ESRI* Object Models; Data Capture

* Environmental Systems Research Institute

Attributes of Condrey_samples_NAD27

FID	Shape*	Id	Number	NAD27_East	NAD27North
0	Point	0	230	490921	4636832
1	Point	0	123	491124	4637700
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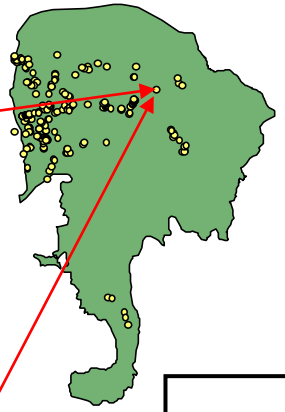
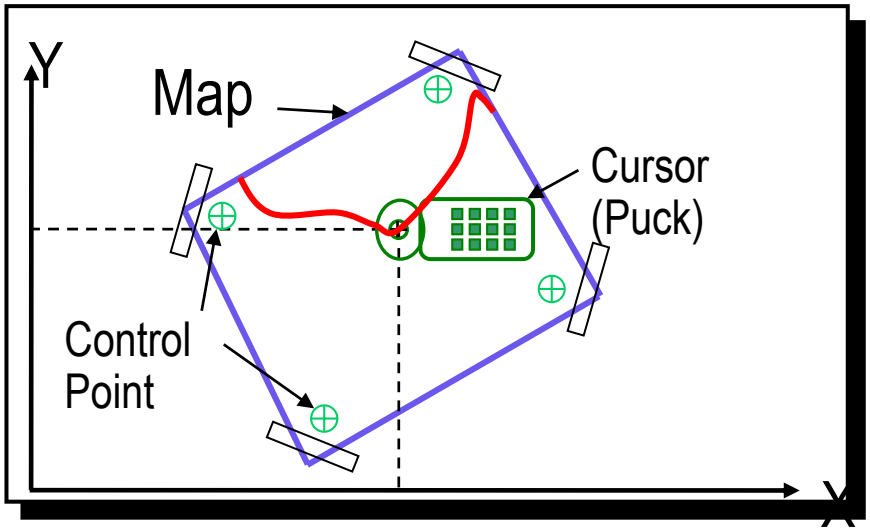
5	Point	0	127	492872	4639489
6	Point	0	128	492963	4639515

Feature Class (spatial table)



Number	Age_Ma	1_sigma	Rx_Type	Size_kg
123	142	1.5	B_schist	3.4
124	136	2.0	G_schist	1.3
125				

Object Class (nonspatial table)



Conceptual Models

Characterized all features or phenomena as:

- Discrete objects; e.g. wells, roads, rock bodies, etc.
  - ***Object-based models*** 
- Continuous phenomena; e.g. gravity, topography, temperature, snowfall, soil pH, etc.
  - ***Field-based models***

Outline

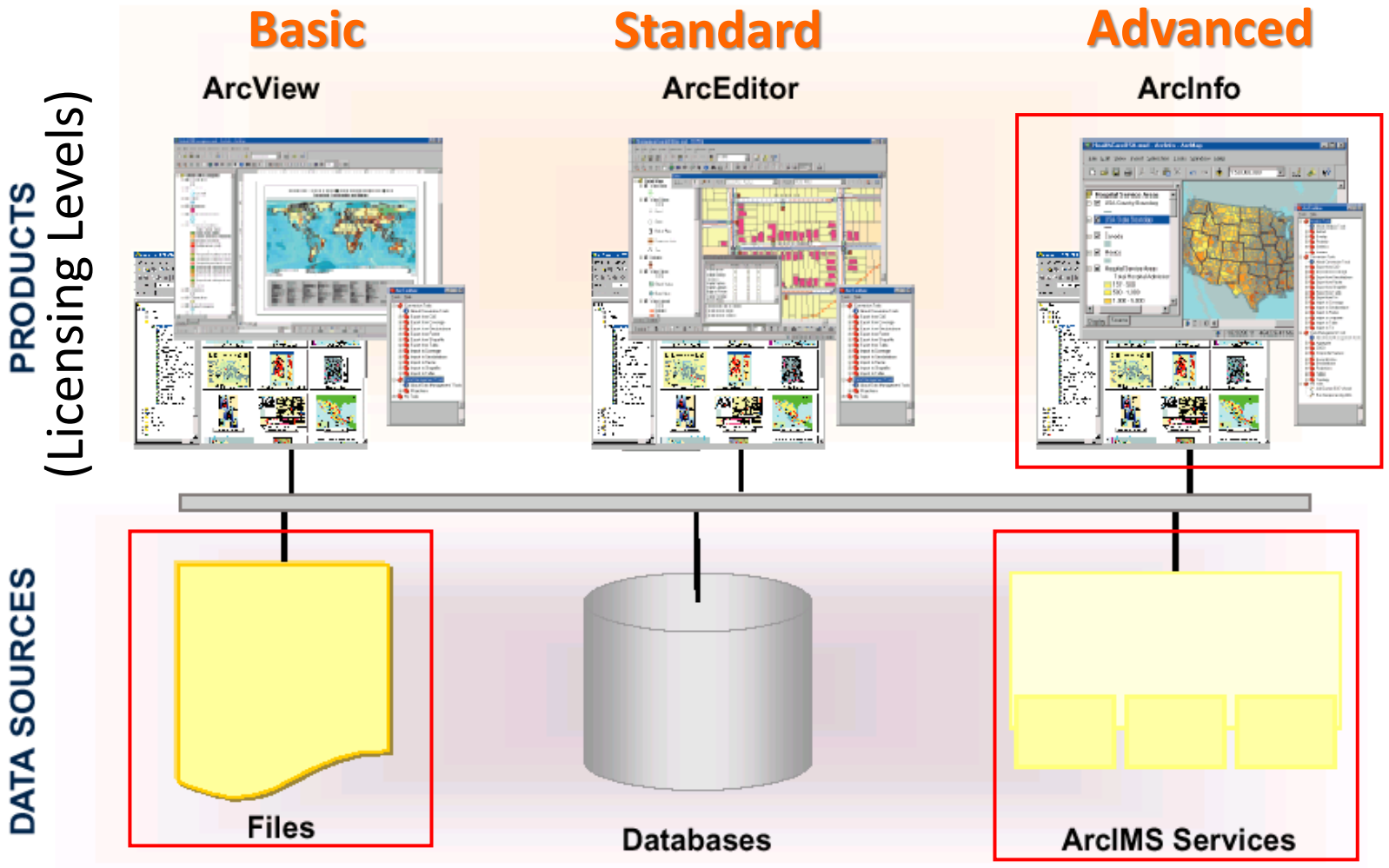
- ESRI Software Family
- ESRI Object Data Models
  - History
  - Data Organization – Physical Models
    - Coverage
    - Shapefile
    - Geodatabase
- Data Capture
  - Digitizing
    - “Heads Down”
    - “Heads Up”
  - Building Topology

