

Data Models

January 30, 2017

Instructor: Wei Wu

Office: Oceanography 111

Email: wei.wu@usm.edu

Phone: 228-818-8855

Representing Geographic Space

Real World



phenomena that exist

Data Model



Shape	Area	SW	west	Attribute
Polygon	280230.98165	580	PEM/SS1Bda	
Polygon	1630.52135	581	PUBGx	
Polygon	16229.73690	582	U	
Polygon	792.66535	583	PEMC	
Polygon	1218.39765	584	PSS1C	
Polygon	1294.57970	585	U	
Polygon	1009.27755	586	PUBGx	
Polygon	5928.50895	587	PUBGx	
Polygon	1028.50440	588	PEMC	
Polygon	9969.29615	589	PUBGx	
Polygon	6094.33895	590	PUBGx	

An abstraction, relevant phenomena and properties

Data

Structure

1.2	4.7
5.8	3.6
8.9	7.2
.	.
.	.

computer representation

Bolstad 2008

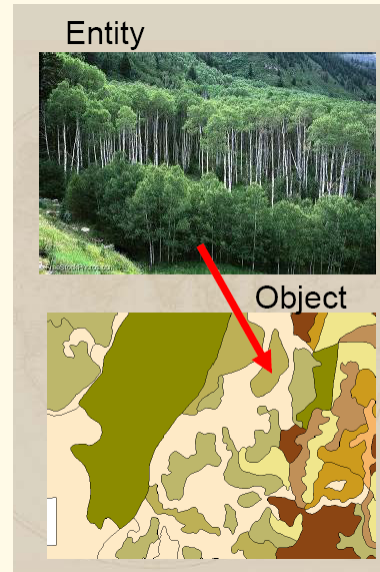
Representation and Data Structures

We approximate entities with objects.

This approximation is biased

Entities-"things" in the real world we represent
(*Rivers, buildings, soil types, wetlands*)

Objects-our representation in a data model



Bolstad 2008

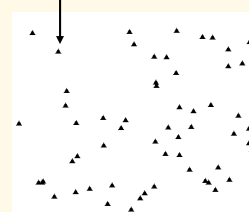
REPRESENTATION AND DATA STRUCTURES

We can get multiple objects from a single entity, e.g.,

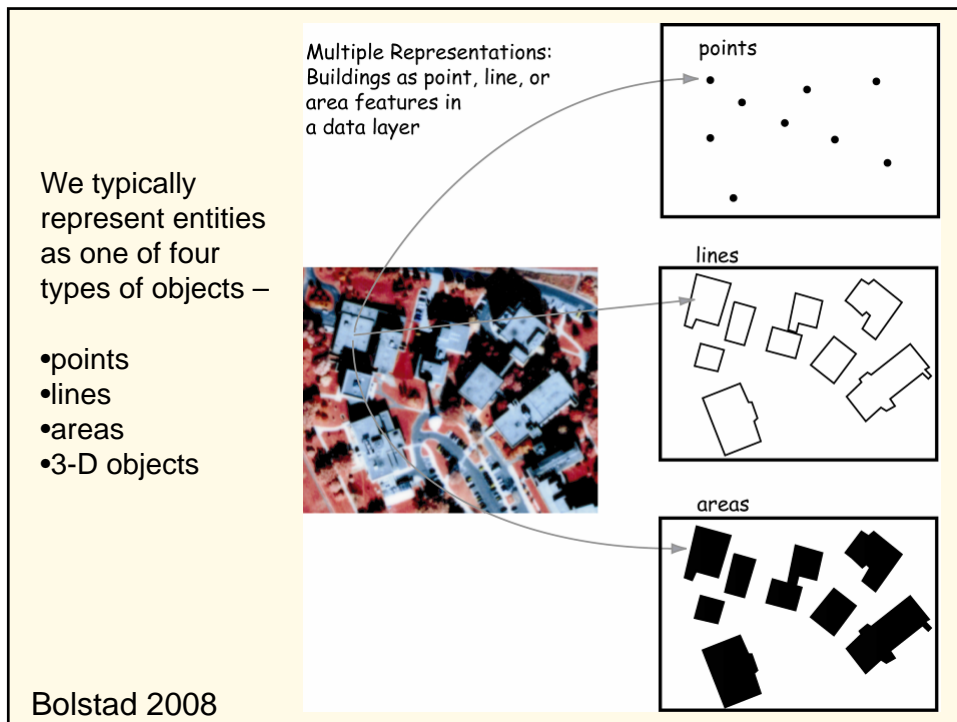
lake may be a

- municipal water source
- recreation area
- flood control sink
- wildlife habitat

We typically store different object types (even from the same entity) in different layers.



Bolstad 2008



Objects

Abstract representation of realities that we store in our spatial database

- Identifiable boundaries
- Relevant to applications
- Described by attributes

Two types:

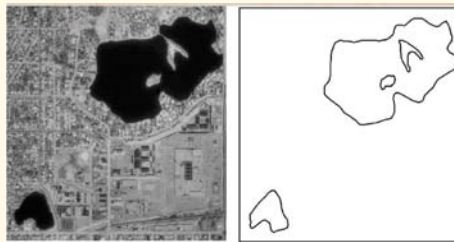
- 1) Exact objects (discrete entities) e.g. state line
- 2) Inexact objects (fuzzy entities, probabilistic): most natural resource features

Boundaries: a matter of definition or approximation

Data Models

A Spatial Data Model may be defined as the objects in the spatial database plus the relationships among them.

Data Model – An consistent way of defining and representing spatial objects in a database, and of representing the relationships among the objects (connectivity, adjacency, proximity, influence)



Exact

Inexact?

Bolstad 2008

Spatial Relationship

Map visually reveal these spatial relationship

- Which features connect to others
- Which features are adjacent to others
- Which features are contained within an area
- Which features intersect
- Which features are near others
- The difference in elevation of features
- The relative position among features

Data Models

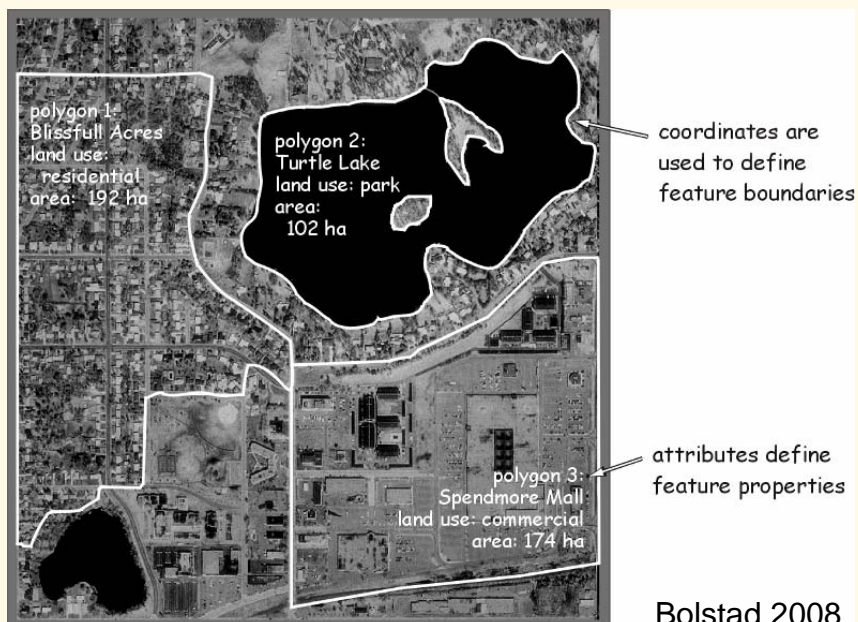
Data model typically includes at least two parts –

