Tutorial

Vector Analysis Operations

with

TNTmips®

Before Getting Started

This booklet introduces techniques used for common GIS tasks, such as updating vector objects, generating buffer zones, dissolving boundaries between polygons with similar attributes, and using one vector as a cookie cutter on another. Through a series of exercises, it familiarizes you with the basic tools in the powerful vector analysis processes that are part of TNTmips® from MicroImages, Inc. These tools are not available in TNTview® or TNTedit™.

Prerequisite Skills This booklet assumes you have completed the exercises in the *Displaying Geospatial Data* and *Navigating* tutorial booklets. Those exercises introduce essential skills and basic techniques that are not covered again here. Please consult these booklets for any review you need.

Sample Data The exercises presented in this booklet use sample data distributed with the TNT products. If you installed the sample data from the TNT products CD-ROM, it is in /data within the same directory as your TNT products unless you specifically changed the path. If you do not have access to a TNT products CD, you can download the data from MicroImages' web site. The first exercises in this booklet use the VAO Project File in the VECTORAN directory of DATA. The objects in the NE_DLG and ENGCOAST Project Files in this directory are also used. There are also query (*.qry) files that are needed for the exercises. Make a read-write copy of all the sample data in the VECTORAN directory on your hard drive so changes can be saved when you use these objects.

More Documentation This booklet is intended only as an introduction to the vector analysis functions in TNTmips. Consult the TNTmips reference manual for more information.

TNTmips and TNTlite® TNTmips comes in two versions: the professional version and the free TNTlite version. This booklet refers to both versions as "TNTmips." If you did not purchase the professional version (which requires a software license key), TNTmips operates in TNTlite mode, which limits the size of your project materials. All exercises in this booklet can be completed in TNTlite using the sample geodata provided.

Merri P. Skrdla, Ph.D., 24 January 2003

It may be difficult to identify the important points in some illustrations without a color copy of this booklet. You can print or read this booklet in color from MicroImages' web site. The web site is also your source of the newest tutorial booklets on other topics. You can download an installation guide, sample data, and the latest version of TNTlite.

http://www.microimages.com

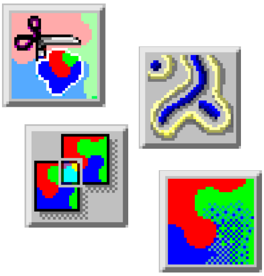
Vector Analysis Operations

A variety of TNTmips processes are involved in topological vector analysis. The processes considered here include creating a subset of elements from an existing vector object, generating simple and more complex buffer zones, polygon fitting to swarms of vector points, merging and combining vector objects in a variety of ways, dissolving adjacent polygons based on shared attributes, and raster generation based on point density.

These processes use georeference information to position objects relative to one another. All appropriate transformations are applied so that the objects need not be in the same map projection. Object coordinates are used for positioning if none of the objects are georeferenced.

Typically in TNTmips, there are a variety of ways to reach a result. You could, for example, get the same results as the first exercise (*Extracting Vector Elements*) by using the designated region to copy the same elements in the Spatial Data Editor and pasting them into a new vector object. You can get the same results from the Vector Merge process as from the Add operation in Vector Combinations, but Vector Combinations also provides the flexibility to select a subset of the vector elements and / or less than the full object extents.

This booklet begins with an explanation of vector topology types then moves to an exercise in which you use the Vector Extract process to extract part of a vector object for use in generating buffer zones and subsequent vector combination operations. There are also exercises in Polygon Fitting and you are introduced to Point Density Rasters. These operations let you deal with a variety of Geographic Information System (GIS) analysis and management issues.



Vocabulary: Polygonal vector **topology** is rigorously maintained in TNTmips. Polygonal topology requires that any point be in at most one polygon and a node be placed at each line intersection (and at the beginning and end of each line). Other topology components maintained by TNTmips include the lines that originate from each node, polygon elements on either side of a line, the line elements that form each polygon, island polygons within a polygon, and the parent polygon for each island. Other topology types, which are described on the following two pages, are also supported by TNTmips.

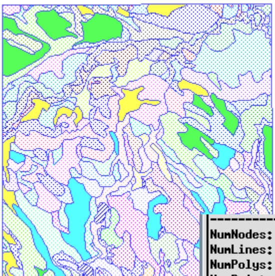
STEPS

☑ launch TNTmips

☑ if not already installed, copy the sample data files for this booklet (see page 2) to your hard drive

Topology Types

Polygonal Topology

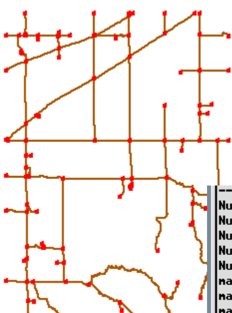


Project File
Maintenance
Object Information

```
NumNodes: 420
NumLines: 629
NumPolys: 212
NumPoints: 0
NumLabels: 205
maxpoints: 32
maxlines: 43
maxislands: 1
PointType: 1 (2D X-Y)
VectorType: 0 (POLYGONAL)
```

TNTmips offers three levels of vector topology: polygonal, planar, and network. Polygonal is the highest or strictest level of topology. It requires that no two nodes have the same X and Y coordinates, all lines start and end in nodes, lines do not intersect other lines or themselves (nodes are inserted where lines would otherwise cross), enclosed areas are defined as polygons, and any point can be in at most one polygon. Polygonal topology is necessary if you want ground area measurements, but it takes time and rigor to maintain, which may be unnecessary depending on your application.

Planar Topology

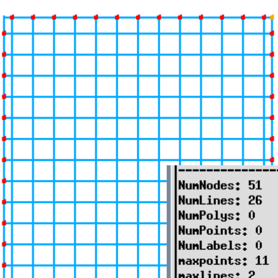


```
NumNodes: 116
NumLines: 134
NumPolys: 0
NumPoints: 0
NumLabels: 0
maxpoints: 131
maxlines: 6
maxislands: 0
PointType: 7 (3D X-Y-Z)
VectorType: 1 (PLANAR)
```

Planar topology requires that all lines start and end in nodes and no two lines cross, as with polygonal topology. However, polygon information is not maintained. With the exception of polygon filling, planar and polygonal objects appear the same. Note the presence of nodes (red) at every position where lines would otherwise cross as well as at the dangling ends, in the roads at the left.

Polygonal and planar objects can be 2D or 3D; topology is maintained in the XY plane for these object types (polygonal dimensions and positions of nodes separating lines that would otherwise cross are determined by projecting onto the XY plane).

Network Topology



```
NumNodes: 51
NumLines: 26
NumPolys: 0
NumPoints: 0
NumLabels: 0
maxpoints: 11
maxlines: 2
maxislands: 0
PointType: 7 (3D X-Y-Z)
VectorType: 2 (NETWORK)
```

Network topology places nodes at the start and end of all lines, but lines may cross themselves or other lines. As with planar topology, there are no polygons. Note the absence of nodes where the lines cross in the grid at the left. Although nodes need not occur where lines cross, they can be present at any intersection and are necessary for use in network analysis. The constraints imposed by 2D topology on 3D objects are eliminated by network topology, which allows two nodes to have the same X and Y coordinates.

