



# WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH POSTGIS?

REGINA OBE



Buy our books! [https://postgis.us/page\\_buy\\_book](https://postgis.us/page_buy_book)

**LATEST BOOKS**

Twitter: @reginaobe

## Books Coming

### **SQL in a Nutshell 4th Edition**

Out in hard-copy in 2 months, covers SQL:2016.

---

### **The Book of PostgreSQL (No Starch Press)**

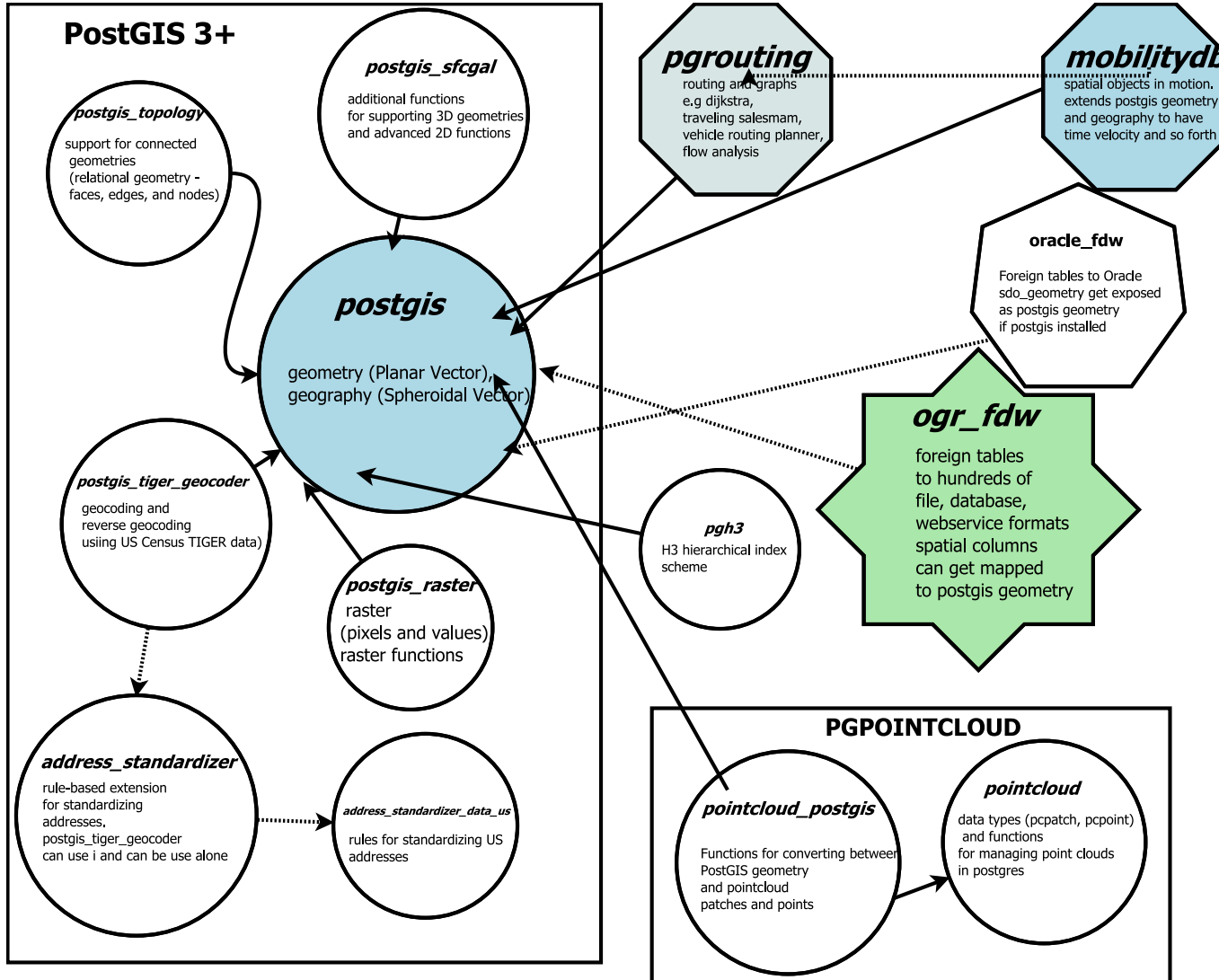
In Progress

---

**pgRouting (a practical guide) 2nd Ed (Locate Press)** in Progress.

# POSTGIS RELATED EXTENSIONS

CREATE EXTENSION ...;



## **WHY I STARTED USING POSTGIS**

I have land and projects. PostGIS ticked all the boxes.

