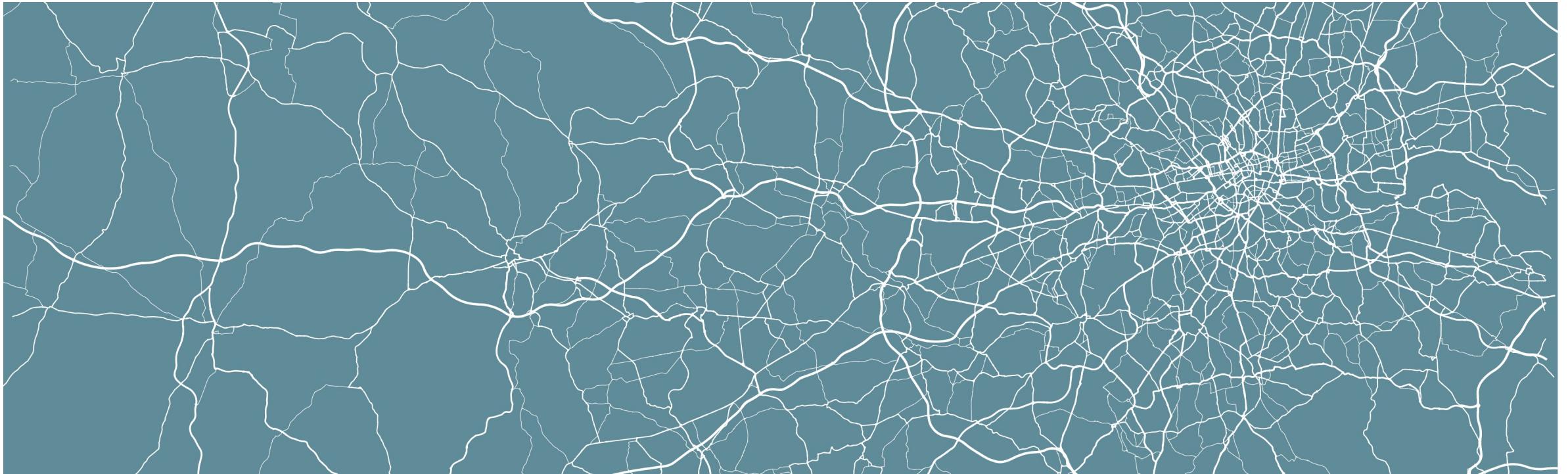


Geocomputation

Module overview



About this Module

Geocomputation provides you with an introduction to the principles of GIScience, spatial analysis and the use of programming for data analysis.

Over the next ten weeks, you will learn about the theory, methods and tools of spatial analysis, first using QGIS, and then using the R programming language within the RStudio software environment.

You will learn how to find, manage and clean spatial, demographic and socio-economic datasets, and then analyse them using core spatial and statistical analysis techniques.

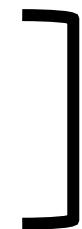
Outline

Part I: Foundational Concepts

W1 Geocomputation: An Introduction

W2 GIScience and GIS software

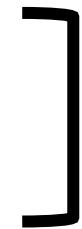
W3 Cartography and Visualisation



QGIS

W4 Programming for Data Analysis

W5 Programming for Spatial Analysis



R

Outline

Part II: Core Spatial Analysis

W6 Geometric Operations and Spatial Queries

W7 Spatial Autocorrelation

W8 Point Pattern Analysis



R

Part III: Advanced Spatial Analysis

W9 Rasters, Zonal Statistics and Interpolation

W10 Transport Network Analysis



R

Module structure

- This module consists of ten lectures (Monday afternoons) and ten supervised computer tutorials (Monday afternoons).
- Each week will have its own reading list. *Reading lists and instructions for the computer tutorial get published on the dedicated GEOG0030 Geocomputation workbook. The link to this workbook is available on Moodle.*
- Several additional optional **Geocomputation Help** sessions are scheduled: February 23rd, March 23rd, and April 3rd in North-West Wing 1.16 (BYOC).

Workbook

GEOG0030: Geocomputation

jtvandijk.github.io/GEOG0030/index.html#welcome

UCL

Module overview

Module Introduction

- Welcome
- Moodle
- Module overview
- Troubleshooting
- Acknowledgements

Foundational Concepts

- 1 Geocomputation: An Introduction
- 2 GIScience and GIS software
- 3 Cartography and Visualisation
- 4 Programming for Data Analysis
- 5 Programming for Spatial Analysis

Core Spatial Analysis

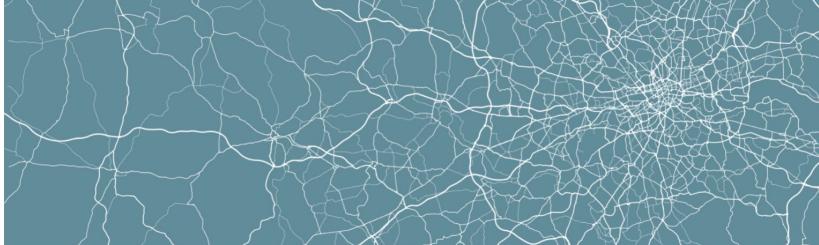
- 6 Analysing Spatial Patterns I: Geo...
- 7 Analysing Spatial Patterns II: Spat...
- 8 Analysing Spatial Patterns III: Poi...

GEOG0030: Geocomputation

Justin van Dijk

2022-01-05

Module Introduction



Welcome

Welcome to **Geocomputation**, a course that introduces you to both the principles of spatial analysis and the use of programming for data analysis.

Workbook

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the following details:

- Title Bar:** 1 Geocomputation: An Introduction
- Address Bar:** jtvandijk.github.io/GEOG0030/geocomputation-an-introduction.html
- UCL Logo:** A black square with the letters "UCL" in white.
- Left Sidebar (Module Overview):**
 - Module overview
 - Module Introduction
 - Foundational Concepts
 - 1 Geocomputation: An Introduction** (highlighted in blue)
 - 1.1 Reading list
 - 1.2 Getting started
 - 1.3 Software
 - 1.4 File management
 - 1.5 Before you leave - 2 GIScience and GIS software
 - 3 Cartography and Visualisation
 - 4 Programming for Data Analysis
 - 5 Programming for Spatial Analysis
 - Core Spatial Analysis
 - 6 Analysing Spatial Patterns I: Geo...
 - 7 Analysing Spatial Patterns II: Spat...
 - 8 Analysing Spatial Patterns III: Poi...
- Main Content Area:**

1 Geocomputation: An Introduction

This week's lecture provided you with a thorough introduction into what is Geocomputation, outlining how and why it is different to a traditional 'GIScience' course. We set the scene for the remainder of the module and explained how the foundational concepts that you will learn about in the first half of term fit together to form the overall Geocomputation curriculum. There is no actual hands-on computer tutorial this week, but you will need to complete a few practical tasks in preparation for our future practicals.

1.1 Reading list

Essential readings

 - Brundson, C. and Comber, A. 2020. Opening practice: Supporting reproducibility and critical spatial data science. *Journal of Geographical Systems* 23: 477–496. [\[Link\]](#)
 - Longley, P. et al. 2015. Geographic Information Science & Systems, **Chapter 1: Geographic Information: Science, Systems, and Society**. [\[Link\]](#)
 - Singleton, A. and Arribas-Bel, D. 2019. Geographic Data Science. *Geographical Analysis*. [\[Link\]](#)

Suggested readings

 - Miller, H. and Goodchild, M. 2015. Data-driven geography. *GeoJournal* 80: 449–461. [\[Link\]](#)
 - Goodchild, M. 2009. Geographic information systems and science: today and tomorrow. *Annals of G/S* 15(1): 3–9. [\[Link\]](#)

Practicalities

- Lecture slides will be made available on the GEOG0030 Geocomputation workbook webpage before each lecture. Lectures are recorded using [Lecturecast](#).
- Computer tutorials will not be streamed or recorded. You are expected to work independently through the assignments in the workbook – with the opportunity to ask questions.
- Links to more advanced content: W04, W05, W07.

Communication

- All important information will be communicated through Moodle.
- For specific questions on the module, my Academic Support and Feedback (ASF) Office Hours are scheduled on Thursday afternoon (14h00-15h00; online) and Friday afternoon (11h00-13h00; in-person). Slots can be booked through Microsoft Bookings: [\[Link\]](#)

Assessment

- Social Atlas Coursework Assessment (60%): The first assessment will involve the completion of a spatial analysis project, based on the theory, concepts and application learnt during the module. For this coursework you are required to create a small “social atlas” on a topic or area that interests you. Deadline: April 24 2023.
- Specific Coursework guidance on Moodle (including examples), general introduction in W06.
- Exam Assessment (40%): The second assessment will take the form of a written 2-hour Exam.

Troubleshooting

Spatial analysis can yield fascinating insights into geographical relationships. However, at times it can be difficult to work with - particularly when we combine this with learning how to program at the same time. You are likely to get lots of error messages and have software crash, you will end up with bugs in your code that are difficult to find, and you may spend a whole day trying to track down a single data set.

**SAY "IT WORKS IN MY
MACHINE"**

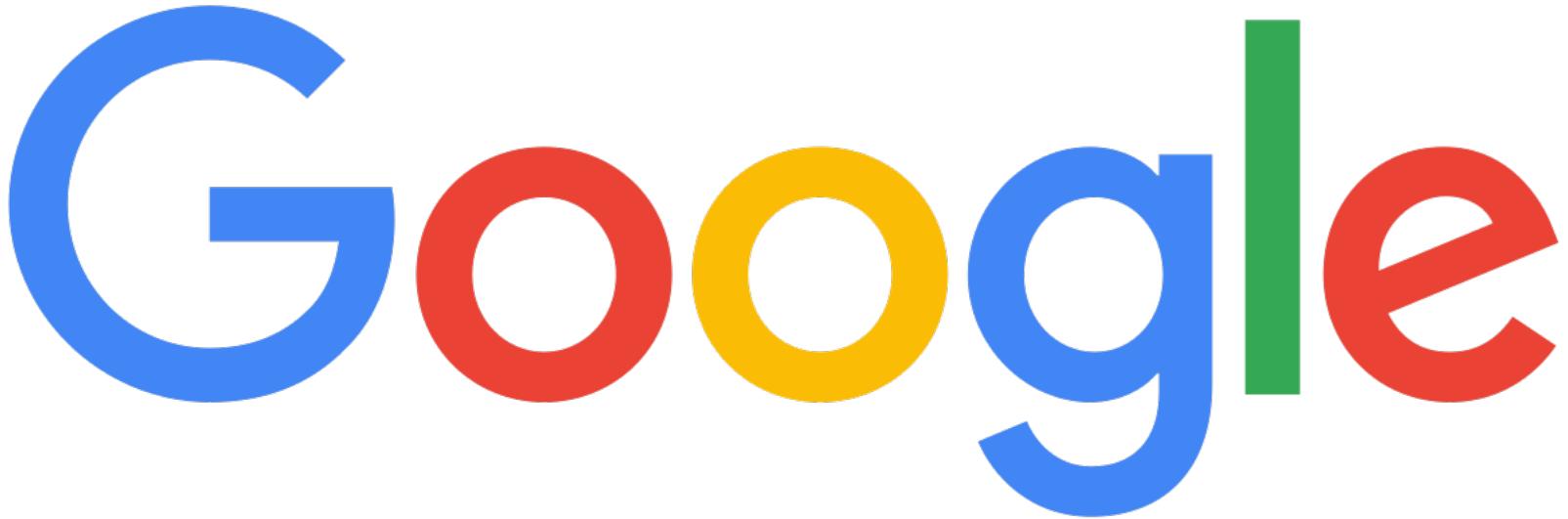
ONE MORE TIME

MemesHappen

Troubleshooting

- Ask a question at the end of a plenary lecture.
- Ask a question during a computer tutorial.
- Attend the Geography Department's Coding Therapy sessions that are run on a weekly basis.
- Attend the scheduled optional [Geocomputation Help](#) sessions on February 23rd, March 23rd, and April 3rd in North-West Wing 1.16 (BYOC).

