ADM Project

Maurizio Meschi & Nicolò Trebino January 30, 2025

Email: maurizio.meschi@gmail.com, nicolo.trebino@gmail.com

GitHub: @Maurizio-Meschi, @nicolotrebino

Repo: GitHub Repository

Contents

1	Introduction	2
2	System requirements	2
3	ER diagram	3
4	Workload	3
5	Aggregates methodology5.1 Write the query in a formal and non-ambiguous way5.2 Annotated the ER schema5.3 Aggregates	4 4 5 5
6	Cassandra 6.1 Schema design	6 6 7 8
7		10 10 11
8	Why Cassandra?	12
9	Cassandra configuration	12
10	10.2 Types	13 13 13 13
11	Cassandra instance	14
12	Workload implementation 12.1 Q1	15 15 15 16 16 17 17 18
13	Conclusions	18

1 Introduction

As passionate people who read books, we have chosen to take inspiration from this <u>dataset</u> from <u>kaggle.com</u>.

However, since it does not fit our application domain quite well, we have used <u>Hardcover API</u> to retrieve all the needed data and create the data set.

Our domain application consists of an on-line catalog where USERS can REVIEW and rate all the books and share their thoughts with a huge community of readers around the world.

Our application aims to help people find the perfect book that matches their preferences, and we chose a workload that includes the main operations that a normal user usually does in our catalog.

A possible future implementation can be a recommendation system that is very important in all modern social network applications that, based on what a user reads or likes, can recommend books or users to our customers, strengthening the interconnections between users, improving the overall impact and effectiveness of our application.

2 System requirements

Our application is suitable for a transactional, read/write intensive scenario since users can search for specific books and information and write reviews and scores.

Batch processing is not the focus of our application, even if our catalog automatically performs the average of the ratings of a particular book when a user lends on the book page: an action that requires batch access in the database.

We want our system to be scalable to provide for an ever-increasing number of requests in the future, expecting an ever-growing number of users. We also need high availability and high throughput to provide all requests, both read and write or update, that our users may make.

Partition tolerance is also a key point in our system since we need the system to continue to work even after a network partition or failure, so we have to rely, following the CAP theorem, on an eventual consistency level, to guarantee that, given enough time and no new updates, all replicas of data will eventually converge to the same state.

3 ER diagram

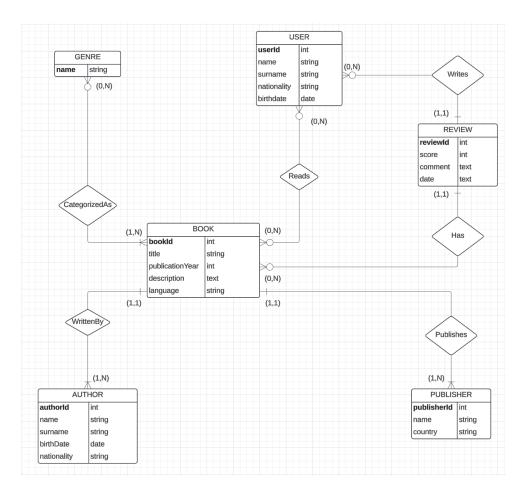


Figure 1: Library relational model

4 Workload

- Q1: Given the book with ID 218619, determine the average score and all the book information.
- **Q2:** Determine all books written by 737939 of the genre "Science fiction".
- Q3: Find all books written by the author with ID 206880 along with their publication year.
- Q4: Find all books published in 2017 in English.
- **Q5:** Provide all the review information for the book with ID 350392, including the users who wrote them.
- Q6: Given the user with ID 54, determine all the information about the books read by them and their genres.
- Q7: Provide all the books published in the last year along with their publishers.
- **Q8:** Show 10 books for the home page.

