



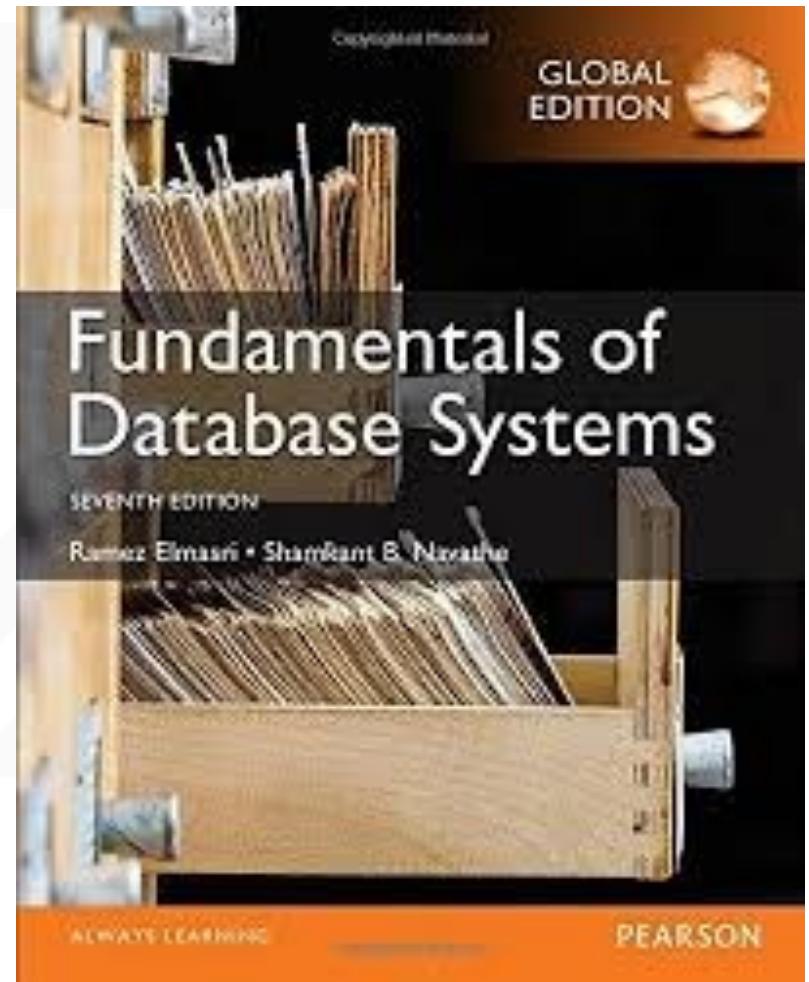
# Database Systems

Program in Computer Engineering  
Faculty of Engineering

King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang

# Text

- Ramez Elmasri and Shamkant B. Navathe.  
“Fundamentals of Database Systems”  
7<sup>th</sup> Edition., Pearson, 2017



# Allan Turing

A. M. Turing (1950) Computing Machinery and Intelligence. *Mind* 49: 433–460.

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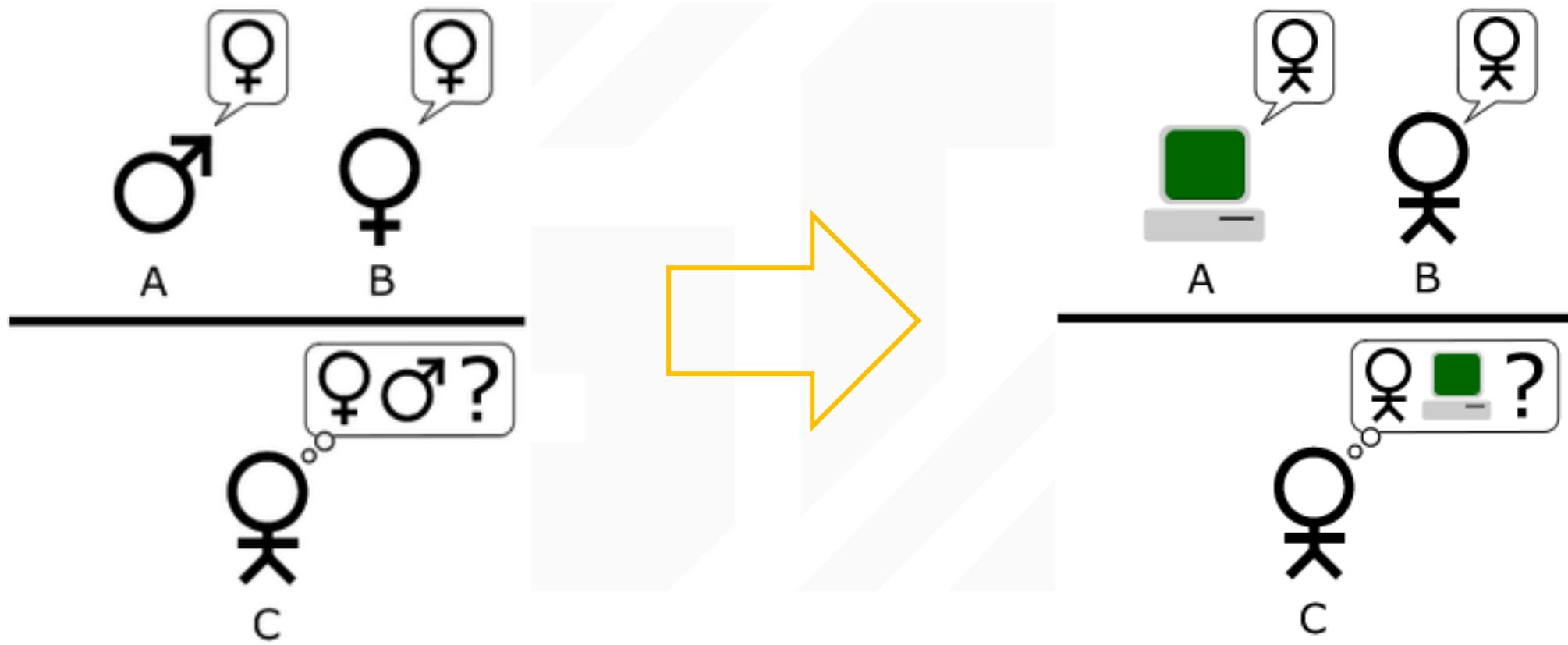
## COMPUTING MACHINERY AND INTELLIGENCE

