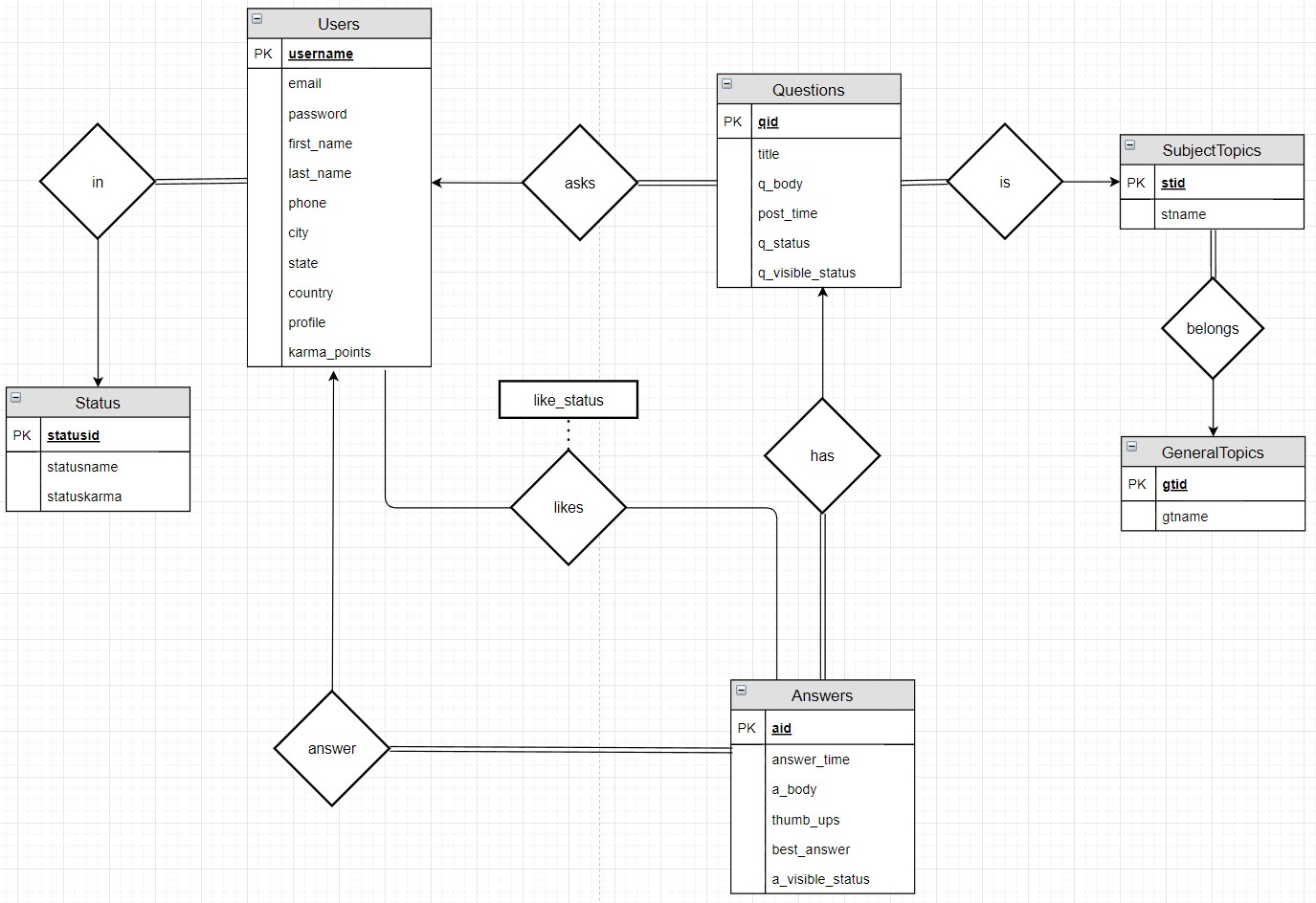
CS-GY 6083 Project Part 1

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# 1 ER Diagram



# 2 Relational Table Design

## 2.1 Users

CREATE TABLE Users (

username VARCHAR(45) NOT NULL,

email VARCHAR(50),

password VARCHAR(128) NOT NULL,

firstname VARCHAR(45) NOT NULL,

lastname VARCHAR(45) NOT NULL,

phone VARCHAR(10),

city VARCHAR(60),

state VARCHAR(2),

country VARCHAR(60),

profile VARCHAR(512),

karma\_points INT NOT NULL default 0,

PRIMARY KEY (username)

