

Data and the State

PUBPOL 2130 / INFO 3130



Intro to
Geography and Policy

Lecture 5, Tuesday Feb 4

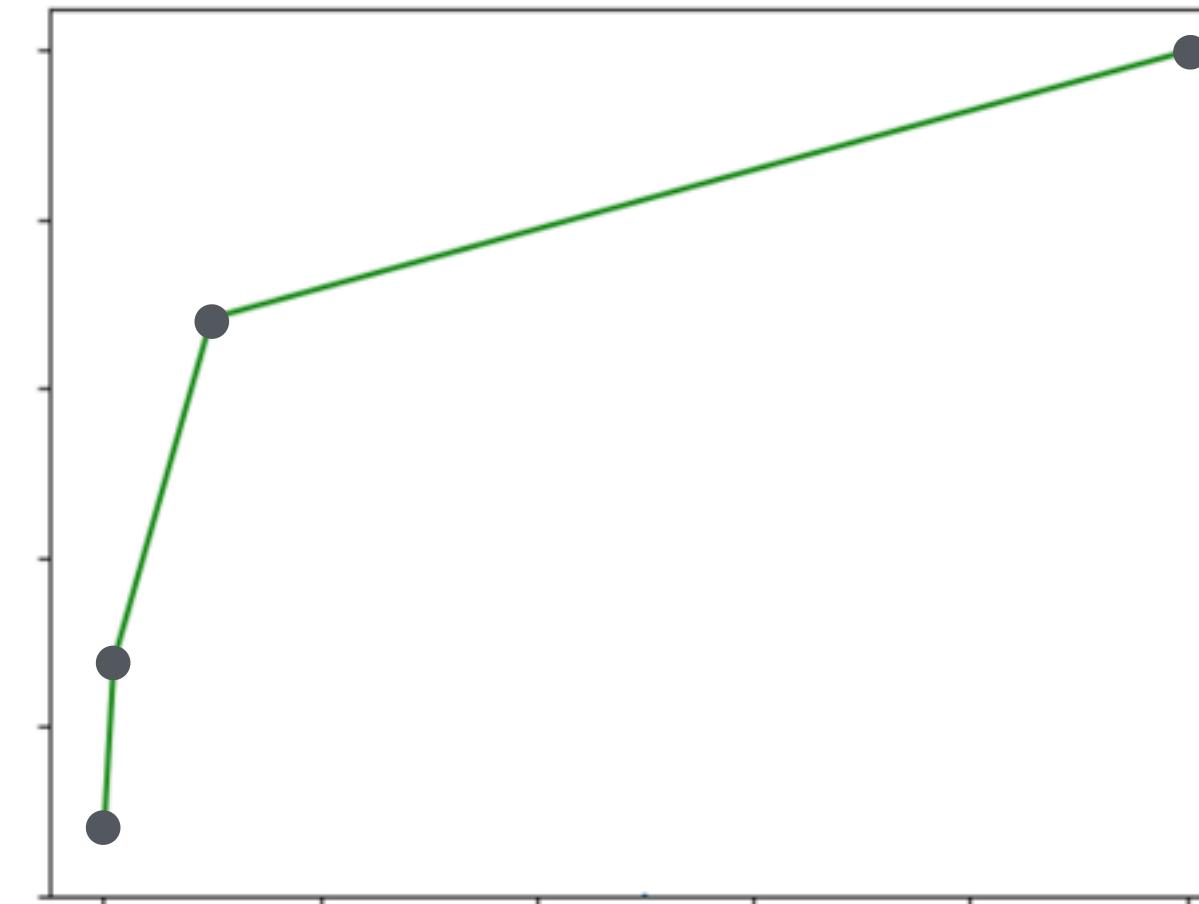
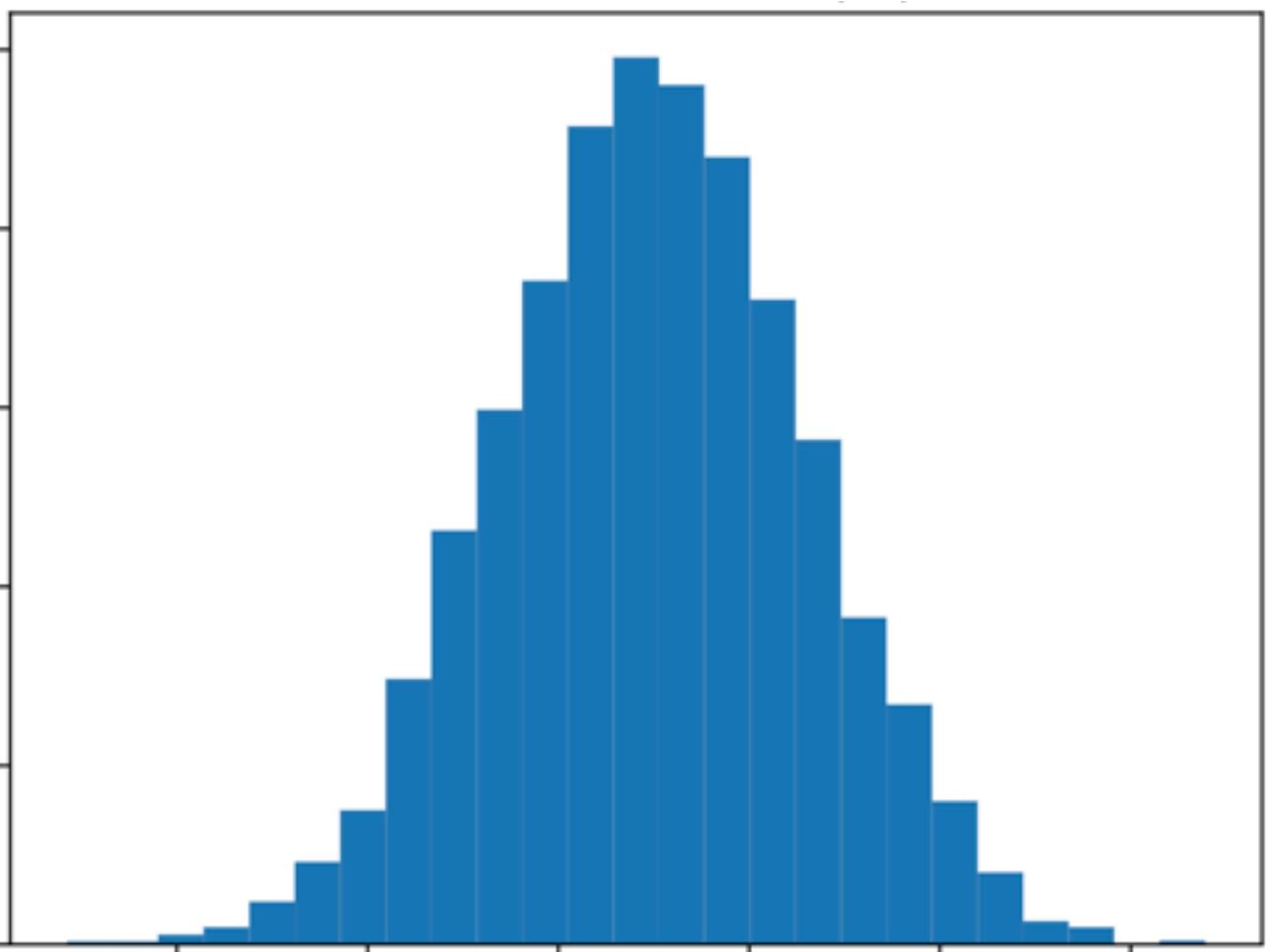
Announcements

- Today is the last day to **add**. Codes have gone out to everyone on virtual waitlist, now closed.
- SDS has hired a note taker. I will keep posting lecture slides in github. Please come to office hours if you need to catch up!
- Notes on **time management** — you will have *overlapping* assignments. Up to you to decide how to structure your time. We recommend trying to complete assignments *between Friday labs* so you can pivot to new notebook at that point—but we've built in extra time for UDL purposes.
- Today we'll look at some submissions from HW1! Grading done, being reviewed and released today.
- We know you're just getting the hang of what we're asking for and it will be a bit of a learning curve.
- Please don't turn in code / notebooks unless you're asked for those.
- Try for one data product (like one image) that is information-rich and readable. Multiple images can be acceptable if you make the case that they're needed. Be sure images informatively labeled.

Summary of schedule

- Week 1 - Course intro and censuses. Tabular data, history of censuses. Reading: Scott.
- Week 2 - Classifying people. Racial categories and other human kinds. Reading: Nobles.
- Week 3 (now) - Geography and policy. Units, mapping, zoning. Reading: Monmonier.
- Week 4 - unusual week:
 - No lecture Tuesday Feb 11 (I'm testifying in Alabama): class time used for HW and exam prep, led by Jennah. **Makeup class** on zoom Weds Feb 12 at 4pm (watch canvas for the link), will be recorded, synchronous attendance appreciated but not required. Guest speaker: James Turk, talking about open data and data scraping.
 - Exam 1 in class Thursday Feb 13 — sample questions provided by Thursday Feb 6.
 - Lab Friday Feb 14 as usual.

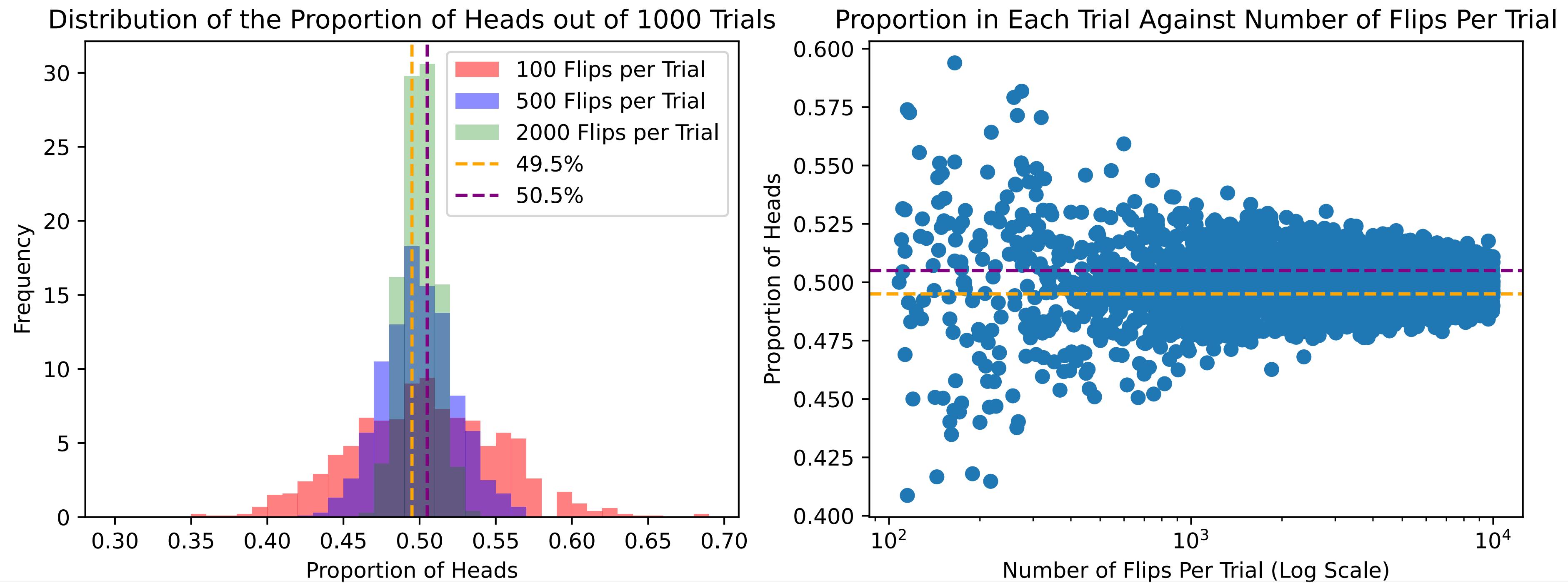
some of your work from HW1



this week these probably got 3/4 if you labeled them well.

