BIG DATA COMPUTING

ID's last digit: 0 – 4

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OUTLINE

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2. Computational Challenges
3. Organization of the Course
4. Administrative Issues

Big Data Phenomenon

DATA

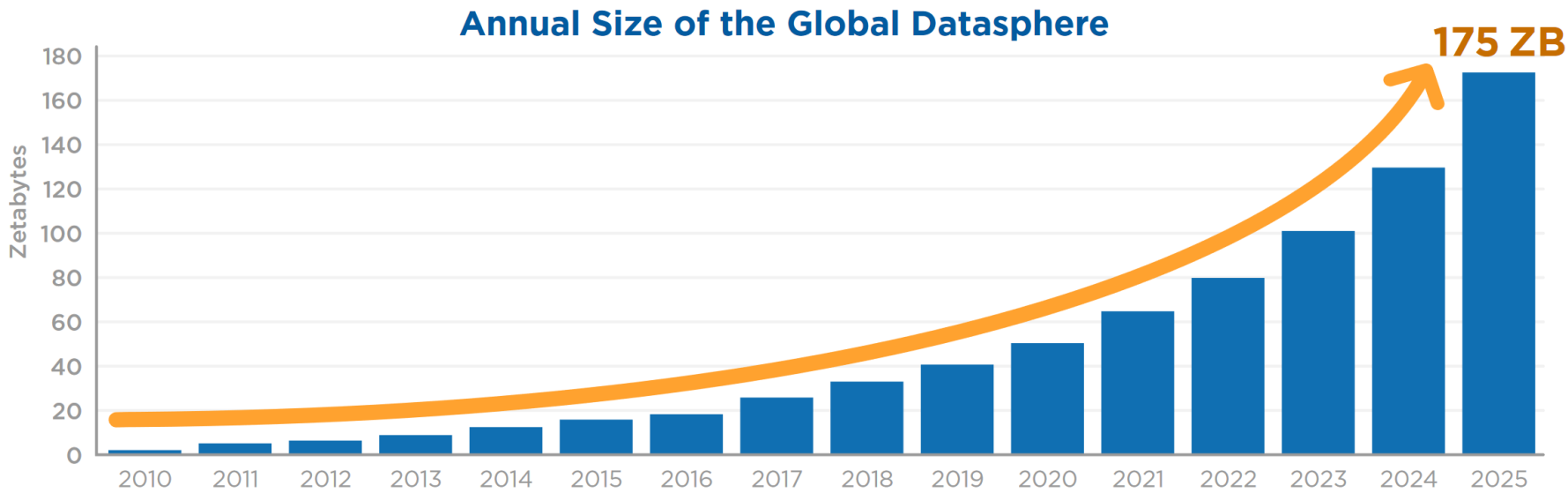
"~~Space~~ is big. Really big"

(*Douglas Adams, The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*)

Why is DATA growing so much?

- Technological progress:
  - Growth of storage capacity
  - Growth of comunication bandwith
  - Growth of computing capacity
- Reduction of ICT costs
- Pervasiveness of digital technologies: scientific research, health, business, politics, social interactions, ...

Big Data Phenomenon



From: *The Digitization of the World (IDC, 2018)*

How big is 175ZB?:

- 1 ZettaByte (ZB) = 1 trillion GB = 10^{12} GB;
- 175 ZB $\equiv$ 23 parallel stacks of DVD from Earth to Moon;
- Downloading 175 ZB at 1Gb/s takes $>$ 43 million years

Big Data Phenomenon

The world continuously collects huge amounts of:

SCIENCE

- Physical data: from sensors, telescopes, particle physics experiments.
- Biological/medical data: from genetic studies, patient monitoring, epidemic evolution analyses.

SOCIAL INTERACTIONS

- Human activity data: from social networks, mobile devices, internet/web traffic, IoT systems.

BUSINESS

- Business data: from online stores, customer profiling, bank/credit-card/financial services, quality-of-service monitoring.

