

Big in Japan

Combating Systemic Bias Through Mobile Editing

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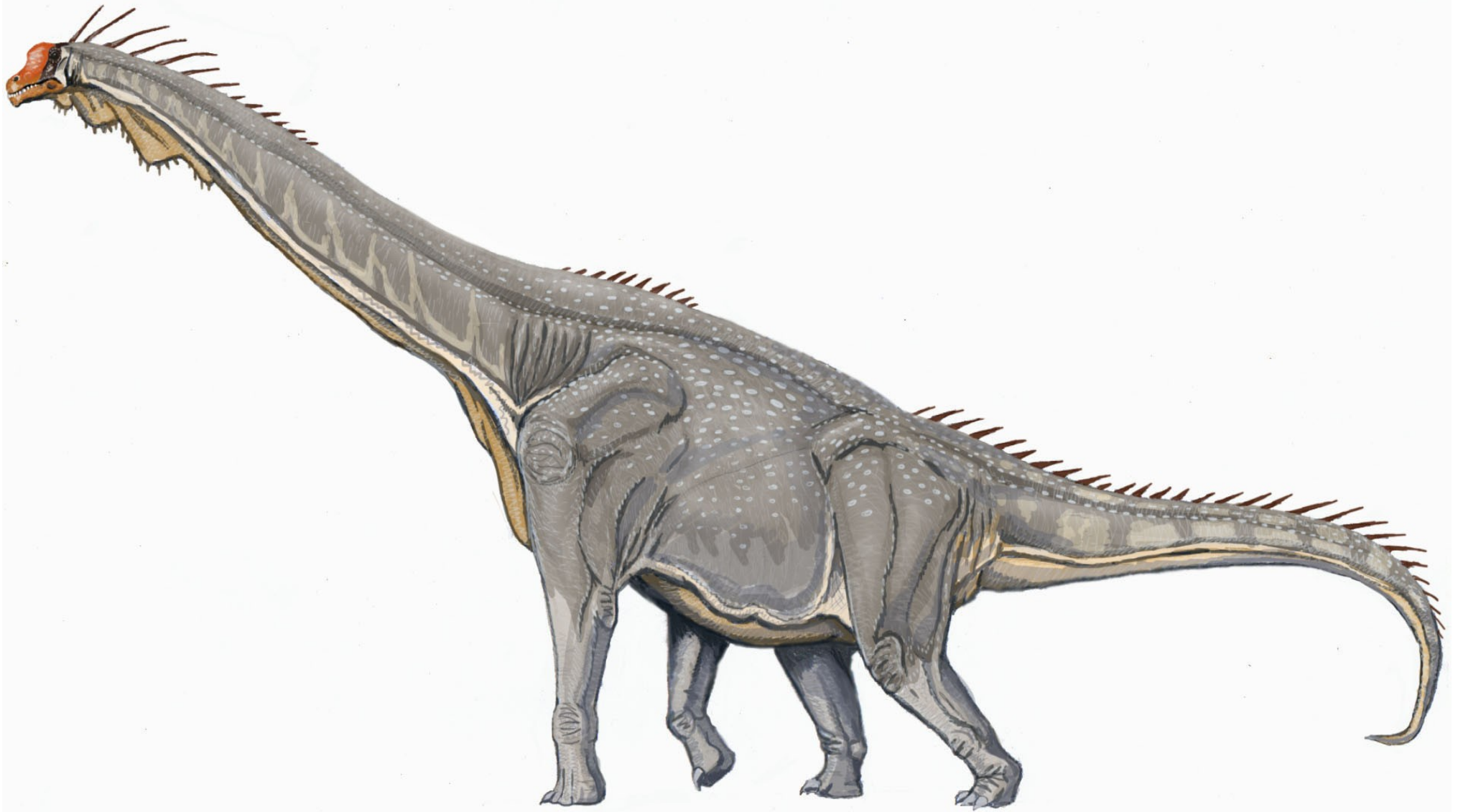
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(the increasing line length is accidental)

(alright, so now it's both deliberate and getting very silly)

/WHOIS

- Got editing in 2005, 968 articles/77,787 edits since.
- Traffic analyst at the WMF.
- On top of that, the geodata specialist.
- ...also The Guy Who Knows Where The Bodies Live.
- “Oliver! We have a horrifying dataset. Your problem!”



