

# CS 561: Data Systems Architectures

Prof. Manos Athanassoulis

[mathan@bu.edu](mailto:mathan@bu.edu)

<https://bu-disc.github.io/CS561/>

no   
smartphones

no   
laptop

**Why?**

there is enough evidence that laptops and phones slow you down

# Today

big data

data-driven world

data systems *which are the main drivers?*

*why do we need new designs?*

**CS591 goals & logistics**



I want you to speak up!  
[and you can always interrupt me]

# CS561 philosophy

cutting-edge research

question everything (to understand it better!)

interactive & collaborative





# Understanding a design/system/algorithm ...

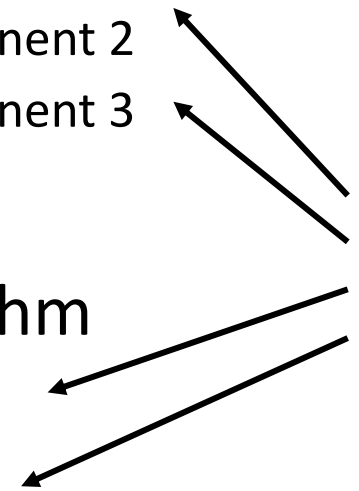
## system

- component 1
- component 2
- component 3

## algorithm

- step 1
- step 2
- step 3

why?  
why not?



understanding all steps and all decisions  
helps us see the ***big picture***  
and do **good research!**

(otherwise, we make ad hoc choices!)



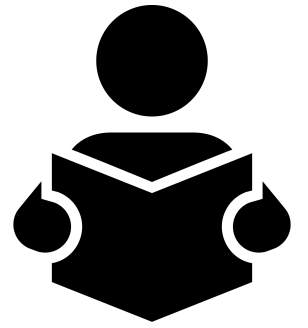
# Ask Questions!

... and answer my questions!

our **main goal** is to have **interesting discussions** that will help to gradually understand what the material discusses

**(it's ok if not everything is clear, as long as you have questions!)**

# Read papers



every class **1-2 papers to discuss** in detail

***in some classes the discussion will be led by a group of students***

***so that, each student will present one paper during the semester***

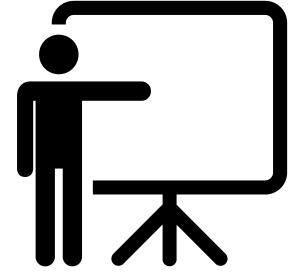
(background papers also available to provide more details)

read all of them!

write 4 reviews

answer one technical question per week (for a subset of the papers)

# Presentations



**2-4 students will be responsible for presenting** the paper  
(discussing all main points of a review – see next slide)

during the presentation **anyone can ask questions** (including me!)  
and each question is **addressed to all** (including me!)

the presenting student(s) will **prepare slides and questions**

# Reviews



## 4 reviews and the 6 technical questions

(some weeks will be “free”!)

### **review (up to one page)**

- what is the problem & why it is important?
- why is it hard & why older approaches are not enough?
- what is key idea and why it works?
- what is missing and how can we improve this idea?
- does the paper supports its claims?
- possible next steps of the work presented in the paper?

### **single technical question**

to make sure the heart of the paper is clearly understood

remember, this will helps us do **good research!**

# AND

## project 0

A small implementation project  
to sharpen dev skills

independent project



## project 1

A project about the two fundamental  
architectures: row-stores vs. column-stores

groups of 3





Project theme: NoSQL key-value stores

... are everywhere



work on a *state-of-the-art* design



# Research Project: open questions

*tuning* based on workload

*quickly delete* and free-up resources

exploit *data being sorted*

data *partitioning* for complex workloads

*more on the website (soon)*



# A good project

- (1) has a clear plan by project proposal (5% - mid February)
- (2) has significant preliminary work done by mid-March (5%)

evaluation at the end of the semester:

- (i) present the key ideas of the implementation/new approach
- (ii) present a set of experiments supporting your claims

come to OH!

(more details for the projects in Class 4 next week)

# The ultimate reward!



## ACM SIGMOD Student Research Competition

The **top conference in data management**

ACM Special Interest Group in Data Management (SIGMOD)

receives submissions of *student research*

top 10-15 **are invited to present their work** at the conference

top-3 projects get an award and **invitation to present at the ACM level**  
(all of computer science)



# Class Goal

understand the internals of  
data systems for data science

tune data systems through **adaptation** and **automation**

get acquainted with research in the area

# Can I take this class?



## **background**

programming  
data structures  
algorithms  
comp. architecture

## **pre-req**

CS460/660 & CS210  
contact Manos if not sure

## **how to be sure?**

if familiar with most, then maybe!  
if familiar with **none**, then no!

