# Practical SPARQL

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# Agenda

- Introduction to BOLD
  - About the project and challenges
- Triple Stores
  - How triples are stored and how to choose a database
- SPARQL
  - Short recap and introduction of services
- Querying Wikidata
  - Intrinsics of wikidata dataset design and how to use it
- Query Performance
  - Tips and tricks to speed up your queries

Resources and Queries: https://github.com/EgorDm/INFOMKDE/

#### Introduction to BOLD

 Goal: Speed up exploration and bias analysis for knowledge graphs

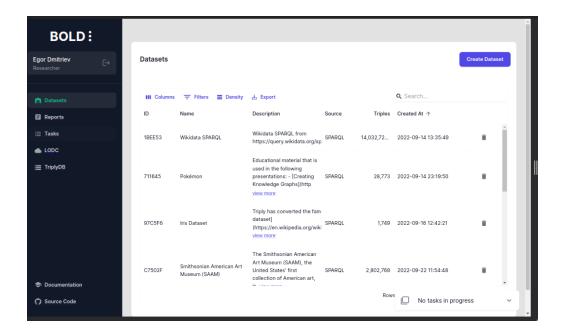
#### BOLD:

Knowledge Graph Exploration and Analysis platform

Features • Quick Installation • Documentation • Demo

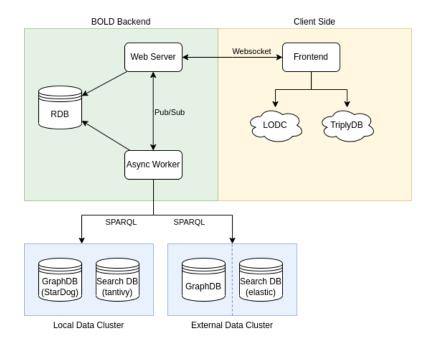
#### Demo

- https://bold-demo.ml/
- User: demo
- Pass: demodemo
- For wikidata use:
- https://egordm.github.io/ BOLDER/



# Challenge 1: Long running queries

- Querying and importing is treated as an asynchronous job
- Data Tier is separate from the orchestartion



### Challenge 2: Data Sources

# LINKED OPEN DATA CLOUD (LODC)

- Free registry for knowledge graphs
- More than 5k listings
- Only 5% works

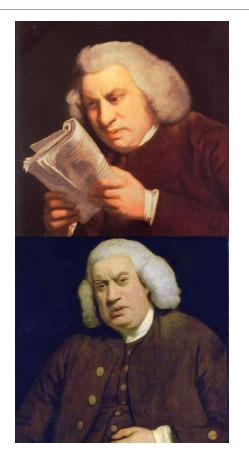
#### TRIPLY DB

- Like GitHub for Knowledge Graphs
- Free storage for reasonably sized graphs
- Free virtuoso instance
- Has an API for querying and downloading graphs

# Challenge 3: Indexing

```
SELECT * { # Wikidata
    wd:Q937 wdt:569 ?o
}

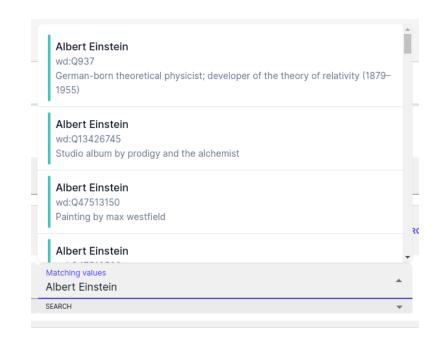
SELECT * { # OpenSanctions
    entity:ofac-bc8451a
    w3ftm:Sanction:entity
    ?o
}
```



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Johnson (1775) showing his intense concentration as he tries to decipher Wikidata queries

# Challenge 3: Indexing

- How do you know what terms you can use?
- Create a full text search index using
  - Embedded search index (tantivy)
  - Search db (elasticsearch)
  - Built-in functionality<sup>1</sup>



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> https://github.com/blazegraph/database/wiki/fulltextsearch

# Triple Stores

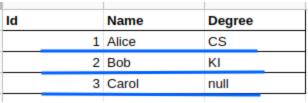
HOW TRIPLES ARE STORED AND HOW TO CHOOSE A DATABASE

# What is a Triple Store?

- "A triple store is a database for storage and retrieval of triples through semantic queries"
- Considered as a class of NoSQL databases
  - Data is schemaless.
  - Data is not stored in relational tables.

