



Center for Spatially Integrated Social Science

# Spatial Analysis Data Models

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# Outline

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- Data Model Concepts
- GIS Data Model
- Topology

# Data Model Concepts

# GIS Data Model

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- **Discretization** of Geographical Reality Necessitated by the Nature of Computing Devices (Goodchild)
  - raster (grid) vs. vector (polygon)
  - **field view** (regions, segments) vs. **object view** (objects in a plane)
- Data Model Implies **Spatial Sampling** and **Spatial Errors**

# Some Definitions

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## ➤ Data Model

- set of constructs for describing and **representing** selected aspects of the real world in a computer (Longley et al)

## ➤ Data Modeling

- origins in software engineering, databases
- process to move from problem description to problem solution
- increasing level of specificity
  - **conceptual** = field vs object
  - **logical** = raster vs vector
  - **physical (digital)** = specific data structures (files)

# Spatial Objects

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## ➤ Definition

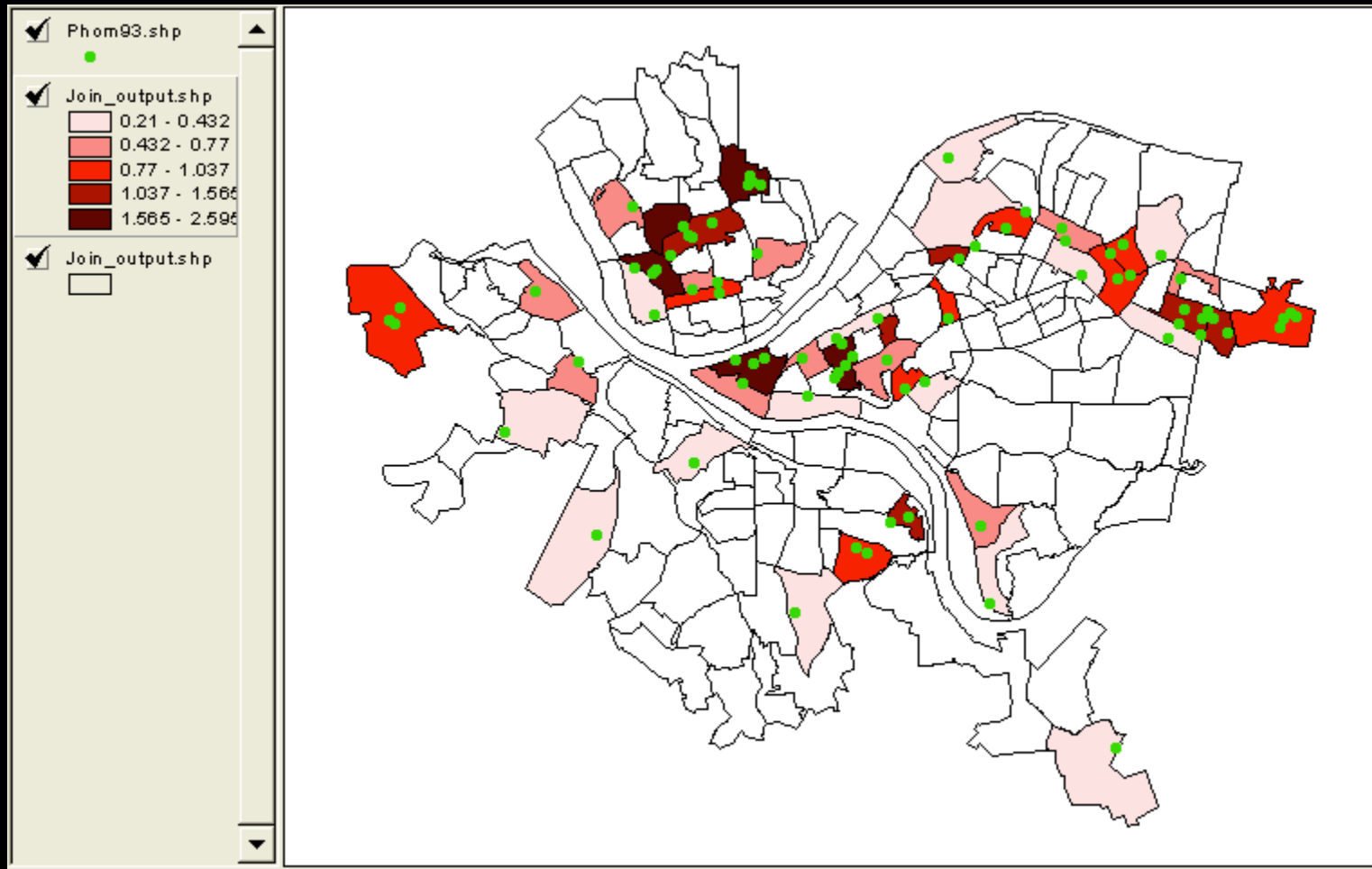
- collections of **discrete** objects with spatial reference