By A. M. Turing

### 1. The Imitation Game

- Can machine think?
  - What is a “machine”?
  - What is “think”?

A.M. Turing (1950) Computing Machinery and Intelligence. *Mind* 49: 433 - 460



# Common ground of how people communicate

- ???



# Common ground of how people communicate

- Mutual knowledge
- Mutual beliefs
- Mutual assumptions



Clark, Herbert H.; Brennan, Susan E. (1991), Resnick, L. B.; Levine, J. M. (eds.), *Perspectives on socially shared cognition*, American Psychological Association, [ISBN 1-55798-376-3](#)

# Databases and Database Users

# Types of Databases and Database Applications

- Traditional Applications:
  - Numeric and Textual Databases
- More Recent Applications:
  - Multimedia Databases
  - Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
  - Biological and Genome Databases
  - Data Warehouses
  - Mobile databases
  - Real-time and Active Databases

# Recent Developments (1)

- Social Networks started capturing a lot of information about people and about communications among people-posts, tweets, photos, videos in systems such as:
  - Facebook
  - Twitter
  - Linked-In
- All of the above constitutes data
- Search Engines- Google, Bing, Yahoo : collect their own repository of web pages for searching purposes

# Recent Developments (2)

- New Technologies are emerging from the so-called **non-database software vendors** to manage vast amounts of data generated on the web:
- Big Data storage systems involving large clusters of distributed computers
- NOSQL (**Not Only SQL**) systems
- A large amount of data now resides on the “**cloud**” which means it is in huge data centers using thousands of machines.

# What are data?

เกี่ยวข้อง สอน การประมวลผล รายละเอียด มีอยู่  
 สัญลักษณ์ คน ไว้ สัตว์ เอกสาร หรือ  
 เหตุการณ์ ที่ถูก มีความสำคัญ รวมรวม คือ **หรือ**  
 และ ขึ้น จริง รวมรวม คือ **หรือ**  
 ข้อเท็จจริง ผู้ เป็นตัว เป็นหลัก ค้นหา  
 ไป อนุมาน ได มีความหมาย  
 ซึ่ง ยัง ตัวอักษร เป็นเรื่อง สามารถ  
 อาจ เฉพาะตัว เสียง ว่า **๔** จะเป็น รูป ได **๕** ตัวเลข  
 เป็น ต้อง ไม่มี ค่าวา อายุ **๖** ความเป็นจริง อาจจะ<sup>๗</sup>  
 บันทึก ภาพ นะ **๗** บุคคล สนใจ ของ **๘** สิ่ง  
 เรื่องราว ปริมาณ วัด ด้าน กระบวนการ  
 เกี่ยวกับ จาก ชื่อ ข่าวสาร เป็นได ถือ เลข **๙** ต่างๆ  
 กราฟ กับ ต่อเนื่อง ทั้ง ใน เก็บ เช่น  
 การ สิ่งของ ที่เกิด **๑๐** ใน การแปลความหมาย  
 เรา เนื้อหา การแปลความหมาย  
 เหมาะสม ใช้ การสื่อสาร **๑๑** ข้อมูล

