MVP Engenharia de Dados (40530010057_20240_01)

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CONTEXT / PROBLEM:

Recently I started looking for high ranked movies that are not usually recommended by streaming platforms. They are mostly older movies that I cherry-pick because their rating is good, and they fit important criteria to me (such as the genre of the picture).

For this, I always use IMDb as a reference. Usually, I find that the data base has a good score classification because it relies on a reasonable number of users reviews and thus, accounts for public consensus. Reading a database is not that simple: you have to possess some understanding of user behavior and where to find the right data inputs (such as rating and users' qualitative reviews). User behavior is particularly important. For example, if you take a comedy movie and it hits somewhere between 7 and 8, it's generally a good movie. Dramas tend to score higher notes, with the especially good ones reaching scores higher than 8.

It's useful to notice that these things change over time. Because users' preferences change and movie quality varies as genres gain or lose prominence. There's a public feeling that movies now have to be shorter, more action driven, and adequate themselves to public. Ratings also change over time.

I would like to that a look into that, and construct a film list which I can rely upon instead of using a streaming platform recommendation algorithm to give me inputs.

OBJECTIVE:

To tackle all of this, the present project will look at public movie data bases provided by IMDb in order to if movies' length and scores changed over time. I will address the following questions:

- What is the 90% percentile for the selected movie genres since 1985, considering intervals of 15 years?
- Did the runtime and top scores of these movies changed over time?
- If I were to select movies above the selected percentiles, what movies should I pick?

I will segment the data base in chunks of time, and only look at non-adult movies belonging to the genres 'Action', 'Drama', 'Comedy', and 'Thriller'. I will use Data Brick for the ETL and for the analysis processes, as suggested in the task instruction.

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDELINE:

1) DATA SELLECTION

The data was collected from IMDB (https://developer.imdb.com/non-commercial-datasets/). Since the variables were already well documented there, I was able to identify the data sets that would help me to address the project objective.

We sure need a Primary Key that can help us to join datasets. We can identify this key as what IMDB calls "tconst", an alphanumeric string that serves as an unique identifier for movies. To answers the questions we listed, we would need: the (1) movie title, (2) its genre, (3) its release year, (4) its category, (5) its runtime, and (6) its rating. It would also be useful to know the (7) number of reviews used to attribute the movie's rating, so we can discard movies with little reviews, since their final rating is very prone to suffer from the effect of outliers and reviewer selection bias (for example, a movie that is well liked by a small niche of people, and received a very generous score that does not is coherent with its quality).

Scanning through the metadata, we can map the variables in the following database:

- title.basics.tsv.gz: (1) movie title, (2) its genre, (3) its release year, (4) its category, (5) its runtime
- title.ratings.tsv.gz: (6) its rating, (7) number of reviews used to attribute the movie's rating

The relationship between the data sets will be better explored bellow.

2) DATA EXTRACTION

I decided to gather the data directly from the source while loading it to Data Bricks. For this we will use some pyhton modules (pandas and io from BytesIO to read the .tsv file provided by IMDB, and requests to access it through an internet link). I think this is better than downloading the data and inputting it manually, because, if IMDB updates the data base, the code can account for that and serve as a pipeline if you run it periodically with a scheduled job.

The code will be available in the step 4 of this section.

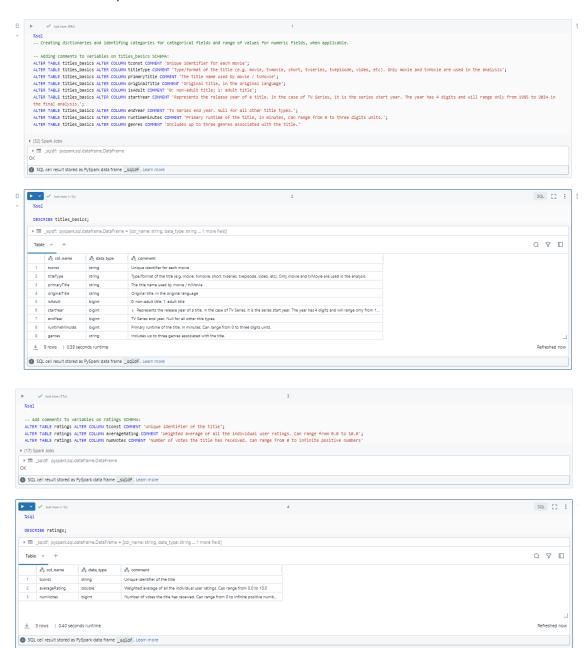
3) DATA MODELING

Since I already know the metadata by reading the IMDB website, I could plan ahead. I used the following information:

