

<http://xkcd.com/1138/>

Geospatial Visualization

C. Andrews

2016-04-26

Quantitative estimation ranking

most accurate



position, aligned scale

position, identical nonaligned scales

length

angle, slope

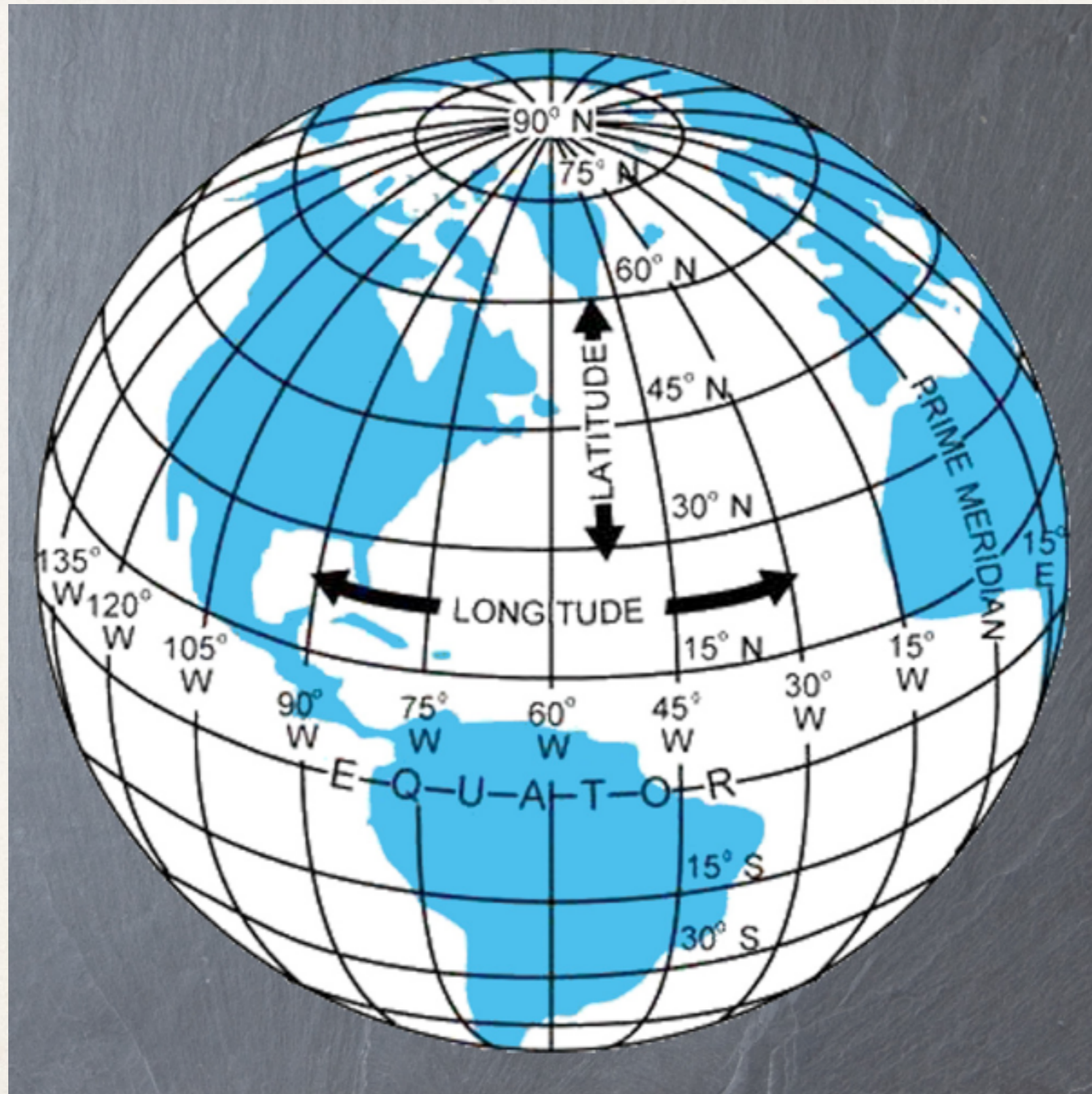
area, volume

color

least accurate

Cleveland and McGill, 1984

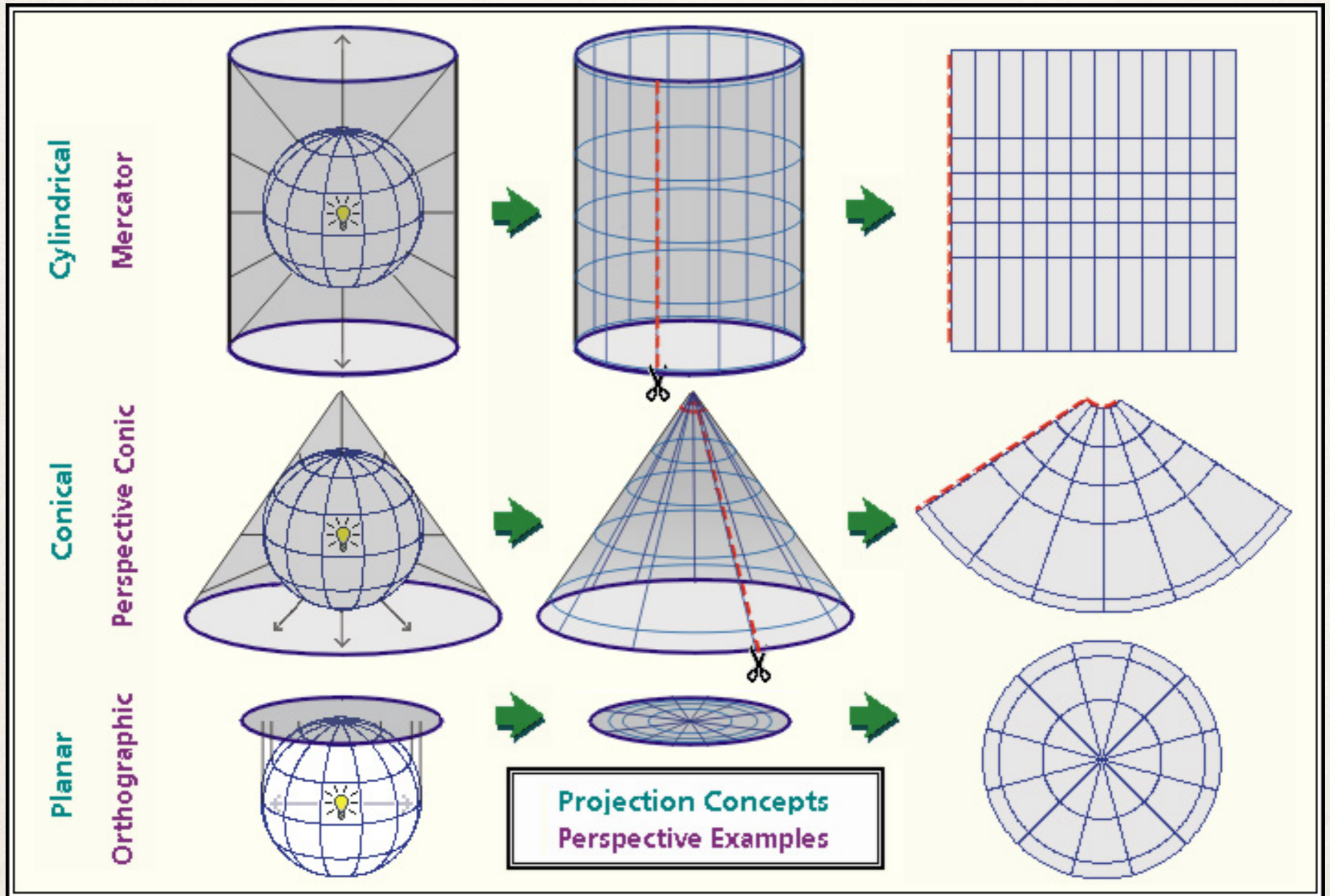
The Earth is not flat





**A sphere tears
when you flatten it**

Projecting a sphere



Projection properties

conformal projection - preserve shape (but not area)

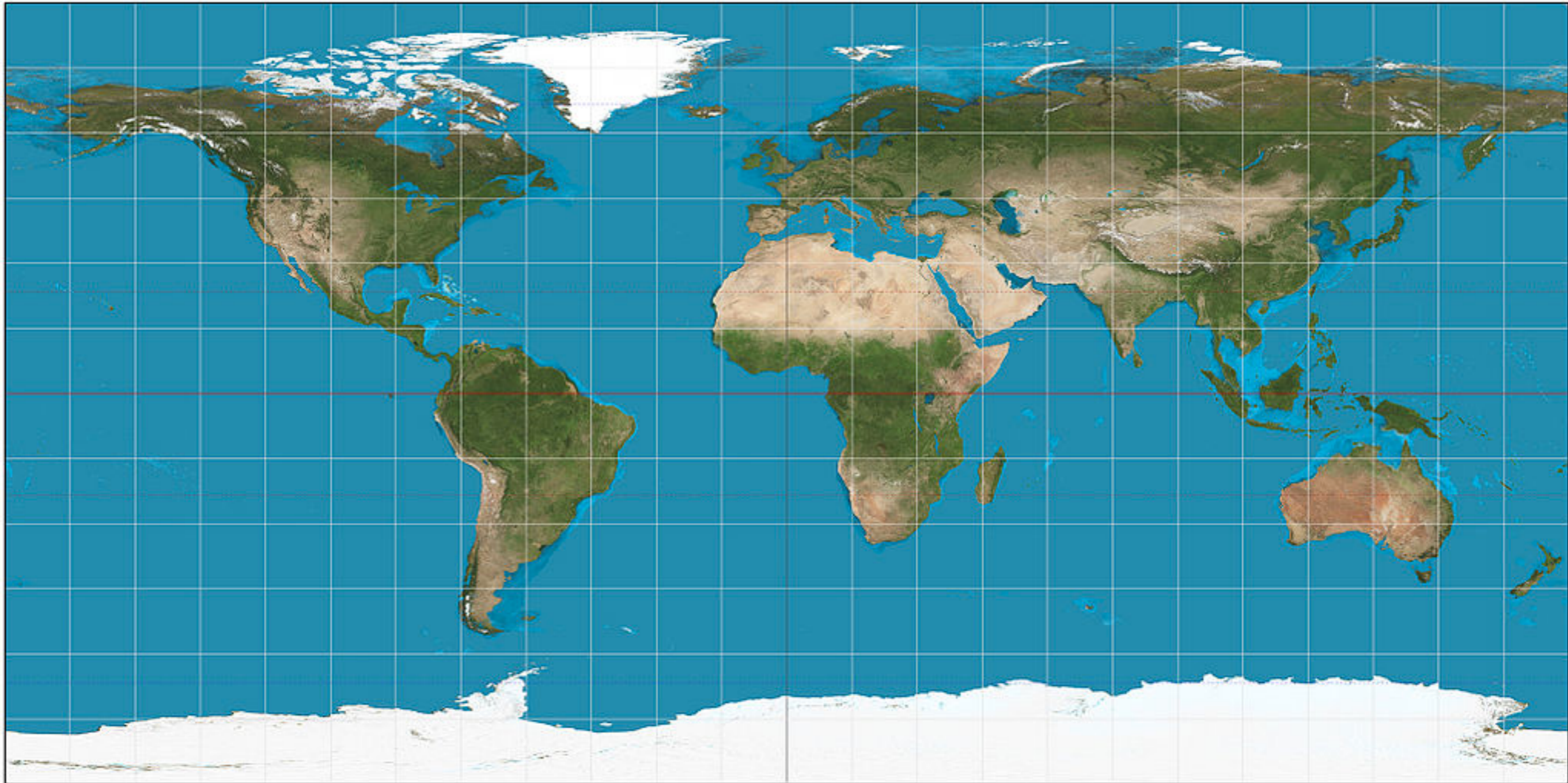
equal-area projection - preserve area (but not shape)

equidistant projection - preserve distance from some standard point

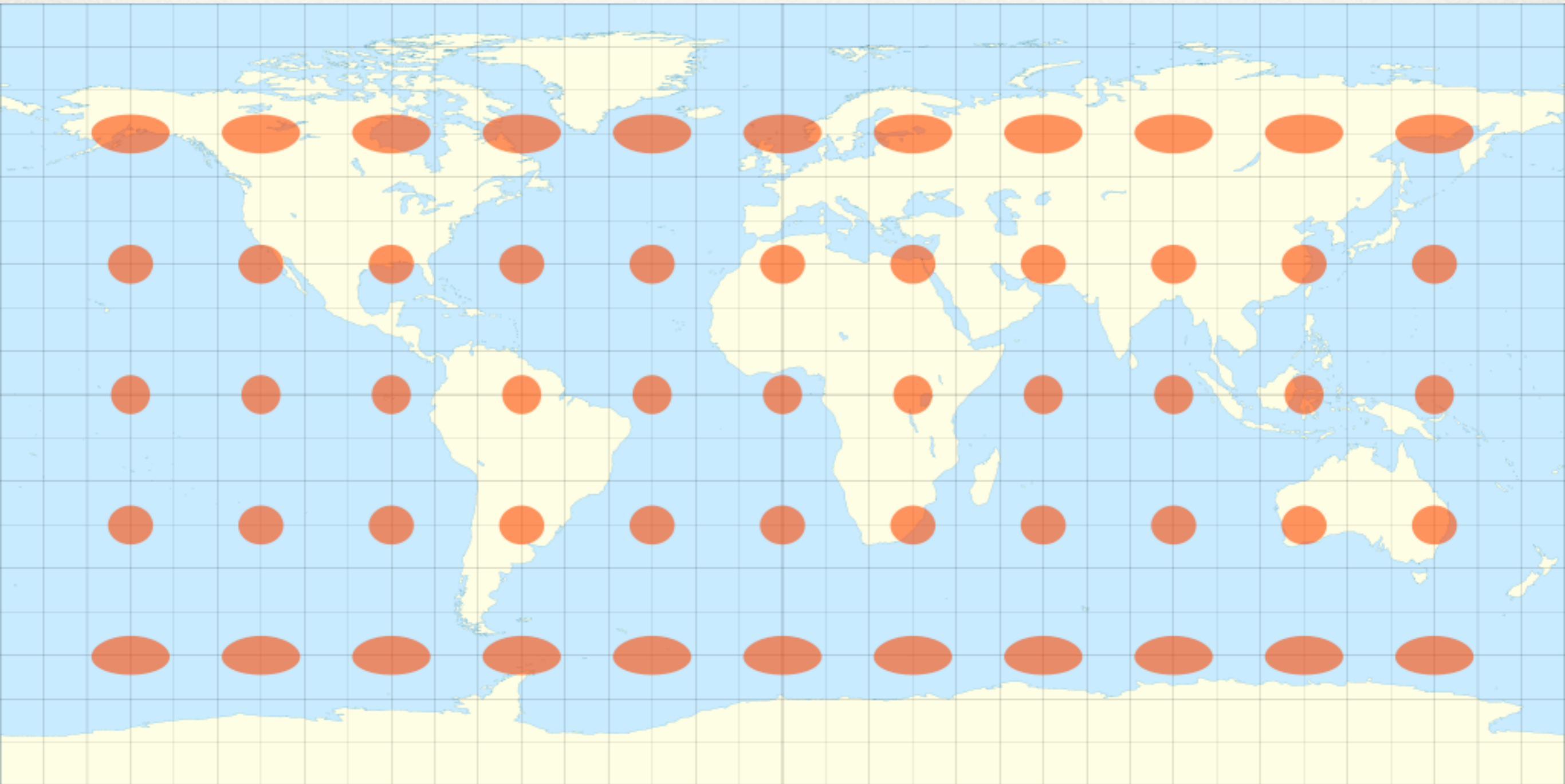
gnomic projection - preserve distance between two points

