

# Query languages for property graphs

## From RPQs to Cypher

NoSQL and New SQL course  
M2 LID, Université Gustave-Eiffel

2025-2026

version 6.1

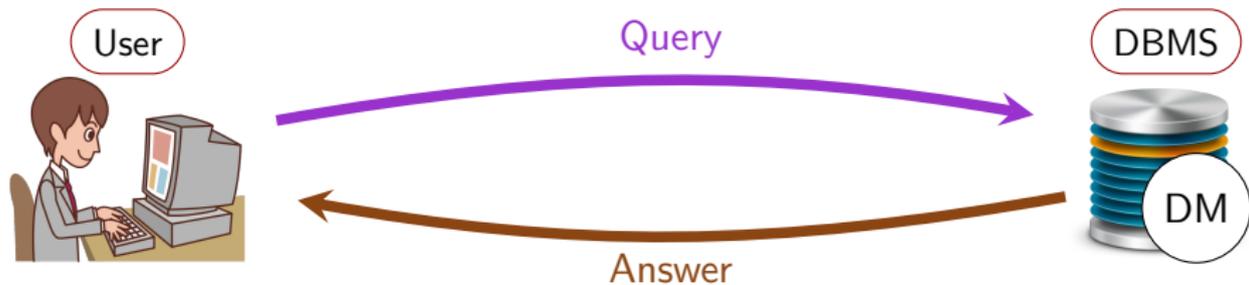
# **Introduction**

## Navigation

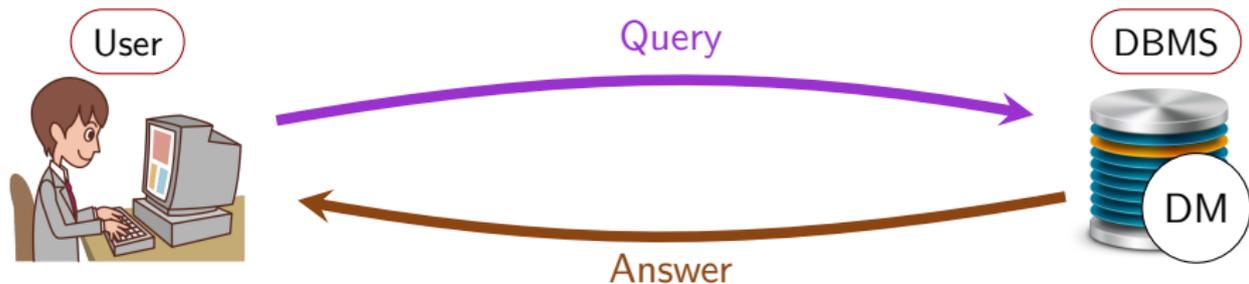
From any frame, the [page number](#) is a link to the navigable outline.

## Term translations

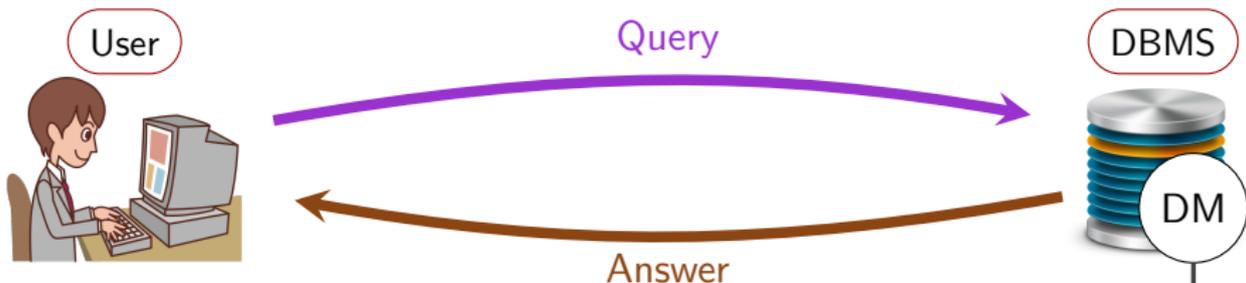
There is a [French/English lexicon](#) at the end.



- **DBMS** (DataBase Management System)



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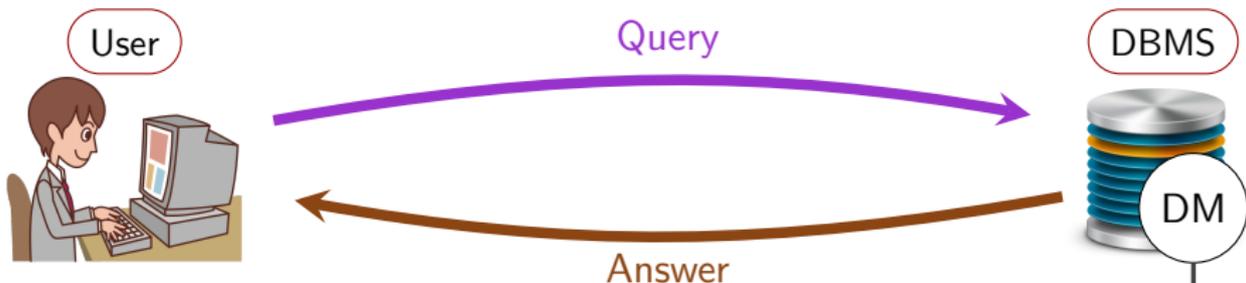
- **DM (Data Model)**

- “How is the data structured?” “What data is representable?”
- Ex: Relations (SQL), Trees (XML, JSON), Graphs (PGs, RDF),

- **DBMS** (DataBase Management System)

- **Query language**

- *“What can the user write?”*



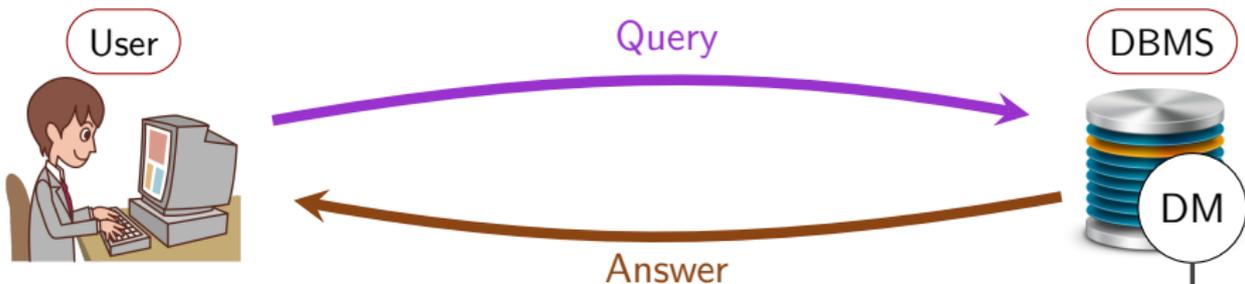
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- **Semantics**

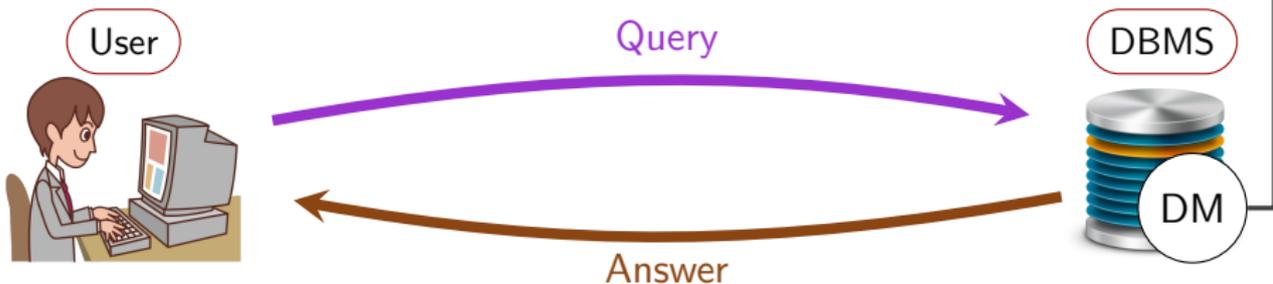
- *"What does the query mean?"* *"What is the correct answer?"*
- Ex: Set semantics (duplicate elimination)

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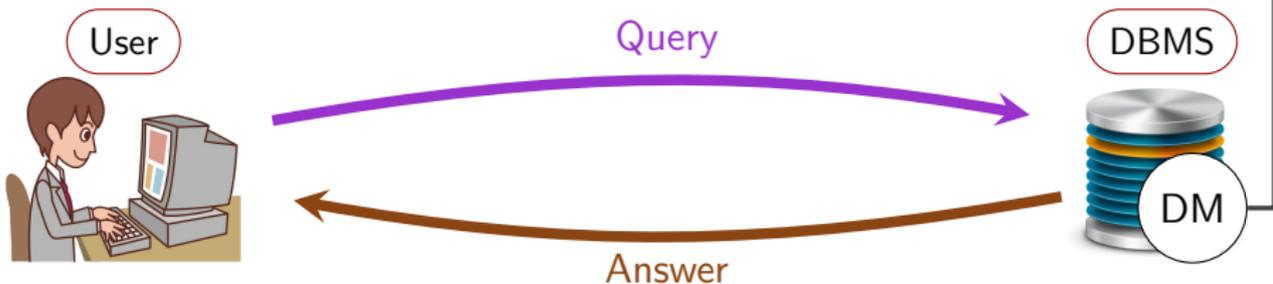
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- The **data model** is **Property Graph (PG)**



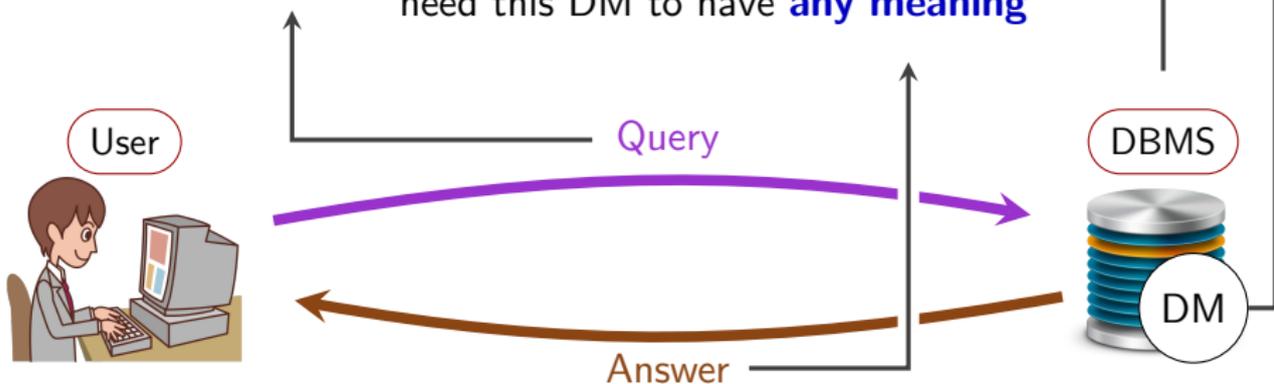
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- The **data model** is **Property Graph (PG)**
- The **DBMS** we will use (**Neo4j**) implements this DM



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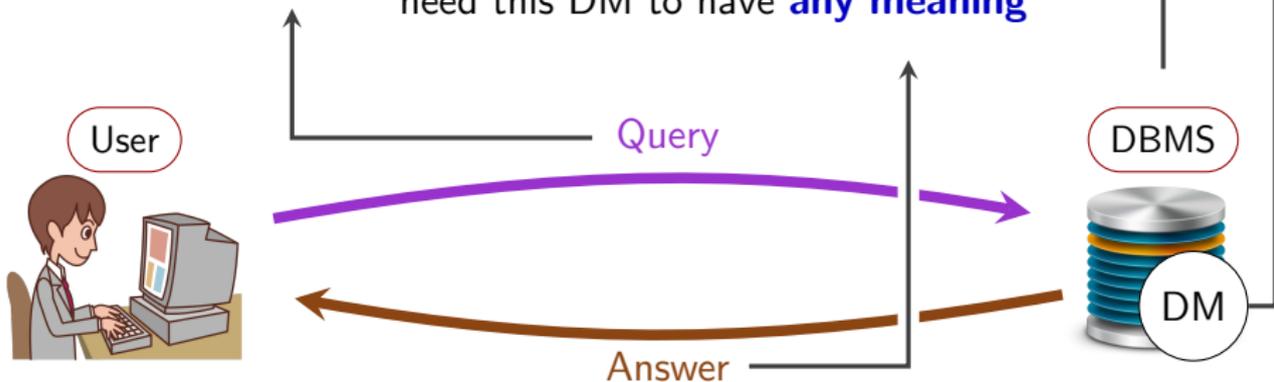
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- The **query languages** we consider (**Cypher**, GQL, etc.) need this DM to have **any meaning**



## This segment is about **query languages for property graphs**

### In part II:

- The **data model** is **Property Graph (PG)**
- The **DBMS** we will use (**Neo4j**) implements this DM
- The **query languages** we consider (**Cypher**, GQL, etc.) need this DM to have **any meaning**



# Popularity of Graph DBMS's (1)

Vast majority of DBMS's are relational, not graph

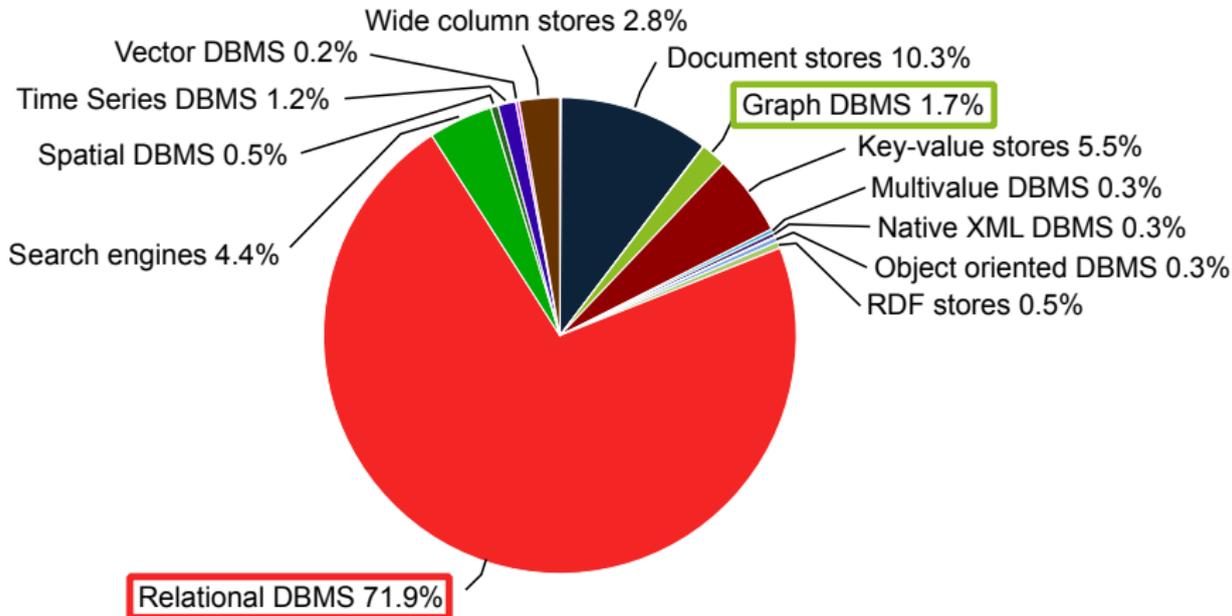


Figure and data from [db-engines.com](https://db-engines.com), August 2023

# Popularity of Graph DBMS's (2)

Graph DBMS's has grown in popularity for ten years  
Relational DBMS's continued their slow decline

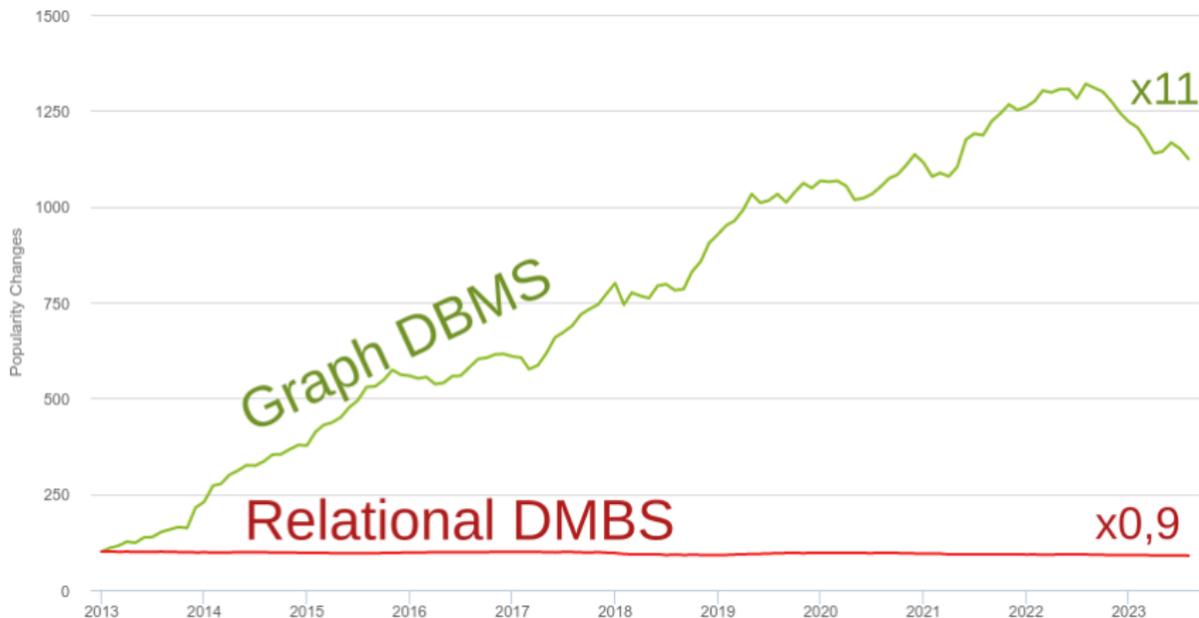
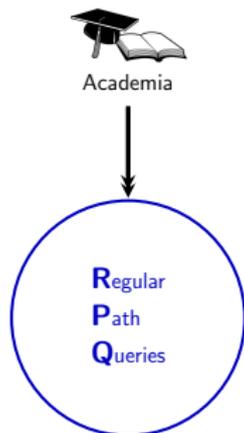
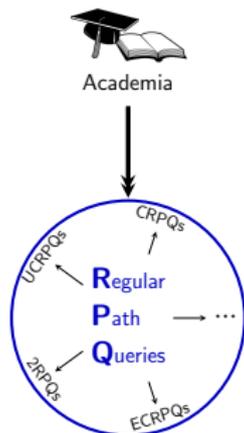


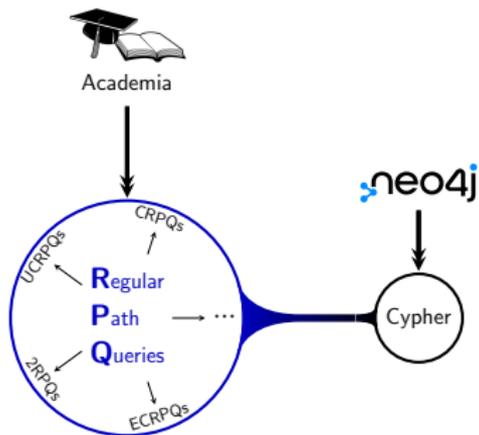
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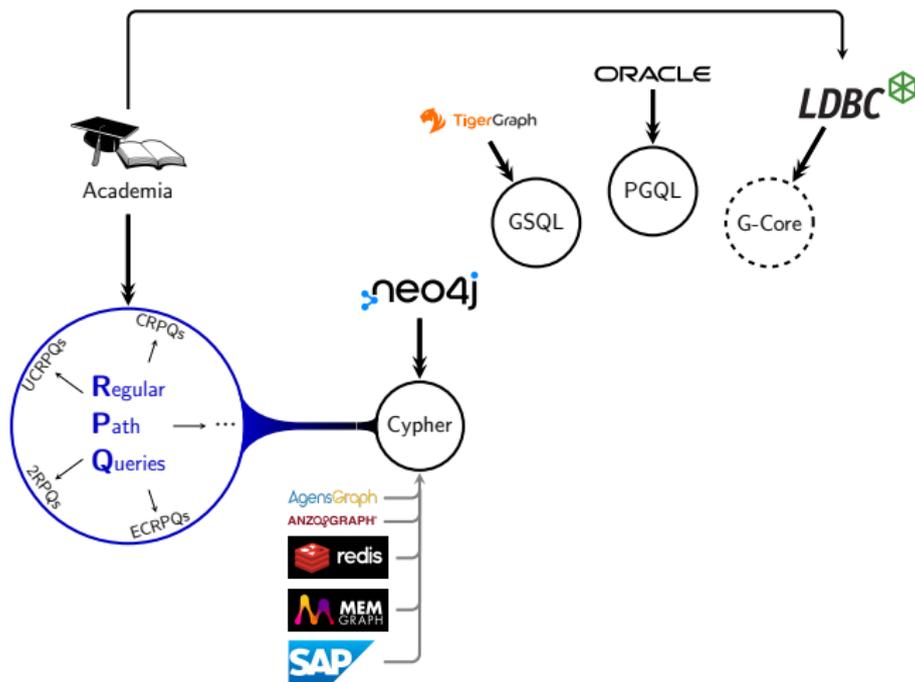
Late 1980's – RPQs are invented



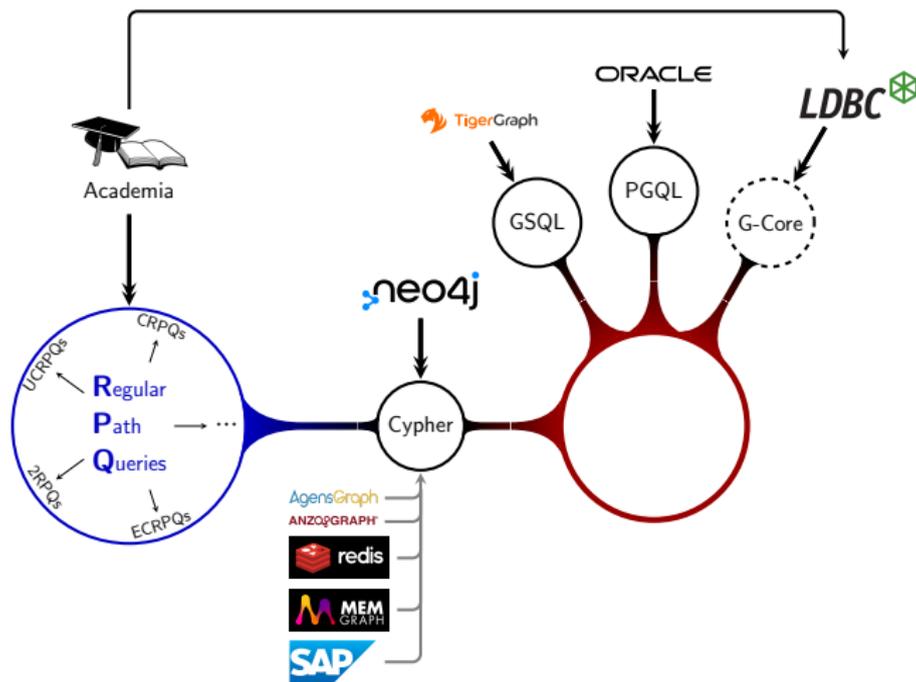
Since 1990's – RPQs are studied and extended in academia



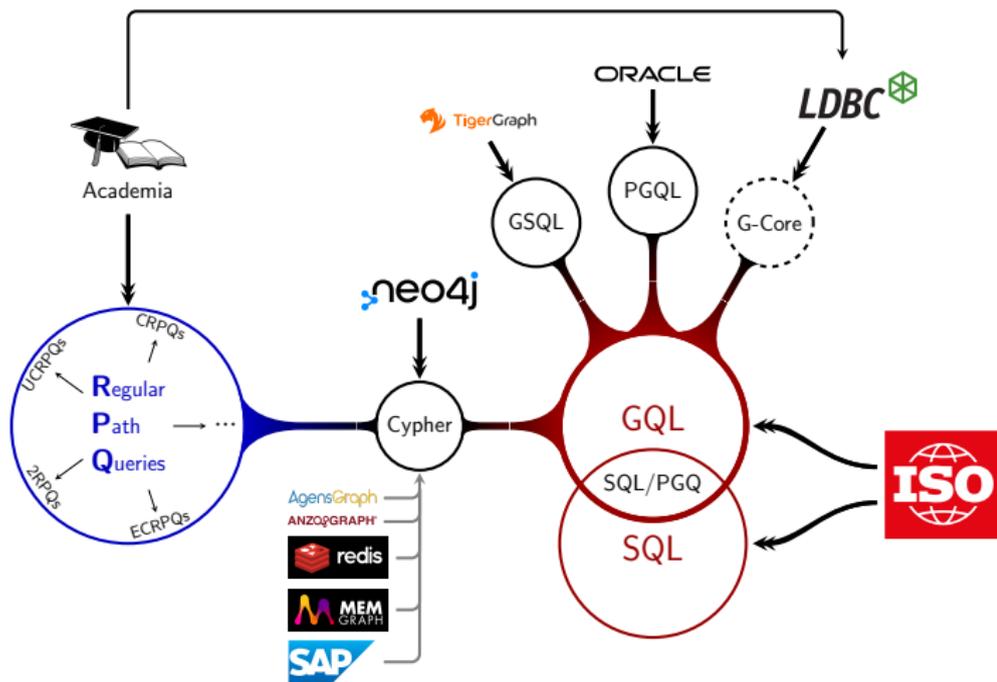
2011 – The query language Cypher is released with the DBMS Neo4j



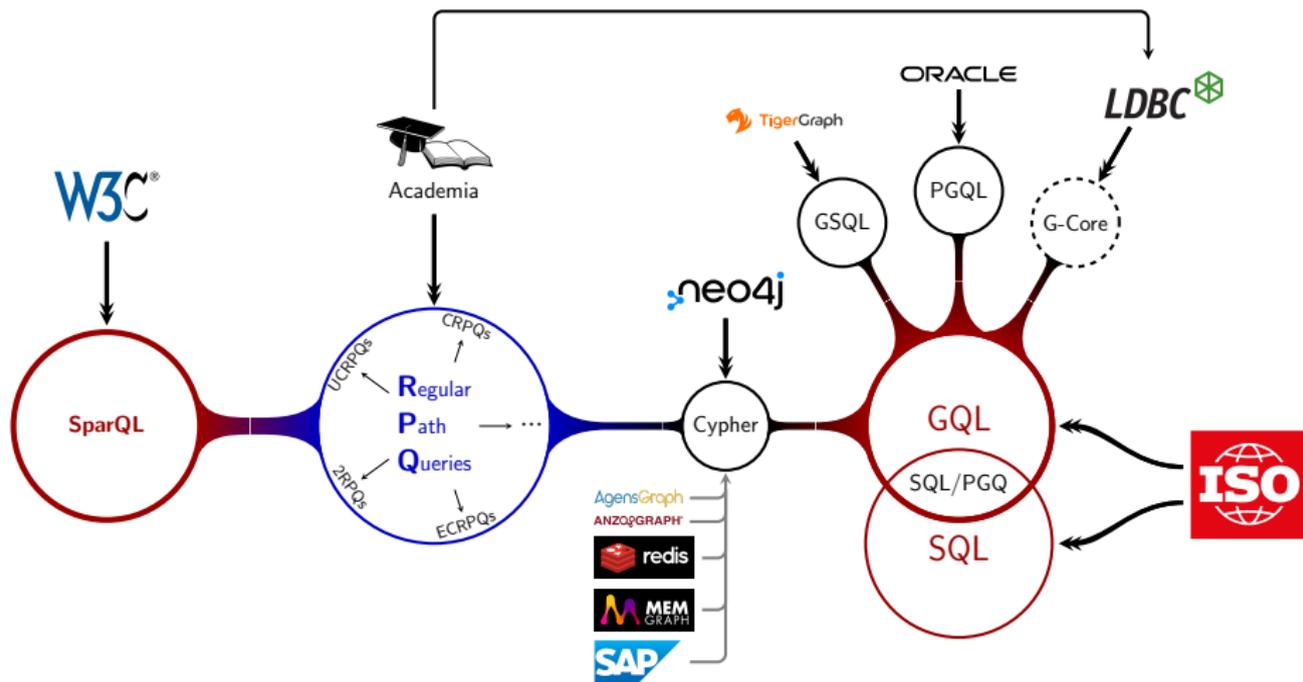
Mid 2010's – Cypher is successful and new graph DBMS's appear. Some use Cypher, some come with their own query language.



Late 2010's – Idea to merge existing languages for interoperability



2023 – SQL/PGQ support for querying PG's in SQL  
2024 – GQL, standard query language for PG's



Side note: In SPARQL, the standard language for the RDF DM, features *Property paths* which are also based on RPQ's.

## Course I: Theoretical Foundations

- Data model: Labeled Graphs
- Query language: RPQs

## Course II & III: A practical application

- Data model: Property graphs
- Query language: Cypher

# **Part I: Theoretical foundations**

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# 1. **Data model: labeled graphs**

## Example

A graph consists of ...

- Vertices
- Edges
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①

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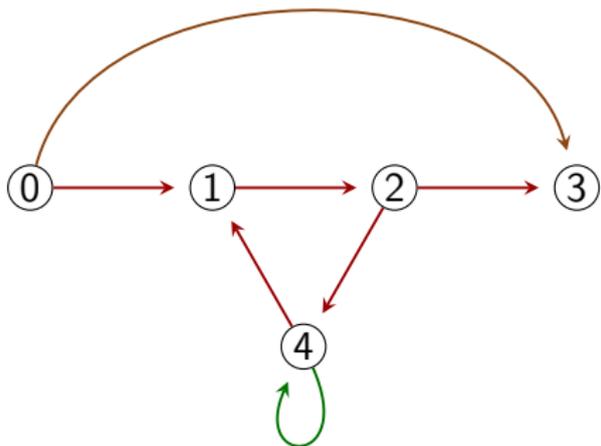
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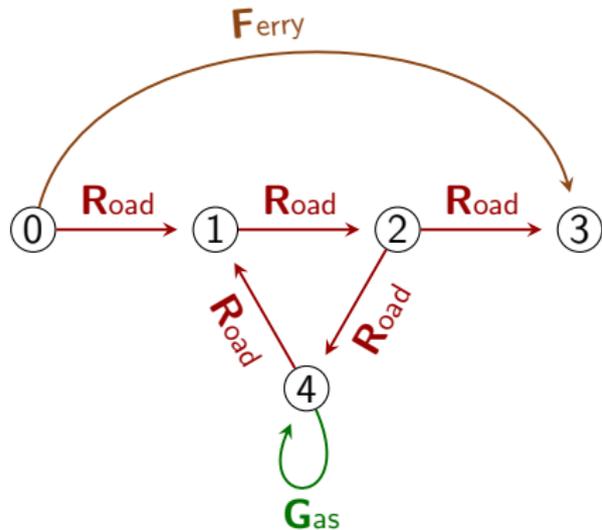
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# Our data model : (Labeled) graphs (2)

## Formalisation

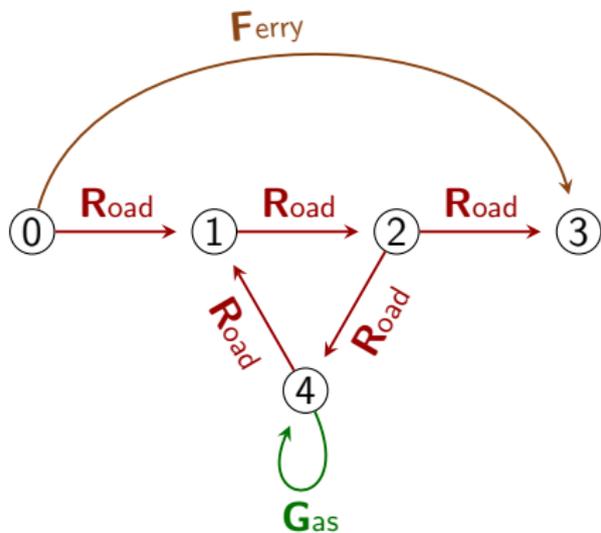
### Definition

A labeled graph consists of:

- $V$  is a finite set of **vertices**
- $L$  is a finite set of **labels**
- $E \subseteq V \times L \times V$  is a finite set of **edges**

### Formal representation of $G$

- $V = \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4\}$
- $L = \{\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{F}, \mathbf{G}\}$
- $E = \{ (0, \mathbf{R}, 1), (1, \mathbf{R}, 2), (2, \mathbf{R}, 3), (2, \mathbf{R}, 4), (4, \mathbf{R}, 1), (0, \mathbf{F}, 3), (4, \mathbf{G}, 4) \}$



Example graph  $G$

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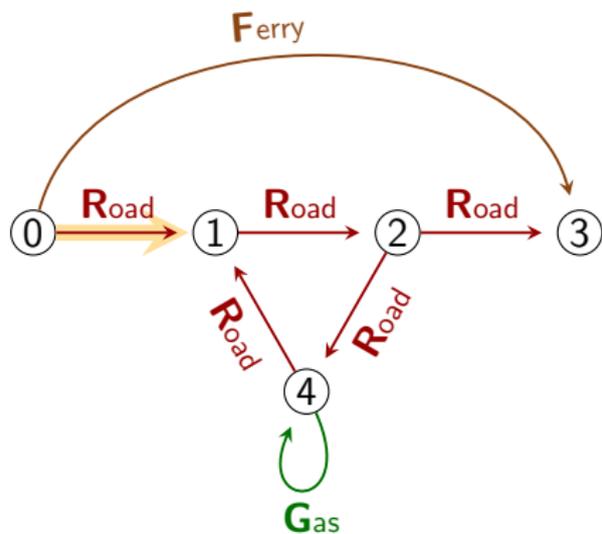
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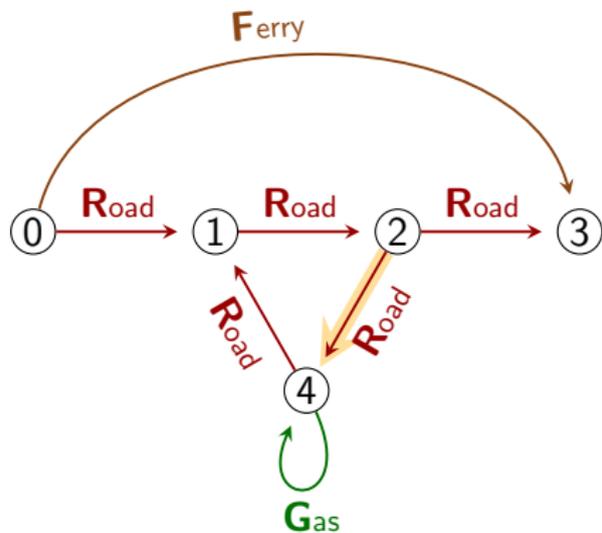
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Example graph  $G$

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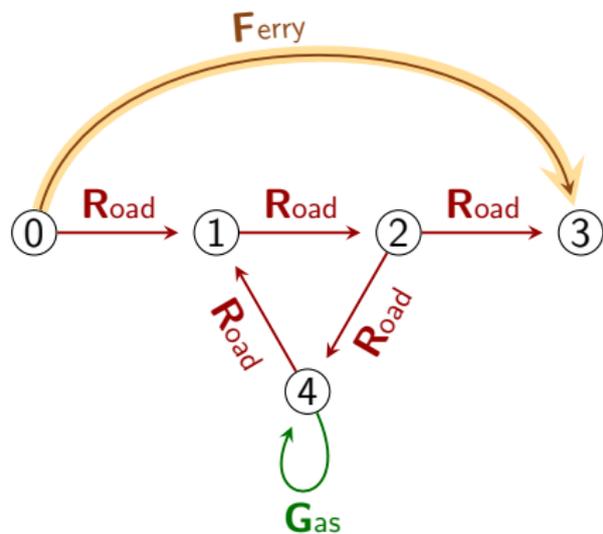
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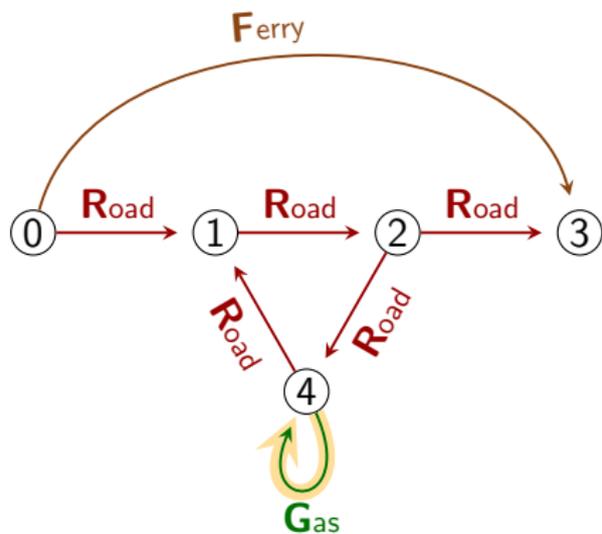
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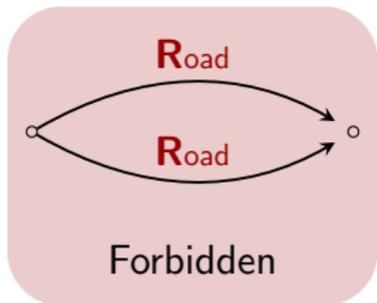
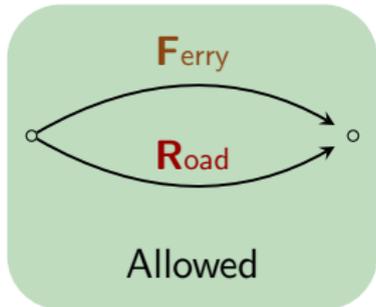
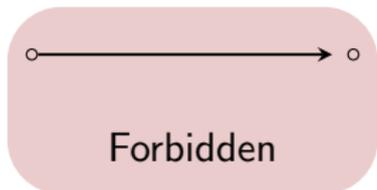
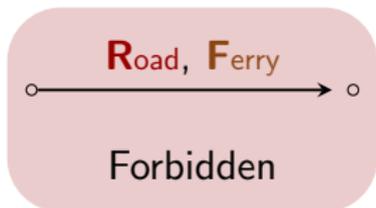


Example graph  $G$

# Limits to the graph data model (1)

Our graphs are single-labeled and single-edge

- Each edge has exactly one label.
- There cannot be two identical edges.



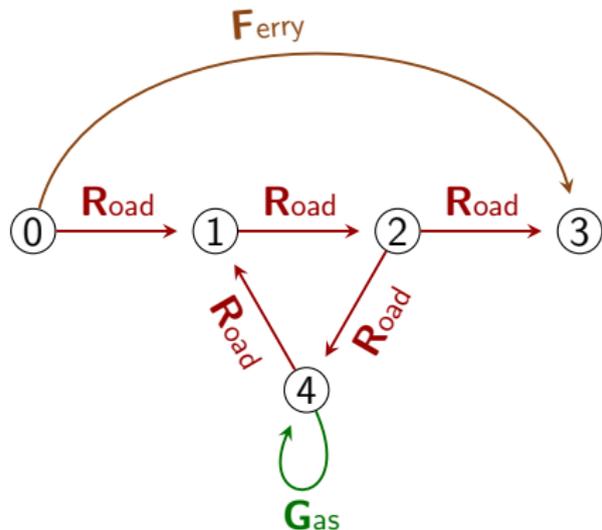
The graph DM is about topology, not data

- We encode the existence of entities and of relations between entities  
Ex: cities, roads
- We don't encode specific data of an entity or relation  
Ex: names, distances

## Examples

Our model **cannot** encode that

- some road from is 2km long
- the gas price is 2€ in some vertex



Part I: Theoretical foundations

## **2. Regular Path Queries**

**Regular Path Queries** offer a pattern-matching mechanism for walks.

An RPQ

- is a regular expression
- sent to a (labeled) graph
- to match walks.

A **letter** is a symbol coming from a finite set, the **alphabet**.

In our case, the alphabet is the label-set of the graph.

Examples:

- $\{\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{F}, \mathbf{G}\}$  is an alphabet
- $\mathbf{R}$  and  $\mathbf{G}$  are letters

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A **word** is a finite sequence of letters

Examples words:

- **RGRR**
- **R**
- $\varepsilon$ , the **empty word**

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A **language** is a finite or infinite set of words

Example languages:

- 1  $\{\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{RG}\}$
- 2  $\{\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{RR}, \mathbf{RRR}, \dots\}$
- 3 Words with one  $\mathbf{G}$
- 4 Words of even length
- 5 Palindromes (e.g. kayak)
- 6 Words with more  $\mathbf{R}$  than  $\mathbf{G}$

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A language is **regular** if it is

- accepted by an automaton; or
- denoted by a regexp.

*(Both are equivalent.)*

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Example: 1 – 4 are regular

## Atoms

- Each letter is a regexp
- $\epsilon$  is a regexp

Ex:  $\epsilon$ , **R** and **F** are regexps

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## Concatenation ·

**If**  $Q_1$  and  $Q_2$  are regexps

**Then**  $Q_1 \cdot Q_2$  is a regexp

Ex: **R** · **R** and **G** · **F** are regexps  
 $(\mathbf{R} \cdot \mathbf{R}) \cdot (\mathbf{G} \cdot \mathbf{F})$  is a regexp

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Ex: **R**  $\cdot$  **R** and **G**  $\cdot$  **F** are regexps  
**(R  $\cdot$  R)  $\cdot$  (G  $\cdot$  F)** is a regexp

## Disjunction $+$

**If**  $Q_1$  and  $Q_2$  are regexps  
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## Kleene star $*$

**If**  $Q$  is a regexp  
**Then**  $Q^*$  is a regexp

Ex: **R** $^*$  and **G** $^*$  are regexps  
**((R $^*$   $\cdot$  G)  $+$  F) $^*$**  is a regexp

Examples:

**1** **R** describes **{R}**

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Exercices:

- 6  $(R + G)^*$  describes
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*“words of even length”*
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Exercises:

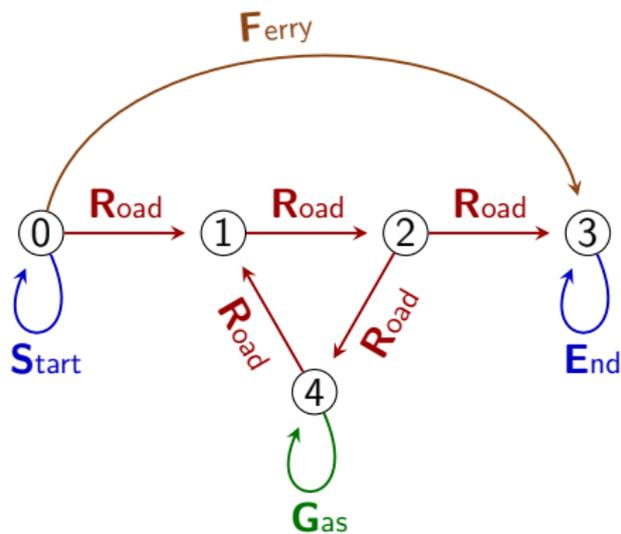
- 6  $(R + G)^*$  describes  $\{\epsilon, R, G, RR, RG, GG, \dots\}$
- 7  $(R \cdot R)^*$  describes  $\{\epsilon, RR, RRRR, RRRRRR, \dots\}$   
*“words of even length”*
- 8  $R^* \cdot G^*$  describes  $\{\epsilon, R, G, RR, RG, GG, RRR, RRG, RGG, \dots\}$   
*“any number of  $R$  followed by any number of  $G$ ”*
- 9  $R^* \cdot G \cdot R^*$  describes

Examples:

- 1  $\mathbf{R}$  describes  $\{\mathbf{R}\}$
- 2  $\mathbf{R} \cdot \mathbf{F} \cdot \mathbf{G}$  describes  $\{\mathbf{RFG}\}$
- 3  $\mathbf{R} + \mathbf{G}$  describes  $\{\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{G}\}$
- 4  $(\mathbf{R} + \mathbf{G}) \cdot \mathbf{R}$  describes  $\{\mathbf{RR}, \mathbf{GR}\}$
- 5  $\mathbf{R}^*$  describes  $\{\varepsilon, \mathbf{R}, \mathbf{RR}, \mathbf{RRR}, \dots\}$

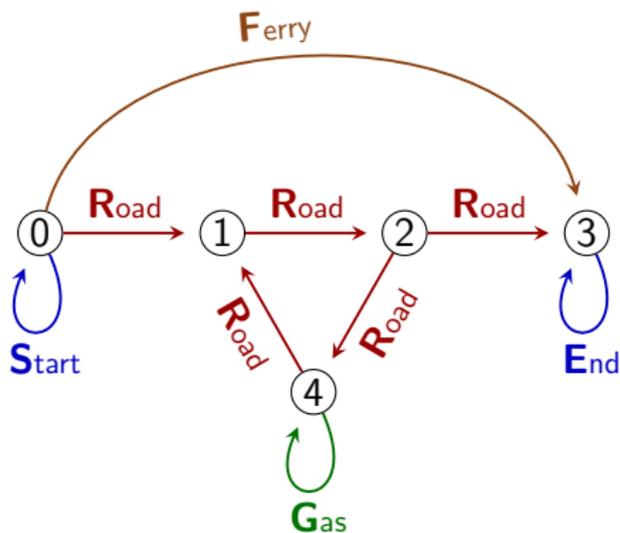
Exercises:

- 6  $(\mathbf{R} + \mathbf{G})^*$  describes  $\{\varepsilon, \mathbf{R}, \mathbf{G}, \mathbf{RR}, \mathbf{RG}, \mathbf{GG}, \dots\}$
- 7  $(\mathbf{R} \cdot \mathbf{R})^*$  describes  $\{\varepsilon, \mathbf{RR}, \mathbf{RRRR}, \mathbf{RRRRRR}, \dots\}$   
“words of even length”
- 8  $\mathbf{R}^* \cdot \mathbf{G}^*$  describes  $\{\varepsilon, \mathbf{R}, \mathbf{G}, \mathbf{RR}, \mathbf{RG}, \mathbf{GG}, \mathbf{RRR}, \mathbf{RRG}, \mathbf{RGG}, \dots\}$   
“any number of  $\mathbf{R}$  followed by any number of  $\mathbf{G}$ ”
- 9  $\mathbf{R}^* \cdot \mathbf{G} \cdot \mathbf{R}^*$  describes  $\{\mathbf{G}, \mathbf{RG}, \mathbf{GR}, \mathbf{RGR}, \mathbf{RRG}, \dots\}$   
“words over  $\{\mathbf{G}, \mathbf{R}\}$  with exactly one  $\mathbf{G}$ ”



A **walk** in  $\mathcal{D}$  is a consistent sequence of edges in  $\mathcal{D}$ .

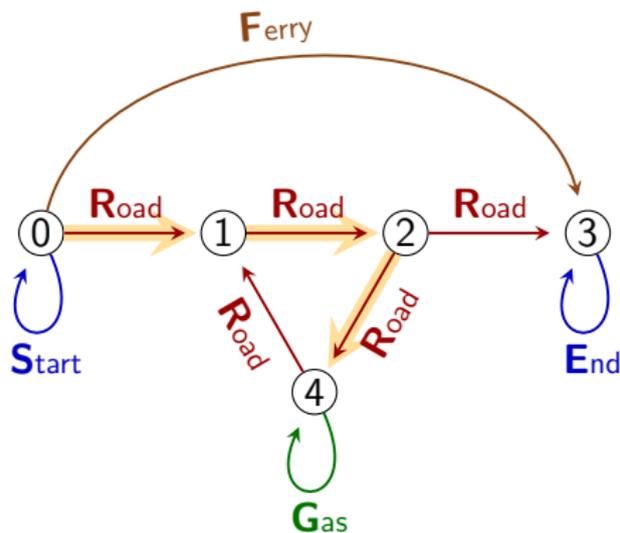
The **label of a walk** is the **word** formed by the label of its edges.



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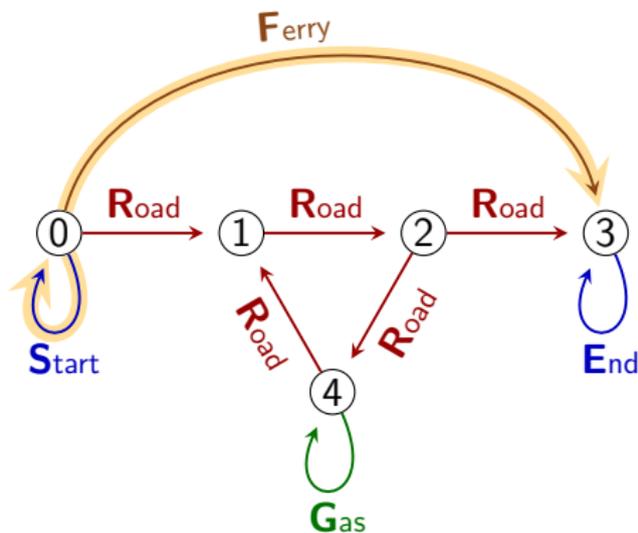
Example walk	Label
$0 \xrightarrow{R} 1 \xrightarrow{R} 2 \xrightarrow{R} 4$	<b>RRR</b>
$0 \xrightarrow{S} 0 \xrightarrow{F} 3$	<b>SF</b>
$0 \xrightarrow{R} 1 \xrightarrow{R} 2 \xrightarrow{R} 4 \xrightarrow{G}$ $4 \xrightarrow{R} 1 \xrightarrow{R} 2 \xrightarrow{R} 3$	<b>RRRGRRR</b>



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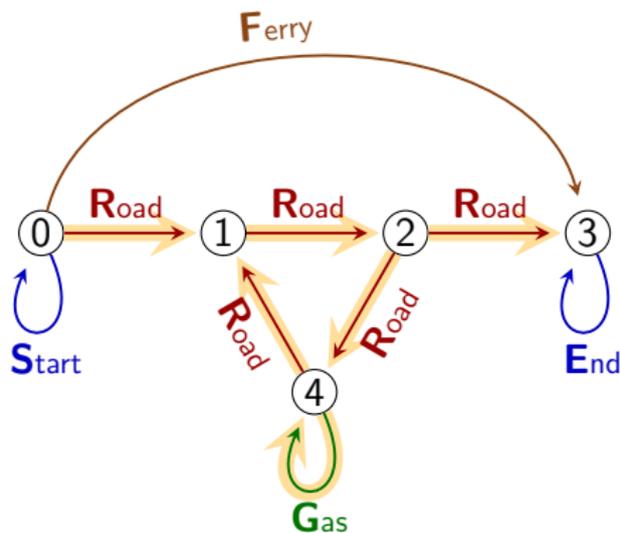
Example walk	Label
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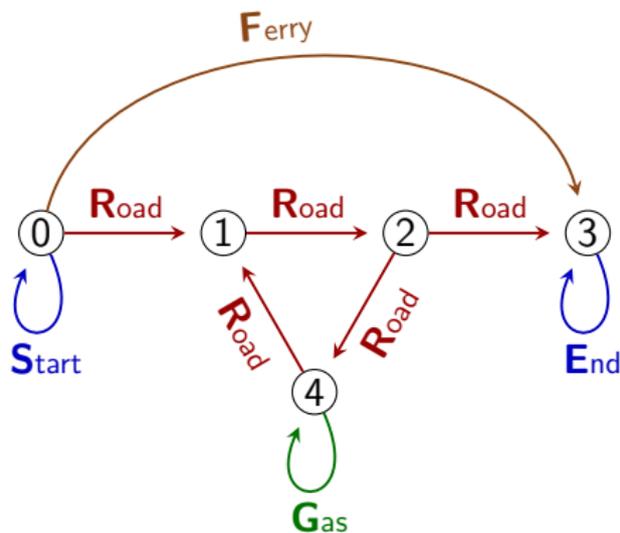
Example walk	Label
$0 \xrightarrow{R} 1 \xrightarrow{R} 2 \xrightarrow{R} 4$	<b>RRR</b>
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$0 \xrightarrow{R} 1 \xrightarrow{R} 2 \xrightarrow{R} 4 \xrightarrow{G} 4 \xrightarrow{R} 1 \xrightarrow{R} 2 \xrightarrow{R} 3$	<b>RRRGRRR</b>

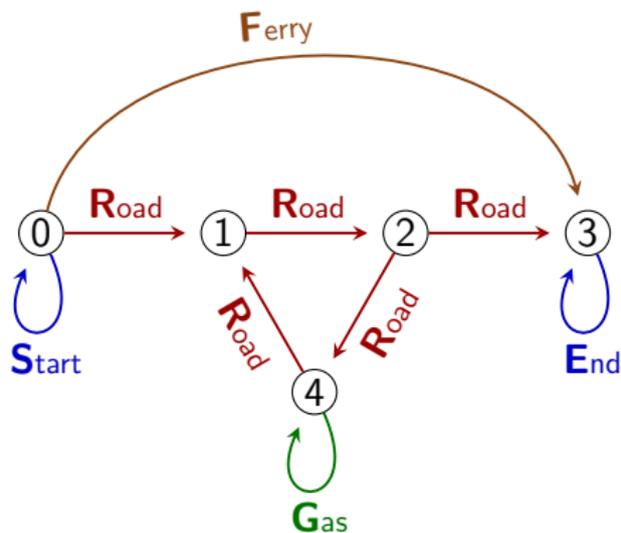


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The **label of a walk** is the **word** formed by the label of its edges.

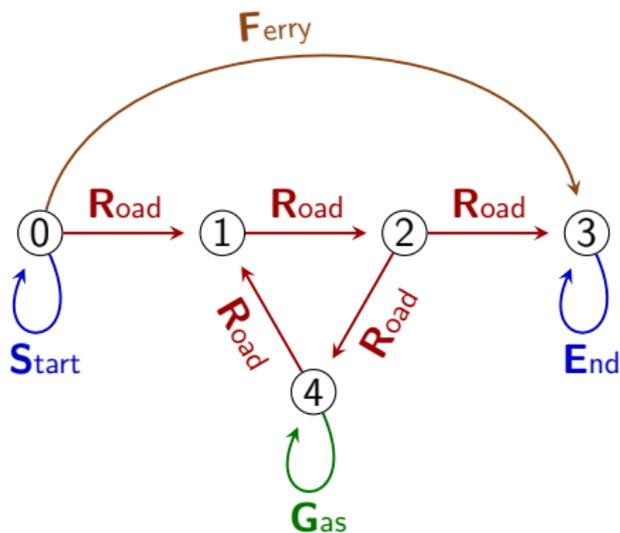
Example walk	Label
$0 \xrightarrow{R} 1 \xrightarrow{R} 2 \xrightarrow{R} 4$	<b>RRR</b>
$0 \xrightarrow{S} 0 \xrightarrow{F} 3$	<b>SF</b>
$0 \xrightarrow{R} 1 \xrightarrow{R} 2 \xrightarrow{R} 4 \xrightarrow{G} 4 \xrightarrow{R} 1 \xrightarrow{R} 2 \xrightarrow{R} 3$	<b>RRRGRRR</b>





## A Regular Path Query (RPQ)

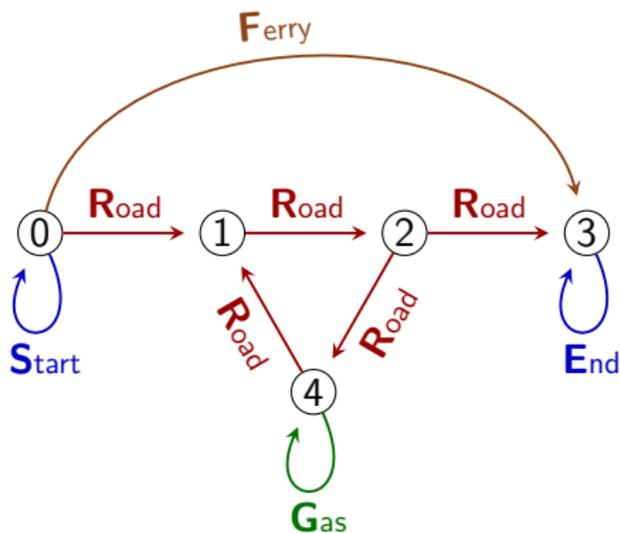
- queries a graph  $\mathcal{D} = (V, L, E)$
- is a **regex** over  $L$
- **matches** a set of **walks** in  $\mathcal{D}$



## A Regular Path Query (RPQ)

- queries a graph  $\mathcal{D} = (V, L, E)$
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Given an RPQ  $Q$ ,  
a **walk**  $w$  is a **match** to  $Q$   
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## A Regular Path Query (RPQ)

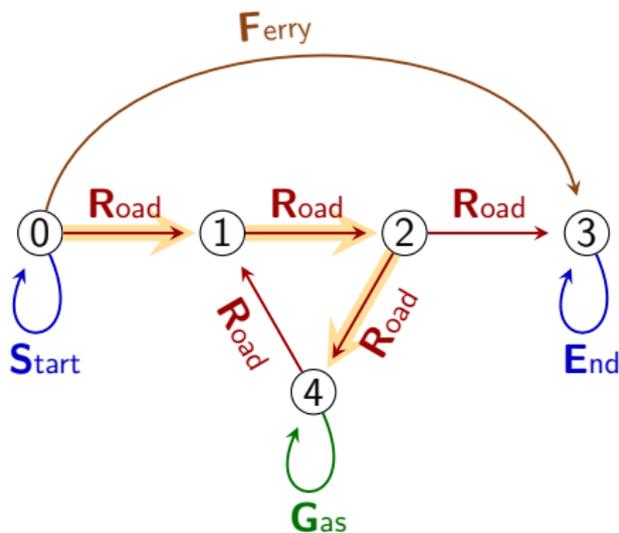
- queries a graph  $\mathcal{D} = (V, L, E)$
- is a **regex** over  $L$
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Given an RPQ  $Q$ ,

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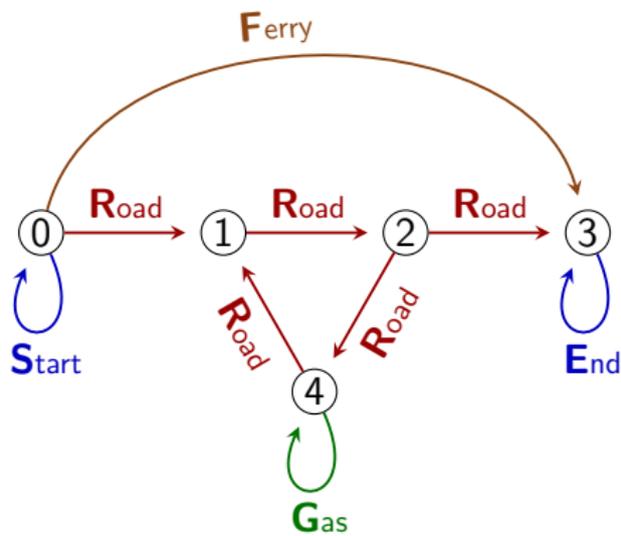
First example:

- $Q = \mathbf{R}^*$
- $w = 0 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 4$
- $\ell = \mathbf{RRR}$



Matching query  $Q_1 = \mathbf{R}$

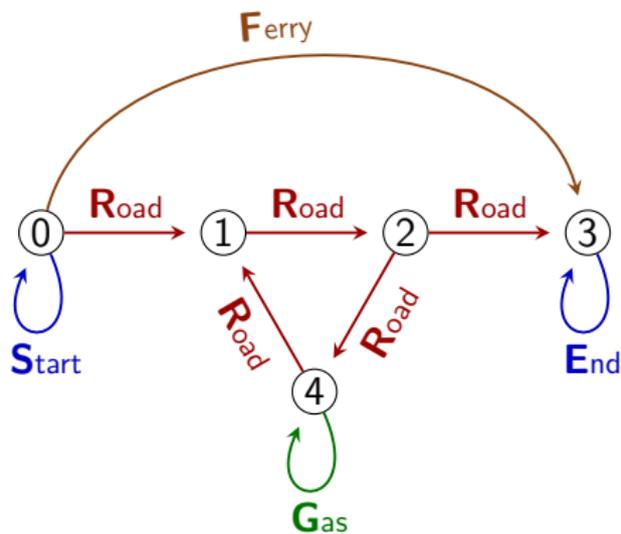
$L(Q_1) = \{\mathbf{R}\}$



Matching query  $Q_1 = \mathbf{R}$

$L(Q_1) = \{\mathbf{R}\}$

The matches to  $Q_1$  are the walks labeled by some word in  $L(Q_1)$ , that is labeled by  $\mathbf{R}$ .

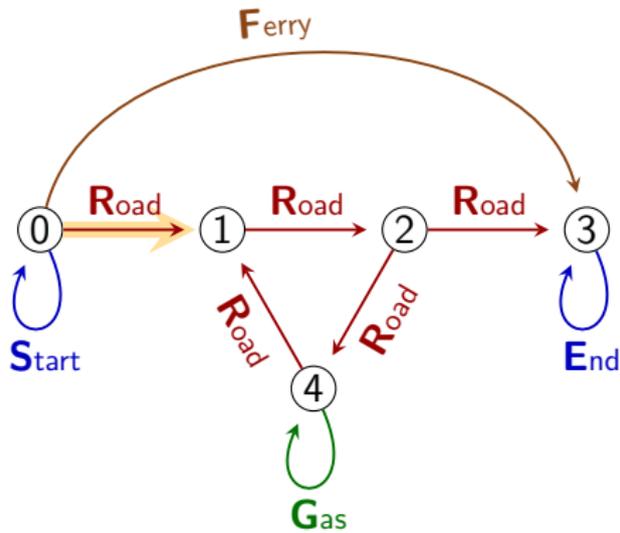


Matching query  $Q_1 = \mathbf{R}$

$L(Q_1) = \{\mathbf{R}\}$

The matches to  $Q_1$  are the walks labeled by some word in  $L(Q_1)$ , that is labeled by  $\mathbf{R}$ .

Match for $Q_1$	Label
$0 \rightarrow 1$	$\mathbf{R}$

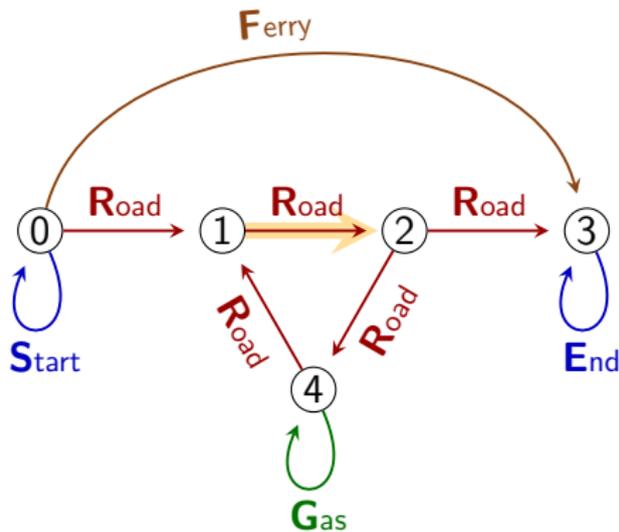


Matching query  $Q_1 = \mathbf{R}$

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The matches to  $Q_1$  are the walks labeled by some word in  $L(Q_1)$ , that is labeled by  $\mathbf{R}$ .

Match for $Q_1$	Label
$0 \rightarrow 1$	$\mathbf{R}$
$1 \rightarrow 2$	$\mathbf{R}$

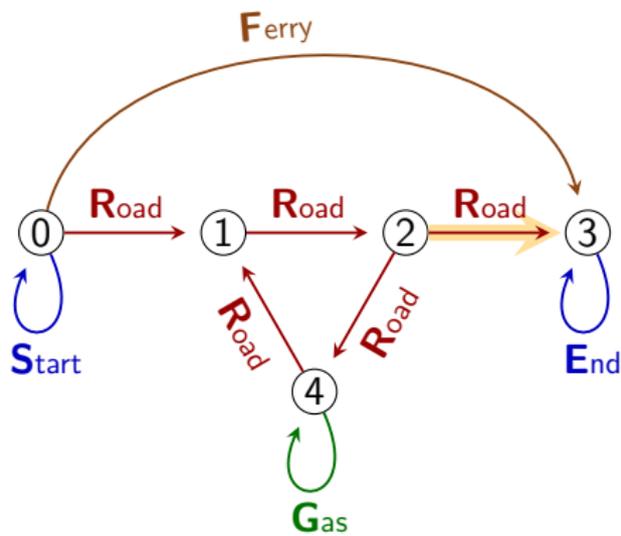


Matching query  $Q_1 = \mathbf{R}$

$L(Q_1) = \{\mathbf{R}\}$

The matches to  $Q_1$  are the walks labeled by some word in  $L(Q_1)$ , that is labeled by  $\mathbf{R}$ .

Match for $Q_1$	Label
$0 \rightarrow 1$	$\mathbf{R}$
$1 \rightarrow 2$	$\mathbf{R}$
$2 \rightarrow 3$	$\mathbf{R}$

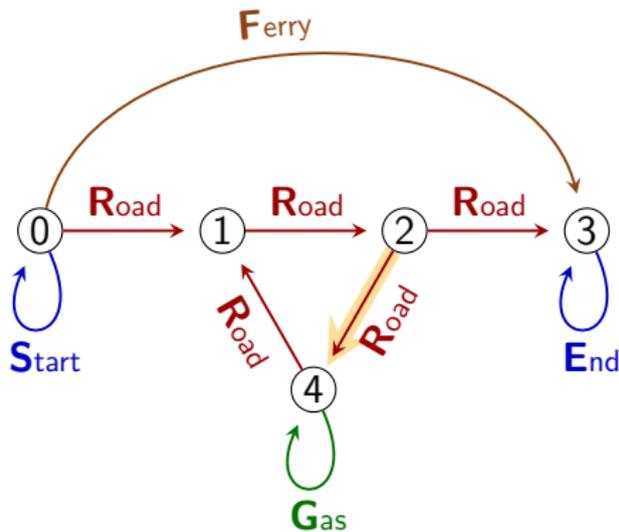


Matching query  $Q_1 = \mathbf{R}$

$L(Q_1) = \{\mathbf{R}\}$

The matches to  $Q_1$  are the walks labeled by some word in  $L(Q_1)$ , that is labeled by  $\mathbf{R}$ .

Match for $Q_1$	Label
$0 \rightarrow 1$	$\mathbf{R}$
$1 \rightarrow 2$	$\mathbf{R}$
$2 \rightarrow 3$	$\mathbf{R}$
$2 \rightarrow 4$	$\mathbf{R}$

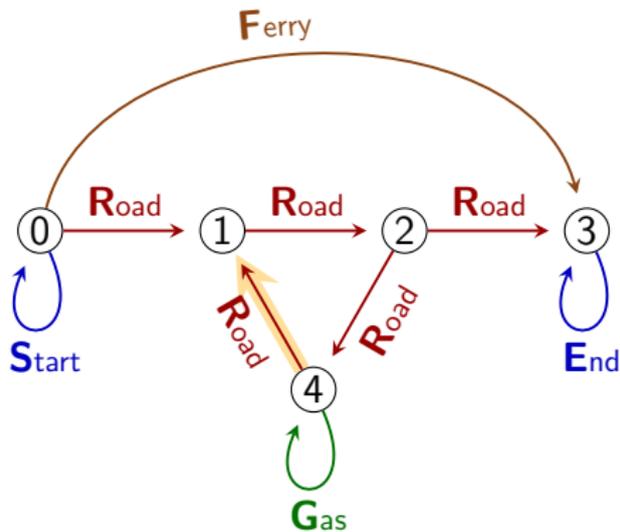


Matching query  $Q_1 = \mathbf{R}$

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The matches to  $Q_1$  are the walks labeled by some word in  $L(Q_1)$ , that is labeled by  $\mathbf{R}$ .

Match for $Q_1$	Label
$0 \rightarrow 1$	$\mathbf{R}$
$1 \rightarrow 2$	$\mathbf{R}$
$2 \rightarrow 3$	$\mathbf{R}$
$2 \rightarrow 4$	$\mathbf{R}$
$4 \rightarrow 1$	$\mathbf{R}$

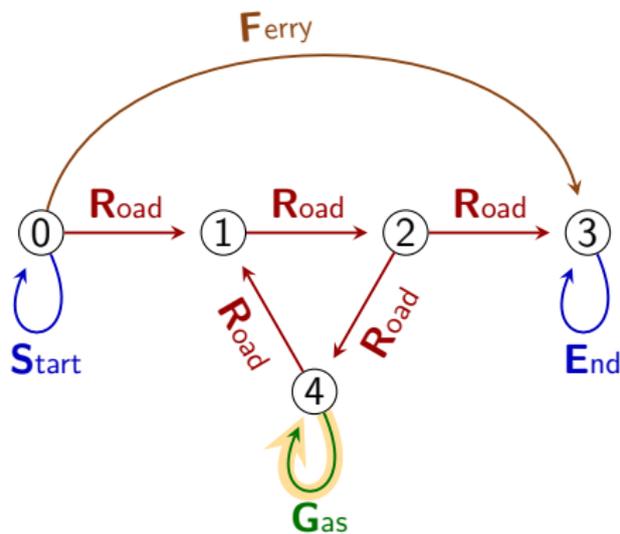


## Matching query $Q_1 = \mathbf{R}$

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The matches to  $Q_1$  are the walks labeled by some word in  $L(Q_1)$ , that is labeled by  $\mathbf{R}$ .

Match for $Q_1$	Label
$0 \rightarrow 1$	$\mathbf{R}$
$1 \rightarrow 2$	$\mathbf{R}$
$2 \rightarrow 3$	$\mathbf{R}$
$2 \rightarrow 4$	$\mathbf{R}$
$4 \rightarrow 1$	$\mathbf{R}$



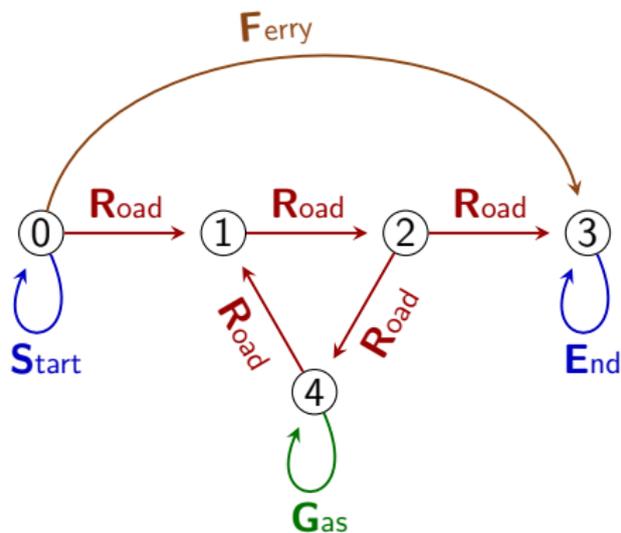
## Matching $Q_2 = \mathbf{G}$

$$L(Q_2) = \{\mathbf{G}\}$$

Match for $Q_2$	Label
$4 \rightarrow 4$	$\mathbf{G}$

$$Q_3 = \mathbf{R} + \mathbf{F}$$

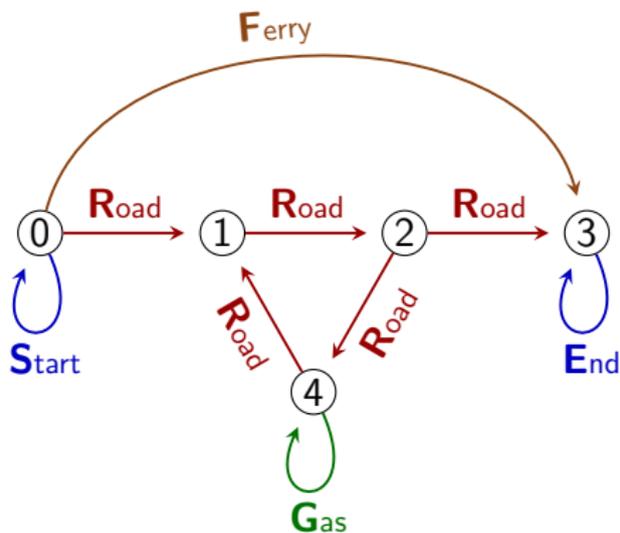
$$L(Q_3) = \{\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{F}\}$$



$$Q_3 = \mathbf{R} + \mathbf{F}$$

$$L(Q_3) = \{\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{F}\}$$

The matches to  $Q_3$  are the walks labeled by some word in  $L(Q_3)$ , that is labeled by  $\mathbf{R}$  or by  $\mathbf{F}$ .

