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# Analyzing LAMSAS: Charting Regional Data in the Middle and South Atlantic

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# Agenda

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## Background

- What LAMSAS is
- Initial Theory

## Evidence

- Trends in data
- Problems in data
- Proving trends

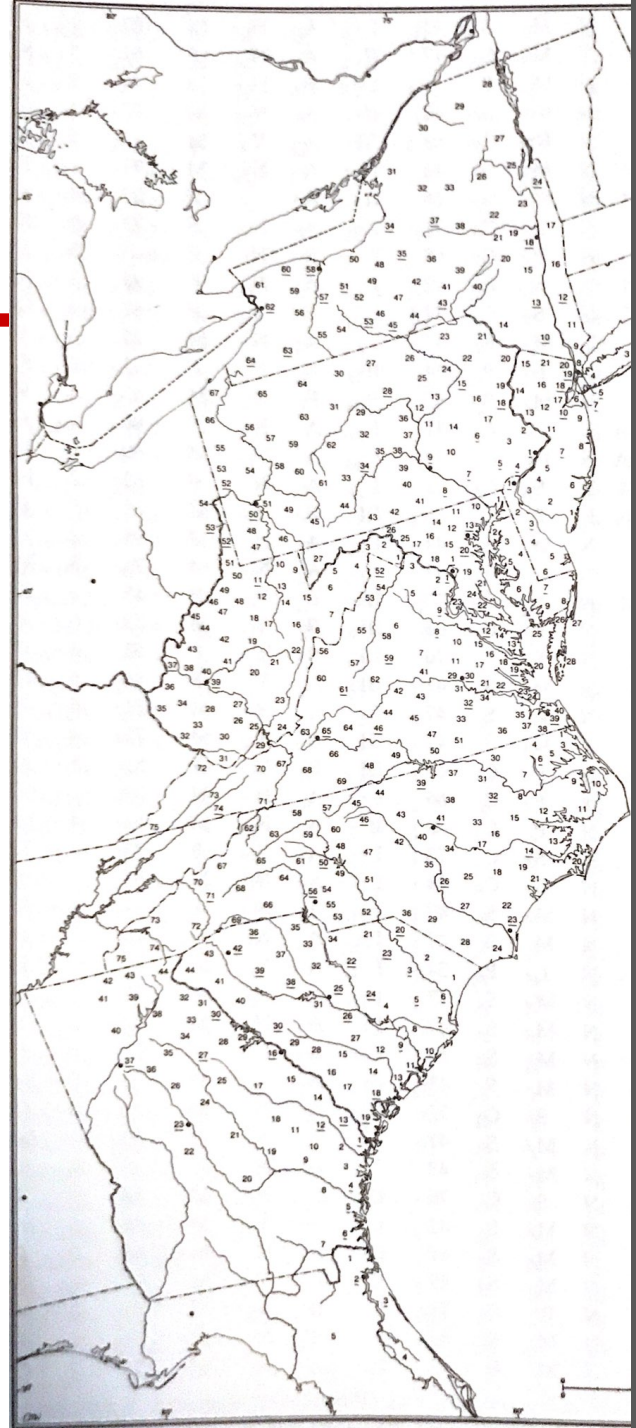
## Results

- Future Research
- Conclusion

