

Spatial Literacy, Geographical Information Technologies, and Solutions to Societal Problems

Donald Janelle, Program Director, spatial@ucsb

Val Noronha, Digital Geographic Research Corporation

Richard Church, Professor, Geography, UCSB

Jake Sopher, Undergraduate Geography Student

4 October 2008
A Presentation to the
Board of Directors

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Spatial@ucsb

Founded in 2007 as a center for spatial studies under the direction of Michael Goodchild

Mission: to facilitate spatial thinking and use of spatial tools for learning, discovery, and problem solving in the natural, social, and behavioral sciences

Multiple Intelligences

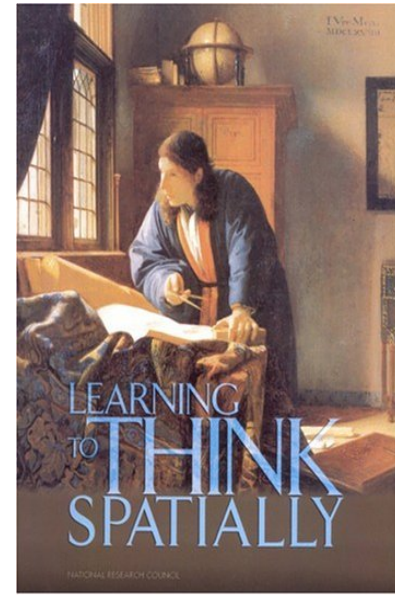
Howard Gardner, MIT

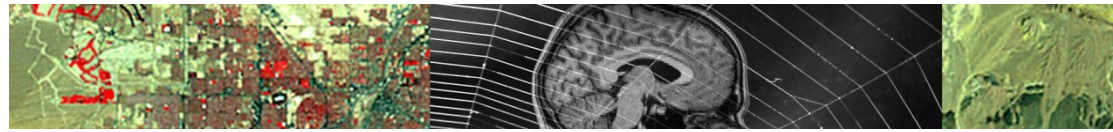
seven types of intelligence

Spatial Intelligence

- “These children think in images and pictures. They may be fascinated with mazes or jigsaw puzzles, or spend free time drawing, building with Lego or **daydreaming.**”

National Research Council report
Learning to Think Spatially, 2006





Established 2007 to integrate a campus-wide community of spatial thinkers



Cognitive Science Program

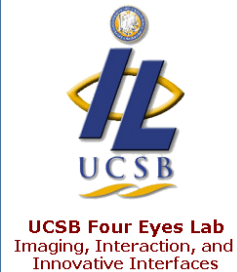
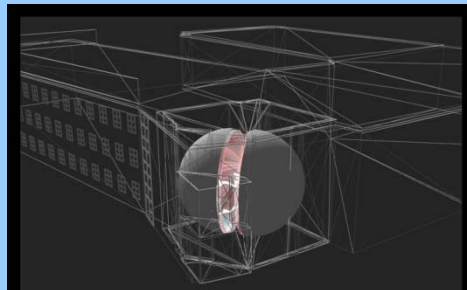


Hegarty Spatial Thinking Lab

CENTER FOR THE ANALYSIS OF SACRED SPACE

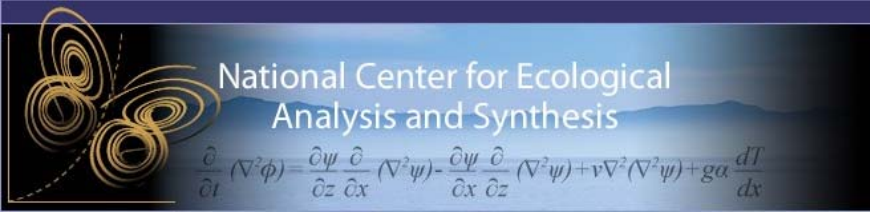


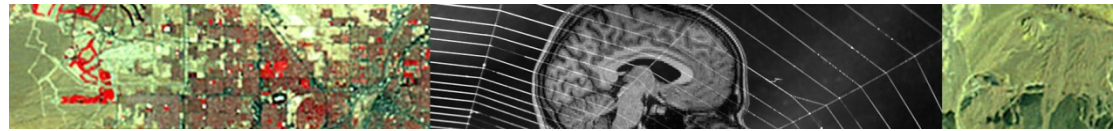
The ALLOSPHERE



Mike Goodchild, director of spatial@ucsb
“spatial@ucsb aims to change what people think of spatial thinking – from something that only experts need to know about, to something that everyone should use.”

