

NoSQL: HBase and Neo4j

A.A. 2022/23

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The reference Big Data stack

High-level Interfaces

Data Processing

Data Storage

Resource Management

Support / Integration

Column-family data model

- Strongly aggregate-oriented
 - Lots of aggregates
 - Each aggregate has a key
- Similar to a key/value store, but the **value** can have multiple **attributes** (*columns*)
- Data model: a two-level map structure:
 - A set of <row-key, aggregate> pairs
 - Each aggregate is a group of pairs <column-key, value>
 - **Column**: a set of data **values** of a particular **type**
- Structure of the aggregate visible
- Columns can be organized in **families**
 - Data usually accessed together

- Apache **HBase**:
 - open-source implementation providing Bigtable-like capabilities on top of Hadoop and HDFS
 - CP system (in the CAP space)
- Data Model
 - HBase is based on Google's Bigtable model
 - A table store rows, sorted in **alphanumerical order**
 - A row consists of a set of **columns**
 - Columns are grouped in **column families**
 - A table defines a priori its column families (but not the columns within the families)

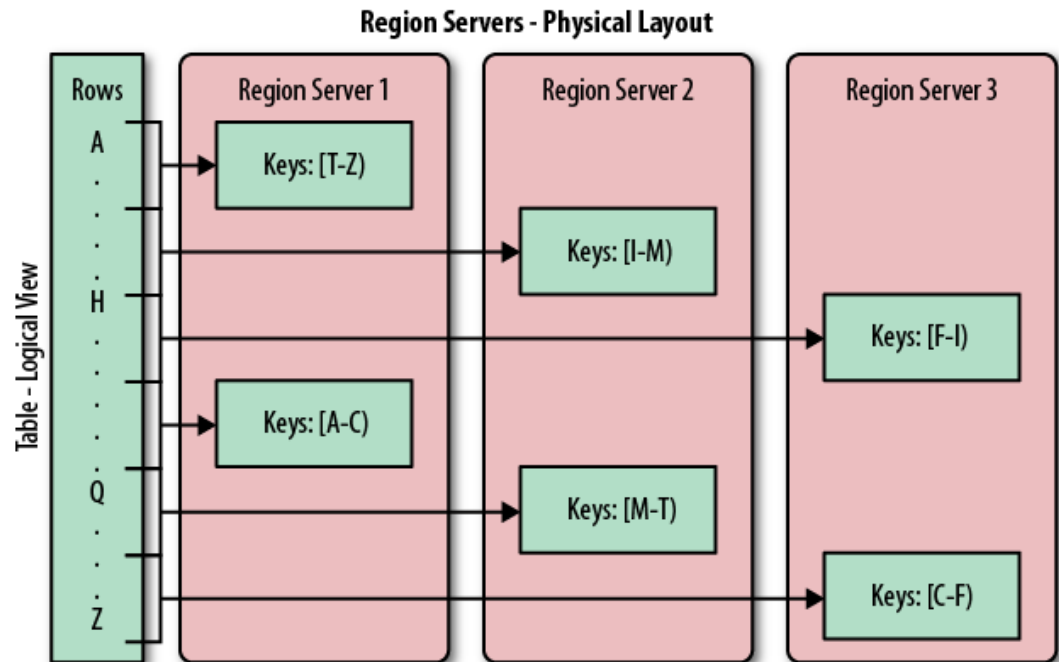
Row key	Column key	Timestamp	Cell value
cutting	info:state	1273516197868	IT
parser	role:Hadoop	1273616297466	g91m

(info and role are column families)

HBase: Auto-sharding

Region:

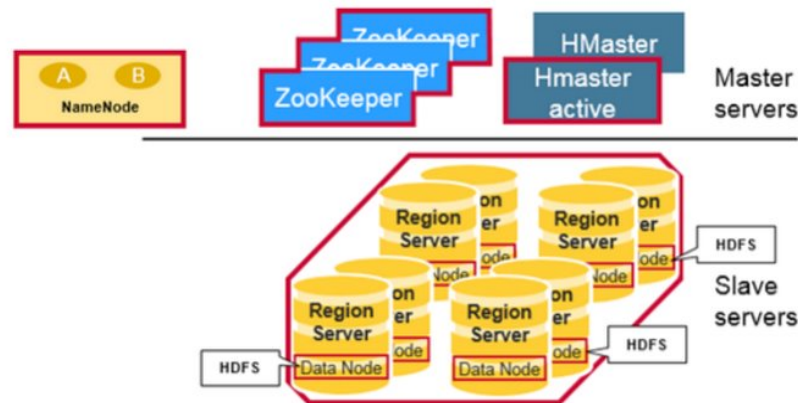
- the basic unit of scalability and load balancing
- similar to the **tablet** in Bigtable
- a contiguous range of rows stored together
- each region is served by exactly one region server
- they are dynamically split by the system when they become too large



