**MongoDB Notes**

MongoDB is a No-SQL (Not Only SQL) database that is document-oriented without a pre-defined schema.

Main structure of MongoDB:

1. Database: Organized group of collections
2. Collection: Organized group of documents with common fields (like tables)
3. Document: Method to organize and store data as a set of field-value pairs (like rows)



Unlike SQL, MongoDB is built for scaling-out by adding on additional nodes onto a cluster for adding storage and increasing read-write throughput.

Advantages and disadvantages of using MongoDB:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Advantages | Disadvantages |
| Saves time from pre-defining schema | High memory required |
| Easy to scale | Document size has limit of 16mb. |
| Easy to store arrays and objects |  |
| Higher performance than SQL due to use of internal memory for storage |  |
| High availability and fault-tolerant |  |

There are 3 ways for connecting with MongoDB:

1. MongoDB Shell (Local Command Line Interface – Main focus)
2. MongoDB Compass (GUI on local drive)
3. MongoDB Atlas (GUI on cloud)

**Documents**

Documents in MongoDB have the following structure:

**{field1: value1, field2: value2, …}**

Caveats of MongoDB documents:

1. MongoDB is type-sensitive and case-sensitive
2. Duplicate fields are not allowed
3. Avoid using reserved characters like “.” and “$” for naming fields

Note that every document has special field “\_id” that is unique within a collection, and it is generated by default.

**Collections**

While documents can be placed into any collection, it is best practice to store similar document schema under the same collection for the following reasons:

1. Ensure query of documents only returns results that follow a particular schema
2. Grouping similar documents allow for data locality
3. Better efficiency of indexing collections

When naming collections, the following restrictions apply:

1. Empty string is not valid
2. Collection names should not be reserved keywords like “system”
3. Collection names should not contain reserved characters like “$” and “.”

Note that multiple collections can be created in a single database by using name-spaced subcollections separated by “.” sign.

Example: mydb.coll1 and mydb.coll2 indicates that there are two collections named coll1 and coll2 under a database named as “mydb”.

**Databases**

Databases in MongoDB can also consist of multiple collections.

When naming databases, the following restrictions apply:

1. Empty string is not valid
2. Database names should not have any special characters (Only alphanumeric allowed)
3. Database names are case-insensitive

MongoDB has three reserved database names as the following:

1. **Admin**: Used for database administration process
2. **Local**: Stores data used during replication process
3. **Config**: Stores information about each shard within a MongoDB cluster

**Data Types of MongoDB**

For MongoDB, data types do not need to be defined as MongoDB will automatically identify the data types of inputs.

The following are the lists of data types available for MongoDB:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| String | Null |
| Integer | Date (Represent milliseconds since Unix Epoch) |
| Boolean | Object ID (Used in “\_id” field) |
| Double | Binary |
| Arrays (Data contained in arrays do not have to be same data type – Behaves like lists in Python) | Code (Stores Java-Script code) |
| Timestamp | Regular Expression |
| Object (Used for embedded documents and creating dates in proper format) |  |

While JSON only supports a few data types, Binary JSON (BSON) extends the list of supported data types as shown above for efficient encoding and decoding within different languages.

**Basic Commands for MongoDB Shell**

1. Running MongoDB on CLI (On directory with mongo.exe)

**mongo**

1. Viewing current database used

**db**

1. Switch to using another database

**use new\_db**

1. Showing list of all databases

**show dbs**

1. Showing list of all collections for a specific database

**show collections**

1. Checking for database properties

**db.stats()**

1. Importing JSON format

**mongoimport --uri** "connection-string " **--drop** json\_file\_name

**mongoimport --db** "db\_name " **--drop** json\_file\_name

1. Exporting JSON format

**mongoexport --uri** "connection-string " **--collection** coll\_name **--out** json\_file\_name

**mongoexport --db** “db\_name” **--collection** coll\_name **--out** json\_file\_name

1. Importing BSON format

**mongorestore --uri** "connection-string" **--drop** bson\_file\_directory

**mongorestore --db** "db\_name " **--drop** bson\_file\_directory

1. Exporting BSON format

**mongodump --uri** "connection-string" **--out** bson\_file\_directory

**mongodump --db** "db\_name" **--out** bson\_file\_directory

**CRUD Operations of MongoDB**

**Creating Operations**

When inserting single/multiple documents into a collection, **MongoDB checks for duplicate entry of “\_id” key if exists that will result in error.** Note that new collections will be created when the collection has at least one document.