# What is a database?

ທີ່ອຸປະນາມມີຫຼັງນຳໄດ້ນິ້ນິ້ນຸ້ວ

ດົກລະທະບາດຕະກິເກັບຈົດຈັດ

ຫຼື ທີ່ອຸປະນາມ ເດືອກກັນ  
 ທະເບີນ ຈັດເຮີຍ  
 ຕາມ ແລ້ວ ດ້ວຍກັນ ນັກສຶກຂາ ໃນ  
 ຕ່າງໆ ແລ້ວ ດ້ວຍກັນ ເປັນ ເພື່ອໃຫ້  
 ທີ່ເກີນ ແກ້ໄຂ **ກລຸ່ມ ສ້າງ** **ຮວບຮາມ**  
 ແພິມຂໍ້ມູນ ຈະ ປະເທດ ກັນ ເປັນດ້ວຍ ແປລ  
 ມ່ວຍ ອຍ່າງຄຸກດ້ວຍ ຮາຍຊ່ອ ມີ ທະຍາຍ ເກີນຂໍ້ມູນ  
 ການ ທີ່ ວ່າ **ໄວ້ຂໍ້ມູນ** ເປົ້າ ເປົ້າ ເປົ້າ ເປົ້າ  
 ນັກຄັນ ທີ່ ວ່າ **ໄວ້ຂໍ້ມູນ** ເປົ້າ ເປົ້າ ເປົ້າ  
 ເຂົ້າ ເກີນ ບັນທຶກ ການ ສຸມດູ ທີ່ຮ່ວມ ນໍາໄປໃຫ້ ຜົ່າ ດ້ວຍ  
 ວັດຖຸປະສົງສົງ ແລ້ວ ສົມພັນດັບ ດ້ວຍ ດ້ວຍ ມູນ ຜູ້ໃຫ້  
 ນໍາມາ ຂໍ້ **memory** ສິ່ງ ໃຫ້ ເຂົ້າ ເຂົ້າ ເຂົ້າ ເຂົ້າ  
 Database ຊຶ່ງກັນແລະກັນ ໂດຍເຫັນ  
 ຄືວ່າ ໄດ້ ຄວາມສົມພັນຮ່ວມ ທີ່ ທັ້ນມາດ  
 ຖານຂໍ້ມູນ ເພື່ອ ຕ້ອງການ **ຂອງ**  
 ໂກຣສັ່ພທ໌

# What is a database system?

เข้าด้วยกัน<sup>เข้าด้วยกัน</sup>  
แบบ สัมพันธ์กัน<sup>แบบ สัมพันธ์กัน</sup>  
แฟ้มข้อมูล<sup>แฟ้มข้อมูล</sup>  
**เกี่ยวข้อง** จัดการ ใน รวม<sup>เกี่ยวข้อง จัดการ ใน รวม</sup>  
คือ ผู้ใช้ เก็บข้อมูล<sup>คือ ผู้ใช้ เก็บข้อมูล</sup>  
อย่างมีระบบ เปิด ชั้น ชั้ดเจน กลุ่ม<sup>อย่างมีระบบ เปิด ชั้น ชั้ดเจน กลุ่ม</sup>  
ต่างๆ ใช้งาน Database การทำงาน ชื่ง System<sup>ต่างๆ ใช้งาน Database การทำงาน ชื่ง System</sup>  
ใช้ จัดหมวดหมู่ เป็นระบบ<sup>ใช้ จัดหมวดหมู่ เป็นระบบ</sup>  
การนำ หลาย<sup>การนำ หลาย</sup> เป็น<sup>เป็น</sup>  
ดูแลรักษา ให้ ต่าง<sup>ดูแลรักษา ให้ ต่าง</sup> ของ ที่<sup>ของ ที่</sup> บันทึก<sup>บันทึก</sup> หรือ<sup>หรือ</sup> มา<sup>มา</sup>  
ไว้ ได้ ต่าง<sup>ไว้ ได้ ต่าง</sup> ที่<sup>ที่</sup> จะ<sup>จะ</sup> เก็บ หลาย<sup>หลาย</sup> ข้อมูล<sup>ข้อมูล</sup>  
สามารถ ที่รวม<sup>สามารถ ที่รวม</sup> กลยุทธ์<sup>กลยุทธ์</sup> ความเกี่ยวข้องกัน<sup>ความเกี่ยวข้องกัน</sup> ความสัมพันธ์<sup>ความสัมพันธ์</sup>  
เชื่อมต่อ แห่ง อาร์ เข้า<sup>เชื่อมต่อ แห่ง อาร์ เข้า</sup> ป้องกัน<sup>ป้องกัน</sup> รวมกัน รวม<sup>รวม</sup> มี<sup>มี</sup> แฟ้ม<sup>แฟ้ม</sup>  
กัน<sup>กัน</sup> และ<sup>และ</sup> อย่างมีประสิทธิภาพ<sup>อย่างมีประสิทธิภาพ</sup>  
ระหว่าง<sup>ระหว่าง</sup> ด้วยกัน<sup>ด้วยกัน</sup> การ<sup>การ</sup>  
อย่าง<sup>อย่าง</sup> จัดเรียง<sup>จัดเรียง</sup> ด้วยกัน<sup>ด้วยกัน</sup> ประกอบด้วย<sup>ประกอบด้วย</sup>  
ระบบ<sup>ระบบ</sup> เปิดโอกาส<sup>เปิดโอกาส</sup> เหล่านี้<sup>เหล่านี้</sup>  
ฐานข้อมูล<sup>ฐานข้อมูล</sup> อย่างเป็นระบบ<sup>อย่างเป็นระบบ</sup>  
**ระบบ**