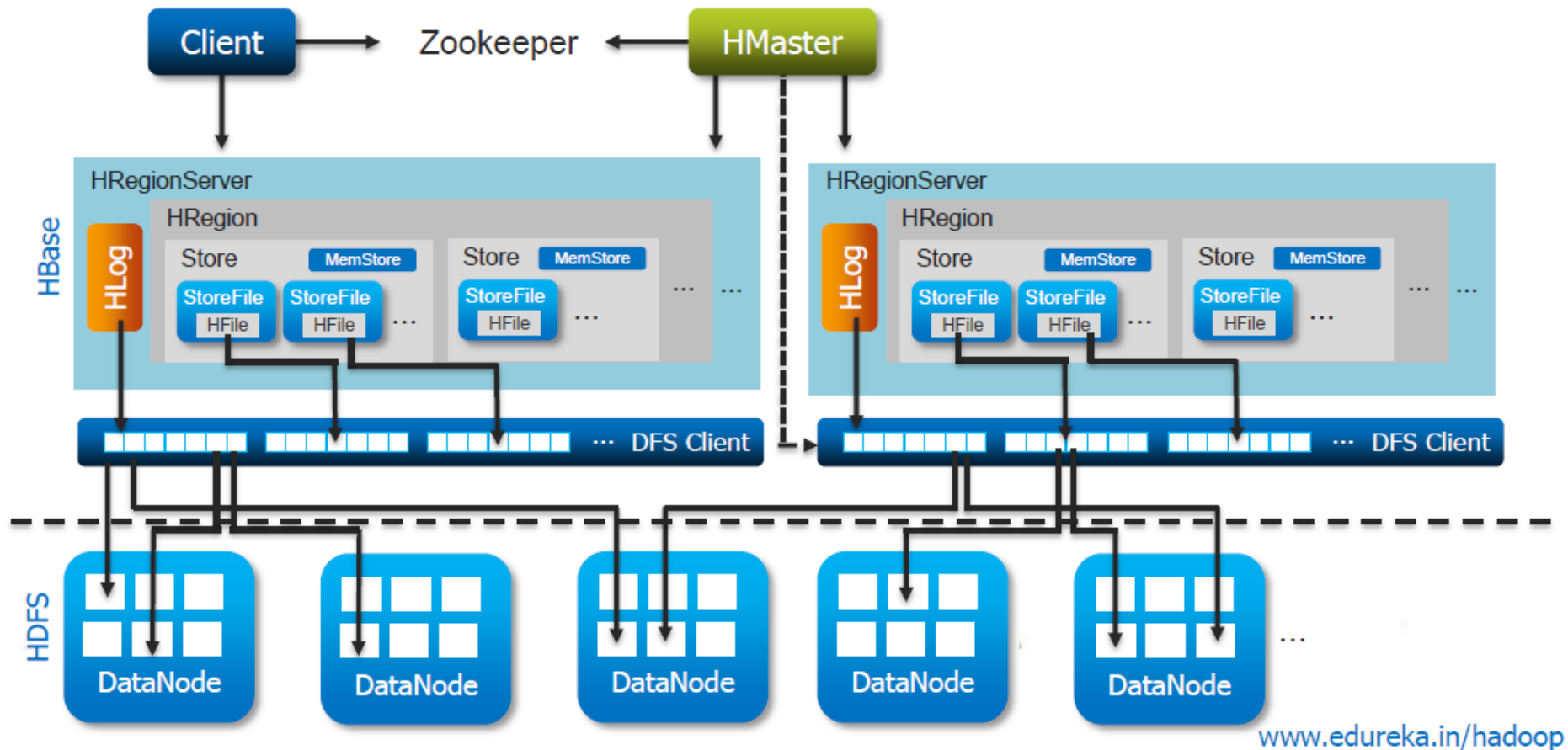
HBase: Architecture

Three major components:

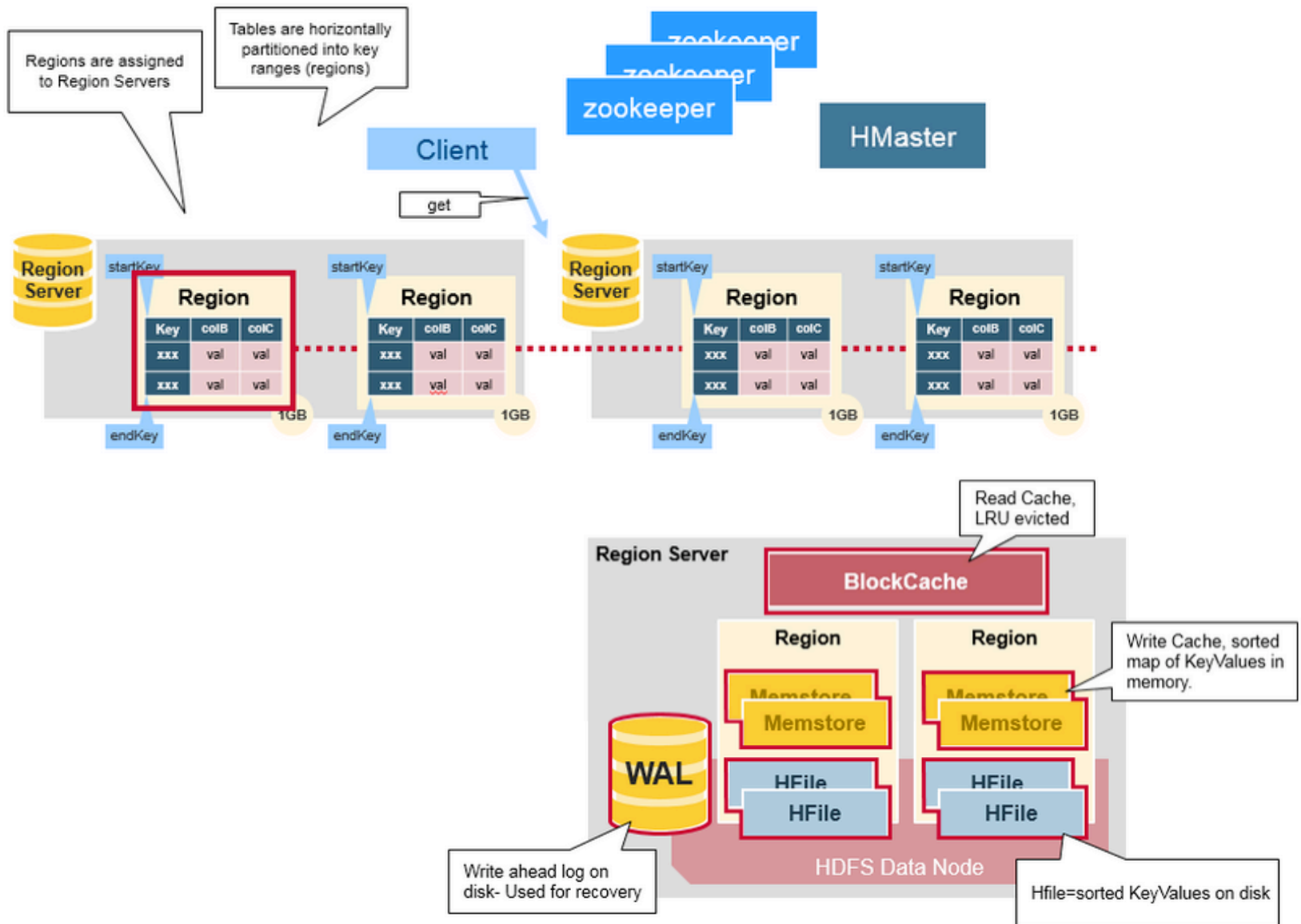
- the client library
- one master server
 - The master is responsible for assigning regions to region servers and uses Apache ZooKeeper to facilitate that task
- many region servers
 - manage the persistence of data
 - region servers can be added or removed while the system is up and running to accommodate changing workloads



