

# GIS 4

## Geomorphology

Geomorphometry of Mountain Landscapes &  
Upland Watersheds...a little Wildlife, too

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### Hack's Stream-Length

Hack's Stream-Length Index (1973):

$$SL = (\Delta \text{height} / \Delta \text{length}) \times L$$

\*  $\Delta \text{length}$  must always be smaller than  $L$

*Thanks to R.K. Kaushal for correcting my formulas! I'm such a dope.*

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	
Reach ID	X-Dist	Slope (S)	Reach Length	Cum Length	Half L	Length (L)	Elev Max	Elev Min	Delta h	SL	
1	300	0.027054108	998	998	499	799	2100	2073	27	21.616	
2	300	0.053475936	935	1933	467.5	1765.5	2073	2023	50	94.412	
3	300	0.022446689	891	2824	445.5	2678.5	2023	2003	20	60.123	
4	300	0.016563147	966	3790	483	3607	2003	1987	16	59.743	
Formulas -->		Fixed	$J3/D3$	Measured	$(D2+E1)$	$D2/2$	$E1+F2+B2$	Measured	Measured	$H2-I2$	$C2^*G2$

Add These to Determine Lengths of L1, L2, L3, and L4				
L1 -->	300	499		799
L2 -->	799	499	467.5	1765.5
L3 -->	1765.5	467.5	445.5	2678.5
L4 -->	2678.5	445.5	483	3607

Click for [PDF](#) of figure below.

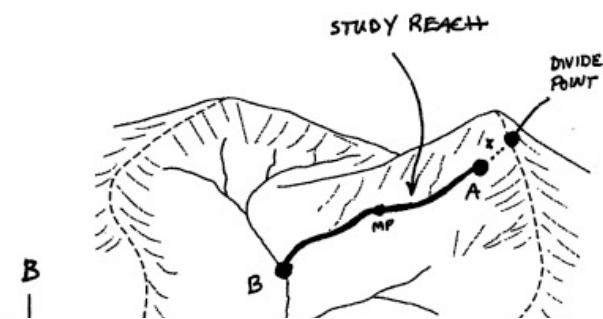
### Stream Length Index

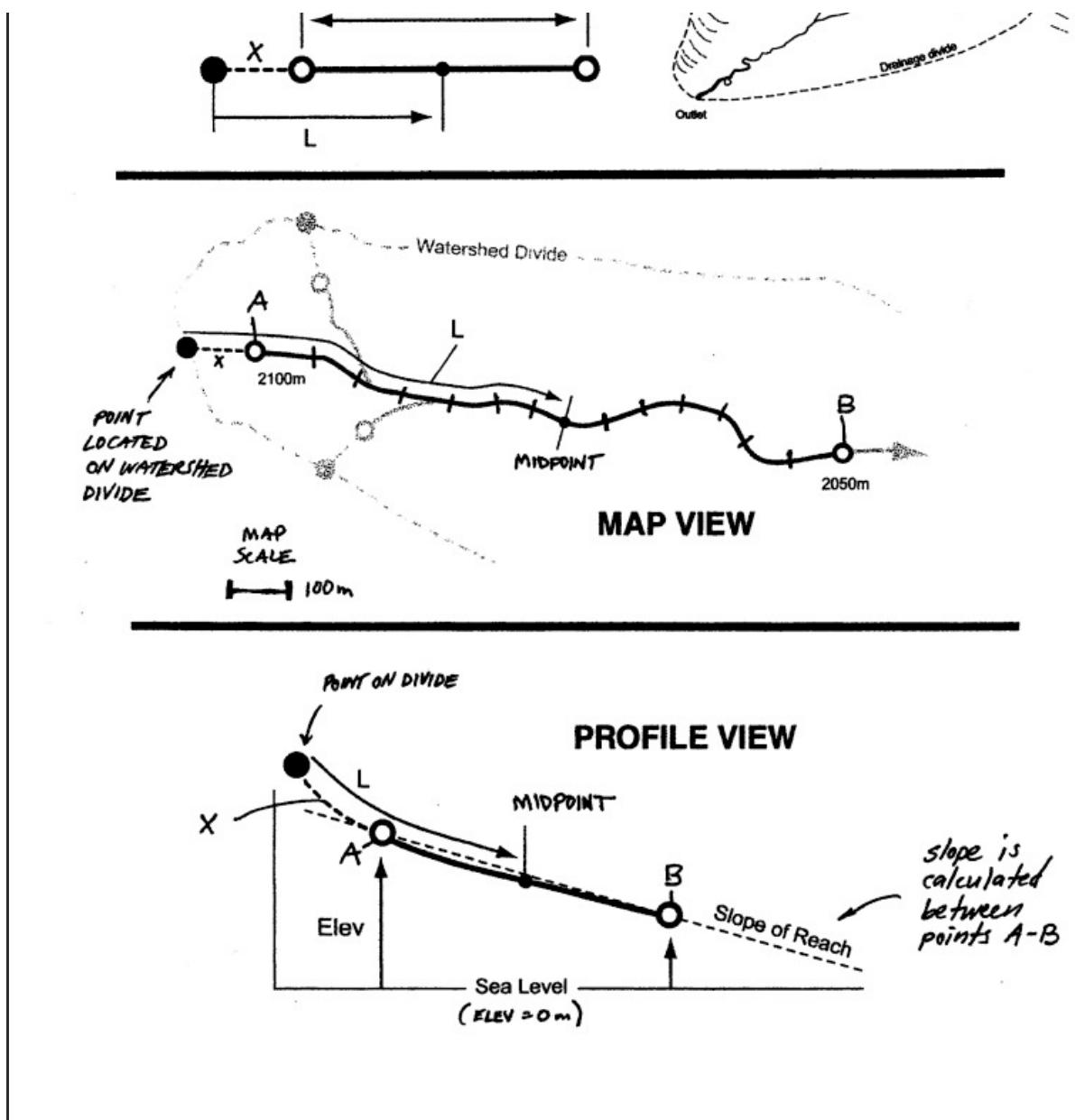
$$SL = S \cdot L$$

CONCEPT

A  
|

Reach





Mapping of SL Index values at the landscape scale is done, first by calculating index values for all streams in a region, second by using Inverse Distance Weighting (IDW) or another interpolation tool on the point values, and third by breaking the IDW surface into 5-10 classes for display. Use natural breaks or another means of assigning class break values.

### Refs

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- Hack (1973) USGS report
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