ESRI = Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc.

Some ESRI History…

ESRI	Arc/Info	ArcView	ArcGIS Desktop	ArcGIS Pro
Date	1980-1999	1993-1999	2000 – 2025 (not supported after 2025)	2015-present
Versions	1-7	1–3.2	8.0 – 10.8	1.0-2.8
Data Model	Coverage	Shapefile	Geodatabase	Cloud, Geodatabase
O.S.	Unix, PC DOS	Windows	Windows	Windows
Scripting Language	Arc Macro Language (AML)	Avenue Scripting	~~Vis. Basic for Appl. (VBA),~~ Python	Python
Database Software	Proprietary; Arc Tables	DBase	M.S. Access, ArcSDE for Oracle, etc.	M.S. SQL, Oracle, PostgreSQL, etc.

ArcGIS Desktop



ArcGIS Licensing Levels

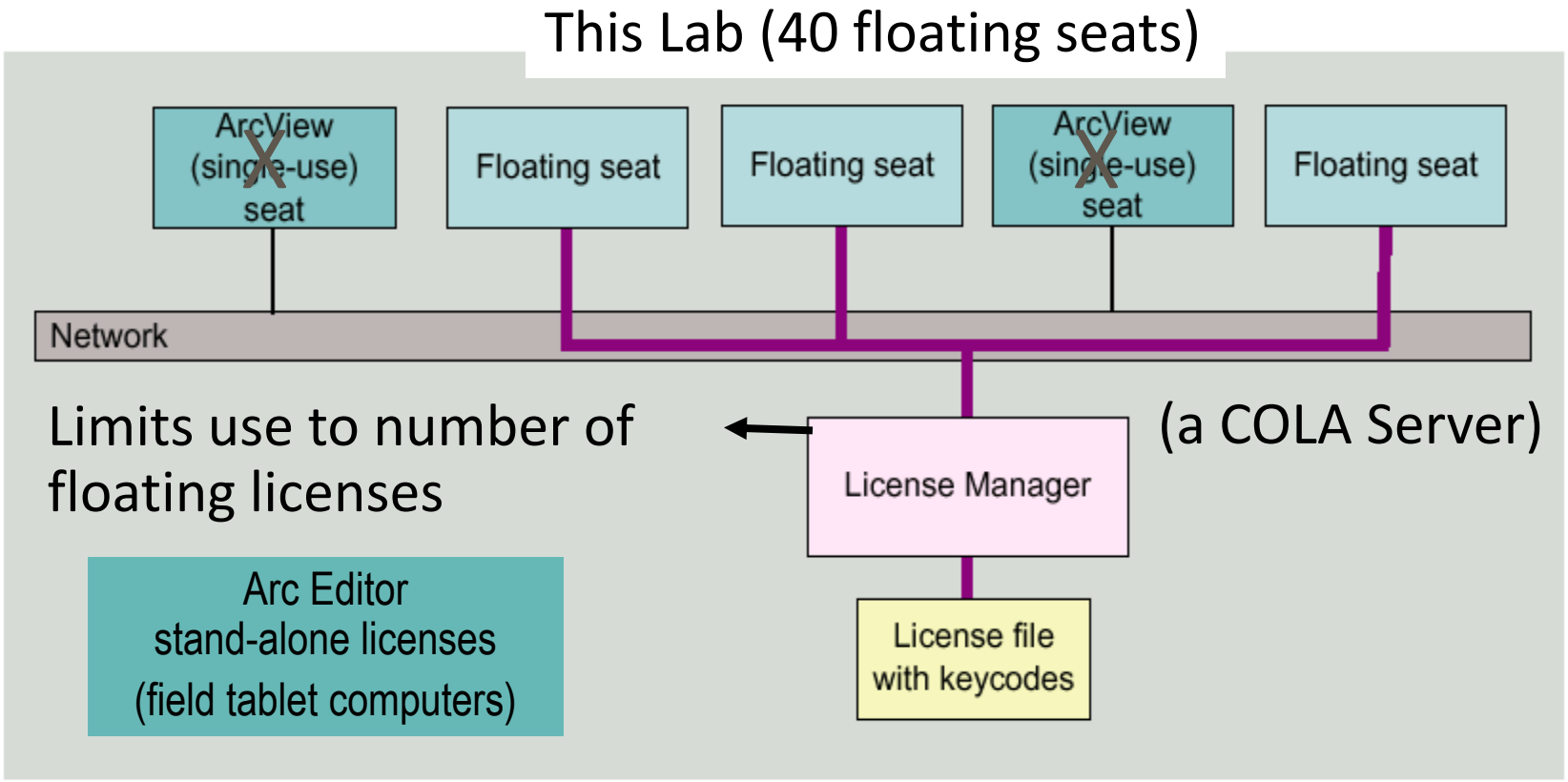
- Basic – Entry level; make maps, do queries, some spatial analysis, some editing (shapefiles, personal geodatabases) – included with GTK ArcGIS Desktop
- Standard – midlevel; advanced editing, multi-user geodatabases; more tools in toolbox
- Advanced – full functionality; control of "all aspects of data building, modeling, analysis and map display *UT D.G.S. licenses*