Coordinate data - pairs or triplets of numbers that define spatial location and extent of geographic objects

Attribute data – complement coordinate data to define cartographic objects: text, numbers, images, or other “non-spatial” data

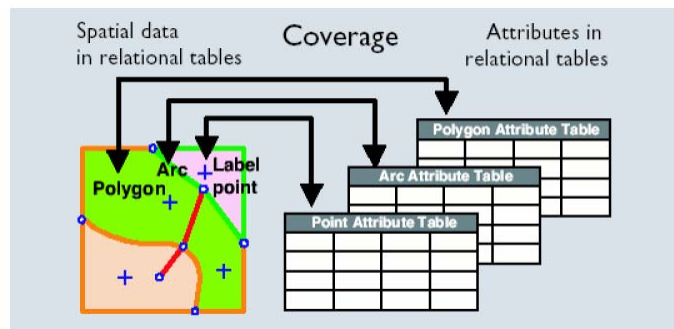
Keys, labels, or other indices are used so that the coordinate and attribute data may be viewed, related, and manipulated together.

Representation – Enforced Uniformity



Spatial vs. Non-spatial data

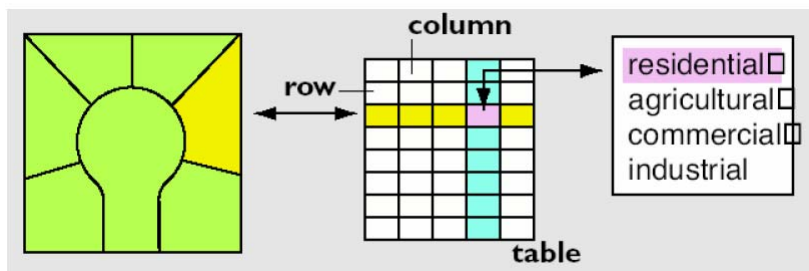
The connection between spatial and non-spatial data are made through database tables



Geographic (spatial) tables

Spatial vs. Non-spatial data

The connection between spatial and non-spatial data are made through database tables



Attribute (non-spatial) tables

REPRESENTATION AND DATA STRUCTURES

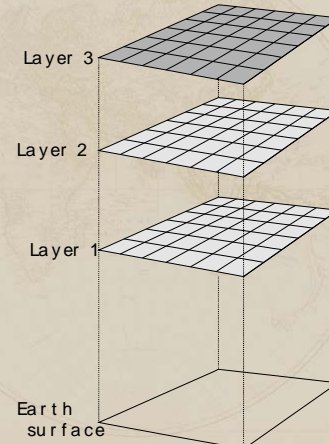
Bolstad 2008

- Most common data models define *thematic* layers

Geographic data are often in layers which represent specific surface features, or themes, e.g., soils, roads, or elevation

- Each layer organizes the spatial and attribute data for a given set of cartographic objects in the region of interest.

- Typically, layers, one layer for each distinct view of a theme

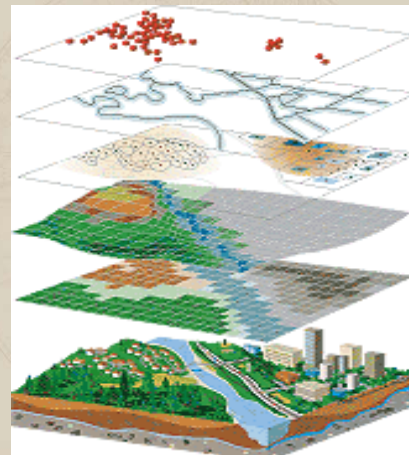


REPRESENTATION AND DATA STRUCTURES

- Most common data models define *thematic* layers

Geographic data are often in layers which represent specific surface features, or themes, e.g., soils, roads, or elevation

- Typically, layers, one layer for each distinct view of a theme



<http://www.gis.com/whatisgis/whyusegis.html>

REPRESENTATION AND DATA STRUCTURES

Coordinates and Attributes

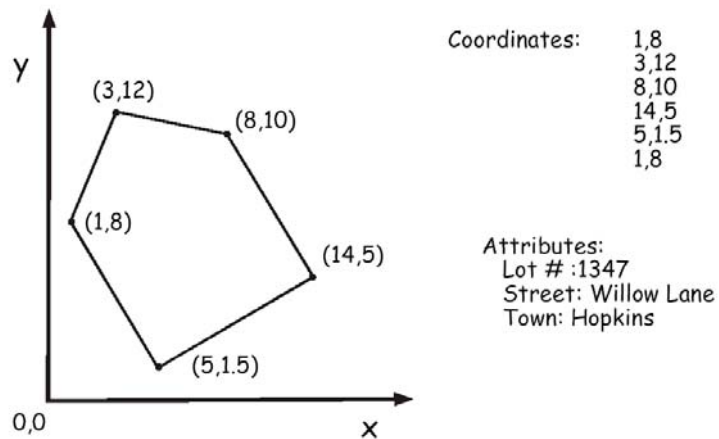
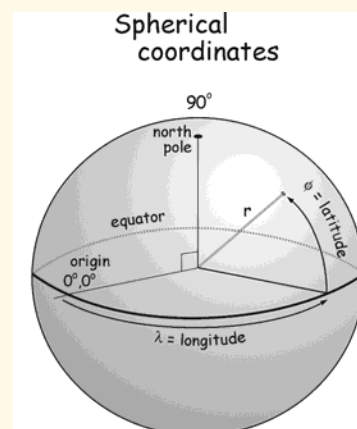
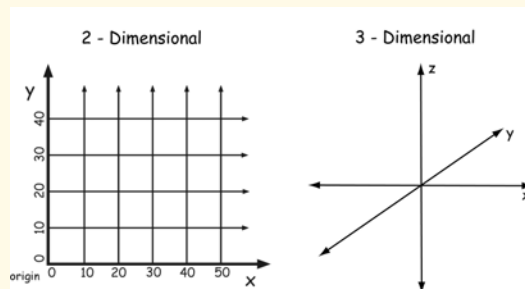


Figure 2-3: Coordinate and attribute data are used to represent entities.

Bolstad 2008

Coordinate data



Attribute Data

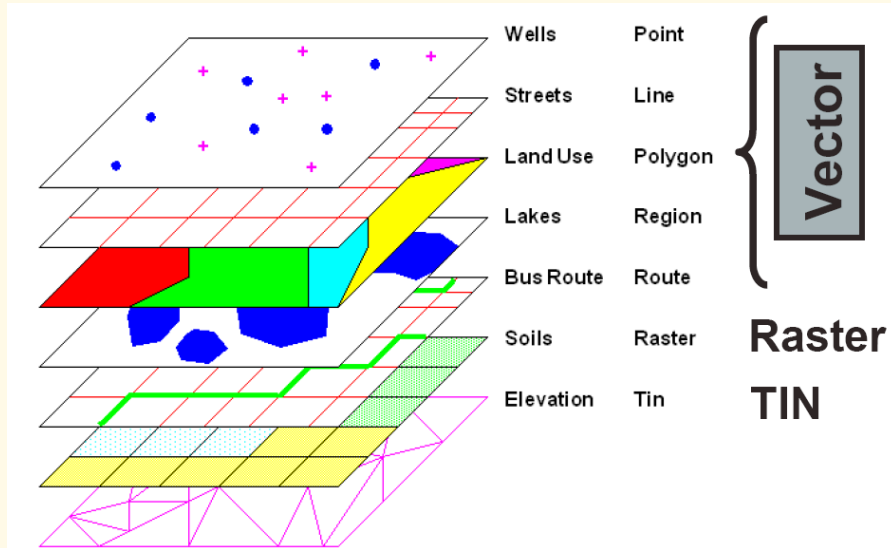
- Attributes are often represented in tables . Each row corresponds to an individual spatial object, and each column corresponds to an attribute.
- Tables are organized and managed using a database management system.