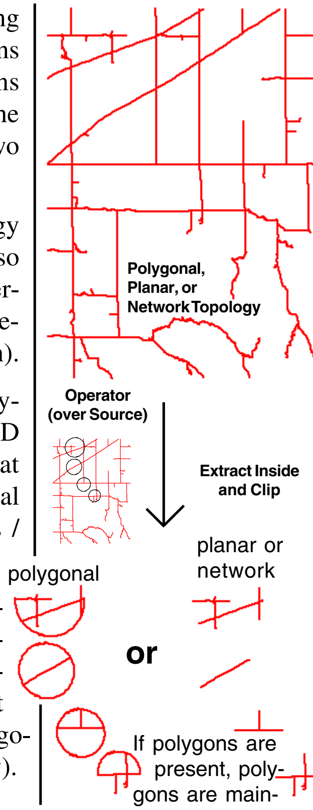
Topology Applications and Behavior

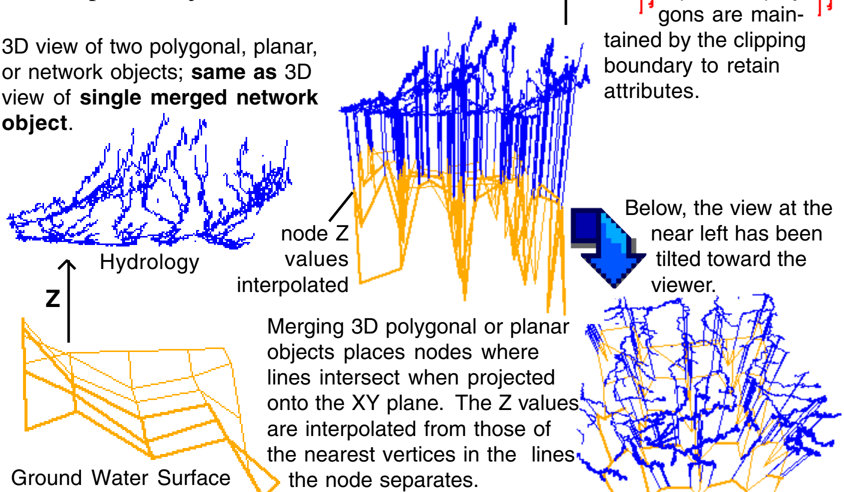
Many classic GIS problems are related to defining geographic areas, such as land ownership polygons or protected site boundaries. Such applications require rigorous polygonal topology. (Imagine the uproar if a point on the ground could fall into two different ownership polygons.)

Planar topology may be appropriate for hydrology if no lakes are present. Planar topology may also be appropriate for road systems that lack underpasses and overpasses (or other features that require network topology for proper representation).

Network topology is desirable for network analysis tasks (routing and allocation) and other 3D projects that benefit from maintaining lines that represent features that do not intersect in the real world as continuous lines, such as an overpass / underpass crossing.

Additional differences between object types become apparent when you perform vector operations. In an extract operation, as at the right, planar and network objects give similar results, but in a 3D combine operation, the results from polygonal and planar objects are more alike (see below).





Extracting Vector Elements

STEPS

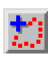
☑ choose Process / Vector / Extract from the main TNTmips menu

☑ click on [Vector] and select the HYDROLOGY object from the VAO Project File

☑ set the Region option menu to Partially Inside and click on the Select button to its right

☑ click on the Region icon in the Extraction Area Definition Tools window, then click on the Add icon in the panel that drops down, and select HYDROEXTRACTREG from the VAO Project File

☑ click on the Include in Extraction Area icon



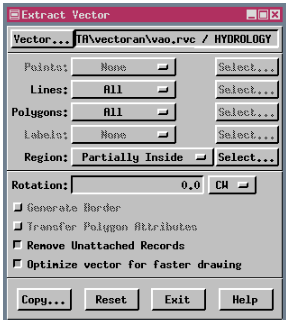
☑ click on [Accept] in the Select Region window

☑ click on [Copy] in the Extract Vector window

☑ create a new file in the same directory as the files you copied for this tutorial booklet

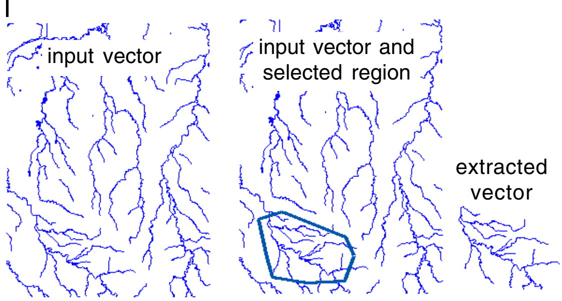
☑ append the default object name with EXTRCT and click [OK]

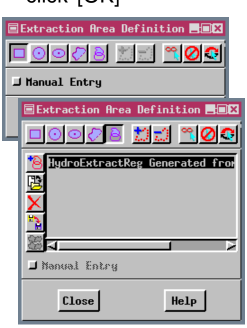
There are a variety of methods for selecting vector elements to extract. You can limit the element types, use attributes or a query, or select elements from the screen with the mouse or using a region. You can also limit the area to extract from. These methods can be used in combination as well (for example, select points by attribute and lines by query within a region of interest you define).



Separate settings for lines and polygons let you use the attributes of either or both for selection and eliminate lines not part of polygons if desired. Polygons formed by selected lines are created when topology is built for the extracted vector object if the input object had polygonal topology.

When you click on the Select button for the area to extract, three windows open (the Select Region, Extraction Area Definition Tools, and Extract Vector Layer Manager windows). The input vector is displayed in the Select Region window. You use the tools in the Extraction Area Definition Tools window to construct the boundary for extraction. You can ignore the Layer Manager window for this exercise.





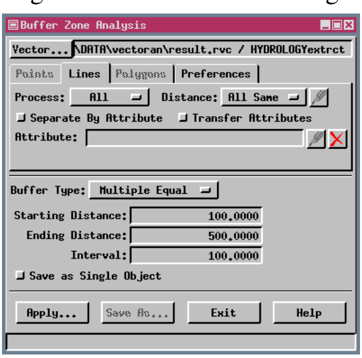
The Extraction Area Definition window expands to include Region Manager functions when you click on the Region icon.

Generating Buffer Zones

The Buffer Zones process generates polygons at a specified setback distance from the elements selected for buffering. You can select all or a limited number of element types for buffering. You can use attributes or a script or select elements from the screen with the mouse or using a region. When buffering polygons, you can elect to generate the buffer zones using setbacks on the interior or the exterior of the polygons.

You can generate multiple buffer zones in a single pass with equal intervals or unequal intervals that you specify. You can elect to have your output in either vector or CAD format and, if generating multiple buffer zones, to save each individually or in a single object. When generated in CAD format, multiple buffer zones are drawn in different colors.

Note that the setting for saving multiple buffer zones as a single or as multiple objects is in effect when the buffer zones are generated. Changing the setting after the buffer zones are generated but before they are saved does not affect the number of saved objects.



