Rationale and UML Explanation for LIMKOKWING MINI LIBRARY SYSTEM

UML Diagram Representation

Below is a textual UML diagram representation of the system's data structure and major functional relationships.

This representation shows how functions interact with data collections such as dictionaries, lists, and tuples.

Rationale

The design of the LIMKOKWING MINI LIBRARY SYSTEM is based on Python's native data structures: lists, dictionaries, and tuples. Each structure was carefully selected to optimize data manipulation, enhance readability, and ensure flexibility in future enhancements.

Use of Dictionaries

Dictionaries were chosen to store structured information about books and members. In Python, dictionaries provide key-value mapping, allowing quick access and updates to data. For instance, each book's ISBN acts as a unique key in the 'isbn_book_details' dictionary, making it efficient to search, update, or delete book records. Similarly, member details are stored as individual dictionaries within a list, enabling unique referencing through their 'Member_Id'. This structure mimics relational database design while maintaining the simplicity of in-memory operations.

Using dictionaries also allows flexible storage of diverse data types under a single entity. Each dictionary can contain strings, integers, and lists (e.g., Borrowed_Books), allowing the system to track not only static information like names and titles but also dynamic ones like borrowed book lists.

Use of Lists

Lists were implemented to manage collections of items that change frequently, such as members and borrowed books. The list data type allows appending, removing, and iterating through elements dynamically. In the system, 'members' is a list of dictionaries, each representing a library member. This allows easy

addition of new members, deletion of existing ones, and iteration for searches or updates.

Within each member record, the 'Borrowed_Books' list enables storing multiple titles that a member has borrowed. This dynamic nature of lists ensures scalability since a member's borrowed books can increase or decrease without the need for complex restructuring.

Use of Tuples

Tuples were selected for storing predefined, unchangeable data, in this case, 'book_genres'. The genre list represents a fixed set of allowable categories such as FICTION, NON-FICTION, HORROR, etc. Using a tuple ensures that these values remain immutable throughout the program execution, maintaining consistency.

Tuples are also faster to access compared to lists and safeguard against accidental modification. This is particularly important for fixed data like genres, where the integrity of classification is essential for proper data entry validation and reporting.

Integration of Data Structures

The system combines these three structures harmoniously. Dictionaries serve as containers for structured records, lists handle multiple similar entities, and tuples define unchangeable reference data. For example, when adding a book, the system verifies the entered genre against the tuple 'book_genres', then stores the book details in the 'isbn_book_details' dictionary. Likewise, when a member borrows a book, the book title is added to that member's 'Borrowed_Books' list, while the available copy count is updated within the dictionary.

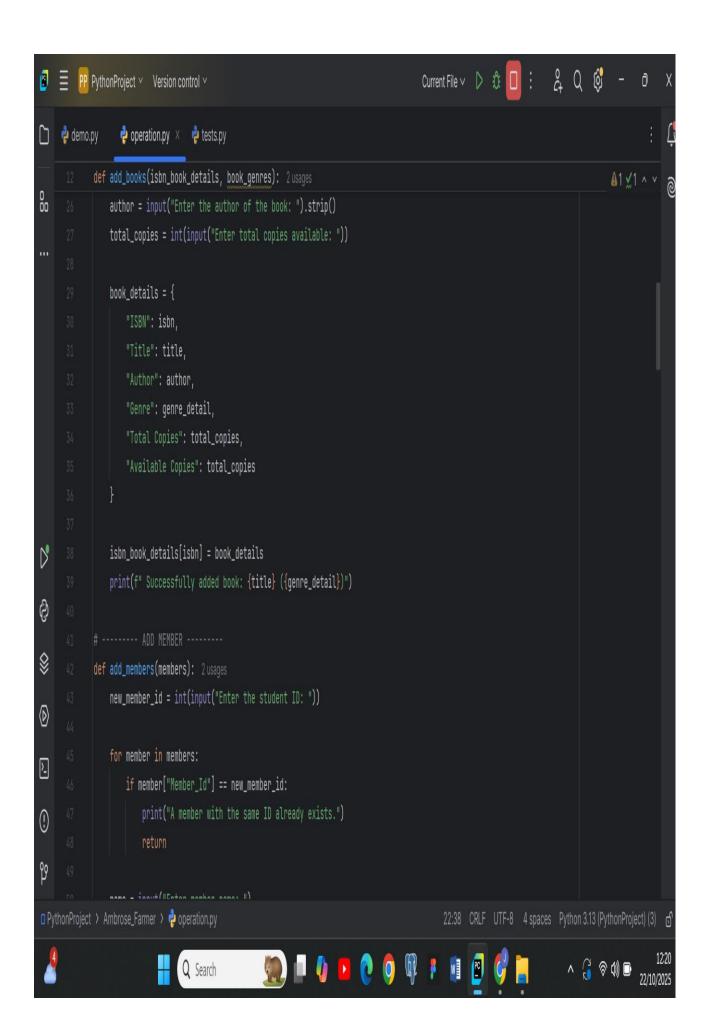
This integration results in a clean, modular, and efficient structure that reflects real-world database relationships. It also provides a foundational model that can easily be extended to an actual database (e.g., SQL or Access) in the future.

