

# **CS410 DSO: Text Information Systems: Course Introduction**

**Instructor: ChengXiang “Cheng” Zhai**

Department of Computer Science

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

# Motivation: Harnessing Big Text Data

- Text data is **ubiquitous** and **growing rapidly**

- Internet
- Blogs
- News
- Email
- Literature
- Twitter
- ...

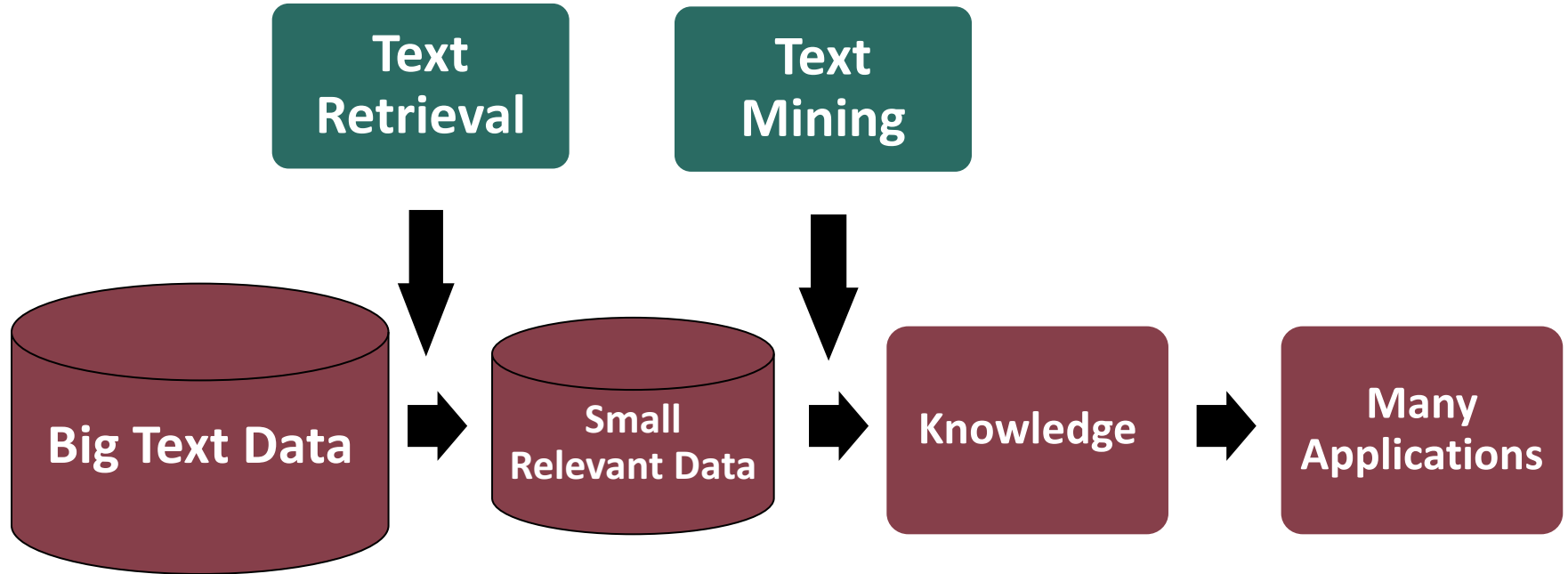


**Knowledge**

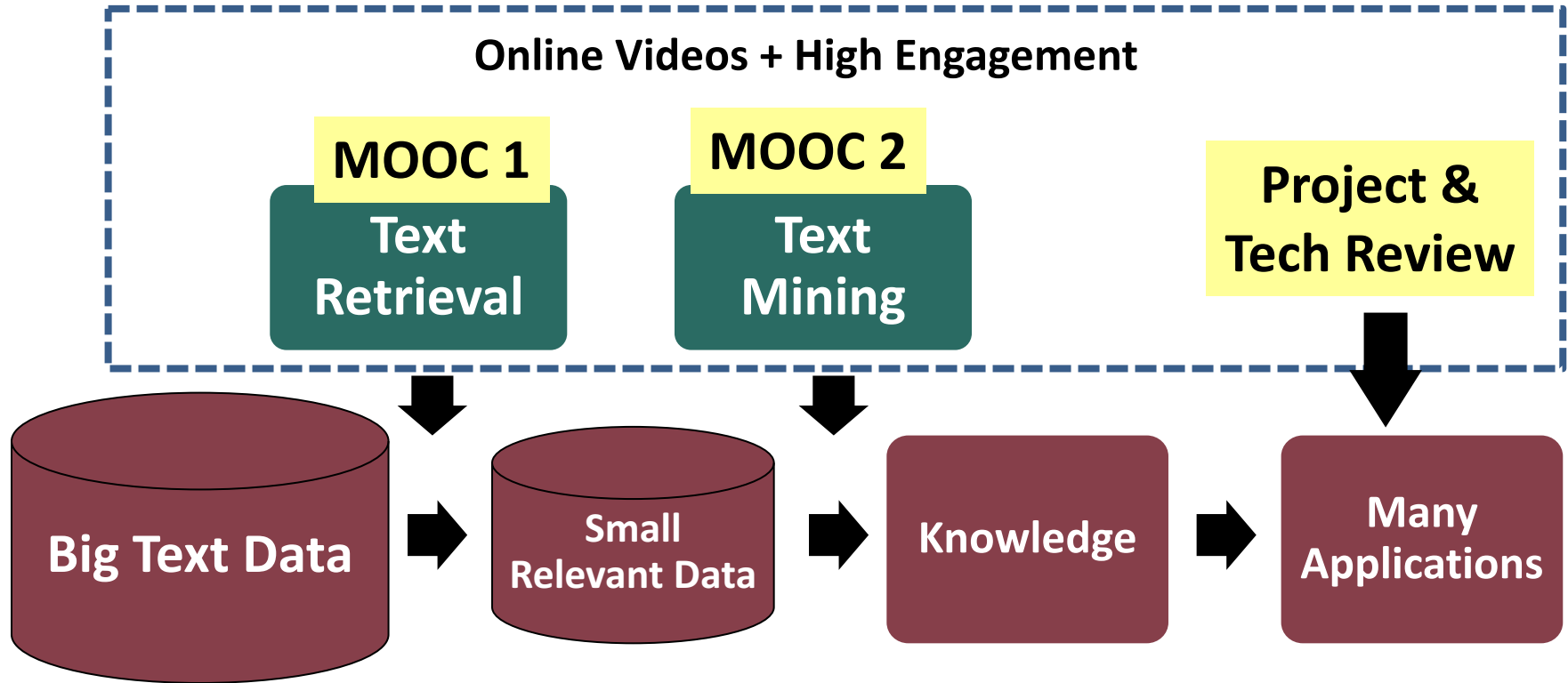


**Many  
applications!**

# Main Techniques for Harnessing Big Text Data: Text Retrieval + Text Mining



# Design of CS410: Overview



# Design of CS410: Goals

- Emphasize **both theory and practice**
  - **Theory**: basic concepts and general principles are applicable to **all** applications → Lectures + Quizzes + Exams
  - **Practice**: specific practical skills are **immediately** useful → Programming assignments
  - **Integration** of theory and practice → Course projects

