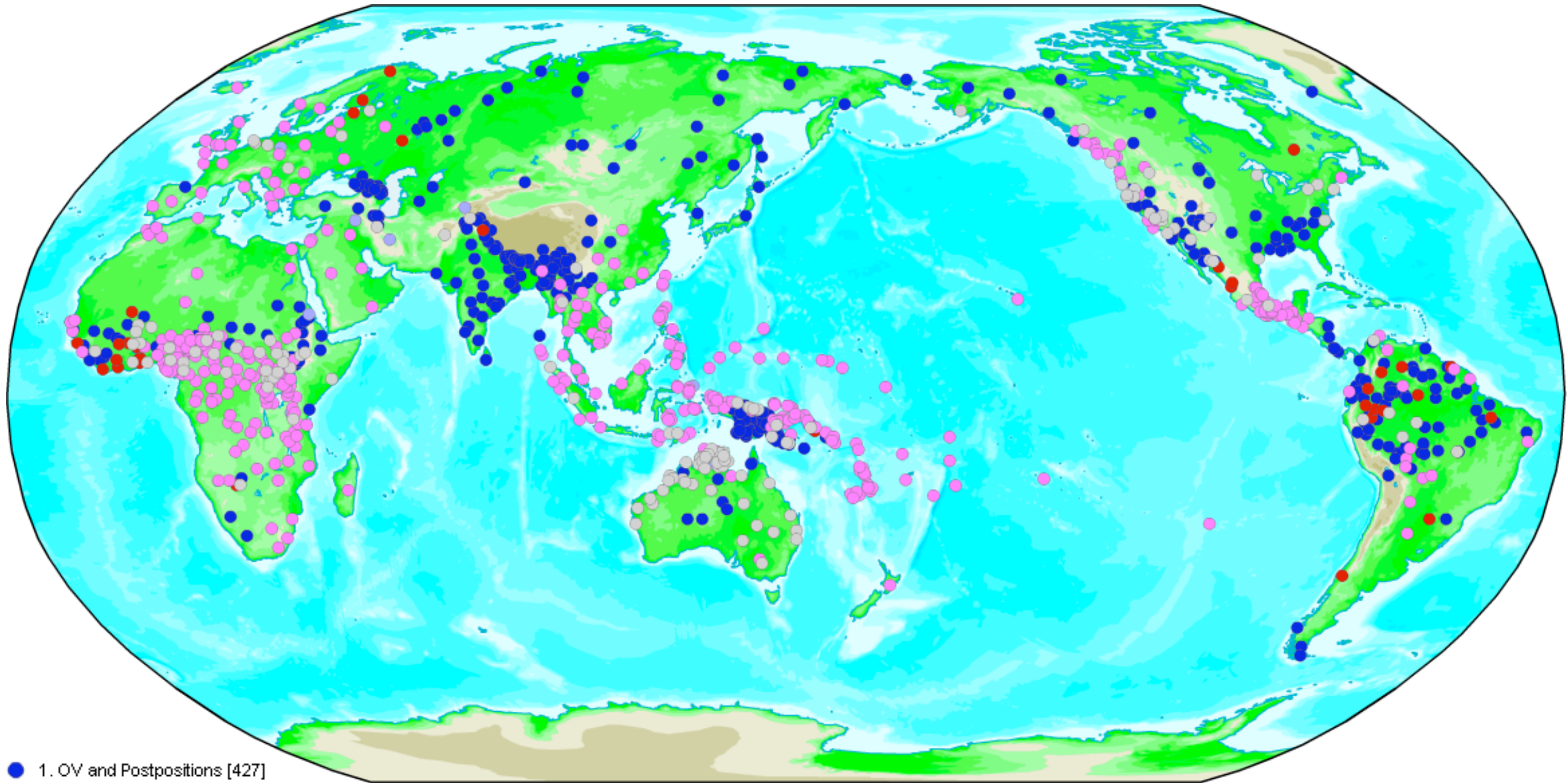# Revamping the World Atlas of Language Structures

