

Lecture 12

Spatial models and modeling

Wei Wu

April 18, 2019

Models in GIS

A model is a description of reality

It may be:

Dynamic or Static

Dynamic spatial models *e.g., hydrologic flow*

Static spatial models *(or point in time)*
e.g., land suitability analyses

Spatial Models

Focus on computer based models of spatial phenomena

Three classes:

Cartographic models
Simple spatial models
Spatio-temporal models

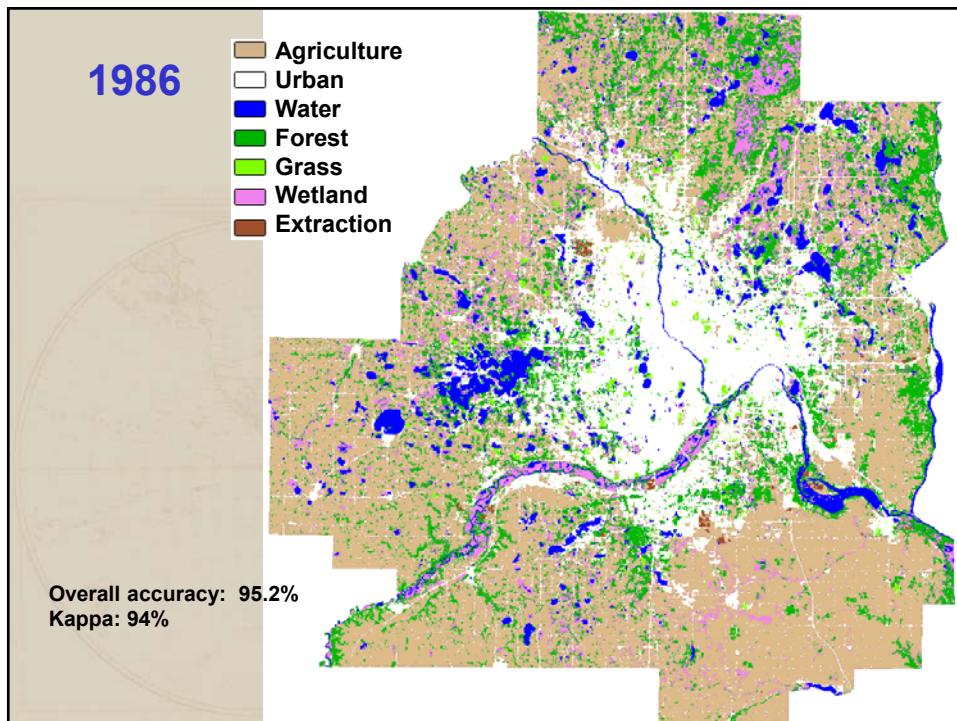
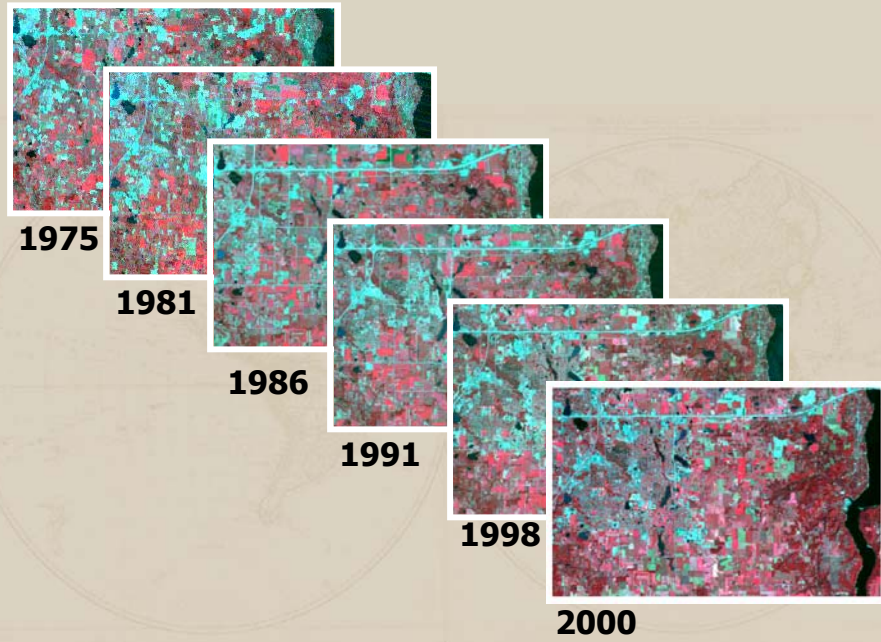
Cartographic models