);

The data started from the user table, which was used to store all the information may required about the user. For the primary key, a unique username was used, also used for login the session, instead of AUTO\_INCREMENT field. The username was designed and set by the user instead of generated by the system automatically each time a new account created. There were some benefits using this design, as a primary key, each time a user registering a new account, the system would check the uniqueness of this username, in which case the duplicate issue could be avoided since the system would check this, no manual action required. For the password field, instead of storing the password in plain text, SHA256 hashing function was used. In the test data, it was a simple SHA256 hashing, however, in the part2, more complex policy would be applied such as salting. Other information fields such as firstname, lastname, email, phone, city, state and country were designed to be nullable since sometimes user would prefer not to provide their personal information, hence this is not forced. Another field designed was the karma point. Which was used to identify the status of the user, regarding their level.

The policy regarding the karma point was according to the quantity and the quality of the answers the current user posted, say 10 points added each time the user posted an answer, and each time any answer the user posted received a “like”, the user could also get 10 points bonuses. Another facet about earning the karma point was when the user’s answer was selected by the question owner, the user who posted the best answer would also receive the bonuses, in test data, 20 points was set. Accordingly, like cancel was also taken into consideration, each time a user canceled the like, the 10 karma points bonuses would be dismissed also, when the best answer updated and the user’s the answer was no longer the best answer, the 20 points bonuses would also be dismissed. The mechanism of question or answer deletion was also designed and would be discussed in Questions and Answers tables section respectively.

## 2.2 Status

CREATE TABLE Status (

statusid INT AUTO\_INCREMENT,

statusname VARCHAR(20) NOT NULL,

statuskarma INT NOT NULL,

PRIMARY KEY (statusid)

);

A separate table called Status was also design, which was used to store the information of each level of the user, at current stage, three levels were designed, basic, advanced and expert. In this table, statusid was used as primary key which was AUTO\_INCREMENT, also a status name, and the threshold called statuskarma, which stored the total karma point required for a user to reach this level. In this design, the basic level was from 0 to 50, advanced was from 50 to 100, and expert was larger then 100. Note that the numeric design was set only for the test data, to make some queries output the user with each level which could be optimized, for example, in part2, the threshold for each level would be increased, or the bonuses received by the user would be deducted.

## 2.3 UserStatus

CREATE TABLE UserStatus (

username VARCHAR(45) NOT NULL,

statusid INT NOT NULL default 1,

PRIMARY KEY (username),

FOREIGN KEY (username) REFERENCES Users(username),

FOREIGN KEY (statusid) REFERENCES Status(statusid)

);

The status of the user was not stored in Users table to satisfy the 3NF. Since the status of the user was totally depended on the karma points the user received, and the number of karma points received by the user was depended on the username. Hence, they were designed to divide to 2 separate table. The primary key was the username, which was enough to identity a user and the relation between the user and their status was 1 to many, which means a user could only have one status. From the statusid of each user, a join could be performed to get the exact status of the user from the status table.

## 2.4 GeneralTopics

CREATE TABLE GeneralTopics (

gtid INT NOT NULL AUTO\_INCREMENT,

gtname VARCHAR(45) NOT NULL,

PRIMARY KEY (gtid)

);

The structure of the topic was designed as hierarchy. Two levels were designed and the GeneralTopics table was the first layer. In this table, only the general topic could be stored such as MATH, PHYSICS or COMPUTER SCIENCE. In this table, a AUTO\_INCREMENT field as primary key was design called gtid (general topic id), and another one was the name of the general topic.

The topics was aimed to be selected by a list box in the code implementation, there were several pre-defined topics, or the user may add topics on their own.

## 2.5 SubjectTopics

CREATE TABLE SubjectTopics (

stid INT NOT NULL AUTO\_INCREMENT,

stname VARCHAR(50) NOT NULL,

gtid INT NOT NULL,

PRIMARY KEY (stid),

FOREIGN KEY (gtid) REFERENCES GeneralTopics(gtid)

);

The next level of the topics was called SubjectTopics, in which the subjects were stored under their general topics. Similar as general topic, a stid (subject topic id) was design as the primary key, with AUTO\_INCREMENT, also with the stname which was the name of the subject topic. Each subject topic should be able to reference to their parent topic, hence a foreign key was set which refenced to the gtid of their parent topic. Such as a topic called ‘Database System’, which was certainly under the COMPUTER SCIENCE general topic, hence the gtid of this subject topic would be the gtid of the general topic CS.

