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ABSTRACT

The Book Sales and Bestseller Analysis project aims to uncover meaningful insights from a dataset containing detailed information about 130,000 Kindle e-books including attributes such as title, price, rating, category, and bestseller status. The system is designed as a complete data analytics pipeline encompassing data collection, preprocessing, exploratory data analysis, analytical modeling, and visualization. Using PySpark for large-scale data handling and matplotlib for graphical representation, the project efficiently processes and analyzes the dataset to reveal trends in pricing, customer ratings, category performance, and bestseller characteristics. Exploratory analysis identifies key patterns, such as the typical price range for bestsellers and highly-rated books, while visualizations provide an intuitive understanding of these relationships. Analytical modeling further deepens the analysis by filtering and aggregating data to highlight the factors influencing a book's success on the Kindle platform. The findings from this project not only offer valuable insights for authors, publishers, and marketers aiming to optimize their Kindle book strategies but also set a strong foundation for future enhancements, including predictive analytics for bestseller forecasting and recommendation systems.

INTRODUCTION

In today's digital world, online book sales have become a key area of interest for publishers, authors, and retailers. Understanding customer preferences, pricing strategies, and trends in book ratings is crucial for gaining a competitive advantage. This project focuses on analyzing Kindle book data to uncover insights related to pricing, customer ratings, best-seller trends, and category performance. The main objectives of this project are to analyze the price distribution of Kindle books and identify trends across different categories, providing insights into pricing strategies. Additionally, the project aims to examine customer ratings to determine the top-rated books and categories, offering a better understanding of reader preferences. Another key objective is to investigate the characteristics of best-selling books and authors to uncover patterns that contribute to their success. Finally, the project explores the relationship between book prices and customer ratings, helping to determine if pricing influences reader satisfaction and purchasing decisions. The scope of the project includes data cleaning, exploratory data analysis, visualization, and interpretation of patterns within the dataset. The findings can help publishers and authors make better decisions regarding book pricing, marketing strategies, and category focus.

The methodology adopted involves using Pyspark for handling large-scale data processing efficiently and matplotlib for visualization. The data was loaded into a Spark DataFrame, cleaned (especially focusing on the 'price' and 'star rating' columns), and analyzed through various groupings, aggregations, and filters. Key trends were then visualized using bar plots, scatter plots, and histograms to present the insights clearly.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

In today's rapidly growing digital publishing industry, platforms like Kindle have provided readers with a wide variety of book choices across numerous categories and with the abundance of options available, it becomes increasingly difficult for publishers, authors, and marketers to understand what factors contribute to a book's commercial success. In this highly competitive digital publishing market, understanding the factors that drive book sales and distinguish bestsellers is crucial for authors, publishers, and marketers. Without thorough analysis, optimizing strategies to enhance sales and customer satisfaction becomes challenging. This project aims to address these challenges by conducting a comprehensive analysis of Kindle book sales data. It focuses on examining price distributions, identifying top-rated books and categories, investigating bestselling characteristics, and exploring correlations between book prices and customer ratings. The insights generated from this analysis will help publishers and authors better understand market dynamics and refine their strategies to enhance book visibility, customer satisfaction, and sales success.

2024-2025

SYSTEM DESIGN

3.1 Architectural Overview

The system for Book Sales and Bestseller Analysis is designed as a data analytics pipeline that consists of the following main stages:

