Exploring Space in Cyberspace: Astronomy and Data Science

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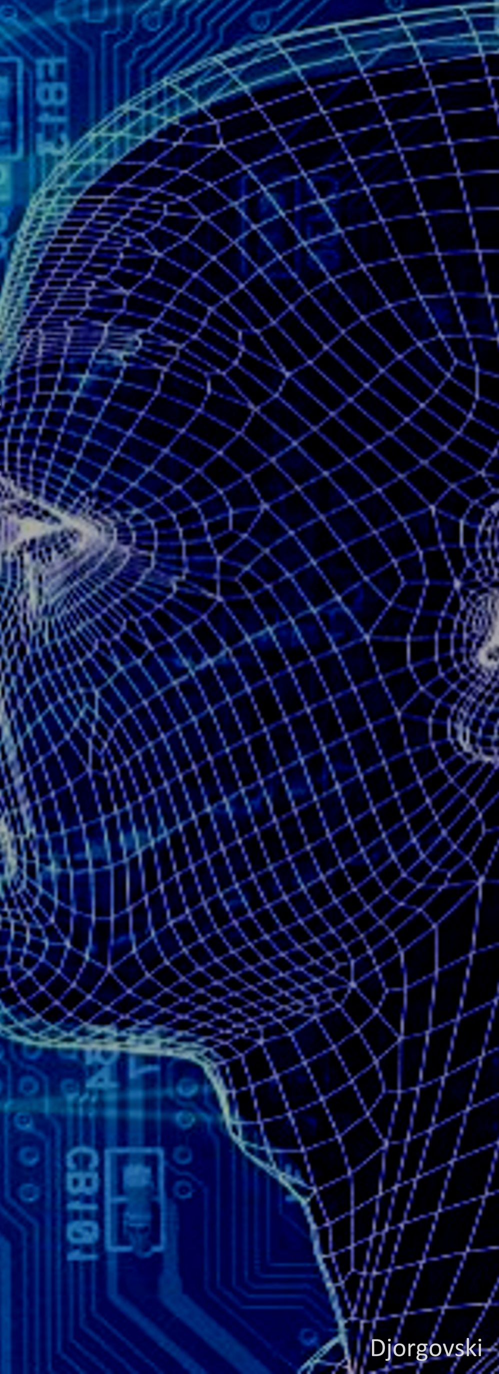
Caltech

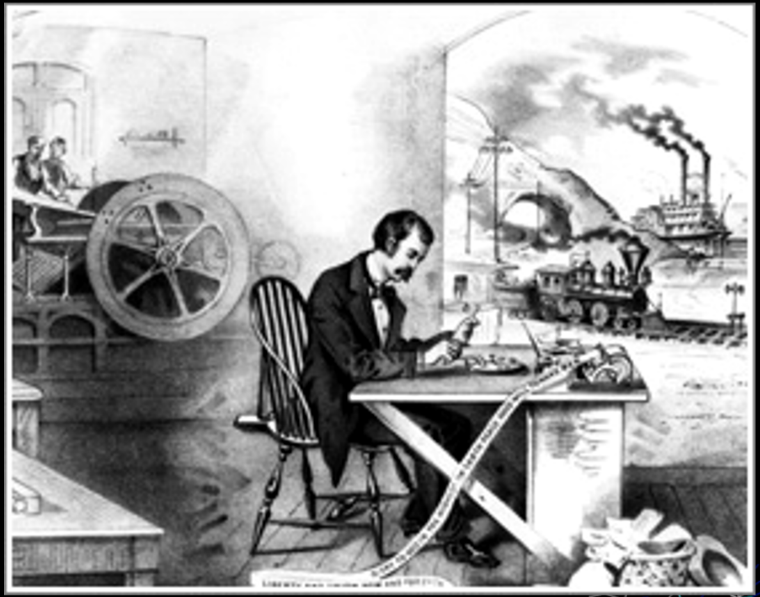
CENTER FOR DATA-DRIVEN DISCOVERY

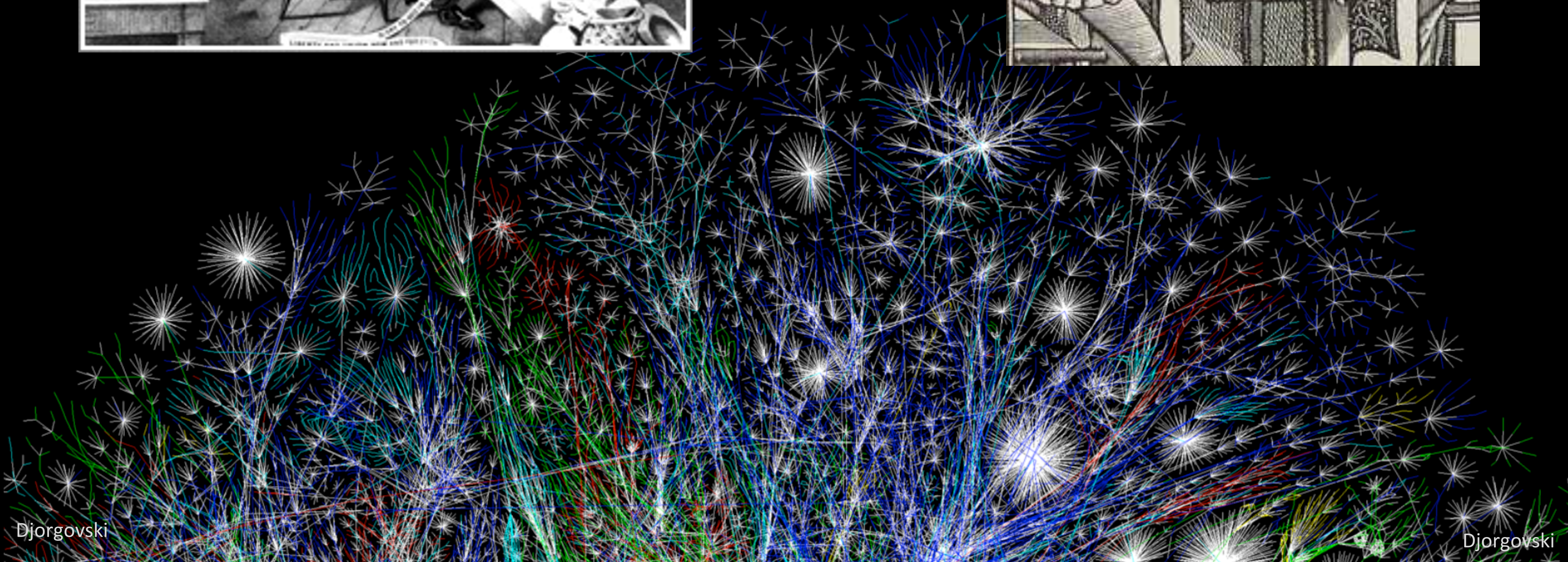
Overview

- Setting the stage: an ongoing transformation of science
- Astronomy in the era of an exponential data growth: from Virtual Observatory to Astroinformatics
- Exploration of parameter spaces and other outstanding challenges
- Science on the carbon-silicon interface: the rise of the machines
- Methodology transfer in action
- Concluding musings and comments



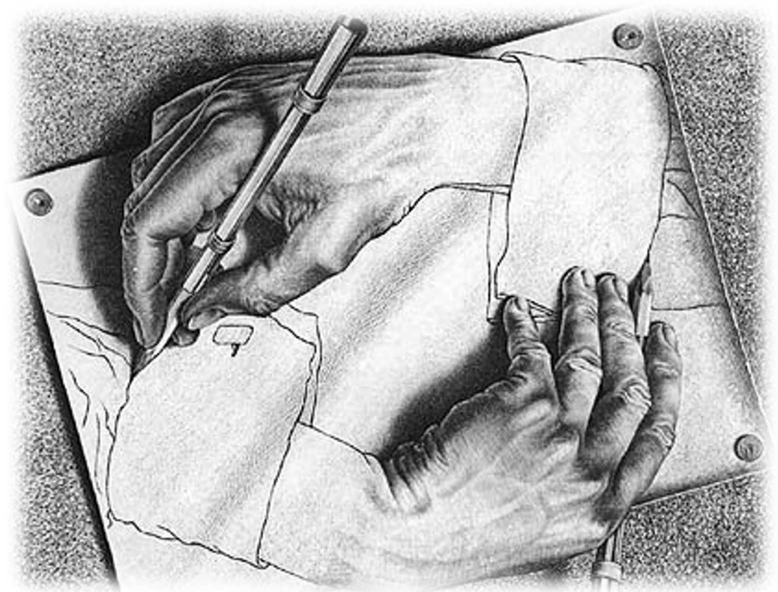
These are Extraordinary Times





Transformation and Synergy

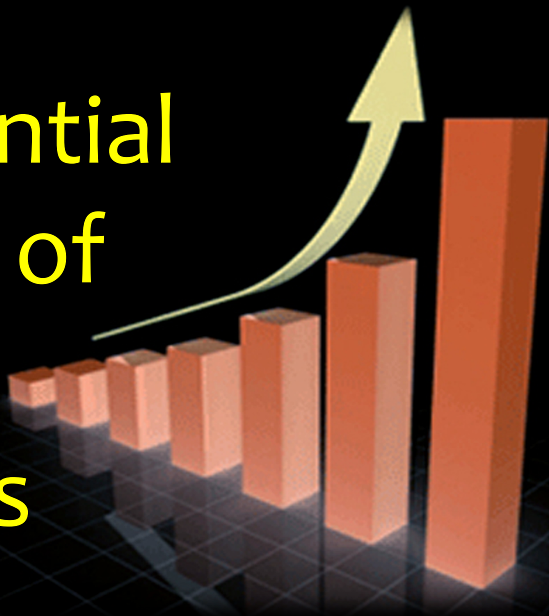
- ***All science*** in the 21st century is becoming cyber-science (aka e-Science) - and with this change comes the need for ***a new scientific methodology***
- The challenges we are tackling:
  - Management of large, complex, distributed data sets
  - Effective exploration of such data ➞ new knowledge
  - **These challenges are universal**
- A great synergy of the computationally enabled science, and the science-driven IT



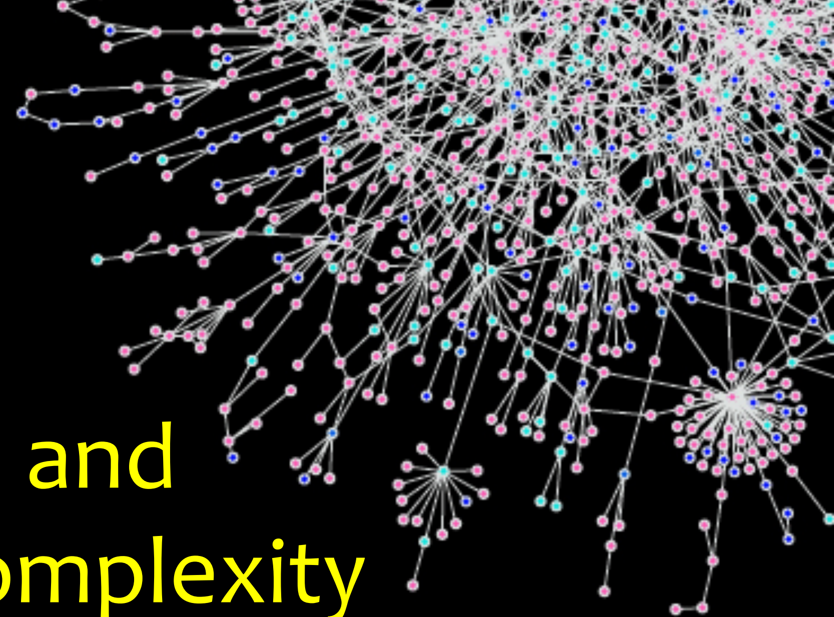
Cyberspace (today the Web, with all the information and tools it connects) is increasingly becoming the principal arena where humans interact with each other, with the world of information, where they work, learn, and play

Essentially all aspects of the modern society are migrating to cyberspace, science and scholarship included, with their data, methods, publications, etc.

Exponential Growth of Data Volumes



… and Complexity



on Moore's law time scales

Understanding of complex phenomena requires complex data!

From data poverty to data glut
From data sets to data streams
From static to dynamic, evolving data
From anytime to real-time analysis and discovery
From centralized to distributed resources
From ownership of data to ownership of expertise

What is Fundamentally New Here?

- The ***information volumes and rates*** grow exponentially

⇨ ***Most data will never be seen by humans***

- A great increase in the data ***information content***

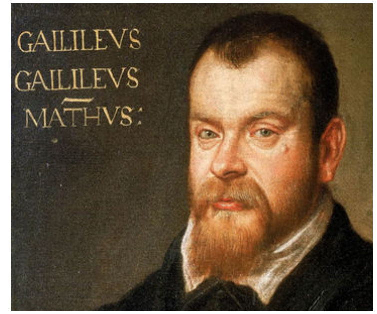
⇨ ***Data driven vs. hypothesis driven science***

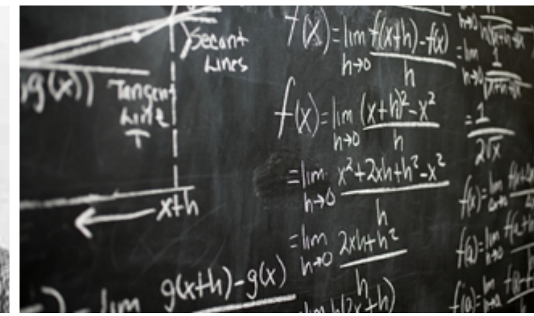
- A great increase in the ***information complexity***

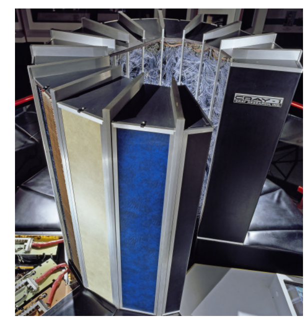
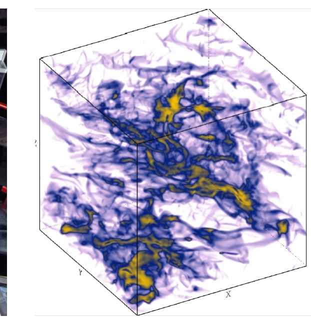
⇨ ***There are patterns in the data that cannot be comprehended by humans directly***

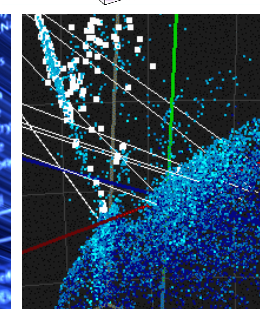
The Evolving Paths to Knowledge

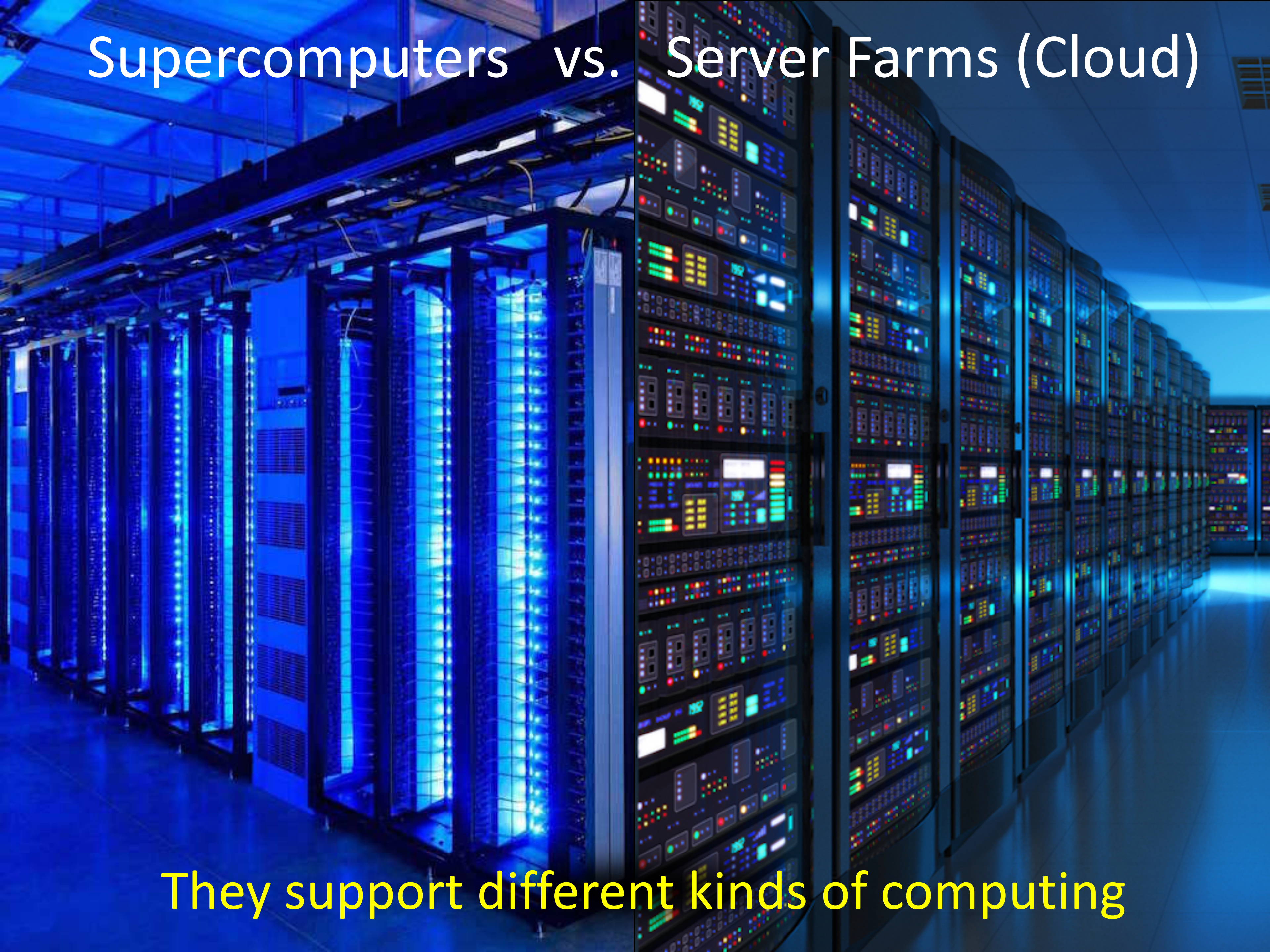
- The First Paradigm: Experiment/Measurement
- The Second Paradigm: Analytical Theory
- The Third Paradigm: Numerical Simulations
- The Fourth Paradigm: Data-Driven Science