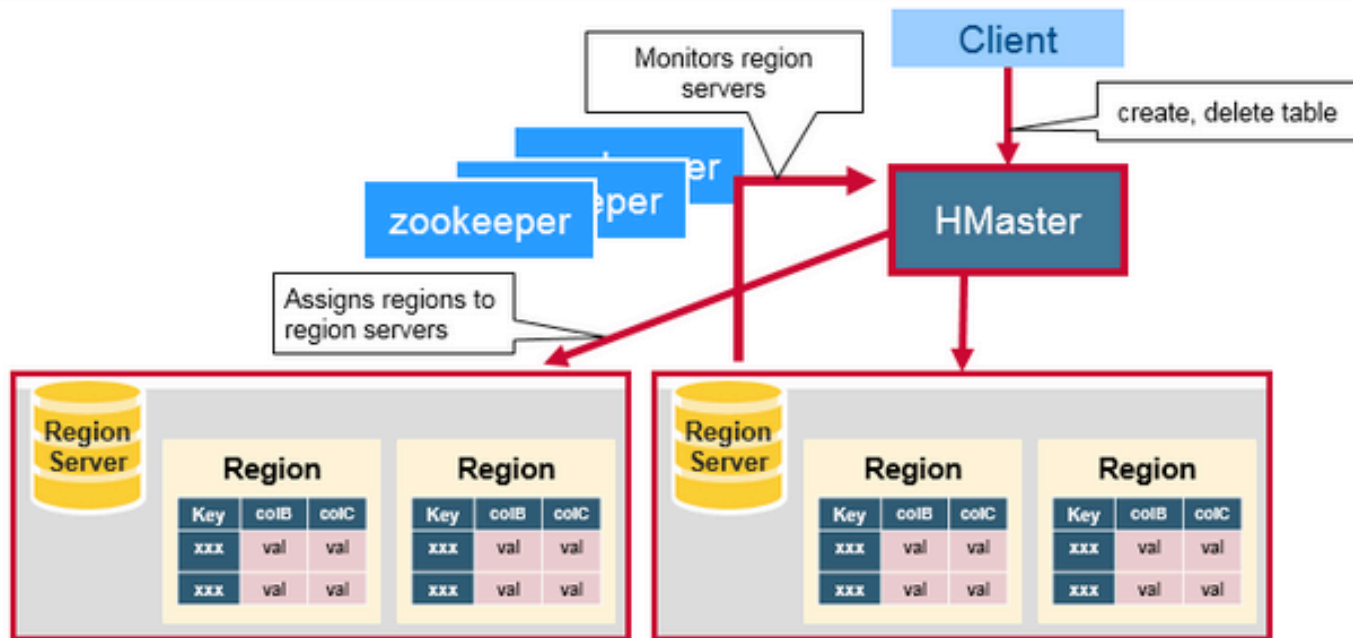
HBase: Architecture



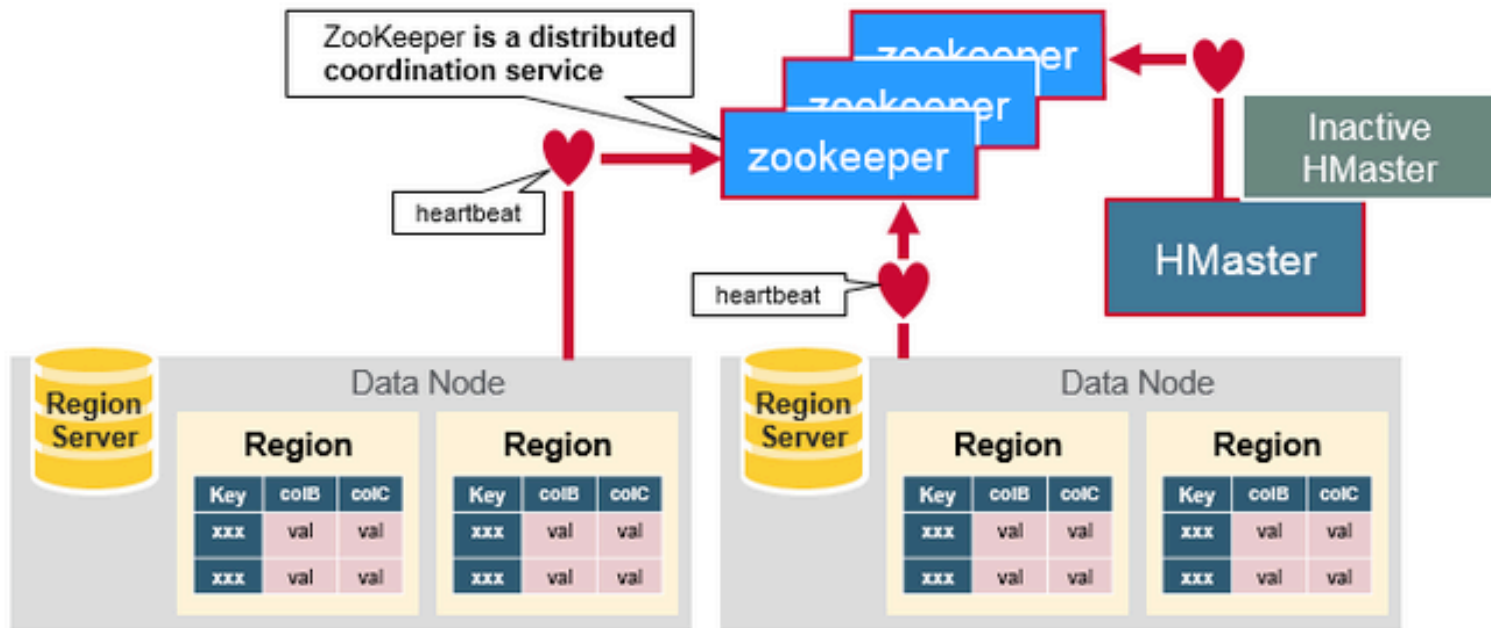
Regions



