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Development of a Query Language for Full-Text Search in Relational Databases

by

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Index of Abbreviations

APT Automatically Programmed Tools

AST Abstract Syntax Tree

DDL Data Definition Language

DSL Domain-Specific Language

EBNF Extended Backus-Naur Form

GPL General-Purpose Language

MS Microsoft

SQL Structured Query Language

TSQL Transact-SQL

Index of Symbols

p	precision
r	recall
n	number of relevant retrieved documents
d	total number of retrieved documents
v	total number of relevant documents
F_{eta}	weighted harmonic mean
β	nonnegative weight

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1 Abstract

Abstract

2 Theory

The following stuff is written because

2.1 Domain-Specific Languages

Commonly known programming languages, such as C or Java, are also called a General-Purpose Language (GPL). GPLs are designed to handle any problem with relatively equal levels of efficiency and expressiveness. However, many applications do not require a multifunctional GPL and can describe a problem more naturally using a Domain-Specific Language (DSL). DSLs are languages that have been developed specifically for a particular application or domain, to be able to develop faster and more effectively (cf. Hudak 1997, p. 1). By tailoring notations and constructs to the domain in question, DSLs offer significant gains in expressiveness and usability compared to GPLs for the domain in question, with corresponding productivity gains and lower maintenance costs (cf. MERNIK et al. 2005, p. 317). DSLs are by no means a product of modern software development but have existed since the beginning of programming. One of the first DSLs ever designed was Automatically Programmed Tools (APT), which was used for the development of numerically controlled machine tools in 1957 (cf. Ross 1978, pp. 283-284).

DSLs can be found everywhere in the world of IT, for example, this thesis was written with the help of LATEX to design layout and formatting. Table 1 lists some well-known DSLs and their application/domain to give examples of what is classified as a DSL.

Table 1: Popular DSLs

DSL	Applicaiton										
Lex and Yacc	program lexing and parsing										
PERL	text/file manipulation/scripting										
VDL	hardware description										
T _E X, L ^A T _E X, troff	document layout										
HTML, SGML	document markup										
SQL, LDL, QUEL	databases										
pic, postscript	2D graphics										
Open GL	high-level 3D graphics										
Tcl, Tk	GUI scripting										
Mathematica, Maple	symbolic computation										
AutoLisp/AutoCAD	computer aided design										
Csh	OS scripting (Unix)										
IDL	component technology (COM/CORBA)										
Emacs Lisp	text editing										
Prolog	logic										
Visual Basic	scripting and more										
Excel Macro Language	spreadsheets and many things never intended										

Source: HUDAK 1997, p. 3

Programs written in a DSL are considered to be more concise, quicker to write, easier to maintain and easier to reason about and most importantly they can be written by non-programmers. In particular, experts in the domain for which the DSL was developed can use DSLs to program applications without having to acquire programming skills. An expert of a domain already knows the semantics of the domain, all that is needed to start development is the corresponding notation that expresses these semantics (cf. HUDAK 1997, pp. 2-4).

2.2 Building a language

For a compiler or an interpreter to be able to interpret a DSL, the language must be accurately and precisely defined. Accurately means that the language must be defined consistently down to the smallest detail. Precisely means in this case that all aspects of the language must be laid out. If parts of the language are inconsistent or too vague, authors of compilers are forced to interpret these aspects themselves. This inevitably leads to different authors having different approaches to the same problem. If a DSL is to be created that meets the criteria described above, two components are needed. The first component is a set of rules, also called syntax. The second component is a formal definition of the meaning, also called semantics (cf. FARRELL 1995, file 2).

2.2.1 Syntax

The first step when defining syntax is defining an alphabet. This alphabet consists of to-kens, which do not necessarily have to be letters. Several tokens, formulated according to a set of rules, make up a sentence or string. The alphabet of the English language is, in the context of syntax, not a list of the permissible characters, which is predominantly called the alphabet or 'ABC', but the permissible tokens. E.g. in the sentence 'the donkey screams' the tokens 'the', 'donkey' and 'screams' are part of the alphabet of the English language. The token 'gHArFk' consists of permissible characters but is not part of the valid alphabet. However, the use of permissible tokens alone does not make a sentence correct. The sentence 'on sleep blue' consists of tokens that are part of the English alphabet, but it is still not a valid sentence. The correct application of the rule set is still missing, in this example a missing object. Only the correct use of the alphabet AND the set of rules make a sentence syntactically correct (cf. FARRELL 1995, file 2).

If the alphabet and the set of rules are notated in a normal form, they can be called grammar. Relevant to this thesis is the Extended Backus-Naur Form (EBNF), which will be described in section 2.2.2.

2.2.2 Extended Backus-Naur Form

EBNF, as the name suggests, is based on the Backus-Naur Form, which was proposed by a group of thirteen international representatives in 1960, to serve as a basic reference and guide for building compilers. Backus-Naur Form is a notation for describing computational processes and rules as arithmetic expressions, variables, and functions (cf. BACKUS et al. 1960, p. 300).

The syntax can be described as a set of metalinguistic formulae best described with an example. The grammar describing a number can be written in Backus-Naur Form as:

```
\langle number \rangle ::= \langle positive \rangle | -\langle positive \rangle | 0
\langle positive \rangle ::= \langle digit \ not \ zero \rangle \langle optional \rangle
\langle optional \rangle ::= \langle digit \rangle \langle optional \rangle | 0
\langle digit \rangle ::= \langle digit \ not \ zero \rangle | 0
\langle digit \ not \ zero \rangle ::= 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9
```

Characters contained in angel brackets '<>' represent a metalinguistic variable. The character '::=' describes a definition of this variable. The character '|' represents the metalinguistic connective 'or'. Other characters in this example have no special meaning but only represent themselves. So the first line of the grammar means that the variable <number> can be defined or replaced as <positive> or -<positive> or as 0. Since the variable

<positive> is mentioned in the definition, there must be a definition for this variable in the grammar, otherwise, the grammar would be incomplete. In the third line, we see a metalinguistic connective without content on its right side. This means that the variable <optional> can also be empty and thus without value. Furthermore, in this line, a variable calls itself recursively, which is allowed (cf. BACKUS et al. 1960, pp. 301-303).

So following this grammar, numbers such as 42 or -3141592 are valid.

In 1977 Wirth proposed a new variant of the Backus-Naur Form to further improve language definition notation. The main goals of this new notation were to (cf. WIRTH 1977, p. 822)

- · distinguish clearly between metaterminal and nonterminal symbols
- not exclude metaterminals as possible symbols of the language
- · enable iteration without using recursion

This proposal was the basis for the ISO/IEC 14977:1996(E) which now defines the standard for EBNF. The major changes that EBNF brought can be summarized as: (cf. ISO/IEC 14977:1996(E) 1996, p. VI)

- Terminal symbols must be quoted so any symbol can be a terminal symbol of the language
- Added square brackets to indicate optional symbols and avoid the use of a <empty> symbol
- Added curly brackets to indicate repetition
- Every rule must have a final character
- Normal Brackets group items together, similar to their arithmetic use

The number example from above can be rewritten in EBNF as:

```
\langle number \rangle ::= (['-']\langle digit\ not\ zero \rangle \{\langle digit \rangle\})|'0';
\langle digit \rangle ::= \langle digit\ not\ zero \rangle|'0';
\langle digit\ not\ zero \rangle ::= '1'|'2'|'3'|'4'|'5'|'6'|'7'|'8'|'9';
```

This version of the grammar produces the same set of numbers but is more concise and arguably more readable for humans.

2.3 Code generators

As soon as a language is defined, for example by writing it down in EBNF, the development of a code generator can be started. Generators can be implemented using a

template-based approach (see CLEAVELAND 2001), the template metaprogramming capabilities of a language (e.g., in C++), or extendable programming systems (e.g., OpenC++) (cf. CZARNECKI, EISENECKER 2000, p. 16).

A code generator generally consists of several different phases or components, as shown in the following figure.

LEXER
PARSER

CODE
GENERATION
PROCESSING
PHASES

OUTPUT
GENERATOR

Figure 1: Code Generation Processing Phases

Source: Based on SARKAR, CLEAVELAND 2001, p. 5

A program written by a developer in either a predefined DSL or an executable model is stored in a file for development. The code generator is given the grammar of the source language, which it uses to split it into tokens and then relate them to each other by parsing them. Such dependencies can also exist between multiple input files, by importing or referencing each other. The parser then arranges them in an Abstract Syntax Tree (AST), which can be optimized and transformed for the target language. The generator or writer then generates a file in the target language from this AST.

The code generator built in this thesis makes use of a lexer that takes care of the first initial step of scanning. Scanning is a good starting point and the first step in any compiler or interpreter. It takes the input file and groups a series of characters into so-called tokens. These words or punctuation make up the grammar of the query language (cf. NYSTROM 2021, p. 39).

Keywords and many other special kinds of tokens are almost always part of a grammar of a language and have to be handled separately from other tokens, to achieve that tokens must be assigned a kind to differentiate them. Each keyword, operator, punctuation, and literal type are some kind of token (cf. NYSTROM 2021, p. 43). Tokens can be recognized either by simply matching them to a character like '(' which would be then recognized as a

left parenthesis token or if a token is more complex logic like if statements or regex can be used to further distinguish tokens (see NYSTROM 2021, pp. 47-54).

The next goal is a transformation of the series of tokens into a more complex in-memory representation that can be used by an interpreter or, in the case of the thesis, a generator. This representation should be simple to generate for the parser and easy to understand for the next component (cf. NYSTROM 2021, p. 59).

There exist two different types of parsers, namely, the event-driven parser and the tree-constructing parser (cf. SARKAR, CLEAVELAND 2001, p. 5). Event-driven parsers search the input file for predefined syntax structures and notify the user when one is found. The user can then decide which events to ignore and which to include in their data structure. Tree constructors document related tokens as an AST. Thus, this AST contains an inmemory representation of the input files on which all further processing algorithms are based. If several languages and grammars are parsed several ASTs can develop (cf. SARKAR, CLEAVELAND 2001, pp. 5-6).

In the context of the thesis, a tree-constructing parser is implemented which will be based on a previously defined grammar. The use of a notation such as EBNF, described in chapter 2.2.2, helps silhouetting the informal syntax design and can serve as a guide when implementing the parser (cf. NYSTROM 2021, p. 64).

In the implementation of the parser, many types of so-called expressions are needed to define parts of the language. For example, there are literal expressions, which represent elementary values, such as numbers, booleans, or strings, and binary expressions, which logically connect two other expressions with an operator. These different types of expressions are to be recognized by the parser and sorted accordingly into the tree structure (see NYSTROM 2021, pp. 64-68).

With expressions alone, it is possible to correctly process the syntax for inputs like 1*(2-3) == true according to their respective priority (cf. NYSTROM 2021, p. 64).

Since the language to be developed is only a query language, it does not have to be able to store variables or similar, but it is still necessary to implement statements in addition to expressions. Statements do not evaluate to a value themselves but allow the use of functions and bindings that can be passed expressions to process (cf. NYSTROM 2021, pp. 111-112). To be able to parse statements, certain tokens trigger the start of a statement, such as 'print' or 'for' in C. Each kind of statement has its syntax, which defines the structure of the statement and expected tokens/expressions. If a token is not a trigger to a statement it is automatically assumed that an expression must be processed. If a statement is parsed correctly it is placed in the corresponding form in the AST (cf. NYSTROM 2021, pp. 113-116).

Depending on the type of code generator that is to be implemented, different paths can be

taken after the transfer to an intermediate representation. If the goal is to generate machine code or bytecode for a virtual machine, optimization and selection techniques would be applied to make the code as fast as possible (cf. NYSTROM 2021, p. 15).

This would go beyond the scope of the thesis since the goal is only a translation into Transact-SQL (TSQL) to enable a full-text search on a Structured Query Language (SQL) server, so an alternative route is taken here: a transpiler.

A transpiler hijacks the backend of a different GPL by producing a string of valid source code of that GPL, in this case, TSQL (cf. NYSTROM 2021, p. 17). This means the only missing part of the query language code generator is a writer, further referred to as just generator, which translates the AST into valid TSQL code.

2.4 Full-Text Search

Commercial database management has long focused on structured data and the industry requirements have matched those of structured storage applications quite well. The problem is that only a small part of the data stored is completely structured, while most of it is completely unstructured or only semi-structured, in the form of documents, emails, web pages, etc. (cf. Hamilton, Nayak 2001, p. 7). Full-text search describes a search technique in which all words of a document or a full-text database are matched with search criteria, whereby not only exact matches but also word reflections and the like can be searched. A full-text database, as opposed to a regular bibliographic database, contains not only metadata but also the complete textual content of books and similar documents (cf. Tenopir, Ro 1990, pp. 2-3).

