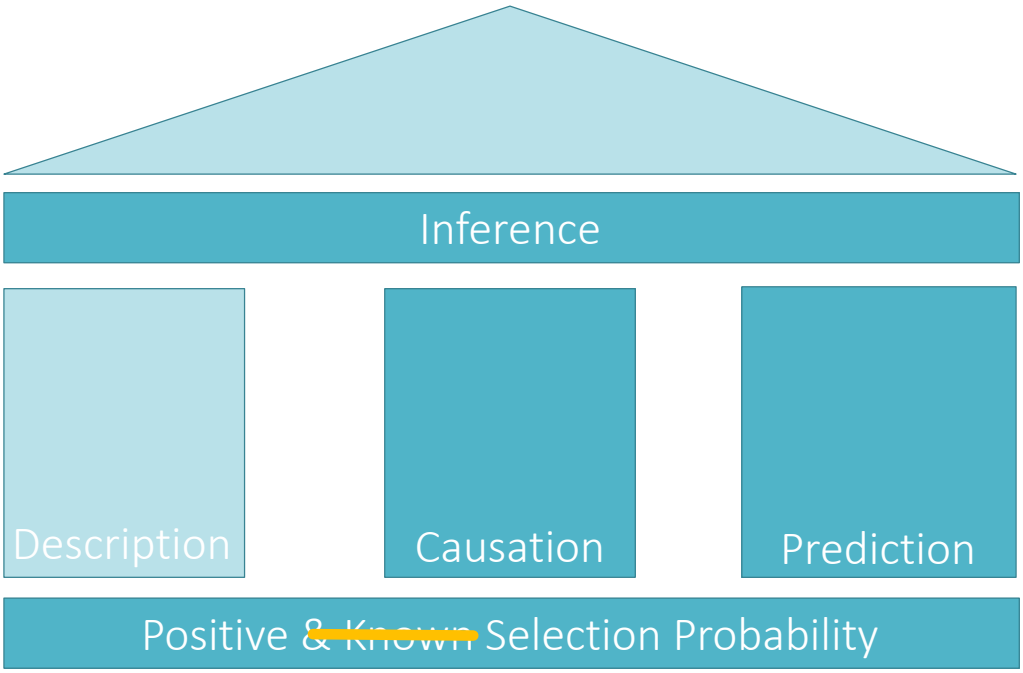

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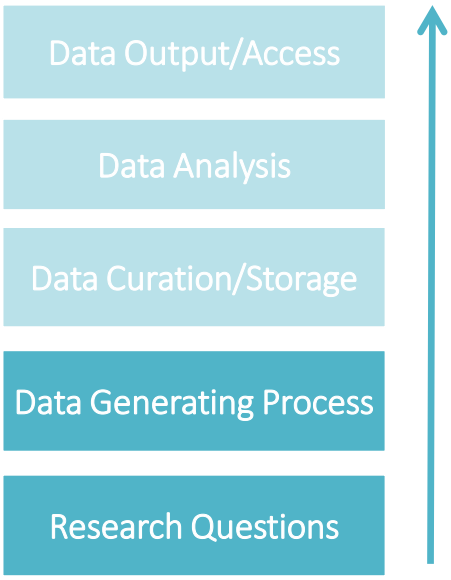

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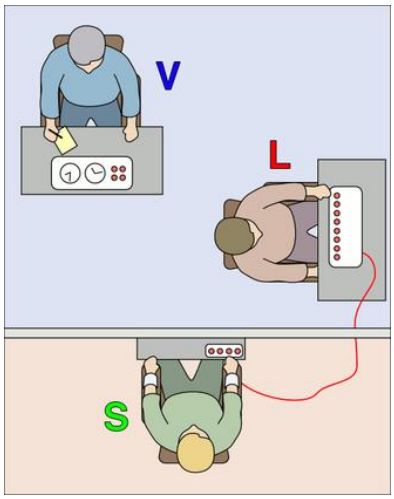
Experiments (laboratory)



- Systematic variation of treatment between one or more groups
- Ideally units are randomized to groups with the goal of equal distribution of characteristics across groups (no confounders)
- Often smaller in scale
- Designed for a specific research purpose
- Often difficult to balance the strong internal validity and the often weaker external validity

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Survey Interview Data

- Data collected with specific research purpose in mind
- Examples: political polling, national crime, and victimization surveys, health surveys, consumer satisfaction…
- Large variation in size and quality
- Timeliness depends in part on mode of data collection
- Often cross-section (on-off) sometimes panel studies (repeated data collection on the same units)
- Usually a sample not a Census

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“Found Data” -- Boston Street Bump

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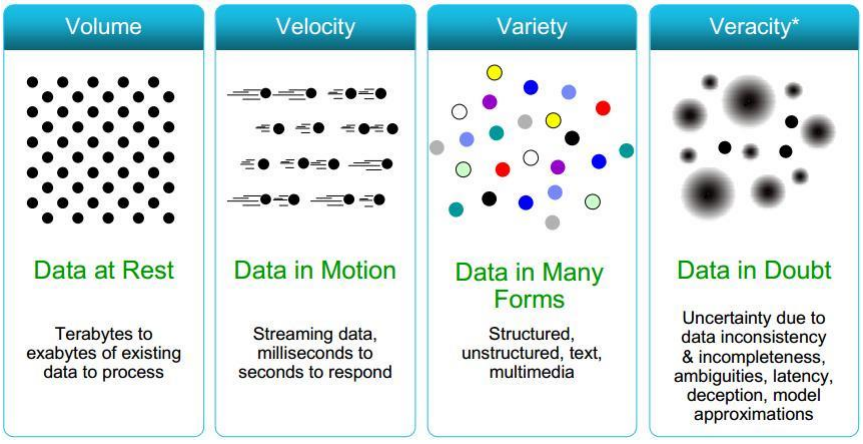
Has All of the Big Data Characteristics



http://www.rosebt.com/blog/data-veracity

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Administrative Data

- Data generated as part of an administrative or production process
- Examples: insurance plans, welfare benefits, social security systems, tax forms, reimbursements for services …
- Generated with a purpose, but primary purpose is not research, thus quality often best for program relevant (mandatory) variables (fields)
- Delay in reporting and dissemination (i.e. slow)
- Includes (most) units in program/process

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