Data 101: Data Engineering Midterm Exam Solutions

UC Berkeley, Fall 2024

October 16, 2024

Name:	
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Student ID:	
Examination room:	
Name of the student on your left:	
Name of the student on your right:	

Instructions

Do not open the examination until you are instructed to do so.

This exam consists of **75 points** spread over **4 questions** (including the Honor Code), and must be completed in the 110-minute time period on October 16, 2024, 7:10pm – 9:00pm unless you have pre-approved accommodations otherwise.

For multiple-choice questions, select **one choice** for circular bubble options, and select **all choices that apply** for box bubble options. In either case, please indicate your answer(s) by **fully** shading in the corresponding circle/box.

Make sure to write your SID on each page to ensure that your exam is graded.

Honor Code [1 pt]

As a member of the UC Berkeley community, I act with honesty, integrity, and respect for others. I am the person whose name is on the exam, and I completed this exam in accordance with the Honor Code.

Signature: _____

Chapter 1: I didn't sign up for all this reading! [28 pt]

We explore a simplified version of a local library system. Broadly, libraries track books which are stored at various locations. Our library database stores data about the books, such as their titles, authors, and ISBNs (a unique number for each each book). **Note:** The schema for this question is included in the exam reference packet, but you do not need to review it until Question 1.4.

- **1.1.** The ISBN of each book is a *unique* 13 digit number, formatted as **978-6-543-21012-3**. The **books** table contains an attribute called **i sbn** which is currently a variable length string (the **TEXT** type).
 - i. [1 pt] If we store the ISBN as a string, how many bytes would we need to store this value, including the 4 dashes (-)? Round up to the nearest multiple of 4 bytes, e.g., 9 bytes would round up to 12.

_____ bytes

Solution: 13 + 4 + 1 = 18 bytes, where 1 byte is used for the null terminator of strings (beyond the scope of the course). We asked for multiples of 4 bytes, so the answer is **20 bytes**.

ii. [1 pt] Suppose that we did not need the fancy formatting and instead used a **numeric data type** to store the ISBNs. Which **numeric** data type would be most appropriate? Consider that 10^{13} is much larger than 2^{32} , and $2^{10} = 1024 \approx 10^3$.



iii. [1 pt] Given your responses above, which would be the most appropriate data type (strings or numeric) to choose for the **isbn** attribute? Fill in the appropriate bubble and **justify** your choice in **one sentence**.

A \bigcirc string / \bigcirc numeric data type is more appropriate for isbn.

Solution: Either answer is correct as long as the justification matches. A string data type is more space, but could be appropriate because it communicates that an ISBN is not an attribute which you can add or subtract like an integer. Otherwise, an integer may be more appropriate simply because it is a more efficient storage mechanism.

iv. [2 pt] Complete the function that converts the ISBN string to an **INTEGER** data type.

You can assume that all ISBNs follow the form: XXX-X-XXX-XXXXXX-X where each X is a digit, stored in a column called isbn, e.g., '978-6-543-21012-3'. You conversion should ensure that '978-6-543-21012-3' is coerced to 9786543210123.

Notes: You should use SUBSTRING, REPLACE, REGEXP_REPLACE, SUBSTR or other valid string manipulation functions. It may be helpful to review the exam reference packet **(Sections 6–7)** for string functions. Recall that **::**dtype casts to data type dtype.

::INTEGER

Solution:

```
REPLACE(isbn, '-', '')::INTEGER
REGEXP_REPLACE(isbn, '-', '', 'g')::INTEGER
```

For the next two parts, consider this abbreviated schema for our library. The users and checkouts tables respectively describe who is using the library and which books they have currently or previously checked out.

Users can check out and return books from a specific location. A book which is actively checked out will have a checkout_date and a due_date, but a NULL return_date. All three of these attributes are the SQL DATE type.

1.2. Write a query that will return the users who have 3 or more active checkouts, sorted by the user who has the most currently checked out books. Your query should compute the user (user_id, first_name, last_name), n_active_checkouts (the total number of books the user currently has checked out), and next_due_date (the earliest due date for any book that the user currently has checked out; technically this could be in the past for an overdue book). Example output:

user_id	first_name	last_name	n_active_checkouts	next_due_date
1	Jonathan	Doe	4	2024-09-15
2	Rebecca	Malik	4	2024-09-16
3	CW	Cano	3	2024-09-17

i. [2 pt] First, write a CTE active_checkouts that returns the rows representing currently checked out books.