With large amounts of data, matching every word of all entries is time-consuming and non-performant. To improve this process, a full-text search is divided into an indexing and query phase. In the indexing phase, all words found to be irrelevant, e.g. 'and' or 'the', are ignored by matching them against stoplists, words are normalized, e.g. the capitalization of words, and are merged into an index (cf. Coles, Cotter 2009, p. 11). In the query phase, full-text query predicates are used to execute search queries. These allow not only a search for exact matches but also generational forms. Generational forms can be, for example, words that stem from the same word or alternative search terms using a language-specific thesaurus. A query processor then calculates the most efficient query plan which delivers the required results. The previously created index is searched for documents and text passages that match the search, and the results are returned in a ranked order (cf. Coles, Cotter 2009, pp. 11-12).

To determine a rank for a search result the quality has to be measured. Two key metrics are used when measuring the quality of search results: precision p and recall r. Precision

is defined as the relation of relevant search results to irrelevant search results. If, for example, many results are desired about the Jupiter moon Europa, the search term 'Europa' has low precision, since results for the continent 'Europe', as well as for the mythological figure and the moon are displayed. The search term 'Europa Moon' will again have higher precision. Algebraically, precision can be represented as in Formula 1, where n represents the number of relevant retrieved documents and d represents the total number of retrieved documents.

Formula 1: Precision

$$p = \frac{n}{d} \tag{1}$$

Source: Coles, Cotter 2009, p. 14

The recall is defined as the relation between relevant search results and relevant documents that were not displayed. For example, if five documents in a database deal with the moon Europa and only two are displayed in a search recall is low. Formula 2 shows the mathematical definition, where ν represents the total number of relevant documents.

Formula 2: Recall

$$r = \frac{n}{v} \tag{2}$$

Source: COLES, COTTER 2009, p. 14

Although it is nearly impossible to maximize both recall and precision it is still relevant to keep both values as high as possible. Formula 3 offers the possibility to prefer one of the two metrics precision and recall when calculating the quality of a search result. The nonnegative weight β weights both metrics equally for a value of 1.0. A value less than 1.0 prefers recall, while a value above 1.0 prefers precision.

Formula 3: Weigthed harmonic mean

$$F_{\beta} = \frac{\left(1 + \beta^2\right) \cdot (p \cdot r)}{\beta^2 \cdot p + r} \tag{3}$$

Source: Coles, Cotter 2009, p. 15

This means F_{β} represents the desired search quality and should be as high as possible, deciding whether to focus on recall or precision or both (cf. COLES, COTTER 2009, pp. 13-15).

2.4.1 MS SQL Server Search Architecture

SQL Server uses the same access method and infrastructure for full-text search as other Microsoft (MS) products and the Index Service for file systems. This decision enables standardized semantics for full-text search of data in relational databases, web-hosted data, and data stored in the file system and mail systems. On SQL servers, not only simple strings can be indexed, but also data structures, such as HTML and XML, and even complex documents, such as PDF, Word, PowerPoint, Excel and other custom document formats (cf. HAMILTON, NAYAK 2001, p. 7).

The architecture can be divided into five modules, which interact with each other to perform a full-text search. (See Figure 2)

The **content reader** scans indexed data stored in SQL Server tables to assemble data and its associated metadata packets. These packets are then injected into the main search engine, which triggers the search engine filter daemon to consume the data.

Depending on the content, the **filter daemon** calls different filters, which parse the content and output so-called chunks of the processed text. A chunk is a related section with relevant information about this section like the language-id of the text. These chunks are output separately for any properties, which can be elements like the title, an author or other content-specific elements.

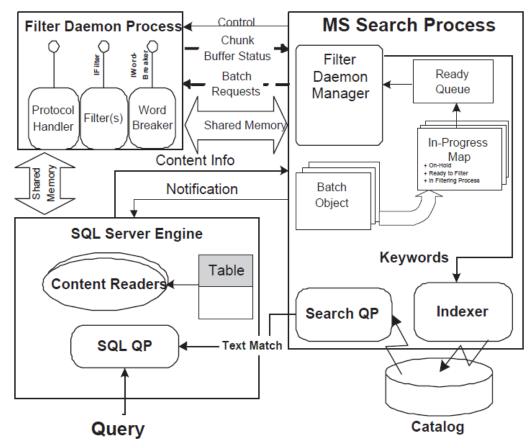


Figure 2: Architecture of MS SQL Server Full-Text Search

Source: Hamilton, Nayak 2001, p. 8

Word breakers split the chunks into keywords and additionally provide alternative keywords and the corresponding position in the text. Word breakers can recognize human languages and on SQL Server several word breakers for different languages are installed by default. The generated keywords and metadata are passed on to the MS Search process, which processes the data with an indexer.

The **indexer** generates an inverted keyword list with a batch containing all keywords of one or more items. These indexes are compressed to use memory efficiently, this may lead to high costs for updates of these indexes. Therefore a stack of indexes is maintained. New documents first create their small indexes, which are regularly merged into a larger index, which in turn is merged into the base index. This stack can be deeper than three, but the concept remains and allows a strongly compressed index without driving the update costs too high. If a keyword is searched, all indexes are accessed, so the depth should still be kept reasonable.

A **query processor** manages the insertion and merge operations and collects statistics on distribution and frequency for ranking purposes and query execution (cf. HAMILTON, NAYAK 2001, pp. 8-9).

2.4.2 MS SQL Server Full-Text Query Features

Full-text indexes can be created on SQL Servers with the Data Definition Language (DDL) statement CREATE INDEX and can make use of other SQL Server utilities; these include backup and restore and attachment of databases. There are three options to create and manage indexes on SQL Servers. **Full Crawl** always rebuilds the whole full-text index by scanning the entire table. **Incremental Crawl** logs the timestamp of the last re-index and retains changes by storing them in a column. **Change Tracking** enables a near real-time validity between the full-text index and the table by tracking changes to the indexed data using the SQL Server Query Processor (cf. HAMILTON, NAYAK 2001, p. 9).

Full-text search is represented in SQL with three possible constructs: (cf. HAMILTON, NAYAK 2001, p. 9)

- 1. Contains Predicate: A contains predicate is true if one of the specified columns contains terms that satisfy the specified search condition. E.g. Contains (author , ('Ag* or "Marc Miller"')) will match entries where the column author contains words like 'Ag', 'Agatha', or 'Marc Miller'.
- Freetext Predicate: Freetext predicates are true if one of the specified columns contains terms that stem from the terms in the specified search condition. E.g. Freetext (content, 'fishing') will match entries where content contains words like 'fishing', 'fish', or 'fisher'.
- 3. ContainsTable and FreetextTable: ContainsTable and FreetextTable are functions that match entries similar to their corresponding function, but additionally return multiple matches including a ranking for each entry and the entire corpus.

The search conditions of these constructs can be of various types to find the intended results: (cf. HAMILTON, NAYAK 2001, p. 9)

- 1. Keyword, phrase, prefix: E.g. 'fishing', 'Marc Miller', 'Ag*'
- 2. Inflections and Thesaurus: E.g. Contains(*, 'FORMSOF(INFLECTIONAL, fishing) AND FORMSOF(THESAURUS, boat)') will find all entries containing words that stem from 'fishing' and all words sharing the meaning with 'boat' (Thesaurus support).
- 3. Weighted terms: Keywords and phrases can be assigned a relative weight to impact the rank of entries. E.g. ContainsTable(*, 'ISABOUT(generator weight (.7), full-text weight (.3))') will rank entries higher in the result corpus which mention 'generator' over 'full-text'.

- 4. Proximity: E.g. Contains (*, 'corn NEAR salad') contains the proximity term 'NEAR' to match entries where 'corn' appears close to 'salad'.
- 5. Composition: E.g. Contains (*, 'full-text AND NOT database') uses two search query components that are composed using a term like 'AND', 'OR', or 'AND NOT'.

3 Implementation

When using the full-text search, large parts of the SQL statements needed to describe the search are the same, since the search criteria are defined as either WHERE conditions or JOIN criteria. To define a full-text search, usually use a combination of the given functions is used. In TSQL this would be for example CONTAINS or FORMSOF. Therefore the goal is to develop a query language where only a combination of functions and a few parameters is necessary to generate the corresponding SQL.

3.1 Language definition

The first step to defining a language is to define its purpose. In this case, there should be functions that represent full-text functions. Furthermore, one must be able to pass parameters to these functions and one should be able to combine both parameters and functions with logical operators and, or and not. To announce a function, this query language uses an '@', e.g. '@contains'. From programming languages of the C-family one recognizes the use of parentheses '()' to define parameters. To avoid later confusion with parentheses used for logical grouping, this language uses the colon ':' to enclose parameters. For now, a parameter is defined as a simple word or phrase, which is delimited with quotes ''''. These few rules already allow the definition of a query, such as @contains:apple: where 'contains' is the name of a function. This first set of rules can be written in EBNF as:

```
\langle search \rangle ::= '@' \langle function \rangle' :' \langle parameter \rangle' :'; \langle function \rangle ::= 'contains'; 
 <math>\langle parameter \rangle ::= \langle word \rangle |' "' ' \{[' '] \langle word \rangle \}' "' '; 
 <math>\langle word \rangle ::= \{'a'-'z'|'A'-'Z'\};
```

Note that the function variable only includes 'contains'. In future definitions, it should accept the different functions that are going to be defined.

A feature that is also needed is the logical combination and negation of multiple search terms. For example, it should be possible to search for 'apple' or 'tree' and not 'worm'. To represent AND the language accepts the characters '&' and '+', for OR it accepts '|', and for negation it accepts '!' and '-'. To cover all possible logical operations, groups are also needed to allow precedence between the different operators. For this parentheses are used. Using groups it is now possible to build a logic like 'apple' AND NOT('tree' OR 'worm'), where the whole statement inside the parentheses is processed negated, and prioritized instead of simply being processed from left to right.

To cover a large part of the possible full-text search queries, six functions were finally selected which are to be implemented in the guery language:

Contains should be a simple search for a search term or a combination of search terms. **Startswith** searches for terms, which start with the given search term.

Inflection takes the given search terms and searches for words with the same root and variations of it.

Thesaurus uses a thesaurus to search for entries with the same meaning as the search terms.

Near can search for documents where two or more search terms must occur within a certain distance of each other. Distance in this case means how many words separate the search terms

Weighted enables the search for multiple search terms and assigns each a weight to allow certain terms to be prioritized.

Some of the functions require the definition of more possible parameters than just words and phrases. For the function Near a positive integer is needed to specify the distance and for Weighted positive decimal numbers between zero and one are needed to assign a weight to the search parameters. In addition, functions should also be combinable with operators.

These specifications and rules can be defined in EBNF as follows:

3.2 Lexer

The first part of a code generator is the lexer. A lexer gets a file or in this case a string as input and divides this input into a series of tokens. So the input <code>@contains:apple:</code> becomes the tokens: '@', 'contains', ':', 'apple' and ':'. These tokens are not interpreted yet but are only being recognized as separate characters. To achieve this in code the crate logos is used, to avoid writing redundant code. To understand the code written in lexer.rs what follows is a short explanation of how this crate is used in the context of this prototype. To define tokens, Logos can be added to the derive statement of an enumeration and a matching rule can be defined using a literal string or a regular expression. For example, in line 73 of code listing 1, a literal string is used to recognize the colon token, and line 33 uses a regular expression to recognize decimals between 0 and 1. It also calls an arbitrary function to_float (code 1, 17-19) to define that in this case the data should be cast into the datatype f64. Logos also requires an error type (code 1, 78-80), which is also used to skip whitespaces (cf. Hirsz 2022, n.p.).

Code Listing 1: Token defintions

```
16 // helper function to format floats
fn to_float(lex: &mut Lexer<Token>) -> Option<f64> {
      Some (lex.slice().parse().ok()?)
18
19 }
26 // List of all tokens that are accepted by the language
#[derive(Debug, Clone, Logos, PartialEq)]
28 pub enum Token {
      // Regex: any float between 0 and 1
32
      \#[regex(r"0+(\.[0-9]+)?|1", to_float)]
33
      ZeroToOne (f64),
34
      // Colon to surround functions parameters
      #[token(":")]
73
      Colon,
      // End of File
75
      EoF,
76
      // Error and skip whitespaces
77
      #[error]
78
```

Source: lexer.rs

These tokens are then compiled in a list and passed over to the parser as the work of the lexer is done.