# How are triples stored

- Different storage reflects different needs
- Rows storage excels at retrieving complete documents
- Col storage is more efficient for analytical queries and fast storage
- Triples allow to model very complex networks



Row storage

ld	Name	ld	Degree
1	Alice	1	CS
2	Bob	2	KI
3	Carol		

Column storage

Sub	ject	Property	Value
	1	Degree	CS
	1	Name	Alice
	2	Degree	KI
	2	Name	Bob
	3	Name	Carol

Triple storage

# Why are Triple Stores efficient?

- Triple queries have patterns with unconstrained term positions (variables)
- Each pattern involves a join
- Indexing for different access patterns speeds up the search for suitable values

```
SELECT * {
   _:Alice _:HasDegree ?o .
   _:Alice ?p _:CS .
   ?s ?p _:CS .
}
```

## Access pattern indexes

	Acces	s Pattern	Index key order
1.	????	(No constraints; returns every quad)	SPOG
2.	SPOG	(Every position is constrained)	SPOG
3.	SP0?	(S, P, and O are constrained; G is not)	SPOG
4.	SP??	(S and P are constrained; O and G are not)	SPOG
5.	S???	(S is constrained; P, O, and G are not)	SPOG
6.	S??G	(S and G are constrained; P and O are not)	SPOG
7.	?POG	(P, O, and G are constrained; S is not)	POGS
8.	?P0?	(P and O are constrained; S and G are not)	POGS
9.	?P??	(P is constrained; S, O, and G are not)	POGS
10.	?P?G	(P and G are constrained; S and O are not)	GPS0
11.	SP?G	(S, P, and G are constrained; O is not)	GPS0
12.	???G	(G is constrained; S, P, and O are not)	GPS0
13.	S?0G	(S, O, and G are constrained; P is not)	OGSP
14.	??0G	(O and G are constrained; S and P are not)	OGSP
15.	??0?	(O is constrained; S, P, and G are not)	OGSP
16.	S?0?	(S and O are constrained; P and G are not)	OSGP

- Entities
  - (S) Subject
  - (P) Predicate
  - (O) Object
  - (G) Graph
- Each triple/quad is characterized by SPOG key
  - (Alice, hasDegree, CS, wikidata)
- •Which index to use?
  - (Alice, hasDegree, ?, wikidata)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> https://docs.aws.amazon.com/neptune/latest/userguide/feature-overview-data-model.html

# What to look for in a Triple Store?

- Does it support your use case?
  - What do you need?
  - Is it maintained or fit your budget?
- 1. Query languages it supports
  - SPARQL for triple queries
  - Gremlin / Cypher for path or graph queries
- 2. Index coverage / storage tradeoff
- 3. Full-text indexing / search
- 4. Tool integration
  - API / RDF import formats
  - User interface

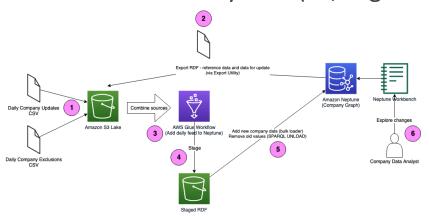
## Blazegraph

- Open Source (but no longer maintained)
- Supports SPARQL and Gremlin
- POS, SPO, OSP indexes <sup>1</sup>
- Supports sharding, full text search indexes
- Great Java API for writing extensions

