

Comparative Analysis of Performance Metrics of NoSQL and Relational Databases



Author: Angela Mladenovska

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1. Introduction

Data is an extremely significant component in the modern world. Various conclusions are drawn from their manipulation and analysis. They are arranged and kept in a database to ensure effective organization and productive work. Although there are many other kinds of databases, relational and non-relational databases are the most well-known.

The foundation of relational databases is the tabular arrangement of data, which consists of rows that display individual entries and columns that represent features that are present in the table. Only structured data is managed by this kind of database. It is possible to establish relationships that correspond between several tables. Relationships can be formed between different tables, as the name depicts. Most well known relational database management systems are MySQL, Oracle, Microsoft SQL Server, and PostgreSQL. PostgreSQL's performances will be actually taken into consideration throughout this project.

On the other hand, non-relational databases or NoSQL have a different approach from the relational ones: they do not have a classic tabular structure. They can be graph-based, document-based, key-value and column family [1]. The non-relational database management system MongoDB, which stores data in JSON format, a representation of a document-oriented database will be introduced to us in this project.

To clarify, document-oriented databases offer efficient data management, mainly in a semi-structured format.

Different types of databases produce different results when running the same queries. In this project assignment we will compare the timing performance of PostgreSQL and MongoDB.

2. Dataset Selection and Analysis

For the purpose of this project, secondary data analysis[2] is performed, which is analysis of data that has been collected from various sources for a particular purpose.

This process consists of several steps: defining a research topic, selecting a dataset, reviewing the selected dataset. We will later discuss the steps that were taken in detail.

It was necessary to select a larger dataset, with several hundreds to a million records. On the link[3] where the selected dataset is located, there are two datasets: books_data.csv and books_rating.csv. For our purposes, we only use the books_rating_dataset.

The Books rating dataset contains about 3 million records and consists of 10 columns: Id, Title, Price, User_id, profileName, review/helpfulness, review/score, review/time, review/summary, review/text.

After the selection was defined, the dataset was reviewed, and since it initially contained null values and unnecessarily formatted values, it needed to be processed and analyzed accordingly. The data analysis and data preparation was performed in the Google Colab tool.

f										1. A co ed # FD #
	Id	Title	Price	User_id	profileName	review/helpfulness	review/score	review/time	review/summary	review/text
0	1882931173	Its Only Art If Its Well Hung!	NaN	AVCGYZL8FQQTD	Jim of Oz "jim-of-oz"	7/7	4.0	940636800	Nice collection of Julie Strain images	This is only for Julie Strain fans. It's a col
1	0826414346	Dr. Seuss: American Icon	NaN	A30TK6U7DNS82R	Kevin Killian	10/10	5.0	1095724800	Really Enjoyed It	I don't care much for Dr. Seuss but after read
2	0826414346	Dr. Seuss: American Icon	NaN	A3UH4UZ4RSVO82	John Granger	10/11	5.0	1078790400	Essential for every personal and Public Library	If people become the books they read and if "t
3	0826414346	Dr. Seuss: American Icon	NaN	A2MVUWT453QH61	Roy E. Perry "amateur philosopher"	7/7	4.0	1090713600	Phlip Nel gives silly Seuss a serious treatment	Theodore Seuss Geisel (1904-1991), aka "D
4	0826414346	Dr. Seuss: American Icon	NaN	A22X4XUPKF66MR	D. H. Richards "ninthwavestore"	3/3	4.0	1107993600	Good academic overview	Philip Nel - Dr. Seuss: American IconThis is b

Picture 1: Initial Overview of the Dataset

Additionally, a check was made on how many null (nan/null) values exist in each of the columns. This was done in order to properly handle them, because in the general case such values would be unnecessary.

0	<pre>df.isnull().sum()</pre>		
	Id Title Price User_id profileName review/helpfulness review/score review/time review/summary review/text dtype: int64	0 208 2518829 561787 561886 0 0 0 38	

Picture 2: Overview of the presence of null values in the dataset

A specific method for handling the null values is selected for each column. For the Title, review/summary, review/text and Price columns we dropped the rows where the values are missing. Null values in the User_id and profileName columns are replaced by the value 'Unknown'.

