

# A Novel Approach to Position of Geographical Information System (GIS) and Geographical Information Management (GIM) in Water Resources Studies Using Satellite Photography

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**Abstract**— The necessity of considering water resources as base of economic infrastructures' development in developing societies such as Iran is largely emerged during recent years. The necessity of development and good management in facilities allocation and utilizing native potentials and knowledge of natural geography regions are among primary managing affairs of the country. Today, planning is accepted as the most effective tools for encountering with complex problems and representing key solutions in crisis management and facilities allocation. Comprehensive and complete knowledge about geographical field of the considered location and integrated, simultaneous analysis of all effective factors on the location are necessary for planning. Such knowledge and analysis requires applying system which can be able to store all location characteristics in a data bank and to represent these information as map and tabulated information according to the demands of planner. Geographical Information System (GIS) is recognized as one of the most effective planning tools in collecting, analysis and visual representation of required information for planning during recent decades. The current paper is aimed to investigate the role and position of this information system on various affairs of water resources' studies and its effects on the development of the country.

**Index Terms**— Water Resources, Planning Tools, Photogrammetry, Aerial Photos, Role of Photo, Map, Geographical Information System (GIS), Natural Geography Regions, Geographical Coordination, Water Resources' Management, Decision Support Systems (DSS), Geographical Information Management (GIM), Orbital Pattern Package, Sensors, Remote Sensing, Satellite Photography, Complex Digital Systems

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Planning for maintaining, exploitation and sustainable development of the existed water resources in various fields necessitate studying and knowing natural and human factors governing their situation [1-18]. Increasingly developments of human, especially during recent decades, on the field of technology, collecting information and map preparation are led to availability of a massive volume of information for managers and planners [19, 21, 23, 25 and 26]. Regarding the fact that this information will be valuable if they represent correctly at an appropriate time and location, the necessity of developing information banks in order to fast recover and obtain the required information as well as analysis of them is useful [19-29].

GIS, as a special and technical information base for collecting, storing, recovering, analyzing and representing information with geographical coordination, is a powerful and efficient tool in the fields of water resources' management [30, 31]. This system is of various applications in management and planning, investigations, researches and operational affairs

[32-45].

GIS is an organized set of computer hardware and software, geographical information and expert people that is designed and developed in order to obtain, store, update, process, analyze and represent all forms of geographical information [46-56].

Some scholar researchers and scientists were firstly represented the idea of GIS. They were working with a huge volume of information about American and African forests as they were worked at an aerial photography company, and hence, they were thinking about using computer to solve their problems and finally, they were proposed the development of GIS to the government of the United States [57-73]. Regarding the fact that the United States was one of the most extensive and richest countries and its governors were knowing about dangers induced by devastation of water resources and were considered maintaining and using mineral and water resources, they were accepted the proposal and they were the manager of GIS operation in the United States [74-79].

After 1975, reduction of software cost and development of microprocessors were led to a revolution in this field and largely motivated governments, private sectors and universities to utilize the system. For example, in 1985, about 1000 GIS were operated only in one of the USA states and it is anticipated that millions of people will use GIS in future years [80-85].

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## 2 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In GIS, various information of a region store in information bank as various layers. The most important advantage of this system is that it can superimpose information layers for various applications and or performs various analyses as relation functions between layers.

Generally, information of GIS can be divided into two groups:

(a) Location or graphical information: This information, which also named as spatial information, shows the location of topographies. For instance, a point with a given coordination ( $x, y$ ) shows the location of a hole on the map.

(b) Non-location or attributive information: This information describes the characteristics of location topography which defined in graphical information. For example, various information such as depth, owner and diameter attribute to a hole that is defined with a point.

GIS can answers to the following questions:

(a) Questions about a location; what is existed in a given location?

This is the first question which can be answered by GIS. A location can be defined by various methods in the system such as with name and geographical characteristics code (longitude and latitude).

(b) Conditional questions; finding a location with a given condition.

This question is the converse of the first one in which, the characteristics of a given location are identified. According to this question, however, the goal is finding a location with a given characteristic. To answer this question, spatial analysis is necessary. For example, find a region with no forest, having at least one hectare area, located at 100 (m) distance from the road and having an appropriate soil condition for construction activities. In this question, four major conditions are represented which are the representatives of all considered conditions.

(c) Process investigation; how a given location or level is varied from past until now?

In fact, this question is a combination of two previous questions; i.e., system must find locations that are changed during a given period (condition). In other words, combining the question of given location and condition (variation) which is questionable with storing map information of a region during two different periods.

(d) Pattern; what is the type of spatial pattern?

This is a very complex question. For example, it can be asked that if cancer is the major factor of death among residents of regions neighboring to a nuclear power plant? In this regard, various questions can be asked depend on type of system and its application so that system can answer to them.

(e) Modeling; what would be question if?

This question is mainly related to planning as well as the effects of operation of plans. For example, what would be the effects of road construction on the environment? Answering to such questions is depend on the availability of a set of geographical information that are appropriately collected, stored, maintained and organized so that this set of information can be used in various conditions.

(f) Decision Support Systems (DSS);

In fact, all previous abilities can be summarized in the last one. The most important ability of GIS is increasing the potential for decision making and planning for managers and planners of the society. Due to widely use of GIS and increasingly applying of it in managing affairs and even high levels of country planning, GIS is named as GIM (Geographical Information Management).