## ➤ Visualization

- discrete entities

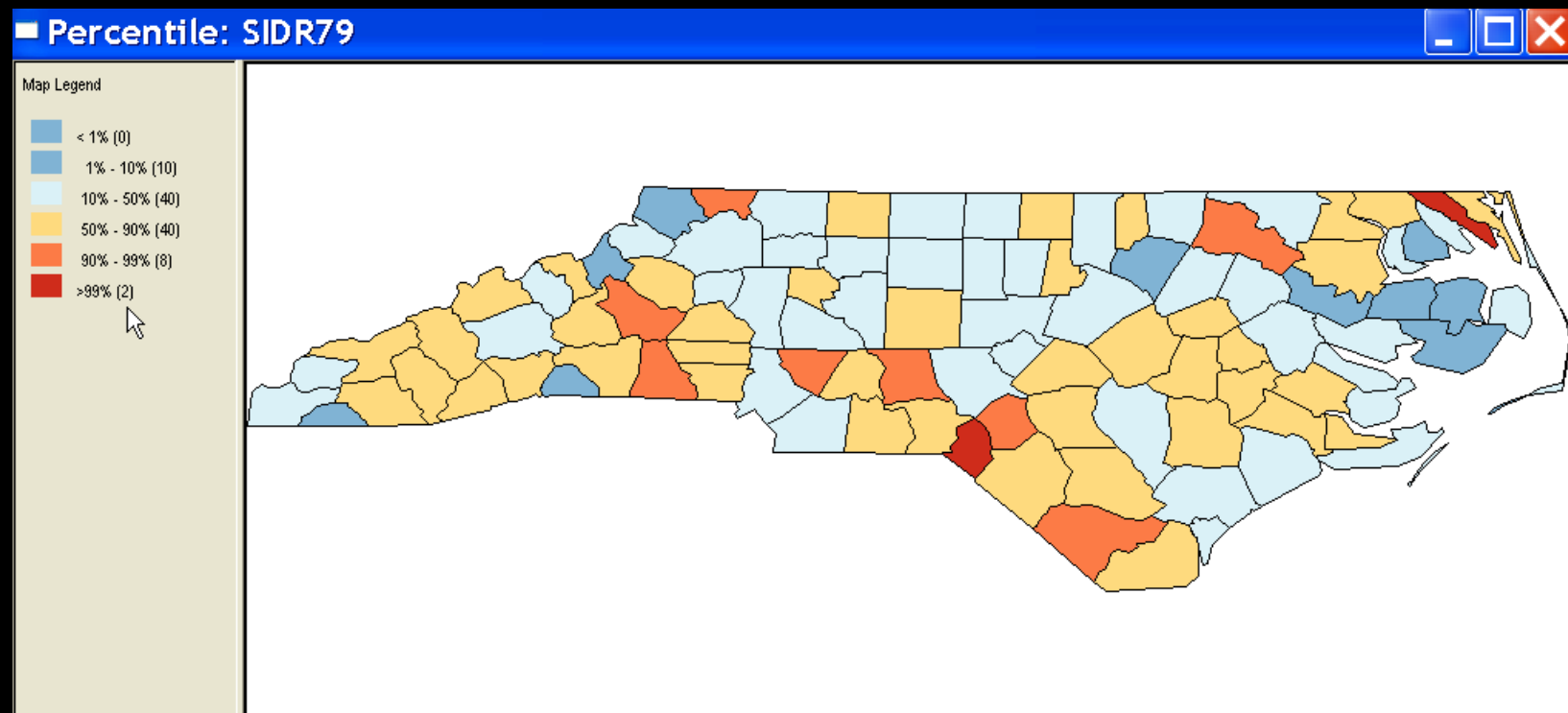
## ➤ Implementation

- **vector model** (point, line, polygon)