Michael Cysouw & Mihai Albu

Problems:
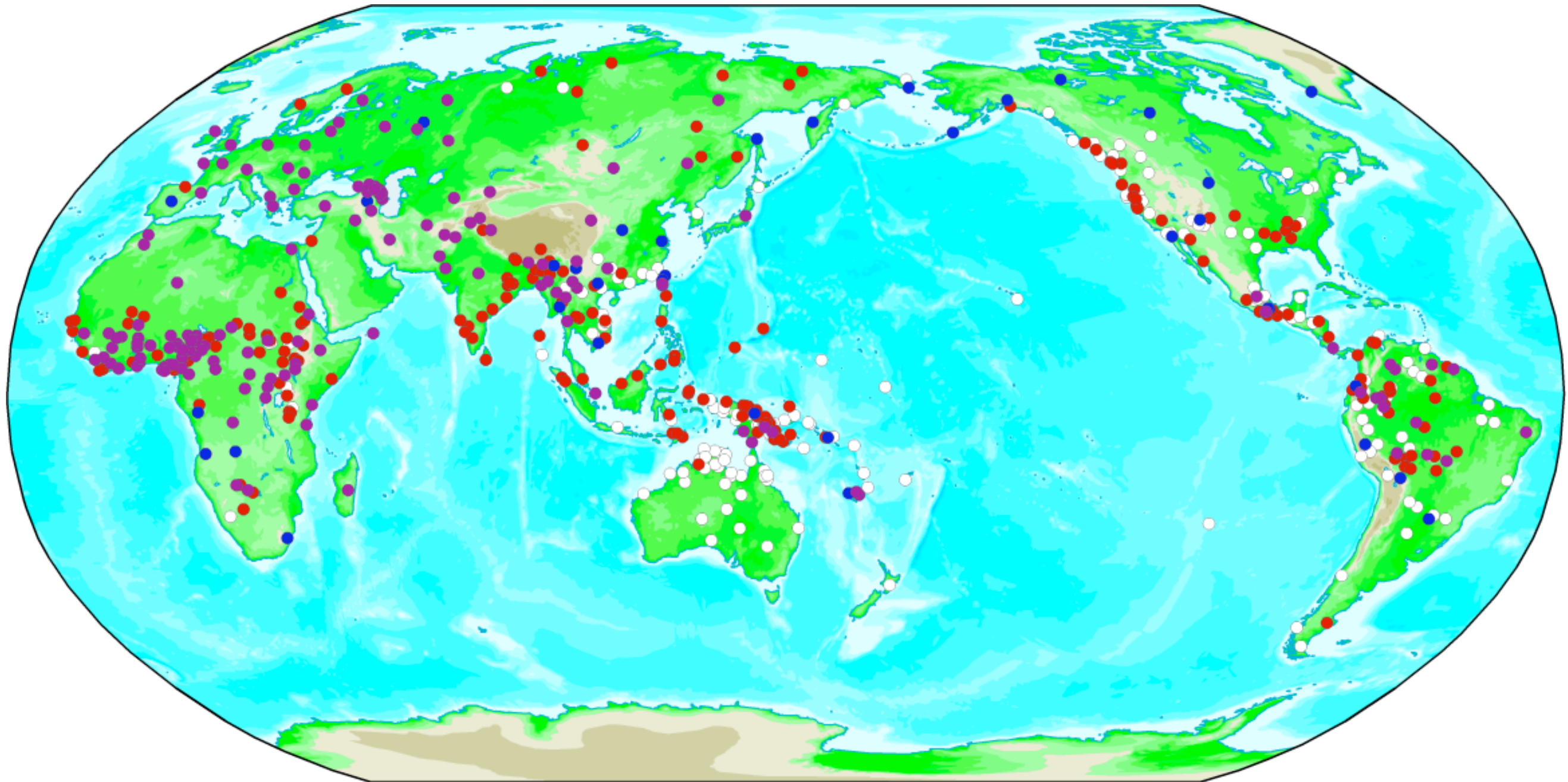
- Independent parameters are combined

- Dependencies between parameters

- No relative similarities available

Map 95: Order of Object-Verb and Order of Adposition-NP

- 1. OV and Postpositions [427]
- 2. OV and Prepositions [10]
- 3. VO and Postpositions [38]
- 4. VO and Prepositions [417]
- 5. Other [141]

