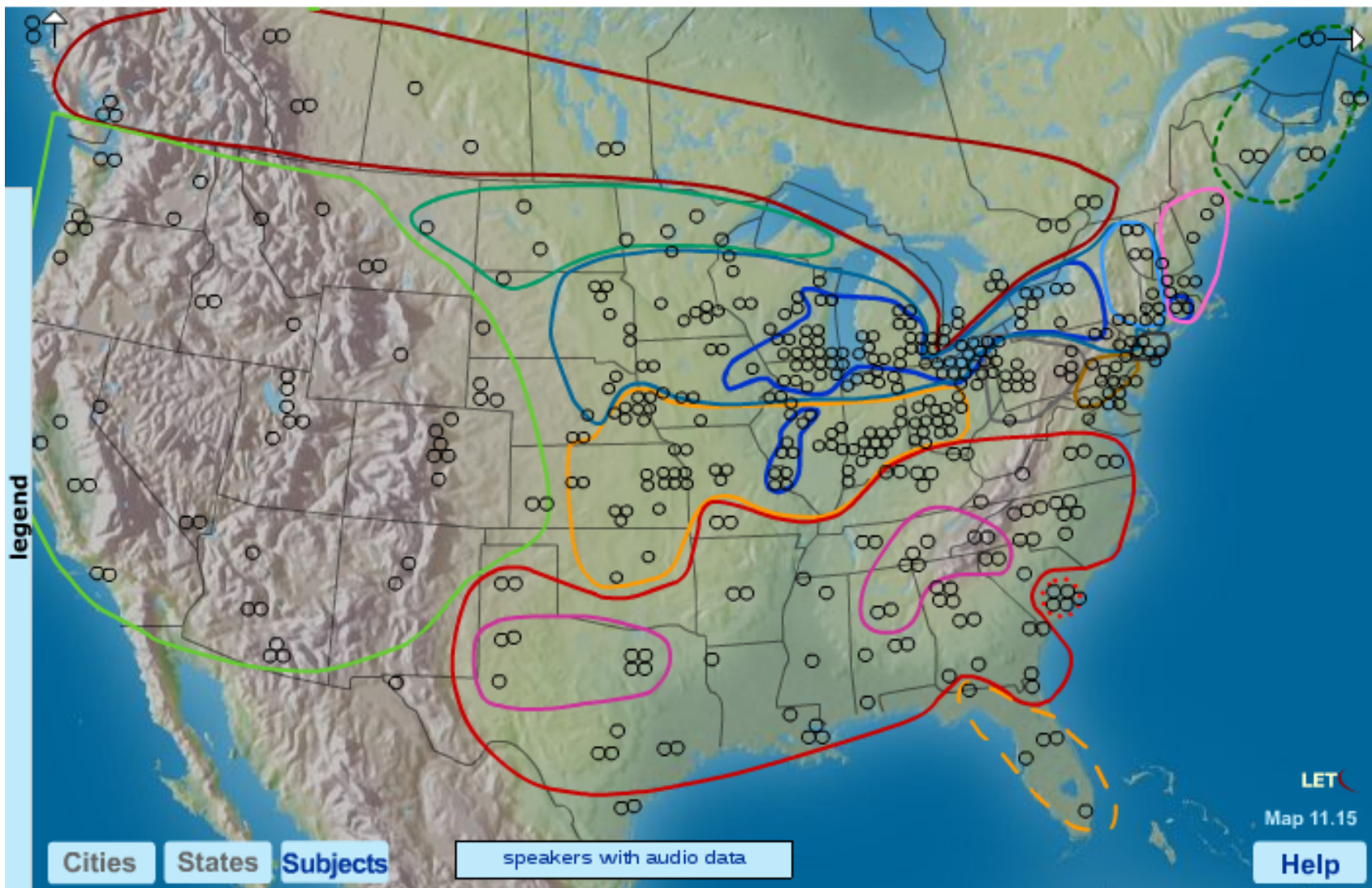


# Regional Dialects

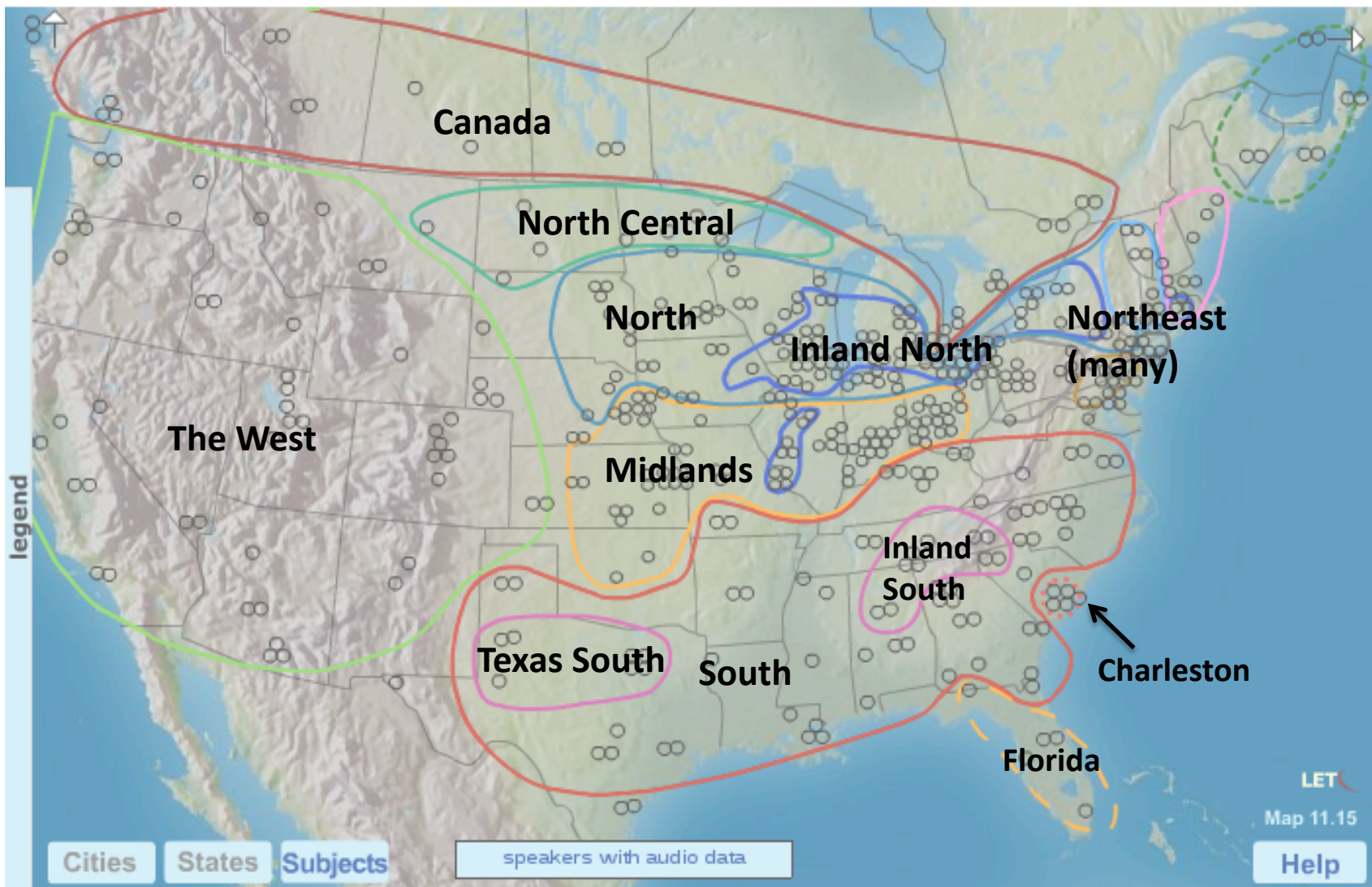
Linguist 159 – American Dialects

October 14, 2014

# North American English Dialects



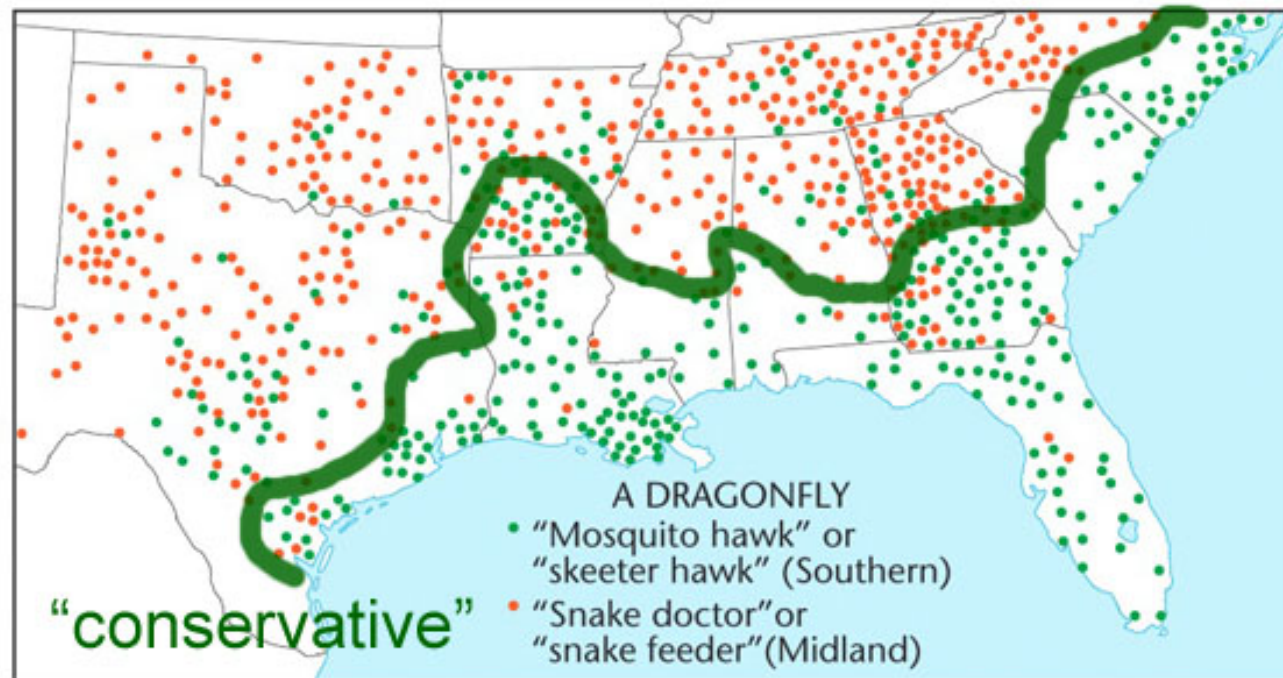
# North American English Dialects





# Quick Review

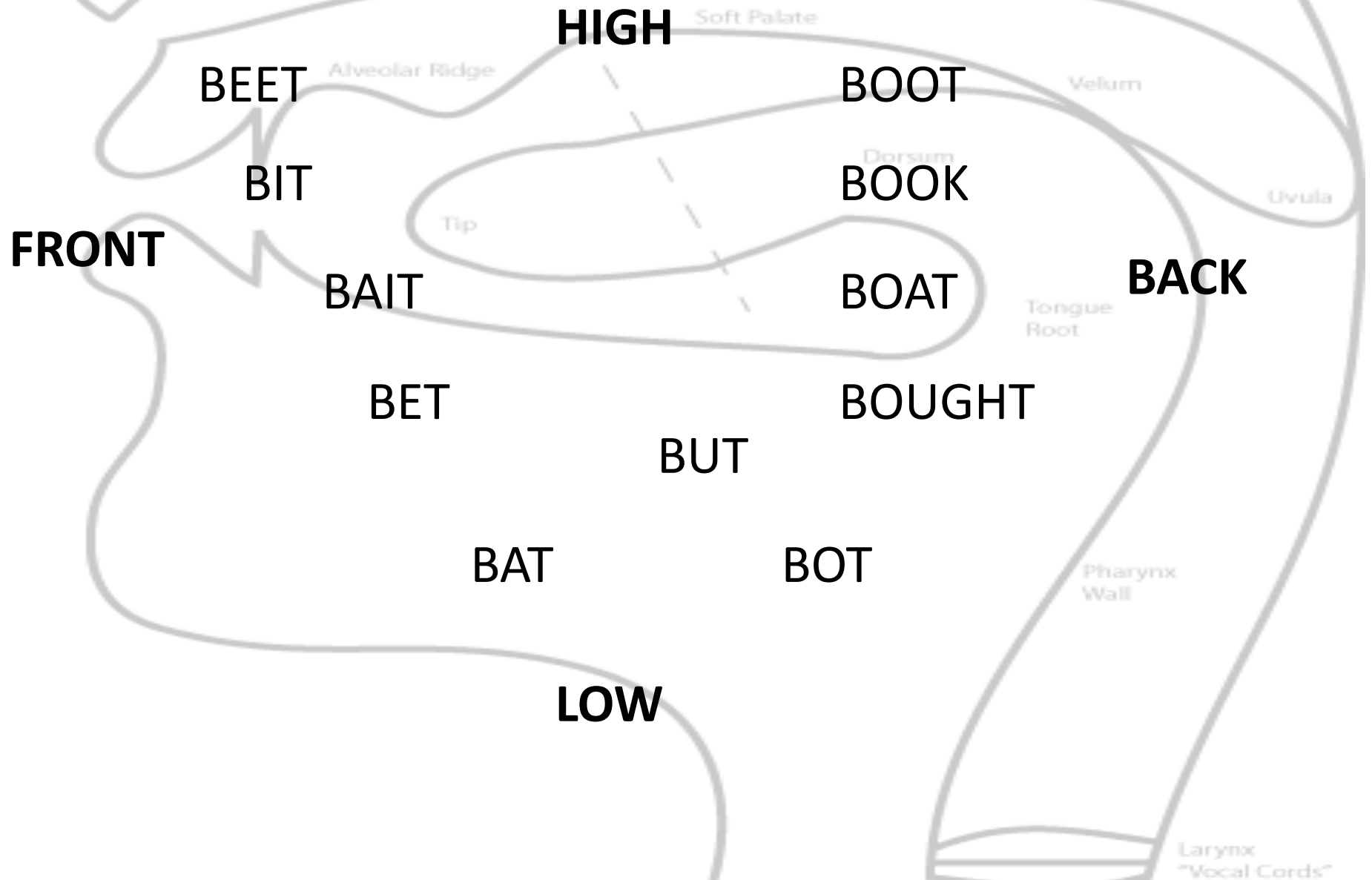
- **Isogloss** = boundary between predominant linguistic features on a dialect map