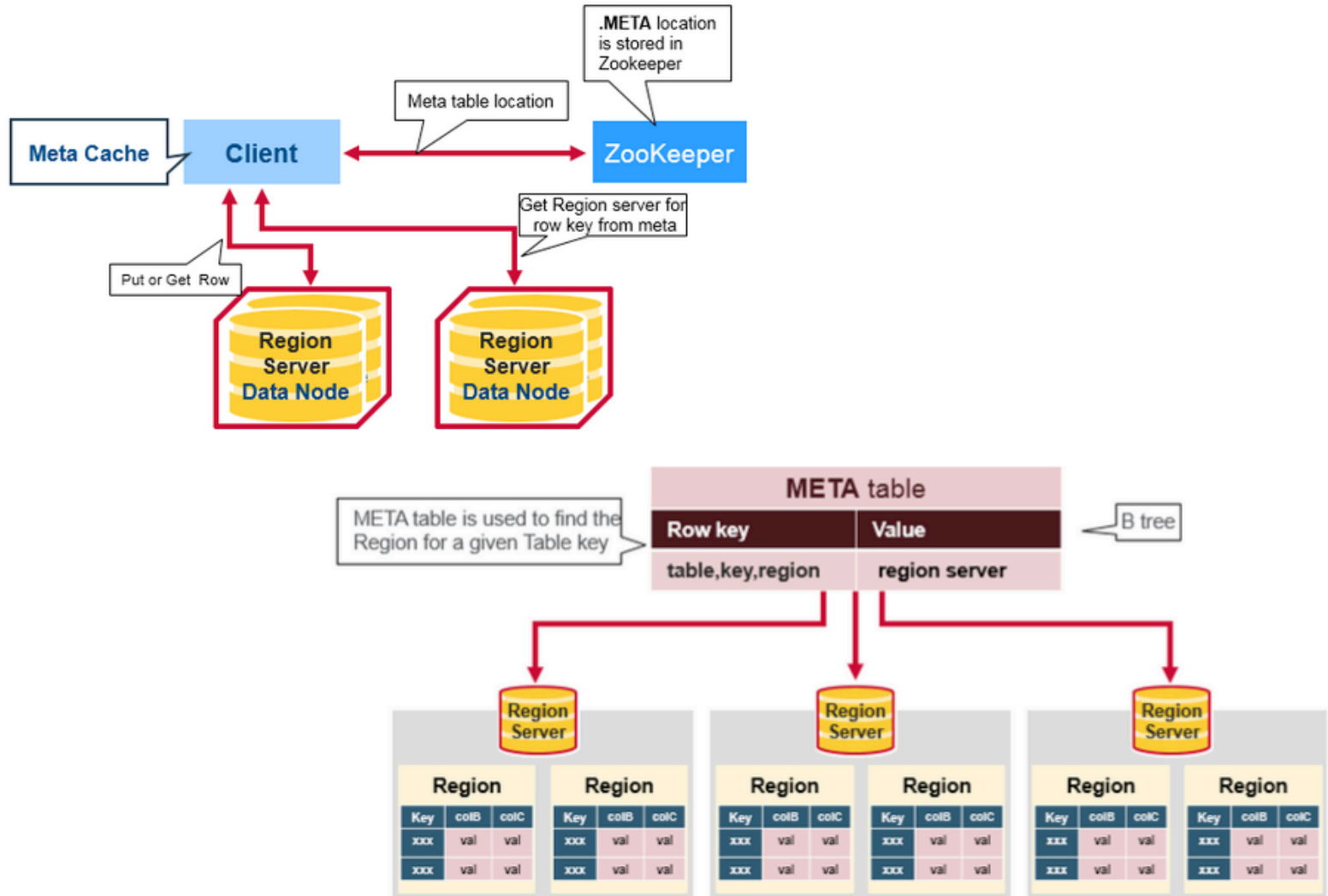
HBase HMaster



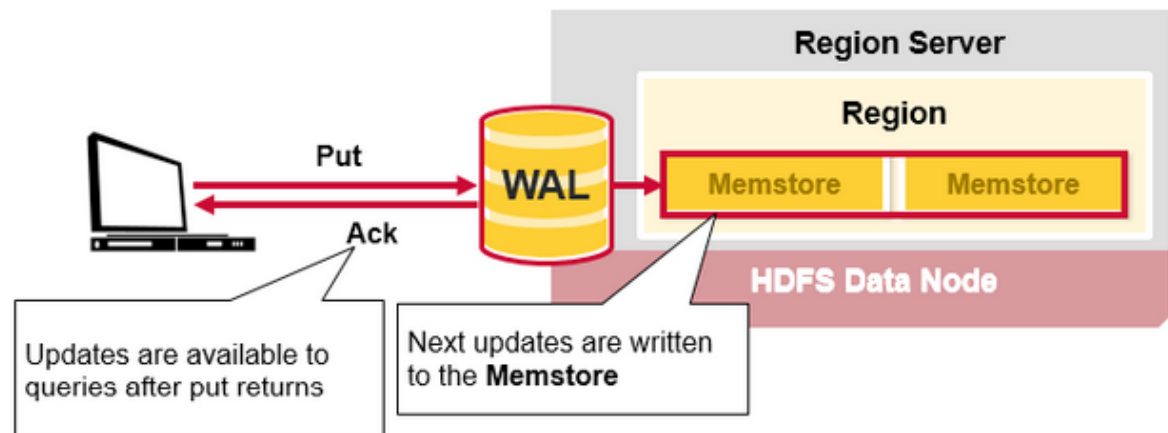
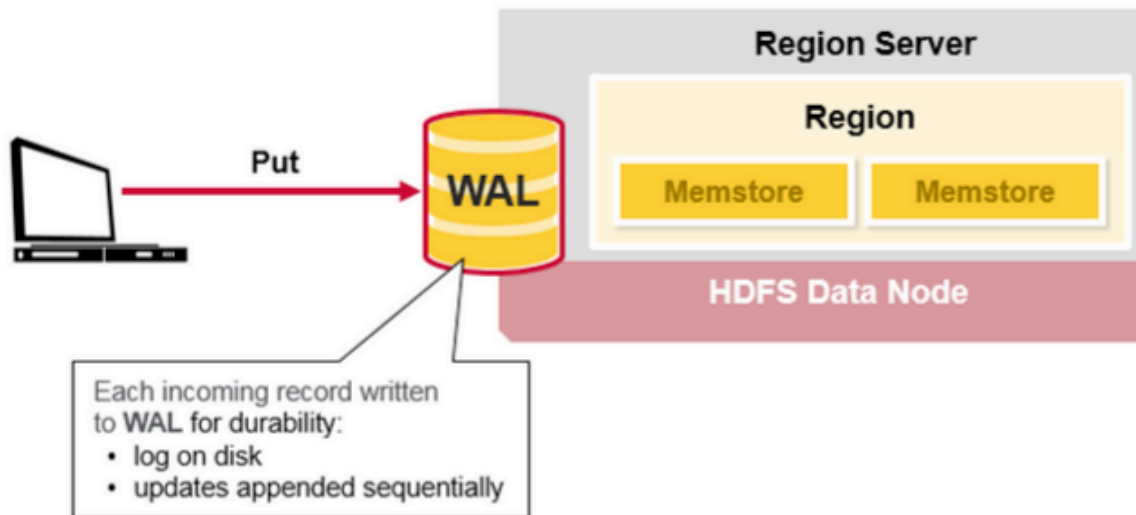