5 Aggregates methodology

Write the query in a formal and non-ambiguous way 5.1Q1. (BOOK, [BOOK(bookId)_!], [BOOK_!, REVIEW(score)_H]) $\mathbf{E} = \mathtt{BOOK}$ $LS = [BOOK(bookId)_!]$ $LP = [BOOK_!, REVIEW(score)_H]$ Q2. (AUTHOR, [GENRE_WbCa, AUTHOR(authorId)_!], [BOOK(bookId)_Wb]) $LS = [GENRE_WbCa, AUTHOR(authorId)_!]$ $LP = [BOOK(bookId)_Wb]$ Q3. (AUTHOR, [AUTHOR(authorId)_!], [BOOK(bookId, publicationYear)_Wb]) $\mathbf{E} = \mathtt{AUTHOR}$ LS = [AUTHOR(authorId)_!] $LP = [BOOK(bookId, publicationYear)_Wb]$ Q4. (BOOK, [BOOK(publicationYear, language)_!], [BOOK(bookId)_!]) $\mathbf{E} = \mathtt{BOOK}$ $LS = [BOOK(publicationYear, language)_!]$ $LP = [BOOK(bookId)_!]$ Q5. (BOOK, [BOOK(bookId)_!], [REVIEW_H, USER(userId)_HW]) $\mathbf{E} = \mathtt{BOOK}$ $LS = [BOOK(bookId)_!]$ $LP = [REVIEW_H, USER(userId)_HW]$ Q6. (USER, [USER(userId)_!], [BOOK_R, GENRE_RCa]) $\mathbf{E} = \mathtt{USER}$ $LS = [USER(userId)_!]$ $LP = [BOOK_R, GENRE_RCa]$ Q7. (BOOK, [BOOK(publicationYear)_!], [BOOK(bookId)_!, PUBLISHER(publisherId)_P]) $\mathbf{E} = \mathtt{BOOK}$ $LS = [BOOK(publicationYear)_!]$ $LP = [BOOK(bookId)_!, PUBLISHER(publisherId)_P]$ Q8. (BOOK, [], [BOOK(bookId)_!])

 $\mathbf{E} = \mathtt{BOOK}$ $\mathbf{LS} = []$

 $LP = [BOOK(bookId)_!]$

5.2 Annotated the ER schema

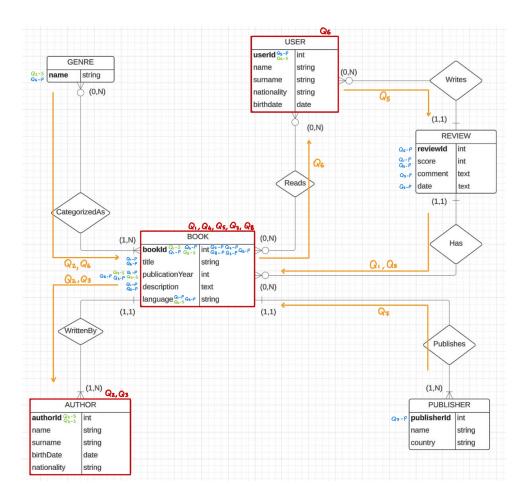


Figure 2: Annotated entity relationship diagram

5.3 Aggregates

```
Book: {
   bookId, title, publicationYear, description, language,
   reviews: [{ reviewId, score, comment, date, userId }],
   publisherId
}
```

```
Author: {
    authorId,
    books: [{
        bookId, publicationYear,
        genres: [{ name }]
    }]
}
```

```
User: {
    userId,
    books: [{
        bookId, title, publicationYear, description, language,
            genres: [{ name }]
    }]
}
```

6 Cassandra

6.1 Schema design

6.1.1 Book aggregate

```
Q1. (BOOK, [BOOK(bookId)_!], [BOOK_!, REVIEW(score)_H])
```

```
Q4. (BOOK, [BOOK(publicationYear, language)_!], [BOOK(bookId)_!])
```

```
Q5. (BOOK, [BOOK(bookId)_!], [REVIEW_H, USER(userId)_HW])
```

Q7. (BOOK, [BOOK(publicationYear)_!], [BOOK(bookId)_!, PUBLISHER(publisherId)_P])

```
Q8. (BOOK, [], [BOOK(bookId)_!])
```

Since the **LS sets** are disjoint, we define the following tables:

- Q1, Q5, Q8: Table with BOOK(bookId) as unique partition key and primary key.
- Q4, Q7: Table with BOOK(publicationYear) as partition key and BOOK(language) as clustering column together with BOOK(bookId) (identifier of the aggregate).
- Define a new type for the nested attribute reviews inside the aggregate.