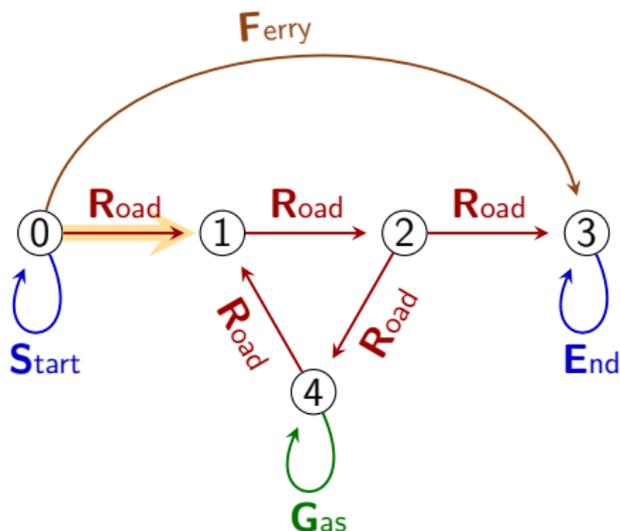


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The matches to  $Q_3$  are the walks labeled by some word in  $L(Q_3)$ , that is labeled by  $\mathbf{R}$  or by  $\mathbf{F}$ .

Match for $Q_3$	Label
0 → 1	$\mathbf{R}$
1 → 2	$\mathbf{R}$
2 → 3	$\mathbf{R}$
2 → 4	$\mathbf{R}$
4 → 1	$\mathbf{R}$
0 → 3	$\mathbf{F}$

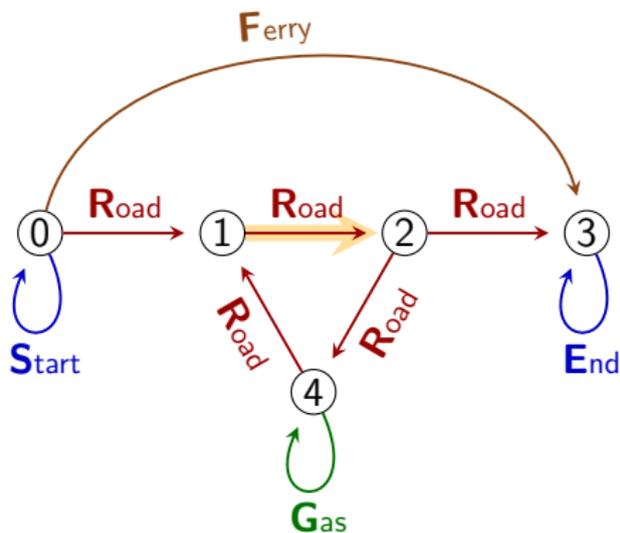


$$Q_3 = \mathbf{R} + \mathbf{F}$$

$$L(Q_3) = \{\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{F}\}$$

The matches to  $Q_3$  are the walks labeled by some word in  $L(Q_3)$ , that is labeled by  $\mathbf{R}$  or by  $\mathbf{F}$ .

Match for $Q_3$	Label
$0 \rightarrow 1$	$\mathbf{R}$
$1 \rightarrow 2$	$\mathbf{R}$
$2 \rightarrow 3$	$\mathbf{R}$
$2 \rightarrow 4$	$\mathbf{R}$
$4 \rightarrow 1$	$\mathbf{R}$
$0 \rightarrow 3$	$\mathbf{F}$

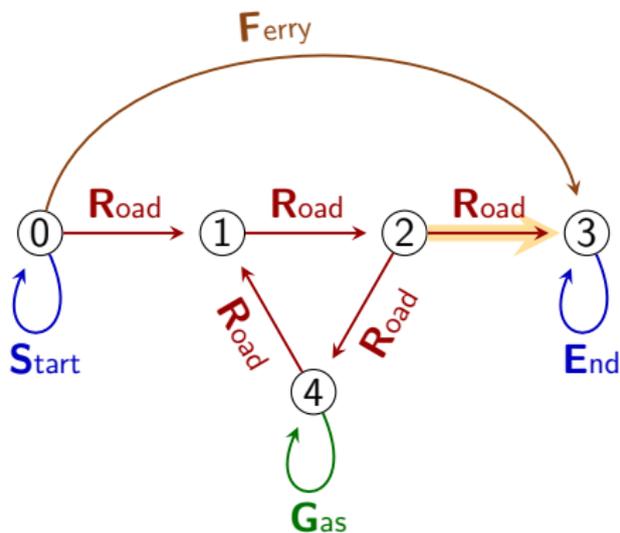


$$Q_3 = \mathbf{R} + \mathbf{F}$$

$$L(Q_3) = \{\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{F}\}$$

The matches to  $Q_3$  are the walks labeled by some word in  $L(Q_3)$ , that is labeled by  $\mathbf{R}$  or by  $\mathbf{F}$ .

Match for $Q_3$	Label
$0 \rightarrow 1$	$\mathbf{R}$
$1 \rightarrow 2$	$\mathbf{R}$
$2 \rightarrow 3$	$\mathbf{R}$
$2 \rightarrow 4$	$\mathbf{R}$
$4 \rightarrow 1$	$\mathbf{R}$
$0 \rightarrow 3$	$\mathbf{F}$

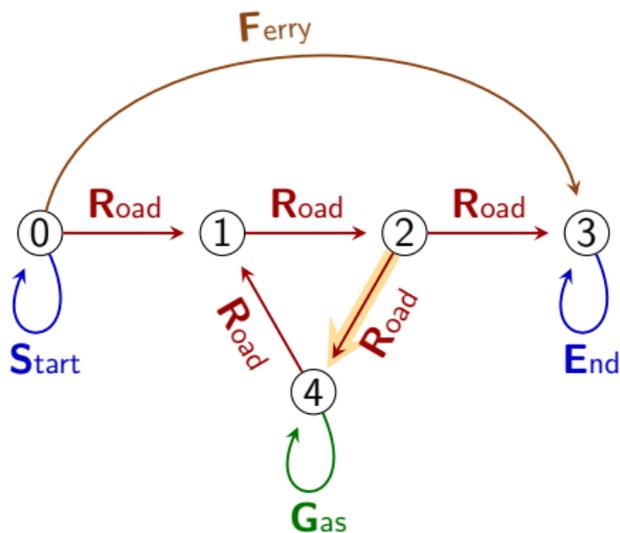


$$Q_3 = \mathbf{R} + \mathbf{F}$$

$$L(Q_3) = \{\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{F}\}$$

The matches to  $Q_3$  are the walks labeled by some word in  $L(Q_3)$ , that is labeled by  $\mathbf{R}$  or by  $\mathbf{F}$ .

Match for $Q_3$	Label
$0 \rightarrow 1$	$\mathbf{R}$
$1 \rightarrow 2$	$\mathbf{R}$
$2 \rightarrow 3$	$\mathbf{R}$
$2 \rightarrow 4$	$\mathbf{R}$
$4 \rightarrow 1$	$\mathbf{R}$
$0 \rightarrow 3$	$\mathbf{F}$

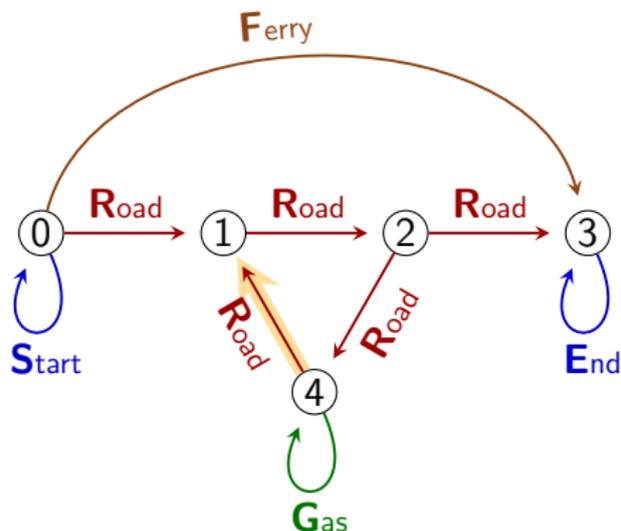


$$Q_3 = \mathbf{R} + \mathbf{F}$$

$$L(Q_3) = \{\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{F}\}$$

The matches to  $Q_3$  are the walks labeled by some word in  $L(Q_3)$ , that is labeled by  $\mathbf{R}$  or by  $\mathbf{F}$ .

Match for $Q_3$	Label
$0 \rightarrow 1$	$\mathbf{R}$
$1 \rightarrow 2$	$\mathbf{R}$
$2 \rightarrow 3$	$\mathbf{R}$
$2 \rightarrow 4$	$\mathbf{R}$
$4 \rightarrow 1$	$\mathbf{R}$
$0 \rightarrow 3$	$\mathbf{F}$

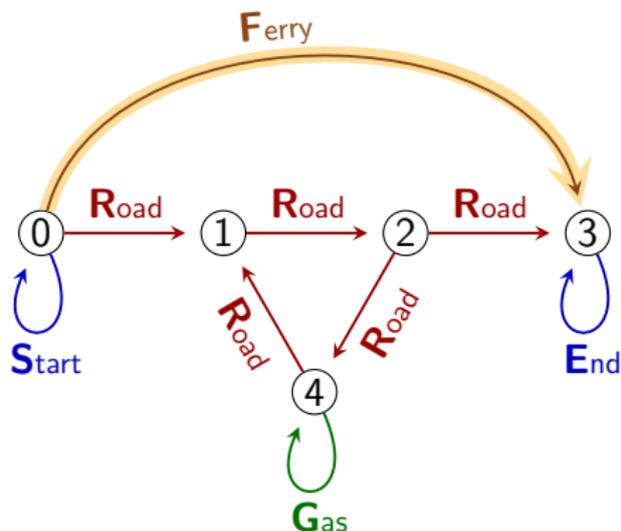


$$Q_3 = \mathbf{R} + \mathbf{F}$$

$$L(Q_3) = \{\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{F}\}$$

The matches to  $Q_3$  are the walks labeled by some word in  $L(Q_3)$ , that is labeled by  $\mathbf{R}$  or by  $\mathbf{F}$ .

Match for $Q_3$	Label
$0 \rightarrow 1$	$\mathbf{R}$
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$2 \rightarrow 3$	$\mathbf{R}$
$2 \rightarrow 4$	$\mathbf{R}$
$4 \rightarrow 1$	$\mathbf{R}$
$0 \rightarrow 3$	$\mathbf{F}$

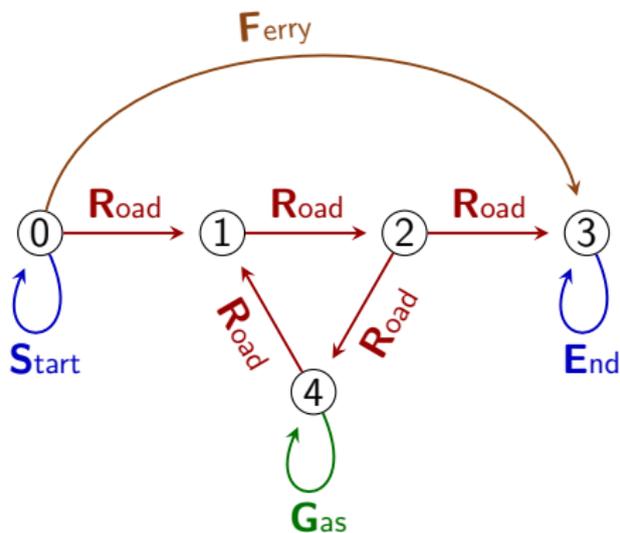


$$Q_3 = \mathbf{R} + \mathbf{F}$$

$$L(Q_3) = \{\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{F}\}$$

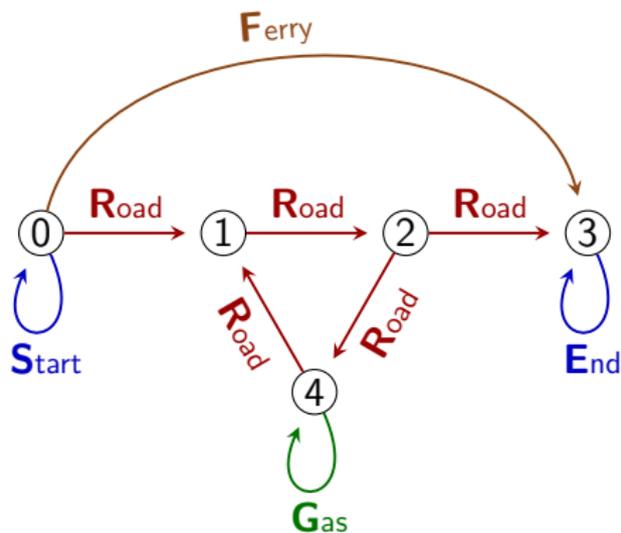
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Match for $Q_3$	Label
$0 \rightarrow 1$	$\mathbf{R}$
$1 \rightarrow 2$	$\mathbf{R}$
$2 \rightarrow 3$	$\mathbf{R}$
$2 \rightarrow 4$	$\mathbf{R}$
$4 \rightarrow 1$	$\mathbf{R}$
$0 \rightarrow 3$	$\mathbf{F}$



$$Q_4 = \mathbf{R} \cdot \mathbf{R}$$

$$L(Q_4) = \{\mathbf{RR}\}$$



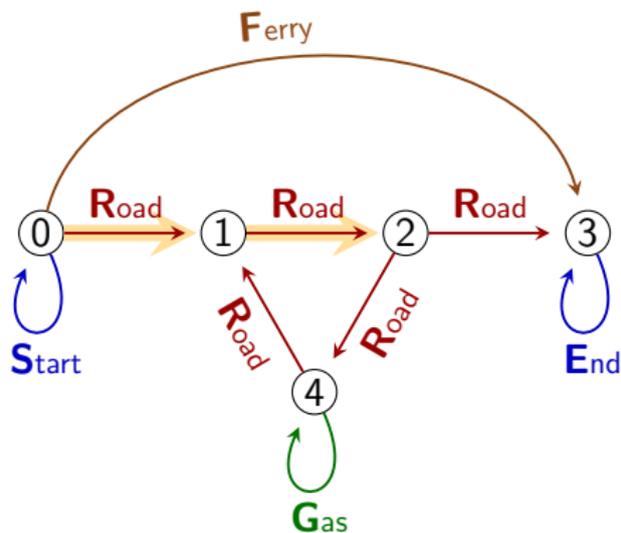
$$Q_4 = \mathbf{R} \cdot \mathbf{R}$$

$$L(Q_4) = \{\mathbf{RR}\}$$

Match for  $Q_4$       Label

0 → 1 → 2

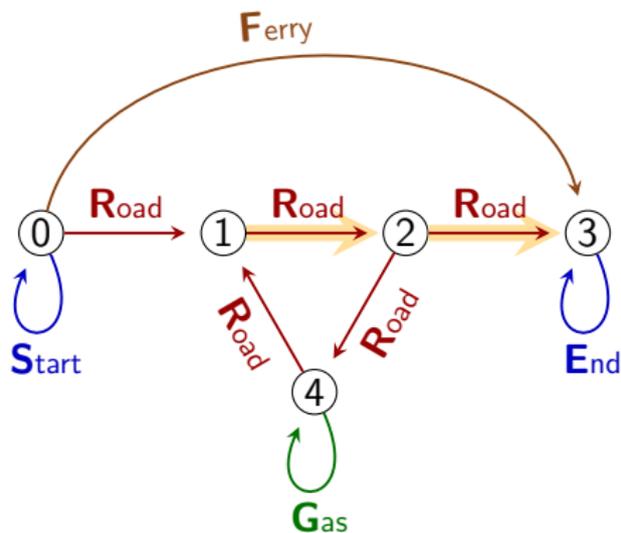
RR



$$Q_4 = \mathbf{R} \cdot \mathbf{R}$$

$$L(Q_4) = \{\mathbf{RR}\}$$

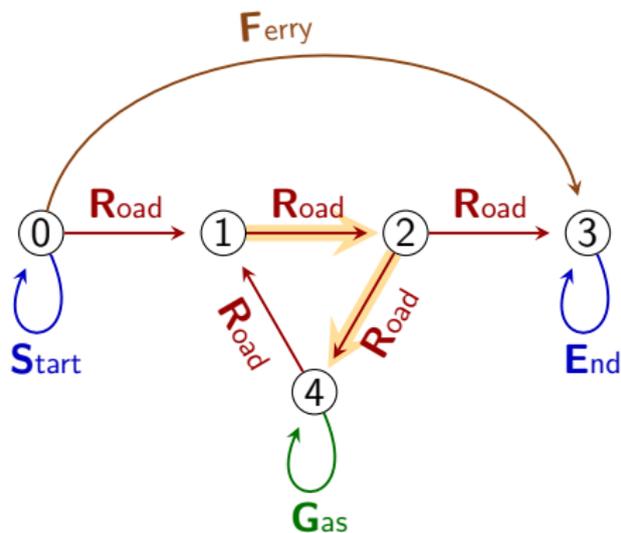
Match for $Q_4$	Label
$0 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 2$	<b>RR</b>
$1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3$	<b>RR</b>



$$Q_4 = \mathbf{R} \cdot \mathbf{R}$$

$$L(Q_4) = \{\mathbf{RR}\}$$

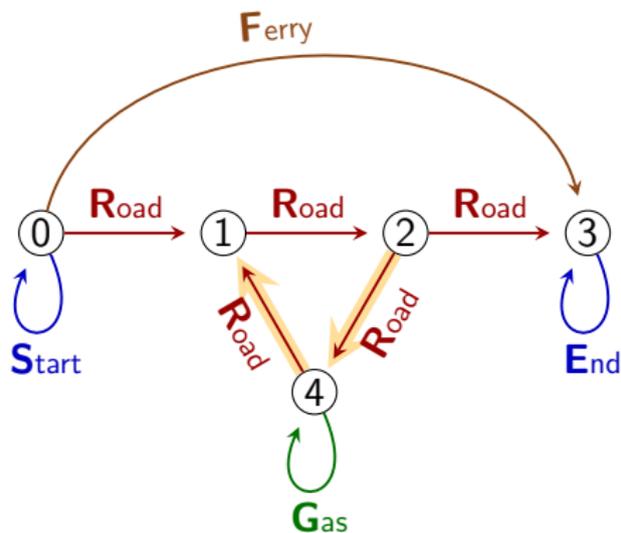
Match for $Q_4$	Label
$0 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 2$	<b>RR</b>
$1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3$	<b>RR</b>
$1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 4$	<b>RR</b>



$$Q_4 = \mathbf{R} \cdot \mathbf{R}$$

$$L(Q_4) = \{\mathbf{RR}\}$$

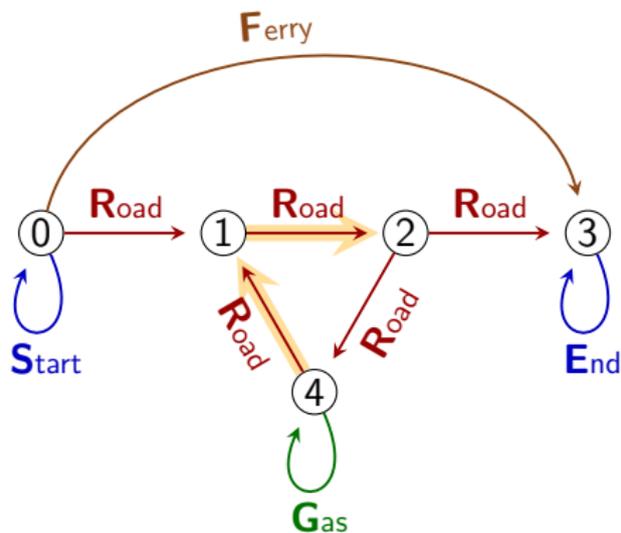
Match for $Q_4$	Label
$0 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 2$	<b>RR</b>
$1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3$	<b>RR</b>
$1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 4$	<b>RR</b>
$2 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1$	<b>RR</b>



$$Q_4 = \mathbf{R} \cdot \mathbf{R}$$

$$L(Q_4) = \{\mathbf{RR}\}$$

Match for $Q_4$	Label
$0 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 2$	<b>RR</b>
$1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3$	<b>RR</b>
$1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 4$	<b>RR</b>
$2 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1$	<b>RR</b>
<b><math>4 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 2</math></b>	<b>RR</b>



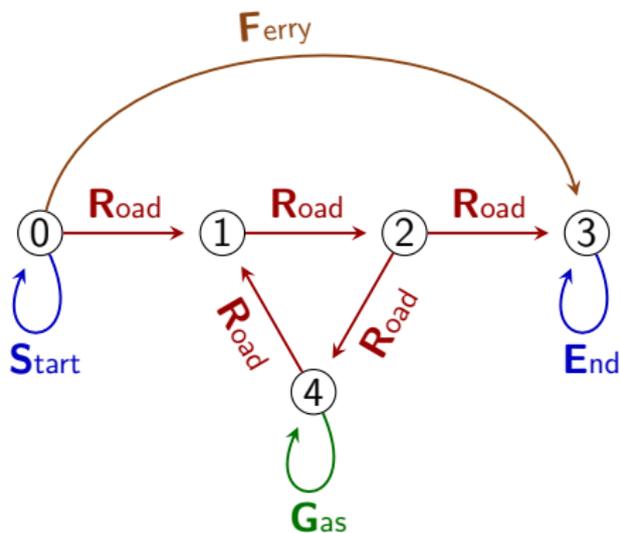
$$Q_4 = \mathbf{R} \cdot \mathbf{R}$$

$$L(Q_4) = \{\mathbf{RR}\}$$

Match for $Q_4$	Label
0 → 1 → 2	<b>RR</b>
1 → 2 → 3	<b>RR</b>
1 → 2 → 4	<b>RR</b>
2 → 4 → 1	<b>RR</b>
4 → 1 → 2	<b>RR</b>

$$\text{Matches for } Q_5 = \mathbf{S} \cdot \mathbf{R} \cdot \mathbf{R} \cdot \mathbf{R}$$

$$L(Q_5) = \{\mathbf{SRRR}\}$$



$$Q_4 = \mathbf{R} \cdot \mathbf{R}$$

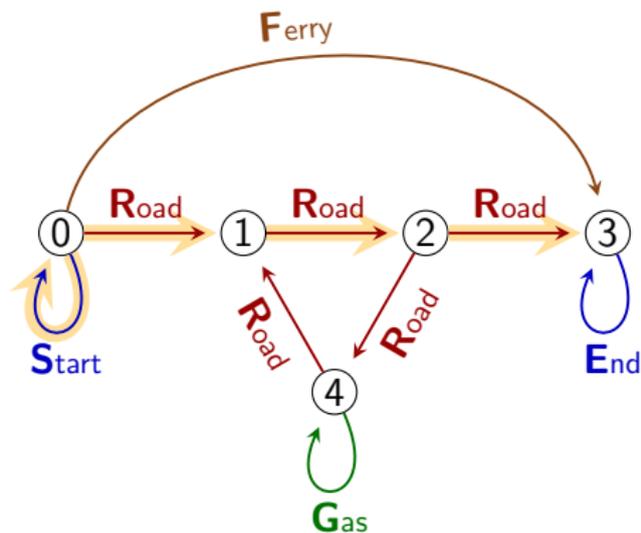
$$L(Q_4) = \{\mathbf{RR}\}$$

Match for $Q_4$	Label
0 → 1 → 2	<b>RR</b>
1 → 2 → 3	<b>RR</b>
1 → 2 → 4	<b>RR</b>
2 → 4 → 1	<b>RR</b>
4 → 1 → 2	<b>RR</b>

$$\text{Matches for } Q_5 = \mathbf{S} \cdot \mathbf{R} \cdot \mathbf{R} \cdot \mathbf{R}$$

$$L(Q_5) = \{\mathbf{SRRR}\}$$

0 → 0 → 1 → 2 → 3	<b>SRRR</b>
0 → 0 → 1 → 2 → 4	<b>SRRR</b>



$$Q_4 = \mathbf{R} \cdot \mathbf{R}$$

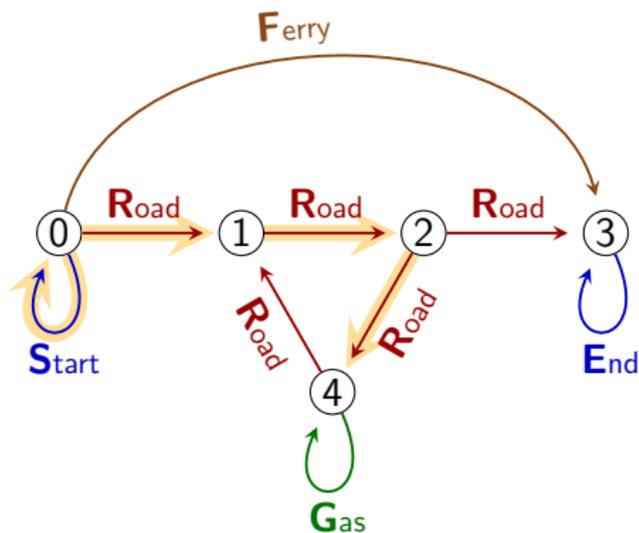
$$L(Q_4) = \{\mathbf{RR}\}$$

Match for $Q_4$	Label
0 → 1 → 2	<b>RR</b>
1 → 2 → 3	<b>RR</b>
1 → 2 → 4	<b>RR</b>
2 → 4 → 1	<b>RR</b>
4 → 1 → 2	<b>RR</b>

$$\text{Matches for } Q_5 = \mathbf{S} \cdot \mathbf{R} \cdot \mathbf{R} \cdot \mathbf{R}$$

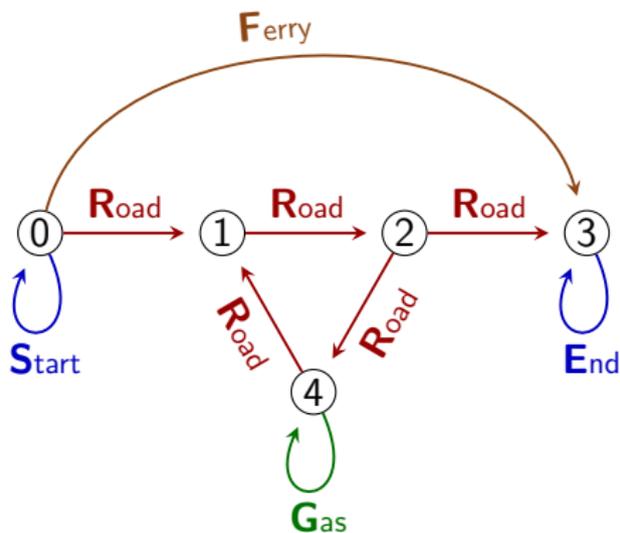
$$L(Q_5) = \{\mathbf{SRRR}\}$$

0 → 0 → 1 → 2 → 3	<b>SRRR</b>
0 → 0 → 1 → 2 → 4	<b>SRRR</b>



$$Q_6 = \mathbf{S} \cdot (\mathbf{R} + \mathbf{F})$$

$$L(Q_6) = \{\mathbf{SR}, \mathbf{SF}\}$$



$$Q_6 = S \cdot (R + F)$$

$$L(Q_6) = \{SR, SF\}$$

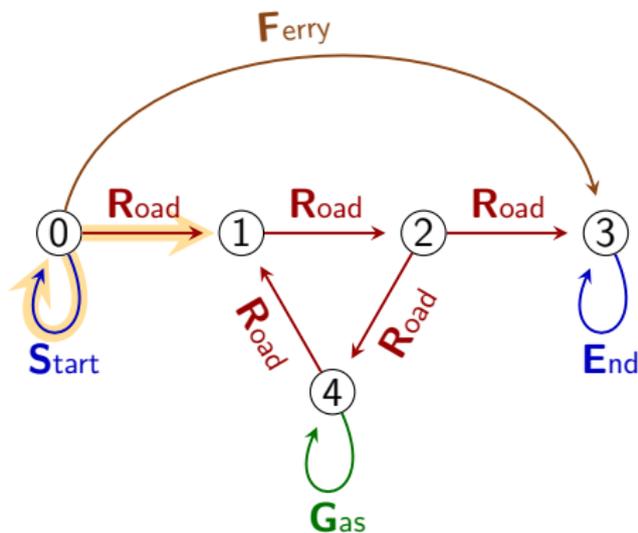
Match for  $Q_6$       Label

0 → 0 → 1

SR

0 → 0 → 3

SF



$$Q_6 = S \cdot (R + F)$$

$$L(Q_6) = \{SR, SF\}$$

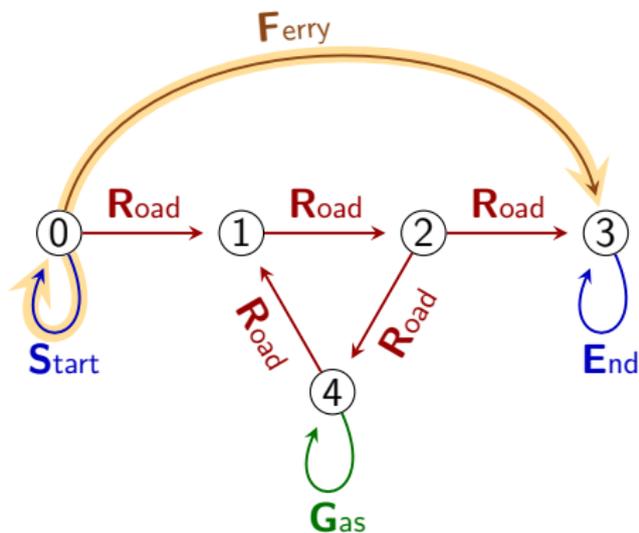
Match for  $Q_6$       Label

0 → 0 → 1

**SR**

0 → 0 → 3

**SF**



$$Q_6 = \mathbf{S} \cdot (\mathbf{R} + \mathbf{F})$$

$$L(Q_6) = \{\mathbf{SR}, \mathbf{SF}\}$$

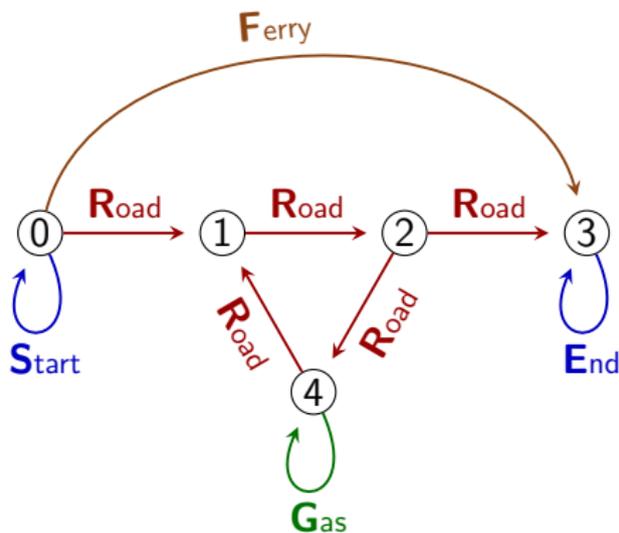
Match for  $Q_6$     Label

$0 \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow 1$     **SR**

$0 \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow 3$     **SF**

$$Q_7 = (\mathbf{S} + \mathbf{R})(\mathbf{F} + \mathbf{G})(\mathbf{E} + \mathbf{R})$$

$$L(Q_7) =$$



$$Q_6 = \mathbf{S} \cdot (\mathbf{R} + \mathbf{F})$$

$$L(Q_6) = \{\mathbf{SR}, \mathbf{SF}\}$$

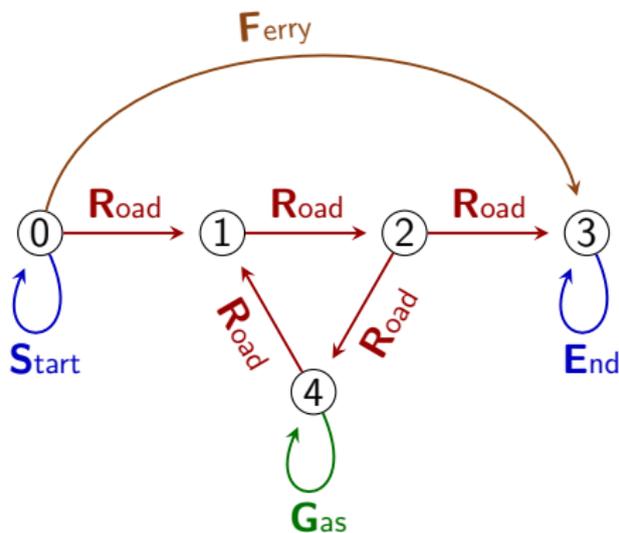
Match for  $Q_6$     Label

$0 \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow 1$     **SR**

$0 \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow 3$     **SF**

$$Q_7 = (\mathbf{S} + \mathbf{R})(\mathbf{F} + \mathbf{G})(\mathbf{E} + \mathbf{R})$$

$$L(Q_7) = \{\mathbf{SFE}, \mathbf{SFR}, \mathbf{SGE}, \\ \mathbf{SGR}, \mathbf{RFE}, \mathbf{RFR}, \mathbf{RGE}, \mathbf{RGR}\}$$



$$Q_6 = \mathbf{S} \cdot (\mathbf{R} + \mathbf{F})$$

$$L(Q_6) = \{\mathbf{SR}, \mathbf{SF}\}$$

Match for  $Q_6$     Label

0 → 0 → 1        **SR**

0 → 0 → 3        **SF**

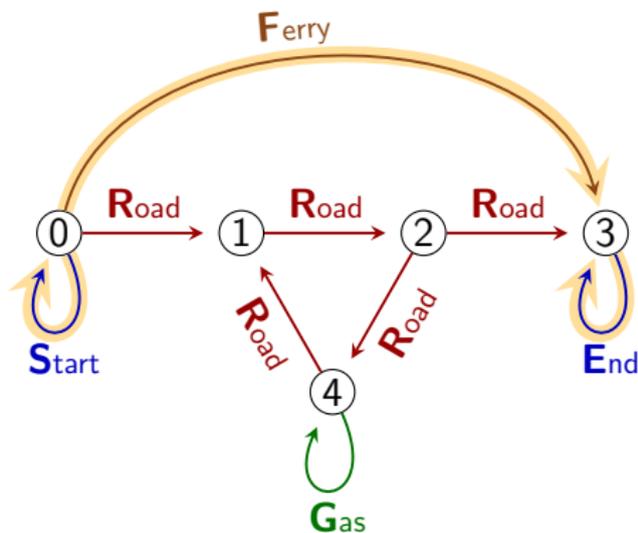
$$Q_7 = (\mathbf{S} + \mathbf{R})(\mathbf{F} + \mathbf{G})(\mathbf{E} + \mathbf{R})$$

$$L(Q_7) = \{\mathbf{SFE}, \mathbf{SFR}, \mathbf{SGE}, \mathbf{SGR}, \mathbf{RFE}, \mathbf{RFR}, \mathbf{RGE}, \mathbf{RGR}\}$$

Match for  $Q_7$     Label

0 → 0 → 3 → 3    **SFE**

2 → 4 → 4 → 1    **RGR**



$$Q_6 = S \cdot (R + F)$$

$$L(Q_6) = \{SR, SF\}$$

Match for  $Q_6$     Label

0 → 0 → 1        **SR**

0 → 0 → 3        **SF**

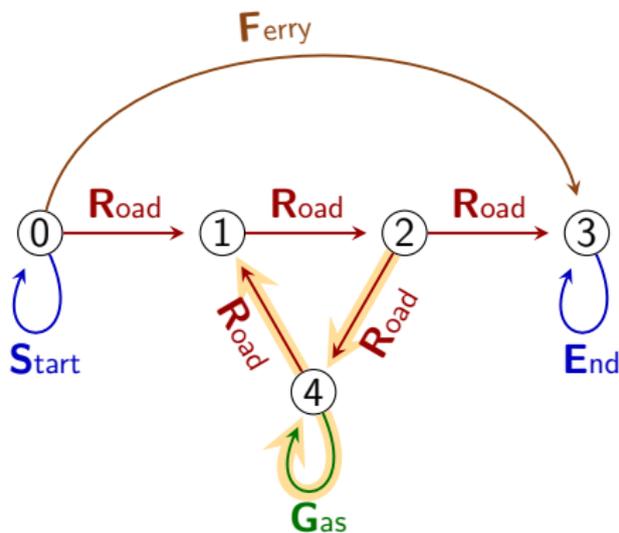
$$Q_7 = (S + R)(F + G)(E + R)$$

$$L(Q_7) = \{SFE, SFR, SGE, \\ SGR, RFE, RFR, RGE, RGR\}$$

Match for  $Q_7$     Label

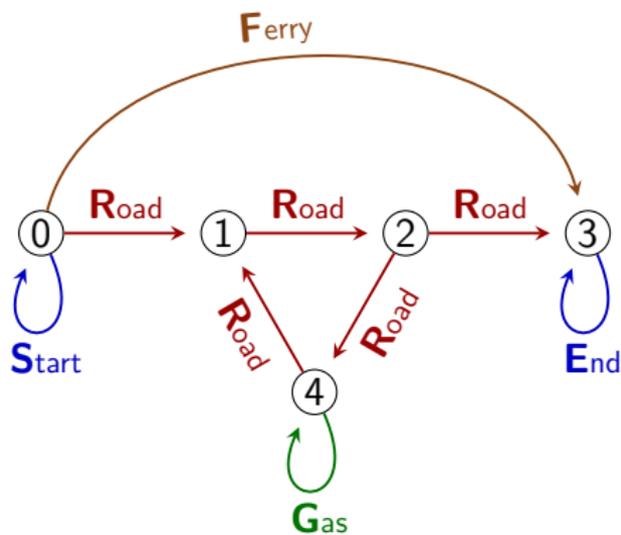
0 → 0 → 3 → 3    **SFE**

2 → 4 → 4 → 1    **RGR**



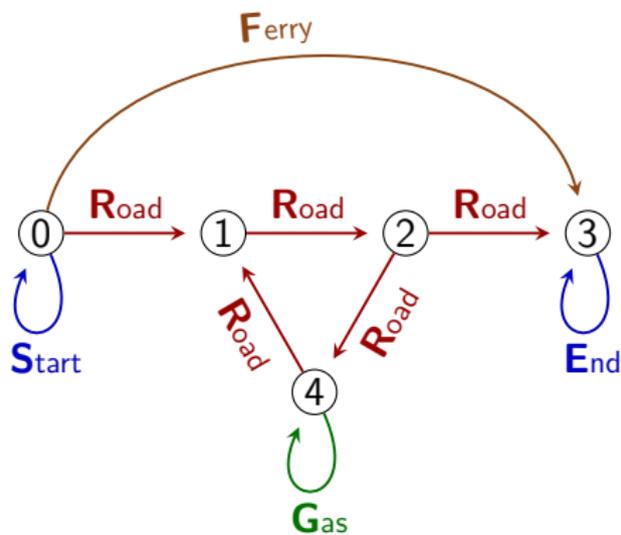
$$Q_8 = R^*$$

$$L(Q_8) = \{R, RR, RRR, RRRR, \\ RRRRR, RRRRRR, \dots\}$$



$$Q_8 = R^*$$

$$L(Q_8) = \{R, RR, RRR, RRRR, \\ RRRRR, RRRRRR, \dots\}$$



$L(Q_8)$  is infinite



$$Q_8 = R^*$$

$$L(Q_8) = \{R, RR, RRR, RRRR, RRRRR, RRRRRR, \dots\}$$

Match for  $Q_8$ 

0 → 1

1 → 2

⋮

2 → 4 → 1

⋮

1 → 2 → 4 → 1

⋮

1 → 2 → 4 →

1 → 2 → 4 → 1

⋮

Label

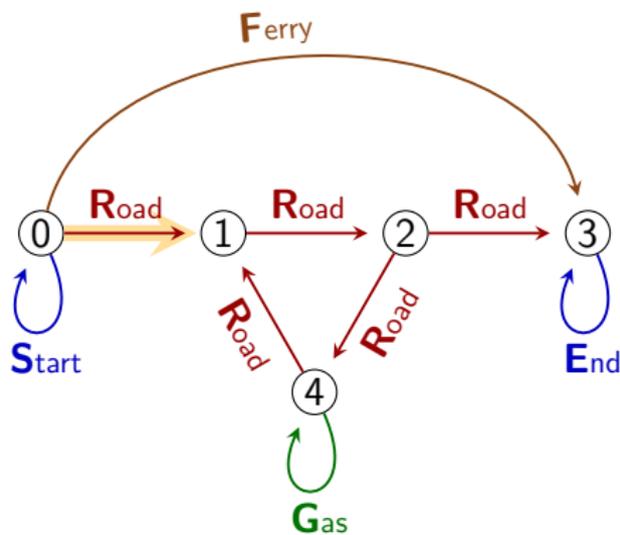
R

R

RR

RRR

RRRRRR


 $L(Q_8)$  is infinite


$$Q_8 = R^*$$

$$L(Q_8) = \{R, RR, RRR, RRRR, RRRRR, RRRRRR, \dots\}$$

Match for  $Q_8$ 

0 → 1

1 → 2

⋮

2 → 4 → 1

⋮

1 → 2 → 4 → 1

⋮

1 → 2 → 4 →

1 → 2 → 4 → 1

⋮

Label

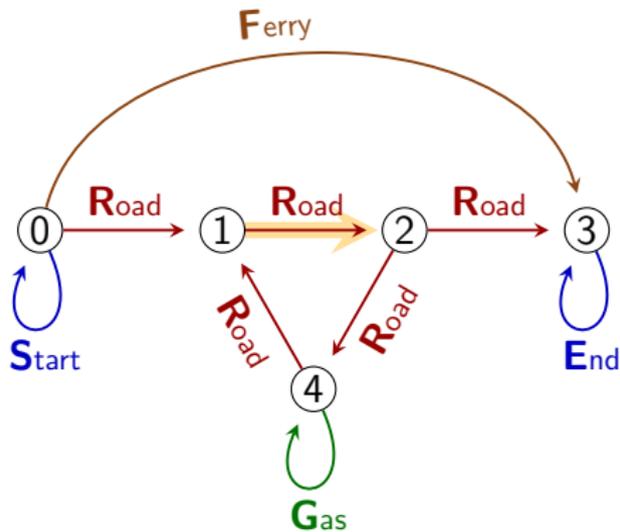
R

R

RR

RRR

RRRRRR



⚠  $L(Q_8)$  is infinite ⚠

$$Q_8 = R^*$$

$$L(Q_8) = \{R, RR, RRR, RRRR, RRRRR, RRRRRR, \dots\}$$

Match for  $Q_8$ 

0 → 1

Label

R

1 → 2

R

⋮

2 → 4 → 1

RR

⋮

1 → 2 → 4 → 1

RRR

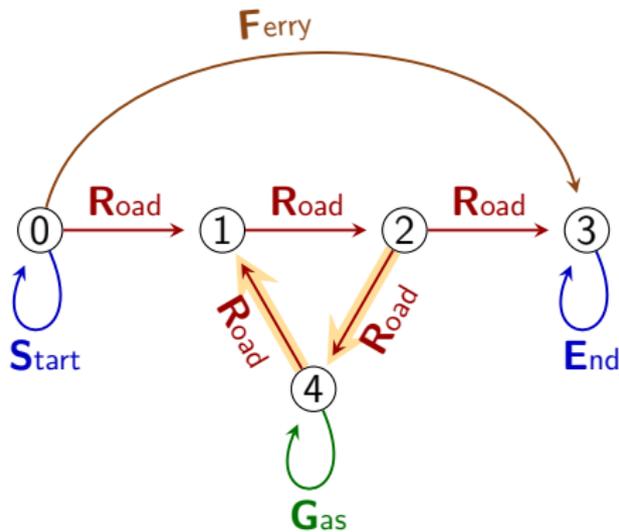
⋮

1 → 2 → 4 →

1 → 2 → 4 → 1

RRRRRR

⋮


 $L(Q_8)$  is infinite


$$Q_8 = R^*$$

$$L(Q_8) = \{R, RR, RRR, RRRR, RRRRR, RRRRRR, \dots\}$$

Match for  $Q_8$ 

0 → 1

Label

R

1 → 2

R

⋮

2 → 4 → 1

RR

⋮

1 → 2 → 4 → 1

RRR

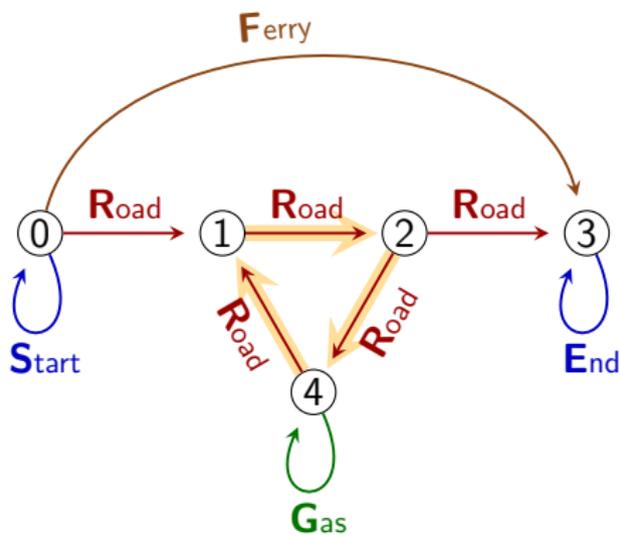
⋮

1 → 2 → 4 →

RRRRRR

1 → 2 → 4 → 1

⋮


 $L(Q_8)$  is infinite


$$Q_8 = R^*$$

$$L(Q_8) = \{R, RR, RRR, RRRR, RRRRR, RRRRRR, \dots\}$$

Match for  $Q_8$ 

0 → 1

1 → 2

⋮

2 → 4 → 1

⋮

1 → 2 → 4 → 1

⋮

1 → 2 → 4 →

1 → 2 → 4 → 1

⋮

Label

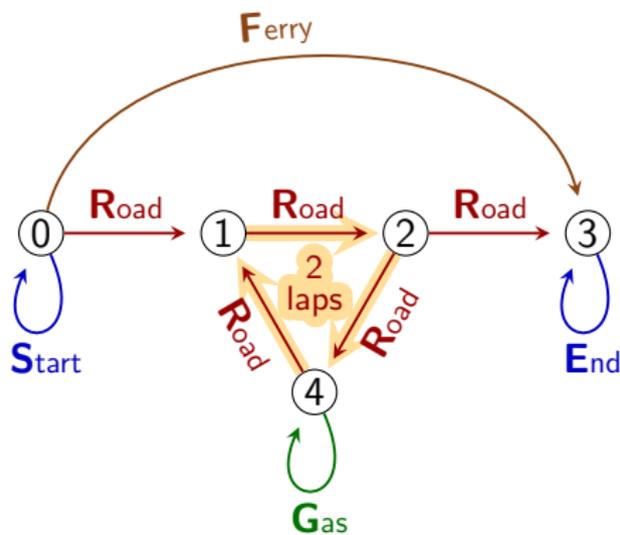
R

R

RR

RRR

RRRRRR


 $L(Q_8)$  is infinite


$$Q_8 = R^*$$

$$L(Q_8) = \{R, RR, RRR, RRRR, RRRRR, RRRRRR, \dots\}$$

Match for  $Q_8$ 

0 → 1

1 → 2

⋮

2 → 4 → 1

⋮

1 → 2 → 4 → 1

⋮

1 → 2 → 4 →

1 → 2 → 4 → 1

⋮

Label

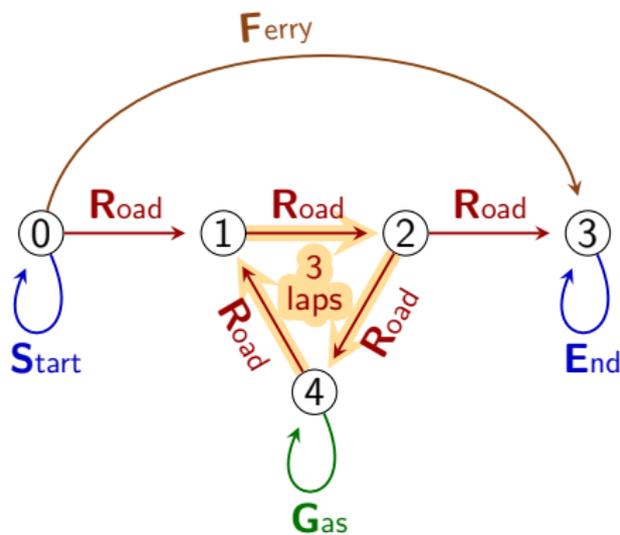
R

R

RR

RRR

RRRRRR


 $L(Q_8)$  is infinite


$$Q_8 = R^*$$

$$L(Q_8) = \{R, RR, RRR, RRRR, RRRRR, RRRRRR, \dots\}$$

Match for  $Q_8$ 

0 → 1

1 → 2

⋮

2 → 4 → 1

⋮

1 → 2 → 4 → 1

⋮

1 → 2 → 4 →

1 → 2 → 4 → 1

⋮

Label

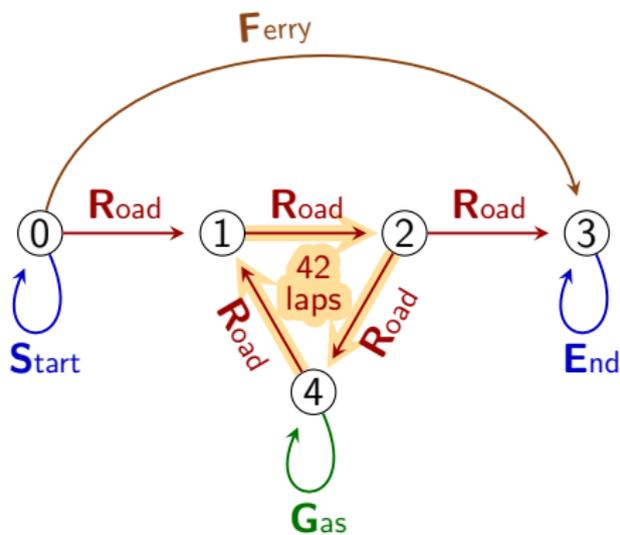
R

R

RR

RRR

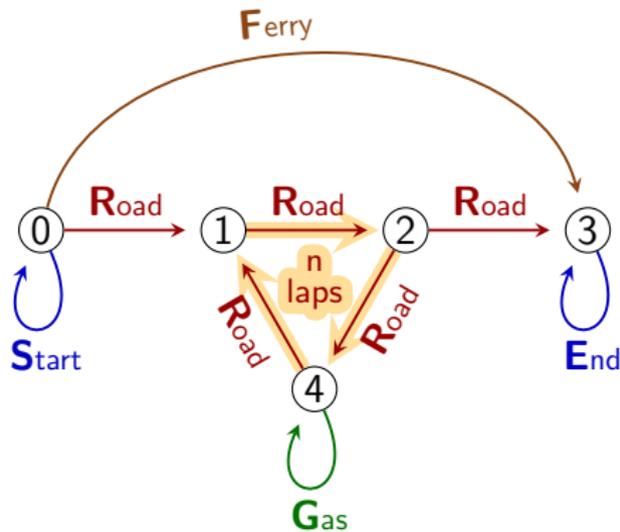
RRRRRR


 $L(Q_8)$  is infinite


$$Q_8 = R^*$$

$$L(Q_8) = \{R, RR, RRR, RRRR, RRRRR, RRRRRR, \dots\}$$

Match for $Q_8$	Label
0 → 1	R
1 → 2	R
⋮	
2 → 4 → 1	RR
⋮	
1 → 2 → 4 → 1	RRR
⋮	
1 → 2 → 4 →	
1 → 2 → 4 → 1	RRRRRR
⋮	

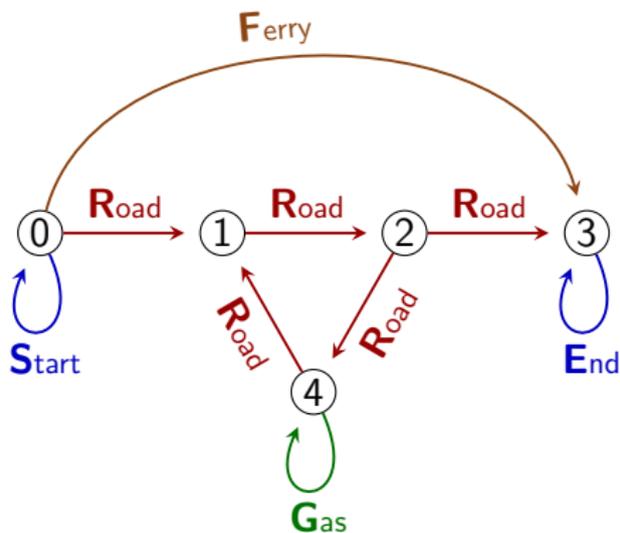


⚠  $L(Q_8)$  is infinite ⚠

⚠ Infinitely many matches ⚠

## Exercise

Find a finite representation of the matches to  $Q_9 = \mathbf{S}(\mathbf{R} + \mathbf{F})^* \mathbf{E}$ .



## Exercise

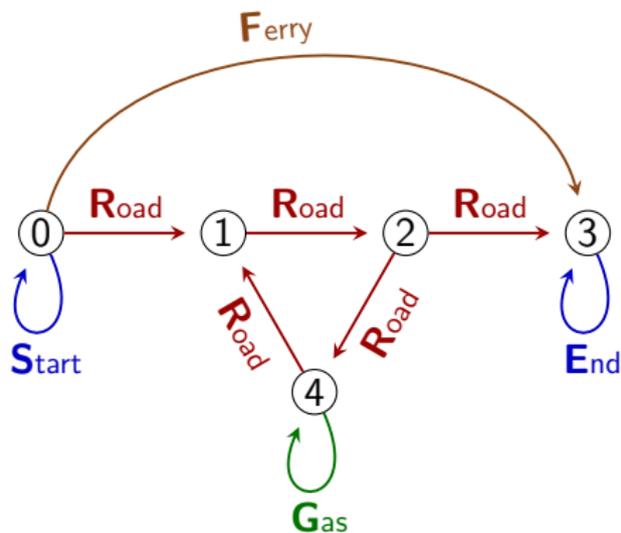
Find a finite representation of the matches to  $Q_9 = \mathbf{S}(\mathbf{R} + \mathbf{F})^* \mathbf{E}$ .

## Answer

$$0 \xrightarrow{\mathbf{S}} 0 \xrightarrow{\mathbf{R}} 1 \xrightarrow{\mathbf{R}} 2$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{c} \mathbf{R} \\ \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 2 \end{array} \right)^*$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \mathbf{R} \\ \rightarrow 3 \end{array} \xrightarrow{\mathbf{E}} 3$$

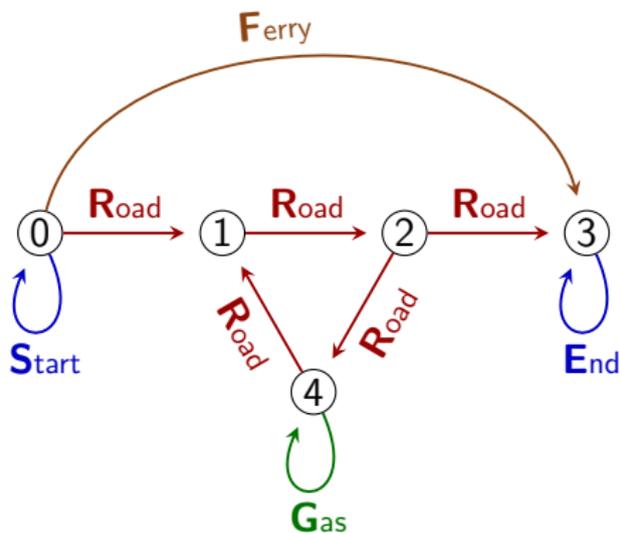


## Exercise

Find a finite representation of the matches to  $Q_9 = \mathbf{S}(\mathbf{R} + \mathbf{F})^* \mathbf{E}$ .

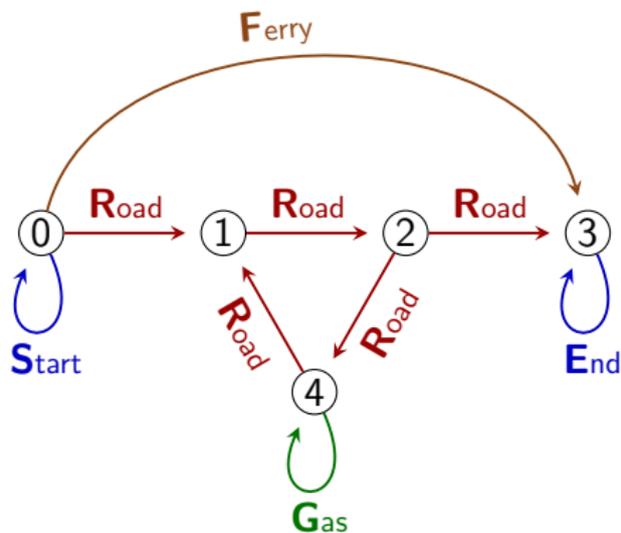
## Answer

$$\begin{aligned} & (0 \xrightarrow{\mathbf{S}} 0 \xrightarrow{\mathbf{R}} 1 \xrightarrow{\mathbf{R}} 2 \\ & \quad \left( \begin{array}{l} \xrightarrow{\mathbf{R}} 4 \xrightarrow{\mathbf{R}} 1 \xrightarrow{\mathbf{R}} 2 \\ \xrightarrow{\mathbf{R}} 3 \xrightarrow{\mathbf{E}} 3 \end{array} \right)^* \\ & + (0 \xrightarrow{\mathbf{S}} 0 \xrightarrow{\mathbf{F}} 3 \xrightarrow{\mathbf{E}} 3) \end{aligned}$$



## Exercise

Find a finite repr. of the matches to  $Q_{10} = \mathbf{S}(\mathbf{R} + \mathbf{F})^* \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{R} + \mathbf{F})^* \mathbf{E}$ .



## Exercise

Find a finite repr. of the matches to  $Q_{10} = \mathbf{S}(\mathbf{R} + \mathbf{F})^* \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{R} + \mathbf{F})^* \mathbf{E}$ .

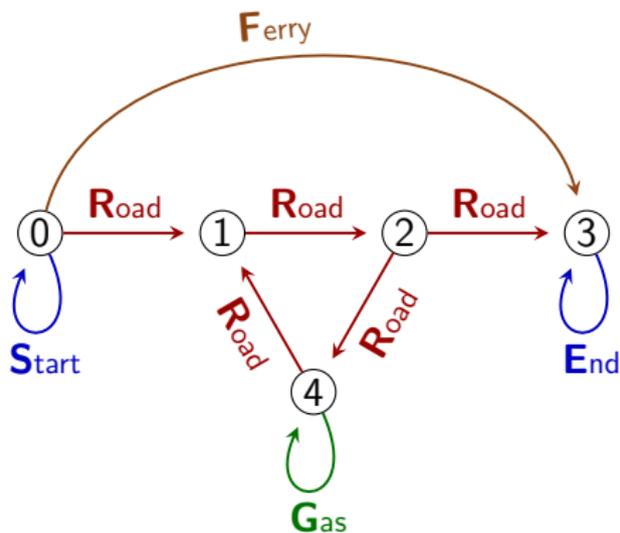
## Answer

$$0 \xrightarrow{\mathbf{S}} 0 \xrightarrow{\mathbf{R}} 1 \xrightarrow{\mathbf{R}} 2 \xrightarrow{\mathbf{R}} 4$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{c} \mathbf{R} \quad \mathbf{R} \quad \mathbf{R} \\ \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 4 \end{array} \right)^*$$

$$\xrightarrow{\mathbf{G}} 4$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{c} \mathbf{R} \quad \mathbf{R} \quad \mathbf{R} \\ \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 4 \end{array} \right)^*$$

$$\xrightarrow{\mathbf{R}} 1 \xrightarrow{\mathbf{R}} 2 \xrightarrow{\mathbf{R}} 3 \xrightarrow{\mathbf{E}} 3$$


**Any idea an how to compute  
matches in general?**

# Regexps may be transformed into a finite automaton

For instance: Glushkov Construction (aka. position automaton, Berry-Sethi)

**Input** Regexp  $Q$

**Output** Nondeterministic Automaton  $\mathcal{A}$

- $L(\mathcal{A}) = L(Q)$
- $\mathcal{A}$  is small:  $O(\text{size}(Q))$  states
- $\mathcal{A}$  is computed efficiently:  $O(\text{size}(Q)^2)$

$S(\mathbf{R} + \mathbf{F})^* \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{R} + \mathbf{F})^* \mathbf{E}$

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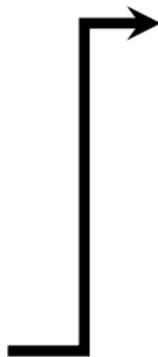
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$S(R + F)^*G(R + F)^*E$



$S_0(R_1 + F_2)^*G_3(R_4 + F_5)^*E_6$



# Regexps may be transformed into a finite automaton

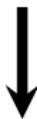
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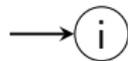
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$S_0(R_1 + F_2)^*G_3(R_4 + F_5)^*E_6$



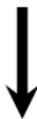
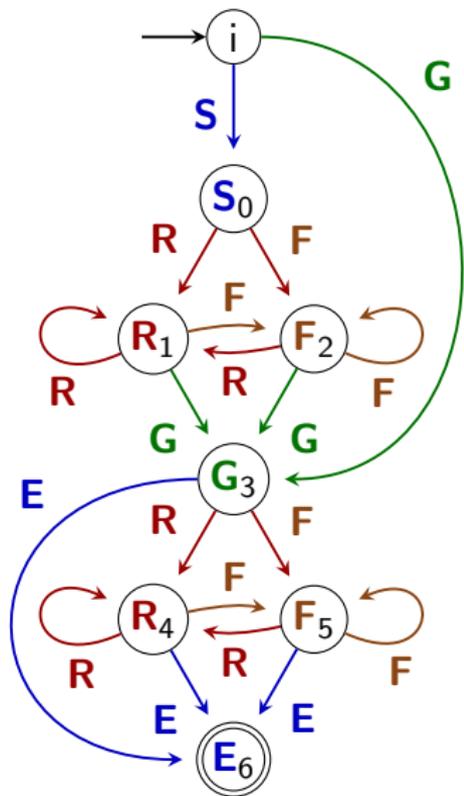
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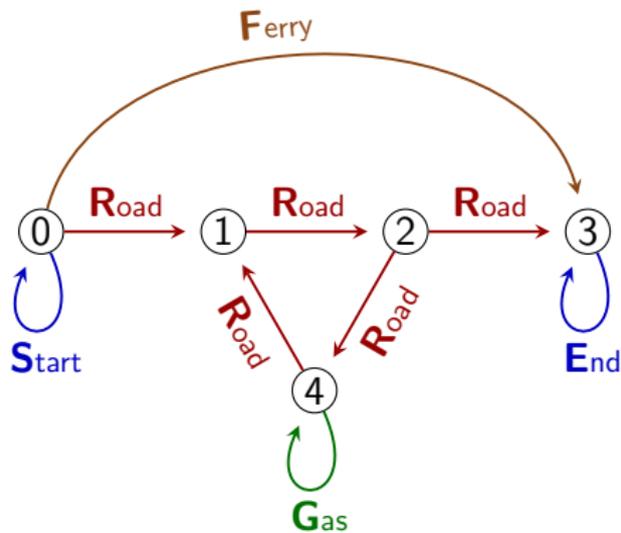
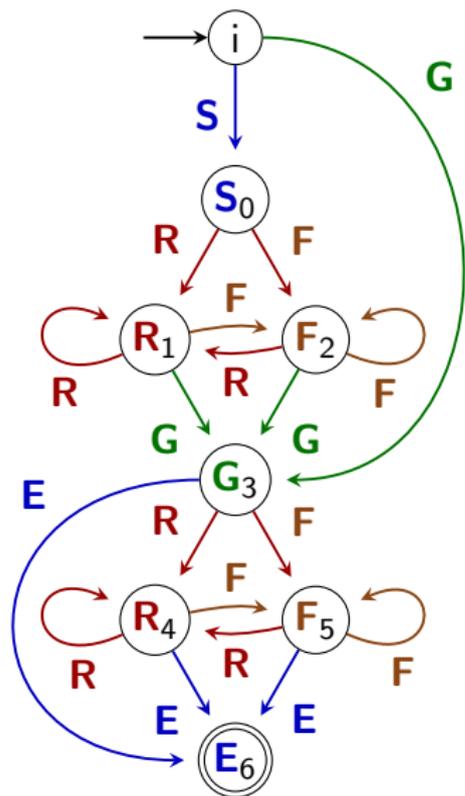
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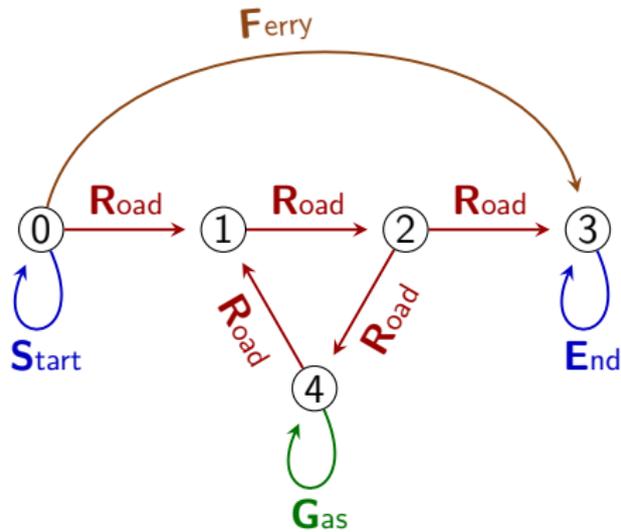
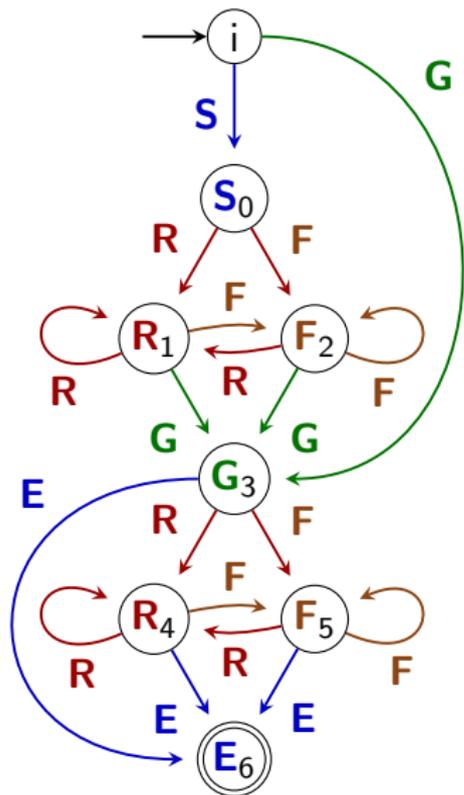
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$$S(R + F)^* G(R + F)^* E$$

$$S_0(R_1 + F_2)^* G_3(R_4 + F_5)^* E_6$$




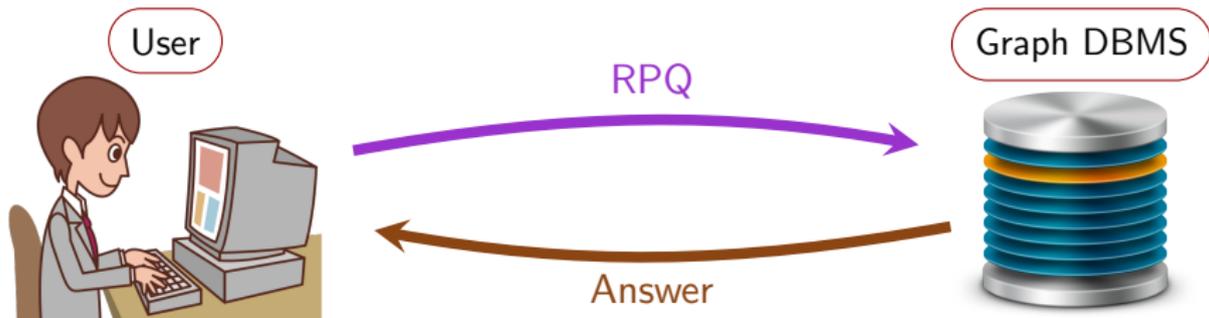
# A graph is essentially an automaton

Exercise: compute the product graph  $\times$  query



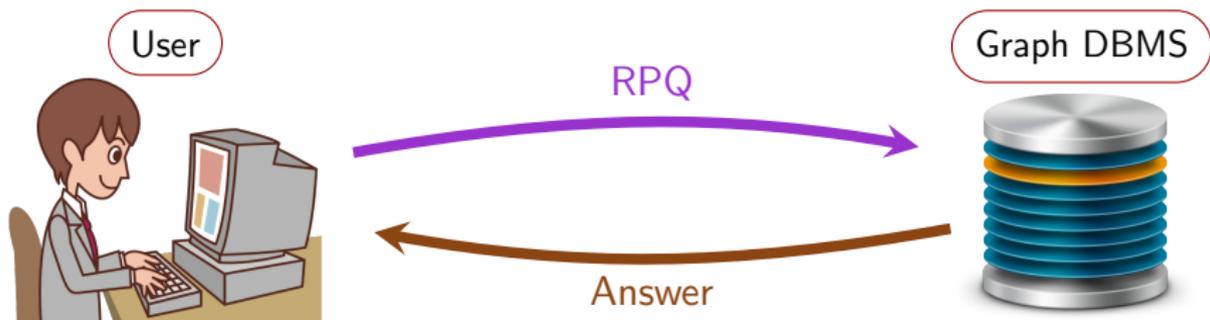
Part I: Theoretical foundations

### **3. RPQ semantics**



**Infinitely** many matches but the user expects **finite** answer





⚠ **Infinitely** many matches but the user expects **finite** answer ⚠

- A **RPQ semantics** = a way to interpret RPQs
- The semantics defines the **correct answer**  
⇒ The same query has different answers under different semantics
- Goal of an RPQ semantics: ensure the answer to be **finite**, while remaining **meaningful** and **easy to compute**.