Attribute Type

- Nominal: Uses names or unranked code values to represent categories of features. No order or quantitative information.
- Ordinal: Uses ranked code values to represent categories of features.
- Interval: Do not have a natural “0” value and therefore uses an arbitrary one instead.
- Ratio: Having an absolute “0” value.

Example: Color, Temperature

Common Data Models



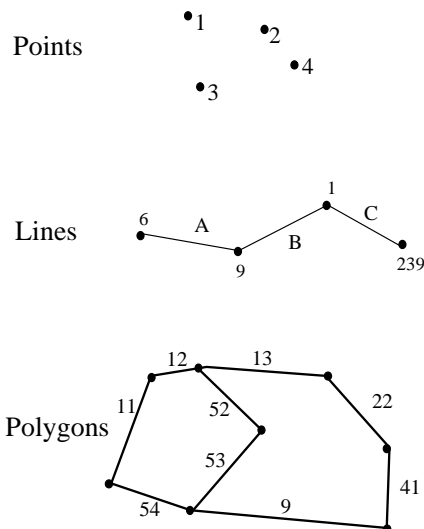
Common Data Models

The best data model for a given organization or application depends on the most common operations, the experiences and views of the GIS users, the form of available data, and the influence of data model on data quality.

Vector data model

- Best for representing discrete objects with defined shapes and boundaries
- However, we often represent approximate features as discrete objects
 - You may use point data to represent schools.
- Vector data models use discrete elements such as points, lines, and polygons to represent the geometry of real-world entities.

Three Types of Vector Features



Organization

Point ID	X	Y
1	32.7	45.6
2	76.3	19.5
3	22.7	15.8
etc.....		

Line ID	Begin Point	End Point
A	6	9
B	9	1
C	239	1
etc.....		

Polygon ID	Lines
A	11, 12, 52, 53, 54
B	52, 53, 9, 41, 22, 13

Bolstad 2008

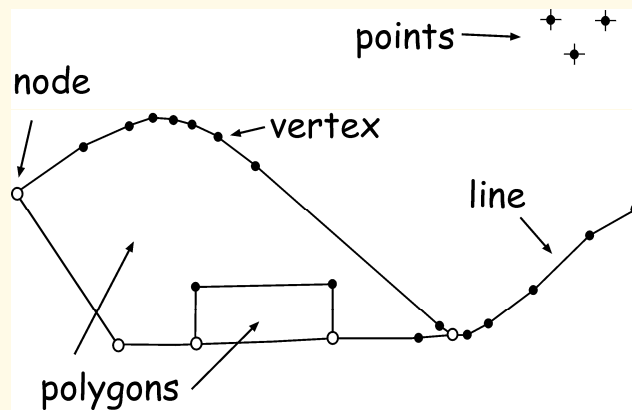
Vector data model

- Point feature (0 dimension: no length, no width): Represents a single location. It defines map object too small to show as a line or area feature. A special symbol or label usually depicts a point location. (depends on scale)
- Line feature (1 dimension: no width): Represents a set of connected ordered coordinates representing the linear shape of a map object that may be too narrow to display as an area, such as a road, or a feature with no width, such as a contour line.

Vector data model

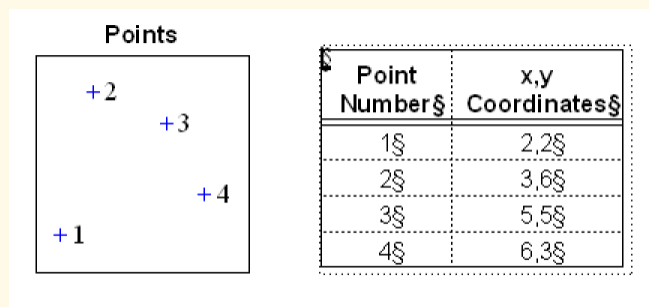
- Area feature (2 dimension): A closed, connected set of lines whose boundary encloses a homogeneous area, such as a state, county, soil type or lake.

Vector model



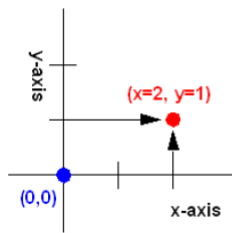
Bolstad 2008

Arc-Node-Polygon Point Features: Geographic data



Geographic data vs. attribute data

- Geographic database
- Attribute database
- Cartesian coordinates
- Relational fields



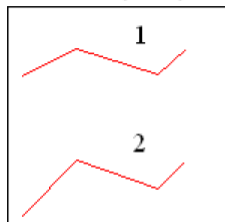
The notation to record the point that is two units over in x and one unit up in y from the origin is (2,1)\$

FID	Name	Code	Depth(m)
1	Well#14	13	112
2	Well#15	17	89

Point Attribute Table stored in INFO database as a .pat file

Arc-Node-Polygon Topology Line Features

Lines (arcs)



Line Number\$	x,y Coordinates\$
1\$	1,5 3,6 6,5 7,6\$
2\$	1,1 3,3 6,2 7,3\$

↑
(vector of coordinate pairs)

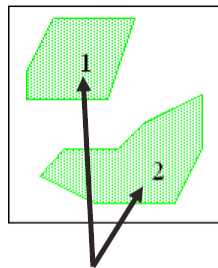
Arc-Node-Polygon Topology Line Features: attribute data

Road Number\$	Road Type\$	Surface\$	Width\$	Lanes\$	Name\$
1\$	1\$	Concrete\$	60\$	4\$	Hwy 42\$
2\$	2\$	Asphalt\$	48\$	4\$	N Main St\$
3\$	4\$	Asphalt\$	32\$	2\$	Elm St\$

Arc Attribute Table stored in INFO database as a .aat file

Arc-Node-Polygon Topology Area (Polygon) Features

Polygons

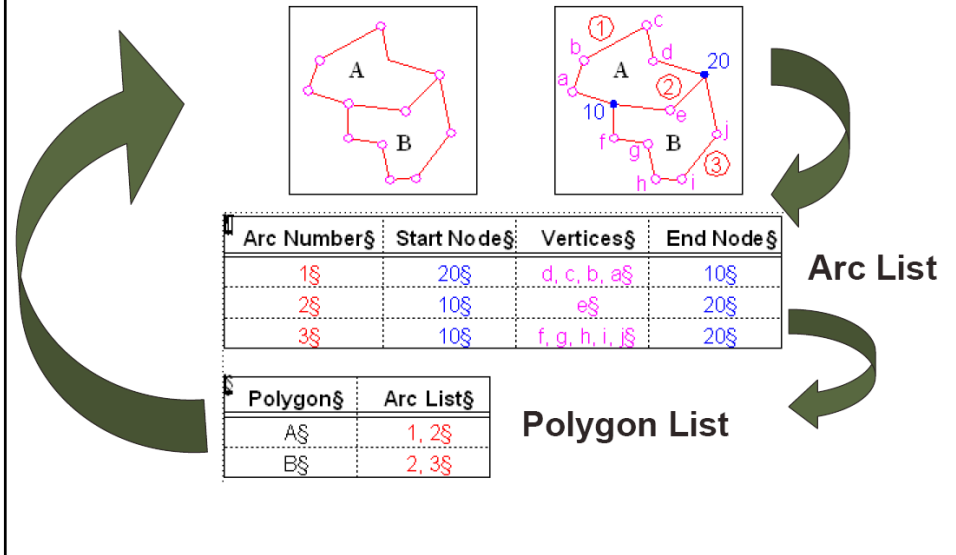


(Label points must be Contained within the Polygon)