ArcGIS Extensions

	ArcView, ArcEditor, and ArcInfo		ArcInfo only
ArcGIS Spatial Analyst	• Advanced raster modeling • ARC GRID calculator with ARC GRID algebra • VBA for raster analysis	+	• ARC GRID program in ArcInfo Workstation • ARC GRID commands in Arc program
ArcGIS 3D Analyst	• ArcScene™–real-time interactive three-dimensional scenes • Scene views in ArcCatalog • Three-dimensional modeling tools • ARC TIN tools	+	• ARC TIN™ commands in Arc program • Surfacescene command
Geostatistical Analyst	• Advanced kriging and surface modeling • Exploratory spatial data analysis tools • Probability, threshold, and error mapping		

Others available: Network, Tracking, Survey, Maplex, (ERDAS Image Analyst)

Licensing and “Floating Seats”

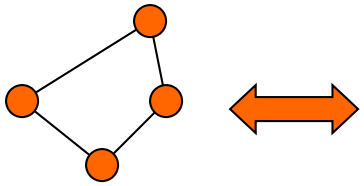


ESRI Data Models

- **Topologic:**
  - ArcInfo - Coverage
  - ArcInfo ".EOO" – export format for coverage
  - ArcGIS - Geodatabase
- **Non-Topologic:**
  - ArcView (legacy) - Shapefile

Early ESRI Data Models

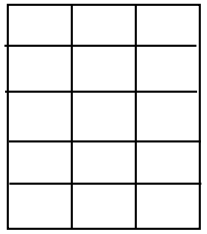
Spatial Data



Arc

Geographic coordinates and attributes are stored in **separate** but linked files

Aspatial Data



Info

- **Coverage**
  - Developed for workstation Arc/Info ~ 1980
  - Complex structure, proprietary format
  - Attributes in Info tables
- **Shapefile**
  - Developed for ArcView ~ 1993
  - Simpler structure in public domain
  - Attributes in dBase (.dbf) tables

Slide courtesy of D. Maidment

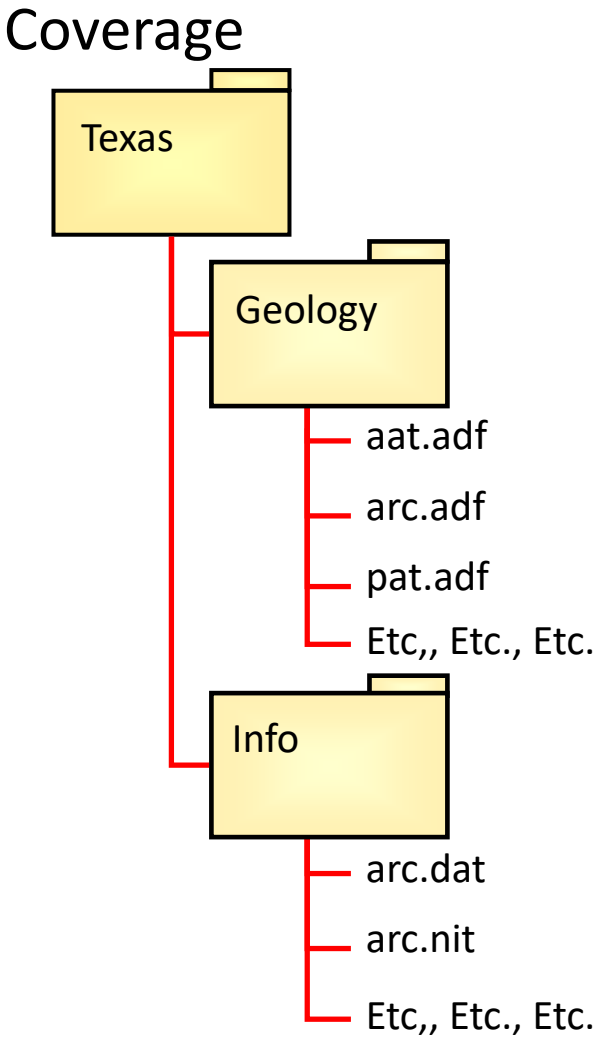
Data Organization

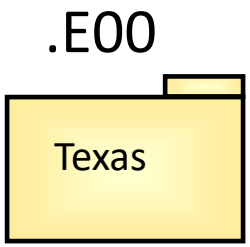
- **Coverage**
  - Data split between coverage and INFO *folders*
  - Common boundaries between polygons stored once
  - Topology explicitly stored
    - Planar graph maintained

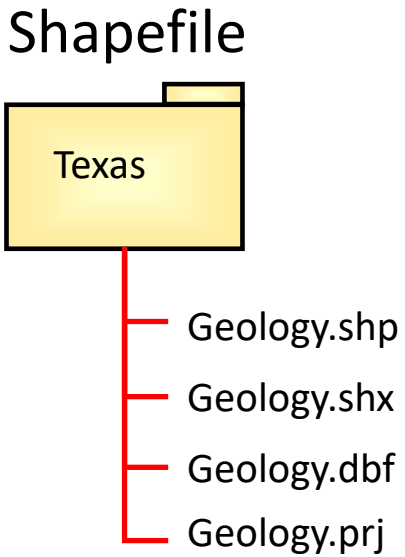
As in previous lecture

- **Shapefile**
  - Data divided among three or more *files* (.shp, .shx, .dbf, .sbx, .sbn, et al.)
  - Common boundaries between polygons stored twice
  - Topology created on-the-fly
    - Planar graph not required

