Design of Key-Value Stores





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Preface

Content of this Lecture:

 In this lecture, we will discuss the design and insight of Key-value/NoSQL stores for today's cloud storage systems.

 We will also discuss one of the most popular cloud storage system i.e. Apache Cassandra and different consistency solutions.

The Key-value Abstraction

(Business) Key → Value

- (flipkart.com) item number → information about it
- (easemytrip.com) Flight number → information about flight, e.g., availability

(twitter.com) tweet id → information about tweet

(mybank.com) Account number → information about it

The Key-value Abstraction (2)

- It's a dictionary datastructure.
 - Insert, lookup, and delete by key
 - Example: hash table, binary tree
- But distributed.

- Seems familiar? Remember Distributed Hash tables (DHT) in P2P systems?
- Key-value stores reuse many techniques from DHTs.

Is it a kind of database?

- Yes, kind of
- Relational Database Management Systems (RDBMSs)
 have been around for ages
- MySQL is the most popular among them
- Data stored in tables
- Schema-based, i.e., structured tables
- Each row (data item) in a table has a primary key that is unique within that table
- Queried using SQL (Structured Query Language)
- Supports joins

Relational Database Example

users table

user_id	name	zipcode	blog_url	blog_id
110	Smith	98765	smith.com	11
331	Antony	54321	antony.in	12
767	John	75676	john.net	13



Primary keys



Id	url	last_updated	num_posts
11	smith.com	9/7/17	991
13	john.net	4/2/18	57
12	antony.in	15/6/16	1090

Example SQL queries

- 1. SELECT zipcode FROM users WHERE name = "John"
- 2. SELECT url
 FROM blog
 WHERE id = 11
- 3. SELECT users.zipcode,
 blog.num_posts
 FROM users JOIN blog
 ON users.blog_url =
 blog.url

Mismatch with today's workloads

 Data: Large and unstructured: Difficult to come out with schemas where the data can fit

 Lots of random reads and writes: Coming from millions of clients.

- Sometimes write-heavy: Lot more writes compare to read
- Foreign keys rarely needed
- Joins infrequent

Needs of Today's Workloads

- Speed
- Avoid Single point of Failure (SPoF)
- Low TCO (Total cost of operation and Total cost of ownership)
- Fewer system administrators
- Incremental Scalability
- Scale out, not scale up

Scale out, not Scale up

- Scale up = grow your cluster capacity by replacing with more powerful machines
 - Traditional approach
 - Not cost-effective, as you're buying above the sweet spot on the price curve
 - And you need to replace machines often
- Scale out = incrementally grow your cluster capacity by adding more COTS machines (Components Off the Shelf)
 - Cheaper
 - Over a long duration, phase in a few newer (faster) machines as you phase out a few older machines
 - Used by most companies who run datacenters and clouds today

Key-value/NoSQL Data Model

- NoSQL = "Not Only SQL"
- Necessary API operations: get(key) and put(key, value)
 - And some extended operations, e.g., "CQL" in Cassandra key-value store

Tables

- "Column families" in Cassandra, "Table" in HBase, "Collection" in MongoDB
- Like RDBMS tables, but ...
- May be unstructured: May not have schemas
 - Some columns may be missing from some rows
- Don't always support joins or have foreign keys
- Can have index tables, just like RDBMSs

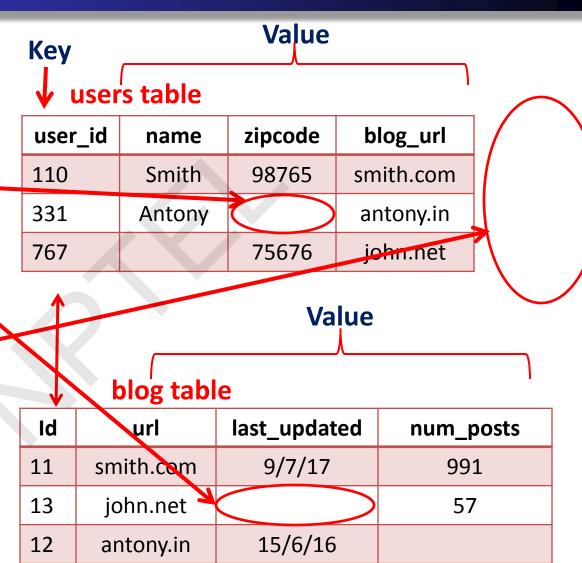
Key-value/NoSQL Data Model

Unstructured

 No schema imposed

 Columns missing from some Rows'

 No foreign keys, joins may not be supported



Column-Oriented Storage

NoSQL systems often use column-oriented storage

- RDBMSs store an entire row together (on disk or at a server)
- NoSQL systems typically store a column together (or a group of columns).
 - Entries within a column are indexed and easy to locate, given a key (and vice-versa)

Why useful?

- Range searches within a column are fast since you don't need to fetch the entire database
- E.g., Get me all the blog_ids from the blog table that were updated within the past month
 - Search in the last_updated column, fetch corresponding blog_id column
 - Don't need to fetch the other columns

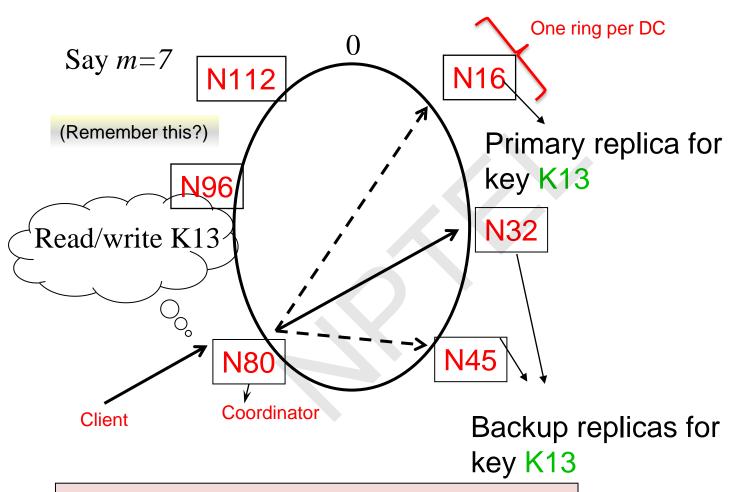
Design of Apache Cassandra

Cassandra

- A distributed key-value store
- Intended to run in a datacenter (and also across DCs)
- Originally designed at Facebook
- Open-sourced later, today an Apache project
- Some of the companies that use Cassandra in their production clusters
 - Blue chip companies: IBM, Adobe, HP, eBay, Ericsson
 - Newer companies: Twitter
 - Nonprofit companies: PBS Kids
 - Netflix: uses Cassandra to keep track of positions in the video.