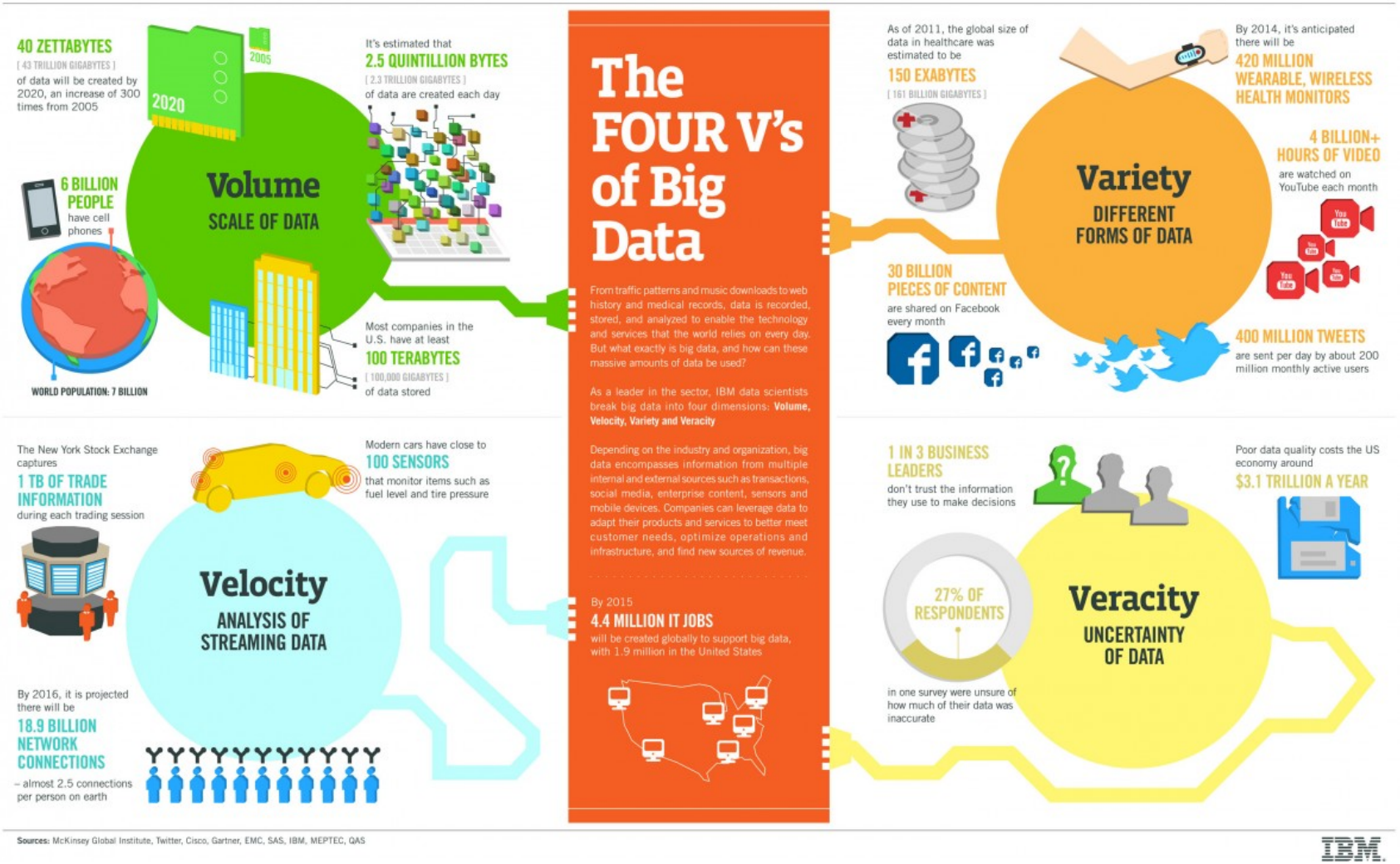
Big Data Phenomenon

The term Big Data relates to two distinct issues:

- ISSUE 1:
  - Data produced everywhere;
  - Need for automated analytics (vs human inspection);
  - Challenges: identification of suitable analysis tools, data selection/preparation.
- ISSUE 2: Focus: feasibility and efficiency of the computation
  - Massive datasets need to be processed;
  - Traditional (algorithmic) approaches are unsuited;
  - Challenges: development of novel computing frameworks, novel solutions

This course focuses on ISSUE 2!