STEPS

☑ choose Process / Vector / Compute / Buffer Zones

☑ click on [Vector] and select the HYDROLOGY EXTRCT object you made in the previous exercise

☑ set the Buffer Type option menu to Multiple Equal, the Starting Distance to 100, the Ending Distance to 500, and the Interval to 100

☑ click on [Apply]

☑ click on the Preferences tab and change the Make Result As setting to CAD

☑ turn on the Save As Single Object toggle

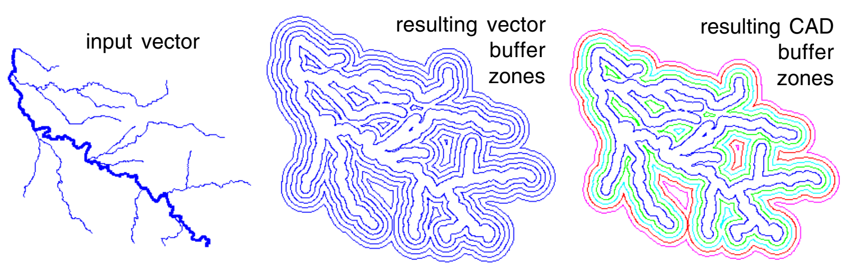
☑ click on [Apply]

☑ click on [Yes] when prompted to save, then click on the Auto-Name icon 

☑ click on [OK]

☑ click on [Save As] then on the New Object icon, and accept the default name 

☑ keep this process open for the next exercise



Separating Buffer Zones by Attribute

STEPS

☑ set the Buffer Type to Single, then click the Lines tab and select By Script from the Distance option menu, click on the Specify icon to its right, choose File / Open / *.QRY File, select BUFZONE.QRY, and click [OK] in the Query Editor window

☑ turn on the *Separate By Attribute* and *Transfer Attributes* toggles

☑ click on the Specify icon to the right of the Attribute field, and select Class in the Table column and Description in the Field column, then click [OK] in the Select Table/Field window

☑ click [Apply]

☑ click on the Select tool in the View window

☑ click on the buffer polygon around one of the thinner lines, note that all polygons around thinner lines are highlighted, and that intermittent stream or wash is the single attached attribute

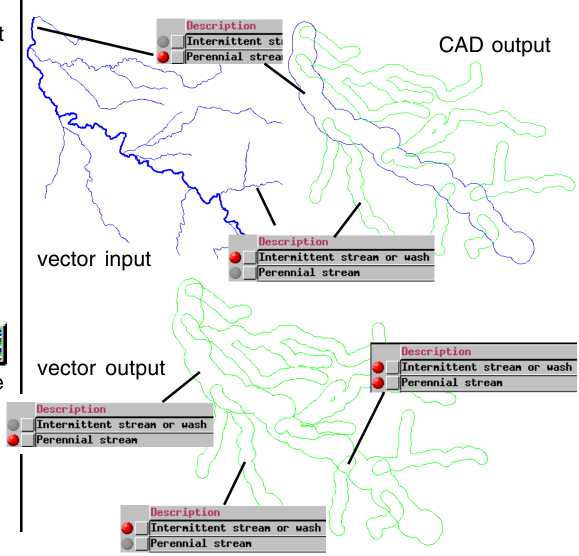
☑ click on the Preferences tab and change Make Result As to Vector, click [Apply], then click [No]

☑ click on the Layer Controls icon then open the CLASS table in the polygon database

☑ click on a number of polygons and note the attached attributes

In this exercise, you will learn about separating buffer zones by attribute, transferring attributes, and using a script to provide different buffer distances according to attached attributes. Separating buffer zones by attribute means that you get separate buffer polygons for elements that have different values for the selected attribute. Buffer zones for different attribute values often overlap. If saved in vector form, these areas of overlap must be resolved to maintain polygonal topology. When saved in CAD form, you get a separate polygon or multi-polygon element for each attribute value. When generated with the parameters used in this exercise, you get a single polygon for the portion of the perennial stream you extracted and a multi-polygon element made up of seven polygons for the intermittent streams.

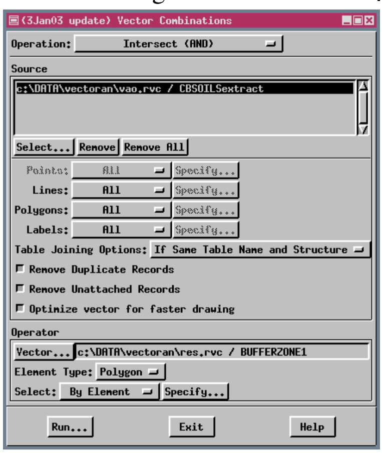
Vector buffer zone polygons will have more than one record attached when transferring attributes if the polygon was created from overlapping buffer zones with different attributes. CAD buffer zones will have the same number of records attached as the element they were generated from.



Vector Combinations: Intersect (AND)

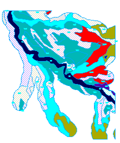
The Vector Combinations process lets you combine vector objects mathematically by georeference (or object coordinates if georeferencing is absent). Combination by geographic extent is a very powerful feature that lets you admix vector objects created at different scales and in different map projections into a single vector object.

There are two types of input objects for vector combinations: the source and the operator. Simplistically, the operator can be thought of as a cookie cutter and the source as the rolled dough from which the cookies will be cut. There are many different combination operations; in some the output is the cookie, in others it is the dough from which the cookie has been removed, in still others, it is both the cookie and the surrounding dough. The vector combinations process includes 14 different operations so there are many variations on this simplistic description. Our first operation will produce the cookie as output. You will run the process twice, once with all operator elements selected and once with only the area that falls inside the buffer zones selected.

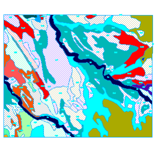


STEPS

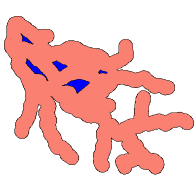
- ☑ choose Process / Vector / Combine
- ☑ set the Operation option menu to Intersect (AND)
- ☑ click on [Select] in the Source panel and choose CBSOILSEXTRACT from the VAO Project File
- ☑ click on [Vector] in the Operator panel, and choose the BUFFERZONE1 vector you made in the exercise on page 7
- ☑ click on [Run], select the Project File with your buffer zone output and change the last 7 letters of the default name to INT_ALL
- ☑ when the process finishes, set the Select option menu in the Operator Panel to By Element
- ☑ click on [Specify]
- ☑ left-click on the large buffer zone polygon, then click on [Accept]
- ☑ click on [Run], select the file with your previous output, and change the default name to end with INTERS
- ☑ view your results in Spatial Data Display



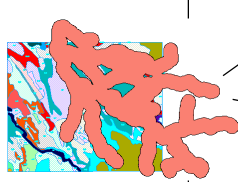
result (All)



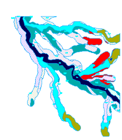
source



operator



geographic overlay



result (without islands)

Union (OR) and Exclusive Union (XOR)

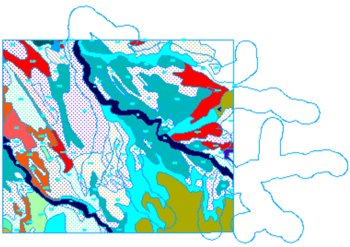
STEPS

- ☑ repeat steps 1, 3, and 4 from the previous exercise (if you exited the process)
- ☑ set the Operation option menu to Union (OR)
- ☑ set the Select option menu in the Operator panel to All
- ☑ click on [Run], select the Project File with your Intersect output, and change the default name to end with UNION
- ☑ when the process finishes, set the Operation option menu to Exclusive Union (XOR)
- ☑ set the Select option menu in the Operator panel to By Element, and click on [Specify]
- ☑ click on the large buffer zone polygon, then click on [Accept] (or Cancel if the polygon is already selected)
- ☑ click on [Run], select the Project File with your previous output, and change the default name to end with XOR
- ☑ view your results in Spatial Data Display

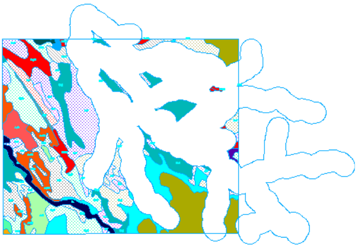
Some vector combinations are best explained by set theory. The sets are defined by elements and their geographic positions. The three set operations available in the Vector Combinations process are Intersect, Union, and Exclusive Union. The results from all three of these operations may have elements and attributes from both the source and the operator.

