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A slide titled "CS4.408 Spatial Informatics" featuring a yellow header bar with a globe icon and the course name. The main content area contains a bulleted list of topics and two questions about spatial entities and phenomena.

- Lets revisit the queries we talked about last class.
- Definition of a GI System
- First step,
  - What is a Spatial Entity / Object ?
  - What is a Spatial Phenomena ?

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## What are Spatial Objects?

- Building
- Lake
- ...
- Location
- Occupy some space
- Interact/Affect the neighbours
- ...
- Car
- Mobile



## What are Spatial Phenomena?

- Disease Spread
- Snow Avalanche
- Flooding
- .....
- What is important in the phenomena?
  - objects/elements
  - their interactions and its types
  - Environment in which it functions
  - ...

## Riddle

What has

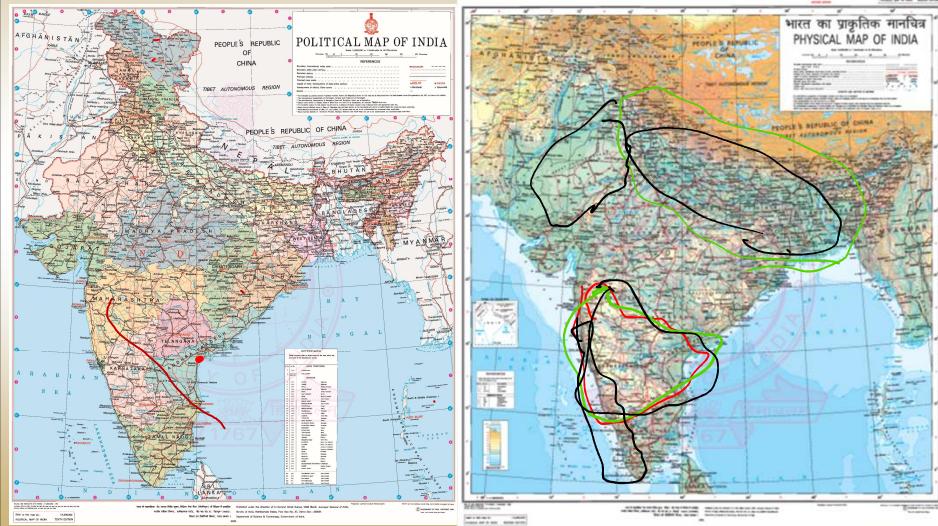
mountains but no trees,  
rivers but no water,  
cities but no buildings ?

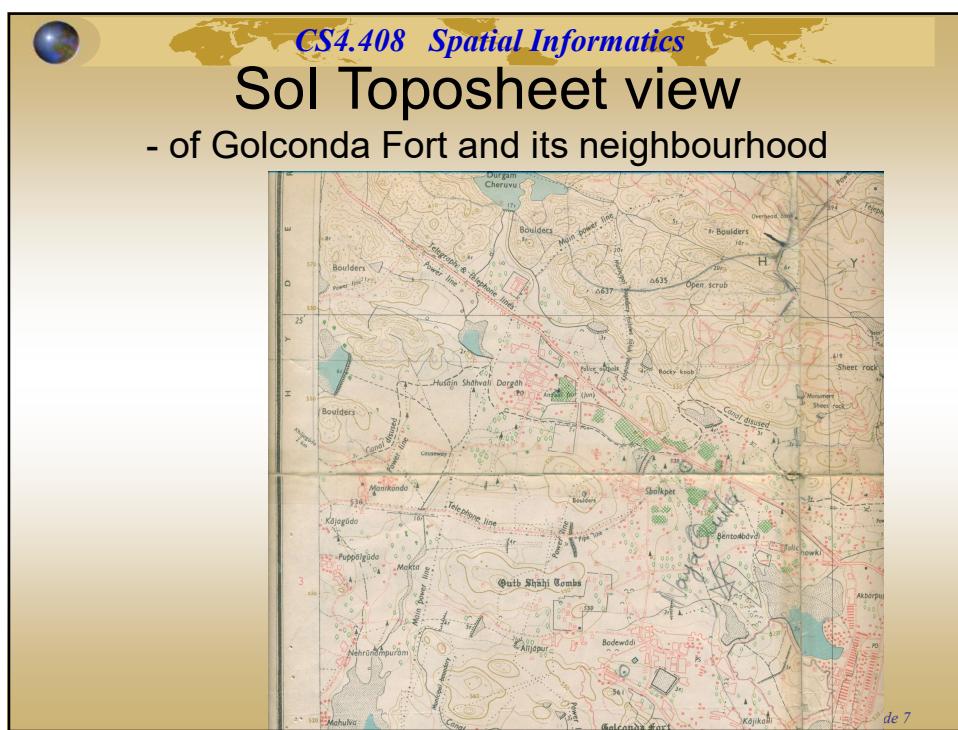
Map shows

- Features on the earth surface
- represented through symbology
- indicates distance, area, shape, direction

