

Stream Order from a Digital Elevation Model (DEM) using ArcGIS

Stream Order - Stream order (calculated in the NHD using Strahler Stream Order (Strahler, A.N., 1952; Horton, R.E., 1945)) in hydrography deals with the hierarchy of streams from the source (or headwaters) downstream. The NHD is capable of storing stream order information in the NHDFlowlineVAA table. However, since stream order must start at the headwaters of the features, and most subbasins (8-digit hydrologic unit containers) do not contain the headwaters, this attribute is not populated

The headwaters are the first order and downstream segments are defined at confluences (two streams running into each other). The diagram below shows how the downstream numbering of stream order is done. At a confluence, if the two streams are not of the same order then the highest numbered order is maintained on the downstream segment. At a confluence of two streams with the same order, the downstream segment gets the next highest numbered




Figure 1: Stream Order Calculation Diagram

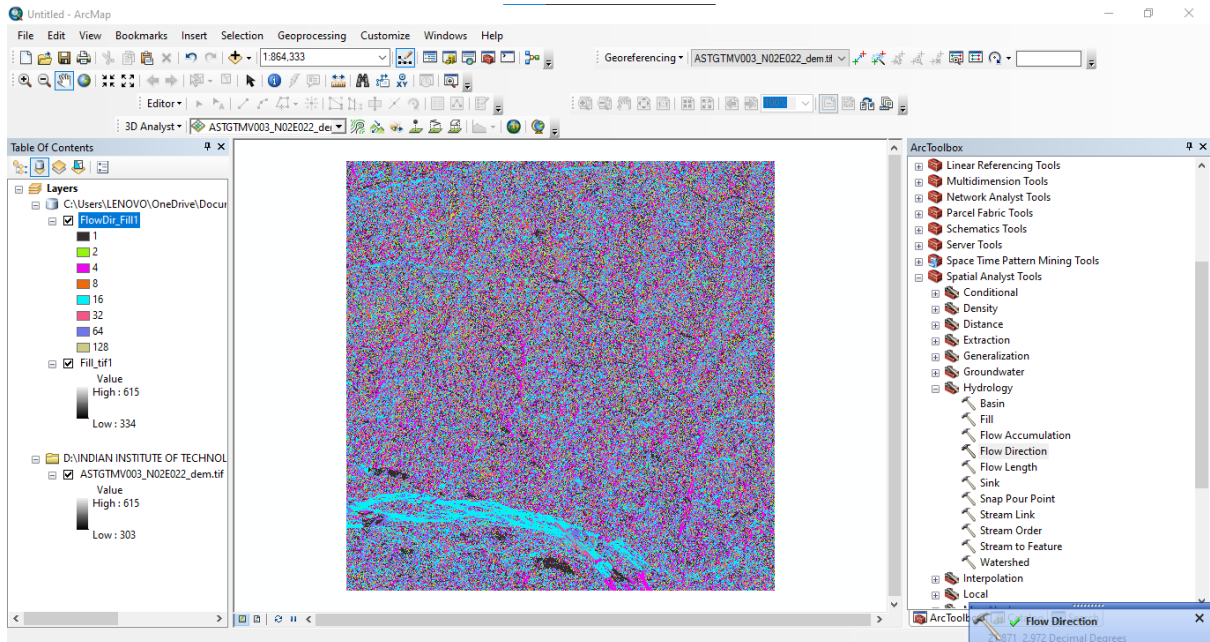
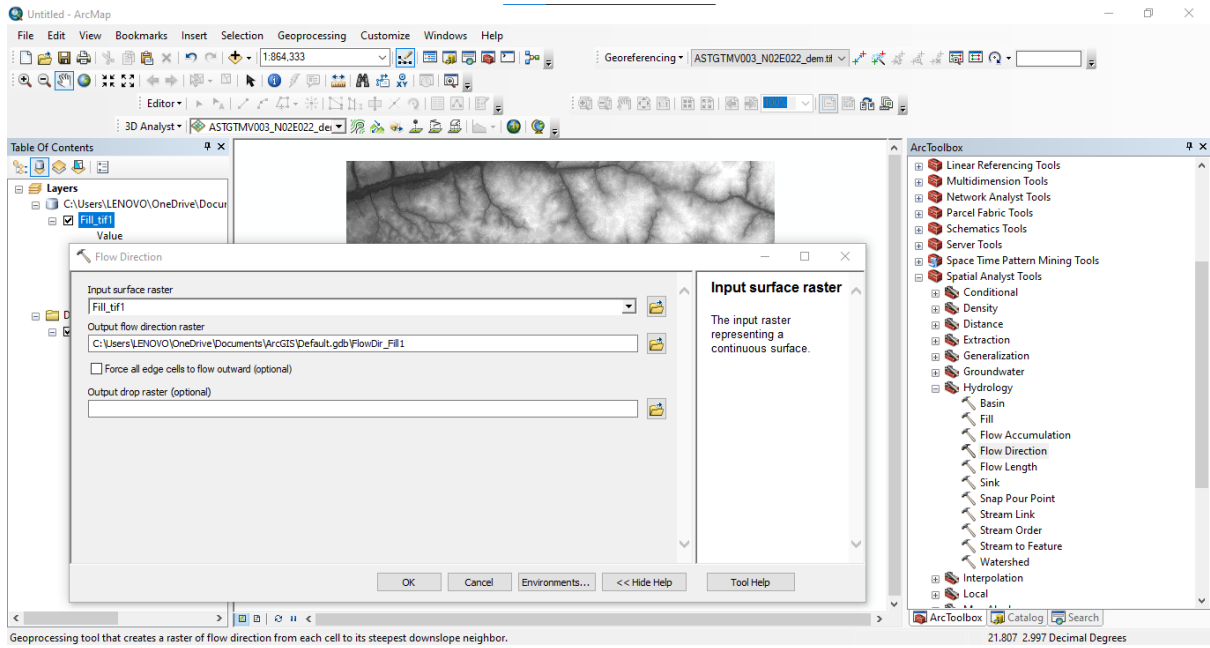
The diagram shows a network of streams. The main trunk is a red line. It has several tributaries. The tributaries are colored blue, green, and yellow. The main trunk is labeled with the number 3. The tributaries are labeled with the number 2. The tributaries of the tributaries are labeled with the number 1. This illustrates how the stream order increases as you move downstream.

