SPATIAL DATA QUALITY IN GIS DATA: A REVIEW

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Abstract:

Understanding spatial data quality is important in Geographic Information Science (GIS) applications. Spatial data are used in a variety of critical applications, including urban planning, environmental management, emergency response, and natural resource management where the accuracy and precision of spatial data can have a significant impact on the decision making, especially when used with predictive analysis. A review of the importance of spatial data quality in GIS data is necessary to understand the factors that affect the quality of spatial data and strategies used to interrogate and maintain spatial data quality. While there is no standard definition for spatial data quality, typically the term refers to the accuracy, completeness, consistency, and currency of the data. One of the key factors that affect spatial data quality is the data acquisition phase. The accuracy of spatial data can be compromised due to errors introduced during data collection, such as measurement errors or errors in data processing of raw data. Therefore, it is essential to ensure that data collection procedures are well-designed and accurately executed to minimise such errors. In this work a review on various applications of spatial data quality is GIS to provide a generalized SDQ(Spatial Data Quality) benchmark to reduce error in spatial data across various domains.

1. Introduction:

Data quality plays an important role in any form of data analysis and predictive analysis. Over the years big data environments like cloud computing, geographic information (satellite images and other earth observatory data) and healthcare have attracted researchers as data were seen as the new oil. These fields have huge scope and findings that can be disclosed using data analysis but data quality plays an important role to conclude a strong finding, or else it may result in error-prone analysis and predictions.

In the field of earth observation, the data are generated by various agencies using different tools and techniques[1-5]. This can result in an error or incomplete data. Such incomplete data or low-quality data used for analysis may result in low accuracy or even misleading results. Data quality in Geographic Information Science (GIS) is important because accurate and reliable data is essential for making effective decisions [4,5]. Poor data quality can lead to incorrect conclusions and poor decision-making. In GIS, data quality refers to the degree to which the data meets the requirements for its intended use. This includes factors such as accuracy, precision, completeness, and consistency[2]. To ensure data quality in GIS, it is important to use high-quality data sources, properly maintain and manage the data, and regularly verify and validate the data to ensure it is accurate and up to date. Additionally, proper documentation and metadata are essential for understanding the quality of the data and for ensuring that it is being used correctly.

GIS data primarily consists of raster and vector data types. Both types of data sources and databases suffer from different types of data quality issues and can be assessed with different metrics. In the raster data type the database mostly suffers from the satellite image quality and the quality of data in the image source may be due to resolution, visibility, or noise.

In this work, we survey various works to demonstrate the importance of data quality in raster satellite image data sources for various application like cloud cover detection, ocean data, object detection in vector layer, data accuracy of time series data and structural accuracy of infrastructure.

The rest of the paper is organized into four section. Section 2 showcases motivation of this work. In section 3 a extensive survey of work done in field of spatial data quality for GIS data is discussed. Finally the conclusion section which discusses the outcome and final discussion of this work.

2. Motivation

Currently, a huge amount of satellite data is available from various sources varying from low to high resolution with various bands for vegetation and many other applications like ocean data, precipitation time series data, soil temperature data, object accuracy in vector layer. But the issue that exists in the current scenario is to evaluate and find a suitable dataset from existing satellites data (Sentinel 1 -7 and Landsat 1-9 and other GIS vector data like, time series data, Census and other surveys. With such a huge volume of data its becomes difficult to identify useful data for a user defined application with a specific objective. Even when suitable data are sources, the data can have errors or be of low data quality[42]. In such cases there is a need of a quality metadata and quality check to be attached to the datasets to make filtration and identification of datasets easier for a specific use cases. In this work our aim is to identify existing spatial data quality measures which can be generalized to check for data quality. The data quality metrics may vary from application to application as discussed in section 3. So this work aims to identify common SDQ parameters for multiple applications.

3. Survey

In the field of GIS many studies are being performed by various researchers to define the need and how data quality can be defined for earth observation data.