3.3 Parser

In the parser, a large part of the heavy lifting is done, because here the list of tokens is interpreted and checked for their admissibility in the language. The parser of this custom query language stores a copy of the token list still to be parsed and additionally the current token and the next one in the list. The current token is often used to make comparisons between it and the token that would be expected, while the peek token is often used to see whether the end of the token list has already been reached. When initializing the parser both the current and the peek token are set to Token::EoF which represents the edge case end of file (code 2, 66-67).

Code Listing 2: Parser struct

```
// Parser saves current and next tokens as attribute
 struct Parser<'p> {
      tokens: Iter<'p, Token>,
      current: Token,
57
      peek: Token,
 }
59
 impl<'p> Parser<'p> {
61
      // Initial parser creation
62
      fn new(tokens: Iter<'p, Token>) -> Self {
63
          Self {
              tokens,
              current: Token::EoF,
              peek: Token::EoF,
67
          }
      }
```

Source: parser.rs

In the parsing process, two different levels are distinguished: expressions and statements. Statements are the various functions that can be used in the language, such as 'near', which is defined with several expressions as 'parameters' and another expression as a 'proximity' variable (code 3, 25-28). Expressions are the several values that can appear in a search query, for example, words, phrases, or numbers (code 3, 37-38). The special cases of operators are also represented by both statements and expressions. These will be discussed in more detail later.

Code Listing 3: Statements and expressions

```
#[derive(Debug, Clone, PartialEq)]
pub enum Statement {

::

Near {
    parameter: Vec<Expression>,
    proximity: Expression,
},

::

#[derive(Debug, Clone, PartialEq)]
pub enum Expression {
    WordOrPhrase(String),
    Number(u64),
    ZeroToOne(f64),
```

Source: ast.rs

The tokens are normally processed linearly, always watching out not to run past the end of the file (code 4, 74). With each call of read current and peek are updated and the next statement is parsed. Read is called manually twice at the beginning to overwrite the initial Token::EoF (code 4, 12-14). Otherwise, the next statements are parsed until the end of the token list is reached (code 4, 16-18).

Code Listing 4: Parser read

```
// Main function to start parsing process
// Input: vec of tokens
// Ouput: abstract syntax tree (vec of statements)
pub fn parse(tokens: Vec<Token>) -> Result<Vec<Statement>,
    ParseError> {
    let mut parser = Parser::new(tokens.iter());
    // read twice to overwrite intial EoF tokens
```

```
parser.read();
     parser.read();
      let mut ast: Vec<Statement> = Vec::new();
     while let Some(statement) = parser.next()? {
          ast.push(statement);
     Ok (ast)
19
20
      // Parse next statement if possible
      // Output: statement or error
      fn next(&mut self) -> Result<Option<Statement>, ParseError>
73
          if self.current == Token::EoF {
              return Ok (None);
75
          }
76
          Ok (Some (self.parse_statement (Precedence::Lowest)?))
77
      }
78
      // Set current and peek one step further in the vec of
         tokens
     fn read(&mut self) {
81
          self.current = self.peek.clone();
          self.peek = if let Some(token) = self.tokens.next() {
              token.clone()
          } else {
              Token::EoF
          };
      }
```

When parsing a statement there must be a function token at the beginning of a statement (code 5, 120+140). If this token is found, the procedure is different depending on the function. For example, the function weighted is parsed as follows: (code 5, 325-355) First, a colon is expected, because according to the language definition the parameters are introduced with one. As parameters, there are expected to be combinations of a search term (word or phrase) and a decimal between 0 and 1. These must be separated by commas. These tuples are expected until a colon appears as a token again. The decimals representing weights must add up to exactly 1. If none of the rules are violated, the list of

tuples is passed back to the function parse_statement and stored in the form of a statement enumeration (code 5, 140-142).

Code Listing 5: Parse weighted

```
// Parse statement, can only be a function or combination
116
         of functions
       // Input: precedence
117
      // Output: statement or error
118
      fn parse_statement(&mut self, precedence: Precedence) ->
119
         Result<Statement, ParseError> {
           let mut statement = match self.current.clone() {
120
               Token::Weighted => Statement::Weighted {
140
                   parameter: self.parse_weighted()?,
141
142
               },
      // Weighted function expects pairs of words or phrases and
325
          a weight between 0 and 1
      // All weights must add up to exactly 1
326
      fn parse_weighted(&mut self) -> Result<Vec<(Expression,</pre>
327
         Expression)>, ParseError> {
           self.expect_token_and_read(Token::Weighted)?;
           self.expect_token_and_read(Token::Colon)?;
           let mut parameter: Vec<(Expression, Expression)> = Vec
330
              ::new();
           let mut sum_weights: f64 = 0.0;
331
           while !self.current_is(Token::Colon) {
332
               if self.current_is(Token::Comma) {
333
                   self.expect_token_and_read(Token::Comma)?;
334
335
               let expression = match self.parse_expression(
336
                  Precedence::Lowest)? {
                   Expression::WordOrPhrase(s) => Expression::
337
                      WordOrPhrase(s),
                   _ => return Err(ParseError::UnexpectedToken(
338
                      self.current.clone())),
               };
339
               self.expect_token_and_read(Token::Comma)?;
340
```

```
let weight = match self.parse_expression(Precedence
341
                   ::Lowest)? {
                   Expression::ZeroToOne(f) => {
342
                        sum_weights += f;
                        Expression::ZeroToOne(f)
                    _ => return Err(ParseError::UnexpectedToken(
346
                       self.current.clone())),
               };
347
               parameter.push((expression, weight));
349
           if sum_weights != 1.0 {
               return Err(ParseError::WeightError(sum_weights));
351
352
           self.expect_token_and_read(Token::Colon)?;
353
           Ok (parameter)
354
355
```

In the parse_statement function, two different functions are called to process tokens. On the one hand, expect_token_and_read (code 6, 110-114) compares the current token with an input variable and reads past it without further logic. This function is mostly used for parsing syntactic tokens, such as the colon, which themselves have no impact on the content of the search.

Code Listing 6: expect_token_and_read

```
} else {
               Err (ParseError::UnexpectedToken(self.current.clone
103
                   ()))
           }
104
       }
105
106
       // Current token should match the one given and read to
107
          next token
       // Input: token
108
       // Output: token or error
109
      fn expect_token_and_read(&mut self, token: Token) -> Result
110
          <Token, ParseError> {
           let result = self.expect_token(token)?;
111
           self.read();
112
           Ok (result)
113
       }
114
```

The second function is parse_expression, which is similar in logic to parse_statement. Here the current token is compared to the possible expressions and returned as an expression enumeration. For example, with the WordOrPhrase token, the content is stored in the variable s and passed when the expression counterpart is generated (code 7, 159-161).

Code Listing 7: Parse WordOrPhrase

```
// Parse expression, could be a search term, number,
156
         operator or combination of epxressions
      fn parse_expression(&mut self, precedence: Precedence) ->
157
         Result<Expression, ParseError> {
          let mut expr = match self.current.clone() {
158
               Token::WordOrPhrase(s) => {
159
                   self.expect_token_and_read(Token::WordOrPhrase(
160
                      "".to_string()))?;
                   Expression::WordOrPhrase(s.to_string())
161
               }
162
```

Source: parser.rs

With these building blocks, it is already possible to parse a token list, like

```
Near, Colon, WordOrPhrase("apple"), Comma, WordOrPhrase("tree"),
Comma, Number(9), Colon
```

into the statement

```
Near{parameter: (WordOrPhrase("apple"), WordOrPhrase("tree")),
proximity: Number(9)}.
```

While parsing, attention has been paid to the syntax of the language and the information has been reduced to the minimum necessary in a structured way.

3.4 Parsing operators and groups

In addition to simple search terms and the call of a single function, the query language should also offer the possibility to logically link search terms and use several functions simultaneously. To make this possible, operators such as AND, OR, and NOT, and groups come into play. To interpret these types of operators and groups and store them as part of the AST, there are separate types for them as both statement and expression. The statement enumeration (code 8, 8-12) is used to allow the use of multiple functions in the query language, while the expression enumerations (code 8, 40-41) are used to logically link search terms. The operators themselves are stored as a separate enumeration, with a function to translate tokens into operators (code 8, 52-59).

Code Listing 8: Operator statements and expressions

```
# [derive (Debug, Clone, PartialEq)]
 pub enum Statement {
     Group {
          expression: Expression,
      },
      Infix {
          statement: Box<Statement>,
          operator: Operator,
10
          second_statement: Box<Statement>,
11
      },
12
33 }
# [derive (Debug, Clone, PartialEq)]
36 pub enum Expression {
      Infix(Box<Expression>, Operator, Box<Expression>),
40
      Prefix(Operator, Box<Expression>),
```

```
42
43
  #[derive(Debug, Clone, PartialEq)]
 pub enum Operator {
      And,
      Or,
47
      Not,
49
50
 impl Operator {
51
      pub fn token(token: Token) -> Self {
52
          match token {
               Token::And | Token::Plus => Self::And,
               Token::Or => Self::Or,
               Token::Minus | Token::Bang => Self::Not,
               _ => unreachable!("{:?}", token),
57
          }
58
      }
59
60 }
```

Source: ast.rs

The big challenge with operators and groups is that it is no longer sufficient to process the token list linearly because operators are partly written after the affected tokens and hierarchies exist between the operators. For example, the AND operator has a stronger binding power than the OR operator, and groups, or parentheses, have an even higher binding power. This binding power is in text and code further called precedence.

Precedence is implemented as an ordered enumeration, which allows them to be compared and assigned higher or lower precedence. As with operators, there is a function to translate tokens into precedence (code 9, 37-51). The concept of precedence already appears in the code listings 5 and 7 as an input variable for the functions parse_statement and parse_expression.

Code Listing 9: Precedence

```
// Precedence to enable priorities between operators
// Example: this OR that AND some (AND should have a higher priority)
#[derive(Debug, Clone, PartialEq, PartialOrd)]
enum Precedence {
    Lowest,
    Statement,
```

```
Or,
      And,
      Not,
      Prefix,
31
      Group,
33
  // Match tokens to precedences
 impl Precedence {
      fn token(token: Token) -> Self {
37
          match token {
38
               Token::Bang | Token::Minus => Self::Not,
               Token::Plus | Token::And | Token::WordOrPhrase(..)
                  => Self::And,
               Token::Or => Self::Or,
41
               Token::LeftParen => Self::Group,
42
               Token::Contains
43
               | Token::Starts
               | Token::Inflection
45
               | Token::Thesaurus
46
               | Token::Near
47
               | Token::Weighted => Self::Statement,
48
               _ => Self::Lowest,
49
          }
50
      }
51
52 }
```

Expression operators that are written before the token in question, such as the NOT operator, can be processed similarly to normal expressions. When the parser encounters one of the NOT tokens in parse_expression (code 10, 171-177), an Expression::Prefix is returned, where the actual search term is parsed with the parameter Precedence::Prefix, which is higher than the default Precedence::Lowest.

Code Listing 10: Parse NOT

```
t @ Token::Minus | t @ Token::Bang => {

self.expect_token_and_read(t.clone())?;

Expression::Prefix(

Operator::token(t),
```

More complicated are operators which are written after an affected token. For this, in parse_expression after a token was parsed an attempt is made to parse a postfix or infix operator. At the same time, the precedence of the next token is compared to keep the corresponding hierarchies of the operators (code 11, 189-197). The expression parsed so far is passed to the parse_infix_expression function and it structures it into an Expression::

Infix, where the next search term is parsed again with the corresponding precedence.

Code Listing 11: Parse infix operator

```
// Afer an expression could be an infix operator or
188
              directly a new expression (here called postfix
              operator)
           while !self.current_is(Token::EoF) && precedence <</pre>
189
              Precedence::token(self.current.clone()) {
               if let Some (expression) = self.
190
                   parse_postfix_expression(expr.clone())? {
                    expr = expression;
191
               } else if let Some(expression) = self.
192
                   parse_infix_expression(expr.clone())? {
                    expr = expression
193
               } else {
194
                    break;
195
                }
196
           }
197
       // Infix operators AND and OR expect an expression on
220
          either side
       fn parse_infix_expression(
221
           &mut self,
222
           expr: Expression,
223
       ) -> Result<Option<Expression>, ParseError> {
224
           Ok (match self.current {
225
               Token::Plus | Token::And | Token::Or => {
226
                    let token = self.current.clone();
227
```

```
self.read();
                     let sec_expr = self.parse_expression(Precedence
229
                        ::token(token.clone()))?;
                     Some (Expression::Infix(
230
                         Box::new(expr),
231
                         Operator::token(token),
                         Box::new(sec_expr),
                     ))
234
                }
235
                  => None,
236
           })
237
       }
238
```

Postfix operators as such do not exist in the query language; instead, a search term written without an infix operator in between is parsed as a postfix AND (code 12, 203-218). So 'apple tree' is parsed as 'apple AND tree'. The second search term could potentially be negated, so the case 'apple -tree' is also covered and parsed as 'apple AND NOT tree'.

