

# 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 TGT 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:

- 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 MongoShell client**

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

**Open a New Command Prompt**

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

**Navigate to the MongoDB bin Directory**

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