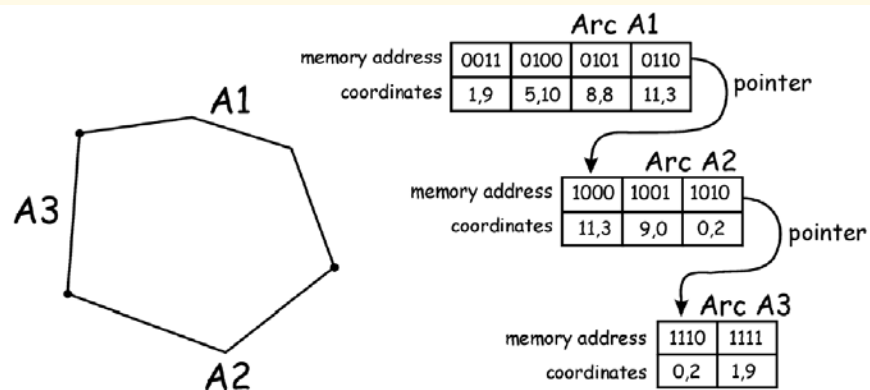
Polygon Number\$	x,y Coordinates\$
1\$	1,4 1,5 2,7 5,7 4,4 1,4\$
2\$	1,2 2,3 4,3 5,4 7,5 7,3 6,1 3,1 1,2\$

(vector of coordinate pairs that start and end with the same coordinate pair)

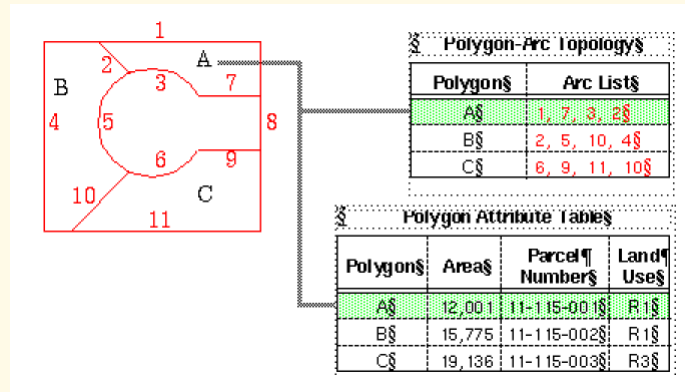
Arc-Node-Polygon Topology Area (Polygon) Features



Representing Geographic Space

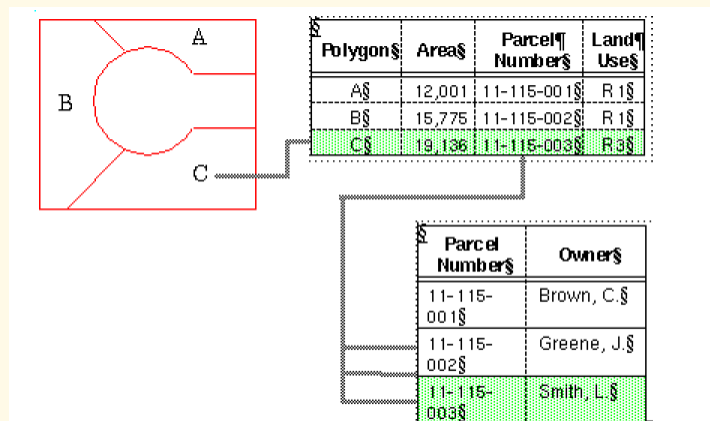


Arc-Node-Polygon Topology Area (Polygon) Features: Attribute data



Polygon Attribute Table stored in INFO database as a .pat file

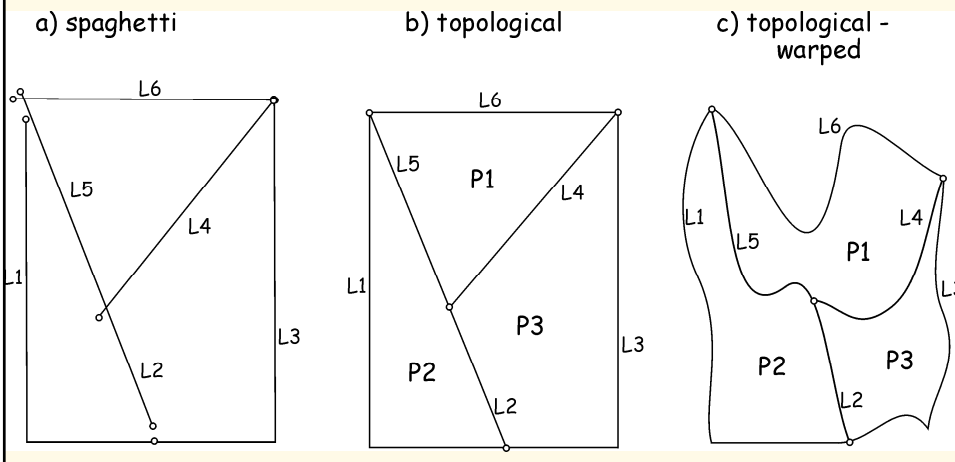
Arc-Node-Polygon Topology Area (Polygon) Features: Related Attribute data



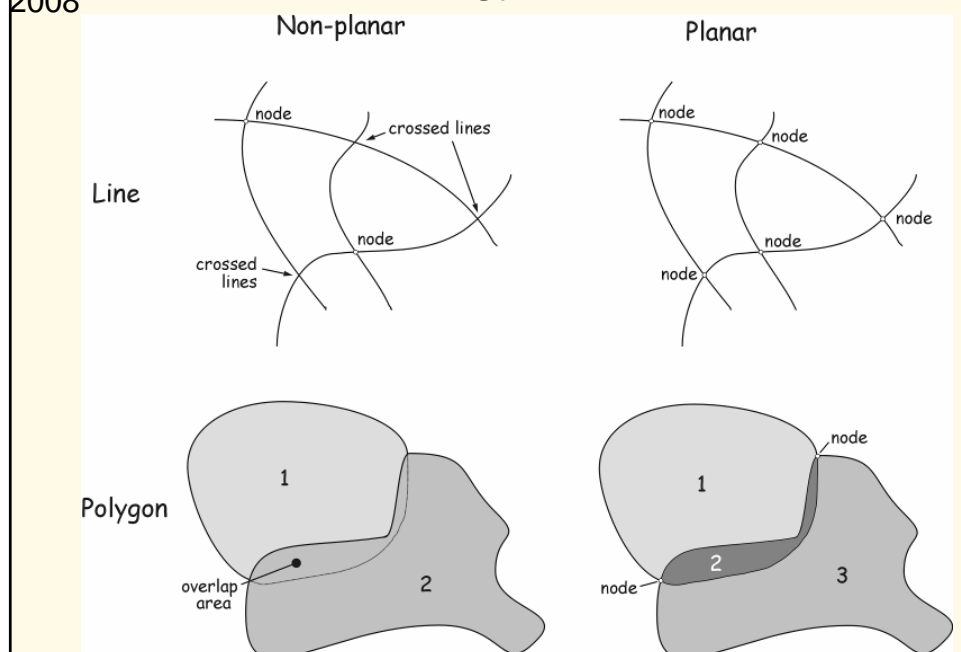
Related database can be linked by a unique attribute

Vector Topology

Topology – geometric properties that do not change
with shape: Adjacency, connectivity, containment
Enforcing strict connectivity and recording adjacency and planarity.



