

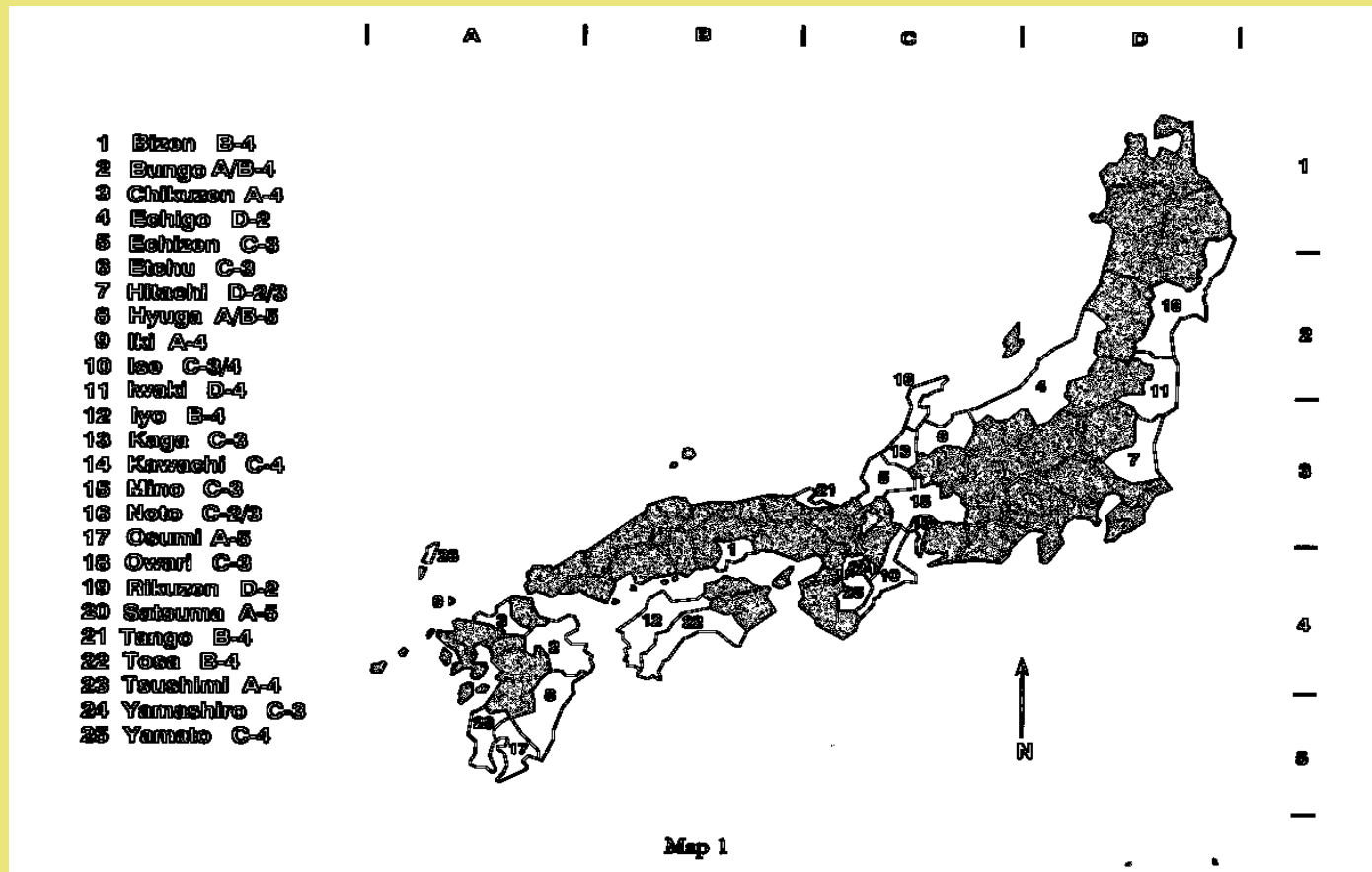
***Finding Past Places in Present  
Time: Locating Japanese  
Pre-Modern Villages***

Pacific Neighborhood Consortium  
Annual Conference, Bangkok, Thailand  
November 8, 2003

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Ohio State University

# Background

- Historian
  - Japan: ca 1580 – 1900
  - Social, local (Hokuriku)