Also same as the general topic, in code implementation they were designed to be selected with a list box after the general topic was selected when posting a new question. Some pre-defined topics would also be provided by the system. Or users were able to add new subject topics.

## 2.6 Questions

CREATE TABLE Questions (

qid INT NOT NULL AUTO\_INCREMENT,

q\_username VARCHAR(45) NOT NULL,

stid INT NOT NULL,

title VARCHAR(45) NOT NULL,

q\_body VARCHAR(512) NOT NULL,

post\_time DATETIME NOT NULL,

status VARCHAR(15) NOT NULL,

q\_visible\_status INT NOT NULL default 1,

PRIMARY KEY (qid),

FOREIGN KEY (q\_username) REFERENCES Users(username),

FOREIGN KEY (stid) REFERENCES SubjectTopics(stid)

);

This table was designed to store the question information posted by the user. The primary key was called qid which was a AUTO\_INCREMENT field with int type. For each question, the username who posted the question was also recorded into the field q\_username. In consideration that users may either post questions, or give answers to questions, q\_username was used instead of the username, to make the table clearer, but the q\_username was still designed as a foreign key referenced to the username in Users table only the name of the field was different. In this design, general topic should not be used as the topic of the questions, but just to identity the subject topics which belonged to the general topic. Hence in the question table, a foreign key referenced to subject topic’s stid field was used to identify the topic of the question. Also, the title and q\_body field was used to store the title and the body of the question along with the post\_time. In the test data, the post\_time was inserted manually to show the test result and to simulate the real world condition, but the design for code implementation was always obtain the current time by the system by calling now().

The questions table also had a field called status, in this design, two statuses were defined, solved and unsolved, the user who posted the question could modify the status of the question. The status of the question would neither affect the karma points the user obtained nor affect how the question or the answers under this question would behave, but only a label which was used to make it convenient for the users who were also looking for the solution of similar questions. In in this, another situation was also considered for part2. Since in some cases, users would like to delete the questions they posted hence a field called a\_visible\_status was added to this table. Instead of deleting the question row directly, it would be safer to set the visible status of the question, if the question was not visible, then in the implementation in part2, it could also be regarded as deleted. Another benefit of using this field was that the user may be able to set the question as private/public in case they don’t want others to see these questions (in case some privacy issue involved).

## 2.7 Answers

CREATE TABLE Answers (

aid INT NOT NULL AUTO\_INCREMENT,

qid INT NOT NULL,

answer\_time DATETIME NOT NULL,

a\_username VARCHAR(45) NOT NULL,

a\_body VARCHAR(100) NOT NULL,

thumb\_ups INT NOT NULL,

best\_answer INT NOT NULL default 0,

a\_visible\_status INT NOT NULL default 1,

PRIMARY KEY (aid),

FOREIGN KEY (qid) REFERENCES Questions(qid),

FOREIGN KEY (a\_username) REFERENCES Users (username)

);

This table was used to store all the answer posted by the users regarding the question. Same as most of strong entities in this design, aid was added as AUTO\_INCREMENT primary key of this table. Also, there were two foreign keys, one was the qid references to question’s id to obtain which question the current answer was belonged to. Another one was the username called a\_username, with this field it was able to track the user who posted this answer, and each time the answer status changed, such as set to best answer or received a like, with this key it was also possible to provide the user with according karma points bonuses.

The table also designed with the answer’s body and the answer\_time which was the time the answer was posted, the likes that answer received. Another way to get the number of likes of the answer each time required such as loading the answer was to join the answer take with likes table and output the count value, in this design, a field recording the number of likes the answer received called thumb\_ups was used instead with a trigger which would be discussed in the trigger section below because it was regarded as a more efficiency approach since the query of getting the count for each answer was no longer required with this field and the only operation to do to handle a new update of like was just update or insert likes table, then the trigger would update the answer table automatically.