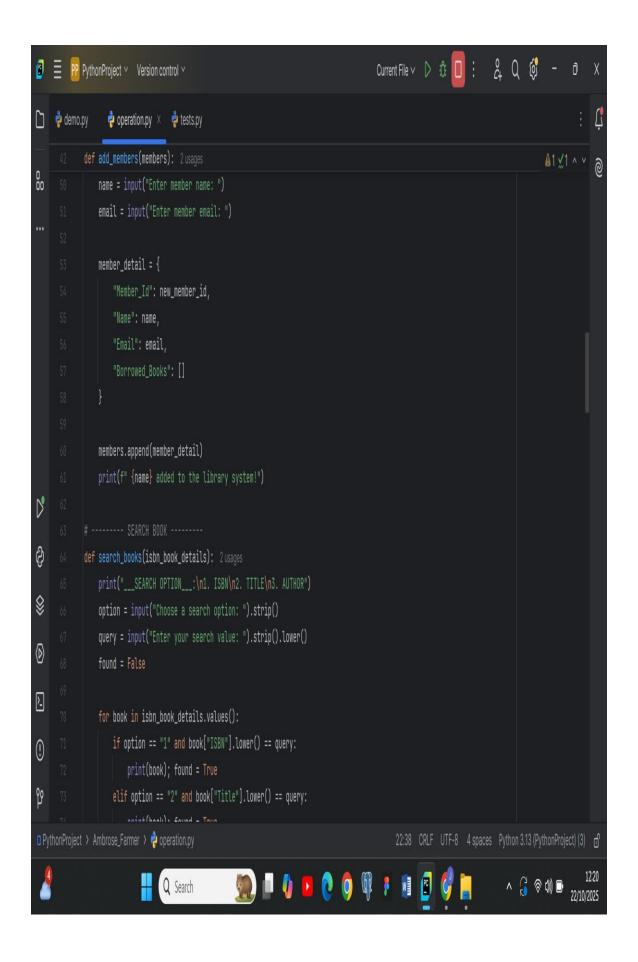
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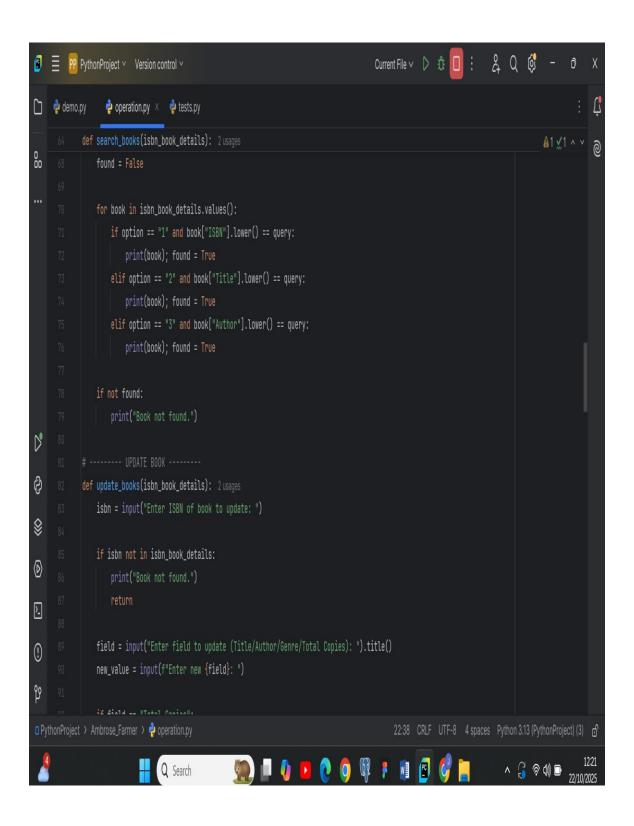
In conclusion, the combined use of lists, dictionaries, and tuples in the LIMKOKWING MINI LIBRARY SYSTEM provides an optimal balance of flexibility, performance, and data integrity. Each data type was purposefully chosen for its strengths: dictionaries for key-based access, lists for dynamic collections, and tuples for immutable reference data. Together, they form a robust foundation that aligns with good programming practices and structured data management principles.