Folder/File Organization



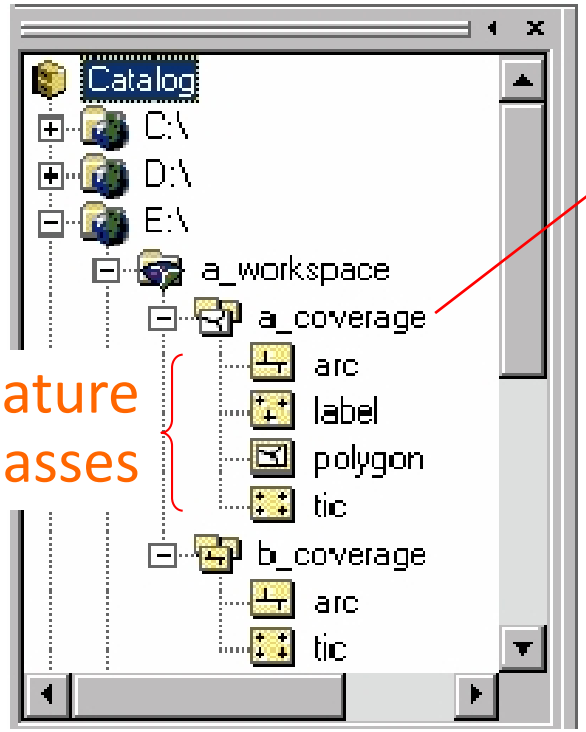




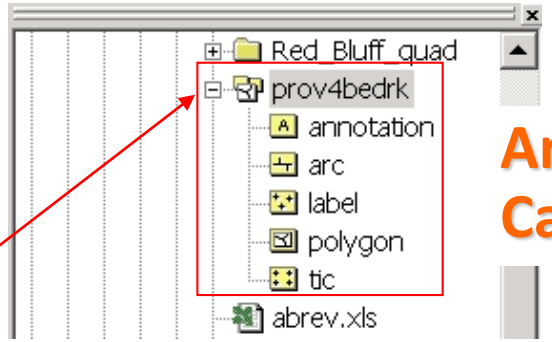
- One feature shape (as points OR lines OR polygons) per file = "**SHAPEFILE**"
- Many related features (as points AND lines AND polygons) per file = "**COVERAGE**"

Data Organization:
Coverage in Windows Explorer and ArcCatalog

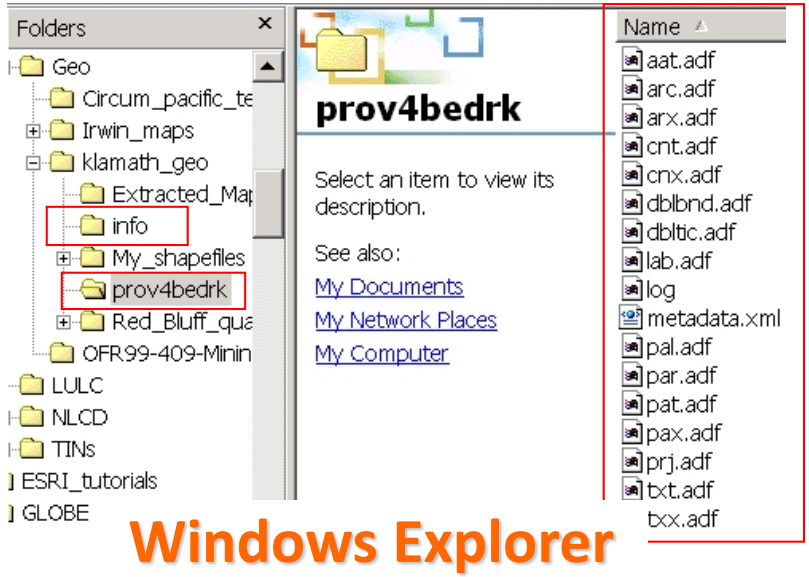
- ArcCatalog:
  Workspace>Coverage>
  Feature Class



Feature Classes



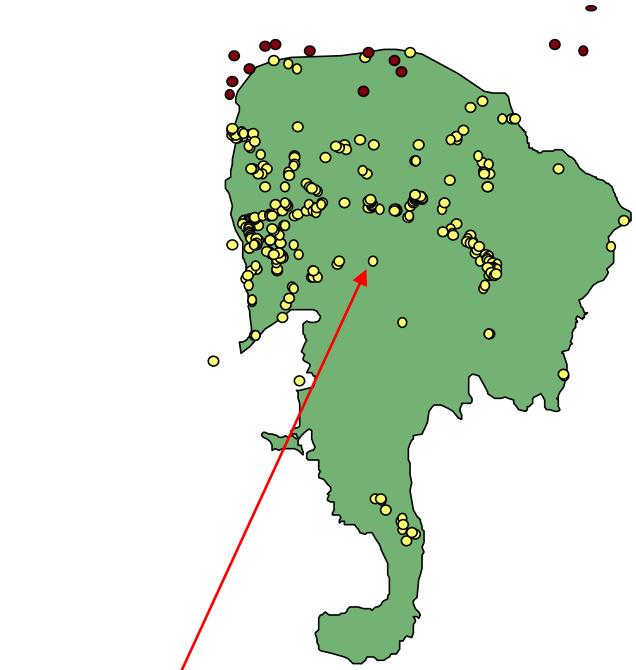
Arc Catalog



Windows Explorer

Feature Class

- A collection of geographic objects with the same geometry (i.e. point, line, polygon) that share the same attributes.
- A shapefile contains one feature class
- A coverage can contain many feature classes



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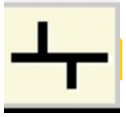
Sample location (points) Feature Class

ArcInfo Coverage

- An integrated, homogeneous set of feature classes (pts., lines, polygons) stored together
- Feature classes unified by a theme, e.g. hydro
  - Spatial (coordinate) data stored in binary files;
  - Attributes and topologic data stored in INFO tables
  - Stored within a “Workspace”

ArcInfo Coverages can contain:

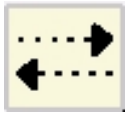
- Primary feature classes:
  -  Points, with attributes in PAT (point attribute table)
  -  Nodes, with attributes in NAT
  -  Arcs, with attributes in AAT
  -  Polygons, with interior label points and attributes in PAT

Coverages feature classes can contain:

- Secondary features:

Tics – registration points for digitized data

Annotations – text for map



Links – vectors used for adjusting local area to known locations (spatial adjustment)