# What distinguishes U.S. regional dialects?

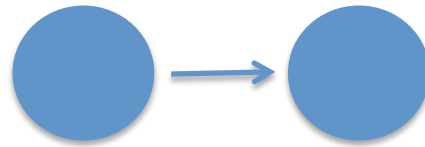
- Vowels
- /r/
- Lexical items
- Morphosyntax

# American English Vowel System



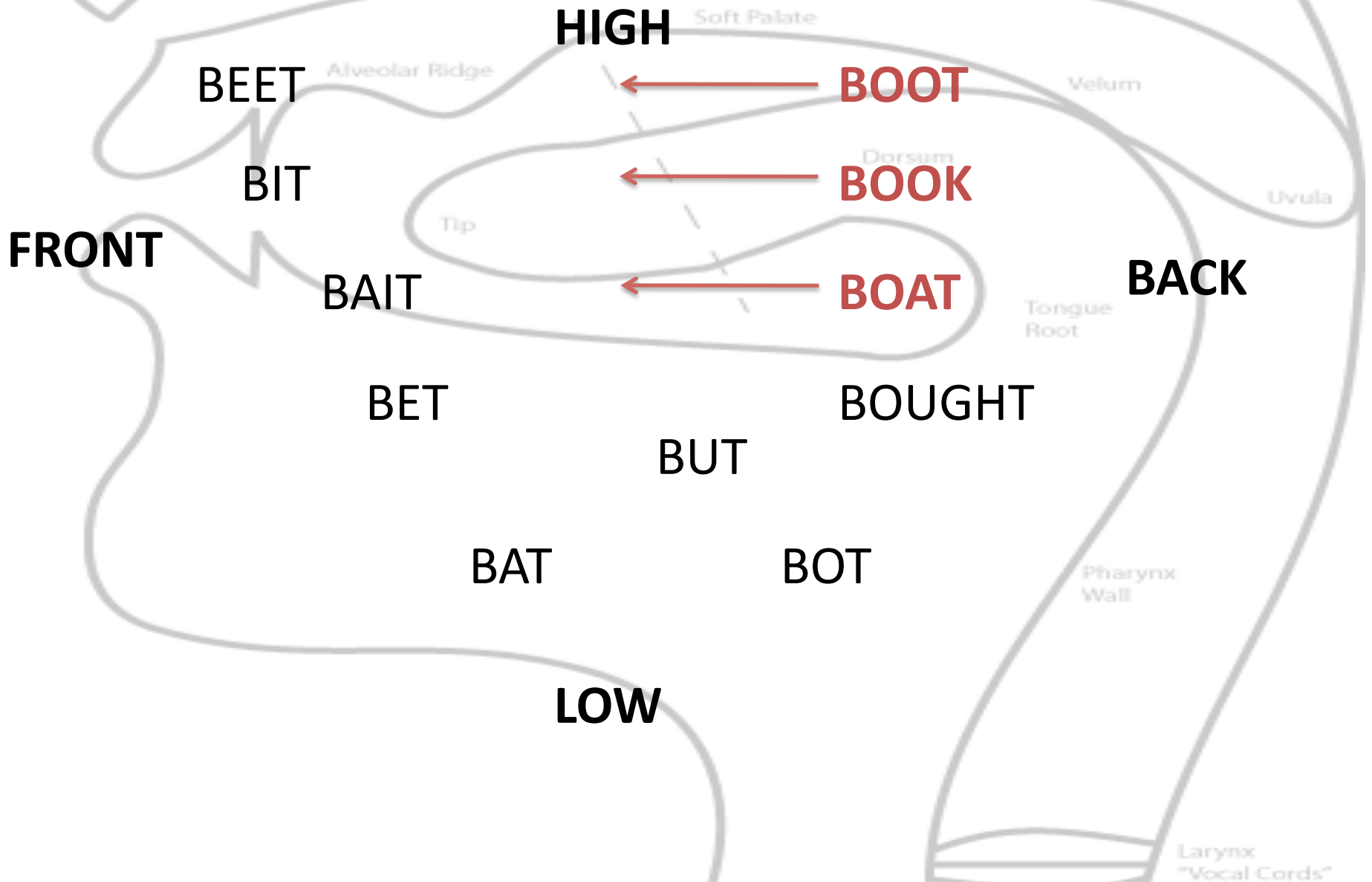
# Quick Review

- **Movement/Shift**



- Fronting/backing
- Raising/lowering

# Back vowel fronting





# Back vowel fronting

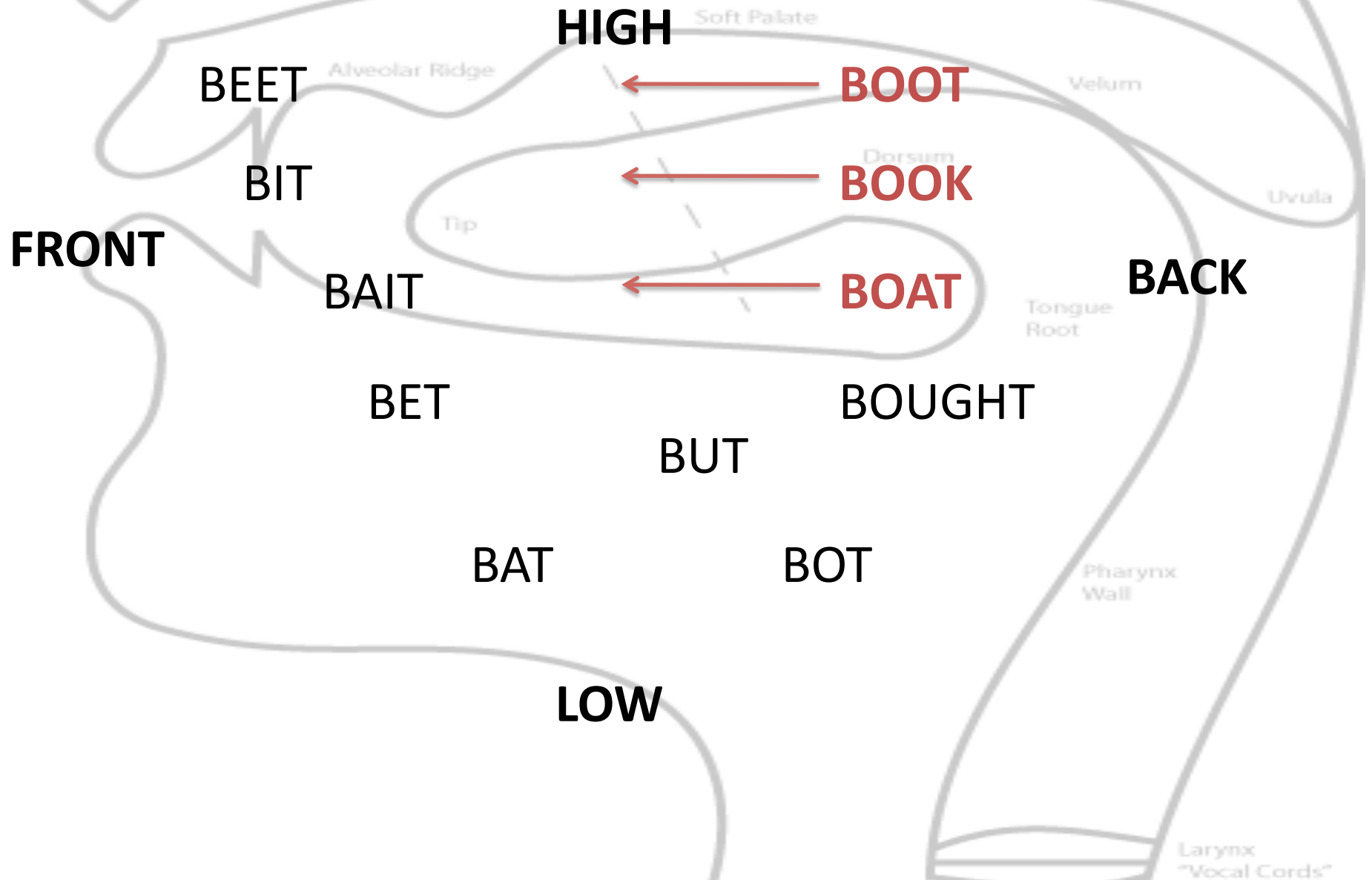
## **Fronting**

- Mid-Atlantic
- Western PA
- Midlands
- South
- California

## **No Fronting**

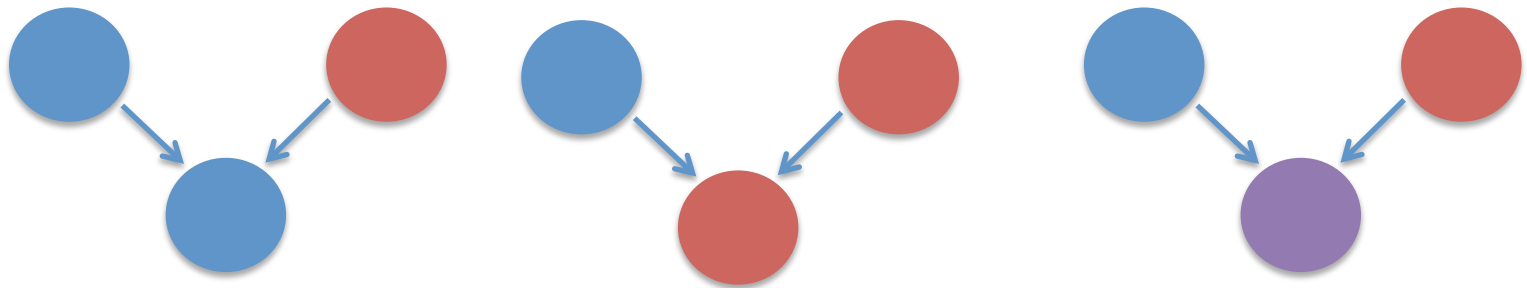
- NYC
- Providence
- New England
- North
- Canada