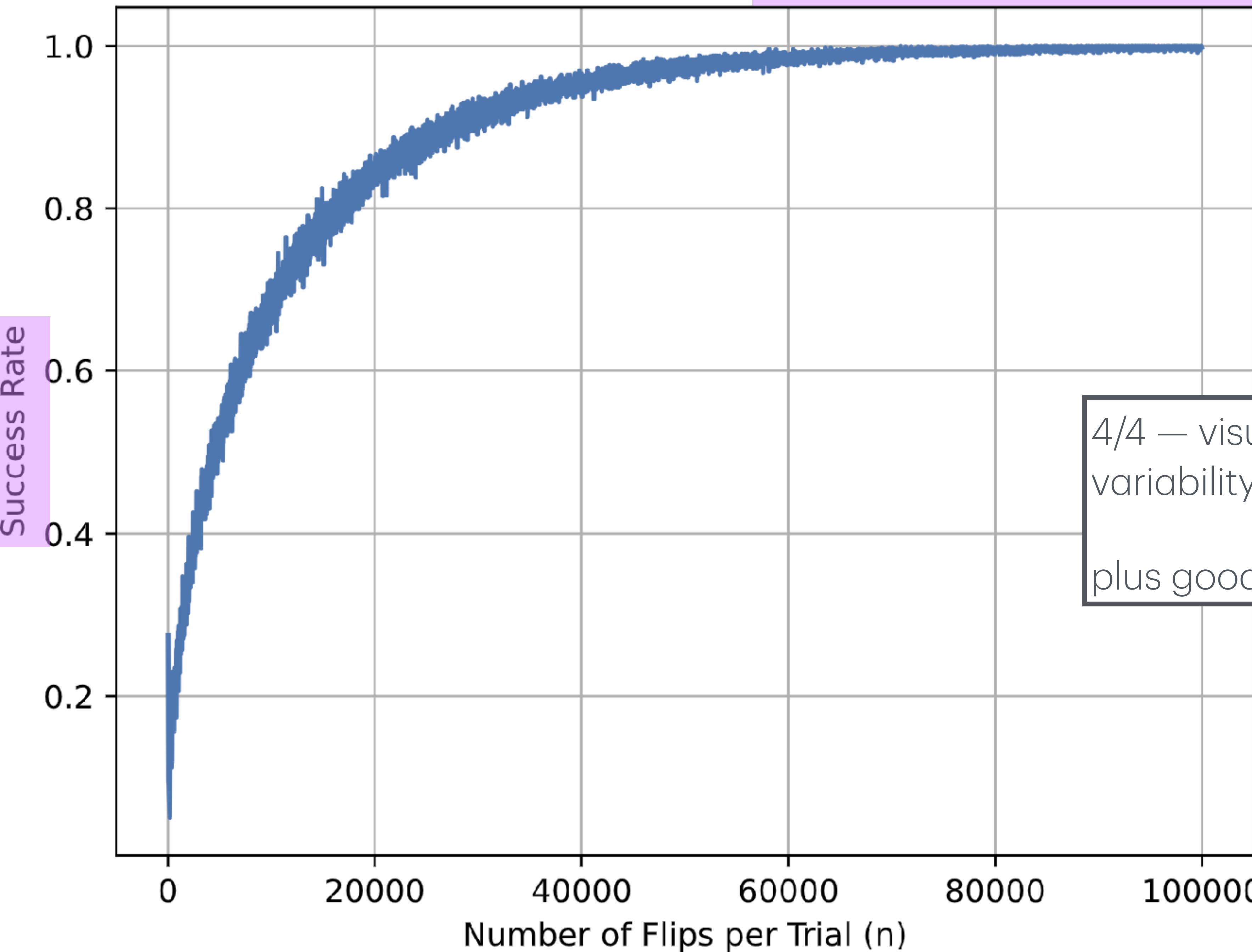
might be 2/4 in the future, because it doesn't go much beyond the code provided

Either of these would get 4/4



Success Rate vs. Number of Flips ($p=0.5$, num_trials=1000)

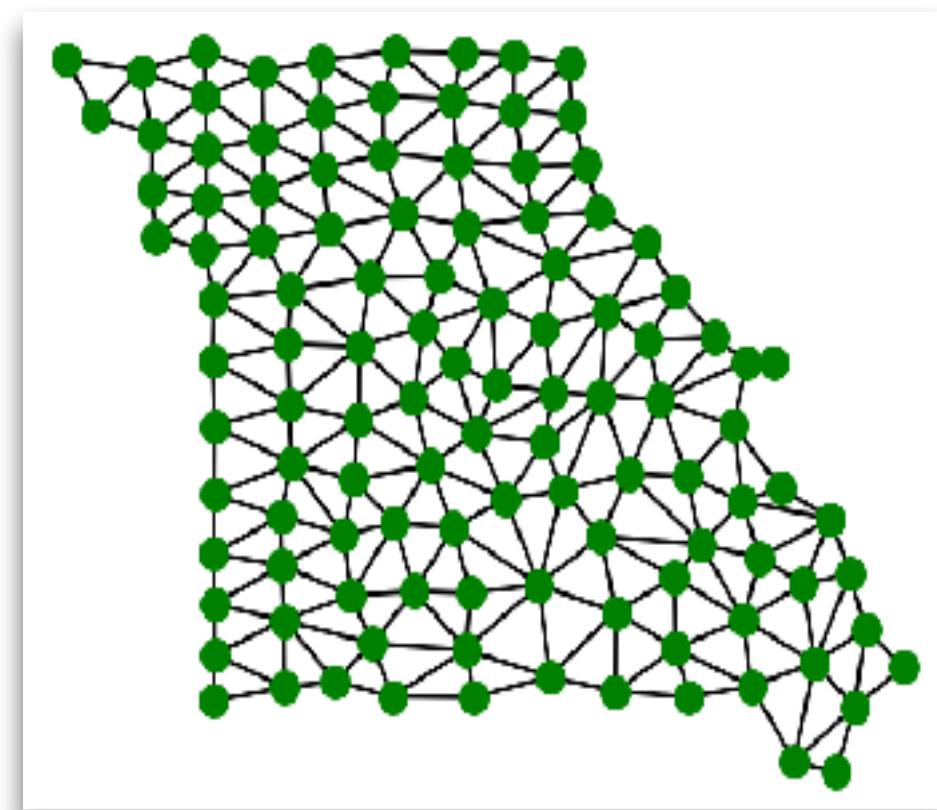
Prob
.495≤H≤.505
might be more informative