In order to maintain consistency when importing the data, those values from the columns Title, profileName, review/summary, review/text, which contained the value ';'(semicolon), were deleted, because the separator when saving the dataset after its processing was done to be ';'. This is due to the presence of commas in the values represented in this dataset, and by default the comma is the separator in a csv file. The values from the Id column were not unique, and in order for it to serve as the primary key in the database table, some changes were made to make those values unique. Another change that has been made is the removal of unnecessary quotes on values from the profileName column.

Also, in order to have a richer choice for data manipulation, a new date_rated column has been added that represents the dates when each book was rated. The column is filled with random dates using Python functions.

After completing the data cleaning, 385 902 records remained in the dataset.

3. Creating Relational and Aggregation Models for Data Importing

3.1 Relational model

For the relational model, the DataGrip IDE was used, mainly because of the friendly user interface that it offers, for data manipulation. A new Postgres database was created in PgAdmin, where a table was generated for importing the dataset. In DataGrip, a connection was made with the database.

.∰id ≎	III title		I⊞ price ≎	■ user_id	≎ III profil	e_name	÷ III	review_helpfulne:
0829814000_1	Wonderful Worship in Smaller Churches		19.4	A373VVEU6Z9M	ON Dr. Terry	/ W. Dorsett	1/	
0829814000_2	Wonderful Worship in Smaller Churches		19.4	AGKGOH65VTRR	4 Cynthia I	. Lajoy Cindy La	Joy 1/	
0829814000_3	Wonderful Worship in Smaller Churches		19.4	A30QWLU31BU1	Y Maxwell (Grant	1/	
0595344550_1	Whispers of the Wicked Saints		10.95	A1E9M6APK30Z	AU V. Powel		1/	
0595344550_2	Whispers of the Wicked Saints		10.95	AUROVA5H0C66	C LoveToRea	ad Actually Read	Books 1/	
review_score \$	聞 review_time ≎ 聞 review_summary			≎ 💵 revi	ew_text			date_rating
5	1291766400 Small Churches CAN Have W	<i>l</i> onderfu	l Worship	"Many s	mall churche	s feel like they o	can not hav	2024-02-23
5	1248307200 Not Just for Pastors!			I just	finished rea	ding this amazing	book and c	2022-04-22
5	1222560000 Small church pastor? This	is the	book on wor	ship "I hadr	n't been a sm	all church pastor	very long	2022-09-13
4	1119571200 Here is my opinion			"I have	e to admit, I	am not one to wri	ite reviews	2020-02-25
1	1119225600 Buyer beware			"This i	is a self-pub	lished book, and i	if you want	2022-01-23

Picture 3: Overview of the imported dataset in DataGrip

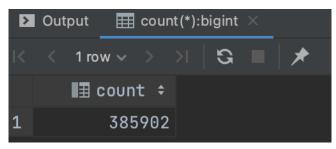
3.2 Aggregation model

The MongoDB non-relational database management system was chosen for working with the non-relational database. MongoDB was installed locally on the machine, additionally MongoDBCompass IDE was installed where a connection was made with the database. The csv dataset was imported there as well, but its structure was modified in JSON format. It was explored how MongoDB works, before we moved on to further work. [5]

```
"_id": {[...]},
    "_id": {[...]},
    "Id": "0829814000_1",
    "Title": "Wonderful Worship in Smaller Churches",
    "Price": 19.4,
    "User_id": "A373VVEU6Z9M0N",
    "profileName": "Dr. Terry W. Dorsett",
    "review/helpfulness": "1/1",
    "review/score": 5,
    "review/score": 5,
    "review/time": 1291766400,
    "review/summary": "Small Churches CAN Have Wonderful Worship",
    "review/text": "Many small churches feel like they can not have great worship because they lack the resources that larger churches take fo "Date": "2024-02-23"
}
```

Picture 4: Overview of a single JSON object in MongoDBCompass

Also, a check was made whether the number of the records is equal in both of the databases.