Coverages can also contain:

- Composite features:

Routes – collections of Arcs with measurement system

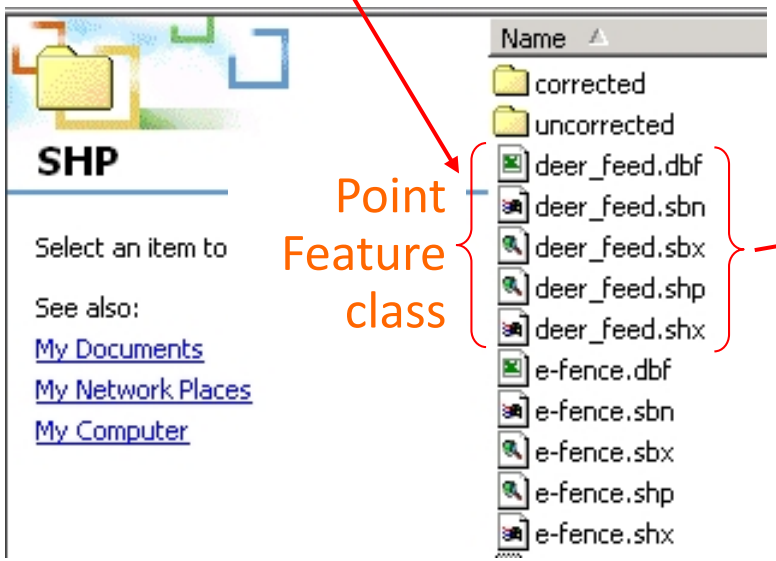
Regions – collections of polygons; adjacent, noncontiguous or overlapping

Shapefile format

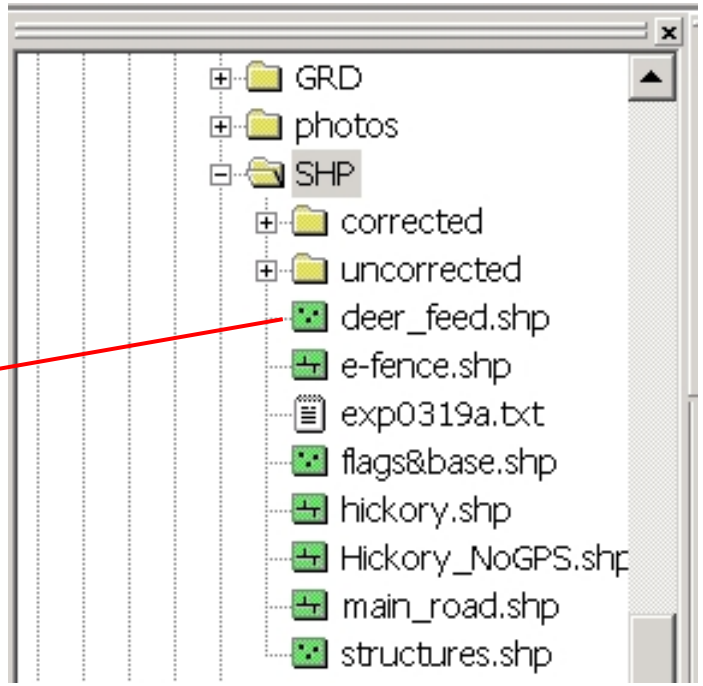
- Simpler than coverage; doesn't store topology
- Feature classes stored independently i.e. points, lines and polys. stored in physically separated files (e.g. no shared INFO table)
- For each type, spatial data stored in a .shp file, attribute data in a .dbf table.
- "Null" or "No Data" numerical values not supported in attribute tables

Shapefiles in ArcCatalog/Explorer

- Folder / Shapefile
- Three or more files per feature class



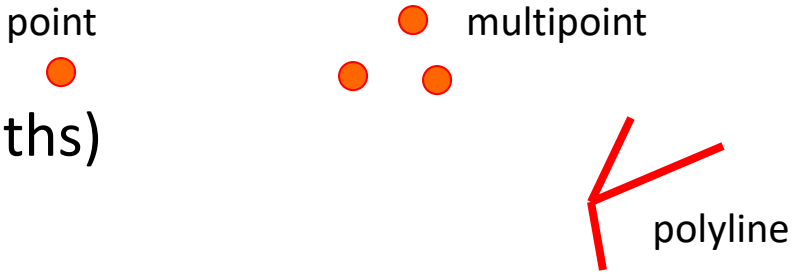
Window Explorer



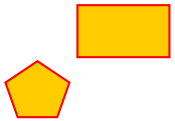
ArcCatalog

Shapefile feature class types:

- Point, Multipoint
- Polyline (line with several paths)
- Polygon



Ring – closed, nonintersecting path – simple poly.



Disjointed Rings – multiple polygons define feature

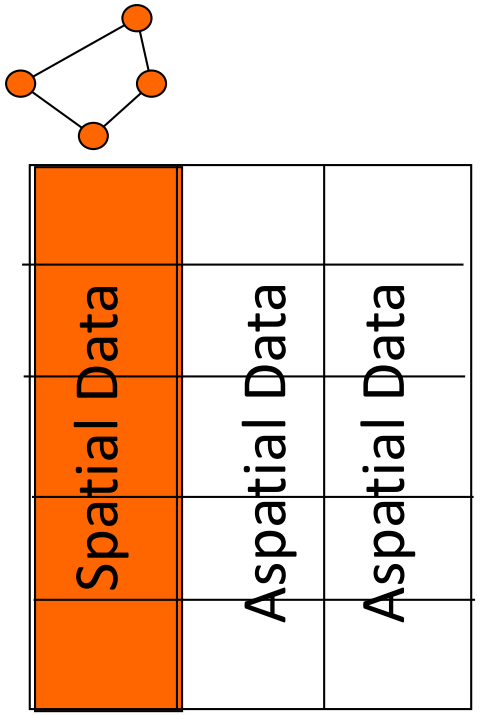
Nested Rings – “Island” or “Atoll” polygons

Shapefile Topology

- Shapefiles don't store information about adjacency
- Topology is generated on the fly – vertices stored in systematic fashion to deal with containment and adjacency
- *Planar enforcement can be broken by editing – not required in structure of shapefile*
- But…tools available to maintain planar enforcement when digitizing in heads-up mode

Geodatabase Model

- Stores geographic coordinates as one of many attribute in a relational database table; no separation between aspatial and spatial data, as in earlier models
- Uses MS Access for "Personal Geodatabase" (single user)
- Uses Oracle, DB2 or other commercial relational databases for "Enterprise GIS" (many simultaneous users).