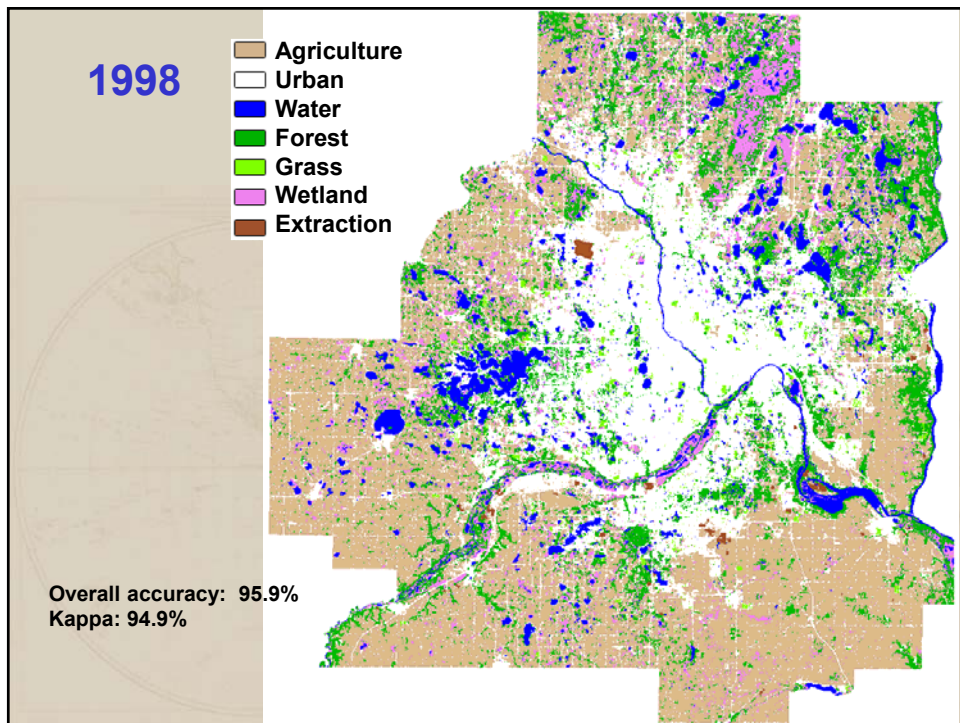
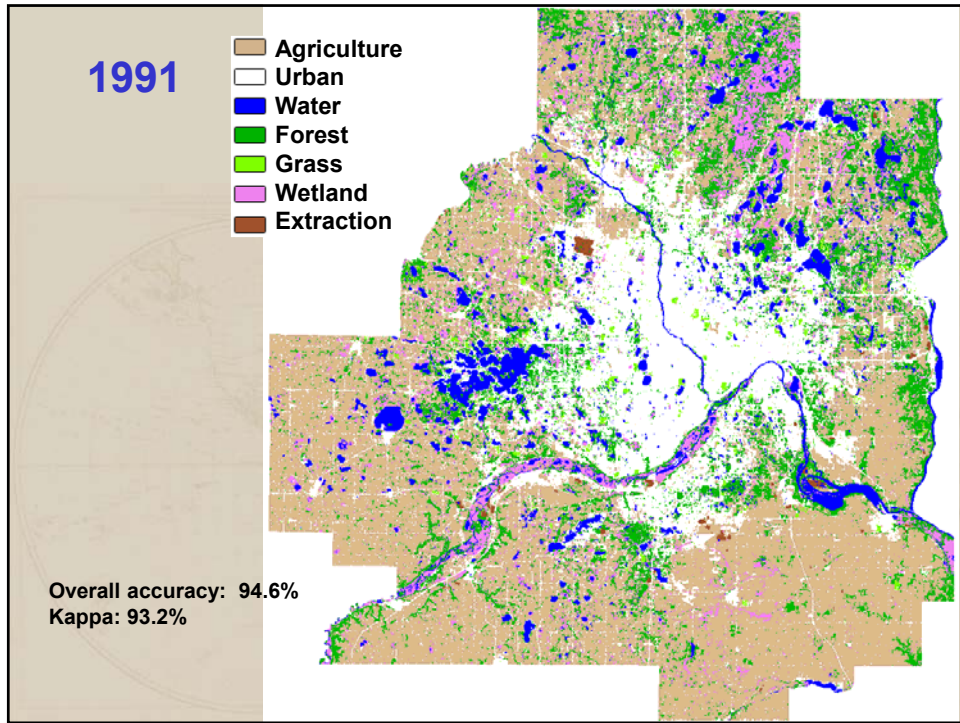
Application of spatial operations such as buffers, interpolation, reclassification, and overlay to solve problems

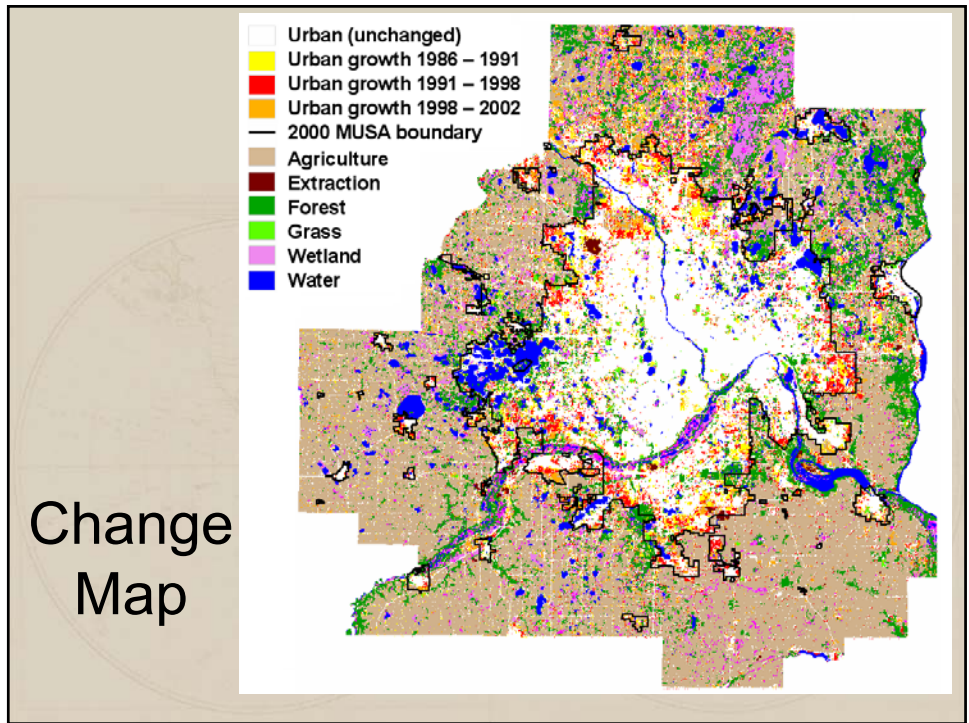
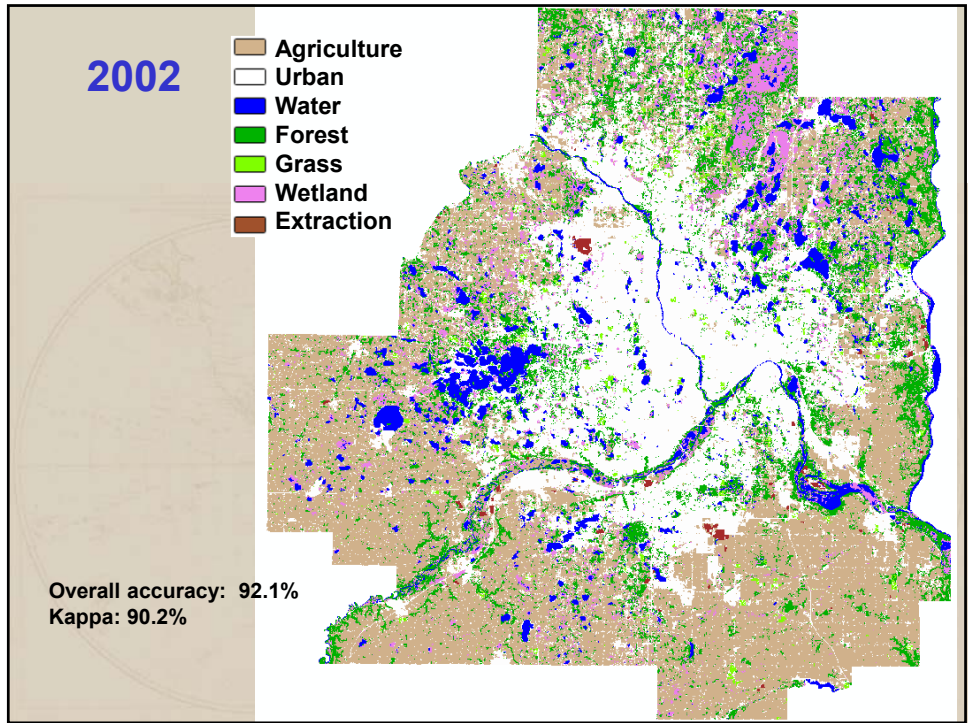
For example, suitability analyses; classification of land according to its utility for a specific use.

