Amazon Book Reviews Management System

Github

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Abstract—Millions of readers turn to Amazon book reviews for guidance and insights when choosing their next read. However, navigating this vast ocean of opinions can be overwhelming. Authors and publishers also lack clear data-driven insights into reader preferences and market trends. This project aims to bridge this gap by designing and implementing a database system that leverages the rich information within the Amazon book reviews dataset.

Index Terms—Books, Reviews, Users, Publishers, Sales, Authors

I. Introduction

In today's digital age, book reviews play a crucial role in guiding readers and authors alike. However, managing the abundance of online reviews has become a challenge. Book Reviews Management Systems aim to address this by streamlining the collection and analysis of reviews. This report explores the design and implementation of such systems, highlighting their potential to revolutionize how we interact with and derive insights from book reviews.

II. OBJECTIVE

A. Objective and proposed solution

This database project delves into the rich world of Amazon book reviews, aiming to extract valuable insights and recommendations for readers, authors, and publishers. Leveraging the vast dataset, we will design and implement a system that tackles data quality challenges, optimises storage and retrieval, and provides intuitive interfaces for diverse user needs. From personalised book suggestions to author analytics and advanced search functionalities, the objective of this project is to harness the potential of reviews, developing a thriving literary community and providing stakeholders with data-driven knowledge.

B. SQL over Excel

As we have a large dataset of over 5GB data, opening the excel file and performing any analytical tasks takes more time and takes a toll on the PC's performance. So, SQL is preferred over Excel for our books database project due to its scalability and efficiency. Unlike Excel's limitations with file size and performance, SQL can handle vast amounts of data and complex queries seamlessly. Its relational structure allows for organizing diverse book-related data effectively, while supporting concurrent access by multiple users ensures data integrity and security. SQL offers greater flexibility and

reliability for managing the extensive dataset and diverse needs of the project compared to Excel.

C. Target Users

The Amazon book reviews database project targets researchers, data analysts, and book industry stakeholders. Data analysts can explore patterns in customer behaviour and popular book genres, while researchers can delve into sentiment analysis and recommendation systems. Businesses like publishers and retailers can benefit from market research and competition analysis, optimising strategies based on user preferences. Developers can utilise the dataset to create tools that enhance user experience and engagement in the book ecosystem.

D. Administrator and Real life Scenario

Having Amazon's database team administer our Amazon book reviews database project would be really beneficial. They could guarantee the effective storage, retrieval, and analysis of our book reviews data thanks to their experience managing enormous datasets and maximizing database performance. Consider the scenario when our project encounters an unexpected spike in data volume during a marketing campaign, leading to problems with database performance. To ensure ongoing access for users and stakeholders that depend on the data for decision-making, Amazon's database team may quickly adopt scalable solutions, such as partitioning methods or database optimizations, to maintain smooth operation and prevent downtime. Their profound understanding of database administration would be of immeasurable assistance in preserving the reliability as well as effectiveness of the database infrastructure for our project.

III. DATA ACQUISITION AND TRANSFORMING

A. Link to original dataset

Amazon Books Reviews

We have downloaded the 2 csv files. Merged them together and added a few columns and removed a few according to our use case. We wrote a code to manipulate and generate our data using the Faker library.

B. Final Database Schema

- Books
 - book_id (primary key)
 - title

- author
- category

Users

- user_id (primary key)
- profile_name
- user_email

Reviews

- review_id (primary key)
- book_id (foreign key)
- user_id (foreign key)
- ratings_count
- review_helpfulness
- review_score
- review_time
- review_summary

Authors

- author_id (primary key)
- book_id (foreign key)
- author
- author_email

Publishers

- publisher_id (primary key)
- book_id (foreign key)
- published_year
- publisher

Sales

- sale_id (primary key)
- publisher_id (foreign key)
- category
- top_country
- books_sold
- price
- language

C. Changes made from Milestone 1

Summary of the changes made to each table:

• Books Table

- Instead of using the "title" as the primary key, a new attribute "book_id" was added and designated as the primary key. While the title of books may not always be unique (especially if multiple editions or versions exist), a book_id can guarantee uniqueness within the database. This ensures that each book is uniquely identified, regardless of its title or other attributes.

• Users Table

 The "user_id" attribute is now the sole primary key, replacing the previous combination of "user_id" and "profile_name" because "user_id" can uniquely identify each tuple of the relation.