Pittsburgh 93 Homicides as Tract Rate

# Counties as Objects



# Spatial Objects - Data Analysis

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- Lattice Data Analysis
  - discrete spatial objects: points, areas
  - no sample, but **superpopulation**
  - spatial autocorrelation
- Points as Objects
  - discrete entities labeled as points
    - county centroids
  - **NO interpolation**
- Areas as Objects
  - discrete contiguous entities exhaust space
    - county boundary files

# Spatial Fields

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## ➤ Definition

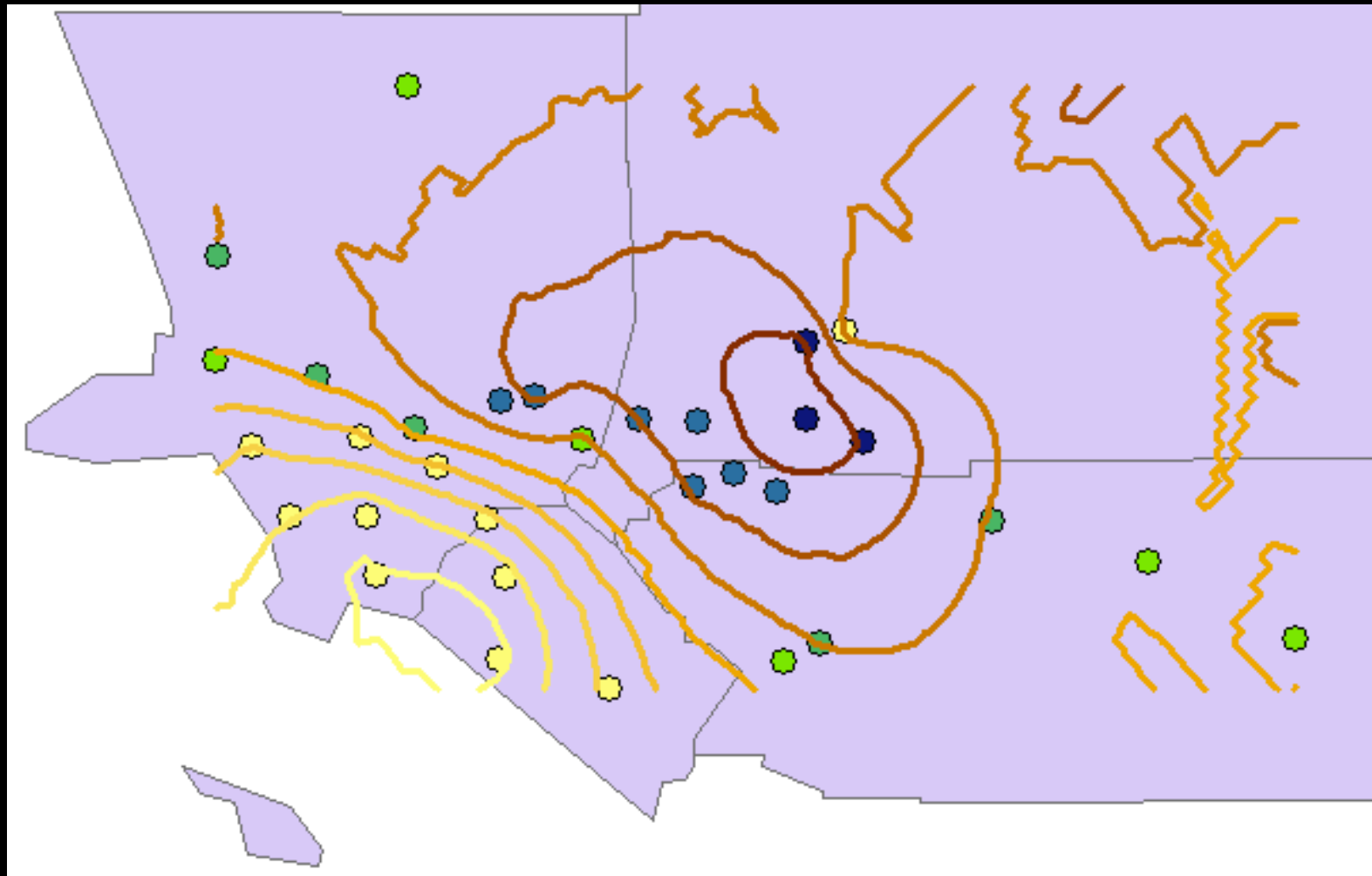
- collections of spatial distributions
- spatial field function
  - mathematical function from a spatial framework (grid) to an attribute domain (i.e., domain of variables)
  - one value for each location or continuous function

