

GIS

# GIS

1. Why GIS in economics?
2. Coordinate systems
3. Spatial data types: vector (points, lines, polygons), raster.
4. Merging spatial data  
(spatial + non-spatial, points and raster to polygons).
5. Drawing maps.
6. Geometric manipulations (buffers, distances, intersections, etc.)

# 1. Why GIS in economics?

- Expand the set of researchable questions
  - Use satellite data
  - Merge different data spatially
- Improve identification
  - More covariates to mitigate omitted variable bias
  - Instruments
  - RD-design
  - Estimate the spillover effect on the control group in RCTs .

# Examples

- Measurement
  - Deforestation (Burgess et al, 2012)
  - Night lightning
- Instrumentation
  - Propaganda and Conflict: Evidence from the Rwandan Genocide (Yanagizawa-Drott, QJE 2014)
- RD
  - The Historical State, Local Collective Action, and Economic Development in Vietnam (Nathan Lane et al. Econometrica, 2018).
  - The Persistent Effects of Peru's Mining Mita (Dell, EMA 2010)

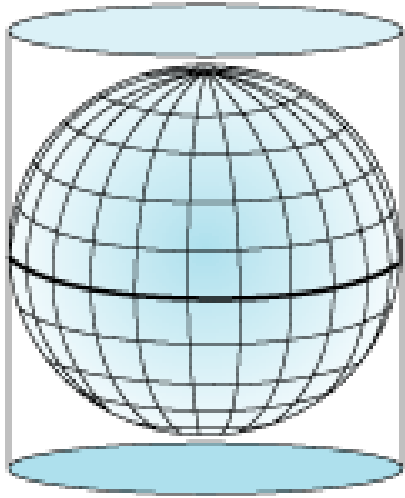
## 2. Coordinate referencing systems

Earth is a sphere, but we need to represent its surface on a plane.

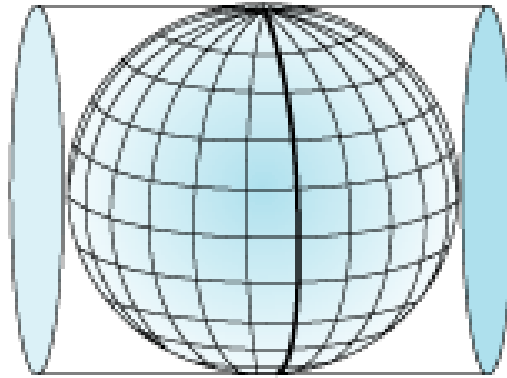
1. Model approximation of the globe (ellipsoid)
  - WGS 1984 is most popular system.
2. Projection: coordinate systems in 2D
  - Latlon
  - UTM

# Cylindrical projection

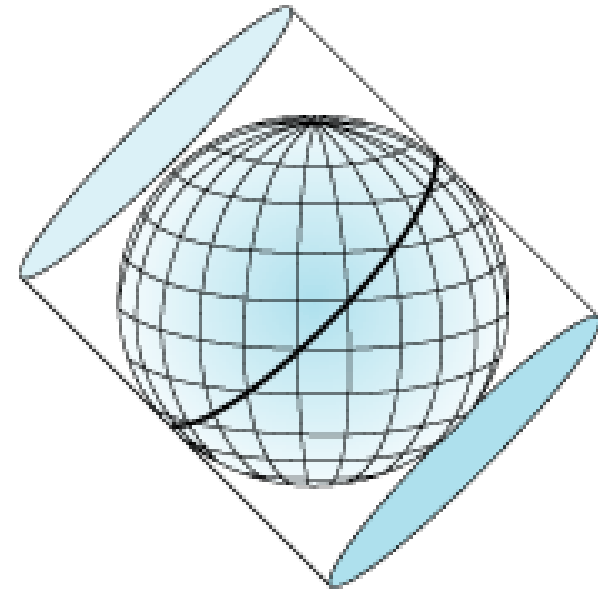
## Cylindrical Aspects



Normal



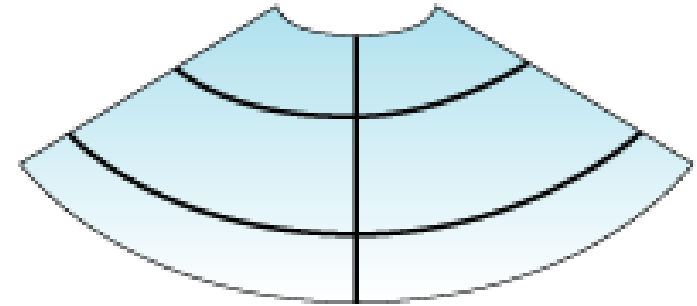
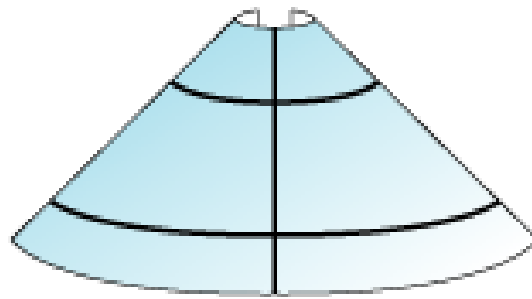
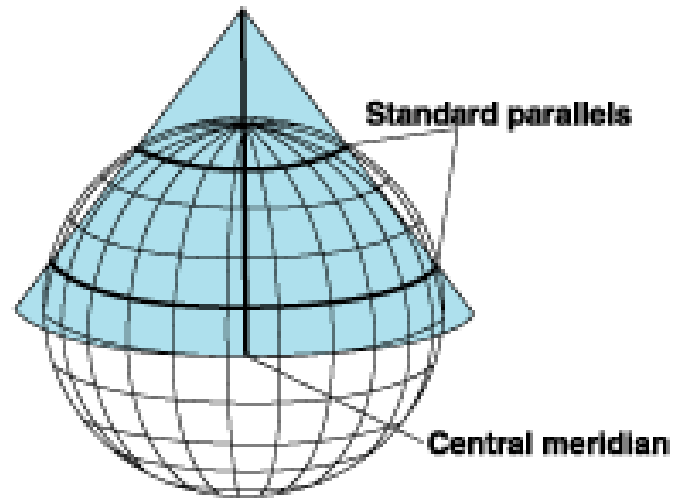
Transverse