· Reviews Table

 A new attribute "review_id" was introduced as the primary key, using a serial ID as the primary key simplifies database design by ensuring ease of reference and modification, enhancing performance with

- efficient indexing, and improving data integrity with unique, auto-incremented keys
- The "profile_name" attribute was removed from the table, as the user information can be referenced from the "user_id" attribute, which now acts as a foreign key.

• Authors Table

- The "author_id" attribute was designated as the primary key.
- Instead of using the "title" attribute, "book_id" is now used to extract details from the Books table.

• Publishers Table

- A new attribute "publisher_id" was introduced as the primary key to uniquely define all other attributes.
- As the database grows and new publishers are added, a numeric publisher_id can scale more effectively than relying on attributes like publisher name. Publisher names may vary in length and complexity, potentially leading to performance issues as the dataset expands. Using a publisher_id simplifies the process of adding new records and ensures consistent performance over time.
- The "published_date" attribute was removed due to null or poorly defined values.

• Sales Table

- A new attribute "sale_id" was added as the primary key to uniquely identify records.
- Primary keys enforce entity integrity by ensuring that each record in the table is uniquely identified. By using sale_id as the primary key, we can maintain data integrity and avoid duplicate records for sales transactions.
- A relation between the Sales and Publishers tables was established by adding "publisher_id" to the Sales table.

These modifications aim for better data organisation, normalisation, and relationship establishment within the database schema.

IV. BCNF DECOMPOSITION

To ensure all relations are in Boyce-Codd Normal Form (BCNF), we need to analyse the functional dependencies (FDs) in each relation i.e., ensures that every FD's left hand side (determinant) is a candidate key and decomposes them if necessary.

• Books Table:

 $book_id \rightarrow title$

book_id, title \rightarrow author, category

book_id, category → author

Since the left side of all the functional dependencies being a superkey, and no non-trivial functional dependencies exist, hence, the Books table is in BCNF.

• Users Table:

 $user_id \rightarrow profile_name, user_email$

The Users table is already in BCNF. The primary key

(user_id) determines all other attributes, and no non-trivial functional dependencies exist.

• Reviews Table:

review_id \rightarrow user_id, book_id review_id, user_id \rightarrow review_score, review_time review_id, book_id \rightarrow review_helpfulness, review_summary review_id, review_time \rightarrow ratings_count The Reviews table has each determinant as a super key, the table is already in BCNF.

Authors Table:
 author_id → book_id
 author_id, author → book_id, author_email
 author_id, book_id → author
 The Authors table is already in BCNF. The primary key
 (author_id) determines all other attributes, and no non-

trivial functional dependencies exist.

• Publishers Table:
publisher_id → book_id
publisher_id, book_id → publisher, published_year
The Publishers table is also already in BCNF. Each
determinant is a super key, and there are no non-trivial

• Sales Table:

functional dependencies.

sale_id \rightarrow publisher_id sale_id, category \rightarrow books_sold, language sale_id , publisher_id \rightarrow category, price sale_id, language \rightarrow top_country The Sales table appears to be in BCNF as

The Sales table appears to be in BCNF as well. Each determinant is a super key, and there are no non-trivial functional dependencies.

V. ER DIAGRAM

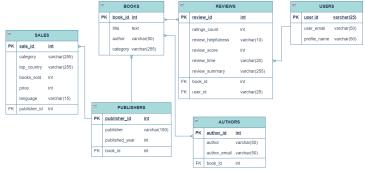


Fig. 1. ER Diagram of Amazon Books Review Management System

A. Actions taken on foreign keys when the primary key is deleted?

When primary key is deleted

• We are using "on delete cascade" after referencing tables if foreign key is also used as the primary key. It deletes the relations of the deleted attributes.

 And "on delete set null" to foreign keys for all the keys not used as primary. It sets the deleted attribute values to null.

B. Constraints

• Primary Key Constraints:

Each table has a primary key constraint, denoted by (PK), which uniquely identifies each record in the table.

• Foreign Key Constraints:

Foreign key constraints, denoted by (FK), establish relationships between tables.

For example: In the Reviews table, book_id and user_id are foreign keys referencing the Books and Users tables, respectively.

publisher_id in the Sales table is a foreign key referencing the Publishers table.

• Unique Constraints:

Unique constraints ensure that certain attributes have unique values, such as email addresses in the Users table.

Check Constraints:

Check constraints can be applied to ensure that certain attributes satisfy specific conditions.

For example, in the Sales table, we can ensure that the price is always greater than or equal to zero.

