

NASA APPLICATIONS PROJECT IN
MIAMI COUNTY, INDIANA

Progress Report - Grant NAGW-1472

June 1990

Prepared by

Chris J. Johannsen
R. Norberto Fernández
D. Fabián Lozano-García

with the assistance of

Miami County cooperators, Purdue University
investigators and graduate students

Laboratory for Applications of Remote Sensing
Purdue University



West Lafayette, Indiana, 47907

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IN MIAMI COUNTY, INDIANA Progress Report
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Executive Summary

for

APPLYING REMOTE SENSING AND GIS TECHNIQUES IN SOLVING RURAL COUNTY INFORMATION NEEDS

Laboratory for Applications of Remote Sensing
Purdue University

June 1990 NASA Review, Annapolis, Maryland

This project was designed to acquaint county government officials and their clientele with remote sensing and geographic information systems (GIS) products that contain information about land conditions and land use. The specific project objectives are:

- 1) to investigate the feasibility of using remotely sensed data to identify and quantify specific land cover categories and conditions for purposes of tax assessment, cropland area measurements and land use evaluation;
- 2) to evaluate the use of remotely sensed data to assess soil resources and conditions which affect productivity;
- 3) to investigate the use of satellite remote sensing data as an aid in assessing soil management practices;
- 4) to evaluate the market potential of products derived from the above projects.

We will have completed two years of effort on our project by July 1, 1990. During this time we have achieved the following:

- 1) We have selected 28 square miles (28 sections) for our study area in Miami County, Indiana. This includes 14 sections as development sites and 14 as evaluation sites.
- 2) Communication with the county officials has been a key aspect for the success of this project. We hold meetings on a regular basis with the Miami County Cooperators. In addition, an annual workshop is held, the first in April 1989 and a second planned for late Fall 90-early Spring 91. Approximately 50 persons attend these workshops.
- 3) We have defined an area of 4 square miles to develop the geographic information system. For that area we have digitized detailed soil maps, land ownership maps, roads,

surface drainage, ditches and contour line maps. All information is registered to a common geodetic framework.

- 4) We have sampled soils in different slope positions to study the relationship between soil spectral data, selected soil parameters, and potential soil erosion conditions. Laboratory analyses included: organic carbon, iron oxides, manganese, particle size, and soil color using spectral data. Statistical analyses were performed in order to select the best spectral regions to detect soil erosion.
- 5) We developed a "ground-truth form" for gathering information on soil management during the 1986-88 period for selected areas within the county. Cooperators were identified in those areas in order to obtain historic information on land management practices and crop rotations.
- 6) We have obtained landowner/cooperator records from the County Surveyor, Soil Conservation Service and the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service to complement the ground truth information.
- 7) Because of the large amount of data included in the ownership records and the soil maps, we have developed large spatial databases for these two variables. These databases can be used to generate reports, or in combination with the cartographic databases within the GIS environment. This information will be used for future modeling. We have used high-level data models in designing these databases.
- 8) The State office of the Soil Conservation Service has provided us with computerized soils information for Miami county. We have used these data to load our soil database.
- 9) We have performed digital classifications of four different Landsat TM scenes over the entire county for land cover/land use. Selected sites were analyzed using SPOT data for two different dates. All these information will be used for temporal analysis in order to accurately identify different land cover types for specific uses. The classifications are evaluated using ground truth information (as described in 5 and 6) plus aerial photographs provided by the ASCS.
- 10) During our work in database design we have determined that the commercial cooperator was making serious errors with the land appraisal work for the County. Since then we have been assisting the Miami County officials in alternatives to overcome those problems.

PLAN FOR YEAR THREE

- Complete the analysis for TM and SPOT data
- Temporal analysis to improve discrimination of land cover categories
- Select new site for soil erosion-soil spectral properties studies
- Continue with soil management research, and models for erosion/sedimentation
- Selection of a new commercial firm to complete the tax assessment
- Major analysis effort with ASCS during the Fall of this year
- Cooperative work with SCS to determine eroded areas using satellite data
- Production of several maps to show potential applications of remote sensing and GIS in rural planning (with County Surveyor and County Extensionist)

MATERIALS

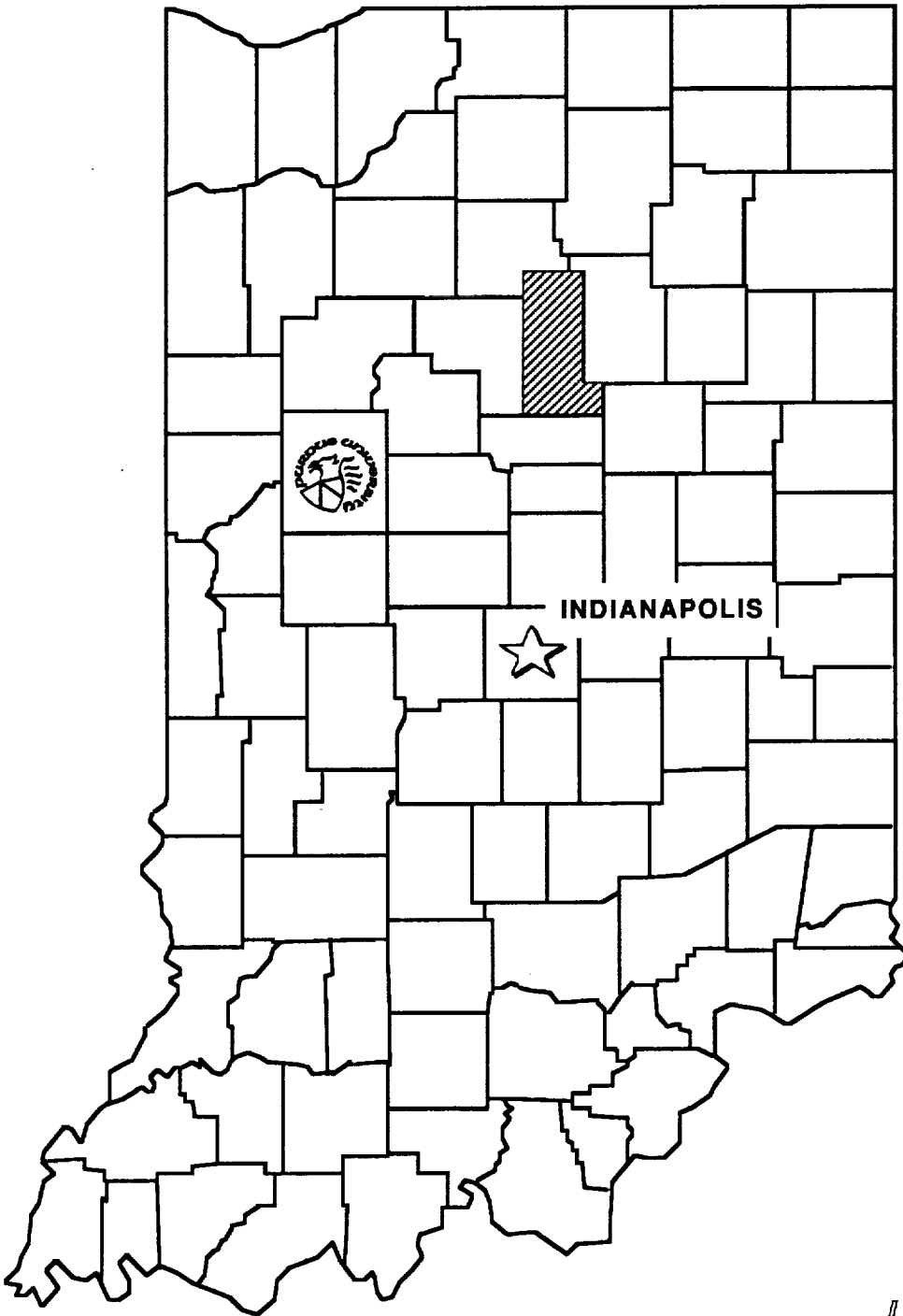
1. Satellite Data:
 - 1a. Landsat-5 TM:

March 23, 1987	April 26, 1988
July 29, 1987	June 13, 1988
	August 16, 1988
 - 1b. SPOT:

March 17, 1987	November 6, 1987
----------------	------------------
2. Ground-truth:
 - 2a. Farmers' information
 - 2b. Aerial photographs
3. Geographic Information System:
 - 3a. Maps: Land property: 1:4800
Soils: 1:20000
Roads, Drainage, Topography: 1:24000
 - 3b. Databases:
 - Land ownership (existing),
 - Soils (Soil Conservation Service)
4. Soil Erosion:
 - 4a. Soil samples for selected areas
 - 4b. Satellite data
 - 4c. Farmers' information (selected)
5. Soil Management:
 - 5a. Farmers' information (collaborators)
 - 5b. Satellite Data

Figure 1. Indiana Counties showing location of Miami County, the study site for this research.

STATE OF INDIANA
MIAMI County

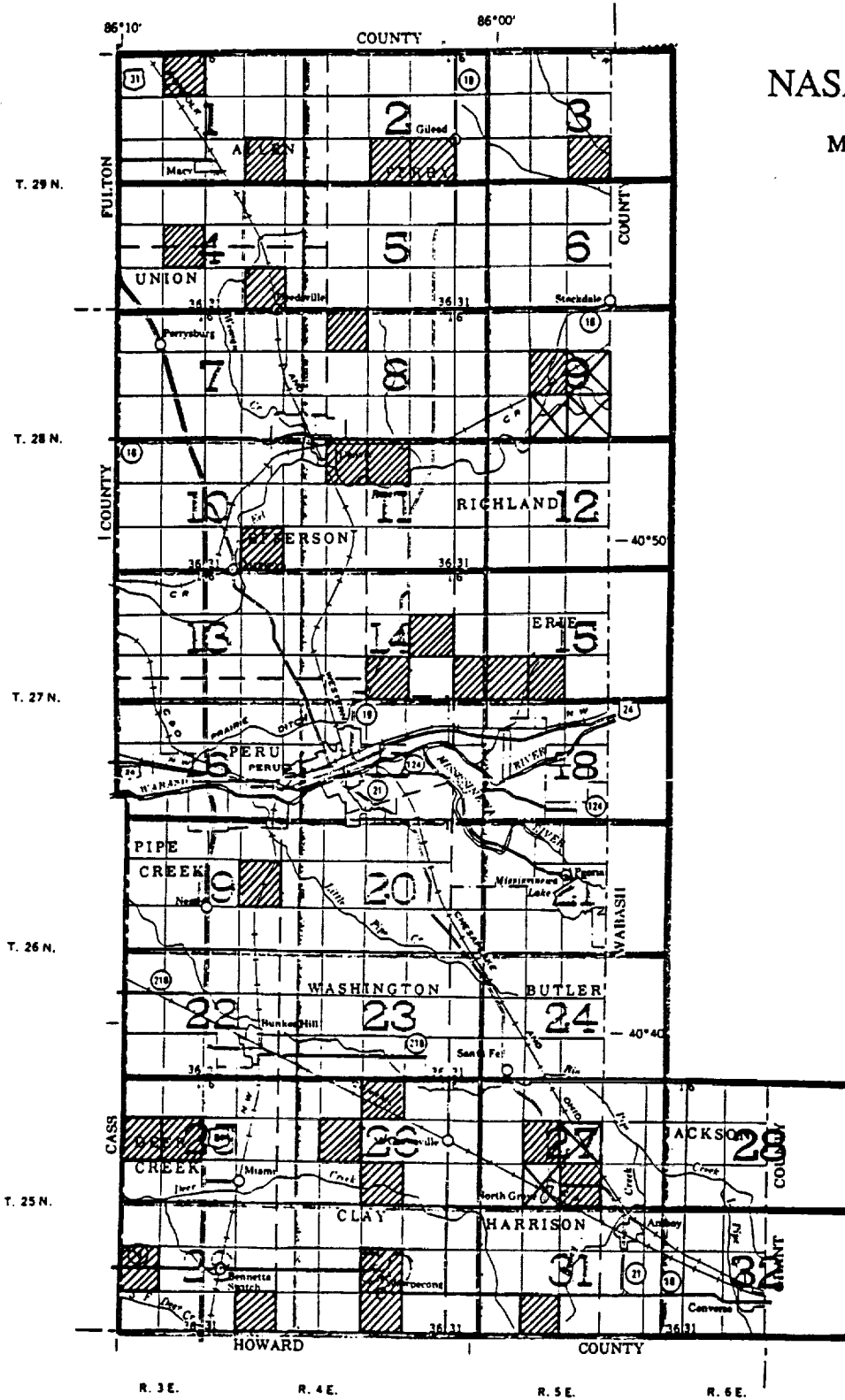


LARS 

Figure 1

Figure 2. 28 square miles were selected randomly for development and evaluation of the satellite data analysis and the geographic information system. 14 out of the 28 sq. miles are used in developing the analysis methodologies; the remaining 14 sections are used to evaluate the land cover/land use classifications. There are additional sections (five) marked with an X that were added later in developing the geographic information system (GIS).

DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION SITES



NASA Applications Project

MIAMI COUNTY, INDIANA

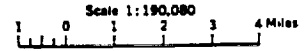


Figure 2

Figure 3. Steps followed in the digital analysis of satellite data. Satellite images were geometrically corrected to sub-pixel accuracy so they could be overlaid and interacted with other maps. The registration was accomplished using USGS 7.5 minute (topographic) series maps. Training statistics were developed using a supervised approach; the statistics were then analyzed and refined in order to find those clusters or categories that were separable. The resulting statistics were used to run classifications for the test areas. The classification results were then evaluated; if the results were acceptable the entire county is classified. Otherwise, the process is repeated from the beginning and new statistics are developed. The final classes were recoded for tax assessment; i.e., the different classes that were first obtained, for example corn, soybean and pasture, were recoded as "tillable land". The final step of the analysis was the transferring of the information from a remote sensing analysis system to a geographic information system so that users can make use of the data.

SATELLITE DATA ANALYSIS

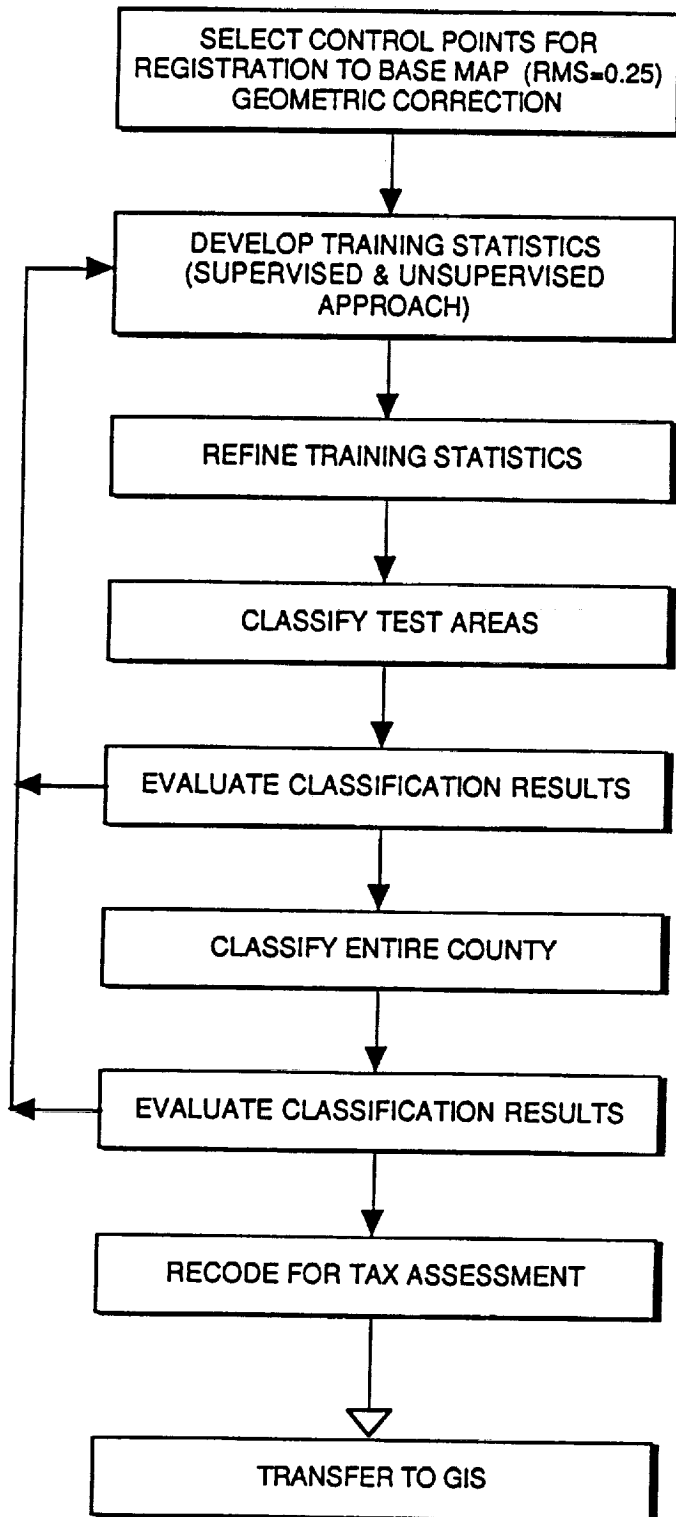
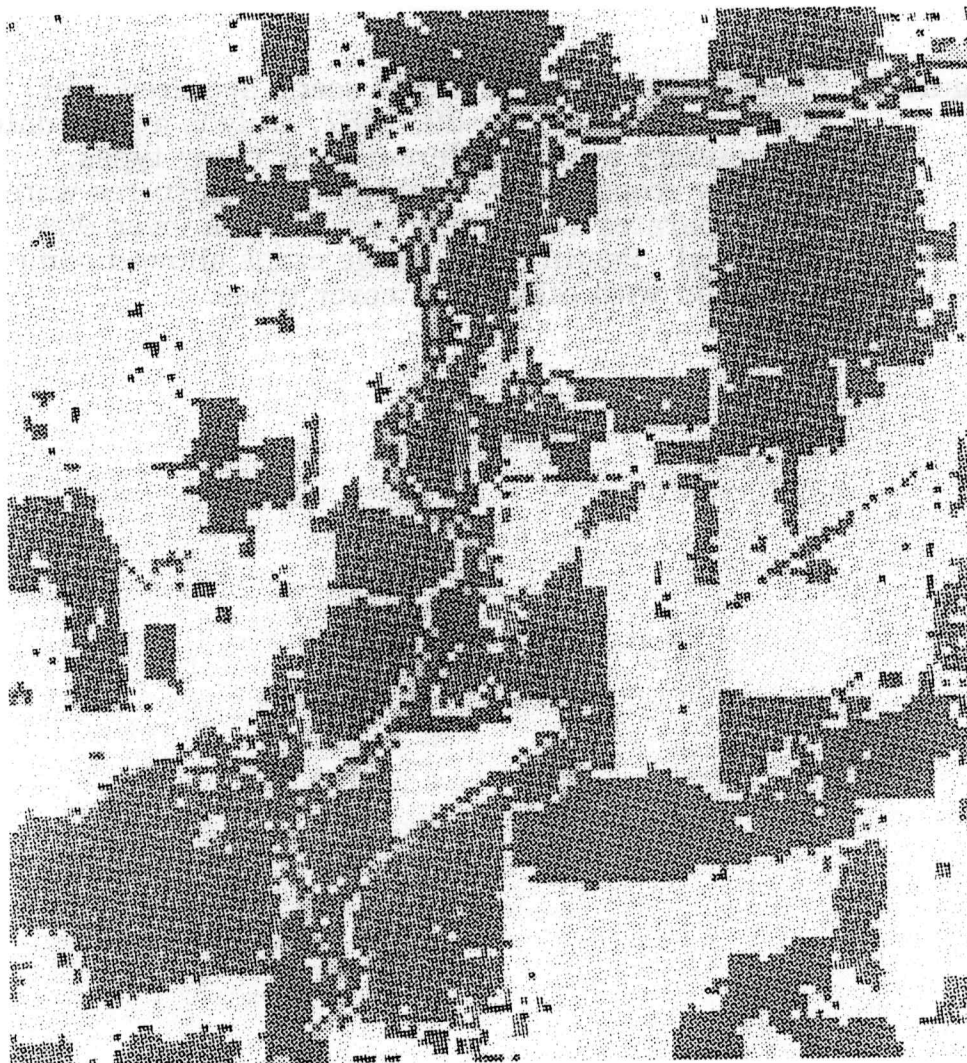


Figure 3

Figure 4. Classification results for the LANDSAT scene acquired on April 26, 1988. This data has a resolution or resolvable area (pixel size) of 30 x 30 meters. This is a good date for discriminating among different soil types because the row crop fields have been plowed. This classification shows good separation between low, medium and high reflective soils. Ground reflectance is basically related to soil moisture and organic matter content - the higher moisture and organic matter soils have the lowest reflectance. There also is good separation between forest and the other vegetation types. The river was very well differentiated since it is in sharp contrast to the trees and other vegetation along the banks.

NASA Applications Project Miami Co.



**Landsat-TM Classification (April 26, 1988),
Sections 3,4,9,& 10, T28N, R5E**

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Figure 4

Figure 5. Classification of a LANDSAT scene acquired over Miami County on July 29, 1987. July is a good date to differentiate among different land cover types, specially crops. Corn, soybeans and pastures were well separated from other cover types (over 90% accuracy). Pasture and forage crops showed some confusion with other land cover types.

NASA Applications Project Miami Co.



**Landsat-TM Classification (July 29, 1987),
Sections 3,4,9,& 10, T28N, R5E**

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Figure 5

Figure 6. Classification of SPOT data for March 17, 1987. SPOT, with a pixel size (resolution) of 20 x 20 meters, offers more resolution than LANDSAT TM (30 x 30 meters pixel size). This increased resolution of SPOT allows better recognition of line features such as field-edges and roads. Land ownership boundary identification is also better accomplished with SPOT data. SPOT allowed a good discrimination for forest and natural features such as the river. On the other hand, the larger amount of data (smaller pixel size) and the wavelength band information of SPOT increases the variability within classes (salt-and-pepper effect).

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Miami Co.**



**SPOT Classification (March 17, 1987),
Sections 3,4,9,& 10, T28N, R5E**

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Figure 6

Figure 7. Raw LANDSAT TM data for the entire Miami County, April 26, 1988. The lighter field patterns in the southern part of the county are due to the fact that there is more intense row crop production in this area since many of the fields have been plowed by this date. The Eel and the Wabash Rivers cutting through the center of the County with their low reflectance (dark colors) have a sharp contrast to the land cover around them.

