

Scaling Spatial Analytics with Spatial Indexes and the Cloud

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CARTO

Our agenda

Why we are here today

GIS and spatial thinking

Welcome spatial indexes

Workshop

Data exploration

Performance face-off

Visualizing indexed data

Spatial analysis

Spatial Autocorrelation

Outcomes and wrap-up

Why we are here today



**Geospatial data is being
produced at a massive
scale**


1. Size
2. Velocity
3. Complexity

What is the largest geospatial dataset?

Here are some examples from BigQuery Public Data (from July 18, 2022)

 NOAA Global Forecast System: 9B rows, 193TB

 OpenStreetMap: 993M rows, 327GB

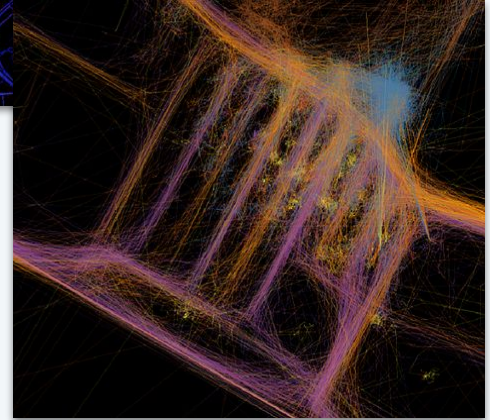
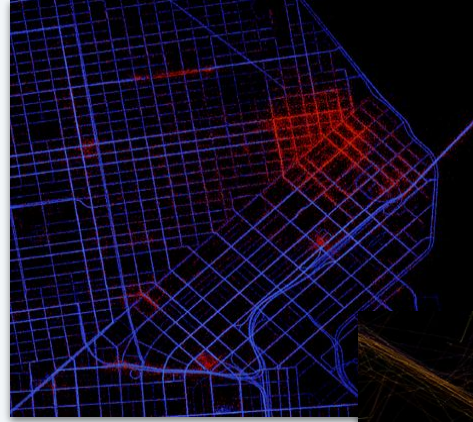
 NYC Taxis Dataset: ~115M rows, ~15 to 18GB (per year, per taxi type - i.e. Yellow, Green, Uber/Lyft)