- Title_basics variables as provided by IMDB:
 - o 'tconst (string)': 'alphanumeric unique identifier of the title',
 - 'titleType (string)': 'the type/format of the title (e.g. movie, short, tvseries, tvepisode, video, etc)',
 - o 'primaryTitle (string)': 'the more popular title / the title used by the filmmakers on promotional materials at the point of release',
 - o 'originalTitle (string)': 'original title, in the original language',
 - o 'isAdult (boolean)': '0: non-adult title; 1: adult title',
 - o 'startYear (YYYY)': 'represents the release year of a title. In the case of TV Series, it is the series start year',
 - o 'endYear (YYYY)': 'TV Series end year. \\N for all other title types',
 - o 'runtimeMinutes': 'primary runtime of the title, in minutes',
 - o 'genres (string array)': 'includes up to three genres associated with the title'
- Ratings variables as provided by IMDB:
 - o 'tconst (string)': 'alphanumeric unique identifier of the title',
 - o 'averageRating': 'weighted average of all the individual user ratings',
 - o 'numVotes': 'number of votes the title has received'

I could take this and build the dictionaries by using SQL to modify the schema tables in Data Bricks. Note that this process occurred after the data was load (which is the step 4 of this step-by-step guide). I added some information about the range (min and max) for each variable and also explained the categories for categorical data.

The coded used is presented below:



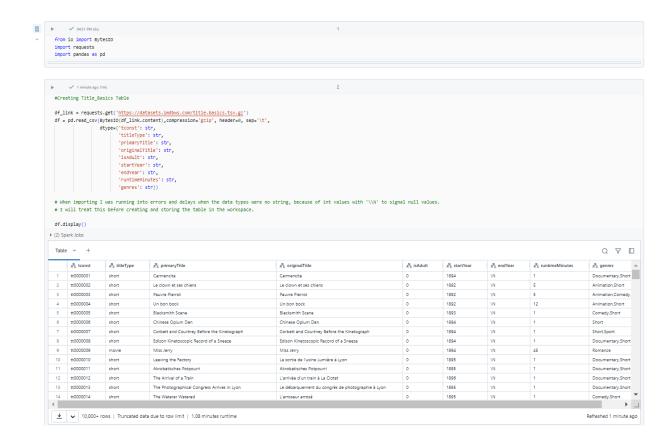
To address the questions we listed in the project's objective, I will build a final data model that looks like that:



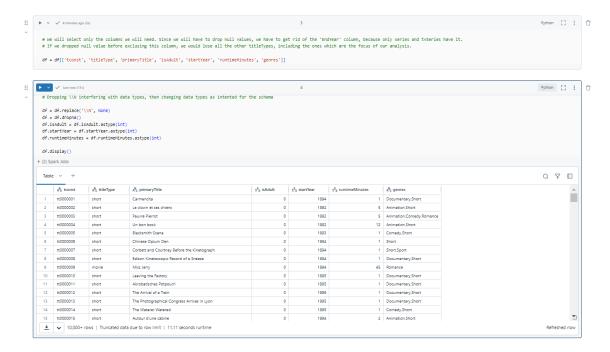
4) DATA LOADING

I started by importing the modules we need to capture the data from IMDB. We used pandas, requests and BytesIO.

After that, we provided the link for the title_basics table, ran the code and displayed the data set to see if the reading operation was running fine. We had to import all the data as strings, otherwise the execution would take too long, as the plataform would try to interpret the data by itself.



Then, I dropped null values and corrected the data types.