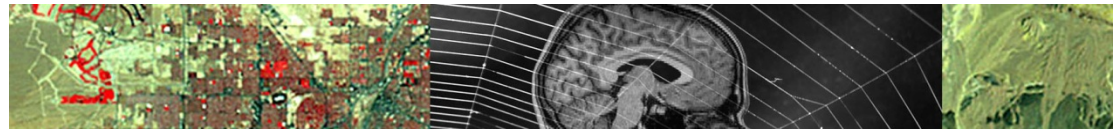
UCSB is Spatial



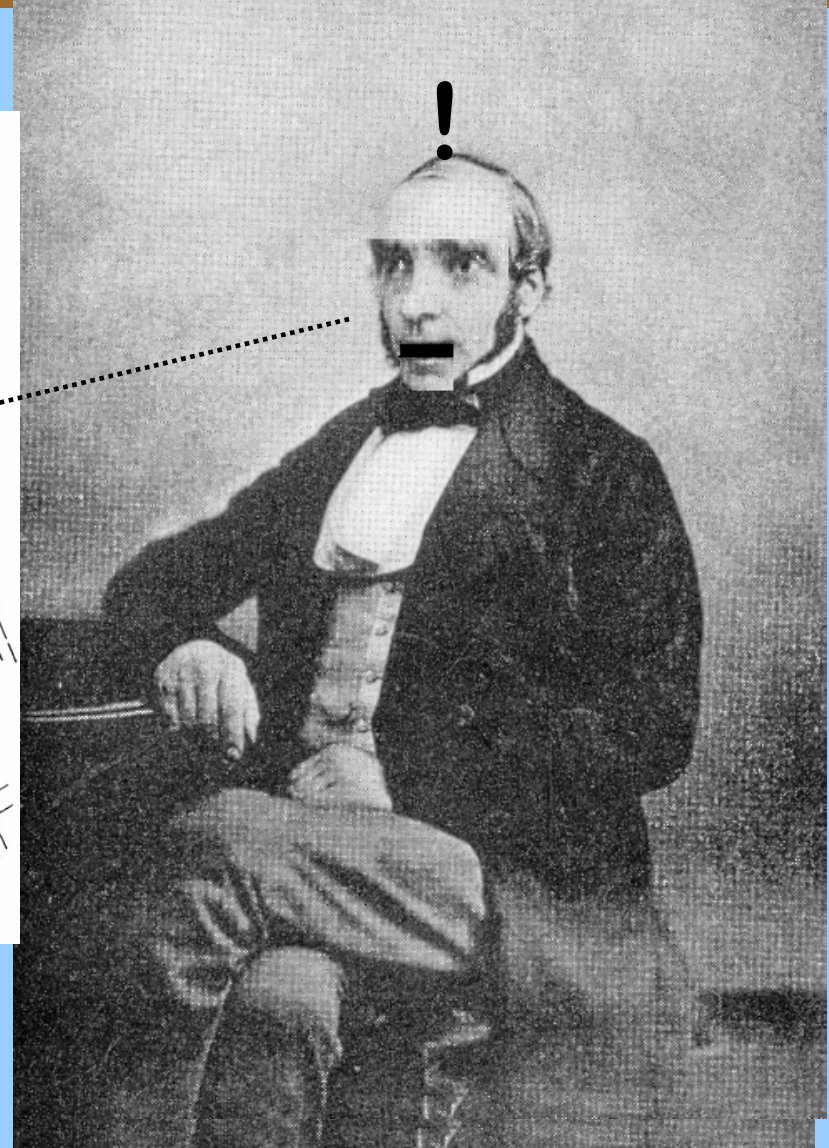


Applying Spatial Concepts and Geo-spatial Technologies

- Maps
- Geographic information systems (GIS)
- Global positioning systems (GPS)
- Satellite remote sensing
- Environmental sensors that know where they are

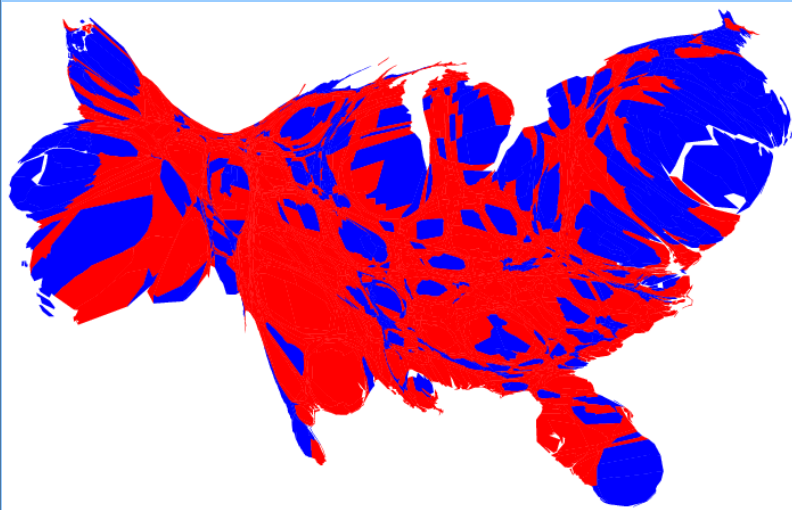
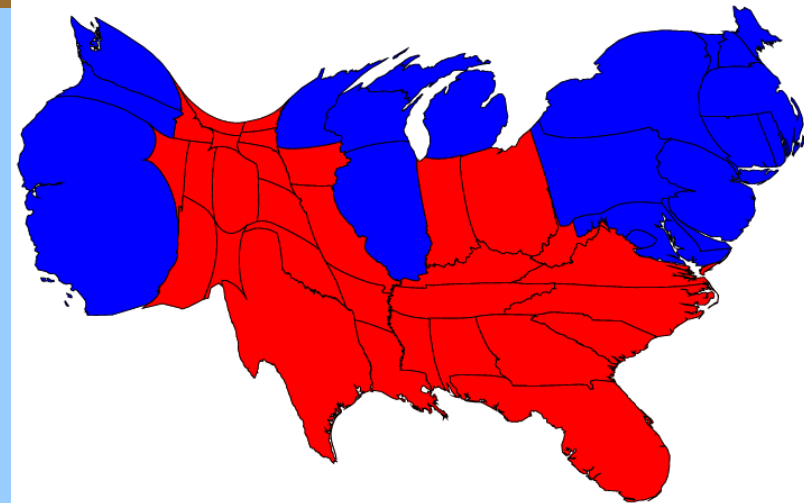
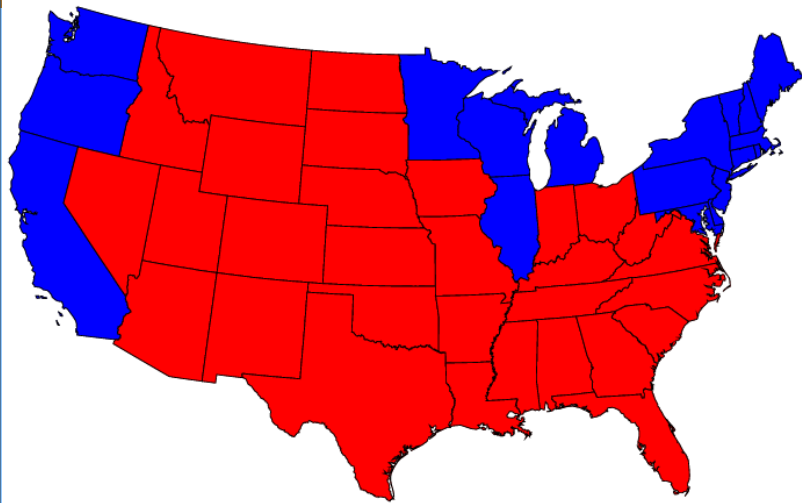
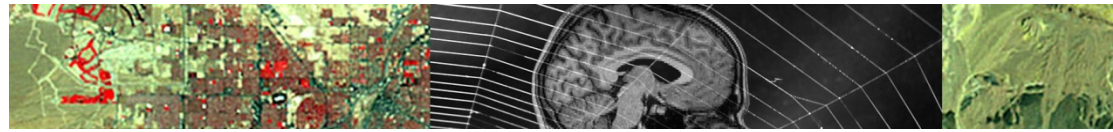