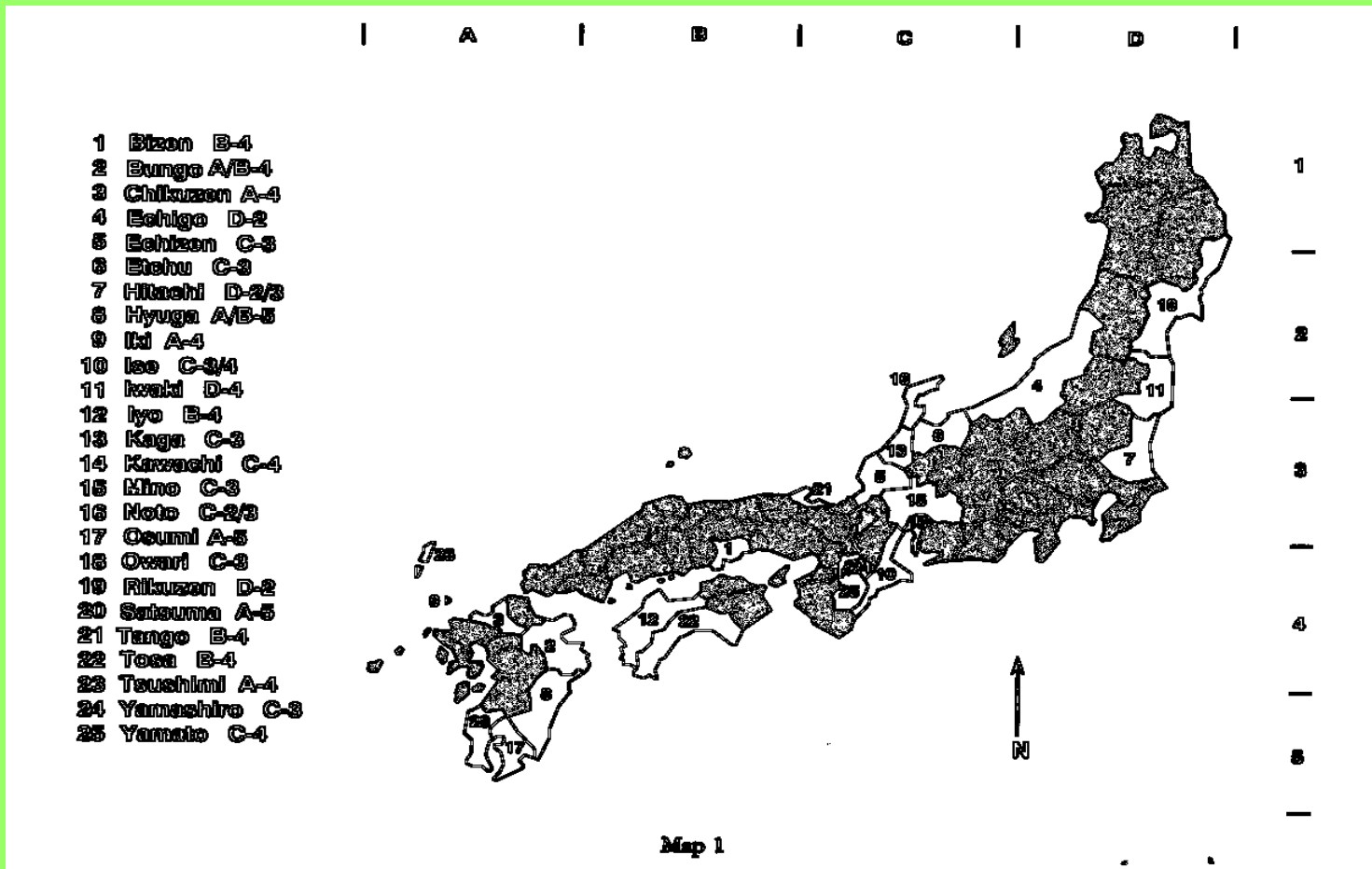


# Key Research Concerns

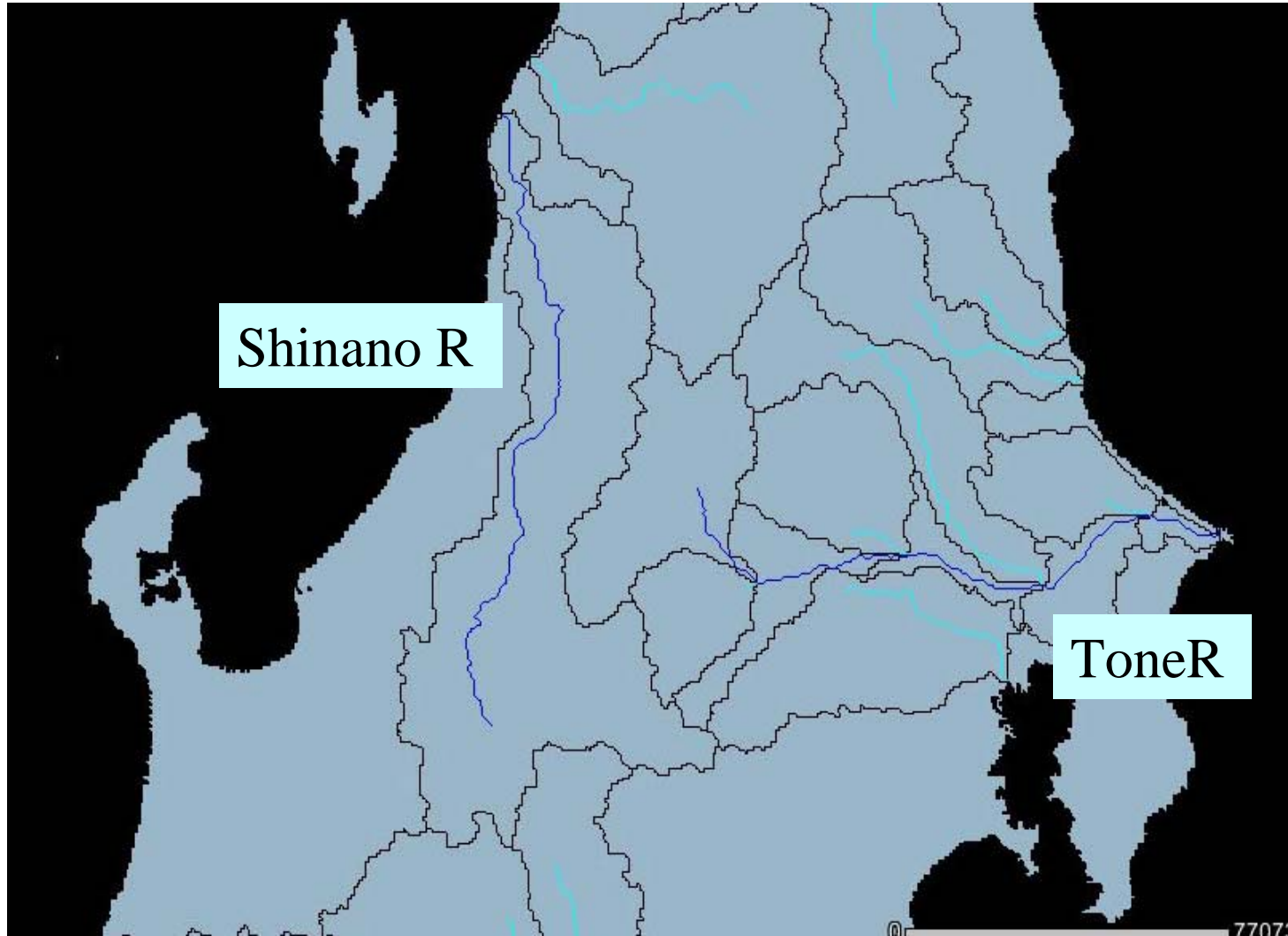
- Conditions determining levels of land taxation, ca. 1600 – 1868 (what factors did domains consider?)
- Institutions of corporate (village) control of arable land
- Tie to natural surroundings & conditions
  - Non-Agricultural considerations in setting land tax (fish, forestry; distance from castle town & administrative headquarters)
  - Propensity to flooding/landslides linked to corporate landholding

# Implications for a GIS Study

- Concern for many cases
  - Tax data for Kaga domain



- Broad Area Coverage
  - Hydrological conditions that bear on particular locations