Inside Cassandra: Key -> Server Mapping

How do you decide which server(s) a key-value resides on?



Cassandra uses a Ring-based DHT but without finger tables or routing

Key — server mapping is the "Partitioner"

Data Placement Strategies

- Replication Strategy:
 - 1. SimpleStrategy
 - 2. NetworkTopologyStrategy
- 1. SimpleStrategy: uses the Partitioner, of which there are two kinds
 - 1. RandomPartitioner: Chord-like hash partitioning
 - 2. ByteOrderedPartitioner: Assigns ranges of keys to servers.
 - Easier for *range queries* (e.g., Get me all twitter users starting with [a-b])
- 2. NetworkTopologyStrategy: for multi-DC deployments
 - Two replicas per DC
 - Three replicas per DC
 - Per DC
 - First replica placed according to Partitioner
 - Then go clockwise around ring until you hit a different rack

Snitches

- Maps: IPs to racks and DCs. Configured in cassandra.yaml config file
- Some options:
 - SimpleSnitch: Unaware of Topology (Rack-unaware)
 - RackInferring: Assumes topology of network by octet of server's IP address
 - 101.102.103.104 = x.<DC octet>.<rack octet>.<node octet>
 - PropertyFileSnitch: uses a config file
 - EC2Snitch: uses EC2.
 - EC2 Region = DC
 - Availability zone = rack
- Other snitch options available

Writes

- Need to be lock-free and fast (no reads or disk seeks)
- Client sends write to one coordinator node in Cassandra cluster
 - Coordinator may be per-key, or per-client, or per-query
 - Per-key Coordinator ensures writes for the key are serialized
- Coordinator uses Partitioner to send query to all replica nodes responsible for key
- When X replicas respond, coordinator returns an acknowledgement to the client
 - X?

Writes (2)

Always writable: Hinted Handoff mechanism

- If any replica is down, the coordinator writes to all other replicas, and keeps the write locally until down replica comes back up.
- When all replicas are down, the Coordinator (front end) buffers writes (for up to a few hours).

One ring per datacenter

- Per-DC coordinator elected to coordinate with other DCs
- Election done via Zookeeper, which runs a Paxos (consensus) variant

Writes at a replica node

On receiving a write

- 1. Log it in disk commit log (for failure recovery)
- 2. Make changes to appropriate memtables
 - Memtable = In-memory representation of multiple key-value pairs
 - Typically append-only datastructure (fast)
 - Cache that can be searched by key
 - Write-back aas opposed to write-through

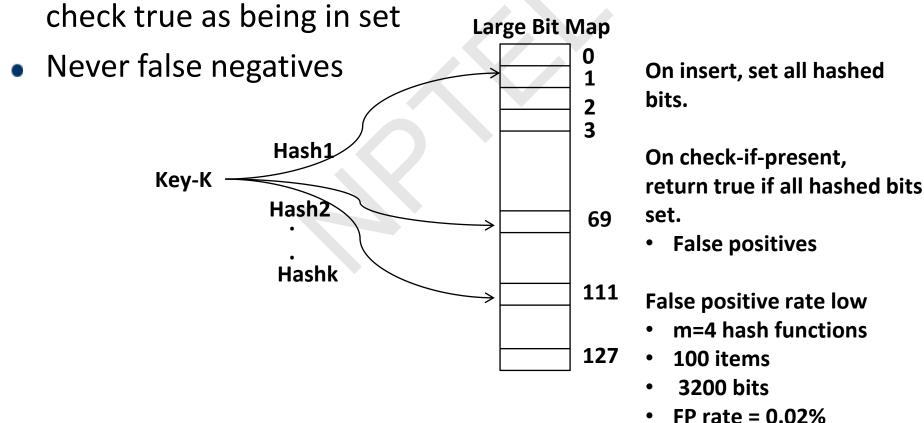
Later, when memtable is full or old, flush to disk

- Data File: An SSTable (Sorted String Table) list of key-value pairs, sorted by key
- SSTables are immutable (once created, they don't change)
- Index file: An SSTable of (key, position in data sstable) pairs
- And a Bloom filter (for efficient search)

Bloom Filter

- Compact way of representing a set of items
- Checking for existence in set is cheap

Some probability of false positives: an item not in set may



Compaction

Data updates accumulate over time and SStables and logs need to be compacted

- The process of compaction merges SSTables, i.e., by merging updates for a key
- Run periodically and locally at each server

Deletes

Delete: don't delete item right away

- Add a tombstone to the log
- Eventually, when compaction encounters tombstone it will delete item

Reads

Read: Similar to writes, except

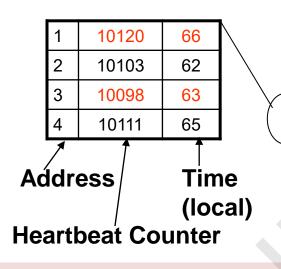
- Coordinator can contact X replicas (e.g., in same rack)
 - Coordinator sends read to replicas that have responded quickest in past
 - When X replicas respond, coordinator returns the latesttimestamped value from among those X
 - (X? We will check it later.)
- Coordinator also fetches value from other replicas
 - Checks consistency in the background, initiating a read repair if any two values are different
 - This mechanism seeks to eventually bring all replicas up to date
- At a replica
 - A row may be split across multiple SSTables => reads need to touch multiple SSTables => reads slower than writes (but still fast)

Membership

- Any server in cluster could be the coordinator
- So every server needs to maintain a list of all the other servers that are currently in the server
- List needs to be updated automatically as servers join, leave, and fail

Cluster Membership – Gossip-Style

Cassandra uses gossip-based cluster membership



1	10118	64
2	10110	64
3	10090	58
4	10111	65



1	10120	70
2	10110	64
3	10098	70
4	10111	65

Protocol:

- Nodes periodically gossip their membership list
- •On receipt, the local membership list is updated, as shown
- •If any heartbeat older than Tfail, node is marked as failed

Current time: 70 at node 2

(asynchronous clocks)

(Remember this?)