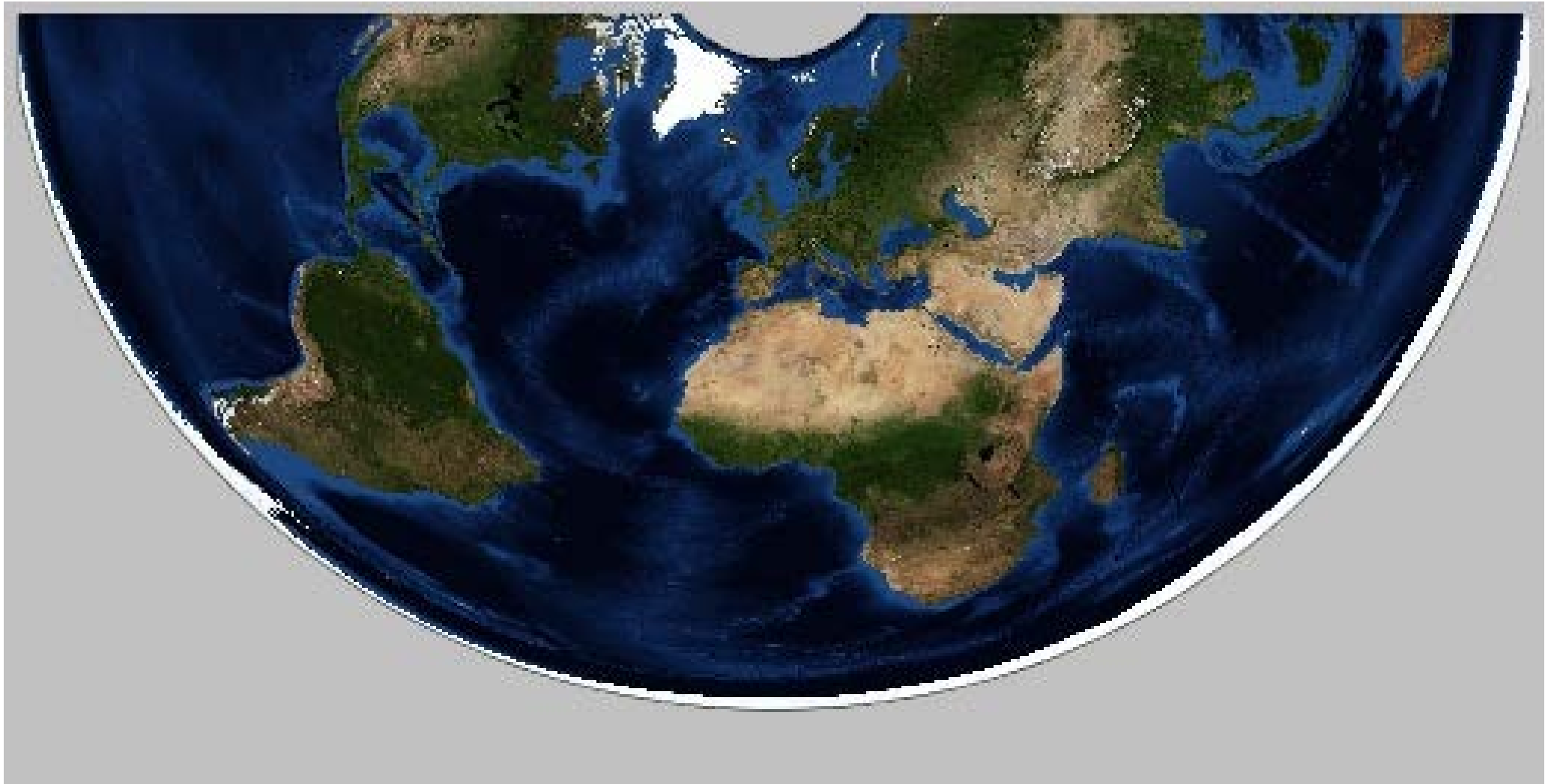
Oblique

# Conic projection

## Conic (secant)



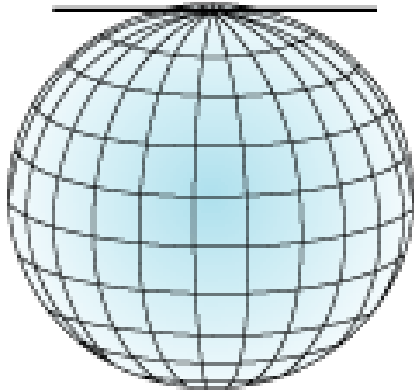
# Alberts Equal Area Conic projection



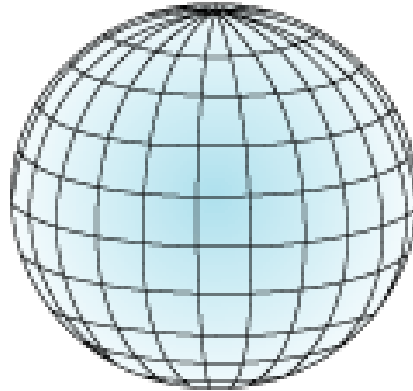


# Planar projection

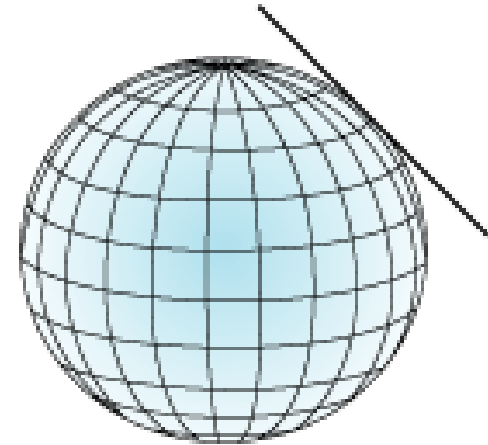
## Planar Aspects



**Polar**

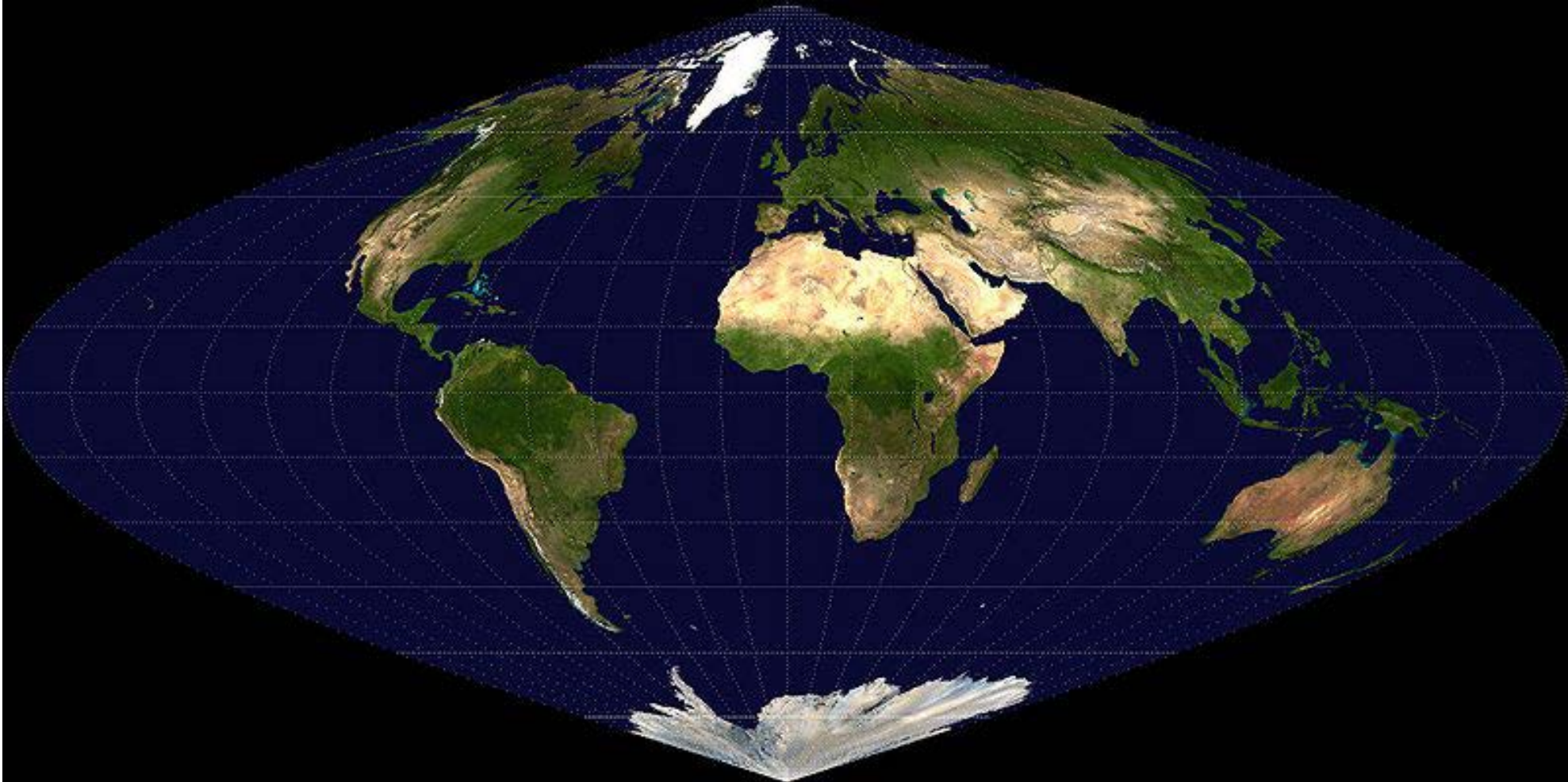


**Equatorial**



**Oblique**

# Sinusoidal projection



# GIS Software

- **R**
  - [Spatial Data Science with R and "terra"](#)
  - [GIS with Terra](#)
  - [tidyterra](#)
- **ArcGIS**
  - Comprehensive, but expensive and buggy.
- **Python**
  - ArcGIS, QGIS, geopandas

