

Graph DBs and Neo4J (Part I)

NOTES:

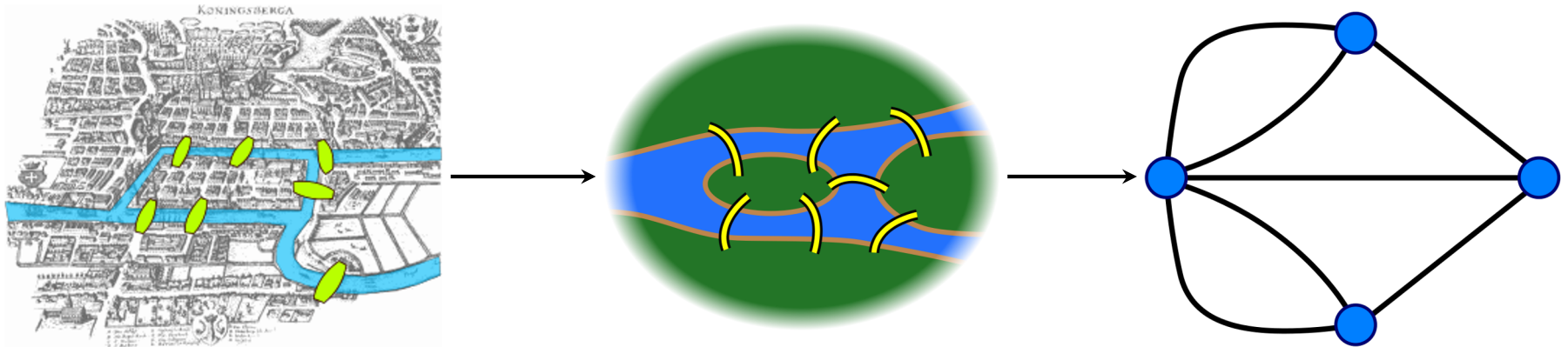
- 1. Many thanks to Neo4J for providing this material and granting us permission to use it!*
- 2. These slides have been lightly modified for CS122D use.*



Introduction to Graph “Theory”

What is a Graph?

A **graph** is set of discrete objects, each of which has some set of relationships with the other objects



3

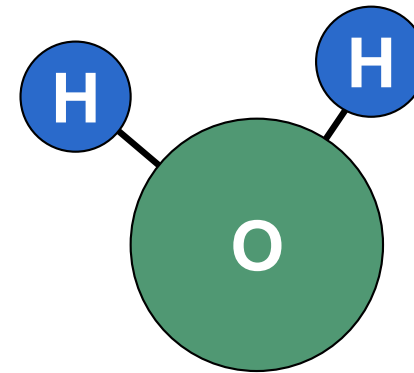
Seven Bridges of Königsberg problem. Leonhard Euler, 1735

Anything can be a graph

the Internet



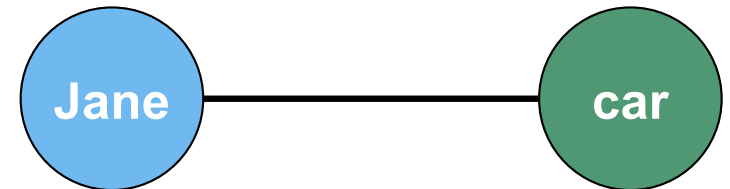
a water molecule



Graph Components

Node (Vertex)

- The main data element from which graphs are constructed
A node without relationships is permitted. A relationship without nodes is not.
- A waypoint along a traversal route

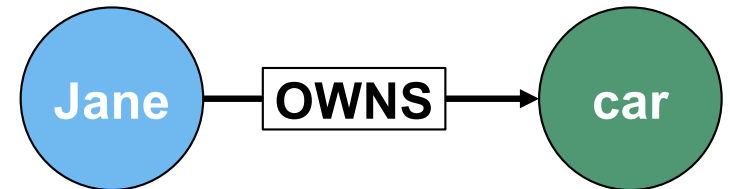


Relationship (Edge)

Graph Components

Node (Vertex)

- The main data element from which graphs are constructed
A node without relationships is permitted. A relationship without nodes is not.
- A waypoint along a traversal route

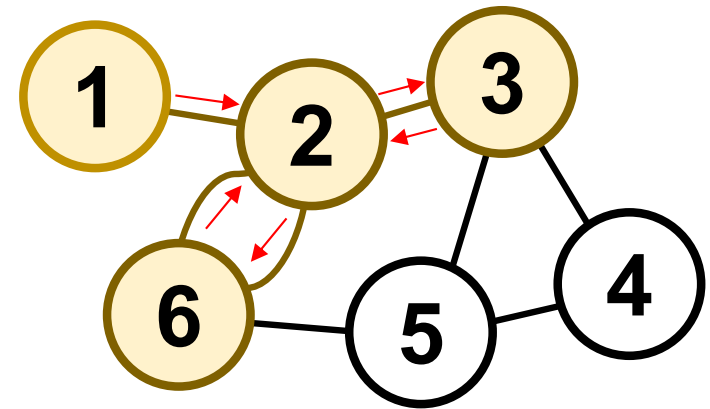


Relationship (Edge)

- A link between two nodes. May contain:
 - Direction
 - Metadata; e.g. *weight* or *relationship type*

Traversal

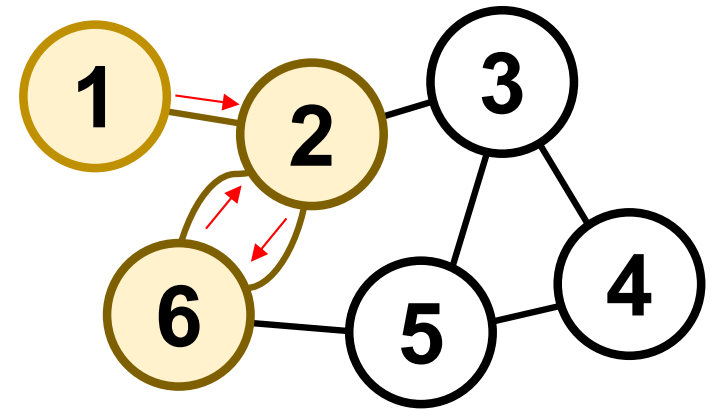
- **Walk:** an ordered, alternating sequence of nodes and relationships
Nodes and relationships can be repeated



1-2-3-2-6-2

Traversal

- **Walk:** an ordered, alternating sequence of nodes and relationships
Nodes and relationships can be repeated
- **Trail:** A walk in which no relationships are repeated
Nodes can be repeated

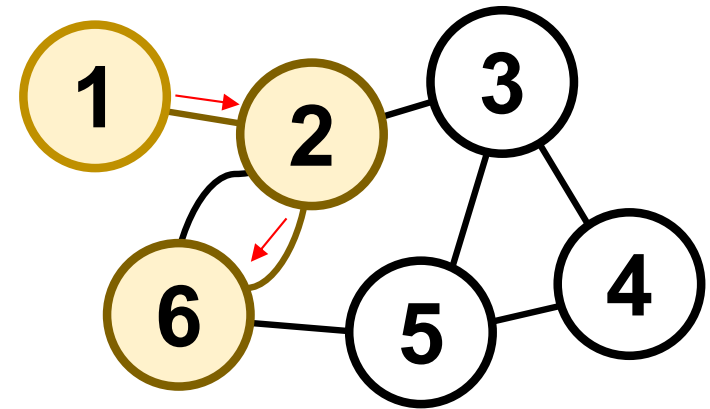


1-2-3-2-6-2

1-2-6-2

Traversal

- **Walk:** an ordered, alternating sequence of nodes and relationships
Nodes and relationships can be repeated
- **Trail:** A walk in which no relationships are repeated
Nodes can be repeated
- **Path:** A trail in which no nodes are repeated
I.e., a walk where all items are unique



1-2-3-2-6-2

1-2-6-2

1-2-6

Summary

- A **graph** is a data model consisting of a set of **nodes** linked by **relationships**
- The purpose of modeling data as a graph is to enable **traversal**
- There are multiple traversal types, the most important of which is a **path**
*an ordered, alternating set of nodes and relationships
in which all items are unique*

"Index-Free Adjacency"

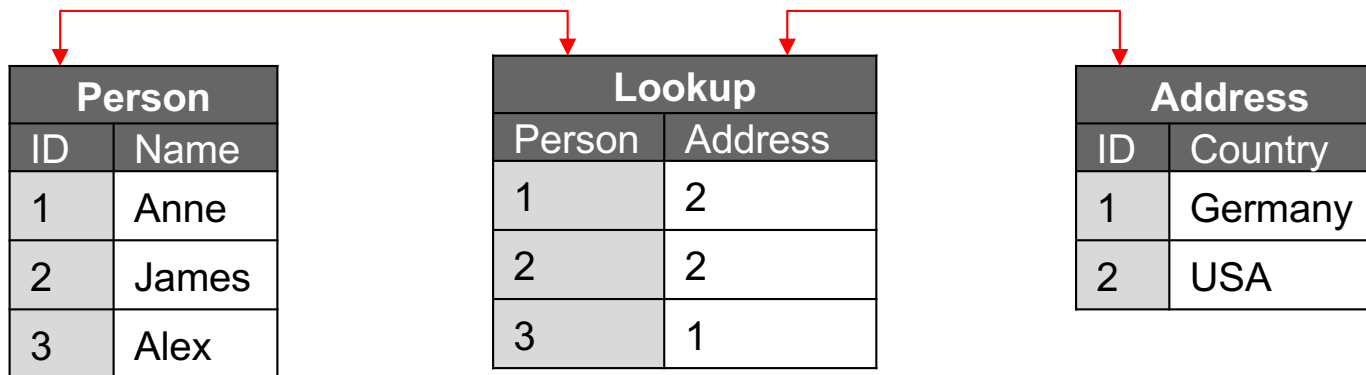
Relationships in RDBMS

122D warning: A very simplistic claim!
It ignores **numerous** technical questions
and OODB era lessons and systems...



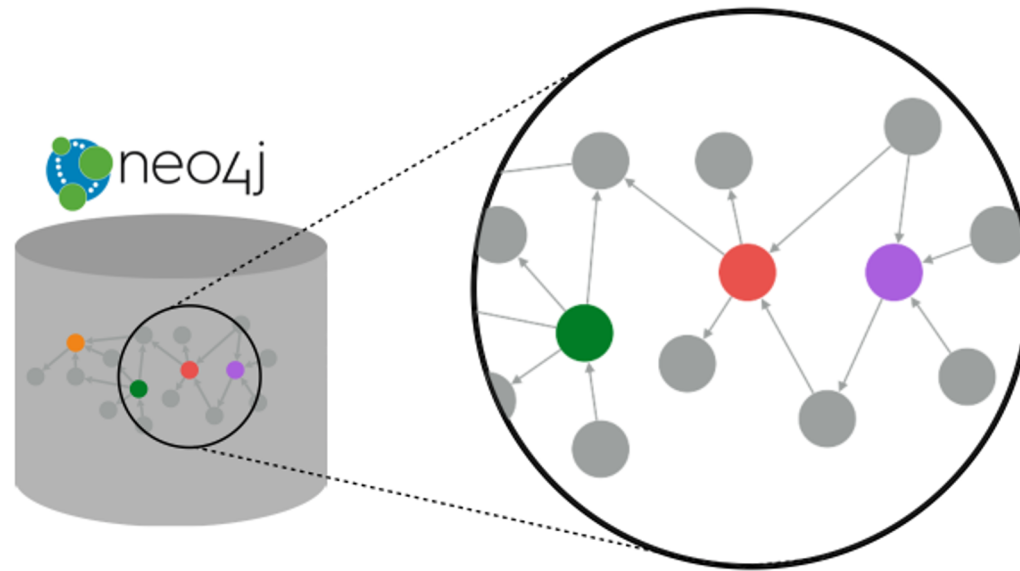
- Require foreign keys, and possibly a lookup table
- Traversing a foreign key requires an index lookup

The purpose of graphs is to do rapid traversal. The RDBMS model is too expensive for that.