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> https://github.com/blazegraph/database/blob/master/bigdata-core/bigdata-rdf/src/java/com/bigdata/rdf/spo/SPOKeyOrder.java

### AWS Neptune

- Proprietary (fork of Blazegraph)
- Cloud Only
- Supports SPARQL, Gremlin and openCypher
- SPOG, POGS, GPSO, (optional OSGP in lab mode) <sup>1</sup>
- Good integration with AWS ecosystem (S3, sagemaker, etc)



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> https://docs.aws.amazon.com/neptune/latest/userguide/feature-overview-data-model.html

# Stardog

- Proprietary (has a free plan)
- Supports SPARQL, GraphQL and its own path query language
- Maintains 15 out of 16 indexes <sup>1</sup>
- Optimized for high write (and import) throughput
- Supports full text search (only on labelled data)
- Best user interface / tooling

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> https://www.stardog.com/blog/stardog-in-the-storage-wars/

#### Virtuoso

- Proprietary (has open source version)
- Supports SPARQL and SQL
- PSOG, POSG, SP, OP, GS indexes <sup>1</sup>
- Overall fastest query performance

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Andreas Harth et al. "Linked Data Management: Principles and Techniques"

#### Others

- GraphDB, AnzoGraph, AllegroGraph, MarkLogic, Apache Rya, Oxigraph
- Have too small community, or are abandoned
- Neo4J supports triples but is a Graph database

# SPARQL

SHORT RECAP AND INTRODUCTION OF SERVICES

## SELECT Query

- Selects a sequence of solutions
- Given a set of constraints in form of
  - Triple patterns
  - Filters
  - Expressions

```
SELECT CONCAT(?fName, " ", ?lName) WHERE {
    ?s _:firstName ?fName;
    _:lastName ?lName;
    _:age ?age .
    FILTER(?age > 50)
}
```

### DESCRIBE Query

- Returns subgraph describing provided set of terms
- Documentation is underspecified on "How"
  - (Default) Direct unidirectional/bidirectional connections
  - also Concise Bounded Description (CBD) <sup>1</sup>

```
DESCRIBE ?v WHERE {
    ?v rdf:type umbel-sc:Volcano .
}
```

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> https://www.w3.org/Submission/CBD

### CONSTRUCT Query

- Returns an RDF graph constructed from provided template
- Note that domains for properties must match

```
CONSTRUCT {
?v rdfs:label ?name ;
   rdf:type myTypes:VolcanosOutsideTheUS
} WHERE {
   ?v rdf:type umbel-sc:Volcano ;
    rdfs:label ?name .
   OPTIONAL {
        ?v p:location ?1
        FILTER (?l = dbpedia:United_States)
    }
   FILTER (!BOUND(?l))
}
```

#### Services

- SERVICE keyword invokes non-standard functionality given a service resource
- Most common usage is "Federated Queries"
  - Run subqueries on a different endpoint

```
SELECT ?id ?s ?o WHERE {
   ?s owl:sameAs ?alias .
   ?s pokemon:nationalNumber ?id .

SERVICE <a href="https://api.triplydb.com/../dbpedia/sparql">https://api.triplydb.com/../dbpedia/sparql</a> {
        ?alias dbp:firstgame ?o
   }
}
```

# Querying Wikidata

INTRINSICS OF WIKIDATA DATASET DESIGN AND HOW TO USE IT

#### Wikidata

- 94B triples (53GB compressed and 149GB uncompressed)
- Has public SPARQL endpoint
  - runs Blazegraph
  - has 60sec timeout
- Not their primary data store
  - Dataset is updated from their internal database

# Redefining standards

- Redefines RDF standards for performance reasons
- IRIs are illegible
  - rdfs:subClassOf becomes wdt:P279
  - rdf:type becomes wdt:P31
  - Use search api or public examples

ı, Vocab(6)[http://www.wikidata.org/prop/direct/P]:XSDUnsignedByte(31), V

#### Reification

- Facts are expressed as statements: (subject, predicate, object)
  - "Albert Einstein won Nobel Prize in Physics"
  - \_:AlbertEinstein \_:won \_:NobelPrizeInPhysics
- Sometimes not enough to convey the information:
  - "Albert Einstein won Nobel Prize in Physics in 1921"
  - Q: how would you represent this in RDF?

