


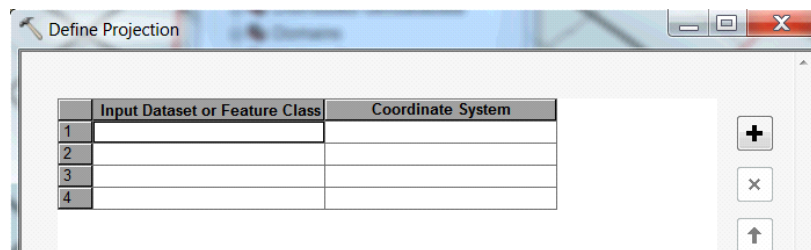
Overview of batch processing:

In ArcGIS, batch processing means to execute a single tool multiple times with different inputs without your intervention. Suppose you had several datasets with the projection undefined. Instead of opening the **Define Projection** tool many times and defining the projection for each dataset, you can use the batch option and fill out a simple form once to have the **Define Projection** tool process automatically.

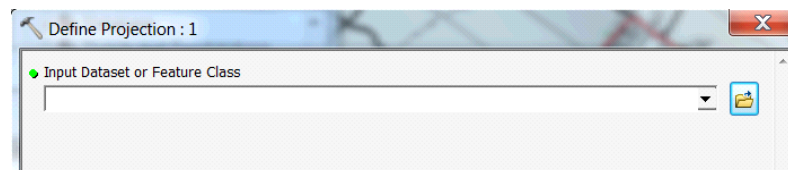
To determine which tools have a batch option, right-click the tool in ArcToolbox. For example, to project four individual elevation grids you can use the **Define Projection** tool in batch mode.

Using the *Define Projection* Tool in Batch mode

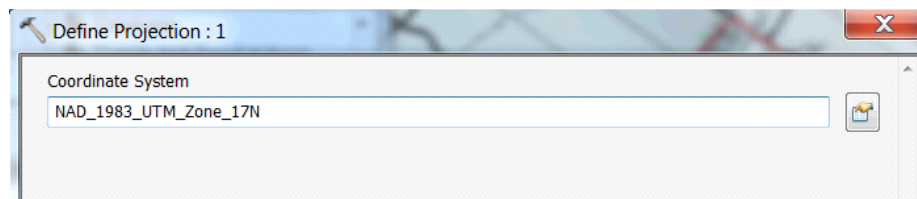
1. Open **Arc Toolbox**.
2. Expand the **Data Management Tools** and **Projections and Transformations** tool boxes.
3. Right-click the **Define Projection** Tool and click **Batch**.
4. Click the plus sign [] three times to add three more rows.



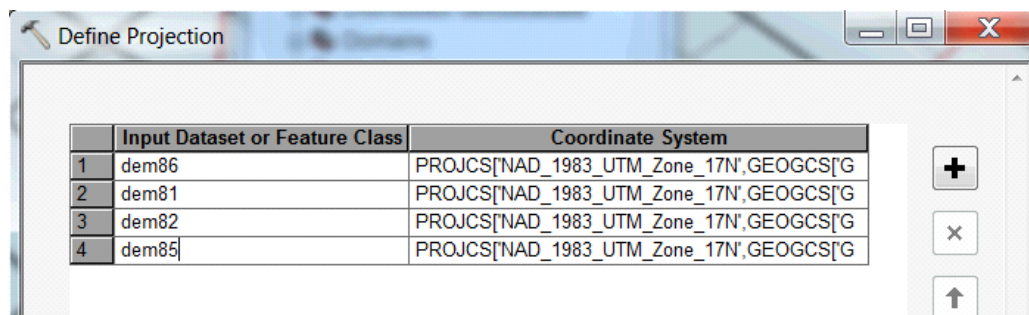
5. Right click in the empty box below the column heading **Input Dataset or Feature Class** and click **Browse**.
6. Navigate to your local directory and select your first elevation grid. Continue to the next rows and add the second dataset. [Alternatively, click and drag the datasets from the Table of Contents in the rows.
7. Right click in the box below the column heading **Coordinate System** and click **Open**.
8. In the **Define Projection** dialog box click the button on the right-hand side to select a coordinate system. [In this example, the elevation data came with a .prj file which stated that the projection is UTM NAD83 Zone 17N.]



9. In the **Spatial Reference Properties** window, open the **Projected Coordinate Systems** folder, the **UTM Folder**, the **NAD 1983** folder and select **NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N**. Click **OK**, and **OK** again to close the **Define Projection** dialog box.



10. Right click in the box containing the new coordinate system and select the option **Fill**. The row will automatically be populated with the same coordinate system.



11. To execute the batch processing click **OK**.

Why is Batch Processing Useful?

One classic scenario for batching is using the **Clip** tool to clip multiple input datasets to a predetermined study area polygon. Suppose you had 20 datasets to clip. Obviously, you could open the **Clip** tool dialog 20 times, fill out the parameters, and execute. By the time you're done, a half-hour may have passed. By using the batch option, you can spend just a few minutes filling out a simple form (the batch grid) specifying the 20 input datasets, then have **Clip** automatically execute 20 times, freeing you to do other work.