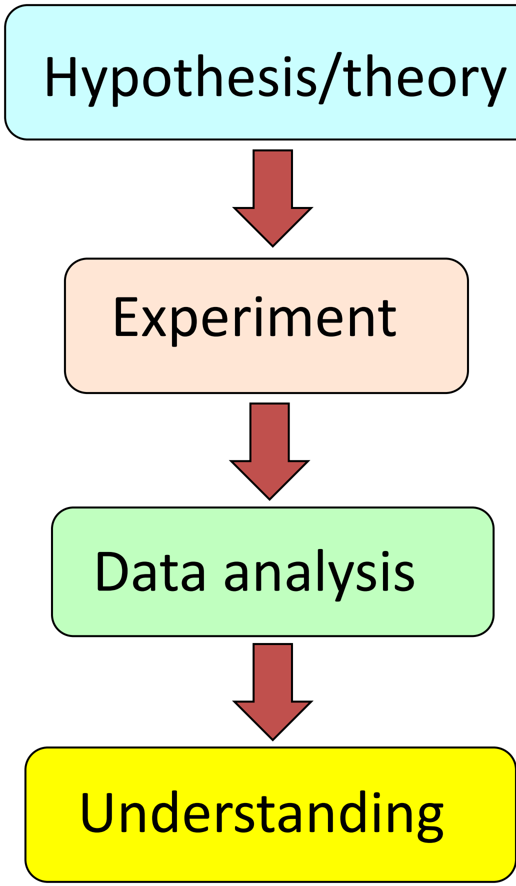



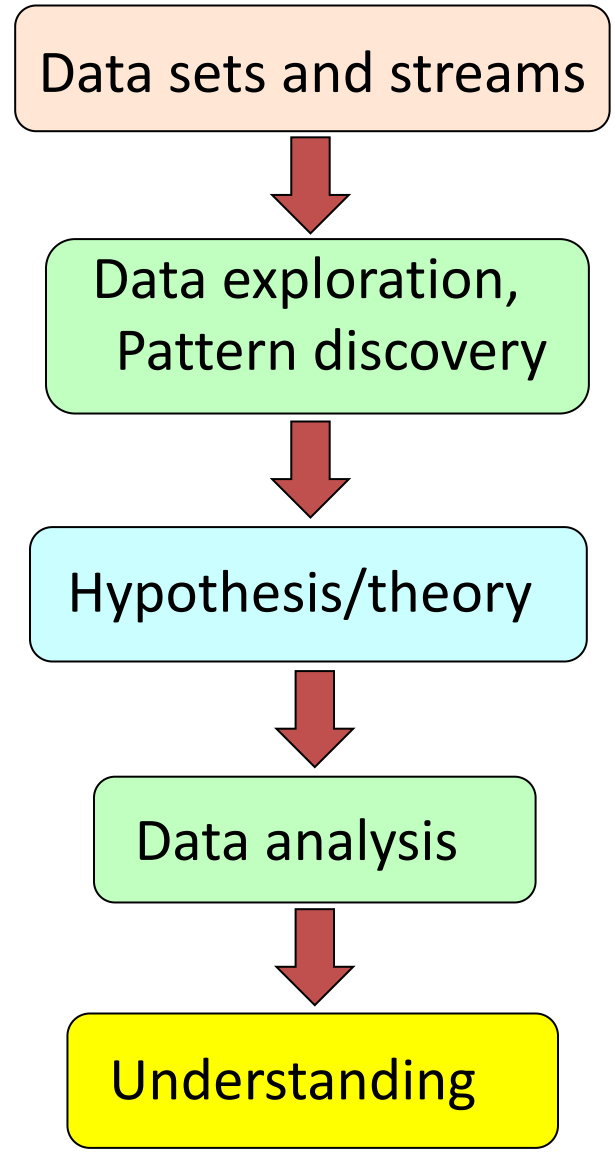




Supercomputers vs. Server Farms (Cloud)
They support different kinds of computing

Hypothesis-driven science



Data-driven science



The two approaches are complementary

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A Modern Scientific Discovery Process

Data Gathering (finstruments, sensor networks, their pipelines...)

↳ **Data Farming:**

Storage/Archiving
Indexing, Searchability
Data Fusion, Interoperability

} Databases
Data grids

↳ **Data Mining**

Key Technical Challenges

Pattern or correlation search
Clustering analysis, classification
Outlier / anomaly searches
Hyperdimensional visualization

↳ **Data Understanding**

↳ **New Knowledge**

+feedback

Astronomy Has Become Very Data-Rich

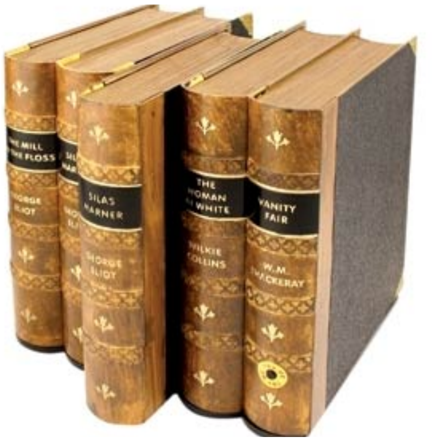
- Typical digital sky surveys now generate ~ 1PB each, plus a comparable amount of derived data products
  - EB-scale data sets are on the horizon (e.g., SKA)
- Astronomy today has > 100 PB of archived data, and generates > 100 TB/day
  - Both data volumes and data rates grow exponentially, with a ***doubling time ~ 1.5 years***
  - Even more important is the growth of ***data complexity***
- For comparison:

  Human Genome < 1 GB

  Human Memory < 1 GB (?)

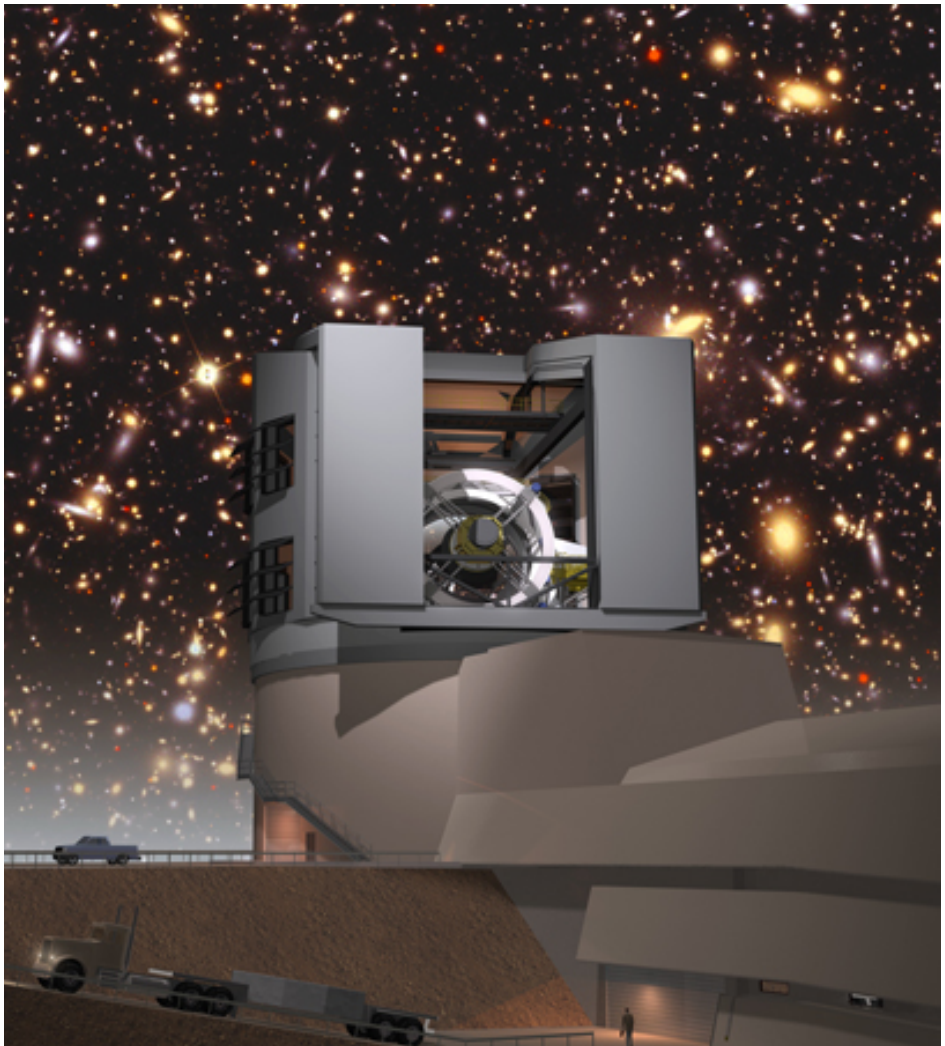
  1 TB ~ 2 million books

  Human Bandwidth ~ 1 TB / year (±)

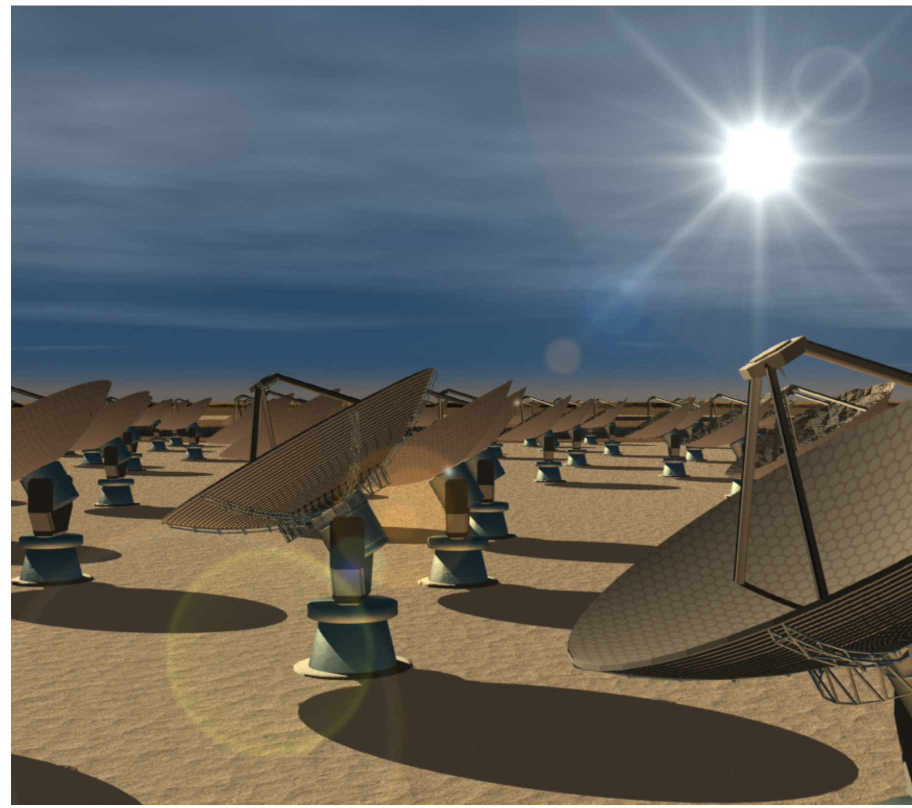


… And It Will Get Much More So

Large Synoptic Survey Telescope (LSST) ~ 30 TB / night



Square Kilometer Array (SKA) ~ 1 EB / second (raw data)
(EB = 1,000,000 TB)



Data triage becomes an issue

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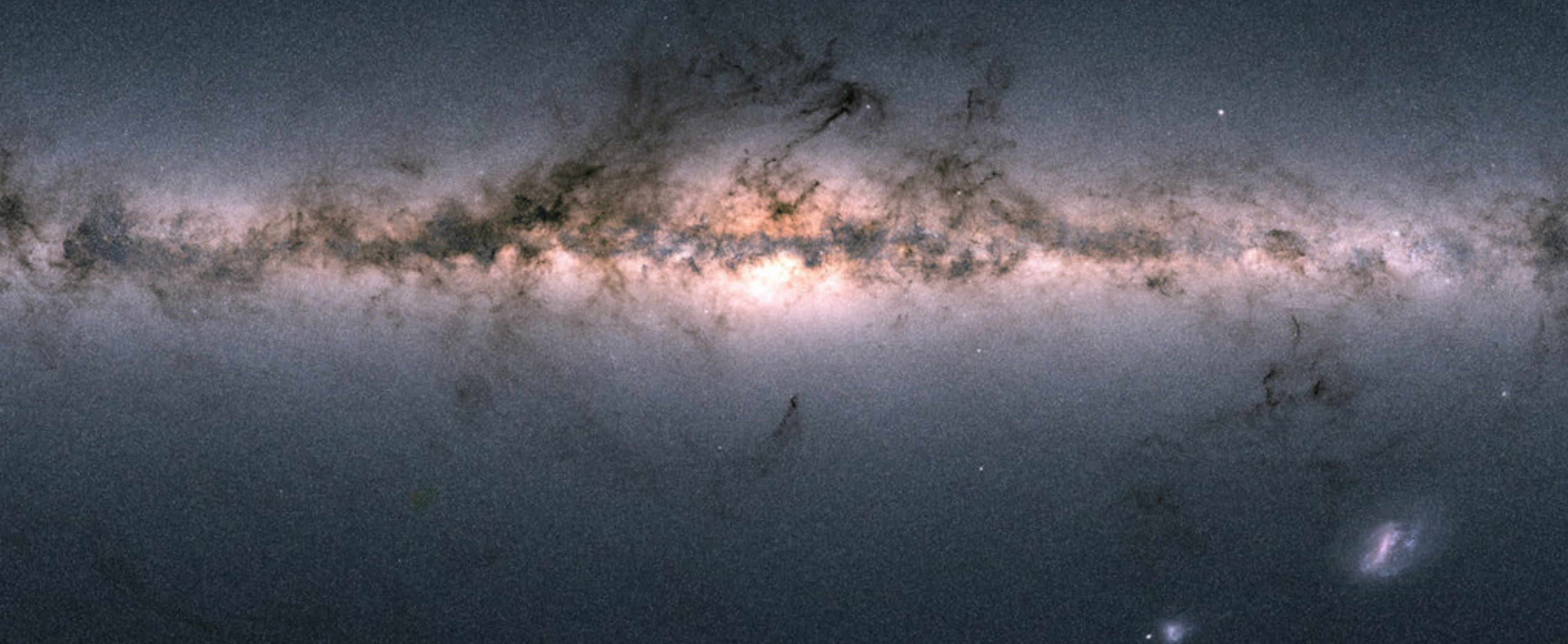
There Are *Lots* Of Stars In The Sky…

Modern sky surveys obtain ~ 10^{15} – 10^{16} bytes of images, catalog ~ 10^{9} objects (stars, galaxies, etc.), and measure ~ 10^{2} – 10^{3} numbers for each



… and then do it again, and again, …

Gaia DR2 Catalog Image

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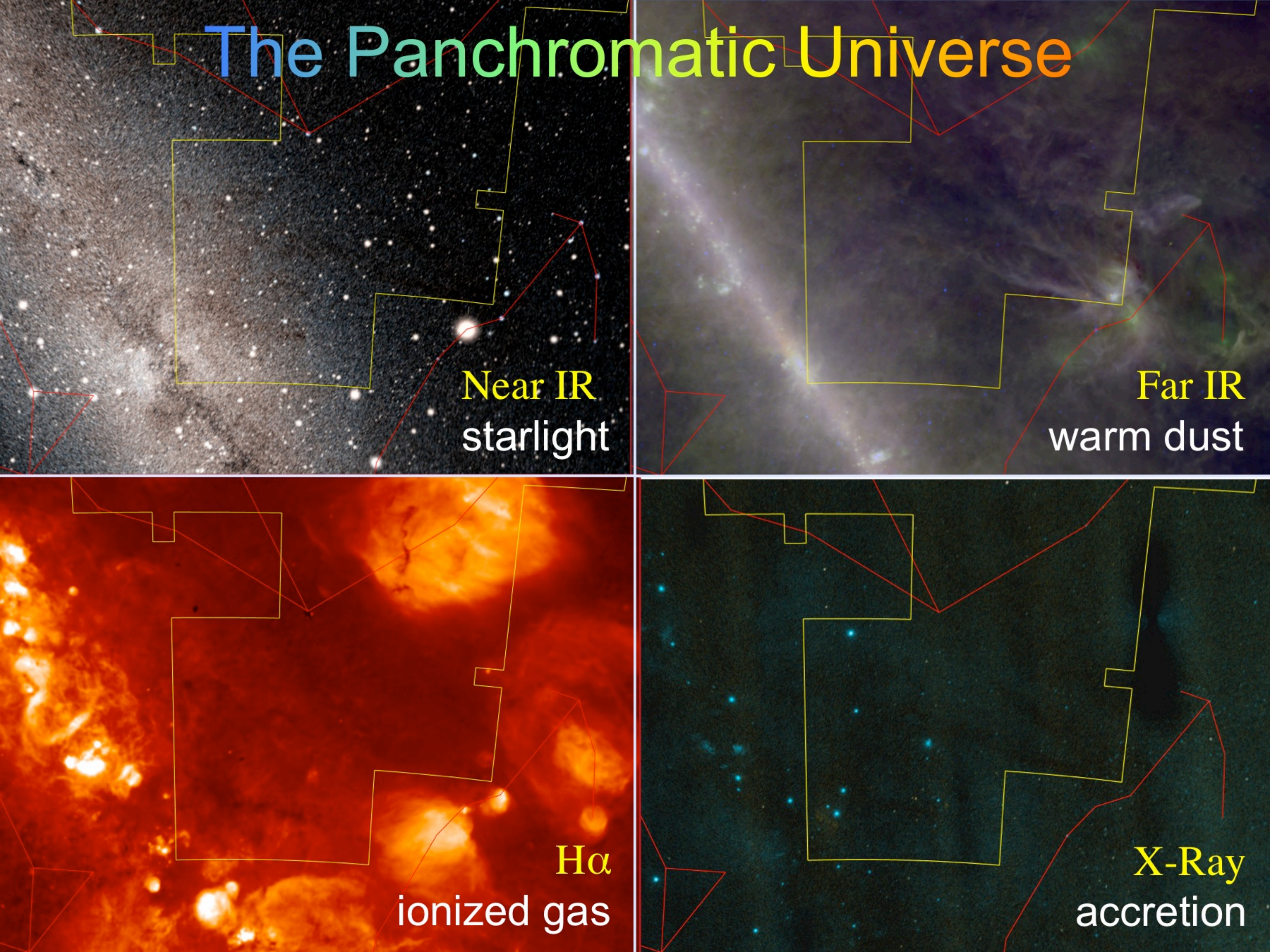
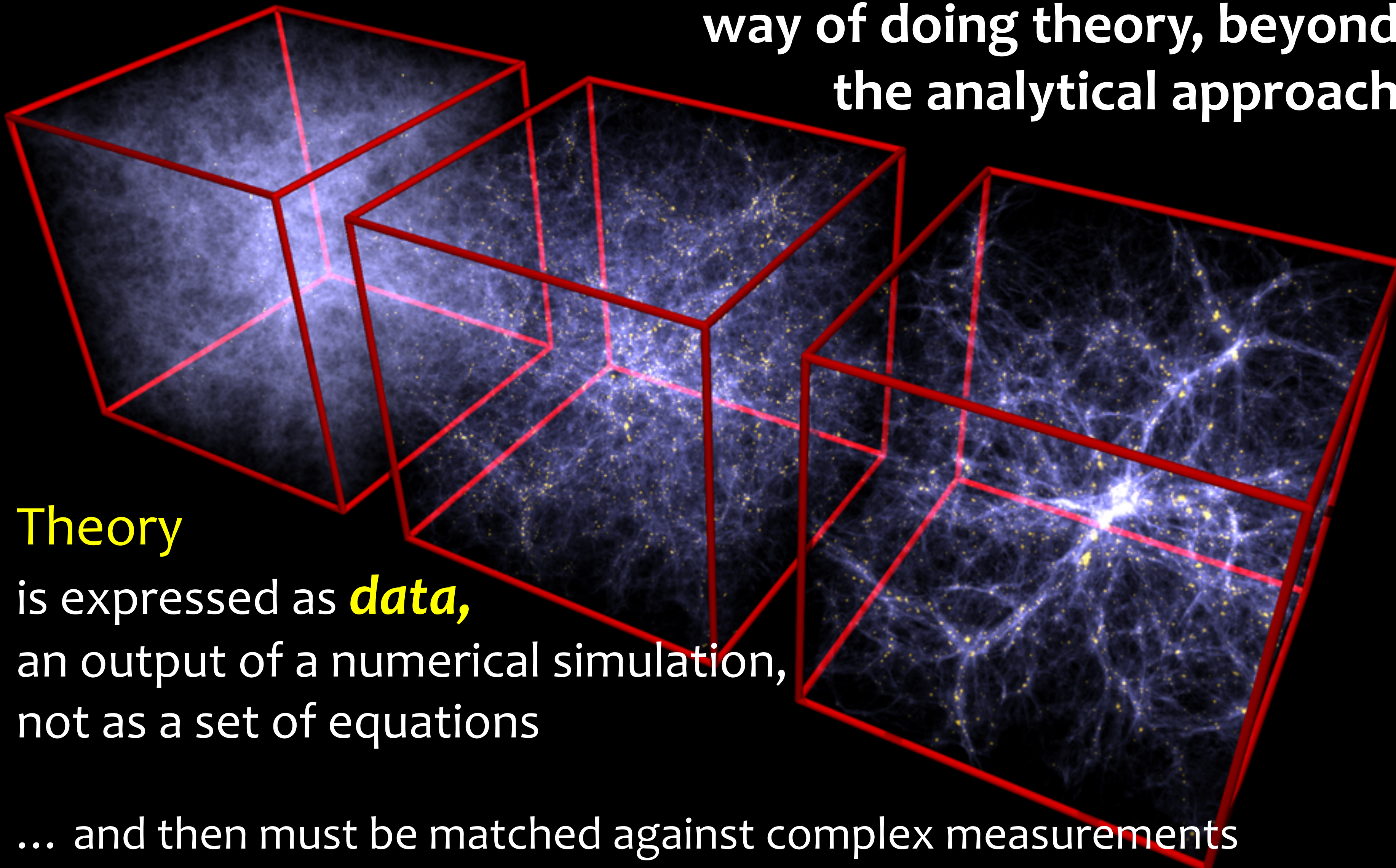
The Panchromatic Universe



