Geodesy and Coordinate Systems

Today's Agenda

- Earth's Shape. What is it?
- Global Coordinate Systems
- Map Projections

Source scale

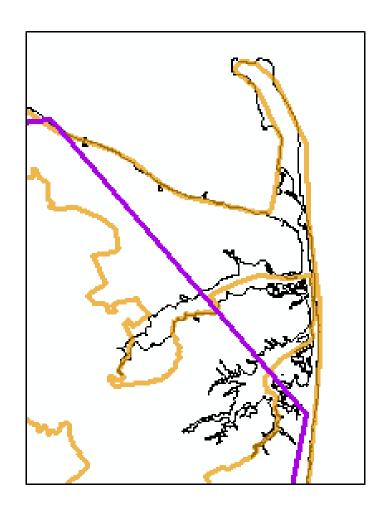
Data come at many scales

Need to find data at a suitable scale for your project

Purple scale 1:25 million

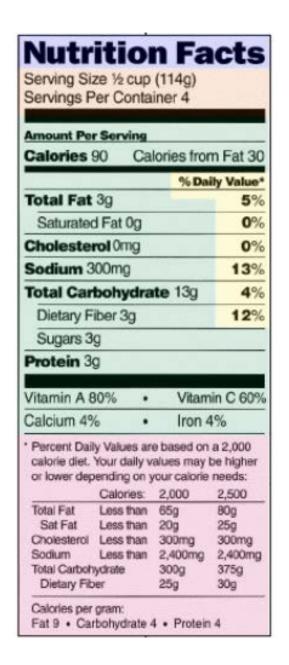
Orange scale 1:5 million

Black scale 1:50,000

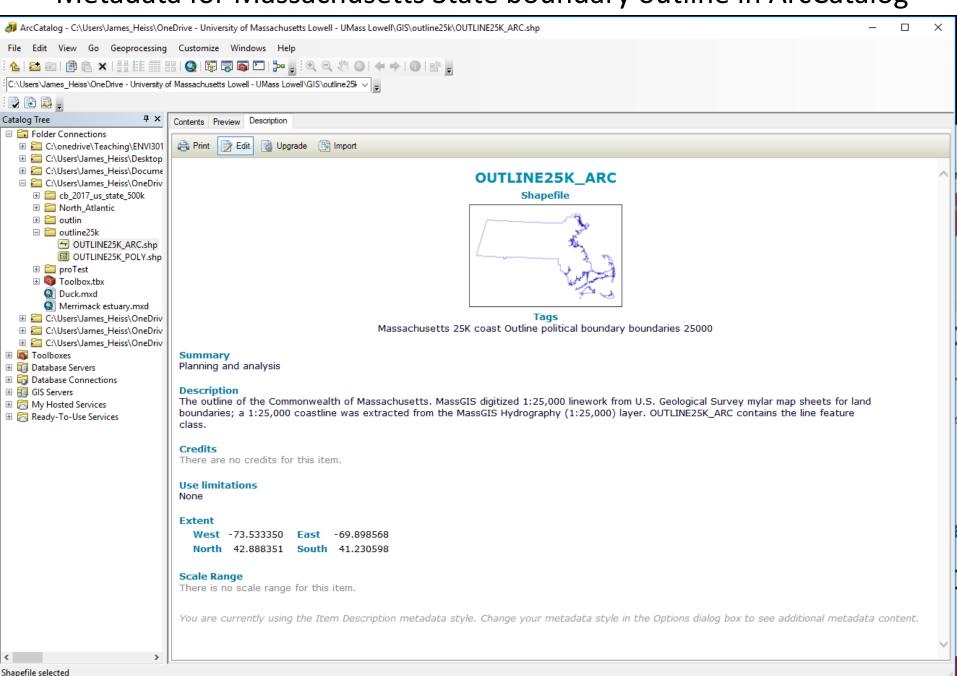


Metadata

- Information about the data
- Who, what, where, when, and how of data
 - Example: USAcampgrounds feature class
 - Who: Agency or person who compiled the data
 - What: A description of the data
 - Where: The area over which the spatial data covers
 - When: The date when the dataset was last updated, and when the data was collected
 - How: How the data was compiled, the sources, etc.
- Calculations, projection and coordinate system, general description, licenses
- Travels with the dataset in associated files
- Accessed via ArcCatalog