 WorldPop 1km Population Grids: 4.6B rows, 858GB

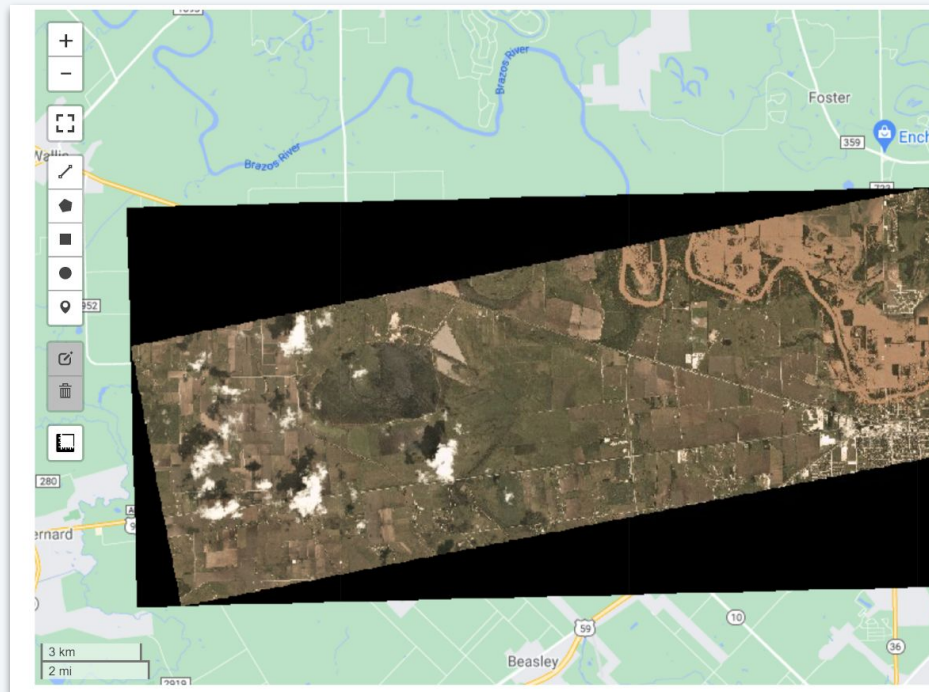
 forrest.nyc

 mbforr

Larger volumes of vector (or vector ready) data



Greater reliance on raster data

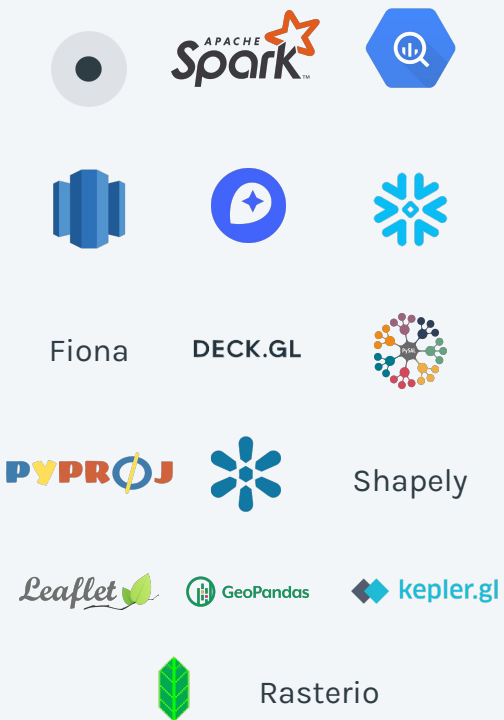


 Data Council: Austin

2000s



2010s



2020s



Databases



Tools



Shapely

Fiona

Rasterio

Desktop



Python



Leafmap



Data +



Web



 kepler.gl



Developer

DECK.GL



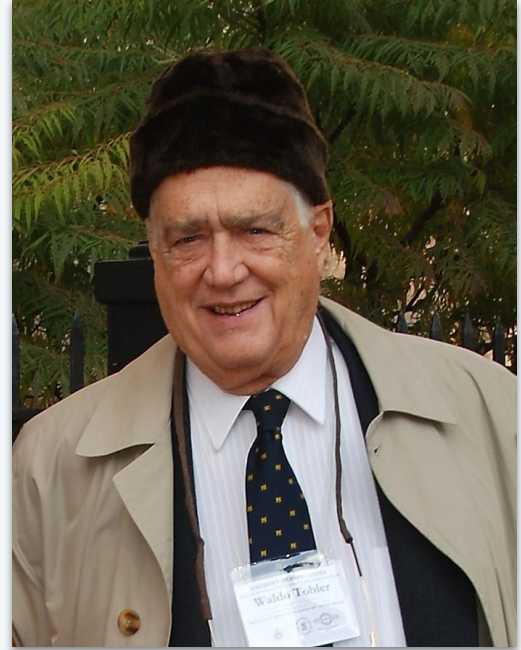
Leaflet 



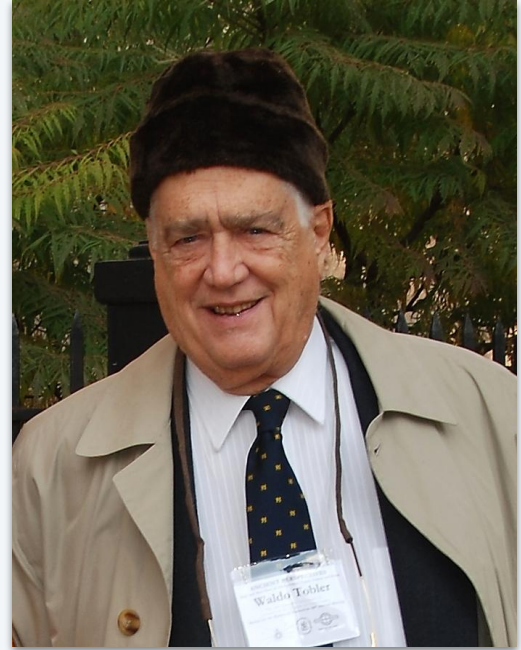
CARTO 

GIS and spatial thinking

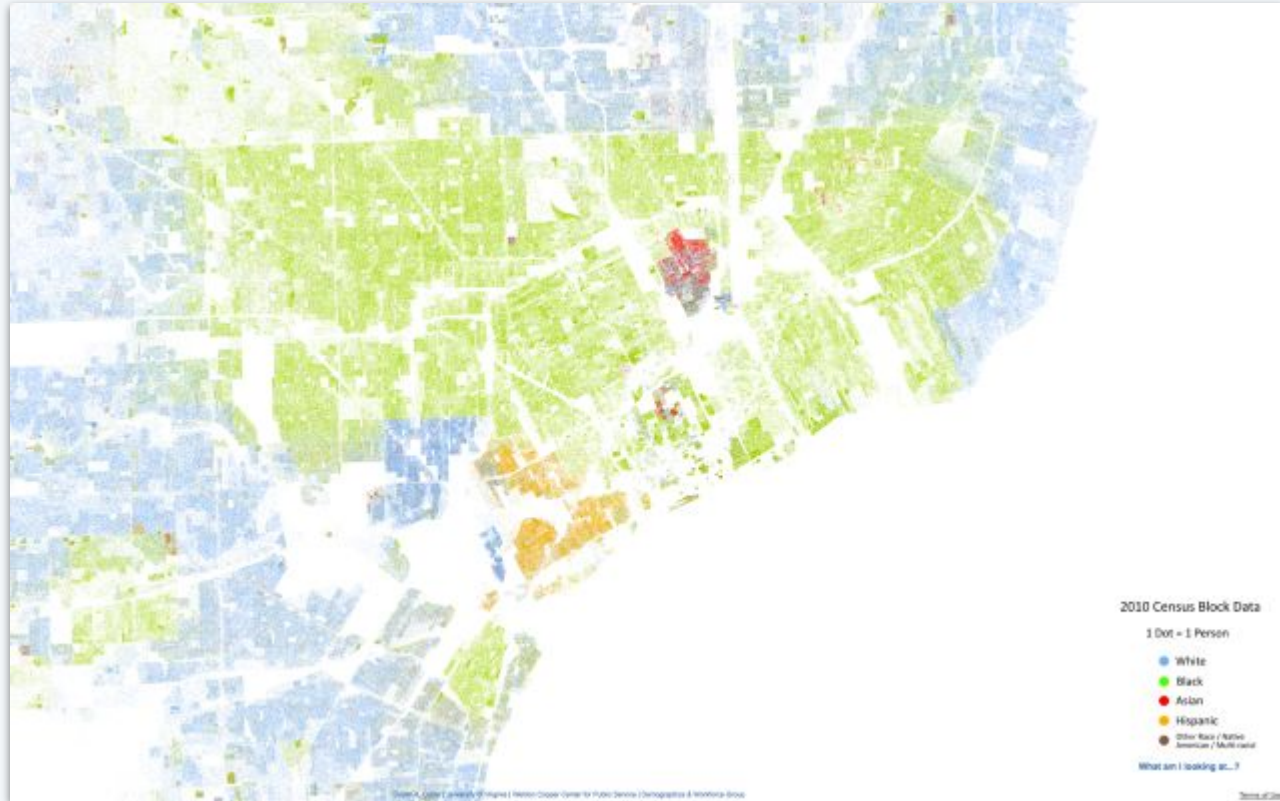
“Everything is related to everything else, but near things are more related than distant things.”



