

# Information Retrieval Exercises

Assignment 1:

**IMDB Spider**

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# IMDB: Internet Movie Database

THE 27:TH STOCKHOLM INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL NOVEMBER 9-20 2016 GUEST OF HONOR: FRANCIS FORD COPPOLA

IMDb Find Movies, TV shows, Celebrities and more... All

Movies, TV & Showtimes | Celebs, Events & Photos | News & Community | Watchlist

Unbegrenzter Film- und Seriengenuss mit Prime Instant Video Jetzt 30 Tage testen amazon

FULL CAST AND CREW | TRIVIA | USER REVIEWS | IMDbPro | MORE | SHARE

## + Avatar - Aufbruch nach Pandora (2009)

Avatar (original title)  
12 | 2h 42min | Action, Adventure, Fantasy | 17 December 2009 (Germany)

7.9 / 10  
898.519 Rate This

3:36 | Trailer 18 VIDEOS 242 IMAGES

Watch Now From EUR2.99 (SD) on Amazon Video ON DISC

A paraplegic marine dispatched to the moon Pandora on a unique mission becomes torn between following his orders and protecting the world he feels is his home.

**Director:** James Cameron  
**Writer:** James Cameron  
**Stars:** Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldana, Sigourney Weaver | See full cast & crew »

83 Metascore From metacritic.com | 3.063 user | 720 critic | Popularity 332 (▲ 25)

## Cast

Edit

Cast overview, first billed only:

	Sam Worthington	...	Jake Sully
	Zoe Saldana	...	Neytiri (as Zoë Saldana)
	Sigourney Weaver	...	Dr. Grace Augustine
	Stephen Lang	...	Colonel Miles Quaritch
	Michelle Rodriguez	...	Trudy Chacón
	Giovanni Ribisi	...	Parker Selfridge
	Joel David Moore	...	Norm Spellman
	CCH Pounder	...	Moat
	Wes Studi	...	Eytukan
	Laz Alonso	...	Tsu'tey
	Dileep Rao	...	Dr. Max Patel
	Matt Gerald	...	Corporal Lyle Wainfleet
	Sean Anthony Moran	...	Private Fike
	Jason Whyte	...	Cryo Vault Med Tech
	Scott Lawrence	...	Venture Star Crew Chief

See full cast »

## Storyline

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When his brother is killed in a robbery, paraplegic Marine Jake Sully decides to take his place in a mission on the distant world of Pandora. There he learns of greedy corporate figurehead Parker Selfridge's intentions of driving off the native humanoid "Na'vi" in order to mine for the

# Assignment

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- Task:
  - Given a list of 500 movies, answer queries on movies
- Problem:
  - IMDB data is human-readable, but semi-structured
- Idea:
  - “Scrap”\* data from each movie on IMDB
  - Then, we perform queries on the scrapped data.

\* Data scrapping is a technique in which a computer program extracts data from human-readable output coming from another program.

# Concrete tasks

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1. Implement a JAVA program that reads a list of 500 movie titles from a JSON file
2. For each movie title, perform a web search on IMDB and retrieve movie's URL
3. For each movie, extract metadata (e.g. actors, budget, description) from the movie's URL and store them in a JSON file
4. Implement queries on movies' metadata

# 1. Read movie titles from JSON file

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- Read movie titles from a JSON\* file "movies.json":

