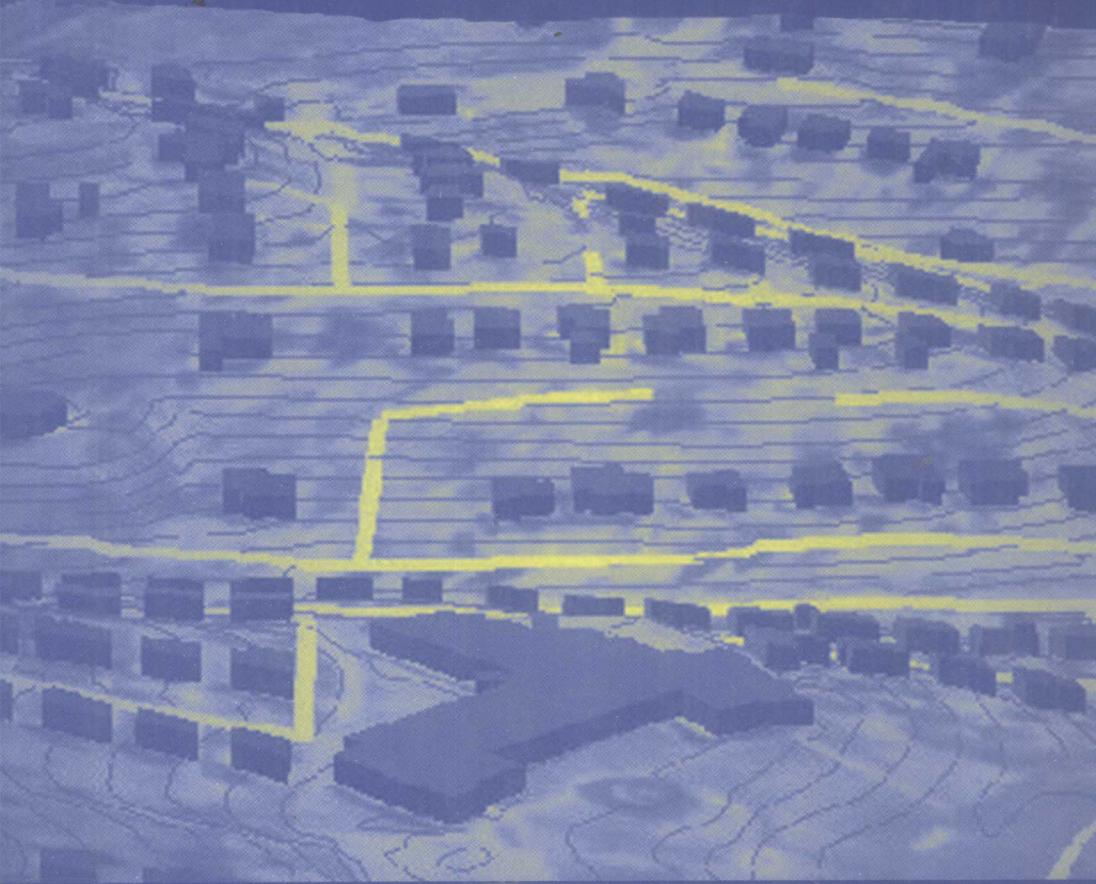


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GIS Applications for Water, Wastewater, and Stormwater Systems

U.M. Shamsi



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U.M. Shamsi



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Dedication

*Dedicated to my beloved wife, Roshi, and my children,
Maria, Adam, and Harris*

Preface

To fully appreciate the benefits of GIS applications consider the following hypothetical scenario. On March 10, 2004, following a heavy storm event, a sewer customer calls the Sewer Authority of the City of Cleanwater to report minor basement flooding without any property damage. An Authority operator immediately starts the GIS and enters the customer address. GIS zooms to the resident property and shows all the sewers and manholes in the area. The operator queries the inspection data for a sewer segment adjacent to the customer property and finds that a mini movie of the closed-circuit television (CCTV) inspection dated July 10, 1998, is available. The operator plays the movie and sees light root growth in the segment. A query of the maintenance history for that segment indicates that it has not been cleaned since April 5, 1997. This information indicates that the roots were never cleaned and have probably grown to “heavy” status. The operator highlights the sewer segment, launches the work order module, and completes a work order form for CCTV inspection and root removal, if necessary. The export button saves the work order form and a map of the property and adjacent sewers in a PDF file. The operator immediately sends the PDF file by e-mail to the Authority’s sewer cleaning contractor. The entire session from the time the customer called the Authority office took about 30 min. The operator does not forget to call the customer to tell him that a work order has been issued to study the problem. This book presents the methods and examples required to develop applications such as this.