# Endpoint semantics (1)

Used by SparQL (RDF) and arguably GQL with keyword **ANY WALK**

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Used by SparQL (RDF) and arguably GQL with keyword **ANY WALK**

## Principles

- Returns a set of pairs of vertices (and not walks)
- Precisely, returns the endpoints (first and last vertex) of the matches

## Example

Matching walks	Projection on endpoints
$1 \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3$	(1,3)
$2 \rightarrow 2$	(2,2)
$0 \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3 \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow 3$	(0,3)
$1 \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow 3$	(1,3)

Full answer is:  $\{(1, 3), (2, 2), (0, 3)\}$

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## Example

Matching walks

1 → 0 → 2 → 2 → 3

2 → 2

0 → 0 → 2 → 3 → 0 → 3

1 → 0 → 3

Projection on endpoints

(1,3)

(2,2)

(0,3)

(1,3)

Full answer is:  $\{(1, 3), (2, 2), (0, 3)\}$

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Matching walks

1 → 0 → 2 → 2 → 3

2 → 2

0 → 0 → 2 → 3 → 0 → 3

1 → 0 → 3

Projection on endpoints

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(2,2)

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Full answer is:  $\{(1, 3), (2, 2), (0, 3)\}$

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Matching walks

1 → 0 → 2 → 2 → 3

2 → 2

0 → 0 → 2 → 3 → 0 → 3

**1** → 0 → **3**

Projection on endpoints

(1,3)

(2,2)

(0,3)

**(1,3)**

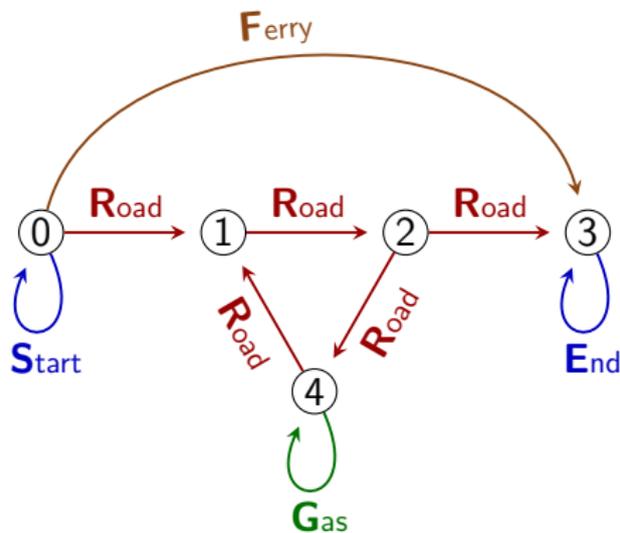
Full answer is: **{(1,3), (2,2), (0,3)}**

## Evaluating a reachability query

$$Q_{11} = \mathbf{GR}^*$$

Match	Endpoints
$4 \rightarrow 4$	$(4,4)$
$4 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1$	$(4,1)$
$4 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 2$	$(4,2)$
$4 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3$	$(4,3)$
$\vdots$	$\vdots$
$4 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 2$	
$\rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 2$	
$\rightarrow 3$	$(4,3)$
$\vdots$	$\vdots$

Other matches do not add new pairs to the answer



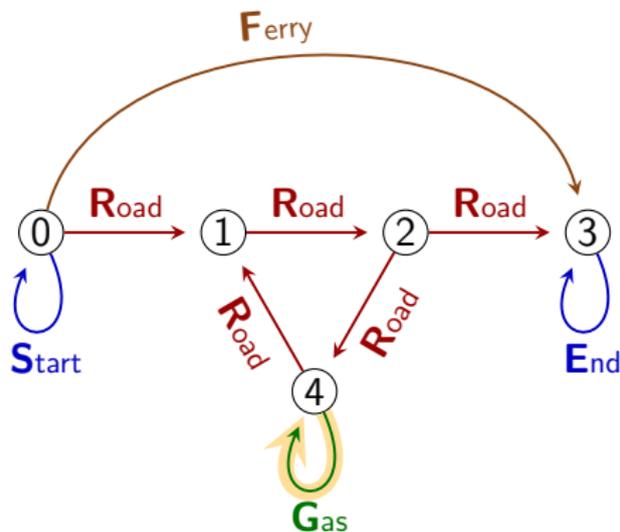
Answer to  $Q_{11}$  under endpoint sem.:  $\{(4, 4), (4, 1), (4, 2), (4, 3)\}$

## Evaluating a reachability query

$$Q_{11} = \mathbf{GR}^*$$

Match	Endpoints
4 → 4	(4,4)
4 → 4 → 1	(4,1)
4 → 4 → 1 → 2	(4,2)
4 → 4 → 1 → 2 → 3	(4,3)
⋮	⋮
4 → 4 → 1 → 2	
→ 4 → 1 → 2	
→ 3	(4,3)
⋮	⋮

Other matches do not add new pairs to the answer



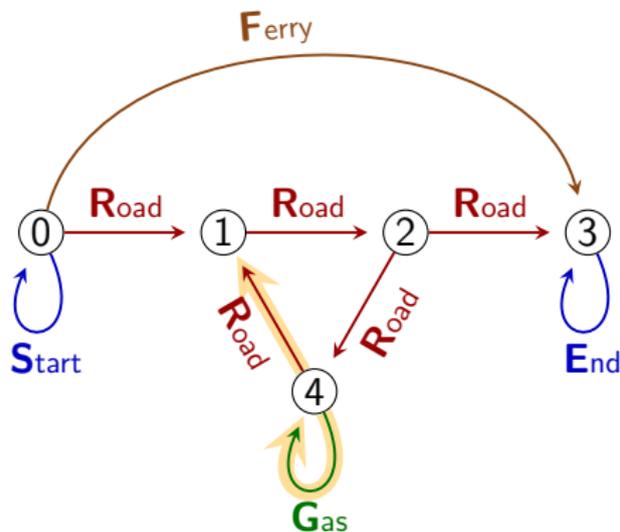
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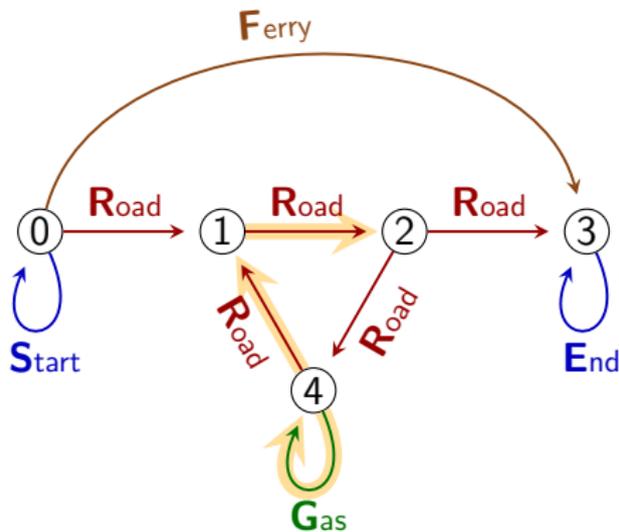
## Endpoint semantics (2)

### Evaluating a reachability query

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Match	Endpoints
$4 \rightarrow 4$	$(4,4)$
$4 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1$	$(4,1)$
$4 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 2$	$(4,2)$
$4 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3$	$(4,3)$
$\vdots$	$\vdots$
$4 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 2$	
$\rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 2$	
$\rightarrow 3$	$(4,3)$
$\vdots$	$\vdots$

Other matches do not add new pairs to the answer



Answer to  $Q_{11}$  under endpoint sem.:  $\{(4,4), (4,1), (4,2), (4,3)\}$

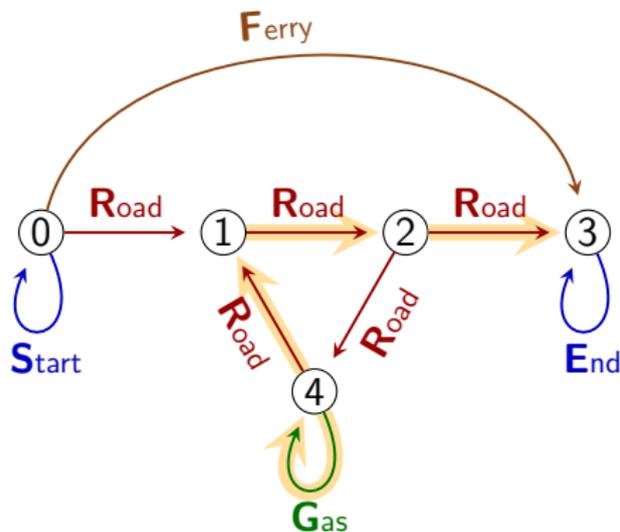
# Endpoint semantics (2)

## Evaluating a reachability query

$$Q_{11} = \mathbf{GR}^*$$

Match	Endpoints
$4 \rightarrow 4$	$(4,4)$
$4 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1$	$(4,1)$
$4 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 2$	$(4,2)$
$4 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3$	$(4,3)$
$\vdots$	$\vdots$
$4 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 2$	
$\rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 2$	
$\rightarrow 3$	$(4,3)$
$\vdots$	$\vdots$

Other matches do not add new pairs to the answer



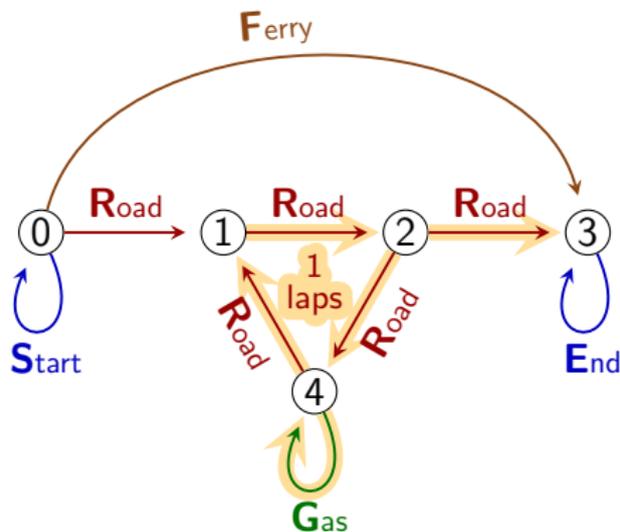
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$\vdots$	$\vdots$

Other matches do not add new pairs to the answer



Answer to  $Q_{11}$  under endpoint sem.:  $\{(4,4), (4,1), (4,2), (4,3)\}$

## Pros and cons

### Pros

- Efficient algorithms
- Output is always small
- Well grounded theory

## Pros and cons

### Pros

- Efficient algorithms
- Output is always small
- Well grounded theory

### Cons

- Very limited information in the answer
  - User: *"I want to go from Paris to Lyon by car"*
  - Database: *"Yes you can"*

# Shortest semantics (1)

Used in GSQL (TigerGraph), PGQL (Oracle) and GQL with ALL SHORTEST

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## Principles

- Return walks
- For each endpoints  $(s, t)$ , return the “best” match from  $s$  to  $t$
- Best = shortest = least number of edges

## Example

Match	Endpoints	Length
$1 \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3$	$(1, 3)$	3
$1 \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3$	$(1, 3)$	4
$0 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3$	$(0, 3)$	3
$0 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3$	$(0, 3)$	2
$0 \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow 3$	$(0, 3)$	2

Full answer:  $\{1 \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3, 0 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3, 0 \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow 3\}$

Used in GSQL (TigerGraph), PGQL (Oracle) and GQL with ALL SHORTEST

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$1 \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3$	(1, 3)	4
$0 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3$	(0, 3)	3
$0 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3$	(0, 3)	2
$0 \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow 3$	(0, 3)	2

Full answer:  $\{1 \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3, 0 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3, 0 \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow 3\}$

Used in GSQL (TigerGraph), PGQL (Oracle) and GQL with ALL SHORTEST

## Principles

- Return walks
- For each endpoints  $(s, t)$ , return the “best” match from  $s$  to  $t$
- Best = shortest = least number of edges

## Example

Match	Endpoints	Length	
1 → 0 → 2 → 3	(1, 3)	3	Shortest for (1, 3)
1 → 0 → 2 → 2 → 3	(1, 3)	4	Not shortest for (1, 3)
0 → 2 → 2 → 3	(0, 3)	3	
0 → 2 → 3	(0, 3)	2	
0 → 0 → 3	(0, 3)	2	

Full answer: {1 → 0 → 2 → 3, 0 → 2 → 3, 0 → 0 → 3}

Used in GSQL (TigerGraph), PGQL (Oracle) and GQL with ALL SHORTEST

## Principles

- Return walks
- For each endpoints  $(s, t)$ , return the “best” match from  $s$  to  $t$
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$0 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3$	$(0, 3)$	3	
$0 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3$	$(0, 3)$	2	
$0 \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow 3$	$(0, 3)$	2	

Full answer:  $\{1 \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3, 0 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3, 0 \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow 3\}$

# Shortest semantics (1)

Used in GSQL (TigerGraph), PGQL (Oracle) and GQL with ALL SHORTEST

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$0 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3$	$(0, 3)$	3	Not shortest for $(0, 3)$
$0 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3$	$(0, 3)$	2	Tied shortest for $(0, 3)$
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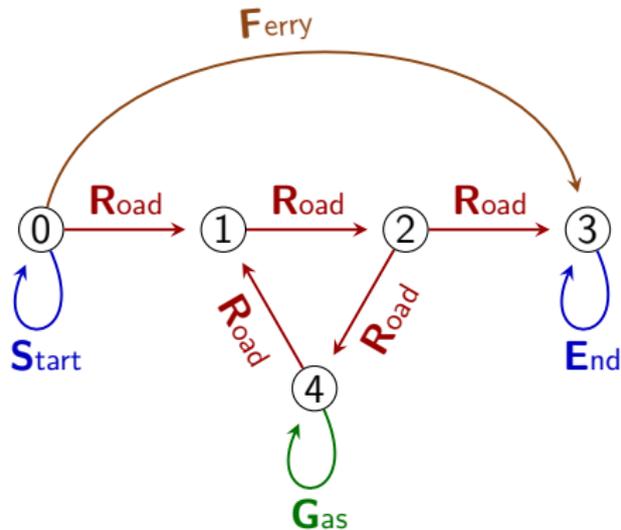
Full answer:  $\{1 \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3, 0 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3, 0 \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow 3\}$

## Evaluating a reachability query

$$Q_{12} = \mathbf{GR}^*$$

Answer under shortest sem.

Walk	Shortest for
$4 \rightarrow 4$	$(4,4)$
$4 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1$	$(4,1)$
$4 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 2$	$(4,2)$
$4 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3$	$(4,3)$

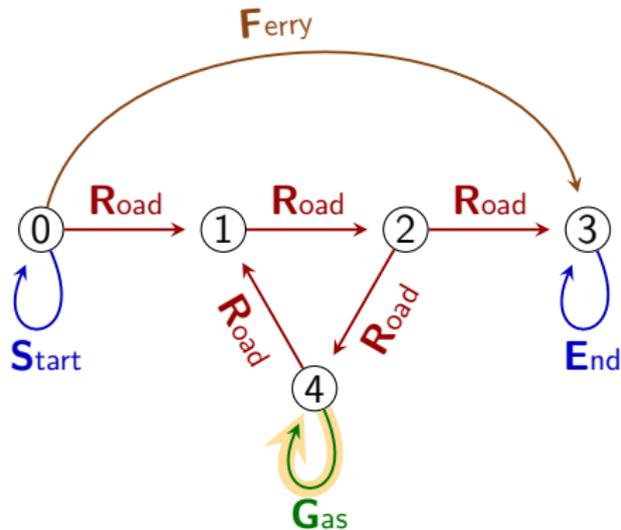


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Walk	Shortest for
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$4 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 2$	$(4,2)$
$4 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3$	$(4,3)$

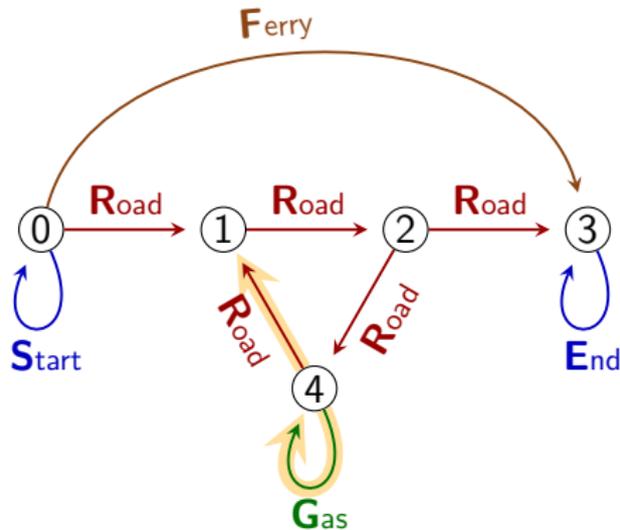


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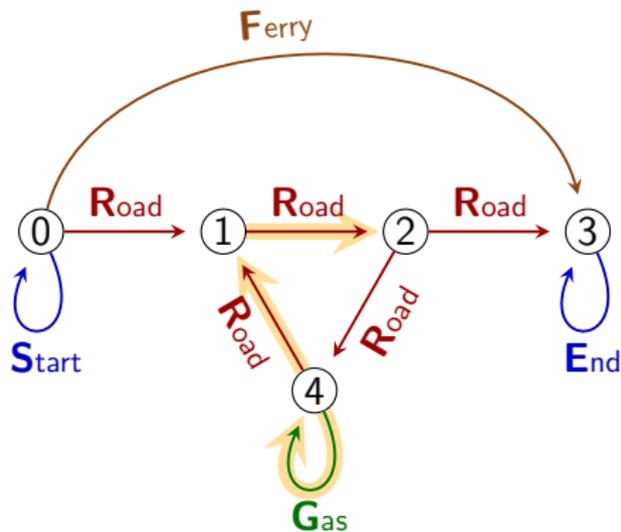


## Evaluating a reachability query

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$4 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3$	$(4,3)$



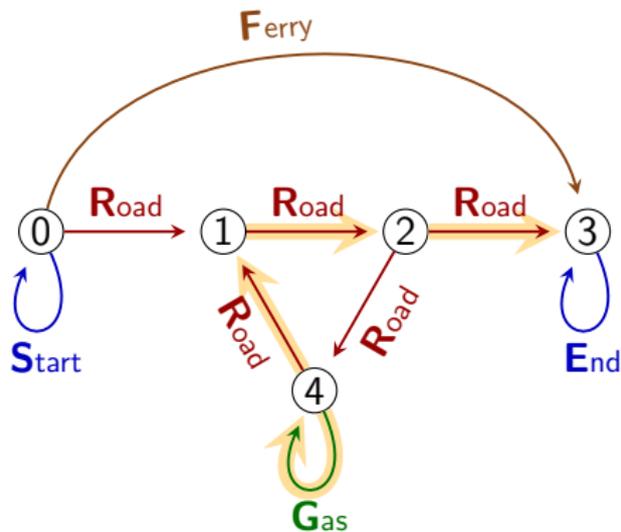
# Shortest semantics (2)

Evaluating a reachability query

$$Q_{12} = \mathbf{GR}^*$$

Answer under shortest sem.

Walk	Shortest for
$4 \rightarrow 4$	$(4,4)$
$4 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1$	$(4,1)$
$4 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 2$	$(4,2)$
$4 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3$	$(4,3)$



## Evaluating a reachability query

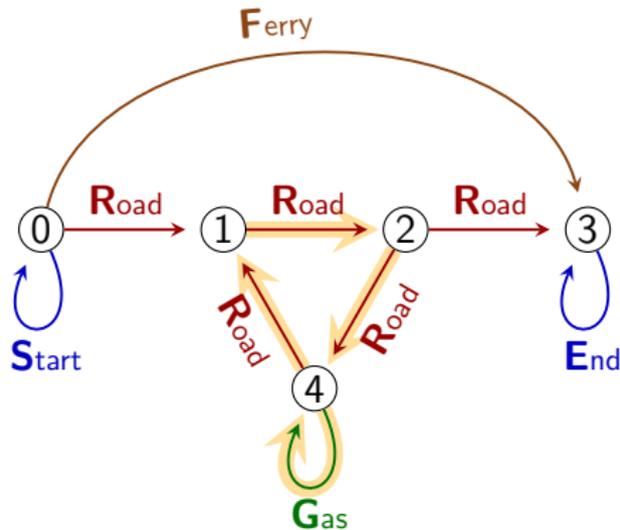
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## Answer under shortest sem.

Walk	Shortest for
$4 \rightarrow 4$	$(4,4)$
$4 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1$	$(4,1)$
$4 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 2$	$(4,2)$
$4 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3$	$(4,3)$

## Example of discarded match

$4 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 4$  is not in the answer because it is longer than  $4 \rightarrow 4$



Exercise: evaluating some queries

$$Q_{13} = S(R+F)^*E$$

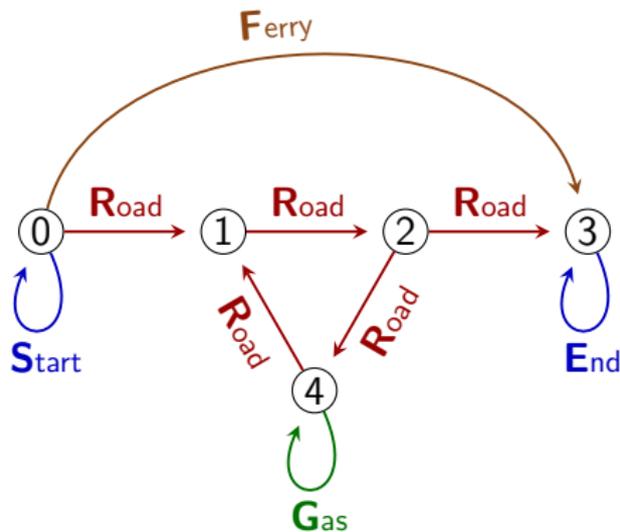
Answer to  $Q_{13}$ :

?

$$Q_{14} = S(R+F)^*G(R+F)^*E$$

Answer to  $Q_{14}$ :

?



# Shortest semantics (3)

Exercise: evaluating some queries

$$Q_{13} = S(R+F)^*E$$

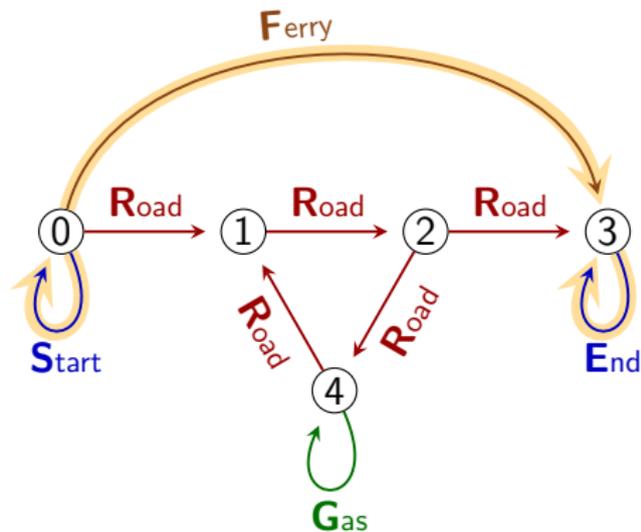
Answer to  $Q_{13}$ :

{ 0 → 0 → 3 → 3 }

$$Q_{14} = S(R+F)^*G(R+F)^*E$$

Answer to  $Q_{14}$ :

?



# Shortest semantics (3)

Exercise: evaluating some queries

$$Q_{13} = S(R+F)^*E$$

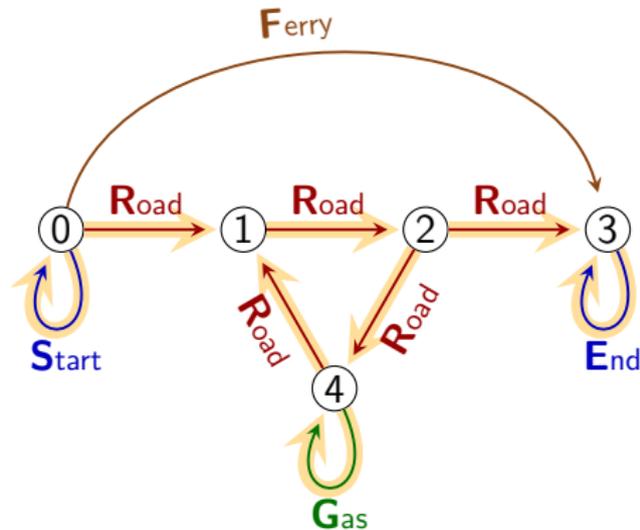
Answer to  $Q_{13}$ :

$\{ 0 \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow 3 \rightarrow 3 \}$

$$Q_{14} = S(R+F)^*G(R+F)^*E$$

Answer to  $Q_{14}$ :

$\{ 0 \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 4$   
 $\rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3 \rightarrow 3 \}$



## Pros and con

### Pros

- Returns walks
- Efficient algorithms (BFS in the product graph  $\times$  query)
- If there are matches from  $s$  to  $t$ , at least one of them is in the answer

## Pros and con

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### Cons

- The shortest walk is not always the “best”
  - *“Do we always want to take the ferry over the direct road?”*
  - (Real query languages allow to assign costs to edges/atoms)
- No vertical post-processing
  - Vertical = accross the walks with the same endpoints
  - *“What is the average time?”*
  - *“What is the connectedness level?”*

# Trail semantics (1)

Used by Cypher (Neo4j) and GQL with keyword **ALL TRAIL**

Used by Cypher (Neo4j) and GQL with keyword **ALL TRAIL**

## Principle

- Return a set of walks
- Apply a filter on the set of matching walks
- The filter is: each walk that repeats an edge is filtered out

## Examples

Match

1 → 0 → 2 → 2 → 3

1 → 0 → 2 → 3 → 0 → 2

Decision

No repetition ⇒ Kept in the answer

Repeated edges ⇒ Filtered out

Evaluating  $Q_{15}$ 

$$Q_{15} = \mathbf{S}(\mathbf{R} + \mathbf{F})^* \mathbf{E}$$

Applying the filter

Matches

Keep?

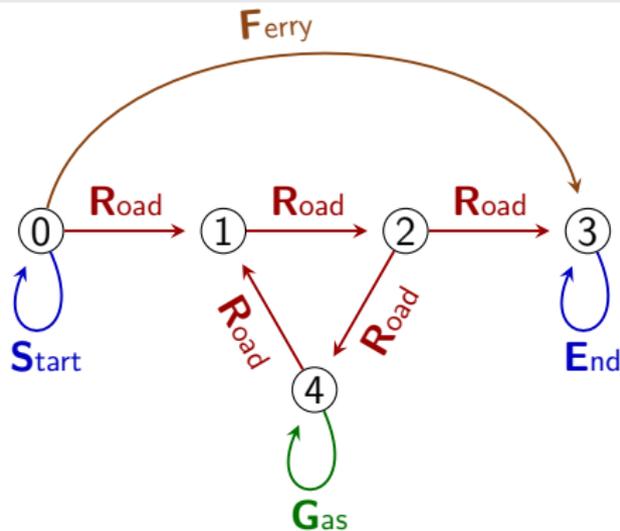
The ferry walk

The straight road

The road with 1 lap

The road with 2 laps

⋮

Answer of  $Q_{15}$  under trail semantics:

{

}

Evaluating  $Q_{15}$ 

$$Q_{15} = \mathbf{S}(\mathbf{R} + \mathbf{F})^* \mathbf{E}$$

Applying the filter

Matches

Keep?

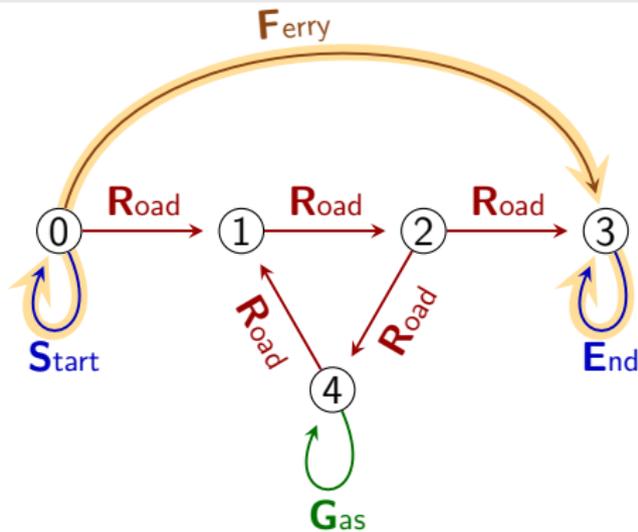
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{

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The ferry walk

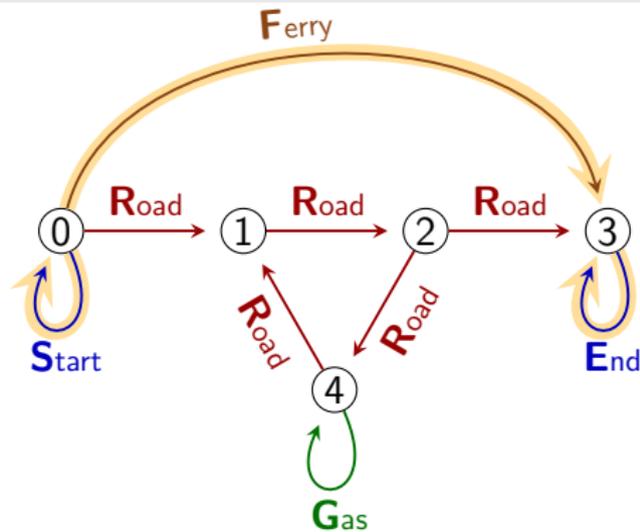
Yes

The straight road

The road with 1 lap

The road with 2 laps

⋮

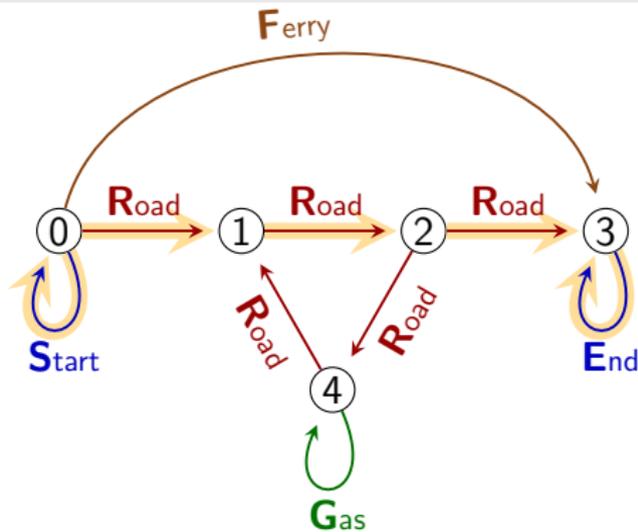
Answer of  $Q_{15}$  under trail semantics:
$$\{ \quad 0 \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow 3 \rightarrow 3 \quad \}$$

Evaluating  $Q_{15}$ 

$$Q_{15} = \mathbf{S}(\mathbf{R} + \mathbf{F})^* \mathbf{E}$$

Applying the filter

Matches	Keep?
The ferry walk	Yes
The straight road	
The road with 1 lap	
The road with 2 laps	
⋮	

Answer of  $Q_{15}$  under trail semantics:

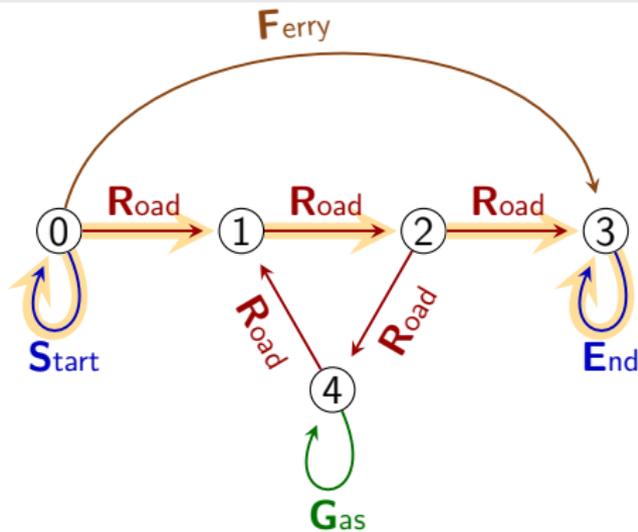
{  $0 \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow 3 \rightarrow 3$  }

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Applying the filter

Matches	Keep?
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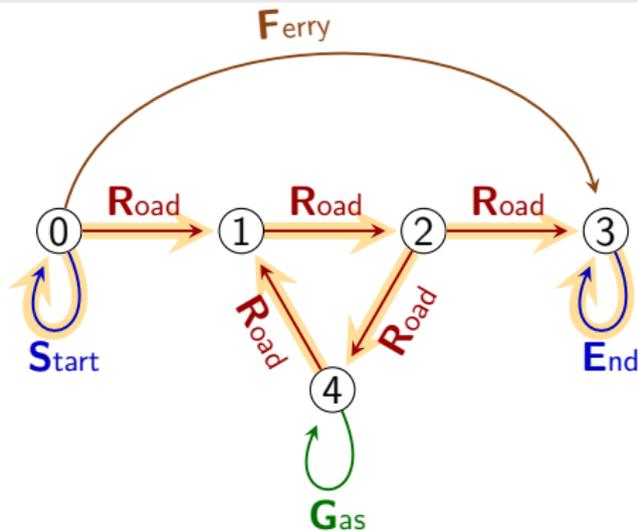
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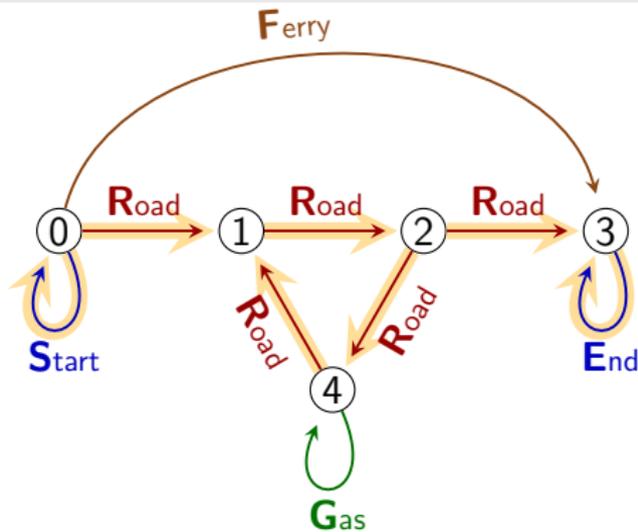
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Evaluating  $Q_{15}$ 

$$Q_{15} = \mathbf{S}(\mathbf{R} + \mathbf{F})^* \mathbf{E}$$

Applying the filter

Matches	Keep?
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The road with 2 laps	
⋮	

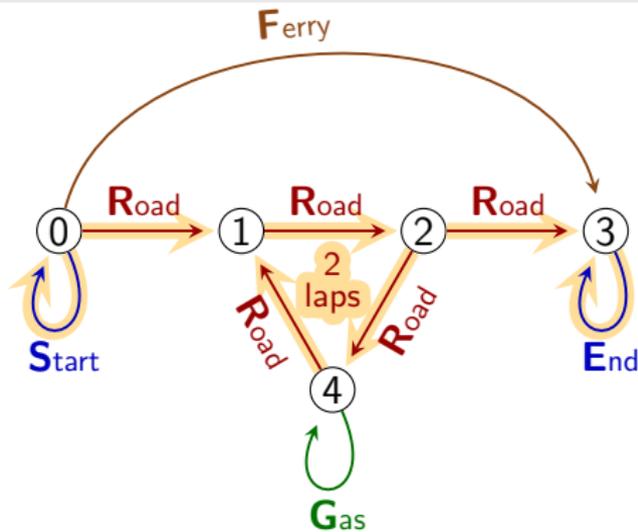
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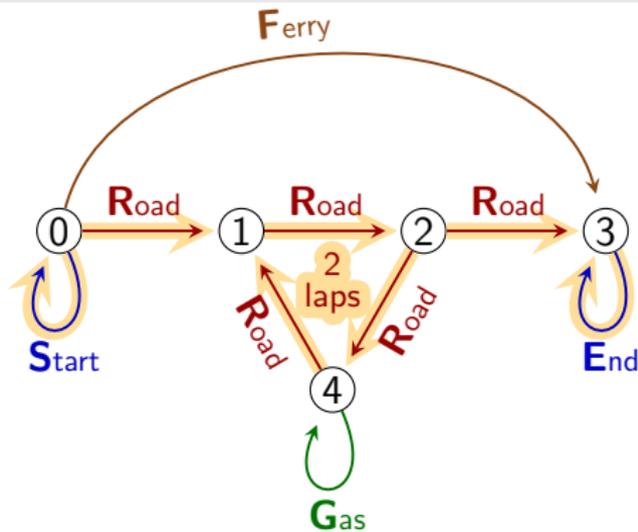
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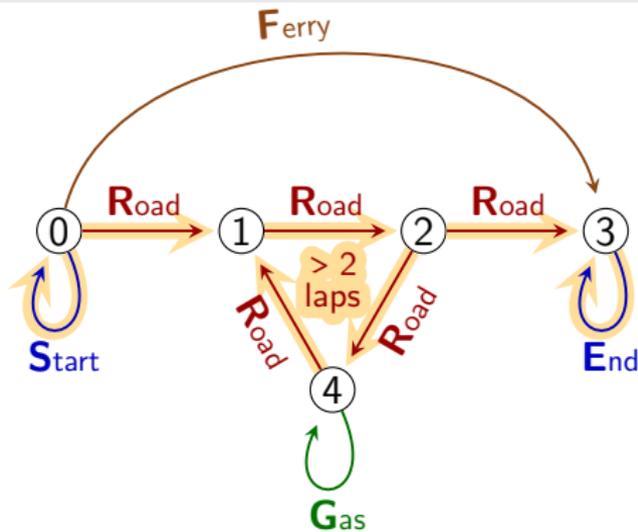
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Evaluating  $Q_{15}$ 

$$Q_{15} = \mathbf{S(R+F)^*E}$$

Applying the filter

Matches	Keep?
The ferry walk	Yes
The straight road	Yes
The road with 1 lap	No
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⋮	No

Answer of  $Q_{15}$  under trail semantics:
$$\{ \quad 0 \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow 3 \rightarrow 3, \quad 0 \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3 \rightarrow 3 \quad \}$$

Exercise: evaluating some queries

$$Q_{16} = \mathbf{GR}^*$$

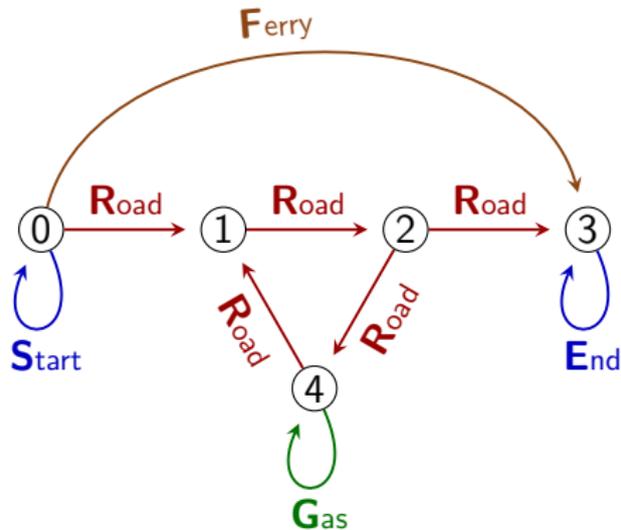
Answer to  $Q_{16}$ :

?

$$Q_{17} = \mathbf{S(R+F)^*G(R+F)^*E}$$

Answer to  $Q_{17}$ :

?

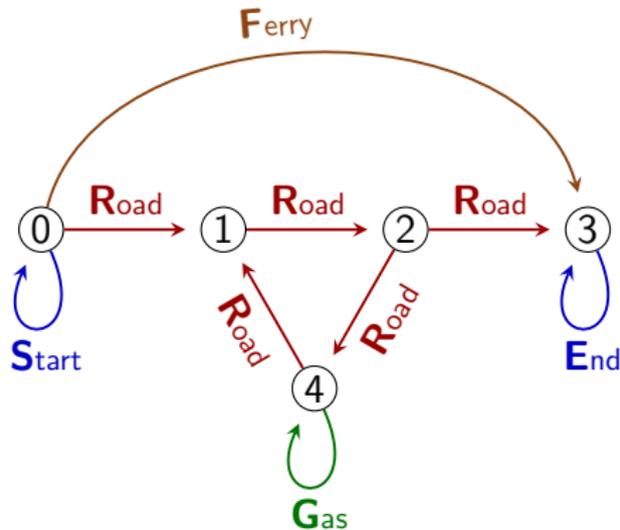


Exercise: evaluating some queries

$$Q_{16} = \mathbf{GR}^*$$

Answer to  $Q_{16}$ :

{  
   $4 \rightarrow 4$  ,  
   $4 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1$  ,  
   $4 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 2$  ,  
   $4 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3$  ,  
   $4 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 4$  }  
}



$$Q_{17} = \mathbf{S(R+F)^*G(R+F)^*E}$$

Answer to  $Q_{17}$ :

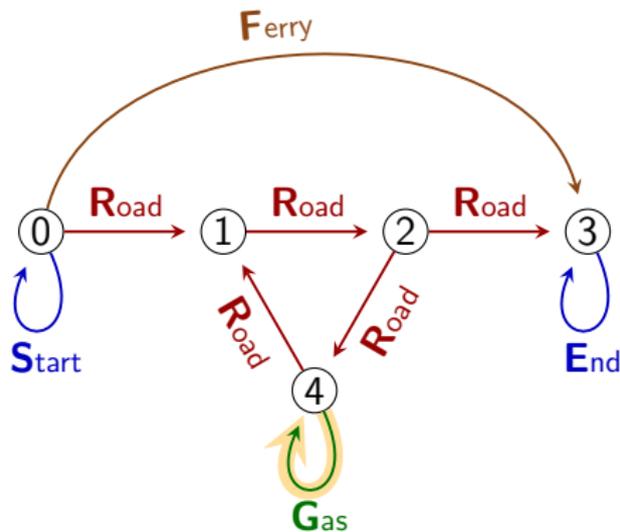
?

Exercise: evaluating some queries

$$Q_{16} = \mathbf{GR}^*$$

Answer to  $Q_{16}$ :

{  $4 \rightarrow 4$ ,  
 $4 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1$ ,  
 $4 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 2$ ,  
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$$Q_{17} = \mathbf{S(R+F)^*G(R+F)^*E}$$

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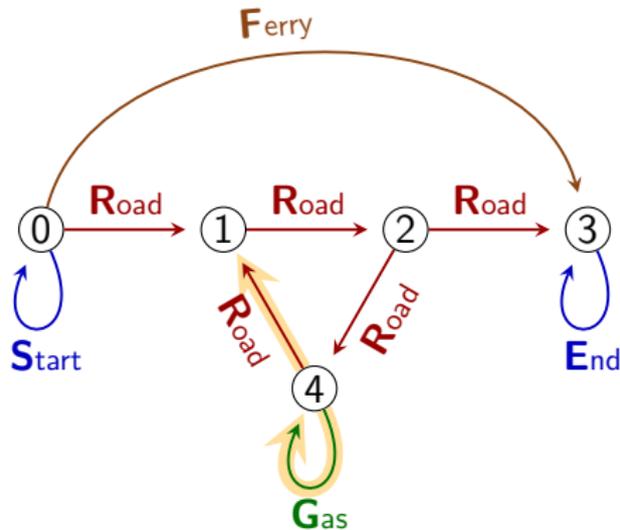
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$$Q_{16} = \mathbf{GR}^*$$

Answer to  $Q_{16}$ :

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 $4 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1$  ,  
 $4 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 2$  ,  
 $4 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3$  ,  
 $4 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 4$  }  
 }



$$Q_{17} = \mathbf{S(R+F)^*G(R+F)^*E}$$

Answer to  $Q_{17}$ :

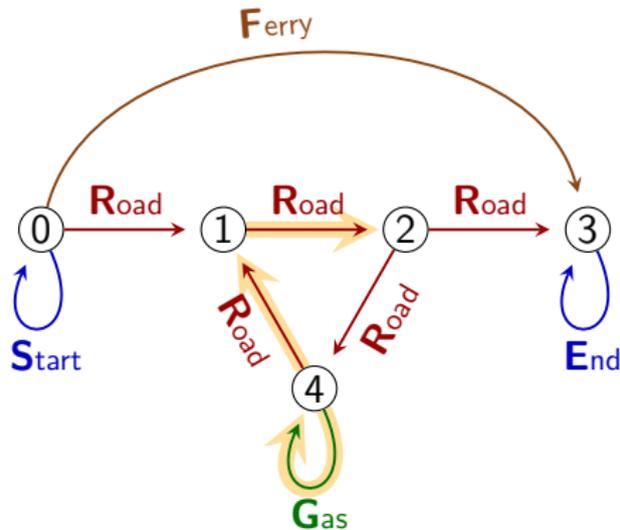
?

Exercise: evaluating some queries

$$Q_{16} = \mathbf{GR}^*$$

Answer to  $Q_{16}$ :

{  
   $4 \rightarrow 4$  ,  
   $4 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1$  ,  
   $4 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 2$  ,  
   $4 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3$  ,  
   $4 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 4$  }  
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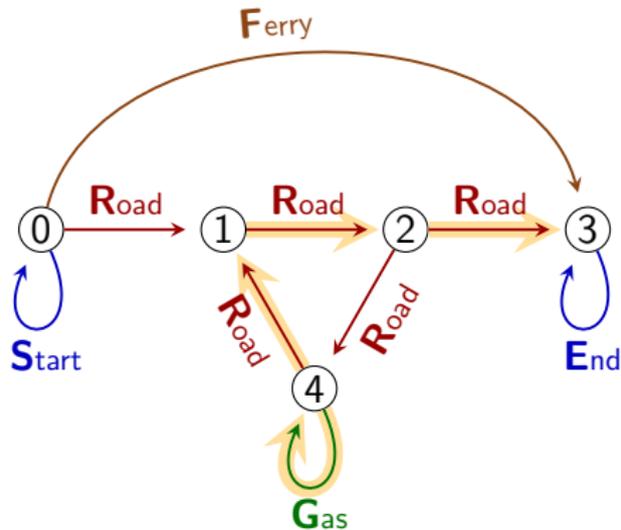
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Exercise: evaluating some queries

$$Q_{16} = \mathbf{GR}^*$$

Answer to  $Q_{16}$ :

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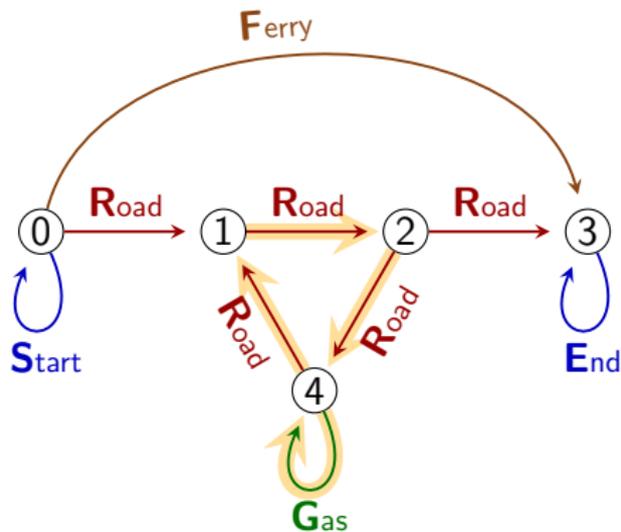
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$$Q_{16} = \mathbf{GR}^*$$

Answer to  $Q_{16}$ :

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 (Note: The last path is highlighted in yellow in the original image.)



$$Q_{17} = \mathbf{S}(\mathbf{R} + \mathbf{F})^* \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{R} + \mathbf{F})^* \mathbf{E}$$

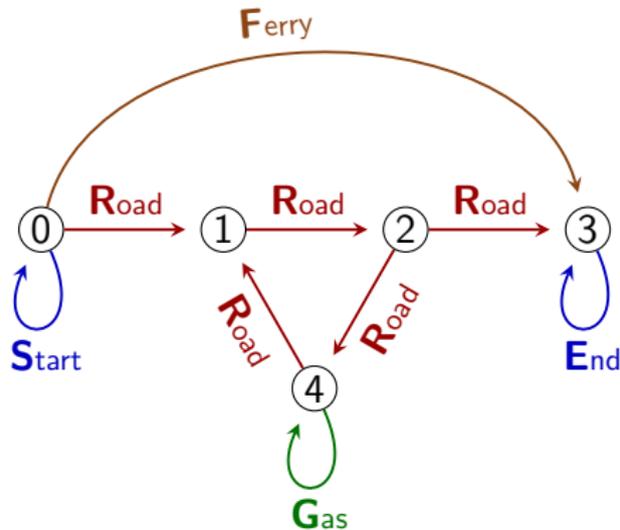
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$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 4 \rightarrow 4, \\ 4 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1, \\ 4 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 2, \\ 4 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3, \\ 4 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 4 \end{array} \right\}$$


$$Q_{17} = \mathbf{S(R+F)^*G(R+F)^*E}$$

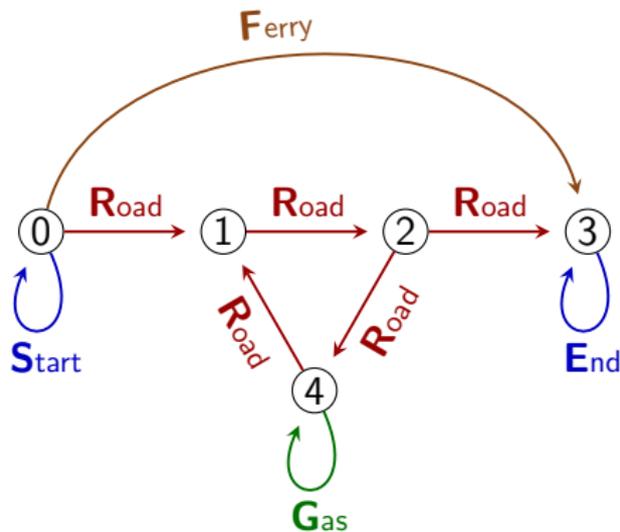
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Answer to  $Q_{17}$ :

∅

## Pros and cons

### Pros

- Returns walks
- Easy to explain
- Enable vertical post-processing
  - Vertical = accross the walks with the same endpoints
  - *“What is the average time?”*
  - *“What is the connectedness level?”*

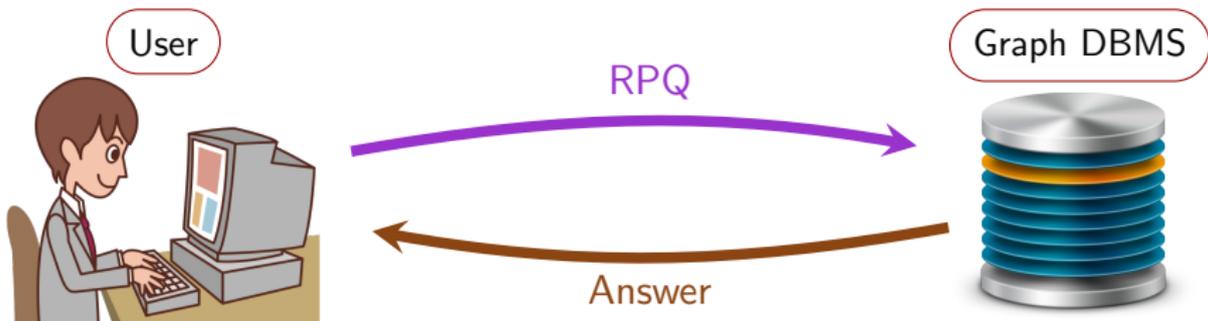
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### Cons

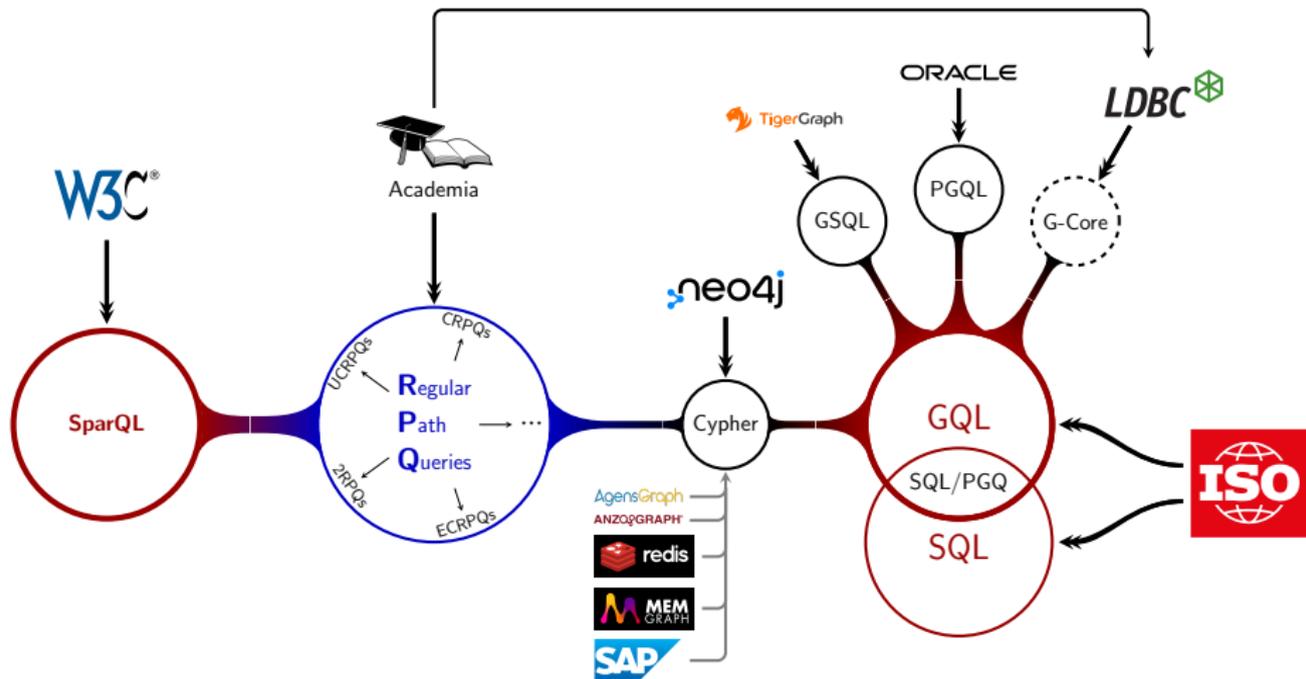
- **Inefficient** in bad cases.  
Ex: checking whether  $R^*GR^*$  returns anything is NP-hard
- “No repeated edge” is a filter that is sometimes **counterintuitive**  
Ex:  $S(R+F)^*G(R+F)^*E$  had matches but the answer is empty



⚠ **Infinitely** many matches but the user expects **finite** answer ⚠

- Endpoint → Filters out all navigational information
- Shortest → No vertical postprocessing and arbitrary metrics
- Trail → Inefficient and sometimes discard meaningful matches

⇒ **No RPQ semantics is clearly superior**



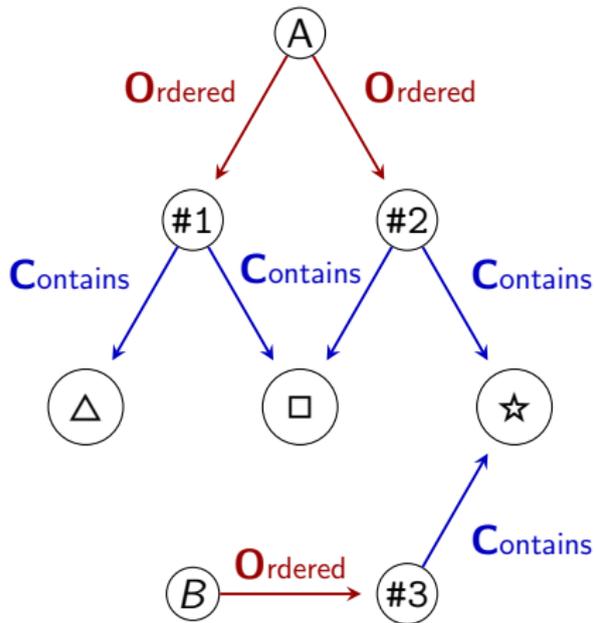
- SPARQL and most academic work on RPQs use endpoint semantics
- Cypher uses trail semantics
- GSQL, PGQL and G-Core uses shortest semantics (and variants)
- GQL and SQL/PGQ allow to switch between many RPQ semantics

Part I: Theoretical foundations

## **4. Common extensions to RPQs**

Consider the graph with

- clients (A,B)
- orders (#1,#2,#3)
- products ( $\Delta$ ,  $\square$ ,  $\star$ )

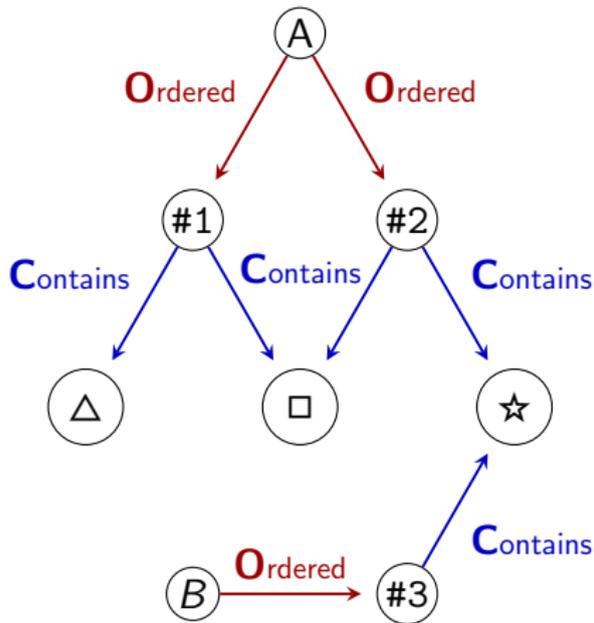


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Write RPQs to extract

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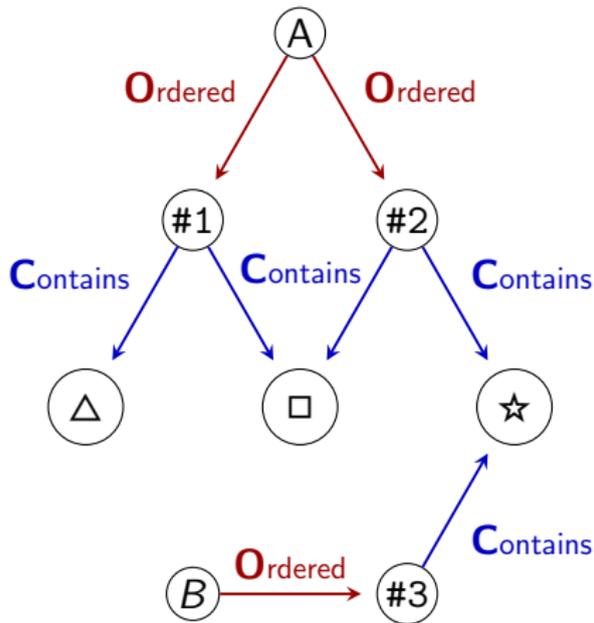


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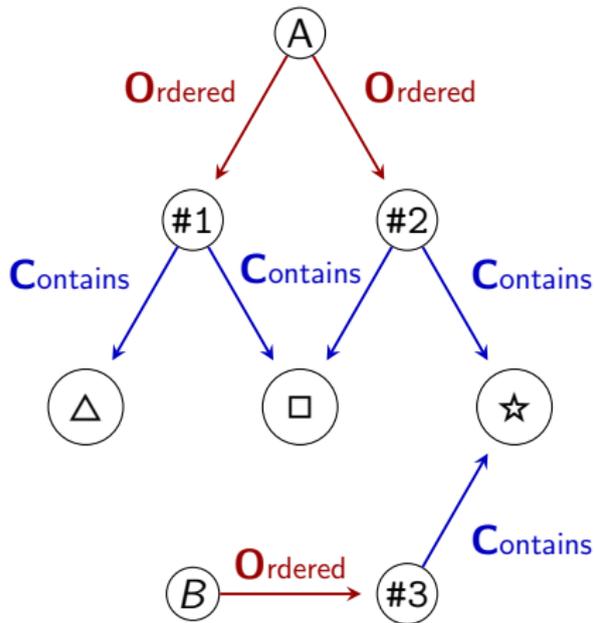
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⚠ Impossible ⚠



## Atoms

- Each letter is a regexp
- $\varepsilon$  is a regexp

Ex:  $\varepsilon$ , **R** and **F** are regexps

## Concatenation $\cdot$

**If**  $Q_1$  and  $Q_2$  are regexps  
**Then**  $Q_1 \cdot Q_2$  is a regexp

Ex: **R**  $\cdot$  **R** and **G**  $\cdot$  **F** are regexps  
**(R  $\cdot$  R)  $\cdot$  (G  $\cdot$  F)** is a regexp

## Disjunction $+$

**If**  $Q_1$  and  $Q_2$  are regexps  
**Then**  $Q_1 + Q_2$  is a regexp

Ex: **R**  $+$  **R** and **G**  $+$  **F** are regexps  
**(R  $\cdot$  R)  $+$  (G  $\cdot$  F)** is a regexp

## Kleene star $*$

**If**  $Q$  is a regexp  
**Then**  $Q^*$  is a regexp

Ex: **R**<sup>\*</sup> and **G**<sup>\*</sup> are regexps  
**((R<sup>\*</sup>  $\cdot$  G)  $+$  F)<sup>\*</sup>** is a regexp

## Atoms

- Each forward or backward letter is a regexp
- $\epsilon$  is a regexp

Ex:  $\epsilon$ ,  $R$ ,  $\bar{R}$ ,  $\bar{G}$  and  $F$  are regexps

## Disjunction +

If  $Q_1$  and  $Q_2$  are regexps  
Then  $Q_1 + Q_2$  is a regexp

Ex:  $R + \bar{R}$  and  $G + F$  are regexps  
 $(R \cdot R) + (G \cdot F)$  is a regexp

## Concatenation ·

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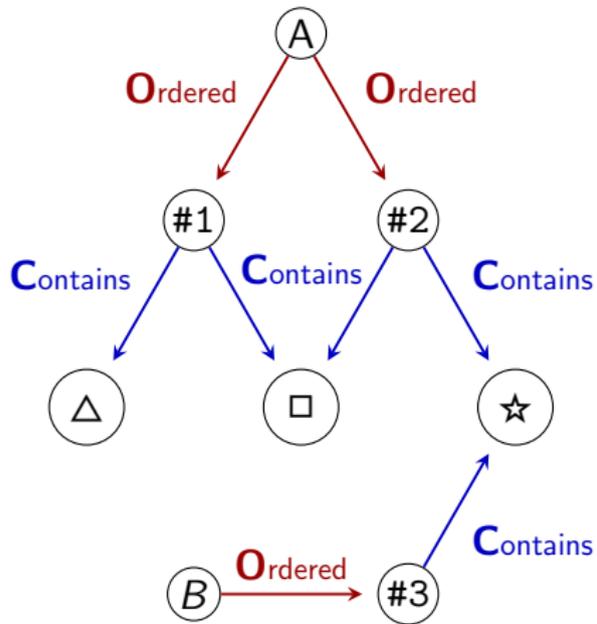
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If  $Q$  is a regexp  
Then  $Q^*$  is a regexp

Ex:  $R^*$  and  $G^*$  are regexps  
 $((R^* \cdot \bar{G}) + F)^*$  is a regexp

Write a 2RPQ to "extract"

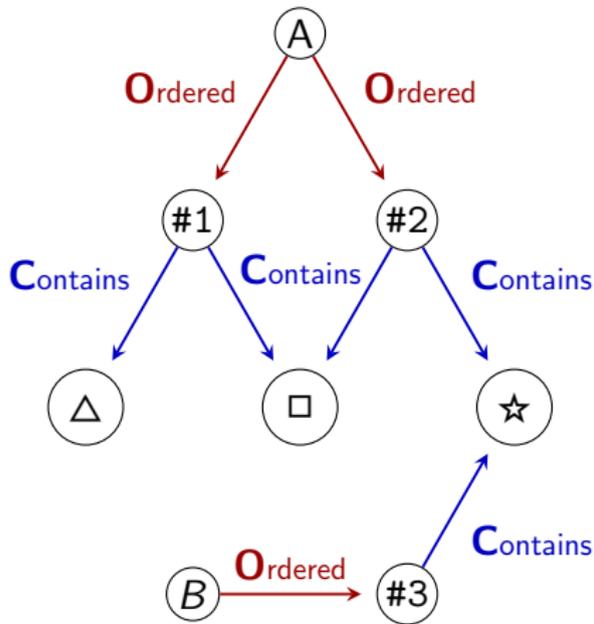
- 1 Products that were ordered twice (that is ☆ and □).



Write a 2RPQ to "extract"

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Answer:  $Q_{18} = C \cdot \bar{C}$



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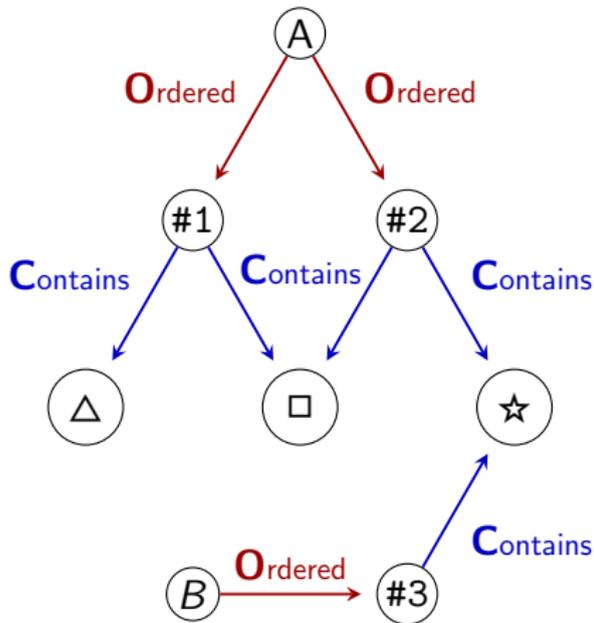
Answer:  $Q_{18} = \mathbf{C} \cdot \bar{\mathbf{C}}$

- Walks and matches now may contain backward edges

Matches to  $Q_{18}$ :

$\#1 \rightarrow \square \leftarrow \#2$ ,  $\#3 \rightarrow \star \leftarrow \#2$

$\#1 \rightarrow \triangle \leftarrow \#1$ , etc.



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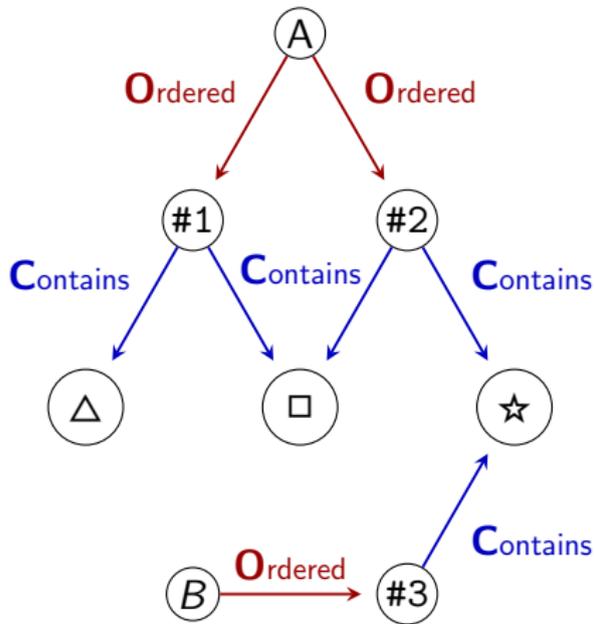
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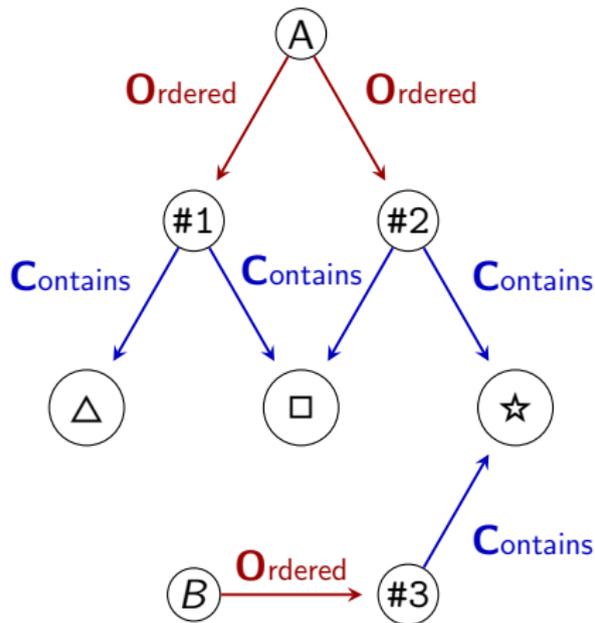
- Trail forbids using the same edge backward and forward

Under trail,  $Q_{18}$  returns walks with  $\star$  and  $\square$  as the middle vertex.



Write a 2RPQ to extract

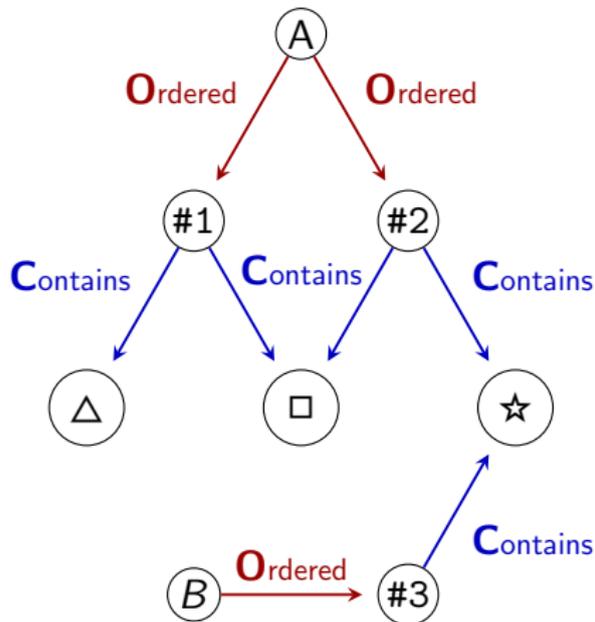
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⚠ Still impossible ⚠



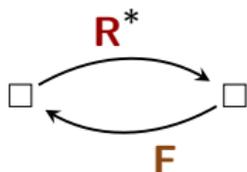
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CRPQ = graph pattern matching  
that is, a graph where each edge bears an RPQ

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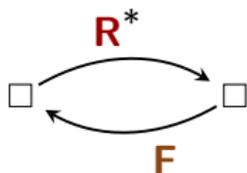
Use-case 1: cycles



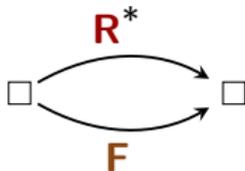
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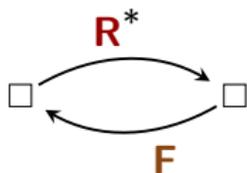
Use-case 2:  
Multi-way



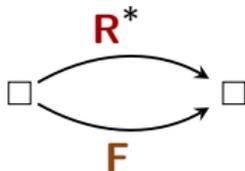
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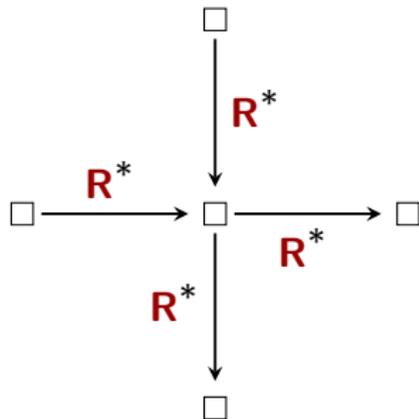
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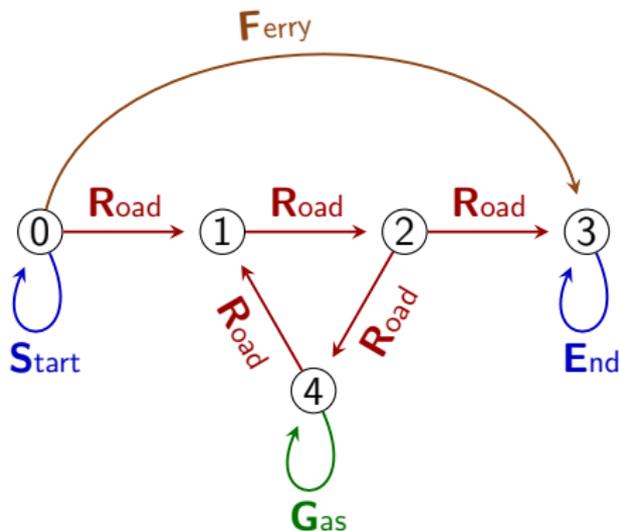
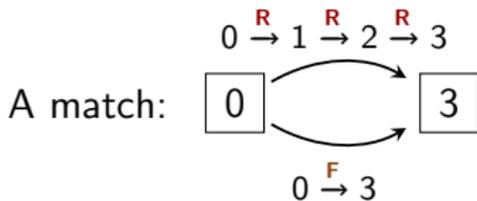
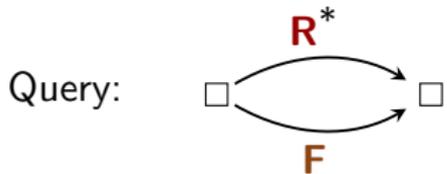
Use-case 3: Cross



## Definition

A **match** in graph  $G$  to a CRPQ  $Q$  consists of

- a map:  $\text{Vertex}(Q) \rightarrow \text{Vertex}(G)$
- a map:  $\text{Edge}(Q) \rightarrow \text{Walks}(G)$



## Endpoint semantics

- Return the vertex map only

## Shortest semantics

Two possibilities

- Shortest for each RPQ  
Ex: GQL, Tigergraph, etc.
- Return the global minimum  
Ex: None?