# Next classes

## **Class 1-2**

logistics, big data, data systems, trends and outlook

## **Class 3**

more basics on data systems, systems classification, graph, cloud

## **Class 4**

intro to class project

## **Class 5 and beyond**

present and **discuss** research papers from Manos + students + guest lectures



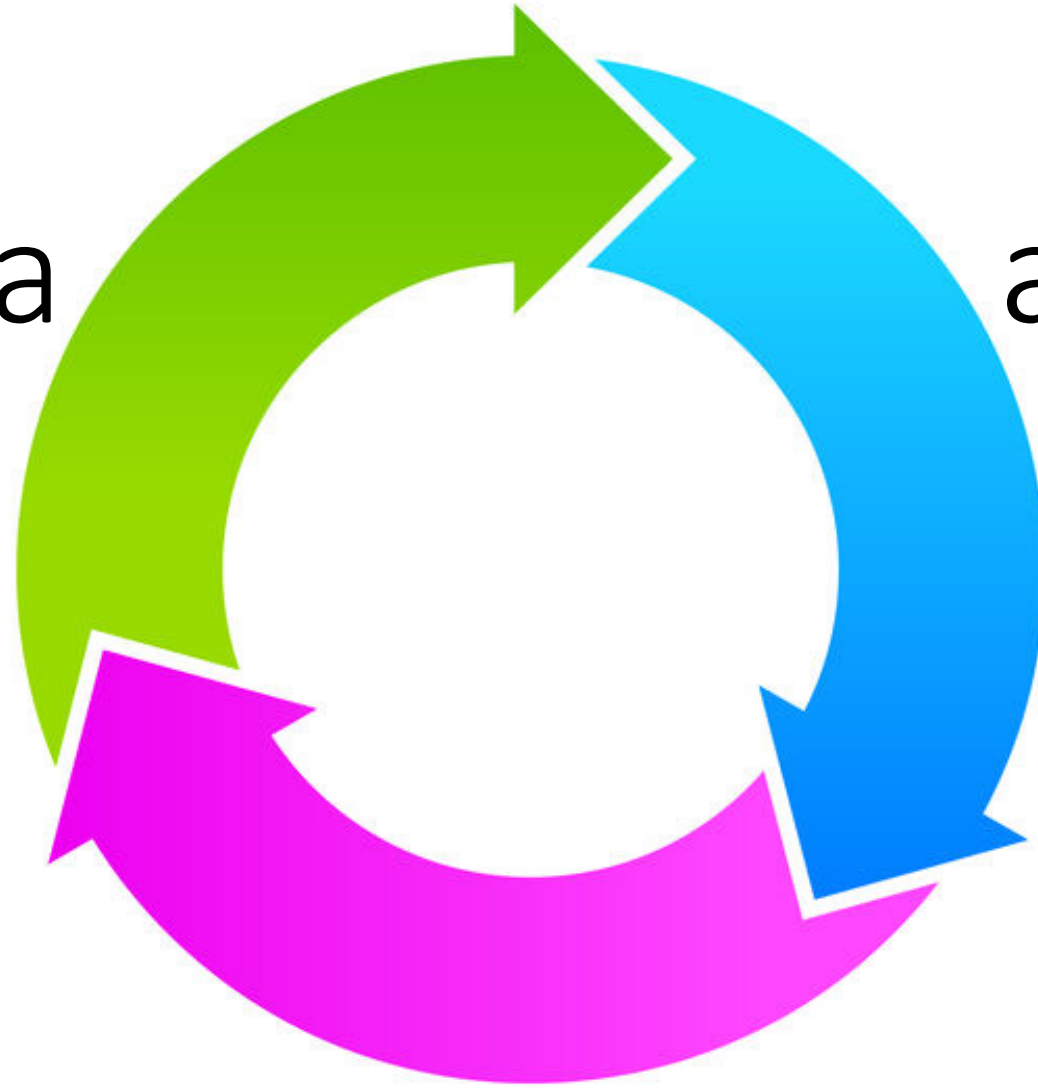
big data?

*who doesn't have a lot of data?*

what is new?