## ➤ Visualization

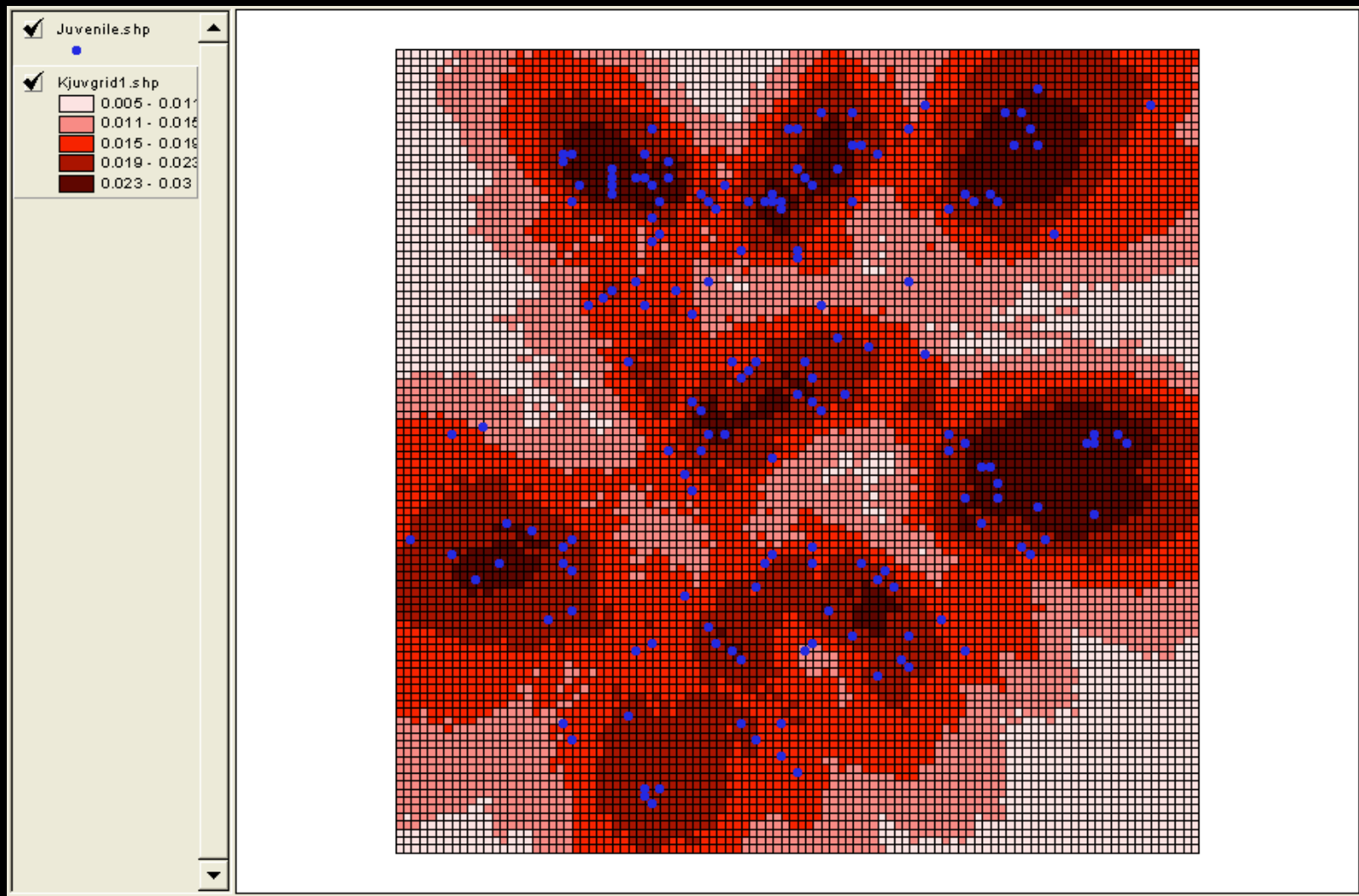
- surfaces, isolines (function is the field)

## ➤ Implementation

- raster model (grids, tessellations)



Air Quality (Ozone) in Los Angeles Basin  
Contours from Spherical Variogram Interpolation



Triangular Kernel Density Surface  
Cardiff Juvenile Offender Locations

# Spatial Fields - Data Analysis

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- Geostatistical Analysis
  - models for continuous surfaces
  - geostatistics
- Points as Sample Points
  - data at point locations used to model the whole surface
- Focus on Spatial Interpolation
  - getting data for locations without observations