Troubleshooting



Questions

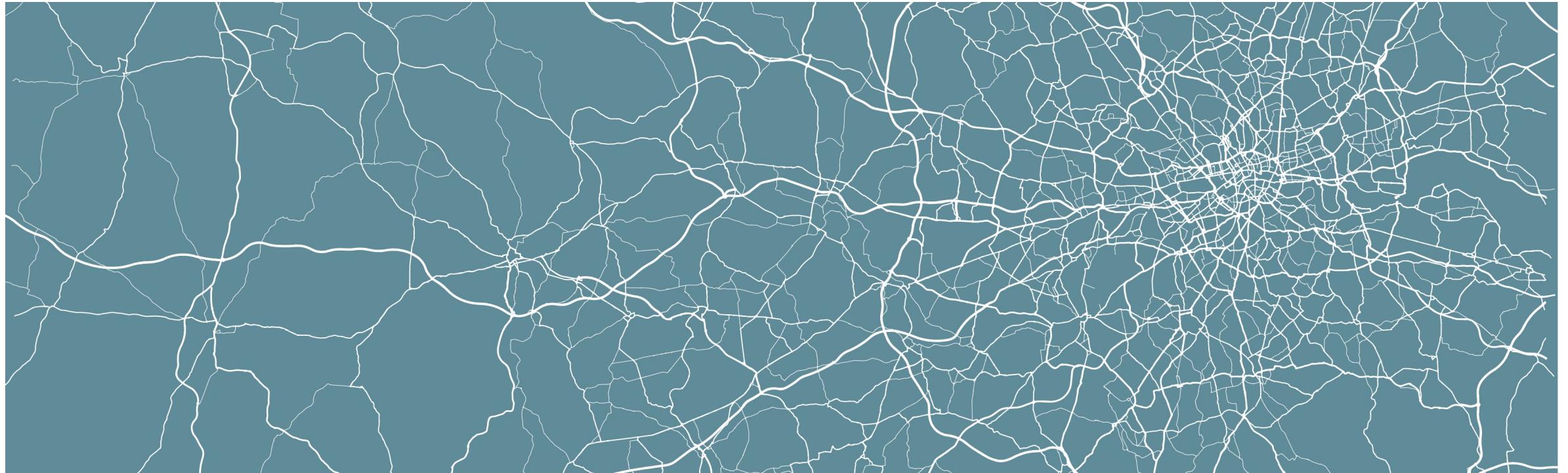
Justin van Dijk

j.t.vandijk@ucl.ac.uk



Geocomputation

Geocomputation: An Introduction



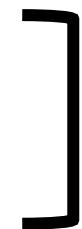
Where are we at?

Part I: Foundational Concepts

W1 **Geocomputation: An Introduction**

W2 GIScience and GIS software

W3 Cartography and Visualisation



QGIS

W4 Programming for Data Analysis



R

W5 Programming for Spatial Analysis

This week

- What is GIScience?
- What is Geocomputation?

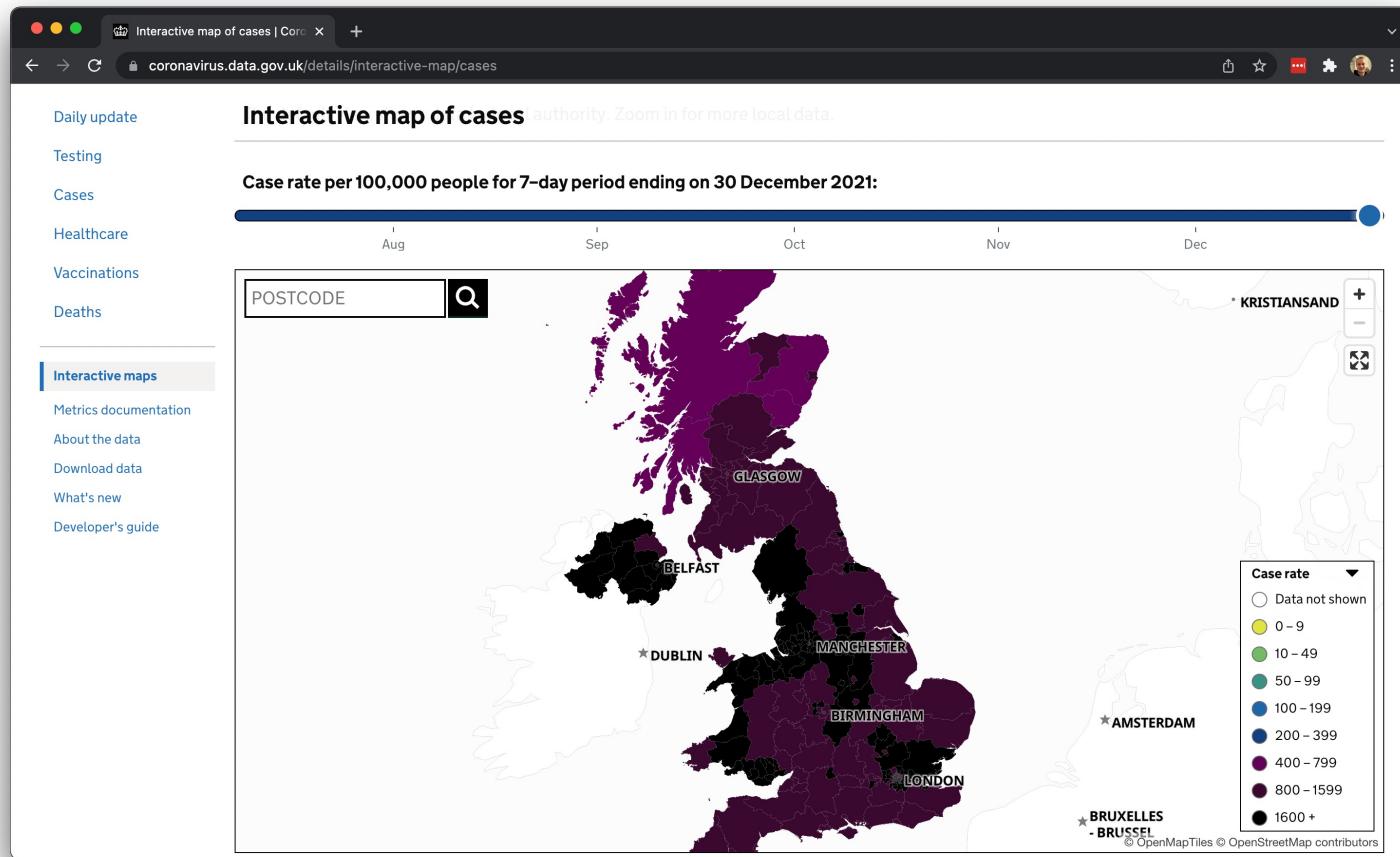
Before we start

- Go to www.menti.com
- Use code: 5129 8329

GIScience

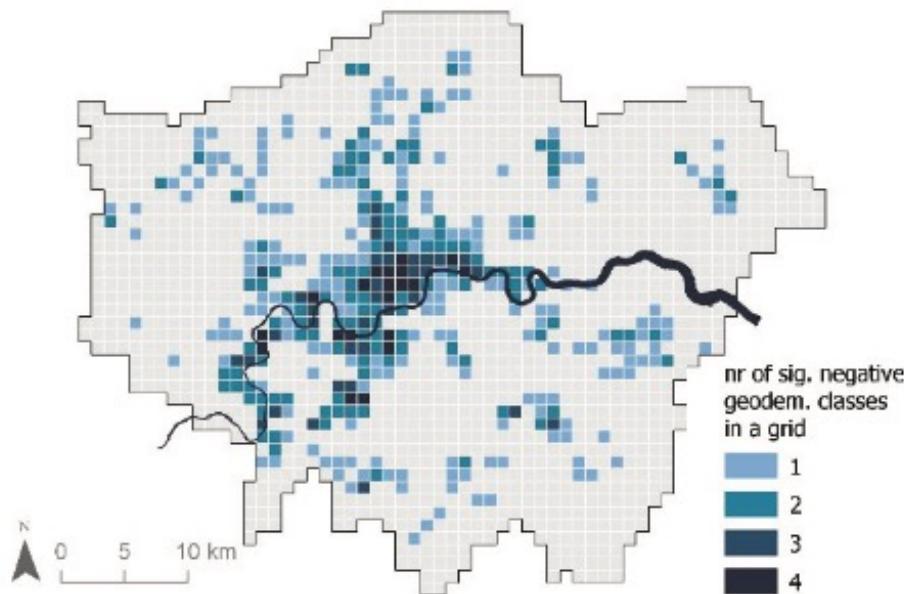
- The Geocomputation module is designed to provide you with an introduction to the principles of GIScience, spatial analysis and the use of programming for data analysis.
- GIS: Geographical Information System / Geographical Information Science
- Why do we need a science of Geographical Information?