Picture 5: Total number of rows in the relational model



Picture 6: Total number of records in NoSOL

With this, we ensured that the dataset was imported appropriately. This indicates that there were not any issues during the importing of the datasets.

4. Defining queries

After the models were created, the next step was to define queries of various types: aggregation, filtering, retrieving.

4.1 Queries in PostgreSQL

After the successful importing of the data in the database, 10 queries were written which purpose is to be executed in the database. Pictures of the queries can be found in this section, as well as description of the query can be found in the comments on the pictures.

```
--Query 1:List the books with their prices, whose title contains less than 5 words and the price is not zero.
-- Order the result in descending order
|select distinct title, price
|from books_ratings
| where length(title) - length(replace(title,' ','')) + 1 < 5
| and price!=0
| order by price DESC;
```

```
--Query 4:According to the words found in the review_summary, for every user calculate how many reviews have positive and negative reactions

| select profile_name,
| count(*) as total_reviews,
| sum(case when review_summary ilike '%excellent%' or review_summary ilike '%good%' or review_summary ilike '%great%'
| or review_summary ilike '%awesome%' or review_summary ilike '%would recommend%' then 1 else 0 end) as good_reviews,
| sum(case when review_summary ilike '%did not enjoy%' or review_summary ilike '%did not like%' or review_summary ilike '%boring%'
| or review_summary ilike '%would not recommend%' or (review_summary ilike '%too bad%' and review_summary not ilike '%not%')
| then 1 else 0 end) as bad_reviews
| from books_ratings |
| where profile_name not ilike 'Unknown' and review_score > 3
| group by profile_name |
| order by total_reviews desc;
```

```
--Query 5:List the users' information who have given reviews with helpfulness greater than 50%, including the average
--result of the given ratings for every user

| select user_id,profile_name,
| count(*) as total_reviews,
| avg(review_score) as average_score
| from books_ratings
| where cast(substring(review_helpfulness,1,position('/' in review_helpfulness)-1) as double precision) /
| nullif(cast(substring(review_helpfulness,position('/' in review_helpfulness)+1) as double precision),0) > 0.5
| group by user_id, profile_name
| having count(*) >= 5
| Gorder by average_score desc;
```

```
--Query 7:List the books with greatest number of ratings from anonymous users

Select title,

count(case when profile_name = 'Unknown' then 1 else 0 end)as number_of_anonymous_reviews,

avg(review_score)as average_rating_for_anonymous_reviews,

case

when avg(review_score) >= 4 then 'Positive'

when avg(review_score) < 2 then 'Negative'

else 'Mixed'

end as average_sentiment_for_book

from books_ratings

group by title

having count(case when profile_name='Unknown' then 1 else 0 end) > 5

Border by number_of_anonymous_reviews desc;
```

```
--Query 8:List the top 10 best rated books with more than 3 reviews according to the most recent reviews, sorted by
--the average rating and the number of reviews

| select br.title, br.price, br.profile_name as reviewer_name,
| avg(review_score)as average_rating,
| count(id)as number_of_reviews

| from books_ratings as br,
| (
| select title,max(review_time)as latest_review_time
| from books_ratings
| group by title
| ) as latest_reviews

| where br.title = latest_reviews.title and br.review_time = latest_reviews.latest_review_time
| group by br.title, br.price, br.profile_name
| having count(br.id) > 3
| order by average_rating desc, number_of_reviews desc
| limit 10;
```

```
-Query 9: List the number of books that start on "The" and that have been given rating during
-the 4 trimesters with review_score greater than 4
(SELECT COUNT(*)
 FROM books_ratings
   AND EXTRACT(MONTH FROM TO_DATE(date_rating, 'YYYY-MM-DD')) BETWEEN 1 AND 3
   AND title LIKE 'The%') AS num_books_above_4_first_quarter,
 (SELECT COUNT(*)
 FROM books_ratings
   AND EXTRACT(MONTH FROM TO_DATE(date_rating, 'YYYY-MM-DD')) BETWEEN 4 AND 6
   AND title LIKE 'The%') AS num_books_above_4_second_quarter,
(SELECT COUNT(*)
 FROM books_ratings
   AND EXTRACT(MONTH FROM TO_DATE(date_rating, 'YYYY-MM-DD')) BETWEEN 7 AND 9
   AND title LIKE 'The%') AS num_books_above_4_third_quarter,
 FROM books_ratings
   AND EXTRACT(MONTH FROM TO_DATE(date_rating, 'YYYY-MM-DD')) BETWEEN 10 AND 12
   AND title LIKE 'The%') AS num_books_above_4_fourth_quarter;
```

```
--Query 10:List all the books that were rated in the past 2 years and whose review_text contain more than 60 words select title,price,review_text,date_rating from books_ratings where TO_DATE(date_rating, 'YYYY-MM-DD') BETWEEN CURRENT_DATE - INTERVAL '2 year' AND CURRENT_DATE and length(review_text) - length(replace(review_text,' ','')) + 1 > 60 corder by date_rating asc;
```