There was also one field called best\_answer with value 0 and 1 was used to store whether the answer was selected as best answer. The best answer information was not stored in the question since the query clause could get the best answer of each question directly, since it was regarded as an attribute of the answer but not the question. Also, same as question table, the possibility of deleting the answer was taken into consideration by adding a field called a\_visible\_status. Same as questions table, if the user deleted this answer, instead deleting it directly, it was better to set the answer invisible.

## 2.8 Likes

CREATE TABLE Likes (

username VARCHAR(45) NOT NULL,

aid INT NOT NULL,

like\_status INT NOT NULL default 1,

PRIMARY KEY (username, aid),

FOREIGN KEY (username) REFERENCES Users (username),

FOREIGN KEY (aid) REFERENCES Answers (aid)

);

In order to track the user who gave a like to an answer and make sure they were able to take the like back especially they gave a like by mistake, this table was added to track this information. Since for each unique answer, a user could only give a single thumb\_up, hence username and aid was used as primary key. Another field added was the like\_status, the logic was when a new like inserted (the user never gave a thumb\_up to this answer), the record was inserted directly, while each time the user update a thumb\_up, such as withdrawing a thumb\_up or give the thumb\_up back, the system would only update the like\_status to 1 or 0.

# 3 Trigger Design

## 3.1 Triggers for Likes

Likes table were designed with two triggers, an after insert trigger and an after update trigger.

create trigger Likes\_after\_insert after insert on Likes for each row

begin

update Answers

set thumb\_ups = thumb\_ups + 1

where aid = new.aid;

end;

Each time the a new thumb\_up added by a user, the thumb\_ups field in answers table would be updated and added 1.

create trigger Likes\_after\_update after update on Likes for each row

begin

if new.like\_status <> old.like\_status then

if new.like\_status = 0 and old.like\_status = 1 then

update Answers

set thumb\_ups = thumb\_ups - 1

where new.aid = Answers.aid;

elseif new.like\_status = 1 and old.like\_status = 0 then

update Answers

set thumb\_ups = thumb\_ups + 1

where new.aid = Answers.aid;

end if;

end if;

end;

Each time the like\_status was changed, there were two cases, the first case was a user withdraw a like, then the thumb\_ups number in answers would decrease by 1, respectively, if a user gave a like back to the answer that was once withdrawn like from that user, the thumb\_ups value in answers table would be added back, by 1.

## 3.2 Triggers for Answers

Answers table was designed with two triggers, an after insert trigger and an after update trigger.

create trigger Answers\_after\_insert after insert on Answers for each row

begin

update Users

set karma\_points = karma\_points + 10

where Users.username = new.a\_username;

end;

According to the design, each time a user posted a new answer, this user could obtain 10 karma points, even the answer was deleted. The Answers\_after\_insert trigger would implement this logic, each time a new answer inserted, which means a user posted a new answer, this user’s karma point would add 10.

create trigger Answers\_after\_update after update on Answers for each row

begin

if new.best\_answer <> old.best\_answer then

if new.best\_answer = 1 and old.best\_answer = 0 then

update Users

set karma\_points = karma\_points + 20

where Users.username = new.a\_username;

elseif new.best\_answer = 0 and old.best\_answer = 1 then

update Users

set karma\_points = karma\_points - 20

where Users.username = new.a\_username;

end if;

end if;

if new.thumb\_ups - old.thumb\_ups <> 0 then

update Users

set karma\_points = karma\_points + 10 \* (new.thumb\_ups - old.thumb\_ups)

where Users.username = new.a\_username;

end if;

end;

There were two cases when updating the answers table. 1. The best answer status changed. In this design, each time an answer was selected as best answer, the user who posted this answer would obtain 20 karma points. Respectively, if an answer was no longer the best answer, the karma points of the user who posted the old best answer would be taken back which was -20 karma points. 2. The answer’s thumb\_ups changed. If the answer was deprived of a like, the karma points of the user who posted this answer would increase 10, respectively, if a new like were given, or the like was given back to this answer, for each like, the karma point of the user who posted this answer would decrease 10.