Metadata for Massachusetts State boundary outline in ArcCatalog



U.S. National Atlas Cities

Personal GeoDatabase Feature Class



Tags

point, cities, towns, populated places, population, location, United States, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands

Summary

U.S. National Atlas Cities provides information about the locations, names, and populations of cities and towns for conducting geographic analysis on national and large regional scales.

Description

U.S. National Atlas Cities represents cities and towns in the United States.

Credits

Access granted to Licensee only.

Access and use limitations

See legal constraints.

ArcGIS Metadata ▼

FGDC Metadata ▼

Geodesy

Olney Hall is 115 ft. above mean sea level.

What does that mean??

Coordinate systems

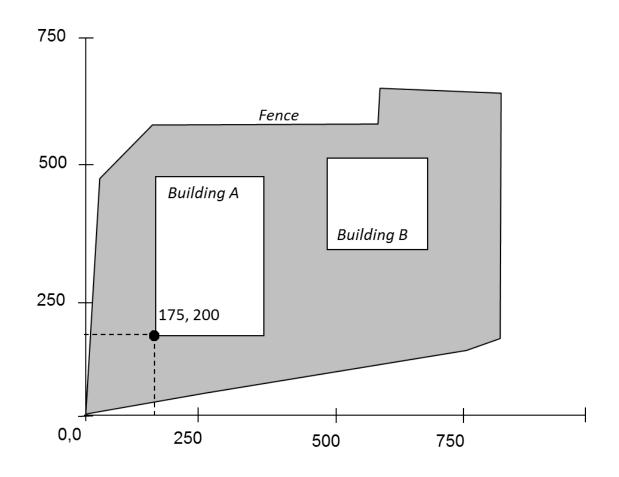
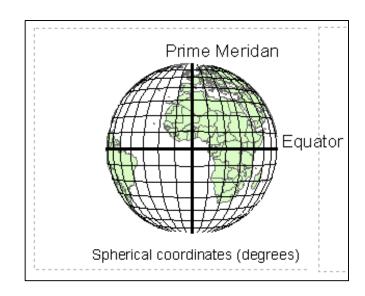
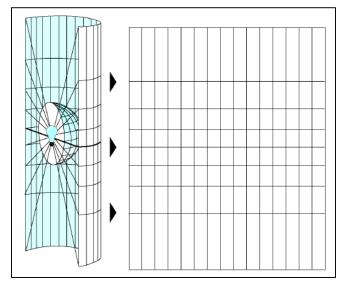


Figure 1. An arbitrary coordinate system used for surveying a site

Types of coordinate systems

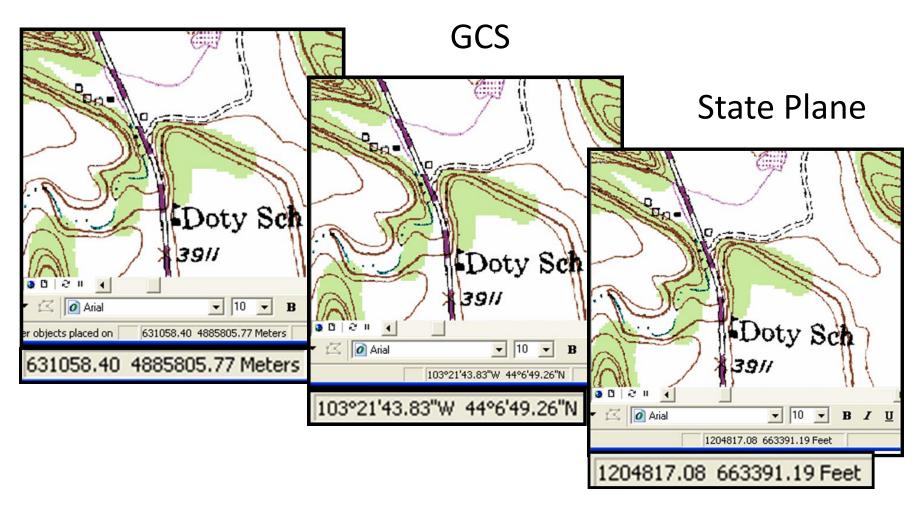
- Global (3D)
 - Based on spherical globe coordinates
 - Degrees of latitude and longitude
- Projected (2D)
 - Converts spherical coordinates to planar
 - Set of mathematical equations
 - Projects 3D coordinates to 2D map