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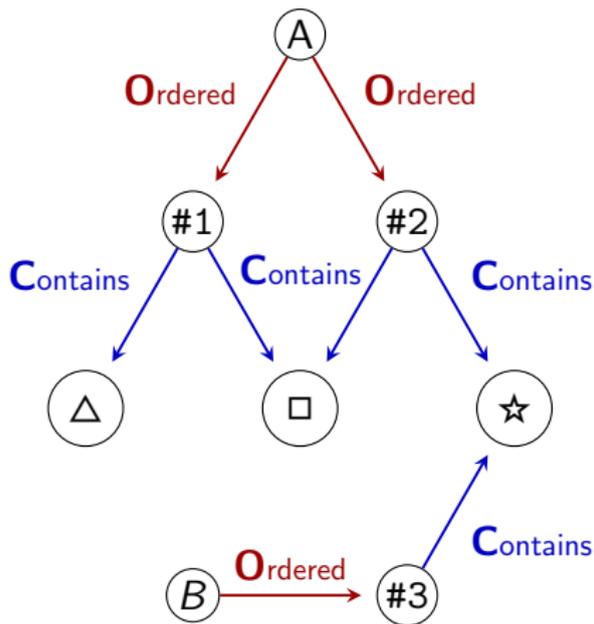
## Trail semantics

Two possibilities:

- No edge repetition for each RPQ  
Ex: GQL
- No edge repetition overall  
Ex: Cypher, GQL

Write a 2RPQ to extract

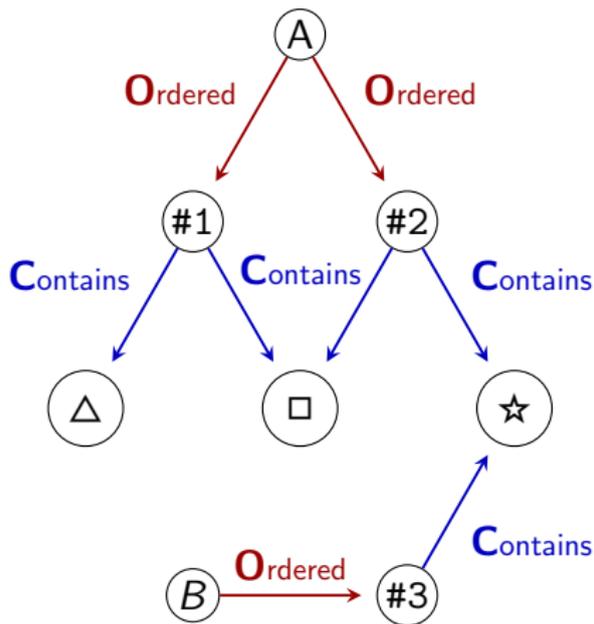
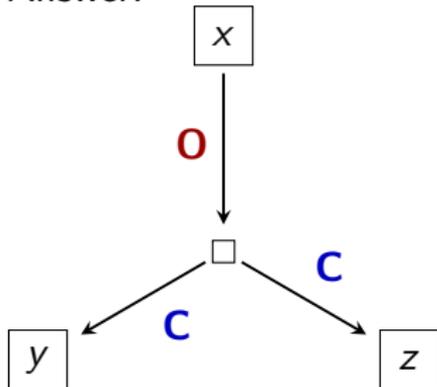
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Write a 2RPQ to extract

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Answer:



Which semantics?

- *Labeled Graph* data model.
- Definition and language denoted by a regexp (and a 2-way regexp).
- Writing abstract and concrete RPQs, 2RPQ, CRPQs.
- Computing matches for RPQs, 2RPQ, CRPQs.
- Concept of product graph.
- What is an RPQ semantics and why we need one.
- The three common RPQ semantics:
  - Definition
  - Evaluating RPQs, 2RPQs under each semantics
  - Usage
  - Difference

## **Part II: Property Graphs**

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### 1. **Data model**

A **node** ( $\approx$ **vertex**) encodes a complex values.

It bears **labels** for grouping.

Ex: *t* carries **Teacher**, **Person**  
*c* carries **Course**

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A **Relation** ( $\approx$ **edge**) connects **nodes**.

It bears one **type** ( $\approx$ **label**) provides the nature of the relation.

Ex:  $e = t \xrightarrow{\text{TEACHES}} c$

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A **Relation** ( $\approx$ edge) connects **nodes**.

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Ex:  $e = t \xrightarrow{\text{TEACHES}} c$

A **property** describes an aspect of a **node** or an **relation**.

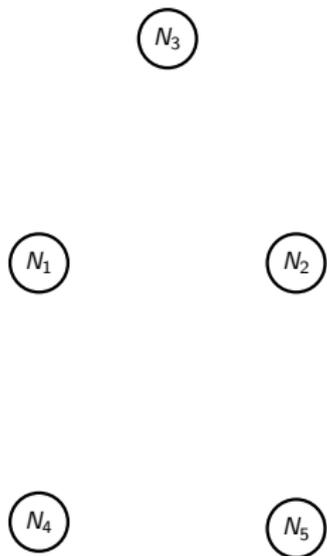
It maps

- a **key** (described aspect)
- to a **pure value** (description)

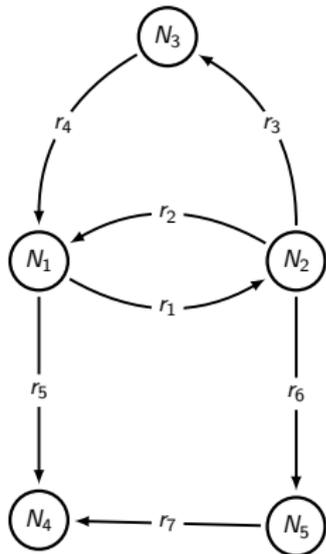
Ex:  $t$  has **name**: "Victor"  
 $e$  has **since**: 2023

A **pure value** (int, string, etc.) contains all the information about itself.

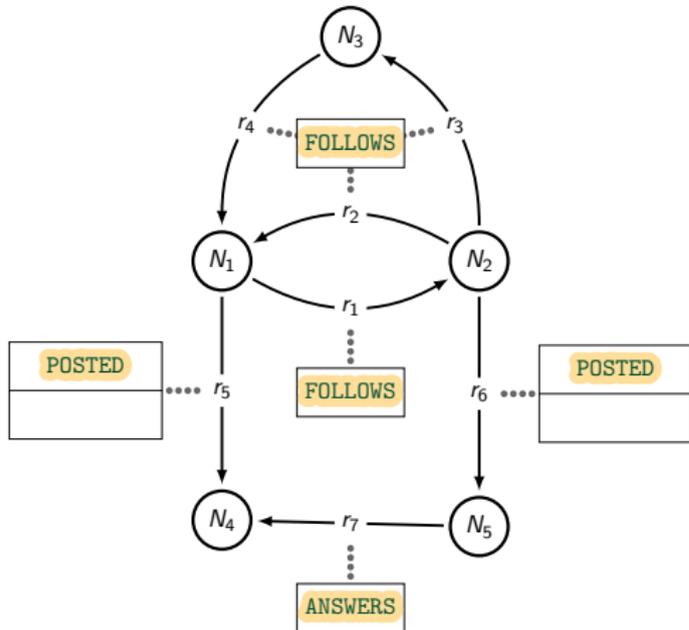
Ex: "Victor" has 6 letters



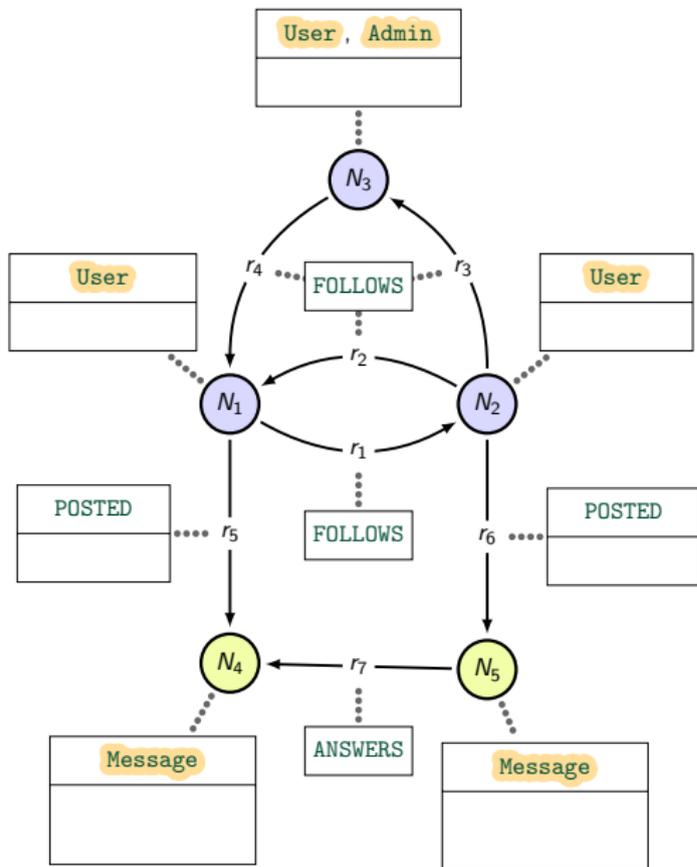
- Nodes :  $N_1, N_2, \dots, N_5$



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- Relations :  $r_1, r_2, \dots, r_7$

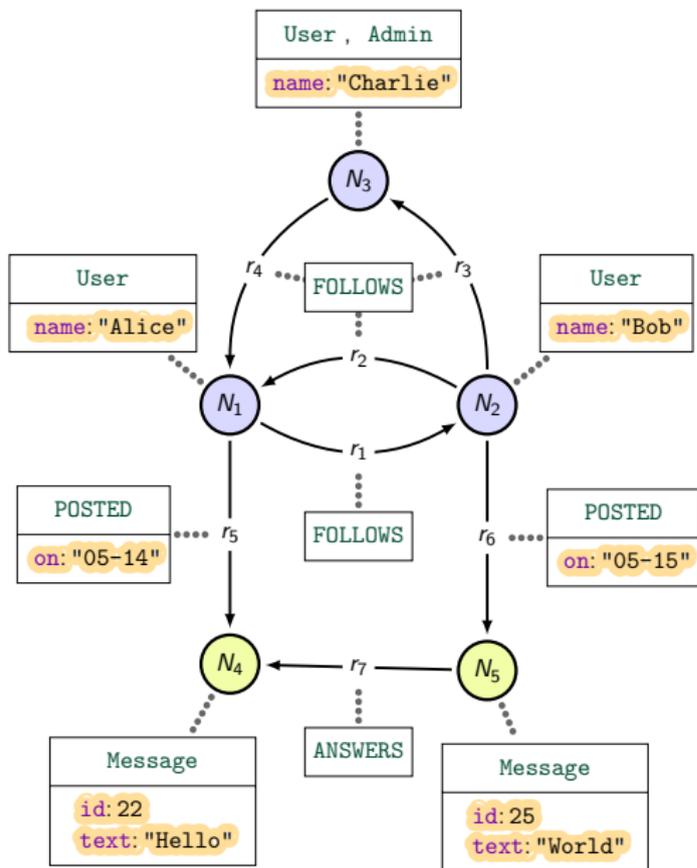


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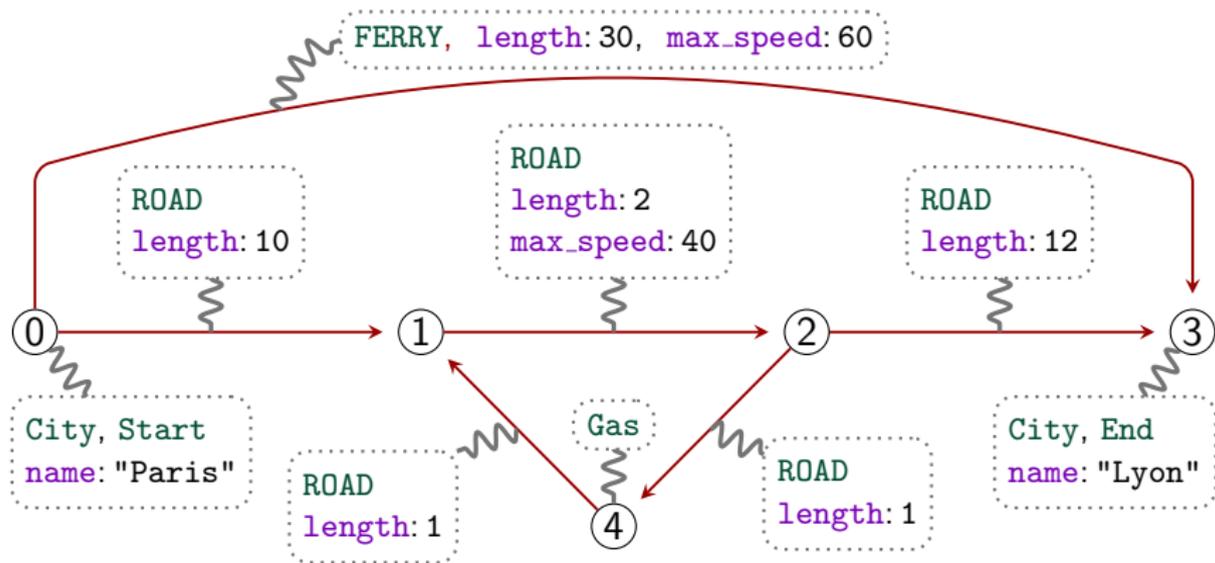


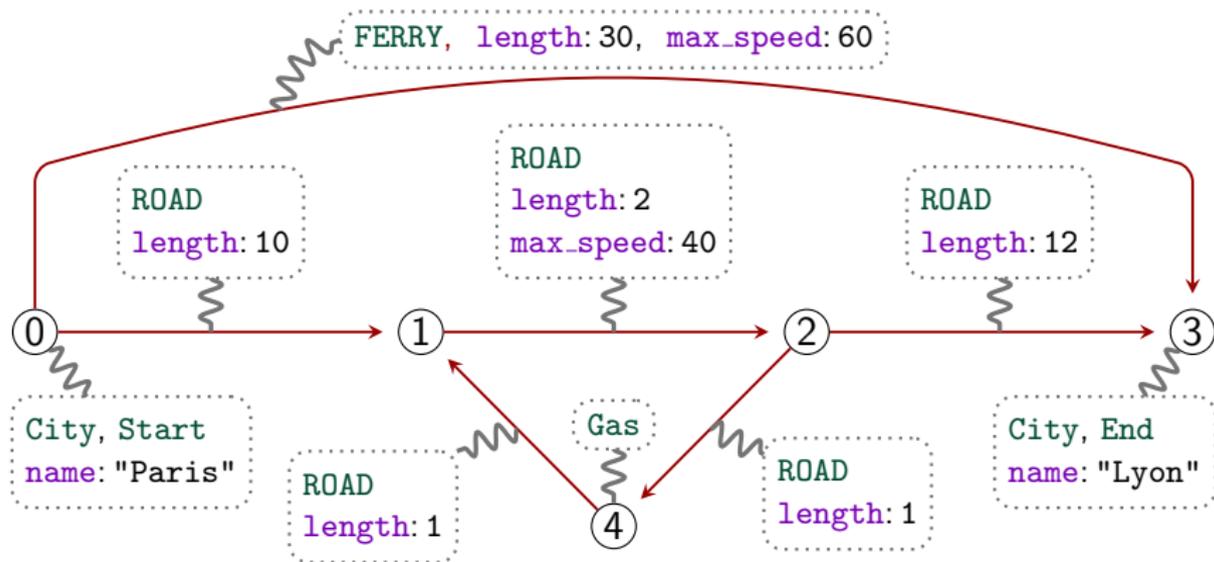
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- Labels: User, Admin, Message

# First example of a property graph



- Nodes :  $N_1, N_2, \dots, N_5$
- Relations :  $r_1, r_2, \dots, r_7$
- Types: **FOLLOWS**, **POSTED**, **ANSWERS**
- Labels: **User**, **Admin**, **Message**
- Properties, that is Key-Value pairs:
  - name: "Alice"
  - id: 22
  - text: "Hello"etc.





- Relations with the same type may have different property keys
- Nodes may have any number of labels and property keys

# Third example of a property graph

Exercice: What's wrong with this property graph ? Fix it !

Publication

title: "Graphs!"  
author: "Victor Marsault"  
year: "2022"  
journal\_id: 2856

Publication

title: "Graphs!"  
author: "V. Marsault"  
journal\_id: 2856

CITE

0

1

2

3

CITE

CITE

Publication

title: "More Graphs!"  
author: "Marsault, V. and Curé, O."  
year: "2023"  
journal\_id: 1731

Publication

title: "More Graphs!"  
author: "V. Marsault, O. Curé"  
year: "2024"  
journal\_id: 2856

Part II: Property Graphs

## 2. Translation: Graph $\rightarrow$ Tables

## Preliminary poll: PG vs Relational ?

- 1 The property graphs data model is more expressive.
- 2 The relational data model (that is, tables) is stronger.
- 3 They are both as expressive.

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Counterintuitively, tables are way more general



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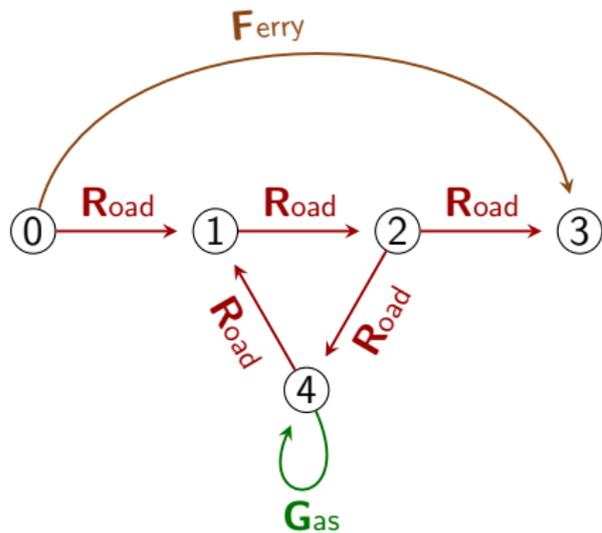


Consequences:

- Translating PGs→Tables is **easy**
- Translating Tables→PGs is **not always directly possible**

# Translation: Graph to Tables (1)

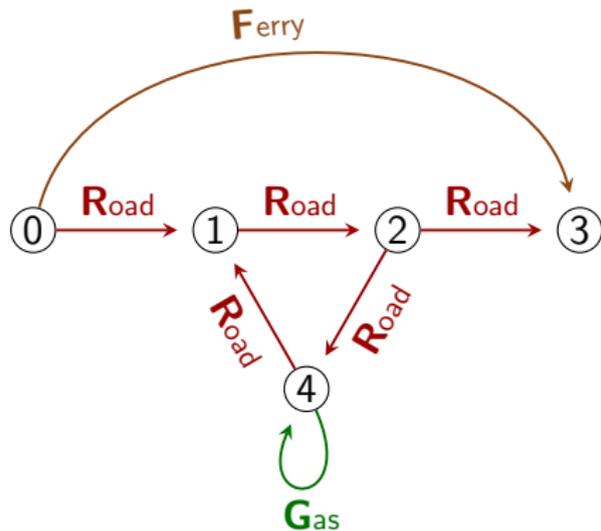
Can a graph be stored in tables?



# Translation: Graph to Tables (1)

Example – One **Vertex** table with one row per vertex in the graph

<b>Vertex</b>	<b>Road</b>	
<u>id</u>	<u>#src</u>	<u>#tgt</u>
0	0	1
1	1	2
2	2	3
3	2	4
4	4	1



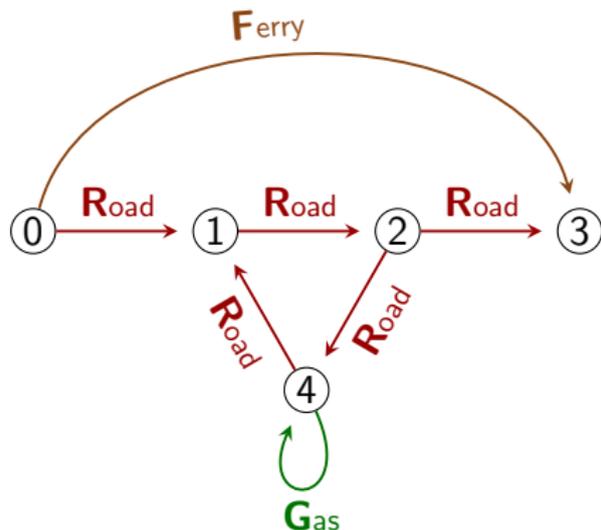
<b>Ferry</b>	
<u>#src</u>	<u>#tgt</u>
0	3

<b>Gas</b>	
<u>#src</u>	<u>#tgt</u>
4	4

# Translation: Graph to Tables (1)

Example – One table for each different label in the graph

<u>Vertex</u>	<u>Road</u>	
<u>id</u>	<u>#src</u>	<u>#tgt</u>
0	0	1
1	1	2
2	2	3
3	2	4
4	4	1



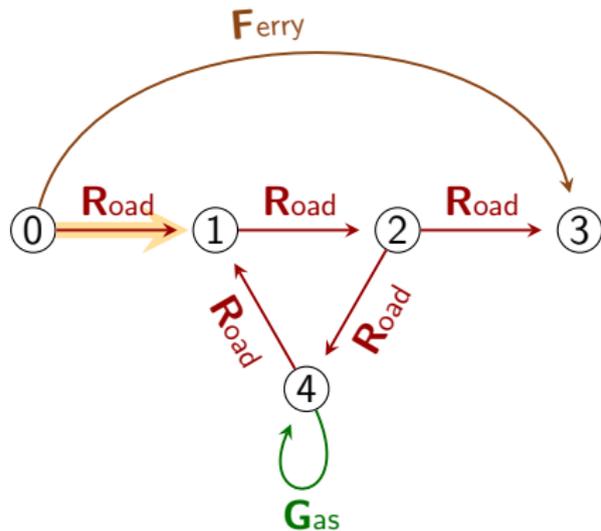
<u>Ferry</u>	
<u>#src</u>	<u>#tgt</u>
0	3

<u>Gas</u>	
<u>#src</u>	<u>#tgt</u>
4	4

# Translation: Graph to Tables (1)

Example – For each edge  $(i, \ell, j)$  in the graph add row  $(i, j)$  in table  $\ell$

<u>Vertex</u>	<u>Road</u>	
<u>id</u>	<u>#src</u>	<u>#tgt</u>
0	0	1
1	1	2
2	2	3
3	2	4
4	4	1



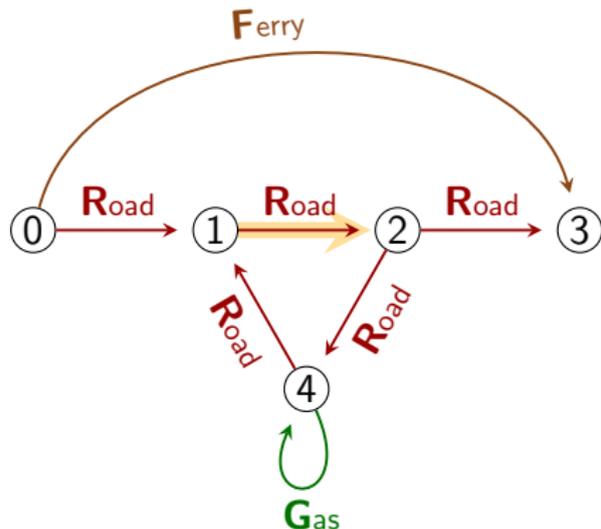
<u>Ferry</u>	
<u>#src</u>	<u>#tgt</u>
0	3

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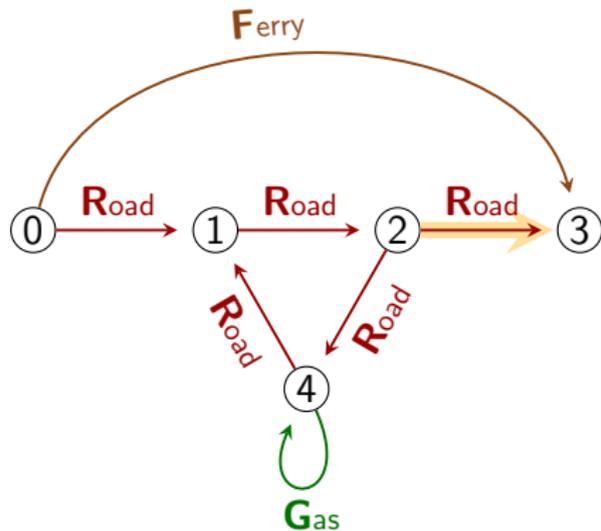
<u>Ferry</u>	
<u>#src</u>	<u>#tgt</u>
0	3

<u>Gas</u>	
<u>#src</u>	<u>#tgt</u>
4	4

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3	2	4
4	4	1



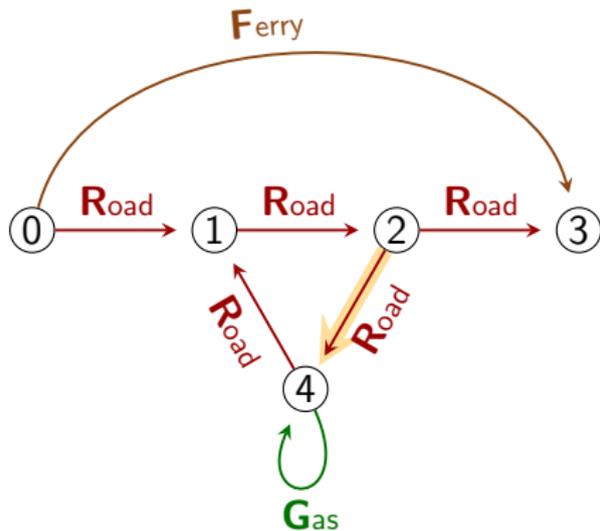
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0	3

<u>Gas</u>	
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3	2	4
4	4	1



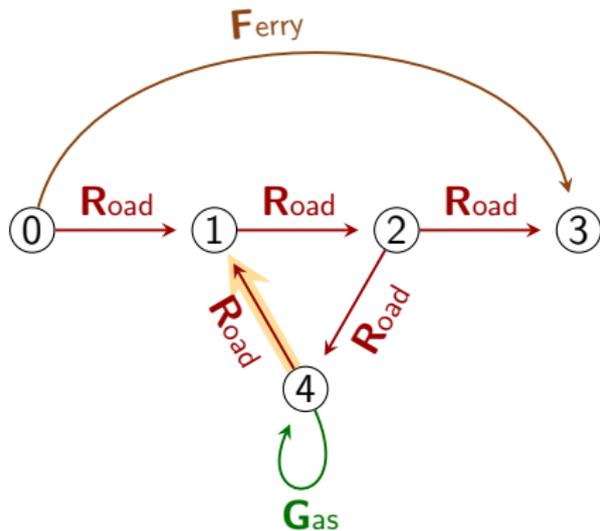
<u>Ferry</u>	
<u>#src</u>	<u>#tgt</u>
0	3

<u>Gas</u>	
<u>#src</u>	<u>#tgt</u>
4	4

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<u>Vertex</u>	<u>Road</u>	
<u>id</u>	<u>#src</u>	<u>#tgt</u>
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1	1	2
2	2	3
3	2	4
4	4	1



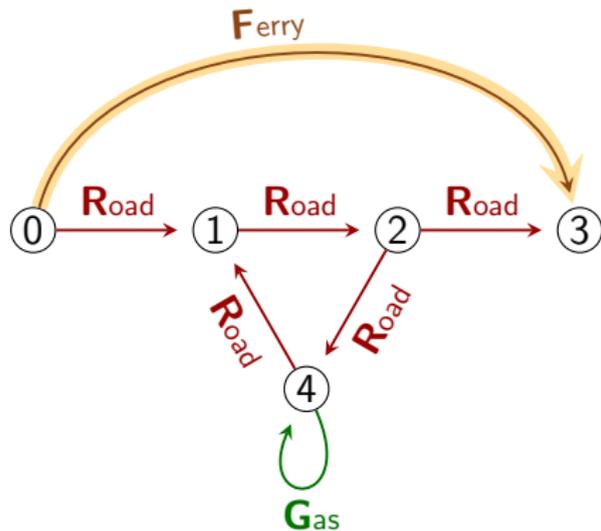
<u>Ferry</u>	
<u>#src</u>	<u>#tgt</u>
0	3

<u>Gas</u>	
<u>#src</u>	<u>#tgt</u>
4	4

# Translation: Graph to Tables (1)

Example – For each edge  $(i, \ell, j)$  in the graph add row  $(i, j)$  in table  $\ell$

<u>Vertex</u>	<u>Road</u>	
<u>id</u>	<u>#src</u>	<u>#tgt</u>
0	0	1
1	1	2
2	2	3
3	2	4
4	4	1



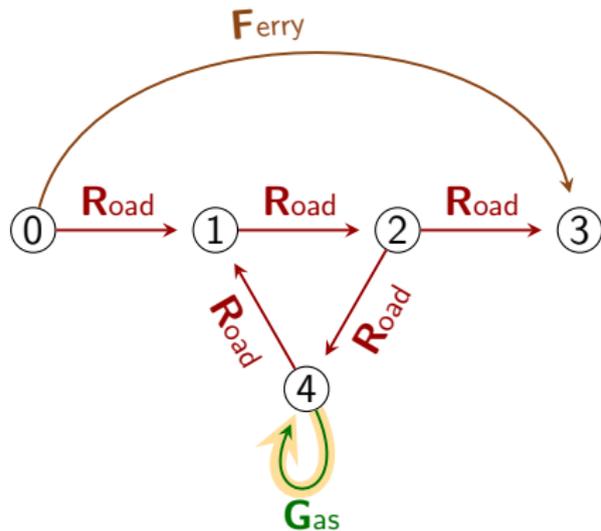
<u>Ferry</u>	
<u>#src</u>	<u>#tgt</u>
0	3

<u>Gas</u>	
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4	4

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Example – For each edge  $(i, \ell, j)$  in the graph add row  $(i, j)$  in table  $\ell$

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<u>Ferry</u>	
<u>#src</u>	<u>#tgt</u>
0	3

<u>Gas</u>	
<u>#src</u>	<u>#tgt</u>
4	4

## Principles of the translation

We start from a graph  $(V, L, E)$

Since  $V$  is finite we may enumerate it:  $V = \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$

### One table for vertices

<b>Vertex</b>
<u>id</u>
0
1
$\vdots$
$n$

### One table per label $\ell$ in $L$

$\ell$	
<u>#src</u>	<u>#tgt</u>
$\vdots$	$\vdots$
$i$	$j$
$\vdots$	$\vdots$

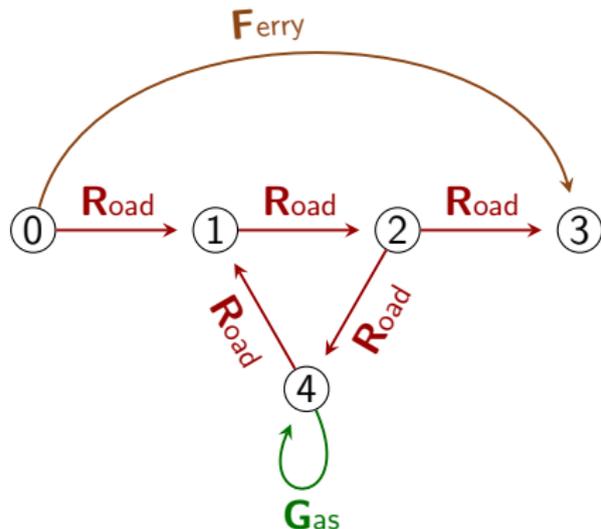
Table  $\ell$  contains  $(i, j)$

$$\iff (v_i, \ell, v_j) \in E$$

# Translation: RPQ to SQL

Exercise: translate **RRRGRRR** and  $(R + F)^*G(R + F)^*$  in SQL

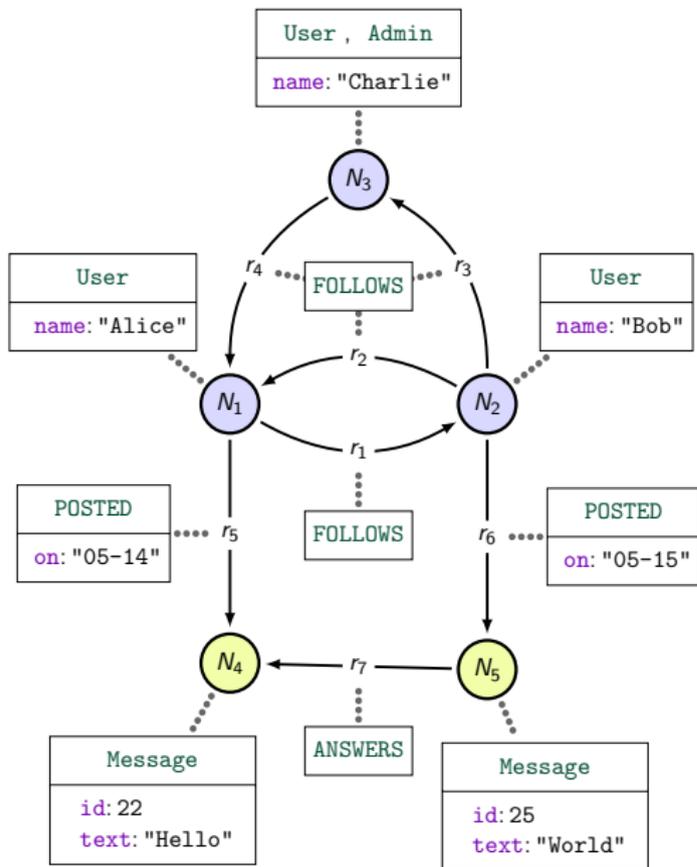
<u>Vertex</u>	<u>Road</u>	
<u>id</u>	<u>#src</u>	<u>#tgt</u>
0	0	1
1	1	2
2	2	3
3	2	4
4	4	1



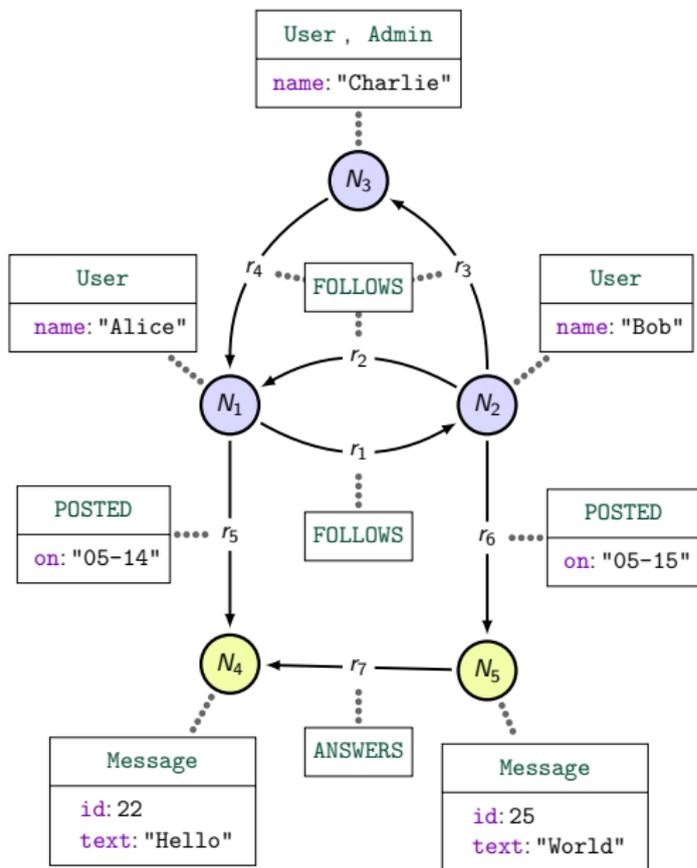
<u>Ferry</u>	
<u>#src</u>	<u>#tgt</u>
0	3

<u>Gas</u>	
<u>#src</u>	<u>#tgt</u>
4	4

# Exercise: Storing graph 1 in tables

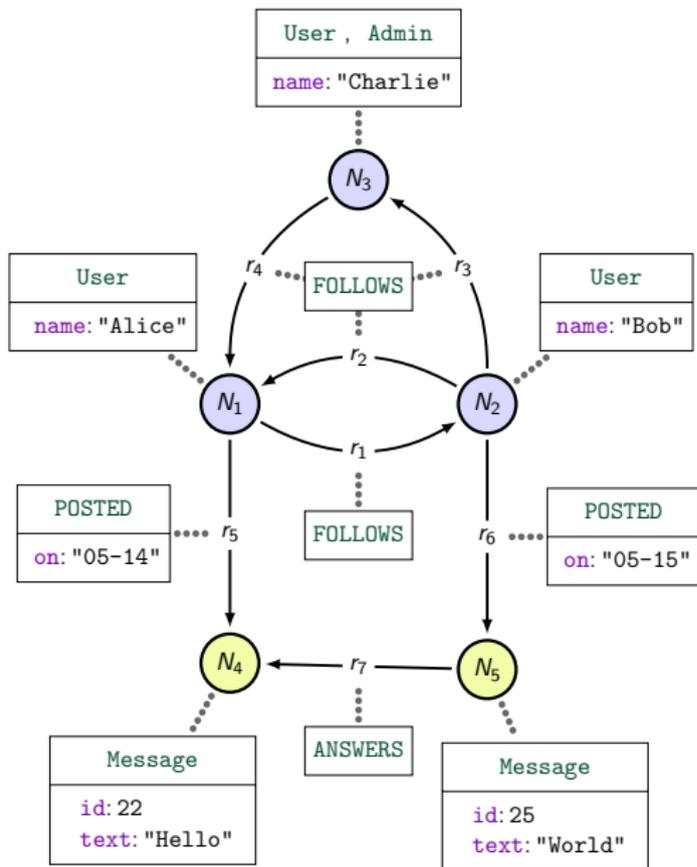


# Exercise: Storing graph 1 in tables



Node	Relation		
<u>id</u>	<u>id</u>	#src	#tgt
1	1	1	2
2	2	2	1
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮

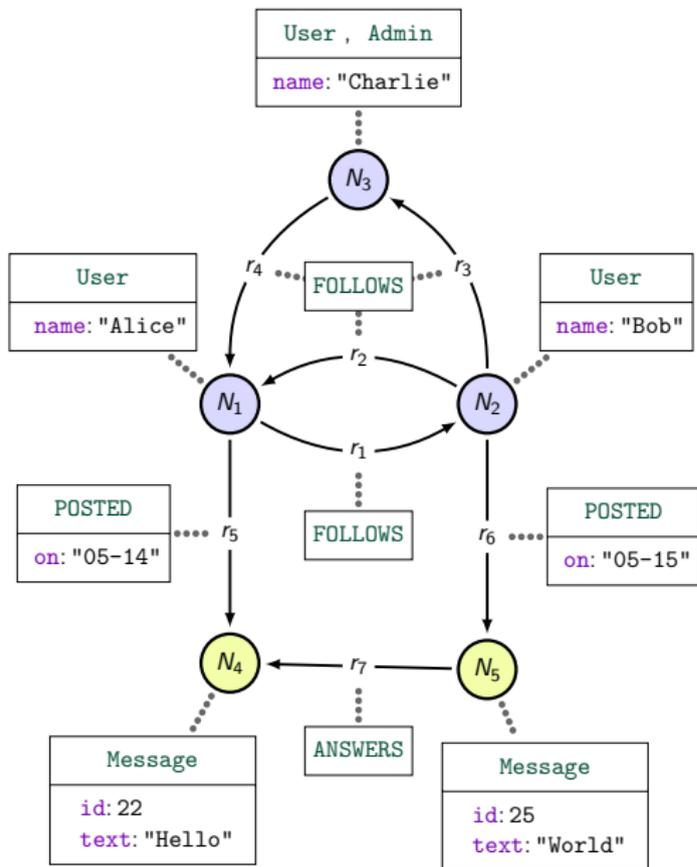
# Exercise: Storing graph 1 in tables



Node	Relation		
<u>id</u>	<u>id</u>	<u>#src</u>	<u>#tgt</u>
1	1	1	2
2	2	2	1
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮

Posted	Message
<u>#eid</u>	<u>#vid</u>
5	4
6	5

# Why so many tables?



<u>Node</u>	<u>Relation</u>		
<u>id</u>	<u>id</u>	<u>#src</u>	<u>#tgt</u>
1	1	1	2
2	2	2	1
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮

<u>Posted</u>	<u>Message</u>
<u>#eid</u>	<u>#vid</u>
5	4
6	5

<u>On</u>		<u>Id</u>	
<u>#eid</u>	<u>val</u>	<u>#vid</u>	<u>val</u>
5	"05-14"	4	22
6	"05-15"	5	25

Part II: Property Graphs

### **3. Translations: Tables $\rightarrow$ Graph**

## Preliminary poll: PG vs Relational ?

- 1 The property graphs data model is more expressive.
- 2 The relational data model (that is, tables) is stronger.
- 3 They are both as expressive.



Counterintuitively, tables are way more general



Consequences:

- Translating PGs→Tables is **easy**
- Translating Tables→PGs is **not always directly possible**

# Translating some tables into a Property graph (1)

A relational database that we want to encode in a graph

## Client

<u>login</u>	address
"Alice"	"Wonderland"
"Bob"	"124 Conch St."
"Eve"	null

## Product

<u>name</u>	price
"Watch"	42
"Rabbit"	0
"Pants"	8
"Broom&Bucket"	4

\_\_\_ : part of primary key

# Translating some tables into a Property graph (1)

A relational database that we want to encode in a graph

## Client

<u>login</u>	address
"Alice"	"Wonderland"
"Bob"	"124 Conch St."
"Eve"	null

## Order

<u>id</u>	#buyer	date
0	"Alice"	01-11-1865
1	"Bob"	07-07-2022
2	"Bob"	07-11-2023

→Client.login

## Product

<u>name</u>	price
"Watch"	42
"Rabbit"	0
"Pants"	8
"Broom&Bucket"	4

    : part of primary key

# : foreign keys

# Translating some tables into a Property graph (1)

A relational database that we want to encode in a graph

## Client

<u>login</u>	address
"Alice"	"Wonderland"
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## Order

<u>id</u>	#buyer	date
0	"Alice"	01-11-1865
1	"Bob"	07-07-2022
2	"Bob"	07-11-2023

→Client.login

## Product

<u>name</u>	price
"Watch"	42
"Rabbit"	0
"Pants"	8
"Broom&Bucket"	4

## Contains

# <u>order</u>	# <u>product</u>	quant
0	"Rabbit"	1
0	"Watch"	1
1	"Pants"	7
2	"Pants"	14

→Order.id

→Product.name

    : part of primary key

# : foreign keys

# Translating some tables into a Property graph (1)

72

A relational database that we want to encode in a graph

## Client

<u>login</u>	address
"Alice"	"Wonderland"
"Bob"	"124 Conch St."
"Eve"	null

## Order

<u>id</u>	#buyer	date
0	"Alice"	01-11-1865
1	"Bob"	07-07-2022
2	"Bob"	07-11-2023

→Client.login

## Product

<u>name</u>	price
"Watch"	42
"Rabbit"	0
"Pants"	8
"Broom&Bucket"	4

## Contains

# <u>order</u>	# <u>product</u>	quant
0	"Rabbit"	1
0	"Watch"	1
1	"Pants"	7
2	"Pants"	14

→Order.id

→Product.name

    : part of primary key

# : foreign keys

**Exercise:** Translate these to a graph!

# Translating some tables into a Property graph (2)

Who is a node and who is an edge?

## Client

login address

## Order

id #buyer date

→Client.login

## Product

name price

## Contains

#order #product quant

→Order.id

→Product.name

    : part of primary key

#     : foreign keys

# Translating some tables into a Property graph (2)

Who is a node and who is an edge? → Reverse engineer ER Diagram

## Client

login address

## Order

id #buyer date

→Client.login

## Product

name price

## Contains

#order #product quant

→Order.id

→Product.name

    : part of primary key

#     : foreign keys

# Translating some tables into a Property graph (2)

73

Who is a node and who is an edge? → Reverse engineer ER Diagram

## Client

login address

## Order

id # buyer date

→Client.login

## Product

name price

## Contains

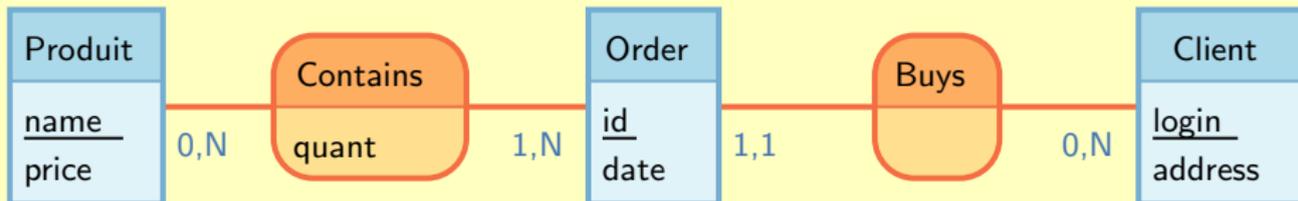
# order # product quant

→Order.id

→Product.name

— : part of primary key

# : foreign keys



Relational DB consists of tables  $T_1, \dots, T_k$ .

Each table  $T_i$

- has a primary key, consisting of several columns
- has columns that are foreign keys

 Foreign keys can be part of the primary key.

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Each table  $T_i$

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 Foreign keys can be part of the primary key.

## Conditions for the database to be encodable in a graph

Each table  $T_i$  satisfies one of the following.

- 0** Zero foreign key is part of the primary key of  $T_i$ . ( $\sim$ Vertex)
- 1** One foreign key is part of the primary key of  $T_i$ .
- 2** Two foreign keys are part of the primary key of  $T_i$ . ( $\sim$ Edges)

# Translating some tables into a Property graph (4)

A relational database that we want to encode in a graph

## Client

<u>login</u>	address
"Alice"	"Wonderland"
"Bob"	"124 Conch St."
"Eve"	null

## Order

<u>id</u>	#buyer	date
0	"Alice"	01-11-1865
1	"Bob"	07-07-2022
2	"Bob"	07-11-2023

→Client.login

## Product

<u>name</u>	price
"Watch"	42
"Rabbit"	0
"Pants"	8
"Broom&Bucket"	4

## Contains

# <u>order</u>	# <u>product</u>	quant
0	"Rabbit"	1
0	"Watch"	1
1	"Pants"	7
2	"Pants"	14

→Order.id

→Product.name

    : part of primary key

# : foreign keys

■ **Client, Product and Order** satisfy **0**

■ **Contains** satisfies **2**

# Translating some tables into a Property graph (5)

One vertex per row in table satisfying **0** or **1**



Client  
row 1

Order  
row 1

Product  
row 1



Product  
row 2



Client  
row 2

Order  
row 2

Product  
row 3



Client  
row 3

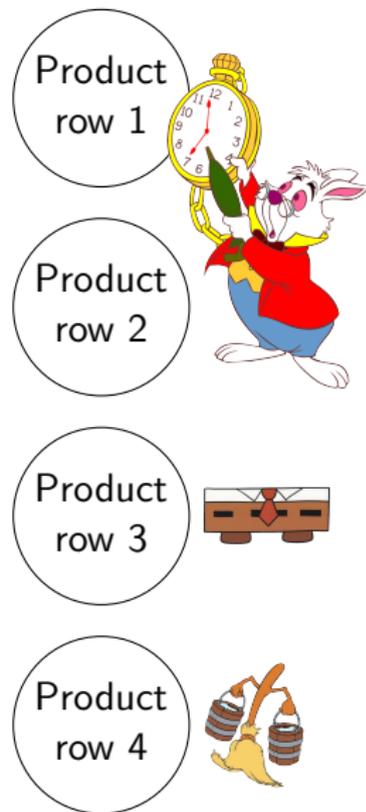
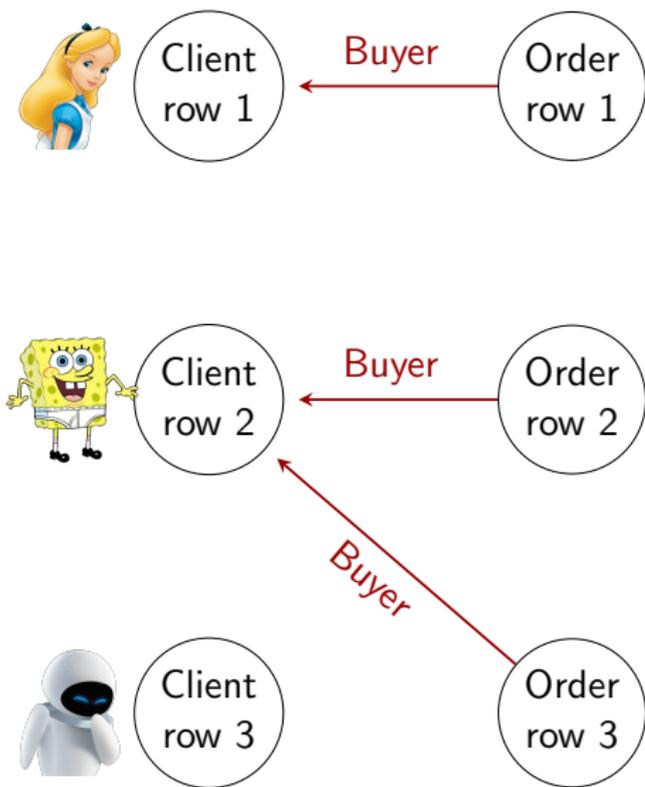
Order  
row 3

Product  
row 4



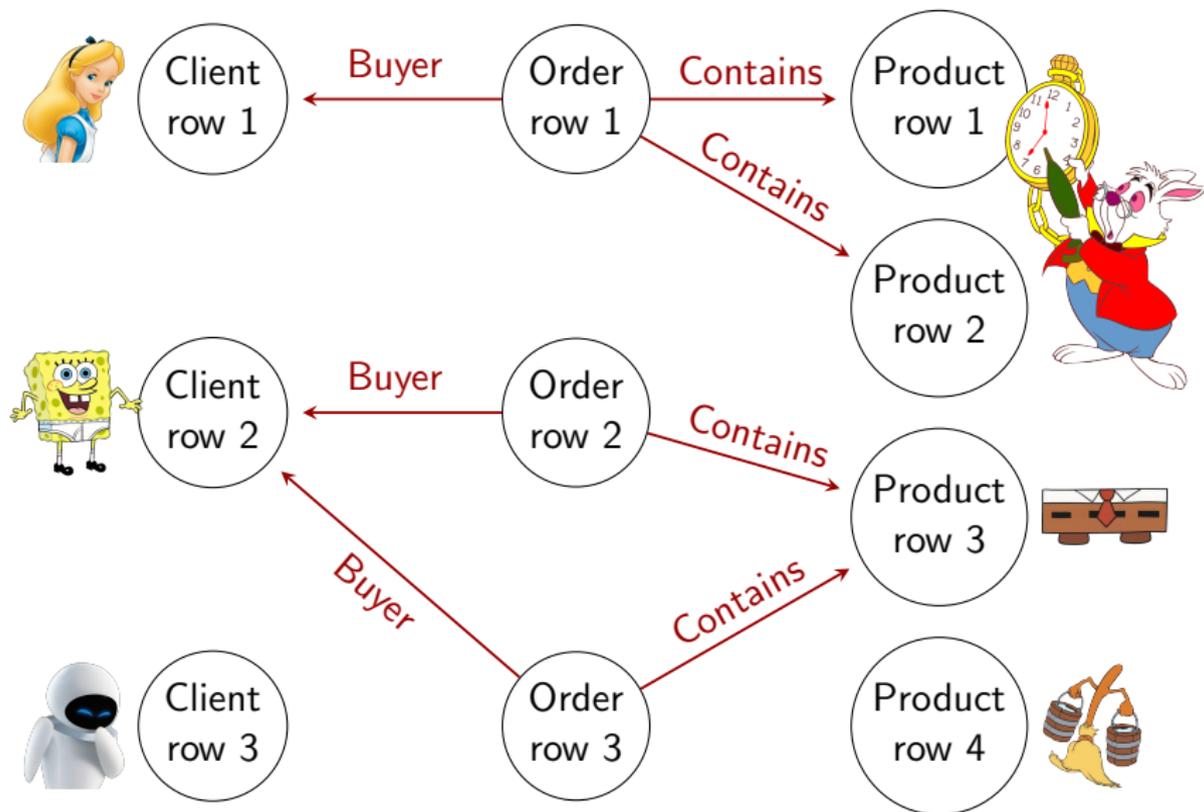
# Translating some tables into a Property graph (5)

One edge per row and per foreign-key column in each table satisfying **0** or **1**



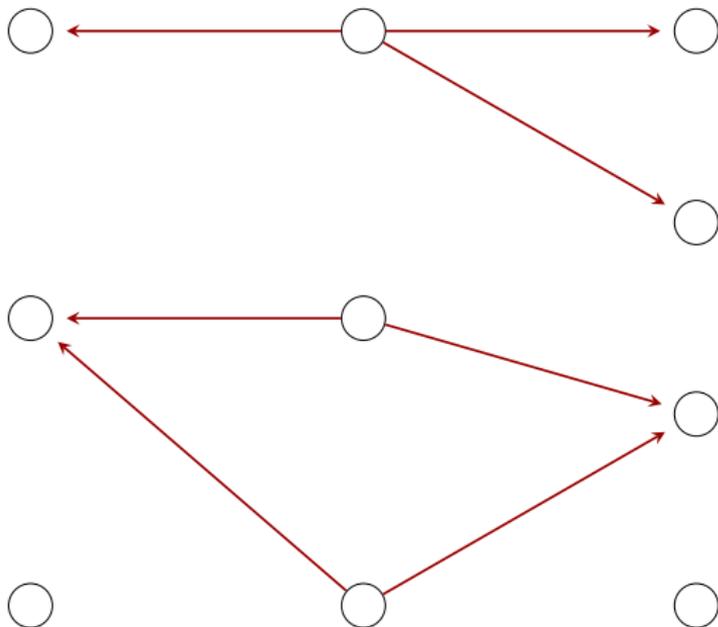
# Translating some tables into a Property graph (5)

One edge per row of tables satisfying **2**



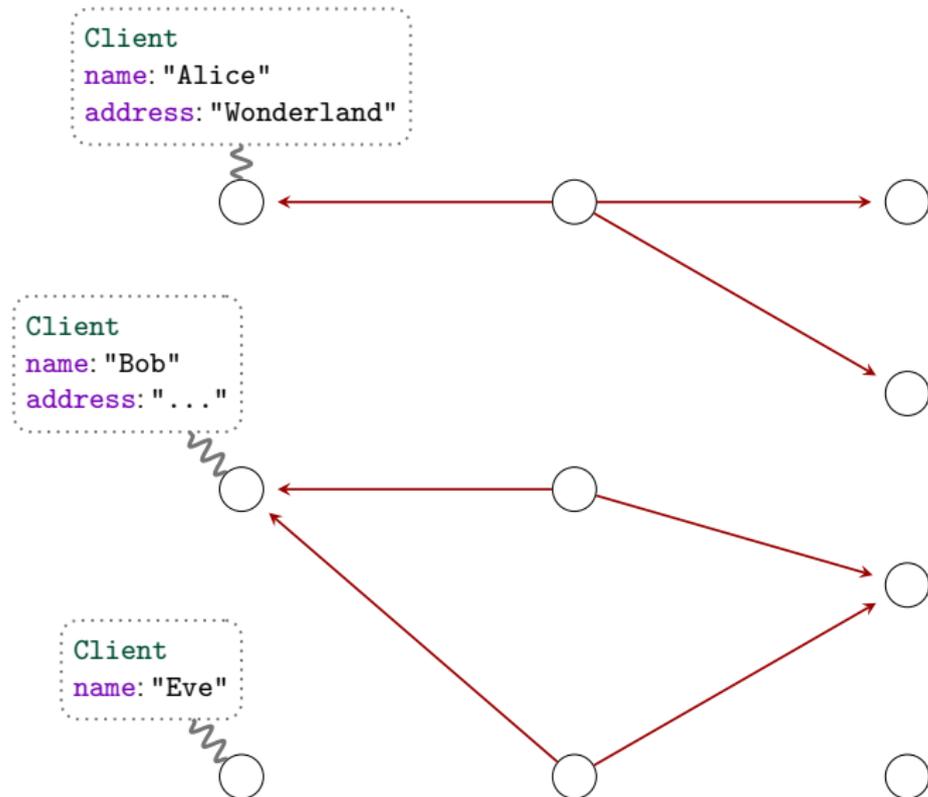
# Translating some tables into a Property graph (5)

Then, we add properties



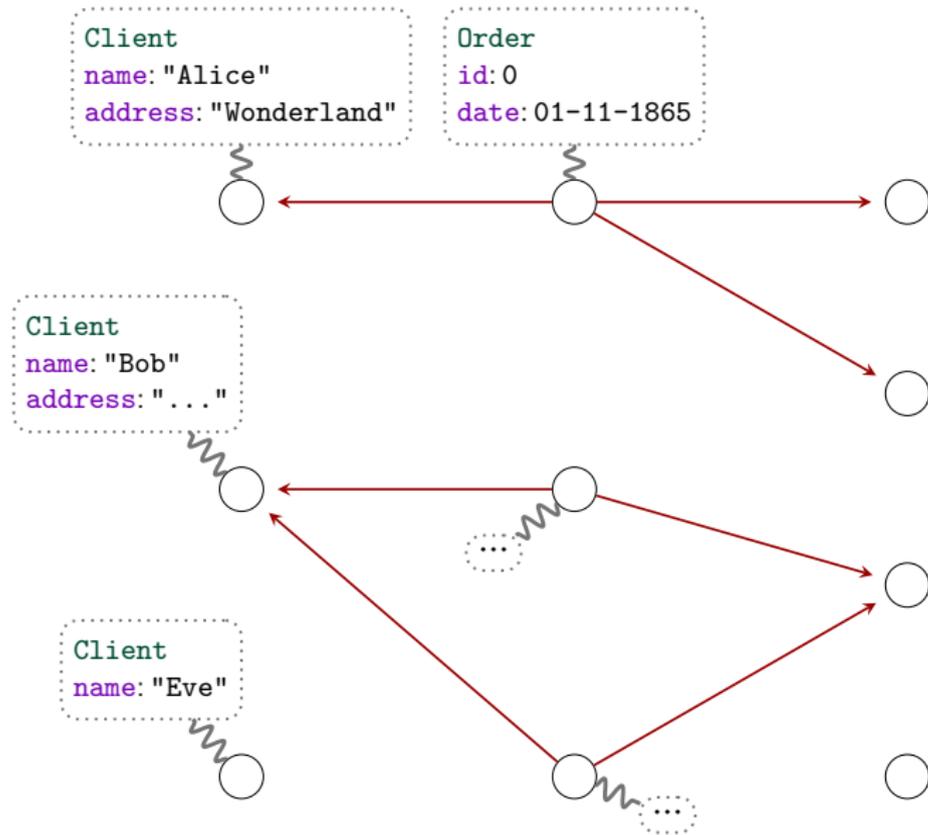
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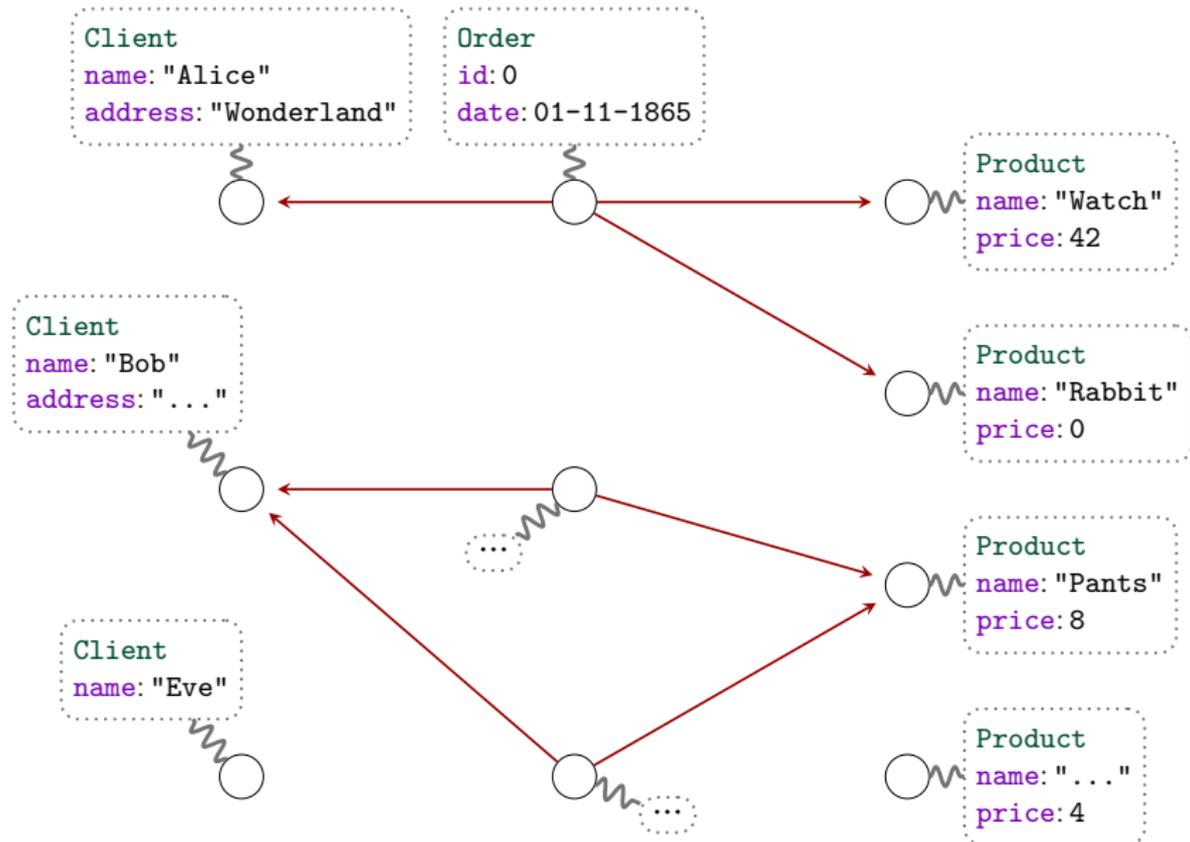
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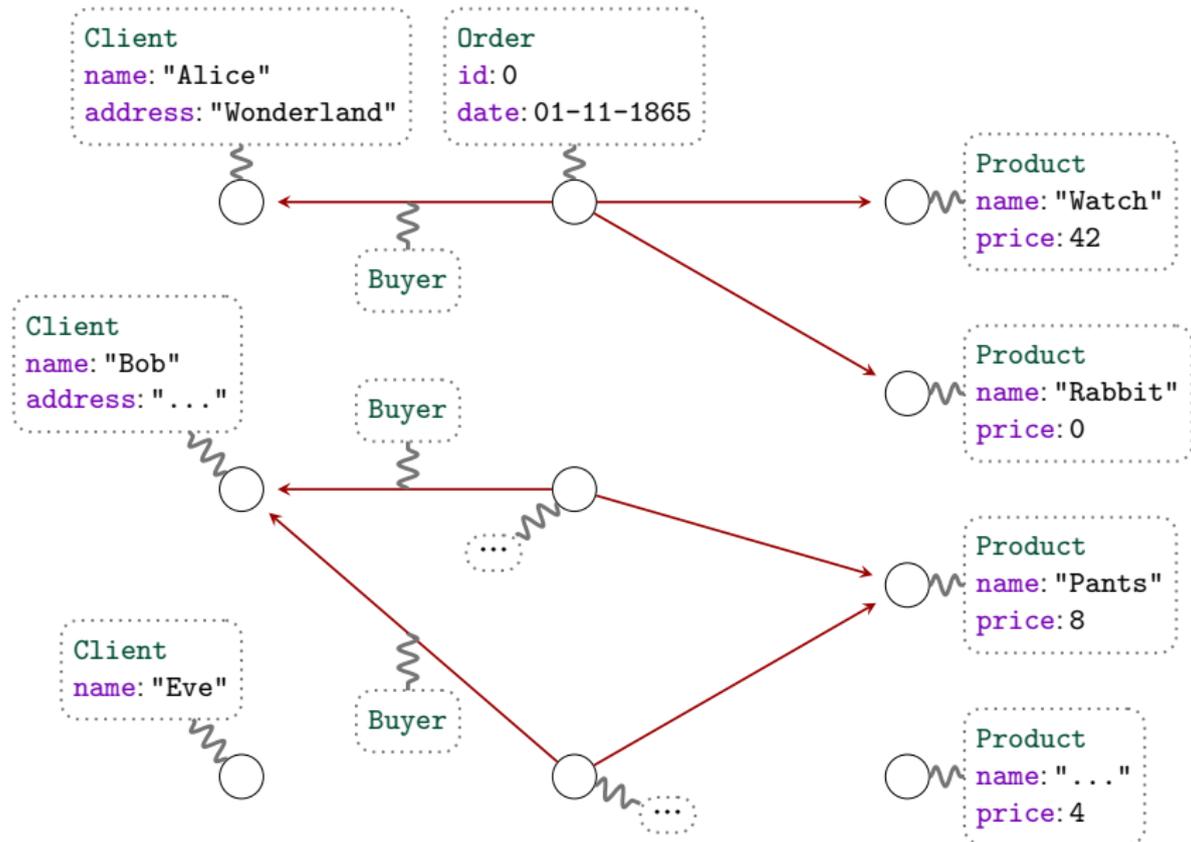
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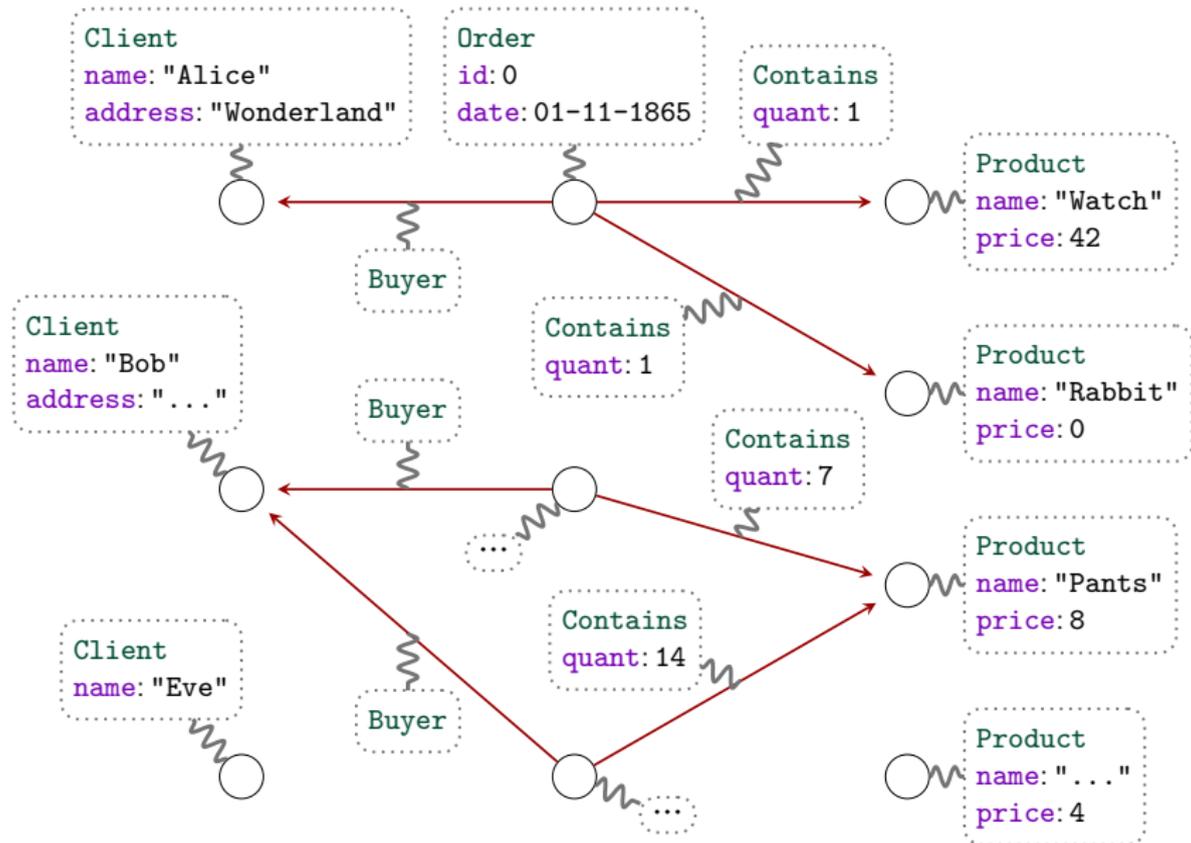
# Translating some tables into a Property graph (5)

Then, we add properties



# Translating some tables into a Property graph (5)

Then, we add properties



# Translating some tables into a Property graph (5)

Which representation do you prefer?

## Client

<u>login</u>	address
"Alice"	"Wonderland"
"Bob"	"124 Conch St."
"Eve"	null

## Order

<u>id</u>	#buyer	date
0	"Alice"	01-11-1865
1	"Bob"	07-07-2022
2	"Bob"	07-11-2023

→Client.login

## Product

<u>name</u>	price
"Watch"	42
"Rabbit"	0
"Pants"	8
"Broom&Bucket"	4

## Contains

# <u>order</u>	# <u>product</u>	quant
0	"Rabbit"	1
0	"Watch"	1
1	"Pants"	7
2	"Pants"	14

→Order.id

→Product.name

    : part of primary key

#     : foreign keys

■ **Client**, **Product** and **Order** satisfy **0**

■ **Contains** satisfies **2**

## Takeway

### Conditions for the database to be encodable in a graph

Each table  $T_i$  satisfies one of the following.

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## Takeway

### Conditions for the database to be encodable in a graph

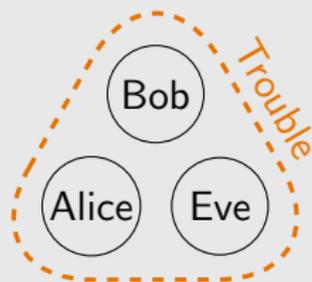
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- 1** One foreign key is part of the primary key of  $T_i$ .
- 2** Two foreign keys are part of the primary key of  $T_i$ . ( $\sim$ Edges)

- 3** Three foreign keys are part of the primary key of  $T_i \implies$  **Trouble**

#### Trouble

<u>#person1</u>	<u>#person2</u>	<u>#person3</u>
Alice	Bob	Eve
⋮	⋮	⋮



# Encoding non-binary relations in graphs (1)

Question: how would you do it?

## Trouble

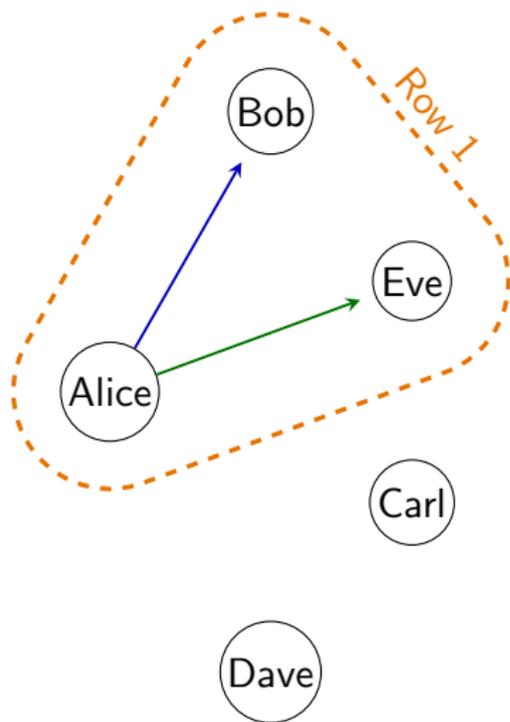
<u>#pers1</u>	<u>#pers2</u>	<u>#pers3</u>
Alice	Bob	Eve
Alice	Carl	Dave

## Encoding non-binary relations in graphs (2)

The **wrong** way: adding more edges

Trouble		
<u>#pers1</u>	<u>#pers2</u>	<u>#pers3</u>
Alice	Bob	Eve
Alice	Carl	Dave

Let us try to add two edges per row of table **Trouble**.

