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# Methods of terrain visualisations

# Relief

 relief – the earth's surface created by natural forces or human activity, without objects and phenomena on it
topografic surface - simplified continuous and smoothed surface replacing the actual relief for representation purposes

#### The relief display should

- correspond to the state in nature
- express geomorphological characteristics of relief types
- express height ratios
- allow the solution of slope inclination, visibility, etc.
- provide a visual (plastic) impression

# Geomorphology

- deals with the description and study of relief shapes

# Cartometry

- a discipline dealing with measurements on maps, retrieving data about the earth's surface from a map

# **Morphometrics**

- determining the exact characteristics of relief shapes using maps

# **Orographic scheme**

- characterizes terrain features and their points of contact
- is made up of **points and lines of the terrain skeleton**:
  - points peaks of hills, saddles
  - ridges lines connecting the relatively highest points of convex surfaces

- valleys - lines connecting the relatively lowest points of concave surfaces

- edges delimit significant changes in slope
- shape lines delimit horizontal or slightly inclined parts of terrain shapes
- dips lines of the highest slope of a topographic surface, perpendicular to contour lines

foothills - lines defining the outline of elevated shapes relative to the surroundings



# Orographic scheme



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# **Methods of relief depiction**

- height points
- contours
- color hypsometry
- shading
- hatching
- hill method
- view maps
- panoramic maps
- block diagrams
- anaglyphs

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Ienticular maps

# **Height points**

- height points numerically expressed depths or heights of points, contour lines or water surfaces relative to a selected reference plane
  - □ the simplest and most accurate expression of relief height
  - □ supplement to other methods (does not provide spatial perception)
- Absolute heights related to zero sea level (significant points of the terrain skeleton, geodetic points, crossroads, contour lines, depth lines)
- Relative heights relative elevation of a point relative to the reference surface in its surroundings or to a specific location (heights or depth of terrain steps, slopes, embankments, banks)

# **Contour lines**

- horizontals lines connecting points of equal elevation on a topographic surface
- contours horizontals of appropriately rounded height
- the most important, most used method of cartographic representation of elevation
- basis for other methods (color hypsometry, shading, block diagrams)
- contour lines: basic, main, supplementary and auxiliary
- Basic contour interval:
  - □ Up to 1 : 5 000 .... 1m
  - □ from 1 : 10 000.... M / 5 000
- description (elevations) of contour lines scattered, legibly uphill
- generating contour lines using a digital relief model

# **Color hypsometry**

- hypsometry = representation of elevation using colors
- on medium and small scale maps (where contour lines cannot be used)
- based on the contour method
  - drawing contour lines delimiting typical height intervals
  - chosen with regard to the scale, purpose of the map and height differentiation
- evokes a spatial perception
- often simultaneously with shading
- hypsographic scale:
  - □ usually 6 -10 colors, various types of scales



# Shading

- shading creation of shadows cast by relief when illuminated from different directions
- choosing the appropriate direction of illumination
  - natural lighting from the direction of sunlight
  - vertical lighting perpendicular light
  - oblique lighting often used
- conventional terrain illumination:

beam at an angle of 45° - direction from the northwest

#### shading techniques:

- previously **hand shading** laborious, high-quality pencil, tumbling (spreading graphite or chalk powder), washing (washing out ink or paint with water)
- today using a **computer based** on a digital terrain model



# **Shading contours**

- combination of shading and contour lines
- illuminated contour lines are drawn white, shaded ones are drawn black and the intercontour areas remain gray
- the map resembles a stepped relief model
- also illustrative for depicting the seabed and partly also when drawing rocks
- northwestern exposure of the area





# Hatching

- hatches short, plan projections of part of the slopes arranged in layers or along a certain line
- originally more of an artistic drawing, later on a mathematical basis
- they are laborious and graphically burden the map
- today they only have an additional function displaying smaller terrain shapes (especially steep ones) that cannot be accurately drawn using contour lines

#### different types of hatches

- artistic, landscape, slope, shadow, technical, topographic, physiographic
- true hatches hatches that have a mathematical basis:
  - □ slope and shadow



### **Slope hatches**

- the thickness of the hatches corresponds to the slope of the slope
- author Lehmann (1799) "the steeper the darker", the illumination of a surface inclined to the horizon by an angle  $\alpha$  is  $\cos \alpha$ , the shading of the area is 1- $\cos \alpha$ 
  - I. Lehmanns scale black for 90° shadow/light =  $(1 - \cos \alpha)/\cos \alpha$  = hatch/space
  - II. Lehmanns (practical) scale black for 45 °



#### **Slope hatches**

On the map III. Military Mapping Survey (1870-1883) – Austria-Hungary



# **Shadow hatches**

- hatch thickness expresses oblique illumination of the relief combination of shading method and inclined hatches
- Dufour 1836
- NW illumination, variable hatch thickness shadow modeling
- disadvantage valleys (opposite slopes) "white tongues" perception of paths



### **Technical hatches**

 a series of alternating short and long lines (starting at the top edge of the slope), for artificial and natural slopes terraces, embankments, dams



### **Topographical hatches**

- mutually arranged wedges oriented in the direction of the slope - for marking terrain edges
- sand pits, riverbeds, grooves



# **Physiographic hatches**

- vertical and horizontal lines in the direction of the edges + shading and changing the line thickness according to the oblique combined lighting
- depicting rocks, glaciers and rock debris



# **Historical note**

- Prof. Eduard Imhof (1895-1986)
  - important figure in Swiss cartography
- author of relief maps
- book Cartographic Relief Presentation (1965)
- 1st President of the ICA (1961-1965)
- 1979 Mannerfelt Medal of the ICA



# Hill method

- planar view representation of relief
- the oldest way of representing relief (Ptolemy 1st AD)
- repeated hill drawing schematic drawing of mountain ranges or significant mountains
- there is no geometric aspect, but it is also quite simple



# **View maps**

- perspective view of the relief
- formerly hand-made, now computer-generated
- mainly for tourist and promotional purposes (maps of mountain systems and large territorial units)



# **Panoramic maps**

- central projection of the landscape onto a vertical plane
- supplements to book publications, on lookout towers and elevation points
- veduta artistically processed panoramic maps, usually a side view of a city, widespread from the 17th to the mid-19th century, often on old maps



Veduta of Prague – 1606

#### Panoramic map – veduta of Lisbon 1775



# **Blockdiagrams**

- perspective representation of a part of the earth's surface, rectangularly bounded by vertical planes
- block walls may contain a drawing of a geological structure
- computer technology (DTM)



# Anaglyphs

- use of stereoscopic effect to give the impression of spatial perception
- height chart composed of a stereoscopic pair of contour images or a pair of surface images
- observation with a stereoscope or special glasses



Obr. 8 Anaglyf v doplňkových barvách

# **Other methods**

- Ienticular maps
- virtual reality
- augmented reality

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