

PROJECT REPORT ON AREAL ASPECTS OF A RIVER BASIN

GGY-SE-3014
RIVER BASIN STUDIES

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY



BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA COLLEGE, NAGARBERA
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20/12/2022

Areal Aspects of Drainage basin:

The areal aspects of a drainage basin is the two dimensional properties of the basin. It includes the description of arrangement of areal elements. It deals with the total area projected upon a horizontal plane. Contouring over land flow to the channel/ segment of the given order and includes all tributaries of lower order. It comprises of drainage density, drainage texture, stream frequency, form factor, circulatory ratio, elongation ratio and length of overland flow.

Drainage Density :-

Horton (1932) introduced the drainage density as an important indicator of the linear scale of land form element in stream eroded topography. It is the ratio of total channel segment length cumulated for all orders within a basin to the basin area, which is expressed in terms of km/km^2 . The drainage density, indicates the closeness of spacing of channels. Thus providing a quantitative measure of the average length of stream channel for the whole basin. It has been observed from drainage density measurement made over a wide range of geological and climatic type that a low drainage density is more likely to occur in region and highly resistant or highly permeable subsoil material under dense vegetation cover and where relief is low. High drainage density is the resultant of weak or impermeable subsoil material, sparse vegetation and mountain relief.

Drainage density →

$$a = \frac{\text{Stream length (km)}}{\text{area (km}^2\text{)}} = \text{km/km}^2$$

this can be well explained with a given drainage basin and table as follow.

1	4	7	10	14	16
2	5	8	11	14	17
3	6	9	12	15	18

<u>Grid no</u>	<u>Stream length</u>	<u>drainage density</u>
1	1.1	1.1
2	0	0
3	0	3.6
4	3.6	4.8
5	4.8	0
6	0	2.3
7	2.3	5.5
8	5.5	0.3
9	0.3	2.1
10	2.1	2.1
11	1.7	1.7
12	0	0
13	0.3	0.3
14	0.2	0.2
15	0.4	0.4
16	0	0
17	0	0
18	0	0

9
Stream Frequency: Stream Frequency or drainage frequency is the measure of number of stream per unit area (may be square meter, square kilometer and so on). For the computation of stream divided into grid square (more commonly one square mile (kilometer) depending on map scale and areal coverage of the basin and the number of stream frequency. In each grid is counted, tabulated and quantified. The data of stream frequency are studied through isopleth map or choropleth map.

$$\text{Stream frequency (SF)} = \frac{\text{Number of Stream}}{\text{area}}$$

Form factor:

Form factor is defined as the ratio of the basin area to the square of the basin length. This indicates the flow intensity of a basin of defined area (Horton 1943). The form factor value should be always less than 0.785 (the value corresponding to a perfectly circular basin). The smaller the value of the form factor, with high form factors experience longer peak flows or shorter duration, whereas elongated water sheds will have low form factors experience lower peak flows or longer duration.

$$(F_p) = \frac{M}{L^2}$$

where M is the drainage area and L is length. The form factor is the numerical index commonly used to represent different basin shape.

Circulatory Ratio (R_c)

Circulatory ratio is the ~~of~~ ratio of the area of a circulatory basin to the area of circle having the same circulatory as the perimeter of the basin (Millen, 1953). It is influenced by the length and frequency of stream, geological structure land use/land cover climate and slope of the basin. The high values of circulatory ratio show the late maturity stage of topography therefore it is the ratio of the area of the basin (A_u) to the area of the circle (A_c) having same circumference as the basin perimeter. It is dimensionless. Theoretically, the value of circulatory ratio varies from 0 (in line) to (in a circle).

$$R_c = \frac{A_u}{A_c}$$

Length of overland flow

The length of overland flow (L_o) is the length of water over the ground surface before it gets concentrated into definite most important independent variable affecting by drainage

hydrologic and physiography development of drainage basin. The length of overland flow is approximately equal to the help of the reciprocal of drainage density. This fact is related inversely to the average slope of the channel and is quite synonymous with the length of sheet flow to a large degree.

$$\therefore L_f (\text{length of overland flow}) = \frac{1}{2D_d}$$

where D_d = drainage density

The concept of overland flow is similar to the concept of surface runoff but these two are quite different hydrological phenomena.