The Union operation produces the same results as Add with resulting elements having attributes from the source, the operator, or both. The results of the Intersect operation appear the same as for Extract and Clip, however, attributes from the operator are associated with the output for the Intersect (or Add) operation and are not associated with the elements from Extract operations. The Exclusive Union operation is the inverse of Intersect with output elements coming only from the area where the source and operator do not overlap. As such, individual output elements will have attributes from either the source or the operator, but not both.

When viewing the results, note the effect of not selecting the island polygons in the buffer zone for the Exclusive Union operation. How would the results have differed if all operator elements had been selected? (Check your prediction if you're not sure.) Would selecting only the buffer zone polygon and not its islands effect the elements output for the Union operation?



Union



Exclusive Union

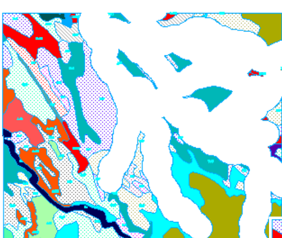
Subtract Operation

The Subtract operation removes source elements that fall within the area of the operator. The output object does not have attributes contributed by the operator, because there are no elements left in the area of overlap to attach them to. The Subtract operation is generally used to remove elements in part of an object prior to updating. With the vector set used in this example, you might want to remove the soil polygons in the buffer zone area before merging the result with the hydrology used to create the buffer zones.

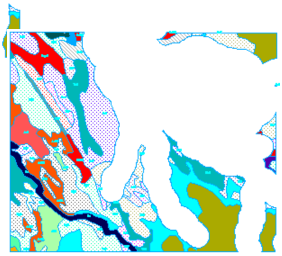
The decision of whether or not to include islands when applying the Subtract operation, as well as other operations, depends on your intended later use for the data and also likely on the size of the islands themselves. Islands are easily selected by query (Internal.Inside ==1 to select island polygons). You can build up a selected set of elements from the source or operator by combining one or more queries and mouse click selections after choosing By Element as the selection method. To build such a selection set, be sure that the selection mode icon in the Vector Combinations Layer Manager window is set to Select (or Deselect) rather than Exclusive.

STEPS

- ☑ choose Process / Vector / Combine [if you didn't exit the Vector Combinations process after the previous exercise, you need only change the Operation to Subtract before you click on Run (step 8)]
- ☑ set the Operation option menu to Subtract
- ☑ click on [Select] in the Source panel and choose CBSOILSEXTRACT from the VAO Project File
- ☑ click on [Vector] in the Operator panel, and choose the BUFFERZONE1 vector you made in the exercise on page 7
- ☑ set the Select option menu in the Operator Panel to By Element
- ☑ click on [Specify]
- ☑ click on the large buffer zone polygon, then click on [Accept]
- ☑ click on [Run], select the Project File with your buffer zone output and change the default name to end with SUBTRCT
- ☑ view your results in Spatial Data Display



islands not selected as part of operator



islands included in operator

Subtraction results with and without islands included in the operator are shown at the left (although you are only instructed to run the Subtract operation without the islands for this exercise).

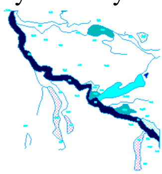
Extract Operations

STEPS

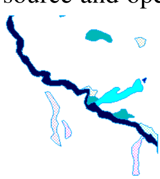
- ☑ set the operation to Extract Completely Inside in the Vector Combinations window
- ☑ select the same source and operator used in the previous exercise if you had exited the process
- ☑ limit the selected operator elements to the buffer zone polygons (steps 4–7 in previous exercise) if you exited after the last exercise
- ☑ set the Lines and Labels option buttons to None
- ☑ click on [Run] and name the output ECI
- ☑ when the process is done, change the Operation to Extract Partially Inside, click on [Run], and name the output EPI
- ☑ when the process is done, change the Operation to Extract Completely Outside, click on [Run], and name the output ECO
- ☑ when the process is done, change the Operation to Extract Outside and Add Border, click on [Run], and name the output EOAB
- ☑ click on [Remove] in the Source panel

The Extract operations differ from most other operations in the Vector Combinations process by using the operator only as a cookie cutter and not as a source of elements or attributes. You will, however, get line elements from the operator if the operator extends beyond the source and you choose one of the Add Border options.

The options you choose, as always, are determined by the use you want to make of the result, but when your source object is polygon data, you likely want to turn off selection of lines and labels. The result may include labels not associated with polygons and lines that originally formed part of a polygon boundary if you don't turn this selection off.

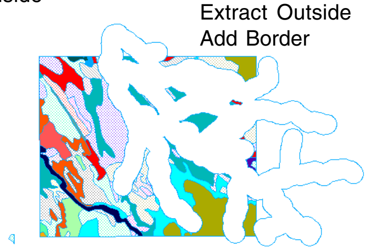


This exercise does not have you do all eight extract operations, but you can certainly try them all if you are curious. Extract Outside and Clip has purposefully been omitted because the results are exactly the same as for the Subtract option used in the previous exercise. Also recall that the results for Extract Inside and Clip are the same as for Intersect except the former result has attributes only from the source, while the latter has attributes from both the source and operator.

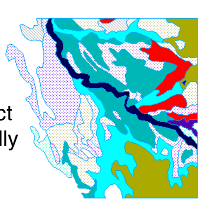


Extract Completely Inside

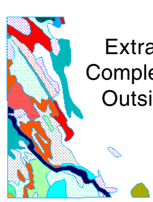
Extract Outside Add Border



Extract Partially Inside



Extract Completely Outside



Using Lines as the Operator

Two of the vector combination operations, Intersect and Union, allow selection of lines as the operator. Intersecting operator lines with points, lines, and / or polygons from the source produces an output object that contains points, each of which represent the location where an operator line crosses an element in the source. Using the vector objects provided in this exercise, the resulting points have two records attached from the Class table. One of the records identifies the road type where the hydrology and roads intersect, the other identifies the hydrology class. You could also choose not to join the tables. You would then end up with a Class and a Class1 table, each with one record attached to each point.

A style object and a query file are included in the VECTORAN directory to demonstrate assigning drawing styles using both of the attached attributes. In the query, symbol shape and size are determined by the attached hydrology attribute and symbol color is determined by the road type. The style object is necessary because styles are specified by name in the query.

