

# GOTO Copenhagen 2021

UNCLUSTER YOUR DATA SCIENCE USING VAEX

**#GOTOcph**

# Who are we?



## **Maarten Breddels**

Former astrophysicist

Freelancer / consultant / data scientist

Core Jupyter-Widgets developer

Founder of [vaex.io](https://vaex.io)

Principal author of vaex

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## **Jovan Veljanoski**

Former astrophysicist

Sr. Data Scientist @ Tiqets

Co-founder of [vaex.io](https://vaex.io)

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What people think we do



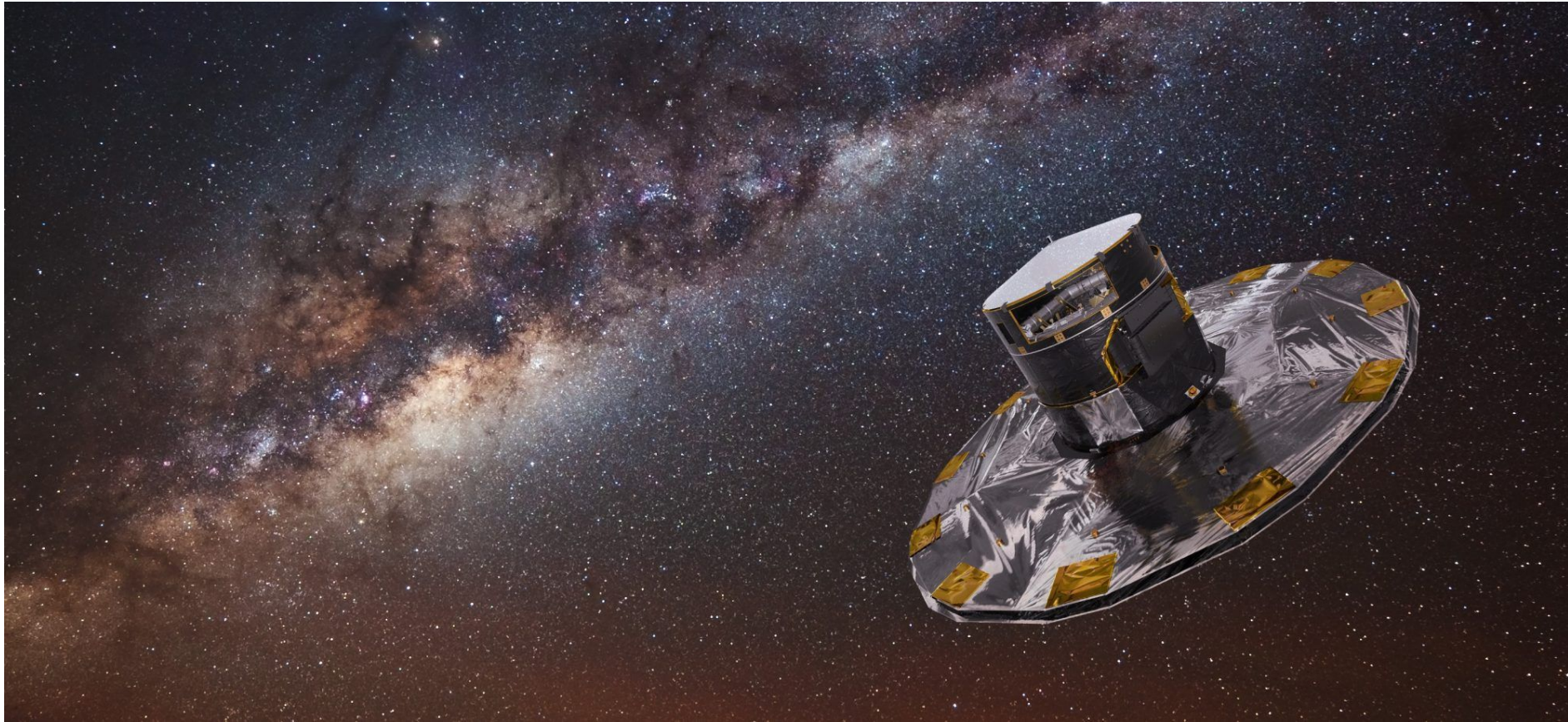
# What we actually do



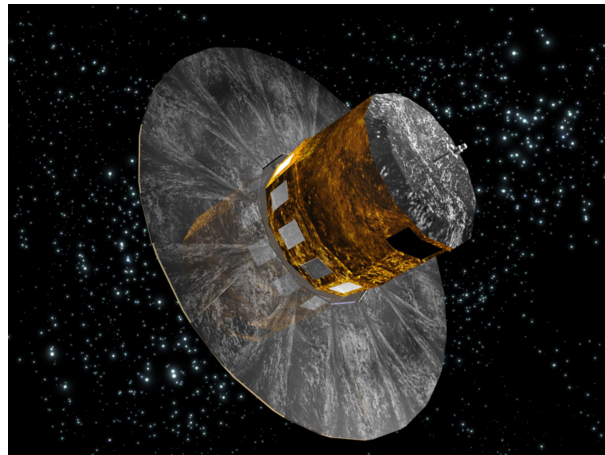


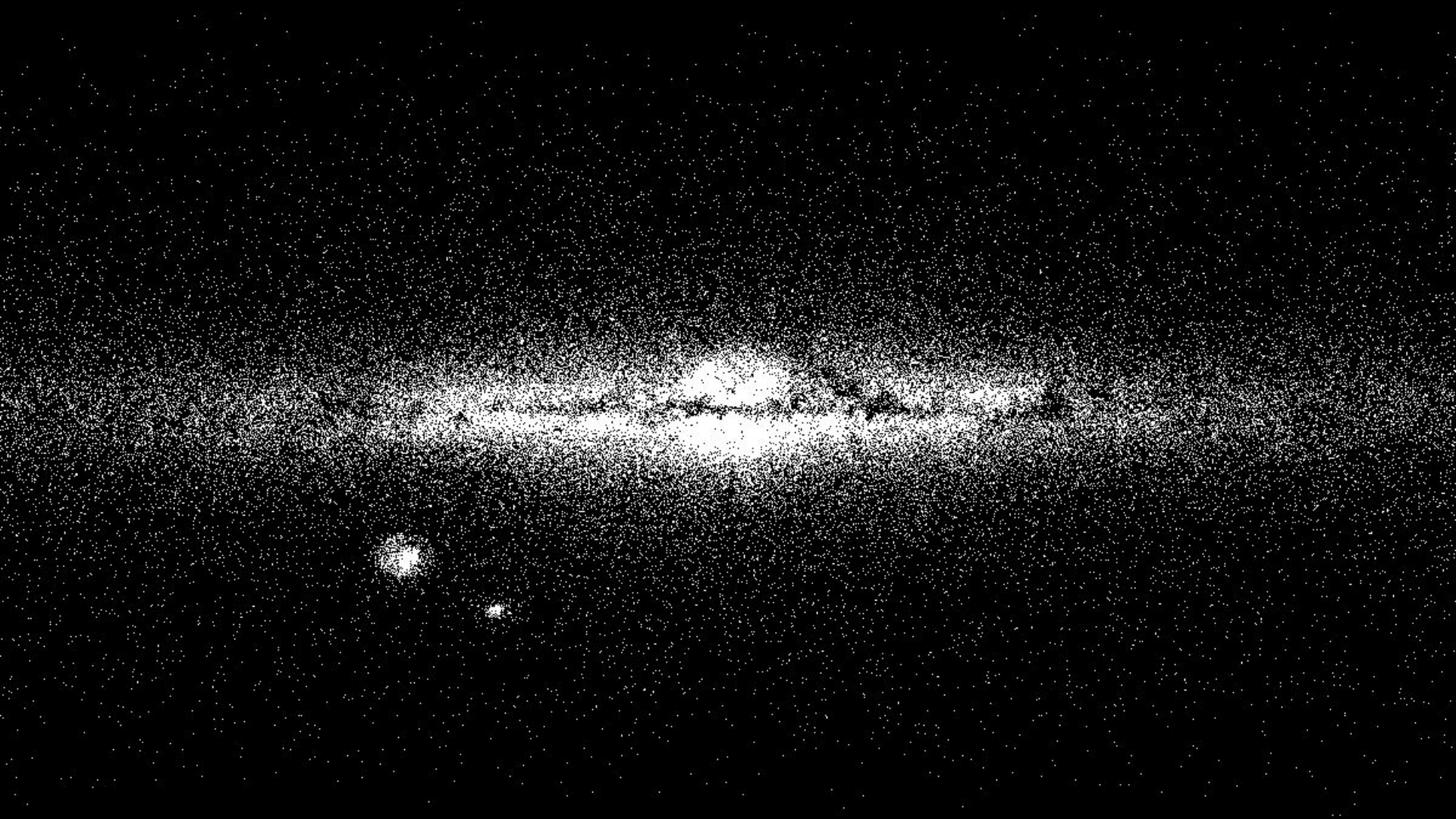
| Number |   | Descriptor: epoch J1991.25 |             |       |               |   |    | Position: epoch J1991.25 |                |          | Par.  | Proper Motion |                  | Standard Errors |            |          |       |                  | Astrometric Correlations (%)            |            |            |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  | Soln           |                |                |   |   |
|--------|---|----------------------------|-------------|-------|---------------|---|----|--------------------------|----------------|----------|-------|---------------|------------------|-----------------|------------|----------|-------|------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---|---|
| HIP    |   | RA                         |             | Dec   |               | V |    | $\alpha$ (ICRS)          |                | $\delta$ |       | $\pi$         | $\mu_{\alpha^*}$ | $\mu_{\delta}$  | $\alpha^*$ | $\delta$ | $\pi$ | $\mu_{\alpha^*}$ | $\mu_{\delta}$                          | $\delta$   | $\pi$      | $\mu_{\alpha^*}$ | $\mu_{\delta}$   | $\mu_{\alpha^*}$ | $\mu_{\delta}$   | $\mu_{\alpha^*}$ | $\mu_{\delta}$ | F1             | F2             |   |   |
| 1      | 2 | h                          | m           | s     | $\pm^{\circ}$ | ' | "  | mag                      | deg            | deg      |       | mas           | mas/yr           |                 | mas        | mas      | mas   | mas/yr           |                                         | $\alpha^*$ | $\alpha^*$ | $\delta$         | $\mu_{\alpha^*}$ | $\mu_{\alpha^*}$ | $\mu_{\alpha^*}$ | $\mu_{\delta}$   | $\mu_{\delta}$ | $\mu_{\delta}$ | $\mu_{\delta}$ | % | % |
| 3      | 4 | 5                          | 6           | 7     | 8             | 9 | 10 | 11                       | 12             | 13       | 14    | 15            | 16               | 17              | 18         | 19       | 20    | 21               | 22                                      | 23         | 24         | 25               | 26               | 27               | 28               | 29               | 30             |                |                |   |   |
| 1      |   | 00 00 00.22                | +01 05 20.4 | 9.10  | H             |   |    | 0.000 911 85             | +01.089 013 32 |          | 3.54  | -5.20         | -1.88            | 1.32            | 0.74       | 1.39     | 1.36  | 0.81             | +32 - 7 -11 -24 + 9 - 1 +10 - 1 + 1 +34 | 0          | 0.74       |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                |   |   |
| 2      |   | 00 00 00.91                | -19 29 55.8 | 9.27  | G             |   |    | 0.003 797 37             | -19.498 837 45 | +        | 21.90 | 181.21        | -0.93            | 1.28            | 0.70       | 3.10     | 1.74  | 0.92             | +12 -14 -24 -29 + 1 +21 - 2 -19 -28 +14 | 2          | 1.45       |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                |   |   |
| 3      |   | 00 00 01.20                | +38 51 33.4 | 6.61  | G             |   |    | 0.005 007 95             | +38.859 286 08 |          | 2.81  | 5.24          | -2.91            | 0.53            | 0.40       | 0.63     | 0.57  | 0.47             | + 6 + 9 + 4 +43 - 1 - 6 + 3 +24 + 7 +21 | 0          | -0.45      |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                |   |   |