Suspicion Mechanisms in Cassandra

- Suspicion mechanisms to adaptively set the timeout based on underlying network and failure behavior
- Accrual detector: Failure Detector outputs a value (PHI) representing suspicion
- Applications set an appropriate threshold
- PHI calculation for a member
 - Inter-arrival times for gossip messages
 - PHI(t) =
 - log(CDF or Probability(t_now t_last))/log 10
 - PHI basically determines the detection timeout, but takes into account historical inter-arrival time variations for gossiped heartbeats
- In practice, PHI = 5 => 10-15 sec detection time

Cassandra Vs. RDBMS

- MySQL is one of the most popular (and has been for a while)
- On > 50 GB data
- MySQL
 - Writes 300 ms avg
 - Reads 350 ms avg
- Cassandra
 - Writes 0.12 ms avg
 - Reads 15 ms avg
- Orders of magnitude faster
- What's the catch? What did we lose?

CAP Theorem

CAP Theorem

- Proposed by Eric Brewer (Berkeley)
- Subsequently proved by Gilbert and Lynch (NUS and MIT)
- In a distributed system you can satisfy atmost 2 out of the 3 guarantees:
 - 1. Consistency: all nodes see same data at any time, or reads return latest written value by any client
 - 2. Availability: the system allows operations all the time, and operations return quickly
 - **3. Partition-tolerance:** the system continues to work in spite of network partitions

Why is Availability Important?

- Availability = Reads/writes complete reliably and quickly.
- Measurements have shown that a 500 ms increase in latency for operations at Amazon.com or at Google.com can cause a 20% drop in revenue.
- At Amazon, each added millisecond of latency implies a \$6M yearly loss.
- User cognitive drift: If more than a second elapses between clicking and material appearing, the user's mind is already somewhere else
- SLAs (Service Level Agreements) written by providers predominantly deal with latencies faced by clients.

Why is Consistency Important?

- Consistency = all nodes see same data at any time, or reads return latest written value by any client.
- When you access your bank or investment account via multiple clients (laptop, workstation, phone, tablet), you want the updates done from one client to be visible to other clients.

 When thousands of customers are looking to book a flight, all updates from any client (e.g., book a flight) should be accessible by other clients.

Why is Partition-Tolerance Important?

- Partitions can happen across datacenters when the Internet gets disconnected
 - Internet router outages
 - Under-sea cables cut
 - DNS not working
- Partitions can also occur within a datacenter, e.g., a rack switch outage
- Still desire system to continue functioning normally under this scenario

CAP Theorem Fallout

 Since partition-tolerance is essential in today's cloud computing systems, CAP theorem implies that a system has to choose between consistency and availability

Cassandra

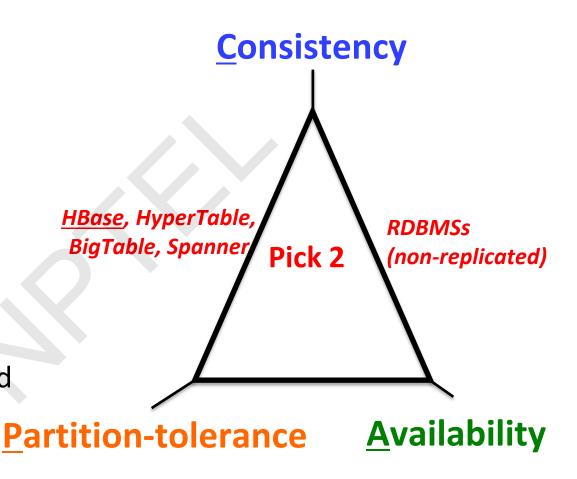
 Eventual (weak) consistency, Availability, Partitiontolerance

Traditional RDBMSs

Strong consistency over availability under a partition

CAP Tradeoff

- Starting point for NoSQL Revolution
- A distributed storage system can achieve at most two of C, A, and P.
- When partitiontolerance is important, you have to choose between consistency and availability



<u>Cassandra</u>, RIAK, Dynamo, Voldemort

Eventual Consistency

- If all writes stop (to a key), then all its values (replicas) will converge eventually.
- If writes continue, then system always tries to keep converging.
 - Moving "wave" of updated values lagging behind the latest values sent by clients, but always trying to catch up.
- May still return stale values to clients (e.g., if many backto-back writes).
- But works well when there a few periods of low writes system converges quickly.

RDBMS vs. Key-value stores

- While RDBMS provide ACID
 - Atomicity
 - Consistency
 - Isolation
 - Durability
- Key-value stores like Cassandra provide BASE
 - Basically Available Soft-state Eventual Consistency
 - Prefers Availability over Consistency

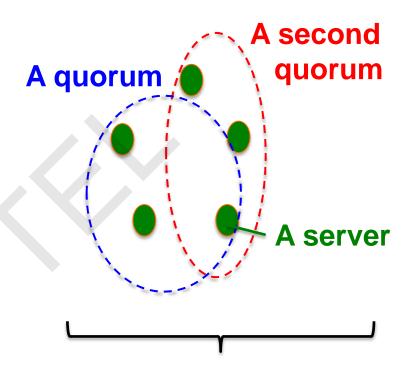
Consistency in Cassandra

- Cassandra has consistency levels
- Client is allowed to choose a consistency level for each operation (read/write)
 - ANY: any server (may not be replica)
 - Fastest: coordinator caches write and replies quickly to client
 - ALL: all replicas
 - Ensures strong consistency, but slowest
 - ONE: at least one replica
 - Faster than ALL, but cannot tolerate a failure
 - QUORUM: quorum across all replicas in all datacenters (DCs)
 - What?