azimuthal projection - preserve direction from a central point

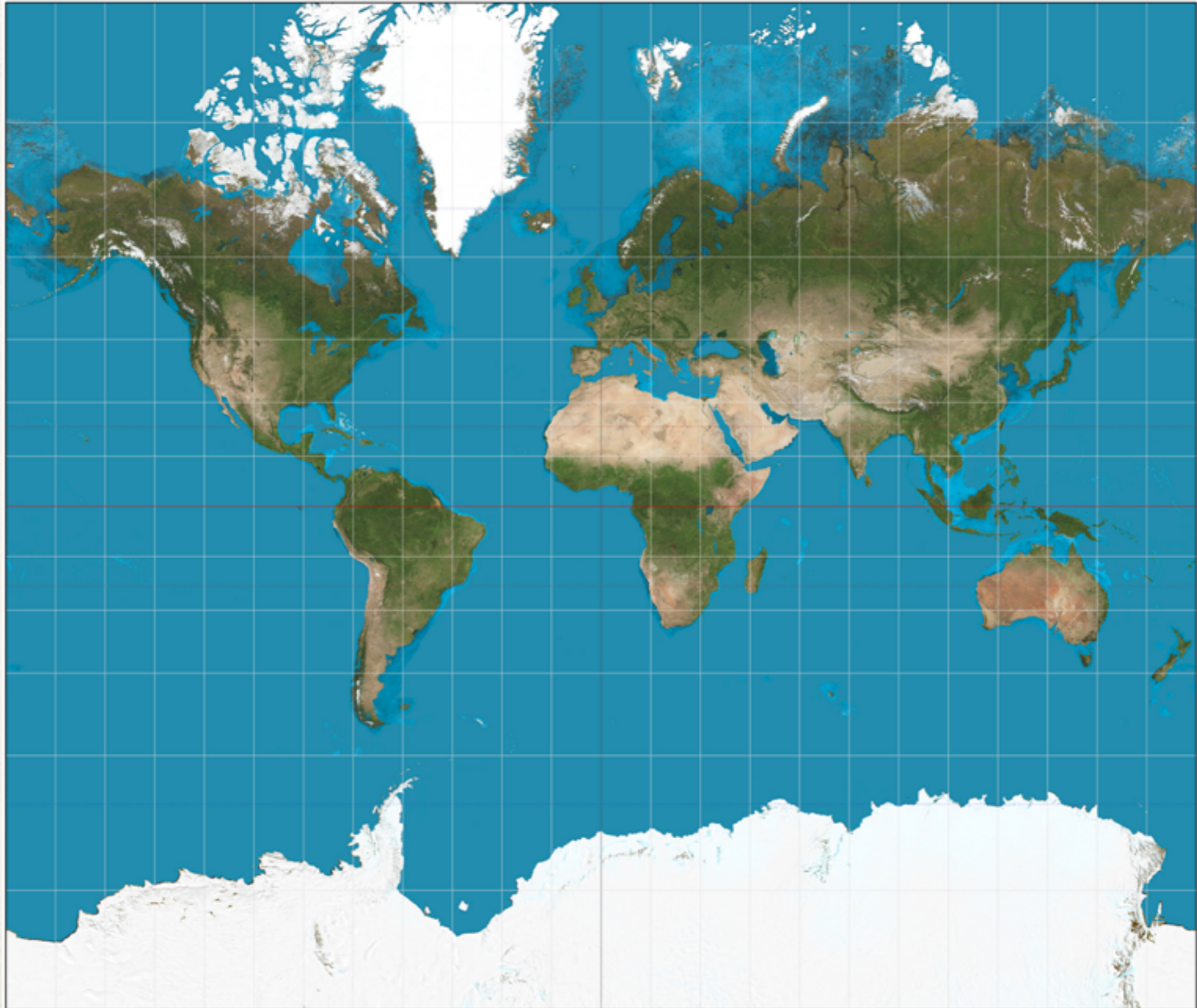
Equiarectangular or Plate Carrée



Equiarectangular



Mercator





Arctic Ocean

Arctic Ocean

Greenland

Iceland

Canada

United States

Mexico

North Pacific Ocean

North Atlantic Ocean

Finland

Sweden

Norway

United Kingdom

Poland

Germany

France

Spain

Italy

Turkey

Russia

Kazakhstan

Mongolia

China

South Korea

Japan

Algeria

Libya

Egypt

Iraq

Iran

Saudi Arabia

Afghanistan

Pakistan

India

Thailand

Mali

Niger

Chad

Sudan

Nigeria

Ethiopia

DR Congo

Kenya

Tanzania

Angola

Namibia

Botswana

South Africa

Madagascar

Indonesia

Papua New Guinea

Australia

New Zealand

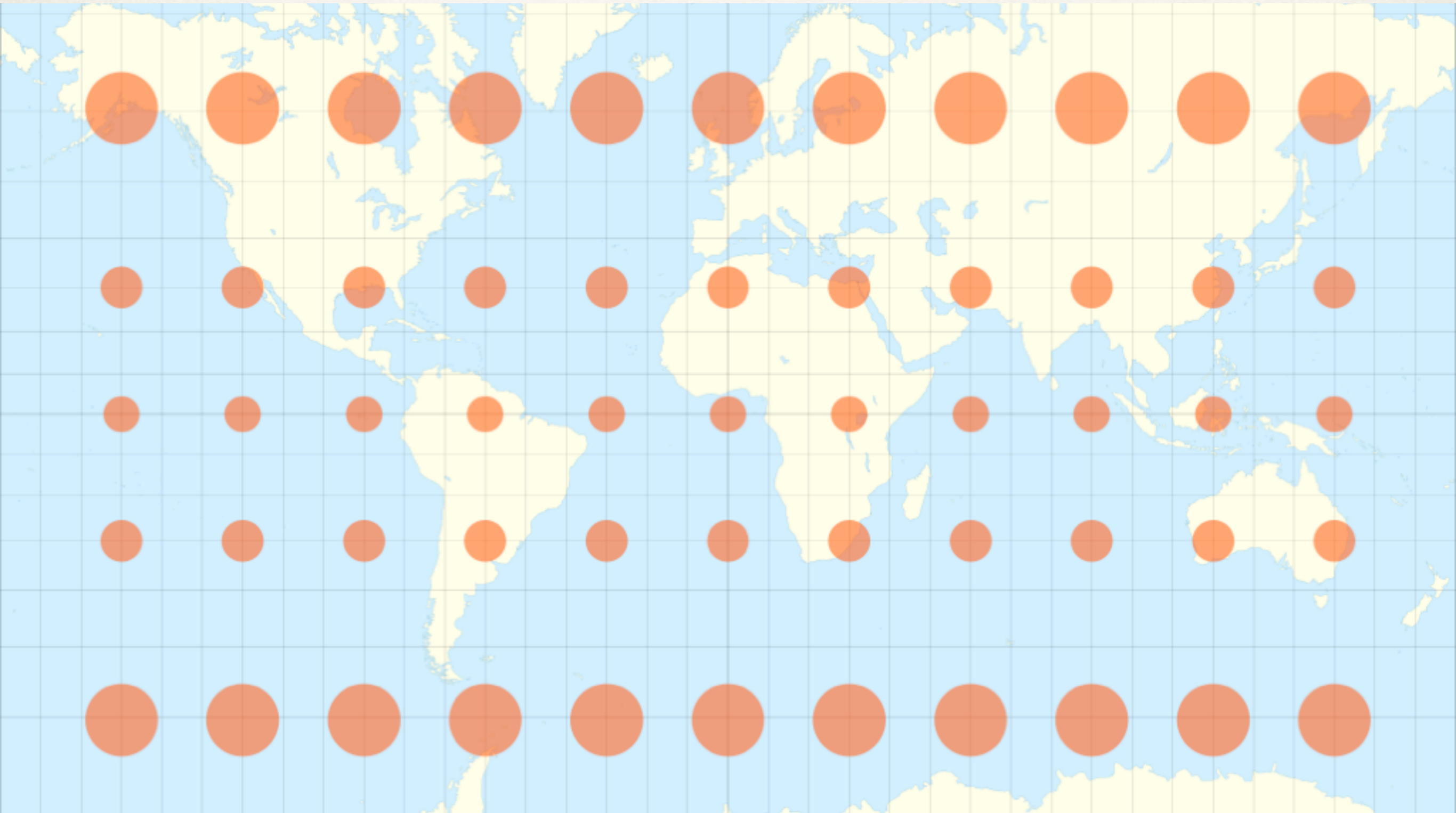
South Pacific Ocean

South Atlantic Ocean

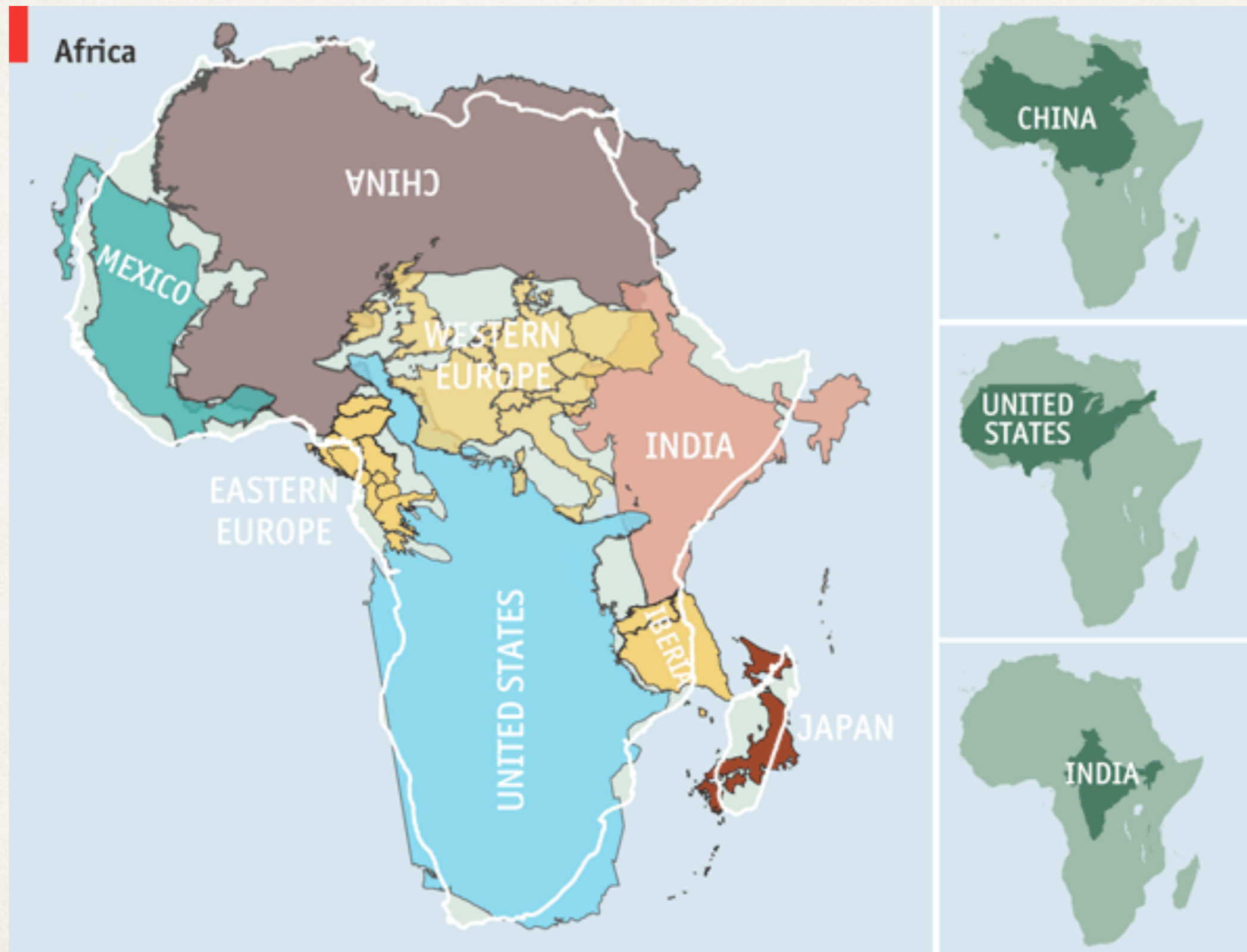
Indian Ocean

Southern Ocean

Mercator distortion



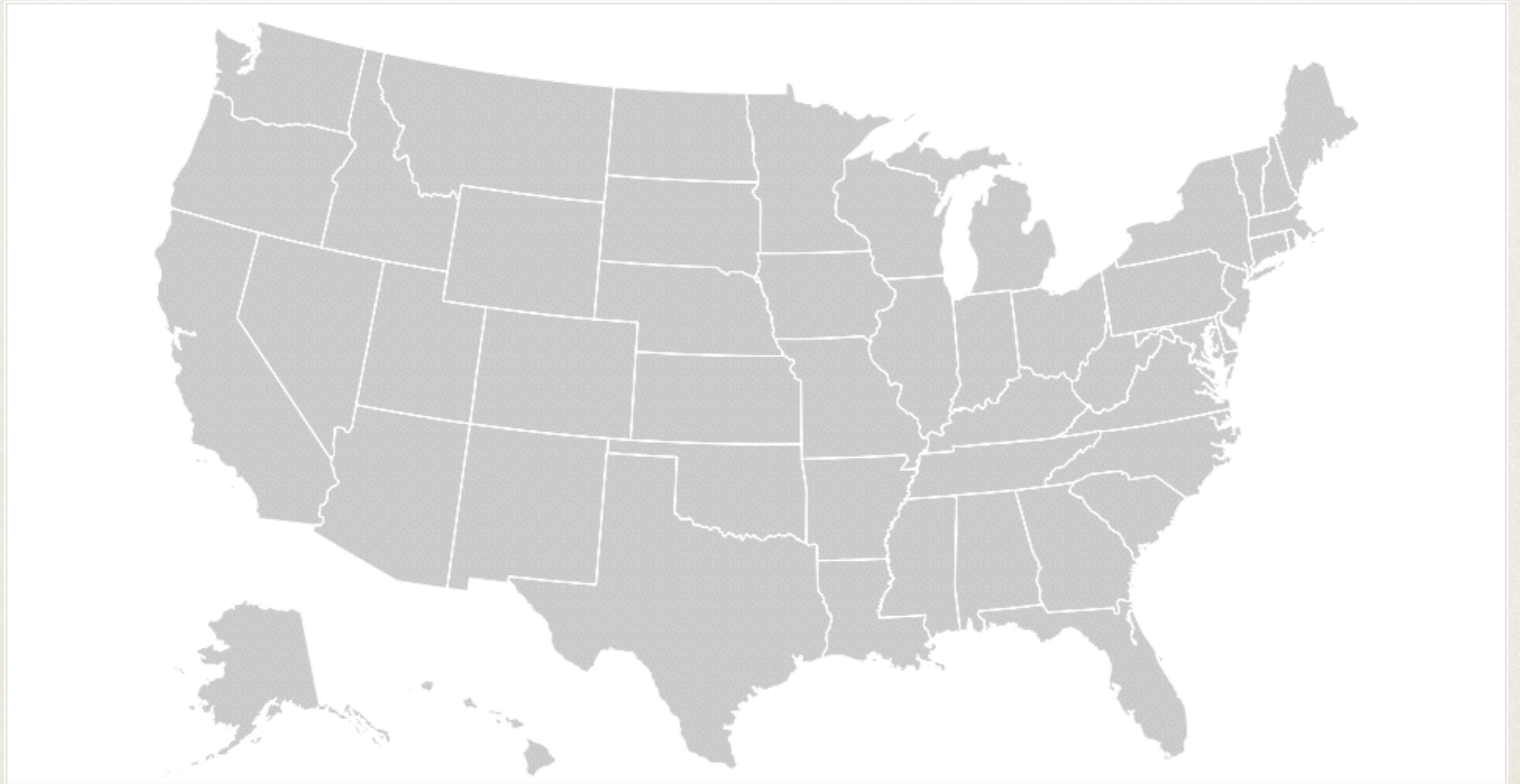
True size of Africa



True size of Greenland



Albers Equal-area Conic projection



Albers vs. equirectangular

GEOGRAPHIC

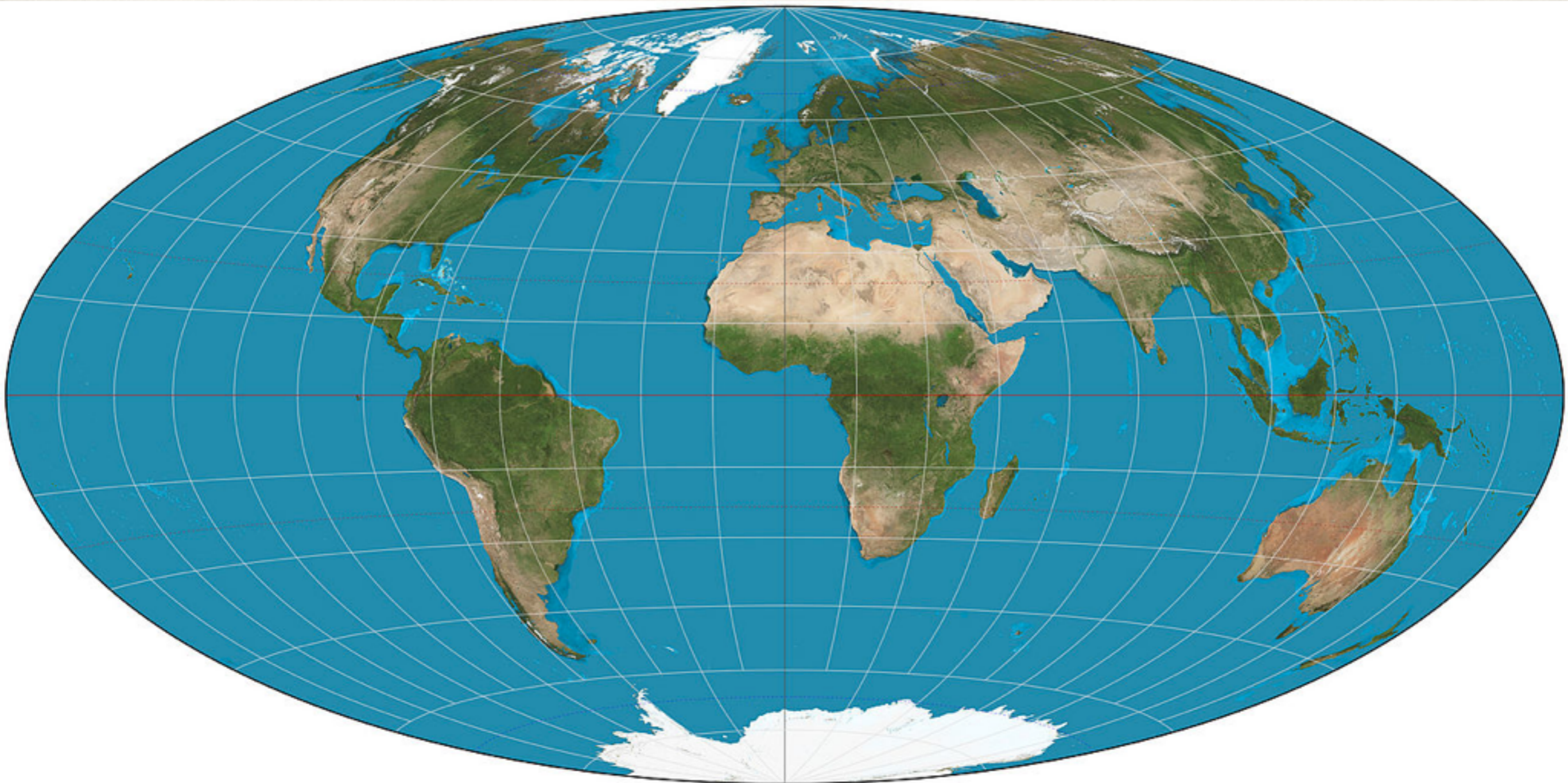


ALBERS

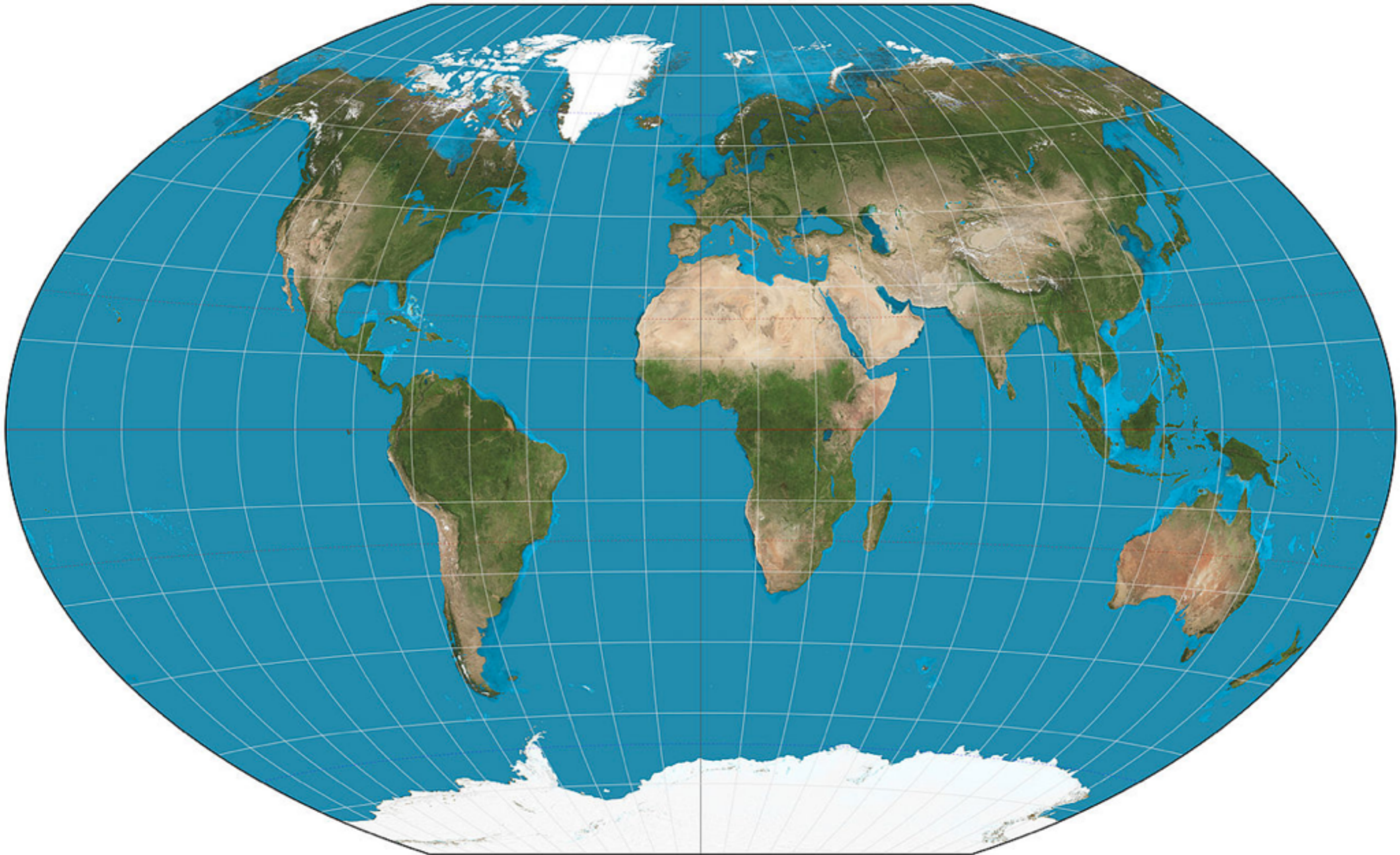


Hammer projection

modified azimuthal equal-area projection



Winkel tripel projection

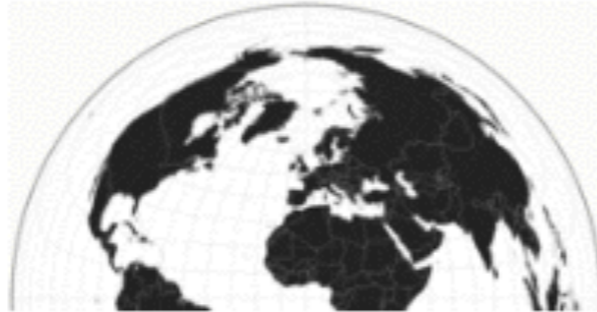


Projections in D3

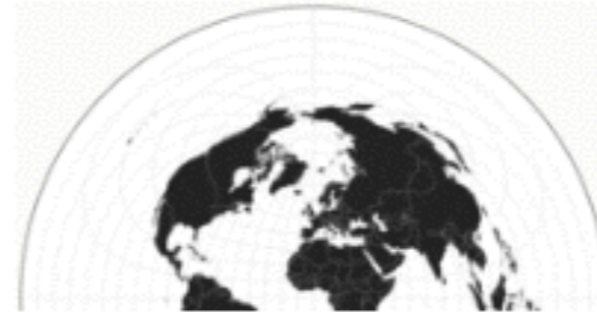
d3.geo.albersUsa



d3.geo.azimuthalEqualArea



d3.geo.azimuthalEquidistant



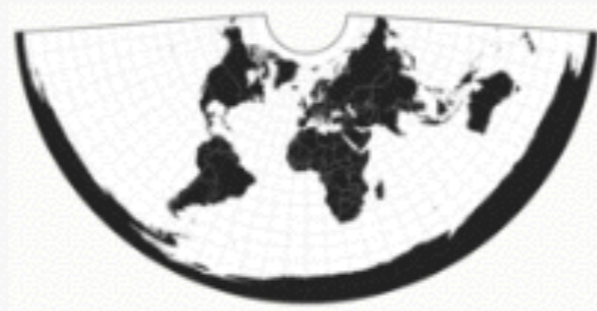
d3.geo.conicEqualArea



d3.geo.conicConformal



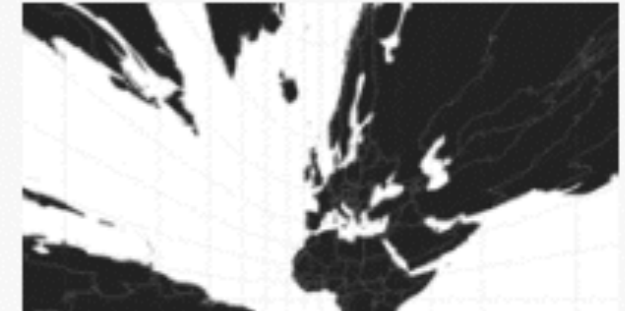
d3.geo.conicEquidistant



d3.geo.equirectangular



d3.geo.gnomonic



d3.geo.mercator



d3.geo.orthographic



d3.geo.stereographic



d3.geo.transverseMercator



Wikipedia list of map projections

Equiarectangular = equidistant = cylindrical = rectangular = Mercator = pseudocylindrical = pseudocylindrical		Cylindrical	Equidistant	Marius of Tyre	120 (c.)	Simplest geometry; distances along meridians are conserved. Plate carrée : special case having the equator as the standard parallel.	Gall-Peters = Gall orthographic = Peters		Cylindrical	Equal-area	James Gall (Arno Peters)	1855	Horizontally compressed version of the Lambert equal-area. Standard parallels at 45°N/S. Aspect ratio of ~1.6. Similar is Bathusart projection with standard parallels at 50°N/S.	Wagner VI 	Pseudocylindrical	Compromise	K.H. Wagner	1932	Equivalent to Kauravsky VII vertically compressed by a factor of $\sqrt{3}/2$.	Hammer = Hammer-Altoff variations: Brewster-Nordt. 	Pseudocylindrical	Equal-area	Ernst Hammer	1892	Modified from azimuthal equal-area equatorial map. Boundary is 2:1 ellipse. Variants are oblique versions, centred on 45°N.	
Mercator = Wigner		Cylindrical	Conformal	Gerardus Mercator	1569	Lines of constant bearing (rhumb lines) are straight, aiding navigation. Areas inflate with latitude, becoming so extreme that the map cannot show the poles.	Sinusoidal = Sanson-Flamsteed = Mercator equal-area		Pseudocylindrical	Equal-area	(Several; first is unknown)	1800 (c.)	Meridians are sinusoidal; parallels are equally spaced. Aspect ratio of 2:1. Distances along parallels are conserved.	Collignon 	Pseudocylindrical	Equal-area	Edouard Collignon	1865 (c.)	Depending on configuration, the projection also may map the sphere to a single diamond or a pair of squares.	Winkel tripel 	Pseudocylindrical	Compromise	Oswald Winkel	1821	Arithmetic mean of the equiarectangular projection and the Altoff projection. Standard world projection for the NGS 1996–present.	
Gauss-Krüger = Gauss conformal = (bipolar) Transverse Mercator		Cylindrical	Conformal	Carl Friedrich Gauss Johann Heinrich Louis Krüger	1822	This transverse, ellipsoidal form of the Mercator is finite, unlike the equatorial Mercator. Forms the basis of the Universal Transverse Mercator system.	Mollweide = elliptical = Babcock = homographic		Pseudocylindrical	Equal-area	Karl Branden Mollweide	1805	Meridians are ellipses.	Croster parallels = Reinhold Punnett P4 	Pseudocylindrical	Equal-area	John Croster	1829	Meridians are parabolas. Standard parallels at 30°48'N/S; parallels are unequal in spacing and scale; 2:1 Aspect.	Van der Grinten 	Other	Compromise	Alphons J. van der Grinten	1904	Boundary is a circle. All parallels and meridians are circular arcs. Usually clipped near 80°N/S. Standard world projection of the NGS 1922–68.	
Gall stereographic similar to Braun		Cylindrical	Compromise	James Gall	1885	Intended to resemble the Mercator while also displaying the poles. Standard parallels at 45°N/S. Braun is horizontally stretched version with scale correct at equator.	Eckert II 	Pseudocylindrical	Equal-area	Max Eckert-Greifendorff	1906	Parallels are unequal in spacing and scale; outer meridians are semicircles, other meridians are semiellipses.	Flat-polar quartic = Molloye-Thoms H4 	Pseudocylindrical	Equal-area	Felix W. Molloye, Paul Thomas	1949	Standard parallels at 33°45'N/S; parallels are unequal in spacing and scale; meridians are fourth-order curves. Distortion-free only where the standard parallels intersect the central meridian.	Equidistant conic projection = simple conic 	Conic	Equidistant	Based on Poley's 1st Projection	100 (c.)	Distances along meridians are conserved, as is distance along one or two standard parallels ^[1]		
Miller = Miller cylindrical		Cylindrical	Compromise	Osborn Mifflin Miller	1942	Intended to resemble the Mercator while also displaying the poles.	Eckert VI 	Pseudocylindrical	Equal-area	Max Eckert-Greifendorff	1906	Parallels are unequal in spacing and scale; meridians are half-period sinusoids.	Quartic azimuthal 	Pseudocylindrical	Equal-area	Karl Simon Oscar Adams	1937 1944	Parallels are unequal in spacing and scale. No distortion along the equator. Meridians are fourth-order curves.	Lambert conformal conic 	Conic	Conformal	Johann Heinrich Lambert	1772	Johann Heinrich Lambert	1772	
