


CSIE30600/CSIEB0290  
Database Systems

Lecture 14:  
NoSQL Databases and  
Big Data Storage



## Outline

- Introduction to NoSQL Systems
- The CAP Theorem
- MongoDB
- Key-Value Stores
- Column-Based or Wide Column Systems
- NoSQL Graph Databases

## Introduction

- **NoSQL**
  - Not only **SQL**
- Most NoSQL systems are distributed databases or distributed storage systems
  - Focus on semi-structured data storage, high performance, availability, data replication, and scalability

## Introduction (cont'd.)

- NoSQL systems focus on storage of “**big data**”
- Typical applications that use NoSQL
  - Social media
  - Web links
  - User profiles
  - Marketing and sales
  - Posts and tweets
  - Road maps and spatial data
  - Email

## Introduction to NoSQL Systems

- **BigTable**
  - Google's proprietary NoSQL system
  - Column-based or wide column store
- **DynamoDB** (Amazon)
  - Key-value data store
- **Cassandra** (Facebook)
  - Uses concepts from both key-value store and column-based systems

## Intro to NoSQL Systems (cont'd.)

- **MongoDB** and CouchDB
  - Document stores
- **Neo4J** and **GraphBase**
  - Graph-based NoSQL systems
- **OrientDB**
  - Combines several concepts
- Database systems classified on the object model
  - Or native XML model

## Intro to NoSQL Systems (cont'd.)

- NoSQL characteristics related to distributed databases and distributed systems
  - **Scalability**
  - **Availability, replication, and eventual consistency**
  - **Replication** models
    - Master-slave (one master copy, many slave copies)
    - Master-master (concurrent read/write with reconciliation)
  - **Sharding**(horizontal partitioning) of files
  - **High performance** data access

## Intro to NOSQL Systems (cont'd.)

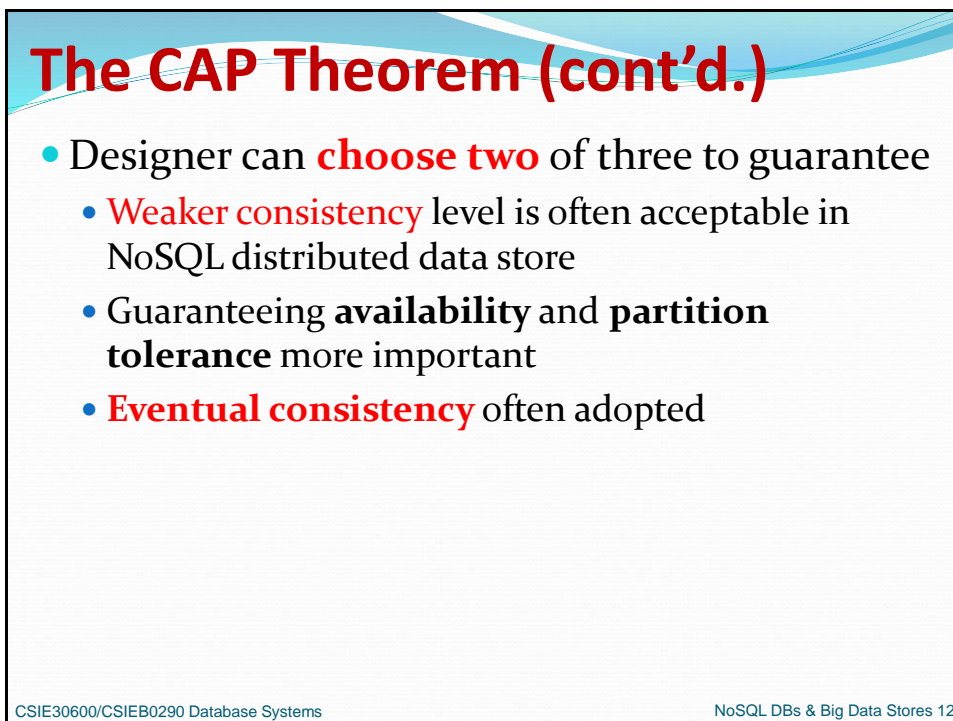
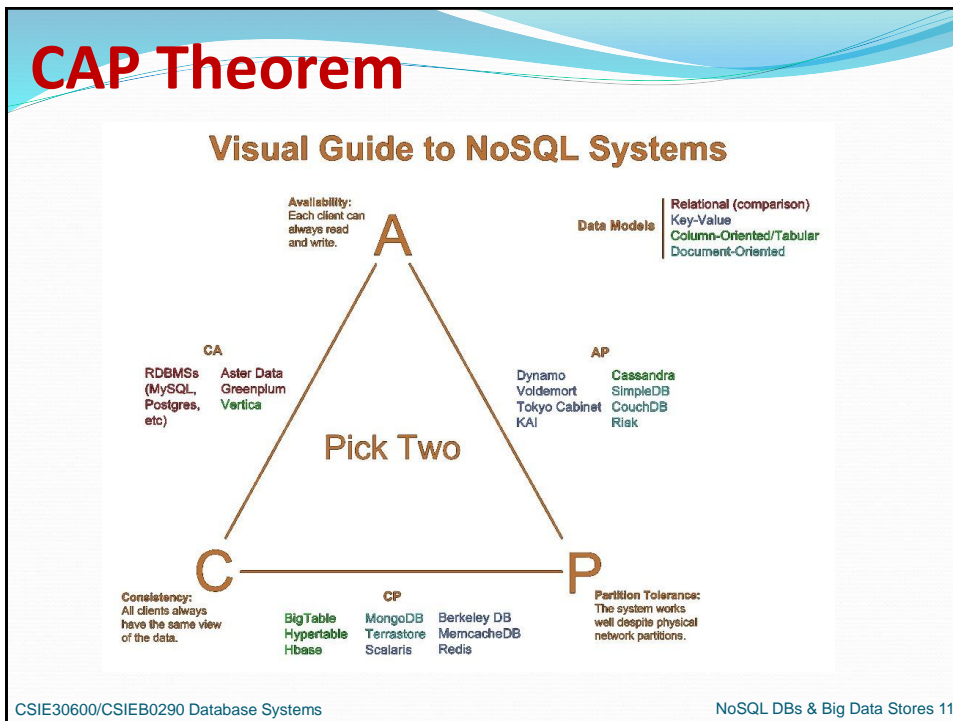
- NoSQL characteristics related to data models and query languages
  - Schema not required
  - Less powerful query languages
  - Versioning