Same point—different x-y's

UTM Zone 13



The Spatial Reference

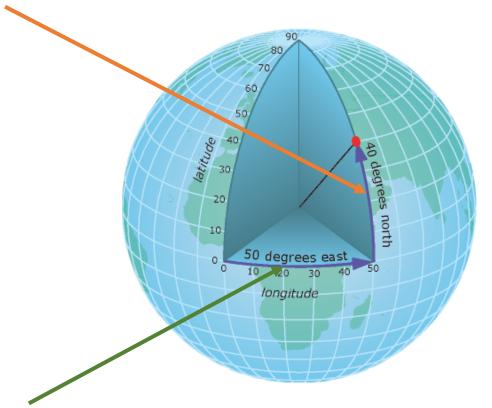
Every data set requires a complete description of its coordinate system for proper display and analysis

- Geographic coordinate system / datum
- Projection (if one is used)
- **Storage units** used to store the x-y values (degrees, feet, etc.)
- **Domain**, or maximum allowable x-y values
- **Resolution**, or the x-y precision

Geographic coordinate systems

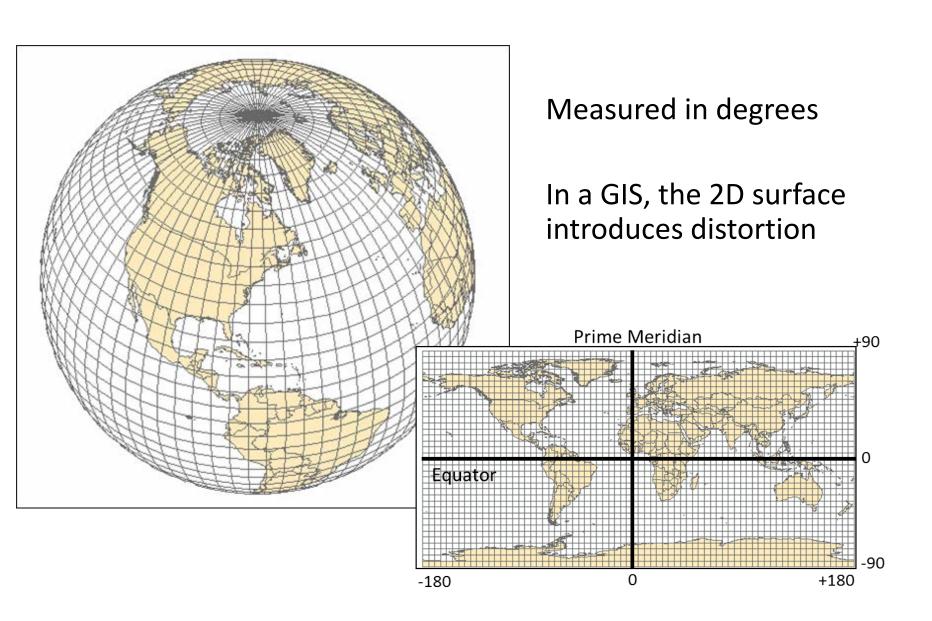
Geographic coordinate systems Units: Degrees

Latitude measures the angle from the horizontal. It represents north-south distance from the equator.