# Back vowel fronting

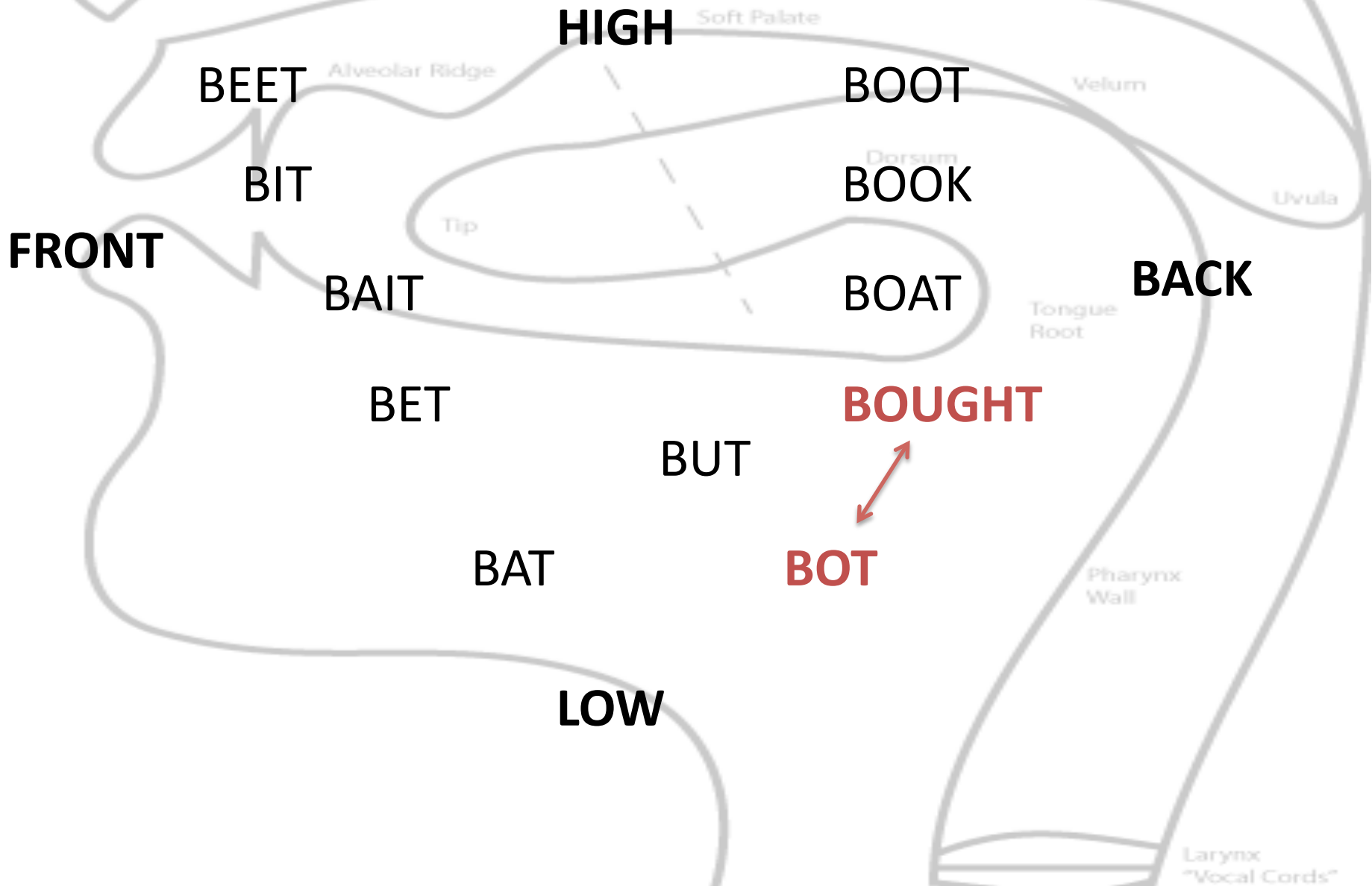


# Quick Review

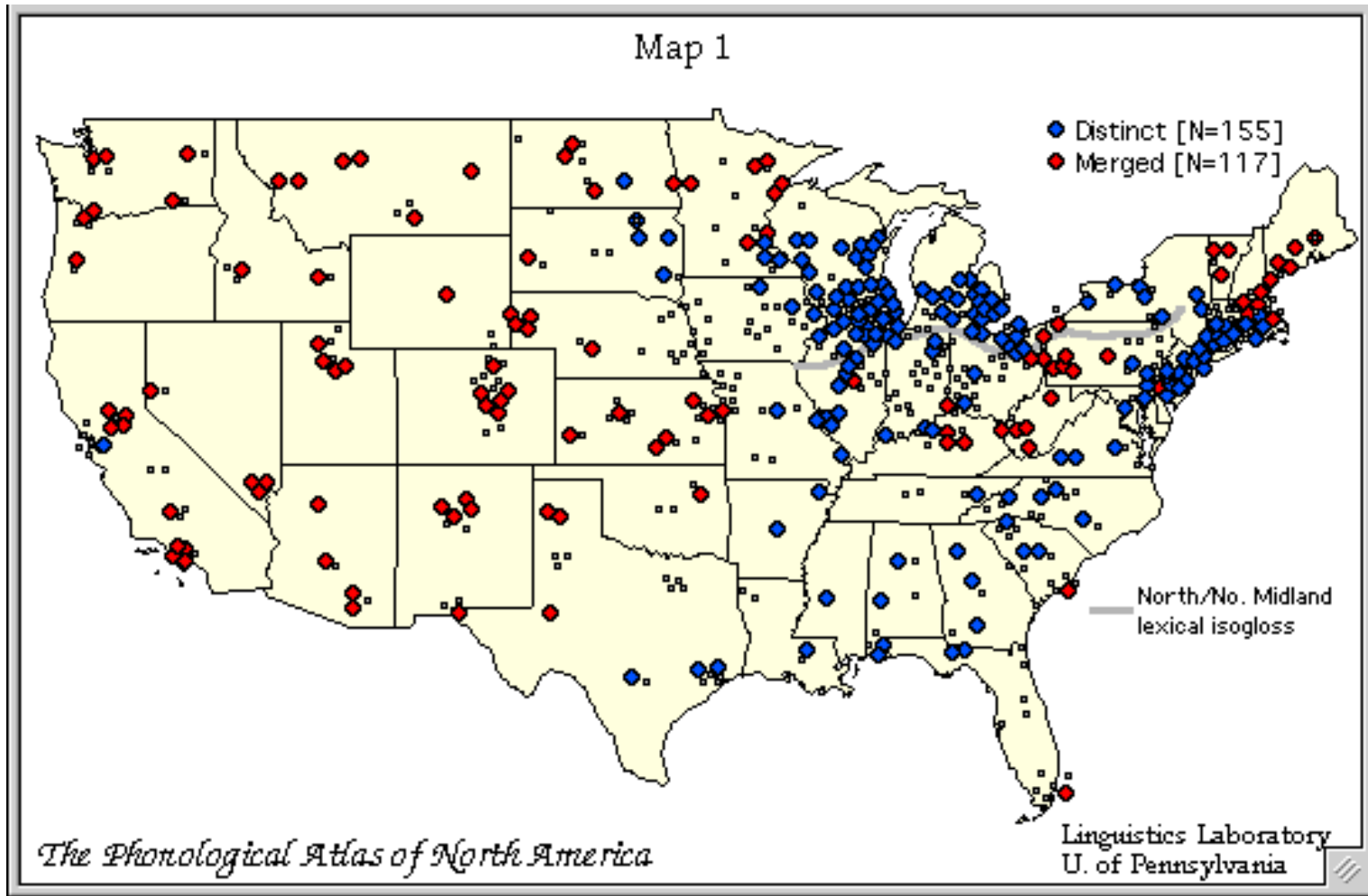
## Mergers



# Low-back merger

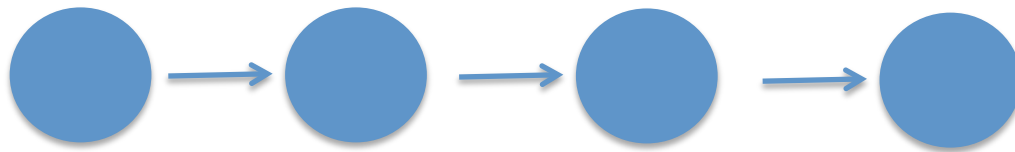


# Low-back merger



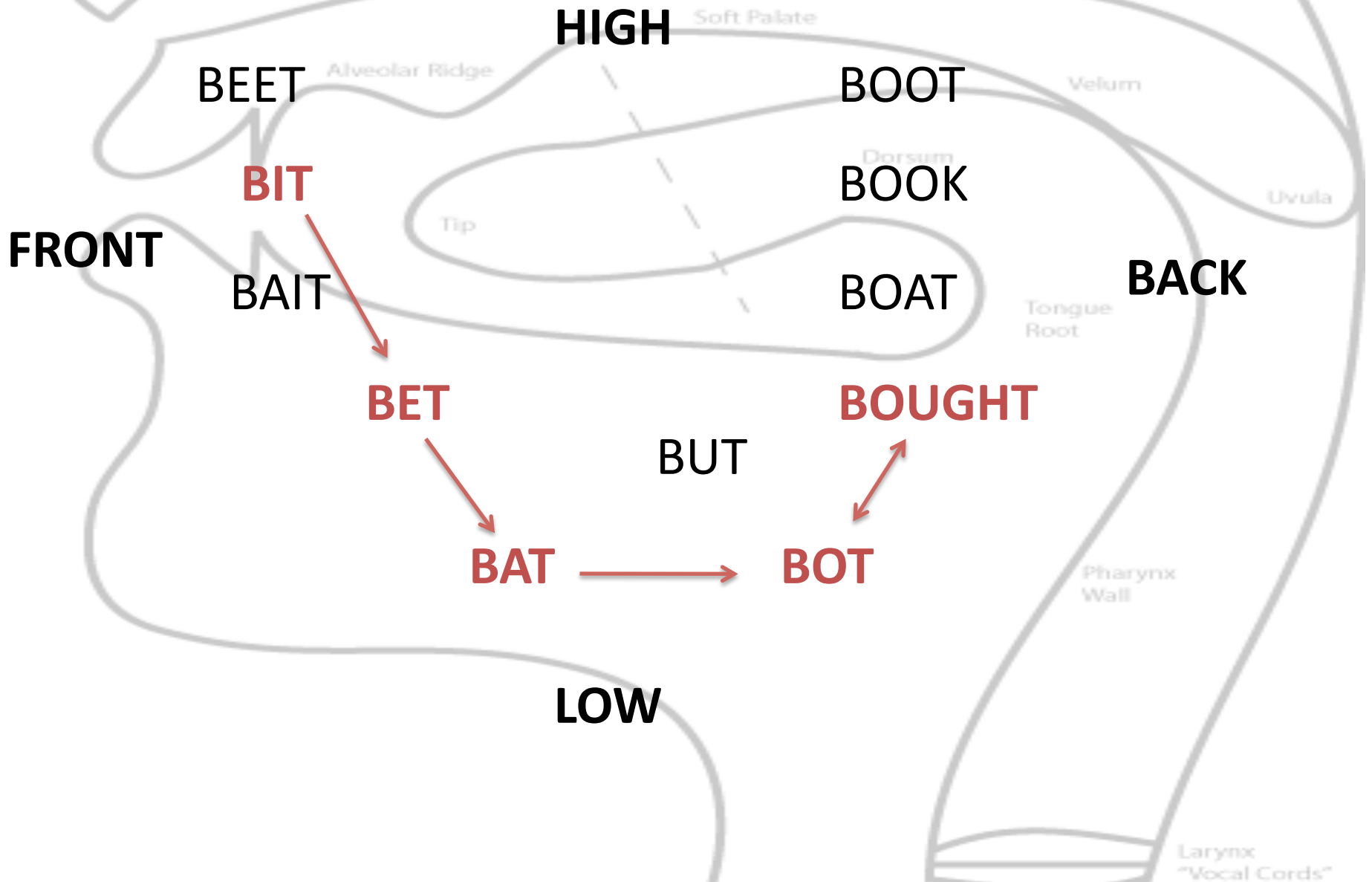
# Quick Review

## Chain Shift



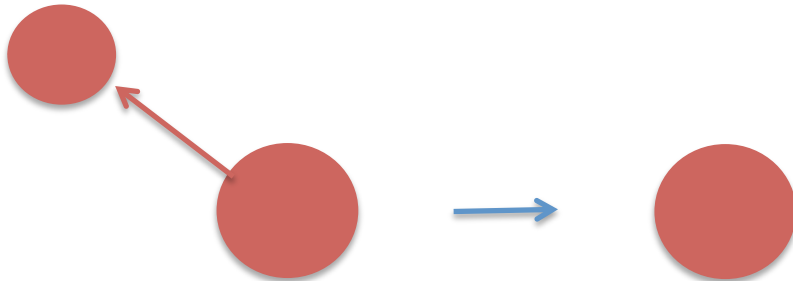
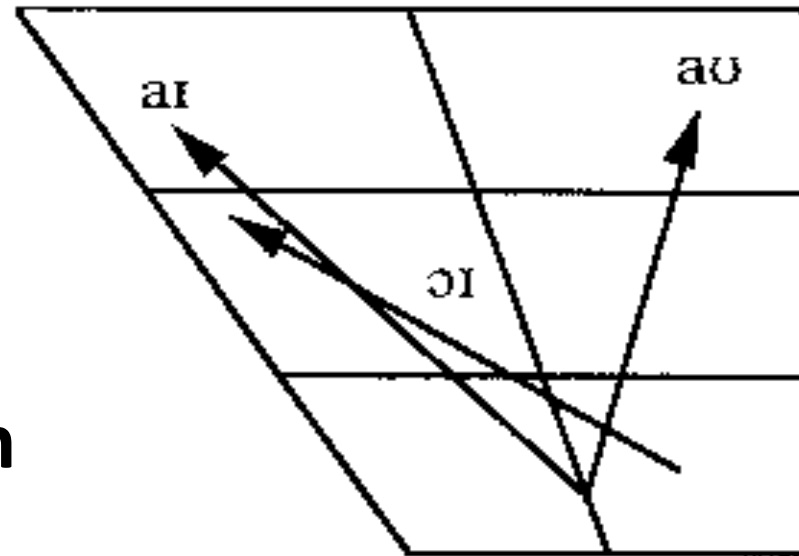


# (Partial) California Vowel Shift



# Quick Review

- **Monophthongs**
- **Diphthongs**
  - Nucleus
  - Glide
- **Monophthongization**



Word

Phrase

Sentence

1.



2.



3.



4.



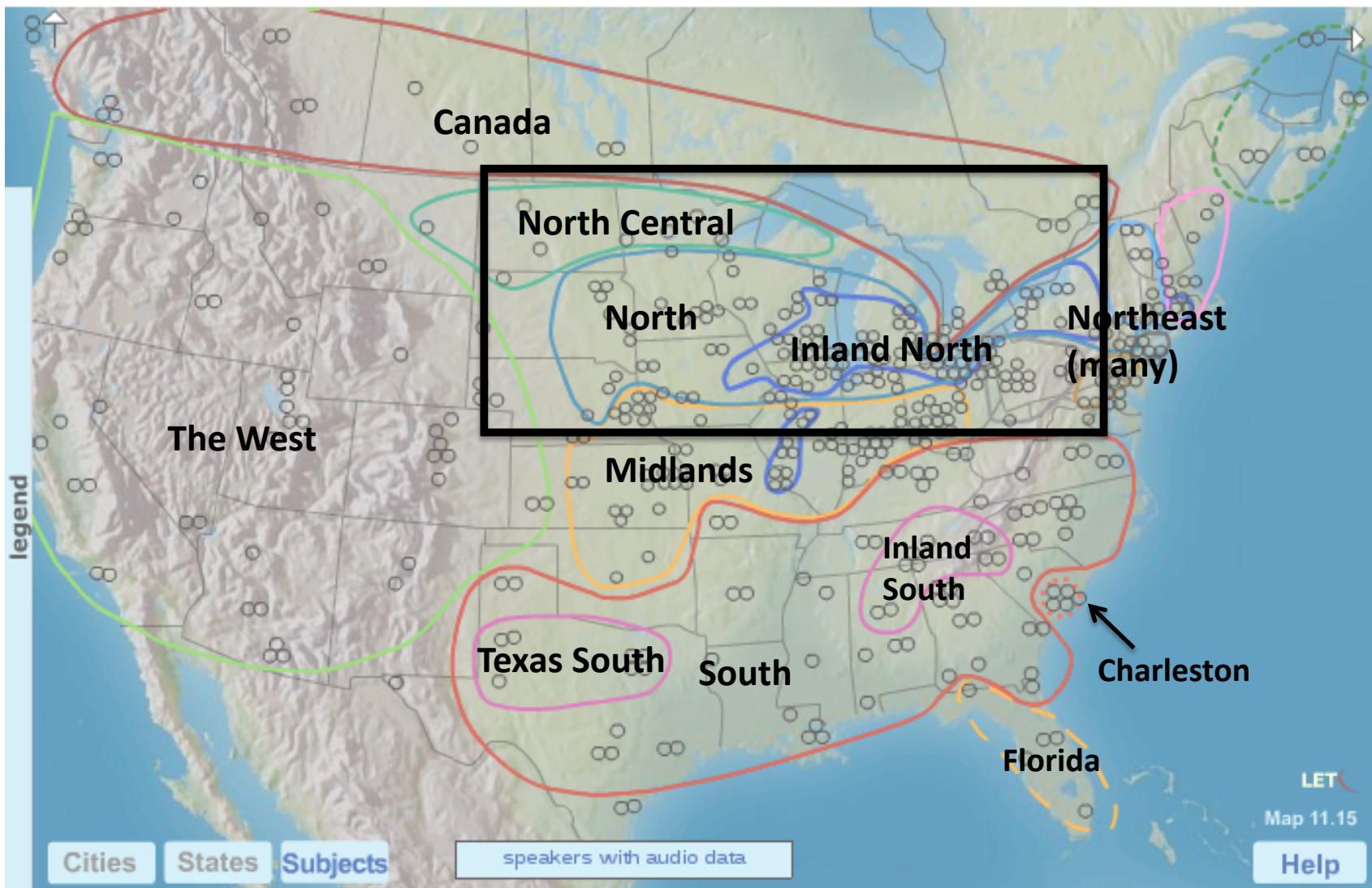
5.



