

# Why should Software Developers care for Mathematics?

**Venkatesh Vinayakarao**

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<http://vvtesh.co.in>

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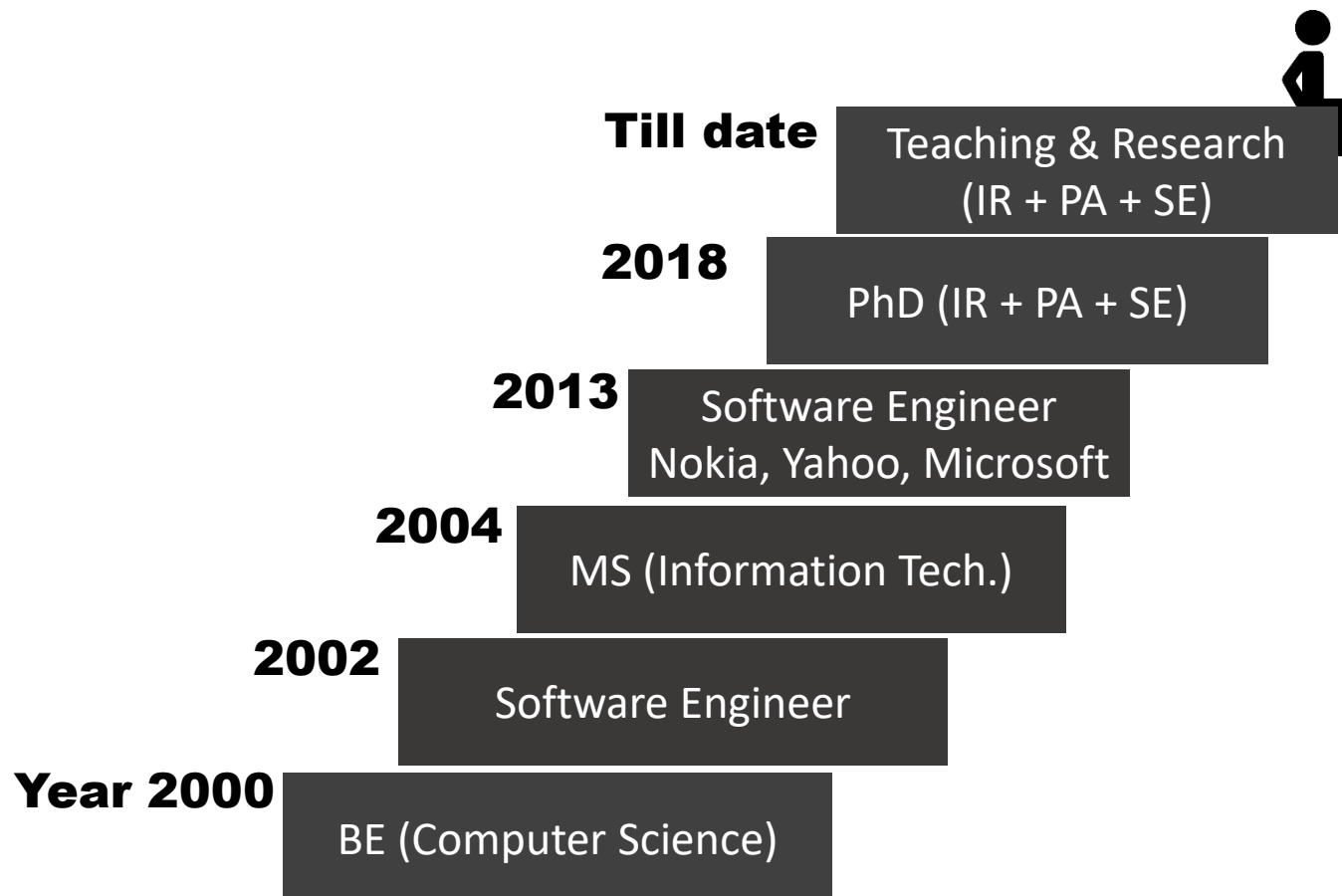
Chennai Mathematical Institute

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Mathematics, the science of structure, order, and relation that has evolved from elemental practices of counting, measuring, and describing the shapes of objects.

Britannica, <https://www.britannica.com/science/mathematics>.