“The phenomenon external to a geographic area of interest affects what goes on inside.”



 Data Council: Austin





RESOURCE | ARTICLE

GIS (Geographic Information System)

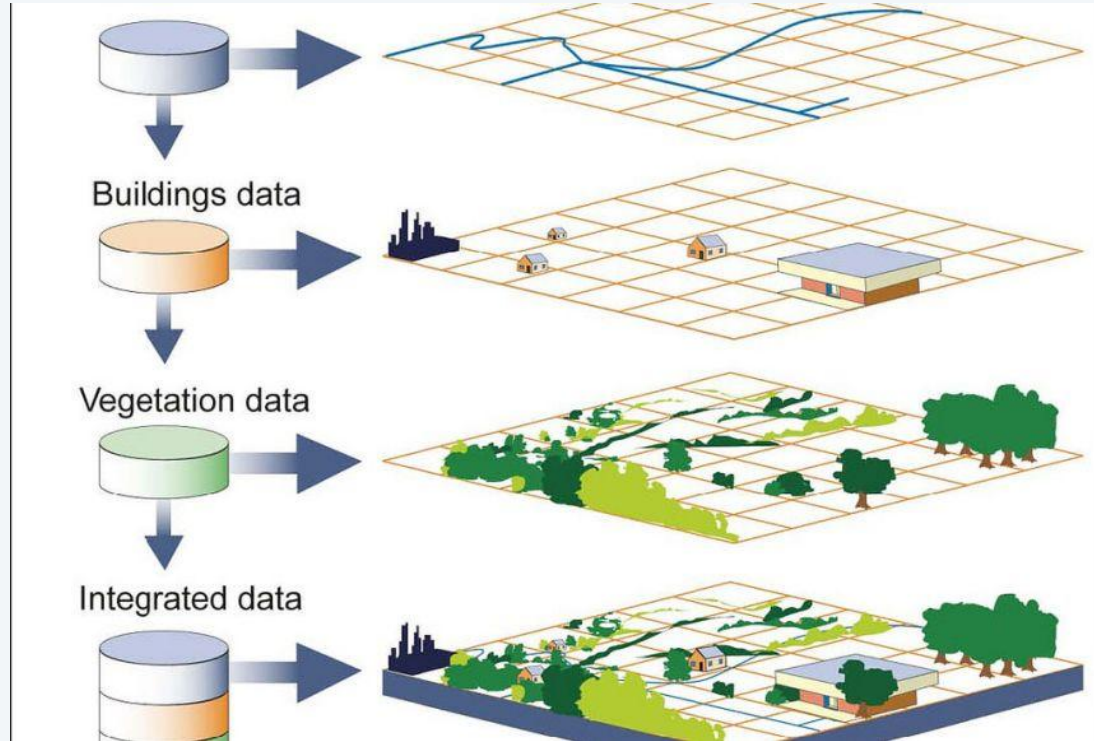
A geographic information system (GIS) is a computer system for capturing, storing, checking, and displaying data related to positions on Earth's surface.

