Chapter 1:

Introduction to Big Data — the four V's

This chapter is mainly based on the
Big Data script
by Donald Kossmann and Nesime Tatbul
(ETH Zürich)

Goal of Today

- **What is Big Data?**
  - introduce all major buzz words
- **What is not Big Data?**
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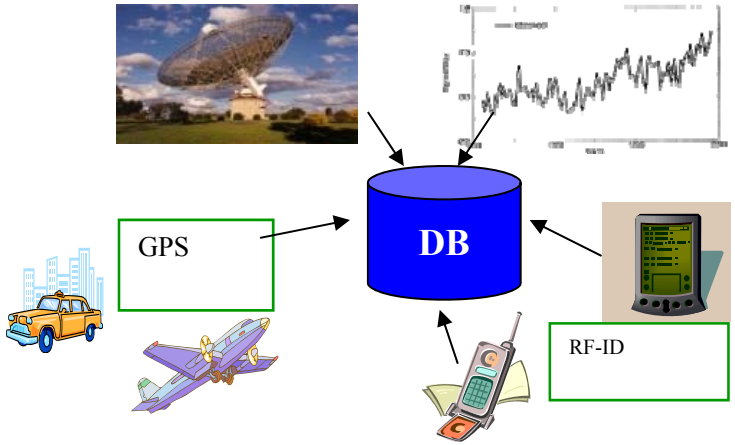
Answering Tough Questions

- **Problem:**
  - sales for lollipops are going down
- **Data:**
  - all sales data by customer, region, time, …
- **Information:**
  - lollipops bought by people older than 25 (but eaten by people younger than 10)
- **Knowledge:**
  - moms believe: lollipops = bad teeth
- **Value:**
  - dentists advertise your lollipops

Why is this difficult?

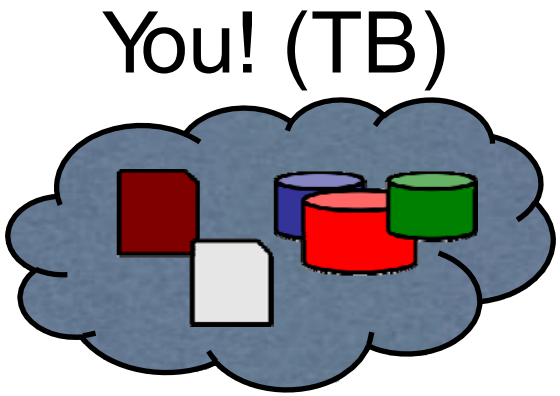
- **You need more data than your data warehouse.**
  - you need more data that you have
  - logs, Twitter feeds, blogs, customer surveys, …



- **You need to ask the right questions.**
  - data alone is silent
- **You need technology and organization that help you concentrate on asking the right questions.**

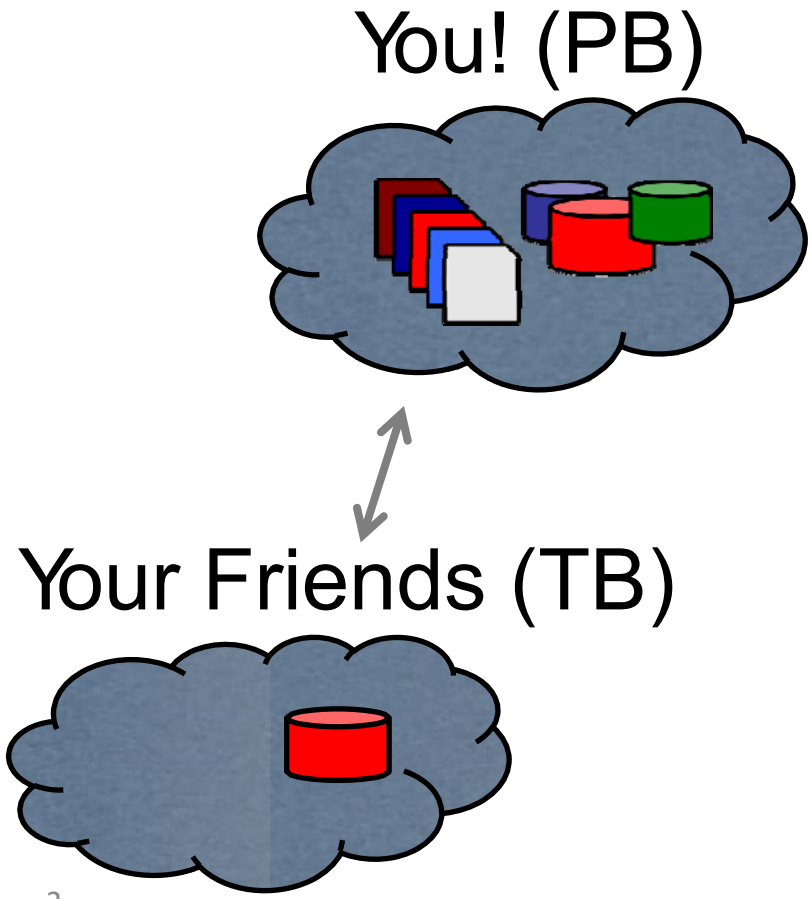
From "Small Data" to "Big Data"

