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## Università degli Studi di Messina

## comparison of databases

# student information system

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## INTRODUCTION

Student Information Systems (SIS) are vital for edu cational institutions but face challenges like outdated data management and limited accessibility.

This report compares diverse database systems for SIS, including Redis, Cassandra, Neo4j, MongoDB, and MySQL. We assess performance, scalability, flexibility, and query capabilities within the SIS context.

We use a representative dataset with information about students, courses, grades, and academic records, with record sizes of 250,000, 500,000, 750,000, and 1 million. Multiple complex queries are executed and automated for reliable data, each test run at least 30 times.

Our findings are presented through histograms, showing response times in milliseconds. The goal is to identify the database system demonstrating superior query execution under consistent hardware and software conditions.

## **EXPLANATION OF DATABASES**



MySQL is an open-source relational database management system (RDBMS) that is widely used for storing and managing structured data. It is a popular choice for web applications and is often used in conjunction with scripting languages like PHP, Python, and Ruby.



MongoDB is a popular open-source NoSQL (non-relational) database management system. It is designed to handle large volumes of unstructured and semi-structured data, making it particularly suitable for modern applications that require flexible and scalable data storage.



Redis is a high-speed, open-source, in-memory data store known for its lightning-fast data access and low-latency performance. It serves as a versatile solution for various applications, including caching, real-time analytics, and messaging. Redis's support for advanced data structures and ease of use make it a valuable asset for enhancing the efficiency of modern software systems.



Cassandra is a highly scalable, distributed NoSQL database system known for its exceptional fault tolerance and data availability. This open-source solution is tailored for handling large datasets and distributed data management. Developed by Facebook and open-sourced, Cassandra is favored in applications demanding real-time big data analytics, timeseries data, and content management systems. It offers a resilient and versatile solution for modern data storage and management.

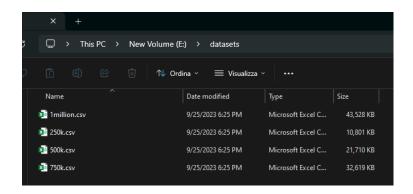


Neo4j is a distinguished graph database management system, purpose-built for handling data as nodes and relationships. It excels in managing complex, interconnected data, making it an ideal choice for applications involving intricate relationships, such as social networks and recommendation systems. Neo4j's graph-based model allows for efficient and insightful data analysis, setting it apart as a leading solution for industries that require deep exploration of connections within their datasets.

## GENERATING DATA

This script generates synthetic student data for our Student Information System (SIS) and organizes it into separate CSV files. It utilizes the 'Faker' library to create fictional student information, including 'student\_id,' 'first\_name,' 'last\_name,' 'grade,' 'result,' 'age,' 'gender,' and 'presence\_percentage.' The script verifies the existence of the primary CSV file, '1million.csv,' and creates it if absent, including a header row to label the fields.

The core functionality involves generating data for one million students, capturing details such as grades, results, age, gender, and presence percentage using a dedicated function. This data is then divided into three distinct CSV files—'750k.csv,' '500k.csv,' and '250k.csv,' each tailored to house a specific number of records. This script streamlines the data preparation process for our SIS, enabling testing and development with substantial and realistic datasets. Upon completion, the script confirms the successful generation and distribution of synthetic data.



as you see the fake data is generated and saved as 4 csv files in E:\\datasets\\1million.csv

## INSERTING DATA

## MySQL:

A local MySQL server connection is established with host, user, password, port, and 'students\_db' database parameters.

If the database doesn't exist, it's created. Inside 'students\_db,' four tables ('1million,' '750k,' '500k,' and '250k') are made for CSV data.

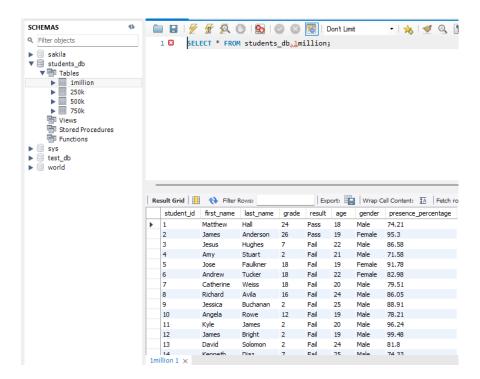
The script's core function is importing data from CSV files into MySQL tables using Pandas and SQLAlchemy for insertion, with error handling for data integrity.