| 4      |   | 00 00 02.01                | -51 53 36.8 | 8.06  | H             |   |    | 0.008 381 70             | -51.893 546 12 |          | 7.75  | 62.85         | 0.16             | 0.53            | 0.59       | 0.97     | 0.65  | 0.65             | -22 - 9 - 3 +24 +20 + 8 +18 + 8 -31 -18 | 0          | -1.46      |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                |   |   |
| 5      |   | 00 00 02.39                | -40 35 28.4 | 8.55  | H             |   |    | 0.009 965 34             | -40.591 224 40 |          | 2.87  | 2.53          | 9.07             | 0.64            | 0.61       | 1.11     | 0.67  | 0.74             | +10 +24 + 6 +26 -10 +20 -16 -30 -19 + 6 | 0          | -1.24      |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                |   |   |
| 6      |   | 00 00 04.35                | +03 56 47.4 | 12.31 | G             |   |    | 0.018 141 44             | +03.946 488 93 |          | 18.80 | 226.29        | -12.84           | 4.03            | 2.18       | 4.99     | 6.15  | 3.20             | +35 - 1 + 3 -11 - 2 +47 - 2 + 3 +31 +35 | 4          | 2.95       |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                |   |   |
| 7      |   | 00 00 05.41                | +20 02 11.8 | 9.64  | G             |   |    | 0.022 548 91             | +20.036 602 16 |          | 17.74 | -208.12       | -200.79          | 1.01            | 0.79       | 1.30     | 1.13  | 0.82             | +32 + 8 - 2 - 4 +12 + 6 +11 + 0 +16 +43 | 0          | 0.21       |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                |   |   |
| 8      |   | 00 00 06.55                | +25 53 11.3 | 9.05  | 3 H           |   |    | 0.027 291 60             | +25.886 474 45 |          | 5.17  | 19.09         | -5.66            | 1.70            | 0.93       | 1.95     | 1.54  | 0.88             | +27 -66 -36 -38 -12 +36 -21 -24 +32 +18 | 0          | 0.98       |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                |   |   |
| 9      |   | 00 00 08.48                | +36 35 09.4 | 8.59  | H             |   |    | 0.035 341 89             | +36.585 937 77 |          | 4.81  | -6.30         | 8.42             | 0.86            | 0.55       | 0.99     | 1.02  | 0.65             | + 3 +16 - 1 + 0 + 7 - 2 + 8 + 4 +10 +13 | 3          | -1.26      |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                |   |   |
| 10     |   | 00 00 08.70                | -50 52 01.5 | 8.59  | H             |   |    | 0.036 253 09             | -50.867 073 60 |          | 10.76 | 42.23         | 40.02            | 0.77            | 0.73       | 1.10     | 0.98  | 0.82             | -13 -24 +11 + 1 - 7 + 6 + 0 -18 -22 -13 | 0          | 0.82       |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                |   |   |
| 11     |   | 00 00 08.95                | +46 56 24.0 | 7.34  | H             |   |    | 0.037 296 95             | +46.940 001 54 |          | 4.29  | 11.09         | -2.02            | 0.52            | 0.51       | 0.84     | 0.53  | 0.54             | + 9 +20 +31 -30 + 0 -11 + 6 +21 +26 + 5 | 0          | -0.23      |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                |   |   |
| 12     |   | 00 00 09.82                | -35 57 36.8 | 8.43  | H             |   |    | 0.040 917 56             | -35.960 224 82 |          | 4.06  | -5.99         | -0.10            | 0.81            | 0.58       | 1.16     | 1.02  | 0.72             | +13 - 9 -17 -36 + 0 +16 - 1 -41 +29 + 2 | 2          | 0.76       |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                |   |   |
| 13     |   | 00 00 10.00                | -22 35 40.9 | 8.80  | H             |   |    | 0.041 679 70             | -22.594 680 60 |          | 3.49  | 8.45          | -10.07           | 1.21            | 0.67       | 1.48     | 1.44  | 0.59             | +15 +23 +24 + 9 + 9 +24 - 5 -37 - 4 -10 | 0          | -0.46      |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                |   |   |