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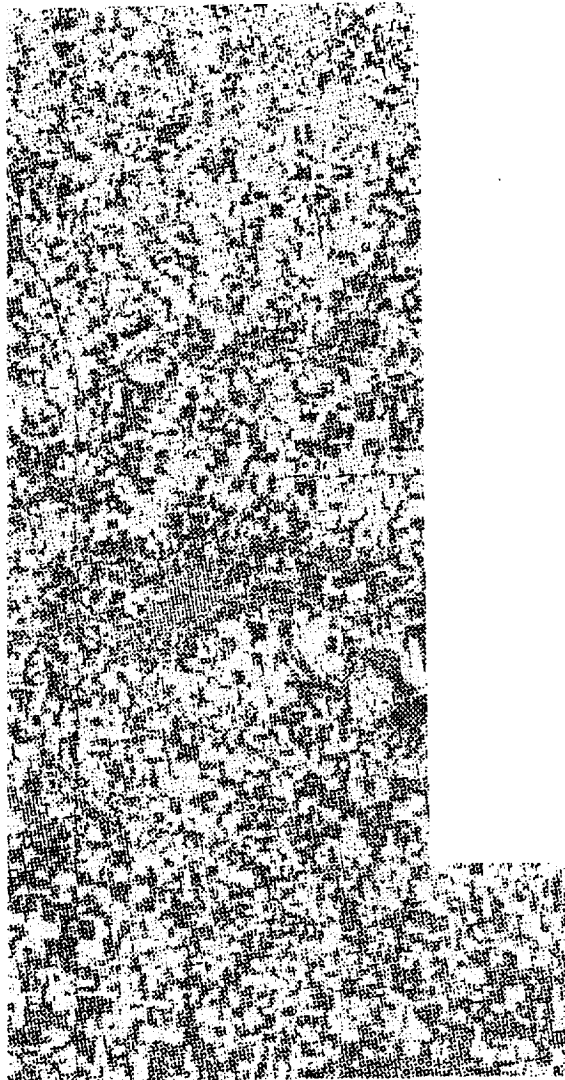
**Landsat-TM data (April 26, 1988),
TM-4=Red, TM-5=Green, TM3=Blue**

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Figure 8. Classification of LANDSAT TM data for the entire Miami County, April 26, 1988. The separation of the soil reflectance into low, medium and high contrasts shows that much of the county has been tilled (light areas) in preparation for the planting of corn and soybeans. The urban area of Peru as well as Grissom Air Base are also distinctive.

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Miami Co.**



**Landsat-TM data (April 26, 1988),
Classification**

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Figure 9. Results of the digital classification of Landsat TM data, obtained on July 29, 1987. The results in this table are presented so that one can see how the sample points were actually recognized. Corn and soybeans were differentiated from the rest of the land cover types with high accuracies. There was some confusion in distinguishing pasture from other kinds of cover types, such as roads, field-edges, and forage crops. This pasture category contained fields with trees and brush. A second category of pasture which contained open fields and haylands was well differentiated, as were the forest and the river categories. Overall, these results show that the classification was acceptable for the purpose of the project and it can still be improved using adding data from another satellite pass and using a temporal analysis technique.

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Miami Co.**

**Landsat-TM Classification (July 29, 1987),
Sections 3,4,9,& 10, T28N, R5E**

	No. of Points	Percent Correct	Corn	Soybean	Pasture	Forest	River	Other
Corn 1	117	95.7	112	0	0	5	0	0
Corn 2	202	100.0	202	0	0	0	0	0
Soybean 1	138	95.6	0	132	0	0	0	6
Soybean 2	65	100.0	0	65	0	0	0	0
Pasture 1	123	56.1	0	0	69	0	0	54
Pasture 2	57	91.2	0	0	52	0	0	5
Forest 1	32	87.5	4	0	0	28	0	0
River	36	94.4	0	0	0	2	34	0

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Figure 9

Figure 10. Flow chart showing the current manual or traditional approach used to calculate land appraisal for tax assessment. Maps published by the Soil Conservation Service at the scale of 1:20,000 are photomechanically enlarged to the scale 1:4,800 (approximate). Land ownership maps are drawn at 1:4,800 scale. Land cover maps are derived from visual interpretation of black and white aerial photography. The final land cover types are shown at the scale of, approximately, 1:4,800. These maps are then manually overlaid to create a new map that shows a combination of ownership, soils, and land cover. Area calculations are done on this final map using a planimeter. Another product is the tax form which is completed for each farm showing the different land cover and soil types, as well as soil productivity factors. Most of the data that is included in this tax form is derived from an existing automated database.

TRADITIONAL APPROACH

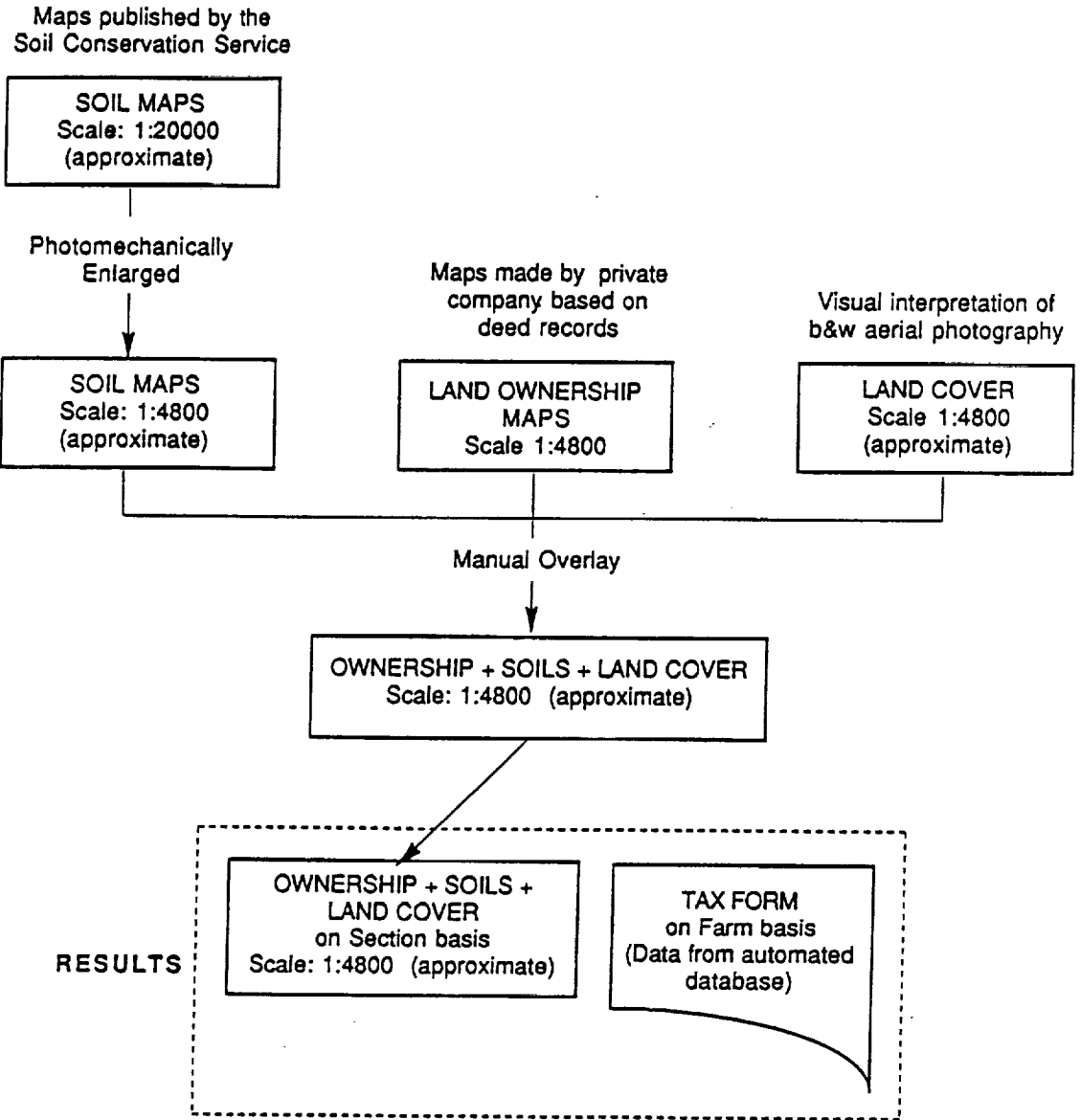


Figure 10

Figure 11. Representation of the spatial database of a geographic information system. The GIS developed for Miami County includes LANDSAT and SPOT data, land cover/land use, land ownership, drainage, road network, and watersheds. These layers are registered to a common base (the reference framework) which is the USGS 7.5 minute series map (1:24,000 scale).

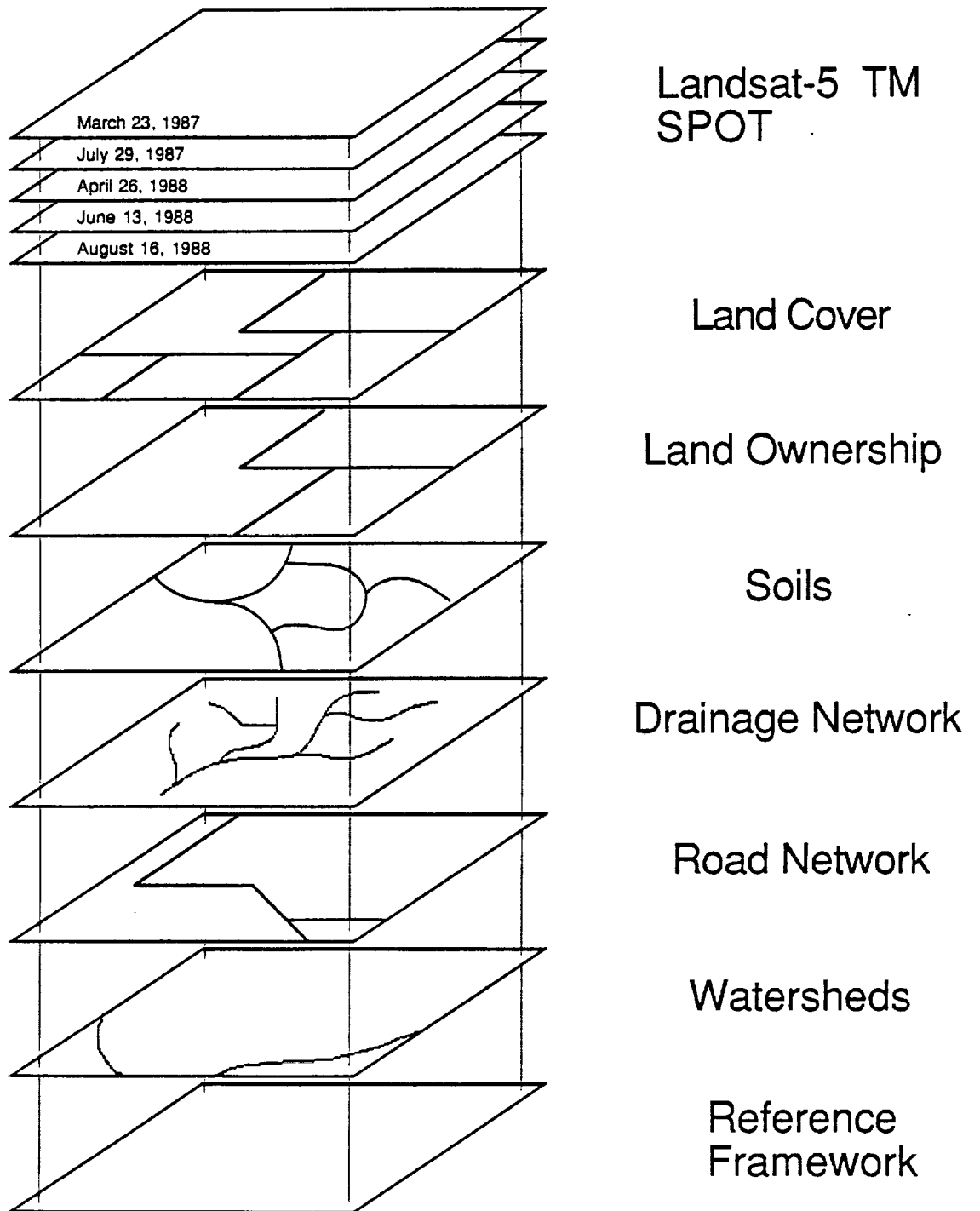


Figure 11

Figure 12. Diagram showing the GIS approach used in this research. The model takes into account temporal land cover information derived from satellite data through digital analysis, land ownership maps redrafted on a scale of 1:24,000, soil maps (originally published at a scale of 1:20,000) adjusted and redrafted at 1:24,000 scale, roads derived from USGS 7.5 minute quads, and drainage networks derived from the combination of USGS maps, aerial photography and soil maps. All these layers were registered to the USGS 7.5 minute quads (1:24,000). These maps are stored in the spatial database on a section basis. We have also designed two non-spatial databases (land ownership and soils) to store attribute data related to the maps. With both, the spatial (maps) and attribute databases in place it is possible to perform different kinds of analysis. Proximity analysis were used to calculate easements and right-of-ways for ditches and roads. Ownership, soils and land cover maps are combined using standard GIS functions to produce a final map that shows these three variables plus easements. Maps can be produced for a section, a farm, or the entire county if requested. Area calculations are done automatically by the system and the results are included in the tax form, along with information stored in the attribute databases.

