

The Social Roots of Political Behavior

Jack Reilly

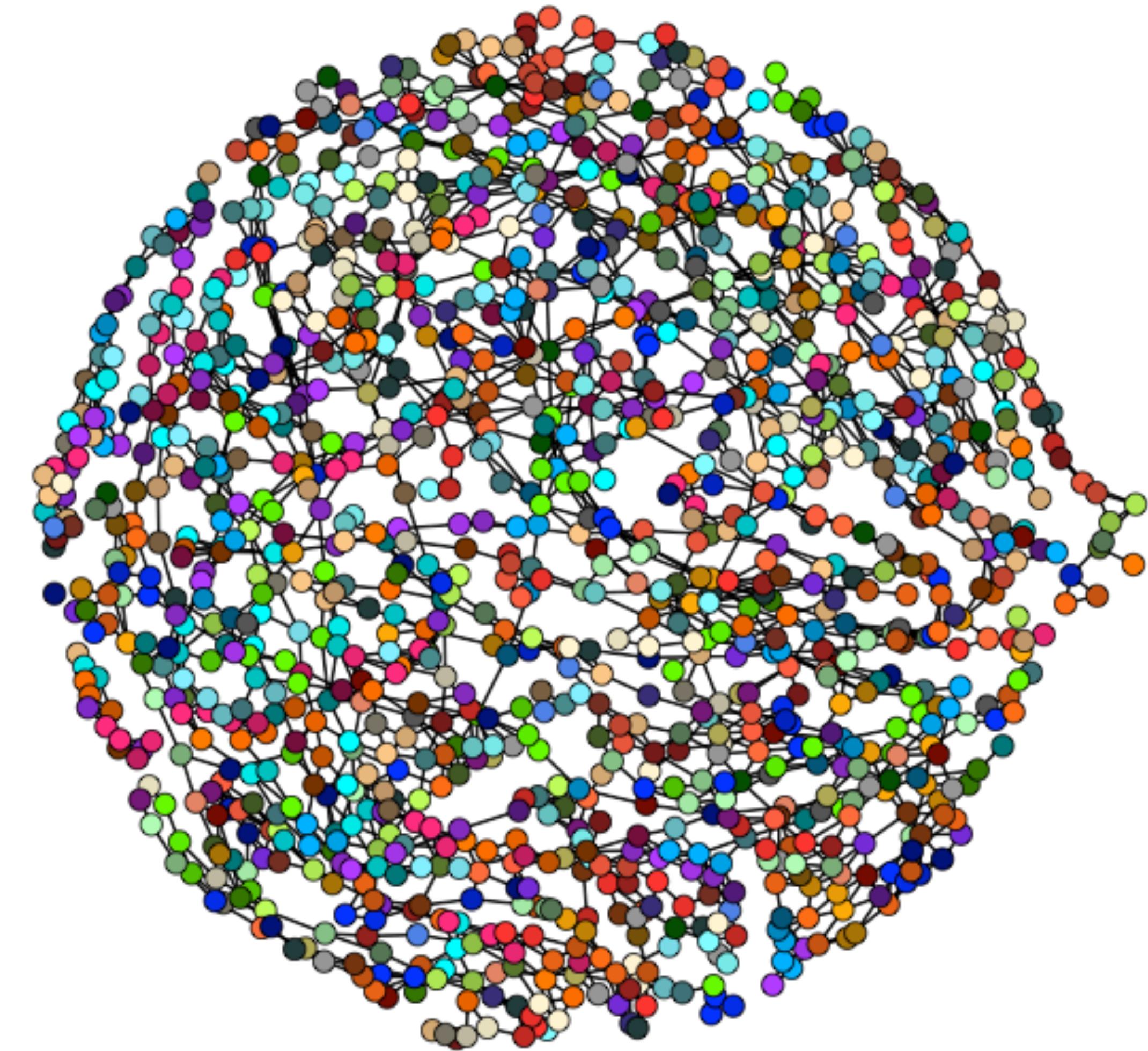
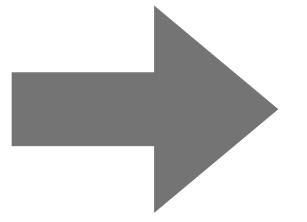
Who am I?

- My research is unified by an interest in how the geographic, social, racial, and political contexts in which citizens make political decisions influence their political opinions and behavior

Past Research

Larger & sparser networks slow down convergence in a well-known agent based model

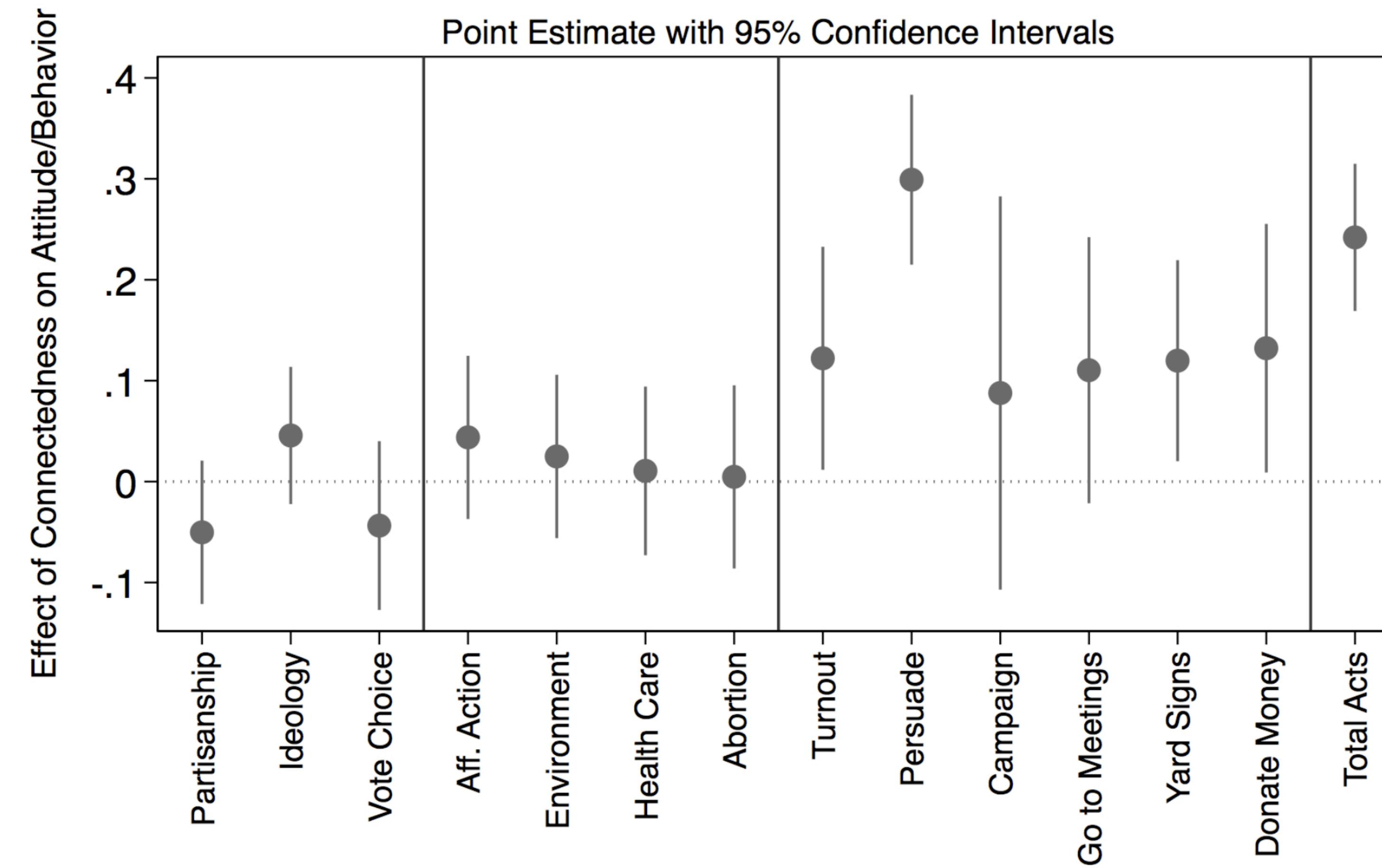
(Presented: Santa Fe Institute, 2012)



Socially connected citizens participate in politics more but are not predictably more liberal or conservative

(Published: Research & Politics, 2017)

