Coordinate Reference Systems

WORKING WITH GEOSPATIAL DATA IN PYTHON



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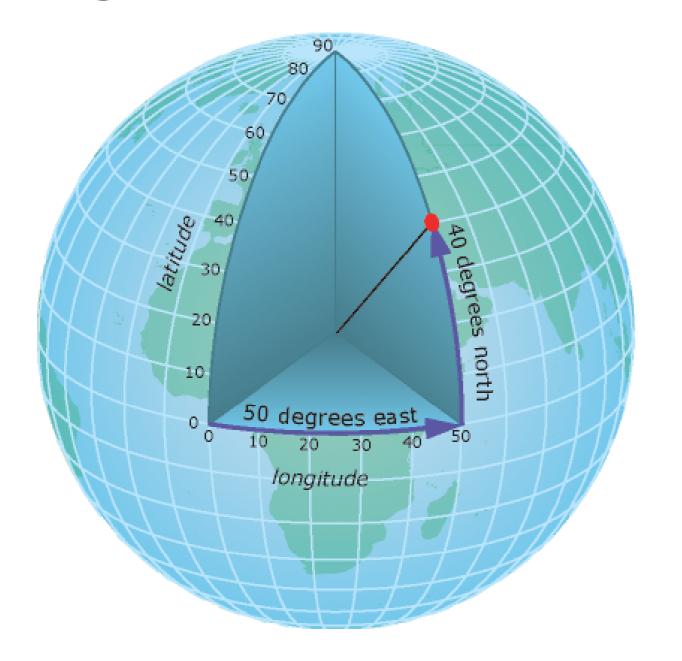
Coordinate Reference System (CRS)

Location of the Eiffel Tower:

POINT (2.2945 48.8584)

→ The Coordinate Reference System (CRS) relates the coordinates to a specific location on earth.

Geographic coordinates



Degrees of latitude and longitude.

E.g. 48°51′N, 2°17′E

Used in GPS, web mapping applications...

Attention!

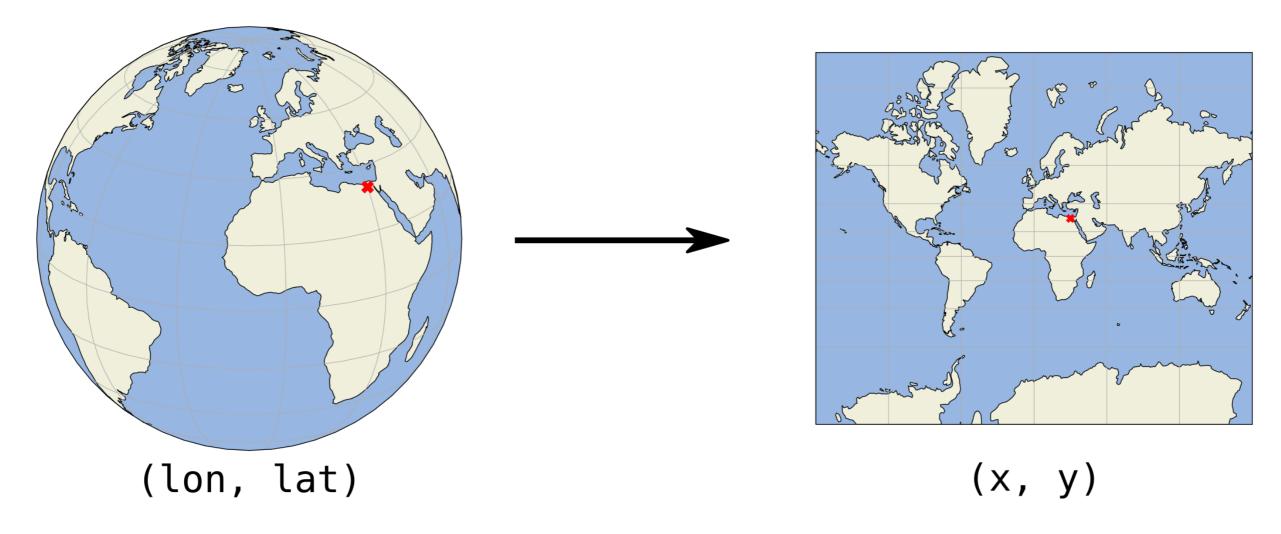
in Python we use (lon, lat) and not (lat, long)