• Not Null Constraints:

Not null constraints ensure that certain attributes cannot have null values, such as book titles or user profiles.

• Referential Integrity Constraints:

Referential integrity constraints ensure that foreign key values in a table match primary key values in another table, maintaining the integrity of the relationships between tables.

Implementing these constraints in the database schema ensures data integrity, consistency, and reliability. While planning to work with real datasets, it's essential to validate the design by analyzing sample data to ensure that it accurately represents the real-world scenario and that the database constraints effectively enforce the desired rules and relationships.

VI. INDEXING

While working with larger datasets, such as the Amazon books review dataset, several challenges may arise, including:

- Performance Issues: Processing and querying large datasets can lead to performance issues, such as slow response times and high resource utilization.
- Memory Constraints: Loading large datasets into memory may exceed system memory limits, causing out-of-memory errors or slowdowns due to swapping.
- Indexing Overhead: Without proper indexing, queries on large datasets may require scanning the entire dataset, leading to slower query execution times.

Different Types of Indexes:

Dense Index: In a dense index, there is an index entry for every single record in the database. Each entry points directly to its corresponding record. This makes dense indexes very fast for retrieval, but they can be space-consuming and slower to update, as every insert, delete, or update of the records might require changes in the index.

Sparse Index: Sparse indexes only contain entries for some of the records in the database. Typically, an index entry points to the first record in a block of the database file, and not every record will have an index entry. This type of index uses less space than dense indexes and can be faster to maintain, but might be slower for certain lookups as it may require additional searches within the block.

B-tree Index: A balanced tree structure that keeps data sorted and allows searches, sequential access, insertions, and deletions in logarithmic time. Good for a wide range of query operations.

Hash Index: Hash indexes use a hash function to compute the index location for a key. They are extremely efficient for point queries where the exact match is known. They do not support range queries effectively because the hash function disperses key values randomly across the index.

We chose default indexes which are B-Tree indexes for their versatility in handling both equality and range queries and their efficiency in maintaining order, which is beneficial for sorting and complex joins typical in relational database operations. Some of the questions faced while handling the larger dataset and their solutions include:

- Query Performance: Queries on large datasets may take a long time to execute due to the lack of indexing. Solution: Identify frequently queried columns and create indexes on those columns to improve query performance.
- Memory Usage: Loading the entire dataset into memory may not be feasible due to memory constraints. Solution: Implement pagination techniques or load data in chunks to manage memory usage effectively.
- Data Integrity: Ensuring data integrity and consistency, especially during data insertion and updates, becomes challenging with large datasets. Solution: Implement proper transaction management and error handling mechanisms to maintain data integrity.
- Index Maintenance Overhead: Creating and updating indexes can introduce overhead during data insertion and updates. Solution: Schedule regular maintenance tasks, such as index rebuilding or reorganization, to optimize index performance.

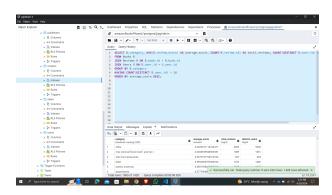


Fig. 2. Query executed without introducing indexes

Adding an index to the data has likely improved query performance by enabling faster data retrieval and reducing the need for expensive disk I/O operations. This optimization can lead to significant improvements in query execution time, as evidenced by the decrease from 9.62 seconds to 4.94 seconds in extracting title and average review score using books and reviews table case.

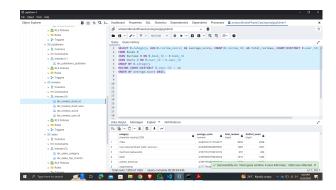


Fig. 3. Query executed with introducing indexes

By addressing these challenges and adopting indexing concepts effectively, we can improve the overall performance and scalability of handling large datasets like the Amazon books review dataset.

