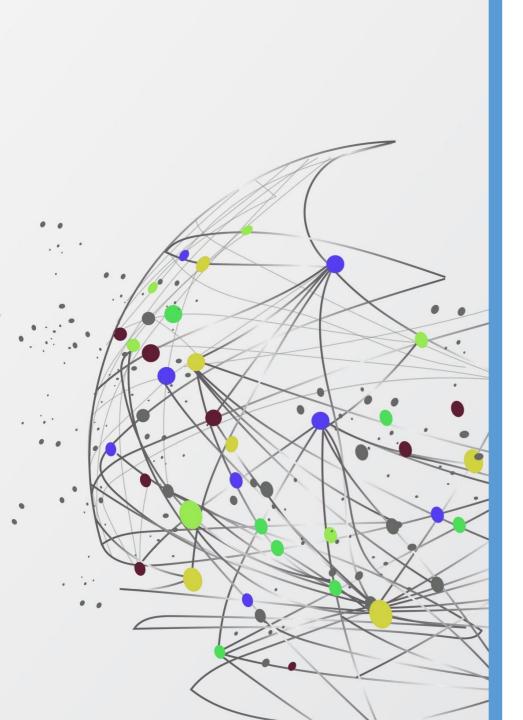


Computer Programing for Spatial Data



Overview



election at the end -add _ob.select= 1 er_ob.select=1 ntext.scene.objects.action "Selected" + str(modific irror_ob.select = 0 bpy.context.selected_ob ata.objects[one.name].selected_ob

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----- OPERATOR CLASSES -----

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ror X"

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introduction

 This chapter introduces the basic concepts of computer, hardware, software, and programming, and sets up the context for GIS programming.

Computer Hardware and Software

- Computer Hardware
- Computer Software

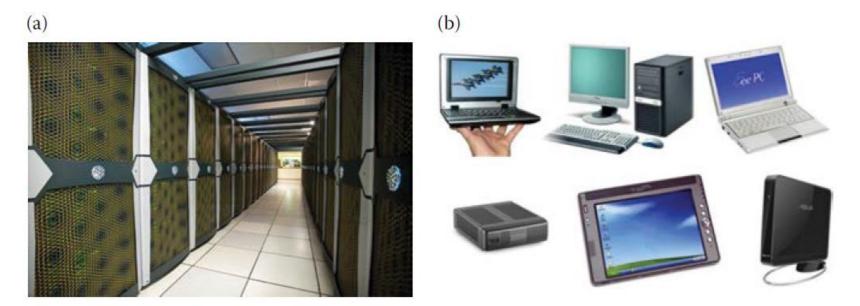
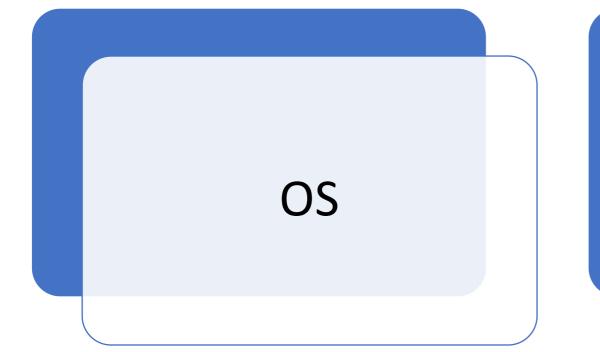


FIGURE 1.1

(a) NASA supercomputer. (From NASA supercomputer at http://www.nas.nasa.gov/hecc/resources/pleiades.html.) (b) Other computers: personal computer (PC), laptop, pad. (From different computers at http://www.computerdoc.com.au/what-are-the-different-types-of-computers.)

Software (Application) Freeware or requiring purchase



Several Application (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)

GIS software

• *Geographic information system* (GIS) is one type of application software that deals primarily with geographic information (Longley et al. 2001).

