

# Analisi e Visualizzazione di Reti Complesse

## DV06 - Geographical plotting

**Prof. Rossano Schifanella**

DV06 - Geographical plotting - a.a. 2023-2024



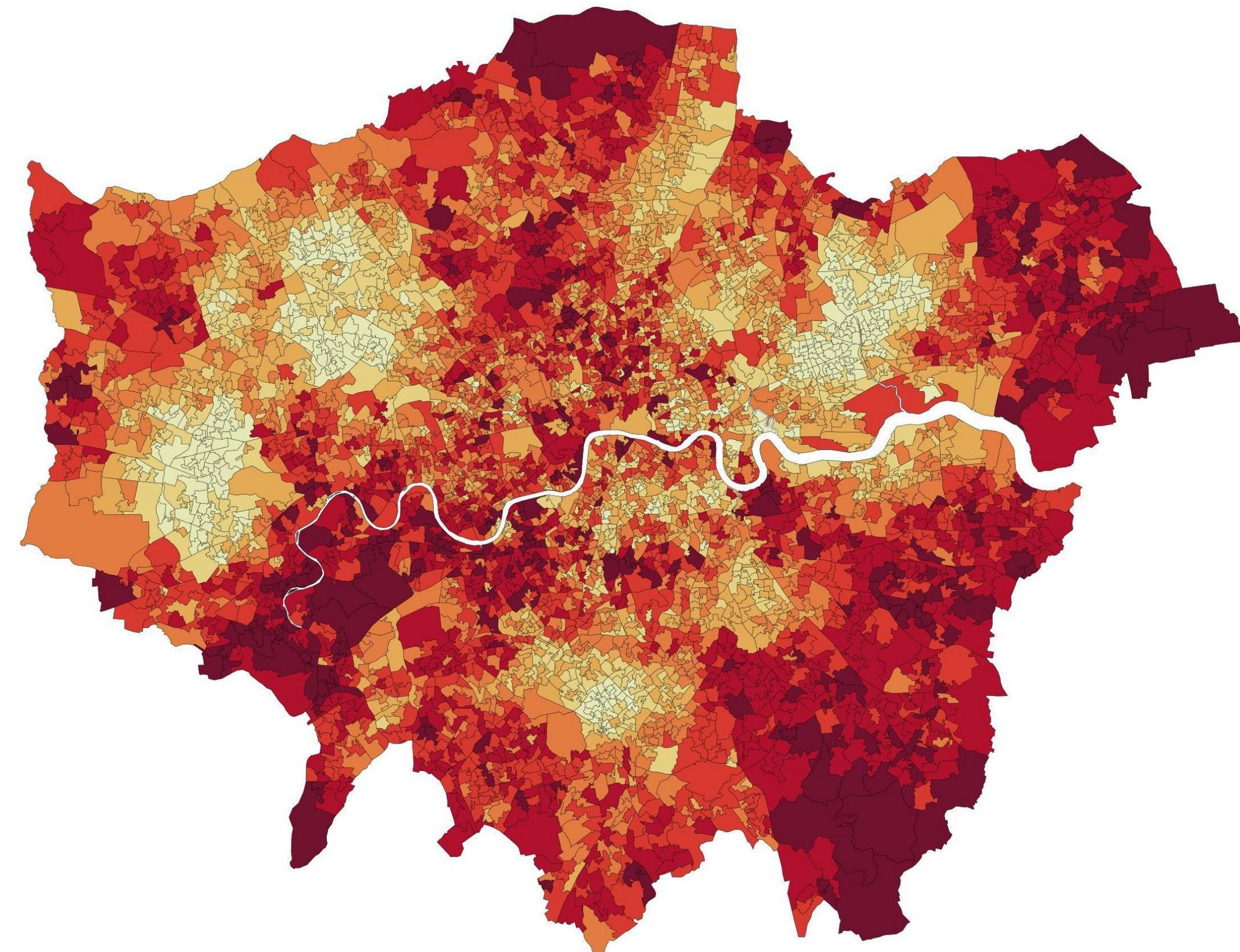
## learning objectives

- **The importance of spatial thinking**
- **Visually exploring spatial phenomena**
  - Learn the basic steps to create an informative thematic cartography
  - Know the main thematic cartography types
  - Know some basic thematic cartography rules of thumb
- **Pitfalls of using spatial data in computational disciplines**

# The importance of spatial thinking

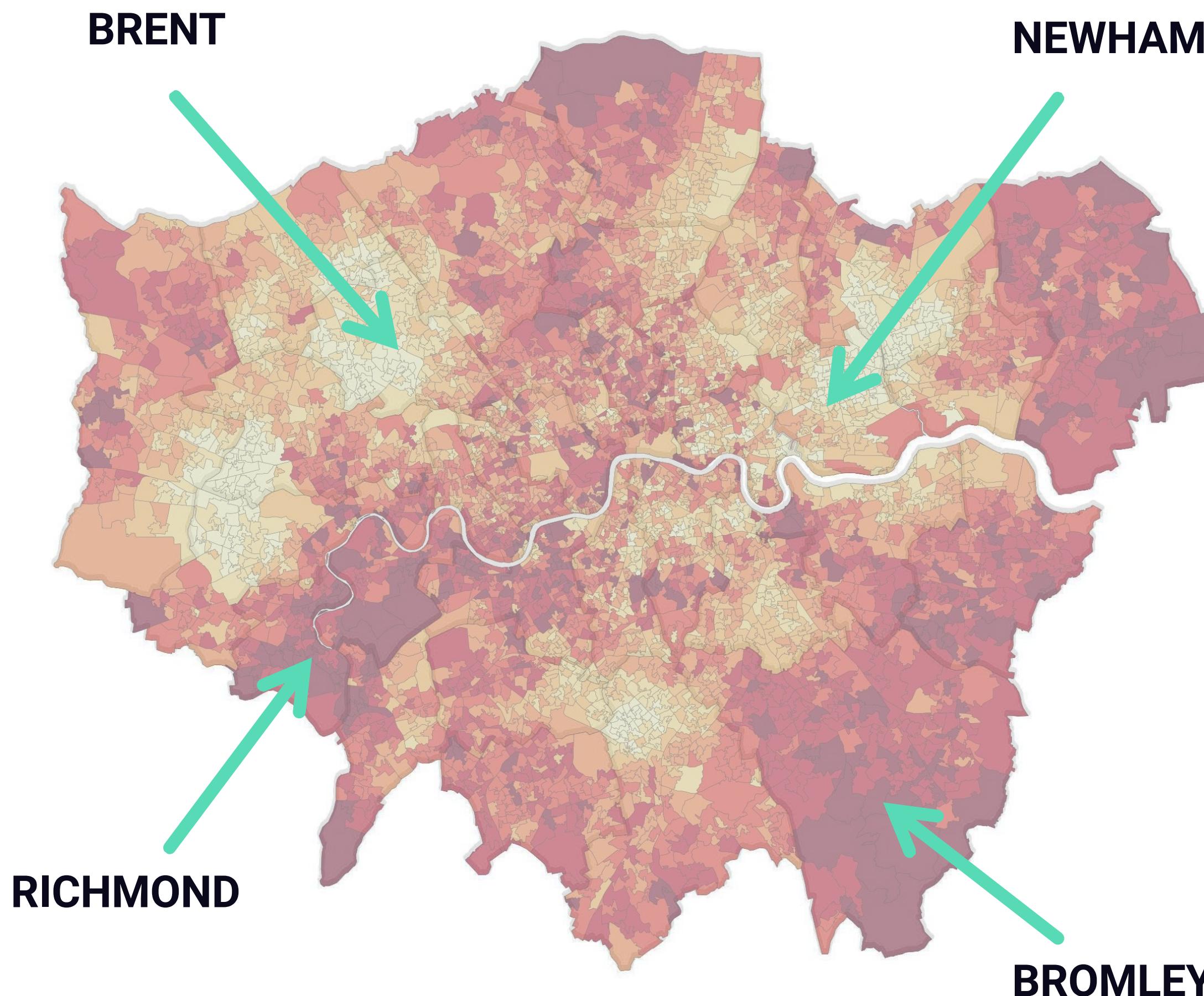
# Spatial patterns matter

Percentage of white people in London (LSOA, census 2011)  
darker red means higher concentration



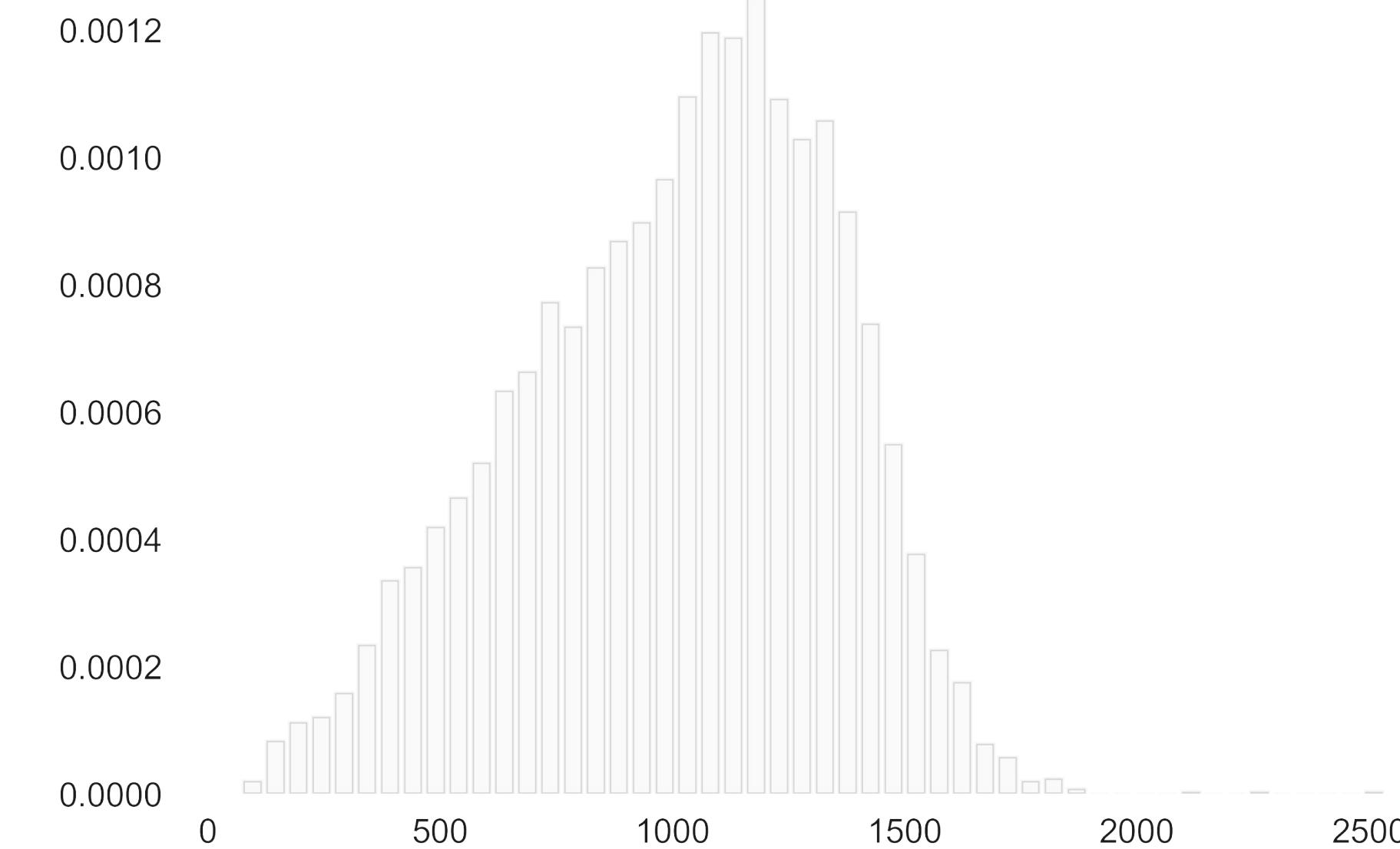
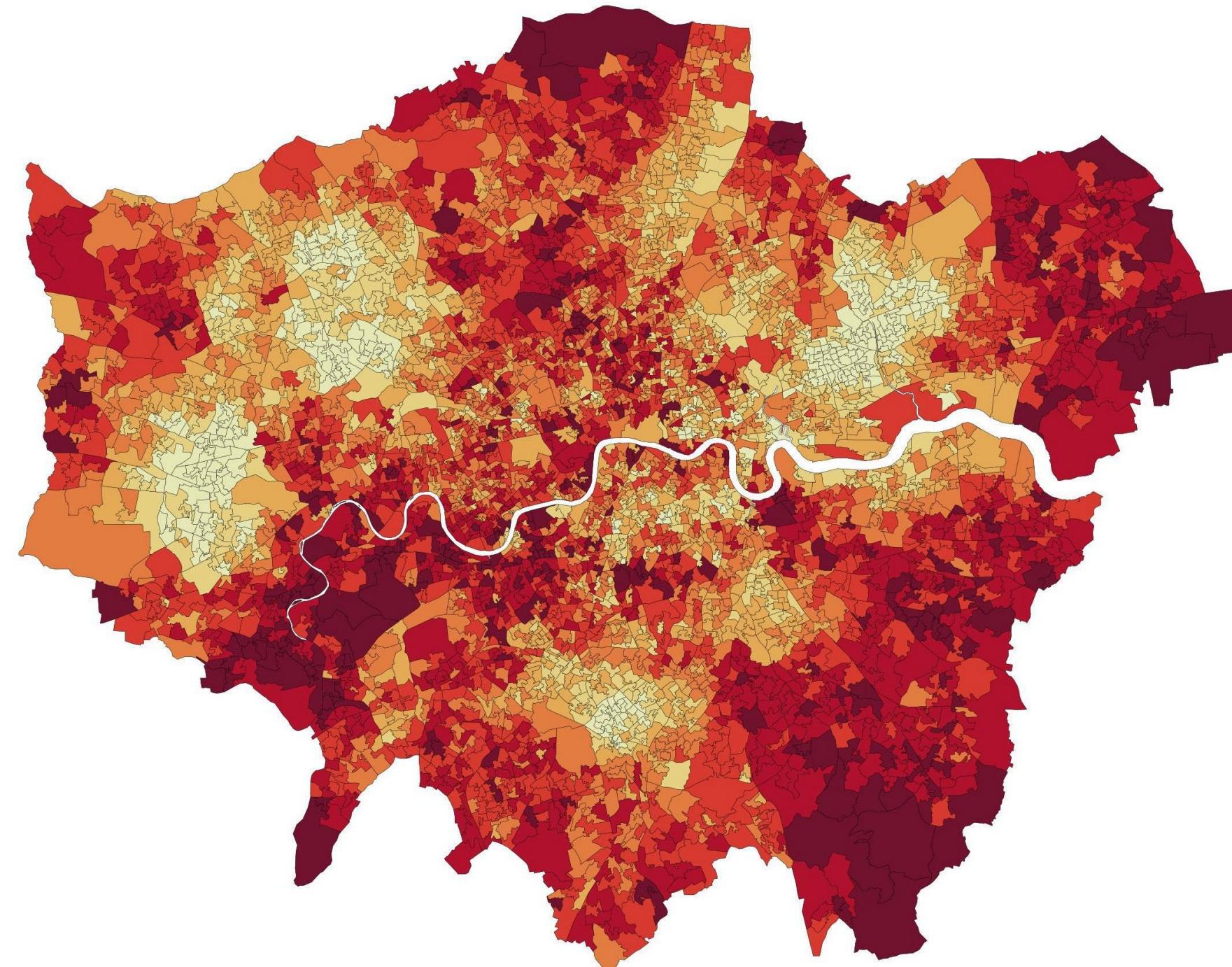
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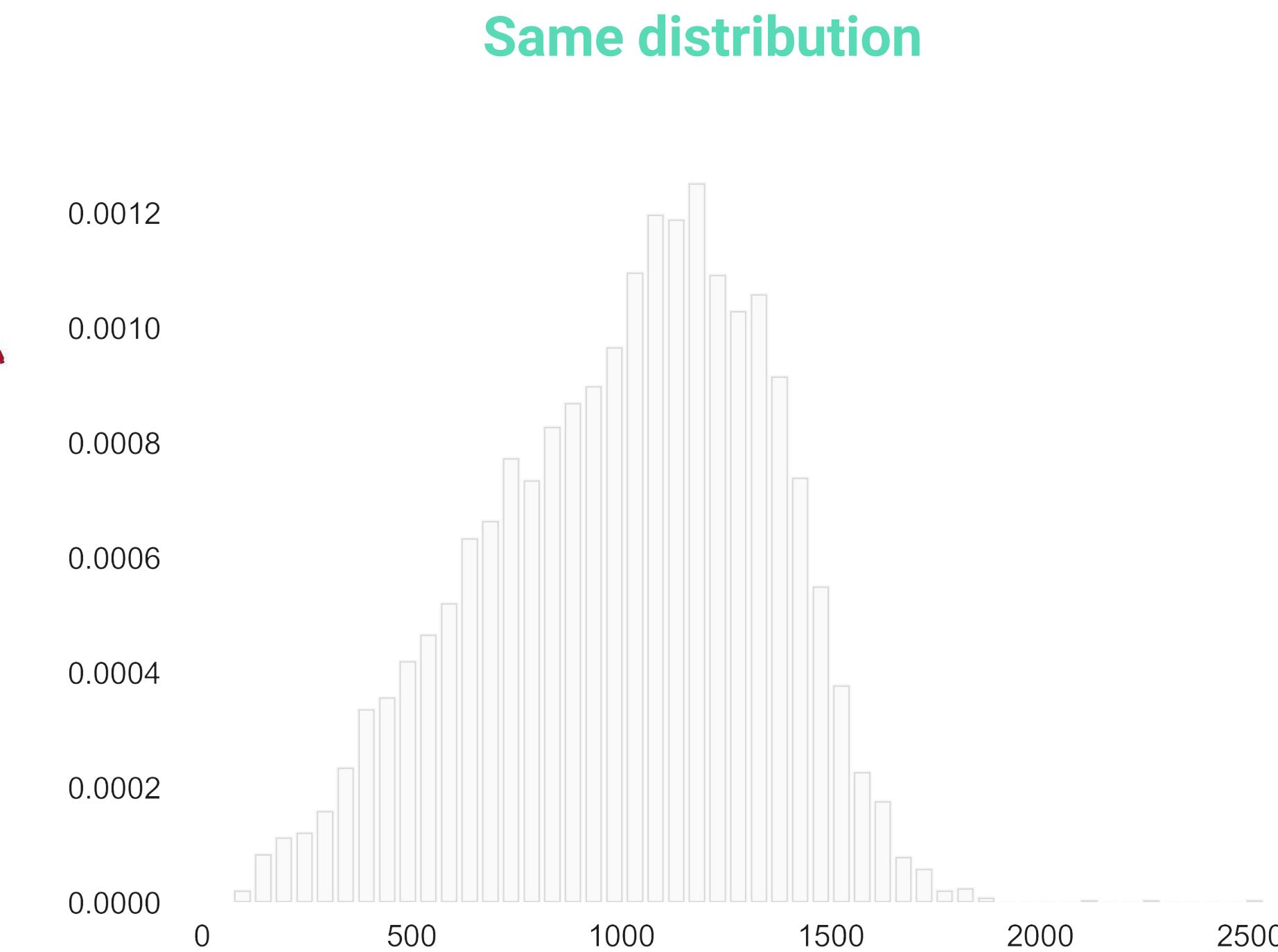
RANDOMLY RESHUFFLED

# Spatial patterns matter

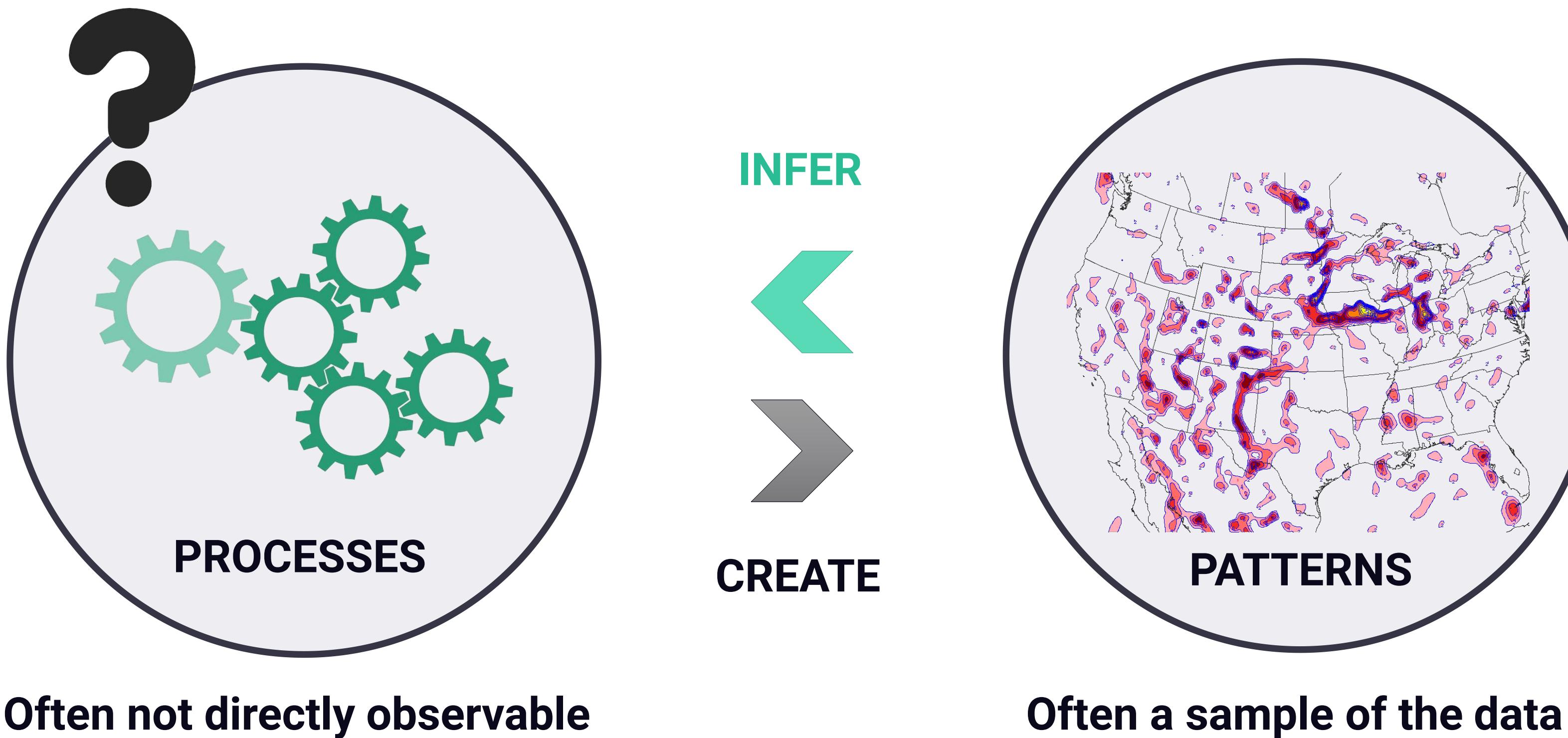
Percentage of white people in London (LSOA, census 2011)  
darker red means higher concentration



RANDOMLY RESHUFFLED



- Processes operating in space create patterns
- Spatial Data Analysis is aimed at:
  - Identifying and describing the **patterns**
  - Identifying and understanding the **processes**



# spatial data analysis: successive levels of sophistication

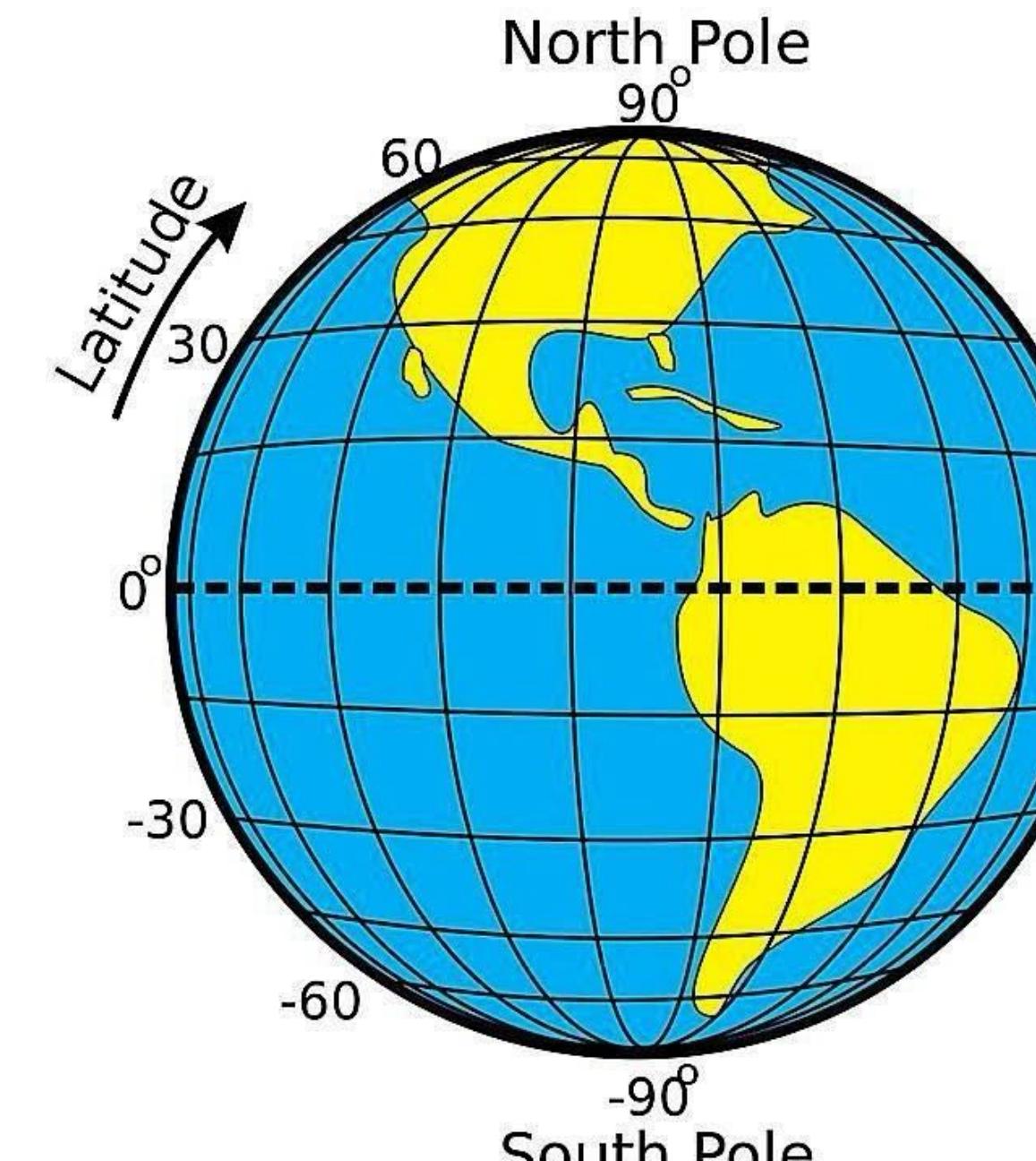
- **Spatial Data Description**
  - Focus is on describing the spatial data and representing it in a digital format (maps, databases)
  - Uses classic GIS capabilities (buffering, map layer overlay, spatial queries, measurement)
- **Exploratory Spatial Data Analysis (ESDA)**
  - Showing and discovering interesting patterns
- **Spatial statistical analysis and hypothesis testing**
  - An extension of traditional statistics into a spatial settings to determine whether or not data are typical or unexpected
- **Spatial modeling**
  - Explaining interesting patterns
  - Optimization, simulation, prediction
  - Involves constructing models to predict spatial outcomes

**cartography is**

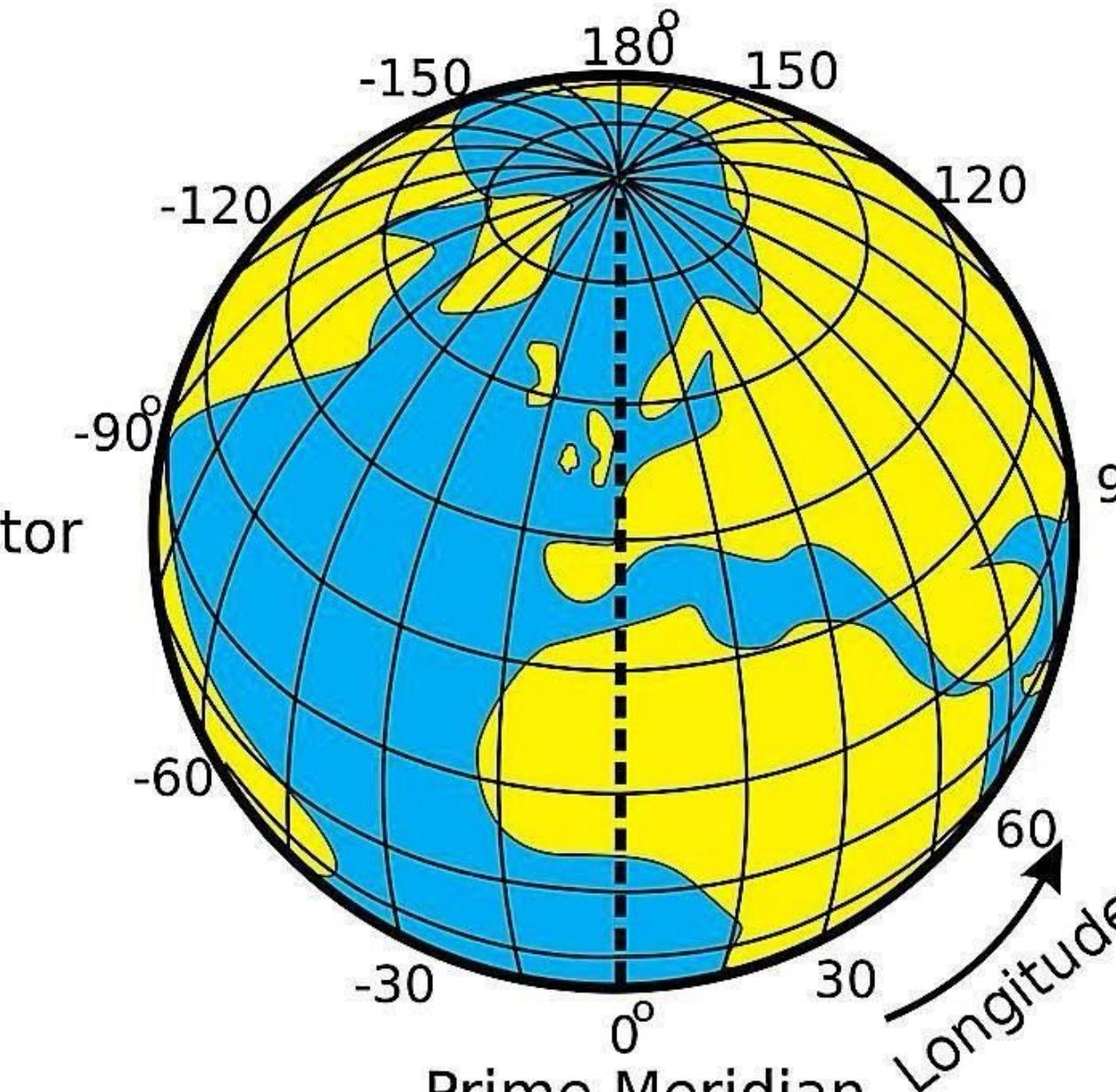
**the study and practice of making maps**