VII. QUERIES

A. Insert Queries

```
2 -- Inserting a new book with the same author as an existing book:
3 INSERT INTO books (title, author, category)
4 VALUES (
5 'New Adventure Land',
6 (SELECT author FROM books WHERE title = 'The Great Gatsby'),
7 'Adventure'
8 );
9
Data Output Messages Graph Visualiser × Notifications

INSERT 0 1

Query returned successfully in 31 msec.
```

Fig. 4. Query to insert a new book with the same author

Fig. 5. Query to insert new review with a specific user, book and calculated rating count

B. Delete Queries



Fig. 6. Query to Delete reviews for a book with low average review score

```
30 -- Deleting sales records for a specific category if the total sales are below average:
31 DELETE FROM sales
32 WHERE category = 'economics'
33 AND books_sold < (
34 SELECT AVG(s.books_sold)
35 FROM sales s
36 WHERE s.category = 'economics'
37 );

Data Output Messages Graph Visualiser X Notifications

DELETE 19

Query returned successfully in 30 msec.
```

Fig. 7. Query to delete sale records for a specific category with below-average total sales

C. Update Queries

```
11 - Updating the book category to 'Classic' for all books published before 1980 by Penguin publisher:
21 UPDATE books
43 SET category * Classic'
44 WHEER title IN (
45 SELECT b.title
46 FROM books b
47 JOIN publishers p ON b.book_id * p.book_id
48 WHEER E.p.publisher * 'Penguin' AND p.published_year < 1980
49 );
50
Data Output Messages Graph Visualiser * Notifications
UPDATE 37

UPDATE 37

Query returned successfully in 46 msec.
```

Fig. 8. Query to update book category for all Penguin- published books before 1980r

```
51 -- Updating the review score for a specific book based on the average review score across all reviews:
52 UPDATE reviews
53 SET review_score = (
54 SELECT AVG(review_score)
55 FROM reviews
56 }
57 WHERE book_id = (
58 SELECT book_id |
59 FROM books
60 WHERE title = 'Born On A Rotten Day'
61 );
Data Output Messages Graph Visualiser × Notifications
UPDATE 40

UPDATE 40
```

Fig. 9. Query to update review score of books based on average review score

D. Select Queries

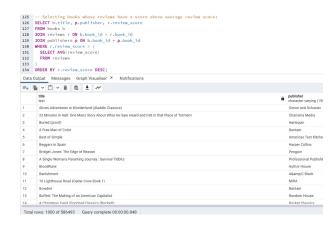


Fig. 10. Query to select books with above average review score

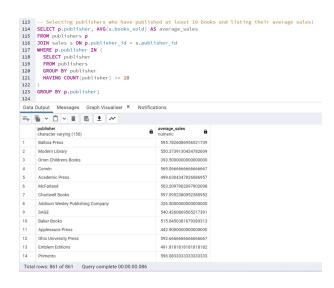


Fig. 11. Query to select publishers and their average sales for publishers with at least 10~books

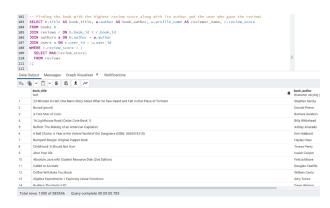


Fig. 12. Query to select books, author and users who gave the review with highest score

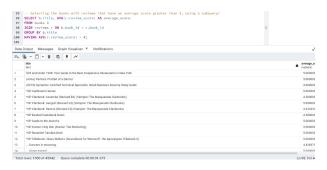


Fig. 13. Query to select books, reviews with average score ξ 4 using a subquery

VIII. QUERY OPTIMIZATION FOR COMPLEX QUERIES

A. Query 1

SELECT Users.profile_name, Books.title, Reviews.review_summary, Reviews.review_score
FROM Users
JOIN Reviews ON Users.user_id = Reviews.user_id
JOIN Books ON Reviews.book_id = Books.book_id
WHERE Reviews.review_score = 5
ORDER BY Reviews.review_score DESC, Reviews.review_time DESC;

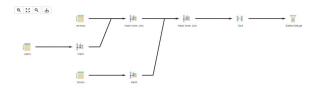


Fig. 14. Select profile name, title, review summary and review score without indexes

Proposed Solution:

Add Indexes on Reviews.review_score, and Reviews.review_time and Limiting the number of rows returned.

CREATE INDEX idx_review_score ON Reviews(review_score);

CREATE INDEX idx_review_time ON Reviews(review_time);

SELECT Users.profile_name, Books.title, views.review_summary, Reviews.review_score
FROM Users

JOIN Reviews ON Users.user_id = Reviews.user_id JOIN Books ON Reviews.book_id = Books.book_id WHERE Reviews.review_score = 5

ORDER BY Reviews.review_score DESC, views.review_time DESC LIMIT 100;



Fig. 15. Select profile name, title, review summary and review score with indexes

After optimization, there is substantial improvement in execution time, the 1st query took 2.30 seconds and after optimization, the query was executed in 0.53 seconds

B. Query 2

Joining multiple tables to extract comprehensive review and sales information for books can lead to inefficiency.

