# Week 7: Column-family Stores

DIANE WOODBRIDGE, PH.D

# Cassandra Interview Questions

Cassandra data model

Memtable

Tunable consistency (Quorum)

SSTable

Difference between RDBMS and Cassandra

Keyspace

**CAP Theorem** 

Tombstone

Cassandra query language

cqlsh

Compaction

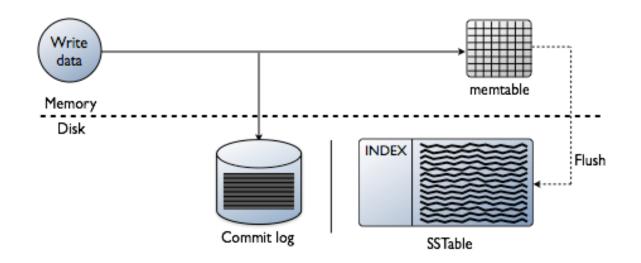
Super column

Column family

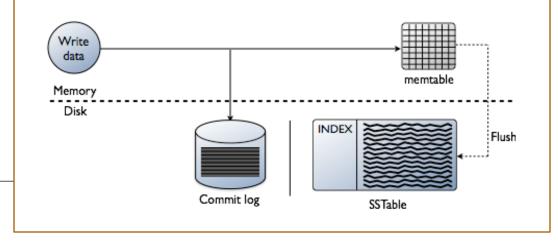
#### Writes

#### VERY FAST! (WHY??)

When a write is received by Cassandra, the data is first recorded in a commit log, then
written to an in-memory structure called memtable. A write operation is considered
successful once it is written to the commit log and the memtable. Writes are batched in
memory and periodically written out to structures known as SSTable.



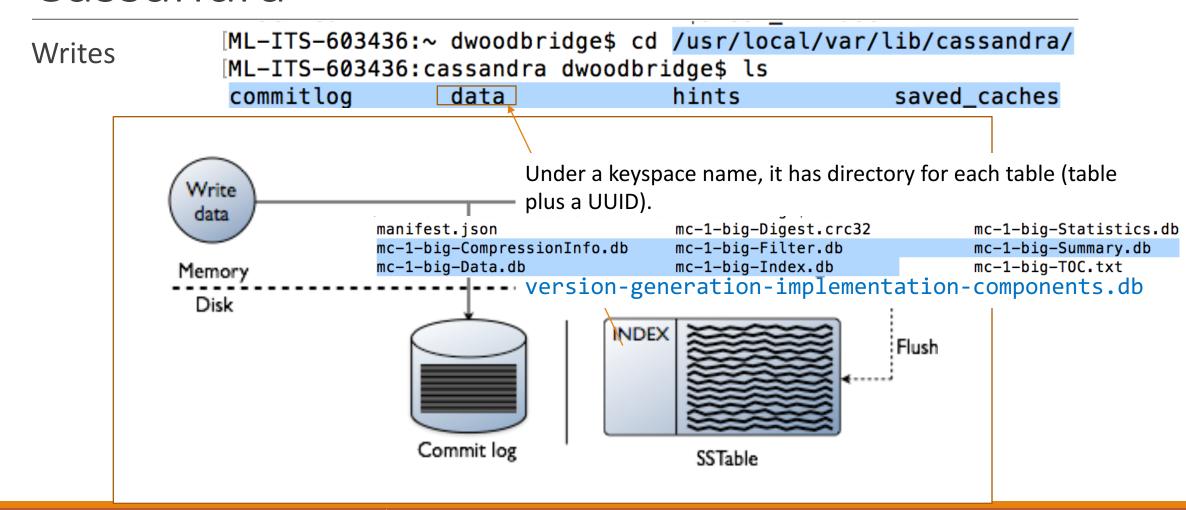
- 1. Logging data in the commit log
- 2. Writing data to the memtable
- 3. Flushing data from the memtable
- 4. Storing data on disk in SSTables
- 5. Compaction



#### Writes

- 1. Logging data in the commit log.: It is a crash-recovery mechanism. If a write operation does not make it to the in-memory store (memtable), it will still be possible to recover the data.
- 2. Writing data to the memtable. : memtable is a memory-resident data structure which stores data rows that can be looked up by key.
- **3. Flushing data from the memtable.** : When he number of objects stored in the memtable reaches a threshold, the contents are flushed to disk called SSTable .
- **4. Storing data on disk in SSTable.** : SSTables are immutable, not written to again after the memtable is flushed.
- 5. Periodic compaction.: Reorganize SSTables for better future read performance.