# Coordinate Reference Systems (CRS) in R

- `CRS("+proj=utm +zone=33 +ellps=WGS84 +datum=WGS84 +units=m+towgs84=0,0,0+no_defs")`
- Earth Model
  - **The Ellipse**: Describes the generalized shape of the Earth. The ellipsoid is an approximation and does not fit the Earth perfectly. The Earth is almost spherical, however there is a tiny bulge at the equator that makes it ~0.33% larger than at the poles. There are different ellipsoids in use, some are designed to fit the whole Earth (**WGS84**, GRS80) and some are designed to fit a local region (NAD27).
  - **The Datum**: Defines origin and orientation of the coordinate axes (as well the ellipsoid. Datums are based on specific ellipsoids and sometimes have the same name as the ellipsoid.)
    - **towgs84**: conversion to a global datum. **WGS84** itself has "+**towgs84**=0,0,0".
      - `proj=+proj=latlong +ellps=WGS84 +towgs84=0,0,0` is equivalent to
      - `+latlong +datum=WGS84`

# Coordinate Reference Systems (CRS) in R

- `CRS("+proj=utm +zone=33 +ellps=WGS84 +datum=WGS84 +units=m +no_defs")`
- **Projection**: Project the globe onto a 2D surface.
  - **Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM)**
    - The UTM projection is commonly used in research because it tends to be more locally accurate.
    - The mercator projection preserves angles and direction, but distorts distance. To minimize this distortion, the UTM divides the Earth into sixty **zones**.
  - **longlat**



# UTM zone numbers

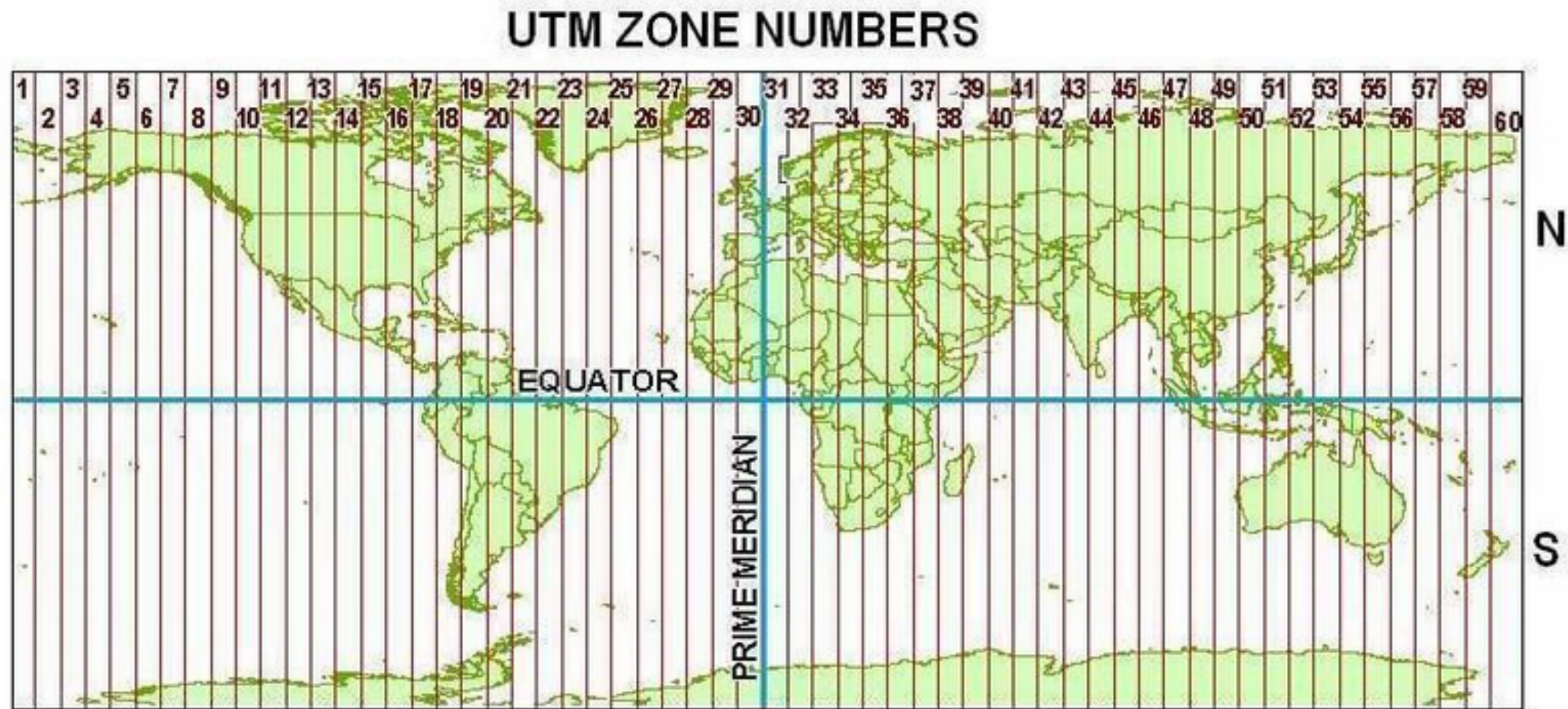


Figure 1. 60 UTM Zones divided North and South. [Top↑](#)

# EPSG codes

- A particular CRS can be referenced by its EPSG code.

```
> CRS("+init=EPSG:32633")
```

CRS arguments:

```
+init=EPSG:32633 +proj=utm +zone=33 +datum=WGS84 +units=m +no_defs +ellps=WGS84 +towgs84=0,0,0
```

# 3. Spatial data types

- Vector data
  - Types (feature classes)
    - Point
    - Line
    - Polygon
  - Format
    - Shapefiles (.shp)
  - Examples
    - Countries, sub-national districts, roads, cities.
- Raster data
  - Divides the earth surface into many “square” cells (or pixels)
  - Each cell contains one value
  - Often created from satellite images
  - Elevation, forest coverage, suitability for agriculture, night light, ndvi, pollution.



# GIS in R

- Packages
  - sp, sf, terra, (tidyterra).