#### Reification

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- Sometimes not enough to convey the information:
  - "Albert Einstein won Nobel Prize in Physics in 1921"
  - Q: how would you represent this in RDF?

```
_:triple1 rdf:type rdf:Statement ;
    rdf:subject _:AlbertEinstein ;
    rdf:predicate _:won ;
    rdf:object _:NobelPrizeInPhysics ;
    _:in "1921"^^xsd:date
```

#### Reification in Wikidata

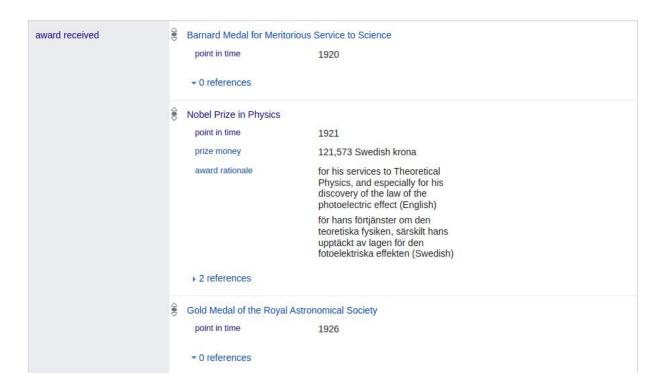
```
PREFIX wdt: <a href="http://www.wikidata.org/prop/direct">http://www.wikidata.org/prop/direct</a>
PREFIX wds: <a href="http://www.wikidata.org/entity/statement/">http://www.wikidata.org/entity/statement/</a>
PREFIX wdv: <a href="http://www.wikidata.org/value/">http://www.wikidata.org/value/>
PREFIX p: <a href="http://www.wikidata.org/prop/">PREFIX p: <a href="http://www.wikidata.org/prop/">http://www.wikidata.org/prop/</a>
PREFIX ps: <a href="http://www.wikidata.org/prop/statement/">http://www.wikidata.org/prop/statement/">
PREFIX pq: <a href="http://www.wikidata.org/prop/qualifier/">http://www.wikidata.org/prop/qualifier/">
PREFIX pqv: <a href="http://www.wikidata.org/prop/qualifier/value/">http://www.wikidata.org/prop/qualifier/value/</a>
# <Albert Einstein> <award received> <statement>
wd:Q937 p:P166 wds:q93....
wds:q93... ps:P166 wd:Q38104 ; # <award received> <Nobel Prize
                 pq:P585 "1921-01-01"^^xsd:date ; # <point in time>
                  pqv:P2121 wdv:83... . # <prize money> <value ref>
```

For full

overview: https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Wikibase/Indexing/RDF\_Dump\_Format#Prefixes\_used

### Reification in Wikidata

When can you use reified statements?



# Labeling Service

Adds label selection for variables suffixed with "Label"

```
SELECT ?sLabel ?p ?oLabel {
   ?s ?p ?o .
   SERVICE wikibase:label { bd:serviceParam wikibase:language "en". }
}
```

Shorthand for

```
OPTIONAL {
     ?o rdfs:label ?oLabel .
    FILTER (lang(?oLabel) = 'en')
}
```

Is anecdotally faster and cleaner

# Labeling Service

Adds label selection for variables suffixed with "Label

```
SELECT ?sLabel ?p ?oLabel {
    ?s ?p ?o .
    SERVICE wikibase:label { bd:serviceParam wikibase:language "en". }
}
```