- **Step 1:**



From "Small Data" to "Big Data"

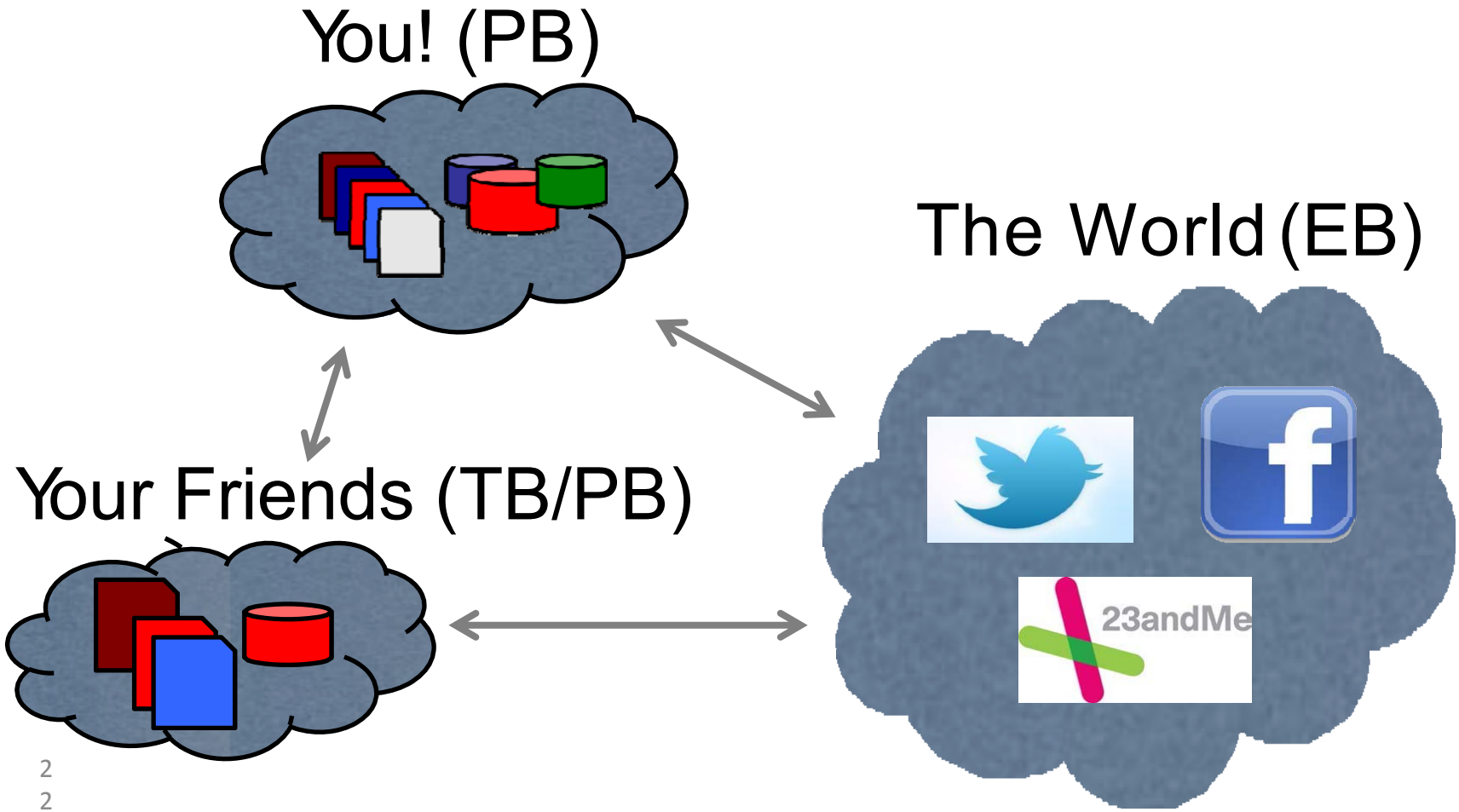
- **Step 2:**



2
1

From "Small Data" to "Big Data"

- **Step 3:**