Map 4: Voicing in Plosives and Fricatives

○ 1. No voicing constrast [181]
● 2. In plosives alone [189]
● 3. In fricatives alone [38]
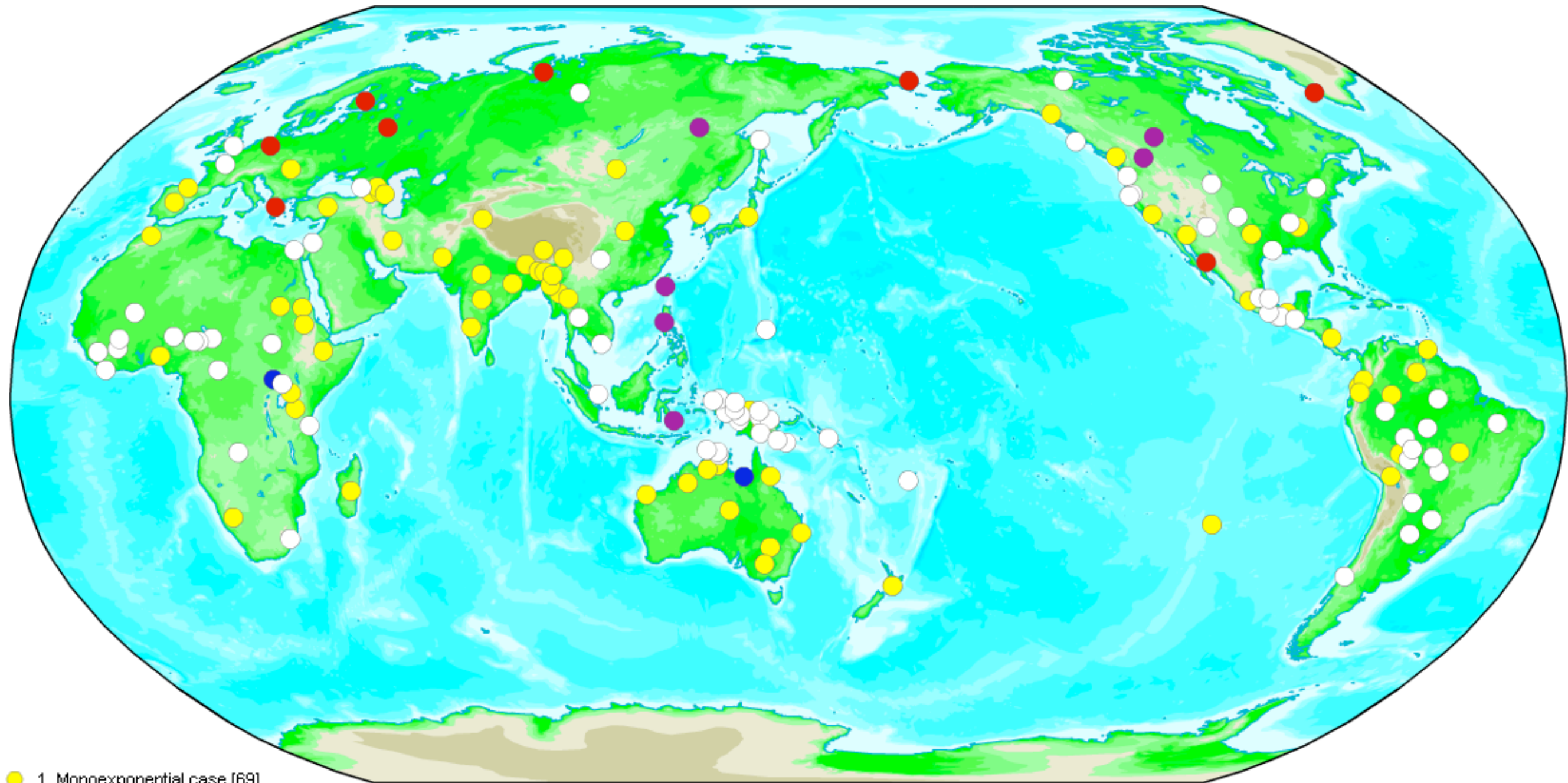● 4. In both plosives and fricatives [158]

Solution:
split, and disregard the original

Problems:

- Independent parameters are combined

- Dependencies between parameters
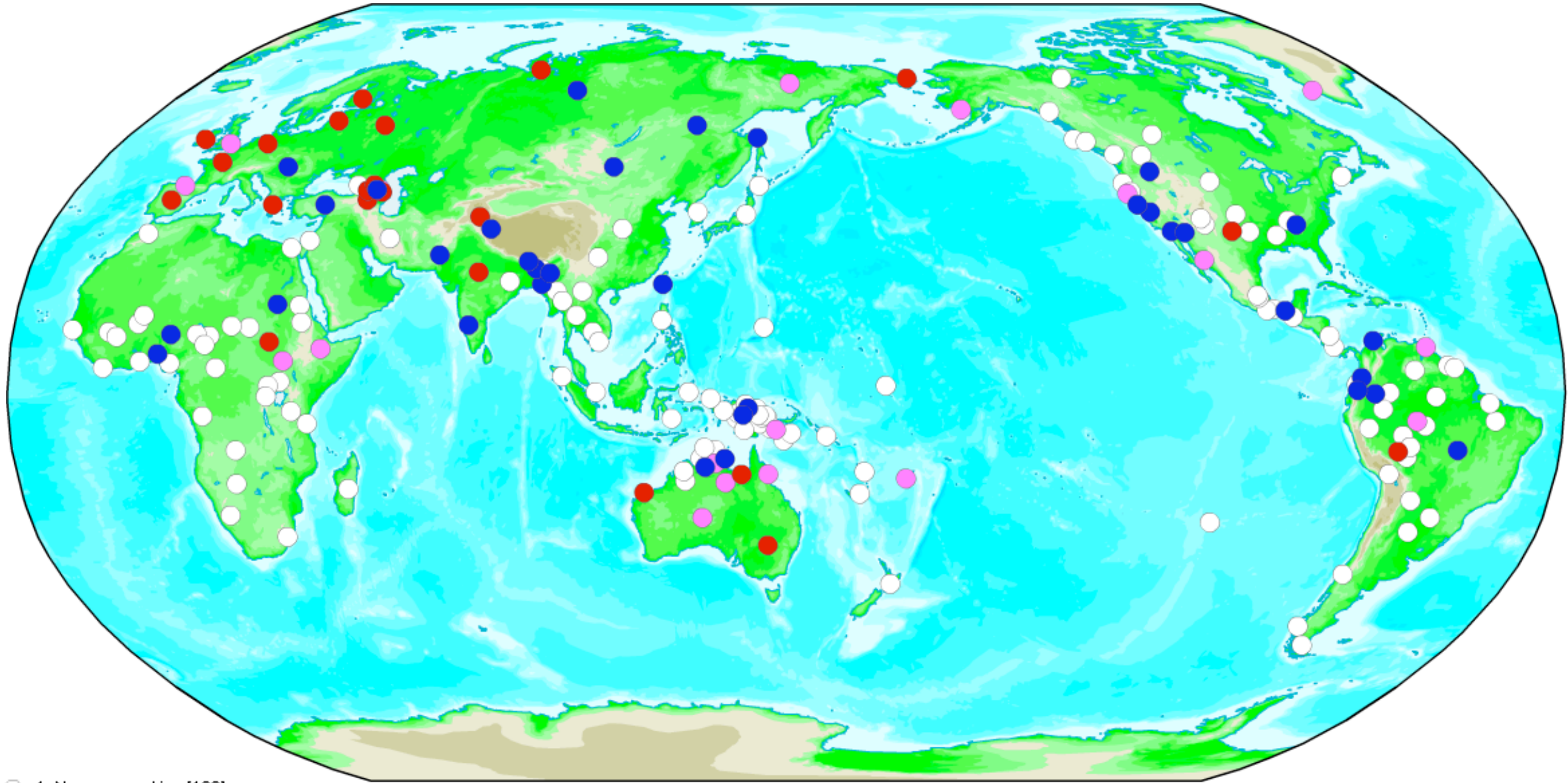
- No relative similarities available