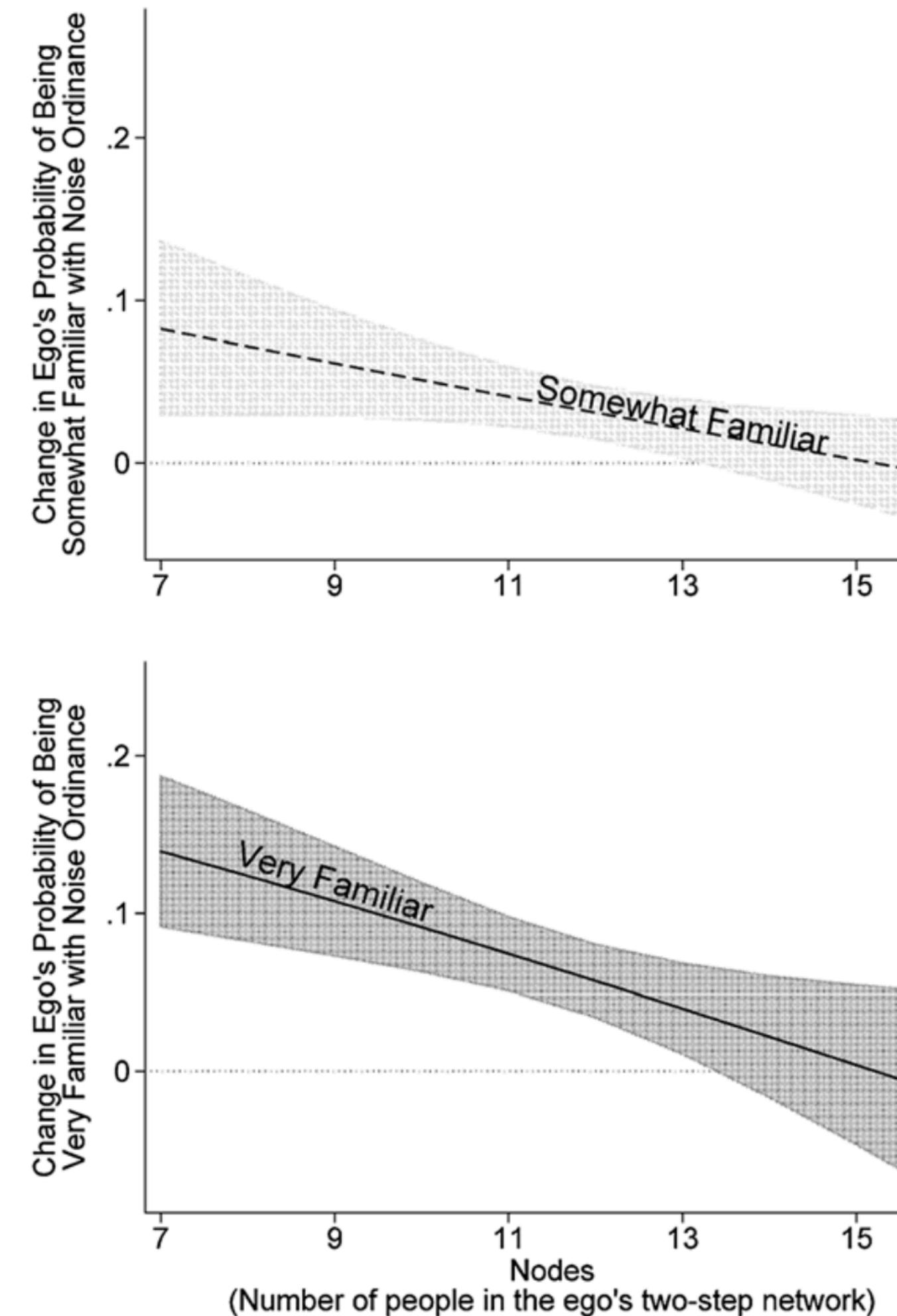
Figure 1. Social connectedness predicts political activity but not ideology and attitudes



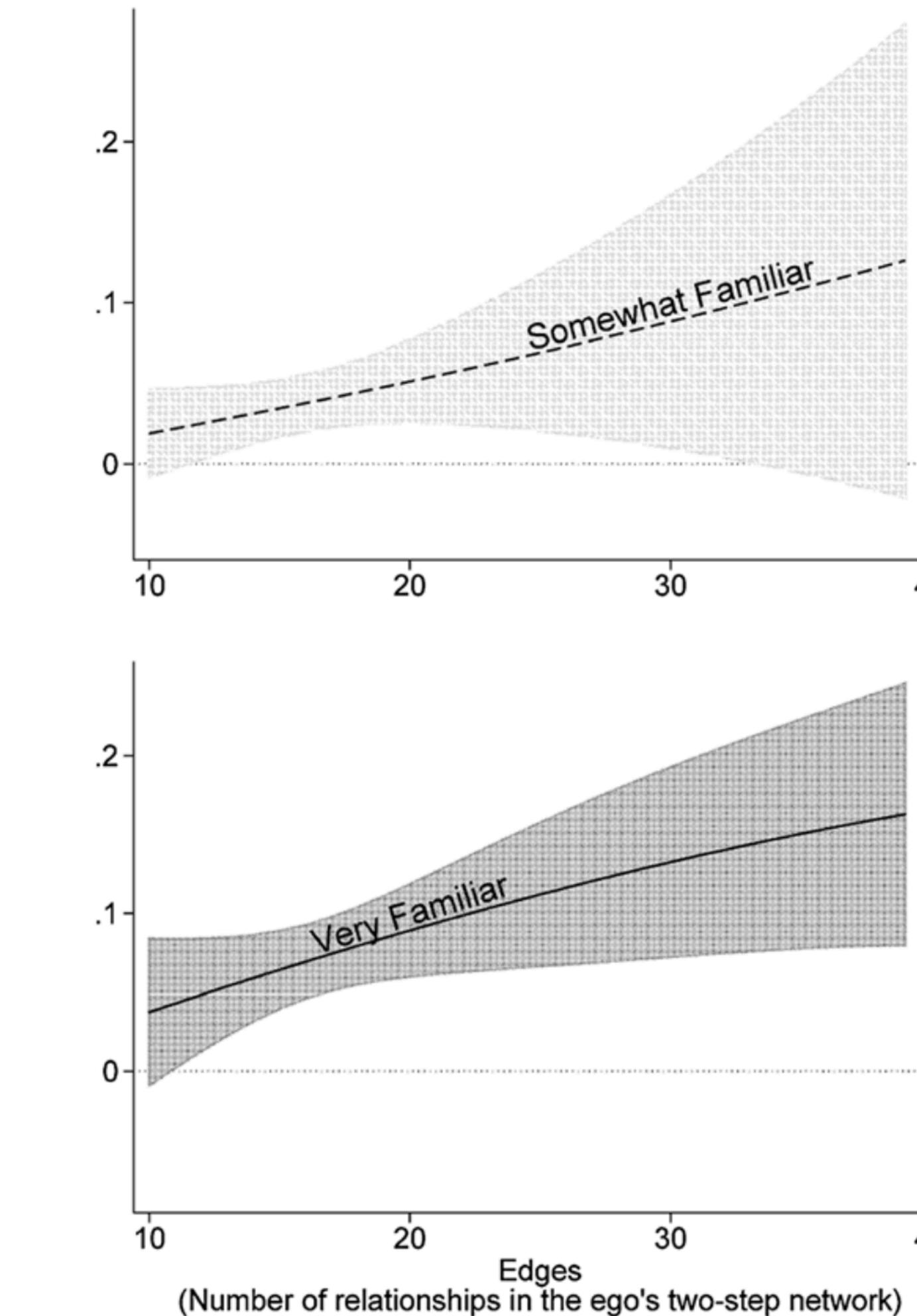
Common ego-centric network collection techniques risk missing important social influence factors

(Co-authored, published: Political Behavior, 2018)

A The Marginal effect of the alter's experience decreases with the number of **nodes** in the ego's two-step network.



B The Marginal effect of the alter's experience increases with the number of **edges** in the ego's two-step network.



In Canada, citizens in ideologically homogenous “echo chambers” of political discussion forecast elections less accurately than those in more heterogeneous networks

(Co-authored, published: Electoral Studies, 2020)

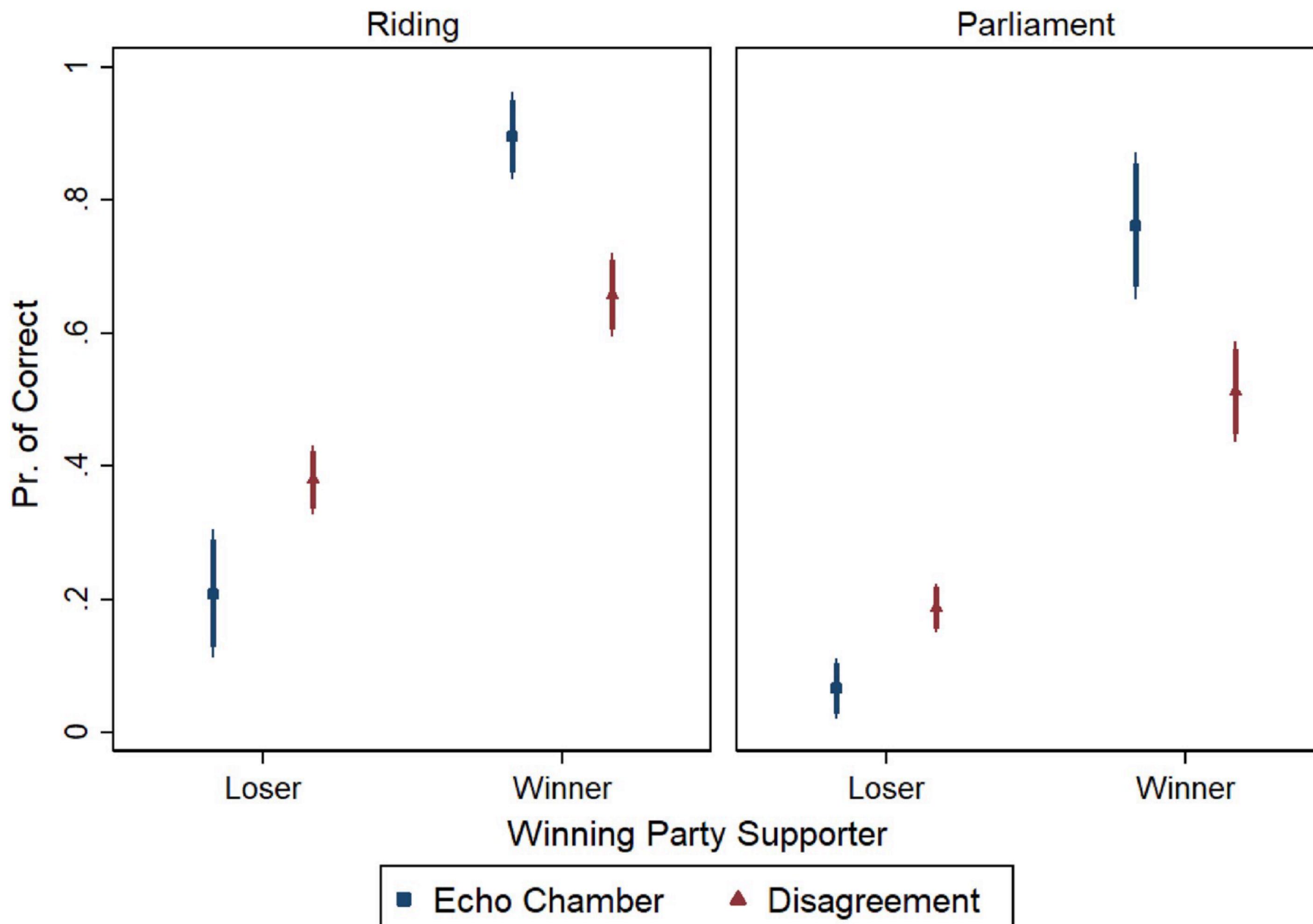


Fig. 1. Predicted probability of correct forecast by network echo chamber and partisanship.