Lambert cylindrical equal-area		Cylindrical	Equal-area	Johann Heinrich Lambert	1772	Standard parallel at the equator. Aspect ratio of n (3.14). Base projection of the cylindrical equal-area family.	Goode homolosine 	Pseudocylindrical	Equal-area	John Paul Goode	1923	Hybrid of Sinusoidal and Mollweide projections. Usually used in interrupted form.	The Times 	Pseudocylindrical	Compromise	John Mur	1965	Evenly spaced parallels. Equivalent to Wagner VI horizontally compressed by a factor of $\sqrt{3}/2$.	Abers conic 	Conic	Equal-area	Heinrich C. Abers	1805	Two standard parallels with low distortion between them.		
Behrmann		Cylindrical	Equal-area	Walter Behrmann	1910	Horizontally compressed version of the Lambert equal-area. Has standard parallels at 30°N/S and an aspect ratio of 2.36.	Kauravsky VII 	Pseudocylindrical	Compromise	Vladimir V. Kauravsky	1939	Evenly spaced parallels. Equivalent to Wagner VI horizontally compressed by a factor of $\sqrt{3}/2$.	Robinson 	Pseudocylindrical	Compromise	Arthur H. Robinson	1963	Computed by interpolation of tabulated values. Used by Rand McNally since inception and used by NGS 1988–98.	Werner 	Pseudocylindrical	Equal-area	Johannes Stobus	1500 (c.)	Distances from the North Pole are correct as are the curved distances along parallels.		
Hobo-Dyer		Cylindrical	Equal-area	Mick Dyer	2002	Horizontally compressed version of the Lambert equal-area. Very similar are Tyston (Edwards) and Smyth equal surface (= Croster rectangular) projections with standard parallels at around 37°N/S. Aspect ratio of ~2.0.	Tobler hyperequiptical 	Pseudocylindrical	Equal-area	Waldo R. Tobler	1973	A family of map projections that includes as special cases Mollweide projection, Collignon projection, and the various cylindrical equal-area projections.	Loximuthal 	Pseudocylindrical		Karl Simon, Waldo Tobler	1935, 1966	From the designated centre, lines of constant bearing (rhumb lines/loxodromes) are straight and have the correct length. Generally asymmetric about the equator.	Bonne 	Pseudocylindrical, coniform	Equal-area	Bernardus Sylvanus	1511	Parallels are equally spaced circular arcs and standard lines. Appearance depends on reference parallel. General case of both Werner and sinusoidal		
Orthographic		Azimuthal		Hipparchos (deployed)	200 BC (c.)	View from an infinite distance.	American polyconic 	Pseudocylindrical		Ferdinand Rudolph Hassler	1820 (c.)	Distances along the parallels are preserved as are distances along the central meridian.	Butterfly projection 	Polyhedral	Compromise	Steve Waterman	1996	Stretching of modified equatorial azimuthal equidistant map. Boundary is 2:1 ellipse. Largely superseded by Hammer.	Bottomley 	Pseudocylindrical	Equal-area	Henry Bottomley	2003	Parallels are elliptical arcs. Appearance depends on reference parallel.		
Vertical perspective		Azimuthal		Matthias Seutter (deployed)	1740	View from a finite distance. Can only display less than a hemisphere.	Azimuthal equidistant = Poley azimuthal equidistant 	Azimuthal	Equidistant	Abū Rayhān al-Bīrūnī	1000 (c.)	Distances from centre are conserved. Used as the emblem of the United Nations, extending to 60° S.	Myriahedral projections 	Polyhedral		Jerke J. van Wijk	2008	Projects the globe onto a myriahedron, a polyhedron with a very large number of faces. ^{[2][3]}	B.J.S. Cahill's Butterfly Map 	Polyhedral	Compromise	Bernard Joseph Stanislaus Cahill	1908			
Two-point equidistant		Azimuthal	Equidistant	Hans Maurer	1918	Two "control points" can be arbitrarily chosen. The two straight-line distances from any point on the map to the two control points are correct.	Gnomonic 	Azimuthal	Gnomonic	Thales (possibly)	580 BC (c.)	All great circles map to straight lines. Extreme distortion far from the center. Shows less than one hemisphere.	Orsig retroazimuthal = Weiss 	Retrosazimuthal		James Ireland Orsig	1909		Cahill-Kayes projection 	Polyhedral	Compromise	Gene Kayes	1975			
Peirce quiconical		Other	Conformal	Charles Sanders Peirce	1879		Lambert azimuthal equal-area 	Azimuthal	Equal-area	Johann Heinrich Lambert	1772	The straight-line distance between the central point on the map to any other point is the same as the straight-line 3D distance through the globe between the two points.	Hammer retroazimuthal, front hemispheres 	Retrosazimuthal		Ernst Hammer	1910		Hammer retroazimuthal, back hemispheres 	Retrosazimuthal		Ernst Hammer	1910			
Guyou hemisphere-in-a-square projection		Other	Conformal	Émile Guyou	1887		Stereographic 	Azimuthal	Conformal	Hipparchos (deployed)	200 BC (c.)	Map is infinite in extent with outer hemisphere inflating severely, so it is often used as two hemispheres. Maps all small circles to circles, which is useful for planetary mapping to preserve the shapes of craters.	Litrow 	Retrosazimuthal		Joseph Johann Litrow	1833									
Adams hemisphere-in-a-square projection		Other	Conformal	Oscar Sherman Adams	1925																					

XKCD - Map Projections

WHAT YOUR FAVORITE
MAP PROJECTION
SAYS ABOUT YOU

MERCATOR



YOU'RE NOT REALLY INTO MAPS.

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.

A GLOBE!



YES, YOU'RE VERY CLEVER.

PLATE CARRÉE
(EQUIRECTANGULAR)



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.

WINKEL-TRIPPEL



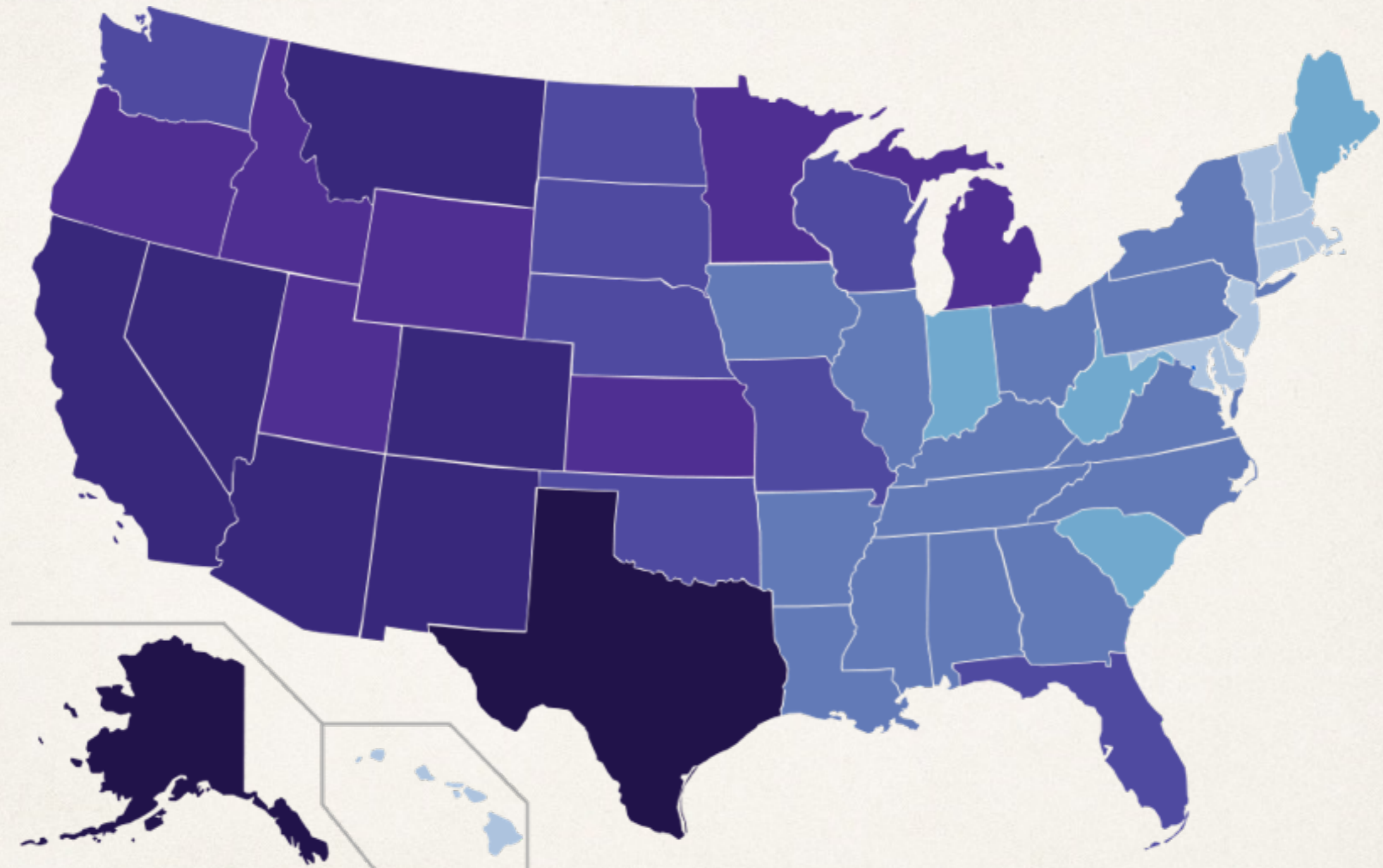
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ADOPTED THE WINKEL-TRIPPEL IN 1998, BUT YOU'VE BEEN A WT FAN SINCE LONG BEFORE "NAT GEO" SHOWED UP. YOU'RE WORRIED IT'S GETTING PLAYED OUT, AND ARE THINKING OF SWITCHING TO THE KAVRAYSKIY. YOU ONCE LEFT A PARTY IN DISGUST WHEN A GUEST SHOWED UP WEARING SHOES WITH TOES. YOUR FAVORITE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

HOBO-DYER

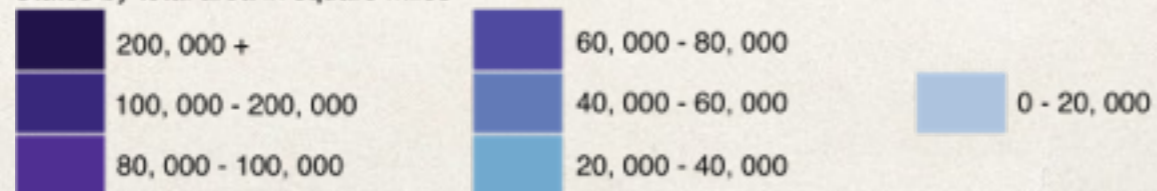


YOU WANT TO AVOID CULTURAL IMPERIALISM, BUT YOU'VE HEARD BAD THINGS ABOUT GALL-PETERS. YOU'RE CONFLICT-AVERSE AND BUY ORGANIC. YOU USE A RECENTLY-INVENTED SET OF GENDER-NEUTRAL PRONOUNS AND THINK THAT WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS IS A REVOLUTION IN CONSCIOUSNESS.

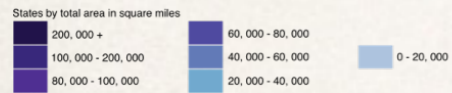
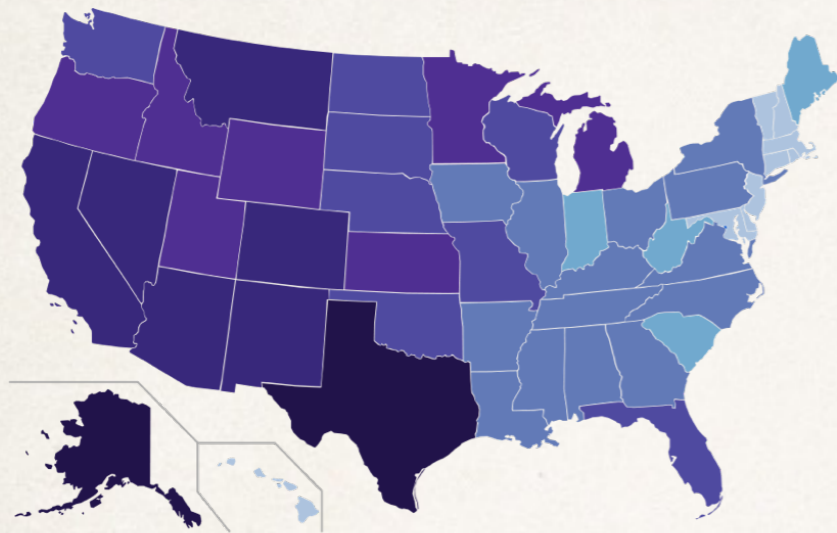
U.S. State by total area