GRADES

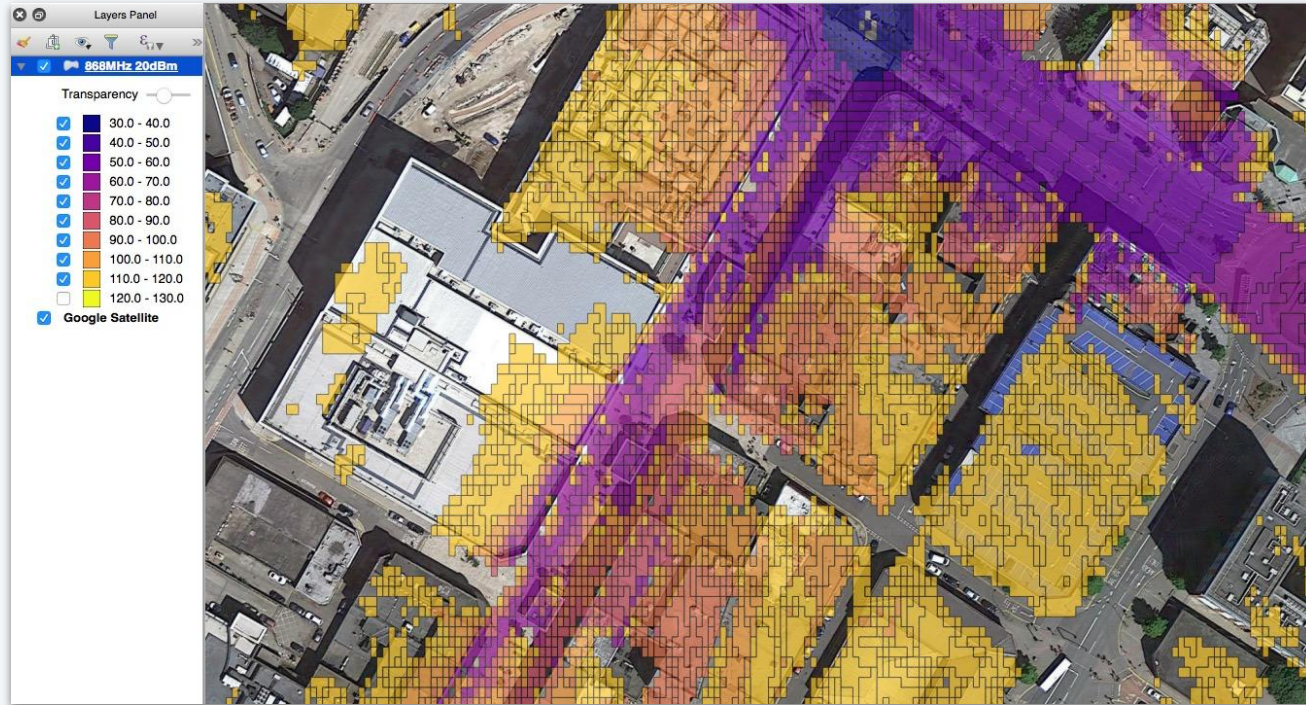
4 - 12+

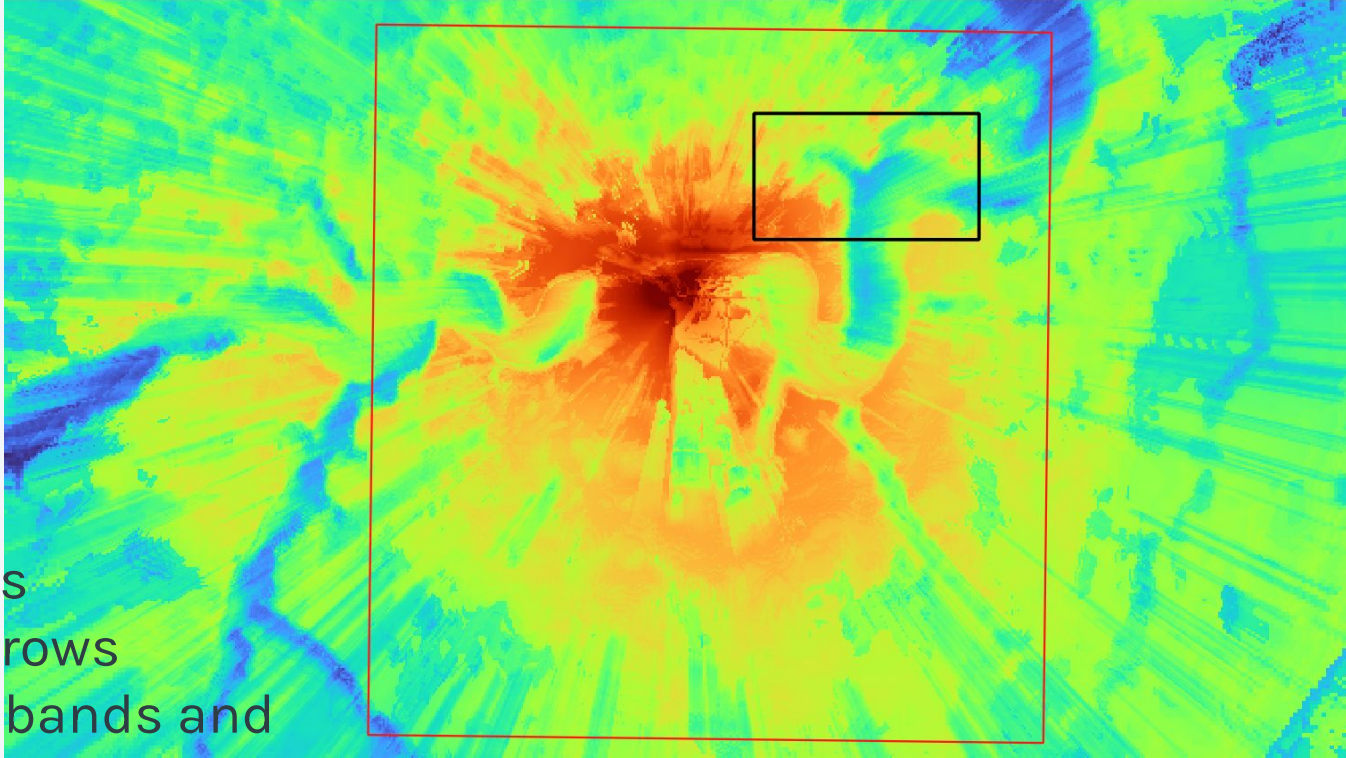
SUBJECTS

Geography, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Physical Geography



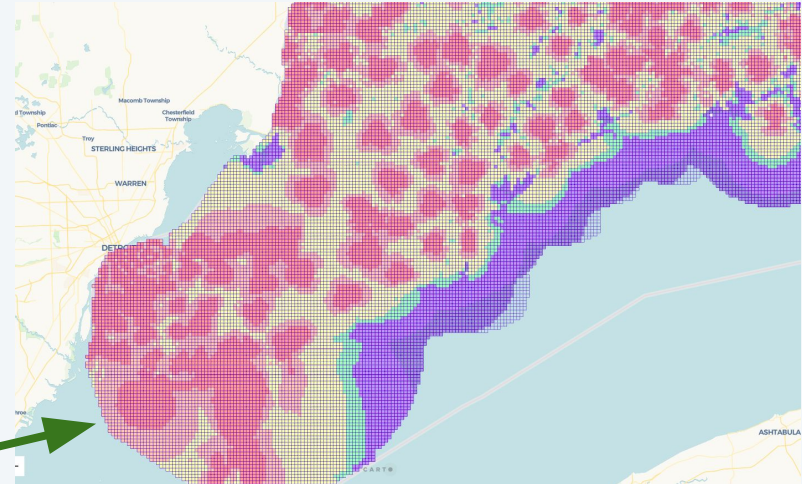
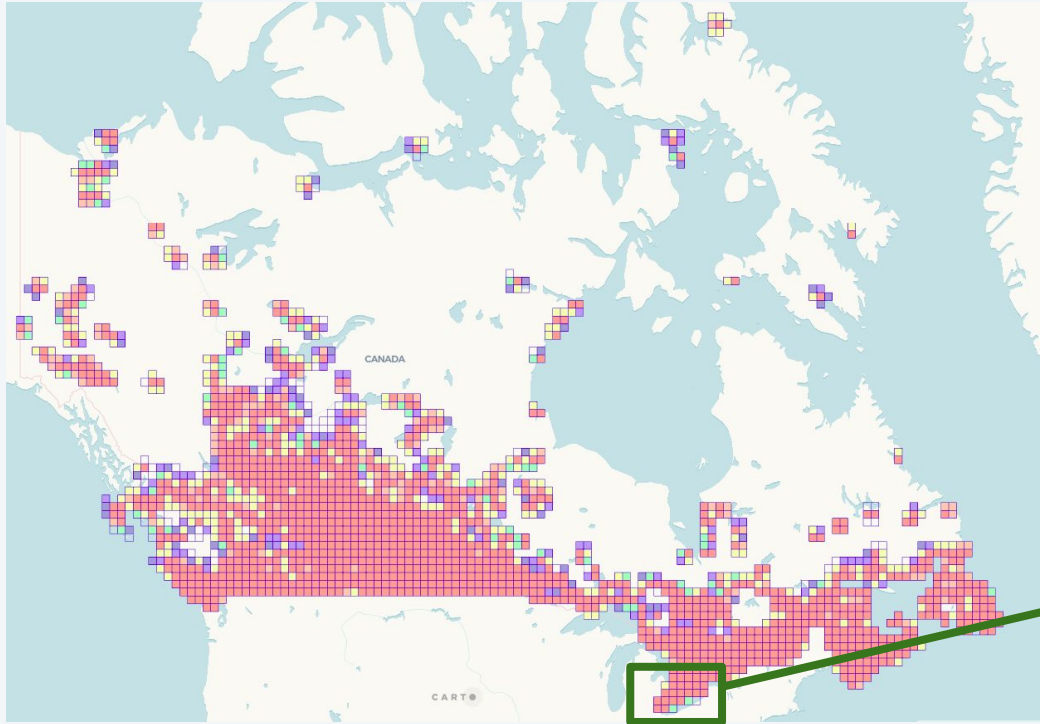
 Data Council: Austin





