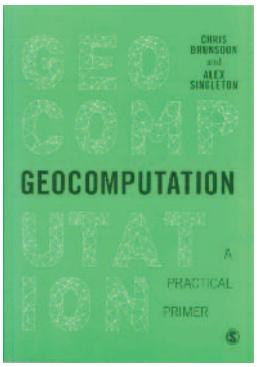
Reviews

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.

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