- Longitude: [-180, 180]
- Latitude: [-90, 90]

Maps are 2D



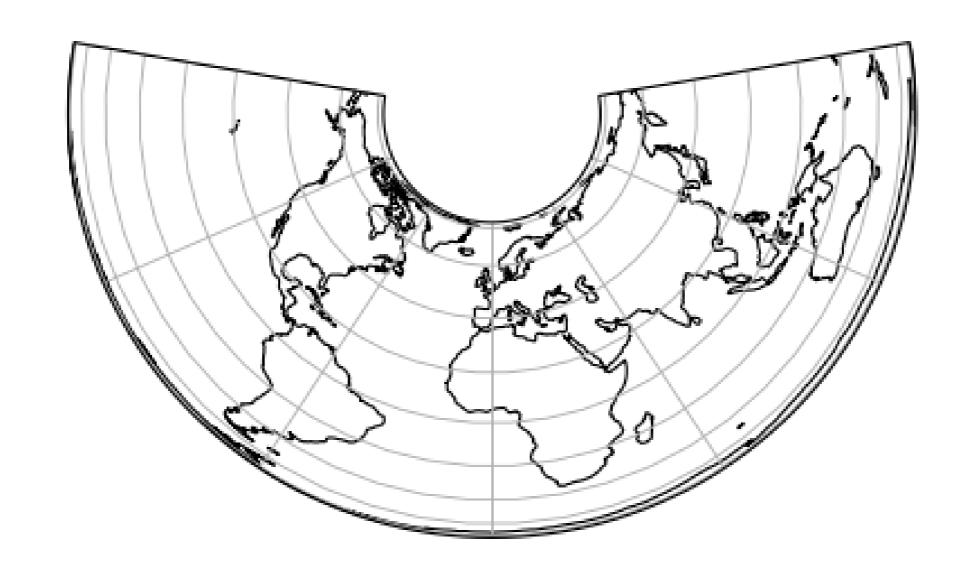
Projected coordinates



(x, y) coordinates are usually in meters or feet

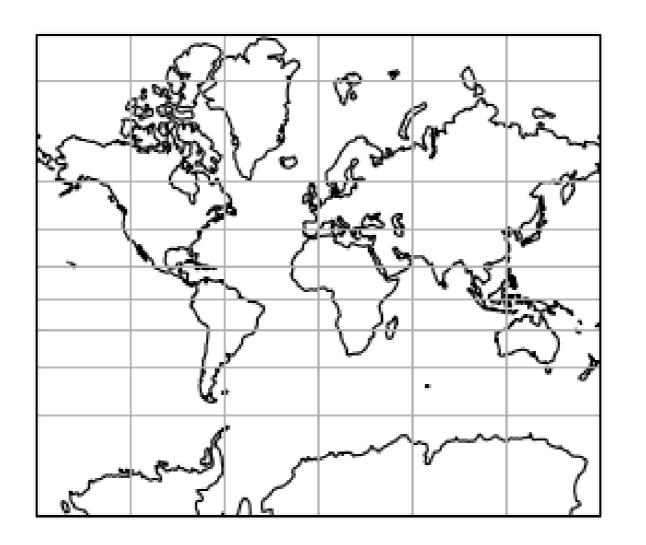
Projected coordinates - Examples

Albers Equal Area projection



Projected coordinates - Examples

Mercator projection



Projected coordinates - Examples

Projected size vs actual size (Mercator projection)



Specifying a CRS

```
proj4 string
```

```
Example: +proj=longlat +datum=WGS84 +no_defs
```

Dict representation:

```
{'proj': 'longlat', 'datum': 'WGS84', 'no_defs': True}
```