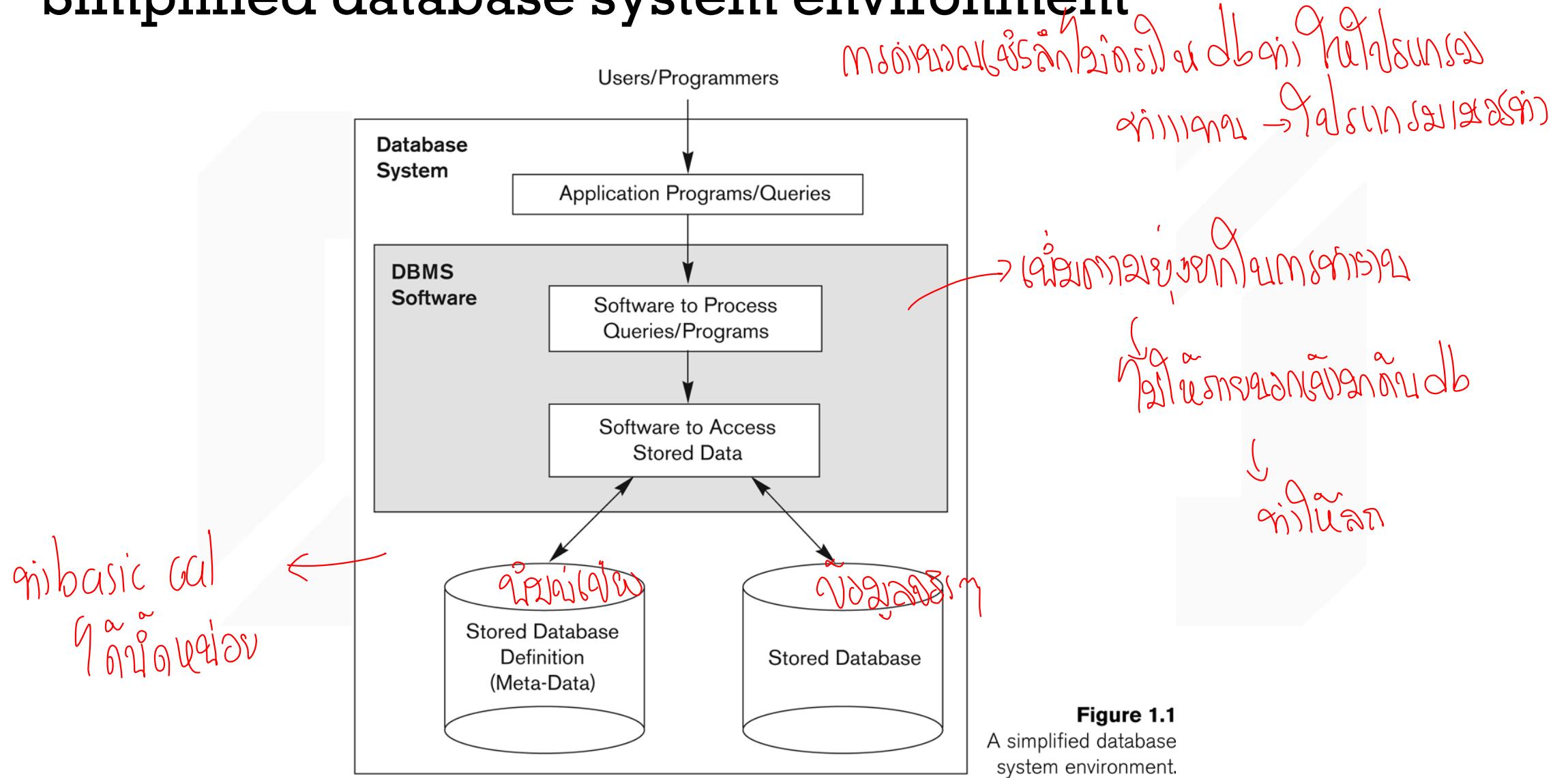
กรับรับรับรับ

ที่มีการนำทางมาสู่การทำธุรกรรม

# Basic Definitions

- **Data:**
  - Known facts that can be recorded and have an implicit meaning.
- **Database:**
  - A collection of related data.
- **Mini-world:**
  - Some part of the real world about which data is stored in a database. For example, student grades and transcripts at a university.
- **Database Management System (DBMS):** *→ ຄ່ານັດງານ ຍິນິດອຸປະກອດ ຂອງ ຢົກເວລີນ ດາວໂຫຼວງ*
  - A software package/ system to facilitate the creation and maintenance of a computerized database.
- **Database System:**
  - The DBMS software together with the data itself. Sometimes, the applications are also included.

# Simplified database system environment



# Typical DBMS Functionality

→ កម្មការណ៍

→ ស្នើសុំ → ឱ្យរាយ → file → ឲ្យនិងកែវិនិត្យ

- **Define** a particular database in terms of its data types, structures, and constraints  
→ គែលការណ៍ជាអាជីវកម្ម
- **Construct** or load the initial database contents on a secondary storage medium
- **Manipulating** the database: → ការកែសារ  
  - **Retrieval**: Querying, generating reports → ទិន្នន័យ
  - **Modification**: Insertions, deletions and updates to its content → ផ្តល់ពាណិជ្ជកម្ម
  - **Accessing** the database through Web applications → (ទូរទឹក)
- **Processing** and **Sharing** by a set of concurrent users and application programs – yet, keeping all data valid and consistent

ការកែសារប្រចាំខែខែឆ្នាំ → ទាញរូប, ពិនិត្យ, កែតែ

# Application Activities Against a Database

- ① • Applications interact with a database by generating
- Queries: that access different parts of data and formulate the result of a request
  - Transactions: that may read some data and “update” certain values  
*(↓ ទម្រង់ផ្តល់ការ) ឬ រៀបចំថ្មីនៅក្នុង ឬ រៀបចំថ្មីនៅក្នុង* generate new data and store that in the database
- ② • Applications must not allow unauthorized users to access data
- ③ • Applications must keep up with changing user requirements against the database