## Map Sheets

- shows features of India (Source: Sol Maps)





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## GeoSpatial Technology

**BROAD DEFINITION:** GIS is a system of hardware, software and procedures designed to support the capture, management, manipulation, analysis, modeling and display of spatially-referenced data for solving complex planning and management problems

- although many other computer programs can use spatial data (e.g. AutoCAD and statistics packages), GISs include the additional ability to perform spatial operations

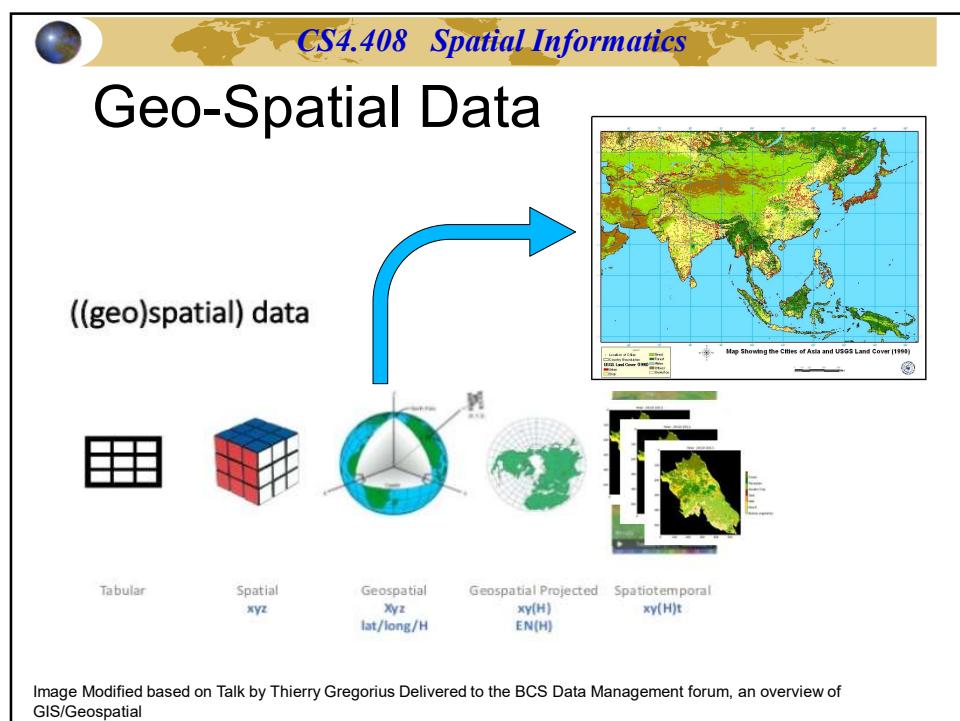
**CURRENT STATUS:** A field of Science and Systems that brings the Spatial and temporal context of the data into understanding, visualizing, analyzing, modelling and simulating phenomena that exhibit such characteristics, thus providing a more dynamic view and understanding of these phenomena.