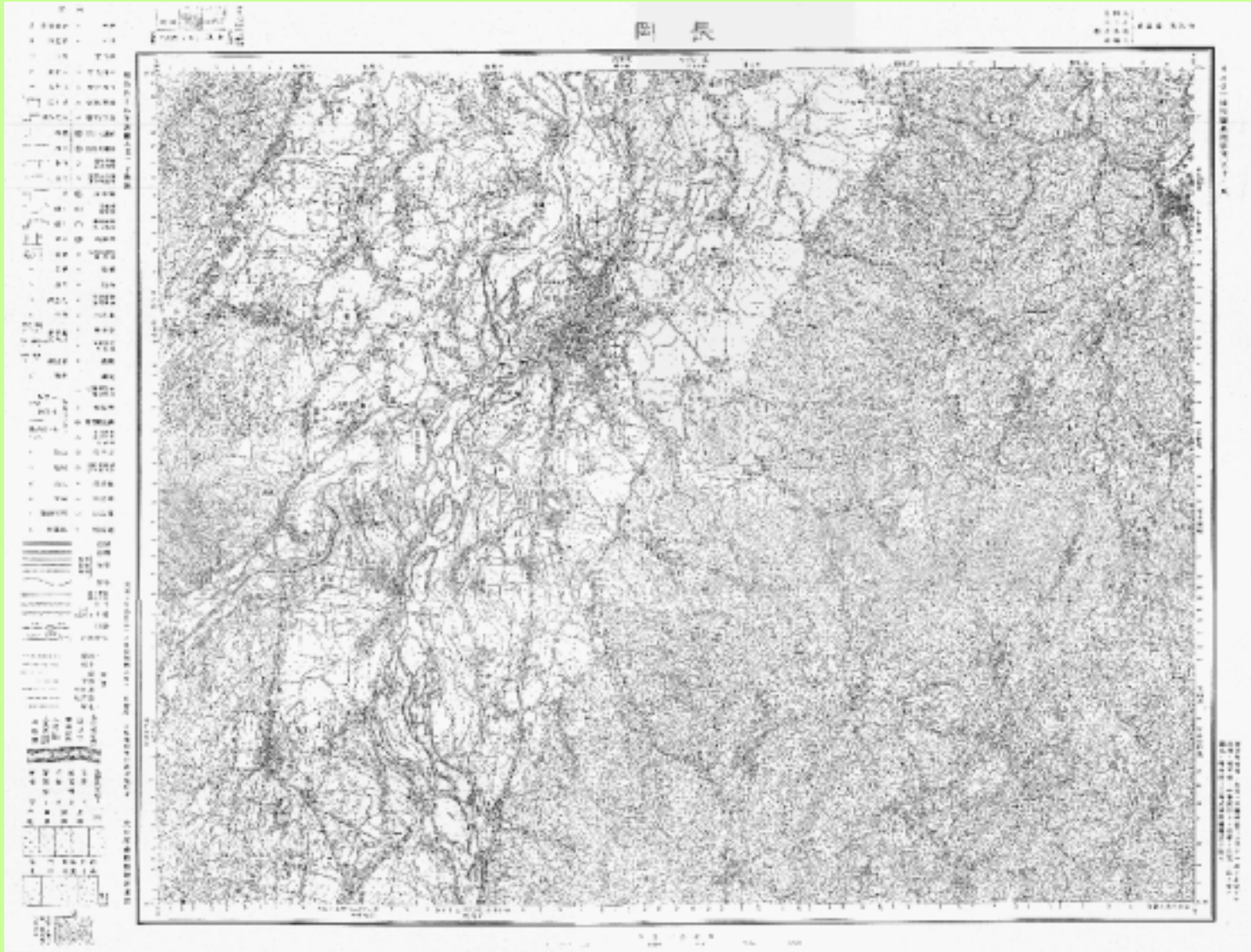


# Challenges of Numbers Further Compounded

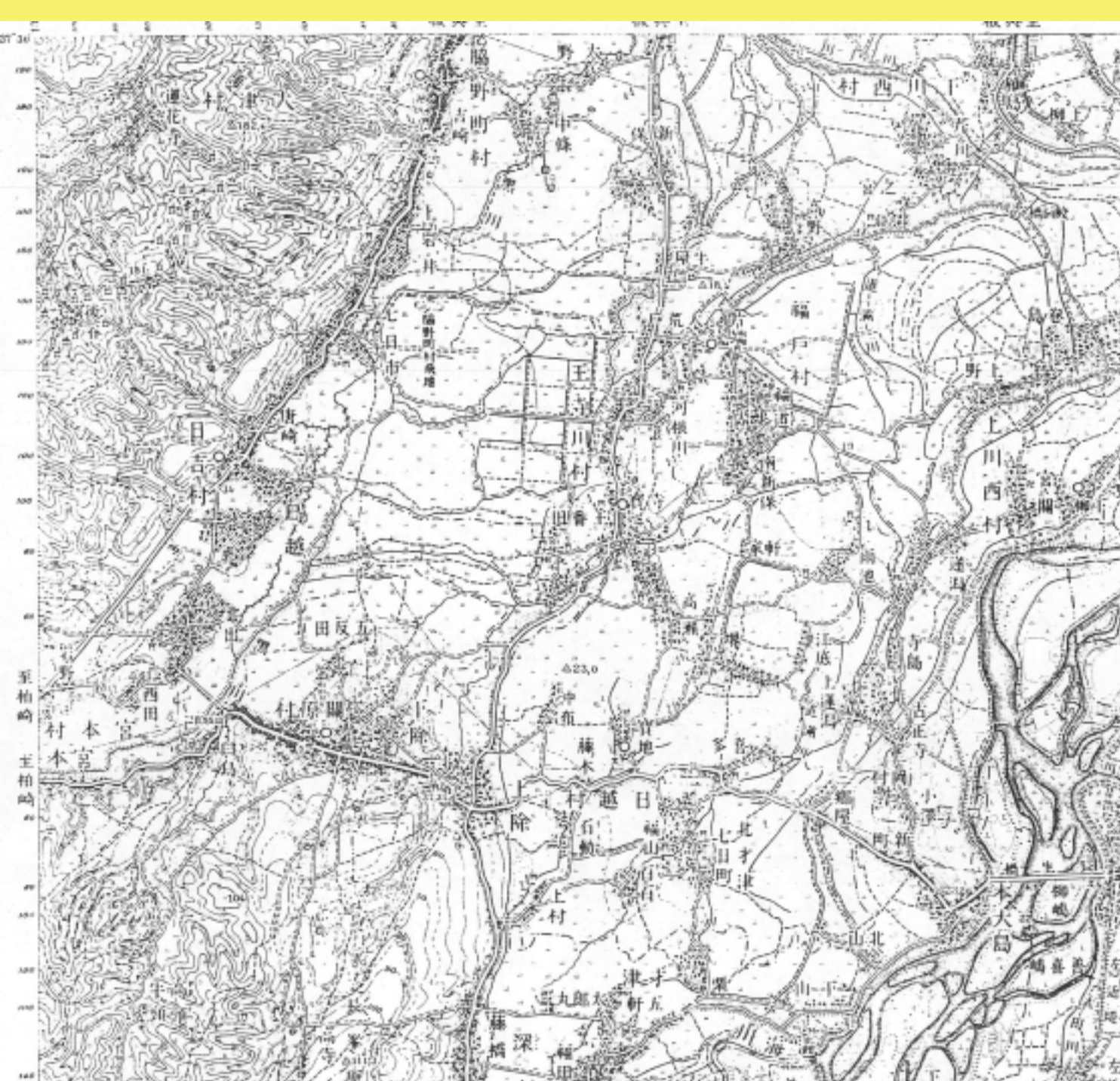
- Units of Taxation & Land Organization (Villages) “disappear” with appearance of first modern government (1868 – 1912)
  - Amalgamation into large political units
- Remaining traces
  - Station names
  - Bus stops
  - Etc.
- How to recover large numbers of locations?
  - Central point
  - Boundaries