# GIS Data Model

# Evolution of GIS Data Models

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- CAD/Image
  - pre-GIS
- Georelational (Coverage)
  - raster data model
  - vector data model
- Object Data Model
  - geodatabase

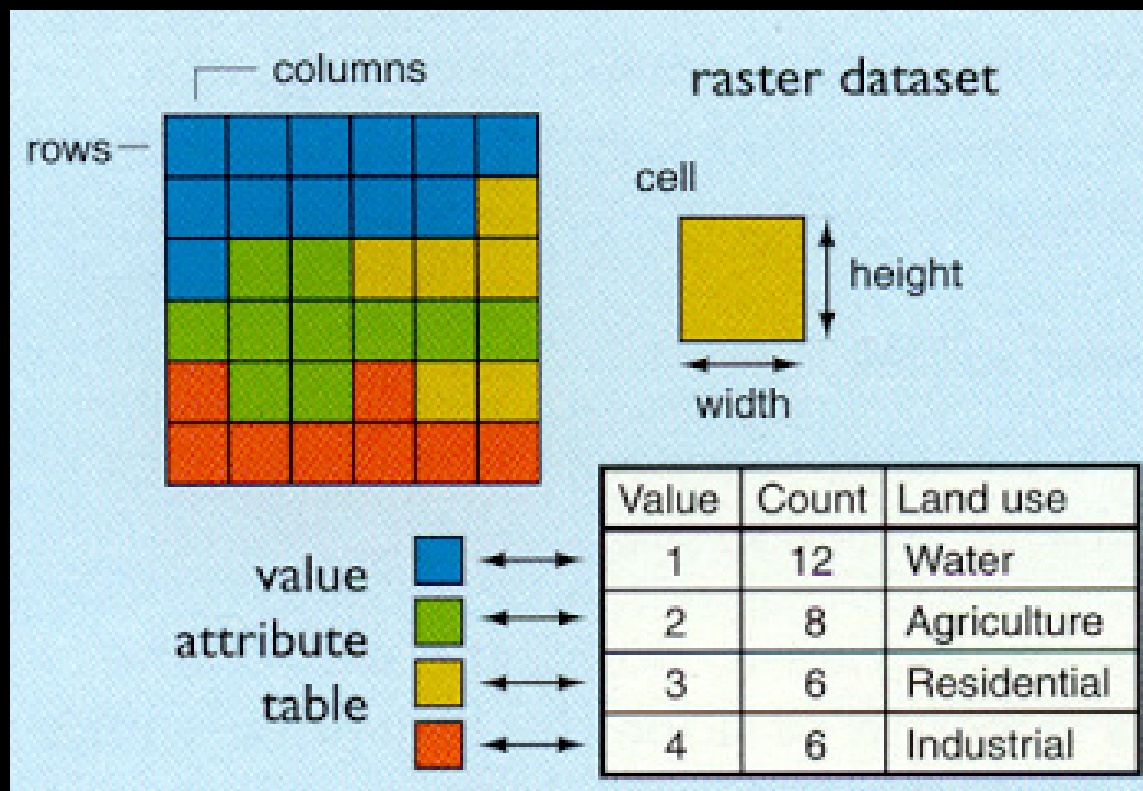
# CAD/Image Data Model

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- Geometry Only
  - CAD: points, lines, polygons
  - Image: pixels
- No Attributes
- No Topology
- Optimized for drawing/representation
  - image compression (GIF, JPEG)

