

### (4) Review software for spatial analysis.

#### **Geospatial Statistics and**

#### **Issues in Energy Modeling**

Jeffrey Stewart and Gardar Johannesson

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

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#### Simple to complex









## **Spatial viewing software**

- The common term used is Geographic Information Systems, or GIS
- GIS is a methodology to view, integrate, and tie together spatial data
- Tool sets that should be available to any user of spatial viewing data are:
  - Basic exploratory analysis of spatial data
  - Merging spatial datasets
  - Basic regression and spatial statistics

## **Commercial Software**



#### On The GIS site:

- > The most famous GIS ESRI's "Arc" series of tools
- The affordable yet still powerful GIS Golden Software's Surfer, Map Viewer, and Didger
- There are others
  - GeoMedia, MapInfo and numerous competing platforms
  - Information can be found at: http://www.gogeo.ac.uk/cgi-bin/geoPortal9/Res\_SoftwareComm.pl
- The most scientific/engineering tool MATLAB
- The most statistical S-Plus (based on the S language)

# **Open-Source (Free) Software**



### • On the GIS site:

- GRASS (Geographic Resources Analysis Support System )
- PostGIS
- The above follow the Open GIS Consortium (OGC) specifications http://www.opengeospatial.org/
- There are many other systems of various levels. Information can be found at: <u>http://opensourcegis.org/</u>
- On the statistical site:
  - R, an open source implementation of the S language





- ESRI has a wide suite of tools for multiple applications. The basic suites are
  - Desktop GIS Overview
    - ArcReader (free)
    - ArcView (GSA \$2857)
    - ArcInfo (GSA \$7295)
  - ArcGIS Desktop Extensions
    - Spatial Analyst
    - 3D Analyst
    - Network Analyst
    - All cost at least GSA \$2040
  - To handle large databases SDE the Spatial Database Engine – GSA \$8160



## MATLAB



- MATLAB has long been a leader in scientific software probably the most powerful and versatile assessment software available
- Requires the main MATLAB software (\$2090 no GSA discount)
- Required for doing spatial analysis Mapping Toolbox \$900
- Other toolboxes (statistical) may be required - \$800/per
- Concurrent license is approximately 4x the above



## S-Plus/R



- Both are implementation of the same programming dialect; the S language.
- S-Plus is a well established enterprise statistical learning tool:
  - > Well supported and well documented.
  - > Better at treading large datasets than R.
  - > Has extension (module) for spatial analysis.
- R is a more rapidly (open-source) evolving environment with a firm foundation within the academia and the research community:
  - > Has a very active user base.
  - Represents the state-of-art in statistical computing
  - Has a number of spatial-oriented extensions

### **R-Stats package**





### ESRI's ARC GIS Display







# **Golden Software Suite**

- Surfer (\$599), MapViewer (\$249), and Didger (\$329)
- Inexpensive, easy to use but limited database access
- Surfer has extensive geostatistical tools
- MapViewer has GIS capabilities and ability to import Microsoft Access Database in Digitizing Technology
- Didger allows easy import and transformation of raster files

Golden oftware

All can import ESRI Shape files



# Other commercial technologies

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- Oracle Spatial
- GeoMedia
- MapInfo
- Advantages of commercial software
  - All are well supported and have been around (and will be around) for a long time
- Disadvantages
  - All are costly on the same order of cost as ArcINFO (except Surfer et al)
  - Surfer and MapViewer have no ODBC capability

## GRASS



- Geographic Resources Analysis Support System developed by the Army Corps of Engineers to help manage their extensive spatial databases
- It is part of the Free Software/Open Source released under GNU General Public License (GPL)
- Originally limited to raster, it now has powerful abilities to implement 2-d and 3-d vector analysis
- http://grass.ibiblio.org/index.php

## GRASS

- GRASS is a raster/vector GIS combined with integrated image processing and data visualization subsystems
- Includes a large number of modules for management, processing, analysis and visualization of georeferenced data
- Has been integrated with R and the associated GSTAT (Geospatial Statistics) and GRASP (Generalized Regression Analysis and Spatial Prediction) packages
- Source code is available to easily write packages to integrate with multiple other software applications