data

analysis



knowledge

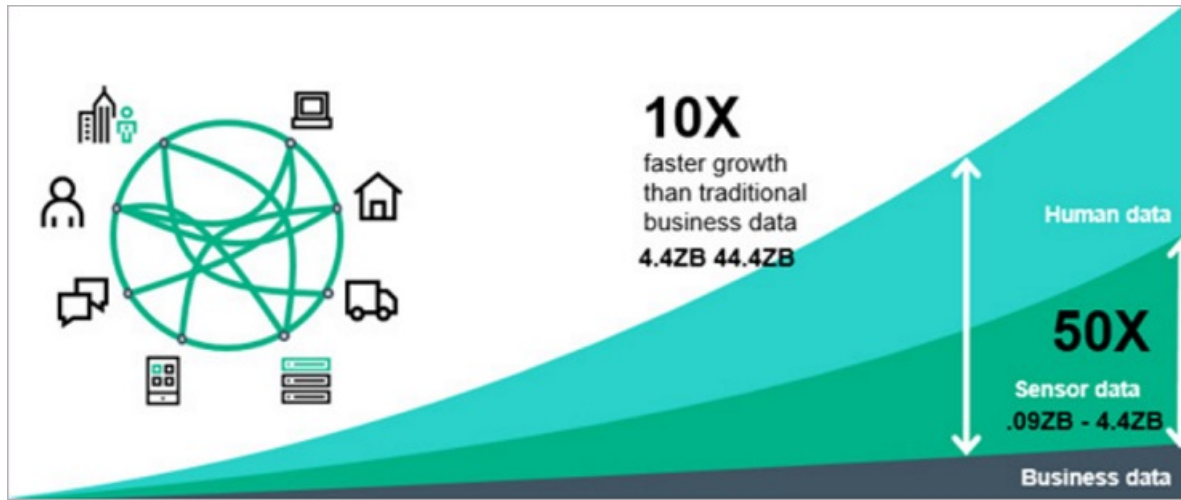


is data  
analysis new?

what is  
*really* new?



