Release Note: August 2013

Class Separability Classification Tool (version1)

This is the first release of the tool to implement the class separability classification method, a new map classification method we developed to map attribute data with error information. The concept of this classification method is briefly explained in the Documentation/User Manual. However, users are strongly encouraged to read Sun et al. (to appear) to learn about the specifics and details of this new classification method. The classification tool disseminated here is partially integrated with ArcGIS 10 and 10.1. Due to the incompatibility between ArcGIS versions 10 and 10.1, we have to develop two versions of the tool.

Also, due to major technical difficulties, the existing tool can only be partially integrated with ArcGIS. After installing the tool in ArcGIS as an "add-in", users can launch the classification tool from ArcGIS. However, the map classification process to determine class breaks has to be conducted outside of ArcGIS. After the class breaks are determined, the tool has the capability to add a map layer to ArcMap using the chosen class breaks. We have also design a legend style to include the confidence levels that estimates in different classes are statistically different. While our tool can create such a legend, unfortunately, we cannot change the style of legends in ArcGIS to our legend design, which provides critical information on the error levels associated with the data and classification results. A work-around is provided in the documentation.

As this is the first release of the classification tool, we do welcome comments and suggestions from potential users.

Sun, M., D. W. Wong, and B. J. Kronenfeld. A classification method for choropleth maps incorporating data reliability information. *The Professional Geographer* (to appear)