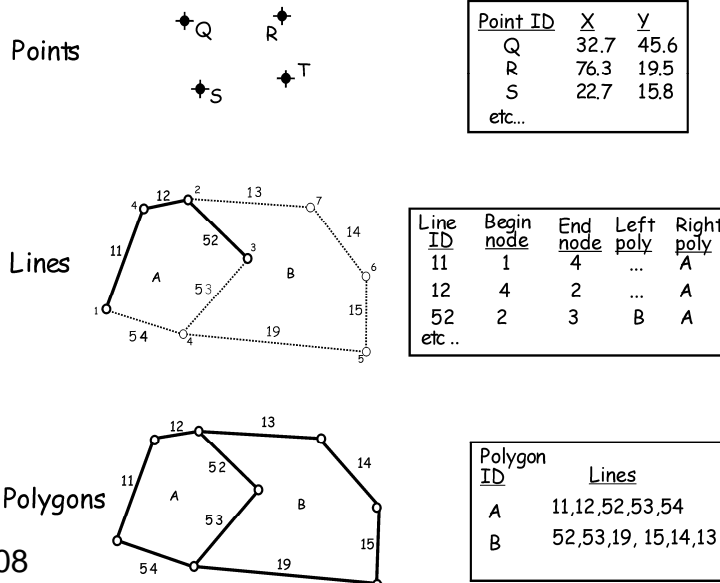
Planar Topology – no overlaps



Topology

- Topology facilitates analytical functions such as modeling flow through the connecting lines in a network, combining adjacent polygons with similar characteristics, identifying adjacent features and overlaying geographic features

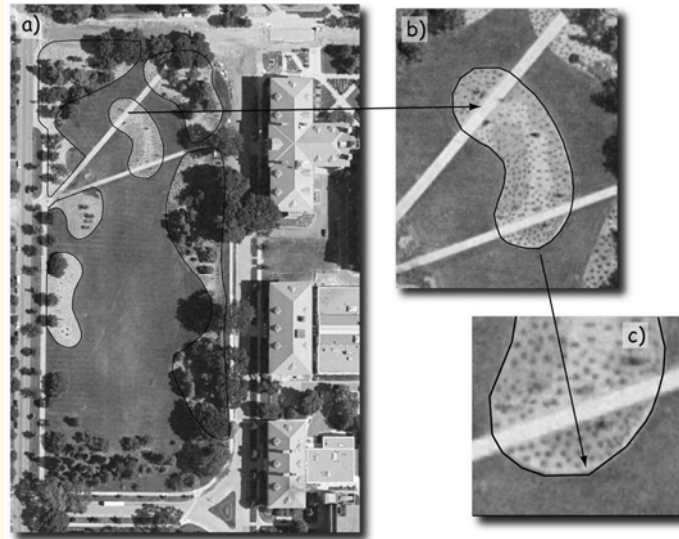
Topology



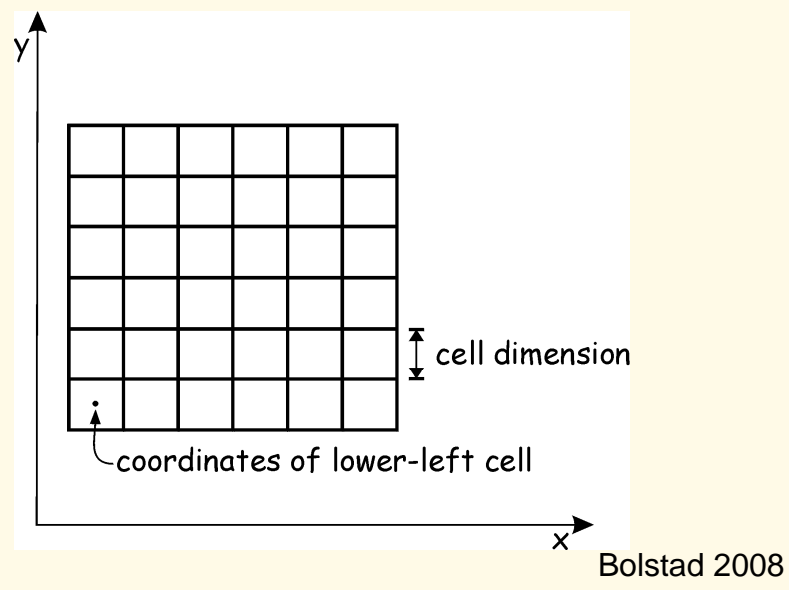
Bolstad 2008

Imperfect polygon

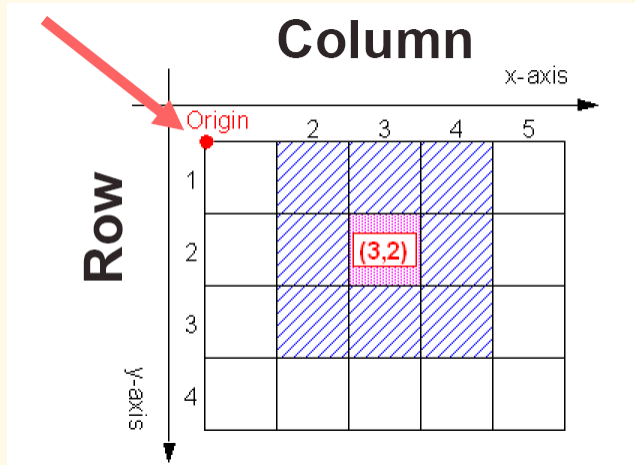
- Polygon inclusion
- Boundary generalization



Rasters – Fixed Cell Size, Grid Orientation



Raster data model



Note: Col/Row (base coordinate system) numbers use a different origin (upper left) than Cartesian coordinates (lower left).