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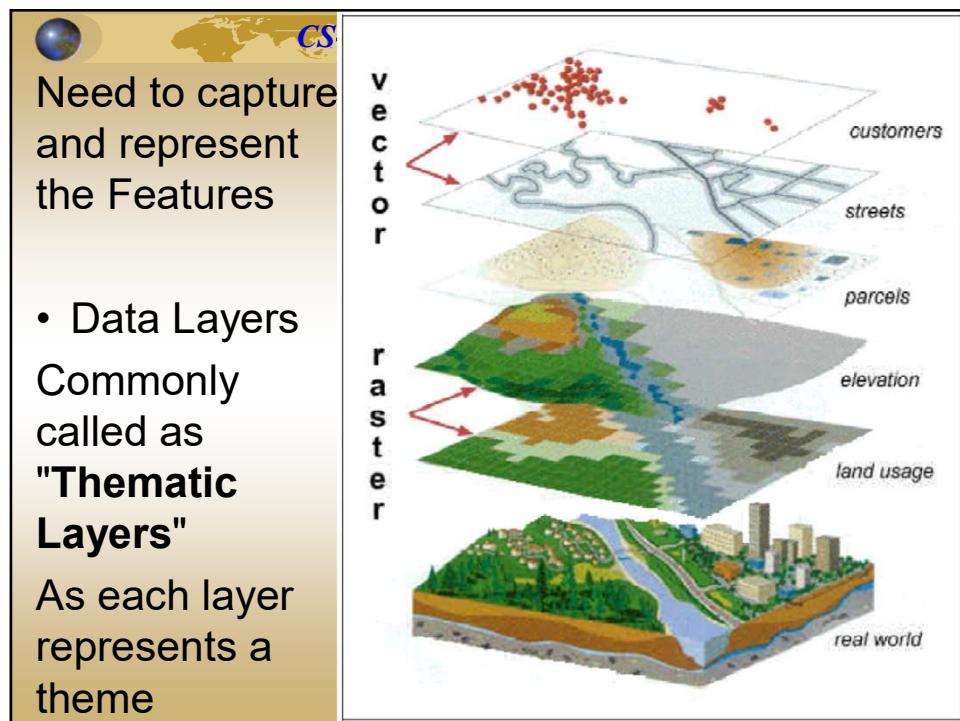
## What is an Information System ?

- an Information System is a set of processes, executed on raw data, to produce information which will be useful in decision-making
  - a chain of steps leads from observation and collection of data through analysis
  - an information system must have a full range of functions to achieve its purpose, including observation, measurement, description, explanation, forecasting, decision-making

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## Why should the features be captured in separate layers?

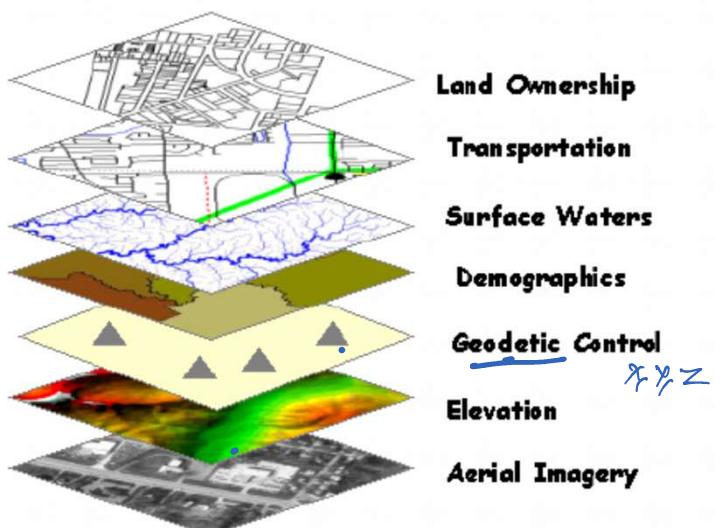
- 1. Same location - different Attributes
  - 2. Separation - ease of understanding  
Visualization (view, un-clutter)
  - 3. Feature properties (e.g.: how long/wide is the river)
  - 4. Spatial Objects → Different extents/bnds  
Geometry ← Discrete → boundary  
Inherent Continuous abrupt Change
  - 5. Geometry of the feature
- 

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## Layers in a GIS

One more example is here



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### GeoSpatial Data Model

#### - Data Structure Design & Purposes

- Efficiently access and retrieve data from database;
- Minimize the required storage space; and
- Support the desired GIS operations

### Model for handling Spatial Objects

- How do we describe Spatial Object features?
  - Spatial data
    - (which describes location (where))
  - Attribute data which specifies characteristics at that location
    - (what, how much, and when)
- How to handle multiple Spatial Objects having the same geography but different characteristics or attributes?
  - Layers based on similar characteristics
    - (e.g hydrography, elevation, water lines, sewer lines)
  - How does this help?



