Based on another raster:

```
$ rio warp input.tif output.tif --like template.tif
```

# Linking rasterio with xarray

A neat little package called rioxarray lets you combine rasterio s functionality into xarray, as well as adding an easier-to-use interface to some function (e.g. reprojection, clipping).

xarray: Multidimensional labelled arrays. Introduces labels in the form of dimensions, coordinates and attributes on top of raw NumPy-like multidimensional arrays.



```
In [55]:
            import xarray
            import rioxarray
            import pandas as pd
            xds = rioxarray.open rasterio('./data/rainfall 5km 2017.tif', masked=True)
            xds
           <xarray.DataArray (band: 366, y: 250, x: 140)>
Out[55]:
           [12810000 values with dtype=float64]
           Coordinates:
             * band
                            (band) int64 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 ... 360 361 362 363 364 365 366
                           (y) float64 1.248e+06 1.242e+06 1.238e+06 ... 7.5e+03 2.5e+03
             * y
             * x
                            (x) float64 2.5e+03 7.5e+03 1.25e+04 ... 6.925e+05 6.975e+05
               spatial ref int64 0
           Attributes:
               scale factor: 1.0
               add offset:
                              0.0
               grid mapping: spatial ref
           xarray.DataArray
                                (band: 366, y: 250, x: 140)
                [12810000 values with dtype=float64]
             ▼ Coordinates:
```

#### band

(band)

int64

1 2 3 4 5 6 ... 362 363 364 365 366

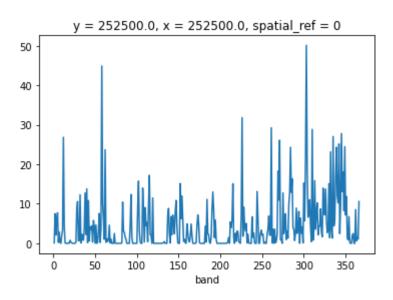


y

```
(y)
                                 float64
        1.248e+06 1.242e+06 ... 2.5e+03
        X
        (x)
                                 float64
        2.5e+03 7.5e+03 ... 6.975e+05
        spatial_ref
        ()
                                   int64
        0
        ▼ Attributes:
  scale_factor: 1.0
  add_offset: 0.0
  grid_mappi... spatial_ref
```

```
In [56]: xds.sel(x=250000, y=250000, method='nearest').plot()
```

Out[56]: [<matplotlib.lines.Line2D at 0x7f9f0a029490>]

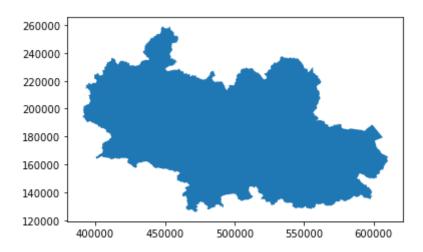


# Clipping a raster with a vector

Say we want to clip data for the Thames catchment, for which we have a Shapefile (vector):

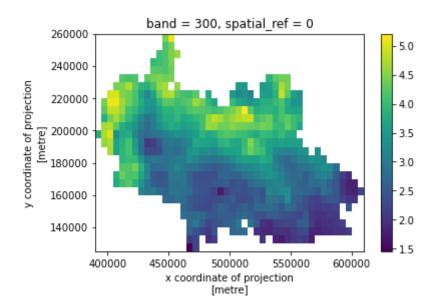
```
In [57]:
    gdf_thames = gpd.read_file('./data/thames_catchment_osgb/thames_catchment_osgb.shp')
    gdf_thames.plot()
```

#### Out[57]: <AxesSubplot:>



```
In [58]:
    clipped = xds.rio.clip(gdf_thames.geometry, gdf_thames.crs)
    clipped.sel(band=300).plot()
    # Could also do: clipped[299,:,:].plot()
```

Out[58]: <matplotlib.collections.QuadMesh at 0x7f9f09ff60d0>



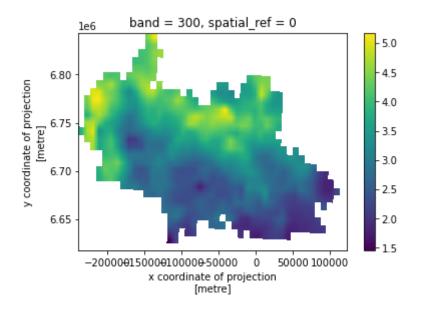
```
In [59]: clipped.rio.to_raster('./data/thames.tif')
```

## Reprojecting and resampling a raster

Reprojecting a raster to a different CRS is simple with rioxarray. Say we want to reproject the previous raster to EPSG:3857 (used by e.g. Google Maps), and at the same time resample it from 5x5 km to 1x1 km using bilinear interpolation.