Common ego-centric network collection survey prompts are not interchangeable, contradicting prior research

(Co-authored with Jack Belk, former student; published: Journal of Experimental Political Science, 2023)

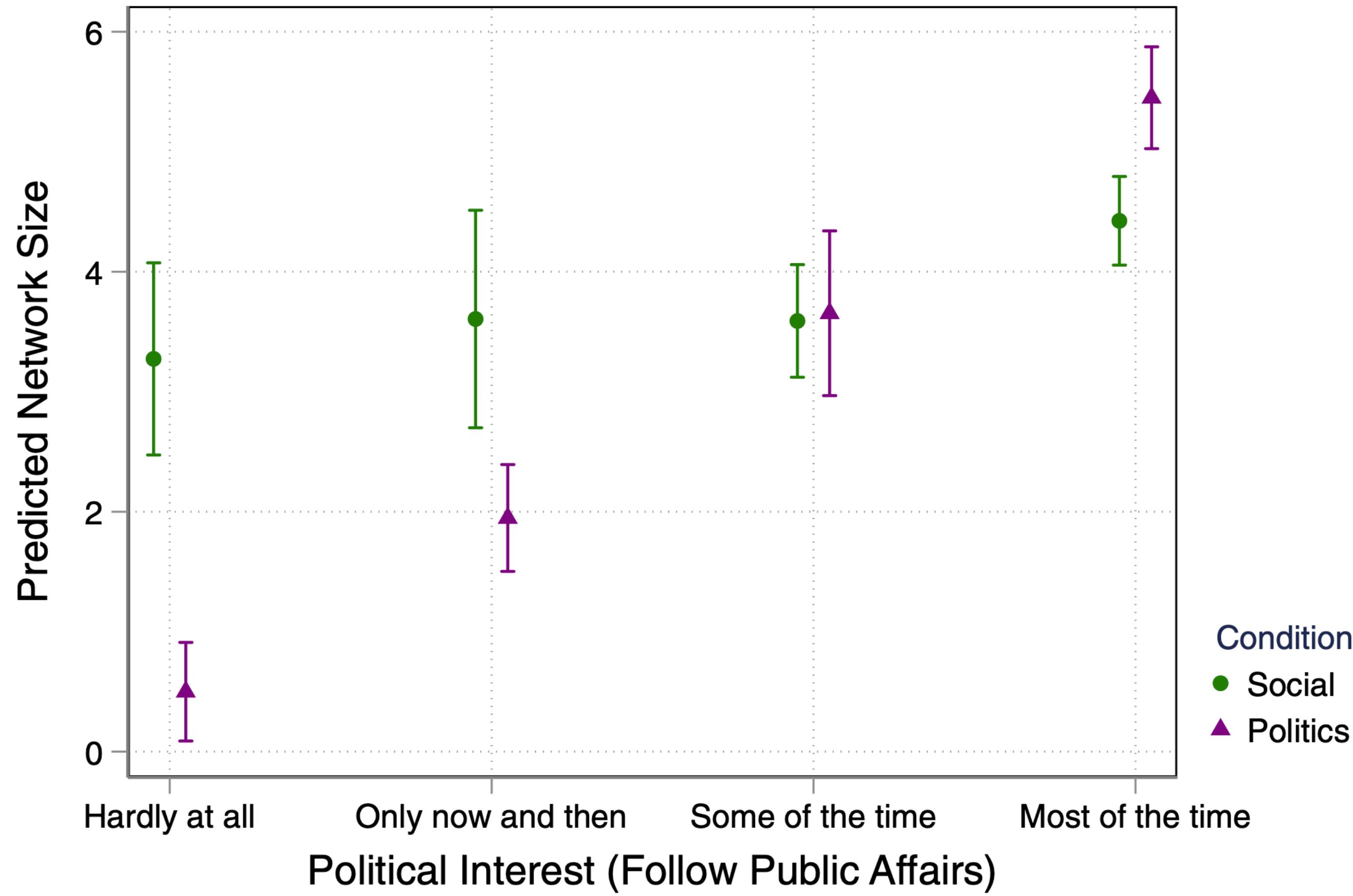


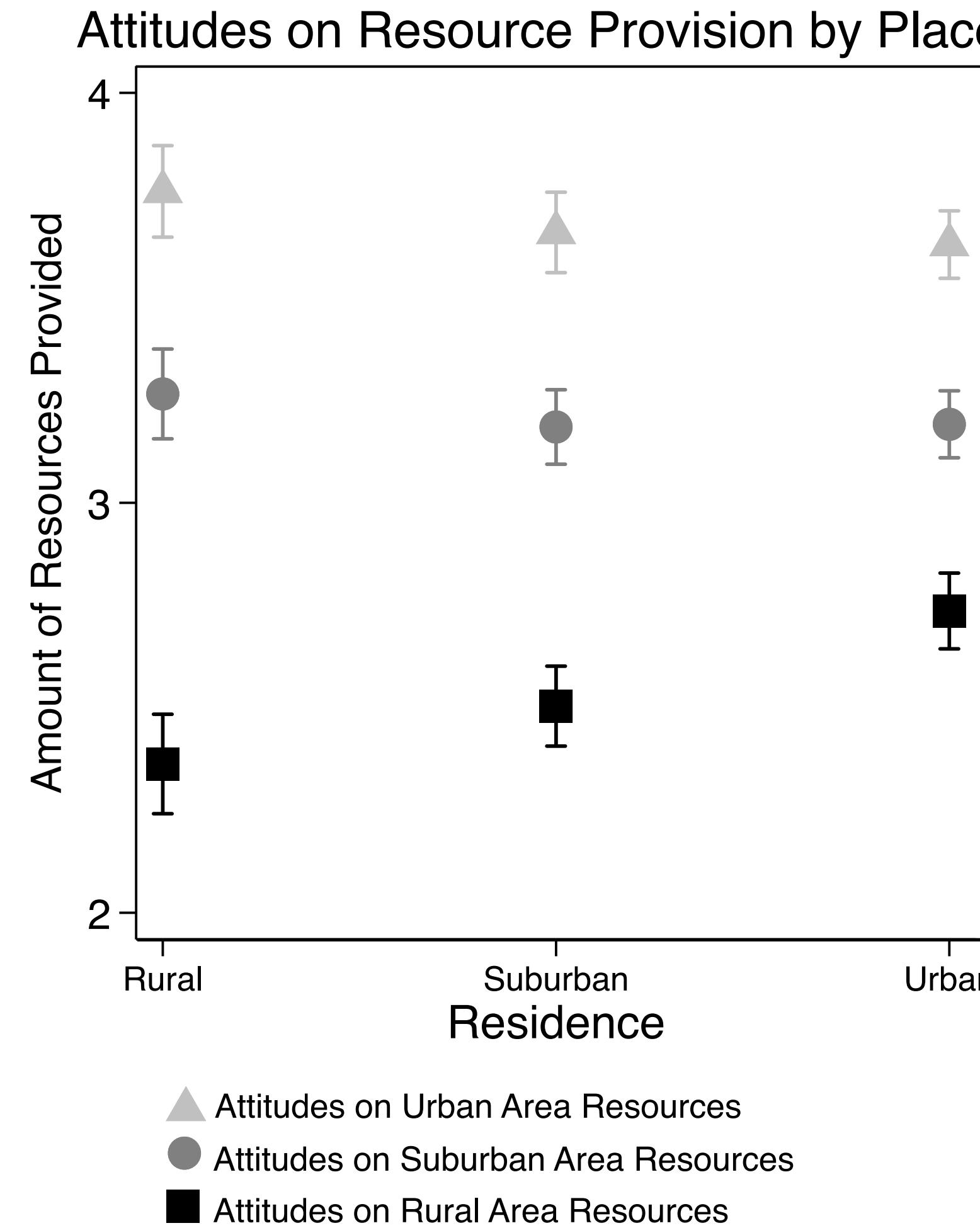
Figure 2.

Predicted discussion network size response varies by political interest for “politics” respondents but not for “social” respondents (95% confidence intervals).