User:Дубгд, ru.wiki, 2007
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Brachiosaurus_DB.jpg

Ways of looking at Mobile

- Getting more contributions from people who already edit.
- Dealing with systemic bias.

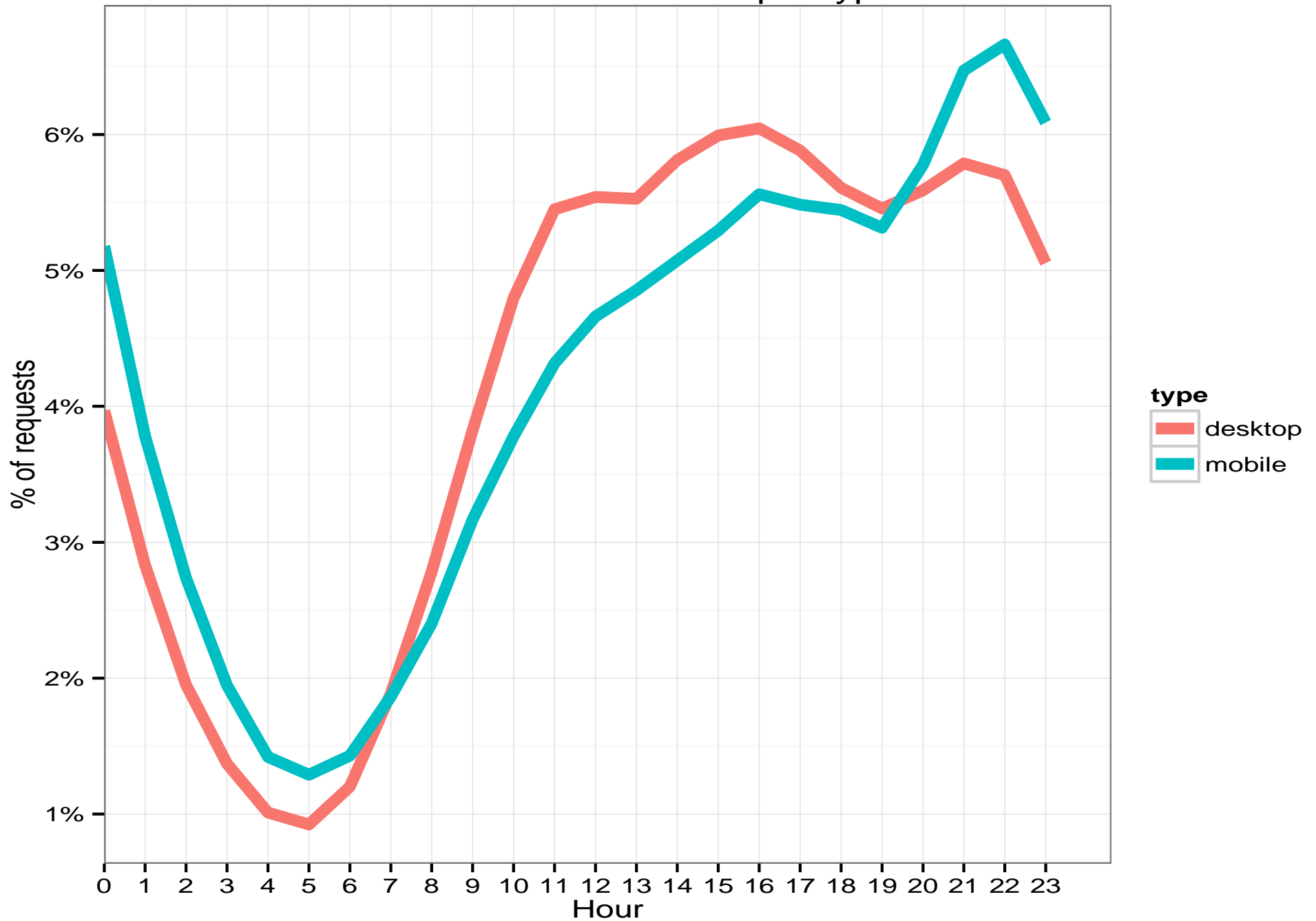
More contributions from existing people

- If we're getting edits on desktop devices, we're only getting *some* editor time.
- At work
- ..*pretending* to work.
- At home and unwinding in front of the PC

More contributions from existing people

- By reducing the barrier to mobile contributions, we enable edits:
- On the train
- In front of the TV
- In bed
- More opportunities to edit = more edits!