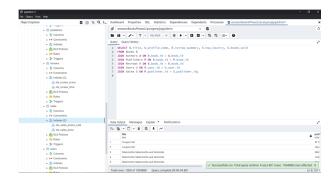


Fig. 16. Select profile name, title, review summary and review score without subquery

Proposed Solution:

Re-

To address the inefficiency, we can simplify the joining strategy by using intermediary results or views, which reduces the complexity when executed.

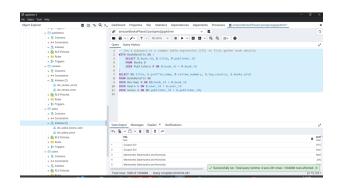


Fig. 17. Select profile name, title, review summary and review score with subquery

By reducing the complexity and focusing on the necessary data, there is an improvement on execution time as shown. This approach avoids repeated joins and minimizes the amount of data being processed in later steps.

C. Query 3

This query is used to extract sales data for each book, including the total sales, average review scores, and publisher information, which can be slow due to the multiple layers of joins needed to connect sales to books through publishers.

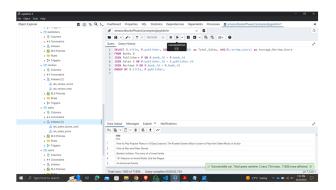


Fig. 18. Select profile name, title, review summary and review score without temporary tables

Proposed Solution:

We can use temporary tables to handle complex aggregations ahead of time, simplifying the final query and improving performance, especially useful in scenarios with large datasets and multi-layered relational data.

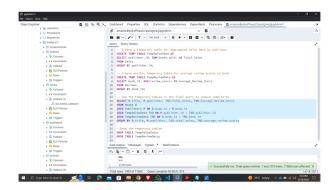


Fig. 19. Select profile name, title, review summary and review score with temporary tables

Pre-aggregating sales and review data in temporary tables reduces the data volume for final joins, speeding up execution by linking books and publishers directly to summarized data. This approach joins on smaller datasets and enhances resource management, minimizing database load and complexity.

IX. BONUS TASK: WEBSITE DESIGN

We've developed a user-friendly website that simplifies the querying process. Users simply input their query into the provided textbox and then click the 'Submit' button to execute it. This streamlined interface ensures a straightforward experience, allowing users to quickly access the information they need with minimal effort.



Fig. 20. Website page to insert query and submit

Upon submission of the query through the website's interface, the website will promptly execute the query as specified. For insert, delete, and update queries, upon successful execution, the website will return the message "Query executed successfully" to indicate that the operation was completed without any errors. This streamlined feedback mechanism ensures users are promptly informed of the outcome of their query execution, facilitating a smooth and efficient user experience.

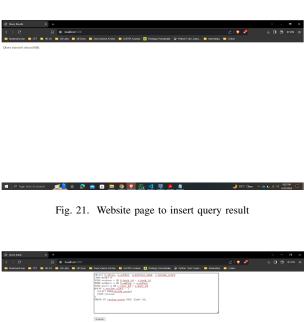


Fig. 22. Website page to select query and submit

For select queries, upon execution, the website will generate and display the query result in the form of a table, adhering to the structure and formatting specified in the query. This approach ensures that users receive a clear and comprehensive representation of the queried data, facilitating easy analysis and interpretation. The displayed table will present the retrieved data in a structured format, allowing users to efficiently

review and explore the results. Additionally, features such as sorting, filtering, and pagination may be implemented to enhance the usability and functionality of the displayed table, enabling users to interact with the data effectively. Overall, the website will seamlessly execute select queries and present the query results in a user-friendly and accessible manner, catering to the diverse needs of users.



Fig. 23. Website page to select query result

In the event of incorrect or invalid queries, the website will display a message indicating "No records found" if the table is empty else if there is error in query it will show error message. This response serves to inform users that the query did not yield any results due to errors in its formulation or execution. By providing this feedback, users are alerted to the issue and can take appropriate action, such as refining their query or seeking assistance if needed. Additionally, displaying a clear error message helps maintain user confidence and ensures a positive user experience, even in the face of query errors.

The Project Github Repository: https://github.com/anudeepkotaru/DMQL_Project/tree/main

X. CONTRIBUTIONS

• Satya Anudeep Kotaru:33.33%

• Bhavya Teja Inturi: 33.33%

• Vineet Sreeram:33.33%

Each team member has equally contributed.