Current Research and Research With Students

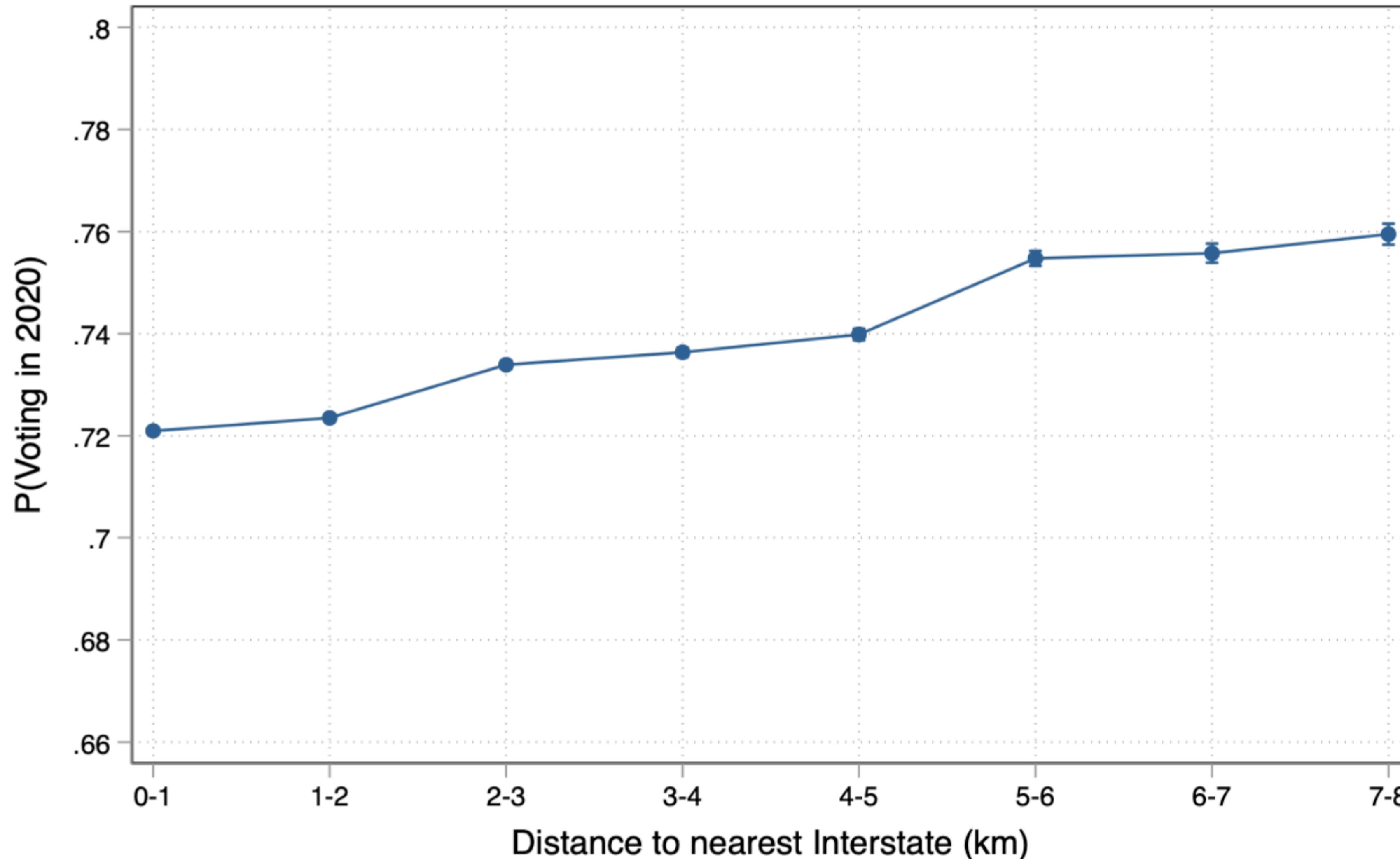
Rural resentment exists in Canada, as well, and can be seen especially in attitudes around federal resource allocation

(Co-authored with Mollie Saumier, former student; presented: Southern Political Science Association, 2023)



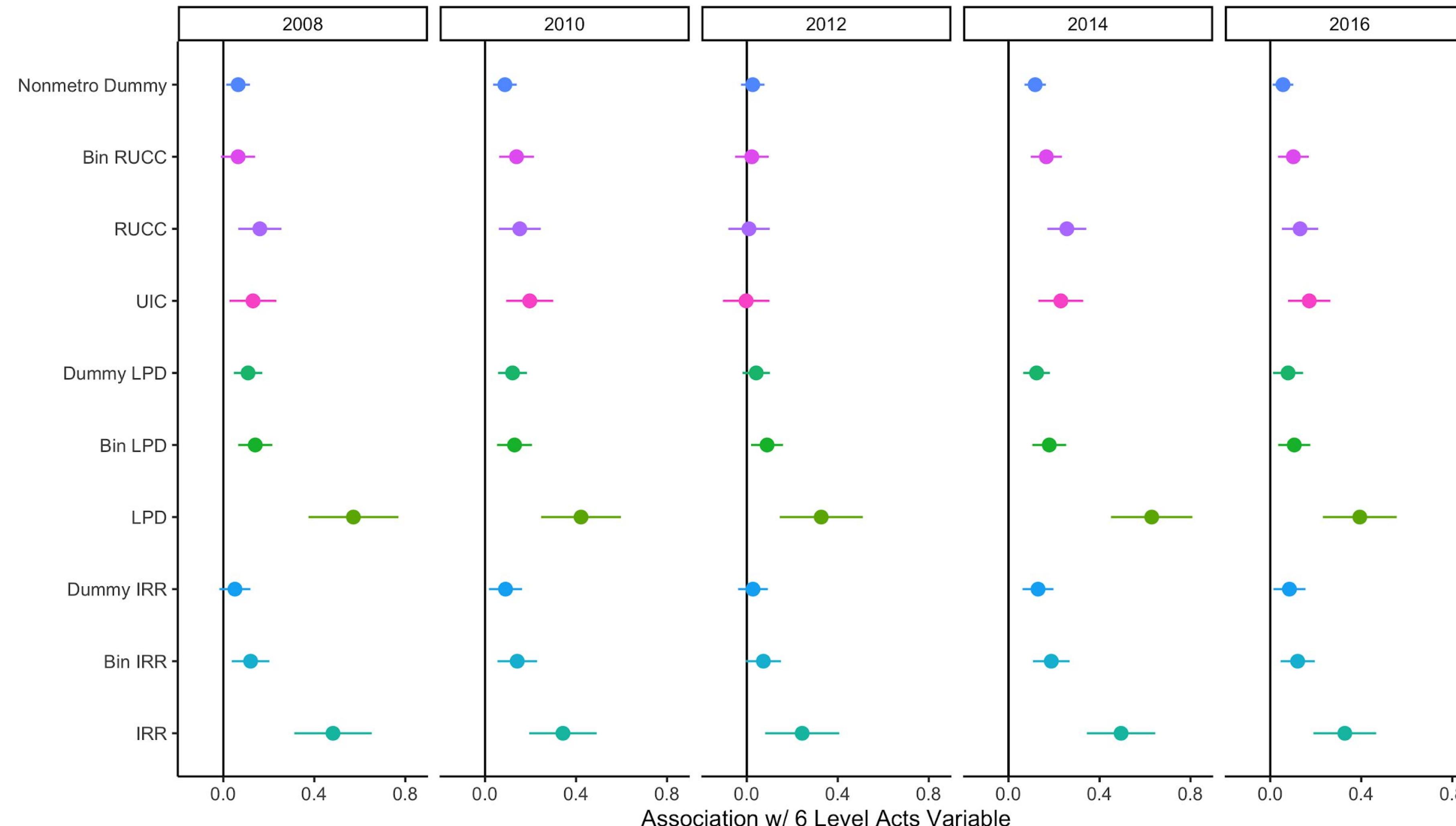
In Florida metro areas, citizens living near interstates are less likely (~5%) to vote than those further away

(Co-authored with Carlos Gonzalez, former student; presented: Southern Political Science Association, 2023)



A lack of agreement among scholars in the way that we measure rurality has led to a morass of conflicting results in the study of urban and rural politics

(Co-authored with Jack Belk, former student; presented: Southern Political Science Association, 2020)



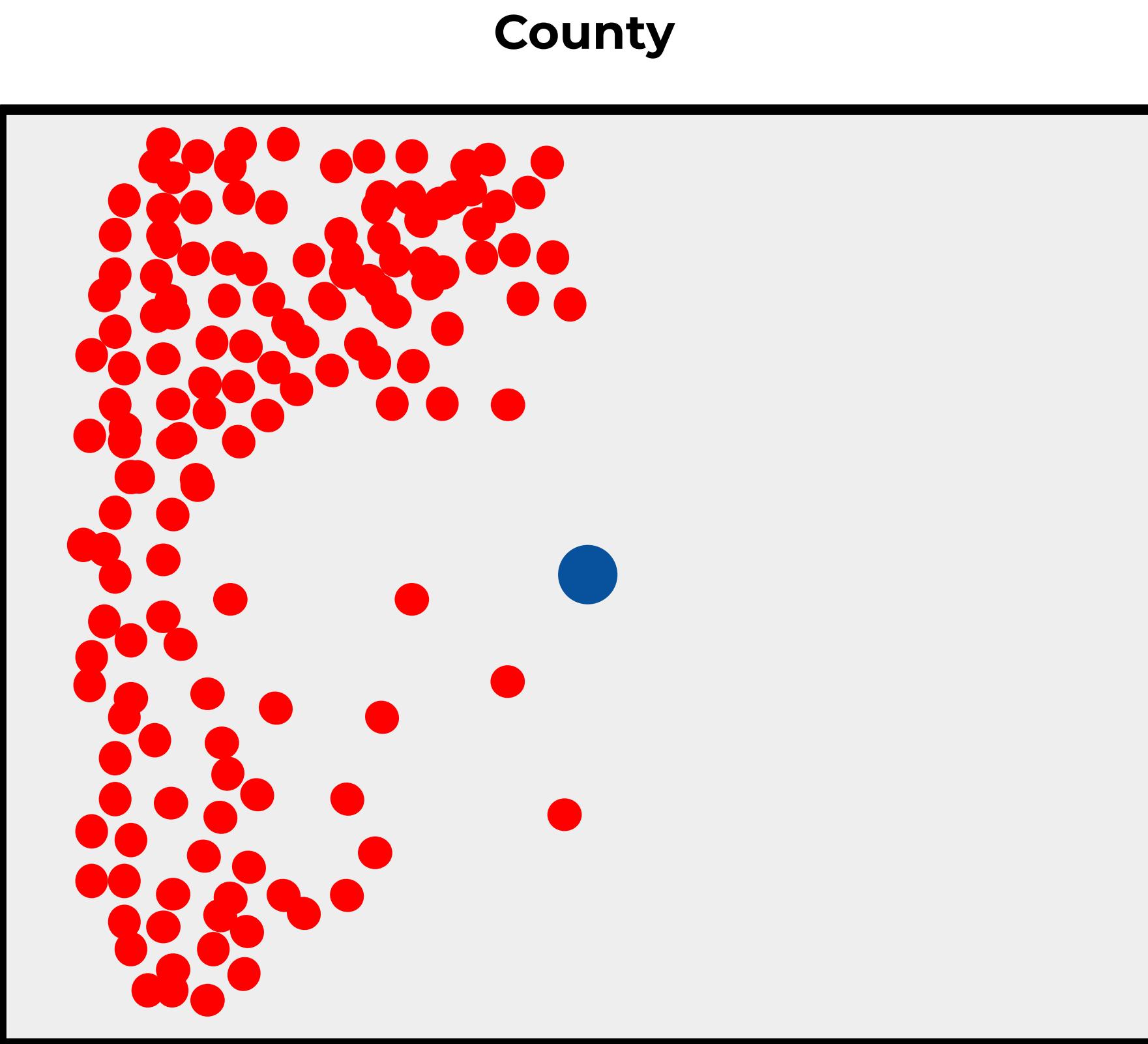
Why?