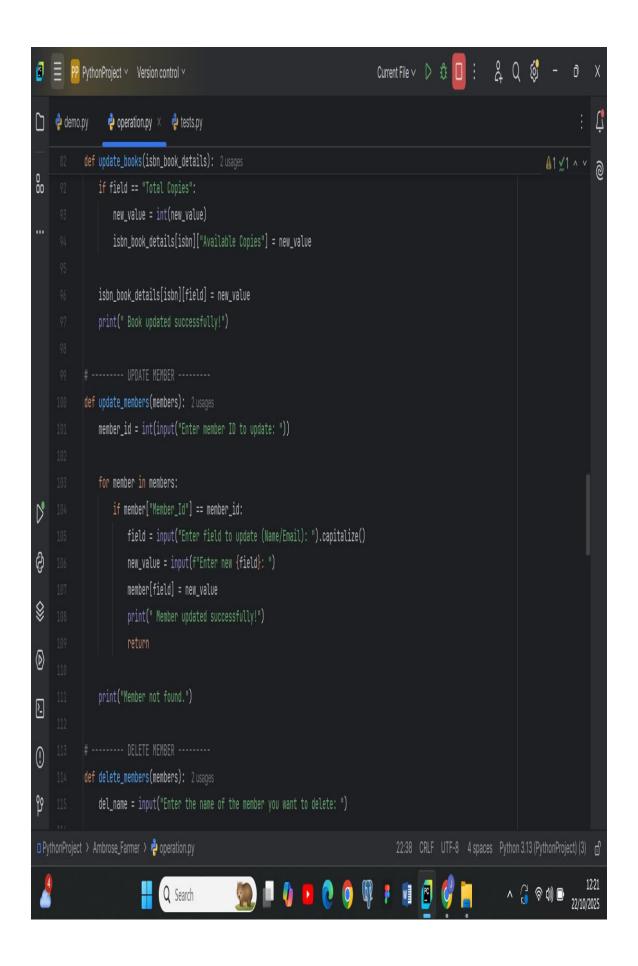
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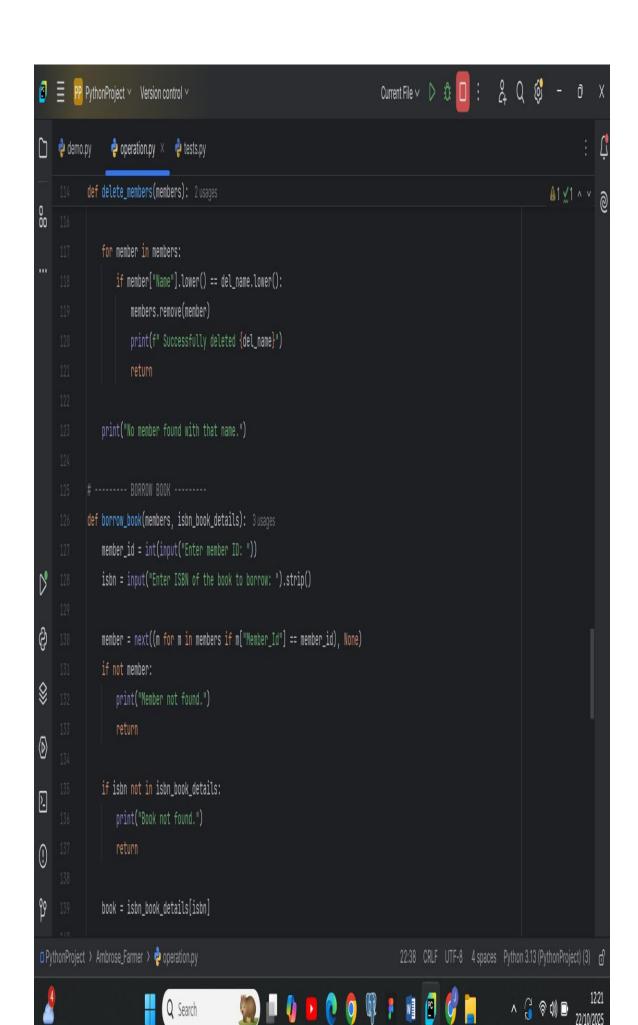
