



CORE  
Skills

Delivering Data Science  
In Resources & Energy

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## Special Data Types: Spatial Data

Day 13

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Data Mettle

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# Schedule

AWST	AEST	Agenda	Facilitator
07:30	09:30	<b>Q&amp;A, Issues &amp; Announcements</b>	
07:45	09:45	<u><a href="#">Introduction to spatial data</a></u>	Ying
09:00	11:00	<i>Morning Tea</i>	
09:15	11:15	<b>Project Share (RTA)</b>	Georgia Hamilton
10:00	12:00	<u><a href="#">Using spatial data</a></u>	Ying
11:00	13:00	<i>Lunch</i>	
11:45	13:45	<b>How to pitch a data science project</b>	Jeremy
13:15	15:15	<i>Afternoon Tea</i>	
13:30	15:30	<b>Project pitch development</b>	All
14:45	16:45	Menti feedback & Closeout	Tamryn



## Program Timeline



# Q&A, Issues & Announcements

## Before we Get Started

- Resources & Tasks
- Reflections, questions and Issues: Teams
- The afternoon is time to work on your **project pitch** and any questions you might have



# GitHub Content for Today using Binder

[github.com / core-skills / 13-spatial-data](https://github.com/core-skills/13-spatial-data)

The screenshot shows a GitHub repository page for the 'core-skills/13-spatial-data' repository. The repository has 2 branches (master, gh-pages) and 8 tags. The master branch has 40 commits from the last 3 minutes. The commits are listed below:

File	Commit Message	Time Ago
data	Added notebook for data exploration exercise	9 months ago
notebooks	Update filer & unified notebook for first exercise	21 minutes ago
program	Updated environment file with minimal package versions and per notes...	1 hour ago
gh-pages	Update Function Notebooks, gh-pages for processed data	9 months ago
LICENSE	Update License Year	9 months ago
README.md	Point Binder Link to Jupyter	9 months ago
environment.yml	Updated environment file with minimal package versions and per notes...	1 hour ago

At the bottom of the page, there is a section titled "CORE Skills Program - Day 3 - Zero to Data Science". Below this section, there is a "launch binder" button.



# GitHub – Program Notes

[github.com / core-skills / 13-spatial-data / program / 00\\_overview.md](https://github.com/core-skills/13-spatial-data/program/00_overview.md)

## Overview

[Overview](#) | [Data Culture](#) | [From Here to There](#) | [Data Projects](#) | [Data Exploration](#) | [Closeout](#)

### Aim

Provide an overview of a 'typical' data science workflow.

### Learning Outcomes

1. To appreciate what data science is
2. To appreciate the fields data science spans
3. Understand the stages of a data science project and define a mental model of it
4. Analyse the opportunity and potential value of data science in your organisation

### Schedule

AWST	AEST	Agenda
07:30 - 07:45	09:30 - 09:45	Q&A, Issues & Announcements
07:45 - 09:15	09:45 - 11:15	<a href="#">Creating a Data Culture</a>
09:15 - 09:30	11:15 - 11:30	<i>Morning Tea</i>
09:30 - 11:00	11:30 - 13:00	<a href="#">Getting From Here to There</a>
11:00 - 11:15	12:00 - 12:15	



# Binder Backup

Screenshot of a GitHub repository showing a commit history and a "launch binder" button.

The repository has a single commit from "morganejullien" titled "Merge pull request #1 from gh-pages". The commit was pushed 2 minutes ago and includes 42 commits. The commit history shows the following changes:

- data: Added notebook for data exploration exercises 0 months ago
- notebooks: Update filled & unfilled notebooks for first exercises 21 minutes ago
- program: Updated environment file with minimal package versions and per-notebook... 1 hour ago
- gh-pages: Update Function! Notebooks, gh-pages for processed data 0 months ago
- LICENSE: Update License file 0 months ago
- README.md: Point Binder link to data 0 hours ago
- environment.yml: Updated environment file with minimal package versions and per-notebook... 1 hour ago

Below the commit history is a file named README.md.

## CORE Skills Program - Day 3 - Zero to Data Science

[launch binder](#)



# Aims & Learning Outcomes

Day 13

## Aims

- Extract geospatial features for data science applications.
- Present the practical strategies for using geospatial data.

