

# Applications of GIS in some branches within the social sciences

Ha Minh Tri (PhD) HCMC, May 2015



# **Objectives**

- Promote use of GIS as a tool to support research (increased visualisation, improved planning,...) and decision making.
- Acquire GIS as an additional skill to improve work quality and efficiency.





# Outline of presentation

- 1. Introduction
  - Geographic information (GI) technologies
  - Current applications
  - Branches of social sciences applicable to GIS
- 2. Applications of GIS in some branches within the social sciences, and crossed disciplines e.g. program evaluation
- 3. GIS softwares, benefits of GIS, implementation conditions





# 1. Introduction

- GI technologies
- Current applications
- Branches of social sciences applicable to GIS





# **GI** technologies

Global Positioning System (GPS)

 A system of satellites which can provide precise (X,Y) location on the earth's surface

- Remote Sensing (RS)
  - Use of satellites or aircraft to capture information (land cover) about the earth's surface
- Geographic Information System (GIS)

- Systems with capability for input, storage, manipulation/analysis and display of spatial information



✓ GPS and RS are sources of input data for a GIS.



### Current areas of GIS applications (Yuan, 2008)

- Cartography
- Urban and regional planning
- Health
- Land & natural resource management
- Conservation e.g. sea turtle conservation
- Environmental modelling and management
- Safety e.g. transport
- Military services e.g. remote sensing
- Crisis management
- Trip navigation and routing
- Climate change
- Crime analysis and tracking



# Some branches within the social sciences that are applicable to GIS

- Business studies
- Economics
- Sociology (incl. criminology, social movements, social change, social mobility, gender, stratification, ...)
- Social work (incl. poverty, social planning, social policy, child welfare, community development,...)
- Demography
- Development studies (incl. community development, public health, social policy, ...)
- Environmental studies



# What is geographic information system (GIS)?

- GIS is a system designed to capture, store, manipulate, analyze, manage, and present all types of spatial or geographical data
- GIS allows us to view, understand, question, interpret, and visualize data in many ways that reveal spatial relationships, patterns & trends in the form of digital

maps, globes, reports and charts.







# GIS helps answer basic questions:

- Where is it?
- What else is nearby?
- Where is the highest concentration of 'X'?
- Where can I find things with characteristic 'Y'?
- Where is the closest 'Z' to my location?





GPS-Global Positioning System









## Satellite tracking



http://www.seaturtle.org



## Satellite tracking





#### www.ou.edu.vn

#### http://www.seaturtle.org



# Why GIS is unique?

- GIS integrates Spatial (map data) and their non-spatial (attribute information) into one "system" that allows the user to <u>interact</u> with both aspects simultaneously.
- It stores information about the world as a <u>collection of</u> <u>thematic layers</u> that are linked together through georeferencing

Clear







# 2. Applications of GIS in some branches within the social sciences

# **Three views of GIS**





### 1. GIS as GEOdatabase Before GIS: scattered geographic information



**Descriptive attributes** 



Map



### **Descriptive attributes**







### **Descriptive attributes**



Мар



**UỜNG ĐẠI HỌC MỔ TP. HCM** hội học tập cho mọi người





# • **Geodatabase:** a spatial database containing data that associate with geographic information



## 2. GIS as GeoVisualisation Starbucks vs. Dunkin Donuts







# 3. GIS as spatial analyst

• **Geoprocessing:** a set of tools take geographic information from existing data, apply spatial analysis functions to identify patterns or discover knowledge.





Locations of tobacco billboards and public schools in St Louis city-a buffer analysis (Luke et al., 2000)



 Public school (radius 0.5 miles)

#### W



### Concentric ring buffer zones around Alleygated areas in Mersey side – buffer zone analysis



- Crime counts
- Property counts
- Burglary rate

www.ou.edu.vn

Source: Young et al. (2003).



# Challenges/Limitations

- Availability, accessibility and appropriateness of GIS infrastructure (human resources, hardware, software, data, skills,...)
- Willing users