ZooKeeper: the Coordinator



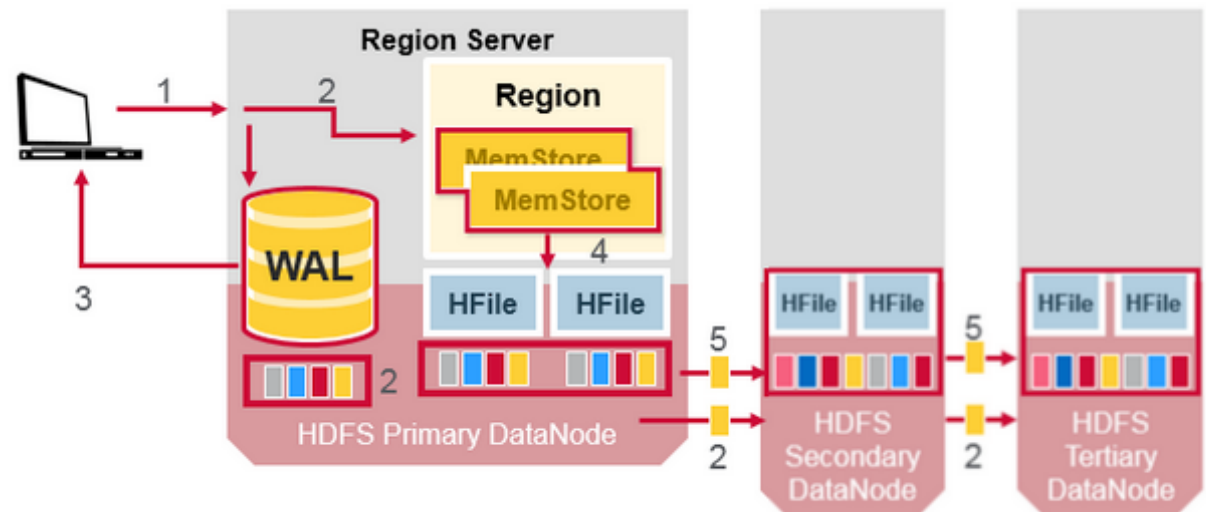
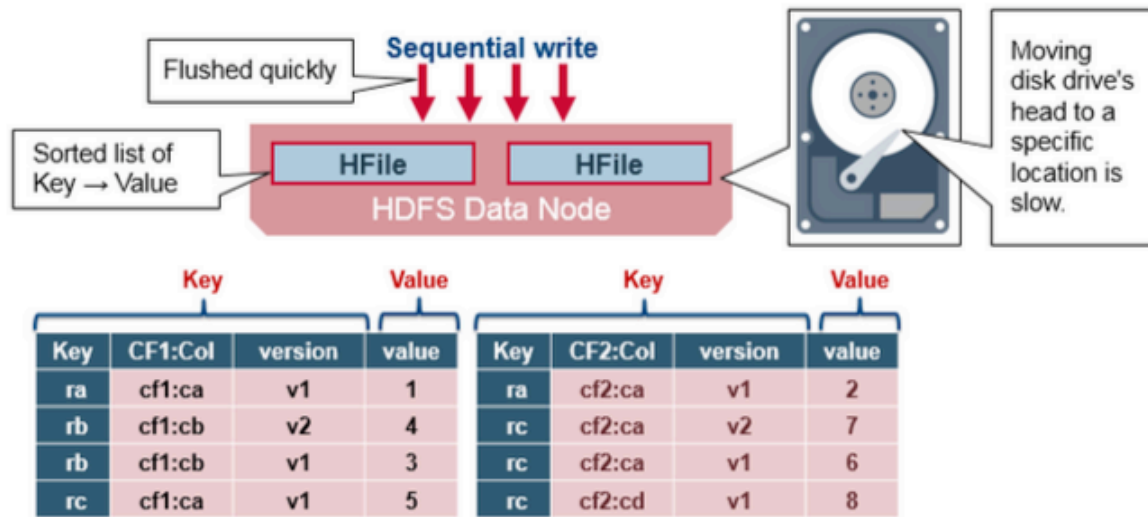
Meta Table Lookup