Problem:
(Apparently) identical values

Map 21: Exponence of Selected Inflectional Formatives

1. Monoexponential case [69]
2. Case + number [8]
3. Case + referentiality [6]
4. Case + TAM [2]
5. No case [75]

Map 28: Case Syncretism
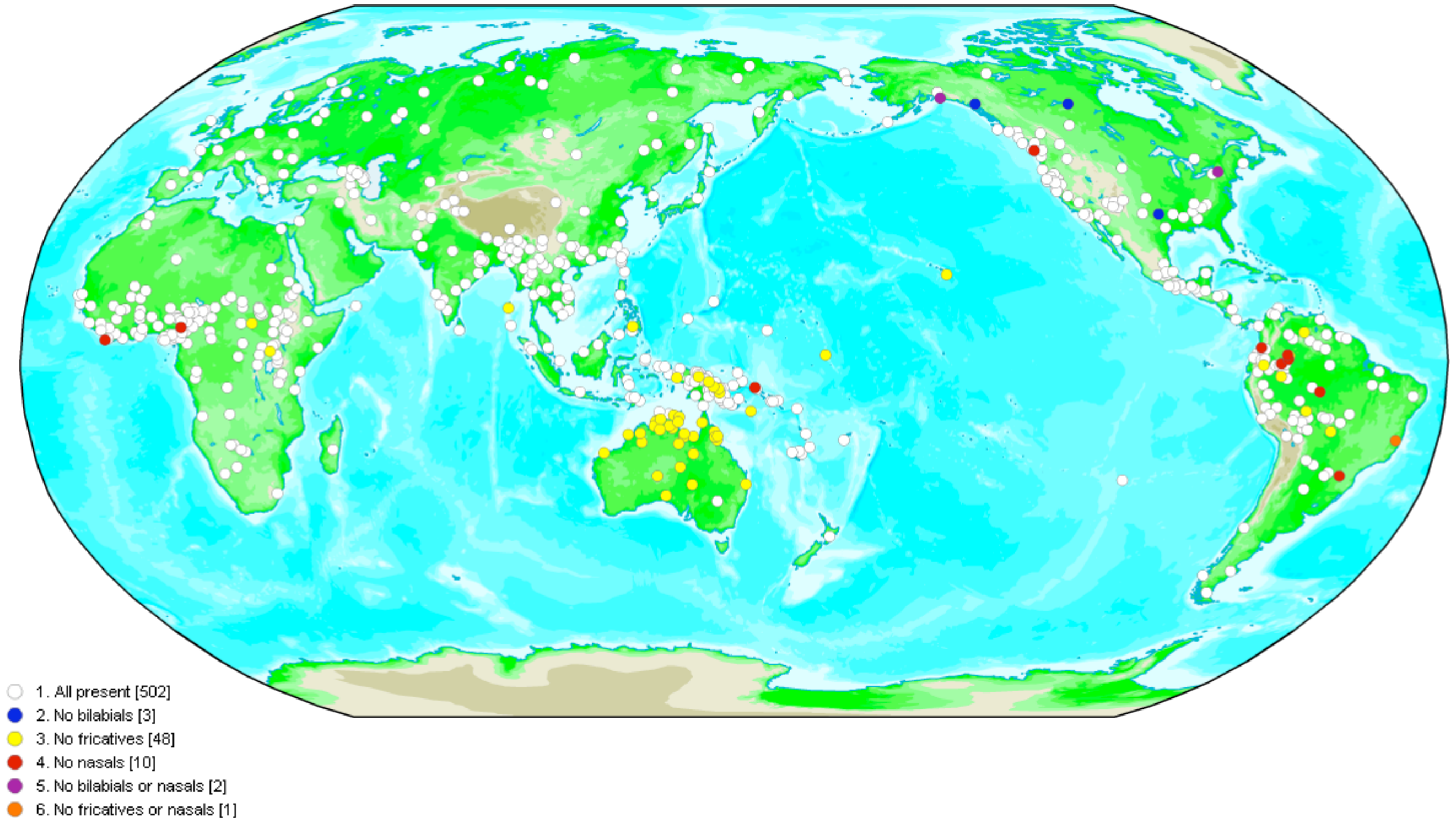

1. No case marking [123]
2. Core cases only [18]
3. Core and non-core [22]
4. No syncretism [34]
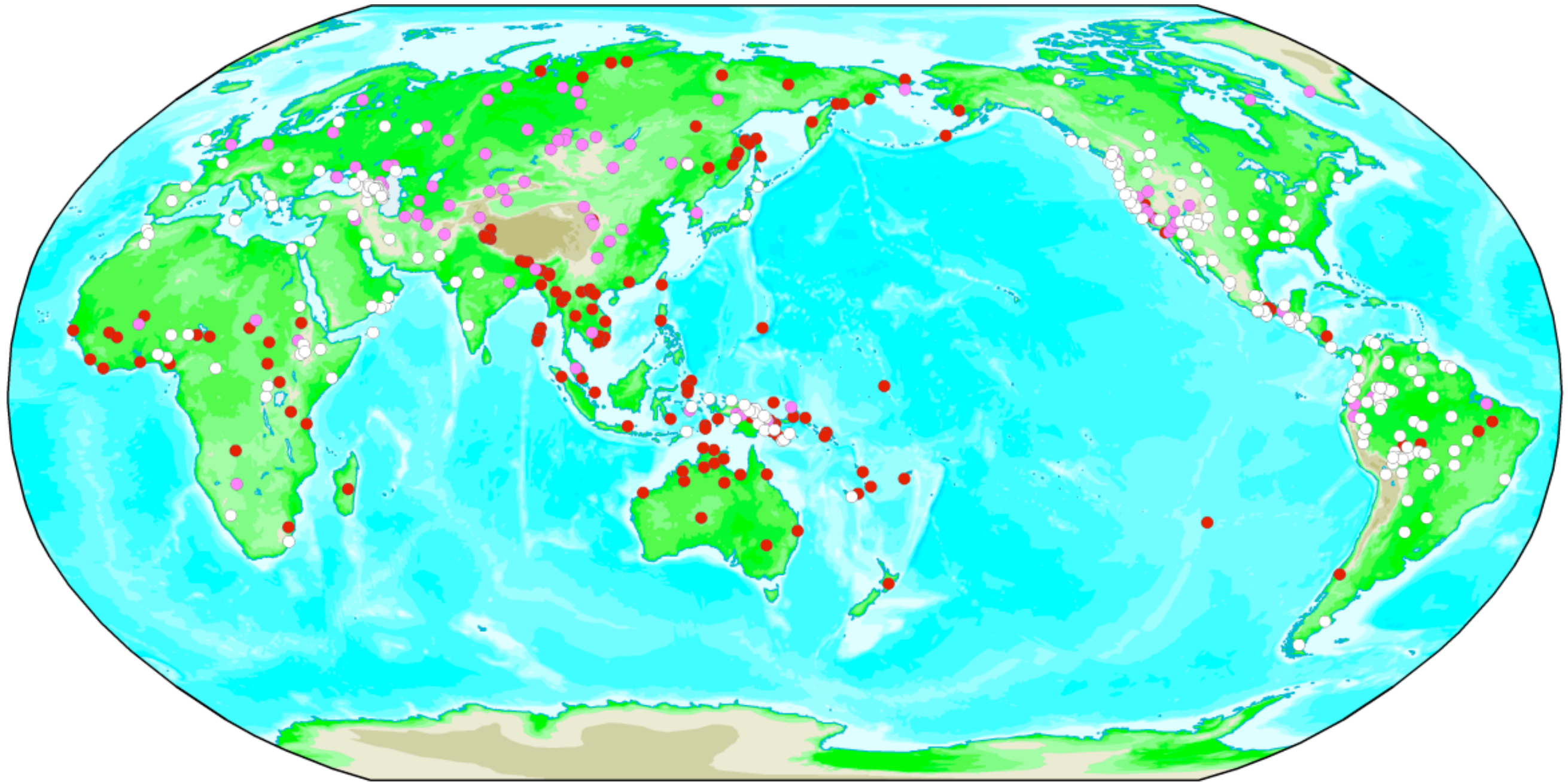
Differences in Definition and in Data-interpretation