# S4 objects

- sp package uses S4 objects to represent spatial data.
- Information stored in slots, accessed with @
- Foundational class is Spatial, with 10 subclasses

```
# Load the sp package  
library(sp)
```

```
# Spatial classes  
getClass("Spatial")
```

```
## Class "Spatial" [package "sp"]  
##  
## Slots:  
##  
## Name:      bbox proj4string  
## Class:     matrix      CRS  
##  
## Known Subclasses:  
## Class "SpatialPoints", directly  
## Class "SpatialMultiPoints", directly  
## Class "SpatialGrid", directly  
## Class "SpatialLines", directly  
## Class "SpatialPolygons", directly  
## Class "SpatialPointsDataFrame", by class "SpatialPoints", distance 2  
## Class "SpatialPixels", by class "SpatialPoints", distance 2  
## Class "SpatialMultiPointsDataFrame", by class "SpatialMultiPoints", distance 2  
## Class "SpatialGridDataFrame", by class "SpatialGrid", distance 2  
## Class "SpatialLinesDataFrame", by class "SpatialLines", distance 2  
## Class "SpatialPixelsDataFrame", by class "SpatialPoints", distance 3  
## Class "SpatialPolygonsDataFrame", by class "SpatialPolygons", distance 2
```

# Load point data

- Read table into R
- Convert the table into a spatial object using the coordinates command and passing the names of the columns in the table that correspond to longitude and latitude:

```
sf.df=import('sf_restaurant_inspections.csv')  
View(sf.df)
```

|   | V1 | business_id | Score | name                               | longitude | latitude |
|---|----|-------------|-------|------------------------------------|-----------|----------|
| 1 | 1  | 19          | 94    | Nrgize Lifestyle Cafe              | -122.4215 | 37.78685 |
| 2 | 2  | 24          | 96    | OMNI S.F. Hotel - 2nd Floor Pantry | -122.4031 | 37.79289 |
| 3 | 3  | 31          | 100   | Norman's Ice Cream and Freezes     | -122.4190 | 37.80716 |
| 4 | 4  | 45          | 94    | CHARLIE'S DELI CAFE                | -122.4136 | 37.74711 |

```
> class(sf.df)  
[1] "data.frame"  
> coordinates(sf.df) <- c("longitude", "latitude")  
> class(sf.df)  
[1] "SpatialPointsDataFrame"
```

# Slots in SpatialPointsDataFrame

```
# slots for SpatialPointsDataFrame  
slotNames("SpatialPointsDataFrame")
```

```
## [1] "data"      "coords.nrs" "coords"     "bbox"       "proj4string"
```

Global Environment

Data

sf.df Formal class 'SpatialPointsDataFrame'

```
..@ data :'data.frame': 2697 obs. of 4 variables:  
.. ..$ V1 : int [1:2697] 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 ...  
.. ..$ business_id: int [1:2697] 19 24 31 45 48 54 56 61 66 67 ...  
.. ..$ Score : int [1:2697] 94 96 100 94 92 100 98 92 100 90 ...  
.. ..$ name : chr [1:2697] "Nrgize Lifestyle Cafe" "OMNI S.F. Hotel - 2nd Floor Pantr...  
..@ coords.nrs : int [1:2] 5 6  
..@ coords : num [1:2697, 1:2] -122 -122 -122 -122 -122 ...  
.. ..- attr(*, "dimnames")=List of 2  
.. .. ..$ : chr [1:2697] "1" "2" "3" "4" ...  
.. .. ..$ : chr [1:2] "longitude" "latitude"  
..@ bbox : num [1:2, 1:2] -122.5 37.7 -122.3 37.8  
.. ..- attr(*, "dimnames")=List of 2  
.. .. ..$ : chr [1:2] "longitude" "latitude"  
.. .. ..$ : chr [1:2] "min" "max"  
..@ proj4string:Formal class 'CRS' [package "sp"] with 1 slot  
.. .. ..@ proj4args: chr NA
```

```
sf.df.coords<-sf.df@coords
```



|   | longitude | latitude |
|---|-----------|----------|
| 1 | -122.4215 | 37.78685 |
| 2 | -122.4031 | 37.79289 |
| 3 | -122.4190 | 37.80716 |
| 4 | -122.4136 | 37.74711 |
| 5 | -122.4657 | 37.76401 |
| 6 | -122.4377 | 37.78463 |

```
sf.df.bbox<-sf.df@bbox
```

|           | min        | max        |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| longitude | -122.51005 | -122.26417 |
| latitude  | 37.66882   | 37.83463   |

# Polygon data

- .shp main shapefile info
- .prj coordinate system and projection
- .dbf attributes

| Name   | Date modified    | Type     |
|--|------------------|----------|
|  CHN_adm0.dbf | 4/2/2009 9:29 AM | DBF File |
|  CHN_adm0.prj | 4/2/2009 9:29 AM | PRJ File |
|  CHN_adm0.sbn | 4/2/2009 9:29 AM | SBN File |
|  CHN_adm0.sbx | 4/2/2009 9:29 AM | SBX File |
|  CHN_adm0.shp | 4/2/2009 9:29 AM | SHP File |
|  CHN_adm0.shx | 4/2/2009 9:29 AM | SHX File |

```
CHN_adm0.prj
1  GEOGCS["GCS_WGS_1984",DATUM["D_WGS_1984",SPHEROID
    ["WGS_1984",6378137.0,298.257223563]],PRIMEM["Gre
    enwich",0.0],UNIT["Degree",0.0174532925199433]]
```

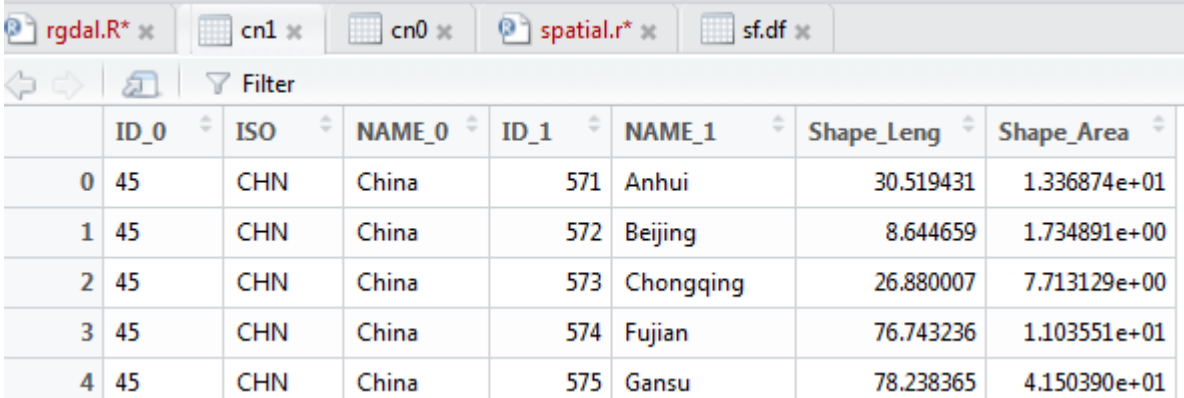
# Load polygon data

- # We can read in and write out spatial data using:  
terra::vect(filename.shp)

```
> CHN_adm2<-vect("../GISdata/CHN_adm/CHN_adm2.shp")
> CHN_adm2
class      : SpatVector
geometry    : polygons
dimensions  : 345, 18  (geometries, attributes)
extent      : 73.5577, 134.7739, 15.78, 53.56086  (
source      : CHN_adm2.shp
coord. ref. : lon/lat WGS 84 (EPSG:4326)
names       : ID_0  ISO NAME_0  ID_1  NAME_1
type        : <int> <chr> <chr> <int> <chr> <
values      :      45   CHN  China   589 Nei Mongol
              45   CHN  China   589 Nei Mongol
              45   CHN  China   589 Nei Mongol
```

The associated data is read from the .dbf file

```
> cn1<-as.data.frame(CHN_adm2)
```



The screenshot shows the RStudio interface with several open files: rgdal.R\*, cn1, cn0, spatial.r\*, and sf.df. The 'cn1' file is active, displaying a data frame table with 5 rows and 8 columns. The columns are ID\_0, ISO, NAME\_0, ID\_1, NAME\_1, Shape\_Leng, and Shape\_Area. The data represents administrative regions in China, specifically provinces and autonomous regions.

|   | ID_0 | ISO | NAME_0 | ID_1 | NAME_1    | Shape_Leng | Shape_Area   |
|---|------|-----|--------|------|-----------|------------|--------------|
| 0 | 45   | CHN | China  | 571  | Anhui     | 30.519431  | 1.336874e+01 |
| 1 | 45   | CHN | China  | 572  | Beijing   | 8.644659   | 1.734891e+00 |
| 2 | 45   | CHN | China  | 573  | Chongqing | 26.880007  | 7.713129e+00 |
| 3 | 45   | CHN | China  | 574  | Fujian    | 76.743236  | 1.103551e+01 |
| 4 | 45   | CHN | China  | 575  | Gansu     | 78.238365  | 4.150390e+01 |

