Maastricht University

Measuring the performance of geosimulation models by map comparison

Citation for published version (APA):

Hagen-Zanker, A. (2008). *Measuring the performance of geosimulation models by map comparison*. [Doctoral Thesis, Maastricht University]. Universiteit Maastricht. https://doi.org/10.26481/dis.20081210ah

Document status and date:
Published: 01/01/2008

DOI:
10.26481/dis.20081210ah

Document Version:
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Please check the document version of this publication:

• A submitted manuscript is the version of the article upon submission and before peer-review. There can be important differences between the submitted version and the official published version of record. People interested in the research are advised to contact the author for the final version of the publication, or visit the DOI to the publisher's website.
• The final author version and the galley proof are versions of the publication after peer review.
• The final published version features the final layout of the paper including the volume, issue and page numbers.

Link to publication

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Download date: 16 Feb. 2025

Propositions belonging to the thesis “Measuring the performance of geosimulation models by map comparison”, Alex Hagen-Zanker, 2008.

1. There are at least as many map comparison methods as there are interpretations of maps. Each method on its own is objective and reproducible. The choice for one or the other remains subjective.

2. One is the loneliest number that you’ll ever know. Without a frame of reference a single map comparison statistic lacks meaningful interpretation.

3. Progress is when a highly realistic and promising model proves to be just a bit better than random.

4. As “A View on the World from Ninth Avenue” already showed 32 years ago, distance weighted moving windows naturally represent the first law of geography.

5. Fractal analysis tells us that cities are organized somewhere in between a network and two-dimensional space. This abstract notion becomes tangible when you arrive at a destination and find that there is no parking space.

6. Early studies of the emerging field of nano-geography should focus on the price gradient of food at Dutch train stations, where supermarkets even charge different prices for the same product depending on the isle from which it is taken.

7. The notion that the world is round is fully accepted now that conservative Christians claim that Russia is visible from Alaska.

8. Driving languages to extinction is a major advantage of globalization as it promotes worldwide understanding.

9. Journal of Applied Research is a contradiction in terms.

10. “Expert judgment” often means “some person’s opinion”.