Edits by hour , all usergroups, all projects
>= 442155 observations per type



Take-aways

- I'll have a curry please!
- It's working! We get mobile contributions where we don't get desktop attention.
- Most people get really bored of their jobs starting around 1pm.

Combating systemic bias

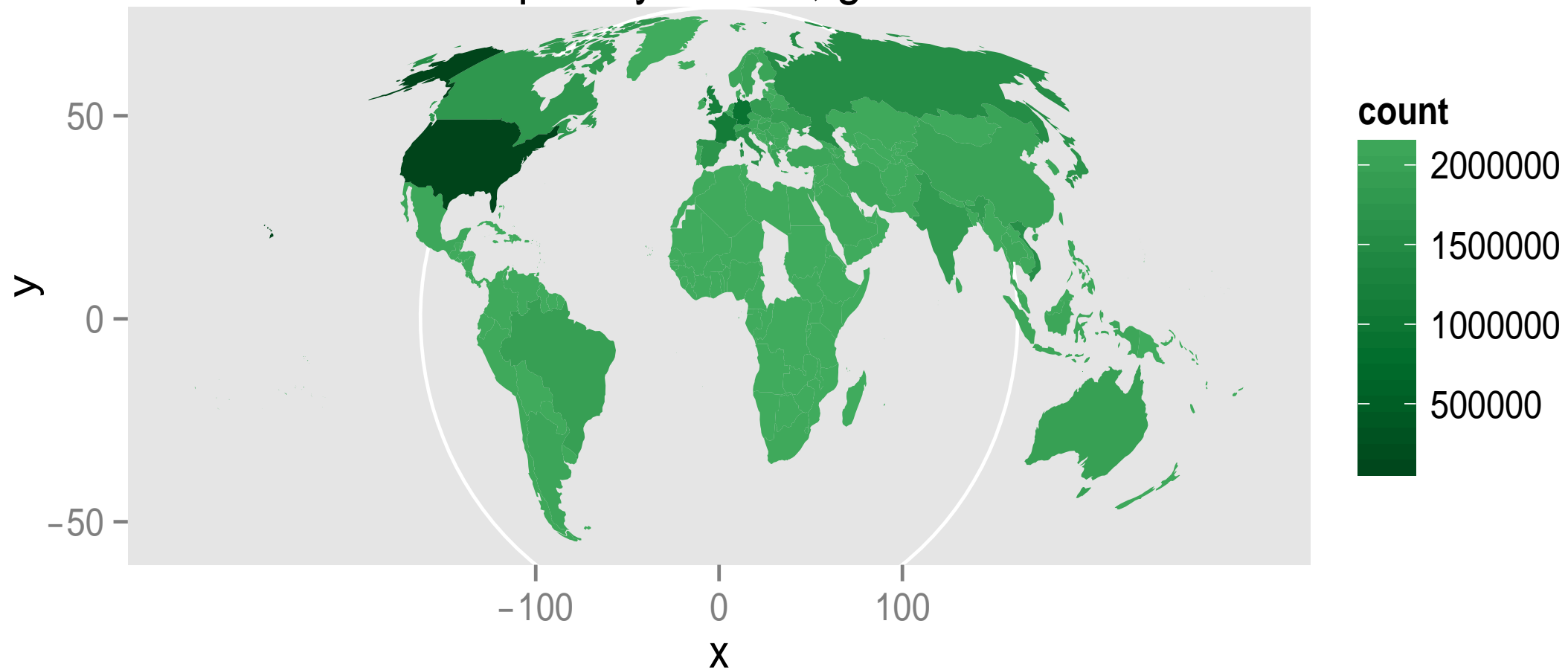
- A blocker to contributing to Wikipedia is access.
- By enabling more ways of accessing Wikipedia, we enable more ways of contributing to it.
- Mobile is such a way.
- How bad is the *status quo*?