In [62]: clipped\_wm.sel(band=300).plot()

Out[62]: <matplotlib.collections.QuadMesh at 0x7f9efba5c2e0>



Note the x-coordinate origin is now at the Prime Meridian in Greenwich.

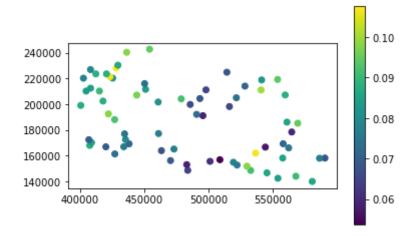
# Bringing it all togther: Interpolating point data

Say we have some sampling data at various points around the country, and we want turn this into a raster by interpolating between the points. We can use geopandas, rasterio and rioxarray to do this.

Here I'm using some soil chemistry data from the Thames catchment. Our data looks like this:

```
In [63]:
    gdf = gpd.read_file('./data/thames_k_att_shp/thames_k_att_osgb.shp')
    gdf.plot('k_att', legend=True)
```

#### Out[63]: <AxesSubplot:>



### Burn the shapefile into a raster

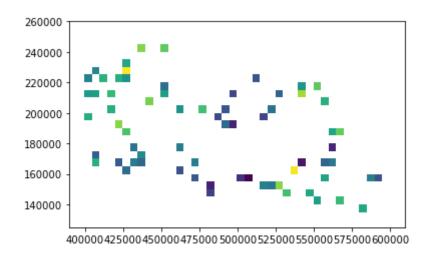
```
In [64]:
    from rasterio import features

# Base our raster on a template raster (the Thames catchment in this case)
    rs_thames = rio.open('./data/template.tif')
    meta = rs_thames.meta.copy()

# Open a new file to write the burnt raster to
    with rio.open('./data/rasterized.tif', 'w+', **meta) as out:
        out_arr = out.read(1)
        # Turn the Shapefile into geom, value tuples to pass to the rasterize function
        shapes = ((geom, value) for geom, value in zip(gdf.geometry, gdf.k_att))
        # Perform the burning using rasterio's rasterize
        rasterized = features.rasterize(shapes, out=out_arr, transform=out.transform)
        # Write the burnt raster to file
        out.write(rasterized, 1)
```

### Having a look at our burnt raster:

```
In [65]:
    with rio.open('./data/rasterized.tif') as src:
        show(src)
```



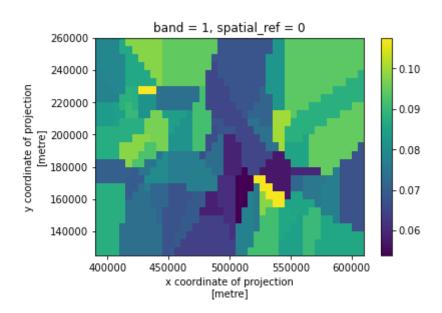
### Using interpolate\_na from rioxarray

This method uses scipy.interpole.griddata to interpolate missing data by nearest neighbour, linearly or cubically. See

https://docs.scipy.org/doc/scipy/reference/generated/scipy.interpolate.griddata.html.

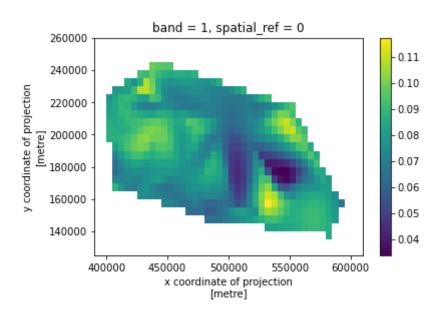
```
In [66]:
    xds_int = rioxarray.open_rasterio('./data/rasterized.tif')
    filled = xds_int.sel(band=1).rio.interpolate_na('nearest')
    filled.plot()
```

Out[66]: <matplotlib.collections.QuadMesh at 0x7f9efb8a76a0>



```
In [67]:
    filled = xds_int.sel(band=1).rio.interpolate_na('cubic')
    # Set nodata to NaN
    filled = filled.where(filled != filled.rio.nodata)
    filled.plot()
```

Out[67]: <matplotlib.collections.QuadMesh at 0x7f9efb7db130>



### Further info:

- Very extensive course, mainly focussed on vector data (but with a bit of raster):
   https://automating-gis-processes.github.io/site/index.html
- Great intro to both raster and vector processing in Python: https://carpentries-incubator.github.io/geospatial-python/aio/index.html
- GeoPandas, Rasterio and rioxarray docs

Next talk: Any volunteers? Ideas for topics?

27 April 2021