HBase Write Steps



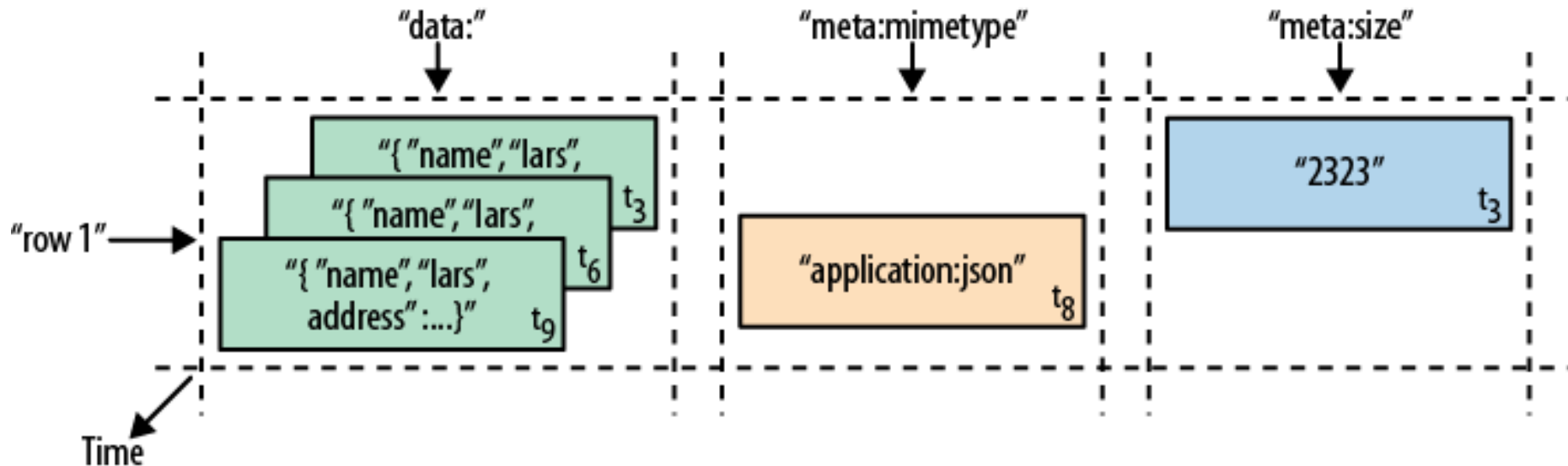
HBase HFiles



HBase: Versioning

- Cells may exist in **multiple versions**, and different columns have been written at different times.

By default, the API provides a coherent view of all columns wherein it automatically picks the most current value of each cell.



HBase: Strengths

- The column-oriented architecture allows for huge, wide, sparse tables as storing NULLs is free.
- Highly scalable due to the flexible schema and **row-level atomicity**
- Since a row is served by exactly one server, HBase is **strongly consistent**, and using its multi-versioning can help you to avoid edit conflicts
- The storage format is ideal for reading adjacent key/value pairs
- Table scans run in linear time and **row key lookups** or mutations are performed in logarithmic order
- Bigtable has been in use for a variety of different use cases from batch-oriented processing to real-time data-serving

Hands-on HBase (Docker image)

HBase with Dockers

- We use a lightweight container with a standalone HBase

```
$ docker pull harisekhon/hbase:1.4
```

- We can now create an instance of HBase; since we are interesting to use it from our local machine, we need to forward several HBase ports and update the hosts file;

```
$ docker run -ti --name=hbase-docker -h hbase-docker -p  
2181:2181 -p 8080:8080 -p 8085:8085 -p 9090:9090 -p  
9095:9095 -p 16000:16000 -p 16010:16010 -p 16201:16201 -p  
16301:16301 harisekhon/hbase:1.4
```

```
# append the following line to /etc/hosts  
127.0.0.1      hbase-docker
```

HBase Client

- We interact with HBase through its Java APIs
- Using Maven, include the hbase-client dependency:

```
<dependency>  
  <groupId>org.apache.hbase</groupId>  
  <artifactId>hbase-client</artifactId>  
  <version>2.1.3</version>  
</dependency>
```

HBase Client

```
public Connection getConnection() throws ... {  
  
    Configuration conf = HBaseConfiguration.create();  
    conf.set("hbase.zookeeper.quorum", ZOOKEEPER_HOST);  
    conf.set("hbase.zookeeper.property.clientPort",  
                                                    ZOOKEEPER_PORT);  
    conf.set("hbase.master", HBASE_MASTER);  
  
    /* Check configuration */  
    HBaseAdmin.checkHBaseAvailable(conf);  
  
    Connection connection =  
        connectionFactory.createConnection(conf);  
    return connection;  
  
}
```

This is only an excerpt, check the HBaseClient.java file

HBase Client: Create Table

```
public void createTable(String table,  
                        String... columnFamilies) {  
  
    Admin admin = ...  
    HTableDescriptor tableDescriptor = ... table ...  
  
    for (String columnFamily : columnFamilies) {  
        tableDescriptor.addFamily(columnFamily);  
    }  
  
    admin.createTable(tableDescriptor);  
  
}
```

This is only an excerpt, check the HBaseClient.java file

HBase Client: Drop Table

```
public void dropTable(String table) {  
  
    Admin admin = ...  
    TableName tableName = ... table ...  
  
    // To delete a table or change its settings,  
    // you need to first disable the table  
    admin.disableTable(tableName);  
  
    admin.deleteTable(tableName);  
  
}
```

