LINGI2172 Databases
May 4, 2020 Neo4J: Cypher

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The aim of the fourth project is to gain an understanding of the additional possibilities and conveniences that graph databases may offer.

The deadline of the project is **Monday May 18, 2020**. Submission will take place using the INGInious interface. Your submission will need to be individual.

## Instructions

In this project, you are given a subset of the relations in the mondial database that was used in the first project, consisting only of countries, continents, and their links to each other. Using these links, a graph can be constructed in which country nodes are connected to each other if there is a border between them, and in which there is an edge between a country and a continent if the country is located in the continent.

You will need to create this graph in a Neo4J database, and subsequently run a number of Cypher queries on it.

To prepare your database, you need to follow these steps.

- 1. Go to the following website: https://neo4j.com/download/other-releases/ and download the **community server** version of Neo4J for your operating system. In the instructions below, we assume you have downloaded a .tar version of Neo4J 3.5.17 for either Linux or Mac.
- 2. Extract Neo4J in a folder of your choice. In the instructions below, we assume that this is the folder ~/neo4j.
- 3. Within this folder, you will find a folder called bin, within which an executable neo4j is contained. Open a console and go to the folder containing Neo4J using the command cd ~/neo4j/bin/. Start the executable using the command ./neo4j start. If neo4j started successfully, you will see a line such as this in the terminal:

```
Started neo4j (pid 6834). It is available at http://localhost:7474/
Copy and paste the given URL (most likely http://localhost:7474/) in your webbrowser.
```

- 4. You will be presented a login screen. Use the string neo4j both as username and as password. At this moment, you should be presented with an interface in which you can enter Cypher queries.
- 5. To import the mondial database, download mondial-csv.zip from Moodle, and extract it to a location of your choice. This zip file contains .csv files that we will import into Neo4J.
- 6. In order to import these files into Neo4J, copy or move all .csv files into the import folder of Neo4J. If you installed Neo4J in the folder ~/neo4j, this is the folder ~/neo4j/import.
- 7. Execute the following Cypher queries one after the other to create the graph:

```
LOAD CSV WITH HEADERS FROM "file:/country.csv" AS row CREATE (:Country { code: row.code, name: row.name });
LOAD CSV WITH HEADERS FROM "file:/borders.csv" AS row
```

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```
MATCH (c1:Country { code: row.country1 }), (c2:Country { code: row.country2 })
CREATE (c1)-[:Borders]->(c2);

LOAD CSV WITH HEADERS FROM "file:/continent.csv" AS row
CREATE (:Continent { name: row.name });

LOAD CSV WITH HEADERS FROM "file:/encompasses.csv" AS row
MATCH (cn:Continent { name: row.continent} ), (cy:Country { code: row.country })
CREATE (cn)-[:Encompasses { percentage: row.percentage }]->(cy);
```

Consider running the following query after each step to see how the graph is constructed:

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```
MATCH (p) RETURN p;
```

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Once you have created this graph, you are required to write Cypher queries for the tasks described below.

Note that for some of these queries, you will require notation that was not discussed during the lectures! You will find some tips & tricks in the Appendix of this exercise. For more information on Cypher queries you may also consult the online documentation.

- 1. List the full names of countries that border Poland and are 100% located in Europe.
- 2. List the pairs of countries that neighbor Russia, and that are also neighbors of each other. Provide the full names of both countries; only list the pairs in which the first name of the pair is strictly lower than the second name in the pair.
- 3. Provide the full names of all countries that are 100% located in Europe, but that border a country located (not, or not entirely located) in Europe.
- 4. Provide the full names of all countries that can be reached in at most two steps from the United States, excluding the United States itself. Make sure to include every country in the output only once.

Note: we also asked this question in the first project! It is instructive to also consider the query you wrote in that project.

- 5. List the number of neighboring countries for every country in Europe (i.e., this is the *degree* of every country in Europe, when only considering the Borders relation). Provide for each country the full name, and its degree. Sort the output in decreasing order of degree.
- 6. Find the country with the largest number of neighbors; if there are multiple such countries, it is allowed to break ties arbitrarily; provide the full name and the number of neighbors.
- 7. Determine the shortest path from Belgium to China; provide the complete path, that is, all nodes and edges on this path, starting from Belgium and ending in China.
- 8. Find the country which has the longest shortest path to Belgium; provide the full name of this country.

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9. Luxembourg is in a specific topographic situation: it has exactly three neighboring countries (Belgium, Germany, and France), each of which are pairwise neighbors of each other as well. As a result, Luxembourg is surrounded by exactly three countries. List the full names of all countries that are in a similar situation as Luxembourg.

Note: we also asked this question in the first project! It is instructive to also consider the query you wrote in that project.

10. List all countries in Europe for which there is no path of length in between 1 and 3 to a country (partially) located in Asia.

## Tips & Tricks

1. If you wish to eliminate distinct nodes/tuples from the output of a Cypher query, Cypher also supports the keyword DISTINCT:

```
MATCH (p) RETURN DISTINCT p.name;
```

2. If you wish to order the results of a query, the ORDER BY notation can be used:

```
MATCH (p) RETURN p.name ORDER BY p.name DESC;
```

3. If you wish to limit the number of tuples in the output of a query, the LIMIT notation can be used:

```
MATCH (p) RETURN p.name ORDER BY p.name DESC LIMIT 3;
```

4. To calculate the degree of a node, a WITH statement can be used:

```
MATCH (c:Country {name:"Belgium"})
WITH c, size((c)-[:Borders]->()) AS degree
RETURN c.name, degree;
```

In this notation, the output of the MATCH statement is processed by the WITH statement, yielding two new variables c and degree, which are used to return the final result. The query would not be correct if the "c," would be removed from the WITH statement! After the WITH only the variables may be used that are mentioned within the WITH. The size() function calculates the number of results for the query passed to it in its parameter.

- 5. To calculate the length of a path, the length() function can be applied on a path. This function can also be used in a WITH.
- 6. Note that a Cypher query may include multiple WHEREs. After a WITH statement has created new variables, the WHERE can be applied again to constrain the results further:

```
MATCH (c:Country)
WHERE c.name <> "Russia"
WITH c, size((c)-[:Borders]->()) AS degree
WHERE degree > 10
RETURN c.name, degree;
```