4.2 Queries in MongoDB

The same queries were written for MongoDB. Pictures of the queries can be found in the following section.

Query 1

```
1 ▼ [
2 ▼ {
3
                                                                 $match:
4 ▼
            {
5 ▼
              Price: {
               $gte: 2,
$lte: 4
6
 7
              },
"review/score": {
8
9 ▼
                $gte: 1,
10
11
                $lte: 3
              },
Date: {
12
13 🔻
                $regex: /^[0-9]{4}-[0-9]{2}-[0-9]{2}$/
14
15
16 ▼
              $nor: [
17 🕶
                {
                  profile_name: "Unknown"
18
19
20 ▼
                  profile_name: {
    $regex: /\.com$/
21 🕶
22
23
24
25
26
 27
 28 ▼
          {
             $project:
 29
 30 ▼
 31
                  _id: 0,
 32
                  Date: 1,
 33
                  profileName: 1
 34
 35
          }
 36
       ]
```

```
1 ▼ [
 2 🔻
 3
         $match:
 4 ▼
           {
 5 ▼
             profileName: {
               $not: {
 6 ▼
 7
                 $regex: /Unknown/
 8
 9
10 🕶
             "review/score": {
11
               $gt: 3
12
13
           }
       },
{
14
15 ▼
16
         $group:
17 ▼
             _id: "$profileName",
18
             total_reviews: {
19 🕶
20
               $sum: 1
21
```

```
29 🕶
                    good_reviews: {
30 · 31 · 32 · 33 · 34 · 35 ·
                       $sum: {
                          $cond: [
                             {
                                $or: [
                                      $regexMatch: {
  input: "$review/summary",
36
37
38
                                          regex:
                                             /excellent|good|great|awesome|would recommend/i
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
                    },
bad_reviews: {
47
48 ▼
49 <del>•</del>
50 <del>•</del>
51 <del>•</del>
52 <del>•</del>
53 <del>•</del>
54 •
                       $sum: {
                          $cond: [
                                $or: [
                                      $regexMatch: {
  input: "$review/summarv".
                          43 • 44 • 45 • 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 554 55 66 57 68 69 • 66 66 66 66 66
                     total_reviews: -1
```

```
$cond: [{ $eq: ["$profileName", "Unknown"] }, 1, 0]
   8
9
10 •
                   average_rating_for_anonymous_reviews: {
                     $avg: {
    $cond: [{ $eq: ["$profileName", "Unknown"] }, "$review/score", null]
   11 • 12
                    }
    13
14
   15
16
                   average_score: { $avg: "$review/score" }
   17
18 •
19 •
                $addFields: {
   average_sentiment_for_book: {
    $switch: {
   20 v
21 v
22 v
23 v
                        branches: [
                         {
  case: { $gte: ["$average_score", 4] },
  then: "Positive"
   24
25
   26
27 ▼
                            case: { $lt: ["$average_score", 2] },
    28
                             case: { $lt: ["$average_score", 2] },
then: "Negative"
    28
     29
30
                          }
     31
32
                         ], default: "Mixed"
    33
34
35
    36
37 ▼
38 ▼
                $match: {
    39
40