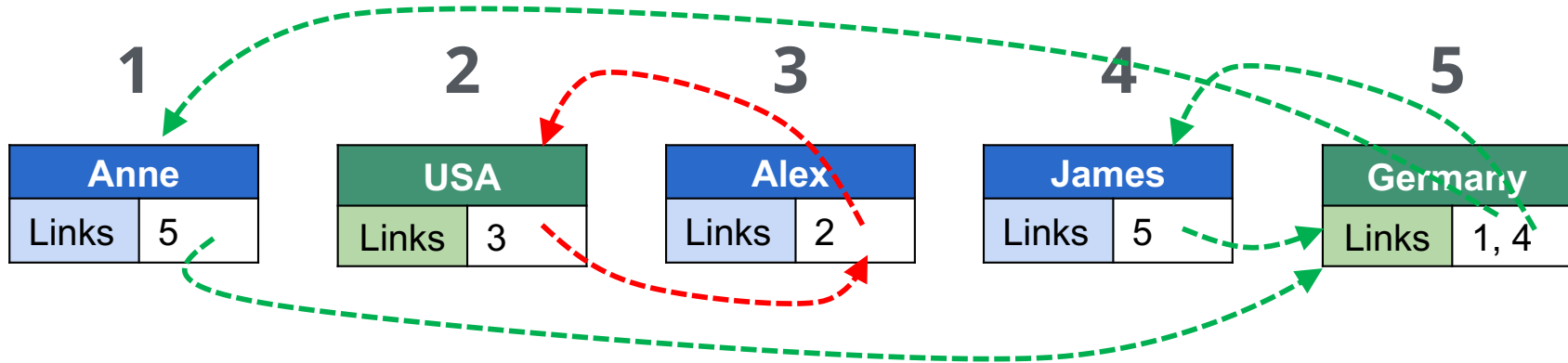
Neo4j Database: Index-free adjacency

Nodes and relationships are stored on disk as a graph for fast navigational access using **pointers**.



IFA Benefits

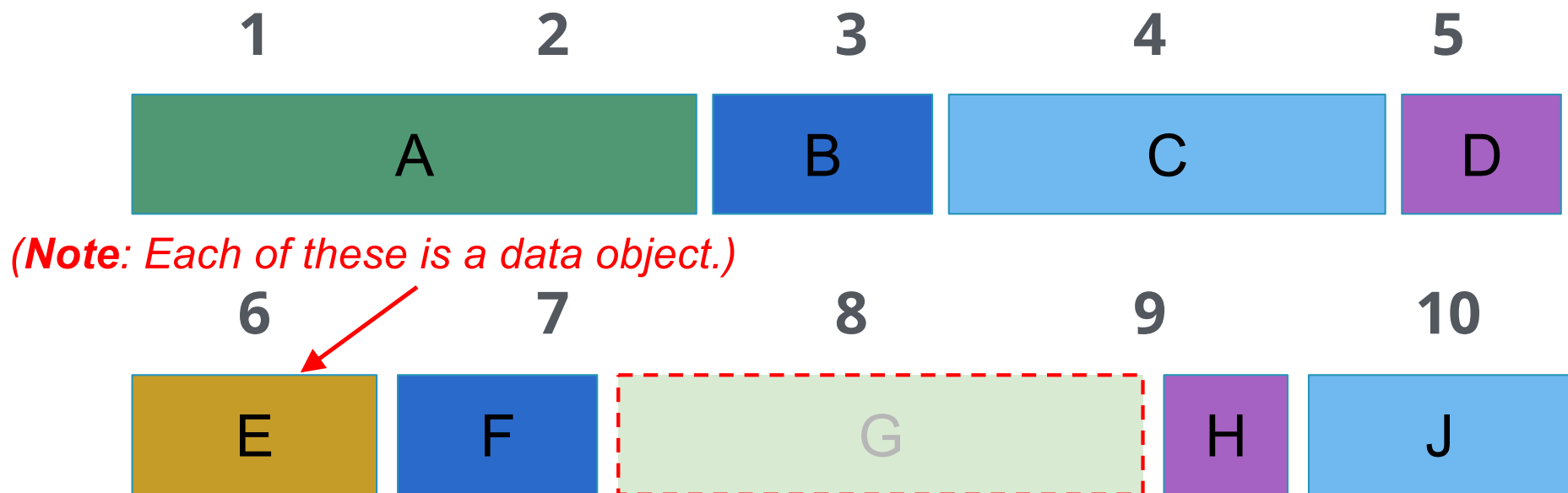
IFA uses **pointers** to the target address



- *No index lookups or table scans*
- *Reduced duplication of foreign keys*

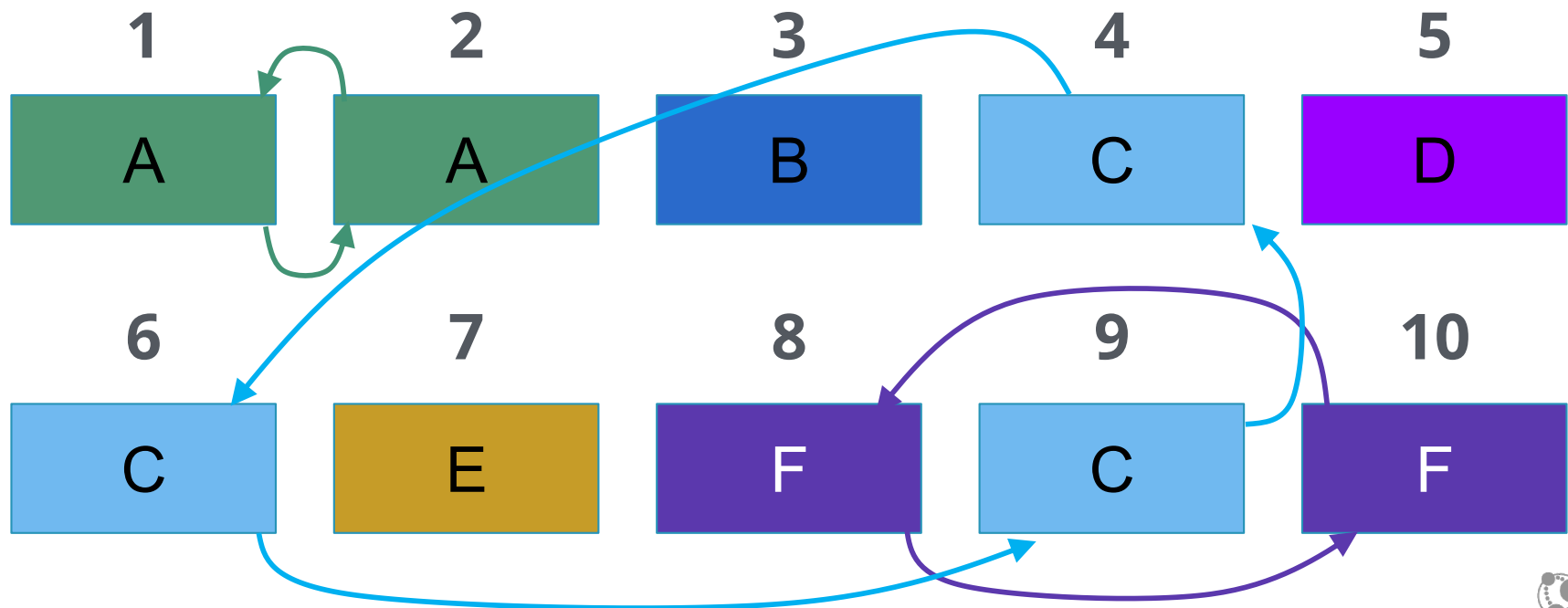
IFA Question: Free Space Management

How to avoid **wasted space** on deletion and insertion?



IFA Solution: Chunking

All data objects are chunked into **same-size** pieces



IFA Solution: Chunking

- Related chunks need not be adjacent
 - *e.g., a four-chunk object can use the first four open locations, no matter where they are*
- Related chunks reference one another via IFA

Effect: scanning for a value within a large data item can involve many “hidden” hops

Corollary: it is frequently cheaper to perform multiple relationship hops rather than scan for a value within a single large object

Corollary: in Neo4j, every object should store as little data as is feasible

Summary

122D warning: This cries out for a “DGM” (data > memory) performance benchmark... 😊



- RDBMS is very inefficient at traversal
 - *Foreign keys, lookup tables, and a four-step process are required*
- Index-Free Adjacency speeds traversal by using **pointers** instead of keys and lookup tables
- Neo4j uses **chunking** to store data maximally efficiently
 - *Because of this, all objects should store **as little data as feasible***

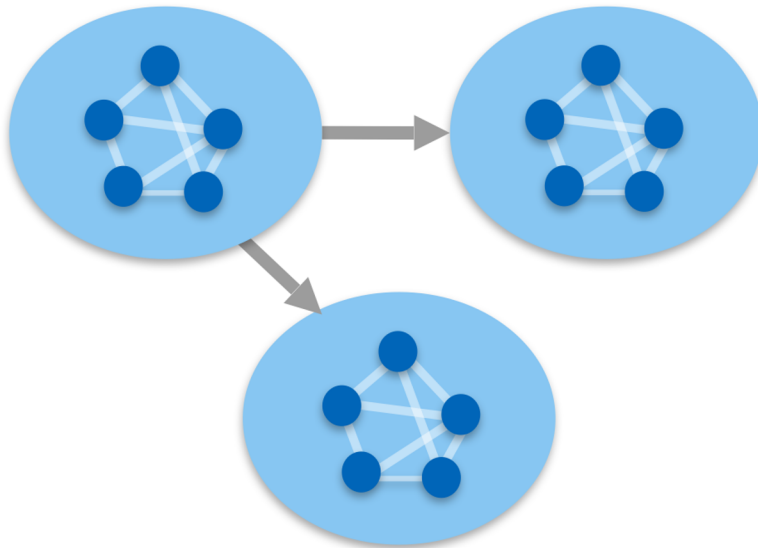
Introduction to Neo4j



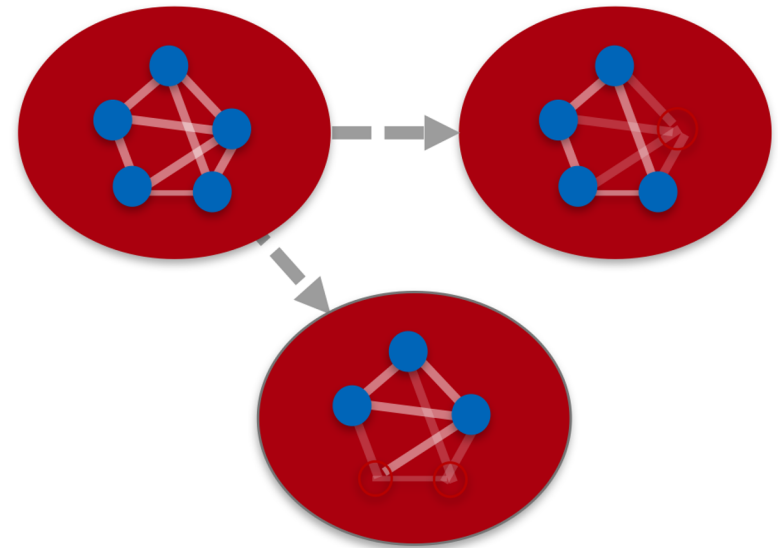
Neo4j Database: ACID

Transactional consistency - all updates either succeed or fail.