## Learning Outcomes

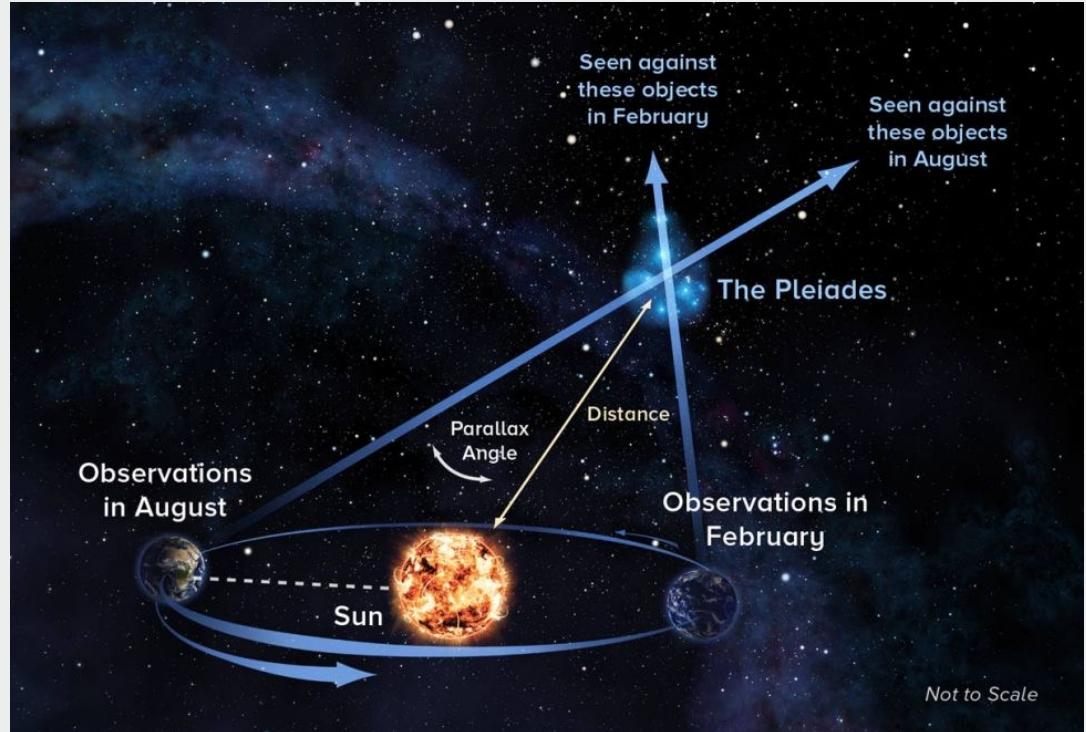
- Understand vector and raster geospatial formats with feature extraction.
- Understand projections and geocoding.
- Understand how to manipulate spatial data sets.

# Introduction to spatial data

# Fundamental concepts for spatial analysis

## Key concepts

- Space
  - Location
  - Distance
- 
- Each can be described as:
    - Absolute
    - Relative
    - Cognitive
    - Nominal



# Fundamental concepts for spatial analysis

## Space

- Absolute space
  - mathematical space, things are given an (x, y, z) tuple and positions are unambiguous.
- Relative space
  - Topological space, can be thought of as relative space. Used to represent connectivity between features of the world
- Cognitive space
  - reflects people's beliefs, experiences and perceptions about places.

# Fundamental concepts for spatial analysis

## Location

- Absolute
  - an unambiguous descriptor of location, expressed as a coordinate. Can't be confused with any other location.
  - Example: Latitude and longitude.
- Relative
  - Site (physical attributes of location) and situation (location relative to other places).
  - Example: Perth is located far from other cities, near raw materials etc. Or 191 St Georges Terrace
- Cognitive
  - Compiled from personal knowledge, experiences, and impressions
  - Example: traditional knowledge of waterholes as a resource, then a stock route, then a 4WD track. Same physical location but different perception.
- Nominal
  - *Where were you when...?* Linking space and time.
  - Example: Where were you when you heard about 9/11?

