Space syntax in a wayfinding task

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Abstract   This research was done to investigate the ratio between environmental characteristics and the wayfinding model. Research makes use of integration in a wayfinding system of a typical parameter of the traditional transport models such as distance, and of the space syntax analysis, such as integration.

Space syntax (Hillier and Hanson, 1984) is a morphologic analysis system of space and its constitutive elements: buildings and urban areas. The purpose is to supply a useful instrument to the analysis and the social improvement of urban and architectonic projects (Teklenburg, Timmermans and Wagenberg, 1992). It was proposed as a model to forecast wayfinding with the aim to demonstrate the ratio between the integration values of urban space and the movements of people within. Moreover (Steadman, 2004), there is another empirical problem to analyze: the way used by people to move in urban areas to reach a place. If they choose shortest routes or if they rather choose the shortest number of axial lines. In that optycal it has been related, from the theoretical view-point, with traditional transport models (Ratti, 2004; Hillier and Penn, 2004).

In this research we asked university students, sorted by gender, to make a wayfinding task by computer. Results are valued by the metric distance (transports model) and the integration (space syntax model).