# Raster data

A raster dataset has three primary components:

1. A grid, which consists of:
  - dimensions (number of rows and columns),
  - resolution (size of sides of each cell),
  - and extent (where the edges of the grid “are”)
2. A set of values associated with each cell in the grid
3. Projection data about how the grid relates to the physical world

# Load raster data

```
> pollution <- rast("R_workshop/RGIS2_Data/pollution.tif")
> crs(pollution)
[1] "GEOGCRS[\"WGS 84\", \n      ENSEMBLE[\"World Geodetic System 1984
```

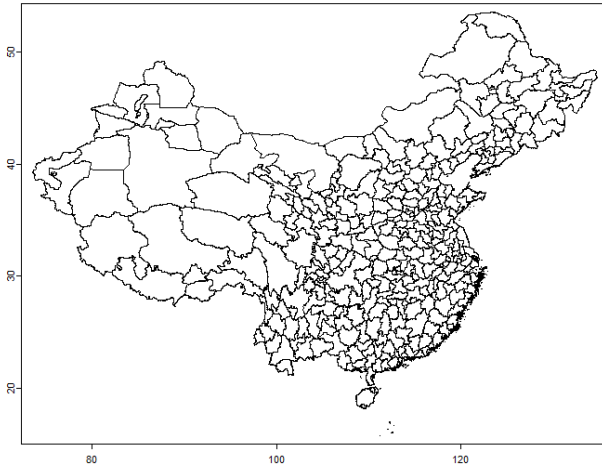


## 4. Merging spatial data

- Spatial + nonspatial (data)
- Spatial + spatial (and computing averages/statistics)
  - Point -> polygon
  - Raster -> polygon

# Spatial joins (merge): Spatial\* + Non-Spatial

```
# Terra command vect  
CHN_adm2<-vect("../GISdata/CHN_adm/CHN_adm2.shp")  
CHN_adm2  
plot(CHN_adm2)
```



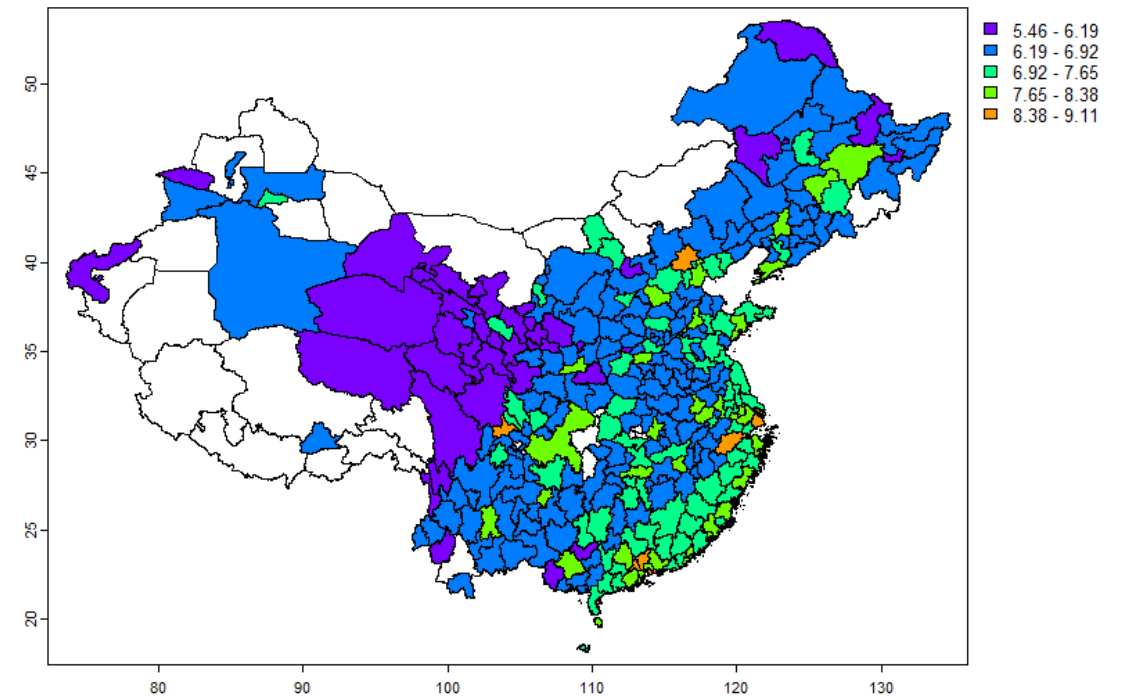
+

```
weibo<-import("../totalposts_p.dta")
```

| count     | provname | prefname | ID_2  |
|-----------|----------|----------|-------|
| 1.192e+09 | Shanghai | Shanghai | 10025 |
| 1414652   | Yunnan   | Lincang  | 10090 |
| 5146081   | Yunnan   | Lijiang  | 10089 |
| 2146879   | Yunnan   | Baoshan  | 10082 |
| 6235636   | Yunnan   | Dali Bai | 10084 |

=

```
CHN_adm2 <- merge(CHN_adm2, weibo, by.x = "ID_2", by.y = "ID_2")  
plot(CHN_adm2, "lncount")
```



# Merged spatial objects must have the same projection

- Re-projecting vector data requires two tools from the sp and rgdal packages:
  - a Coordinate Reference System CRS object with the new CRS you wish to apply
  - the spTransform() method
- A CRS object includes all the information needed to project a spatial object,
  - a Geographic Coordinate System (the model of the Earth used to create the data) and
  - a projection (a way of converting points on the three-dimensional Earth onto a two-dimensional plane).
- Through package terra, the crs() function has access to a large library of coordinate systems and transformations,
  - you just need to get the code for the CRS you want.
  - Codes – often called a “projection strings” – can be found at <http://www.spatialreference.org/>.

# Spatial joins (merge): Spatial\* + Spatial\*

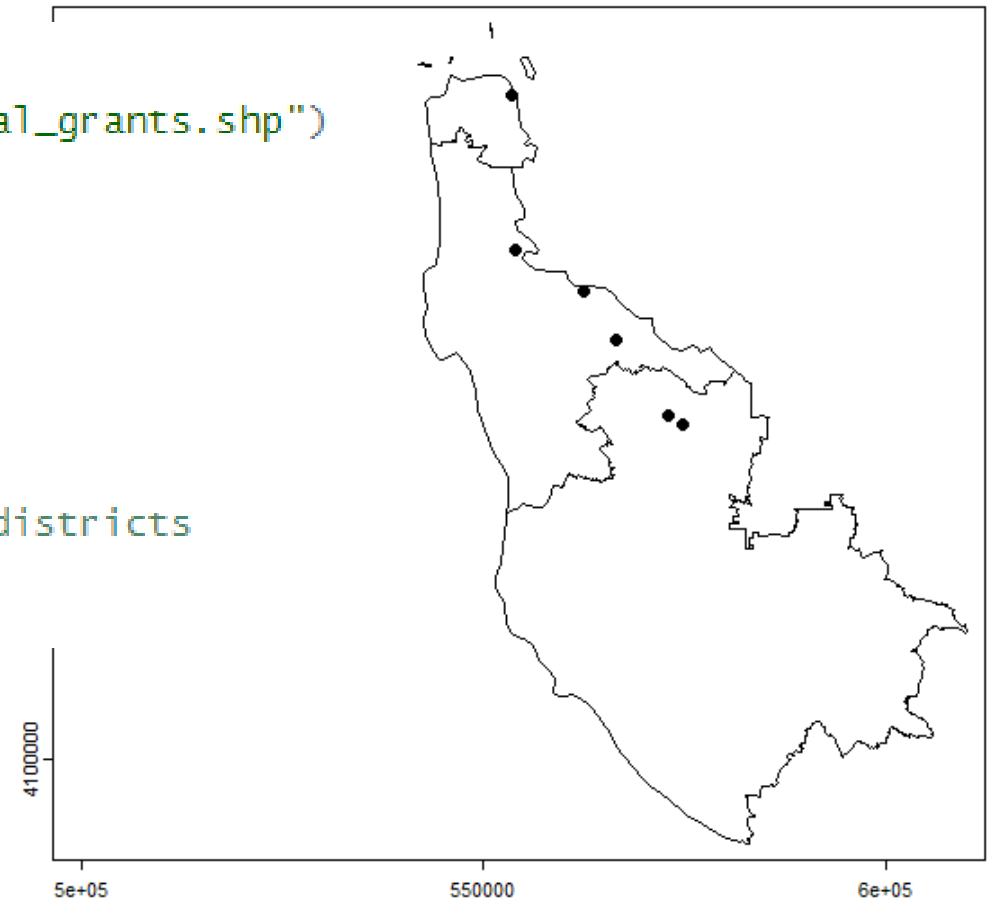
- sp
  - spTransform re-projects objects.
  - We have an object called MyCity and we want to reproject this into a new CRS:
    - `MyNewCRS <- CRS("+init=EPSG:32633")`
    - `MyCity.reprojected <- spTransform(MyCity, MyNewCRS)`
- terra
  - `MyNewCRS <- crs("+init=EPSG:32633")`
  - `MyCity.reprojected <- terra::project(MyCity, MyNewCRS)`