EPSG code

Example:

```
EPSG: 4326 = WGS84 geographic CRS (longitude, latitude)
```

CRS in GeoPandas

The .crs attribute of a GeoDataFrame/GeoSeries:

```
import geopandas
gdf = geopandas.read_file("countries.shp")
print(gdf.crs)
```

```
{'init': 'epsg:4326'}
```

Summary

- "geographic" (long, lat) versus "projected" (x, y) coordinates
- Coordinates Reference System (CRS) in GeoPandas: .crs attribute
- Most used geographic CRS: WGS84 or EPSG:4326

Let's practice

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Working with coordinate systems in GeoPandas

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CRS information in GeoPandas

The .crs attribute of a GeoDataFrame/GeoSeries:

```
import geopandas
gdf = geopandas.read_file("countries.shp")
print(gdf.crs)
```

```
{'init': 'epsg:4326'}
```

Setting a CRS manually

```
gdf_noCRS = geopandas.read_file("countries_noCRS.shp")
print(gdf_noCRS.crs)
```

{}

Add CRS information to crs:

```
# Option 1
gdf.crs = {'init': 'epsg:4326'}

# Option 2
gdf.crs = {'proj': 'longlat', 'datum': 'WGS84', 'no_defs': True}
```

Transforming to another CRS

```
import geopandas
gdf = geopandas.read_file("countries_web_mercator.shp")
print(gdf.crs)
```

```
{'init': 'epsg:3857', 'no_defs': True}
```

The to_crs() method:

```
# Option 1
gdf2 = gdf.to_crs({'proj': 'longlat', 'datum': 'WGS84', 'no_defs': True})
# Option 2
gdf2 = gdf.to_crs(epsg=4326)
```

Why converting the CRS?

1) Sources with a different CRS

```
df1 = geopandas.read_file(...)
df2 = geopandas.read_file(...)

df2 = df2.to_crs(df1.crs)
```

Why converting the CRS?

- 1) Sources with a different CRS
- 2) Mapping (distortion of shape and distances)



Why converting the CRS?

- 1) Sources with a different CRS
- 2) Mapping (distortion of shape and distances)
- 3) Distance / area based calculations

How to choose which CRS to use?

Tips:

- Use projection specific to the area of your data
- Most countries have a standard CRS

Useful sites:

- http://spatialreference.org/
- https://epsg.io/

Summary

- To convert to another CRS: the to_crs() method
- Make sure different datasets have the same CRS
- When calculating distance, area, ... -> use a projected CRS

Useful sites:

- http://spatialreference.org/
- https://epsg.io/

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Spatial operations: creating new geometries

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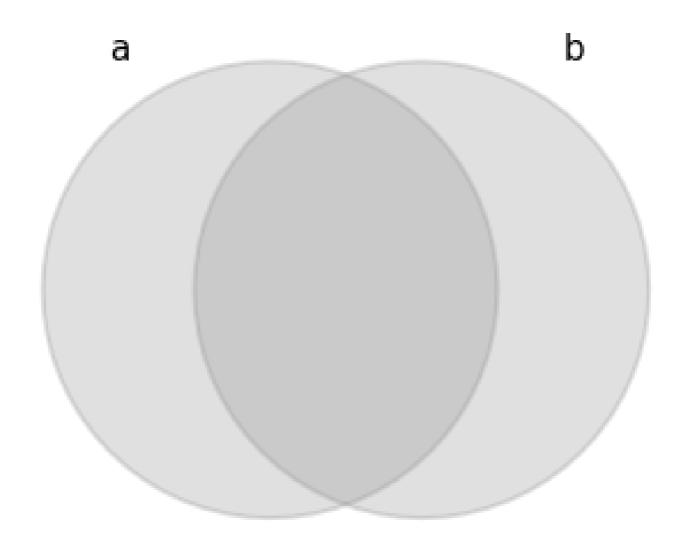
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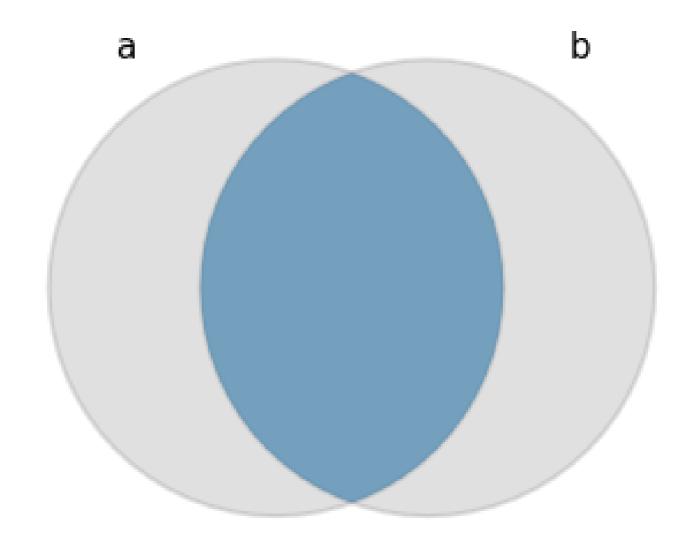




