

## An overview of databases

#### Introduction

- A key pillar of data science is storage and manipulation of Big Data within databases
- Big data is defined by the three V's; a high Volume of Variable data stored at a high Velocity
- Big data storage relies on a variety of database classes that are optimised for specific roles and for specific data types
- These systems balance strengths and weaknesses which must be considered when producing systems that facilitate big data



#### Introduction

- This module aims to introduce an overview of database systems
- · A variety of database systems will be covered
  - The underlying concepts behind these databases will be summarised
  - The optimisations each of these systems will be covered
  - · Use cases of these systems will be explored
  - Practical skills related to use of these systems will be explained and taught



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## An overview of databases

#### Introduction

 This module will not explore implementation of these databases systems

```
Axiom of reflexivity [edit] If Y\subseteq X then X\to Y Axiom of augmentation [edit] If X\to Y, then XZ\to YZ for any Z Axiom of transitivity [edit] If X\to Y and Y\to Z, then X\to Z
```



#### Introduction

• This module will explore practical skills related to use of these database systems

SQL SELECT Syntax
SELECT column\_name, column\_name
FROM table\_name;





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## An overview of databases

#### Introduction

• A database system is defined as:

"a comprehensive collection of related data organized for convenient access, generally in a computer."



#### Introduction

- A database system is an organised collection of data
- These collections typically facilitate:
  - · Insertion modification and deletion of data
  - · Retrieval of stored data
  - Administration of the database, such as providing security
- These collections are stored within abstractions and logical arrangements, such as tables



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## An overview of databases

#### Introduction

- The collections typically employ some indexing strategy to efficiently retrieve the data within
- The collections typically employ some storage rules to satisfy their design goals and indexing strategy
- The collections may have some design aspects to cater for security, data integrity and concurrent access



#### Introduction

- Databases can reside in the physical world and within computing
- · Physical world databases include:
  - An address book
  - · A phone book
  - Index Cards
  - The Dewey Decimal System\*



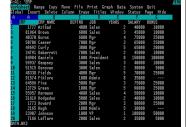


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# An overview of databases

#### Introduction

- Generally computing based databases can either be locally hosted or server based
  - · Local databases include:
  - A spreadsheet\*
  - A CSV file\*
  - A locally hosted database system, such as SQLite, Libré Base or MS Access





#### Introduction

- Server based databases are generally performance optimised, shared, resources
- These have the greatest variety of design goals
- · Server based databases include:
  - MySQL A relational DB
  - InfluxDB A time series DB
  - MongoDB A document oriented DB
  - Neo4J a graph DB





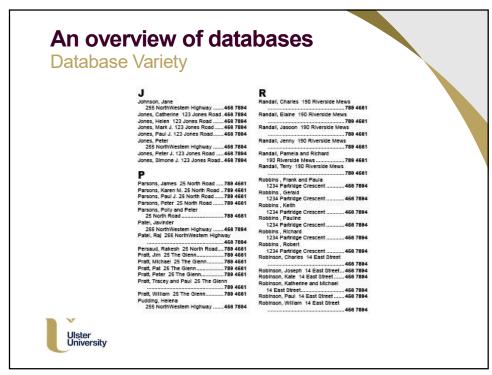
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#### An overview of databases

#### **Database Variety**

- Databases vary to optimise for specific use cases, within a set restrictions or goals
- However, it is possible to use these databases in ways beyond their intended use
- A number of physical world databases will be presented in the upcoming slides. Following this their misuse will be explored.



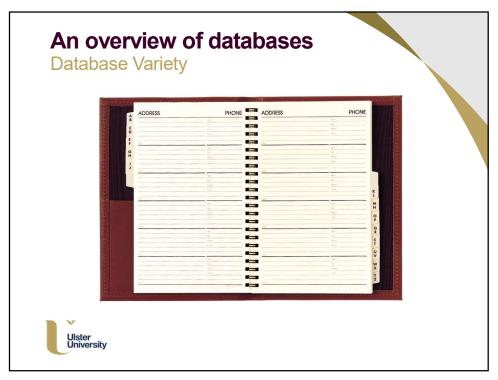


#### An overview of databases

## **Database Variety**

- These databases have optimisations
- Phonebook
  - Use: retrieving a phone number given an name and contracted address in a combined field.
  - · Indexed alphabetically by surname
  - Read only
  - All fields non optional
  - Phone number is the unique key





#### An overview of databases

**Database Variety** 

- These databases have optimisations
- Address book
  - Use: retrieving and storing a in-depth contact information about a person
  - Indexed alphabetically by forename or surname, as dictated by end user
  - Supports insertion of data but not reindexing/restructuring
  - All fields are optional, field size varies
  - There is no strictly enforced unique key





## An overview of databases

## **Database Variety**

- · These databases have optimisations
- Index card
  - Use: retrieving and storing user defined information
  - Index is as dictated by end-user, may be weakly enforced by storage container structure
  - · Supports insertion of data and re-indexing/restructuring
  - · Undefined quantity of fields, variable proportioned size\*
  - Fields may vary per entry
  - · Supports image data
  - May support multiple indexing strategies
  - · No strictly enforced unique key



#### **Database Variety**

- It is possible to store the same types of information within each of these types of database
- Some types of information are more suited to specific types of database
- Selection of correct database for data type, retrieval strategy and purpose is essential



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# An overview of databases

# Real world example

- Storage and processing of sensor data
- Data stored:
  - · Metadata about sensors inserted once per device
    - SensorID
    - Name
    - Location
    - Type
    - Manufacturer



#### Real world example

- · Storage and processing of sensor data
- · Data stored:
  - · Sensor Data
    - · Sensor records inserted at 6Hz, per device
    - Time
    - · SensorID
    - State
    - · JSON Data



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#### An overview of databases

## Real world example

- Initially stored all data in a "Big Data ready" relational database
  - Inserting, retrieving and modifying metadata individually took approximately 4 milliseconds
  - Inserting, retrieving and modifying metadata in bulk took approximately 30 milliseconds
  - Inserting, retrieving and modifying individual sensor records took approximately 4 milliseconds
  - Retrieving bulk sensor records for a 5 minute window from a single sensor took approximately 4 minutes



## Real world example

- Transitioned sensor records to a time series DB
  - Retrieving bulk sensor records for a 5 minute window from a single sensor took approximately 0.3 seconds
- Selection of the correct database systems, given data types and volume is essential



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# An overview of databases

- In the remainder of this module we will cover the following types of database systems
  - Relational databases
  - Document-oriented databases
  - Time series Databases
  - Graph databases
  - Semantic stores



# An overview of databases • Next topic: Relational databases

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