## Intro to NoSQL Systems (cont'd.)

- Categories of NoSQL systems
  - **Document-based** NoSQL systems
  - NoSQL **key-value stores**
  - **Column-based** or **wide column** NoSQL systems
  - **Graph-based** NoSQL systems
  - **Hybrid** NoSQL systems
  - Object databases
  - XML databases

## The CAP Theorem

- Various levels of consistency among replicated data items
  - Enforcing **serializability** the strongest form of consistency
    - **High overhead** – can reduce read/write operation performance
- **CAP theorem**
  - **C**onsistency, **A**vailability, and **P**artition tolerance
  - Not possible to guarantee all three simultaneously
    - In distributed system with data replication



## Document-Based NoSQL Systems and MongoDB

- **Document stores**
  - Collections of similar documents
- Individual documents resemble complex objects or XML documents
  - Documents are self-describing
  - Can have different data elements
- Documents can be specified in various formats
  - XML
  - JSON

## MongoDB Data Model

- Documents stored in **binary JSON (BSON)** format
- Individual documents stored in a **collection**
- Example command
  - First parameter specifies name of the collection
  - Collection options include limits on size and number of documents

```
db.createCollection("project", { capped : true, size : 1310720, max : 500 } )
```

collection name      capped collection      max no. of doc
- Each document in collection has unique **ObjectID** field called **\_id**. The id value can be **user-specified** or **system-generated**. (Similar to primary keys in RDB)

## MongoDB Data Model (cont'd.)

- A collection **does not have a schema**
  - Structure of the data fields in documents chosen based on how documents will be accessed
  - User can choose normalized or denormalized design
- **CRUD** operations (**C**reate, **R**ead, **U**ppdate, **D**elete)
- Document creation using **insert** operation
 

```
db.<collection_name>.insert(<document(s)>)
```
- Document deletion using **remove** operation
 

```
db.<collection_name>.remove(<condition>)
```
- Read queries are specified by **find** operation
 

```
db.<collection_name>.find(<condition>)
```