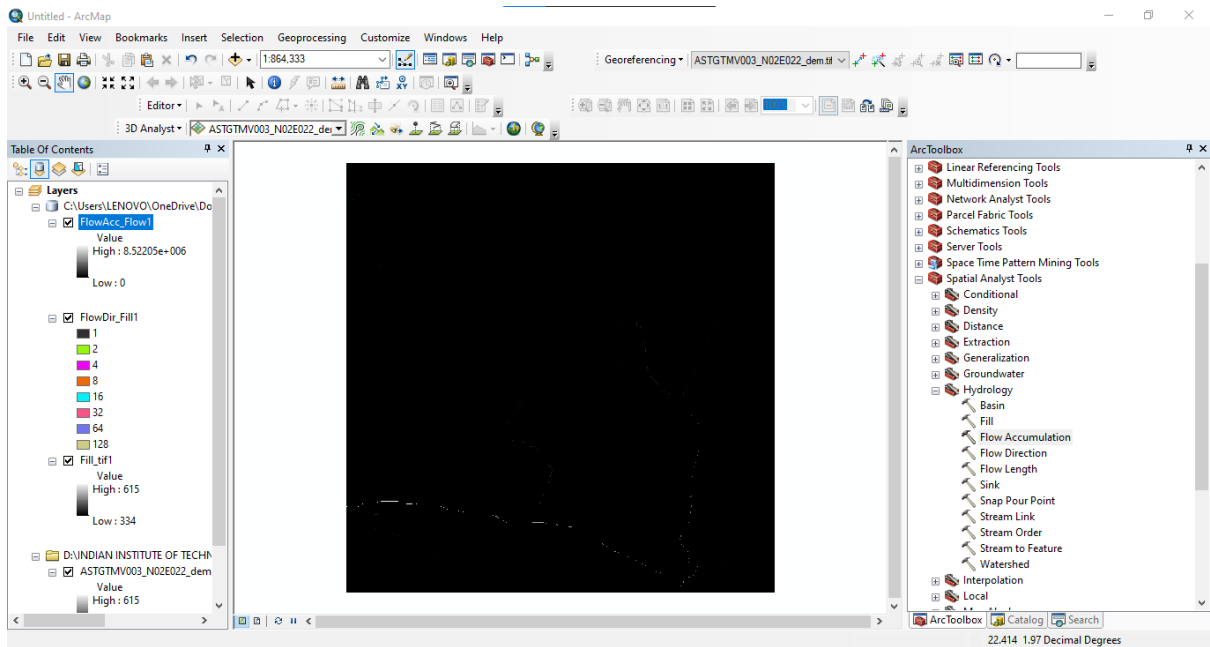
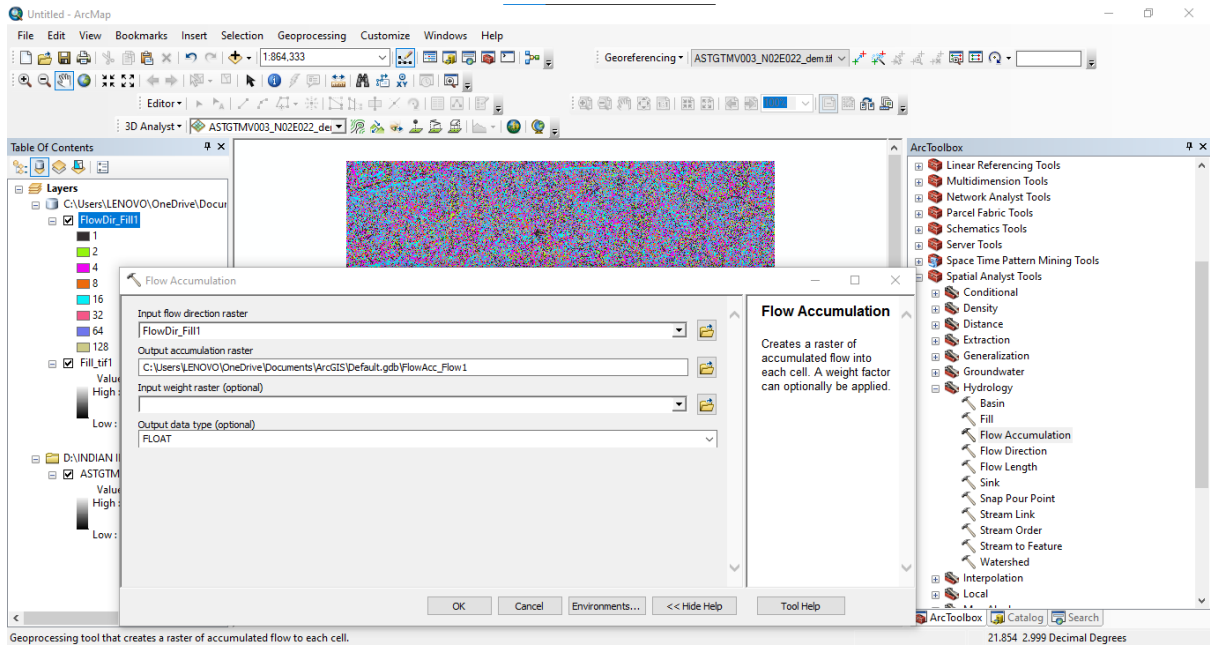
Figure 2: ArcGIS Interface

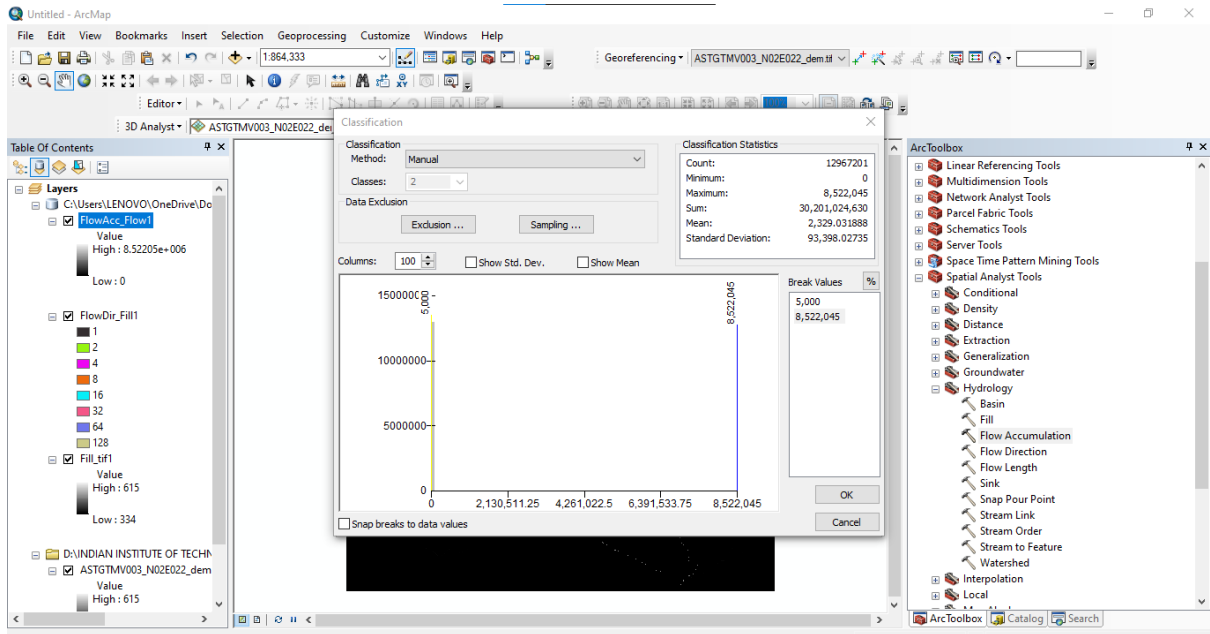
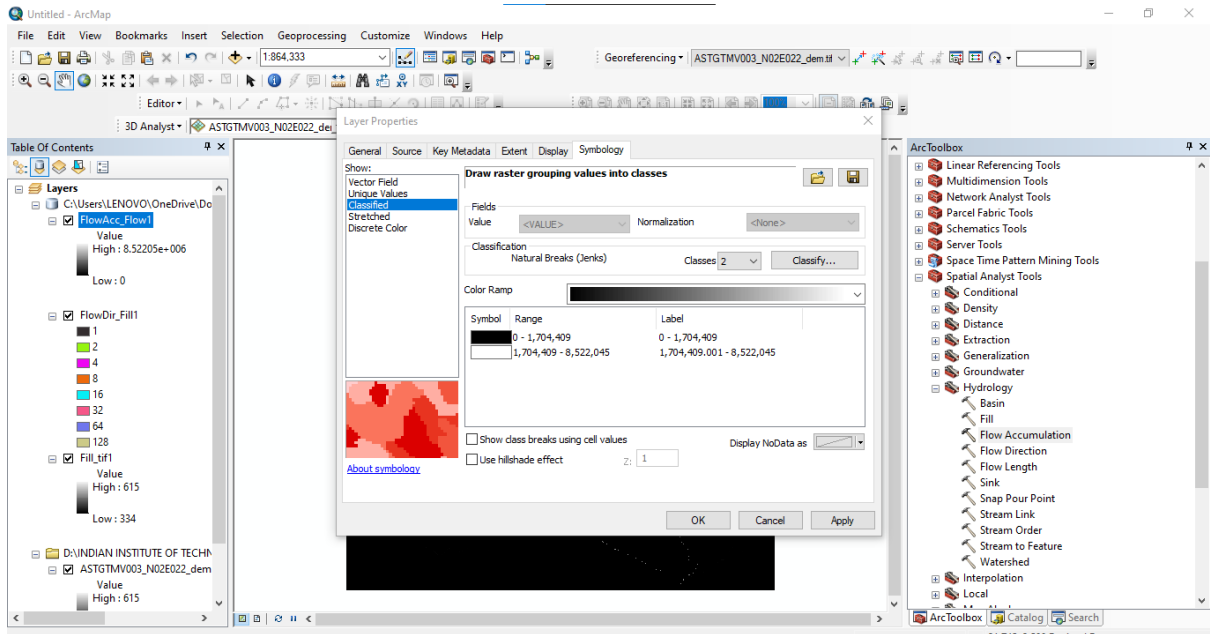
The screenshot shows the ArcGIS desktop environment. The main map area displays a grayscale Digital Elevation Model (DEM) with a stream network overlaid. The stream network is colored red, yellow, and green, corresponding to different stream orders. The ArcToolbox is open on the right side of the screen, showing the 'Hydrology' toolset. The 'Stream Order' tool is selected. The 'Fill' dialog box is open, showing the input surface raster as 'ASTGTMV003_N02E022_dem.tif' and the output surface raster as 'C:\Users\LENOVO\OneDrive\Documents\ArcGIS\Default.gdb\Fill.tif1'. The 'Z limit (optional)' field is empty. The 'Fill' tool description states: 'Fills sinks in a surface raster to remove small imperfections in the data.'

