*H BASE and other column-oriented DATABASE are often compared to more traditional and popular relational database or RDBMS.*

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| *H Base* | *RDBMS* |
| *1. Column-oriented* | *1. Row-oriented(mostly)* |
| *2. Flexible schema, add columns on the Fly* | *2. Fixed schema* |
| *3. Good with sparse tables.* | *3. Not optimized for sparse tables.* |
| *4. No query language* | *4. SQL* |
| *5. Wide tables* | *5. Narrow tables* |
| *6. Joins using MR – not optimized* | *6. optimized for Joins(small, fast ones)* |
| *7. Tight – Integration with MR* | *7. Not really* |
| *8. De-normalize your data.* | *8. Normalize as you can* |
| *9. Horizontal scalability-just add hard war.* | *9. Hard to share and scale.* |
| *10. Consistent* | *10. Consistent* |
| *11. No transactions.* | *11. transactional* |
| *12. Good for semi-structured data as well as structured data.* | *12. Good for structured data.* |