WITH active_checkouts AS (
 SELECT * FROM checkouts
 WHERE
;

Solution:

```
WITH active_checkouts AS (
    SELECT *
    FROM checkouts c
    WHERE c.return_date IS NULL
) ...;
```

ii. [7 pt] Next, complete the rest of the query. Assume that your CTE from the previous part is correct. You do not need to worry about breaking ties in the ordering.

Note: You may not need all blanks.

WITH active_checkouts AS (

```
SELECT *
FROM checkouts c
WHERE c.return_date IS NULL
)
SELECT
u.id AS user_id,
u.first_name,
u.last_name,
COUNT(ac.id) AS n_active_checkouts,
MIN(ac.due_date) AS next_due_date
FROM users u
JOIN active_checkouts ac ON ac.user_id = u.id
GROUP BY u.id, u.first_name, u.last_name
HAVING COUNT(ac.id) >= 3
ORDER BY n_active_checkouts DESC;
```

1.3. [8 pt] We'd now like to determine the most popular days of the week each book is checked out. Now, consider the **books** table, in addition to the previous **checkouts** table.

Complete the following query to show each book and its **rank**, by the number of checkouts on each **day of week** the book was checked out. The table should be sorted by the number of checkouts (largest first) on a given day of week and include the following columns:

- id and title of the book
- dow, a numeric day of the week the book was checked out.
 - dow is a number representing the day of week (0 to 6) that a book was checked out.
 EXTRACT (DOW FROM '2024-10-16') will return 3 for Wednesday.
- num_checkouts, the number of times the book was checked out on the day dow
- ranking, the rank of the book by number of checkouts, where 1 means most checkouts on the day dow.

id	title	dow	num_checkouts	ranking
9	Brave New World	3	2	1
12	The Grapes of	1	2	1
13	The Adventures	0	1	1
18	Don Quixote	1	1	2
2	To Kill a Mocki	1	1	2
2	To Kill a Mocki	1	1	2

Note: You may not need all blanks.

SELECT b.id, b.title AS title,
EXTRACT(DOW FROM c.checkout_date) AS dow,
AS num_checkouts,
OVER (
) AS ranking
FROM books b
JOIN
GROUP BY
ORDER BY;
Solution:
SELECT
b.id,
b.title,
EXTRACT(DOW FROM c.checkout_date) AS dow,
COUNT(c.id) AS num_checkouts,
RANK() OVER (PARTITION BY EXTRACT(DOW FROM c.checkout_date) ORDER BY COUNT(c.id) DESC) AS ranking
FROM Books b
JOIN Checkouts c ON b.id = c.book_id
GROUP BY b.id, b.title, dow

For the final few parts of this question, consider this expanded schema for our library. The **books**, **checkouts**, and **users** tables are included again for clarity.

ORDER BY num_checkouts DESC;

```
locations(id, name, address, phone_number)
book_locations(id, book_id, location_id,
   total_copies, available_copies)
books(id, title, author, isbn, publication_year)
checkouts(id, user_id, book_id, location_id,
      checkout_date, return_date, due_date)
users(id, first_name, last_name, email, phone_number, joined_date)
```

Note: Please read the full database schema in the exam reference packet (Sec. 1) before continuing. It includes information about the data types and constraints. We have intentionally

removed all primary key, foreign key, and indexes from this schema.

Considering the provided schema, answer the questions below. Note: **a**.**b** is column **b** on table **a**.

- **1.4.** [2 pt] Which columns **could** be marked as **primary keys**? Select all that apply.
 - A. users.id B. users.name
 - C. books.id
 - D. books.isbn

F. checkouts.id **G.** checkouts.user_id **H.** None of the above

E. book_locations.book_id

1.5. [2 pt] Which columns **could** be marked as **foreign keys**? Select all that apply.

- 🗌 A. users.id
- □ B. users.name
- □ C. books.id
- D. books.isbn

Ε.	book_	locat	ions	.book_	_id

- ☐ F. checkouts.id
- **G.** checkouts.user_id
- \square H. None of the above
- **1.6.** [2 pt] Consider these hypothetical scenarios that make use of the library database. What **additional** columns should we create an index for? Assume we have correctly made an index for all columns that are a primary key. For each scenario write the appropriate column name as table_name.column_name.

i. Searching for books by a title

books.title

ii. Easily show a user all the books they currently have checked out

checkouts.user_id

Chapter 2: Timestamping Reviews [20 pt]

Let's consider how to store combined date and time values (or simply, "date/time values") in two choices of attributes: the 8-byte SQL TIMESTAMP data type, in Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), and a 4-byte **epoch time INTEGER** data type. **Note**: Please see the **exam reference packet (Sec. 3)** for relevant SQL TIMESTAMP functions and conversions.

