Japanese Dating Sim Games

Valerie Ishida
What is a dating sim?
What is a dating sim?

Cast of cute girls

Tokimeki Memorial (1994)
What is a dating sim?

Or a cast of cute boys

Tokimeki Memorial Girl's Side (2002)
What is a dating sim?

And you
Goal

Get boys/girls to fall in love with you(r character)
Story

Most common is high school-based

Other settings exist
Gameplay: Stats

Gameplay: Dates

Going on a date in Tokimeki Memorial Girl's Side

Adventure Mode of Sakura Taisen (1996)
Gameplay: Mini-games

Pillow fight: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yxcgPeAU5ps](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yxcgPeAU5ps)

Bread eating

I don't have a picture of the ridiculously hard chocolate making mini-game :'(
Winning

Confession of love
Winning

Fill your gallery with CGs

Like WoW achievements
TokiMemoGS is Awesome

- Fully voiced
- Eyes blink and lips flap
- Cute story
- Emotional Voice System (EVS)
- Skinship on the NDS
Dating Sims v. Visual Novels

Romance (Ren'ai) Game

Dating Sim

Visual Novel

Not to scale
Visual Novels

- Often dramatic
- May or may not have romantic components
- Choose your own adventure style
Romance Games

- Still have relationships
- Less focus on stats and dates
- Eg. Harvest Moon (1996) has some romance elements
- Can be combine with just about any genre
The Harem Effect

- Dating sim games have influenced non-dating sim games and anime
- Many games/shows have unbalanced gender ratios
Porn Games

Romance (Ren'ai) Game

Visual Novel

Dating Sim

Not to scale
Porn Games

- Porn games exist for just about any kink
- Many but not all of them are also dating sims or visual novels
- Like romance games, can be combine with just about any genre

Duel Savior (2004)
An 18+ 2D fighter game
• Questions?