

Introduction

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Vertical Mapper supports a very powerful procedure that builds a grid file from a MapInfo table of regions. The process essentially extracts a value (text or numeric) from a column in the region table and assigns this value to all grid cells that fall inside that region. If the assigned value taken from the MapInfo table is a text string, the process will automatically create a classified or character-based, grid file. If the assigned value is numeric, the procedure will generate a numeric grid file. In both cases, the resulting grid file appears similar to the original region map, however, it often tends to look somewhat “notchy” or pixilated. Not only does the process extract an attribute from the MapInfo region table but, if the regions are thematically mapped, it also assigns the colour to the respective grid cell.

The advantage to having this information represented as a grid lies in the fact that it now becomes available for analysis with multiple overlying grids of different themes using processes that cannot be applied to standard MapInfo vector regions. Using the *Grid Query* builder (Chapter 10), classified geographic information converted to grid format can be overlain with numeric grid data and queried using standard Boolean operators to create a new derivative grid map that meets the conditions of the query statement. Allowing the user to perform powerful spatial analysis routines using any type of geographic data is the single greatest advantage afforded by raster GIS. For an instructional lesson on the *Region to Grid* utility refer to Lesson 5 of the *Installation and Tutorials* manual.