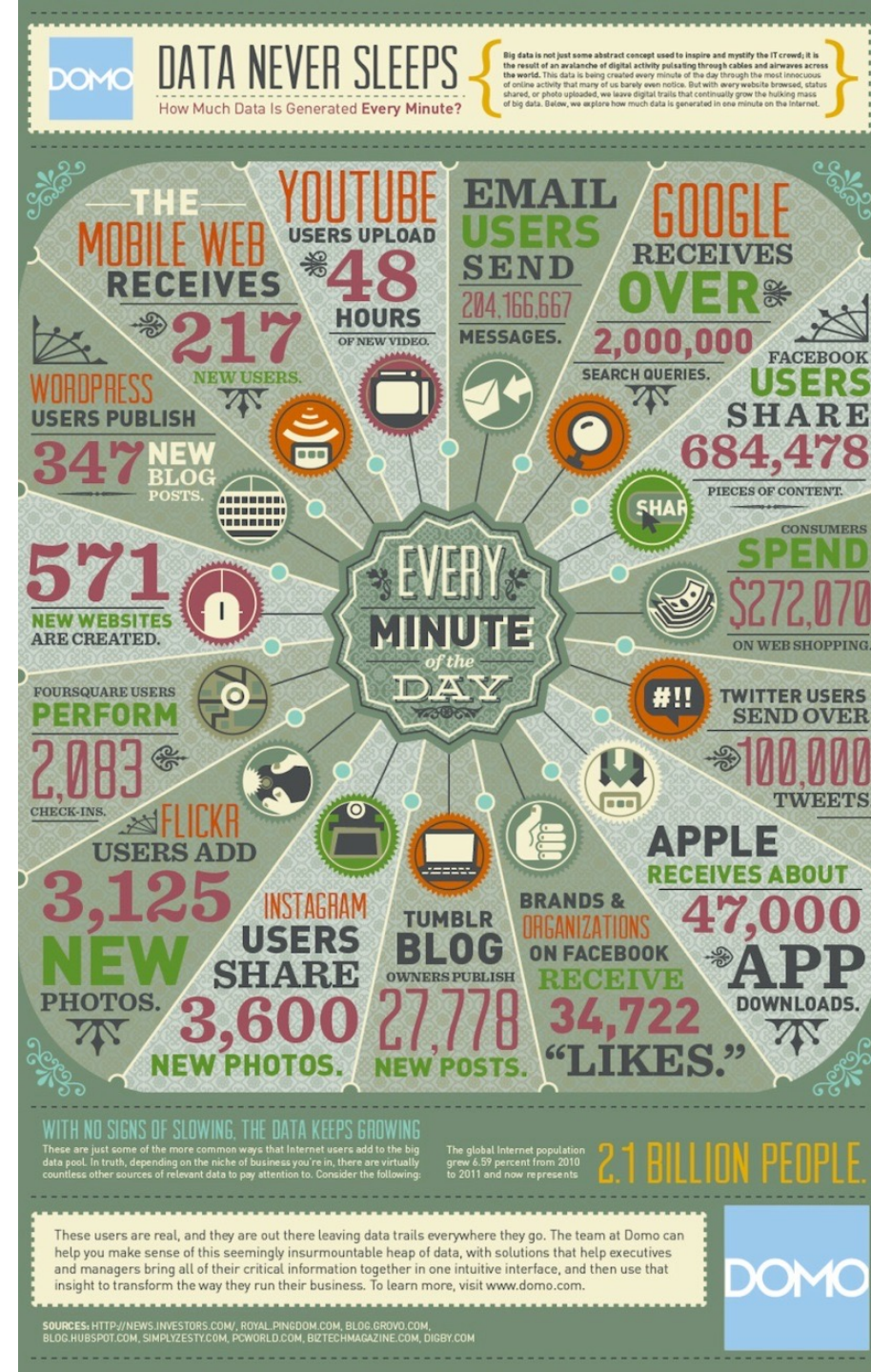




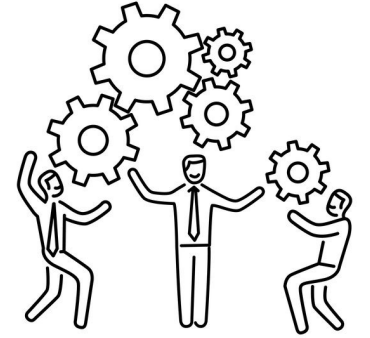
Every day, we create 2.5 exabytes\* of data — 90% of the data in the world today has been created in the last two years alone.

[Understanding Big Data, IBM]

\*exabyte =  $10^9$  GB



# data management skills needed



100s of entries

**pen & paper**

$10^3$ - $10^6$  of entries

**unix tools and excel**

$10^9$  of entries

**custom solutions, programming**

$10^{12+}$  of entries

**data systems**

size (volume)

rate (velocity)

sources (variety)



big data

(it's not only about size)

*all of the above plus ...*


our ability to collect *machine-generated* data

 scientific experiments

 sensors

social 

monitoring 

 micro-payments

Internet-of-Things 

cloud 

data analysis

*know what we  
are looking for*

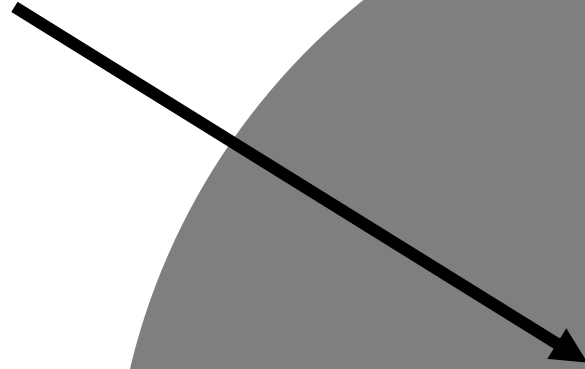


data exploration

*not sure what we  
are looking for*



data systems are  
in the middle of this!



**big data**

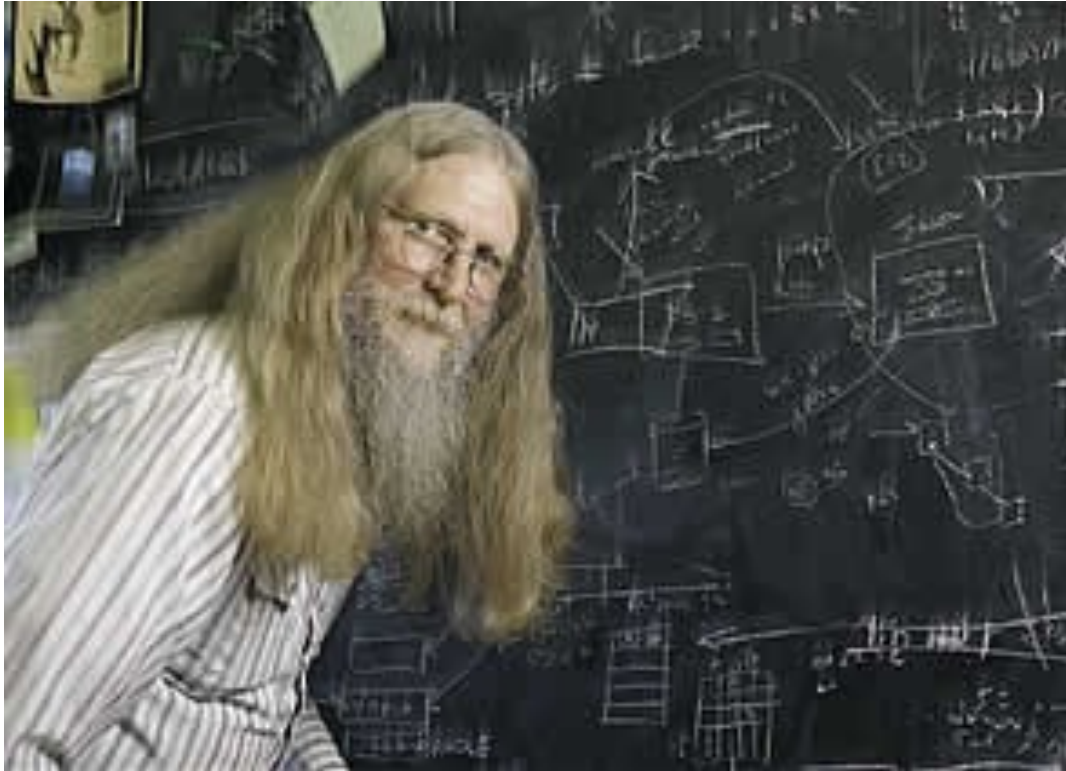
**data  
systems**

what is a data system?