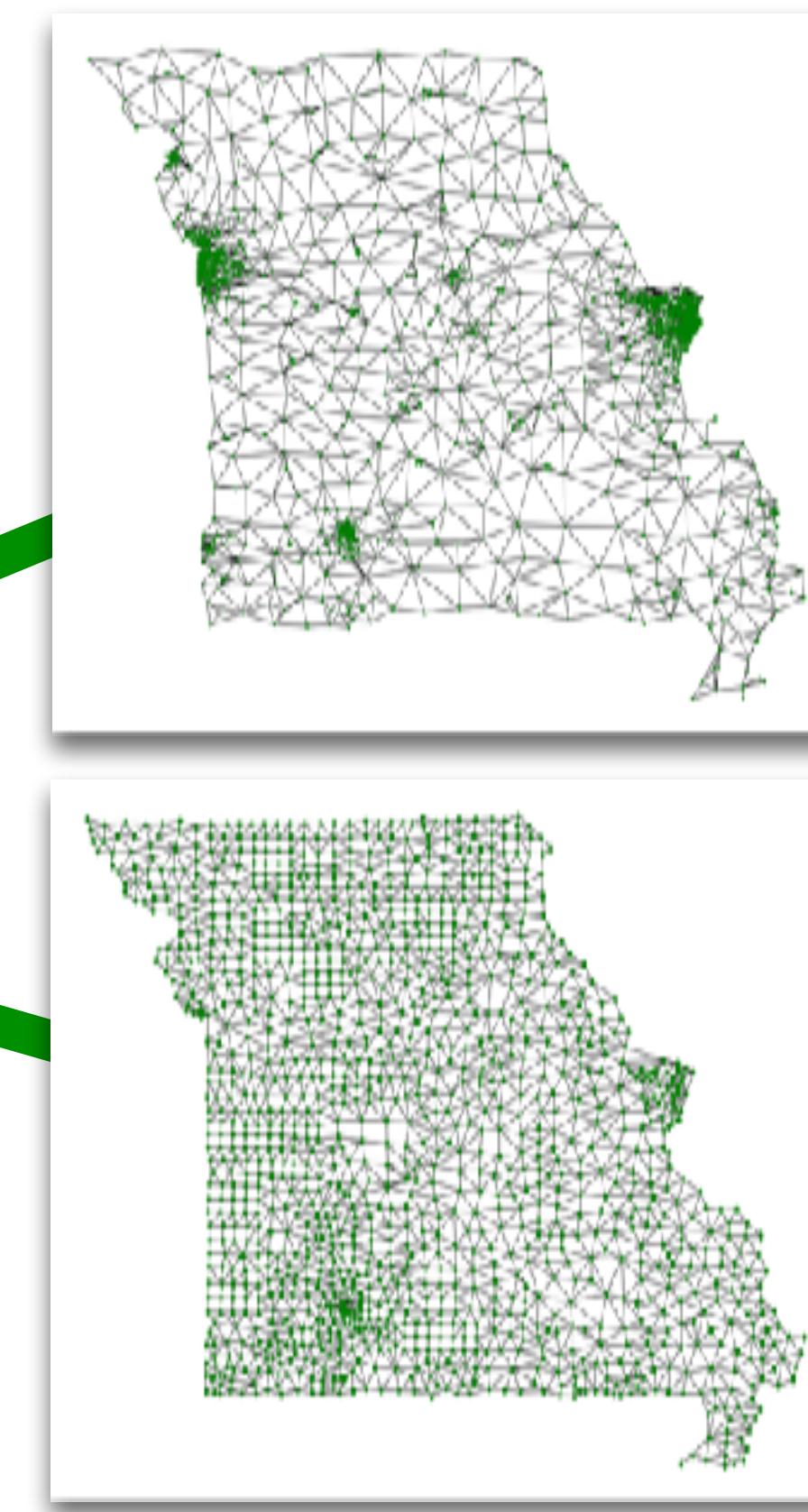
Census geography

top

down

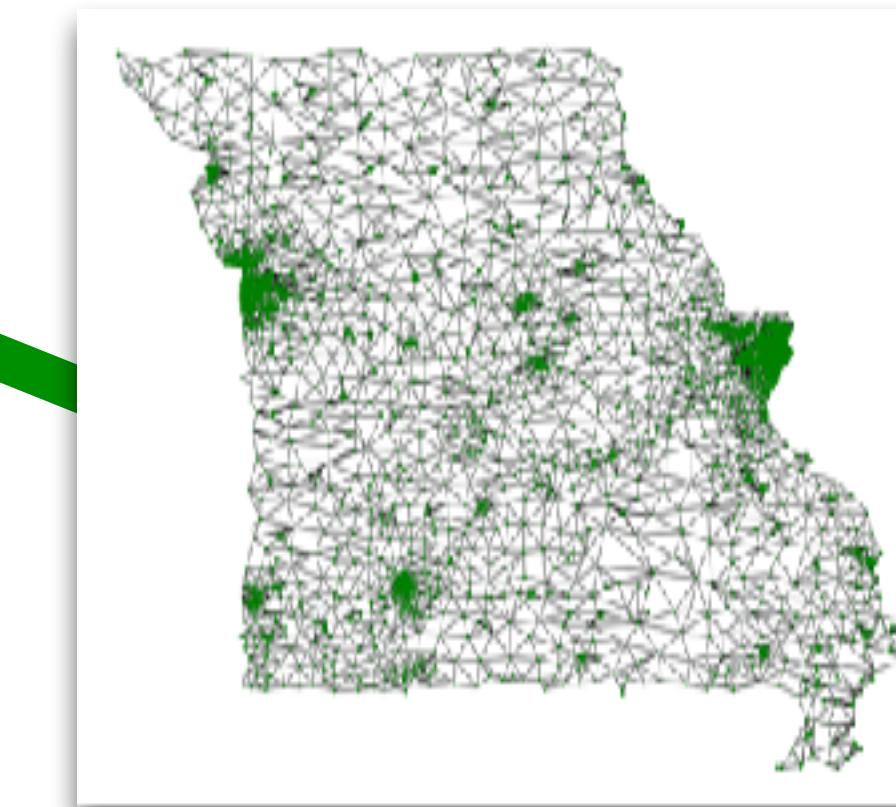


counties

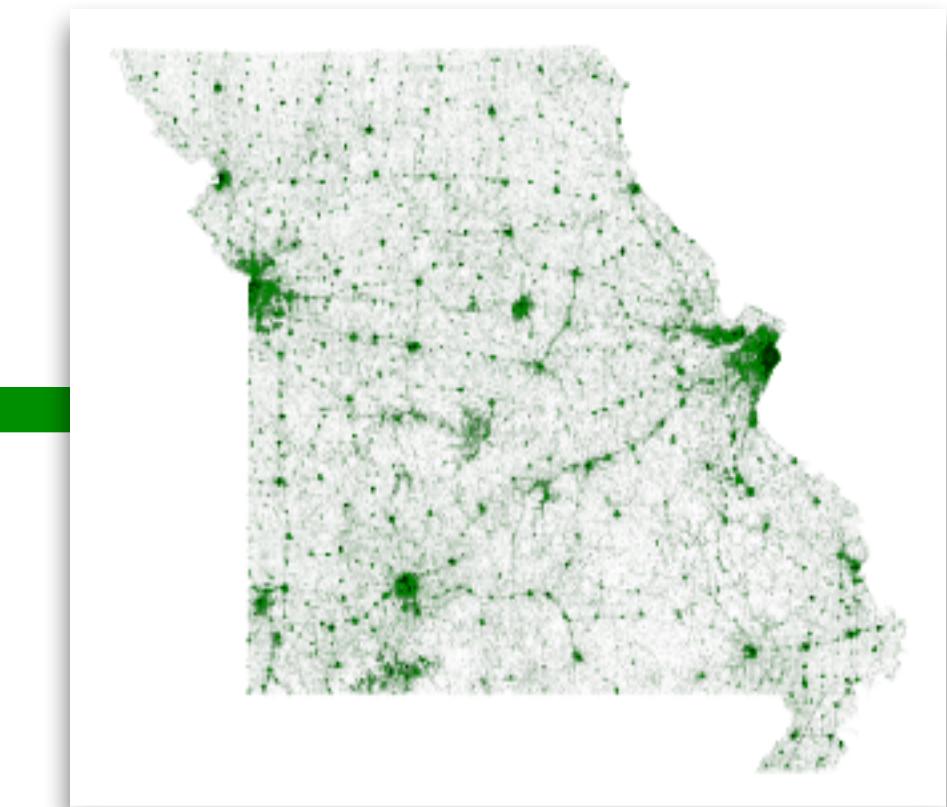


county subunits

tracts



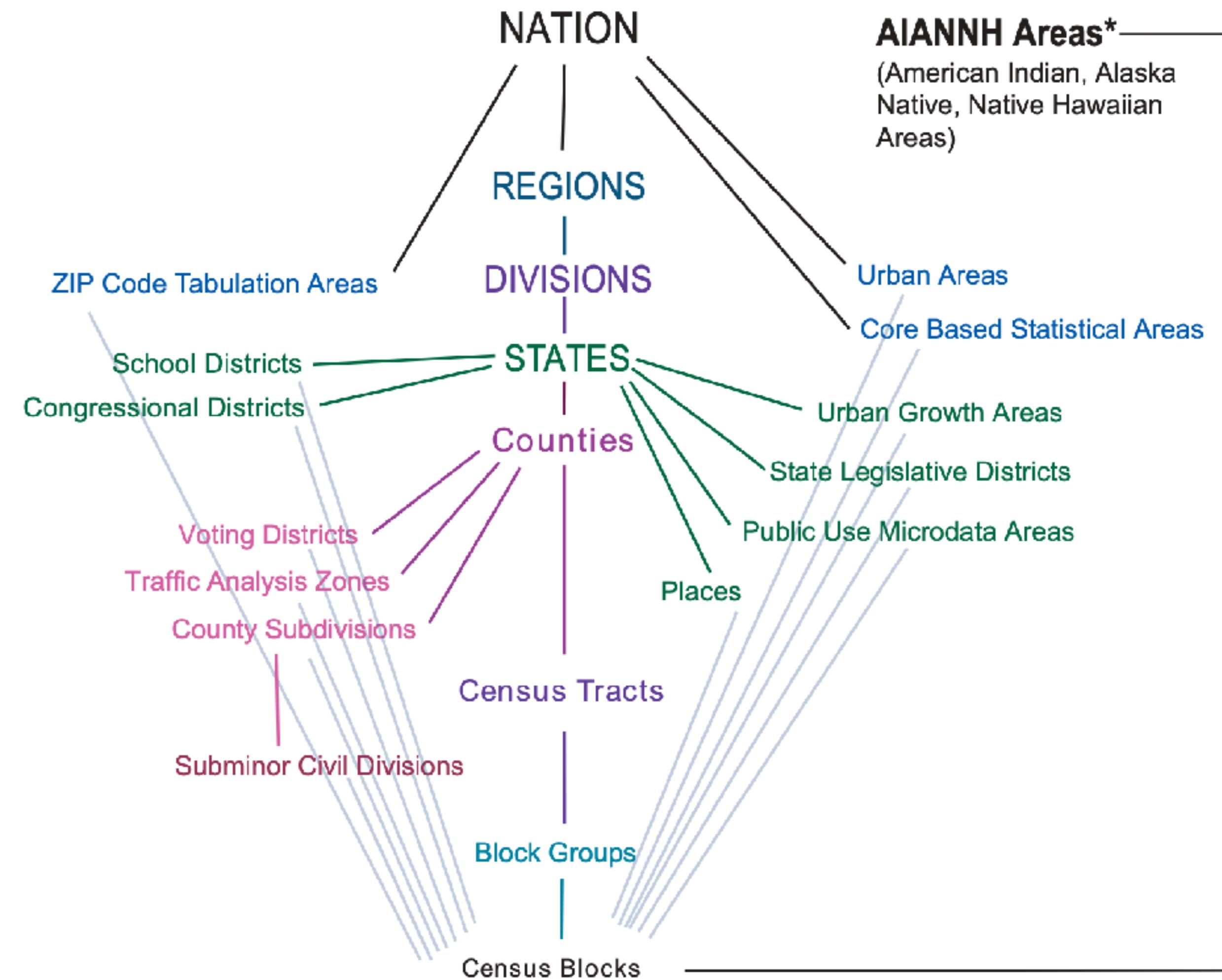
block groups



blocks



Mike Ratcliffe,
"Concept Engineer"



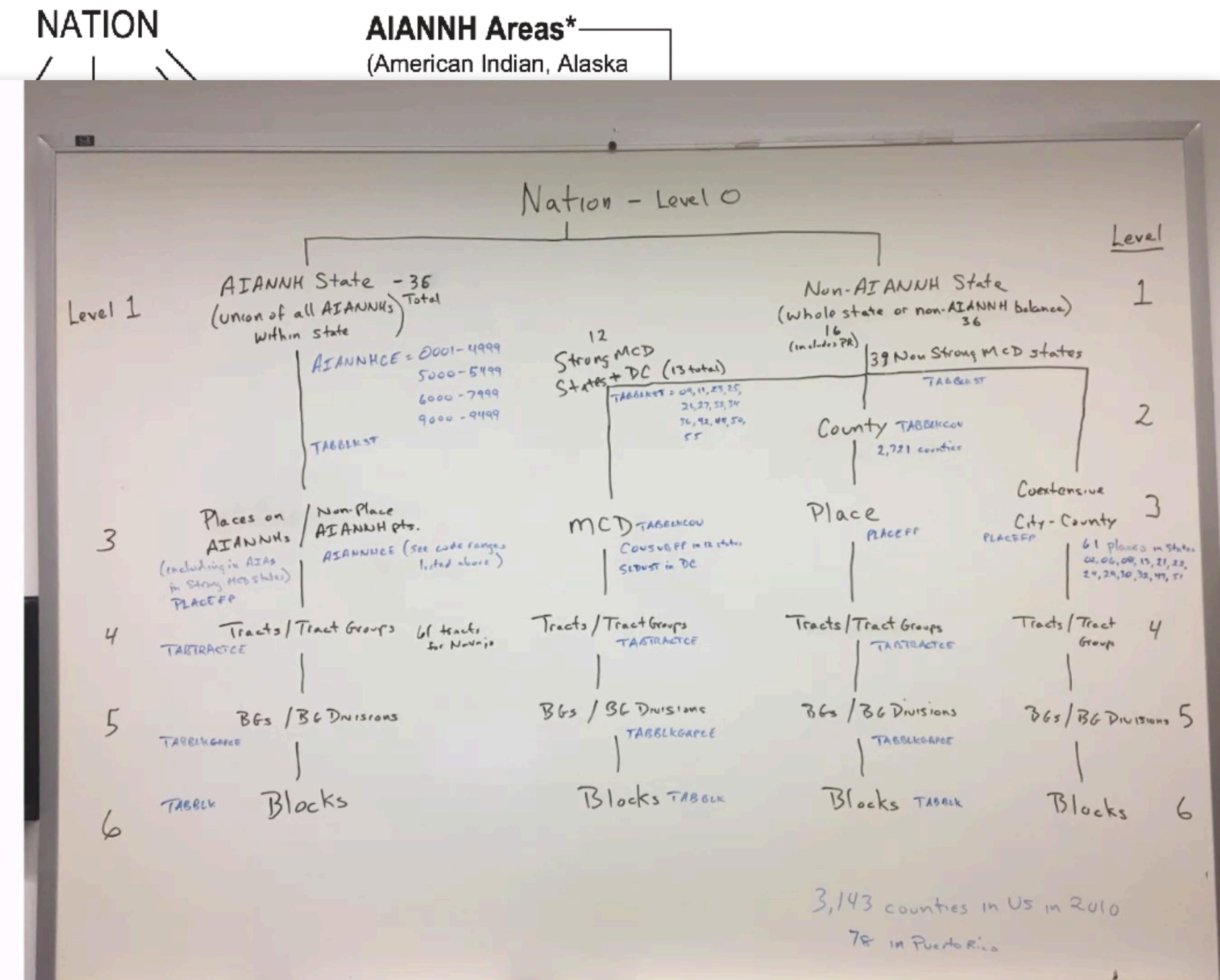


Mike Ratcliffe, “Concept Engineer”

Rethinking the geographic hierarchy:

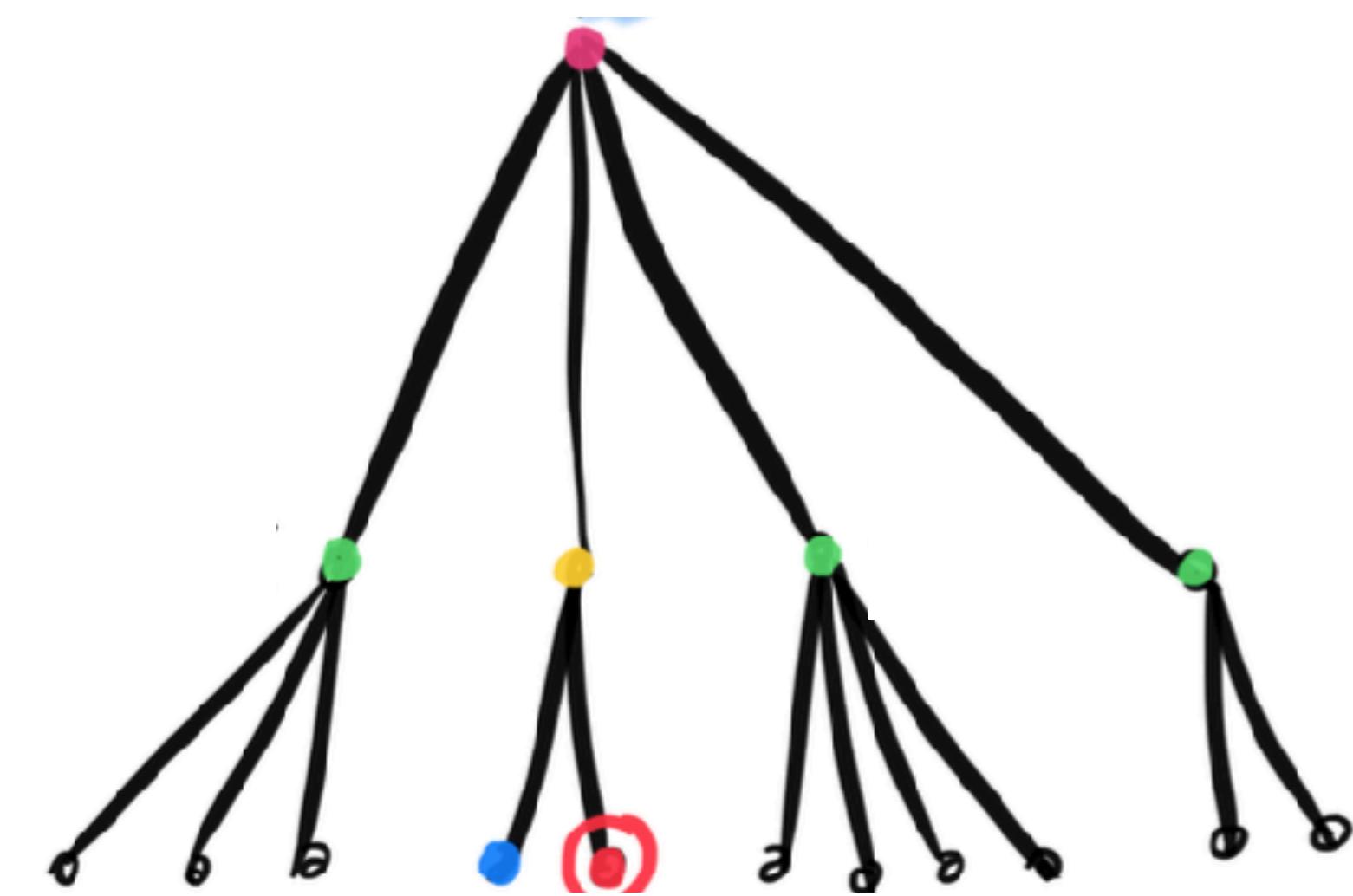
Focus on the more important sub-state geographic entities and recognizing regional variation.

Might need
different “spines”
in different parts
of the country—
it’s complicated!



The spine, and off-spine

- 1940 spine: Nation – state – county – enumdist
- 2010 spine: Nation – state – county – tract – block group – block
 - 3007 counties, 73,057 tracts, 217,740 block groups, 11,078,297 blocks
 - so branching roughly 1–50–60–24–3–51, with tons of heterogeneity
- 2020 spine: Patchwork around the country!
- Many important things are off-spine: cities, electoral districts



NOBODY LIVES HERE

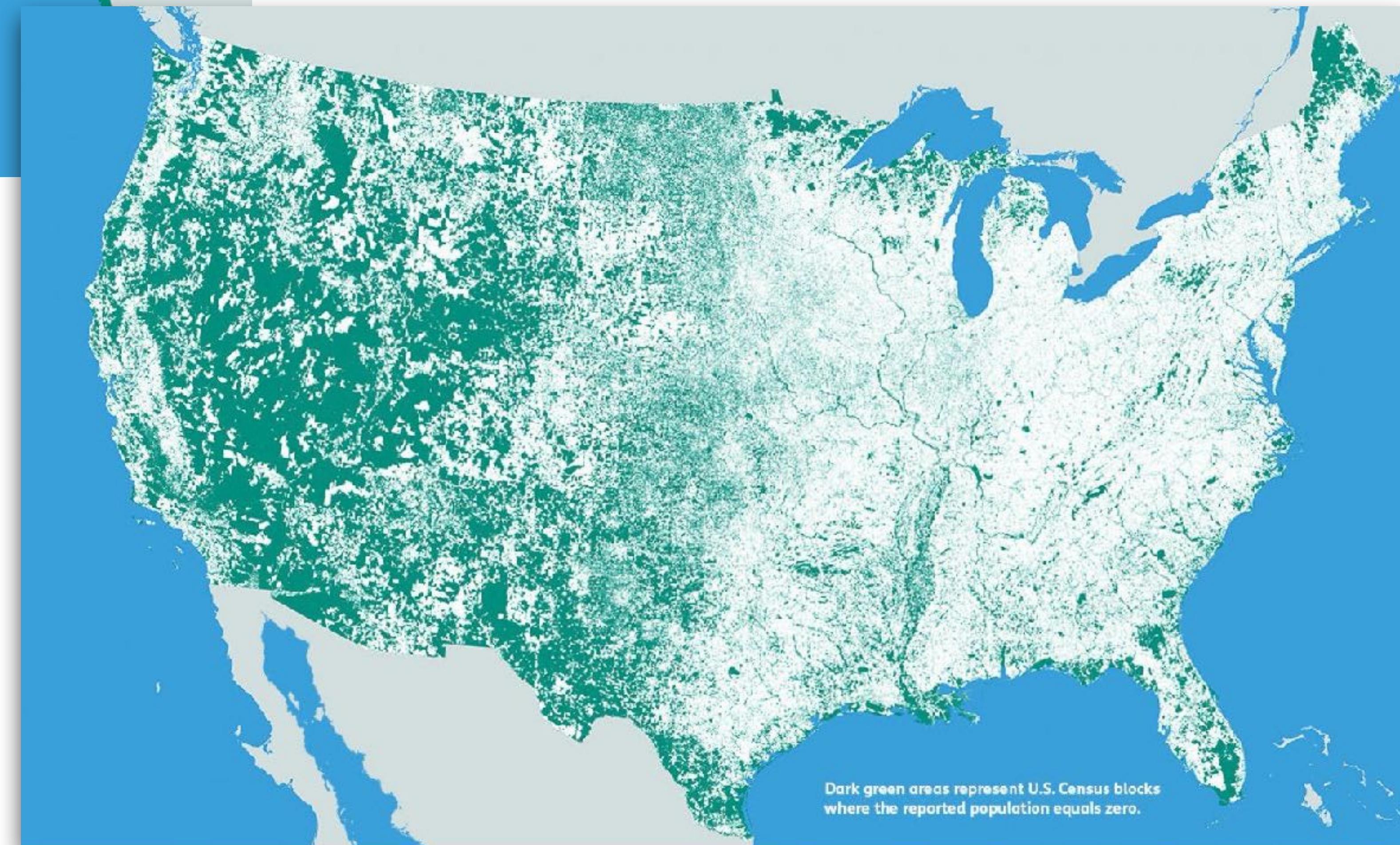
The 4,871,270 U.S. Census Blocks with zero population
(2010)



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Block geography and population data from U.S. Census Bureau
Water body geography from National Hydrology Dataset and Natural Earth
Made with Tilemill
USGS National Atlas Equal Area Projection

What's in a census block?

Often, no people!