The days of the slide rule are long gone. Word processors are no longer considered cutting-edge technology. We are living in an information age that requires us to be more than visionaries who can sketch an efficient infrastructure plan. This tech-heavy society expects us to be excellent communicators who can keep all the stakeholders — the public, the regulators, or the clients — “informed.” New information and decision support systems have been developed to help us to be good communicators. GIS is one such tool that helps us to communicate geographic or spatial information. The real strength of GIS is its ability to integrate information. GIS helps decision makers by pulling together crucial bits and pieces of information as a whole and showing them the “big picture.” In the past 10 years, the number of GIS users has increased substantially. Many of us are using GIS applications on the Internet and on wireless devices without even knowing that we are using a GIS. Experts believe that in the near future, most water, wastewater, and stormwater system professionals will be using the GIS in the same way they are now using a word processor or spreadsheet. Except for the computer itself, no technology has so revolutionized the water industry. The time has come for all the professionals involved in the planning, design, construction, and operation of water, wastewater, and stormwater systems to enter one of the most promising and exciting technologies of the millennium in their profession — GIS applications.

According to some estimates, more than 80% of all the information used by water and sewer utilities is geographically referenced.

This book was inspired from a continuing education course that the author has been teaching since 1998 for the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). Entitled “GIS Applications in Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Systems,” the seminar course has been attended by hundreds of water, wastewater, and stormwater professionals in major cities of the United States. Many models, software, examples, and case studies described in the book (especially those from Pennsylvania) are based on the GIS projects worked on or managed by the author himself.

This is my second GIS book for water, wastewater, and stormwater systems. The first book, *GIS Tools for Water, Wastewater, and Stormwater Systems*, published by American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Press in 2002, was a huge success. The first printing was sold out, and the book achieved ASCE Press’s best-seller status within months of publication. Whereas the first book focused on GIS basics and software and data tools to develop GIS applications, this second book focuses on the practical applications of those tools. Despite the similarity of the titles, both books cover different topics and can be read independent of each other.

STYLE OF THE BOOK

This book has been written using the recommendations of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) of the U.S. and the American Society of Civil Engineers’ (ASCE) Excellence in Civil Engineering Education (ExCEEd) program. Both of these organizations recommend performance- (or outcome-) based learning in which the learning objectives of each lecture (or chapter) are clearly stated up front, and the learning is measured in terms of achieving these learning objectives. Each chapter of this book accordingly starts with learning objectives for that chapter and ends with a chapter summary and questions. Most technical books are written using the natural human teaching style called *deductive*, in which principles are presented before the applications. In this book, an attempt has been made to organize the material in the natural human learning style called *inductive*, in which examples are presented before the principles. For example, in most chapters, case studies are presented before the procedures are explained. The book has numerous maps and illustrations that should cater well to the learning styles of “visual learners”—GIS, after all is regarded as a visual language.

The primary learning objective of this book is to document GIS applications for water, wastewater, and stormwater systems. This book will show you how to use GIS to make tasks easier to do and increase productivity, and hence, save time and money in your business.