# **POSTGIS UNDERSTANDS DATA ABOUT LOCATION**

- GPS data
- Satellite data
- Survey data about boundaries of land
- Raster data (Thematic matrices like population density, instrument data like temperature, soil acidity, elevation, aerial, pictures)

# POSTGIS CAN USE THE KEY OF SPACE

With the key of space it can derive all sorts of information

- Average sale price of an arbitrary area
- Regions with highest traffic accidents
- Income levels in your area
- Distances from your area to closest high school, mall, elementary school, hospital
- Approximate location of this spot based on postal address (using road network data)
- Population impacted by outage

## POSTGIS HELPS YOU VISUALIZE DATA

Outputs data in numerous web-friendly and spatial standard ways

- **SQL/MM:** [ST\\_AsText](#), [ST\\_AsWKB](#)
- **Lossless, performance focused binary:** [ST\\_AsFlatGeoBuf](#), [ST\\_AsTWKB](#)
- **Geospatial Standard Formats:** [ST\\_AsKML](#), [ST\\_AsGML](#), [ST\\_AsGeoJSON](#), [ST\\_AsMVT](#)
- **Web Consortium Standards:** [ST\\_AsSVG](#), [ST\\_AsX3D](#)
- Can output 100s of standard raster formats using [ST\\_AsGDALRaster](#), [ST\\_AsPNG](#), [ST\\_AsJPEG](#)

## POSTGIS HELPS YOU INGEST DATA

Input functions help consume spatial data in numerous formats

- **SQL/MM:** `ST_GeomFromText`, `ST_GeomFromWKB`
- **Performance focused lossless:** `ST_GeomFromTWKB`, `ST_GeomFromFlatGeoBuf`
- **Geospatial Standard Formats:** `ST_GeomFromGeoJSON`, `ST_GeomFromKML`, `ST_GeomFromGML`
- Can input 100s of raster types using `ST_FromGDALRaster`



## **POSTGIS IS STANDARDS COMPLIANT**

PostGIS is an extension to PostgreSQL, but also follows the SQL/MM (Multimedia) Part 3 standard. It is similar to below but unlike these, is an extension rather than part of Db proper

- Oracle Spatial/Locator
- SQL Server
- MariaDB / MySQL

# POSTGIS IS A DE FACTO STANDARD

- Google BigQuery GIS  
[https://cloud.google.com/bigquery/docs/reference/standard-sql/geography\\_functions](https://cloud.google.com/bigquery/docs/reference/standard-sql/geography_functions)
- CockroachDB - Emulates both PostgreSQL and PostGIS -  
<https://www.cockroachlabs.com/docs/v22.1/spatial-tutorial.html>
- Snowflake - <https://docs.snowflake.com/en/sql-reference/functions-geospatial.html>

## **POSTGIS MODELS SPACE IN MANY WAYS**

Flat, Round, Matrix, Declarative

## POSTGIS **GEOMETRY** TYPE (FLAT)

**extension:** postgis

The flat space model. Space is a cartesian grid. Supports drawing of linestrings, polygons, 3D polygons, points, 3d points, collections of polygons, points, linestrings, Polyhedral Surfaces, and TINS

Basic geometric  
types

Polyhedral  
Surface

Triangulated Irregular Network  
(TIN)

## POSTGIS **GEOGRAPHY** TYPE (ROUND)

**extension:** postgis

Model of space as spheroid. Takes into consideration the earth or any given planet whose spatial reference is defined in *spatial\_ref\_sys* table.