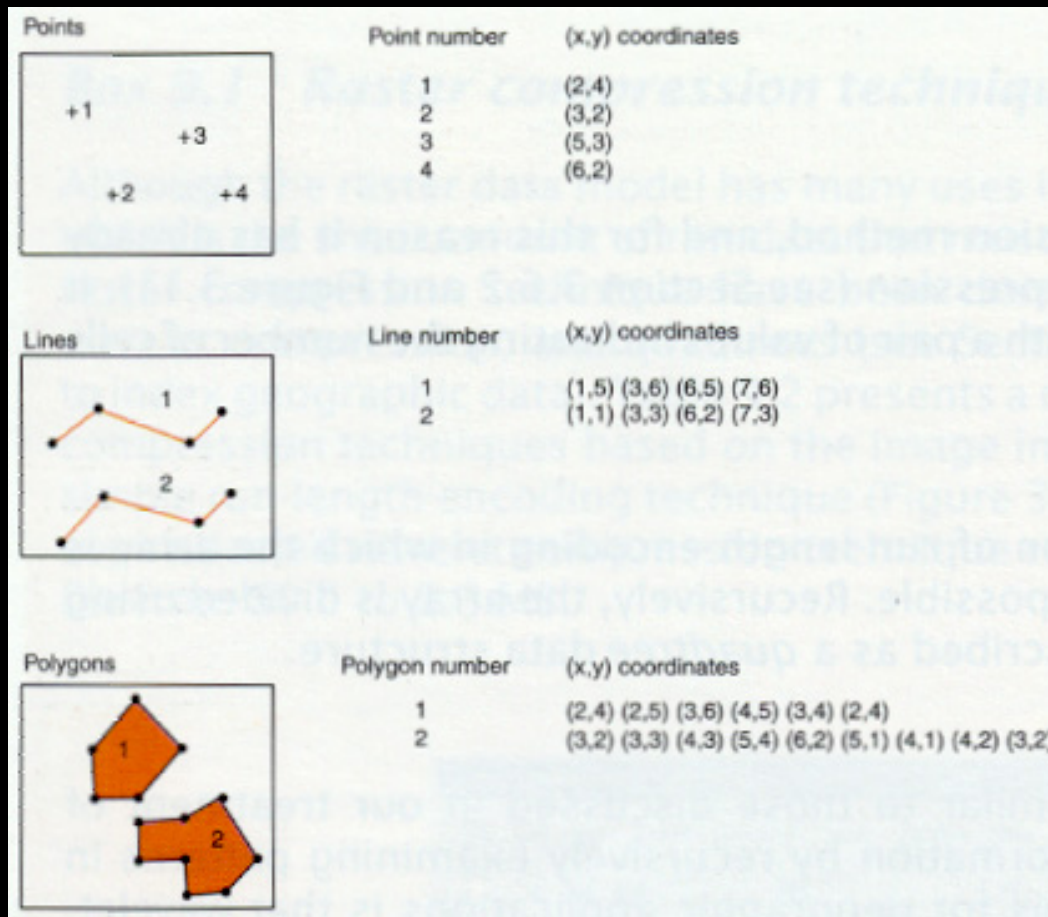
# Raster Data Model

- Raster cells associated with attributes



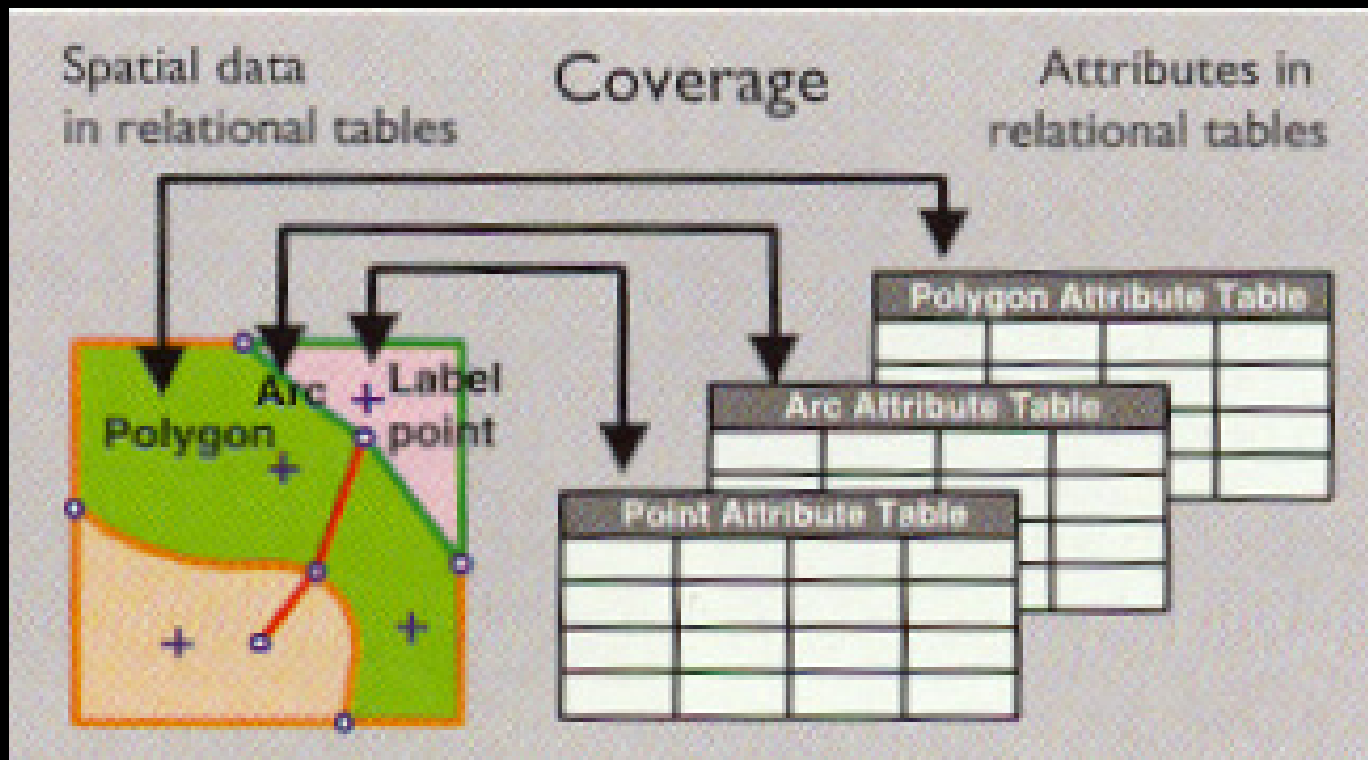
Source: Zeller (1999)