[ML-ITS-603436:~ dwoodbridge\$ cd /usr/local/var/lib/cassandra/ Writes [ML-ITS-603436:cassandra dwoodbridge\$ ls commitlog saved\_caches data hints CommitLog-6-1480452906499.log CommintLog-version-timestamp.log Write data Memory Disk INDEX Flush Commit log SSTable



#### Writes

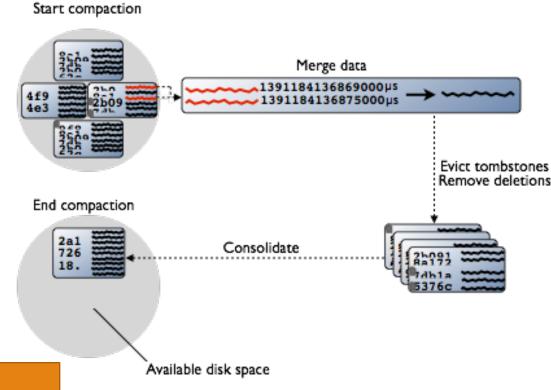
- Compaction in SSTables
  - Periodically clean out stale data values to support fast read performance.
    - Merge SSTables.: The keys are merged, columns are combined, tombstones are discarded, and a new index is created to a new SSTable.

#### **Tombstones** (Cassandra Deletes)

When you execute a delete operation, the data is not immediately deleted. Instead, it is treated as an update operation that places a tombstone on the value for GCGraceSeconds for eventual consistency.

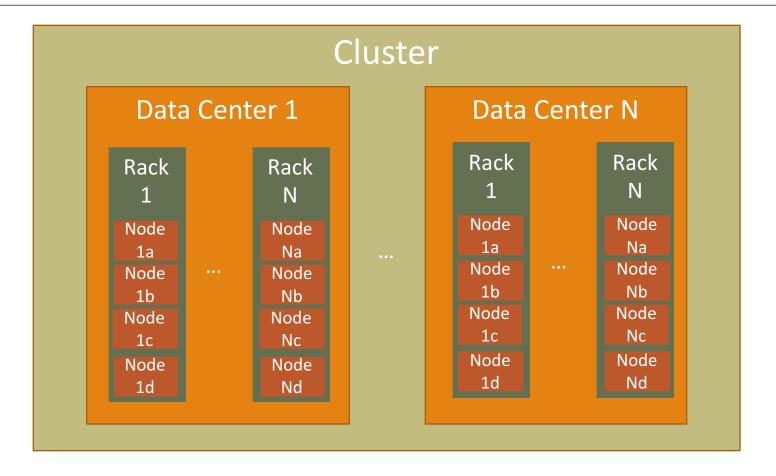
#### Cassandra Reads:

https://docs.datastax.com/en/cassandra/3.x/cassandra/dml/dmlAboutReads.html

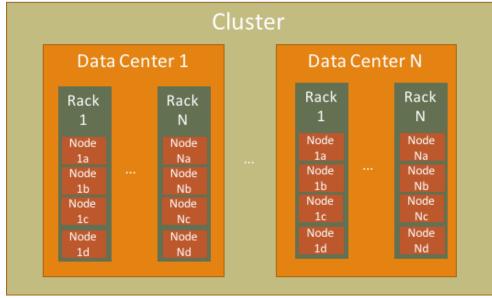


https://docs.datastax.com/en/cassandra/2.1/cassandra/dml/dml\_write\_path\_c.html#concept\_ds\_wt3\_32w\_zj\_\_dml-compaction https://docs.datastax.com/en/cassandra/2.0/cassandra/dml/dml\_about\_deletes\_c.html

# Cluster Topology in Cassandra



# Cluster Topology in Cassandra



Node (vnode): A node is the storage layer within a server.

Rack: A logical set of nodes in close proximicity.