There exists various type of GIS data type and use cases where different data quality metrics plays an important role. In general, GIS data can be divided into raster and vector data types as shown in figure 1, where raster data includes satellite images from various products like MODIS, Landsat, sentinel among others. On the other hand, vector data are user generated data layers added to a map which are generated through the machine like road maps, river maps, location of hospitals and many more location-based information. This also includes data from various GIS survey and time series data. Both type of data suffer from data Quality issues and resulting in poor results and analysis. In this section we introduce various quality indexes in raster and vector with some of the related work in that domain. Figure 1 shows two type of GIS data that exists fist is raster data that is satellite imaging and second is vector data that is numerical data that can be moisture, pressure, humidity, sea salt content and many more user recorded or user generated data from surveys.
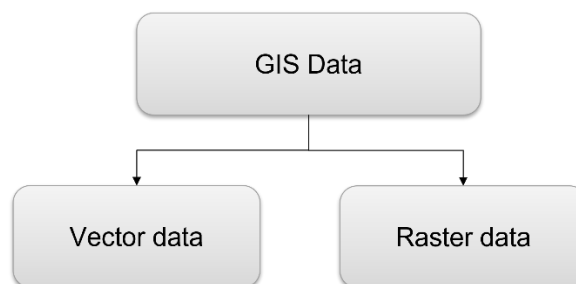

Figure 1. Types of GIS data

Spatial data quality can be evaluated under four different categories which are as follows as shown in figure 2 [2]:

1. **Precision**
2. **Consistency**
3. **Completeness**
4. **Accuracy**

The four SDQ (Spatial Data Quality) parameters can be used to evaluate data quality in GIS. For raster data precision, completeness and accuracy are main parameters on the other hand for vector data precision, consistency and completeness plays and important role.

Figure 2. Classification of Spatial Data Quality (SDQ).
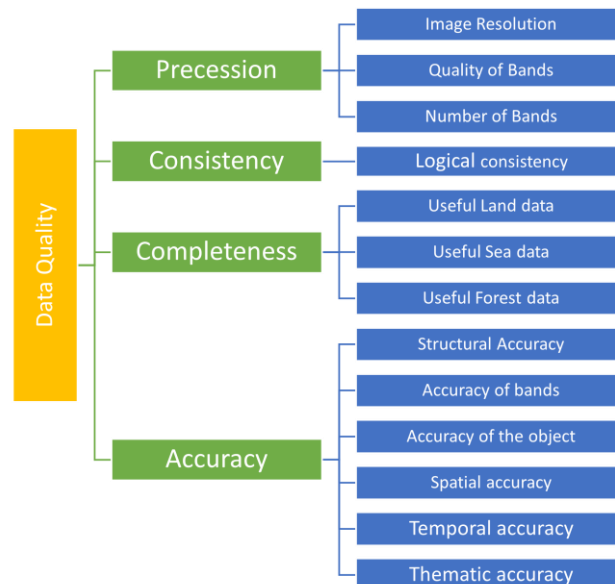
Figure 3. Spatial Data Quality (SDQ) in GIS Raster Data.
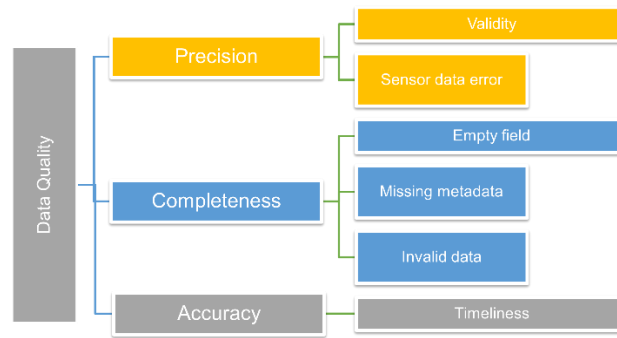
**Figure 4. Spatial Data Quality in GIS Vector Data**

Figure 3 and Figure 4 show the SDQ parameters for raster and vector data respectively. The next sections describe these SDQ metrics in more detail.

3.1. Precision

For raster data precession is evaluated as the image accuracy and the metadata quality which includes bands and other data like depth and number of bands[2]. Data Quality in satellite images refers to the quality of the image and precision of the image in relation to the position and size of the object in the image. Several of the GIS products suffer image quality due to low visibility or image resolution.