Covid Cases in the UK



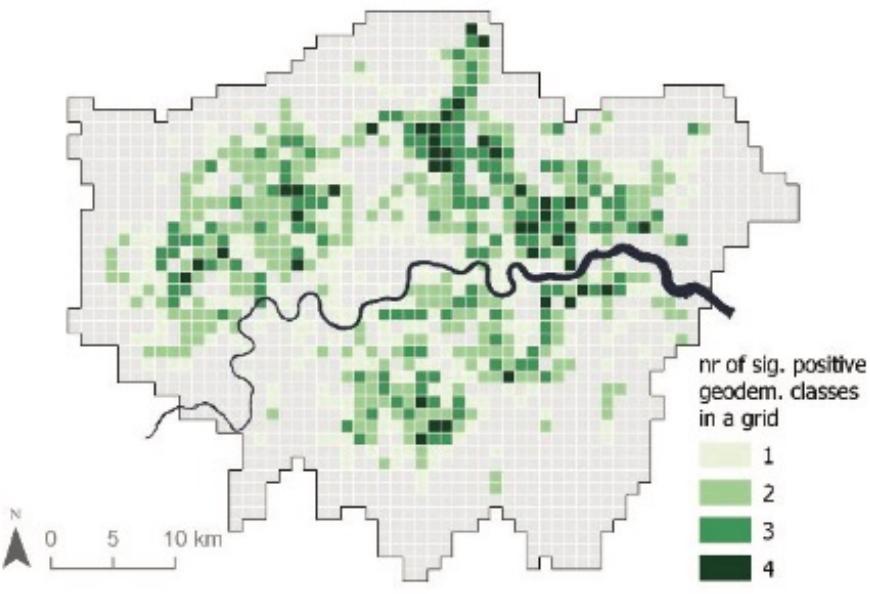
Mobility in London during lockdown

Significantly **less decline** than average

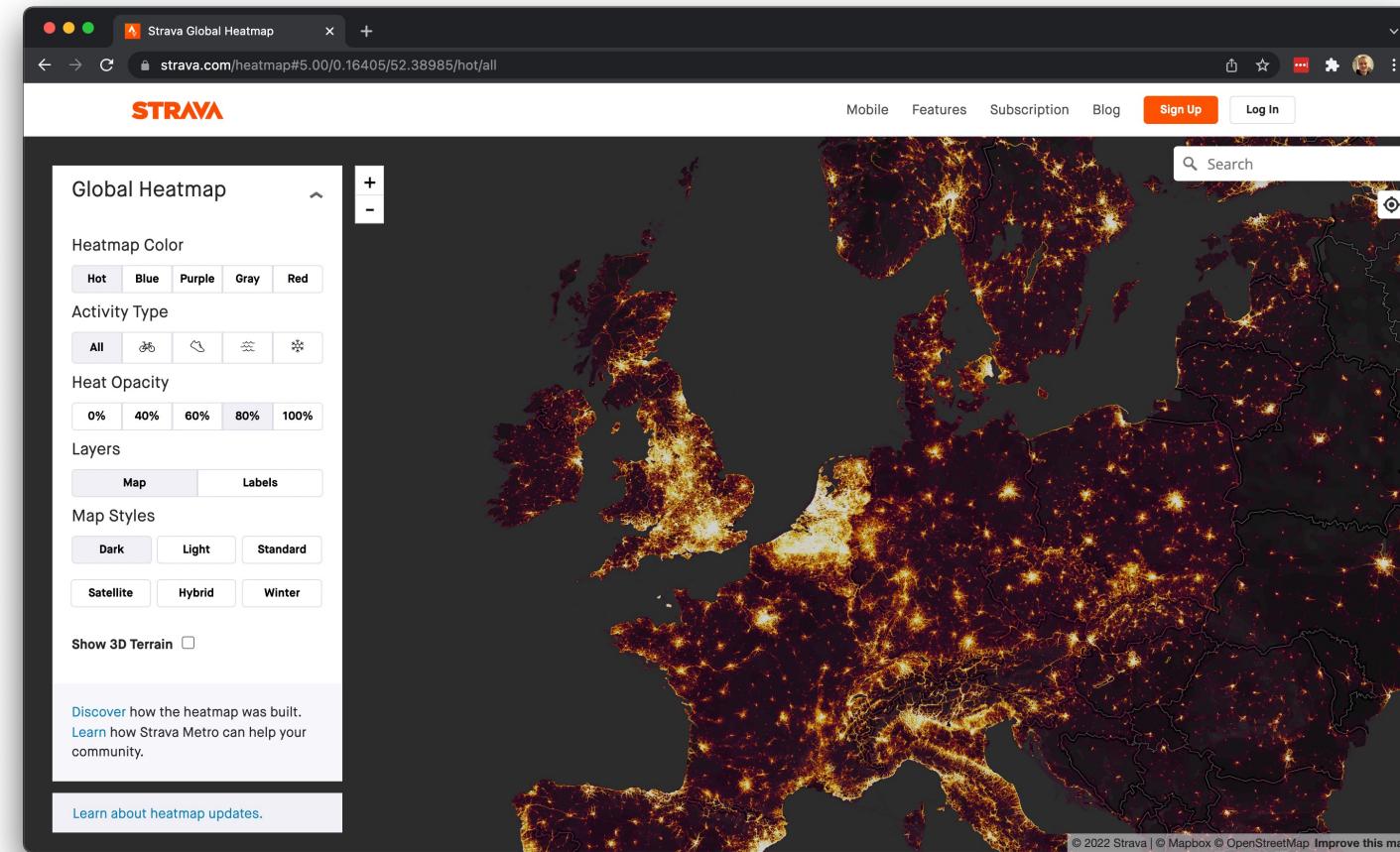


Trasberg and Cheshire 2021

Significantly **more decline** than average



Running in Western-Europe



Bicycle docking stations in London

Find a docking station - Transport for London

tfl.gov.uk/modes/cycling/santander-cycles/find-a-docking-station

Find a docking station

There are more than 12,000 cycles at circa 800 docking stations across London.

Enter your location in the search box below to find a docking station near you.