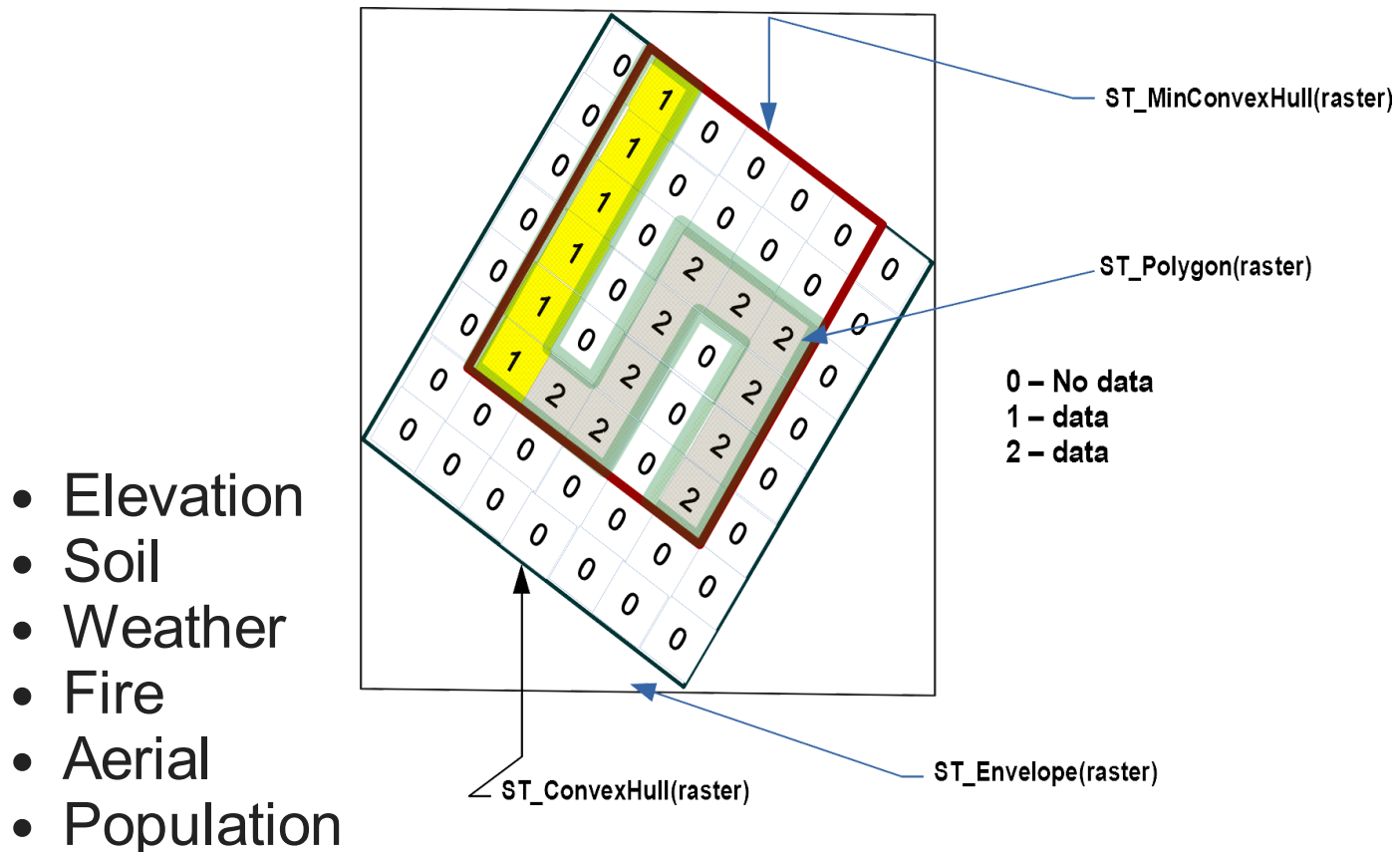
**GEODETTIC (GEOGRAPHY) 4326 (WGS 84 LON LAT) IN GEOGRAPHY**



# POSTGIS RASTER TYPE (MATRIX)

**extension:** postgis\_raster

Model of space as a flat numeric matrix (with cells (called pixels) that have values (on) or don't have values (off))



## POSTGIS **TOPOGEOMETRY** TYPE (DECLARATIVE)

**extension:** postgis\_topology

Defined in SQL/MM Topology-Geometry specs. [Spatialite](#) has it too. Topology partitions space into **edges**, **nodes**, and **faces**. Then it says this thing called **topogeometry** is space composed of these **edges**, **nodes**, **faces** and other topogeometries (which are again just a bunch of edges, nodes, and faces). If two topogeometries have the same set of (edges, nodes, faces) then they are the same.

```
(1,1,2,3) -> topology_id, layer_id, id, type
```

```
SELECT topo::geometry AS geom, (topo).*  
FROM some_topo_table;
```

Topology



## POSTGIS PACKAGED COMMAND-LINE TOOLS

These are part of PostGIS, but often shipped by packagers in a separate package from PostGIS extensions.