Longitude measures around the circle of the equatorial plane. It represents east-west distance from Prime Meridian.

GCS properties

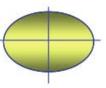


Earth's Shape. What is it?

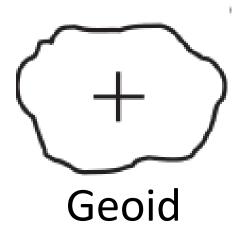
Earth is not a sphere



Earth is not an ellipsoid



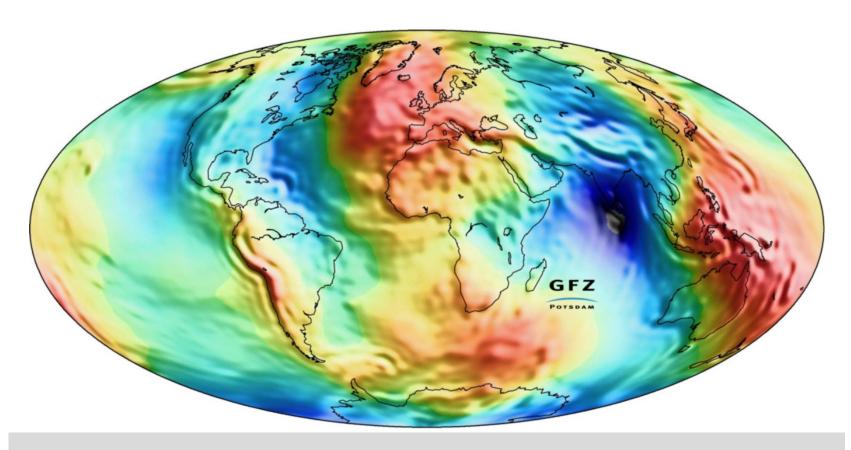
So what shape it?





Credit: NASA/JPL

Earth's Geoid



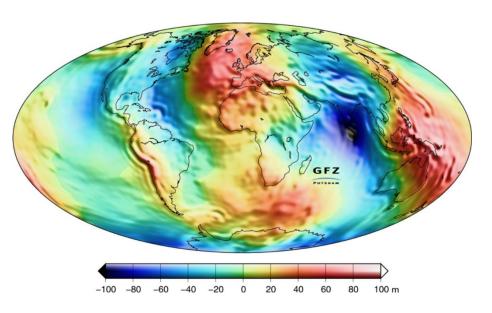
How to we assign an X, Y, and Z location to a point on the geoid?

Earth's Geoid

Earth's geoid is defined as: "the theoretical ocean surface of the Earth, if the oceans were in equilibrium, at rest, and extended through the continents"

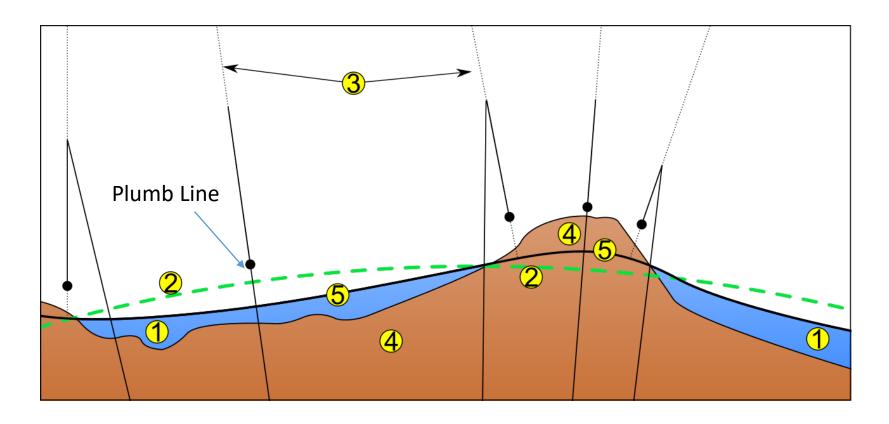
Remove the continents, but keep their gravity, and extend the ocean into those areas. Also remove tides, waves, currents