Rasters – Discrete or Continuous Features

discrete

a	a	a	a	r	f	f	a	a	a	a	a
a	a	a	a	r	f	f	a	a	a	a	a
a	a	a	f	r	f	f	a	a	a	a	a
a	a	a	r	r	f	f	a	a	a	a	a
a	a	a	r	f	f	f	a	a	a	a	a
a	f	f	r	f	f	f	a	a	a	a	a
a	f	f	r	f	u	f	a	a	a	a	a
h	h	h	h	h	h	h	h	h	h	h	h
f	f	r	u	u	u	u	a	a	a	a	a
f	f	r	f	u	u	a	a	a	a	a	a
f	f	f	r	f	f	a	a	a	a	a	a
f	f	f	f	r	f	a	a	a	a	a	a

a = agriculture u = developed
f = forest r = river
h = highways

continuous

645	650	654	658	653	648
664	666	670	672	668	659
678	682	684	693	689	680
703	708	714	721	719	716
728	732	738	744	745	732
730	739	744	749	748	735

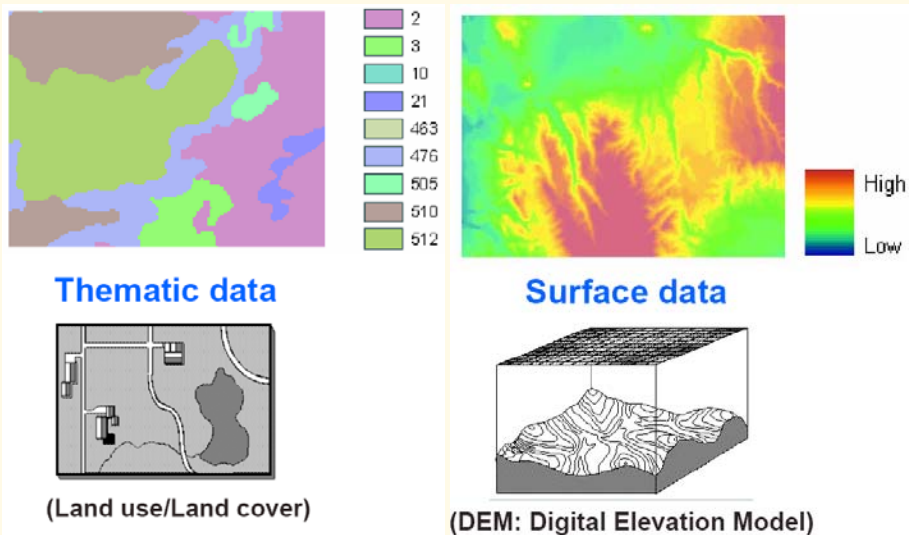
Continuous values

Floating point numbers

No attribute tables

Bolstad 2008

Rasters – Discrete or Continuous Features



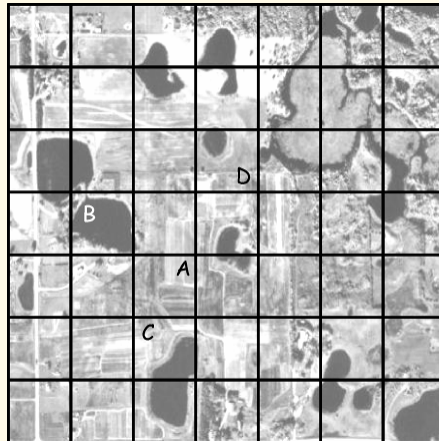
Raster data model

- Conceptually simple and efficient data model
- Well established processing and analysis algorithm
- Elevation and satellite imagery are very useful and abundant data sources for environmental analysis

However

- Rigid data structure
- Original data are not maintained when they are interpolated to a regular spaced grid
- Linear features are not well represented

Raster – The Mixed Pixel Problem



Landcover map –
Two classes, land or
water

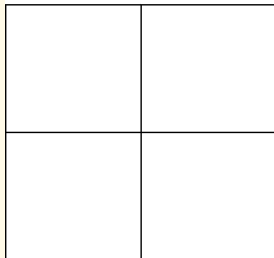
Cell A is
straightforward

What category to
assign
For B, C, or D?

Bolstad 2008

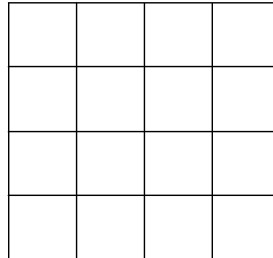
Raster – The Storage Space/Resolution Tradeoff

100 meter, 4 cells



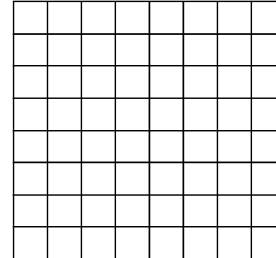
a)

50 meter, 16 cells



b)

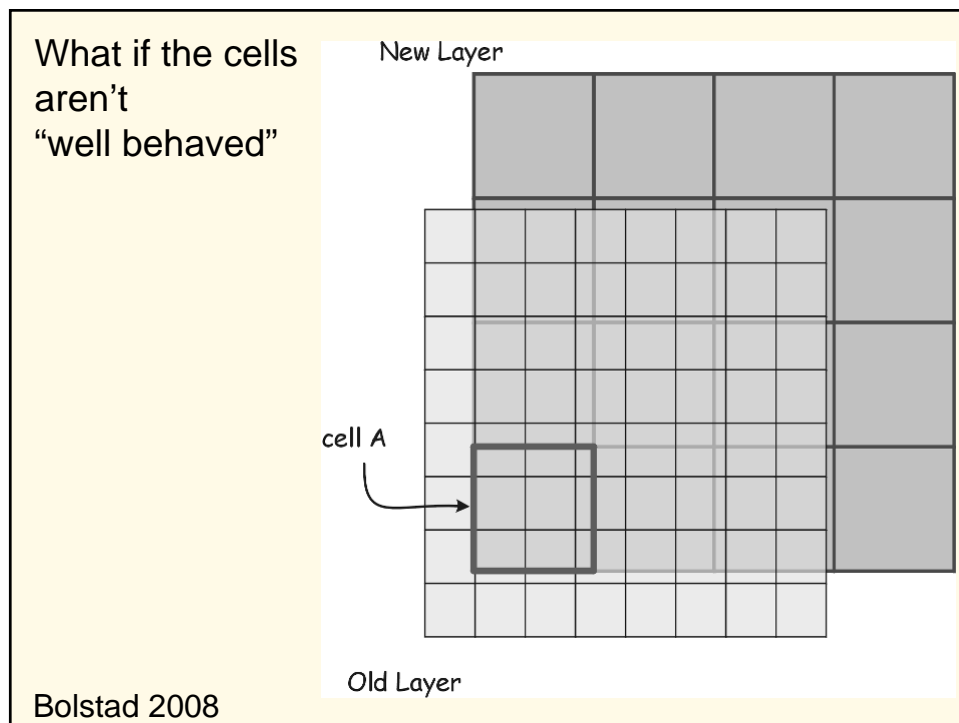
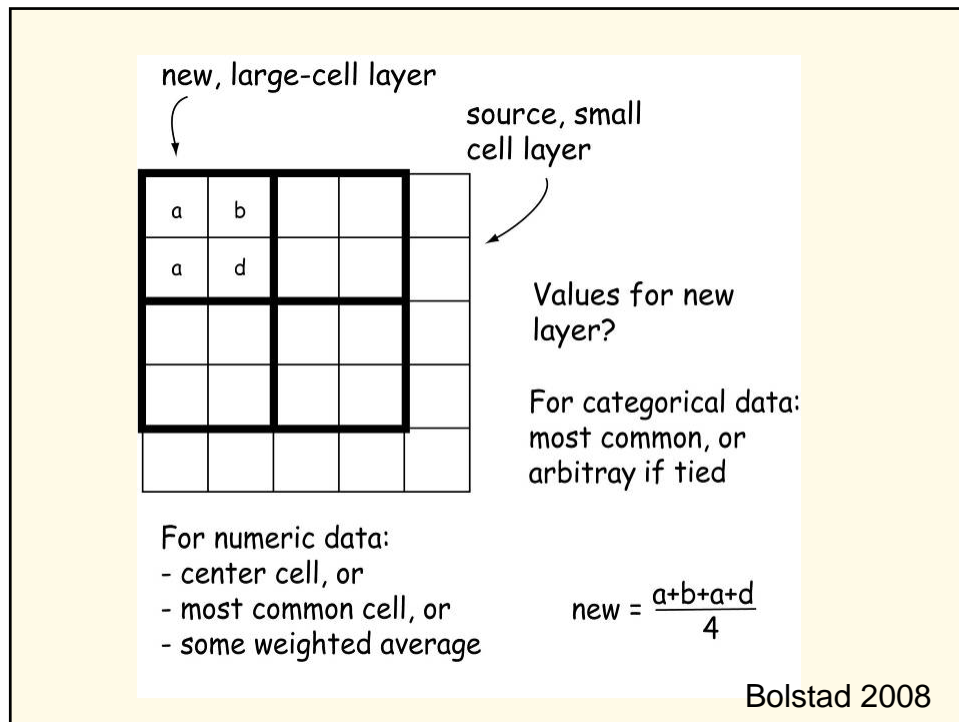
25 meter, 64 cells