# About Me



# Agenda

## Why should **Software Developers** care for **Mathematics**?

### Will Discuss

- ✓ Concepts
- ✓ Illustrations
- ✓ Intuitions
- ✓ Purpose
- ✓ Properties

### Will not Discuss

- ⊗ Details
- ⊗ Definitions
- ⊗ Formalism
- ⊗ Derivations
- ⊗ Proofs

### Three Stories

**Database, Search Engines, Text Processing**

# Story 1

Evolution of RDBMS and SQL



Interrelated “Data” as  
a Relation

## The Relational Model

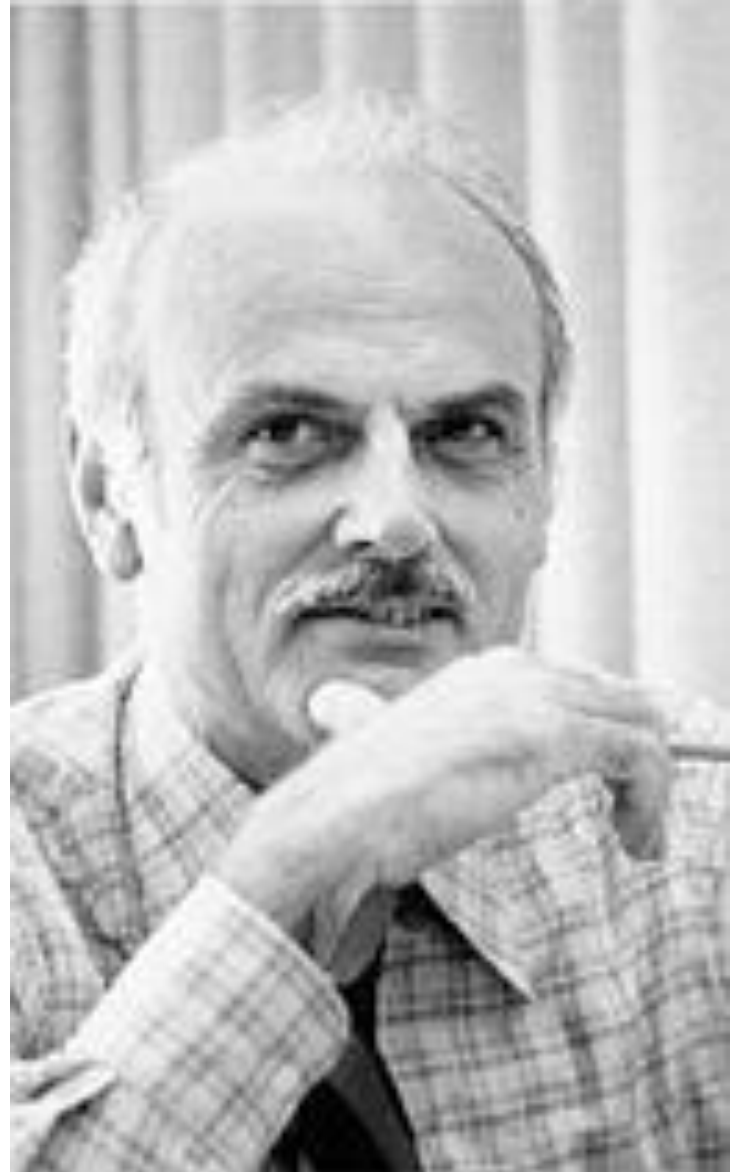
**Edgar F. Codd**

**PhD in Computer Science**

**Winner of the Turing Award**

*“He made other valuable contributions to computer science, but the relational model, a very influential general theory of data management, remains his most mentioned, analyzed and celebrated achievement.”*

— Wikipedia.



# The “Relation” from Math Textbook

- A **relation**  $R$  from a set  $A$  to set  $B$  is a subset of the cartesian product  $A \times B$ .

$$\begin{array}{c} \{\text{blue circle}, \text{black circle}, \text{red circle}\} \\ \text{set A} \end{array} \times \begin{array}{c} \{\text{blue triangle}, \text{red triangle}\} \\ \text{set B} \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \{ (\text{blue circle}, \text{red triangle}), (\text{blue circle}, \text{blue triangle}), \\ (\text{black circle}, \text{red triangle}), (\text{black circle}, \text{blue triangle}), \\ (\text{red circle}, \text{red triangle}), (\text{red circle}, \text{blue triangle}) \} \\ \text{set of all ordered pairs, } A \times B \\ A \times B = \{ (a, b) \mid a \in A \text{ and } b \in B \} \end{array}$$

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Let's say a relation exists between the reds

$$\text{Relation RedShapes} = \{ (\text{red circle}, \text{red triangle}) \}$$

# A Relation

- Let the set, **id** = {1,2,3}
- Let the set, **name** = {vv, sd}
- What is **id x name**? \_\_\_\_\_
- We have a **relation** if we assign a sequential id to each name.

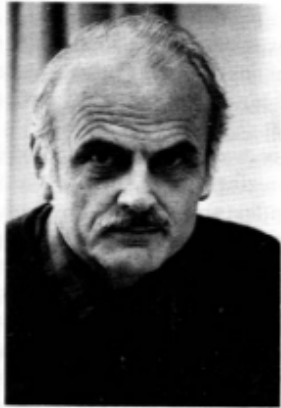


id	name
1	sd
1	vv
2	sd
2	vv
3	sd
3	vv

id	name
1	sd
2	vv

# The 1981 ACM Turing Award Lecture

Delivered at ACM '81, Los Angeles, California, November 9, 1981



The 1981 ACM Turing Award was presented to Edgar F. Codd, an IBM Fellow of the San Jose Research Laboratory, by President Peter Denning on November 9, 1981 at the ACM Annual Conference in Los Angeles, California. It is the Association's foremost award for technical contributions to the computing community.

Codd was selected by the ACM General Technical Achievement Award Committee for his "fundamental and continuing contributions to the theory and practice of database management systems." The originator of the relational model for databases, Codd has made further important contributions in the development of relational algebra, relational calculus, and normalization of relations.

Edgar F. Codd joined IBM in 1949 to prepare programs for the Selective Sequence Electronic Calculator. Since then, his work in computing has encompassed logical design of computers (IBM 701 and Stretch), managing a computer center in Canada, heading the development of one of the first operating systems with a general multiprogramming capability, contributing to the logic of self-reproducing automata, developing high level techniques for software specifica-

tion, creating and extending the relational approach to database management, and developing an English analyzing and synthesizing subsystem for casual users of relational databases. He is also the author of *Cellular Automata*, an early volume in the ACM Monograph Series.

Codd received his B.A. and M.A. in Mathematics from Oxford University in England, and his M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Computer and Communication Sciences from the University of Michigan. He is a Member of the National Academy of Engineering (USA) and a Fellow of the British Computer Society.

The ACM Turing Award is presented each year in commemoration of A. M. Turing, the English mathematician who made major contributions to the computing sciences.

