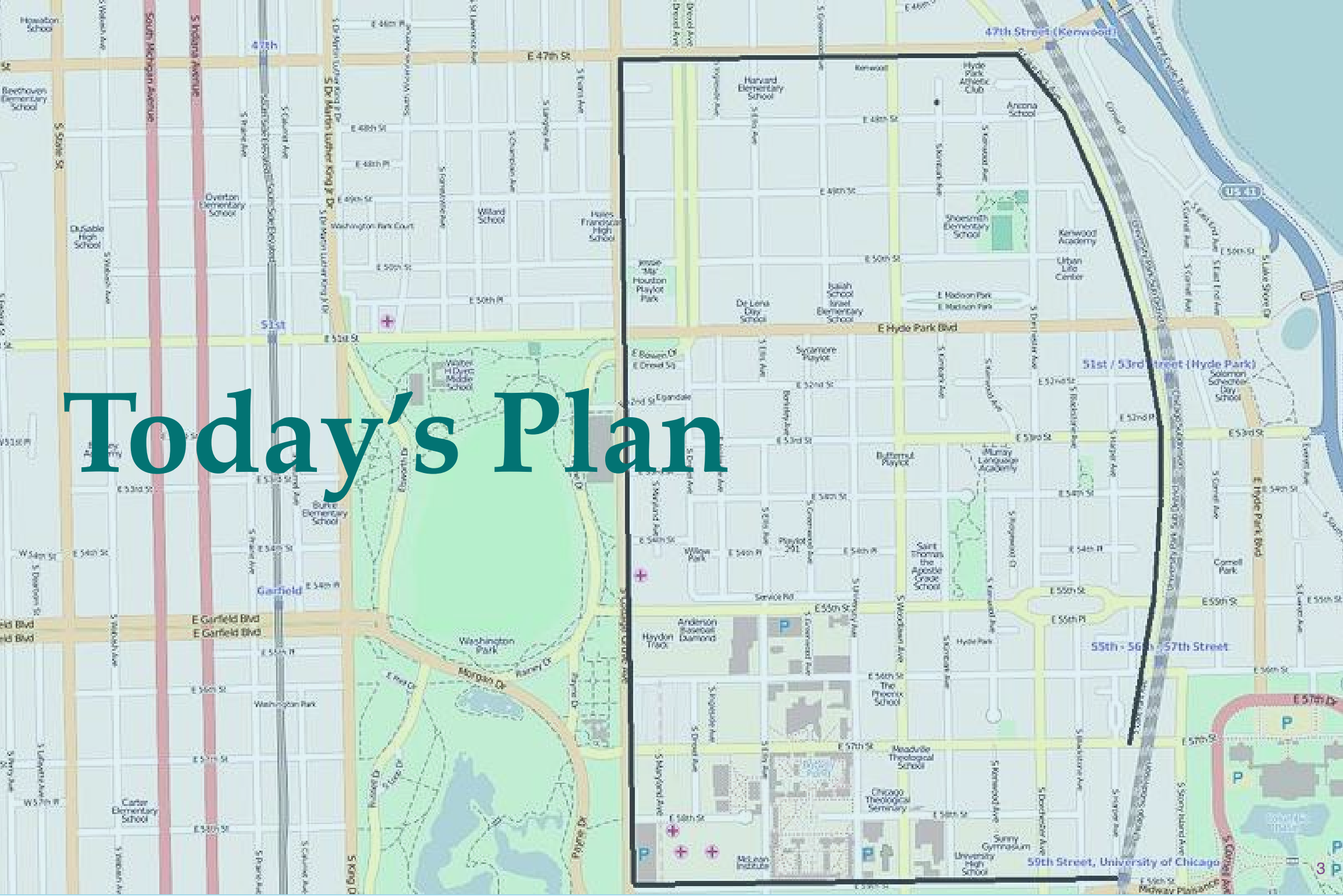


Vector Operations Part 1

HES 505 Fall 2022: Session 8

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Today's Plan



Objectives

By the end of today, you should be able to:

- Understand **predicates** and **measures** in the context of spatial operations in **sf**
- Define valid geometries and approaches for assessing geometries in **R**
- Use **st_*** and **sf_*** to evaluate attributes of geometries and calculate measurements

Understanding the language

Revisiting Simple Features

- The **sf** package relies on a simple feature data model to represent geometries
 - hierarchical
 - standardized methods
 - complementary binary and human-readable encoding

type	description
POINT	single point geometry
MULTIPOINT	set of points
LINESTRING	single linestring (two or more points connected by straight lines)
MULTILINESTRING	set of linestrings
POLYGON	exterior ring with zero or more inner rings, denoting holes
MULTIPOLYGON	set of polygons
GEOMETRYCOLLECTION	set of the geometries above

Standardized Methods

We can categorize **sf** operations based on what they return and / or how many geometries they accept as input.

- *Output Categories*

- **Predicates:** evaluate a logical statement asserting that a property is **TRUE**
- **Measures:** return a numeric value with units based on the units of the CRS
- **Transformations:** create new geometries based on input geometries.