# Fundamental concepts for spatial analysis

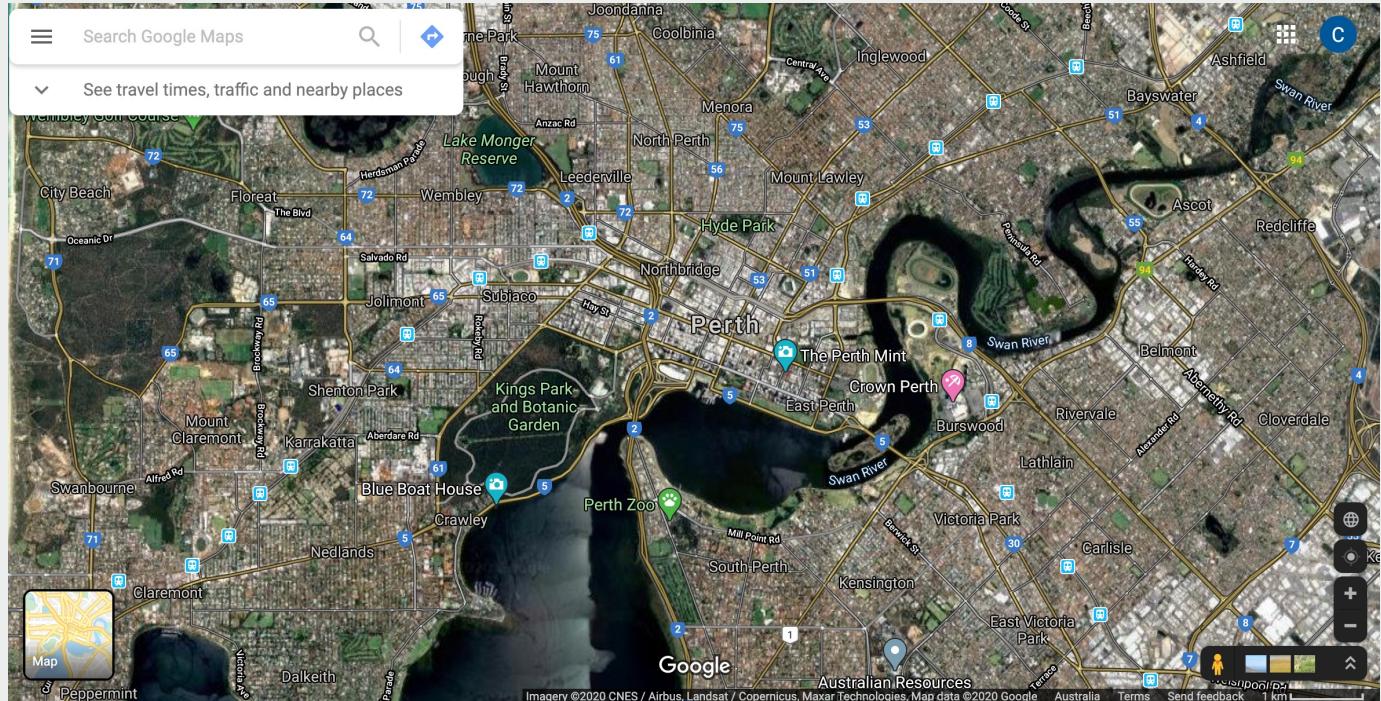
## Distance

- Absolute
  - a physical unit of measure Example: kilometers between two assets
- Relative
  - Generally calculated using time, effort or cost (will differ from absolute – what happens when you go over a mountain range?). Example: voting maps sized by number of seats vs area.
- Cognitive
  - Individual perception of distance. Example: driving in NZ vs driving in Australia

# Geospatial data types

## Objects and attributes

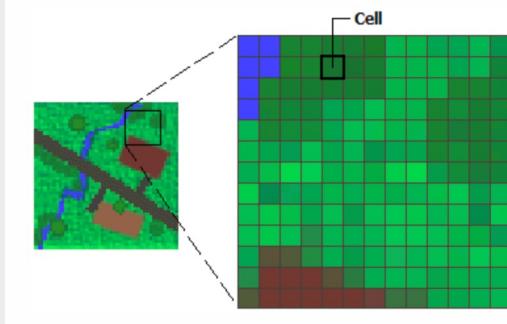
- Raster
- Vector
- Point clouds



# Geospatial data types

## Raster

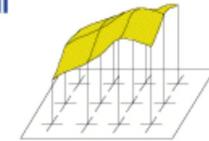
- Regularly defined geographic space, often used for representing continuous phenomena.  
Example: orthophotos, remote sensing
- **Example Attribute:** elevation, temperature



### Value applies to the center point of the cell

For certain types of data, the cell value represents a measured value at the center point of the cell. An example is a raster of elevation

+	315	+	319	+	321	+	323
+	317	+	323	+	328	+	326
+	313	+	318	+	325	+	323



### Value applies to the whole area of the cell

For most data, the cell value represents a sampling of a phenomenon, and the value is presumed to represent the whole cell square.