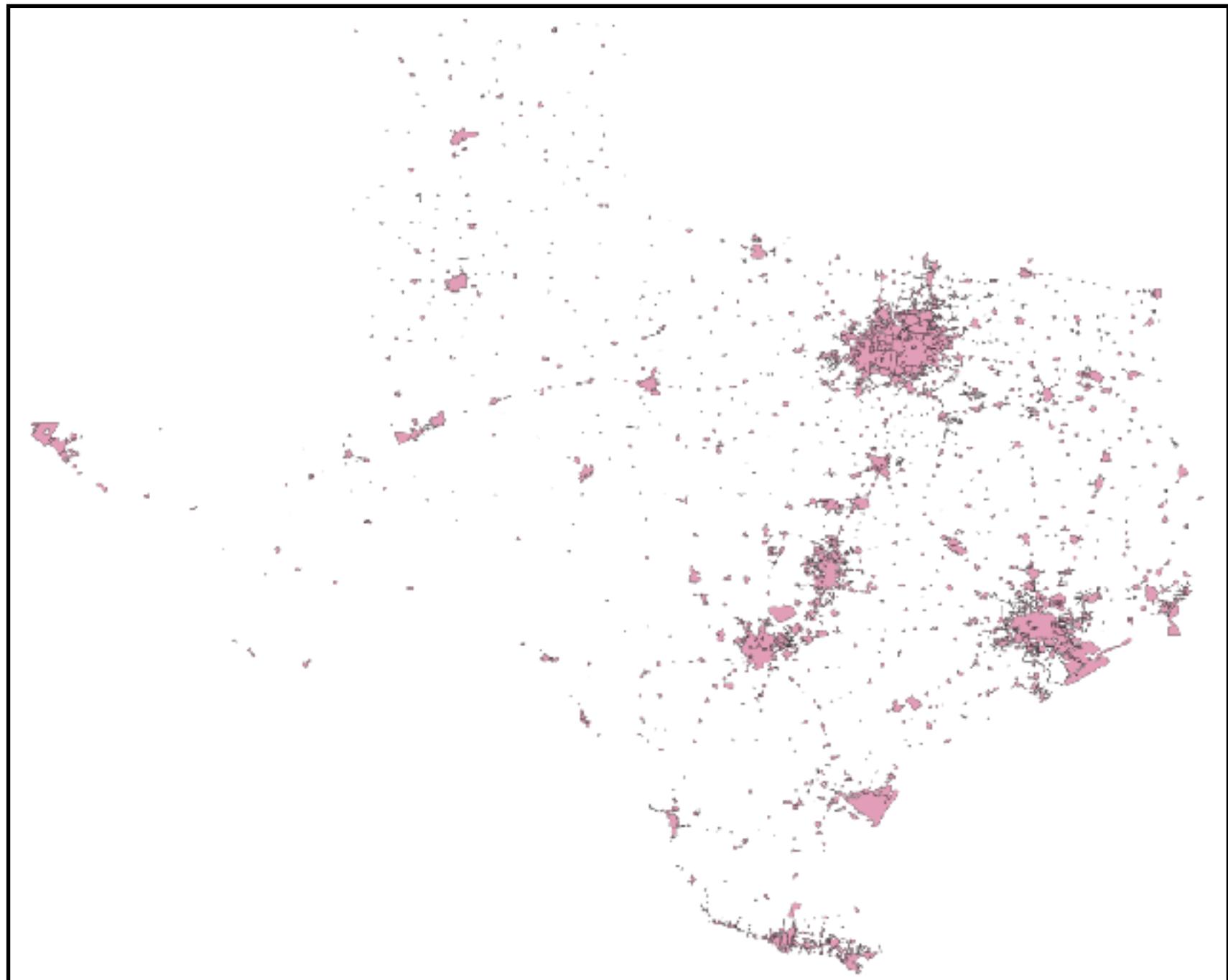


Census place-making

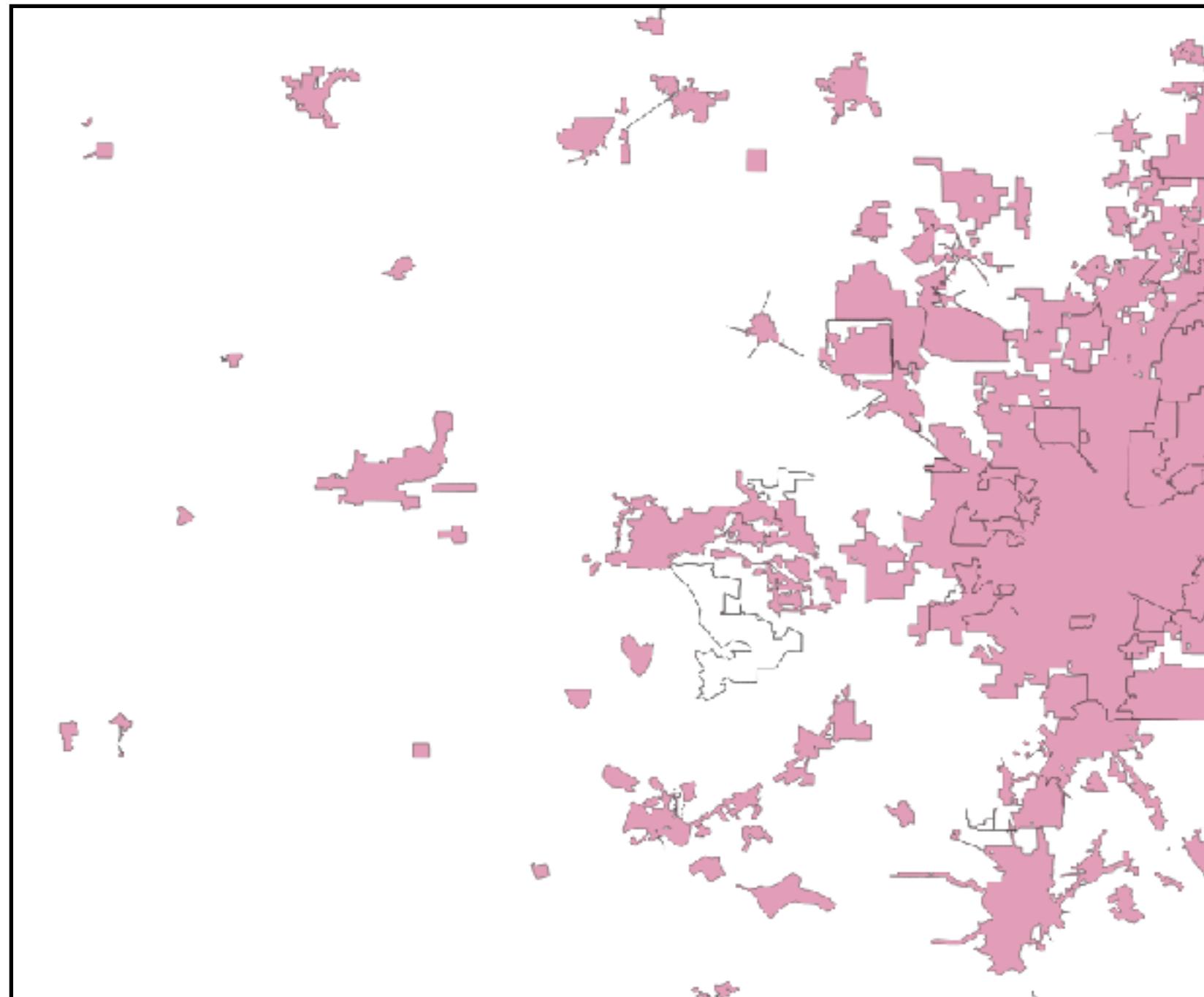
- “Census places” are geo-units that include cities, towns, villages, and CDPs (Census-designated places)
- They can be important neighborhoods, or unincorporated places for which people might want statistics
- Examples:
 - East L.A.
 - The Villages, FL
 - “colonias” in TX



TX places



Ft Worth close-up

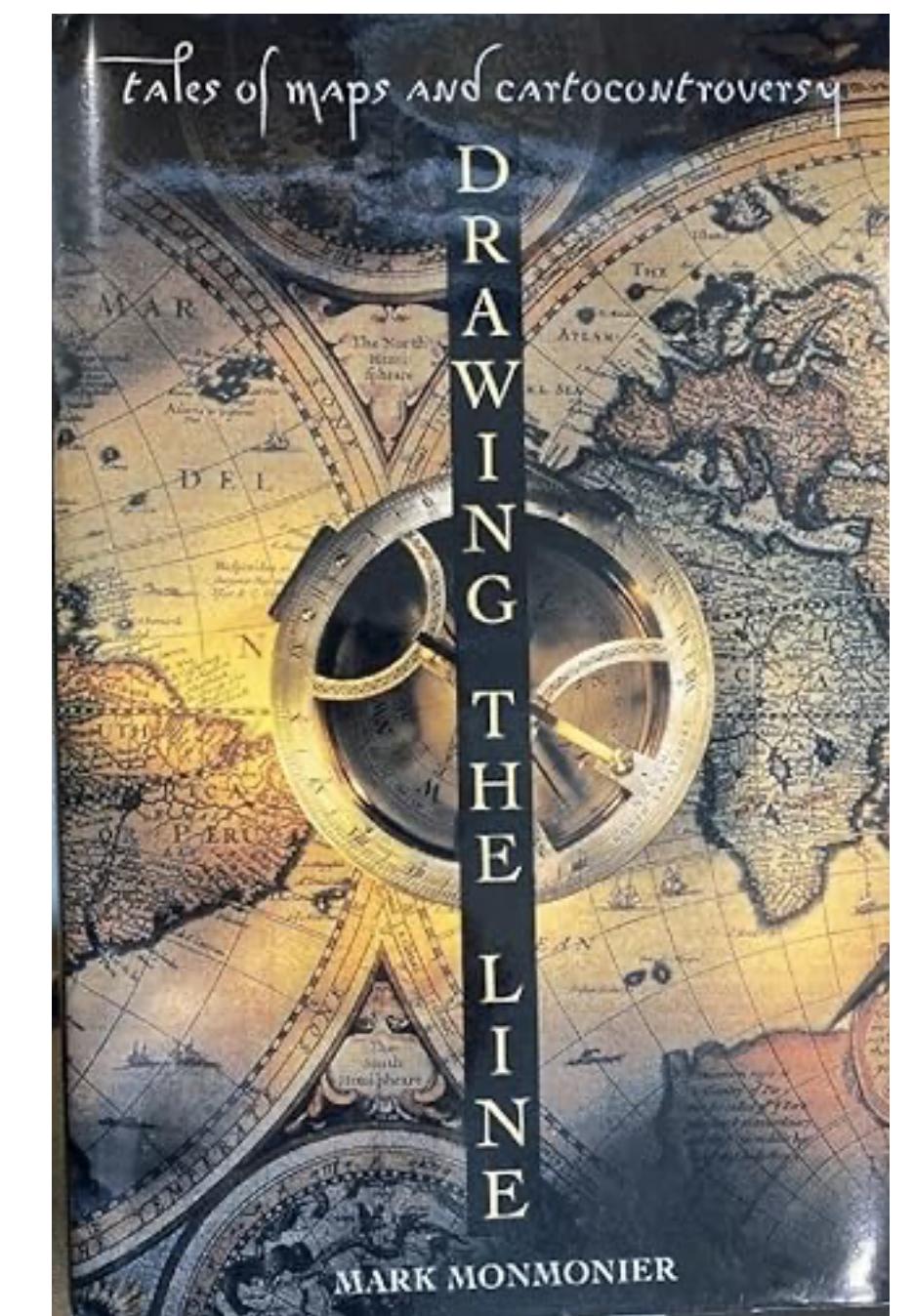
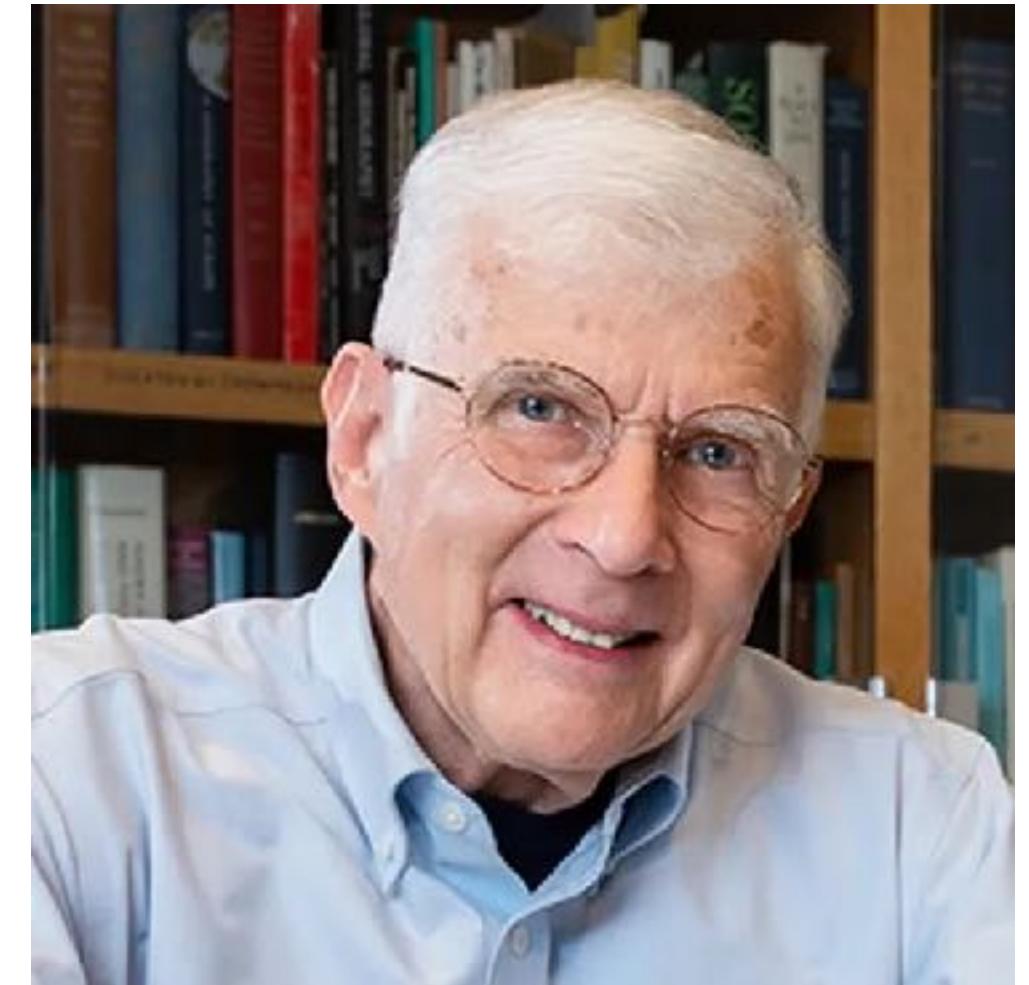


