Generalization Software

Problems

- Reimplementing code
- Don’t know who is doing what

(Didn’t we discuss this at Beijing last year)
Base Platform

- Generally a base platform is needed for many of these projects
- Incompatibility between base platforms is a source of difficulty
- Arc/Info, LaserScan, etc are expensive – but there are alternatives
- Grass, Manifold, PostGIS, CGAL, LEDA, Triangle, JTS
- - but no one alternative leaped out as best
- (another possible solution – a common API)
Some suggestions

- Use the OGC standards
- As OGC continues, more standards – especially API standards may appear, which will help
- The movement towards open systems will help
Problems with code sharing

- Who has the resources to do a general solution?
- Who has the resources to provide robustness? Vast differences between Student and production use.
- Many projects are subject to restrictions from funding sources or commercial partners
Code Sharing benefits anyway

- BUT – there was general agreement that some code even not robust or on another platform, was helpful
- So – code sharing is beneficial
Not a huge $$ loss

Universities are not making vast $$ from royalties
Publication is paramount in the research environment
So, not too many objections to releasing code from here
Key is to get this in the funding agreements at the start
Action Items

- Rob and Martin were very ambitious
  - Will put together a list of links to projects on their web site
  - Will put together a survey, on projects people are doing and code they might share and send it out.
- Everyone will check at their own institutions for what code exists and what restrictions it may be under.