Successful insertions are committed, and the script closes the cursor and connection for efficiency.

This script is vital for managing diverse data in our Student Information System.

the engine is a central component of SQLAlchemy that provides a standardized and efficient way to connect to databases, execute SQL queries, and manage database connections.

```
pythonProject Version control
                     if not database_exists:
    create_database_query = f*CREATE DATABASE {database_name};*
    cursor.execute(create_database_query)
                     create_table_query = """
CREATE TABLE IF NOT EXISTS 250k (
student_id INT PRIMARY MEY,
first_name VARCHAR(255),
lost_name VARCHAR(255),
grade INT,
```



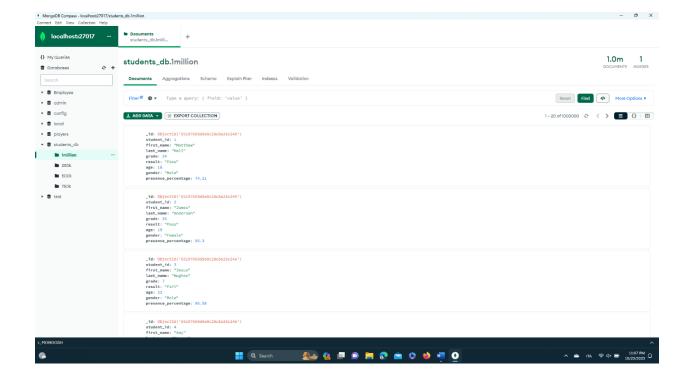
Now you can see the output that 4 tables are created and the data is inserted into each table

#### mongoDB:

This script facilitates the insertion of data from CSV files into a MongoDB database. Using the 'pymongo' library, it establishes a connection to a MongoDB server and creates or accesses the 'students\_db' database. The script then defines a list of CSV file paths, each representing a different dataset.

The core function 'insert\_data\_mongodb' is responsible for inserting data from each CSV file into the MongoDB database. The script iterates through the list of CSV files, reads the data using Pandas, extracts the collection name from the file path, and inserts the data into the corresponding MongoDB collection.

Upon successful data insertion, the script efficiently closes the MongoDB connection. This script streamlines the process of populating a MongoDB database with data from various CSV sources, making it a valuable tool for data management in your project.



Now we have for collections are created with the corresponding data.

#### **Redis:**

This script streamlines the process of inserting data from CSV files into a Redis database. It establishes a connection with Redis using the provided connection details and checks for a successful connection. The CSV file paths are specified, representing distinct datasets.

The core function 'import\_csv\_to\_redis' reads each CSV file, extracts the dataset name from the file path, and stores the data as a JSON string in Redis with a specific key. This approach enables the script to insert data into Redis with clear distinction. After successful insertion, it provides a confirmation message.

By looping through the CSV files, the script imports each dataset into Redis with separate keys. Subsequently, it allows data retrieval from Redis based on the designated keys. This script simplifies the process of integrating data from various sources into Redis, offering an efficient and organized method for data storage and retrieval in your project.

```
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.22621.2428]
(c) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\aryak>redis-cli
127.0.0.1:6379> KEYS *
1) "560k"
2) "1million"
3) "750k"
4) "250k"
127.0.0.1:6379>
```