STEPS

☑ set the operation in the Vector Combine process to Intersect (AND)

☑ click on [Select] in the Source panel and choose HYDROLOGY from the VAO Project File

☑ click on [Vector] in the Operator panel and choose ROADS from the VAO Project File

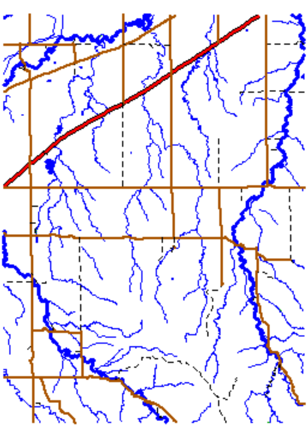
☑ choose Line from the Operator Element Type option menu

☑ check that the Table Joining Options menu is set to If Same Table Name and Structure

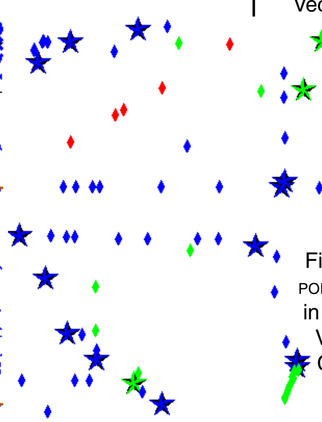
☑ click on [Run] and name the output object LINETOLINE, saving it to the same file you've been using for new objects generated by the exercises in this booklet

☑ examine your results in Spatial Data Display with the following settings; click on the Add Vector icon and choose Add Vector Layer, click on [Styles] in the Object panel and select PointStyle from the VAO Project File, click on the Points panel and set Style to By Script, click on [Specify], and choose File / Open / *.QRY File and select the POINTS.QRY file, click [OK] in the Query Editor and Vector Object Display Controls windows

vectors used for line to line intersect



output points using style object and query provided



Merge Overlapping Vector Objects

STEPS

☑ choose Process / Vector / Merge

☑ click on [Select] and choose the ROADS, RAILROADS, and MISCELLANEOUS objects in the NE_DLG Project File

☑ check that the Table Joining Options menu is set to If Same Table Name and Structure

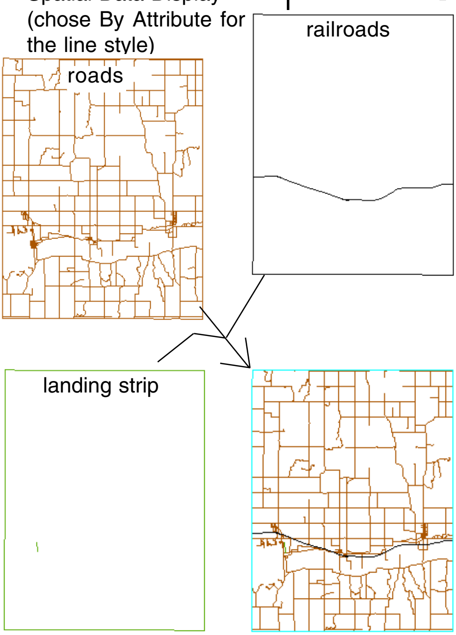
☑ check that Remove Unattached Records and Remove Duplicate Records are toggled on

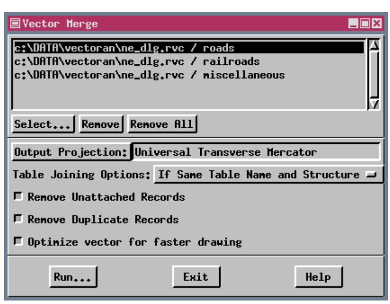
☑ click on [Run], accept the default name, and save it to the same file you've been using for new objects generated by the exercises in this booklet

☑ examine your results in Spatial Data Display (chose By Attribute for the line style)

You can choose any number of vector objects to merge into a single object. All database tables associated with the input objects are transferred to the output, with the option to join tables if they have the same structure. You also have the option of removing records not attached to elements from all tables and duplicate records from joined tables during the process.

The Merge process is intended to combine all elements in the full extents of all selected vector objects; merge is the only one of the vector operations that doesn't let you select a subset of the elements or less than the full extents of the input objects for inclusion in the output. You can achieve the same results as you get in the Merge process by using the Union operation in Vector Combinations with all elements and the full region selected if you are merging just two objects. If you want to merge selected elements from more than two objects, you can run the Union operation in Vector Combinations sequentially, selecting the output from one operation as the source for the next operation, or you can merge all objects then run the Extract process to copy just the desired elements to a new object.



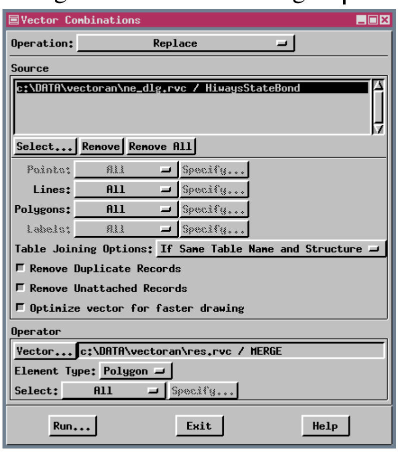


Three objects are merged so that the roads, railroads, and landing strip are all in one object.

Replace Operation

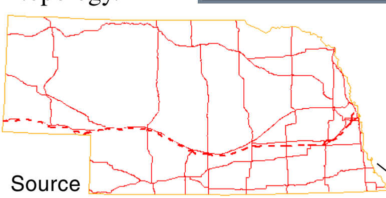
The Replace operation uses the operator to replace the area of the source that falls within the (selected) polygons in the operator. The source object is clipped where it meets the operator, and all source elements that fall within (selected) operator polygons are removed. As with other vector analysis operations, the input objects need not all be in the same map projection to get correct geographic placement of selected elements.

In this exercise we use the Replace operation to introduce a small area of greater detail into a larger map. Currently, the Replace Operation only incorporates Operator polygons into the output. For many objects, such as that chosen for this exercise, all the lines happen to be part of polygons as a by-product of correct polygonal vector topology.

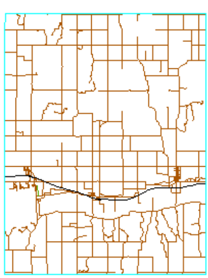


STEPS

- ☑ choose Process / Vector / Combine
- ☑ set the Operation option menu to Replace
- ☑ click on [Select] in the Source panel and choose the HIWAYSSTATEBND object from the NE_DLG Project File
- ☑ click on [Vector] in the Operator panel and select the MERGE object you made on p. 14
- ☑ click on [Run] and name the output object REPLACE, saving it to the file you've used for new objects throughout this booklet
- ☑ examine your results in Spatial Data Display (choose By Attribute for the line style)

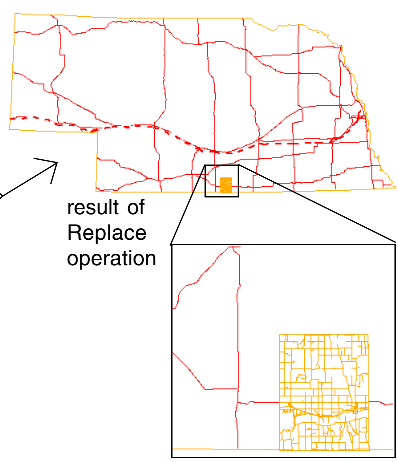


Source



Operator

The Source object is georeferenced to Lat / Lon and the Operator to UTM.



result of Replace operation

Merge Adjacent Vector Objects

STEPS

☑ choose Process / Vector / Merge

☑ click on [Select] and choose CBSOILSEXTRACT then CBSOILSEXTRCT2 from the VAO Project File

☑ check that the Output Projection is Latitude / Longitude, the Table Joining Options button is set to If Same Table Name and Structure

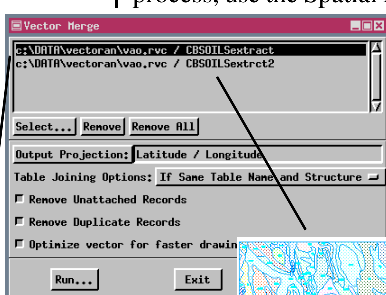
☑ check that the Remove Unattached Records and Remove Duplicate Records buttons are toggled on

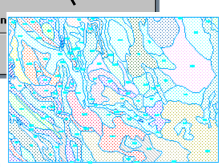
☑ click on [Run] and accept the default name for the output, saving it to the same file you've been using for new objects generated by the exercises in this booklet

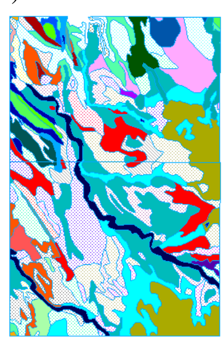
☑ examine your results in Spatial Data Display (check that all polygons are selected for display by attribute)

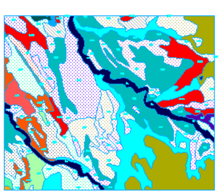
The Merge process is intended primarily for combining vector objects that represent different data layers, such as county boundaries, transportation, and hydrology. You can, however, also merge adjacent objects as we do in this exercise.