- Often temporally static (*features represented at a fixed period of time*)
- Values don't change during the model
- It may include a temporal component when it compares change through time (*comparing vegetation in 1990 to vegetation in 2000*)

Twin Cities Landsat Imagery







Simple spatial model

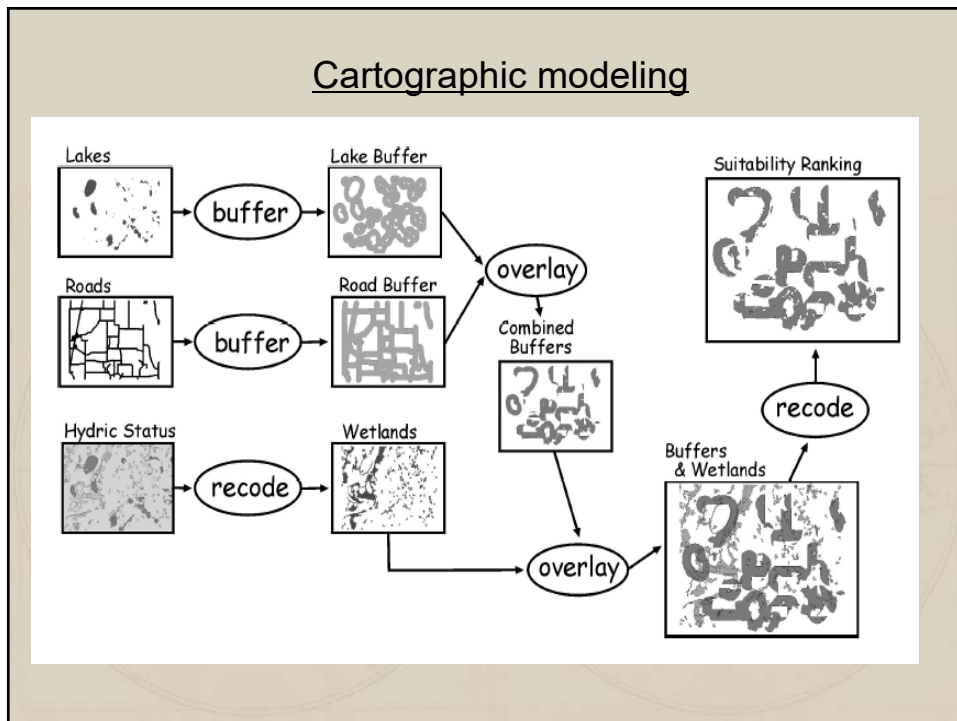
- Apply mathematical equations
- Predictions

Spatio-temporal models

- Dynamic in both space and time
- Time passes explicitly within the running of the model
- Changes in time-driven process operate on spatial variables

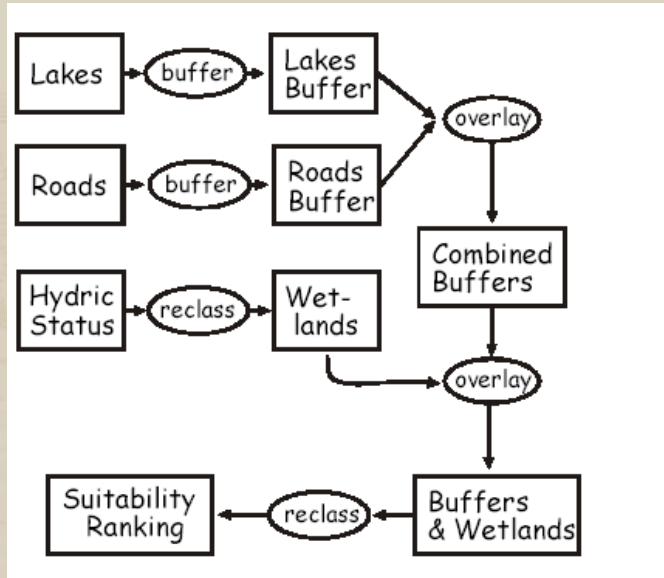
Cartographic modeling

Combine general data sets, functions, and operations in a sequence to answer questions, typically producing an output map from various input maps



Cartographic models

Often represented with flowcharts; graphically representing the spatial data, operations and their sequence

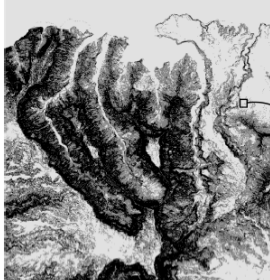


Criterion A layer



2	1	3
2	2	3
1	1	3

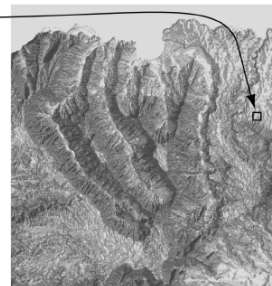
Criterion B layer



5	1	3
6	4	5
2	7	5

$$W_A \cdot 2 + W_B \cdot 4 = \text{suitability layer value}$$

Suitability layer



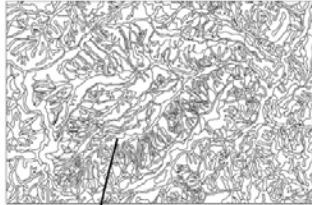
Combinations as an additive process

1

1

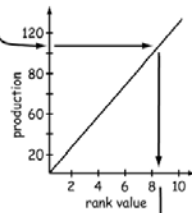
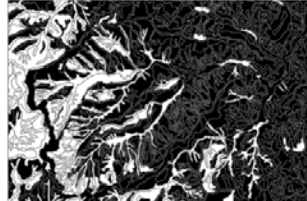
Discrete and Continuous Rankings

Source layer - soil type



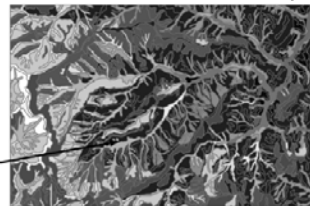
if production < 66 then
rank value = 0
else
rank value = 1