“What is required...

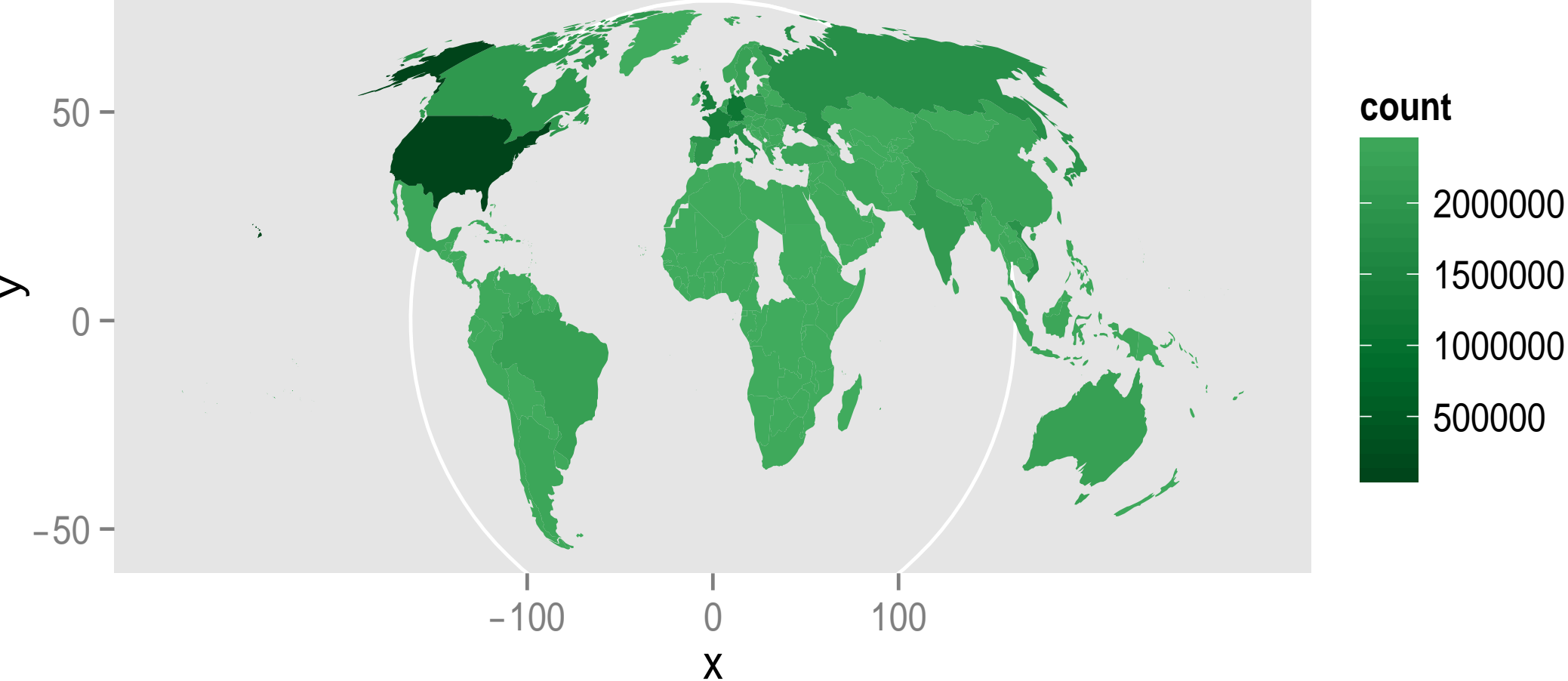
is a citizen of the world...reporting things of the day as if two thousand years in the past and those of the place they live in as if two thousand leagues distant.”