- Rural measurements of citizen geographies are a function of:
 - Where people live
 - Number of values the variable can take
 - Shape of the geography the citizen lives in
 - Size of the geography the citizen lives in

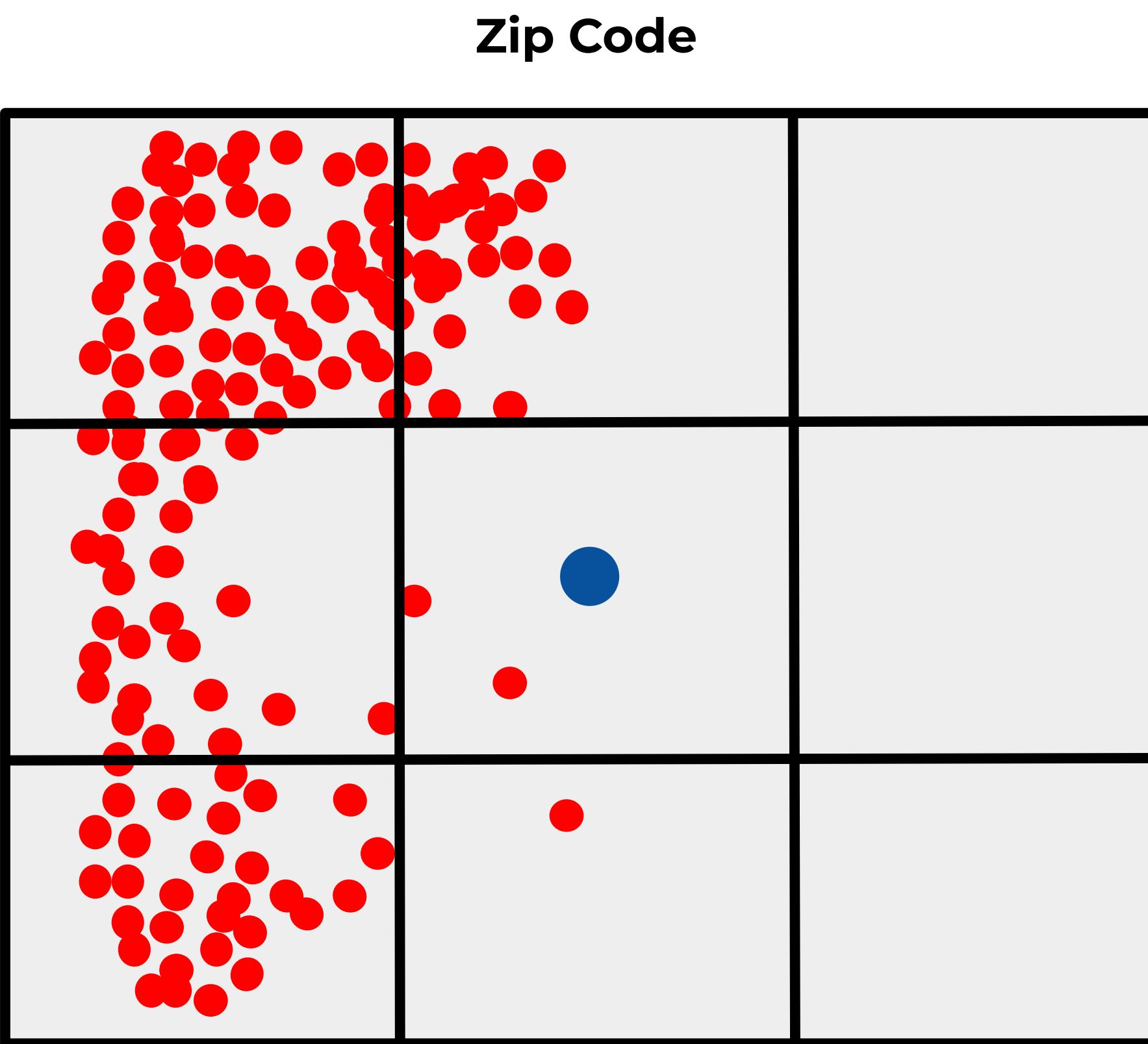
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Why, visually?

