

MongoDB practical session

Ecole Centrale de Lyon, January 2026, Előd Egyed-Zsigmond

Part 1. Lab tools :

- **MongoDB server** Community, v8.x (**download the package zip on Windows or tgz on MacOS/Linux**) : <https://www.mongodb.com/try/download/community> .
- **MongoDB Shell** (a command-line tool for connecting to the database): Download the ZIP package for Windows or the TGZ package for macOS/Linux from <https://www.mongodb.com/try/download/shell> .
- **MongoDB Database Tools**: Used for loading data (download the ZIP version), available from <https://www.mongodb.com/try/download/database-tools>.
- A **code editor** for writing non-autocorrecting code (e.g., Notepad++, Sublime Text, VS Code, Emacs, Notepad, Eclipse, etc.). Avoid text editors like MS Word, LibreOffice, or Google Docs that may modify your text without informing you.
- The **MongoDB client**: Studio 3T Free, downloadable from <https://studio3t.com/download-studio3t-free>.

Preparation

You will need at least two command line prompts (invite de commande (Windows), Terminal (MacOS), Bash (Linux)) .

Install the server (follow the instructions below), Start the server and let it run. Install the client and test your connection. Import the data from the `velov_geo.json` file provided with the lab statement. You can start answering the questions.

A. Installing and Launching the MongoDB Server

Install the MongoDB Server

- Download the MongoDB server from the link provided earlier (zip archive).
- Unzip the archive
- Note the installation directory (referred to as `MongoDBServerHome`).
- Unzip the server archive to the `MongoDBServerHome`
- Eventually refer to the [official installation documentation](#) for detailed steps.

Create a Data Directory

- Set up a directory to store MongoDB data. Typically, use `C:\data\db`.
- This directory is referred to as `MongoDBDataDir`.

Start the MongoDB Server from the Command Line

- Detailed instructions are available in the [official guide](#).

Steps to Run MongoDB:

a. On Windows, open a Command Prompt:

- o Press Windows + R, type cmd, and press Enter.

On MacOS or Linux open a Terminal.

b. Navigate to the bin directory inside the MongoDB installation folder (MongoDBServerHome\bin) by using the cd command:

```
cd <MongoDBServerHome>\bin
```

(Replace <MongoDBServerHome> with the actual installation directory path.)

c. Start the MongoDB server by typing:

```
mongod --dbpath "MongoDBDataDir"
```

(Replace "MongoDBDataDir" with the path to your MongoDB data directory created in step 2.)

d. JSON-formatted messages will appear in the Command Prompt. The last message should end with something like:

```
... "ctx": "listener", "msg": "Waiting for connections", "attr": {"port": 27017, "ssl": "off"}}
```

e. The MongoDB server is now running locally and is listening for connections on port **27017**.

Connecting to the MongoDB Server and Creating the Database for Practice

Steps to Connect and Create the Database

Install the MongoDB client

- o Download the MongoDB client from the link provided earlier (zip archive).
- o Unzip the client to a directory noted MongoDBClientHome

Open a New Command Prompt

- o Press Windows + R, type cmd, and press Enter.

Navigate to the MongoDB bin Directory

- o Unzip the MongoDB zip package In the Command Prompt, move to the bin directory inside the MongoDB installation folder (MongoDBClientHome\bin) using the cd command:
- o cd < MongoDBClientHome >\bin

(Replace < MongoDBClientHome > with the actual installation directory path.)

Launch the MongoDB Client

- Start the MongoDB client by typing:
- `mongosh`
- After a few messages, a prompt with the `>` symbol will appear, indicating that you are connected to the MongoDB server.

Create the Database

- At the `>` prompt, create the database for the practice session by typing:
- `use mongoLab`
- The output will confirm that you have switched to the database `mongoLab`. If the database does not already exist, this command will create it.

You are now connected to the MongoDB server and have successfully created the `mongoLab` database.

Populating the Database

Steps to Import Data into the MongoDB Database

1. Unzip MongoDB Database Tools

- Extract the ZIP file containing the MongoDB Database Tools.

2. Move the `mongoimport` Executable

- Locate the `mongoimport.exe` file (or its equivalent for your OS) in the unzipped tools folder.
- Move it to the `MongoDBServerHome\bin` directory, where `mongod.exe` is located.

3. Copy the Data File

- Copy the `velov_geo.json` file from the TP archive into the `MongoDBServerHome\bin` directory.
- This file contains JSON documents describing the Vélo’V stations. *(These data were available on the [Grand Lyon data site](#) on January 11, 2021, under [this dataset](#).)*

4. Open a New Command Prompt

- Press `Windows + R`, type `cmd`, and press `Enter`.
- Navigate to the `MongoDBServerHome\bin` directory:
- `cd <MongoDBServerHome>\bin`

5. Ensure Required Files Are in Place

- Verify that both the `mongoimport` executable and the `velov_geo.json` file are in the `MongoDBServerHome\bin` directory.

6. Run the Data Import Command

- From the Command Prompt (not the MongoDB client), execute the following command to import the data:

```
mongoimport --db mongoLab --collection velov_geo --file
"velov_geo.json"
```

- This command will:
 - Create the `mongoLab` database if it does not already exist.
 - Create the `velov_geo` collection.
 - Insert the documents from the `velov_geo.json` file into the collection.
- **Note:**

- You can run `mongoimport` from any location if its path is added to your system's `PATH` environment variable.
- Ensure the `--file` parameter points to the full path of the JSON file if it is not in the current directory.

7. Verify the Data Import

- Open the MongoDB client (`mongosh`) as described earlier.
- Switch to the `mongoLab` database:
- `use mongoLab`
- List the imported data using the command:
- `db.velov_geo.find().pretty()`
- You should see JSON documents with Vélo’V station information displayed, along with the message:
- Type `"it"` for more

8. Database Creation and Population Complete

- Your `mongoLab` database is now fully created and populated with the `velov_geo` collection containing the Vélo’V station data.