# georeferenced data: coordinates

- (longitude, latitude) can be associated with
  - altitude, accuracy, timestamp
- can be reversed geocoded to a readable address



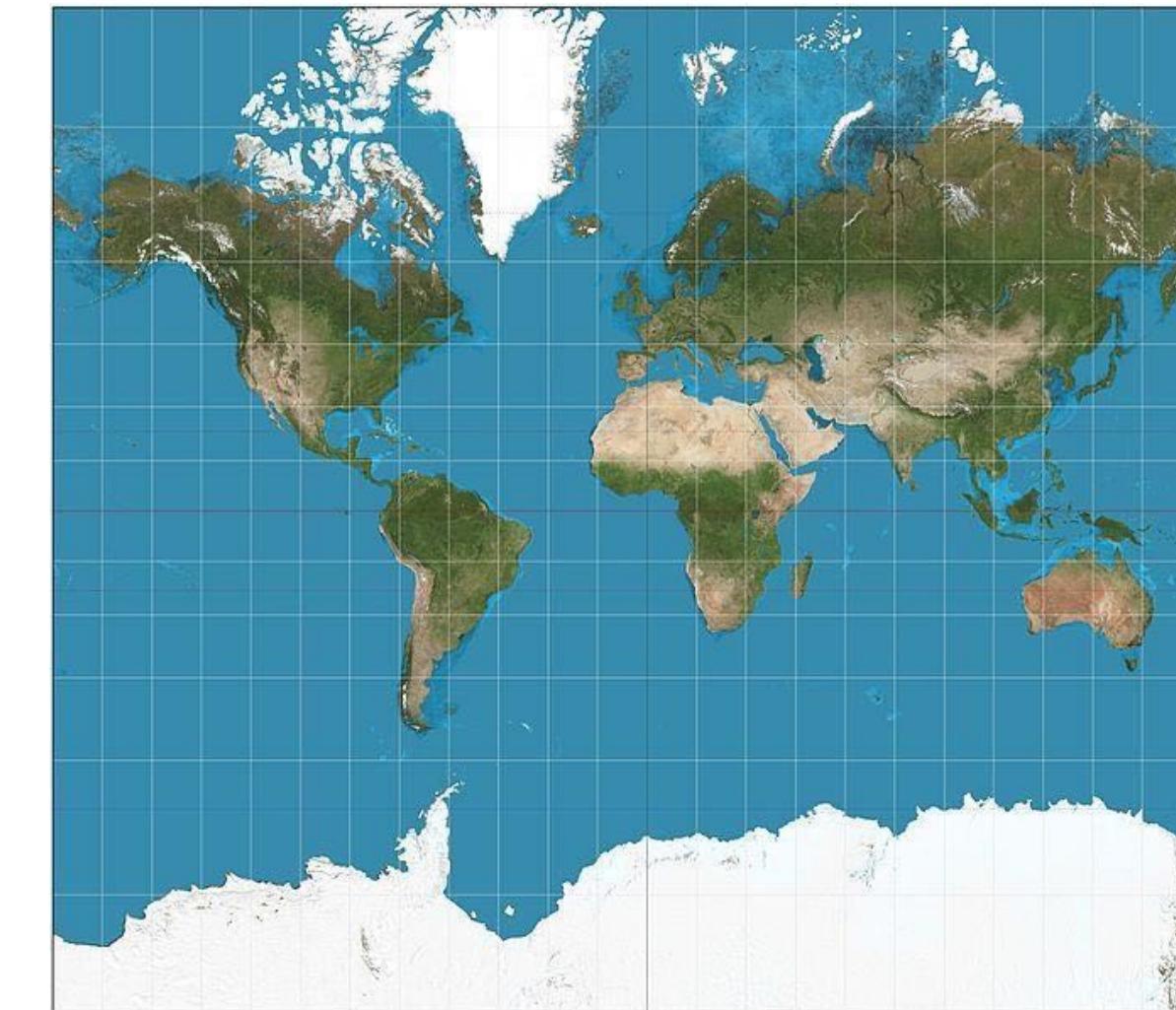
VERTICAL



HORINZONTAL

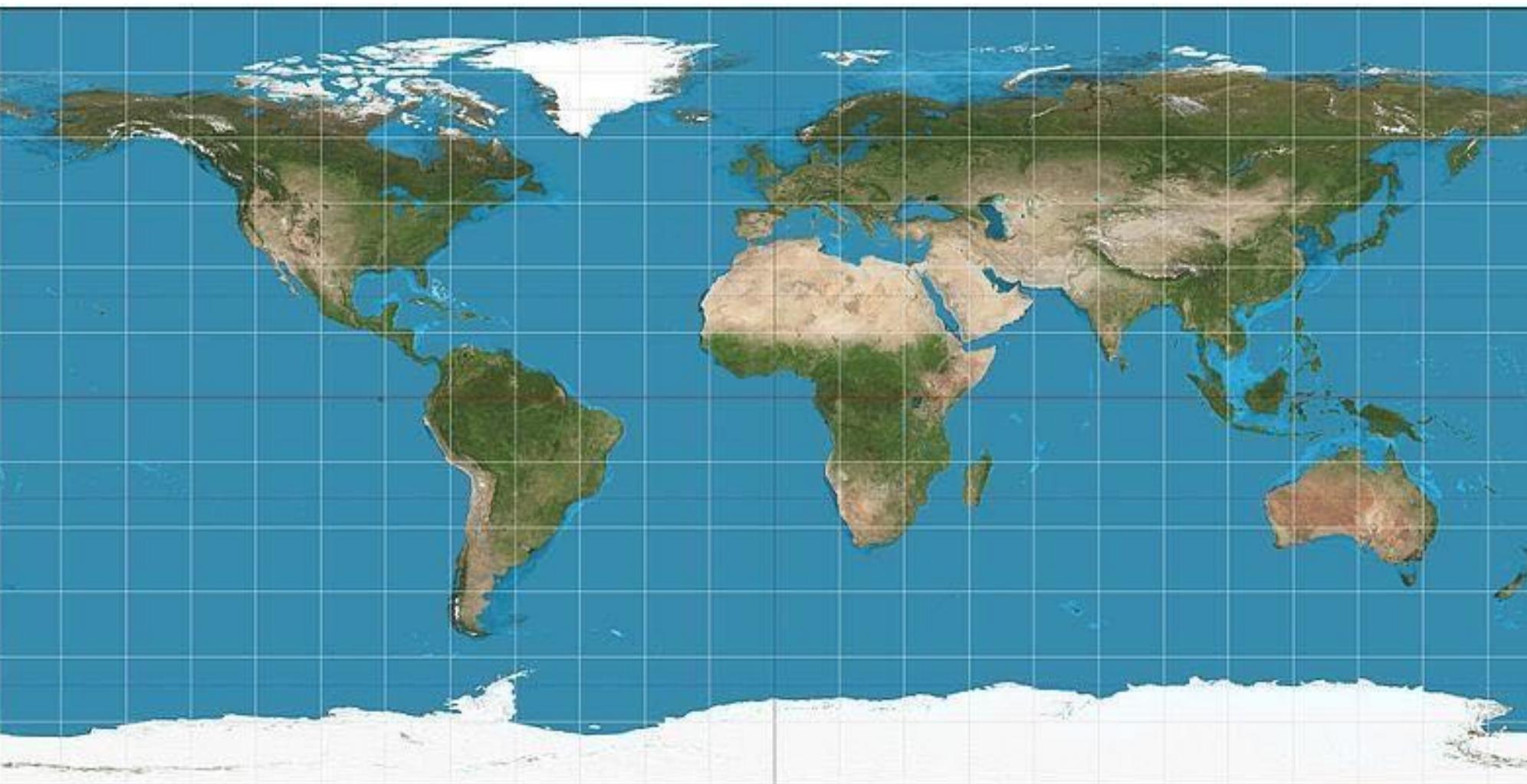
# Earth is 3D, maps no! map projections

- a **projection** is used to transform the geographic coordinates from the curved surface of our planet to the flat surface of a plane

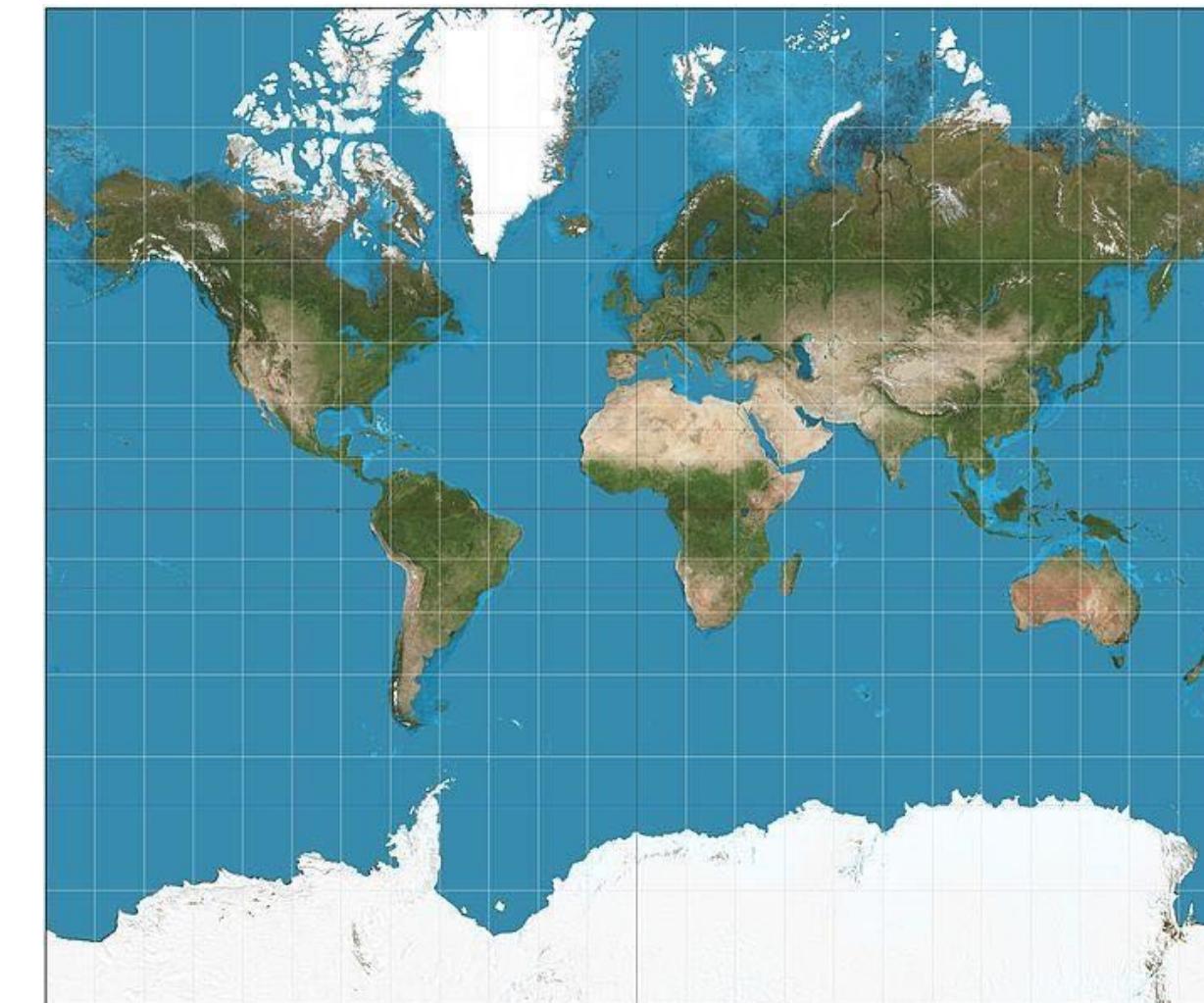


# map projections

- over the years a variety of map projections have been proposed

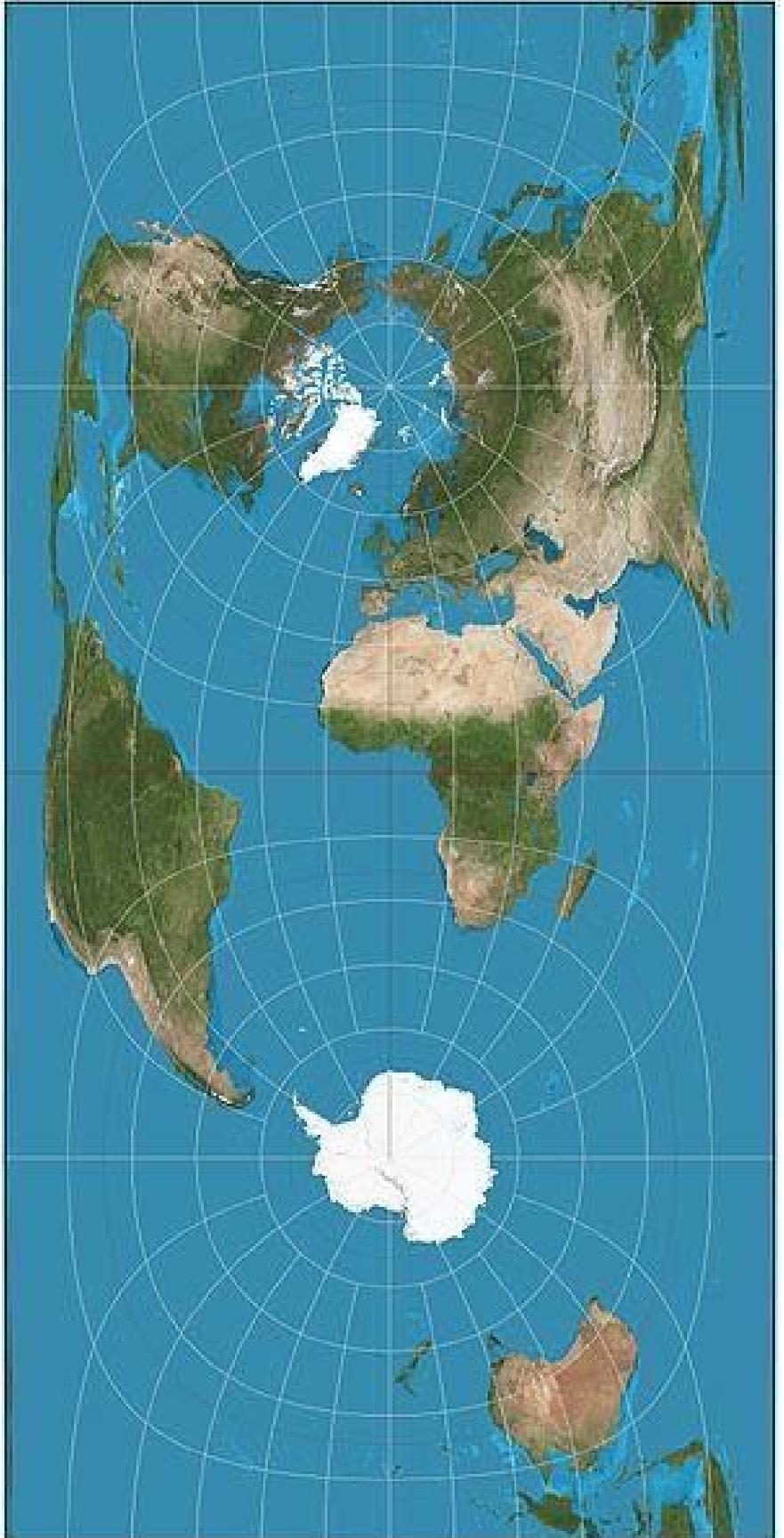


Equirectangular

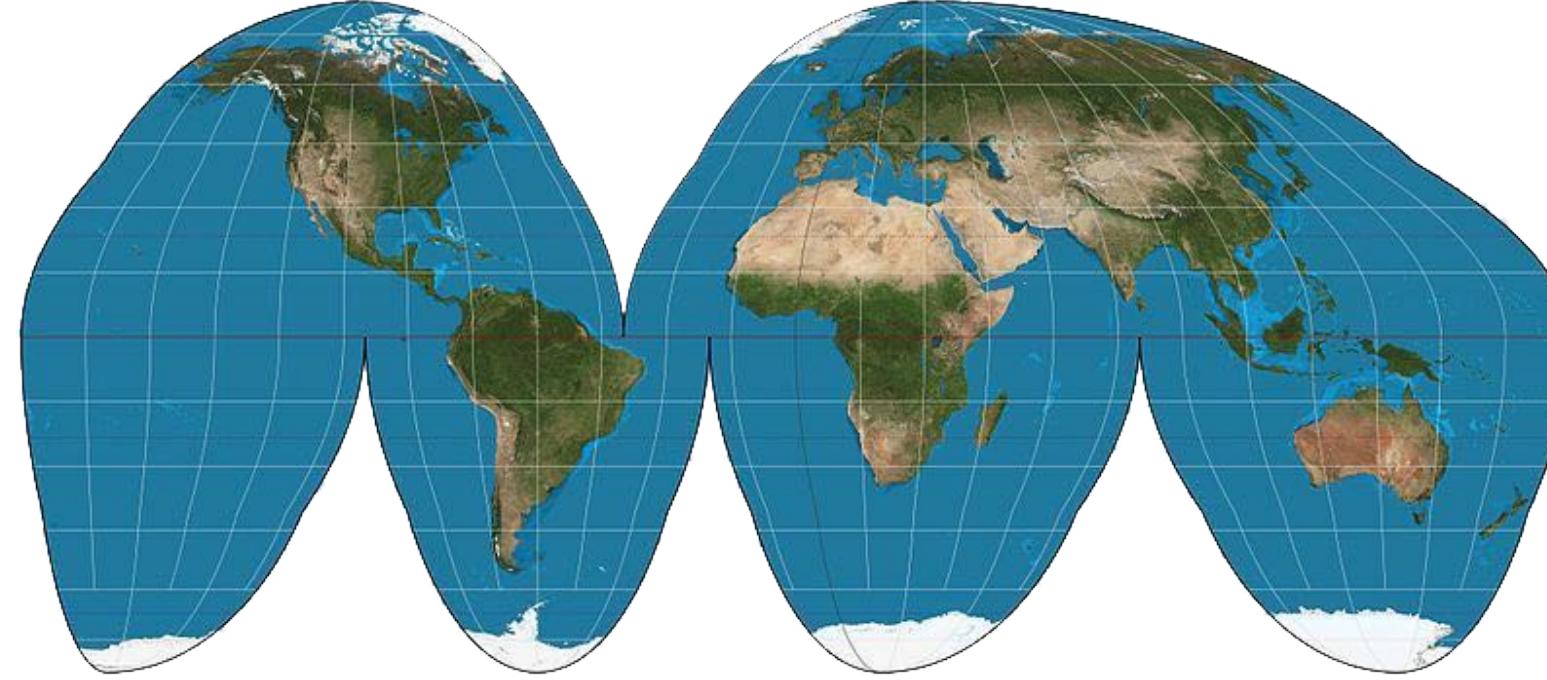


Mercator

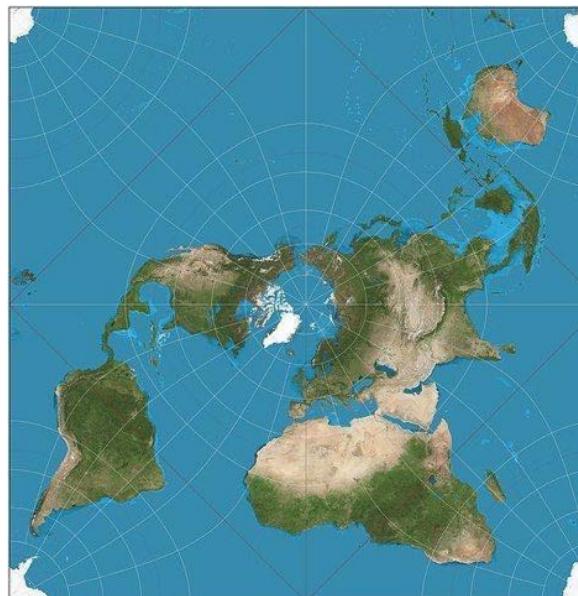
# map projections



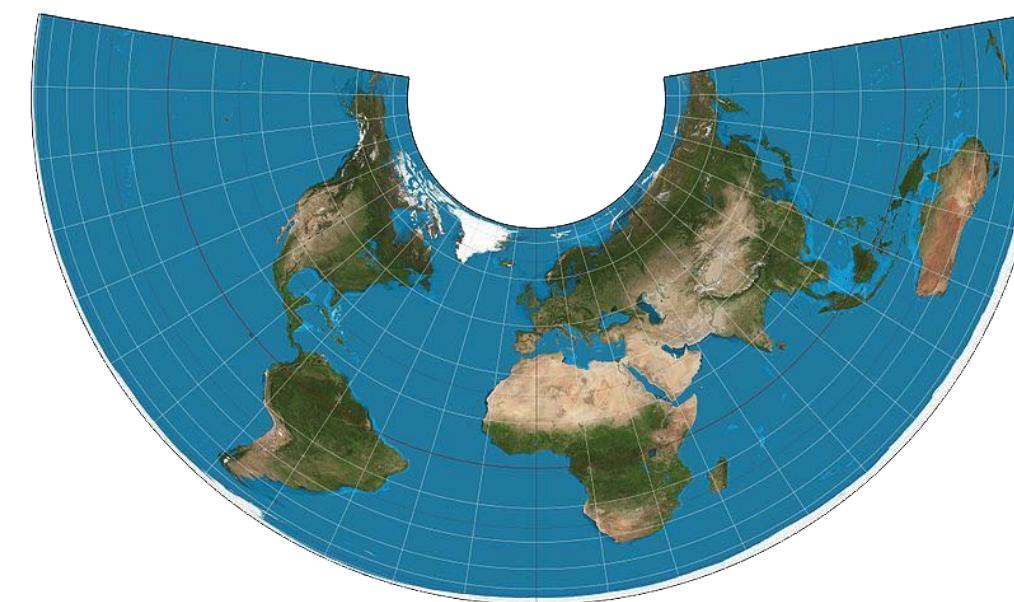
Cassini



Goode homolosine



Peirce quincuncial



Albers conic

# map projections



**Winkel Triple**  
adopted by National Geographic

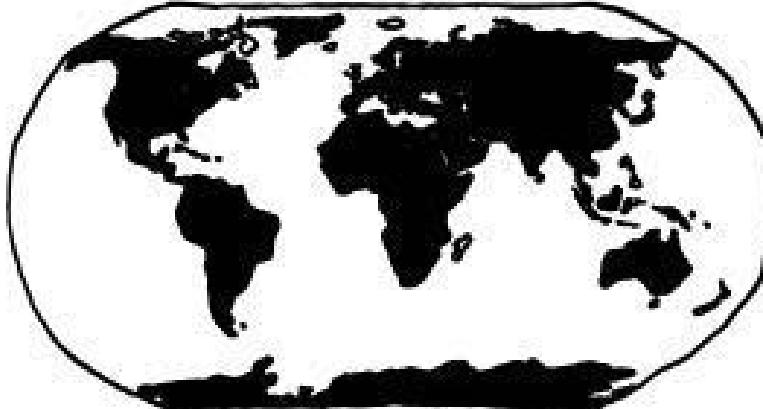
WHAT YOUR FAVORITE  
**MAP PROJECTION**  
SAYS ABOUT YOU

MERCATOR



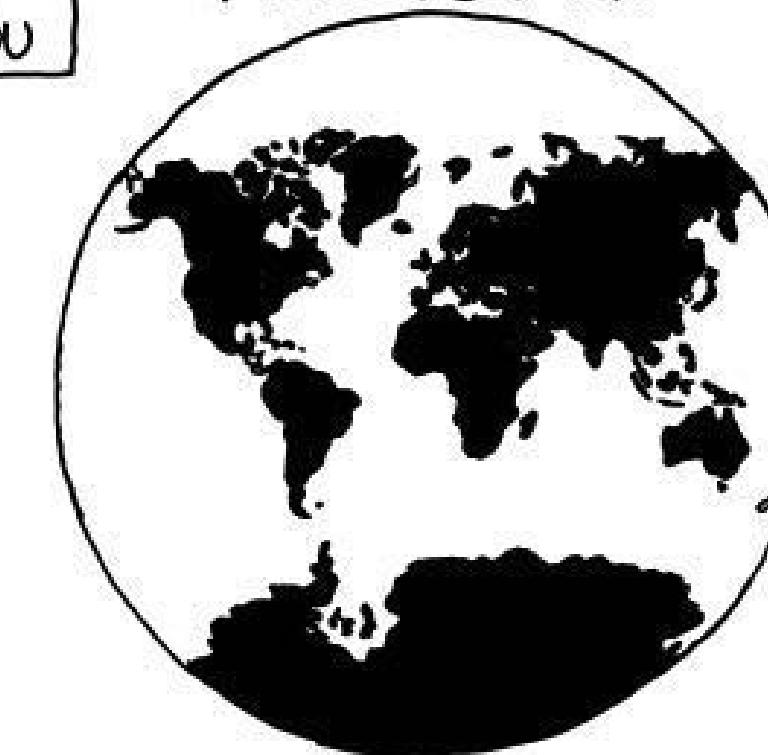
YOU'RE NOT REALLY INTO MAPS.

ROBINSON



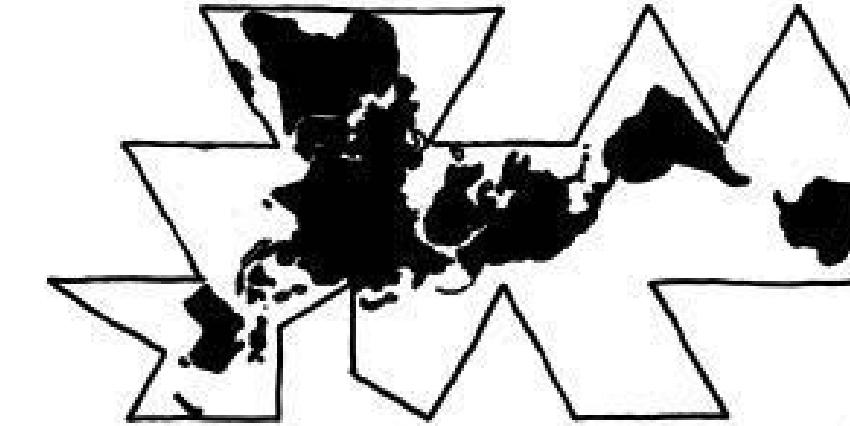
YOU HAVE A COMFORTABLE PAIR OF RUNNING SHOES THAT YOU WEAR EVERYWHERE. YOU LIKE COFFEE AND ENJOY THE BEATLES. YOU THINK THE ROBINSON IS THE BEST-LOOKING PROJECTION, HANDS DOWN.

VAN DER GRIJNEN



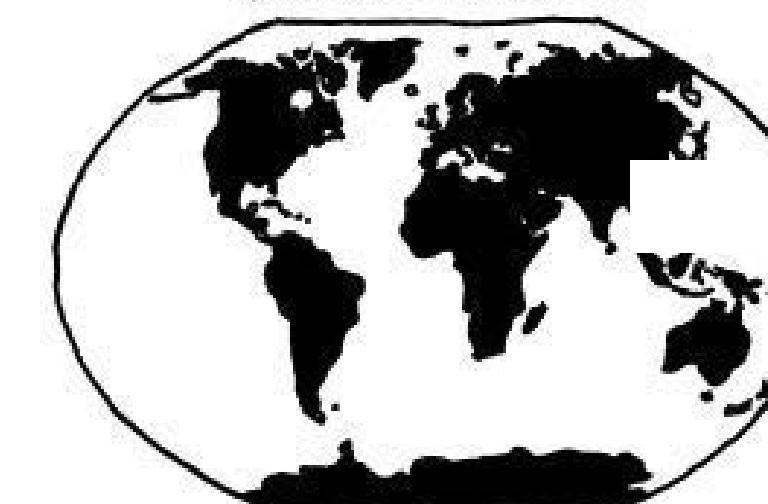
YOU'RE NOT A COMPLICATED PERSON. YOU LOVE THE MERCATOR PROJECTION; YOU JUST WISH IT WEREN'T SQUARE. THE EARTH'S NOT A SQUARE, IT'S A CIRCLE. YOU LIKE CIRCLES. TODAY IS GONNA BE A GOOD DAY!

Dymaxion



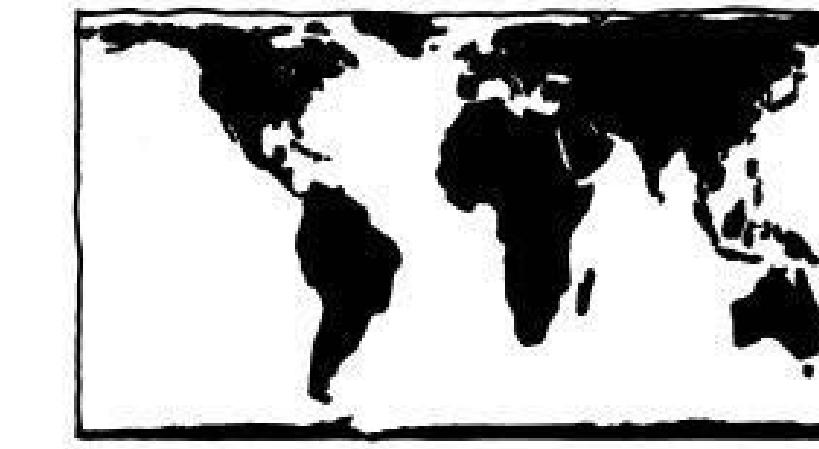
YOU LIKE ISAAC ASIMOV, XML, AND SHOES WITH TOES. YOU THINK THE SEGWAY GOT A BAD RAP. YOU OWN 3D GOGGLES, WHICH YOU USE TO VIEW ROTATING MODELS OF BETTER 3D GOGGLES. YOU TYPE IN DVORAK.