Discrete Rank Layer

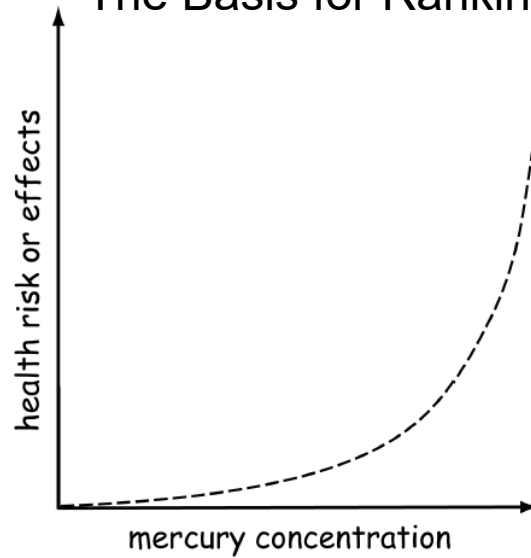


continuous rank may be assigned based on the production - values are scaled linearly between the lowest and highest to assign a rank from 0 to 10

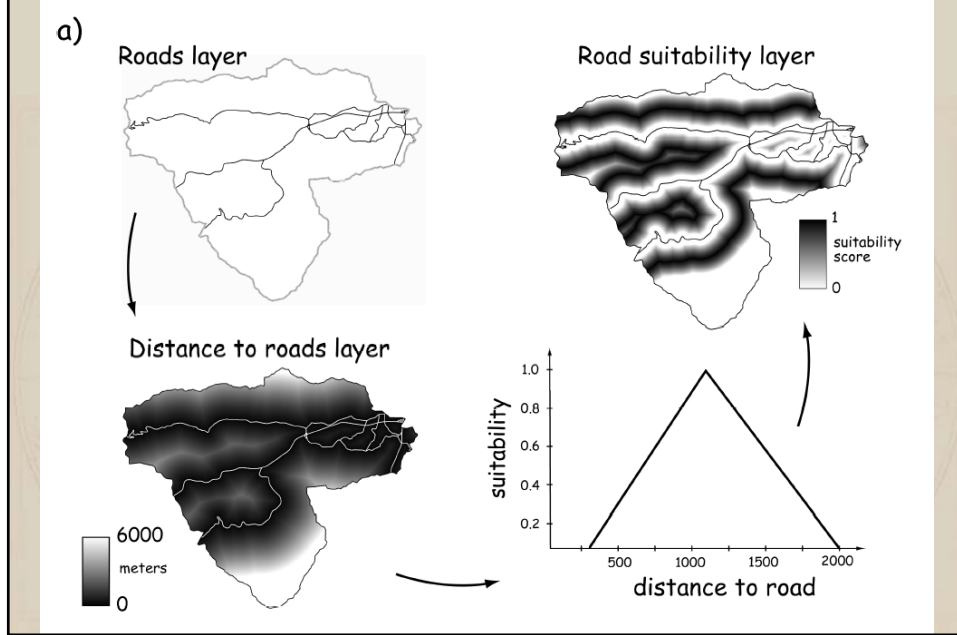
Continuous Rank Layer



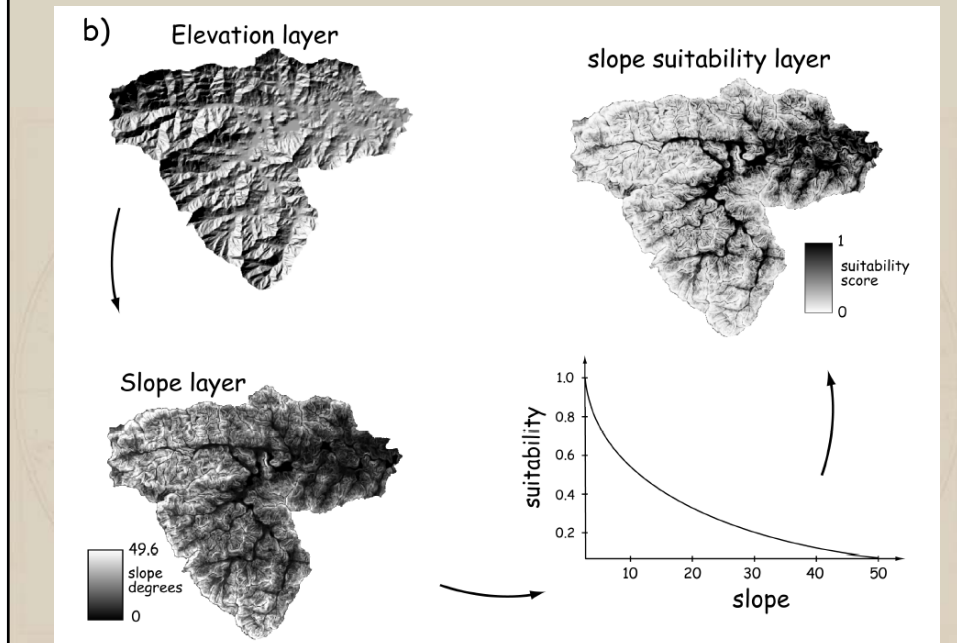
The Basis for Rankings



Example Weightings – Distance to Roads



Example – slope suitability ranking



Criterion A layer

Criterion B layer

Suitability layer

Weightings Among Layers:
How do you combine the rankings from various layers? The relative weights among your input layers will substantially affect the relative suitabilities you predict.

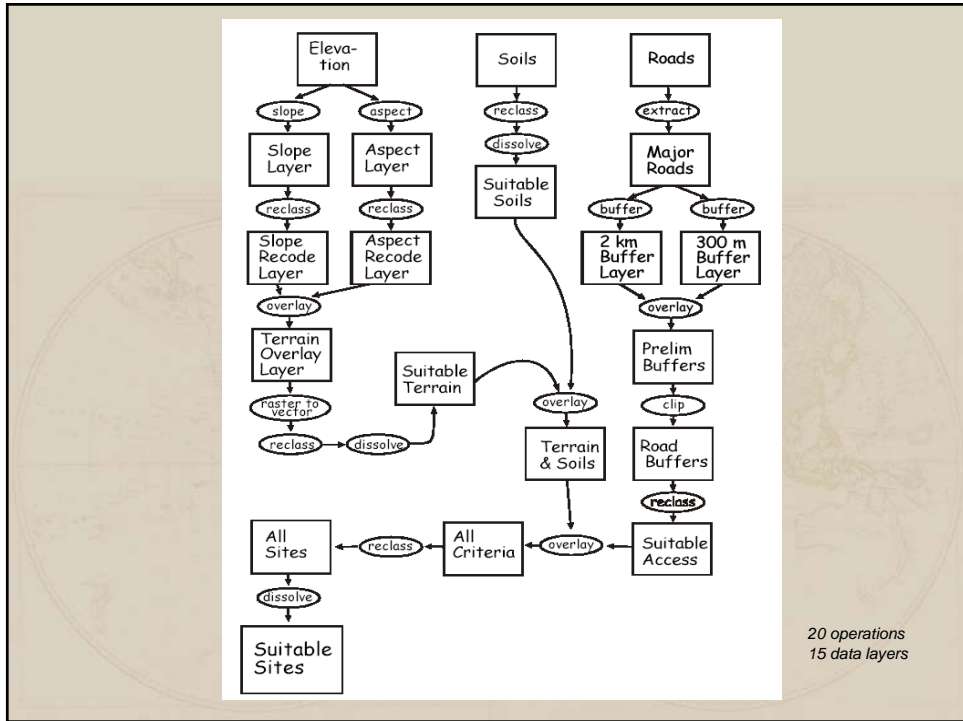
$W_A \cdot 2 + W_B \cdot 4 = \text{suitability layer value}$