1. Inserting single document

**db.collection\_name.insertOne({“key”:value})**

1. Inserting multiple documents (normal insert)

**db.collection\_name.insertMany([{“key1”:value1}, {“key2”:value2}, … ], {“ordered”:true})**

Note that default value of ordered is true, indicating that documents are inserted in the order specified in the array of documents and operation will return an error as soon as one of the documents could not be inserted into the collection.

**Setting “ordered” to false will result in attempt to insert all documents into the collection when possible.**

1. Inserting multiple documents (bulk insert)

**db.collection\_name.insert([{“key1”:value1}, {“key2”:value2}, … ], {“ordered”:true})**

1. Creating new collection

**db.createCollection(“coll\_name”)**

**Deleting Operations**

Note that delete operations require exercise of caution, as once the data is removed it could not be retrieved unless if there is a backup available.

1. Removing single document based on condition

**db.collection\_name.deleteOne({condition})**

1. Removing multiple documents based on condition

**db.collection\_name.deleteMany({condition})**

1. Removing entire collection

**db.collection\_name.drop()**

**Updating Operations**

1. Replace entire single document based on condition

**db.collection\_name.replaceOne({condition},{new document})**

1. Update part of single document based on condition

**db.collection\_name.updateOne({condition}, {update\_operator: {new key: new value}}, {upsert: false})**

1. Update part of multiple documents based on condition

**db.collection\_name.updateMany({condition}, {update\_operator: {new key: new value}}, {upsert: false})**

Note that update operations of documents will fail if the document does not exist based on condition by default (upsert is False). **Setting “upsert” to true result in new documents to be inserted if there is no existing document that satisfies specified condition.**

The following are the list of most common use of update operators:

1. **$inc**: Increments/Decrements by specified value (+ for increment and – for decrement)
2. **$mul**: Multiplies by specified value of field
3. **$set**: Sets the value of field/create new field if not exist
4. **$unset**: Removes the field from document by indicating “field name” and “1” as new key and value.
5. **$push**: Adds an item to array/create new array field if not exist
6. **$each**: Uses together with $push operator to add multiple items to array
7. **$addToSet**: Adds only unique items to existing array/create new array if not exist
8. **$currentDate**: Sets the value of field to current date or timestamp

For more details of other available update operators and its uses, please refer to the following website below for reference:

<https://docs.mongodb.com/manual/reference/operator/update/>

**Querying Operations**

Querying data in MongoDB returns results by using a cursor that acts as iterators.

By default, MongoDB automatically iterates through the results and display first couple of documents and viewing subsequent documents requires users to input “**it**” for more results in the CLI.

The following are the common query operations available

1. Query a single document

**db.collection\_name.findOne({condition})**

1. Query multiple documents

**db.collection\_name.find({condition})**

1. Specifying specific keys to return from query

**db.collection\_name.find({condition}, {key1: 1, key2: 1, …})**

Note that only either specify keys to include (1) or keys to exclude (0) from query, with exception of “\_id” key that can be excluded with other keys to include. **“\_id” key is always included by default unless explicitly specified to exclude from query**

1. Limiting number of documents from query

**db.collection\_name.find({condition}).limit(n)**

1. Skipping number of documents and return remaining documents from query

**db.collection\_name.find({condition}).skip(n)**

Note that it is not recommended to skip large number of documents due to lower performance.

