

## **CHAPTER 24**

# **NOSQL Databases and Big Data Storage Systems**

# Introduction

- NOSQL
  - Not only SQL
- Most NOSQL systems are distributed databases or distributed storage systems
  - Focus on semi-structured data storage, high performance, availability, data replication, and scalability

# Introduction (cont'd.)

- NOSQL systems focus on storage of “big data”
- Typical applications that use NOSQL
  - Social media
  - Web links
  - User profiles
  - Marketing and sales
  - Posts and tweets
  - Road maps and spatial data
  - Email

# 24.1 Introduction to NOSQL Systems

- BigTable
  - Google's proprietary NOSQL system
  - Column-based or wide column store
- DynamoDB (Amazon)
  - Key-value data store
- Cassandra (Facebook)
  - Uses concepts from both key-value store and column-based systems

# Introduction to NOSQL Systems (cont'd.)

- MongoDB and CouchDB
  - Document stores
- Neo4J and GraphBase
  - Graph-based NOSQL systems
- OrientDB
  - Combines several concepts
- Database systems classified on the object model
  - Or native XML model

# Introduction to NOSQL Systems (cont'd.)

- NOSQL characteristics related to distributed databases and distributed systems
  - Scalability
  - Availability, replication, and eventual consistency
  - Replication models
    - Master-slave
    - Master-master
  - Sharding of files
  - High performance data access

# Introduction to NOSQL Systems (cont'd.)

- NOSQL characteristics related to data models and query languages
  - Schema not required
  - Less powerful query languages
  - Versioning



# Introduction to NOSQL Systems (cont'd.)

- Categories of NOSQL systems
  - Document-based NOSQL systems
  - NOSQL key-value stores
  - Column-based or wide column NOSQL systems
  - Graph-based NOSQL systems
  - Hybrid NOSQL systems
  - Object databases
  - XML databases

## 24.2 The CAP Theorem

- Various levels of consistency among replicated data items
  - Enforcing serializability the strongest form of consistency
    - High overhead – can reduce read/write operation performance
- CAP theorem
  - Consistency, availability, and partition tolerance
  - Not possible to guarantee all three simultaneously
    - In distributed system with data replication

# The CAP Theorem (cont'd.)

- Designer can choose two of three to guarantee
  - Weaker consistency level is often acceptable in NOSQL distributed data store
  - Guaranteeing availability and partition tolerance more important
  - Eventual consistency often adopted

## 24.3 Document-Based NOSQL Systems and MongoDB

- Document stores
  - Collections of similar documents
- Individual documents resemble complex objects or XML documents
  - Documents are self-describing
  - Can have different data elements
- Documents can be specified in various formats
  - XML
  - JSON

# MongoDB Data Model

- Documents stored in binary JSON (BSON) format
- Individual documents stored in a collection
- Example command
  - First parameter specifies name of the collection
  - Collection options include limits on size and number of documents

```
db.createCollection("project", { capped : true, size : 1310720, max : 500 } )
```

- Each document in collection has unique ObjectID field called `_id`

# MongoDB Data Model (cont'd.)

- A collection does not have a schema
  - Structure of the data fields in documents chosen based on how documents will be accessed
  - User can choose normalized or denormalized design
- Document creation using insert operation

```
db.<collection_name>.insert(<document(s)>)
```
- Document deletion using remove operation

```
db.<collection_name>.remove(<condition>)
```

(a) project document with an array of embedded workers:

```
{
  _id:          "P1",
  Pname:        "ProductX",
  Plocation:    "Bellaire",
  Workers: [
    { Ename: "John Smith",
      Hours: 32.5
    },
    { Ename: "Joyce English",
      Hours: 20.0
    }
  ]
};
```

(b) project document with an embedded array of worker ids:

```
{
  _id:          "P1",
  Pname:        "ProductX",
  Plocation:    "Bellaire",
  WorkerIds:    [ "W1", "W2" ]
}

{ _id:          "W1",
  Ename:        "John Smith",
  Hours:        32.5
}

{ _id:          "W2",
  Ename:        "Joyce English",
  Hours:        20.0
}
```

Figure 24.1 (continues)  
Example of simple documents in MongoDB (a) Denormalized document design with embedded subdocuments (b) Embedded array of document references

Figure 24.1 (cont'd.)  
Example of simple  
documents in MongoDB  
(c) Normalized documents  
(d) Inserting the  
documents in Figure  
24.1(c) into their  
collections