## Can All Spatial Entities be handled the same way?

- Assumes identical occurrences can be classified
- Each entity type must be unique (no ambiguity)
  - e.g., detached house classified under house; not industrial building
- Some entities may need to be categorized
  - e.g., roadways as a class: with categories for national highways, urban roads, private roads
- Entity type also known as qualitative data
  - or in statistics the 'nominal scale'

So we implicitly do Entity type classification



## Some Examples of Spatial Objects

- **areas:**
  - unbounded: landuse, market areas, soils, rock type
  - bounded: city/county/state boundaries, ownership parcels, zoning
- **networks:**
  - roads, transmission lines, streams
- **points:**
  - fixed: wells, street lamps, addresses
  - moving: cars, fish, deer
- **continuous:** elevation, rainfall, ocean salinity

## Object: Spatial & Non-Spatial Component

### Object

- Identity
- Type code

### Spatial Component

- Point
- Line
- Area (polygon / grid cells)
- 2.5 D / 3D

### Attribute Component

- Attribute values
- Relations
- Quality
- ....

### Questions?

**Can Continuous and Discrete Spatial Objects be handled the same way?**

**How to handle changing spatial features across time??**

Source: Bernhardsen, Tor. (1999). 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. *Geographic Information Systems: An Introduction*. p 43  
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## GIS DATA STRUCTURES

There are two fundamental approaches to the representation of the spatial component of geographic information:

### Vector Model

(Points, Lines, Polygons)

### Raster Model

(Surfaces)

The real world can only be depicted in a GIS through the use of models that define **phenomena in a manner that computer systems can interpret**, as well perform meaningful analysis.

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## Vector Model

- The first model of indicating geographical space, called vector, allows us to give specific spatial locations explicitly.
- The vector data structure is representative of dimensionally as it would appear on a map (DeMers, 1997).
- The vector data model provides for the precise positioning of features in space.
- Based on analytical geometry, a vector model builds a complex representation from primitive objects for the dimensions: **points, lines and areas**.

## Vector Data Models/Structures

- One model for representing geographic space
- Spatial locations are explicit
- Relationships between entities/objects are implicit
- Points associated with single set of coordinates (X, Y)
- Lines are a connected sequence of coordinate pairs
- Areas are a sequence of interconnected lines whose 1<sup>st</sup> & last coordinate points are the same

In Summary- **Vector described as a quantity with a starting coordinate and an associated displacement and direction.**



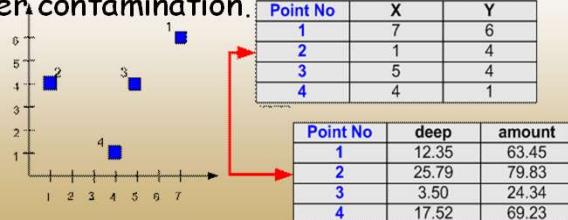
## Concept of Vector

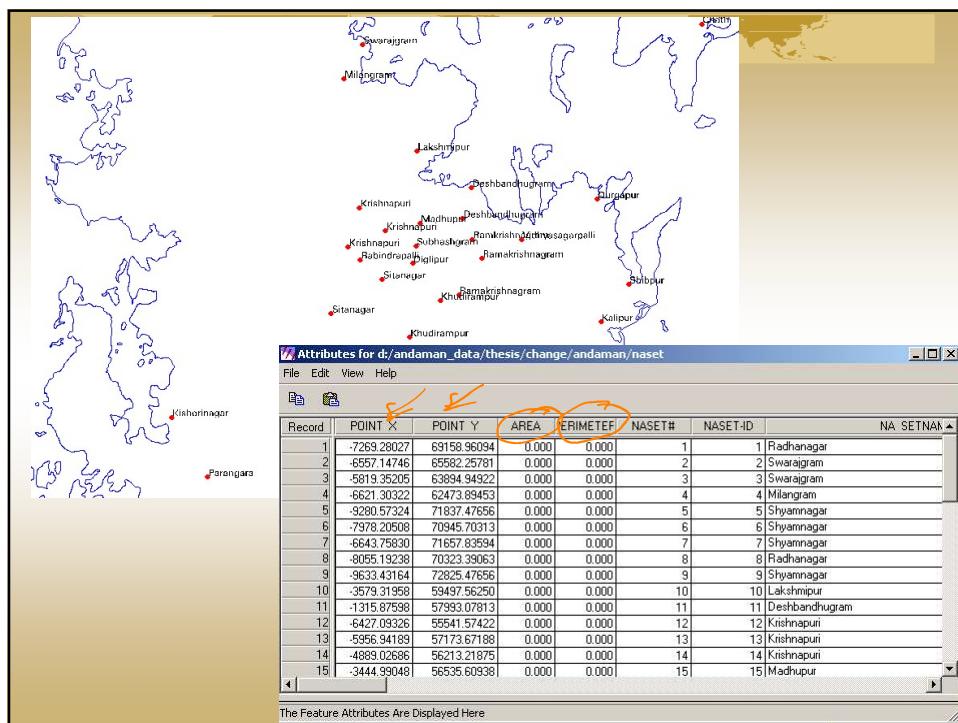
- The directional linear connection between two points;
- The root of vector data model lies in cartography;
- The basic elements of vector data model are **points**;
- X,Y coordinates of points, lines and polygons can be represented with unlimited precision;
- Complex spatial objects are created by connecting primitive objects;
- Entity data and attribute data kept in separate files, perhaps a DBMS, which links them