- Labels are not defined for direct properties
  - Must use reified predicate variant

```
SELECT ?s ?pLabel ?o {
    ?s ?pDirect ?o .
    ?p wikibase:directClaim ?pDirect .
    SERVICE wikibase:label { bd:serviceParam wikibase:language "en". }
}
```

# Gather Apply Scatter (GAS) Service

- Blazegraph API for implementing graph algorithms <sup>1</sup>
- Various implementations are available: Breadth First Search, Single Source Shortest Path, Connected Component and Page Rank
- Generally faster than equivalent CONSTRUCT queries

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> https://github.com/blazegraph/database/wiki/RDF\_GAS\_API

#### GAS Service: BFS

```
PREFIX gas: <a href="mailto:ref">ref">http://www.bigdata.com/rdf/gas#></a>
# Construct a family tree for (Albert Einstein by following child relation)
SELECT ?parent ?parentLabel ?child ?childLabel ?depth WHERE {
 SERVICE gas:service {
      gas:program gas:gasClass "com.bigdata.rdf.graph.analytics.BFS" ;
                  gas:in wd:Q937 ; # Albert Einstein
                  gas:linkType wdt:P40 ; # Child of
                  gas:maxIterations 8;
                  gas:traversalDirection "Reverse";
                  gas:out ?parent ;
                  gas:out1 ?depth ;
                  gas:out2 ?child .
  }
 SERVICE wikibase:label { bd:serviceParam wikibase:language "en". }
} order by ?depth
```

Try It!

# GAS Service: Single Source Shortest Path

```
PREFIX gas: <a href="mailto:ref">ref">http://www.bigdata.com/rdf/gas#></a>
SELECT DISTINCT ?depth ?item ?itemLabel WHERE {
 SERVICE gas:service {
   gas:program gas:gasClass "com.bigdata.rdf.graph.analytics.SSSP" ;
               gas:in wd:Q3454165 ; # Kevin Bacon
               gas:target wd:Q38111 ; # Leonardo Di Caprio
               gas:out ?item ;
               gas:out1 ?depth ;
               gas:linkType wdt:P161 ; # Cast member
               gas:traversalDirection "Undirected";
               gas:maxIterations 10 .
 }-
 SERVICE wikibase:label { bd:serviceParam wikibase:language "en". }
ORDER BY ?depth
```

Try It!

#### Conclusion: Wikidata

- Wikidata is too large, use all the tools you have
- Use the query service:
  - https://query.wikidata.org/
- Example queries:
  - https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Wikidata:SPARQL\_query\_service/queries/examples

### Query Performance

TIPS AND TRICKS TO SPEED UP YOUR QUERIES

### Query Performance 101

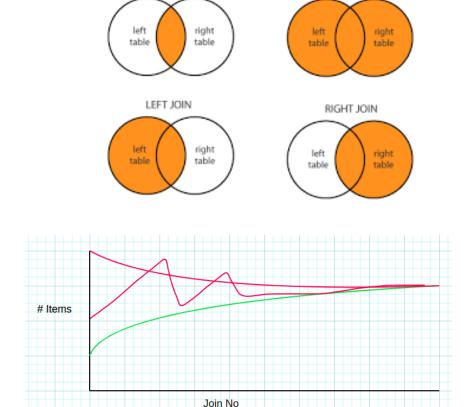
- Every triple pattern introduces a join
- Common sense applies
  - Reduce the joins
  - Visit fewer triples (add more constraints)
- Analytical queries often include ORDER BY, DISTINCT, and subquery requiring visiting and keeping all triples
  - Referred to as full materialization
  - Requires a lot of memory

#### Query Optimizer

- Responsibilities:
  - Narrow down number of triples accessed
  - Pick favorable indexes
  - Reduce join depth
  - Minimize materialization
- Not as smart as Relational DB query optimizer
  - Heuristics are less reliable when working with a single table
  - All data is stored as a string
  - Unused bindings are harder to detect