3.1.1. Accuracy of bands in GIS data

Albanai et.al .[5] showcased a model to evaluate the thermal accuracy of Landsat in the band on the sea surface. This study checks the computational accuracy of satellite images with live data as compared to the vector data available from sea beakers. The work uses bands 10 and 11 from Lansat-8 and compares the accuracy which comes out to be a deviation in accuracy with a mean standard deviation 0.03 over the year. Figure 5 and Figure 6 shows a similar deviation over various seasons for band 10 and 11. The work showcased a deviation in raster data when it was compared with real data from sea beakers.
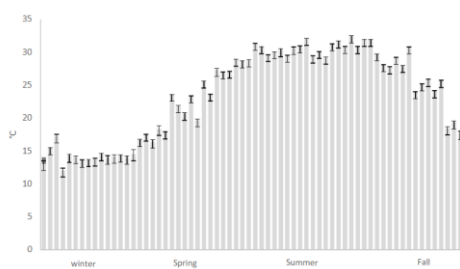
Fig. 7. Mean values (error bars represent CV values) for the thermal infrared band 10 images.

Figure 5 . Mean-variance in band 10 [5]
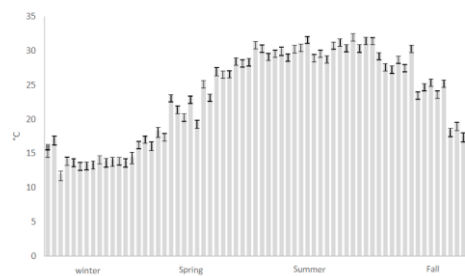
Fig. 8. Mean values (error bars represent CV values) for the thermal infrared band 11 images.

Figure 6 . Mean-variance in band 11 [5]

3.2. Completeness

Completeness [43] is defined as the accuracy of the data in the raster image which can be cloud coverage, land cover accuracy where as in vector data it is defined at the percentage of missing data or null values. Where data quality is defined as the precision of detecting clouds in image with cloud shadow and further classification.

3.2.1. Cloud cover and masking

In this section a review of existing methods for cloud detection, cloud shadow detection and cloud removal. Cloud detection and cloud shadow contributed to completeness in the SDQ. This defines the amount of data covered by cloud.

Ackerman, S [10] has presented a cloud masking algorithm for the MODIS (Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer) database. The algorithm uses MODIS and LIDAR data from the Department of Energy (DOE) Atmospheric Radiation Measurement (ARM) Program Southern Great Plains (SGP) site in Lamont. The algorithm is trained to find the cloud mask in the image with high accuracy. It uses 3 years of MODIS data.

Kopp, T [11] has proposed a (Visible Infrared Imager Radiometer Suite) VRIIS model for detecting cloud masks. This model used VCM (visible cloud mask) model. This algorithm is used to classify the various land use like cloud, land, soil, water, coastal & snow. This is a product of the Joint Polar Satellite System program, the algorithm is defined for the MODIS database. The model can define multi-layered clouds, can separate clouds and aerosols and cloud shadows.

Cesar Aybar et.al. [12] has proposed a deep learning model for cloud detection for Sentinel-2. The model is called CloudSEn12 which is defined to detect cloud, cloud shadow and multi-layer clouds. The model is trained on 49400 image data. The main importance of this model as compared to other models is it can differentiate between thick and thin models. The work is also compared with other existing models like Fmask, Sen2Cor and UNetMob. The figure below shows the performance of CloudSEN-12 with various other existing models for cloud and cloud shadow classification.
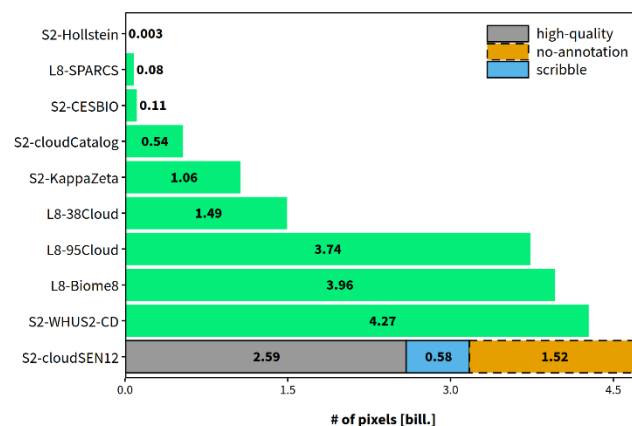
Figure 7. Performance of various cloud detection model[12]

Segal R M. et.al. [13] have proposed and improved the S-2 cloud mask algorithm using the CNN model. The work provides better accuracy for cloud detection compared to the original S-2 cloud mask. The work uses sentinel-2 data for testing and training the model, with 13 spectral bands and resolution of 10m. the testing was mostly conducted on images from the Fiji island database.