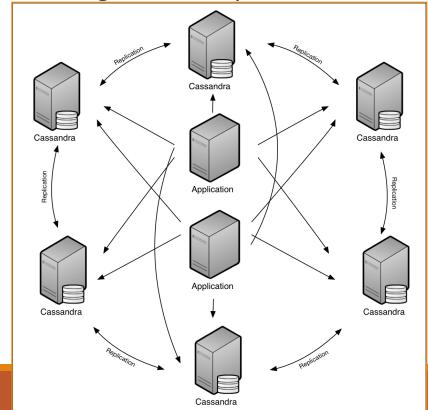
Data Center: A logical set of racks.

Cluster: A set of data centers.

Snitches: Gather information about the topology so that Cassandra can efficiently route requests.

### Replication

- All replicas are equally important; there is no primary or master replica.
- Uses peer-to-peer replication. → High availability.



#### Replication Strategies (2)

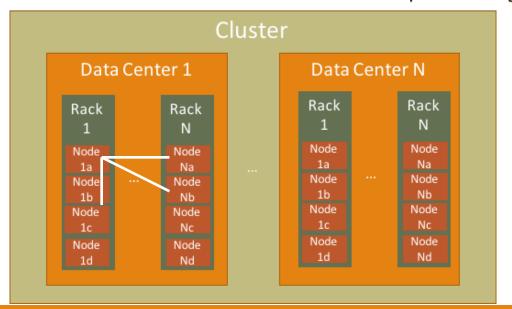
- SimpleStrategy
  - Use only for a single data center.
  - Not aware of their placement on a data center rack
- NetworkTopologyStrategy
  - Use NetworkTopologyStrategy when you have (or plan to have) your cluster deployed across multiple data centers. This strategy specify how many replicas you want in each data center. NetworkTopologyStrategy attempts to place replicas on distinct racks because nodes in the same rack (or similar physical grouping) often fail at the same time due to power, cooling, or network issues.
  - Much easier to expand to multiple data centers when required by future expansion.

https://docs.datastax.com/en/cassandra/2.0/cassandra/architecture/architectureDataDistributeReplication\_c.html

#### Replication Strategies (2)

- SimpleStrategy
  - Syntax : { 'class' : 'SimpleStrategy', 'replication\_factor' : <integer> };
  - Ex.

cqlsh> CREATE KEYSPACE mydb WITH REPLICATION = { 'class' : 'SimpleStrategy', 'replication\_factor' : 3 };



#### Replication Strategies (2)

- NetworkTopologyStrategy
  - Syntax: { 'class': 'NetworkTopologyStrategy'[, '<data center>': <integer>, '<data center>': <integer>]...};
- © EX.

  [ML-ITS-603436:~ dwoodbridge\$ nodetool status]

  To determine the default data center name, use nodetool status.

objc[28141]: Class JavaLaunchHelper is implemented in both /Library/Java/JavaVirtualMachines/jdk1.8.0\_101.jdk/Contents/Home/bin/java and /Library/Java/JavaVirtualMachine jdk1.8.0\_101.jdk/Contents/Home/jre/lib/libinstrument.dylib. One of the two will be used. Which one is undefined.

```
Datacenter: datacenter1
```

#### Status=Up/Down

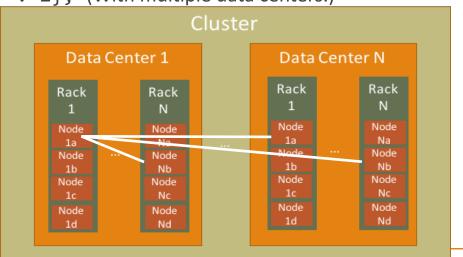
```
|/ State=Normal/Leaving/Joining/Moving
-- Address Load Tokens Owns Host ID
```

-- Address Load Tokens Owns Host ID Rack JN 127.0.0.1 578.8 KiB 256 ? 289235b7-950c-42d0-891a-22e8fa4357e2 rack1

Note: Non-system keyspaces don't have the same replication settings, effective ownership information is meaningless

#### Replication Strategies (2)

- NetworkTopologyStrategy
  - Syntax: { 'class': 'NetworkTopologyStrategy'[, '<data center>': <integer>, '<data center>': <integer>]...};
  - ocqlsh> CREATE KEYSPACE mydb2 WITH REPLICATION = { 'class' : 'NetworkTopologyStrategy', 'datacenter1' : 3 };
  - CREATE KEYSPACE mydb WITH REPLICATION = {'class' : 'NetworkTopologyStrategy', 'dc1' : 3, 'dc2' : 2}; (With multiple data centers.)