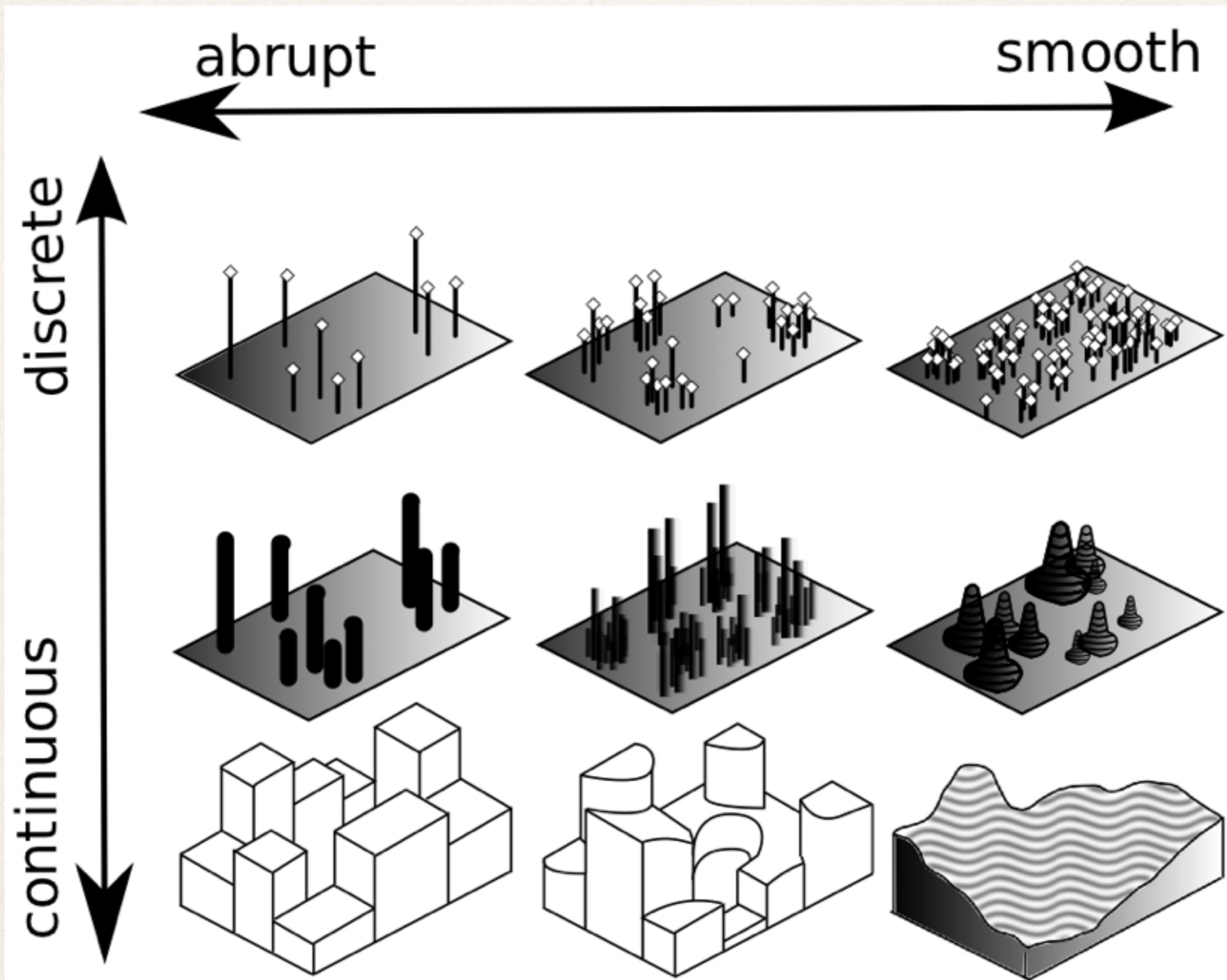
States by total area in square miles



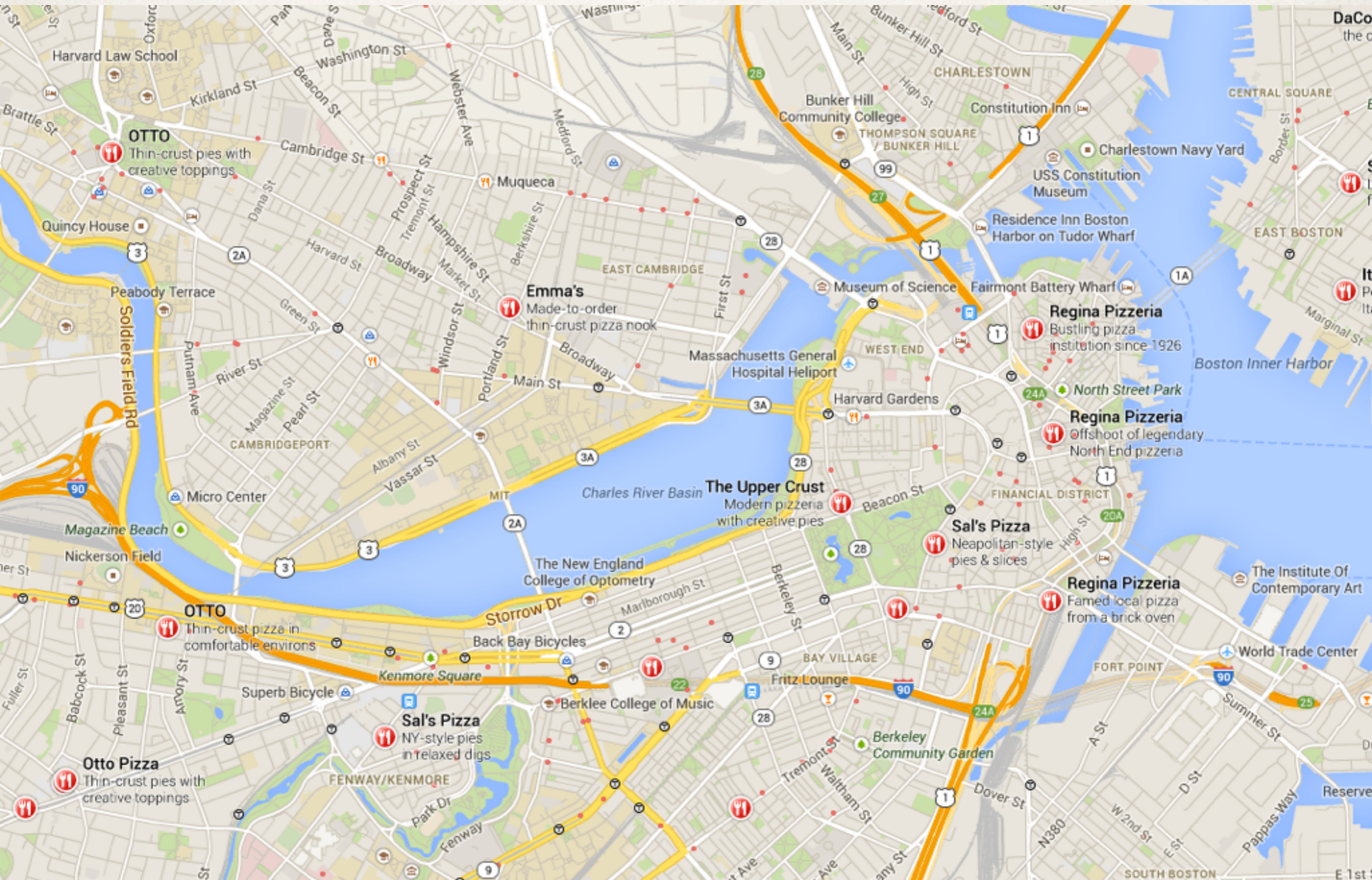
U.S. State by total area



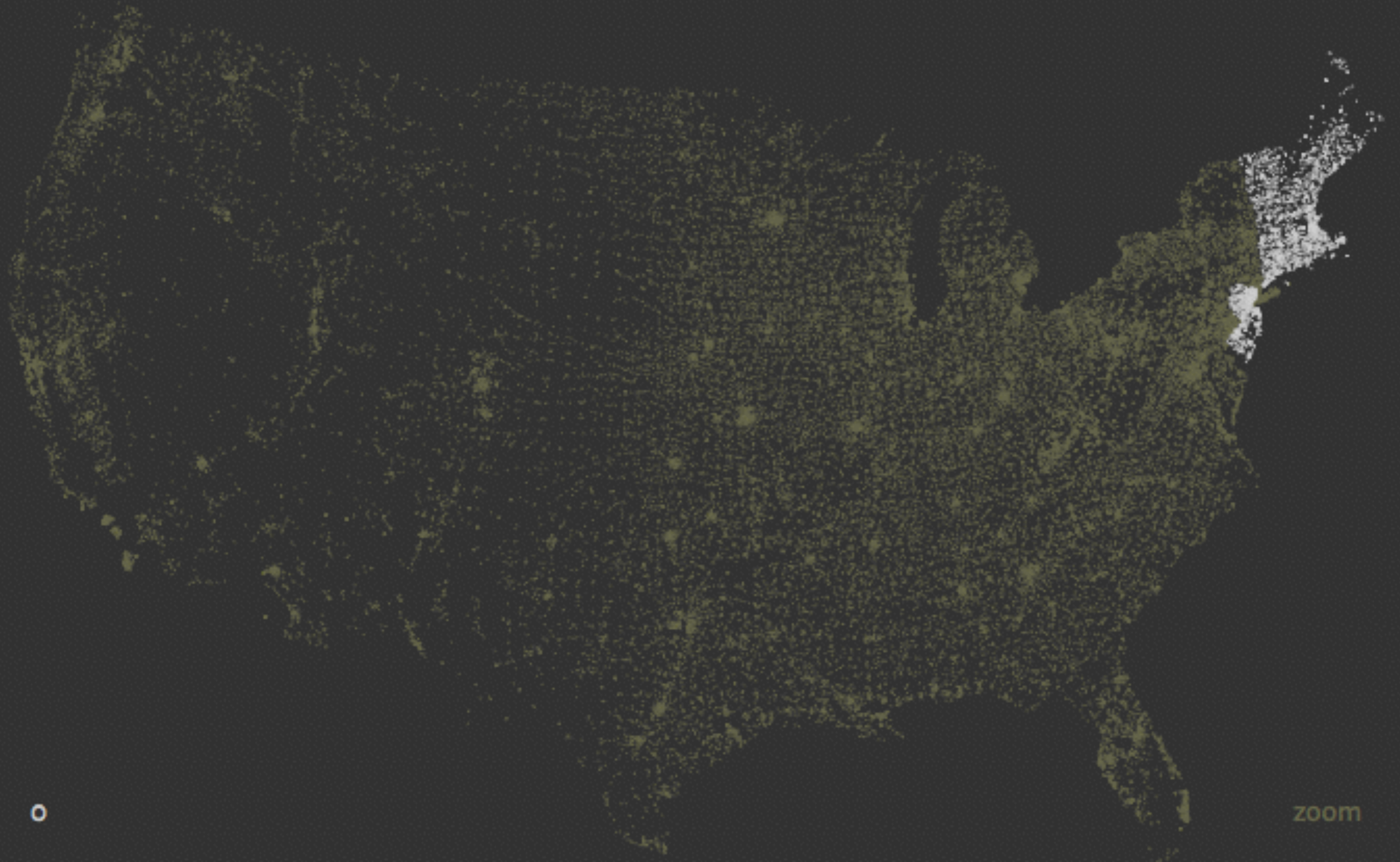
Map style



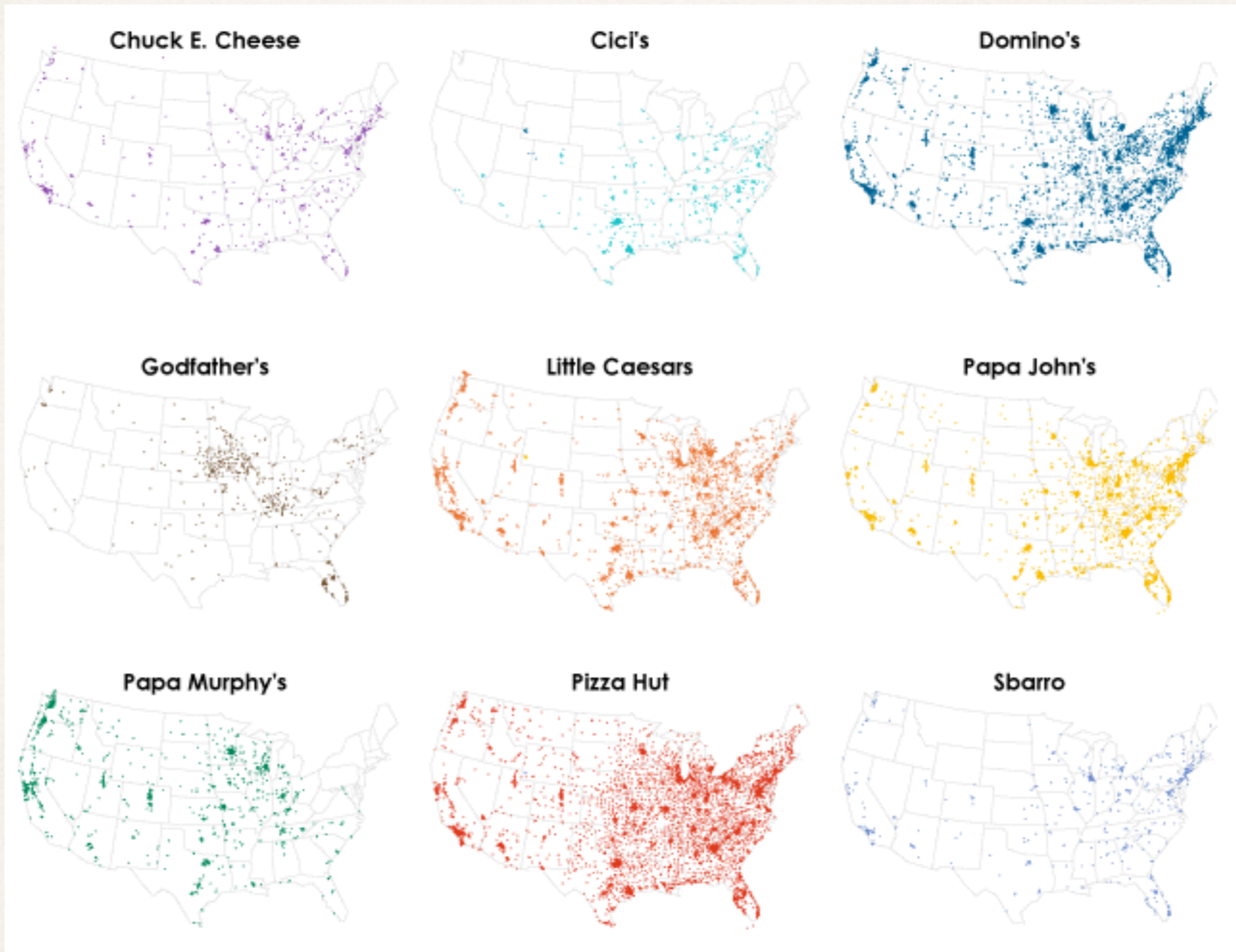
Dot maps



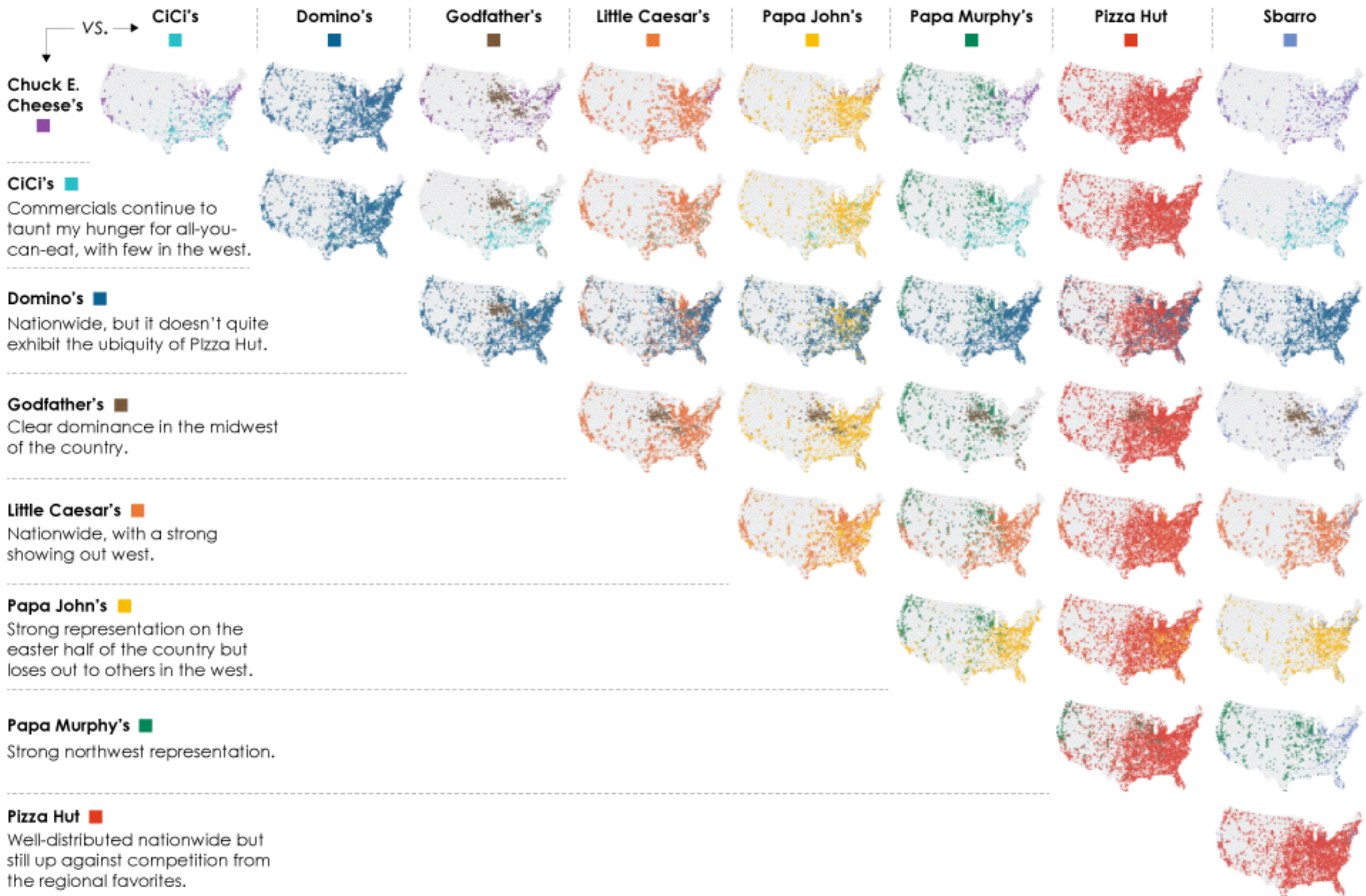
Dot map



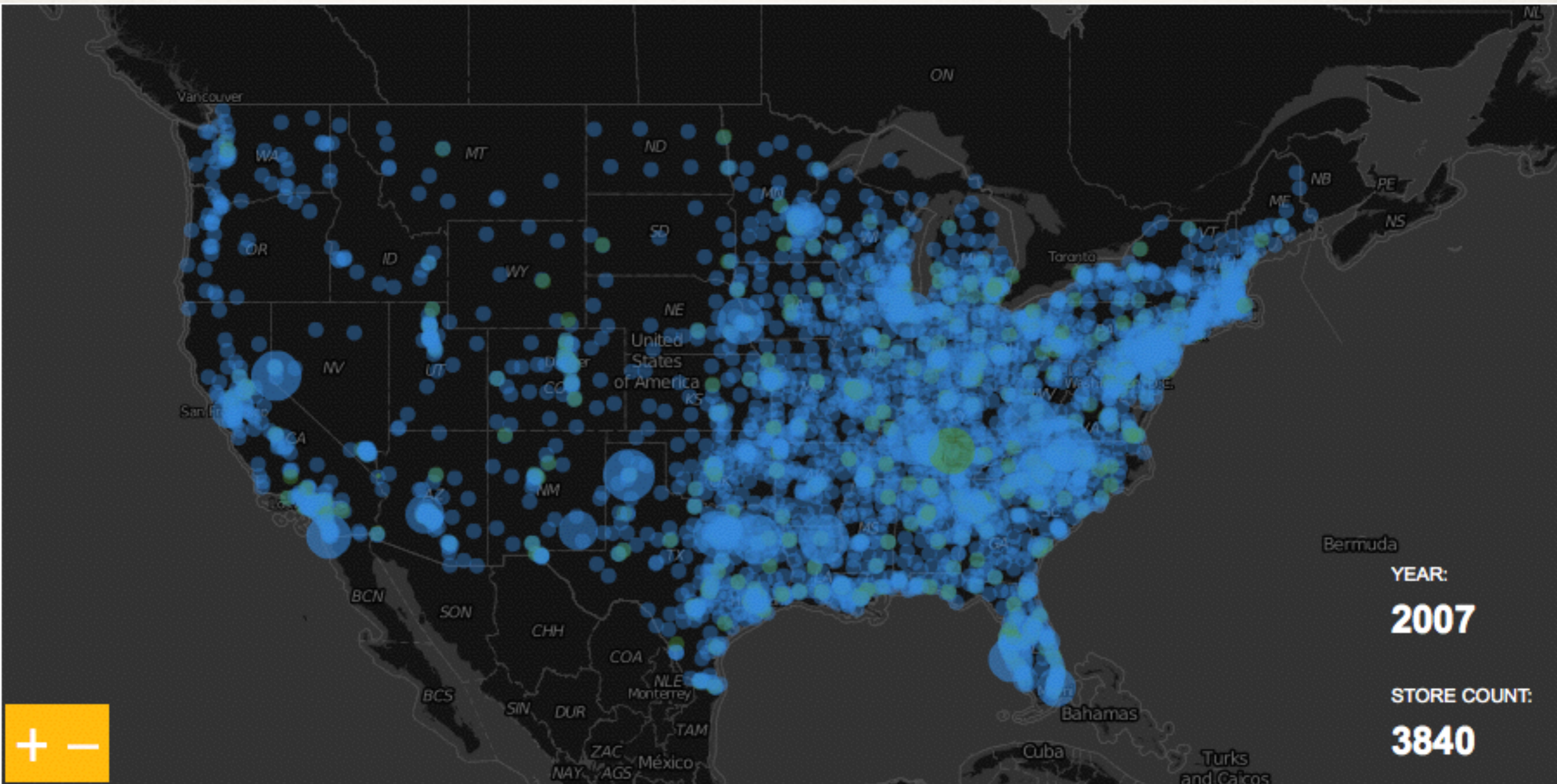
Dot map



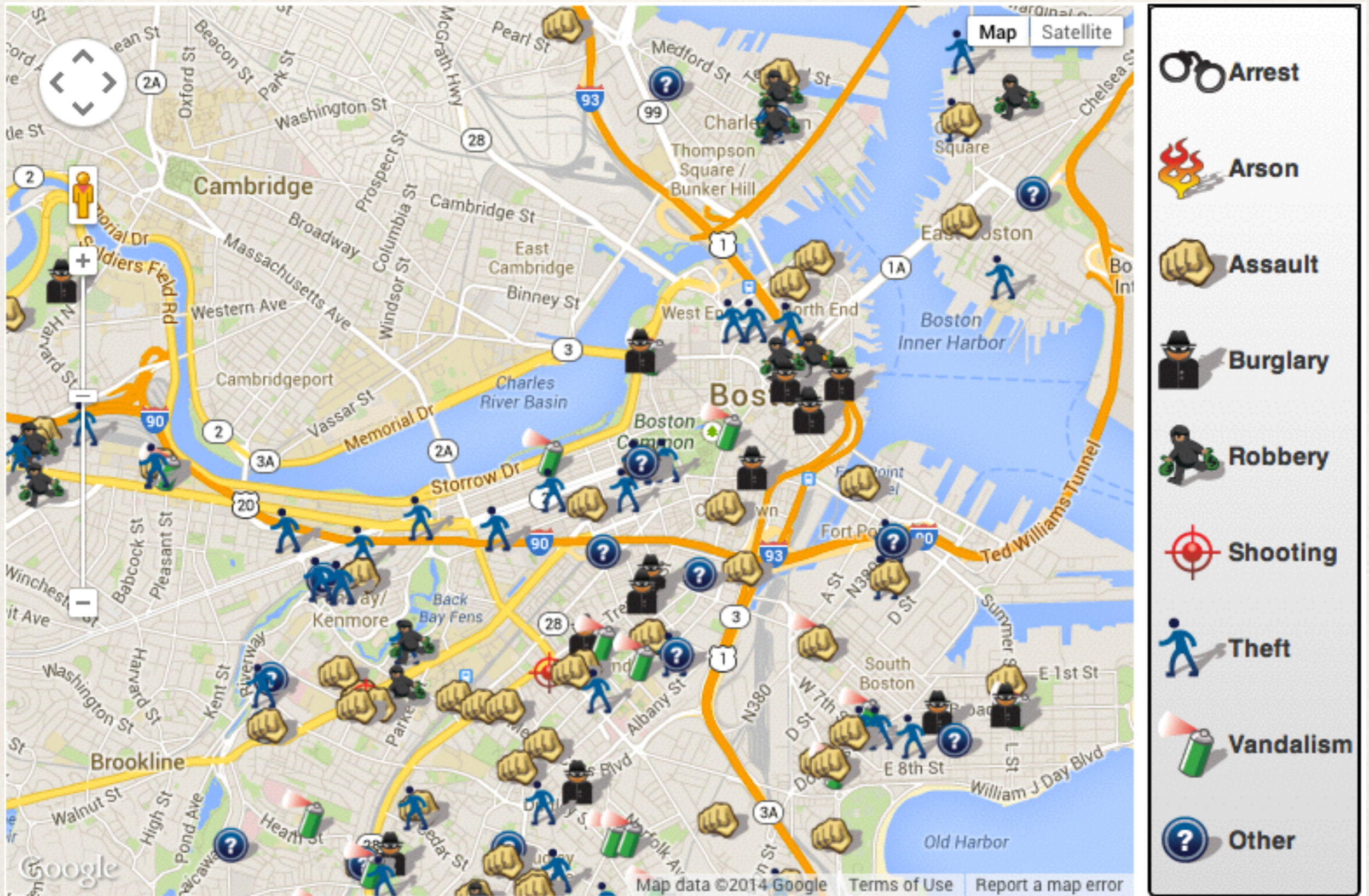
Which pizza place is closer?



The Growth of Walmart



Dot maps with icons



Dot map with size encoding

THE GRID

SOURCES OF POWER

POWER PLANTS

SOLAR POWER

WIND POWER

About This Map »

Roll over the dots for detailed information about each power plant. Use the dropdown below to filter power plants by type.

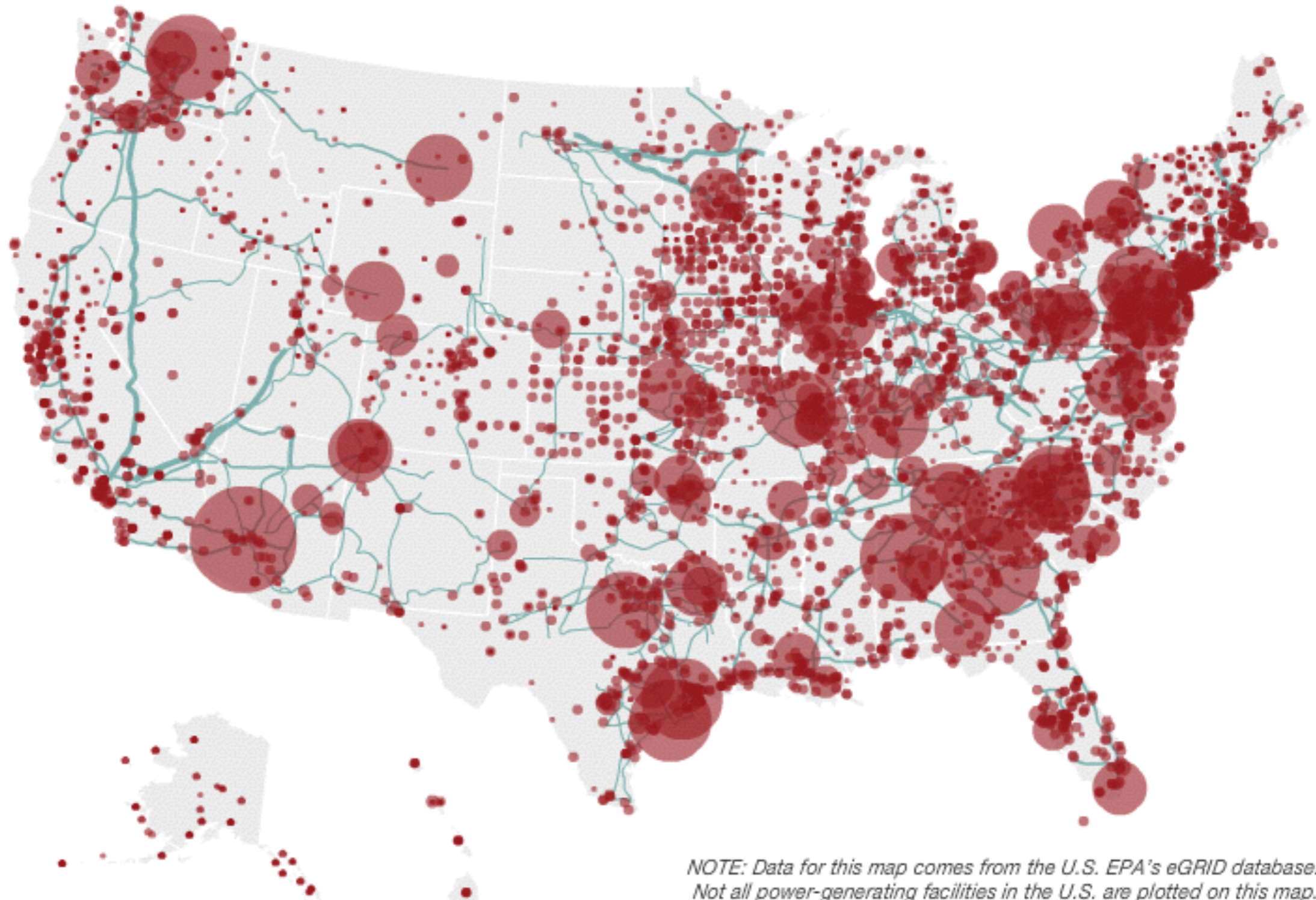
POWER PLANTS

All plants

Dots are sized with respect to each plant's annual net generation of power.

