It was 20 years ago ...
Five Highlights
Highlight #1

The Research Initiative Model

• Specialist meeting + closely monitored research activities

• Specialist meetings only
Research Initiatives

• Excellent *internal* model
• Provides focus, accountability, change
• Requires
  • The right topic
  • SM + research
  • Willingness to collaborate
  • Persistence despite critique
• Time
Recipe for Successful Specialist Meetings?

- The location (sequestered) and atmosphere
- Right granularity of topic
- Timeliness of topic
- Right mixture with multidisciplinary breadth
- A few controversial participants
- Fresh blood
Research Initiatives

- Problematic *external* model
- result delivery in small pieces (i.e., papers)
- lack of coherent picture
- no unified product
Highlight #2
Board of Directors Meetings

• Momentum towards the meeting
• Living under pressure, being quick on your feet
• Interactions with Board members
• Dissemination beyond the core academic community
Highlight #3
The Las Navas Meeting

• Intellectual cradle of spatial cognition and computation
• Model for interdisciplinary interaction
• Formation of a social network
Highlight #4
Impact

- COSIT, SSD, GIScience, Spatial Uncertainty
- The countable impact: Google Scholar about *IJGIS*
  - 20 of the top 50 most frequently cited papers
  - 7 of top 20, 4 of top 10, 2 of top 3
Highlight #5
Impact beyond GIS

- Most frequently discussed: geography
- Much less controversial: computer science
Impact on Database Field

- a modest topic already before Initiative 5
- Spatial Database Symposium (SSD) got the organized
- *Geoinformatica* as a now popular outlet
- Spatial now mainstream in DB
- A decline of *spatial* on the DB research agendas
Impact on AI

• The *bullet* that was not explicitly pursued

• Qualitative Spatial Reasoning as emerged theme around 9-intersection, RCC, and cardinal direction models
The Five Bullets in 1988

• New modes and methods of spatial analysis
• A general theory of spatial relationships
• Artificial intelligence and expert systems in GIS
• Visualization
• Social, economic, and institutional issues
Max’s Five Bullets in 2010?

• Spatial cognition about geographic space and systems
• Spatial semantics for information systems
• A general theory of geographic space and time
• Spatial communication
• Societal issues of spatial information and spatial systems