### Primitive Objects - Points, Lines, & Polygons

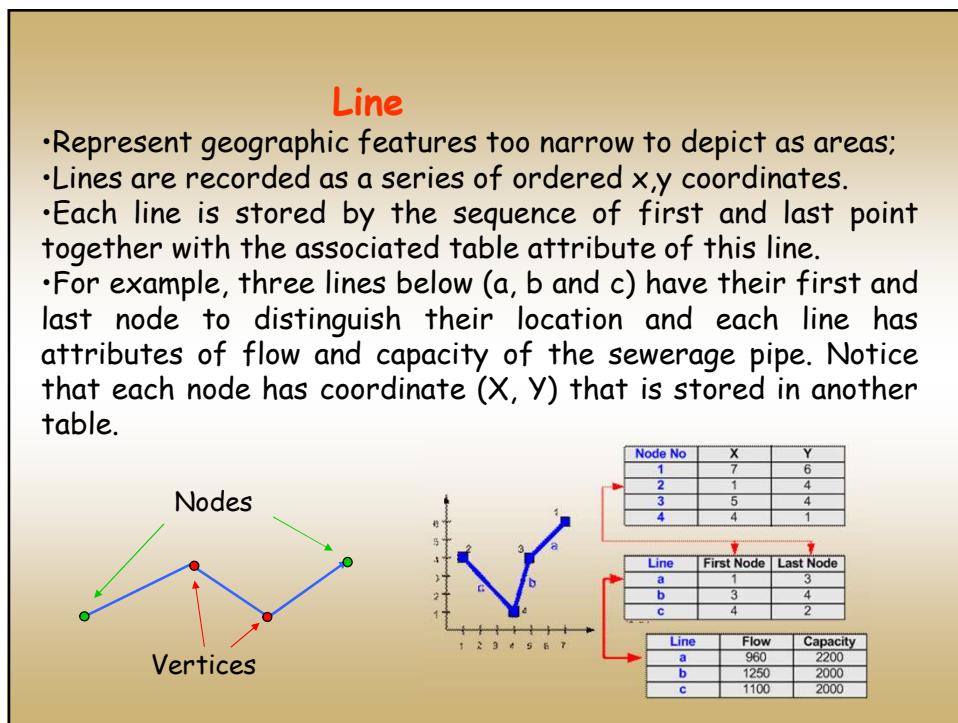
## Points

- Represent geographic features too small to be depicted as lines or areas
- A point is recorded as a pair of x, y coordinates.
- **Node** is a topological point at which two or more arcs connect each other
- Each point is stored by its location (X, Y) together with the table attribute of this point.
- For example, 4 points below has their coordinate location in (X, Y) and each point has attributes of deep and amount of water contamination.