TX counties:

complete coverage,
often square

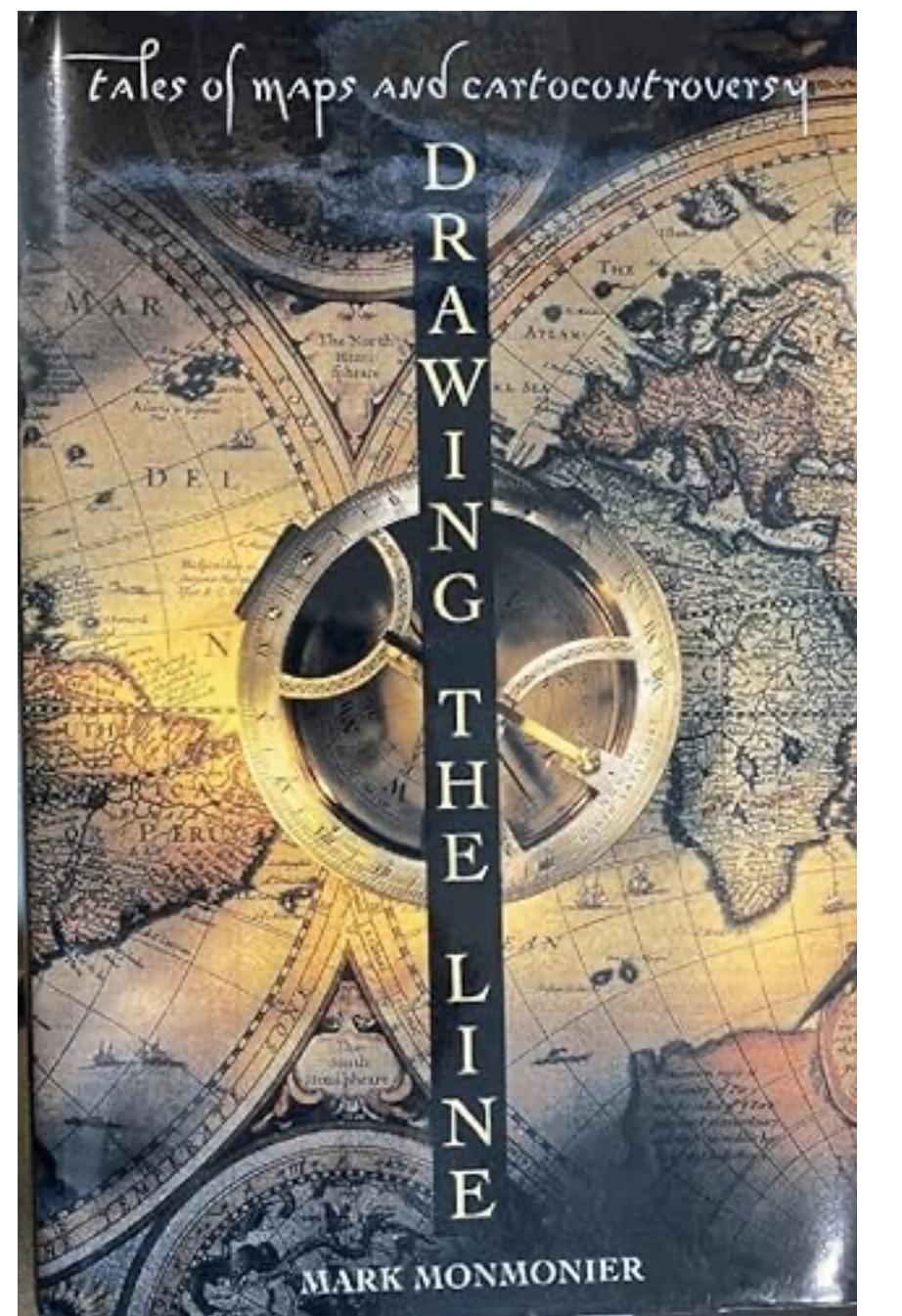
Monmonier

- Mark Monmonier, a geography professor at Syracuse University, writes semi-popular books about mapping
- Maps as images and maps as data are created in layers:
 - **Physical apparatus** of measurement
 - **Professional practices** of land surveying
 - **Notations and conventions** of place description
 - **Technological formats** of information storage
- Example: notorious “Mason-Dixon line” separating PA, DE to the North and WV, MD to the South. Originally just two guys trying to resolve MD/PA boundary dispute — later treated as official line between slave states and free.
- And all boundary disputes must ultimately be adjudicated: if negotiation fails, “leave the issue unresolved, go to war, or go to court.”



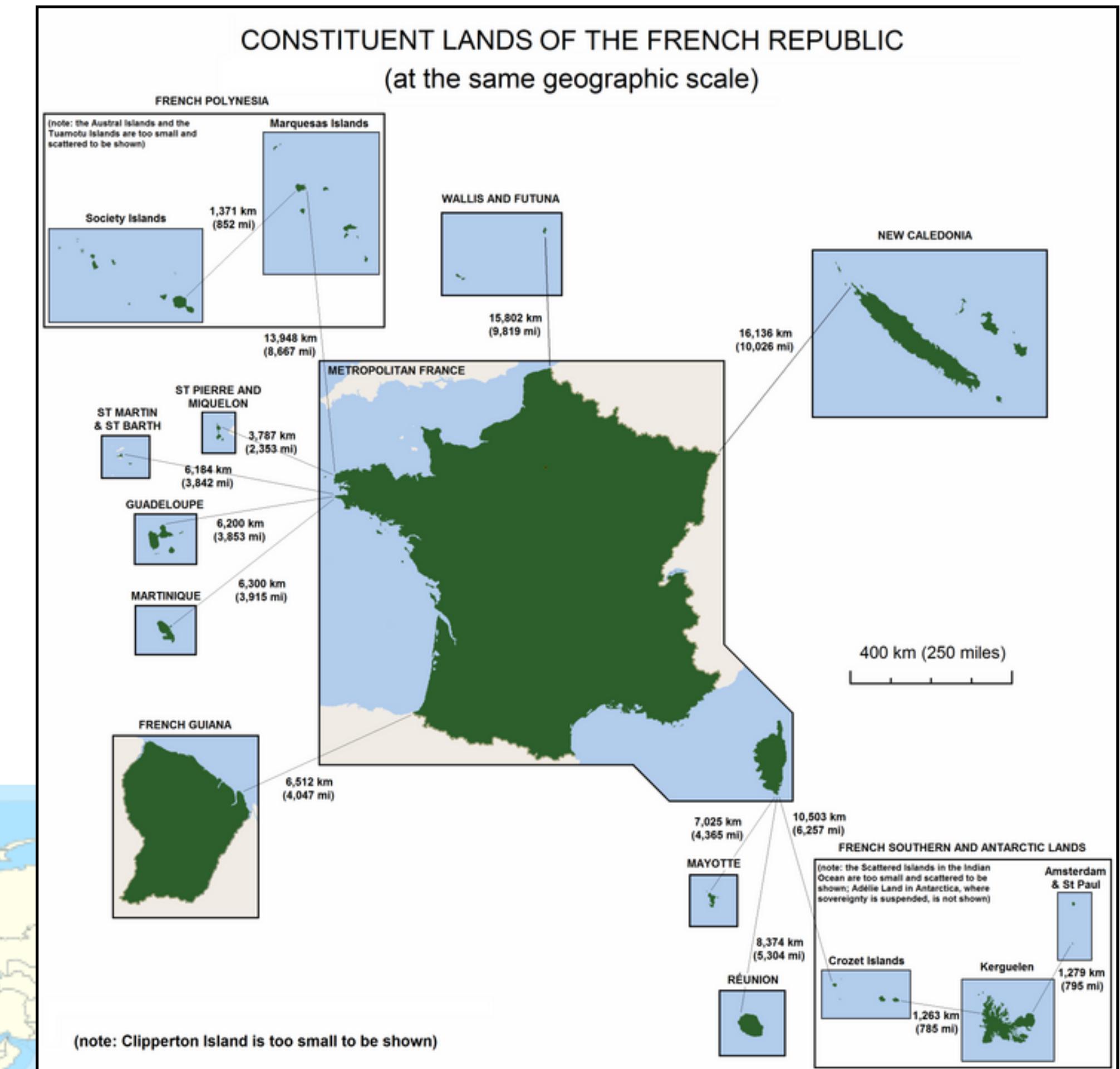
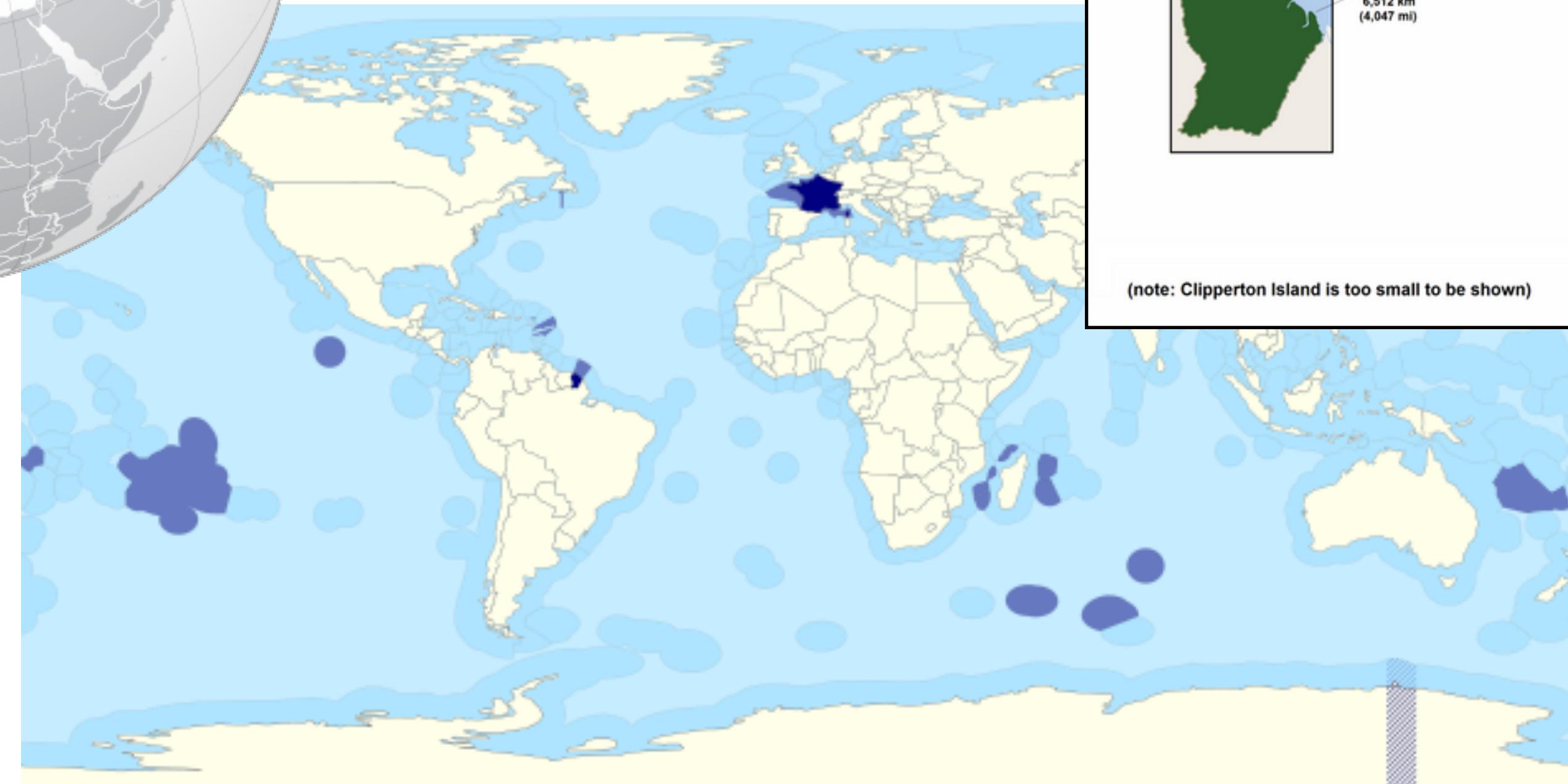
Politics of/and maps

- Maps confer rights and responsibilities
- Notation/description: informal/landmark-based vs. metes and bounds vs. coordinate-based
- External/international border disputes – colony and empire, war boundaries, country-making
- Internal land use regulation and **zoning** has major practical impact
- Courts often use mapping experts, “special masters”
 - redistricting, busing, borders



What is France?

its “exclusive economic zones” cover 7% of Earth



Zoning

PUBPOL 2130 / INFO 3130

February 4th, 2025

Jennah Gosciak

*Credit to John Mangin for land use law background and context!