Numerical Simulations:

A qualitatively different and necessary way of doing theory, beyond the analytical approach



Theory

is expressed as ***data,***

an output of a numerical simulation,

not as a set of equations

… and then must be matched against complex measurements

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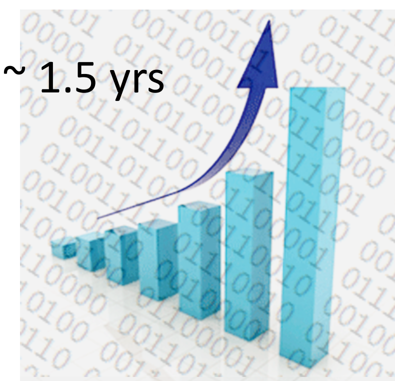
The Evolving Data-Rich Astronomy

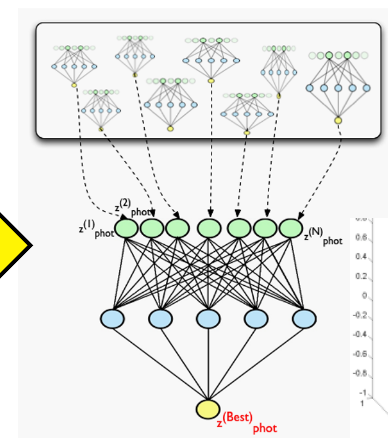
From "arts & crafts" to industry

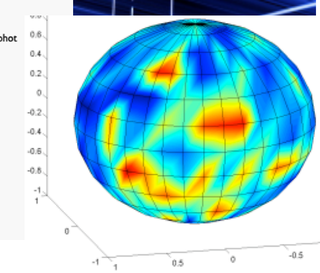
From data subsistence to an exponential overabundance

Astronomy is driven by the progress in information technology

t_2 ~ 1.5 yrs







Telescope+instrument are "just" a front end to data systems, where the real action is

The Evolving Data-Rich Astronomy

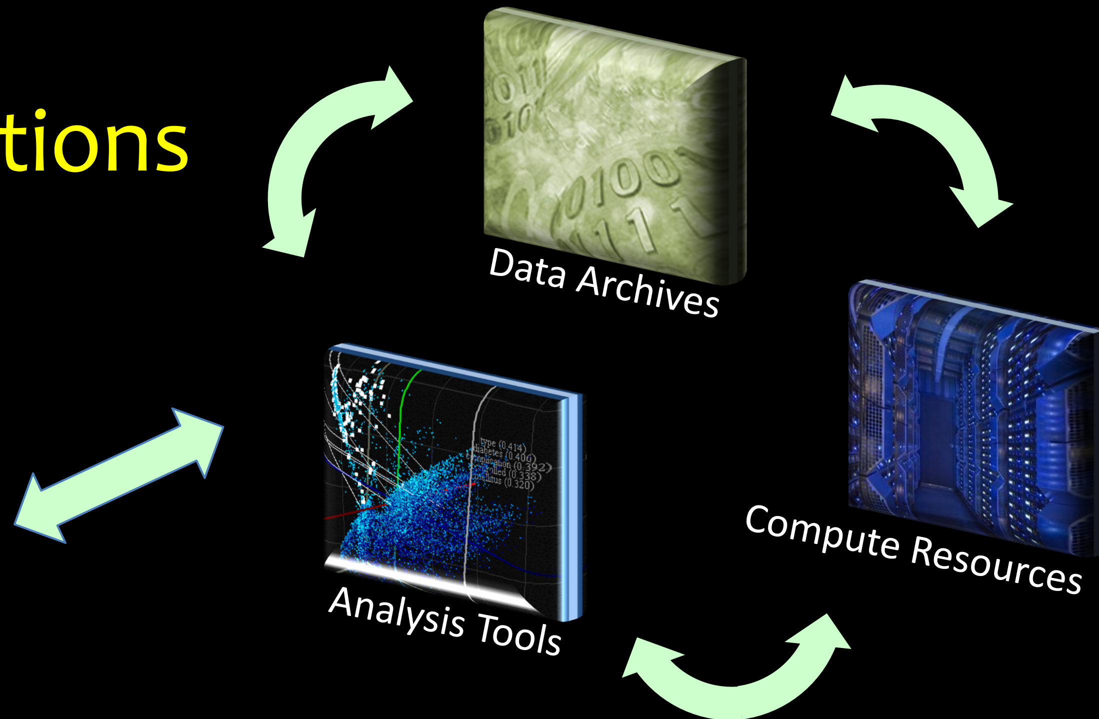
An example of a "Big Data" science driven by the advances in computing/information technology

1980 MB
1990 GB
2000 TB
2010 PB
2020 EB

CCDs
Image Proc.
Pipelines
Surveys
Databases
VO
Machine Learning
AstroInfo
LSST, SKA…
AI

Key challenges: data heterogeneity and complexity

The Rise of Virtual Scientific Organizations



- A grassroots response to the challenges of the data glut
- A new type of scientific organizations:
  - ✧ Inherently geographically distributed (data, people, tools)
  - ✧ Discipline-based, not institution-based
  - ✧ Based on an exponentially changing technology and data
  - ✧ Crossing the traditional disciplinary boundaries

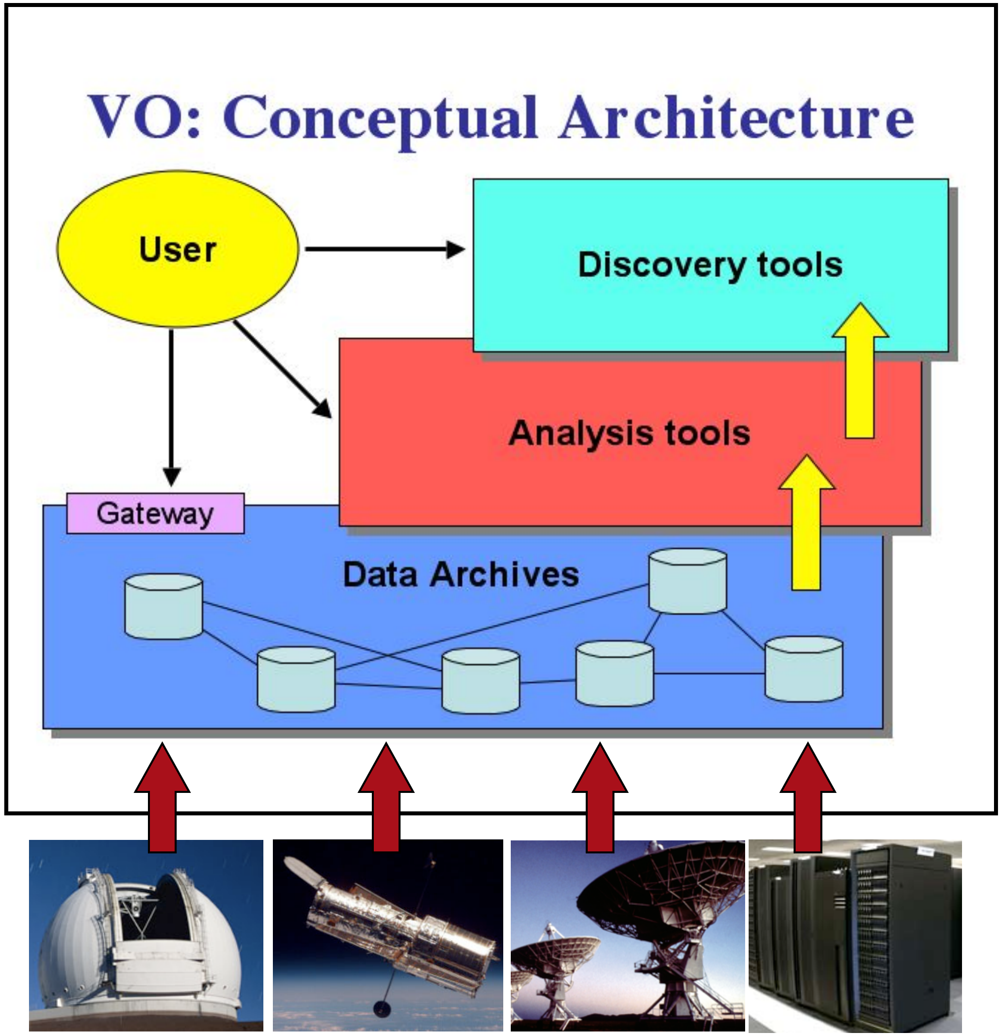
The Virtual Observatory Concept

- A complete, dynamical, distributed, open ***research environment for the new astronomy with massive and complex data sets***

  – Provide and federate content (data, metadata) services, standards, and analysis/compute services

  – Develop and provide data exploration and discovery tools

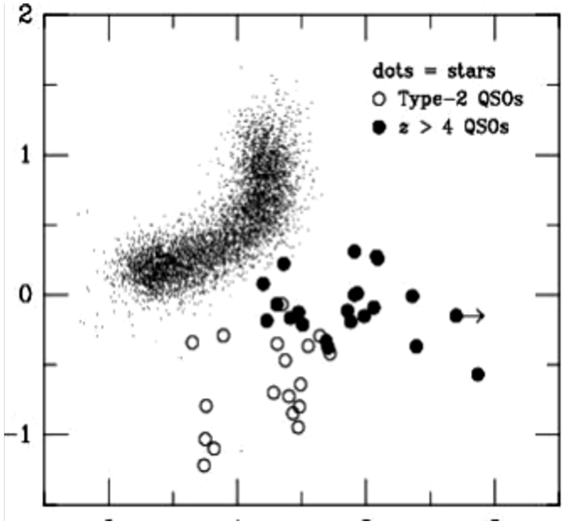
  – A successful example of an e-Science /Cyber-Infrastructure



Virtual Observatory Science Examples

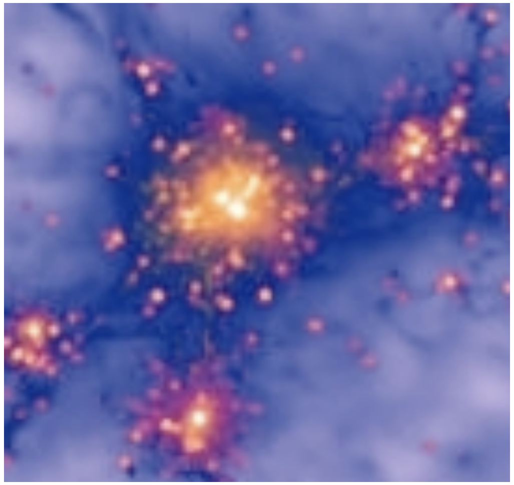
Combine the data from multi-TB, billion-object surveys in the optical, IR, radio, X-ray, etc.

- Large scale structure in the universe
- Structure of our Galaxy



Discover rare and unusual (one-in-a-million or one-in-a-billion) types of sources

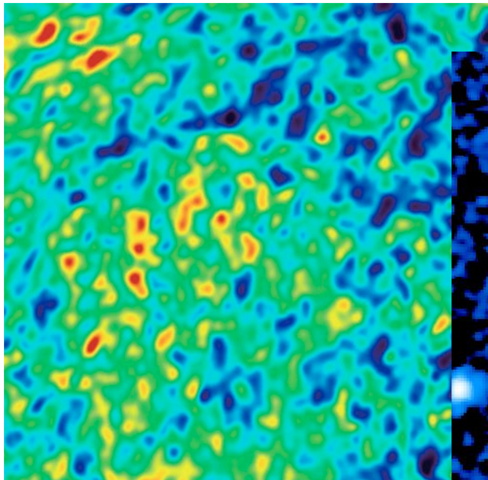
- E.g., extremely distant or unusual quasars, new types, etc.



Match Peta-scale numerical simulations of star or galaxy formation with equally large and complex observations

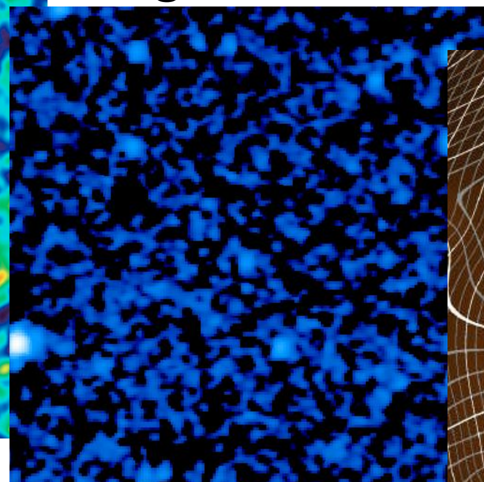
... etc., etc.

Understanding the Cosmic Microwave Background and its Foregrounds

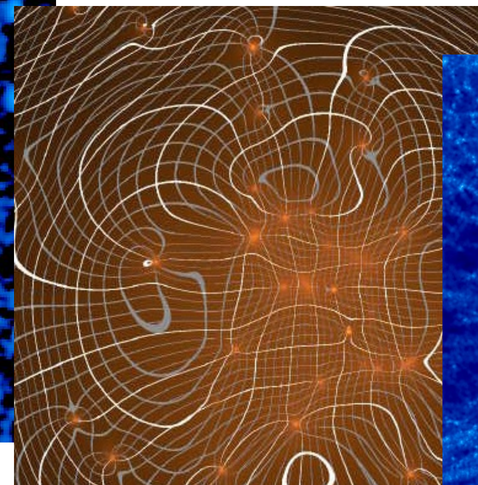


CMB Signal

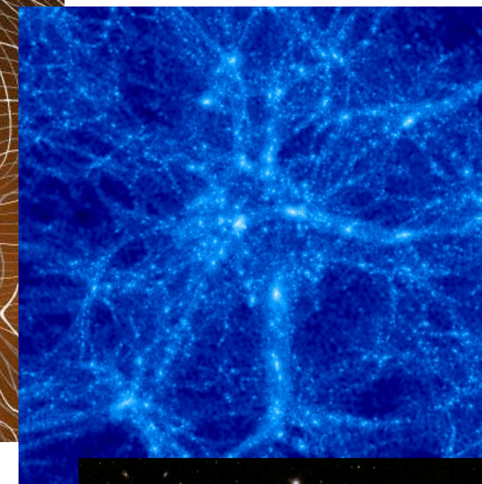
Integrated SZ



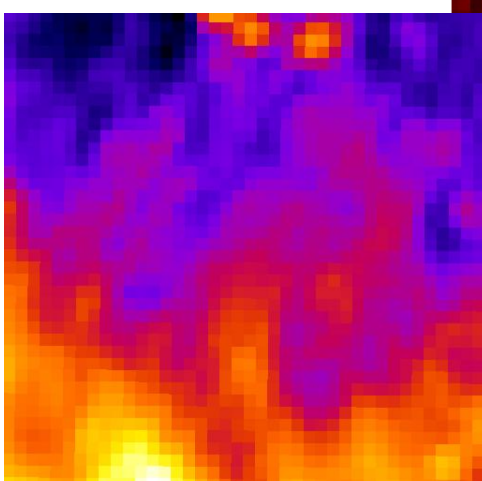
Grav. Lensing



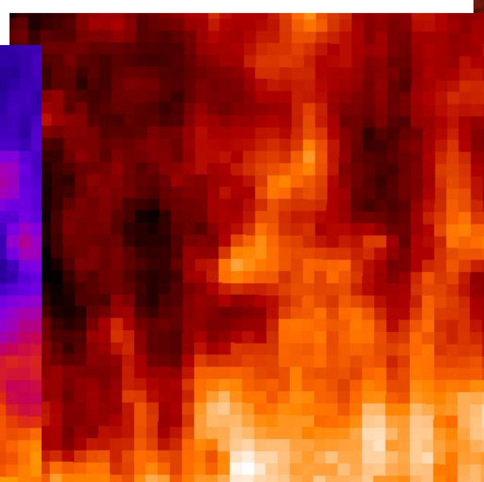
Sachs-Wolfe

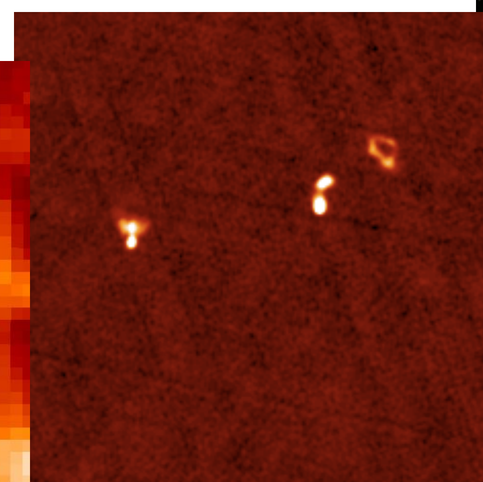


Gal. Nonthermal



Galactic Thermal





Radio Sources

Galaxies (SF)

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IVOA: The Virtual Observatory Reified

- Formed in 2002 to facilitate the international collaborative effort needed to enable integrated access to astronomical archives
- 21 international members
- Working Groups and Interest Groups overseen by Technical Coordination Group reporting to Executive Committee:
  - Applications
  - Data Access Layer
  - Data Models
  - Grid and Web Services
  - Registry
  - Semantics
  - Data Curation and Preservation
  - Knowledge Discovery in Databases
  - Education
  - Operations
  - Solar System
  - Theory
  - Time Domain
- Committee for Science Priorities
- Engage with big projects

IVOA.net

Resources at http://ivoa.net

INTERNATIONAL VIRTUAL OBSERVATORY ALLIANCE

Home | Astronomers | Deployers | Members | About

VO Applications for Astronomers

In this section, scientists can find available VO-compatible applications for their immediate use to do science. The level of maturity of the applications depends on a high degree on the level of maturity of the corresponding IVOA protocols and standards.. As a consequence of the flexibility of the standards, several of the applications might overlap in functionality. **The IVOA does not manage or guarantee these services/tools.**

Applications (in alphabetical order)

Aladin
AppLauncher
CASSIS
CDS Xmatch Service
Data Discovery Tool
Filter Profile Service
Iris
Montage
Octet
SkyView
Specview
SPLAT
TAPHandle
. . .