## 3.3 Triggers for Users

Users table was designed with two triggers, an after insert trigger and an after update trigger.

create trigger User\_after\_insert after insert on Users for each row

begin

insert into UserStatus(username) values(new.username);

end;

Each time a new user account was created, the link to the status table would be added. Since for each new user, the userstatus was always 1 which was the basic level, hence as described in the schema design section, the default value for UserStatus was 1.

create trigger User\_after\_update after update on Users for each row

begin

declare advance\_thres INT;

declare expert\_thres INT;

declare basic\_status INT;

declare acvanced\_status INT;

declare expert\_status INT;

if new.karma\_points <> old.karma\_points then

select statusid into basic\_status from status where statusname = 'basic';

select statuskarma, statusid into advance\_thres, acvanced\_status from status where statusname = 'advanced';

select statuskarma, statusid into expert\_thres, expert\_status from status where statusname = 'expert';

if new.karma\_points >= expert\_thres and old.karma\_points < expert\_thres then

update UserStatus

set statusid = expert\_status

where UserStatus.username = new.username;

elseif new.karma\_points >= advance\_thres and (old.karma\_points < advance\_thres or old.karma\_points >= expert\_thres) then

update UserStatus

set statusid = acvanced\_status

where UserStatus.username = new.username;

elseif new.karma\_points < advance\_thres and old.karma\_points >= advance\_thres then

update UserStatus

set statusid = basic\_status

where UserStatus.username = new.username;

end if;

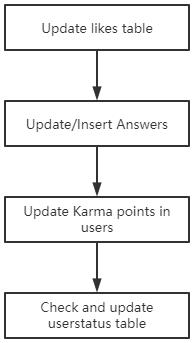
end if;

end;

Each time a user’s karma point changed, the system would check the user’s current status. The threshold of karma point of each status would be obtained from status table and the user’s status in userstatus table would be updated according to the user’s current karma point.

The default design for each level was: 0 – 50 was basic level, 50 – 100 was advanced level and karma points larger than 100 was expert level.

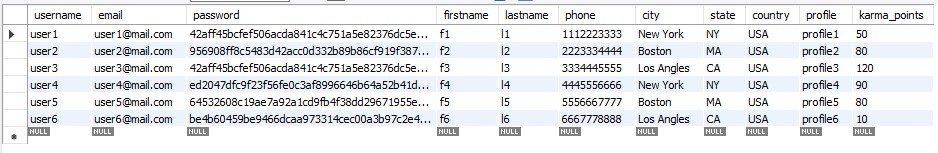
## 3.4 Workflow of the triggers



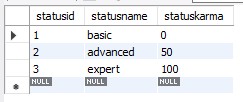
The work flow of the triggers shown above, when updating any table listed in the workflow manually in the system, the trigger would be called from up to down. For example, updating or inserting the answers table would call the according triggers in users and then the userstatus.