The geoid is the shape of the ocean surface if the entire earth were covered by ocean, but still subjected to the gravity caused by the continents



The geoid is 0 elevation

Earth's Geoid



- 1. Ocean
- 2. Reference ellipsoid
- 3. Local plumb line
- 4. Continent
- 5. Geoid

Plumb lines are always perpendicular to the geoid

Geoids are complex!

$$V = rac{GM}{r} \left(1 + \sum_{n=2}^{n_{ ext{max}}} \Bigl(rac{a}{r}\Bigr)^n \sum_{m=0}^n \overline{P}_{nm} (\sin\phi) \left[\overline{C}_{nm} \cos m\lambda + \overline{S}_{nm} \sin m\lambda
ight]
ight),$$

. .

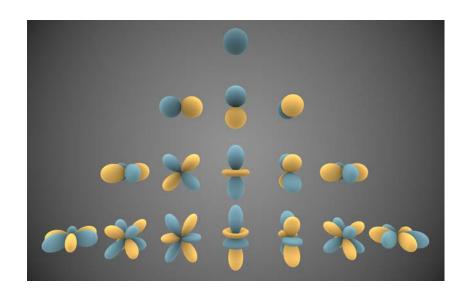
$$\sum_{n=2}^{n_{
m max}}(2n+1)=n_{
m max}(n_{
m max}+1)+n_{
m max}-3=130317\,$$
 using the EGM96 value of $n_{
m max}=360$.

$$abla^2 f = rac{1}{r^2}rac{\partial}{\partial r}\left(r^2rac{\partial f}{\partial r}
ight) + rac{1}{r^2\sin heta}rac{\partial}{\partial heta}\left(\sin hetarac{\partial f}{\partial heta}
ight) + rac{1}{r^2\sin^2 heta}rac{\partial^2 f}{\partial arphi^2} = 0.$$

$$V(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_i rac{m_i}{|\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}|}.$$

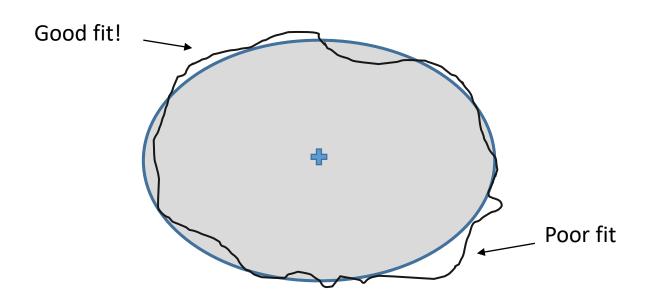
$$rac{1}{|\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}|} = P_0(\cos\gamma)rac{1}{r_1} + P_1(\cos\gamma)rac{r}{r_1^2} + P_2(\cos\gamma)rac{r^2}{r_1^3} + \cdots$$

$$\mathbf{L}^2 = -r^2
abla^2 + \left(r rac{\partial}{\partial r} + 1
ight) r rac{\partial}{\partial r}$$



Let's use ellipsoids instead (phew)

Let's use an ellipsoid and shift it to the left and tilt it so part of it overlays with the geoid



An ellipsoid and its shift is a datum

Datums

A datum is a specific ellipse that has been shifted so that it's surface aligns with the geoid in a particular location Good

fit

Poor fit

Datum

Datums North America:

North American Datum 1927 (NAD 1927 or NAD27)

 Based on Clarke 1866 spheroid, common until the 1980's and still used for some data sets.

North American Datum 1983 (NAD 1983 or NAD83)

- Current popular datum for most mapping. GRS80 spheroid.
- First choice if you must assume an unknown datum for a set of undocumented data.