Your developer teammate has designed and implemented the **reviews_epoch** table below for storing user reviews of businesses on Yelp, a social networking business review site. They store **created_at** as a 4-byte integer, representing the **epoch time** at which the review was written.

```
CREATE TABLE reviews_epoch (
  review_id CHAR(22) PRIMARY KEY,
  user_id CHAR(22), business_id CHAR(22), stars INTEGER,
  created_at INTEGER, /* epoch time */
  text TEXT
);
  review id user id business id stars created at tex
```

review_id	user_id	business_id	stars	created_at	text
SZp6	wl5f	jBpF	4	1451611911	
9USm	rEYm	5EpF	5	1510870342	
5DbC	w9R6	jkGQ	1	1451611911	•••

Sample rows of reviews_epoch

2.1. [3 pt] Convert the epoch times above to SQL timestamps by constructing the dt_conversions view with two columns: each epoch time in created_at and its corresponding conversion to a SQL timestamp (UTC). Do not include duplicates.

epoch	timestamp_utc
1451611911	2016-01-01 01:31:51
1510870342	2017-11-16 22:12:22

(output for sample rows above)

Note: Use the specific SQL TIMESTAMP functions provided in the **exam reference packet (Sec. 3)**. You may not need all blanks.

```
Solution:
CREATE VIEW dt_conversions AS (
   SELECT DISTINCT created_at AS epoch,
      TO_TIMESTAMP(created_at) AT TIME ZONE 'UTC' AS timestamp_utc
   FROM reviews_epoch
);
```

Your teammate argues that epoch times are more efficient than any other representation for date/time—for both storage and query performance reasons. Let's explore this claim.

2.2. [1 pt] Suppose there are 7 million records in reviews_epoch. How much storage does it take to store the table where date/time values are SQL timestamps, compared to epoch times? Below, fill in the bubble and blank that make the statement true. Additionally, show your work for computing storage size in megabytes (MB).

Storing the created_at column as SQL timestamps takes a total of _____ MB \bigcirc more / \bigcirc less space than the equivalent column as 4-byte integers.

Solution: (7×10^6) records $\times (8 - 4)$ B $\times 10^{-6}$ (MB/B) = 28

Storing the created_at column as 8-byte SQL timestamps takes a total of **28 MB more** space than the equivalent column as 4-byte integers.

2.3. [4 pt] Your teammate ran CREATE INDEX epoch_idx ON reviews_epoch(created_at); then ran the below query, which finds the reviews that were written on January 19, 2022:

```
SELECT * FROM reviews_epoch
WHERE created_at >= EXTRACT('EPOCH' FROM '2022-01-19'::TIMESTAMP)
AND created_at < EXTRACT('EPOCH' FROM '2022-01-20'::TIMESTAMP);</pre>
```

Use the below EXPLAIN ANALYZE output of this query to answer the following questions.

QUERY PLAN

Data 101 Fall 2024	Midterm Exam	SID:
Rows Removed by Planning Time: 0.145 ms	Filter: 2329603 Execution Time: 12	31.320 ms
i. What kind(s) of table s Select all that apply.	can does the optimizer use?	 Sequential Scan Heap Scan Index Scan
ii. What is the name of the Write N/A if not applica	e index used by the optimizer? able.	N/A
iii. What is the actual num	ber of rows in the result?	1190
iv. Are the rows in the resu attribute?	Ilt sorted by the created_at	YesNot necessarily

Given the above analysis, you wonder how a table that uses SQL timestamps may compare.

2.4. [5 pt] Fill in the below lines to create the reviews_ts table as a copy of reviews_epoch with all date/time epoch times converted to SQL timestamps (UTC). Assume you have access to the dt_conversions view from Question 2.1. Finally, specify the equivalent primary key constraint on review_id.

Note: You may not need all blanks.