Spatial operations

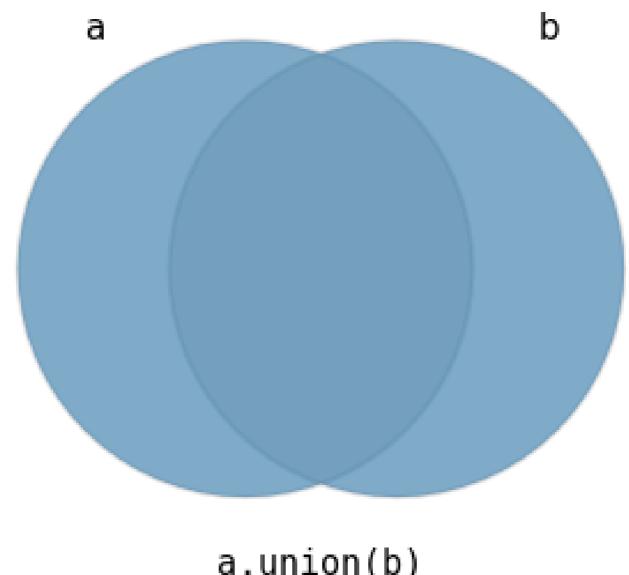


Spatial operations: intersection

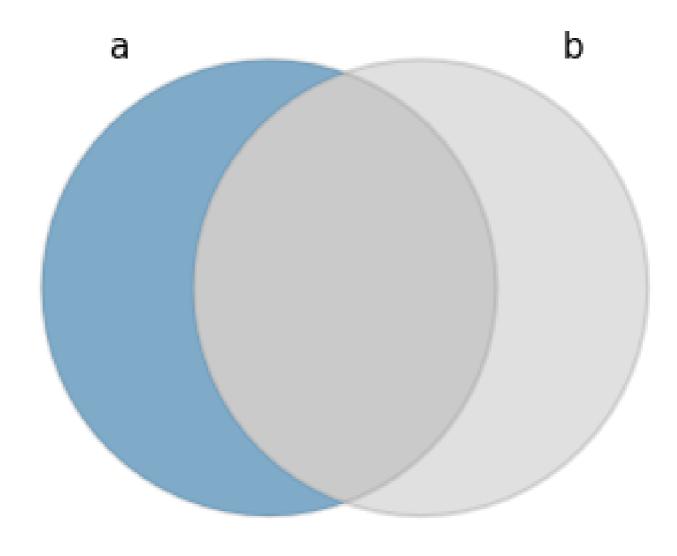


a.intersection(b)