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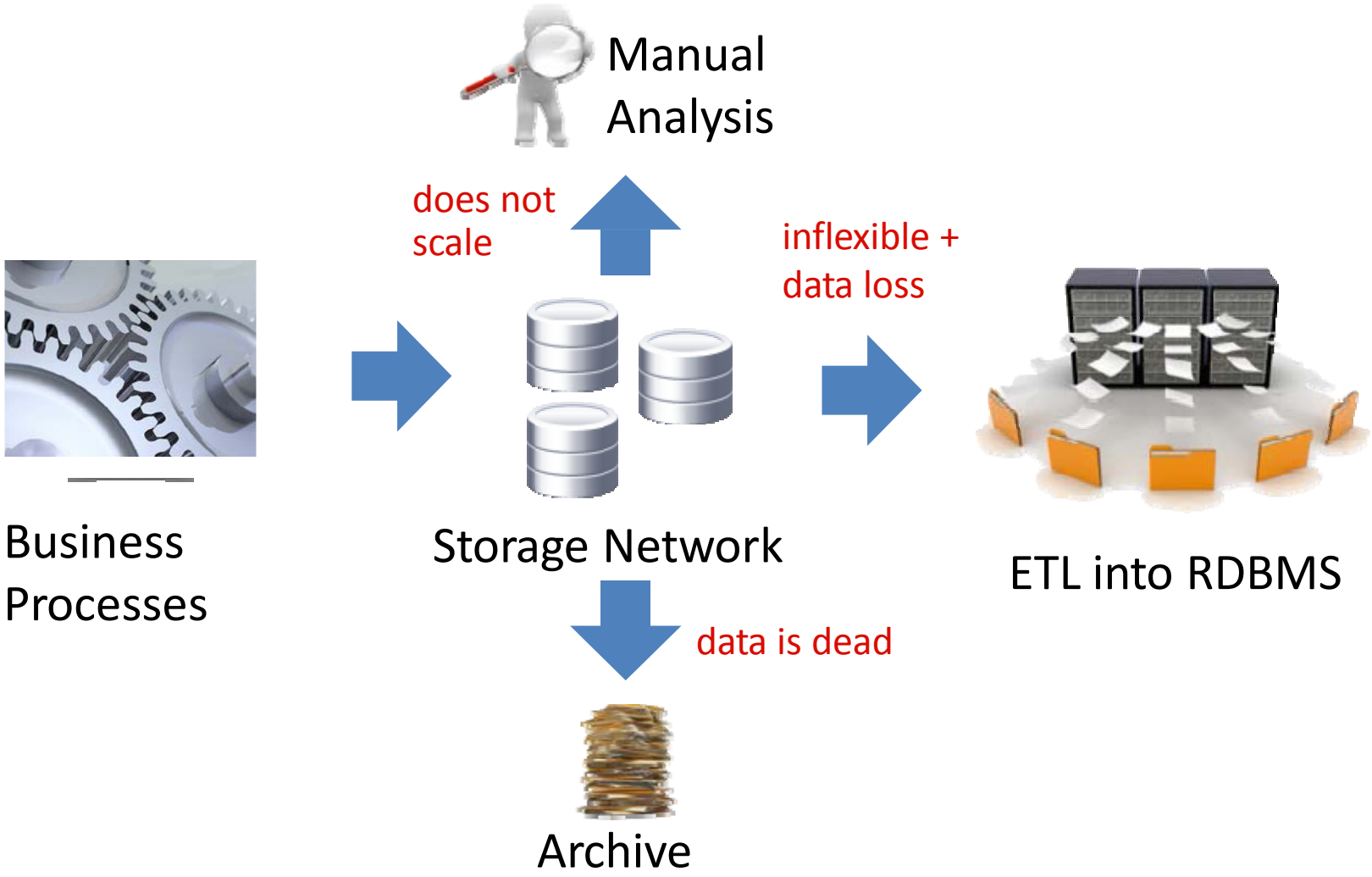
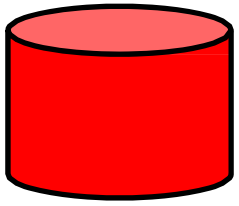
Limitations of State of the Art