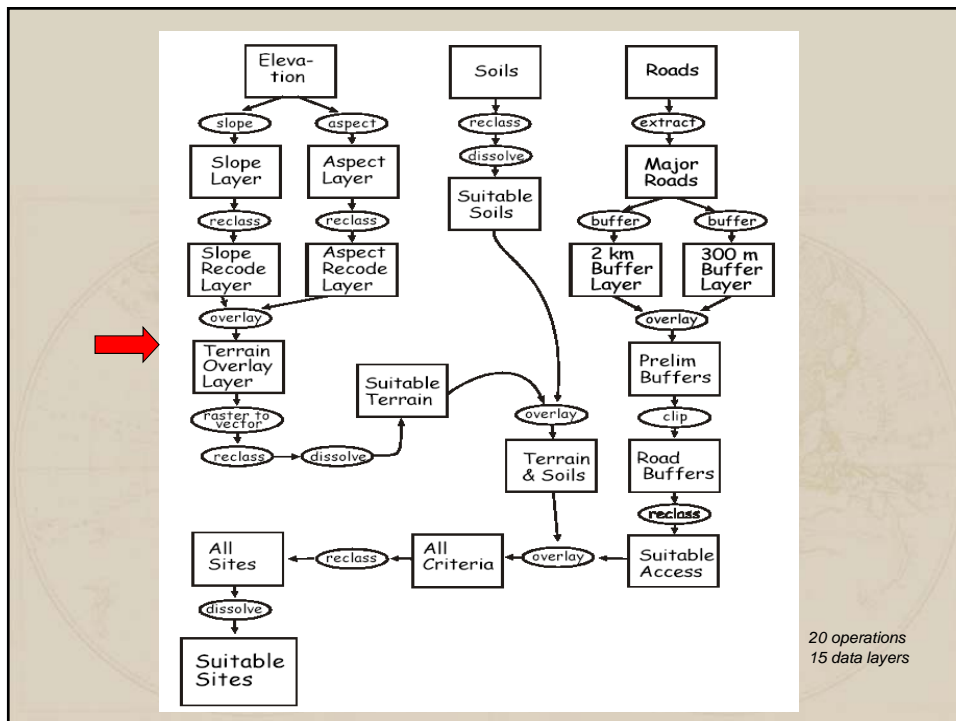
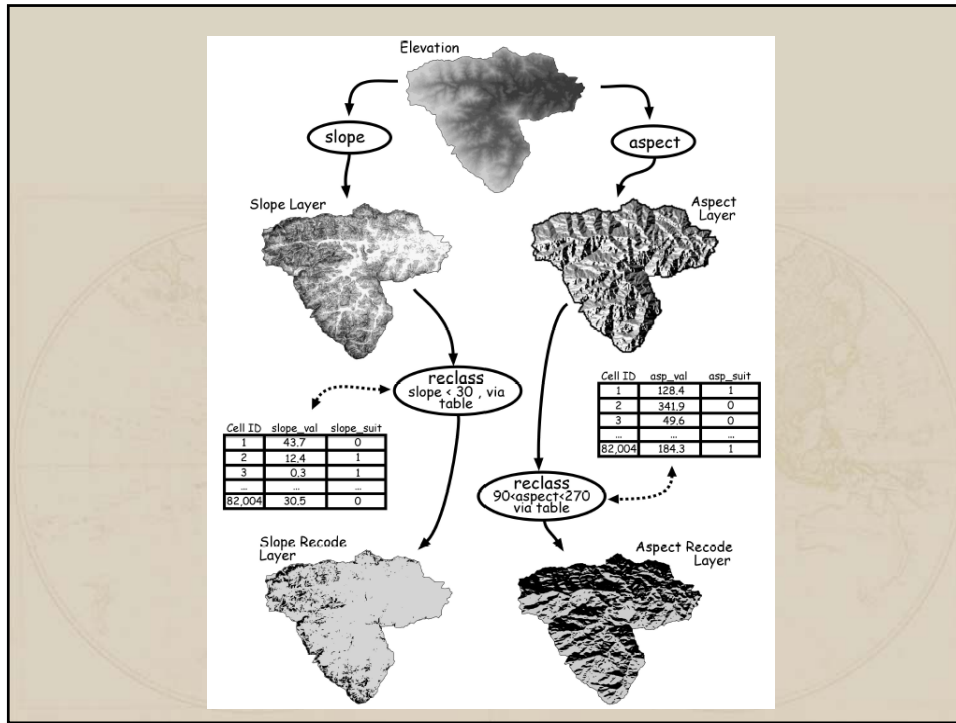
Rank Order Determination of Weights