WINKEL-TRIPEL



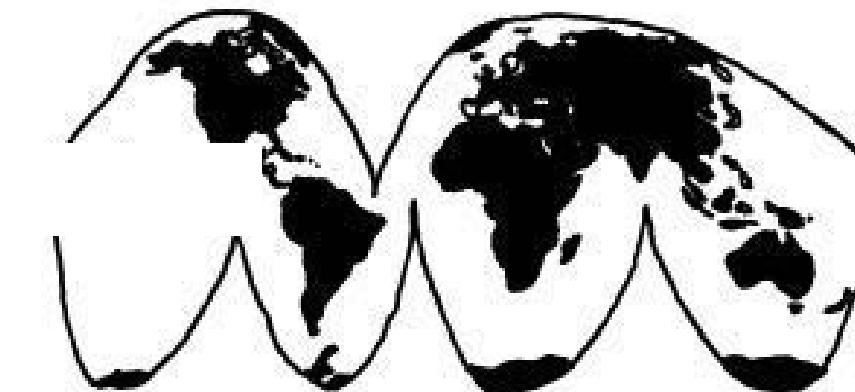
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ADOPTED THE WINKEL-TRIPEL IN 1998, BUT YOU'VE BEEN A WT FAN SINCE LONG BEFORE "NAT GEO" SHOWED UP. YOU'RE WORRIED IT'S GETTING PLAYED OUT, AND ARE THINKING OF SWITCHING TO THE KAVRAYSKY. YOU ONCE LEFT A PARTY IN DISGUST WHEN A GUEST SHOWED UP WEARING SHOES WITH TOES. YOUR FAVORITE MUSICAL GENRE IS "POST-".

HOBЫ-DYER



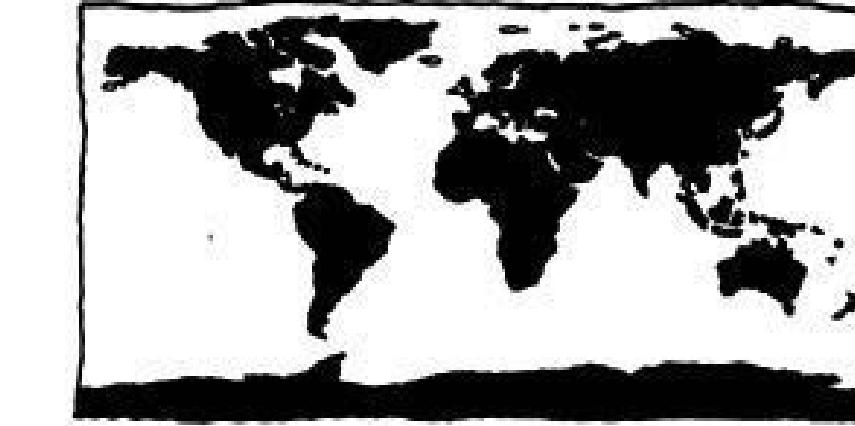
YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT IMPERIALISM, BUT YOU DO CARE ABOUT GALL-PETERS. YOU'RE CONFLICT-AVERSE AND BUY ORGANIC. YOU USE A RECENTLY-INVENTED SET OF GENDER-NEUTRAL PRONOUNS AND THINK THAT WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS IS A REVOLUTION IN CONSCIOUSNESS.

GOODE HOMOLOSINE



THEY SAY MAPPING THE EARTH ON A 2D SURFACE IS LIKE FLATTENING AN ORANGE PEEL, WHICH SEEMS EASY ENOUGH TO YOU. YOU LIKE EASY SOLUTIONS. YOU THINK WE WOULDN'T HAVE SO MANY PROBLEMS IF WE'D JUST ELECT NORMAL PEOPLE TO CONGRESS INSTEAD OF POLITICIANS. YOU THINK AIRLINES SHOULD JUST BUY FOOD FROM THE RESTAURANTS NEAR THE GATES AND SERVE THAT ON BOARD. YOU CHANGE YOUR CAR'S OIL, BUT SECRETLY WONDER IF YOU REALLY NEED TO.

PLATE CARRÉ  
(EQURECTANGULAR)



YOU THINK THIS ONE IS FINE. YOU LIKE HOW X AND Y MAP TO LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE. THE OTHER PROJECTIONS OVERCOMPLICATE THINGS. YOU WANT ME TO STOP ASKING ABOUT MAPS SO YOU CAN ENJOY DINNER.



YES, YOU'RE VERY CLEVER.



PEIRCE QUINCUNCIAL

YOU THINK THAT WHEN WE LOOK AT A MAP, WHAT WE REALLY SEE IS OURSELVES. AFTER YOU FIRST SAW INCEPTION, YOU SAT SILENT IN THE THEATER FOR SIX HOURS. IT FREAKS YOU OUT TO REALIZE THAT EVERYONE AROUND YOU HAS A SKELETON INSIDE THEM. YOU HAVE REALLY LOOKED AT YOUR HANDS.



WATERMAN BUTTERFLY

REALLY? YOU KNOW THE WATERMAN? HAVE YOU SEEN THE 1909 CAHILL MAP IT'S BASED— ... YOU HAVE A FRAMED REPRODUCTION AT HOME?! WHOA. ... LISTEN, FORGET THESE QUESTIONS. ARE YOU DOING ANYTHING TONIGHT?



GALL-PETERS

I HATE YOU.

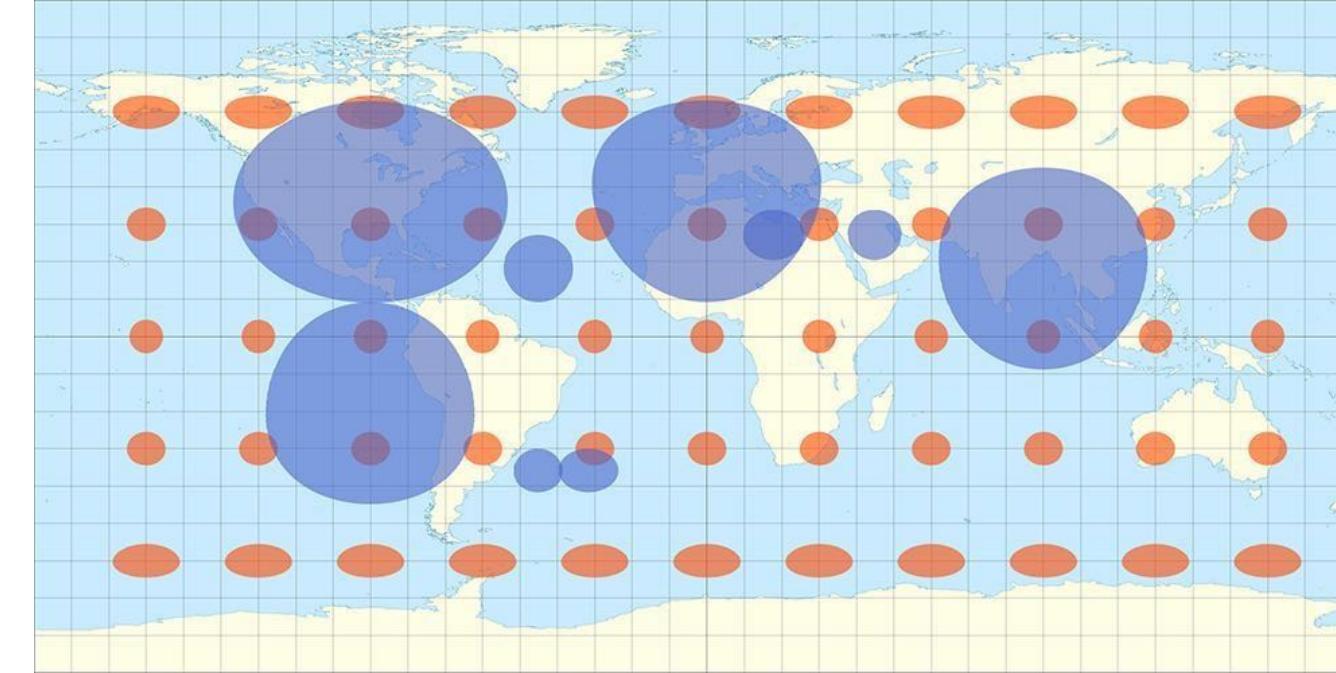
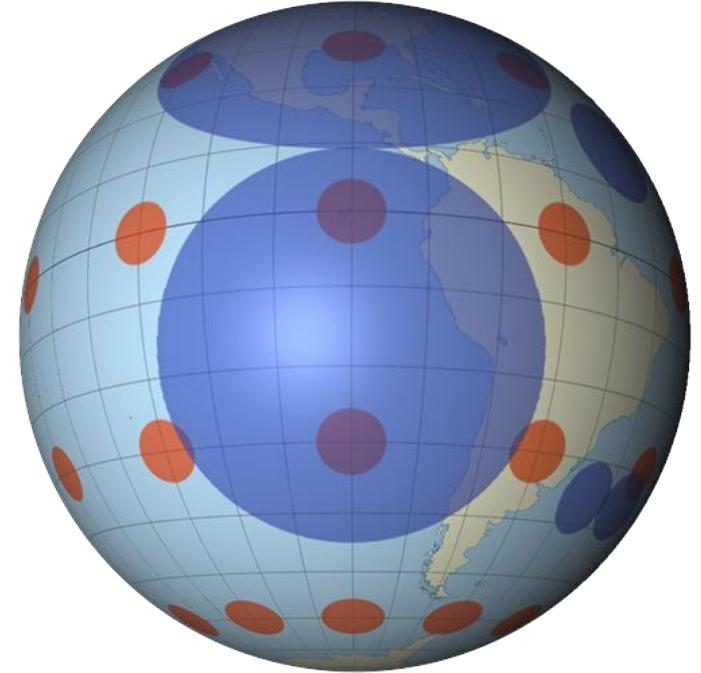
**Which one should I use?**

**There is not a perfect projection!**

# map projections

## distortions

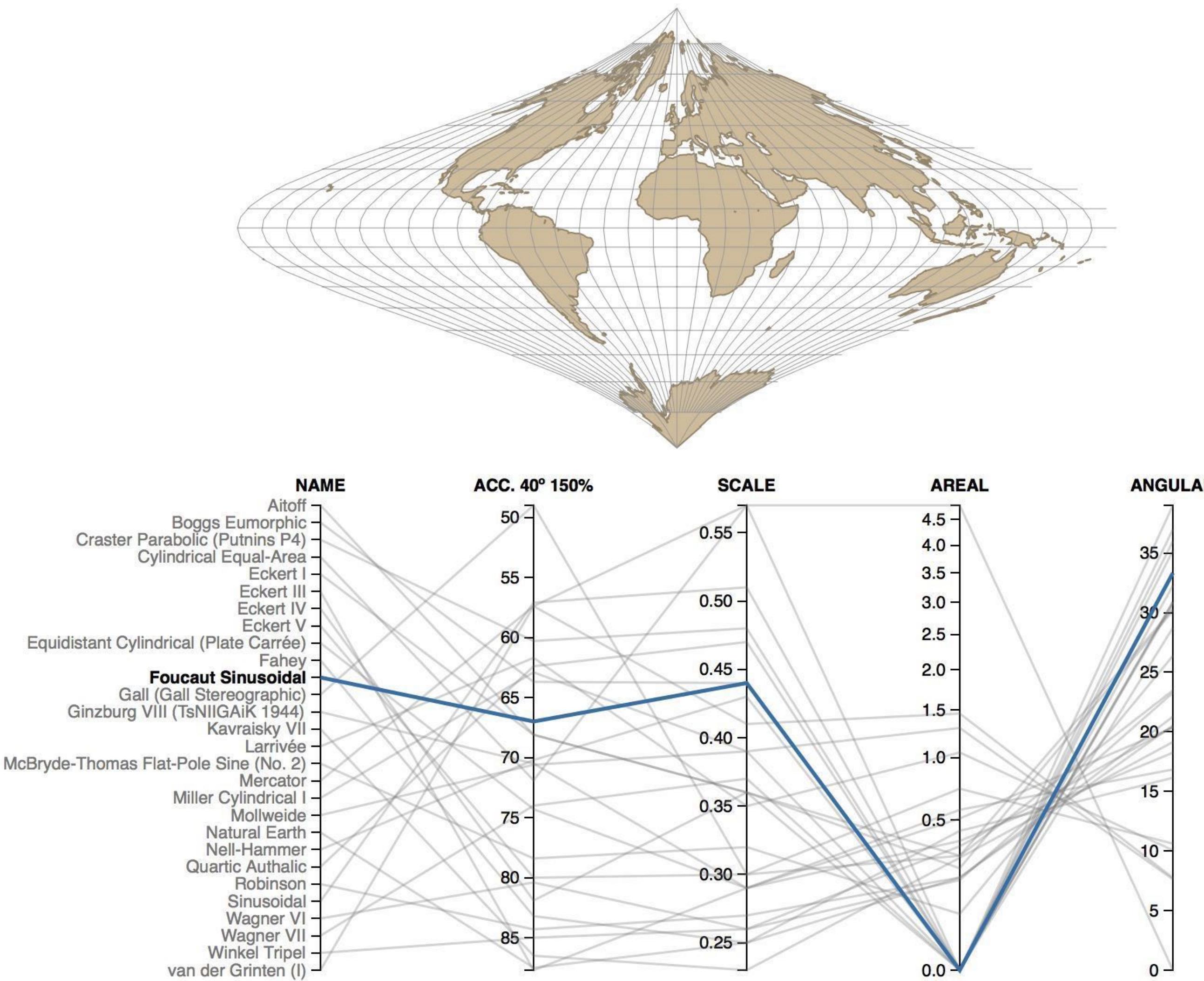
- **projections cause distortions**
  - **shape, area, distance, direction**
  - depending on the application, some projections may be more suitable than others



# types of projections

- **azimuthal**
  - preserves the azimuth (direction) from center
- **conformal**
  - local angles are correct, preserving small shapes
- **equal-Area**
  - equal-area maps preserve area measure, generally distorting shapes
- **equidistant**
  - distances from center (or along certain lines, like along meridians) are correct

# compare projections on d3.js

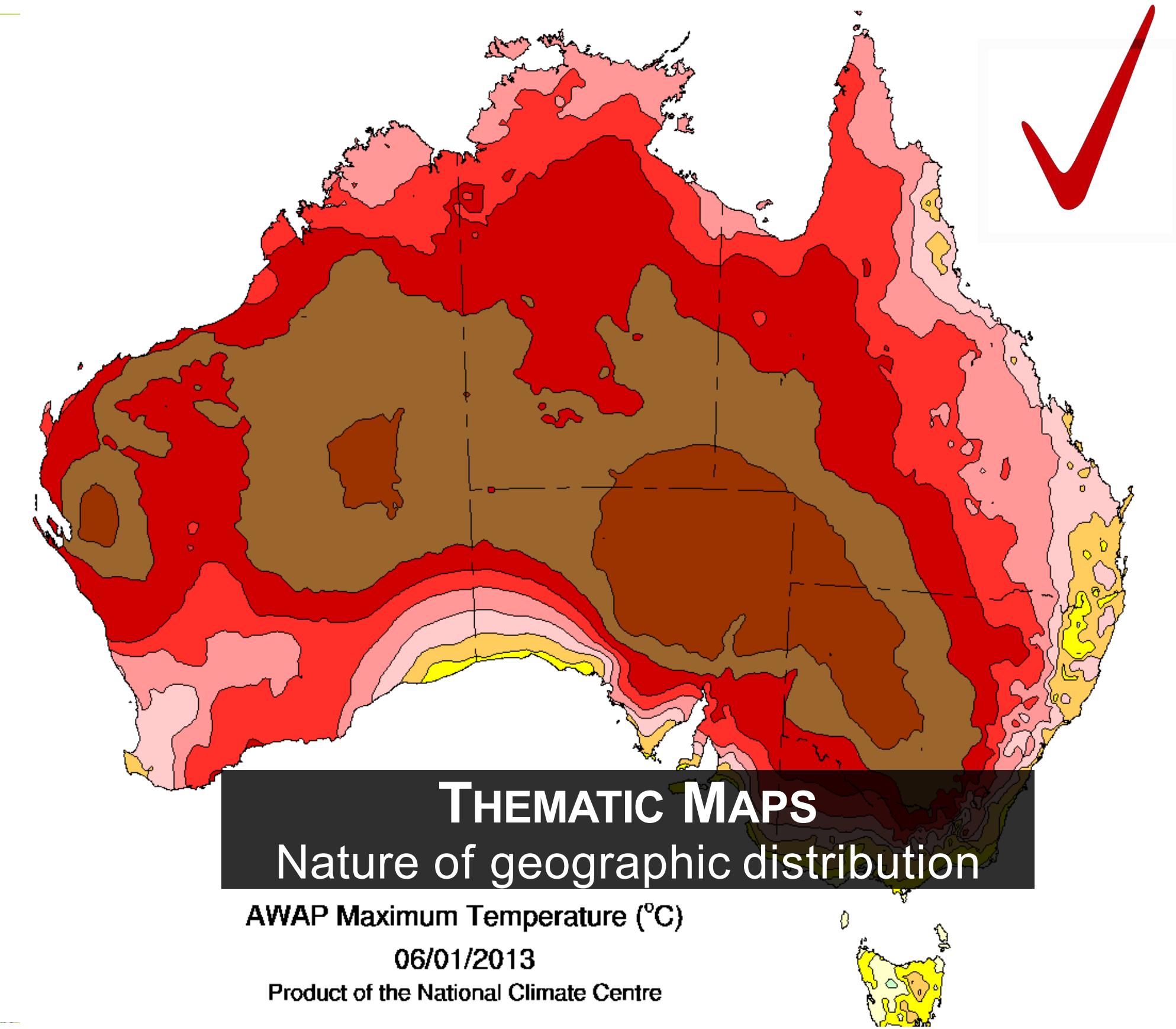


## projections can produce societal biases

- See video from "The West Wing" Season 2 Episode 16
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vVX-PrBRtTY&t>
- Other useful references:
  - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KUF\\_Ckv8HbE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KUF_Ckv8HbE)
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kIID5FDi2JQ>

mapping

# two (overlapping) categories



# Thematic maps

- **Visualize spatial distributions of data, e.g., population density**
- **Thematic maps serve three primary purposes.**
  - 1. They provide specific information about particular locations.
  - 2. They provide general information about spatial patterns.
  - 3. They can be used to compare patterns on two or more maps.

# Design is driven by

- Data
  - Categorical, ordinal, interval, ratio

		Nominal	Ordinal	Interval	Ratio
Categorical	mutual exclusive, not ordered, categories e.g., five different genotypes, average no meaning	frequency distribution.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ordinal	order matters but not the difference e.g., movie ratings	median and percentiles.	No	Yes	Yes
Interval	difference between two values is meaningful e.g., temperatures in Celsius, a temperature of 100 degrees C is not twice as hot as 50 degrees C	add or subtract.	No	No	Yes
Ratio	as interval but has a clear definition of 0.0 e.g., temperature in Kelvin,	mean, standard deviation, standard error of the mean.	No	No	Yes
	ratio, or coefficient of variation.		No	No	Yes

# Design is driven by

- **Data**
  - Categorical, ordinal, interval, ratio
- **Spatial scale and granularity**
  - discrete vs continuous

## Discrete

only found at fixed locations or when the data represent only specific values, e.g., # accidents at crossings

Point Line Polygon

## Continuous

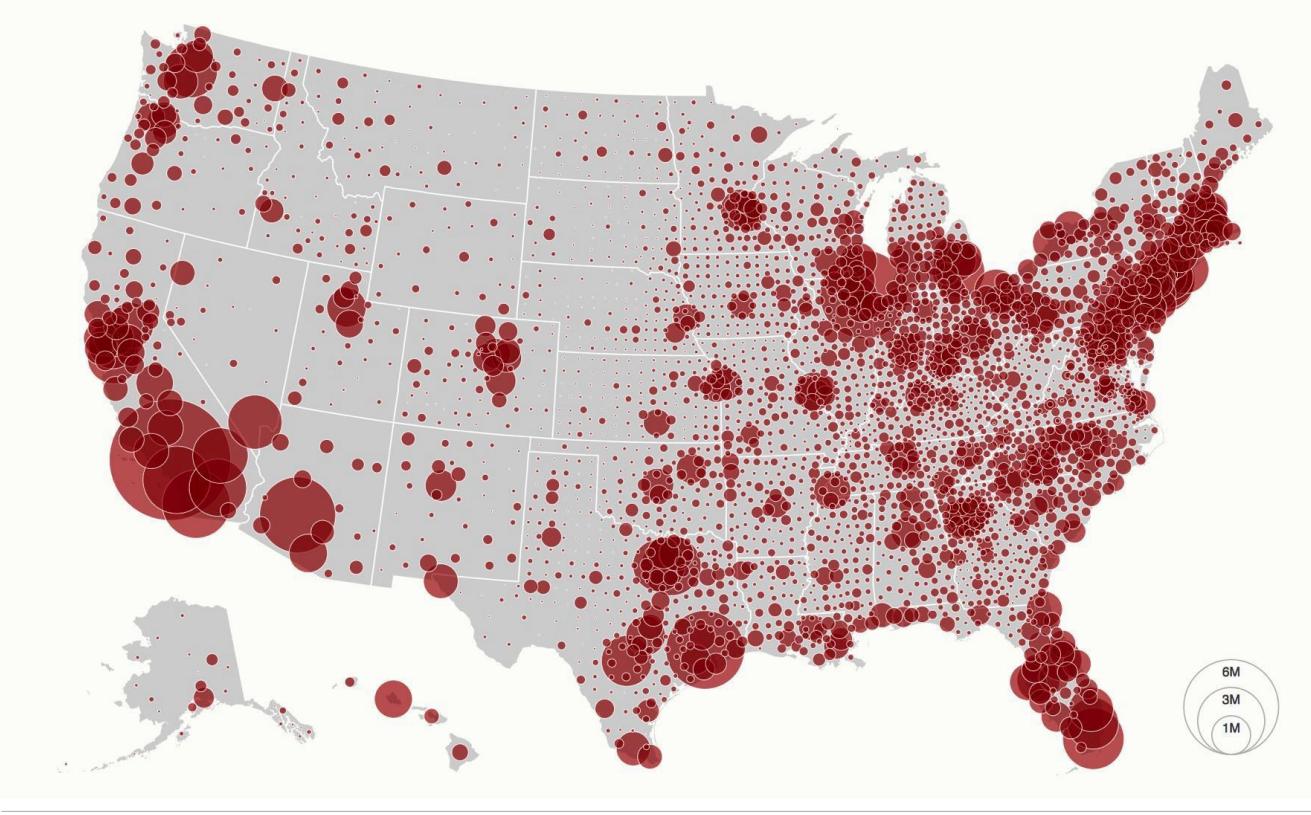
seen throughout the mapped area and smoothly transitions from one value to another, e.g., air temperature.

Surface Volume

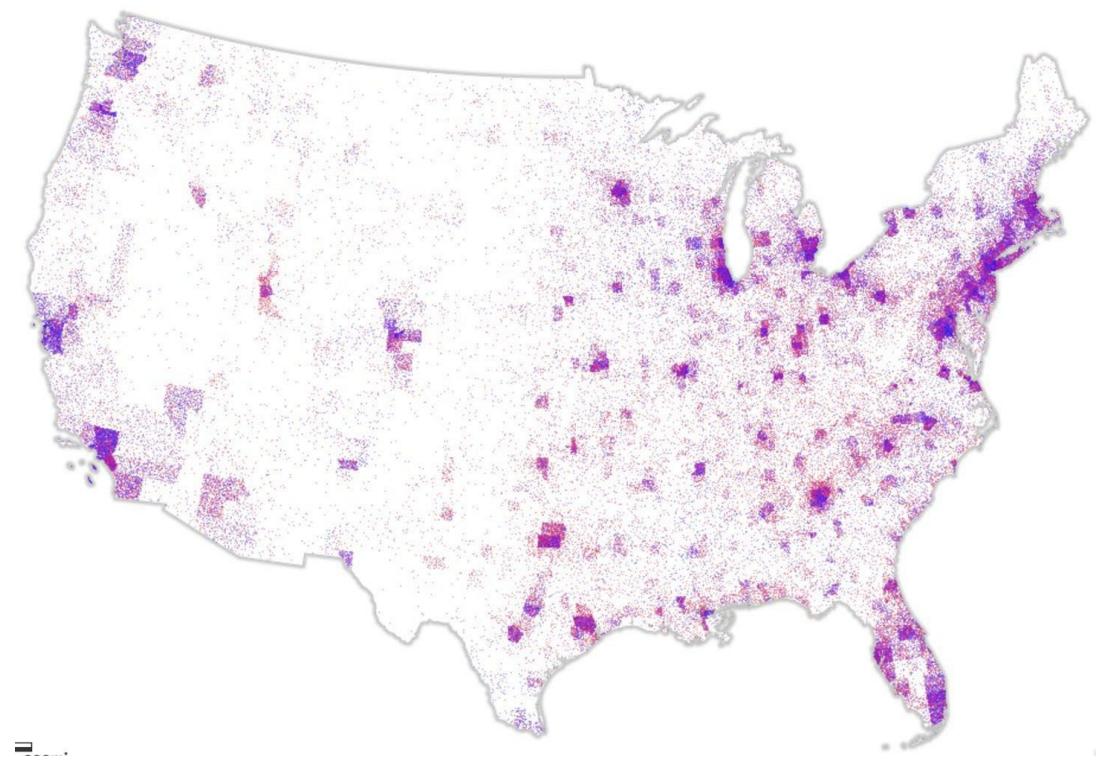
# Design is driven by

- **Data**
  - Categorical, ordinal, interval, ratio
- **Spatial scale and granularity**
  - discrete vs continuous
- **Human visual perception and aesthetics**
  - choosing the correct visual variables, e.g., symbols, colors
- **Audience**
  - knowing who will read the thematic map and for what purpose helps define how it should be designed
    - political scientist vs biologist