ORGANIZATION OF THE BOOK

There are 17 chapters in this book, organized as follows:

- Chapter 1, GIS Applications: Describes why GIS applications are important and how they are created

- Chapter 2, Needs Analysis: Explains how to avoid potential pitfalls of GIS implementation by starting with a needs analysis study

The next five chapters describe four GIS-related technologies that are very beneficial in developing GIS applications:

- Chapter 3, Remote Sensing Applications: Shows how to use satellite imagery in GIS applications
- Chapter 4, DEM Applications: Describes the methods of incorporating digital elevation model (DEM) data
- Chapter 5, GPS Applications: Discusses how to benefit from global positioning system (GPS) technology
- Chapter 6, Internet Applications: Explains the applications of Internet technology in serving GIS maps on the Internet
- Chapter 7, Mobile GIS: Provides information on using GIS in the field for inspection and maintenance work

The GIS applications that are of particular importance to water industry professionals are: Mapping, Monitoring, Modeling, and Maintenance. These four *Ms* define some of the most important activities for efficient management of water, wastewater, and stormwater systems, and are referred to as the “4M applications” in this book. The next ten chapters focus on these four *Ms*.

- Chapter 8, Mapping: Describes how to create the first *M* of the 4M applications
- Chapter 9, Mapping Applications: Describes examples of the first *M* of the 4M applications
- Chapter 10, Monitoring Applications: Describes the applications of the second *M* of the 4M applications
- Chapter 11, Modeling Applications: Describes the applications of the third *M* of the 4M applications
- Chapter 12, Water Models: Describes examples of the third *M* of the 4M applications for modeling water distribution systems
- Chapter 13, Sewer Models: Describes examples of the third *M* of the 4M applications for modeling sewage collection systems
- Chapter 14, AM/FM/GIS Applications: Describes automated mapping/facilities management/geographic information system (AM/FM/GIS) software tools for implementing the fourth *M* of the 4M applications
- Chapter 15, Maintenance Applications: Describes the applications of the fourth *M* of the 4M applications
- Chapter 16, Security Planning and Vulnerability Assessment: Discusses GIS applications for protecting water and wastewater systems against potential terrorist attacks
- Chapter 17, Applications Sampler: Presents a collection of recent case studies from around the world

Acknowledgments

Case studies presented in Chapter 17, Applications Sampler, were written specifically for publication in this book by 18 GIS and water industry experts from 6 countries (Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Spain and the United States) in response to my call for case studies distributed to various Internet discussion forums. I thank these case study authors for their contributions to this book:

- Bart Reynaert, Rene Horemans, and Patrick Vercruyssen of Pidpa, Belgium
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Finally, I would like to thank you for buying the book. I hope you will find the book useful in maximizing the use of GIS in your organization to make things easier to do, increase productivity, and save time and money.

About the Author

Uzair (Sam) M. Shamsi, Ph.D., P.E., DEE is director of the GIS and Information Management Technology division of Chester Engineers, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and an adjunct assistant professor at the University of Pittsburgh, where he teaches GIS and hydrology courses. His areas of specialization include GIS applications and hydrologic and hydraulic (H&H) modeling. He has been continuing education instructor for the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and an Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI)-authorized ArcView® GIS instructor since 1998. He has taught GIS courses to more than 500 professionals throughout the United States, including a course on “GIS Applications in Water, Wastewater, and Stormwater Systems” for ASCE. Sam earned his Ph.D. in civil engineering from the University of Pittsburgh in 1988. He has 20 years of GIS and water and wastewater engineering experience in teaching, research, and consulting. His accomplishments include more than 120 projects and over 100 lectures and publications, mostly in GIS applications. His previous book, *GIS Tools for Water, Wastewater, and Stormwater Systems*, was an ASCE Press best seller. He is the recipient of the ASCE’s Excellence in Civil Engineering Education (EXCEED) training and is a licensed professional engineer in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia. In addition to ASCE, he is a member of the American Water Resources Association, the Water Environment Foundation, and the American Water Works Association.



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GIS is an instrument for implementing geographic thinking

Jack Dangermond (1998)

Iron rusts from disuse; water loses its purity from stagnation and in cold weather becomes frozen; even so does inaction sap the vigors of the mind.

Leonardo da Vinci (1452–1519)

Life is like a sewer...what you get out of it depends on what you put into it.

Tom Lehrer (1928–)

Times of general calamity and confusion create great minds. The purest ore is produced from the hottest furnace, and the brightest thunderbolt is elicited from the darkest storms.

Charles Caleb Colton (1780–1832)

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