

Biodiversity Research and Conservation in a Digital World





The Journal of the Society for Conservation Biology Blackwell Publishing, Inc. IXXN 0558-1892 **"Conservation Biology** publishes groundbreaking papers and is instrumental in defining the key issues contributing to the study and preservation of species and habitats."

General Experimental Design

- Focused Surveys
- Broad-scaled Monitoring
- Synthesis and Modeling



Conservation Biology





Global change



Smith, Knapp, Collins. In press.

Increasing Human Population



"Megapolitan"ization



NOVEMBER 2005 BUSINESSON 103

Computation resources and a growing cyberinfrastructure is now an equal and indispensible partner for the advance of scientific knowledge.



Presentation Goals



The computational framework for biodiversity research. The cyberinfrastructure for data curation and access. Define environmental observational data networks. Describe the Data Intensive Science research paradigm. Provide a domain example.

Moore's Law

The number of transistors that can be placed inexpensively on an integrated circuit will increase exponentially, doubling approximately every two years.



Computational power





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6	2007-05-07	18,00	19,00	0	1	Task 2	
7	2007-05-08	9,25	10,25	0	1	Task 2	
8	2007-05-08	14,50	15,50	0	1	Task 3	
9	2007-05-08	8,75	9,25	0	0,5	Task 3	
10	2007-05-14	21,75	22,25	0	0,5	Task 3	
11	2007-05-14	22,50	23,00	0	0,5	Task 3	
12	2007-05-15	11,75	12,75	0	1	Task 3	



Multivariate Madness



The coupling of human and natural systems.









- Access
- Data organization
- Archive



The cyberinfrastructure for biodiversity research. Poor data practice



Data loss





- Natural disaster
- Facilities infrastructure failure
- Storage failure
- Server hardware/software failure
- Application software failure
- External dependencies (e.g. PKI failure)
 - Format obsolescence
- Legal encumbrance
- Human error
- Malicious attack by human or automated agents
 - Loss of staffing competencies
 - Loss of institutional commitment
- Loss of financial stability
- Changes in user expectations and requirements



Data deluge

"the flood of increasingly heterogeneous data"

• Data are heterogeneous

- Syntax
 - (format)
- Schema
 - (model)
- Semantics
 - (meaning)

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Jones et al. 2007

Supporting the data lifecycle



Building global communities of practice: ... creating long-lived CI enterprises,

- Broad, active community engagement
 - Involvement of library and science educators engaging new generations of students in best practices
 - Existing outreach and education programs
- Transparent, participatory governance
- Adoption/creation of innovative and sustainable business and organizational models



Metcalf's Law

The value of a network grows by the square of the size of the network.

- Sensors
- Sensor Networks
- Observational Data



Global Internet Network Image from the Lumeta Internet Mapping Project

The Earth Observation Network Sensors, sensor networks, and remote sensing gather observations.



Photo courtesy of www.carboafrica.net

Sensors, remote sensing, sensor networks, and observational data















Adapted from CENR-OSTP

Data Intensive Science



Avian Knowledge Network http://avianknowledge.net



Access to data in a standardized format

Tools to explore and visualize data

New analysis techniques to discover patterns of species occurrence

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marbled Godwit					-							
Ruddy Turnstone		-		-								
Red Knot												- 1
Sanderling								_				
Semipalmated Sandpiper				-							-	
Western Sandpiper												
Red-necked Stint								•				
Least Sandpiper											-	
White-rumped Sandpiper											-	
Baird's Sandpiper										-		
Pectoral Sandpiper			-								-	
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper								-				
Purple Sandpiper						-				-		
Dunlin												=
Stilt Sandpiper					-							



55 Projects

have contributed

~ 50 million Observations

and

~10 million Banding Records

from

750,000+ Locations across North America

with each location linked to

1300 Climate, Land Cover, Anthropogenic, and Geographic Features

Data Synthesis and Access



May 20, 2009

http://www.avianknowledge.net

Exploratory Analysis: Partial Dependency Plots using Bagged Decision Trees



Exploratory Analysis: Modeling Dynamic Patterns of Species Occurrence

Eastern Phoebe





Sullivan et al Biological Conservation 2009

Biodiversity Research and Conservation in a Digital World

Gaining insight into the complexities and processes of natural systems is no longer an exclusive realm of theory and experiment; computation is now an equal and indispensible partner for advances in scientific knowledge, land management, and informed decision making.



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