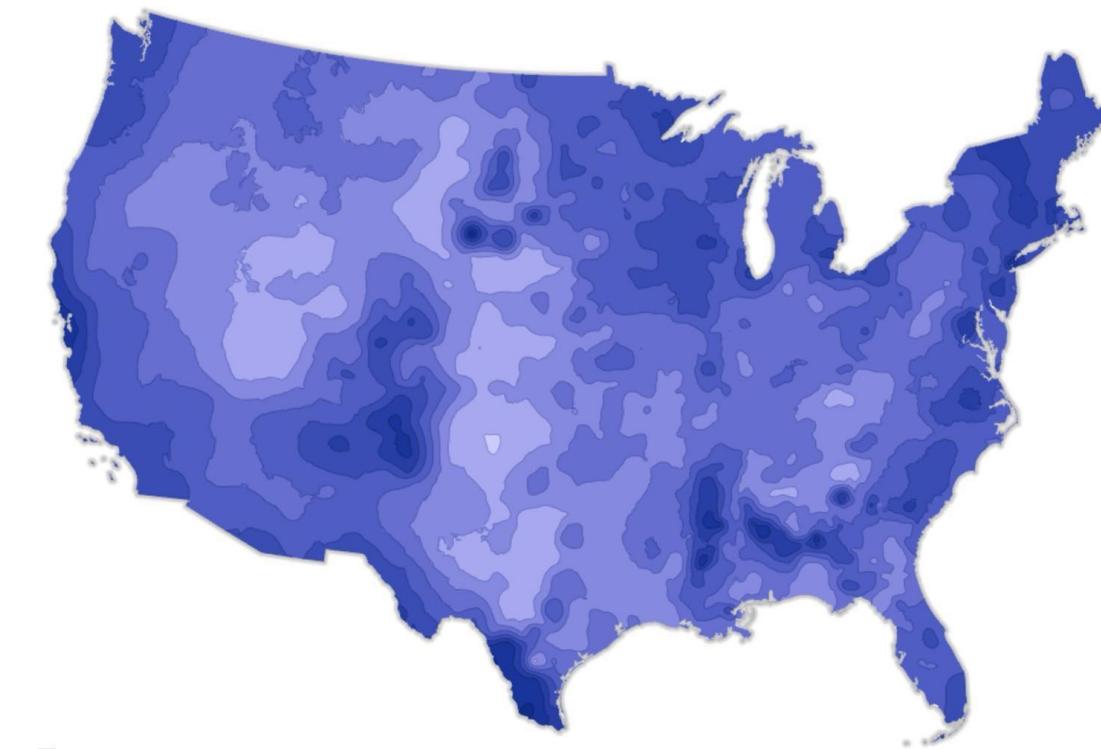
## Proportional symbols



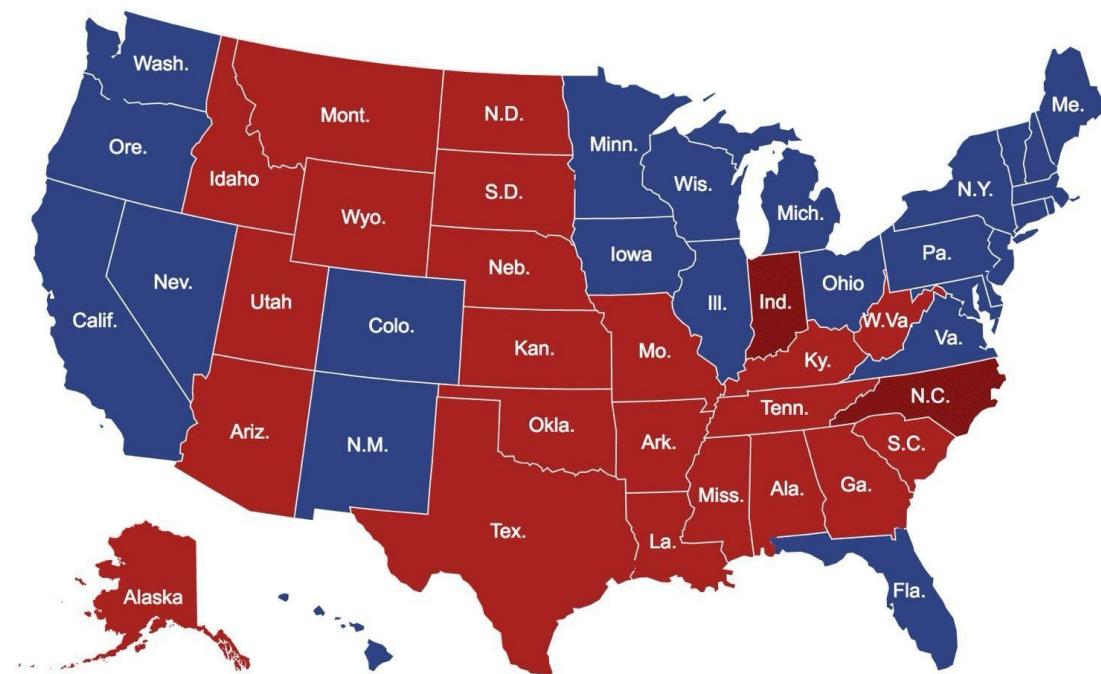
## Dot distribution



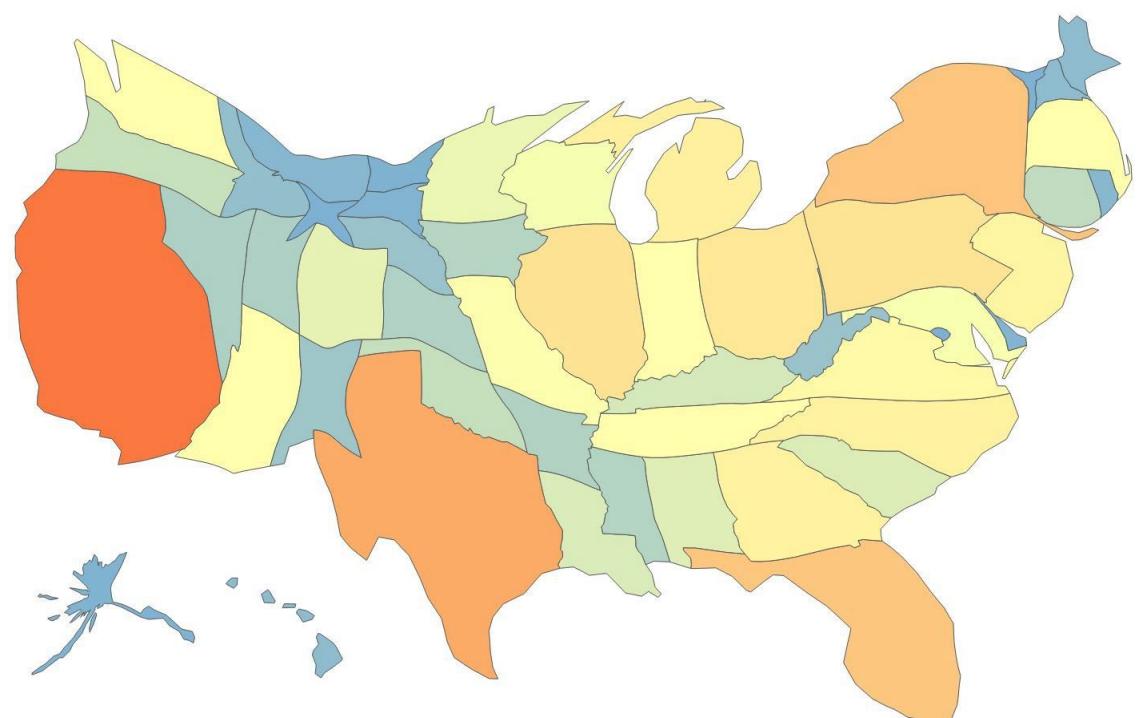
## Isopleth



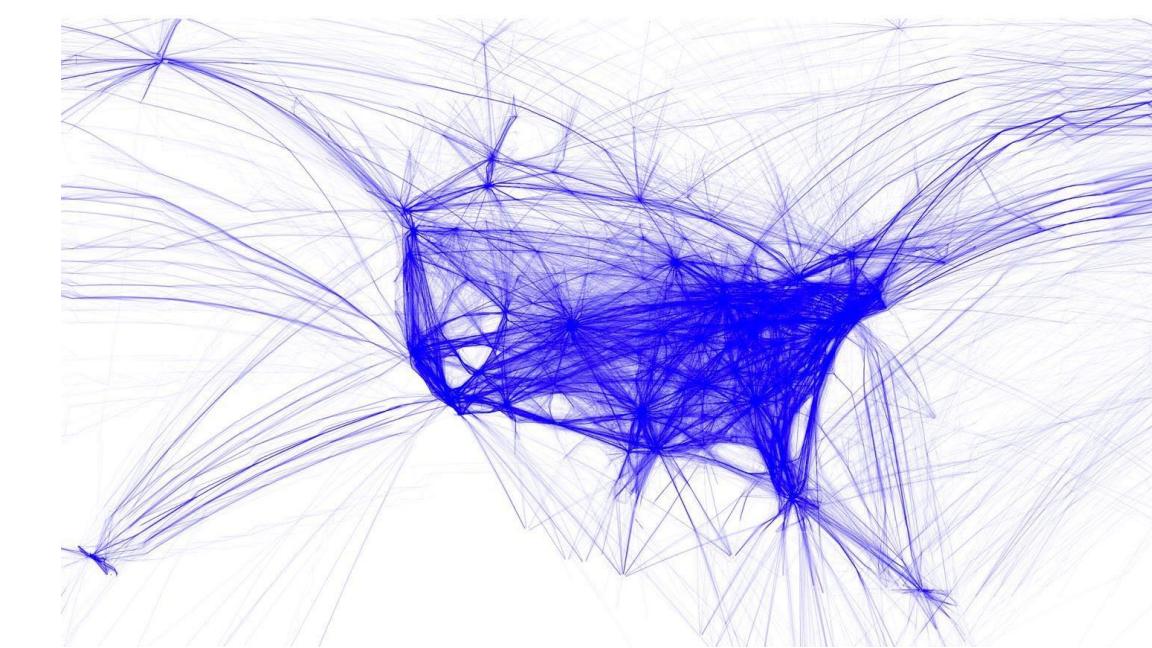
## Choropleth



## Cartograms

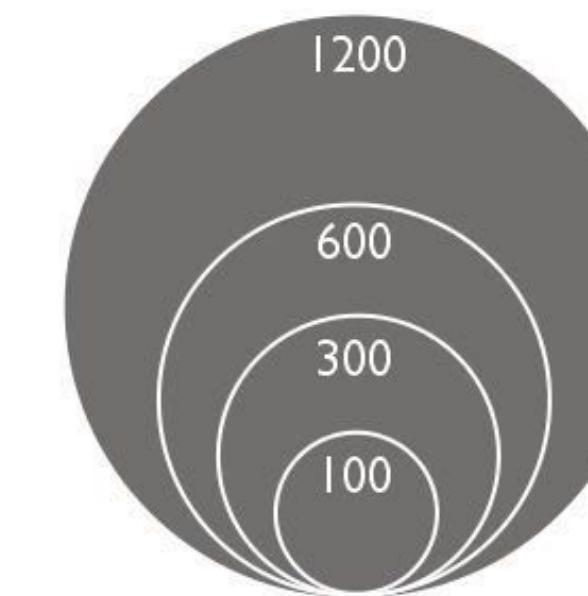


## Flow Maps

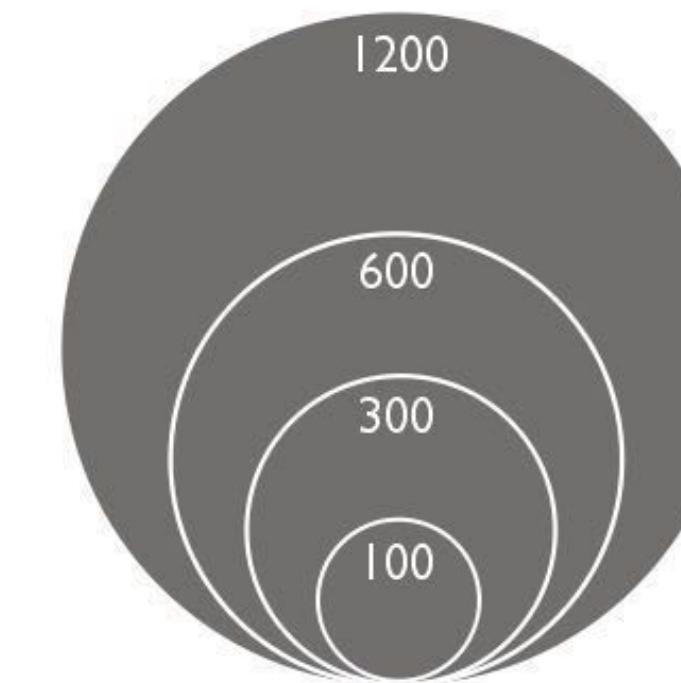


# Proportional symbol maps

- Represent data variables by symbols that are sized, colored according to their amount or type.
- Data is (or can be) aggregated at points within areas.
- Different methods for setting symbol size:
  - absolute scaling
  - apparent magnitude (perceptual) scaling
- psychophysical research revealed that people tend to correctly estimate lengths, and to underestimate areas and volumes.
  - range grading



Absolute Scaling



Apparent Scaling  
(Flannery's Compensation)

## Proportional Symbol

2012 US Presidential election results by County, by total votes

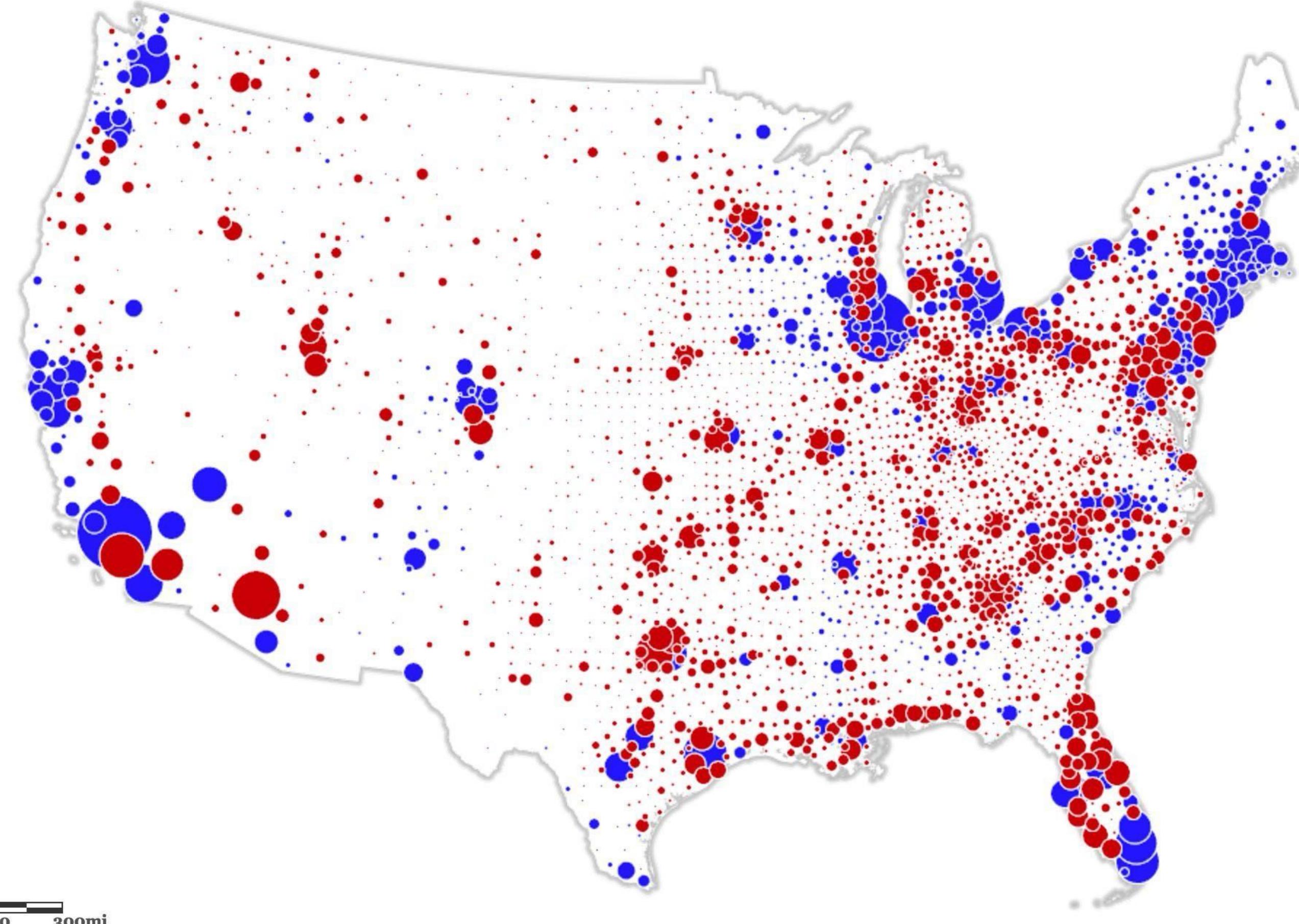
### Map type

The purpose of a **proportional symbol** thematic map is to show how features differ in quantity for the theme being mapped. In this example of the 2012 Presidential election, the map is designed to show the number of votes cast for the predominant party in each County.



### Data

For the theme being mapped, the data should be **numerical (quantitative)** and represent differences between features on an **interval or ratio** scale of measurement. The map type requires data to be absolute, as totals. Here, the vote totals are augmented by symbols that define a second **categorical** characteristic of the data, namely 'Republican' or 'Democrat'.



0 150 300mi

### Symbols

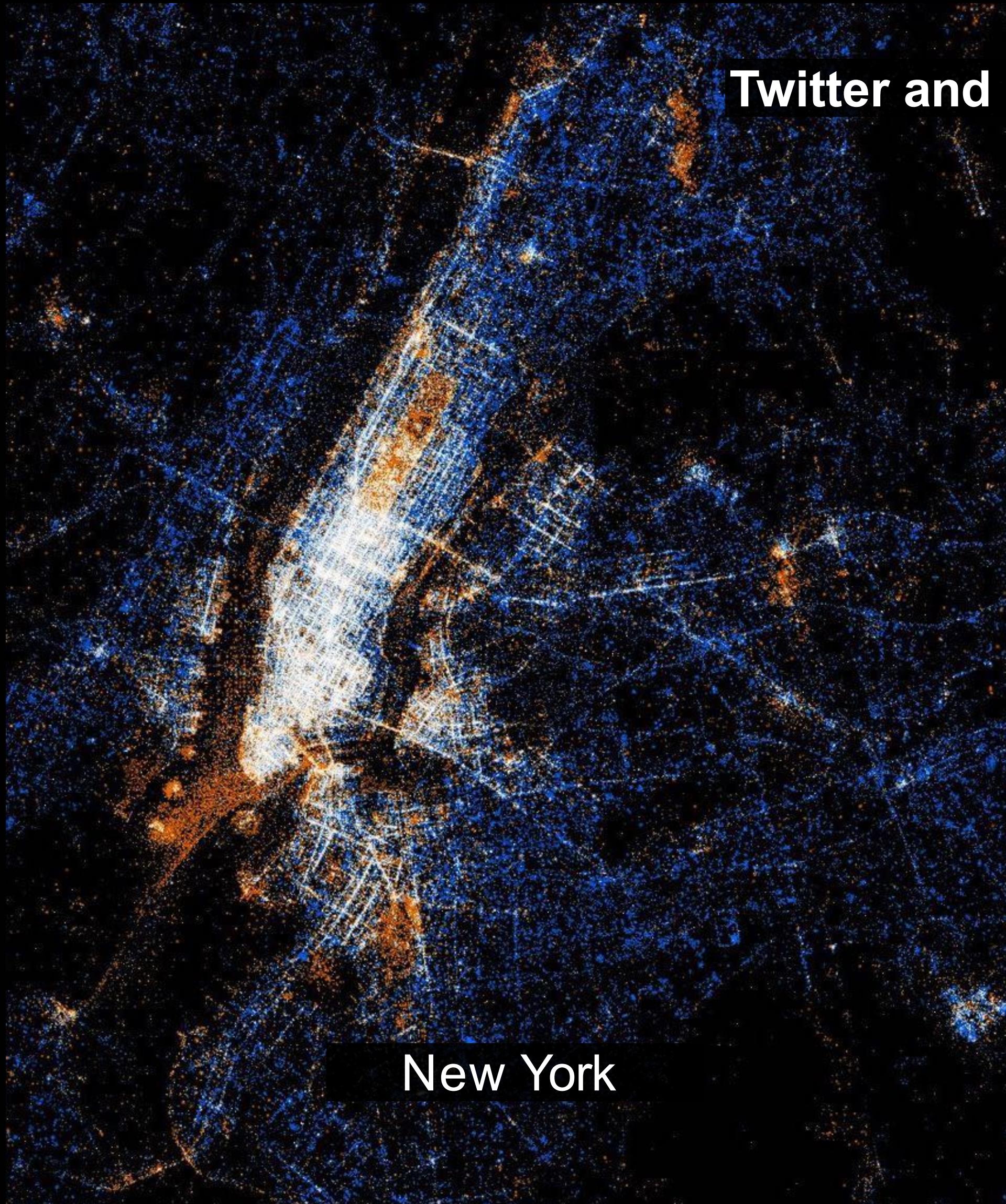
Symbols are scaled to the data values and should be designed so that different magnitudes of data can be easily distinguished from one another through variation in the **size** of the symbol, used as an **ordering visual variable**. Symbols should be scaled so that the smallest are visible and the largest do not overly smother the map.

