

# Data Structures/Big Data

Chulalongkorn University  
School of Integrated Innovation  
Fall 2024

Marko Niinimäki, marko.n@chula.ac.th

Today's main topic: Intro to databases

# Last week: Reading files, CSV

```
Fname,Minit,Lname,Ssn,Bdate,Address,Gender,Salary,Super_ssn,Dept
John,B,Smith,123456789,1965-01-09,731-Fondren-Houston-TX,M,30000,333445555,5
Franklin,T,Wong,333445555,1955-12-08,638-Voss-Houston-TX,M,40000,888665555,5
Alicia,J,Zelaya,999887777,1968-01-19,3321-Castle-Spring-TX,F,25000,987654321,4
Jennifer,S,Wallace,987654321,1941-06-20,291-Berry-Bellaire-TX,F,43000,888665555,4
Ramesh,K,Narayan,666884444,1962-09-15,975-Fire-Oak-Humble-TX,M,38000,333445555,5
Joyce,A,English,453453453,1972-07-31,5631-Rice-Houston-TX,F,25000,333445555,5
Ahmad,V,Jabbar,987987987,1969-03-29,980-Dallas-Houston-TX,M,25000,987654321,4
James,E,Borg,888665555,1937-11-10,450-Stone-Houston-TX,M,55000,NULL,1
```

```
import csv
```

```
with open('company.csv') as csv_file:
    csv_reader = csv.reader(csv_file, delimiter=',')
    line_count = 0
    for row in csv_reader:
        line_count += 1
    if line_count > 1:
        print(row[2]) #lname in pos 2 (start 0)
```

# Last week: Reading files, JSON

```
{  
  "name": "John Doe",  
  "age": 30,  
  "email": "johndoe@example.com",  
  "hobbies": ["reading", "traveling", "coding"],  
  "address": {  
    "street": "123 Maple Street",  
    "city": "Anytown",  
    "state": "CA",  
    "postal_code": "90210"  
  }  
}
```

```
import json  
  
with open("person1.json", "r") as read_file:  
    data = json.load(read_file)  
    print(data["name"])
```

```
[
  {
    "name": "John Doe",
    "age": 30,
    "email": "johndoe@example.com",
    "skills": ["Python", "Data Analysis",
"Machine Learning"]
  },
  {
    "name": "Jane Smith",
    "age": 28,
    "email": "janesmith@example.com",
    "skills": ["JavaScript", "Web
Development", "React"]
  },
  {
    "name": "Michael Brown",
    "age": 35,
    "email":
"michaelbrown@example.com",
    "skills": ["Java", "Spring Boot",
"Microservices"]
  }
]
```

# Last week: Reading files, JSON

```
import json

with open("persons.json", "r") as read_file:
    persons = json.load(read_file)
    for person in persons:
        if 'Python' in person['skills']:
            print(person['name'])
```

# Where is data? In databases

Definition of a database (Oxford English Dictionary):

A large collection of information that has been coded and stored in a computer in such a way that it can be extracted under a number of different category headings.

And a database management system DBMS (Prof Widom, Stanford):

A DBMS provides efficient, reliable, convenient and safe multi-user storage of and access to massive amounts of persistent data.

# Where is data? In databases

Who built databases and why?

Example 1: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sabre\\_\(travel\\_reservation\\_system\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sabre_(travel_reservation_system)) IBM for American Airways, 1960.

Yes, before SABRE, flight reservations were really done by phone, pen & paper -> slow, prone to errors.

SABRE type of data: format very strict and regular. Strings and numbers.