Computing Challenges



Source: IBM Big Data & Analytics Hub

Computational Challenges

- **Volume:** processing huge datasets poses several challenges and requires a data-centric perspective.
- **Veracity:** large datasets coming from real-world applications are likely to contain *noisy, uncertain data*, hence accuracy of solutions must be reconsidered.
- **Velocity:** sometimes, the data arrive at such a high rate that they cannot be stored and processed offline. Hence stream processing is needed.
- **Variety:** large datasets arise in *very different scenarios*. More effective processing is achieved by adapting to the actual characteristics of data.

The above issues require a

paradigm shift w.r.t. traditional computing.

Computational Challenges

To tackle the above challenges effectively, one needs:

- Platforms with:
  - High storage capacity and computing power
    $\Rightarrow$ parallel/distributed architectures
  - Moderate costs
  - Ease of programming and management
- Focus on accuracy-resource tradeoffs, to cope with size, noise, and uncertainty of data
- Data-centric view
- Data stream processing (sometimes)

Big Data Computing Course

What will we learn?

1. Novel computing/programming frameworks for big data processing: theory and practice
2. Key techniques to process large-scale data
   - Rigorous setting (provable guarantees)
   - Application to fundamental data analysis primitives

Specific topics

1. Frameworks: Distributed (MapReduce, Apache Spark) and Streaming
2. Techniques:
   - Coresets (application to clustering);
   - Sampling (application to frequent itemsets);
   - Locality sensitive hashing (application to similarity search);
   - Sketches (application to estimating of moments)

Organization of the Course

Subdivision into classes

The students are subdivided into two parallel classes based on their ID's last digit (*same syllabus, homeworks, and exams*)

- Class A (prof. Pietracaprina): last digit 0-4
- Class B (prof. Silvestri): last digit 5-9

Lectures

Lectures will be in presence and online via Zoom. For Class A, the Zoom link is

https://unipd.zoom.us/j/84232837748

- For each topic, partial slide sets are made available in advance. Final versions (together with solutions to exercises) are uploaded after the topic is fully covered.
- *Attendance and active participation are strongly encouraged*.

Organization of the Course

Exam

- Final written exam (26 points)
- Homeworks: programming assignments (6+1 points)
  - Groups of 2-3 students (even from different classes)
  - 3 homeworks, approx. one every 3 weeks.
  - Use of Apache Spark on individual PCs (Homeworks 1-2) and on CloudVeneto (Homework 3)
  - All group members receive the same grade. The extra point is given if all homeworks submitted by the respective deadlines.
- Oral exam: at teacher's discretion (see rules in Moodle)

Organization of the Course

Required background

- Java (preferred) or Python programming
- Basic algorithmics: asymptotic, worst-case analysis; fundamental algorithms and data structures; (e.g., lists, queues, stacks, hash tables, maps/dictionaries)
- Basic math tools, combinatorics, and probability.

Administrative Issues

Online tools

- **Course Moodle:**
  - Announcements and student forum.
  - Infos: Zoom, contacts, textbooks, exam rules and sessions.
  - Lectures diary.
  - Material: slides, videos, exercises, articles.
  - Preliminary exams grades.
- **Uniweb:** Official exam lists and final grades.
- **Exam Moodle (only one for the two classes):**

  https://esami.elearning.unipd.it/course/view.php?id=3801

  - Formation of groups for Homeworks
  - Submission of Homeworks.
  - Written tests (if online).

Administrative Issues

Contacts and office hours

- Teacher (prof. Andrea Pietracaprina): andrea.pietracaprina@unipd.it
- TAs (dott. Paolo Pellizzoni and dott. Nicolò Penzo): bdc-course@dei.unipd.it

Office hours are by appointment (via Email). Teaching assistants should be contacted only for questions related to homeworks.

TODO: As soon as possible

- Register in the Course Moodle (no password)
- Register in the Exam Moodle (password: bigdatalab)
- Form groups of size at most 3 for the homeworks **by March 15**. Once a group is formed, it must be registered in the Exam Moodle using the Group registration link.