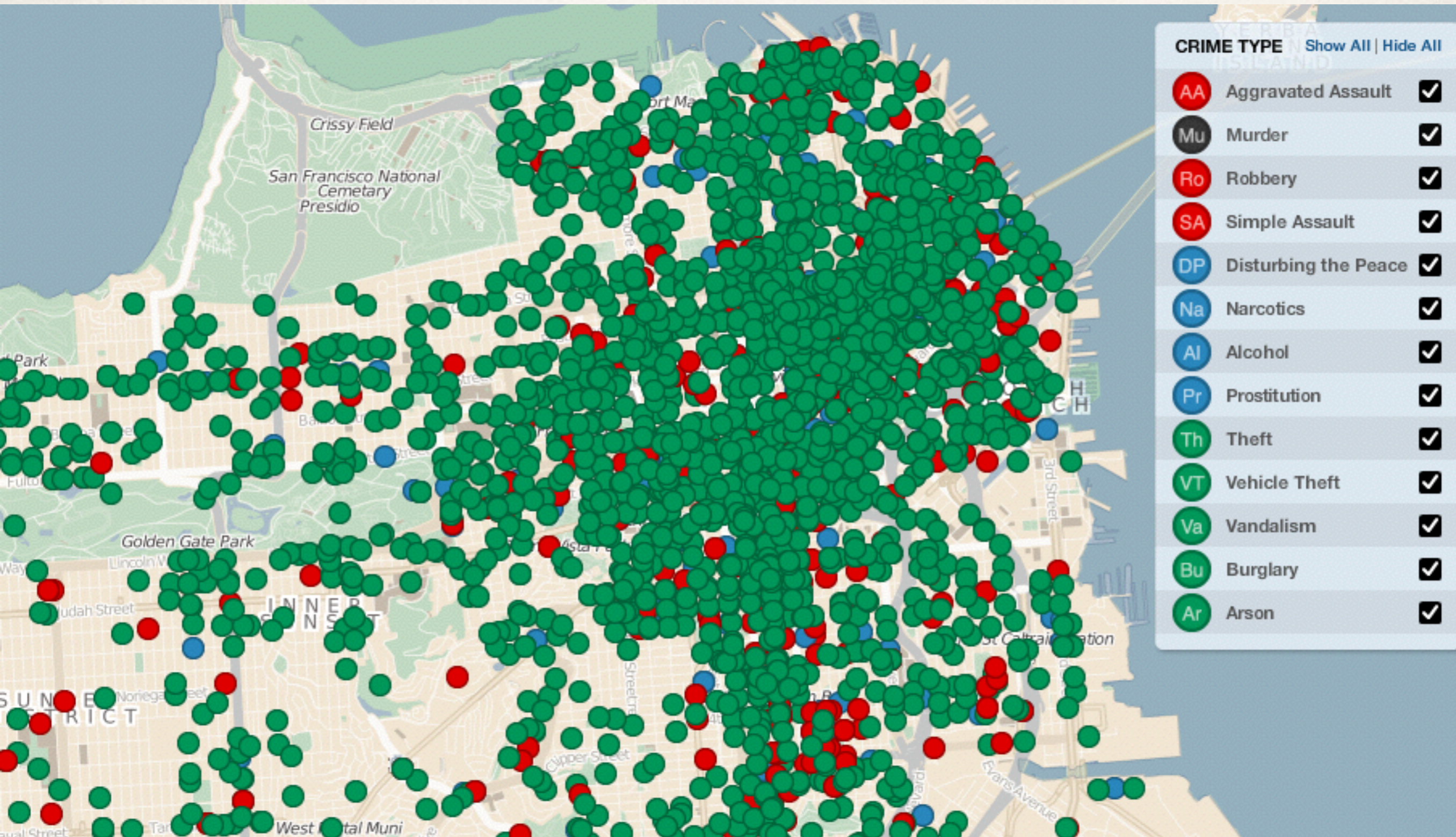
EXISTING LINES

Existing electric power grid

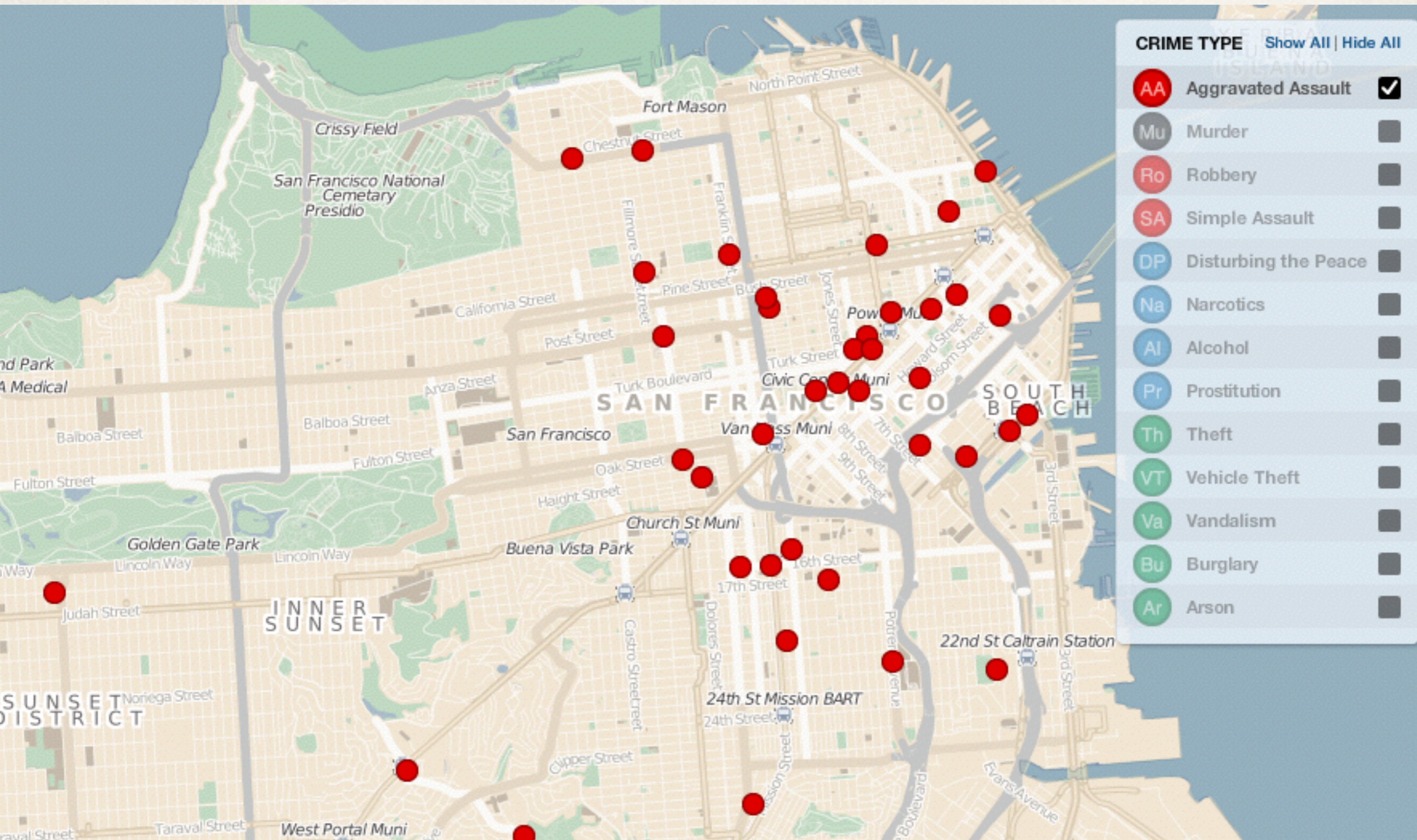


NOTE: Data for this map comes from the U.S. EPA's eGRID database. Not all power-generating facilities in the U.S. are plotted on this map.

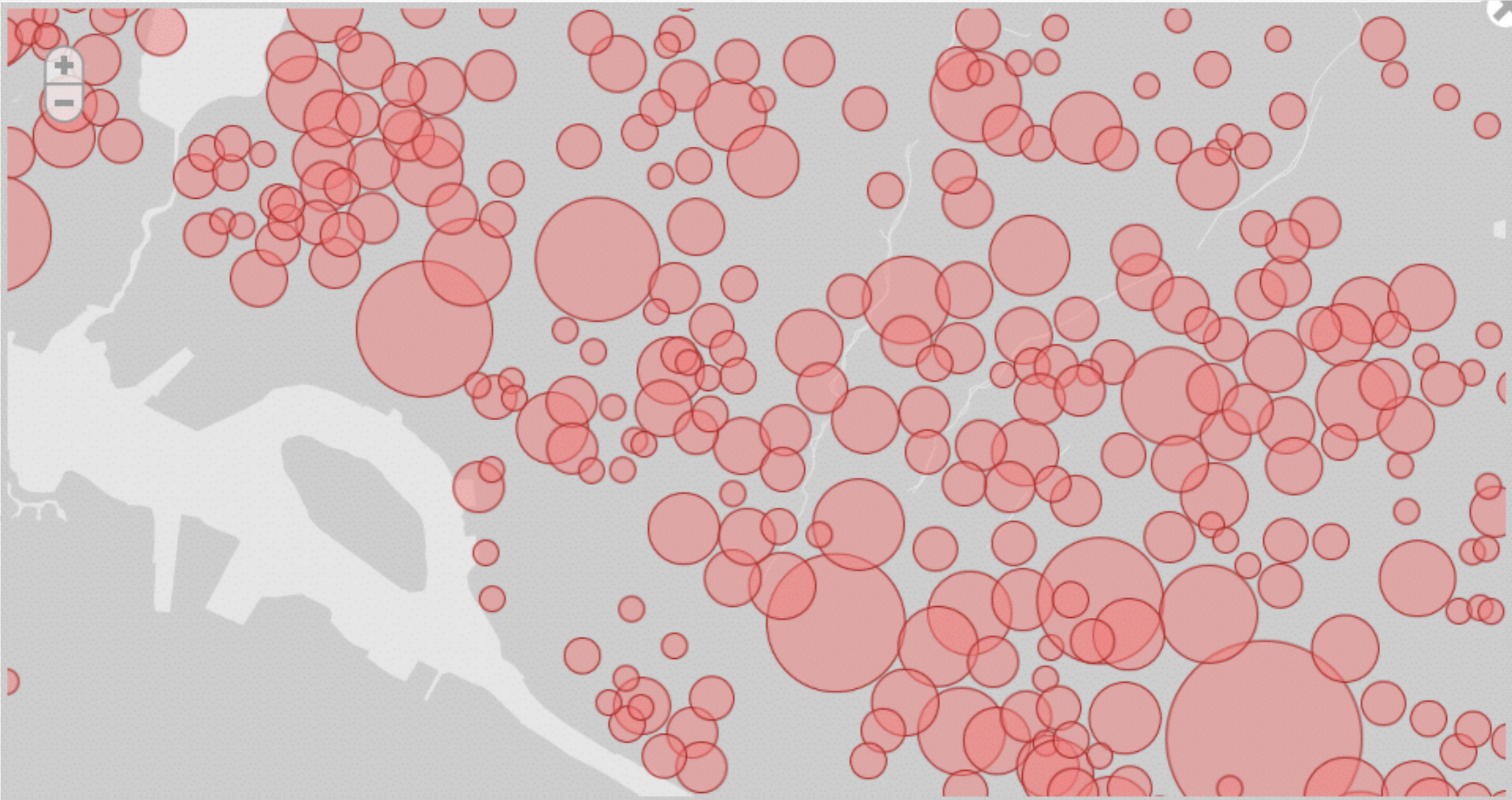
Dot map - What's the problem?



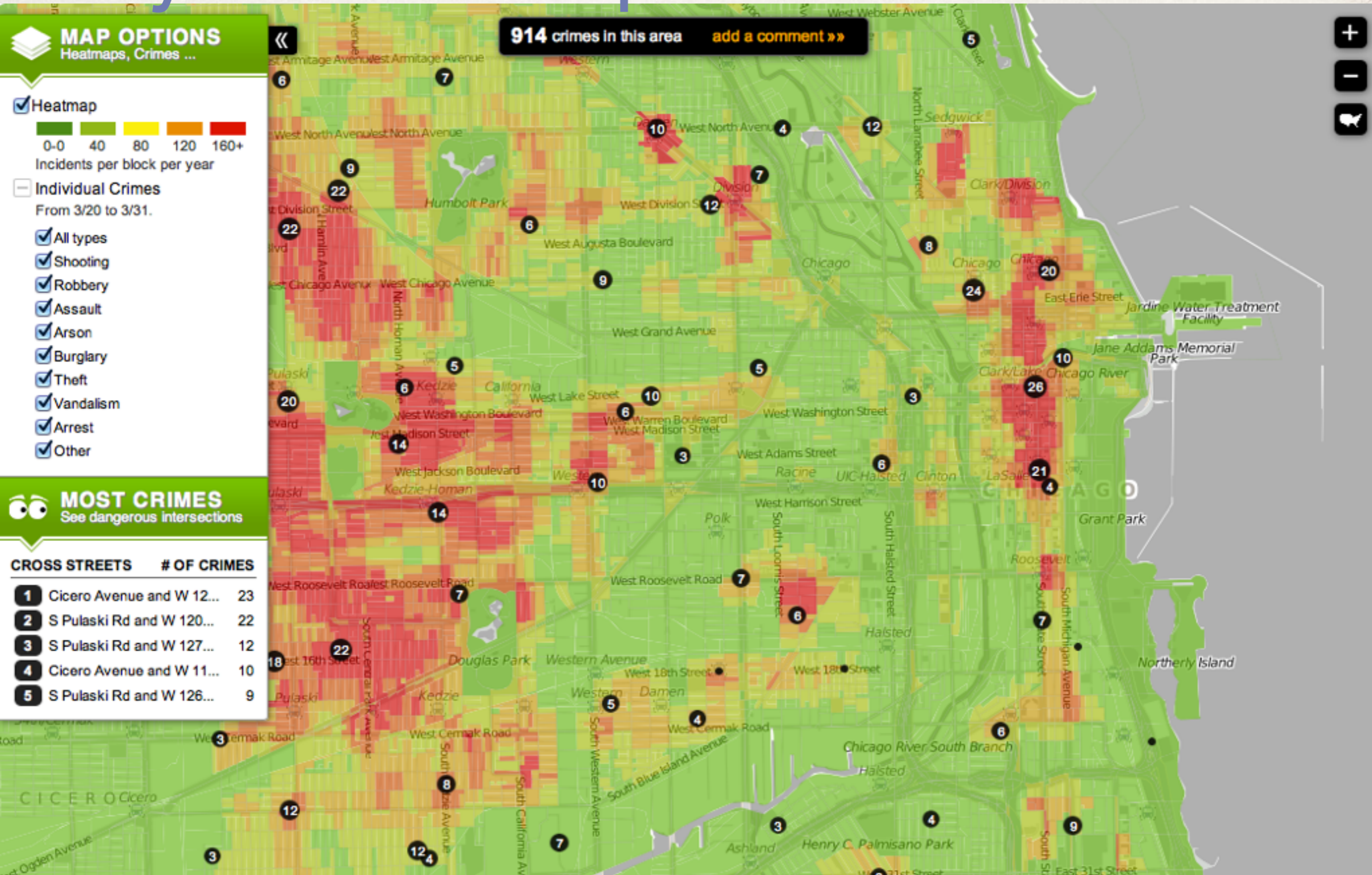
Dot map - What's the problem?



k-Means clustering

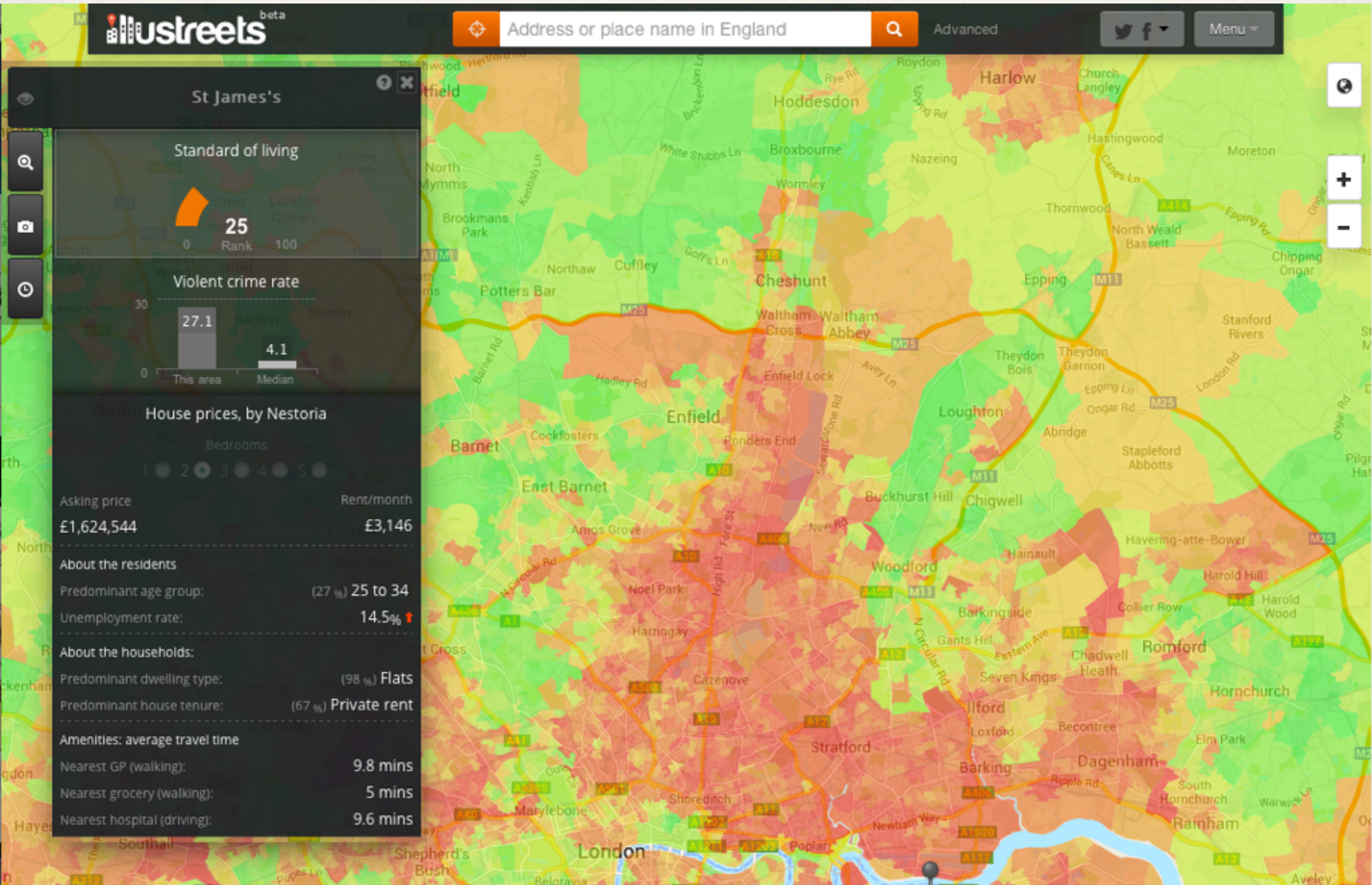


Dasymetric area map



Illustreets

<http://illustreets.co.uk/explore-england/>

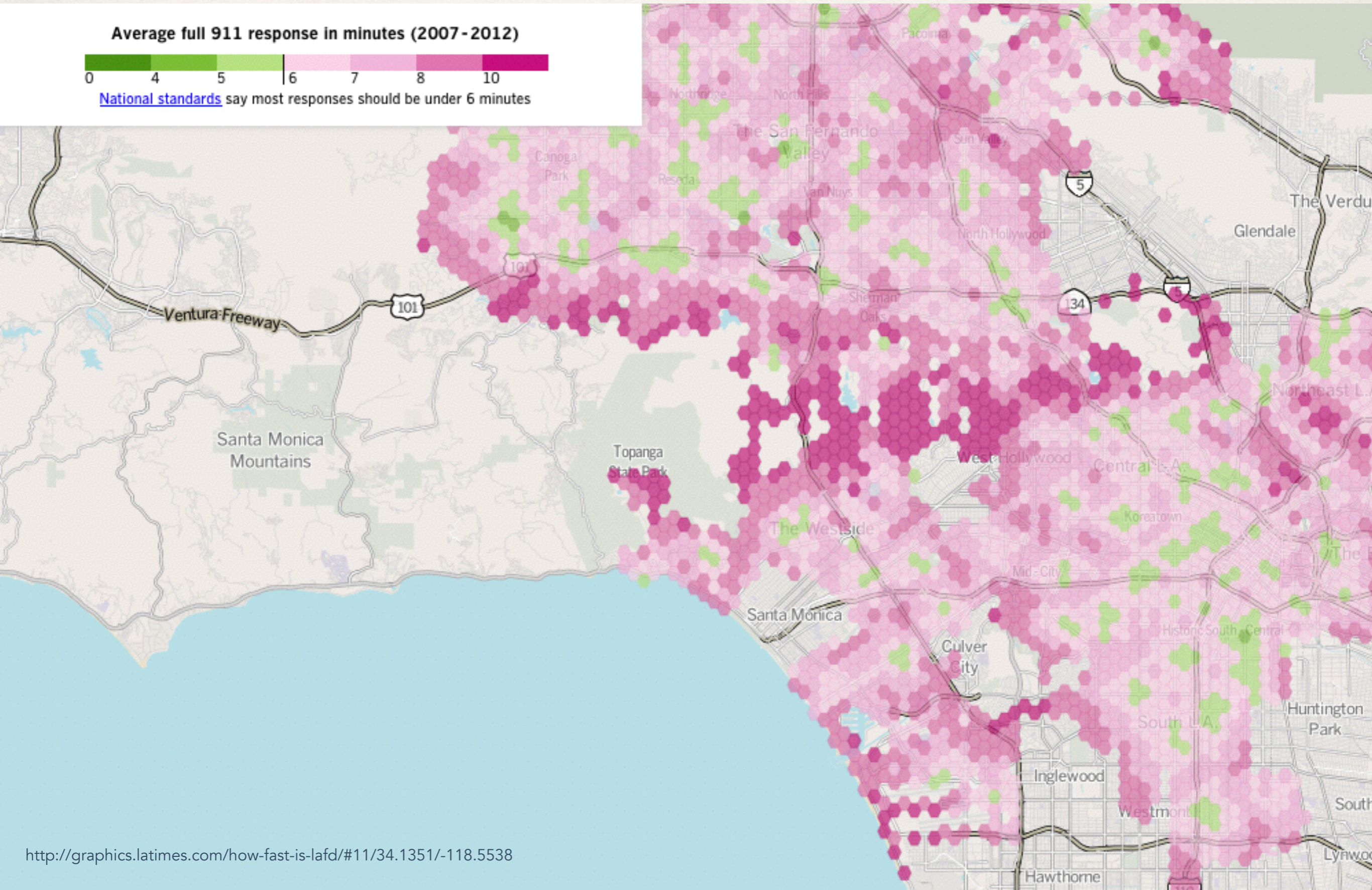


Binning

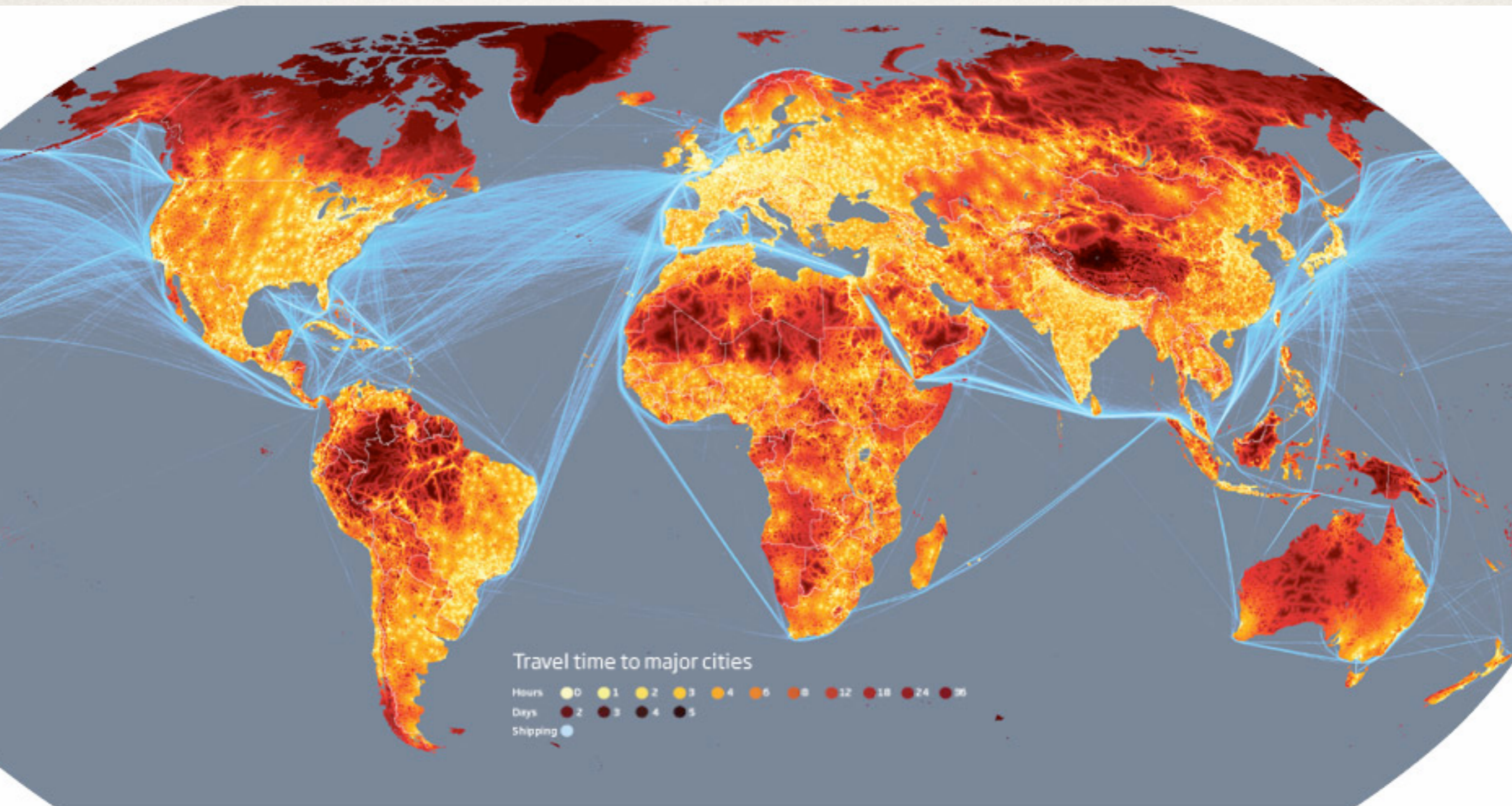
Average full 911 response in minutes (2007-2012)