#### Partitioning (Sharding)

- Token Ring
  - Each node is assigned to a position in a ring with a range of the token values.
    - Token: 64-bit integer ID used to identify each partition.
  - Try to arrange consecutive token ranges to be spread across nodes in different racks.
- Partitioner
  - Determines how data is distributed across the nodes in the cluster by computing the partition key token.
  - By default, it uses hash function. (Murmur3Partitioner)



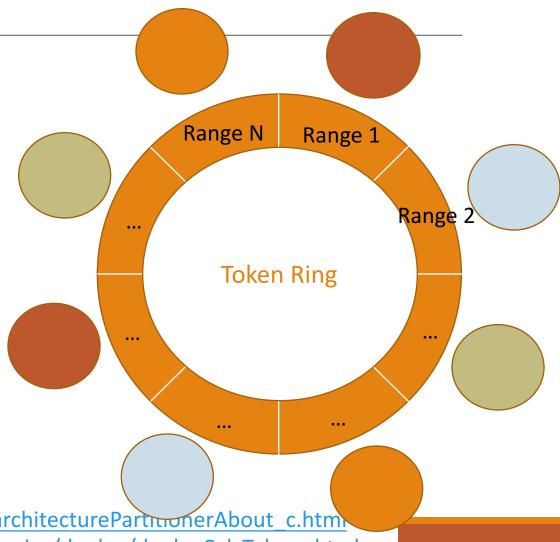
#### Partitioning (Sharding)

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https://docs.datastax.com/en/cassandra/2.0/cassandra/architecture/architecturePartitionerAbout\_c.html https://docs.datastax.com/en/datastax\_enterprise/4.5/datastax\_enterprise/deploy/deployCalcTokens.html

#### And also install pyYaml.

#### Creating a cluster.

CCM (Cassandra Cluster Manager): Run a multi-node cluster on a single machine.

```
ML-ITS-603436:~ dwoodbridge$ pip install ccm
Collecting ccm
  Downloading ccm-2.4.6.tar.gz (66kB)
    100% | 71kB 979kB/s
Requirement already satisfied: pyYaml in ./anaconda/lib/python2.7/site-packages (from ccm)
Requirement already satisfied: six>=1.4.1 in ./anaconda/lib/python2.7/site-packages (from ccm)
Building wheels for collected packages: ccm
  Running setup.py bdist_wheel for ccm ... done
  Stored in directory: /Users/dwoodbridge/Library/Caches/pip/wheels/fe/a5/76/737b9fd3863af65a59f8958f656f74e0035b919a91db0e1027
Successfully built ccm
Installing collected packages: ccm
Successfully installed ccm-2.4.6
ML-ITS-603436:~ dwoodbridge$ ccm
[Missing arguments
Usage:
  ccm <cluster_cmd> [options]
  ccm <node_name> <node_cmd> [options]
Where <cluster_cmd> is one of
                Create a new cluster
  create
  add
                Add a new node to the current cluster
  populate
                Add a group of new nodes with default options
  list
                List existing clusters
  switch
                Switch of current (active) cluster
                Display status on the current cluster
  status
```

Creating a cluster.

```
ccm create -v cassandra_version -n number_of_nodes_for_the_cluster cluster_name
  [ML-ITS-603436:~ dwoodbridge$ ccm create -v 3.9 -n 3 test
   Current cluster is now: test
  [ML-ITS-603436:~ dwoodbridge$ ccm list
    *test
  [ML-ITS-603436:∼ dwoodbridge$ ccm status
   Cluster: 'test'
   node1: DOWN (Not initialized)
   node3: DOWN (Not initialized)
   node2: DOWN (Not initialized)
```

#### Starting a cluster.

• If you're running on Mac OSX, create a new interface for every node besides the first, for example if you populated your cluster with 3 nodes, create interfaces for 127.0.0.2 and 127.0.0.3 like so.

```
[ML-ITS-603436:~ dwoodbridge$ sudo ifconfig lo0 alias 127.0.0.2
[Password:
[ML-ITS-603436:~ dwoodbridge$ sudo ifconfig lo0 alias 127.0.0.3
```

Starting a cluster.