Functionality

Search for Images:
Aladin, Datascope, SkyView, VODesktop, Data Discovery Tool

Search for Spectra:
Aladin, CASSIS, Datascope, SPLAT, Specview, VOServices, VOSpec, Data Discovery Tool

Search for Catalogues:
Aladin, Datascope, TOPCAT, VODesktop, Data Discovery Tool

Search for Time Series
. . .

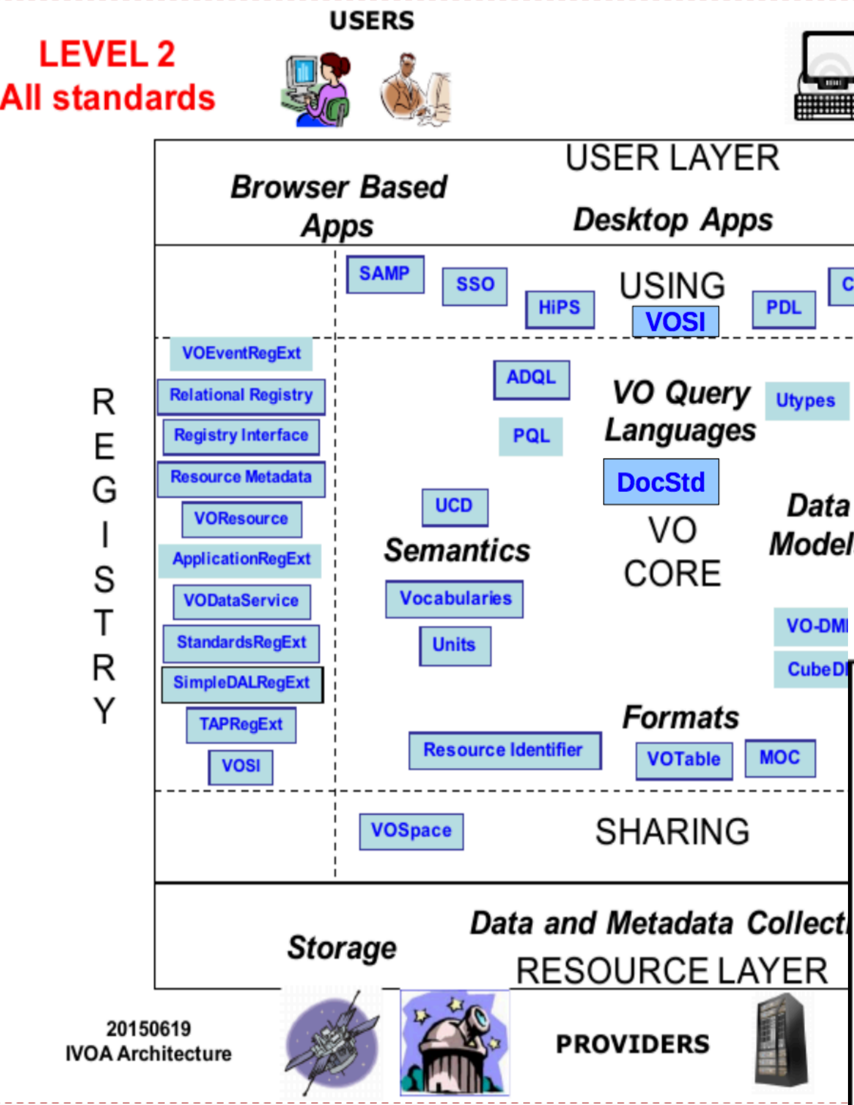
VO-compliant Tools & Services

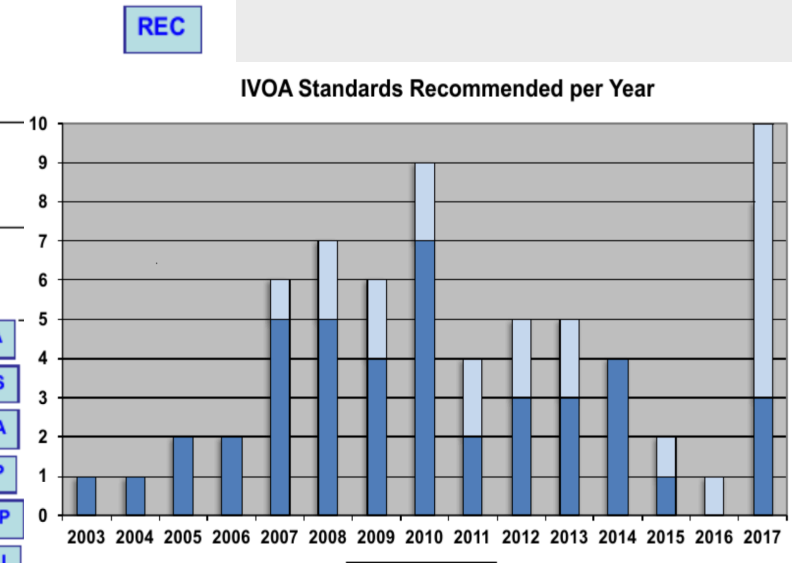
DS9: Image visualiasation
GOSSIP: SED fitting
VirGO: Search for Images and Spectra
IRAF: Image Reduction & Analysis
World Wide Telescope
Gaia - Graphical Astronomy and Image Analysis
SIMBAD
TESELA
VizieR
. . .

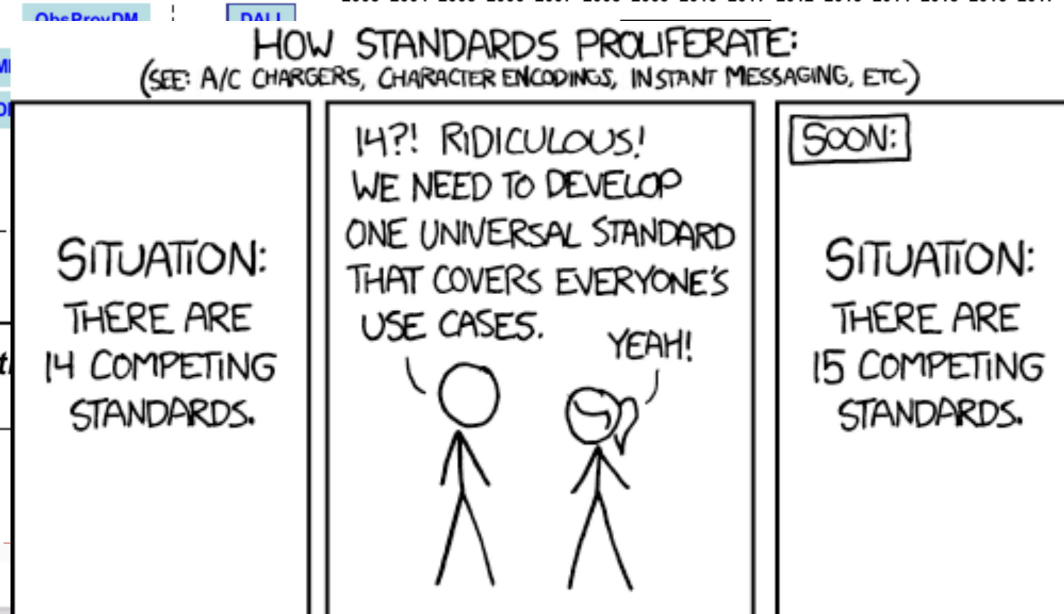
A compilation of tools and services

IVOA is now mainly a standards coordination body

What has the IVOA achieved?

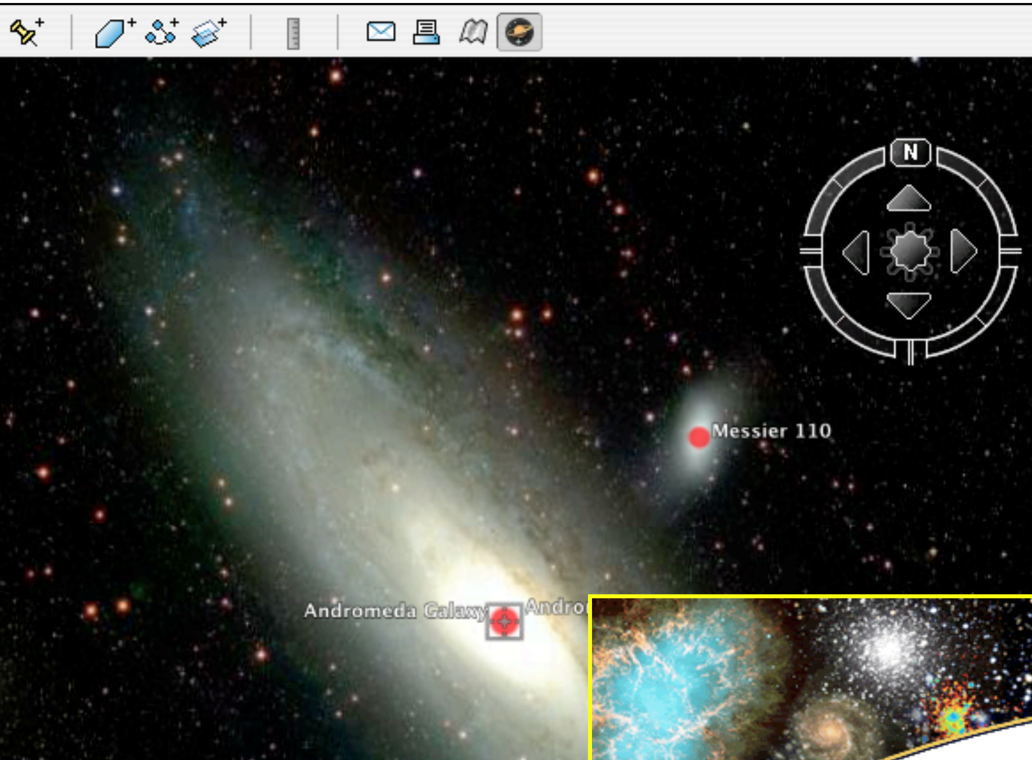


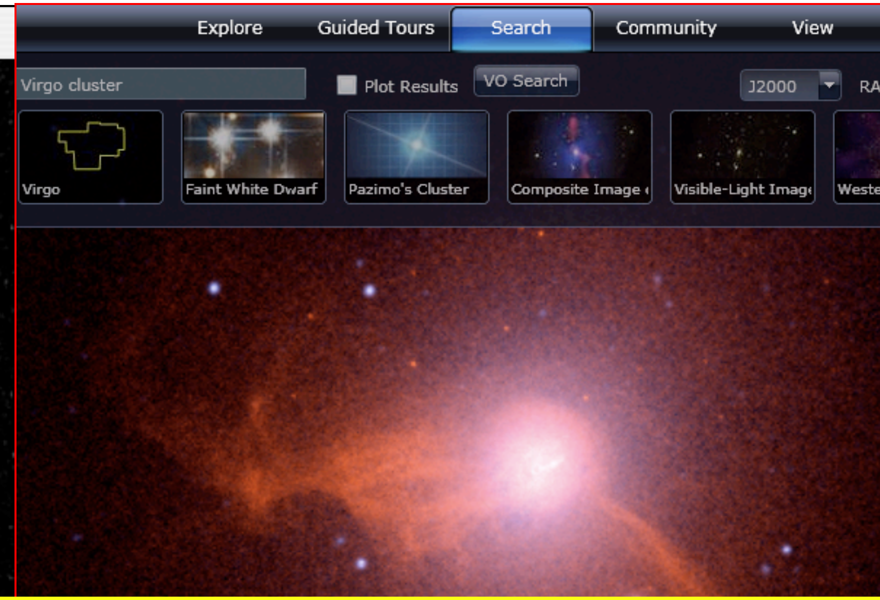


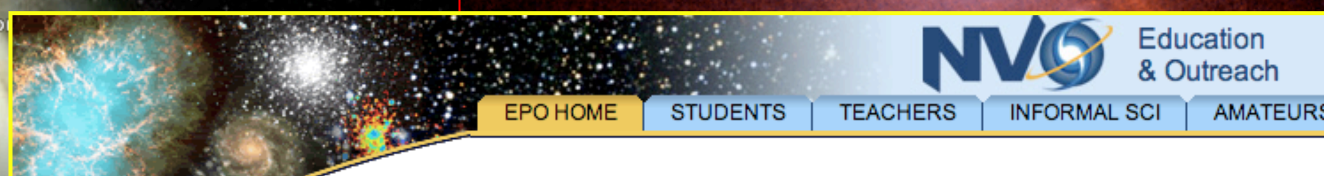


VO Education and Public Outreach

"Weapons of Mass Instruction"

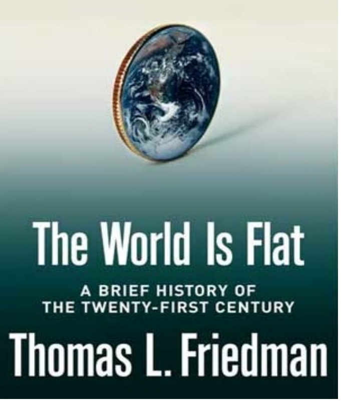






- Unprecedented opportunities in terms of the content, broad geographical and societal range, at all levels
- Astronomy as a gateway to learning about physical science in general, as well as applied CS and IT

Galaxy M81 seen by a visible-light telescope



The Cyberworld Is Also Flat

Possibly the most important aspect of the IT revolution

- **Professional Empowerment:** Scientists and students anywhere with an internet connection should be able to do a first-rate science (access to data *and* tools)
  - A broadening of the talent pool democratization of science
  - They can also be substantial contributors, not only consumers of scientific content
- Riding the exponential growth of the IT is far more cost effective than building expensive hardware facilities

… and computational science magnifies their impact

How Did the VO Succeed?

- All data collected in a digital form
- Computer- and data-savvy community
- Some standard formats in place
- Large data collections in funded, agency mandated archives
- Established culture of data sharing
- Community initiative driven by the needs of an exponential data growth
- Federal agency support/funding
- Data have no commercial value or privacy issues

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VO: Some Lessons Learned

- **Educate your community**. People will share out of an enlightened self-interest. Enlighten them.
- **The uptake is slow**, because:
  A. Cultural inertia: transition from a data poverty to a data glut
  B. Scientists respond to two stimuli:
     1. Resources ⇨ Need agency support, mandates
     2. Results ⇨ ***Need knowledge discovery tools***

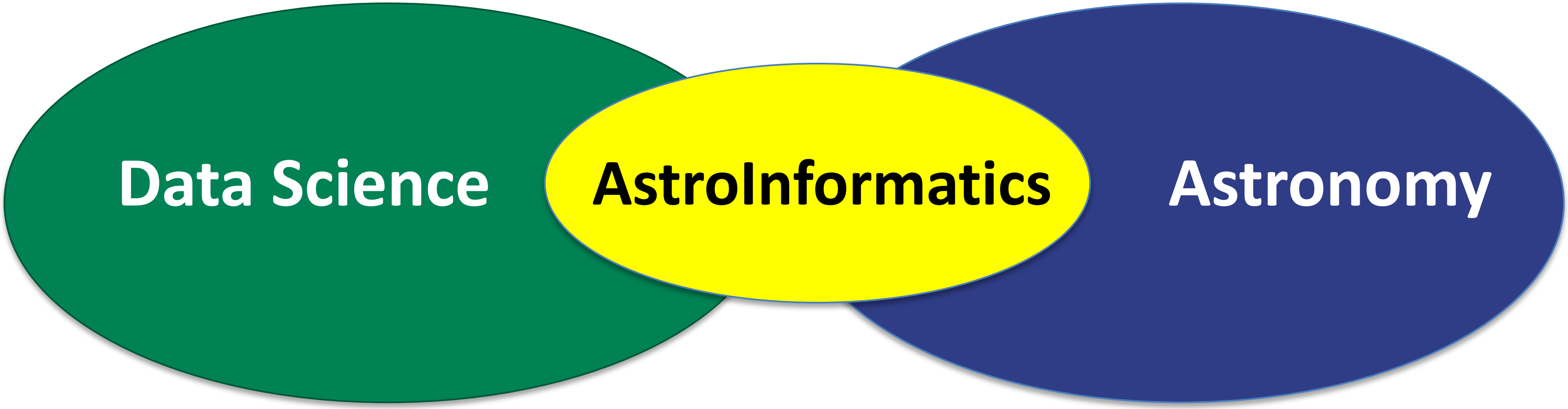
And because of that…

- Don’t let the archives people take over! Data commons are essential, but ***only*** because they enable science.