| 14     |   | 00 00 11.59                | -00 21 37.5 | 7.25  | G             |   |    | 0.048 271 89             | -00.360 421 19 |          | 5.11  | 61.75         | -11.67           | 0.88            | 0.54       | 0.99     | 1.12  | 0.59             | +34 + 1 -21 +23 - 3 +11 + 1 -24 +27 +40 | 0          | -0.31      |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                |   |   |
| 15     |   | 00 00 12.07                | +50 47 28.2 | 8.60  | H             |   |    | 0.050 308 90             | +50.791 173 84 |          | 2.45  | 13.88         | 5.47             | 0.66            | 0.70       | 1.16     | 0.78  | 0.70             | -27 + 8 +27 +22 + 5 + 9 + 6 - 6 +14 -19 | 0          | 0.35       |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                |   |   |
| *16    |   | 00 00 12.34                | -54 54 50.9 | 11.71 | G             |   |    | 0.051 408 52             | -54.914 128 19 |          | 0.53  | 257.39        | -96.63           | 1.49            | 1.67       | 2.63     | 1.81  | 1.95             | -27 - 7 -13 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 - 8 - 9 -22 | 0          | 0.76       |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                |   |   |
| *17    |   | 00 00 12.26                | -40 11 32.4 | 8.15  | H             |   |    | 0.051 099 57             | -40.192 328 42 |          | 6.15  | -34.46        | -26.37           | 0.57            | 0.55       | 1.00     | 0.61  | 0.65             | +18 +24 +13 +29 - 7 +11 -15 -35 -18 +11 | 0          | -0.62      |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                |   |   |
| 18     |   | 00 00 12.75                | -04 03 13.5 | 11.03 | G             |   |    | 0.053 139 23             | -04.053 738 13 |          | 19.93 | -127.22       | 23.78            | 2.18            | 1.20       | 2.36     | 2.69  | 1.15             | +24 +19 + 4 - 8 + 3 +15 + 3 -30 +26 +18 | 3          | 0.05       |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                |   |   |
| 19     |   | 00 00 12.80                | +38 18 14.7 | 6.53  | H             |   |    | 0.053 316 96             | +38.304 086 36 |          | 4.12  | -2.50         | -15.07           | 0.55            | 0.40       | 0.64     | 0.60  | 0.45             | + 9 - 5 + 3 +53 - 8 -10 - 4 +21 + 8 +23 | 0          | -0.84      |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                |   |   |
| 20     |   | 00 00 15.11                | +23 31 45.4 | 8.51  | G             |   |    | 0.062 950 50             | +23.529 283 97 |          | 10.76 | 36.00         | -22.98           | 0.88            | 0.59       | 1.06     | 0.92  | 0.59             | +30 +39 +19 +10 + 2 + 8 + 9 - 5 +20 +32 | 0          | 0.50       |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                |   |   |
| 21     |   | 00 00 15.90                | +08 00 26.0 | 7.55  | H             |   |    | 0.066 235 69             | +08.007 234 37 |          | 5.84  | 61.89         | -0.22            | 0.84            | 0.51       | 0.95     | 0.84  | 0.56             | +20 +13 - 9 -10 + 1 + 3 + 6 -16 +30 +36 | 2          | 2.05       |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                |   |   |
| 22     |   | 00 00 16.83                | -49 21 08.2 | 8.69  | H             |   |    | 0.070 135 93             | -49.352 266 86 |          | 4.47  | -7.90         | 0.46             | 0.63            | 0.79       | 1.15     | 0.71  | 0.93             | - 6 - 1 -10 -16 -14 + 8 -12 -26 - 6 + 7 | 0          | -0.40      |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                |   |   |
| 23     |   | 00 00 17.86                | +13 18 44.0 | 7.57  | G             |   |    | 0.074 429 30             | +13.312 210 83 |          | 12.21 | 54.15         | 9.65             | 0.90            | 0.52       | 0.95     | 0.91  | 0.55             | +17 +10 +12 -23 +19 + 9 +15 - 1 +10 +36 | 0          | 0.32       |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                |   |   |
| 24     |   | 00 00 18.25                | -23 27 09.9 | 9.05  | H             |   |    | 0.076 049 79             | -23.452 749 13 |          | 9.73  | 127.15        | 22.22            | 1.00            | 0.61       | 1.21     | 1.21  | 0.55             | + 3 -12 +21 -10 +12 +27 + 1 -37 - 2 -13 | 1          | 0.24       |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                |   |   |