Vector objects that represent adjoining ground areas are likely to have elements on either side of the boundary that represent a single entity, such as a soil type polygon split at the edge of a soil map, or roads or hydrology that continue from one map quadrangle to the next. You can create single polygons from such split polygons provided both have their common attributes stored in a database table with the same structure as demonstrated in the next exercise. Lines that continue from one map to another with identical attributes are automatically joined into a single line when the topology is validated as the last step in the merge process (unless a node is required because another line emerges at the junction). If lines that are a continuation of one another are offset and do not join when you run the Merge process, use the Spatial Data Editor to join the lines end to end then run the Remove Excess Nodes filter and reshape the line across the gap if needed. (See the later exercise *Getting Mismatched Lines to Meet*.)







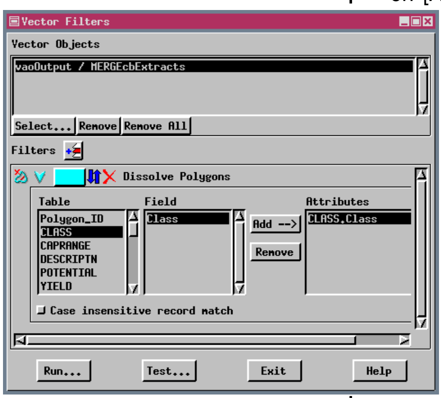


The style object is copied from the first selected object.

Dissolve Polygons

The Dissolve Polygon filter lets you select one or more attributes to use in evaluating whether the polygons on either side of a line should be joined into a single polygon. We will use a single attribute, soil class, in this example. Once the vector object is selected, all of its tables are listed in the lefthand list. As you click on tables in the list, all of the fields for the highlighted table are shown in the middle list. There is also an <<All>> choice if the table has more than one field. If you click on <<All>> the attribute values for every field in the table must be the same for two adjacent polygons to be merged.

You can select as many fields from as many tables as desired. The most common reasons to dissolve boundaries between adjacent polygons is to join polygons that were split because they were originally on separate maps or one was initially misclassified. You can also make a significantly different map by choosing an attribute that is not directly related to the original polygon boundaries, such as dissolving soil class polygons by suitability as wildlife habitat.



STEPS

☑ choose Process / Vector / Filter

☑ click on [Select] and choose the merged soil map you made on p.16

☑ click on the Add Filter icon, choose Dissolve Polygons, then click on the Show Details icon

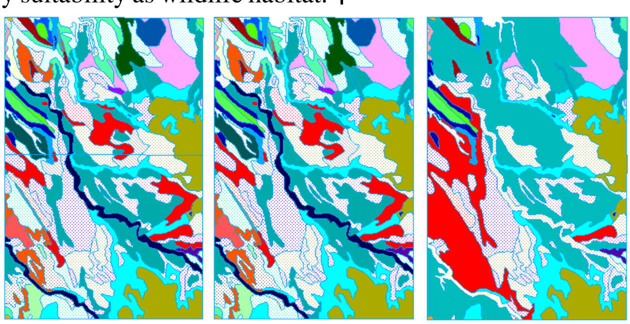
☑ click on CLASS in the Table list, then on Class in the Field list, and then on [Add-->]

☑ click on the Add Filter icon and choose Remove Excess Nodes

☑ click on [Run] and name the output DISSOLVE, saving it to the same file

☑ click [View Log File] in the Status window when the process is done, note the number of lines and nodes removed, then click [Close] in the Vector Filter Log window

☑ examine your results in Spatial Data Display



Merged vectors have lines that mark the edges of the input vectors (left), which can be dissolved if the polygons on either side of the line share attributes (center). You can also use this filter to reconfigure a map using some other attribute than initially used to generate the polygons (right).

Getting Mismatched Lines to Meet

STEPS

☑ choose Edit / Spatial Data

☑ click on the Add Reference Layer icon and select the REFERENCE LINE object from the VAO Project File

☑ click on the Open Object for Editing icon and select the MERGED_WITH_GAP vector object in the same file

☑ click on the large Edit Elements icon in the Vector Tools window

☑ click on the Snap icon in the Operation panel of the Element Selection window

☑ set the Snap To option to Node, Snap From to Both Vertices, and Snap Type to Add Vertex

☑ zoom up until you can see one of the gaps clearly

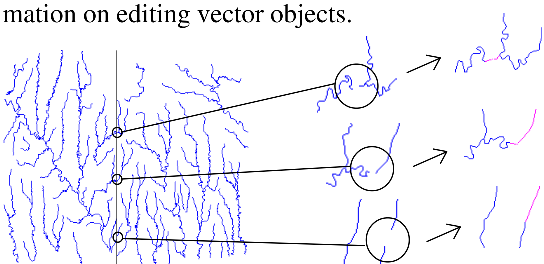
☑ set the Snap Distance to 300 Vector Units

☑ click on the line on the right of one of the gaps then click on Apply Operation to [Active]; repeat for the other two gaps

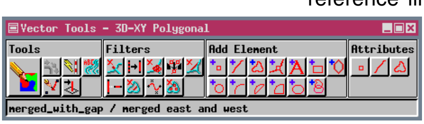
☑ click on the Remove Excess Nodes icon in the Filters panel of the Vector Tools window

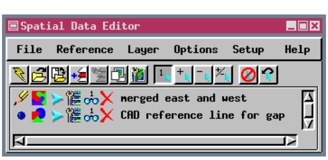
Merged vectors often need a little editing to make lines that cross seams meet as they should. The object provided for this exercise has three gaps that should be joined. If you join two lines by moving the endpoint of one, in this case using the snap operation, you don't need to concern yourself with assigning attributes, as you would if you add a line to bridge the gap (if attributes are the same on either side of a node, the Remove Excess Nodes filter makes the two lines into one).

A reference line in CAD format is provided so you can easily locate the lines that should be joined (the positions and enlargements of the gaps are shown below). The Snap Distance can be specified in any of the standard distance units or in pixels or vector units. If specified in pixels, the actual distance varies depending on the zoom factor. You can also choose the Edit function and drag the unattached vertex of one of the lines to meet the other. Consult the *Editing Vector Geodata* booklet for more information on editing vector objects.

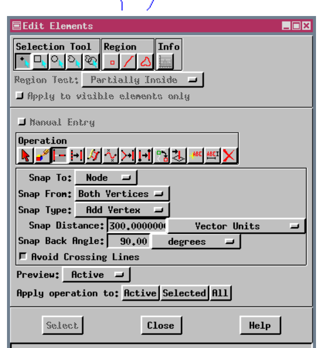


Find and edit the three gaps that fall along the reference line.





You work with the three windows at the left and the Spatial Data Editor View window to edit vector objects.