VO ***failed*** at the last bullet. Thus: **Astroinformatics**

AstroInformatics

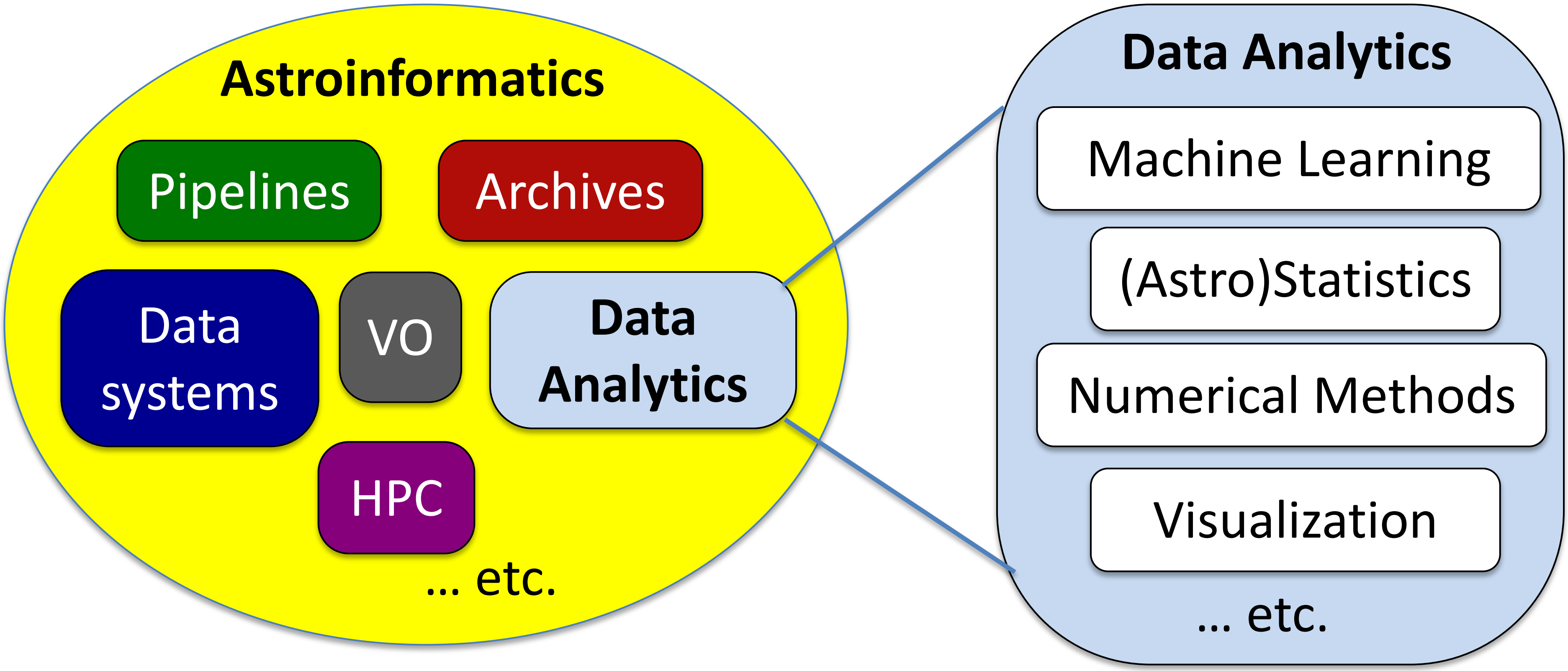
is essentially astronomical applications of Data Science



- While VO became a global data grid of astronomy, astroinformatics focuses of the **knowledge discovery tools**
- It includes a growing community of scientists, both as contributors and as users
- Like other X-Informatics (X = bio, geo, …) it is a bridge between astronomy and data science, and for the methodology sharing with other fields.

AstroInformatics

It contains all of the components of Data Science, in their astronomical applications

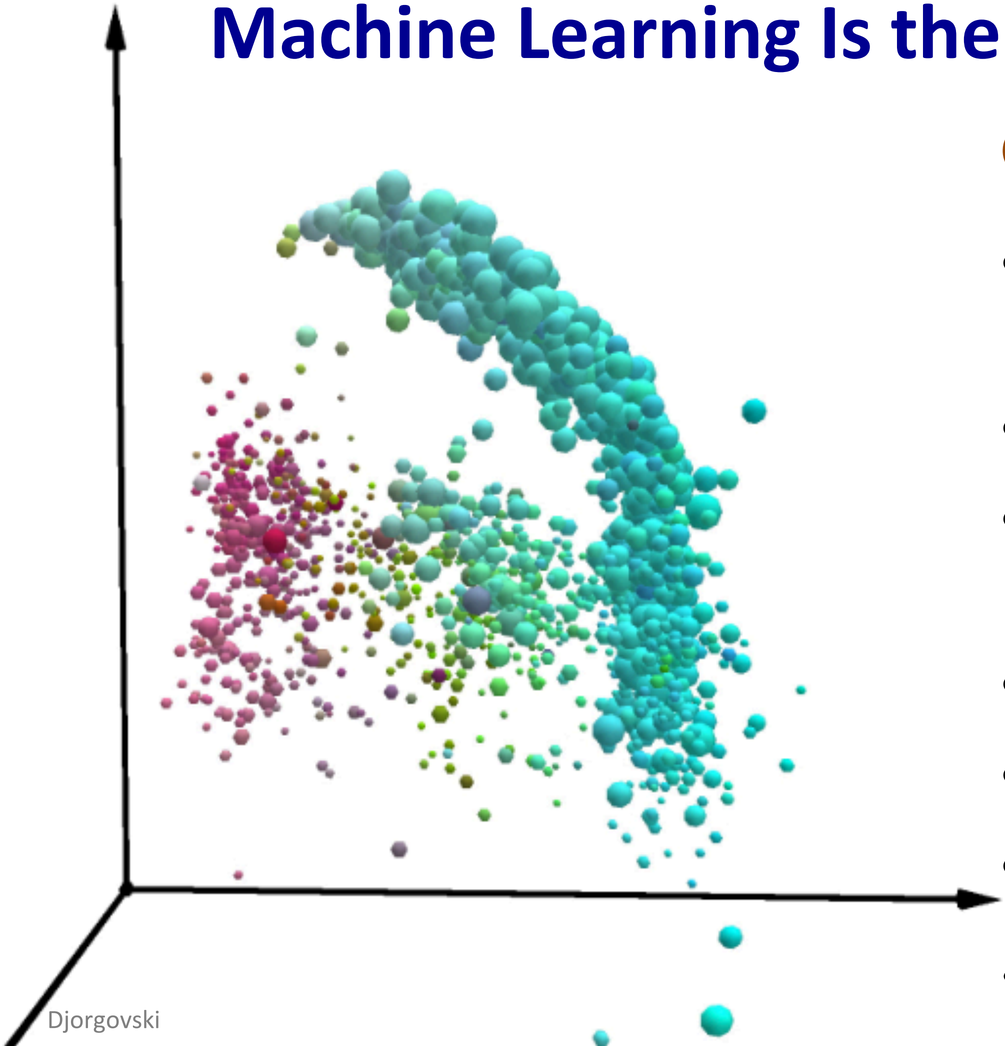


… and their interconnections

Exploration of Parameter Spaces is a Central Problem of Data Science

Clustering, classification, correlation and outlier searches, …

Machine Learning Is the Key Methodology



Challenges:

- Algorithm and data model choices
- Data incompleteness
- Feature selection and dimensionality reduction
- Uncertainty estimation
- Scalability
- Visualization

… etc.

} Especially with the data dimensionality

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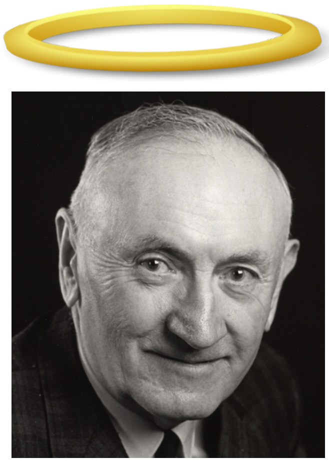
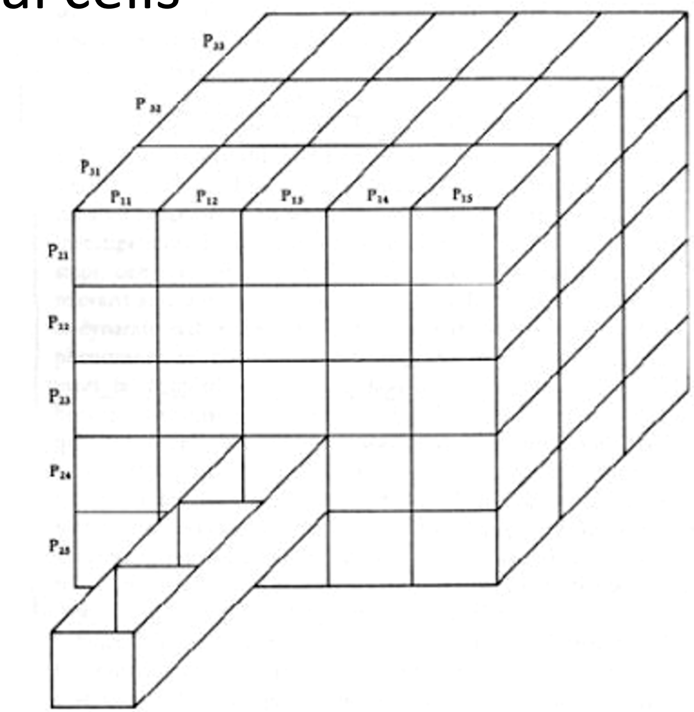
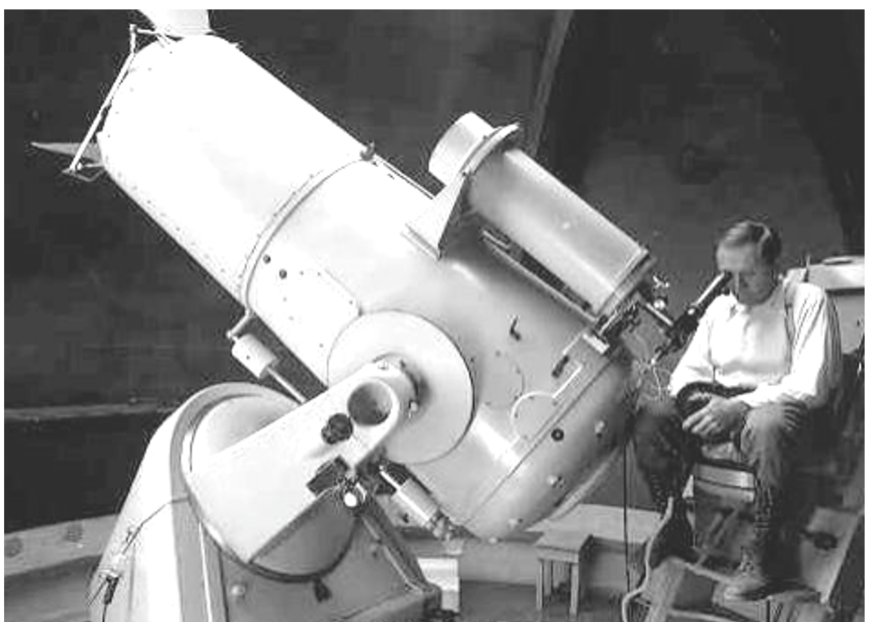
From “Morphological Box” to the Observable Parameter Spaces



Fritz Zwicky

Zwicky’s concept: explore all possible combinations of the relevant parameters in a given problem; these correspond to the individual cells in a “Morphological Box”



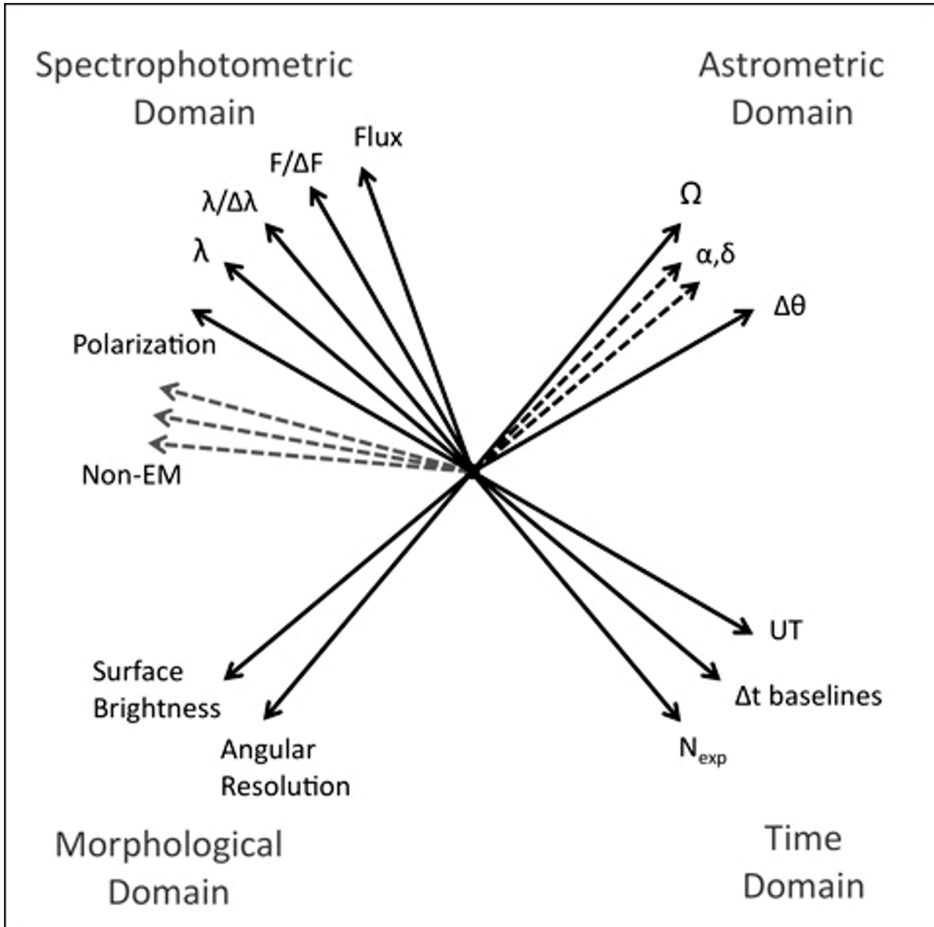


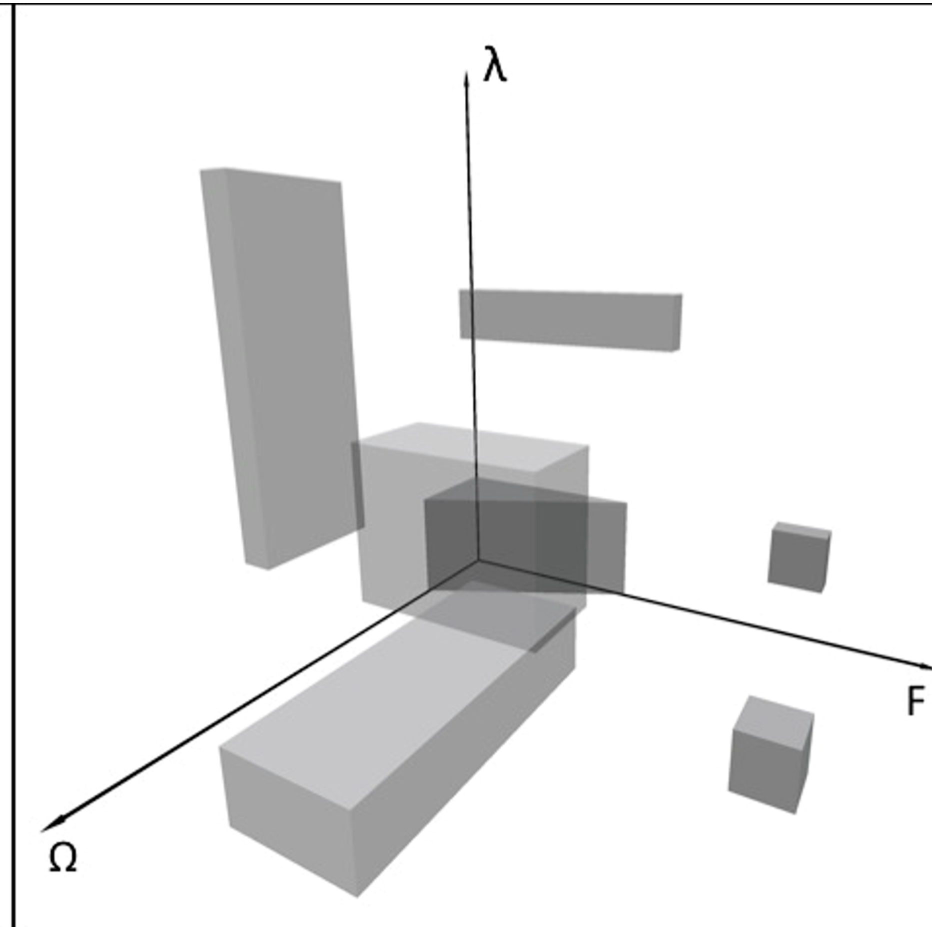
Example: Zwicky’s discovery of the compact star-forming dwarfs

Systematic Exploration of the Observable Parameter Spaces (OPS)