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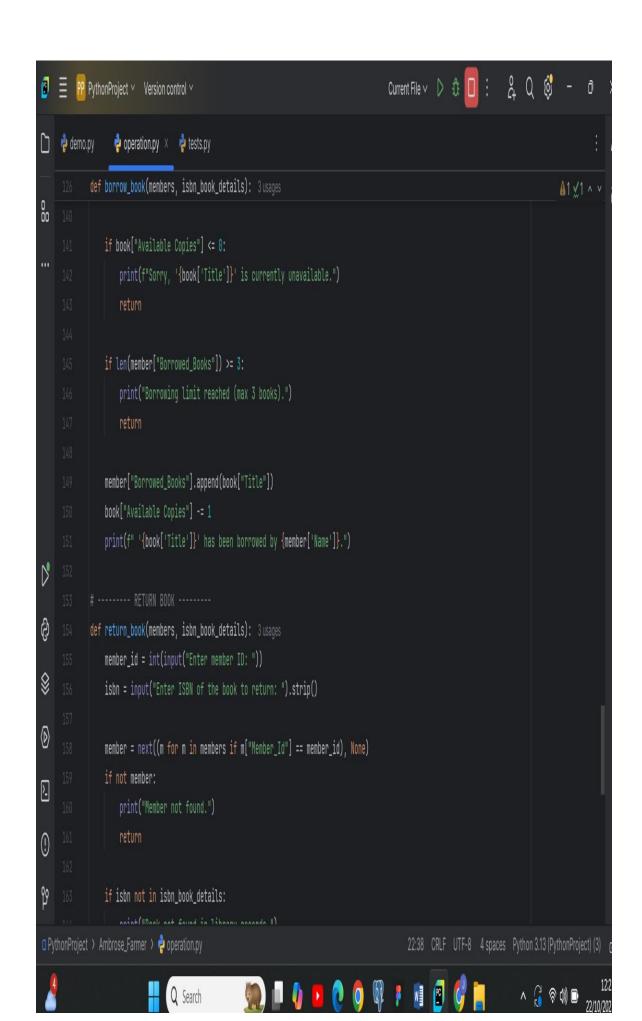
















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