Defining a new type for reviews:

```
CREATE TYPE IF NOT EXISTS Review_t (
    reviewId int,
    score int,
    comment text,
    date varchar,
    userId int
);
```

Tables for BOOK:

6.1.2 Author aggregate

```
Q2. (AUTHOR, [GENRE_WbCa, AUTHOR(authorId)_!], [BOOK(bookId)_Wb])
```

```
Q3. (AUTHOR, [AUTHOR(authorId)_!], [BOOK(bookId, publicationYear)_Wb])
```

For the Author aggregate, given these two queries from the workload, we must pay attention.

There are no problems for Q3 since we can just create a table with AuthorId as the partition key (primary key), instead for Q2, due to the logical architecture of Cassandra we cannot perform the query.

In fact, for Q2 we should have to create a table with GENRE(name) as a clustering column, but this is not possible because GENRE(name) is a nested attribute in the aggregate, and that means we cannot specify conditions on GENRE(name), neither creating some index nor specifying the ALLOWING FILTERING clause!

In this case, we should modify the aggregation in such a way we can perform the query efficiently but if we chose GENRE as the new aggregation entity, the same problem would persist on AUTHOR(AuthorId) because the cardinality is always **many to many**, so the problem of nested attribute persists.

Hence, we create a single table with AUTHOR(AuthorId) as the **partition key** (**primary key**) and to perform Q2 we must retrieve, at the application level, all the information that we need. In particular, we can obtain all the books written by a specific author, but we can filter by the genre only at the application level.

In short:

- for Q3, we can use AUTHOR(authorId) as partition key.
- Q2 cannot directly be implemented in Cassandra due to the nested attribute GENRE(name). We solve this by handling filtering at the application level.
- So AUTHOR(authorId) will be both partition key and primary key.

Defining a new type for books:

```
CREATE TYPE IF NOT EXISTS Book_at (
   bookId     int,
   publicationYear int,
   genres     set<text>
);
```

Table for AUTHOR:

```
CREATE TABLE IF NOT EXISTS Author (
    authorId int PRIMARY KEY,
    books set<frozen<Book_at>>
);
```

6.1.3 User aggregate

```
Q6. (USER, [USER(userId)_!], [BOOK_R, GENRE_RCa])
```

Since we have only one query, we create a single table with USER(userId) as the partition key (primary key) to perform this query efficiently.

Defining a new type for books:

```
CREATE TYPE IF NOT EXISTS Book_ut (
   bookId          int,
   title          varchar,
   publicationYear int,
   description     text,
   language          varchar,
   genres          set<text>
);
```

Table for USER:

```
CREATE TABLE IF NOT EXISTS User (
   userId int PRIMARY KEY,
   books set<frozen<Book_ut>>
);
```

6.2 Query Modeling in CQL

Q1. Given the book with ID 218619, determine the average score and all the book information.

```
SELECT *
FROM Book1
WHERE bookId = 218619
```

The score is a nested attribute inside reviews, so we can only get the reviews of the book and compute the average of the score at the application level.

Q2. Determine all books written by 737939 of the genre "Science fiction".

```
SELECT books
FROM Author
WHERE authorId = 737939
```

As we already said, we cannot filter by genre, since it is a nested attribute. We have to perform this query to retrieve all the books written by the author 737939 and then filter by the genre at the application level.

Q3. Find all books written by the author with ID 206880 along with their publication year.

```
SELECT books
FROM Author
WHERE authorId = 206880
```

In this case, we also get the genres of all the books, because **books** is a nested attribute. If we are not interested in genres, we have to project just what we need at the application level.