Length of overland flow is actually that flow of precipitation water which moves over the land surface leading to the outlet of watershed channel is regarded as the surface runoff. The overland flow is significant in the smaller watersheds, but

Stream length ratio (R_L)

Stream order	Number of stream	total length of stream	Mean length of stream
i	23	$35.68 = \frac{35.68}{23}$	$\frac{1.55}{0} = 0$
ii	7	$28 = \frac{28}{7} = 4$	$\frac{4}{1.55} = 2.58$
iii	2	$18 = \frac{18}{2} = 9$	$\frac{9}{4} = 2.25$
iv	1	$6 = \frac{6}{1} = 6$	$\frac{6}{9} = 0.67$

$$\text{Stream length ratio} = \frac{\text{mean length of stream}}{\text{mean length stream of preceding class}}$$

It is a ratio of the mean length of a stream of a given order to the mean length of the next lower order stream in the same basin.

$$R_L = \frac{\bar{L}_u}{\bar{L}_{u-1}}$$

where $\bar{L}_u$ is the mean length of all stream segment of a given order.

$\bar{L}_{u-1}$ = mean length of the next lower order.

The stream length ratio between the stream of different order or the study area does not follow any trend in different sub-watersheds.

a second order stream, it is not until one stream combines a second order stream with another stream of the same order that the resulting stream increases by an order of magnitude.

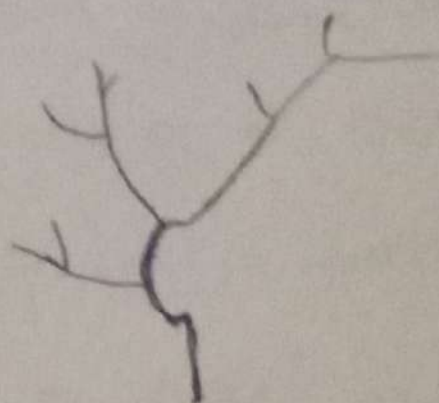
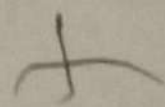


Fig + Horton Stream ordering



Stream length

The stream is represented by its total length of stream of a specific order. The length of a stream is the distance measured along the stream channel from the source to a given point or to the outlet a distance that may be measured on a map or from aerial photo-graphy.

mean stream length (MSL): It is a ratio of total stream length of a particular order and total number and total number of stream segments of that same order

$$MSL = \frac{L_u}{N_u}$$

Bifurcation ratio:

Bifurcation ratio (R_b) which is related to the branching pattern of the drainage map work is defined as a ratio of the number of stream of a given order to the number of stream of the next higher order and is expressed in form of the following equation $R_b = \frac{N_u}{N_u + 1}$

where,

N_u = Number of stream of a given order

N_{u+1} = Number of the stream of the higher order

<u>Stream order</u>	<u>Number of stream</u>	<u>Bifurcation Ratio</u>
I	110	$\frac{110}{28} = 3.92$
II	28	$\frac{28}{7} = 4$
III	7	$\frac{7}{3} = 2.3$
IV	3	$\frac{3}{2} = 1.5$
V	1	$\frac{1}{0} = 0$

Bifurcation ratio dimensionless property of the drainage basin is supposed to be controlled by drainage density, lithological characteristics, basin slope, basin shape, basin area etc. Bifurcation ratio helps in interpreting the shape of the basin as indicated