ACID Consistency

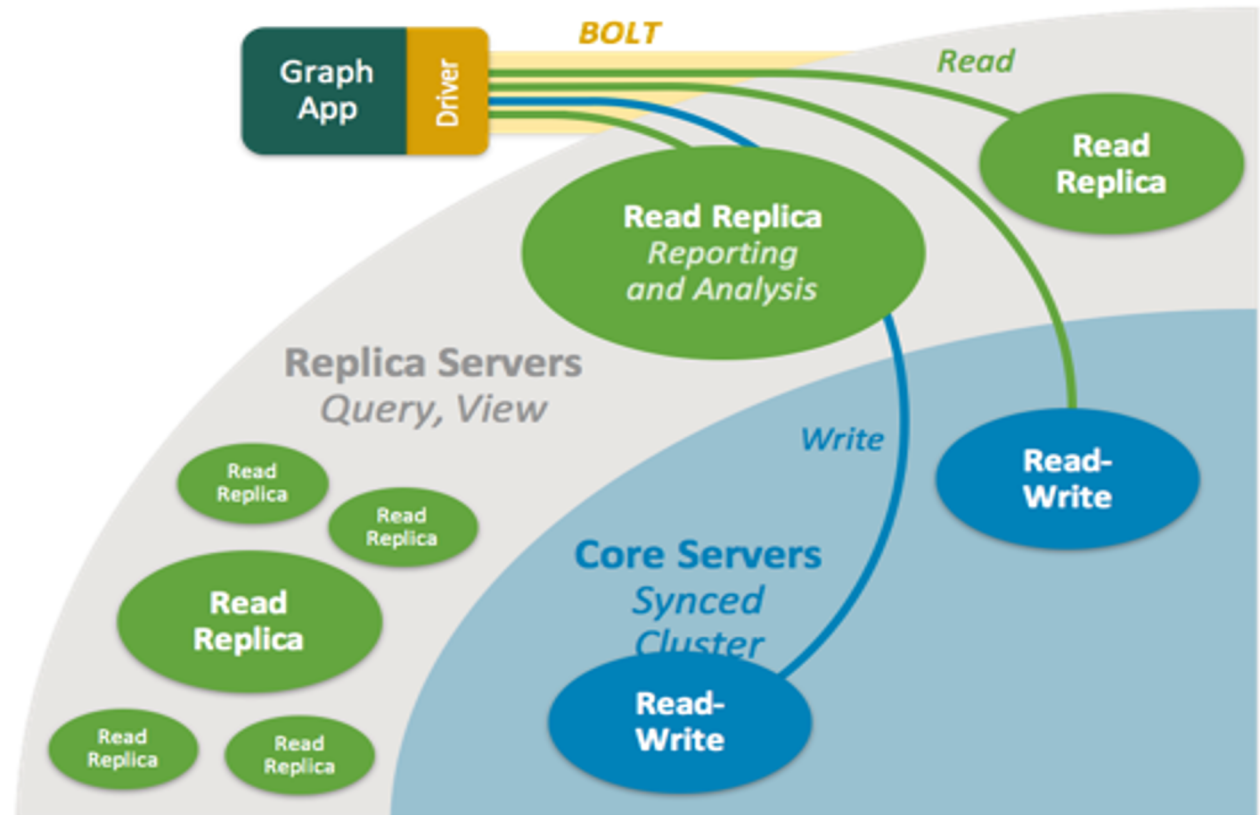


Non-ACID Graph DBMSs (NoSQL)



Clusters

ACID across locations.



Graph engine

- Interpret Cypher statements
- Store and retrieve data
- Kernel-level access to filesystem
- Scalable (via replicas)
- Performant



Language and driver support

- Cypher to access the database
- Open source Cypher
- You can write server-side extensions to access the database
- Out-of-the-box drivers to access the database via **bolt** protocol:
 - Java
 - JavaScript
 - Python
 - C#
 - Go
- Neo4j community contributions for other languages

Libraries

Out-of-the-box:

- "Awesome Procedures" on Cypher (APOC)
- Graph Algorithms
- GraphQL

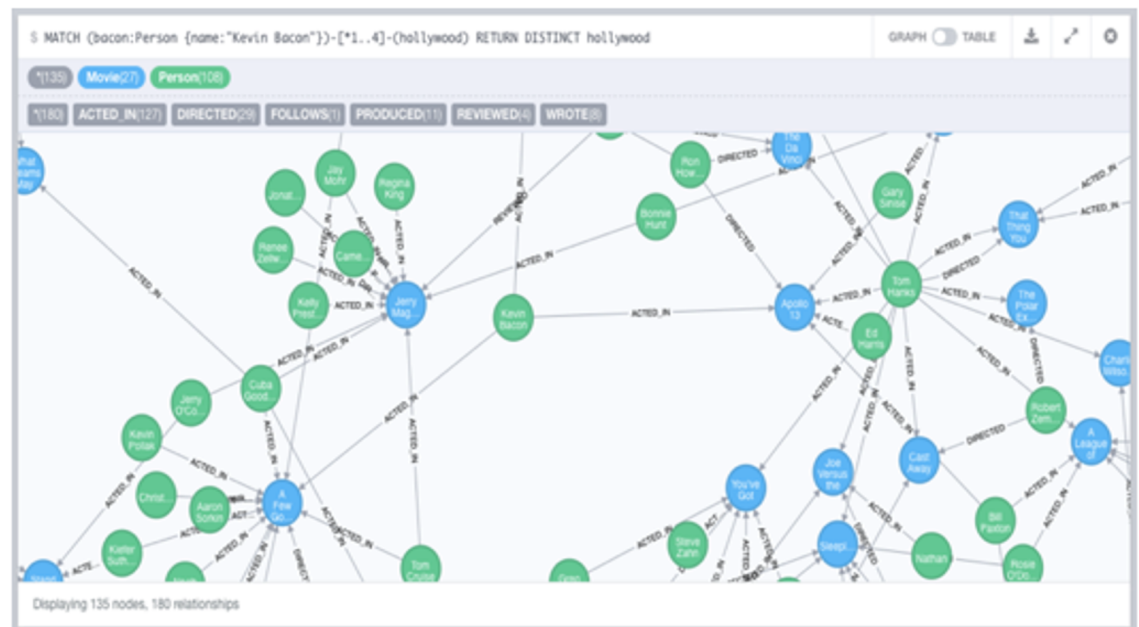
Neo4j community has contributed many specialized libraries also.



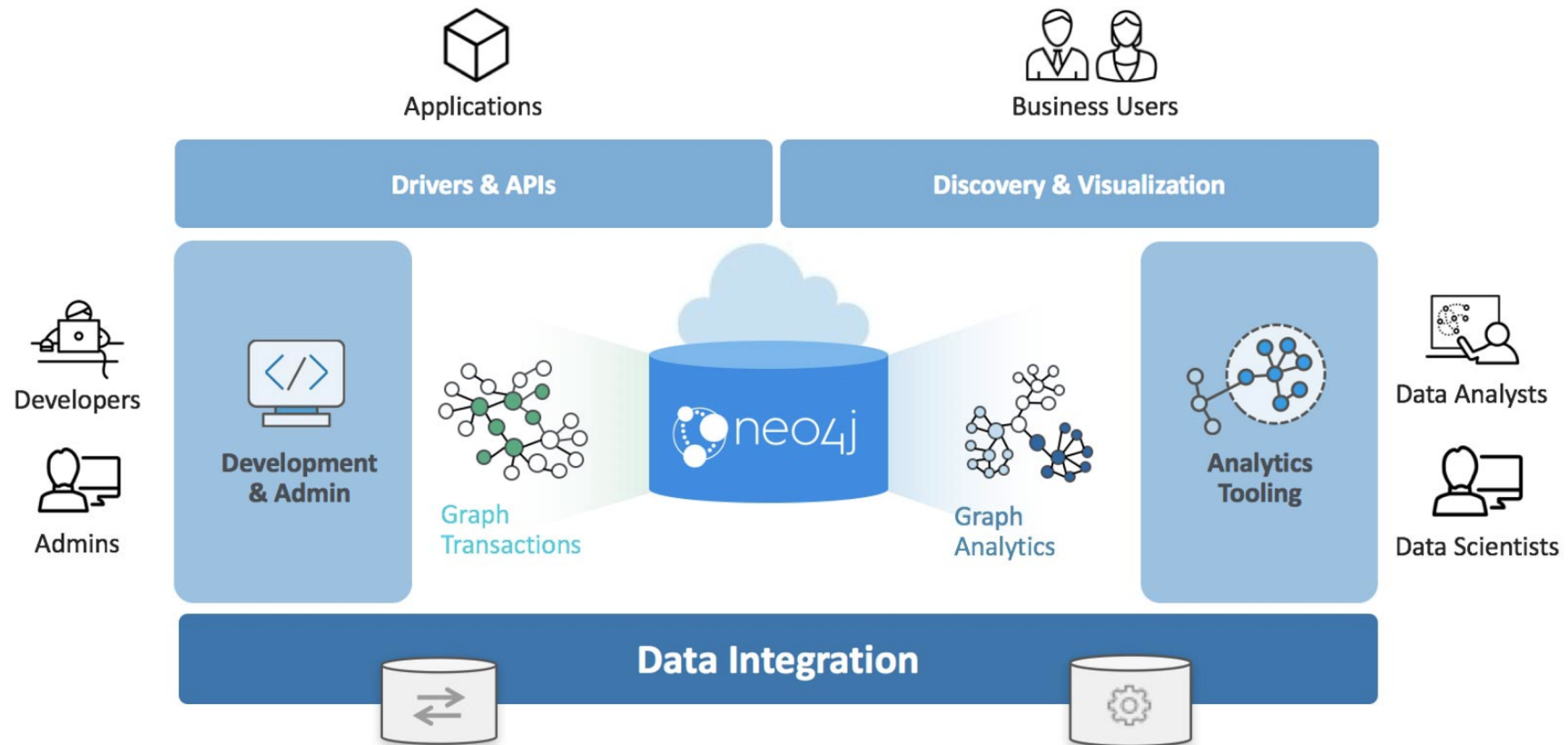
Tools

- Neo4j Desktop
- Neo4j Browser
- Neo4j Bloom
- Neo4j ETL Tool

Neo4j community has contributed many specialized tools also.



Neo4j Graph Platform architecture



Graph Data Modeling

v 1.0



Neo4j is a *property graph* data model

The components of a Neo4j property graph include:

- Nodes (Entities)
- Relationships (Connections between Entities)
- Properties
- Labels

You create graphs to answer important questions for your domain.

Paths are created and navigated based upon the relationships between nodes.

<https://neo4j.com/docs/getting-started/current/graphdb-concepts/>



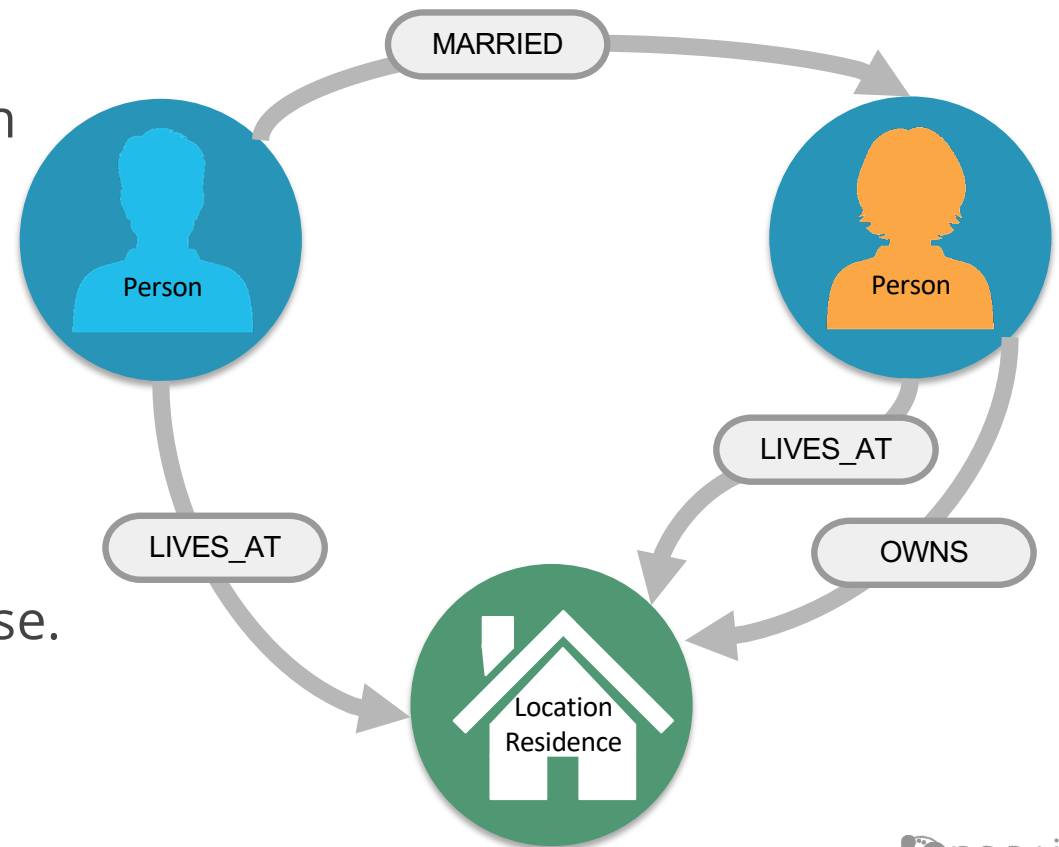
In Neo4j, entities are *nodes with labels*

- Represent the nouns in your domain questions .
- Represent the objects or entities in the graph.
- Can be ***labeled*** to represent the type of node or role of node:
 - Person
 - Location
 - Residence
 - Business
- Nodes are grouped by their **labels** for optimizing queries.



