CS 744: BIG DATA SYSTEMS

Shivaram Venkataraman

Spring 2025

WHO AM I ?

Assistant Professor in Computer Science

PhD at UC Berkeley: System Design for Large Scale Machine Learning

Industry: Google, Microsoft Research

Open source: Apache Spark committer

Call Me: Shivaram or Prof. Shivaram

COURSE LOGISTICS

Shivaram Venkataraman

Office hours: ~~Thursday~~ Tuesday 3-4pm, CS 7367 (from next week)

TA: Tareq Mohammed

Office hours: TBD → start from Thursday

Discussion, Questions: Use Piazza!

TODAYS AGENDA

What is this course about?

Why are we studying Big Data systems?

What will you do in this course?

BRIEF HISTORY OF BIG DATA

GOOGLE 1997

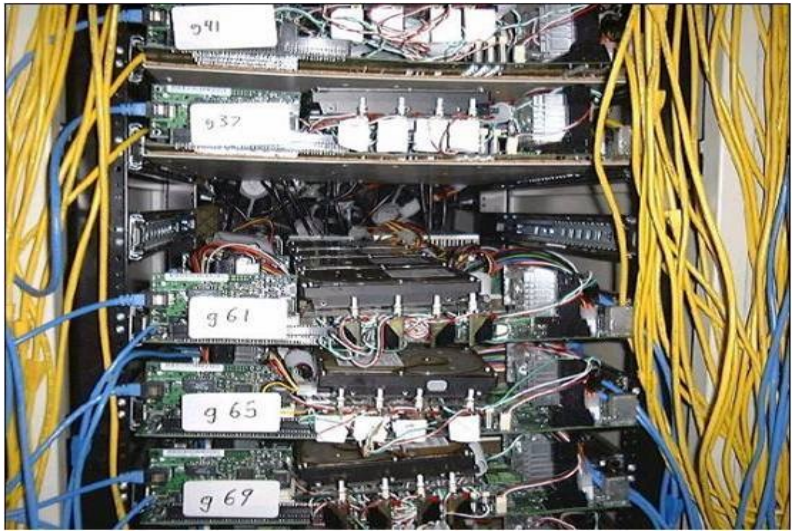
DATA, DATA, DATA

"…Storage space must be used efficiently to store indices and, optionally, the documents themselves. The indexing system must process hundreds of gigabytes of data efficiently…"