Its axes are defined by the observable quantities

Every observation, surveys included, carves out a hypervolume in the OPS

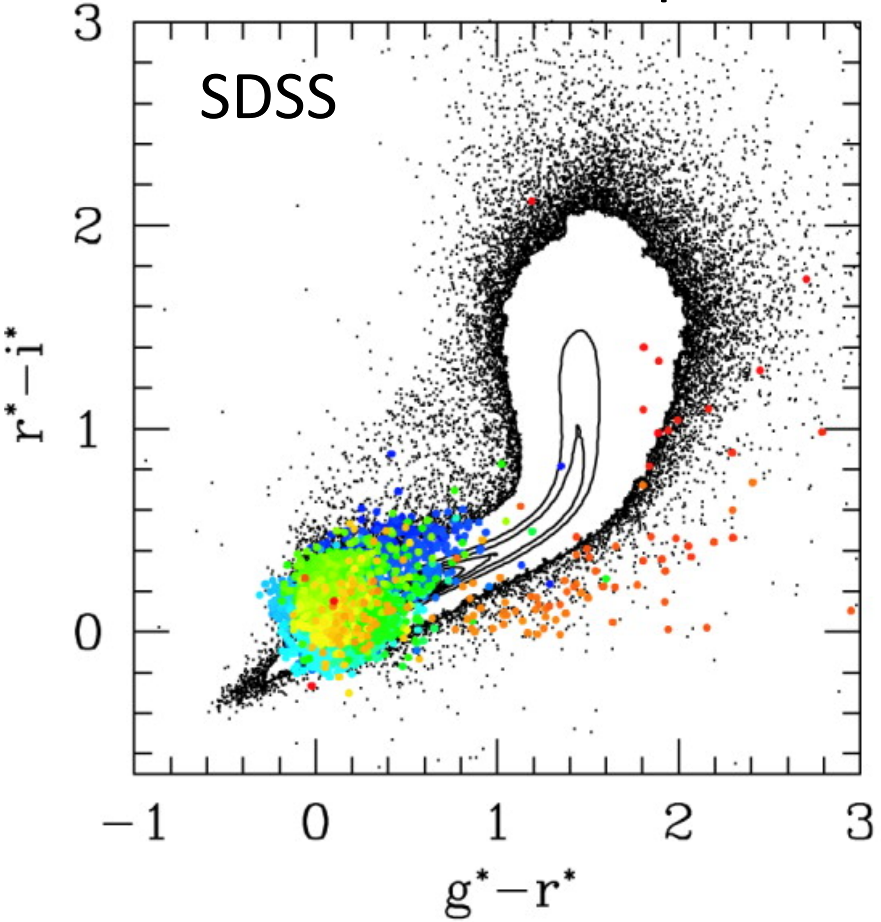




Technology opens new domains of the OPS → New discoveries

Measurements Parameter Space

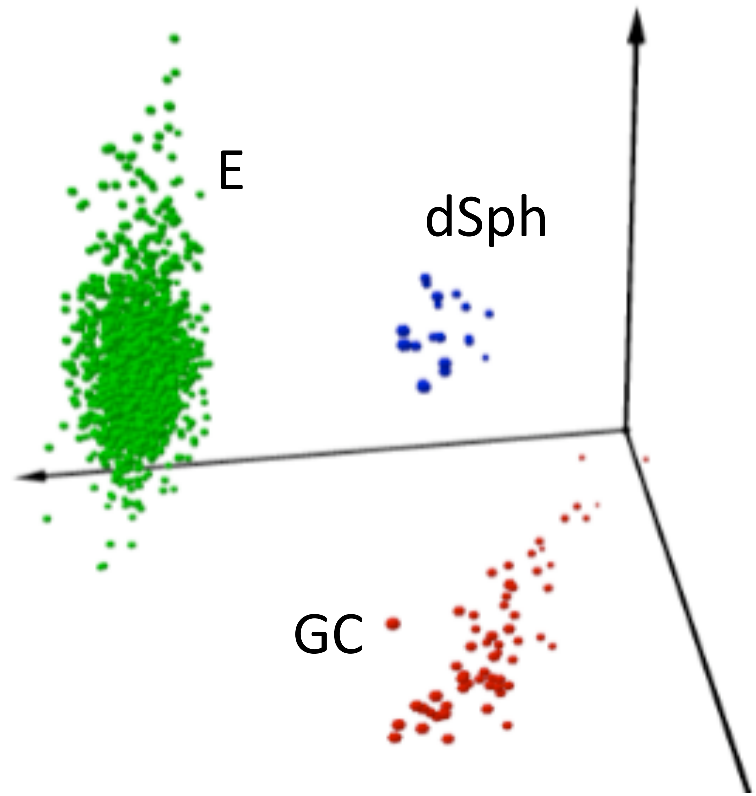
Colors of stars and quasars



Dimensionality ≤ the number of observed quantities

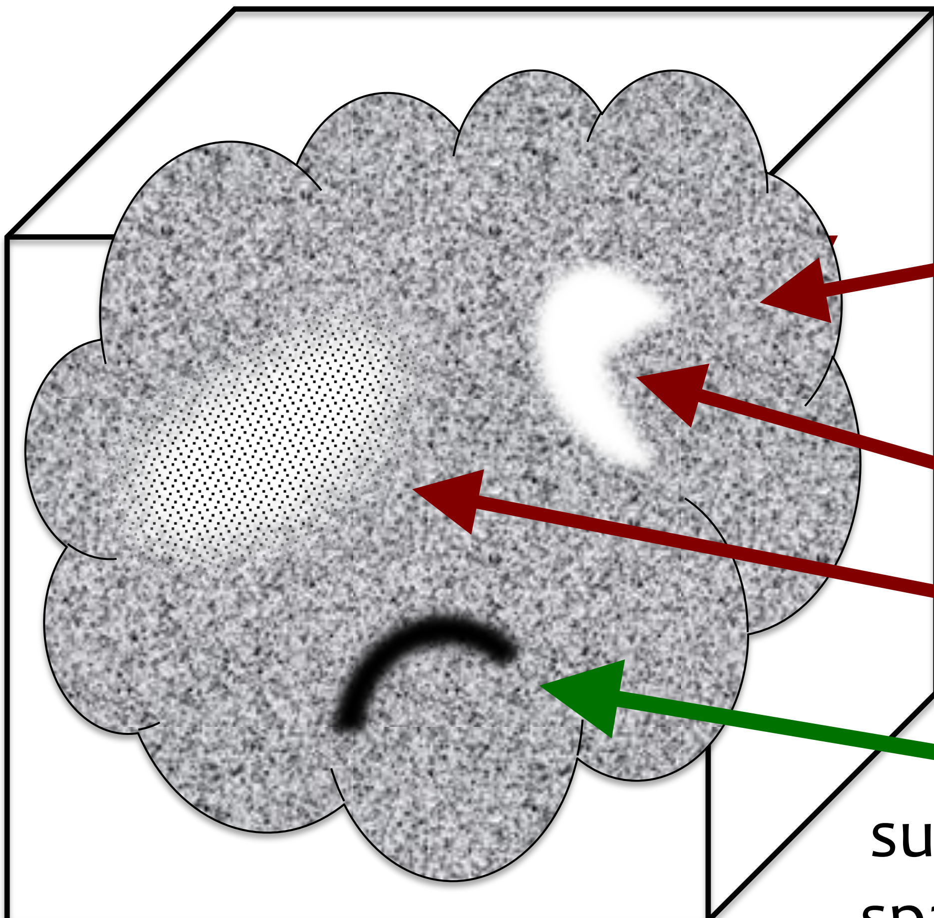
Physical Parameter Space

Fundamental Plane of hot stellar systems



Both are populated by objects or events

Pattern or structure (Correlations, Clustering, Outliers, etc.) Discovery in High-Dimensional Parameter Spaces



D >> 3 parameter/feature space hypercube

High-D data cloud: mostly noise, with an arbitrary PDF distribution

Missing data

Data heterogeneity

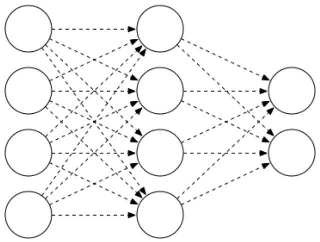
But in some corner of some subset of dimensions of this data space, there is ***something ≠ noise***, i.e., a statistically significant structure with an unknown form

Mapping the Entropy of Large Data Spaces?

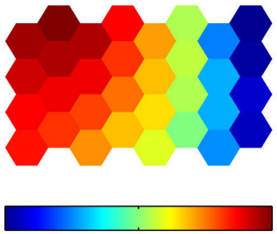
Djorgovski

Classification, Clustering, and Outliers

- **Supervised learning (classification):** use a known set of objects to train a classifier
  - Hard to find previously unknown things



- **Unsupervised learning (clustering):** let the data tell you how many different kinds of things are there
  - Could find previously unknown types as outliers



Supervised Algorithms
Neural Networks (MLP)
Boltzmann Machines
RBM
Decision Trees
Nearest Neighbor
Naive Bayes Classifiers
Bayesian Networks
Gaussian Processes
Regression
…

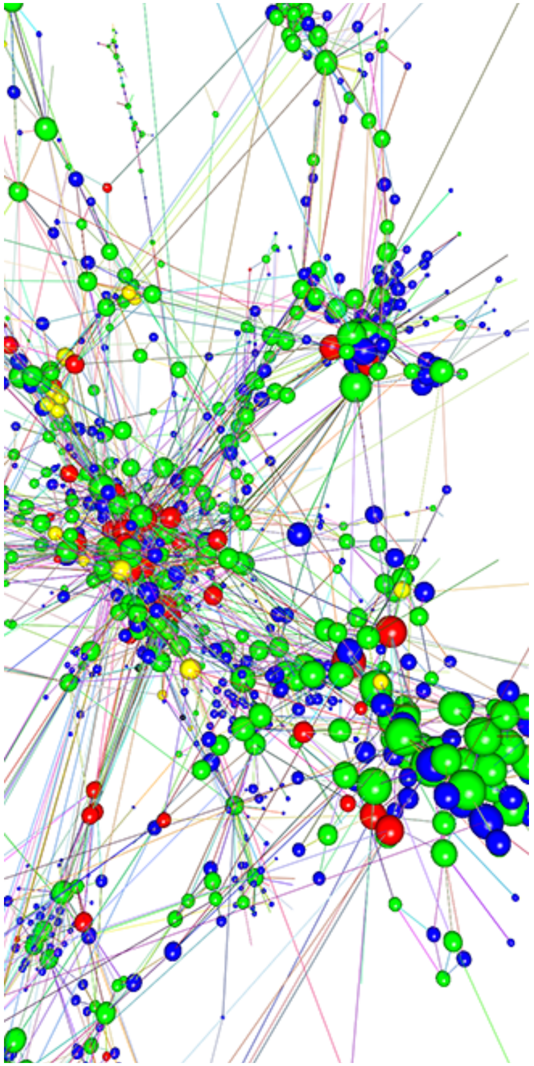
There is **no** "one size fits all": different choices for different problems

Unsupervised Algorithms
K-Means
Self-Organizing Maps
RDF
Fuzzy Clustering
CURE
ROCK
Vector Quantization
Probabilistic Principal Surfaces
…

The principal challenges of knowledge discovery do not come from the data size, but from the data complexity

- How do we recognize highly complex patterns that involve interactions of many variables in many dimensions?
- How do we visualize data spaces with 10’s, 100’s or 1000’s of dimensions?
- How do we decide what algorithms to use in a given situation?
- How do we interpret and explain the results?

⇨ **The key challenges stem from the high dimensionality of data**



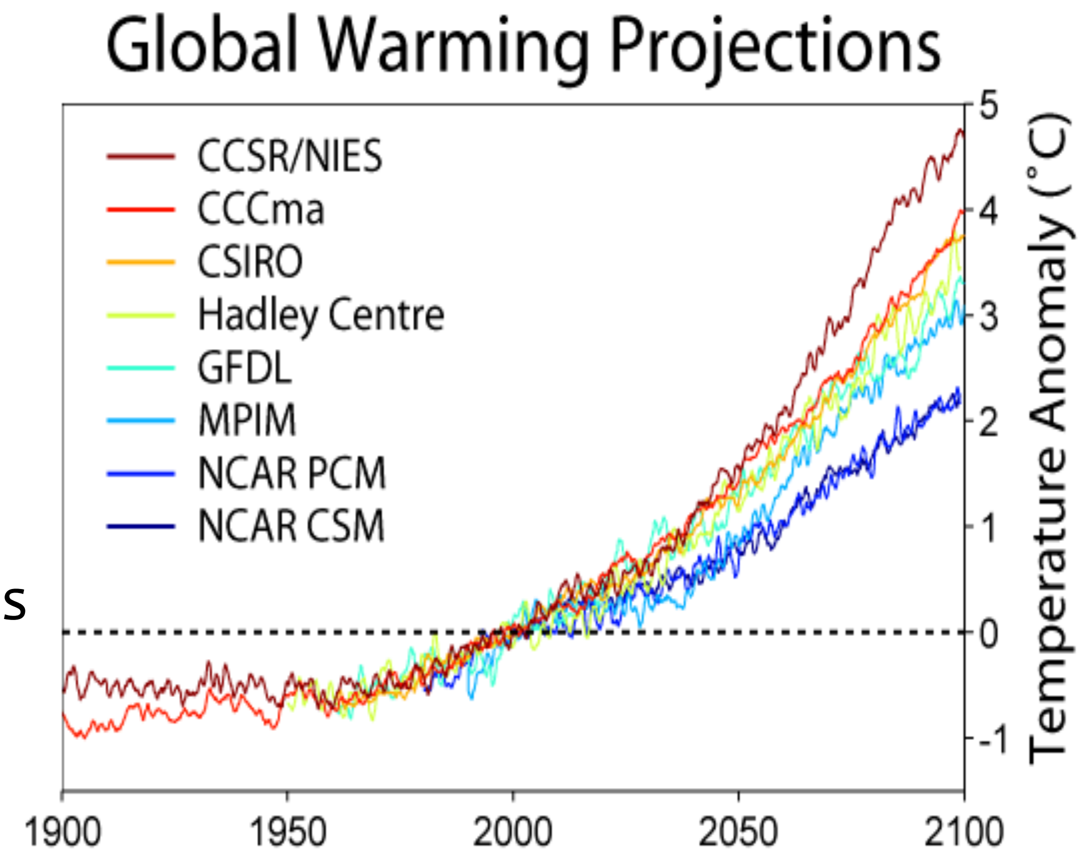
Quantifying Model Uncertainty

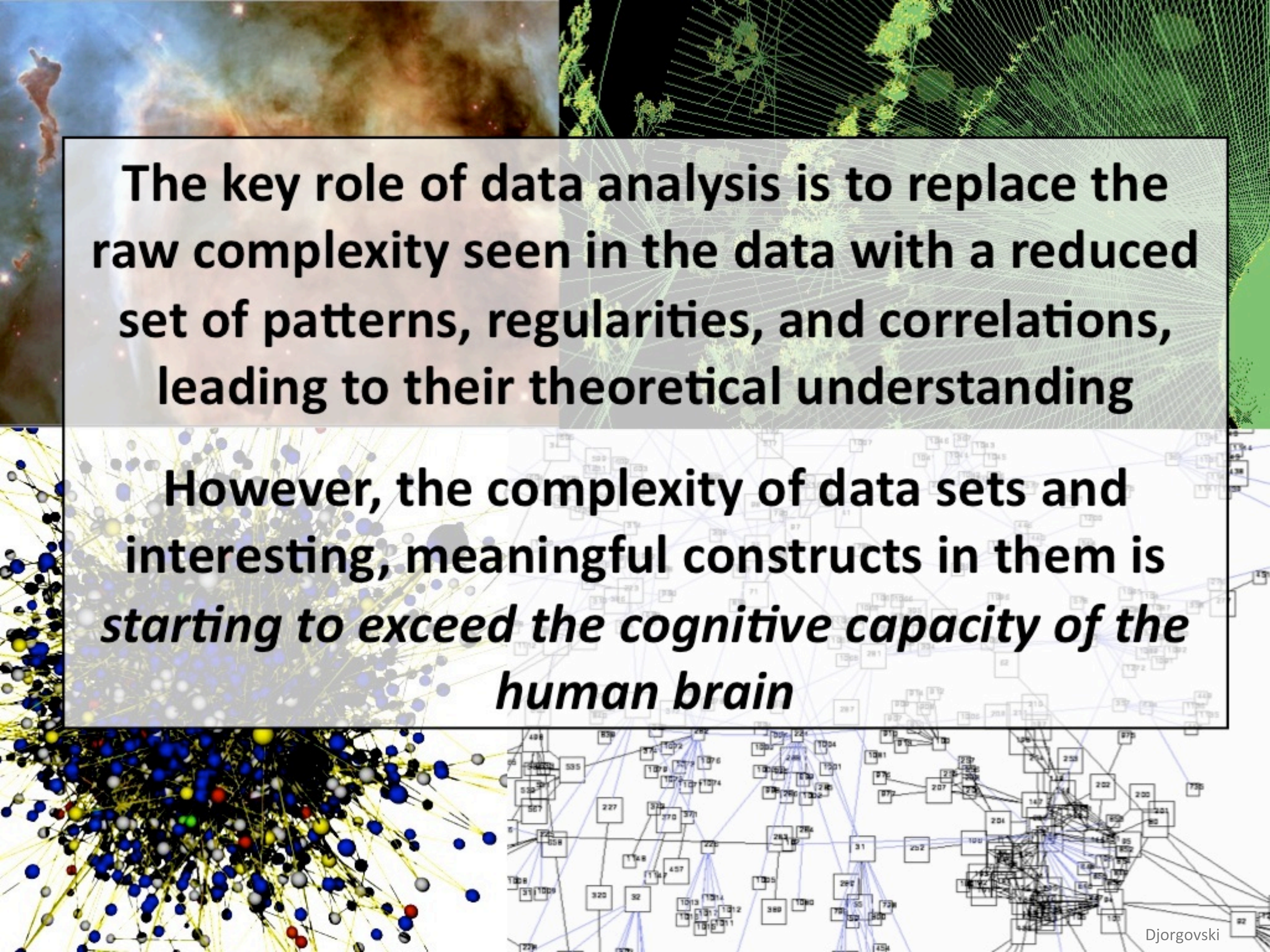
… Whether the data come from measurements or from the output of numerical models and simulations

The sources of uncertainty:

- Measurement errors
- Numerical errors
- Sample sizes
- Processing algorithms
- Data representation
- Data mining choices and their implementations

… etc. etc.