សម្រេចក្លែងការណ៍

ការអនុវត្តន៍

គម្រោងពាណិជ្ជកម្ម

ការងារ

ចាប់បើក ① → ចាប់បើក ②

គម្រោងពាណិជ្ជកម្ម → ការងារ

ការ transaction នៃការ  
ចូលការនៃ roll back  
ដោយការរាយការណ៍  
ដោយការរាយការណ៍

# Additional DBMS Functionality

- DBMS may additionally provide:
  - Protection or Security measures to prevent unauthorized access
  - “Active” processing to take internal actions on data
  - Presentation and Visualization of data
  - Maintenance of the database and associated programs over the lifetime of the database application
    - Called database, software, and system maintenance

# Example of a Database (with a Conceptual Data Model)

- **Mini-world for the example:**
  - Part of a UNIVERSITY environment.
- **Some mini-world entities:**
  - STUDENTs
  - COURSEs
  - SECTIONs (of COURSEs)
  - (academic) DEPARTMENTs
  - INSTRUCTORs

# Example of a Database (with a Conceptual Data Model)

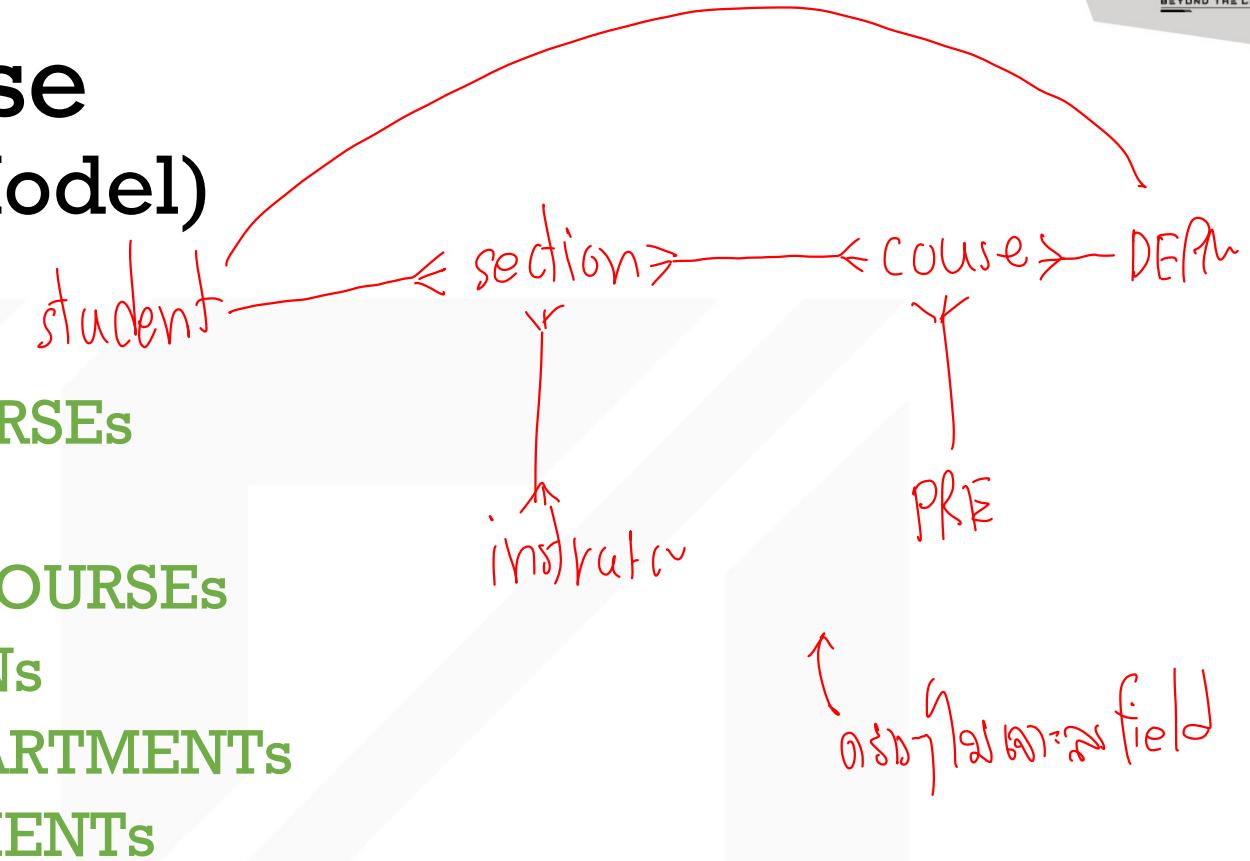
- **Some mini-world relationships:**

- SECTIONs are of specific COURSEs
- STUDENTs take SECTIONs
- COURSEs have prerequisite COURSEs
- INSTRUCTORs teach SECTIONs
- COURSEs are offered by DEPARTMENTs
- STUDENTs major in DEPARTMENTs

ຂាយາក ធនធាន នៃពីរ សម្រាប់គ្រប់គ្រង និងរួមចាប់ផ្តើមទូទៅ

- Note:

The above entities and relationships are typically expressed in a conceptual data model, such as the ENTITY-RELATIONSHIP data model



# Example of a simple database

**COURSE**

Course_name	Course_number	Credit_hours	Department
Intro to Computer Science	CS1310	4	CS
Data Structures	CS3320	4	CS
Discrete Mathematics	MATH2410	3	MATH
Database	CS3380	3	CS