a **data system** is a large software system  
(a collection of algorithms and data structures)  
that **stores data**, and provides the **interface** to  
**update** and **access** them **efficiently**

the end goal is to make **data analysis** easy



*“relational databases  
are the foundation of  
western civilization”*

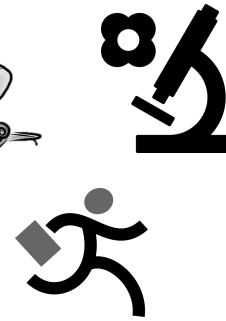
Bruce Lindsay, IBM Research

ACM SIGMOD Edgar F. Codd Innovations award 2012

# data systems are everywhere



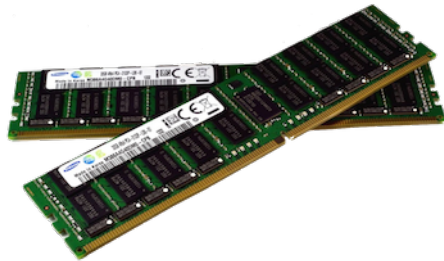
twitter



Google

***growing need for tailored systems***

*future*



# Why?



new applications



new hardware



more data

ORACLE®

facebook.



SAP®



IBM

Google

# The big success of 5 decades of research

a declarative interface!

“ask and thou shall receive”

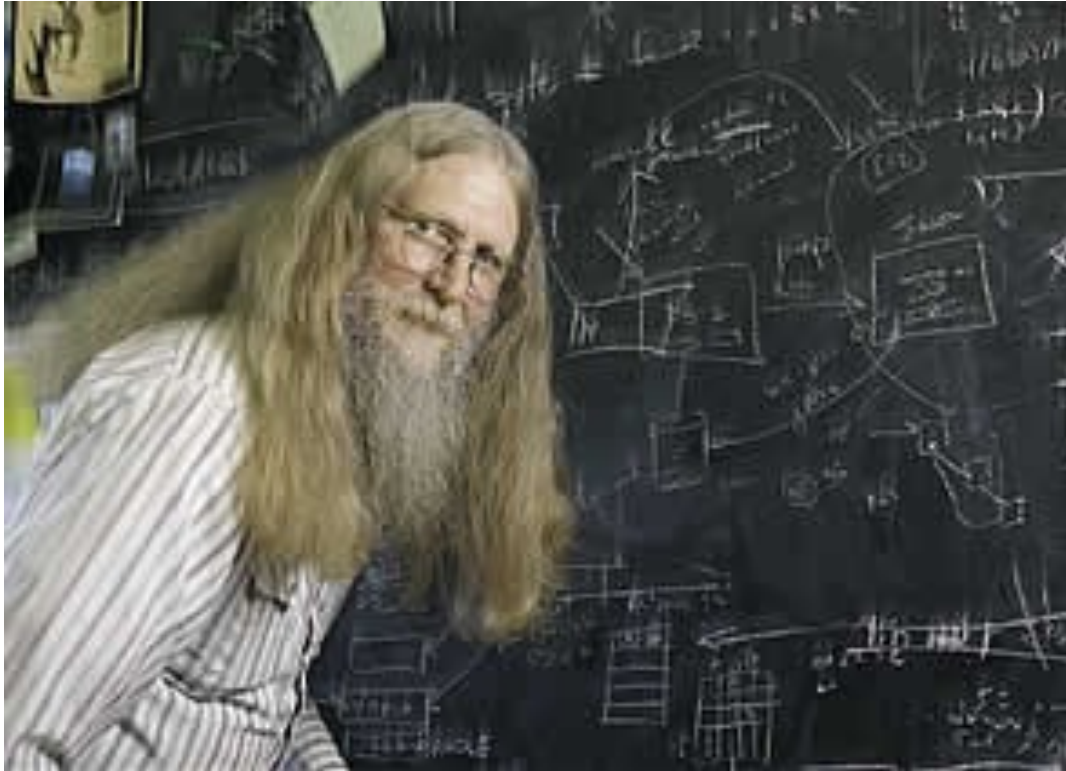
ask *what* you want

data system

system decides *how*  
*to store & access*



is this good? why?