The Anatomy of a Large-Scale Hypertextual Web Search Engine

Sergey Brin and Lawrence Page

GOOGLE 2001



Commodity CPUs

Lots of disks → storage space

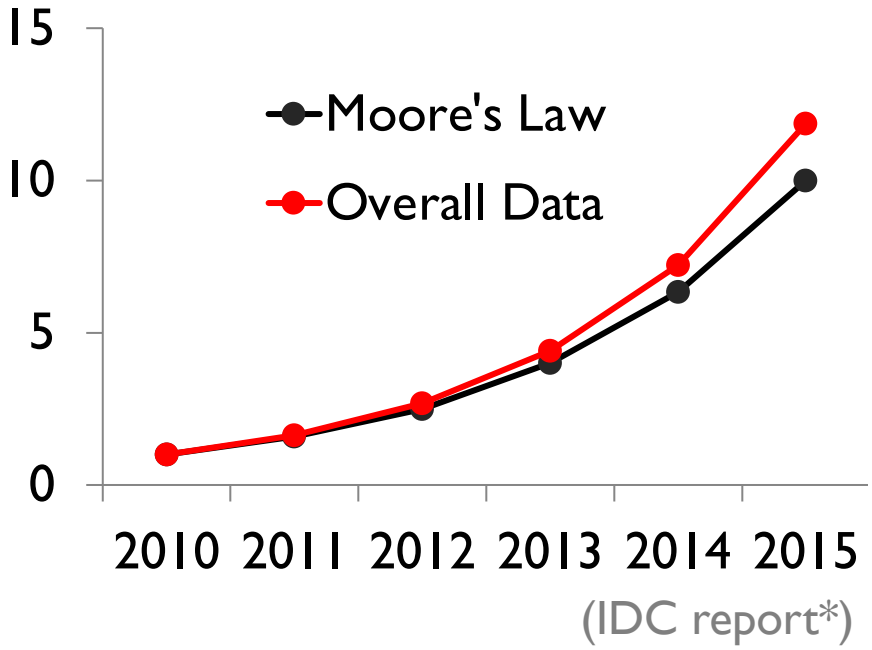
Low bandwidth network