Diderot, *Encyclopédie* (1751)

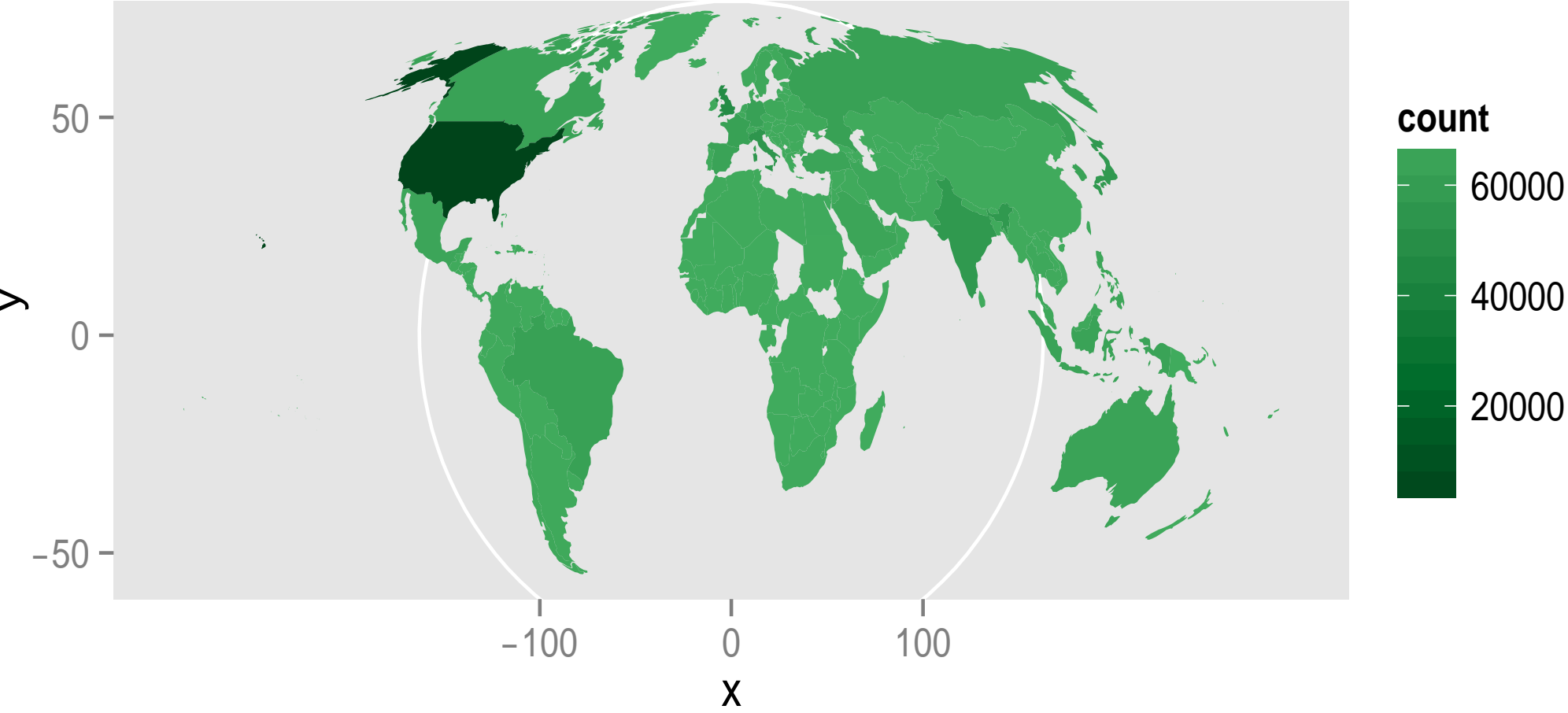
Desktop-only editors, geolocated



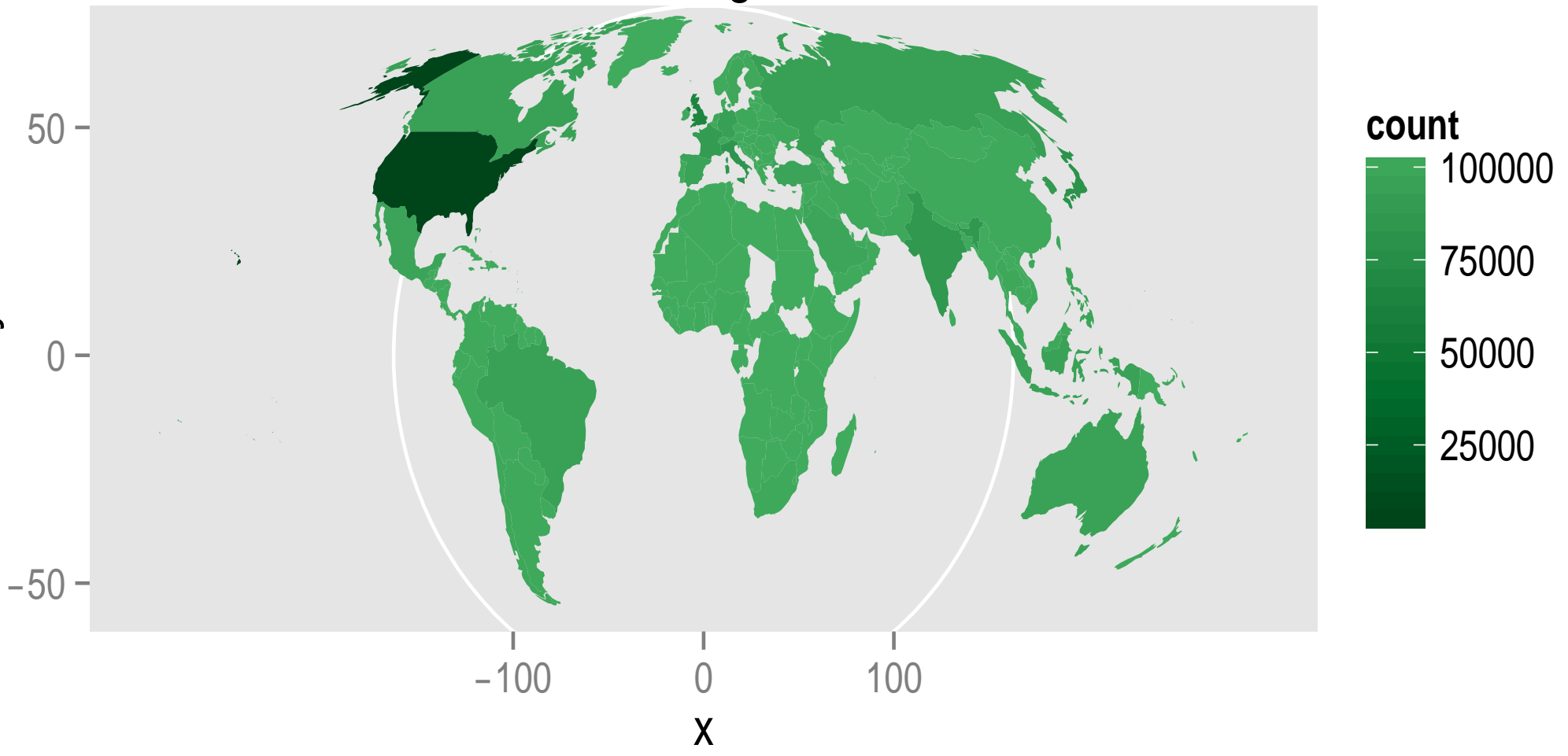
Desktop edits, geolocated