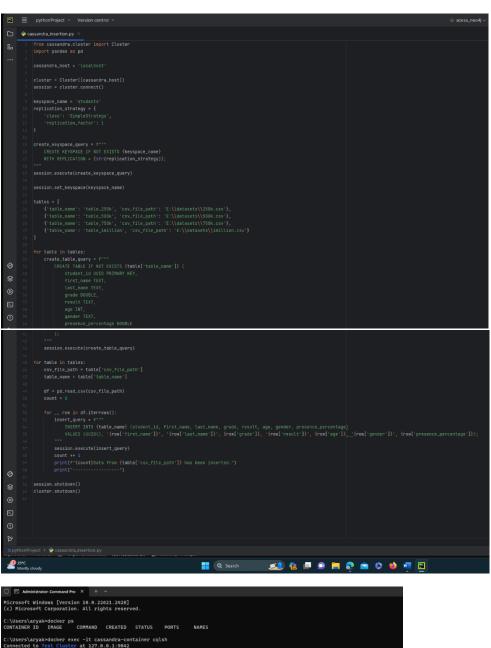
After the code execution you can run redis client in command prompt to see the created keys

#### **CASSANDRA:**

This script simplifies the process of inserting data into a Cassandra database, leveraging Docker for containerization. It connects to Cassandra, defines a keyspace, and creates tables to accommodate data from various CSV files. The CSV data is then loaded using Pandas, and the script inserts the data into the corresponding Cassandra tables.

To ensure data consistency and integrity, each table's schema is predefined, and data is inserted while adhering to the defined structure. The script neatly handles the creation of keyspace, tables, and data insertion for different datasets. Upon successful insertion, it provides informative progress messages, streamlining the data integration process in your project. It's a valuable tool for efficiently managing data in a Cassandra database, especially when dealing with multiple datasets.