Cheap ! → cost an important

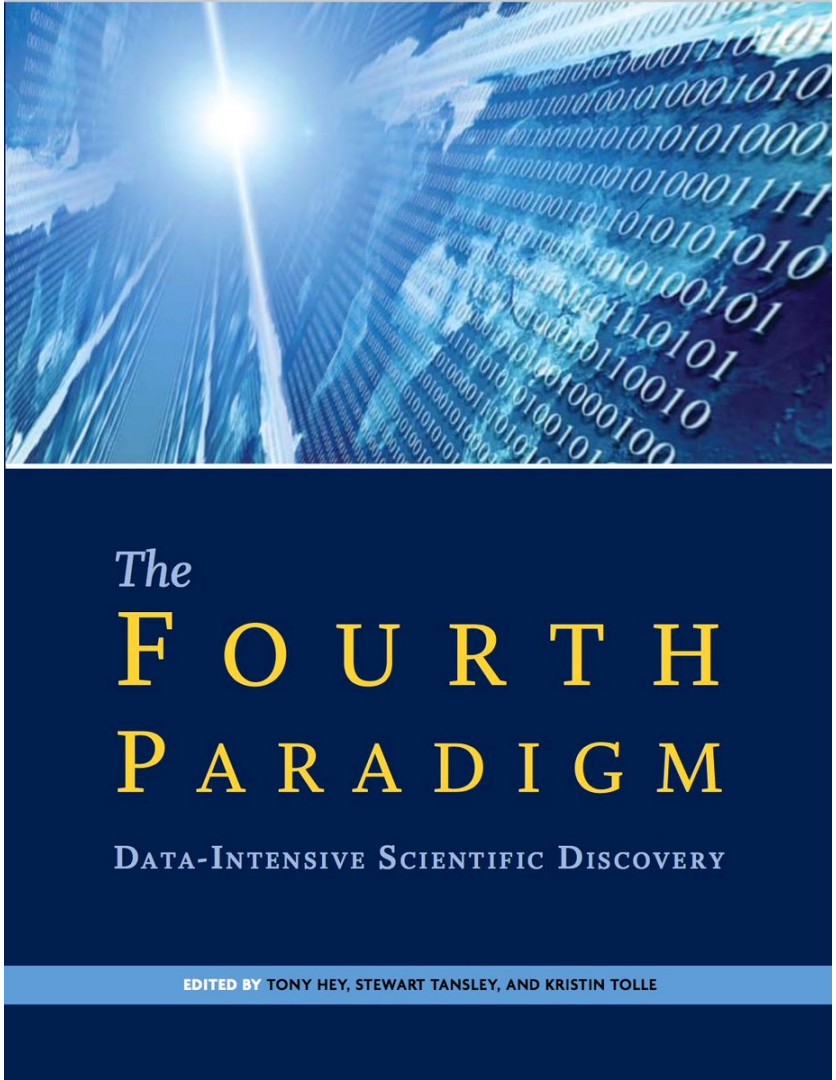
DATACENTER EVOLUTION

Facebook's daily logs: 60 TB

Google web index: 10+ PB



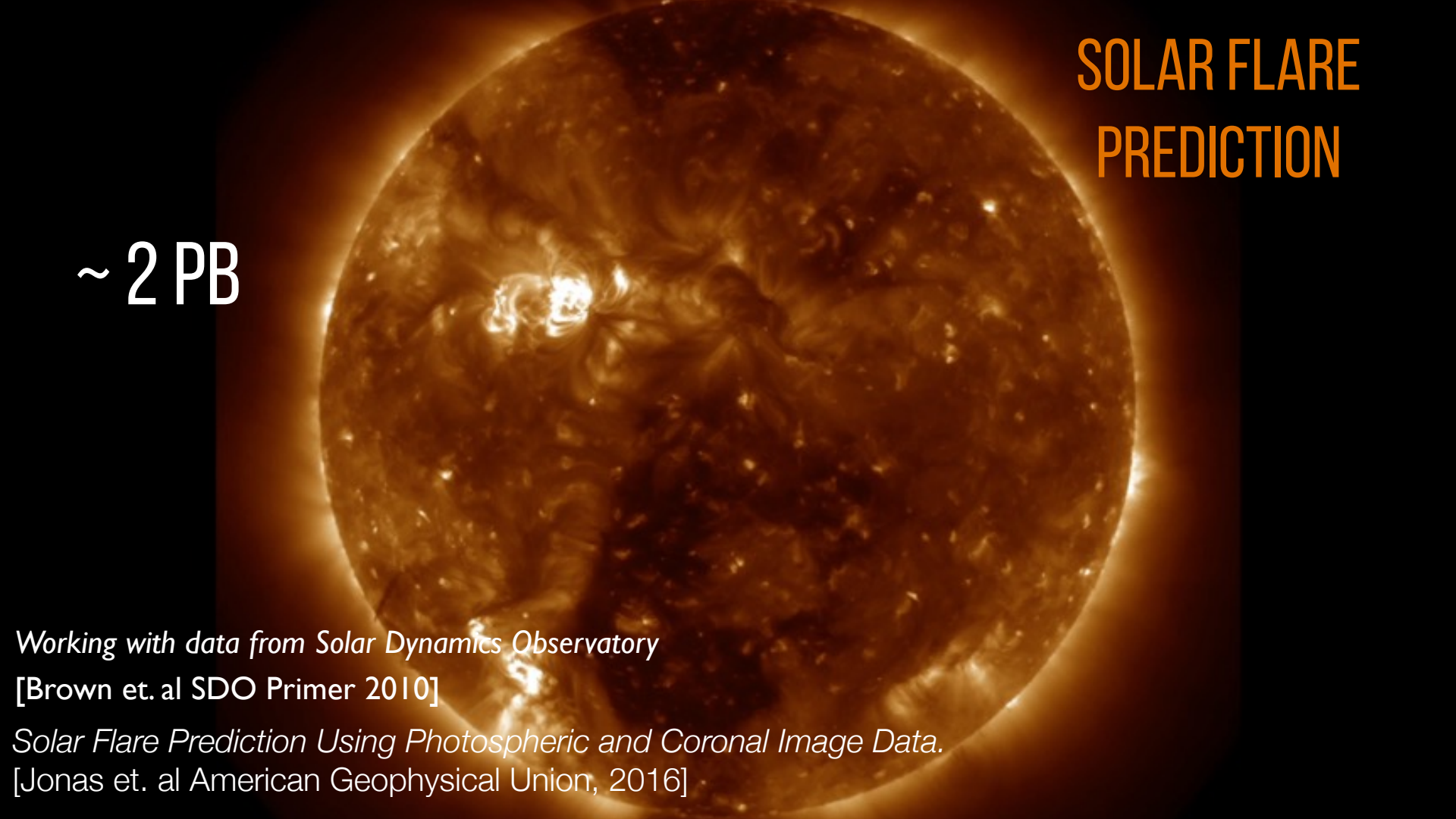
(IDC report*)