What needs to be done? (Technology)

- **Take Steps 0 to 3**
  - Step 0: Data Warehouses (relational Databases)
  - Step 1: Data Warehouses + Hadoop (HDFS)
  - Step 2: Business Processes + Analytics + Exchange
  - Step 3: BP + Analytics + Exchange + Real-Time



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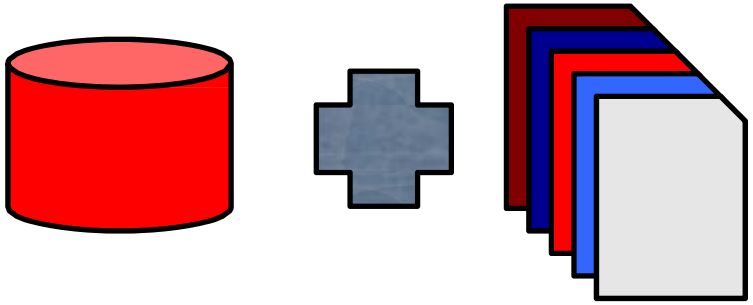

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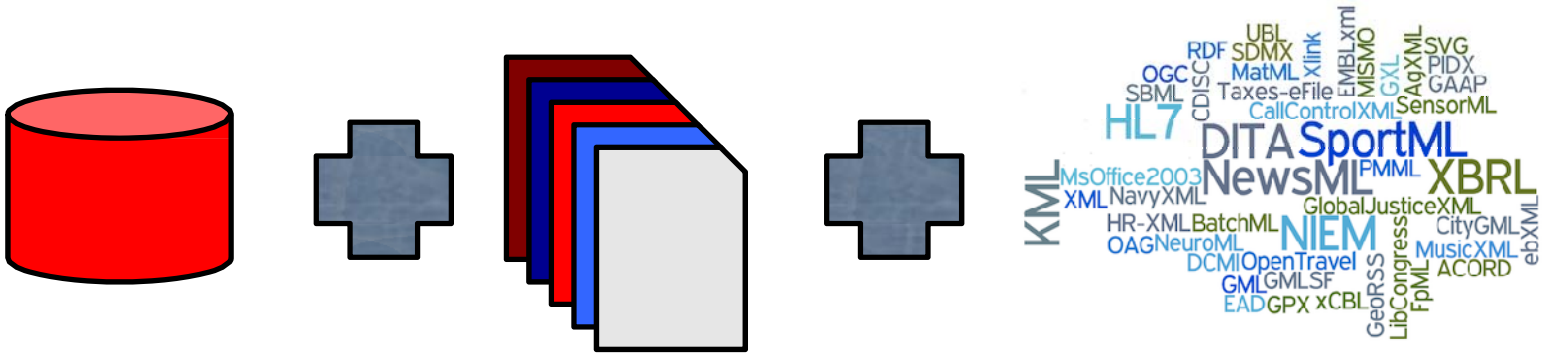