Cassandra uses a replication strategy to determine how data is distributed across multiple nodes in a cluster. In this code, a simple replication strategy (SimpleStrategy) is used. This strategy is suitable for single-node or small-scale deployments. The replication\_factor is set to 1, which means that each piece of data is replicated to one node in the cluster.



```
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(c) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

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```

After executing the code you can connect your container to cqlsh in command prompt and to see the keyspaces, tables and retrieving the data in them

## Neo4j:

This script serves as a fundamental tool for inserting data into a Neo4j database. It establishes a connection to the Neo4j instance, creates a database named 'studentsdb,' and imports data from CSV files into it. The script utilizes the Cypher query language with the 'LOAD CSV' command to seamlessly integrate data from the CSV files into the Neo4j database.

The script is designed to efficiently handle data insertion for various datasets, and it is well-suited for scenarios where you need to work with different datasets in Neo4j. It simplifies the process of data integration and ensures the seamless storage of information in your Neo4j 'studentsdb' database, making it a valuable asset for your project's data management.

## **QUERIES**

The provided code samples implement query execution on four different database systems: MySQL, MongoDB, Redis, and Cassandra. Each code sample contains four progressively complex queries designed to retrieve and analyze data from their respective databases. These queries are designed to assess and optimize the performance of each database in handling different levels of complexity in data retrieval and analysis.

The queries used in all databases are as follows:

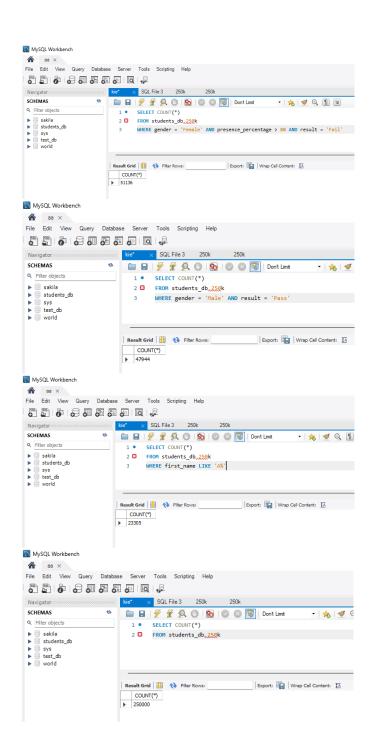
- 1. Query 1: Retrieve records for females with a presence percentage greater than 80% who failed: This query selects all columns from a specified table where the gender is 'Female,' the presence percentage is greater than 80, and the result is 'Fail.'
- 2. Query 2: Retrieve records for males who passed: This query selects all columns from a specified table where the gender is 'Male' and the result is 'Pass.'
- 3. Query 3: Retrieve records for individuals whose first names start with 'A': This query selects all columns from a specified table where the first name starts with the letter 'A.'
- 4. Query 4: Retrieve all records from the specified table: This query selects all columns from a specified table without applying any specific conditions, essentially fetching all available records.

These queries collectively provide a comprehensive assessment of each database's ability to handle varying levels of data retrieval complexity.

### **MySQL Code:**

• The MySQL code connects to a MySQL database and executes four progressively complex SQL queries. It measures query execution times on different tables, allowing for performance evaluation and optimization.

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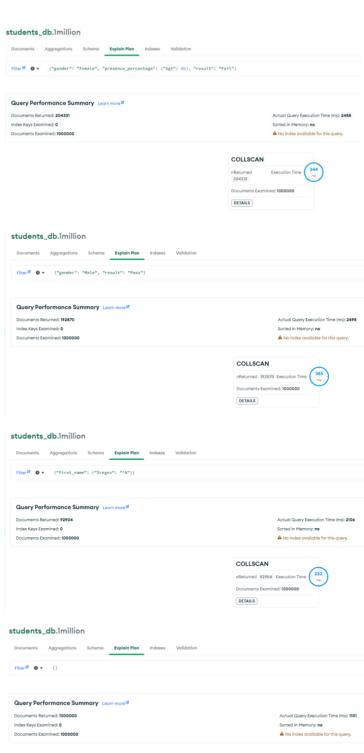


## **MongoDB Code:**

 The MongoDB code connects to a MongoDB database and runs four queries with increasing complexity. It times the execution of these queries and saves the results for performance analysis.

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#### **Redis Code:**

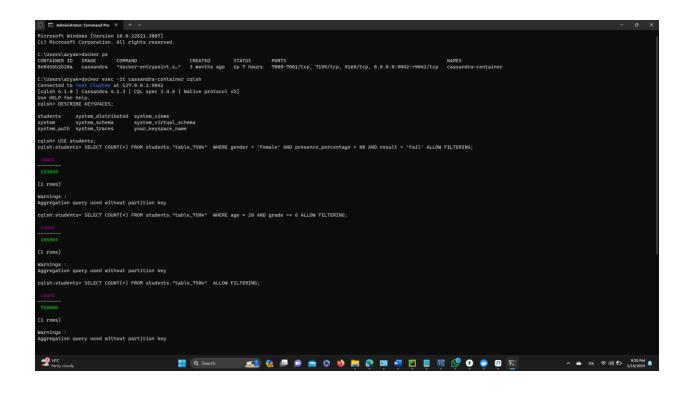
 The Redis code connects to a Redis database and executes four queries. It measures query execution times for various datasets, aiding in performance assessment.

```
filename = os.path.join(base_directory, f*results_{set_name}.csv*)
with open(filename, 'w', maxime*') as result_file:
    csv_miter = csv.writer(result_file)
    csv_miter = csv.writer(result_file)
    for query_num in range(1, 5):
        query_num in range(1, 5):
        query_label * f*query_query_num*
    response_times = execution_times[(query_num - 1) * 30: query_num * 30]
    csv_writer.writerow([query_label] * response_times)
```

#### **Cassandra Code:**

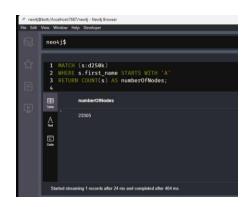
 The Cassandra code connects to a Cassandra cluster and performs four queries, each with a different level of complexity. It measures the execution times and handles query retries for performance evaluation.