# Vector Data Model



features, their coordinates and arrangement (topology)

# Georelational Data Model



Source: Zeller (1999)

# Object Data Model

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- Limitations of Georelational Model
  - too geometry-centric
  - separation state from behavior
- Geographic Objects
  - geometry
    - point, line, polygon
  - properties
    - where, area
  - methods
    - create, draw, merge

# Topology

# Topology in Spatial Data Bases

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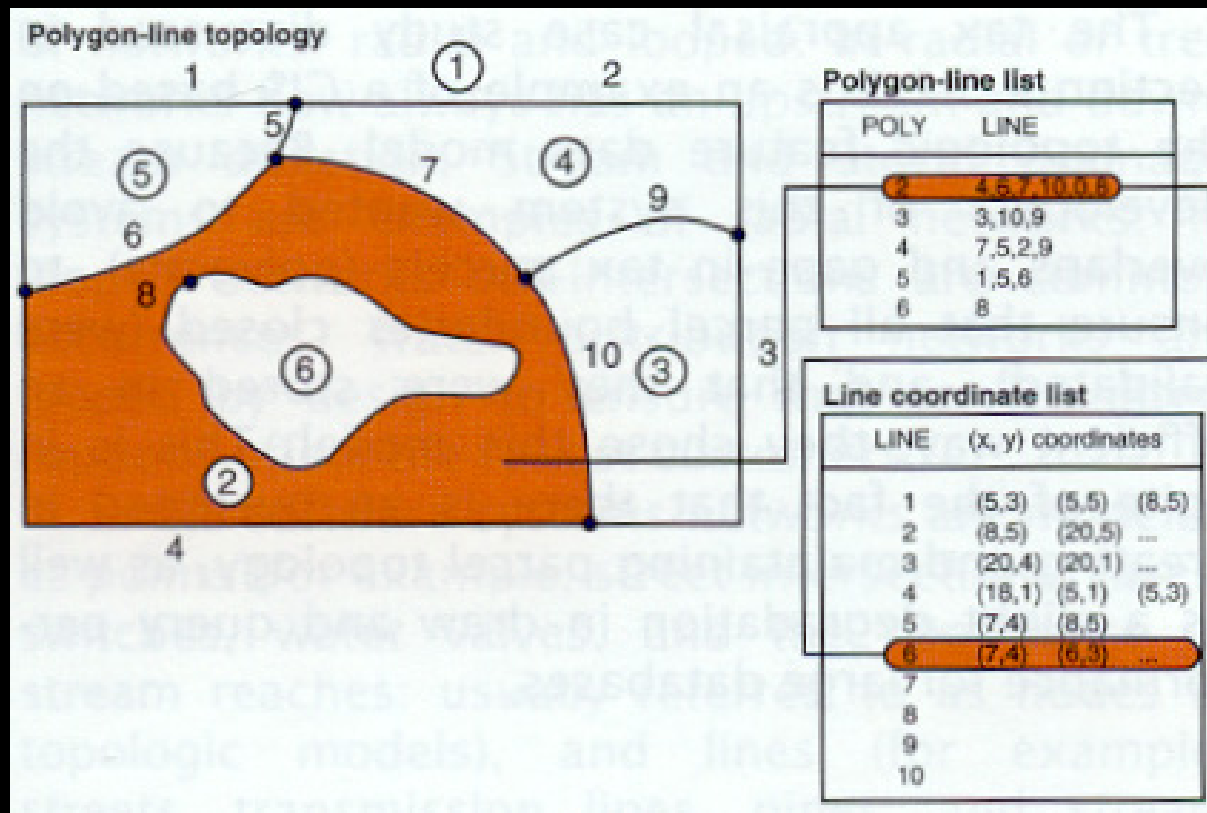
## ➤ Map Features