#### Join Ordering

- Table cardinality
  - Number of items stored in a table
- Join ratio
  - Proportion of rows before to rows after the join
- Joining in an increasing order results in less work
  - Most of the joins are inner joins
  - OPTIONAL is left join



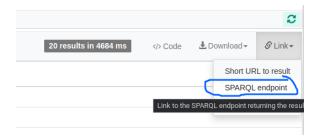
INNER JOIN

FULL JOIN

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Joins: https://www2.stat.duke.edu/~cr173/Sta323\_Sp19/slides/Lec16.html#29

### When the Query Optimizer fails

- Sometimes the query looks sane but times out
  - Query might be fault (use of unbound variables)
  - Query does too much
  - Query optimizer creates a suboptimal plan
- Use query "explain" output to check how it is executed
- In wikidata:
  - Copy sparql endpoint url
  - Add "&explain" at the end
  - Open url in browser
  - Try it!



#### What does explain show?

- Optimized AST
  - Shows the semantics of how your query will be run
  - Rationale behind join reorders (estimated cardinality)
  - Shows the indexes used

```
includeInferred=true
timeout=60000
SELECT ( VarNode(pred) AS VarNode(pred) ) ( com.bigdata.rdf.sparql.ast.FunctionNode(VarNode(person))[ FunctionNode.scalarVals=null, FunctionNode.functionURI=http://www.
 JoinGroupNode [optimizer=None] {
    StatementPatternNode(VarNode(person), ConstantNode(Vocab(6)[http://www.wikidata.org/prop/direct/P]:XSDUnsignedByte(106)), ConstantNode(Vocab(2)[http://www.wikidata.
     AST2BOpBase.estimatedCardinality=33295
     AST2B0pBase.originalIndex=POS
    .
StatementPatternNode(VarNode(person), VarNode(pred), VarNode(value)) [scope=DEFAULT CONTEXTS]
     AST2B0pBase.estimatedCardinality=14404725038
     AST2B0pBase.originalIndex=SP0
    StatementPatternNode(VarNode(any2), <a href="mailto:contexts">ConstantNode(TermId(28301181U)[http://wikiba.se/ontology#directClaim])</a>, VarNode(pred)) [scope=DEFAULT CONTEXTS]
     AST2BOpBase.estimatedCardinality=10509
     AST2B0pBase.originalIndex=POS
group by ( VarNode(pred) AS VarNode(pred) )
having com.bigdata.rdf.sparql.ast.FunctionNode(FunctionNode(com.bigdata.bop.rdf.aggregate.COUNT(person)),ConstantNode(XSDInteger(1)))[ FunctionNode.scalarVals=null, Fun
ORDER BY com.bigdata.rdf.sparql.ast.OrderByExpr(VarNode(4dfb20a5-047a-4d64-a475-04e577bbc6e0))[ ascending=false]
slice(limit=20)
with static (exogeneous) bindings defined as follows:
```

### What does explain show?

- Query Plan
  - Shows the exact operations executed within the query pipeline

igdata.bop.solutions.SliceOp[11](ProjectionOp[10])[ BOp.bopId=11, SliceOp.offset=0, SliceOp.limit=20,
.bigdata.bop.solutions.ProjectionOp[10](MemorySortOp[8])[ BOp.bopId=10, BOp.evaluationContext=CONTROL
om.bigdata.bop.solutions.MemorySortOp[8](ChunkedMaterializationOp[9])[ BOp.bopId=8, SortOp.sortOrder=
 com.bigdata.bop.rdf.join.ChunkedMaterializationOp[9](PipelinedAggregationOp[7])[ ChunkedMaterializat
 com.bigdata.bop.solutions.PipelinedAggregationOp[7](PipelineJoin[6])[ BOp.bopId=7, BOp.evaluationC
 com.bigdata.bop.join.PipelineJoin[6](PipelineJoin[4])[ BOp.bopId=6, JoinAnnotations.constraints=
 com.bigdata.bop.join.PipelineJoin[4](PipelineJoin[2])[ BOp.bopId=4, JoinAnnotations.constraint
 com.bigdata.bop.join.PipelineJoin[2]()[ BOp.bopId=2, JoinAnnotations.constraints=null, AST2B