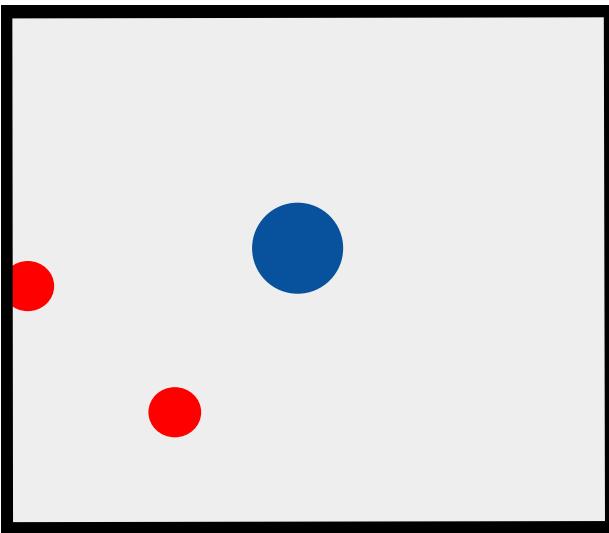


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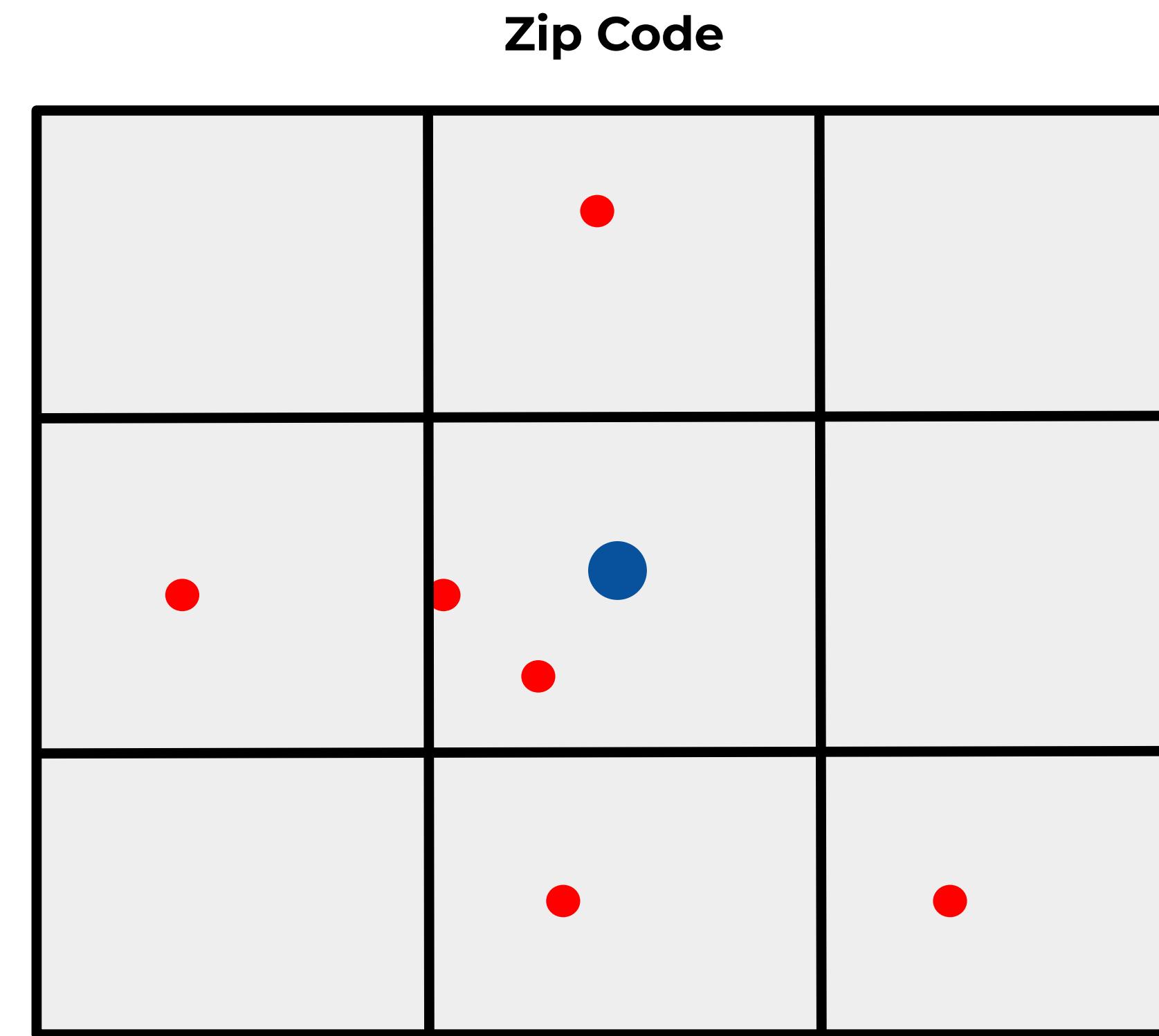
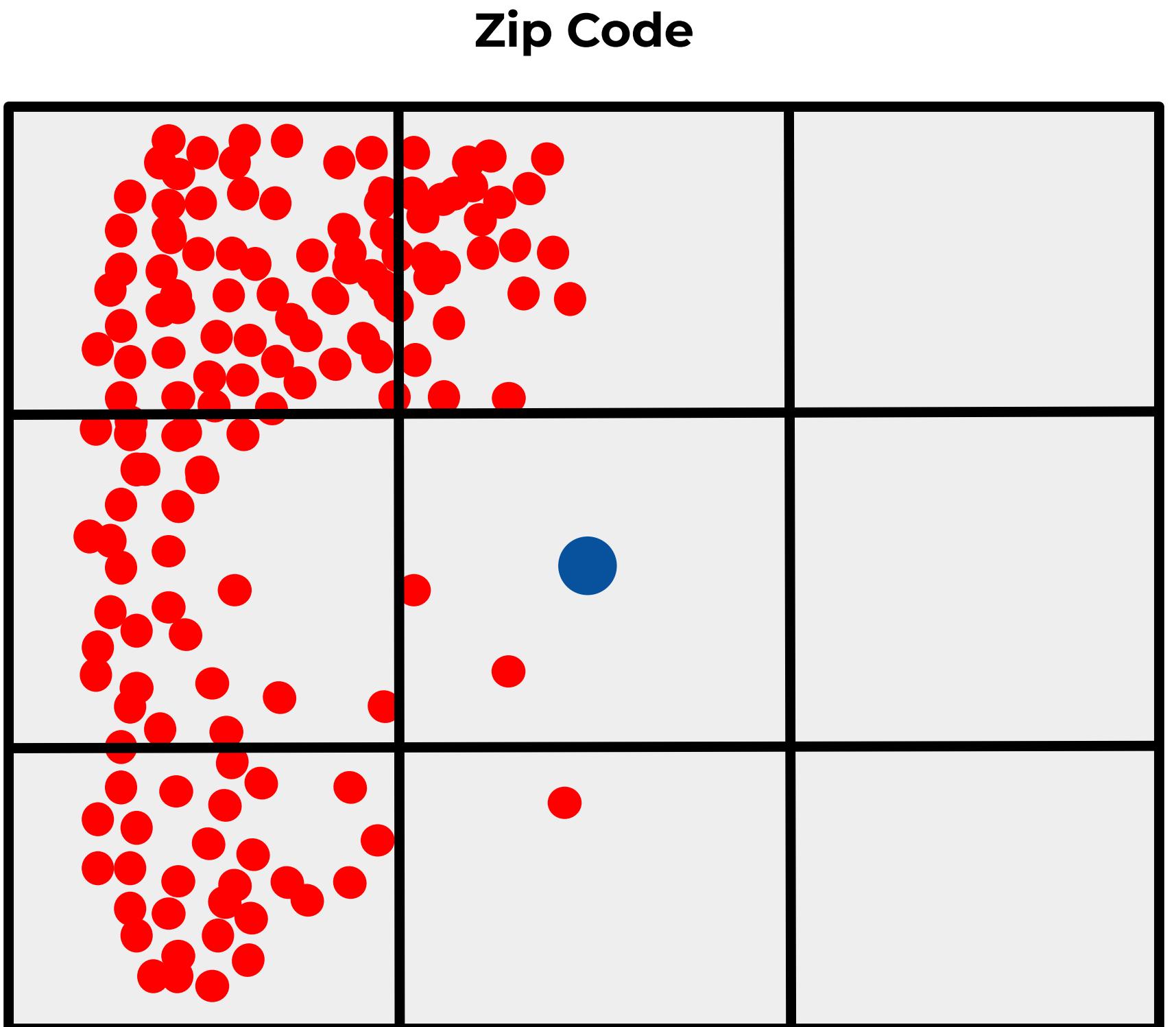


Why, visually?