# What is LAMSAS?

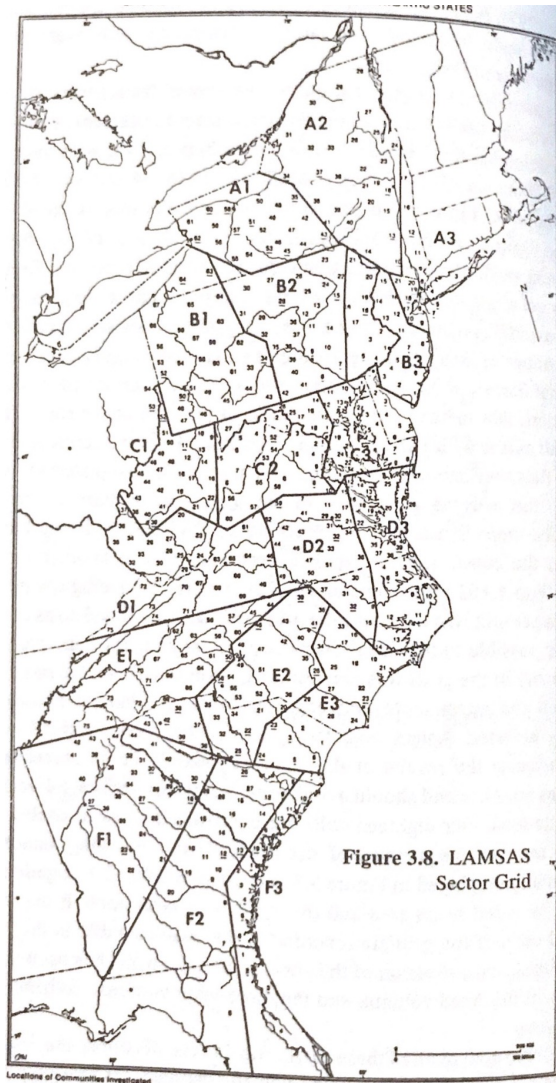
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- Linguistic Atlas of the Middle and South Atlantic States
  - Part of the larger Linguistic Atlas Project
- 1162 recordings total, ranging from the 30's to 70's
- 104 page questionnaire



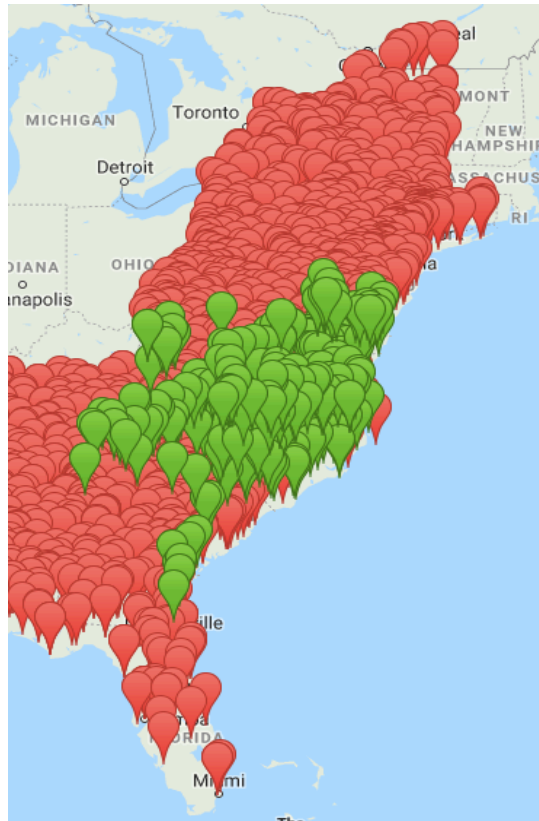
# Initial Theory

- Region does have an effect on dialect
  - Prove by charting regional variation in lexical items