```
for i, query_template in enumerate(queries):
    execution_times = []
       query = query_template.format(table)
statement = simpleStatement(query, consistency_level=ConsistencyLevel.QUORUM)
                       start_time = time.time()
result = session.execute(statement)
for row in result:
```



### **Neo4j Code:**

 The Neo4j code connects to a Neo4j database and runs four queries on nodes with different labels. It times the execution of these queries and saves the results for performance analysis.



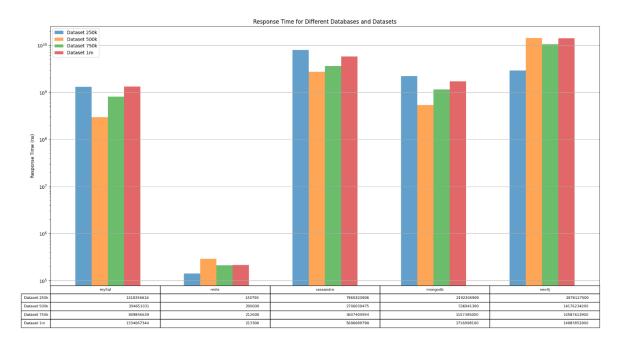




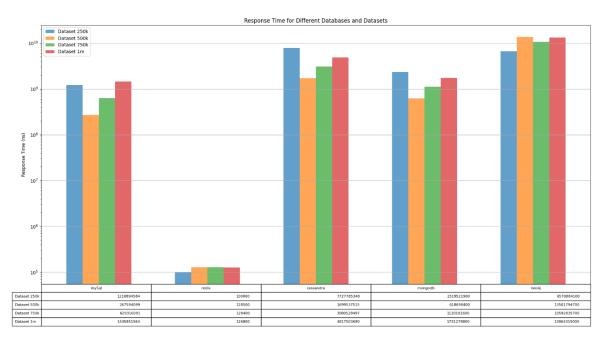


## HISTOGRAMS

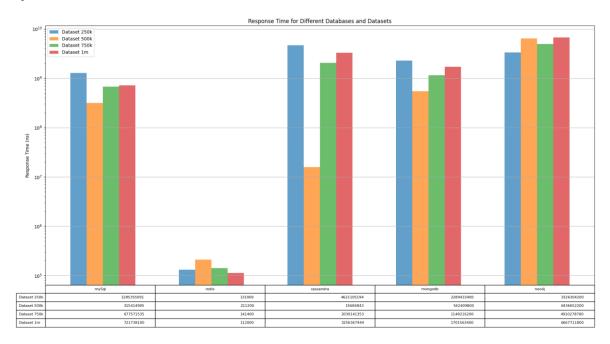
Query 1: Retrieve records for females with a presence percentage greater than 80% who failed:



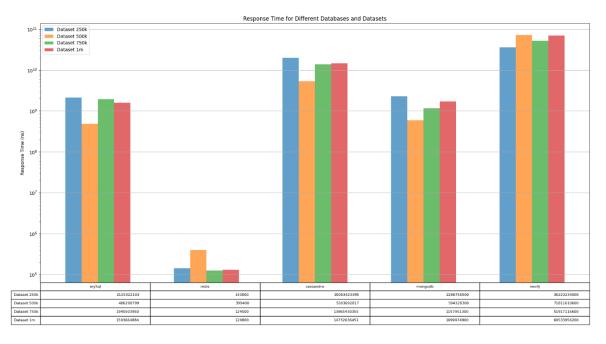
Query 2: Retrieve records for males who passed:



Query 3: Retrieve records for individuals whose first names start with 'A':



Query 4: Retrieve all records from the specified table:



## **CONCLUSION**

The project's graphs reveal clear trends in the performance of different databases—Redis emerges as the fastest, followed by MongoDB and MySQL, which show comparable speeds. Cassandra performs a bit slower than Redis, MongoDB, and MySQL. Notably, Neo4j appears to be the slowest among the databases.

For handling larger amounts of data (1 million entries), Cassandra shows reasonable scalability, but it's crucial to consider factors like data complexity when deciding on a database.

The bar graphs provide a quick way to see which databases are consistently faster. These visualizations assist decision-makers in understanding performance patterns and making informed choices.

## REFERENCES

- 1. MySQL Documentation
- 2. MongoDB Documentation
- 3. Redis Documentation
- 4. Neo4j Documentation
- 5. Cassandra Documentation
- **6.** PyCharm Documentation
- 7. Python Official Documentation