30m cells
9 billion rows
Multiple bands and
signal strengths

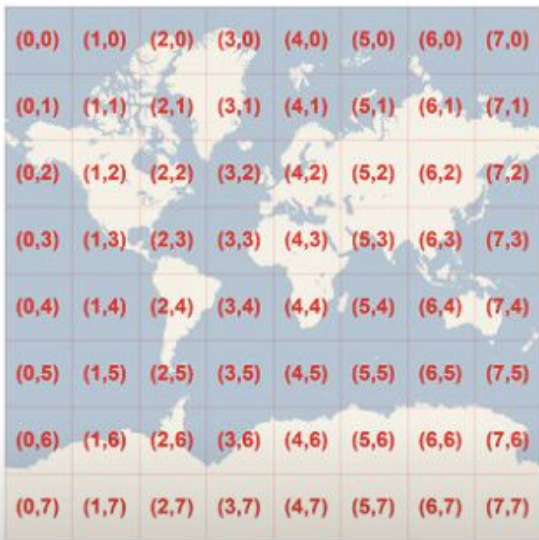
 Data Council: Austin



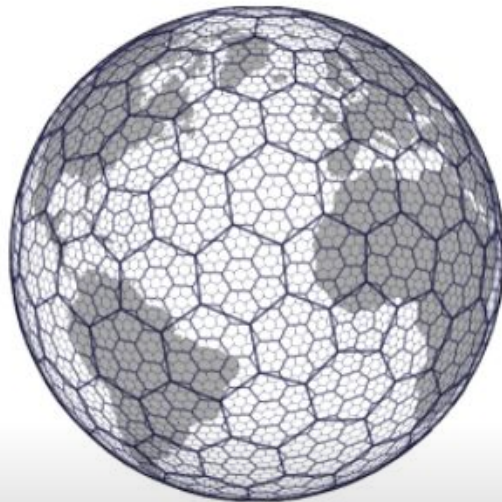
255GB to 28 GB

26:05 to 0:03 spatial join

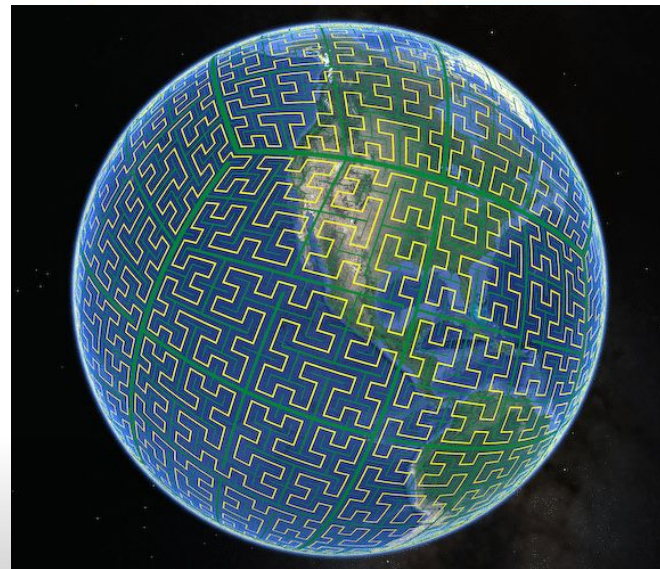
Welcome spatial indexes



Quadkey ([source](#))



Uber's H3 ([source](#))