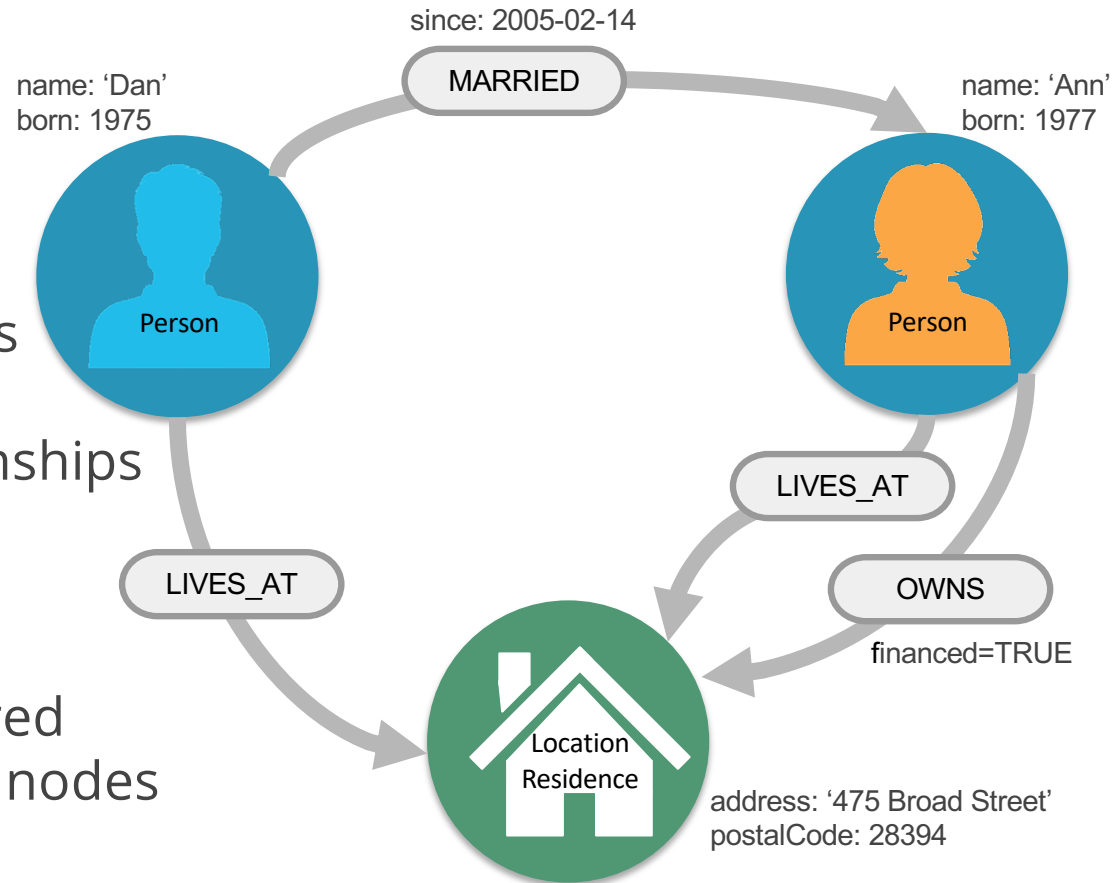
In Neo4j, connections are *relationships*

- Represent verbs in your domain questions.
- Represent the **connection** between exactly two nodes in the graph.
- Connect nodes of same type or of different types.
- Has a type:
 - MARRIED
 - LIVES_AT
 - OWNS
- Directed relationship in the database.
- Used to define paths navigated at runtime.



In Neo4j, *properties* provide the data

- Adjectives to describe nodes
 - Proper nouns
- Adverbs to describe relationships
 - Strength, weight, quality
- Property:
 - Key/value pair
 - Can be optional or required
 - Values can be unique for nodes



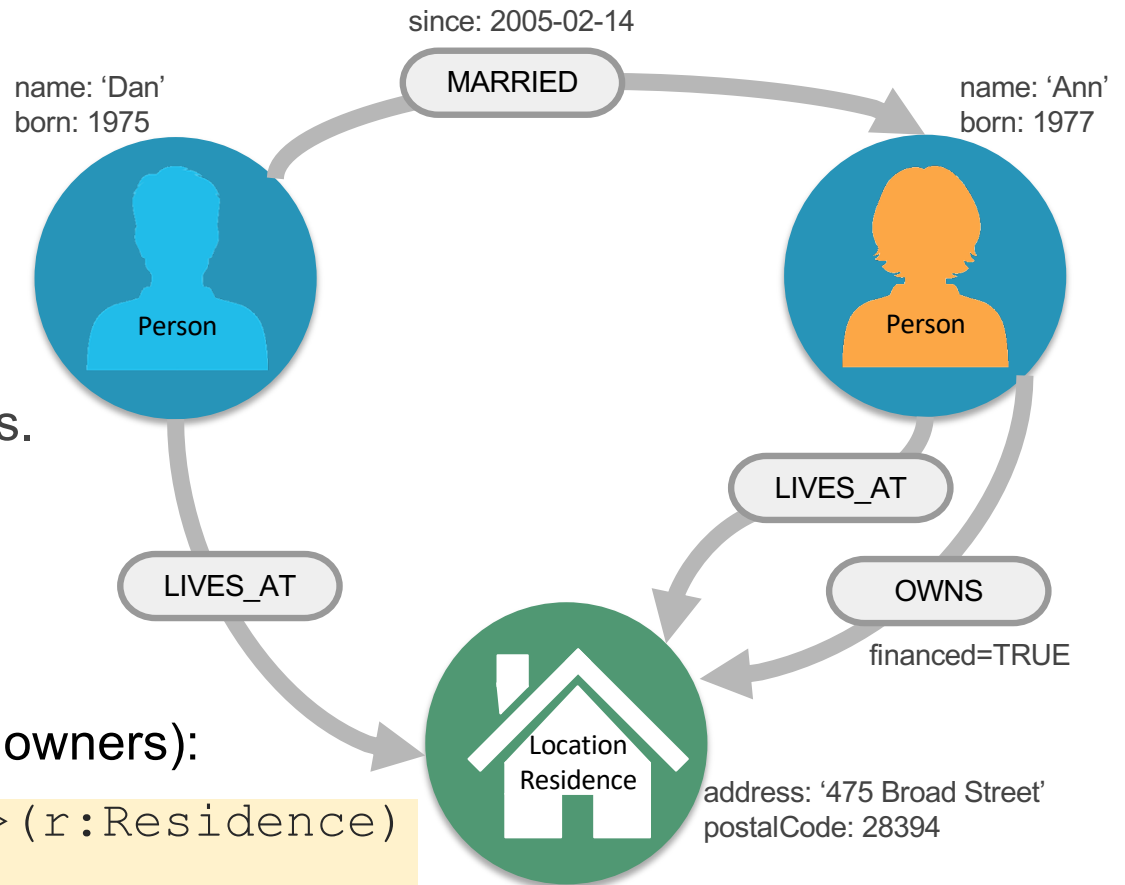
In Neo4j, paths are traversed at runtime

Paths are used to:

- Discover what is absolutely necessary to answer questions.
- Eliminate parts of graph not needed to answer a question.

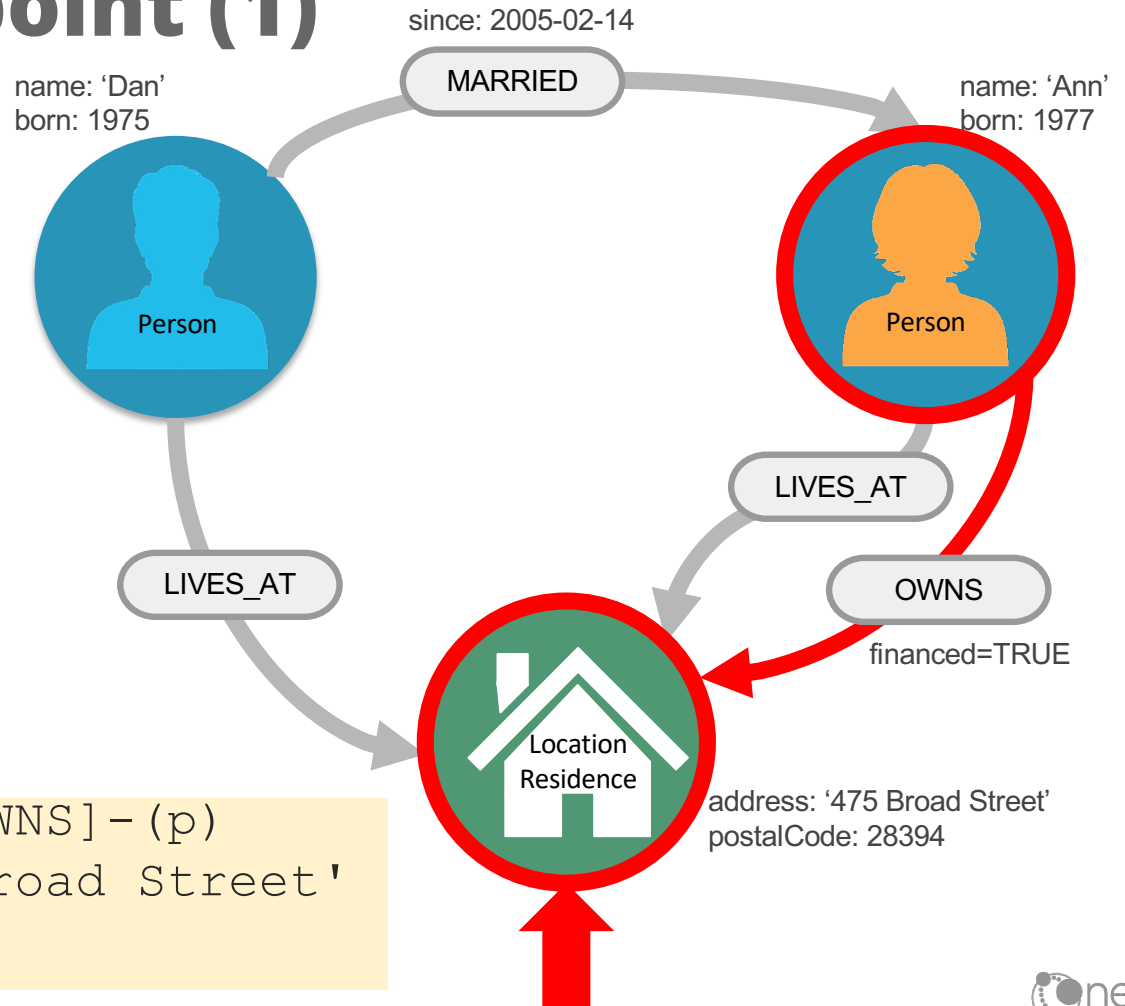
Example Cypher query (residence owners):

```
MATCH (p:Person)-[:OWNS]->(r:Residence)
RETURN p, r
```



Path is starting point (1)