Editors with exclusively mobile contributions, geolocated



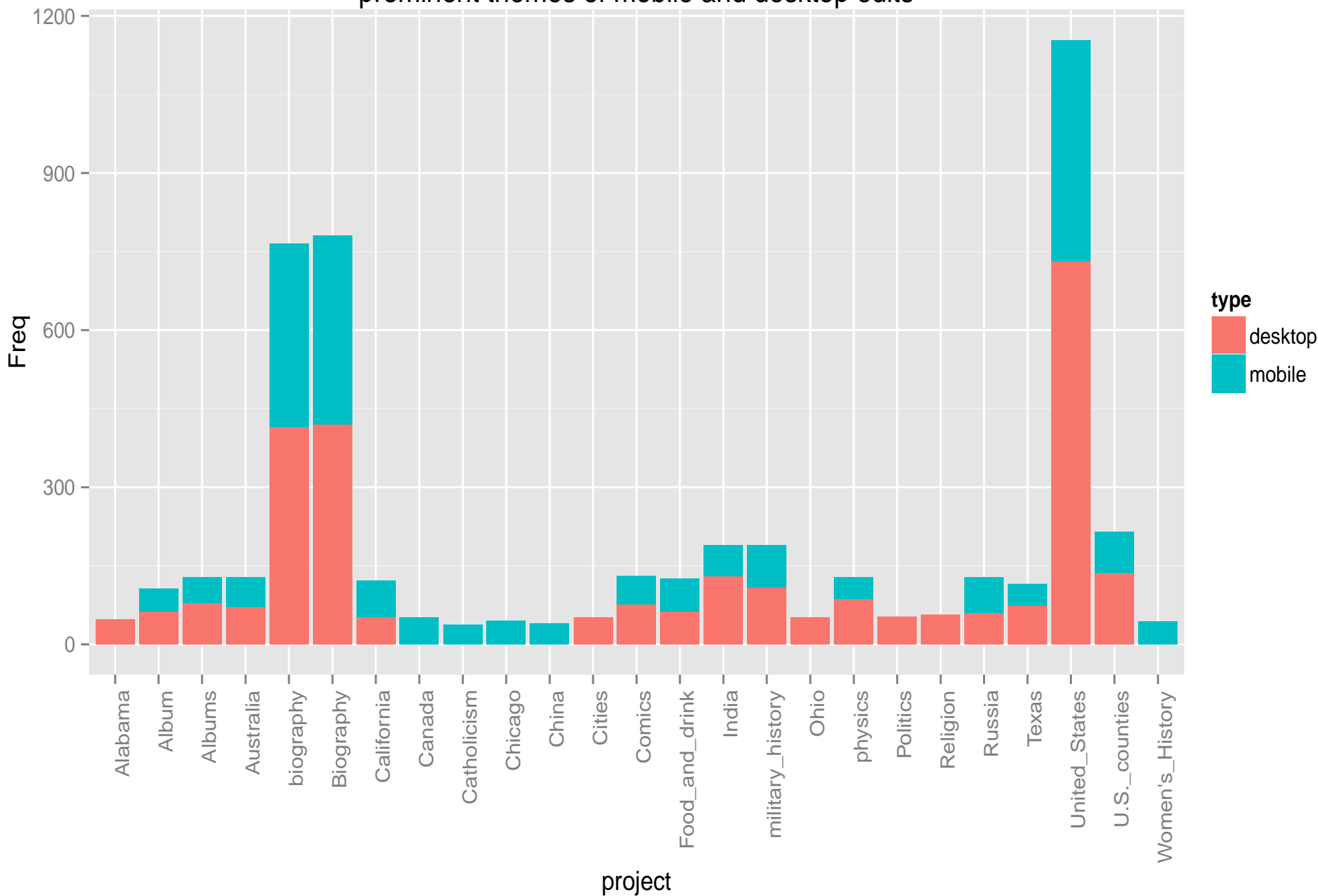
Mobile edits, geolocated



What about combating bias through content?

- The distribution is a problem; we need people from different cultural backgrounds
- But maybe mobile editors edit in different areas and we can make up the difference there?

