Generic Functions for Spatial Data

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A pre-DSC'03 workshop on spatial data handling in R addressed various forms of R/GIS integration, both loose and tight coupled. Topics discussed there included packages then already on CRAN (RArcInfo, GRASS, and the spatial statistics packages), and initiatives under development, especially Rmap, the R/GDAL package, functions to read and write shapefiles, TerraLib, and using StatConnector in ArcGIS, among others. This presentation describes work so far on a package of suitable classes and methods for spatial data. The classes document where the spatial location information resides, for 2D or 3D data. Utility functions are provided, e.g. for helping plotting data as maps, or spatial selection. The presentation will also refer to other work in progress on spatial data handling and spatial statistics in R.