• ccm start

```
[ML-ITS-603436:~ dwoodbridge$ ccm start
[node1 ERROR] objc[1277]: Class JavaLaunchHelper is implemented in both /Libr
ary/Java/JavaVirtualMachines/jdk1.8.0_101.jdk/Contents/Home/bin/java and /Lib
rary/Java/JavaVirtualMachines/jdk1.8.0_101.jdk/Contents/Home/jre/lib/libinstr
ument.dylib. One of the two will be used. Which one is undefined.
[node3 ERROR] objc[1276]: Class JavaLaunchHelper is implemented in both /Libr
ary/Java/JavaVirtualMachines/jdk1.8.0_101.jdk/Contents/Home/bin/java and /Lib
[rary/Java/JavaVirtualMachines/jdk1.8.0_101.jdk/Contents/Home/jre/lib/libinstr]
ument.dylib. One of the two will be used. Which one is undefined.
[node2 ERROR] objc[1275]: Class JavaLaunchHelper is implemented in both /Libr
ary/Java/JavaVirtualMachines/jdk1.8.0_101.jdk/Contents/Home/bin/java and /Lib
rary/Java/JavaVirtualMachines/jdk1.8.0_101.jdk/Contents/Home/jre/lib/libinstr
ument.dylib. One of the two will be used. Which one is undefined.
ML-ITS-603436:~ dwoodbridge$ ccm status
Cluster: 'test'
node1: UP
node3: UP
node2: UP
```

Check a node status in a cluster.

o ccm node\_name show

Check a node status in a cluster.

o ccm node\_name show

Check a node status in a cluster.

o ccm node\_name show

Use cqlsh on nodes in a cluster

o ccm node\_name cqlsh

```
[ML-ITS-603436:~ dwoodbridge$ ccm node1 cqlsh
Connected to test at 127.0.0.1:9042.
[cqlsh 5.0.1 | Cassandra 3.9 | CQL spec 3.4.2 | Native protocol v4]
Use HELP for help.
```

- CREATE KEYSPACE test WITH REPLICATION = {'class': 'SimpleStrategy',
   'replication\_factor':2}
- USE test;
- CREATE TABLE friend(name text, PRIMARY KEY(name));

```
Use cqlsh on nodes in a cluster
INSERT INTO friend(name) VALUES ('Diane');
INSERT INTO friend(name) VALUES ('Yannet');
INSERT INTO friend(name) VALUES ('David');
INSERT INTO friend(name) VALUES ('Kirsten');
INSERT INTO friend(name) VALUES ('James');
INSERT INTO friend(name) VALUES ('Nathaniel');
INSERT INTO friend(name) VALUES ('Paul');
       cqlsh:test> INSERT INTO friend(name) VALUES ('Diane');
       [cqlsh:test> INSERT INTO friend(name) VALUES ('Yannet');
       [cqlsh:test> INSERT INTO friend(name) VALUES ('David');
       [cqlsh:test> INSERT INTO friend(name) VALUES ('Kirsten');
       [cqlsh:test> INSERT INTO friend(name) VALUES ('James');
       [cqlsh:test> INSERT INTO friend(name) VALUES ('Nathaniel');
      [cqlsh:test> INSERT INTO friend(name) VALUES ('Paul');
```

#### Replication

Check replicated data.

```
[ML-ITS-603436:∼ dwoodbridge$ ccm node2 cqlsh
Connected to test at 127.0.0.2:9042.
[cqlsh 5.0.1 | Cassandra 3.9 | CQL spec 3.4.2 | Native protocol v4]
Use HELP for help.
cqlsh> DESCRIBE KEYSPACES;
system_schema
               system
                        system_distributed system_traces
               simplex test
system_auth
                                            mydb2
cqlsh> use test;
[cqlsh:test> SELECT * FROM friend;
 name
     David
 Nathaniel
     James
   Kirsten
     Diane
      Paul
```

Yannet

# Example

Try to see whether data is replicated to node3

#### Partitioning (Sharding)

- Check token ring.
  - ccm node\_name ring

```
[ML-ITS-603436:~ dwoodbridge$ ccm node1 ring
```

objc[9253]: Class JavaLaunchHelper is implemented in both /Library/Java/JavaVirtualMachines/jdk1.8.0\_101.jdk/Con.0\_101.jdk/Contents/Home/jre/lib/libinstrument.dylib. One of the two will be used. Which one is undefined.