| 25 H   |   | 00 00 19.05                | -44 17 25.1 | 6.28  | G             |   |    | 0.079 365 37             | -44.290 297 41 | A        | 13.74 | 58.36         | -108.64          | 0.88            | 0.81       | 0.98     | 0.73  | 0.68             | -32 +18 - 7 + 2 -14 + 2 -10 -25 +10 - 2 | 2          | -0.52      |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                |   |   |
| 26     |   | 00 00 20.24                | -13 23 35.9 | 9.13  | H             |   |    | 0.084 345 79             | -13.393 296 86 |          | 9.19  | -103.33       | -33.35           | 1.00            | 0.83       | 1.34     | 1.42  | 0.75             | +42 -13 -12 -12 -16 +33 -24 -55 +25 +31 | 0          | -0.56      |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                |   |   |
| 27     |   | 00 00 20.51                | -41 17 51.1 | 9.32  | H             |   |    | 0.085 469 76             | -41.297 536 96 |          | 9.66  | 135.96        | -113.67          | 0.82            | 0.73       | 1.38     | 0.95  | 0.94             | - 2 - 6 + 7 +19 - 3 + 6 - 4 -34 -15 - 4 | 2          | -0.07      |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                |   |   |
| 28     |   | 00 00 20.94                | -43 21 42.5 | 8.83  | H             |   |    | 0.087 248 71             | -43.361 799 62 |          | 5.64  | -10.96        | -8.69            | 0.71            | 0.60       | 1.05     | 0.83  | 0.78             | + 5 - 3 -11 +17 -15 +26 -14 -45 + 8 + 8 | 0          | -0.76      |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                |   |   |
| 29     |   | 00 00 22.11                | -49 06 28.6 | 9.14  | H             |   |    | 0.092 131 06             | -49.107 955 05 |          | 2.85  | 26.86         | 4.05             | 0.75            | 0.92       | 1.40     | 0.79  | 1.09             | - 9 -11 -18 -24 - 8 - 3 -11 -24 + 8 + 0 | 0          | -0.23      |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                |   |   |
| 30     |   | 00 00 23.07                | +42 08 29.4 | 8.26  | H             |   |    | 0.096 135 63             | +42.141 498 82 |          | 3.79  | -8.44         | -10.14           | 0.53            | 0.53       | 0.88     | 0.72  | 0.54             | + 7 +11 +26 - 9 - 5 -14 + 2 +14 +16 - 8 | 0          | 0.03       |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                |   |   |
| 31     |   | 00 00 23.54                | +02 40 31.7 | 7.63  | H             |   |    | 0.098 093 90             | +02.675 477 68 |          | 1.84  | -4.88         | -0.20            | 1.06            | 0.61       | 1.05     | 1.49  | 0.69             | +19 +17 - 4 -33 +14 - 2 +22 +10 + 7 - 7 | 0          | -0.07      |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                |   |   |
| 32     |   | 00 00 23.66                | +51 56 22.2 | 9.09  | H             |   |    | 0.098 583 75             | +51.939 490 50 |          | 3.10  | -0.39         | -1.38            | 0.78            | 0.74       | 1.29     | 0.94  | 0.79             | -18 + 7 +18 + 4 + 8 + 8 + 8 + 2 +19 -12 | 2          | 0.61       |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                |   |   |
| 33     |   | 00 00 23.80                | -10 27 44.8 | 8.10  | H             |   |    | 0.099 180 83             | -10.462 454 45 |          | 8.94  | -3.62         | 28.71            | 0.90            | 0.48       | 1.09     | 1.39  | 0.47             | +30 -31 - 6 -25 + 2 +33 -14 -38 +30 +23 | 0          | 0.26       |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                |   |   |
| 34     |   | 00 00 23.87                | -36 55 05.7 | 6.42  | H             |   |    | 0.099 469 72             | -36.918 238 21 |          | 12.71 | 42.30         | 52.47            | 0.61            | 0.42       | 0.74     | 0.64  | 0.42             | -15 -23 -12 - 0 - 4 - 2 - 7 - 7 -15 - 9 | 0          | 1.00       |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                |   |   |