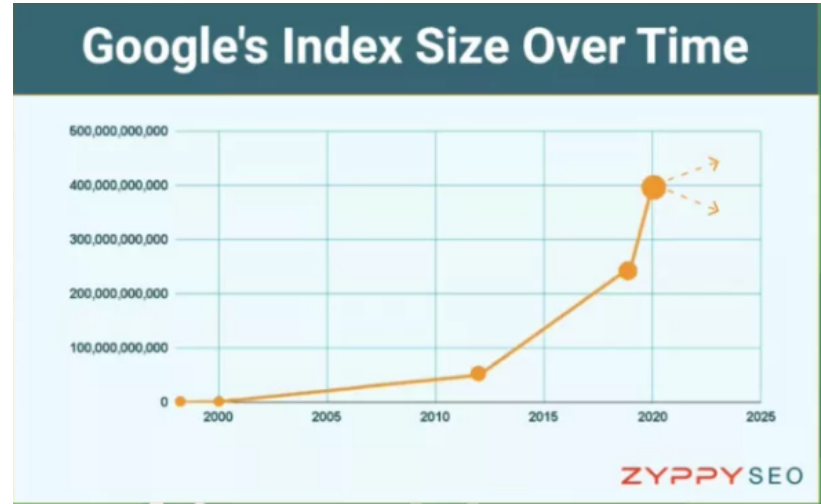
# Where is data? In databases

Who built databases and why?

Example 2: The Google Search Index

Contains information about ca. 400 billion documents. The index builder (Google web crawler) checks/indexes about 4 billion sites daily.

Type of data: textual, but includes metrics like "page rank" (the page's or site's reputation).



An index can be described as a dictionary of word/phrase → list of pages.

# Where is data? In databases

Who built databases and why?

Example 3: Shazam audio

Estimated containing 11 million songs (or their "fingerprints").

Type of data: audio, images, concert information.





# Where is data? In databases

Who built databases and why?

Example 4: RAG

(Retrieval Assisted Generation):  
Add local knowledge about a  
specific subject to a large  
language model.

Type of data: Text,  
spreadsheets,...

This is a "vector database".

The screenshot displays the Microsoft Copilot interface with a custom knowledge base for 'CSII Copilot' and an active chat session.

**Details** (Edit)

**Name**  
CSII Copilot

**Description**  
A copilot that can answers common questions from users about CSII using the content on your web site.

**Instructions**  
Maintain a polite and professional tone while assisting with questions about the user's business. There are no specific topics that are off-limits for discussion.

**Knowledge**  
Add data, files, and other resources to inform and improve AI-generated responses. [+ Add knowledge](#)

Allow the AI to use its own general knowledge (preview). [Learn more](#) **Enabled**

**Chat History:**

digital technology, data analysis, programming, entrepreneurship, and more [\[2\]](#) [\[3\]](#) [\[4\]](#). If you need more detailed information, feel free to ask!

3 references ▾

- 1 [Citation-1](#)
- 2 [Bascii Programs - CSII](#) [↗](#)
- 3 [PROGRAMS - CSII](#) [↗](#)

A minute ago | Surfaced with Azure OpenAI | [🔗](#) [🔔](#)

**When was CSII established?**

Just now

CSII was established in 2019 [\[1\]](#) [↗](#).

Ask a question or describe what you need

0/2000 [▶](#)

# Where is data? In databases

Who built databases and why?

Example 5: You

Most web and mobile applications get their data from and store their data into a database.

Type of data: almost anything.

Often a "noSQL" database.



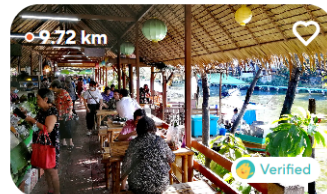
TASTE MAP

## Must-visit markets



**Taling Chan**  
Floating Market

★ 4.6 (14)  
CLOSED



**Song Khlong**  
Floating Market

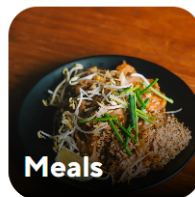
★ 5.0 (1)  
CLOSED



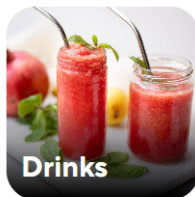
**Damnoen Saduak**  
Floating Market

★ 4.8 (4)  
OPEN

## Explore by Categories



**Meals**



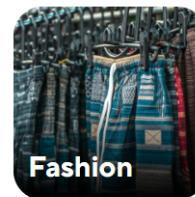
**Drinks**



**Desserts**



**Souvenirs**



**Fashion**

# Where is data? In databases

The video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W2Z7fbCLSTw> mentions "7 database paradigms"

Key-value

Wide column

Document

Relational

Graph

Text search engine

Multi-model

+ some types may still be missing: multimedia DB's.