Search

Enter a postcode, address, station, stop or pier

Go

FITZROVIA

BLOOMSBURY

SAINT PANCRAS

Wellcome Collection

Grant Museum of Zoology

UCL Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology

The Foundling Museum

The British Museum

Charles Dickens Museum

Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children

Cartoon Museum

Routes and maps

Cycle Skills

Cycles on public transport

Cycle parking

Santander Cycles

How it works

What you pay

Find a docking station

Santander Cycles membership

Lost, stolen or faulty

Santander Cycles app

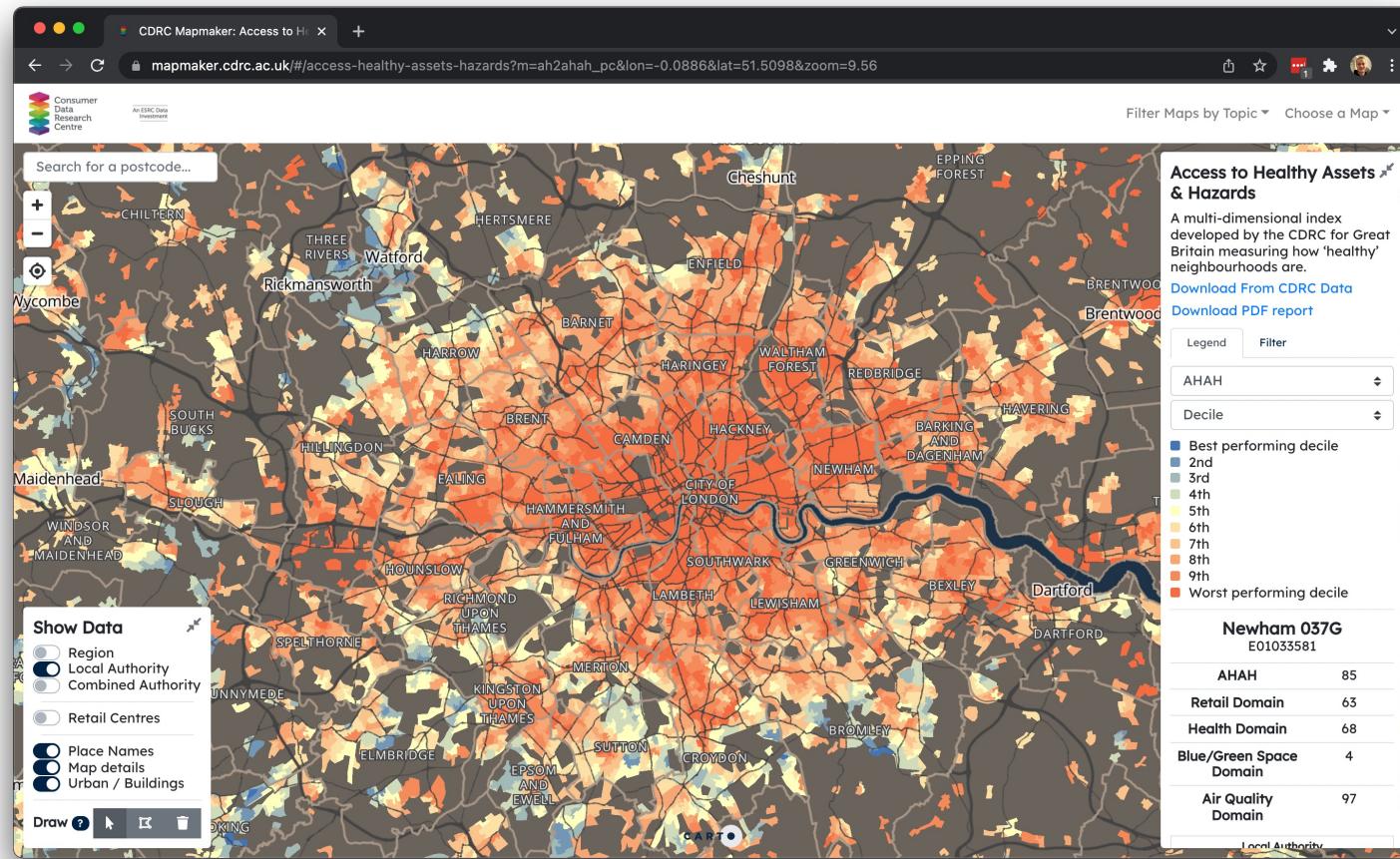
Suggestions & complaints

Santander Cycles business accounts

Blaze Laserlights

My account

Access to Healthy Assets and Hazards in the UK



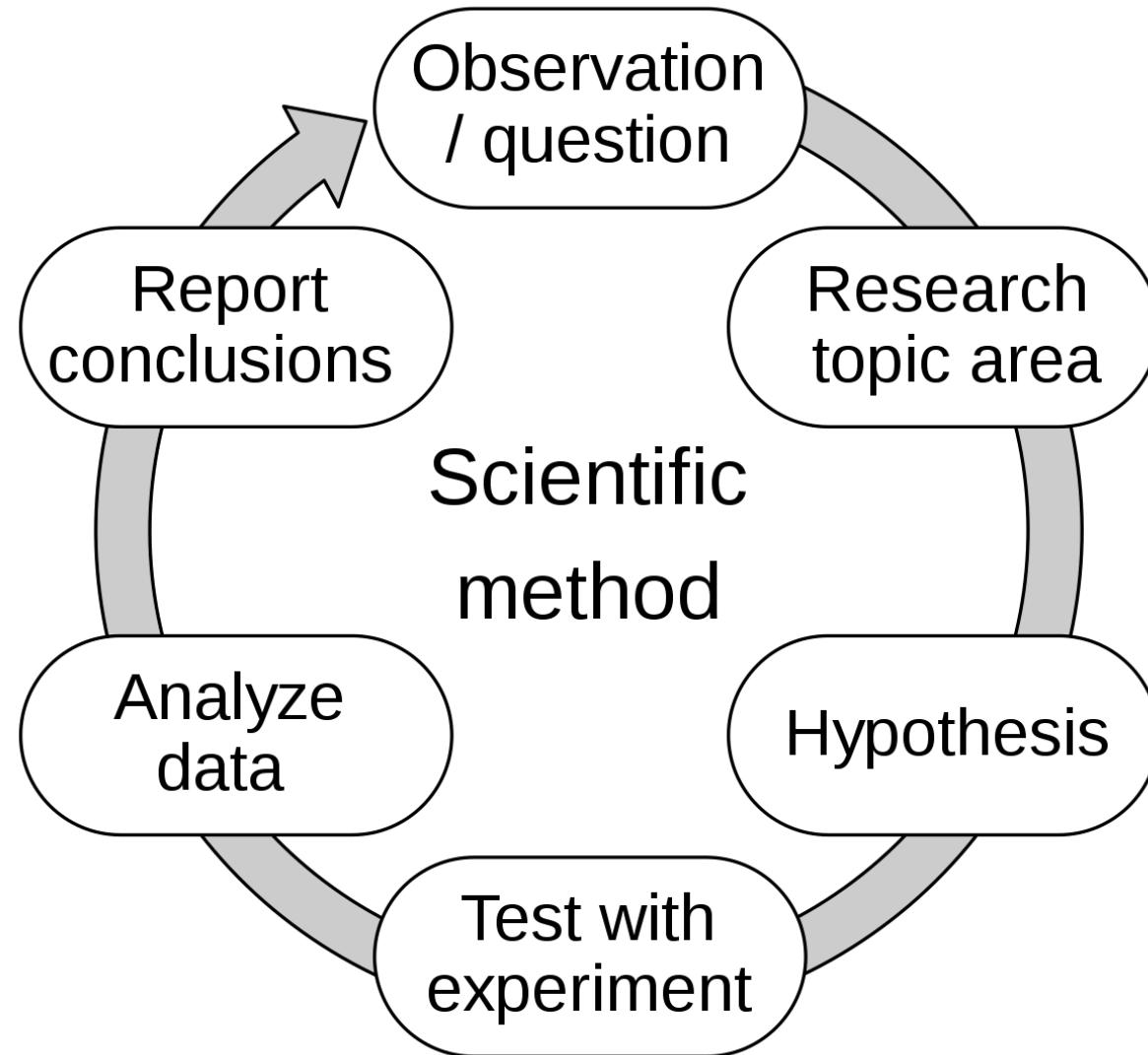
The Universal Visitation Law of Human Mobility



Scientific method

Scientific enquiry and knowledge production in Geography requires following the established scientific method, which involves collecting and analysing data to draw conclusions.

Scientific method



Scientific method

- Spatial information requires methods and tools that can deal with spatial properties.
- To do this we need to be able to:
 - Collect data that represents our phenomena of study
 - Store this data in a way that we can access it and interact with it
 - Conduct sound analyses on our data
 - Present our results with accuracy and precision to create information
- Four pillars of GIScience.

Foundations of GIScience

(1) Spatial modelling and digital representation:

How to represent spatial phenomena digitally?

(2) Geographic Information Systems:

How to store, manage, retrieve, query, analyse and visualise these digital spatial phenomena.

Foundations of GIScience

(3) Spatial analysis:

The theory, principles, and techniques that enable accurate and rigorous analysis of spatial data to discover spatial patterns, processes and relationships (including taking into account the 'special' properties of spatial phenomena).

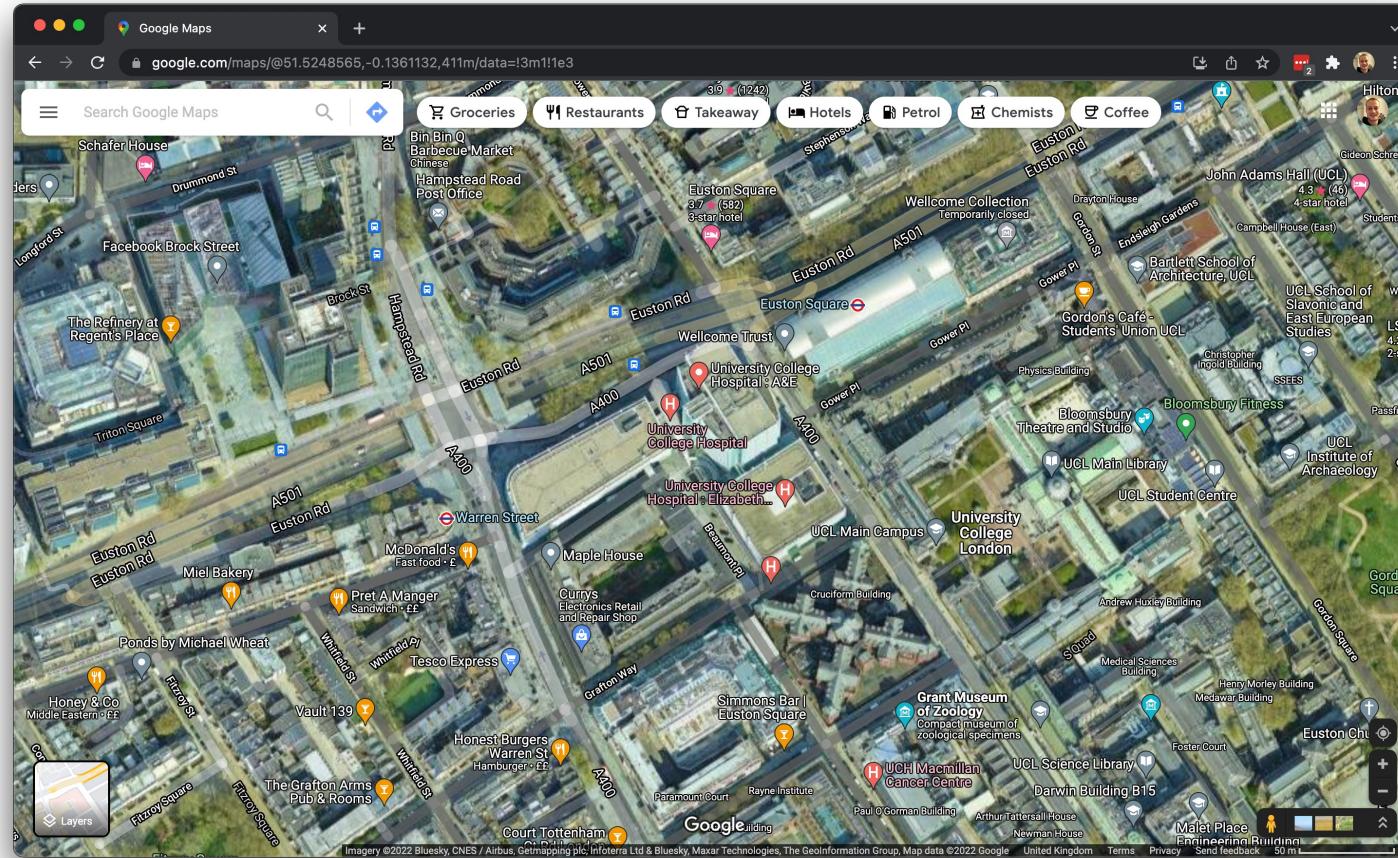
(4) Cartography and visualisation:

How to present spatial data and the results from spatial analysis to communicate results accurately and precisely (including projections and map conventions).

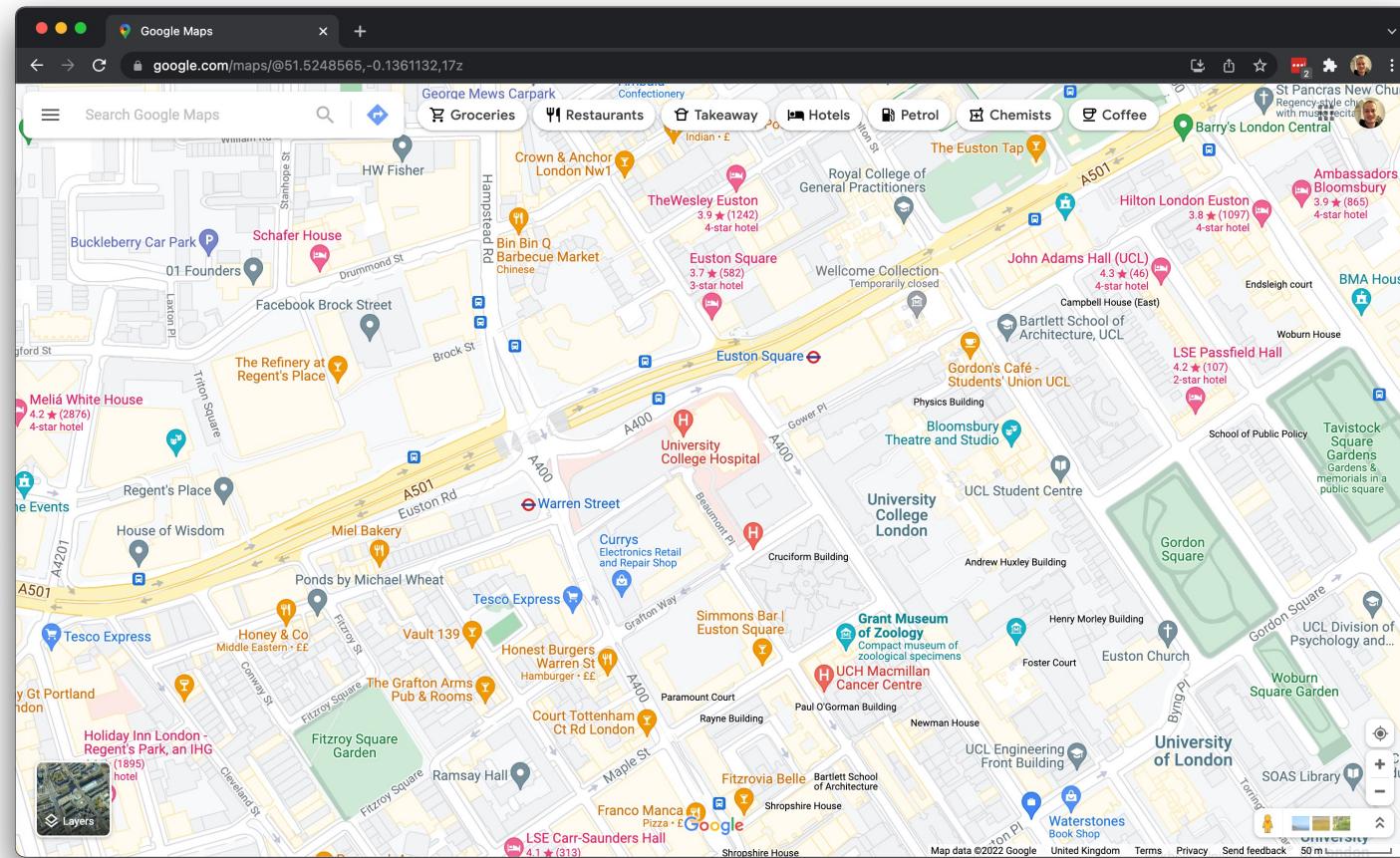
Spatial modelling and digital representation



