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AIRPORT ROUTES

Neo4j

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Abstract

This project report presents the process and findings of visualizing an airport network using the Neo4j graph database. The dataset comprises 3,504 airports and 46,400 routes, offering a comprehensive view of global connectivity. Through a series of Cypher queries, we explored various aspects of the network, such as the busiest airports, potential new routes, and average distances. This report details the dataset, the rationale behind using Neo4j, the queries executed, and the insights derived from the data.

Introduction

- Background: In the age of global connectivity, understanding the complex network of airport routes is crucial for enhancing operational efficiency and passenger experience. Graph databases provide an intuitive way to represent and analyze these networks.
- Project Objective: To effectively visualize and analyze a large-scale airport network to derive meaningful insights using the advanced graph database capabilities of Neo4j.
- Scope: The project is confined to the visualization and query analysis of airport networks, specifically focusing on route connectivity, airport activity, and geographic distributions.

Overview of Neo4j

- Introduction to Neo4j: Neo4j is known for its graph database capabilities, particularly advantageous for modeling complex, connected data. Its ability to represent graphs and query relationships is unparalleled, making it an ideal choice for visualizing our dataset.
- Neo4j vs. Other Databases: Unlike traditional relational databases, Neo4j excels in scenarios where relationships can be deeply nested and complex, offering superior performance and flexibility for queries that traverse these relationships.

About Our Dataset

- Data Source: The dataset was sourced from the Neo4j-graph-examples repository, which provides a list of airport nodes and route edges.
- Data Description: We selected the dataset because of its structured format and comprehensive data, which aligns well with Neo4j's capabilities. It includes

detailed information about airports and routes, with 3,504 airports and 46,400 routes available for analysis.

id		iata	icao	city	descr	region	runways	longest	altitude	country	continent	lat	Ion
	1	ATL	KATL	Atlanta	Hartsfield	US-GA	5	12390	1026	US	NA	33.6367	-84.4281
	2	ANC	PANC	Anchorage	Anchorage	US-AK	3	12400	151	US	NA	61.1744	-149.996
	3	AUS	KAUS	Austin	Austin Bei	US-TX	2	12250	542	US	NA	30.1945	-97.6699
	4	BNA	KBNA	Nashville	Nashville	US-TN	4	11030	599	US	NA	36.1245	-86.6782
	5	BOS	KBOS	Boston	Boston Lo	US-MA	6	10083	19	US	NA	42.3643	-71.0052
	6	BWI	KBWI	Baltimore	Baltimore	US-MD	3	10502	143	US	NA	39.1754	-76.6683
	7	DCA	KDCA	Washingto	Ronald Re	US-DC	3	7169	14	US	NA	38.8521	-77.0377
	8	DFW	KDFW	Dallas	Dallas/For	US-TX	7	13401	607	US	NA	32.8968	-97.038
	9	FLL	KFLL	Fort Laude	Fort Laude	US-FL	2	9000	64	US	NA	26.0726	-80.1527
	10	IAD	KIAD	Washingto	Washingto	US-VA	4	11500	313	US	NA	38.9445	-77.4558
	11	IAH	KIAH	Houston	George Bu	US-TX	5	12001	96	US	NA	29.9844	-95.3414
	12	JFK	KJFK	New York	New York	US-NY	4	14511	12	US	NA	40.6398	-73.7789
	13	LAX	KLAX	Los Angel	Los Angel	US-CA	4	12091	127	US	NA	33.9425	-118.408
	14	LGA	KLGA	New York	New York	US-NY	2	7003	20	US	NA	40.7772	-73.8726
	15	MCO	KMCO	Orlando	Orlando Ir	US-FL	4	12005	96	US	NA	28.4294	-81.309
	16	MIA	KMIA	Miami	Miami Inte	US-FL	4	13016	8	US	NA	25.7932	-80.2906
	17	MSP	KMSP	Minneapo	Minneapo	US-MN	4	11006	841	US	NA	44.882	-93.2218
	18	ORD	KORD	Chicago	Chicago O	US-IL	7	13000	672	US	NA	41.9786	-87.9048
	19	PBI	KPBI	West Paln	Palm Beac	US-FL	3	10000	19	US	NA	26.6832	-80.0956
	20	PHX	KPHX	Phoenix	Phoenix S	US-AZ	3	11489	1135	US	NA	33.4343	-112.012
	21	RDU	KRDU	Raleigh	Raleigh-D	US-NC	3	10000	435	US	NA	35.8776	-78.7875

src	dest	dist
ATL	AUS	811
ATL	BNA	214
ATL	BOS	945
ATL	BWI	576
ATL	DCA	546
ATL	DFW	729
ATL	FLL	581
ATL	IAD	533
ATL	IAH	688
ATL	JFK	759
ATL	LAX	1941
ATL	LGA	761
ATL	MCO	404
ATL	MIA	596
ATL	MSP	906
ATL	ORD	606
ATL	PBI	545
ATL	PHX	1583