# Why do we use databases/DBMS's? Why not just files?

1 Speed: Remember our CSV file reader? A Python program that reads a file and prints the line where the name matches user's input. Test with a 1000 lines file.

```
time python3 read_company_input_line.py Linus  
0.192 s
```

The same operation with a database + database management system:  
0.01 s

2 Control: Standard operations for creating/reading/updating/deleting data items (CRUD), other "nice" properties for data management like atomicity, consistency, isolation, and durability (ACID – but this is not provided by all DBMS's).

# Today's main topics

Where is data? In programs/files/**databases**/...

What are relational databases?

# Relational databases and the relational model

Fname	Sname	ssn	date_of_birth
'John'	'Smith'	<b>123456789</b>	'1965-01-09'
'Franklin'	'Wong'	<b>333445555</b>	'1965-12-08'
'Alicia'	'Zelaya'	<b>999887777</b>	'1968-01-19'
'Jennifer'	'Wallace'	<b>987654321</b>	'1941-06-20'
'Ramesh'	'Narayan'	<b>666884444</b>	'1962-09-15'
'Joyce'	'English'	<b>453453453</b>	'1972-07-31'
'Ahmad'	'Jabbar'	<b>987987987</b>	'1969-03-29'
'James'	'Borg'	<b>888665555</b>	'1937-11-10'

Project: Get data from a certain column (or multiple columns) by names.

Like ssn here.

# Relational databases and the relational model

Fname	Sname	ssn	date_of_birth
'John'	'Smith'	123456789	'1965-01-09'
'Franklin'	'Wong'	333445555	'1965-12-08'
'Alicia'	'Zelaya'	999887777	'1968-01-19'
'Jennifer'	'Wallace'	987654321	'1941-06-20'
'Ramesh'	'Narayan'	666884444	'1962-09-15'
'Joyce'	'English'	453453453	'1972-07-31'
'Ahmad'	'Jabbar'	987987987	'1969-03-29'
'James'	'Borg'	888665555	'1937-11-10'

Select: Get some rows by criteria

Example: rows such that year of birth is 1965

# Relational databases and the relational model

## Employees

Fname	Sname	dno
'Franklin'	'Wong'	5
'Alicia'	'Zelaya'	4
'James'	'Borg'	1

## Departments

Dname	Dnum
'Research'	5
'Administration'	4
'Headquarters'	1

## Employees x Departments

Fname	Sname	dno	Dname	Dnum
'Franklin'	'Wong'	5	'Research'	5
'Franklin'	'Wong'	5	'Administration'	4
'Franklin'	'Wong'	5	'Headquarters'	1
'Alicia'	'Zelaya'	4	'Research'	5
'Alicia'	'Zelaya'	4	'Administration'	4
'Alicia'	'Zelaya'	4	'Headquarters'	1
'James'	'Borg'	1	'Research'	5
'James'	'Borg'	1	'Administration'	4
'James'	'Borg'	1	'Headquarters'	1

Cartesian product: Combine everything



# What's the point?

A request like "give me the employees who work for Research" would be:

Rel1 = Employees x Departments

Rel2 = select (Dno = Dnum, dname = 'Research') Rel1

Rel2				
Fname	Sname	dno	Dname	Dnum
'Franklin'	'Wong'	5	'Research'	5

A request like "give me the surnames of the employees who work for research" would be:

Rel1 = Employees x Departments

Rel2 = select (Dno = Dnum, dname = 'Research') Rel1

Rel3 = project Sname Rel2

# How did this ..

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edgar\\_F.\\_Codd](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edgar_F._Codd)

Dr Codd invented relational databases, did not invent SQL

The keyword "select" in SQL is not the same as the select operation in the previous slides.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SQL>

But both Codd and the inventors of SQL worked for IBM

IBM Db2 and Oracle ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oracle\\_Database](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oracle_Database)) were among the first SQL databases.

# Next

Relational database exercises but let's build our database first using PythonAnywhere.

If we have time: The SQL language cheat sheet:

<https://learnsql.com/blog/sql-basics-cheat-sheet/sql-basics-cheat-sheet-a4.pdf>

Next week's topic: SQL (visiting lecturer).