                   number_of_anonymous_reviews: { $gt: 5 }
    41
42 ▼
    43
44
45 •
                $sort: { number_of_anonymous_reviews: -1 }
                $project: {
    _id: 0,
    title: "$_id",
    number_of_anonymous_reviews: 1,
    average_rating_for_anonymous_reviews: 1,
    average_sentiment_for_book: 1
}
    46 ▼
47
48
    49
50
51
     52
53
 53 }
54 ]
```

```
1 • [
2 •
3 •
                                                                              {
           $group: {
    _id: "$Title",
    latest_review_time: {
     $max: "$review/time"
 4
 5 ▼
 6
 8
 9
10 -
           $lookup: {
  from: "books_ratings",
11 🕶
12
13 🕶
               let: {
                title: "$_id",
latest_time: "$latest_review_time"
14
16
17 🕶
              pipeline: [
18 🕶
                   $match: {
19 🕶
                     $expr: {
    $and: [
20 🔻
21 🔻
22 🕶
                          {
                              $eq: ["$Title", "$$title"]
24
25 ▼
                             $eq: [
  "$review/time",
26 ▼
27
                                 "$$latest_time"
28
```

```
}
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
50
51
52
53
55
                         ], as: "latest_reviews"
                      $unwind: "$latest_reviews"
                    $group: {
    _id: {
        title: "$latest_reviews.Title",
        price: "$latest_reviews.Price",
        profile_name:
        "$latest_reviews.profileName"
                        $avg: vca.
},
number_of_reviews: {
    $sum: 1
},
56 • 57
58
59
60 • 61 • 62 • 63
64
65
666
67
70
71
72
73
74 • 75
76
77 • 80
81
82
83
                       reviews: {
   $push: "$latest_reviews"
                  $match: {
  number_of_reviews: {
    $gt: 3
}
          }
}
},
{
$sort: {
    average_rating: -1,
        number_of_reviews: -1
}
                  Sproject: {
    _id: 0,
    itile: "$_id.title",
    price: "$_id.price",
    reviewer_name: "$_id.profile_name",
    average_rating: 1,
                                         number_of_reviews: 1
  84
  85
                                   }
  86
                            }
  87
                    ]
```

```
29 🕶
                    word_count: {
30
                       $gt: 60
31
32
33
34 ▼
35 ▼
                 $sort: {
36
37
                    date_rating_date: 1
38
39 ▼ 40 ▼
                $project: {
    _id: 0,
    title: "$Title",
    price: "$Price",
    review_text: "$review/text",
    date_rating: "$Date"
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
```

5. Generating reports about the time performances for the queries

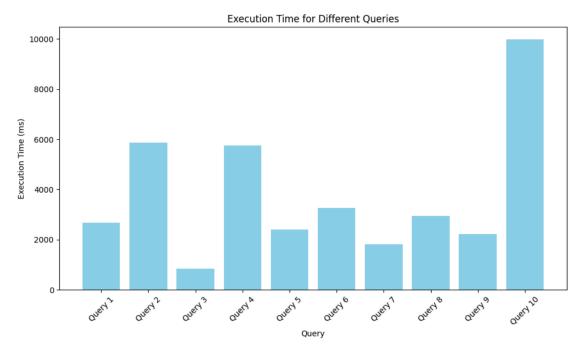
The queries were executed on the following machine: MacBook Air 2019 Intel core i5 8GB RAM. In this section a detailed overview of the time performances are given for each query, in both databases.

5.1 Time performances in PostgreSQL

There are 2 times in the PostgreSQL execution: execution time and fetching time. Execution time refers to the amount of time it takes for the database server to process a query, while fetching time refers to the time taken to send the result set from the database server to the client application. The total execution time is a sum from both of these times.