# Mapping for Analysis, Policy & Decision Making



### Mapping rates: divorced relative to married





## Youth police contacts in Riverside





## Fire hazard rating

- 0

23

X

Legend Vertical Mapper Window Help

#### Ēkā pērs 🗉 🖬 🖬 🖬 🖬 🖬 🖉 🔇 ↔ 🗲 🕅 🗖 🗛 🖉 🖓 🔧 🖄 🗛 🖉 🖉 ↔ 🗲 📡

San Diego County Fire Hazard Areas





# Planning and projections: multiple variable map for decision making



# Maps for school planning: children aged 5-17 in Riverside, 2000; areas with large no of children





# Areas of growth ( $\uparrow$ ) or Decline ( $\downarrow$ ) in school age children (1990–2000) – a two-variable map





# Large populations of children, growth and few schools- a multi-variable map for planning/policy





# School children impacted by Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi





## HIV infected rate in Africa







# Immigration and unemployment 2004 in the US





### Progress monitoring



TRƯỜNG ĐẠI HỌC MỞ TP. HCM

hội học tập cho mọi người





### Map of the provincial poverty rates





### The provincial poverty incidence over 1999-2006





### Spending patterns in Spain during Easter 2011 in Spain (see video)





### Google earth and other maps e.g. soil map





### Space – time GIS

### A week-long individual mobility path in a city





# **Spatial econometrics**

- Developed from early 1970s
- A subarea of econometrics that offers an alternative approach where traditional methodologies are inappropriate
- A spatial econometrician may ask Why household income is higher in some regions of the country than others.



### Spatial regression (SR)– A spatial analysis technique

- Spatial regression (SR) is a global spatial modeling technique in which spatial autocorrelation among the regression parameters are taken into account (Duzgun and Kemec, 2008).
- Often spatial relationships are ignored → weakens our ability to generate meaningful inferences about the processes being studied.
- Spatial data are often:
  - spatially autocorrelated (features near each other are more similar than those further away)
  - Non-stationary (features behave differently based on their location/regional variation)



# Spatial regression (con't)

 Used in many areas, such as business, defense, education, health and human services, natural resources, and public safety, SR helps answer *why* questions.



Example 1 – Socio-geographical factors in vulnerability to dengue in Thai villages (Tipayamongkhogul & Lisakulruk, 2011)

- Ordinary linear model used
- **DV**: cumulative degue incidence
- IV: 10 socio-geographic variables e.g. average number of persons per house, number of houses in a village, distance from a village to the nearest urban area, number of factories, number of schools within a 5-km radius of a village, distance from a village to the nearest school, to the nearest health centre, to the nearest urban area, to the nearest well, to the nearest factory, and to the nearest road.
- Results: Average number of persons per house, and distance from a village to the nearest urban area are predictors of DV





# Example 2 – Income inequality, disadvantage and homicide (Wang & Arnold, 2008)

- Routine activity, strain and social disorganisation theories used
- DV: homicide rate in Chicago
- IVs: 11 variables incl. black residents, families below the poverty line, families receiving public assistance, female-headed households with children under 18, unemployment, residents who moved in the last 5 years, renter-occupied homes, residents without high-school diplomas, households with an average of more than one person per room, Latino residents and localised income inequality index.
- Factor analysis was used to consolidate 11 IVs into 3 factors: concentrated disadvantage, concentrated Latino immigration, and residential instability.
- Concentrated disadvantage was found a strong predictor of homicide rates.



### Homicide rates and concentrated disadvantage





# GIS in program evaluation

- Used to provide cross-sectional, snapshots of data
- Used to plot change over time, incl. impact and outcome data.





### Example: FitNow program

- A: program sites
- B: Program capacity and adolescent concentration, per 2010 US Census



above 12%

Source: Azzam and Robinson (2013).







- A, Baseline body mass index (BMI) scores.
- B, Change in BMI between Times 1 and 2

Source: Azzam and Robinson (2013).



- A, Change in BMI scores for females.
- B, Change in BMI scores for males





Source: Azzam and Robinson (2013).



### Source: Azzam and Robinson (2013).



# 3. GIS softwares, benefits of GIS, implementation conditions



# Top benefits of GIS

- Improved communication & intuitive tool map & data visualisation (instead of reading & analysing MANY pages of text report)
- Better decision making location (site selection, zoning, planning,...)
- Better geographic information recordkeeping e.g. land/area ownership, administrative boundaries,...
- Managing geographically e.g. land use, crime, distribution of resources, ...



# Các phần mềm GIS thương mại

- MapGuide
- Microstation
- ArcGIS
- MapInfo
- Intergraph
- ENVI
- ..



## Các phần mềm GIS mã nguồn mở (freeware)

- GRASS
- JUMP GIS
- PostGIS
- •

. . .

 QGIS (version 1.6): cấu hình RAM = 1GB, Win XP hoặc mới hơn, 1.6GHz processor là đủ





Tại sao GIS cho sinh viên, nhà nghiên cứu, nhà quản lý?

- Hiểu biết và sử dụng được công nghệ GIS sẽ giúp tăng hiệu quả công việc của sinh viên, các nhà nghiên cứu, thực hành, quản lý, ...
- Riêng đối với sinh viên, GIS giúp làm tăng giá trị gia tăng (value-add), và tính thực hành của sinh viên khi ra trường → tăng tính cạnh tranh trong đào tạo (gồm tăng khả năng tìm việc làm của sinh viên).



# Vậy các điều kiện để triển khai GIS?



- ✓ Con người
- ✓ Software
- ✓ Data
- ✓ Hardware
- ✓ Approaches



# Thank you for your attention!