

1 – Characteristics of Geographic Knowledge

- According to Reginald Golledge, Geographic Knowledge is useful for two fundamental reasons:
- (1) to establish where things are and
- (2) to remember where things are to help us in the process of making decisions and solving social and environmental problems.



Semantic Analysis for Geographic Knowledge Modeling

- 1 Characteristics of Geographic Knowledge
- 2 Geographic Rules: Starting examples
- 3 Geographic Knowledge Bases
- 4 Geographic Objects
- 5 Geographic Relations
- 6 Geographic Ontologies
- 7 Gazetteers
- 8 External Geographic Knowledge
- 9 Geographic Reasoning
- 10 Conclusions
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Definition of Geographic Knowledge

- Geographic knowledge corresponds to information potentially useful to
 - explain
 - manage
 - monitor
 - simulate possible outcomes
 - plan a territory
 - orient actions

examples



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Examples of Geographic Rules (1/2)

- in the United Kingdom, we drive on the left;
- in Canada, the majority of the population lives along the border with the United States;
- each capital city has an international airport nearby;
- between the two capital cities, in general, there are direct flights;
- in the Northern Hemisphere, the more you are going to the north, the colder (but locally this is not always true);
- when you want to install a metro-line under a street, move underground networks to another place;







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- Geodetic objects
- Administrative objects
- Manmade objects (crisp boundaries)
- Natural objects
- With fuzzy boundaries
- Continuous fields



Administrative objects

- Without considering disputes at borders
- Non-connected polygons
- Often organized in hierarchical tessellations
 - Countries, regions, provinces, municipalities
 - Parks
- Total coverage of the Earth
- At some scales, they can disappear





Natural Objects

- Shape can evolve
 - River, minor and major beds
- Boundary not easy to define
- Fractal geometry can be useful
 - Multi-scale
- Fuzzy sets
 - Egg-yolk





















Problems regarding toponyms (2/6)

- There are two Georgias, one in the United States and another one in Caucasia.
- The toponym "Milano" can correspond to the city of Milano or the province of Milano.
- Sometimes, names of places can be also names of something else; for instance, "Washington" can also refer to George Washington or anybody with this first name or last name.
- In the U.K., there are several rivers named Avon.

Problems regarding toponyms (1/6)

- "Mississippi" can be the name of a river or of a state.
- The city, "Venice", Italy, is also known as "Venezia", "Venise", "Venedig", respectively, in Italian, French and German.
- The local name of the Greek city of "Athens" is "Αθήνα"; read [a'θina].
- "Istanbul" was known as "Byzantium" and "Constantinople" in the past.
- The modern city of Rome is much bigger than in Romulus's time.

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Problems regarding toponyms (3/6)

- Some place names are formed of two or several words; for instance, "New Orleans", "Los Angeles", "Antigua and Barbuda", "Trinidad and Tobago", "Great Britain", "Northern Ireland", "Tierra del Fuego", "El Puente de Alcántara", etc.
- Some very long names can have simplifications; the well-known Welsh town
- "Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwllllantysiliogogogo ch" is often simplified to "Llanfair PG" or "Llanfairpwll".

Problems regarding toponyms (4/6)

- Some abbreviations can be common, such as "L.A." for "Los Angeles", whereas its name at its inception was "El Pueblo de Nuestra Señora la Reina de los Angeles del Rio de la Porciúncula";
- Peking became Beijing after a change of transcription to the Roman alphabet; but the capital of China has not modified its name in Chinese.

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Problems regarding toponyms (5/6)

- In some languages, grammatical gender is important, so that place names can be feminine or masculine; for instance, in French, Italian and Spanish, names such as "Japan", "Brazil" and "Portugal" are masculine, whereas "Argentina", "Bolivia" and "Tunisia" are feminine.
- As the great majority of toponyms are singular, some can be plural, like "The Alps";
- but for "The Netherlands", the situation is more complex: plural in French (Les Pays-Bas), in Italian (I Paesi Bassi) and in Spanish (Los Países Bajos), whereas singular and plural are both acceptable in English (The Netherlands are, The Netherlands is);

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8 – External Geographic Knowledge

- Definition of external knowledge
- Tobler's law
- Objectives
- Semantics of borderlines
- Objects and network continuity
- Technology and sociological watching for local authorities
- Organizing external knowledge



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Objective

- Show the importance of external knowledge
- Analyze the consequences for
 - Structuring GK bases
 - Ensuring reasoning continuity
 - Updating

Tobler's law

- "Everything is related to everything else, but near things are more related than distant things".
 - This statement may be seen as a key-concept for organizing geographic knowledge systems



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Semantics of borderlines

- Land-Sea borders
 - importance of harbors
- Mountains
 - Physical barriers (Andes)
 - importance of passes
- Rivers, roads and rail tracks
 - One bank belongs to x, one bank to y
 - Traversing flows



Technology and sociological watching for local authorities

- Importance of technology watching not only for companies but also for local authorities
 - Example: biking renting system
 - Riverbank promenade
- Sociological watching
 - New experiences for public participation

Case-based reasoning can be a possibility, but how to compare two places?

Object and network continuity

- Object continuity:
 - Sometimes geographic objects are artificially cut by borders.
 - Reconstruction of this object (beware of measure discrepancies)
- Network continuity:
 - Edge and node continuity
 - Reconstruction of the graph (beware of measure discrepancies)
- Others
 - Ontologies, gazetteers

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Organizing external neighboring knowledge

- Delimitation of a crown
 - Out-buffer
 - Which size?



- · What kind of information or knowledge to include
- Updating
 - Via a protocol with neighboring entities
- External knowledge
 - Integrated or separated repository ?











A few perspectives

- Identify complete semantics
- Computer language to encode rules
- Indexing of rules
 - Spatial, temporal, semantic
- Design of a complete system for geographic reasoning
 - Links with Smart Cities planning
- Acceptation by local authorities
- Citizen empowerment



- Gazetteers
- Problems with natural languages
- Design of located projects
- Lessons learnt from abandoned project

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