# 4 Sample Table Data

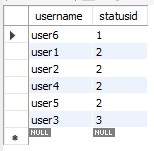
* Users

****

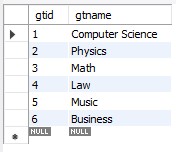
* Status

****

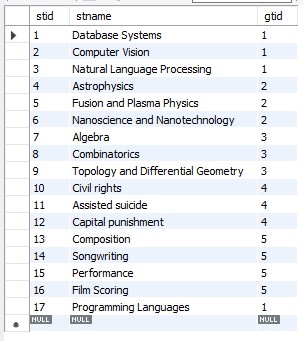
* Userstatus

****

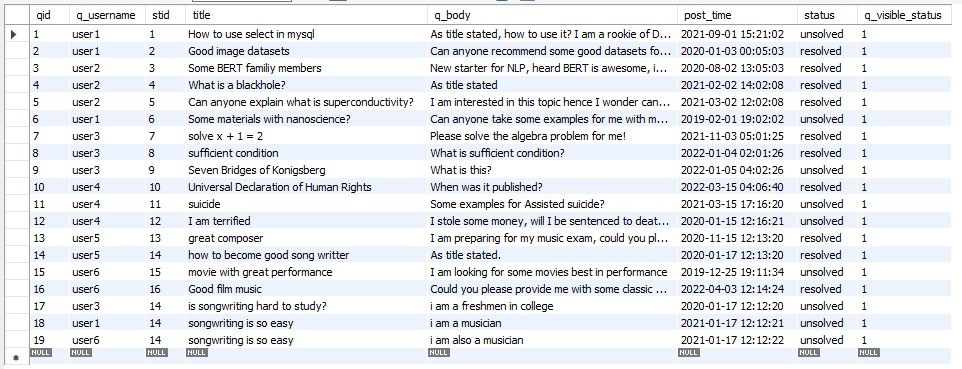
* Generaltopics

****

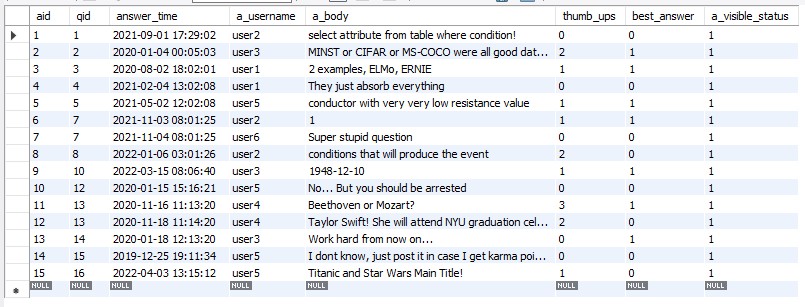
* Subjecttopics

****

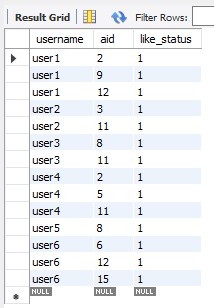
* Questions

****

* Answers

****

* Likes

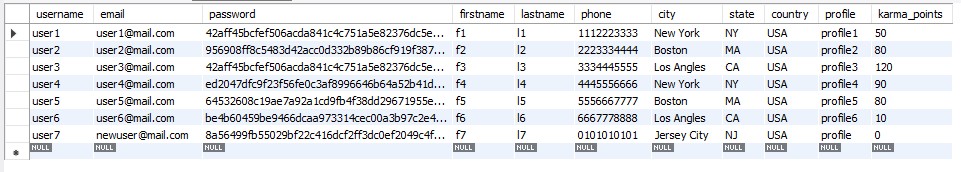
****

# 5 Test queries & Other Justification

## 5.1 Insert a New User

insert into Users (username, email, password, firstname, lastname, phone, city, state, country, profile, karma\_points)

values ('user7', 'newuser@mail.com', '8a56499fb55029bf22c416dcf2ff3dc0ef2049c4fa60bd9a629139e07e272152', 'f7', 'l7', '0101010101', 'Jersey City', 'NJ', 'USA', 'profile', 0);

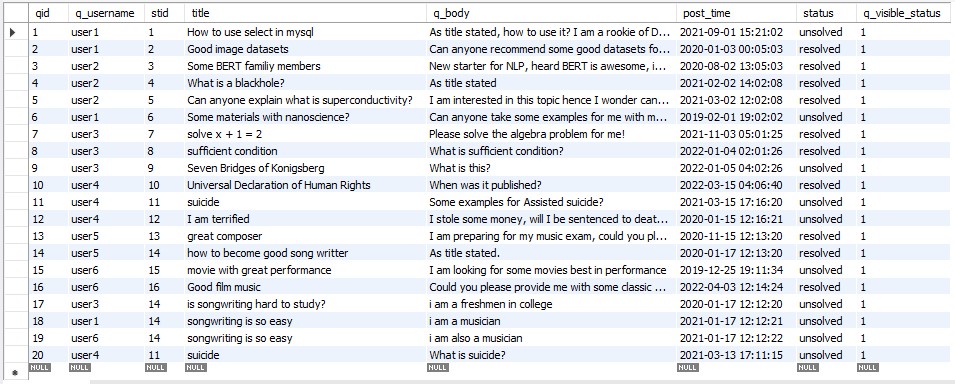


After executing the above query, a new user (username = user7) was added in the Users table.

## 5.2 Insert a New Question

insert into Questions (q\_username, stid, title, q\_body, post\_time, status)

values ('user4', 11, 'suicide', 'What is suicide?', '2021-03-13 17:11:15', 'unsolved');



After executing the above query, a new question (qid = 20) was added in the Questions table.