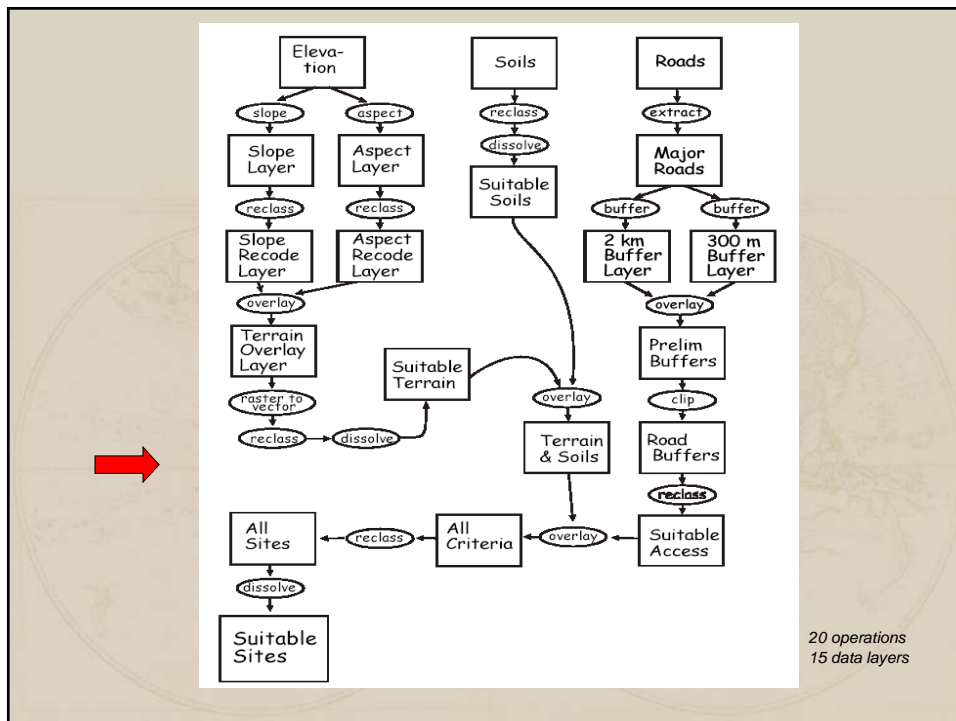
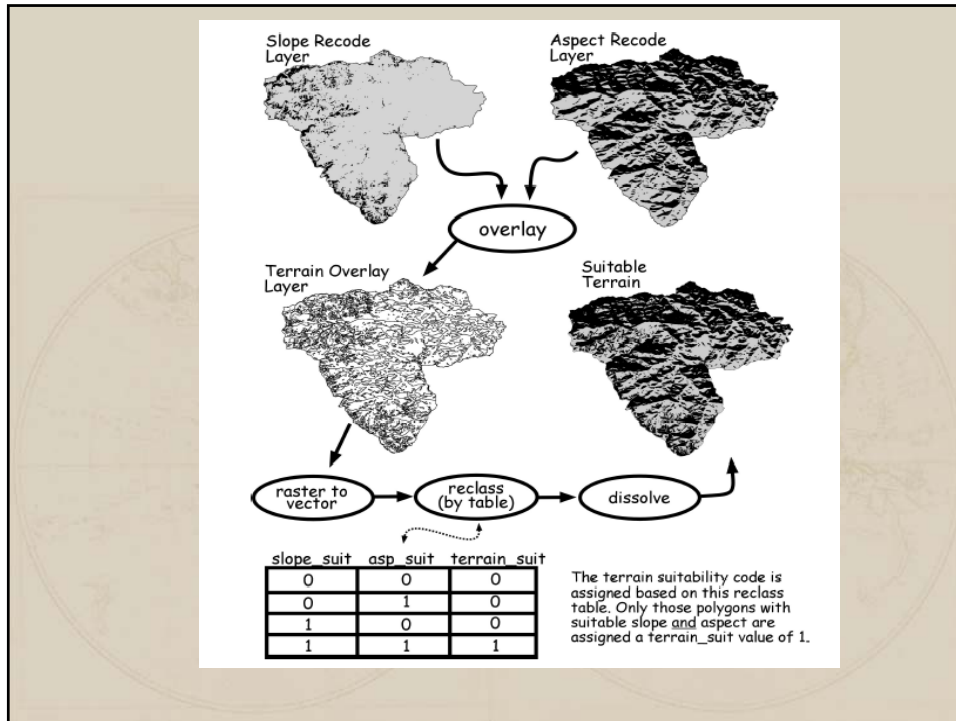
Criterion	Rank	Numerator ($n - r_i + 1$)	Weight $\frac{(n - r_i + 1)}{\sum_{k=1}^n (n - r_k + 1)}$
distance to nearest competitor	2	$4 - 2 + 1 = 3$	$3/10 = 0.3$
distance to major road	3	$4 - 3 + 1 = 2$	$2/10 = 0.2$
parking density	4	$4 - 4 + 1 = 1$	$1/10 = 0.1$
parcel cost	1	$4 - 1 + 1 = 4$	$4/10 = 0.4$

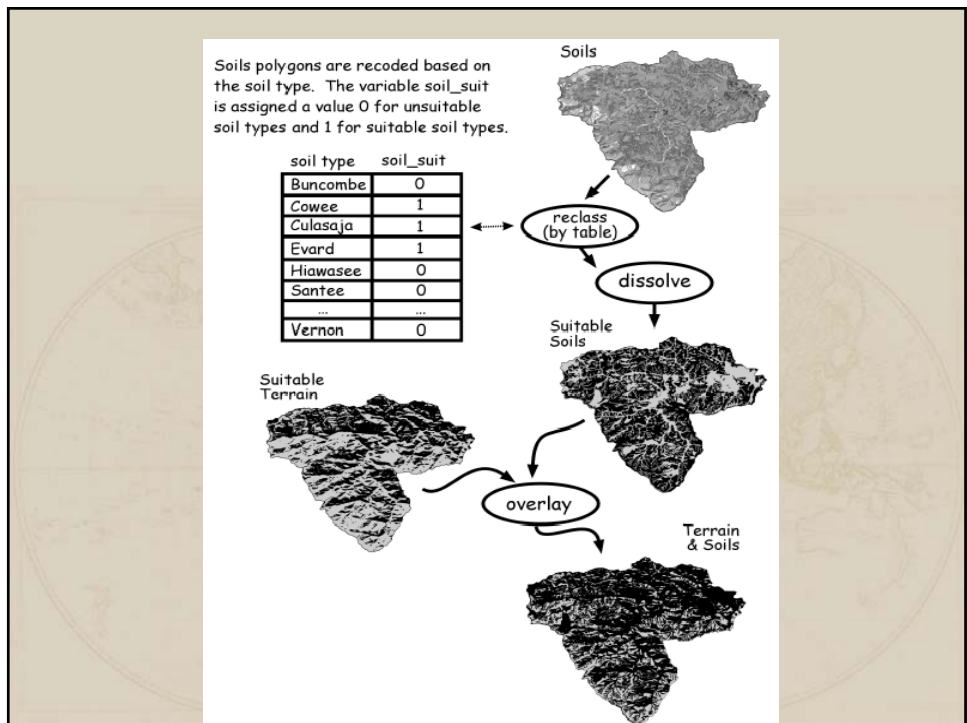
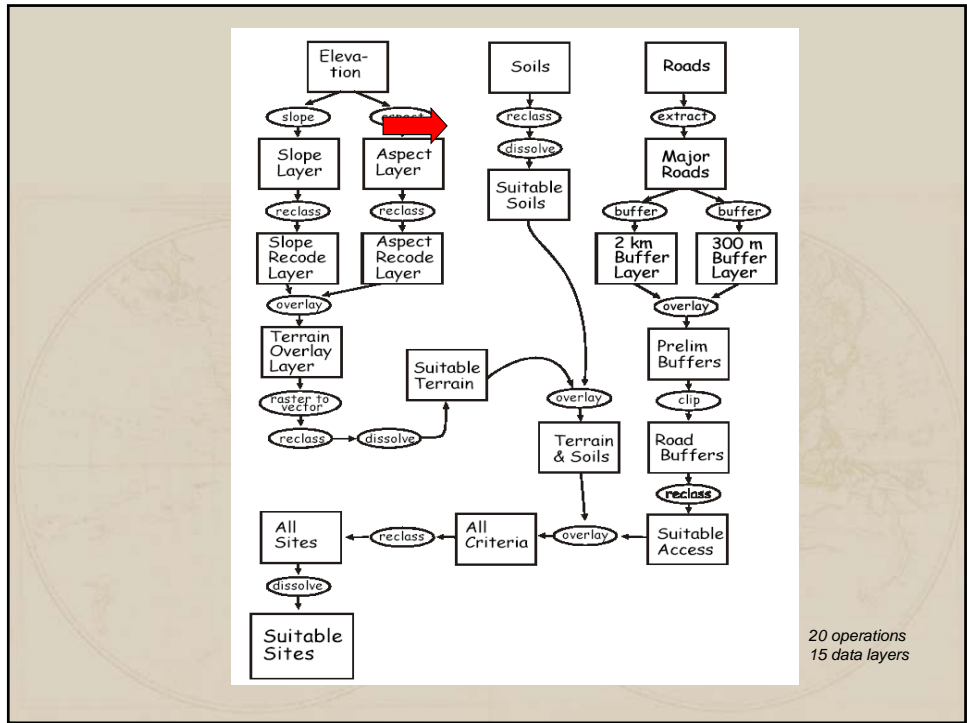
$\sum_{k=1}^n (n - r_k + 1) = 10$

