

LOCATIONAL ANALYSIS IN HUMAN GEOGRAPHY



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WHAT IS LOCATION?

- In geography, **location** or **place** are used to denote a region (point, line, or area) on the earth's surface or elsewhere.

Relative location

- A relative location, or situation, is described as a displacement from another site.

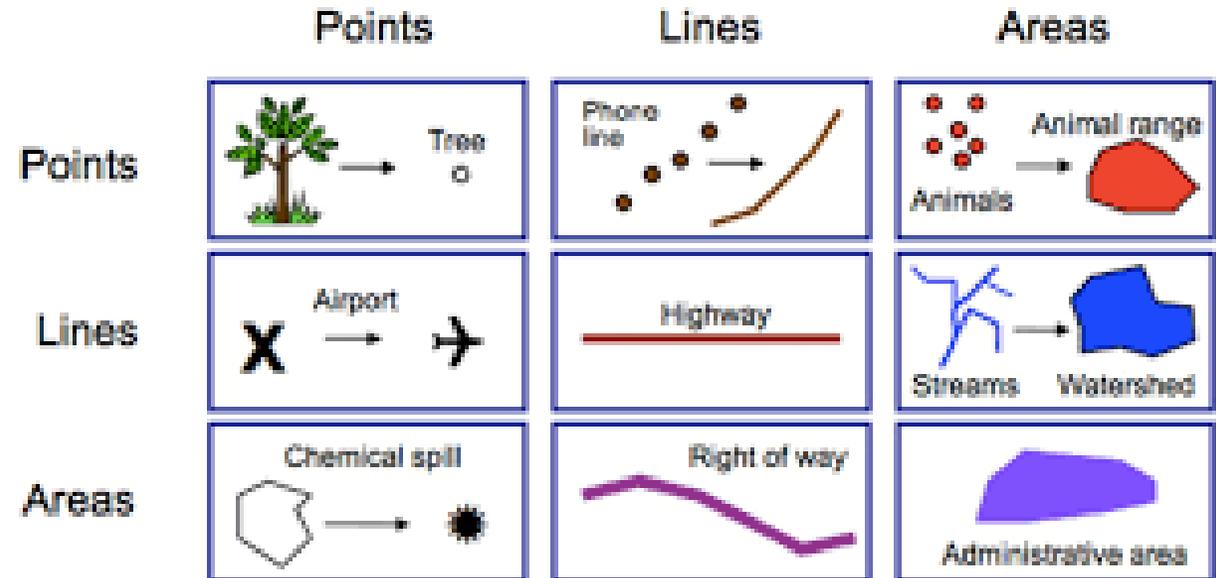
For example, "3 kilometers north of Guwahati".

Absolute location

- An absolute location is designated using a specific pairing of latitude and longitude.

LOCATIONAL ANALYSIS?

- **Locational analysis** also known as **spatial analysis** is an approach to human geography which focuses on the **spatial arrangement of phenomena**.
- Its usual **methodology** is that of **spatial science**.
- **Unwin** (1981) presents locational analysis as the **study** of the **arrangements** of **points**, **lines**, **areas** and **surfaces** on a map.



- **Empiricism** is a philosophy which accords special **privilege** to **empirical observations** over theoretical statements.
- In empirical inquiry, it is assumed that its **facts** ‘**speak for themselves**’. They presented a strong case for using **geometry** as the **language** for the study of **spatial form**.



- The **main objective** of locational analysis was expressed as **building accurate generalization, models** and **theories** with productive power.
- It is based on the philosophy of **positivism**.
- The philosophy of positivism underpins the approach, which concentrates on the **identification** of **theories** of **spatial arrangements** and so is closely linked to the discipline's **quantitative revolution**.
- Locational analysis is based on **empiricism**.



HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

- Haggett, in his book *Locational Analysis in Human Geography* (1965), appealed to adopt the **geometrical tradition** to explain **order**, **location order** and **patterns** in human geography. Such a focus needed:
 - to adopt a **system approach** which concentrates on the **patterns** and **linkages** within a whole assemblage;
 - to employ **models** as to understand **man-environment relationship**; and
 - to use **quantitative techniques** to make precise statements (**generalizations**) about **locational order**. For the spatial analysis they suggested to adopt ‘linear model’, spatial autocorrelation and regression.

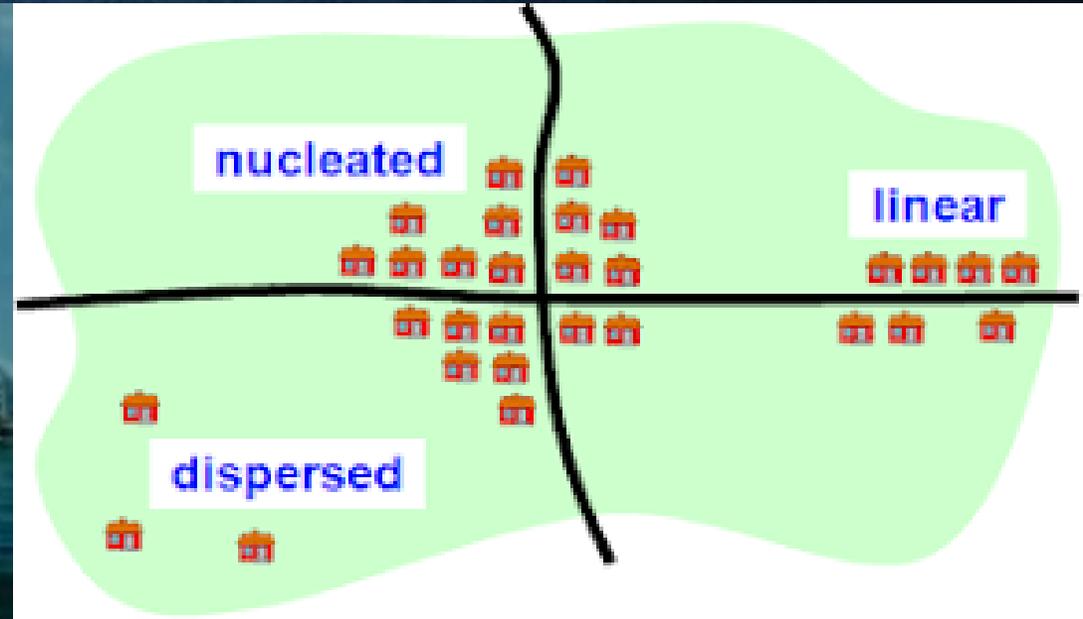
HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