<https://dl.acm.org/doi/pdf/10.1145/1283920.1283937?download=true>

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## Relational Database: A Practical Foundation for Productivity

E. F. Codd  
IBM San Jose Research Laboratory



# Story So Far...

## What is a Relation?

$$\begin{array}{c} \{\text{blue circle}, \text{black circle}, \text{red circle}\} \\ \text{set A} \end{array} \times \begin{array}{c} \{\text{blue triangle}, \text{red triangle}\} \\ \text{set B} \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \{(\text{blue circle}, \text{red triangle}), (\text{blue circle}, \text{blue triangle}), \\ (\text{black circle}, \text{red triangle}), (\text{black circle}, \text{blue triangle}), \\ (\text{red circle}, \text{red triangle}), (\text{red circle}, \text{blue triangle})\} \\ \text{set of all ordered pairs, } A \times B \\ A \times B = \{(a, b) \mid a \in A \text{ and } b \in B\} \end{array}$$

Let's say a relation exists between the reds:

**Relation R =  $\{(\text{red circle}, \text{red triangle})\}$**

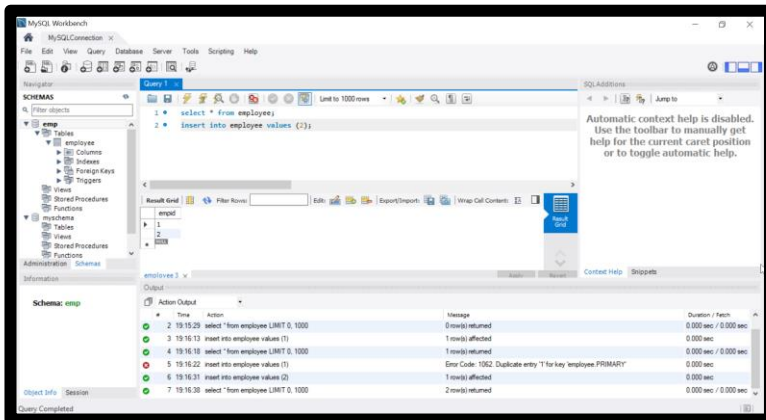
## Relational Data Model

id	name
1	sd
1	vv
2	sd
2	vv
3	sd
3	vv

Vs

id	name
1	sd
2	vv

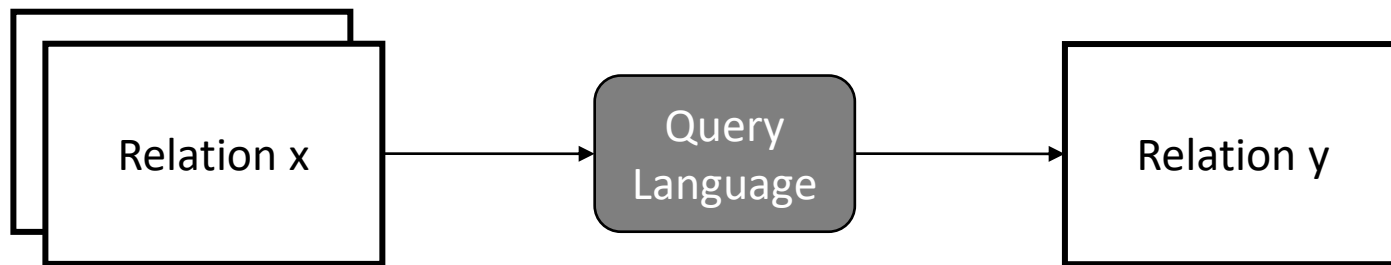
## MySQL – An RDBMS



**Attendance relation**  
 $\{(1,1), (2,1)\}$   
is same as the table

	studentid	sessionid
▶	1	1
	2	1

# Query Languages



**Procedural Language**

Relational Algebra

**Popular Language**

SQL

# Select Operation

<i>ID</i>	<i>name</i>	<i>dept_name</i>	<i>salary</i>
22222	Einstein	Physics	95000
12121	Wu	Finance	90000
32343	El Said	History	60000
45565	Katz	Comp. Sci.	75000
98345	Kim	Elec. Eng.	80000
76766	Crick	Biology	72000
10101	Srinivasan	Comp. Sci.	65000
58583	Califieri	History	62000
83821	Brandt	Comp. Sci.	92000
15151	Mozart	Music	40000
33456	Gold	Physics	87000
76543	Singh	Finance	80000

(a) The *instructor* table

- Relational Algebra

$\sigma_{\text{dept\_name}=\text{"Physics"}}(\text{instructor})$

<i>ID</i>	<i>name</i>	<i>dept_name</i>	<i>salary</i>
22222	Einstein	Physics	95000
33456	Gold	Physics	87000

# Project Operation

- Notation:  $\Pi_{A_1, A_2, \dots, A_k}(r)$  where  $A_i$  are attribute names

<i>ID</i>	<i>name</i>	<i>dept_name</i>	<i>salary</i>
22222	Einstein	Physics	95000
12121	Wu	Finance	90000
32343	El Said	History	60000
45565	Katz	Comp. Sci.	75000
98345	Kim	Elec. Eng.	80000
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83821	Brandt	Comp. Sci.	92000
15151	Mozart	Music	40000
33456	Gold	Physics	87000
76543	Singh	Finance	80000

(a) The *instructor* table

- Example of projection:

$\Pi_{ID, name, salary}(instructor)$

# Projection

$\Pi_{ID, name, salary}(instructor)$

<i>ID</i>	<i>name</i>	<i>dept_name</i>	<i>salary</i>
22222	Einstein	Physics	95000
12121	Wu	Finance	90000
32343	El Said	History	60000
45565	Katz	Comp. Sci.	75000
98345	Kim	Elec. Eng.	80000
76766	Crick	Biology	72000
10101	Srinivasan	Comp. Sci.	65000
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(a) The *instructor* table



<i>ID</i>	<i>name</i>	<i>salary</i>
10101	Srinivasan	65000
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33456	Gold	87000
45565	Katz	75000
58583	Califieri	62000
76543	Singh	80000
76766	Crick	72000
83821	Brandt	92000
98345	Kim	80000

# Union, Selection and Projection

- $\Pi_{course\_id} (\sigma_{semester="Fall" \wedge year=2009} (section)) \cup$   
 $\Pi_{course\_id} (\sigma_{semester="Spring" \wedge year=2010} (section))$

course_id	sec_id	semester	year	building	room_number	time_slot_id
BIO-101	1	Summer	2009	Painter	514	B
BIO-301	1	Summer	2010	Painter	514	A
CS-101	1	Fall	2009	Packard	101	H
CS-101	1	Spring	2010	Packard	101	F
CS-190	1	Spring	2009	Taylor	3128	E
CS-190	2	Spring	2009	Taylor	3128	A
CS-315	1	Spring	2010	Watson	120	D
CS-319	1	Spring	2010	Watson	100	B
CS-319	2	Spring	2010	Taylor	3128	C
CS-347	1	Fall	2009	Taylor	3128	A
EE-181	1	Spring	2009	Taylor	3128	C
FIN-201	1	Spring	2010	Packard	101	B
HIS-351	1	Spring	2010	Painter	514	C
MU-199	1	Spring	2010	Packard	101	D
PHY-101	1	Fall	2009	Watson	100	A



course_id
CS-101
CS-315
CS-319
CS-347
FIN-201
HIS-351
MU-199
PHY-101

Modern day SQL

select ... from ... where ...