Code Listing 12: Parse postfix operator

```
// Postfix operator is called when two expressions are read
201
          , automatically inserting an AND inbetween
       // Second Expression could have an NOT operator before the
202
          actual expression
       fn parse_postfix_expression(
203
           &mut self,
204
           expr: Expression,
205
       ) -> Result<Option<Expression>, ParseError> {
206
           Ok (match self.current {
207
               Token::Minus | Token::Banq | Token::WordOrPhrase
208
                    let sec_expr = self.parse_expression(Precedence
209
                       :: And) ?;
                    Some (Expression::Infix(
210
                        Box::new(expr),
211
                        Operator::And,
212
                        Box::new(sec_expr),
213
                    ))
214
215
                 => None,
216
```

```
217 })
```

Source: parser.rs

Groups are delimited by parentheses and contain the highest precedence of all operators. Inside a group, an expression is expected (code 13, 360), which is then returned as soon as a right parenthesis is read. It should be emphasized that groups are not expressions, but only handle the included expression with higher precedence, so the inner expression itself is returned instead of some kind of group expression (code 13, 184).

Code Listing 13: Parse groups

```
// Start a group which gets higher precedence
178
               Token::LeftParen => {
179
                   let group_expression = match self.parse_group()
180
                       ? {
                        Statement::Group { expression } =>
181
                           expression,
                         => return Err(ParseError::Unreachable),
182
                    };
183
                   group_expression
184
               }
185
      // Groups must encapsulate an expression with parentheses
357
          and have higher precedence then other operators
      fn parse_group(&mut self) -> Result<Statement, ParseError>
358
           self.expect_token_and_read(Token::LeftParen)?;
359
           let expression = self.parse_expression(Precedence::
360
              Statement)?;
           self.expect_token_and_read(Token::RightParen)?;
361
           Ok(Statement::Group { expression })
362
      }
363
```

Source: parser.rs

Infix operators were also implemented at the statement level to allow multiple functions to be used in a single query. The logic is the same as that of code listing 11, except that statements are processed instead of expressions.

Code Listing 14: Parse infix operator in statements

```
// After a function could be an infix operator
145
           while !self.current_is(Token::EoF) && precedence <</pre>
              Precedence::token(self.current.clone()) {
                if let Some(in_statement) = self.
147
                   parse_infix_statement(statement.clone())? {
                    statement = in_statement
148
                } else {
                    break;
150
                }
151
152
       // Infix operators AND and OR expect a statement on either
240
          side
       fn parse_infix_statement(
241
           &mut self,
242
           statement: Statement,
243
       ) -> Result<Option<Statement>, ParseError> {
244
           Ok (match self.current {
245
                Token::Plus | Token::And | Token::Or => {
246
                    let token = self.current.clone();
247
                    self.read();
248
                    let second_statement = self.parse_statement(
249
                       Precedence::token(token.clone()))?;
                    Some(Statement::Infix {
250
                         statement: Box::new(statement),
251
                        operator: Operator::token(token),
252
                         second statement: Box::new(second statement
253
                            ),
                    })
254
                }
255
                  => None,
256
           })
257
       }
258
```

Source: parser.rs

These are all the building blocks needed to parse the entirety of the query language. The result of the parser is a list of statements or AST. This is now passed to the generator to generate SQL code from the logical sequence of operators and search terms.

3.5 Generator

The generator is the last step of the code generator because it does not convert the query language into bytecode or similar, but into another language, in this case, SQL. For this purpose, the generator is similarly structured to the parser, except that it receives an AST as input instead of output and generates a string from it.

In TSQL there are two ways to initiate a full-text search. The use of predicates to specify criteria for the search in the WHERE clause of a query and the use of a CONTAINSTABLE or FREETEXTTABLE, which contains matching results and can be joined to the table to be searched. This generator uses a CONTAINSTABLE to represent all the functions offered by the query language in SQL. This method is preferred to predicates because it allows getting a list of results, sorted by how much they match the search criteria, also called a rank. In addition, CONTAINSTABLE is preferred to FREETEXTTABLE, because FREETEXTTABLE is suitable for more fuzzy searches and less for searches that use defining functions to narrow down the results.

Based on these findings, a part of the SQL command can be preformulated with a few constants containing the metadata of the database (code 15, 7-10). So an INNER JOIN of the CONTAINSTABLE and the table to be searched is made, where the rank must be greater than five to weed out inaccurate matches (code 15, 29). From this, the title and rank are selected and sorted by rank in descending order. The top five results are then finally returned (code 15, 22). The exact specifications of the CONTAINSTABLE, which represent the search criteria, is the part that is filled by the generator (code 15, 26-28).

Code Listing 15: Generate sql_parts

```
while let Some(sql_part) = generator.next()? {
    sql_parts.push(sql_part);
}
sql_parts.push("') AS KEY_TBL ON FT_TBL.[ID] = KEY_TBL.[KEY
    ] WHERE KEY_TBL.RANK > 5) AS FS_RESULT ORDER BY
    FS_RESULT.RANK DESC; ".to_owned());
```

Similar to the parser, the generator stores the list of statements and additionally the current and next statements as attributes, where the peek statement is used to check the end of the list. On initialization current and peek are set to Statement::EoF (code 16, 45-46).

Code Listing 16: Generator struct

```
33 // Generator struct with current and next statements as
     attributes
34 struct Generator<'p> {
      statements: Iter<'p, Statement>,
35
      current: Statement,
36
      peek: Statement,
37
38 }
39
40 impl<'p> Generator<'p> {
      // Initial generator creation
41
      fn new(statements: Iter<'p, Statement>) -> Self {
42
          Self {
43
               statements,
44
               current: Statement::EoF,
45
               peek: Statement::EoF,
46
          }
47
      }
48
```

Source: generator.rs

The logic to iterate through the list is similar to that of the parser with the use of a next function which checks if the end of the list has already been reached (code 17, 52) and generates the next element if not and a write function which updates the current and peek attributes (code 17, 60-65).

Code Listing 17: Generator write

```
// Generate next statement if possible

fn next(&mut self) -> Result<Option<String>, GenerateError>
{
```

```
if self.current == Statement::EoF {
              return Ok (None);
53
          Ok (Some (self.generate_statement (self.current.clone())?)
55
      }
56
      // Set current and peek one step further in the ast
58
      fn write(&mut self) {
          self.current = self.peek.clone();
          self.peek = if let Some(statement) = self.statements.
61
             next() {
              statement.clone()
          } else {
              Statement::EoF
64
          };
65
      }
66
```

In the code, three functions are used to generate all elements of an AST. Similar to the parser, a distinction is made between statements and expressions and additionally operators.

The generate_statement function is passed a statement to be generated (code 18, 71). Usually, this statement is one of the implemented functions of the query language, for example, weighted. In the case of the weighted function, the stored attribute 'parameter' is used to translate the statement into SQL as follows. First, the SQL function ISABOUT is called and a parenthesis is opened (code 18, 136). Then, for each tuple of search terms and their weights, the values are written down so that, for example, the values 'apple' and 0.4 give apple WEIGHT (0.4), (code 18, 137-142). Finally, the last comma is deleted, the parenthesis of ISABOUT is closed, and all parts are combined into one string and returned(code 18, 143-145+150).

Code Listing 18: Generate weighted

```
// Weighted generates tuples of search criteria and
133
                   their respective weight
               Statement::Weighted { parameter } => {
134
                   let mut sql_parts: Vec<String> = Vec::new();
135
                   sql_parts.push(format!("ISABOUT("));
136
                   for (word_or_phrase_expr, weight_expr) in
137
                       parameter {
                        let word_or_phrase = self.
138
                           generate_expression(word_or_phrase_expr)
                           ?;
                        let weight = self.generate_expression(
139
                           weight_expr)?;
                        sql_parts.push(format!("{} WEIGHT({}))",
140
                           word_or_phrase, weight));
                        sql_parts.push(String::from(", "));
141
                   sql_parts.remove(sql_parts.len() - 1);
                   sql_parts.push(String::from(")"));
                   sql_parts.join("")
145
               }
           };
148
           self.write();
149
           Ok (sql)
150
151
```

There is a special case in generate_statement, infix operators, this case calls generate_statement for the two statements and generate_operator for the operator (code 19, 79-81) and combines the results.

Code Listing 19: Generate infix operator statements

In the example above for generating weighted, the generate_expression function was called in code listing 18 in lines 138 and 139 to generate the search terms and weights. This function takes as input the expression it should generate and returns the value of the expression as a string if a normal expression was passed (code 20, 158-160).

Code Listing 20: Generate expressions

```
// Generate expression, any search criteria or number or
153
          combination of those
      // Input: expression to generate
154
      // Output: string
155
      fn generate_expression(&mut self, expression: Expression)
156
          -> Result<String, GenerateError> {
           let sql: String = match expression {
157
               Expression::WordOrPhrase(s) => s,
158
               Expression::Number(u) => u.to_string(),
159
               Expression::ZeroToOne(f) => f.to_string(),
160
           };
186
          Ok (sql)
187
      }
```

Source: generator.rs

If a form of an operator is passed as an expression, the corresponding generate function is called for the operators (code 21, 167+181) and the respective expressions are passed to the generate_expression function. In the case of infix operators, parentheses are also set to safely represent the precedence as recognized by the parser (code 21, 164-170). Something to pay attention to in SQL is that if a NOT operator follows an infix operator, it must be written before the parenthesis, otherwise, SQL throws a syntax error. To cover this case, infix operator generation checks if the second expression is a negation and rewrites the string in that case (code 21, 173-176).

Code Listing 21: Generate operator expressions

```
// Infix operator enclose their expressions with
161
                  parentheses to ensure precedence
               Expression::Infix(expr1, operator, expr2) => {
162
                    let mut sql_parts = [
163
                        String::from("("),
164
                        self.generate_expression(*expr1)?,
165
                        String::from(")"),
166
                        self.generate_operator(operator)?,
167
                        String::from("("),
168
                        self.generate_expression(*expr2.clone())?,
169
                        String::from(")"),
170
                   ];
171
                    // If the second expression is a not operator
172
                       it must write NOT before the parenthesis
                   match *expr2 {
173
                        Expression::Prefix(Operator::Not, ..) =>
                           sql_parts[4] = String::from("NOT ("),
                        _ => (),
175
176
                    sql_parts.join(" ")
177
178
               Expression::Prefix(operator, expr) => {
179
                   let sql_parts = [
                        self.generate_operator(operator)?,
                        self.generate_expression(*expr)?,
                   ];
183
                    sql_parts.join(" ")
184
               }
185
```

Source: generator.rs

The third and simplest generate function is generate_operator, which translates operators into a string (code 22, 195-196). Noticeable here is the NOT operator, which is already treated separately in code listing 21 lines 173-176.

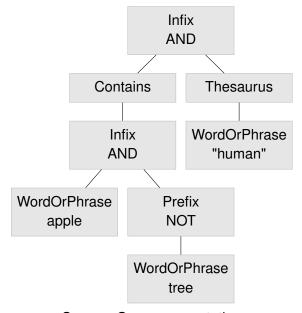
Code Listing 22: Generate operators

```
// Generate operator
// Input: operator to generate
// Output: string
```

```
fn generate_operator(&mut self, operator: Operator) ->
193
          Result < String, GenerateError > {
           let op = match operator {
194
               Operator::And => "AND",
195
               Operator::Or => "OR",
196
               // has to be set infront of parentheses, see
197
                   generate_expression for infix
               Operator::Not => "",
198
           };
199
           Ok(op.to_owned())
       }
201
```

All parts up to the generator combined already make up a working code generator for a custom query language. For example the input @contains:apple -tree: + @thesaurus:"human":, the lexer converts into a list of tokens. The parser then interprets these tokens into an AST, one exemplary representation can be seen in figure 3.

Figure 3: Parsed example AST



Source: Own representation

The generator then takes the AST and generates from it the SQL in code listing 23. Lines 1 to 9 and 11 to 14 are the more or less pre-formulated part using the constants of the test database. Line 10 is the intriguing part, which is generated from the passed functions and search criteria.

Code Listing 23: Generated example SQL

Source: Own code generator

3.6 Interface with SQL server

To interface with the SQL server hosting the full-text index and test data a connection must be established to run any queries. Since the server is hosted on the same machine as the Rust script, the local command line can be used. The command is passed the SQL as a path to the respective file and the result is then written to a path by the server as well (code 24, 67-70).