Once I did that, I then created the table inside DataBricks using pySparks.

```
### Creating table

permanent_table_name = "Titles_Basics"

spark.creatostaframe(sf).write.mode("overwrite").saveAsTable(permanent_table_name)

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* Nob 4 View (Sapes 17/1)

* Nob 5 View (Sapes 17/1, 1 skopeed)

* Nob 6 View (Sapes 17/1, 2 skopeed)

* Nob 6 View (Sapes 17/1)

* Nob 8 View (Sapes 17/1)

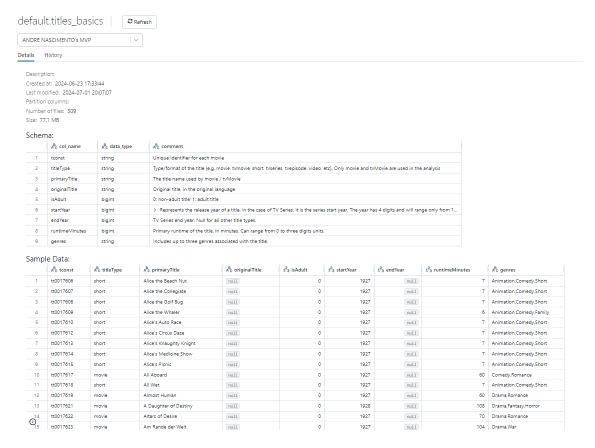
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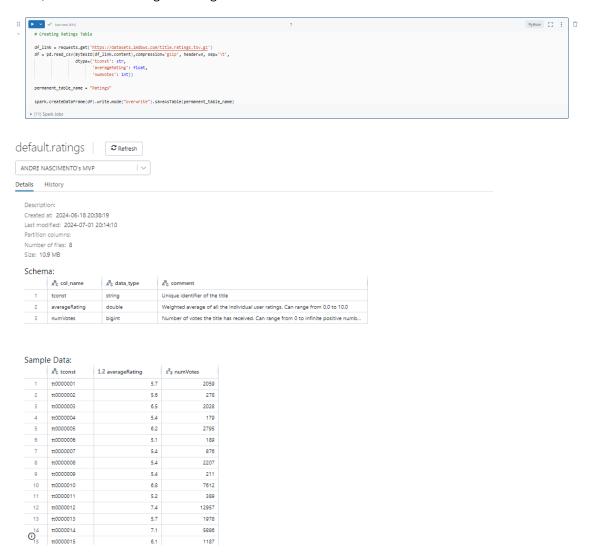
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* Nob 10 View (Sapes 17/1, 1 skopeed)
```

After that, I checked the catalog to the see if the created table was available and created the data dictionary, as explained previously in the "Data Modeling" section.



Then, I did the same thing the ratings table.



Notice that I didn't have to import all the data as strings, since all the columns had an consistent high quality and there was no null values interfering with the data type classification (there was no null fields classified as "\\N" in this table).

So, the data loading phase finished and the analysis phase could take place.

5) DATA ANALYSIS

a. Data quality

I trackled most data quality issues during the loading phase. There were problems with (1) null values, (2) low quality data and (3) data types. Null values show concerns about the data sets, we dropped them to make the analysis more consistent. To dimmish low quality data records, we also abandoned movie entries with a low number of votes. Also, some data types were originally given as strings. That would have prevent us from doing operations, so we changed them to numeric to allow operations to take place.

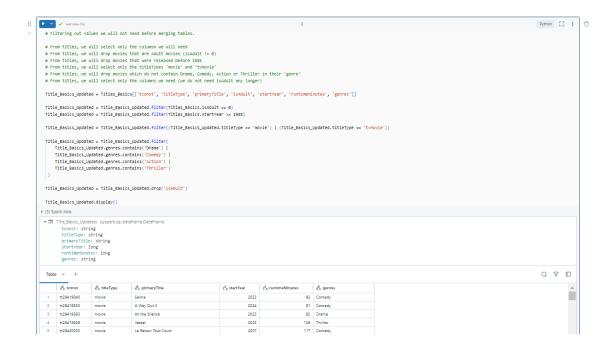
There was also a problem related to **(4) data classification inconsistencies**, which was not treated because it did not interfere with the analysis. There are a lot of genres and some of them have multiple values such as ('Drama, Thriller' or 'Drama, History, Biography'). We addressed that during the analysis by searching if this field contained a given word. This is a solution in a sense that, if 'Drama' and 'Drama, History, Biography' both contained Drama, they will be identified as 'Drama'. But we also have be aware that, if we were to make calculations segmenting the genres instead of segmenting the data base by year, movies would be accounted in more than one category of analysis. This did not affect the analysis, since we used a view segmented by time frame.