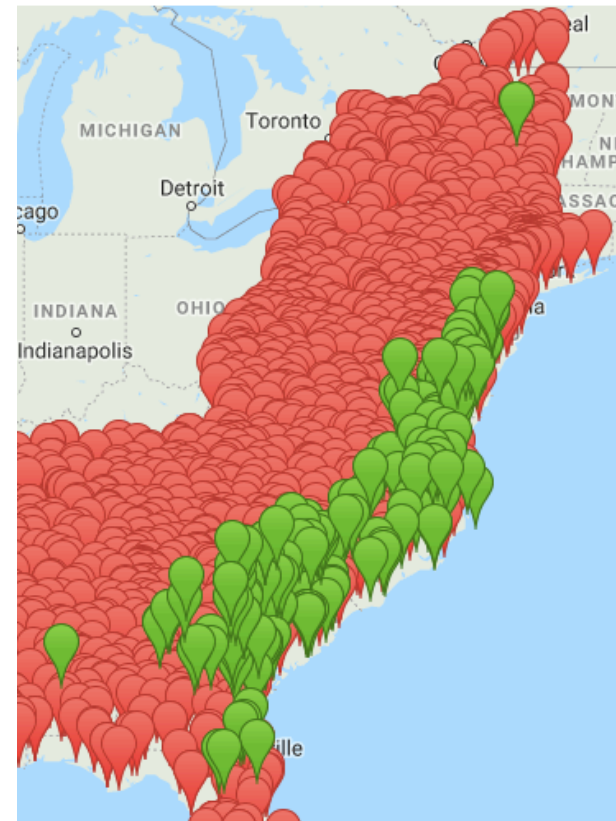


# Trends in Data (Lexical)

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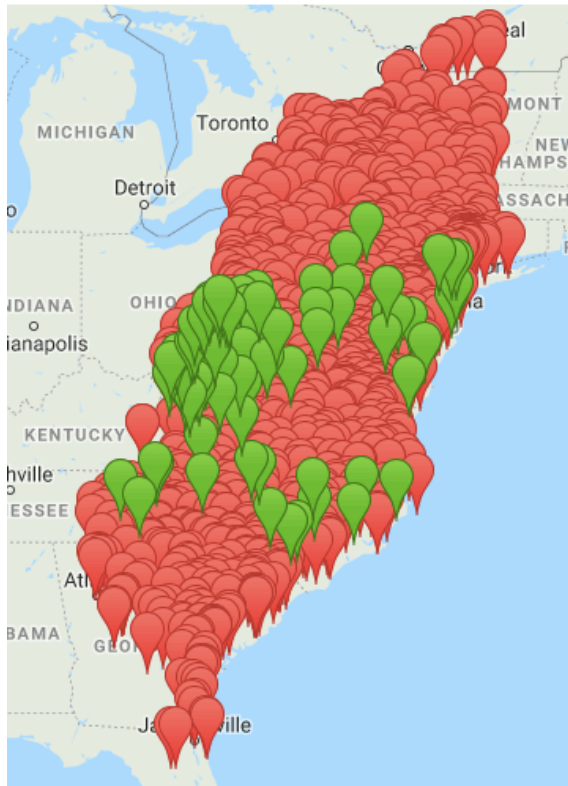
Dirt dauber as yellow jacket