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Figure 24.1 (continues)  
Example of simple documents in MongoDB (a) Denormalized document design with embedded subdocuments (b) Embedded array of document references

```
(a) project document with an array of embedded workers:
{
  _id:          "P1",
  Pname:       "ProductX",
  Plocation:   "Bellaire",
  Workers: [
    { Ename: "John Smith",
      Hours: 32.5
    },
    { Ename: "Joyce English",
      Hours: 20.0
    }
  ]
};

(b) project document with an embedded array of worker ids:
{
  _id:          "P1",
  Pname:       "ProductX",
  Plocation:   "Bellaire",
  WorkerIds:   ["W1", "W2"]
}
{ _id:         "W1",
  Ename:       "John Smith",
  Hours:       32.5
}
{ _id:         "W2",
  Ename:       "Joyce English",
  Hours:       20.0
}
```

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Figure 24.1 (cont'd.)  
Example of simple documents in MongoDB  
(c) Normalized documents  
(d) Inserting the documents in Figure 24.1(c) into their collections

(c) normalized project and worker documents (not a fully normalized design for M:N relationships):

```
{
  _id: "P1",
  Pname: "ProductX",
  Plocation: "Bellaire"
}
{
  _id: "W1",
  Ename: "John Smith",
  ProjectId: "P1",
  Hours: 32.5
}
{
  _id: "W2",
  Ename: "Joyce English",
  ProjectId: "P1",
  Hours: 20.0
}
```

(d) inserting the documents in (c) into their collections "project" and "worker":

```
db.project.insert( { _id: "P1", Pname: "ProductX", Plocation: "Bellaire" } )
db.worker.insert( [ { _id: "W1", Ename: "John Smith", ProjectId: "P1", Hours: 32.5 },
  { _id: "W2", Ename: "Joyce English", ProjectId: "P1", Hours: 20.0 } ] )
```

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## MongoDB Distributed Systems Characteristics

- **Two-phase commit** method
  - Used to ensure atomicity and consistency of multidocument transactions
- **Replication** in MongoDB
  - Concept of **replica set** to create multiple copies of the same data on different nodes
  - Variation of master-slave approach
  - Primary copy, secondary copy, and arbiter
    - Arbiter participates in elections to select new primary if needed

## MongoDB Distributed Systems Characteristics (cont'd.)

- **Replication** in MongoDB (cont'd.)
  - All write operations applied to the primary copy and propagated to the secondaries
  - User can choose read preference
    - Read requests can be processed at any replica
- **Sharding** in MongoDB
  - **Horizontal partitioning** divides the documents into disjoint partitions (shards)
  - Allows adding more nodes as needed
  - Shards stored on different nodes to achieve load balancing

## MongoDB Distributed Systems Characteristics (cont'd.)

- **Sharding** in MongoDB (cont'd.)
  - **Partitioning field (shard key)** must exist in every document in the collection
    - Must have an index
  - **Range partitioning**
    - Creates **chunks** by specifying a range of key values
    - Works best with range queries
  - **Hash partitioning**
    - Partitioning based on the hash values of each shard key

## NoSQL Key-Value Stores

- **Key-value stores** focus on high performance, availability, and scalability
  - Can store structured, unstructured, or semi-structured data
- **Key**: unique identifier associated with a data item
  - Used for fast retrieval
- **Value**: the data item itself
  - Can be string or array of bytes
  - Application interprets the structure
- No query language