This is only an excerpt, check the HBaseClient.java file

HBase Client: Put Data

```
public void put(String table, String rowKey,  
                String columnFamily,  
                String column, String value) {  
  
    Table hTable =  
        getConnection().getTable( ... table ... );  
  
    Put p = new Put(b(rowKey));  
    p.addColumn(b(columnFamily), b(column), b(value));  
  
    // Saving the put Instance to the HTable  
    hTable.put(p);  
  
    hTable.close();  
}
```

This is only an excerpt, check the HBaseClient.java file

HBase Client: Get Data

```
public String get(String table, String rowKey,  
                  String columnFamily,  
                  String column) {  
  
    Table hTable =  
        getConnection().getTable( ... table ... );  
  
    Get g = new Get(b(rowKey));  
    g.addColumn(b(columnFamily), b(column));  
  
    Result result = hTable.get(g);  
  
    return Bytes.toString(result.getValue());  
  
}
```

This is only an excerpt, check the HBaseClient.java file

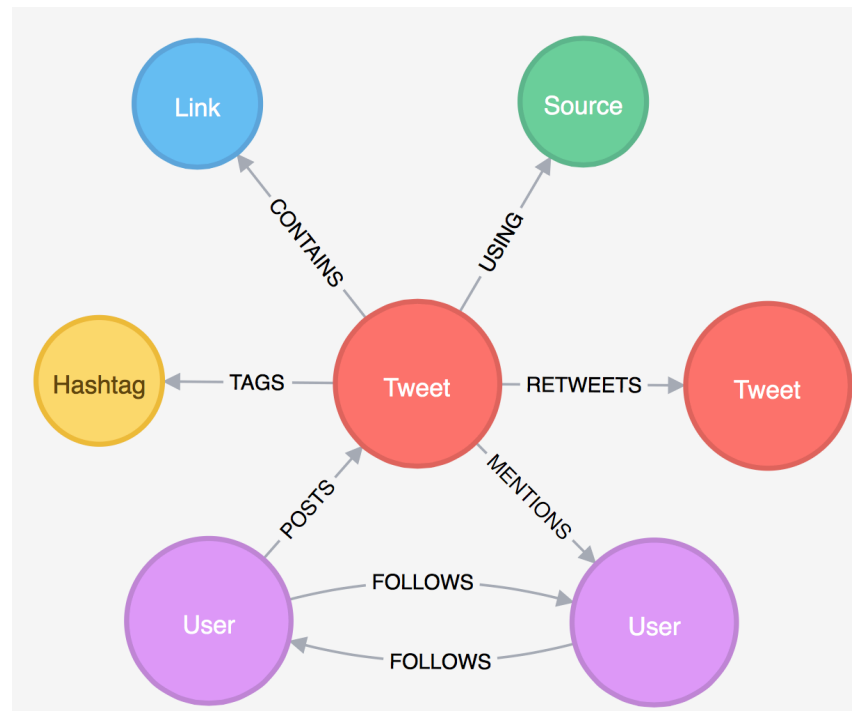
HBase Client: Delete Data

```
public void delete(String table, String rowKey) {  
  
    Table hTable =  
        getConnection().getTable( ... table ... );  
  
    Delete delete = new Delete(b(rowKey));  
  
    // deleting the data  
    hTable.delete(delete);  
  
    // closing the HTable object  
    hTable.close();  
  
}
```

This is only an excerpt, check the HBaseClient.java file

Graph data model

- Uses **graph structures**
 - Nodes are the entities and have a set of attributes
 - Edges are the relationships between the entities
 - E.g.: an author writes a book
 - Edges can be directed or undirected
 - Nodes and edges also have individual properties consisting of key-value pairs



Graph data model

- Powerful data model
 - Differently from other types of NoSQL stores, it concerns itself with **relationships**
 - Focus on visual representation of information (more human-friendly than other NoSQL stores)
 - Other types of NoSQL stores are poor for interconnected data
- Cons:
 - Sharding: data partitioning is difficult
 - Horizontal scalability
 - When related nodes are stored on different servers, traversing multiple servers is not performance-efficient
 - Requires rewiring your brain

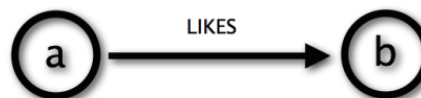
Suitable use cases for graph databases

- Good for applications where you need to model entities and relationships between them
 - Social networking applications
 - Pattern recognition
 - Dependency analysis
 - Recommendation systems
 - Solving path finding problems raised in navigation systems
 - ...
- Good for applications in which the focus is on querying for relationships between entities and analyzing relationships
 - Computing relationships and querying related entities is simpler and faster than in RDBMS

Neo4j: data model

- A graph records data in nodes and relationships
- Nodes are often used to represent entities
 - A node can have properties, relationships, and can also be labeled with one or more labels
 - Note that a node can have relationships to itself
- Relationships organize nodes by connecting them
 - A relationship connects two nodes; a start node and an end node
 - A relationship can have properties

Cypher using relationship 'likes'



Cypher

(a) -[:LIKES]-> (b)

Neo4j: data model

- **Properties** (both nodes and relationships) can be of different type:
 - Numeric values
 - String values
 - Boolean values
 - Lists of any other type of value
- **Labels** assign roles or types to nodes
 - A label is a named graph construct that is used to group nodes into sets
 - All nodes labeled with the same label belong to the same set
 - Labels can be added and removed at runtime
 - A node can have multiple labels

Neo4j: Cypher

- A **traversal** navigates through a graph to find paths;
 - starts from starting nodes to related nodes, finding answers to questions
- Cypher provides a **declarative way** to query the graph powered by traversals and other techniques
- A path is one or more nodes with connecting relationships, typically retrieved as a query or traversal result
- Cypher: is a textual declarative query language
 - It uses a form of ASCII art to represent graph-related patterns

Cypher

(a) -[:LIKES]-> (b)