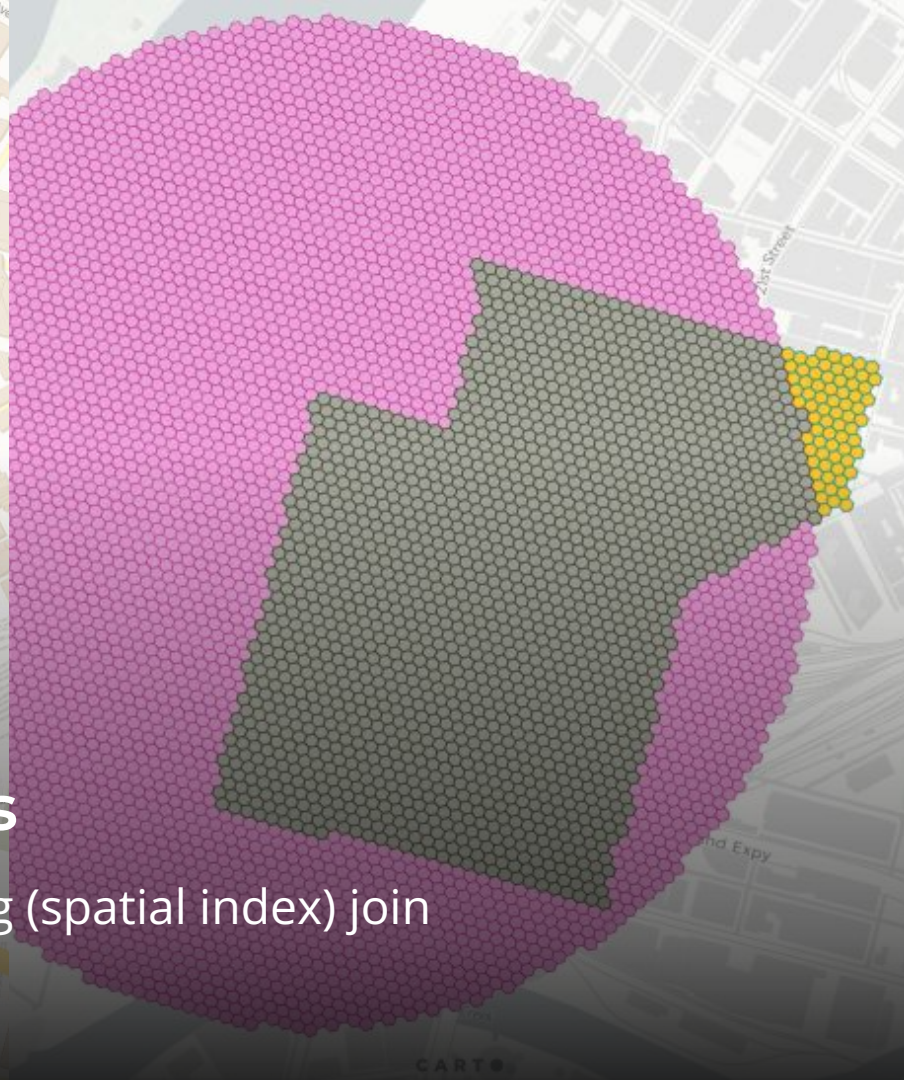


S2 ([source](#))

Geospatial Hierarchical Indexes

Different strategies to partition the space into discrete grids

1. Query performance
2. Storage
3. Visualization performance
4. Intuitive visualization
5. Neighbors and children



Spatial joins to string joins

Join on spatial data compared to string (spatial index) join

Geometries vs Spatial Indexes:

What do they look like?



```
POLYGON((-96.196141 41.125515,  
-96.195606 41.125514, -96.181864  
41.125507, -96.177078 41.125474,  
-96.167733 41.125456, -96.160565  
41.125456, -96.154682 41.125429,  
-96.151094 41.125414, -96.138848  
41.125395, -96.138454 41.125394,  
-96.138381 41.125394, -96.137158  
41.125391, -96.130043 41.125377,  
-96.1301...))*
```

*This represents about a **10th** of the geometric description of a census tract, which we have truncated for readability