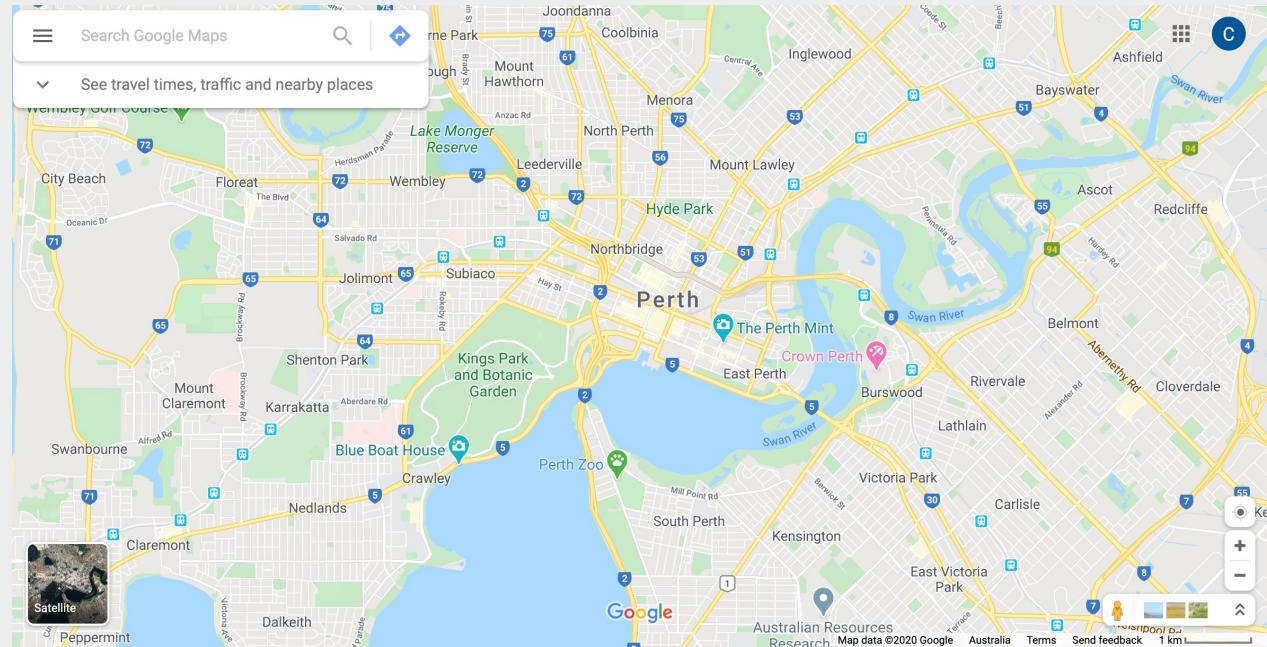
50	45	40	35
35	40	35	25
20	25	30	20



# Geospatial data types

## Vector

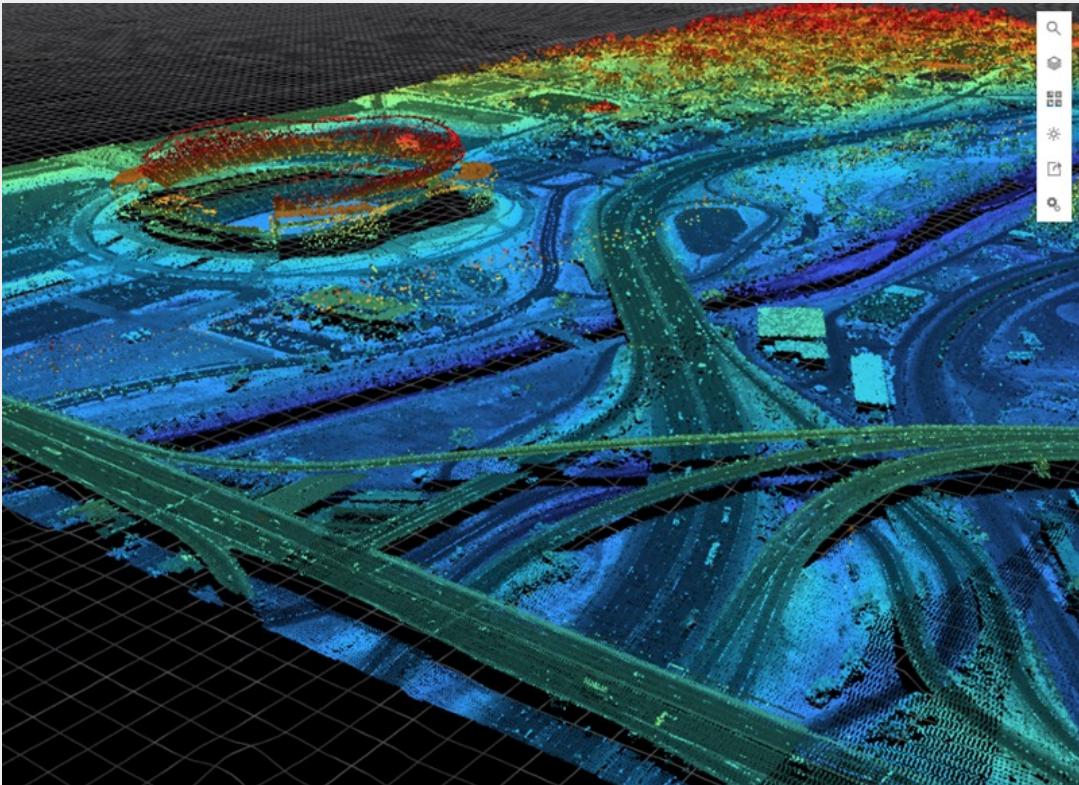
- Defined as point, line, or polygon. Often used for representing discrete phenomena.  
Example: River locations
- Example attribute:**  
Name of river, pH measurement, date of pH measurement



# Geospatial data types

## Point clouds

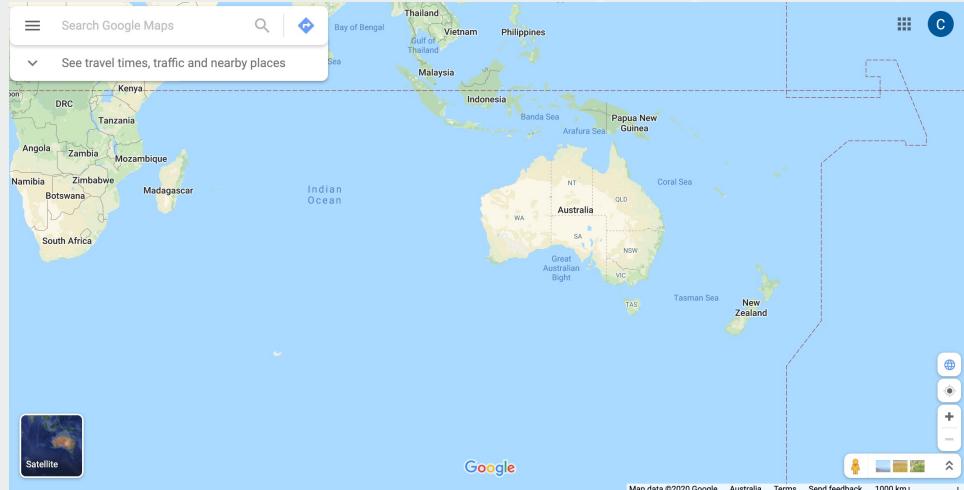
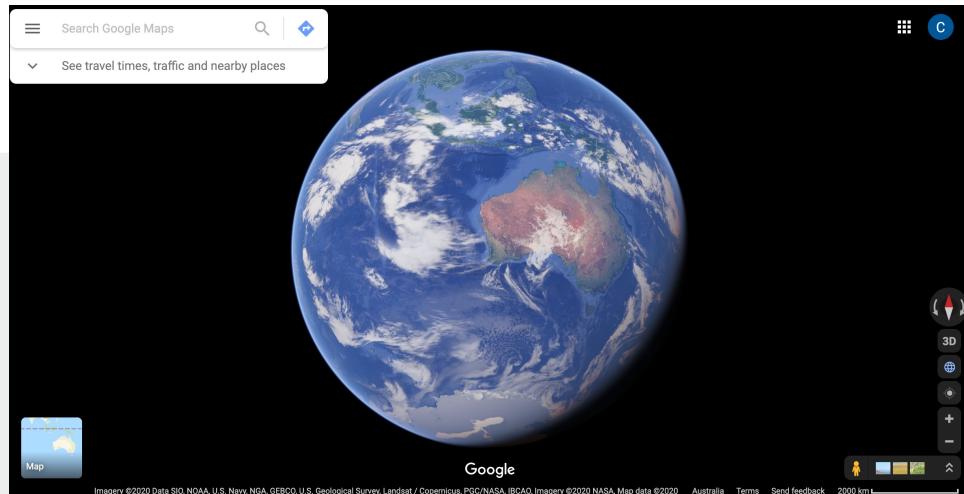
- Vector space representation of a 3D surface or object.  
Example: lidar data
- Example attribute: color



# Spatial reference frame

A static reference surface for identifying locations on the earth.