Quorums for Consistency

In a nutshell:

- Quorum = majority
 - > 50%
- Any two quorums intersect
 - Client 1 does a write in red quorum
 - Then client 2 does read in blue quorum
- At least one server in blue quorum returns latest write
- Quorums faster than ALL, but still ensure strong consistency



Five replicas of a key-value pair

Quorums in Detail

 Several key-value/NoSQL stores (e.g., Riak and Cassandra) use quorums.

Reads

- Client specifies value of R ($\leq N = total number of replicas of that key).$
- R = read consistency level.
- Coordinator waits for R replicas to respond before sending result to client.
- In background, coordinator checks for consistency of remaining (N-R) replicas, and initiates read repair if needed.

Quorums in Detail (Contd..)

- Writes come in two flavors
 - Client specifies W (≤ N)
 - W = write consistency level.
 - Client writes new value to W replicas and returns. Two flavors:
 - Coordinator blocks until quorum is reached.
 - Asynchronous: Just write and return.

Quorums in Detail (Contd.)

- R = read replica count, W = write replica count
- Two necessary conditions:
 - 1. W+R > N
 - 2. W > N/2
- Select values based on application
 - (W=1, R=1): very few writes and reads
 - (W=N, R=1): great for read-heavy workloads
 - (W=N/2+1, R=N/2+1): great for write-heavy workloads
 - (W=1, R=N): great for write-heavy workloads with mostly one client writing per key

Cassandra Consistency Levels (Contd.)

- Client is allowed to choose a consistency level for each operation (read/write)
 - ANY: any server (may not be replica)
 - Fastest: coordinator may cache write and reply quickly to client
 - ALL: all replicas
 - Slowest, but ensures strong consistency
 - ONE: at least one replica
 - Faster than ALL, and ensures durability without failures
 - QUORUM: quorum across all replicas in all datacenters (DCs)
 - Global consistency, but still fast
 - LOCAL_QUORUM: quorum in coordinator's DC
 - Faster: only waits for quorum in first DC client contacts
 - EACH_QUORUM: quorum in every DC
 - Lets each DC do its own quorum: supports hierarchical replies

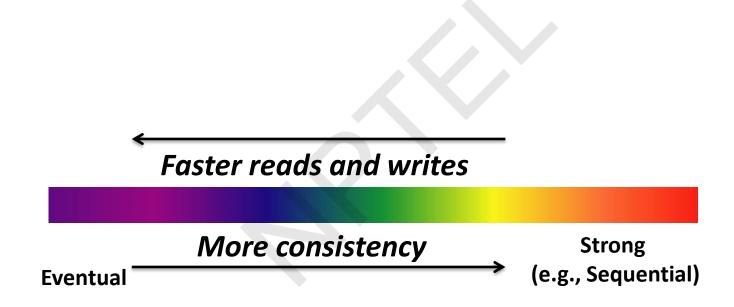
Types of Consistency

Cassandra offers Eventual Consistency

Are there other types of weak consistency models?

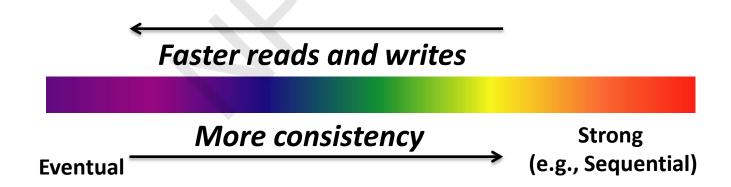
Consistency Solutions

Consistency Solutions



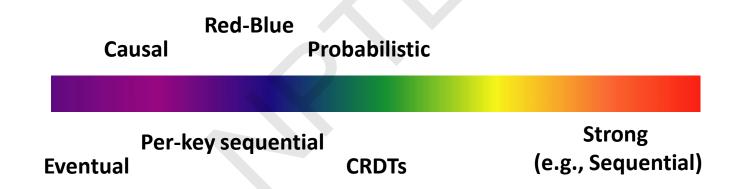
Eventual Consistency

- Cassandra offers Eventual Consistency
 - If writes to a key stop, all replicas of key will converge
 - Originally from Amazon's Dynamo and LinkedIn's Voldemort systems



Newer Consistency Models

- Striving towards strong consistency
- While still trying to maintain high availability and partition-tolerance



Newer Consistency Models (Contd.)

- Per-key sequential: Per key, all operations have a global order
- CRDTs (Commutative Replicated Data Types): Data structures for which commutated writes give same result [INRIA, France]
 - E.g., value == int, and only op allowed is +1
 - Effectively, servers don't need to worry about consistency

Red-Blue Causal Probabilistic

Per-key sequential Eventual CRDTs

Strong (e.g., Sequential)

Newer Consistency Models (Contd.)

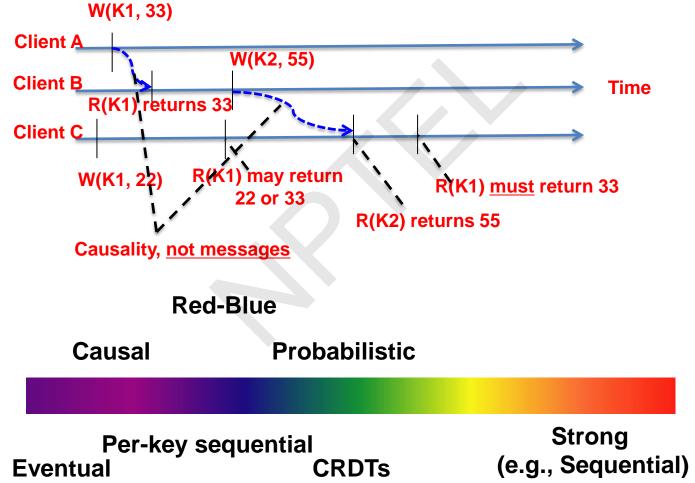
- Red-blue Consistency: Rewrite client transactions to separate operations into red operations vs. blue operations [MPI-SWS Germany]
 - Blue operations can be executed (commutated) in any order across DCs
 - Red operations need to be executed in the same order at each DC

Red-Blue
Causal Probabilistic

Per-key sequential
Eventual CRDTs Strong
(e.g., Sequential)

Newer Consistency Models (Contd.)