## DynamoDB Overview

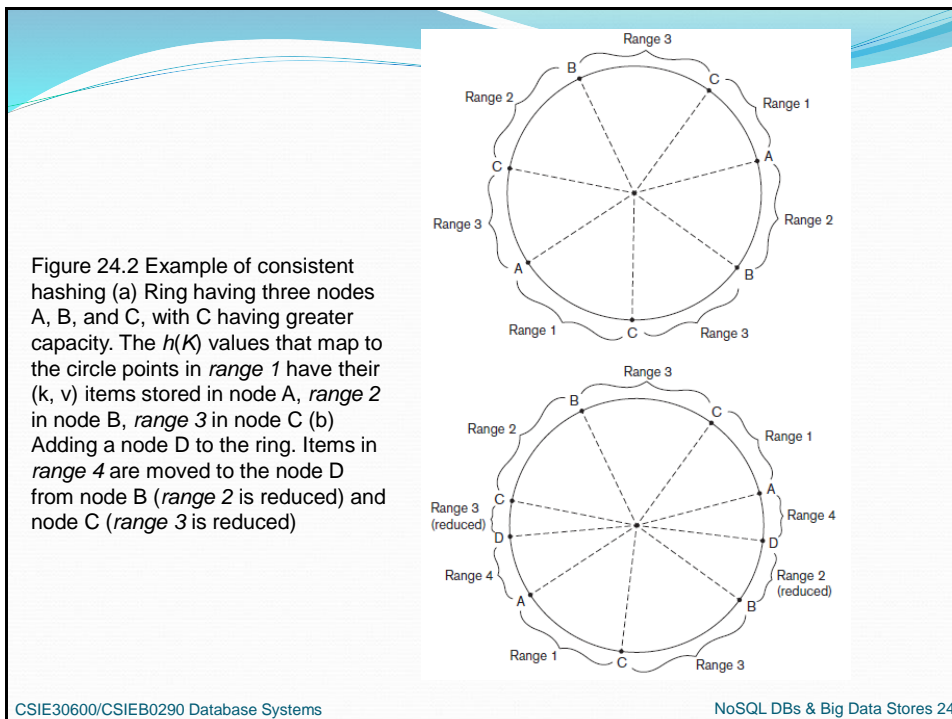
- **DynamoDB** part of Amazon's Web Services/SDK platforms
  - Proprietary
- **Table** holds a collection of **self-describing items**
- Item consists of **attribute-value pairs**
  - Attribute values can be single or multi-valued
- Primary key used to locate items within a table
  - Can be single attribute or pair of attributes

## Voldemort Key-Value Distributed Data Store

- **Voldemort**: open source key-value system similar to DynamoDB
- Voldemort features
  - Simple basic operations (get, put, and delete)
  - High-level formatted data values (JSON)
  - **Consistent hashing** for distributing (key, value) pairs (next slide)
  - Consistency and versioning
    - Concurrent writes allowed
    - Each write associated with a vector clock

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## Examples of Other Key-Value Stores

- **Oracle** key-value store
  - Oracle NoSQL Database
- **Redis** key-value cache and store
  - Caches data in main memory to improve performance
  - Offers master-slave replication and high availability
  - Offers persistence by backing up cache to disk
- **Apache Cassandra**
  - Offers features from several NoSQL categories
  - Used by Facebook and others

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## Column-Based or Wide Column NoSQL Systems

- **BigTable**: Google's distributed storage system for big data
  - Used in Gmail
  - Uses **Google File System (GFS)** for data storage and distribution
- **Apache HBase** a similar, open source system
  - Uses **Hadoop Distributed File System (HDFS)** for data storage
  - Can also use Amazon's Simple Storage System (S3)

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## HBase Data Model and Versioning

- Data organization concepts
  - Namespaces
  - Tables
  - Column families
  - Column qualifiers
  - Columns
  - Rows
  - Data cells
- Data is self-describing

## HBase Data Model and Versioning (cont'd.)

- HBase stores multiple versions of data items
  - **Timestamp** associated with each version
- Each row in a table has a unique **row key**
- Table associated with one or more **column families**
- **Column qualifiers** can be dynamically specified as new table rows are created and inserted
- **Namespace** is collection of tables
- **Cell** holds a basic data item

```

(a) creating a table:
create 'EMPLOYEE', 'Name', 'Address', 'Details'
(b) Inserting some row data in the EMPLOYEE table:
put 'EMPLOYEE', 'row1', 'Name:Fname', 'John'
put 'EMPLOYEE', 'row1', 'Name:Lname', 'Smith'
put 'EMPLOYEE', 'row1', 'Name:Nickname', 'Johnny'
put 'EMPLOYEE', 'row1', 'Details:Job', 'Engineer'
put 'EMPLOYEE', 'row1', 'Details:Review', 'Good'
put 'EMPLOYEE', 'row2', 'Name:Fname', 'Alicia'
put 'EMPLOYEE', 'row2', 'Name:Lname', 'Zelaya'
put 'EMPLOYEE', 'row2', 'Name:Mname', 'Jennifer'
put 'EMPLOYEE', 'row2', 'Details:Job', 'DBA'
put 'EMPLOYEE', 'row2', 'Details:Supervisor', 'James Borg'
put 'EMPLOYEE', 'row3', 'Name:Fname', 'James'
put 'EMPLOYEE', 'row3', 'Name:Minit', 'E'
put 'EMPLOYEE', 'row3', 'Name:Lname', 'Borg'
put 'EMPLOYEE', 'row3', 'Name:Suffix', 'Jr.'
put 'EMPLOYEE', 'row3', 'Details:Job', 'CEO'
put 'EMPLOYEE', 'row3', 'Details:Salary', '1,000,000'

(c) Some Hbase basic CRUD operations:
Creating a table: create <tablename>, <column family>, <column family>, ...
Inserting Data: put <tablename>, <rowid>, <column family>:<column qualifier>, <value>
Reading Data (all data in a table): scan <tablename>
Retrieve Data (one item): get <tablename>,<rowid>