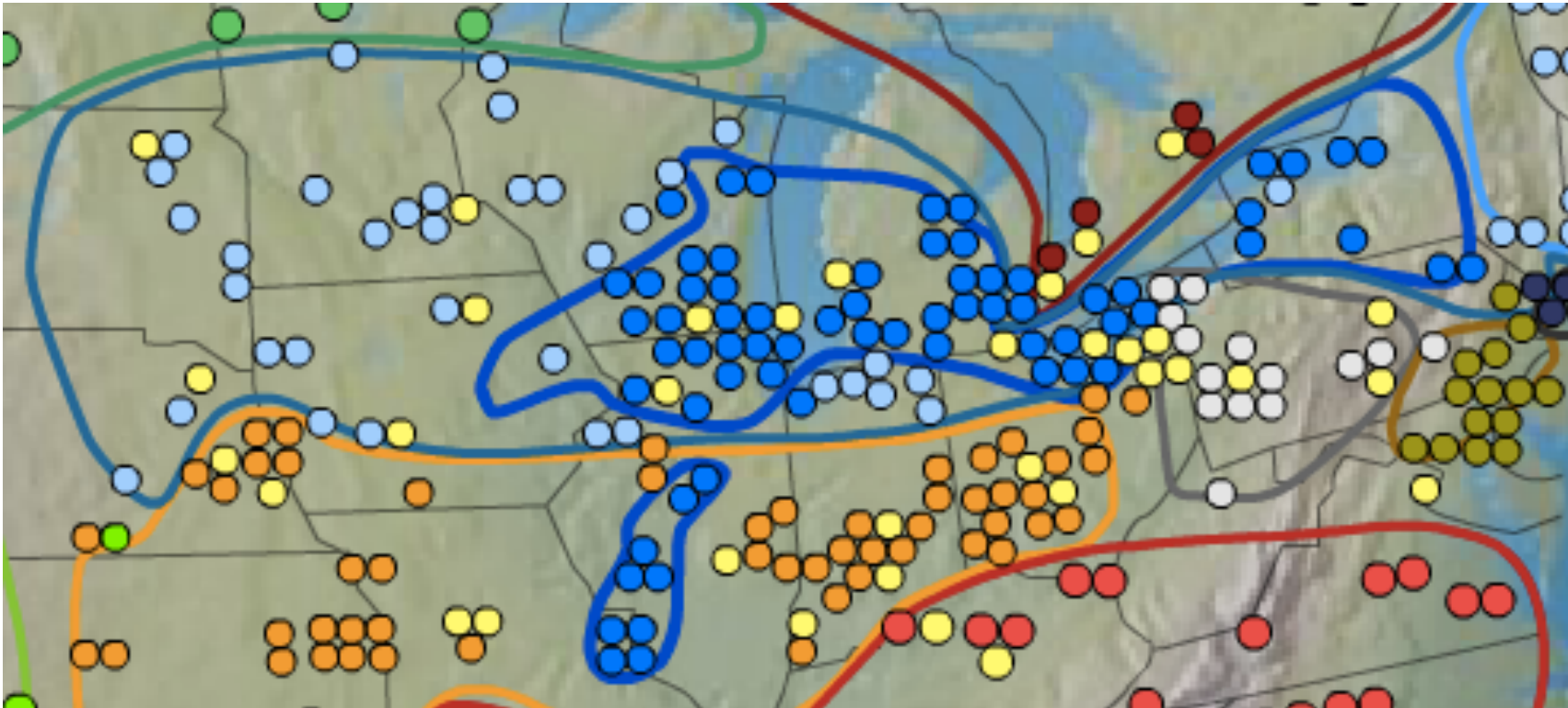
6.



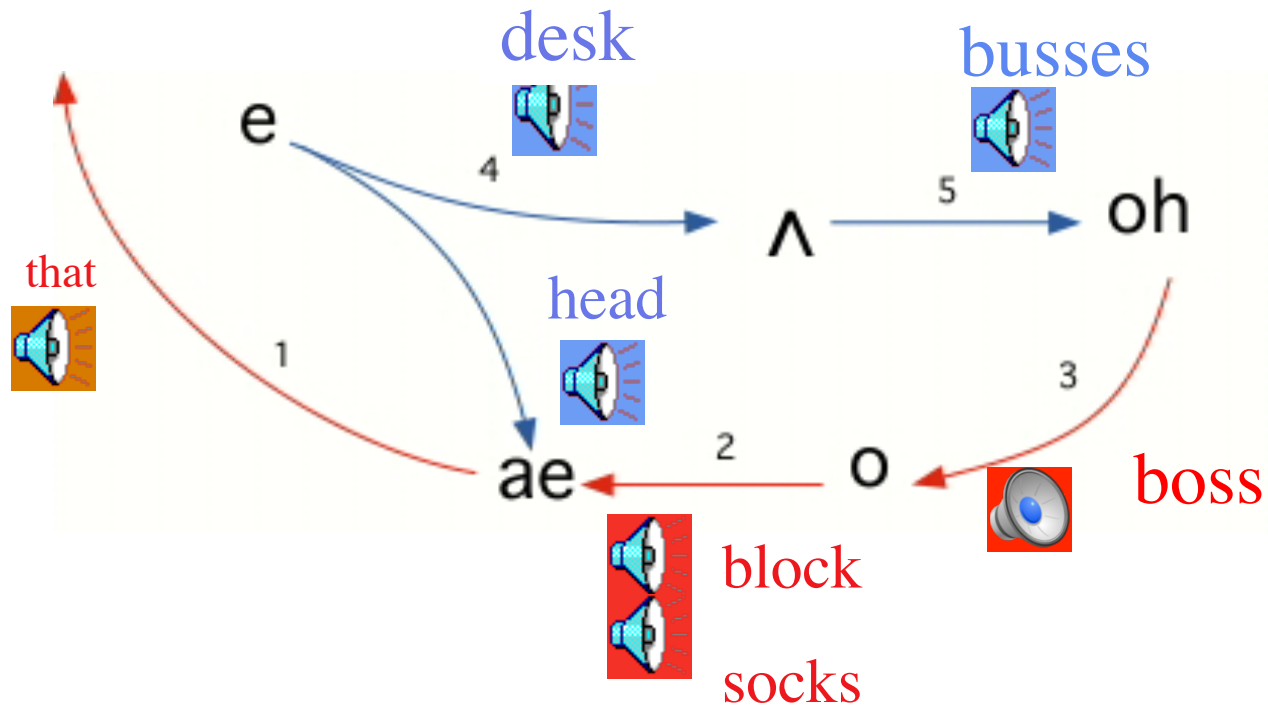
(From Labov 2008)



# The Inland North



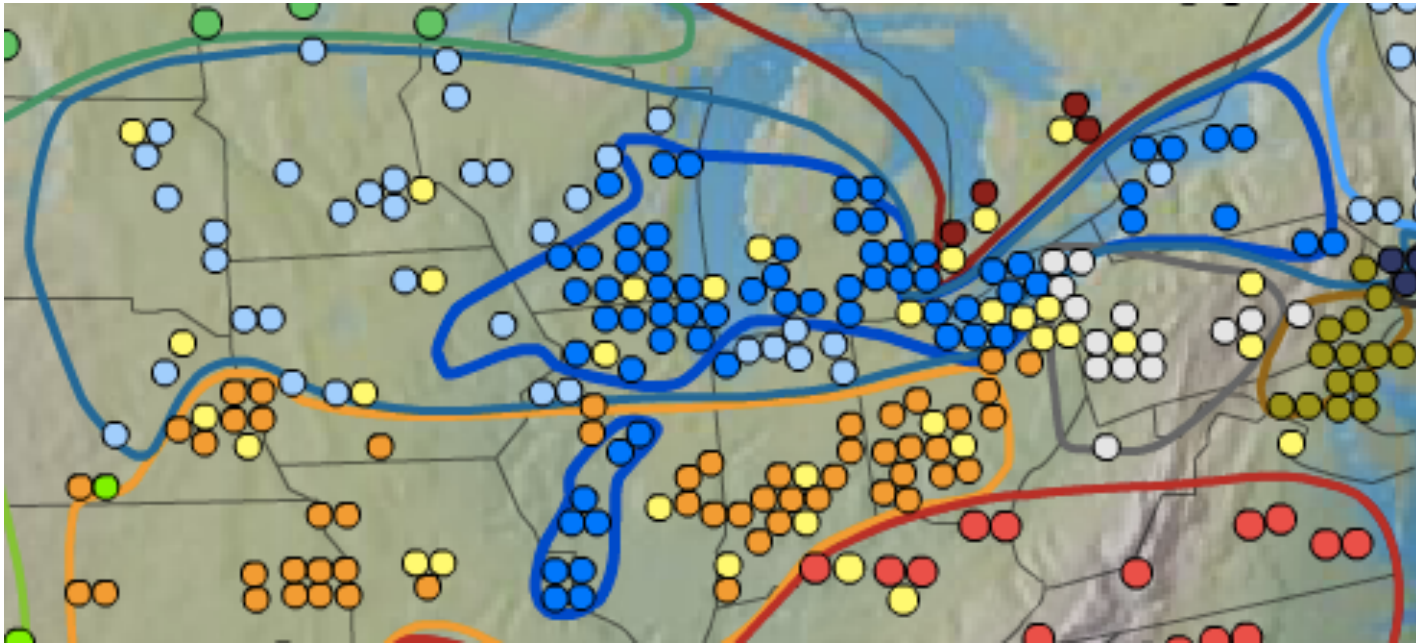
# The Inland North



(From Labov, 2008)

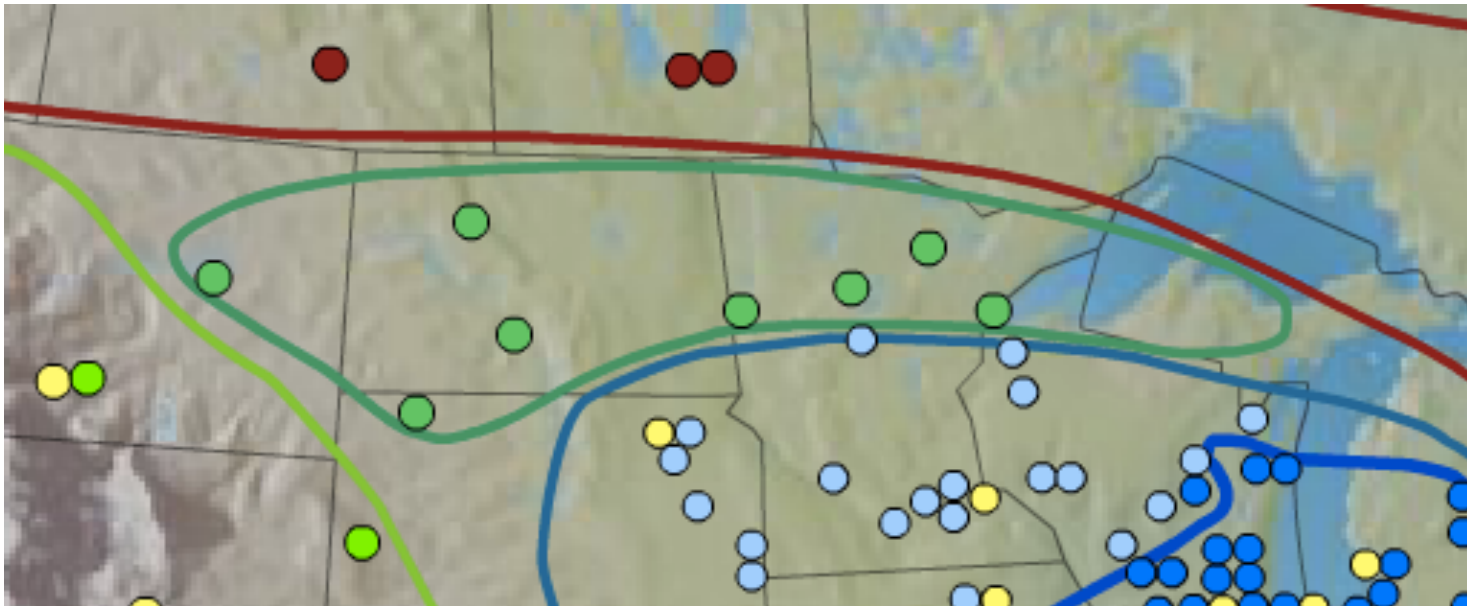


# The North



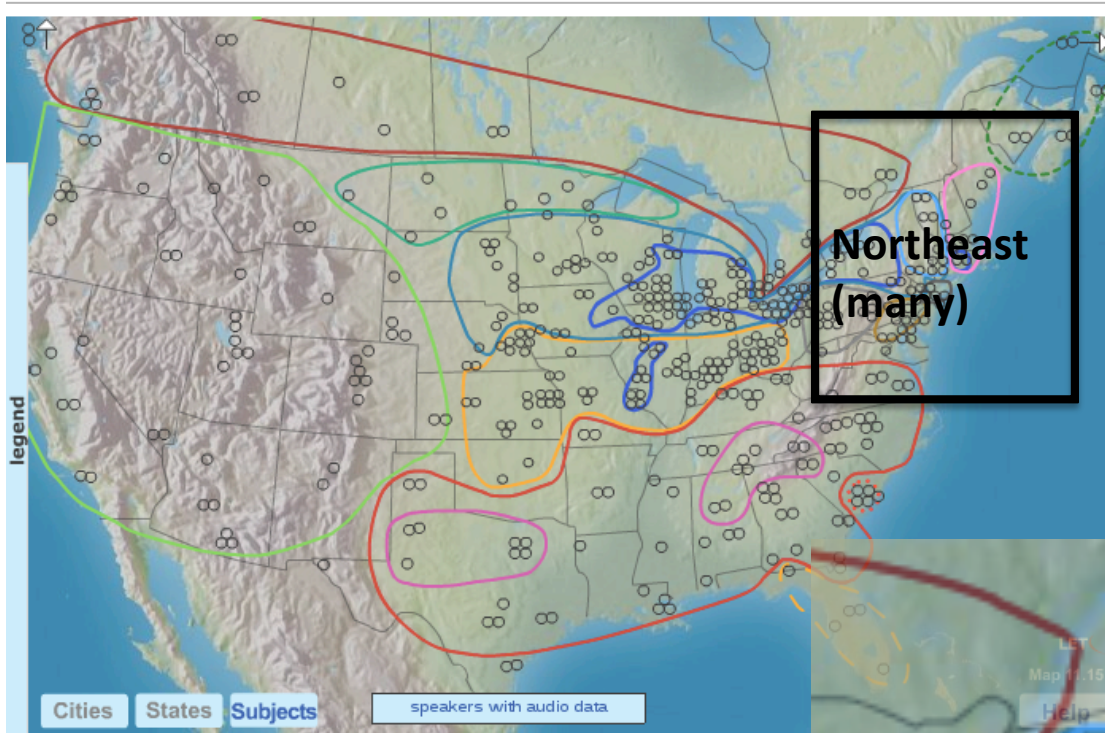
- Marked by **conservative** features
- No /o/-fronting
- (some) low-back distinction