- Other geographers who contributed substantially to the field of locational analysis are Morrill, Col, Chorley, Cox, Harvey, Johnston, Pooler, Sack and Smith.
- Morrill was strongly influenced by the geometrical traditions adopted by Bunge and Haggett.
- In his book, 'The Spatial Organisation of Society', Haggett argued that people seek to maximize spatial interaction at minimum cost and so bring related activities into proximity—the result is that human society is surprisingly alike from place to place... [because of] the predictable, organized pattern of locations and interactions.

KEY CONCEPTS IN LOCATIONAL ANALYSIS

- **Spatial Organization**

➤ **Spatial organization** focuses on how to recognize and organize **geographic space** in which human activities occur, giving rise to **spatial structures**.



KEY CONCEPTS IN LOCATIONAL ANALYSIS

- **Spatial Interaction**

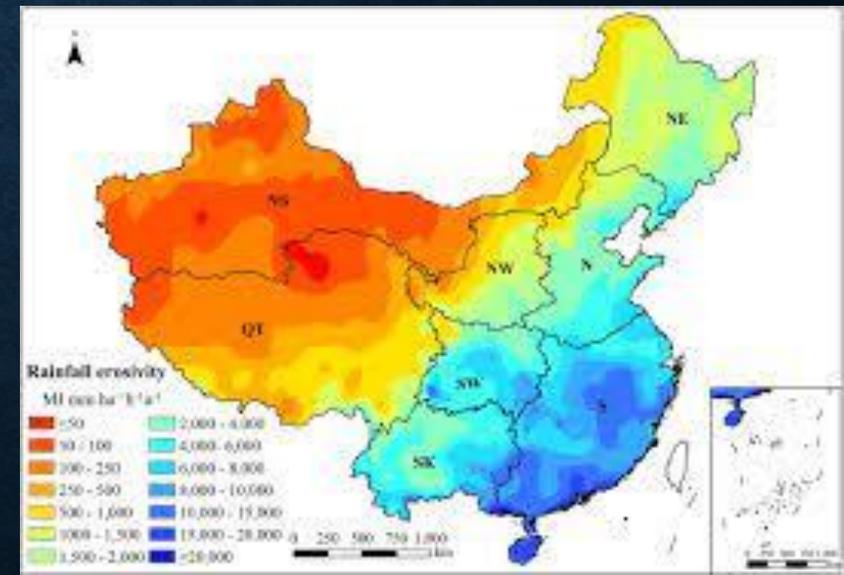
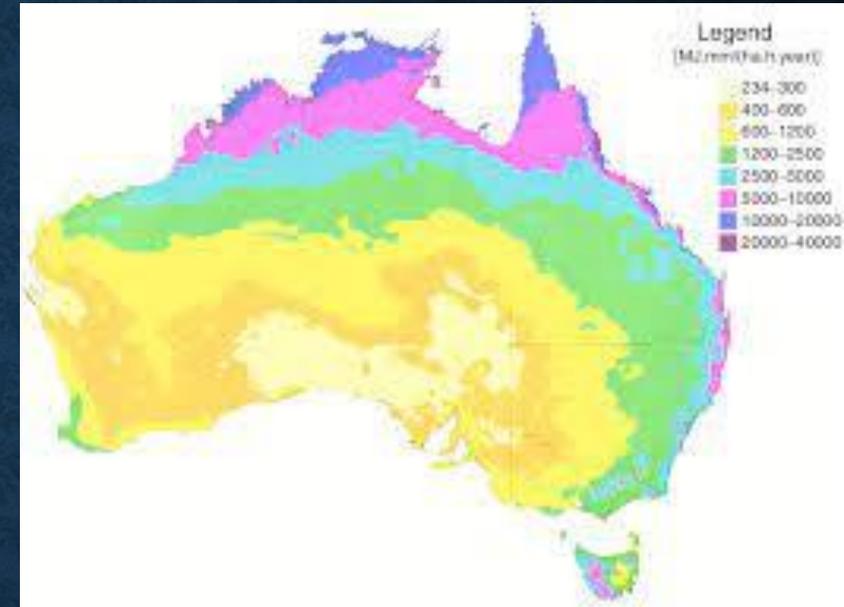
- **Spatial interaction** is a basic concept that considers how locations **interact** with each other in terms of the movement of people, freight, services, energy, or information.



KEY CONCEPTS IN LOCATIONAL ANALYSIS

- **Spatial Distribution**

➤ A **spatial distribution** is the arrangement of a phenomenon across the Earth's surface and a graphical display of such an arrangement is an important tool in **geographical** and **environmental** statistics.



KEY CONCEPTS IN LOCATIONAL ANALYSIS

- **Place**

- **Place** is defined as a particular location or space or the particular area normally occupied by something.

- **Space**

- Space is something abstract, without any substantial meaning. While place refers to how people are aware of attracted to a certain piece of space. A place can be seen as space that has a meaning.

Thank You