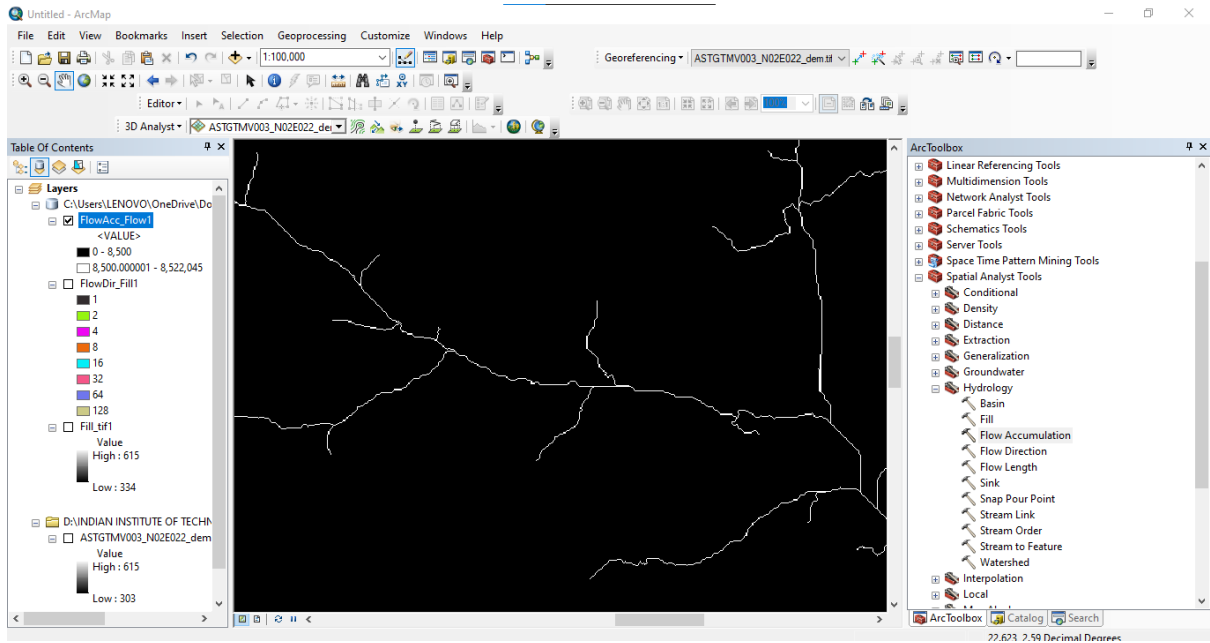
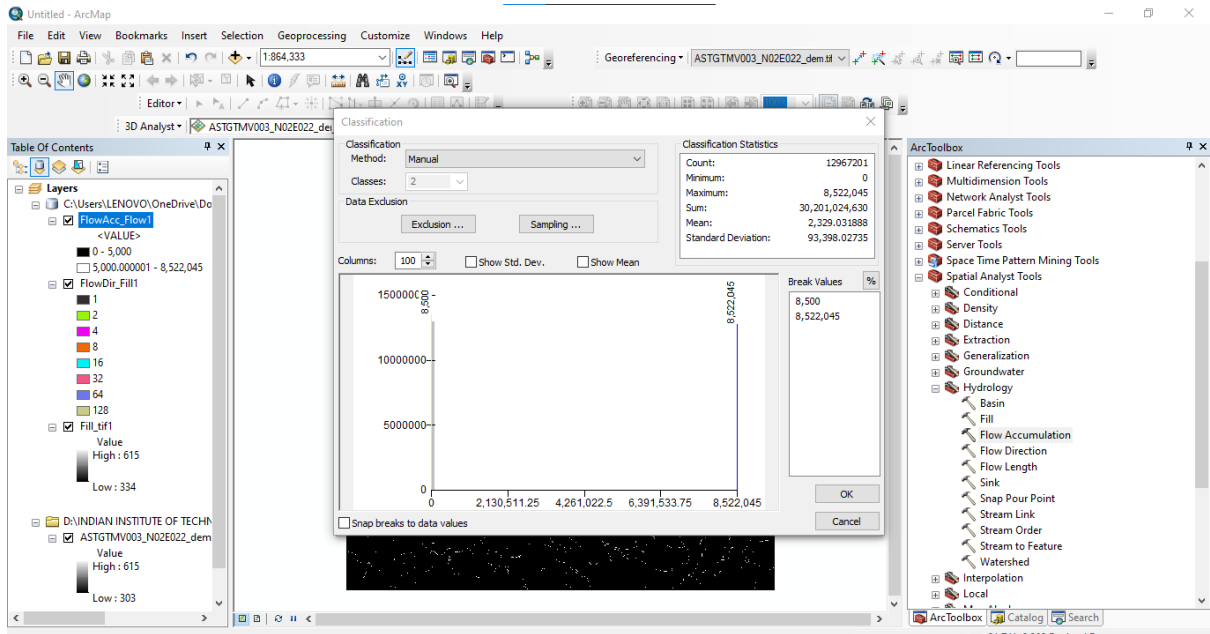
Figure 3: Stream Order Calculation Diagram