- **points**: ID; x, y coordinates
- **lines = arcs**: arc ID, from point ID, to point ID
- **polygons**: polygon ID, arc IDs

## ➤ Topology

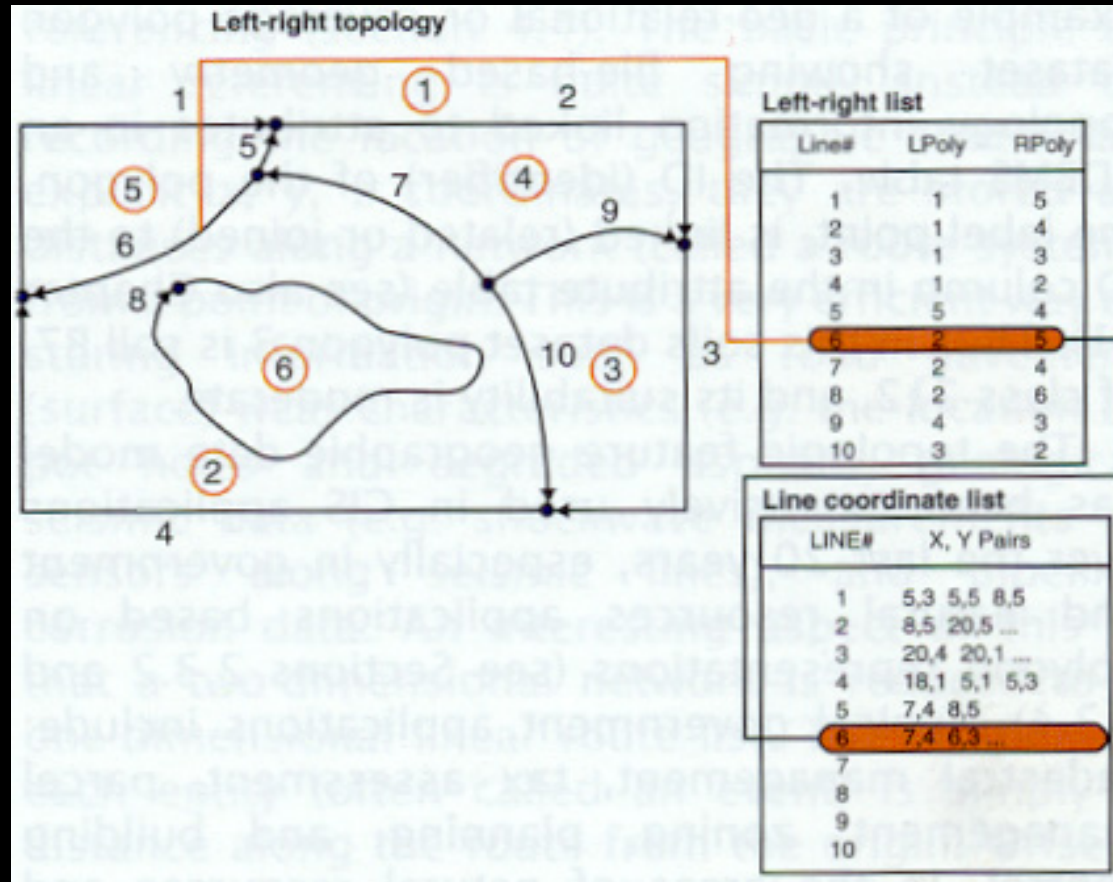
- **connectivity**: arc-node
- **area definition**: polygon-arc
- **contiguity**: left-right

# Area Definition



Source: Longley et al (2001)

# Contiguity



Source: Longley et al (2001)

# Topology in Spatial Data Analysis

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## ➤ Spatial Weights

- express “neighbor” relation
  - contiguity
- requires topology

## ➤ Topology in Practice

- ArcInfo: built-in (clean and build)
- ArcView: no topology
- ArcGIS: topology on the fly (8.3)