Qiu.S. et.al. [14] in this work has proposed an improved version of the FMASK algorithm for Lansat4, Landsat 8 and sentinel-2 images. This is one of the tools which allows cloud masking for multiple datasets available with high accuracy. This work demonstrates FMASK 4.0, a version of the algorithm integrated with separate models for cloud masking over land and water to maintain high accuracy. Figure 8. shows the working of FMASK 4.0 where various auxiliary data are integrated for training purposes and detection of cloud, cloud shadow, urban detection and snow detection.
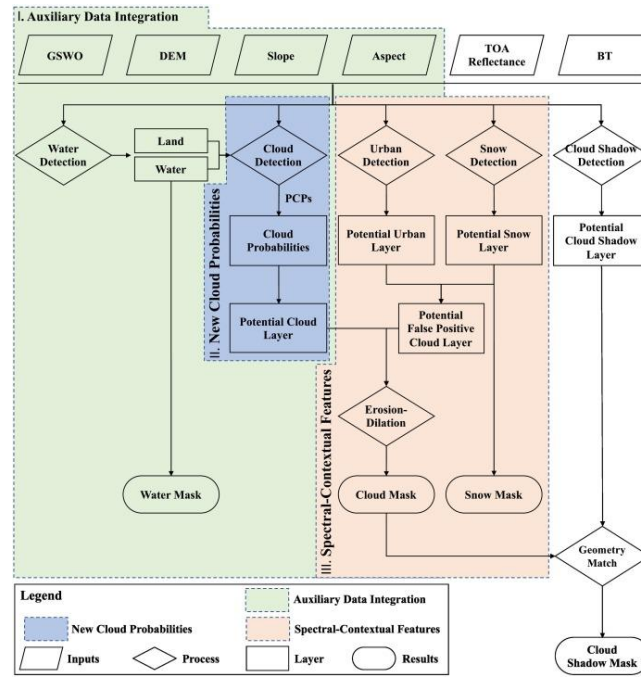
Figure 8 Cloud shadow detection and mask generation [14]

Additionally, there are various other machine learning models for cloud mask generation which are presented in Table 1. This FMASK machine learning model proposes the feasibility and study of various other ML models that can be used for better performance in term of accuracy of cloud detection.

Table1: cloud detection and masking techniques

Reference	Model	Model used
15	SEN12MS-CR-TS	SEN12MS-CR-TS
16	SECloud Mask	spectral-temporal classifiers
17	Fmask	fusion of Images and Auxilary data
18	dsen2-cr	deep residual neural network
19	DEcloud	Deep learning model
20	Luojia1-Cloud-Detection	Threshold-based cloud detection
21	Deep-gaofill	deep convolutional autoencode for cloud detection and gap filling
22	CloudFCN	Full CNN
23	Ukiscsmask	convolution neural network
24	STGAN	cloud removal using Spatiotemporal Generative Models
25	Cloud-Net	fully convolutional network (FCN) based cloud detection
26	CloudMattingGAN	GAN
27	ES-CCGAN	haze removal using cycle generative adversarial network
28	Cdnet	basic CNN with low dataset and low accuracy
29	GLNET	CNN based cloud and non cloudy classification
30	CDNetV2	CNN based model cloud detection and removal
31	AISD	deep learning model for shadow detection
32	Cloud-GAN	Model used deeip learning GAN model
33	Mec-GAN	https://github.com/andrzejmizera/MEcGANs
34	CloudXNet	https://github.com/shyamfec/CloudXNet

| 35 | SEnSEI | https://github.com/aliFrancis/SEnSeI |

In [15] presents a new remote sensing dataset aimed at cloud removal in multitemporal images. The authors start by highlighting the importance of remote sensing data in various applications, including land use and land cover classification, crop yield estimation, and urban planning. However, the presence of clouds in the images can significantly affect the accuracy of these applications. To address this issue, the authors introduce SEN12MS-CR-TS, a new data set that includes multimodal and multitemporal remote sensing data with and without clouds.