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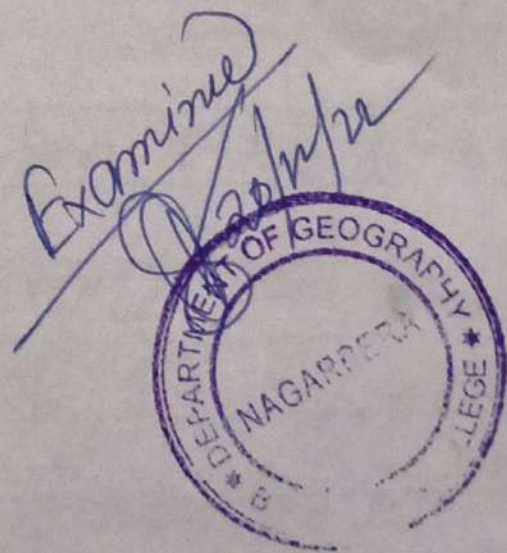
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY



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Areal Aspects of Drainage Basin:-

The areal aspects of a drainage basin is the two dimensional properties of the basin. It includes the description of arrangement of areal elements. It deals with the total area projected upon a horizontal plane contributing over land flow to the channel segment of the given order and includes all tributaries of lower order. It comprises of drainage density, stream frequency, form factor, circulatory ratio, elongation ratio and length of overland flow.

Drainage Density:- Horton (1932) introduced the drainage density as an important indicator of the linear scale of land form elements in stream in stream eroded topography. It is the ratio of total channel segment length cumulated for all orders within a basin to the basin area, which is

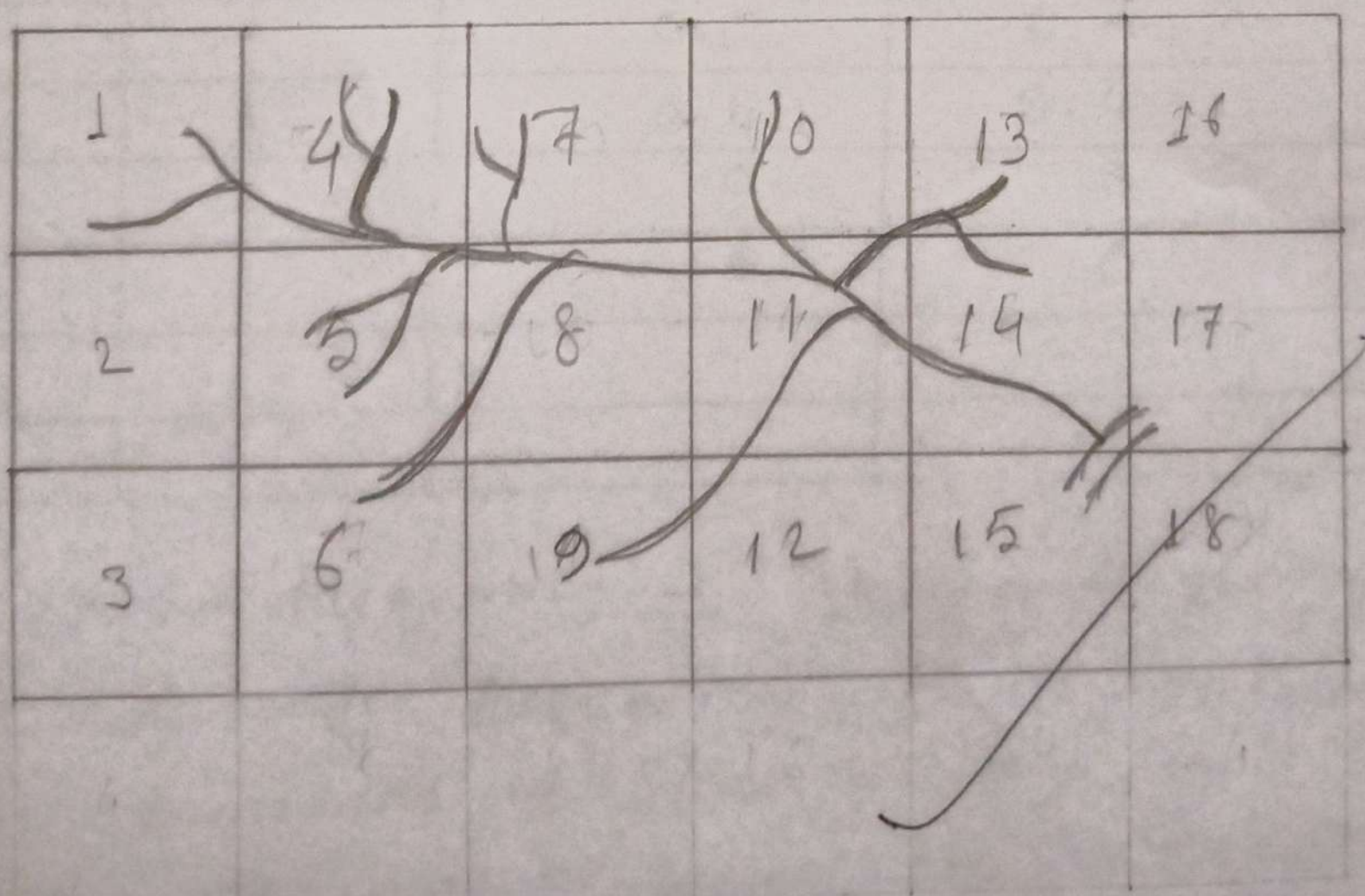
expressed in terms of km/km^2 . The drainage density, indicates the closeness of spacing density, indicates the ~~the~~ closeness of spacing of channels. Thus providing a quantitative measure of the average length of stream channels for ~~the average length~~ the whole basin. It has been observed from drainage density measurement made over a wide range of geological and climatic types that a low drainage density is more likely to occur permeable subsoil material under dense vegetation cover and where relief is low. High drainage density is the resultant of weak or impermeable subsurface material sparse vegetation and mountainous relief. Low drainage density leads to coarse drainage texture while high drainage density leads to fine drainage texture, (Strahler, 1964)