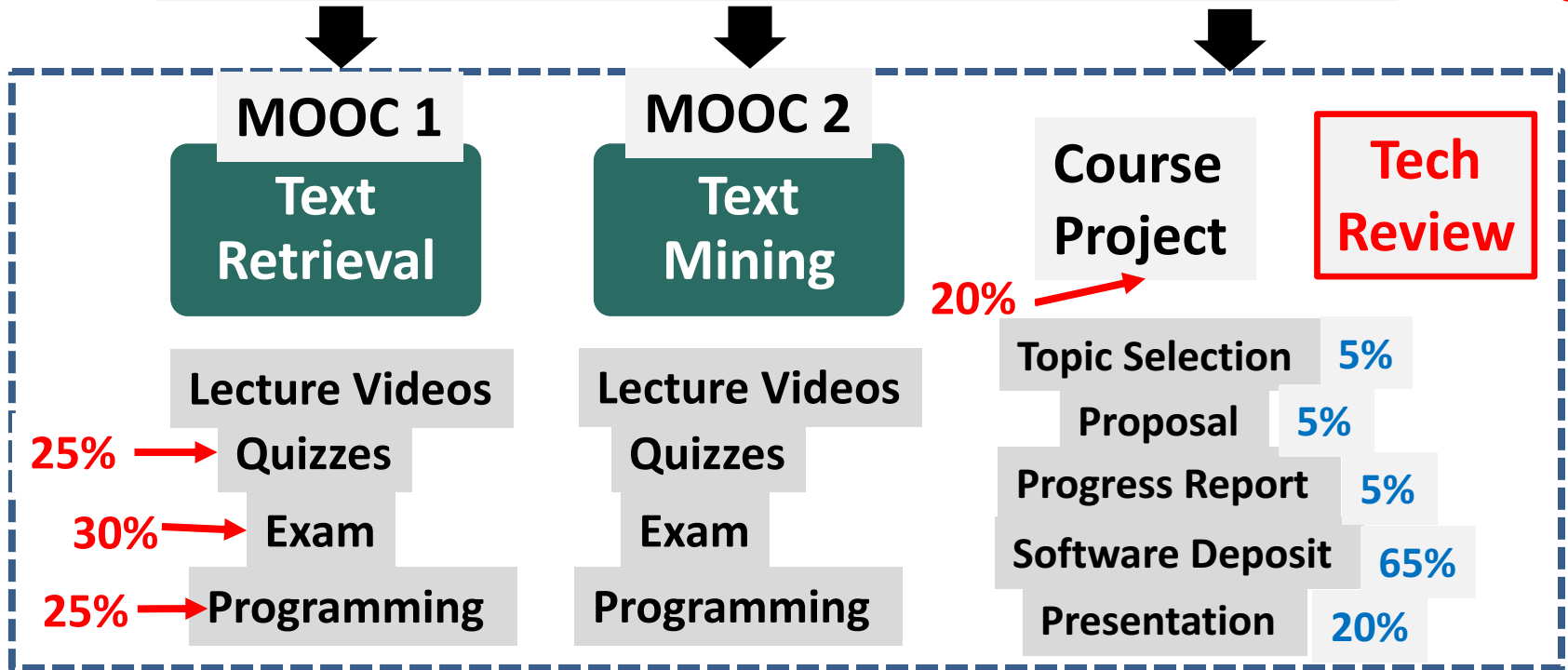
# Design of CS410: Goals

- **Personalized** learning
  - ➔ Self paced + Choices of project & technology review
- **Collaborative** learning
  - ➔ Forum-based interactions and collaboration
  - ➔ Group projects, group technology reviews

# Design of CS410: Format & Grading

Synchronous Weekly Office Hours via **Video-Teleconferencing**  
Asynchronous Question Answering & Discussion via **Forums**