Union

select ... from ... where ...

# Story 2

Let us build a search engine!



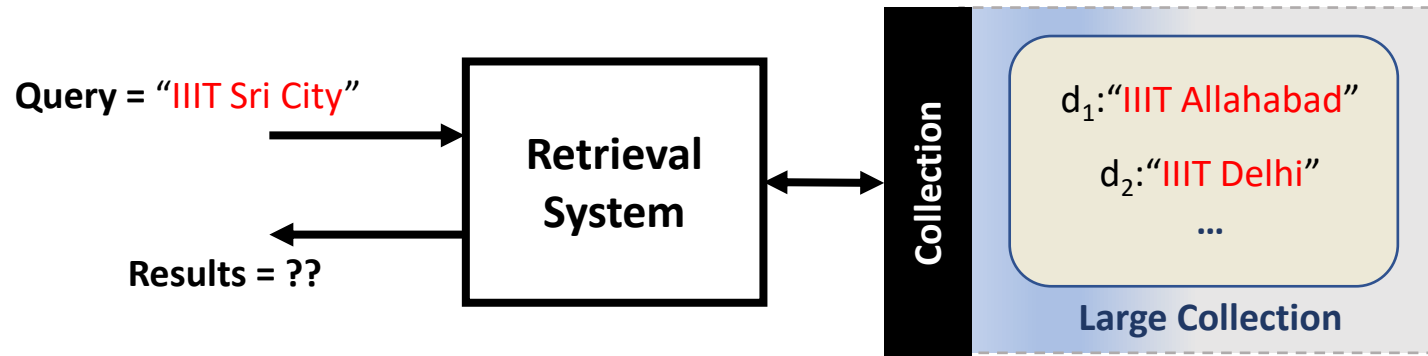
Image Source  
[https://philbradley.typepad.com/phil\\_bradleys\\_weblog/2016/07/100-search-engines-logos-image-for-you-to-use.html](https://philbradley.typepad.com/phil_bradleys_weblog/2016/07/100-search-engines-logos-image-for-you-to-use.html)

# Simple Retrieval Problem

- Say, we have a **collection** with 5 **documents**, each having the following contents
  - d1: IIIT ALLAHABAD
  - d2: IIIT DELHI
  - d3: IIIT GUWAHATI
  - d4: IIIT KANCHIPURAM
  - d5: IIIT SRI CITY
- Assume, the **Query** is
  - IIIT SRI CITY
- Which **document** will you match and why?



# The Problem: How to Build a Retrieval System?



# One (bad) Approach

- First match the **term** IIIT.
  - Filter out documents that contain this term.
- Next match the **term** Sri.
  - Filter out documents that contain this term.
- Next match the **term** City.
  - Filter out documents that contain this term.

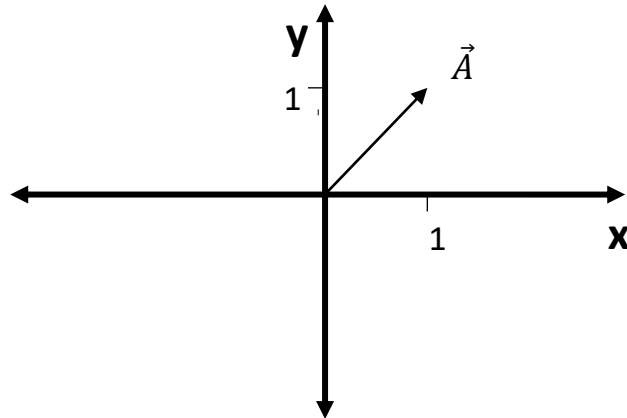
**Three iterations!**  
**Quiz: Can we do better?**

# A Better Approach

**Revisiting  
Linear Algebra**

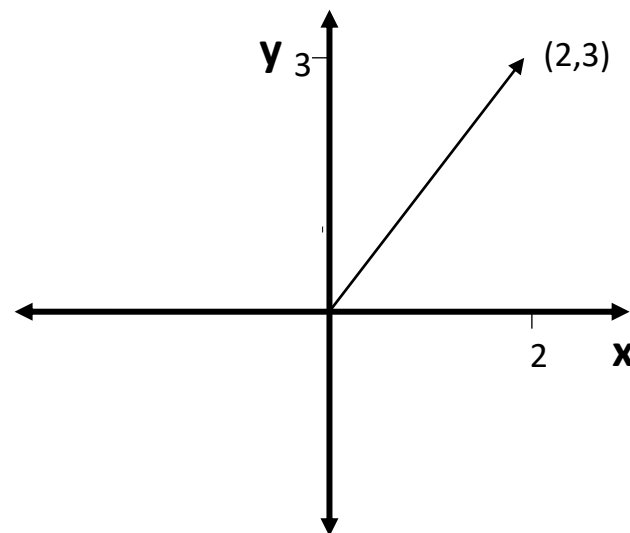
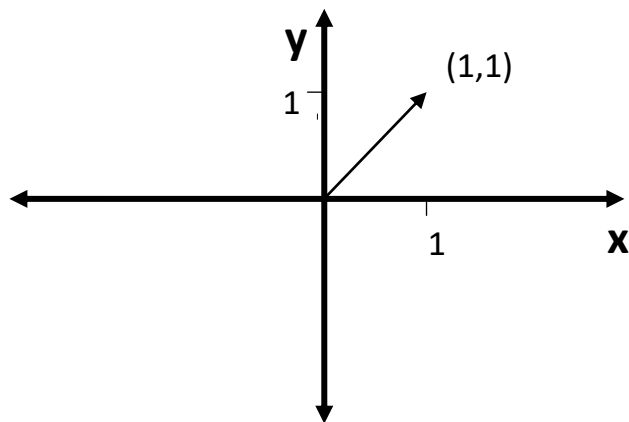
# Vector