In another work a model was proposed to remove the noise from the images and new pixels were generated using geometric median. This authors in [16] propose an API name SECloud Mask to regenerate pixel and fill the noise in the image with high quality pixels where noise can be cloud and cloud shadow.

FMask[15] a tool kit and algorithm aimed to identify cloud, cloud shadow and snow in satellite images. The toolkit was released in 2015 which has been improved over the period with latest release of FMask 4.0. The tool is made for Landsat 4-8 and sentinel 2 satellite images. The model uses Haze Optimized Transformation (HOT) for prediction of cloud and snow in images. The tool is used to define Normalized Difference Snow Index (NDSI) and Normalized Difference Cloud Index (NDCI).

In this generation of artificial intelligence various work are being proposed using deep learning and neural networks. Various trained machine learning models are be produced using deep learning, artificial neural network, CNN, RNN and many more. In [18] a similar work in presented for cloud detection and removal from sentinel-2 images using deep neural network. The work showcases collection of huge satellite data and training the data for cloud detection using deep RNN which is neural network with large number of hidden layers and neurons. The work is useful to detect and remove cloud from image and regenerate the removed pixels using optical representation of near land structure.

Another work using deep CNN based machine learning model [21] resulted in a tool called Deep-gaofill. The tool is an image gap filling model using deep convolutional neural network which is trained for filling the pixels in radar images. This work is just a demo since it is not trained with huge dataset. Another research where researchers tried to use CNN(Convolutional neural network) for identification of cloud in satellite GIS data. CloudFCN [22] is a CNN based detection machine learning model for any raster images. The model identifies thick clusters of cloud and their shadow over the area. The model is trained with Landsat and sentinel images for training purpose. The work uses RGB band images for training purpose. The work is compared with SVM , PCA and single-pixel neural networks (NNs) [39,40,41]

Similar work for cloud detection using fully convolutional network [23, 25] is proposed and used in tools named Cloud-Net and Ukiscsmask. Ukiscsmask is trained using Landsat OLI dataset over a U-Net CNN model for cloud detection the work is an extension of existing work where this model extends the cloud classification to five classes ("shadow", "cloud", "water", "land" and "snow/ice"). Where prior to this only 3 classes exists (Cloud, land, no cloud).

On the other hand, Cloud-Net [25] is a trained machine learning model using CNN for cloud detection in Landsat 8 data. The model is very specific in nature due to its training data restrictions. The work is compared with existing FMask model for the accuracy of cloud detection. The proposed cloud-Net model proved to provide better accuracy in term of detection of cloud in Landsat 8 data.

Some of the similar proposed ML based toolkit for cloud and cloud shadow detection are Cdnet and GLNET [27,28,29]. These are some simple CNN based model for cloud detection and classification into thick and thin cloud. For cloud shadow detection using deep learning is shown in AISD [31] where deep Deeply Supervised convolutional neural network for Shadow Detection (DSSDNet) is used to

improve the cloud shadow detection raster Landsat data. In [32] a Distortion Coding Network method is proposed for cloud detection. In [33] another cloud detection algorithm is proposed using GAN which is an unsupervised model with higher accuracy than any other model but need huge data for training. Similar work using machine learning are proposed in [34,35] for cloud detection for various satellite datasets. Since the accuracy in GIS models depends on the quantity of dataset trained and the variety of datasets, so new developments are taking place to make the model more accurate.

After cloud detection and removal the empty pixels need to be filled/generated for this some of the work using mathematical modles [16,21] are proposed. In some of new research Machine learning models and deep learning models are used to improve the accuracy and quality of the pixels. In [26] author has proposed a Generative adversarial network to use deep neural network to generate similar pixel for replacing cloud pixels.

This data quality refers to the amount of useful data out of the whole data set. In the case of earth observatory data where various platform provides satellite images based on AOI (Area of Interest) in such cases a polygon drawn may not provide complete data in such cases the data completeness quality need to be checked.