# Early Scientific Mapping in Japan

- 1:50,000 series, early 20<sup>th</sup> century





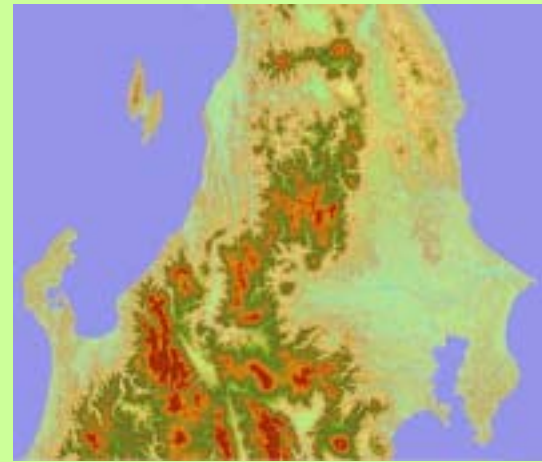


Some “settle-  
ment” data  
from 1:50000  
maps

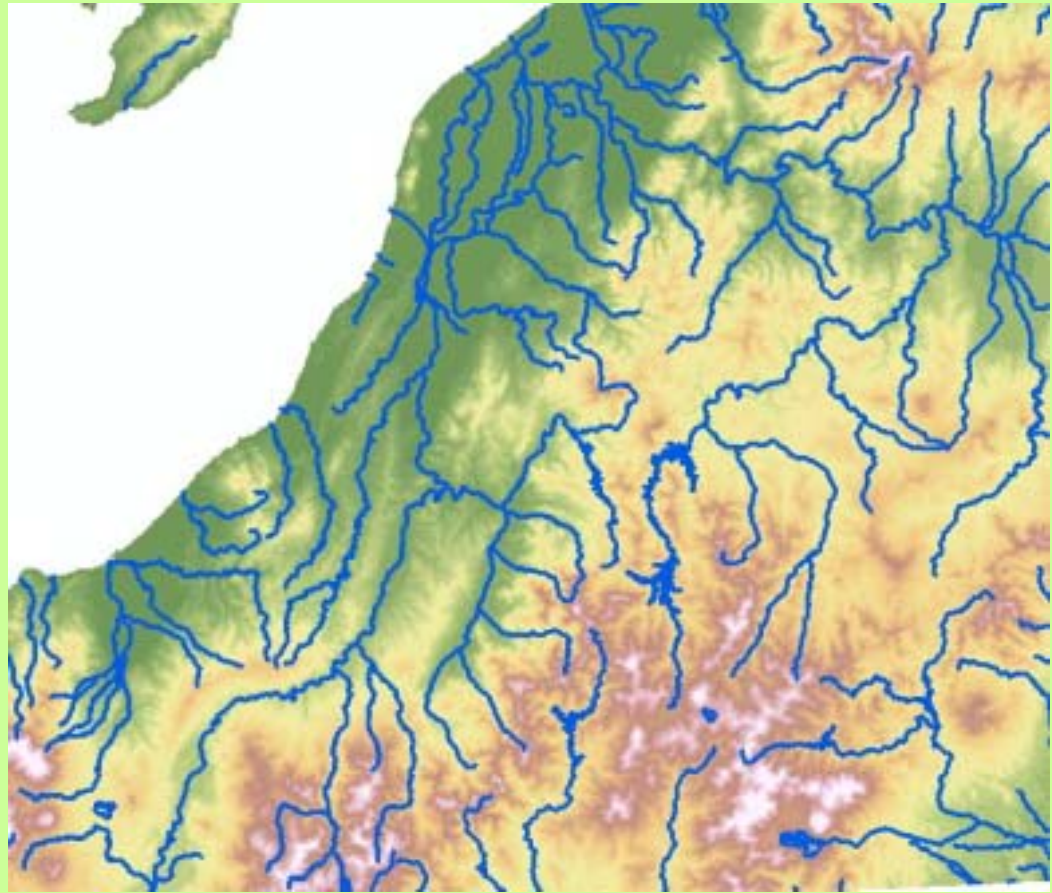
Are there alter-  
nate sources of  
location for re-  
search involv-  
ing many plac-  
es?