- 1) Data Collection: The dataset containing Kindle book information, including features like title, price, customer ratings, book category, and bestseller status. This data is ingested into the system using PySpark's SparkSession, which allows for efficient handling of large volumes of data, making it suitable for analysis at scale.
- 2) Data Preprocessing: In this phase, the raw data is cleaned to ensure consistency and quality. Missing values are handled by filling or removing rows with incomplete information. The data types are standardized to allow for smooth analysis, particularly by converting the price and stars columns from string format to Float Type, which is essential for numerical calculations. This ensures that all data is formatted properly and can be used effectively in the analysis stage.
- 3) Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA): During this stage, various statistical methods and visualization techniques are applied to gain an understanding of the dataset. The distribution of book prices is examined using histograms, and the rating distribution is analyzed to determine how customers rate the books. Additionally, trends related to bestselling books are explored by filtering for books marked as bestsellers and analyzing their price and rating patterns. Category-wise performance is also evaluated by calculating the average, minimum, and maximum book prices, as well as the average ratings for each book category.
- 4) Analytical Modeling: Key relationships, such as the connection between book price and customer ratings, are explored. Top-rated books and bestselling patterns are identified through filtering, aggregation, and basic statistical modeling.
- 5) Visualization and Insights Generation: Graphs and charts (like histograms, bar charts, scatter plots) are used to visualize findings clearly. Insights are summarized to provide actionable conclusions.

3.2 Flowchart

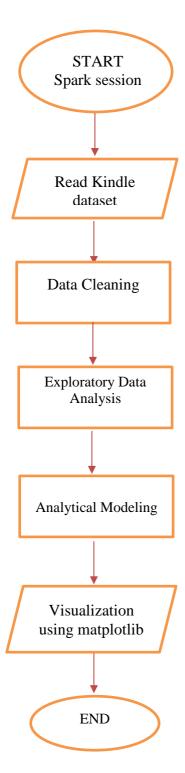


Fig 3.1 Flowchart of system architecture

4

IMPLEMENTATION

The implementation of the Book Sales and Bestseller Analysis project was carried out using the PySpark framework, which enabled efficient handling of large datasets and scalable data processing. The initial step involved loading the Kindle book dataset containing data of 130,000 kindle e-books into a Spark DataFrame, ensuring that all necessary libraries such as pyspark.sql, pandas, and matplotlib were properly configured. Data preprocessing was performed by cleaning the dataset to handle missing values, correcting data inconsistencies, and converting data types where necessary, ensuring the data was suitable for further analysis.

Following data preparation, exploratory data analysis (EDA) was conducted. Various PySpark functions were used to compute statistical summaries such as mean, median, and distribution ranges of book prices and ratings. Grouping and aggregation functions allowed deeper insights into the relationships between book categories, ratings, and bestseller status. The data was then visualized using matplotlib, where key patterns were illustrated through histograms for price distribution, bar charts for category performances, and scatter plots for the relationship between price and ratings.

Analytical modeling was implemented through filtering and aggregating datasets to identify the top-rated books and bestselling trends. Specific attention was given to understanding the common characteristics of bestsellers, such as optimal pricing ranges and favored categories. SQL-like queries in PySpark further facilitated precise data manipulation and extraction of insights.

Finally, the insights and visualizations were compiled into a coherent analysis report. The modular structure of the code ensured that each stage from data cleaning to visualization could be reused and adapted easily for future updates or additional datasets. The system was designed to be efficient, readable, and scalable, making it suitable for future enhancements such as predictive modeling and real-time analysis integration.