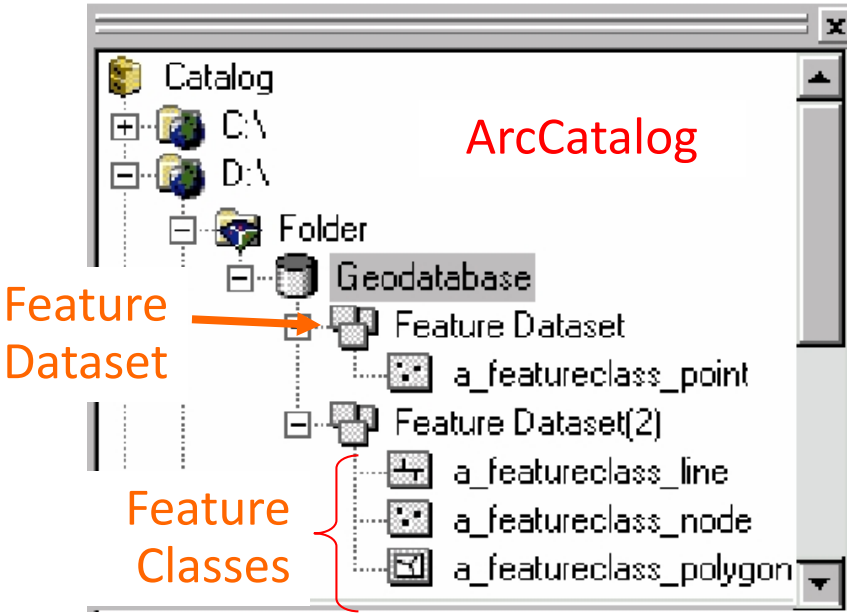
Slide courtesy of D. Maidment

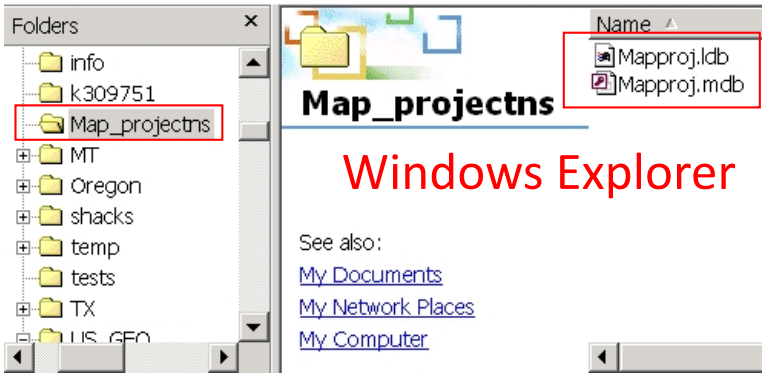
Geodatabase Model

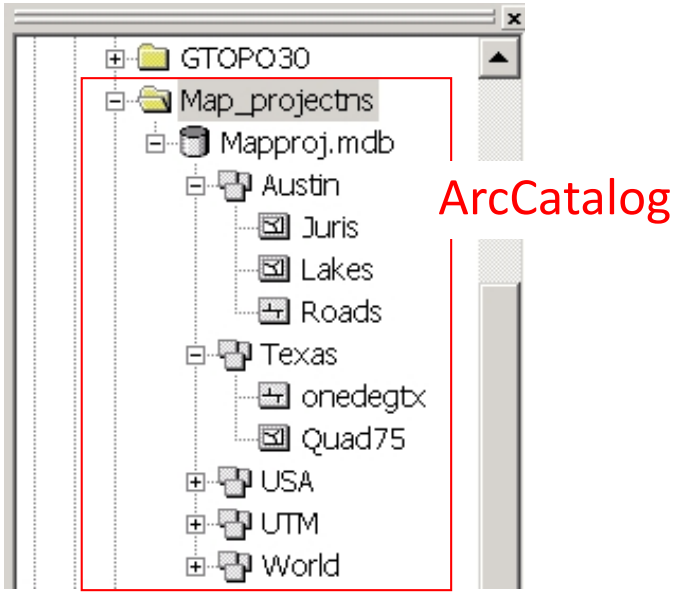
- Data structure capable of storing objects with behaviors and relationships, not merely graphical shapes with topology and attributes
- All spatial and attribute data for a feature are stored in a row of a single table
- A Geodatabase is a top-level container for feature classes, coverages, shapefiles, rasters, et al. (more later) – ALL DATA CAN BE IN ONE CONTAINER AND ARE THUS PORTABLE

Geodatabases in ArcCatalog/Windows Explorer

- Geodatabase/Feature Dataset/ Feature Class







Feature classes in Geodatabase include:

- Points, Multipoints (groups of points)
- Lines
- Polygons

Plus ….