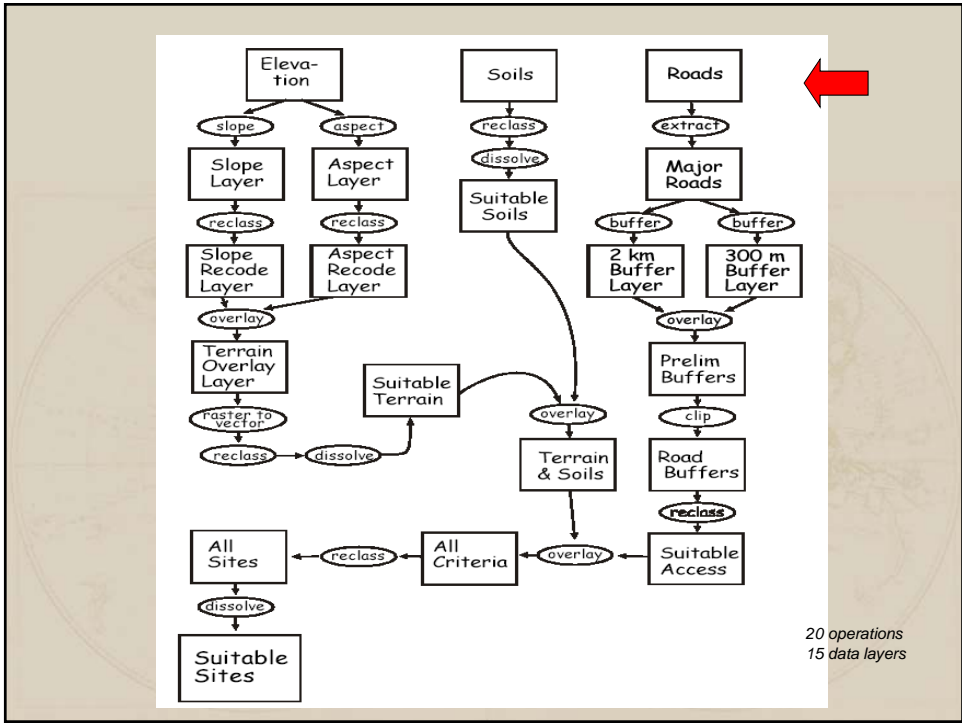
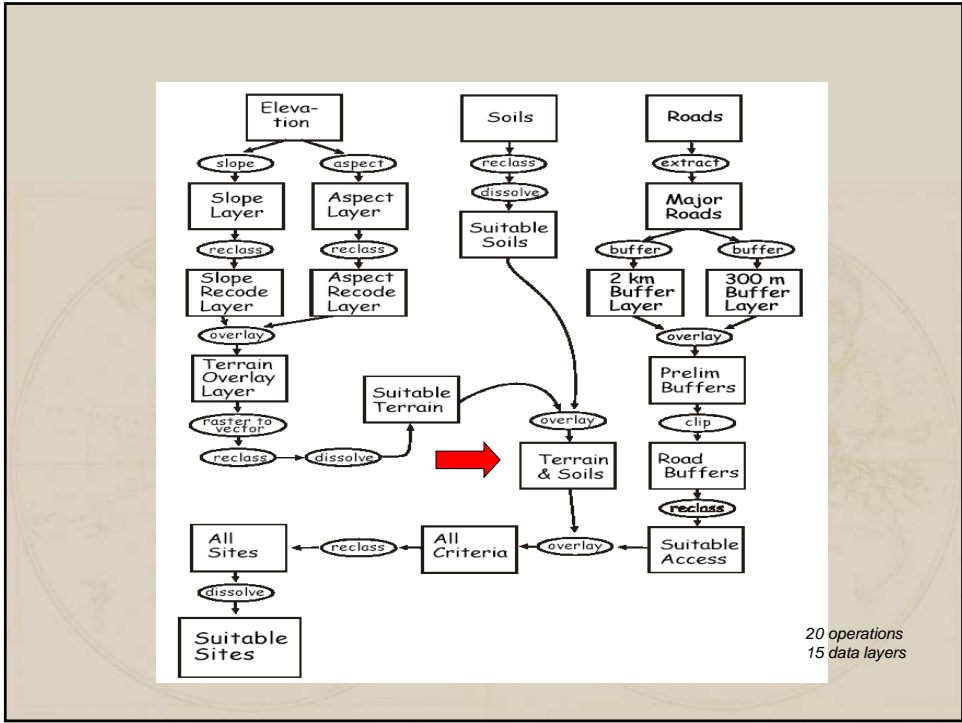
General Criteria	Refined Criteria
Slopes not too steep	Slopes < 30 degrees
Southern aspect preferred	90 < Aspect < 270
Soils suitable for septic system	Specified list of septic-suitable soil units
Far enough from road to provide privacy, but not isolated	300 meter < distance to road < 2000 meters

