

# 1. Unit: SPARQL

**Exercise 1.1 (SPARQL-Queries)** Give SPARQL queries against `mondial.n3` that yield answers to the following questions:

- Name and population (ordered) of all countries that have more than 10.000.000 inhabitants.
- Name of all countries that have at least one city with more than 1.000.000 inhabitants.
- Name of all countries that have no city with more than 1.000.000 inhabitants.
- Name of all european countries that have no membership in the European Union.
- Abbreviations of all organizations whose headquarter is located in the capital of a member country (together with the names of the country and the city).

## Exercise 1.2 (SPARQL Optional)

Give a SPARQL query against `mondial.n3` that yield answers to the following question:

- For each country, give the name, and the population.  
If more than 1/4 of the population are living in its capital, give also the name and the population of the capital.
- Give the same query in SQL (against relational Mondial) and in XML/XQuery (against `mondial.xml`).

## Exercise 1.3 (SPARQL Formal Semantics)

Consider the SPARQL Formal Semantics.

- Define a “null-tolerant join” for the relational algebra that acts like the  $\bowtie$  of the SPARQL algebra.
- Which SQL construct is similar to the “\” operator in the SPARQL algebra?
- In the SPARQL algebra, OPT is expressed via left outer join, which is defined via “\” (while a corresponding MINUS does not exist in the SPARQL syntax).  
Such a MINUS (cf. part (b) of this exercise) provides a more intuitive idea of negation than “!bound( $x$ )”. Give a general pattern how to express ( $P_1$  MINUS  $P_2$ ) in SPARQL 1.0 syntax.
- Recall the definition of  $\bowtie$  in the relational algebra (DB lecture) and define SPARQL’s  $\bowtie$  in a similar way.

## Exercise 1.4 (Outer Join)

Recall that SPARQL’s OPTIONAL corresponds to a left outer join.

- Give a general pattern how to express a *full* outer join (i.e., “outer” to both sides) in the SPARQL algebra (consider as input two mappings  $R$  and  $S$  and give an expression for  $R \bowtie_{\text{full}} S$ ) and in SPARQL.
- Give all cities (name as ?XN) that are the capital of a country (:capital) or that are located at a river (:locatedAt) or both (return the names ?CN of the country and/or the river (?RN)).

## Exercise 1.5 (SPARQL Formal Semantics: OPTIONAL)

Consider the SPARQL Formal Semantics.

Prove or show a counterexample:

The statement (from W3C SPARQL Working Draft 20061004)

If  $\text{OPT}(A, B)$  is an optional graph pattern, where  $A$  and  $B$  are graph patterns, then  $S$  is a solution of  $\text{OPT}(A,B)$  if

- $S$  is a pattern solution of  $A$  and of  $B$ , or
- $S$  is a solution to  $A$ , but not to  $B$ .

describes the same semantics as above.

**Exercise 1.6 (SPARQL: Filter-Safe Expressions)** Consider the following definition:

**Definition 1 ([PAG06, AG 08])** A SPARQL expression is *filter-safe*, if for every subexpression of the form  $(P \text{ FILTER } R)$ ,  $\text{var}(R) \subseteq \text{var}(P)$ .

Filters of the forbidden form are rather commonly used, e.g.,

```
{ ?P1 a :Person; :age ?A1. ?P2 a :Person
  OPTIONAL { ?P2 :age ?A2 . FILTER ( ?A2 > ?A1 ) }}
```

- a) Sketch an algorithm that rewrites non-filter safe queries into safe ones. First, try it on your own, then maybe look in [AG08].
- b) Give a SPARQL query for “Give the names of all countries, such that there is some city in that country where more than 1/4 of the population are living in”, and make it filter-safe. Give also its SPARQL algebra expression.
- c) Give a SPARQL query for “Give the names of all countries, such that there is *no* city in that country where more than 1/4 of the population are living in”, and make it filter-safe. Give also its SPARQL algebra expression.
- d) Is there a similar thing in SQL, in the relational algebra, and in the relational calculus?