Hence drainage density refers to total stream lengths per unit area.

R.E. Horton (1945) defined drainage density as a ratio of total length of all stream segments in a given drainage basin to the total area of that basin and thus it can be defined as follows:-

$$\text{Drainage density } D_d = \frac{\text{Stream length (km)}}{\text{Area (km}^2\text{)}} = \text{km/km}^2$$

This can be well explained with a given drainage basin and table as follow.



Grid no	Grid are	stream length	drainage density
1		1.1	1.1
2		0	0
3		0	0
4		3.6	3.6
5		4.8	4.8
6		0	0
7		2.3	2.3
8		5.5	5.5
9		0.3	0.3
10		2.1	2.1
11	↓ 1 km	1.7	1.7
12	↑	0	0
13		0.3	0.3
14		0.2	0.2
15		0.4	0.4
17		0	0
18		0	0

*. Stream frequency :- Stream frequency or drainage frequency is the measure of numbers of streams per unit area ~~can~~ may be square of stream per km

(maybe square meter, square kilometers and so on). For the computation of Stream frequency (SF), the basin is conveniently divided into grid square (more commonly one square mile/kilometer) depending on map @ scale and areal coverage of the basin and the number of streams in each grid is counted, ~~table~~ tabulated, and quantified. The data of stream frequency are ~~classification~~-ified into certain categories depending upon the nature of data. The spatial pattern of stream frequency is studied through isopleth map or choropleth map.

$$\text{Stream frequency (SF)} = \frac{\text{Number of streams}}{\text{Area}}$$

Grid no	Grid area	No. of stream in the grid	Stream frequency SF $\frac{\text{No. of stream}}{\text{Area}}$
1	1 km ²	0	0
2		2	2
3		0	0
4		2	2

* From factor:-

From factor is defined as the ratio of the basin area to the square of the basin length. This factor indicates the flow intensity of a basin of a defined area (Horton, 1945). The from factor value should be always less than 0.785 (the value corresponding to a perfectly circular basin). The smaller the value of the from factor the more elongated will be the basin. Basins with high from factors experience larger peak flows of shorter duration, whereas elongated water sheds will low from factors experience lower peak flows of longer duration.

$$F_f = \frac{M}{L^2}$$

where 'M' is the drainage area and L is length.