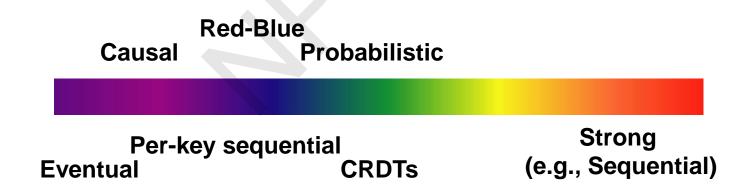
Causal Consistency: Reads must respect partial order based on information flow [Princeton, CMU]



Which Consistency Model should you use?

 Use the lowest consistency (to the left) consistency model that is "correct" for your application

Gets you fastest availability



Strong Consistency Models

- Linearizability: Each operation by a client is visible (or available)
 instantaneously to all other clients
 - Instantaneously in real time
- Sequential Consistency [Lamport]:
 - "... the result of any execution is the same as if the operations of all the processors were executed in some sequential order, and the operations of each individual processor appear in this sequence in the order specified by its program.
 - After the fact, find a "reasonable" ordering of the operations (can reorder operations) that obeys sanity (consistency) at all clients, and across clients.
- Transaction ACID properties, example: newer key-value/NoSQL stores (sometimes called "NewSQL")
 - Hyperdex [Cornell]
 - Spanner [Google]
 - Transaction chains [Microsoft Research]

Conclusion

- Traditional Databases (RDBMSs) work with strong consistency, and offer ACID
- Modern workloads don't need such strong guarantees, but do need fast response times (availability)
- Unfortunately, CAP theorem
- Key-value/NoSQL systems offer BASE
 [Basically Available Soft-state Eventual Consistency]
 - Eventual consistency, and a variety of other consistency models striving towards strong consistency
- We have also discussed the design of Cassandra and different consistency solutions.

Design of HBase





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Preface

Content of this Lecture:

- In this lecture, we will discuss:
 - What is HBase?
 - HBase Architecture
 - HBase Components
 - Data model
 - HBase Storage Hierarchy
 - Cross-Datacenter Replication
 - Auto Sharding and Distribution
 - Bloom Filter and Fold, Store, and Shift

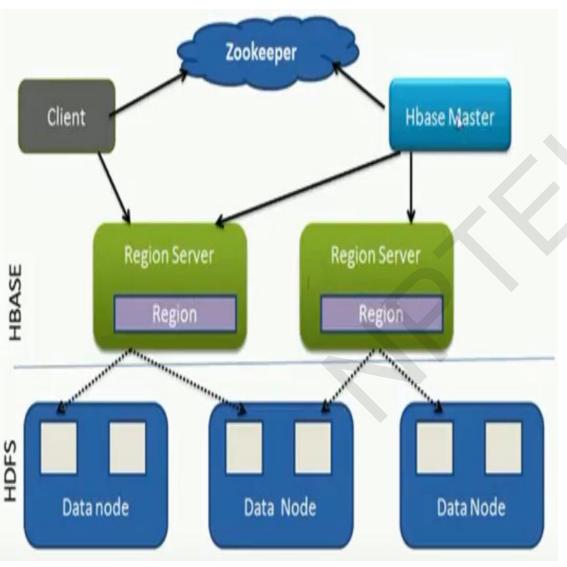
HBase is:

- An opensource NOSQL database.
- A distributed column-oriented data store that can scale horizontally to 1,000s of commodity servers and petabytes of indexed storage.
- Designed to operate on top of the Hadoop distributed file system (HDFS) for scalability, fault tolerance, and high availability.
- Hbase is actually an implementation of the BigTable storage architecture, which is a distributed storage system developed by Google.
- Works with structured, unstructured and semi-structured data.

HBase

- Google's BigTable was first "blob-based" storage system
- Yahoo! Open-sourced it → HBase
- Major Apache project today
- Facebook uses HBase internally
- API functions
 - Get/Put(row)
 - Scan(row range, filter) range queries
 - MultiPut
- Unlike Cassandra, HBase prefers consistency (over availability)

HBase Architecture



- Table Split into regions and served by region servers.
- Regions vertically divided by column families into "stores".
- Stores saved as files on HDFS.
- Hbase utilizes zookeeper for distributed coordination.

HBase Components

Client:

Finds RegionServers that are serving particular row range of interest

• Hmaster:

Monitoring all RegionServer instances in the cluster

Regions:

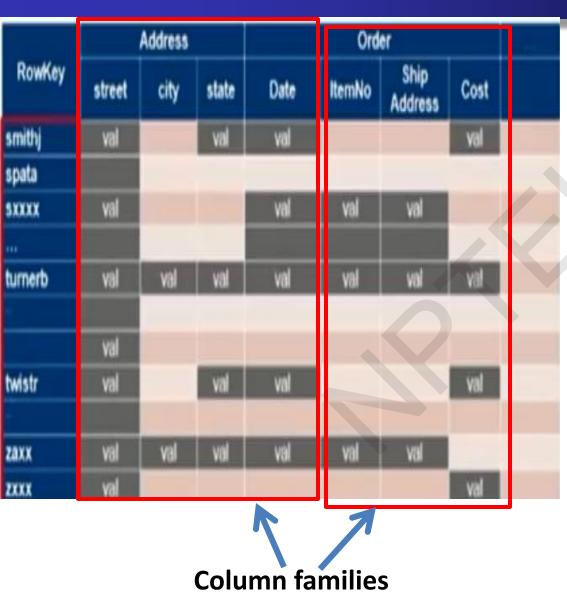
Basic element of availability and distribution for tables

RegionServer:

Serving and managing regions

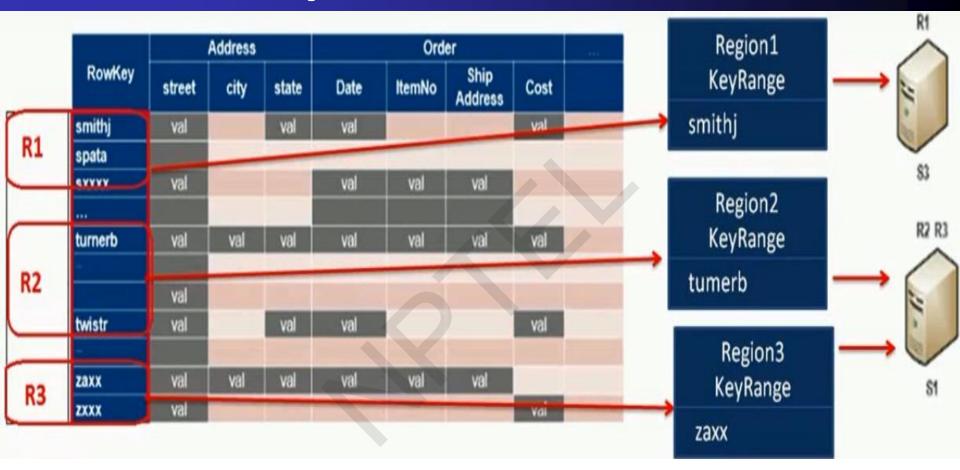
In a distributed cluster, a RegionServer runs on a DataNode

Data Model



- Data stored in Hbase is located by its "rowkey"
- RowKey is like a primary key from a rational database.
- Records in Hbase are stored in sorted order, according to rowkey.
- Data in a row are grouped together as Column Families.
 Each Column Family has one or more Columns
- These Columns in a family are stored together in a low level storage file known as HFile

HBase Components



- Tables are divided into sequences of rows, by key range, called regions.
- These regions are then assigned to the data nodes in the cluster called "RegionServers."

Column Family

Row Key	Personal Data		Professional Data	
Emp Id	Name	City	Designation	Salary
101	John	Mumbai	Manager	10L
102	Geetha	New Delhi	Sr.Software Engineer	8L
103	Smita	Pune	Programmer Analyst	4L
104	Ankit	Bangalore	Data Analyst	12L
		HE HOFS	File	

- A column is identified by a Column Qualifier that consists of the Column Family name concatenated with the Column name using a colon.ex-personaldata:Name
- Column families are mapped to storage files and are stored in separate files, which can also be accesses separately.

Cell in HBase Table

Row Key	Column Family	Column Qualifier	Timestamp	Value
John	PersonalData	City	123456790123	Mumbai
		Υ		VALUE

- Data is stored in HBASE tables Cells.
- Cell is a combination of row, column family, column qualifier and contains a value and a timestamp
- The key consists of the row key, column name, and timestamp.
- The entire cell, with the added structural information, is called Key Value.

HBase Data Model

- Table: Hbase organizes data into tables. Table names are Strings and composed of characters that are safe for use in a file system path.
- Row: Within a table, data is stored according to its row. Rows are identified uniquely by their row key. Row keys do not have a data type and are always treated as a byte[] (byte array).
- Column Family: Data within a row is grouped by column family. Every row in a table has the same column families, although a row need not store data in all its families. Column families are Strings and composed of characters that are safe for use in a file system path.

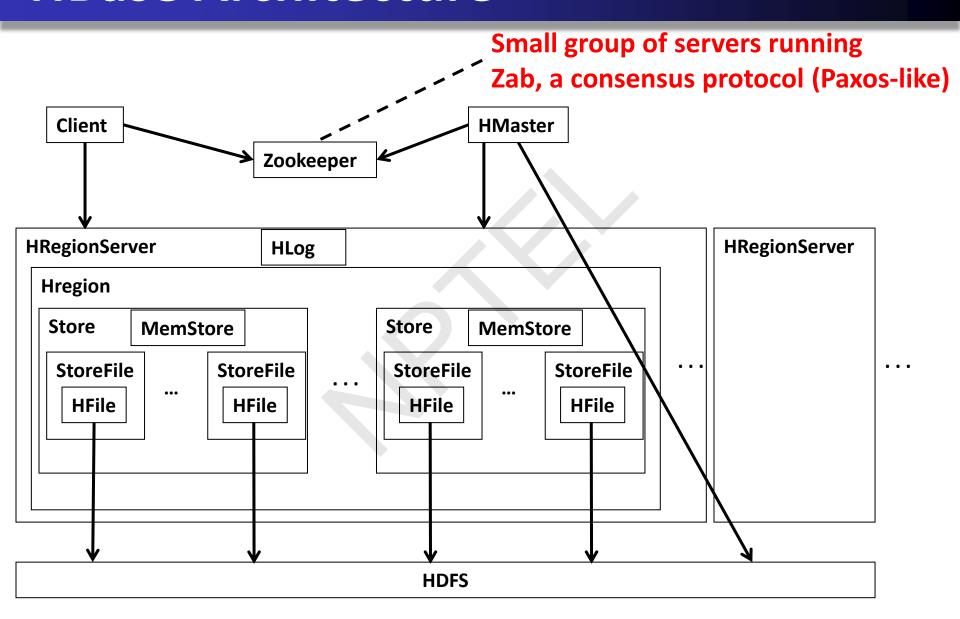
HBase Data Model

- Column Qualifier: Data within a column family is addressed via its column qualifier, or simply, column, Column qualifiers need not be specified in advance. Column qualifiers need not be consistent between rows. Like row keys, column qualifiers do not have a data type and are always treated as a byte[].
- Cell: A combination of row key, column family, and column qualifier uniquely identifies a cell. The data stored in a cell is referred to as that cell's value.

HBase Data Model

- Timestamp: Values within a cell are versioned. Versions are identified by their version number, which by default is the timestamp is used.
- If the timestamp is not specified for a read, the latest one is returned. The number of cell value versions retained by Hbase is configured for each column family. The default number of cell versions is three.