Similarly other factors that impact data completeness are cloud cover, haze or fog in the atmosphere. As discussed above various cloud detection and classification algorithms have been proposed including machine learning models. This allows users to know the useful or visible data that can be used for analysis. Similarly, classification algorithms allow you to know the degree of the visible area, partially visible or cloud-covered area.

Data completeness plays an important role in various applications like landcover, forest cover and sea or water bodies. In these specific GIS applications users are interested in knowing the quality of data in terms of useful data for their need like land cover or sea cover without processing the data. In such case data completeness allows you to know the data completeness in terms of land cover and sea cover which allows the user know the data quality without computing the data which allows the user to select the high-quality data for analysis.

3.3. Accuracy

In this section, a review of existing work for accuracy in vector data are discussed. The study covers the review of various type of accuracy in vector data based on the data like soil data[1], atmospheric pressure [2], income[42] and many more. Where accuracy can be defined as the

In [1] data quality for watershed data which is a timeseries data is discussed. Mauro et.al. [1] presented a study on the importance of data quality in watershed streamflow and sediment data analysis. The work showcases the study of fine sediment yield in the Goodwin Creek watershed of 21.3 km. The work is a study on the effect of various spatial data, and geomorphology on land use and land cover maps. The work uses various existing models like Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) and AVSWAT to study the performance. The result shows that GIS data has a significant effect on the models to predict the streamflow and sediment data analysis where the data quality plays an important role to improve the accuracy of the model.

In [42] a study on SDQ for American Community Survey Data 2013 is been performed. This study showcased the data quality errors in the American census data in various parameters like age income where discrepancy in these parameters for some counties was very high using mean and median as data quality parameters.

3.3.1. Accuracy of the object in GIS data

Zhan, Q [4] has showcased a study on accuracy in object identification and placement in **vector maps**. The work showcases the study on the error and changes in accuracy in object detection to find the exact object like streets, buildings, trees and many more. The author has given a model to match the vector data which is a combination of lines and points which allows finding the changes like missing objects or errors in the data. On comparison of different data, the accuracy was found to 81.8%. The study area is in Amsterdam and the Ravensburg site.

Barazzetti et.al. [6] studied the accuracy using RMSE (Root-Mean-Square Error) of the **images** between sentinel 2 and Landsat-8 images where the comparison of the image registered at 10 m and 15 m are taken into consideration. The work also studies the accuracy of various bands B1-B11 using RMS (root-mean-square error). The study showcases that error in various reference bands 4(10m), 5(20m) and 9(60m) where RMS error was recorded in each image which varies from 0.19-0.55. This can also be used to define the correctness of the data. The study was conducted for images of various countries where the RMSE value for each country was evaluated and where a variation in RMSE value of various locations was recorded.

Marangoz, A. M [7] studied the accuracy of land use classification between Sentinel-2 and Landsat-8 images. The work aims to first define the land use classification using Sentinel images and compare the accuracy using RGB and NIR bands. In the second phase, the same process is done with Landsat images to find the land use and classification in the image. The work has showcased the lower accuracy in both sentinel and Landsat data with an accuracy of 0.74 and 0.66 correspondingly for RGB and NIR bands. The work also studies the accuracy of object-based classification where the accuracy of the sentinel and Landsat was recorded to be 80.7% and 73.4%. This showcases that for land use and object-based classification sentinel images have high accuracy than lansat-8.

Table 2. RMS pixel quality of various Bands [7]

Reference Band	Sensed Band	# matches	RMS (pixel)
4 (10 m)	2 (10 m)	287	0.19
	3 (10 m)	289	0.09
	8 (10 m)	282	0.14
	5 (20 m)	238	0.15
5 (20 m)	6 (20 m)	250	0.07
	7 (20 m)	247	0.15
	8a (20 m)	234	0.15
	11 (20 m)	220	0.15
	12 (20 m)	240	0.18
	9 (60 m)	160	0.55
9 (60 m)	1 (60 m)	257	0.26
	10 (60 m)	15	4.93

Frantz, D.[8] proposed a system called FORCE which is a tool to generate images with high accuracy for land use that combines the images from sentinel, Landsat, NANA and ESA. The tool is designed to take multiple images and fuse them into one to generate a single image and bands which has high-accuracy data. FORCE is a data fusion tool to improve the spatial resolution of land surface images using Landsat and Sentinel ARD.