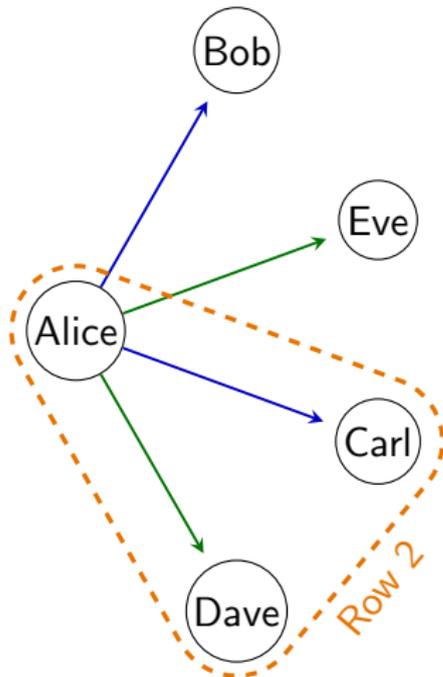


## Encoding non-binary relations in graphs (2)

The **wrong** way: adding more edges

Trouble		
<u>#pers1</u>	<u>#pers2</u>	<u>#pers3</u>
Alice	Bob	Eve
Alice	Carl	Dave

Let us try to add two edges per row of table **Trouble**.



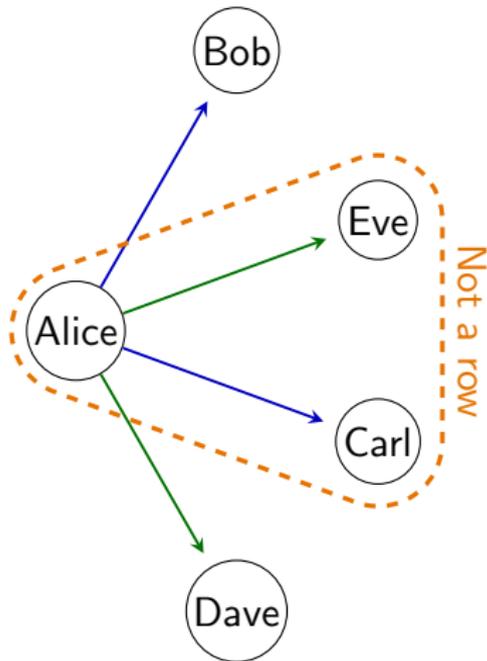
## Encoding non-binary relations in graphs (2)

The **wrong** way: adding more edges

Trouble		
<u>#pers1</u>	<u>#pers2</u>	<u>#pers3</u>
Alice	Bob	Eve
Alice	Carl	Dave

Let us try to add two edges per row of table **Trouble**.

⚠ (Alice, Carl, Eve) is not a row of table **Trouble**



The **right** way : Reification

## Reification

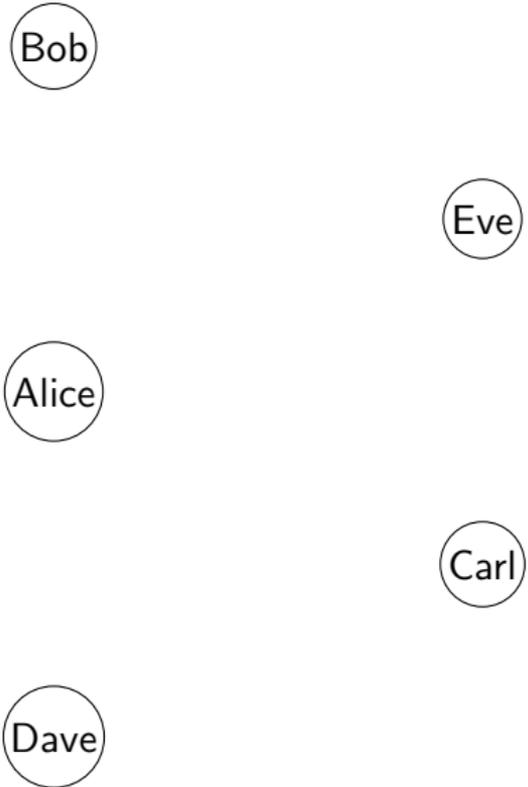
- Literally, make into an object
- For us, transform into a node

The **right** way : Reification

## Reification

- Literally, make into an object
- For us, transform into a node

Trouble		
<u>#pers1</u>	<u>#pers2</u>	<u>#pers3</u>
Alice	Bob	Eve
Alice	Carl	Dave



Bob

Eve

Alice

Carl

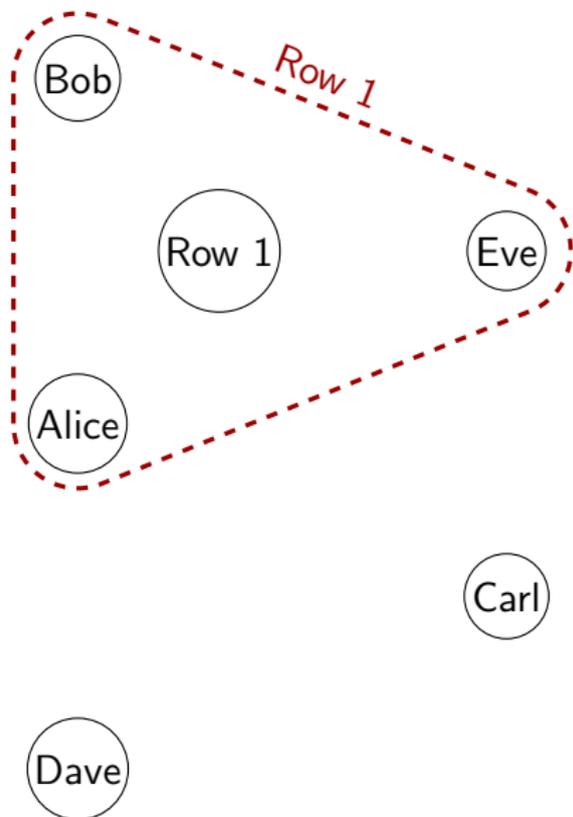
Dave

The **right** way : Reification

## Reification

- Literally, make into an object
- For us, transform into a node

Trouble		
<u>#pers1</u>	<u>#pers2</u>	<u>#pers3</u>
Alice	Bob	Eve
Alice	Carl	Dave

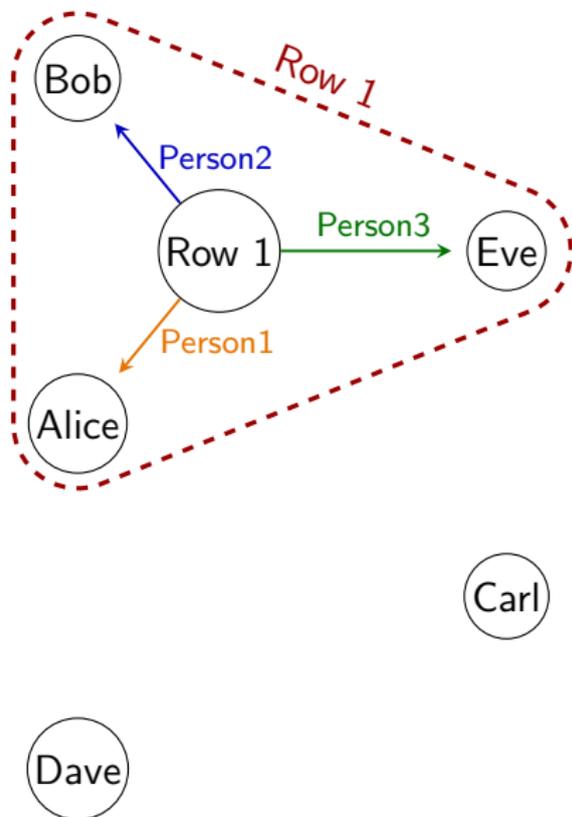


The **right** way : Reification

## Reification

- Literally, make into an object
- For us, transform into a node

Trouble		
#pers1	#pers2	#pers3
Alice	Bob	Eve
Alice	Carl	Dave

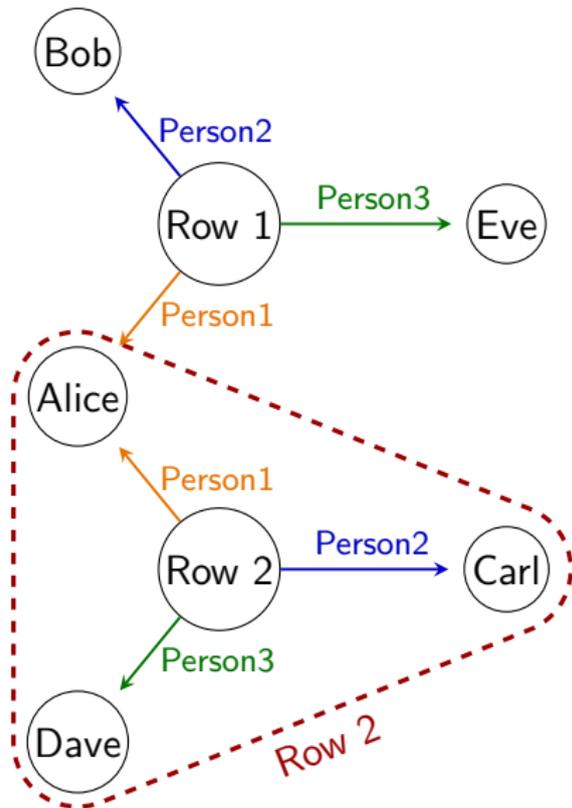


The **right** way : Reification

## Reification

- Literally, make into an object
- For us, transform into a node

Trouble		
#pers1	#pers2	#pers3
Alice	Bob	Eve
Alice	Carl	Dave

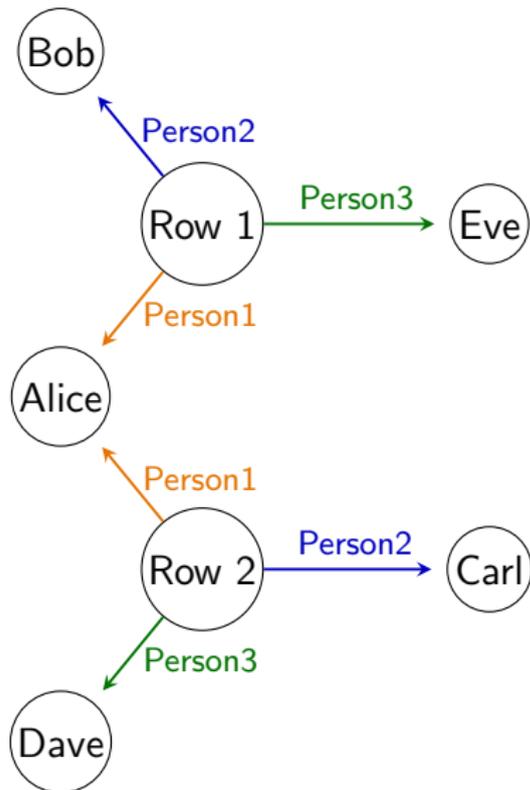


The **right** way : Reification

## Reification

- Literally, make into an object
- For us, transform into a node

Trouble		
#pers1	#pers2	#pers3
Alice	Bob	Eve
Alice	Carl	Dave



Reification is no miracle solution

## Reification works...

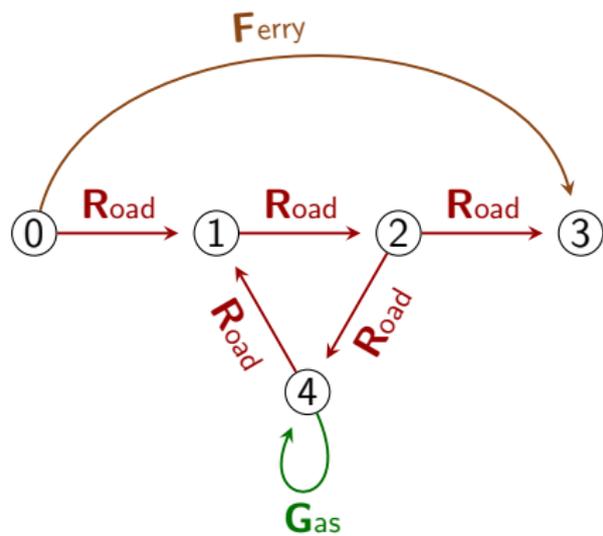
- Reversible (one may reconstruct the **Trouble** table)
- Easy to generalize to any arity

## ...but, it is contrary to the spirit of graphs:

- The graph requires extra knowledge and maintenance:
  - Special vertices/edges/labels
  - Implicitly linked labels/edges (Person1/Person2/Person3)
  - Integrity constraints
- Query languages for graphs are based on walks, reification is fundamentally branching

Part **II**: Property Graphs

## **4. Storage matters**

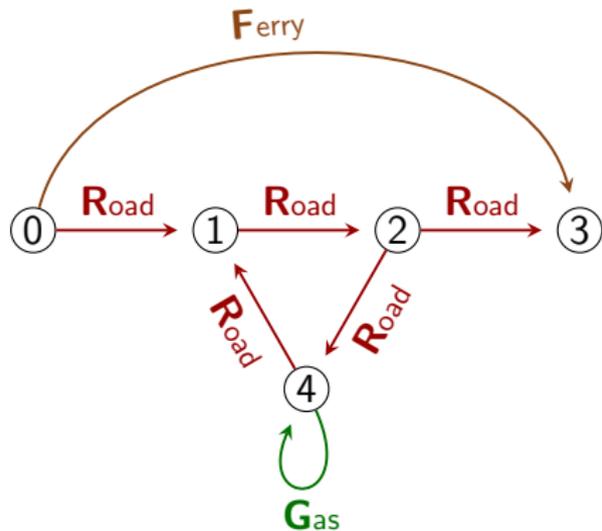


## Edge test

Given  $s, \ell, t$ , does  $s \xrightarrow{\ell} t$  exist?

**Ex:** Is there an edge  $0 \xrightarrow{\text{Road}} 4$  ?

**Answer:** no



## Edge test

Given  $s, \ell, t$ , does  $s \xrightarrow{\ell} t$  exist?

**Ex:** Is there an edge  $0 \xrightarrow{\text{Road}} 4$  ?

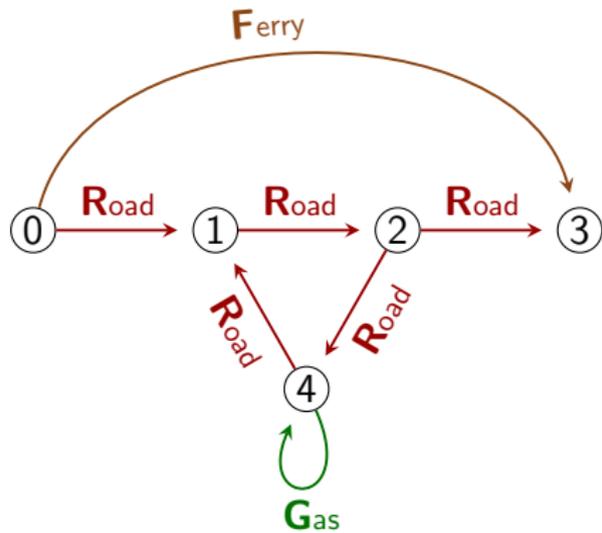
**Answer:** no

## Successor

Given  $s, \ell$ , compute all  $t$  such that  $s \xrightarrow{\ell} t$  exists.

**Ex:** Which nodes are reachable from 2 by a **R**oad edge.

**Answer:** 3 and 4.



## Edge test

Given  $s, \ell, t$ , does  $s \xrightarrow{\ell} t$  exist?

**Ex:** Is there an edge  $0 \xrightarrow{\text{Road}} 4$  ?

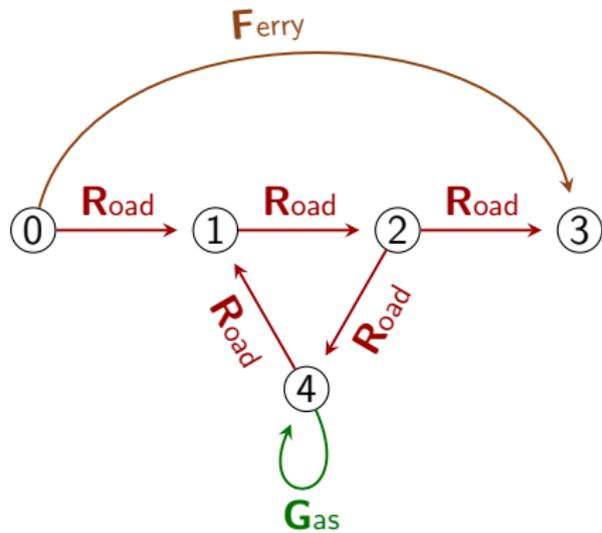
**Answer:** no

## Successor

Given  $s, \ell$ , compute all  $t$  such that  $s \xrightarrow{\ell} t$  exists.

**Ex:** Which nodes are reachable from 2 by a **R**oad edge.

**Answer:** 3 and 4.



Cost of these operations?

## Edge test

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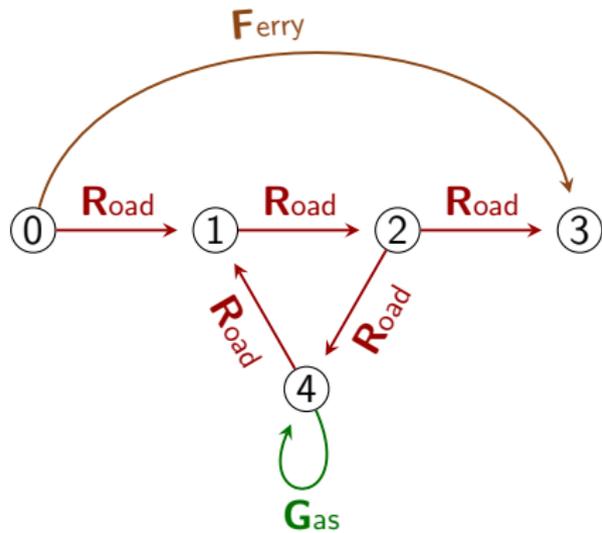
**Answer:** no

## Successor

Given  $s, \ell$ , compute all  $t$  such that  $s \xrightarrow{\ell} t$  exists.

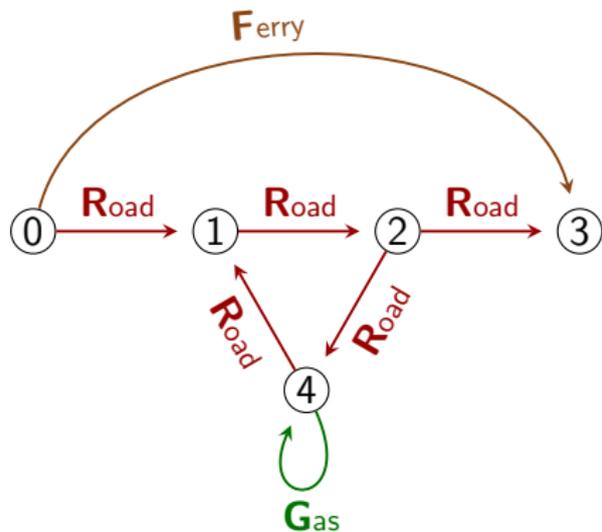
**Ex:** Which nodes are reachable from 2 by a **R**oad edge.

**Answer:** 3 and 4.

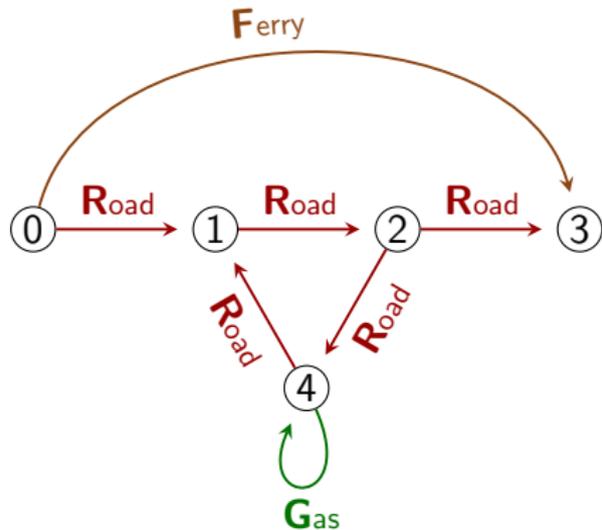


Cost of these operations?

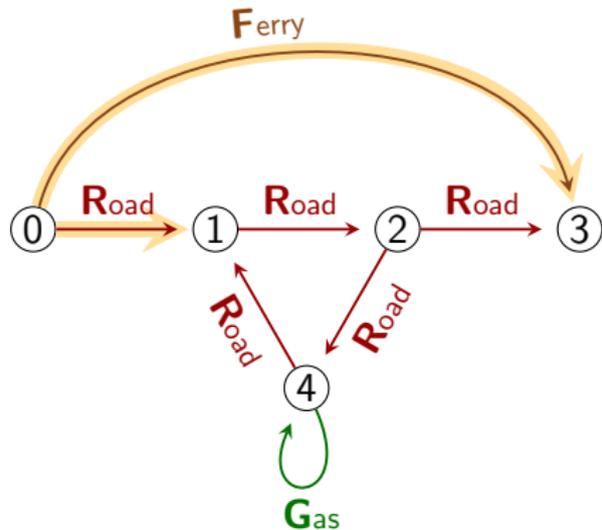
It depends on storage



- A memory zone for each vertex and edge
- Each edge stores refs to source, label, target
- Each vertex stores refs to adjacent edges (usually indexed by label)



- A memory zone for each vertex and edge
- Each edge stores refs to source, label, target
- Each vertex stores refs to adjacent edges (usually indexed by label)



	Road	Ferry	Gas
0:	[1]	[3]	[]

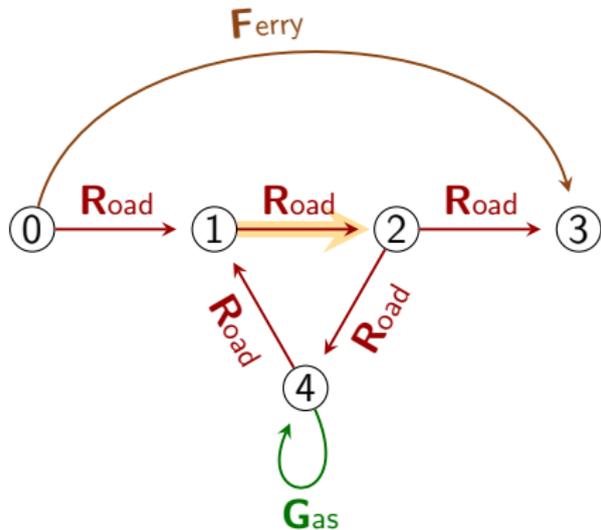
1:

2:

3:

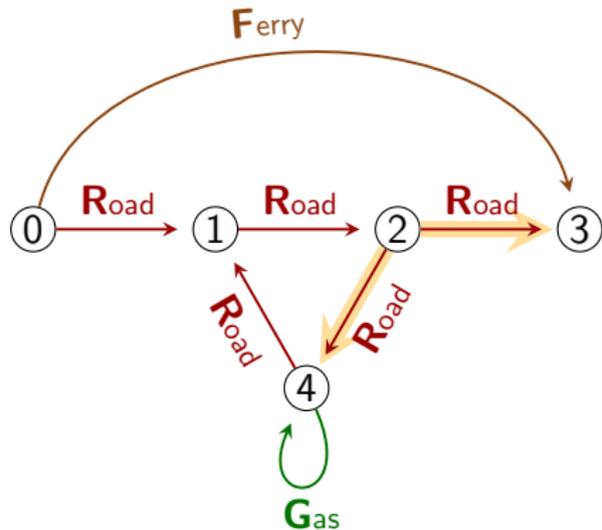
4:

- A memory zone for each vertex and edge
- Each edge stores refs to source, label, target
- Each vertex stores refs to adjacent edges (usually indexed by label)



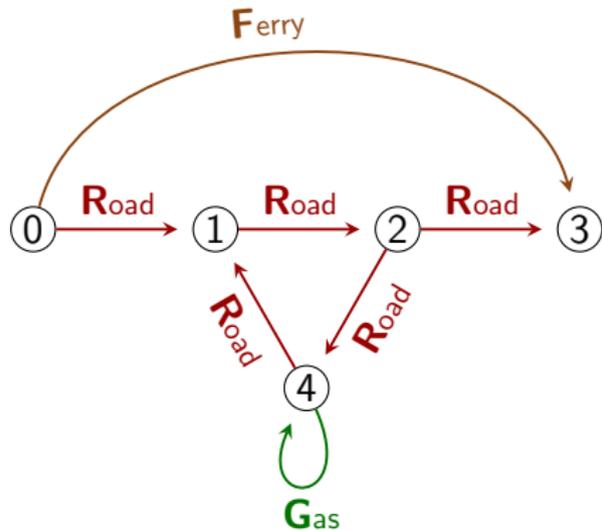
	Road	Ferry	Gas
0:	[1]	[3]	[]
1:	[2]	[]	[]
2:			
3:			
4:			

- A memory zone for each vertex and edge
- Each edge stores refs to source, label, target
- Each vertex stores refs to adjacent edges (usually indexed by label)



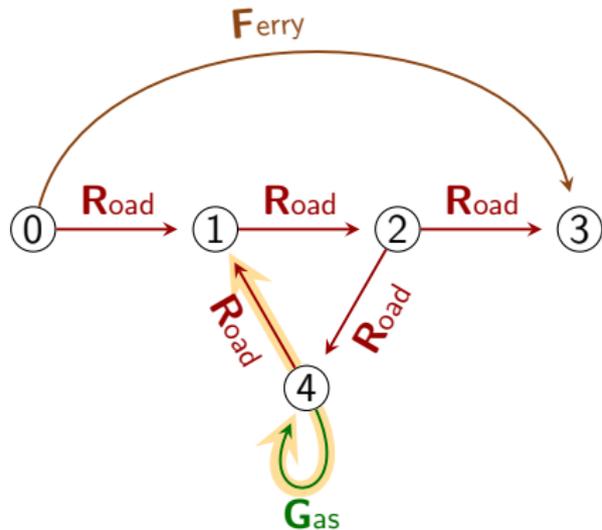
	Road	Ferry	Gas
0:	[1]	[3]	[]
1:	[2]	[]	[]
2:	[3,4]	[]	[]
3:			
4:			

- A memory zone for each vertex and edge
- Each edge stores refs to source, label, target
- Each vertex stores refs to adjacent edges (usually indexed by label)



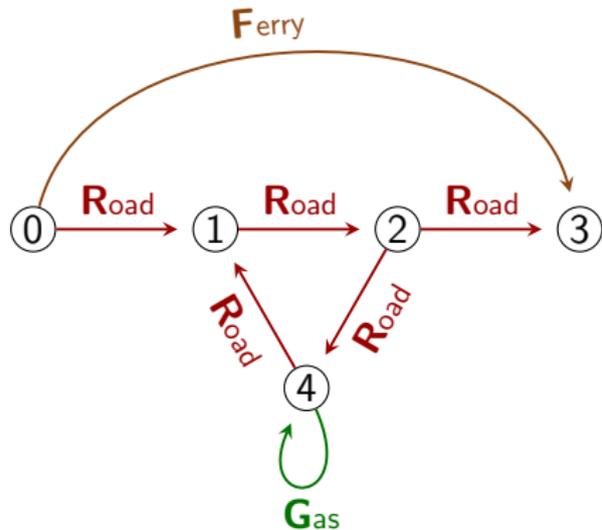
	Road	Ferry	Gas
0:	[1]	[3]	[]
1:	[2]	[]	[]
2:	[3,4]	[]	[]
3:	[]	[]	[]
4:			

- A memory zone for each vertex and edge
- Each edge stores refs to source, label, target
- Each vertex stores refs to adjacent edges (usually indexed by label)



	Road	Ferry	Gas
0:	[1]	[3]	[]
1:	[2]	[]	[]
2:	[3,4]	[]	[]
3:	[]	[]	[]
4:	[1]	[]	[4]

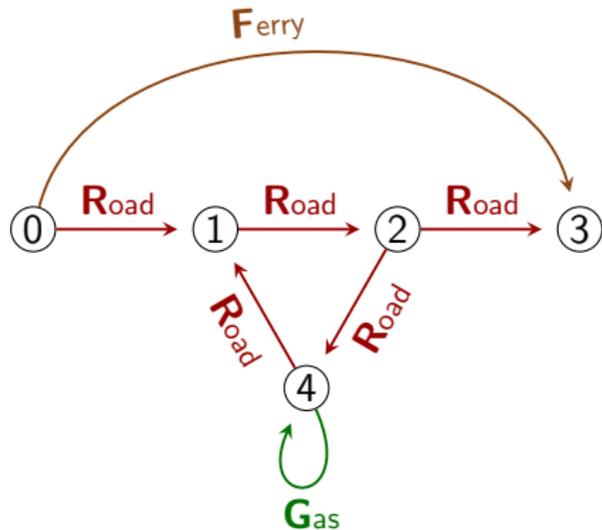
- A memory zone for each vertex and edge
- Each edge stores refs to source, label, target
- Each vertex stores refs to adjacent edges (usually indexed by label)



	Road	Ferry	Gas
0:	[1]	[3]	[]
1:	[2]	[]	[]
2:	[3,4]	[]	[]
3:	[]	[]	[]
4:	[1]	[]	[4]

- Edge test:
- Successors:

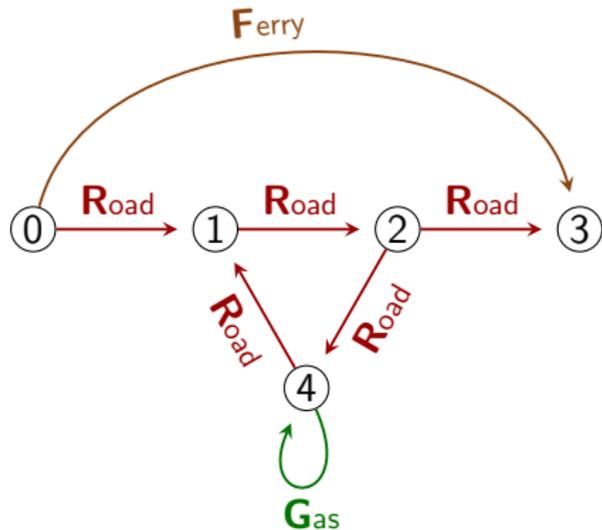
- A memory zone for each vertex and edge
- Each edge stores refs to source, label, target
- Each vertex stores refs to adjacent edges (usually indexed by label)



	Road	Ferry	Gas
0:	[1]	[3]	[]
1:	[2]	[]	[]
2:	[3,4]	[]	[]
3:	[]	[]	[]
4:	[1]	[]	[4]

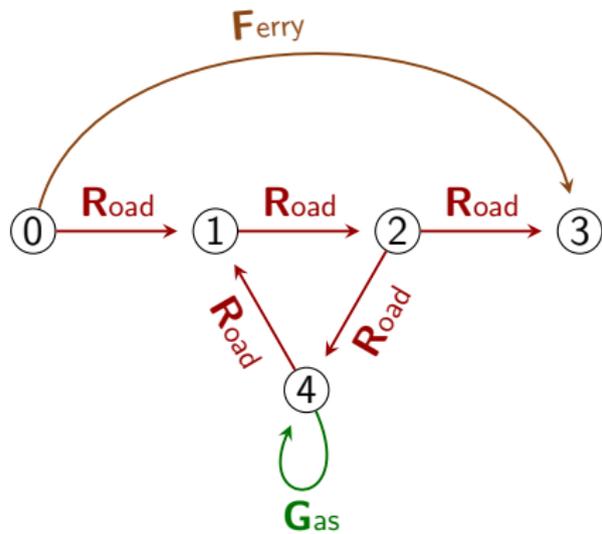
- Edge test:  $O(\#Successors)$
- Successors:

- A memory zone for each vertex and edge
- Each edge stores refs to source, label, target
- Each vertex stores refs to adjacent edges (usually indexed by label)

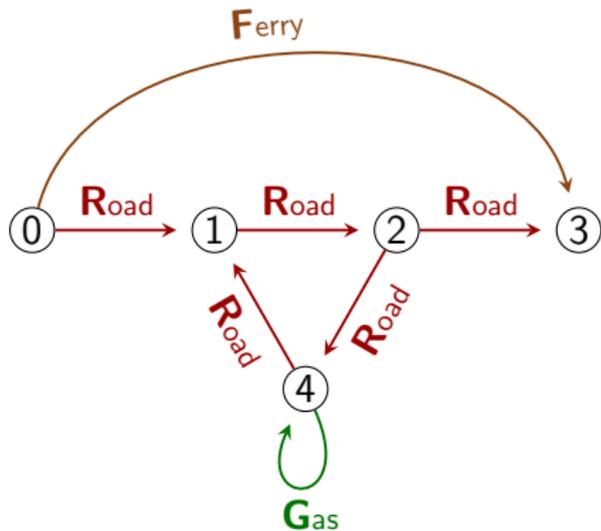
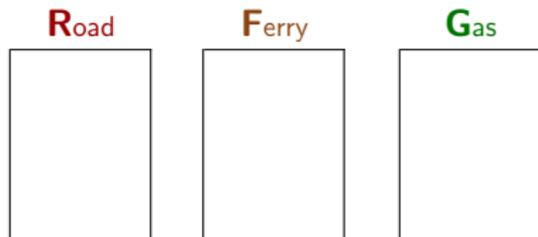


	Road	Ferry	Gas
0:	[1]	[3]	[]
1:	[2]	[]	[]
2:	[3,4]	[]	[]
3:	[]	[]	[]
4:	[1]	[]	[4]

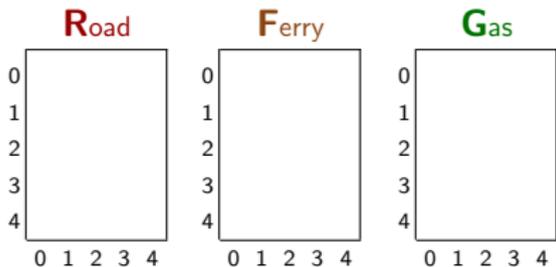
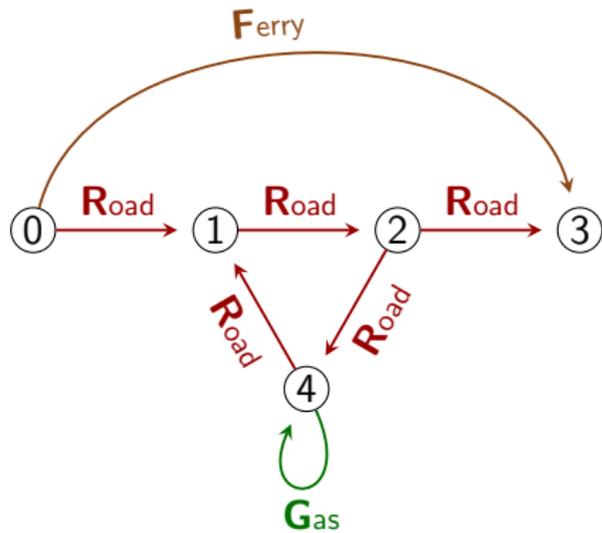
- Edge test:  $O(\#Successors)$
- Successors:  $O(\#Successors)$



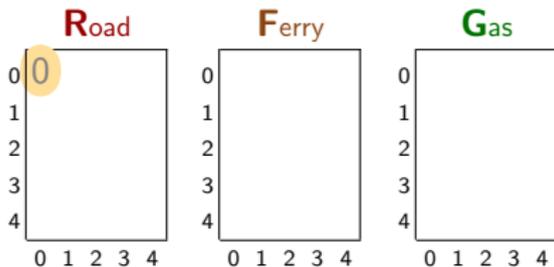
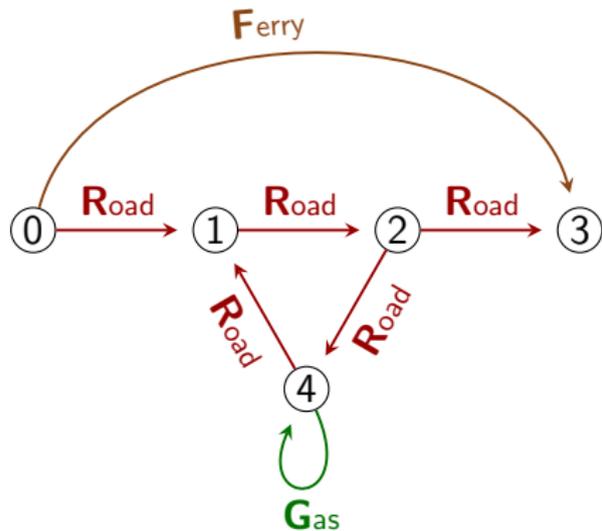
- One matrix per label



- One matrix per label
- One line per vertex
- One column per vertex

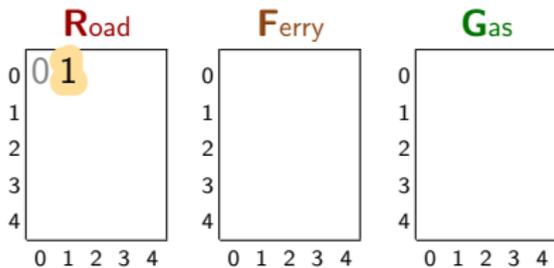
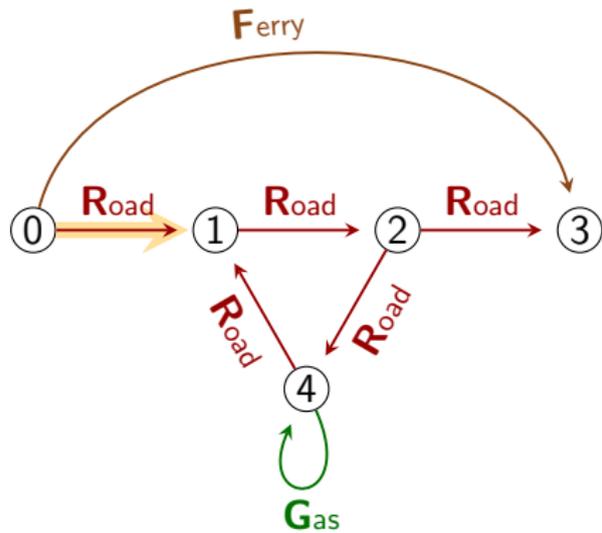


- One matrix per label
- One line per vertex
- One column per vertex
- Cell  $(i,j)$  in  $L \iff i \xrightarrow{L} j$



No edge  $0 \xrightarrow{\text{Road}} 0$

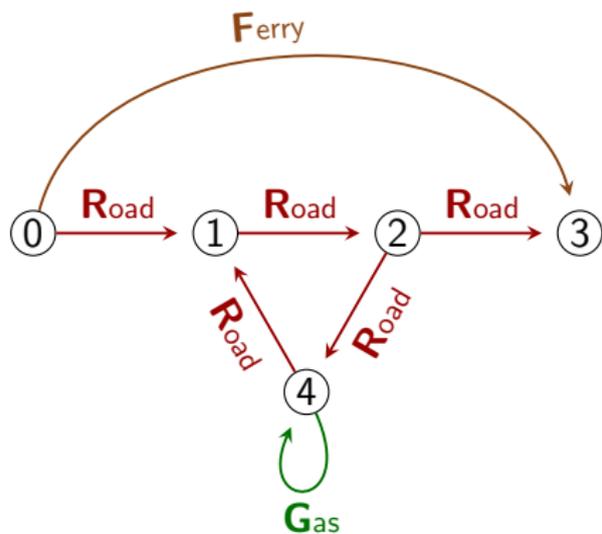
- One matrix per label
- One line per vertex
- One column per vertex
- Cell  $(i,j)$  in  $L \iff i \xrightarrow{L} j$



There is an edge  $0 \xrightarrow{\text{Road}} 1$

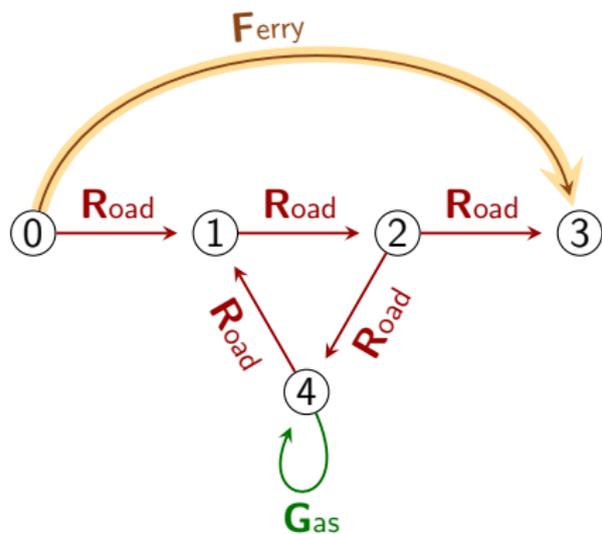
- One matrix per label
- One line per vertex
- One column per vertex
- Cell  $(i,j)$  in  $L \iff i \xrightarrow{L} j$

	Road					Ferry					Gas				
0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	1	2	3	4	0	1	2	3	4	0	1	2	3	4



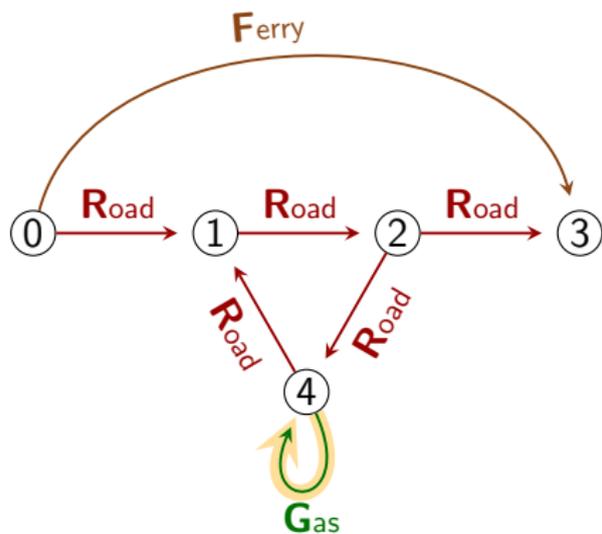
- One matrix per label
- One line per vertex
- One column per vertex
- Cell  $(i,j)$  in  $L \iff i \xrightarrow{L} j$

	Road					Ferry					Gas				
0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0					
3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
	0	1	2	3	4	0	1	2	3	4	0	1	2	3	4



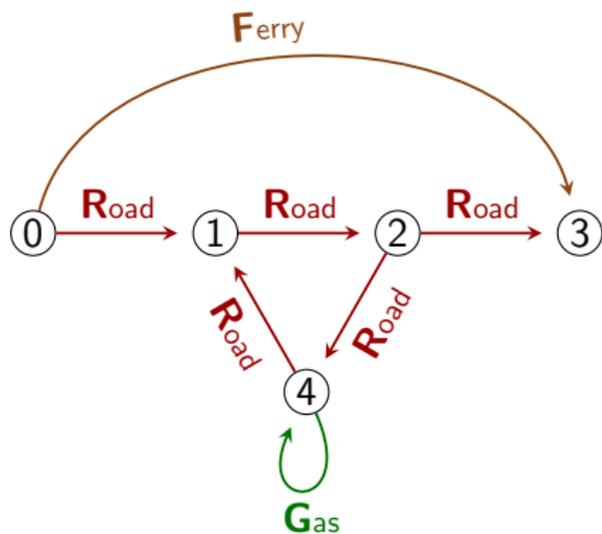
- One matrix per label
- One line per vertex
- One column per vertex
- Cell  $(i,j)$  in  $L \iff i \xrightarrow{L} j$

	Road					Ferry					Gas				
0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	0	1	2	3	4	0	1	2	3	4	0	1	2	3	4



- One matrix per label
- One line per vertex
- One column per vertex
- Cell  $(i,j)$  in  $L \iff i \xrightarrow{L} j$

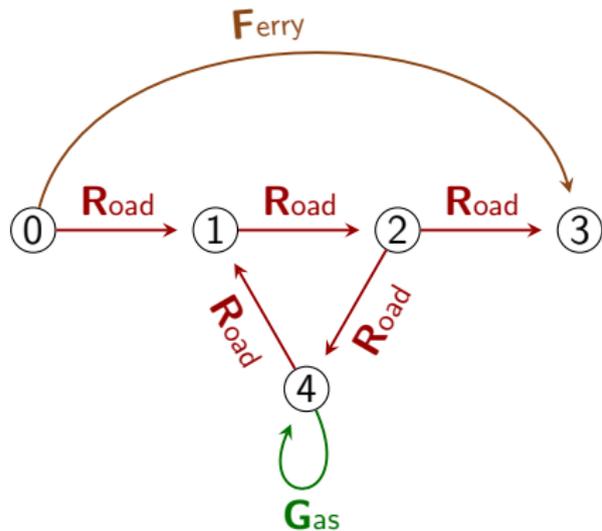
	Road					Ferry					Gas				
0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	0	1	2	3	4	0	1	2	3	4	0	1	2	3	4



- Edge test:
- Successors:

- One matrix per label
- One line per vertex
- One column per vertex
- Cell  $(i,j)$  in  $L \iff i \xrightarrow{L} j$

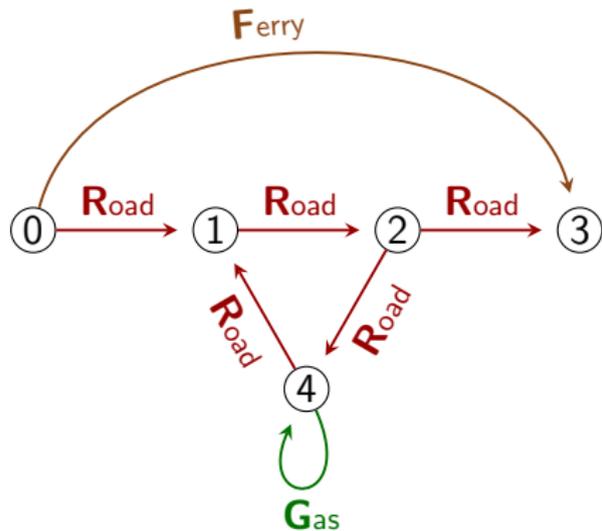
	Road					Ferry					Gas				
0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	0	1	2	3	4	0	1	2	3	4	0	1	2	3	4



- Edge test:  $O(1)$
- Successors:

- One matrix per label
- One line per vertex
- One column per vertex
- Cell  $(i,j)$  in  $L \iff i \xrightarrow{L} j$

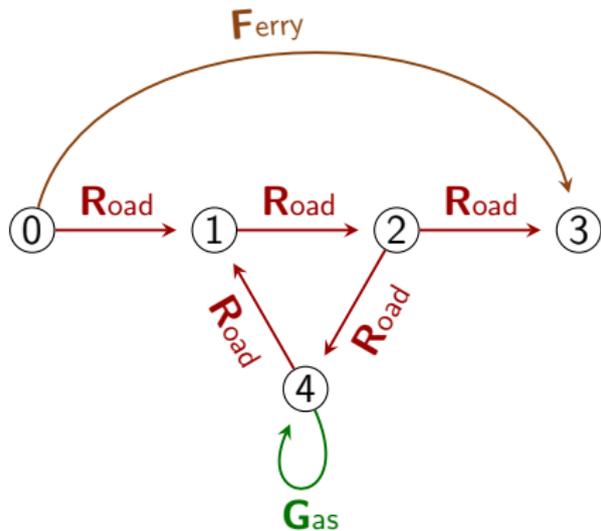
	Road					Ferry					Gas				
0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	0	1	2	3	4	0	1	2	3	4	0	1	2	3	4



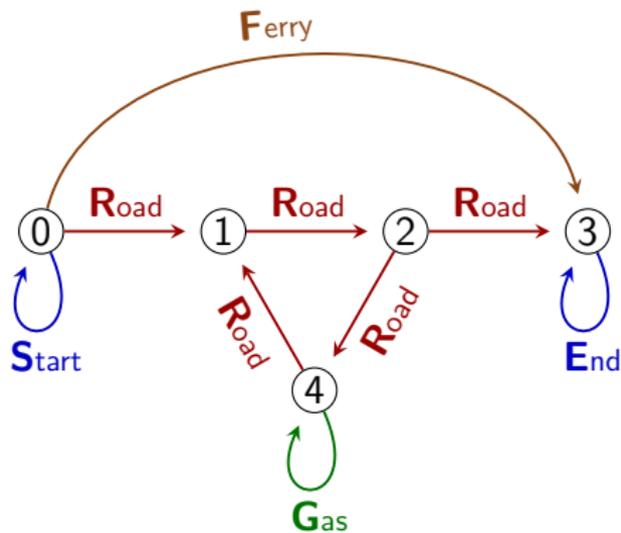
- Edge test:  $O(1)$
- Successors:  $(\#Vertices)$

- One matrix per label
- One line per vertex
- One column per vertex
- Cell  $(i,j)$  in  $L \iff i \xrightarrow{L} j$

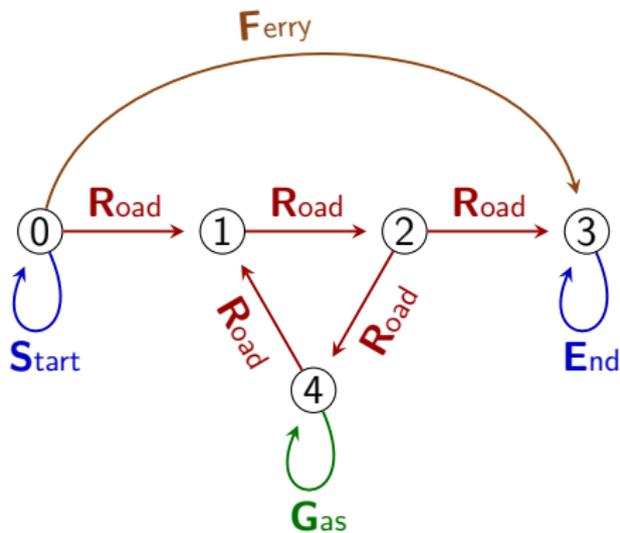
	Road					Ferry					Gas				
0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	0	1	2	3	4	0	1	2	3	4	0	1	2	3	4



- Edge test:  $O(1)$
- Successors:  $(\#Vertices)$
- Memory:  $O((\#Vertices)^2)$



- One tree-set (table) for each edge type

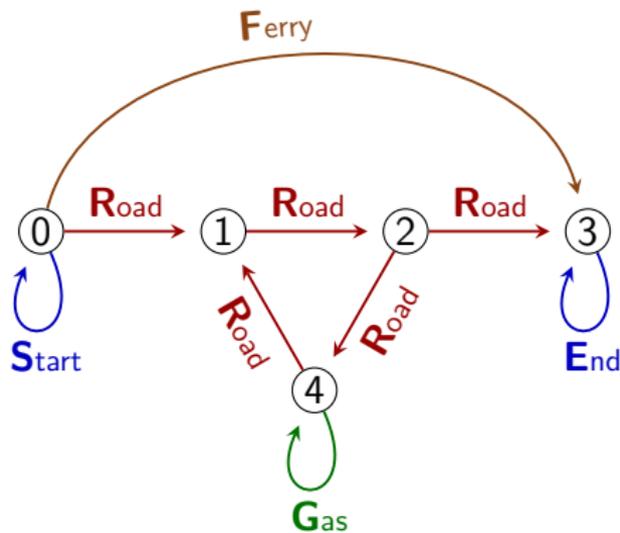


- One tree-set (table) for each edge type

**R**<sub>oad</sub>:  $\{(0, 1); (1, 2); (2, 3);$   
 $(2, 4); (4, 1)\}$

**F**<sub>erry</sub>:  $\{(0, 3)\}$

**G**<sub>as</sub>:  $\{(4, 4)\}$



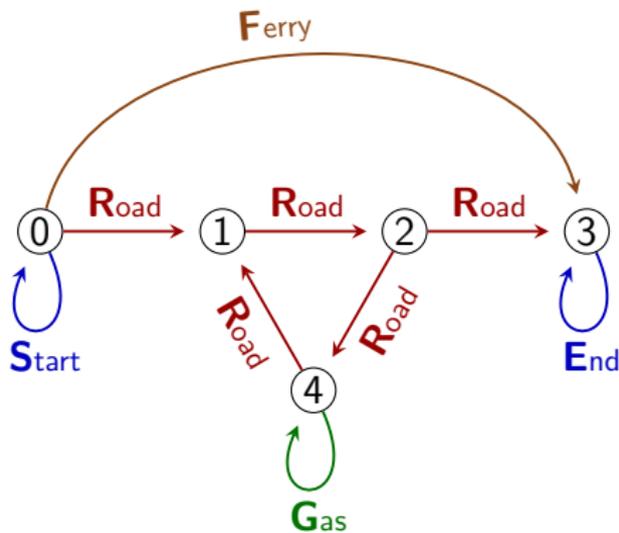
- Edge test:
- Successors:

- One tree-set (table) for each edge type

**R<sub>oad</sub>**:  $\{(0, 1); (1, 2); (2, 3);$   
 $(2, 4); (4, 1)\}$

**F<sub>erry</sub>**:  $\{(0, 3)\}$

**G<sub>as</sub>**:  $\{(4, 4)\}$



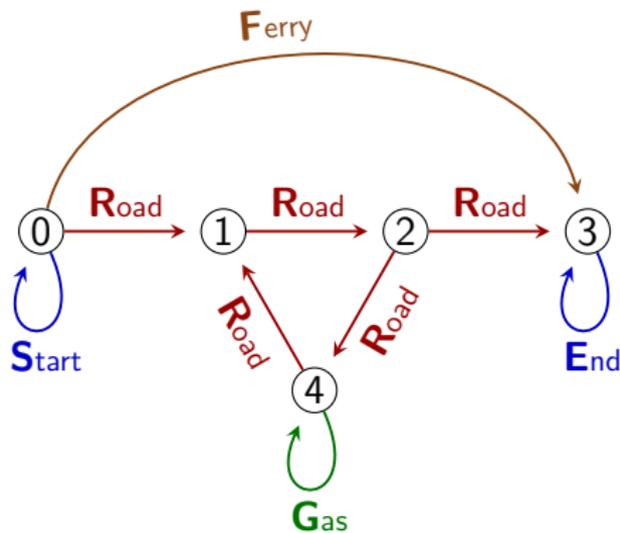
- Edge test:  $O(\log(\#Edges))$
- Successors:

- One tree-set (table) for each edge type

**R<sub>oad</sub>**:  $\{(0, 1); (1, 2); (2, 3);$   
 $(2, 4); (4, 1)\}$

**F<sub>erry</sub>**:  $\{(0, 3)\}$

**G<sub>as</sub>**:  $\{(4, 4)\}$



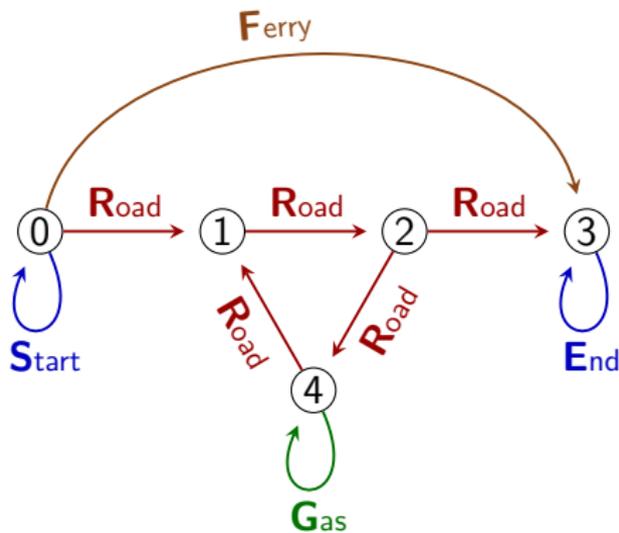
- Edge test:  $O(\log(\#Edges))$
- Successors:  $\#Edges$

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- Edge test:  $O(\log(\#Edges))$
- Successors:  $\#Edges$   
or  $O(\# \log(Edges))$  if index

## Recap of different storage options

	Edge test	Successors
Adjacency list	$O(\#Succ)$	$O(\#Succ)$
Adjacency matrix	$O(1)$	$O(\#Vert)$
Edge tree set <sup>(†)</sup>	$O(\log(\#Edge))$	$O(\log(\#Edge))$

(†) with proper indexing

## Goal

Finding walks (e.g. matching an RPQ)

Which one seems better?

## Adjacency list

- Memory zones contains property maps

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- Cells in the matrix contains reference to edge content
- Property maps for edges and nodes

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## Tree sets

- Properties are stored in other tables (see translation)

Part II: Property Graphs

## **5. Conclusion**

## Native storage

- Elementary graph operations are efficient
- Access to property is efficient
- Query answering is based on graph algorithms and not on joins  
Ex:  $S(R+F)^2$ ,  $S(R+F)^3$ ,  $S(R+F)^*$
- Allows flexible schemas or a schema-less approach

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Some PG DBMS's do not use native storage



Restriction on the DM increases the liberty in the query language.

*“We never have to treat the case of non-binary relations”*

- Graph notions in the core of the language (path as values)
- Graph algorithms directly available

Easier to grasp for humans

- Easier modeling  
*“The data looks like the ER diagram”*
- Direct data visualization  
*“One may navigate in the data”*

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- Query languages can be made user-friendly  
*“What you write looks like what you search for”*

⇒ Property graphs are usable by non-experts

Ex: Panama papers

## Efficiency

- Efficiency gain from native graph storage can be mitigated
    - Proper indexing
    - Worst-case optimal join
    - Highly structured data cannot be leveraged in PG's
- Ex: RDF engines usually do not use native graph storage

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- Efficiency falls off if the need is outside the scope
  - Non-navigational queries
  - When walks are not needed
  - Analytics (even graph analytics)

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- PG does not handle well some data  
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  - Cypher is hard to translate in SQL...

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  - Graph-views can be made on top of Relational DBMS
  - Cypher is hard to translate in SQL...  
...but SQL/PGQ brings it into SQL

- Property graph data model:
  - Definition
  - Bad modeling
  - Different storage options
  - Strengths and Weaknesses of those
- Data model translations:
  - Property Graph ↔ Tables (easy)
  - Tables ↔ Property Graph (harder)
  - Reification

## **Part III: Cypher**

Part III: Cypher

## **1. General presentation**

## A Cypher query

- queries a property graph
  - returns a table
- ⇒ **heterogeneous**.

## Example of Cypher query:

```
MATCH (u1)-[p1:POSTED]->(m1)
  WHERE p1.id = 22
WITH u1.name AS uname,
     p1.on AS date,
     m1.text AS msg
RETURN *
```

## Example of table:

uname	mdate	msg
"Alice"	"05-14"	"Hello"
"Bob"	"05-15"	"World"

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## A Cypher query

- Is a sequence of **clauses** and **sub-clauses**
  - **MATCH, WITH, RETURN; WHERE**
  - last clause is always **RETURN**

## A Cypher query

- manipulates intermediary tables
- uses **variables** → column names
  - u1, p1, uname, mdate, etc.