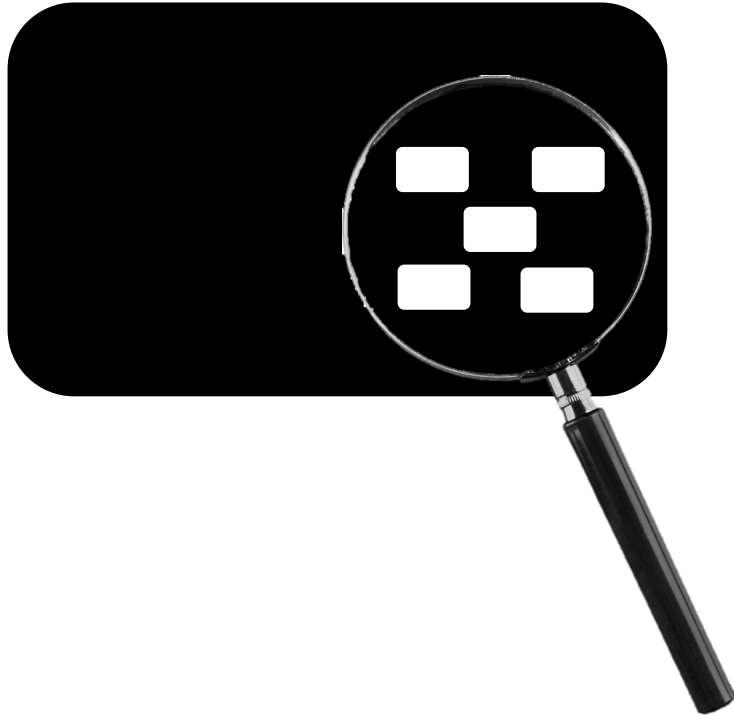


*“three things are important  
in the database world:  
**performance, performance,  
and performance”***

Bruce Lindsay, IBM Research

ACM SIGMOD Edgar F. Codd Innovations award 2012

# CS561: data systems **kernel** under the looking glass



this is where we will spend our time!

system architecture (row/column/hybrid)

indexing

relational/graph/key-value

scale-up/scale-out

***goal: learn to design and implement a db kernel***

# how to design a data system kernel?

what are its basic components?

algorithms/data structures/caching policies

what decisions should we make?

how to combine? how to optimize for hardware?

***how many options?***



# data system design complexity



application



performance



budget

thousands of options  
millions of decisions  
billions of combinations

# let's think together: a simple db kernel

a key-value system, each entry is a {key,value} pair

**main operations:** *put, get, scan, range scan, count*

workload has both reads (*get, scan, range scan*) *and writes (put)*

data

how to store and how to access data?

how to efficiently delete?



## designing a simple key-value system:

what is the key/value?

are they stored together?

can read/write ratio change over time?

what to use? b-tree, hash-table, scans, skip-lists, zonemaps?

how to handle concurrent queries? million concurrent queries?

how to compress data?

how to exploit multi-core, SIMD, GPUs?

what happens if data does not fit in memory?

what happens if data does not fit in a node?

# other challenges of a db system

## SQL queries

### data system

(much) more than 1 user?

ensure complete/correct answers?

protect data breaches and privacy?

robust performance?

# what happens when we move to the cloud?



hardware at massive scale

performance tradeoffs different

10GB app: 1% less memory in your machine

10GB app: 1% less memory in 1M instances

so what?

