

Area

Area is the quantity that expresses the extent of a two-dimensional figure or shape, or planar lamina, in the plane.

Surface area is its analog on the two-dimensional surface of a three-dimensional object. Area can be understood as the amount of material with a given thickness that would be necessary to fashion a model of the shape, or the amount of paint necessary to cover the surface with a single coat.

Example:

Broca area

It is the two-dimensional analog of the length of a curve (a one-dimensional concept) or the volume of a solid (a three-dimensional concept).

The human [cerebral cortex](#) has been estimated to contain anywhere from ~50 to ~200 areas per hemisphere. However, attaining a consensus whole-cortex parcellation has been difficult because of practical and technical challenges ¹⁾

¹⁾

Glasser MF, Coalson TS, Robinson EC, Hacker CD, Harwell J, Yacoub E, Ugurbil K, Andersson J, Beckmann CF, Jenkinson M, Smith SM, Van Essen DC. A multi-modal parcellation of human cerebral cortex. *Nature*. 2016 Aug 11;536(7615):171-8. PubMed PMID: 27437579; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC4990127.

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