London Cholera Epidemic, 1854



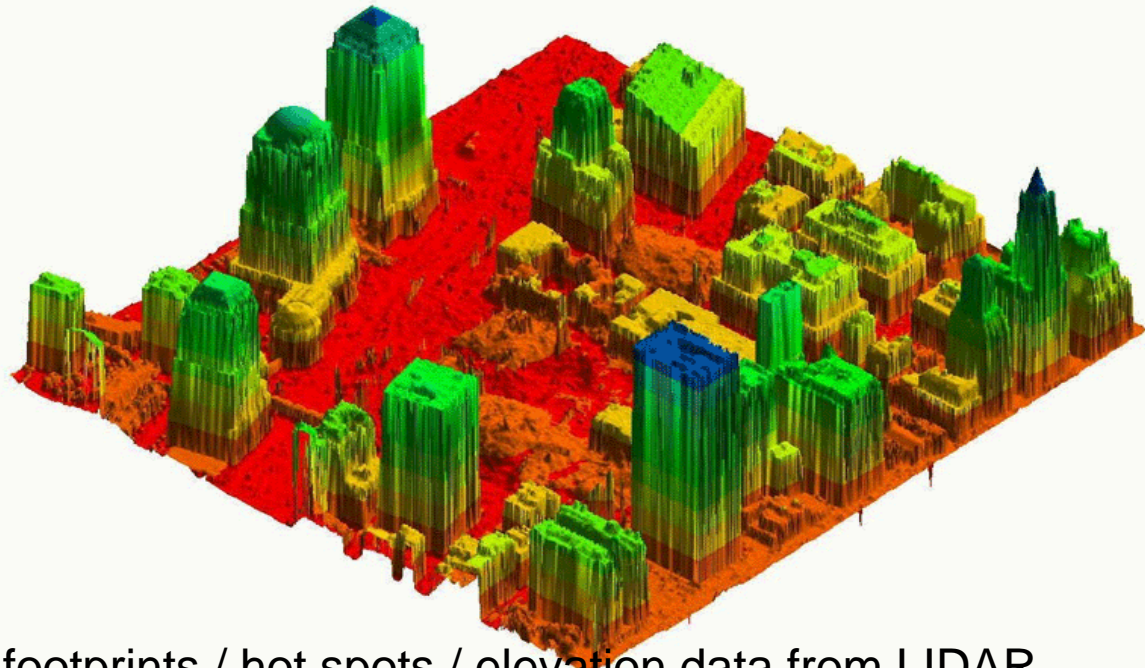
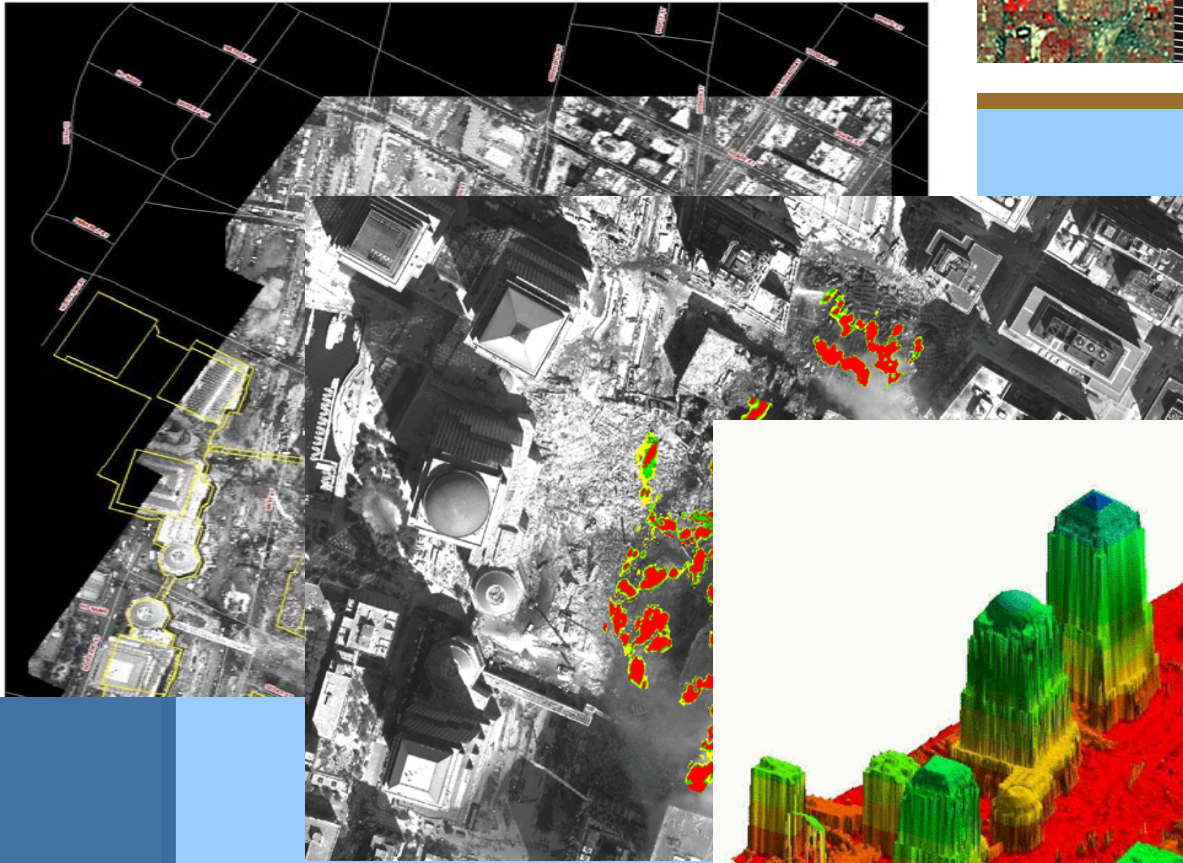
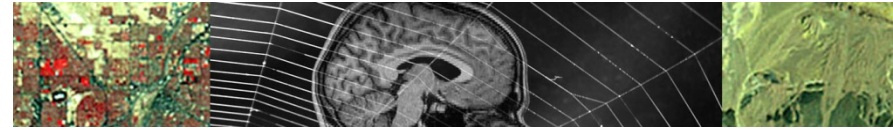
Johnson, S. (2006) *The Ghost Map*.
Riverhead
Snow, J. (1949) *Snow on Cholera*.
Oxford University Press.

from Lance Waller, Emory University



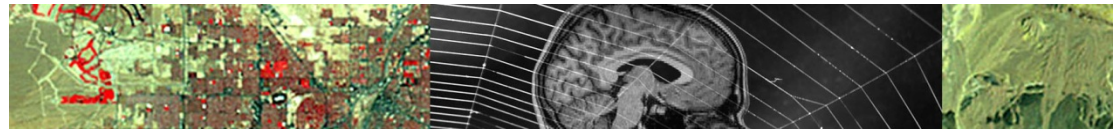
Michael Gastner, Cosma
Shalizi, and Mark Newman
University of Michigan

[http://www-
personal.umich.edu/~mejn/election/](http://www-personal.umich.edu/~mejn/election/)



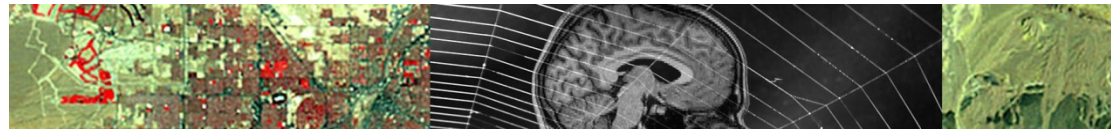
Aerial Imagery / building footprints / hot spots / elevation data from LIDAR