Q4. Find all books published in 2017 in English.

```
SELECT bookId
FROM Book2
WHERE publicationYear = 2017 AND language = 'English'
```

Q5. Provide all the review information for the book with ID 350392, including the users who wrote them.

```
SELECT reviews
FROM Book1
WHERE bookId = 350392
```

Q6. Given the user ID 54, determine all the information about the books read by them and their genres.

```
SELECT books
FROM User
WHERE userId = 54
```

Q7. Provide all the books published in the last year along with their publishers.

```
SELECT bookId, publisherId
FROM Book2
WHERE publicationYear = 2024
```

Q8. Show 10 books for the home page.

```
SELECT bookId
FROM Book1
LIMIT 10
```

7 Neo4j

7.1 Schema design

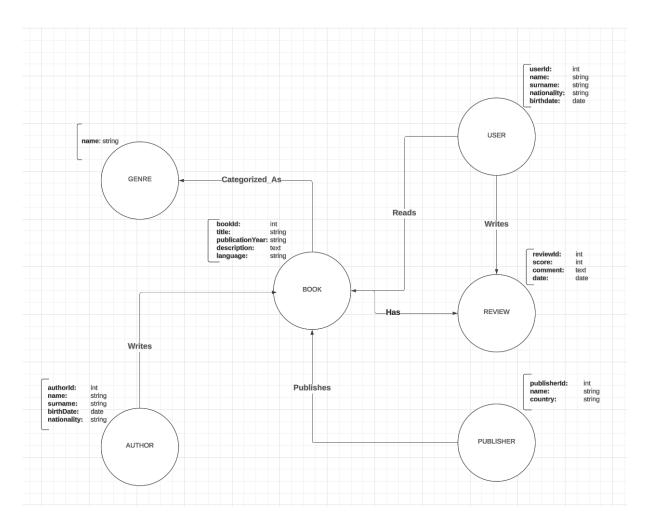


Figure 3: Neo4j graph schema

Graph-based NoSQL systems, such as Neo4j, are designed to handle complex, highly interconnected data.

Starting from our ER diagram we chose to model the graph in such a way we can handle all the queries in an efficient way.

There are many different ways to design the graph. For example, one might consider merging genre into the book node as an attribute. However, this would not be a good idea for our application, as each book can belong to multiple genres. Keeping genre as a separate node provides greater flexibility, allows for more complex queries, and prevents data duplication since the same genre node can be linked to multiple books at the same time.

One might also think to insert years or dates as labels for the relationship, but for our workload, we chose to construct the model avoiding useless traversal, even if they are very efficient in graph DB.

7.2 Query modeling in Cypher

Q1. Given the book with ID 1598407, determine the average score and all the book information.

```
MATCH (b:Book{bookId:1598407})-[:Has]->(r:Review)
RETURN b, AVG(r.score)
```

Q2. Determine all the books written by 110620 of the genre "Fiction".

```
MATCH (:Genre{name:"Fiction"}) <-[:Categorized_As]-(b:Book) <-[:Writes]-(:Author{authorId:110620})

RETURN b.bookId
```

Q3. Find all the books written by the author with ID 402411, along with their publication year.

```
MATCH (b: Book) <-[:Writes] - (:Author{authorId: 402411})
RETURN b.bookId, b.publicationYear
```

Q4. Find all the books published in 2008 in English.

```
MATCH (b:Book)
WHERE b.publicationYear = 2008 AND b.language = "English"
RETURN b.bookId
```

Q5. Provide all the review information for the book with ID 1598428, including the users who wrote them.

```
MATCH (:Book{bookId:1598428}) - [: Has] -> (r: Review) < - [: Writes] - (u: User)

RETURN r, u.userId
```

Q6. Given the user ID 24259, determine all the information about the books they read and their genres.

```
MATCH (:User{userId:24259})-[:Reads]->(b:Book)-
[:categorized_As]->(g:Genre)

RETURN b, g
```

Q7. Provide all the books published in the last year along with their publishers.