GIS APPROACH

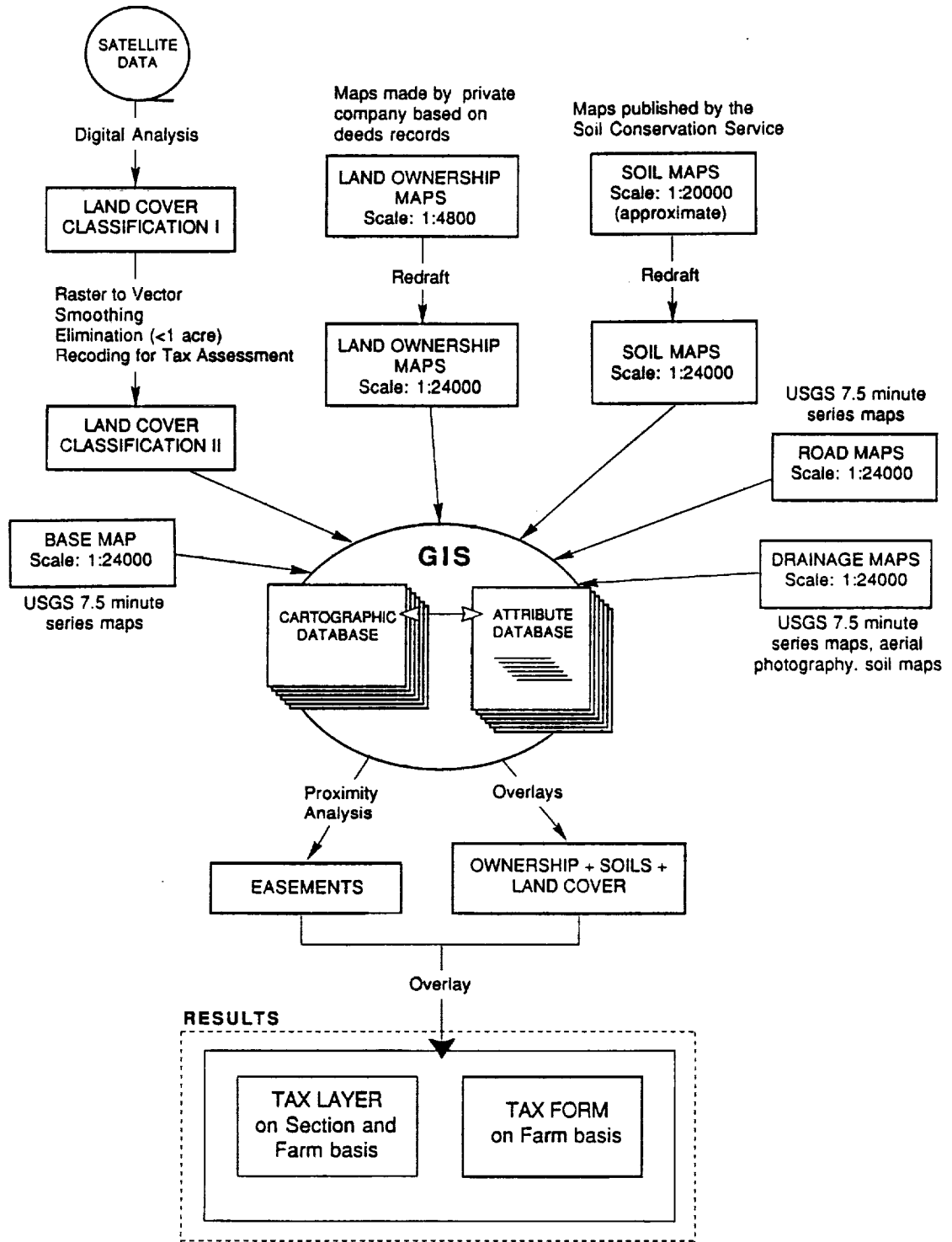


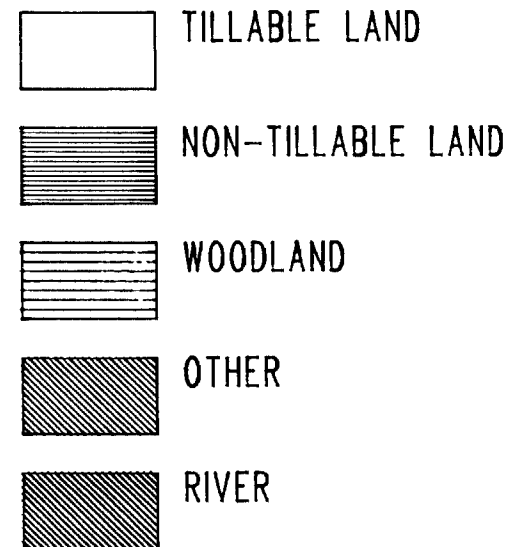
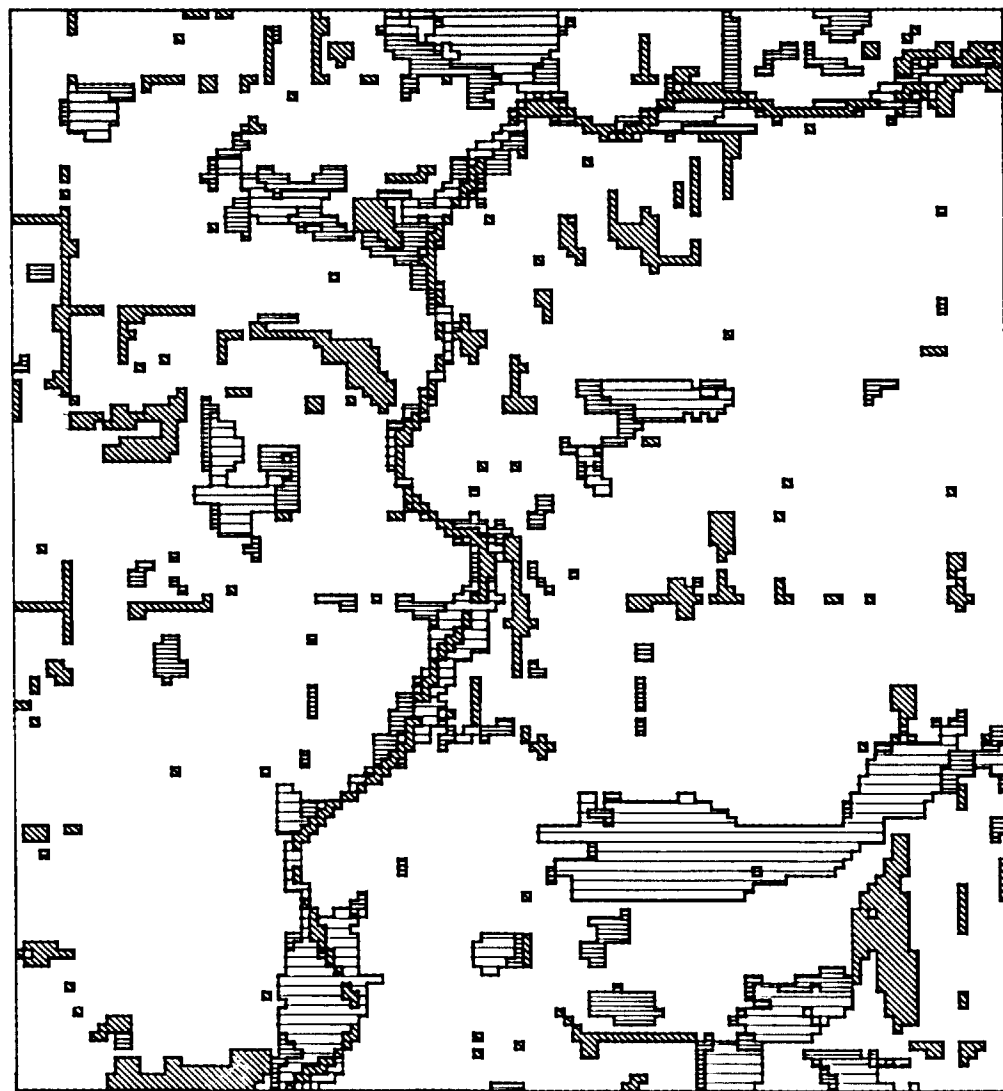
Figure 12

Figure 13. Land cover types derived from LANDSAT TM data for July 29, 1987. This map was obtained as a result of digital analysis of satellite data using the ERDAS system and appears in a "blocky" format since the satellite data covers areas of 30 x 30 meters (about 100 x 100 feet). The original 25 land cover classes were recoded for agricultural reassessment. For example, crops such as soybean and corn, and pasture were recoded as "tillable land". This map shows the land cover types for four (4) sections. This is another capability of the GIS, the information that is stored on section bases can be "joined" and displayed for larger areas.

LAND

LAND COVER

LANDSAT TM-July 29, 1987



Sections 4,3,9,10; T28N,R5E
Miami Co., Indiana
NASA Applications Project

Scale: 1:27500

LARS/Purdue University

Figure 13

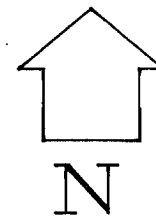
Figure 14. Digital land ownership map of Section 9, township 28N, range 5E displayed at at scale of 1:12,500. This map has been digitized from original maps provided by a private company, and incorporated into the spatial database after redrafting to 1:24,000 scale and registered to the base map.



LAND OWNERSHIP

Section 9, T28N, R5E
Miami Co., Indiana

NASA Applications Project



SCALE 1:12500

LARS/Purdue University

Figure 14

Figure 15. Digital soils map of Section 9, township 28N, range 5E. This map has been digitized from soil maps published in the Soil Survey Report for Miami County but registered to the reference base map.