Why do cities have the right to regulate private property?

A STANDARD STATE ZONING ENABLING ACT (1924)

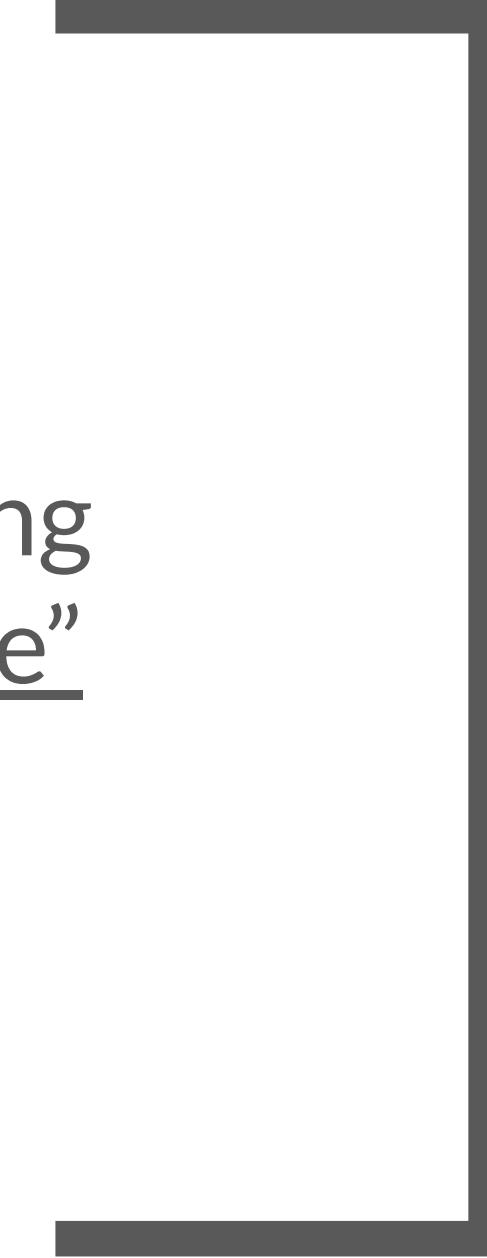
SECTION 1. GRANT OF POWER.—For the purpose of promoting health,¹ safety, morals, or² the general welfare³ of the community, the legislative body⁴ of cities and incorporated villages⁵ is hereby empowered to regulate and restrict⁶ the height, number of stories,⁷

and size of buildings⁸ and other structures,⁹ the percentage of lot¹⁰ that may be occupied, the size of yards, courts, and other open spaces,¹¹ the density of population,¹² and the location and use¹³ of buildings, structures, and land for trade, industry, residence, or other purposes.^{14, 15, 15a}

Police power

Police Power

- Power granted to the states (→ cities)
- Can pass and enforce laws for the public well-being
 - “Health, safety, morals, or the general welfare”
- Cannot be arbitrary

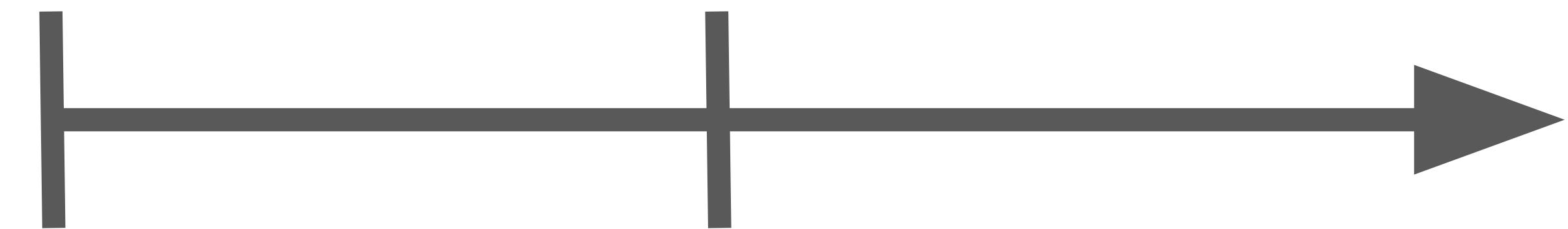


Two
views of
land use

vs. Eminent Domain

- Requires just compensation

Zoning is relatively new
Standard State Zoning Enabling Act (1922)



Euclid vs. Ambler (1924)

Euclid vs. Ambler (1924): The Facts

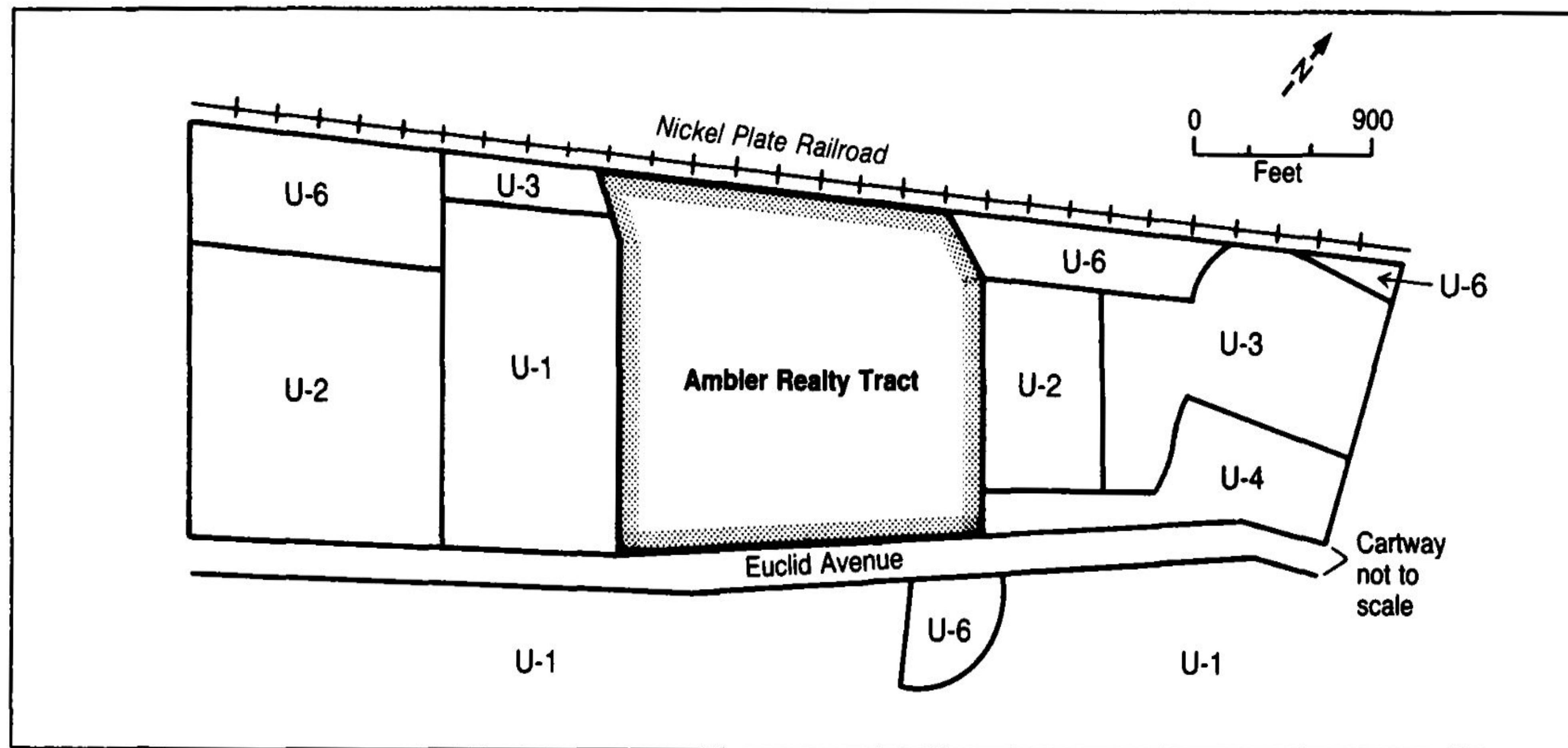
- Euclid, Ohio – a suburb of Cleveland
- In 1922, develop a *comprehensive zoning ordinance*
- Ambler's property is zoned to U-2 (Two-Family House), U-3 (Apartment), and U-6 (Industrial)
- Lawsuit: zoning ordinance reduces the value of the land
 - “Depress[es] its present market value to the extent of several hundred thousand dollars”
- Lawsuit is meant to test the constitutionality of zoning
 - “This case is obviously destined to go higher”

Ambler Realty Co. v. Village of Euclid, Ohio, 297 F. 307 (1924)