#### What does explain show?

- Query Evaluation Statistics
  - Is computed after executions
  - Times each operation
  - Shows join ratio of each join

bopSummary	nvars	fastRangeCount	sumMillis	unitsIn	unitsOut	typeErrors	joinRatio
total			56819	2326806	2328360	0	1.0006678683139032
PipelineJoin[2]	1	33295	5061	1	33295	0	33295.0
PipelineJoin[4]	3	14404725038	26666	33295	1744808	0	52.404505180958104
PipelineJoin[6]	2	10509	23149	1744808	544017	0	0.3117918991659827
PipelinedAggregationOp[7]			1901	544017	1555	0	0.0028583665583979912
ChunkedMaterializationOp[9]			12	1555	1555	0	1.0
MemorySortOp[8]			19	1555	1555	0	1.0
ProjectionOp[10]			9	1555	1555	0	1.0
SliceOp[11]			2	20	20	0	1.0

# Demo 1: What is wrong with this query?

This query times out

```
1 SELECT ?pred (COUNT(?person) AS ?count) WHERE {
2  # occupation - scientist
3  ?person wdt:P106 wd:Q901.
4  ?person ?pred ?value.
5  ?any2 wikibase:directClaim ?pred.
6 }
7 GROUP BY ?pred
8 HAVING ((COUNT(?person)) >= 1)
9 ORDER BY DESC (COUNT(?person))
10 LIMIT 20
```

## Demo 1: What is wrong with this query?

Joins are in correct order, but query optimizer reorders them.

DirectClaim is used as first join but since second join is unconstrained it selects the whole dataset for the next join

```
1 SELECT ?pred (COUNT(?person) AS ?count) WHERE {
2   hint:Query hint:optimizer "None".
3
4   # occupation - scientist
5   ?person wdt:P106 wd:Q901.
6   ?person ?pred ?value.
7   ?any2 wikibase:directClaim ?pred.
8 }
9 GROUP BY ?pred
10 HAVING ((COUNT(?person)) >= 1)
11 ORDER BY DESC (COUNT(?person))
12 LIMIT 20
```

# Demo 2: What is wrong with this query?

```
SELECT ?human ?humanLabel ?spouse ?spouseLabel WHERE {
    ?human wdt:P31 wd:Q5 .
    ?human wdt:P39 wd:Q11696 .

OPTIONAL {
    ?spouse wdt:P26 ?human .
}

SERVICE wikibase:label { bd:serviceParam wikibase:language "en" }
}
```

## Demo 2: What is wrong with this query?

Service adds joins at root level.

Because spouse is optional this results in a lot of extra work trying to join on an unbound value

```
1 SELECT ?human ?humanLabelz ?spouse ?spouseLabelz WHERE {
     ?human wdt:P31 wd:05 .
 3
    OPTIONAL {
       ?spouse wdt:P26 ?human .
      OPTIONAL {
         ?spouse rdfs:label ?spouseLabelz .
         FILTER (lang(?spouseLabelz) = 'en')
10
11
12
    OPTIONAL {
       ?human rdfs:label ?humanLabelz .
13
      FILTER (lang(?humanLabelz) = 'en')
14
15
16 }
17 LIMIT 20
```

#### Conclusion

- Introduction to BOLD
  - Feel free to use the code or demo to explore
  - Start with TriplyDB
- Triple Stores
  - Pick the triple store you need
- SPARQL
  - There are many right things to do something
- Querying Wikidata
  - Wikidata is unique for a reason
- Query Performance
  - Sometimes query optimizer is dumb. Work around it