# North Central

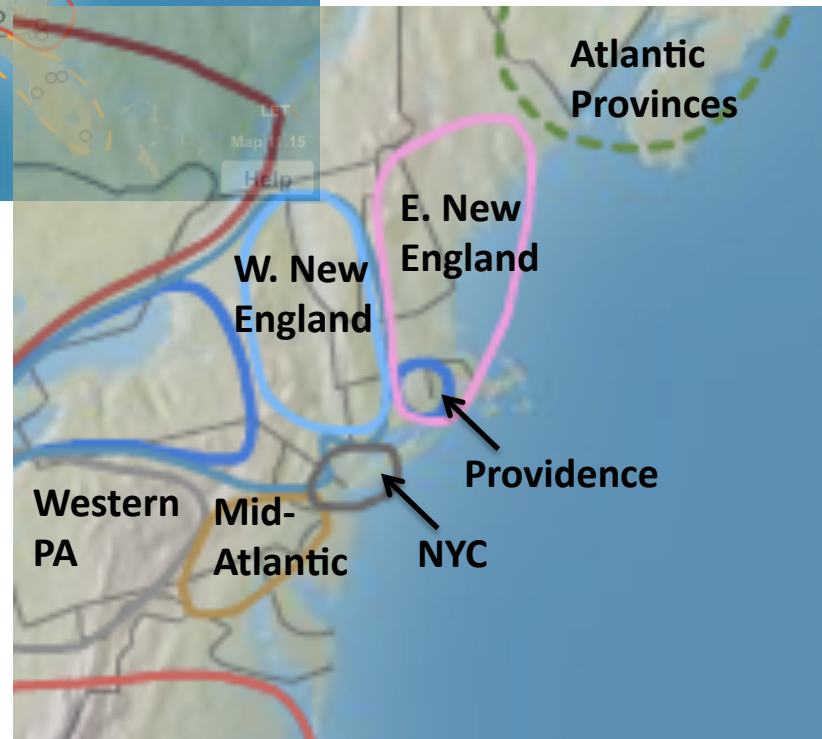


- Little/no participation in neighboring chain shifts
- Low-back merger
- /o/ monophthongization

# North American English Dialects



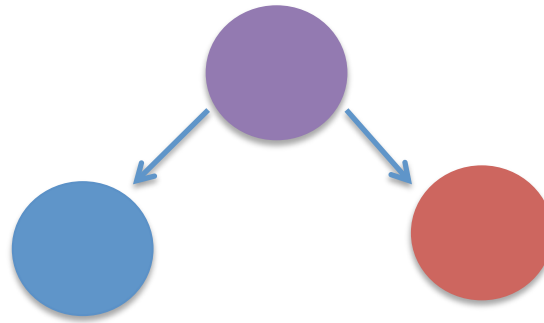
## The Northeast



# /r/ in the Northeast

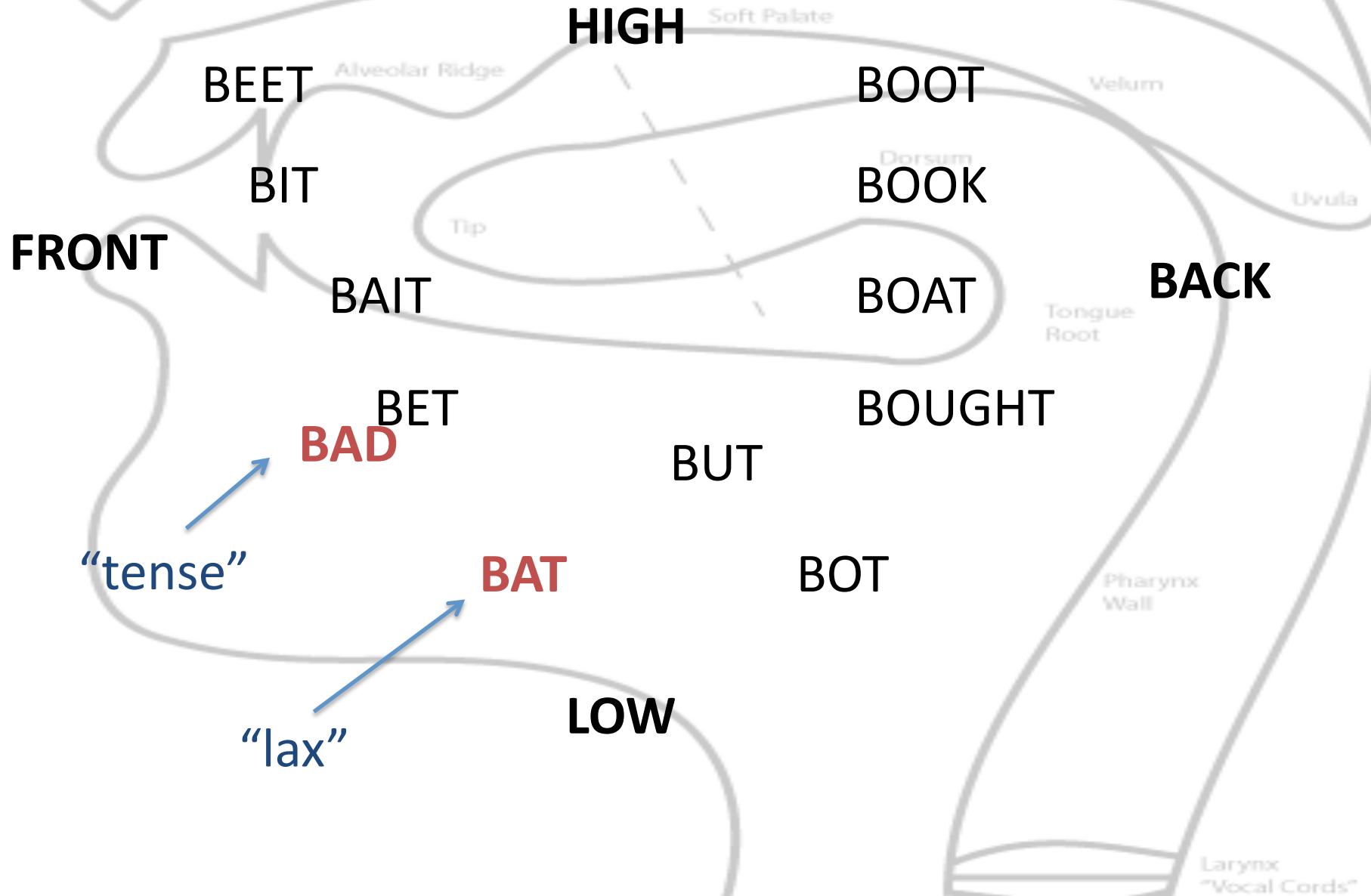
- Why are some /r/-ful and some /r/-less?
- In what **environments** are /r/-less areas /r/-less?
- Which areas /r/-ful? Which areas /r/-less?

# Split short-a system



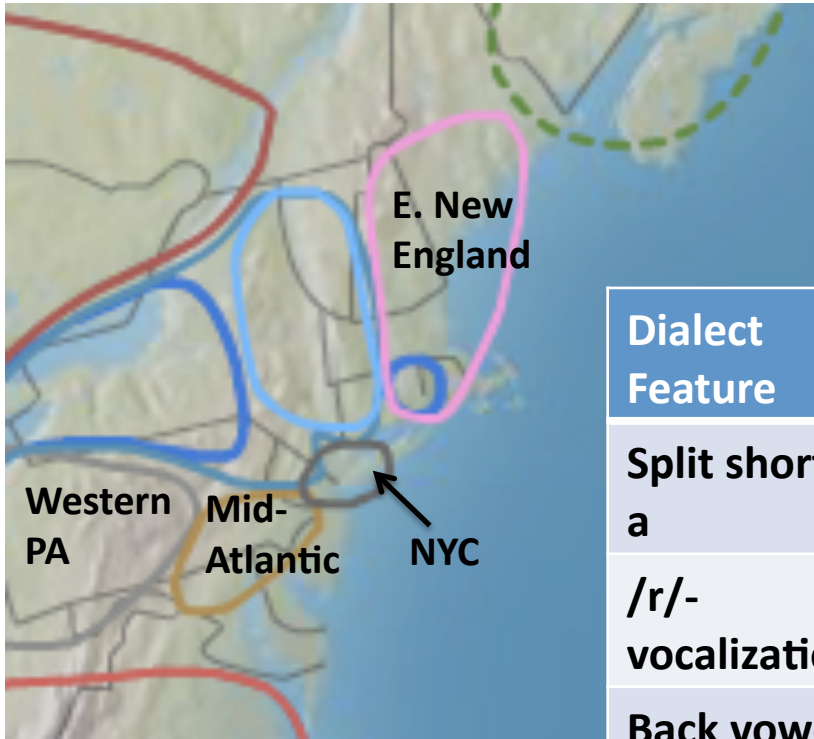
- **Split** conditioned by phonological environment (with some exceptions)
- “Tense” variant and “lax” variant
- NYC and Mid-Atlantic

# Split short-a system





# Northeast



Dialect Feature	NYC	Mid-Atlantic	Western PA	E. New England
Split short-a	Yes	Yes	No	No
/r/-vocalization	Yes	No	No	Yes
Back vowel fronting	No	Yes	Yes	No
Low-back merger	No	No	Yes	Yes
Other	/r/-insertion	/aw/ & /ay/ raising (Philly)	/aw/ monophth; FEEL-FILL	/a/-fronting

Which word do you hear?