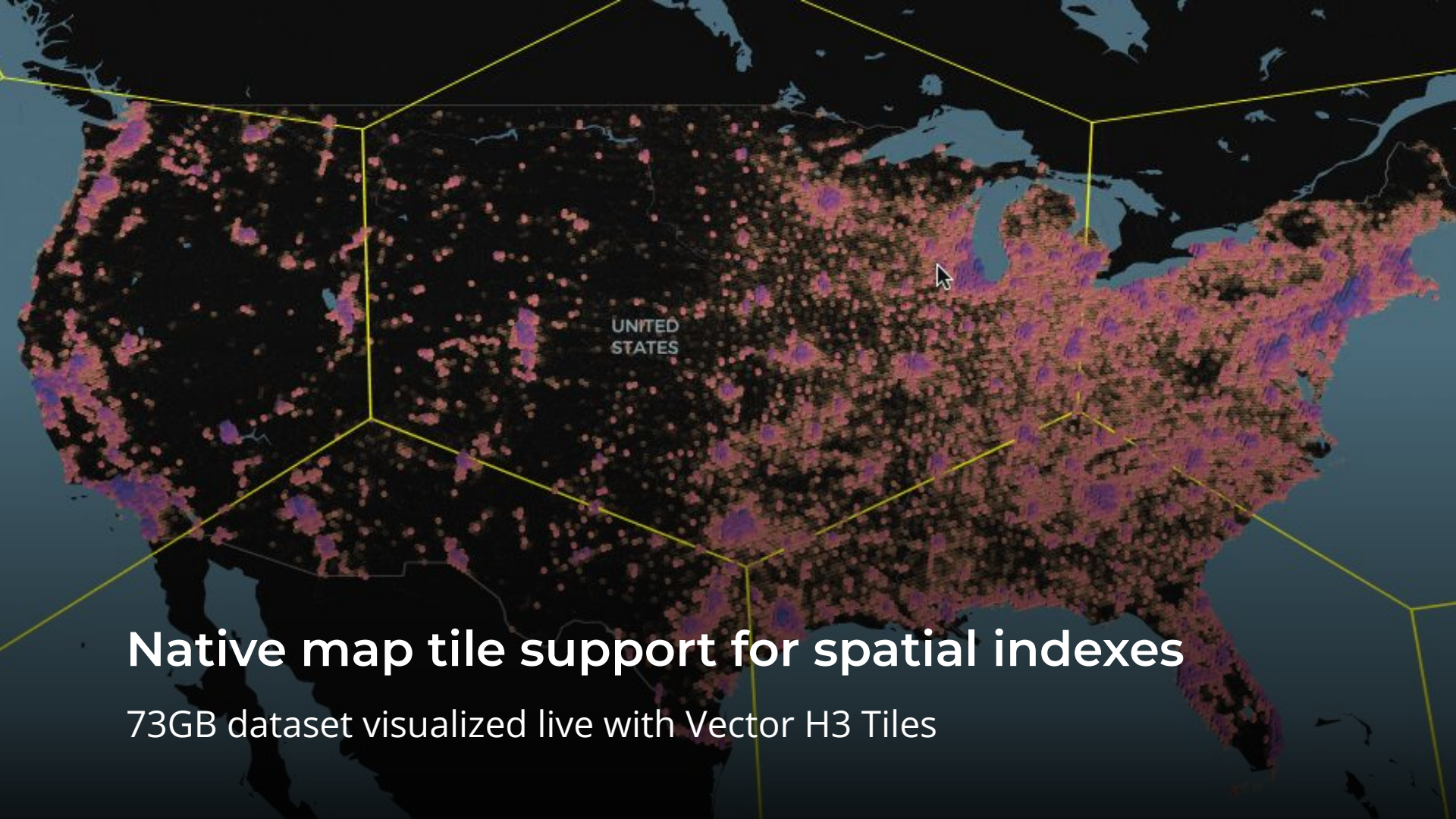
8a2aa84ec307fff

Performance comparisons

Example ETL use case	Geometries	Spatial Indexes	Gain of spatial index over geometries
Processing time	12 days	7 hours	98% time saved
Data transferred into the Database	4 TB	1.5 TB	62% less data transferred
RAM to process the largest file	256 GB	28 GB	89% reduction in RAM
Time to process a spatial join with population	26 minutes	3 seconds	99% less time
Time to generate a tileset	23 minutes	1.5 minutes	94% time saved
Population coverage	15.48%	15.48%	0% coverage lost

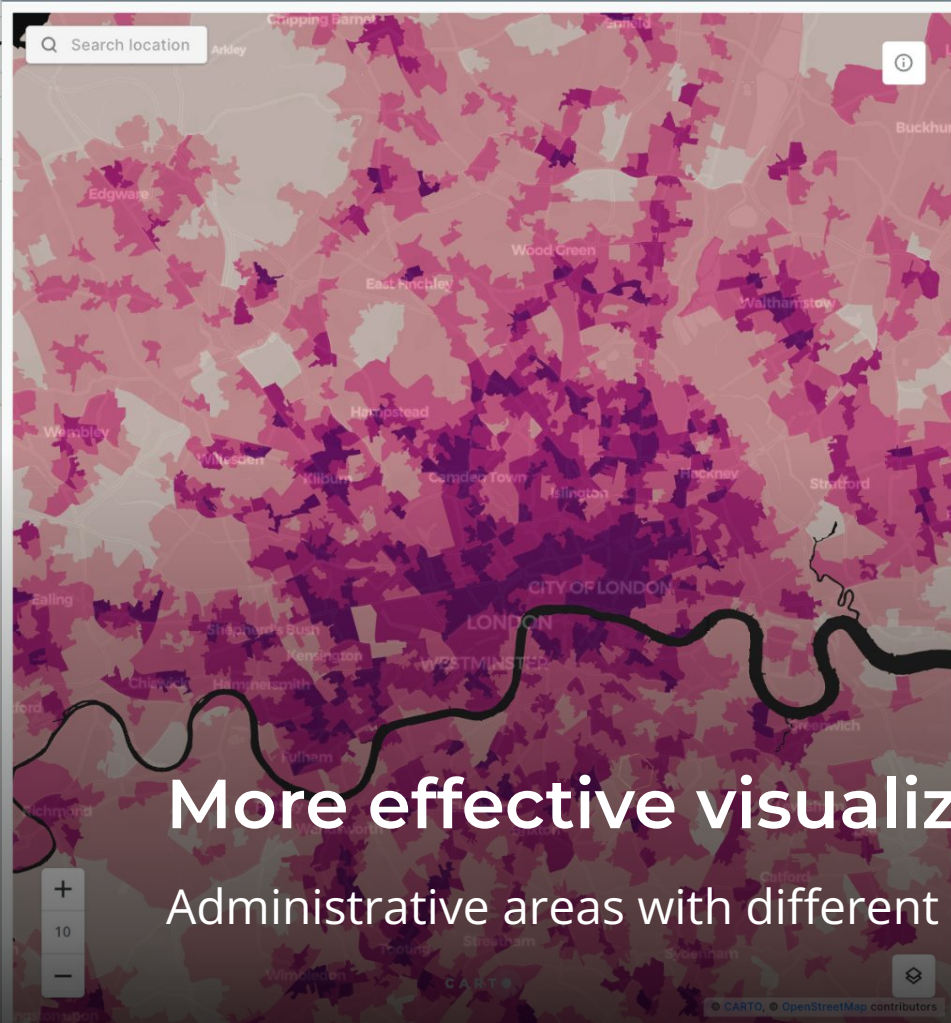
Estimated reduction in cloud data warehouse bill by 85%