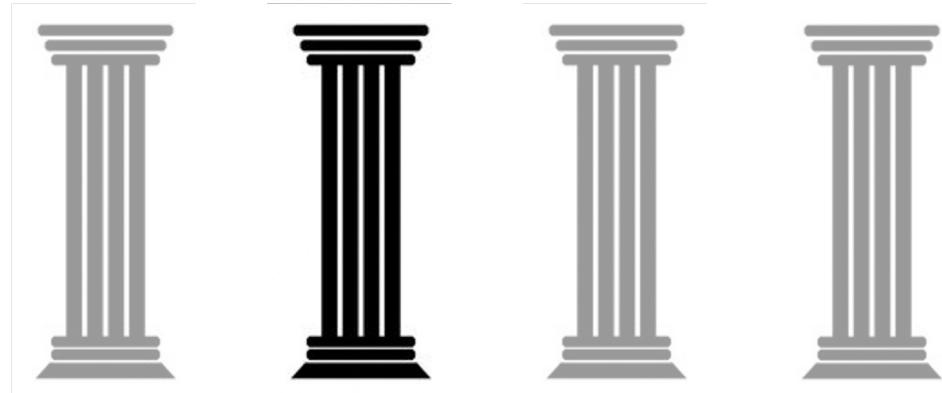
Spatial modelling and digital representation



Spatial modelling and digital representation



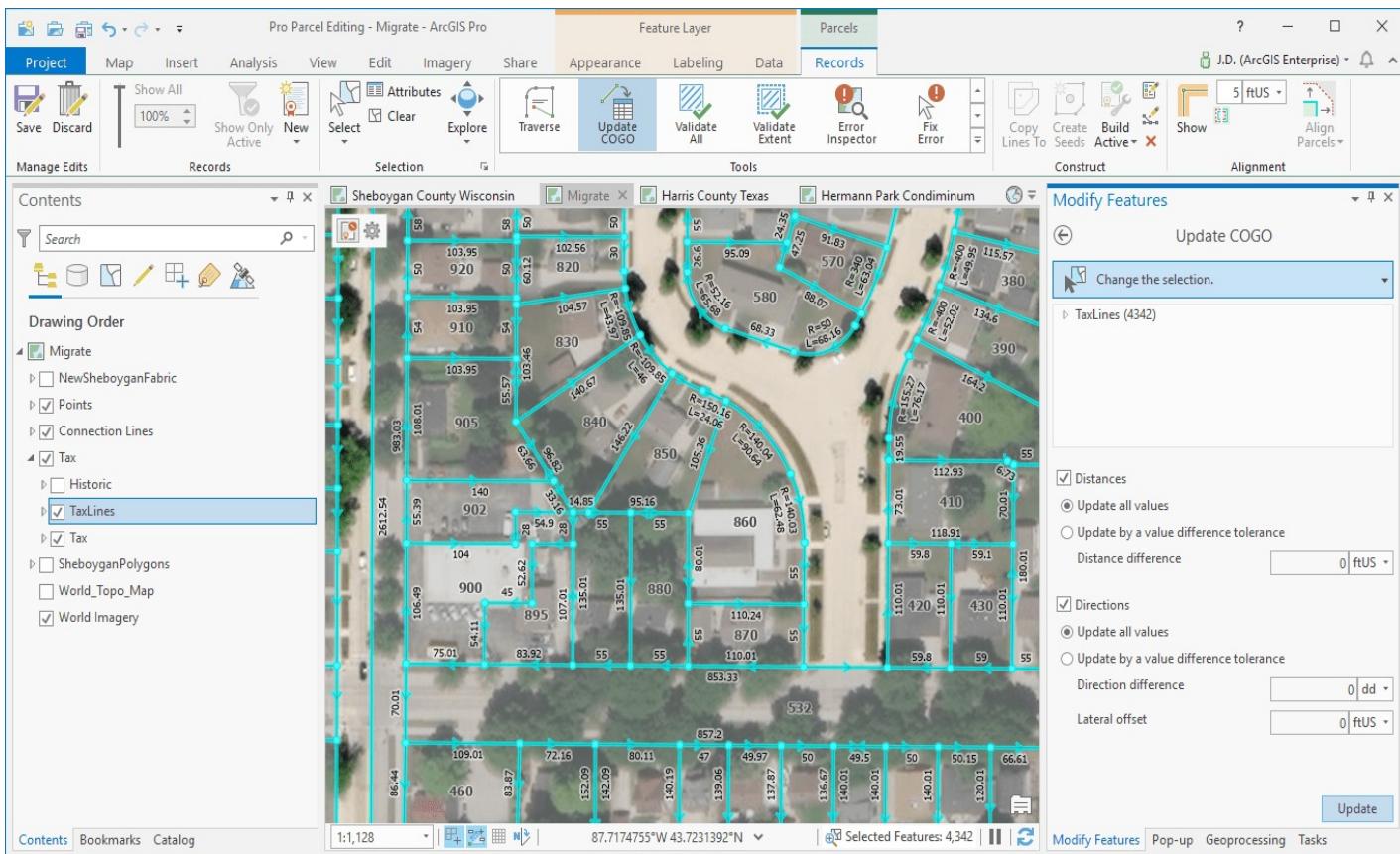
Geographic Information Systems



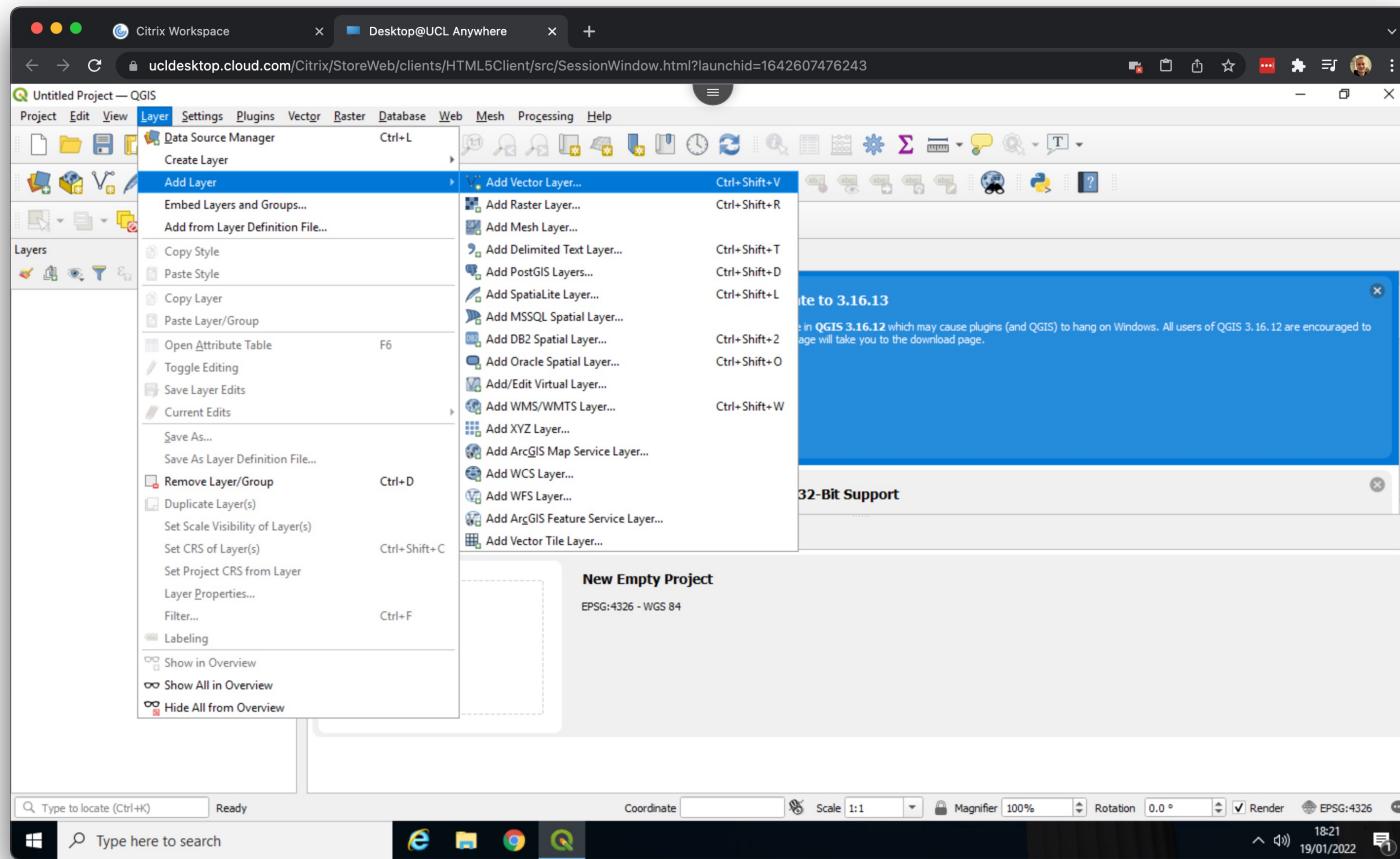
Geographic Information Systems

- GI systems help us to manage spatial data: organisation, storage, access and retrieval, and manipulation.
- We have increasingly changing expectations from these software interfaces and our demands from GI science and systems.
- Dedicated GIS software: ArcGIS, QGIS, GeoDa
- Software that can function as a GIS: R, Python