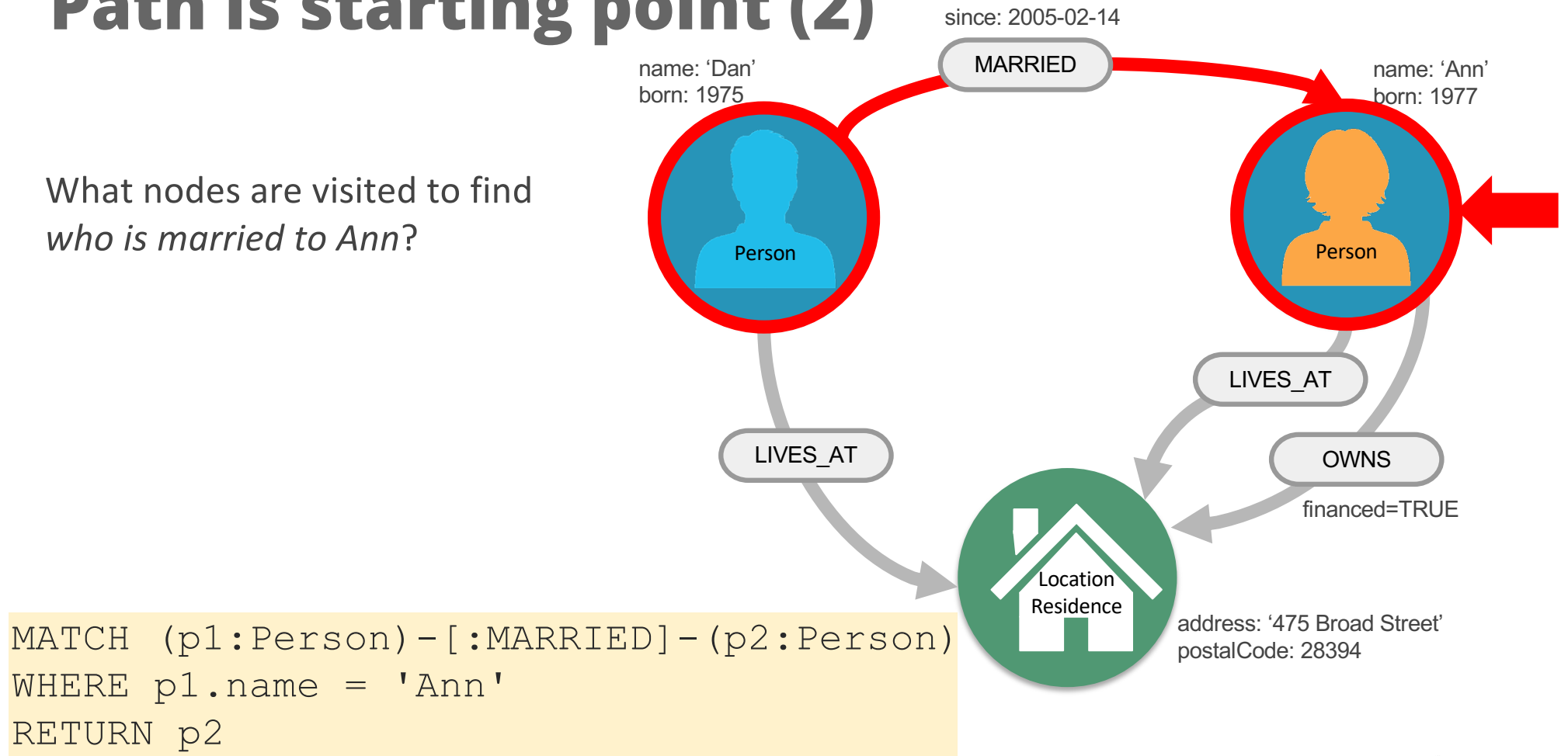
What nodes are visited to find
*all Person nodes that own the
house at 475 Broad Street?*



```
MATCH (r:Residence)<-[:OWNS]-(p)
WHERE r.address = '475 Broad Street'
RETURN p
```

Path is starting point (2)

What nodes are visited to find
who is married to Ann?

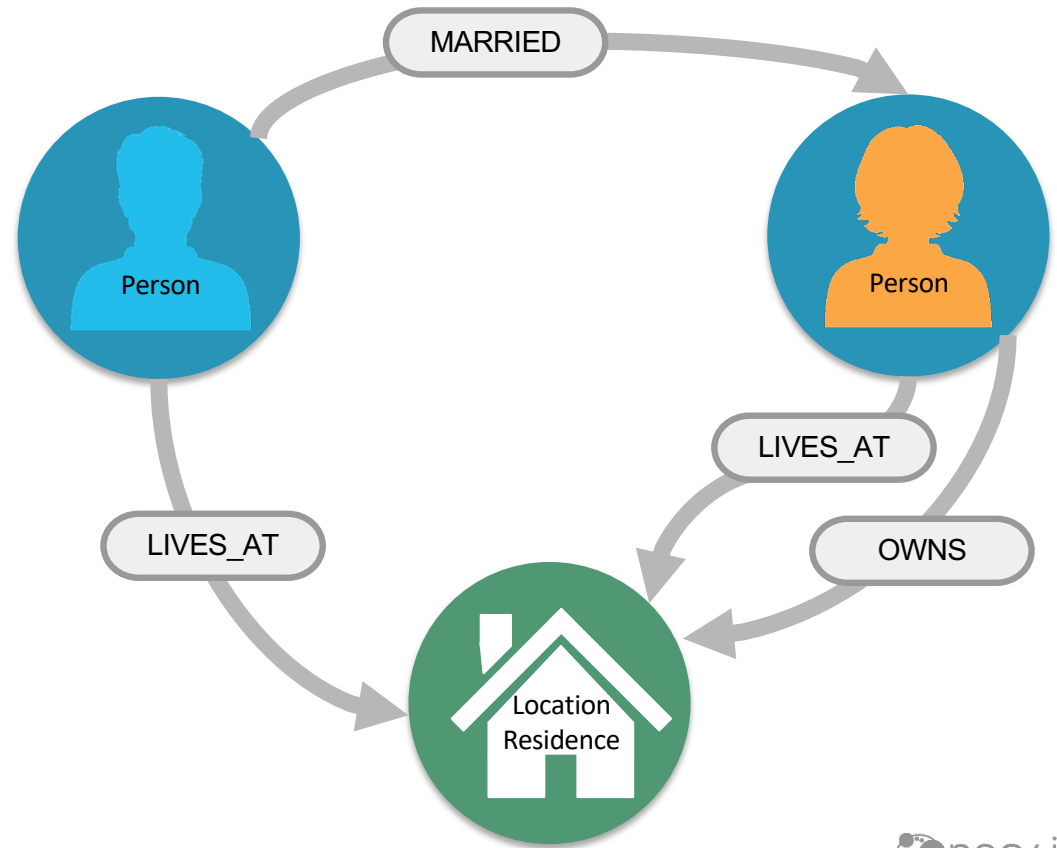


Cypher: Neo4J's Query Language

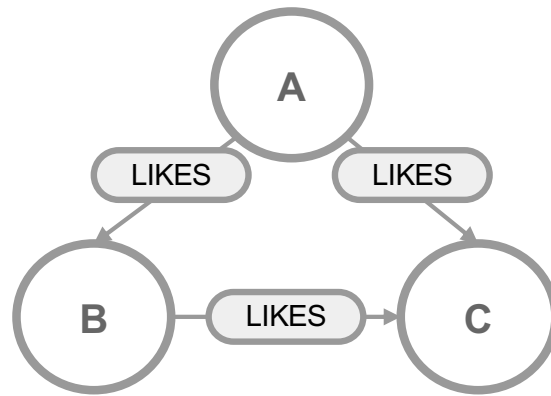
What is Cypher?

- Declarative query language
- Focuses on **what**, not how to retrieve
- Uses keywords such as **MATCH, WHERE, CREATE**
- Runs in the database server for the graph
- **ASCII art** to represent nodes and relationships

;-)



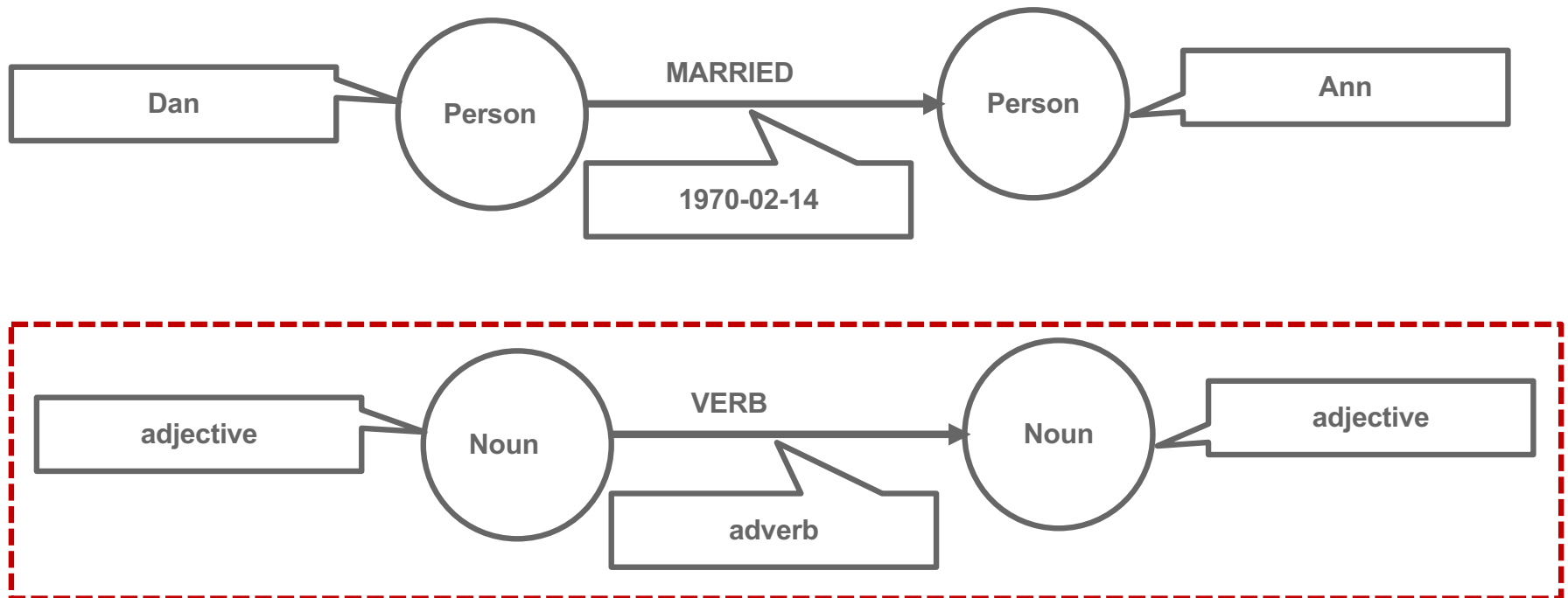
Cypher is ASCII Art



```
(A) - [:LIKES] -> (B) , (A) - [:LIKES] -> (C) , (B) - [:LIKES] -> (C)
```