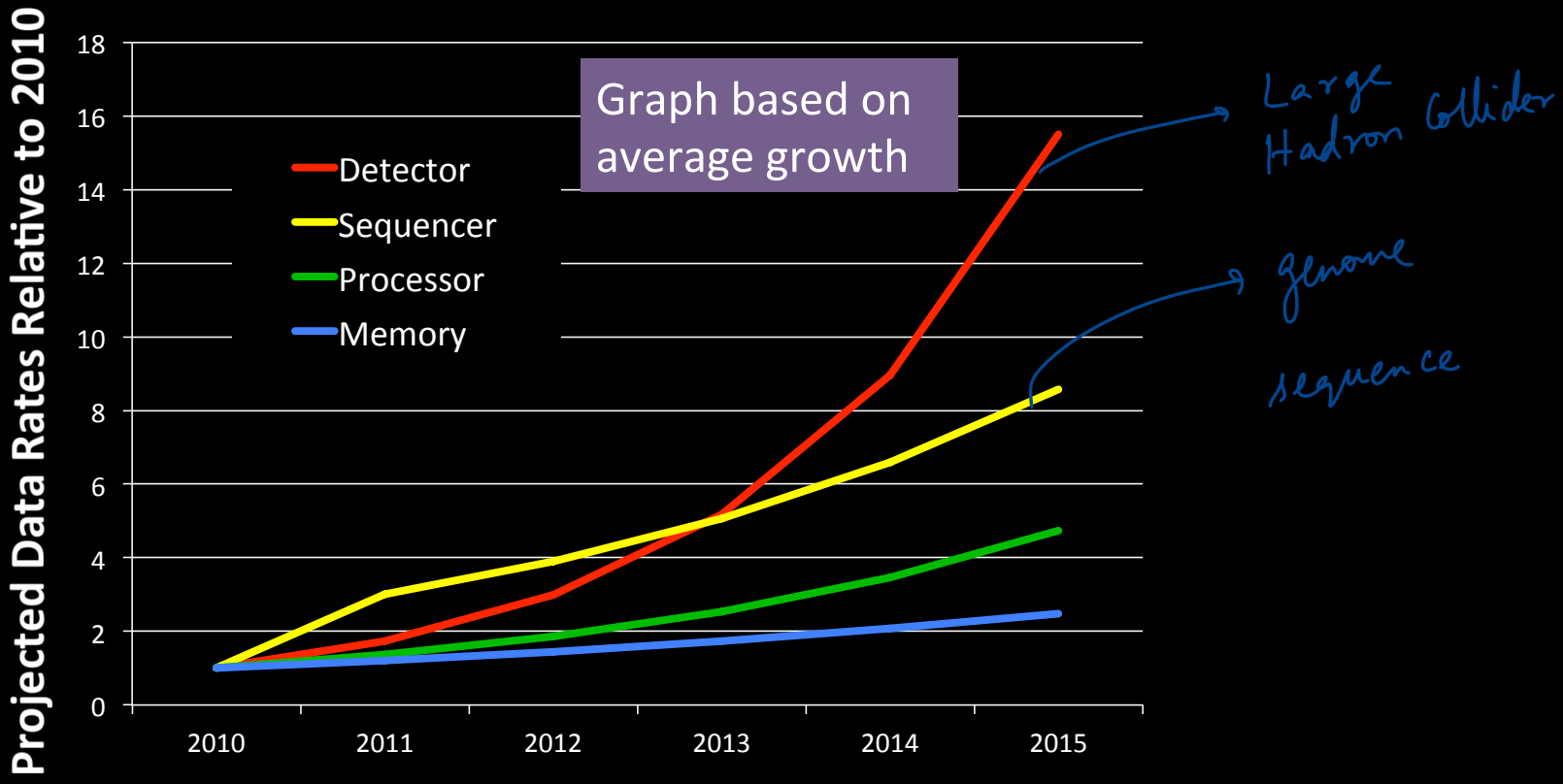


"scientific breakthroughs will be powered by advanced computing capabilities that help researchers manipulate and explore massive datasets"

-- Jim Gray → Database

GRAVITY WAVE DETECTION


SOLAR FLARE PREDICTION
~ 2 PB
Working with data from Solar Dynamics Observatory
[Brown et. al SDO Primer 2010]
Solar Flare Prediction Using Photospheric and Coronal Image Data.
[Jonas et. al American Geophysical Union, 2016]



Source: More Data, More Science and... Moore's Law [Kathy Yellick]

LARGE ML MODELS

LAION-5B: A NEW ERA OF OPEN LARGE-SCALE MULTI-MODAL DATASETS

50 TB high resolution images

→ 45 TB CommonCrawl data (2016-2019)

~ 2010 → Imagenet benchmarks ~ 1 M images

correctly → CNNs & other works

- Datasets in genomics research

- Telecommunication
  - ↳ sensors

- Satellite images

- NIH data
  - ↳ MRI
  - xRay etc.

- Application logs → S3, DynamoDB
  - "Systems" data.
  - → Time series

- Supply chain data → ship where to where

DATACENTER EVOLUTION

Google data centers in The Dulles, Oregon

DATACENTER EVOLUTION

~2018 or so

Capacity:

~10000 machines

Bandwidth:

12-24 disks per node

Latency:

256GB RAM cache

Outage in Dublin Knocks Amazon, Microsoft Data Centers Offline

By: Rich Miller

August 7th, 2011

557 Like

520 Tweet

A lightning strike has cau
for **Amazon** and **Microsc**
many sites using Amazo
Microsoft's BPOS (Busin

Official Gmail Blog

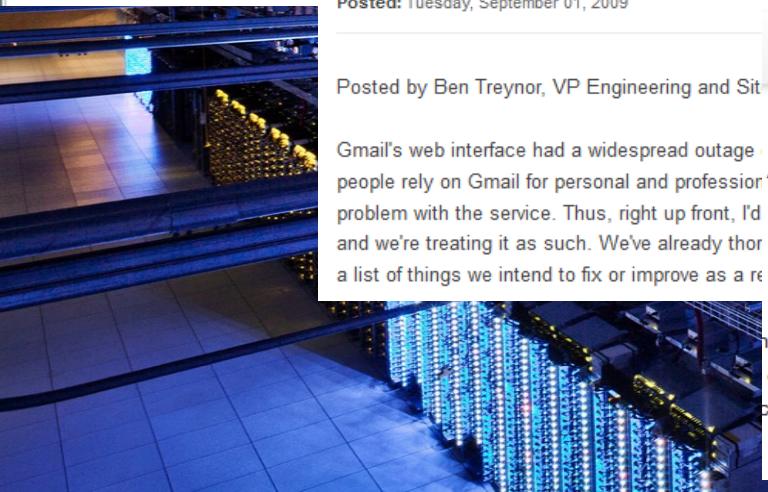
News, tips and tricks from Google's Gmail team and friends.