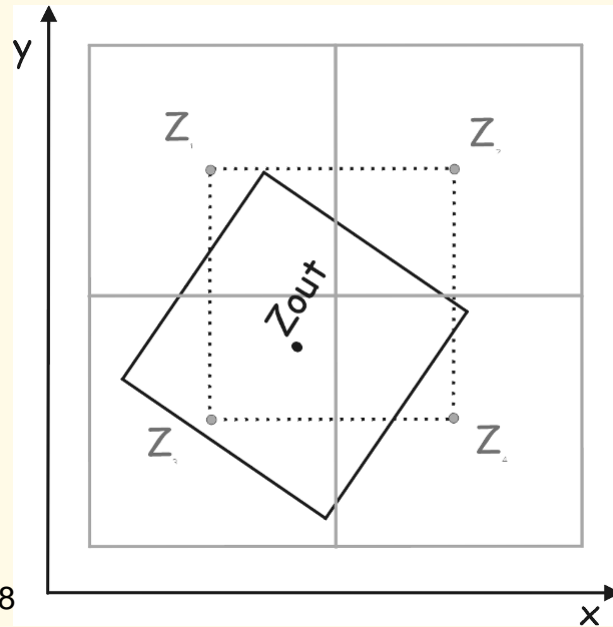
c)

Decreasing the Cell Size by one-half
causes a
Four-fold increase in the storage space required

Bolstad 2008

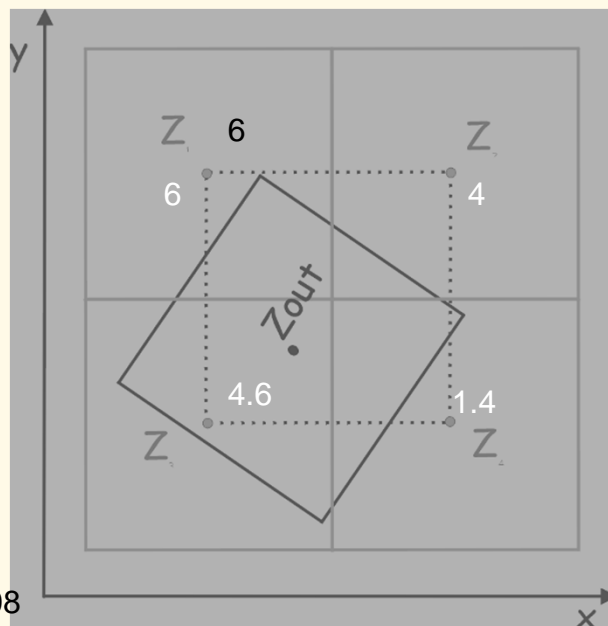


Orientation and/or Cell Size May Differ



Bolstad 2008

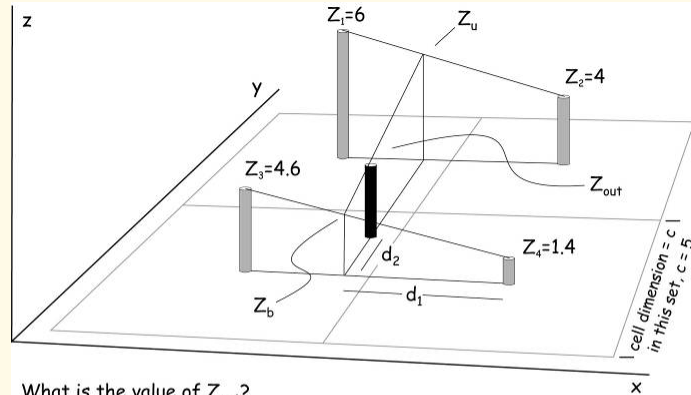
Orientation and/or Cell Size May Differ



Bolstad 2008

Resampling - Distance-weighted averaging

bilinear
interpolation



What is the value of Z_{out} ?

$$Z_b = Z_4 + \frac{(Z_3 - Z_4) * d_1}{c} \quad Z_b = 1.4 + \frac{(4.6 - 1.4) * 2.9}{5} = 3.26$$

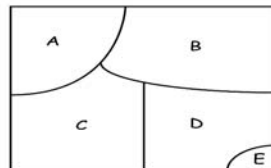
$$Z_u = Z_2 + \frac{(Z_1 - Z_2) * d_1}{c} \quad Z_u = 4 + \frac{(6 - 4) * 2.9}{5} = 5.16$$

$$Z_{out} = Z_b + \frac{(Z_u - Z_b) * d_2}{c} \quad Z_{out} = 3.26 + \frac{(5.16 - 3.26) * 2.2}{5} = 4.1$$

Bolstad 2008

Vector / raster features and attribute tables

a) Vector, one-to-one



attribute table

IDorg	class	area
A	10	16.8
B	11	22.2
C	15	18.4
D	21	16.4
E	10	3.8

b) Raster, one-to-one

A	A	A	A	B	B	B	B	B	B
A	A	A	A	B	B	B	B	B	B
A	A	A	A	B	B	B	B	B	B
A	A	A	C	C	B	B	B	B	B
C	C	C	C	C	D	D	D	D	D
C	C	C	C	C	D	D	D	D	D
C	C	C	C	C	D	D	D	D	D
C	C	C	C	C	D	D	D	E	E
C	C	C	C	C	D	E	E	E	E

attribute table
(cell 1 is upper-left corner)

cell-ID	IDorg	class	area
1	A	10	0.8
2	A	10	0.8
3	A	10	0.8
4	A	10	0.8
5	B	11	0.8
6	B	11	0.8
7	B	11	0.8
...
100	E	10	0.8

c) Raster, many-to-one

10	10	10	10	11	11	11	11	11	11
10	10	10	10	11	11	11	11	11	11
10	10	10	10	11	11	11	11	11	11
10	10	10	11	11	11	11	11	11	11
10	10	10	15	15	11	11	11	11	11
15	15	15	15	15	21	21	21	21	21
15	15	15	15	15	21	21	21	21	21
15	15	15	15	15	21	21	21	21	21
15	15	15	15	15	21	21	21	10	10
15	15	15	15	15	21	21	10	10	10