Zip Code

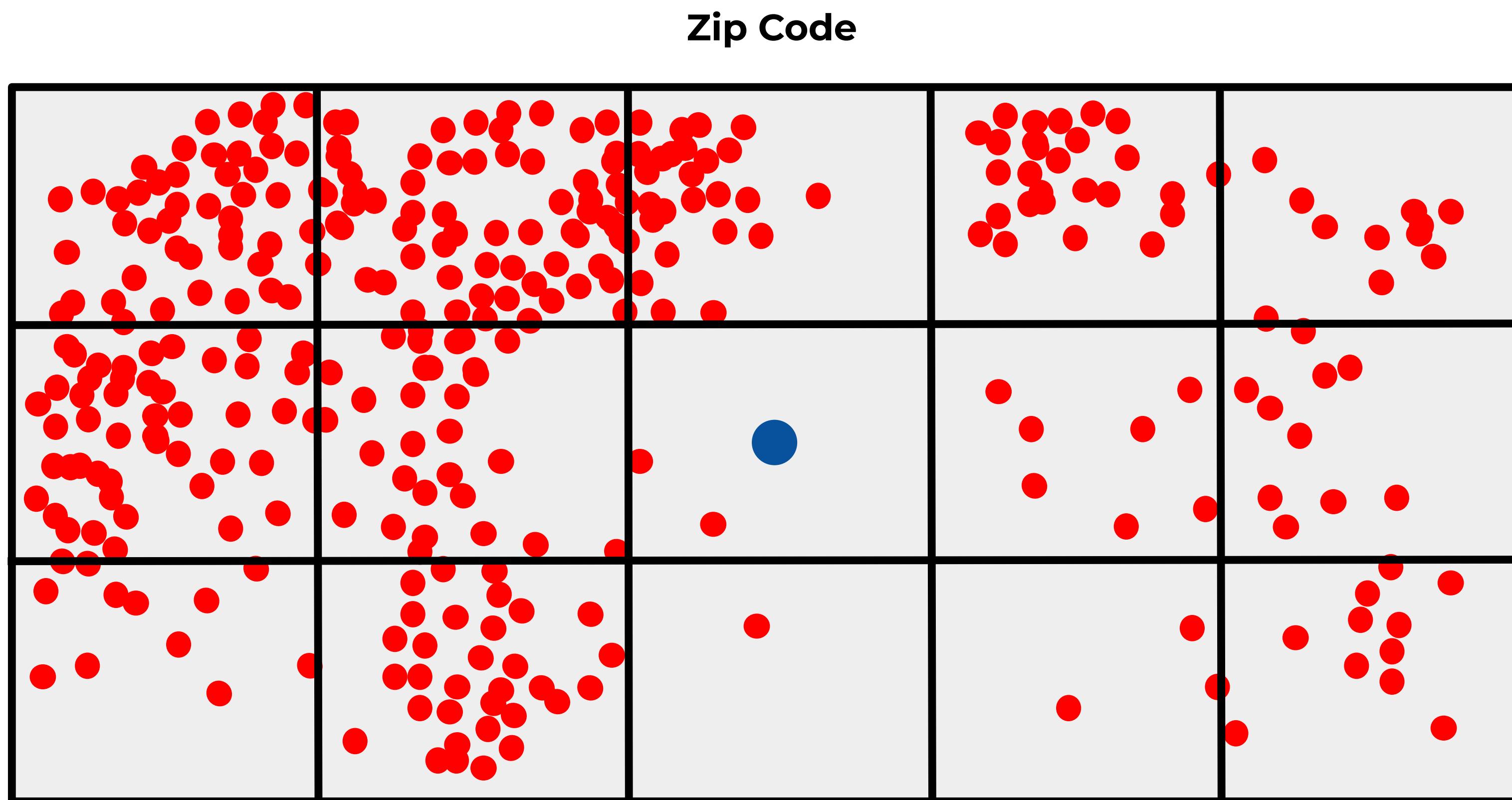


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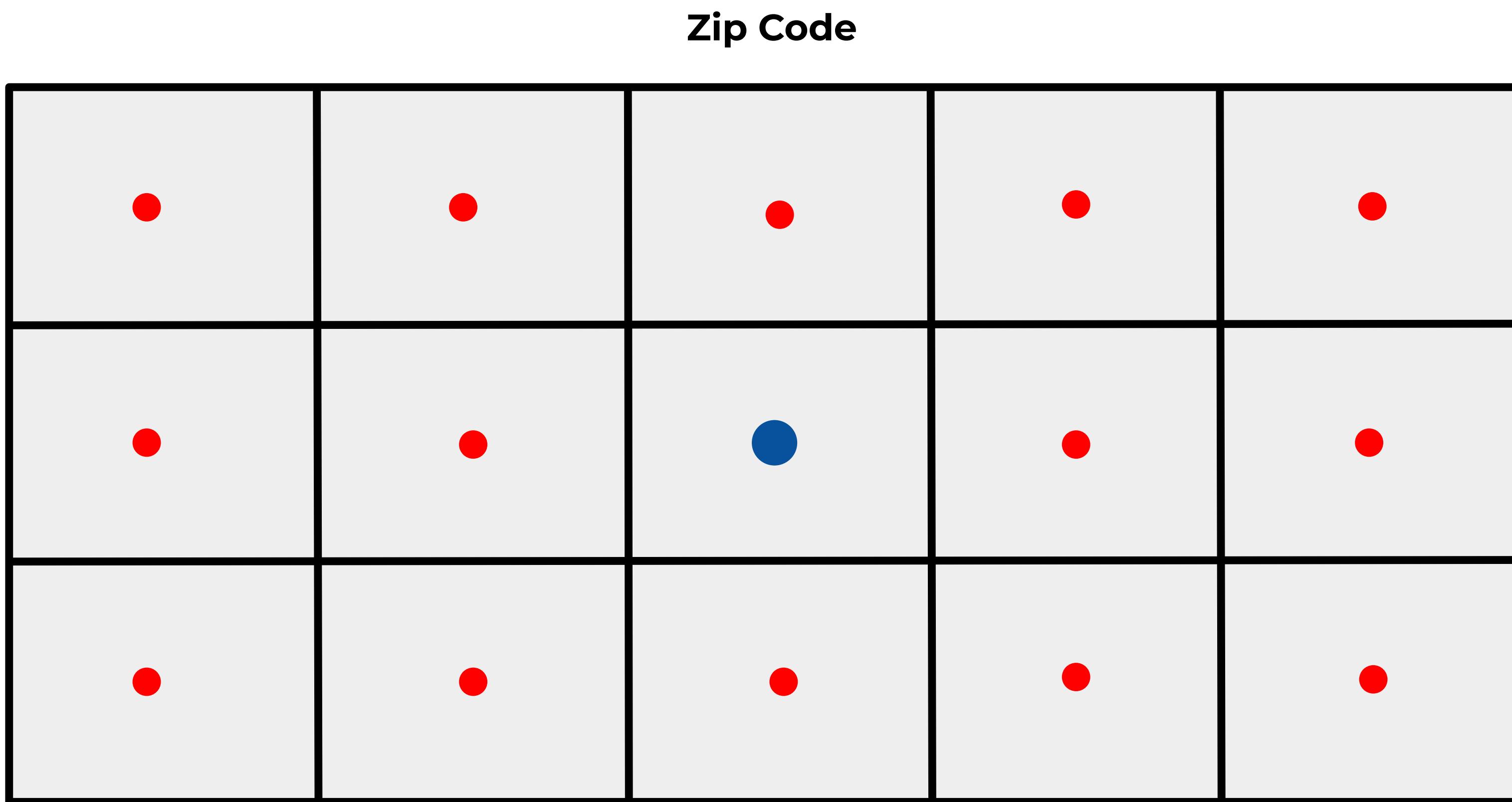


So, what's our solution?

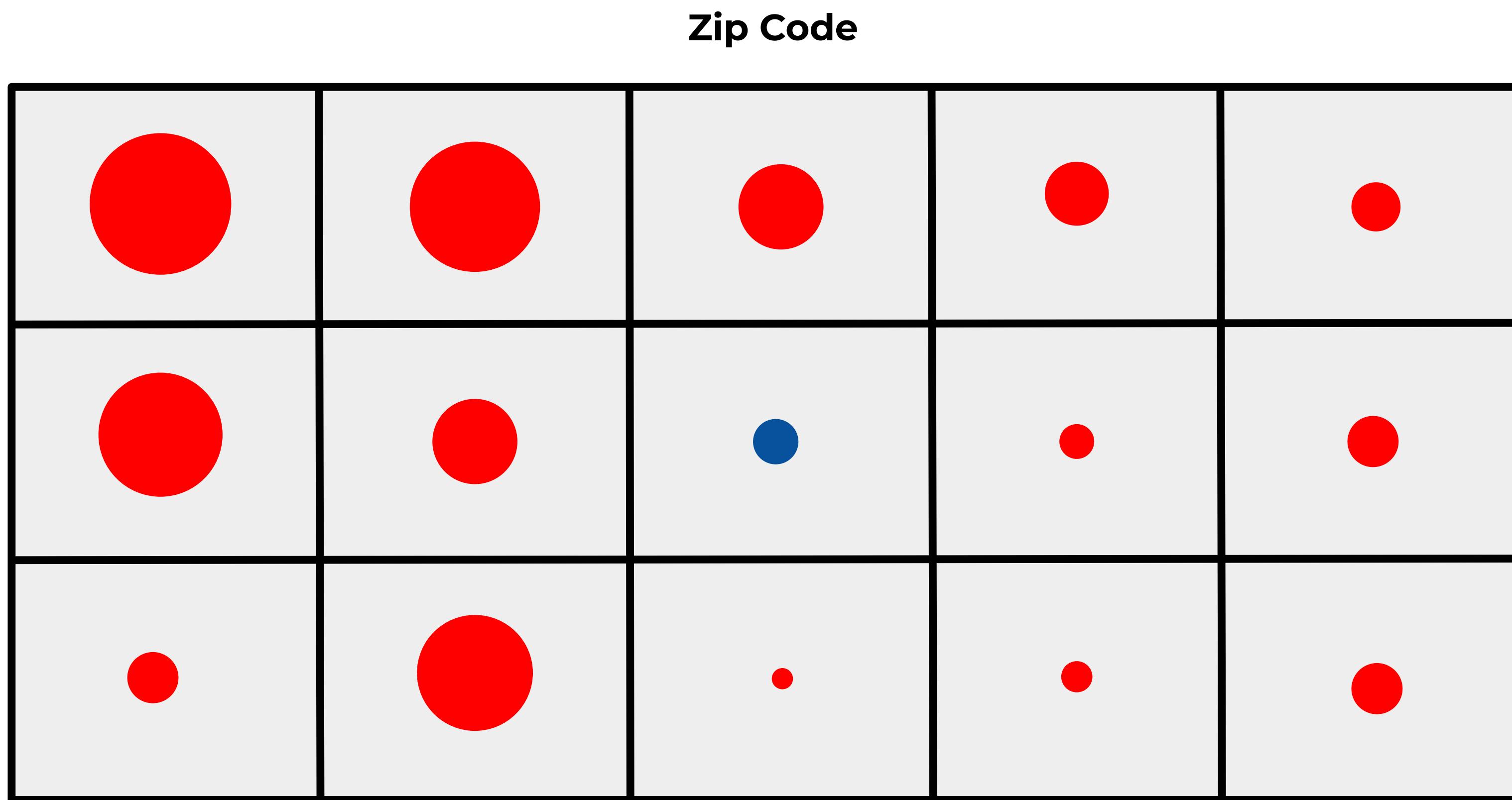
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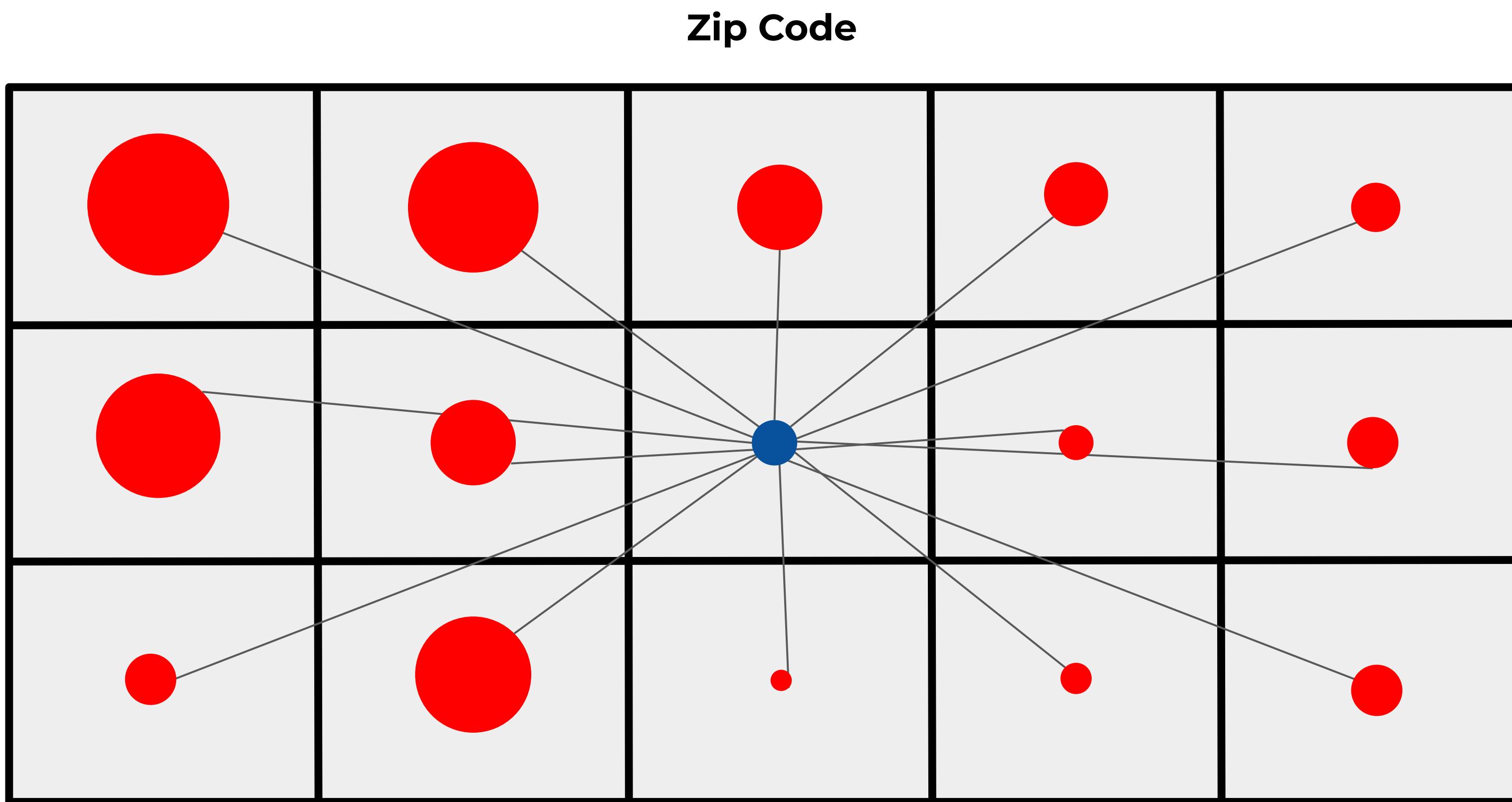
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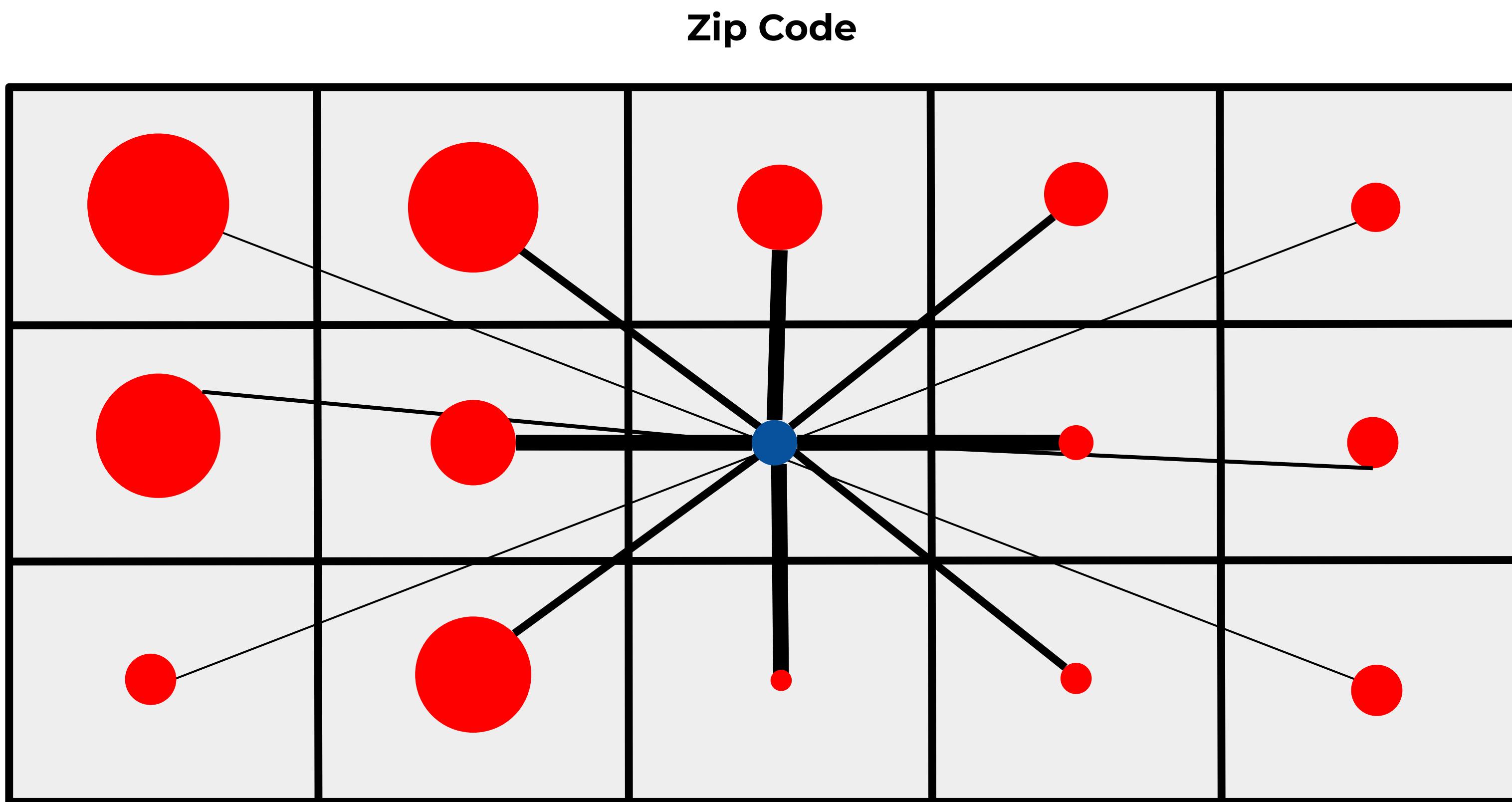
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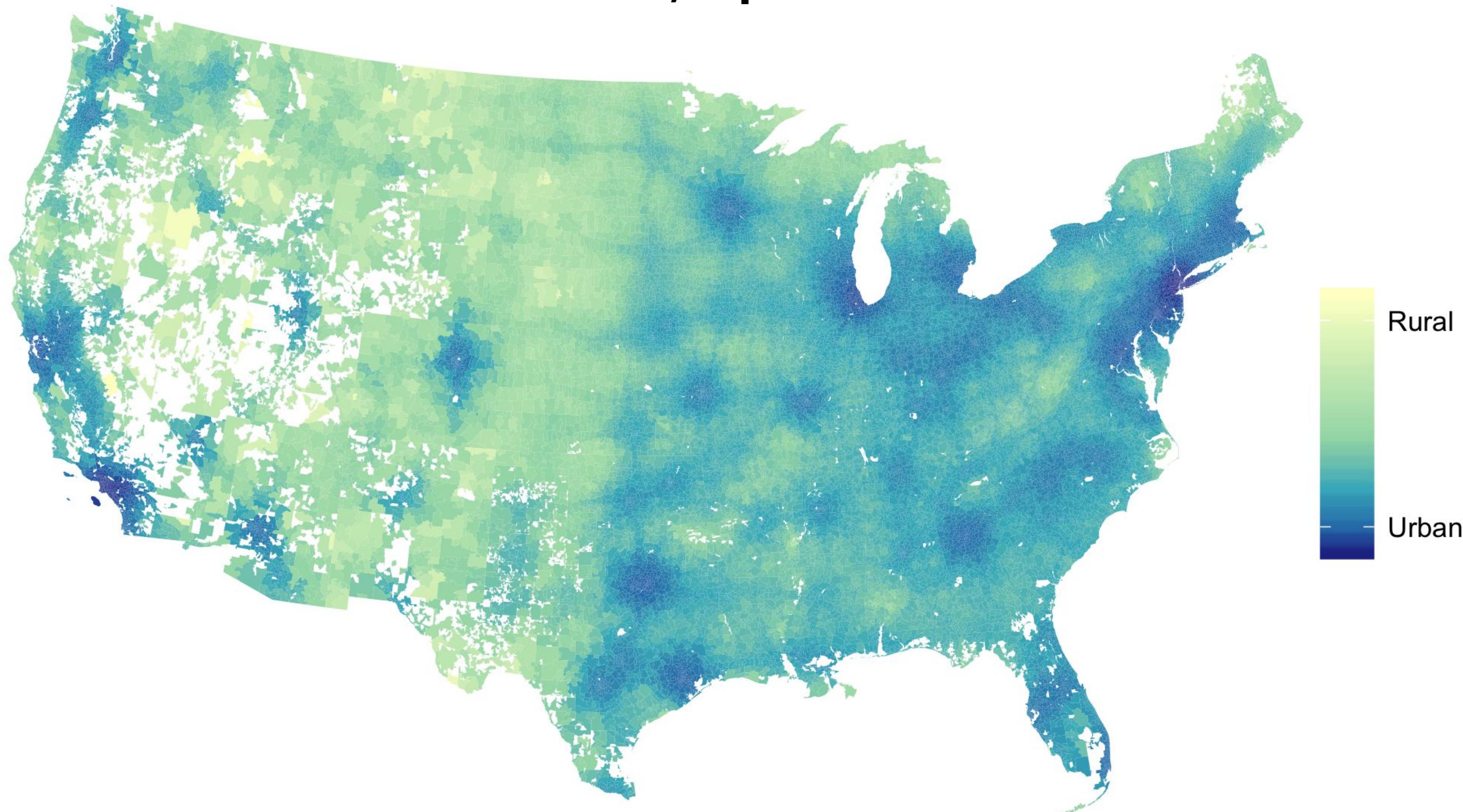