More on today's Gmail issu

Posted: Tuesday, September 01, 2009

Posted by Ben Treynor, VP Engineering and Sit

Gmail's web interface had a widespread outage
people rely on Gmail for personal and professior
problem with the service. Thus, right up front, I'd
and we're treating it as such. We've already thor
a list of things we intend to fix or improve as a re



Sign Up

Entire Site

Amazon EC2 and Amazon RDS Service Disruption

nctionality to all affected services, we would like to share more details with our customers about the events th
our efforts to restore the services, and what we are doing to prevent this sort of issue from happening again.
cted by this event, and as with any significant service issue, our intention is to share the details of what happe

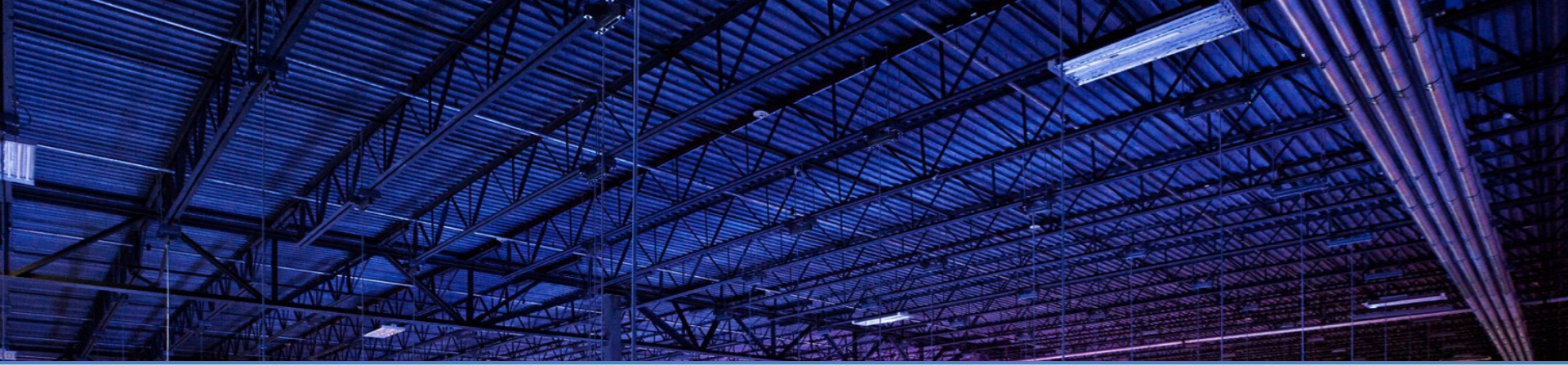
The Joys of Real Hardware

Typical first year for a new cluster:

~0.5 overheating (power down most machines in <5 mins, ~1-2 days to recover)
~1 PDU failure (~500-1000 machines suddenly disappear, ~6 hours to come back)
~1 rack-move (plenty of warning, ~500-1000 machines powered down, ~6 hours)
~1 network rewiring (rolling ~5% of machines down over 2-day span)
~20 rack failures (40-80 machines instantly disappear, 1-6 hours to get back)
~5 racks go wonky (40-80 machines see 50% packetloss)
~8 network maintenances (4 might cause ~30-minute random connectivity losses)
~12 router reloads (takes out DNS and external vips for a couple minutes)
~3 router failures (have to immediately pull traffic for an hour)
~dozens of minor 30-second blips for dns
~1000 individual machine failures
~thousands of hard drive failures
slow disks, bad memory, misconfigured machines, flaky machines, etc.

Long distance links: wild dogs, sharks, dead horses, drunken hunters, etc.