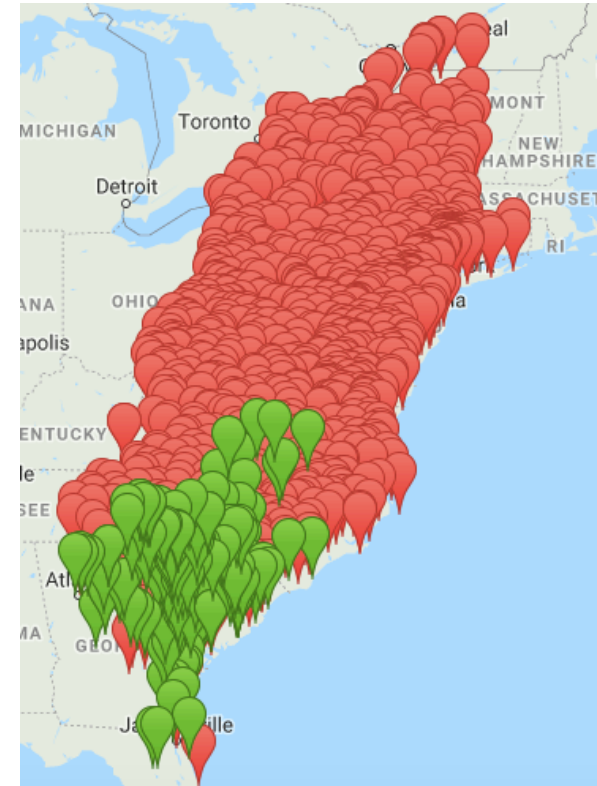
Mosquito hawk as dragon fly

# Trends in Data (Phonological)

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Yes sir pronounced as yessa



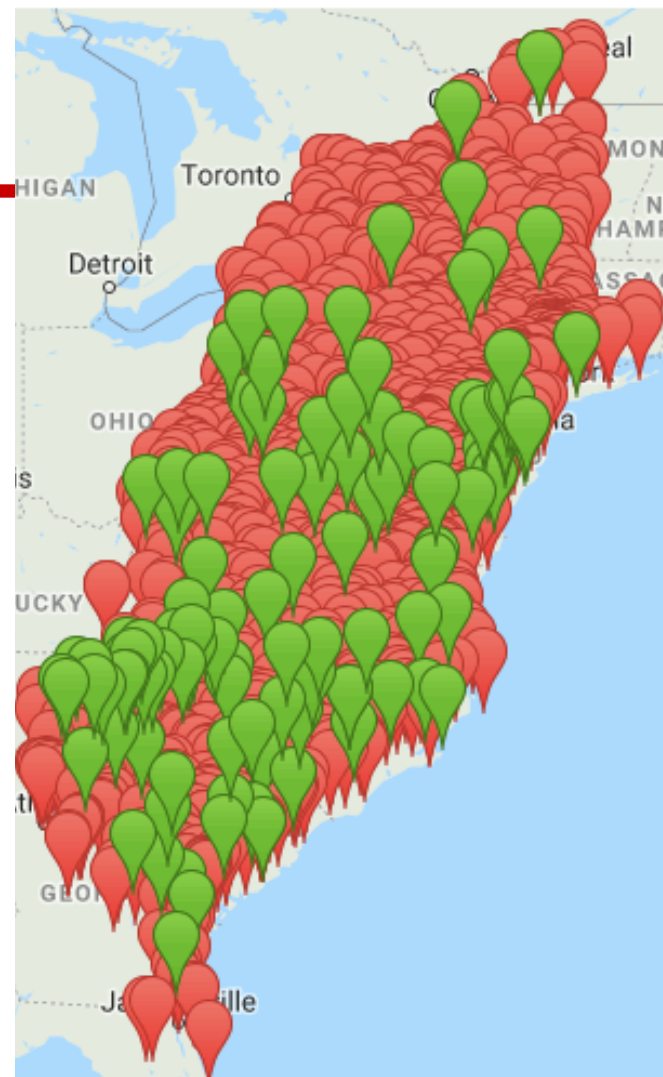
Ought pronounced as ɔrt



# Problems in Data

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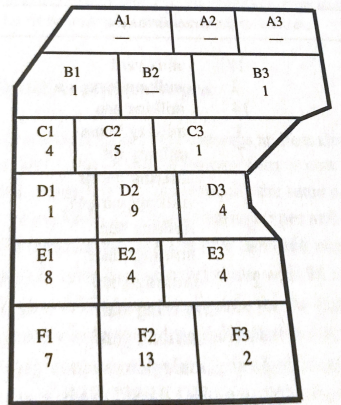
- Certain words almost uniform in pronunciation
  - E.g. ‘yellow’ of an egg: >30 deviations
- Others have no obvious geographical distribution
  - Omission of -s in ‘years old’
- No distinct boundaries in geographical data



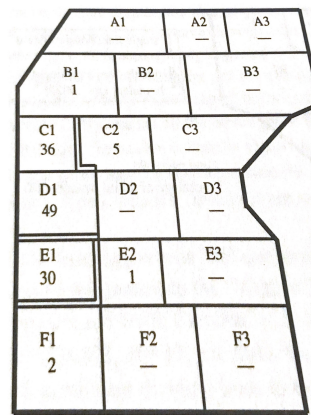
Omission of -s in ‘years old’

# Proving Trends

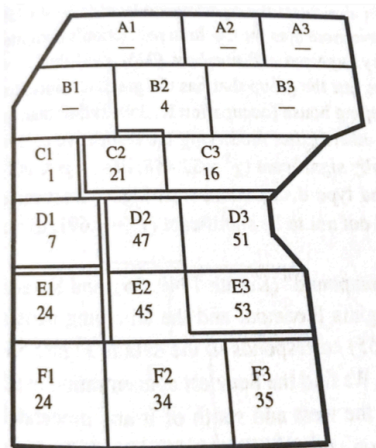
	single line: nonsignificant boundary
	double line: significant boundary ( $p < .0025$ )