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WITH u1.name AS uname,
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RETURN *
```

## Example of table:

uname	mdate	msg
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- **Values** are the elements that may appear in tables
- **Pure values** are the values with no reference to the graph
- **Property** is a key to pure values mapping

## Values are

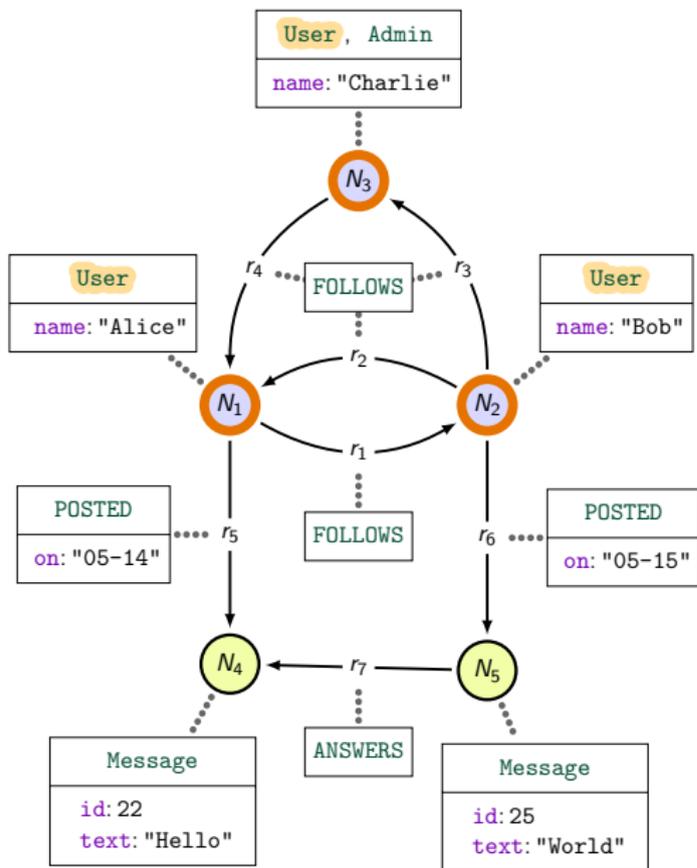
- Base values Ex: true, 42, "NoSQL"
- Graph elements Ex: nodes, relations
- Paths (alternate lists of nodes and relations)
- List of values Ex: [1, "Hello", true, "World",  $N_1$ ]
- Property dictionary Ex: {name: "Victor", age: 35}

## Warning

- The **RETURN** clause is mandatory
- For the sake of simplicity, we **omit it** in the following
- You will need to add one in the TP about Cypher
- Note that: **RETURN \*** is a noop
- Add **RETURN \*** to my queries to make them syntactically correct

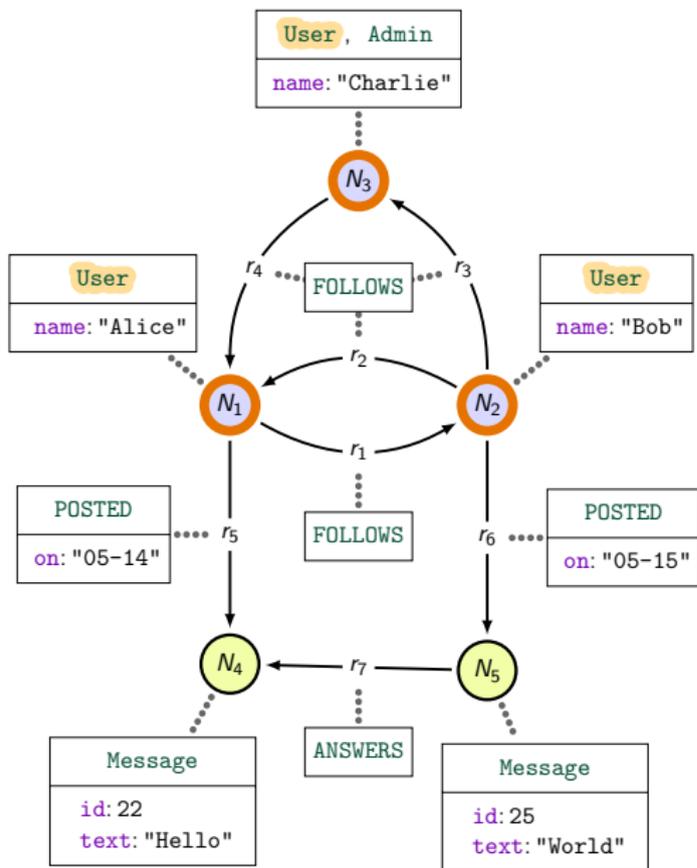
Part III: Cypher

## 2. Pattern matching with **MATCH**



Query:

**MATCH** (u1:User)

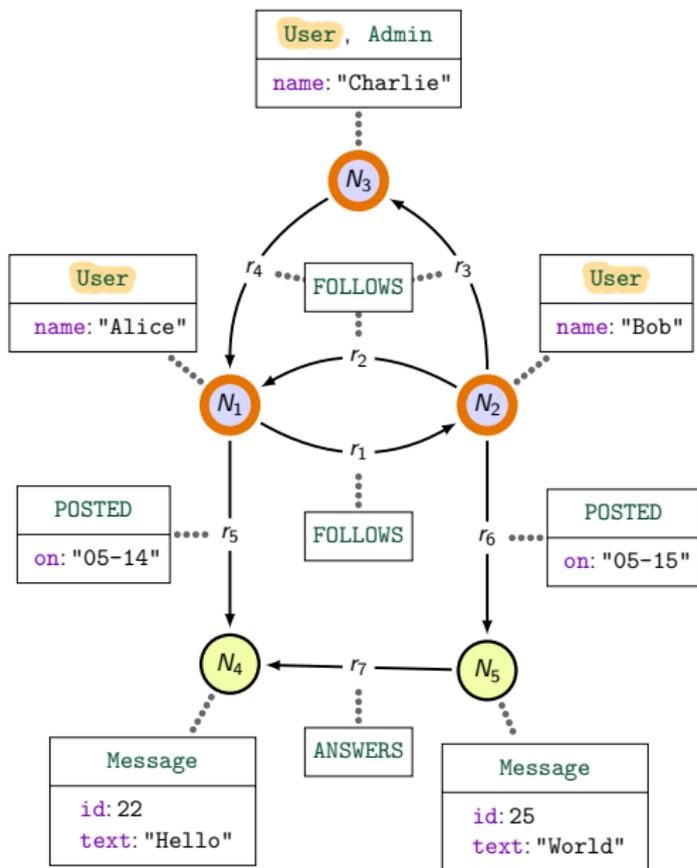


Query:

**MATCH** (u1:User)

Result:

u1
$N_1$
$N_2$
$N_3$



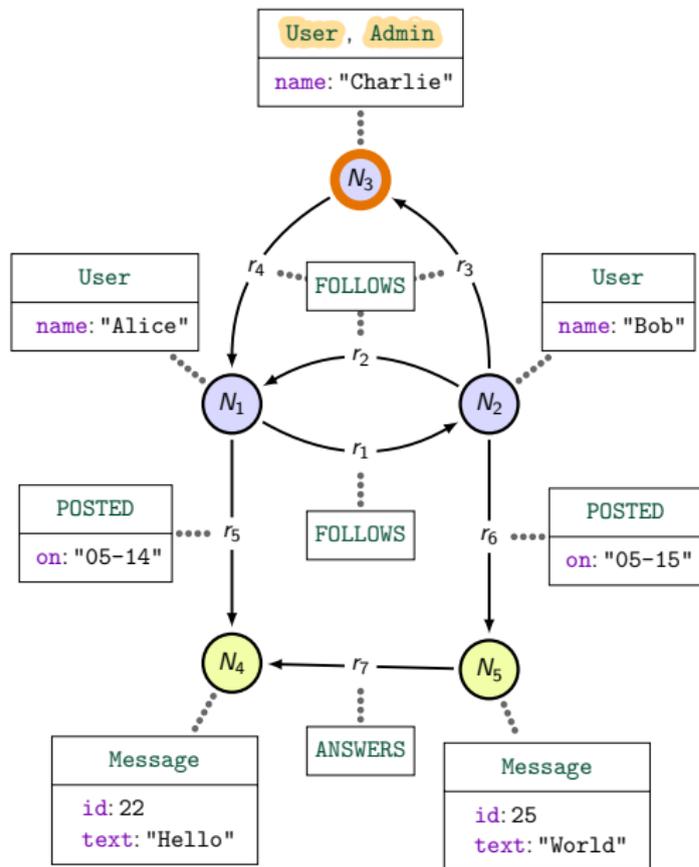
Query:

**MATCH** (u1:User)

Result:

u1
$N_1$
$N_2$
$N_3$

- Node patterns are between ( )
- Variable: first element
- Labels are prefixed by :

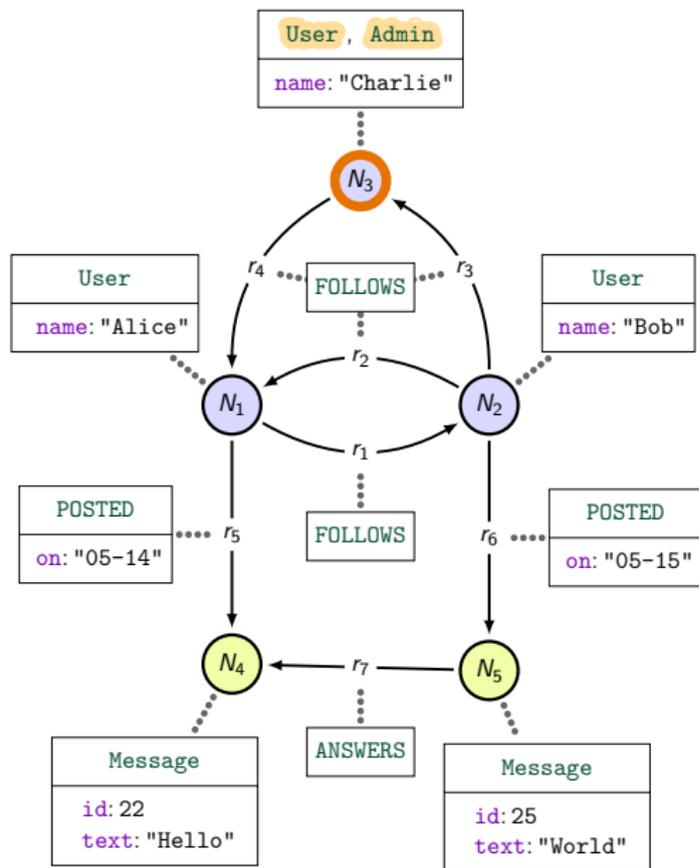


Query:

**MATCH** (u1:User:Admin)

Result:

u1
$N_3$



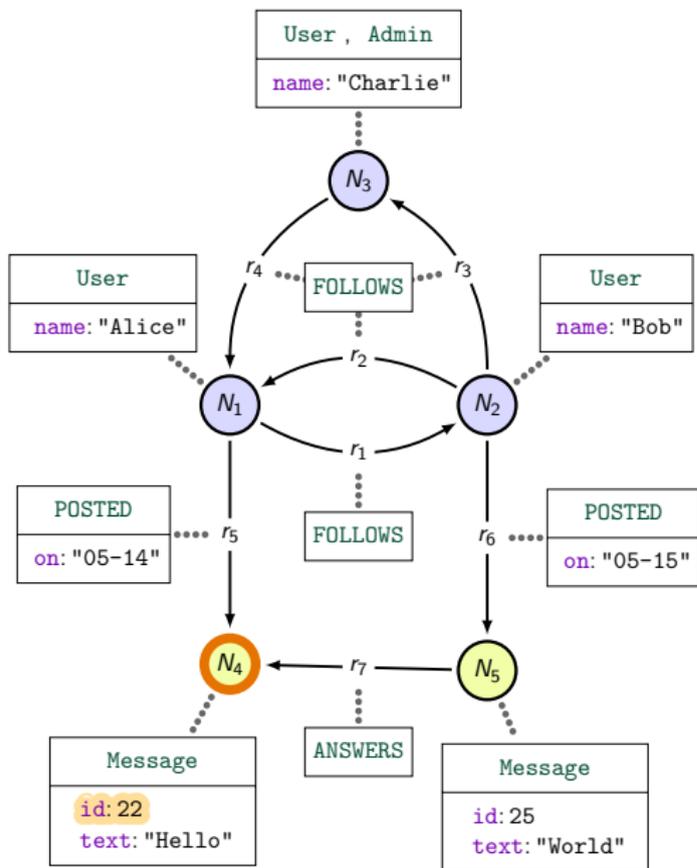
Query:

**MATCH** (u1:User:Admin)

Result:

u1
$N_3$

- Multiple labels: conjunction

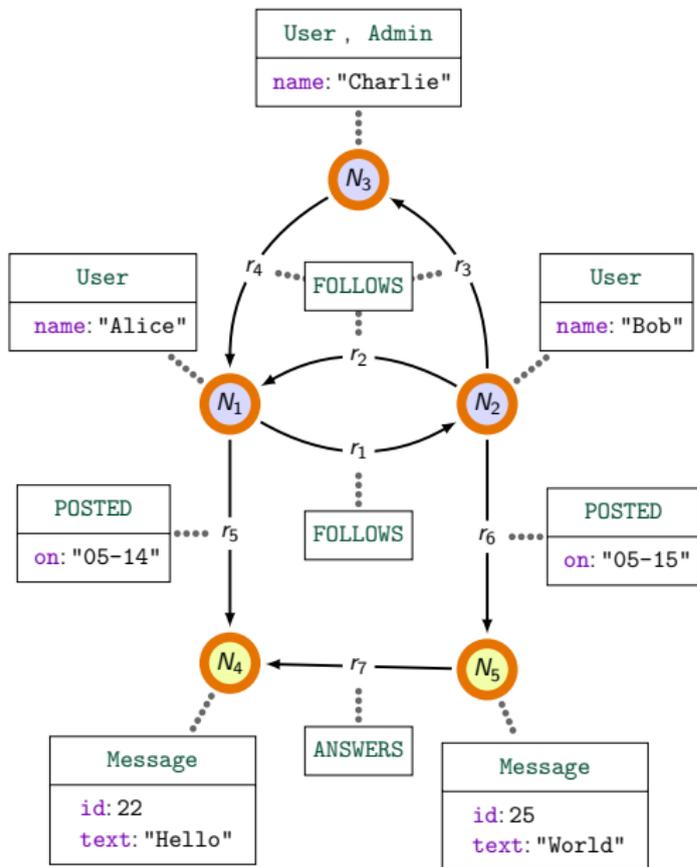


Query:

**MATCH** ( $u1\{id:22\}$ )

Result:

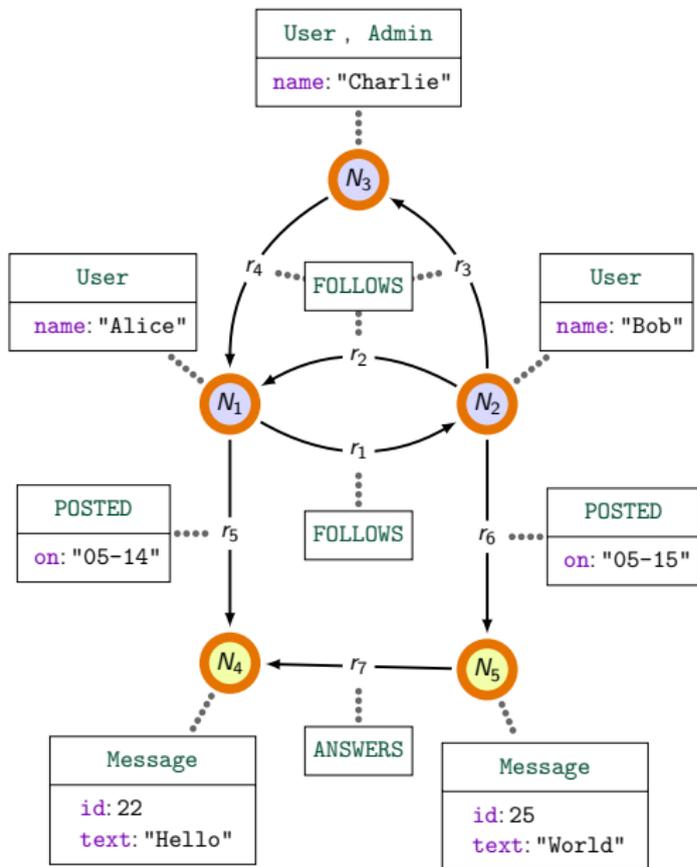
<u>u1</u>
<u><math>N_4</math></u>



Query:

**MATCH** (u1)

Result:

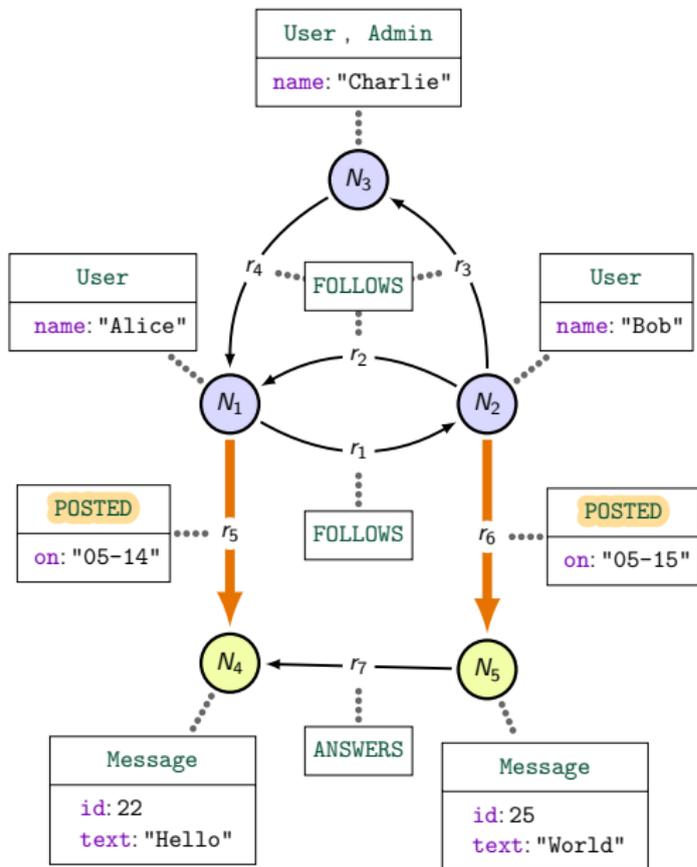


Query:

**MATCH** (u1)

Result:

u1
$N_1$
$N_2$
$N_3$
$N_4$
$N_5$

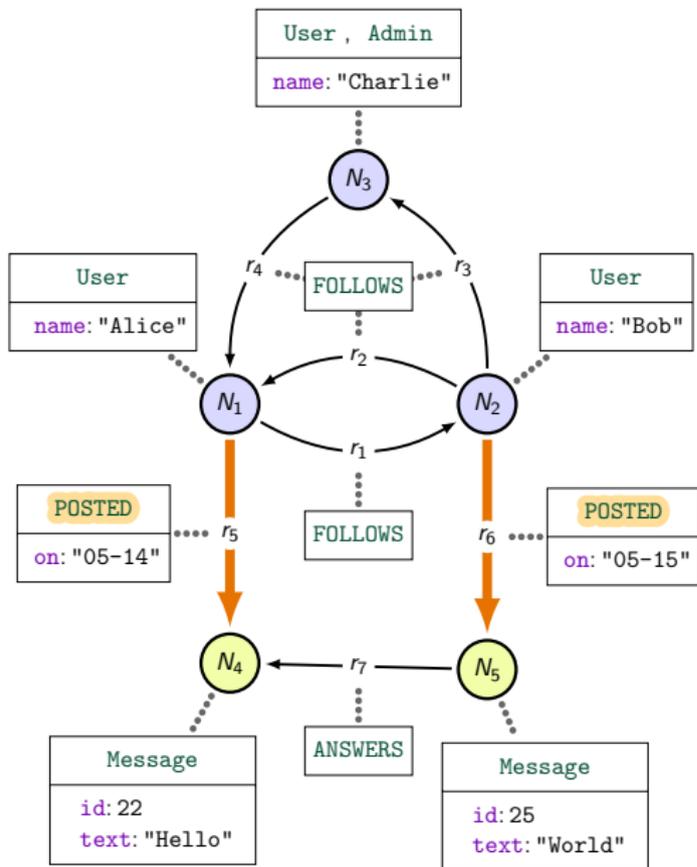


Query:

**MATCH** (u1) - [p1:POSTED] -> (m1)

Result:

u1	p1	m1
$N_1$	$r_5$	$N_4$
$N_2$	$r_6$	$N_5$



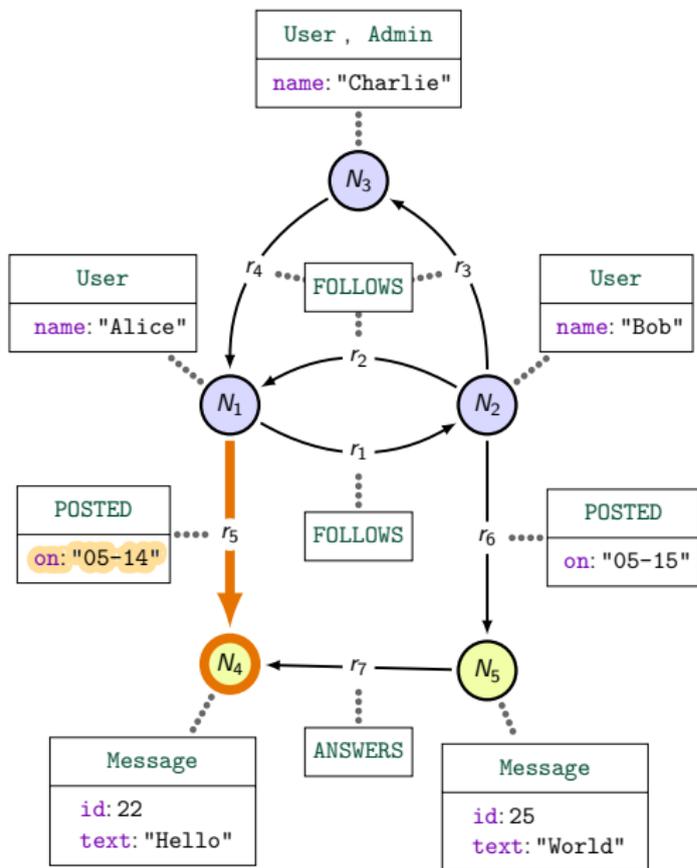
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**MATCH** (u1)-[p1:POSTED]->(m1)

Result:

u1	p1	m1
$N_1$	$r_5$	$N_4$
$N_2$	$r_6$	$N_5$

- Edge patterns are between [ ]
- Direction is indicated by  $-[ ] \rightarrow$  or  $\leftarrow [ ]$  or  $-[ ]-$
- Edge type is prefixed by :

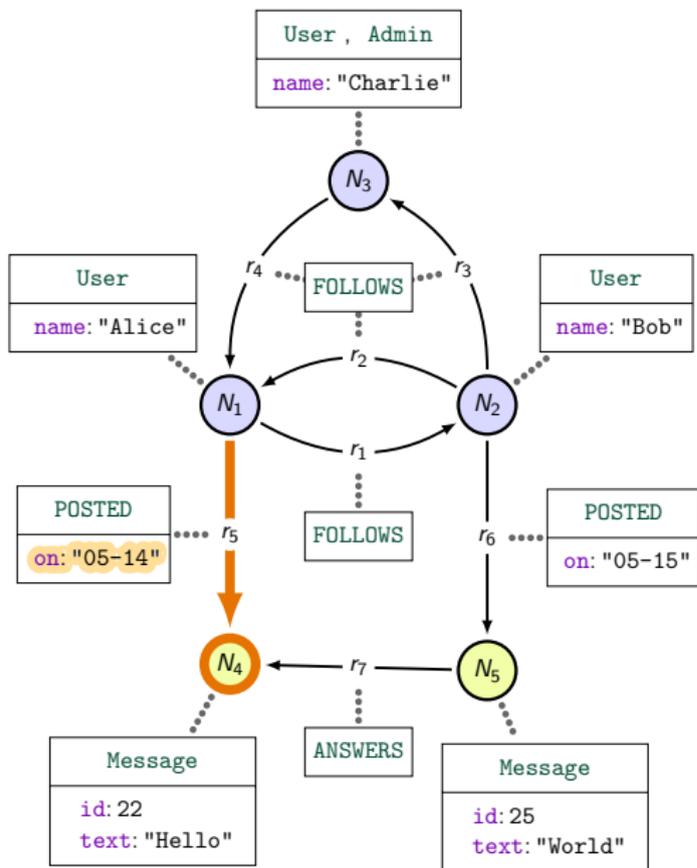


Query:

**MATCH** (m1) <- [p1{on: "05-14"}] - ()

Result:

m1	p1
$N_4$	$r_5$



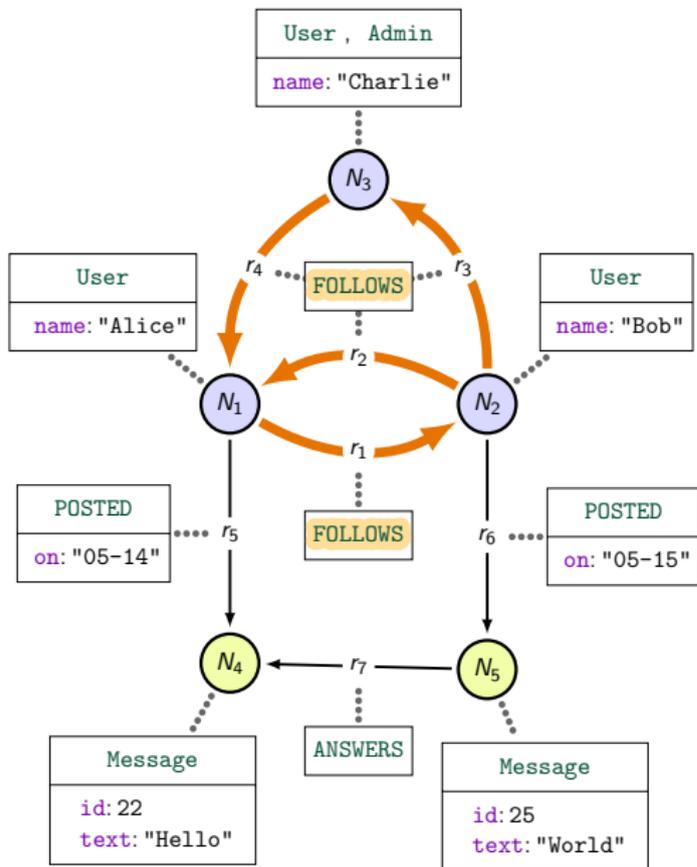
Query:

**MATCH** (m1) <- [p1{on: "05-14"}] -()

Result:

m1	p1
$N_4$	$r_5$

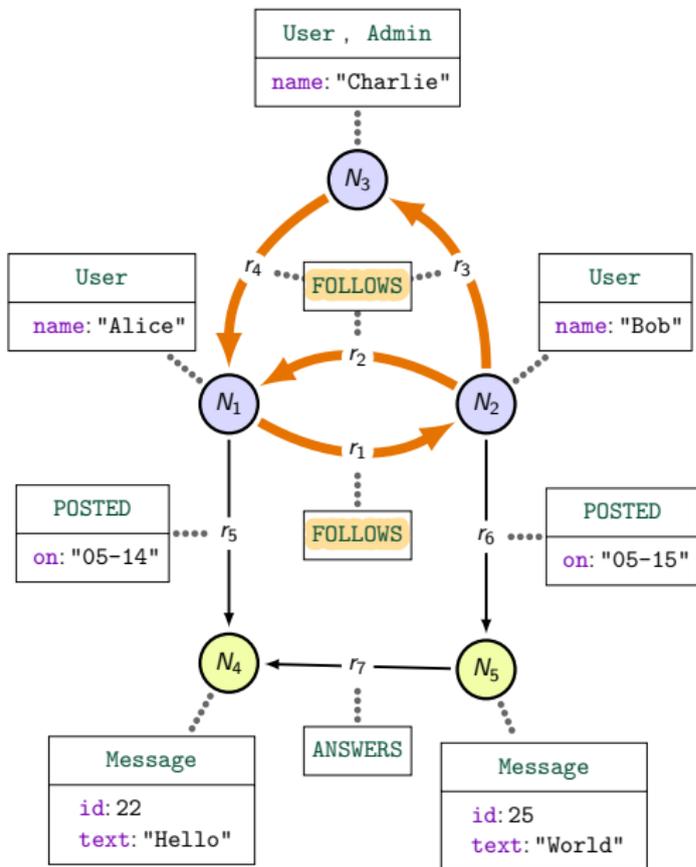
- Backward edge: <- [ ] -
- Properties are between { }
- All variables are optional



Query:

**MATCH** (u1)-[:FOLLOWS]->()

Result:



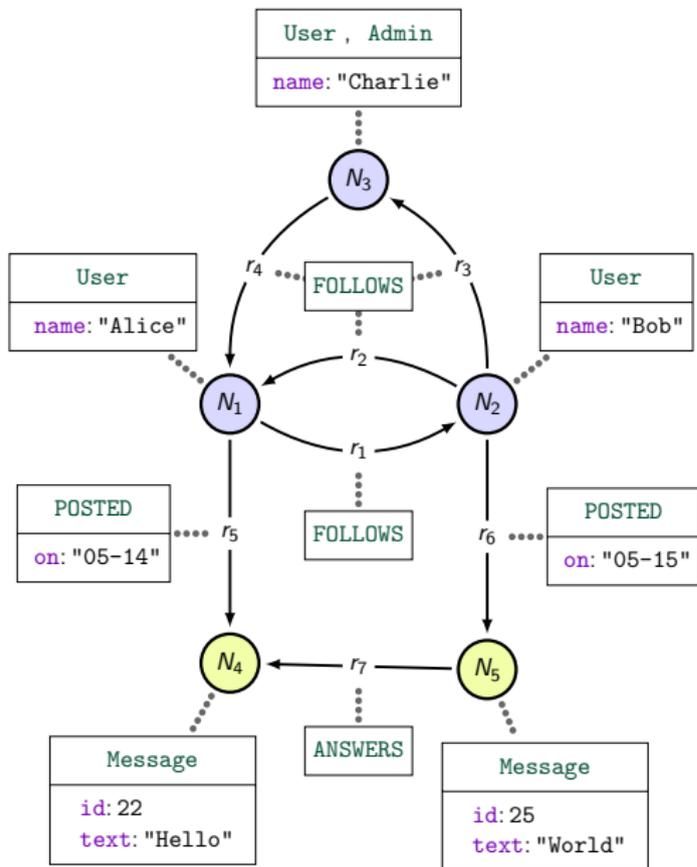
Query:

`MATCH (u1)-[:FOLLOWS]->()`

Result:

u1
$N_1$
$N_2$
$N_2$
$N_3$

Cypher has bag semantics:  
 $N_2$  has two outgoing `follows` relations  $\Rightarrow$  two lines  $N_2$

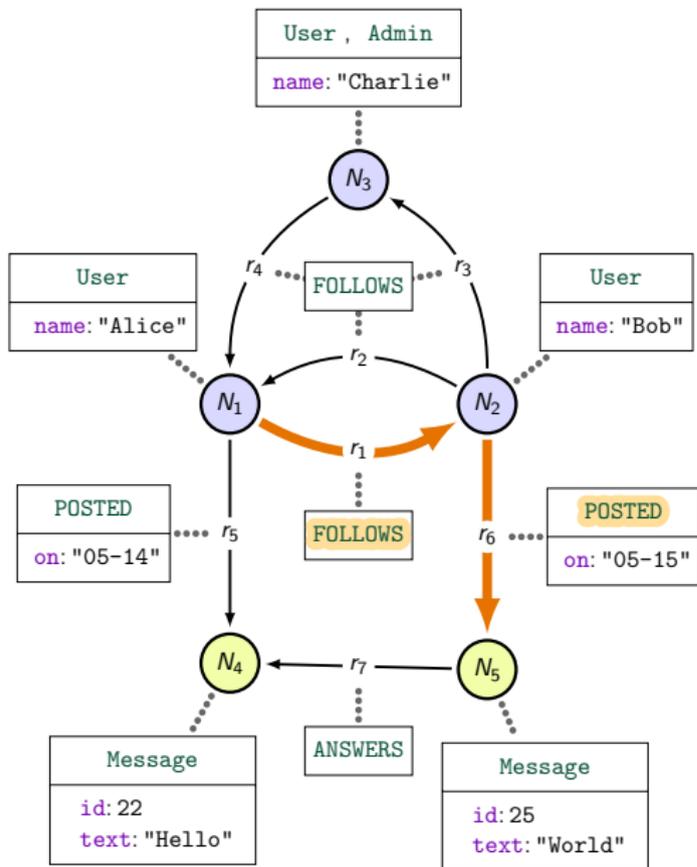


Query:

```
MATCH (u1)-[:FOLLOWS]->()
      -[:POSTED]->(m1)
```

Result:

u1	m1
$N_1$	$N_5$
$N_2$	$N_4$
$N_3$	$N_4$

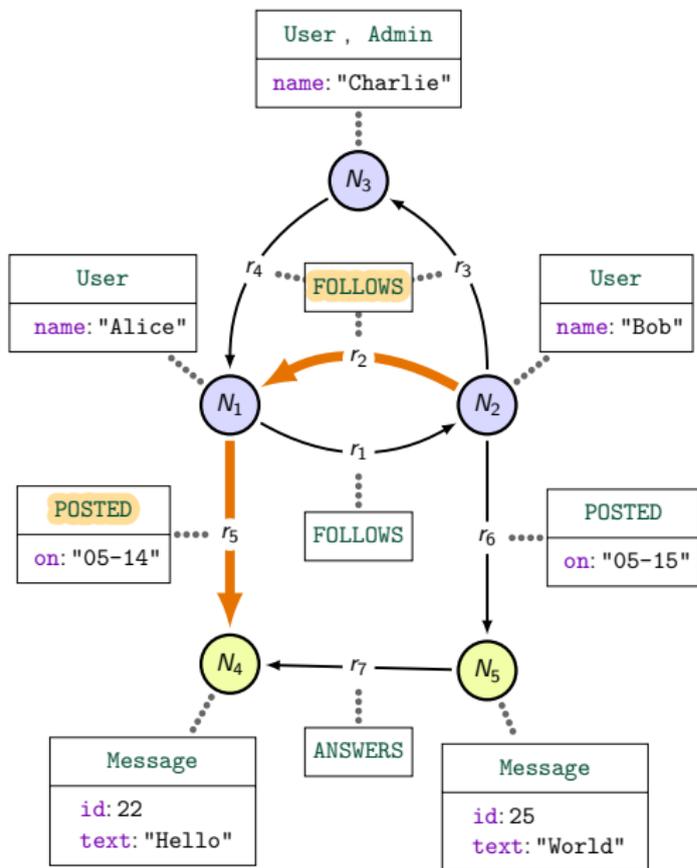


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MATCH (u1)-[:FOLLOWS]->()
      -[:POSTED]->(m1)
```

Result:

u1	m1
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$N_2$	$N_4$
$N_3$	$N_4$



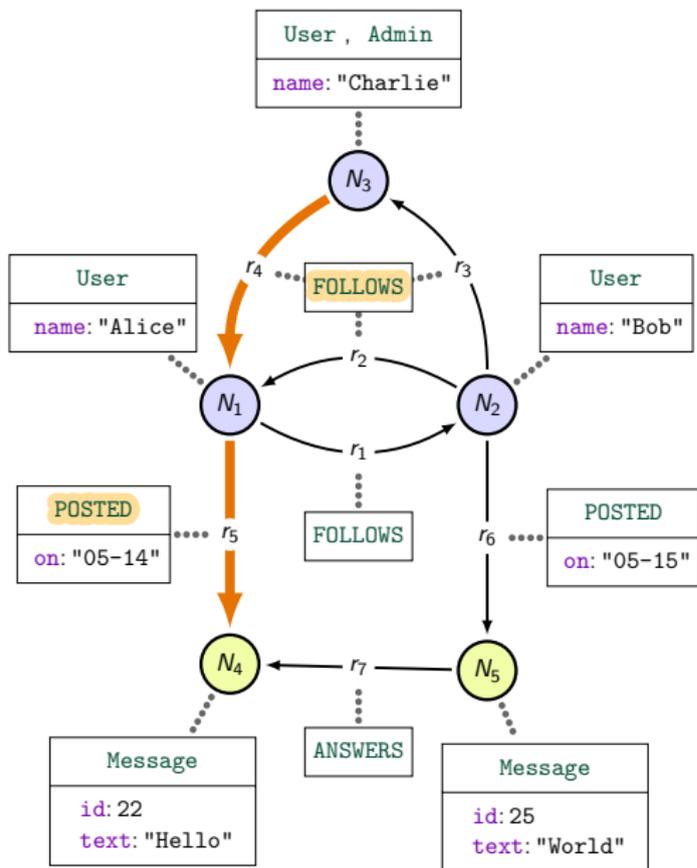
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MATCH (u1)-[:FOLLOWS]->()
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Result:

u1	m1
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$N_2$	$N_4$
$N_3$	$N_4$

# Matching chained relations

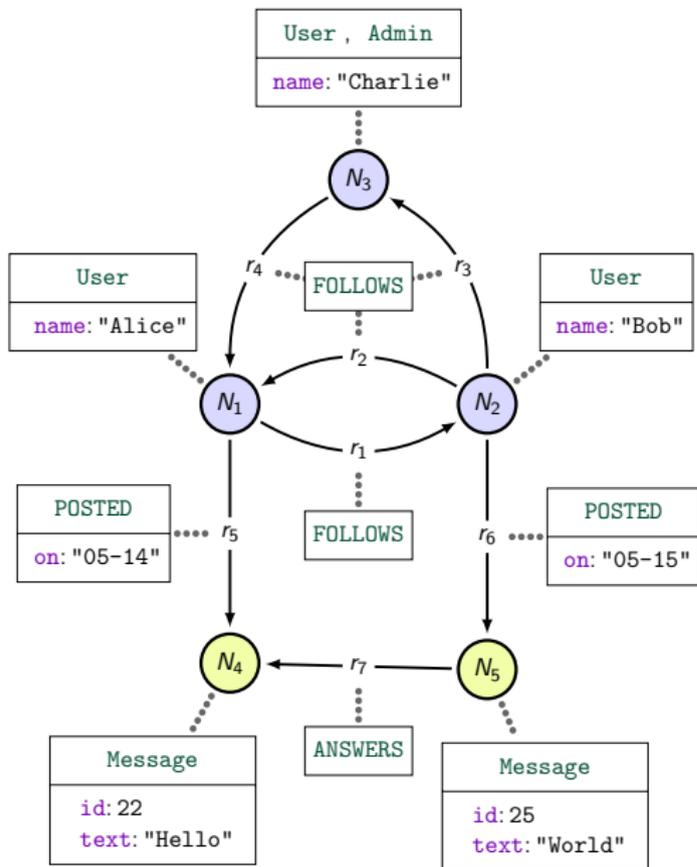


Query:

```
MATCH (u1)-[:FOLLOWS]->()  
      -[:POSTED]->(m1)
```

Result:

u1	m1
$N_1$	$N_5$
$N_2$	$N_4$
$N_3$	$N_4$

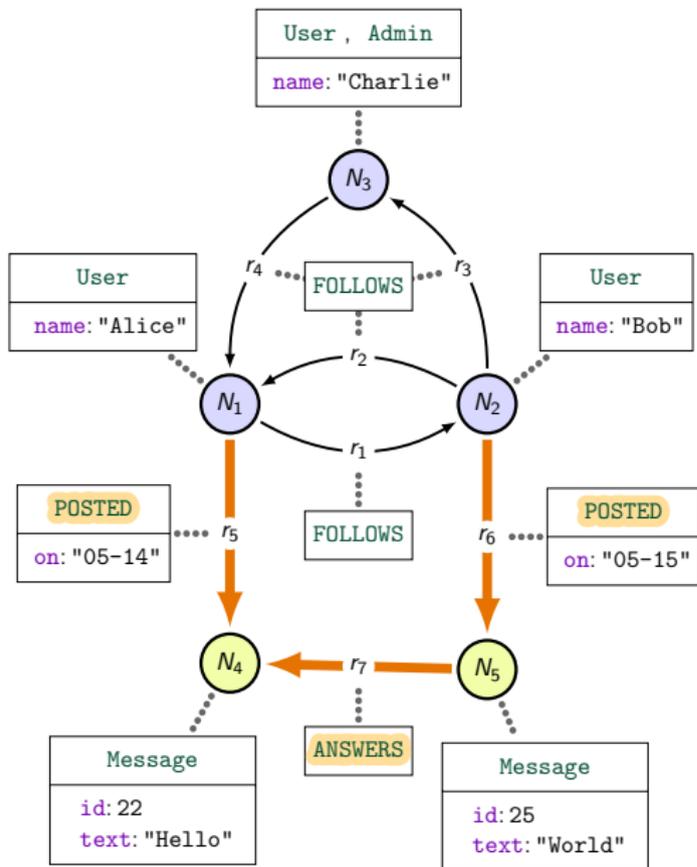


Query:

```
MATCH (u1)-[:POSTED]->()
      <-[:ANSWERS]-(m2)
      <-[:POSTED]-(u2)
```

Result:

u1	m2	u2
$N_1$	$N_5$	$N_2$

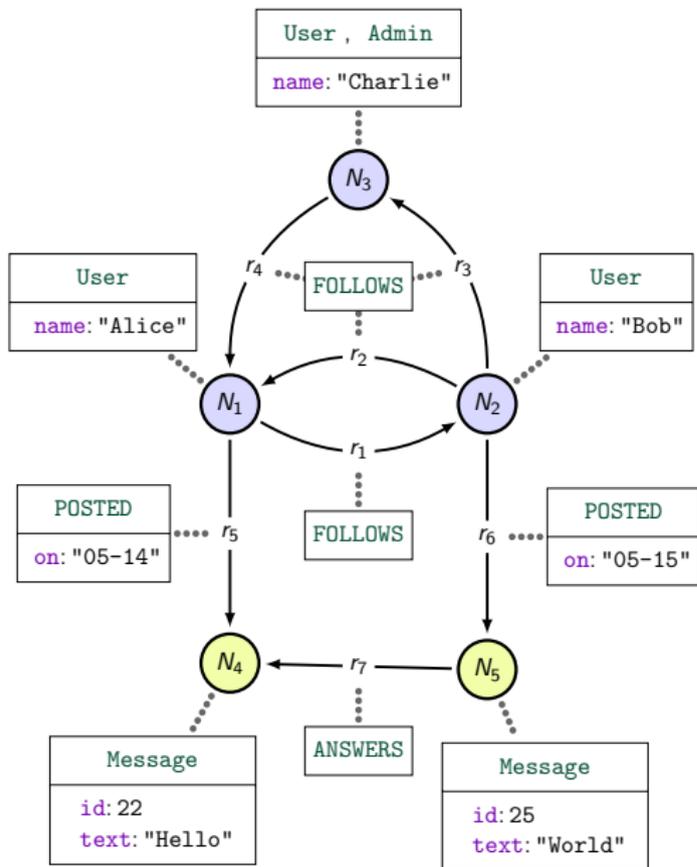


Query:

```
MATCH (u1)-[:POSTED]->()
      <-[:ANSWERS]-(m2)
      <-[:POSTED]-(u2)
```

Result:

u1	m2	u2
$N_1$	$N_5$	$N_2$

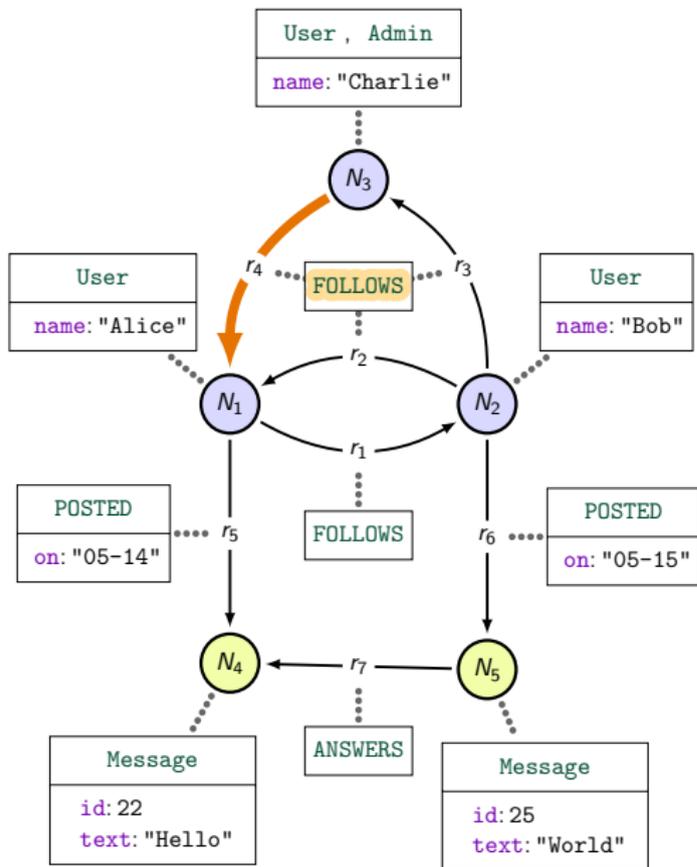


Query:

```
MATCH (u1:Admin)
      -[:FOLLOWS]-(u2)
```

Result:

u1	u2
$N_3$	$N_1$
$N_3$	$N_2$

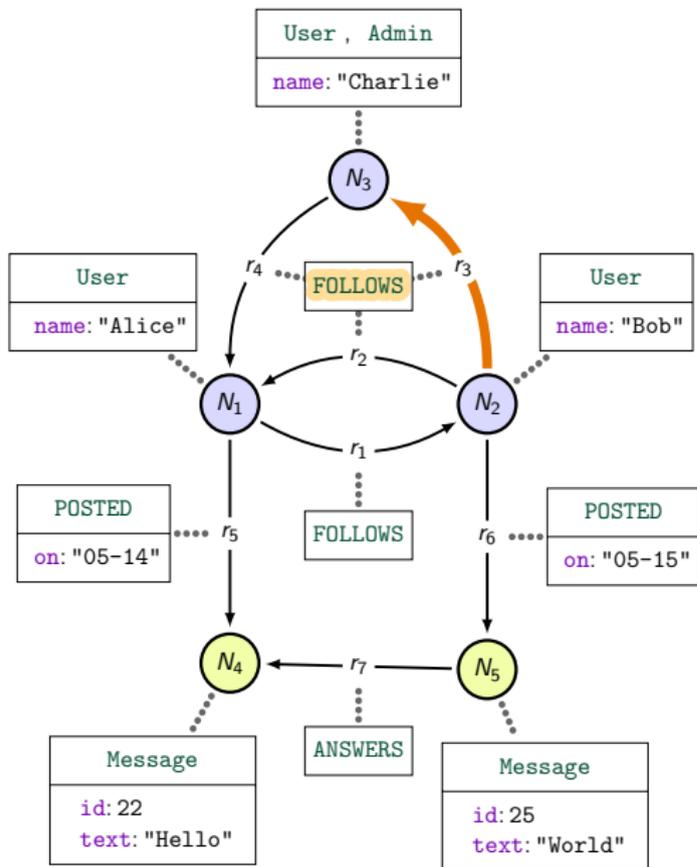


Query:

```
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```

Result:

u1	u2
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$N_3$	$N_2$

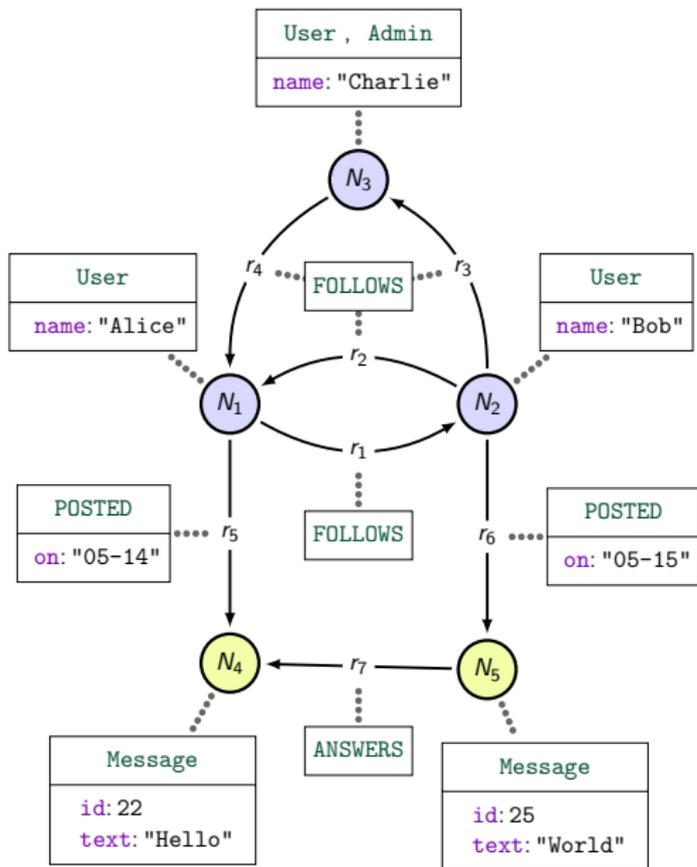


Query:

```
MATCH (u1:Admin)
      -[:FOLLOWS]-(u2)
```

Result:

u1	u2
$N_3$	$N_1$
$N_3$	$N_2$

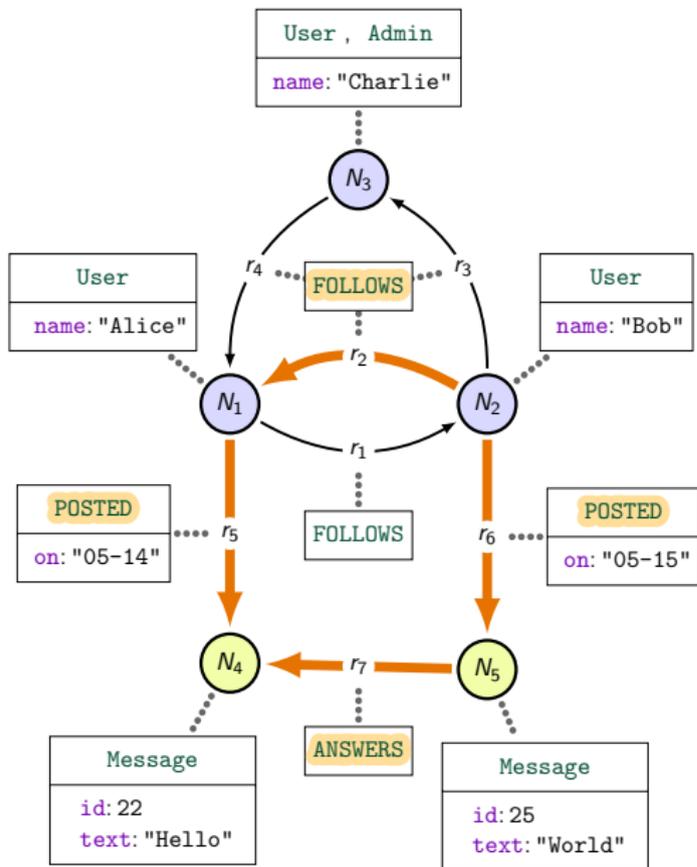


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      <-[:POSTED]-(u2)
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```

Result:

u1	m2	u2
$N_1$	$N_5$	$N_2$

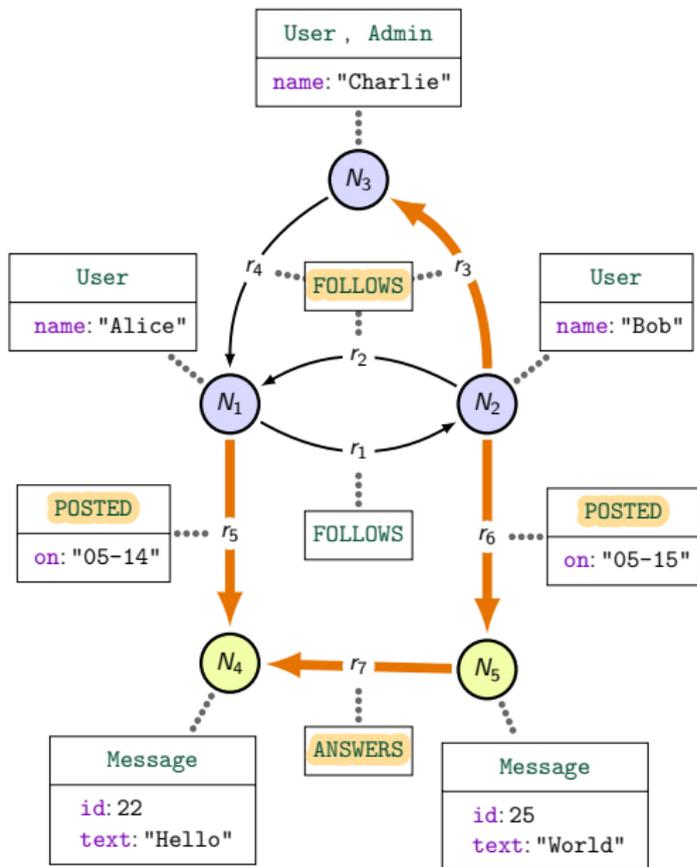


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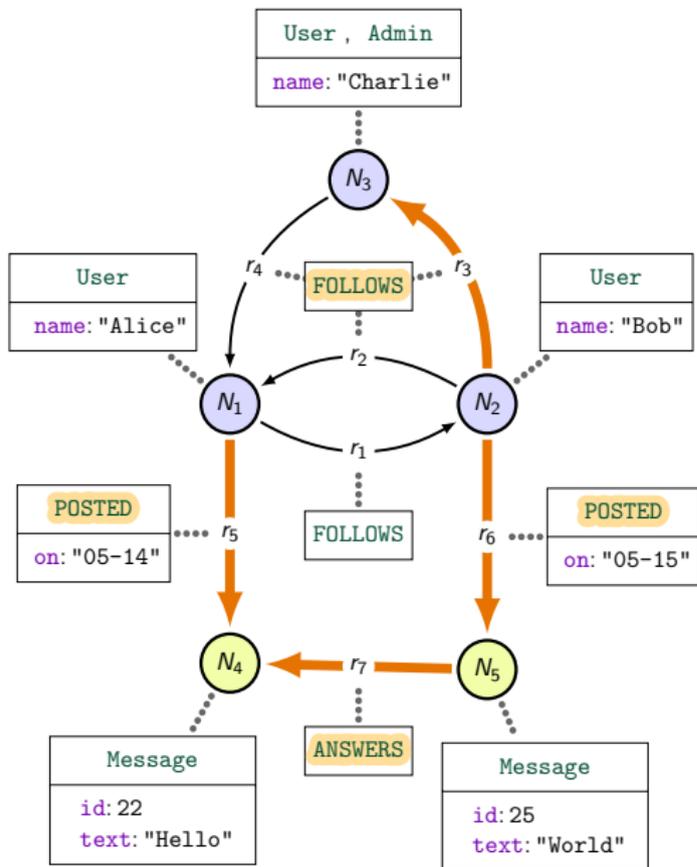
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u1	m2	u2
$N_1$	$N_5$	$N_2$

Variable reuse  $\implies$  equality



Query:

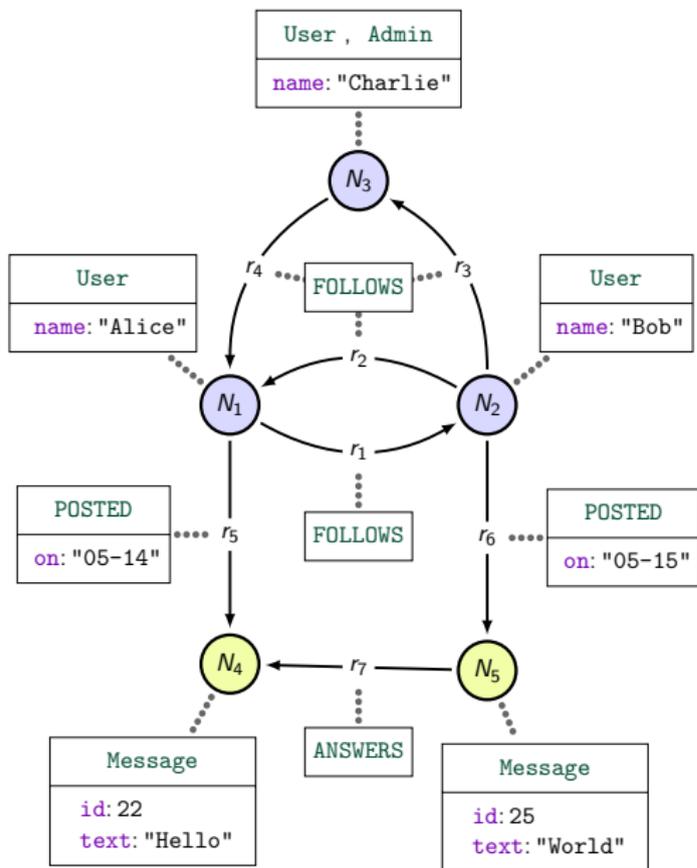
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MATCH (u1)-[:POSTED]->()
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      <-[:POSTED]-(u2)
      -[:FOLLOWS]->(u1)
```

Result:

u1	m2	u2
$N_1$	$N_5$	$N_2$

Variable reuse  $\implies$  equality

The orange path is invalid: two different nodes for  $u_1$ .

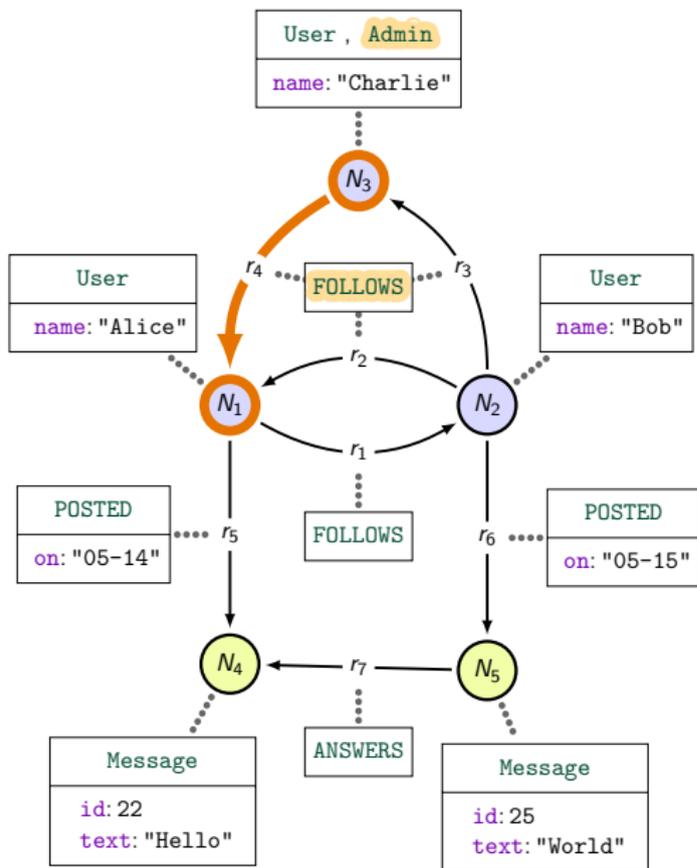


Query:

**MATCH** (u1:Admin)  
 -[l1:FOLLOWS\*]->(m1)

Result:

u1	l1	m1
$N_3$	$[r_4]$	$N_1$
$N_3$	$[r_4, r_1]$	$N_2$
$N_3$	$[r_4, r_1, r_2]$	$N_1$
$N_3$	$[r_4, r_1, r_3]$	$N_3$

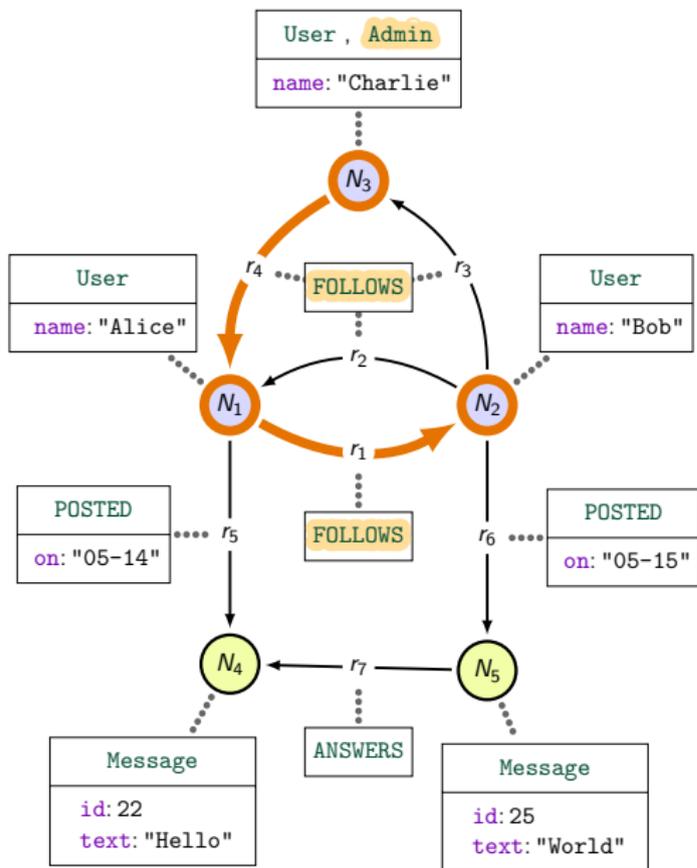


Query:

**MATCH** (u1:Admin)  
 -[l1:FOLLOWS\*]->(m1)

Result:

u1	l1	m1
$N_3$	$[r_4]$	$N_1$
$N_3$	$[r_4, r_1]$	$N_2$
$N_3$	$[r_4, r_1, r_2]$	$N_1$
$N_3$	$[r_4, r_1, r_3]$	$N_3$

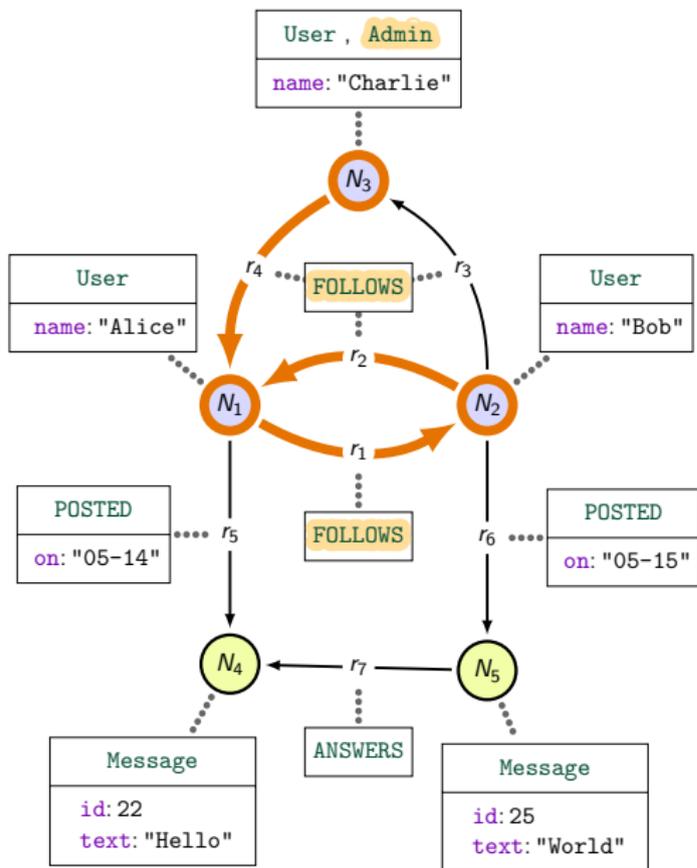


Query:

```
MATCH (u1:Admin)
      -[l1:FOLLOWS*]->(m1)
```

Result:

u1	l1	m1
$N_3$	$[r_4]$	$N_1$
$N_3$	$[r_4, r_1]$	$N_2$
$N_3$	$[r_4, r_1, r_2]$	$N_1$
$N_3$	$[r_4, r_1, r_3]$	$N_3$

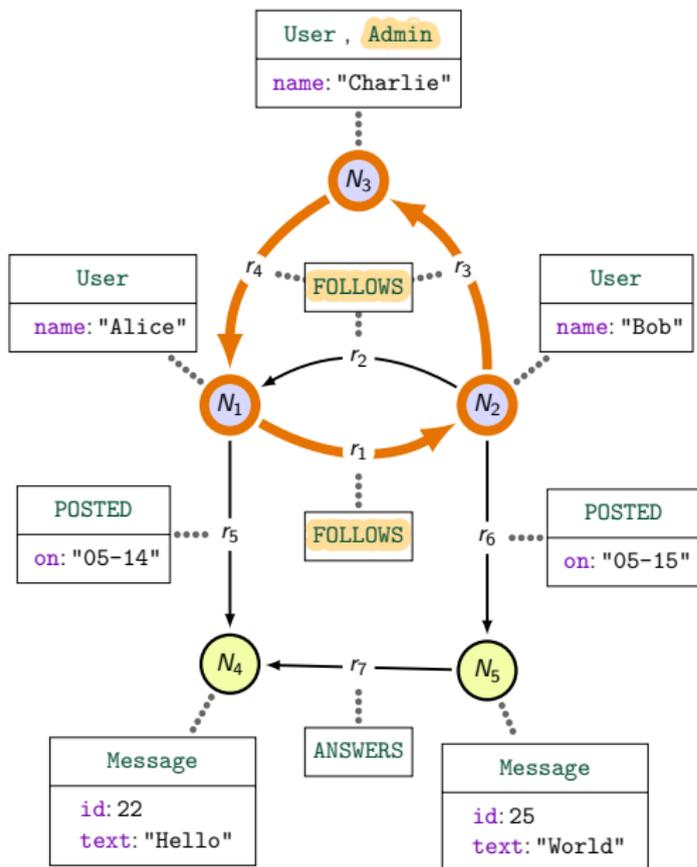


Query:

```
MATCH (u1:Admin)
      -[l1:FOLLOWS*]->(m1)
```

Result:

u1	l1	m1
$N_3$	$[r_4]$	$N_1$
$N_3$	$[r_4, r_1]$	$N_2$
$N_3$	$[r_4, r_1, r_2]$	$N_1$
$N_3$	$[r_4, r_1, r_3]$	$N_3$

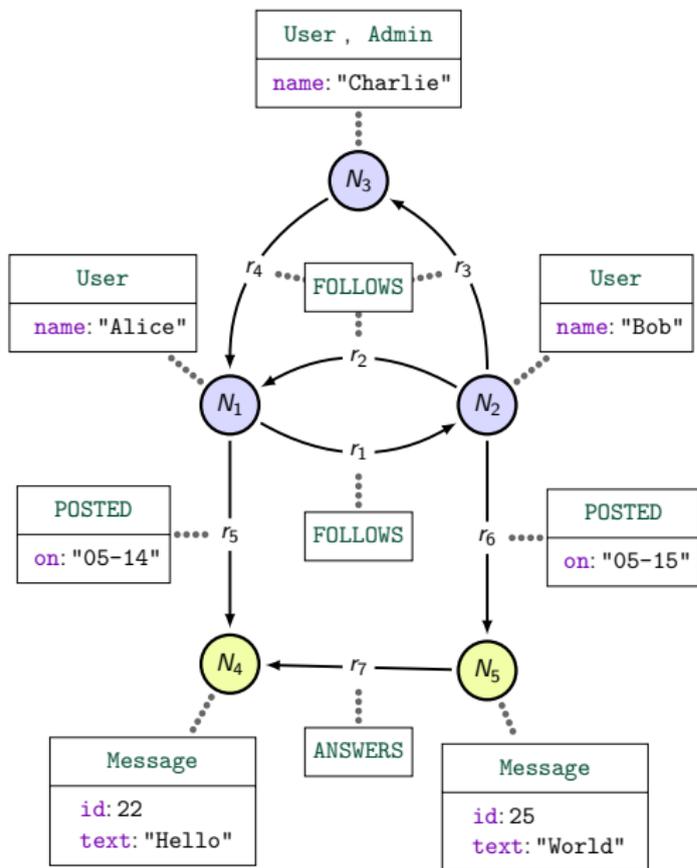


Query:

**MATCH** (u1:Admin)  
 -[l1:FOLLOWS\*]->(m1)

Result:

u1	l1	m1
$N_3$	$[r_4]$	$N_1$
$N_3$	$[r_4, r_1]$	$N_2$
$N_3$	$[r_4, r_1, r_2]$	$N_1$
$N_3$	$[r_4, r_1, r_3]$	$N_3$

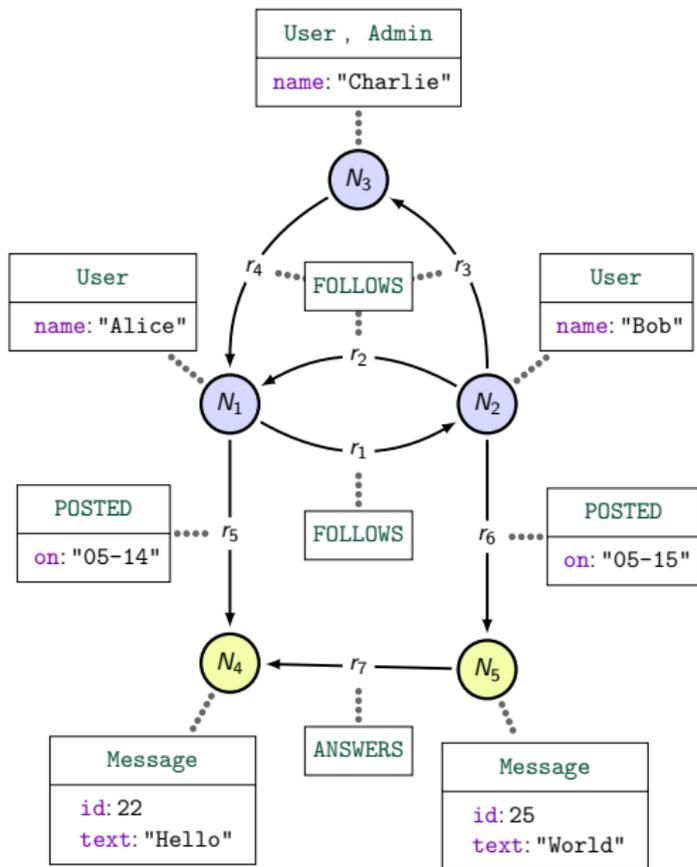


Query:

**MATCH** (u1:Admin)  
 -[l1:FOLLOWS\*]->(m1)

Result:

u1	l1	m1
$N_3$	$[r_4]$	$N_1$
$N_3$	$[r_4, r_1]$	$N_2$
$N_3$	$[r_4, r_1, r_2]$	$N_1$
$N_3$	$[r_4, r_1, r_3]$	$N_3$



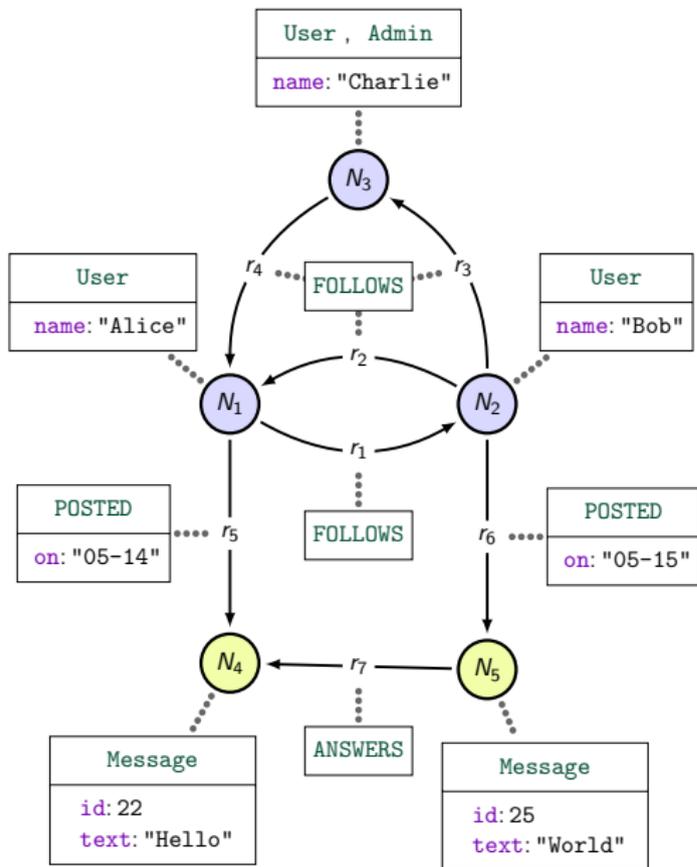
Query:

```
MATCH (u1:Admin)
      -[l1:FOLLOWS*]->(m1)
```

Result:

u1	l1	m1
$N_3$	$[r_4]$	$N_1$
$N_3$	$[r_4, r_1]$	$N_2$
$N_3$	$[r_4, r_1, r_2]$	$N_1$
$N_3$	$[r_4, r_1, r_3]$	$N_3$

- Cypher uses **trail semantics**
- In Cypher \* means **one or more**



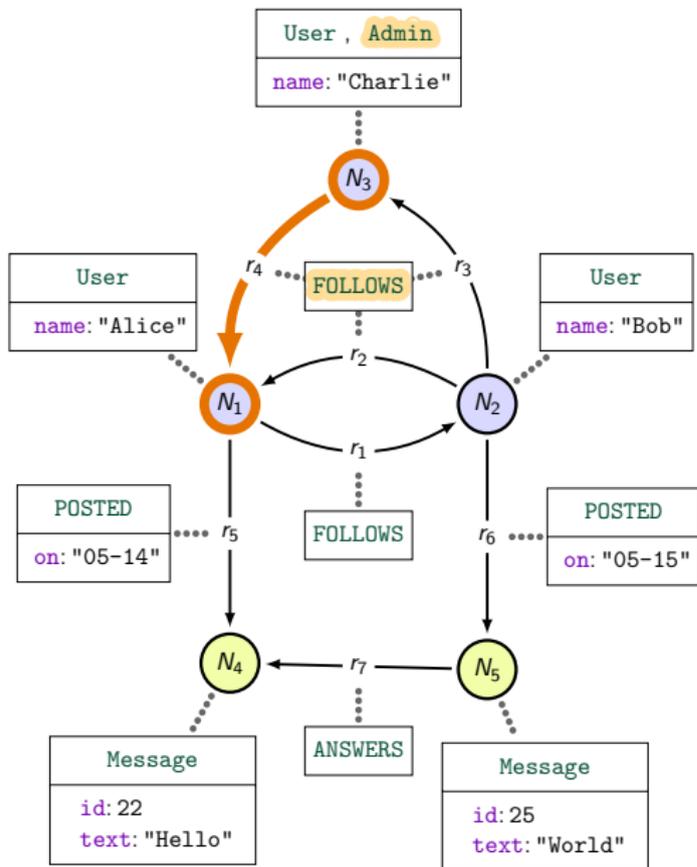
Query:

```
MATCH p= (:Admin)
      -[:FOLLOWS*]->(m1)
```

Result:

p1	
$N_3$	$\xrightarrow{r_4} N_1$
$N_3$	$\xrightarrow{r_4} N_1 \xrightarrow{r_1} N_2$
$N_3$	$\xrightarrow{r_4} N_1 \xrightarrow{r_1} N_2 \xrightarrow{r_2} N_1$
$N_3$	$\xrightarrow{r_4} N_1 \xrightarrow{r_1} N_2 \xrightarrow{r_3} N_3$

- Path variables can be used =



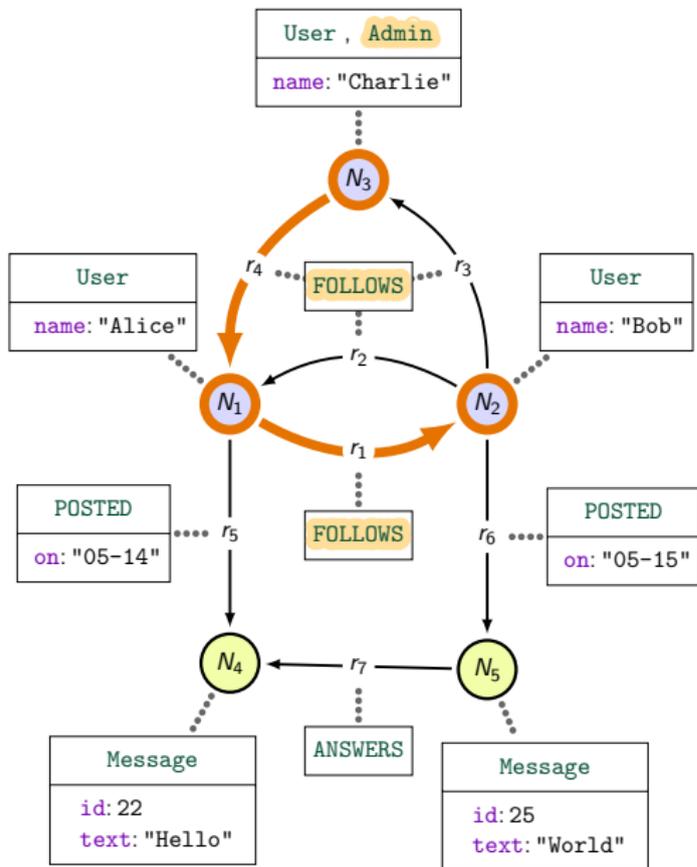
Query:

```
MATCH p= (:Admin)
      -[:FOLLOWS*]->(m1)
```

Result:

p1	
$N_3$	$\xrightarrow{r_4} N_1$
$N_3$	$\xrightarrow{r_4} N_1 \xrightarrow{r_1} N_2$
$N_3$	$\xrightarrow{r_4} N_1 \xrightarrow{r_1} N_2 \xrightarrow{r_2} N_1$
$N_3$	$\xrightarrow{r_4} N_1 \xrightarrow{r_1} N_2 \xrightarrow{r_3} N_3$

- Path variables can be used =



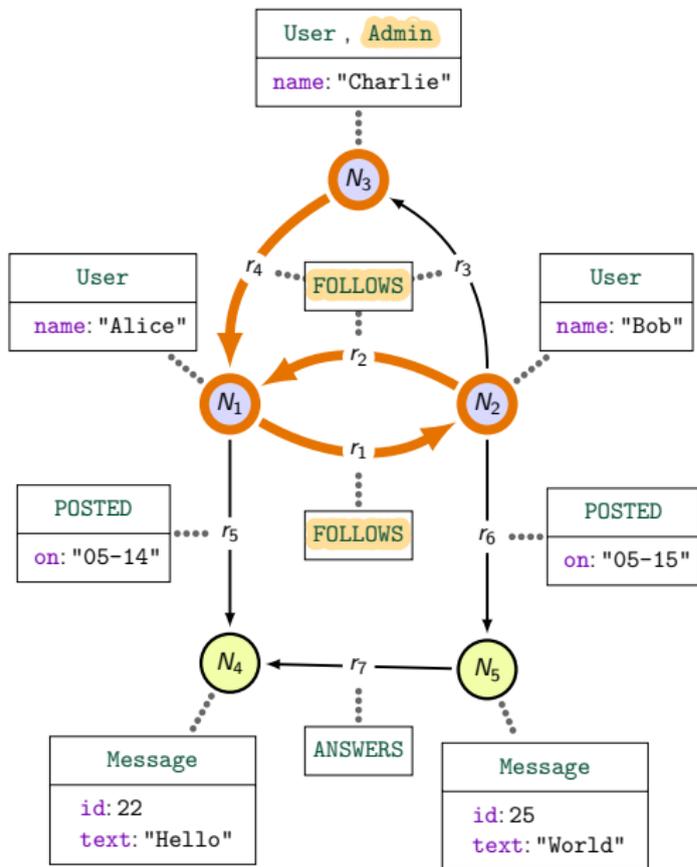
Query:

```
MATCH p= (:Admin)
       -[:FOLLOWS*]->(m1)
```

Result:

p1	
$N_3$	$\xrightarrow{r_4} N_1$
$N_3$	$\xrightarrow{r_4} N_1 \xrightarrow{r_1} N_2$
$N_3$	$\xrightarrow{r_4} N_1 \xrightarrow{r_1} N_2 \xrightarrow{r_2} N_1$
$N_3$	$\xrightarrow{r_4} N_1 \xrightarrow{r_1} N_2 \xrightarrow{r_3} N_3$

- Path variables can be used =



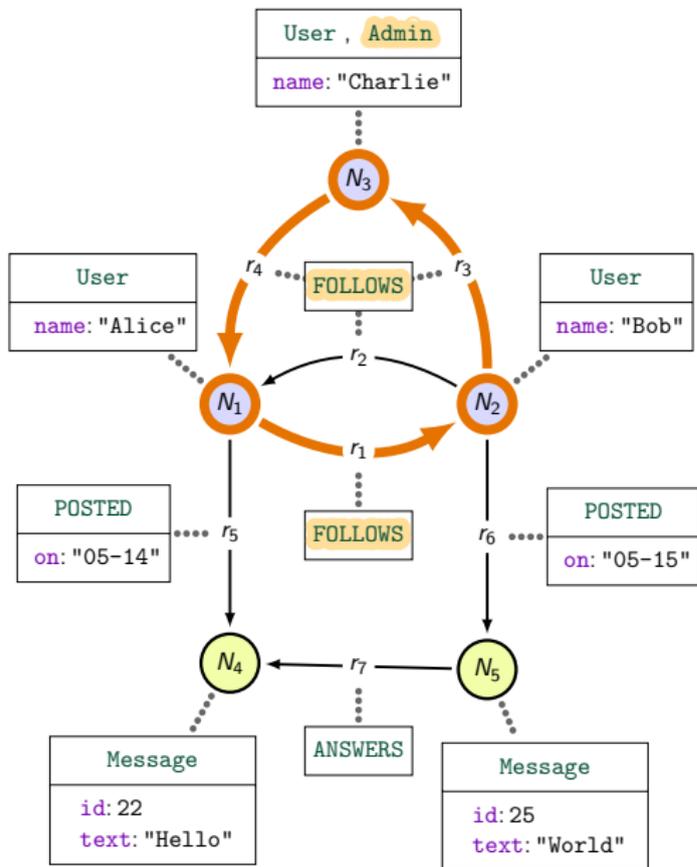
Query:

```
MATCH p= (:Admin)
      -[:FOLLOWS*]->(m1)
```

Result:

p1	
$N_3$	$\xrightarrow{r_4} N_1$
$N_3$	$\xrightarrow{r_4} N_1 \xrightarrow{r_1} N_2$
$N_3$	$\xrightarrow{r_4} N_1 \xrightarrow{r_1} N_2 \xrightarrow{r_2} N_1$
$N_3$	$\xrightarrow{r_4} N_1 \xrightarrow{r_1} N_2 \xrightarrow{r_3} N_3$

- Path variables can be used =



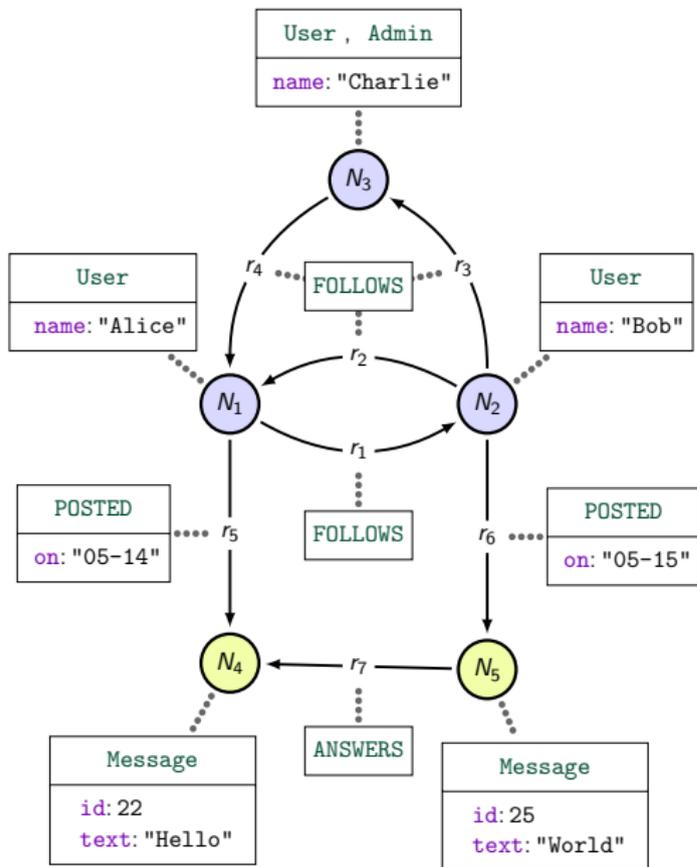
Query:

```
MATCH p= (:Admin)
        -[:FOLLOWS*]->(m1)
```

Result:

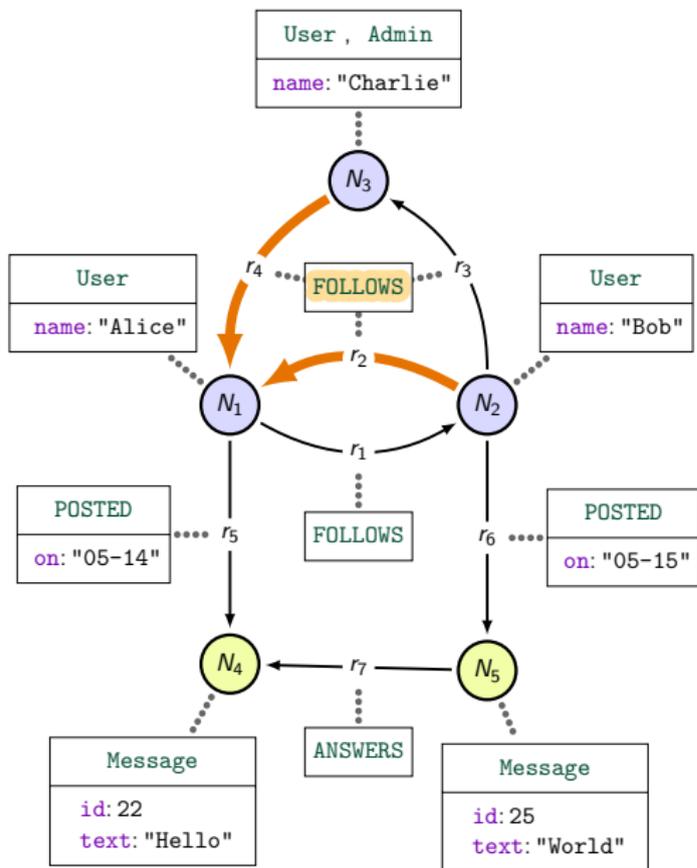
p1
$N_3 \xrightarrow{r_4} N_1$
$N_3 \xrightarrow{r_4} N_1 \xrightarrow{r_1} N_2$
$N_3 \xrightarrow{r_4} N_1 \xrightarrow{r_1} N_2 \xrightarrow{r_2} N_1$
$N_3 \xrightarrow{r_4} N_1 \xrightarrow{r_1} N_2 \xrightarrow{r_3} N_3$