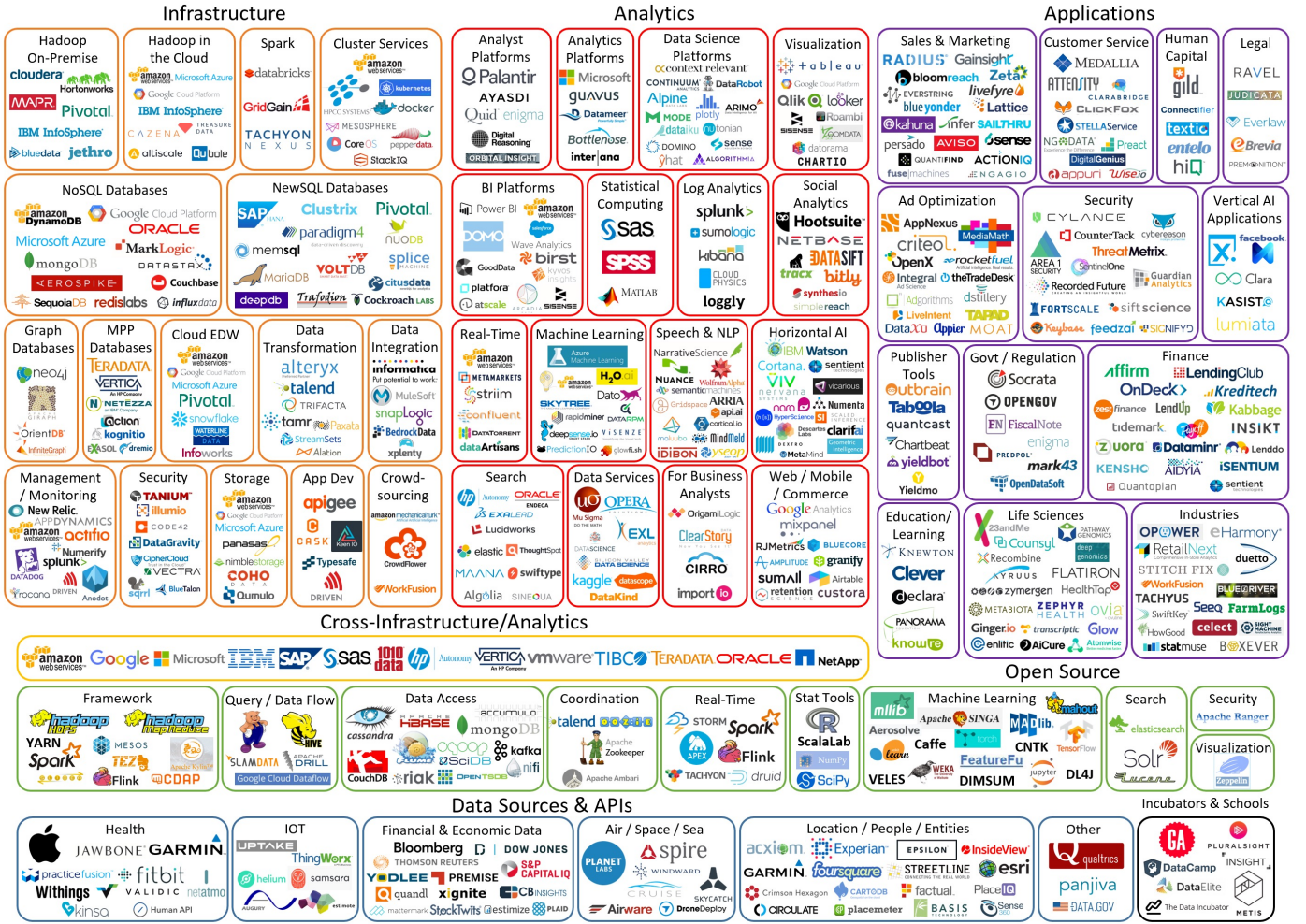
JEFF DEAN @ GOOGLE



How do we program this ?