Code Listing 24: Execute SQL

The result of the server is stored in a txt file. The content is formatted to be easier for a human to read, but less suitable for machine processing. The first and last lines of the file contain query metadata, such as column names and numbers, and characters to visually delimit them, so they are removed (code 25, 86-94). The results themselves are formatted with unnecessary whitespace, and the last entry in a row is interpreted as the rank value (code 25, 99-106).

Code Listing 25: SQL server results

```
_{76} | // Reads the txt file result and extracts the actual results
 // Input: path to the txt file
 // Output: vec of titles and their search rank
 fn read_results(path: &str) -> Option<Vec<(String, u64)>> {
      let contents = read_to_string(path).unwrap();
      let mut contents_vec: Vec<&str> = contents.split("\n").
81
         collect();
      // In case of error message, break
82
      if contents_vec.len() < 6 {</pre>
          return None;
      // Remove metadata rows
      // First 3-4 rows and last three rows
      while !contents_vec[0].starts_with("---") {
88
          contents_vec.remove(0);
89
      }
      contents_vec.remove(0);
      contents_vec.remove(contents_vec.len() - 1);
      contents_vec.remove(contents_vec.len() - 1);
      contents_vec.remove(contents_vec.len() - 1);
      // Go through each row and extract the titles and their
95
         ranks
```

```
let mut results: Vec<(String, u64)> = Vec::new();
      for row in contents_vec {
97
          // Remove unnecessary whitespaces
          let row = row.replace("\r", "");
          let re = Regex::new(r"\s+").unwrap();
100
          let row = re.replace_all(&row, " ").to_string();
101
          // Extract last 'word' as rank and save the rest as the
102
               title
          let mut words: Vec<&str> = row.split(" ").collect();
103
          let rank = words[words.len() - 1].parse::<u64>().unwrap
              ();
          words.remove(words.len() - 1);
105
          let title = words.join(" ");
106
          results.push((title, rank));
108
109
      Some (results)
110
111 }
```

These two functions enable the automatic execution and evaluation of queries on the SQL server, where any kind of test data can be stored.

3.7 Website as software interface

To interact with the code generator a website is used as an interface. To create a simple website the Rust crate actix_web is used, which provides a web framework for Rust, and the crate tera, which enables the use of templates to quickly create a working frontend. To host a website using actix_web, an HTTP server must be started in an asynchronous main function (cf. EDE 2022, n.p.). With the help of tera, HTML templates can now be used (cf. PROUILLET 2022, n.p.) to pass data to the server (code 26, 20+22). The HTML code of the website can be found in the appendix. The HTTP server hosts two subpages (code 26, 23-24). These are the start page, where a search query can be submitted, and the result page, where the search results will be displayed.

Code Listing 26: HTTP Server

```
// Main function to start website on localhost:8080
// Run using 'cargo watch -x run'
#[actix_web::main]
```

```
async fn main() -> std::io::Result<()> {
      HttpServer::new(|| {
          let tera = Tera::new("templates/**/*").unwrap();
20
          App::new()
21
               .data(tera)
               .route("/", web::get().to(search))
23
               .route("/", web::post().to(result))
24
      })
25
      .bind("127.0.0.1:8080")?
26
      .run()
27
      .await
28
29 }
```

The interface between the website and Rust code serves two structs, which can exchange data between the two parties. For this purpose, the crate serde is used, with which structs can be easily serialized (cf. Tolnay, Tryzelaar 2017, n.p.). A struct for the search query including a string is needed (code 27, 114-117), and a struct for the search results, which contain a title and link as a string and a rank as an unsigned integer each (code 27, 118-123).

Each of the subpages is assigned a function, which defines for the respective page, what functionally happens on it. The search page is straightforward, a text field that can be submitted (code 27, 125-131).

Code Listing 27: Website search

```
113 // Search and Result structs to (de) serialize rust and website
     datatypes
# [derive (Deserialize) ]
  struct Search {
      search: String,
116
117
  #[derive(Serialize)]
  struct Result {
      title: String,
120
      rank: u64,
      link: String,
123 }
125 // Define functional parts of the search page
async fn search(tera: web::Data<Tera>) -> impl Responder {
```

```
let mut data = Context::new();
data.insert("title", "Search field");
let rendered = tera.render("search.html", &data).unwrap();
HttpResponse::Ok().body(rendered)

131 }
```

The function of the result page is a bit more complex because here the code generator is run, the SQL is executed and the results are read. Because the result page resembles a POST request the function is passed the data of the search page. From this the search query is extracted and the code generator is executed (code 28, 138). With the help of two functions, the generated SQL is executed and the results are read (code 28, 141-142).

The results of the query are in the form of a string-integer tuple and are now fitted into the form of the result struct (code 28, 146-153). The link attribute is very similar to the title, but all blanks are replaced with _ so that this attribute can be used to link directly to the associated Wikipedia article, a small quirk of the chosen test data.

Code Listing 28: Website results

```
133 // Define functional parts of the result page
 async fn result(tera: web::Data<Tera>, data: web::Form<Search>)
      -> impl Responder {
      let mut page_data = Context::new();
135
      let mut results: Vec<Result> = Vec::new();
136
      // Run code generator with the string from the search field
137
      match run_code_gen(data.search.clone(), PATH_SQL) {
138
          // If code generator returns no error execute SQL and
139
              read the results
          0k(_) => {
140
               execute_sql(PATH_SQL, PATH_RESULTS);
141
               let results_vec = read_results(PATH_RESULTS);
142
               // Fit search results into Result struct to
143
                  properly display on the page, otherwise diplay
                  error
               match results_vec {
144
                   Some(results_vec) => {
145
                       for result in results_vec {
146
                            results.push(Result {
147
                                title: result.0.clone(),
148
                                rank: result.1,
149
```

```
// link to the Wikipedia article is
150
                                      also provided, whitespaces need
                                      to be replaced
                                 link: result.0.replace(" ", "_"),
151
                             })
152
                        }
153
                        page_data.insert("title", "Results");
154
                        page_data.insert("search", &data.search);
155
                    }
156
      page_data.insert("results", &results);
175
      let rendered = tera.render("result.html", &page_data).
176
          unwrap();
      HttpResponse::Ok().body(rendered)
177
178 }
```

More specifications about the build and display of the website can be found in the appendix in the HTML files.

3.8 Error Handling

To prevent a simple input error or faulty communication between the SQL server, script, or website from crashing the software immediately, instead of displaying clarifying error messages, proper error handling must be implemented. This is not only relevant for the finished prototype and thus a reasonable user experience, but also helpful during development to detect and fix errors early on.

To handle errors caused by incorrect user input in the search field, the error token has already been introduced in the lexer (code 1, 78-80). In the parser, grammar errors must be handled. For this purpose, several custom error types are defined with the help of the crate thiserror. To do this, the derive statement must be passed Error (cf. Tolnay 2019, n.p.), as in the case of the parser in code listing 29 line 367.

These errors are then used in all parse functions, such as parse_statement and parse_weighted, by returning a datatype called Result (code 29, 119+327). Every time an error case is encountered in the code, the corresponding error message is returned (code 29, 143+351). This procedure using results as datatype allows the use of a '?'

operator when calling the function to forward an error in case one is returned (code 29, 141).

Code Listing 29: Error handling in parser

```
fn parse_statement(&mut self, precedence: Precedence) ->
119
          Result<Statement, ParseError> {
           let mut statement = match self.current.clone() {
120
               Token::Weighted => Statement::Weighted {
140
                   parameter: self.parse_weighted()?,
141
               },
142
                _ => return Err(ParseError::UnexpectedToken(self.
143
                  current.clone())),
           };
144
      fn parse_weighted(&mut self) -> Result<Vec<(Expression,</pre>
327
          Expression)>, ParseError> {
           if sum_weights != 1.0 {
               return Err(ParseError::WeightError(sum_weights));
           }
  // Types of errors covered by the parser
  #[derive(Debug, Error)]
  pub enum ParseError {
368
      #[error("Unexpected token {0:?}.")]
369
      UnexpectedToken (Token),
370
      #[error("Entered unreachable code.")]
371
      Unreachable,
372
       #[error("Weights do not add up to 1.0. Sum of all weights:
373
          {0}")]
      WeightError(f64),
374
375 }
```

Source: parser.rs

A similar approach can be found in the generator.

When the code generator is executed, it checks after each step to see if an error was

thrown. If so, an error is also thrown and the error message is passed. In the result function of the website, where the code generator is executed, a check is made whether an error was thrown (code 30, 167-173). In this case, the website is not passed a list of results, but an error message to display.

Code Listing 30: Error display

```
async fn result(tera: web::Data<Tera>, data: web::Form<Search>)
      -> impl Responder {
      let mut page_data = Context::new();
135
      let mut results: Vec<Result> = Vec::new();
136
      // Run code generator with the string from the search field
137
      match run_code_gen(data.search.clone(), PATH_SQL) {
138
          // If code generator returns error, display error
             instead of search results
          Err(error) => {
167
              page_data.insert("title", "Error");
168
              page_data.insert(
169
                   "search",
                   &format!("{} threw an error: {}", &data.search,
171
                       &error.to_string()),
              );
172
          }
173
```

Source: main.rs

There are many other small prompts to catch errors, but the above examples are the most important elements of the code generator itself.

4 Demonstration

In this chapter, the prototype is shown demonstratively to highlight the purpose and workings of the code generator. By adjusting the constants in the generator.rs file, it is possible to apply the generator to several similarly constructed databases. The test data in this demonstration is the same database as in the development and testing of the prototype. This is a formatted version of an official Wikipedia dump from September 20th, 2022 (see WIKIMEDIA 2022, n.p.).

4.1 Database preparations

The Wikipedia dump is provided in one or more compressed .bz2 files. With the help of an etree of lxml a parser can be built, with which the title and content of each entry can be extracted. Many of the entries are so-called redirects, which are irrelevant for a full-text search and are filtered out (code 31, 54). Otherwise, the title and content are written to a CSV file, and further, the longest title and text entries as well as the total amount of entries are being kept track of.

Code Listing 31: Wikipedia as csv

```
def pluck_wikipedia_titles_text(
      out_file, pattern="enwiki-*-pages-articles-multistream*.xml
         -*.bz2"
 ):
41
      totalCount = 0
42
      longestTitle = 0
43
      longestText = 0
44
      with codecs.open(out_file, "a+b", "utf8") as out_file:
45
          writer = csv.writer(out_file)
46
          for bz2_filename in sorted(
47
              glob (pattern),
48
              key=lambda a: int(a.split("articles-multistream")
49
                  [1].split(".")[0]),
          ):
50
              print (bz2_filename)
51
              parser = get_parser(bz2_filename)
52
              for title, text in parser:
53
                   if not (text.startswith("#REDIRECT") or text.
                      startswith("#redirect")):
```

Source: convert_wiki_to_csv.py

When running the script a total of 6,703,714 entries were written in a total runtime of 58 minutes and 14 seconds.

Based on the values of the longest title and text a table with a unique id is created. Since the CSV does not contain an id, a temporary view is created into which a bulk insert is executed. The path to the file has been redacted afterward.

Code Listing 32: Insert into SQL server

```
| CREATE TABLE [dbo].[Article] (
    [id] [int] IDENTITY(1, 1) NOT NULL,
    [Title] [varchar] (255) NULL,
    [Text] [varchar] (max) NULL
5);
| CREATE VIEW [dbo].[Article_insert] AS
2 SELECT [Title],
     [Text]
4 FROM [dbo].[Article];
1 BULK
2 INSERT [dbo].[Article_insert]
3 FROM 'path redacted' WITH (
              FIRSTROW = 1,
              FIELDQUOTE = '\'
         FIELDTERMINATOR = ','
         ROWTERMINATOR = ' \ n',
```

TABLOCK);

Source: create_article, create_view, bulk_insert

Using this SQL, all entries were successfully loaded within 41 minutes and 57 seconds. The graphical interface of the Microsoft SQL Server Management Tool then enabled an effortless full-text index creation.

4.2 Use the prototype

To use the prototype the SQL server must be started and the website including the code generator is started by running the command cargo run in the project folder. On local-host:8080 a minimal website with a search field is now visible, where you can enter any request in the custom query language.

Figure 4: Search field



Source: Own prototype

For example, if you enter the command @near:space, dog, 10: you will be redirected to a result page where either the search results or an error message will be displayed. In this case, three matching results are displayed sorted by rank. For each result, the title and rank are displayed and the title can be clicked on to be redirected to the relevant Wikipedia article.

Figure 5: Results for space dogs



Source: Own prototype

The actual generated SQL can be looked up in the prototype files if needed. If an incorrect command is entered, the error message thrown in the generator is displayed. For example, the command <code>@weighted:cat, 0.5, dog, 0.8:</code> should not be processed as the weights do not add up to exactly 1.