(c) normalized project and worker documents (not a fully normalized design for M:N relationships):

```
{
  _id:      "P1",
  Pname:    "ProductX",
  Plocation: "Bellaire"
}
{
  _id:      "W1",
  Ename:    "John Smith",
  ProjectId: "P1",
  Hours:    32.5
}
{
  _id:      "W2",
  Ename:    "Joyce English",
  ProjectId: "P1",
  Hours:    20.0
}
```

(d) inserting the documents in (c) into their collections "project" and "worker":

```
db.project.insert( { _id: "P1", Pname: "ProductX", Plocation: "Bellaire" } )
db.worker.insert( [ { _id: "W1", Ename: "John Smith", ProjectId: "P1", Hours: 32.5 },
                    { _id: "W2", Ename: "Joyce English", ProjectId: "P1",
                      Hours: 20.0 } ] )
```



# MongoDB Distributed Systems Characteristics

- Two-phase commit method
  - Used to ensure atomicity and consistency of multidocument transactions
- Replication in MongoDB
  - Concept of replica set to create multiple copies on different nodes
  - Variation of master-slave approach
  - Primary copy, secondary copy, and arbiter
    - Arbiter participates in elections to select new primary if needed

# MongoDB Distributed Systems Characteristics (cont'd.)

- Replication in MongoDB (cont'd.)
  - All write operations applied to the primary copy and propagated to the secondaries
  - User can choose read preference
    - Read requests can be processed at any replica
- Sharding in MongoDB
  - Horizontal partitioning divides the documents into disjoint partitions (shards)
  - Allows adding more nodes as needed
  - Shards stored on different nodes to achieve load balancing

# MongoDB Distributed Systems Characteristics (cont'd.)

- Sharding in MongoDB (cont'd.)
  - Partitioning field (shard key) must exist in every document in the collection
    - Must have an index
  - Range partitioning
    - Creates chunks by specifying a range of key values
    - Works best with range queries
  - Hash partitioning
    - Partitioning based on the hash values of each shard key

## 24.4 NOSQL Key-Value Stores

- Key-value stores focus on high performance, availability, and scalability
  - Can store structured, unstructured, or semi-structured data
- Key: unique identifier associated with a data item
  - Used for fast retrieval
- Value: the data item itself
  - Can be string or array of bytes
  - Application interprets the structure
- No query language