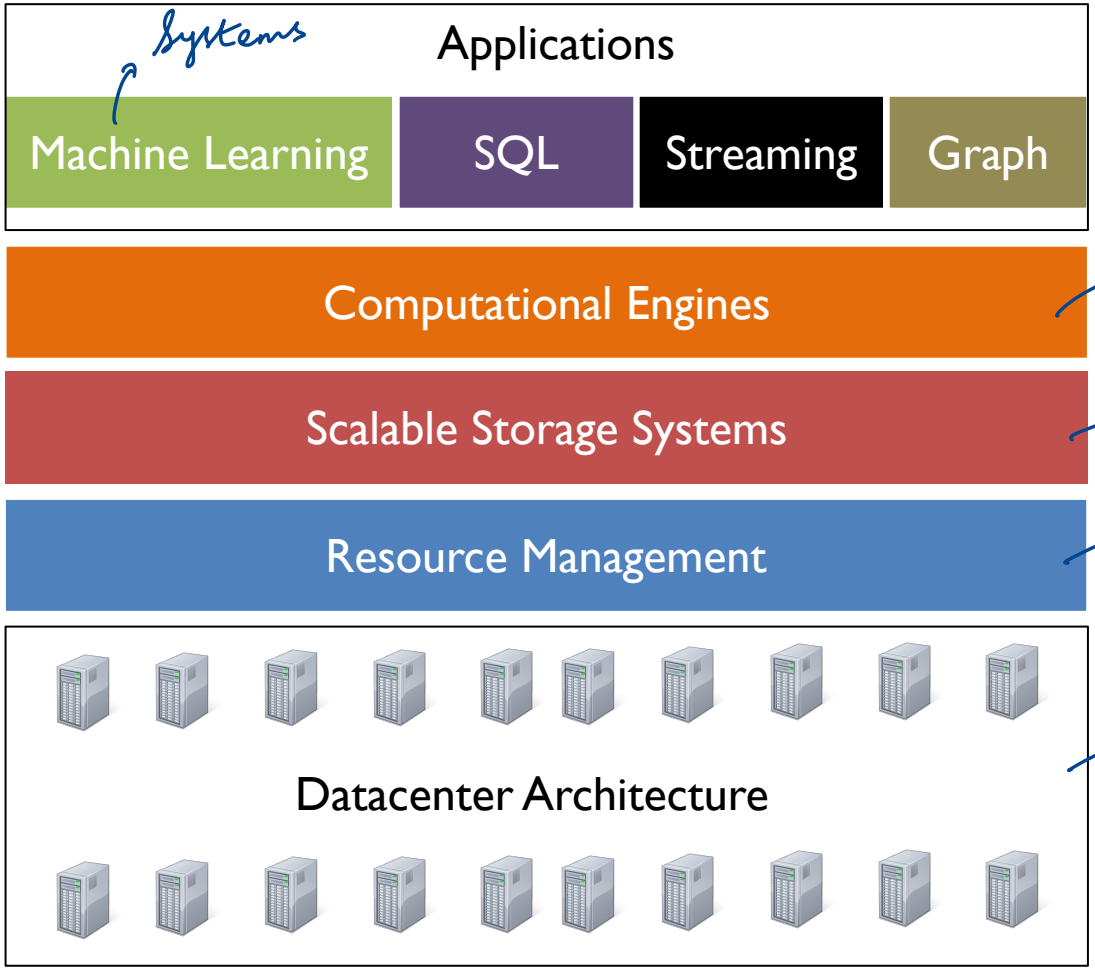
BIG DATA SYSTEMS

Big Data Landscape 2016 (Version 3.0)



Last Updated 3/23/2016

FIRSTMARK


Systems
Applications
Machine Learning
SQL
Streaming
Graph
Computational Engines
Scalable Storage Systems
Resource Management
Datacenter Architecture
general purpose engines
how is data stored
how are computational resources managed?
hardware properties & trends that we see

COURSE SYLLABUS

BACKGROUND SURVEY

Take the survey!
http://tinyurl.com/cs744-sp25-bgs

FAMILIARITY WITH TOOLS

PRIOR COURSES

WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO LEARN FROM THE COURSE?

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the end of the course you will be able to

- Explain the design and architecture of big data systems
- Compare, contrast and evaluate research papers
- Develop and deploy applications on existing frameworks
- Design, articulate and report new research ideas

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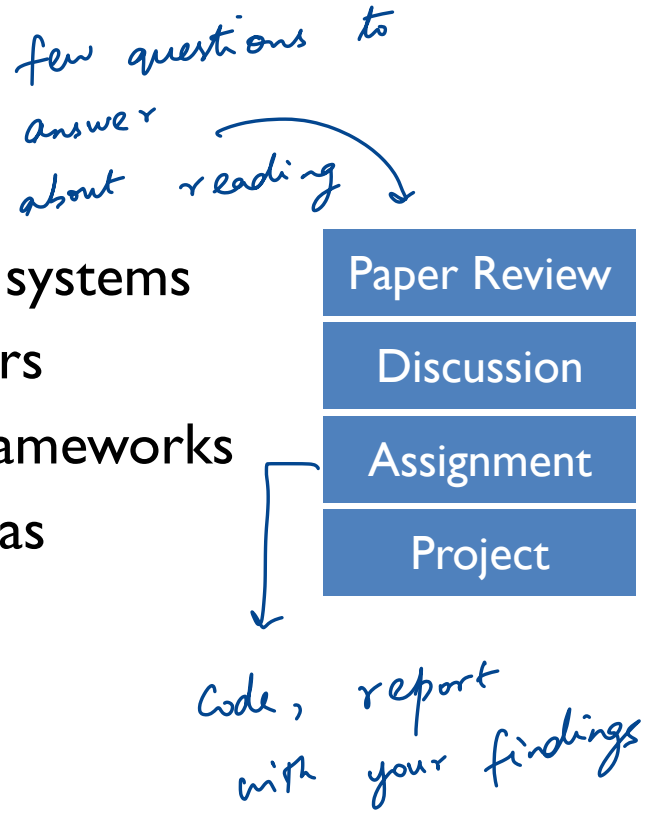

744 VS 544?

how do you use these systems

CS 544: Introduction to Big Data Systems

Big Data Systems

how do you design these systems?