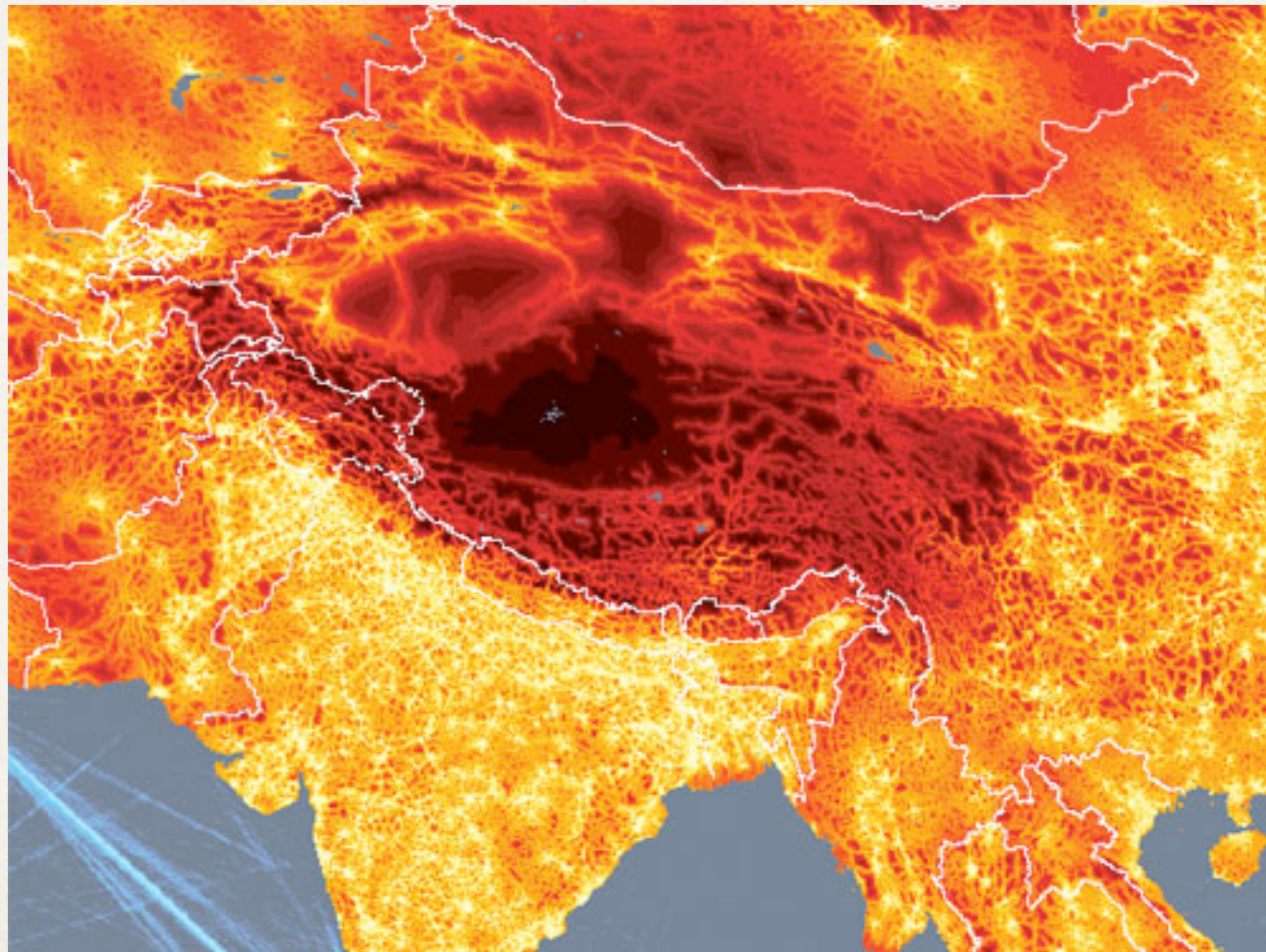
[National standards](#) say most responses should be under 6 minutes