NYC Office of Emergency Management and NY Office of Cyber Security and Critical Infrastructure Coordination



Applying Spatial Technology to Solve Societal Problems

- Congestion, Logistics, and Environmental Impacts of the Ports of LA / Long Beach
(*Val Noronha*)
- Emergency Preparedness: An example from Mission Canyon, Santa Barbara (*Richard Church*)
- Gap Fire 2008 (*Jake Sopher*)
- Spatial Literacy for 6th graders



Congestion, Logistics, and Environmental Impacts of the Ports of LA / Long Beach (*Val Noronha*)

DGRC-UCSB Partnership in Transportation

- 1997: USDOT-Caltrans, SAE standards
- 2000: USDOT: 4 national consortia, remote sensing
- 2007: USDOT: 7 national consortia, remote sensing/GPS



40%

Image: Google Earth



Facts

- Big and growing
 - World's largest port outside China-Singapore
 - 40% of U.S. import containers
 - 3x NY-NJ
 - 5x growth since 1990
 - 3x more growth by 2030
- Drayage trucking is critical link
 - Freeways were designed for 1970s freight volumes
 - Owner-operators, make \$10/hr net
 - No fleet optimization
 - Port operations: 50% of LA emissions

Important Questions

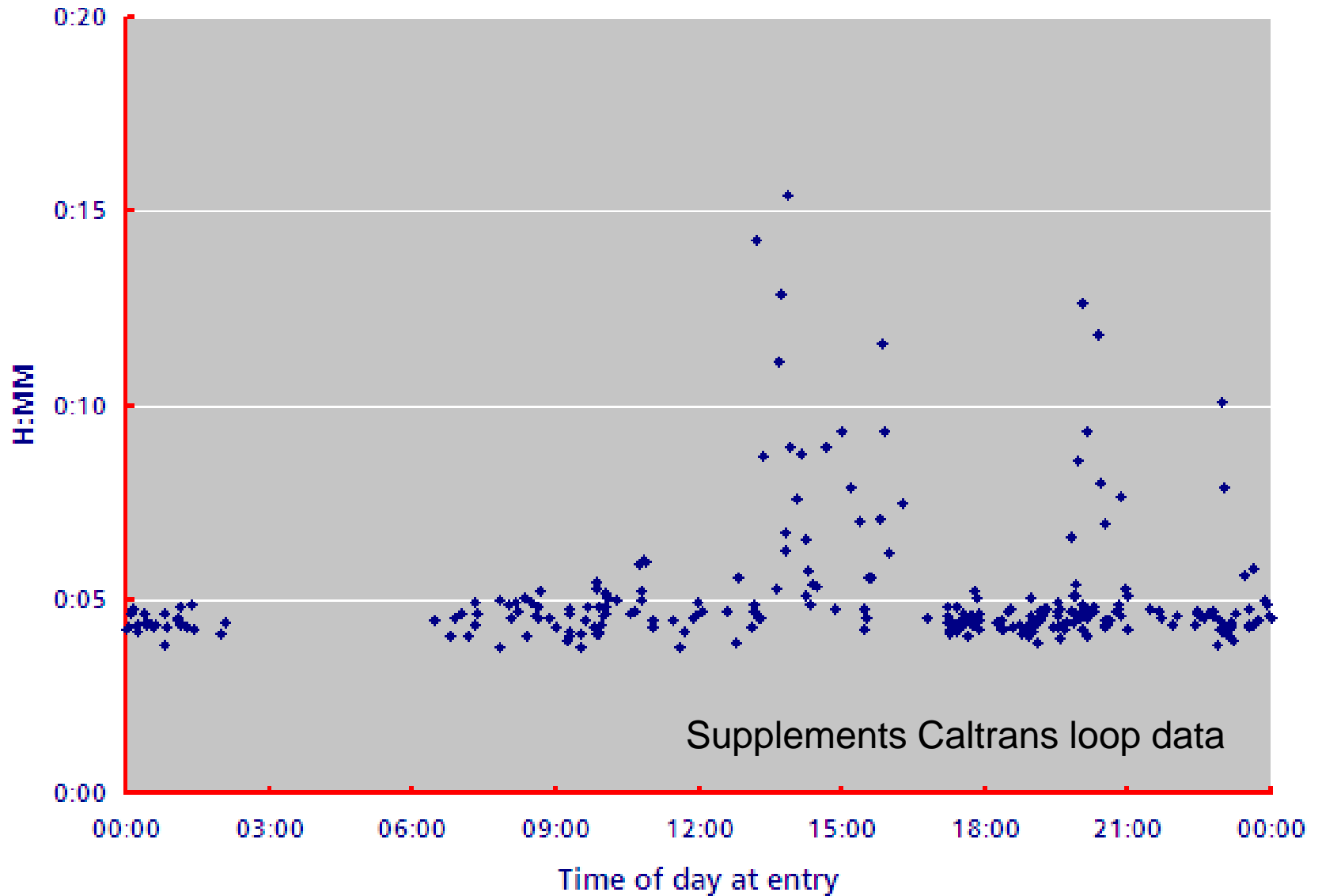
- Before investing in new infrastructure:
 - Freight freeways, maglev ... need to know where the goods go. When? Congestion times? Terminal gate delays?
- Operational improvements:
 - Unproductive trips (empty containers, bobtails)
 - Terminals synchronize with truck arrivals?