# Example: re-projecting point to fit polygon

```
# Federal project grants (Spatial points)
grants<-vect("R_workshop/RGIS2_Data/shapefiles/federal_grants.shp")

# Check projection of grants and districts.
crs(grants)
crs(districts)
# Put grant on same projection as districts.
new.crs <- crs(districts)
grants.newproj <- terra::project(grants, new.crs)

# Check that the reprojected grants fall inside the districts
plot(districts)
plot(grants.newproj, add=TRUE)
```



# What points lies in what polygon: extract {terra}

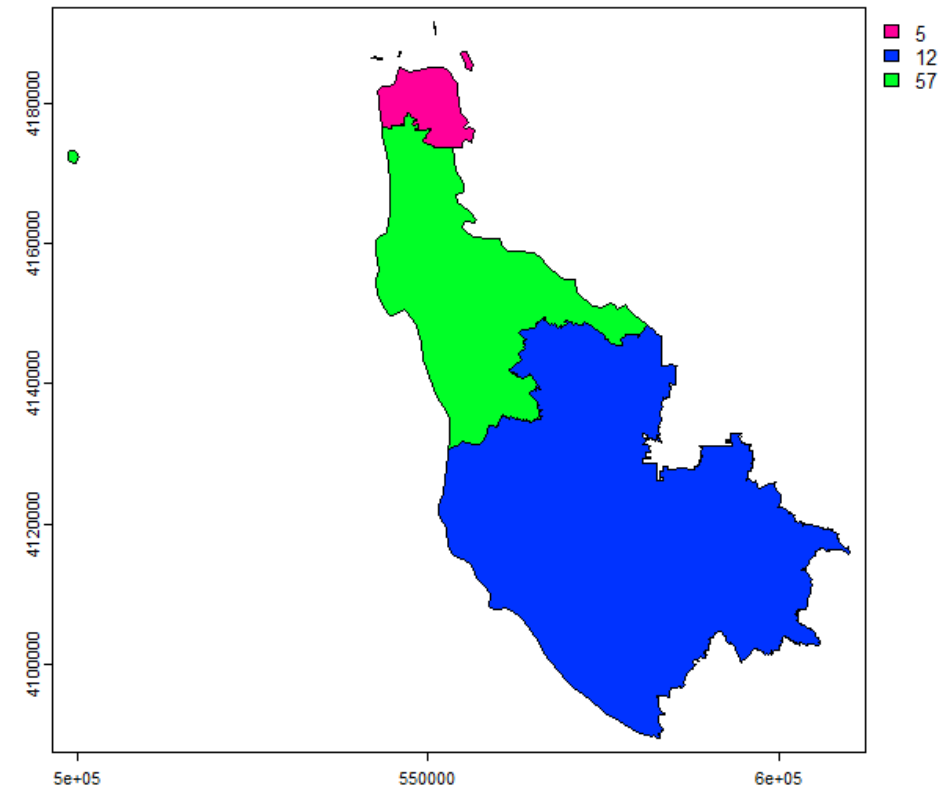
extract: returns a data frame that for each row in the second argument (grants, id.y) merges in information from the first (districts)

```
grants.districts<-terra::extract(districts,grants.newproj)
```

|   | id.y | DISTRICT | NAME          | Shape_Leng | Shape_Area | dem_vote_share |
|---|------|----------|---------------|------------|------------|----------------|
| 1 | 1    | 12       | San Francisco | 70727.76   | 105358679  | 88.3           |
| 2 | 2    | 14       | Peninsula     | 200487.79  | 706830475  | 76.7           |
| 3 | 3    | 14       | Peninsula     | 200487.79  | 706830475  | 76.7           |
| 4 | 4    | 14       | Peninsula     | 200487.79  | 706830475  | 76.7           |
| 5 | 5    | 18       | Palo Alto     | 308447.51  | 1815914163 | 67.8           |
| 6 | 6    | 18       | Palo Alto     | 308447.51  | 1815914163 | 67.8           |

# Total jobs per district

```
# Merge in district data to grants map.  
grants.newproj2 <- merge(grants.newproj, grants.districts, by="row.names")  
  
# Merge in total jobs created per district  
d<- as.data.frame(grants.newproj2) %>%  
  group_by(DISTRICT) %>%  
  summarise(JobsCreate=sum(JobsCreate))  
  
districts <- merge(districts, d, by="DISTRICT")  
plot(districts,"JobsCreate")
```



# Rasters + SpatialPolygons

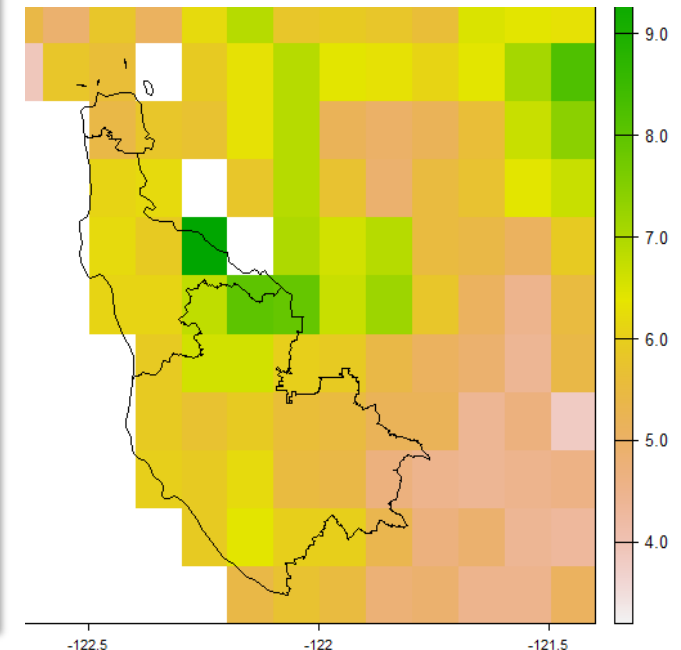
- Common task: compute average of raster data (light, pollution, NDVI) within geographic areas.
- Reproject polygon, not raster!
  - Rectangular raster grid is CRS dependent. Reprojected grid points will average values from multiple original grid points: time consuming.

```
# Read in raster data on pollution.

pollution <- rast("R_Workshop/RGIS2_Data/pollution.tif")
crs(pollution)
crs(districts)

# Put grant on same projection as districts.
new.crs <- crs(pollution)
districts.newproj <- terra::project(districts, new.crs)

plot(pollution)
plot(districts.newproj, add=TRUE)
```