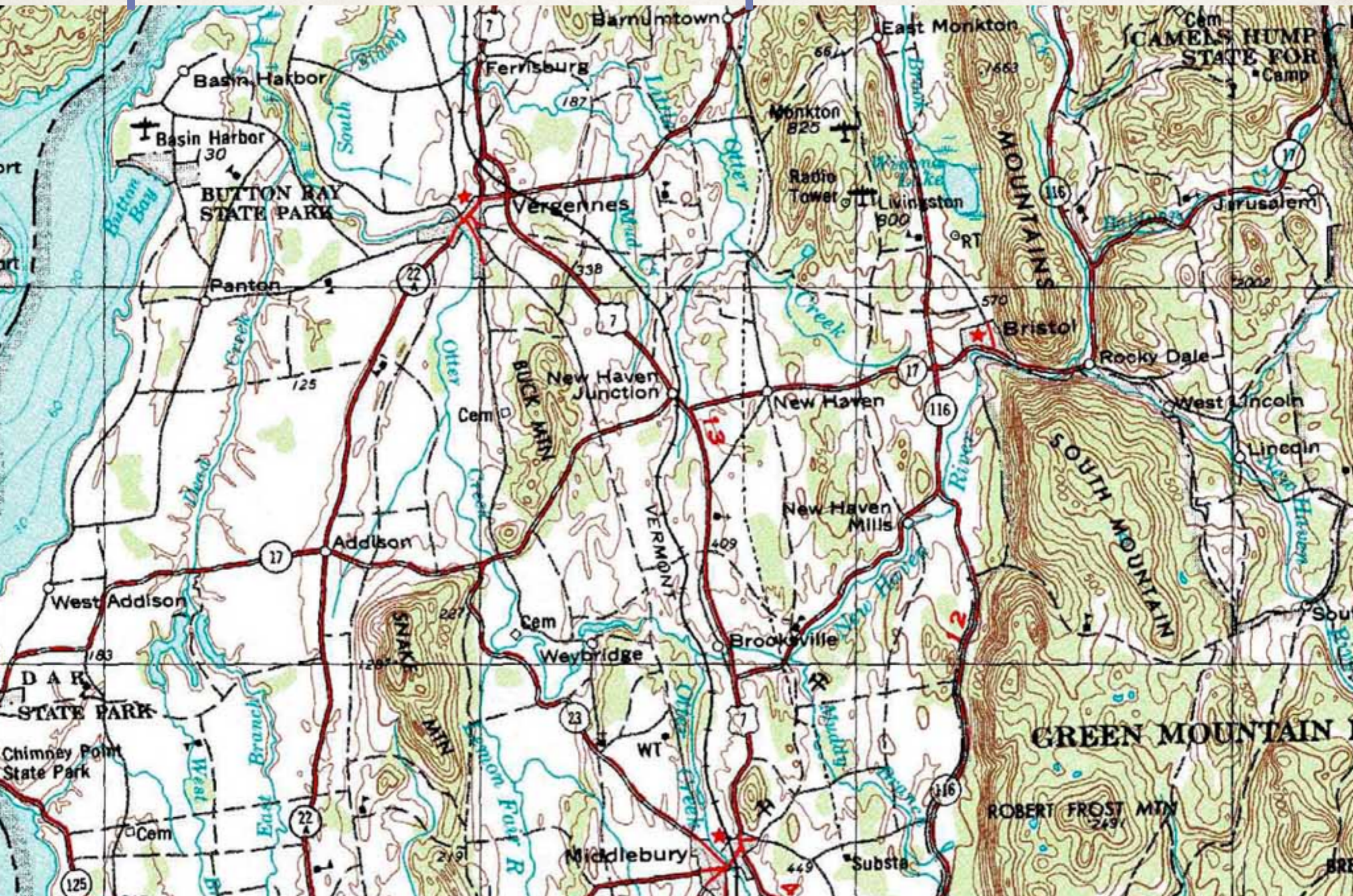
Continuous mapping



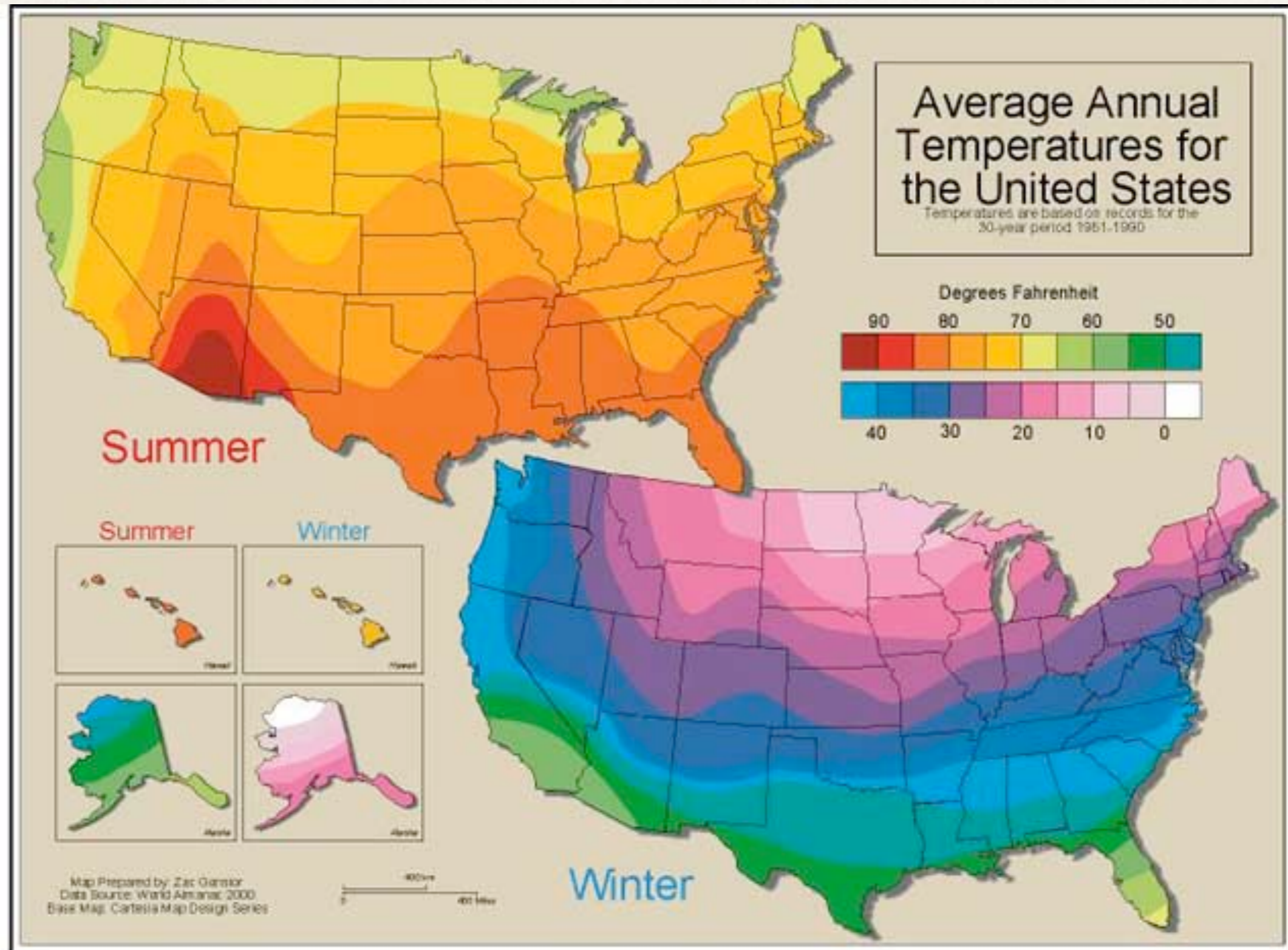
Continuous mapping



Isopleth or isarithmic maps

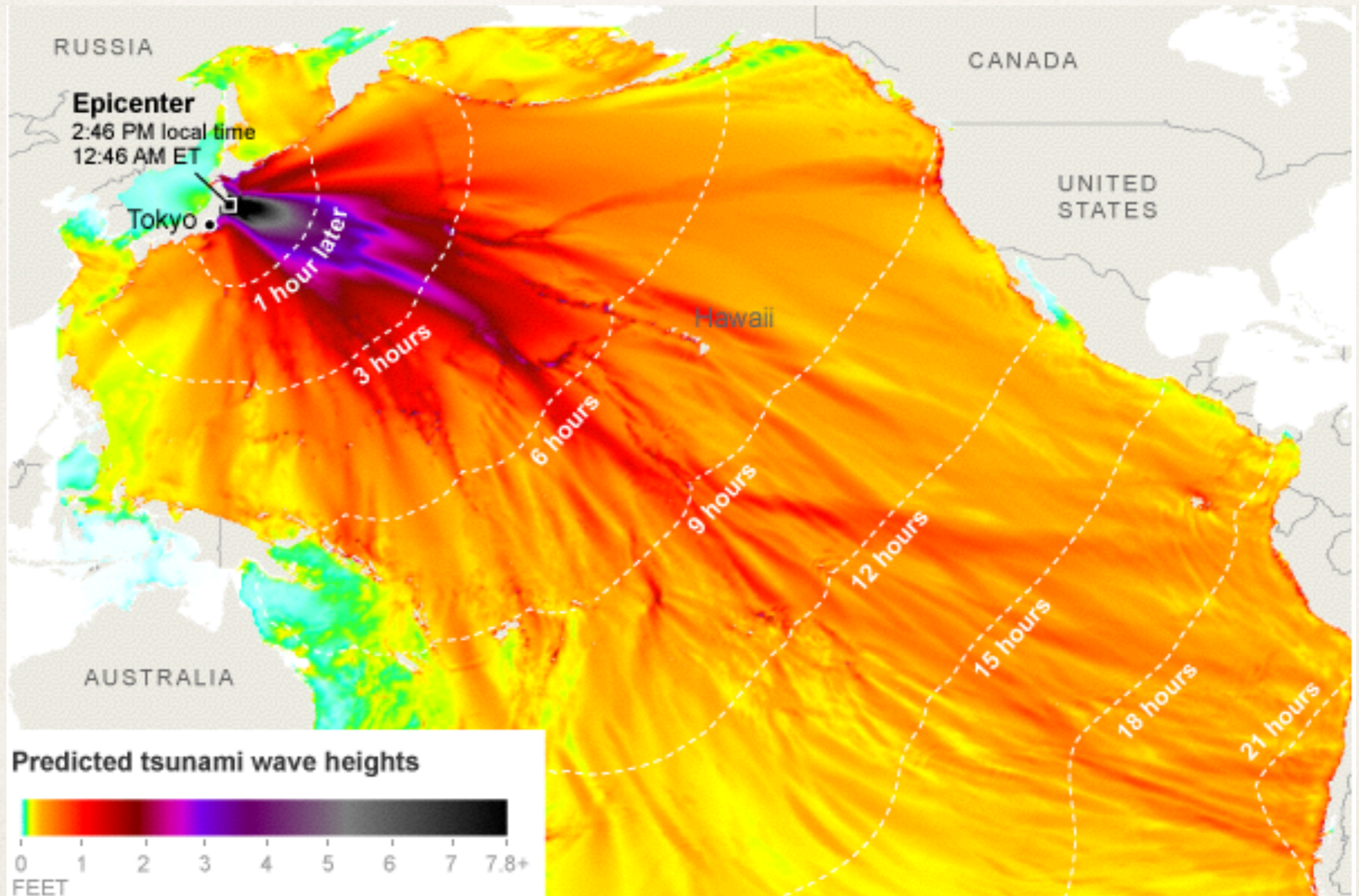


Isopleth or isarithmic maps

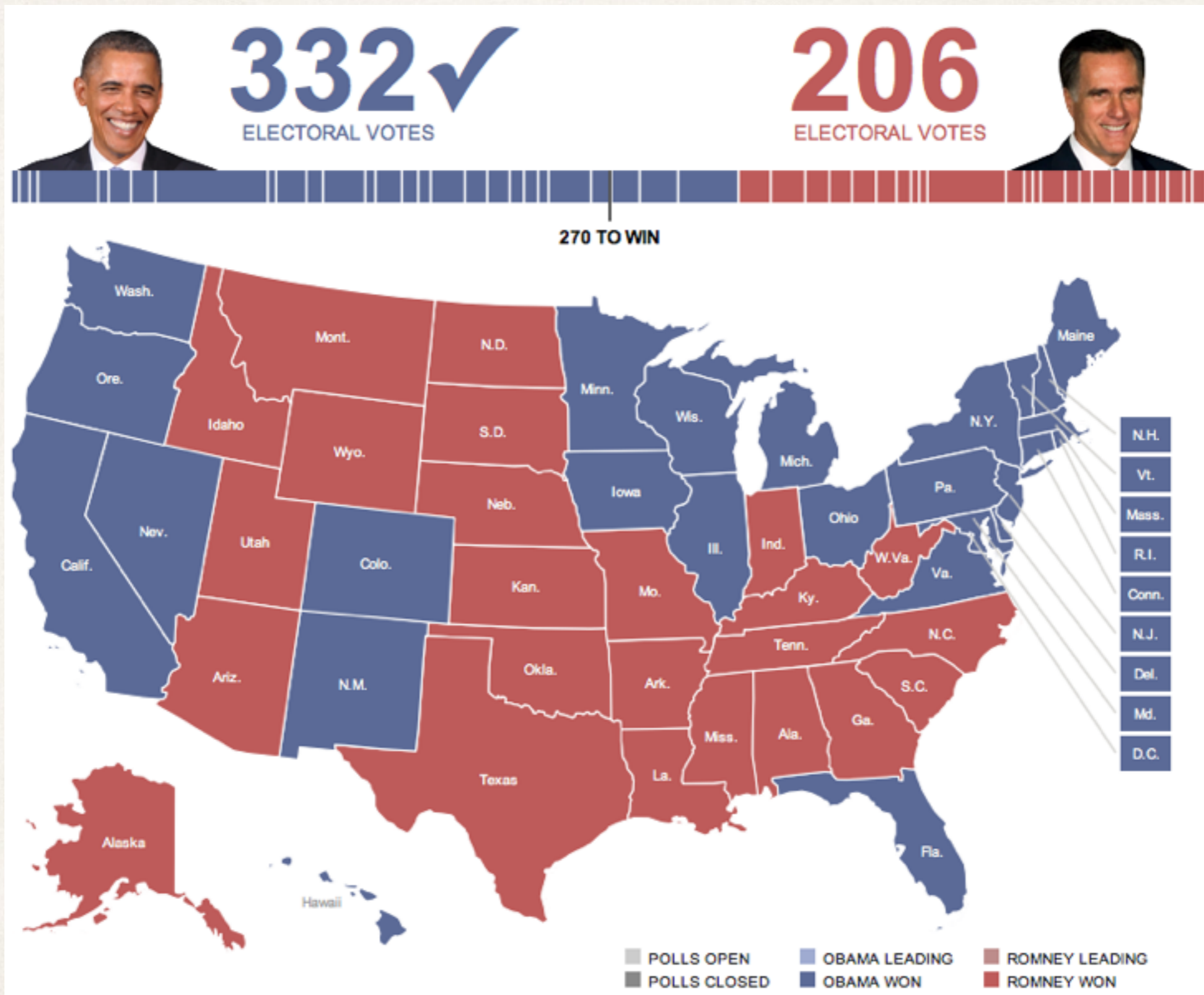


Heatmap + isochrones

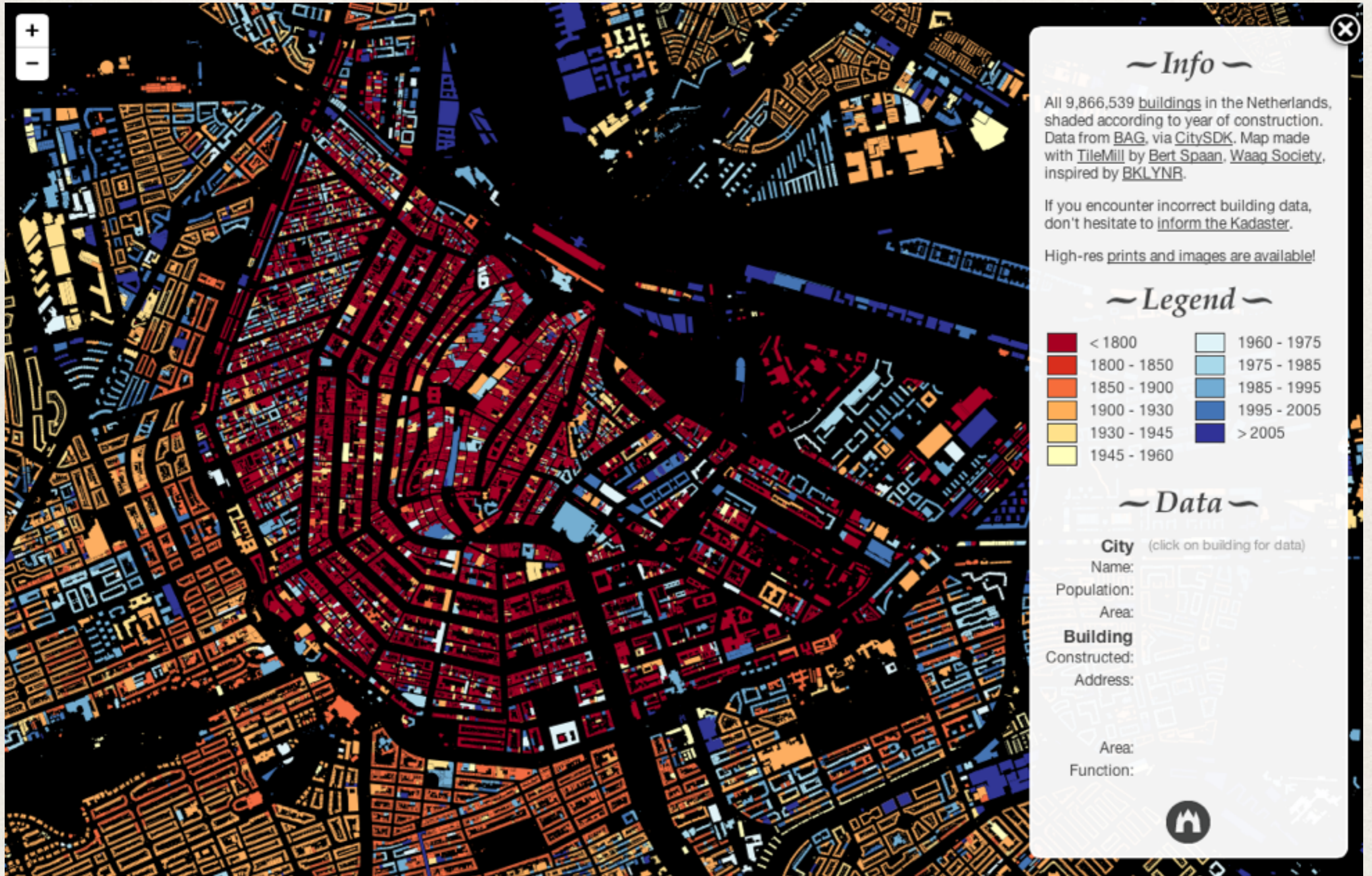
iso == "same", chronos == time



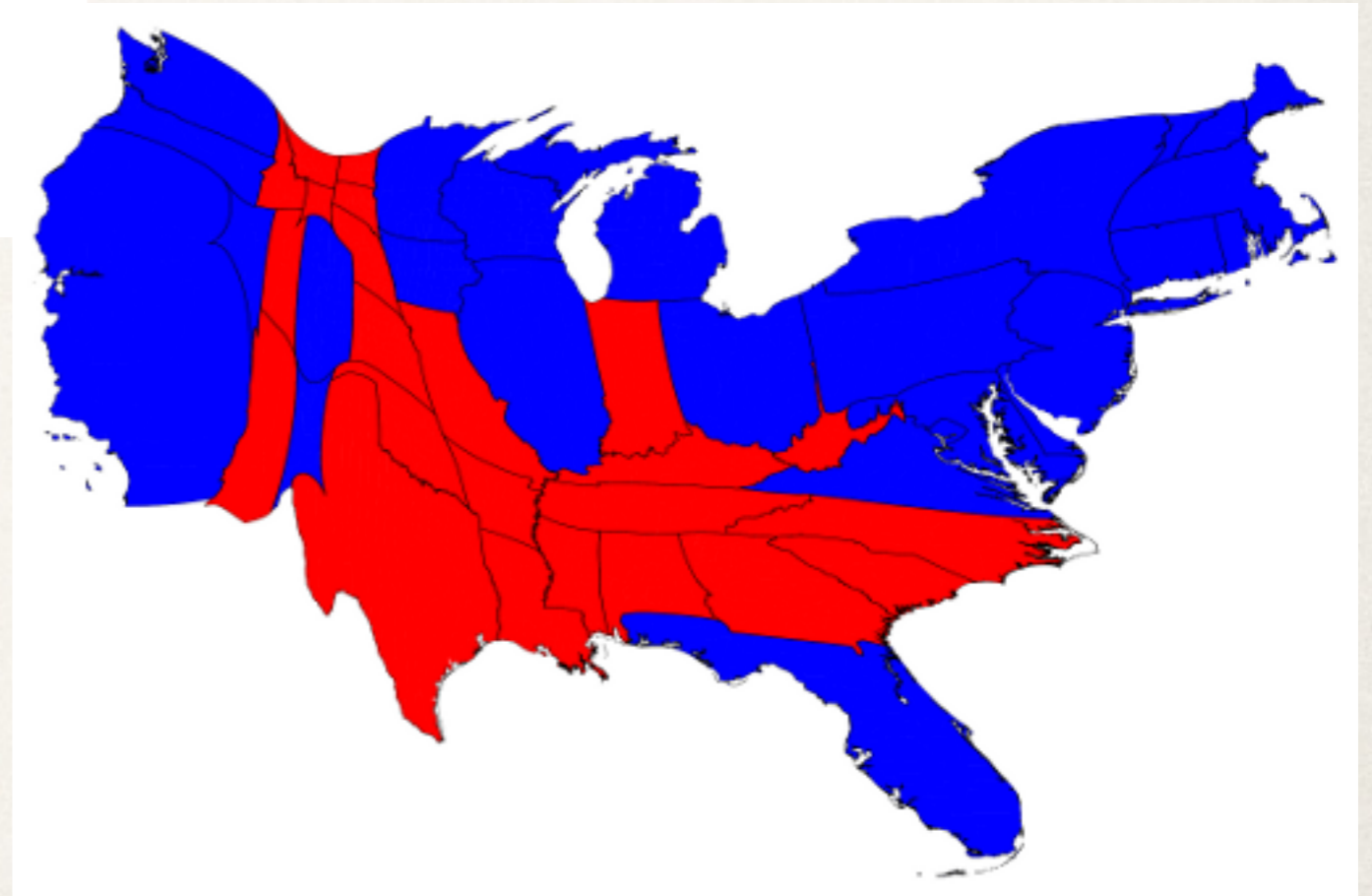
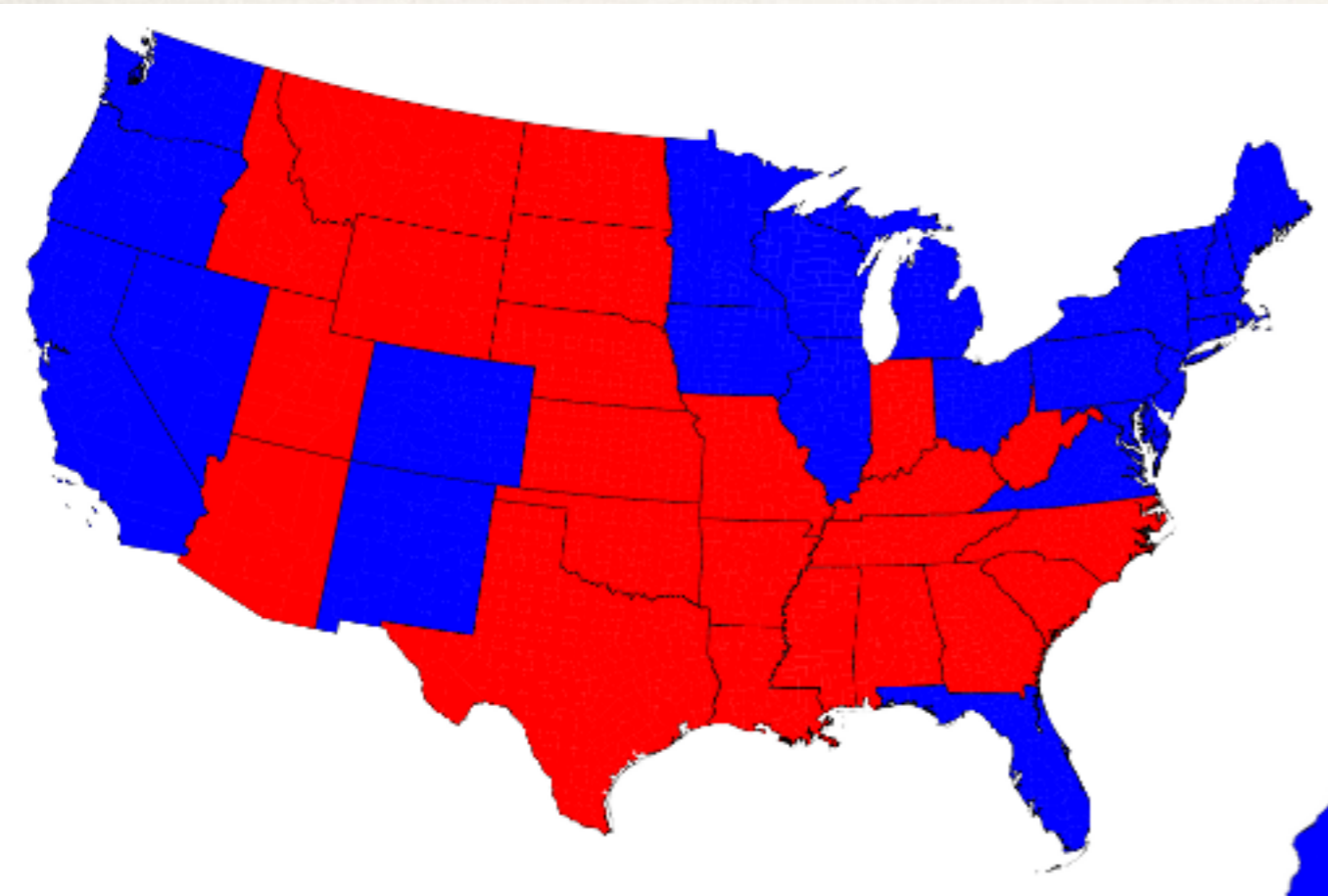
Choropleth maps



