Background and Research Question

- Census data showed that the population of Black and African American citizens grew in North Carolina during this period, but Hot Spot analysis showed that the distribution stayed relatively similar.
- Moran Index spatial analysis tests show that there is a strong correlation between the demography and election results in Fall Line counties.

This project began last semester in EV367 as a term paper to research if there was a pattern between two geographic features (the Cotton Belt and the east coast Fall Line) and county level voting from 2000-2020. Without proper voting data, I left this project with more questions than answers. I have isolated my research to North Carolina, as there has been a history of gerrymandering based on the State’s demographics. My final research question was: did the physical geography of North Carolina impact the demography of the State at the county level, and how did the demography of North Carolina influence Presidential Election results?

Research Design

- Consolidate demographic and election result maps from 1960 to 2020 from National Historical Geographic Information System (NHGIS) and MIT Election Lab.
- Evaluate if Civil Rights Movement and Second Great Migration impacted the demography of Fall Line counties in North Carolina.

Findings

- Moran Index spatial analysis tests show that there is a strong correlation between the demography and election results in Fall Line counties.
- Census data showed that the population of Black and African American citizens grew in North Carolina during this period, but Hot Spot analysis showed that the distribution stayed relatively similar.

Conclusion/Way Ahead

- In North Carolina, there is a strong correlation between the demography of Fall Line counties and Presidential Election results.
- Future research should incorporate other fall line states to see if the pattern continues or if it is isolated to NC.