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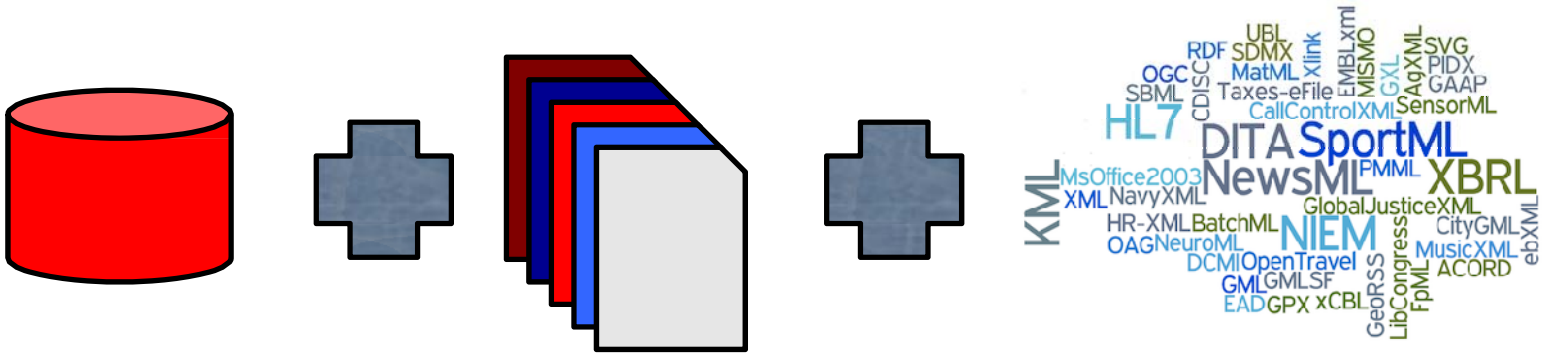
  - Step 3: Data Warehouses + Hadoop + XML + ?



What needs to be done? (Organisation)

- **Static Business Model -> Agile Business Model**
  - You and your customers adapt to each other
  - No more data silos (ownership of data is distributed)
  - You allocate resources on demand

- **Execute Business Process -> Data Science**
  - You think about experience you have made

What is Big Data?

- **Three alternative perspectives**
  - philosophical
  - business
  - technical

- **(Ultimately, it is a buzz word for everybody.)**

Philosophical

- **What is more valuable, if you had to pick one?**
  - experience or intelligence?

intelligence

- **Traditional (computer) science: logic!**
  - understand the problem, build model / algorithm
  - answer question from implementation of model

experience

- **New twist in (computer) science: statistics!**
  - collect data
  - answer question from data (what did others do?)

Statistics vs. Logic?

- **Problems:**
  - Find a spouse?
  - Should Adam bite into the apple?
  - 1 + 1?
  - Cure for cancer?
  - How to treat a cough?
  - Should I give Donald a loan?
  - Premium for fire insurance?
  - When should my son come home?
  - Which book should I read next?
  - Translate from German to English.

What Type of solutions (statistic/logic)? What do you think?

Statistics vs. Logic?

Problems:	**Is there a solution?**
Find a spouse?	I don't want to know!
Should Adam bite into the apple?	If you believe…
1 + 1?	Yes (Definition)
Cure for cancer?	I don't know, maybe.
How to treat a cough?	Yes (Google Insight)
Should I give Matthias a loan?	Yes (e.g. Schufa)
Premium for life insurance?	YES (e.g. Alliance)
When should my son come home?	No, but…
Which book should I read next?	Yes (e.g. Amazon)
Translate from German to English.	Yes (Google Transl.)

Data Science, 4th Paradigm

- **New approach to do science**
  - Step 1: Collect data
  - Step 2: Generate Hypotheses
  - Step 3: Validate Hypotheses
  - Step 4: (Goto Step 1 or 2)
- **Why is this a good approach?**
  - it can be automated: no thinking, less error
- **Why is this a bad approach?**
  - how do you debug without a ground truth?

Is bigger = smarter?

- **Yes!**
  - tolerate errors
  - discover the long tail and corner cases
  - machine learning works much better

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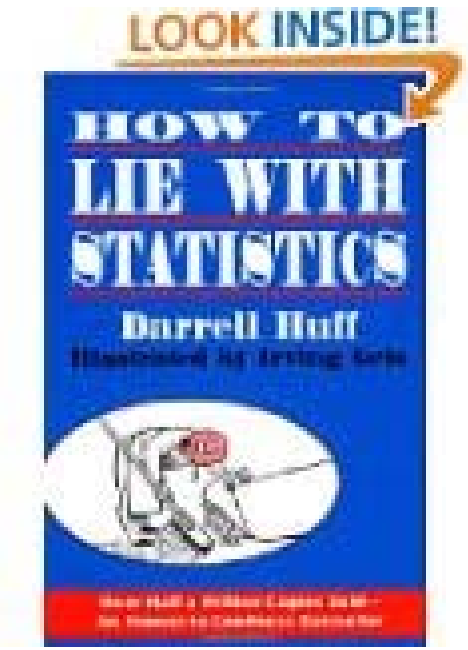