Q8. Show 10 books for the home page.

```
MATCH (b:Book)
RETURN b.bookId
LIMIT 10
```

8 Why Cassandra?

According to what we have already said from the beginning of this document, most of all considering point 2 and point 4, we are interested in availability more than consistency (an eventual consistency level is enough) and we decided to use Cassandra as our database for our application.

Cassandra, according to the CAP theorem, is focused on partition tolerance and availability, provided by its P2P structure, both key features of our application. It is the best suite for a read/write intensive application such as our library platform, and with its consistent hashing, it offers us a very high scalability to scale our platform for more and more new users. Talking about the workload, it might be quite complex for the Cassandra system because of its limits in querying, however, thanks to the speed in resolving queries, its high write throughput, fault tolerance, high availability, and the possibility of filtering the result at application level, Cassandra is the best choice for our application.

MongoDB is more flexible in solving queries because we can use nested attributes and lookups and there are fewer limitations concerning Cassandra. In fact, at the application level, everything is visible in Mongo.

Despite that, MongoDB is focused on consistency and partition tolerance (CP) and this is not what our application needs.

Neo4j is very fast and flexible and allows us to make complex queries with Cypher which is declarative and provides clauses to filter, return, create, delete, and set data; it is very fast thanks to its traversal speed, due to its index-free adjacency, where relationships between nodes are persistent and not calculated at query time.

Despite that, since Neo4j is well suited mostly for read-intensive and analytical applications, it is not the best database structure for our application, in fact, we need also to manage lots of writes from users.

For sure, it will be the best fit for our possible future implementation as we have already said in point 1: a recommendation system for our platform.

9 Cassandra configuration

For deploying our database, we relied on the docker features: we created a 3-node cluster using docker-compose.

The Docker Compose file sets up a Cassandra cluster with three nodes for fault-tolerant distributed database management with some key features:

- Persistent storage is defined for each node (cassandra-node-1, cassandra-node-2, cassandra-node-3) to ensure data durability even if containers are restarted.
- Each node has a health check that uses **nodetool status** to verify that the node is operational.
- The health check ensures dependent services (e.g., cassandra-2 depends on a healthy cassandra-1) only start when the required services are ready.
- The restart: on-failure directive ensures that any node will automatically restart if it crashes, contributing to fault tolerance by minimizing downtime.

The replication strategy is defined at the keyspace level. During the creation of keyspace, we can define the class and the replication factor that we want to use. In our case, we have decided to use the SimpleStrategy with a replication factor equal to 3 (the data are replicated in all three nodes) to ensure the maximum availability level.

10 Cassandra logical schema

10.1 Keyspace

```
CREATE KEYSPACE IF NOT EXISTS library
WITH REPLICATION = {'class':'SimpleStrategy', 'replication_factor':'1'};
```

10.2 Types

Three different types are used to perform queries efficiently:

• Review_t: 6.1.1 Book aggregate

• Book_at: 6.1.2 Author aggregate

• Book_ut: 6.1.3 User aggregate

10.3 Tables

Four different tables to store efficiently all the data:

• Book1: 6.1.1 Book aggregate

• Book2: 6.1.1 Book aggregate

• Author: 6.1.2 Author aggregate

• User: 6.1.3 User aggregate

10.4 Copy the dataset from CSV files

```
COPY library.book1 (bookId, title, publicationYear, description,
     language, reviews, publisherId)
FROM '/csv/books.csv'
WITH HEADER = TRUE;
COPY library.book2 (bookId, title, publicationYear, description,
     language, reviews, publisherId)
FROM '/csv/books.csv'
WITH HEADER = TRUE;
COPY library.author (authorid, books)
FROM '/csv/authors.csv'
WITH HEADER = TRUE AND MINBATCHSIZE=1 AND MAXBATCHSIZE=1
                   AND PAGESIZE=10;
COPY library.user (userid, books)
FROM '/csv/users.csv'
WITH HEADER = TRUE AND MINBATCHSIZE=1 AND MAXBATCHSIZE=1
                   AND PAGESIZE=10;
```