```

Figure 24.3 Examples in Hbase (a) Creating a table called EMPLOYEE with three column families: Name, Address, and Details (b) Inserting some in the EMPLOYEE table; different rows can have different self-describing column qualifiers (Fname, Lname, Nickname, Mname, Minit, Suffix, ... for column family Name; Job, Review, Supervisor, Salary for column family Details). (c) Some CRUD operations of Hbase

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## HBase CRUD Operations

- Provides only low-level **CRUD** (create, read, update, delete) operations
- Application programs implement more complex operations
- **Create**
  - Creates a new table and specifies one or more column families associated with the table
- **Put**
  - Inserts new data or new versions of existing data items

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## Hbase Crud Operations (cont'd.)

- **Get**
  - Retrieves data associated with a single row
- **Scan**
  - Retrieves all the rows

## Hbase Storage and Distributed System Concepts

- Each Hbase table divided into several **regions**
  - Each region holds a **range of the row keys** in the table
  - Row keys must be lexicographically ordered
  - Each region has several stores
    - Column families are assigned to stores
- Regions assigned to **region servers** for storage
  - **Master server** responsible for monitoring the region servers
- Hbase uses Apache **Zookeeper** and **HDFS**



## NoSQL Graph Databases and Neo4j

- Graph databases
  - Data represented as a graph
  - Collection of **vertices (nodes)** and **edges**
  - Possible to store data associated with both individual nodes and individual edges
- **Neo4j**
  - Open source system
  - Uses concepts of **nodes** and **relationships**

## Neo4j (cont'd.)

- Nodes can have **labels**
  - Zero, one, or several
- Both nodes and relationships can have **properties**
- Each relationship has a **start node**, **end node**, and a **relationship type**
- Properties specified using a **map pattern**
- Somewhat similar to ER/EER concepts

## Neo4j (cont'd.)

- Creating nodes in Neo4j
  - **CREATE** command
  - Part of high-level declarative query language **Cypher**
  - **Node label** can be specified when node is created
  - **Properties** are enclosed in curly brackets

## Neo4j (cont'd.)

```
(a) creating some nodes for the COMPANY data (from Figure 5.6):
CREATE (e1: EMPLOYEE, {Empid: '1', Lname: 'Smith', Fname: 'John', Minit: 'B'})
CREATE (e2: EMPLOYEE, {Empid: '2', Lname: 'Wong', Fname: 'Franklin'})
CREATE (e3: EMPLOYEE, {Empid: '3', Lname: 'Zelaya', Fname: 'Alicia'})
CREATE (e4: EMPLOYEE, {Empid: '4', Lname: 'Wallace', Fname: 'Jennifer', Minit: 'S'})
...
CREATE (d1: DEPARTMENT, {Dno: '5', Dname: 'Research'})
CREATE (d2: DEPARTMENT, {Dno: '4', Dname: 'Administration'})
...
CREATE (p1: PROJECT, {Pno: '1', Pname: 'ProductX'})
CREATE (p2: PROJECT, {Pno: '2', Pname: 'ProductY'})
CREATE (p3: PROJECT, {Pno: '10', Pname: 'Computerization'})
CREATE (p4: PROJECT, {Pno: '20', Pname: 'Reorganization'})
...
CREATE (loc1: LOCATION, {Lname: 'Houston'})
CREATE (loc2: LOCATION, {Lname: 'Stafford'})
CREATE (loc3: LOCATION, {Lname: 'Bellaire'})
CREATE (loc4: LOCATION, {Lname: 'Sugarland'})
...
```