- Geometric entity which has magnitude and direction

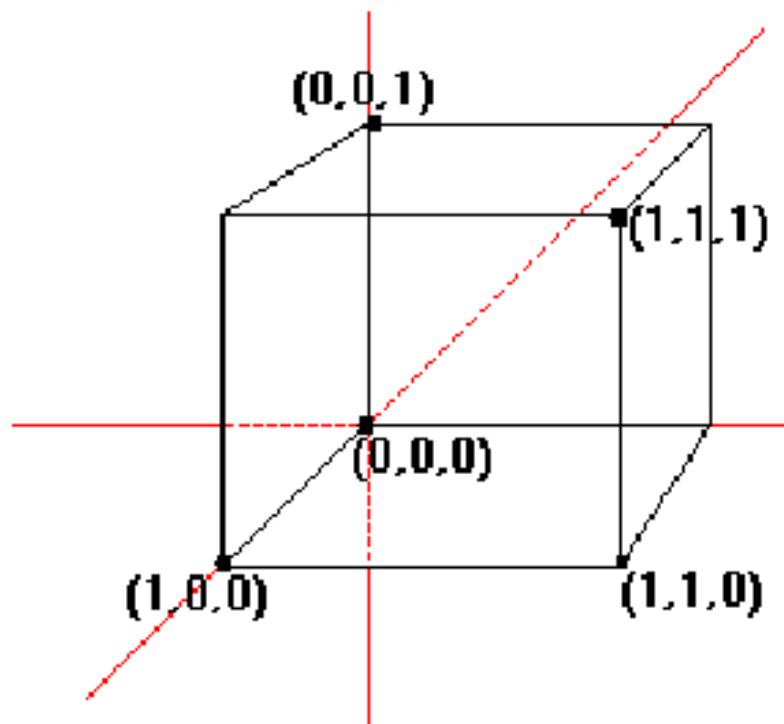


$\vec{A}$  is fixed at (0,0)

# How is $(2,3)$ Different?



What is  $(1,1,1)$  ?

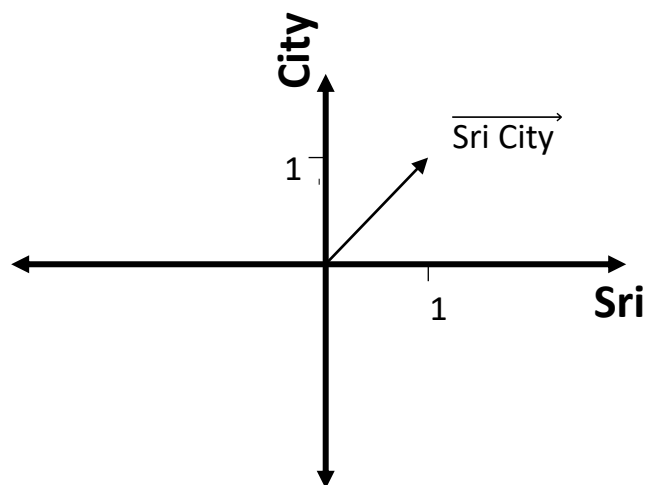


# Remember!

**A number is just a mathematical object. We  
give meaning to it!**

# Sentences are Vectors

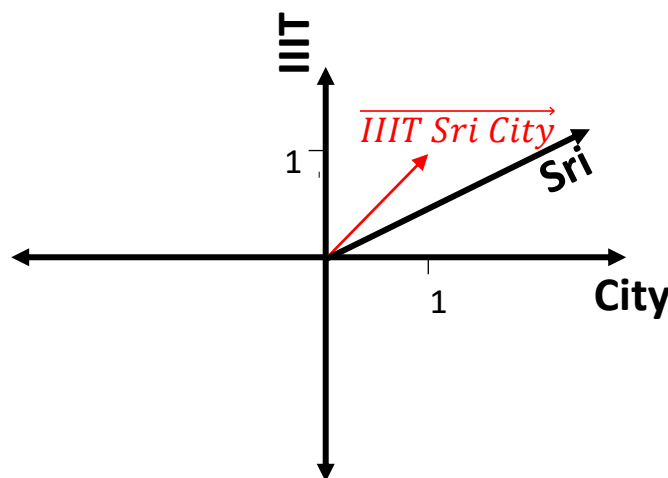
- “Sri City” as a vector





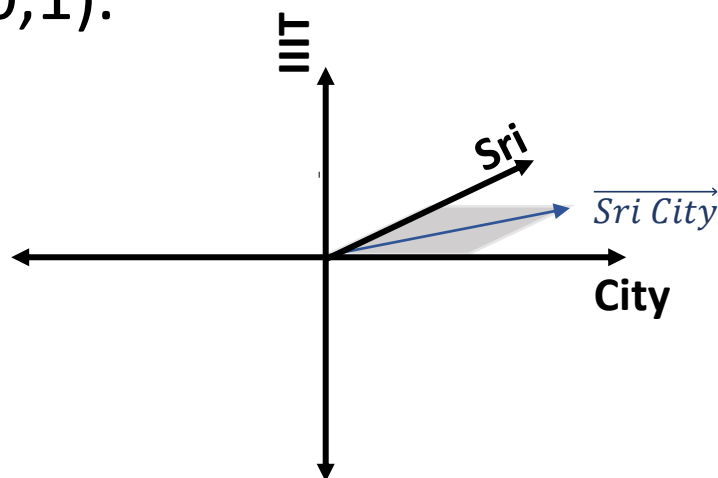
# Sentences are Vectors

- “IIT Sri City” is a 3-dimensional vector



# Sentences are Vectors

- On this 3D space, “Sri City” vector will lie on the x (City) and z (Sri) plane. If  $(x,y,z)$  denotes the vector, “Sri City” is  $(1,0,1)$ .