# What raster point lies in what polygon

```
extracted.values1 <- terra::extract(pollution, districts.newproj)  
extracted.values2 <- terra::extract(pollution, districts.newproj, weights=TRUE)  
extracted.values3 <- terra::extract(pollution, districts.newproj, fun=mean)
```

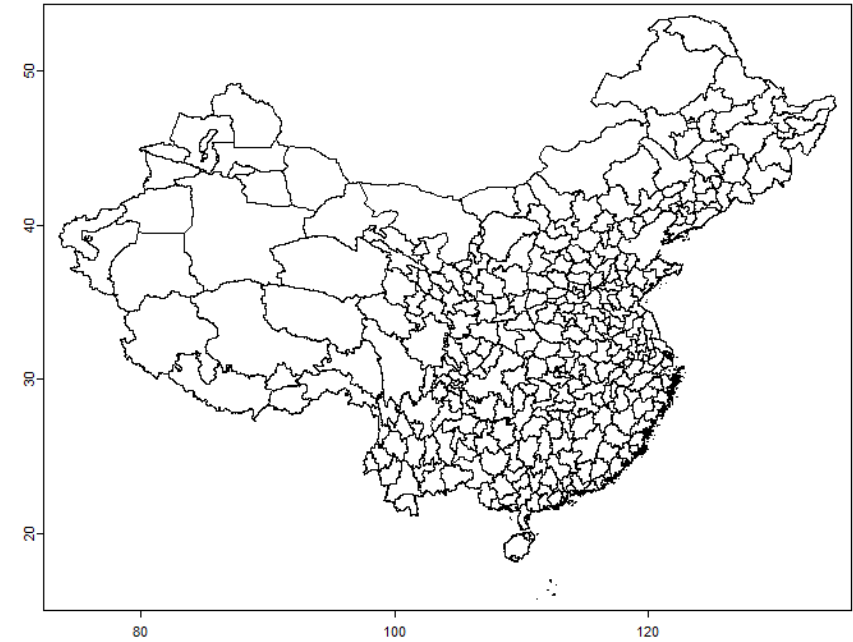
| Class, r* | extracted.values1 |
|-----------|-------------------|
| Filter    |                   |
| ID        | pollution         |
| 1         | 6.8               |
| 2         | 8.0               |
| 3         | 6.6               |
| 4         | 6.6               |
| 5         | 5.9               |
| 6         | 5.7               |
| 7         | 5.9               |
| 8         | 5.6               |
| 9         | 5.5               |
| 10        | 6.0               |

| Class, r* | extracted.values2 | extracted.v  |
|-----------|-------------------|--------------|
| Filter    |                   |              |
| ID        | pollution         | weight       |
| 1         | 6.1               | 0.0013409962 |
| 2         | 6.8               | 0.6609195545 |
| 3         | 8.0               | 0.6858237696 |
| 4         | 7.9               | 0.3408046051 |
| 5         | NA                | 0.0099616860 |
| 6         | 5.9               | 0.4005747213 |
| 7         | 6.6               | 0.8365900564 |
| 8         | 6.6               | 1.0000000216 |
| 9         | 6.0               | 0.3249042216 |

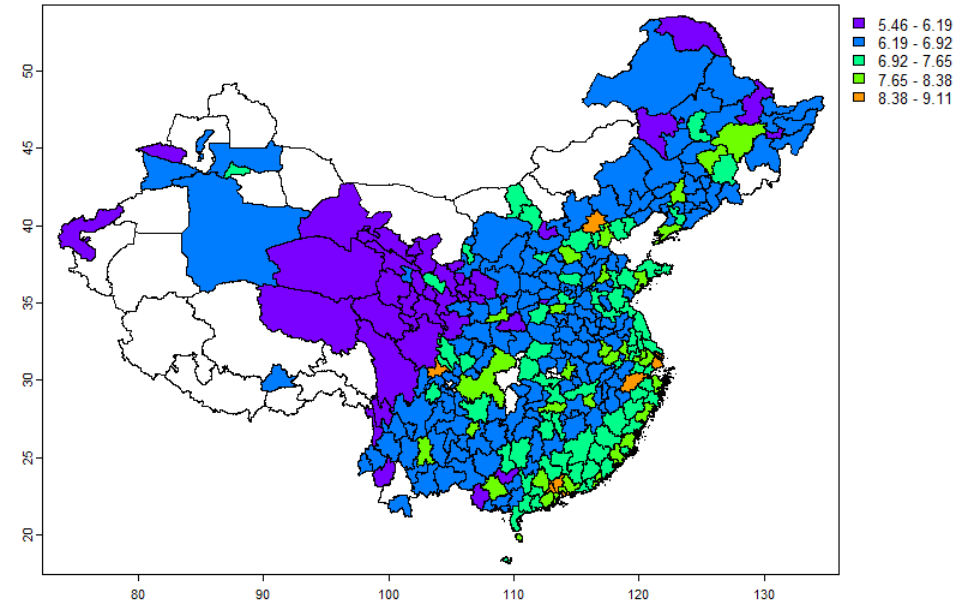
| Class, r* | extracted.values3 |
|-----------|-------------------|
| Filter    |                   |
| ID        | pollution         |
| 1         | 6.041176          |
| 2         | 5.400000          |
| 3         | 6.616667          |

## 5. Drawing maps

- `plot(CHN_adm2)`

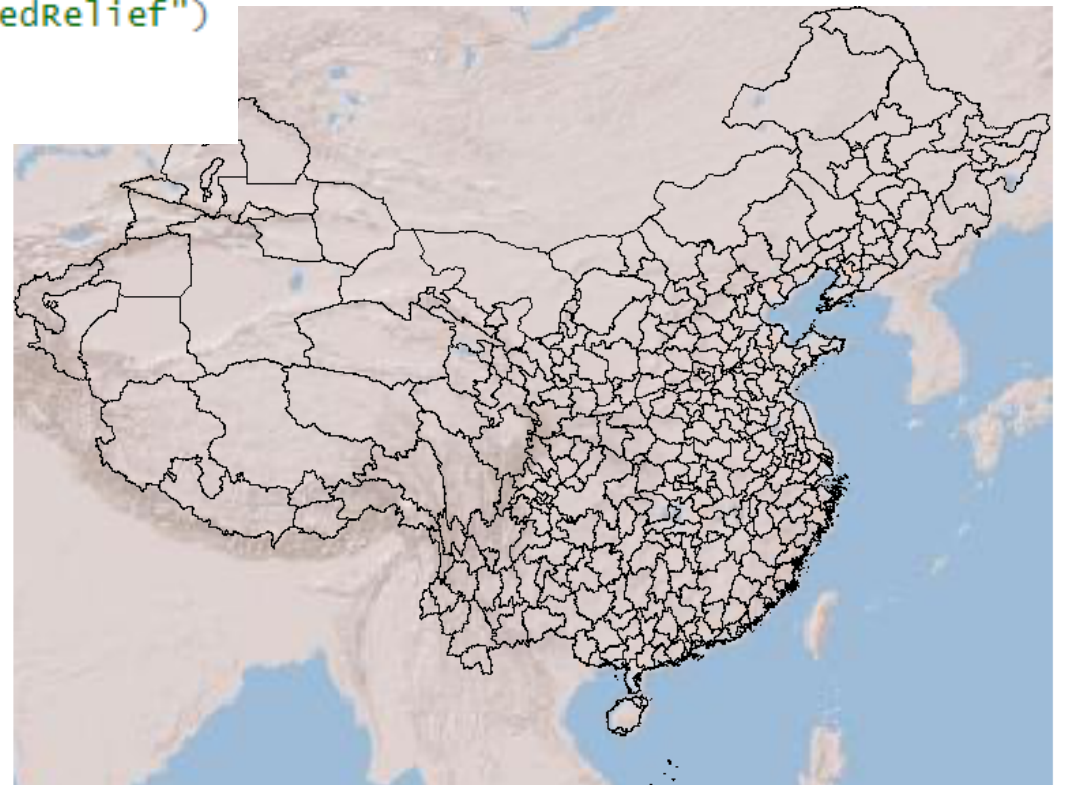


- `plot(CHN_adm2, "Incount")`



# Drawing maps

```
chn_file = "../GISdata/CHN_adm/CHN_adm2.shp"  
  
x<-vect(district_file)  
x<-vect(kommun_file)  
x<-vect(chn_file)  
bg <- get_tiles(x, crop=TRUE , provider = "Esri.WorldShadedRelief")  
plotRGB(bg)  
plot(x, add = TRUE, col = "transparent")
```



