

The future of map projections

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Abstract:

Map projections are an old technology, established by astronomers and geographers thousands of years ago. They remain unavoidable as long as users of spatial data create displays on flat devices (paper, screen or whatever). One role for map projections – the coordinate reference system for databases - has a much less obvious future. This paper considers the role of map grids, coordinate reference systems and map projections in an era of ubiquitous computing. Rather than seeing the map projection wither away, it may be a time of diversification, and explosion of many projections.