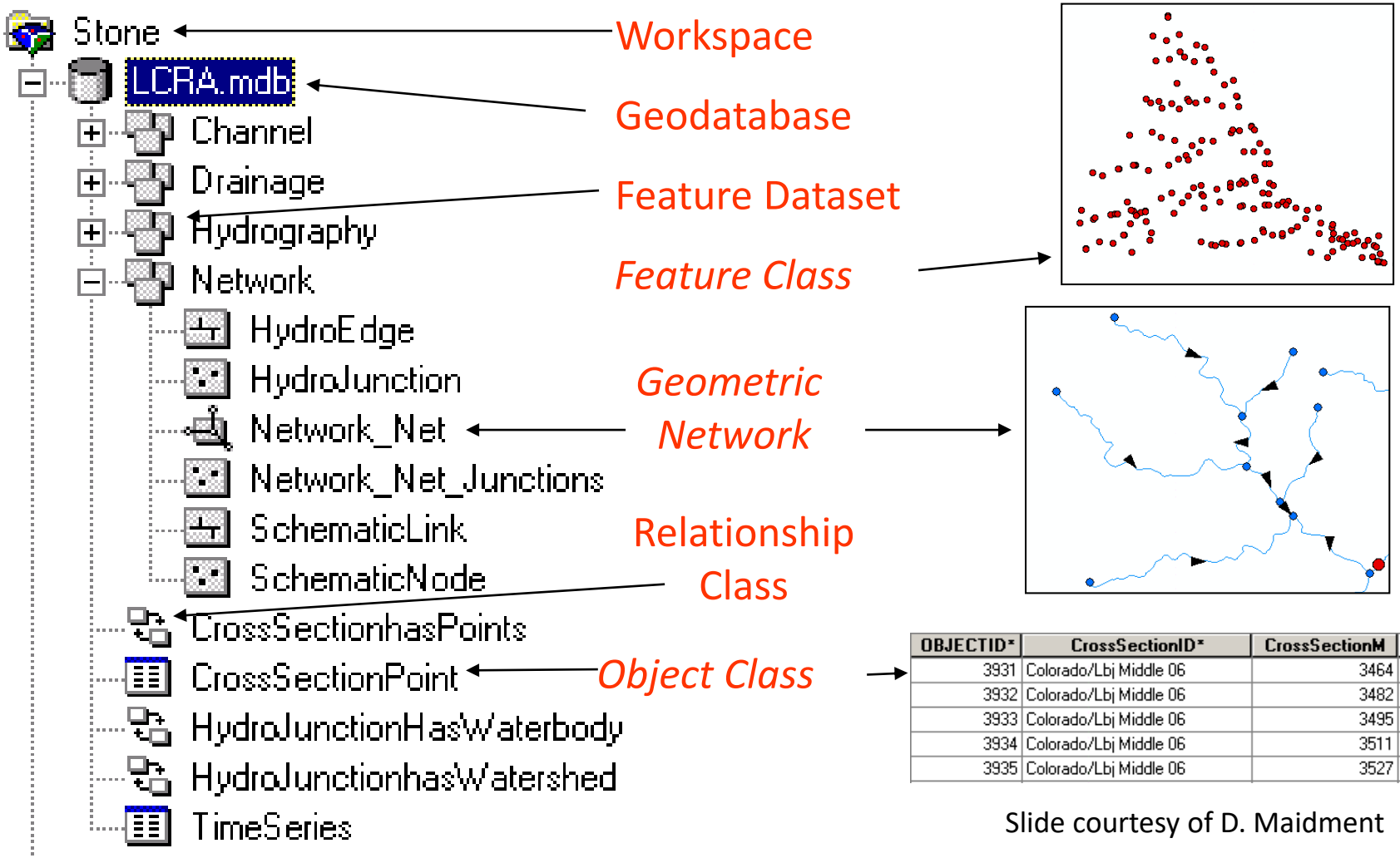
- Network Junctions (special Nodes)
- Network Edges

For geometric networks

Plus other classes

- Relationship classes
- Object Classes – tabular data without geography

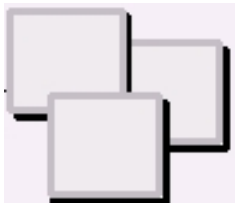
ArcGIS Geodatabase



OBJECTID*	CrossSectionID*	CrossSectionM	Elevation
3931	Colorado/Lbj Middle 06	3464	801
3932	Colorado/Lbj Middle 06	3482	800
3933	Colorado/Lbj Middle 06	3495	800
3934	Colorado/Lbj Middle 06	3511	799
3935	Colorado/Lbj Middle 06	3527	799

Slide courtesy of D. Maidment

Geodatabase *Feature Datasets*



- Set of Feature Classes, some with topologies, *that share the same spatial reference*
- All feature classes with topologies must be stored within a Feature Dataset
- Analogous to coverage

Object Class

- A collection of *nonspatial* objects that share the same attributes and are stored in a table (i.e. a simple table)

Number	Age_Ma	1_sigma	Rx_Type	Size_kg
123	142	1.5	B_schist	3.4
124	136	2.0	G_schist	1.3
125				

Object Class (nonspatial table)

Relationship

- A relationship is an association or link between two objects in a database.
- A relationship can exist between spatial objects (features in feature classes), non-spatial objects (objects in object classes), or *between spatial and non-spatial objects*.

Relationship class

E.g. relationship between spatial and non-spatial objects

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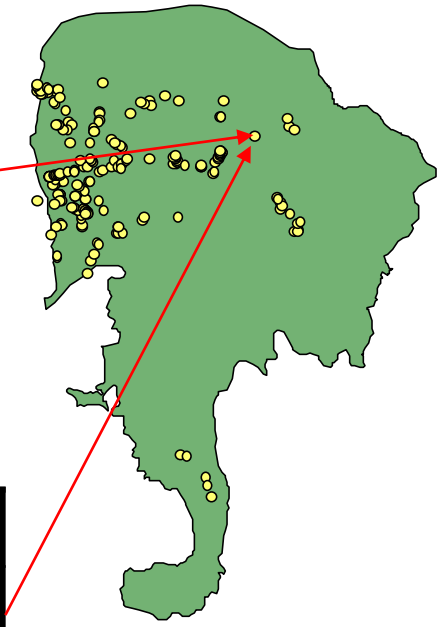

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125				

Object Class (nonspatial table)

Paper Map ➡ Files Of Coordinates

- How are they organized?
  - Data Models, Topology
- How are they stored?
  - Data Organization
- How are coodinates captured?
  - Data Entry, Encoding