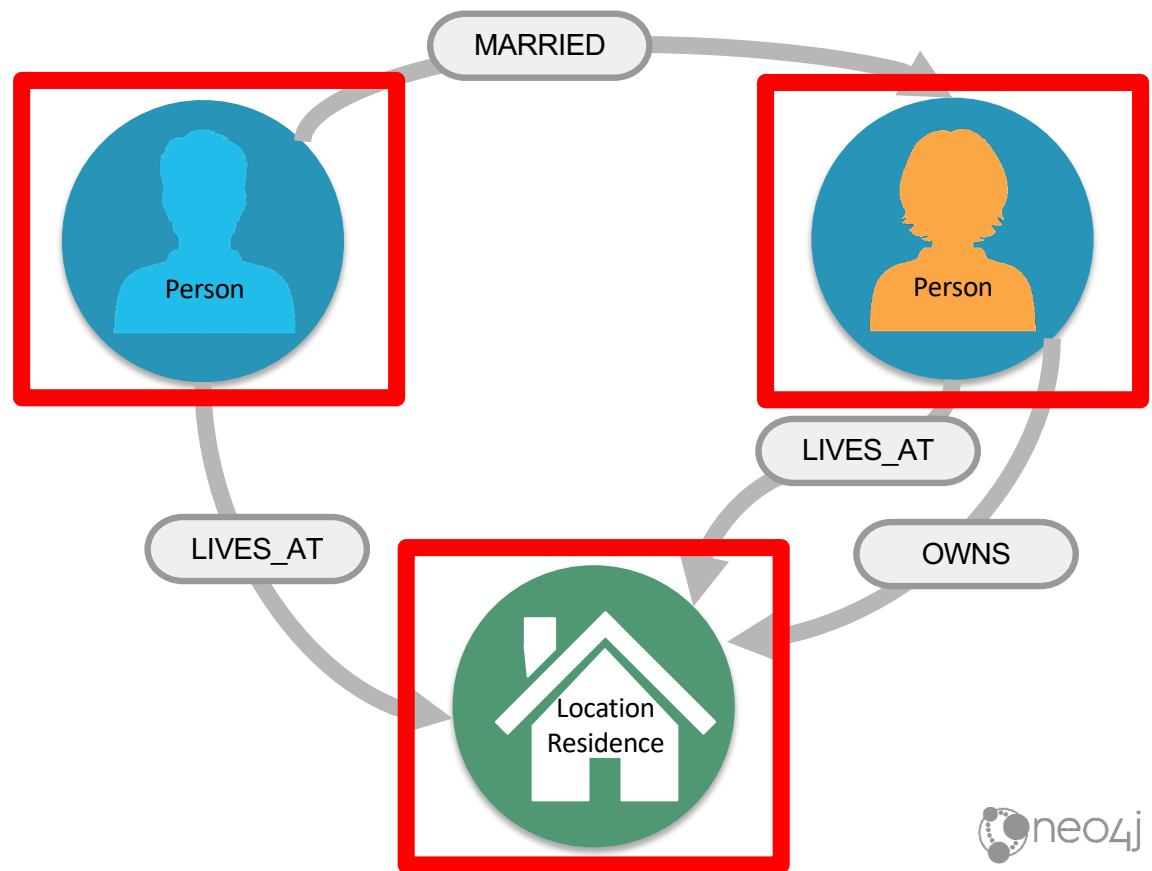
```
(A) - [:LIKES] -> (B) - [:LIKES] -> (C) <- [:LIKES] - (A)
```

Cypher is readable



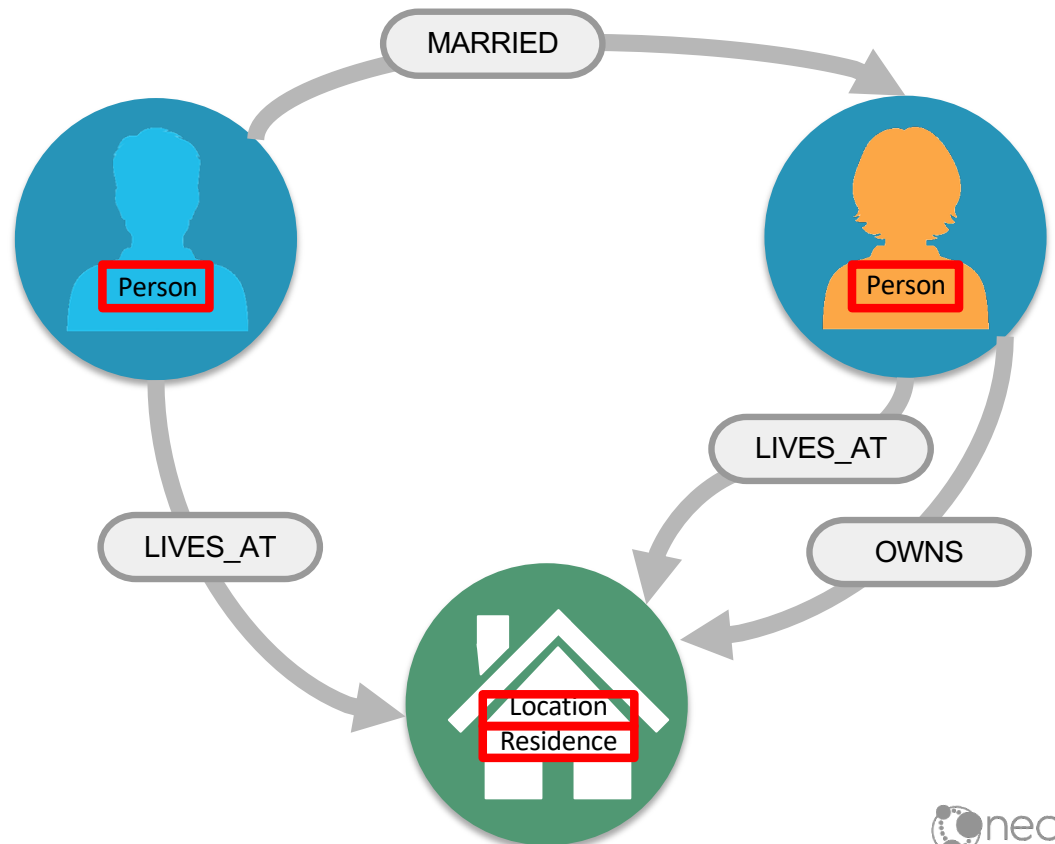
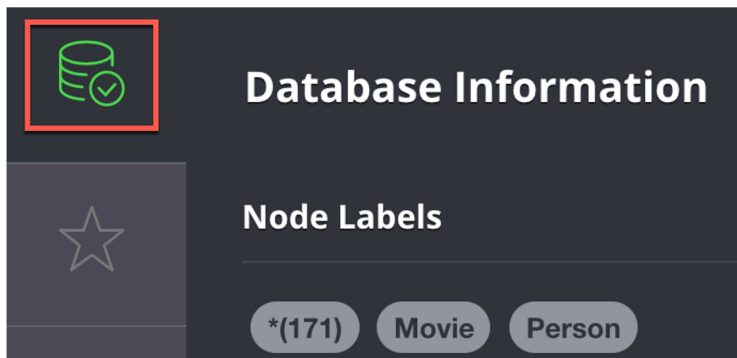
Nodes

```
( )  
(p)  
(l)  
(n)
```



Labels

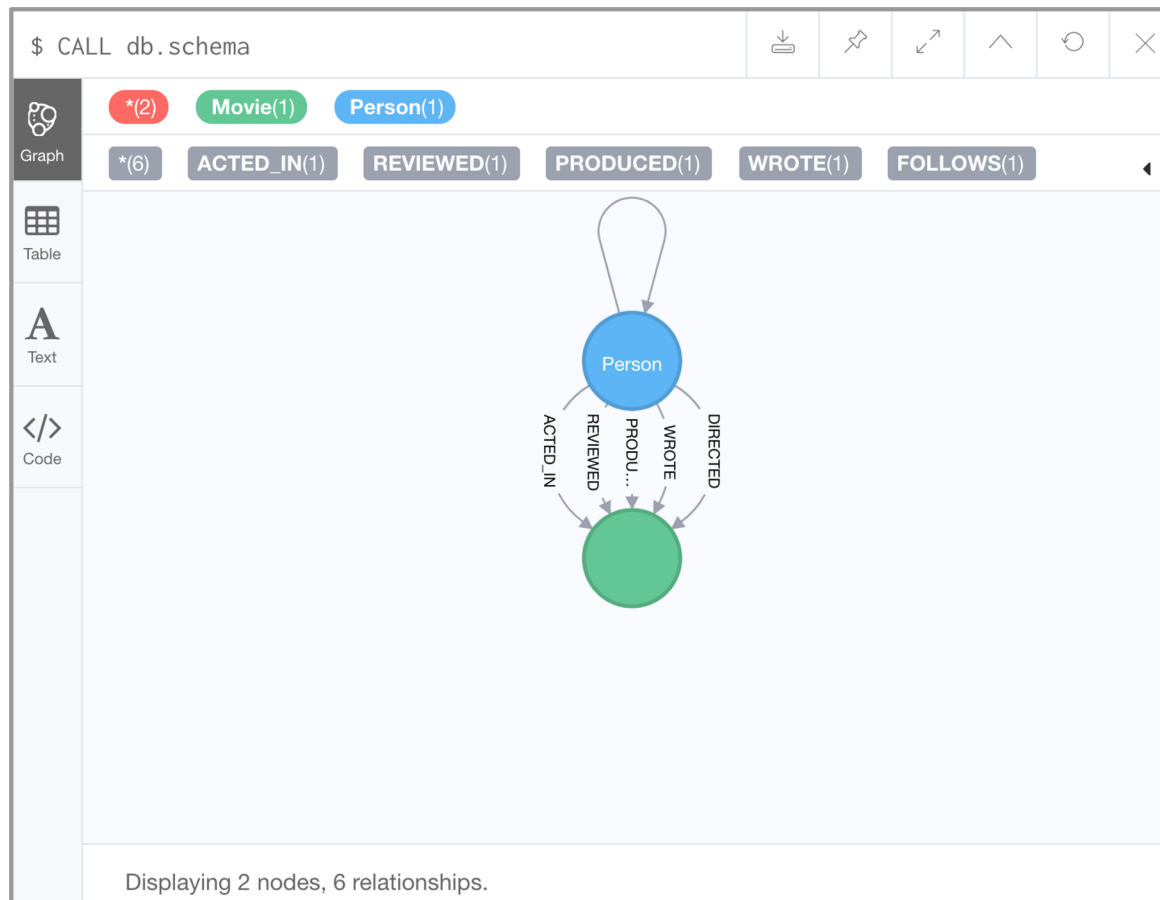
```
(:Person)  
(p:Person)  
(:Location)  
(l:Location)  
(n:Residence)  
(x:Location:Residence)
```



Comments in Cypher

```
()          // anonymous node not be referenced later in the query
(p)          // variable p, a reference to a node used later
(:Person)    // anonymous node of type Person
(p:Person)   // p, a reference to a node of type Person
(p:Actor:Director) // p, a reference to a node of types Actor and Director
```

Examining the data model



Using MATCH to retrieve nodes

```
MATCH (n) // returns all nodes in the graph  
RETURN n
```

```
MATCH (p:Person) // returns all Person nodes in the graph  
RETURN p
```



Viewing nodes as table data

\$ MATCH (p:Person) RETURN p

Graph

Table

A

Text

</>

Code

p

{
 "name": "Keanu Reeves",
 "born": 1964
}

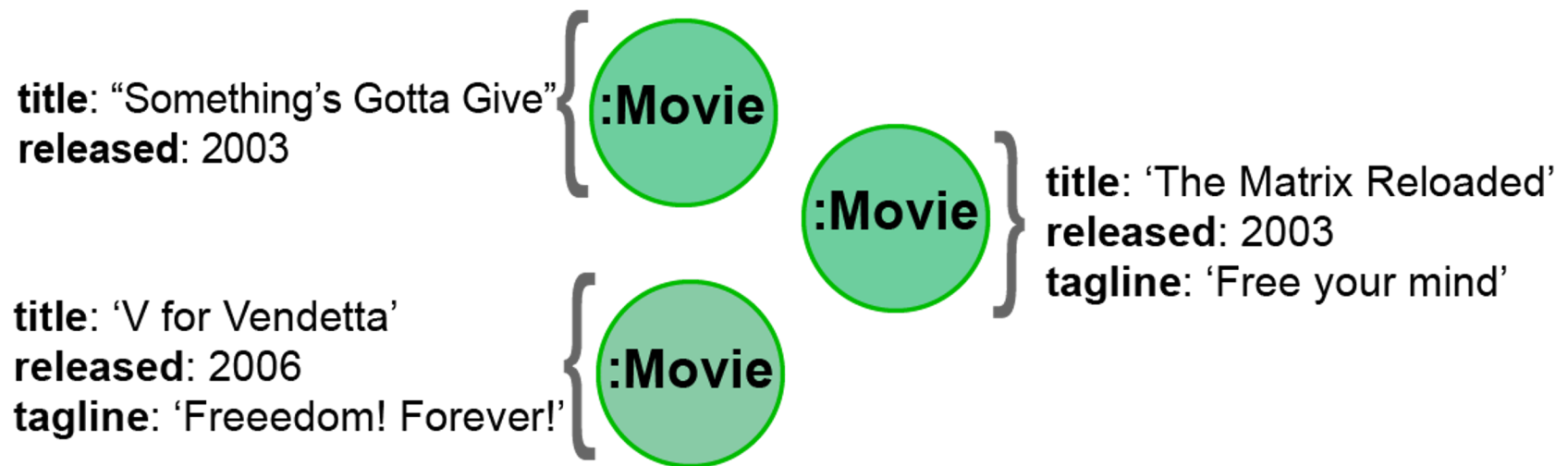
{
 "name": "Carrie-Anne Moss",
 "born": 1967
}