# Selecting by clicks

```
# Find name of one element by clicking
click(CHN_adm2, n=1)

# Extract one element
s <- sel(CHN_adm2) # now click on the map twice
s$NAME_2
plot(s)

# select records by variable info
i <- which(CHN_adm2$NAME_2 == 'Chongqing')
s<- CHN_adm2[i,]
plot(s)
```

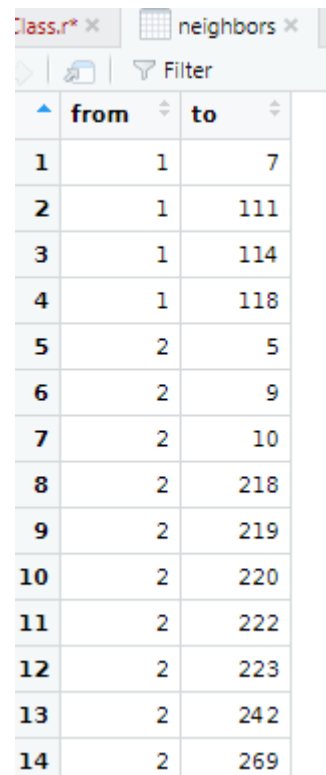


## 6. Geometric Manipulations: Distances, Neighbors, Buffers, Intersections, etc.

- How many cities are within 10km of a drone strike?  
Or how many people live close to a government project?

```
# Distance between centroids.
CHN_adm2_centroids <- centroids(CHN_adm2)
crs(CHN_adm2_centroids)
dist<-distance(CHN_adm2_centroids)

# Identifying neighboring areas
neighbors<-adjacent(CHN_adm2, type="rook", pairs=TRUE, symmetrical=TRUE)
#One of "rook", "touches", or "intersects".
# "rook" exclude polygons that touch at a single node only.
# "intersects" includes polygons that touch or overlap
```

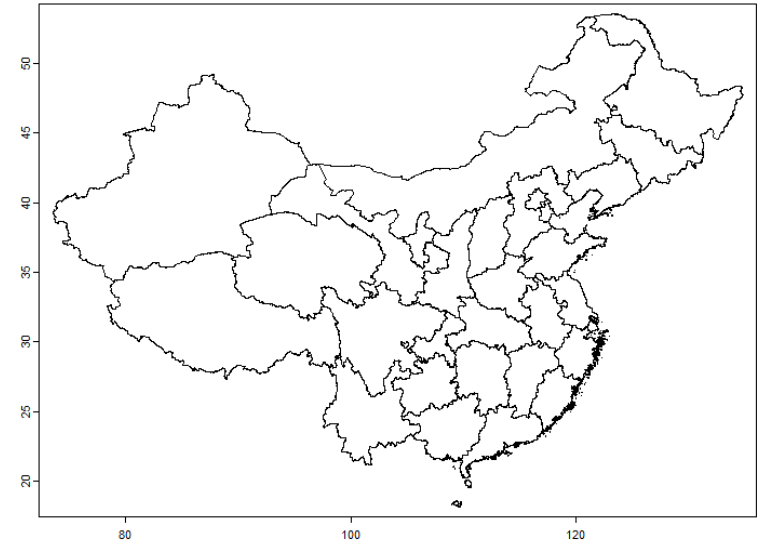


The screenshot shows an RStudio window with a tab titled 'neighbors'. Below the tab is a table with two columns, 'from' and 'to', and 14 rows of data. The table is displayed in a light blue theme with a 'Filter' button above it.

|    | from | to  |
|----|------|-----|
| 1  | 1    | 7   |
| 2  | 1    | 111 |
| 3  | 1    | 114 |
| 4  | 1    | 118 |
| 5  | 2    | 5   |
| 6  | 2    | 9   |
| 7  | 2    | 10  |
| 8  | 2    | 218 |
| 9  | 2    | 219 |
| 10 | 2    | 220 |
| 11 | 2    | 222 |
| 12 | 2    | 223 |
| 13 | 2    | 242 |
| 14 | 2    | 269 |

# Aggregate

```
# Aggregate to province level  
CHN_province <- aggregate(CHN_adm2, by='NAME_1')  
plot(CHN_province)
```



```
# Means of variables are computed by default  
CHN_province_data<-as.data.frame(CHN_province)
```

```
# You can set it to other functions: "mean", "max", "min", "median", "sum", etc.  
CHN_province <- aggregate(CHN_adm2, by='NAME_1', fun="sum")  
CHN_province_data<-as.data.frame(CHN_province)
```

|   | NAME_1    | mean_ID_2 | mean_ID_0 |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1 | Anhui     | 9772.00   | 45        |
| 2 | Beijing   | 9781.00   | 45        |
| 3 | Chongqing | 9782.00   | 45        |
| 4 | Fujian    | 9787.00   | 45        |
| 5 | Gansu     | 9798.50   | 45        |

|   | NAME_1    | sum_ID_2 | sum_ID_0 | sum_ID_1 |
|---|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1 | Anhui     | 166124   | 765      | 9707     |
| 2 | Beijing   | 9781     | 45       | 572      |
| 3 | Chongqing | 9782     | 45       | 573      |
| 4 | Fujian    | 88083    | 405      | 5166     |
| 5 | Gansu     | 137179   | 630      | 8050     |

# Some useful terra functions

- Calculating Properties
  - `perim`: calculates length of line / perimeter of polygons
  - `expanse`: calculate area of a polygon
  - `relate`: geometric relationships such as "intersects", "overlaps", and "touches"
  - `adjacent`: Identify cells that are adjacent to a set of raster cells or identify adjacent polygons
  - `distance`: distance between items
- Making New Shapes
  - `buffer`: Expand points into circles of given radius
  - `centroid`: Collapse polygons to their centroids
  - `union`, `intersect`: execute set operations on polygons
  - `aggregate`: dissolves a collection of shapes into a single shape.
- Testing Geometric Relationships
  - `gIntersects`: test if shapes intersect. Primarily useful for testing whether two polygons intersect, since this is not something `over` can do.
  - `gContains`: Is one spatial object entirely within another?
  - `gIsValid`: Very useful – make sure your geometries aren't corrupt!

# Task 7b

1. The polygons of Swedish municipal borders “Kommun\_RT90\_region” (from # <https://www.scb.se/sv/Hitta-statistik/Regional-statistik-och-kartor/Regionala-indelningar/Digitala-granser/>) are on Athena.  
Read them into R. What type of object is it? What is the CRS? Plot the borders.
2. The Swedish railway lines “jl\_riks” (from <https://www.lantmateriet.se/sv/Kartor-och-geografisk-information/Kartor/oppna-data/hamta-oppna-geodata>) are on Athena.  
Load jl\_riks into R. What type of object is it? What is the CRS. Plot the railways together with the municipal borders.