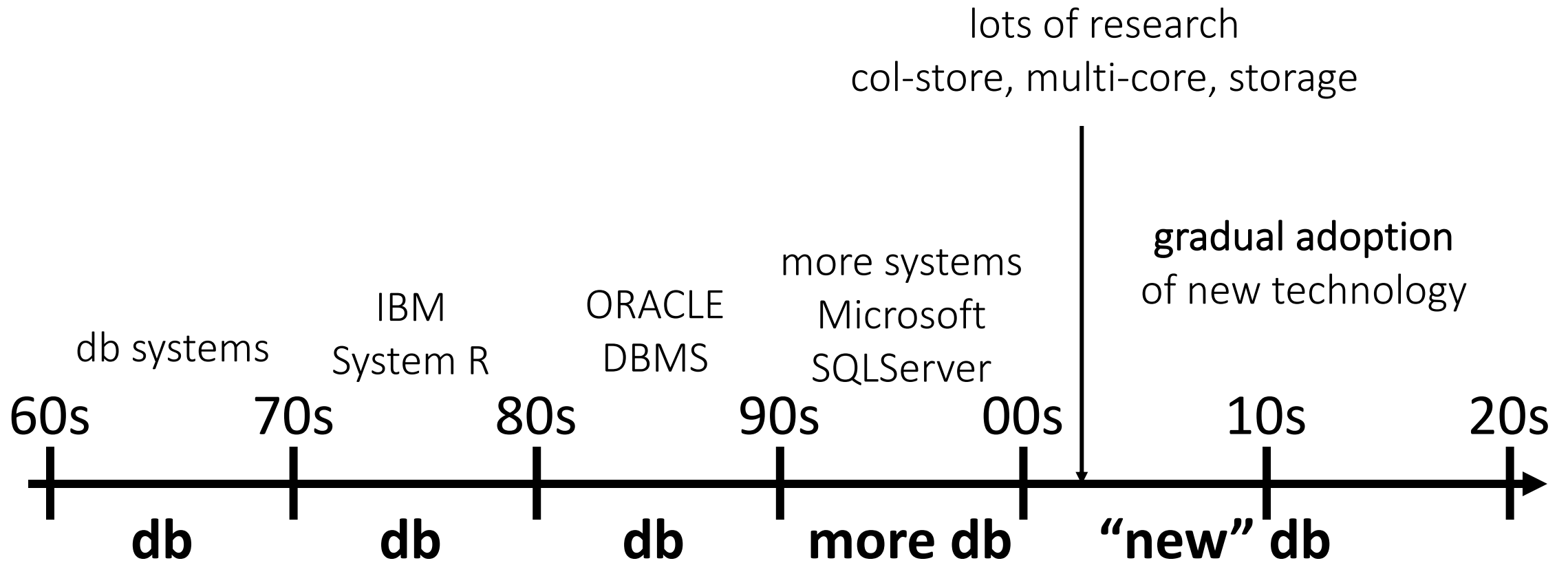
$1M * 10GB * 1\% = 100TB!$

~800k\$ in today's price

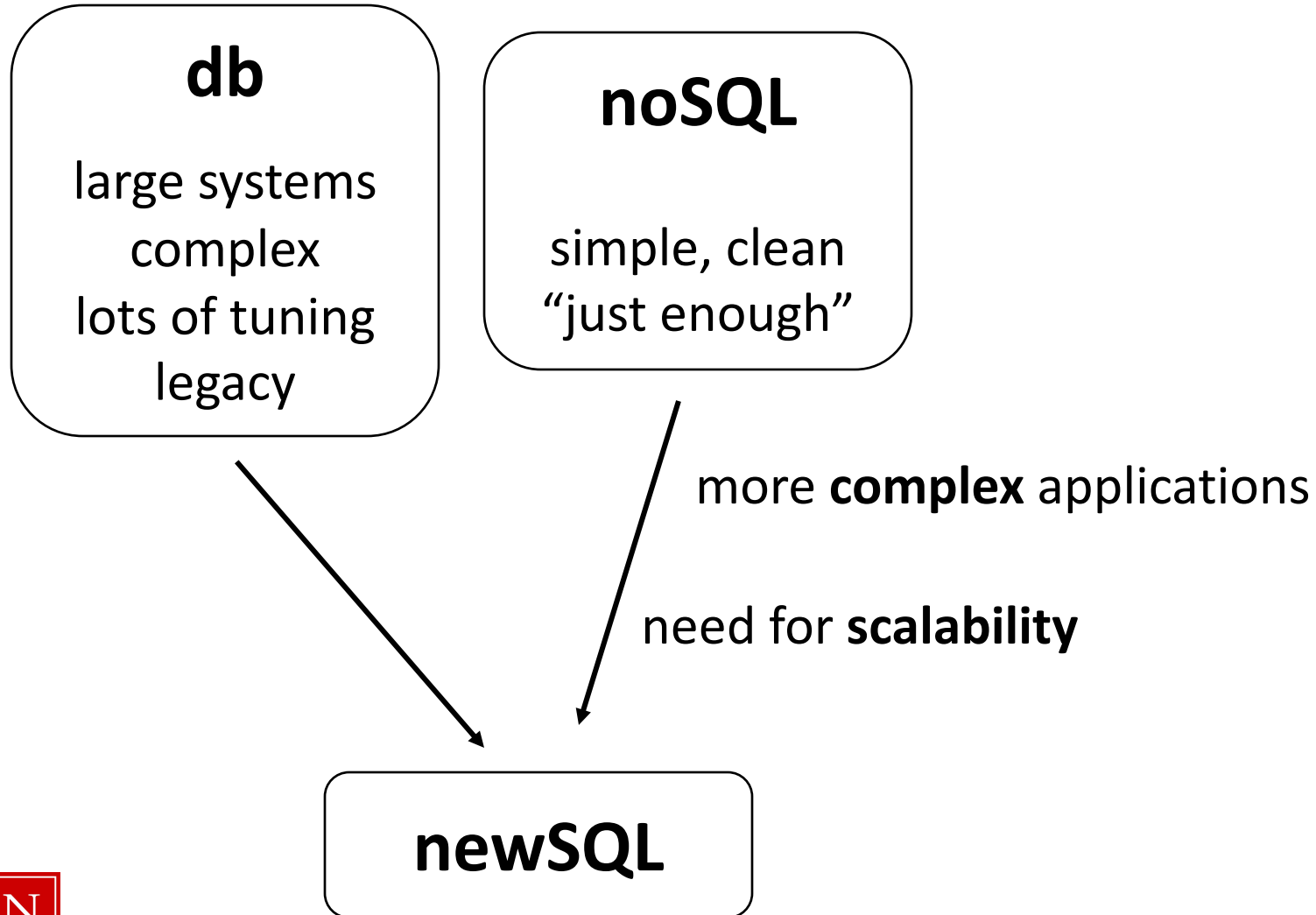
what about security?

elasticity    privacy    scalability

# db systems history line



# the game of new technologies



what is *really* new?