The resulting measure

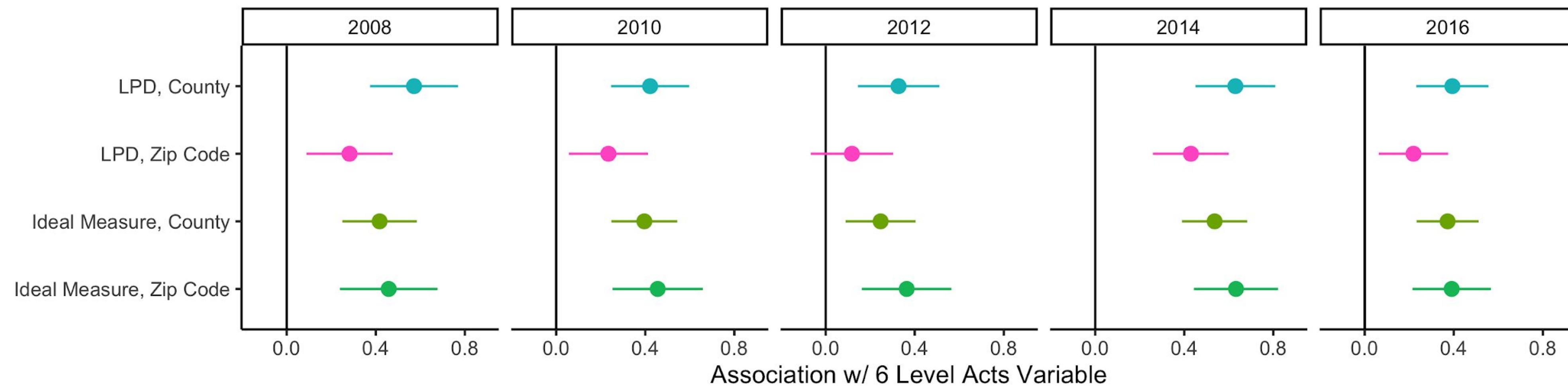
- Contextually sensitive *and* locally precise
- Robust to geographic unit of analysis changes
- Computable across any geography
- Somewhat resource intensive to compute initially
 - *but* easy to match to respondents or geographies, at the smallest geographic unit available, once computed

So, what does it look like?

Ideal Measure, Zip Code Level



Robust to geographic unit of analysis changes



How much more precise is it?



How much more precise is it?



How much more precise is it?