Figure 24.4 Examples in Neo4j using the Cypher language (a) Creating some nodes

## Neo4j (cont'd.)

(b) creating some relationships for the COMPANY data (from Figure 5.6):

```
CREATE (e1) - [: WorksFor ] -> (d1)
CREATE (e3) - [: WorksFor ] -> (d2)
...
CREATE (d1) - [: Manager ] -> (e2)
CREATE (d2) - [: Manager ] -> (e4)
...
CREATE (d1) - [: LocatedIn ] -> (loc1)
CREATE (d1) - [: LocatedIn ] -> (loc3)
CREATE (d1) - [: LocatedIn ] -> (loc4)
CREATE (d2) - [: LocatedIn ] -> (loc2)
...
CREATE (e1) - [: WorksOn, {Hours: '32.5'} ] -> (p1)
CREATE (e1) - [: WorksOn, {Hours: '7.5'} ] -> (p2)
CREATE (e2) - [: WorksOn, {Hours: '10.0'} ] -> (p1)
CREATE (e2) - [: WorksOn, {Hours: 10.0} ] -> (p2)
CREATE (e2) - [: WorksOn, {Hours: '10.0'} ] -> (p3)
CREATE (e2) - [: WorksOn, {Hours: 10.0} ] -> (p4)
...
```

Figure 24.4 (cont'd.) Examples in Neo4j using the Cypher language  
(b) Creating some relationships

## Neo4j (cont'd.)

- Path
  - Traversal of part of the graph
  - Typically used as part of a query to specify a pattern
- Schema optional in Neo4j
- Indexing and node identifiers
  - Users can create for the collection of nodes that have a particular label
  - One or more properties can be indexed

## The Cypher Query Language of Neo4j

- **Cypher** query made up of clauses
- Result from one clause can be the input to the next clause in the query

## The Cypher Query Language of Neo4j (cont'd.)

(c) **Basic simplified syntax of some common Cypher clauses:**

Finding nodes and relationships that match a pattern: `MATCH <pattern>`

Specifying aggregates and other query variables: `WITH <specifications>`

Specifying conditions on the data to be retrieved: `WHERE <condition>`

Specifying the data to be returned: `RETURN <data>`

Ordering the data to be returned: `ORDER BY <data>`

Limiting the number of returned data items: `LIMIT <max number>`

Creating nodes: `CREATE <node, optional labels and properties>`

Creating relationships: `CREATE <relationship, relationship type and optional properties>`

Deletion: `DELETE <nodes or relationships>`

Specifying property values and labels: `SET <property values and labels>`

Removing property values and labels: `REMOVE <property values and labels>`

Figure 24.4 (cont'd.) Examples in Neo4j using the Cypher language

(c) Basic syntax of Cypher queries

## The Cypher Query Language of Neo4j (cont'd.)

Figure 24.4 (cont'd.) Examples in Neo4j using the Cypher language  
(d) Examples of Cypher queries

(d) Examples of simple Cypher queries:

1. MATCH (d : DEPARTMENT {Dno: '5'}) - [ : LocatedIn ] → (loc)  
RETURN d.Dname , loc.Lname
2. MATCH (e: EMPLOYEE (Empid: '2')) - [ w: WorksOn ] → (p)  
RETURN e.Ename , w.Hours, p.Pname
3. MATCH (e) - [ w: WorksOn ] → (p: PROJECT (Pno: 2))  
RETURN p.Pname, e.Ename , w.Hours
4. MATCH (e) - [ w: WorksOn ] → (p)  
RETURN e.Ename , w.Hours, p.Pname  
ORDER BY e.Ename
5. MATCH (e) - [ w: WorksOn ] → (p)  
RETURN e.Ename , w.Hours, p.Pname  
ORDER BY e.Ename  
LIMIT 10
6. MATCH (e) - [ w: WorksOn ] → (p)  
WITH e, COUNT(p) AS numOfprojs  
WHERE numOfprojs > 2  
RETURN e.Ename , numOfprojs  
ORDER BY numOfprojs
7. MATCH (e) - [ w: WorksOn ] → (p)  
RETURN e , w, p  
ORDER BY e.Ename  
LIMIT 10
8. MATCH (e: EMPLOYEE (Empid: '2'))  
SET e.Job = 'Engineer'

## Neo4j Interfaces and Distributed System Characteristics

- **Enterprise edition versus community edition**
  - Enterprise edition supports caching, clustering of data, and locking
- Graph **visualization** interface
  - Subset of nodes and edges in a database graph can be displayed as a graph
  - Used to visualize query results
- Master-slave replication
- Caching
- Logical logs

## Summary

- NoSQL systems focus on storage of “big data”
- General categories
  - Document-based
  - Key-value stores
  - Column-based
  - Graph-based
  - Some systems use techniques spanning two or more categories
- Consistency paradigms
- CAP theorem