**BED**



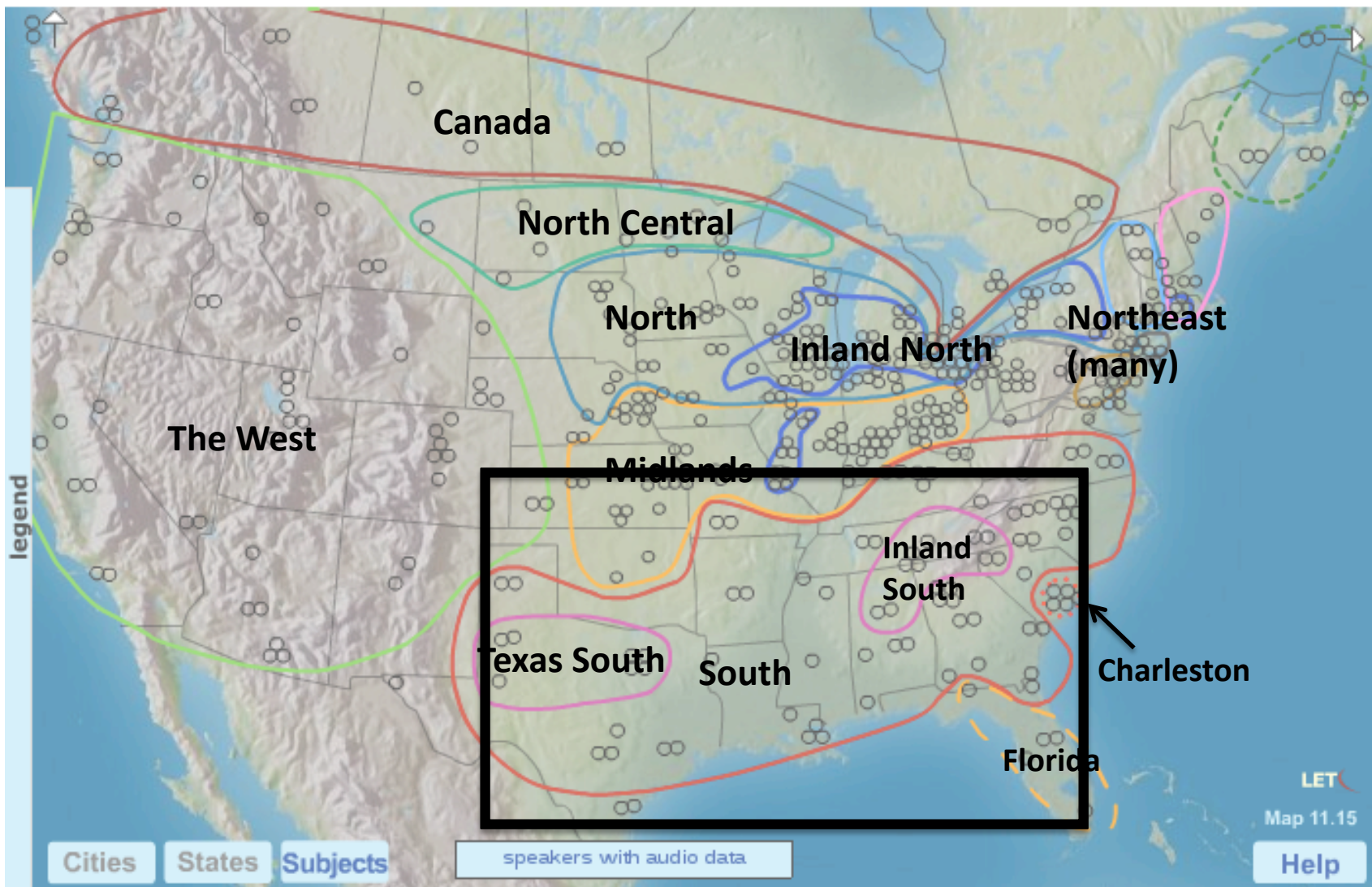
**BEATING**



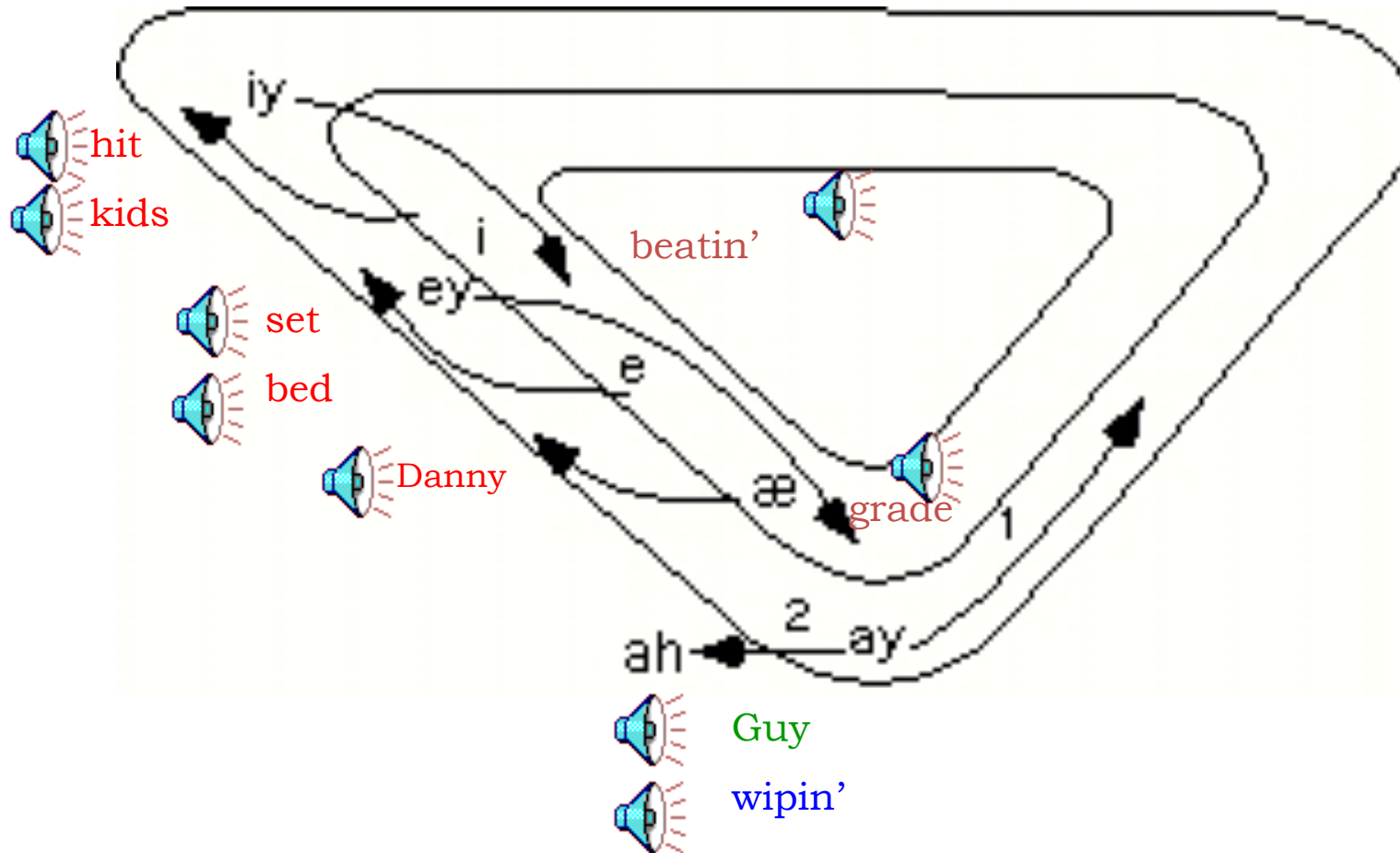
**SET**



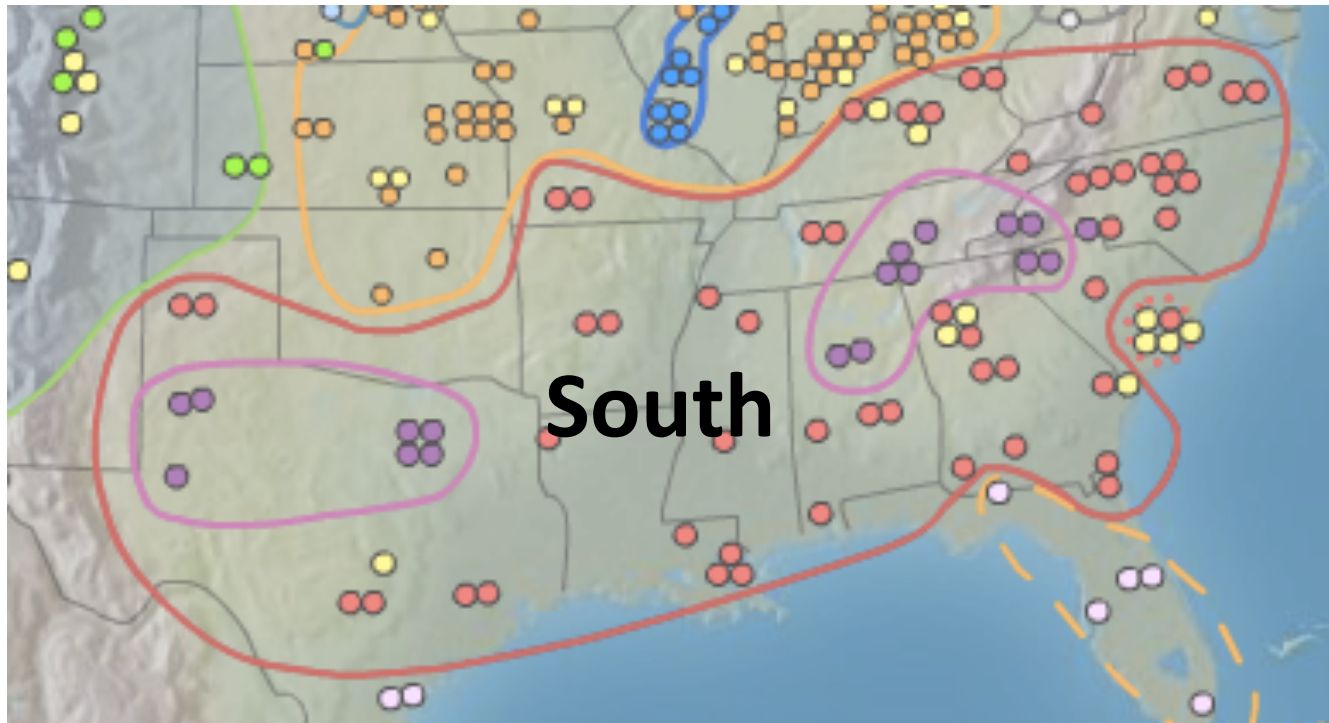
**PEN**



# Southern Vowel Shift

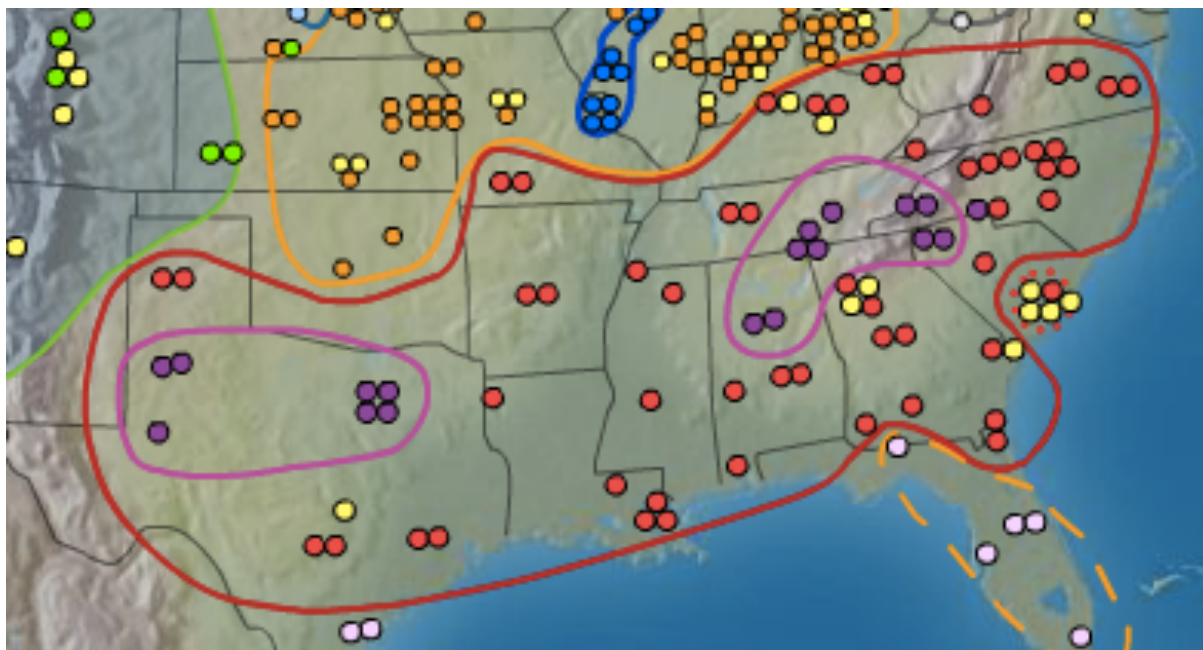


# The South - Morphosyntax



- Y'all
- Double modals
- Auxiliary *done*
- Reflexive datives

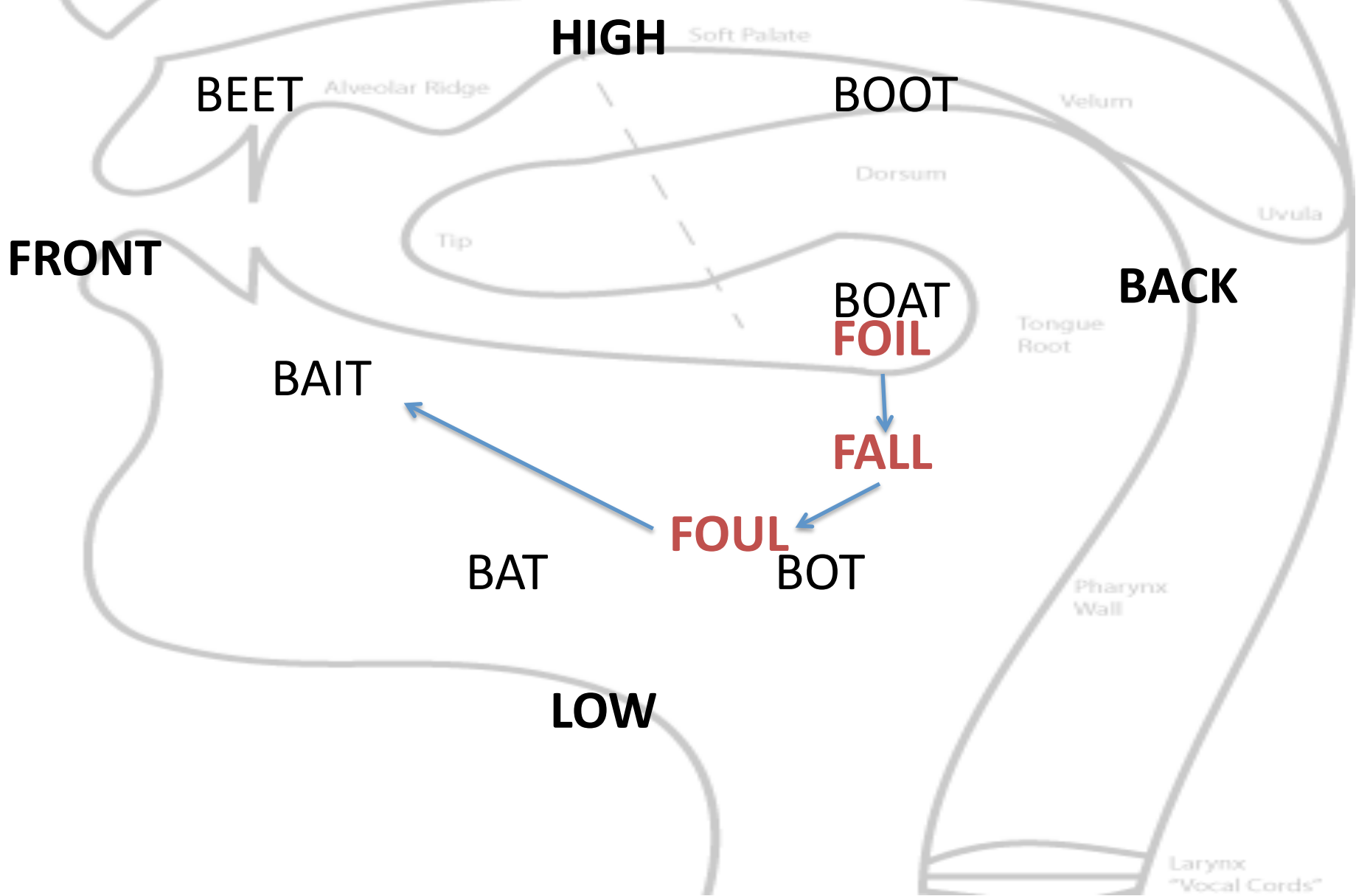
# The South



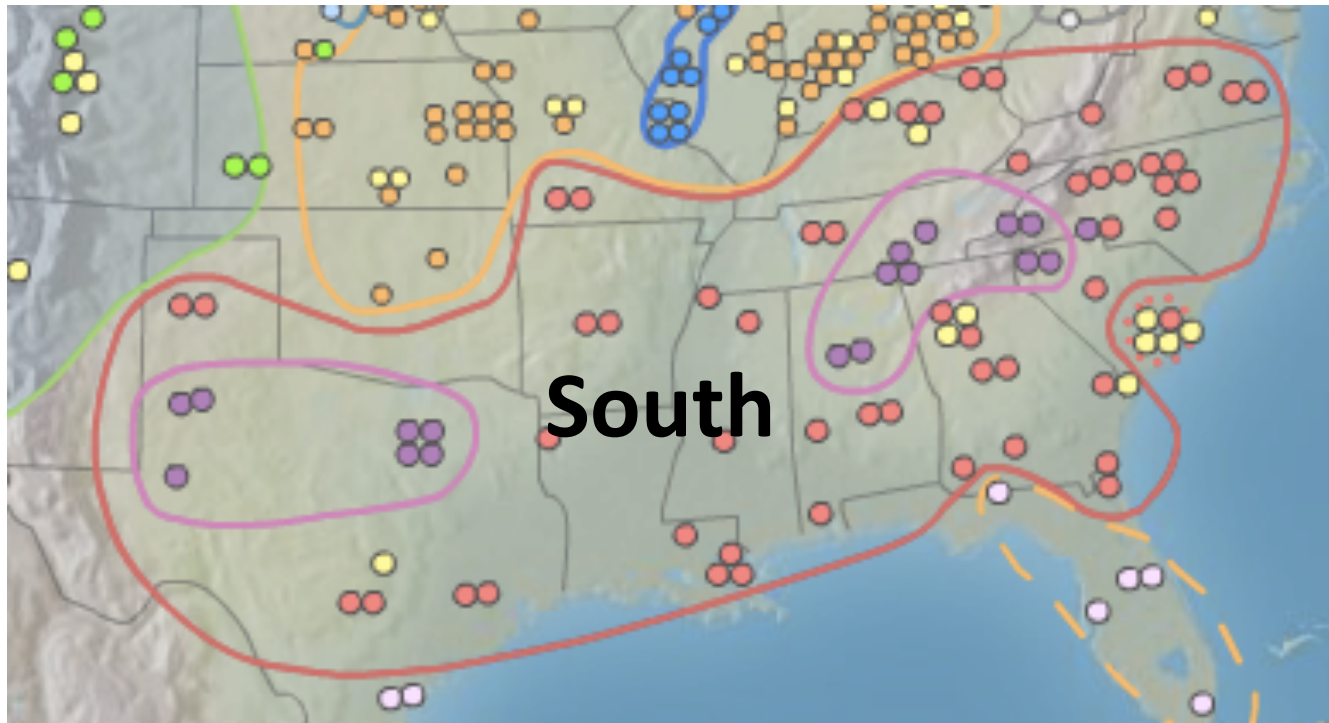
- Southern Vowel Shift
- /ay/-monophth.
- Back vowel fronting
- Back upglide shift