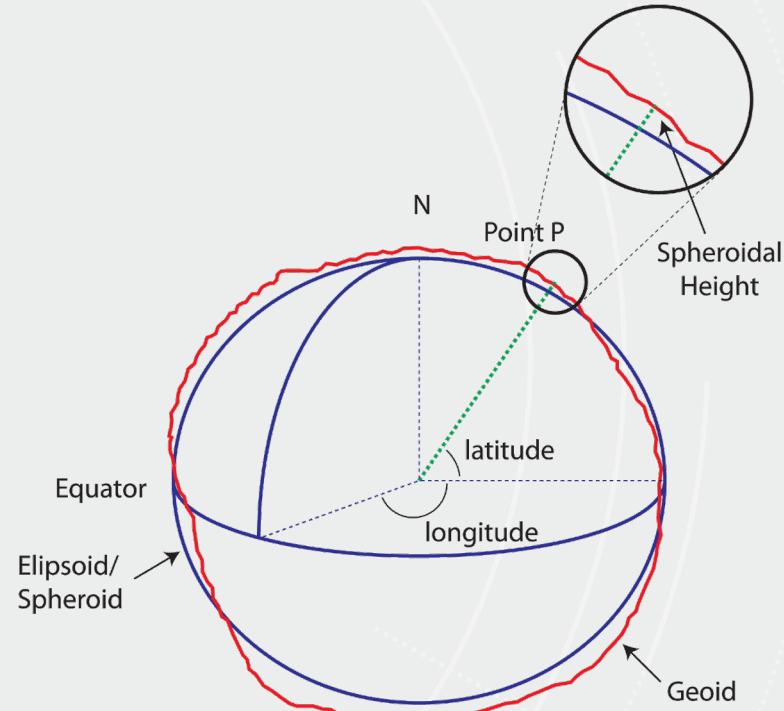
- Datum
- Projection



# Spatial reference frame

## Datum

- A datum identifies how locations are specified on earth's surface.
- A spheroid (or ellipsoid) is an approximation for the earth's surface, and acts as the reference for the datum.

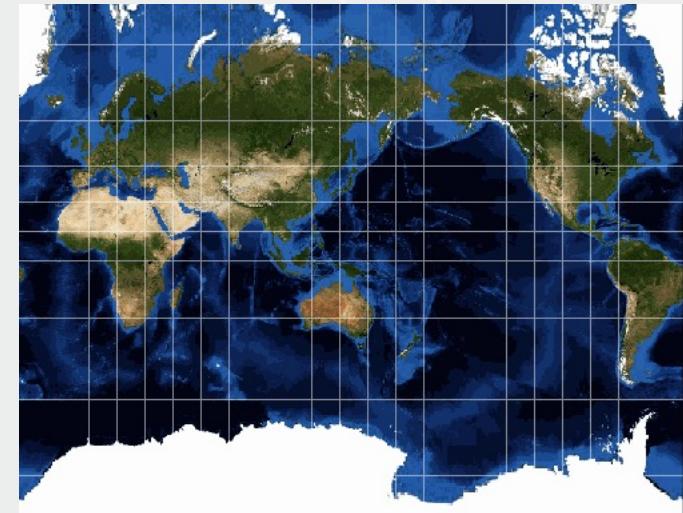
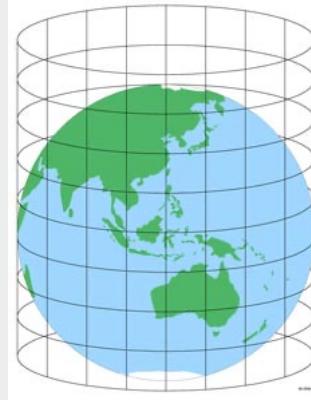


From: <https://www.icsm.gov.au/education/fundamentals-mapping/datums/datums-explained-more-detail>

# Spatial reference frame

## Projection

- A projection specifies how to represent the features from a spheroidal surface on a flat plane.  
Types of projection techniques include:
  - azimuthal
  - cylindrical
  - conical



Excellent reference:

[https://www.icsm.gov.au/education/  
fundamentals-mapping/projections](https://www.icsm.gov.au/education/fundamentals-mapping/projections)

From: <https://www.icsm.gov.au/education/fundamentals-mapping/datums/datums-explained-more-detail>

## Spatial reference frame

The actual location values (latitude, longitude) will vary depending on the reference frame.