Therefore form is the numerical index commonly used to represent different basin shapes.

Ques

Q. Circulatory Ratio (R_i)

Circulatory ratio is the ratio of the area of a basin to the area of circle having the same basin circumference as the perimeter of the basin (Miller 1953). It is influenced by the length and frequency of stream geological structures and use/land cover, climate and slope of the high value of circulatory ratio shows the late maturity stage of topography. Therefore it is the ratio of the area of the basin (A_b) to the area of the circle (A_c) having same circumference as the basin perimeter. It is a dimensionless. Theoretically, the value of circulatory ratio varies from 0 (in line) to 1 (in a circle).

$$R_e = \frac{A_u}{A_c}$$

X. Elongation Ratio (R_e)

Schumm (1956) defined elongation ratio as the ratio of diameter of a circle of the same area as the drainage basin and the maximum length of the basin. values of R_e generally vary from 0.6 to 1.0 over a wide variety of climate and geologic types. R_e values close to unity comes correspond typically to regions of low relief, whereas values in the range 0.6 - 0.8 are usually associated with high relief and steep ground slope. (Strahler 1964). These values can be grouped into three categories namely.

(a) circular :- (> 0.9), (b) oval ($0.9 - 0.8$)

and elongated (< 0.7)

Therefore it is defined as the ratio of diameter of a circle of the

Same area as the basin to the maximum basin length. It is also a dimensionless parameter

$$R_e = \frac{D_c}{L_{bm}}$$

where R_e = elongation ratio

D_c = Diameter of circle which area is same to the given drainage basin

L_{bm} = maximum basin length.

Higher the value of elongation ratio more circular shape of the basin and vice-versa. (val use close) to 1.0 are typical of regions of very low relief to 1.0 are typical of region of very low relief, whereas that of 0.6 to 0.8 are usually associated with high relief and steep ground slope.

* Length of overland flow (L_g)

The length of overland flow (eg) is the length of water over the

ground surface before it gets concentrated into definite stream channel (Horton 195) ~~then~~ L_g is one of the most important independent variables affecting by climatic and physiographic development of drainage basin. The length of overland flow is approximately equal to the half reciprocal of drainage density. This factor is related inversely to the average slope of the channel and is quite synonymous with the length of sheet flow to a large degree.

$$\therefore L_g (\text{length of overland}) = \frac{1}{2D_d}$$

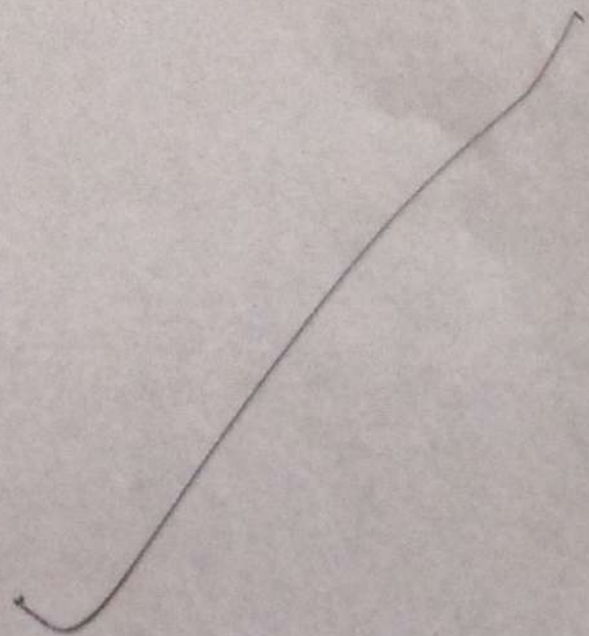
where D_d = drainage density.