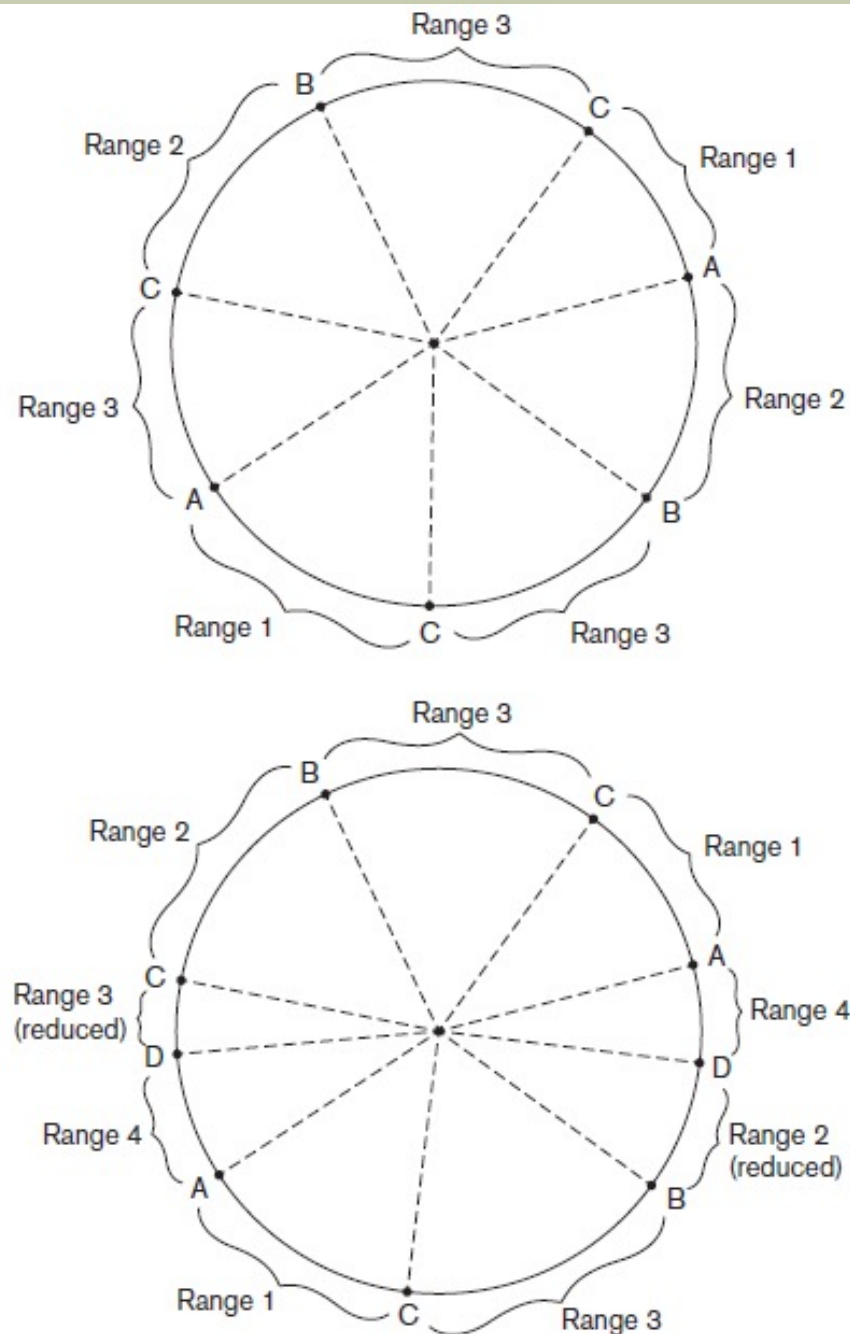
# DynamoDB Overview

- DynamoDB part of Amazon's Web Services/SDK platforms
  - Proprietary
- Table holds a collection of self-describing items
- Item consists of attribute-value pairs
  - Attribute values can be single or multi-valued
- Primary key used to locate items within a table
  - Can be single attribute or pair of attributes

# Voldemort Key-Value Distributed Data Store

- Voldemort: open source key-value system similar to DynamoDB
- Voldemort features
  - Simple basic operations (get, put, and delete)
  - High-level formatted data values
  - Consistent hashing for distributing (key, value) pairs
  - Consistency and versioning
    - Concurrent writes allowed
    - Each write associated with a vector clock

Figure 24.2 Example of consistent hashing  
 (a) Ring having three nodes A, B, and C, with C having greater capacity. The  $h(K)$  values that map to the circle points in *range 1* have their  $(k, v)$  items stored in node A, *range 2* in node B, *range 3* in node C (b) Adding a node D to the ring. Items in *range 4* are moved to the node D from node B (*range 2* is reduced) and node C (*range 3* is reduced)



# Examples of Other Key-Value Stores

- Oracle key-value store
  - Oracle NOSQL Database
- Redis key-value cache and store
  - Caches data in main memory to improve performance
  - Offers master-slave replication and high availability
  - Offers persistence by backing up cache to disk
- Apache Cassandra
  - Offers features from several NOSQL categories
  - Used by Facebook and others



## 24.5 Column-Based or Wide Column NOSQL Systems

- BigTable: Google's distributed storage system for big data
  - Used in Gmail
  - Uses Google File System for data storage and distribution
- Apache Hbase a similar, open source system
  - Uses Hadoop Distributed File System (HDFS) for data storage
  - Can also use Amazon's Simple Storage System (S3)

# Hbase Data Model and Versioning

- Data organization concepts
  - Namespaces
  - Tables
  - Column families
  - Column qualifiers
  - Columns
  - Rows
  - Data cells
- Data is self-describing

# Hbase Data Model and Versioning (cont'd.)

- HBase stores multiple versions of data items
  - Timestamp associated with each version
- Each row in a table has a unique row key
- Table associated with one or more column families
- Column qualifiers can be dynamically specified as new table rows are created and inserted
- Namespace is collection of tables
- Cell holds a basic data item

**(a) creating a table:**

```
create 'EMPLOYEE', 'Name', 'Address', 'Details'
```

**(b) Inserting some row data in the EMPLOYEE table:**

```
put 'EMPLOYEE', 'row1', 'Name:Fname', 'John'
put 'EMPLOYEE', 'row1', 'Name:Lname', 'Smith'
put 'EMPLOYEE', 'row1', 'Name:Nickname', 'Johnny'
put 'EMPLOYEE', 'row1', 'Details:Job', 'Engineer'
put 'EMPLOYEE', 'row1', 'Details:Review', 'Good'
put 'EMPLOYEE', 'row2', 'Name:Fname', 'Alicia'
put 'EMPLOYEE', 'row2', 'Name:Lname', 'Zelaya'
put 'EMPLOYEE', 'row2', 'Name:MName', 'Jennifer'
put 'EMPLOYEE', 'row2', 'Details:Job', 'DBA'
put 'EMPLOYEE', 'row2', 'Details:Supervisor', 'James Borg'
put 'EMPLOYEE', 'row3', 'Name:Fname', 'James'
put 'EMPLOYEE', 'row3', 'Name:Minit', 'E'
put 'EMPLOYEE', 'row3', 'Name:Lname', 'Borg'
put 'EMPLOYEE', 'row3', 'Name:Suffix', 'Jr.'
put 'EMPLOYEE', 'row3', 'Details:Job', 'CEO'
put 'EMPLOYEE', 'row3', 'Details:Salary', '1,000,000'
```

**(c) Some Hbase basic CRUD operations:**

Creating a table: create <tablename>, <column family>, <column family>, ...