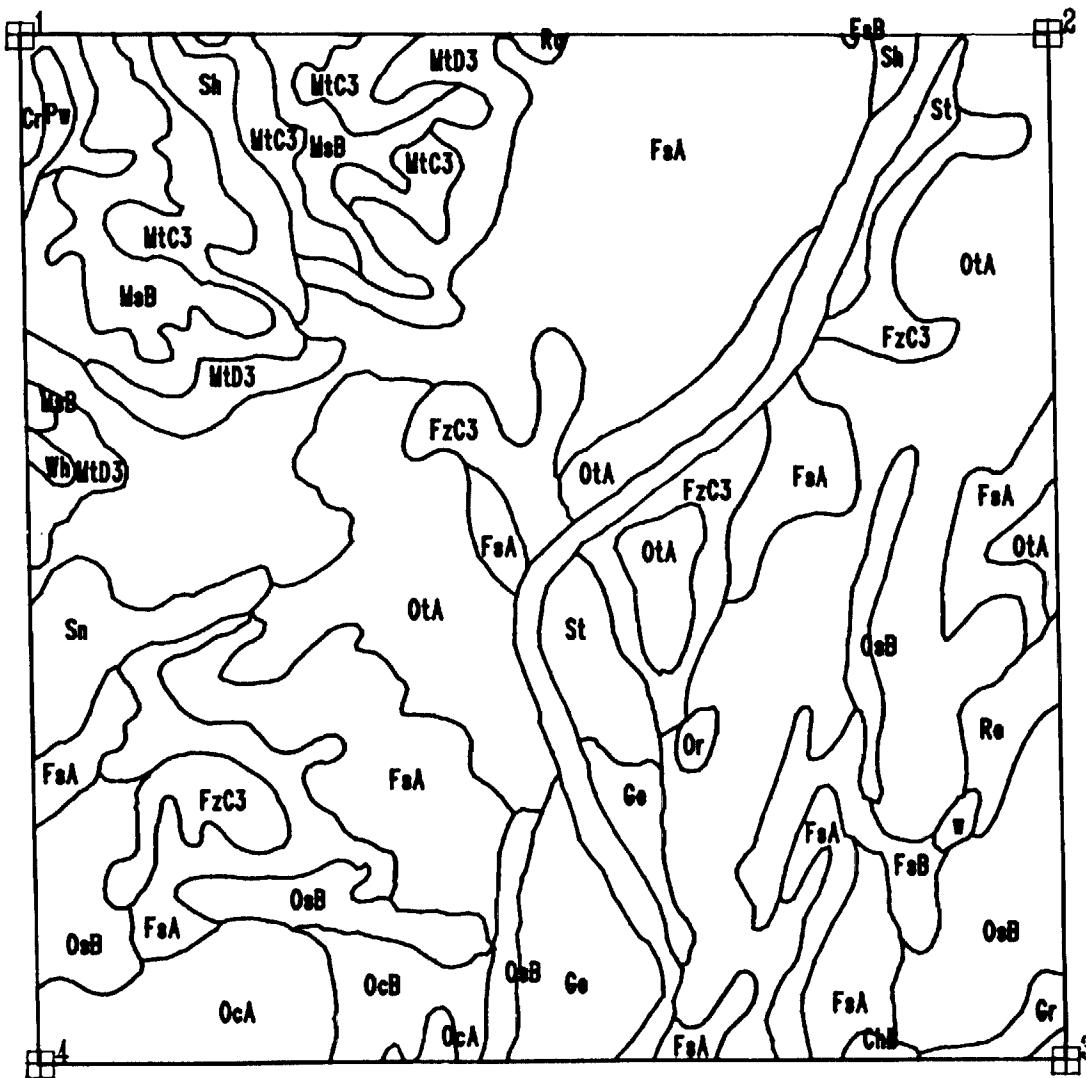


Figure 15

SOILS MAP

Section 9, T28N, R5E

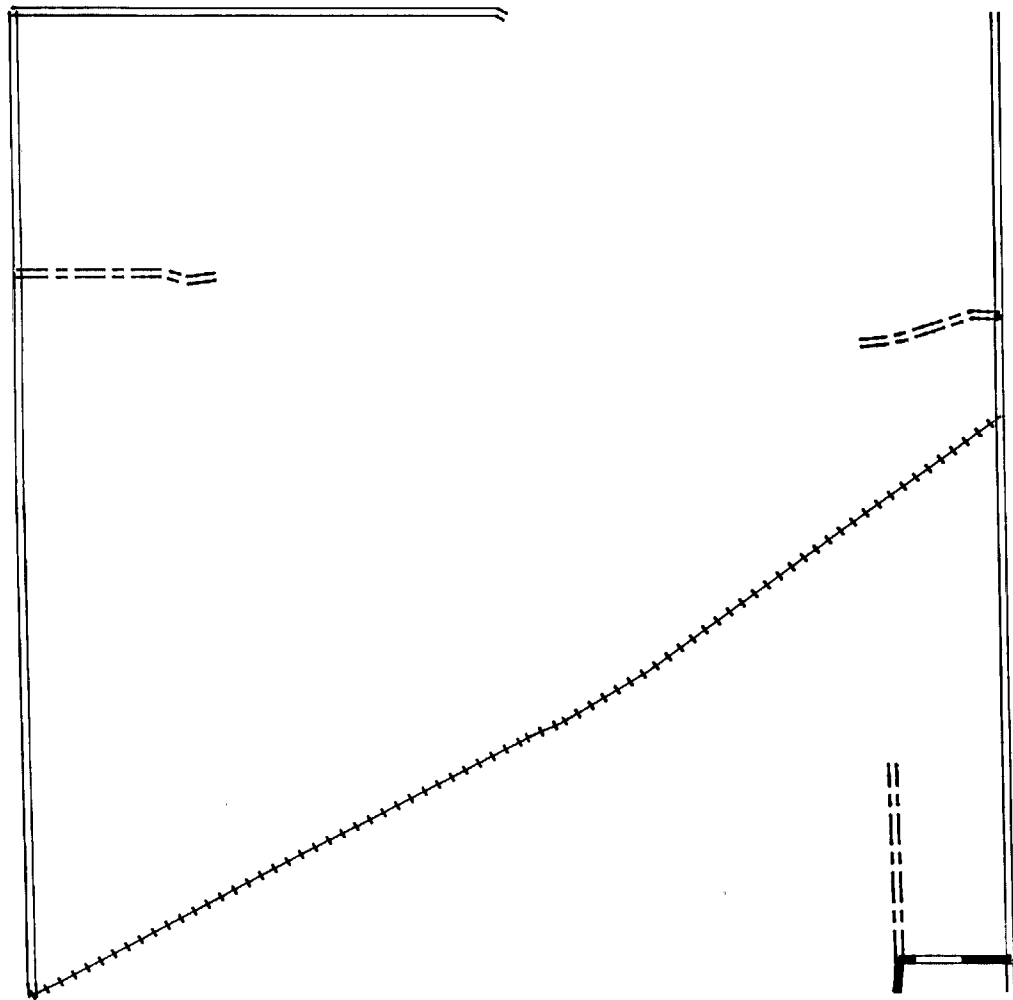
Miami Co., Indiana

NASA Applications Project

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Figure 16. Road map of Section 9, township 28N, range 5E and digitized from USGS 7.5 minute quad maps (scale of 1:24,000). The location and type of roads is important so that proper credit can be given for calculating easements and reduction of taxes due to the easements.

TRANSPORTATION



Medium Duty



Light Duty

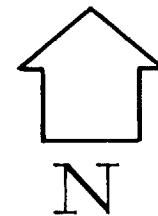


Unimproved Dirt



Railroad

Section 9, T28N, R5E



SCALE 1:12500

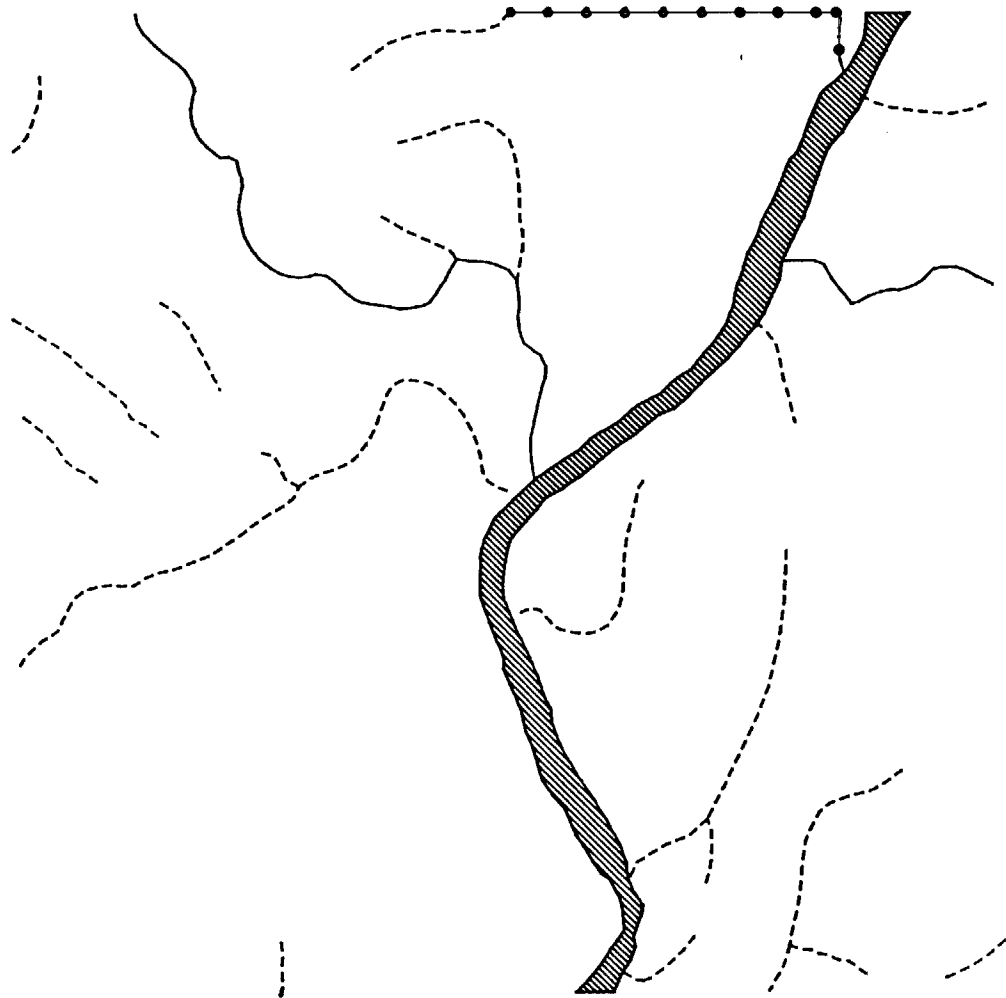
Figure 16



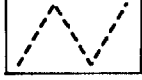
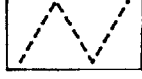

NASA Applications Project, Miami Co., IN

LARS/Purdue University

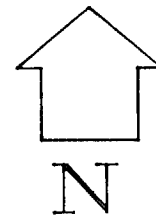
Figure 17. Surface hydrology including perennial, intermittent, and man-made ditches as derived from aerial photography, USGS 7.5 minute quad maps, and soil maps.

SURFACE HYDROLOGY



-  Perennial 1
-  Perennial 2
-  Intermittent
-  Drainage end
-  Canal/Ditch

Section 9, T28N, R5E



SCALE 1:12500

LARS/Purdue University

Figure 17

Figure 18. Overlay of land ownership, showing property boundaries, and soils which is an intermediate product of the current manual approach to agricultural reassessment. The soil map was enlarged from the originally published scale of 1:20,000 to 1:4,800. The distinctive features of this figure are the different mismatches between layers, such as the corner sections, mismatch of roads, and it is also very noticeable the the variation of the river boundaries. All these mismatches are a very important source of error to the final map. When the polygon areas are manually calculated using planimeters all of those differences are visually adjusted and the final map contains different kind of errors.