Spatial operations: union



Spatial operations: difference



a.difference(b)

```
africa.head()
```

```
name geometry

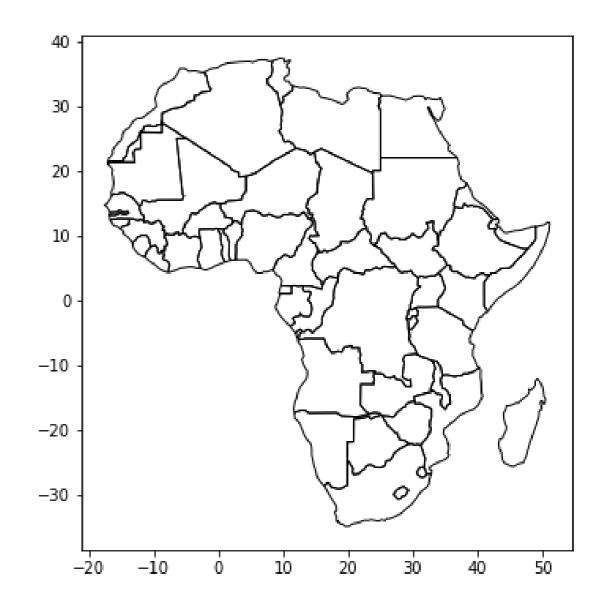
0 Angola (POLYGON ((23.90...

1 Burundi POLYGON ((29.339...

2 Benin POLYGON ((2.6917...

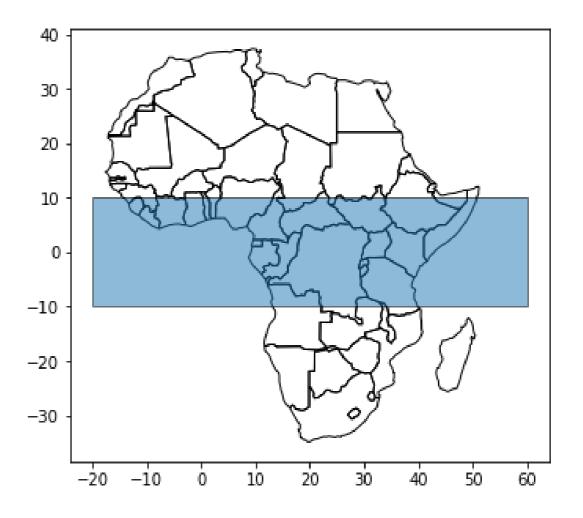
3 Burkina Faso POLYGON ((2.1544...

4 Botswana POLYGON ((29.432...
```