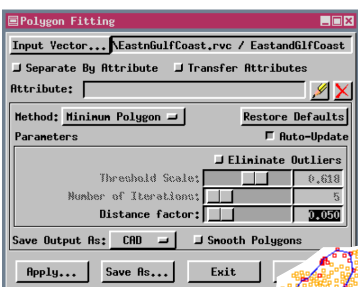


Polygon Fitting

The Polygon Fitting algorithms were originally developed to identify animal home ranges (polygons) from large numbers of observation points. Polygon Fitting can readily be applied to point observations for a variety of other applications, such as epidemiology and archaeology. TNTmips provides a number of different methods and parameters that determine how the polygons are generated.

The Polygon Fitting process works either on all points or on selected points. If any points are selected, they are automatically used as the points for fitting. Your points may be observations of a single type, such as a single animal or a single year of a particular disease outbreak, or they may represent observations of multiple types, such as a number of animals or years of disease reports.

The database information used for selection in this and the next two exercises is from the National Atlas of the United States web site (http://nationalatlas.gov). The database tables include the FIPS code for each county record so they can be related to any vector object that has a table with the FIPS code field as the primary key. In this exercise, you select the points where the male population exceeds the female population. Interestingly, this occurs for only 309 of the 1500 points.



STEPS

☑ choose Process / Vector / Compute / Polygon Fitting

☑ click on [Input Vector], select the vector in the EastnGulfCoast Project File, and set the method to Minimum Polygon

☑ click on the Layer Controls icon in the View window if the Layer Controls window is not open

☑ click on the Show Details icon for the vector layer then on the Select / Deselect icon and choose Select by Query

☑ enter the query exactly as shown, and click Apply in the Select by Query window

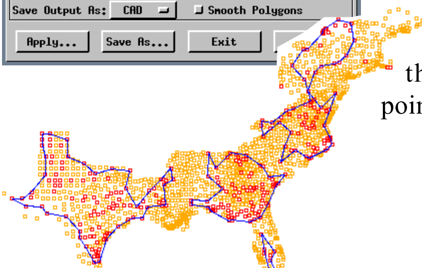
ce2000t.MAL2FEM > 100

☑ type 0.05 in the Distance Factor field and click [Apply] in the Polygon Fitting window

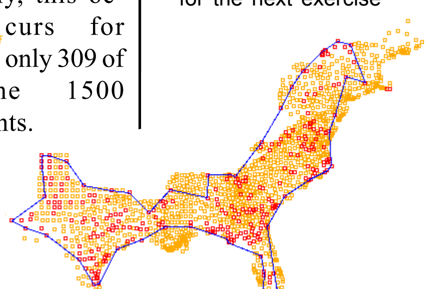
☑ note the result, then type 0.1 into the Distance Factor field, and click [Apply]

☑ note the difference

☑ keep this process open for the next exercise



Distance Factor 0.05



Distance Factor 0.10

Separating by Attribute in Polygon Fitting

STEPS

☑ turn on the Separate by Attribute and Transfer Attributes toggles

☑ click on the Specify button to the right of the Attribute field

☑ click on WNVHUMT in the Table column and WHEN in the Field column, then click [OK]

☑ change the query in the Select By Query window to be exactly as shown, and click Apply in that window

☑ type 0.5 in the Distance Factor field, change Save Output As to Vector, and click [Apply] in the Polygon Fitting window

☑ note the result, then type 0.25 into the Distance Factor field, and click [Apply]

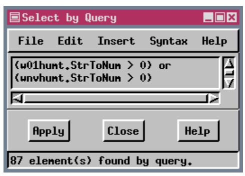
☑ note the difference

☑ click on Save As and name the object WNV20002001

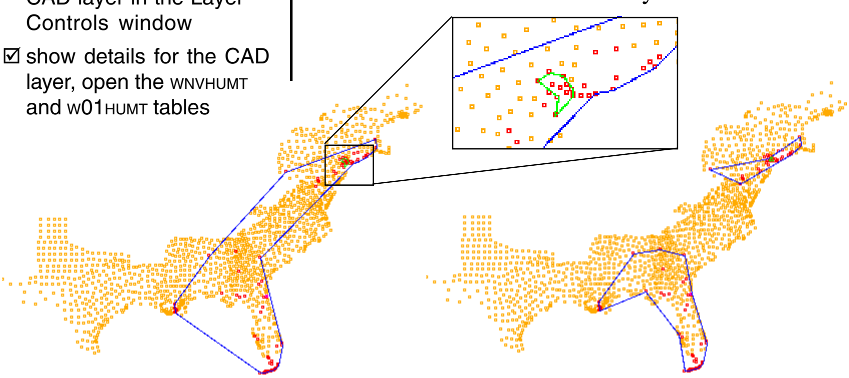
☑ note that there is now a CAD layer in the Layer Controls window

☑ show details for the CAD layer, open the WNVHUMT and W01HUMT tables

You look at the spread of West Nile Virus (WNV) from 2000 to 2001 in this exercise. In order use the Separate by Attribute feature to polygon fit separately to the occurrences in 2000 and those in 2001, the data required some massaging, which was done by adding virtual fields to the National Atlas tables. First you want to select only those points that represent occurrences of WNV. The National Atlas field that reports the occurrences of WNV is a string field, but we need a numeric field to select those points where WNV occurred, so we use the StrToNum function, which returns the numerical value of a string with numbers and zero if the string is not a number.



The data for 2000 and 2001 are in separate tables, but Separate by Attribute works on a single field in a single table. A second virtual field was added to the 2000 table that contains the year of the WNV occurrence reported. Once the data for 2002 is available, the results will be more interesting (although not lite sized any more). To incorporate a new year and use it for polygon fitting separated by attribute, you can simply copy or link to the new table directly in the Polygon Fitting process, edit the definition of the new table to include a virtual field that converts strings to numeric values, and add to the script for the virtual field that returns the year.



Point Density Rasters

A point density raster is a reflection of the distribution of points within a vector object. You may look at point data that covers a wide area and see nearly continuous coverage. However, if these points represent some naturally occurring feature or phenomenon, rather than a regular sampling, there will be areas where the points are denser than others.

A point density raster is created from a collection of vector points by determining the number of points that fall within a specified radius of each raster cell. The points may either simply be counted to produce the cell value or an attribute can be specified to provide the value for each point. Using attribute information rather than a raw point count may or may not change how the density raster appears, but it certainly will change its cell values. Be sure to consider the potential values for the sum of point attributes within the designated radius when choosing your output data type.

The ideal radius will find at least one point for each cell within the extents of the points and more than one for most cells. You want the smallest radius that leaves no holes within the area of point coverage. If you want to compare point density rasters for different attributes of the same points, you may have to compromise on a radius that produces some holes. The radius should always be larger than the cell size. For more details on this process, consult the color plate entitled *Point Density Rasters* on MicroImages' web site.