- **But!**
  - more data, more error (e.g., semantic heterogeneity)
  - with enough data you can prove anything
  - still need humans to ask right questions

Big Data Success Story

- **Google Translate**
  - you collect snipets of translations
  - you match sentences to snipets
  - you continuously debug your system

- **Why does it work?**
  - there are tons of snipets on the Web
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Big Data Farce (only a joke)

- **Which lane is fastest in a traffic jam?**
  - you ask people where they go and whether happy
  - (maybe, you even use a GPS device)
  - you conclude that left lane is fastest
- **Why is this stupid?**
  - because there is no ground truth!
  - you will get a conclusion because Big Data always gives an answer. But, it does not make sense!
  - getting more data does not help either

How to play lottery in Napoli

- **Step 1: You visit (and pay) "oracles"**
  - they tell you which numbers to play
- **Step 2: You visit (and pay) "interpreters"**
  - they explain what oracles told you
- **Step 3: After you lost, you visit (and pay) "analyst"**
  - they explain why "oracles" and "interpreters" were right
- **goto Step 1**

- **Lessons learned**
  - life is try and error; trying keeps the system running

[Luciano de Crescenzo: Thus Spake Bellavista]

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What is Big Data?

- **Business Perspective**
  - it is a new business model
- **People pay with data**
  - e.g. Facebook, Google, Twitter:
    - use service, give data
    - Google sells your data to advertisers
    - (you pay advertisers indirectly)
  - e.g., 23andMe, Amazon:
    - pay service + give data
    - sells data and uses data to improve service

Business Perspective

- **Bank**
  - keeps your money securely (kind of…)
  - puts your money at work (lends it to others), interest
  - you keep ownership of money and take it when needed
- **Databank**
  - keeps your data securely (kind of…)
  - puts your data at work: interest or better service
  - (you keep ownership of data: hopefully to come)

Technical Perspective (us!)

- **You collect all data**
  - the more the better -> statistical relevance, long tail
  - keeping all is cheaper than deciding what to keep
- **You decide independently what to do with data**
  - run experiments on data when question arises
- **Huge difference to traditional information systems**
  - design upfront what data to keep and why!!!
  - (e.g., waterfall model of software engineering!)