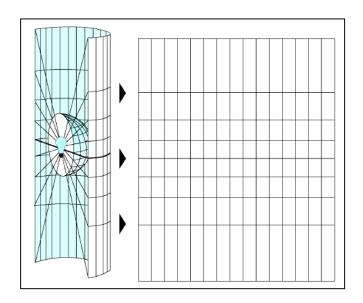
North American Datum 1983 HARN (NAD 1983 HARN)

Updates NAD83

World Geodetic Survey 1984 (WGS84)

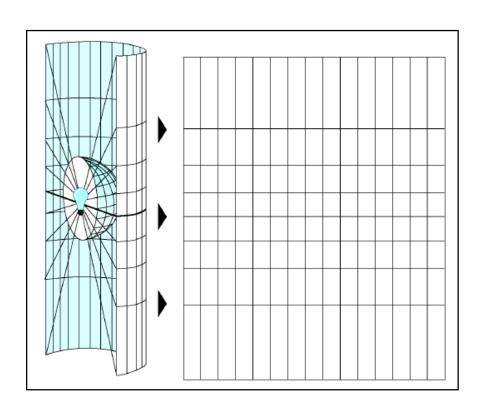
- Geocentric datum
- Default datum for many GPS units.

Projected Coordinate Systems



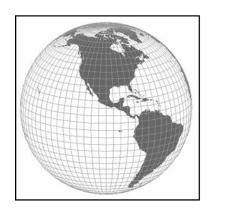
Projections

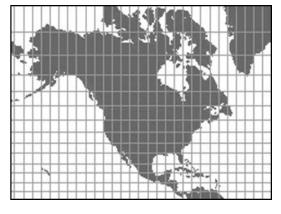
A projection is a mathematical conversion of a 3D surface to a 2D surface



What is a Projection?

Projecting changes the x-y values from degrees to meters or feet





-103.567,44.628

-103.678,44.653

-103.765,44.732

• • •

Units in decimal degrees

2445678,654321

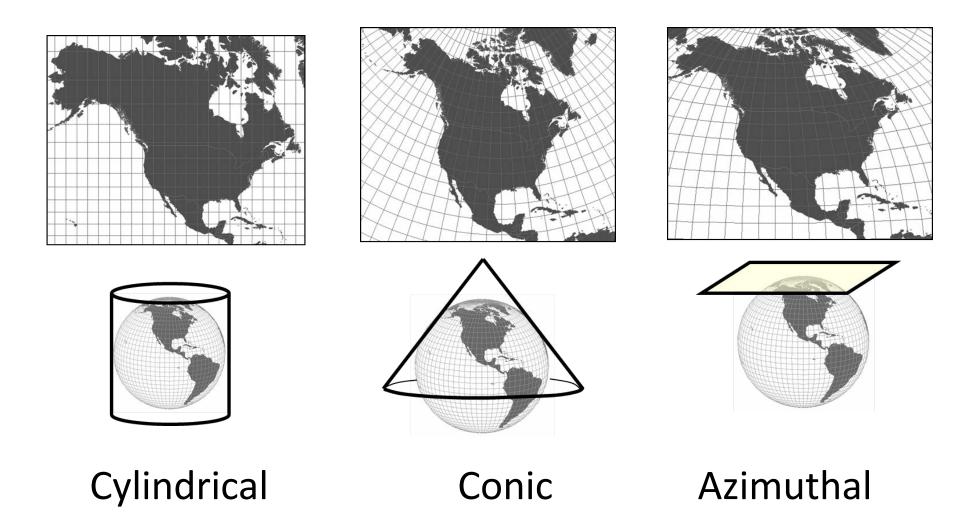
2445021,650001

2444823,649200

• • • •

Units in meters

Types of projections



Distortion

All map projections introduce distortion

Type and degree of distortion varies with map projection

When using a projection, one must take care to choose one with suitable properties