b. Problem solving

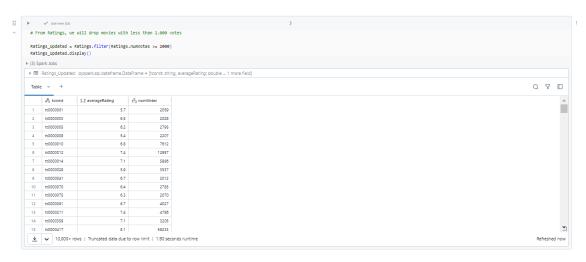
We conducted the analysis using pySpark, so I started importing the relevant modules to read the stored tables.



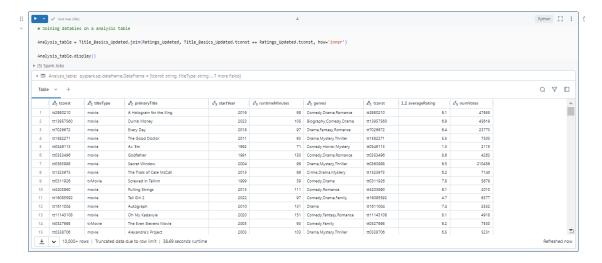
Then we filtered the data just to select the subset that was relevant to answer the MVP's objective questions. All the operations were commented in the code. We removed adult movies from the sample, selected movies only from 1985 onwards, selected only 'movie' and 'tvMovies' from titleTypes, and selected only the genres we intended to work with (Drama, Comedy, Action, Thriller).



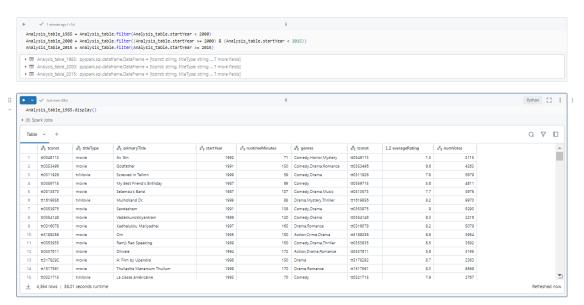
So we named this temporary table as Title_Basics_Updated. We then, manipulated the Ratings table by excluding movies with less than 2000 number of votes and named it Ratings_Updated.



And finally, we joined the tables, was we planned in the data model.



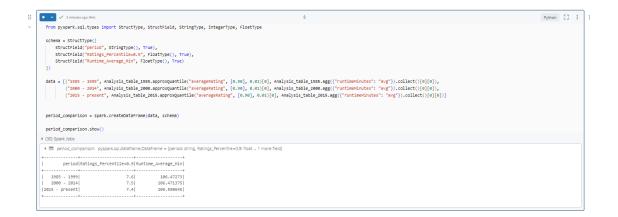
Then, I created three subsets of this table. One with all the movies from 1985 to 2000 (this is until the end of 1999); a second one with all the movies ranging from 2000 to 2015 (until the end of 2014); and a third one with movies created in 2015 or more recent years. I checked if the code worked fine before proceeding.



Now, I could answer the two first questions of the objective:

- What is the 90% percentile for the selected movie genres since 1985, considering intervals of 15 years?
- Did the runtime and top scores of these movies changed over time?

To do that we had to import new modules to create a schema so that we could present the percentile calculations and the runtime aggregation within a table format.