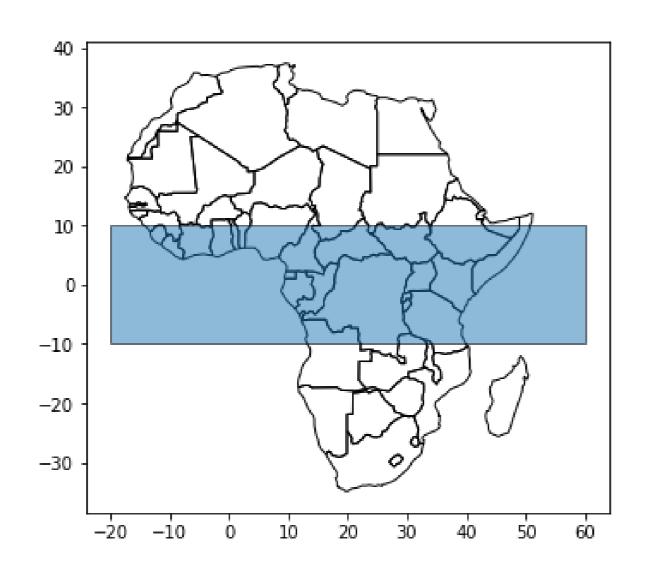


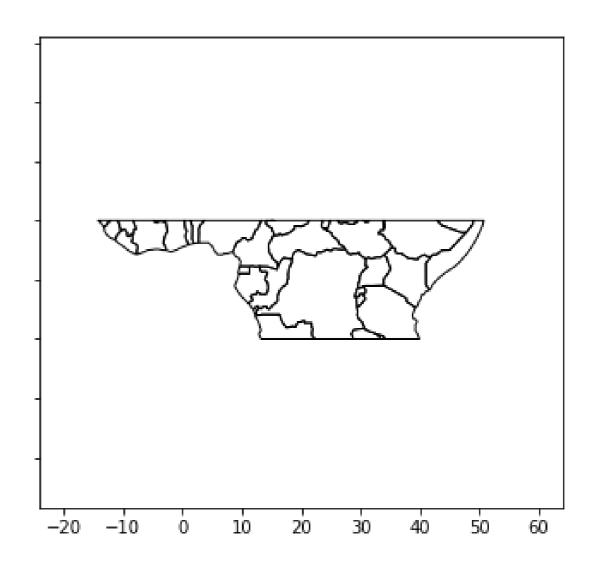
```
print(box)
```

POLYGON ((60 10, 60 -10, -20 -10, -20 10))



africa.intersection(box)





```
africa.head()
```

```
name geometry

0 Angola (POLYGON ((23.90415368011818 -11.7222815894063...

1 Burundi POLYGON ((29.33999759290035 -4.499983412294092...

2 Botswana POLYGON ((29.43218834810904 -22.09131275806759...
```

```
africa.intersection(box)
```



Let's practice!

WORKING WITH GEOSPATIAL DATA IN PYTHON



Overlaying spatial datasets

WORKING WITH GEOSPATIAL DATA IN PYTHON

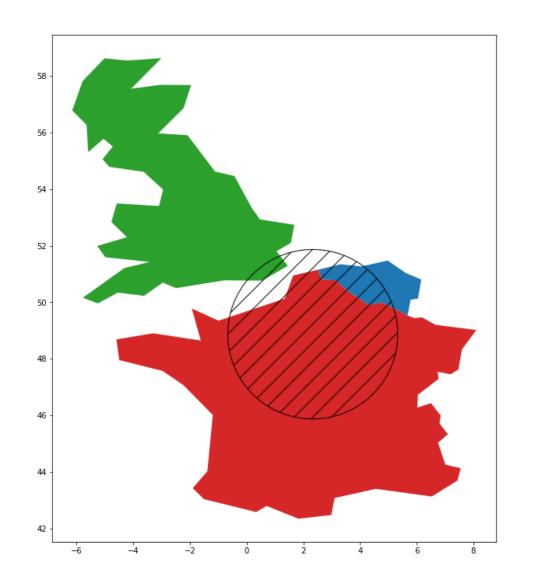


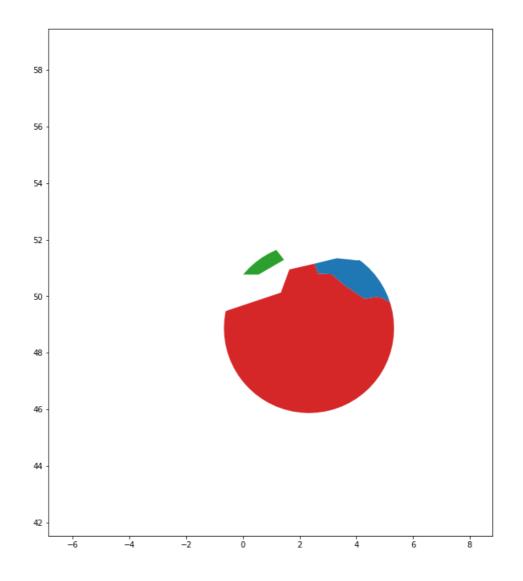
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Intersection with a polygon





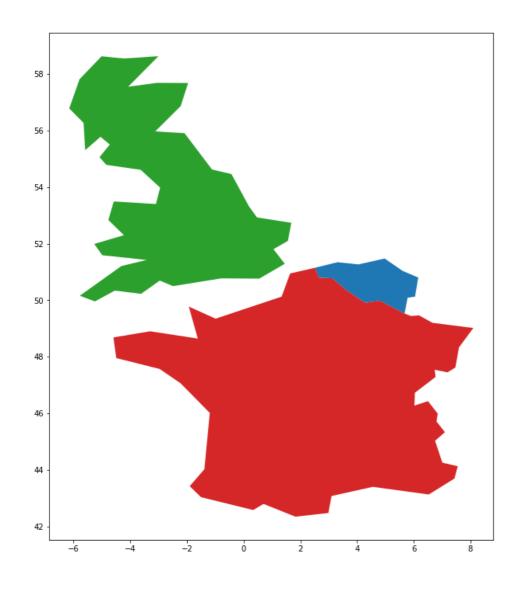
countries.intersection(circle)