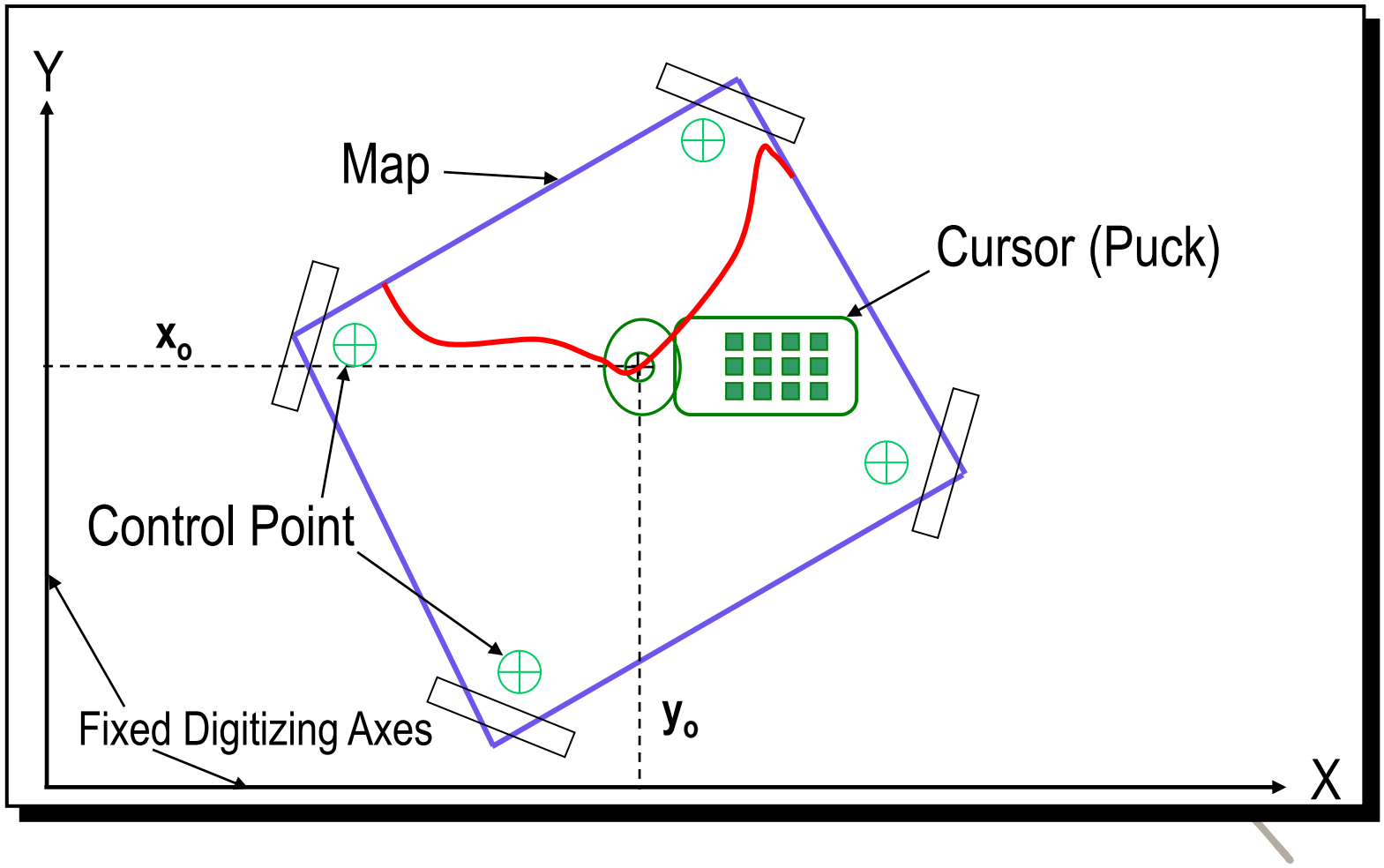
Digitizing is:

- Conversion of spatial data to digital form
  - Lines, points or polygons are traced to record coordinates of their locations
- Term conventionally used to denote the process of creating VECTOR data
  - Scanning produces raster data ("bit maps")
  - But software exists to convert raster to vector so can digitize ("vectorize") scanned images

Digitizing is accomplished via:

- Digitizing table or tablet
  - "heads-down" digitizing
  - Large digitizing table
- A mouse, on screen
  - "heads-up" digitizing
  - Aerial photos, other raster or vector sources as base to digitize from
- Software that converts raster to vector
  - Vectorization – batch or interactive modes, e.g. ArcScan extension

Digitizing table



Digitizing with a tablet involves:

- Digitize 3 reference points – define position of map w.r.t. digitizing table
- Establishing 4 or more control points - distinctive features at known locations that can be used to register the map to ground coordinates (e.g. UTM, lat./lon.) = “georeferencing”
- Separating features as point, line or polygon and tracing them to separate files (themes)
- (Heads-up digitizing starts with georeferencing)

Digitizing strategies governed by:

- Will data be used for queries and analysis or just visual display?
  - i.e.Topology important or not?
  - "True" G.I.S. functionality or not?
- What are accuracy requirements and how much generalization is permitted?

Spaghetti vs. Topologic models

- Spaghetti: Points, lines, polygons and their attributes stored in tables
- Topological:
  - Same, but with corresponding tables of information about what's adjacent or what's within what

“Building Topology”

- Clean: Edit to ensure planar enforcement
  - Remove sliver polygons & gaps between polygons
  - Correct overshoots, undershoots, leaky polygons
- Build: Add topological attributes to spaghetti
  - Manual
  - Automatic
- Digitizing with topology performed in ArcInfo or with tools in ArcToolbox, ArcMap and ArcCatalog
- Changes to polygons or lines affect topological attributes – Strict rules for editing coverages in ArcMap (topology tools available)

Heads-up digitizing

- Decide whether new file will have planar enforcement
- Create new point, line or polygon feature class(es) in ArcCatalog
- Edit feature class(es) to add features and attributes
- Stop editing
- Save edits as part of new feature class