*It is important to make sure all spatial data have the appropriate spatial reference information in the metadata.*

# Introduction to spatial data

[\*\*Open am1\\_intro\\_to\\_spatial\\_data.ipynb\*\*](#)

# Using spatial data



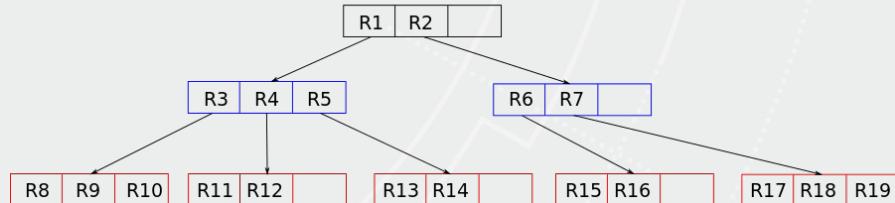
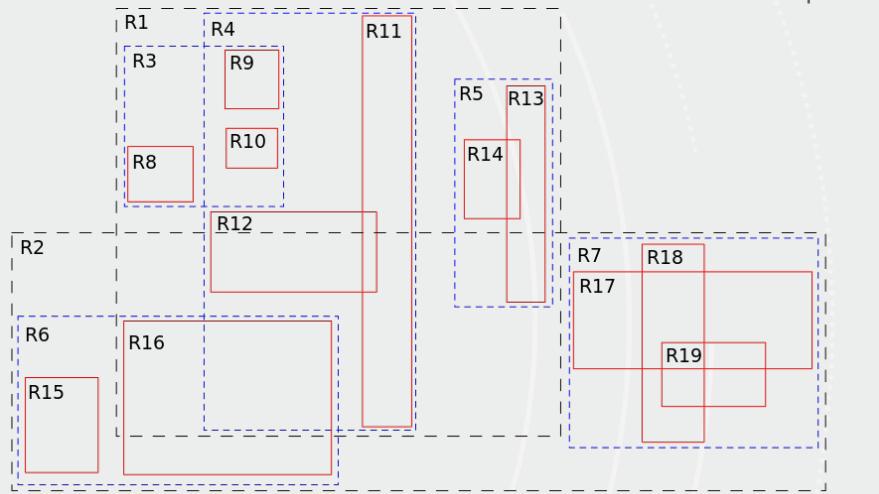


# Standard spatial operations

## Spatial index and selections

- **R-tree:** hierarchical data structure in which nearby objects are grouped and represented by their minimal bounding rectangle
- Used in spatial data bases for fast querying, e.g., nearest neighbours

Source: Wikipedia

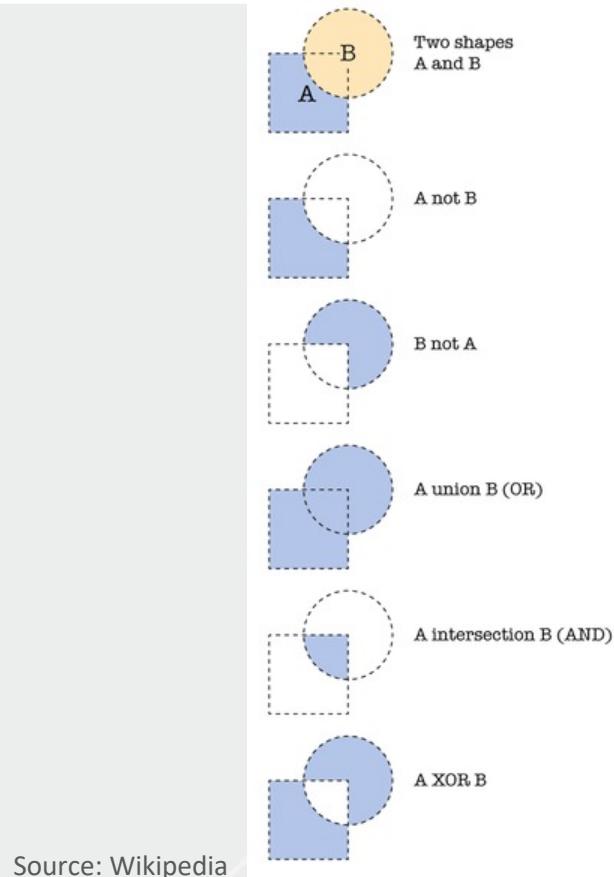




# Standard spatial operations

## Geometry operations

- Splitting using overlay operations (intersect, union, join)
- Joining/dissolving
- Buffering/ eroding

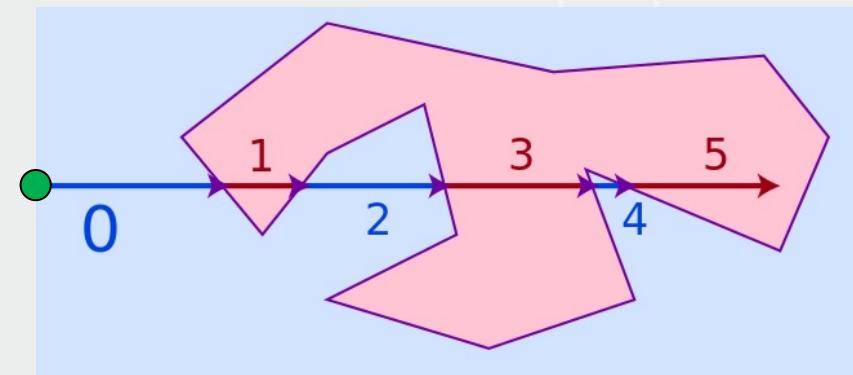




# Standard spatial operations

## Point in polygon

- = Identifying whether a point lies inside or outside of a polygon
- Several algorithms exist, the simplest being the Ray casting algorithm
- Check how many times a ray starting from the point intersects a polygon's edge:
  - Even = outside
  - Odd = inside