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Consequences

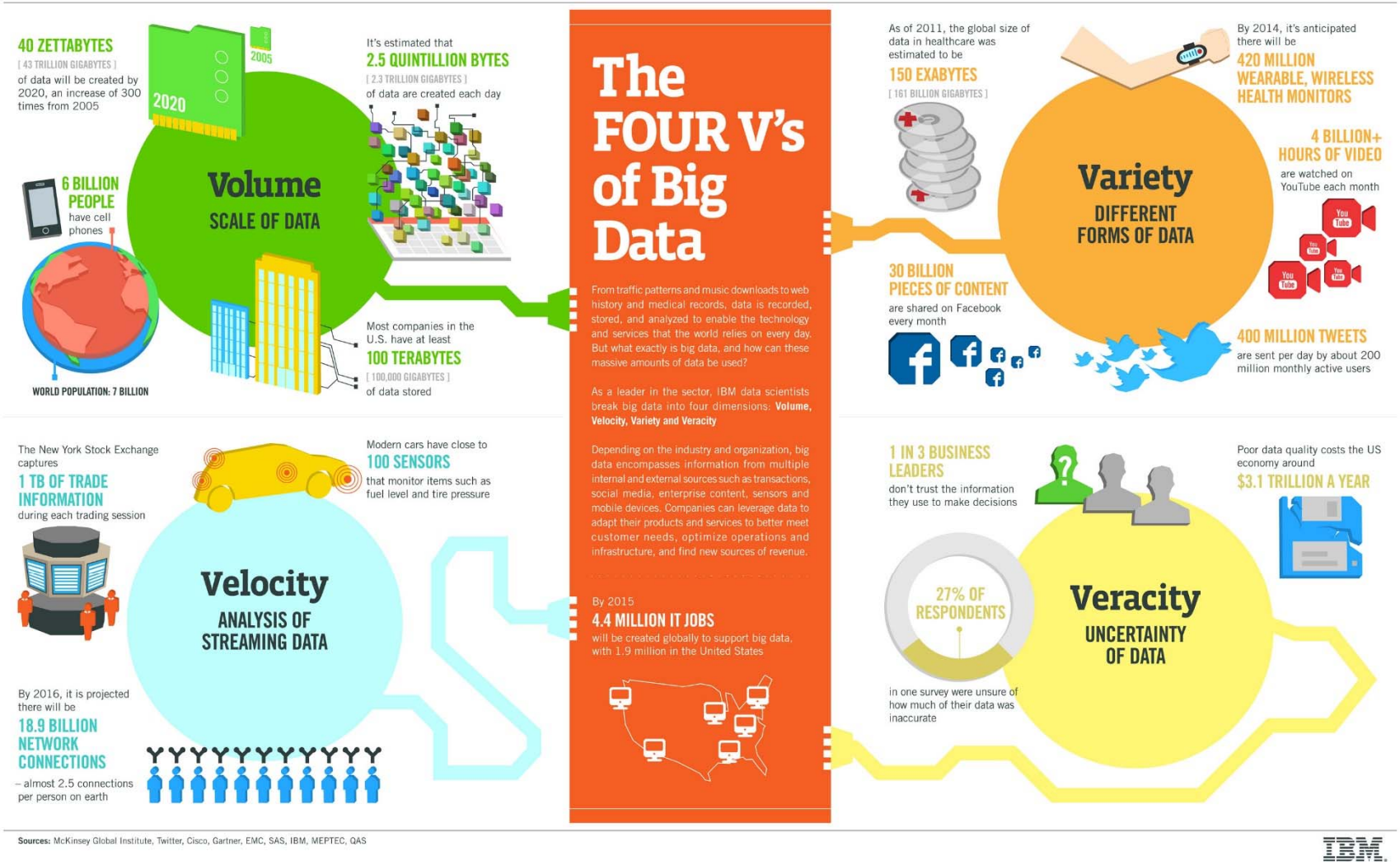
- **Volume: data at rest**
  - it is going to be a lot of data
- **Speed: data in motion**
  - it is going to arrive fast
- **Diversity: data in many formats**
  - it is going to come in different shapes
  - (e.g., different versions, different sources)
- **Complexity: You want to do something interesting**
  - SQL will not be enough

Alternative Definition (Gartner, IBM)

The 4 Vs of Big Data

- **Volume: same as before**
- **Velocity: same as "speed"**
- **Variety: same as "diversity"**
- **Veracity: data in doubt**
  - you do not know exactly what you have

Four Vs of Big Data



Overview

- Intro
- What is Big Data?
- NoSQL Systems
- Hadoop / HDFS / MapReduce & Applications
- Spark
- Data Streams & Applications
  Storm, …
- Text Data
- High-Dimensional Data
- Graph Data
- Uncertain Data

Volume

Velocity

Variety

Veracity

Why now?

- **Mega-trend: All data is digital, digitally born!**
  - 70 years ago: computers for "+"
  - 15 years ago: disks cheaper than paper
  - 7 years ago: Internet has eyes and ears
- **Because we can**
  - 40 years of databases -> volume
  - 40 years of Moore's law -> complexity
  - 2000+ years of statistics -> it is only counting
  - enough optimisms that we get the rest done, too
- **Because we reached dead end with logic (?)**

Because we can… Really?

- **Yes!**
  - all data is digitally born
  - storage capacity is increasing
  - counting is embarrassingly parallel

Because we can… Really?

- **Yes!**
  - all data is digitally born
  - storage capacity is increasing
  - counting is embarrassingly parallel
- **But,**
  - data grows faster than energy on chip
  - value / cost tradeoff unknown
  - ownership of data unclear (aggregate vs. individual)

What you have learnt today?

- **a number of buzz words, some cool examples**
  - you should survive any discussion with your boss

- **motivation to come back next week**
  - learn some of the technologies