HBase Architecture



HBase Storage Hierarchy

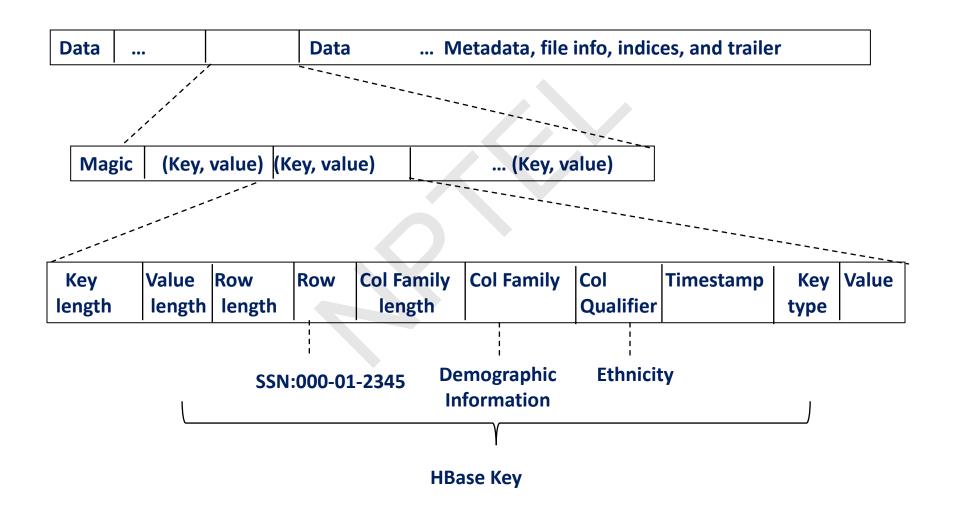
HBase Table

- Split it into multiple <u>regions</u>: replicated across servers
 - ColumnFamily = subset of columns with similar query patterns
 - One <u>Store</u> per combination of ColumnFamily + region
 - Memstore for each Store: in-memory updates to Store; flushed to disk when full
 - » <u>StoreFiles</u> for each store for each region: where the data lives
 - Hfile

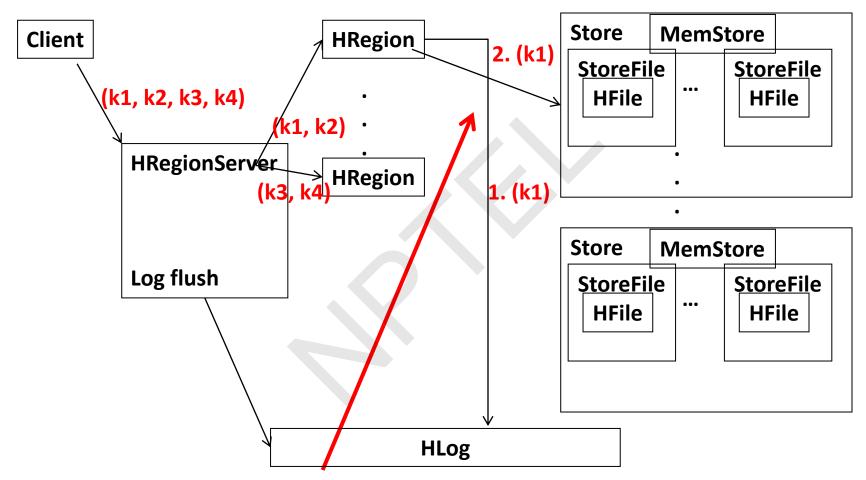
HFile

SSTable from Google's BigTable

HFile



Strong Consistency: HBase Write-Ahead Log



Write to HLog before writing to MemStore Helps recover from failure by replaying Hlog.

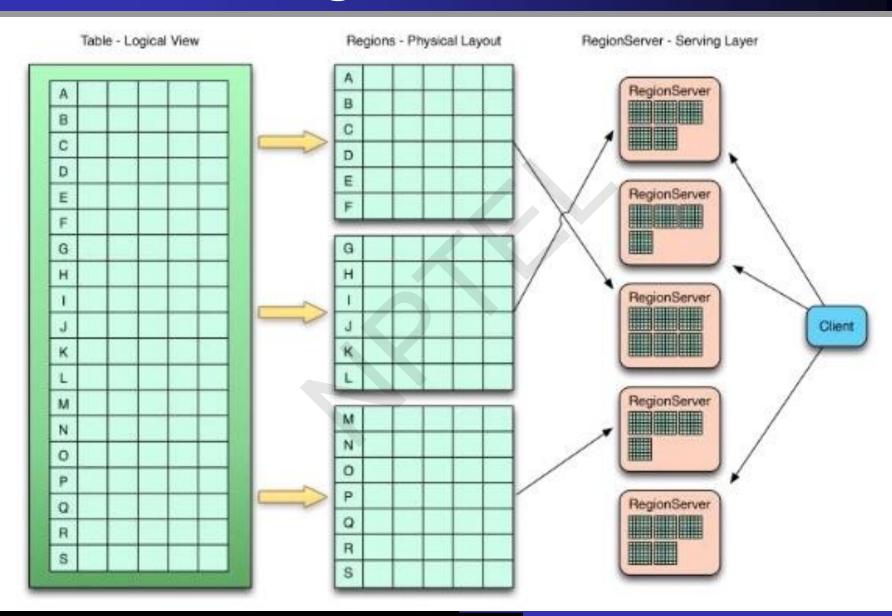
Log Replay

- After recovery from failure, or upon bootup (HRegionServer/HMaster)
 - Replay any stale logs (use timestamps to find out where the database is with respect to the logs)
 - Replay: add edits to the MemStore

