



Habib University
shaping futures

CS343 Graph Data Science

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Constraints and Indexes in Cypher

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Constraints

- **Definition:** Constraints are rules enforced on the graph data to ensure data integrity.
- **Purpose:** Ensure that certain conditions are always true in the graph.
- **Types:**
 - **Uniqueness:** Ensures uniqueness of property values for nodes or relationship.
 - **Existence:** Ensures properties exist for node or relationships.
 - **Existence and Uniqueness (Node Key) :** Ensures both uniqueness and existence.
- **Use Constraints When:**
 - Enforcing data integrity.

Indexes

- **Definition:** Indexes are structures used to speed up lookup operations on properties.
- **Purpose:** Improve query performance by enabling faster data retrieval.
- **Types:**
 - Range
 - Lookup
 - Text
 - Full Text
- **Use Indexes When:**
 - Frequently querying on specific properties.
 - Needing to improve query performance.

Syntax

- Unique constraints

```
CREATE CONSTRAINT constraint_name IF NOT EXISTS  
FOR (x:Label)  
REQUIRE x.property IS UNIQUE
```

Syntax

- Existence

```
CREATE CONSTRAINT constraint_name IF NOT EXISTS  
FOR (x:Label)  
REQUIRE x.property IS NOT NULL
```

```
CREATE CONSTRAINT constraint_name IF NOT EXISTS  
FOR ()-[x:RELATIONSHIP]-()  
REQUIRE x.property IS NOT NULL
```

Syntax

- Node Key

```
CREATE CONSTRAINT constraint_name IF NOT EXISTS  
FOR (x:Label)  
REQUIRE x.property IS NODE KEY
```

Syntax

- Range / Lookup

```
CREATE INDEX <index_name> IF NOT EXISTS  
FOR (x:<node_label>)  
ON x.<property_key>
```

- Text

```
CREATE TEXT INDEX <index_name> IF NOT EXISTS  
FOR (x:<node_label>)  
ON x.<property_key>
```

Manage Constraints/Indexes

- SHOW CONSTRAINTS / INDEXES
- DROP CONSTRAINT / INDEX