**SECTION**

Section_identifier	Course_number	Semester	Year	Instructor
85	MATH2410	Fall	04	King
92	CS1310	Fall	04	Anderson
102	CS3320	Spring	05	Knuth
112	MATH2410	Fall	05	Chang
119	CS1310	Fall	05	Anderson
135	CS3380	Fall	05	Stone

**GRADE\_REPORT**

Student_number	Section_identifier	Grade
17	112	B
17	119	C
8	85	A
8	92	A
8	102	B
8	135	A

**PREREQUISITE**

Course_number	Prerequisite_number
CS3380	CS3320
CS3380	MATH2410
CS3320	CS1310

**Figure 1.2**  
A database that stores student and course information.

# Main Characteristics of the Database Approach

ເກືອບປາກວົນຢ່າງດູແຈ້ວດັບ

- **Self-describing nature of a database system:**
  - A DBMS **catalog** stores the description of a particular database (e.g. data structures, types, and constraints)
  - The description is called **meta-data\***. → table → attrb → type
  - This allows the DBMS software to work with different database applications.
- **Insulation between programs and data:**
  - Called **program-data independence**.
  - Allows changing data structures and storage organization without having to change the DBMS access programs.

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\* Some newer systems such as a few NOSQL systems need no meta-data: they store the data definition within its structure making it self describing

# Example of a simplified database catalog

## RELATIONS

Relation_name	No_of_columns
STUDENT	4
COURSE	4
SECTION	5
GRADE_REPORT	3
PREREQUISITE	2

## COLUMNS

Column_name	Data_type	Belongs_to_relation
Name	Character (30)	STUDENT
Student_number	Character (4)	STUDENT
Class	Integer (1)	STUDENT
Major	Major_type	STUDENT
Course_name	Character (10)	COURSE
Course_number	XXXXNNNN	COURSE
....	....	.....
....	....	.....
....	....	.....
Prerequisite_number	XXXXNNNN	PREREQUISITE

**Figure 1.3**

An example of a database catalog for the database in Figure 1.2.

meta data

Note: Major\_type is defined as an enumerated type with all known majors. XXXXNNNN is used to define a type with four alpha characters followed by four digits

# Main Characteristics of the Database Approach (continued)

↳

- **Data Abstraction:**

ເພື່ອກົດລົງ ອັກສະນາ ນອນໂທ ກົດ ເຊື້ອີ້ນຕົວ

- A **data model** is used to hide storage details and present the users with a conceptual view of the database.

- Programs refer to the data model constructs rather than data storage details

- **Support of multiple views of the data:**

ເລີດຂູ້ອຳນວຍໄດ້

- Each user may see a **different view of the database**, which **describes only** the data of interest to that user.

ອານຸເມັນ

# Main Characteristics of the Database Approach (continued)

ອັນດີ  
ອັນດີ

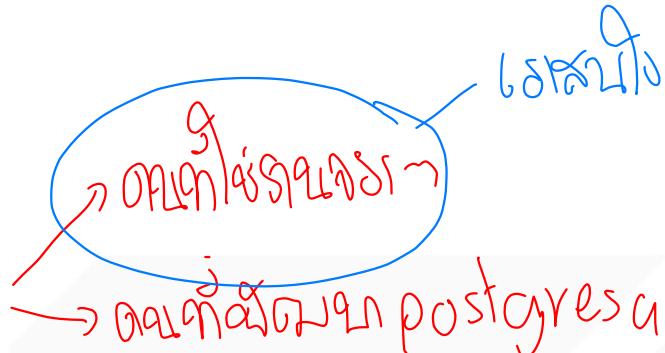
- **Sharing of data and multi-user transaction processing:**

- Allowing a set of **concurrent users** to retrieve from and to update the database.
- **Concurrency control** within the DBMS guarantees that each **transaction** is correctly executed or aborted
- **Recovery** subsystem ensures each completed transaction has its effect permanently recorded in the database
- **OLTP** (Online Transaction Processing) is a major part of database applications. This allows hundreds of concurrent transactions to execute per second.

ເລື່ອມຕົວຢ່າງທີ່ໄດ້ໃຫຍ່ໃນການ  
ການປະເມີນຂອງລາຍງານ

# Database Users

- Users may be divided into
  - Those who actually use and control the database content, and those who design, develop and maintain database applications (called “**Actors on the Scene**”), and
  - Those who design and develop the DBMS software and related tools, and the computer systems operators (called “**Workers Behind the Scene**”).



# Database Users – Actors on the Scene

- **Actors on the scene**

ឧបករណ៍ទិន្នន័យសាស្ត្រ

- **Database administrators:** → ការគិតថ្លែងនូវនគរបាល និងការបញ្ចូលពេលវេលា

- Responsible for authorizing access to the database, for coordinating and monitoring its use, acquiring software and hardware resources, controlling its use and monitoring efficiency of operations.

- **Database Designers:** → ការណើនុវត្តន៍យុទ្ធមាន business analysis

- Responsible to define the content, the structure, the constraints, and functions or transactions against the database. They must communicate with the end-users and understand their needs.