Datacenter: datacenter1

Address	Rack	Status	State	Load	0wns	Token
						9210101146673835839
127.0.0.1	rack1	Up	Normal	219.76 KiB	?	-9204843100512146787
127.0.0.1	rack1	Up	Normal	219.76 KiB	?	-9163006488236030522
127.0.0.3	rack1	Up	Normal	218.23 KiB	?	-9154855605745133015
127.0.0.3	rack1	Up	Normal	218.23 KiB	?	-9144835023218902723
127.0.0.1	rack1	Up	Normal	219.76 KiB	?	-9113835427033042364
127.0.0.3	rack1	Up	Normal	218.23 KiB	?	-9111941555688496710
127.0.0.3	rack1	Up	Normal	218.23 KiB	?	-9105293811387401185
127.0.0.3	rack1	Up	Normal	218.23 KiB	?	-9096181527453766903
127.0.0.2	rack1	Up	Normal	214.34 KiB	?	-9045984403360323436
127.0.0.2	rack1	Up	Normal	214.34 KiB	?	-9043424267273964528

#### Partitioning (Sharding)

Check token values.

```
[cqlsh:test> select name, token(name) from friend;
                 system.token(name)
  name
       David
                 -9107100675643232384
  Nathaniel
       James
                 -7437409357263336768
    Kirsten
                 -5252184100220696940
       Diane
                 -4488636531397337629
        Paul
                 -3500811974 127.0.0.2
                                         rack1
                                                          Normal 214.34 KiB
                                                                                                  -4552349328135717413
                               127.0.0.3
                                         rack1
                                                    Up
                                                          Normal 218.23 KiB
                                                                                                  -4514249937042389638
                 -2796904366
      Yannet
                               127.0.0.3
                                         rack1
                                                    Up
                                                          Normal 218.23 KiB
                                                                                                  -4496437166225383212
                               127.0.0.3
                                         rack1
                                                          Normal 218.23 KiB
                                                                                                  -4494322534419123084
                                                                 219.76 KiB
                               127.0.0.1
                                         rack1
                                                          Normal
                                                                                                  -4449667641886025618
 (7 rows)
                               127.0.0.3
                                                                 218.23 KiB
                                         rack1
                                                          Normal
                                                                                                  -4437112008117519062
                               127.0.0.1
                                                                 219.76 KiB
                                                                                                  -4402567310942384003
                                         rack1
                                                          Normal
```

#### Partitioning (Sharding)

Check token values.

```
[cqlsh:test> select name, token(name) from friend;
                 system.token(name)
  name
       David
                 -9107100675643232384
  Nathaniel
                 -7471314492519062385
       James
                 -7437409357263336768
    Kirsten
                 -5252184100220696940
       Diane
                 -4488636531397337629
        Paul
      Yannet
                 -2796904366845320165
                                                           218.23 KiB
                                                                                            -2942144691458613302
                          127.0.0.3
                                   rack1
                                                    Normal
                          127.0.0.3
                                   rack1
                                                           218.23 KiB
                                                                                            -2925781883377735539
                                                    Normal
    rows)
                          127.0.0.2
                                   rack1
                                                    Normal
                                                           214.34 KiB
                                                                                            -2888517123738285216
                          127.0.0.1
                                   rack1
                                              Up
                                                    Normal
                                                           219.76 KiB
                                                                                            -2786537904358040890
                          127.0.0.2
                                   rack1
                                              ПD
                                                    Normal
                                                           214.34 KiB
                                                                                            -2753402426759143918
                          127.0.0.3
                                   rack1
                                                           218.23 KiB
                                                                                            -2745160886670639336
                                                    Normal
                         127.0.0.3
                                                           218.23 KiB
                                   rack1
                                                                                            -2660297764281609632
```

#### Partitioning (Sharding)

Check token values.

```
[cqlsh:test> select name, token(name) from friend;
                 system.token(name)
  name
       David
                 -9107100675643232384
  Nathaniel
       James
                 -7437409357263336768
    Kirsten
                 -5252184100220696940
       Diane
                 -4488636531397337629
        Paul
     Yannet
                 -2796904366845320165
                         127.0.0.1
                                  rack1
                                                   Normal
                                                          219.76 KiB
                                                                                          -9113835427033042364
                         127.0.0.3
                                  rack1
                                                   Normal
                                                          218.23 KiB
                                                                                          -9111941555688496710
 (7 rows)
                         127.0.0.3
                                  rack1
                                             Uр
                                                   Normal
                                                          218.23 KiB
                                                                                          -9105293811387401185
                         127.0.0.3
                                  rack1
                                             Uр
                                                   Normal
                                                          218.23 KiB
                                                                                          -9096181527453766903
                                                                                          -9045984403360323436
                         127.0.0.2 rack1
                                             Up
                                                   Normal
                                                          214.34 KiB
                         127.0.0.2
                                 rack1
                                                          214.34 KiB
```