# Back Upglide Shift



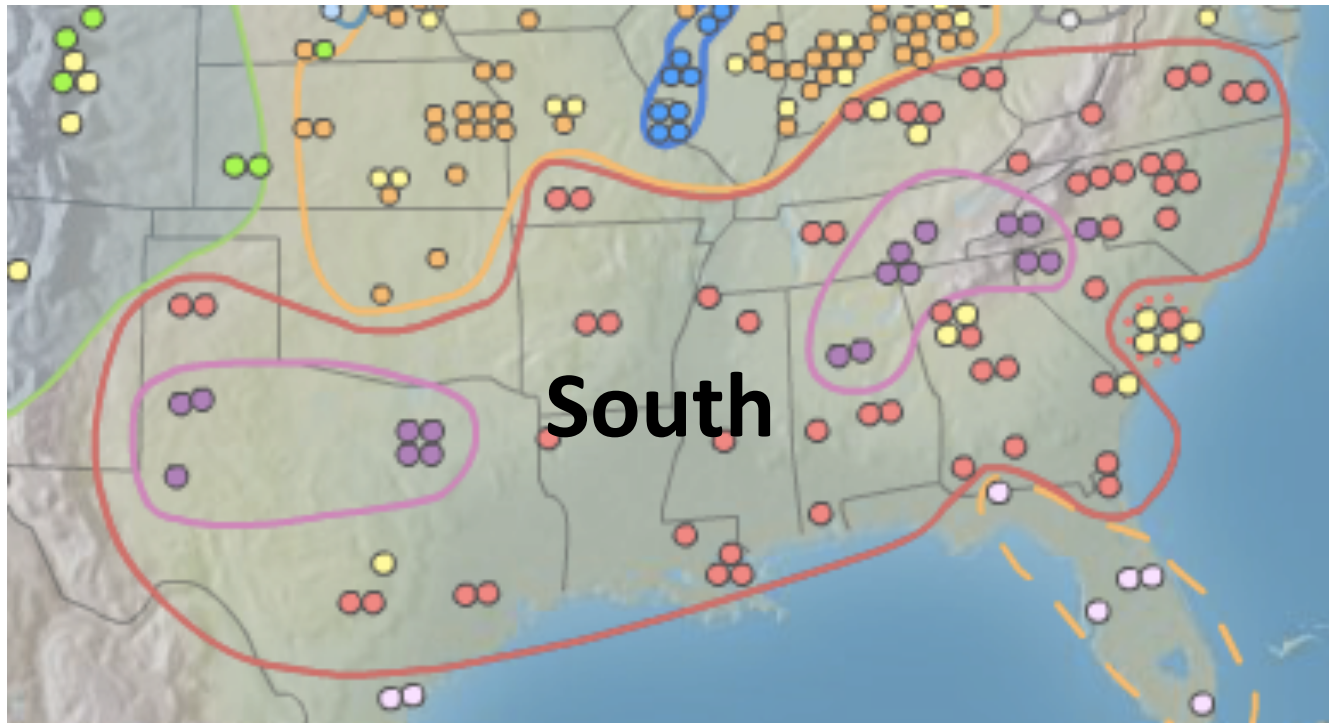
# The South - Mergers



- PIN-PEN
- FEEL-FILL
- FAIL-FELL
- PULL-POOL

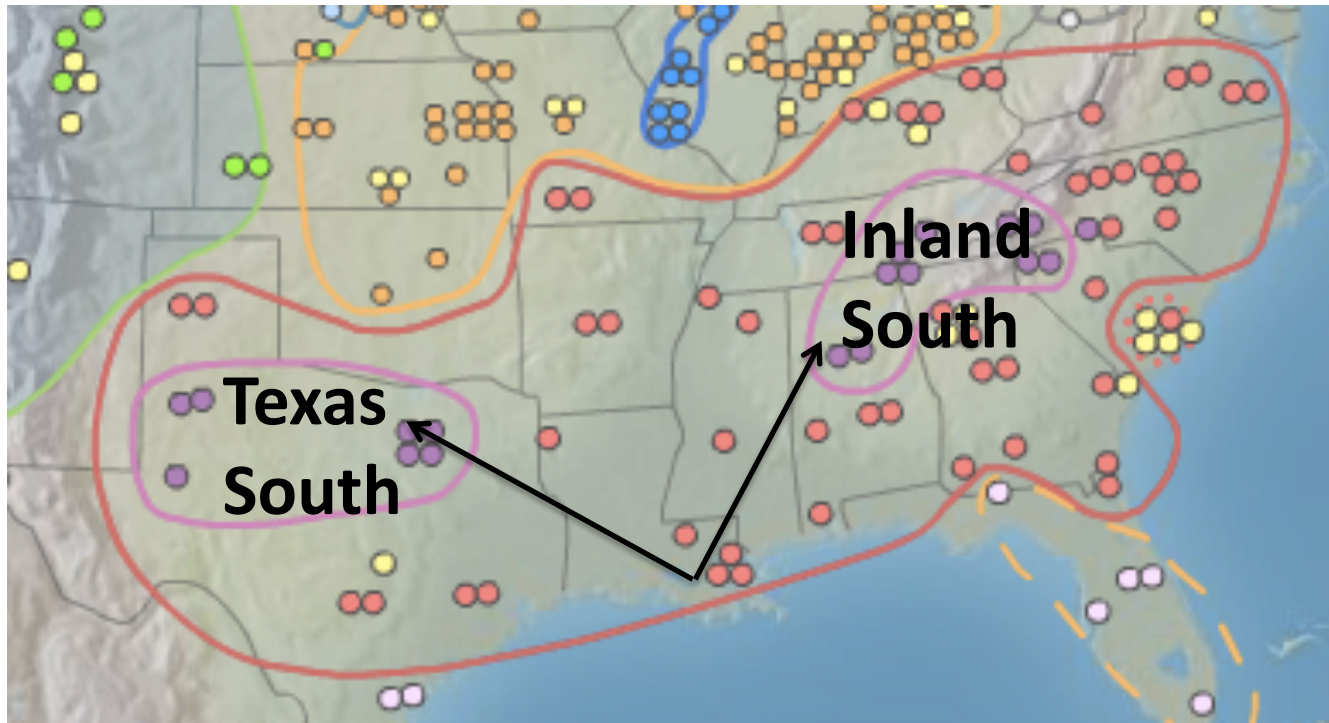


# /ay/ monophthongization



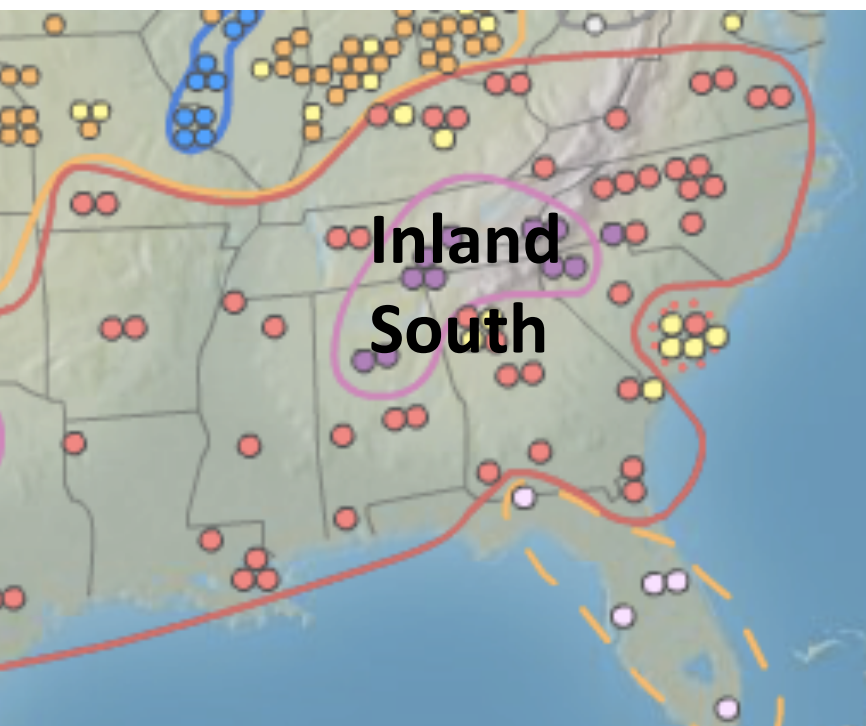
- Before voiced obstruents (*wide, size, five*)
- Word-finally (*high, my*)

# /ay/ monophthongization



- Before voiced obstruents (*wide, size, five*)
- Word-finally (*high, my*)
- Before voiceless obstruents (*night, rice, life*)

# Inland South (Appalachia)

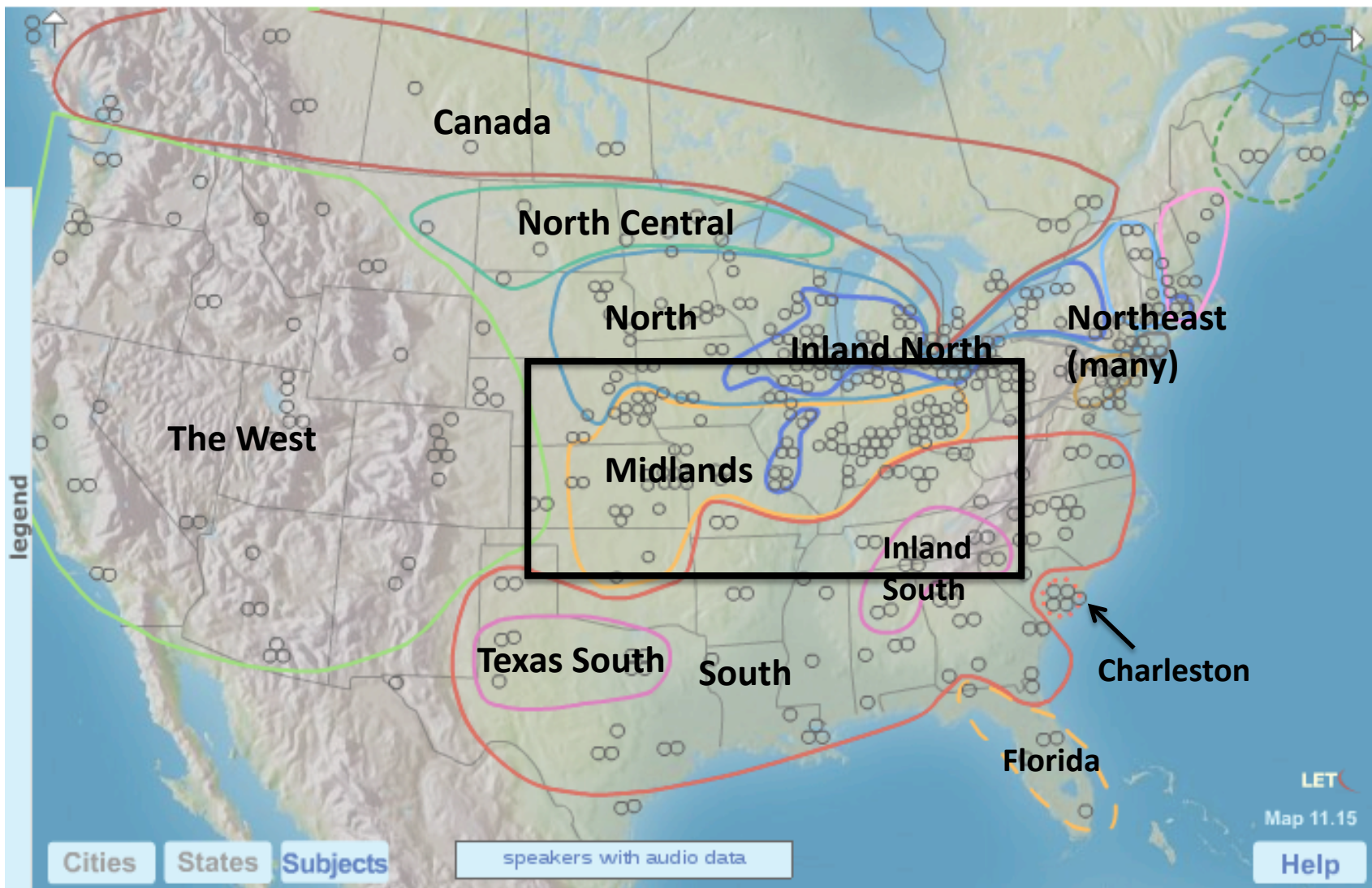


## Phonology

- Intrusive /r/ (“warsh”)