## 5.3 Get User Status

DELIMITER //

create procedure Get\_Karma()

begin

declare advance\_thres INT;

declare expert\_thres INT;

select statuskarma into advance\_thres from status where statusname = 'advanced';

select statuskarma into expert\_thres from status where statusname = 'expert';

select username, karma\_points,

case

when karma\_points < advance\_thres then 'basic'

when karma\_points < expert\_thres then 'advanced'

else 'expert'

end as status

from (select username, sum(score) as karma\_points from (

select users.username, 10 \* count(\*) as score from users left join answers on answers.a\_username = users.username inner join likes on likes.aid = answers.aid where likes.like\_status = 1 group by users.username

union all

select username, 20 \* count(aid) as score from users left join answers on answers.a\_username = users.username where best\_answer = 1 group by username

union all

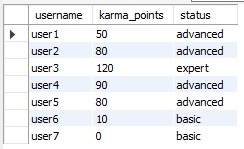
select username, 10 \* count(aid) as score from users left join answers on answers.a\_username = users.username group by username

) as s group by username) as l;

end //

call Get\_Karma();

DROP PROCEDURE Get\_Karma;



After executing the above query, the status of all users are calculated using stored karma points and status threshold.

## 5.4 All Answers to a Question

select aid, time(answer\_time) as time, date(answer\_time) as date, a\_body, best\_answer from Questions natural join Answers where qid = 7 order by answer\_time desc



After executing the above query, all answers to a question (qid = 7) are printed in chronological order.

## 5.5 Questions and Answers for each Topic

select GeneralTopics.gtid, stid as stid, IFNULL(s.question\_count, 0) as question\_count, IFNULL(s.answer\_count, 0) as answer\_count

from GeneralTopics left join (

select SubjectTopics.gtid, SubjectTopics.stid, question\_count, answer\_count

from SubjectTopics left join (

select q.stid, question\_count, answer\_count

from (

select stid, count(\*) as question\_count

from Questions

group by stid

) as q left join (

select stid, count(\*) as answer\_count

from Questions natural join Answers

group by stid

) as a

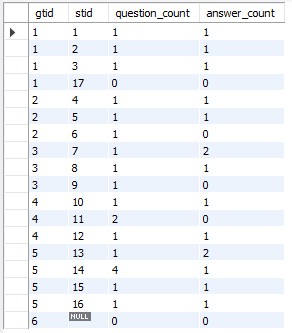
on q.stid = a.stid

) as c

on SubjectTopics.stid = c.stid

) as s

on GeneralTopics.gtid = s.gtid



After executing the above query, number of questions and answers to each topic are printed (gtid is id for a general topic, stid is id for a subject topic). General topic 6 was designed to show the case when this general topic did not have a subject topic, hence it would output stid NULL and all the count 0.

## 5.6 Keyword Query

select qid, title, q\_body, sum(weight), timestamp from(

select qid, q\_username as username, title, q\_body, post\_time as timestamp, 0.3 as weight

from Questions

where stid = 14 and title like '%e%'

union all

select qid, q\_username as username, title, q\_body, post\_time as timestamp, 0.6 as weight

from Questions

where stid = 14 and q\_body like '%e%'

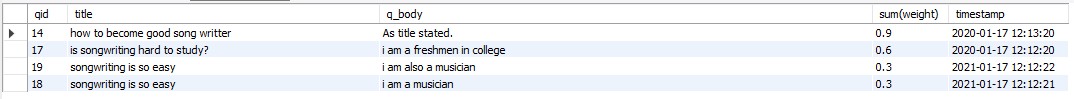
union all

select qid, q\_username as username, title, q\_body, answer\_time as timestamp, 0.1 as weight

from Questions natural join Answers

where stid = 14 and a\_body like '%e%'

) as q group by qid, title, q\_body, timestamp order by sum(weight) desc, timestamp desc



After executing the above query, all questions from a topic (stid = 14) that contains a keyword (letter ‘e’) are printed in weighted order.

In this design, three aspects were taken into consideration and weights were given regarding each aspect. Given a query for a specific topic, first, if the key words existed in the question title, 0.3 points would be given, then second, if the key words existed in the question body, 0.6 points would be given, last, for each answer 0.1 \* number of answers points obtained with these key words would be given. In the end the total score regarding these three aspects would be calculated by summing up and the final result was ordered mainly by the relevance score obtained. For questions with same relevance score, then it would be ordered by the time\_posted of the question, from newer to older. In this design, karma points, or status was not considered as the facet of question ranking since sometimes it was not fair to the users with lower karma points or level. To make the ranking standard clear, the formula below could be referenced:

score = 0.1 \* number\_of\_answers + 0.3 if key words in title + 0.6 if key words in body

Ranked by score desc and post\_time desc