# Database End Users

Open Application

- Actors on the scene (continued)
  - **End-users**: They use the data for queries, reports and some of them update the database content. End-users can be categorized into:
    - **Casual**: access database occasionally when needed
    - **Naïve** or **Parametric**: they make up a large section of the end-user population.
      - They use previously well-defined functions in the form of “canned transactions” against the database.
      - Users of Mobile Apps mostly fall in this category
      - Bank-tellers or reservation clerks are parametric users who do this activity for an entire shift of operations.
      - Social Media Users post and read information from websites

# Database End Users (continued)

Objectives

- **Sophisticated:**

- These include business analysts, scientists, engineers, others thoroughly familiar with the system capabilities.
- Many use tools in the form of software packages that work closely with the stored database.

- **Stand-alone:**

- Mostly maintain personal databases using ready-to-use packaged applications.
- An example is the user of a tax program that creates its own internal database.
- Another example is a user that maintains a database of personal photos and videos.

# Database Users – Actors on the Scene (continued)

- **System Analysts and Application Developers**

This category currently accounts for a very large proportion of the IT work force.

▷ បានអ្នកស្ថិតុយ ដែលពិនិត្យរបាយការណ៍ និងគម្រោង ចូលរួមជាប្រធានបទ

- **System Analysts:** They understand the user requirements of naïve and sophisticated users and design applications including canned transactions to meet those requirements.
- **Application Programmers:** Implement the specifications developed by analysts and test and debug them before deployment.
- **Business Analysts:** There is an increasing need for such people who can analyze vast amounts of business data and real-time data (“Big Data”) for better decision making related to planning, advertising, marketing etc.

# Database Users – Actors behind the Scene

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- **System Designers and Implementors:** Design and implement DBMS packages in the form of modules and interfaces and test and debug them. The DBMS must interface with applications, language compilers, operating system components, etc.
- **Tool Developers:** Design and implement software systems called tools for modeling and designing databases, performance monitoring, prototyping, test data generation, user interface creation, simulation etc. that facilitate building of applications and allow using database effectively.
- **Operators and Maintenance Personnel:** They manage the actual running and maintenance of the database system hardware and software environment.

# Historical Development of Database Technology

ජ්‍යෙෂ්ඨ පිළිබඳ තොරතුරු

- Early Database Applications:

- The **Hierarchical** and **Network** Models were introduced in mid 1960s and dominated during the seventies.
- A bulk of the worldwide database processing still occurs using these models, particularly, the hierarchical model using IBM's IMS system.

- Relational Model based Systems:

- Relational model was originally introduced in 1970, was heavily researched and experimented within IBM Research and several universities.
- Relational DBMS Products emerged in the early 1980s.

# Historical Development of Database Technology (continued)

- Object-oriented and emerging applications:
    - **Object-Oriented Database Management Systems (OODBMSs)** were introduced in late 1980s and early 1990s to cater to the need of complex data processing in CAD and other applications.
      - Their use has not taken off much.
    - Many relational DBMSs have incorporated object database concepts, leading to a new category called **object-relational DBMSs (ORDBMSs)**
    - **Extended relational** systems add further capabilities (e.g. for multimedia data, text, XML, and other data types)
- (model/bis)*

ເຊື້ອມປະຕິບັດ!

# When not to use a DBMS

- Main inhibitors (costs) of using a DBMS:
  - High initial investment and possible need for additional hardware.
  - Overhead for providing generality, security, concurrency control, recovery, and integrity functions.
- When a DBMS may be unnecessary:
  - If the database and applications are simple, well defined, and not expected to change.
  - If access to data by multiple users is not required.
- When a DBMS may be infeasible:
  - In embedded systems where a general-purpose DBMS may not fit in available storage

# When not to use a DBMS?

อย่างต่อเนื่อง  
เหมาๆ กับ เล็กน้อย น้อย  
ลักษณะ ความคิดสร้างสรรค์ ใจ  
Centralized Database เร็วๆ

ไม่ใช่ สามารถ กับ การ ให้ ที่ ให้  
หยุดชะงัก ระบบ สิ่ง ต่อเนื่อง  
มา มากนัก ได้ ที่ รวม  
ไม่จำเป็น เช่น หลักการ กัน ต่อ เพิ่มขึ้น มี  
อาหาร ไว้ เก็บ ลูก งาน ขาย และ  
อาหาร ไว้ เก็บ ลูก งาน ขาย และ  
ล้วนสุด ที่เกิด คือ งาน ที่เก็บ  
การคำนวณ ขนาดเล็ก ร้าน ความ นำ มากขึ้น ที่เก็บ  
คาดการณ์ ไม่ต้อง นำมา เพียง System เป็น ประเภท  
ความเสี่ยง ต้อง เนื่องจาก ใน ฐานข้อมูล  
วิเคราะห์ ขึ้น ไม่มี ของ ชั้บช้อน ยืดติด  
มาก ไม่ต้องการ จำนวน จัดเก็บ  
หรือ ความซ้ำซ้อน  
ไม่รู้ ศูนย์รวม เหมาะสำหรับ  
เก็บข้อมูล

**ข้อมูล**

# NoSQL vs SQL Databases

**TLDR:** NoSQL (“non SQL” or “not only SQL”) databases were developed in the late 2000s with a focus on scaling, fast queries, allowing for frequent application changes, and making programming simpler for developers. Relational databases accessed with SQL (Structured Query Language) were developed in the 1970s with a focus on reducing data duplication as storage was much more costly than developer time. SQL databases tend to have rigid, complex, tabular schemas and typically require expensive vertical scaling.

If you’re not familiar with what NoSQL databases are or the different types of NoSQL databases, [start here](#).