11 Cassandra instance

```
cqlsh:library> describe library
              CREATE KEYSPACE library WITH replication = {'class': 'SimpleStrategy', 'replication_factor': '3'} AND durable_writes = true;
              CREATE TYPE library.book_at (
bookid int,
publicationyear int,
genres set<text>
        CREATE TYPE library.book_ut (
bookid int,
title text,
publicationyear int,
description text,
language text,
genres set<text>
        CREATE TYPE library.review_t (
    reviewid int,
    score int,
    comment text,
    date text,
    userid int
);

CREATE TABLE library.author (
    authorid int PRIMARY KEY,
    books set=frozen-book at>>
) WITH additional write policy = '99p'

AND allow_auto_snapshot = true
AND bloom_filter_ip_chance = 0.01
AND caching = {'keys': 'ALL', 'rows_per_partition': 'NONE'}
AND code = false
AND compaction = {'class': 'org.apache.cassandra.db.compaction.SizeTieredCompactionStrategy', 'max_threshold': '32', 'min_threshold': '4')
AND compression = {'clunk_length_in_kb': '16', 'class': 'org.apache.cassandra.lo.compress.LZ4Compressor'}
AND mentable = 'default'
AND cr_check_chance = 1.0
AND default_time_to_live = 0
AND default_time_to_live = 0
AND default_time_to_live = 0
AND default_time_to_live = 0
AND extensions = 0
AND incremental_backups = true
AND max_index_interval = 2048
AND mentable_flub, period_in_ms = 0
AND min_index_interval = 128
AND read_repair = 'BLOXING',
AND speculative_retry = '99p';

CREATE_TABLE_library.book1 (
      AND read_realr = McLKING
AND speculative_retry = '99p';

CREATE TABLE library.book1 (
    bookid int PRIMARY KEY,
    description text,
    language text,
    publicationyear int,
    publisherid int,
    title text,
    reviews set-frozencreview_t>-
) WITH additional_write_policy = '99p'
AND allow_auto_snapshot = true
AND bloom_filter_fp_chance = 0.01
AND caching = ('keys': 'ALL', 'rows_per_partition': 'NONE')
AND caching = ('keys': 'ALL', 'rows_per_partition': 'NONE')
AND compaction = ('class': 'org_apache.cassandra.db.compaction.SizeTieredCompactionStrategy', 'max_threshold': '32', 'min_threshold': '4')
AND compression = ('class': 'org_apache.cassandra.db.compaction.SizeTieredCompactionStrategy', 'max_threshold': '32', 'min_threshold': '4')
AND compression = ('class': 'org_apache.cassandra.lo.compress.LZ4Compressor')
AND orc_check_chance = 1.0
AND orc_check_chance = 1.0
AND orc_check_chance = 1.0
AND orc_stression = ('class': 'org_apache.cassandra.lo.compress.LZ4Compressor')
AND orc_check_chance = 1.0
AND orc_apack_cassandra.lo.compress.LZ4Compressor')
AND orc_apack_cassandra.lo.compress.LZ4Compressor')
AND orc_apack_check_chance = 1.0
AND orc_apack_check_chance = 1.
      AND read_repair = "BLOKLING"
AND speculative_rety = '99p';

CREATE TABLE library.book2 (
   publicationyear int,
   language text,
   bookid int,
   description text,
   publisherid int,
   title text,
   reviews set-frozencreview_t>>,
   pRIMARY KEY (publicationyear, language, bookid)

) WITH CLUSTERING GROBER BY (language ASC, bookid ASC)
AND additional_write_policy = '99p'
AND allow_auto_snapshot = true
AND bloom_filter_fp_chance = 0.01
AND caching = {'keys': 'ALL', 'rows_per_partition': 'NONE'}
AND cade = false
AND compart = ''
AND compaction = {'class': 'org_apache.cassandra.db.compaction.SizeTieredCompactionStrategy', 'max_threshold': '32', 'min_threshold': '4')
AND compression = {'chunk_length_in_kb': '16', 'class': 'org_apache.cassandra.io.compress.LZ4Compressor'}
AND browned and the false that the compaction is a cassandra.io.compress.LZ4Compressor'
AND creater that the compaction is a cassandra.io.compress.LZ4Compressor'
AND creater to live = 0
AND extensions = {}
AND creater to live = 0
AND incremental_backups = true
AND max_index_interval = 2048
AND mentable_flush_period_in_ms = 0
AND min_index_interval = 2048
AND mentable_flush_period_in_ms = 0
AND min_index_interval = 128
AND read_repair = 'BLOCCING'
AND seculative_retry = '99p';
CREATE TABLE library.user (
          AND speculative_retry = '99p';

CREATE TABLE library.user (
    userid int PRIMARY KEY,
    books sets-frozen-book_ut>
)

WITH additional_write_policy = '99p'
AND allow_auto_snapshot = true
AND bloom_filter_fp_chance = 0.01
AND caching = ('keys': 'ALL', 'rows_per_partition': 'NONE')
AND caching = ('keys': 'ALL', 'rows_per_partition': 'NONE')
AND comment = '
AND comment = '
AND comment = '
AND compression = ('cluss': 'org.apache.cassandra.db.compaction.SizeTieredCompactionStrategy', 'max_threshold': '32', 'min_threshold': '4')
AND compression = ('clusk_length_in_kb': '16', 'class': 'org.apache.cassandra.io.compress.LZ4Compressor')
AND compression = ('clusk_length_in_kb': '16', 'class': 'org.apache.cassandra.io.compress.LZ4Compressor')
AND crc_check_chance = 1.0
AND default_time_to_live = 0
AND default_time_to_live = 0
AND default_time_to_live = 0
AND extensions = ()
AND gc_grace_seconds = 864000
AND default_time_to_live = 2048
AND mentable_flush_period_in_ms = 0
AND min_index_interval = 2048
AND read_repair = 'BLOKING'
AND speculative_retry = '99p';
```