Euclidean Zoning

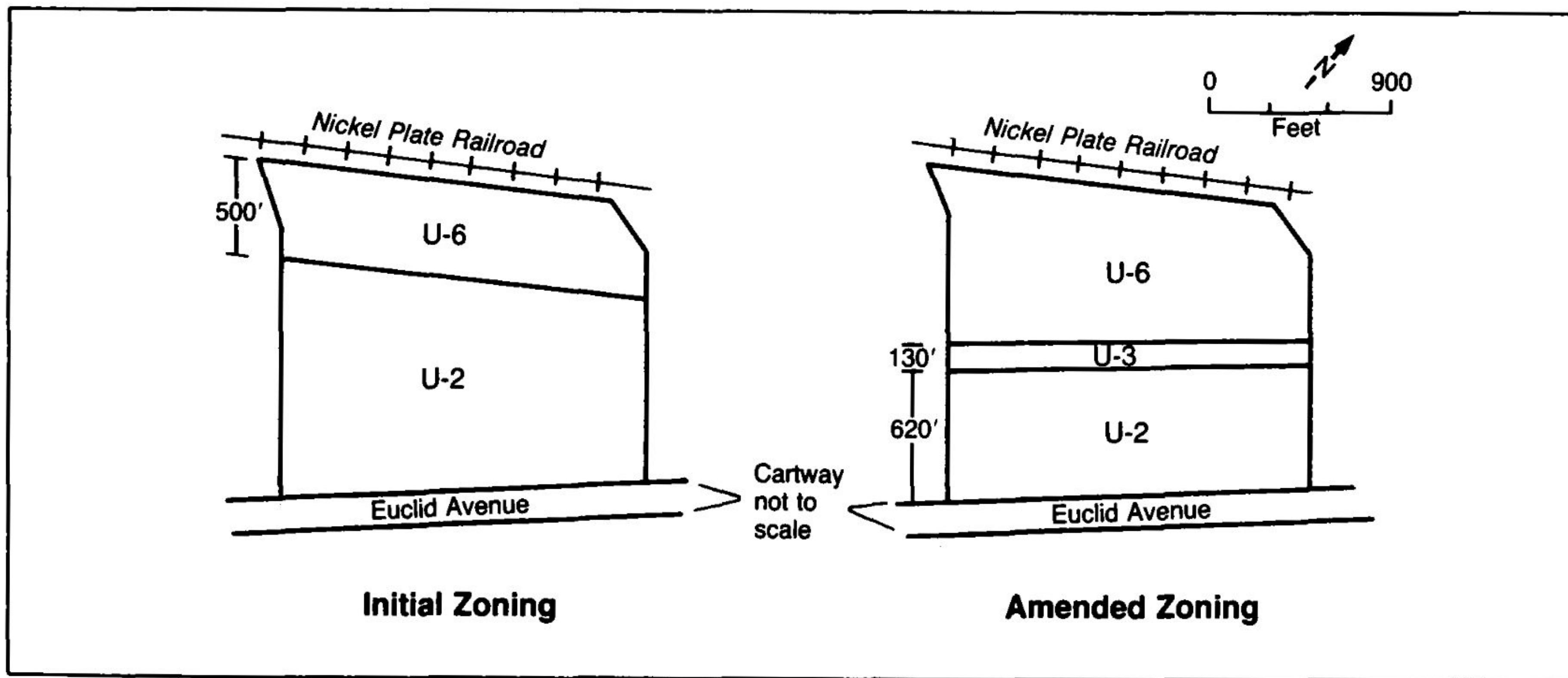
- U-1: Single-family residential
- U-2: Two-family residential
- U-3: Apartments, hotels, hospitals, etc.
- U-4: Offices, retail, restaurants, theaters, garages
- U-5: Billboards, warehouses, light industrial
- U-6: Heavy industrial, public utilities, jails, prisons, and “institutions for the feeble-minded”

Cumulative categories



Map 2. Zoning of properties near the Ambler Realty tract

Fluck, T. A. (1986). Euclid v. Ambler: A retrospective. *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 52(3), 326-337.



Map 3. Zoning of the Ambler Realty tract

Fluck, T. A. (1986). Euclid v. Ambler: A retrospective. *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 52(3), 326-337.

(1) District Court

“ In the light of these several decisions, I am of opinion that the ordinance under consideration is, and the Supreme Court would so hold, a taking of plaintiffs property without due process of law, and that, as applied to property situated as is plaintiffs, it can be sustained, if at all, only as an exercise of the power of eminent domain and on the condition of making just compensation. ”

Ambler Realty Co. v. Village of Euclid, Ohio, 297 F. 307 (1924)

(1) District Court

- Violation of due process clause of the 14th Amendment
- Generally, court cannot interfere with private property rights
- Police power has only narrow purpose: health and safety, prevent nuisances, deal with emergencies

Ambler Realty Co. v. Village of Euclid, Ohio, 297 F. 307 (1924)

(2) Supreme Court

“ If these reasons, thus summarized, do not demonstrate the wisdom or sound policy in all respects of those restrictions which we have indicated as pertinent to the inquiry, at least, the reasons are sufficiently cogent to preclude us from saying, as it must be said before the ordinance can be declared unconstitutional, that such provisions are clearly arbitrary and unreasonable, having no substantial relation to the public health, safety, morals, or general welfare. ”

Village of Euclid, Ohio v. Ambler Realty Co., 272 U.S. 365 (1926)

(2) Supreme Court

- Have to consider nuisances in context: “A nuisance may be merely a right thing in the wrong place, like a pig in the parlor instead of the barnyard.”
- Deference to legislature
- The separation of uses may be important: prevents congestion and disorder, easier for fire protection and sanitation

Village of Euclid, Ohio v. Ambler Realty Co., 272 U.S. 365 (1926)

Upholding the constitutionality of zoning in a small municipality like Euclid:

- Paves the way for ongoing regional and local planning efforts
- Legitimizes planning as a discipline in terms of regulating land use
- Zoning ordinances are not immutable; land use remains contentious

Present Day Zoning

NYC PLANNING **ZoLa** New York City's Zoning & Land Use Map

About Features New! Data Saved

Search...

▼ BBL Lookup

Toggle All Map Layers Off

Zoning and Land Use 3

- Tax Lots
- Show Land Use Colors
- Zoning Districts
 - Commercial Districts
 - Manufacturing Districts
 - Residence Districts
 - Parks
 - Battery Park City
- Commercial Overlays
 - C1-1 through C1-5
 - C2-1 through C2-5
- Zoning Map Amendments
- Pending Zoning Map Amendments
- Special Purpose Districts
- Special Purpose Subdistricts

Supporting Zoning Layers

- Mandatory Inclusionary Housing Areas
- Inclusionary Housing Designated

+ - ▲ ▾

Welcome to New York City's zoning & land use map.

ZoLa provides a simple way to research zoning regulations. Find the zoning for your property, discover new proposals for your neighborhood, and learn where City Planning initiatives are happening throughout the City.

Zoning Questions

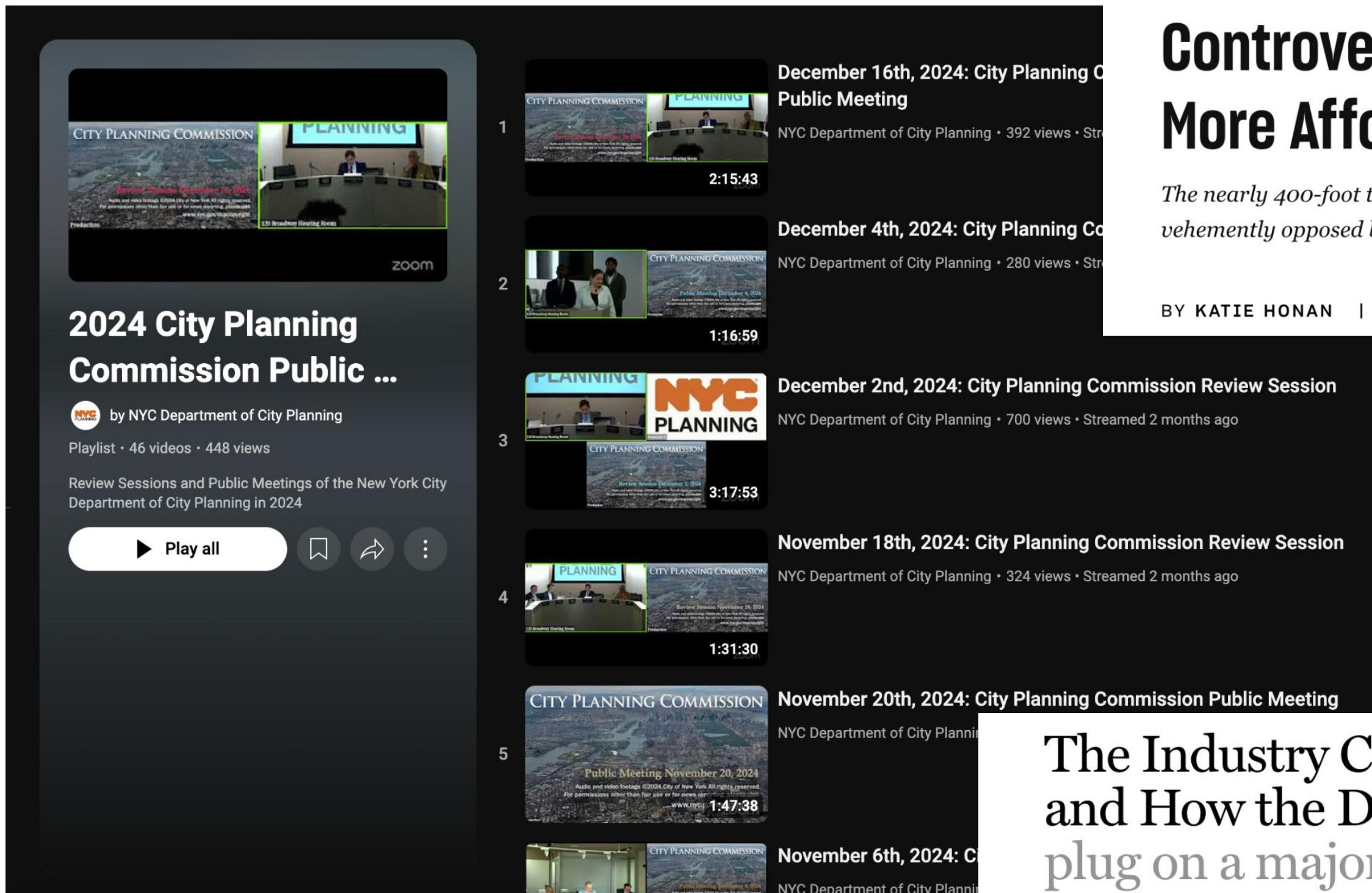
For general zoning questions, read the [Zoning Help Desk FAQ](#). If your question isn't answered there, call **212-720-3291** during business hours (8:30AM–5:30PM, Monday–Friday, closed on legal holidays). Leave a detailed message with your block and lot information, and a zoning specialist will get back to you within two business days. Or fill out the [Zoning Information Inquiry Form](#).

Application Feedback

To let [@NYCPlanningTech](#) know how this app could be better, add a [GitHub Issue](#) or send an email to tech@planning.nyc.gov

ZoLa was developed by the City of New York using NYC open data and other public data sources and is provided solely for informational purposes. The City

Land Use Challenges in New York City



2024 City Planning Commission Public ...
by NYC Department of City Planning
Playlist • 46 videos • 448 views
Review Sessions and Public Meetings of the New York City Department of City Planning in 2024

- 1 December 16th, 2024: City Planning Commission Public Meeting
- 2 December 4th, 2024: City Planning Commission Review Session
- 3 December 2nd, 2024: City Planning Commission Review Session
- 4 November 18th, 2024: City Planning Commission Review Session
- 5 November 20th, 2024: City Planning Commission Public Meeting
- 6 November 6th, 2024: City Planning Commission Review Session

SoHo/NoHo Neighborhood Plan



Controversial Harlem One45 Towers Plan to Add More Affordable Housing in Fight to Survive

The nearly 400-foot towers originally had the backing of Rev. Al Sharpton and the promise of a civil rights museum but was vehemently opposed by local elected officials worried about more gentrification in the area.

BY KATIE HONAN | MAY 4, 2022, 6:45 P.M.

'A Little More Housing' in Midtown South: City Kicks Off Rezoning to Create 10,000 New Homes

By Tatyana Turner. Published January 22, 2025

The goal is to bring more New Yorkers to one of the city's commercial hubs, Midtown South, by adding up to 9,700 homes, including 2,900 affordable units and close to 800 converted office spaces.

The Industry City Megadevelopment That Wasn't, and How the Deal Fell Apart Developers pulled the plug on a major rezoning.

By Caroline Spivack

Land Use Challenges in Ithaca

Ithaca Common Council Advances Rezoning Proposals for Collegetown, Southside; Discusses ADU Policy

Matt Dougherty Sep 11, 2024 Updated Sep 11, 2024 0 2 min to read

During his address at city hall, Cantelmo outlined plans to overhaul Ithaca's zoning ordinances using \$250,000 [in state grants](#). Cantelmo said the rewrite will open the door for more housing in the city.

"Modernizing our land-use policies is critical to increasing the housing supply, combating rising property taxes, and ensuring that all Ithacans can find affordable places to live," he said.

Town of Caroline debates zoning, questions future of the town

By [Prakriti Panwar](#), Assistant News Editor

April 12, 2023