Learning Objectives

- *Deploy distributed systems for data storage and analytics*
- *Demonstrate competencies with tools and processes…*
- *Write programs that use distributed platforms to efficiently analyze large datasets*
- *Produce meaning from large datasets by training machine learning models…*
- *Measure resource usage and overall cost of running distributed programs*
- *Optimize distributed analytics programs to reduce resource consumption...*
- *Demonstrate competencies with cloud services designed to store datasets ..*

CLASS FORMAT

Schedule: http://cs.wisc.edu/~shivaram/cs744-sp25

Reading: ~1 paper per class. We will create reading groups (Canvas)!

Review: Fill out review form (link posted on Piazza) by 12pm

Discussion: In-class group discussion, submit responses within 24 hours

What if you cannot attend?

Best 15 responses (out of ~22)

HOW TO READ A PAPER: EXAMPLE

What is the problem?

The Google File System

Sanjay Ghemawat, Howard Gobioff, and Shun-Tak Leung

Google*

Big design components in the system

Evaluate the system → metrics, Benchmarks

→ Baseline

ABSTRACT

We have designed and implemented the Google File System, a scalable distributed file system for large distributed data-intensive applications. It provides fault tolerance while running on inexpensive commodity hardware, and it delivers high aggregate performance to a large number of clients.

While sharing many of the same goals as previous distributed file systems, our design has been driven by observations of our application workloads and technological environment, both current and anticipated, that reflect a marked departure from some earlier file system assumptions. This has led us to reexamine traditional choices and explore rad-

1. INTRODUCTION

We have designed and implemented the Google File System (GFS) to meet the rapidly growing demands of Google's data processing needs. GFS shares many of the same goals as previous distributed file systems such as performance, scalability, reliability, and availability. However, its design has been driven by key observations of our application workloads and technological environment, both current and anticipated, that reflect a marked departure from some earlier file system design assumptions. We have reexamined traditional choices and explored radically different points in the design space.

PRACTICE DISCUSSION!

https://forms.gle/ak3XxVkbSoHKDrc8A

What are your goals in taking the Big Data Systems course?
How similar / different are goals among students in the group?

What were your main takeaways from "How to Read a Paper"?

PRACTICE DISCUSSION SUMMARY

Goals in taking the course

→ dig deeper into fundamentals

→ Curious about data storage / organization

→ ML & audio applications

ASSESSMENT

- Paper reviews: 10%
- Class Participation, Discussion: 10%
- Assignments (in groups): 20% (2 @ 10% each)
- Midterm exams: 30% (2 @15% each)
- Final Project (in groups): 30%

ASSIGNMENTS

Two homework assignments in Python using NSF CloudLab

- Assignment 0: Setup CloudLab account
- Assignment 1: Data Processing
- Assignment 2: Machine Learning

Short coding assignments. Preparation for course project

Work in groups of three or four

EXAMS

- Two midterm exams
- Open book, open notes
- Synchronous, in-class
- Focus on design, trade-offs

More details including sample papers soon

WHAT ABOUT CHATGPT?

COURSE PROJECT

Main grading component in the course!

Explore new research ideas or significant implementation of Big Data systems

Research: Work towards workshop/conference paper

Implementation: Work towards open source contribution

COURSE PROJECT EXAMPLES

Example: Research

How do we schedule distributed machine learning jobs while accounting for performance, efficiency, convergence ?

Example: Implementation

Implement a new module in Apache YARN that allows GPUs to be allocated to machine learning jobs.

COURSE PROJECT

Project Selection:

- Some course project areas posted
- Form groups
- Bid for one or more ideas or propose your own!
- Instructor feedback/finalize idea

Assessment:

- Project introduction write up
- Mid-semester check-in
- Poster presentation
- Final project report

WAITLIST

- Class size is limited to ~72 for this semester
- Focus on research projects, discussion
- Limited undergraduate seats

If you are enrolled but don't want to take, please drop ASAP!

If you are on the waitlist, we will admit students as spots open up

Meet me in office hours or on Thursday after class if reqd.

If you want to audit the class:

BEFORE NEXT CLASS

Join Piazza: https://piazza.com/wisc/spring2025/cs744

Complete Assignment 0 (see website, Piazza)

Paper Reading: The Datacenter as a Computer