- The (original) problem: handling uncomfortably large data
  - Gaia Data: ~1.800.000.000 (billion!) of stars (rows), ~100 columns (features)
  - 10 000x increase in data
- What we need
  - Interactive exploration, visualisation, statistical analysis
- Requirements
  - Low barrier of entry, Accessible, Cheap
  - Easy setup
  - No cluster





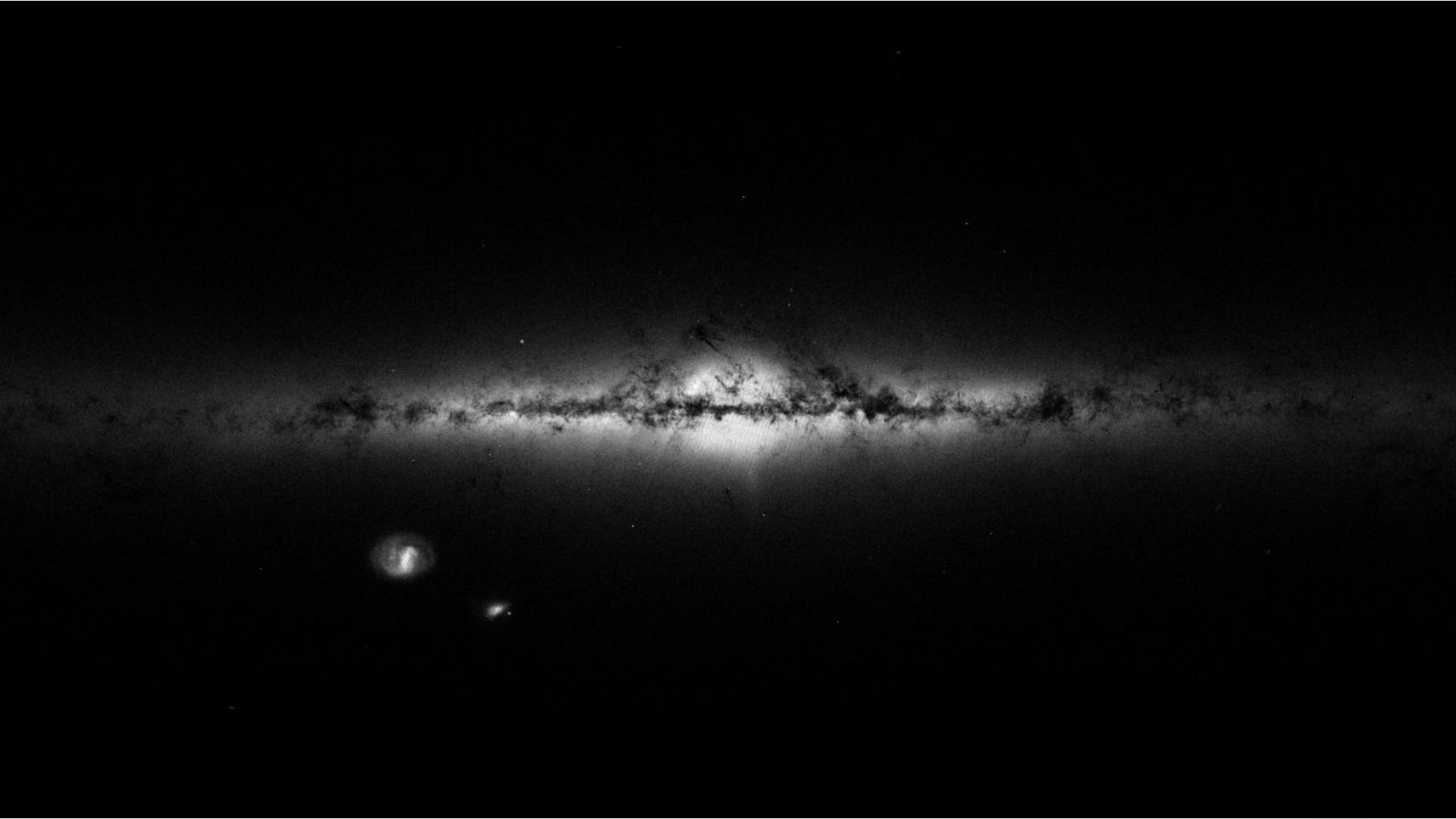


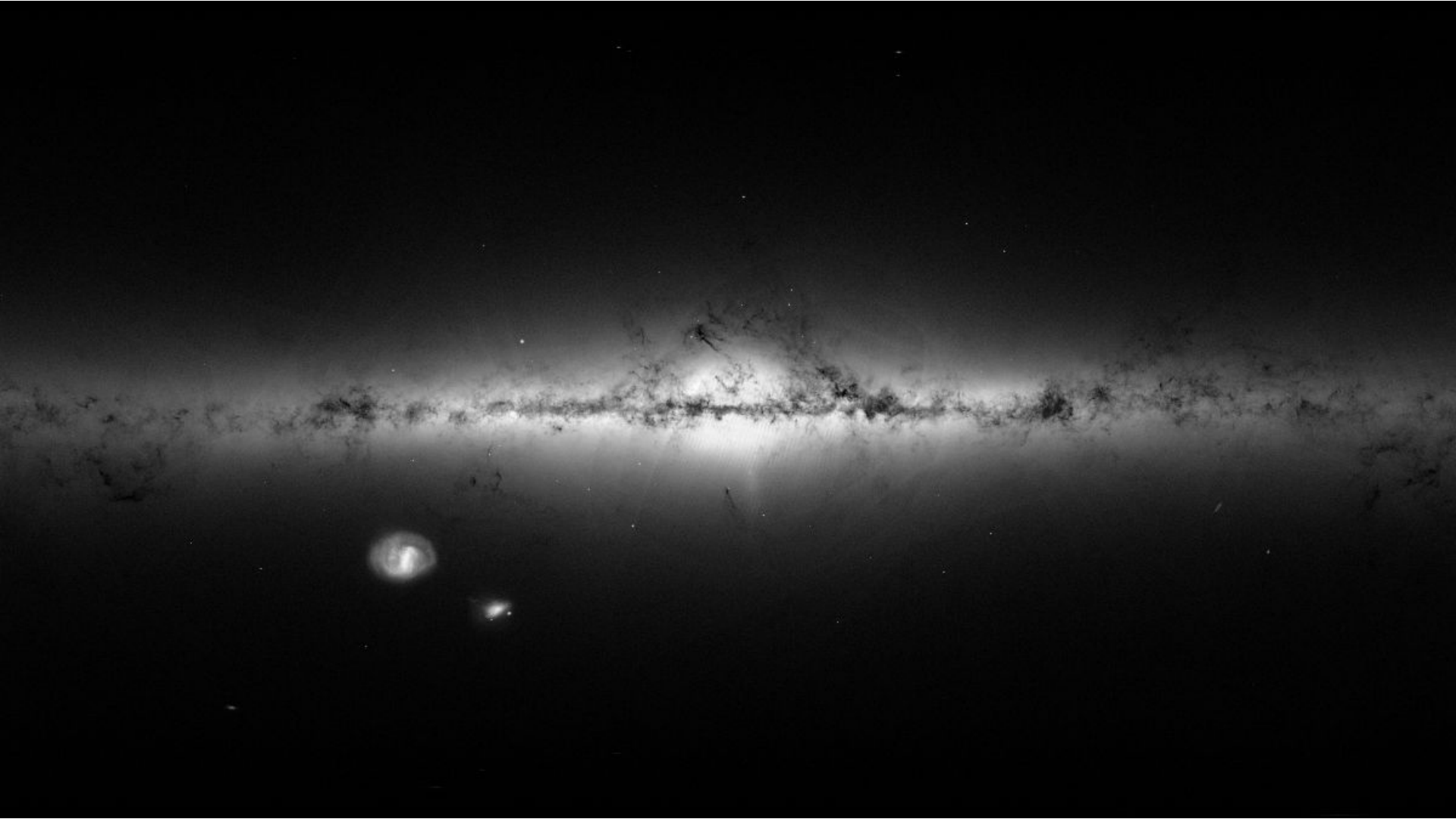
10 000 000 stars

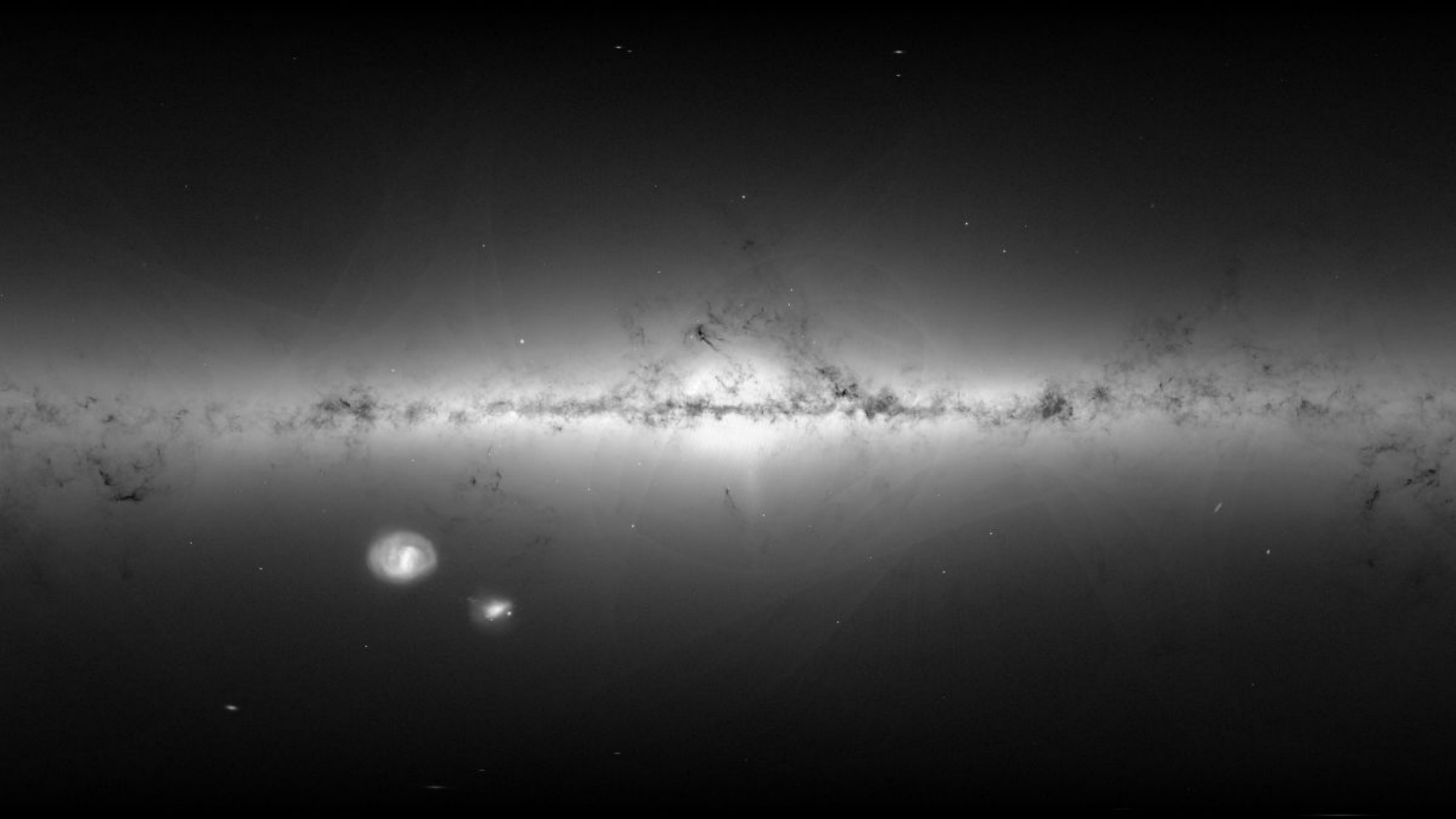
100 000 000 stars

1 000 000 000 stars