3.1 CODE

from pyspark.sql import SparkSession

spark = SparkSession.builder

```
.appName("JupyterLabSparkApp") \
  .getOrCreate()
kindle_df = spark.read.option("header", True).option("inferSchema",
True).csv("kindle data-v2.csv")
# Check schema
kindle_df.printSchema()
# Preview the data
kindle df.show(5)
from pyspark.sql.functions import col, avg, row_number
from pyspark.sql.window import Window
# Step 1: Average star rating per book within each category
avg_ratings = kindle_df.groupBy("category_name", "title").agg(
  avg("stars").alias("avg_rating")
# Step 2: Use a window to rank books by rating within each category
window_spec =
Window.partitionBy("category_name").orderBy(col("avg_rating").desc())
ranked_books = avg_ratings.withColumn("rank", row_number().over(window_spec))
# Step 3: Filter top 1 book per category
top_books_per_category = ranked_books.filter(col("rank") == 1).drop("rank")
top books per category.show(10, truncate=False)
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
# Convert price to numeric (float)
kindle_df = kindle_df.withColumn("price_numeric", col("price").cast("float"))
# Price distribution by category
price_by_category_pd = kindle_df.groupBy("category_name").agg(
  avg("price_numeric").alias("avg_price"),
  max("price_numeric").alias("max_price"),
  min("price_numeric").alias("min_price")
).toPandas()
# Plotting
plt.figure(figsize=(12, 6))
plt.bar(price_by_category_pd['category_name'], price_by_category_pd['avg_price'],
color='lightcoral')
plt.xlabel('Category')
plt.ylabel('Average Price')
plt.title('Average Price Distribution by Category')
plt.xticks(rotation=45, ha="right")
plt.tight_layout()
```

```
plt.show()
from pyspark.sql.functions import count
# Step 4: Aggregate total ratings per book
most_reviewed_books = kindle_df.groupBy("title", "author").agg(
  count("stars").alias("total_reviews")
).orderBy(col("total_reviews").desc())
# Display top 10
most reviewed books.show(10, truncate=False)
from pyspark.sql.functions import avg
# Step 5: Average star rating per book
avg_rating_per_book = kindle_df.groupBy("title", "author").agg(
  avg("stars").cast("float").alias("avg_rating")
)
# Step 6: Rank books based on average rating
window_spec = Window.orderBy(col("avg_rating").desc())
ranked_books_by_rating = avg_rating_per_book.withColumn("rank",
row_number().over(window_spec))
# Step 7: Display top 10 rated books
top_rated_books = ranked_books_by_rating.filter(col("rank") == 1).drop("rank")
top_rated_books.show(10, truncate=False)
from pyspark.sql.functions import col
# Step 6: Find books with the highest price
most_expensive_books = kindle_df.withColumn(
  "price_float", col("price").cast("float")
).orderBy(col("price_float").desc())
# Display top 10
most_expensive_books.select("title", "author", "price").show(10, truncate=False)
# Step 7: Books that are Best Sellers
best seller books = kindle df.filter(col("isBestSeller") == "TRUE")
# Display top 10 Best Seller books
best_seller_books.select("title", "author", "category_name", "price").show(10,
truncate=False)
# Step 8: Average rating per category
category_avg_rating = kindle_df.groupBy("category_name").agg(
  avg("stars").cast("float").alias("avg_category_rating")
).orderBy(col("avg_category_rating").desc())
```

```
category_avg_rating.show(10, truncate=False)
# Category-wise book count
category book count =
kindle_df.groupBy("category_name").count().orderBy("count",
ascending=False).toPandas()
# Plotting
plt.figure(figsize=(12, 6))
plt.barh(category_book_count['category_name'], category_book_count['count'],
color='lightpink')
plt.xlabel('Number of Books')
plt.title('Book Count by Category')
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
from pyspark.sql.functions import col
# Step 8: Convert 'price' column to numeric (float) and analyze price distribution for
best-sellers
best_seller_books_with_price = best_seller_books.withColumn(
  "price_numeric", col("price").cast("float")
).filter(col("price_numeric").isNotNull()) # Filter out invalid price values
# Show the price distribution
price distribution =
best_seller_books_with_price.groupBy("price_numeric").count().orderBy("price_nu
meric")
price distribution.show(10, truncate=False)
# Convert to Pandas for visualization
price_distribution_pd = price_distribution.toPandas()
# Visualize the price distribution using Matplotlib
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
plt.figure(figsize=(10, 6))
plt.hist(price_distribution_pd['price_numeric'], bins=20, color='skyblue',
edgecolor='black')
plt.xlabel('Price')
plt.ylabel('Number of Books')