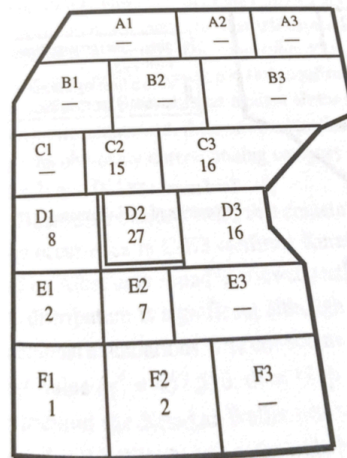
Cow lot



Milk gap



Cow pen



Cuppin'

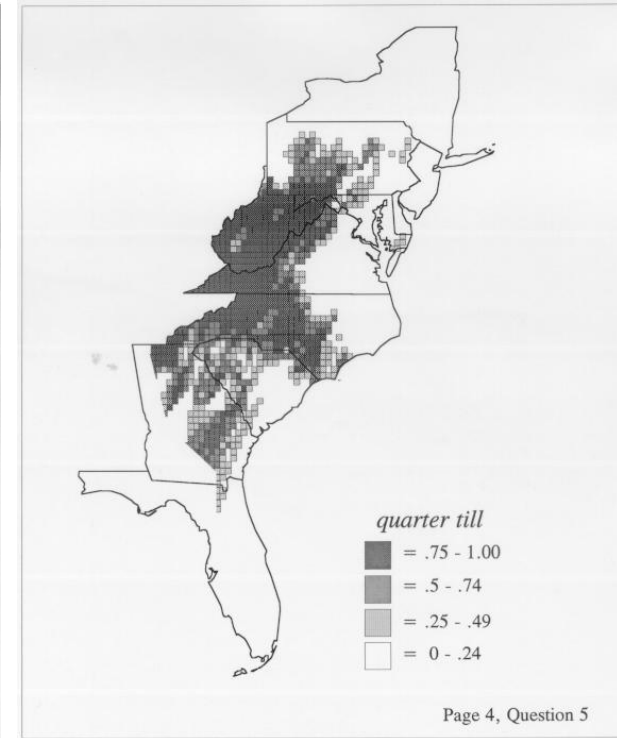
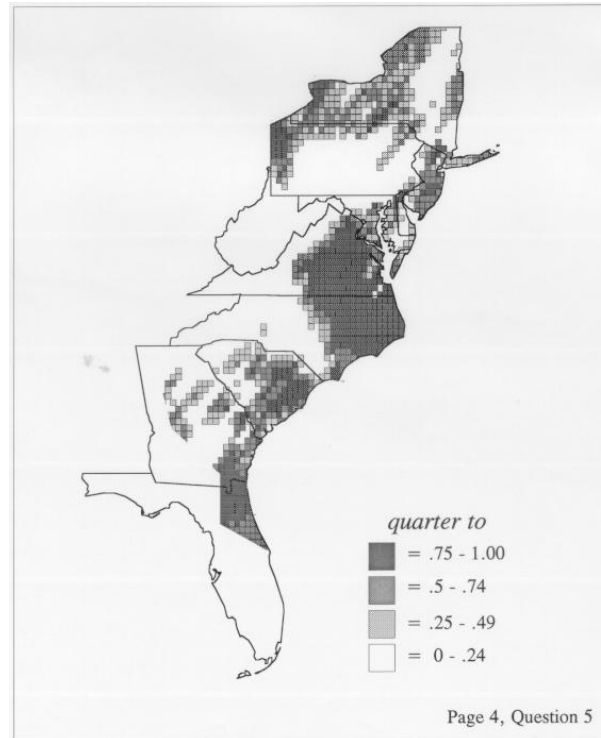
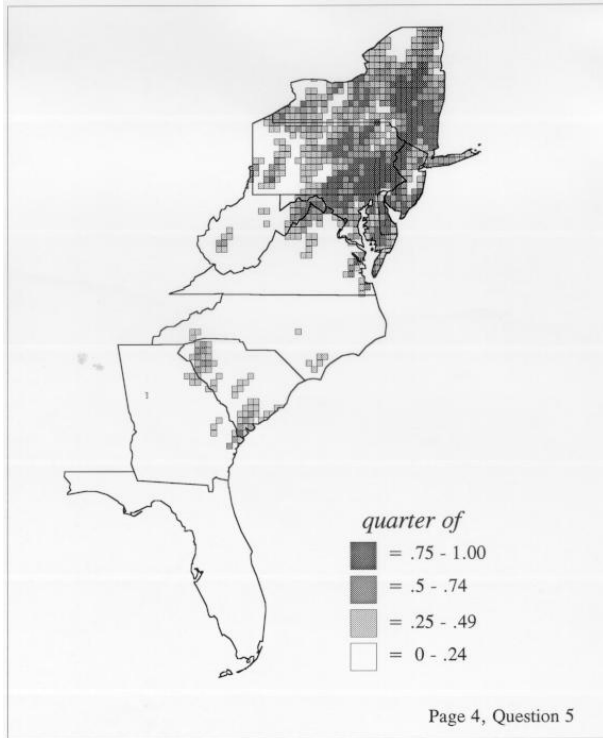
*“where are cows kept?”*