attribute table

class	area
10	18.4
11	24.0
15	21.6
21	13.6

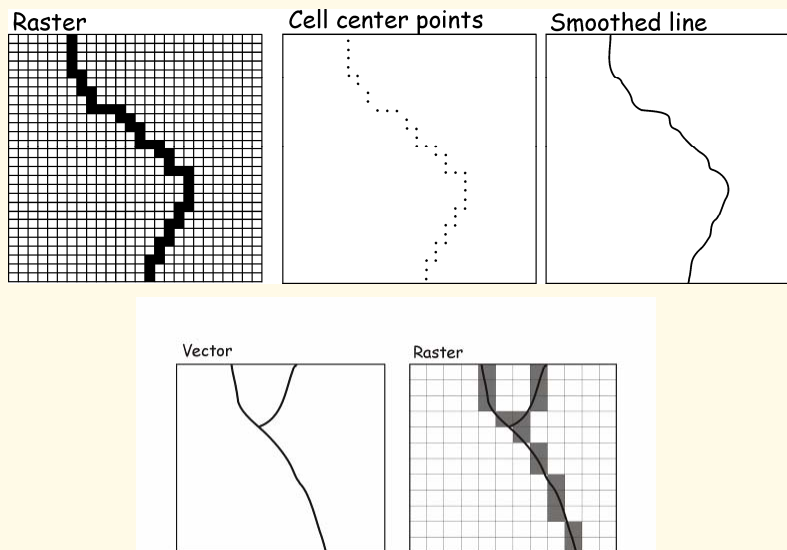
Bolstad 2008

Comparisons, raster v.s. vector

	Vector	Raster
Characteristics		
Positional Precision	Can be Precise	Defined by cell size
Attribute Precision	Poor for continuous data	Good for continuous data
Analytical Capabilities	Good for spatial query, adjacency, area, shape analyses. Poor for continuous data. Most analyses limited to intersections. Slower overlays.	Spatial query more difficult, good for local neighborhoods, continuous variable modeling. Rapid overlays.
Data Structures	Often complex	Often quite simple
Storage Requirements	Relatively small	Often quite large
Coordinate conversion	Usually well-supported	Often difficult, slow
Network Analyses	Easily handled	Often difficult
Output Quality	Very good, map like	Fair to poor - aliasing

Bolstad 2008

No Decision is Final – We Can Convert



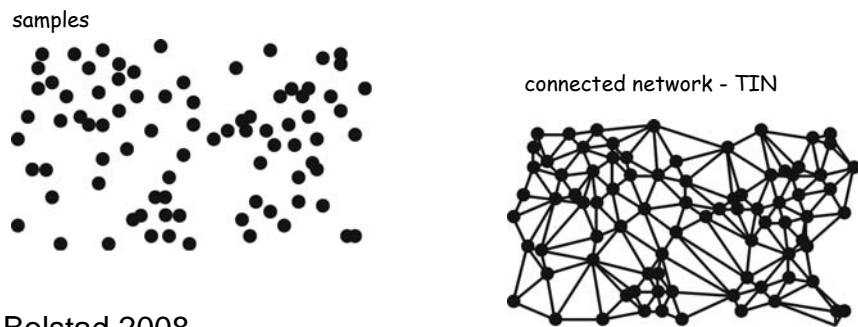
Bolstad 2008

Triangular Irregular Network (TIN)

Typically used to represent terrain or other spot-sampled continuous variables

Connect sample points in a network of triangles

Why? – to preserve sample accuracy, save space
(Efficient and accurate representation of continuous surfaces)



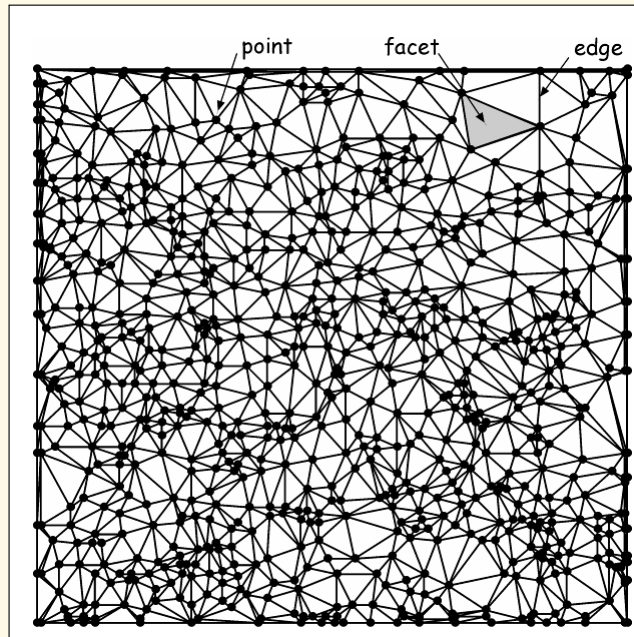
Bolstad 2008

TIN Parts

Points –
sample locations

Edges –
connecting lines

Facets –
triangles, “faces”



Bolstad 2008

TIN – Triangle Formation

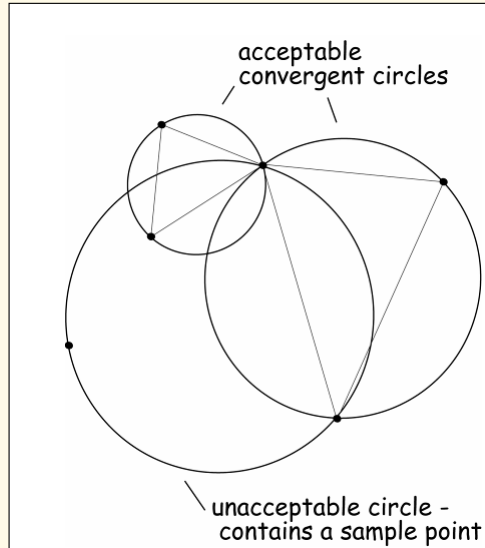
TIN triangles defined such that

- Three points on a circle
- Circles are empty – they don't contain another point

These are convergent circles

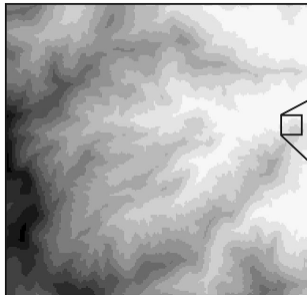
(Delaunay Triangulation)

Bolstad 2008



Multiple Representations

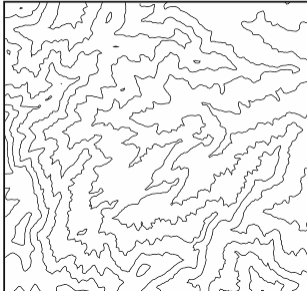
Raster DEM



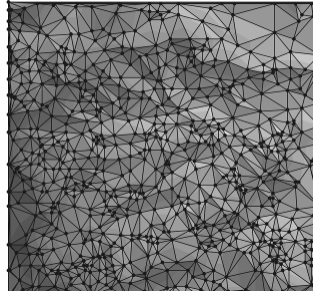
Detailed view of raster cells

645	650	654	658	653	648
664	666	670	672	668	659
678	682	684	693	689	680
703	708	714	721	719	716
728	732	738	744	745	732
730	739	744	749	748	735

Vector contours



TIN



Bolstad 2008

Summary

- GIS are systems for the creation, maintenance, analysis, and conveyance of spatial data
- We represent abstractions of our world into spatial and attribute components using data models and data structures
- Two major data models – raster and vector