Source: Wikipedia

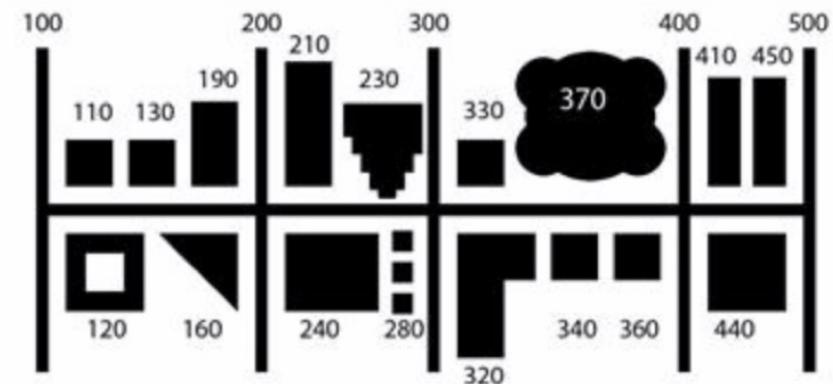
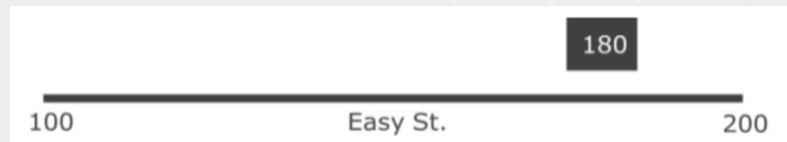


# Standard spatial operations

## Geocoding

= Turn a physical address (e.g., a street name) into geographical coordinates (e.g., latitude and longitude):

- Linear geocoding (find a point along a line, e.g. 191 St Georges) – estimate from start and end points of the block. Not as accurate but easy to implement and data is commonly available
- Area geocoding (find a point in a polygon) – much more accurate but requires lots more data





# Standard spatial operations

## Actual use

Generally, we don't just want to do this ourselves  
– use an API!

See for instance [scipy.spatial](#), [shapely](#), or [geopy](#) in Python



[Scipy.org](#) [Docs](#) [SciPy v0.14.0 Reference Guide](#)

[index](#) [modules](#) [next](#) [previous](#)

## Spatial algorithms and data structures (`scipy.spatial`)

### Nearest-neighbor Queries

`KDTree(data[, leafsize])` kd-tree for quick nearest-neighbor lookup  
`cKDTree` kd-tree for quick nearest-neighbor lookup  
`distance`

### Delaunay Triangulation, Convex Hulls and Voronoi

#### Diagrams

`Delaunay(points[, furthest_site, ...])` Delaunay tessellation in N dimensions.  
`ConvexHull(points[, incremental, qhull_options])` Convex hulls in N dimensions.  
`Voronoi(points[, furthest_site, ...])` Voronoi diagrams in N dimensions.

### Plotting Helpers

`delaunay_plot_2d(tri[, ax])` Plot the given Delaunay triangulation in 2-D  
`convex_hull_plot_2d(hull[, ax])` Plot the given convex hull diagram in 2-D  
`voronoi_plot_2d(vor[, ax])` Plot the given Voronoi diagram in 2-D

See also:

[Tutorial](#)

### Simplex representation

The simplices (triangles, tetrahedra, ...) appearing in the Delaunay tessellation (N-dim

## Table Of Contents

- Spatial algorithms and data structures (`scipy.spatial`)
  - Nearest-neighbor Queries
  - Delaunay Triangulation, Convex Hulls and Voronoi Diagrams
  - Plotting Helpers
  - Simplex representation
    - Functions

## Previous topic

[scipy.sparse.csgraph.minin](#)

## Next topic

[scipy.spatial.KDTree](#)



# Standard spatial operations

## Exercise

Open **am2\_geospatial\_data\_processing.ipynb** and go through the notebook



# Spatial predictions

## Why do we worry about space at all?

- **Tobler's first law of geography:**

“Everything is related to everything else,  
but near things are more related than distant things.”

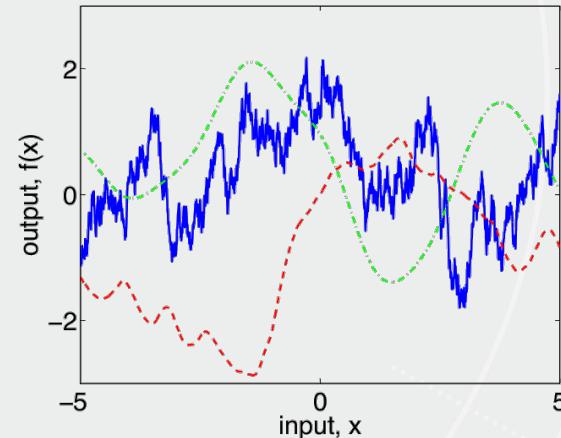
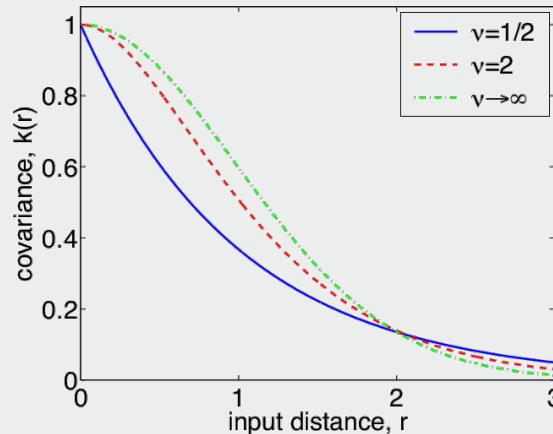
- To predict in space, each location is treated as a variable (same principle in time),  
and those variables are dependent.