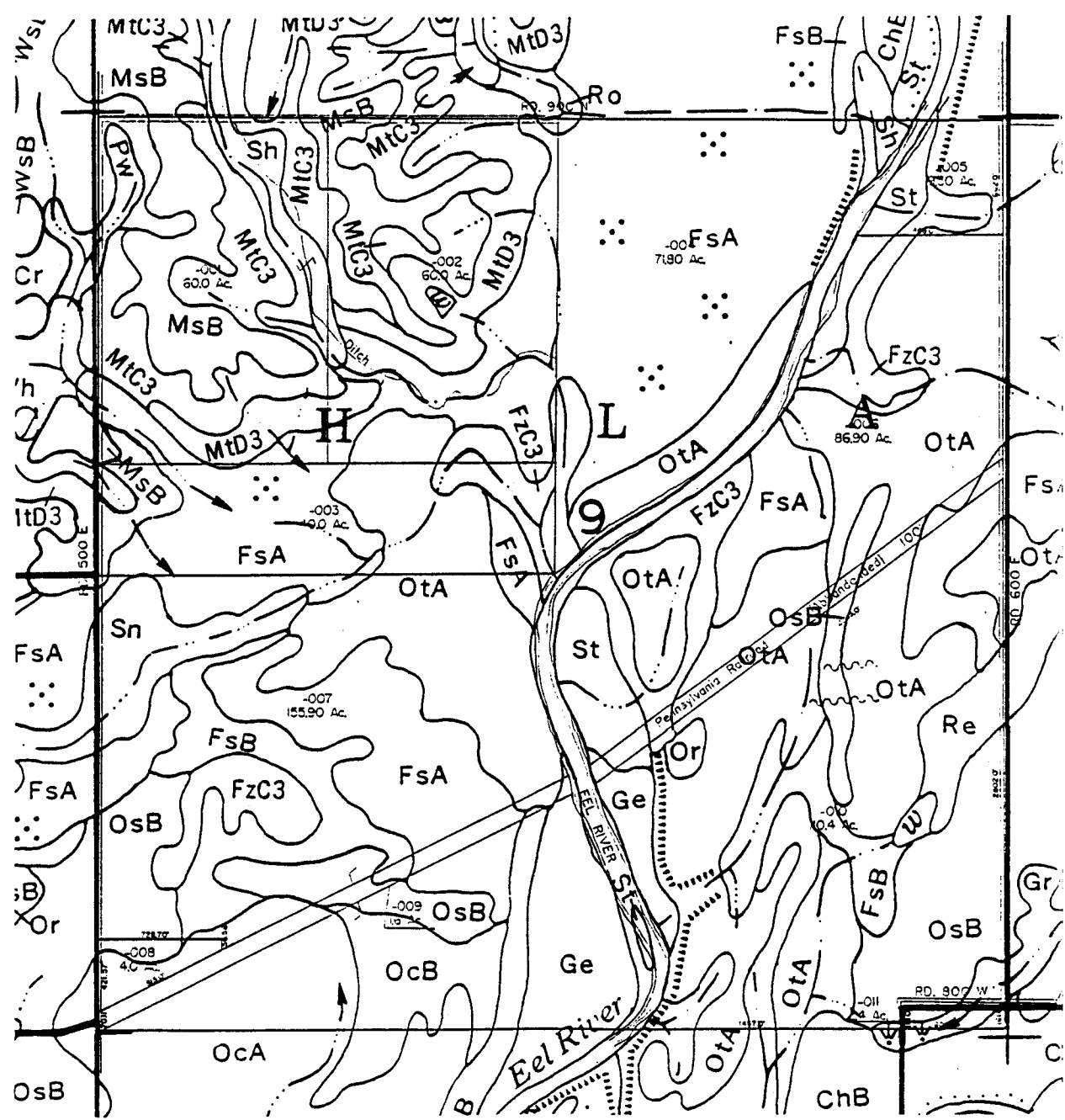
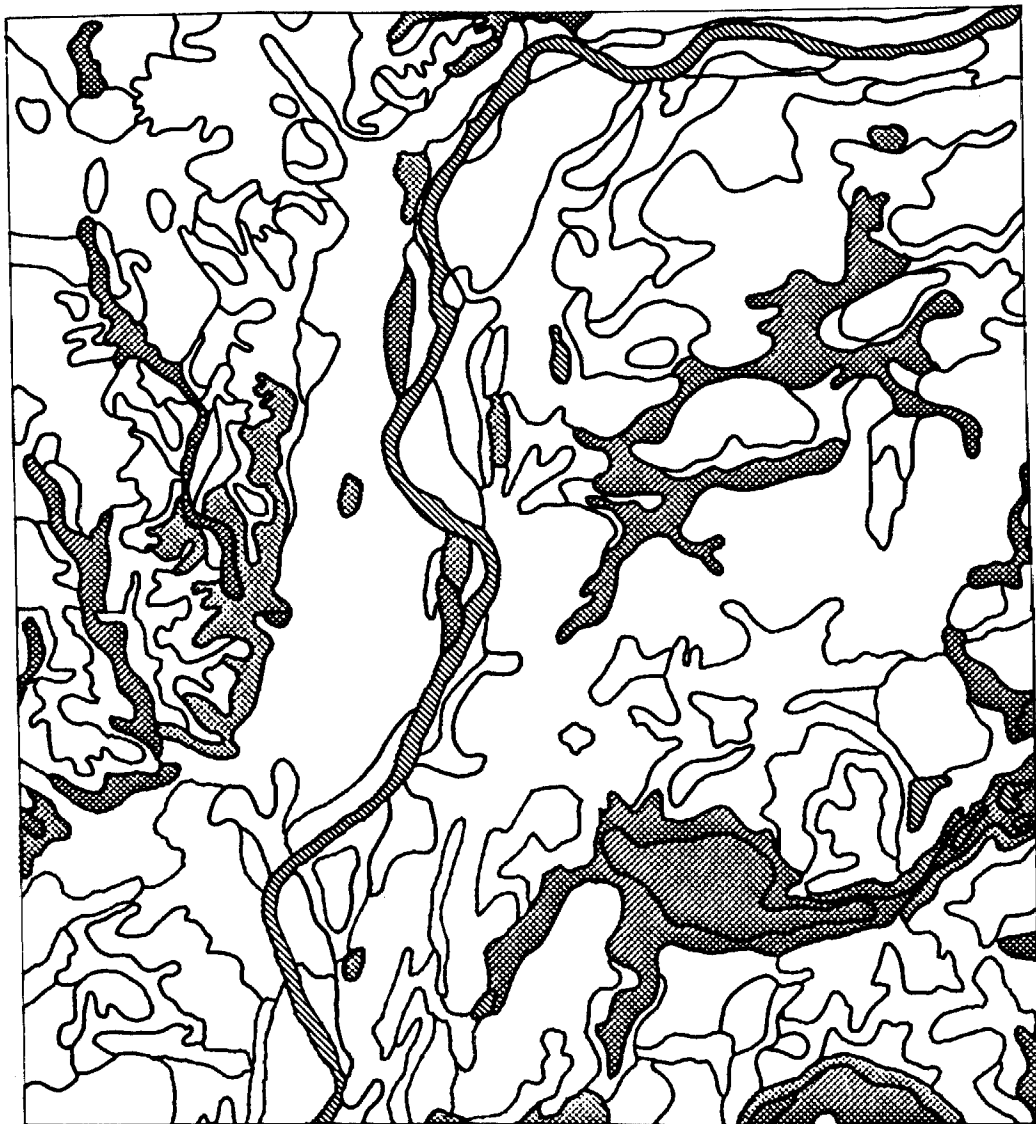


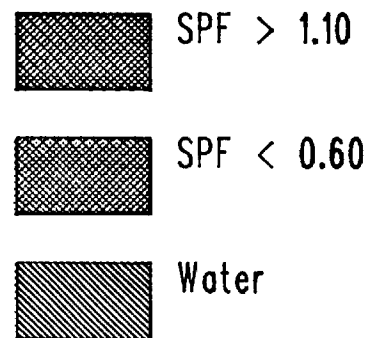
Figure 18

Figure 19. Soils map for four sections in T28N, R5E showing different productivity levels. This map was originally created and stored on a section basis. Using one of the standard functions of the GIS it is possible to join neighboring units and display them as a larger map. A query of the database was done to show soil productivity factors (SPF) larger than 1.1 and smaller than 0.6. These two values of soil productivity factors are an example of the query of the databases from the cartographic (spatial) database into the attribute database. SPF can be replaced by any other variable contained in the database.

Figure 19



SOIL PRODUCTIVITY FACTORS



Sections 4,3,9,10; T28N,R5E
Miami Co., Indiana
NASA Applications Project

Scale: 1:24000

LARS/Purdue University

Figure 20. Steps followed during the database design process. First, the data requirements and processing are defined according to the user's needs. The second step (Phase 2) involves the conceptual design of the database. This design is generic and allows one to understand the structure of the data, as well as the interrelationships among all data. The third step involves the data model mapping which is a translation of the conceptual design model into the physical design. This translation is database management system dependent. The conceptual design is generic, and it can be translated into any of the three most common models such as network, hierarchical, or relational. In this research, we have chosen the relational database model to store and perform operations with the data. Phase 4 of the design is the physical design or the definition of the database structure. Finally the database is implemented in the geographic information system.

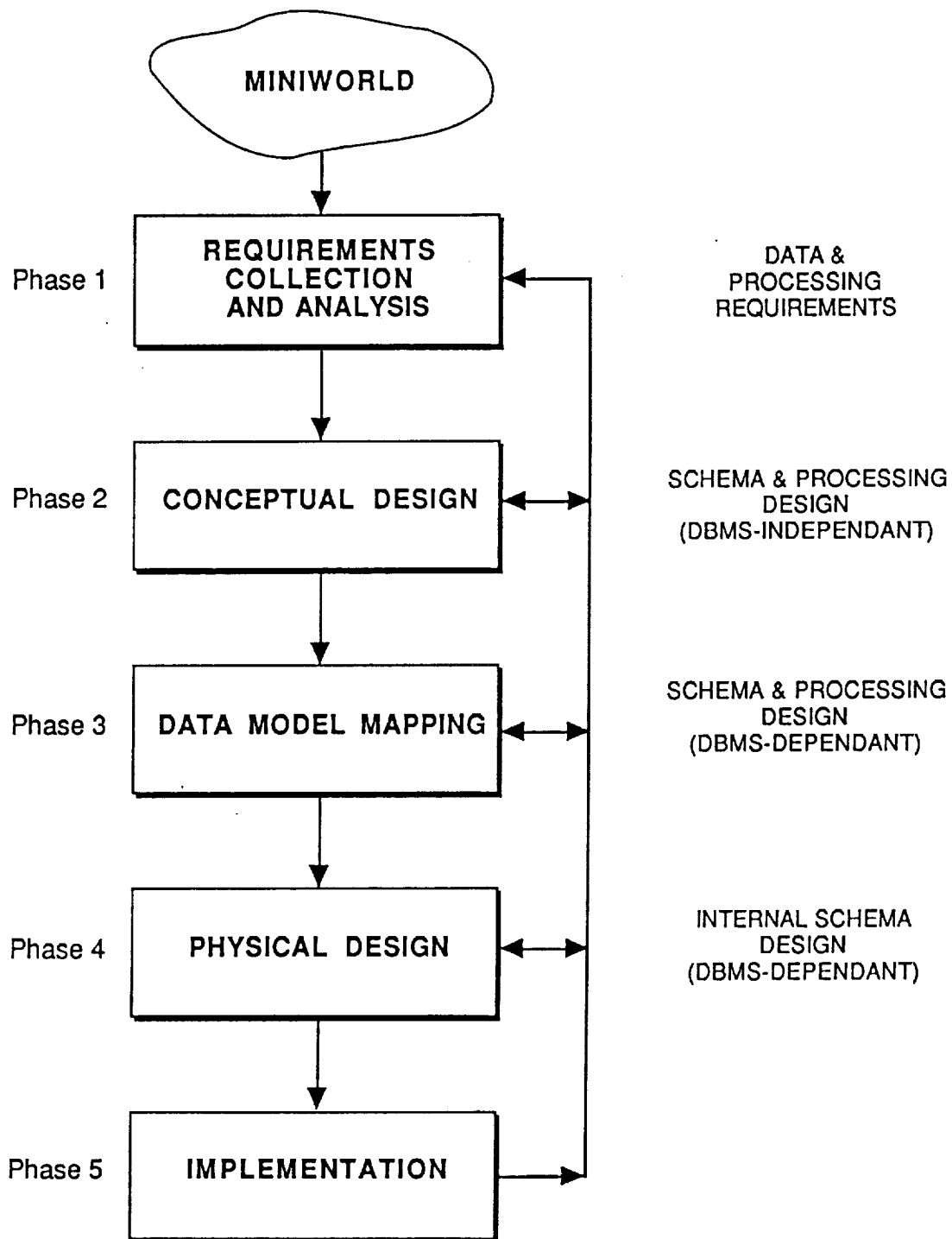


Figure 20

Figure 21. Definition of entity, relationships, and attributes; and their representations in the ER Diagram. Entities are indicated with rectangles, relationships with diamonds, key attributes with black solid circles and underlines, and attributes with empty circles. In this illustration, we show that a parcel or property is owned by an owner which may be a person(s) or corporation.

THE ENTITY-RELATIONSHIP MODEL

Entity: is an object in the real world, with an independent existence.

Relationship: set of associations between entities.

Attributes: characteristics that describe entities or relationships.