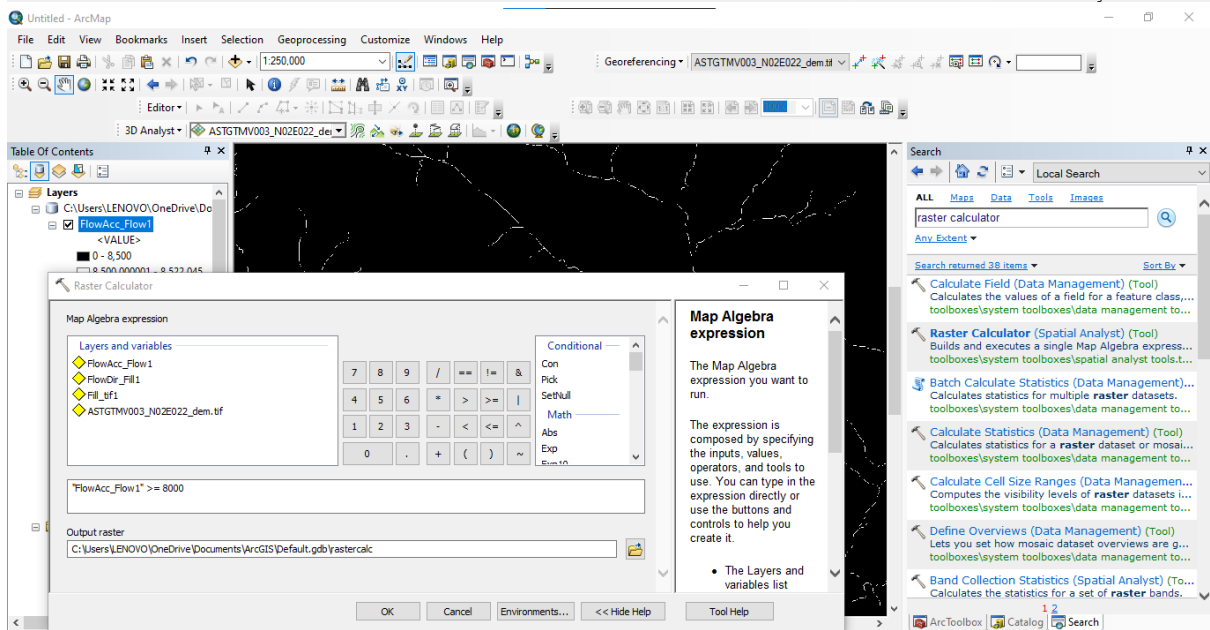
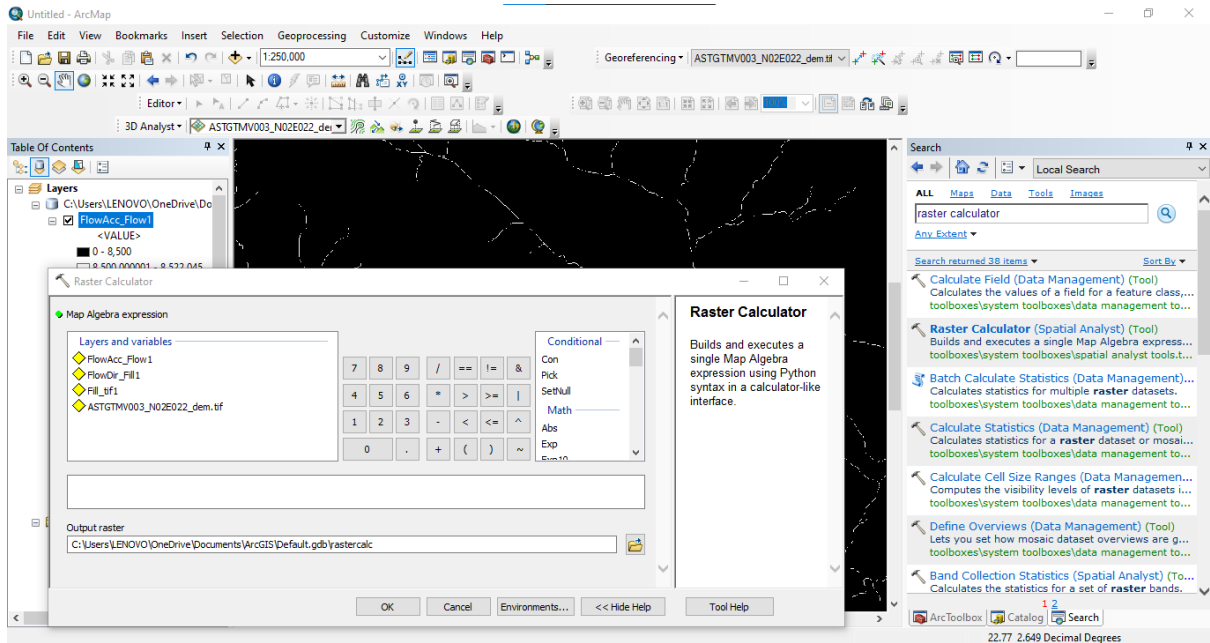
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