plt.title('Price Distribution for Best-Selling Books')
plt.tight layout()
plt.show()
# Step 10: Filter top-rated books
top_rated_books = kindle_df.groupBy("title", "author", "category_name").agg(
  avg("stars").alias("avg_rating")
).orderBy(col("avg_rating").desc())
```

```
# Join top-rated books with the original DataFrame to get the price
top_rated_books_with_price = top_rated_books.join(kindle_df, on=["title", "author",
"category_name"])
# Convert price to numeric
top_rated_books_with_price = top_rated_books_with_price.withColumn(
  "price numeric", col("price").cast("float")
).filter(col("price_numeric").isNotNull())
# Show top-rated books with price
top_rated_books_with_price.select("title", "author", "avg_rating",
"price_numeric").show(10, truncate=False)
# Convert to Pandas for visualization
top_rated_books_with_price_pd = top_rated_books_with_price.toPandas()
# Visualize Price vs Rating
plt.figure(figsize=(10, 6))
plt.scatter(top_rated_books_with_price_pd['price_numeric'],
top_rated_books_with_price_pd['avg_rating'], color='purple')
plt.xlabel('Price')
plt.ylabel('Average Rating')
plt.title('Price vs Average Rating for Top-Rated Books')
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
# Step 12: Count best-selling books per author
best_selling_authors =
best seller books.groupBy("author").count().orderBy(col("count").desc())
# Show top 10 authors with most best-sellers
best_selling_authors.show(10, truncate=False)
from pyspark.sql.functions import col, avg, max, min
# Step 13: Price distribution across categories
price_by_category = kindle_df.withColumn("price_numeric",
col("price").cast("float")) \
  .groupBy("category_name").agg(
    avg("price_numeric").alias("avg_price"),
    max("price numeric").alias("max price"),
    min("price_numeric").alias("min_price")
  ).orderBy(col("avg_price").desc())
price_by_category.show(10, truncate=False)
# Convert to Pandas for visualization
price_by_category_pd = price_by_category.toPandas()
# Plotting
```

```
plt.figure(figsize=(14, 8))
plt.bar(price_by_category_pd['category_name'], price_by_category_pd['avg_price'],
color='orange')
plt.xlabel('Category Name')
plt.ylabel('Average Price')
plt.title('Average Price Distribution Across Categories')
plt.xticks(rotation=90)
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
# Step 15: Identify most expensive books
most_expensive_books = kindle_df.withColumn("price_numeric",
col("price").cast("float")) \
  .filter(col("price_numeric").isNotNull()) \
  .orderBy(col("price_numeric").desc())
# Show the top 10 most expensive books
most_expensive_books.select("title", "author", "category_name", "price",
"stars").show(10, truncate=False)
# Step 16: Best Seller vs Ratings Analysis
best seller vs ratings = kindle df.groupBy("isBestSeller").agg(
  avg("stars").alias("avg_rating"),
  count("title").alias("total_books")
).orderBy(col("avg_rating").desc())
# Show the analysis
best_seller_vs_ratings.show(2, truncate=False)
# Convert to Pandas for visualization
best_seller_vs_ratings_pd = best_seller_vs_ratings.toPandas()
# Plotting
plt.figure(figsize=(8, 5))
plt.bar(best_seller_vs_ratings_pd['isBestSeller'],
best_seller_vs_ratings_pd['avg_rating'], color='green')
plt.xlabel('Best Seller')
plt.ylabel('Average Rating')
plt.title('Average Rating for Best Sellers vs Non-Best Sellers')
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
from pyspark.sql.functions import avg, count
# Step 18: Author popularity based on the number of books and average rating
author_popularity = kindle_df.groupBy("author").agg(
  count("title").alias("num_books"), # Counting the number of books for each author
  avg("stars").alias("avg_rating") # Calculating the average rating for each author
).orderBy(col("num_books").desc()) # Sorting by number of books in descending
order
```

```
# Show top 10 authors with the most books and their average rating
author_popularity.show(10, truncate=False)
# Step 22: Best-selling books per category
best_selling_books_per_category = kindle_df.filter(col("isBestSeller") == "TRUE") \
  .groupBy("category_name", "title").agg(
    avg("stars").alias("avg_rating"),
    avg("price").alias("avg_price")
  ).orderBy(col("avg_rating").desc())
# Show top best-selling books for each category
best_selling_books_per_category.show(10, truncate=False)
# Step 25: Number of books per author
books_per_author = kindle_df.groupBy("author").agg(
  count("title").alias("num_books")
).orderBy(col("num_books").desc())
# Show top 10 authors with the most books
books_per_author.show(10, truncate=False)
```