Solutions

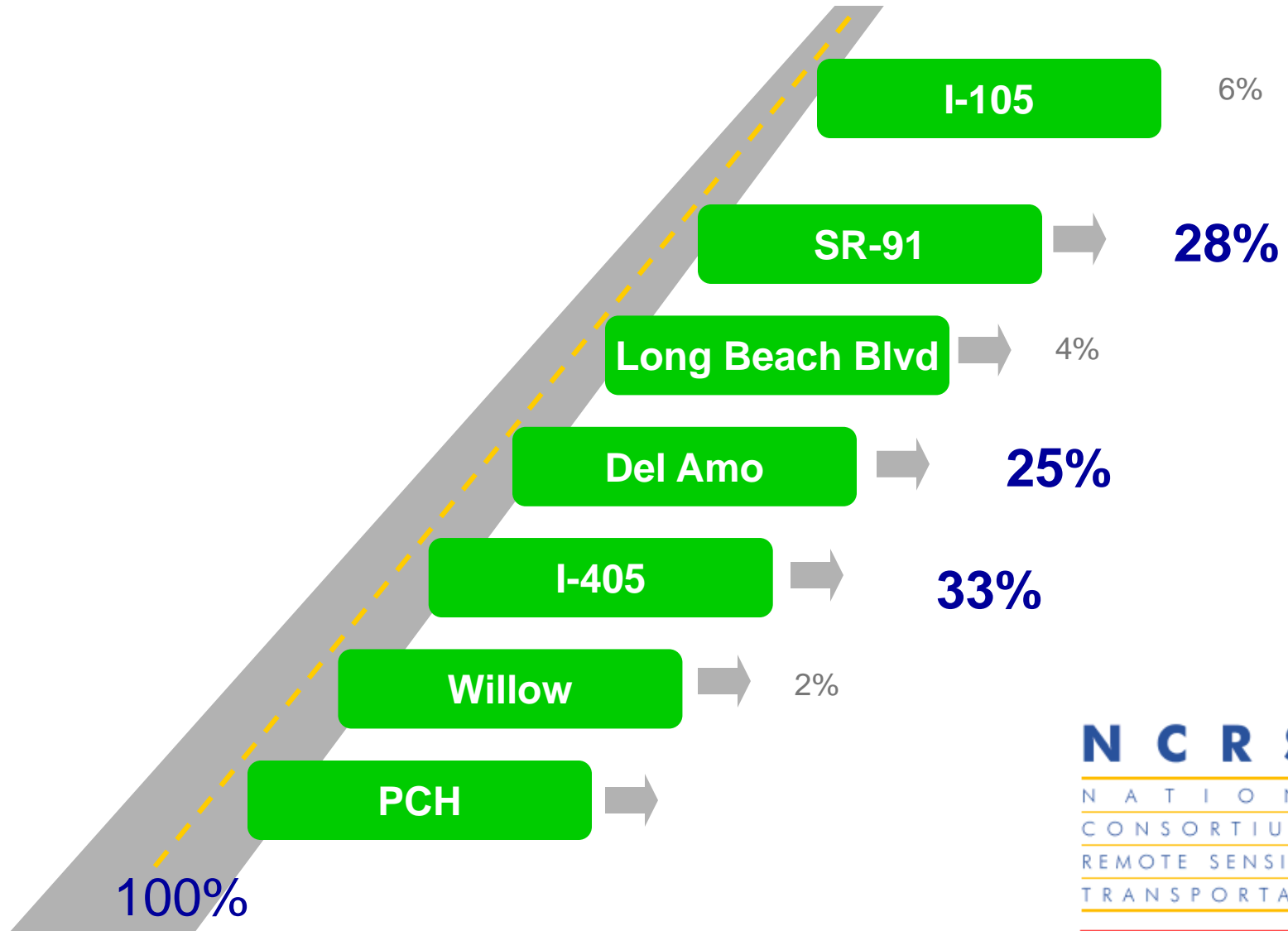
- Live data
 - Comprehensive urban dynamics
- Modeling
 - Infrastructure decisions
 - Operational efficiency
- Stakeholders
 - Caltrans, LA DOT, SCAG
 - Terminal operators: APL (partner)
 - Trucking companies: TE (partner)
 - Commercialization consultants
- Target: 10% reduction in port area freight traffic

Travel Time: I-710 N to I-405

2008 July 1-31



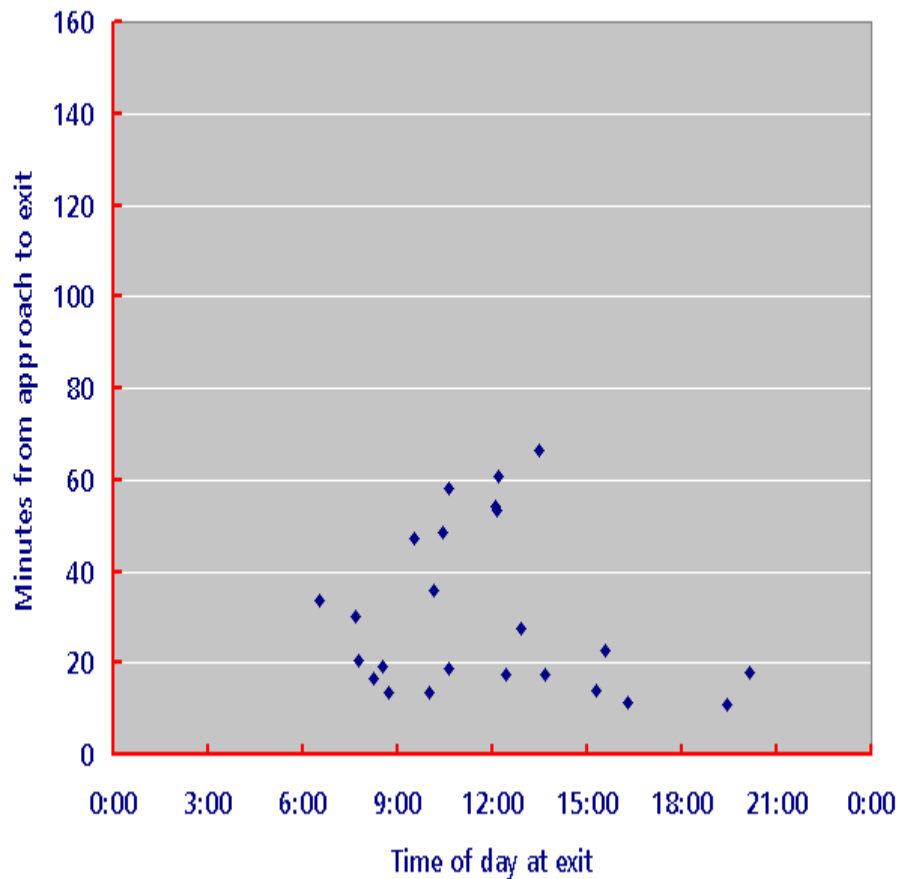
Meso Dynamics (710 N)