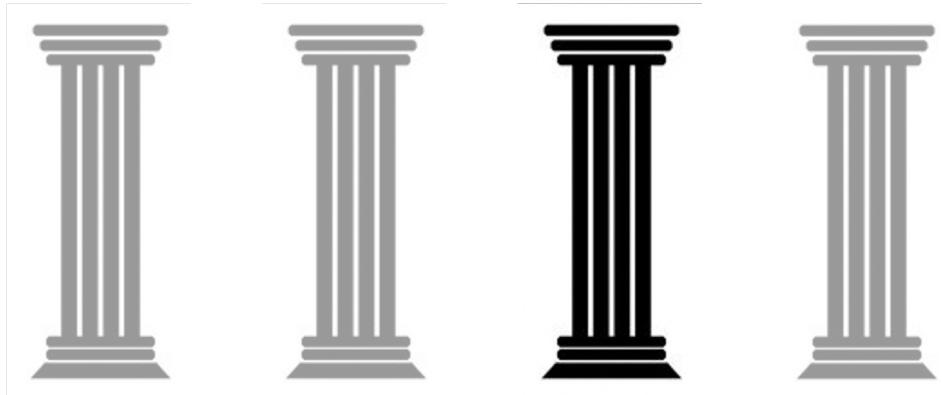
Geographic Information Systems



Geographic Information Systems



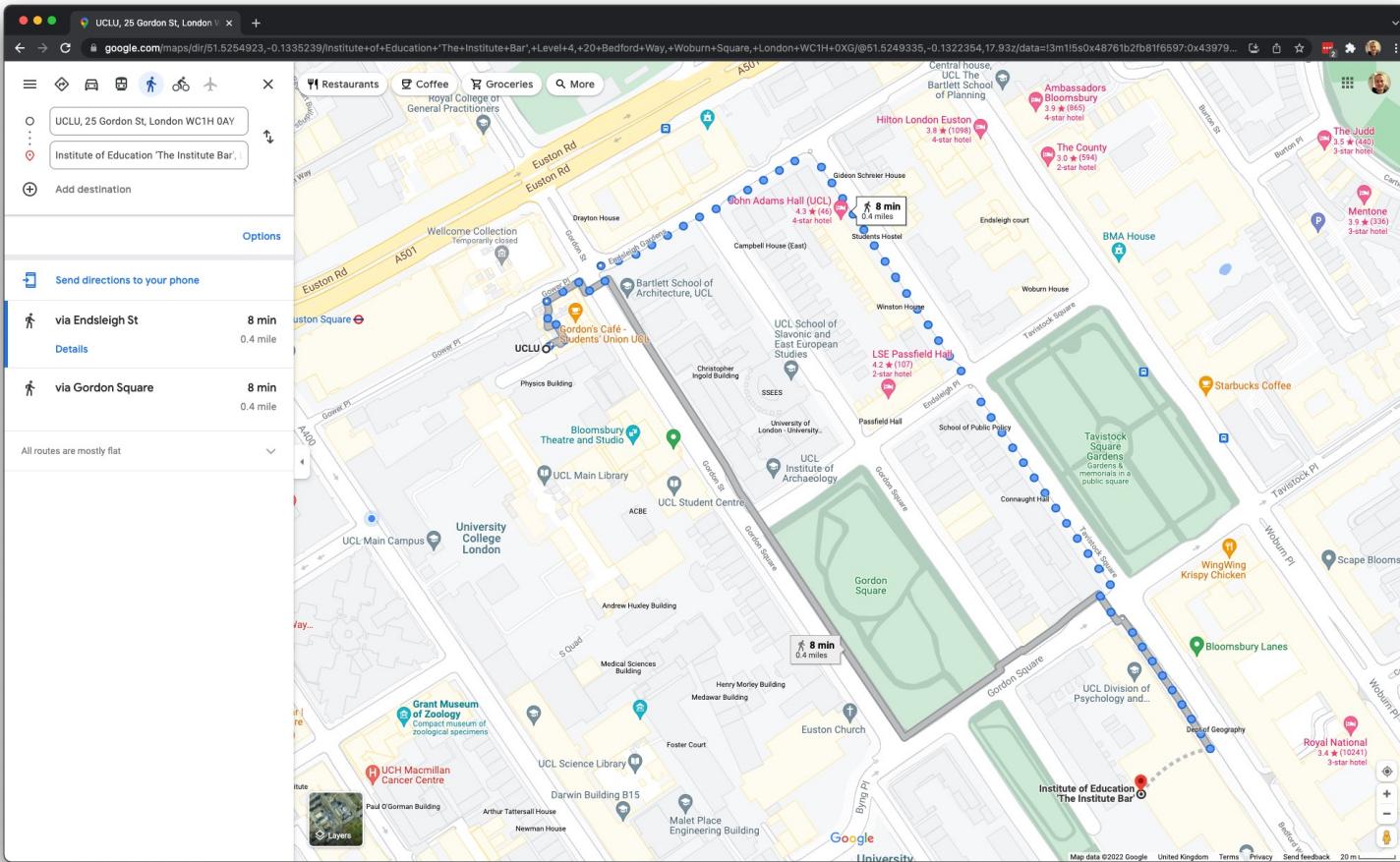
Spatial analysis



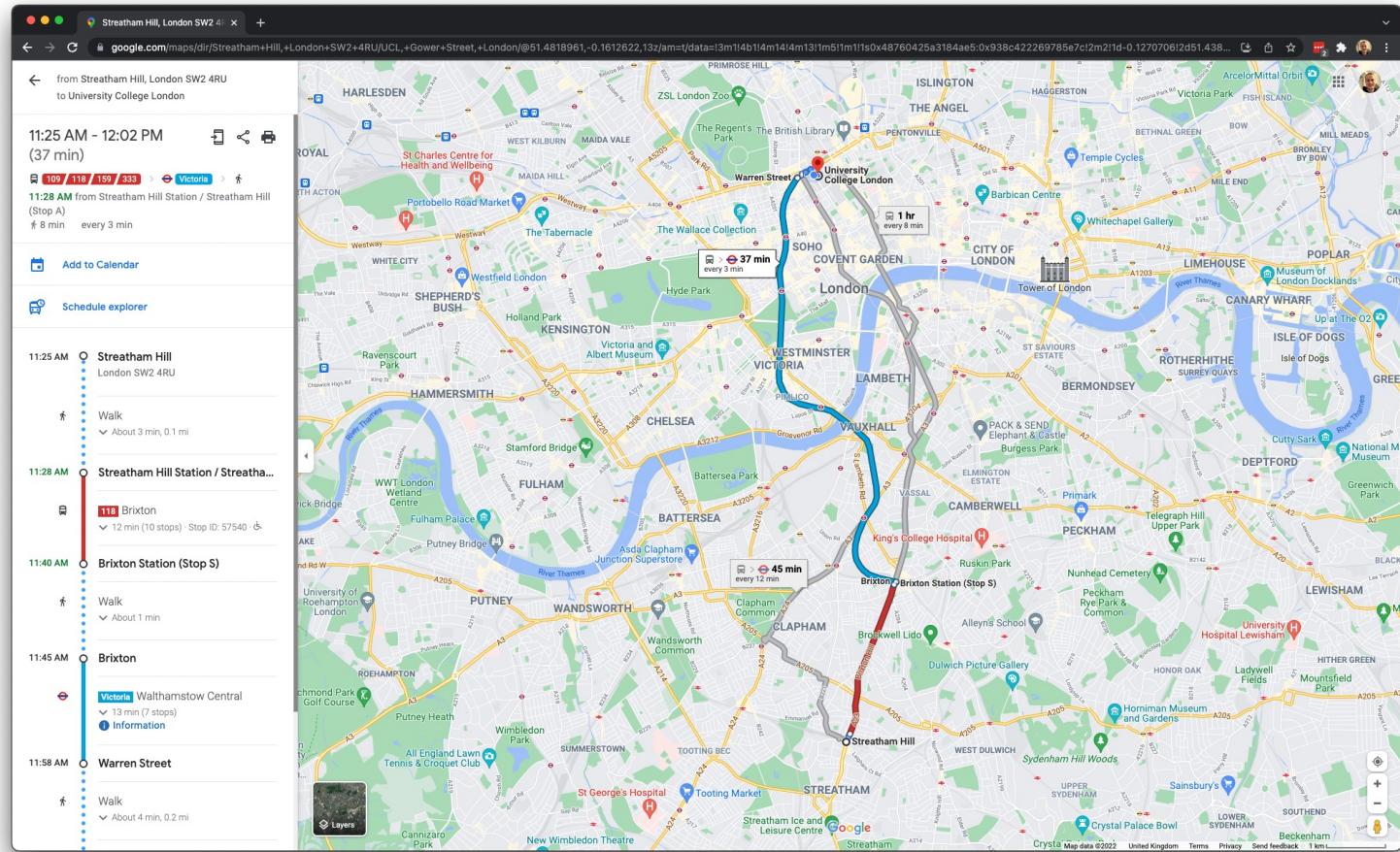
Spatial analysis

- The theory, principles, and techniques that enable accurate and rigorous analysis of spatial data to discover spatial patterns, processes and relationships (including taking into account the 'special' properties of spatial phenomena).
- The application of formal techniques to analyse specific phenomena or entities, that are represented by spatial data, using their topological, geometric or geographic properties.