1. Order documents from query by certain fields

**db.collection\_name.find({condition}).sort({‘key1’: 1, ‘key2’: -1})**

Note that 1 represents ascending order and -1 represents descending order.

Querying operations for specific types will be covered in more detail in later section.

**Common MongoDB Operators**

**Conditional Operators**

The basic syntax for using conditional operators is as follows:

**{key: {“operator”: value}}**

The following conditional operators can be used in MongoDB when querying documents:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **$lt** | Less than |
| **$lte** | Less than or equal to |
| **$gt** | Greater than |
| **$gte** | Greater than or equal to |
| **$eq** | Equal to |
| **$ne** | Not equal to |

**Logical Operators**

By default, MongoDB uses $and operator without explicit mention when querying documents based on multiple conditions as follows:

**{key1: value1, key2: value2}**

The table below shows the list of logical operators available for MongoDB:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Operator | Explanation | Basic Syntax |
| **$and** | Returns true if multiple conditions are true | **{“$and”: [{key1: value1}, {key2: value2}]}** |
| **$or** | Returns true if one of the conditions is true | **{“$or”: [{key1: value1}, {key2: value2}]}** |
| **$nor** | Returns true if neither condition is true | **{“$nor”: [{key1: value1}, {key2: value2}]}** |
| **$not** | Returns true if condition is false | **{key1: {$not: value1}** |
| **$in** | Returns true if value is in an array | **{key1: {$in: [value1, value2, …]}}** |
| **$nin** | Returns true if value is not in an array | **{key1: {$nin: [value1, value2, …]}}** |

**Type-Specific Queries**

**Null values**

Querying for documents with null values in MongoDB behaves differently, compared to relational databases.

“null” keyword returns documents that have null values and documents where the field does not exist.

The following syntax is required for returning only existing fields with null values:

**db.collection\_name.find({key1: {‘$eq’: null, ‘$exists’: true}})**

**Regular Expressions**

$regex operator is used for pattern matching on string related queries

**db.collection\_name.find({key1: {‘$regex’: <pattern syntax>}})**

Note that MongoDB uses Perl Compatible Regular Expression (PCRE) library to match regular expression syntax. Refer to the following website for syntax details of PCRE library:

<https://learnxinyminutes.com/docs/pcre/>

**Arrays**

The following are the main array query operations in MongoDB:

1. Single array element query

**db.collection\_name.find({key1: value1})**

The syntax above returns documents that contain at least the specified single array element in the document.

1. Multiple array element query (Exact match)

**db.collection\_name.find({key1: [value1, value2, … ]})**

The syntax above returns documents that contain the exact array elements specified in the query. Note that this will not work for nested arrays.

1. Multiple array element query (Non-exact match)

**db.collection\_name.find({key1: {‘$all’: [value1, value2, …]} })**

The syntax above returns documents that at least contain array elements specified in the query.

1. Array size query

**db.collection\_name.find({key1: {$size: n}})**

The syntax above returns documents that contain specified size of array. Note that $size operator does not accept range of values.

1. Subset array query

**db.collection\_name.find({condition}, {key1: {$slice: n}})**

Note that positive n value returns first n elements of array, while negative n value returns last n elements of array.

By default, all fields (arrays and non-arrays) are returned from the query when using $slice operator.

1. Range of values array query

**db.collection\_name.find({key1: {$elemMatch: {condition1, condition2}}})**

Note that $elemMatch operator forces both condition clauses to compare with a single array element. However, $elemMatch operator will only match array elements.

Without $elemMatch operator, either condition clauses may match array elements instead (not desired behavior).

**Embedded Documents**

Querying for documents using embedded keys is preferred when querying for embedded documents.

Dot notation is used to indicate embedded fields for querying: **outer\_key.inner\_key**

Like querying range of values for arrays, querying for embedded documents based on multiple conditions require use of **$elemMatch** operator for non-exact matches.