**Extra  
Credit:  
+ 5%**



# You have Complete Control over Your Grade!

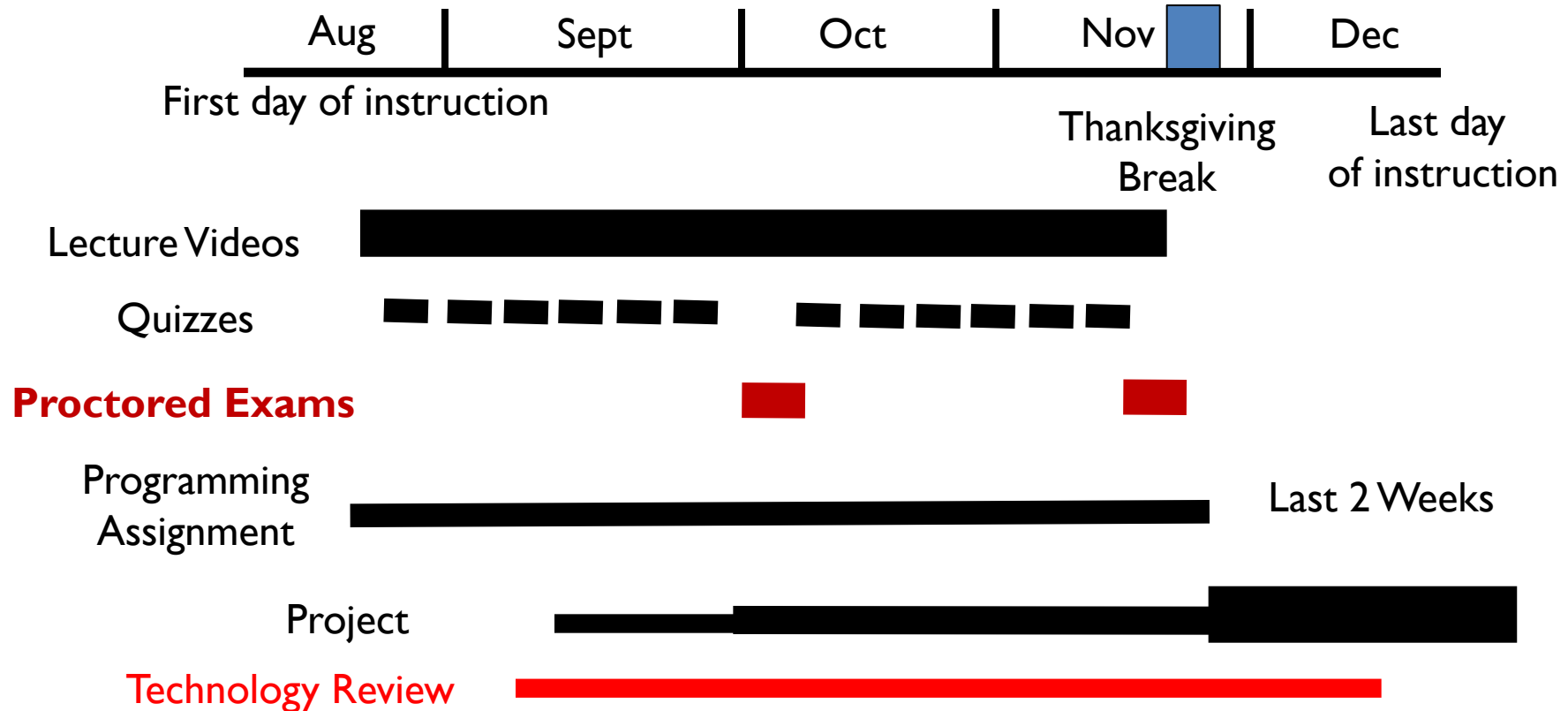
- **A+: [95,100]**
- **A: [90,94]**
- **A-: [85, 89]**
- **B+: [80, 84]**
- **B: [75, 79]**
- **B-: [70,74]**

- **C: [60, 69]**
- **D: [55,59]**
- **F: <55**

**5% Extra Credit  
would help move your grade up  
by one bracket**



# Your Work Load



# If you have already taken the MOOC(s)

- You can and are **encouraged** to **finish** all the quizzes and most programming assignments **much earlier**
- However, you cannot take an exam earlier, and some programming tasks may require synchronization and thus cannot be finished earlier than scheduled
- Enjoy **more time** to work on your **course projects** (if you want to)!

# Forum Discussion

- **Forum (Piazza)** is the **primary** way of interactions and engagement
  - Asynchronous discussion enables **participation of everyone**
  - Enables **faster question answering** without waiting until an office hour
  - Facilitates **identification of difficult concepts** to be covered in office hours

# Protocol of Question Answering

- As soon as you have a question or issue to discuss, **post** it **immediately** on Forum
- If the question is not answered in a timely manner on Forum or addressed adequately, **email** the question to **all of us** (i.e., the instructor and TAs) using a **subject line** containing the **keyword “CS410DSO”**
- If you don't receive a reply from us by email in a timely manner, **join an office-hour** (i.e., a video-conference)

# Format of Office Hours

- TAs and the instructor will hold **weekly** office hours at **published time slots** using **video-conferencing (Zoom)**
- Students can **join/leave** an office hour **as needed** at any time
- **Priority** list in descending order:
  - **High:** Issues posted on Forum, but unresolved even after email communications with the TAs/Instructor
  - **Medium:** Other unresolved issues on Forum
  - **Low:** Any questions or issues not posted on Forum, brought by a student joining an office hour (first come, first serve)

# How to Get the Most out of CS410 DSO?

- **Plan ahead** based on your own schedule, and **act early**
  - Allocate **sufficient time** for the preparation of **two proctored exams**
  - Try to complete quizzes and programming assignments ahead of time whenever possible
- Post questions on Forum **immediately** whenever have difficulty in understanding any part of the course materials
- Leverage **collaborative learning**
  - Actively participate in forum discussions (you'll learn from reading posts on Forums)
  - Earn up to 5% **extra credit** by making effort to **answer others' questions** on Forums (your effort will be logged on the Forum)

For more information, visit the course website:

<https://www.coursera.org/learn/cs-410/home/welcome>