STEPS

☑ choose Process / Vector / Compute / Point Density Raster, click on [Input Vector] and select the EastandGlfCoast vector from the previous exercise

☑ set the Value to Table, click on [Specify], and choose CE2000T in the Table column and POP00SQMIL in the Field column

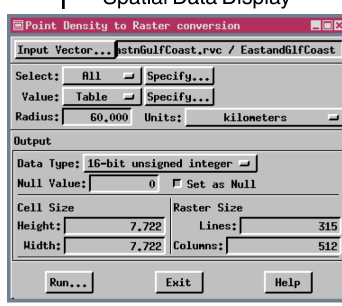
☑ change the Units option to kilometers, then change the radius to 60

☑ change the Data Type to 16-bit unsigned integer

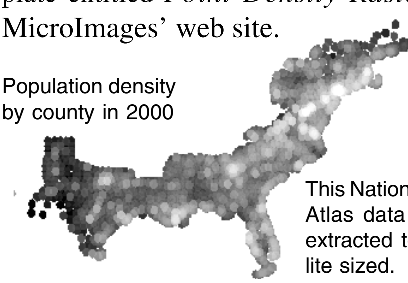
☑ click on Run and name the output PopDensity

☑ click on [Specify] for the value and select crimesp20.MURD98

☑ compare your results in Spatial Data Display

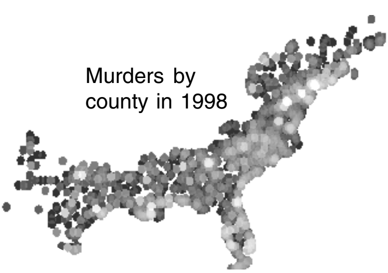


Population density by county in 2000



This National Atlas data was extracted to be lite sized.

Murders by county in 1998



Element and Area Selection

STEPS

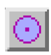
☑ choose Process / Vector / Extract

☑ select the HYDROLOGY object from the VAO Project File

☑ set the Region option menu to Clip Inside and click [Select]

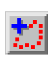
☑ pull out a rectangle in the upper right

☑ click on Include in Extraction Area icon 

☑ click on the Circle tool icon and draw a circle in the upper middle (overlap the rectangle a little) 

☑ click on Include in Extraction Area icon 

☑ click on the Region tool then on the Add Region icon and select the buffer zone you made in the exercise on p. 5  

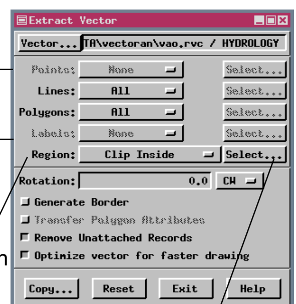
☑ click on the Include in Extraction Area icon then on [Accept] in the Select Region window 

☑ click on [Copy], and accept the default name

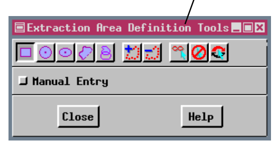
The Merge process is the only vector analysis operation that doesn't let you select a subset of elements or a specific area for use in the operation. This exercise provides a few pointers on element selection and area specification, particularly with reference to regions.

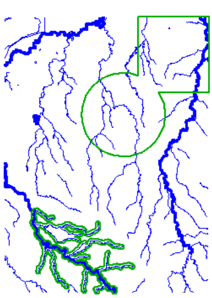
When you want to limit the area selected for a vector operation, make a selection other than Full from the Region option menu and click on the Select button to define the limited region. When you want to restrict the elements selected within the designated region, choose the desired option from the element option menu and click on Select. You can combine selection by Query with mouse selected elements if you choose By Element and apply the Query from the Extract Vector Layer Manager window, then use other selection tools.

Use these option menus when you want to limit the elements selected for processing to those with particular attributes, that satisfy a specific query, or are selected from displayed elements.

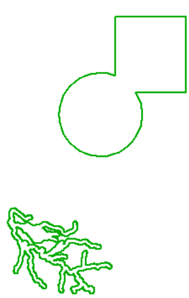


Use this option menu when you want to limit the area from which elements are selected for processing.





Extraction area with input object for reference

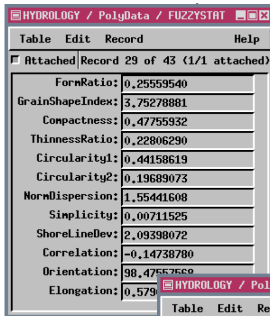


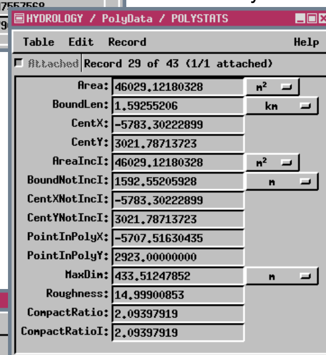
Extraction area alone

You can use as many of the tools as you like while building up the extraction area. Just be sure to click on the Include in Extraction Area icon after drawing a component you want to add to the area. You can change the color and thickness of the extraction area outline using the Layer Controls for the region layer.

Other Analysis Processes

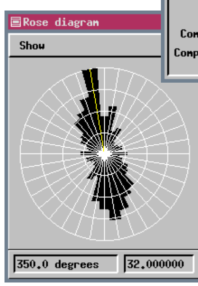
There are a variety of other processes available in TNTmips to assist in vector analysis. Standard attributes and fuzzy properties can be generated and stored in database form with the vectors for use in selection and display or in other processes, such as Network Analysis.





You can view all records or only the records associated with selected elements in tabular view. Single record view shows the record associated with the active element only.

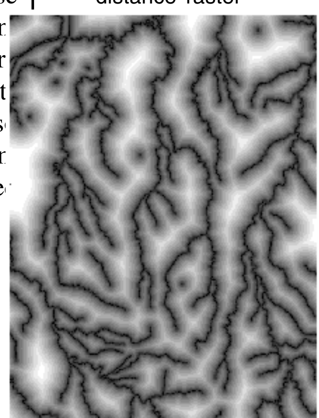
The Directional Analysis process (also called Lineament Analysis) provides a statistical analysis, which is displayed as a rose diagram, of the directional properties of the lines in an object. A number of different methods for computing these statistics are provided. You can also create a new vector object containing only those lines that have the specified directional properties.



Rose diagram using the Node to Node method for Directional Analysis on the HYDROLOGY vector used in a number of exercises in this booklet (shown on facing page).

TNTmips also has a process to create distance rasters from vector objects with cell values that represent the distance from the selected vector elements. The raster surface produced can be planar, a DEM, or a cost raster (the latter two require reference raster input). These rasters can, in turn, be used as input for the Gradient Descent Path process or to generate regions that are greater than a specified distance from the elements used to generate the distance raster. You can also generate regions less than a specified distance from these elements, but that is just as easily accomplished using buffer zones.

distance raster



This distance raster was generated from the same hydrology vector object used to create the rose diagram, above, and for generation of the two tables shown above.

Advanced Software for Geospatial Analysis

VECTOR ANALYSIS

MicroImages, Inc. publishes a complete line of professional software for advanced geospatial data visualization, analysis, and publishing. Contact us or visit our web site for detailed product information.

TNTmips TNTmips is a professional system for fully integrated GIS, image analysis, CAD, TIN, desktop cartography, and geospatial database management.

TNTedit TNTedit provides interactive tools to create, georeference, and edit vector, image, CAD, TIN, and relational database project materials in a wide variety of formats.

TNTview TNTview has the same powerful display features as TNTmips and is perfect for those who do not need the technical processing and preparation features of TNTmips.

TNTatlas TNTatlas lets you publish and distribute your spatial project materials on CD-ROM at low cost. TNTatlas CDs can be used on any popular computing platform.

TNTserver TNTserver lets you publish TNTatlases on the Internet or on your intranet. Navigate through geodata atlases with your web browser and the TNTclient Java applet.

TNTlite TNTlite is a free version of TNTmips for students and professionals with small projects. You can download TNTlite from MicroImages' web site, or you can order TNTlite on CD-ROM.

Index

MicroImages, Inc.

11th Floor – Sharp Tower
206 South 13th Street
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508-2010 USA

Voice: (402)477-9554
FAX: (402)477-9559

email: info@microimages.com
Internet: www.microimages.com