

The aim of this exercise is to learn how to write queries in relational algebra (using Rel) and SQL (using SQLite). This first mission is splitted in two phases :

- Firstly, a list of 15 queries is given, for which you will have to provide code in both Tutorial D and SQL.
- Then, a list of 7 queries is given, for which you will have to find the most optimized version of the queries only in Tutorial D to improve the performance of your queries.

The queries need to be executed on a database inspired by the *Mondial* database<sup>1</sup> and is adapted for this course. Figure 1 represents a graphical representation of the database schema you will be using for the project. To help you gain a better understanding of the schema, we used Crow's foot notation<sup>2</sup> to represent the various relations.

You need to submit your answers on the INGINious platform; however, we believe you should be able to use database systems on your own machine as well, and wish to encourage you to think carefully about your queries. Hence, you must first evaluate your queries on your local system. The deadline for this project is **Friday, March 7th, 2020, at 11.55pm. Late submissions will not be considered** and we therefore kindly advise you to get started in a timely manner. The exercise needs to be made individually.

To test your queries on your local machine, the binaries of the two databases are provided. You can find the binaries for these databases, for both RelDB and SQLite, on Moodle.

We would also like to draw your attention to the following facts:

- The result of every query should be a set. While this is the default in RelDB, make sure that you use the appropriate statements in SQL to ensure that duplicate tuples are removed.
- Pay attention to the attributes of your results.
- The datasets that are provided only serve the purpose of giving you a basis to work on. It is by no means exhaustive nor representative of all the cases that can potentially arise using the aforementioned schema. (You are *heavily* encouraged to think of corner cases and adapt the datasets to your needs to be able to validate your queries). To allow you easily to add modifications in RelDB, you can find a summary of the different statements to add/update data on a relation.

# 1 Preparing your machine

## 1.1 Rel

Rel is an implementation of a database system that allows the execution of statements expressed in the Tutorial D language, which closely resembles the relational algebra discussed during the lectures. It is a tool implemented in Java. As a first step, please make sure that a Java Virtual Machine (JVM) is installed on your machine before proceeding with the following instructions. Should it be absent

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<sup>1</sup>You can find more information on <https://www.dbis.informatik.uni-goettingen.de/Mondial/>

<sup>2</sup><http://www.vertabelo.com/blog/technical-articles/crow-s-foot-notation>