Inserting Data: put <tablename>, <rowid>, <column family>:<column qualifier>, <value>

Reading Data (all data in a table): scan <tablename>

Retrieve Data (one item): get <tablename>, <rowid>

Figure 24.3 Examples in Hbase (a) Creating a table called EMPLOYEE with three column families: Name, Address, and Details (b) Inserting some in the EMPLOYEE table; different rows can have different self-describing column qualifiers (Fname, Lname, Nickname, Mname, Minit, Suffix, ... for column family Name; Job, Review, Supervisor, Salary for column family Details). (c) Some CRUD operations of Hbase

# Hbase Crud Operations

- Provides only low-level CRUD (create, read, update, delete) operations
- Application programs implement more complex operations
- Create
  - Creates a new table and specifies one or more column families associated with the table
- Put
  - Inserts new data or new versions of existing data items

# Hbase Crud Operations (cont'd.)

- Get
  - Retrieves data associated with a single row
- Scan
  - Retrieves all the rows

# Hbase Storage and Distributed System Concepts

- Each Hbase table divided into several regions
  - Each region holds a range of the row keys in the table
  - Row keys must be lexicographically ordered
  - Each region has several stores
    - Column families are assigned to stores
- Regions assigned to region servers for storage
  - Master server responsible for monitoring the region servers
- Hbase uses Apache Zookeeper and HDFS

# 24.6 NOSQL Graph Databases and Neo4j

- Graph databases
  - Data represented as a graph
  - Collection of vertices (nodes) and edges
  - Possible to store data associated with both individual nodes and individual edges
- Neo4j
  - Open source system
  - Uses concepts of nodes and relationships



# Neo4j (cont'd.)

- Nodes can have labels
  - Zero, one, or several
- Both nodes and relationships can have properties
- Each relationship has a start node, end node, and a relationship type
- Properties specified using a map pattern
- Somewhat similar to ER/EER concepts

# Neo4j (cont'd.)

- Creating nodes in Neo4j
  - CREATE command
  - Part of high-level declarative query language Cypher
  - Node label can be specified when node is created
  - Properties are enclosed in curly brackets

# Neo4j (cont'd.)

(a) creating some nodes for the COMPANY data (from Figure 5.6):

```
CREATE (e1: EMPLOYEE, {Empid: '1', Lname: 'Smith', Fname: 'John', Minit: 'B'})
CREATE (e2: EMPLOYEE, {Empid: '2', Lname: 'Wong', Fname: 'Franklin'})
CREATE (e3: EMPLOYEE, {Empid: '3', Lname: 'Zelaya', Fname: 'Alicia'})
CREATE (e4: EMPLOYEE, {Empid: '4', Lname: 'Wallace', Fname: 'Jennifer', Minit: 'S'})
...
CREATE (d1: DEPARTMENT, {Dno: '5', Dname: 'Research'})
CREATE (d2: DEPARTMENT, {Dno: '4', Dname: 'Administration'})
...
CREATE (p1: PROJECT, {Pno: '1', Pname: 'ProductX'})
CREATE (p2: PROJECT, {Pno: '2', Pname: 'ProductY'})
CREATE (p3: PROJECT, {Pno: '10', Pname: 'Computerization'})
CREATE (p4: PROJECT, {Pno: '20', Pname: 'Reorganization'})
...
CREATE (loc1: LOCATION, {Lname: 'Houston'})
CREATE (loc2: LOCATION, {Lname: 'Stafford'})
CREATE (loc3: LOCATION, {Lname: 'Bellaire'})
CREATE (loc4: LOCATION, {Lname: 'Sugarland'})
...
```