	no case (map 28)	case (map 28)
no case (map 21)	48	8
case (map 21)	28	44

Problem:
groups of values are linked

Map 18: Absence of Common Consonants

- ○ 1. All present [502]
- ● 2. No bilabials [3]
- ● 3. No fricatives [48]
- ● 4. No nasals [10]
- ● 5. No bilabials or nasals [2]
- ● 6. No fricatives or nasals [1]
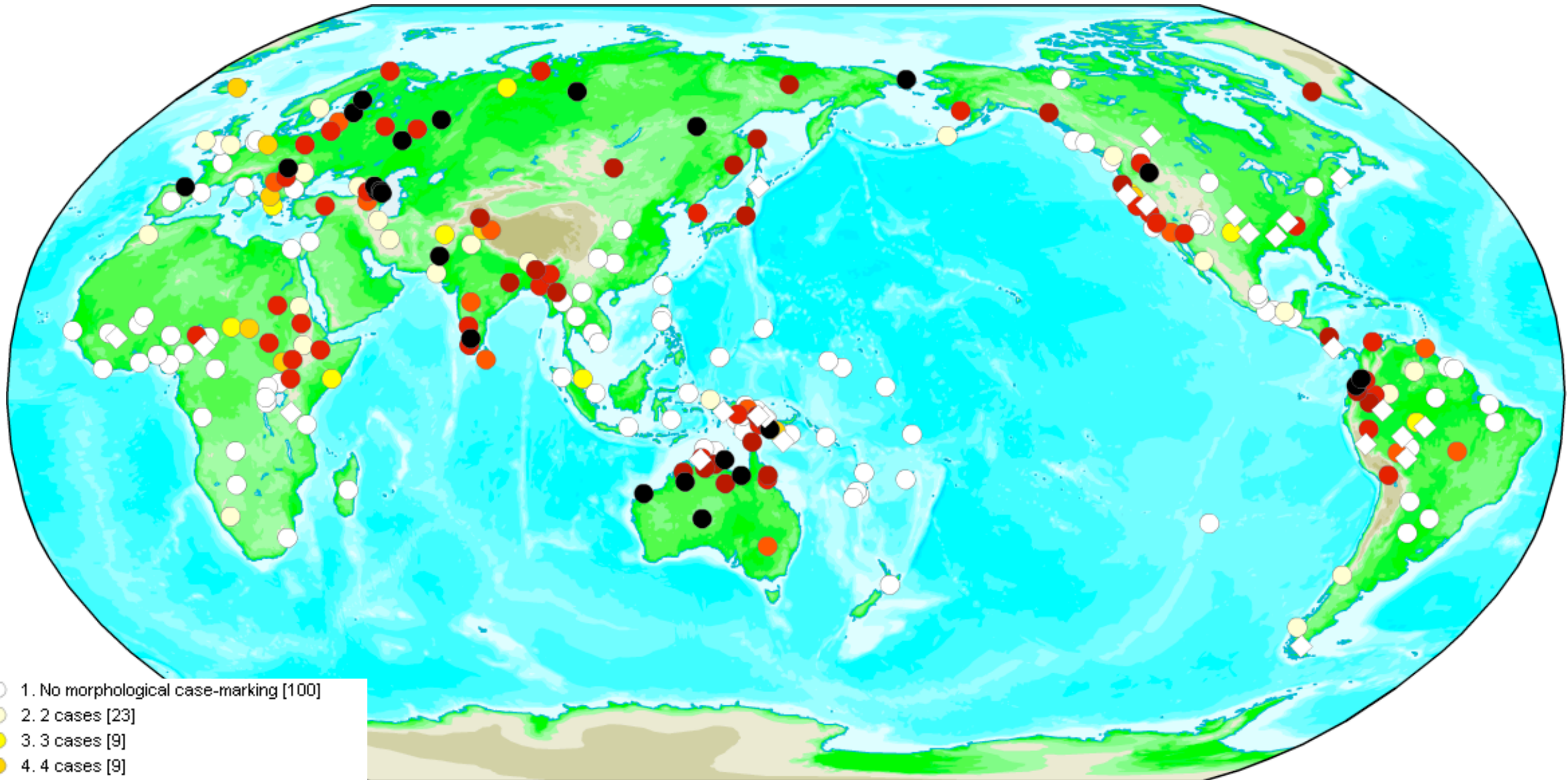
Map 9: The Velar Nasal (ŋ)

- 1. Initial velar nasal [146]
- 2. No initial velar nasal [88]
- 3. No velar nasal [234]