{
 "name": "Laurence Fishburne",
 "born": 1961
}

44

 neo4j

Properties



Examining property keys

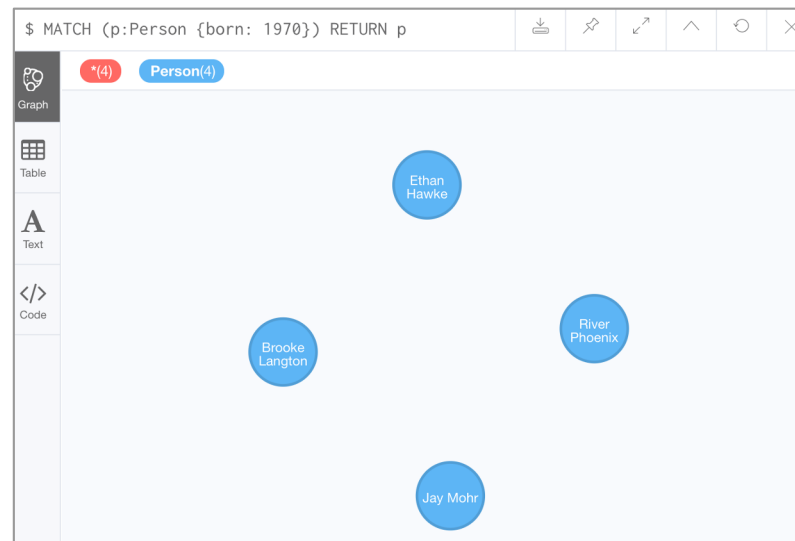
```
CALL db.propertyKeys
```

\$ CALL db.propertyKeys							
 Table	propertyKey						
 Text	"title"						
	"released"						
	"tagline"						
	"name"						
	"born"						
	"roles"						
	"summary"						
	"rating"						
	"id"						
	"share_link"						
	"favorite_count"						
	"display_name"						
 Code	Started streaming 12 records in less than 1 ms and completed in less than 1 ms.						

Retrieving nodes filtered by a property value - 1

Find all *people* born in 1970, returning the nodes:

```
MATCH (p:Person {born: 1970})  
RETURN p
```



Retrieving nodes filtered by a property value - 2

Find all movies released in 2003 with the tagline, *Free your mind*, returning the nodes:

```
MATCH (m:Movie {released: 2003, tagline: 'Free your mind'})  
RETURN m
```

Q: Does this syntax remind you of anything....?



The screenshot shows the Neo4j Cypher query interface. The query entered is `$ MATCH (m:Movie {released: 2003, tagline: "Free your mind"}) RETURN m`. The interface has a sidebar with icons for Graph, Table, Text, and Code. The 'Table' view is selected, and the results are displayed as a single record for variable `m`. The record is a JSON object: `{ "title": "The Matrix Reloaded", "tagline": "Free your mind", "released": 2003 }`. At the bottom, a status message reads: "Started streaming 1 records after 1 ms and completed after 2 ms."

Returning property values

Find all people born in 1965 and return their names:

```
MATCH (p:Person {born: 1965})  
RETURN p.name, p.born
```

\$ MATCH (p:Person {born: 1965}) RETURN p.name, p.born

Table

A

Text

</>

Code

Specifying aliases

```
MATCH (p:Person {born: 1965})  
RETURN p.name AS name, p.born AS `birth year`
```

```
$ MATCH (p:Person {born: 1965}) RETURN p.name AS name, p.born AS `birth year`
```



Table



Text



Code

name

birth year

"Lana Wachowski"

1965

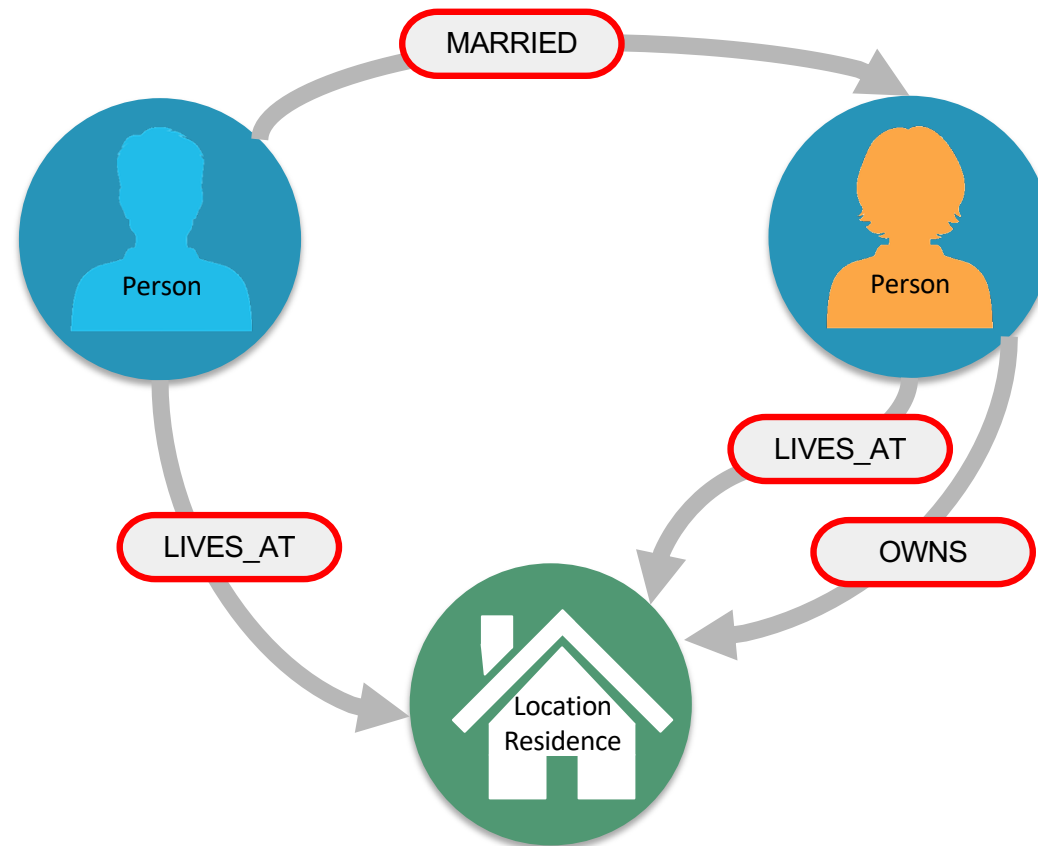
"Tom Tykwer"

1965

"John C. Reilly"

1965

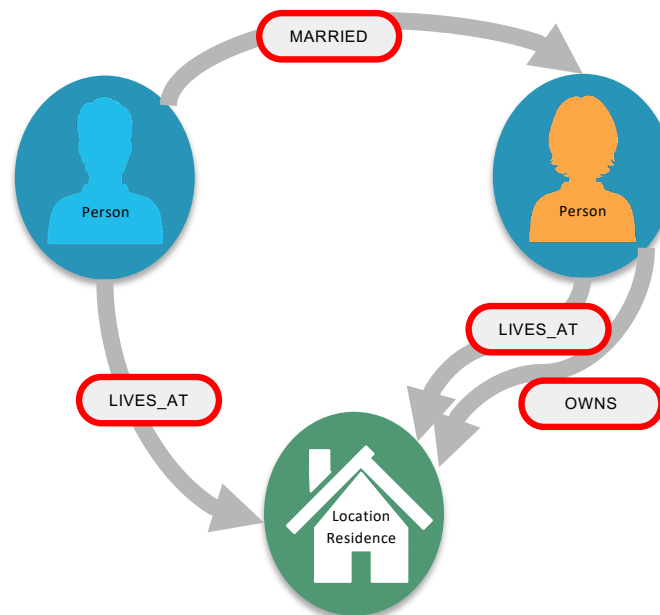
Relationships



ASCII art for nodes and relationships

```
( )           // a node
( )--( )      // 2 nodes have some type of relationship
( )-->( )     // the first node has a relationship to the second node
( )<--( )     // the second node has a relationship to the first node
```

Querying using relationships

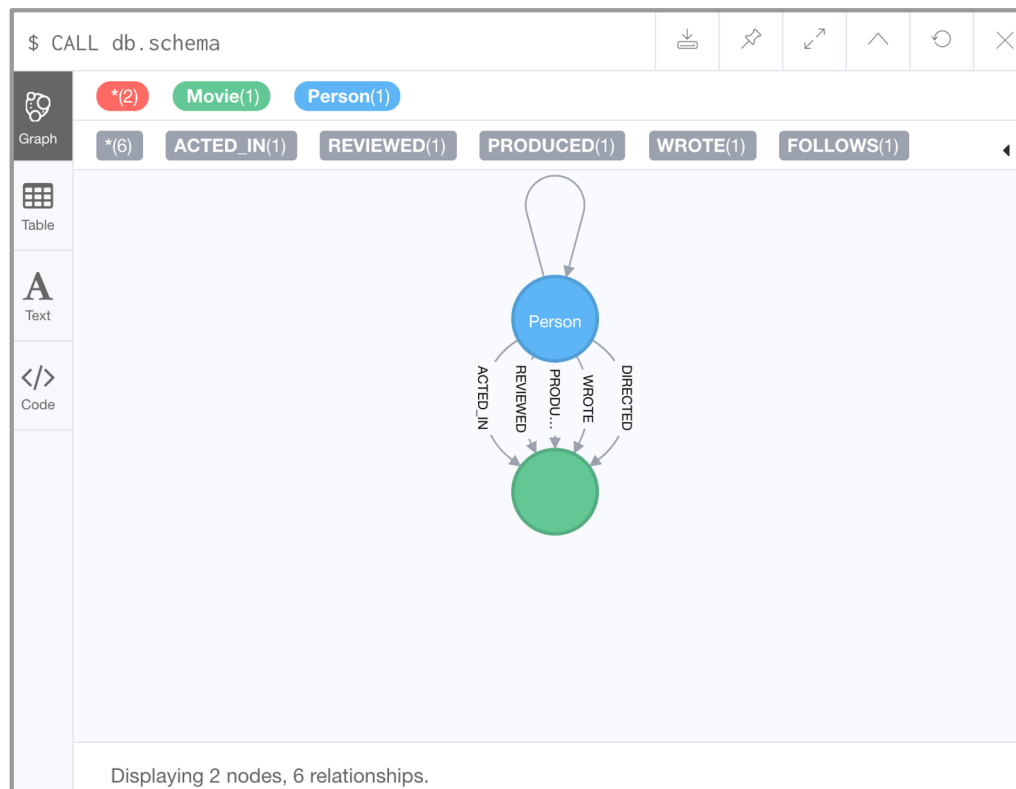


```
MATCH (p:Person)-[:LIVES_AT]->(h:Residence)
RETURN p.name, h.address
```

```
MATCH (p:Person)--(h:Residence) // any relationship
RETURN p.name, h.address
```

Examining relationships

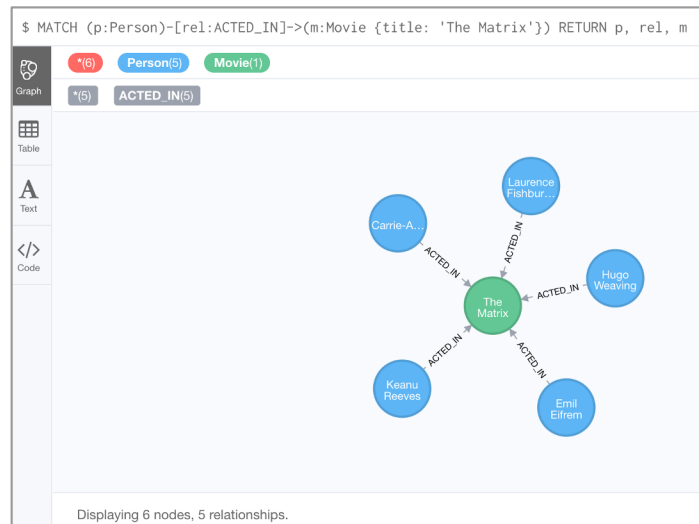
CALL db.schema



Using a relationship in a query

Find all people who acted in the movie, *The Matrix*, returning the nodes and relationships found:

```
MATCH (p:Person)-[rel:ACTED_IN]->(m:Movie {title: 'The Matrix'})  
RETURN p, rel, m
```



Querying by multiple relationships

Find all movies that *Tom Hanks* acted in or directed and return the title of the move:

```
MATCH (p:Person {name: 'Tom Hanks'})-[:ACTED_IN | :DIRECTED]->(m:Movie)
RETURN p.name, m.title
```

\$ MATCH (p:Person {name: 'Tom Hanks'})-[:ACTED_IN :DIRECTED]->(m:Movie) RETURN p.name, m.title		
 Table	p.name	m.title
 Text	"Tom Hanks"	"Apollo 13"
 Code	"Tom Hanks"	"Cast Away"
	"Tom Hanks"	"The Polar Express"
	"Tom Hanks"	"A League of Their Own"
	"Tom Hanks"	"Charlie Wilson's War"
	"Tom Hanks"	"Cloud Atlas"
	"Tom Hanks"	"The Da Vinci Code"
	"Tom Hanks"	"The Green Mile"
	"Tom Hanks"	"You've Got Mail"
	"Tom Hanks"	"That Thing You Do"
	"Tom Hanks"	"That Thing You Do"
	"Tom Hanks"	"Joe Versus the Volcano"
	"Tom Hanks"	"Sleepless in Seattle"
Started streaming 13 records after 1 ms and completed after 1 ms.		