# Natural Language Phrases as Vectors

Let query  $q = \text{"IIIT Sri City"}$ .

Let document,  $d_1 = \text{"IIIT Sri City"}$  and  $d_2 = \text{"IIIT Delhi"}$ .

	IIIT	Sri	City	Delhi
$q$	1	1	1	0
$d_1$	1	1	1	0
$d_2$	1	0	0	1

$q = (1,1,1,0)$ ,  $d_1 = (1,1,1,0)$  and  $d_2 = (1,0,0,1)$

# Quiz

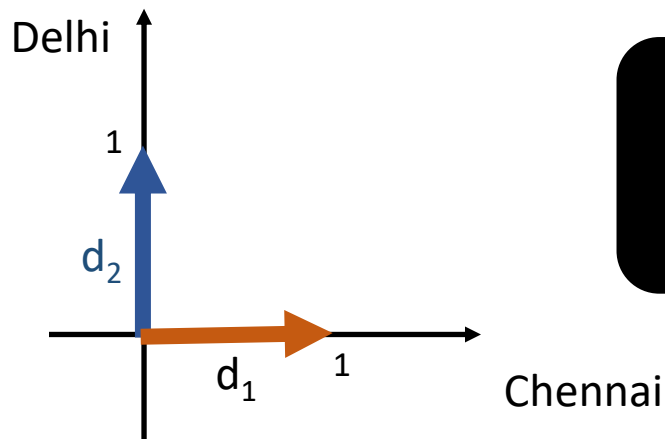
- Considering the following vectors:

	IIIT	Sri	City	Delhi
q	1	1	1	0
d <sub>1</sub>	1	1	1	0
d <sub>2</sub>	1	0	0	1

- What is the Natural Language (NL) equivalent of (0,1,1,0) ?
- What is the vector for Delhi?

# Similarity Score

- Assume, we have the following two documents:
  - $d_1$  = “Chennai”
  - $d_2$  = “Delhi”
- On a scale of 0 – 1, how similar are  $d_1$  and  $d_2$ ?
- What is the angle between  $d_1$  and  $d_2$  vectors?



**Can we express  
similarity as a function  
of the angles?**

0 – 90 to 1 – 0: How?

	0°	30°	45°	60°	90°
sin	0	1/2	1/√2	√3/2	1
cos	1	√3/2	1/√2	1/2	0
tan	0	1/√3	1	√3	Not defined

# Back to Trigonometry: Dot Product

- If  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\mathbf{b}$  are non-unit vectors, what is the cosine of angle between them ( $\cos \theta$ )?

$$\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} = \|\mathbf{a}\| \|\mathbf{b}\| \cos(\theta)$$

(or)

$$\cos(\theta) = \frac{\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b}}{\|\mathbf{a}\| \|\mathbf{b}\|}$$

# Example

Let query  $q$  = “BITS Pilani”.

Let document,  $d_1$  = “BITS Pilani Goa Campus” and  $d_2$  = “IIT Delhi”.

	BITS	Pilani	Goa	Campus	IIT	Delhi
$q$	1	1	0	0	0	0
$d_1$	1	1	1	1	0	0
$d_2$	0	0	0	0	1	1

In our VSM,  $q = (1,1,0,0,0,0)$ ,  $d_1 = (1,1,1,1,0,0)$  and  $d_2 = (0,0,0,0,1,1)$

$$\text{similarity}(d_1, q) = \frac{d_1 \cdot q}{||d_1|| ||q||} = \frac{1.1 + 1.1}{\sqrt{1^2+1^2+1^2+1^2} \sqrt{1^2+1^2}} = 0.71.$$

$$\text{similarity}(d_2, q) = \frac{d_2 \cdot q}{||d_2|| ||q||} = 0.$$



# An Assumption

**More frequent appearance of a query term  
implies higher document relevance.**

# Which of the Following are Sets?

- {1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13}
- {A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, I, J, K, L, M, N, O}
- {apple, banana, orange, apple, banana, orange}



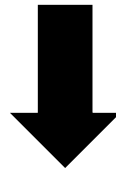
Vadivelu, a popular  
tamil actor

# Bag

- {1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13}
- {A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, I, J, K, L, M, N, O}
- {apple, banana, orange, apple, banana, orange}

# Set of Words Representation

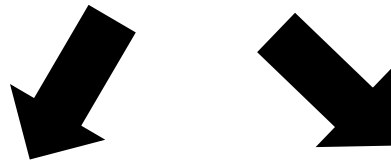
- “IIIT Sri City”  $\rightarrow \{\text{IIIT}, \text{Sri}, \text{City}\}$
- “IIIT Sri City, Sri City”  $\rightarrow \{\text{IIIT}, \text{Sri}, \text{City}\}$   
(Assuming, we ignore the punctuations)