- Shows statistical trends of where each of these variances are used
- Shows a geographical trend as well
- Obvious occupational trend as well



# Effectively Mapping Data

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*“15 minutes until the next hour”*

# What Does This Prove?

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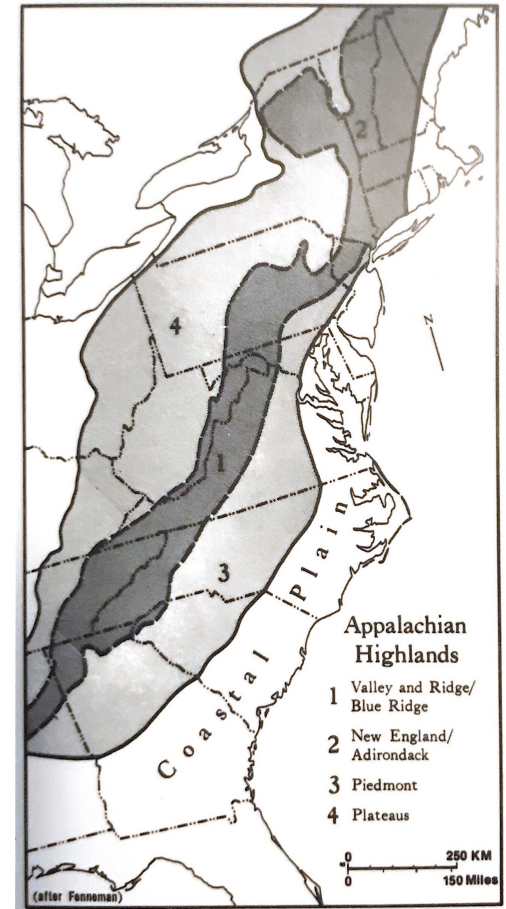
- Shows that certain lexical items are more prone to geographical distribution
  - Can be seemingly arbitrary (dirt dauber vs. yellow jacket) or obvious (certain farming terms used more popularly in rural areas)
- We cannot put hard lines on where data are found
  - Can only say where they are more likely to be found

# Future Research / Conclusion

- Potential to chart not only regional trends, but demographic ones
  - Terrain influence on data (Appalachian vs. plains)
  - Occupational difference
- Accent is influenced by geographical region, not dictated
- Other factors potentially influential
  - None quite as important

*“We cannot expect that, for any individual or location, only a single variant will be in use.”*

*- W. A. Kretzschmar*



# Works Cited

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