# Spatial predictions

## Covariance function

- Mathematical formulation of the first law of geography
- Defines how the correlation between two locations changes with distance



- Variogram in geostatistics, kernel in machine learning

Source: Rasmussen and Williams (2006)

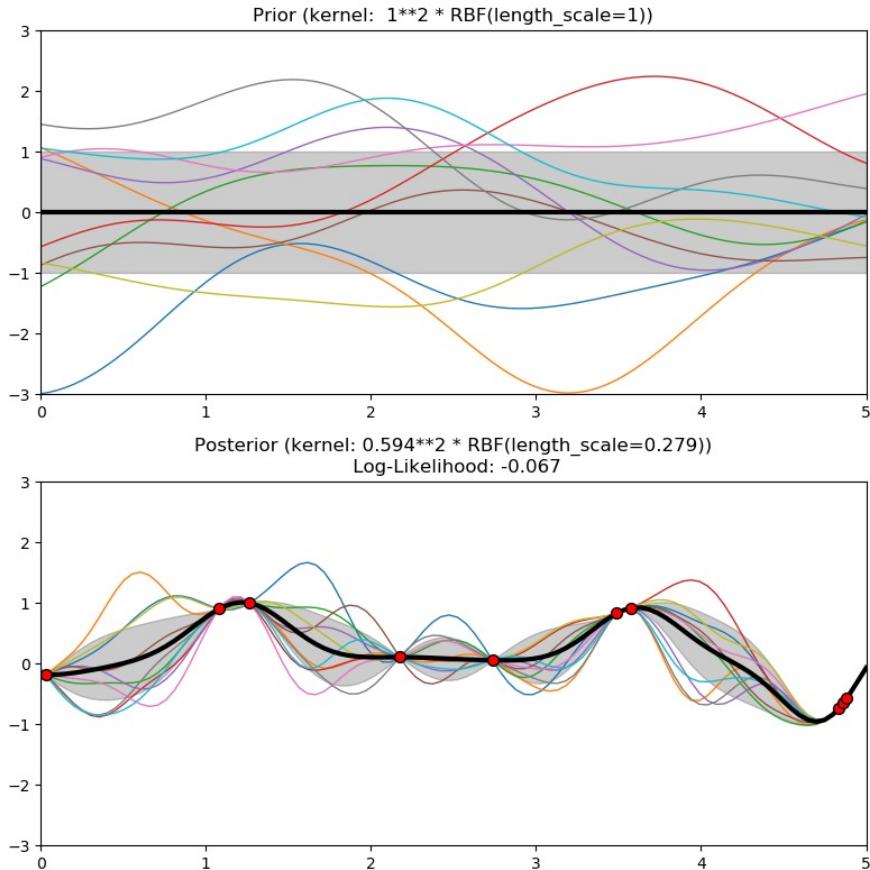


# Spatial predictions

## Gaussian processes

- Supervised method for regression and classification that uses a covariance function to reproduce spatial continuity
- Can fit data and provide prediction uncertainty
- But computationally demanding
- Equivalent to kriging in geostatistics

Source: Scikit-Learn documentation



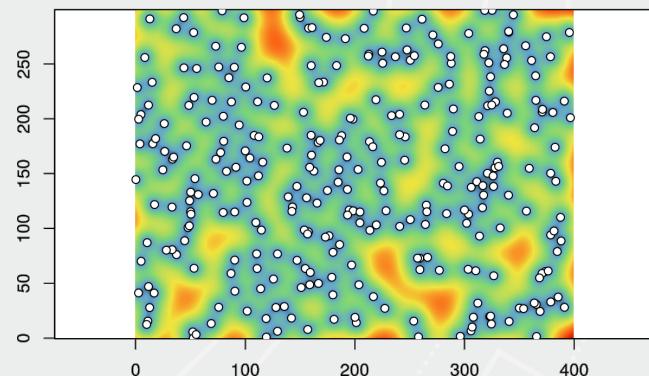
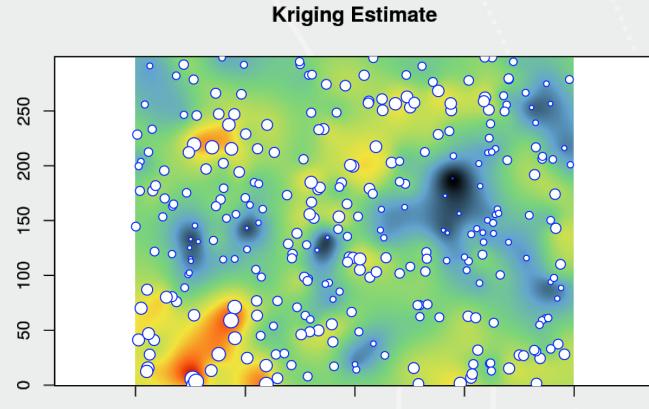


# Spatial predictions

## Gaussian processes

- Supervised method for regression and classification that uses a covariance function to reproduce spatial continuity
- Can fit data and provide prediction uncertainty
- But computationally demanding
- Equivalent to kriging in geostatistics

Source: Rgeostats documentation



# Takeaways



# High-level Takeaways From Today

## Today we've:

- covered the basic concepts of spatial data: space, location and distance, and the different methods we use to talk about these concepts, including absolute, relative, topological and cognitive measures.
- covered the basics of spatial data analysis, including geometry operations, spatial indices, and geocoding.
- covered how spatial processing can form part of a larger machine learning or data science pipeline, particularly as a feature generator for machine learning algorithms.
- covered how to design an effective pitch that considers the audience, communication styles and content structure.



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