Today, by increasingly developing of remote sensing and aerial photography, applications of remote sensing and GIS for environmental planning, especially in various fields of natural and geological sciences are increasingly developed.

In the current paper, the role and application of satellite photography in environmental and water resources studies are investigated. GIS can be considered as a high level map product.

In recent years, the term "Geographical Information System" is equally used as fast emerging technology for spatial data processing. GIS can be defined as a powerful set of computer tools for collecting, storing, recovering, transferring and illustrating spatial data from real world to use for special purposes.

Preparation of geological maps including recognition of the form of earth, types of rock and rock structure such as fissures, faults and folding as well as illustration of geological units and structure on a map or including other illustration in the correct spatial relationship between them. Exploration of mineral resources is one of the important activities about preparation of geological maps.

Most information about potentially mineral regions can be obtained by interpreting surficial topography over aerial photos and satellite images. Multi-level interpretation of image is frequently used in geological investigations. For instance, various factors help to explore the lines induced by fractures and faults and natural linear phenomena of the earth. One of their most important is angular relationship between linear topography and light emission source.

It is rarely possible to make a positive interpretation about the type and concentration of a pollutant only based on aerial photo. However, it may be possible to determine the entrance point of water to lake and characteristics of general distribution of pollution based on interpretation of aerial photo. In some cases, such as suspension of sediments in the water, photo can be interpreted using investigation of emissions along with experimental analysis. Pollution induced by sediments is frequently observable on the aerial photos. Since reaction spectral pattern of suspended particles can be distinguished from natural water of lake, these particles can be easily recognized on the aerial photos. When concentrated resources of pollution such as industrial and local wastes enter to the natural water body, feather-like diffusion is typically seen. If wastes have different reflective characteristics from water body, mixing and diffusion of them can be seen on the aerial photo. Materials, such as oil, that create film layers on the water surface can be observed through aerial photography. Huge oil leaks are brown or black and thinner layers are brilliant silver or have a color band like rainbow spectrum. The main reflective differences between water bodies and oil layers are happened in photo section of spectrum between 0.25 and 0.55

micrometer. Aerial photography can help for determining leak regions and losses imparted to the natural and artificial components of river environment.

Satellites repeatedly prepare information for planners. Orbital pattern package of satellite represents the available sensors on the repeated images from the same points or all points of ground surface. These values can be varied from an image per 10 minutes as a band from ground surface not entire earth to complete coverage of earth for five or ten times per day. This situation is vital for various trends that are considered as active pattern. Soil erosion, variations of product amount as the characteristic of grow up season, development as application of irrigation or application of nitrate fertilizer, effects of flood or drought, risks of spontaneous firing or even variation of ground application and ground coverage over years are examples of this case.

In past, these subjective maps and environmental indices have been obtained through traditional field studies. In recent years, however, these are prepared using complex digital systems based on remote sensing. In fact, remote sensing is used for describing information from a considered target without physical contact with it. Other advantages of remote sensing are its special performance on combining and processing various subjects such as height, urban area, river positions, plant cover maps, etc.

Ground application is related to human activities or activities related to a specific piece of ground. While the information related to ground coverage is directly obtained from remote sensing images, information related to ground application type cannot always directly obtain from ground coverage. For example, recreational activities that widely cover a large part of the ground cannot be evaluated through satellite images and aerial photos. To investigate hydrological characteristics of flood induced by rainfall, knowing about the amount and distribution of ceilings, weeds, sidewalks and trees in the considered region is important and hence, knowledge of ground application and ground coverage can be important for ground planners and ground activities managers.

However, there are numerous categorizing criteria for ground application and it causes that there is not a unique definition for evaluation of aerial photos regarding ground application studies. For explaining ground coverage, paying attention to digital data obtained from photos and images and converting these data to image systems of map is important.

Categorization of agricultural product type are performed through aerial photos and based on previous assumption that specific types of plants can be recognized using reaction of spectral patterns and their photo tissue.

- Determining the progress of plowing and cultivation, regions with high and low drainage, and problems induced by erosion and drainage.
- Searching for insects, plant diseases, lack of cultivation induced by incorrect human performance, determining treatment indices.
- Controlling the natural growing and improving through growing season.
- Controlling the position conditions and extensions required for harvesting.
- Determining total plowing area and controlling the ground

coverage in plowed regions.

- Documenting special conditions such as flooding, drought, freezing, firing, typhoons, shower, hail and other problems.

### 3 CONCLUSION

Aerial photos can be interpreted for estimation of population, building quality assessment, traffic and parking investigations, location selection processes, identification of urban variations, and more important than previous ones, recognizing the applications of urban grounds. Interpretation of aerial photos can be useful in investigations about traffic and parking.

Determining the basin regions of groundwater as well as estimating the applications of groundwater based on interpretation, type of plant, region and irrigation type is among applications of GIS. Continuous photos at various times can show flooding induced by river and its consequences.

Interpretation of aerial photos and photogrammetry is very useful in collecting various natural and artificial data related to topography, geology, water resources, soils, construction materials, growing, ground application, position of fecund grounds, historical/ancient regions and natural unexpected events such as earthquake, land sliding, floods, volcano, and tsunami.

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