CREATE reviews_ts AS (
SELECT	
<pre>review_id, user_id, business_id, stars, text,</pre>	
	AS created_at
FROM reviews_epoch AS r, dt_conversions AS dtc	
WHERE	
);	
ALTER review_ts	
ADD PRIMARY KEY ();

```
Solution:
CREATE TABLE reviews_ts AS (
    SELECT review_id, user_id, business_id, stars, text,
        dtc.timestamp_utc AS created_at
    FROM reviews_epoch AS r, dt_conversions AS dtc
    WHERE r.created_at = dtc.epoch
);
ALTER TABLE review_ts ADD PRIMARY KEY (review_id);
```

2.5. [4 pt] After constructing an index on this new SQL timestamp column, you revisit query performance for the task in Question 2.3. You write a query that finds the reviews in review_ts that were written on January 19, 2022:

Use the below EXPLAIN ANALYZE output of this query to answer the following questions.

```
QUERY PLAN
Bitmap Heap Scan on reviews_ts (cost=30.66..5081.32 rows=1388 width=85)
                          (actual time=1.214..124.090 rows=1190 loops=1)
 Recheck Cond:
       ((created_at >= '2022-01-19 00:00:00'::TIMESTAMP)
       AND (created_at < '2022-01-20 00:00:00'::TIMESTAMP))
 Heap Blocks: exact=1169
  -> Bitmap Index Scan on created_at_ts_idx
      (cost=0.00..30.31 rows=1388 width=0)
      (actual time=0.831..0.832 rows=1190 loops=1)
        Index Cond: ((created_at >= '2022-01-19 00:00'::TIMESTAMP)
                    AND (created_at < '2022-01-20 00:00:00'::TIMESTAMP))
Planning Time: 3.428 ms
                         Execution Time: 124.200 ms
i. What kind(s) of table scans does the optimizer use?
                                                   Sequential Scan
  Select all that apply.
                                                    Heap Scan
                                                    ☐ Index Scan
ii. What is the name of the index used by the optimizer?
  Write N/A if not applicable.
                                                        created at ts idx
```

- - **Slower** Comparable ○ Faster
- 2.7. [2 pt] Without mentioning the storage or query performance reasons above, list one additional reason to prefer the SQL timestamp data type over the epoch time integer.

Solution: Possible answers:

- Access to timestamp SQL functions;
- Timestamps are more human-readable.

Chapter 3: Ed Discussion, but for Algebra [14 pt]

Consider a simplified version of Ed Discussion, where users start new threads, write comments on existing threads, and make hearts (i.e., likes or upvotes) on threads or comments within threads. We share the relevant parts of the database schema below; please see the **exam reference packet (Sec. 2)** for the full description.

users(id, email, display_name, hearts_made)
threads(id, thread_type, hearts, user_id, title, text)
comments(id, thread_id, hearts, user_id)

3.1. Suppose we write the below query:

The query optimizer then produces the execution plan on the right, according to SQL query semantics. Fill in the blanks below.



i. [3 pt] What extended relational operators should be in the nodes marked [I], [II], and [III]?

[I]	$\bigcirc \pi$	$\bigcirc ho$	$\bigcirc \sigma$	\bigcirc M	$\bigcirc \times$	Ο γ
[II]	$\bigcirc \pi$	$\bigcirc ho$	$\bigcirc \sigma$	\bigcirc M	$\bigcirc \times$	ΟY
[III]	$\cap \pi$	$\cap \rho$	$\cap \sigma$	\bigcirc N	$\bigcirc x$	$\bigcirc Y$

ii. [3 pt] For each relational operator you selected above, write its respective subscript according to the original SQL query, e.g. join conditions, selected attributes, etc. If there are no subscripts, write N/A.



- **3.2.** Select all relational algebra expressions that satisfy each description.
 - i. [2 pt] Get the titles of threads that do not have any comments.
 - \square A. $\pi_{\text{title}}(\text{threads}) \cap \pi_{\text{title}}(\text{threads} \bowtie_{\text{threads.id} = \text{thread}_{\text{id}}} \text{ comments})$
 - \square B. $\pi_{\text{title}}(\text{threads}) \pi_{\text{title}}(\text{threads} \bowtie_{\text{threads.id} = \text{thread}_{\text{id}}} \text{ comments})$
 - \Box C. $\pi_{\text{title}}(\text{threads} \text{threads} \bowtie_{\text{threads.id} = \text{thread} id} \text{ comments})$
 - \Box D. $\pi_{\text{title}}(\text{threads } \bowtie_{\text{threads.id }!= \text{thread}_{\text{id}}} \text{ comments})$
 - \Box E. None of the above
 - ii. [2 pt] Get the display name of the "original poster" for each thread with more than 5 hearts (ignore comment hearts). An original poster for a thread is the user who started the thread.
 - \square A. $\pi_{\text{display_name}}(\sigma_{\text{hearts}>5}(\text{threads } \bowtie_{\text{user_id}=\text{users.id}} \text{ users}))$
 - \square B. $\pi_{\text{display_name}}(\sigma_{\text{hearts}>5 \text{ AND user id = users.id}} (\text{threads} \times \text{users}))$
 - \Box C. $\pi_{\text{display_name}}((\sigma_{\text{hearts}>5}(\text{threads}) \bowtie_{\text{user_id} = \text{users.id}} \text{users}))$
 - \square D. $\pi_{\text{display_name}}((\sigma_{\text{hearts}>5}(\text{threads}) \bowtie \text{ users}))$
 - \Box E. None of the above
- **3.3.** [4 pt] Consider the following relational algebra expression, where the expression **cond** is defined as threads.user_id = users.id AND threads.id = comments.thread_id.