RESULTS

```
root
|-- title: string (nullable = true)
|-- author: string (nullable = true)
|-- soldBy: string (nullable = true)
|-- imgUrl: string (nullable = true)
|-- stars: string (nullable = true)
|-- price: string (nullable = true)
|-- category_id: string (nullable = true)
|-- isBestSeller: string (nullable = true)
|-- isEditorsPick: string (nullable = true)
|-- isGoodReadsChoice: string (nullable = true)
|-- category_name: string (nullable = true)
```

Fig 5.1: Schema

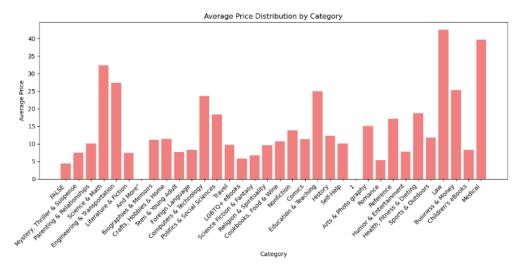


Fig 5.2: Average Price Distribution by Category

title	author	total_reviews
The Richest Man in Babylon	George S. Clason	5
Meditations	Marcus Aurelius	4
Legal and Ethical Issues for Health Professionals	George D. Pozgar	3
Automotive Technology: A Systems Approach	Jack Erjavec	3
Wuthering Heights	Emily Brontë	3
Exploring Psychology	David G. Myers	3
Advanced Practice Nursing: Essential Knowledge for the Profession	Susan M. DeNisco	3
Animal Farm	George Orwell	3
1984	George Orwell	3
Talking to Strangers: What We Should Know about the People We Don't Kn	now Malcolm Gladwell	3

Fig 5.3: Top 10 books with total ratings

Fig 5.4: Top 10 Bestsellers

4	L -
category_name	avg_category_rating
Religion & Spirituality Comics Nonfiction Science Fiction & Fantasy Self-Help Teen & Young Adult Health, Fitness & Dieting Romance Literature & Fiction	4.5286083 4.525061
only showing top 10 rows	

Fig 5.5: Categories with average ratings

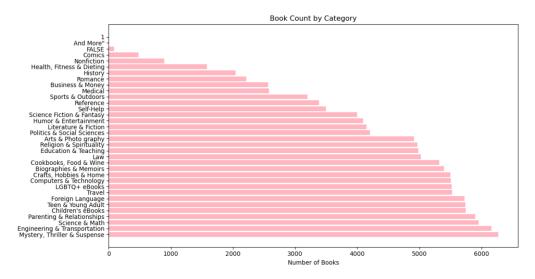


Fig 5.6: Book count per category Visualization

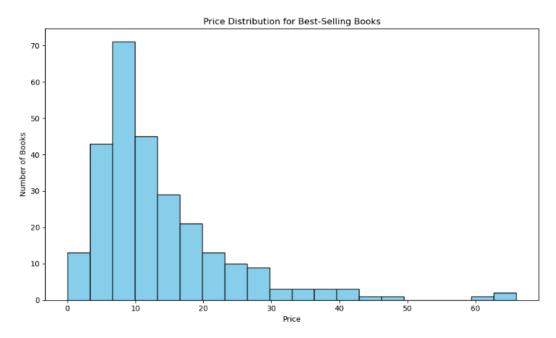


Fig 5.7: Visualizing price distribution for Bestseller books

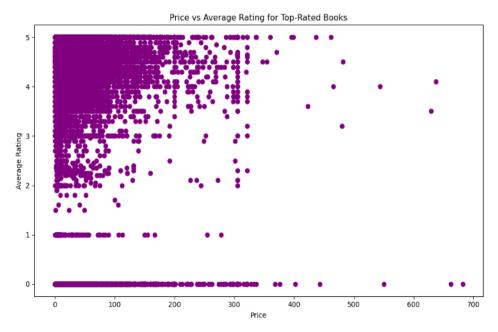


Fig 5.8: Scatter plot of Price vs Average rating for top-rated books

+	+
author	count
+	+
J.K. Rowling	16
DK	10
NULL	8
Paul Levine	7
Freida McFadden	7
Captivating History	7
Paige Dearth	6
C.W. Farnsworth	6
Explore ToWin	6
William Bernhardt	5
+	+
only showing top 10 m	OWS