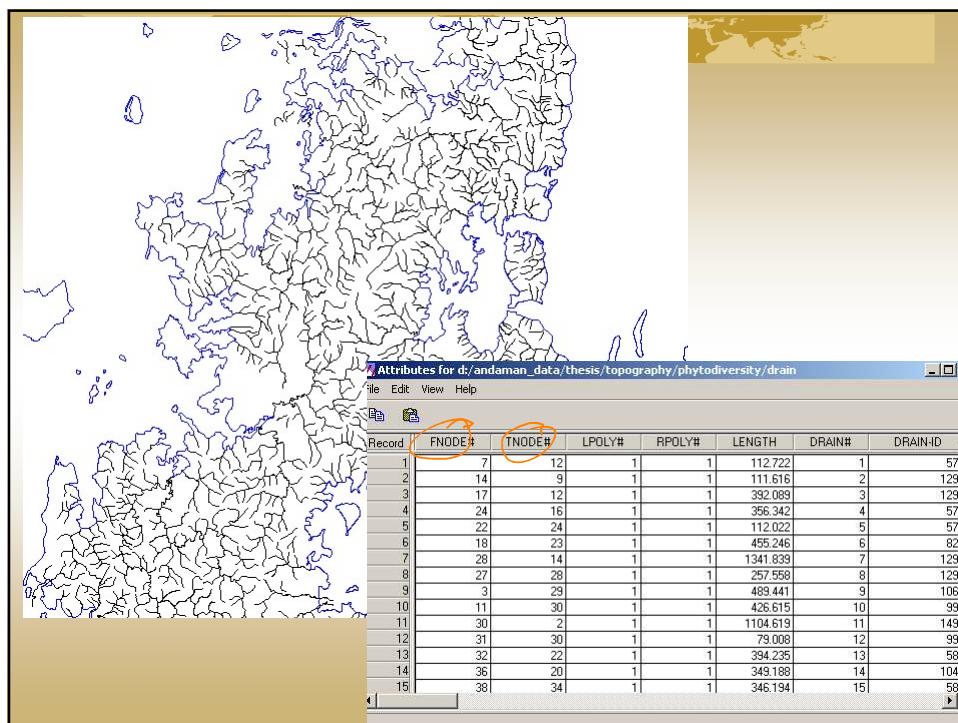




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## Polygon

- Represent homogeneous geographic features. The term polygon, meaning 'many-sided'.
- Polygon is represented by a *closed sequence of lines*. Unlike line or poly-line (sequence of line), polygon always closed. That is, **the first point is equal to the last point**.
- A polygon can be represented by a sequence of nodes where the last node is equal to the first node.
- For example, polygon A below has its first and last node in node number 1 to settle its location. Aside from location attributes, the polygon has associated attributes of area and bacterial population.

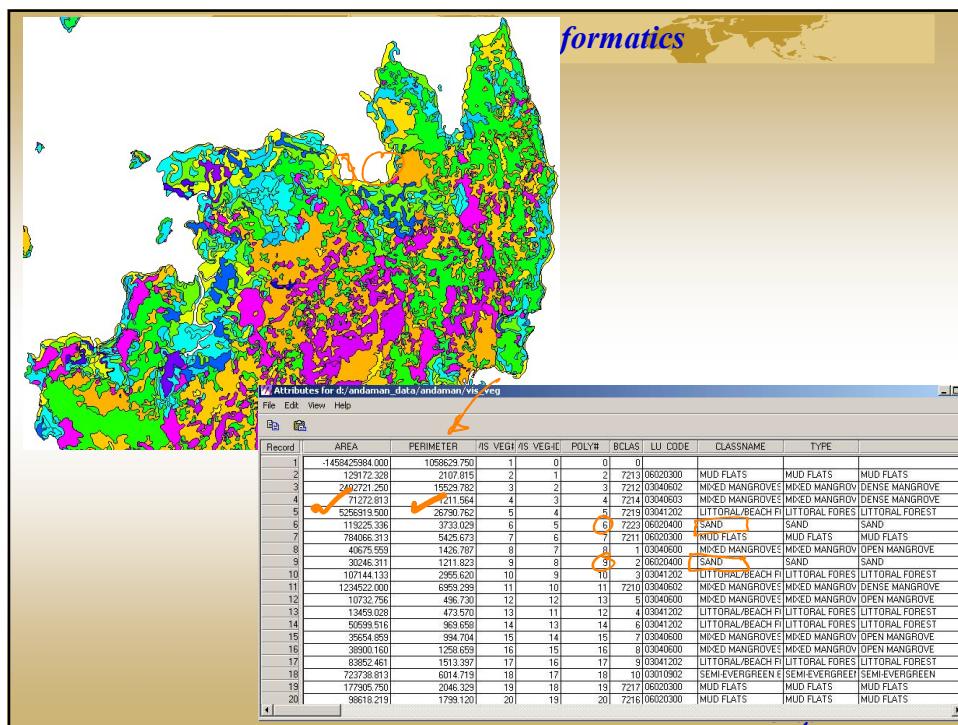
Using polygon, several geometric attributes such as area and perimeters can be derived easily