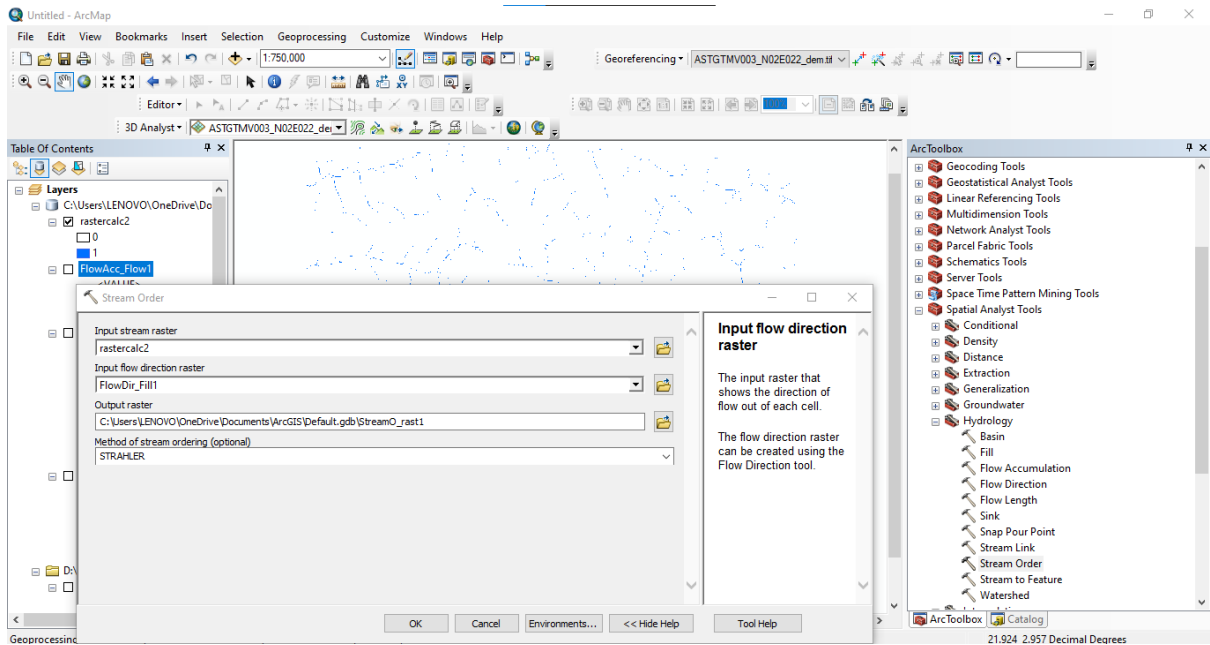
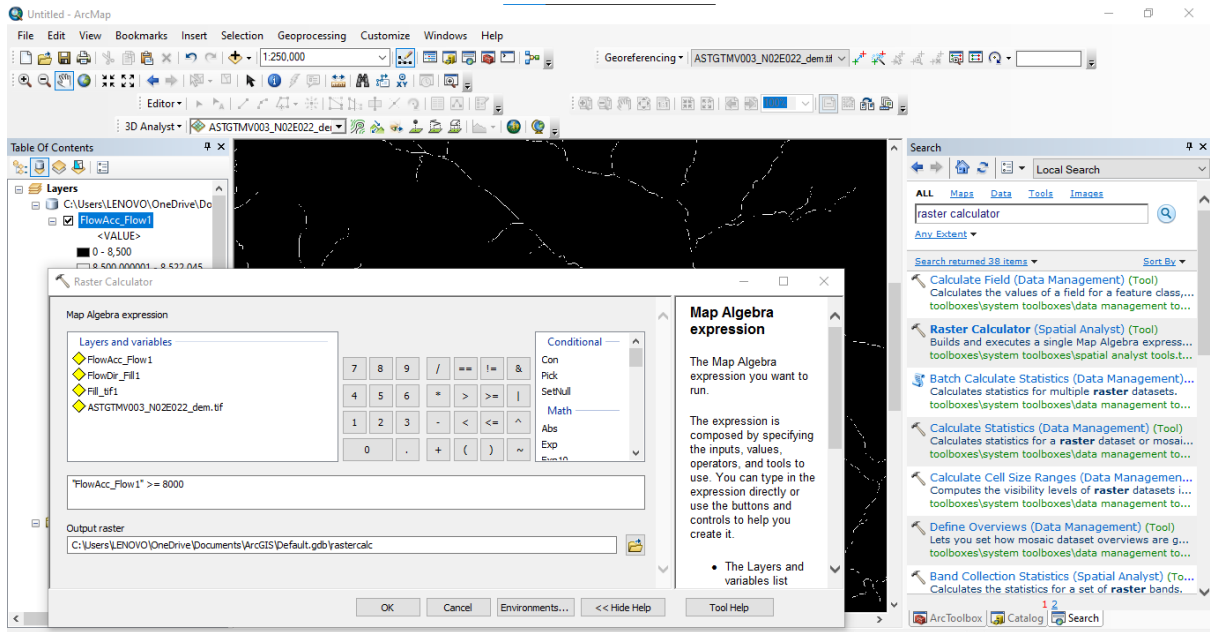


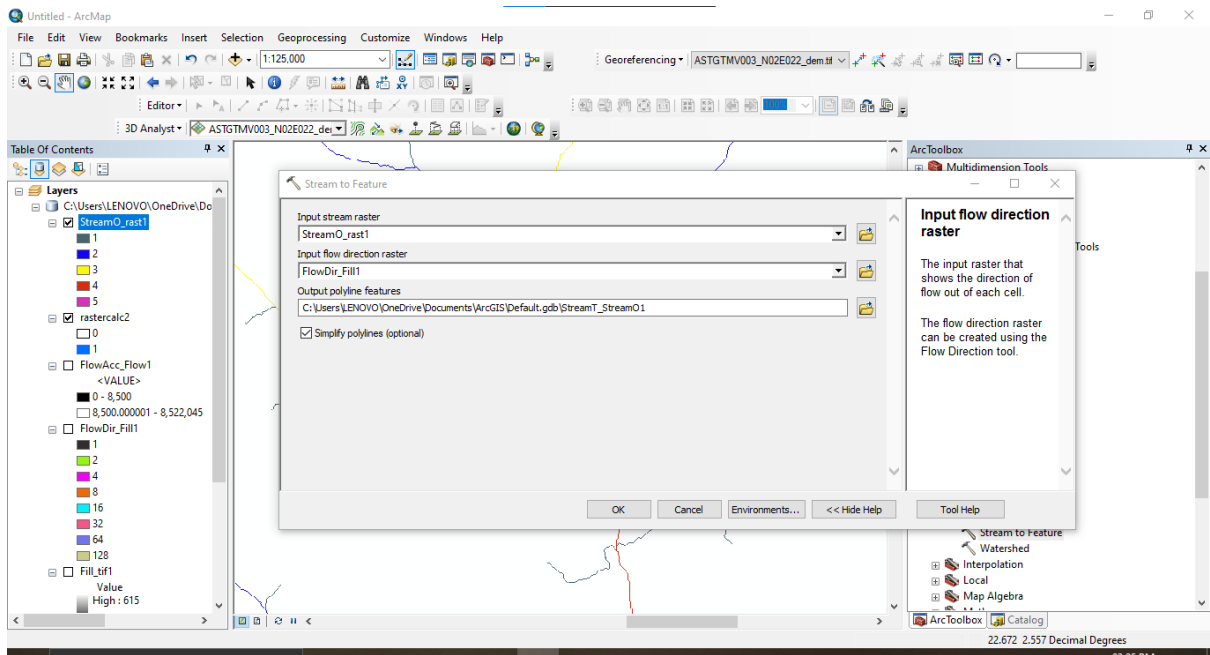