Query(Q)	Execution time of the query(ms)
Q1	2673
Q2	5859
Q3	836
Q4	5742
Q5	2401
Q6	3263
Q7	1823
Q8	2939
Q9	2215
Q10	9969

Table 1: Overview of the execution time of each query in PostgreSQL

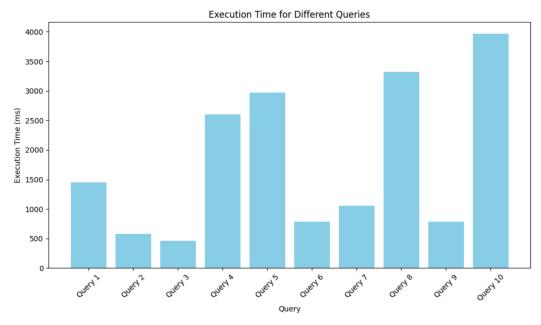


Picture 7: Graphic overview of the execution time of each query in PostgreSQL

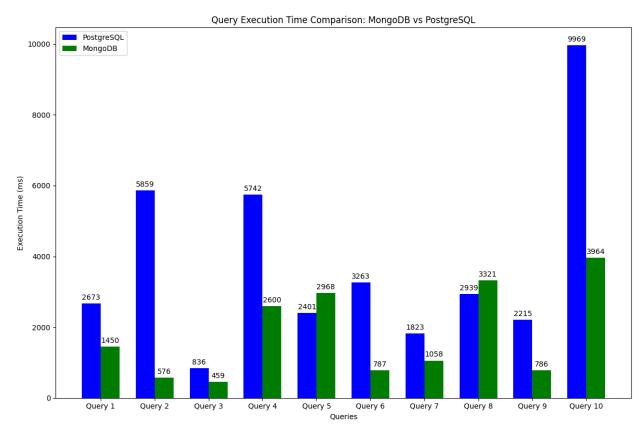
5.2 Time performances in MongoDB

Прашалник(Query-Q)	Време на извршување на прашалникот(ms)
Q1	1450
Q2	576
Q3	459
Q4	2600
Q5	2968
Q6	787
Q7	1058
Q8	3321
Q9	786
Q10	3964

Table 2: Overview of the execution time of each query in MongoDB



Picture 8: Graphic overview of the execution time of each query in MongoDB



Picture 9: Comparison of the execution times for each query in both of the databases using a graph

According to the received results, we can conclude that the non-relational database gives better performances than the relational. Eight out of ten queries have shorter execution time in MongoDB.

The possible reasons why the two remaining queries have larger execution time in MongoDB, can be the fact that MongoDB is not very suitable for joining data from multiple instances, as well as working with functions like cast and substring that take more execution time in this type of database.

6. Conclusions

There is often a challenge and dilemma in choosing an appropriate database. A major factor influencing the choice is the nature of the data itself.

Relational databases are known to have schema and take data from fewer sources. They are used when the integrity of the data is preserved and they are normalized. This means that if any data does not match the schema and breaks the constraints, it will not be able to be inserted. This would affect the performance of the database.

On the other hand, non-relational databases take a different approach. They arise mainly as a need for improved performance due to the emergence of huge amounts of data in recent times. Apart from managing unstructured data, they can also manage structured and semi-structured data. They do not maintain a schema like relational databases and have eventual consistency. Specifically in our case, the document-oriented Mongo database creates dynamic schemas, which means that records can be inserted without the structure being created beforehand. MongoDB also supports indexing, which enables fast searching through documents. It is also worth mentioning that this type of database has horizontal scaling, which means that data is distributed across multiple nodes, giving faster performance.[6]

In this project, MongoDB gave better performance. The reasons for this phenomenon are the mentioned characteristics. MongoDB is known to provide better performance for queries involving filtering and aggregations. On the other hand, its weaknesses are working with data joins and nested queries, which is actually inherent to relational databases.

Depending on what we want to achieve and what queries we want to write, strengths and weaknesses should be considered before choosing an appropriate database to work with.

7. References

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