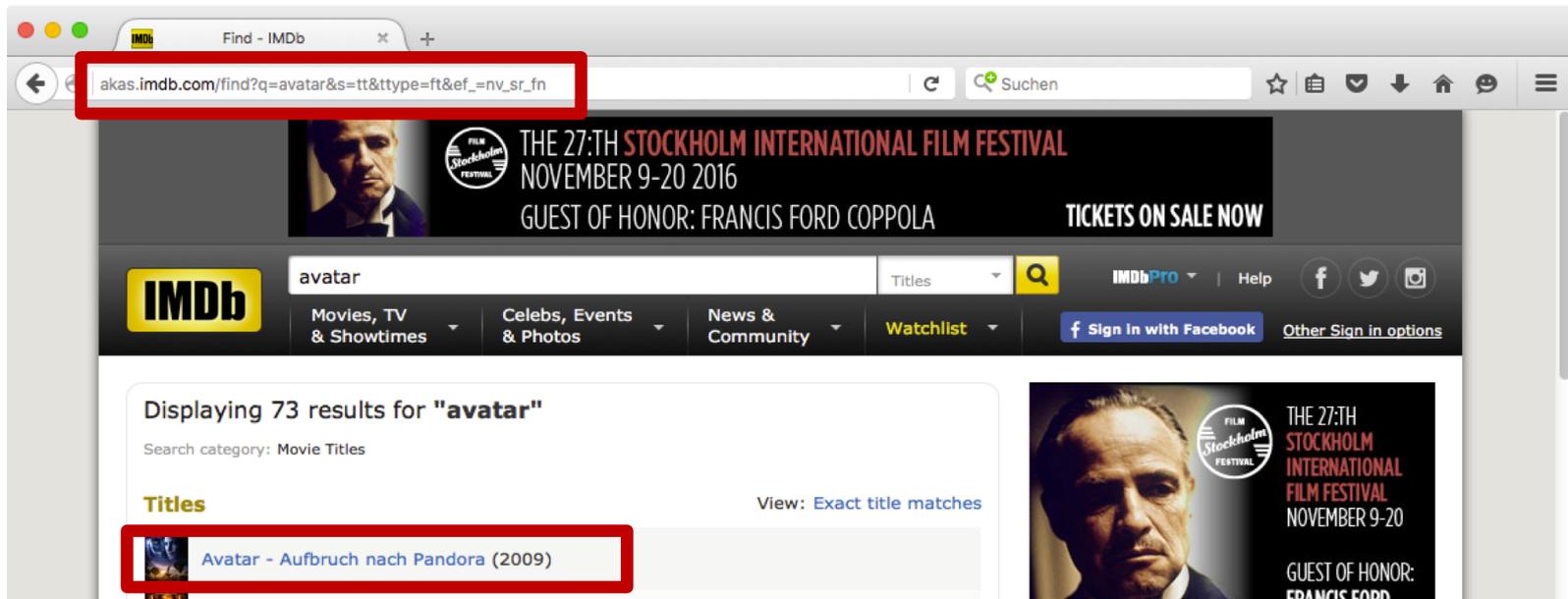
```
[  
  {"movie_name": "Avatar"},  
  {"movie_name": "Star Wars VII: The Force Awakens"},  
  ...  
]
```

- You can use any Java library for parsing JSON files
  - Reference implementation: Oracle's JSONP (<https://jsonp.java.net/>)
  - JSON.simple (<https://github.com/fangyidong/json-simple> )
  - GSON (<https://github.com/google/gson>)
  - Jackson Project (<https://github.com/FasterXML/jackson>)

\* JSON is a common syntax for storing and exchanging data. JSON is a widespread alternative to XML: [http://www.w3schools.com/js/js\\_json\\_intro.asp](http://www.w3schools.com/js/js_json_intro.asp)

## 2. Perform a web search on IMDB

- Implement *IMDBSpider.java* that opens the URL:  
*https://www.imdb.com/find?q=<MOVIE>&s=tt&ttype=ft*
- From the results, extract the first element and its URL
- Use URL encoding of movie titles





## 2. Perform a web search on IMDB

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- XPATH is a syntax for navigating parts of an XML document
- Has a directory-path-like syntax

- ```
<table class="list" >
  <tr>
    <td class="result">Avatar</td>
  </tr>
</table>
```

- XPATH:  

```
/table[@class='list']//td[@class='result']/text()
```

=> Avatar

# 3. Extract metadata from movie's URL

The screenshot displays the IMDb page for the movie "Avatar - Aufbruch nach Pandora (2009)". The page is organized into several sections:

- Cast:** A list of actors and their roles, including Sam Worthington as Jake Sully, Zoe Saldana as Neytiri, and Sigourney Weaver as Dr. Grace Augustine.
- Technical Specs:** Information about the movie's runtime (162 min), sound mix (Dolby Digital), and aspect ratio (1.78 : 1).
- Did You Know?:** Trivia and goofs, such as the fact that Grace Augustine was originally named Shipley in earlier drafts.
- Storyline:** A summary of the plot, highlighted with a red box: "When his brother is killed in a robbery, paraplegic Marine Jake Sully decides to take his place in a mission on the distant world of Pandora. There he learns of greedy corporate figurehead Parker Selfridge's intentions of driving off the native humanoid 'Na'vi' in order to mine for the precious material scattered throughout their rich woodland. In exchange for the spinal surgery that will fix his legs, Jake gathers intel for the cooperating military unit spearheaded by gung-ho Colonel Quaritch, while simultaneously attempting to infiltrate the Na'vi people with the use of an 'avatar' identity. While Jake begins to bond with the native tribe and quickly falls in love with the beautiful alien Neytiri, the restless Colonel moves forward with his ruthless extermination tactics, forcing the soldier to take a stand - and fight back in an epic battle for the fate of Pandora. *Written by The Massie Twins*".
- Details:** Information about the movie's production, including the director (James Cameron), release date (17 December 2009), and box office performance (Budget: \$537,000,000; Opening Weekends: \$8,509,050; Gross: \$760,505,847).