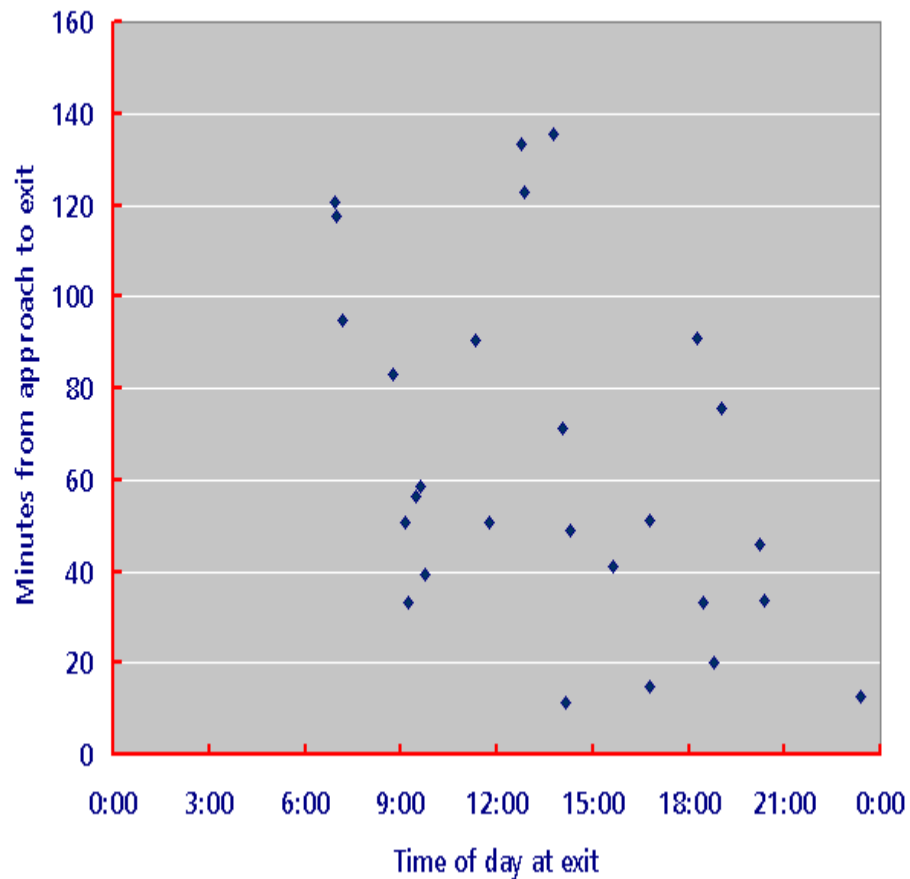
Micro Analysis

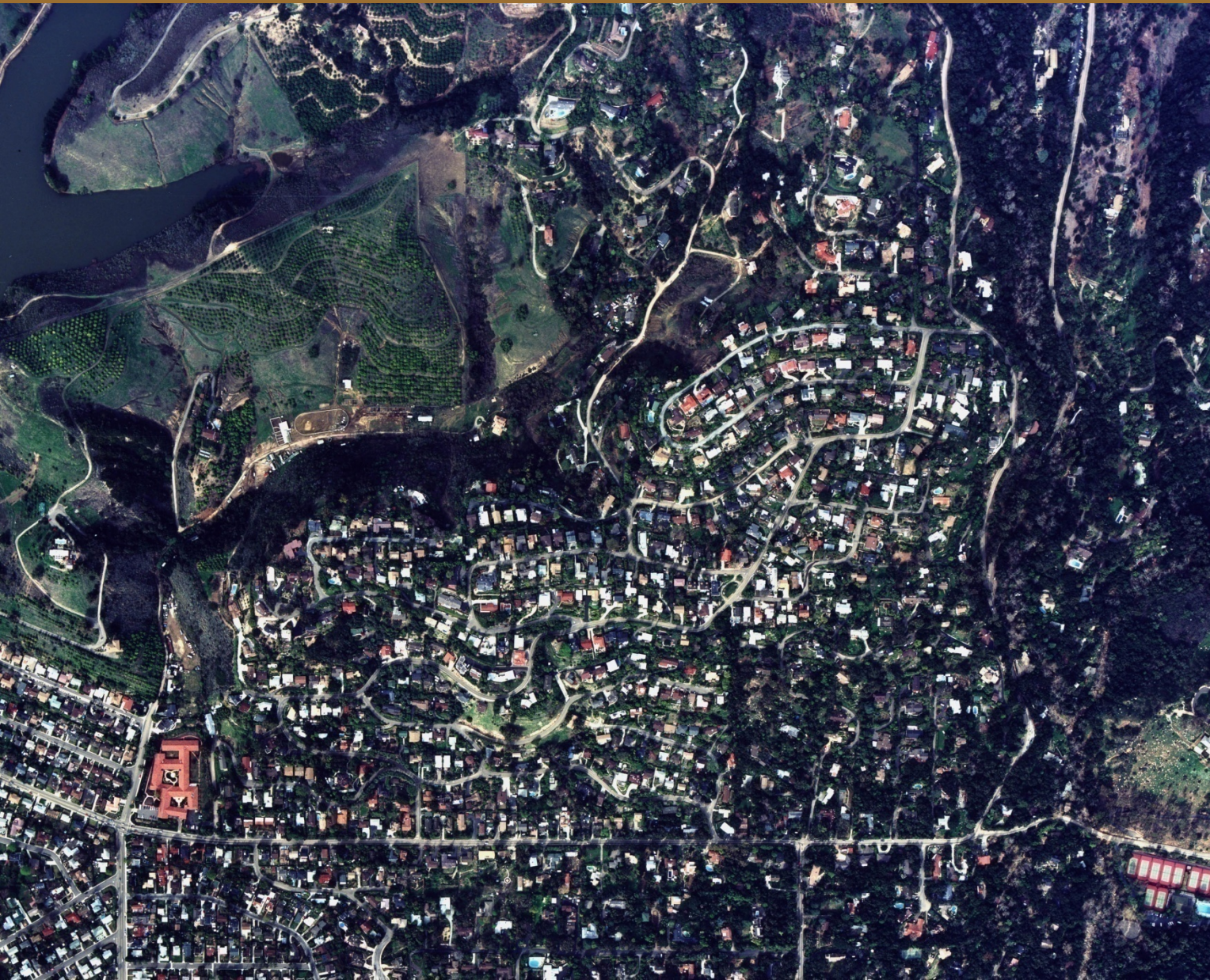
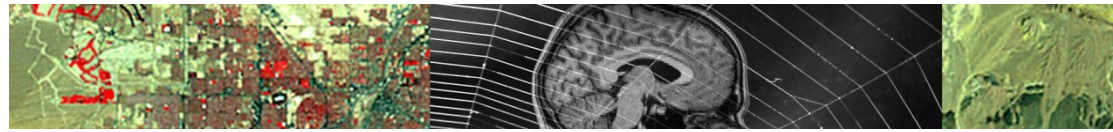
- Truck detours: incursions on non-designated streets
 - Insufficient turn radii
 - Break median dividers, light poles
 - Traffic signal timing
- Parking in residential neighborhoods

Terminal "A" turn time (L002, 2007 Aug-Dec)



Terminal "B" turn time (L002, 2007 Aug-Dec)