- Path variables can be used =



Query:

```
MATCH (u2)-[:FOLLOWS]->
      (u1)<-[:FOLLOWS]-(u3)
```



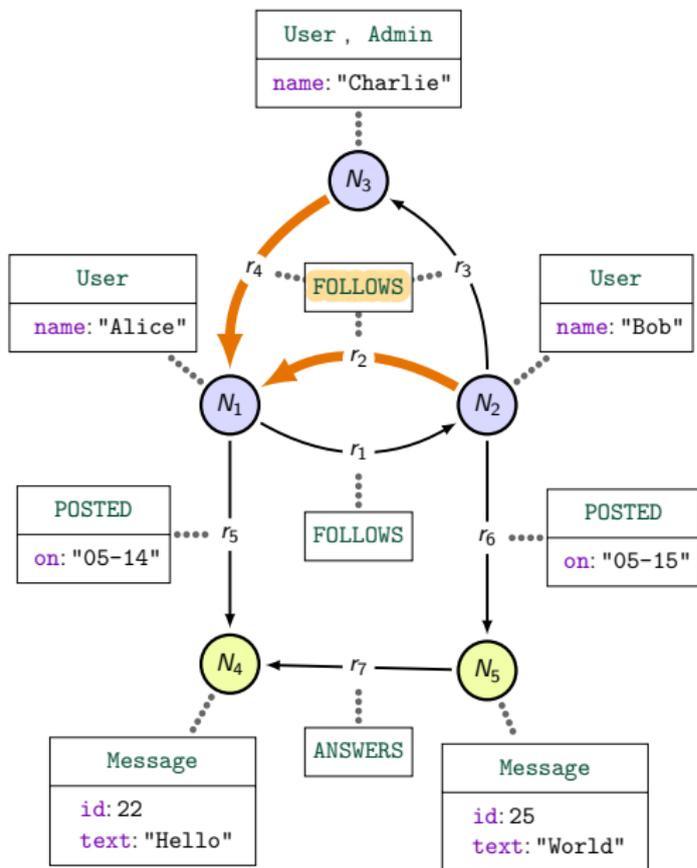
Query:

MATCH (u2)-[:FOLLOWS]->  
(u1)<-[:FOLLOWS]-(u3)

Result:

u2	u1	u3
$N_3$	$N_1$	$N_2$
$N_2$	$N_1$	$N_3$

- Line 1:  $N_3 \xrightarrow{r_4} N_1 \xleftarrow{r_2} N_2$
- Line 2:  $N_2 \xrightarrow{r_2} N_1 \xleftarrow{r_4} N_3$
- No  $(N_3, N_1, N_3)$  due to trail semantics



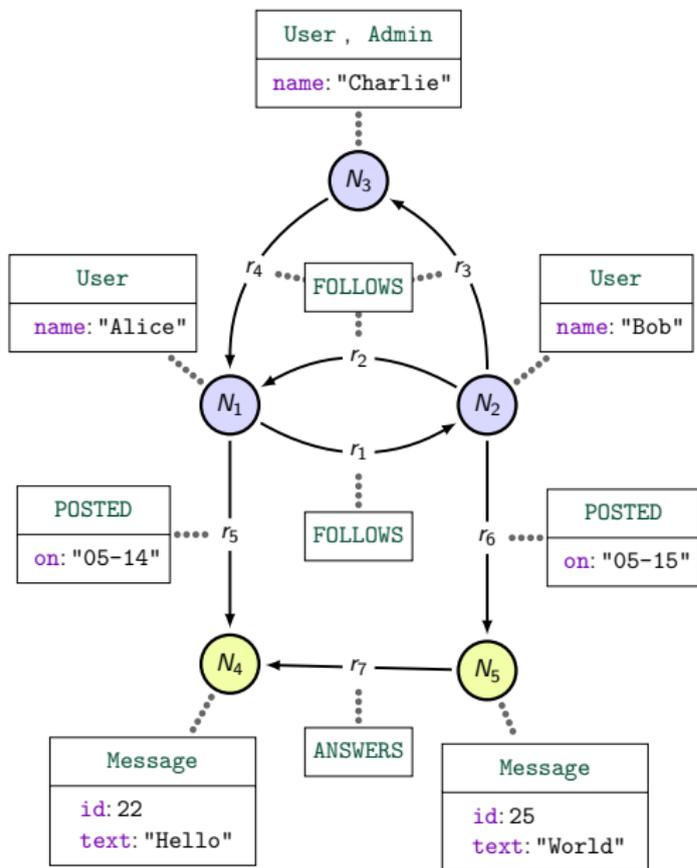
Query:

**MATCH** (u2)-[:FOLLOWS]->  
(u1)<-[:FOLLOWS]-(u3)

Result:

u2	u1	u3
$N_3$	$N_1$	$N_2$
$N_2$	$N_1$	$N_3$

- Line 1:  $N_3 \xrightarrow{r_4} N_1 \xleftarrow{r_2} N_2$
- Line 2:  $N_2 \xrightarrow{r_2} N_1 \xleftarrow{r_4} N_3$
- No  $(N_3, N_1, N_3)$  due to trail semantics



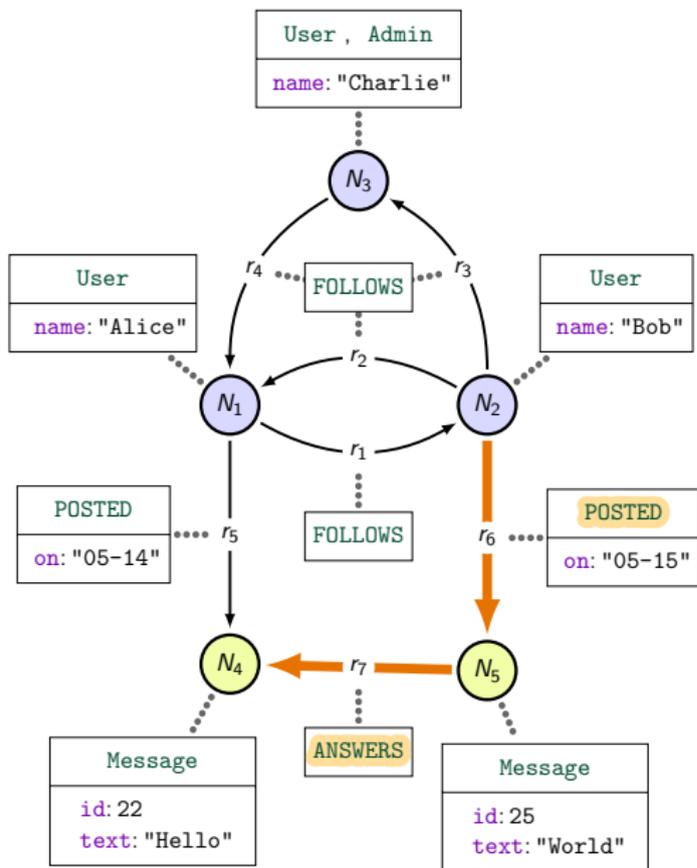
Query:

```
MATCH (u1)
  - [l1:POSTED | ANSWERS *]->(m1)
```

Result:

u1	l1	m1
$N_2$	$[r_6, r_7]$	$N_4$
$N_5$	$[r_7]$	$N_4$
$N_2$	$[r_6]$	$N_5$
$N_1$	$[r_5]$	$N_4$

- In edge patterns, disjunction of labels uses : and |



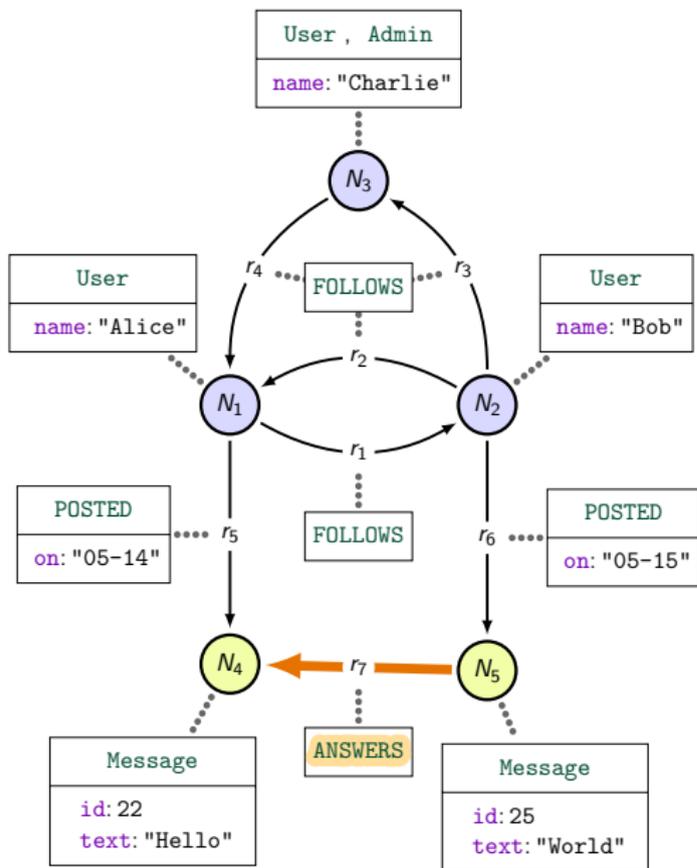
Query:

**MATCH** (u1)  
 - [l1:POSTED | ANSWERS \*]->(m1)

Result:

u1	l1	m1
$N_2$	$[r_6, r_7]$	$N_4$
$N_5$	$[r_7]$	$N_4$
$N_2$	$[r_6]$	$N_5$
$N_1$	$[r_5]$	$N_4$

- In edge patterns, disjunction of labels uses : and |



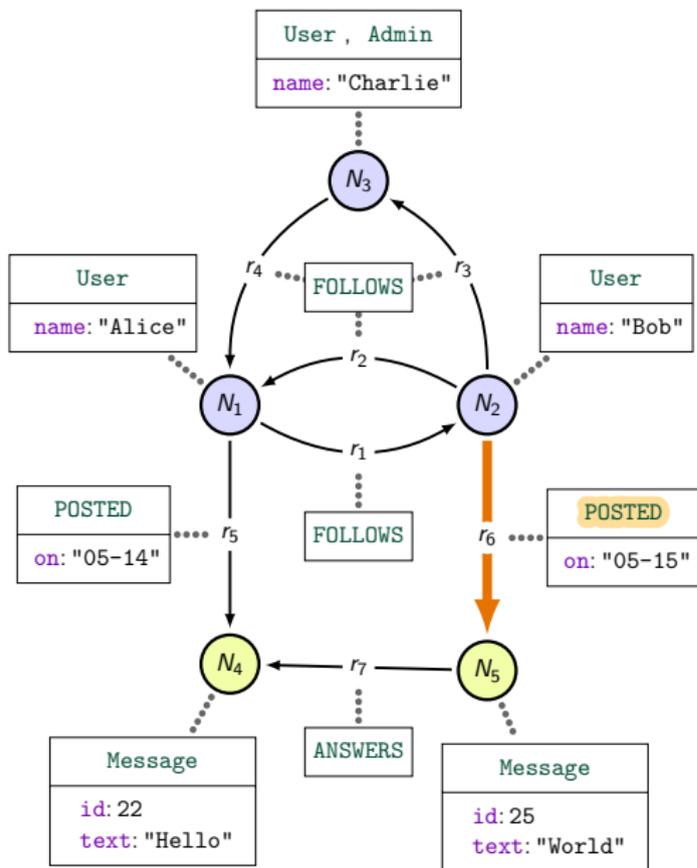
Query:

```
MATCH (u1)
  - [l1:POSTED | ANSWERS *]->(m1)
```

Result:

u1	l1	m1
$N_2$	$[r_6, r_7]$	$N_4$
$N_5$	$[r_7]$	$N_4$
$N_2$	$[r_6]$	$N_5$
$N_1$	$[r_5]$	$N_4$

- In edge patterns, disjunction of labels uses : and |



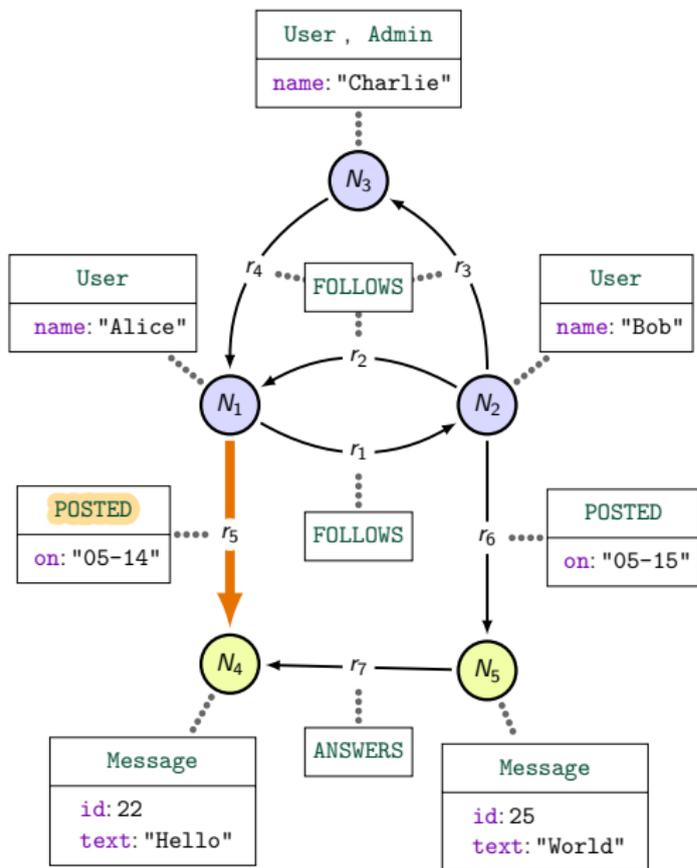
Query:

**MATCH** (u1)  
 - [l1:POSTED | ANSWERS \*]->(m1)

Result:

u1	l1	m1
$N_2$	$[r_6, r_7]$	$N_4$
$N_5$	$[r_7]$	$N_4$
$N_2$	$[r_6]$	$N_5$
$N_1$	$[r_5]$	$N_4$

- In edge patterns, disjunction of labels uses : and |



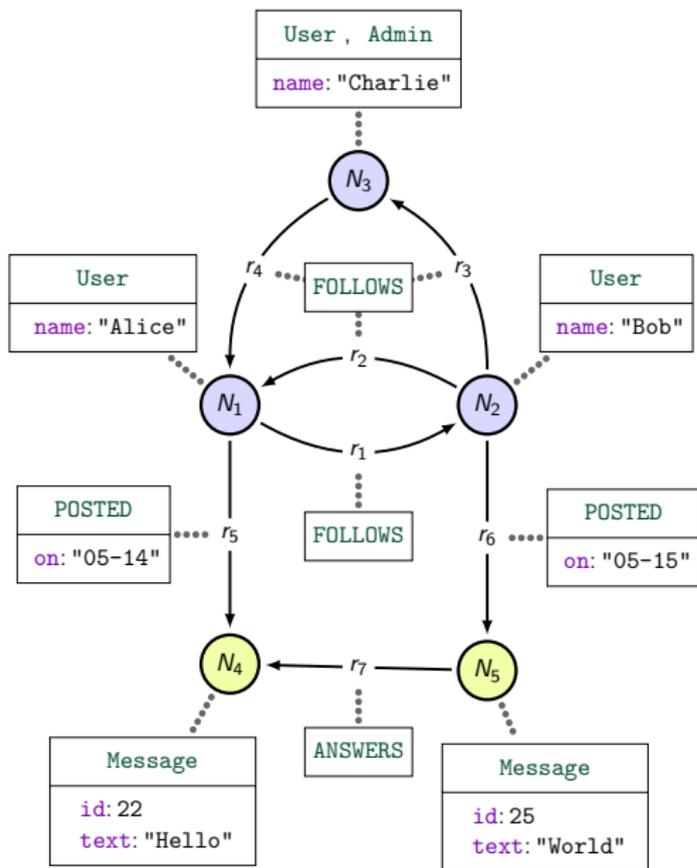
Query:

**MATCH** (u1)  
 - [l1:POSTED | ANSWERS \*]->(m1)

Result:

u1	l1	m1
$N_2$	$[r_6, r_7]$	$N_4$
$N_5$	$[r_7]$	$N_4$
$N_2$	$[r_6]$	$N_5$
$N_1$	$[r_5]$	$N_4$

- In edge patterns, disjunction of labels uses : and |

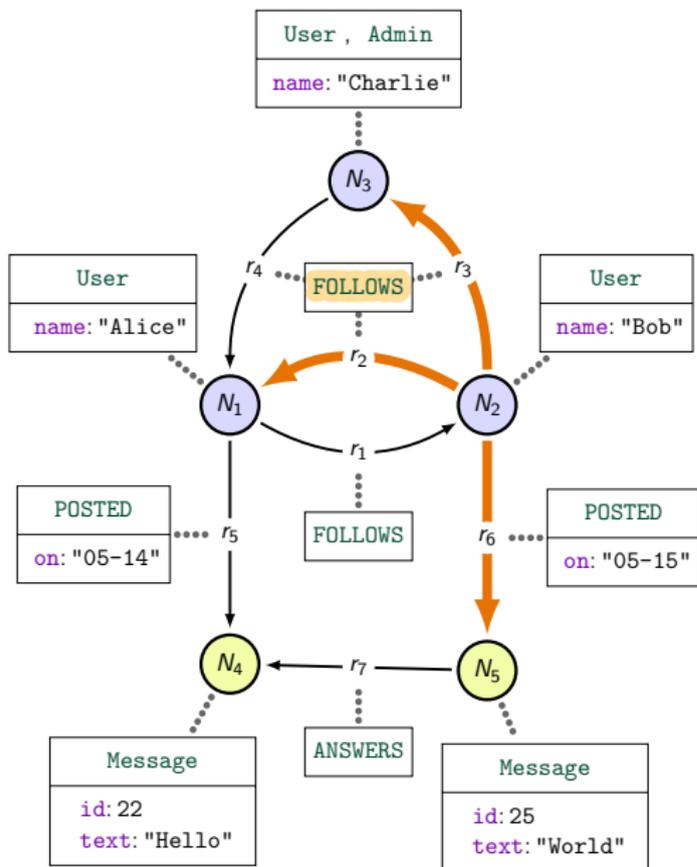


Query:

**MATCH** (u1)-[:FOLLOWS]->(u2),  
 (u1)-[:FOLLOWS]->(u3),  
 (u1)-[:POSTED]->(m1)

Result:

u1	u2	u3	m1
$N_2$	$N_1$	$N_3$	$N_5$
$N_2$	$N_3$	$N_1$	$N_5$

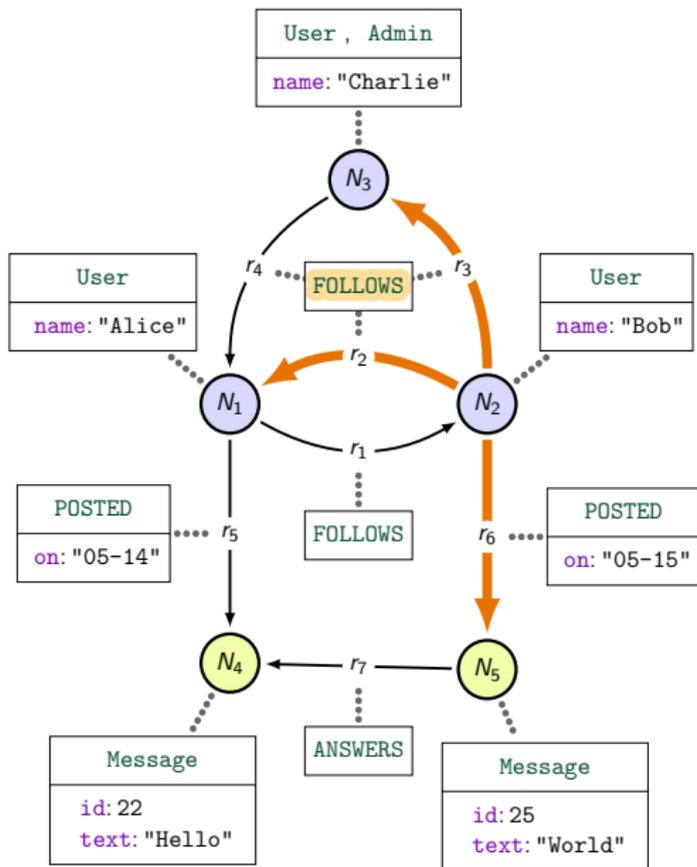


Query:

**MATCH** (u1)-[:FOLLOWS]->(u2),  
 (u1)-[:FOLLOWS]->(u3),  
 (u1)-[:POSTED]->(m1)

Result:

u1	u2	u3	m1
$N_2$	$N_1$	$N_3$	$N_5$
$N_2$	$N_3$	$N_1$	$N_5$

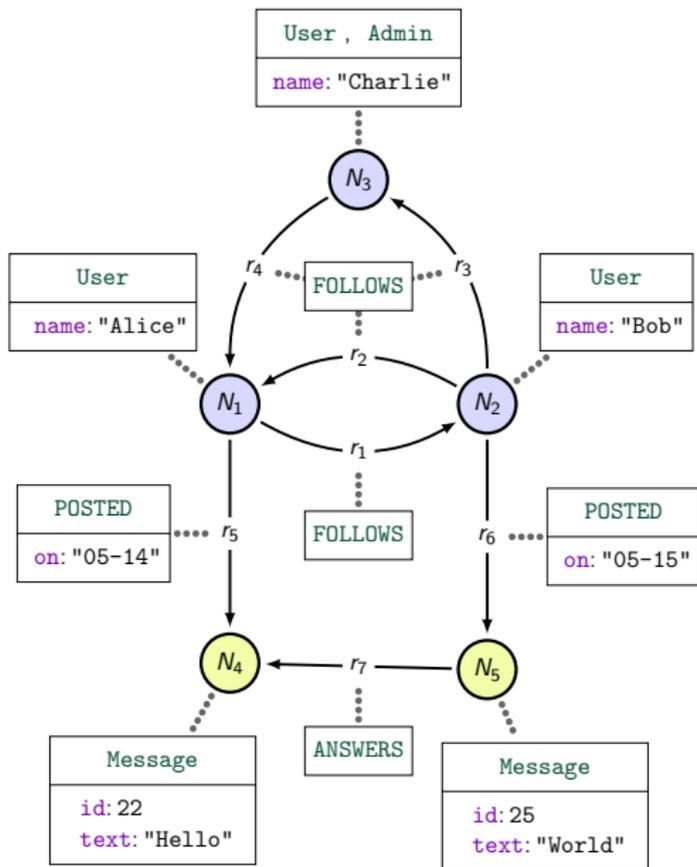


Query:

**MATCH**  $(u1) - [ :FOLLOWS ] -> (u2),$   
 $(u1) - [ :FOLLOWS ] -> (u3),$   
 $(u1) - [ :POSTED ] -> (m1)$

Result:

u1	u2	u3	m1
$N_2$	$N_1$	$N_3$	$N_5$
$N_2$	$N_3$	$N_1$	$N_5$



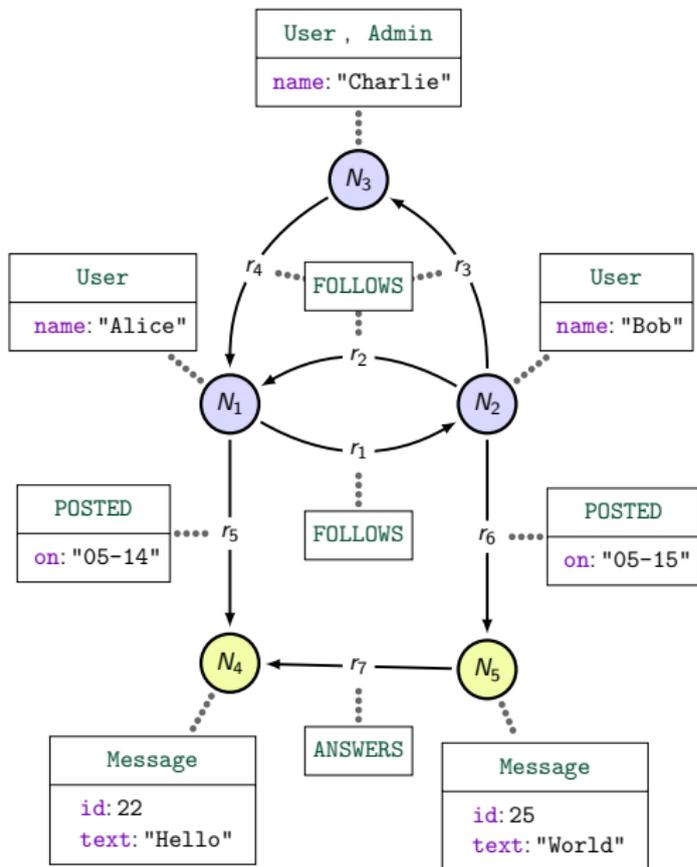
Query:

**MATCH** (u1)-[:FOLLOWS]->(u2),  
 (u1)-[:FOLLOWS]->(u3),  
 (u1)-[:POSTED]->(m1)

Result:

u1	u2	u3	m1
$N_2$	$N_1$	$N_3$	$N_5$
$N_2$	$N_3$	$N_1$	$N_5$





Query:

**MATCH** (u1)-[:FOLLOWS]->(u2),  
 (u1)-[:FOLLOWS]->(u3),  
 (u1)-[:POSTED]->(m1)

Result:

u1	u2	u3	m1
$N_2$	$N_1$	$N_3$	$N_5$
$N_2$	$N_3$	$N_1$	$N_5$



CRPQ



Cartesian product



- C2RPQ-like pattern-matching
  - Equi-join on variables that are used multiple times
- Trail semantics (no repeated edge in the same MATCH)
- Computation of the resulting table:
  - C2RPQ-like evaluations  $\rightarrow$  tuples of walks
  - project on variables
  - return a table: variable as column names, one line per tuple of walks

- Letters are put between brackets

**A**  $\rightsquigarrow$   $()-[:A]->()$

**B**  $\rightsquigarrow$   $()<-[:B]-()$

- Letters are put between brackets

**A**  $\rightsquigarrow$   $()-[:A]->()$

**B**  $\rightsquigarrow$   $()<-[:B]-()$

- Repetitions follows a \* in brackets

**A<sup>+</sup>**  $\rightsquigarrow$   $()-[:A *]->()$

**A\***  $\rightsquigarrow$   $()-[:A *0..]->()$

- Letters are put between brackets

**A**  $\rightsquigarrow$   $()-[:A]->()$

**$\bar{B}$**   $\rightsquigarrow$   $()<-[:B]-()$

- Repetitions follows a \* in brackets

**A**<sup>+</sup>  $\rightsquigarrow$   $()-[:A *]->()$

**A**<sup>\*</sup>  $\rightsquigarrow$   $()-[:A *0..]->()$

- Concatenation is done by direct chaining

**A** · **B**<sup>+</sup> · **C**  $\rightsquigarrow$   $()->[:A]->()-[:B*]->()-[:C]->()$

- Letters are put between brackets

$A \rightsquigarrow ()-[:A]->()$

$\bar{B} \rightsquigarrow ()<-[:B]-()$

- Repetitions follows a \* in brackets

$A^+ \rightsquigarrow ()-[:A *]->()$

$A^* \rightsquigarrow ()-[:A *0..]->()$

- Concatenation is done by direct chaining

$A \cdot B^+ \cdot C \rightsquigarrow ()->[:A]->()-[:B*]->()-[:C]->()$

- Union is simulated by | in bracket or any-directed edge patterns

$A + B \rightsquigarrow ()-[:A|B]->()$

$C + \bar{C} \rightsquigarrow ()-[:C]-()$

- Letters are put between brackets

$$A \rightsquigarrow ()-[:A]->()$$

$$\bar{B} \rightsquigarrow ()<-[:B]-()$$

- Repetitions follows a \* in brackets

$$A^+ \rightsquigarrow ()-[:A *]->()$$

$$A^* \rightsquigarrow ()-[:A *0..]->()$$

- Concatenation is done by direct chaining

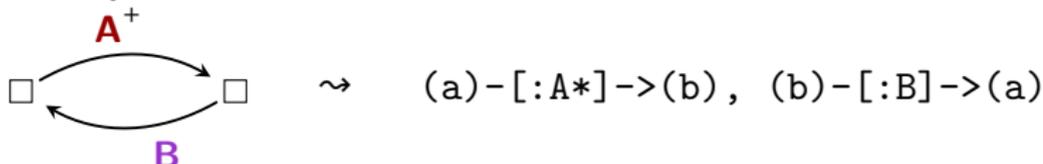
$$A \cdot B^+ \cdot C \rightsquigarrow ()->[:A]->()-[:B*]->()-[:C]->()$$

- Union is simulated by | in bracket or any-directed edge patterns

$$A + B \rightsquigarrow ()-[:A|B]->()$$

$$C + \bar{C} \rightsquigarrow ()-[:C]-()$$

- CRPQs are simulated with commas



$$\square \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{A^+} \\ \xleftarrow{B} \end{array} \square \rightsquigarrow (a)-[:A*]->(b), (b)-[:B]->(a)$$

- Letters are put between brackets

$$A \rightsquigarrow ()-[:A]->()$$

$$\bar{B} \rightsquigarrow ()<-[:B]-()$$

- Repetitions follows a \* in brackets

$$A^+ \rightsquigarrow ()-[:A *]->()$$

$$A^* \rightsquigarrow ()-[:A *0..]->()$$

- Concatenation is done by direct chaining

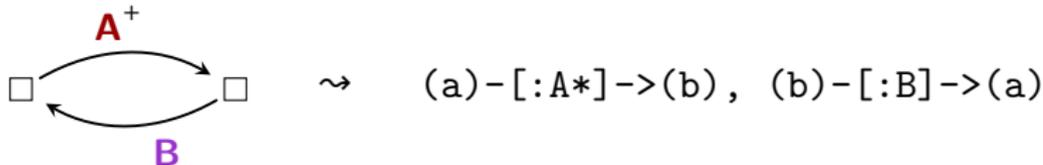
$$A \cdot B^+ \cdot C \rightsquigarrow ()->[:A]->()-[:B*]->()-[:C]->()$$

- Union is simulated by | in bracket or any-directed edge patterns

$$A + B \rightsquigarrow ()-[:A|B]->()$$

$$C + \bar{C} \rightsquigarrow ()-[:C]-()$$

- CRPQs are simulated with commas



$$\square \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{A^+} \\ \xleftarrow{B} \end{array} \square \rightsquigarrow (a)-[:A*]->(b), (b)-[:B]->(a)$$

**Exercise:** find RPQs, 2RPQs and 2CRPQs that are not expressible with **MATCH**

**MATCH** cannot express all C2RPQs

## RPQs

- Only atoms can be unionized
- No nested stars
- No concatenation under star

$AA + BB$

$(A^*B)^*$

$(A \cdot B)^*$

## RPQs

- Only atoms can be unionized
- No nested stars
- No concatenation under star

 $AA + BB$  $(A^*B)^*$  $(A \cdot B)^*$ 

## 2RPQs

- Unions of atoms with inconsistent directions

 $A + \bar{B}$ 

NB:  $A + \bar{A} + B + \bar{B}$  is expressible with  $()-[ :A|B ]-()$

## RPQs

- Only atoms can be unionized
- No nested stars
- No concatenation under star

$$AA + BB$$

$$(A^*B)^*$$

$$(A \cdot B)^*$$

## 2RPQs

- Unions of atoms with inconsistent directions

$$A + \bar{B}$$

NB:  $A + \bar{A} + B + \bar{B}$  is expressible with  $(\ ) - [ :A | B ] - (\ )$

## C2RPQs

- No further restrictions

- Testing properties

`MATCH () - [{date: "22-12"}] -> ()`

- Testing properties

```
MATCH ()-[{date:"22-12"}]->()
```

- Testing labels and properties **on nodes**

```
MATCH (:Admin)
```

```
MATCH ({id:21})
```

- Testing properties

```
MATCH ()-[{date:"22-12"}]->()
```

- Testing labels and properties **on nodes**

```
MATCH (:Admin)
```

```
MATCH ({id:21})
```

- Returning part of the matched walks thanks to variable

```
MATCH (a)-[:Road*]->() ~> source nodes
```

```
MATCH ()-[b:Road*]->() ~> edge lists
```

```
MATCH ()-[:Road*]->(c:Gas)-[:Road*]->() ~> middle nodes
```

- Testing properties

MATCH ()-[{date:"22-12"}]->()

- Testing labels and properties **on nodes**

MATCH (:Admin)

MATCH ({id:21})

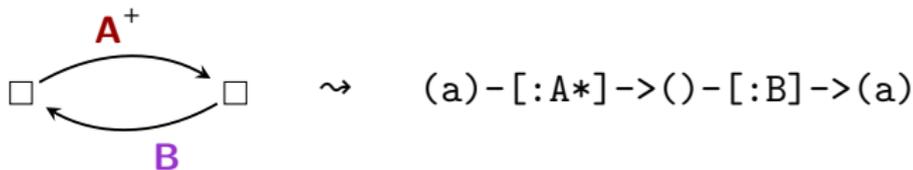
- Returning part of the matched walks thanks to variable

MATCH (a)-[:Road\*]->()  $\rightsquigarrow$  source nodes

MATCH ()-[b:Road\*]->()  $\rightsquigarrow$  edge lists

MATCH ()-[:Road\*]->(c:Gas)-[:Road\*]->()  $\rightsquigarrow$  middle nodes

- Variable reuse allows lightweight C2RPQ without commas



Part III: Cypher

### **3. Sequence of clauses**

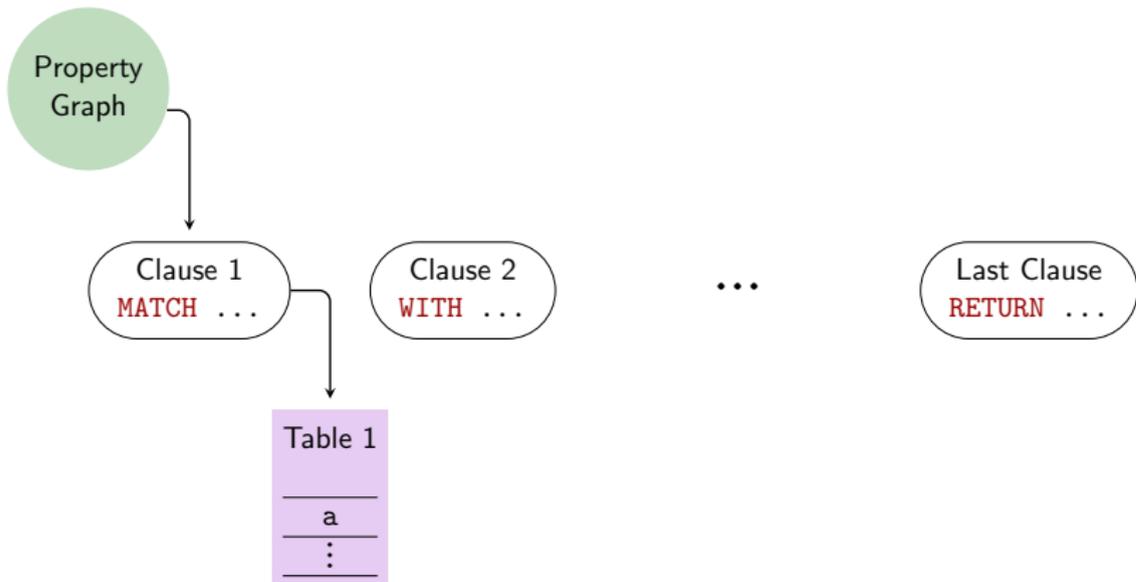
Property  
Graph

Clause 1  
**MATCH** ...

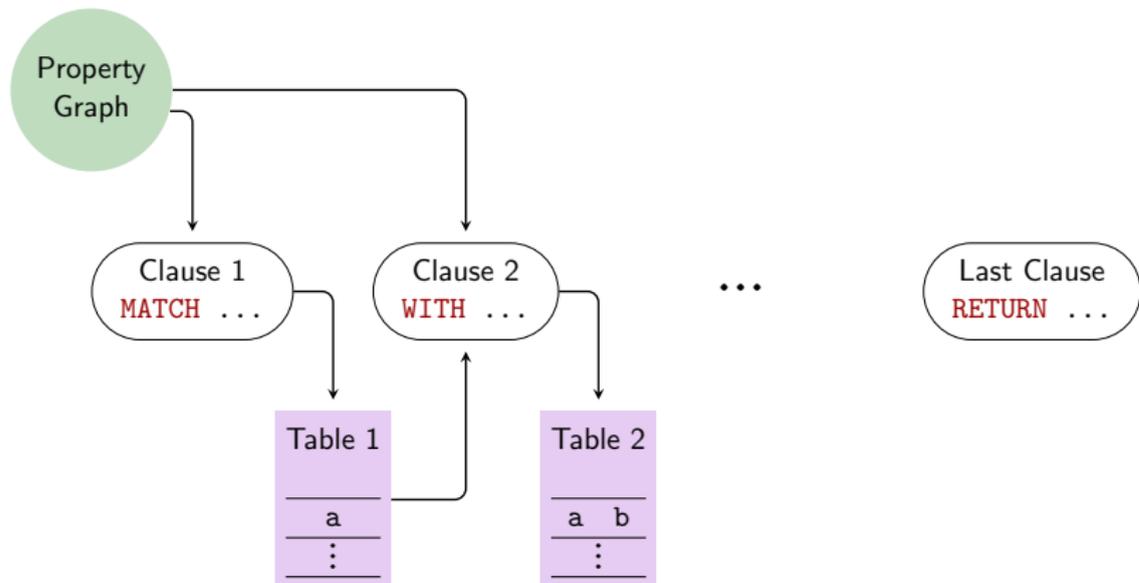
Clause 2  
**WITH** ...

...

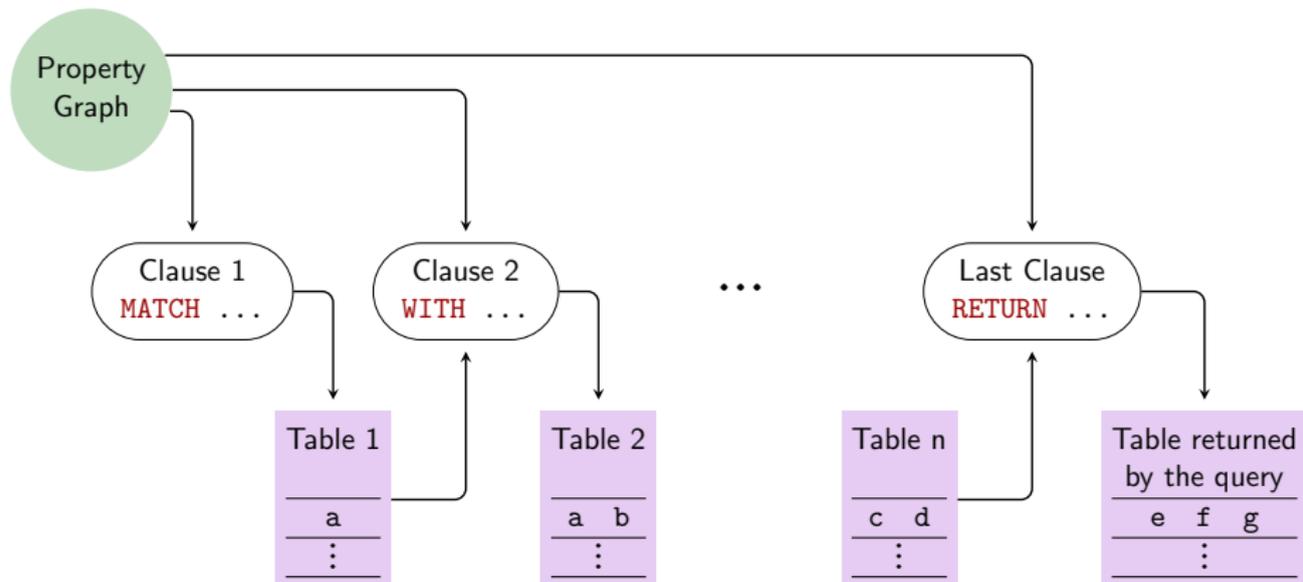
Last Clause  
**RETURN** ...



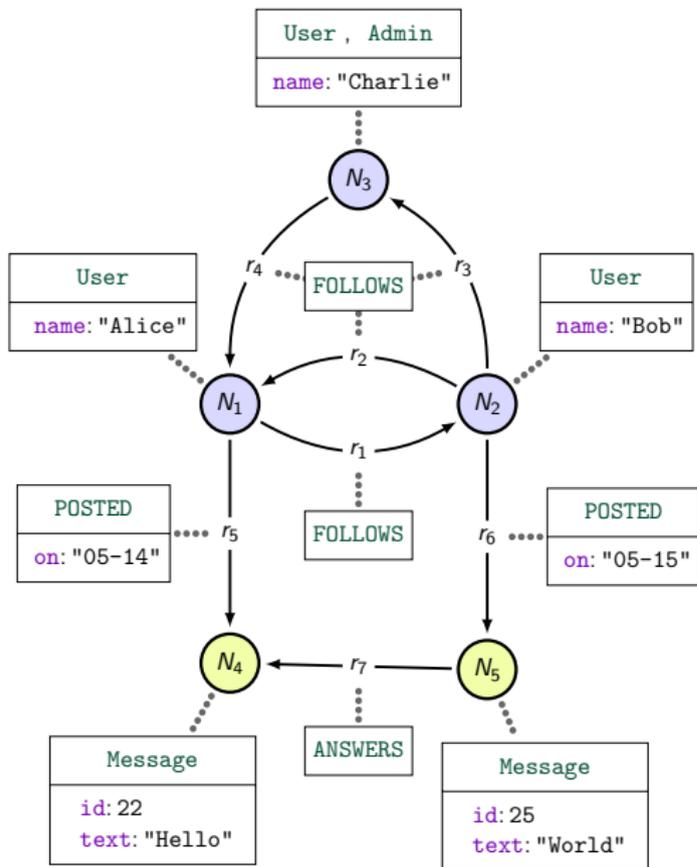
- The first clause produces a table from the property graph



- The first clause produces a table from the property graph
- Subsequent clauses produces a new table from the property graph **and the prior table**



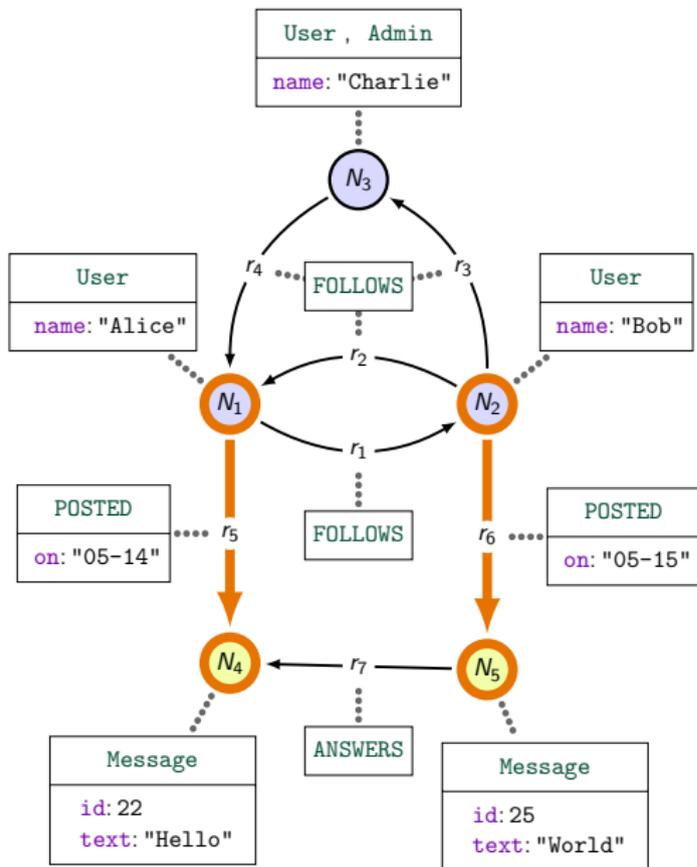
- The first clause produces a table from the property graph
- Subsequent clauses produces a new table from the property graph **and the prior table**
- Until we reach the last clause, which produces the table to return



Query:

**MATCH** (u1)-[:POSTED]->(m1)

**MATCH** (u2)<-[:FOLLOWS]-(u1)  
-[:FOLLOWS]->(u3)



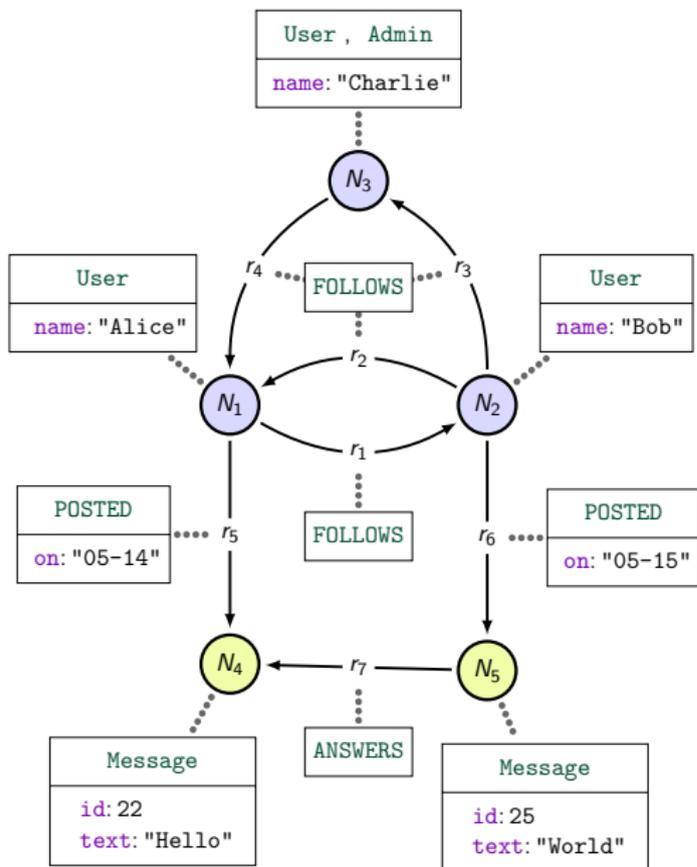
Query:

**MATCH** (u1)-[:POSTED]->(m1)

**MATCH** (u2)<-[:FOLLOWS]-(u1)  
-[:FOLLOWS]->(u3)

Table after first **MATCH**:

u1	m1
$N_1$	$N_4$
$N_2$	$N_5$



Query:

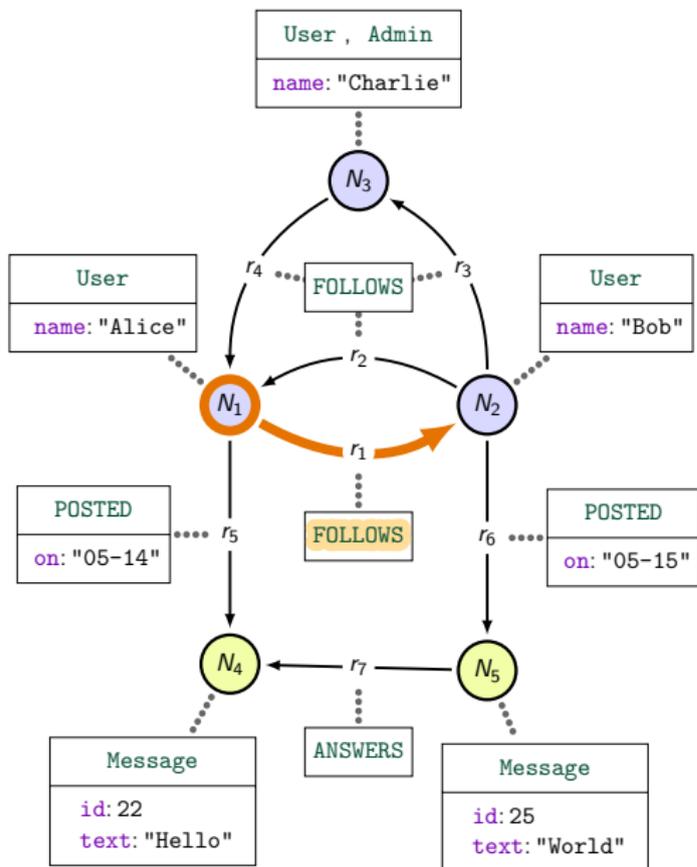
```
MATCH (u1)-[:POSTED]->(m1)
MATCH (u2)-[:FOLLOWS]->(u1)
      -[:FOLLOWS]->(u3)
```

Table after first MATCH:

u1	m1
$N_1$	$N_4$
$N_2$	$N_5$

Table after second MATCH:

u1	m1	u2	u3
$N_1$	$N_4$	.	.
$N_2$	$N_5$	.	.



Query:

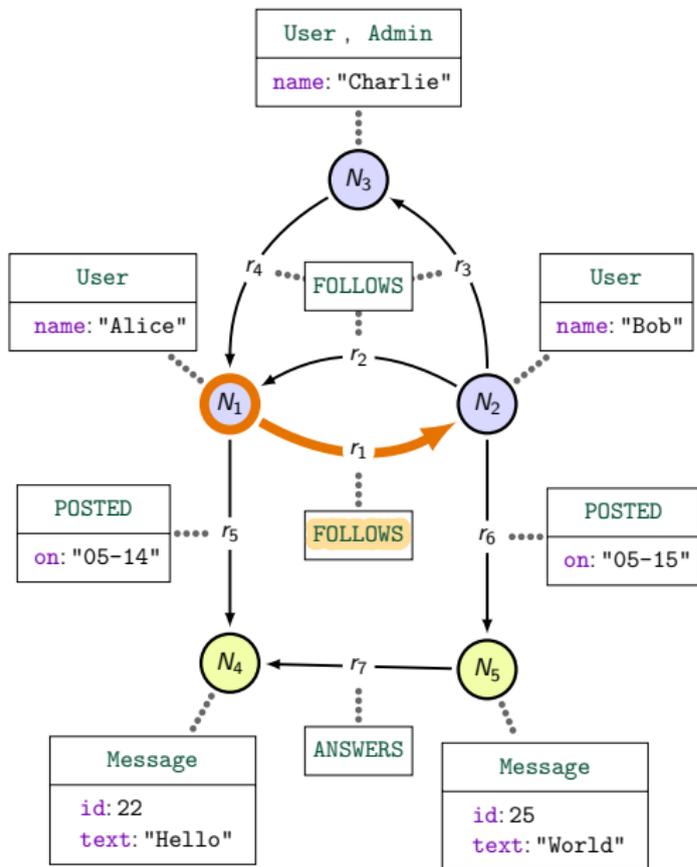
```
MATCH (u1)-[:POSTED]->(m1)
MATCH (u2)-[:FOLLOWS]->(u1)
      -[:FOLLOWS]->(u3)
```

Table after first MATCH:

u1	m1
$N_1$	$N_4$
$N_2$	$N_5$

Table after second MATCH:

u1	m1	u2	u3
$N_1$	$N_4$	.	.
$N_2$	$N_5$	.	.



Query:

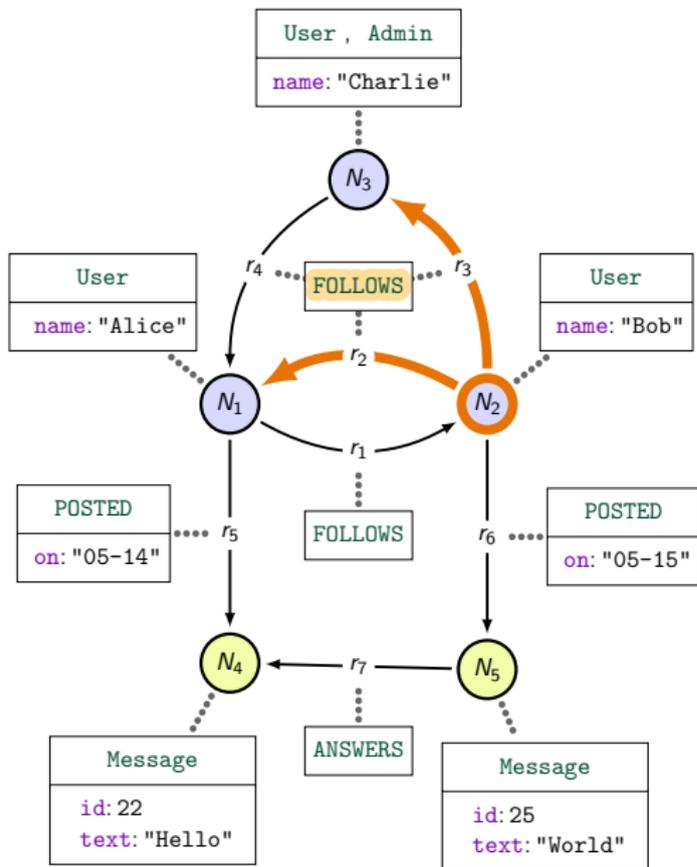
```
MATCH (u1)-[:POSTED]->(m1)
MATCH (u2)-[:FOLLOWS]->(u1)
      -[:FOLLOWS]->(u3)
```

Table after first MATCH:

u1	m1
$N_1$	$N_4$
$N_2$	$N_5$

Table after second MATCH:

u1	m1	u2	u3
$N_1$	$N_4$	.	.
$N_2$	$N_5$	.	.



Query:

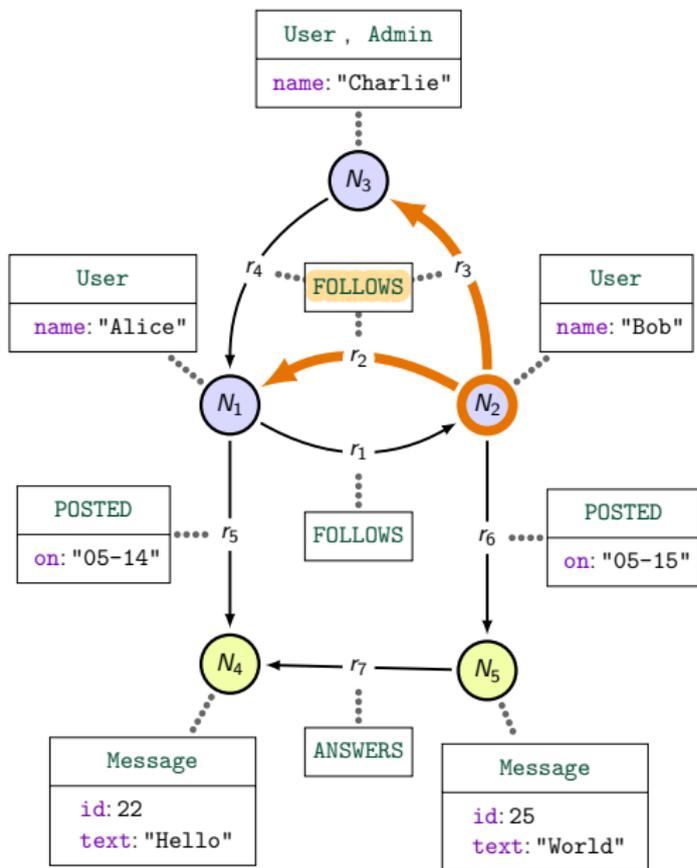
```
MATCH (u1)-[:POSTED]->(m1)
MATCH (u2)-[:FOLLOWS]->(u1)
      -[:FOLLOWS]->(u3)
```

Table after first MATCH:

u1	m1
$N_1$	$N_4$
$N_2$	$N_5$

Table after second MATCH:

u1	m1	u2	u3
<del><math>N_1</math></del>	<del><math>N_4</math></del>	.	.
$N_2$	$N_5$	.	.



Query:

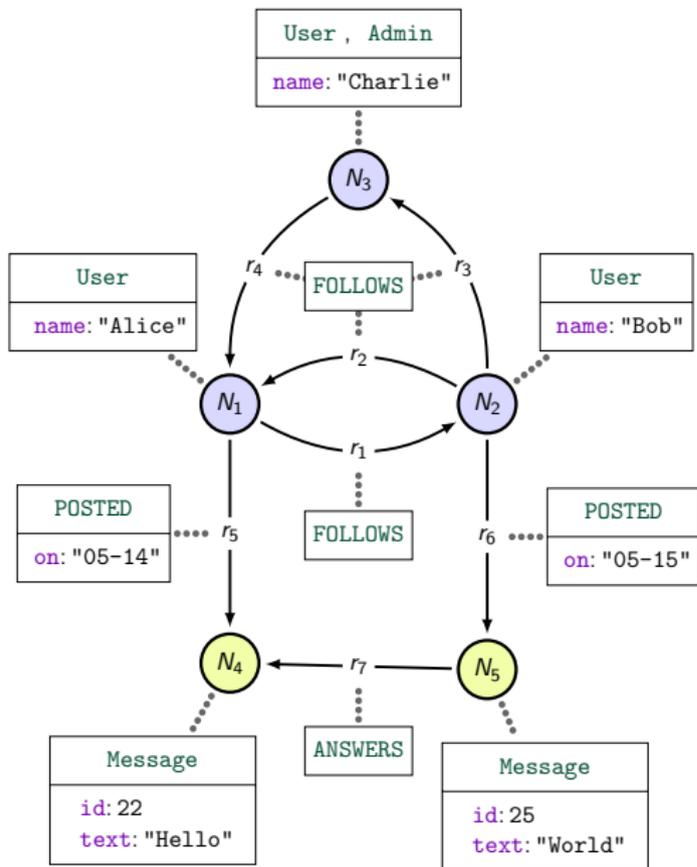
```
MATCH (u1)-[:POSTED]->(m1)
MATCH (u2)-[:FOLLOWS]-(u1)
      -[:FOLLOWS]->(u3)
```

Table after first MATCH:

u1	m1
$N_1$	$N_4$
$N_2$	$N_5$

Table after second MATCH:

u1	m1	u2	u3
$N_2$	$N_5$	$N_1$	$N_3$
$N_2$	$N_5$	$N_3$	$N_1$



The two following queries compute similar thing:

**MATCH** (a)  $\langle pat_1 \rangle$  (b)  $\langle pat_2 \rangle$  (c)

**MATCH** (a)  $\langle pat_1 \rangle$  (b)

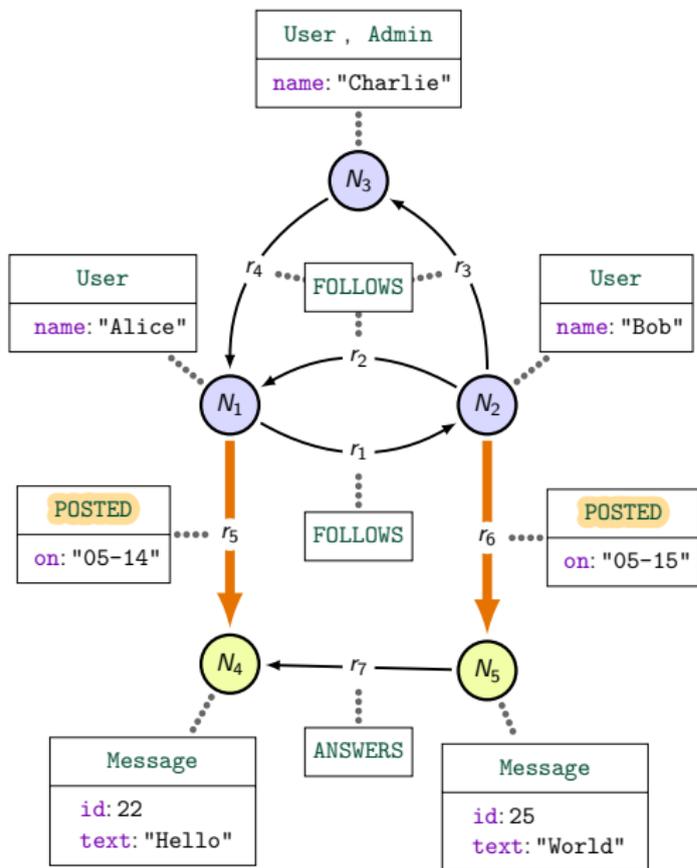
**MATCH** (b)  $\langle pat_2 \rangle$  (c)

**1** Compute their answer for  
 $\langle pat_1 \rangle = -[:FOLLOWS]->$   
 $\langle pat_2 \rangle = -[:POSTED]->$

**2** Can you find patterns  $\langle pat_1 \rangle$  and  $\langle pat_2 \rangle$  for which their answer is different?

Part III: Cypher

## 4. Usage of **WITH** (or **RETURN**)

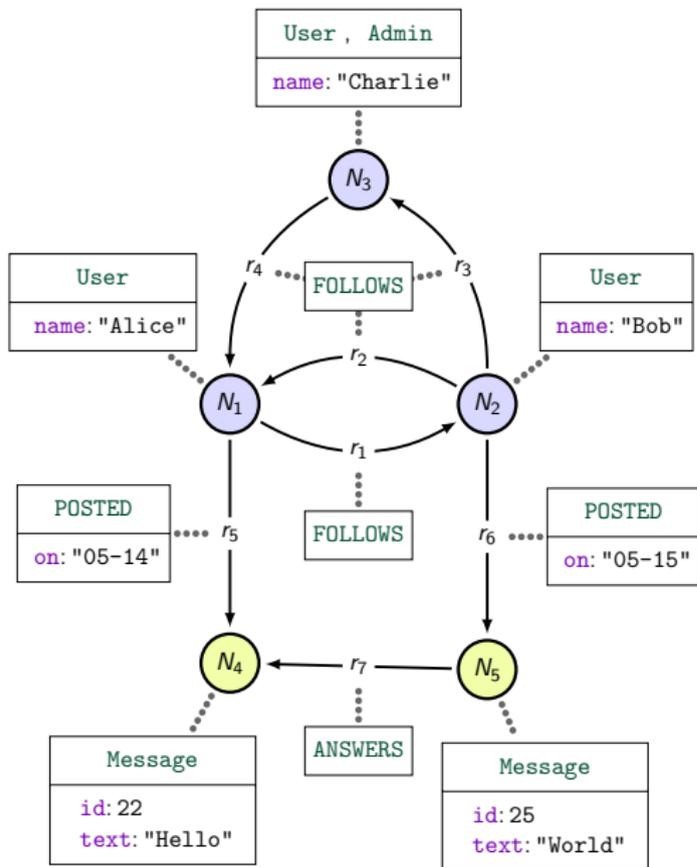


Query:

```
MATCH (u1)-[p1:POSTED]->(m1)
WITH u1, p1, m1.text AS t1
```

After the MATCH clause

u1	p1	m1
$N_1$	$r_5$	$N_4$
$N_2$	$r_6$	$N_5$



Query:

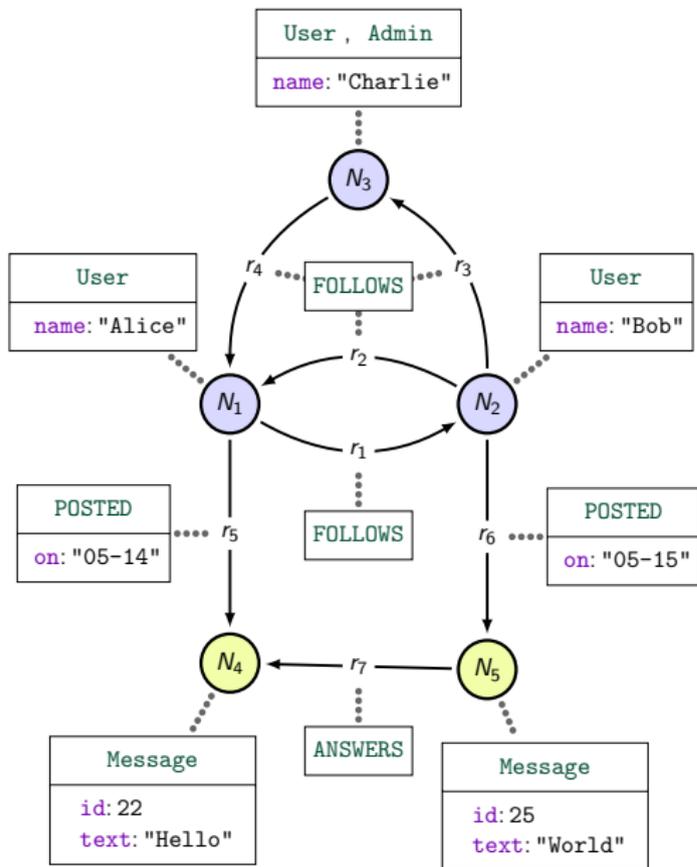
**MATCH** (u1)-[p1:POSTED]->(m1)  
**WITH** u1, p1, m1.text **AS** t1

After the **MATCH** clause

u1	p1	m1
$N_1$	$r_5$	$N_4$
$N_2$	$r_6$	$N_5$

Execution of the **WITH** clause

u1	p1	t1
$N_1$	$r_5$	
$N_2$	$r_6$	



Query:

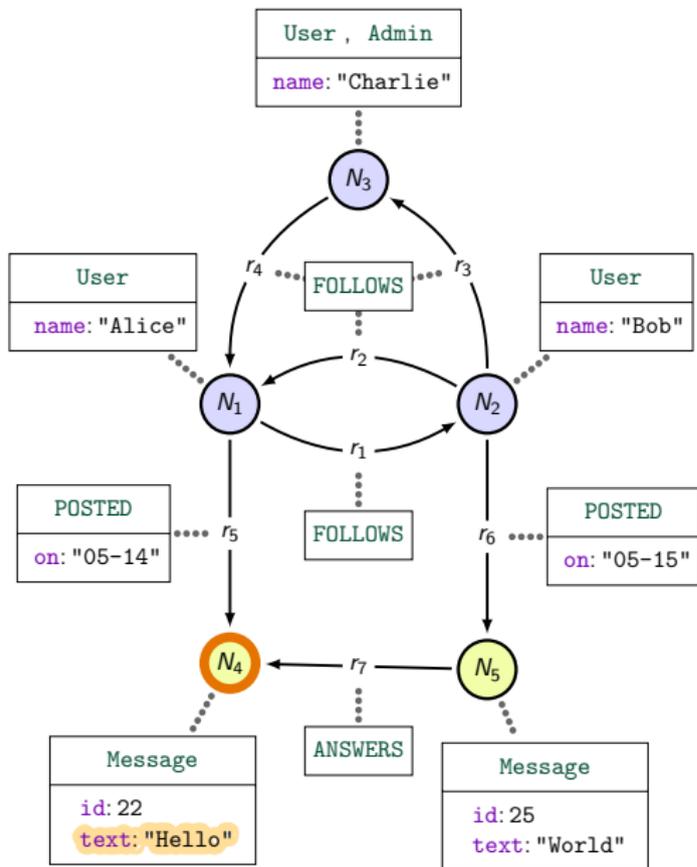
**MATCH** (u1)-[p1:POSTED]->(m1)  
**WITH** u1, p1, m1.text AS t1

After the **MATCH** clause

u1	p1	m1
$N_1$	$r_5$	$N_4$
$N_2$	$r_6$	$N_5$

Execution of the **WITH** clause

u1	p1	t1
$N_1$	$r_5$	
$N_2$	$r_6$	



Query:

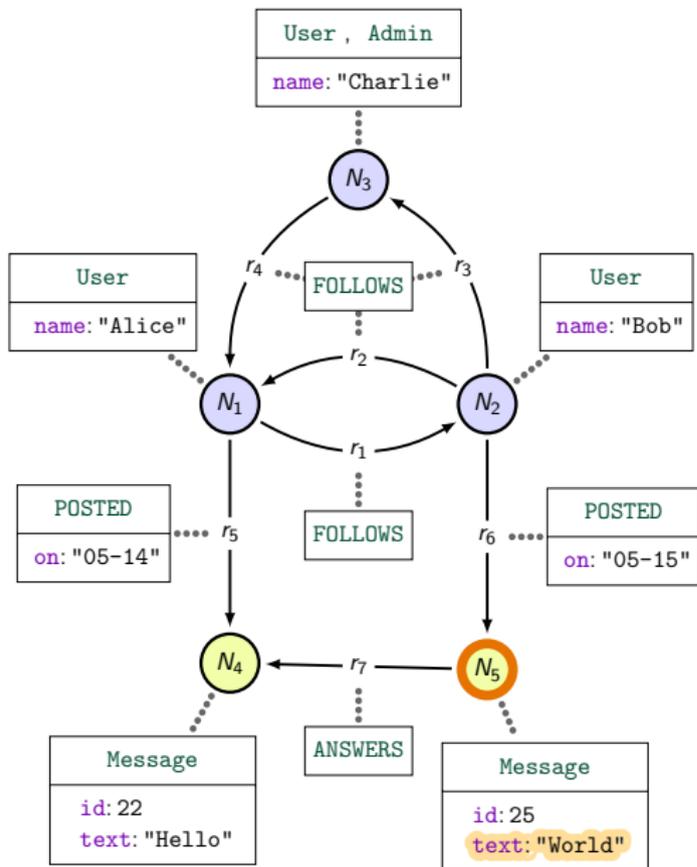
**MATCH** (u1)-[p1:POSTED]->(m1)  
**WITH** u1, p1, m1.text AS t1

After the **MATCH** clause

u1	p1	m1
$N_1$	$r_5$	$N_4$
$N_2$	$r_6$	$N_5$

Execution of the **WITH** clause

u1	p1	t1
$N_1$	$r_5$	"Hello"
$N_2$	$r_6$	



Query:

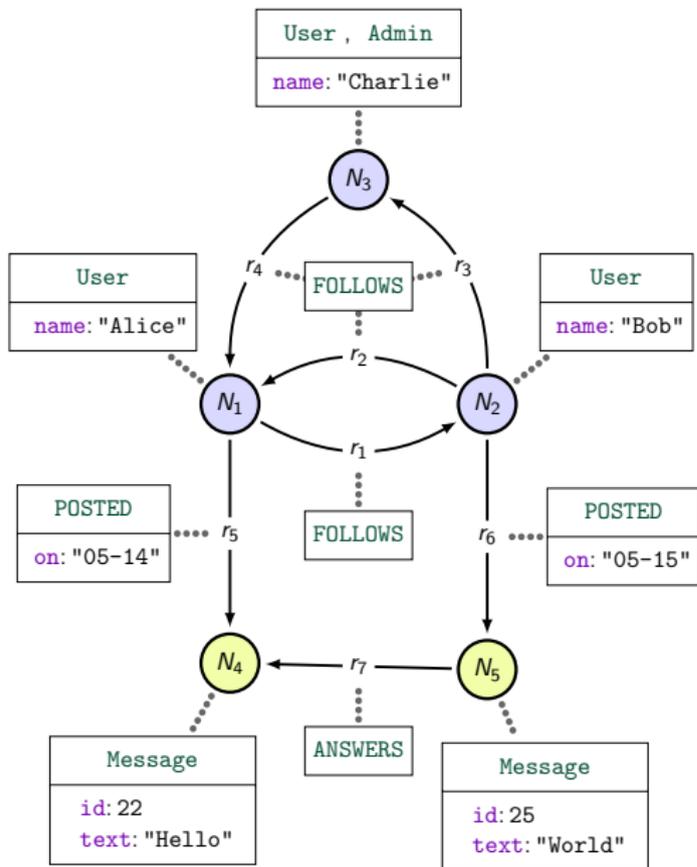
**MATCH** (u1)-[p1:POSTED]->(m1)  
**WITH** u1, p1, m1.text AS t1

After the **MATCH** clause

u1	p1	m1
$N_1$	$r_5$	$N_4$
$N_2$	$r_6$	$N_5$

Execution of the **WITH** clause

u1	p1	t1
$N_1$	$r_5$	"Hello"
$N_2$	$r_6$	"World"



Query:

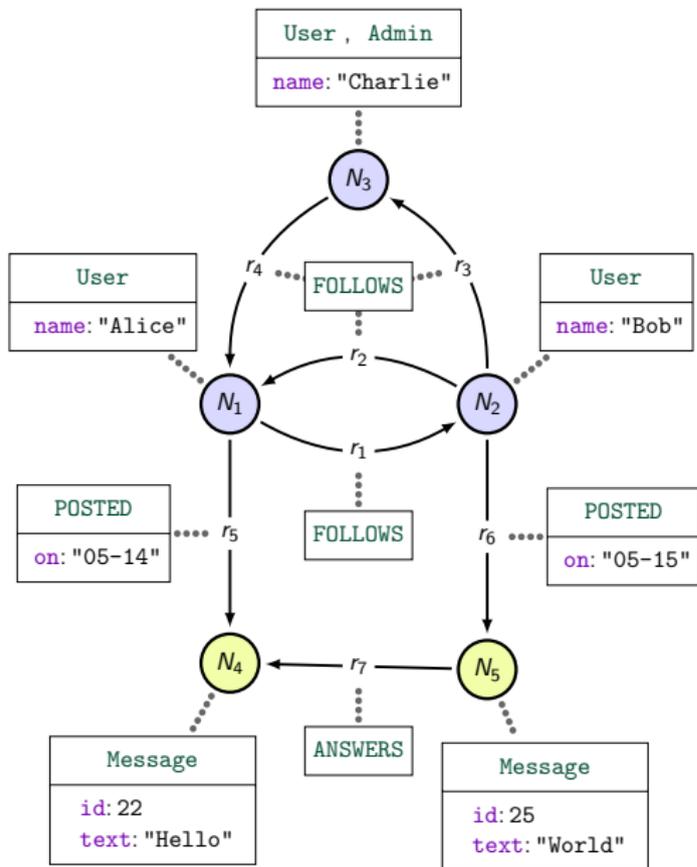
```
MATCH (u1)-[p1:POSTED]->(m1)
WITH u1, p1, m1.text AS t1
```

After the **MATCH** clause

u1	p1	m1
$N_1$	$r_5$	$N_4$
$N_2$	$r_6$	$N_5$

After **WITH**:

u1	p1	t1
$N_1$	$r_5$	"Hello"
$N_2$	$r_6$	"World"



Query:

```
MATCH (u1)-[:FOLLOWS]->()
WITH DISTINCT u1
```

After MATCH:

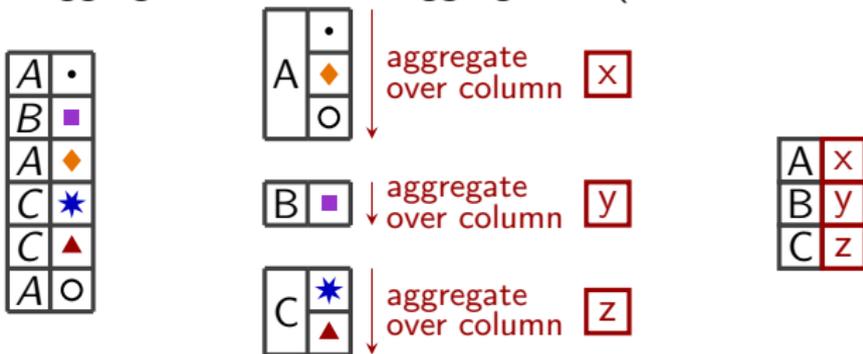
u1
$N_1$
$N_2$
$N_2$
$N_3$

After WITH:

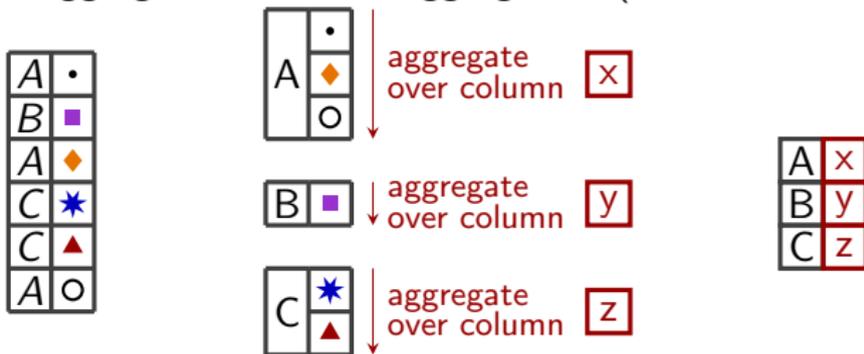
u1
$N_1$
$N_2$
$N_3$

- Aggregation = Compute one value from a list/set of value  
Ex: sum, count, max, collect

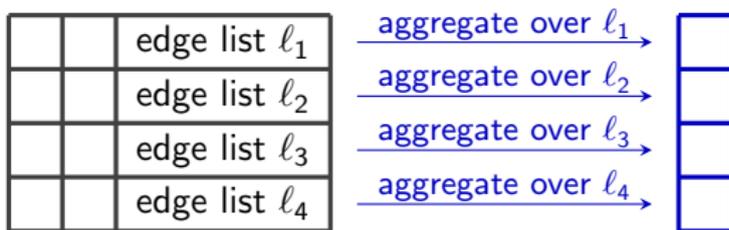
- Aggregation = Compute one value from a list/set of value  
Ex: sum, count, max, collect
- Vertical aggregation = usual aggregation (GROUP BY in SQL)



- Aggregation = Compute one value from a list/set of value  
Ex: sum, count, max, collect
- Vertical aggregation = usual aggregation (GROUP BY in SQL)



- Horizontal aggregation = aggregate over each matched paths

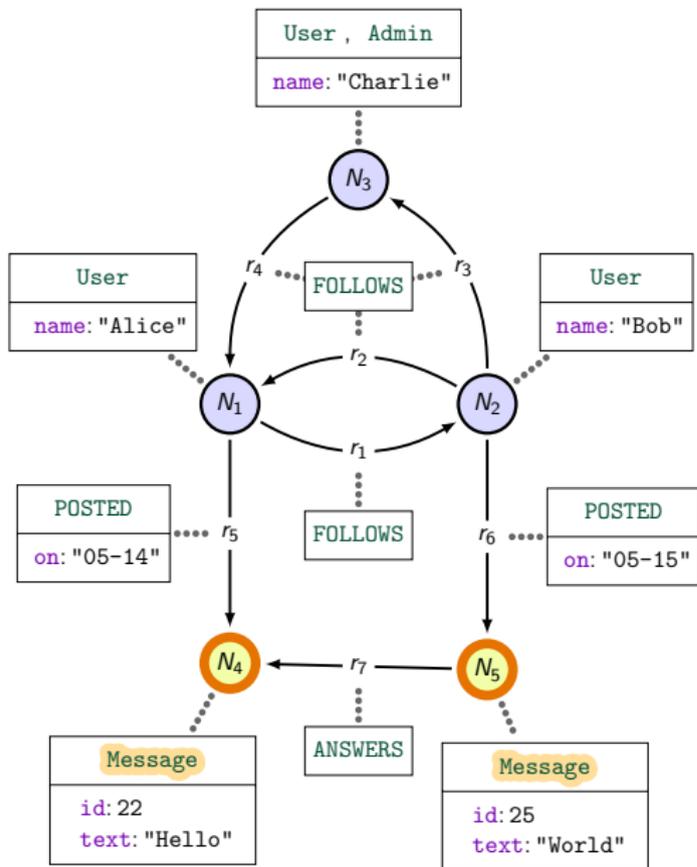


**WITH**  $\langle columns \rangle$ ,  $\langle aggr \rangle(\langle expr \rangle)$

**Grouping is implicit:** every variable used in  $\langle columns \rangle$  is used for grouping

$\langle aggr \rangle$  is a built-in **aggregation function**, that is, a function from list to a single value.