Hands-on Neo4j (Docker image)

Neo4j with Dockers

- We use the official neo4j container

```
$ docker pull neo4j:5.6.0
```

- Create a container with Neo4j and forward its ports

```
$ docker run  
  --publish=7474:7474  
  --publish=7687:7687  
  --volume=$HOME/neo4j/data:/data  
  neo4j:5.6.0
```

- We will interact with Neo4j using its webUI

```
http://localhost:7474
```


Cypher syntax

- Cypher uses a pair of parentheses (usually containing a text string) to represent a **node**

```
(varname:Label { p_name: p_value, ... } )
```

- () represents a node
- varname (optional) assigns a name to the node that can be used elsewhere within a single statement.
- the Label (prefixed with a colon ":") declares the node's type (or label).
- the node's properties are represented as a list of key/value pairs, enclosed within a pair of braces

Cypher syntax

- Cypher uses a pair of dashes (--) to represent an undirected **relationship**. Directed relationships have an arrowhead at one end (<--, -->).
 - It is possible to create only directed relationship, although they can be queried as undirected

```
-[role:ACTED_IN {roles: ["Neo"]}]->
```

Bracketed expressions ([...]) are used to add details:

- a variable (e.g., role) can be defined, to be used elsewhere in the statement.
- the relationship's type (e.g., :ACTED_IN) is analogous to the node's label.
- the properties (e.g., roles) are entirely equivalent to node properties.

Cypher syntax

Variables:

To increase modularity and reduce repetition, Cypher allows patterns to be assigned to variables

```
acted_in = (:Person)-[:ACTED_IN]->(:Movie)
```

<https://neo4j.com/developer/cypher-query-language/>

Cypher syntax: Create

Create a node with label Person and property name with value "you":

```
CREATE (you:Person {name:"You"})  
RETURN you
```

Create a more complex structure: add a new node and a new relationship with the existing one

```
MATCH (you:Person {name:"You"})  
CREATE (you)-[like:LIKE]->(neo:Database  
{name:"Neo4j"})  
RETURN you, like, neo
```

Cypher syntax: Find, Update and Remove

Find a node (basic syntax)

```
MATCH (you {name:"You"})-[:FRIEND]->(yourFriends)  
RETURN you, yourFriends
```

Update an existing node (similarly, to update a relationship)

```
MATCH (n {property:value})  
SET n :NewLabel  
RETURN n
```

Remove a property (or a Label) from a node (or relationship)

```
MATCH (b {name: "Bruce Springsteen"})  
REMOVE b.nickname RETURN b
```

Cypher syntax: Delete

Delete a node:

```
MATCH (a:ToDel)  
DELETE a
```

Note that a node cannot be deleted if it participates in a relationship. To remove also relationships, we need to detach the node, delete it and its relationships:

```
MATCH (b {name: "Bruce Springsteen"})  
DETACH DELETE b;
```

Cypher syntax: Read Clauses

These clauses read data from the data store:

- **MATCH** Specify the patterns to search for in the database
- **OPTIONAL MATCH** Specify the patterns to search for in the database while using nulls for missing parts of the pattern
- **WHERE** Adds constraints to the patterns in a MATCH or OPTIONAL MATCH clause or filter the results of a WITH clause
- **START** Find starting points through legacy indexes

Read more: <http://neo4j.com/docs/developer-manual/current/cypher/clauses/>

Cypher syntax: Write Clauses

These clauses write data to the data store:

- **CREATE** Create nodes and relationships
- **MERGE** Ensures that a pattern exists in the graph. Either the pattern already exists, or it needs to be created.
- **ON CREATE** (used with MERGE) it specifies the actions to take if the pattern needs to be created.
- **SET** Update labels on nodes and properties on nodes and relationships.
- **DELETE** Delete graph elements (nodes, relationships or paths).
- **REMOVE** Remove properties and labels from nodes and relationships.

Cypher syntax: General Clauses

These comprise general clauses that work in conjunction with other clauses:

- **RETURN** Defines what to include in the query result set.
- **ORDER BY** A sub-clause following RETURN or WITH, specifying that the output should be sorted in particular way.
- **LIMIT** Constrains the number of rows in the output.
- **SKIP** Defines from which row to start including the rows in the output
- **WITH** Allows query parts to be chained together, piping the results from one to be used as starting points or criteria in the next.
- **UNION** Combines the result of multiple queries.

Cypher syntax: Operators

Within clauses, we often rely on operators to combine and compare nodes/relationships or access to their properties

General operators:

`DISTINCT`, `.` for property access,

`[]` for dynamic property access

Mathematical operators:

`+`, `-`, `*`, `/`, `%`, `^`

Comparison operators:

`=`, `<>`, `<`, `>`, `<=`, `>=`, `IS NULL`, `IS NOT NULL`

Cypher syntax: Operators

String-specific comparison operators:

STARTS WITH, ENDS WITH, CONTAINS

Boolean operators

AND, OR, XOR, NOT

String operators

+ for concatenation, **=~** for regex matching

List operators

+ for concatenation,

IN to check existence of an element in a list,

[] for accessing element(s)

Cypher syntax: Relationship pattern length

Relationship pattern length:

```
(a) - [*2] -> (b)
```

It is possible to specify a length (2 in the example) in the relationship description of a pattern.

It can be a variable length:

- *3..5 (between 3 and 5),
- *3.. (greater than 3),
- *..5 (less than 5),
- * (any length)

Read more: <http://neo4j.com/docs/developer-manual/current/cypher/functions/>

Cypher syntax: Relationship pattern

Relationship pattern:

- nodes and relationship expressions are the building blocks for more complex patterns;
- patterns can be written continuously or separated with commas

Examples:

- friend-of-a-friend:

```
(user) -[:KNOWS] - (friend) -[:KNOWS] - (foaf)
```

- shortest path:

```
path = shortestPath( (user) -[:KNOWS*..5] - (other) )
```

<http://neo4j.com/docs/developer-manual/current/cypher/clauses/match/>