Replication and Sharding - Check an endpoint where data exists for the token. ccm node\_name nodetool getendpoints keyspace\_name table\_name key\_value

ML-ITS-603436:~ dwoodbridge\$ ccm node1 nodetool getendpoints test friend Diane objc[6768]: Class lavaLaunchHelper is implemented in both /Library/lava/lavaVirtualMachines

objc[6768]: Class JavaLaunchHelper is implemented in both /Library/Java/JavaVirtualMachines/jdk1.8.0\_101.jdk/Contents/Home/bin/java and /Library/Java/JavaVirtualMachines/jdk1.8.0\_101.jdk/Contents/Home/jre/lib/lib[instrument.dylib. One of the two will be used. Which one is undefined.

127.0.0.1 127.0.0.3

Sharded and Replicated!

ML-ITS-603436:~ dwoodbridge\$ ccm node1 nodetool getendpoints test friend Yannet

objc[6799]: Class JavaLaunchHelper is implemented in both /Library/Java/JavaVirtualMachines/jdk1.8.0\_101.jdk/Contents/Home/bin/java and /Library/Java/JavaVirtualMachines/jdk1.8.0\_101.jdk/Contents/Home/jre/lib/lib instrument.dylib. One of the two will be used. Which one is undefined.

127.0.0.1 127.0.0.2

Sharded and Replicated!

ML-ITS-603436:∼ dwoodbridge\$ ccm node1 nodetool getendpoints test friend David

objc[6830]: Class JavaLaunchHelper is implemented in both /Library/Java/JavaVirtualMachines/jdk1.8.0\_101.jdk/Contents/Home/java and /Library/Java/JavaVirtualMachines/jdk1.8.0\_101.jdk/Contents/Home/jre/lib/libinstrument.dylib. One of the two will be used. Which one is undefined.

127.0.0.3 127.0.0.2

Sharded and Replicated!

# Example

Can you read data from the nodes that does not serve as a replica?

• Can you query "Diane" on node2?

#### Tunable Consistency

- Setting Consistency will ensure the majority of the nodes to respond to read/write.
  - Read: The column with the newest timestamp is returned back to the client.
  - Write: The new update will be propagate to the majority of the nodes.
  - Available consistency levels : ALL, EACH\_QUORUM, QUORUM, LOCAL\_QUORUM, ONE, TWO, THREE, LOCAL\_ONE, ANY, SERIAL, LOCAL\_SERIAL.

```
[cqlsh> consistency;
Current consistency level is ONE.
[cqlsh> consistency QUORUM;
Consistency level set to QUORUM.
```

ONE is default.

# Cassandra Interview Questions

Cassandra data model Memtable

Tunable consistency (Quorum) SSTable

Difference between RDBMS and Cassandra Keyspace

CAP Theorem Tombstone

Cassandra query language

cqlsh

Compaction

Super column

Column family

# Summary

#### Remember the big picture!

#### Week1

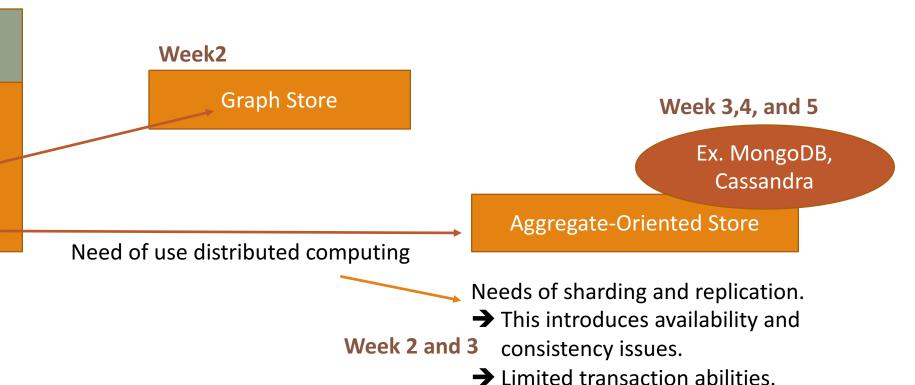
SQL is great and used a lot. While...

impedance mismatch

•••

Data with complex relations
Schemaless data
Large volumes of data

Week2



# Summary

#### **NoSQL**

#### Pros (In general)

Mostly open-source.