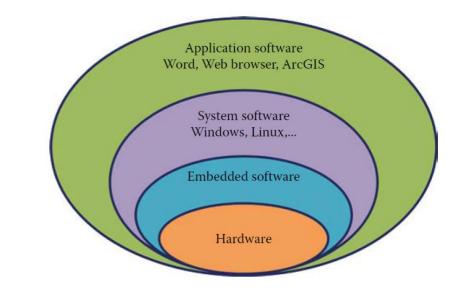
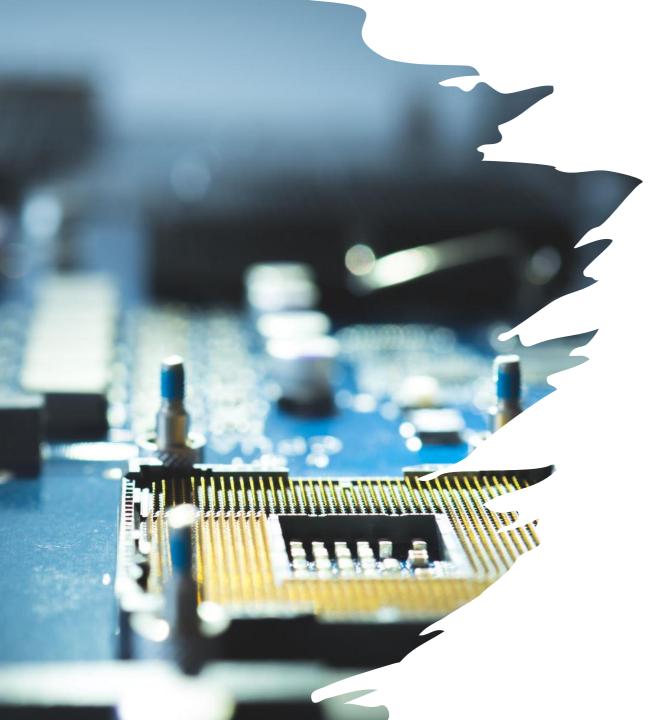


FIGURE 1.2 Different types of software.



GIS and Programming

- GIS originates from several domains and refers to the system designed to capture, observe, collect, store, and manage geographic data, and to provide tools for spatial analyses and visualization (Longley et al. 2001).
- The process of developing software is called programming. Programming instructs the computer to accomplish a task based on the orders. There are many different types of programming levels (Mitchell 1996).

Why do we need GIS programming?

Customizing	Customizing software for application:
Automating	Automating a process
Satisfying	Satisfying simple GIS need
Cultivating	Cultivating advanced GIS professionals

Python

It is excellent for programming beginners, yet superb for experts.

The syntax of Python is very simple and easy to learn. When you become familiar with them, you will feel that it is really very handy.

It is portable cross-platform. This means that a program written in Windows can be run using the Linux or Mac operating systems.

It is a fully object-oriented language, simple yet elegant, and stable and mature.

Class and Object

Class uses a set of attributes and behaviors to represent a category of real-world phenomena.

Attributes Student ld (G#) Name Email Address Courses Behaviors register() add_class() drop_class() change_address()

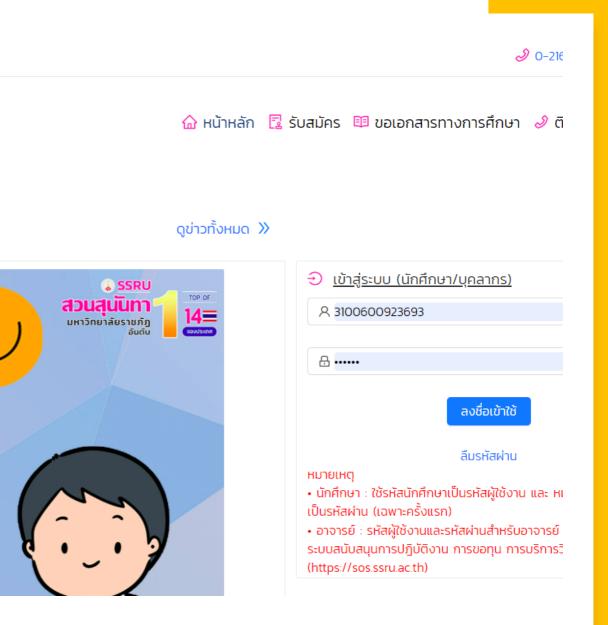
Attributes: A student will have a set of attributes, including student ID, name, email, current home address, courses the student have registered for each semester.

Behaviors: Behaviors could include register the current semester, change address if the student moves to a different place, add or drop a class.

FIGURE 1.3 An example of representing students with the Student class.

Object

• An object is a specific instance of a class. We can consider objects as instances of classes by assigning values to their attributes.



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Hands-On Experience with Python

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