Fig 5.9: Number of Bestseller for top 10 authors

		L	L
category_name	avg_price	max_price	min_price
Law	42.512807537293064 39.678849838760634 32.41443793801286 27.388250201693836 25.35808859260317 24.899929679103032 23.653229854933265 18.6861993333306	682.0 543.99 636.99 308.75 305.9 200.0 191.49 549.99	0.0
Politics & Social Sciences Reference	18.321835329432858 17.12999691709634		0.0 0.0
only showing top 10 rows	+	+	++

Fig 5.10: Average price, maximum price and minimum price for top 10 category

title				lauthor	lca
egory_name		stars			100
		+			
Drugs in Litigation:			nvolving Prescription and Nonprescription Drugs 2023 Edit	tion LexisNexis Editorial S [.]	taff La
	682	0			
Broker-Dealer Regulat		1.2		Clifford E. Kirsch	La
l 	662		or E Broke A . Malama Oak	lu pishanduisa	le.
	010g1ca. 636.99		ry E-Book: 4 - Volume Set	H. Richard Winn	S
				laeffnoy C. Choldon	ILa
How to Write a Patent		13.5		Jeffrey G. Sheldon	Į.
			Revised and Expanded Complete Digital Edition	C. G. Jung	IH
alth, Fitness & Dietin			tevised and expanded complete bigital Edition	le. or sang	1
			Volume Set, Third Edition: Principles and Techniques	Foad Nahai	[Me
lical	543.99		,	,	
Perforator Flaps: Ana	tomy, Te	echnique	e, & Clinical Applications	Phillip N. Blondeel	M
lical	481.49	9 4.5	•		
International Commerc	ial Arb	itration	: Three Volume Set	Gary B. Born	L
ı	480	3.2			
LexisNexis Practice G			Personal Injury	Ervin A. Gonzalez	L
ı	465.99				
Private Equity Funds:			Operations	Stephanie R. Breslow	L
ı	462	5			

Fig 5.11: Top 10 most expensive books

isBestSeller	avg_rating	total_books
	4.491983878190774 4.402621960544419	

Fig 5.12: Bestseller vs Ratings Analysis

Fig 5.13: Bestselling for top 10 categories

author	num_books
Hourly History NULL James Patterson DK Eyewitness DK Captivating History Fodor's Travel Guides Erin Hunter J.K. Rowling Hourly History Nora Roberts	 425 212 163 155 120 115 114 113 103

Fig 5.14: Most number of books for top 10 authors

CONCLUSION AND FUTURE ENHANCEMENT

6.1 Conclusion

The Kindle Book Sales and Bestseller Analysis system successfully demonstrates the application of a structured data analytics pipeline to derive meaningful insights from book-related data. Through systematic stages including data collection, preprocessing, exploratory data analysis, analytical modeling, and visualization, the system provides a comprehensive understanding of patterns in book pricing, customer ratings, category performances, and bestseller trends. The insights generated can help publishers, authors, and marketers in making informed decisions regarding pricing strategies, content development, and promotional efforts. Overall, the project showcases the power of data analytics in uncovering hidden trends and supporting business intelligence in the digital publishing domain.

6.2 Future Scope

Future work should focus on incorporating more dynamic elements into the analysis. Adding time-series data would allow tracking of seasonal and long-term trends in sales and bestseller rankings. Employing machine learning models could help predict future bestsellers based on features like price, category, and customer reviews. Integrating sentiment analysis on customer reviews would offer a more nuanced understanding of reader preferences. Developing an interactive visualization dashboard would make the findings more accessible and actionable for stakeholders. Finally, setting up real-time data pipelines would keep the analysis updated and relevant for ongoing decision-making.

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