Schemaless.

Good for non-relational data.

Scalable.

Runs well on distributed systems.

#### Cons

Installation, toolsets still maturing.

#### **Example**

Redis, MongoDB, Cassandra, OrientDB

Two main reasons to consider NoSQL.

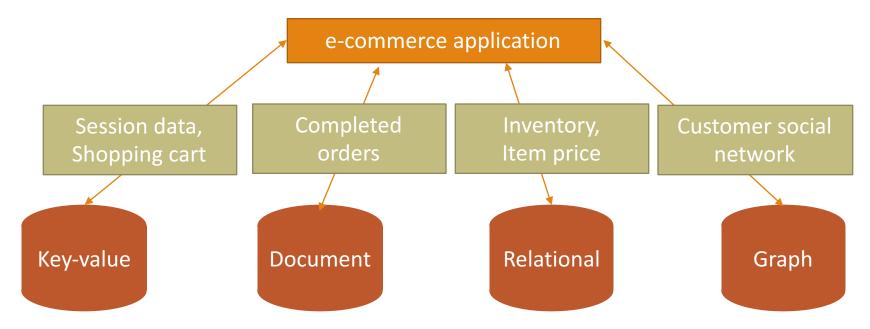
- To improve programmer productivity that better matches an application's needs.
- To improve data access performance via some combination of handling larger data volumes, reducing latency and improving throughput.

Test your expectations about programmer productivity and performance before committing to using a NoSQL technology.

# Summary

#### Polygot Persistence

- Using multiple data storage technologies, chosen based on the way data is being used by individual applications.
- NoSQL data stores do not replace relational databases.



### Final Exam

Time: Dec 9th, 10 AM - 12 PM, 101 Howard 154, 155 and 156.

Topic: Week 1 – Week 7.

Type of Questions: Focusing on

- the concepts of overall NoSQL technologies (Similar to Quiz 1-3, Multiple Choices similar to Paul's Final)
- Programming questions.
  - Ex. What is a problem of the following code (2pt) and why (2pt) and how to fix it (2pt)?

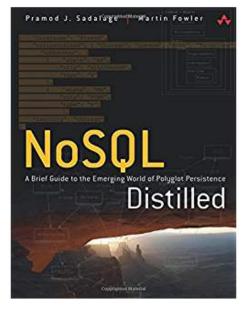
```
cqlsh:test> CREATE TABLE friend(name text);
```

# Further Readings

As we discussed in our 1<sup>st</sup> week lecture, I'd recommend NoSQL Distilled (Not required, but will be helpful for your interviews) and online documentation for Mongo and Cassandra as they are still evolving.

All the references have been cited in the footnotes or reference section in every

slide!



# Relational Database Interview Questions

- Basic Operations
  - Create
  - Insert
  - Select
  - Update
  - Join (Inner, Outer, Left, Right, etc.)\*
  - Union All/Union/ Union Distinct
  - Minus
  - Intersect
- Normalization (1NF, 2NF and 3NF)\*
- Transaction(Concurrency Control) ACID\*
- Indexing\* B tree, Hash

- Truncate vs Delete
- Difference Where vs. Having

# NoSQL Interview Questions

What is NoSQL?

**Eventual Consistency** 

Relational Database vs. NoSQL

Map-Reduce

Impedence mismatch

Polygot persistence

Aggregate-oriented database

Key-value database

Document database

Column family database

Graph database

Replication vs sharding

**CAP Theorem** 

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Aggregation Operations(aggregation pipeline)

Sharding

Replication

GridFS

ObjectId

Consistency

# Cassandra Interview Questions

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Tunable consistency (Quorum)

**SSTable** 

Difference between RDBMS and Cassandra

Keyspace

**CAP Theorem** 

Tombstone

Cassandra query language

cqlsh

Compaction

Super column

Column family

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