

## Query Behavior

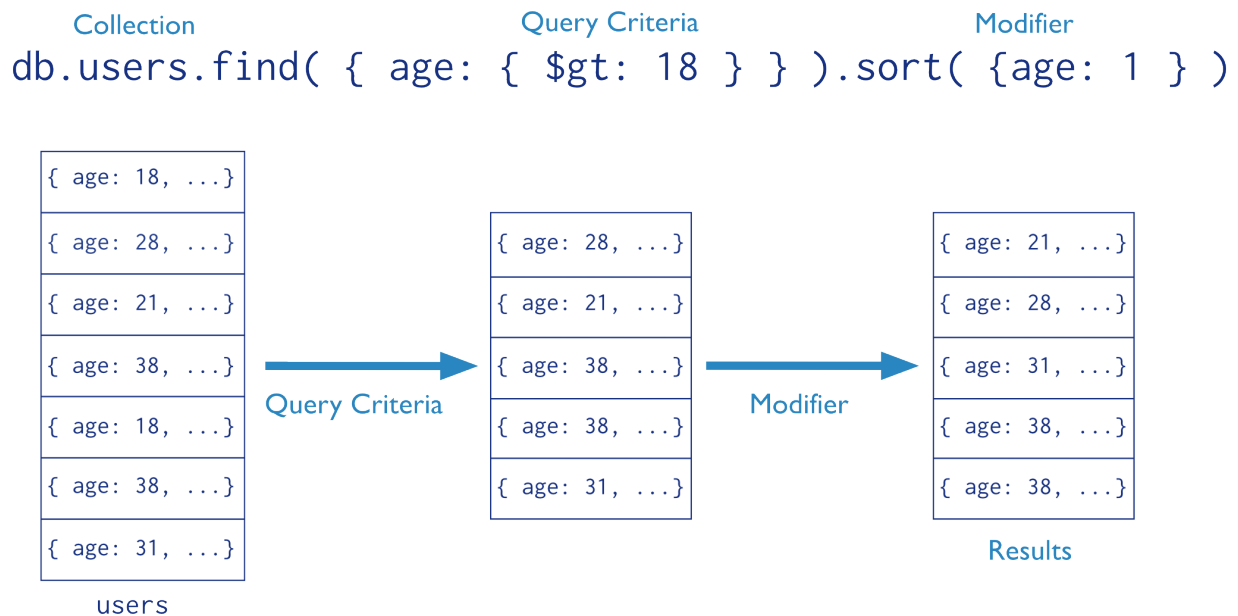
MongoDB queries exhibit the following behavior:

- All queries in MongoDB address a *single* collection.
- You can modify the query to impose `limits`, `skips`, and `sort` orders.
- The order of documents returned by a query is not defined unless you specify a `sort()`.
- Operations that *modify existing documents* (page 102) (i.e. *updates*) use the same query syntax as queries to select documents to update.
- In *aggregation* (page 439) pipeline, the `$match` pipeline stage provides access to MongoDB queries.

MongoDB provides a `db.collection.findOne()` method as a special case of `find()` that returns a single document.

## Query Statements

Consider the following diagram of the query process that specifies a query criteria and a sort modifier:



In the diagram, the query selects documents from the `users` collection. Using a query selection operator to define the conditions for matching documents, the query selects documents that have age greater than (i.e. `$gt`) 18. Then the `sort()` modifier sorts the results by age in ascending order.

For additional examples of queries, see *Query Documents* (page 96).

## Projections

Queries in MongoDB return all fields in all matching documents by default. To limit the amount of data that MongoDB sends to applications, include a *projection* in the queries. By projecting results with a subset of fields, applications reduce their network overhead and processing requirements.