	IIIT	Sri	City
q	1	1	1

# Bag of Words Representation

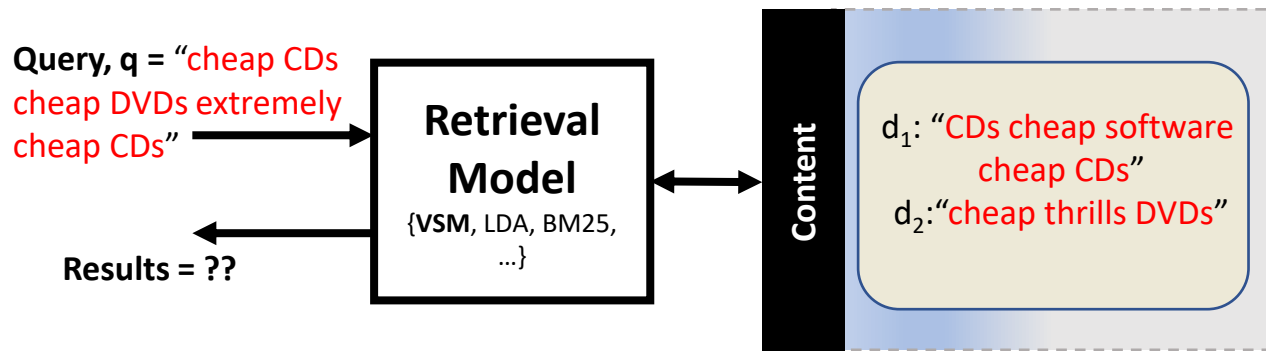
- “IIIT Sri City”  $\rightarrow \{\text{IIIT}, \text{Sri}, \text{City}\}$
- “IIIT Sri City, Sri City”  $\rightarrow [\text{IIIT}, \text{Sri}, \text{Sri}, \text{City}, \text{City}]$



IIIT Sri City				IIIT Sri City, Sri City			
	IIIT	Sri	City		IIIT	Sri	City
q	1	1	1	q	1	2	2

Leads to different vectors

# Which Document to Retrieve?



	cheap	CDs	DVDs	extremely	software	thrills
$q$	3	2	1	1	0	0
$d_1$	2	2	0	0	1	0
$d_2$	1	0	1	0	0	1

$\text{sim}(q, d_1) = 0.86$

$\text{sim}(q, d_2) = 0.59$



# Story 3

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We know a lot about Trees!

# Popular Interview Questions

How can you find if a given string  $S$  is a substring of another string  $T$ ?

How can you find the number of times  $S$  occurs in  $T$ ?

Is  $S$  a suffix of  $T$ ?

Find the longest repeating substring of  $T$ .

Given two strings  $X$  and  $Y$ , find the longest common substring of  $X$  and  $Y$ .



# Processing Strings with Suffix Trees

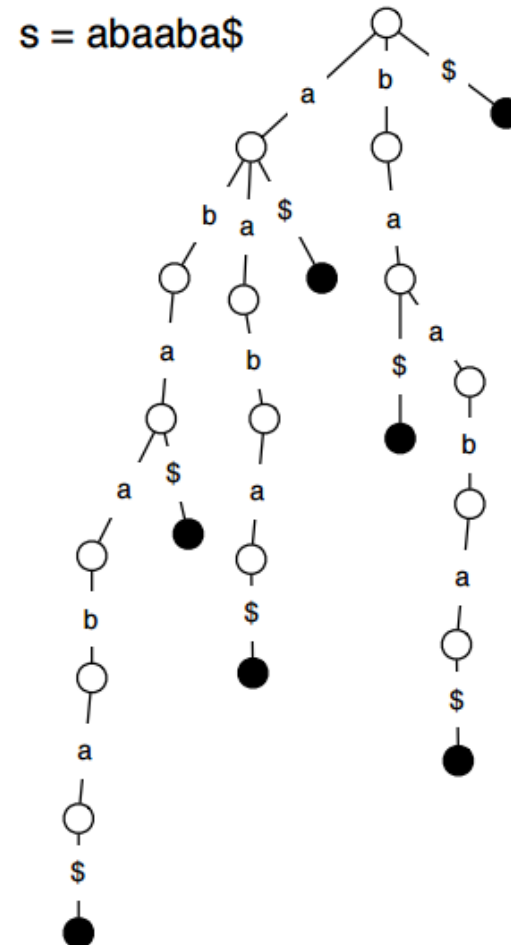
## How can you find if a given string S is a substring of another string T?

## How can you find the number of times S occurs in T?

## Is S a suffix of T?

Find the longest repeating substring of T.

Given two strings X and Y, find the longest common substring of X and Y.



# Summary: Relational Model

## What is a Relation?

$$\{\text{blue circle, black circle, red circle}\} \times \{\text{blue triangle, red triangle}\} = \begin{matrix} (\text{blue circle}, \text{blue triangle}), \\ (\text{blue circle}, \text{red triangle}), \\ (\text{black circle}, \text{blue triangle}), \\ (\text{black circle}, \text{red triangle}), \\ (\text{red circle}, \text{blue triangle}), \\ (\text{red circle}, \text{red triangle}) \end{matrix}$$

set of all ordered pairs,  $A \times B$   
 $A \times B = \{(a, b) \mid a \in A \text{ and } b \in B\}$

Let's say a relation exists between the reds:

**Relation R =  $\{(\text{red circle}, \text{red triangle})\}$**

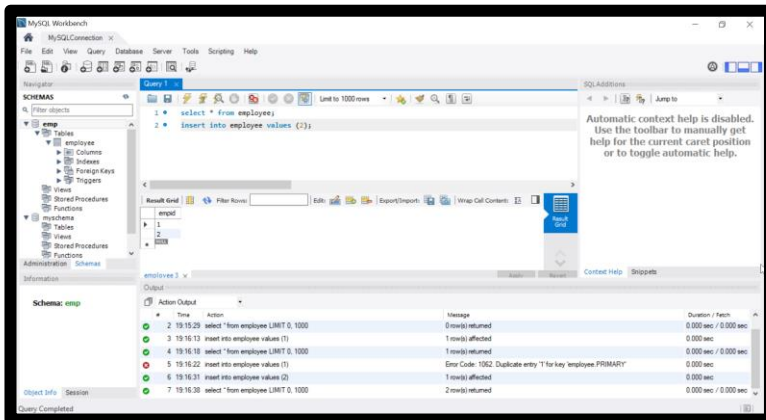
## Relational Data Model

id	name
1	sd
1	vv
2	sd
2	vv
3	sd
3	vv

Vs

id	name
1	sd
2	vv

## MySQL – An RDBMS

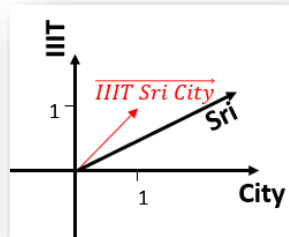


**Attendance relation**  
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is same as the table

	studentid	sessionid
▶	1	1
	2	1

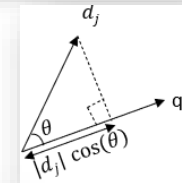
# Summary: Vector Space Model

## Model Documents as Vectors

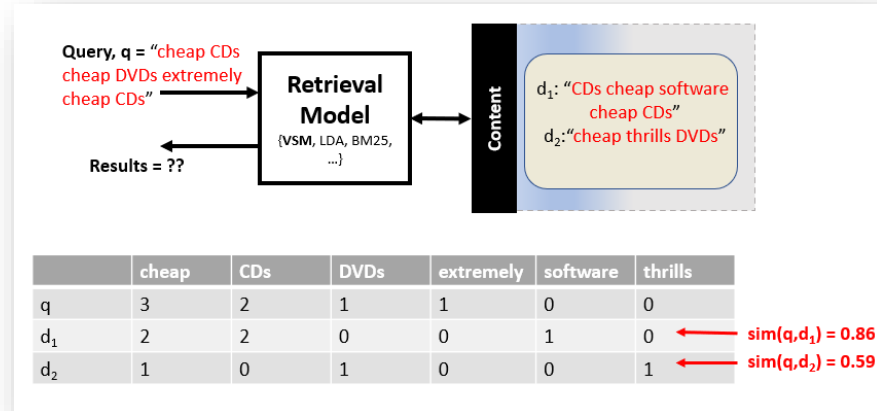


## Compute Similarity

$$\cos(\theta) = \frac{d_j \cdot q}{||d_j|| ||q||}$$



## A Worked-Out Example



# Summary: Suffix Trees

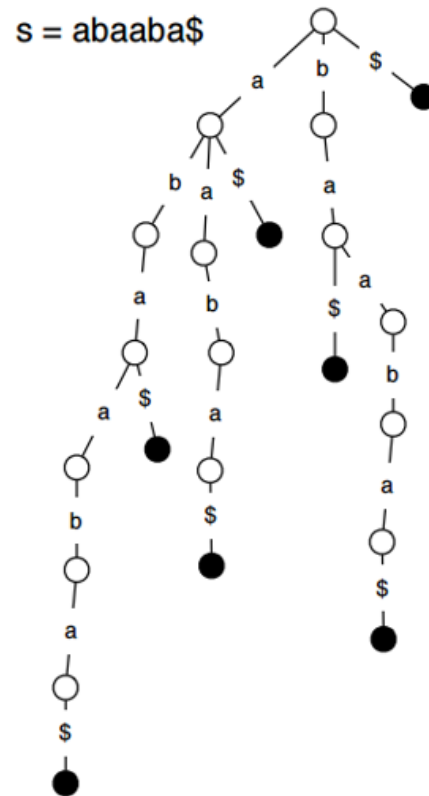
How can you find if a given string S is a substring of another string T?

How can you find the number of times S occurs in T?

Is S a suffix of T?

Find the longest repeating substring of T.

Given two strings X and Y, find the longest common substring of X and Y.



## VENKATESH VINAYAKARAO

Lecturer  
Chennai Mathematical Institute  
venkateshv@cmi.ac.in  
[CV](#)

### Research



My research interest is in building **Search Engines**. How does Google work? How to search trillions of documents within microseconds? How to evaluate if Google is better or Bing? Broadly, **Information Retrieval** is the field of study that investigates these questions. My current focus is on investigating the techniques to search for source code. You will see me discussing Programming Languages, Program Analysis and Software Engineering. More about my research is [here](#).

If you are looking for an answer to an even more fundamental and important question: Why to study information retrieval?, enjoy the [video](#) from my students of the 2018 IR offering at IIITS - Mounika, Parkhi and Pragna.

**Publications:** [DBLP](#) [Google Scholar](#)

### Teaching

Term@CMI: Feb - Mar 2021: [RDBMS, SQL and Visualization](#)  
Term@CMI: Dec - Jan 2020: Advanced Information Retrieval  
Term@CMI: Aug - Nov 2020: [Information Retrieval](#)  
Term@CMI: Jan - Apr 2020: Big Data and Hadoop  
Term@CMI: Jan - Apr 2020: Applied Program Analysis  
Term@CMI: Oct - Nov 2019: RDBMS, SQL and Visualization  
Term@CMI: Aug - Sep 2019: Information Retrieval  
Term@CMI: Mar - Apr 2019: Program Analysis  
Term@IIITS: Aug - Dec 2018: Information Retrieval  
Term@IIITS: Aug - Dec 2018: Computer Programming

### Talks

**Why should software developers care for mathematics?** Software products have grown in scale and complexity. We have built amazing software products such as operating systems and search engines that are not only large, but also fast. Mere knowledge of programming languages has become insufficient for effective software development. The logical thinking ability, data structures and algorithmic skills are essential, but they leave a gap for mathematical models to fill. Have you ever wondered how the massive search engines that index trillions of documents are able to respond within sub-seconds? In this talk, we discuss the fundamental question, "Why should software developers care for mathematics?". We will take relational databases and search engines as examples to discuss the role of mathematical models in building large scale complex software systems. *Tech Talk (delivered live online) for Qualcomm, 18th Feb, 2021. [Slides](#)*

### Tweets by @venkvnr



Venkatesh Vinayakarao  
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"our cloud database business growing in triple-digits" - Larry Ellison on Oracle's Autonomous Database, March 2020.

# Thank You

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This slide deck is available at <http://vvtesh.co.in/>.