Node No	X	Y
1	7	6
2	1	4
3	5	4
4	4	1

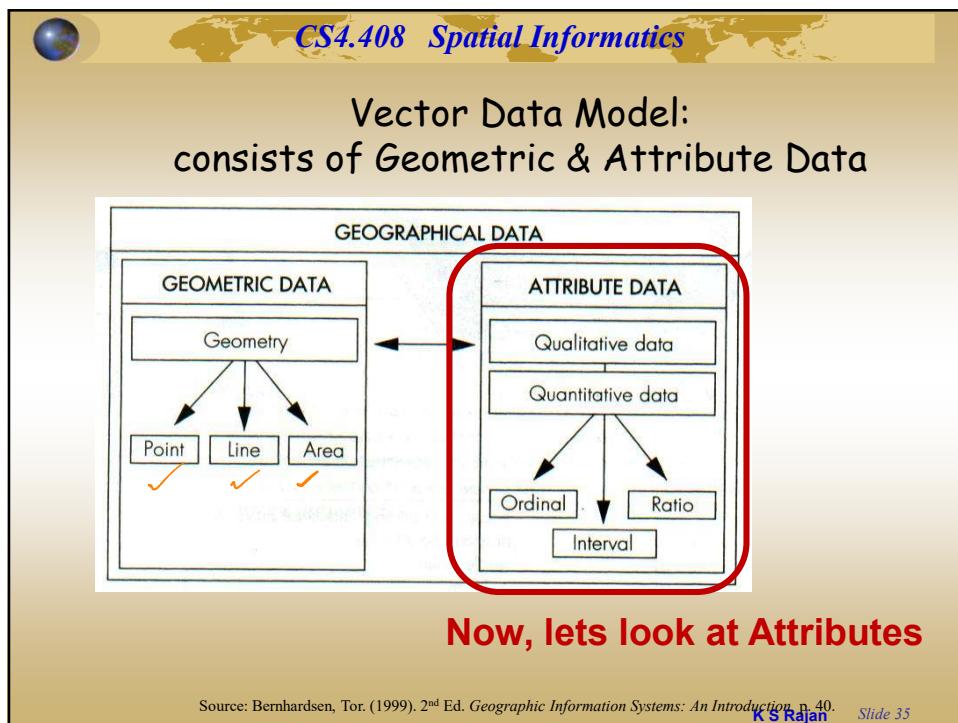
Polygon	Node sequence
A	3,4,2,1

ID	Polygon	Area	Population
	A	15.23	12.35

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*CS4.408 Spatial Informatics*

# Attribute – what is it?

- It is the Information about the Spatial Object – it characterizes the Object
  - Referred to as Non-Spatial data, Tabular data
    - What it is
    - What it may contain, consist of, etc
    - Where
    - Class / Label / Category
    - Measurable parameters like Area, length, size, etc
    - Any Info related to the Location

Source of table: [https://www.qgistutorials.com/en/docs/working\\_with\\_attributes.html](https://www.qgistutorials.com/en/docs/working_with_attributes.html)

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# Types of Attributes (1/2)

### **Qualitative Information –Categorical(names)**

### - Nominal

- no inherent ordering
  - Eg: land use types, district names

### - Ordinal

- inherent order
  - Eg: road class (NH, SH, etc); stream class

#### - Cyclical

- Calendar months Wind direction etc

May be represented as Numbers (codes; Class value)  
but can't do arithmetic operations on them

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## Types of Attributes (2/2)

### Quantitative Information - Numerical

– Interval

- Range values, histogram bins
- Eg: temperature of cities

– Ratio

- ratios make sense (e.g. twice as much)
- Eg: income, age, rainfall

They have known differences in values and hence can apply statistics on them (most of the time).

## Sources of Attribute Data

- Collated from Reports, Statistical tables
- Field information
- ...



## What to do with the Spatial Data?



- Primarily to **Visualize** (**Depict or Draw**) the data

Location of a Spatial Object

- Points like IIITH
- Linear Objects like River Ganges
- District of Hyderabad



- How to **locate or identify** the interested Spatial Object/Objects ?

**Query** the data to highlight  
Extract the data (for use here or elsewhere)



- What about **Analysis** ?

Spatial relationships ?

Cause-effect relations; Co-occurrence; mathematical



- Spatial **Modelling** – what and how?