Figure 6: Weight error



For demonstration purposes, a complicated search query with multiple functions and nested search terms can also be submitted. A search for apple but without the presence of the terms company or Steve Jobs in combination with a term that has the same meaning as fruit can be formulated in the query language as @contains:apple -(company | "Steve Jobs"): + @thesaurus:fruit:.

Figure 7: Results for fruit apples



The first result 'Arsenic' describes a chemical element that is listed because of several sentences in the article mentioning its occurrence in apple juice and other fruit juices. Note that it may not be the very best result expected as the test data does not seem to contain every single Wikipedia article, only a large amount.

5 Summary

Summary

Appendix

Appendix 1: Cargo.toml

Appendix 2: main.rs

```
use actix_web::{web, App, HttpResponse, HttpServer, Responder};
use regex::Regex;
use serde::{Deserialize, Serialize};
use std::fs::{read_to_string, File};
use std::io::{Error, ErrorKind, Write};
use std::process::Command;
use tera::{Context, Tera};

mod code_gen;

// Path Variables
const PATH_SQL: &str = "files\\fulltext.sql";
const PATH_RESULTS: &str = "files\\results.txt";

// Main function to start website on localhost:8080
// Run using 'cargo watch -x run'
```

```
#[actix_web::main]
 async fn main() -> std::io::Result<()> {
      HttpServer::new(|| {
          let tera = Tera::new("templates/**/*").unwrap();
          App::new()
              .data(tera)
              .route("/", web::get().to(search))
              .route("/", web::post().to(result))
      })
25
      .bind("127.0.0.1:8080")?
      .run()
27
      .await
29
31 // Code generator to translate an input to SQL
32 // Input: search string and path to write result to
33 // Output: SQL statement written to a file
34 fn run_code_gen(search: String, path: &str) -> std::io::Result
     <()> {
     // Transform string to list of tokens
      let tokens = code_gen::lexer::lex(search.as_str());
      // Parse tokens to an abstract syntax tree (ast)
     let ast = code_gen::parser::parse(tokens);
38
     match ast {
39
          // If parser returns no error, start code generation
          Ok(ast) => {
41
              let generator = code_gen::generator::generate(ast);
              // If generator returns no error, write SQL
43
                 statement to file, otherwise throw an error
              match generator {
44
                  Ok (generator) => write! (File::create(path)?, "
45
                      {}", generator),
                  Err(gen_err) => Err(Error::new(ErrorKind::
46
                     InvalidData, format!("{:?}", gen_err))),
              }
47
48
          // If parser returns error, throw an error aswell
49
          Err(parse_err) => Err(Error::new(
50
              ErrorKind::InvalidInput,
51
              format!("{:?}", parse_err),
```

```
)),
      }
55 }
_{57}|\:\:/\:\: Runs a command to execute an sql statement to a local MSSQL
     Server
58 // Input: paths to the input file and where to write the result
59 // Output: txt file interpretation of the MSSQL Server result
fn execute_sql(sql_path: &str, results_path: &str) {
     Command::new("cmd")
          .args(&[
              "/C",
              "sqlcmd",
              "-S",
              "DESKTOP-JKNEH40\\SQLEXPRESS", //Local server name
              "-i",
67
              sql_path,
              "-o",
              results_path,
70
          ])
71
          .output()
72
          .expect("failed to execute operation");
73
74 }
76 // Reads the txt file result and extracts the actual results
77 // Input: path to the txt file
 // Output: vec of titles and their search rank
 fn read_results(path: &str) -> Option<Vec<(String, u64)>> {
      let contents = read_to_string(path).unwrap();
      let mut contents_vec: Vec<&str> = contents.split("\n").
81
         collect();
      // In case of error message, break
82
      if contents_vec.len() < 6 {</pre>
          return None;
84
      }
85
      // Remove metadata rows
86
      // First 3-4 rows and last three rows
87
      while !contents_vec[0].starts_with("---") {
88
          contents_vec.remove(0);
      }
```

```
contents_vec.remove(0);
      contents_vec.remove(contents_vec.len() - 1);
      contents_vec.remove(contents_vec.len() - 1);
      contents_vec.remove(contents_vec.len() - 1);
      // Go through each row and extract the titles and their
         ranks
      let mut results: Vec<(String, u64)> = Vec::new();
      for row in contents_vec {
97
          // Remove unnecessary whitespaces
          let row = row.replace("\r", "");
          let re = Regex::new(r"\s+").unwrap();
100
          let row = re.replace_all(&row, " ").to_string();
          // Extract last 'word' as rank and save the rest as the
               title
          let mut words: Vec<&str> = row.split(" ").collect();
103
          let rank = words[words.len() - 1].parse::<u64>().unwrap
104
              ();
          words.remove(words.len() - 1);
105
          let title = words.join(" ");
106
107
          results.push((title, rank));
108
109
      Some (results)
110
111
112
113 // Search and Result structs to (de) serialize rust and website
     datatypes
# [derive (Deserialize) ]
115 struct Search {
      search: String,
116
117 }
  #[derive(Serialize)]
119 struct Result {
      title: String,
120
      rank: u64,
121
      link: String,
122
123 }
124
125 // Define functional parts of the search page
async fn search(tera: web::Data<Tera>) -> impl Responder {
```

```
let mut data = Context::new();
      data.insert("title", "Search field");
128
      let rendered = tera.render("search.html", &data).unwrap();
129
      HttpResponse::Ok().body(rendered)
130
131
132
  // Define functional parts of the result page
async fn result(tera: web::Data<Tera>, data: web::Form<Search>)
      -> impl Responder {
      let mut page_data = Context::new();
135
      let mut results: Vec<Result> = Vec::new();
136
      // Run code generator with the string from the search field
137
      match run_code_gen(data.search.clone(), PATH_SQL) {
138
          // If code generator returns no error execute SQL and
              read the results
          0k(_) => {
140
               execute_sql(PATH_SQL, PATH_RESULTS);
141
               let results_vec = read_results(PATH_RESULTS);
142
               // Fit search results into Result struct to
143
                  properly display on the page, otherwise diplay
                  error
               match results_vec {
144
                   Some(results_vec) => {
145
                        for result in results_vec {
146
                            results.push(Result {
147
                                title: result.0.clone(),
148
                                rank: result.1,
149
                                // link to the Wikipedia article is
150
                                     also provided, whitespaces need
                                     to be replaced
                                link: result.0.replace(" ", "_"),
151
                            })
152
                        }
153
                       page_data.insert("title", "Results");
154
                       page_data.insert("search", &data.search);
155
                   }
156
                   None => {
157
                       page_data.insert("title", "Error");
158
                       page_data.insert(
159
                            "search",
160
```

```
&format!("{} results cannot be read", &
161
                               data.search),
                       );
               }
          // If code generator returns error, display error
              instead of search results
          Err(error) => {
167
               page_data.insert("title", "Error");
               page_data.insert(
                   "search",
                   &format!("{} threw an error: {}", &data.search,
171
                        &error.to_string()),
               );
172
          }
173
174
      page_data.insert("results", &results);
175
      let rendered = tera.render("result.html", &page_data).
176
         unwrap();
      HttpResponse::Ok().body(rendered)
178 }
```

Appendix 3: lexer.rs

```
use logos::{Lexer, Logos};

// Main function to start lexing process
// Input: string
// Output: vec of tokens
pub fn lex(input: &str) -> Vec<Token> {
    Token::lexer(input).collect()
}

// helper function to format strings
fn to_string(lex: &mut Lexer<Token>) -> Option<String> {
    let string = lex.slice().to_string();
    Some(string)
}
```

```
16 // helper function to format floats
fn to_float(lex: &mut Lexer<Token>) -> Option<f64> {
      Some(lex.slice().parse().ok()?)
19 }
21 // helper function to format unsigned integer
fn to_u64(lex: &mut Lexer<Token>) -> Option<u64> {
      Some (lex.slice().parse().ok()?)
24 }
26 // List of all tokens that are accepted by the language
#[derive(Debug, Clone, Logos, PartialEq)]
28 pub enum Token {
      // Regex: phrase starting and ending with " and escaped
         character \" or just a word allowing a list of special
         characters
      #[regex(r##""(?:[^"\\]|\\.)*"|[a-zA-Zß?üÜöÖäÄ;\._<>´ \#$$
30
         %/\\=€]+"##, to_string)]
      WordOrPhrase(String),
31
      // Regex: any float between 0 and 1
32
      \#[regex(r"0+(\.[0-9]+)?|1", to_float)]
33
      ZeroToOne (f64),
34
      // Regex: any postive integer
35
      #[regex(r"[0-9]+", to_u64)]
36
      Number (u64),
37
      // ! and - for NOT
38
      #[token("!")]
39
      Bang,
40
      #[token("-")]
41
      Minus,
42
      // & and + for AND
43
      #[token("&")]
44
      And,
45
      #[token("+")]
46
      Plus,
47
      // | for OR
48
      #[token("|")]
49
      Or,
50
      // Parentheses for grouping
```

```
#[token("(")]
      LeftParen,
      #[token(")")]
      RightParen,
      // Comma for parameter separation
      #[token(",")]
      Comma,
      // Functions
      #[token("@contains")]
      Contains,
      #[token("@startswith")]
      Starts,
      #[token("@inflection")]
      Inflection,
      #[token("@thesaurus")]
      Thesaurus,
67
      #[token("@near")]
     Near,
      #[token("@weighted")]
      Weighted,
71
      // Colon to surround functions parameters
      #[token(":")]
73
     Colon,
74
     // End of File
75
      EoF,
76
      // Error and skip whitespaces
77
      #[error]
78
      \#[regex(r"[\s\t\n\f]+", logos::skip)]
      Error,
80
 }
81
 // Enable tokens to be casted as strings
84 impl Into<String> for Token {
      fn into(self) -> String {
85
          match self {
              Token::WordOrPhrase(s) => s,
87
              _ => unreachable!(),
          }
      }
```