Definitional interaction, with reference to combined values

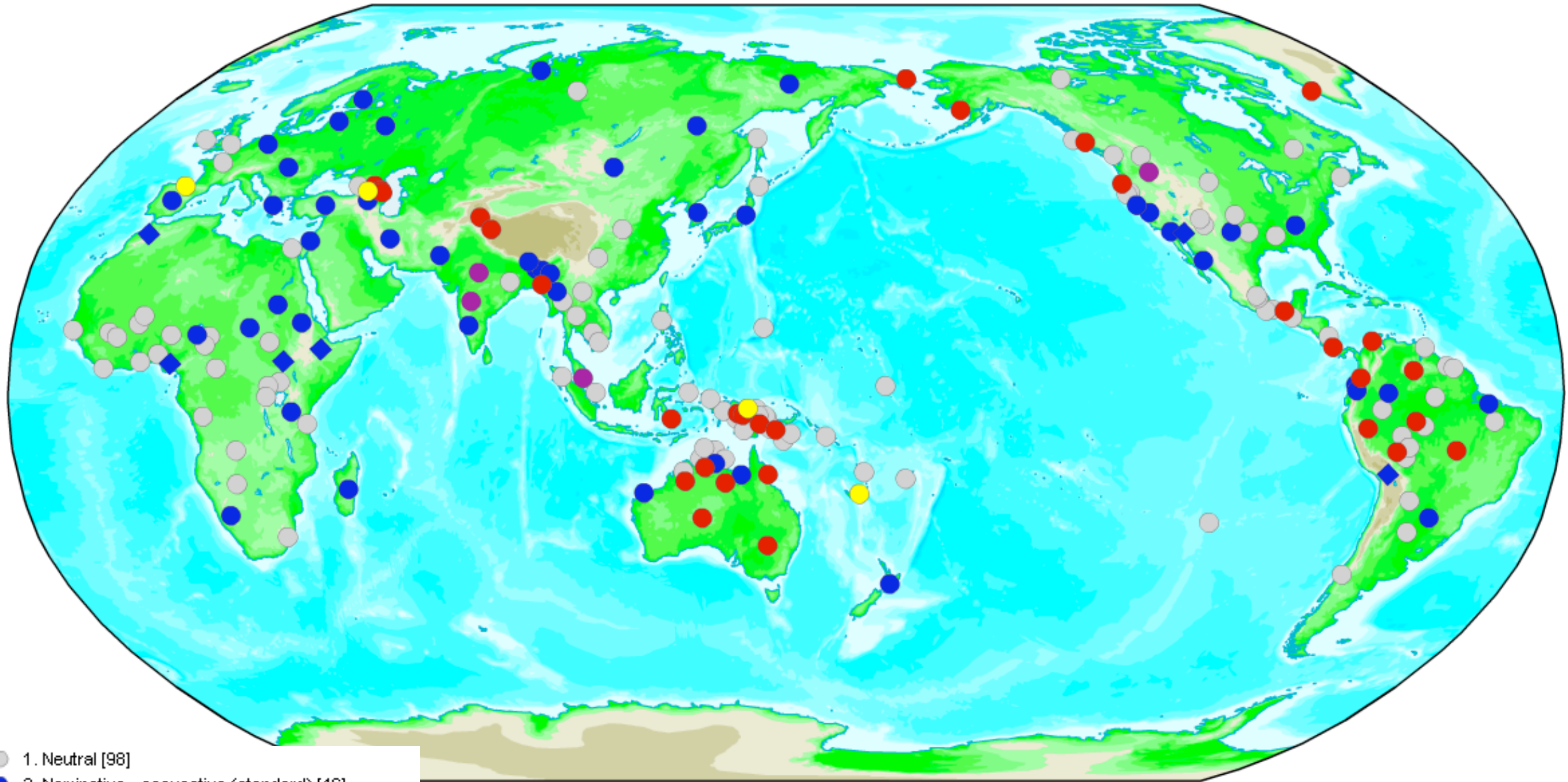|	no ŋ	ŋ
no nasals	6	0
nasals	127	112

Problem:
Covert Dependencies

Map 49: Number of Cases

○ 1. No morphological case-marking [100]
○ 2. 2 cases [23]
● 3. 3 cases [9]
● 4. 4 cases [9]
● 5. 5 cases [12]
● 6. 6-7 cases [37]
● 7. 8-9 cases [23]
● 8. 10 or more cases [24]
◇ 9. Exclusively borderline case-marking [24]

Map 98: Alignment of case marking of full noun phrases

1. Neutral [98]
2. Nominative - accusative (standard) [46]
3. Nominative - accusative (marked nominative) [6]
4. Ergative - absolutive [32]
5. Tripartite [4]
6. Active-inactive [4]

Marking of full noun phrases

	neutral alignment	non-neutral alignment
no case distinctions	62	12
case distinctions	17	77

Solutions:

- Make sets of interdependent features

- Choose maximally one out of each set

- Combine dependent features into one larger feature with very many values

Problems:

- Independent parameters are combined

- Dependencies between parameters

- No relative similarities available