THE EXTENDED ER DIAGRAM

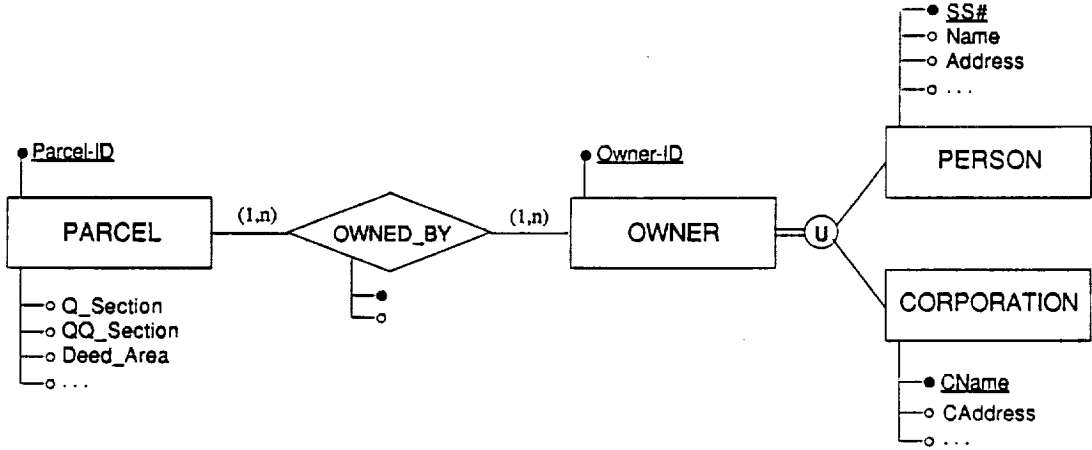


Figure 21

Figure 22. Conceptual schema of the land ownership database. This extended entity relationship (EER) diagram shows the interrelationship among data. Key attributes for each entity and relationship are indicated with a filled circle. The ER model is closer to the user's perception of the data, and it is independent of the system where the database will be implemented.

LAND OWNERSHIP DATABASE - EER DIAGRAM

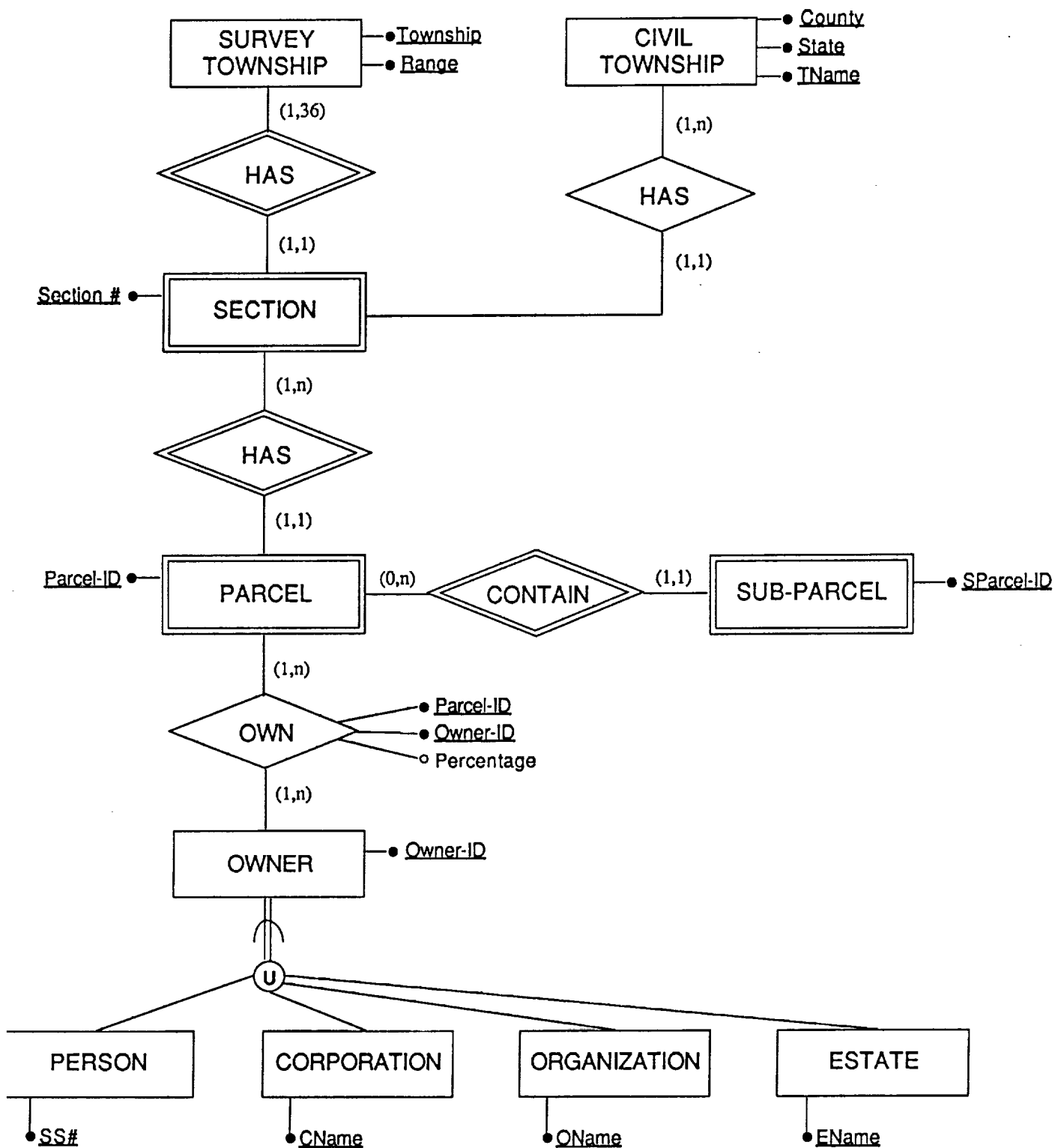


Figure 22

Figure 23. Polygon Attribute Table (PAT) showing a relational database schema for the land ownership database. The first two tables with the extension PAT are created by ARC, while the rest of the relations were developed using the INFO database management system. The arrows show the different links among relation's (tables). The links are established through common variables. This database allows to store data for legal description at parcel and sub-parcel level, information about sections and townships, names and addresses of owners, and types of ownership (corporations, organizations, etc.). It is also possible to store information about the percent that each owner has of one particular piece of land.

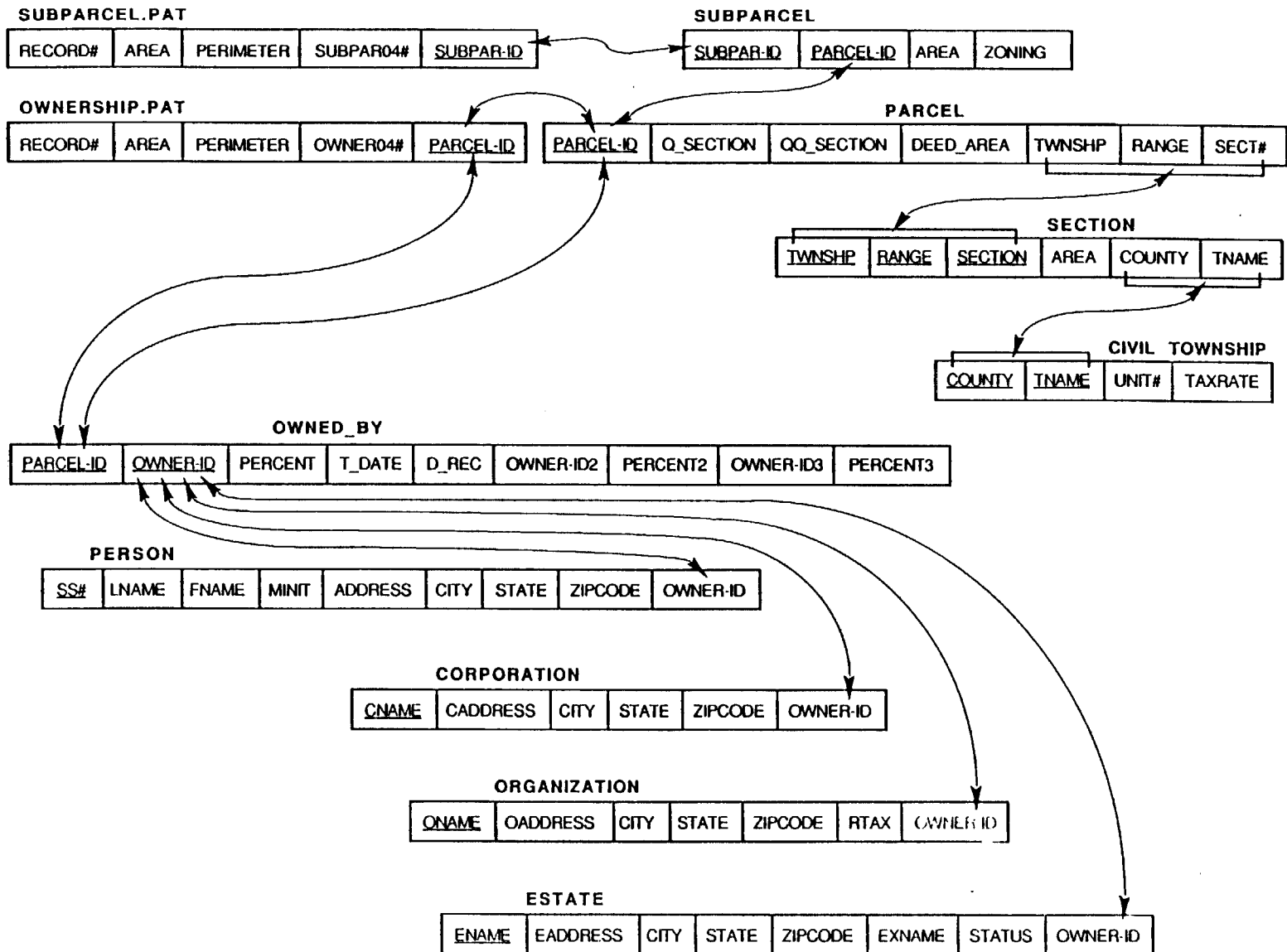


Figure 23

Figure 24. Extended Entity Relationship (EER) diagram for the soils database. This database can contain data for each individual horizon, as well as for the map unit.