- *Input Geometries*

- **Unary:** operate on a single geometry at a time (meaning that if you have a **MULTI*** object the function works on each geometry individually)
- **Binary:** operate on pairs of geometries
- **n-ary:** operate on sets of geometries

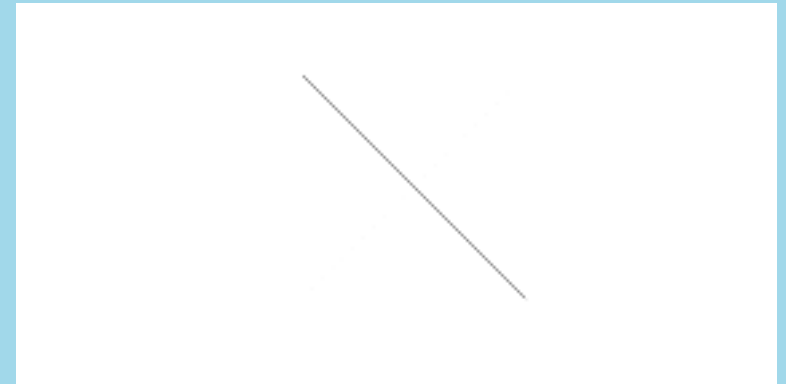
Unary Predicates and Valid Geometries

Remembering Valid Geometries

- A **linestring** is *simple* if it does not intersect

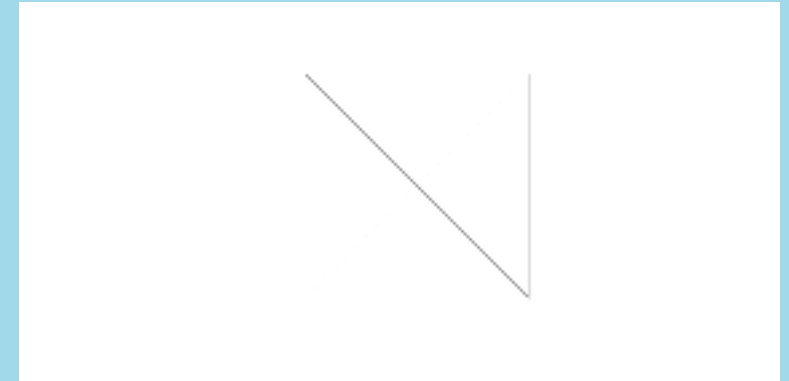
```
1 library(sf)
2 (ls = st_linestring(rbind(c(0,0), c(1,1),
3                           c(2,2), c(0,2),
4                           c(1,1), c(2,0))))
5 c(is_simple = st_is_simple(ls))
```

```
is_simple
FALSE
```



Remembering Valid Geometries

- Valid polygons
 - Are closed (i.e., the last vertex equals the first)
 - Have holes (inner rings) that inside the the exterior boundary
 - Have holes that touch the exterior at no more than one vertex (they don't extend across a line)
 - For multipolygons, adjacent polygons touch only at points
 - Do not repeat their own path



Empty Geometries

- Empty geometries arise when an operation produces **NULL** outcomes (like looking for the intersection between two non-intersecting polygons)
- **sf** allows empty geometries to make sure that information about the data type is retained
- Similar to a **data.frame** with no rows or a **list** with **NULL** values
- Most vector operations require simple, valid geometries

Using Unary Predicates

- Unary predicates accept single geometries (or geometry collections)
- Provide helpful ways to check whether your data is ready to analyze
- Use the **st_** prefix and return **TRUE/FALSE**

predicate	asks...
is_simple	is the geometry self-intersecting (i.e., simple)?
is_valid	is the geometry valid?
is_empty	is the geometry column of an object empty?
is_longlat	does the object have geographic coordinates? (FALSE if coords are projected, NA if no crs)
is(geometry, class)	is the geometry of a particular class?

Using Unary Predicates

```
1 nc <- st_read(  
2   system.file("shape/nc.shp", package="sf"  
3   quiet=TRUE)  
4 plot(st_geometry(nc))
```



```
1 st_is_longlat(nc)
```

```
[1] TRUE
```

```
1 any(is.na(st_is_valid(nc)))
```

```
[1] FALSE
```

Checking Geometries With Unary Predicates

- Before conducting costly analyses, it's worth checking for:
 1. empty geometries, using `any(is.na(st_dimension(x)))`
 2. corrupt geometries, using `any(is.na(st_is_valid(x)))`
 3. invalid geometries, using `any(na.omit(st_is_valid(x)) == FALSE)`; in case of corrupt and/or invalid geometries,
 4. in case of invalid geometries, query the reason for invalidity by `st_is_valid(x, reason = TRUE)`

Invalid geometries will require **transformation** (next week!)

Binary Predicates

Binary Predicates

- Accept exactly two geometries (or collections)
- Also return **logical** outcomes
- Based on the Dimensionally Extended 9-Intersection Model (DE-9IM)

predicate	meaning	inverse of
contains	None of the points of A are outside B	within
contains_properly	A contains B and B has no points in common with the boundary of A	
covers	No points of B lie in the exterior of A	covered_by
covered_by	Inverse of covers	
crosses	A and B have some but not all interior points in common	
disjoint	A and B have no points in common	intersects
equals	A and B are topologically equal: node order or number of nodes may differ; identical to A contains B AND A within B	
equals_exact	A and B are geometrically equal, and have identical node order	
intersects	A and B are not disjoint	disjoint
is_within_distance	A is closer to B than a given distance	
within	None of the points of B are outside A	contains
touches	A and B have at least one boundary point in common, but no interior points	
overlaps	A and B have some points in common; the dimension of these is identical to that of A and B	
relate	given a mask pattern , return whether A and B adhere to this pattern	

Measures

Measures

Unary Measures

- Return quantities of individual geometries

measure	returns
<code>dimension</code>	0 for points, 1 for linear, 2 for polygons, possibly <code>NA</code> for empty geometries
<code>area</code>	the area of a geometry
<code>length</code>	the length of a linear geometry

Binary Measures

- `st_distance` returns the distance between pairs of geometries