In [9] Kocaman. S et.al. have studied the image quality and geometric quality of Landsat 7 and 8 where various issues were highlighted in the global database at zoom levels and in the histogram which was

further improvised by histogram and other techniques. The work highlights that the data suffer from the colour difference. The study also studies the advantages and disadvantages of the various data sources as shown in Table 3.

Table 3. Advantages and disadvantages of various GIS products [9]

Name	Status (+: pros; -: cons)
Landsat GLS	(+) Resolution (-) Heavy process (download + mosaic generation) (-) Artefacts in Landsat7 data
Meris RGB	(+) Mosaic ready-to-use (-) Problem with coastlines coming probably from a land mask and leads to geolocation errors (-) Lack of contrast on certain areas (bright areas)
Sentinel2 cloudless	(+) Mosaic ready-to-use (-) Degradations due to jpeg compression (-) Lack of contrast on certain areas (bright areas)
Sentinel2 L2A	(+) Resolution (-) Very heavy process (download & product selection & mosaic generation)
MERIS L3	(+) Mosaic generation process is fast (+) No degradation of the geometry and the radiometry (-) Lack of data in many regions

3.3.2. Structural Accuracy in GIS data

In this section, some of the work of structural data quality in GIS data and its role is showcased. In [36] the authors demonstrate the use of GIS data to measure the accuracy of a bridge deformation. This refers to the evaluation of degradation of data accuracy which allows you to evaluate any error in a structure like bridges, buildings and high-rise structures. This work uses a ground-based radar system to collect the structural data and then further comparison and evaluation The work was able to evaluate the accuracy of the deformation in bridge.

Similar work was done by the authors in [37] to measure the change in land use spread in urban area using GIS where the accuracy of the data has an important role to play. The accuracy of such data needs to evaluate to measure the consistency in the data collected and the data showcased. This work uses thematic accuracy to evaluate the correctness of the data. In another work [38] Another standard for data positioning in GIS data [38] is National Standard for Spatial Data Accuracy (NSSDA) which is used in the US for positional accuracy of data in GIS data using a normal distribution. Where the normal distribution defines the spread of position error at a specific location.

Summary

Table 4 shows the final summary of the work where the SDQ benchmark can be defined as precision, consistency, completeness and accuracy for any GIS data which can be raster or vector. This benchmark SDQ will allow user to evaluate data, which can be raster or vector. This will allow users to select an appropriate data before moving on to further analysis. These SDQ will also user to select data for analysis based on accuracy, completeness and precision this will allow user to get the required data the application domain that may me land cover, ocean, forest cover or forest fire analysis but on the other hand if the data has low completeness in that case user has large amount of data but less useful data for its application.

Table 4. Summary of Work on Spatial Data Quality

Data Quality parameter	GIS data quality	Related Work
Percission	Image Resolution, Quality of Bands, Number of Bands	[3,5-7,13]
Consistency	Logical consistency	[1-2]
Completeness	Useful Land data, Useful Sea data, Useful Forest data	[10-33]
Accuracy	Structural Accuracy, Accuracy of bands , Accuracy of the object, Spatial accuracy, Temporal accuracy, Thematic accuracy	[4-9] [36-38]

4. Conclusion

The work **showcases the need of data quality in GIS data for various GIS data**. Many researchers have showcased the need for data quality in GIS data for land use, flood mapping, marine applications, forest application and various other studies on climate and farming to improve the accuracy in predicting the current situation using GIS data . But there is no standard for evaluating data quality of GIS data. This raises an issue when selecting the correct dataset that is useful and on the other hand dataset with low data quality may result in low accuracy and even incorrect assumptions. Various European earth observatories reported that data quality of machine-generated GIS data is low quality when tested [3-5]. This work aims to identify a generalized data quality benchmark parameters to evaluate data quality in raster and vector data using SDQ. The paper has identified the metrics for SDQ as shown in Table 4, where precision, consistency, completeness, and accuracy are some of the parameters that should be evaluated for each data before usage. Table 4 also highlights some of the parameters that are clustered under specific data quality assessment. These generalized parameters will be useful for most GIS data applications. In future work, these SDQ parameters will be used to evaluate the data quality of raster data and assess its usefulness for a user use-case.

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