Figure 4: Library KEYSPACE

12 Workload implementation

12.1 Q1

Figure 5: First query

12.2 Q2

Figure 6: Second query

12.3 Q3

Figure 7: Third query

12.4 Q4

Figure 8: Fourth query

12.5 Q5



Figure 9: Fifth query

12.6 Q6

```
Colshiltbraryo-SELECT books FROM User WHERE userid = 54;

@ Row 1

Docks | (Bookid: 138, title: Dreams from My Father A Story of Race and Inheritance', publicationyser: 1995, description: 'Refore Barack Chama became a politician he was among other things a trier breams from My Father is his masterpiace a refreshing revealing portrait of a young nam asking the big questions shout identity and belonging The son of a black African father and a shite American mother Chama recounts an emotional odyssey Me retraces the migration of his mothers family from Kansas to Hawaii them to his childhood home in Indonesia Finally he travels to Kenya when a he confronts the bitter turth of his fathers like and at last reconciles this divided inheritance', Inappares ("African Marcians" is largeryly, "dispory," Republicans acting replay, "dispory," Republicans acting replay, "dispory," Republicans acting replay is a disposary of the medium that the season of t
```

Figure 10: Sixth query

12.7 Q7



Figure 11: Seventh query

12.8 Q8

Figure 12: Eighth query

13 Conclusions

In this report, we explored the architecture of a distributed database system using Apache Cassandra. We defined a query model, designed and implemented dataset loading from CSV files, and discussed best practices for system implementation. Additionally, we examined using Docker to create a multi-node Cassandra cluster with replication for high availability and fault tolerance.

We also analyzed and implemented several queries for extracting data from the database, considering Cassandra's NoSQL characteristics. The solutions for handling complex queries, such as filtering and aggregation, were tailored to the system's specific features and business needs.

Future Perspectives:

As we already discussed, looking ahead, we could explore the implementation of a recommendation system using graph databases like Neo4j. This would allow for more efficient handling of relationships between users and items, enabling personalized recommendations based on complex graph structures.