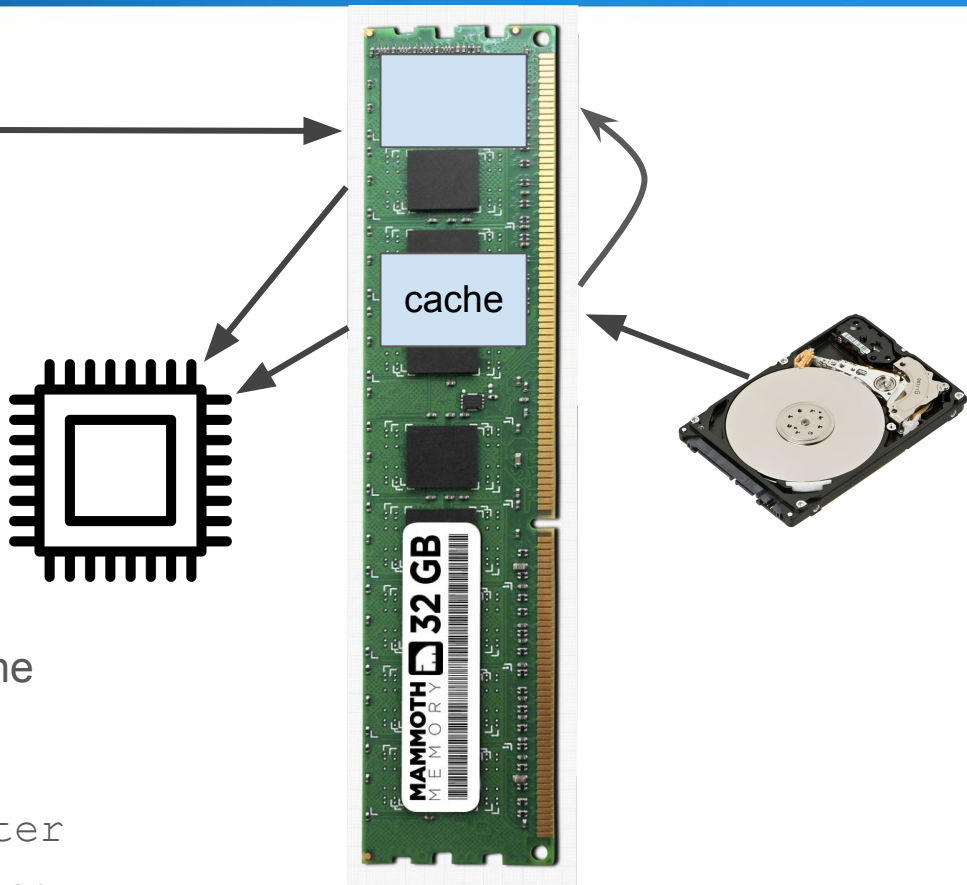
- Memory use
  - 1 double precision = 8 bytes
  - 2 columns
  - 1 billion rows
  - $1 \text{ billion} * 2 * 8 = 15\text{GiB}$
- Memory bandwidth 10-100 GB/s
  - $< 1$  seconds
- CPU
  - 4Ghz, but 1-100 cores
  - 4-100 cycles/row in 1 second