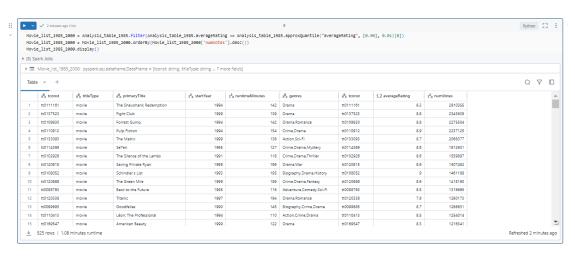


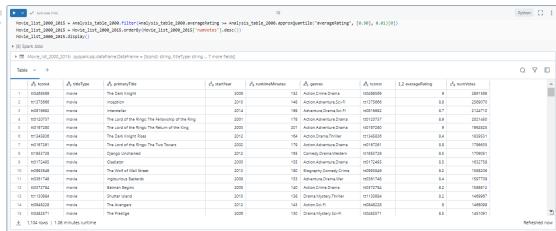
We can see the percentile 90% for movie ratings is steadily decreasing throughout the periods analyzed, but the runtime isn't. So, in a high level, we might infer the quality of movies is dropping and that's not attribute to shorter lengths, since there is not a noticeable decrease in runtimes in recent periods.

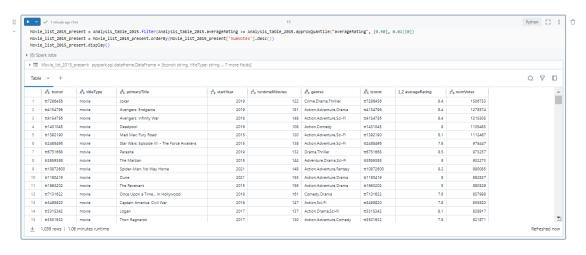
The last task was to respond the third question listed in the MVP's objective:

If I were to select movies above the selected percentiles, what movies should I pick?

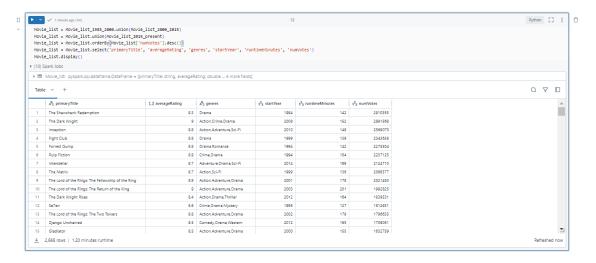
To do that, we need to filter the subsets of the table by the calculated percentiles and then stack them on the top of each other. We ran the code in the 1985 – 2000 subset, checked if it was fine and replicated the same process for the other two periods.







Finally, we built the final recommendation movie table, stacking the subsets.



Notice that we ordered the result by Number of Votes, assuming that more popular movies are a better pick, even if their score is lower than other movies with lower votes. We also selected the order in which the columns would be seen and chose to not present the primary key in the final table, because this variable is not relevant for an external user trying to consume its content.

SELF-EVALUATION

The solution worked and it was useful for me already. The conclusions brought insights I was not expecting (about movie runtimes) and I identified some high-quality movies I intend to watch. Overall, despite its simplicity, I think it is a better source to select movies than the recommendation algorithm of streaming platforms for viewers that resemble me.

From a technical point of view, I had to learned a lot to deliver the MVP. Loading the data was the hardest part, because I wanted to structure this in a way that guaranteed that if the source of the data changes, the loading would account for that.

As I said before, the analysis was simple. It could have been deeper if I had more time to work on it. Also, some things could have been better explored, such as: (1) programming languages, (2) data quality treatments, and (3) cloud platforms.

Concerning the first issue, I could have used other languages, but I preferred pySparks, because I think I generates a step-by-step view that is easier to read than SQL.

Secondly, I selected a data base that was well documented, and this saved me from some real-world recurring issues, such as lack of knowledge about the data. But dealing with these issues was not the focus of this endeavor. My main concern was to make a solution I would use and that would be also useful to other people, so it was mandatory that I selected well-documented data.

Lastly, I could have used some cloud solutions to build the pipelines, such as AWS, or Google Cloud, but I chose to proceed the way I did to avoid potential financial budget constraints.

Overall, this endeavor was relevant and solidified some building blocks I needed to become better at engineering and analyzing data. As this course goes on, in the future, it would be nice to revisit this project and add a Business Intelligence interface to the movie recommendation list.