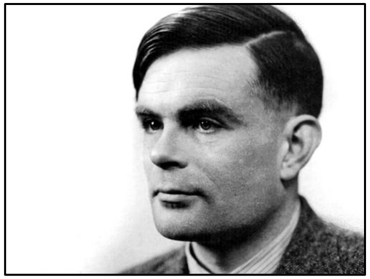


The key role of data analysis is to replace the raw complexity seen in the data with a reduced set of patterns, regularities, and correlations, leading to their theoretical understanding

However, the complexity of data sets and interesting, meaningful constructs in them is *starting to exceed the cognitive capacity of the human brain*

Djorgovski

A Brief History of AI

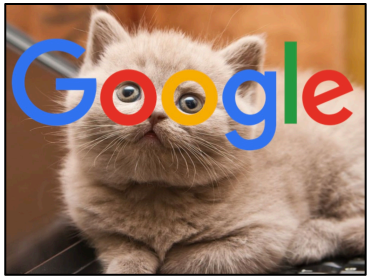


1950: A. Turing publishes “Computing Machinery and Intelligence”

The field of AI/ML starts

1960: J. C. R. Licklider* publishes “Man-Computer Symbiosis” (*You can thank him for the Internet)

Early 1990’s: Astronomers start using ML tools



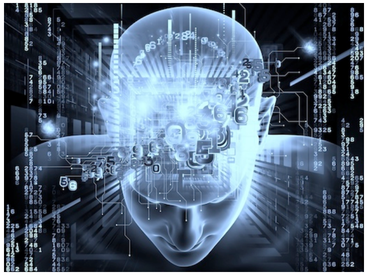
~1998: Google starts – common AI use

1998: Computer becomes the world chess champion

2011-2015: AI talks (Siri, Cortana, Alexa)

2012: Google AI learns to recognize pictures of cats

2016: Computer becomes the world *Go* champion



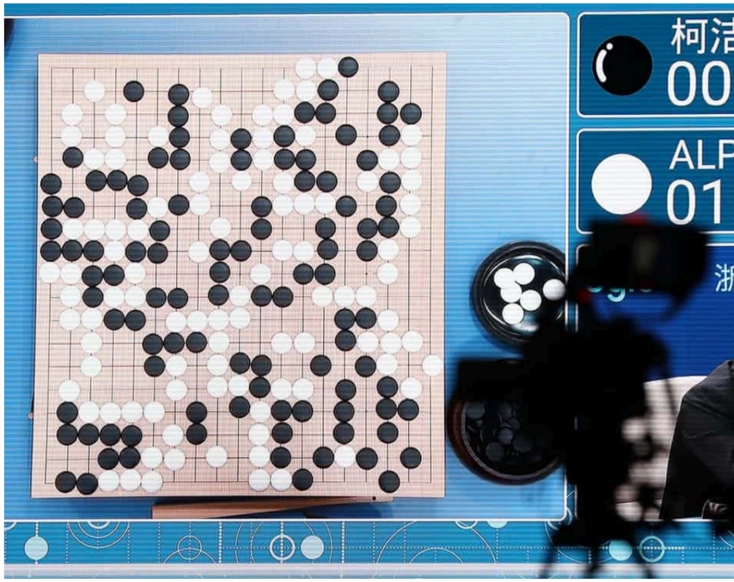
2017: A *self-taught AI* beats the previous AI *Go* champion

Soon? Collaborative human-computer discovery

The Rise of the Machines

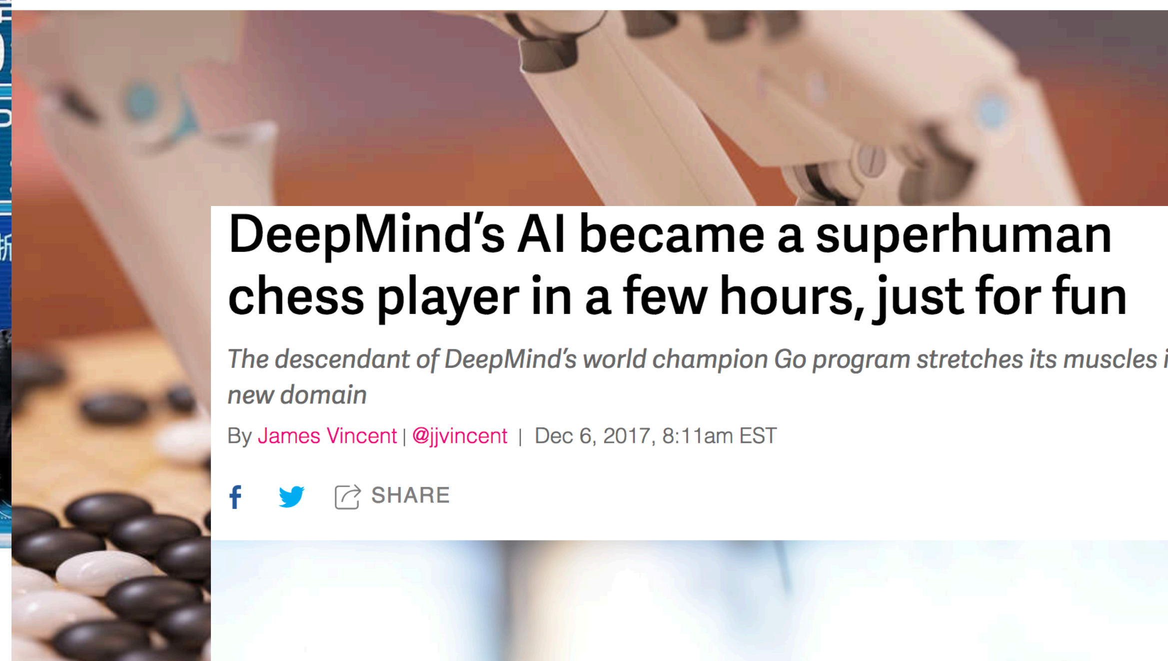
World's best Go player flummoxed by Google's 'godlike' AlphaGo AI

Ke Jie, who once boasted he would never be beaten by a co… at the ancient Chinese game, said he had 'horrible experie…



Google's "AlphaGo Zero" AI Taught Itself To Become World Champion In Just Three Days

58 SHARES | Share on Facebook | Share on Twitter | +



DeepMind's AI became a superhuman chess player in a few hours, just for fun

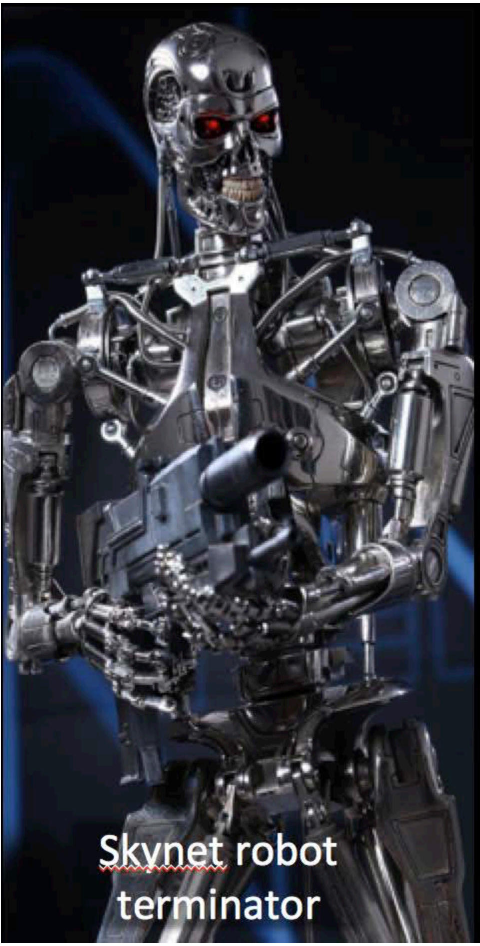
The descendant of DeepMind's world champion Go program stretches its muscles i… new domain

By James Vincent | @jjvincent | Dec 6, 2017, 8:11am EST

SHARE

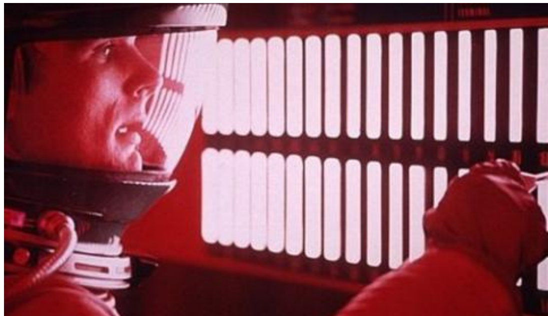
Google: Defeating Go champion shows AI can 'find solutions humans don't see'

What Can Possibly Go Wrong?



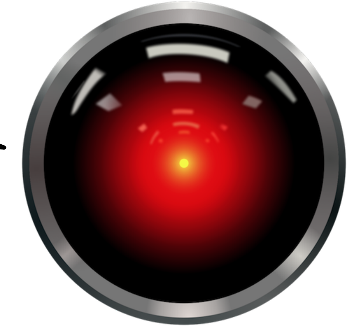
From which we can conclude:

1. Hollywood has no imagination
2. We anthropomorphize *everything*




We are at the start of the AI Era
We have created an Alien Intelligence
and it is not going away
How do we interact/collaborate with it?
(and achieve a symbiotic relationship)

Everything is going *extremely well*, George



The goal is not to replace the humans but to ***amplify our capabilities,*** and it was always thus, from the opposable thumbs to grasp tools, to the modern day:

- ✧ Transportation (cars, airplanes, submarines, spacecraft…)
- ✧ Medicine: enhancing the immune system, replacing organs…
- ✧ Telecommunications over the large distances
- ✧ From print to Google: augmenting our memory
- ✧ Computing, cognition tech, neuro tech… **enhance our minds**

We create technology, and the technology changes us

And so it will be with the machine intelligence

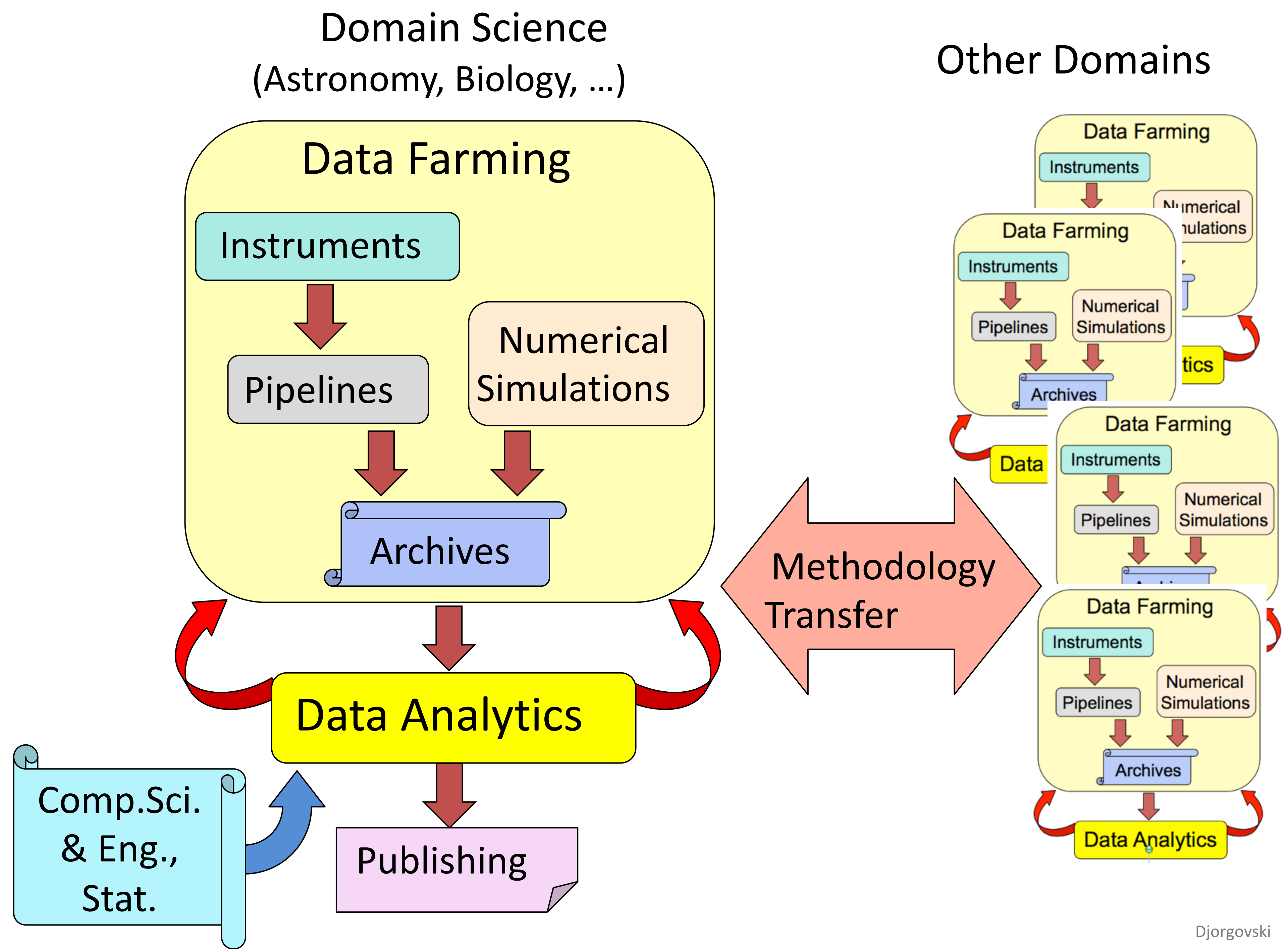
The Uses of Machine Intelligence: Science on the Carbon-Silicon Interface

- **Data processing:**
  - Automated object / event classification, pattern recognition
  - Automated data quality control (anomaly/fault detection and repair)
- **Data mining, analysis, and understanding:**
  - Clustering, classification, outlier / anomaly detection
  - Pattern recognition, hidden correlation search
  - Assisted dimensionality reduction for visualization
  - Workflow control in Grid- or Cloud-based apps
- **Data farming and data discovery:** semantic web, etc.
- **Code design and implementation:** from art to science?

Data Science Methodology Transfer

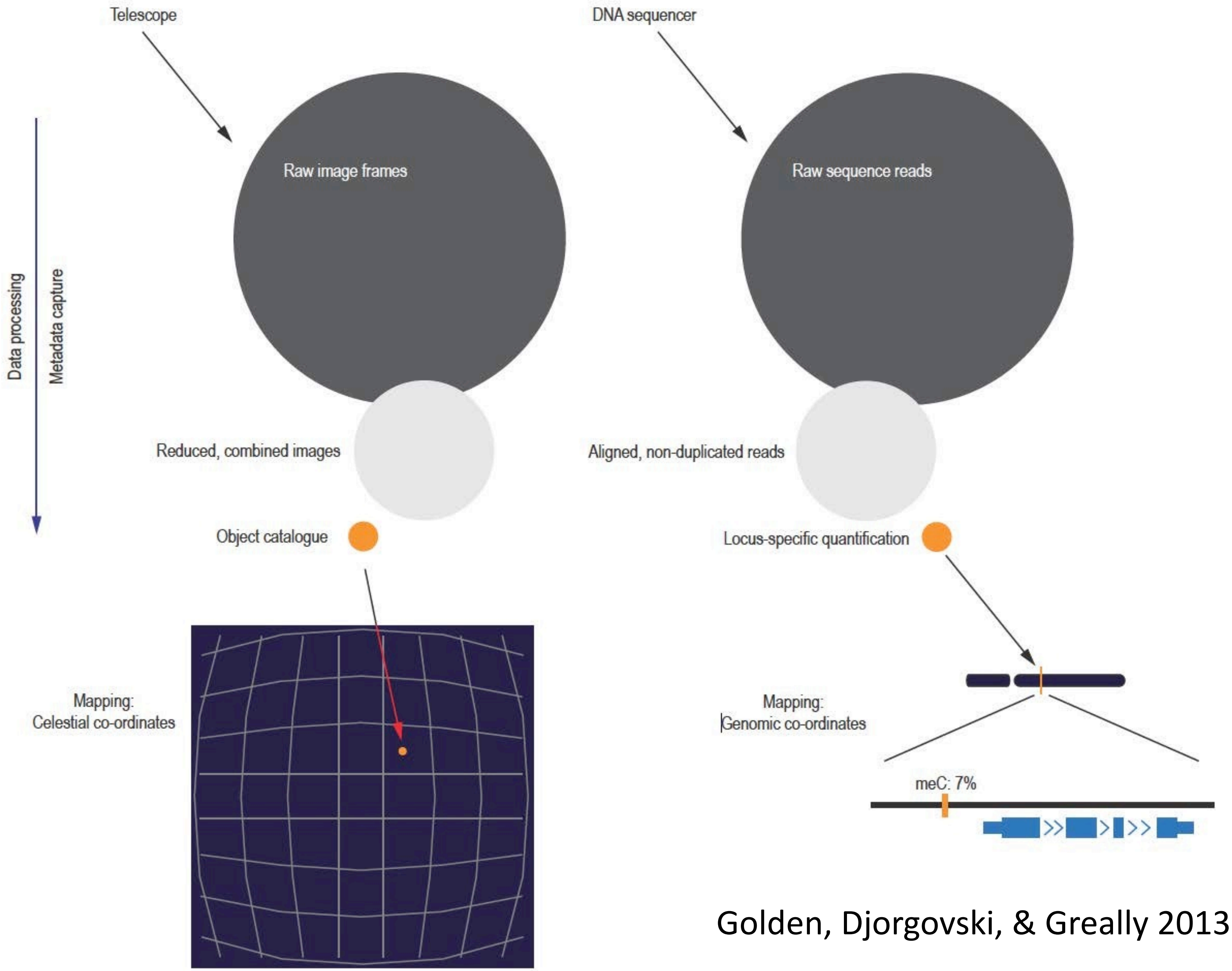
There are common challenges and a common underlying methodology to much of the data science (computing, IT, ML, statistics…)

How can we transfer the cyberinfrastructure developments, experience, and solutions from one scientific domain to others?



Domain Science
(Astronomy, Biology, …)
Other Domains
Data Farming
Instruments
Pipelines
Numerical Simulations
Archives
Data Analytics
Comp.Sci. & Eng., Stat.
Publishing
Methodology Transfer
Djorgovski

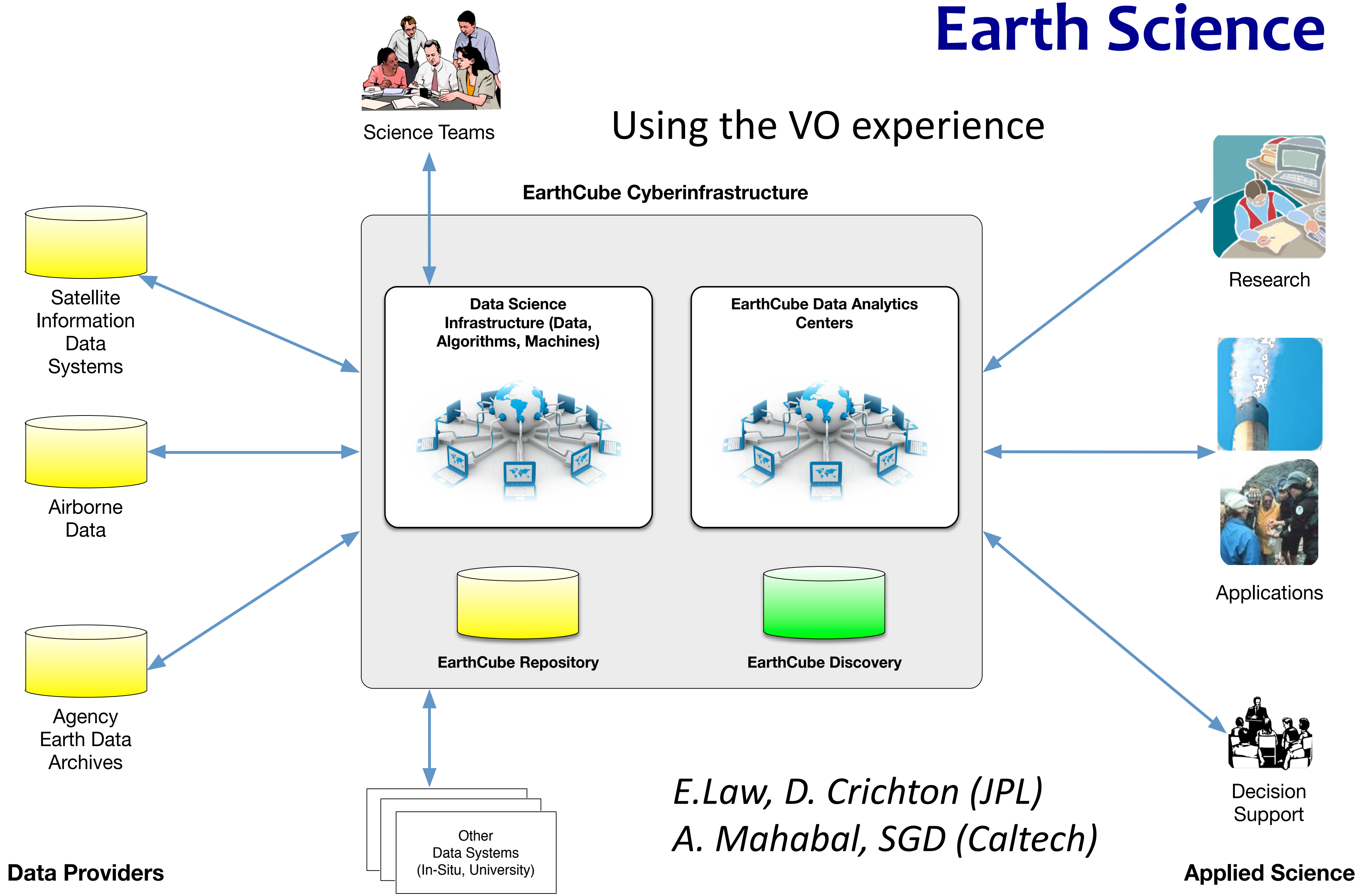
AstroGenomics?