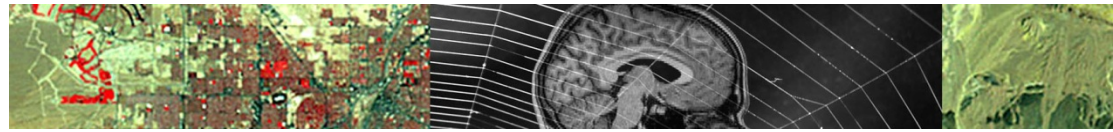




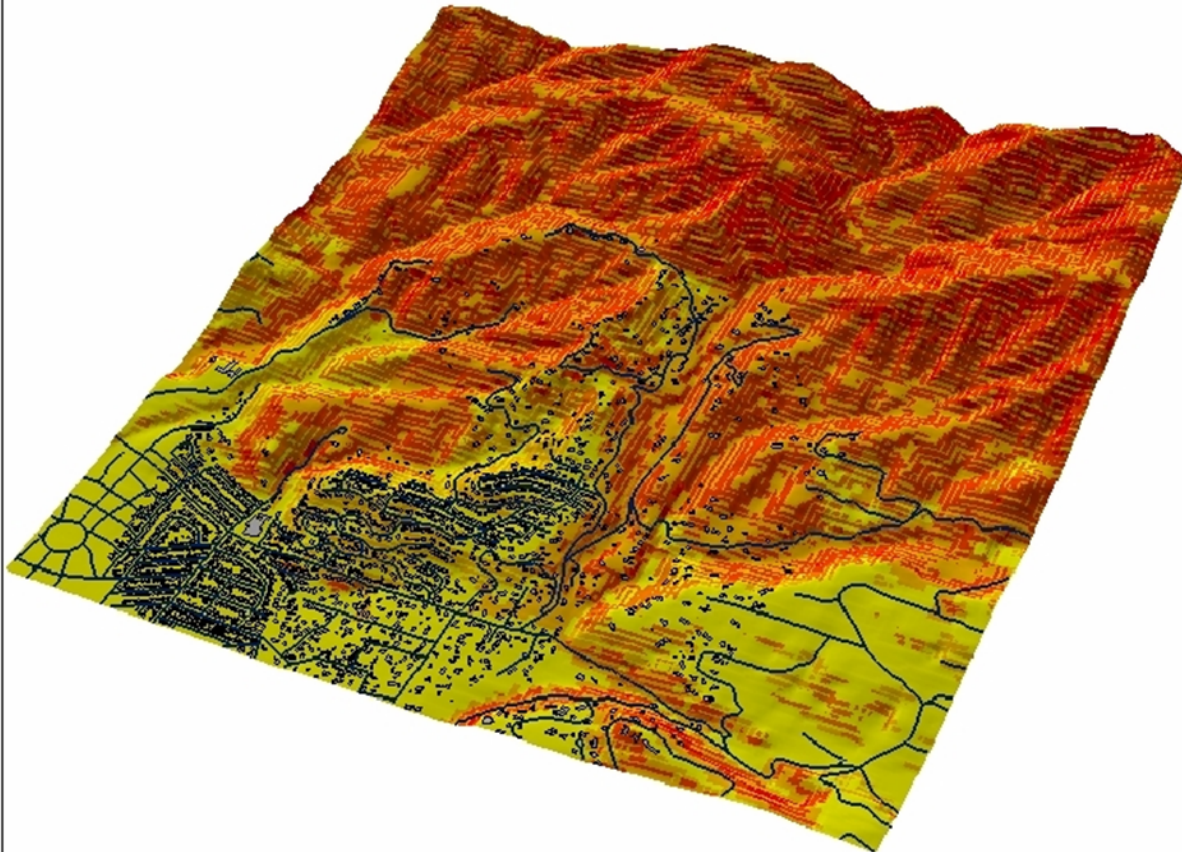
Fire Hazard & Evacuation

**Mission
Canyon
Santa Barbara**

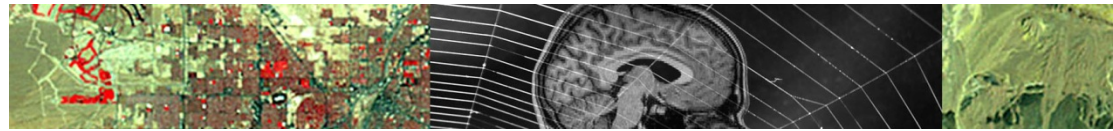
**Based on
research by
Richard
Church
(UCSB)**



Mission Canyon Wildfire Hazard Santa Barbara County



- Street Centerline
- Building Footprints
- Medium Risk
- High Risk
- Extreme Risk



Los Angeles T

Thursday, July 31, 2008

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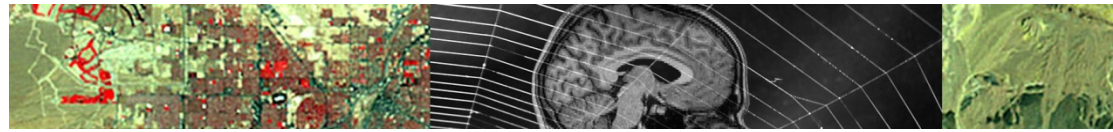
BIG BURN

Many Californians live in or near the combustible wild. Santa Barbara County's bucolic Mission Canyon is a prime example. Despite its ample allures, it's a firetrap.

IN HARM'S WAY



By BETTINA BOXALL: TIMES STAFF WRITER
Third of five parts



Simulations

1.8 vehicles per driveway

Driver behavior influenced by:

lane width

slope

view distances

traffic control mechanisms

information feedback

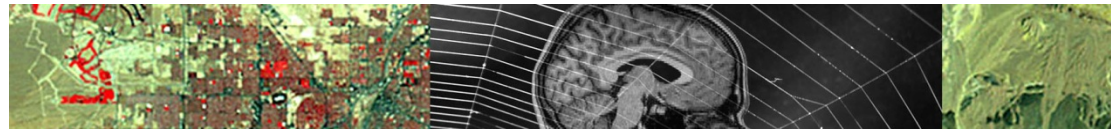
driver aggressiveness

[2D clip](#)

[3D clip](#)

770 homes

clearing times > 30 minutes



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2008

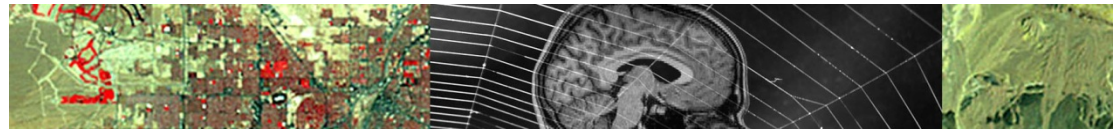
Goleta to hold meetings to address flood concerns



Gap Fire

- Started 1 July 08
- Contained 28 July
- Burned 9,443 a.
- Power outages >150,000 homes
- >2,500 fighters
- >3,200 homes threatened
- >5,000 people evacuated