Kenneth Field, politico.com

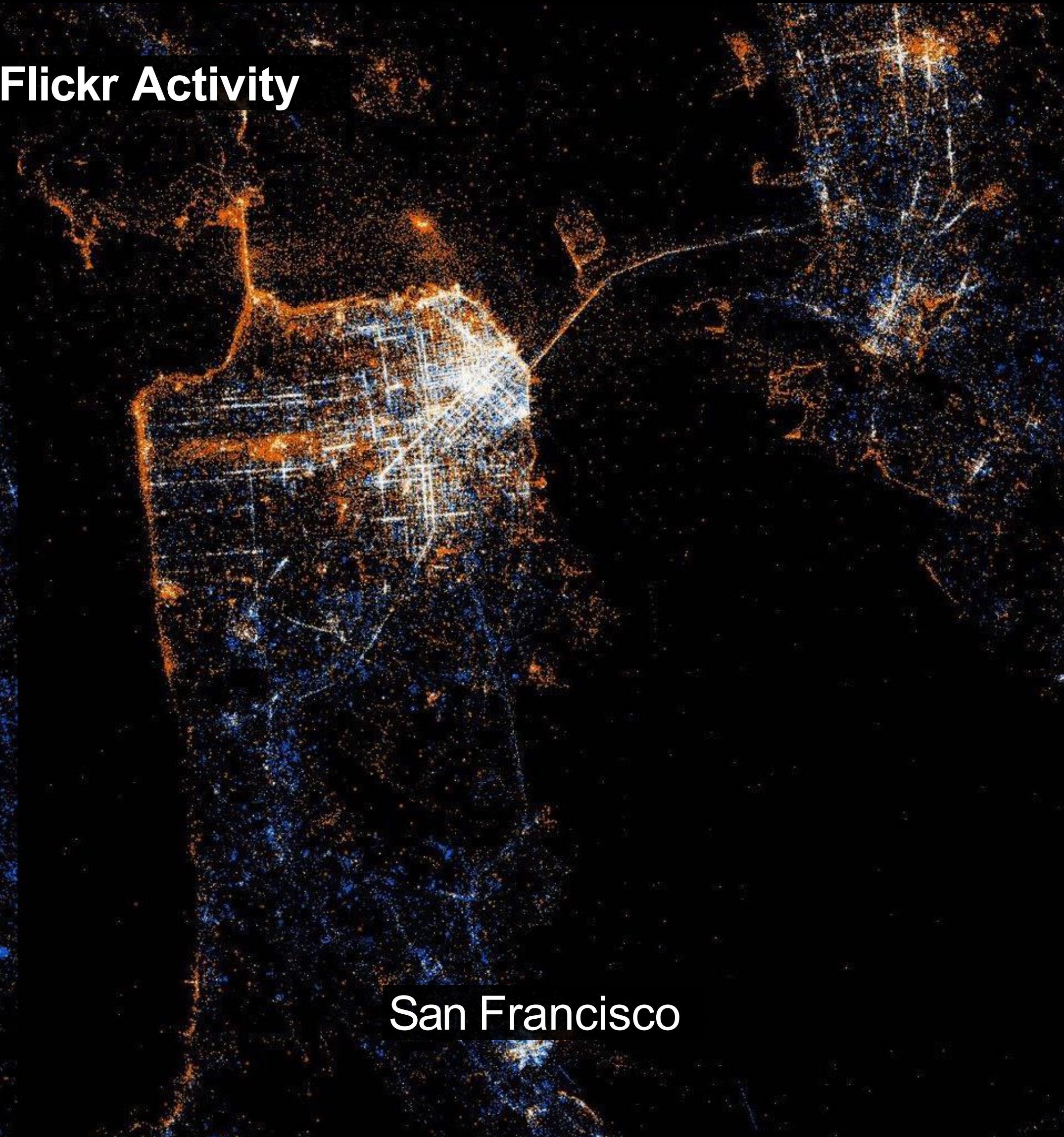
POWERED BY  
**esri**

# dot distribution

Twitter and Flickr Activity

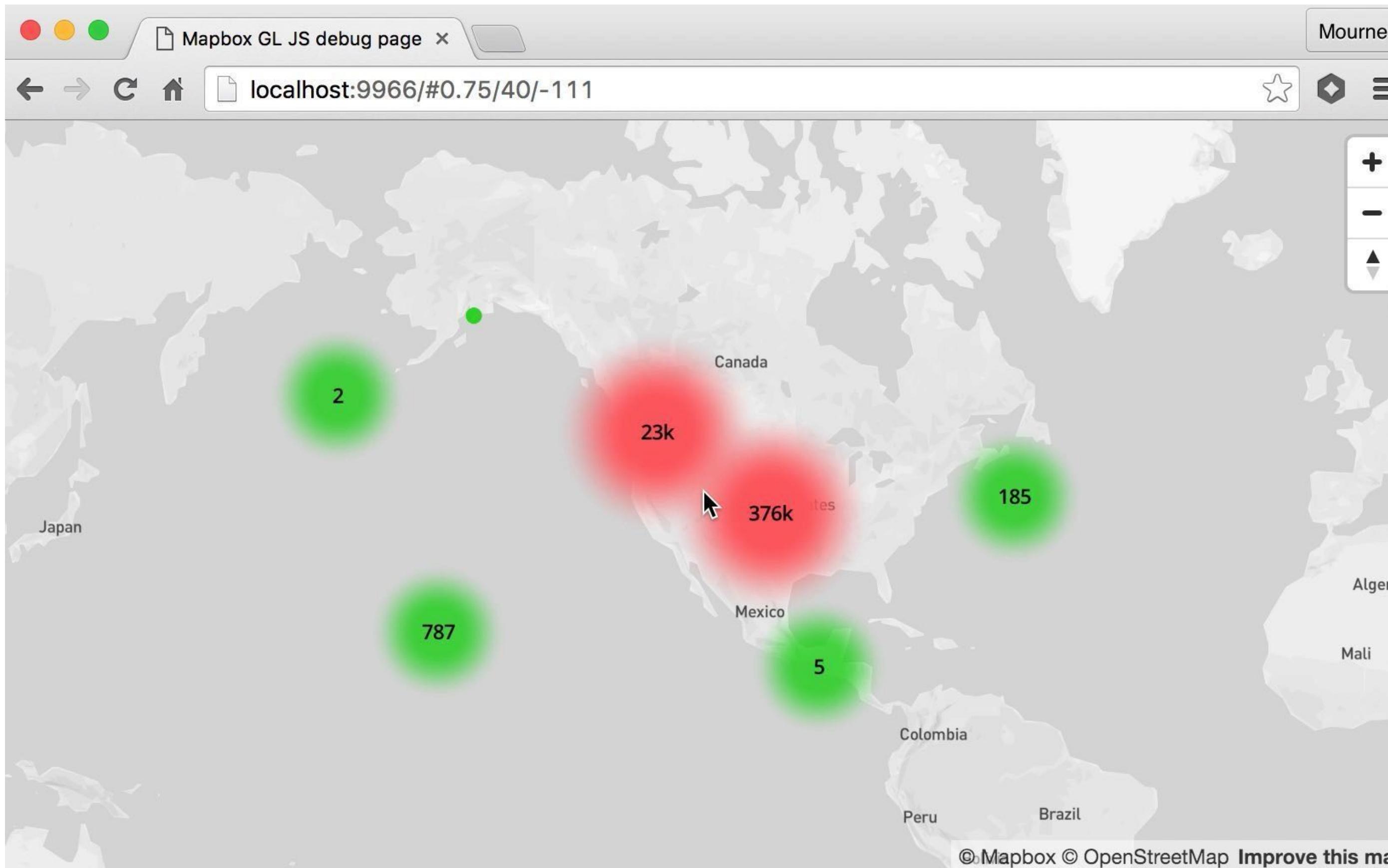


New York

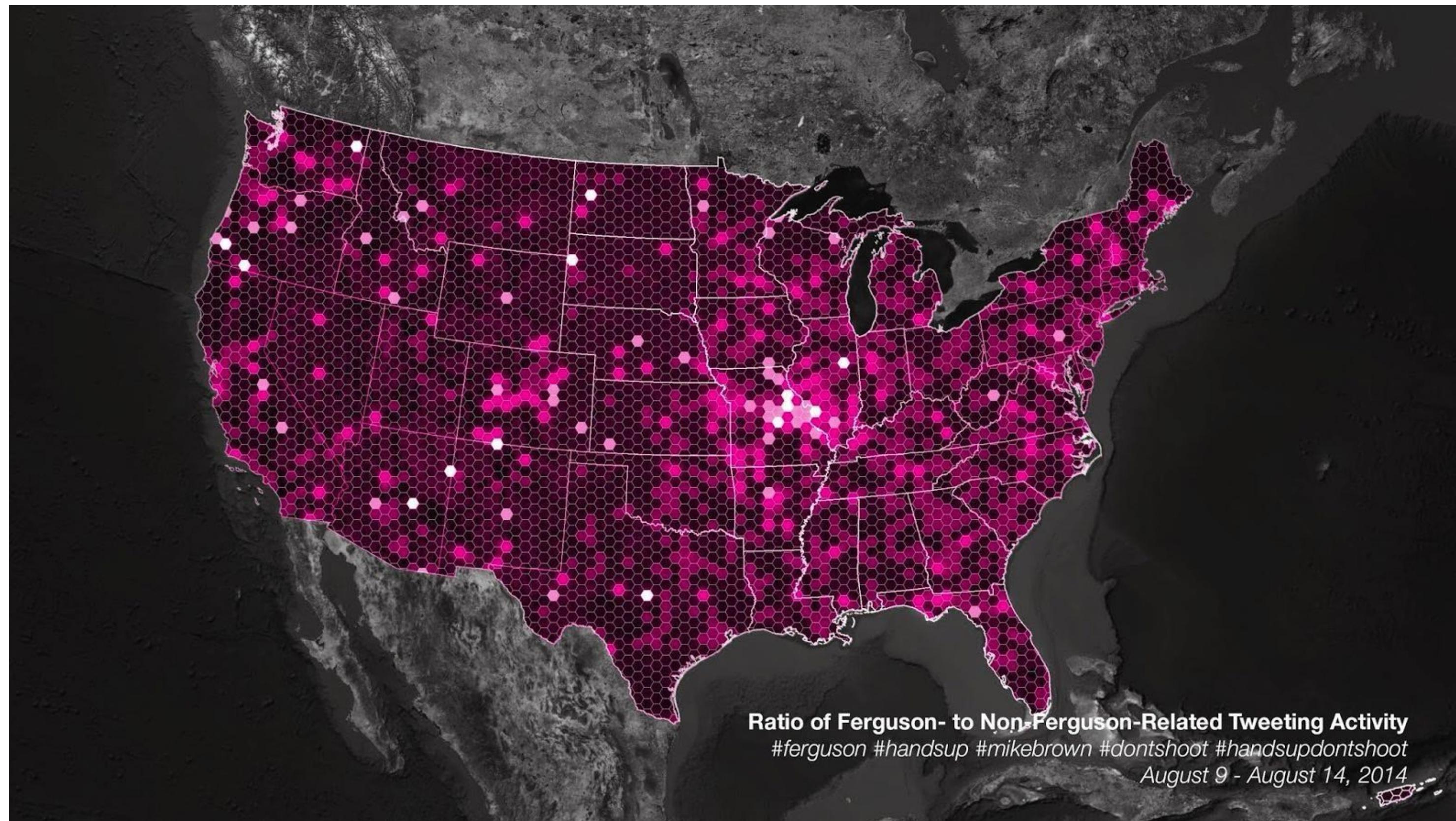


San Francisco

# Clustering (dealing with a lot of points)

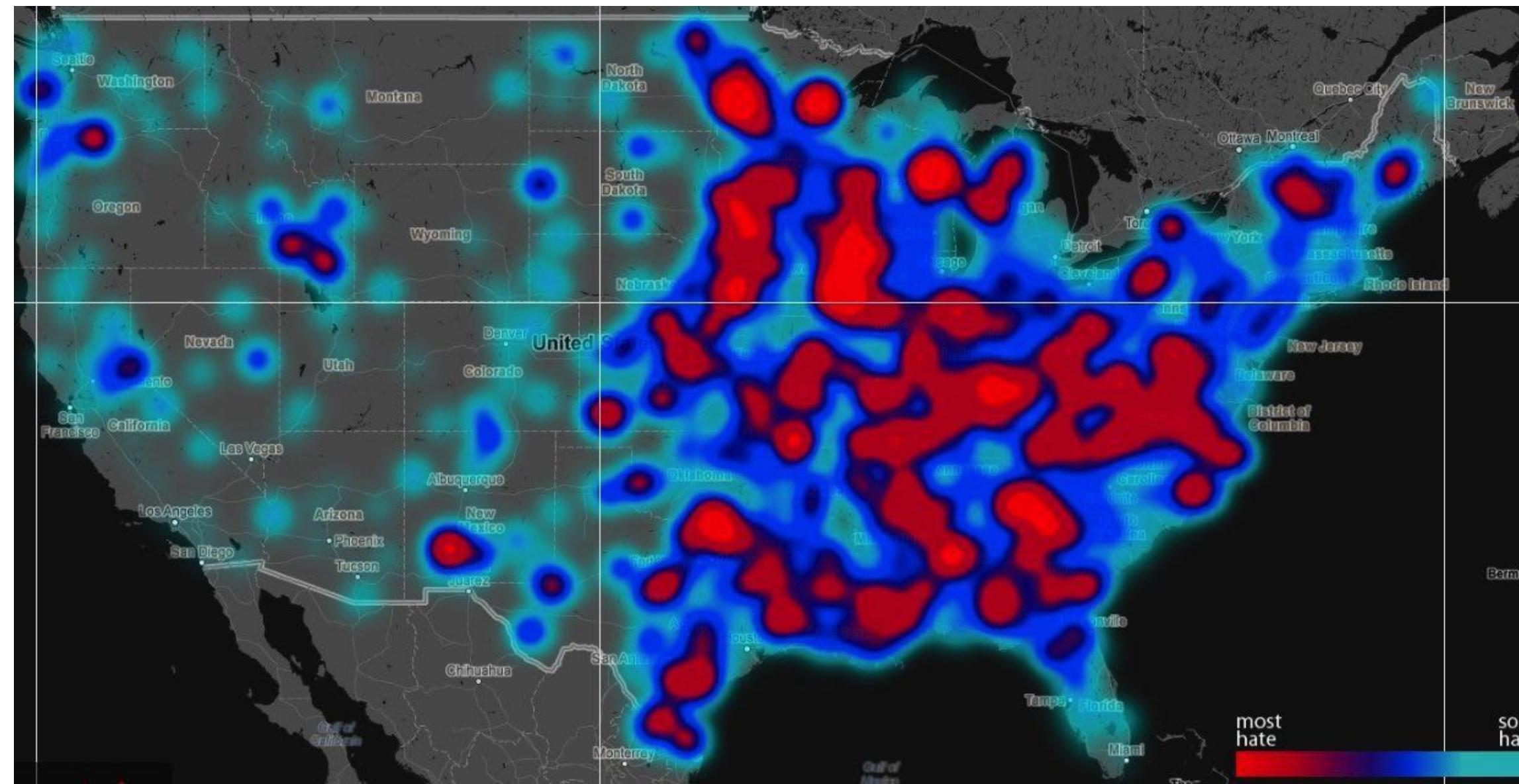


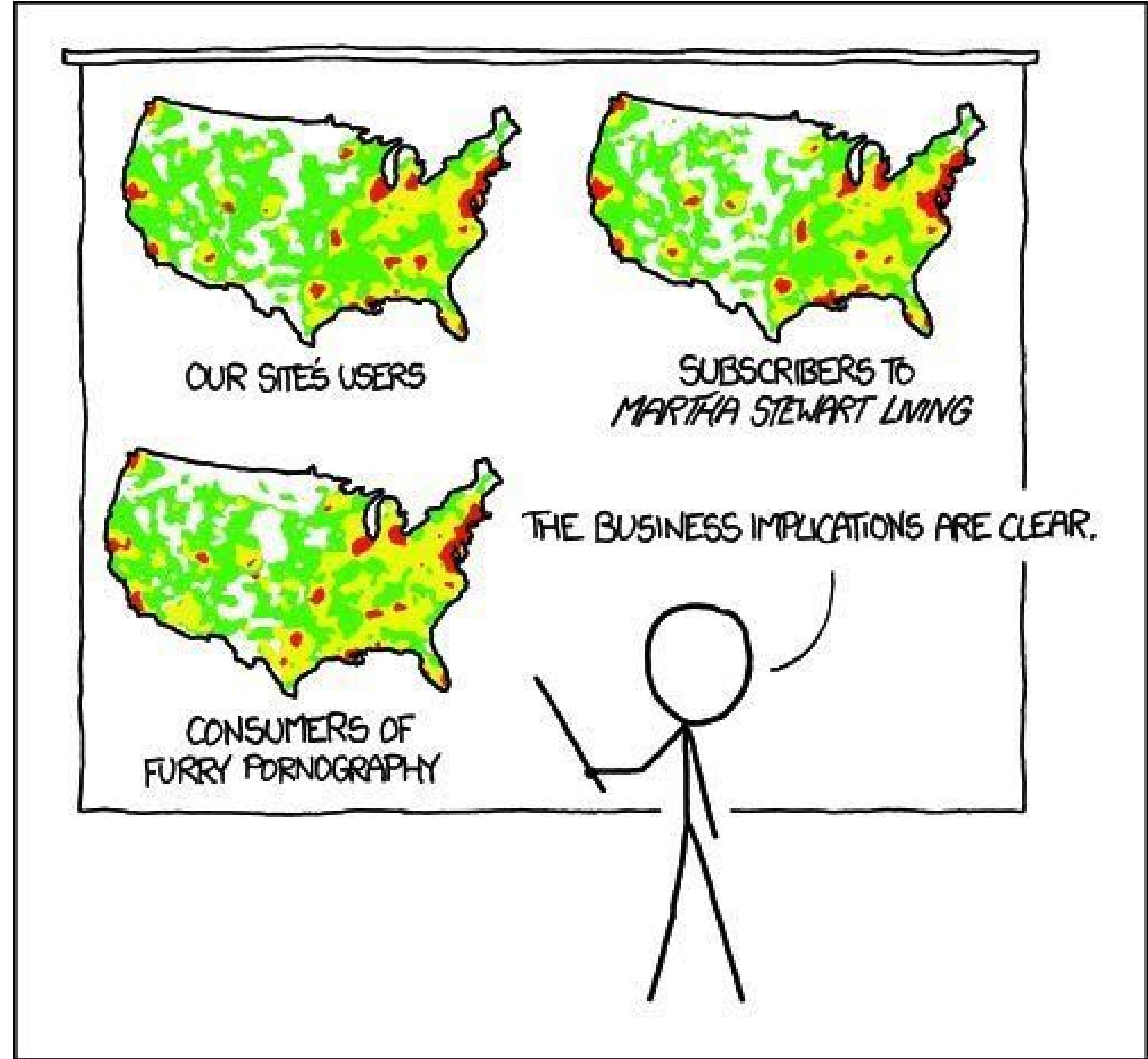
# Hexbins



# Heatmaps

- Used to identify clusters where there is a high concentration of activity (attribute under analysis)
- They can ben also useful for doing hotspot analysis.





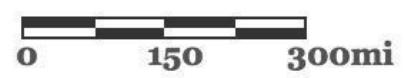
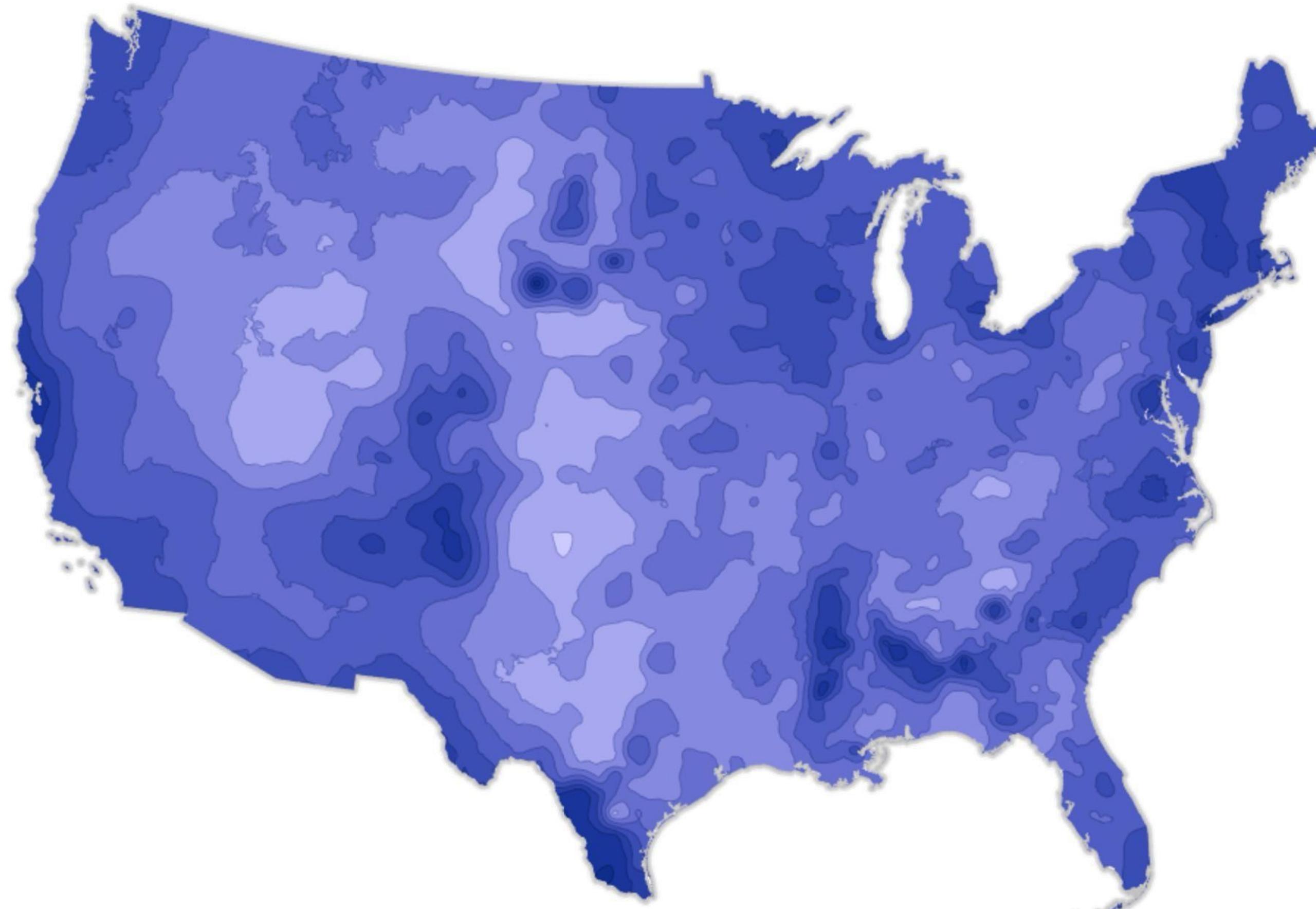
PET PEEVE #208:  
GEOGRAPHIC PROFILE MAPS WHICH ARE  
BASICALLY JUST POPULATION MAPS

## Isopleth: Filled Contours

2012 US Presidential election results: Democrat share of vote

### Map type

An **isarithmic** map is a two-dimensional representation of a three-dimensional volume. Two types exist: an **isometric** form that is constructed from data at points and an **isoplethic** form constructed from data that occur over geographic areas. The purpose of an **isopleth** thematic map is to show how features differ in quantity as a surface. This can be achieved through representing the volume using **contour lines** or by using **filled contours** that are shaded according to the quantitative value being mapped. In this example of the 2012 Presidential election, the map is designed to show the share of the vote gained by the Democrat party based on County level data.



### Data

**Isopleth** maps are generated from data that occur over geographical areas and values represent **numerical (quantitative)** differences between features on an **interval or ratio** scale of measurement. Absolute values cannot be illustrated isoplethically due to the inherent problems of using totals for areas that might vary in size or which contain an unequal denominator of the data being mapped. This is the issue that prevents **choropleths** from being used to map totals and the same occurs for

Kenneth Field, politico.com | Kenneth Field

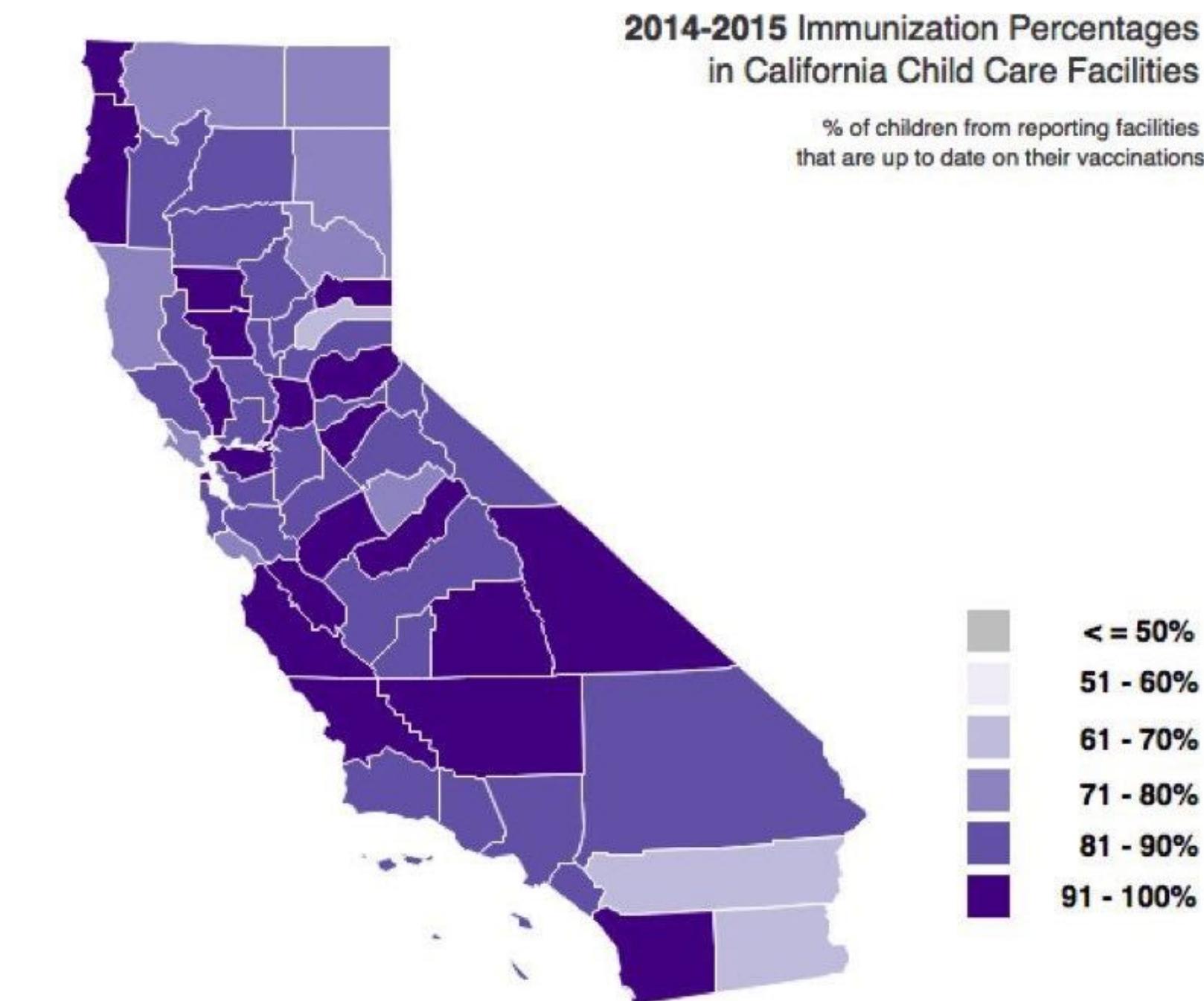


# Choropleth (from Greek χῶρος ("area/region") + πλῆθος ("multitude"))

- Areas are shaded or colored in proportion to the measurement of the statistical variable being displayed on the map.

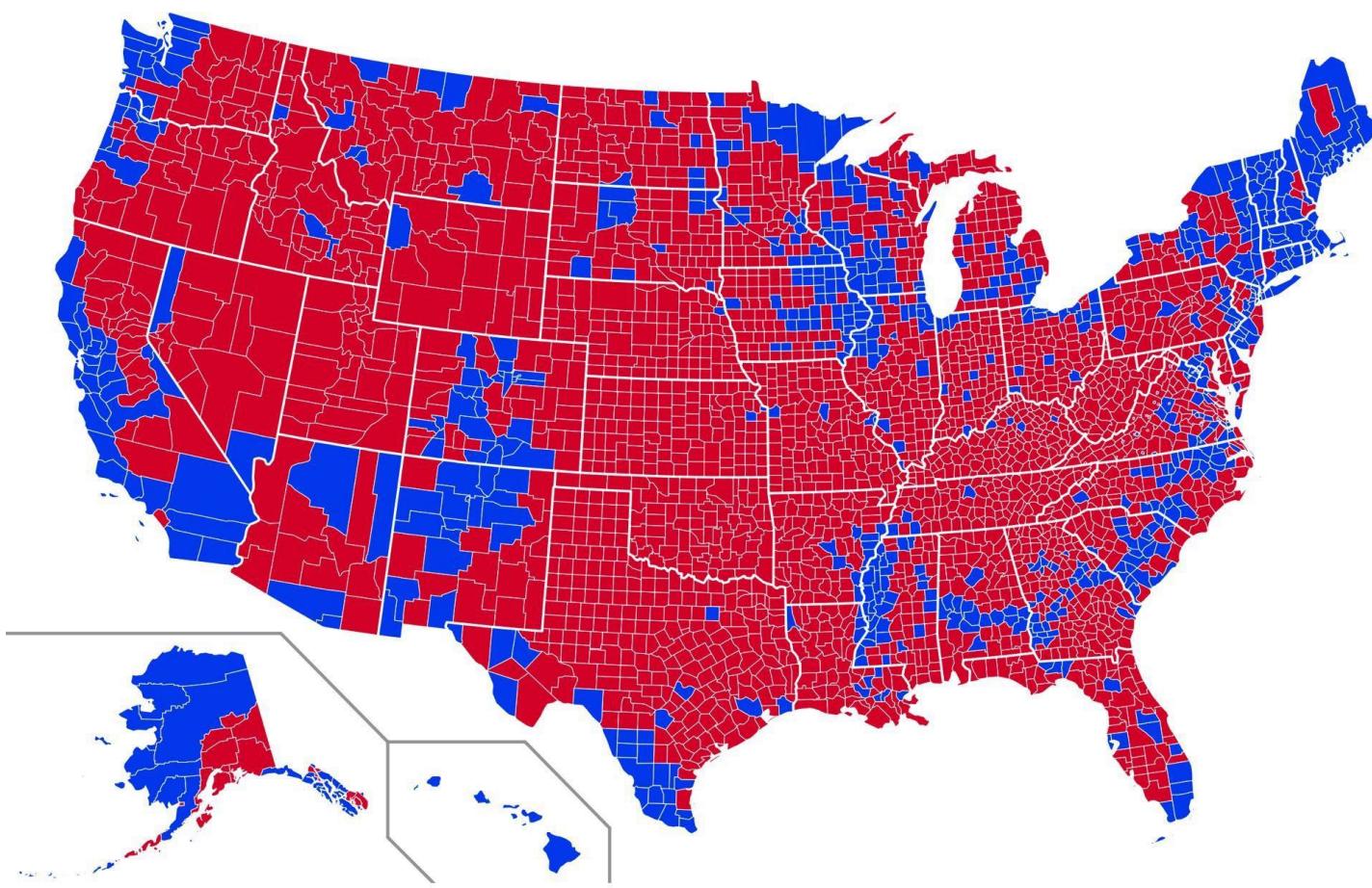
- Key factors:

- Resolution of the base map
- Data
  - source and processing
  - classification
  - MAUP
  - legend
- Symbolization



# Data type

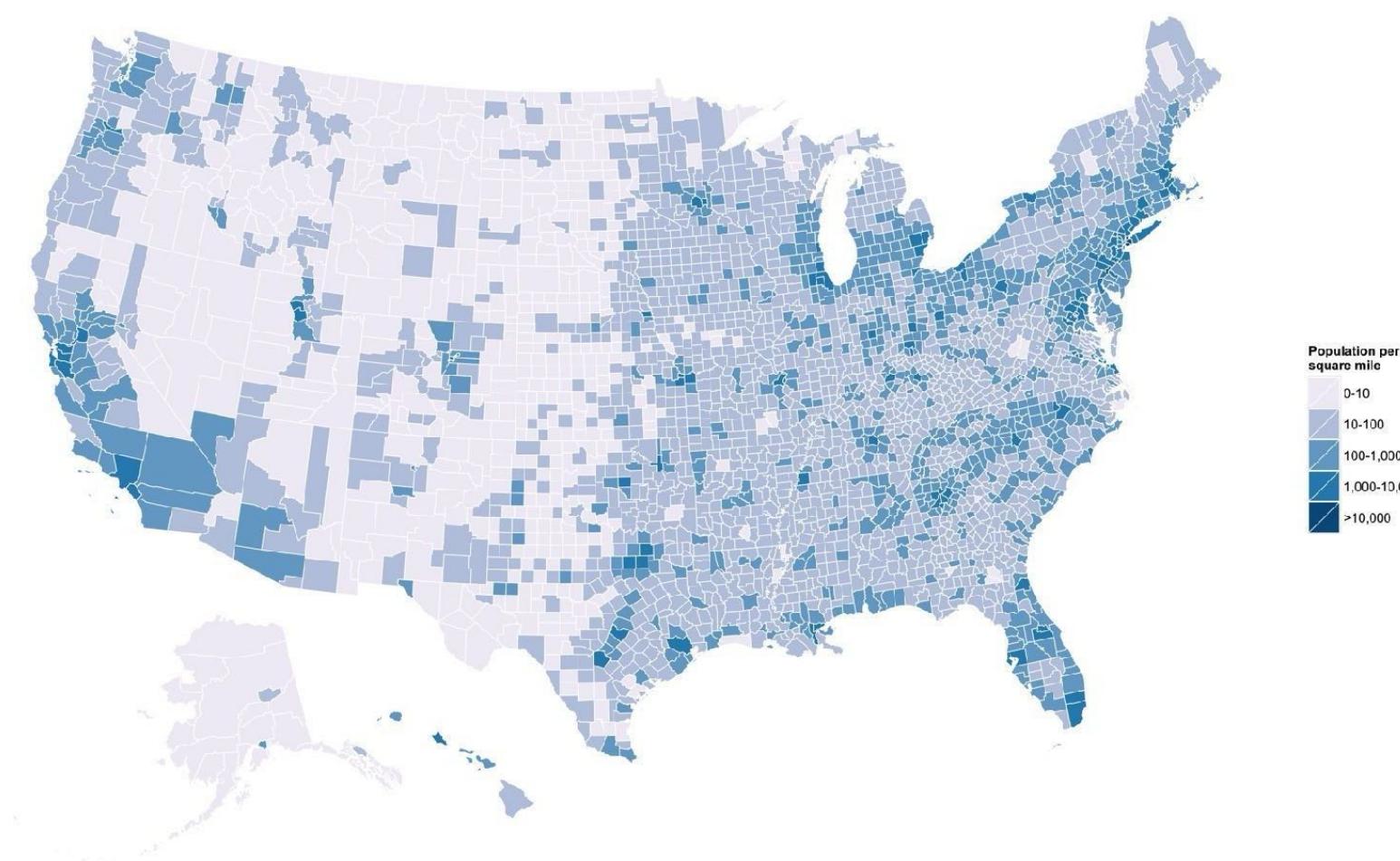
Presidential election 2008



CATEGORICAL

Obama or Romney

Population density 2014



CONTINUOUS

interval [0, 1]

Data Type

**Continuous**  
(sequential)

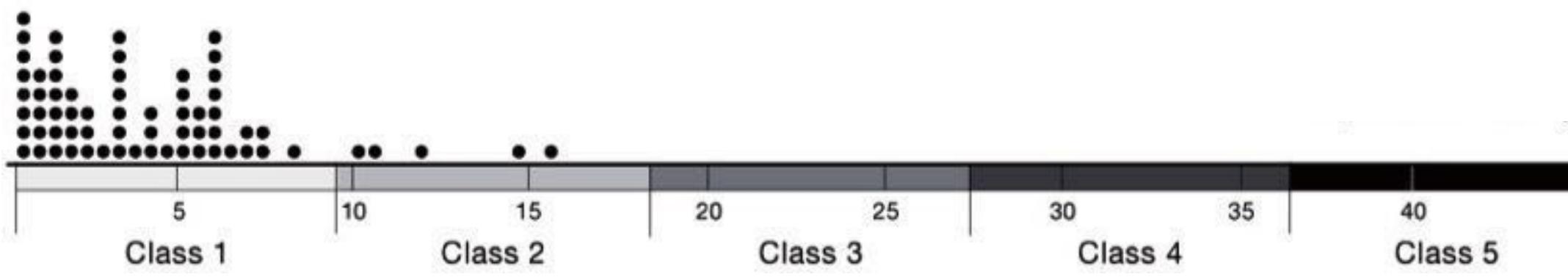
!=

Color Scheme

**Categorical**  
(qualitative)

# Classification

- Take observations and group them into data ranges or classes



How many classes?

$$5-7 \pm 2$$

George Miller (1956)  
short term memory capacity

Which method?

# Classification methods

- **Natural breaks**
- **Equal intervals**
  - not valid if your data is skewed or in presence of outliers.
- **Quantiles**
  - can position elements in a class even if being closer to the adjacent
- **Standard deviation**
- **Fisher-Jenks: reduce the variance within classes and maximize the variance between classes**
  - unique classification, hard to compare between maps.
- **Python PySAL library implementation**
  - <http://pysal.readthedocs.io/en/latest/library/esda/mapclassify.html>