Golden, Djorgovski, & Greally 2013

EarthCube: Software Architecture for Earth Science

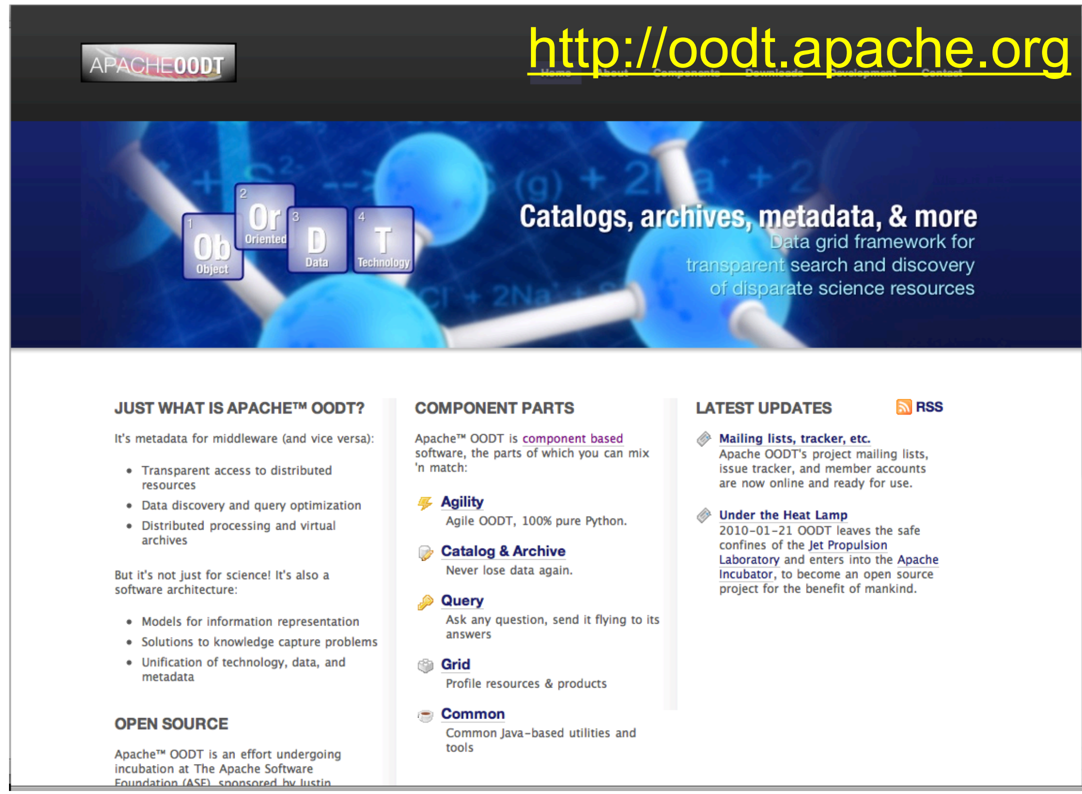
Using the VO experience



E.Law, D. Crichton (JPL)
A. Mahabal, SGD (Caltech)

OODT: An Apache Open Source Framework for Building Distributed Data Intensive Systems

- An architectural style and framework for capture and sharing of distributed repositories
- Funded by NASA in 1998
- Applications to:
  - Planetary Science (1999)
  - Interferometry (1999)
  - Cancer Research (2001)
  - Earth Science (2002)
  - Medicine (2003)
  - Climate Research (2008)
  - Radio Astronomy (2010)
  - DARPA (2012)

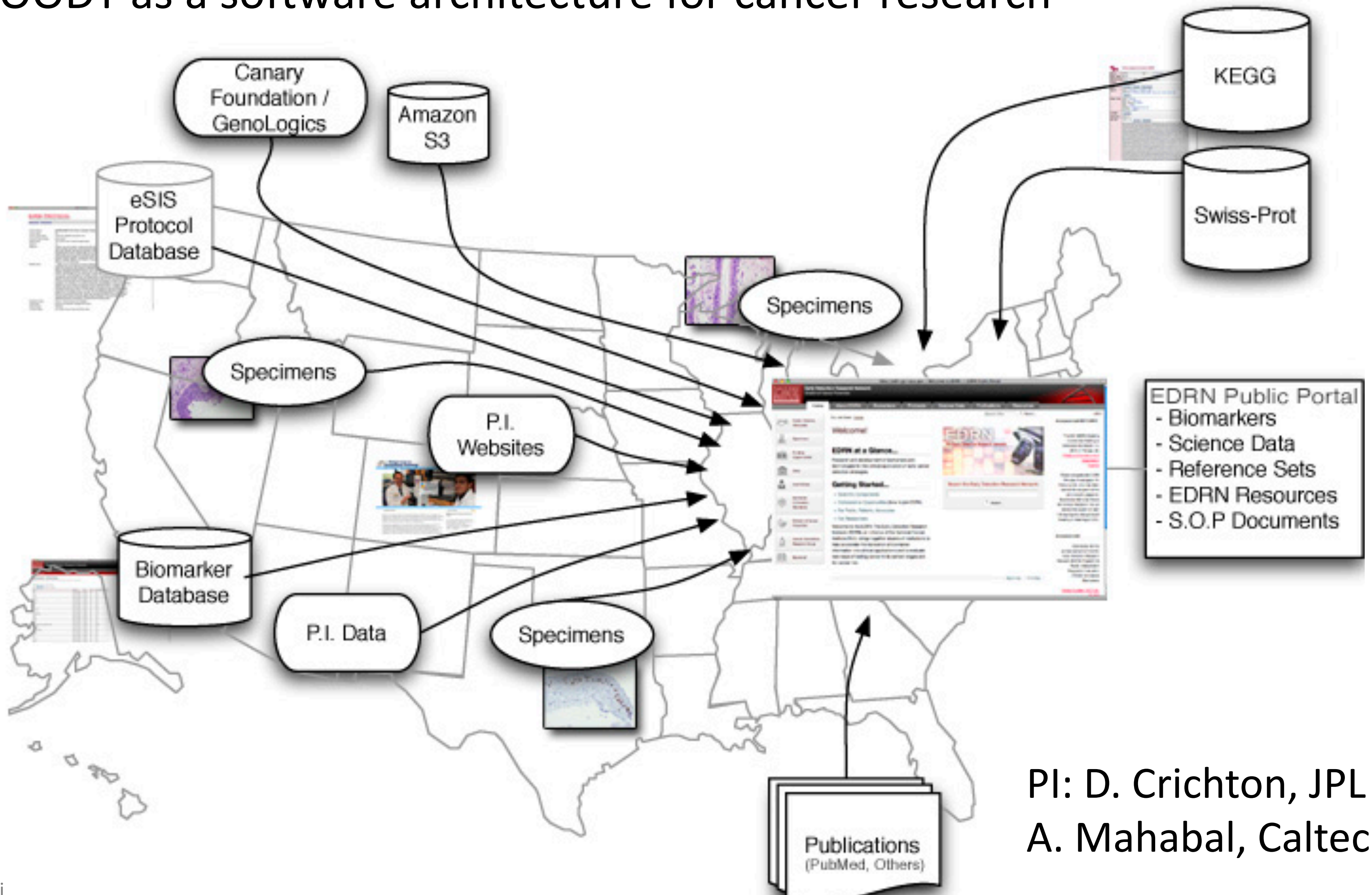


- Runner-up NASA Software of the Year, 2003
  - ✧ First NASA ASF open source project
- Top level project at Apache Software Foundation (2011)

(PI: D. Crichton, JPL)

EDRN: A Virtual, National Integration Cancer Biomarkers Knowledge System

OODT as a software architecture for cancer research

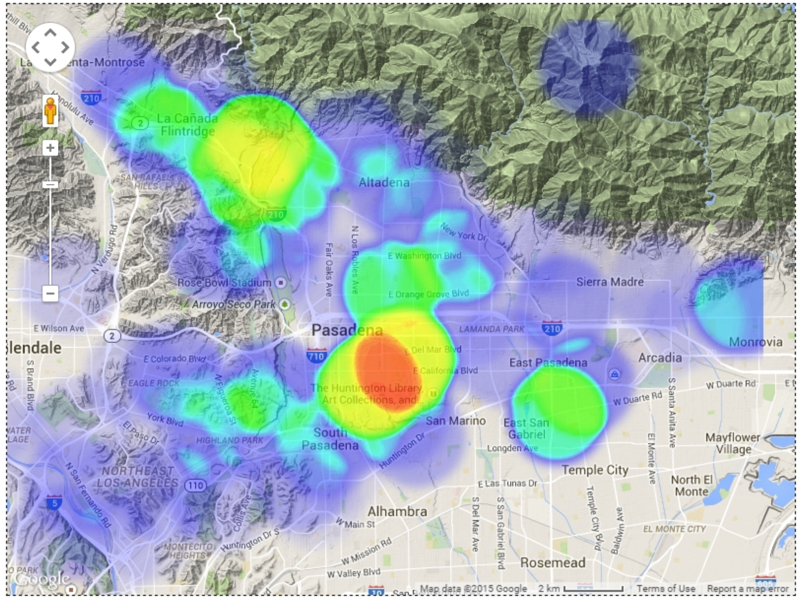


PI: D. Crichton, JPL
A. Mahabal, Caltech

Real Time Classification and Response

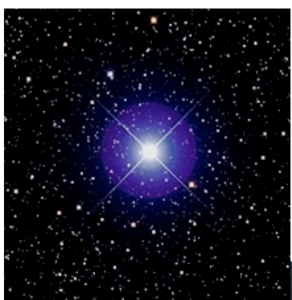
Seismology: Cell phones as a sensor network

Lake Castaic M4.2 Jan 4 2015 Heatmap

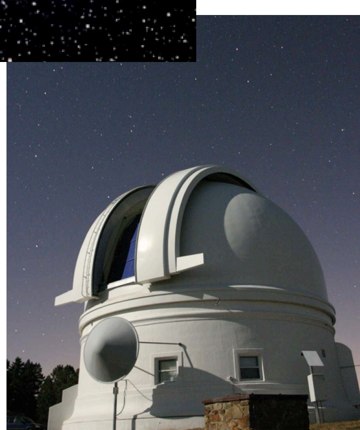


Time domain astronomy

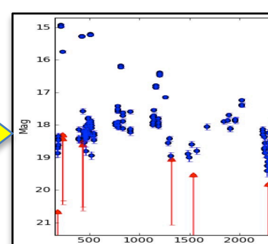
Event



Detection



Classification

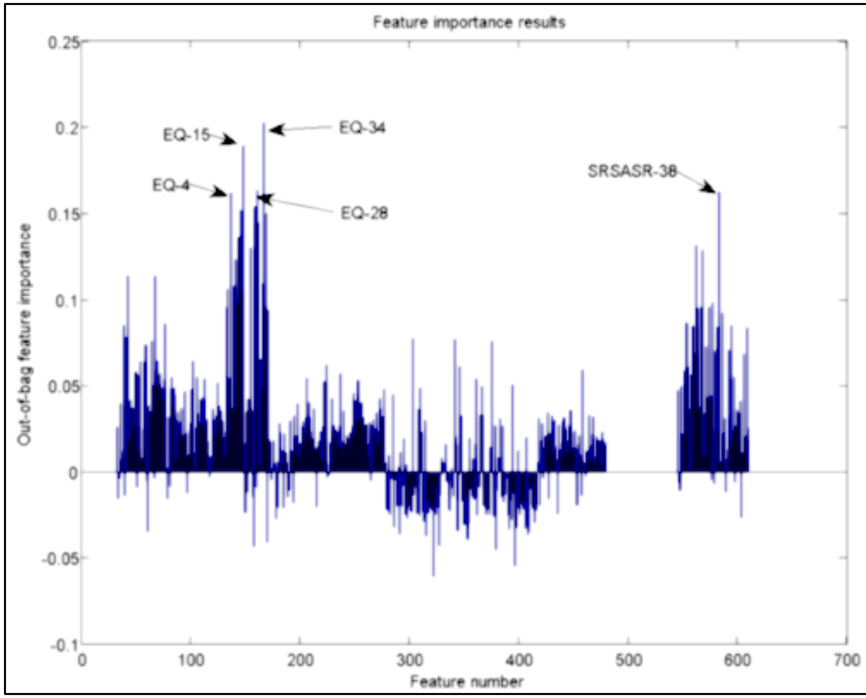


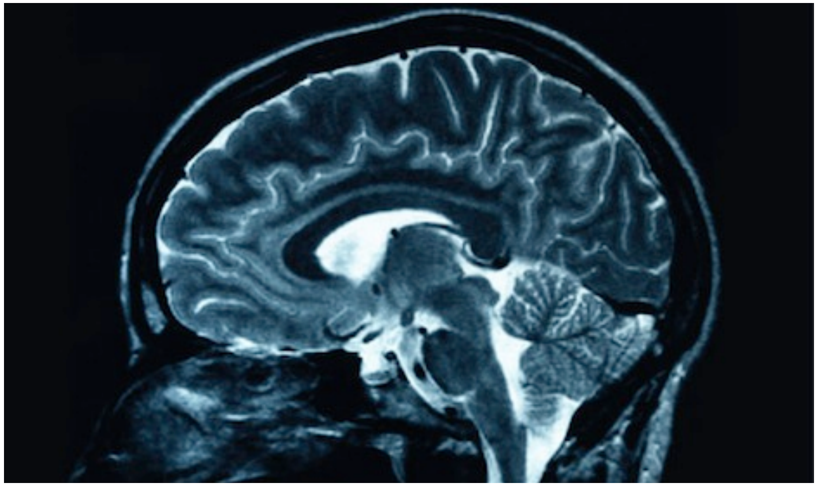
Decision making

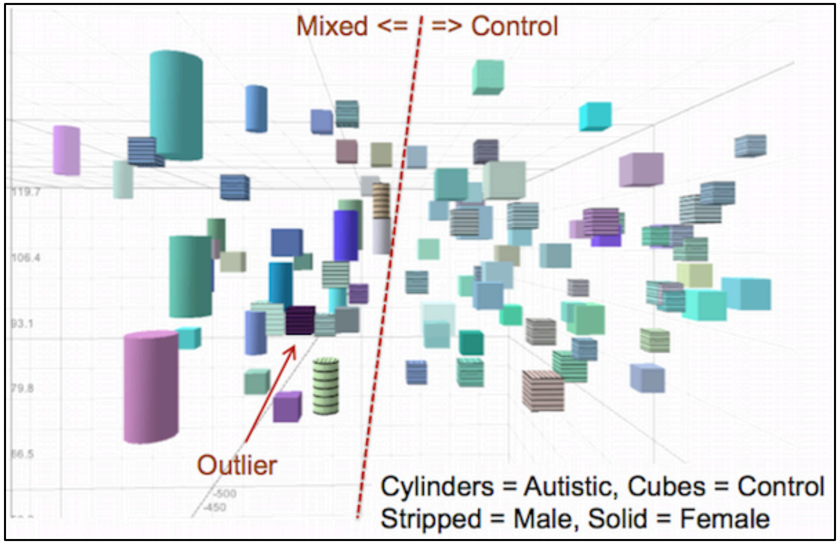
Follow-up

From Sky Surveys to Neurobiology

- Using the data analytics tools based on Machine Learning, developed for the analysis of sky surveys, to design a better diagnostics for autism
- Next: analysis of brain MRI data







Djorgovski

The Fourth Paradigm Redux

- The information content of modern data sets is so high as to enable profitable data mining

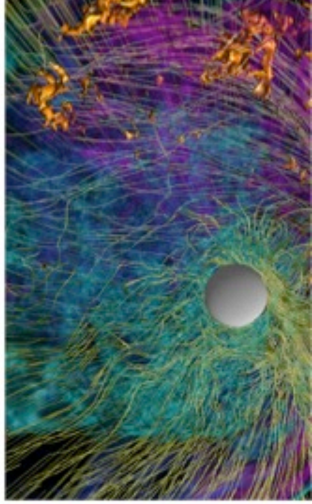
- Data fusion reveals new knowledge which was not recognizable in the individual data sets

- Data complexity requires machine intelligence to assist a human comprehension and understanding

The Fourth Paradigm =
Data Fusion + Data Mining + Machine Learning

Some Thoughts About Data Science

- Comput***ational*** science ≠ Comput***er*** science
- Data-driven science is *not* about data, it is about ***knowledge extraction*** (the data are incidental to our real mission)
- Information and data are (relatively) cheap, but the expertise is expensive
  - Just like the hardware/software situation
- Data science as the "new mathematics"
  - It plays the role in relation to other sciences which mathematics did in ~ 17th - 20th century
- Computation: an interdisciplinary glue/lubricant
  - Many important problems (e.g., climate change) are inherently inter/multi-disciplinary



The Key Points


- **Cyberspace** is the new arena where humans interact with each other, and with the world of information
- **Science** in the 21st century is increasingly data-rich and computationally enabled, driven by the evolution of technology; thus, **the scientific method evolves**
  - New fields (X-Informatics), new (and perishable) types of scientific institutions, new publishing modalities…
  - Astronomy success(?) story: VO, Astroinformatics
  - *It is not all about data; the real focus is on the shared* ***knowledge discovery methodologies***
  - Important well beyond science: enabling new science-technology-commerce **synergies**

"May all of your problems be technological"

Jim Gray

"If you don't like change, you're going to like irrelevance even less"

General Eric Shinseki

"Science progresses through funerals"

Max Planck

"If everything is under control, you are just not driving fast enough!"

Stirling Moss, Formula 1 driver