Intersection with a polygon

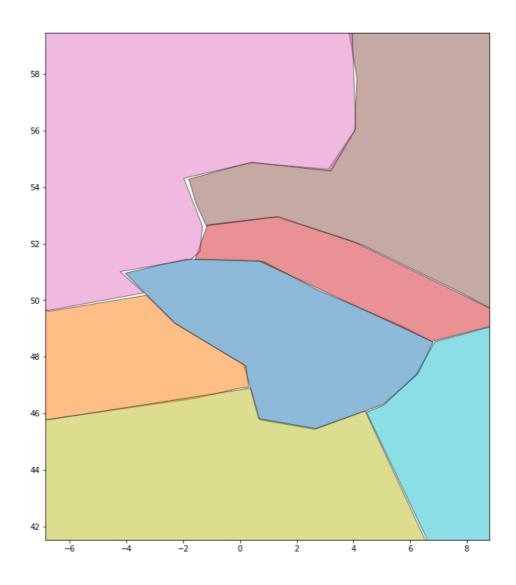
Limitations of countries.intersection(circle):

- Only intersecting a GeoSeries with a single polygon
- Does not preserve attribute information

Overlaying two datasets



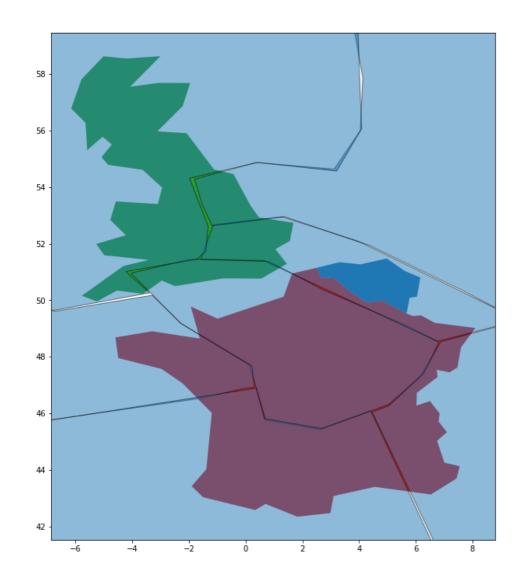
countries.plot()

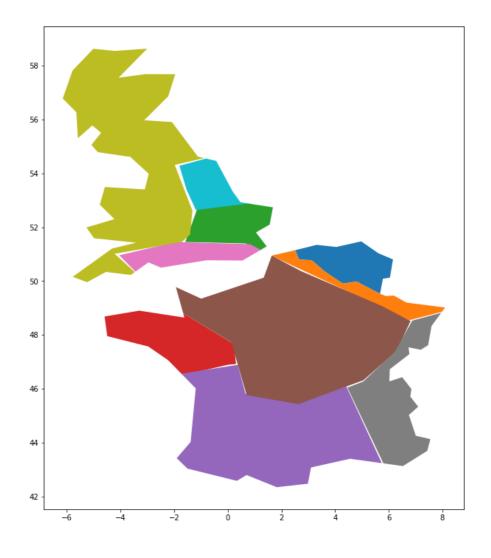


geologic_regions.plot()



Overlaying two datasets





Overlay vs intersection

Intersection method (with single polygon)

```
\verb|countries.intersection(geologic\_region\_A)| \\
```

```
0 ()
1 POLYGON ((-1.661 48.803...
2 POLYGON ((1.201 51.145,...
dtype: object
```

Overlay method

```
      name geologic_region
      geometry

      1 France
      C POLYGON ((2.5 51....

      2 UK
      C POLYGON ((0.7 52 ....

      3 France
      B POLYGON ((-1.7 46...

      ...
      ...
```

Let's practice!

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