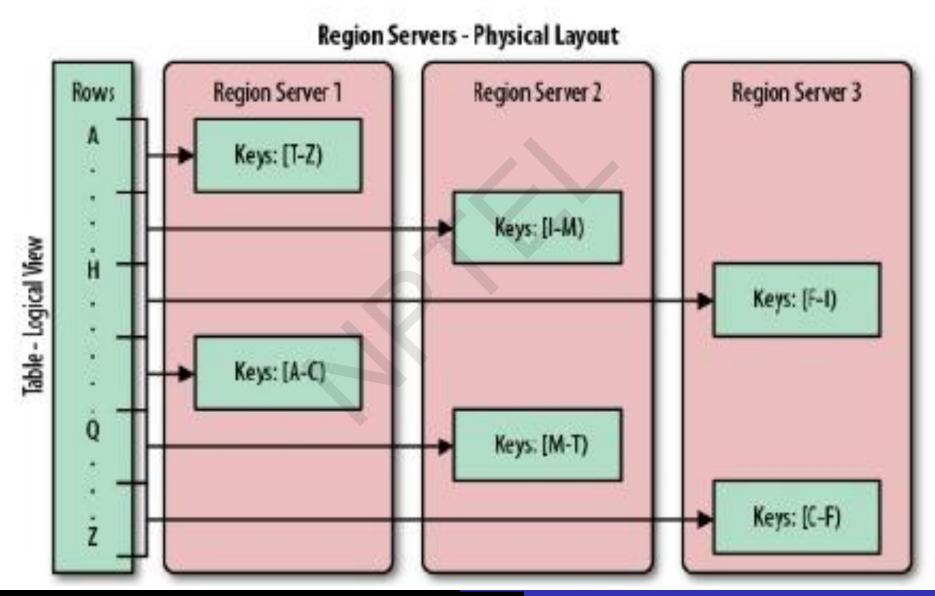
Cross-Datacenter Replication

- Single "Master" cluster
- Other "Slave" clusters replicate the same tables
- Master cluster synchronously sends HLogs over to slave clusters
- Coordination among clusters is via Zookeeper
- Zookeeper can be used like a file system to store control information
- 1. /hbase/replication/state
- 2. /hbase/replication/peers/<peer cluster number>
- 3. /hbase/replication/rs/<hlog>

Auto Sharding



Distribution



Auto Sharding and Distribution

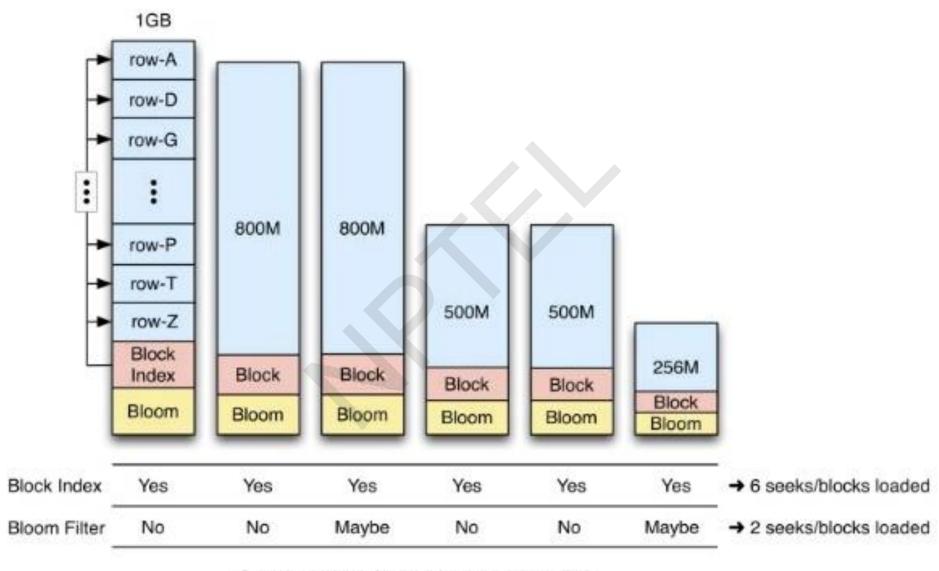
- Unit of scalability in HBase is the Region
- Sorted, contiguous range of rows
- Spread "randomly" across RegionServer
- Moved around for load balancing and failover
- Split automatically or manually to scale with growing data
- Capacity is solely a factor of cluster nodes vs. Regions per node

Bloom Filter

- Bloom Filters are generated when HFile is persisted
 - Stored at the end of each HFile
 - Loaded into memory
- Allows check on row + column level

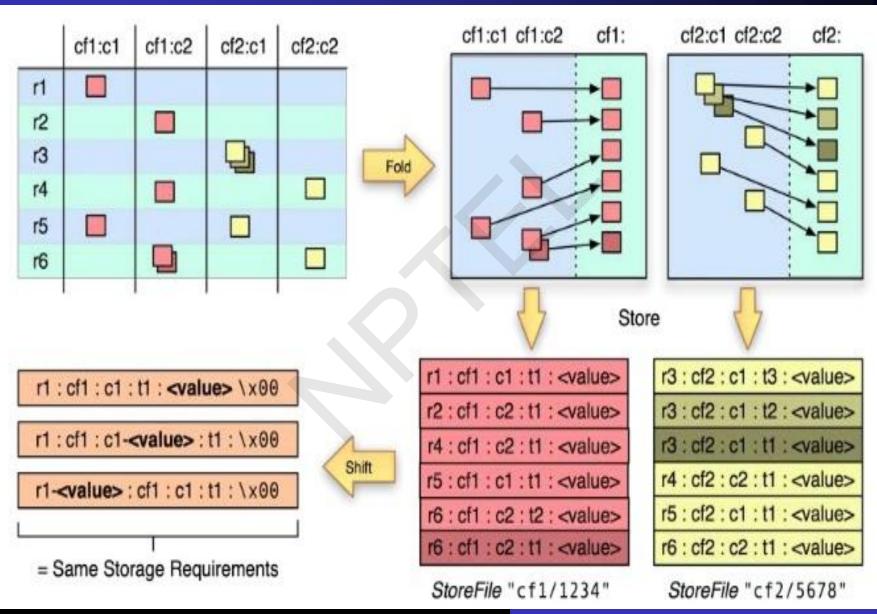
- Can filter entire store files from reads
 - Useful when data is grouped
- Also useful when many misses are expected during reads (non existing keys)

Bloom Filter



Question: which file has (possibly) "row-R"?

Fold, Store, and Shift



Fold, Store, and Shift

- Logical layout does not match physical one
- All values are stored with the full coordinates, including: Row Key, Column Family, Column Qualifier, and Timestamp
- Folds columns into "row per column"
- NULLs are cost free as nothing is stored
- Versions are multiple "rows" in folded table

Conclusion

- Traditional Databases (RDBMSs) work with strong consistency, and offer ACID
- Modern workloads don't need such strong guarantees, but do need fast response times (availability)
- Unfortunately, CAP theorem
- Key-value/NoSQL systems offer BASE
 - Eventual consistency, and a variety of other consistency models striving towards strong consistency
- In this lecture, we have discussed:
 - HBase Architecture, HBase Components, Data model, HBase Storage Hierarchy, Cross-Datacenter Replication, Auto Sharding and Distribution, Bloom Filter and Fold, Store, and Shift