### 3. Extract Metadata from Movie's URL

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- Extract the following information from each movie and store it to a separate JSON file:
  - url, title, year, genreList, countryList, description, budget, gross, ratingValue, ratingCount, duration, castList, characterList, directorList
- Treat each attribute as a string and list names refer to JSON lists
  - Stick to exactly these names!
- Refer to example *\_avatar.json* for an example.

```
[ { "url": "https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0499549/?ref_=fn_ft_tt_1",  
  "title": "Avatar - Aufbruch nach Pandora (2009)",  
  "year": "2009",  
  "genreList": ["Action", "Adventure", "Fantasy", "Sci-Fi"], ...  
  }  
]
```

# 3. Extract Metadata from Movie's URL

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- Watch out: sometimes one or more information can be missing!
  - Use empty strings or empty arrays!
- Special case "gross"
  - First search for "Cumulative Worldwide Gross"
  - If missing, search for "Gross USA"
  - Only use dollar values (no Yen, Euros, etc)!
- Optional: extract further meta information  
languageList, keywordList, aspectRatio, contentRating,  
reviews, critics

## 4. Easy Queries I

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- You have to correctly implement (at least) **three** basic / easy queries out of:
  1. All-rounder: Determine all movies in which the director stars as an actor (cast). Return the top ten matches sorted by decreasing IMDB rating.
  2. Under the radar: Determine the top ten US-American movies until (including) 2015 that have made the biggest loss despite an IMDB score above (excluding) 8.0, based on at least 1,000 votes. Here, loss is defined as gross minus budget.
  3. The pillars of storytelling: Determine all movies that contain both (sub-)strings "kill" and "love" in their lowercase description (String.toLowerCase()). Sort the results by the number of appearances of these strings and return the top ten matches.

## 4. Easy Queries II

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4. The red planet: Determine all movies of the Sci-Fi genre that mention "Mars" in their description (case-aware!). List all found movies in ascending order of publication (year).
5. Colossal failure: Determine all US-American movies with a duration beyond 2 hours, a budget beyond 1 million and an IMDB rating below 5.0. Sort results by ascending IMDB rating.

## 4. Harder Queries (Aggregation & Join) I

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- You have to correctly implement (at least) **two** hard queries out of:
  6. Uncreative writers: Determine the ten most frequent character names of all times ordered by frequency of occurrence. Filter any name containing "himself", "doctor", and "herself" from the result.
  7. Workhorse: Provide a ranked list of the top ten most active actors (cast), i.e., those actors which have starred in most movies.
  8. Must see: List the best rated movie of each year starting from 1990 until (including) 2010 with more than 10,000 ratings. Order the movies by increasing year.

## 4. Harder Queries (Aggregation & Join) II

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9. Rotten Tomatoes: List the worst rated movie of each year starting from 1990 till (including) 2010 with an IMCB score larger than 0. Order the movies by increasing year.
10. Magic Couples: Determine those couples that feature together in the most movies (e.g. Adam Sandler and Allen Covert feature together in multiple movies). Report the top 10 pairs of actors and sort the result by the number of movies.

## 4. Optional: Custom Queries

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- Come up with a fancy custom query
- Give a text description of the query, the implementation and the result
- Very creative queries can earn an extra point for the competition

# Caveats

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- Crawler:
  - You must implement the Java class *IMDBSpider.java*, which reads the movie titles from a JSON file and stores each movie in a separate JSON file
- Queries:
  - You must implement five queries in *IMDBQueries.java*
  - Optional Custom Query: You can implement one fancy custom query. Give a description of the query, source code and the result.
  - A query counts as implemented if it is correct. So, implement more than five to be sure 😊
  - No query result caching!

# Competition

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- Queries should not only be correct but as fast as possible
- While you have 500 movies - I will execute your queries with 5000+ movies
- Evaluation:
  - A correctly implemented query
  - Bonus for faster implementation
- The 5 best teams get points!

# Submission

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- Java source codes and **two** executable JARs
  - IMDBSpider must be callable with  
`java -jar IMDBSpider.jar movies.json <moviesDir>`
  - IMDBQueries must be callable with  
`java -jar IMDBQueries.jar <moviesDir>`
- Stick to the specified class interfaces
  - Don't change class or method signatures
  - Don't move the classes into other packages
  - But: You can create additional classes for your implementation

# Submission

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- **Group 1: Monday, 07.05., 23:59 (midnight)**
- **Group 2: Wednesday, 09.05., 23:59 (midnight)**
- Upload a ZIP archive named *ass1\_<group-name>.zip* to [https://hu.berlin/ire18\\_assignment1](https://hu.berlin/ire18_assignment1)
- Test your JAR archives on gruenau!

# Presentation of solutions

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- You are be able to pick when and what you'd like to present (first-come-first-served):

Monday:

<https://dudle.inf.tu-dresden.de/zluz35py/>

Wednesday:

<https://dudle.inf.tu-dresden.de/8ks22llb/>

- Presentation has to be given on 14.05./16.05.

# Next week (attendance optional)

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- Q/A session for assignment 1
- If desired: Live coding session
  - JSON parsing, Opening URLs, XPATH
  - Maven, Executable Jars
  - ...
- If you have questions about topics from the lecture, write me an email in advance!

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# Questions?