The concept of overland flow is similar to the concept of surface run but these two are quite different hydrological phenomenon.

Length of overland flow is actually

that flow of precipitated water which moves over the land surface leading to the stream channels whereas the channel flow reaching to the outlet of water shed is referred as the surface runoff. The overland flow is significant in the smaller water sheds but runoff is in bigger watersheds the length and depth of overland flow are small.

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ASSIGNMENT

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(RIVER BASIN STUDIE)



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20/12/24

AREAL ASPECTS OF A RIVER BASIN

Examinee
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AREAL ASPECTS OF A RIVER BASIN

The areal aspects of a drainage basin is the two dimensional properties of the Basin. It includes the description of arrangement of the basin elements. It deals with the total area projected upon a horizontal plane contributing over land included all tributaries of lower order. It comprises of drainage density, drainage textures, stream frequency, form factor, circulatory ratio, elongation ratio and length of overland flow.

DRAINAGE DENSITY (D_d)

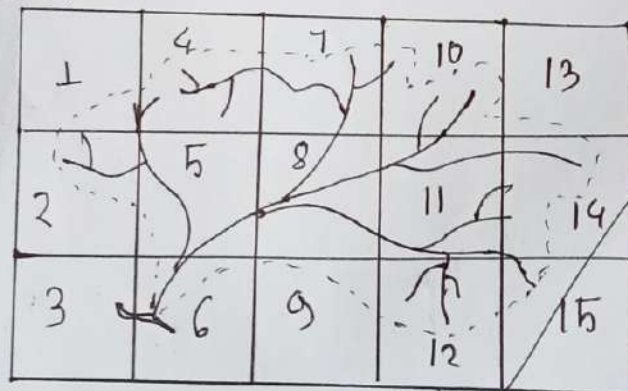
Horton (1932), Introduced the drainage density (D_d) as an important indicator of the linear scale of land form elements in stream order topography. It is the ratio of total channel segment length cumulated for all orders within a basin to the basin area, which is expressed in term of km/km^2 . The drainage density, indicates the closeness of spacing of channels, thus providing a quantitative measure of the average length of stream channel for the whole basin. It has been observed from drainage density measurement made over a wide range of geologic and climate type that a low

drainage density is more likely to occur in region and highly resistant of highly permeable subsoil material under dense vegetation cover and where relief is low high drainage density is the resultant of weak or impermeable sub surface material, sparse vegetation and mountainous relief. Low drainage density leads to coarse drainage texture while high drainage density leads to fine drainage texture (Strahler 1964)

Hence drainage density refers to total stream lengths per unit area. R.E Horton (1945) defined drainage density as a ratio of total length of all stream segments in a given drainage density as a ratio of total length of all stream segments in a given drainage basin to the total area of that basin and thus it can be defined as follows - $\text{Drainage density} = D_d = \frac{\text{Stream length (km)}}{\text{Area (km}^2\text{)}} = \text{km/km}^2$

This can be well explained with a given drainage basin and table as follow.

For example -



Order no.	Catchment Area	Stream length	Drainage Density
1		0	0 km/km²
2		1	1 "
3		0	0 "
4		3	3 "
5		1.1	1.1 "
6		1	1 "
7		1.2	1.2 "
8		2	2 "
9		0	0 "
10		2	4 "
11		4	1.3 "
12		1.3	0 "
13		0	3.2 "
14		3.2	1 "
15		1	

STREAM FREQUENCY:- stream frequency or drainage frequency is the measure of number of stream per unit area (may be square meter, square kilometer and so on). For the computation of stream frequency (SF), the basin is conveniently divided into grid squares (more commonly one square mile/kilometer) depending on map scale and area coverage of the basin and the numbers of stream in each grid is counted, tabulated and quantified. The data of stream frequency are classified into certain categories depending upon the nature of data. The spatial pattern of stream frequency is studied through isopleth map or choropleth map.

$$\text{Stream frequency (SF)} = \frac{\text{Number of Stream}}{\text{Area}}$$

Stream frequency (Fs) is expressed as the total number of stream segments of all orders per unit area. It exhibits positive correlation with drainage density in the watershed indicating an increase in stream population with respect to increase in drainage density.