Using anonymous nodes in a query

Find all people who acted in the movie, *The Matrix* and return their names:

```
MATCH (p:Person)-[:ACTED_IN]->(:Movie {title: 'The Matrix'})
RETURN p.name
```

\$ MATCH (p:Person)-[:ACTED_IN]->(:Movie {title:'The Matrix'}) RETURN p.name

Table

Text

Code

p.name
"Emil Eifrem"
"Hugo Weaving"
"Laurence Fishburne"
"Carrie-Anne Moss"
"Keanu Reeves"

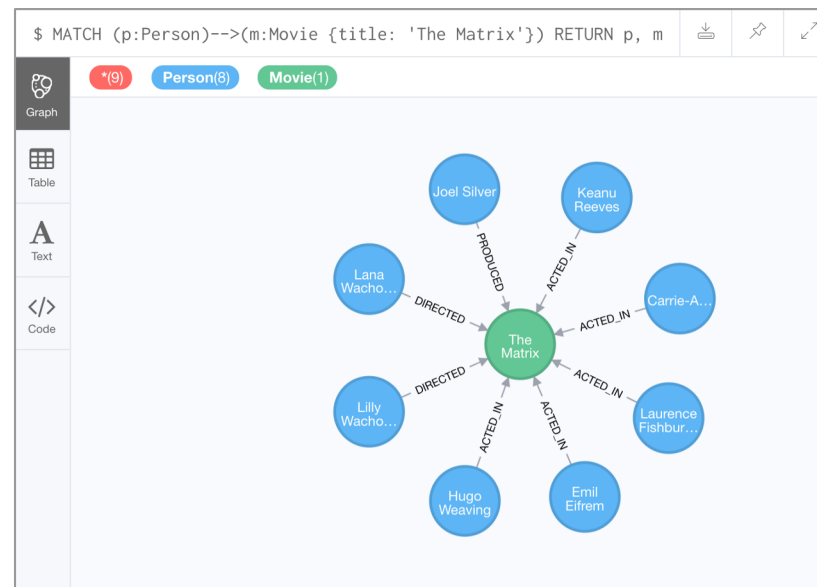
No node variable specified here

Started streaming 5 records after 1 ms and completed after 2 ms.

Using an anonymous relationship for a query

Find all people who have any type of relationship to the movie, *The Matrix* and return the nodes:

```
MATCH (p:Person)-->(m:Movie {title: 'The Matrix'})  
RETURN p, m
```



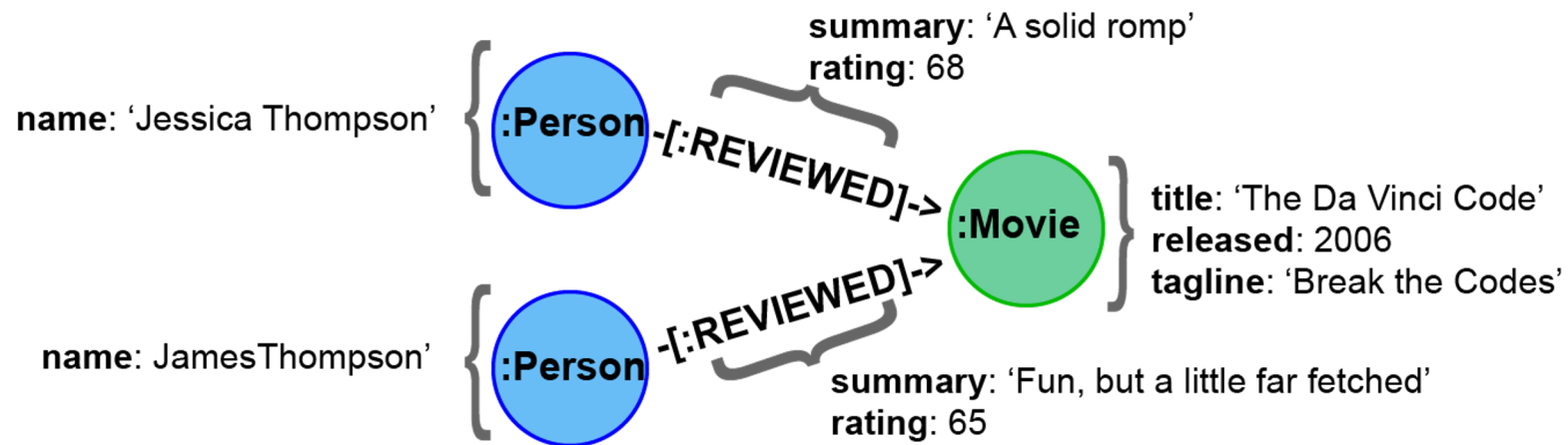
Retrieving relationship types

Find all people who have any type of relationship to the movie, *The Matrix* and return the name of the person and their relationship type:

```
MATCH (p:Person)-[rel]->(:Movie {title:'The Matrix'})
RETURN p.name, type(rel)
```

\$ MATCH (p:Person)-[rel]->(:Movie {title:'The Matrix'}) RETURN p.name, type(rel)		
 Table	p.name	type(rel)
	"Emil Eifrem"	"ACTED_IN"
	"Joel Silver"	"PRODUCED"
	"Lana Wachowski"	"DIRECTED"
	"Lilly Wachowski"	"DIRECTED"
	"Hugo Weaving"	"ACTED_IN"
	"Laurence Fishburne"	"ACTED_IN"
	"Carrie-Anne Moss"	"ACTED_IN"
	"Keanu Reeves"	"ACTED_IN"
Started streaming 8 records after 1 ms and completed after 2 ms.		

Retrieving properties for a relationship - 1



Retrieving properties for a relationship - 2

Find all people who gave the movie, *The Da Vinci Code*, a rating of 65, returning their names:

```
MATCH (p:Person)-[:REVIEWED {rating: 65}]->(m:Movie {title: 'The Da Vinci Code'})  
RETURN p.name
```

```
$ MATCH (p:Person)-[:REVIEWED {rating: 65}]->(m:Movie {title: 'The Da Vinci Code'}) RETURN p.name
```



Table

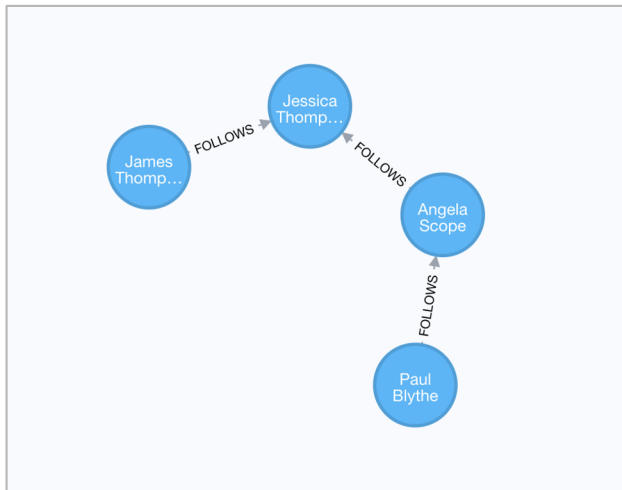
p.name

"James Thompson"



Text

Using patterns for queries - 1

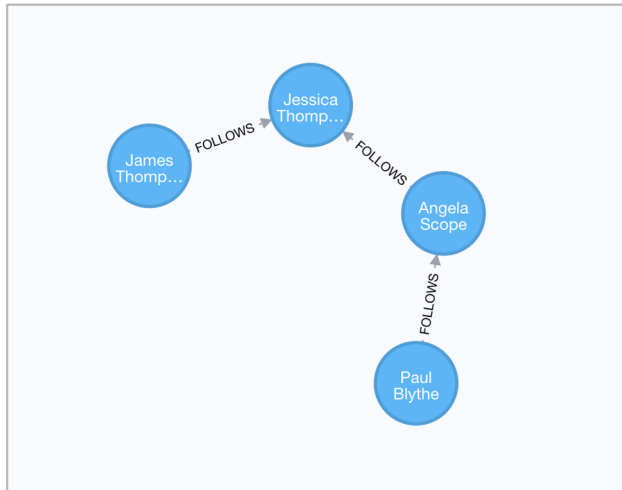


Find all people who follow *Angela Scope*, returning the nodes:

```
MATCH (p:Person)-[:FOLLOWS]->(:Person {name:'Angela Scope'})  
RETURN p
```

The screenshot shows the Neo4j Cypher query editor. The query is: `$ MATCH (p:Person)-[:FOLLOWS]->(:Person {name:'Angela Scope'}) RETURN p`. The results are displayed in graph view, showing a single node labeled "Paul Blythe". The left sidebar contains icons for Graph, Table, and Text. The top bar shows the query and the result count: `*(1)` and `Person(1)`. A red arrow points to the `Person(1)` label.

Using patterns for queries - 2

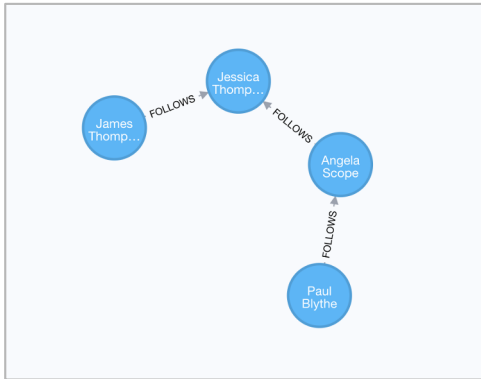


Find all people who *Angela Scope* follows, returning the nodes:

```
MATCH (p:Person)<-[:FOLLOWS]-(:Person {name:'Angela Scope'})  
RETURN p
```

The screenshot shows the Neo4j Cypher query editor. The query is: `$ MATCH (p:Person)<-[:FOLLOWS]-(:Person {name:'Angela Scope'}) RETURN p`. Below the query, there is a visual representation of the query plan. It shows a red node labeled `*(1)` and a blue node labeled `Person()`. A red arrow points from the `*(1)` node to the `Person()` node. Below the query plan, there is a visual representation of the results. It shows a single node labeled `Jessica Thompson...`.

Querying by any direction of the relationship



Find all people who follow *Angela Scope* or who *Angela Scope* follows, returning the nodes:

```
MATCH (p1:Person)-[:FOLLOWS]-(p2:Person {name:'Angela Scope'})  
RETURN p1, p2
```

\$ MATCH (p1:Person)-[:FOLLOWS]-(p2:Person {name:'Angela Scope'}) RETURN p1, p2

*(3) Person(3)

```
graph LR; JessicaThompson((Jessica Thompson...)) -- FOLLOWS --> AngelaScope((Angela Scope)); PaulBlythe((Paul Blythe)) -- FOLLOWS --> AngelaScope;
```

To be continued...