

Reviews

edited by Hedley Knibbs

Geocomputation: A practical primer

Chris Brunsdon and Alex Singleton

London: Sage, 2015

Pb: 369pp, 170x240mm

£35.99, ISBN 978-1-4462-7293-0

Geocomputation: A practical primer provides a thorough introduction to a comprehensive portfolio of key techniques and applications in geospatial analysis. The book offers a diverse assortment of chapters which discuss the most prevalent fields and methods in geocomputation today. Each of contribution is authored by academic specialists who share a common interest in harnessing computing and bespoke software to solve spatial problems.

Geocomputation is perhaps

more relevant today than ever before given that the past decade has seen a resurgence in the popularity of coding languages which have unshackled analysts from the restrictive capacities of conventional GIS packages. Within academia, especially, many developments in geocomputation have utilised open-source software and this book therefore rather appropriately uses such software in most of its demonstrations.

The book presents an eclectic collection of accessible introductions. The contents range from modern adaptations of classic techniques to revolutionary new tools which have been enabled by recent developments in computing. Their applications in solving

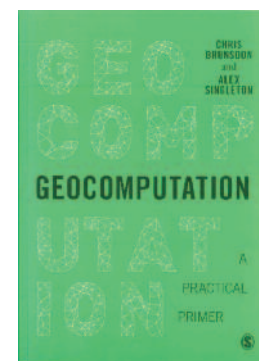
complex real-world problems are well illustrated through case studies which largely focus on modelling the population and their activities. Furthermore, where possible, the authors have included detailed instructions on how to implement the described techniques.

Each contribution is unique and thought provoking, providing a good balance of principles and practices. Given that a very basic understanding of geographical information science is assumed, this primer would make an appropriate recommendation to final year undergraduate and masters level students, or those with a keen interest in developing their skills in spatial analysis.

Guy Lansley

UCL Department of Geography

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GA Annual Conference and Exhibition

Sheffield Hallam University, Thursday 5 – Saturday 7 April 2018

For the theme of the 2018 Annual Conference I would like us to reflect on geography in the real world, and how its application affects our daily lives.

As I write this I am connected to a global network linking the physical, human and virtual worlds: I use a laptop from China powered by electricity generated from various sources; I drink coffee from South America; I track a delivery that tells me I am 'stop 12' in a carefully mapped route; I email this text through an invisible network of servers located around the world.

While we may recognise geography's ubiquity, we need to make young people and the wider public more aware of the role that geographical knowledge and skills play in the real world. This Conference will explore how we can share with a wider audience the real-world geography that surrounds our everyday lives. Whether we like it or not, we are all geographers.

Nick Laphorn,

GA Senior Vice President, 2016–17

Get involved

If you are interested in proposing a session for inclusion in the Conference programme please e-mail Lucy Oxley (loxley@geography.org.uk) before the end of May 2017.



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