# Comparison NLA data with Modern Maps & Local Knowledge



Niigata



Central Niigata  
(Nagaoka, Yoshikawa)

# Direct Comparison early 20<sup>th</sup> century 1:50k, late 20<sup>th</sup> century 1:25k Maps further discouraging



1:50000 early 20<sup>th</sup> Cent

1:25000 late 20<sup>th</sup> Cent

# Still some promise in Modern data

- National land agency publishes digital place names (natural features, customary names, parks, public facilities, etc.) on CD.
- Does this hold promise of providing, through maintenance of roster of customary names, etc., accurate location data for mid-19<sup>th</sup> century settlements?



# NLA CD Data

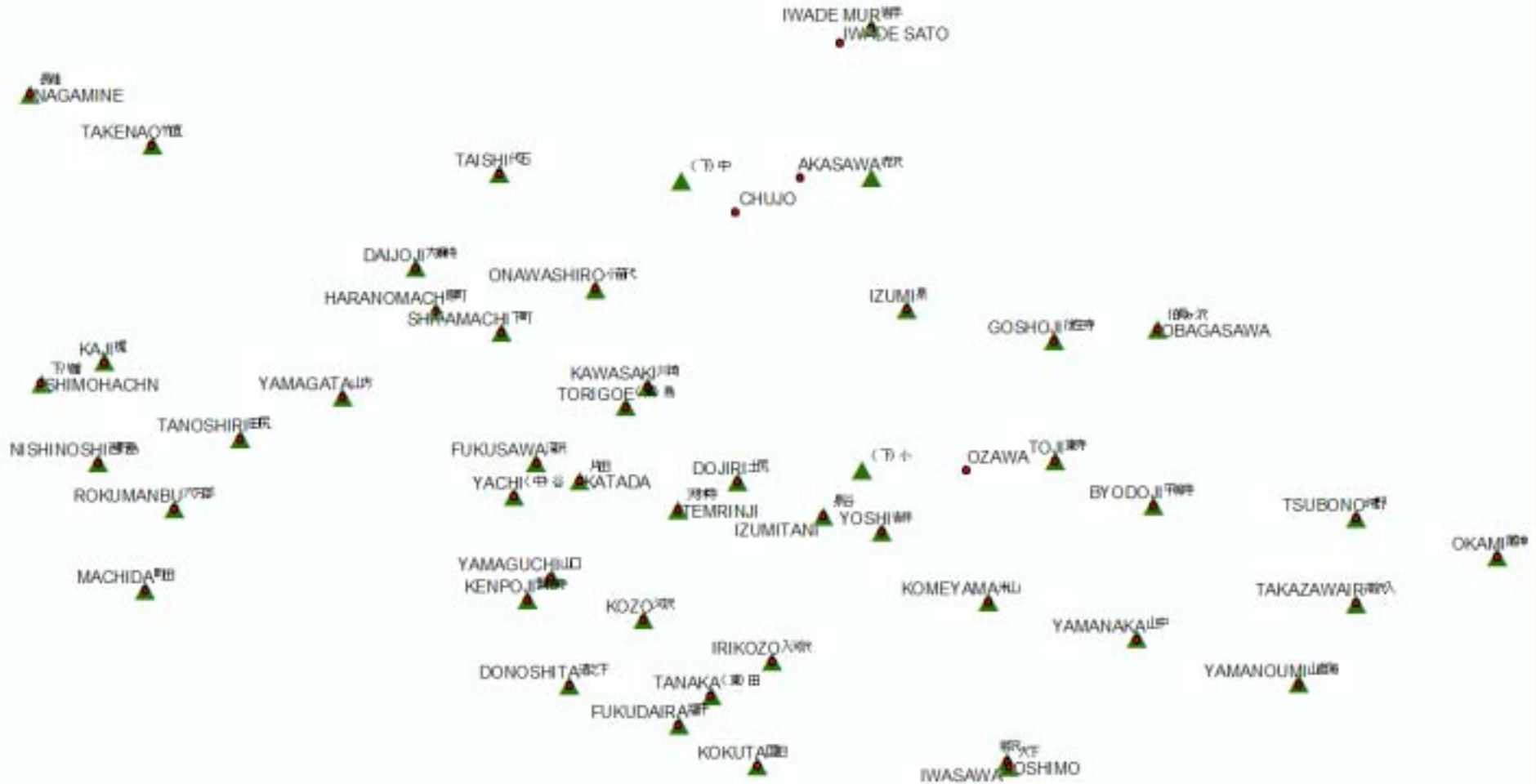
1/25000 地形図 の読み	標準地域 メッシュ コード	都道 府県 名	市区 町村 名	注記 番号	大 分 類	中 分 類	小 分 類	注記 文字 列	注記文 字列の 読み	大 コー ド	文 字 数	代表点経 度	代表点緯 度	公共 施設 ID	史跡名勝 天然記念 物フラグ	元図 コー ド
えちごよ した	563847	新潟 県	三条 市	24	2	3	0	大島	おおじ ま	4	2	1385802	374021.5	0	0	3
えちごよ した	563847	新潟 県	三条 市	31	2	3	0	代官 島	だいか んじま	4	3	1385908	374024	0	0	3
えちごよ した	563847	新潟 県	三条 市	32	2	3	0	荻島	おぎじ ま	4	2	1385917	374003.6	0	0	3