**MongoDB Aggregation Framework**

Aggregation framework in MongoDB is a set of analytical tools that uses the concept of pipeline for performing various functionsDiagram

Description automatically generated at different stages, which can be repeated.

The main syntax used for aggregation framework is as follows:

**db.coll\_name.aggregate([{stage 1}, {stage 2}, …])**

List of common aggregation stages:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| $**match**: {query} | Filters document to only allow matching documents to pass through unmodified |
| $**project**: { <specification(s)> } | Reshapes each document by either adding or removing fields |
| $**sort**: { <field1>: <sort order>,  <field2>: <sort order> ... } | Reorders document stream by specified sort order (1 for ascending and -1 for descending) |
| $**skip**: <positive 64-bit integer> | Skips first n documents and passes remaining documents unmodified |
| $**limit**: <positive 64-bit integer> | Passes first n documents unmodified |
| $**count**: <string> | Returns a count of number of documents at current stage |
| $**addFields**: { <newField>: <expression>, ... } | Adds new fields to documents without changing existing fields |
| $**group**: {\_id: <expression>, // Group By Expression, <field1>: { <accumulator1> : <expression1> }, ...} | Groups documents by specified identifier expression and applies accumulator expressions |
| $**unwind**: {path: <field path>,  includeArrayIndex: <string>, preserveNullAndEmptyArrays: <boolean>} | Deconstructs array field from documents and outputs a document for every array element |
| $**sortByCount**: <expression> | Groups documents and counts number of documents for each distinct category, sorted in descending order |
| $**lookup**: {from: <collection to join>,  localField: <field from the input documents>, foreignField: <field from the documents of the "from" collection>,  as: <output array field>} | Performs left outer join to another collection in the database |
| $**bucket**: {groupBy: <expression>,  boundaries: [ <lowerbound1>, <lowerbound2>, ... ],  default: <literal>,  output: {<output1>: { <$accumulator expr> }, ... } } | Categorizes documents into groups based on specified boundaries |
| $**bucketAuto**: {groupBy: <expression>,  buckets: <number>,  output: {<output1>: { <$accumulator expr> }, ...},  granularity: <string>} | Categorizes documents into groups based on specified number of buckets |
| $**facet**: {<outputField1>: [ <stage1>, <stage2>, ... ], <outputField2>: [ <stage1>, <stage2>, ... ], ... } | Process multiple aggregation pipelines within a single stage on the same set of input documents |
| $**graphLookup**: {from: <collection>,  startWith: <expression>,  connectFromField: <string>,  connectToField: <string>,  as: <string>,  maxDepth: <number>,  depthField: <string>,  restrictSearchWithMatch: <document>} | Performs recursive search on collection that is similar to left outer joins |
| $**merge**: {into: <collection> -or- { db: <db>, coll: <collection> },  on: <identifier field> -or- [ <identifier field1>, ...],  let: <variables>,  whenMatched: <replace|keepExisting|merge|fail|pipeline>,  whenNotMatched: <insert|discard|fail>} | Writes resulting results from aggregation pipeline to a collection. ($merge must be used on the last stage of the aggregation pipeline) |

Accumulators in aggregation framework can be used in the following stages:

1. $bucket
2. $bucketAuto
3. $group

General syntax for using accumulators: **<accumulators>: <expressions>**

List of accumulators:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| $**addToSet** | Returns array of unique expression values | $**min** | Returns lowest expression value |
| $**avg** | Returns average of numerical values | $**push** | Returns array of expression values |
| $**count** | Returns number of documents | $**stdDevPop** | Returns population standard deviation value |
| $**first** | Returns value from first document | $**stdDevSamp** | Returns sample standard deviation value |
| $**last** | Returns value from last document | $**sum** | Returns sum of numerical values |
| $**max** | Returns highest expression value |

More details about MongoDB’s aggregation framework syntax and other expression operators can be referred to the link below:

<https://docs.mongodb.com/manual/meta/aggregation-quick-reference/>