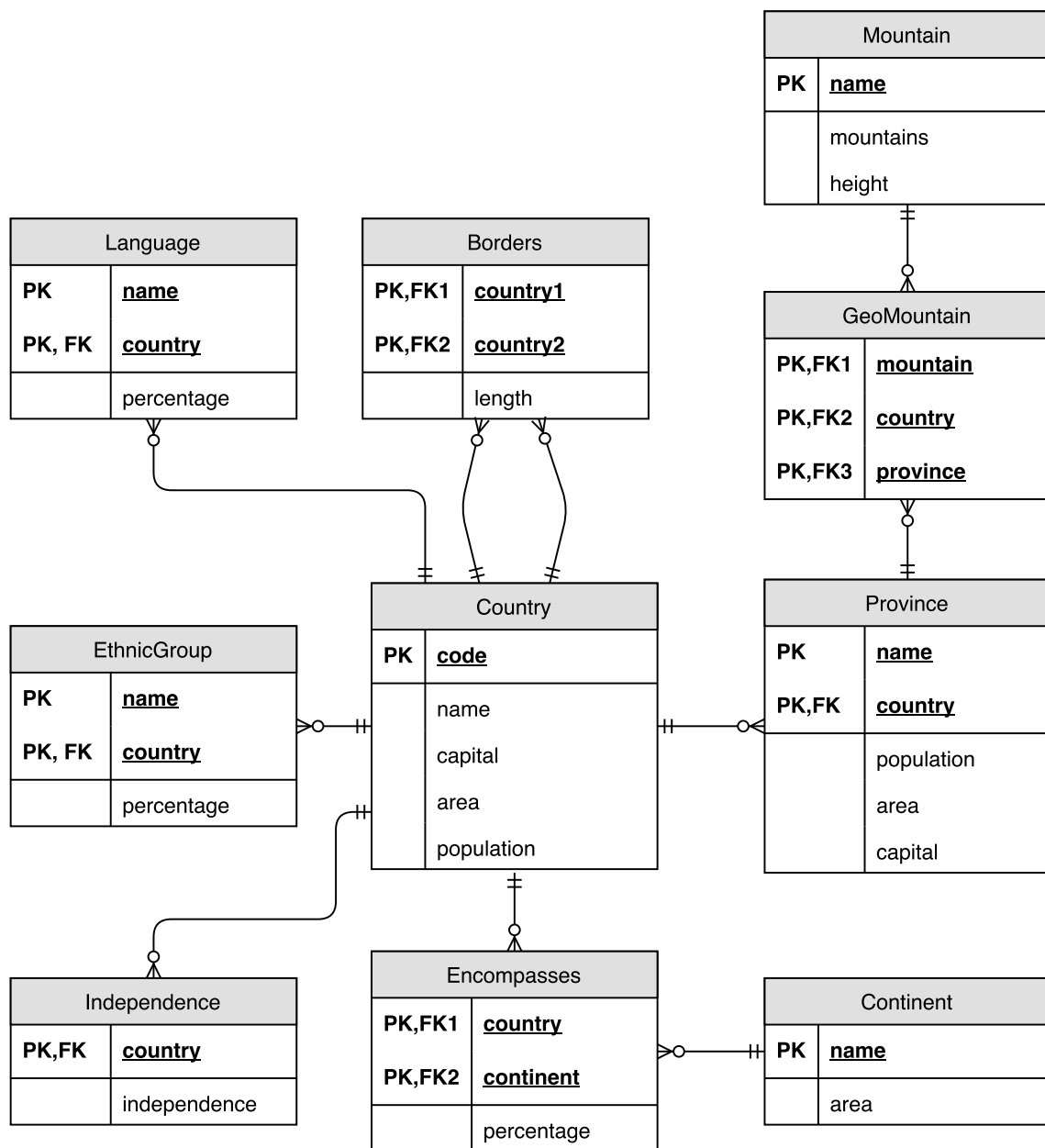


Figure 1: Relational scheme based on the Mondial database

from your system, download it and install it. To setup Rel on your platform, follow these instructions<sup>3</sup>:

1. Go to <https://sourceforge.net/projects/dbappbuilder/files/Rel/> and select the stable version (Rel version 3.014).
2. Download the archive file depending on your operating system.
3. Extract it.

<sup>3</sup><https://sourceforge.net/projects/dbappbuilder/files/Rel/Rel%20version%203.014/>

4. Launch the executable file *Rel*.
5. Choose the command line interface into Rel to write your statements.

## 1.2 SQLite

SQLite is a very lightweight database system that allows the execution of statements expressed in SQL<sup>4</sup>. It only implements a subset of all the features usually expected from a full fledged SQL server such as for example Oracle or DB2. However its lightweight and responsiveness have gained it a huge worldwide adoption<sup>5</sup> despite of its inability to tackle large databases. Besides that, it is very easily installed on any platform and is an excellent vehicle for getting a basic understanding of the various SQL constructs. To setup SQLite on your laptop, proceed as follows<sup>6</sup>:

1. Go to <https://www.sqlite.org/download.html>.
2. Download the archive file depending on your operating system.
3. Extract it.
4. Launch the executable file *sqlite3*.

To get a GUI for SQLite, follow these additional instructions:

1. Go to <https://sqlitestudio.pl/index.rvt?act=download>.
2. Download the archive file depending on your operating system.
3. Extract it.
4. Launch the executable file *sqlitestudio*.

## 2 Querying in Rel and in SQL

In this first part of the project, we ask you to write two versions of each of the following 15 queries: one using the Tutorial D syntax and the other in SQL.

1. List the names of all the countries.
2. List the names of all the mountains that exceed (strictly) 4000 meters in height.
3. List the provinces of Belgium (country code *B*) that have a population that doesn't exceed one million; for each province, provide the name of the capital and the population.
4. List the names of all languages in the database. The result must be a relation with one attribute called *language*.

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<sup>4</sup>Did you know that *SQL* stands for Structured Query Language ?