U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

## AVERAGE AGE, US COUNTIES

■ younger

■ older

classification method  
**QUANTILE**



classification method  
**STD. DEVIATION**



classification method  
**EQUAL INTERVAL**



20

average age of county residents

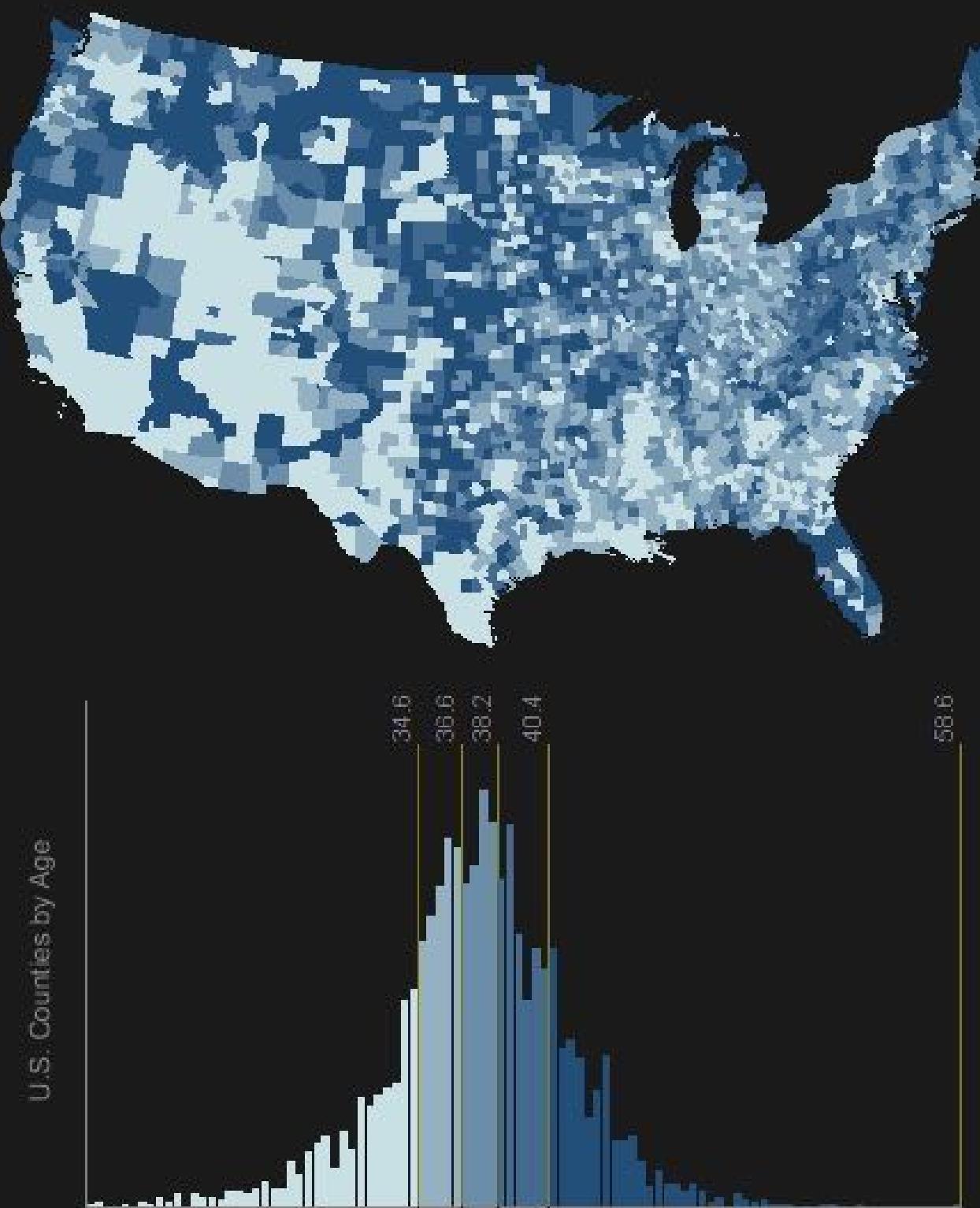
58

U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

## MEDIAN AGE

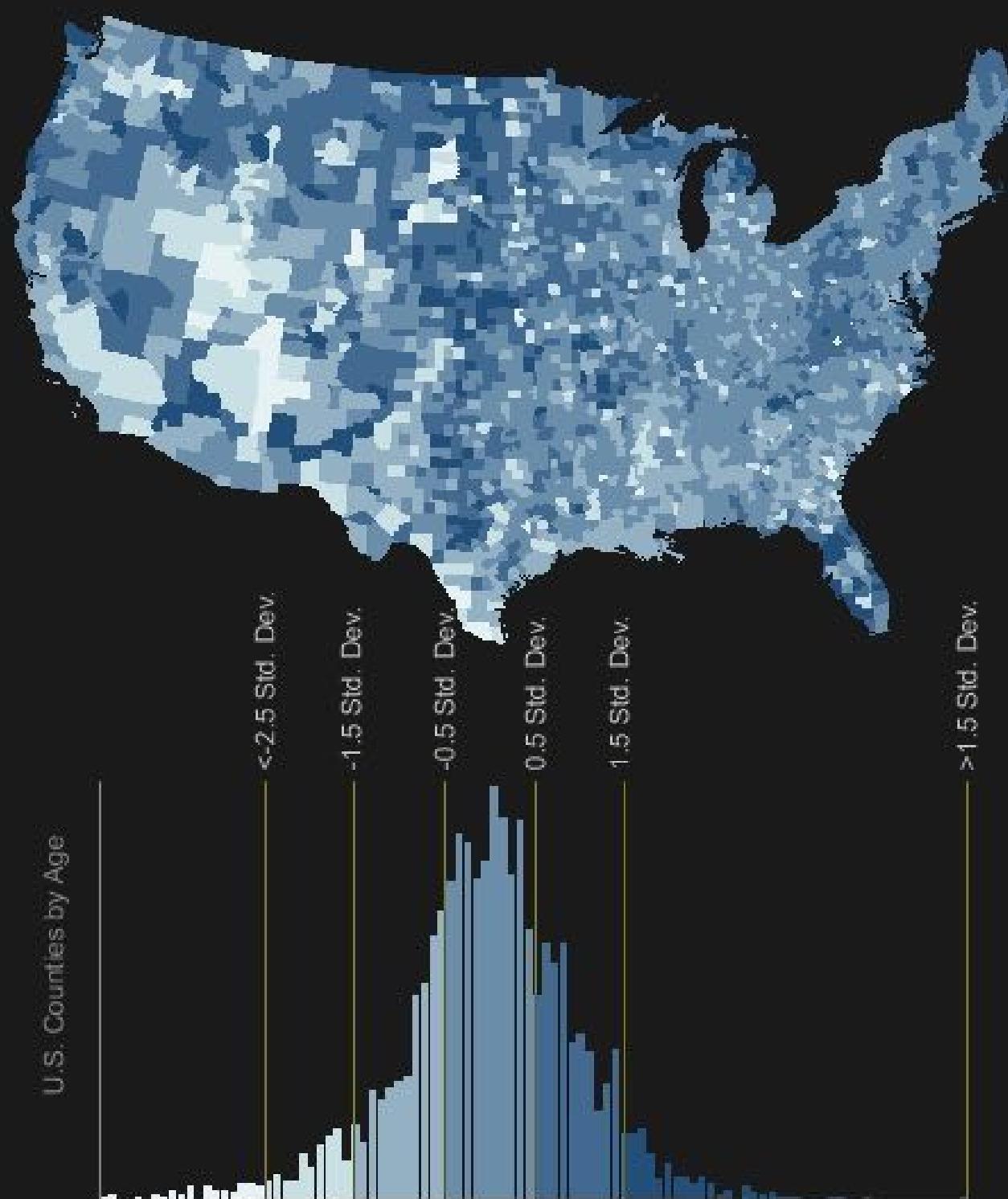
classification

## QUANTILE



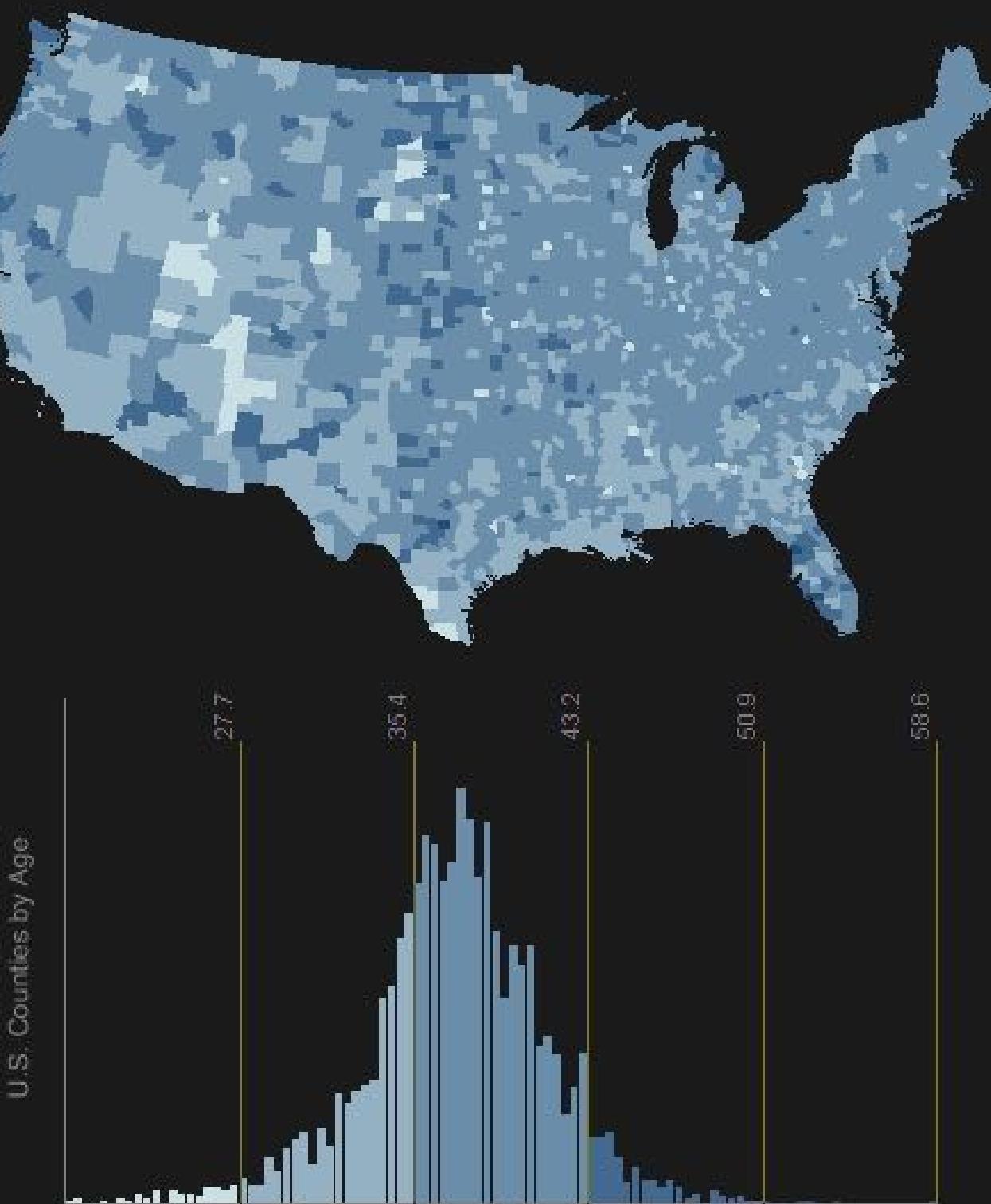
U.S. Census Bureau, 2000  
**MEDIAN AGE**

classification  
**STD. DEVIATION**

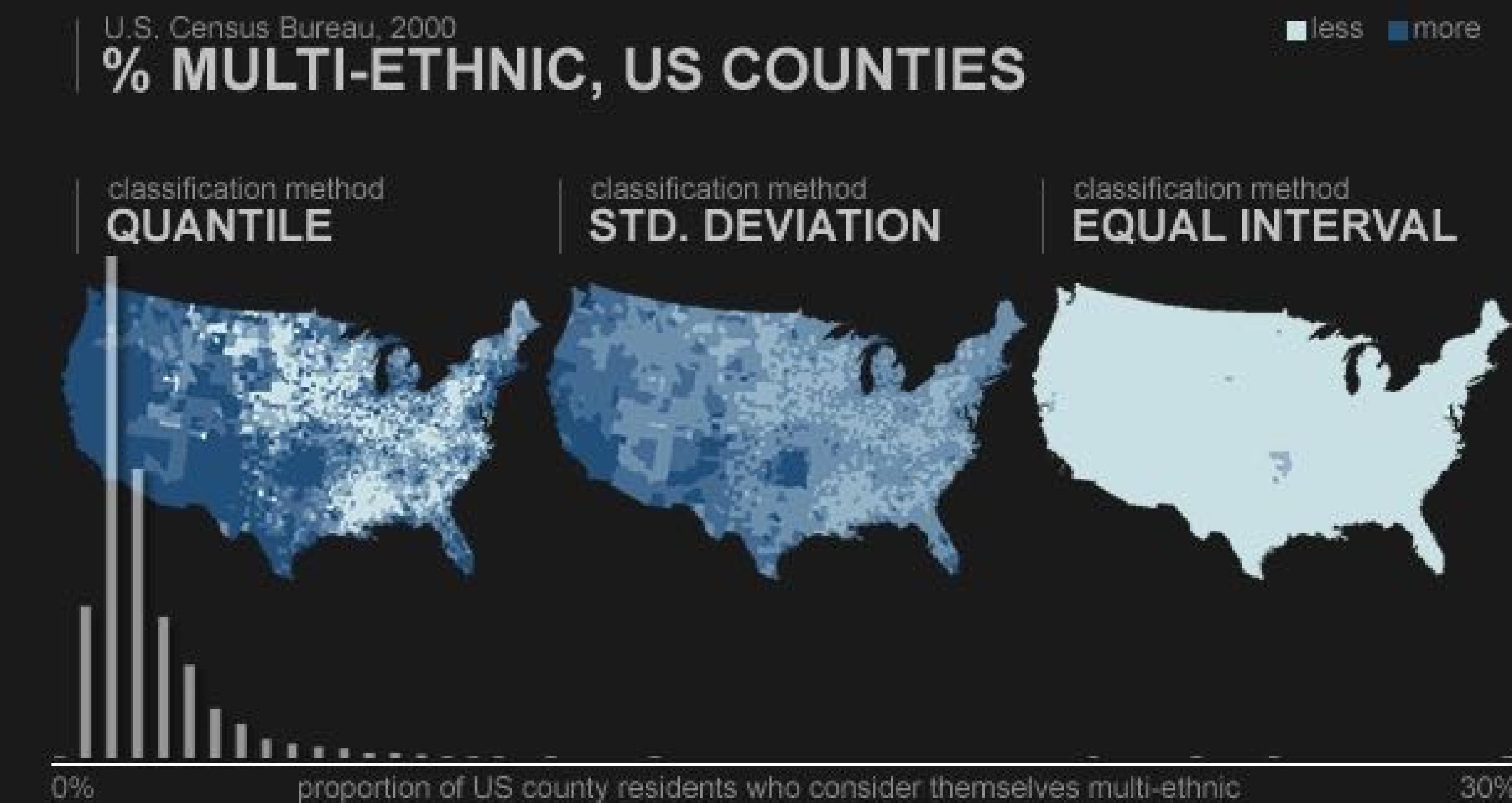


U.S. Census Bureau, 2000  
**MEDIAN AGE**

classification  
**EQUAL INTERVAL**



## Proportion of US county residents who consider themselves multiethnic

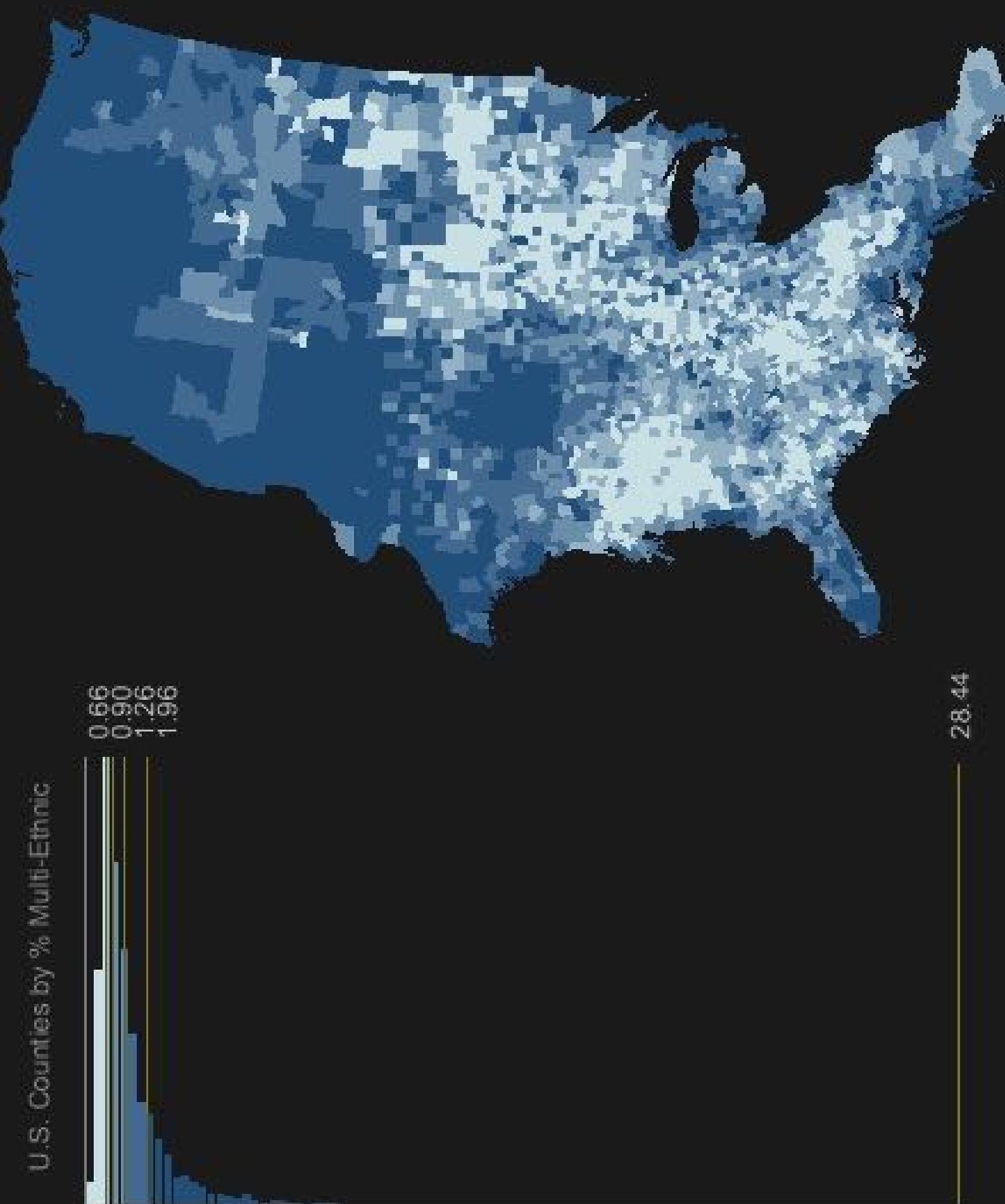


U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

## % MULTI-ETHNIC

classification

## QUANTILE

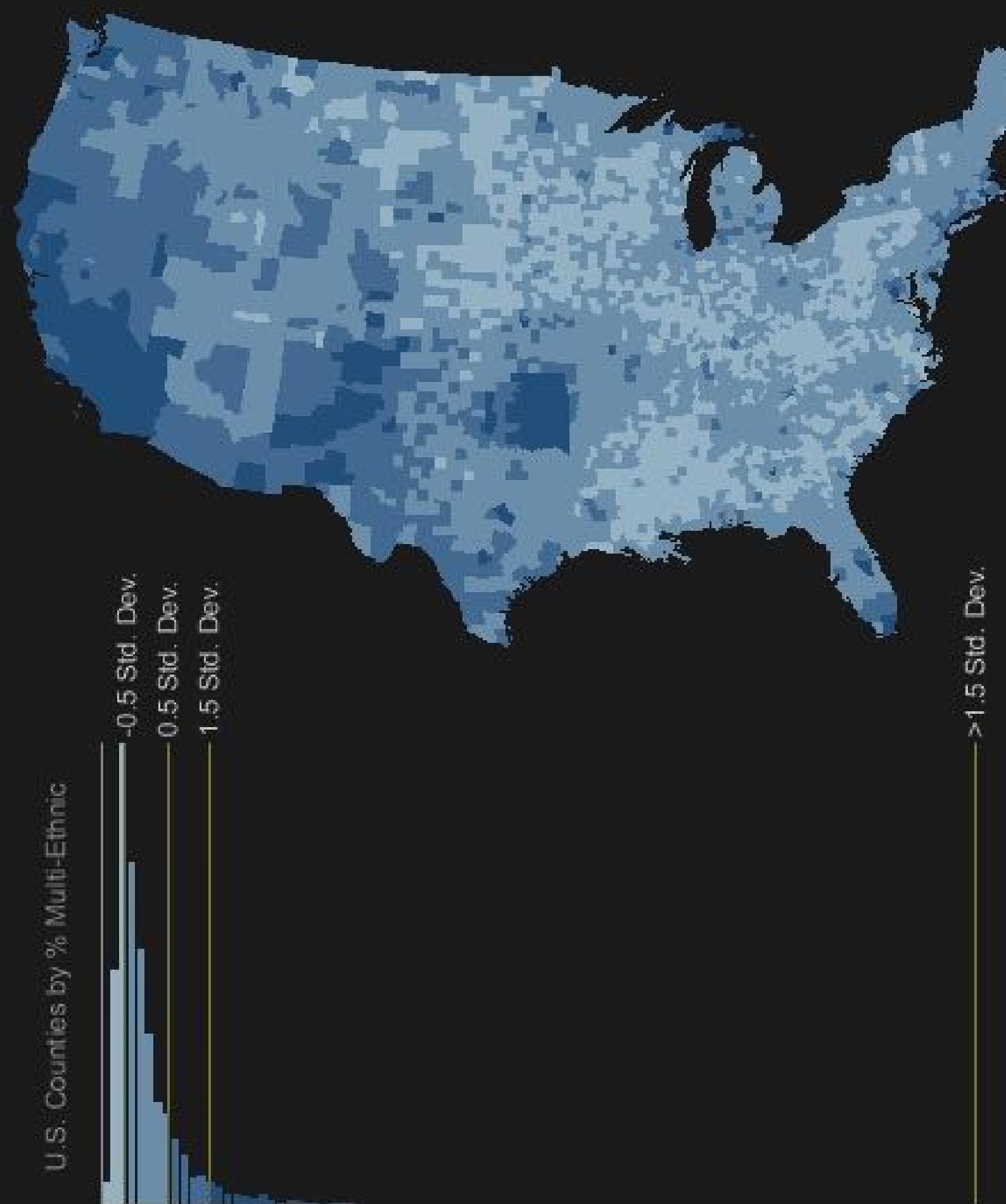


U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

## % MULTI-ETHNIC

classification

## STD. DEVIATION

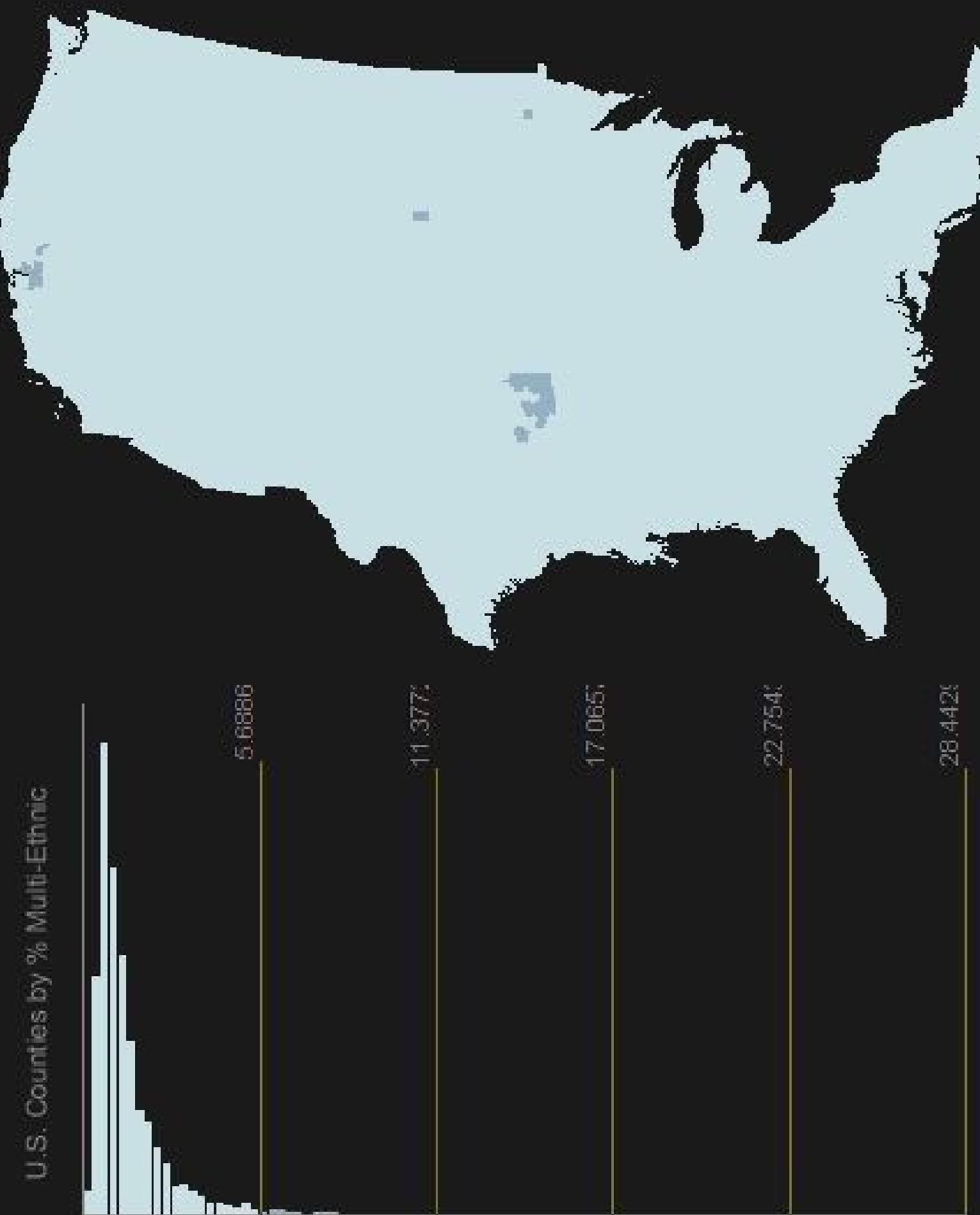


U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

**% MULTI-ETHNIC**

classification

**EQUAL INTERVAL**



# Symbolizing the choropleths

- **Select colors wisely!**
- **Monochrome shading**
  - darker is more!
  - vary density
  - different schemas: Munsell vs Stevens
- **Color shading**
  - hue is not always a good variable, unless bipolar distribution
  - use saturation or intensity

Number of data classes: 6

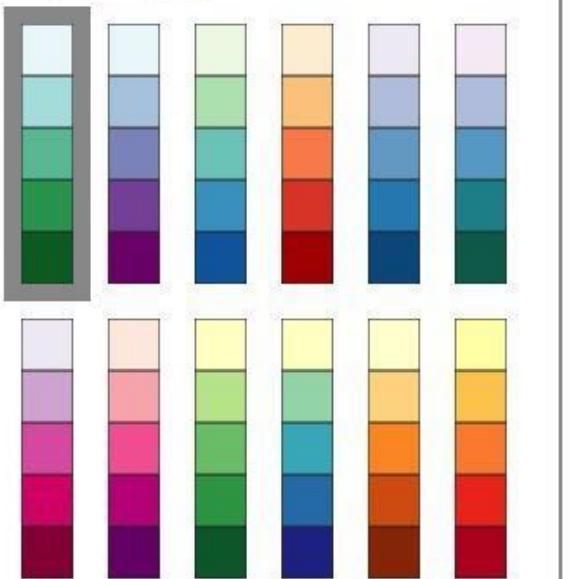
[how to use](#) | [updates](#) | [downloads](#) | [credits](#)

Nature of your data:

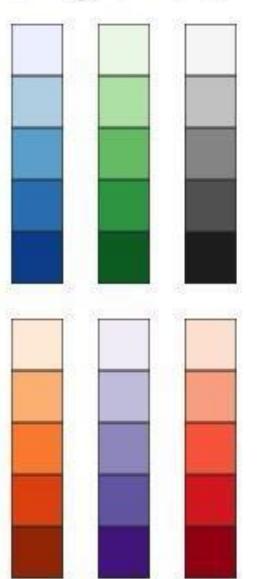
sequential  diverging  qualitative

Pick a color scheme:

Multi-hue:



Single hue:



Only show:

- colorblind safe
- print friendly
- photocopy safe

Context:

- roads
- cities
- borders

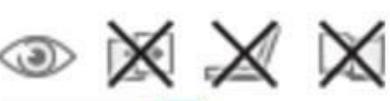
Background:

- solid color
- terrain



color transparency

6-class BuGn



EXPORT

HEX

#edf8fb

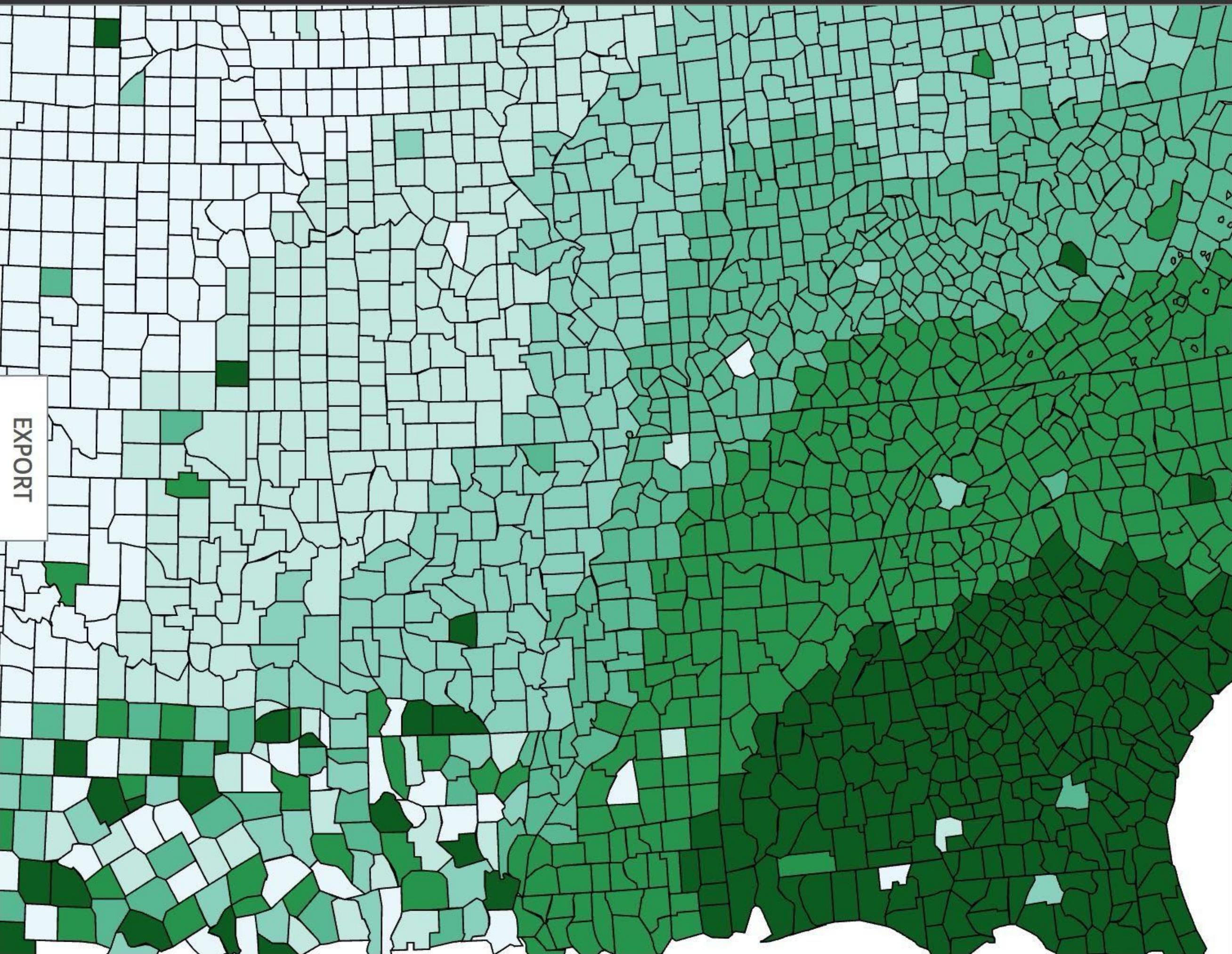
#ccece6

#99d8c9

#66c2a4

#2ca25f

#006d2c



© Cynthia Brewer, Mark Harrower and The Pennsylvania State University

[Source code and feedback](#)

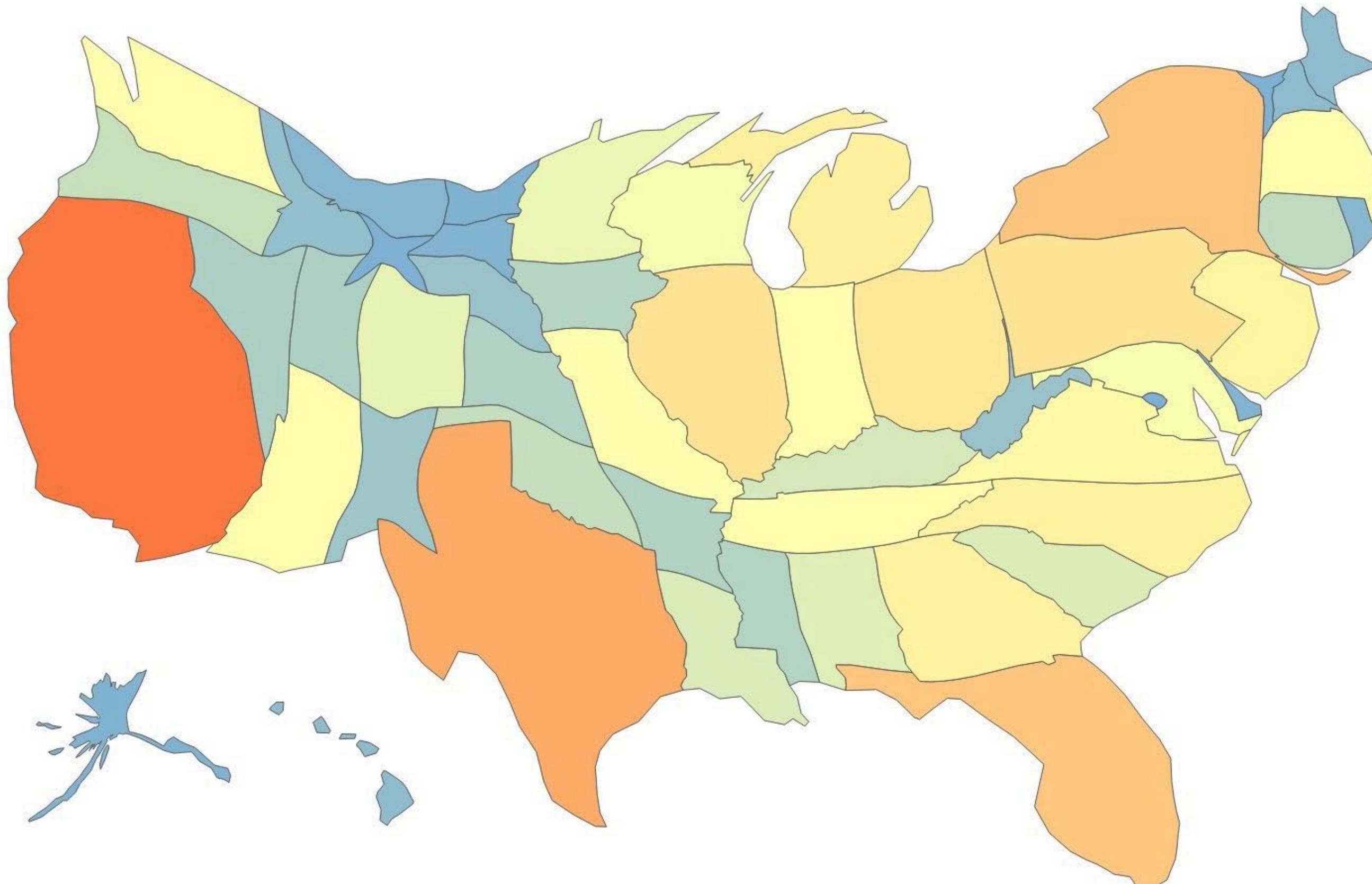
[Back to Flash version](#)