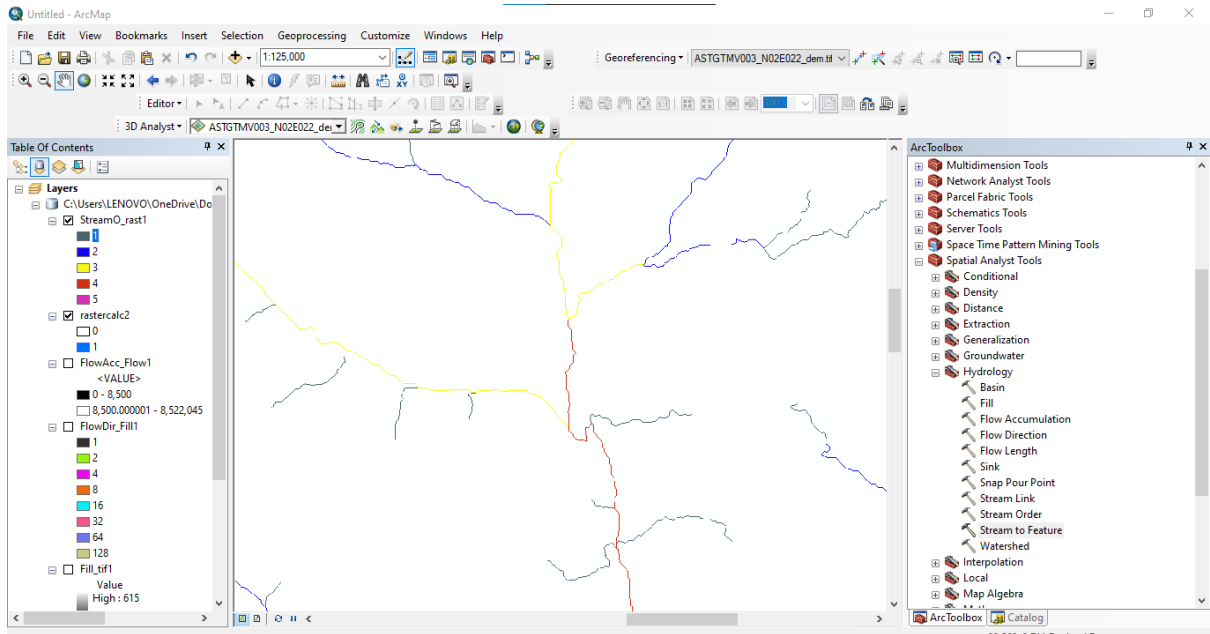


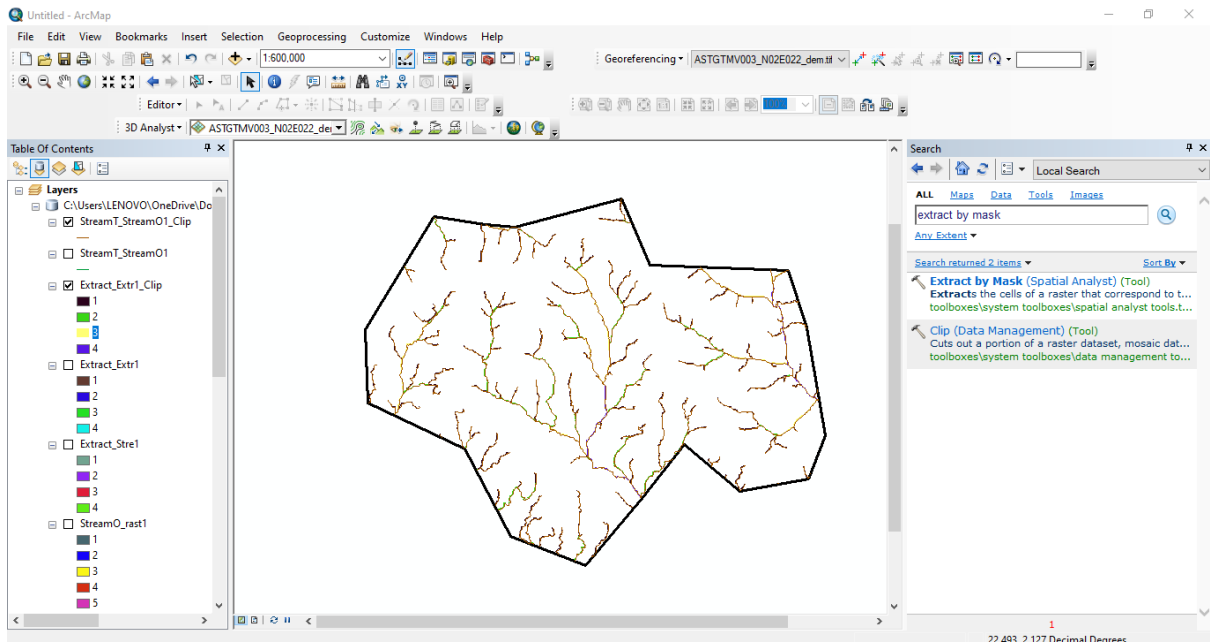
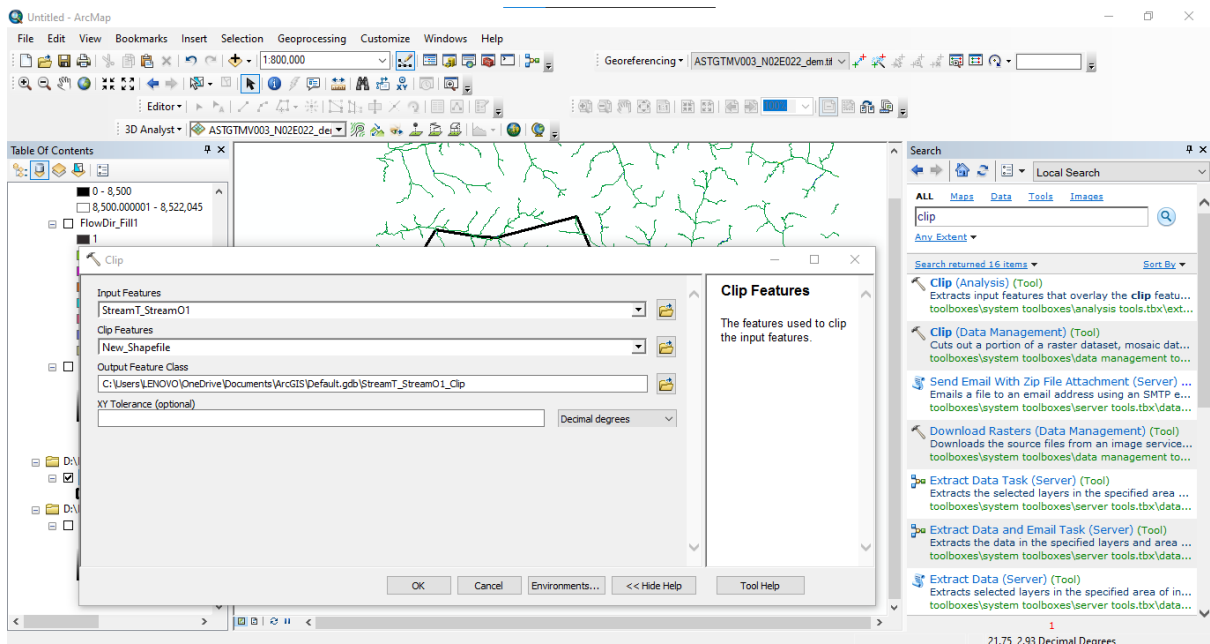