<sup>5</sup>It is for instance used on iOS and Android devices

<sup>6</sup><http://www.sqlitetutorial.net/download-install-sqlite/>

5. For each country that has declared independence, give its full name and its independence date.
6. List all countries which are on two different continents. The result must be a relation defined with 3-tuple attributes  $\{name, percentage, continent\}$  where *name* is the name of the country.
7. List the Swiss mountains with a height between 4400 and 4500. The result must be a relation composed of 2-tuples with attributes  $\{mountain, height\}$ .
8. List all pairs of neighbouring countries. The result must be a relation composed of 2-tuples with attributes  $\{name1, name2\}$ , i.e., the full country names must be given. (For instance, a result could be  $\{Belgium, France\}$ .) Make sure that every pair of neighbouring countries is only included once.
9. List the name of the countries that do not have mountains.
10. List all names that are shared by a province and a country. (Hint : Your Tutorial D query may not have more than 50 characters.)
11. List the full names of the countries that border the United States, as well as the countries that border those bordering countries: i.e., the output should contain Mexico, but also Belize, which borders Mexico. The United States itself should not be part of the output.
12. Count the number of different ethnic groups. The result must be a relation composed by a 1-tuple attribute  $\{cnt\}$ .
13. List the names of the countries with 3 mountains or less — including those with no mountains! The result must be a relation composed of 2-tuples with attributes  $\{name, cnt\}$ , where *name* is the name of the country and *cnt* is the number of mountains in the country.
14. List the most prominent language(s) for each country; i.e., list for each country those languages for which the percentage is maximal. You are not allowed to use *SUMMARIZE*. The result must be a relation composed of 2-tuples with attributes  $\{country, name\}$ , where *country* is the code of the country and *name* is the name of the language.
15. In the given database the Borders relation is symmetric: if the country 1 (*c1*) borders country 2 (*c2*), country 2 also borders country 1. One may wish to check this property on a given database. Write a query that determines all tuples  $\{c1, c2\}$ , where *c1* and *c2* are the codes of the countries, for which the inverse direction is missing. (Note: on the given database, the output of this query should be empty; on a database in which the Border relation is not symmetric, however, it should return the violating tuples. Create a database yourself to check this.)

### 3 Optimization in Rel

Now that you have some basis in querying with Tutorial D, you will learn how to optimize your queries in Rel. For the 7 following queries, find the most optimized version of the queries only in Tutorial D to improve the performance of your queries. In a later mission, you will learn how to improve the queries in SQL.

1. For each continent, count the number of independent countries and sum all their area. The result must be a relation composed by a 3-tuple attributes  $\{continent, cnt\_countries, sum\_area\}$ .
2. List all mountains that are on a border. The result must be a relation composed by a 3-tuple attributes  $\{mountain, country1, country2\}$  where *country1* and *country2* are the names of the countries for which a frontier exist and *mountain* is the mountain located in the frontier.
3. List all countries that have a mountain of height at least 5000, but no mountain of height higher than 7000. The result must be a relation composed by a 1-tuple attribute  $\{country\}$  where *country* is the code of the country.
4. For all countries that have a bordering country with a province of more than 1.000.000 citizens, list the languages; provide the country code and the language name. The result must be a relation composed by a 2-tuple attributes  $\{country, language\}$  where *country* is the code of the country and *language* is the name of the language.
5. 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 abbreviations of all countries that are in a similar situation as Luxembourg. The result must be a relation composed by a 1-tuple attribute  $\{country\}$  where *country* is the code of the country.
6. List all codes for countries that have a total border length of at most 100.0, and a population of at least 5 million; in the calculation of border lengths, only borders of at least 50.0 should be considered.
7. List all capitals of provinces that have at least twice the population of capitals of other provinces in the same country, or any neighboring country. The result must be a relation composed by a 3-tuple attributes  $\{name, capital, country\}$  where *name* is the name of the province, *capital* is the capital of the province and *country* is the code of the country.

## Appendix: Statements in Tutorial D

### Creating a relation

```
VAR name_of_relation BASE RELATION
    { name_of_attribute type, name_of_attribute type }
KEY { name_of_attribute, name_of_attribute };
```

Note that only later in the lectures we will discuss what keys are in detail; for now, just assume that for technical reasons you need to list the set of attributes twice.

### Inserting data in a relation

```
INSERT name_of_relation RELATION {
    TUPLE { name_of_attribute value, name_of_attribute value },
```

```
TUPLE { name_of_attribute value, name_of_attribute value }  
};
```

## Querying a relation

```
name_of_relation
```

### With a projection on the relation

```
name_of_relation {name_of_attribute}
```

### With a selection on the relation

```
name_of_relation WHERE condition
```

## Updating data in a relation

```
UPDATE name_of_relation  
  WHERE name_of_attribute = value: { name_of_attribute := new_value };
```

## Removing a relation

```
DROP VAR name_of_relation;
```