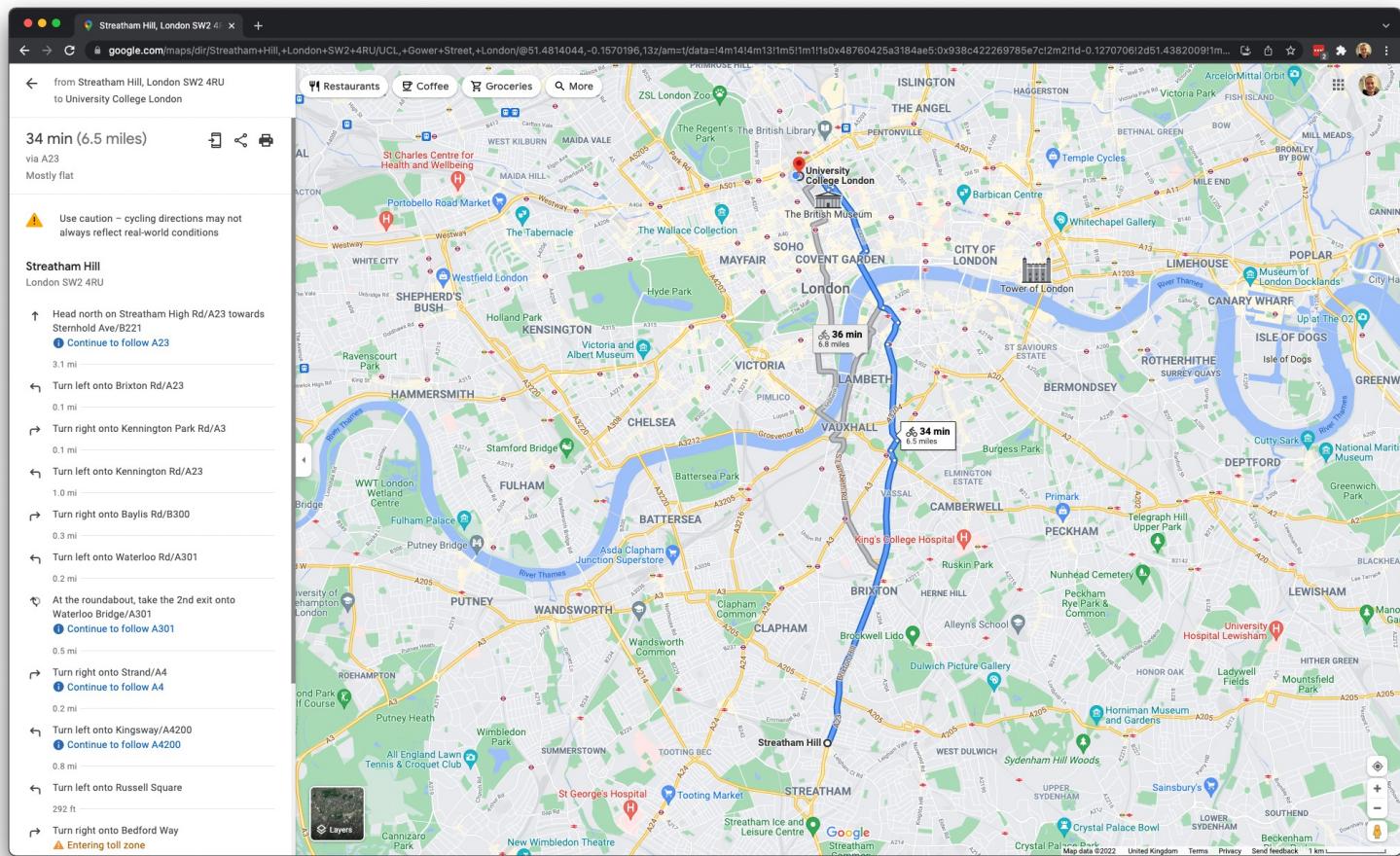
Spatial analysis



Spatial analysis



Spatial analysis

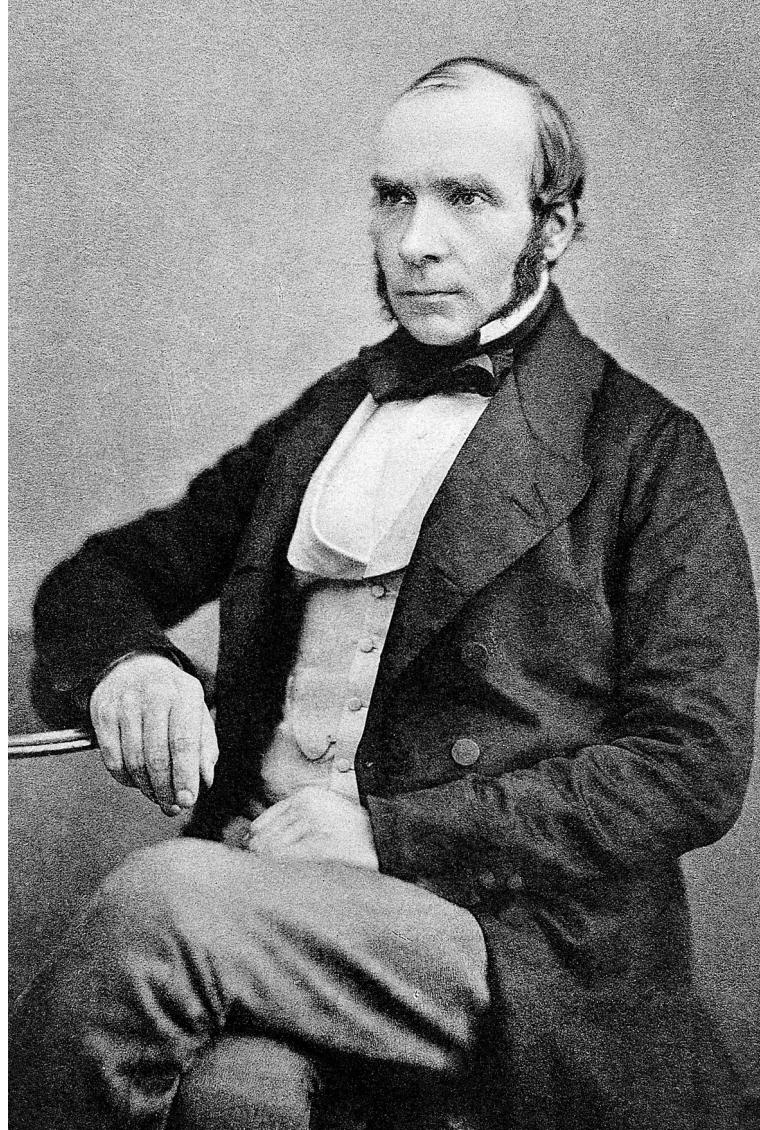


Spatial analysis

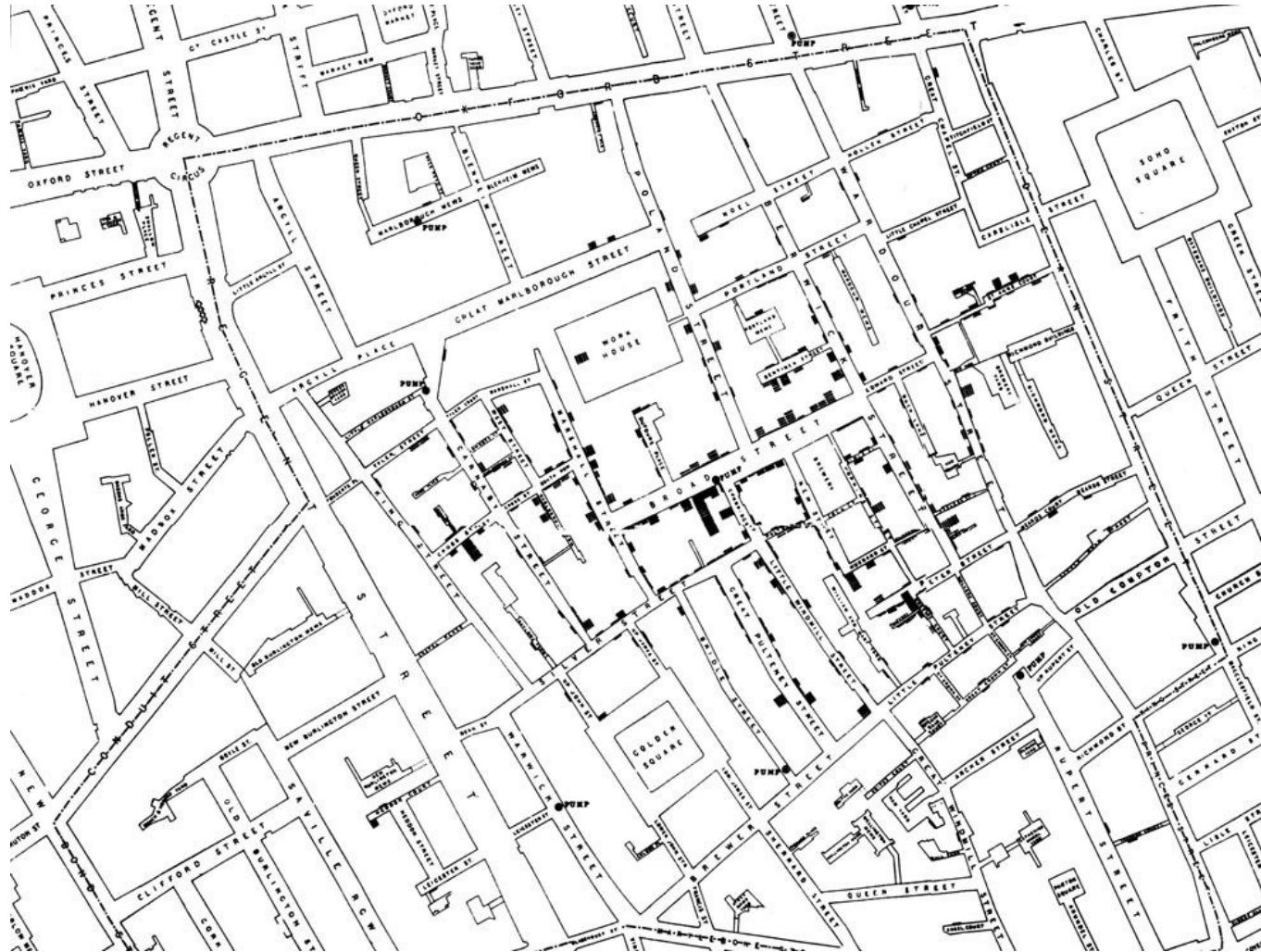
Spatial analysis looks to provide knowledge on the world by transforming data into information by quantifying “things” like distributions and spatial processes.

This quantification is made possible by a variety of techniques that are all underpinned by key laws of geography and spatial principles and properties.