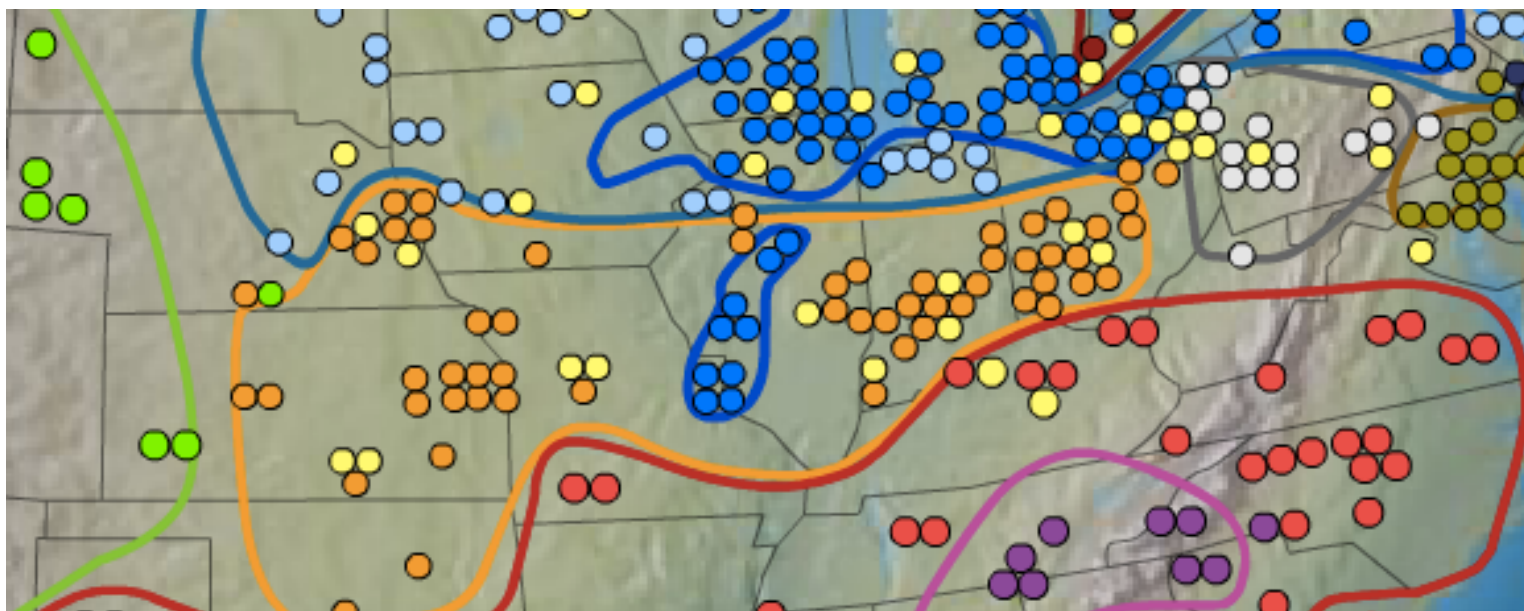
## Morphosyntax

- a-prefixing
- Was-leveling



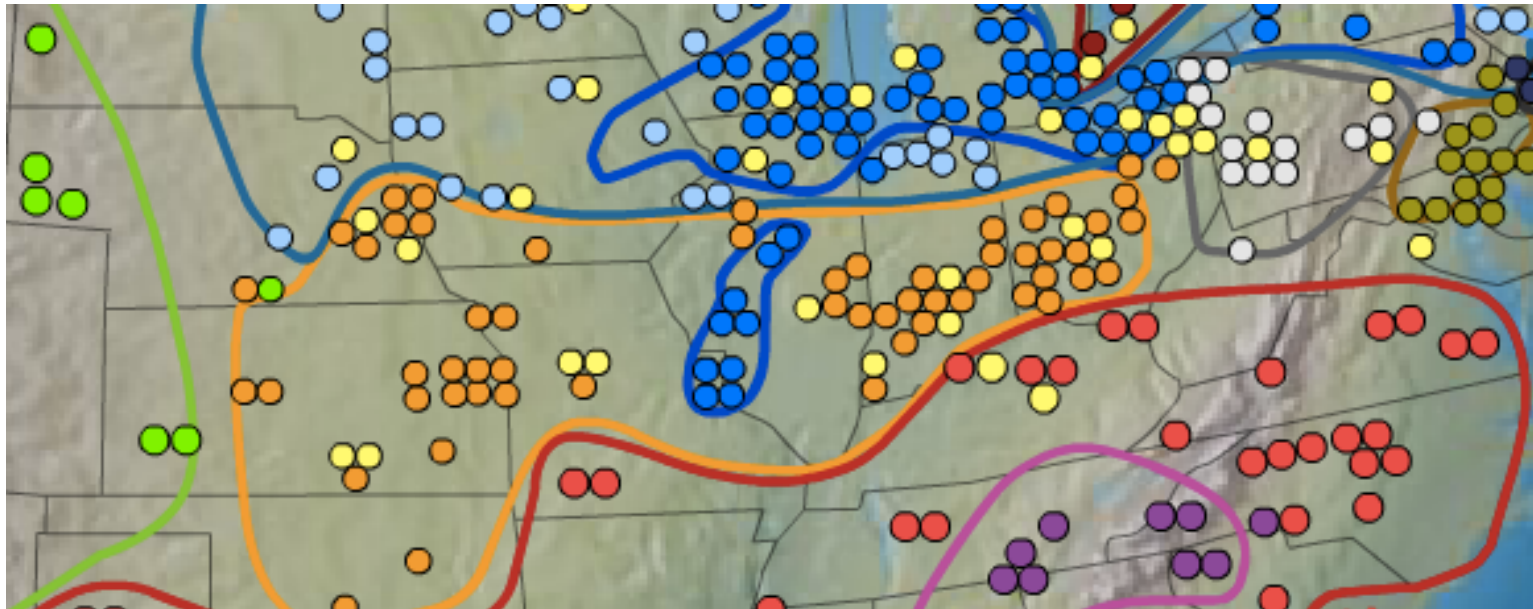


# Midlands - Phonology

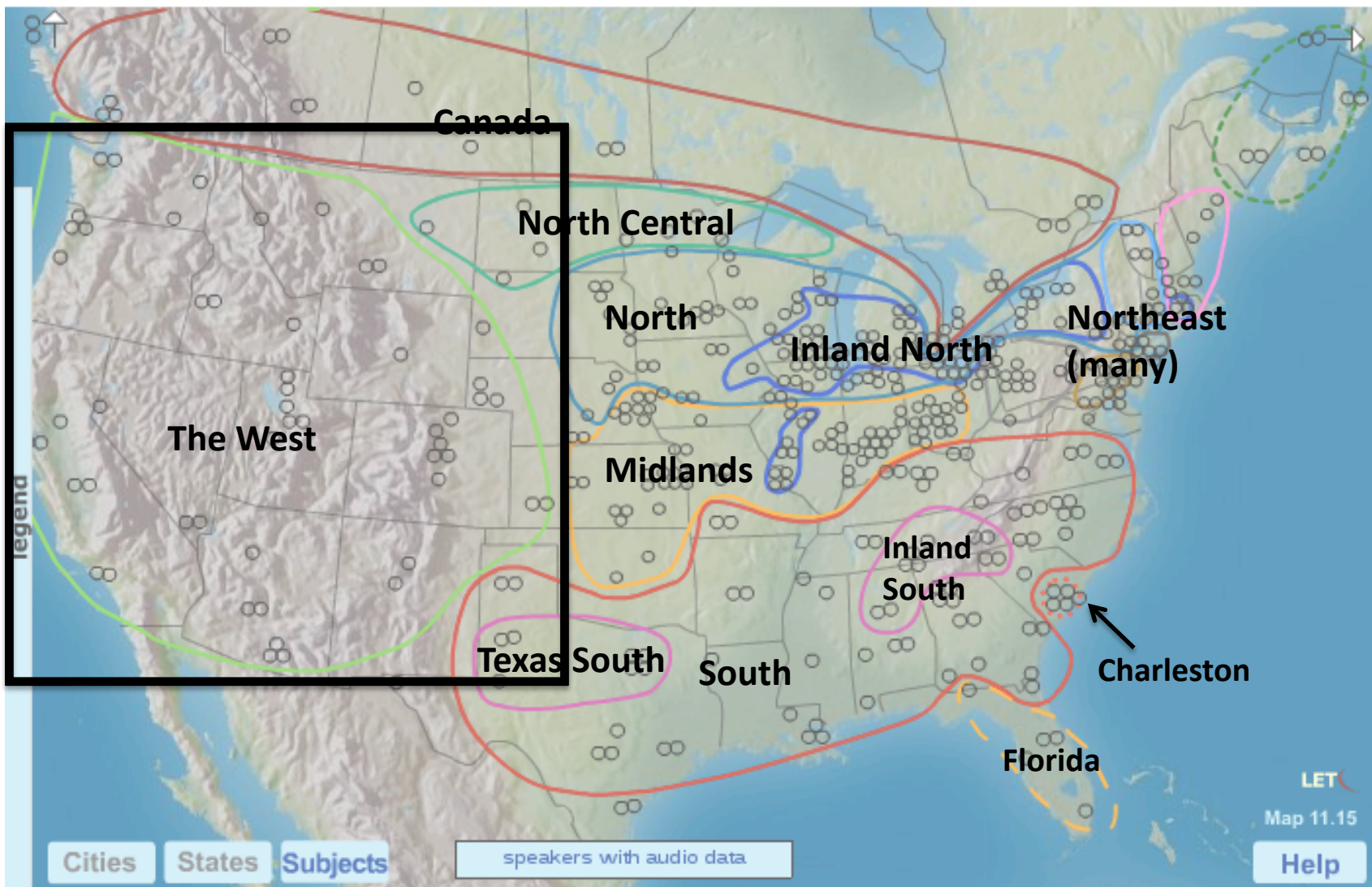


- Back vowel fronting
- Some transitional SVS and southern mergers, no /ay/-monophthongization

# Midlands - Morphosyntax

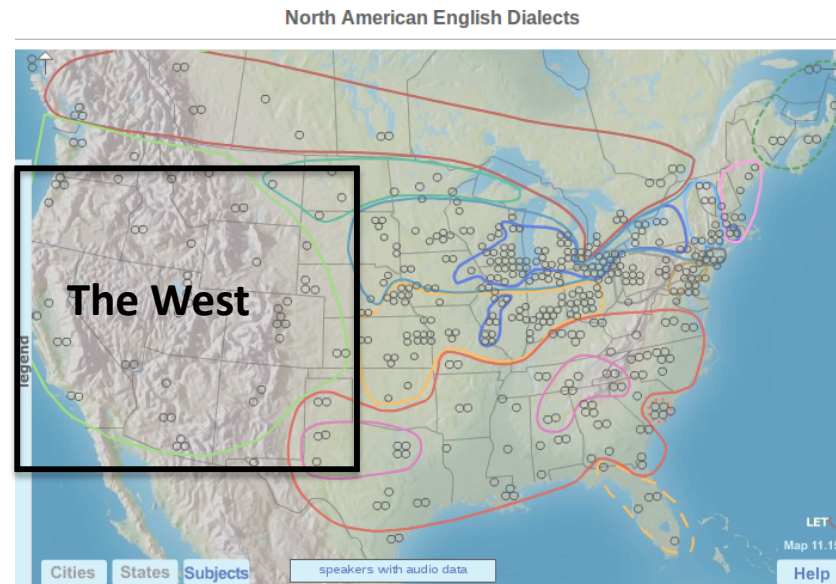


- Positive “anymore”
- Needs X-ed



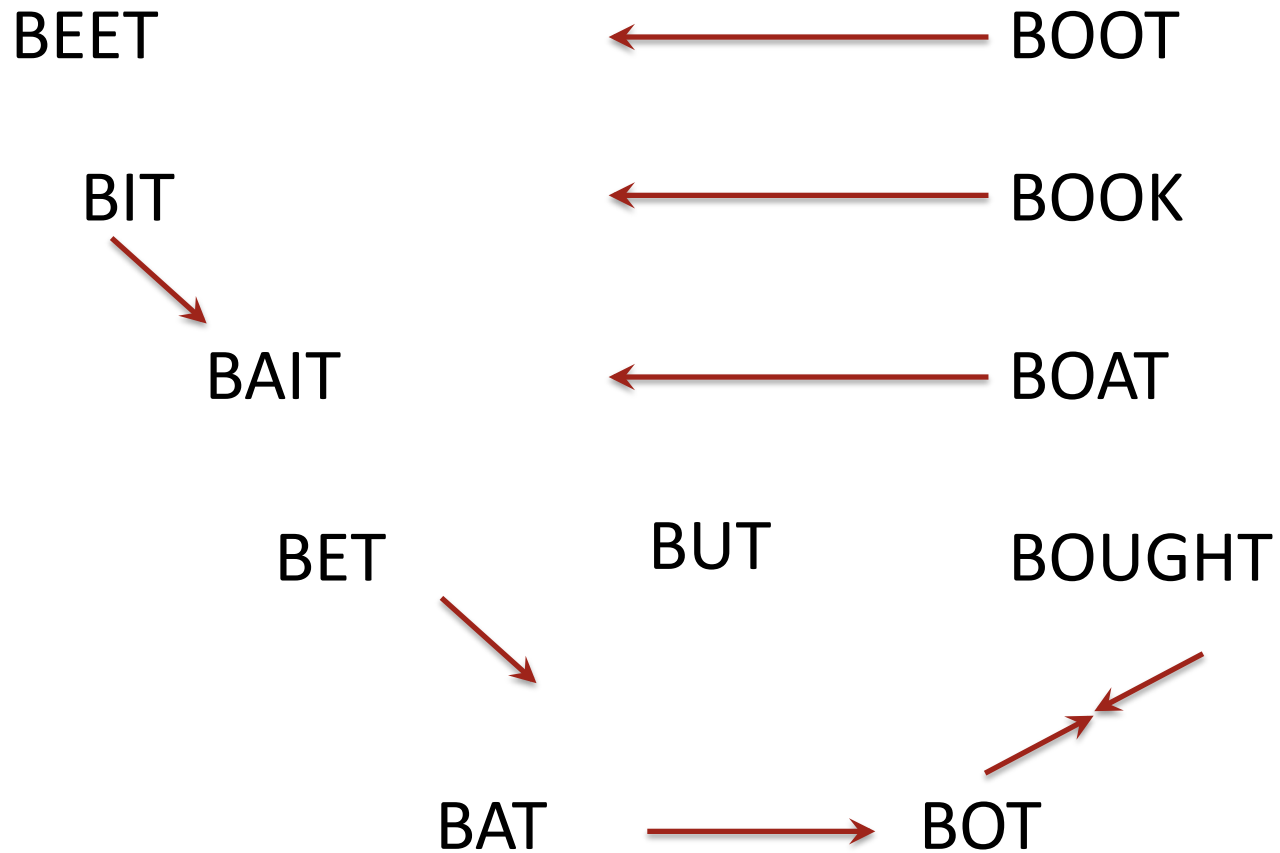
# The West

- According to **ANAE**, the West, Canada, and some of the Midlands = “Third Dialect”
- Most distinctive feature is low-back merger
- What’s wrong with this picture?





# California Vowel Shift





## Major Migration Patterns

1930s: 'Dust Bowl' migration

200,000 migrants from  
Oklahoma, Texas, Colorado,  
Kansas, New Mexico, Arkansas

# The Southwest

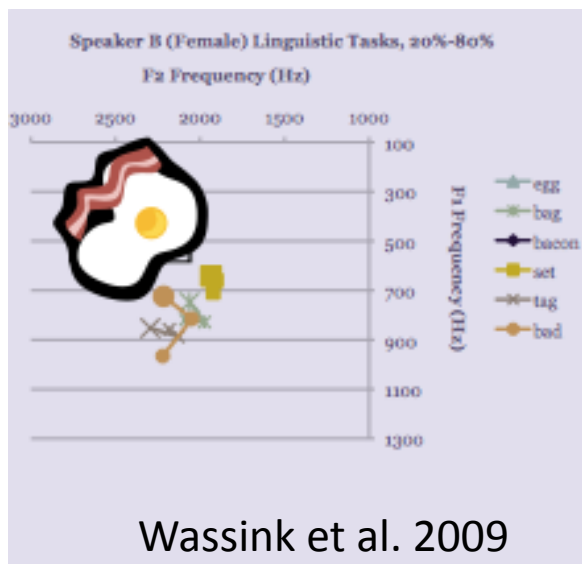


- Some CVS features
- Some SVS features
- Positive “anymore”

Hall-Lew 2004

# The Pacific Northwest

- Some features of CVS
- Some features similar to North Central
  - Pre-velar BAT and BET raising (egg, bag)



**Oregon:** Becker et al. 2013;  
McLarty & Kendall 2014

**Washington:** Wassink et al. 2009