Appendix 4: parser.rs

```
use std::slice::Iter;
2 use thiserror::Error;
4 use crate::code_gen::ast::*;
s use crate::code_gen::lexer::Token;
7 // Main function to start parsing process
8 // Input: vec of tokens
9 // Ouput: abstract syntax tree (vec of statements)
pub fn parse(tokens: Vec<Token>) -> Result<Vec<Statement>,
    ParseError> {
     let mut parser = Parser::new(tokens.iter());
11
     // read twice to overwrite intial EoF tokens
12
     parser.read();
13
     parser.read();
14
      let mut ast: Vec<Statement> = Vec::new();
15
     while let Some(statement) = parser.next()? {
16
          ast.push(statement);
17
18
     Ok (ast)
19
20 }
22 // Precedence to enable priorities between operators
23 // Example: this OR that AND some (AND should have a higher
    priority)
24 #[derive(Debug, Clone, PartialEq, PartialOrd)]
 enum Precedence {
     Lowest,
26
      Statement,
27
     Or,
28
     And,
29
     Not,
30
     Prefix,
31
     Group,
32
33 }
35 // Match tokens to precedences
36 impl Precedence {
```

```
fn token(token: Token) -> Self {
          match token {
              Token::Bang | Token::Minus => Self::Not,
              Token::Plus | Token::And | Token::WordOrPhrase(..)
                 => Self::And,
              Token::Or => Self::Or,
              Token::LeftParen => Self::Group,
              Token::Contains
43
              | Token::Starts
              | Token::Inflection
45
              | Token::Thesaurus
              | Token::Near
47
              | Token::Weighted => Self::Statement,
              _ => Self::Lowest,
          }
50
      }
51
52 }
54 // Parser saves current and next tokens as attribute
55 struct Parser<'p> {
     tokens: Iter<'p, Token>,
     current: Token,
57
     peek: Token,
59
 impl<'p> Parser<'p> {
     // Initial parser creation
62
      fn new(tokens: Iter<'p, Token>) -> Self {
          Self {
              tokens,
65
              current: Token::EoF,
              peek: Token::EoF,
67
      }
69
70
     // Parse next statement if possible
71
     // Output: statement or error
72
     fn next(&mut self) -> Result<Option<Statement>, ParseError>
73
          {
          if self.current == Token::EoF {
```

```
return Ok (None);
           }
76
           Ok (Some (self.parse_statement (Precedence::Lowest)?))
77
      }
78
      // Set current and peek one step further in the vec of
          tokens
      fn read(&mut self) {
81
           self.current = self.peek.clone();
           self.peek = if let Some(token) = self.tokens.next() {
               token.clone()
           } else {
               Token::EoF
           };
87
      }
88
89
      // See what the current token is
90
      // Output: boolean
91
      fn current_is(&self, token: Token) -> bool {
92
           std::mem::discriminant(&self.current) == std::mem::
93
              discriminant(&token)
      }
94
95
      // Current token should match the one given
96
      // Input: token
97
      // Output: token or error
98
      fn expect_token(&mut self, token: Token) -> Result<Token,</pre>
99
         ParseError> {
           if self.current_is(token) {
100
               Ok(self.current.clone())
101
           } else {
102
               Err (ParseError::UnexpectedToken(self.current.clone
103
                   ()))
104
      }
105
106
      // Current token should match the one given and read to
107
          next token
      // Input: token
108
      // Output: token or error
109
```

```
fn expect_token_and_read(&mut self, token: Token) -> Result
110
          <Token, ParseError> {
           let result = self.expect_token(token)?;
111
           self.read();
           Ok (result)
      }
      // Parse statement, can only be a function or combination
116
          of functions
      // Input: precedence
117
      // Output: statement or error
118
      fn parse_statement(&mut self, precedence: Precedence) ->
          Result < Statement, ParseError > {
           let mut statement = match self.current.clone() {
120
               Token::Contains => Statement::Contains {
121
                    expression: self.parse_contains()?,
122
               },
123
               Token::Starts => Statement::Starts {
124
                    expression: self.parse_starts()?,
125
               },
126
               Token::Inflection => Statement::Inflection {
127
                    expression: self.parse_inflection()?,
128
               },
129
               Token::Thesaurus => Statement::Thesaurus {
130
                    expression: self.parse_thesaurus()?,
131
               },
132
               Token::Near => {
133
                    let (parameter, proximity) = self.parse_near()
134
                       ?;
                    Statement::Near {
135
                        parameter,
136
                        proximity,
137
138
               }
139
               Token::Weighted => Statement::Weighted {
140
                    parameter: self.parse_weighted()?,
141
               },
142
                _ => return Err(ParseError::UnexpectedToken(self.
143
                   current.clone())),
           };
144
```

```
// After a function could be an infix operator
145
           while !self.current_is(Token::EoF) && precedence <</pre>
              Precedence::token(self.current.clone()) {
               if let Some(in_statement) = self.
147
                  parse_infix_statement(statement.clone())? {
                    statement = in_statement
148
               } else {
                   break;
150
               }
151
152
           Ok (statement)
153
      }
154
155
      // Parse expression, could be a search term, number,
156
          operator or combination of epxressions
      fn parse_expression(&mut self, precedence: Precedence) ->
157
          Result<Expression, ParseError> {
           let mut expr = match self.current.clone() {
158
               Token::WordOrPhrase(s) => {
159
                    self.expect_token_and_read(Token::WordOrPhrase(
160
                       "".to_string()))?;
                   Expression::WordOrPhrase(s.to_string())
161
               }
162
               Token::Number(u) => {
163
                    self.expect_token_and_read(Token::Number(0))?;
164
                   Expression::Number(u)
165
               }
166
               Token::ZeroToOne(f) => {
167
                    self.expect_token_and_read(Token::ZeroToOne
168
                       (0.0))?;
                   Expression::ZeroToOne(f)
169
170
               t @ Token::Minus | t @ Token::Bang => {
171
                    self.expect_token_and_read(t.clone())?;
172
                   Expression::Prefix(
173
                        Operator::token(t),
174
                        Box::new(self.parse_expression(Precedence::
175
                           Prefix)?),
                    )
176
               }
177
```

```
// Start a group which gets higher precedence
178
               Token::LeftParen => {
179
                    let group_expression = match self.parse_group()
180
                        Statement::Group { expression } =>
181
                           expression,
                        _ => return Err(ParseError::Unreachable),
182
                    };
183
                    group_expression
184
185
                 => return Err(ParseError::UnexpectedToken(self.
186
                   current.clone())),
           };
187
           // Afer an expression could be an infix operator or
              directly a new expression (here called postfix
              operator)
           while !self.current_is(Token::EoF) && precedence <</pre>
189
              Precedence::token(self.current.clone()) {
               if let Some (expression) = self.
190
                   parse_postfix_expression(expr.clone())? {
                    expr = expression;
191
               } else if let Some(expression) = self.
192
                   parse_infix_expression(expr.clone())? {
                    expr = expression
193
               } else {
194
                    break;
195
196
197
           Ok (expr)
198
       }
199
200
       // Postfix operator is called when two expressions are read
201
          , automatically inserting an AND inbetween
       // Second Expression could have an NOT operator before the
202
          actual expression
       fn parse_postfix_expression(
203
           &mut self,
204
           expr: Expression,
205
       ) -> Result<Option<Expression>, ParseError> {
206
           Ok (match self.current {
207
```

```
Token::Minus | Token::Bang | Token::WordOrPhrase
                    (..) => {
                    let sec_expr = self.parse_expression(Precedence
                        :: And) ?;
                    Some (Expression::Infix(
210
                         Box::new(expr),
                         Operator::And,
212
                         Box::new(sec_expr),
213
                    ))
214
                }
215
                _ => None,
216
           })
217
       }
218
       // Infix operators AND and OR expect an expression on
220
          either side
       fn parse_infix_expression(
221
           &mut self,
222
           expr: Expression,
223
       ) -> Result<Option<Expression>, ParseError> {
224
           Ok (match self.current {
225
                Token::Plus | Token::And | Token::Or => {
226
                    let token = self.current.clone();
227
                    self.read();
228
                    let sec_expr = self.parse_expression(Precedence
229
                        ::token(token.clone()))?;
                    Some (Expression::Infix(
230
                         Box::new(expr),
231
                         Operator::token(token),
232
                         Box::new(sec_expr),
233
                    ))
234
235
                  => None,
236
           })
237
       }
238
239
       // Infix operators AND and OR expect a statement on either
240
          side
       fn parse_infix_statement(
241
           &mut self,
242
```

```
statement: Statement,
243
       ) -> Result<Option<Statement>, ParseError> {
           Ok (match self.current {
245
               Token::Plus | Token::And | Token::Or => {
                    let token = self.current.clone();
                    self.read();
                    let second_statement = self.parse_statement(
                       Precedence::token(token.clone()))?;
                    Some (Statement::Infix {
250
                        statement: Box::new(statement),
251
                        operator: Operator::token(token),
252
                        second_statement: Box::new(second_statement
253
                           ),
                    })
254
255
                 => None,
256
           })
257
       }
258
259
       // Functions all have a similar strucure needing colons to
260
          surround their parameters
261
       // Contains function only expects one word or phrase or
262
          combination of expressions
       fn parse_contains(&mut self) -> Result<Expression,</pre>
263
          ParseError> {
           self.expect_token_and_read(Token::Contains)?;
264
           self.expect_token_and_read(Token::Colon)?;
265
           let expression: Expression = self.parse_expression(
266
              Precedence::Statement)?;
           self.expect_token_and_read(Token::Colon)?;
267
           Ok (expression)
268
       }
269
270
       // Startswith function only expects one one word or phrase
271
          or combination of expressions
      fn parse_starts(&mut self) -> Result<Expression, ParseError</pre>
272
          > {
           self.expect_token_and_read(Token::Starts)?;
273
           self.expect_token_and_read(Token::Colon)?;
274
```

```
let expression: Expression = self.parse_expression(
275
              Precedence::Statement)?;
           self.expect_token_and_read(Token::Colon)?;
276
           Ok (expression)
277
278
279
      // Inflection function only expects one one word or phrase
          or combination of expressions
      fn parse_inflection(&mut self) -> Result<Expression,</pre>
281
          ParseError> {
           self.expect_token_and_read(Token::Inflection)?;
282
           self.expect_token_and_read(Token::Colon)?;
           let expression: Expression = self.parse_expression(
284
              Precedence::Statement)?;
           self.expect_token_and_read(Token::Colon)?;
285
           Ok (expression)
286
      }
287
288
      // Thesaurus function only expects one one word or phrase
289
          or combination of expressions
      fn parse_thesaurus(&mut self) -> Result<Expression,</pre>
          ParseError> {
           self.expect_token_and_read(Token::Thesaurus)?;
291
           self.expect_token_and_read(Token::Colon)?;
292
           let expression: Expression = self.parse_expression(
293
              Precedence::Statement)?;
           self.expect_token_and_read(Token::Colon)?;
294
           Ok (expression)
295
      }
296
297
      // Near function expects multiple comma-seperated words or
298
          phrases with an optional number as the last parameter
      fn parse_near(&mut self) -> Result<(Vec<Expression>,
299
          Expression), ParseError> {
           self.expect_token_and_read(Token::Near)?;
300
           self.expect_token_and_read(Token::Colon)?;
301
           let mut parameter: Vec<Expression> = Vec::new();
302
           // Proximity has a default value of 5 if no number is
303
              given
           let mut proximity = Expression::Number(5);
304
```

```
while !self.current_is(Token::Colon) {
               if self.current_is(Token::Comma) {
                    self.expect_token_and_read(Token::Comma)?;
307
               match self.parse_expression(Precedence::Lowest)? {
                   Expression::WordOrPhrase(s) => parameter.push(
                       Expression::WordOrPhrase(s)),
                   Expression::Number(u) => {
311
                        if self.current_is(Token::Colon) {
312
                            proximity = Expression::Number(u)
313
                        } else {
314
                            return Err(ParseError::UnexpectedToken(
                               self.current.clone());
                        }
316
317
                     => return Err(ParseError::UnexpectedToken(
318
                       self.current.clone())),
               }
319
320
           self.expect_token_and_read(Token::Colon)?;
321
           Ok((parameter, proximity))
322
      }
323
324
      // Weighted function expects pairs of words or phrases and
325
          a weight between 0 and 1
      // All weights must add up to exactly 1
326
      fn parse_weighted(&mut self) -> Result<Vec<(Expression,</pre>
327
          Expression)>, ParseError> {
           self.expect_token_and_read(Token::Weighted)?;
328
           self.expect_token_and_read(Token::Colon)?;
329
           let mut parameter: Vec<(Expression, Expression)> = Vec
330
              ::new();
           let mut sum_weights: f64 = 0.0;
331
           while !self.current_is(Token::Colon) {
332
               if self.current_is(Token::Comma) {
333
                   self.expect_token_and_read(Token::Comma)?;
334
335
               let expression = match self.parse_expression(
336
                  Precedence::Lowest)? {
```

```
Expression::WordOrPhrase(s) => Expression::
337
                       WordOrPhrase(s),
                    _ => return Err(ParseError::UnexpectedToken(
338
                       self.current.clone())),
               };
               self.expect_token_and_read(Token::Comma)?;
               let weight = match self.parse_expression(Precedence
341
                  ::Lowest)? {
                   Expression::ZeroToOne(f) => {
342
                        sum_weights += f;
                        Expression::ZeroToOne(f)
                    _ => return Err(ParseError::UnexpectedToken(
                       self.current.clone())),
               };
347
               parameter.push((expression, weight));
348
           }
349
           if sum_weights != 1.0 {
350
               return Err(ParseError::WeightError(sum_weights));
351
352
           self.expect_token_and_read(Token::Colon)?;
353
           Ok (parameter)
354
      }
355
356
      // Groups must encapsulate an expression with parentheses
357
          and have higher precedence then other operators
      fn parse_group(&mut self) -> Result<Statement, ParseError>
358
           self.expect_token_and_read(Token::LeftParen)?;
350
           let expression = self.parse_expression(Precedence::
360
              Statement)?;
           self.expect_token_and_read(Token::RightParen)?;
361
           Ok(Statement::Group { expression })
362
      }
363
  }
364
365
366 // Types of errors covered by the parser
367 #[derive(Debug, Error)]
368 pub enum ParseError {
      #[error("Unexpected token {0:?}.")]
```

Appendix 5: ast.rs

```
use crate::code_gen::lexer::Token;
 #[derive(Debug, Clone, PartialEq)]
 pub enum Statement {
      Group {
          expression: Expression,
      },
      Infix {
          statement: Box<Statement>,
          operator: Operator,
10
          second_statement: Box<Statement>,
      },
12
      Contains {
13
          expression: Expression,
      } ,
15
      Starts {
16
          expression: Expression,
17
      },
18
      Inflection {
19
          expression: Expression,
20
      } ,
21
      Thesaurus {
22
          expression: Expression,
23
      },
24
      Near {
25
          parameter: Vec<Expression>,
          proximity: Expression,
27
      } ,
28
      Weighted {
29
```

```
parameter: Vec<(Expression, Expression)>,
      },
      EoF,
33
 #[derive(Debug, Clone, PartialEq)]
 pub enum Expression {
     WordOrPhrase (String),
37
     Number (u64),
38
     ZeroToOne(f64),
39
      Infix(Box<Expression>, Operator, Box<Expression>),
     Prefix(Operator, Box<Expression>),
41
42
43
 #[derive(Debug, Clone, PartialEq)]
45 pub enum Operator {
     And,
     Or,
47
     Not,
49
 impl Operator {
51
     pub fn token(token: Token) -> Self {
52
          match token {
              Token::And | Token::Plus => Self::And,
              Token::Or => Self::Or,
              Token::Minus | Token::Bang => Self::Not,
              _ => unreachable!("{:?}", token),
57
          }
58
      }
59
60 }
```