Example: **count**, **sum**, **min**, **collect**, etc.



Query:

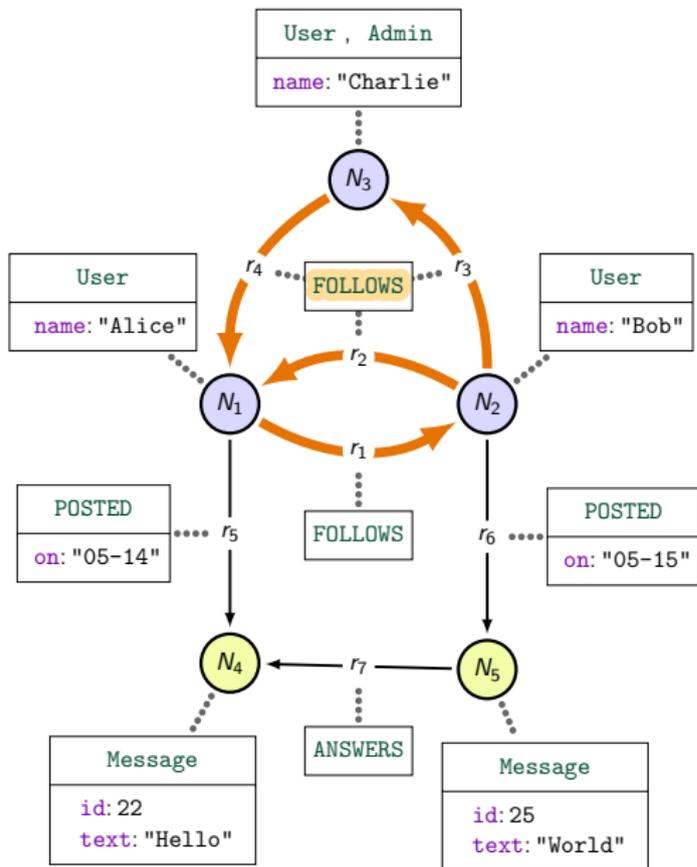
```
MATCH (m1:Message)
WITH count(m1) AS c
```

After MATCH:

<u>m1</u>
$N_4$
$N_5$

After WITH:

<u>c</u>
2



Query:

```
MATCH (u1)-[:FOLLOWS]-(u2)
WITH u1, collect(u2.name) AS n
```

Result after WITH:

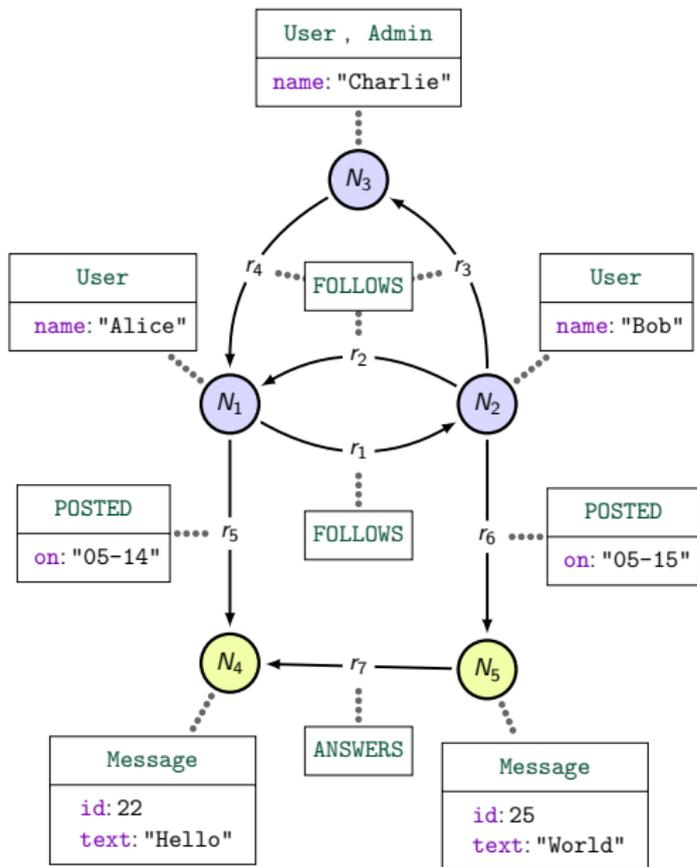
u1	n
$N_1$	["Bob", "Charlie"]
$N_2$	["Alice"]
$N_3$	["Bob"]



Grouping by u1



# Exercice: what does this compute?



Query:

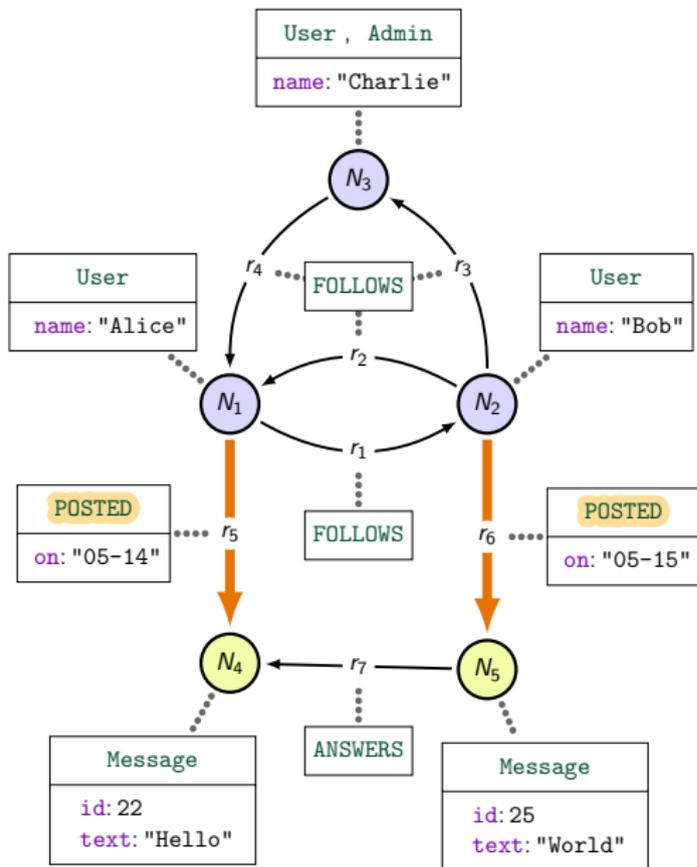
```
MATCH ()-[e:POSTED]->()
```

```
WITH max(e.on) AS d
```

```
MATCH ()-[:POSTED  
                {on:d}]->(m1)
```

```
WITH m1.text as txt
```

# Exercice: what does this compute?



Query:

```
MATCH ()-[e:POSTED]->()
```

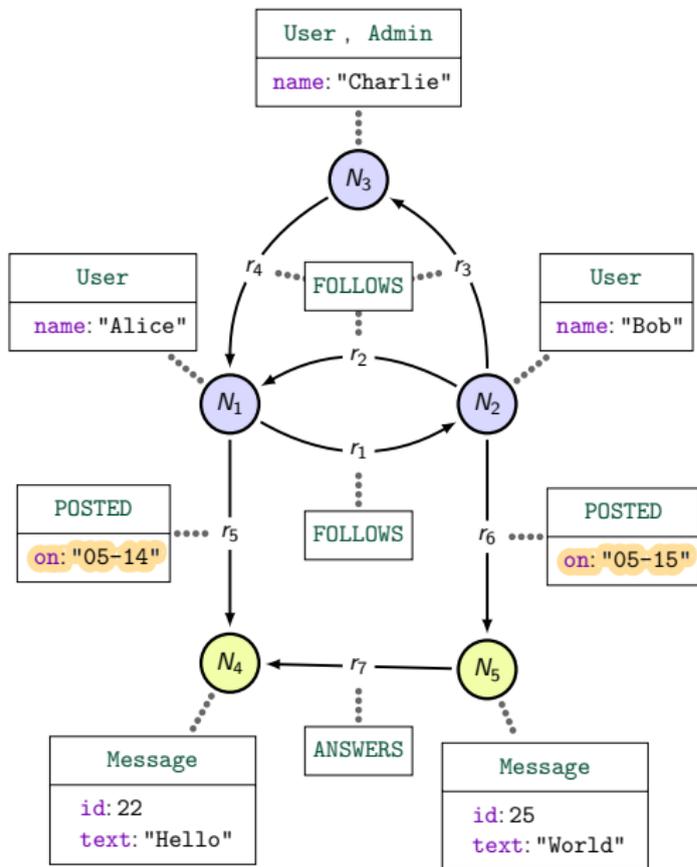
```
WITH max(e.on) AS d
```

```
MATCH ()-[[:POSTED  
{on:d}]]->(m1)
```

```
WITH m1.text as txt
```

            
e  
            
r<sub>5</sub>  
            
r<sub>6</sub>

# Exercice: what does this compute?



Query:

```
MATCH ()-[e:POSTED]->()
```

```
WITH max(e.on) AS d
```

```
MATCH ()-[[:POSTED  
{on:d}]]->(m1)
```

```
WITH m1.text as txt
```

e

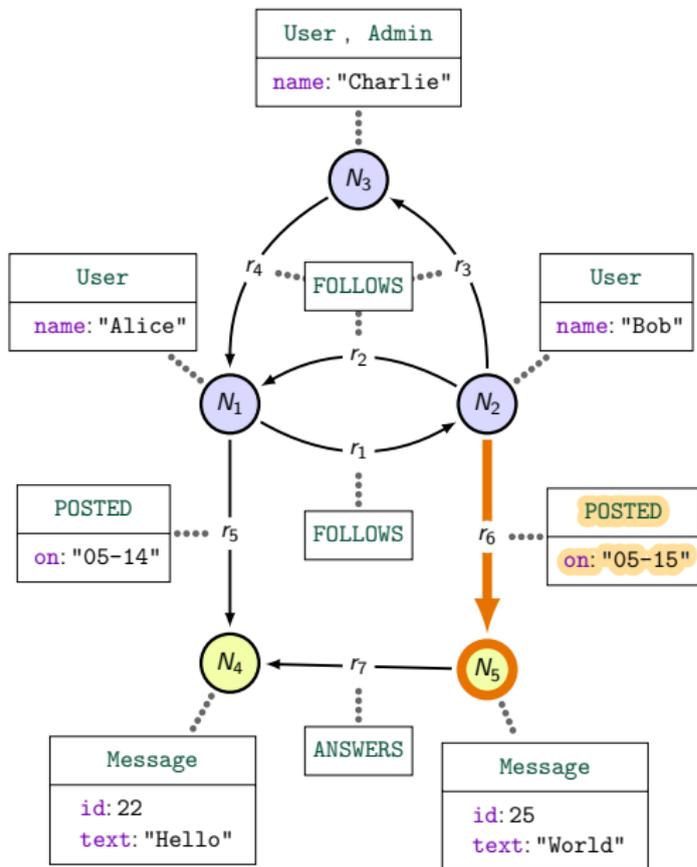
$r_5$

$r_6$

d

"05-15"

# Exercice: what does this compute?



Query:

```
MATCH ()-[e:POSTED]->()
```

```
WITH max(e.on) AS d
```

```
MATCH ()-[ :POSTED  
                {on:d}] ->(m1)
```

```
WITH m1.text as txt
```

e

r<sub>5</sub>

r<sub>6</sub>

d

"05-15"

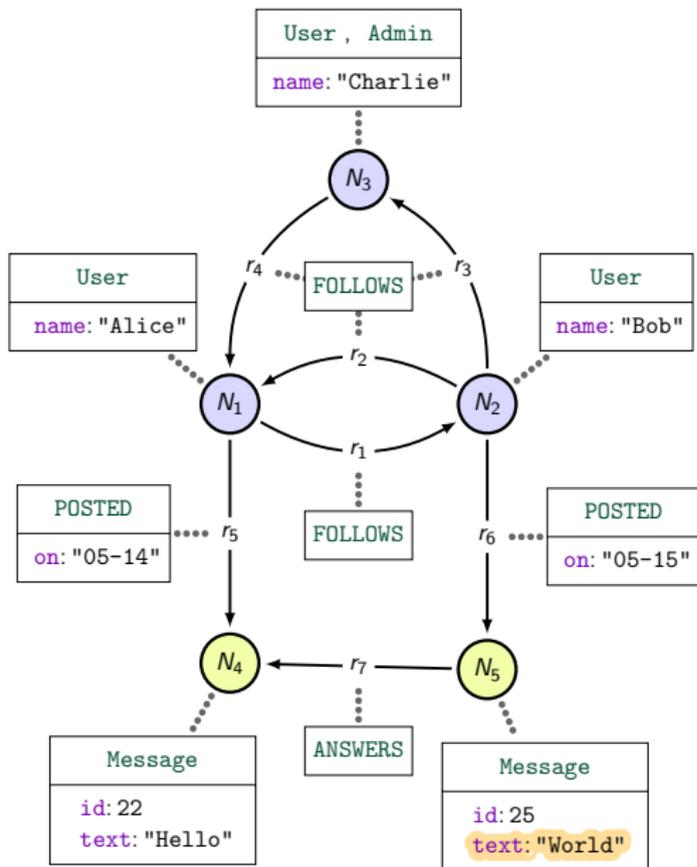
d

m1

"05-15"

N<sub>5</sub>

# Exercice: what does this compute?



Query:

```
MATCH ()-[e:POSTED]->()
```

```
WITH max(e.on) AS d
```

```
MATCH ()-[:POSTED
```

```
{on:d}]->(m1)
```

```
WITH m1.text as txt
```

e

r<sub>5</sub>

r<sub>6</sub>

d

"05-15"

d

m1

"05-15"

N<sub>5</sub>

txt

"World"

## Syntax

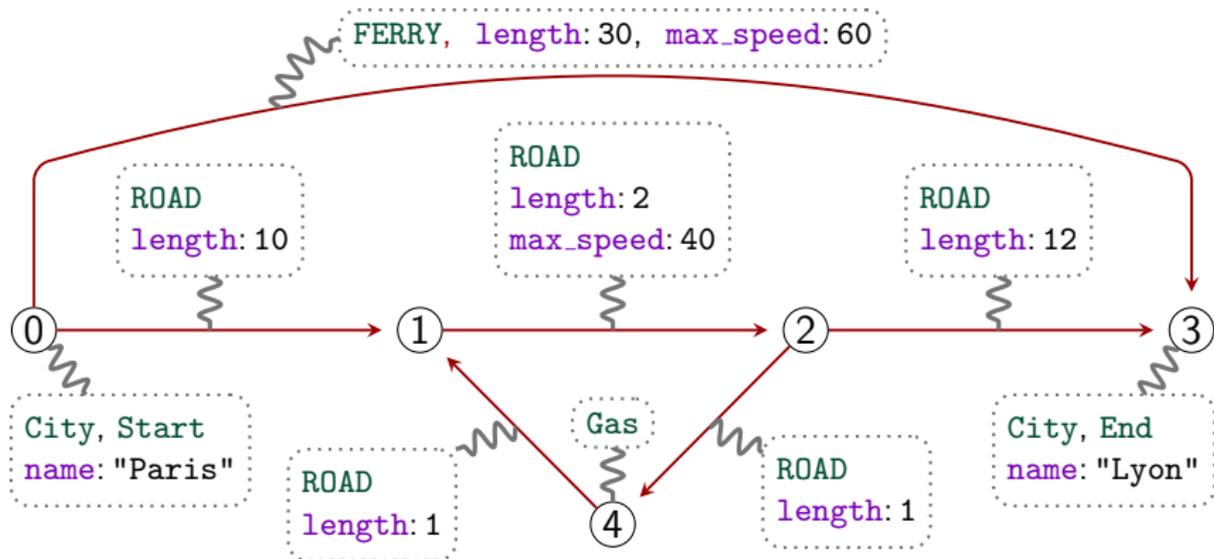
```
reduce( $\langle acc \rangle = \langle init \rangle$ ,  $\langle var \rangle$  IN  $\langle list \rangle$  |  $\langle update \rangle$ )
```

Equivalent to the following pseudo code

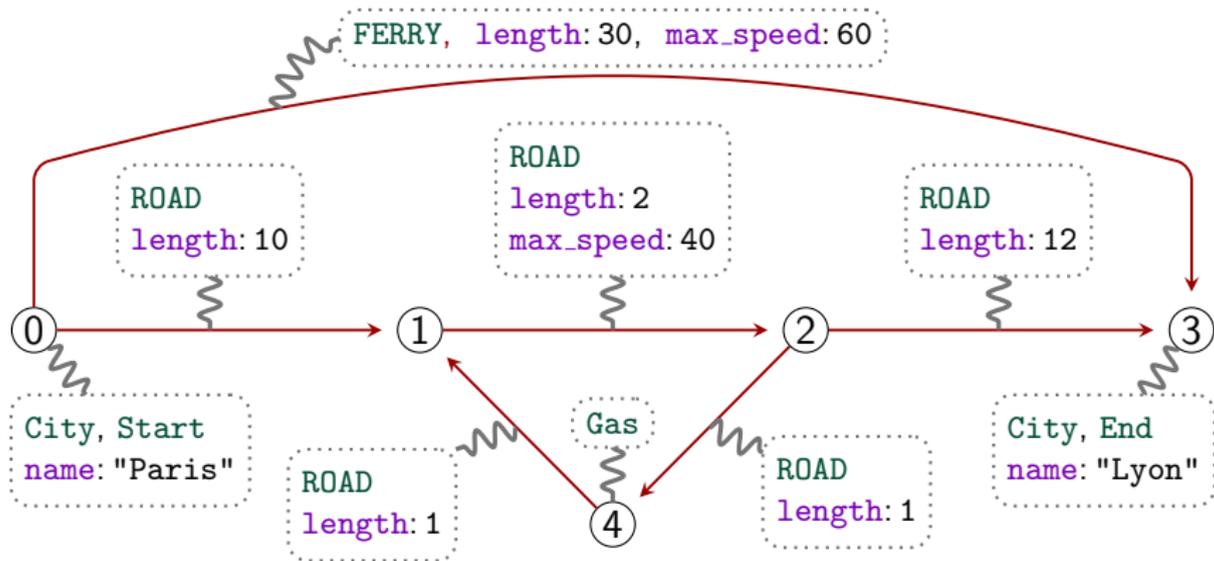
```
 $\langle acc \rangle := \langle init \rangle$ 
```

```
for  $\langle var \rangle$  in  $\langle list \rangle$ :
```

```
     $\langle acc \rangle := \langle update \rangle$ 
```



```
MATCH (:Start)-[e:ROAD|FERRY*]->(:End)
WITH reduce(acc=0, x IN e | acc+x.length) AS l
```



```

MATCH (:Start)-[e:ROAD|FERRY*]->(:End)
WITH reduce(acc = 0, x IN e
            | acc + x.length/coalesce(x.max_speed,80)) AS d
    
```

Part III: Cypher

## 5. Subclauses of **MATCH** and/or **WITH**

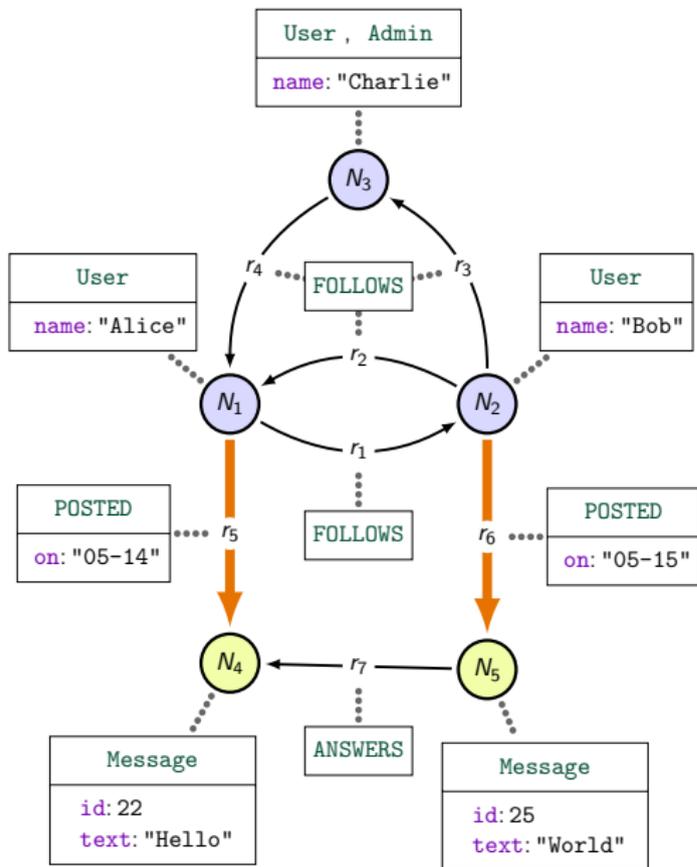
## Syntax

**MATCH** ... **WHERE** *<condition>*

or

**WITH** ... **WHERE** *<condition>*

Remove from the table computed by **MATCH** or **WHERE** the row that make *<condition>* false

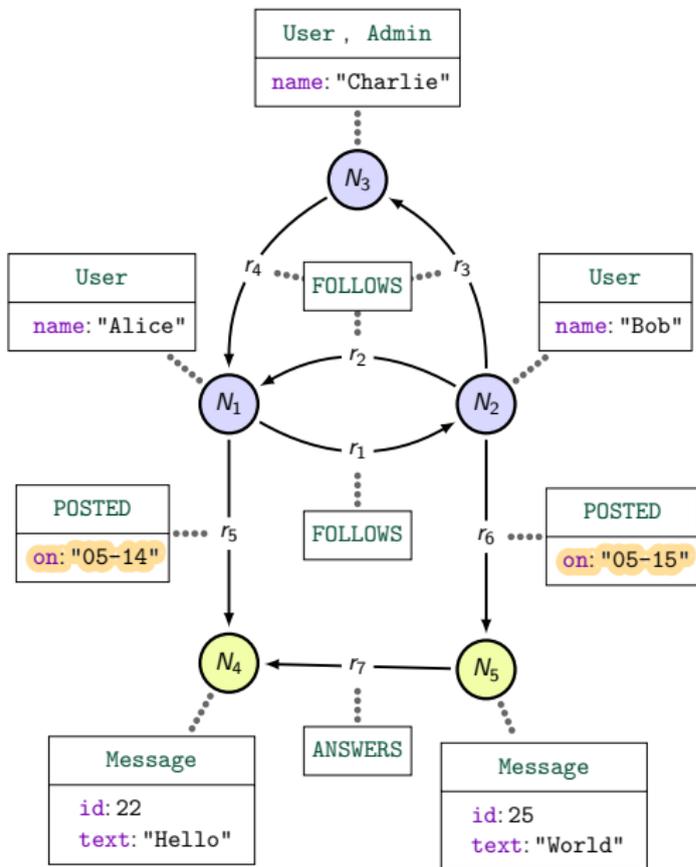


Query:

**MATCH** (u1)-[p1:POSTED]->(m1)  
**WHERE** p1.on > "05-14"

After the **MATCH** clause

u1	p1	m1
$N_1$	$r_5$	$N_4$
$N_2$	$r_6$	$N_5$



Query:

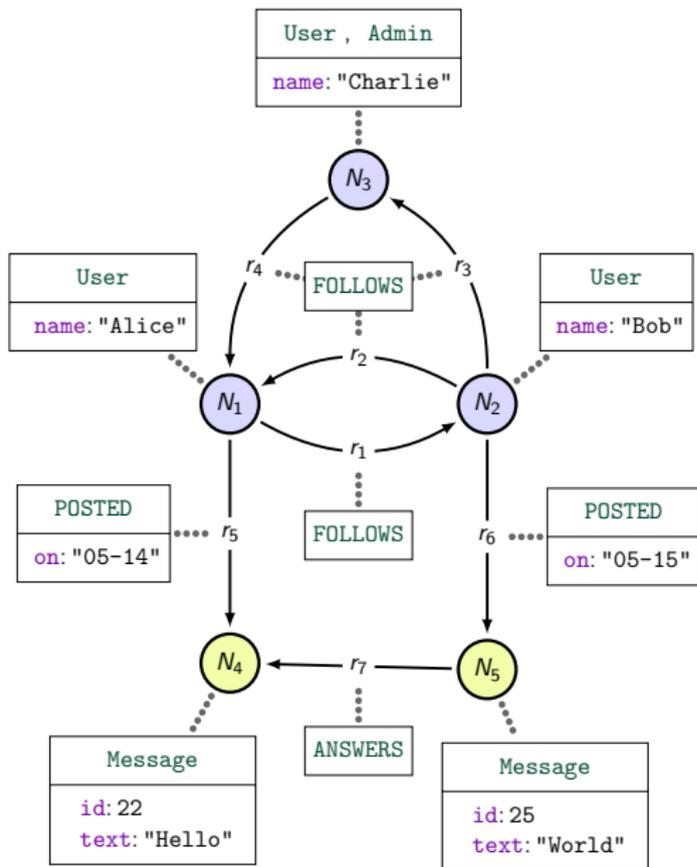
**MATCH** (u1)-[p1:POSTED]->(m1)  
**WHERE** p1.on > "05-14"

After the **MATCH** clause

u1	p1	m1
$N_1$	$r_5$	$N_4$
$N_2$	$r_6$	$N_5$

Execution of the **WHERE** clause

u1	p1	m1
<del><math>N_1</math></del>	<del><math>r_5</math></del>	<del><math>N_4</math></del>
$N_2$	$r_6$	$N_5$



Query:

**MATCH** (u1)-[p1:POSTED]->(m1)  
**WHERE** p1.on > "05-14"

After the **MATCH** clause

u1	p1	m1
$N_1$	$r_5$	$N_4$
$N_2$	$r_6$	$N_5$

Final result

u1	p1	m1
$N_2$	$r_6$	$N_5$

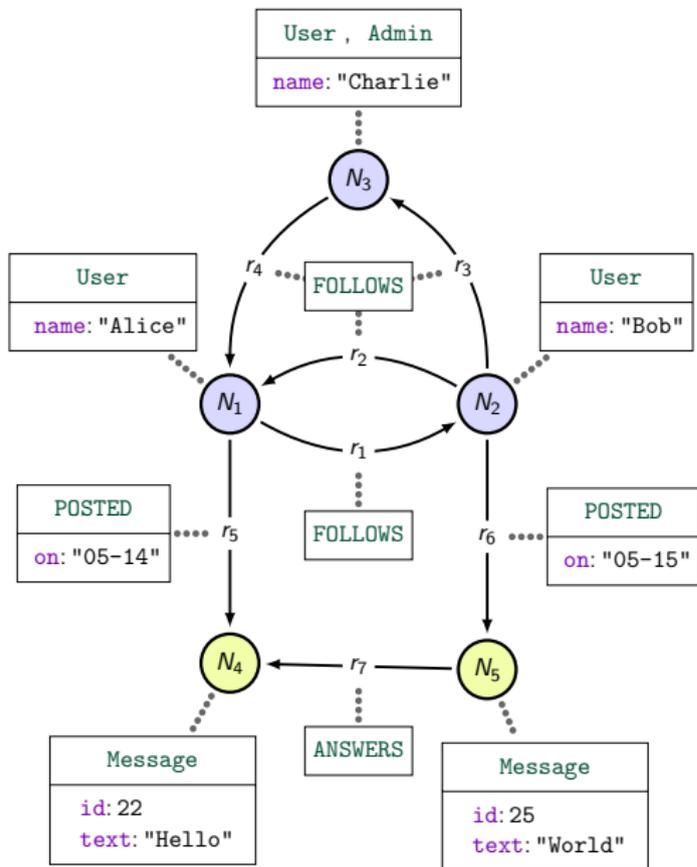
## Syntax

**WITH ...** **ORDER BY**  $\langle oexpr_1 \rangle$  <sup>optional</sup> **DESC**, ... **SKIP**  $\langle sexpr \rangle$  **LIMIT**  $\langle lexpr \rangle$

optional                      optional                      optional

- Order the table by  $\langle oexpr_1 \rangle$ 
  - Ties are broken by the value of  $\langle oexpr_2 \rangle$ , remaining ties are broken by  $\langle oexpr_3 \rangle$ , etc
  - **DESC** means the order is descending.
  -  We might end up with ties → Nondeterminism
- Then, remove the first  $\langle sexpr \rangle$  rows
- Then, keep the first  $\langle lexpr \rangle$  rows, at most

# Compute the User with the most followers

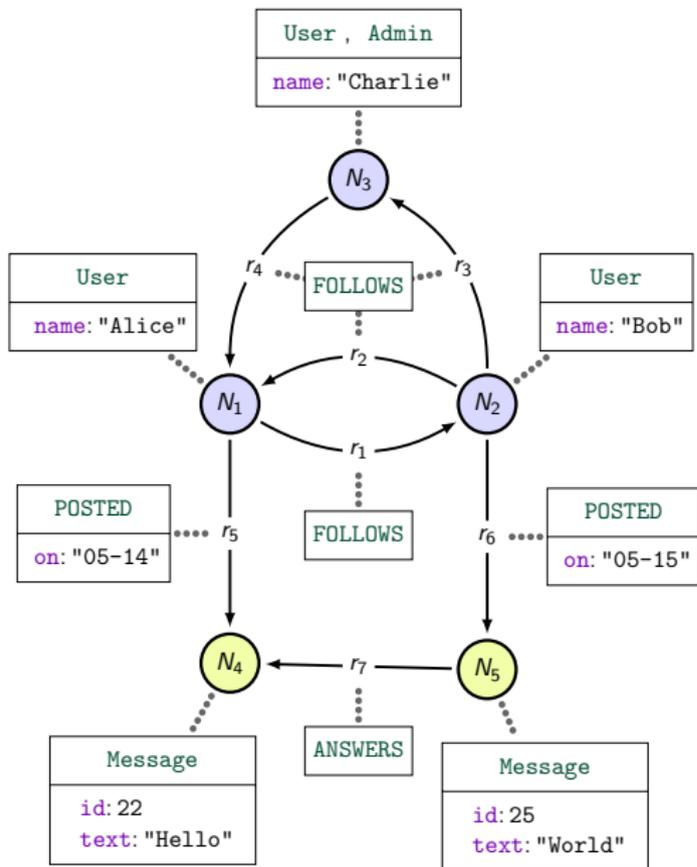


Query:

```
MATCH (u1)-[:FOLLOWS]-(u2)
WITH u1, count(u2) AS c
ORDER BY c DESC
LIMIT 1
```

u1	c
$N_1$	2

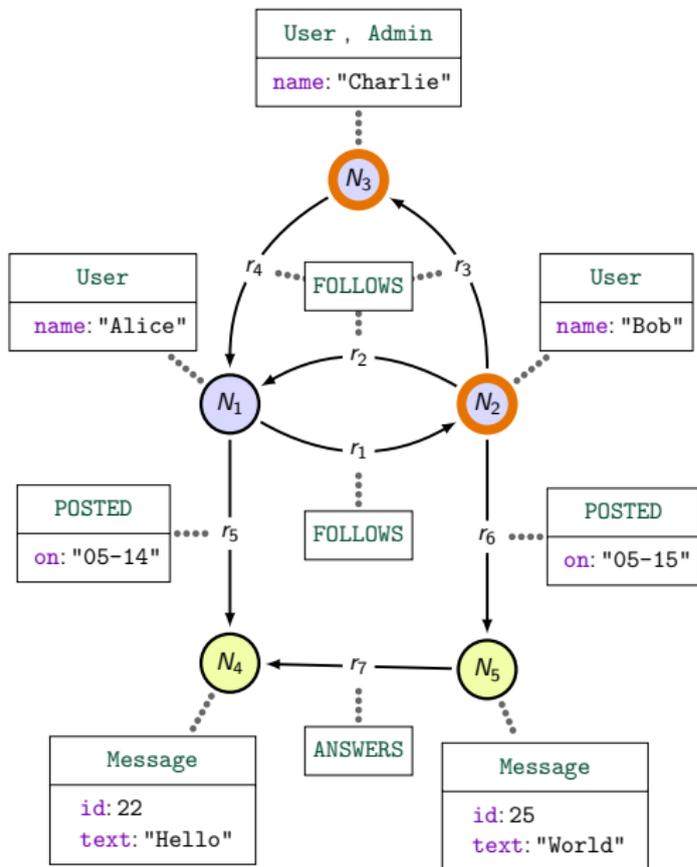
# Compute the two User with the most followers



Query:

```
MATCH (u1)-[:FOLLOWS]-(u2)
WITH u1, count(u2) AS c
ORDER BY c DESC
LIMIT 2
```

# Compute the two User with the most followers



Query:

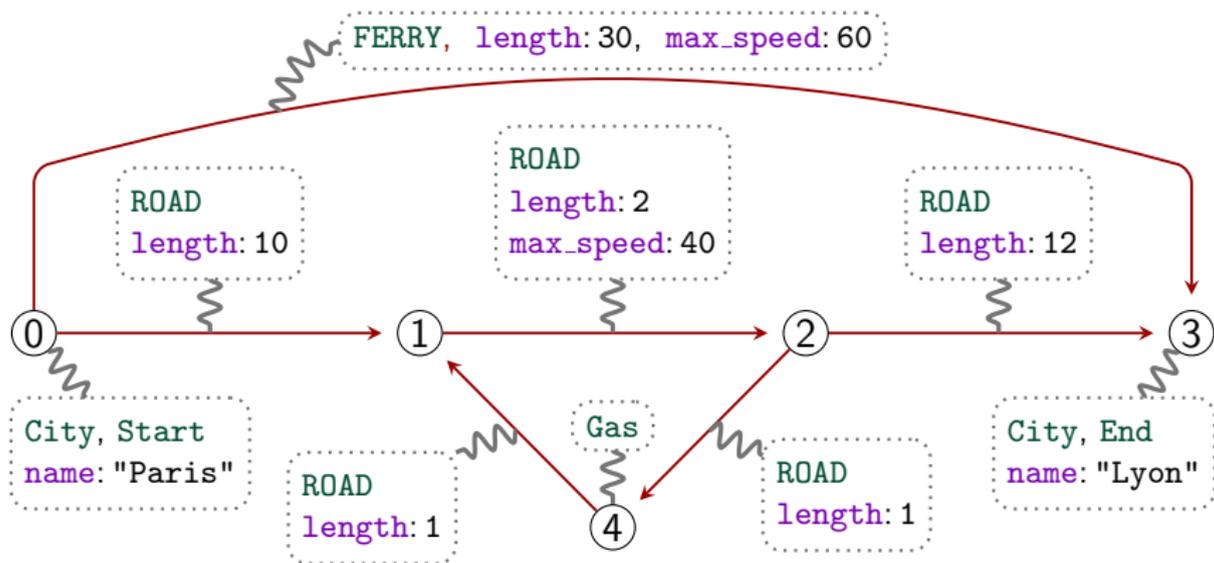
```
MATCH (u1)-[:FOLLOWS]-(u2)
WITH u1, count(u2) AS c
ORDER BY c DESC
LIMIT 2
```

Since Charlie and Bob both have 1 follower, the final table is either:

u1	c
$N_1$	2
$N_2$	1

u1	c
$N_1$	2
$N_3$	1

# Exercice: what does this compute?



```
MATCH (:Start)-[e:ROAD*]->(:Gas)-[f:ROAD*]->(:End)
WITH reduce(acc=0, x IN e | acc+x.length) AS l,
      reduce(acc=0, x IN f | acc+x.length) AS m
ORDER BY l+m ASC
LIMIT 1
```

Part III: Cypher

## 6. Updates

Property  
Graph

Clause 1

**MATCH** ...

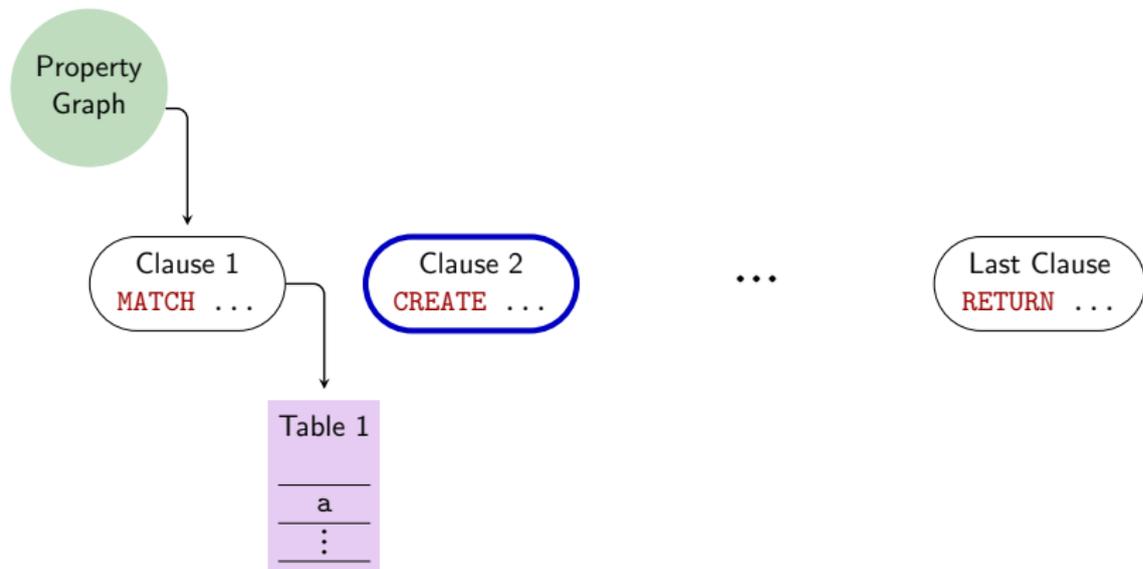
Clause 2

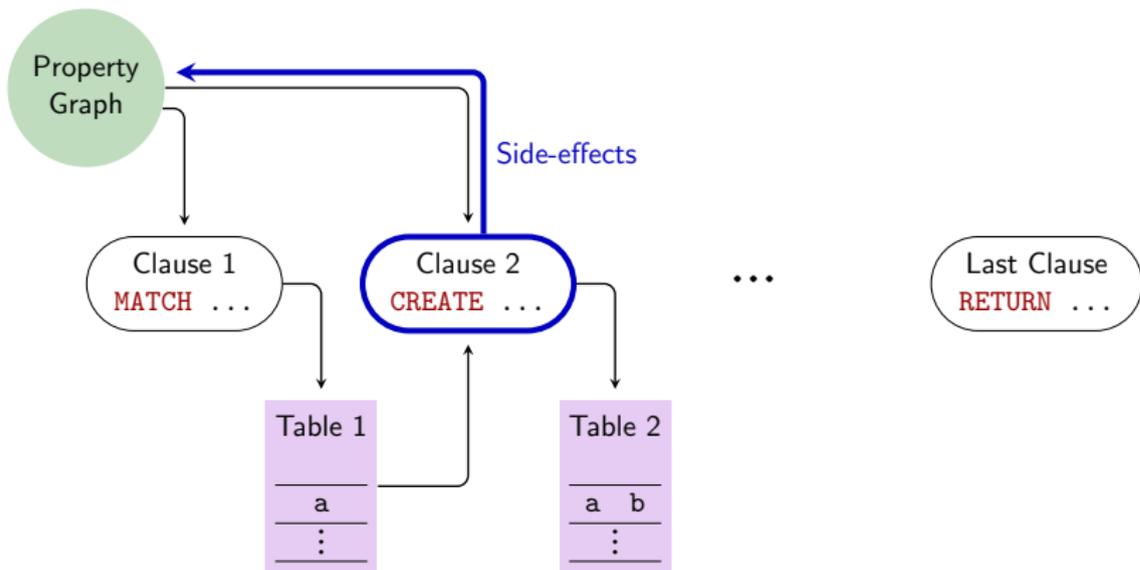
**CREATE** ...

...

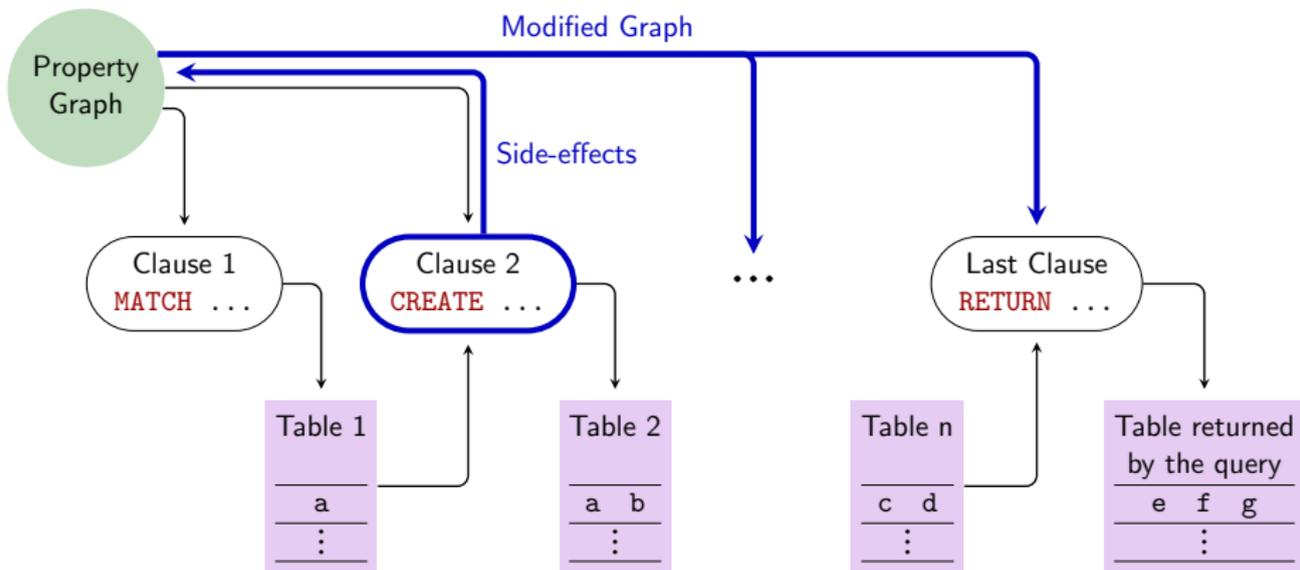
Last Clause

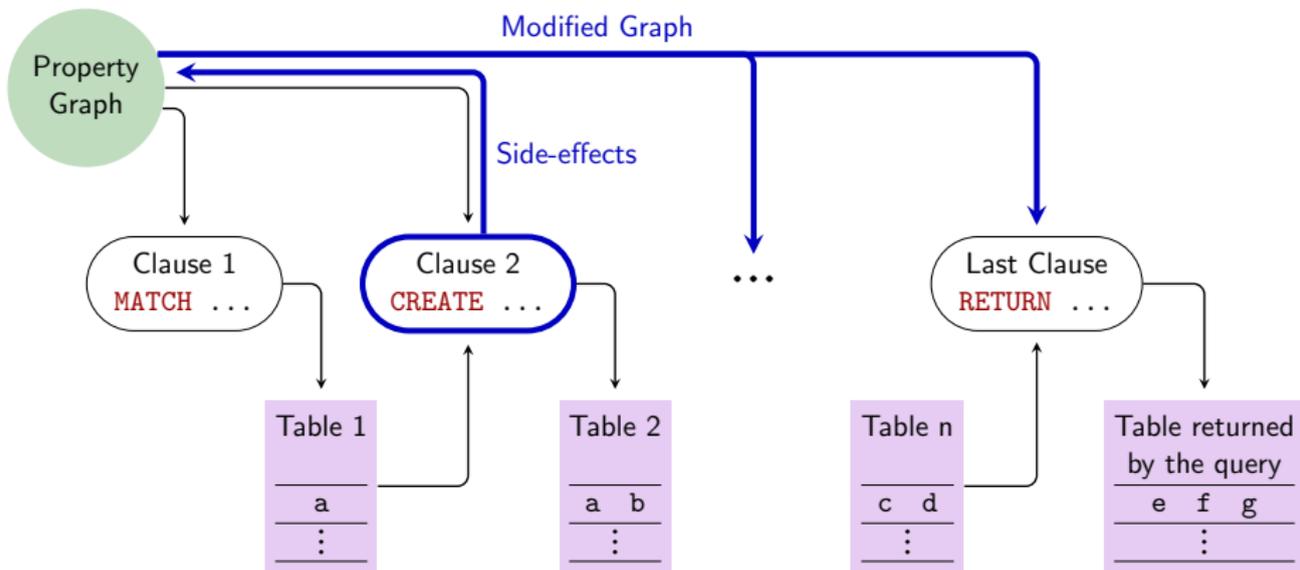
**RETURN** ...





# How evaluation works with update clauses





## Neo4j complies to ACID

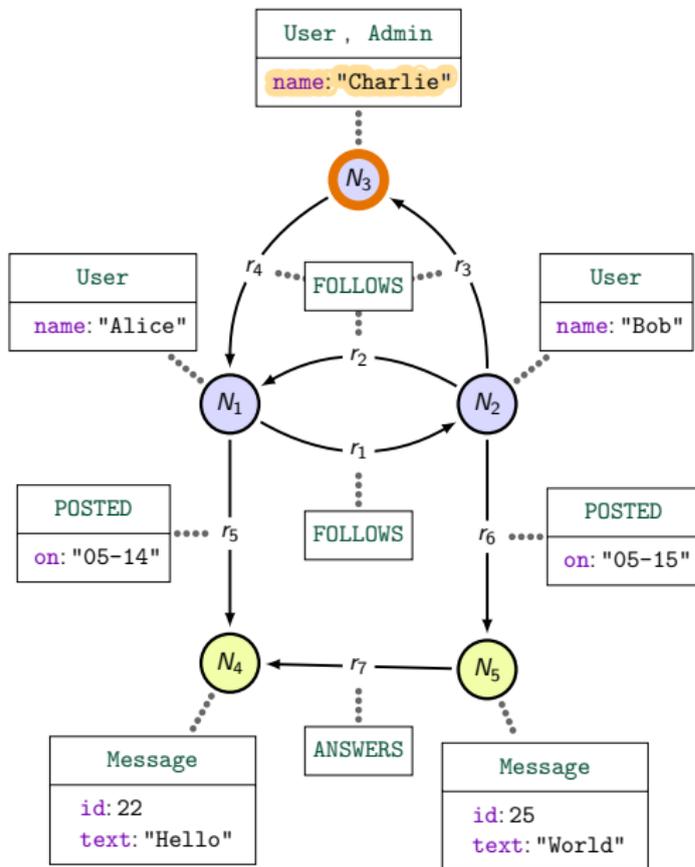
A  $\implies$  Modifications are **undone** if evaluation fails

C  $\implies$  The PG must comply to IC **at the end** of evaluation only

I  $\implies$  Modifications are **invisible** to concurrent queries

- **CREATE** (a:User {name:"Alice"})
  - Creates a new node
  - Stores it in column a
- **CREATE** (a)-[e:POSTED {on:"12-07"}]->(b)
  - Creates a new relation from a to b
  - If a the input table has no column named a, creates a new node
  - Idem for b
  - Stores the new relation in column e

## Create nodes and relations (2)

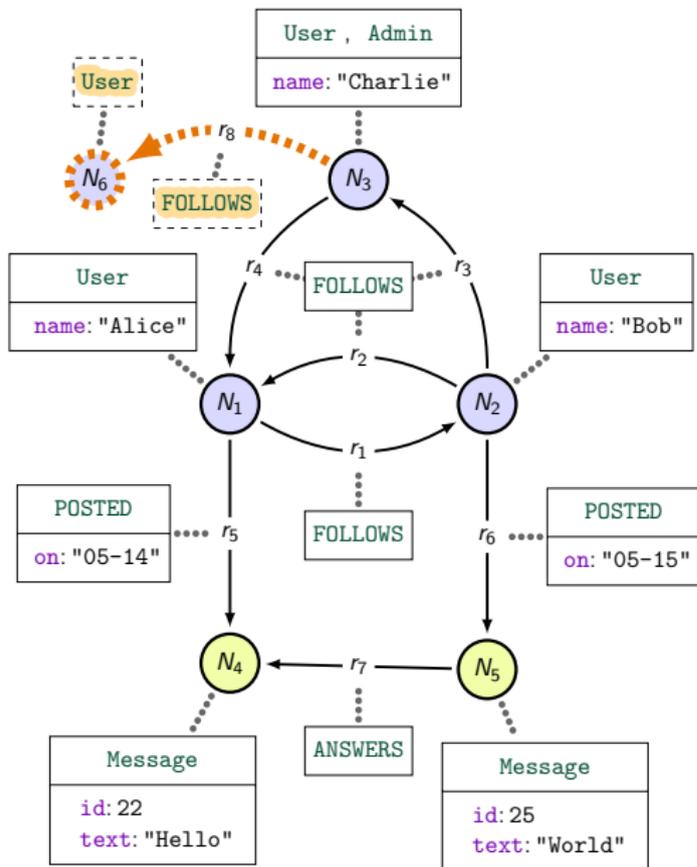


Query:

```
MATCH (a {name:"Charlie"})  
CREATE (a)-[:FOLLOWS]->  
      (b:User)
```

Table after **MATCH** clause:

a
N <sub>3</sub>



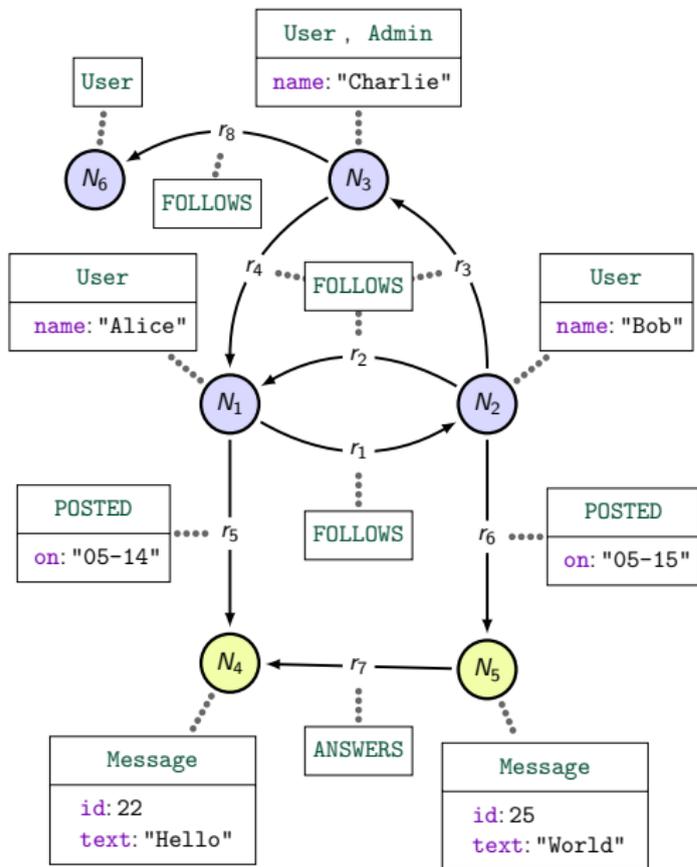
Query:

```
MATCH (a {name:"Charlie"})
CREATE (a)-[:FOLLOWS]->
      (b:User)
```

Table after MATCH clause:

a
N3

## Create nodes and relations (2)



Query:

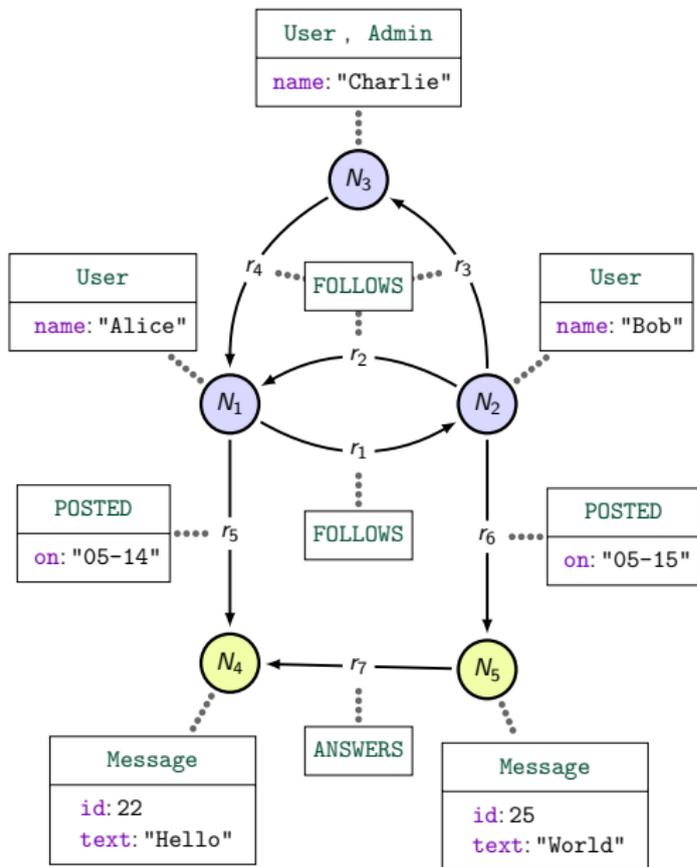
```
MATCH (a {name:"Charlie"})  
CREATE (a)-[:FOLLOWS]->  
      (b:User)
```

Table after **MATCH** clause:

a
$N_3$

Table after **CREATE** clause:

a	b
$N_3$	$N_6$



Query:

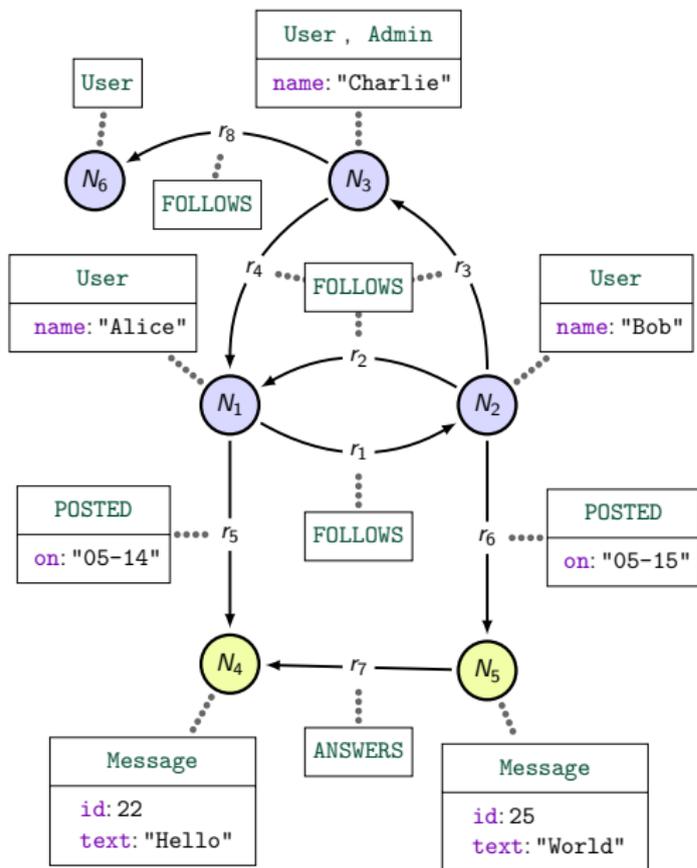
CREATE

```
(n1:User{name:"Alice"}),
(n2:User{name:"Bob"}),
(n3:User:Admin
    {name:"Charlie"}),
(n4:Message {id:22,
    text:"Hello"}),
(n5:Message {id:25,
    text:"World"})
```

CREATE

```
(n1)-[:FOLLOWES]->(n2),
(n1)-[:POSTED
    {on:"05-04"}]->(n4),
(n2)-[:FOLLOWES]->(n1),
(n2)-[:FOLLOWES]->(n3),
(n2)-[:POSTED
    {on:"05-04"}]->(n5),
(n3)-[:FOLLOWES]->(n1),
(n5)-[:ANSWERS]->(n4),
```

- **DELETE** a
  - If column a contains relations, delete them
  - If column a contains node:
    - if none of them has adjacent relation, delete them
    - otherwise the query fails.
- **DETACH DELETE** a
  - If column a contains relations, delete them
  - If column a contains nodes, delete them as well as every adjacent relations.

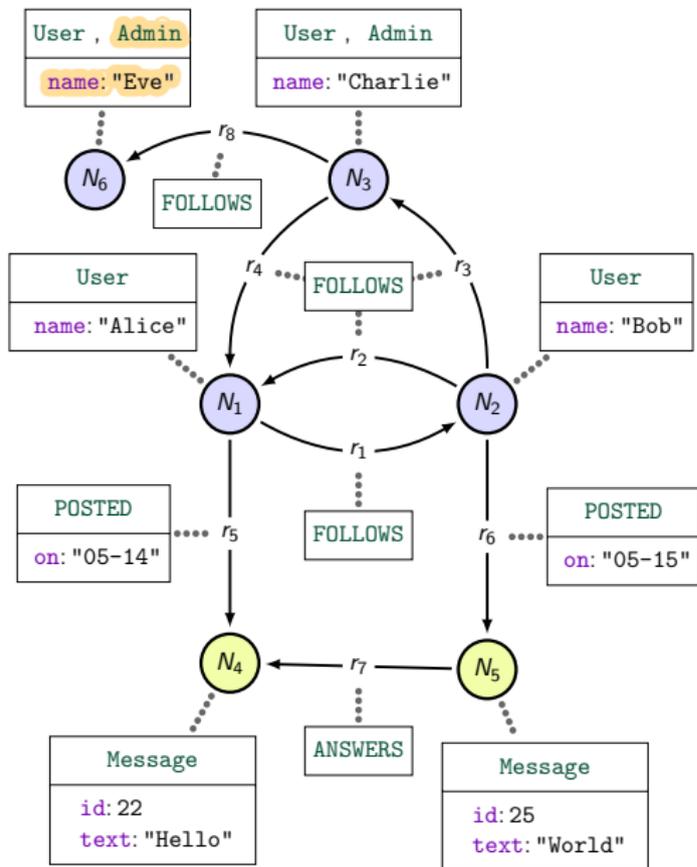


Query:

```
MATCH (a{name:"Charlie"})
CREATE (a)-[:FOLLOWS]->
                                     (b:User)
SET b:Admin, b.name="Eve"
```

Table after CREATE clause:

a	b
$N_3$	$N_6$

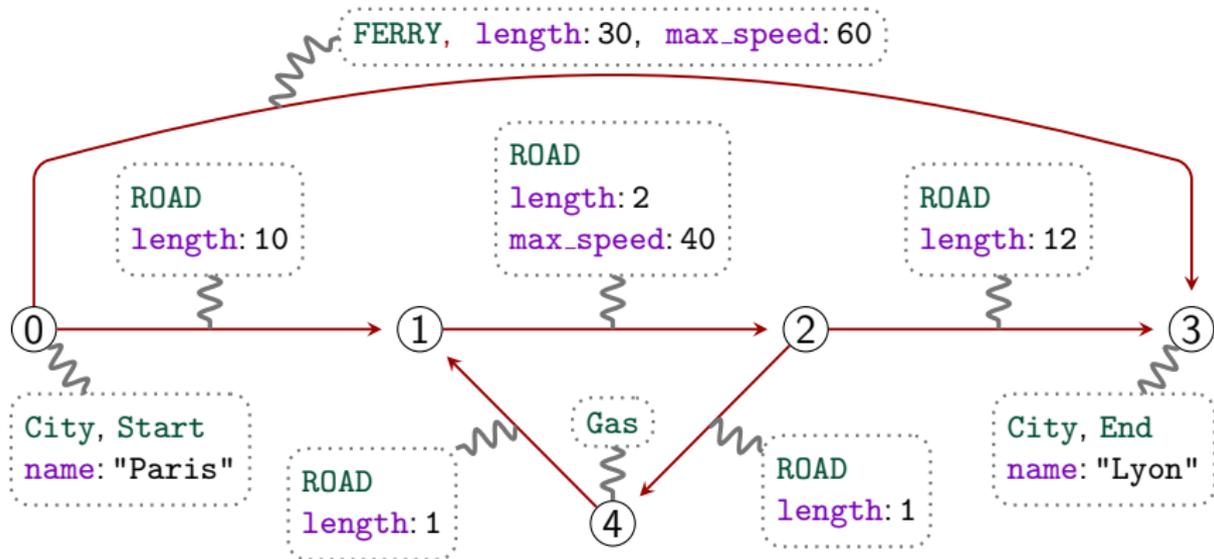


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                                     (b:User)
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```

Table after CREATE clause:

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$N_3$	$N_6$



```
MATCH ()-[e:ROAD]->()
      WHERE e.max_speed IS NULL
      SET e.max_speed=80
```

⇒ Adds the property `max_speed:80` to all `ROAD` that do not have one.

Part III: Cypher

## **7. Summary**

**MATCH** is for pattern matching

- C2RPQ-like
- Trail semantics
- Projects paths into a table
- Inner join with the input table
  - **OPTIONAL MATCH** does an outer join instead

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  - Horizontal (**reduce**)
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**UNION** and **UNION ALL** are for set and bag union.

**CREATE** creates new elements, and sets their properties

- **MATCH**-like patterns (no \*, |)
- Variables bound in input table
  - allows to link new elements to existing elements
  - hence allows bulk creation
- Unbound variables
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**MERGE** is a “**MATCH** else **CREATE**” mechanism:

- **MATCH**-like patterns (no \*, |)
- If a line in the input table is not matched, new elements are created
- “Similar” elements are created only once
- Allows to integrate relational data (csv)
- Nondeterminism issues

- General scheme of evaluating a Cypher query.
- Writing Cypher queries with **MATCH**, **WITH**, **WHERE**, **RETURN** clauses.
- Writing Cypher queries with several clauses.
- The two kinds of aggregation and how to use them with Cypher.
- Writing Cypher queries to update the database (**CREATE**, **DELETE**, **SET**.)
- Translations: Cypher ↔ C2RPQs

# Appendix

## Introduction

- About this PDF
- Overview of query answering
- Property graphs vs Relational
- History of query languages for PG's
- Outline

## Part I: Theoretical foundations

### 1 Data model: labeled graphs

- Definition
- Limits to our data model

### 2 Regular Path Queries

- Reminders about automata and regexps

- RPQs matching
- Matching RPQs
- Computing matches

### 3 RPQ semantics

- Endpoint semantics
- Shortest semantics
- Trail semantics

### 4 Common extensions to RPQs

- Motivating examples
- 2RPQs
- CRPQs
- Essential knowledge

## Part II: Property Graphs

### 1 Data model

- Components of a property graph
- Examples

### 2 Translation: Graph $\rightarrow$ Tables

- From Graphs
- From Property Graphs

### 3 Translations: Tables $\rightarrow$ Graph

- Translating some tables into a Property graph
- Encoding non-binary relations in graphs

### 4 Storage matters

- Adjacency list
- Adjacency matrix
- Tree sets
- Storing properties

### 5 Conclusion

- Strengths
- Weaknesses
- Essential knowledge

## Part III: Cypher

### 1 General presentation

- Generalities
- Values in Cypher

### 2 Pattern matching with **MATCH**

- Matching nodes
- Matching relations
- Matching chained relations
- Implicit equijoin on variables
- Matching paths
- Matching subgraphs
- Recap of pattern matching

### 3 Sequence of clauses

- Linear composition
- Sequence of **MATCH** clauses

### 4 Usage of **WITH** (or **RETURN**)

- Column manipulation
- Elimination of duplicate rows
- Horizontal and vertical aggregation

### 5 Subclauses of **MATCH** and/or **WITH**

- Filtering rows with **WHERE**
- **ORDER BY**, **LIMIT** and **SKIP**

### 6 Updates

- Create nodes and relations
- Delete nodes and relations
- Modifying labels and properties
- Cypher allows flexible bulk updates

### 7 Summary

- Overview of read-only Cypher
- Overview of read-write clauses
- Essential knowledge

English	French
Acyclic	Acyclique, Acircuitique
Bag, multiset	Multi-ensemble
Data model (DM)	Modèle de données
Edge	Arête, Arc
Endpoints	Extrémités
Endpoint semantics	Sémantique d'extrémité
Entity-Relationship diagram (ER diagram)	Schéma Entité-Association (EA)
Key	Clef
Label	Etiquette
Match	
Pattern matching	Recherche de motif

Property, Attribute	Propriété, Attribut
Property Graph (PG)	Graphe à propriétés, Graphe de propriété, Graphe attribué
Regular Path Query (RPQ)	
Semantics	Semantique
Set	Ensemble
Shortest semantics	Sémantique de plus-court-chemin
Source	Source
Target	Destination
Trail	
Trail semantics	Sémantique sans-répétition-d'arête
Type	Type
Value	Valeur
Vertex, Node	Sommet, Noeud

Walk, Path

Chemin, Marche