- High-performance, out-of-core DataFrame library
- Out-of-core algorithms ensure working with data larger than RAM
- Work with billions ( $10^9$ ) of samples on a single machine / laptop interactively
- Like Pandas (similar API) but not built on Pandas
- Easy installation:
  - `pip install vaex`
- Legal: Free & Open Source, MIT License

- Memory mapping
- Column based storage
- No memory copies
- Compute layer
- Expression system

# Vaex concepts: memory mapping

- Normal disk reading
  - Allocate memory
  - Read from disk to memory
    - $\text{disk} > \text{cache} > \text{memory}$
  - Memory to CPU
  - Waste memory (thus cache)
- Memory mapping
  - Get a pointer to the same cache
  - No copy
  - Memory not taken, can be freed
  - Reading on accessing and not in cache
- Shared memory for all processes
  - e.g: flask, gunicorn, dash, jupyter
- Store on disk as you would keep it in memory





- Why ?
  - Focus on analytical workloads
  - Sequential access is optimized for CPU and disk
  - Disk reading is block based
  - CPU cache friendly

- **HDF5**

- Non-standard: Container format, anything can be stored
- Stored as a single contiguous array
- Native storage



- **Apache Arrow**

- Standard: interoperability
- Specialized for tabular data
- Chunks of column based
- Native storage



- **Apache Parquet**

- Industry standard
- Not-native, compressed, requires deserialization



# Vaex concepts: no memory copies

```
df = {  
    'data': {  
        'x': np.arange(4),  
        'y': np.array([0, np.nan, 5, 1, 1e10])  
    },  
    'state': {}  
}
```

```
df2 = df[df.y<10]
```

```
df2 = {  
    'data': same_data,  
    'state': {  
        'filter': 'y < 10'  
    }  
}
```

```
df2['z'] = df.x + df.y*10
```

```
df2 = {  
    'data': same_data  
    'state': {  
        'filter': 'y < 10'  
        'virtual_columns': {  
            'z': 'x + y*10'  
        }  
    }  
}
```

- Compute:
  - Streaming algorithms
  - Map reduce
  - C++ under the hood
- Expression system
  - Store the expression, not the result
  - Evaluate when needed
  - JIT via Numba, Pythran, Cuda

```
import numpy as np
x = np.arange(5)
y = x**2
x * y
```

```
array([ 0,  1,  8, 27, 64])
```

```
import vaex
df = vaex.from_arrays(x=x, y=y)
df.x * df.y
```

```
Expression = (x * y)
Length: 20 dtype: int64 (expression)
```

```
-----
0      0
1      1
2      8
3     27
4     64
...
15   3375
16   4096
17   4913
18   5832
19   6859
```

- Solved a problem in astronomy
- Realized this solves a broader problem
- Moved towards industry grade features & applications
  - Fast string support
  - GroupBy
  - Join
  - ML integration
  - Automatic Pipeline & DataFrame State tracking
- Unclustering your data science



*“Never do a live demo”*

-Many people

- This is nice, but I need to put it in production:
  - Make a dashboard
  - Provide a data web API
  - Deploy an ML model
- Vaex is ideal
  - Memory mapping shares data
  - Integrated caching system can cache common queries/results
  - Well tested with Dash, Flask, FastAPI
  - Support cloud storage: s3, gcs (pyarrow, fsspec)
  - Subpackages for less dependencies (pick what you need)
    - `vaex-core`
    - `vaex-ml`
    - `vaex-viz`
    - more!



**Field:** Genomics

**Use:** Interactive exploration of genomics data (x240 performance increase)



**STScI** | SPACE TELESCOPE  
SCIENCE INSTITUTE

**Field:** Astronomy & Astrophysics

**Use:** Remote interactive exploration & visualisation and analysis of large datasets



**Field:** Data visualisation & Dashboards

**Use:** The primary backend to the newly released Plotly Dashboard Engine;

Plotly Dash clients get access to big data with no setup.

# Vaex in Production: Dash example

<https://dash.vaex.io/>

## Dash and Vaex: Big data exposed

Exploring 120 Million Taxi trips in Real Time



plotly | Dash



vaex

Selected 120,689,939 trips



Select pick-up hours



Select pick-up days

Select a day of week



POPULAR DESTINATIONS IN NEW YORK

TRIP PLANNER

**Penn Station/Madison Sq West: 3,844,609** taxi trips leaving this zone.

*Click on the map to change the zone.*



- Features development
- Support
- Retainers
- Performance
- Training

*Flow back to open source development & maintenance*





- Operating on 1 billion rows in 1 second is possible
- How we do this
  - Memory mapping
  - Column based storage
  - Multithreading and C++
  - Expression system
- Ideal for
  - Interactive exploration (EDA)
  - Backends (dashboard, Web APIs)
- No cluster needed

- `contact@vaex.io` - support / consultancy training
-  <https://github.com/vaexio/vaex>
-  `@vaex_io`
- Documentation: <https://vaex.io/docs/>
- Examples: <https://github.com/vaexio/vaex-examples/>
- This talk and notebook:
  -  <https://github.com/vaexio/vaex-talks>

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