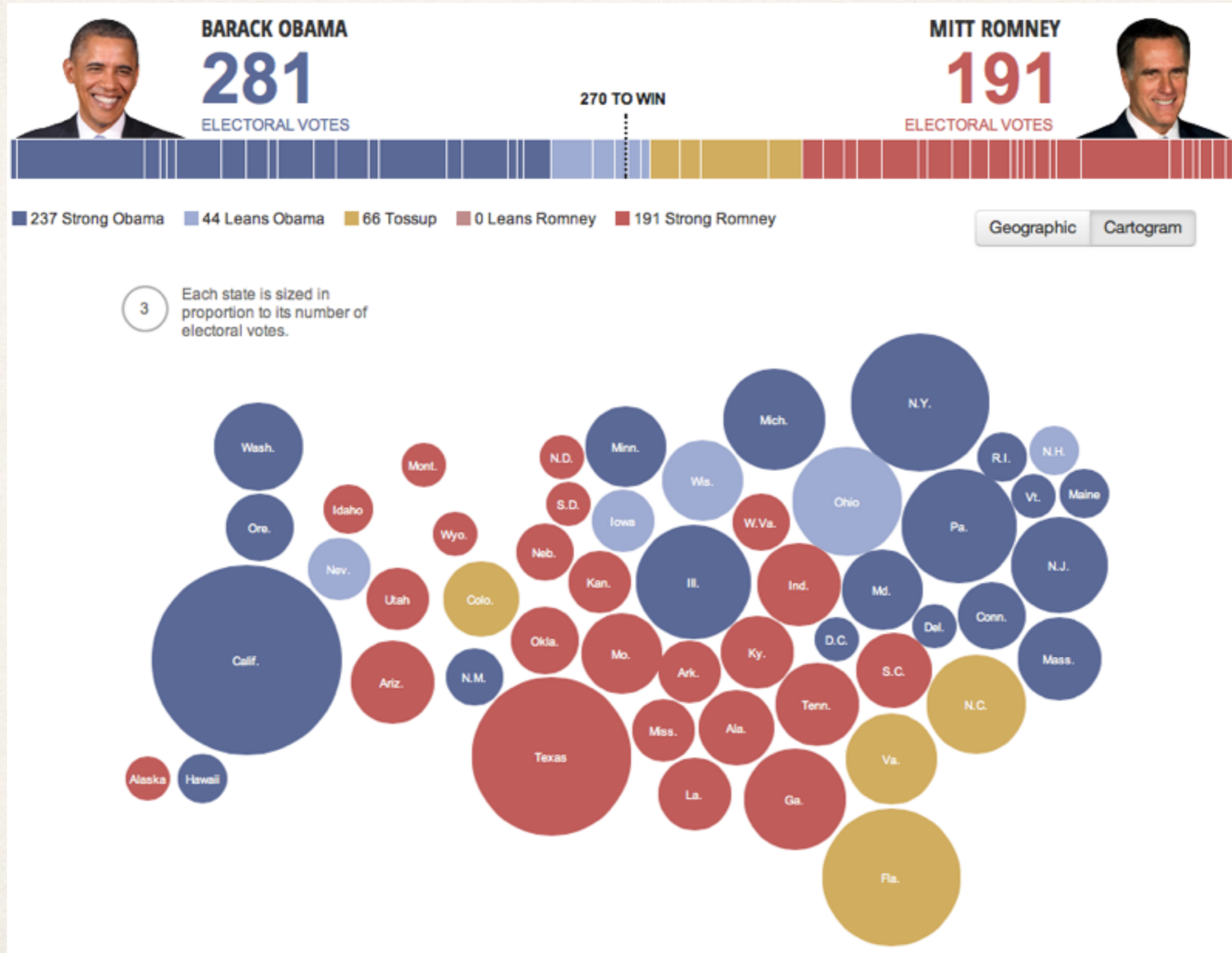
Building ages in Amsterdam



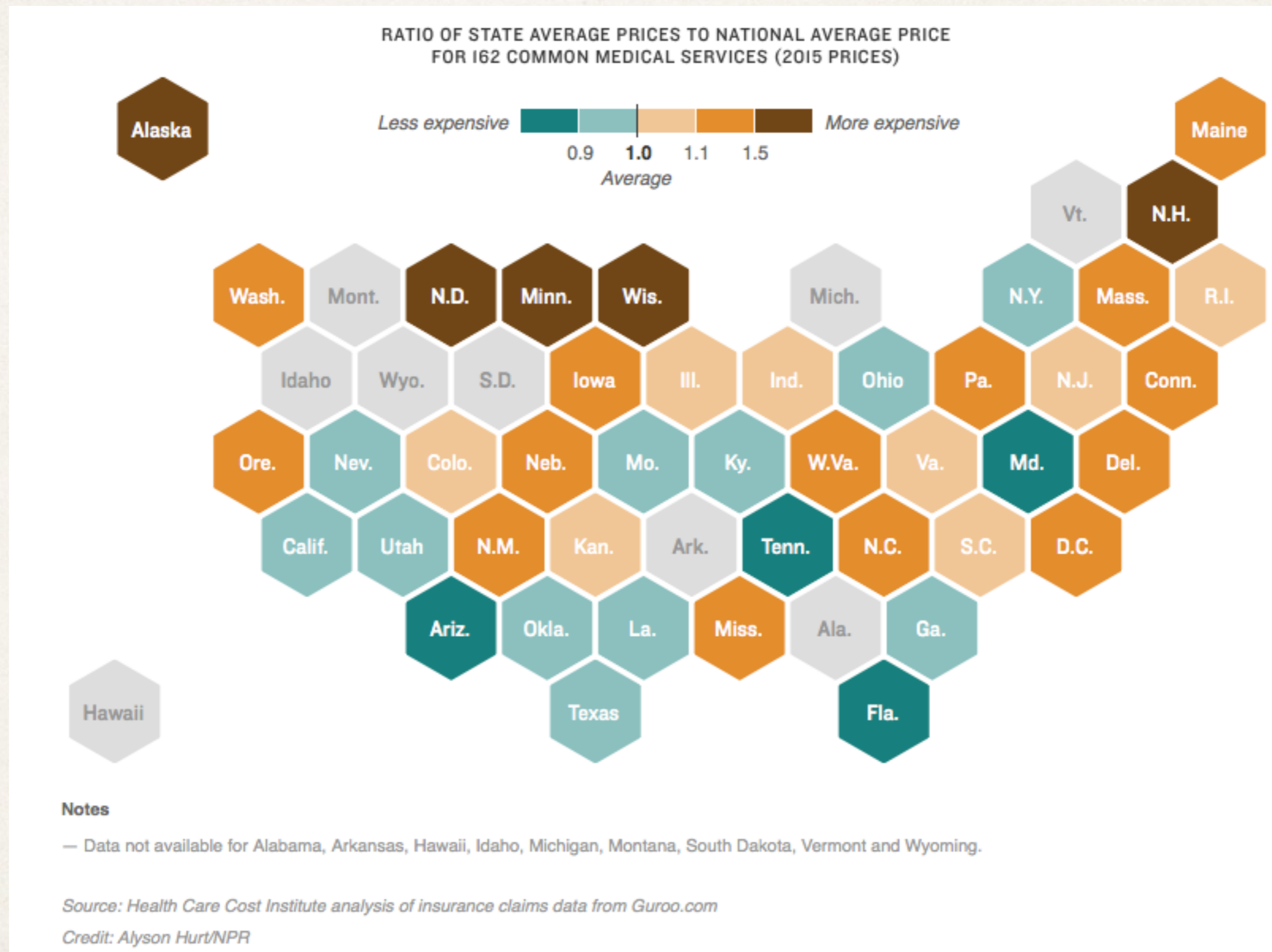
Cartograms



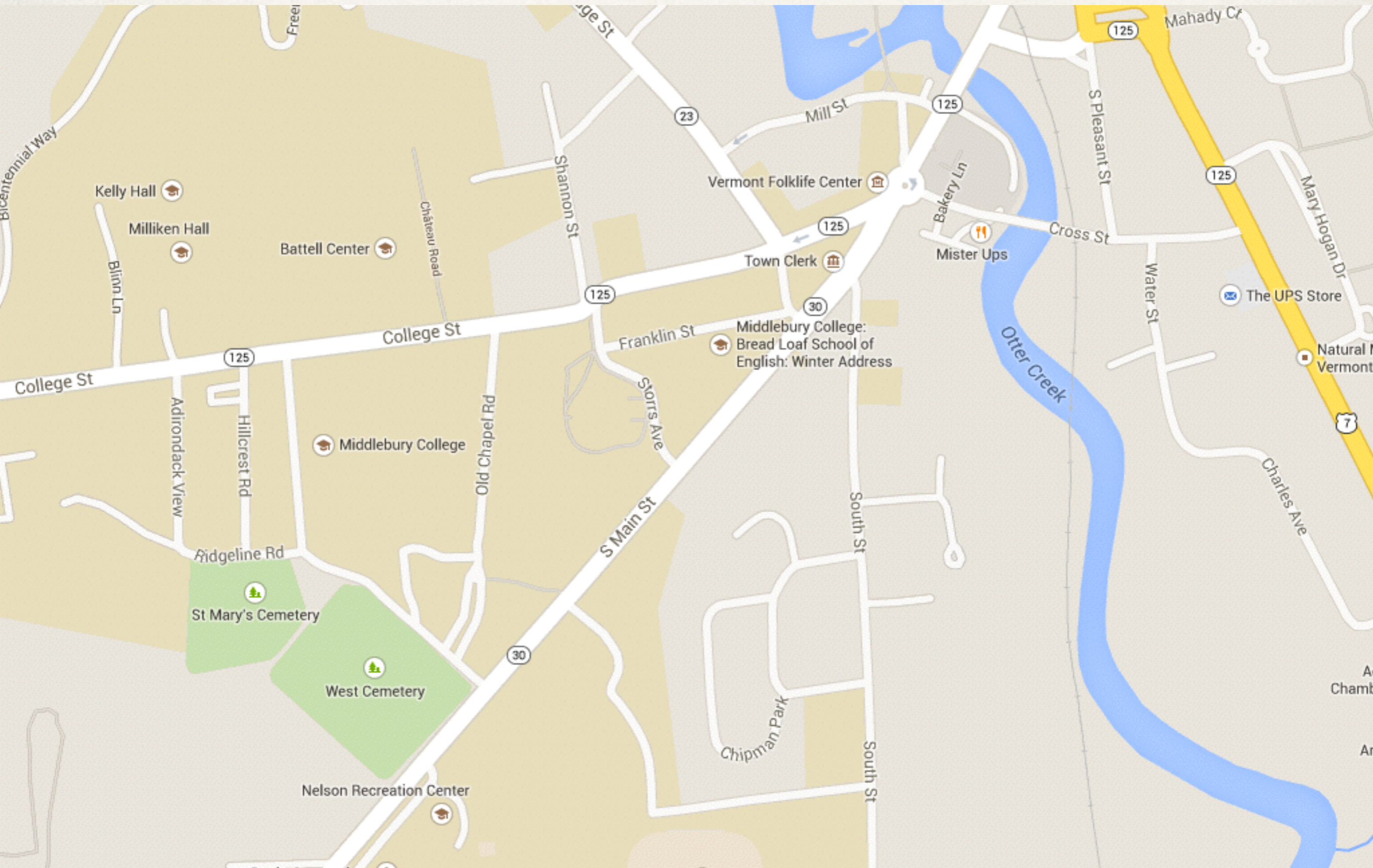
Circular cartogram



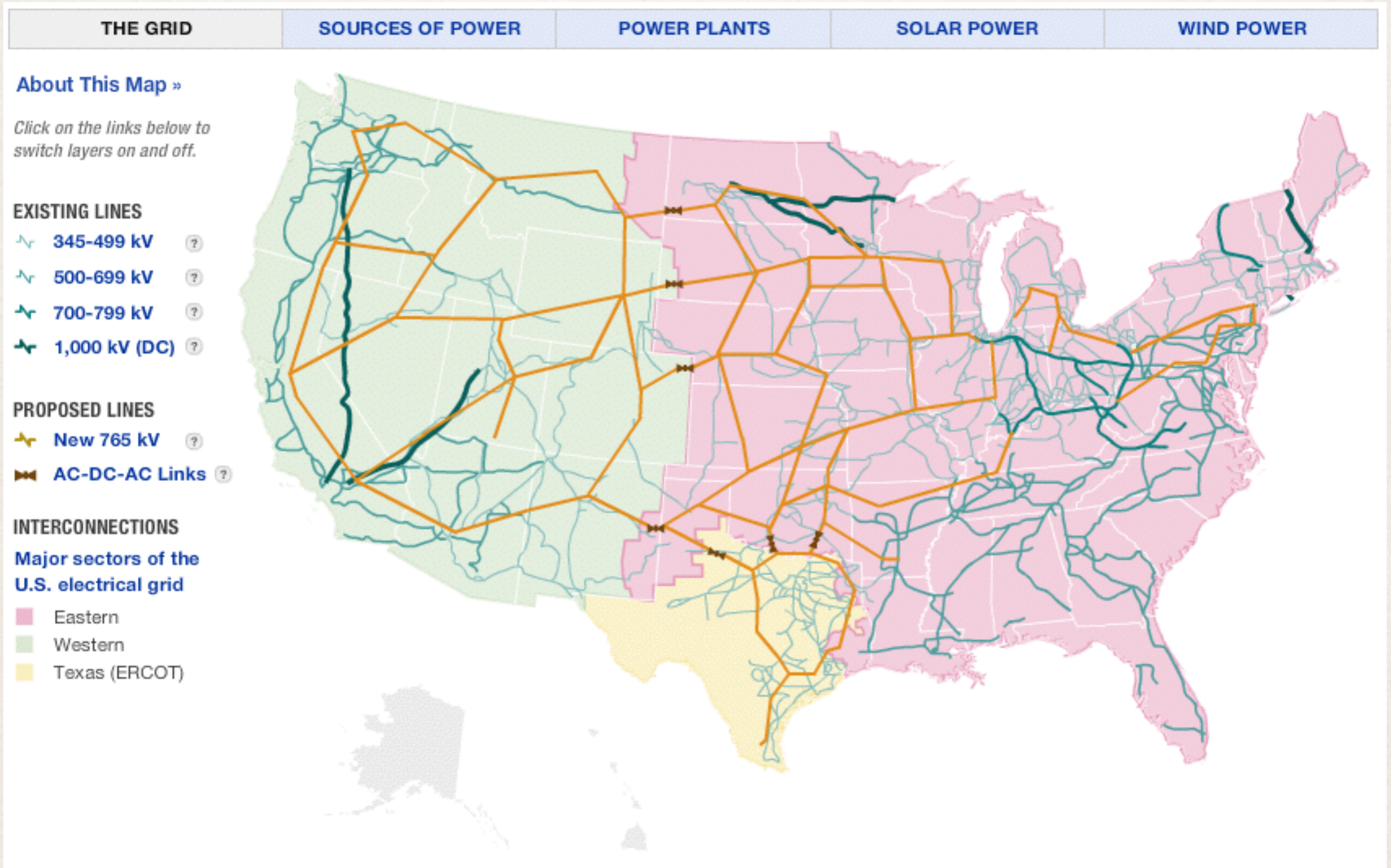
Approximating geography



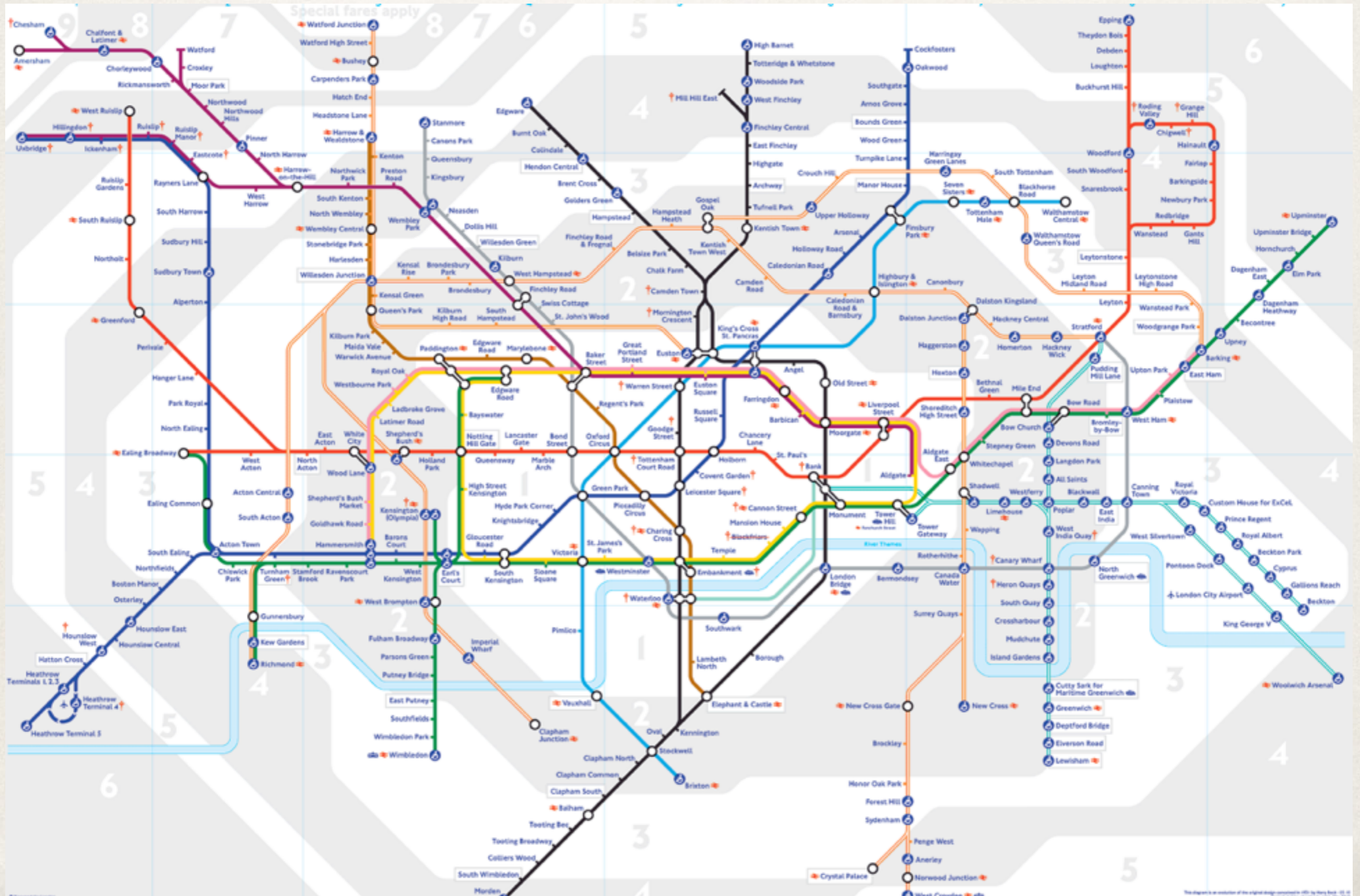
Line data



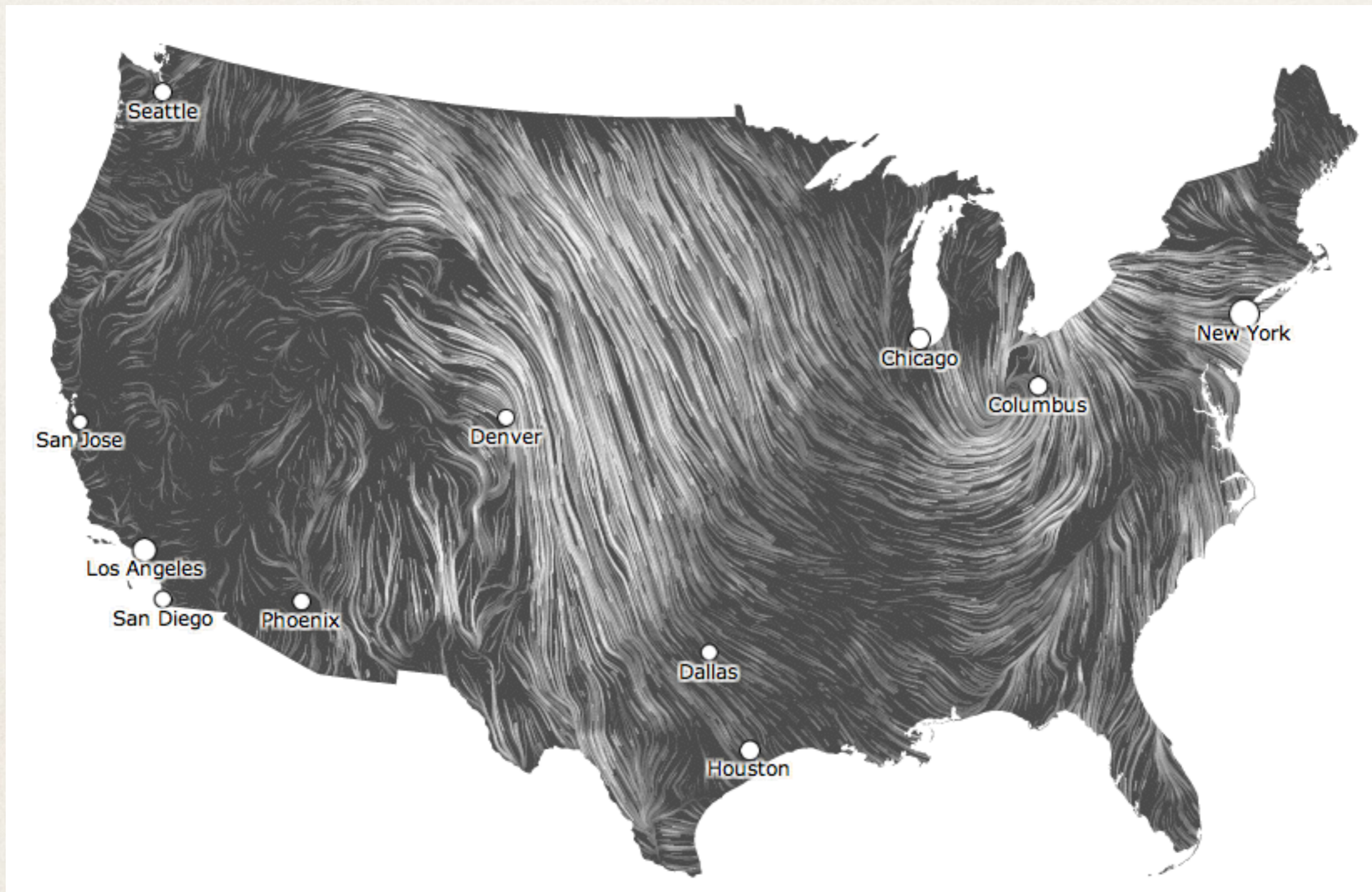
Network data



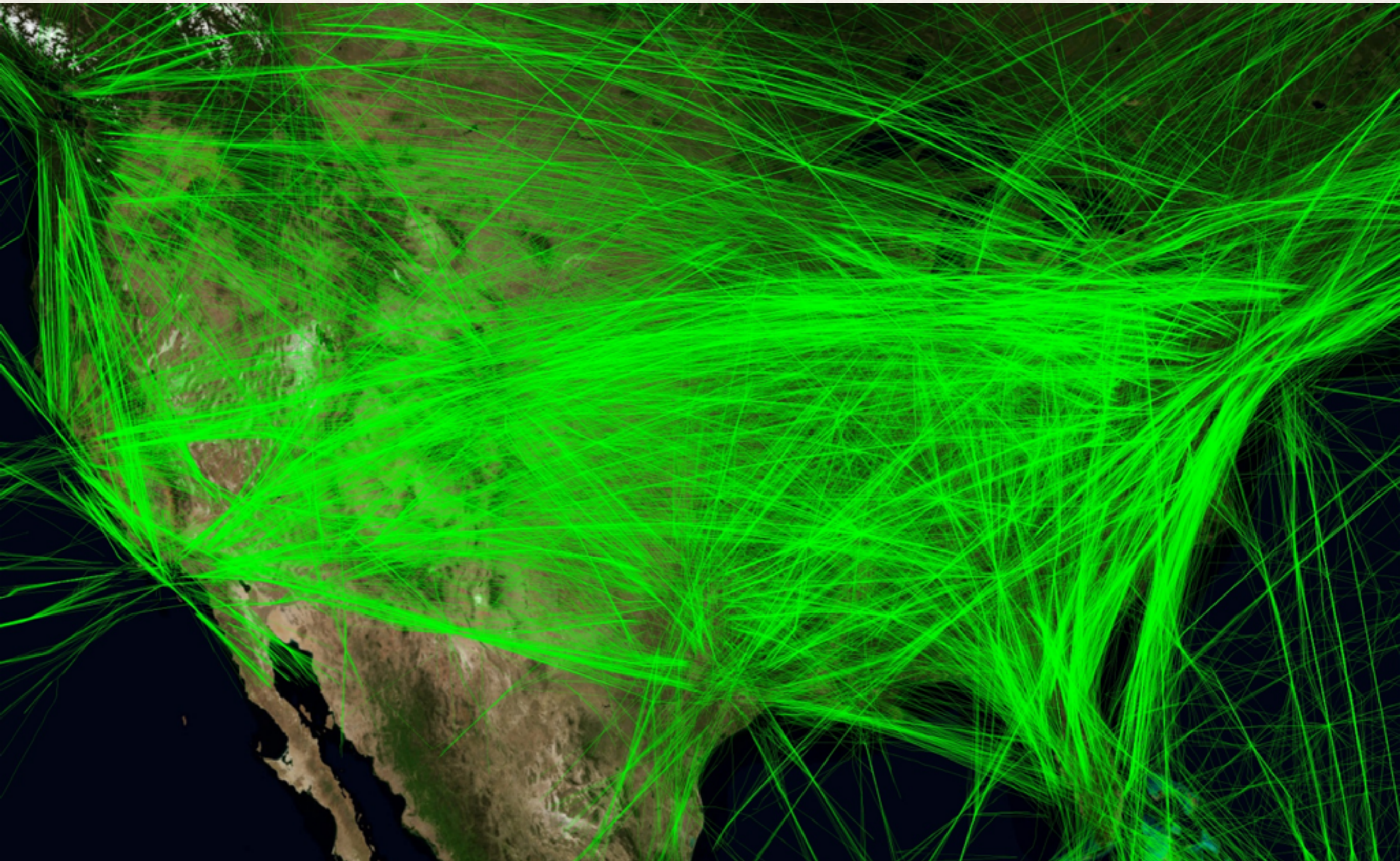
London tube map

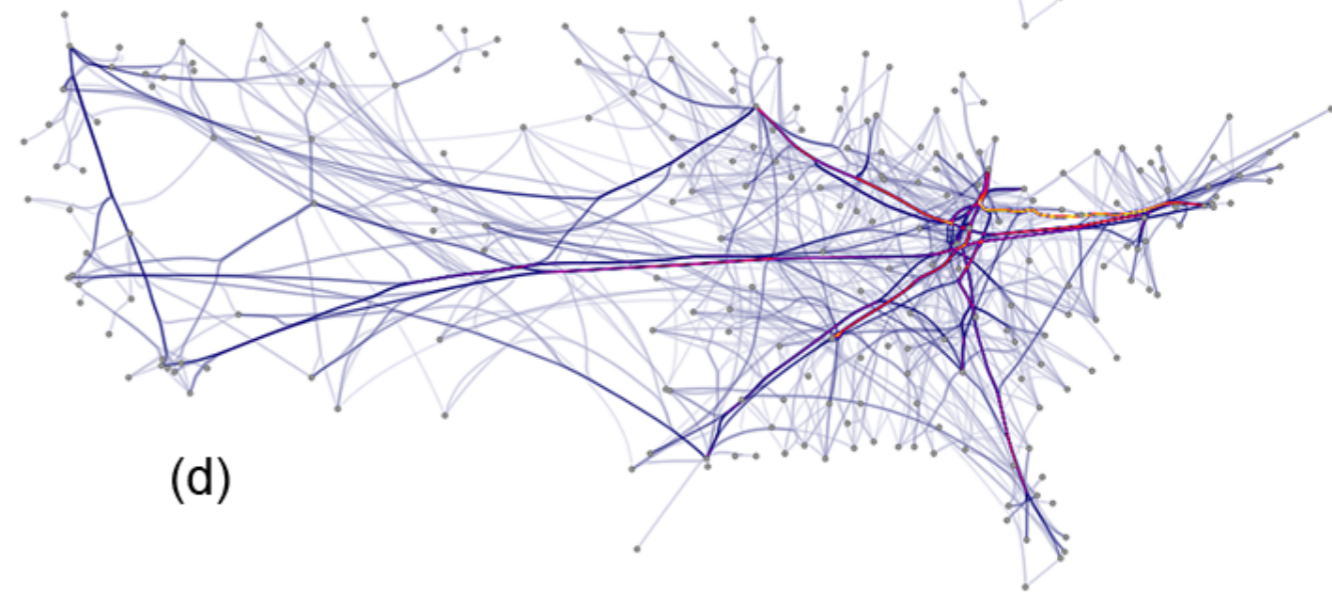
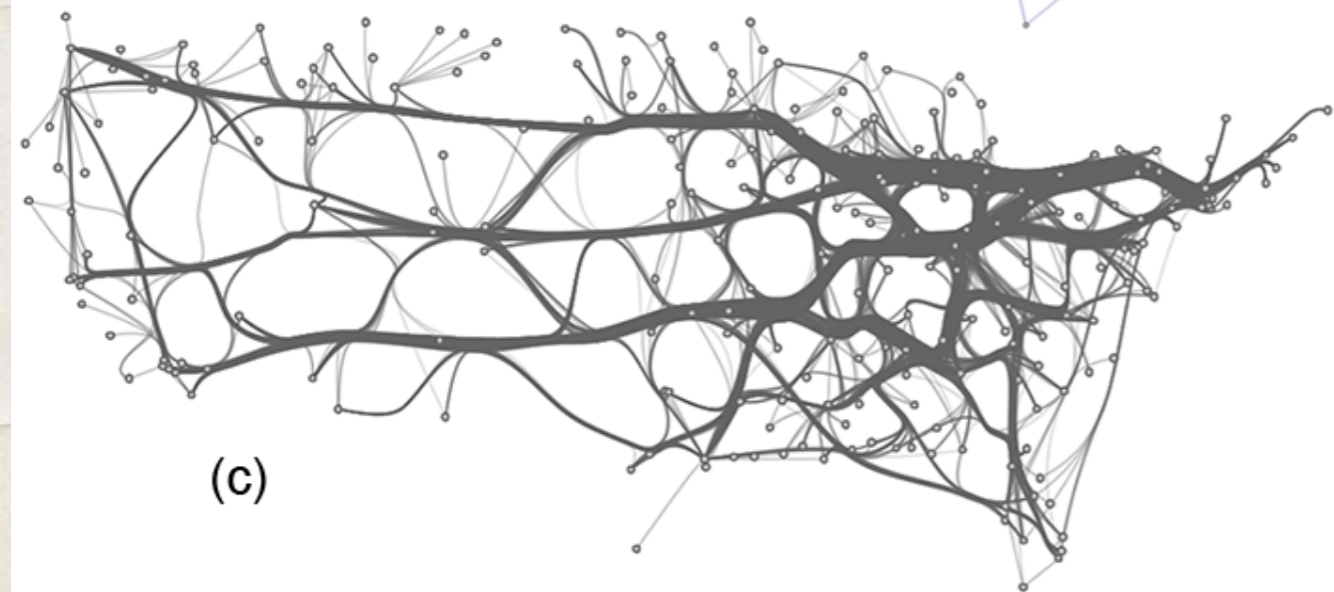
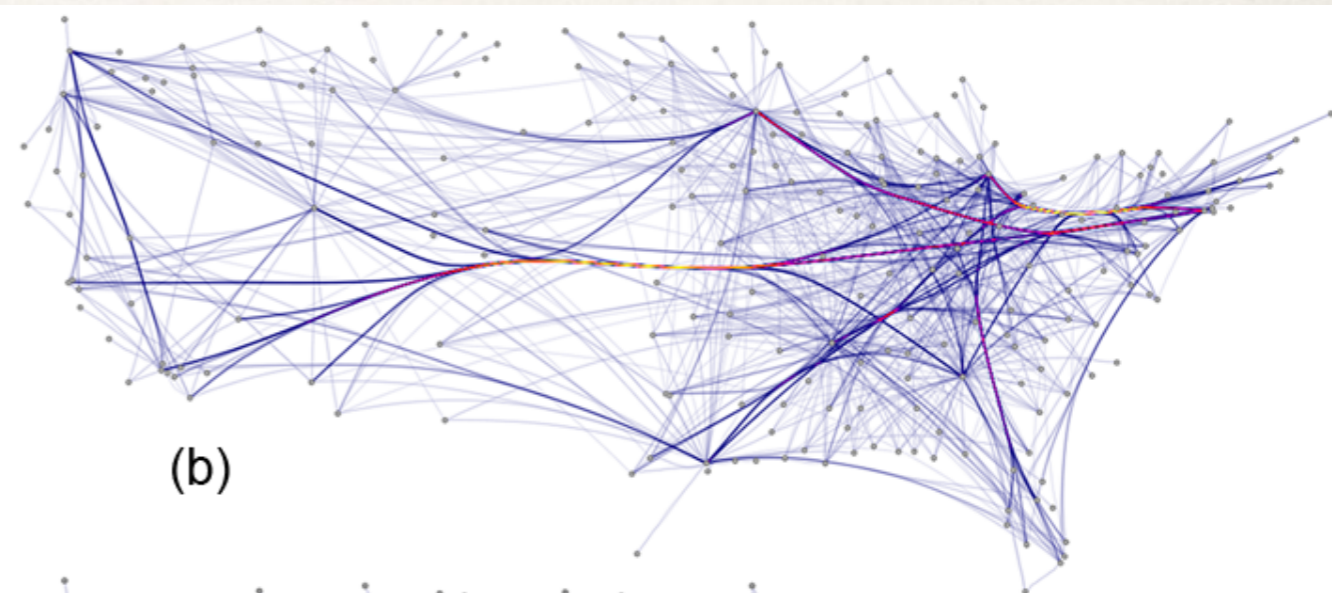
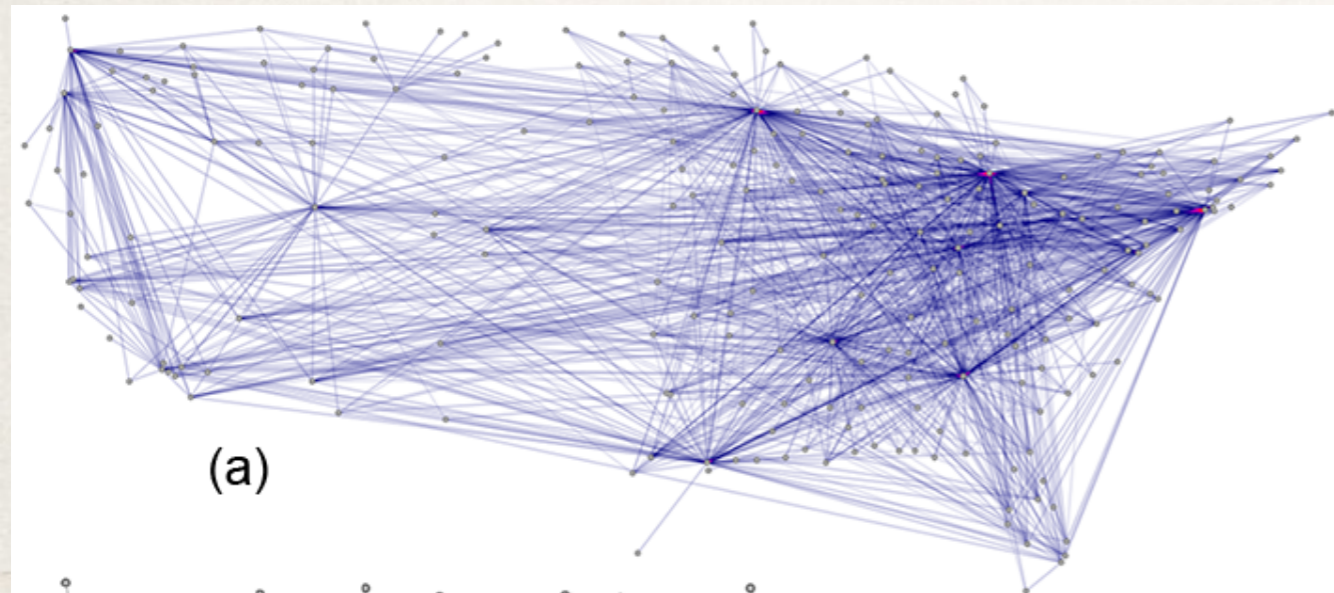


Flow map



Airline flight path







Alternatives - Bristle maps



Alternatives - GeoTime