## Overview

Below is an overview of what this article covers.

- What are the Differences between SQL and NoSQL?
- What are the Benefits of NoSQL Databases?
- What are the Drawbacks of NoSQL Databases?
- Try a NoSQL Database

## Differences between SQL and NoSQL

The table below summarizes the main differences between SQL and NoSQL databases.

	<b>SQL Databases</b>	<b>NoSQL Databases</b>
<b>Data Storage Model</b>	Tables with <b>fixed</b> rows and columns	Document: JSON documents, Key-value: key-value pairs, Wide-column: tables with rows and <b>dynamic</b> columns, Graph: nodes and edges
<b>Development History</b>	Developed in the 1970s with a focus on reducing data duplication	Developed in the late 2000s with a focus on scaling and allowing for rapid application change driven by agile and DevOps practices.



<b>Examples</b>	Oracle, MySQL, Microsoft SQL Server, and PostgreSQL	Document: MongoDB and CouchDB, Key-value: Redis and DynamoDB, Wide-column: Cassandra and HBase, Graph: Neo4j and Amazon Neptune
<b>Primary Purpose</b>	General purpose	Document: general purpose, Key-value: large amounts of data with simple lookup queries, Wide-column: large amounts of data with predictable query patterns, Graph: analyzing and traversing relationships between connected data
<b>Schemas</b>	Rigid	Flexible
<b>Scaling</b>	Vertical (scale-up with a larger server)	Horizontal (scale-out across commodity servers)
<b>Multi-Record ACID Transactions</b>	Supported	Most do not support multi-record ACID transactions. However, some—like MongoDB—do.
<b>Joins</b>	Typically required	Typically not required
<b>Data to Object Mapping</b>	Requires ORM (object-relational mapping)	Many do not require ORMs. MongoDB documents map directly to data structures in most popular programming languages.

## What are the Benefits of NoSQL Databases?

NoSQL databases offer many benefits over relational databases. NoSQL databases have flexible data models, scale horizontally, have incredibly fast queries, and are easy for developers to work with.

- **Flexible data models**

NoSQL databases typically have very **flexible schemas**. A flexible schema allows you to **easily make changes to your database as requirements change**. You can iterate quickly and continuously integrate new application features to provide value to your users faster.

- **Horizontal scaling**

*(any server also upgrade)*

Most SQL databases require you to scale-up **vertically** (migrate to a larger, more expensive server) when you exceed the capacity requirements of your current server. Conversely, most NoSQL databases allow you to scale-out horizontally, meaning you can add cheaper, commodity servers whenever you need to.

- **Fast queries**

Queries in NoSQL databases can be faster than SQL databases. Why? Data in SQL databases is typically **normalized**, so queries for a single object or entity require you to join data from multiple tables. As your tables grow in size, the joins can become expensive. However, data in NoSQL databases is typically stored in a way that is optimized for queries. The rule of thumb when you use MongoDB is **Data is what is accessed**.

**together should be stored together.** Queries typically do not require joins, so the queries are very fast.

- **Easy for developers**

Some NoSQL databases like MongoDB map their data structures to those of popular programming languages. This mapping allows developers to store their data in the same way that they use it in their application code. While it may seem like a trivial advantage, this mapping can allow developers to write less code, leading to faster development time and fewer bugs.

## What are the Drawbacks of NoSQL Databases?

One of the most frequently cited drawbacks of NoSQL databases is that they don't support ACID (atomicity, consistency, isolation, durability) transactions across multiple documents. With appropriate schema design, single record atomicity is acceptable for lots of applications. However, there are still many applications that require ACID across multiple records.

To address these use cases MongoDB added support for [multi-document ACID transactions](#) in the 4.0 release, and extended them in 4.2 to span sharded clusters.

Since data models in NoSQL databases are typically optimized for queries and not for reducing data duplication, NoSQL databases can be larger than SQL databases. Storage is currently so cheap that most consider this a minor drawback, and some NoSQL databases also support compression to reduce the storage footprint.

Depending on the NoSQL database type you select, you may not be able to achieve all of your use cases in a single database. For example, graph databases are excellent for analyzing relationships in your data but may not provide what you need for everyday retrieval of the data such as range queries. When selecting a NoSQL database, consider what your use cases will be and if a general purpose database like MongoDB would be a better option.

## How to Try a NoSQL Database

Now that you understand the basics of NoSQL databases, you're ready to give them a shot.

You can check out the [Where to Use MongoDB whitepaper](#) to help you determine if MongoDB or another database is right for your use case. Then hop on over to [What is a Document Database?](#) to learn about the document model and how it compares to the relational model.

For those who like to jump right in and learn by doing, one of the easiest ways to get started with NoSQL databases is to use [MongoDB Atlas](#). Atlas is MongoDB's fully managed, global database service that is available on all of the leading cloud providers. One of the many handy things about Atlas is that it has a generous, forever-free tier so you can create a database and discover all of the benefits of NoSQL databases first hand without providing your credit card. If you'd like to try a paid tier, apply code NOSQLEXPLAINED for \$200 of Atlas credits.

For those who prefer structured learning, [MongoDB University](#) is completely free online training that will walk you step-by-step through the process of learning MongoDB.

When you're ready to interact with MongoDB using your favorite programming language, check out the [Quick Start Tutorials](#). These tutorials will help you get up and running as quickly as possible in the language of your choice.