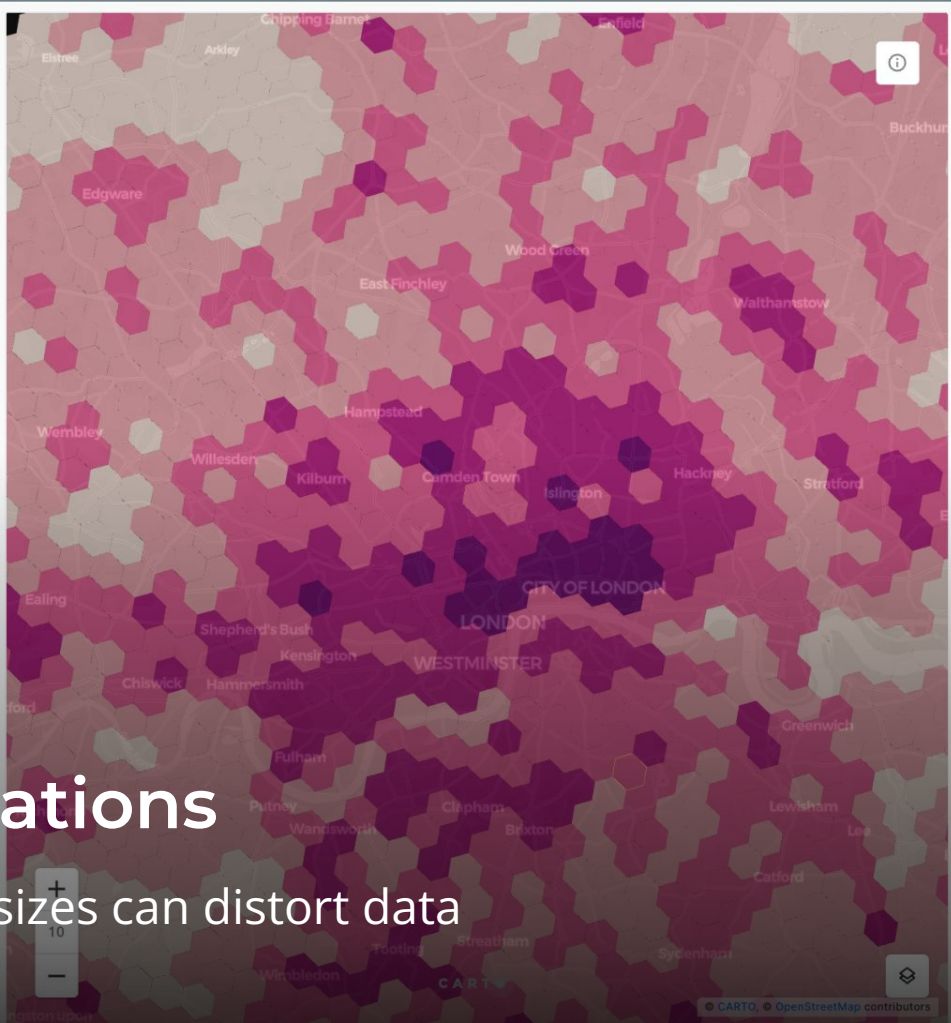
Native map tile support for spatial indexes

73GB dataset visualized live with Vector H3 Tiles



More effective visualizations

Administrative areas with different sizes can distort data

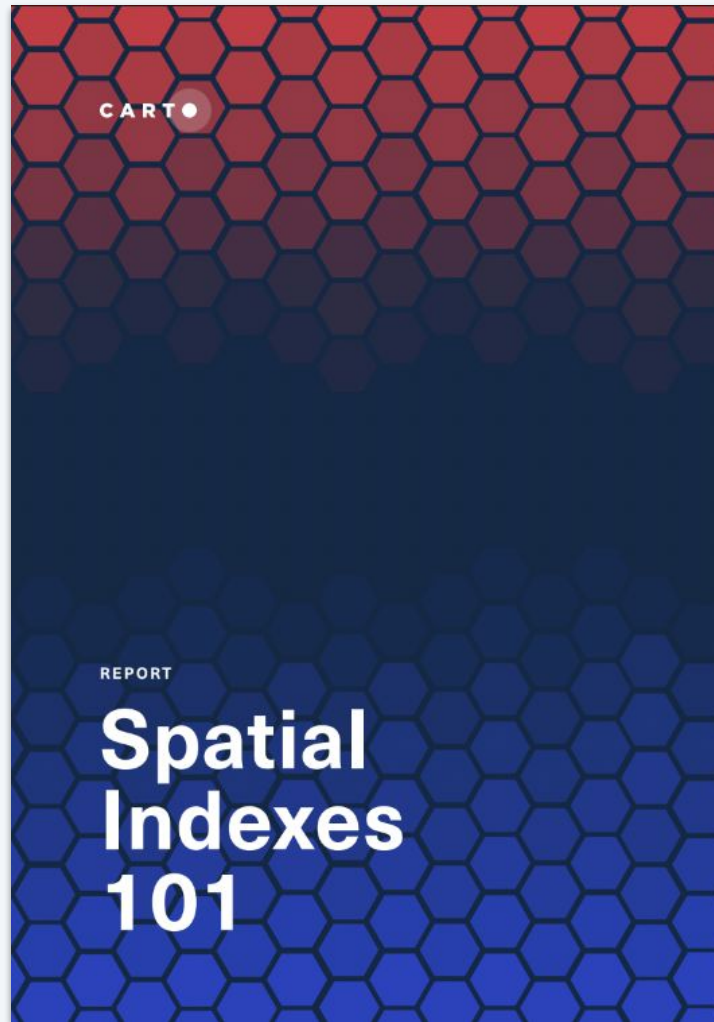




Analyze parents, children, and neighbors

Easy to scale up and down and analyze relationships

1. Loss of raw data
2. Precise spatial coverage
3. Original data quality and precision
4. Boundary effects



Workshop

1. Data exploration
2. Performance face-off
3. Visualizing indexed data
4. Enriching grids
5. Spatial analysis
6. Spatial Autocorrelation

[Workshop docs here](#)

Q&A

Thank you!

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