Appendix 6: generator.rs

```
use std::slice::Iter;
use thiserror::Error;

use crate::code_gen::ast::{Expression, Operator, Statement};
```

```
6 // Database constants
7 const DB_NAME: &str = "Wikipedia";
8 const TBL_NAME: &str = "[dbo].[Article]";
9 const RETURN_ATTRIBUTE: &str = "Title";
10 const TOP_ROWS: u64 = 5;
12 // Main function to start the generation process
13 // Input: vec of statements (ast)
14 // Output: string (sql statement)
pub fn generate(ast: Vec<Statement>) -> Result<String,
    GenerateError> {
      let mut generator = Generator::new(ast.iter());
      // write twice to overwrite initial EoF statements
     generator.write();
      generator.write();
19
      let mut sql_parts: Vec<String> = Vec::new();
20
      sql_parts.push(format!(
21
          "USE {}; SELECT TOP {} * FROM(SELECT FT_TBL.{}, KEY_TBL
             .RANK FROM {} AS FT_TBL INNER JOIN CONTAINSTABLE({},
              *, '",
          DB_NAME, TOP_ROWS, RETURN_ATTRIBUTE, TBL_NAME, TBL_NAME
      ));
24
      // generate all functions as JOIN constraints
25
      while let Some(sql_part) = generator.next()? {
26
          sql_parts.push(sql_part);
27
28
      sql_parts.push("') AS KEY_TBL ON FT_TBL.[ID] = KEY_TBL.[KEY
         ] WHERE KEY_TBL.RANK > 5) AS FS_RESULT ORDER BY
         FS_RESULT.RANK DESC; ".to_owned());
     Ok(sql_parts.join(" "))
30
31 }
33 // Generator struct with current and next statements as
    attributes
34 struct Generator<'p> {
      statements: Iter<'p, Statement>,
35
     current: Statement,
36
     peek: Statement,
37
38 }
39
```

```
40 impl<'p> Generator<'p> {
      // Initial generator creation
      fn new(statements: Iter<'p, Statement>) -> Self {
          Self {
              statements,
              current: Statement::EoF,
              peek: Statement::EoF,
47
      }
48
49
      // Generate next statement if possible
50
      fn next(&mut self) -> Result<Option<String>, GenerateError>
51
          {
          if self.current == Statement::EoF {
              return Ok (None);
          }
54
          Ok (Some (self.generate_statement (self.current.clone())?)
55
             )
      }
56
57
      // Set current and peek one step further in the ast
      fn write(&mut self) {
59
          self.current = self.peek.clone();
          self.peek = if let Some(statement) = self.statements.
61
             next() {
              statement.clone()
62
          } else {
63
              Statement::EoF
64
          } ;
65
      }
66
67
      // Generate statement, always a function or combination of
68
         functions
      // Input: statement to generate
69
      // Output: string
70
      fn generate_statement(&mut self, statement: Statement) ->
71
         Result<String, GenerateError> {
          let sql: String = match statement {
72
              Statement::Infix {
                   statement,
```

```
operator,
                   second_statement,
76
              } => {
                  let sql_parts = [
78
                       self.generate_statement(*statement)?,
                       self.generate_operator(operator)?,
                       self.generate_statement(*second_statement)
                          ?,
                  ];
                   sql_parts.join(" ")
              // Contains generates it's search condition without
                  mutation
              Statement::Contains { expression } => {
                   format!("{}", self.generate_expression(
87
                      expression)?)
              }
              // Startswith adds a * to end of a word or before
                 the last " in a phrase
              Statement::Starts { expression } => {
                  let mut word_or_phrase = self.
                      generate_expression(expression)?;
                  if word_or_phrase.starts_with('"') &&
92
                      word_or_phrase.ends_with('"') {
                       word_or_phrase.insert(word_or_phrase.len()
93
                          - 1, '*');
                   } else {
                       word_or_phrase.push('*');
95
                  format!("{}", word_or_phrase)
97
98
              // Inflection calls the inflection function from
99
                 MSSQL
              Statement::Inflection { expression } => {
100
                  let mut word_or_phrase = self.
101
                      generate_expression(expression)?;
                  if word_or_phrase.starts_with('"') &&
102
                      word_or_phrase.ends_with('"') {
                       word_or_phrase.remove(0);
103
```

```
word_or_phrase.remove(word_or_phrase.len()
104
                           - 1);
105
                   format!("FORMSOF(INFLECTIONAL, \"{}\")",
                       word_or_phrase)
107
               // Thesaurus calls the thesaurus function from
                  MSSOL
               Statement::Thesaurus { expression } => {
109
                   let mut word_or_phrase = self.
                       generate_expression(expression)?;
                   if word_or_phrase.starts_with('"') &&
111
                       word_or_phrase.ends_with('"') {
                        word_or_phrase.remove(0);
112
                        word_or_phrase.remove(word_or_phrase.len()
113
                           - 1);
                    }
114
                   format!("FORMSOF(THESAURUS, \"{}\")",
115
                       word_or_phrase)
116
               // Near generates a parameter list of all search
117
                  criteria and proximity in the end
               Statement::Near {
118
                   parameter,
119
                   proximity,
120
               } => {
121
                   let mut sql_parts: Vec<String> = Vec::new();
122
                   sql_parts.push(format!("NEAR(("));
123
                   for expression in parameter {
124
                        let string = self.generate_expression(
125
                           expression)?;
                        sql_parts.push(format!("{}", string));
126
                        sql_parts.push(String::from(", "));
127
                    }
128
                   sql_parts.remove(sql_parts.len() - 1);
129
                   sql_parts.push(format!("), {})", self.
130
                       generate_expression(proximity)?));
                   sql_parts.join("")
131
               }
132
```

```
// Weighted generates tuples of search criteria and
133
                   their respective weight
               Statement::Weighted { parameter } => {
134
                   let mut sql_parts: Vec<String> = Vec::new();
135
                   sql_parts.push(format!("ISABOUT("));
                   for (word_or_phrase_expr, weight_expr) in
137
                      parameter {
                       let word_or_phrase = self.
138
                           generate_expression(word_or_phrase_expr)
                           ?;
                       let weight = self.generate_expression(
139
                           weight_expr)?;
                       sql_parts.push(format!("{} WEIGHT({}))",
140
                           word_or_phrase, weight));
                       sql_parts.push(String::from(", "));
141
142
                   sql_parts.remove(sql_parts.len() - 1);
143
                   sql_parts.push(String::from(")"));
                   sql_parts.join("")
145
                => return Err(GenerateError::UnexpectedStatement(
147
                  self.current.clone())),
          };
148
          self.write();
149
          Ok (sql)
150
      }
151
152
      // Generate expression, any search criteria or number or
153
         combination of those
      // Input: expression to generate
154
      // Output: string
155
      fn generate_expression(&mut self, expression: Expression)
156
         -> Result<String, GenerateError> {
          let sql: String = match expression {
157
               Expression::WordOrPhrase(s) => s,
158
               Expression::Number(u) => u.to_string(),
159
               Expression::ZeroToOne(f) => f.to_string(),
160
               // Infix operator enclose their expressions with
161
                  parentheses to ensure precedence
               Expression::Infix(expr1, operator, expr2) => {
162
```

```
let mut sql_parts = [
163
                        String::from("("),
164
                        self.generate_expression(*expr1)?,
                        String::from(")"),
                        self.generate_operator(operator)?,
                        String::from("("),
168
                        self.generate_expression(*expr2.clone())?,
                        String::from(")"),
170
                    ];
171
                    // If the second expression is a not operator
172
                       it must write NOT before the parenthesis
                    match *expr2 {
173
                        Expression::Prefix(Operator::Not, ..) =>
174
                           sql_parts[4] = String::from("NOT ("),
                        => (),
175
                    }
176
                    sql_parts.join(" ")
177
178
               Expression::Prefix(operator, expr) => {
179
                    let sql_parts = [
                        self.generate_operator(operator)?,
181
                        self.generate_expression(*expr)?,
182
                    ];
183
                    sql_parts.join(" ")
184
               }
185
           };
186
           Ok (sql)
187
      }
188
189
      // Generate operator
190
      // Input: operator to generate
191
      // Output: string
192
      fn generate_operator(&mut self, operator: Operator) ->
193
          Result<String, GenerateError> {
           let op = match operator {
194
               Operator::And => "AND",
195
               Operator::Or => "OR",
196
               // has to be set infront of parentheses, see
197
                   generate_expression for infix
               Operator::Not => "",
198
```

Appendix 7: mod.rs

```
mod ast;
pub mod generator;
pub mod lexer;
pub mod parser;
```

Appendix 8: base.html

Appendix 9: search.html

```
1 {% extends "base.html" %}
2
3 {% block content %}
```

Appendix 10: result.html

Appendix 11: convert_wiki_to_csv.py

```
from lxml import etree
from glob import glob
import bz2
import codecs
import csv
import time
import os

PATH_WIKI_XML = "path redacted"

FILENAME_ARTICLES = "articles.csv"
```

```
def hms_string(sec_elapsed):
     h = int(sec\_elapsed / (60 * 60))
     m = int((sec_elapsed % (60 * 60)) / 60)
      s = sec\_elapsed % 60
      return "{}:{:>02}:{:>05.2f}".format(h, m, s)
 def get_parser(filename):
      ns_token = "{http://www.mediawiki.org/xml/export-0.10/}ns"
21
     title_token = "{http://www.mediawiki.org/xml/export-0.10/}
22
         title"
     revision_token = "{http://www.mediawiki.org/xml/export
23
         -0.10/}revision"
      text_token = "{http://www.mediawiki.org/xml/export-0.10/}
24
         text"
25
     with bz2.BZ2File(filename, "rb") as bz2_file:
26
          for event, element in etree.iterparse(bz2_file, events
27
             =("end",)):
              if element.tag.endswith("page"):
                  namespace_tag = element.find(ns_token)
29
                  if namespace_tag.text == "0":
31
                      title_tag = element.find(title_token)
                      text_tag = element.find(revision_token).
33
                          find(text_token)
                      yield title_tag.text, text_tag.text
34
35
                  element.clear()
36
37
39 def pluck_wikipedia_titles_text(
      out_file, pattern="enwiki-*-pages-articles-multistream*.xml
40
         -*.bz2"
41 ):
     totalCount = 0
42
      longestTitle = 0
43
      longestText = 0
44
      with codecs.open(out_file, "a+b", "utf8") as out_file:
45
```

```
writer = csv.writer(out_file)
          for bz2_filename in sorted(
47
              glob(pattern),
              key=lambda a: int(a.split("articles-multistream")
                 [1].split(".")[0]),
          ):
50
              print (bz2_filename)
              parser = get_parser(bz2_filename)
              for title, text in parser:
53
                  if not (text.startswith("#REDIRECT") or text.
                     startswith("#redirect")):
                      totalCount += 1
                      writer.writerow([title, text])
                      longestTitle = (
                          len(title) if len(title) > longestTitle
58
                               else longestTitle
                      longestText = len(text) if len(text) >
                         longestText else longestText
                      if totalCount % 100000 == 0:
61
                          print("{:,}".format(totalCount))
     print(
63
          f"Total Count: {totalCount}\nLongest Title: {
64
             longestTitle}\nLongest Text: {longestText}"
     )
65
66
68 pathArticles = os.path.join(PATH_WIKI_XML, FILENAME_ARTICLES)
70 start_time = time.time()
pluck_wikipedia_titles_text(pathArticles)
74 time_took = time.time() - start_time
print(f"Total runtime: {hms_string(time_took)}")
```

Appendix 12: create_article.sql

```
CREATE TABLE [dbo].[Article](
```

```
[id] [int] IDENTITY(1, 1) NOT NULL,
[Title] [varchar](255) NULL,
[Text] [varchar](max) NULL
[Text] [varchar]
```

Appendix 13: create_view.sql

Appendix 14: bulk_insert.sql

```
BULK
INSERT [dbo].[Article_insert]
FROM 'path redacted' WITH (

FIRSTROW = 1,

FIELDQUOTE = '\'

FIELDTERMINATOR = '\'

ROWTERMINATOR = '\n',

TABLOCK);
```

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