- **shp2pgsql** - Loads data from ESRI Shapefile format
- **pgsql2shp** - Exports data from PostGIS format to ESRI shapefile format (for other formats use **ogr2ogr** (part of GDAL suite of tools) or **ogr\_fdw**)
- **raster2pgsql** - Loads data into postgis raster from hundreds of different raster formats (thru the power of GDAL)
- **pgtopo\_export** - New in upcoming PostGIS 3.3.0, export topologies
- **pgtopo\_import** - Import topologies (New in PostGIS 3.3.0)

## WHERE DO YOU GET POSTGIS?

- PostGIS Docker - <https://registry.hub.docker.com/r/postgis/postgis/>
- Debian / Ubuntu - <https://apt.postgresql.org> (postgis PostgreSQL 10-14), latest PostGIS 3.2.1 on newer PostgreSQL. PostGIS 3.3.0alpha1 available for PostgreSQL 15beta1
- Yum (CentOS, Redhat EL, Scientific Linux): <https://yum.postgresql.org> (has 3.2.1 (and other versions) for PostgreSQL 10 - 14)
- Windows ( part of application stackbuilder):  
[https://postgis.net/windows\\_downloads/](https://postgis.net/windows_downloads/) -- (PostGIS 3.2.1 for PostgreSQL 10 -14)(Experimental Builds section builds on each commit, PostGIS 3.3.0dev for PostgreSQL 11-14)
- The manual - <https://postgis.net/documentation>

# LIVE DEMOS

[Download the postgres\\_vision\\_2022.sql file](#)

## ENABLE EXTENSIONS POSTGIS 3+

This is running in psql. If in pgAdmin just manually reconnect to your gisdb. Example is gisdb but do for any spatial databases you have.

```
CREATE DATABASE gisdb;
ALTER DATABASE gisdb SET search_path=public,postgis,tiger,contrib;
\c gisdb
CREATE SCHEMA IF NOT EXISTS postgis;
CREATE SCHEMA IF NOT EXISTS contrib;
CREATE EXTENSION postgis SCHEMA postgis; -- core includes geometry / geography
CREATE EXTENSION postgis_raster SCHEMA postgis; -- raster type and functions
CREATE EXTENSION postgis_sfcgal SCHEMA postgis; -- extended support for 3D geometries
CREATE EXTENSION postgis_topology; -- topogeometry relational view of spatial data
CREATE EXTENSION fuzzystrmatch SCHEMA contrib; -- needed by tiger geocoder
CREATE EXTENSION address_standardizer SCHEMA contrib; -- for standardizing addresses
CREATE EXTENSION postgis_tiger_geocoder; -- geocoding and reverse geocoding using US
```

# HOW YOU UPGRADE

```
SELECT postgis_extensions_upgrade();
```

## CHECK YOUR INSTALLATION

```
SELECT postgis_full_version();
```

```
POSTGIS="3.3.0alpha1 3.3.0alpha1" [EXTENSION] PGSQL="150" GEOS="3.11.0dev-CAPI-1.16.0"  
SFCGAL="SFCGAL 1.4.1, CGAL 5.3, BOOST 1.78.0"  
PROJ="7.2.1" GDAL="GDAL 3.4.2, released 2022/03/08" L  
IBXML="2.9.9" LIBJSON="0.12"  
LIBPROTOBUF="1.2.1" WAGYU="0.5.0 (Internal)" RASTER TOPOLOGY
```

## OUTPUT FULL ROWS

```
SELECT json_build_object('type',  
    'FeatureCollection',  
    'features',  
        json_agg( ST_AsGeoJSON(r.*)::json ) )  
FROM recent_building_permits AS r;
```