# Are these points good center point estimates?

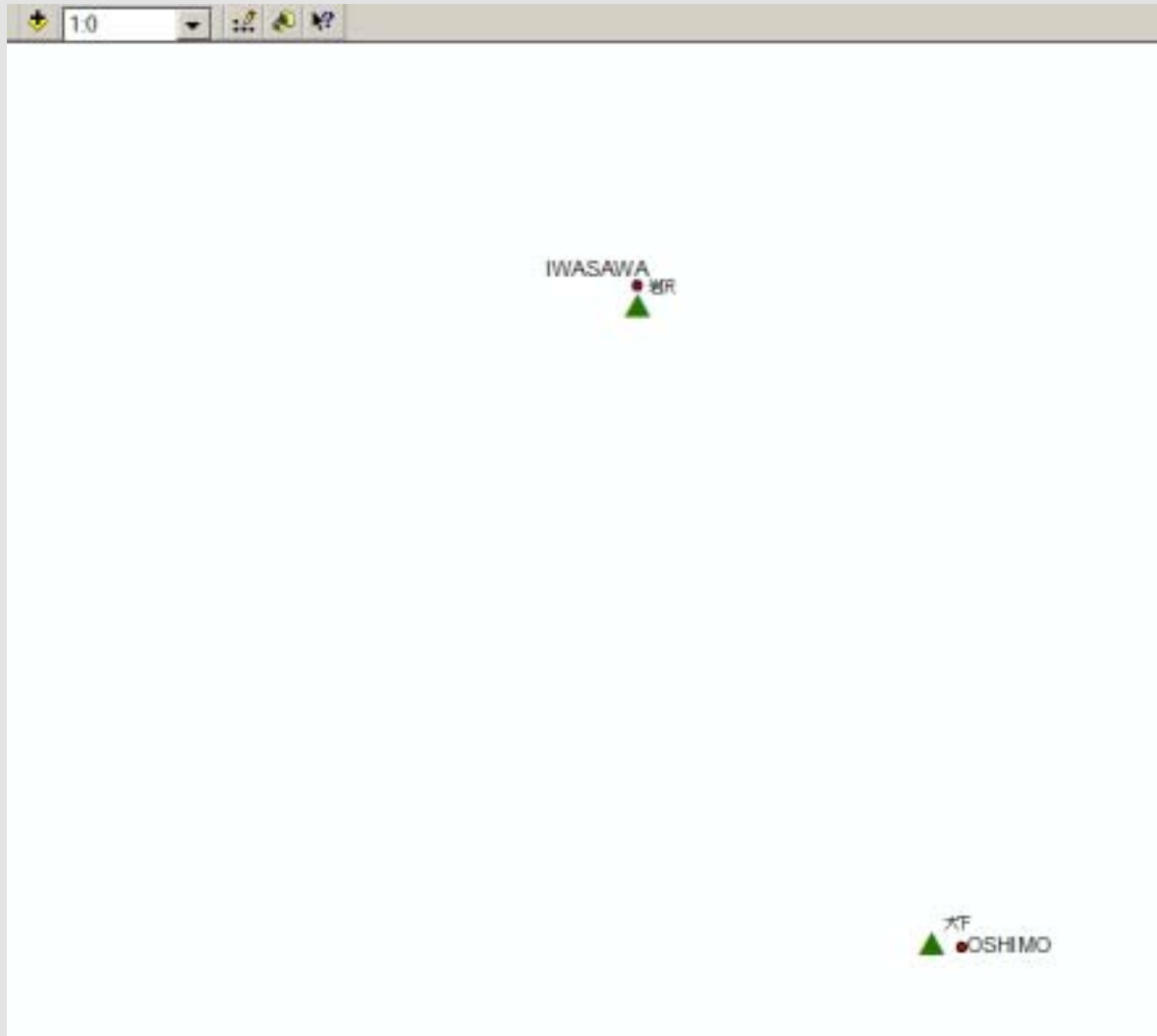
- Compare 4 dozen points with locations based on local informants
- Hand-held GPS measures vs. NLA data
- Done all in one afternoon, down and dirty