SOILS DATABASE - EER DIAGRAM

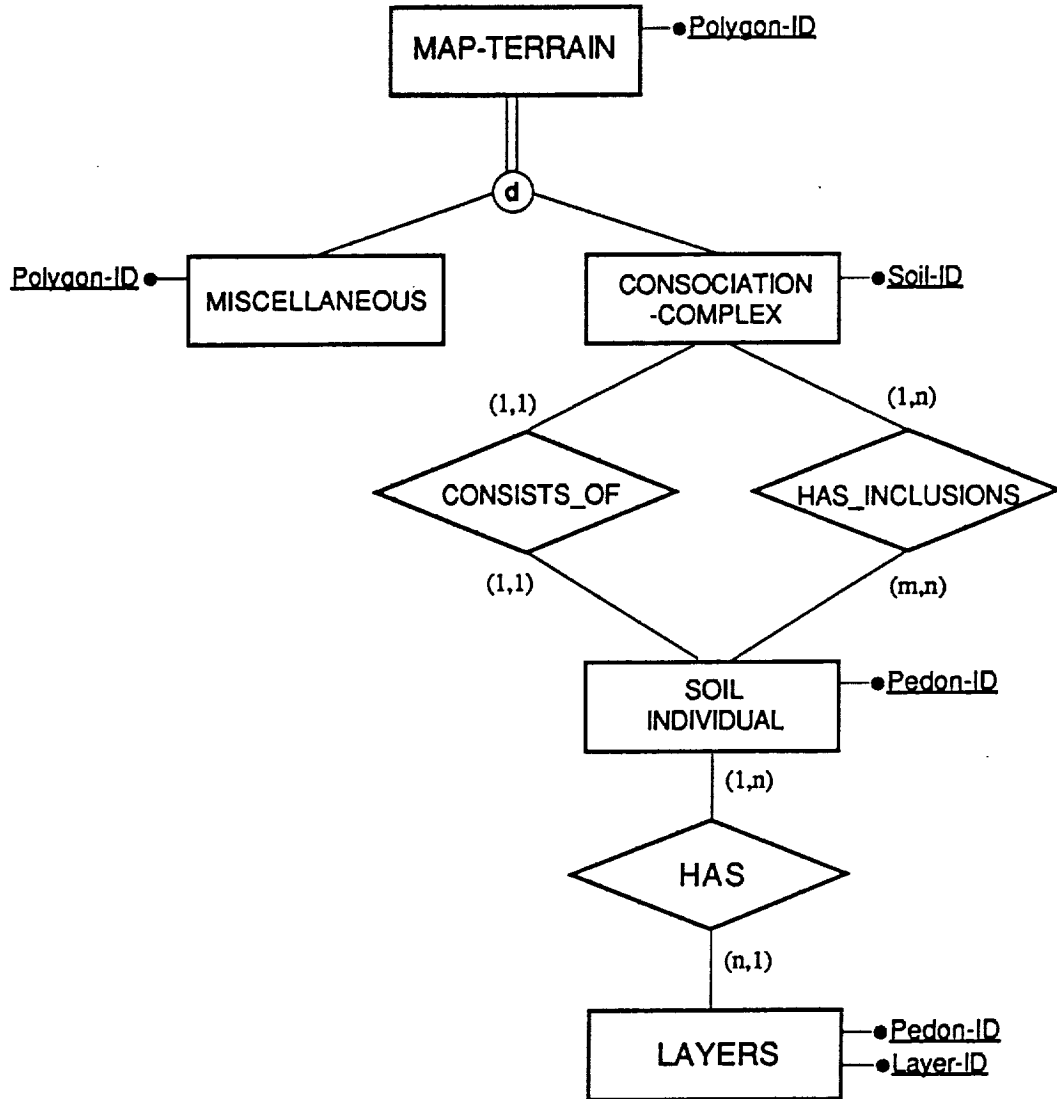


Figure 24

Figure 25. The databases have been implemented on a personal computer. This illustration shows the main menu with the different options for the ownership database. The database was implemented in INFO software. This first example allows to input data, update records, query the database for specified requests, or delete records. A "future applications" option was also included.

LABORATORY FOR APPLICATIONS OF REMOTE SENSING - PURDUE UNIVERSITY
LAND INFORMATION SYSTEM
MIAMI COUNTY PROJECT

- 1 - DATA INPUT
- 2 - RECORD UPDATE
- 3 - DATABASE QUERY
- 4 - RECORD DELETE
- 5 - OTHER (FUTURE APPLICATIONS)
- 0 - EXIT

WHAT IS YOUR CHOICE? (NUMBER):

Figure 26. Map showing the parcels, and their ID numbers, owned by three persons within one section. This map was produced with the standard capabilities of ARC/INFO, and through the linking of three tables contained in the ownership database. The query was performed from the cartographic database into the attribute database; results can be displayed on the monitor screen or sent to a plotter. Similar queries can be performed for any variable that exists in the database.

QUERY OF PARCEL OWNERS

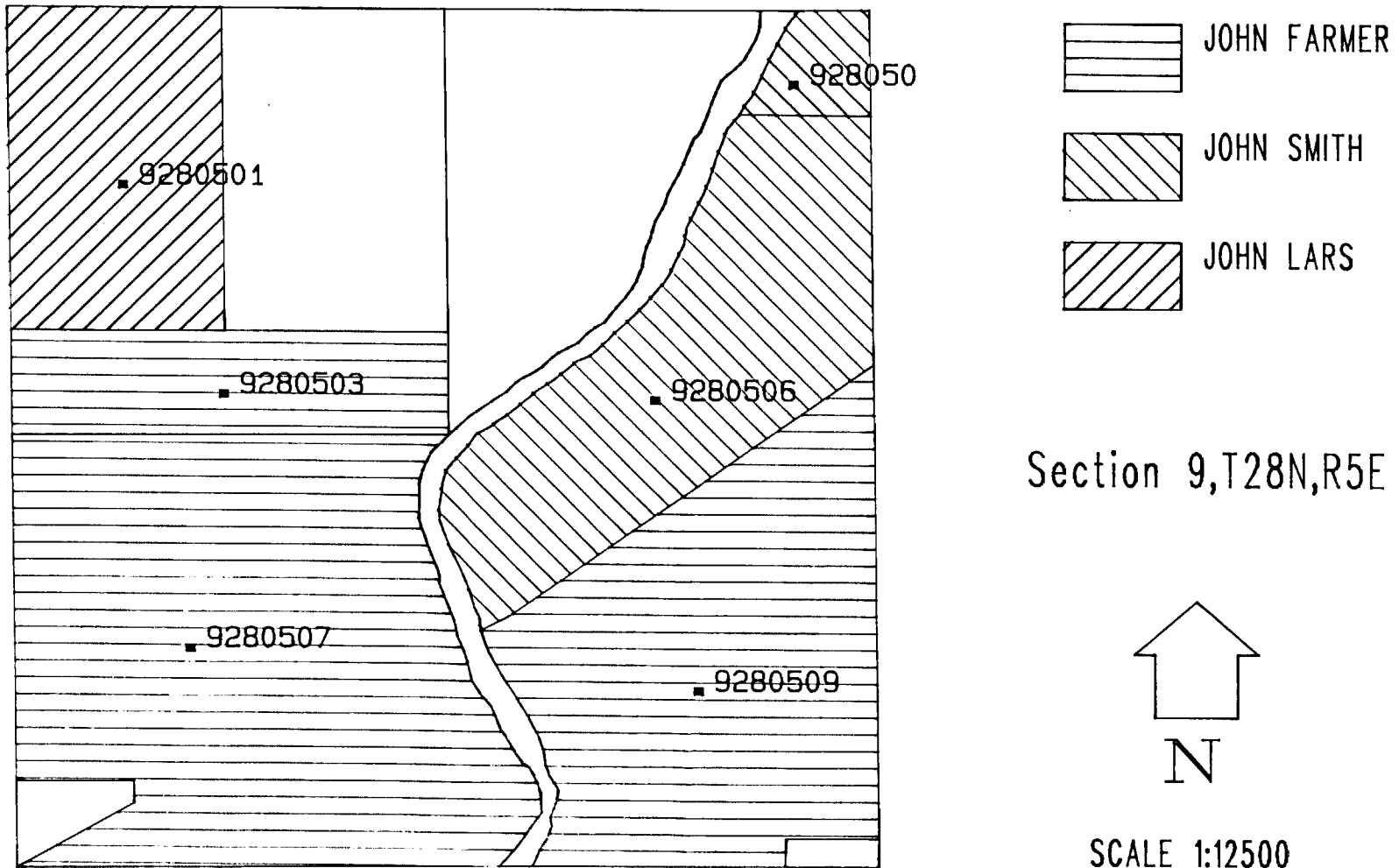


Figure 26

NASA Applications Project, Miami Co., IN

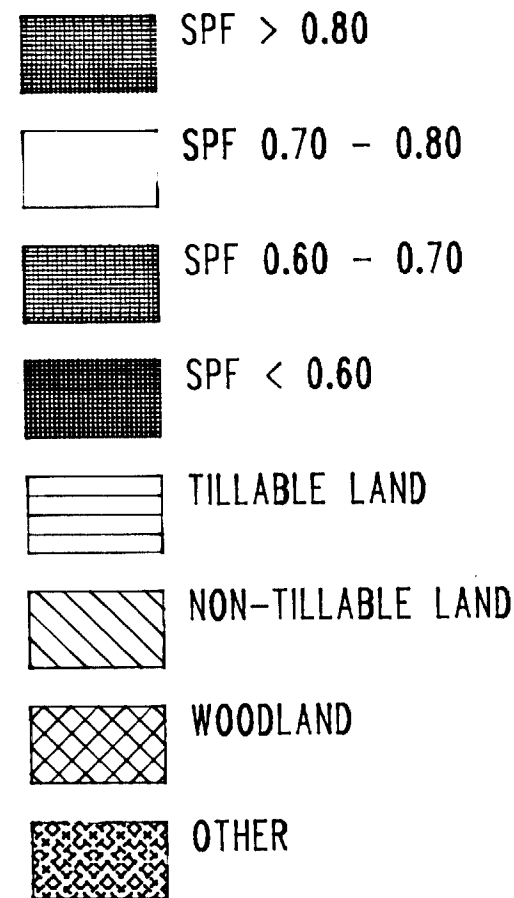
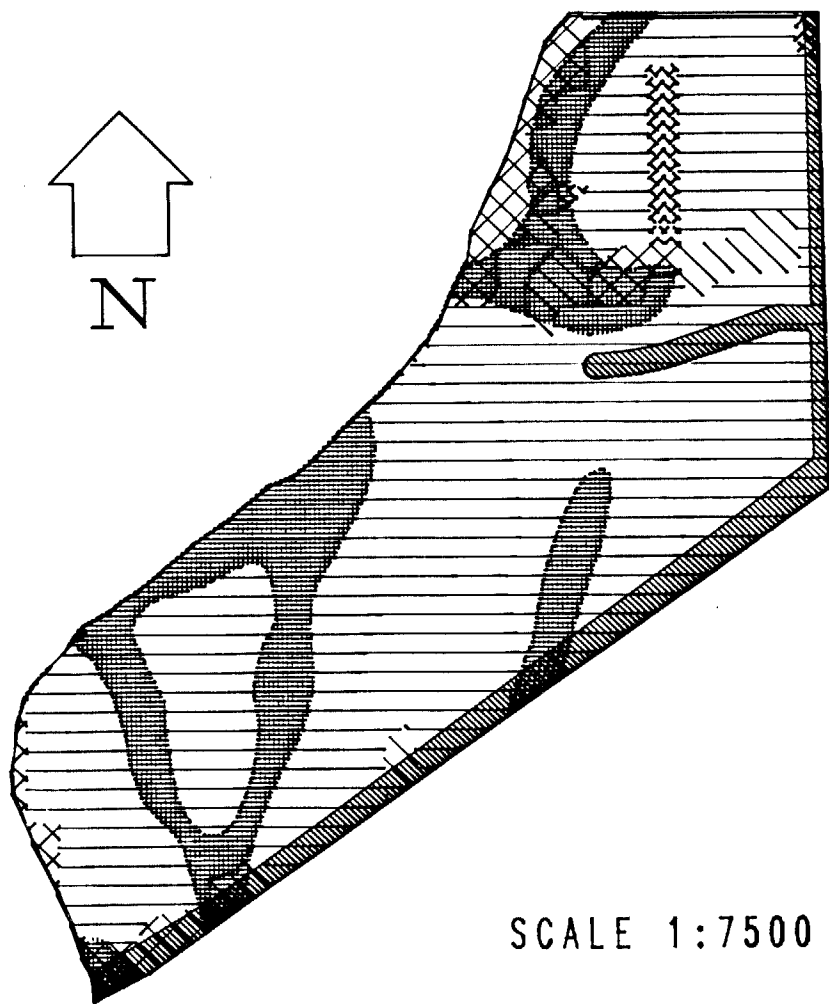
LARS/Purdue University

Figure 27. This map contains information about soil productivity factors (stored in the soils database) and land cover types (obtained from satellite data) as determined from the agricultural reassessment database. Easements and right-of-ways (obtained through proximity analysis of roads and drainage features) are also shown on the map. This kind of information is necessary to calculate land appraisal, and to complete the record cards.

SOIL PRODUCTIVITY AND LAND COVER

OWNER: John Farmer

LOCATION: Parcel 6, Sect 9, T28N, R5E



SCALE 1:7500

Figure 27

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Figure 28. Results of the GIS model for agricultural reassessment, in report format. This output reproduces the record card that is used to calculate agricultural land taxes. The model that was developed can automatically display land types, soils ID's, different acreage for each of the soil classes, productivity factors; and it can perform the rest of the calculations required to complete the tax assessment.