FORM FACTOR $\Rightarrow$ Form factor is defined as the ratio of the basin area to the square of the basin length. This factor indicates the flow intensity of a basin of a defined area (Horton, 1945). The form factor value should be always less than 0.785 (The value corresponding to a perfectly circular basin). The smaller the value of the form factor the more elongated will be the basin. Basins with high form factors experience larger peak flows of shorter duration, whereas elongated water sheds will low from factors experience lower peak flows of longer duration.

$$(F_f) = \frac{M}{L^2}$$

where M is the drainage area and L is Length. Therefore form factor is the numerical index commonly used to represent different basin shapes.



CIRCULATORY RATIO (R_c) $\Rightarrow$ circulatory ratio is the ratio of the area of a basin to the area of circle having the same as the perimeter of the basin (Miller 1953). It is influenced by the length and frequency of streams, geological structures and use/land cover climate and slope of the basin. The high value circulatory ratio shows the late maturity stage of topography. Therefore it is the ratio of the area of the basin (A_b) to the area of the circle (A_c) having same circle perimeters as the basin perimeter. It is dimensionless. Theoretically, the value of circulatory ratio varies from 0 (in line) to 1 (in a circle).

$$R_c = \frac{A_b}{A_c}$$



ELONGATION RATIO (R_e): $\rightarrow$ Schumm (1956)

defined elongation ratio as the ratio of diameter of a circle of the same area as the drainage basin and the maximum length of the basin. values of R_e generally vary from 0.6 to 1.0 over a wide variety of climate and geologic types. R_e values close to unity correspond typically to regions of low relief, whereas values in the range 0.6-0.8 are usually associated with high relief and steep ground. (Slopek Stranler, 1984). These values can be grouped into three categories namely.

- (A) circular (>0.9), (B) oval ($0.9-0.8$)
- (C) less elongated (<0.7)

Therefore it is defined as the ratio of diameter of a circle of the same area as the basin to the maximum basin length.

It is also a dimensionless parameter

$$R_e = \frac{D_c}{L_{bm}}$$

where R_e = elongation ratio

D_c = diameter of circle which area

Flow reaching to the outlet of watershed is referred as the surface runoff. The overland flow is significant in the smaller watersheds, but runoff in bigger watersheds the length and depth of overland flow are small.



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OPPO A15 © Shanghai
LENGTH OF OVERLAND FLOW (L_g) :- The length of overland flow (L_g) is the length of water over the ground surface before it gets concentrated into definite stream channel (Horton 1945). L_g is one of the most important independent variables affecting hydrologic and physiographic development of drainage basin. The length of overland flow is approximately equal to the half of the reciprocal of drainage density. This factor is related inversely to the average slope of the channel and is quite synonymous with the length of sheet flow to a large degree.

$$\therefore L_g \text{ (Length of overland flow)} = \frac{1}{2 D_d}$$

where D_d = drainage density

The concept of overland flow is similar to the concept of surface run-off but these two are quite different hydrological phenomena.

Length of overland flow is actually that flow of precipitated water which moves over the land surface leading to the stream channels whereas the channel

is same to the given drainage basin

L_{bm} = maximum basin length.

Higher the value of elongation ratio more circular shape of the basin and vice-versa (values close to 1.0 are typical of regions of very low relief whereas that of 0.6 to 0.8 are usually associated with high relief and steep ground slope).