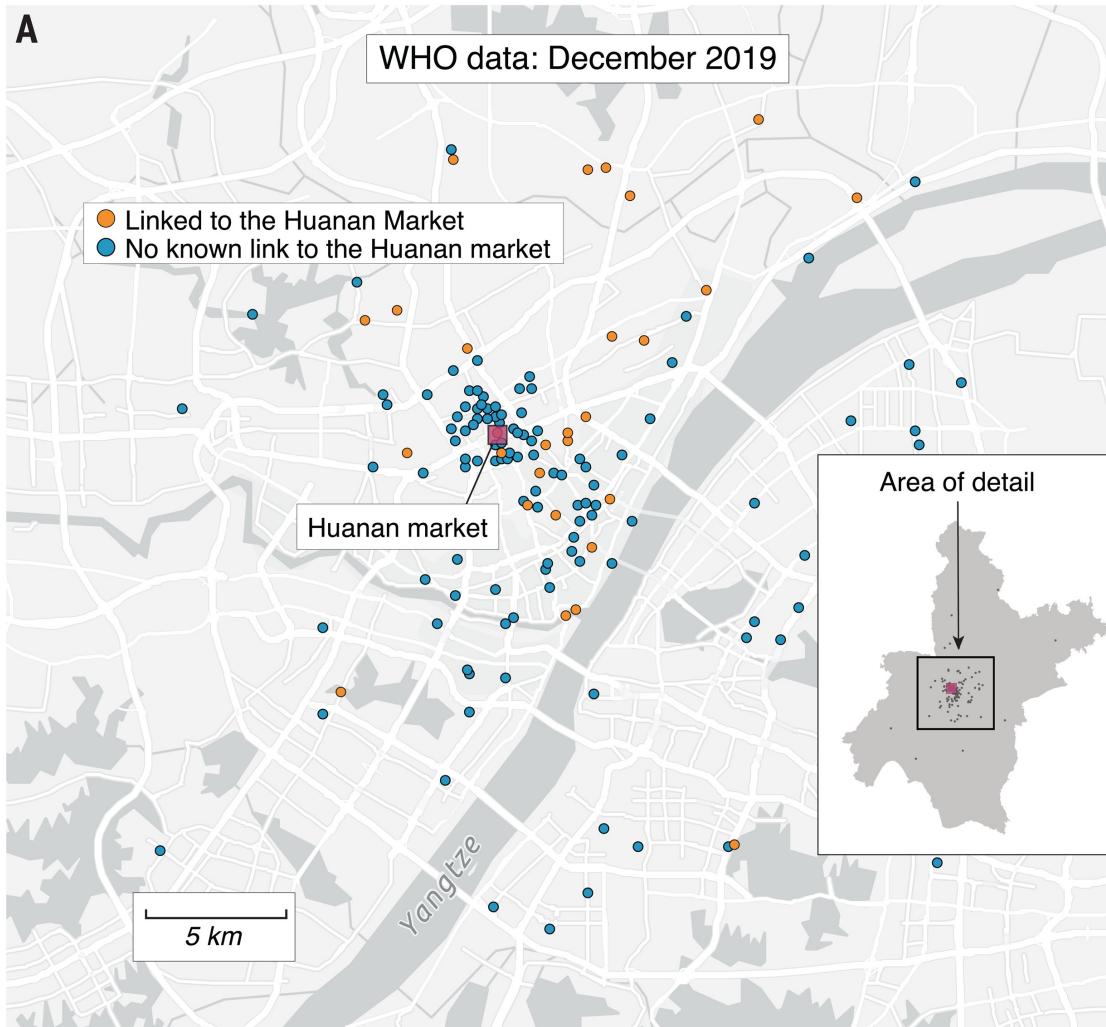
Spatial analysis



Spatial analysis



Spatial analysis

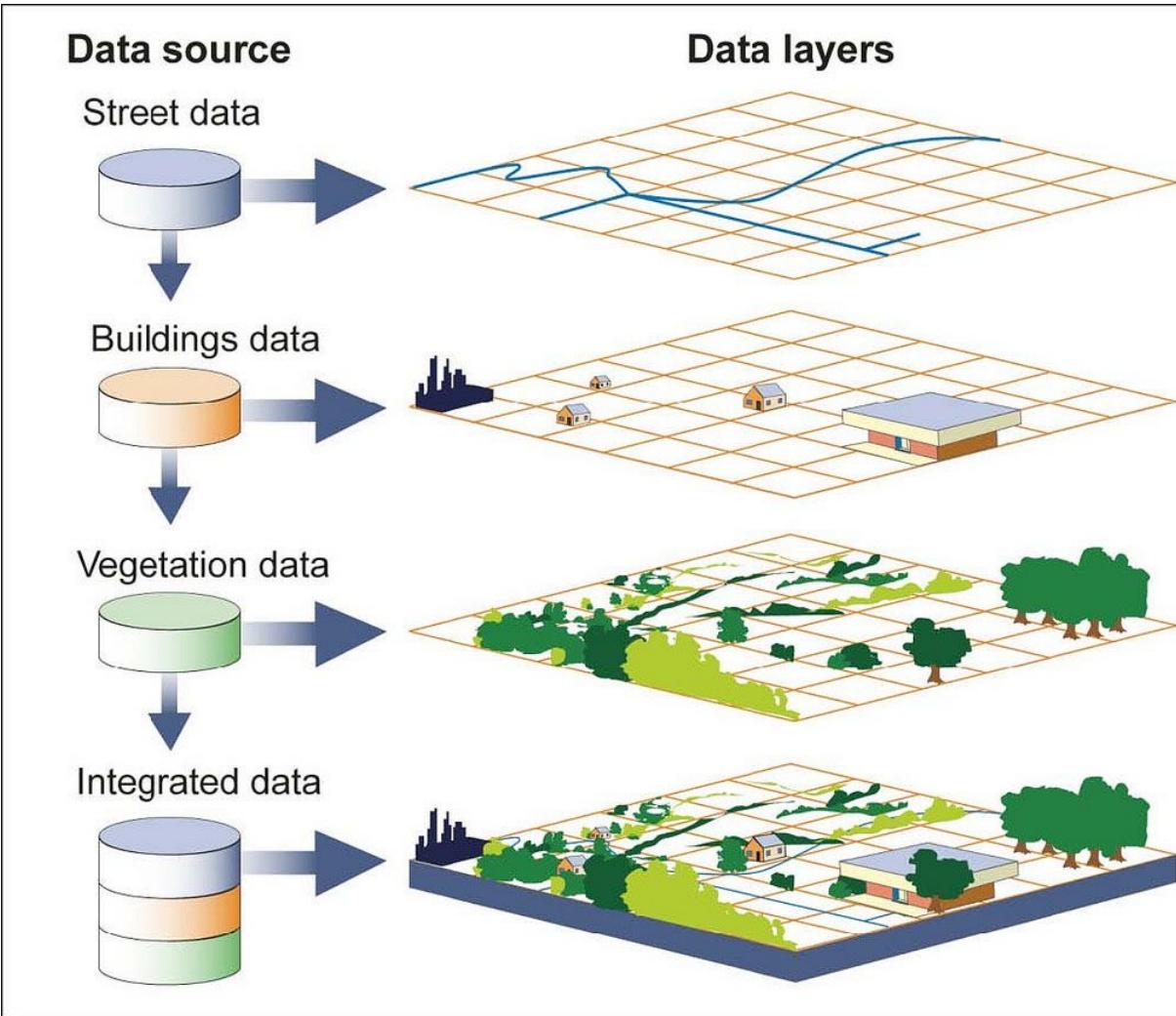


Worobey *et al.* 2022

Spatial analysis

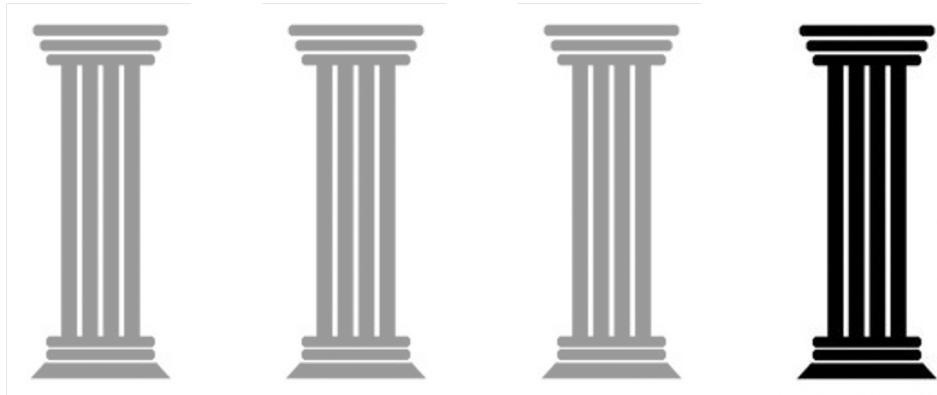
Ultimately, the purpose of spatial analysis is to seek explanations for patterns of human behaviour through its spatial expression in terms of mathematics and geometry in both geographic and non-geographic spaces.

Spatial analysis



Source: GAO.

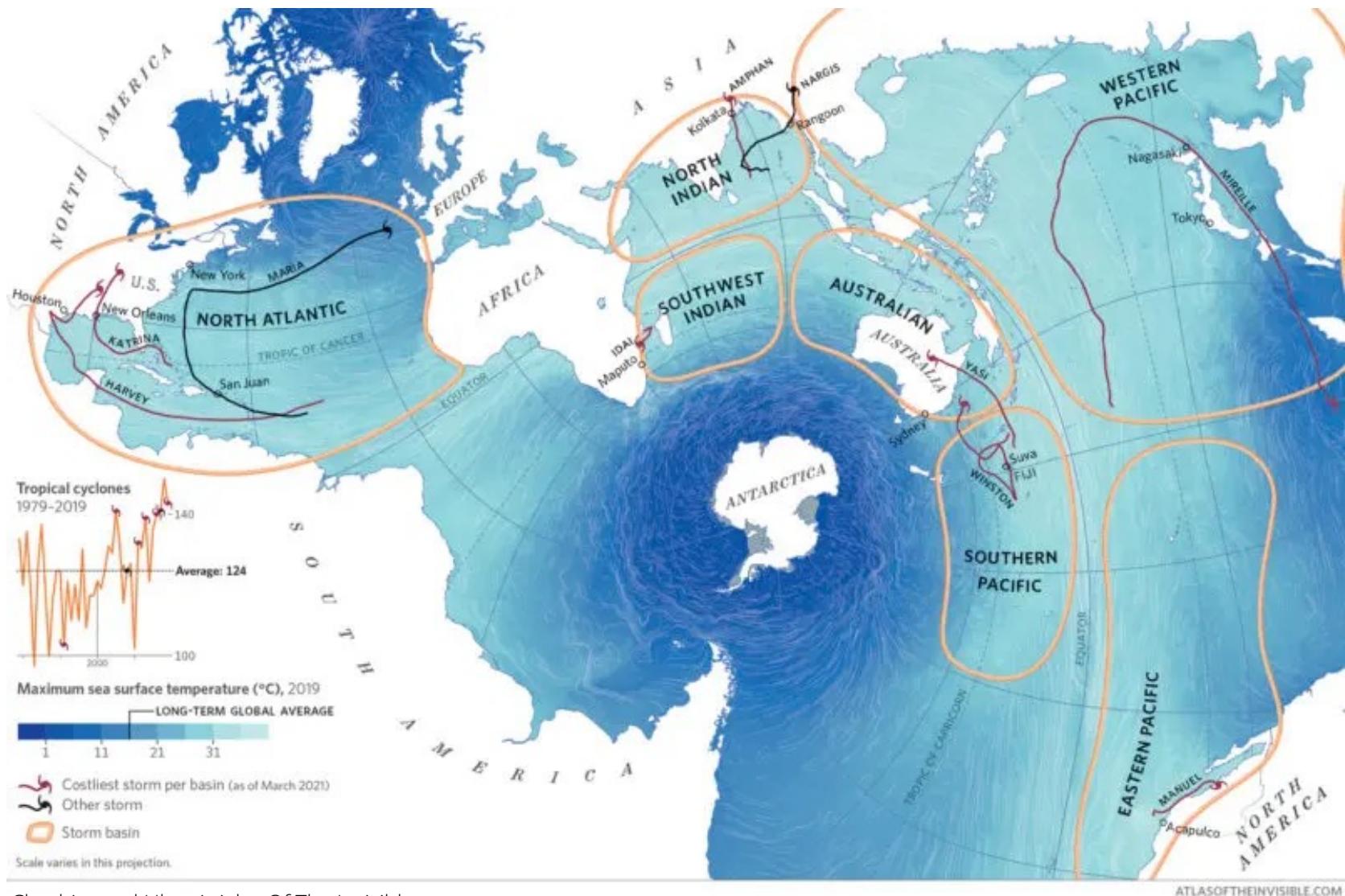
Cartography and visualisation



Cartography and visualisation



Cartography and visualisation



Geocomputation

Lots of pillars, but what then is this **Geocomputation?**

Geocomputation

"Spatial analysis is currently entering a period of rapid change leading to what is termed intelligent spatial analysis (sometimes referred to as Geocomputation). The driving forces are a combination of huge amounts of digital spatial data from the GIS data revolution (with 100,000 to millions of observations), the availability of attractive soft computing tools, the rapid growth in computational power, and the new emphasis on exploratory data analysis and modeling."

Fischer 2001

Geocomputation

- An increasingly important part of scientific research is that it can be easily repeated and reproduced by those not working on the project, e.g. to verify your results.
- Research is increasingly prioritising open-source and, preferably, programmatical approaches to analysis.
- We also now have: more and bigger data, more advanced information systems, data mining and artificial intelligence, better visualisation techniques and capabilities.
- Using programming languages, like R, to conduct **reproducible spatial analysis**.

Geocomputation

"Everyone does need to learn to code. It is no longer sufficient for a GI Scientists to just work with a standard GIS interface: menus, buttons and black boxes."

Brunsdon and Comber 2020

Conclusion

- A science of Geographic Information is needed to help us create geographic data that can be analysed to turn it into information that can be used as evidence to provide knowledge and thus insight to our biggest – and smallest - geographic challenges and problems.
- Working with geographic data in a computational way, focusing on code, reproducibility and modularity: **Geocomputation**

Questions

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