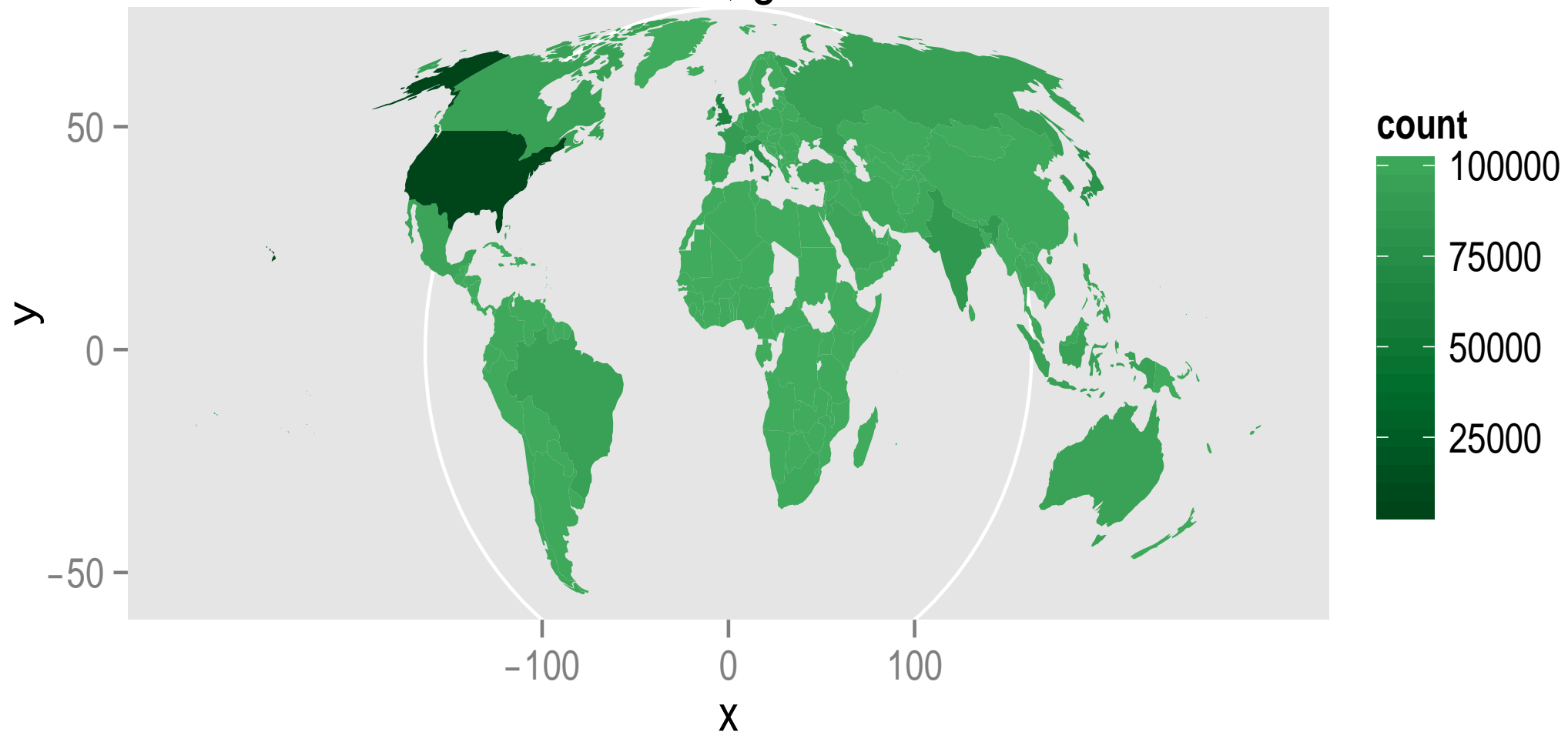
prominent themes of mobile and desktop edits



Conclusion

- We're doing a good job getting people to edit at different times thanks to mobile.
- We're not doing a good job getting people to edit different things.
- We're *definitely* not doing a good job getting different people to edit.

Mobile edits, geolocated



How to help

- Go to mobile-I and tell the Mobile developers about the problems you face trying to contribute on Mobile;
- Write code! Patches, new features, better language support, kitchen.sink()
- Come up with research questions – how can we do this better? What are we missing? What should we be measuring?
- ...email them to me. I'm incredibly tired.

Credits

Codebase, visualisations, datasets:

<https://github.com/Ironholds/BigInJapan>

Polygon venting: Leila Zia

Statistics venting: Adam Hyland

Metadata venting: Dario Taraborelli

Misc. venting: Kim Bruning, Thomas Fish, James Forrester, David Gerard, Aaron Halfaker, Katie Horn, Daniel Jones, Erica Litrenta, Tom Morris, Rohit Patnaik, that unrepentant reprobate, Emily Temple-Wood, Thehelpfulone, Courtney Thurston, Kat Walsh, Margaret Wander, Molly White.

...I do a lot of venting.

Questions?