[Back to ColorBrewer 1.0](#)

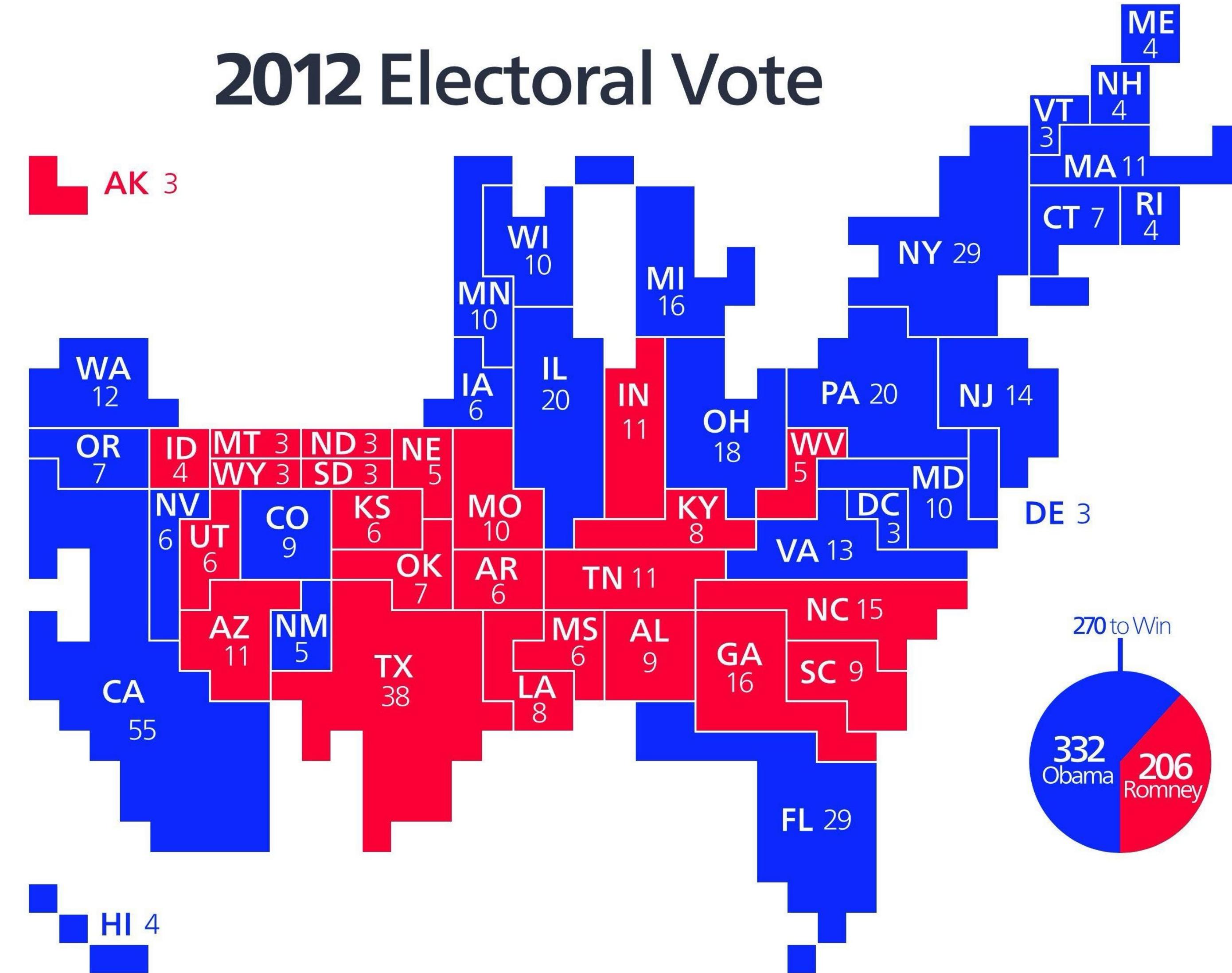
 axismaps

# cartograms

Scale by Population Estimate in 2010 calculated in 0.1 seconds

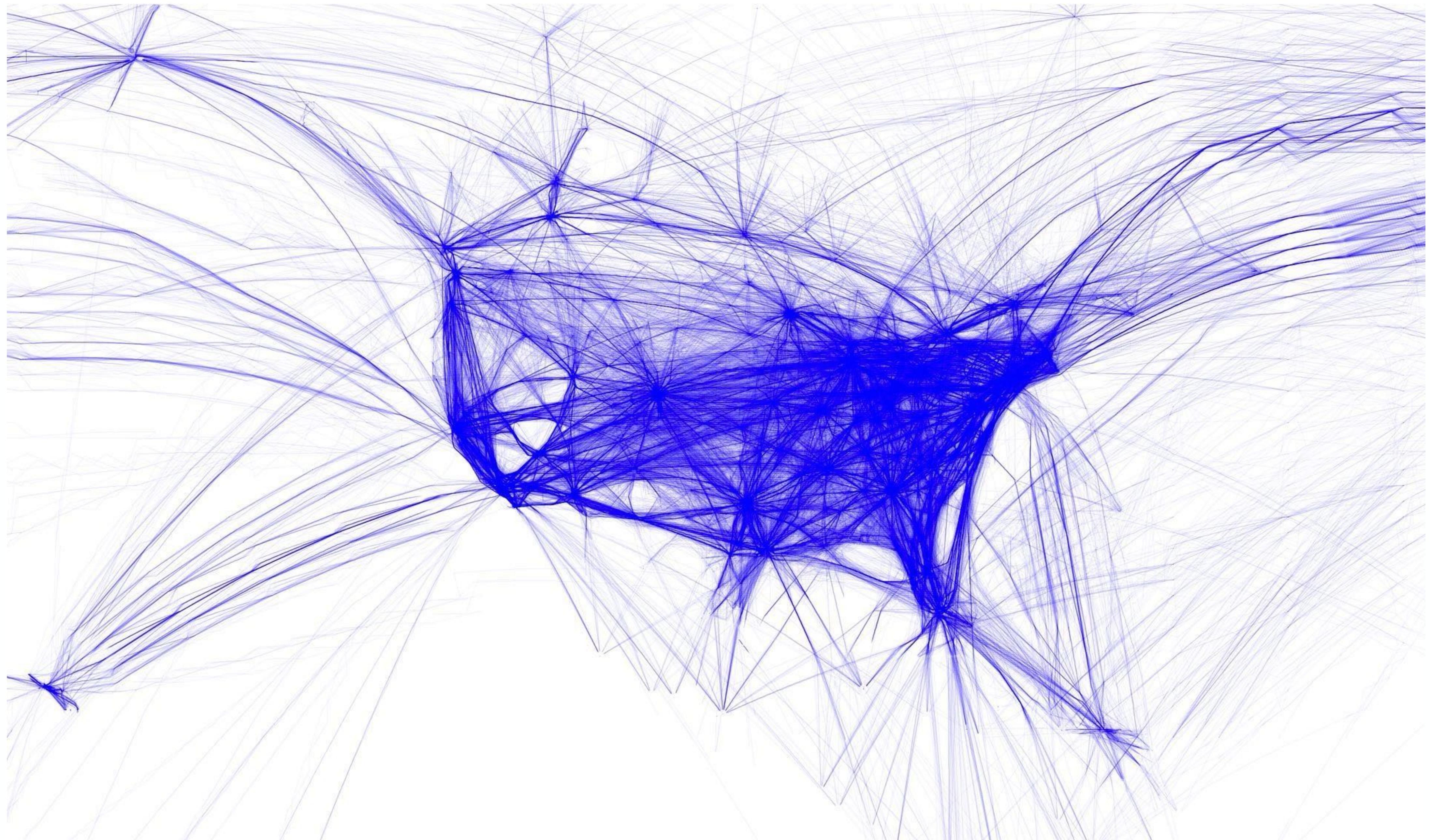


# 2012 Electoral Vote



# Flow Maps

- **Point pairs (one/two ways and symbol)    trajectories**
- **Encoding**
- **Edge between two locations indicates flow between those locations**
  - Width of edge proportional to flow
  - Usually wider end of edge is source of flow
- **Limitations**
  - Can get difficult to compare flows
  - Best flow maps are done by hand





Overview

## CORE LAYERS

[LineLayer](#)

HexagonLayer

IconLayer

GeoJsonLayer

ScreenGridLayer

ArcLayer

ScatterplotLayer

## CUSTOM LAYERS

Brushing Layer

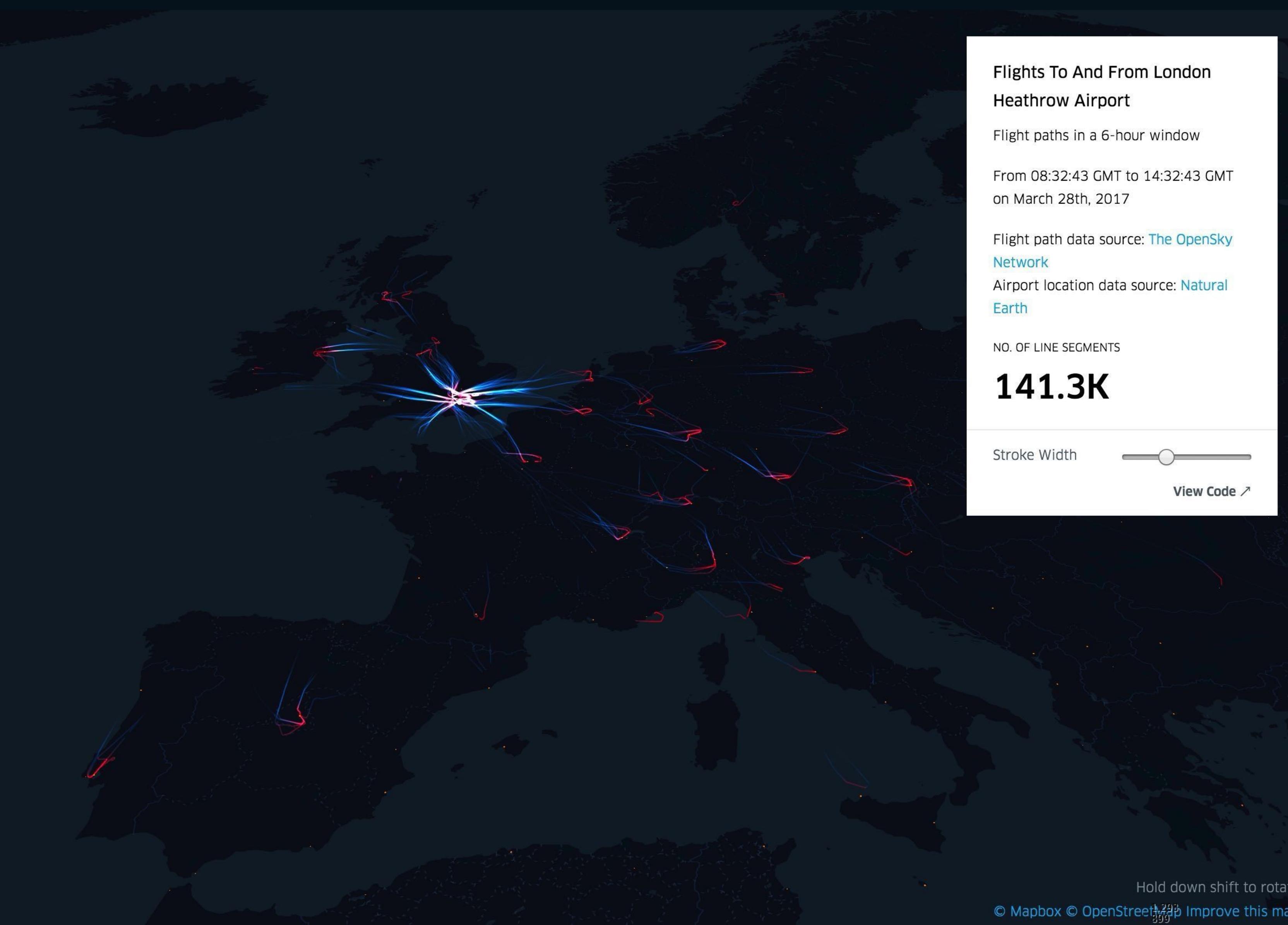
Trip Routes

Wind Map

## BEYOND MAPS

3D Surface Explorer

3D Indoor Scan

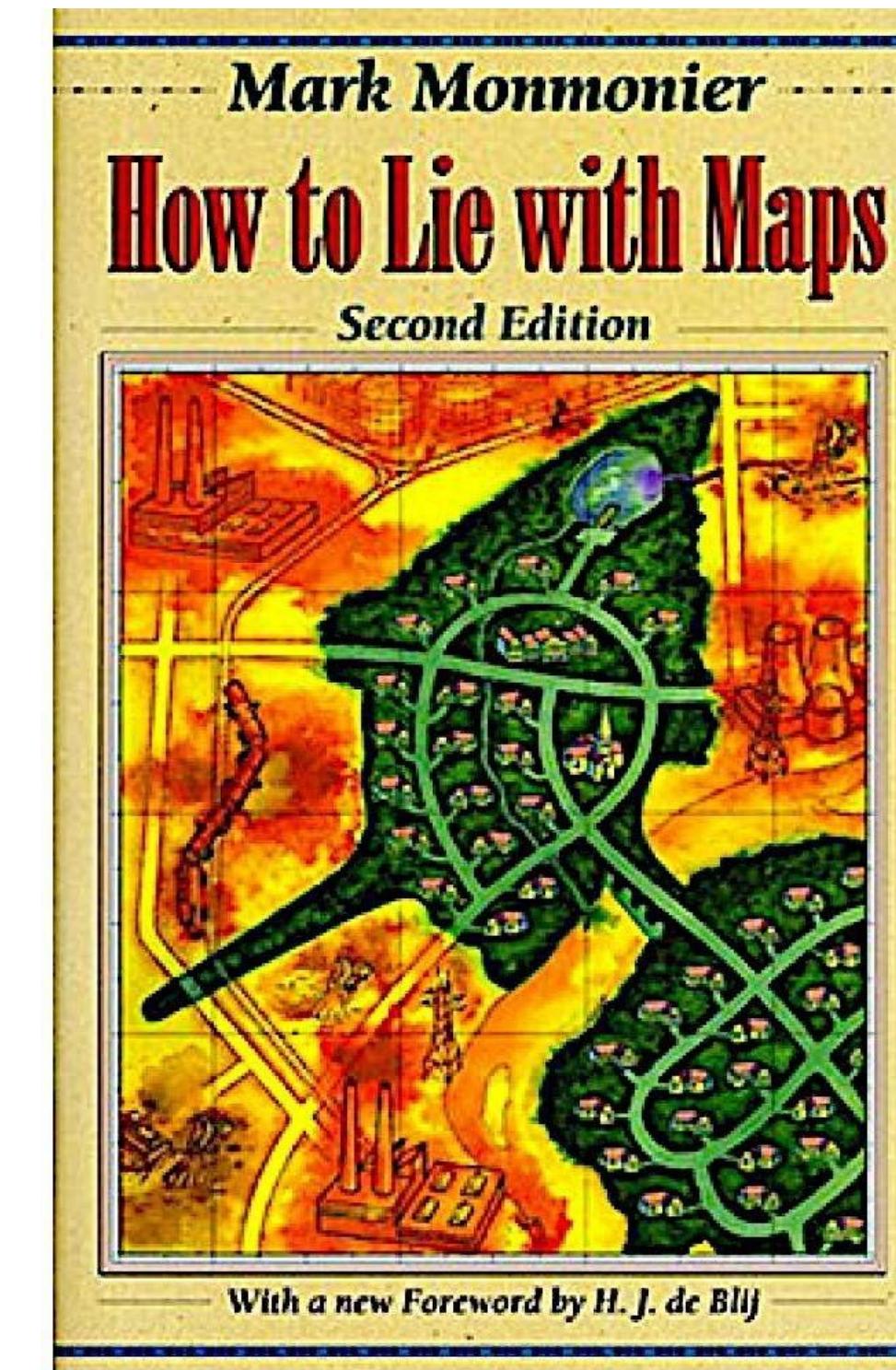




**pitfalls**

# How to lie with maps

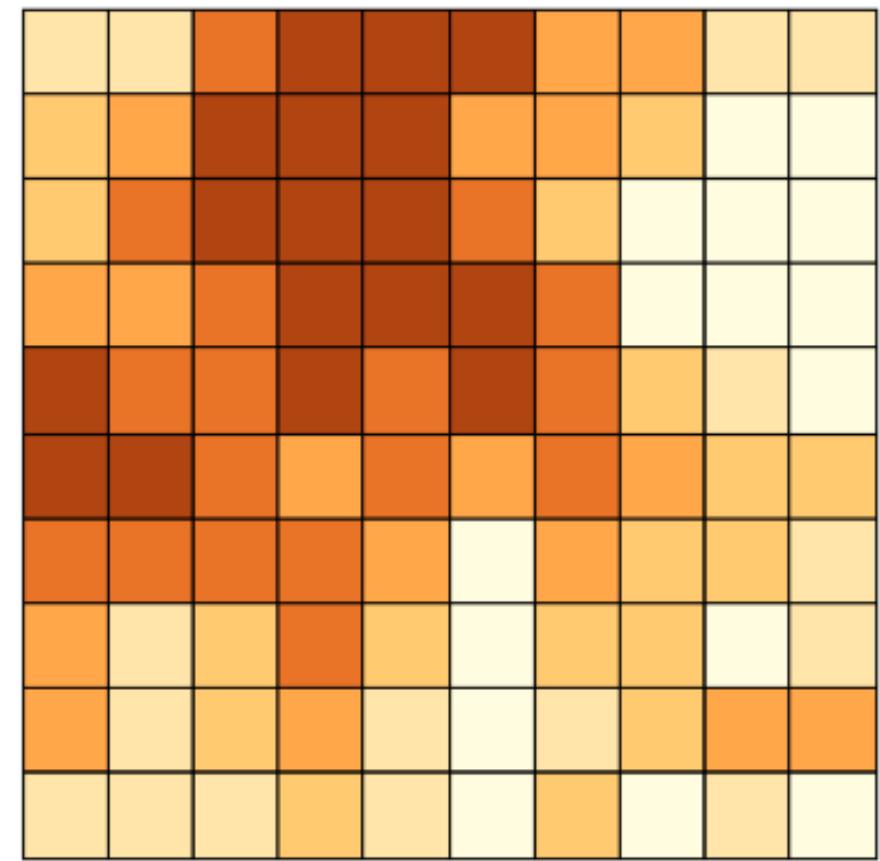
- Visual inspection is not enough
- Visual inspection sometimes could lead to wrong conclusions
- We must test rigorously using spatial analysis methods.



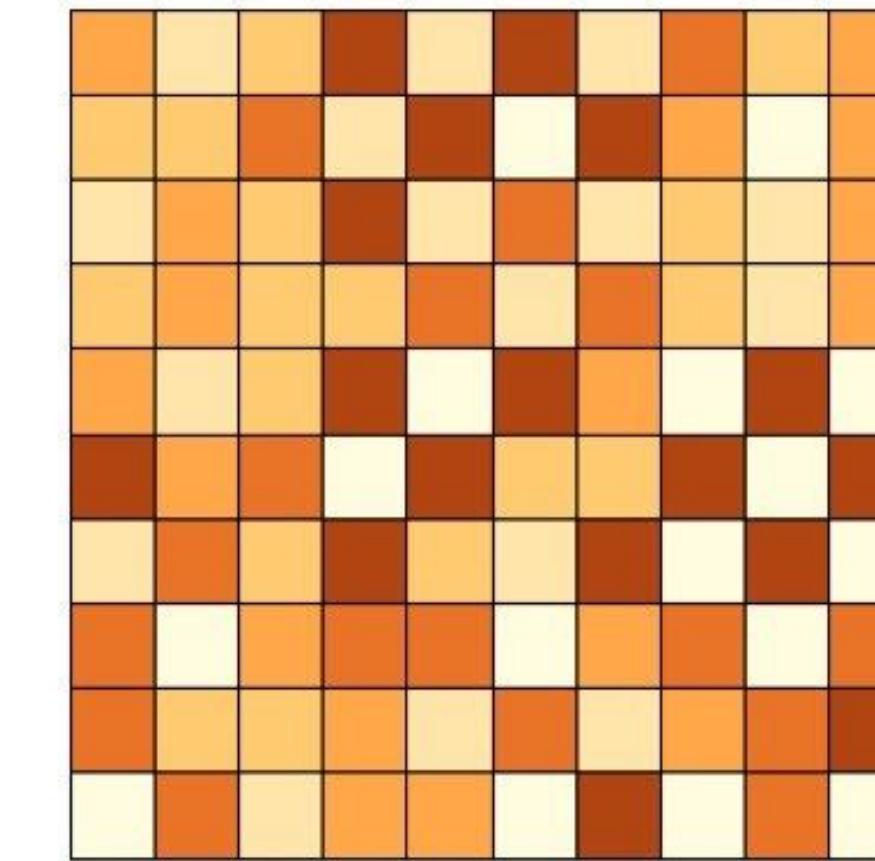
# visual experiment

## apophenia

A



B

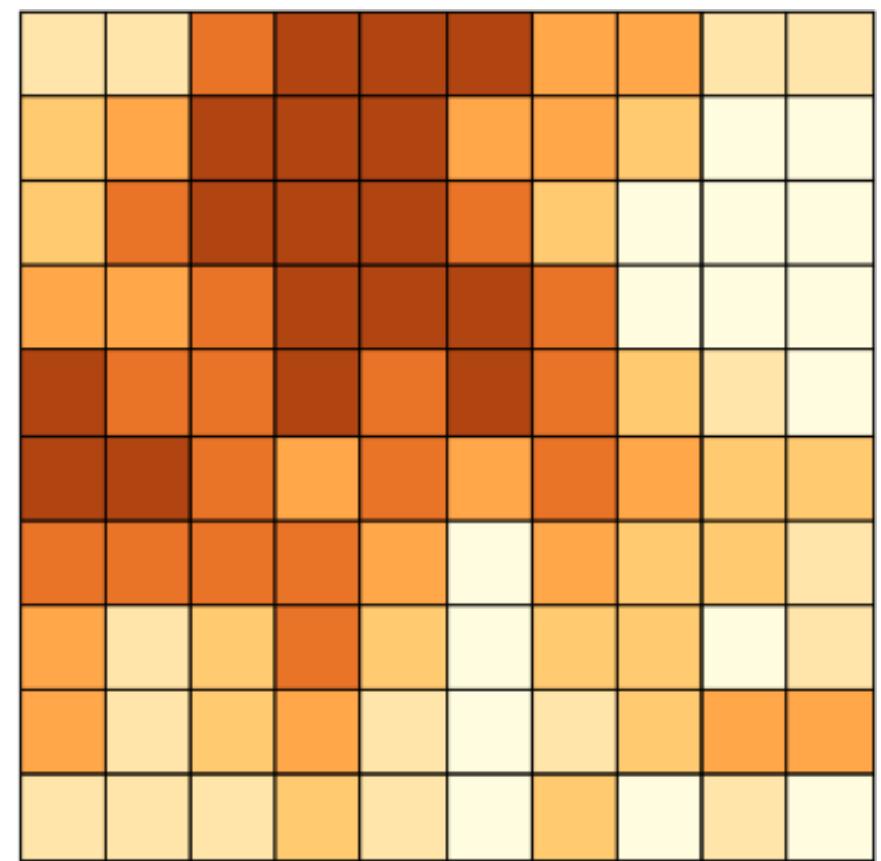


random pattern?

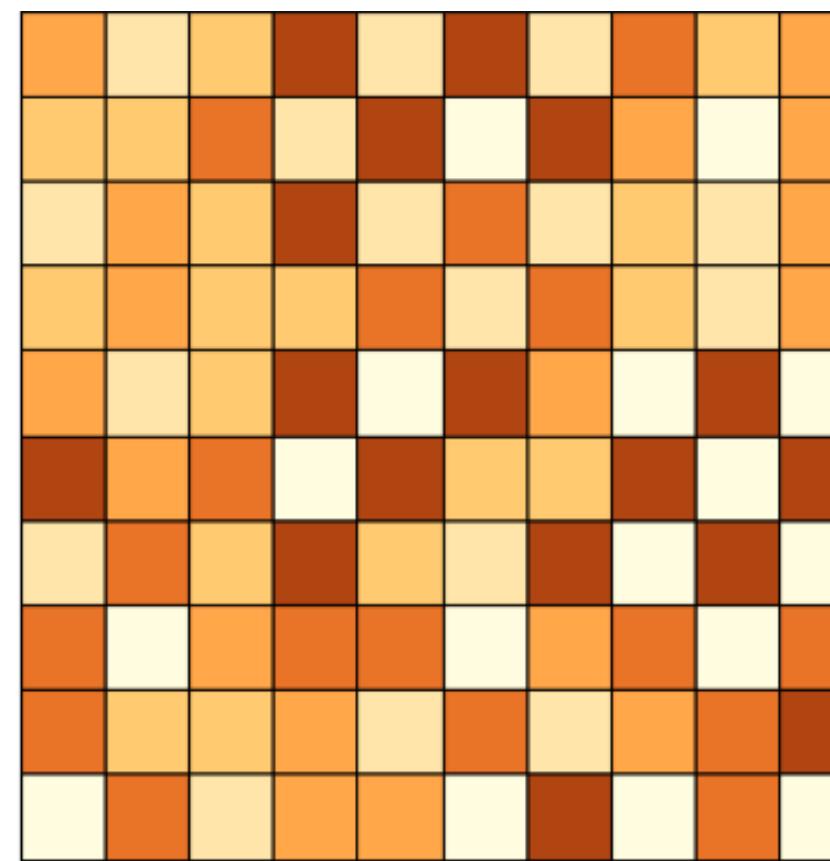
# visual experiment

## apophenia

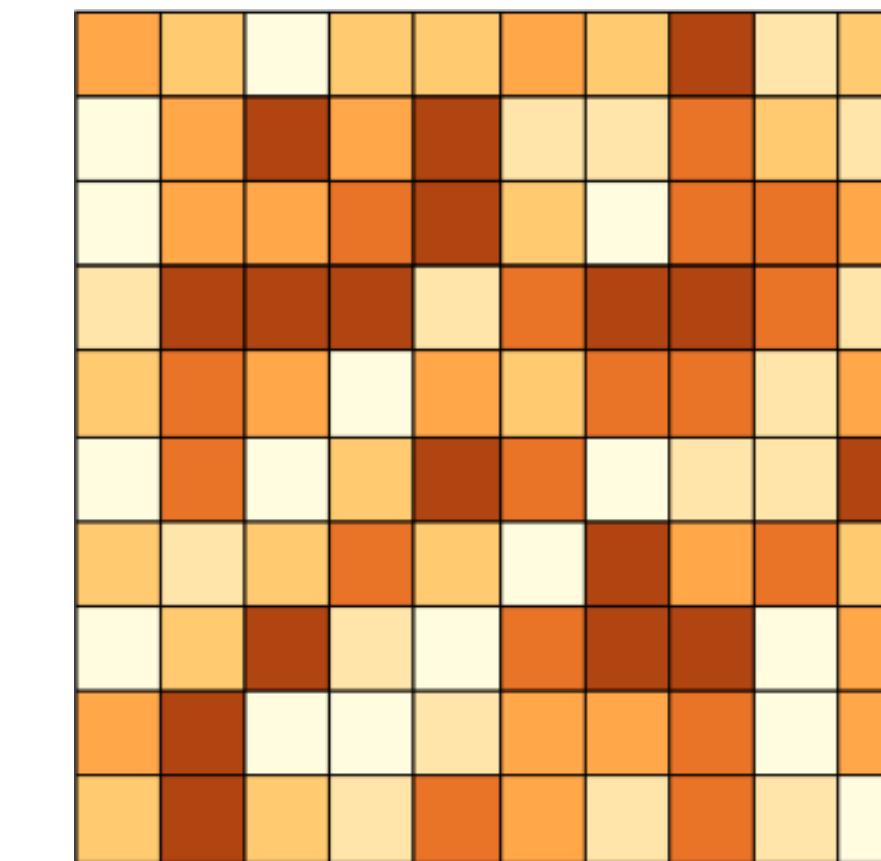
A



B



C



**clustered**

**dispersed**

**random**

**Aphophenia** is the tendency to mistakenly perceive connections and meaning between unrelated things

Can be considered a generalization of **pareidolia**

## Patternicity

Michael Shermer (2008)

The tendency to find meaningful patterns in both meaningful and meaningless noise

- Type I error (false positive)
- Type II error (false negative)
- Humans are pattern-seeking primates and this behavior is hardly-coded in how our brain works
- Related to survival skills
- [https://www.ted.com/talks/michael\\_shermer\\_the\\_pattern\\_behind\\_self\\_deception](https://www.ted.com/talks/michael_shermer_the_pattern_behind_self_deception)