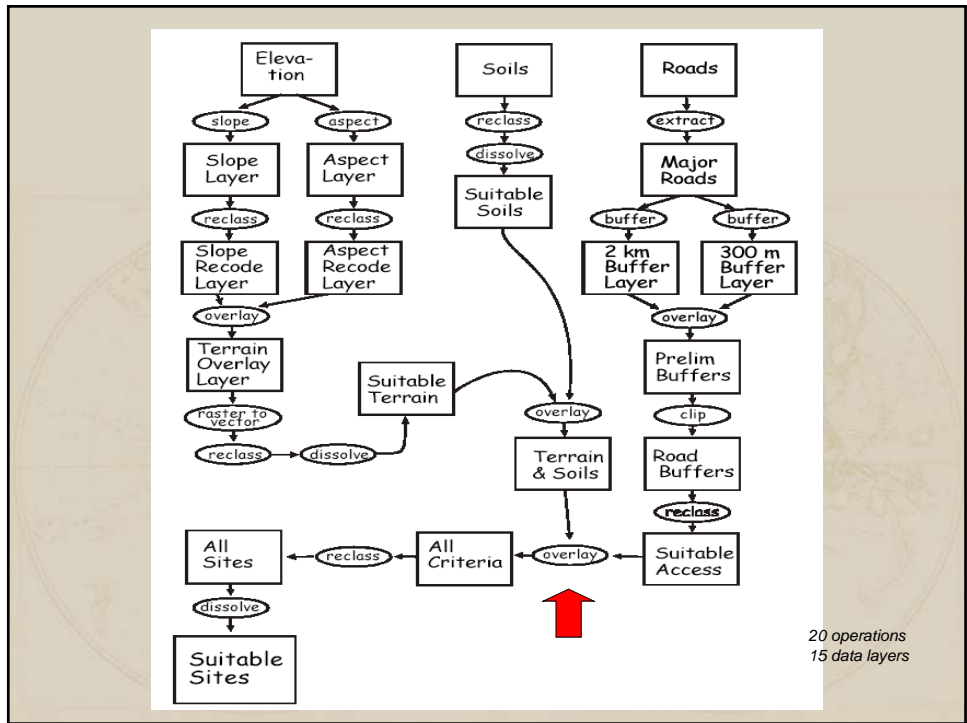
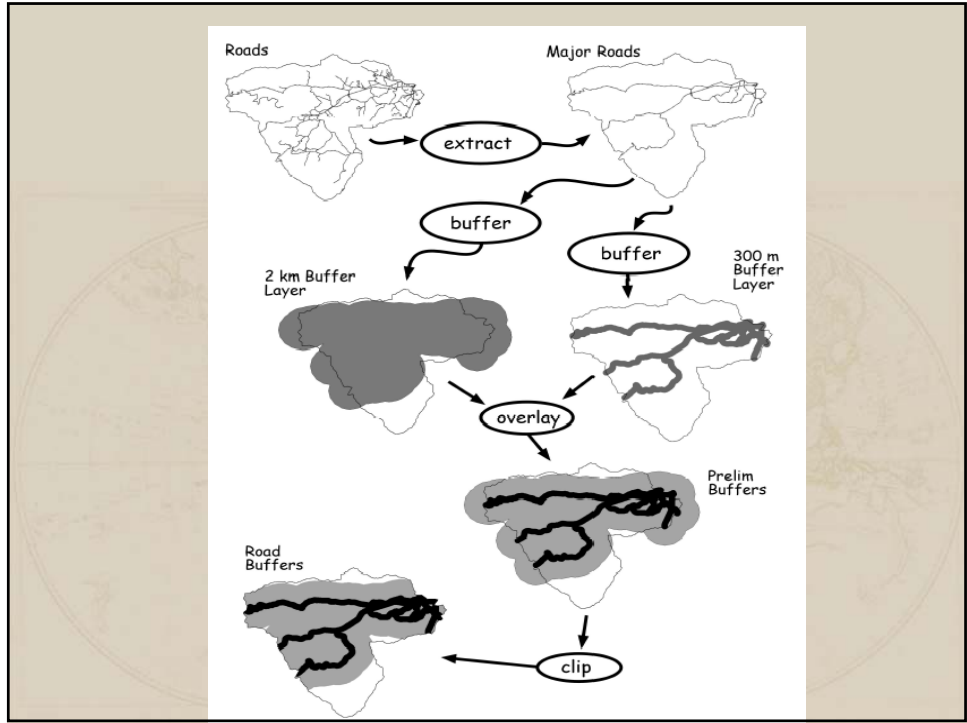


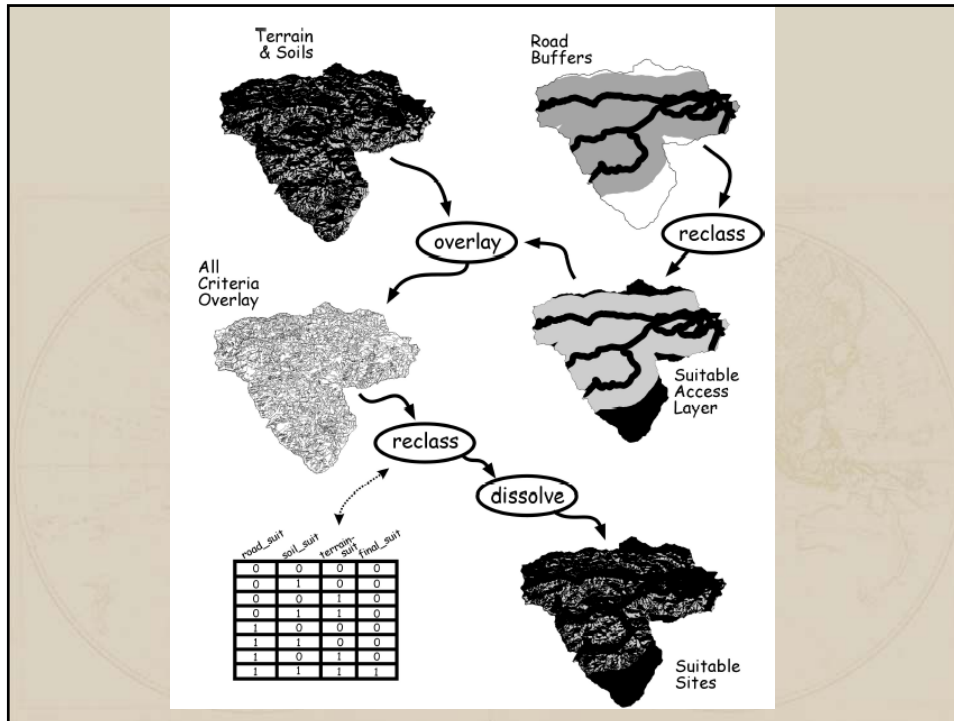












Points to Remember:

- Make sure the problem is clearly specified and appropriate for GIS analyses
- Determine the spatial and attribute accuracy required for the analysis, and if existing data meet these requirements. Pay particular attention to inclusions and mmu
- Coordinate systems (including datums) have to be the same for all layers
- Need to know the extent of each layer....where you have data. If extents are different, think about how this will affect analyses?
- If you have both raster and vector data, which will you convert, and how?