$$\gamma_{\text{users.id,threads.id,COUNT(*)}} \left(\sigma_{\text{cond}} \left(\text{users} \times \sigma_{\text{threads.hearts}>0} \left(\text{threads} \right) \times \text{comments} \right) \right)$$

What is this relational algebra expression doing? Write **one sentence in plain English** using the provided Ed database schema. Do **not** use any relational algebra terminology.

Note: Please see the exam reference packet (Sec. 2) for the full database schema.

Solution: For threads that have at least one heart, find the number of comments and the user who created the thread.

Chapter 4: Hearts Branch from Branches [12 pt]

We continue our exploration of a simplified version of Ed Discussion. When comments are written in reply to other comments, they create a comment tree. We share the relevant parts of the database schema below; please see the **exam reference packet (Sec. 2)** for the full description.

threads(id, thread_type, hearts, user_id, title, text)
comments(id, thread_id, hearts, user_id)
child_comments(comment_id, child_id)

4.1. [1 pt] Each thread must be tagged with a thread_type, which is one of three possible text strings: Question, Post, and Megathread. Assuming all threads have non-NULL thread types, what is theoretically the minimum number of bits needed to encode (i.e., represent) the thread_type attribute? Ignore any practical limits of SQL.

 \bigcirc 1 bit \bigcirc 2 bits \bigcirc 3 bits \bigcirc 8 bits \bigcirc 16 bits

4.2.	[3 pt] The below recursive query gets the			
	comment tree for comment ID 22.	comment_id	child_id	comment_id
		12	13	22
	Note: See the exam reference sheet for a	21	22	23
	tull description of comment trees (Sec. 2)	22	23	24
	and an excerpt from the PostgreSQL recursive query reference (Sec. 4).	22	24	(query output)
	1 , (,	-1-11-1		

```
child_comments
```

```
WITH RECURSIVE tree(comment_id) AS (
   ( SELECT comment_id FROM child_comments WHERE comment_id = 22 )
   UNION
   ( SELECT ____(i)____ FROM child_comments
      JOIN tree ON child_comments.___(ii)____ = tree.___(iii)____ )
)
SELECT * FROM tree;
```

For each of the blanks above, select the correct option so that running the recursive query on the example child_comments table produces the corresponding output table.

i. id comment_id child_id
ii. id comment_id child_id
iii. id comment_id child_id

4.3. [8 pt] Users can make hearts (i.e., likes or upvotes) on threads and comments. Write a query that computes, for each thread ID, the total number of hearts made on that thread, counting both the hearts on the original post text and hearts on all comments on the thread. An

example output with sample tables is shown below.

Note: You do not need to/**should not** write a recursive query. You may not need all blanks.

	id	thread_id	hearts	•••		id	thread_type	hearts		
	11	100	5			100	•••	0		
	12	100	3			200		20		
	13	100	2				. 1 . 1			
	21	200	0				thread			
	22	200	1				thread id	sum		
	23	200	2	•••						
	24	200	4	•••			200	27		
	comments						100	10		
							(query out	put)		
WITH thread_hearts AS (
	(5	ELECT								_
	_									
	_)
	UNI	ON ALL								
	(5	FIFCT								
)
)										
5511	гст									
JELI										_
FROM thread_hearts										
										;

Solution:

WITH thread_hearts AS (

SELECT id AS thread_id, hearts FROM threads UNION ALL SELECT thread_id, comments.hearts FROM comments, threads WHERE comments.thread_id = threads.id) SELECT thread_id, SUM(hearts) FROM thread_hearts GROUP BY thread_id;

Chapter 5: Congratulations! [0 pt]

Congratulations! You have completed this exam.

- Make sure that you have written your Student ID number on every other page of the exam. You may lose points on pages where you have not done so.
- Also ensure that you have signed the Honor Code on the cover page of the exam for 1 point.
- If more than 10 minutes remain in the exam period, you may hand in the exam **and** the reference packet and leave.
- If \leq 10 minutes remain, please sit quietly until the exam concludes.

[Optional, 0 pts] Use this page to design a new Data 101 course logo!

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