# Yoshikawa area I: NLA data = Green, GPS Data = Red

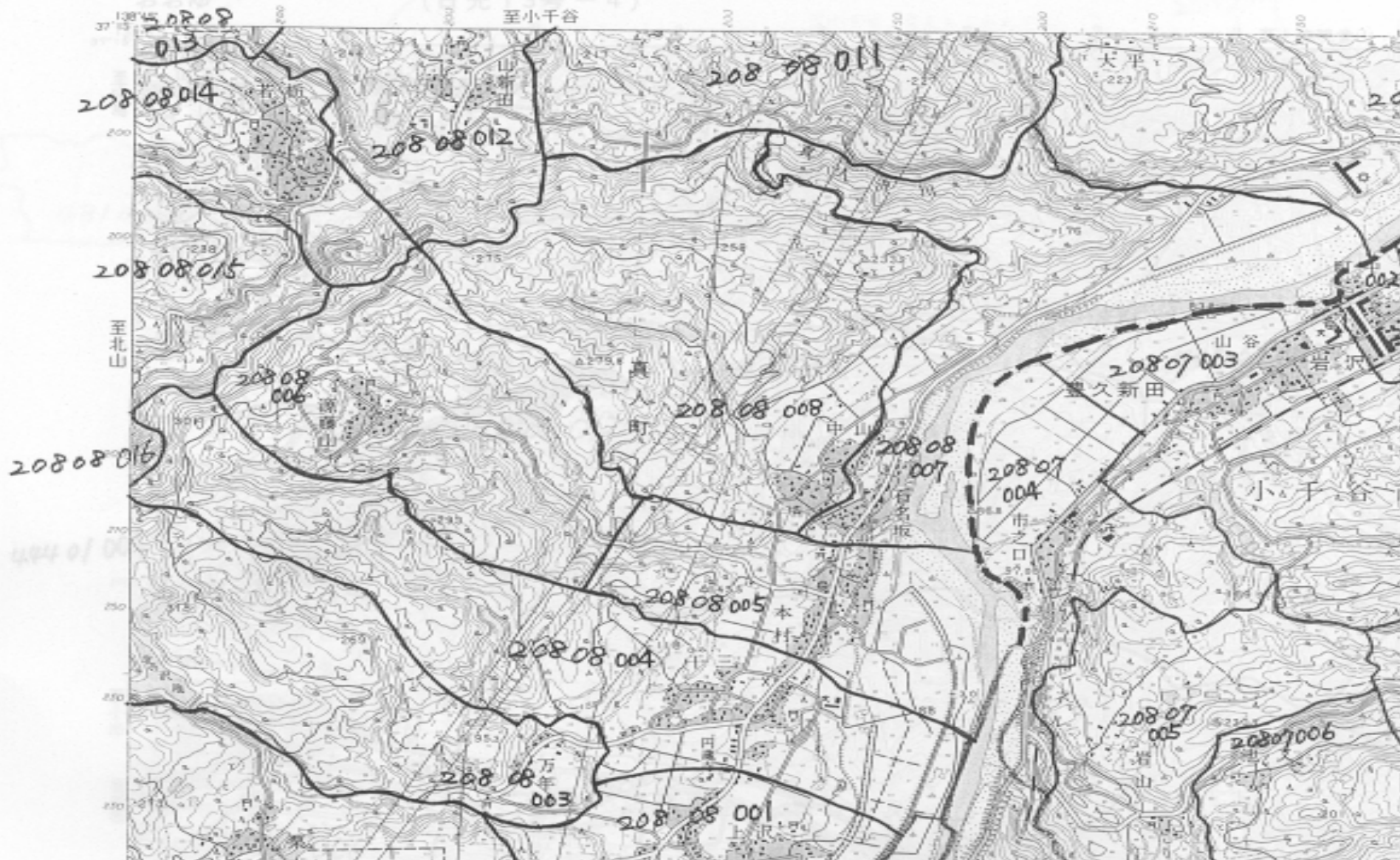


# Yoshikawa area II: NLA data = Green, GPS Data = Red



# Potential for Boundary location? Ministry of Ag. Data

1:25,000 地形図 NJ-54-35-1-4  
いわさわ 地形図 (高田1号-4)



# Conclusions

- Contemporary data for Japan has potential to assist locating center point and boundary data for pre-modern (19<sup>th</sup> century) settlements in large numbers
  - Not complete (name changes)
  - Not perfect (boundary changes)
  - But a start
- Is this finding generalizable?
  - Open question, but suggests value of investigation
  - Value of thinking flexibly, not just about agencies which have primary responsibility for mapping