# CS561 more logistics



## **topics**

storage layouts, solid-state storage, multi-cores, indexing, access path selection, HTAP systems, data skipping, adaptive indexing, time-series, scientific data management, map/reduce, data systems and ML, learned indexes

## **past but still relevant topics**

relational systems, row-stores, query optimization, concurrency control, SQL

**how did we end up to today's systems?**

no textbook – only research papers

class key goal

understand **system design tradeoffs**

**design** and **prototype** a system

with other **side-effects**:

**sharpening your systems skills**

**(C/C++, profiling, debugging, linux tools)**

data system designer & researcher

any business, any startup, any scientific domain

# grading



class participation: 5%

project 0: 10%

project 1: 10%

reviews: 8%

technical questions: 12%

paper presentation: 15%

project proposal: 5%

mid-semester project report: 5%

project: 30%

# Piazza



all discussions & announcements

<https://piazza.com/bu/spring2022/cs561>

also available on class website

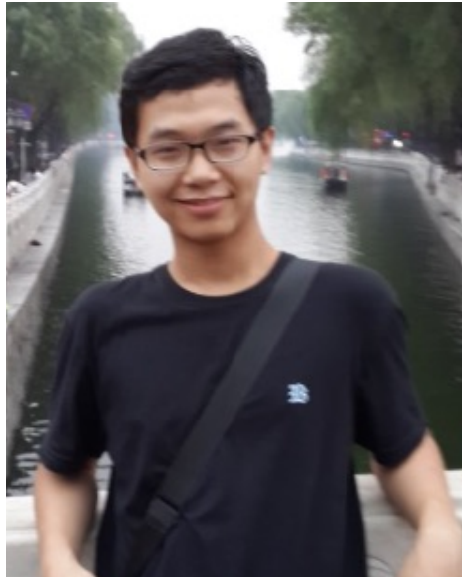
no   
smartphones

no   
laptop

**Why?**

there is enough evidence that laptops and phones slow you down

# Your awesome TAs!



Zichen



Aneesh

**Prof. Manos Athanassoulis**  
name in greek: Μάνος Αθανασούλης

grew up in Greece  
enjoys playing basketball and the sea

**BSc and MSc @ University of Athens, Greece**  
**PhD @ EPFL, Switzerland**  
**Research Intern @ IBM Research Watson, NY**  
**Postdoc @ Harvard University**

**some awards:**

Best of SIGMOD/VLDB papers  
NSF CRII Award  
Facebook Faculty Fellowship



photo for VISA / conferences



Myrtos, Kefalonia, Greece

<http://cs-people.bu.edu/mathan/>

Office: MCS 106

Office Hours: T/Th 2-3pm

# how can I prepare?

## 1) Read background research material

- **Architecture of a Database System.** By J. Hellerstein, M. Stonebraker and J. Hamilton. Foundations and Trends in Databases, 2007
- **The Design and Implementation of Modern Column-store Database Systems.** By D. Abadi, P. Boncz, S. Harizopoulos, S. Idreos, S. Madden. Foundations and Trends in Databases, 2013
- **Massively Parallel Databases and MapReduce Systems.** By Shivnath Babu and Herodotos Herodotou. Foundations and Trends in Databases, 2013

## 2) Start going over the papers



# class summary

2 classes per week / OH+Labs 5 days per week

## **each student**

1 presentation/discussion lead + 1 review/question per week

project 0 + project 1 + systems or research project

proposal + mid-semester report + final report/presentation

# what to do now?

- A) read the syllabus and the website
- B) register to piazza + gradescope
- C) start working on project 0**
- D) register for the presentation (week 2)
- E) start submitting paper reviews/answering tech. questions (week 3)
- F) go over the project (end of next week will be available)
- G) start working on the proposal (week 3)

# survival guide

**class website:** <https://bu-disc.github.io/CS561/>

**piazza website:** <https://piazza.com/bu/spring2022/cs561>

**presentation registration:** <https://tinyurl.com/S22-CS561-presentations>

**gradescope:** <https://www.gradescope.com/courses/342653> (**code in Piazza**)

**office hours:** Manos (T/Th 2-3pm)

Zichen, Aneesh (see in Piazza)

**material:** papers available from BU network

# Welcome to CS 561: Data Systems Architectures!

Prof. Manos Athanassoulis

[mathan@bu.edu](mailto:mathan@bu.edu)

next time: more detailed logistics and start with data systems design