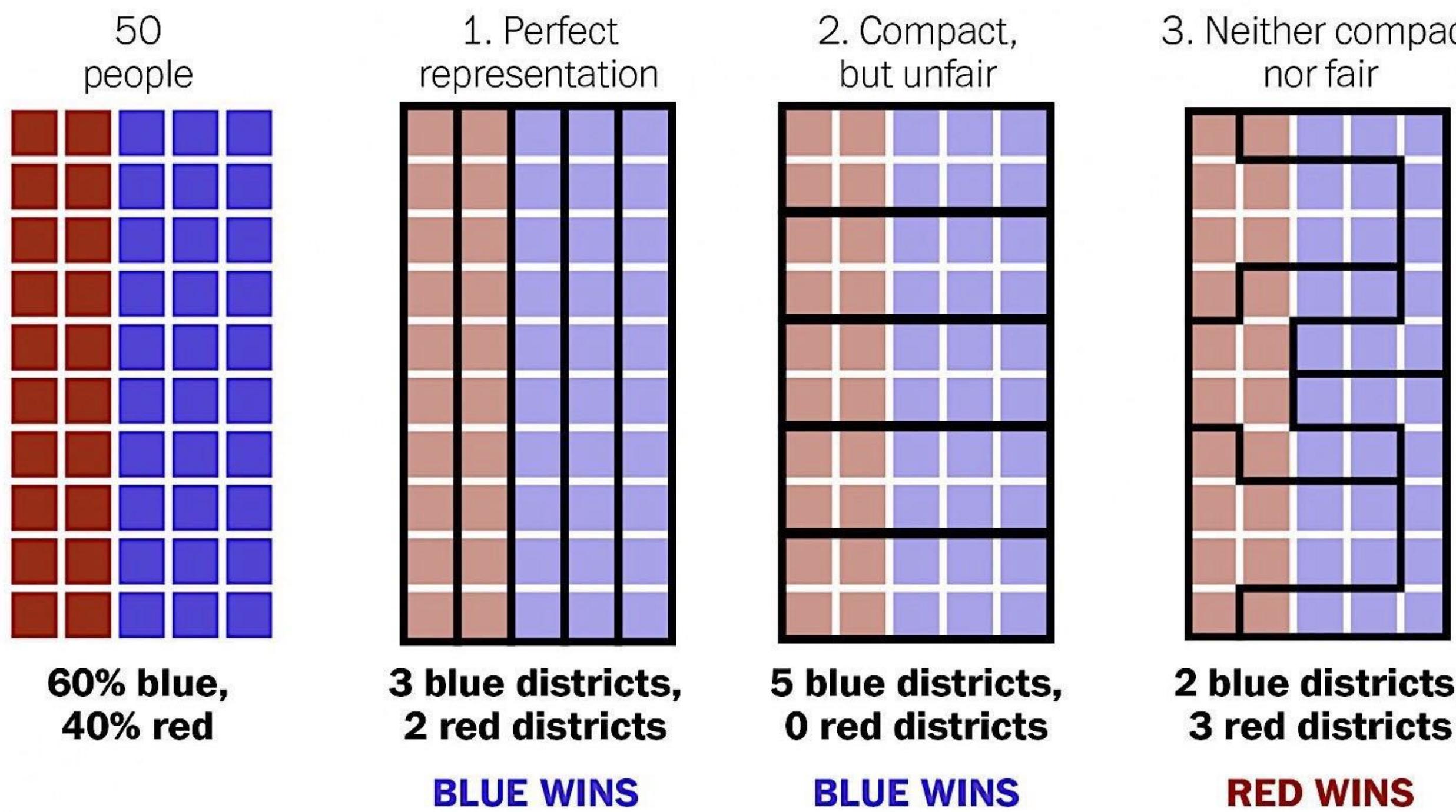
# MAUP

## Modifiable Area Unit Problem

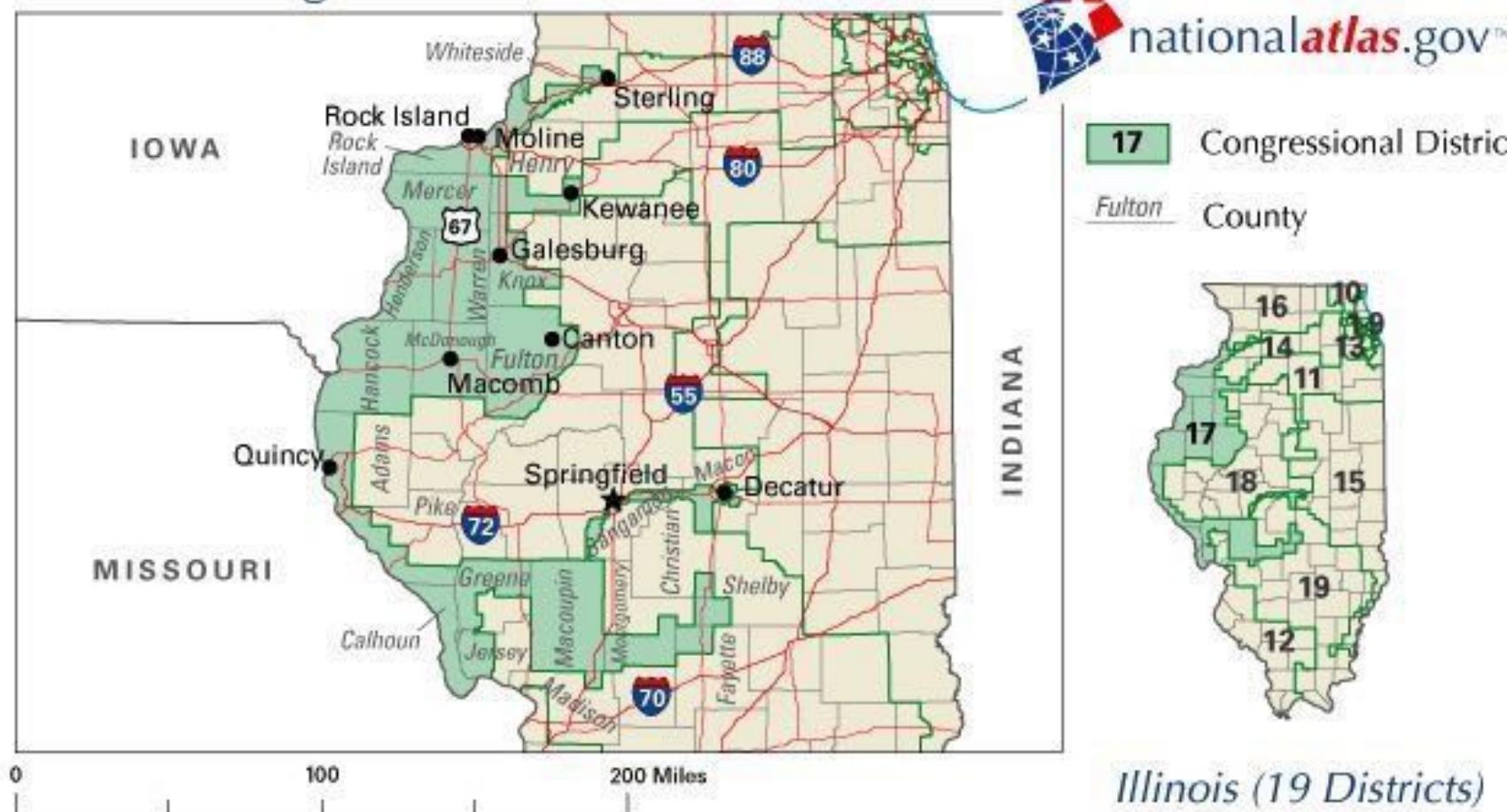
- **The same basic data yield different results when aggregated in different ways**
  - Nice read: “A million or so correlation coefficient: three experiments on the modifiable area unit problem” (Openshaw and Taylor, 1979)
- **Zonal effect**
  - Similar size and number of units, but different boundaries
    - Zip codes versus census tracts, postal zones versus city neighborhoods
- **Scale effect**
  - Increases size and decreases number of units
    - US counties versus states
  - Global model might be inconsistent with local models
- **The take home message is that how we aggregate the input units will impact the values of the output units**

# a first real example gerrymandering

- In the process of setting electoral districts, intended to establish a political advantage for a particular party or group by manipulating district boundaries



*Congressional District 17*



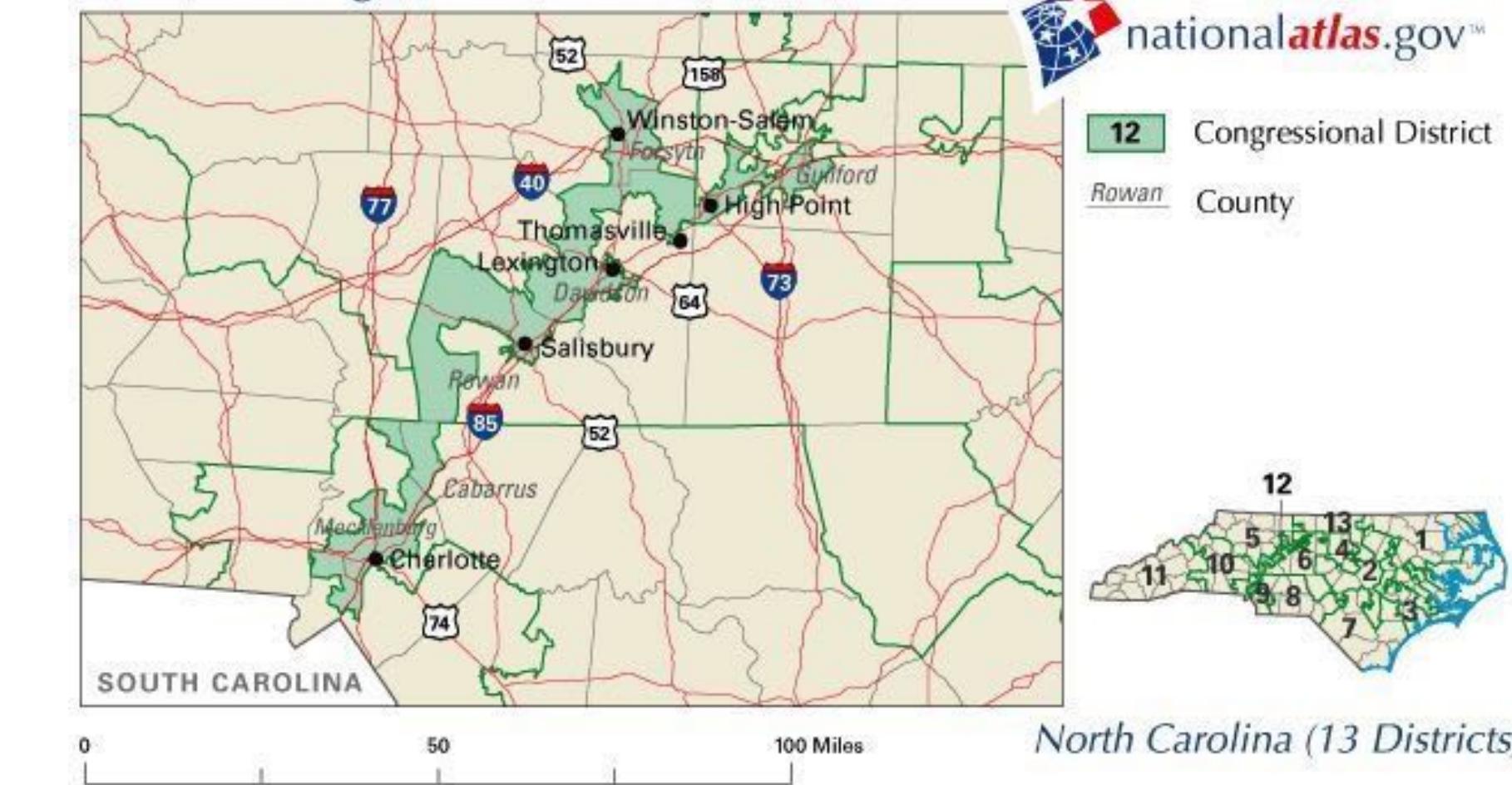
*Congressional District 2*



*Congressional District 22*

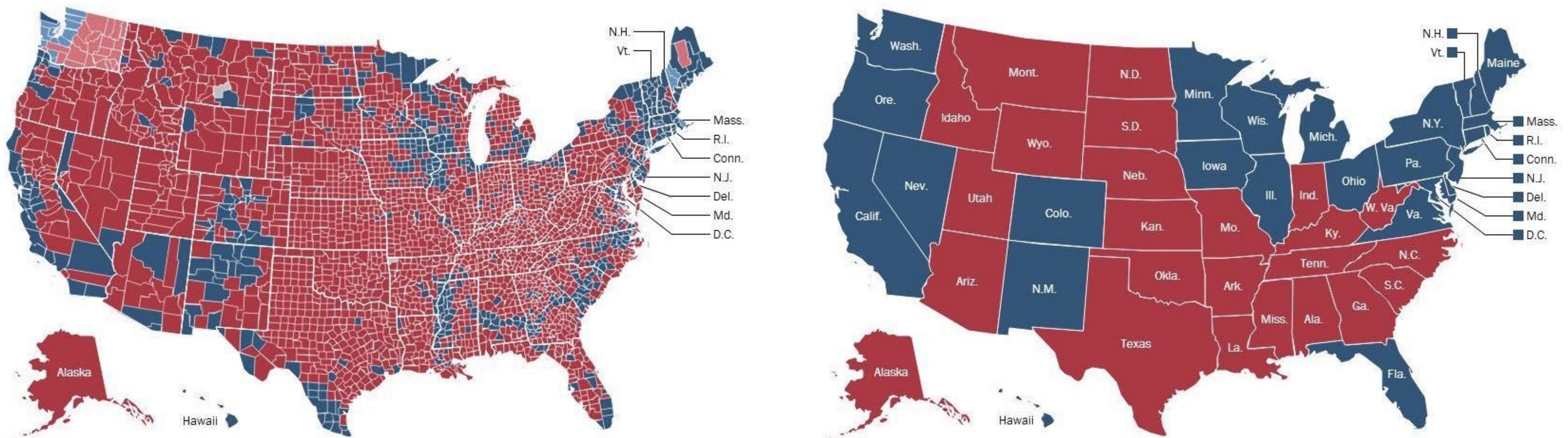


*Congressional District 12*



# US election 2012

## counties versus states



# Ecological Fallacy

- Individual behavior cannot be explained at the aggregate level
- Issue of interpretation
  - e.g., county homicide rates do not explain individual criminal behavior
  - model aggregate dependent variables with aggregate explanatory variables
  - alternative: multilevel modeling

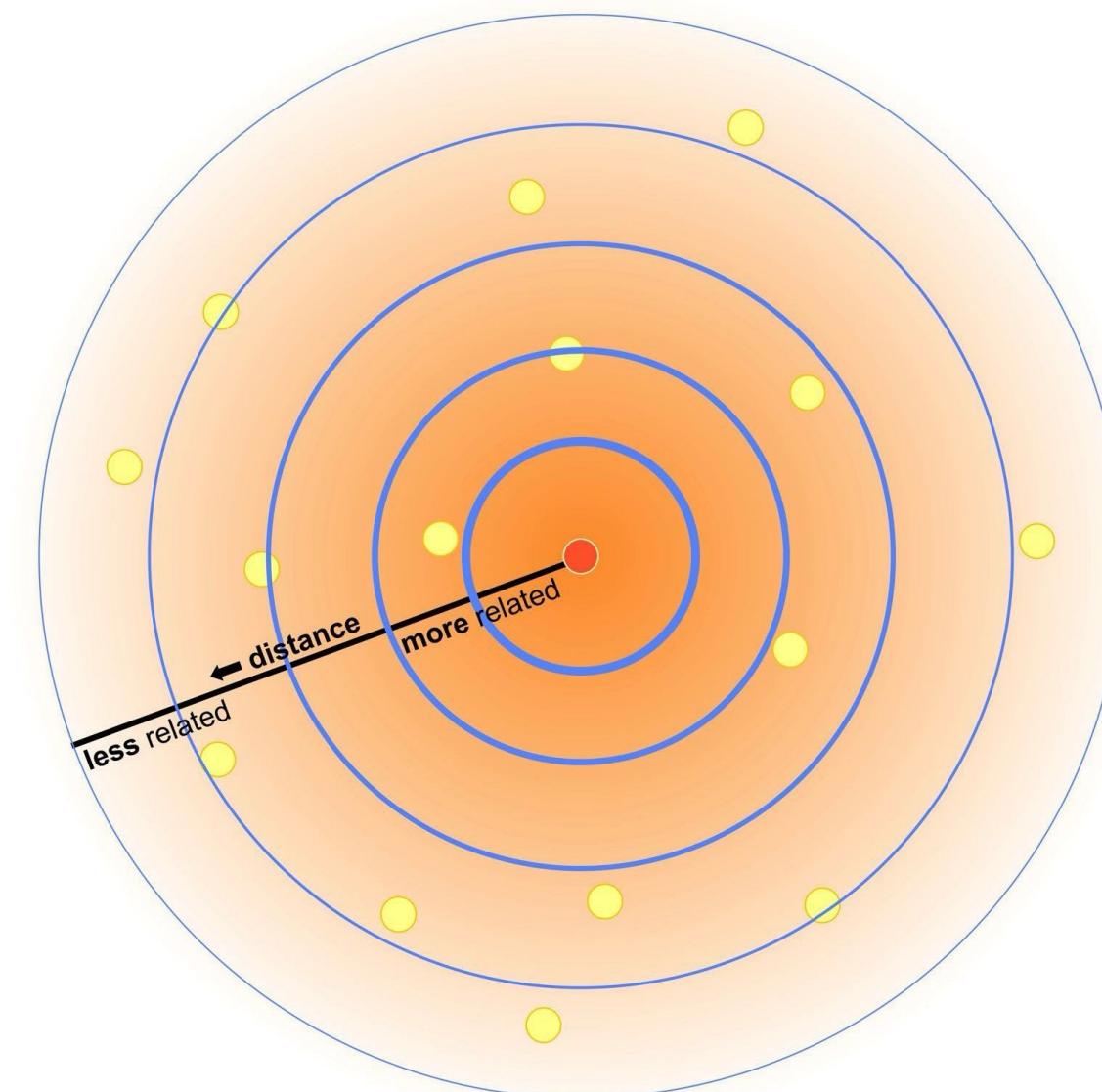
# COSP

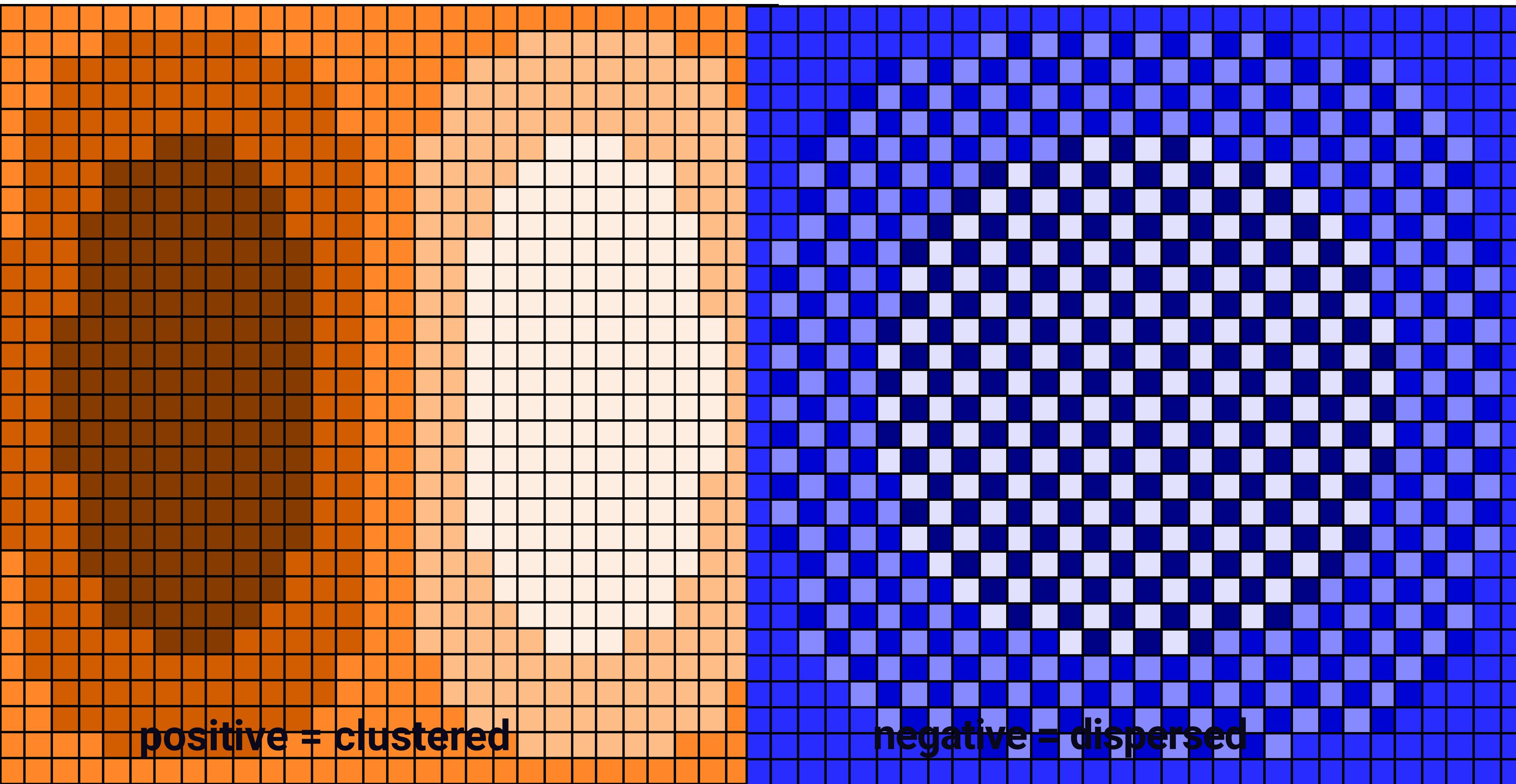
## Change of Support Problem

- **Variables measured at different spatial scales**
- **Spatial misalignment**
  - we collected the data on one scale, but need to make inferences on a different scale.
    - How do we change from one spatial scale to another?
  - have different spatial datasets that come to us on different spatial scales.
    - How do we combine data sources?
- **Aggregate up to a common scale (the finest possible)**

# other critical issues

- **Spatial autocorrelation**
  - **Measures the correlation of a variable with itself through space**
  - Related to Tobler's first law of geography
    - Everything is related to everything else, but near things are more related than distant things.



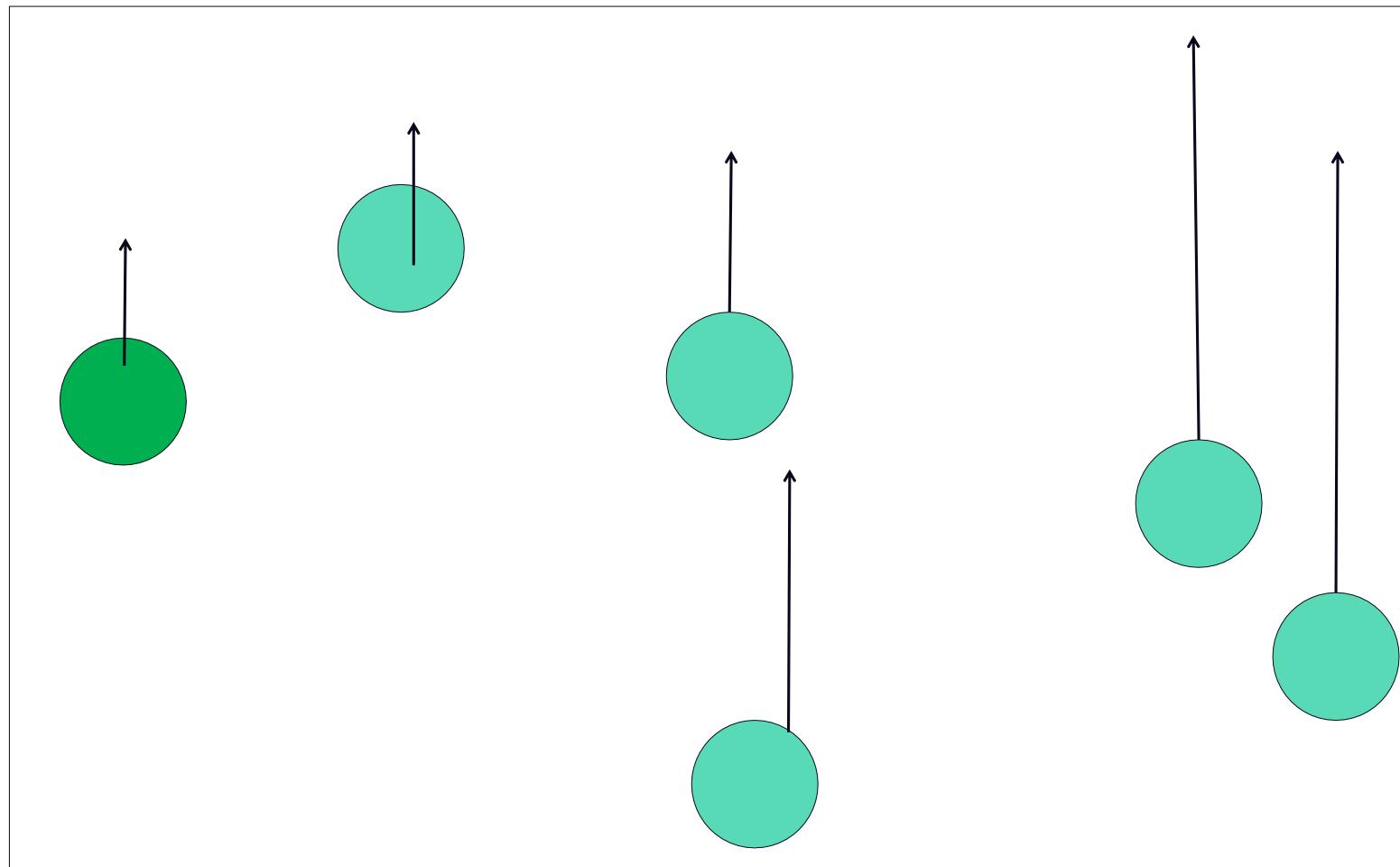


# why is spatial autocorrelation important?

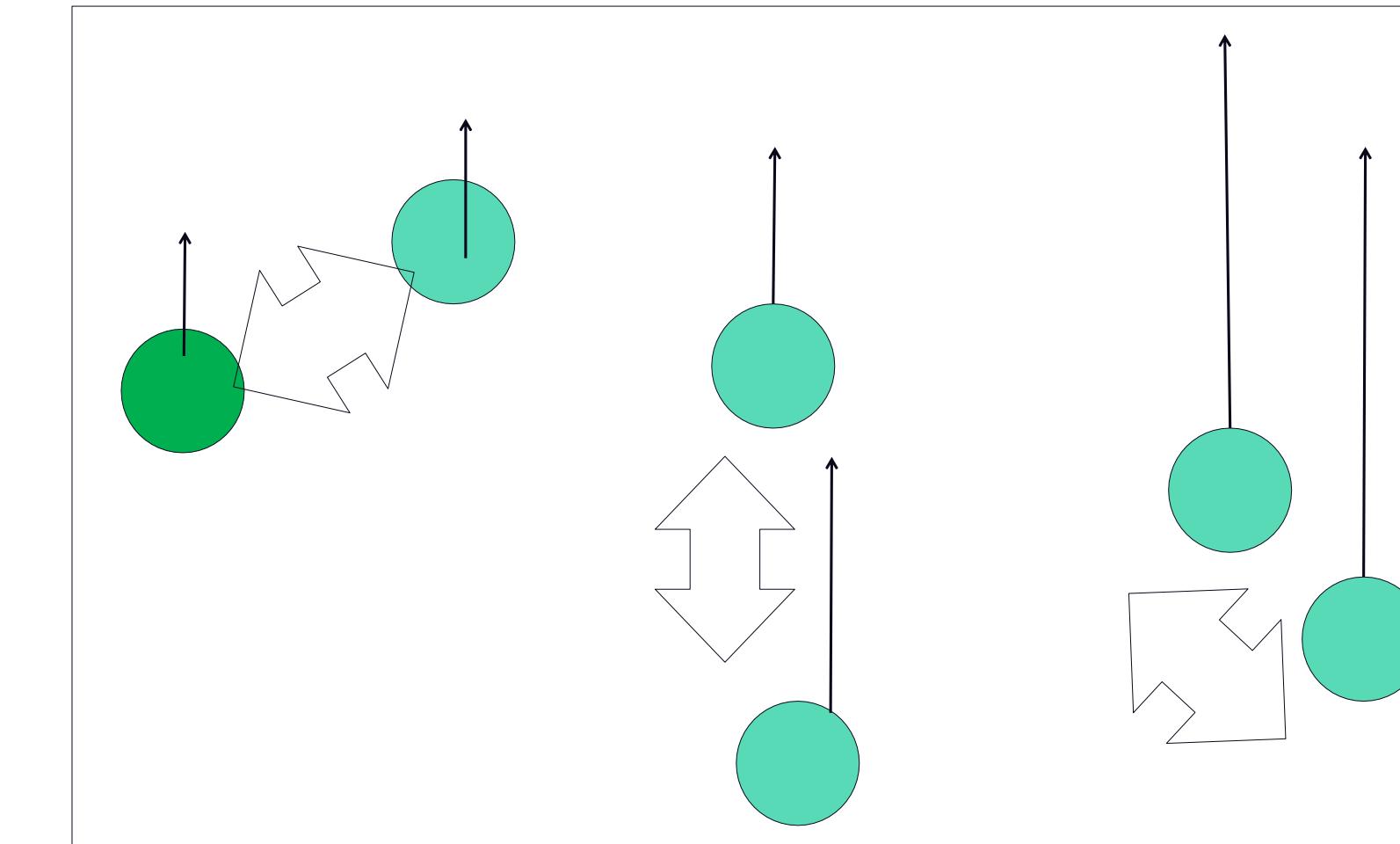
- **It implies the existence of a spatial process**
  - Why are near-by areas similar to each other?
  - Why do high income people live close each other?
  - These are geographical questions.
    - They are about location
- **It invalidates most traditional statistical inference tests**
  - If spatial autocorrelation exists, the results of standard statistical inference tests may be incorrect
  - We need to use spatial statistical inference tests
- **For example**
  - You are more likely to incorrectly conclude a relationship exists when it does not
  - You believe that the relationship is stronger than it really is

# Why are standard statistical tests **wrong**?

- Statistical tests are based on the assumption that the values of observations in each sample are independent of one another
- spatial autocorrelation violates this
  - samples taken from nearby areas are related to each other and are not independent



Values near each other are similar in magnitude.



Implies a relationship between nearby observations

# Questions?

:::::::



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