Figure 24.4 Examples in Neo4j using the Cypher language (a) Creating some nodes

# Neo4j (cont'd.)

(b) creating some relationships for the COMPANY data (from Figure 5.6):

```
CREATE (e1) - [ : WorksFor ] -> (d1)
CREATE (e3) - [ : WorksFor ] -> (d2)
...
CREATE (d1) - [ : Manager ] -> (e2)
CREATE (d2) - [ : Manager ] -> (e4)
...
CREATE (d1) - [ : LocatedIn ] -> (loc1)
CREATE (d1) - [ : LocatedIn ] -> (loc3)
CREATE (d1) - [ : LocatedIn ] -> (loc4)
CREATE (d2) - [ : LocatedIn ] -> (loc2)
...
CREATE (e1) - [ : WorksOn, {Hours: '32.5'} ] -> (p1)
CREATE (e1) - [ : WorksOn, {Hours: '7.5'} ] -> (p2)
CREATE (e2) - [ : WorksOn, {Hours: '10.0'} ] -> (p1)
CREATE (e2) - [ : WorksOn, {Hours: 10.0} ] -> (p2)
CREATE (e2) - [ : WorksOn, {Hours: '10.0'} ] -> (p3)
CREATE (e2) - [ : WorksOn, {Hours: 10.0} ] -> (p4)
...
```

Figure 24.4 (cont'd.) Examples in Neo4j using the Cypher language  
(b) Creating some relationships

# Neo4j (cont'd.)

- Path
  - Traversal of part of the graph
  - Typically used as part of a query to specify a pattern
- Schema optional in Neo4j
- Indexing and node identifiers
  - Users can create for the collection of nodes that have a particular label
  - One or more properties can be indexed

# The Cypher Query Language of Neo4j

- Cypher query made up of clauses
- Result from one clause can be the input to the next clause in the query

# The Cypher Query Language of Neo4j (cont'd.)

(c) **Basic simplified syntax of some common Cypher clauses:**

Finding nodes and relationships that match a pattern: `MATCH <pattern>`

Specifying aggregates and other query variables: `WITH <specifications>`

Specifying conditions on the data to be retrieved: `WHERE <condition>`

Specifying the data to be returned: `RETURN <data>`

Ordering the data to be returned: `ORDER BY <data>`

Limiting the number of returned data items: `LIMIT <max number>`

Creating nodes: `CREATE <node, optional labels and properties>`

Creating relationships: `CREATE <relationship, relationship type and optional properties>`

Deletion: `DELETE <nodes or relationships>`

Specifying property values and labels: `SET <property values and labels>`

Removing property values and labels: `REMOVE <property values and labels>`

Figure 24.4 (cont'd.) Examples in Neo4j using the Cypher language  
(c) Basic syntax of Cypher queries



# The Cypher Query Language of Neo4j (cont'd.)

## (d) Examples of simple Cypher queries:

1. MATCH (d : DEPARTMENT {Dno: '5'}) - [ : LocatedIn ] → (loc)  
RETURN d.Dname , loc.Lname
2. MATCH (e: EMPLOYEE {Empid: '2'}) - [ w: WorksOn ] → (p)  
RETURN e.Ename , w.Hours, p.Pname
3. MATCH (e ) - [ w: WorksOn ] → (p: PROJECT {Pno: 2})  
RETURN p.Pname, e.Ename , w.Hours
4. MATCH (e) - [ w: WorksOn ] → (p)  
RETURN e.Ename , w.Hours, p.Pname  
ORDER BY e.Ename
5. MATCH (e) - [ w: WorksOn ] → (p)  
RETURN e.Ename , w.Hours, p.Pname  
ORDER BY e.Ename  
LIMIT 10
6. MATCH (e) - [ w: WorksOn ] → (p)  
WITH e, COUNT(p) AS numOfprojs  
WHERE numOfprojs > 2  
RETURN e.Ename , numOfprojs  
ORDER BY numOfprojs
7. MATCH (e) - [ w: WorksOn ] → (p)  
RETURN e , w, p  
ORDER BY e.Ename  
LIMIT 10
8. MATCH (e: EMPLOYEE {Empid: '2'})  
SET e.Job = 'Engineer'

Figure 24.4 (cont'd.) Examples in Neo4j using the Cypher language  
(d) Examples of Cypher queries



# Neo4j Interfaces and Distributed System Characteristics

- Enterprise edition versus community edition
  - Enterprise edition supports caching, clustering of data, and locking
- Graph visualization interface
  - Subset of nodes and edges in a database graph can be displayed as a graph
  - Used to visualize query results
- Master-slave replication
- Caching
- Logical logs

## 24.7 Summary

- NOSQL systems focus on storage of “big data”
- General categories
  - Document-based
  - Key-value stores
  - Column-based
  - Graph-based
  - Some systems use techniques spanning two or more categories
- Consistency paradigms
- CAP theorem