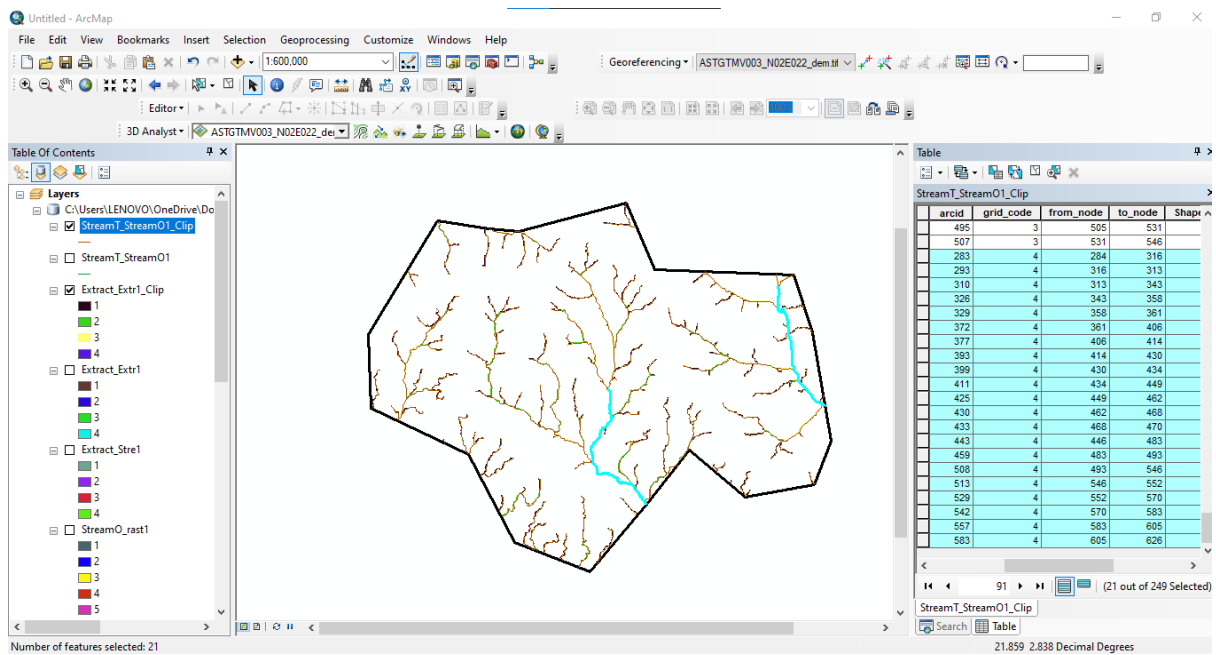
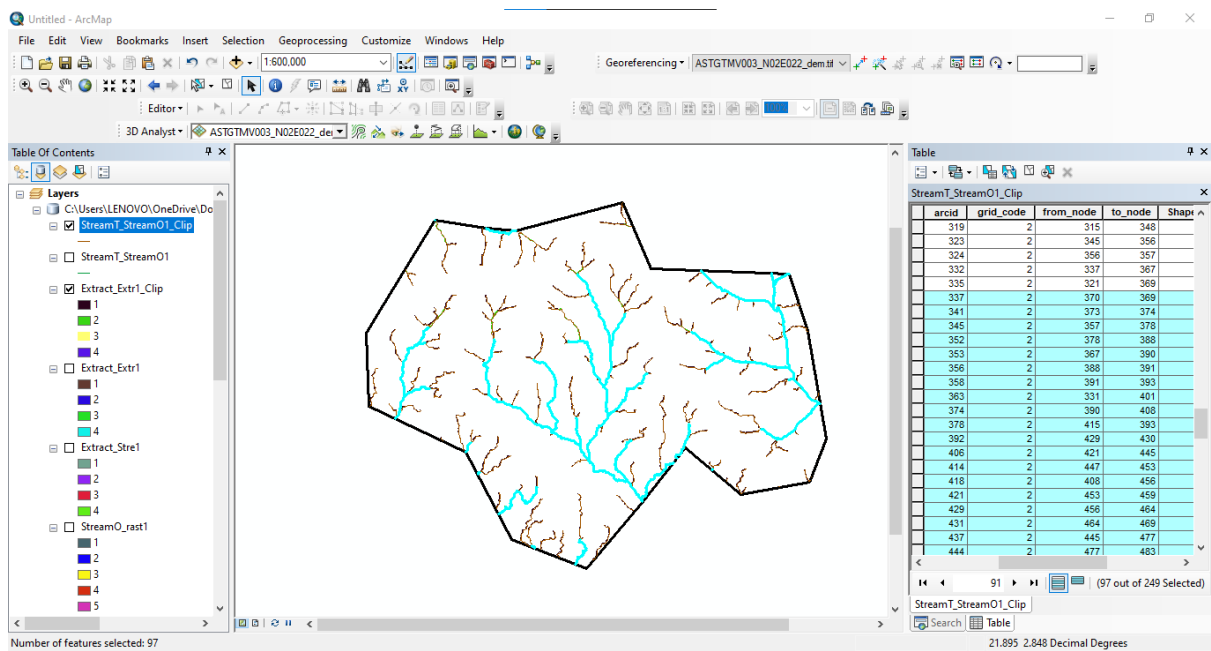












Major River Line