Map from
Santa Barbara
News Press

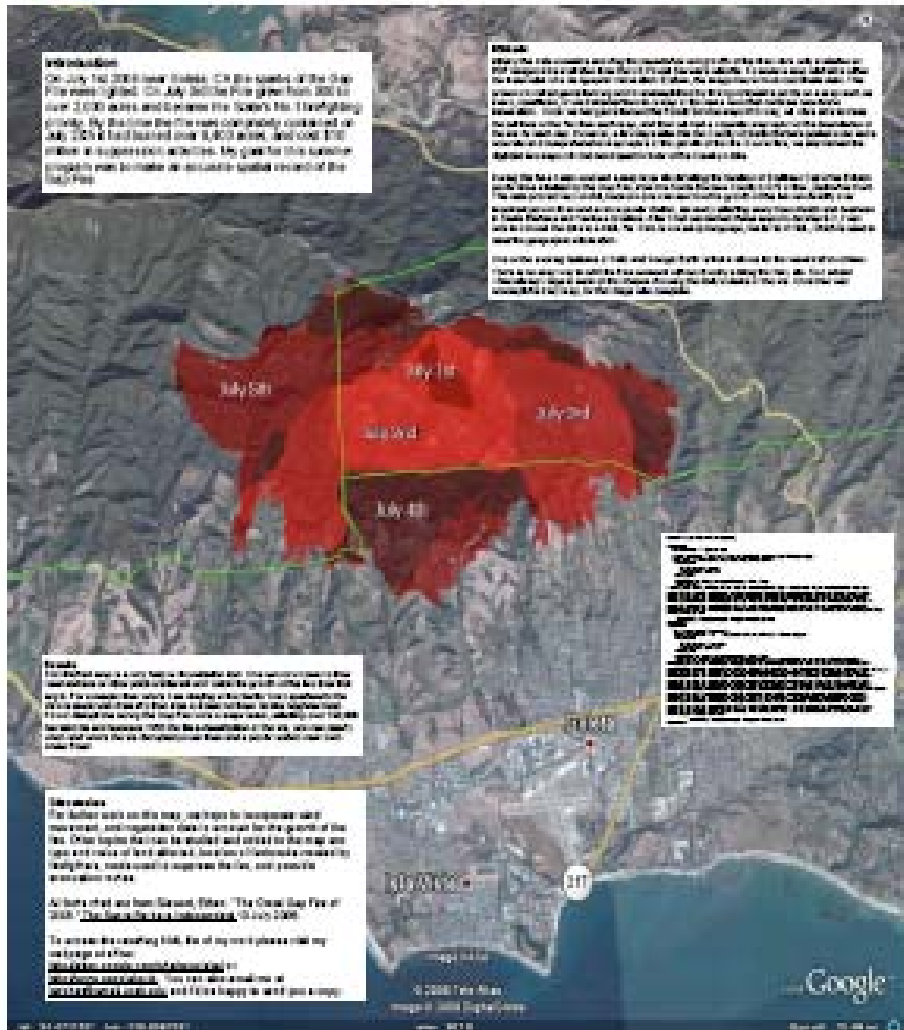


Creating an Accurate Spatial Record of the Gap Fire

Jake Sopher, Undergraduate, Prof. Michael Goodchild,
University of California, Santa Barbara 93106

spatial.ucsb

UC LEADS

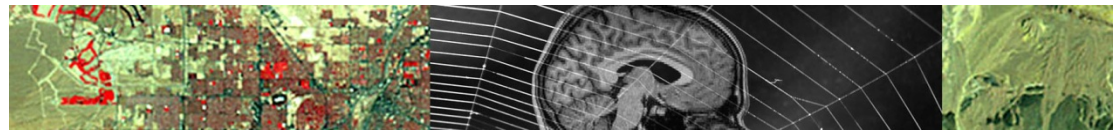


Map of the Recent Gap Fire

- Further analysis will be performed on map
- Map was created to have a record/archive of Gap Fire
- Focusing on fire behavior and emergency response
- Current map shows interaction of power lines and fire

<http://www.geogjake.tk>

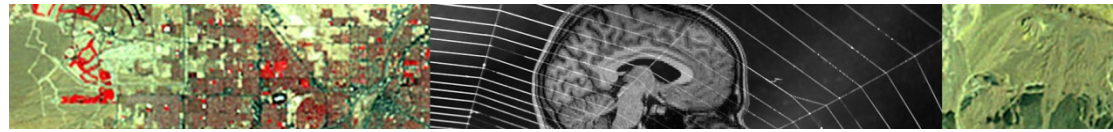
Based on work of Jake Sopher on behalf of spatial@ucsb, 2008



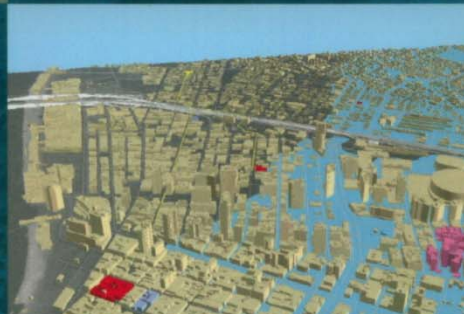
Emergency Preparedness for Santa Barbara

spatial@ucsb proposal to engage community and researchers to build prototype geo-information and communication system for emergencies

- Santa Barbara—good case for proof of concept
 - isolated by physical geography
 - limited transportation accessibility
 - Diverse range of potential hazards
 - UCSB—leader in geo-spatial technologies
- System to serve:
 - responders & strategic planners
 - citizens



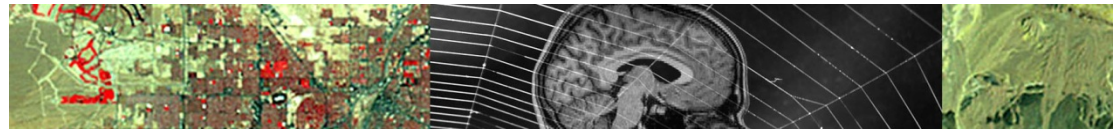
SUCCESSFUL RESPONSE STARTS WITH A MAP



Improving Geospatial Support for Disaster Management

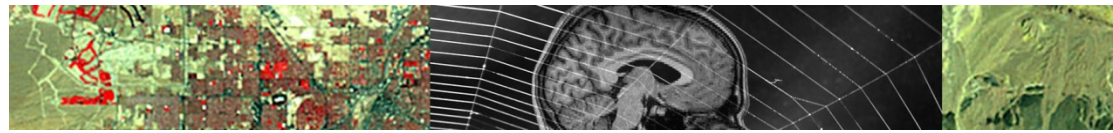
NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL
OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

- National Research Council Report, 2007
- Michael Goodchild, Chair of the NRC Committee on Planning for Catastrophe
- Available at www.nap.edu



Promoting Spatial Literacy in Education

- Identify spatial concepts basic for human well-being and for every-day life decisions
- Introduce geographic tools to access data, analyze patterns and processes, and solve problems
- Develop curricula resources for school teachers and for undergraduate instructors/students
- Create Web resources for teachers and learners



Nurturing the Next Generation of Spatial Thinkers





KERMIT MCKENZIE
Jr. High School



SCIENCE FAIR \ OPEN HOUSE

MAY 15 AT 5:00 PM

Candy Alley



Thank You

Questions?

For more information on applications of spatial thinking in science and society

www.spatial.ucsb.edu