• Data Preparation: We performed data cleaning and transformation to conform to the requirements of Neo4j, ensuring attributes like 'id' and 'distance' were correctly typed. To use the data, we applied the following queries to load it, add some indices and match the data from both csv files.

```
LOAD CSV WITH HEADERS FROM 'file:///airport-
node-list.csv' AS row
CREATE (a:Airport {
 id: toInteger(row.id),
 iata: row.iata,
 icao: row.icao,
 city: row.city,
 descr: row.descr,
 region: row.region,
 runways: toInteger(row.runways),
 longest: toInteger(row.longest),
 altitude: toInteger(row.altitude),
 country: row.country,
 continent: row.continent,
 latitude: toFloat(row.lat),
 longitude: toFloat(row.lon)
})
CREATE (country:Country {name: a.country})
   ATE (continent:Continent {name: a.continent})
CREATE (city:City {name: a.city})
CREATE (region:Region {name: a.region})
CREATE (a)-[:IN_CITY]->(city)
CREATE (a)-[:IN_COUNTRY]->(country)
CREATE (city)-[:IN_COUNTRY]->(country)
CREATE (region)-[:IN_COUNTRY]->(country)
CREATE (a)-[:IN_REGION]->(region)
CREATE (city)-[:IN_REGION]->(region)
CREATE (a)-[:ON_CONTINENT]->(continent)
CREATE (city)-[:ON_CONTINENT]->(continent)
CREATE (country)-[:ON_CONTINENT]->(continent)
```

CREATE (region)-[:ON_CONTINENT]->(continent)

CREATE INDEX FOR (n:Airport) ON (n.iata);
CREATE INDEX FOR (n:Airport) ON (n.icao);

LOAD CSV WITH HEADERS FROM

'file:///iroutes-edges.csv' AS row

MATCH (

srcAirport:Airport {iata: row.src}),
(destAirport:Airport {iata: row.dest})

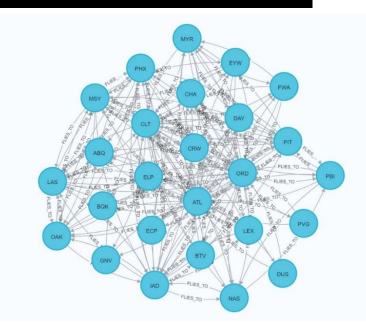
CREATE (srcAirport)-[:FLIES_TO {distance:
toInteger(row.dist)}]->(destAirport)

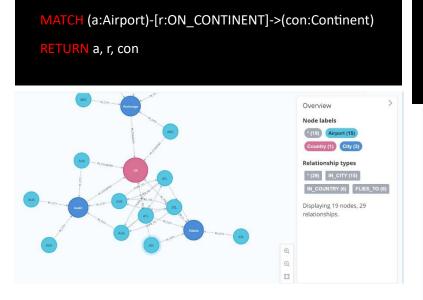
• Data Visualization:

To initially understand the data and test if it was imported successfully, we applied some basic queries to visualize the dataset and practice cypher on neo4j a bit.

MATCH (a:Airport)-[r:FLIES_TO]->(b:Airport)

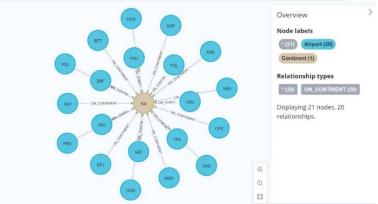
RETURN a, r, b LIMIT 25





MATCH (a:Airport)-[r:IN_CITY]->(n:City)-[:IN_COUNTRY](m:Country)

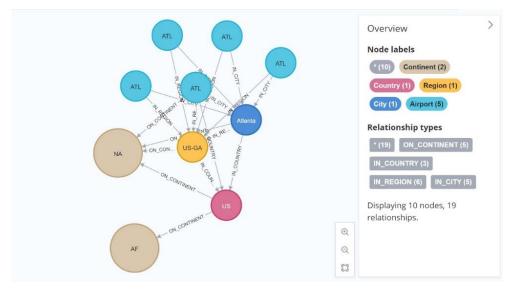
RETURN a, r, n, m



MATCH (con:Continent)<[:ON_CONTINENT]-(co:Country)<[:IN_COUNTRY]-(r:Region)<[:IN_REGION]-(ci:City)<-[:IN_CITY](a:Airport)

RETURN con, co, r, ci, a

LIMIT 10;

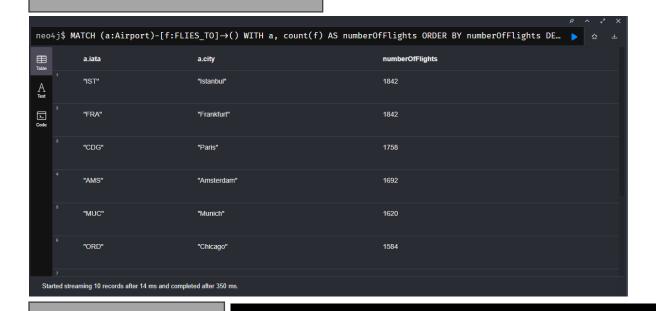


Applying Queries in Neo4j

- Overview of Queries Used: The process of executing queries was a significant learning curve due to unfamiliarity with the Cypher query language. Despite this challenge, we successfully ran a series of queries, which included identifying the busiest airports, potential new routes, and analyzing connectivity within and between continents.
- Query Implementation: The following are the queries we applied on our dataset, their prompt, and their result.

To find the busiest airports in your Neo4j database, we need to identify the airports with the most incoming and outgoing flights. This can be determined by counting the number of relationships each airport node has with other airport nodes. In your database schema, this would be the FLIES_TO relationship

MATCH (a:Airport)-[f:FLIES_TO]->()
WITH a, count(f) AS numberOfFlights
ORDER BY numberOfFlights DESC
RETURN a.iata, a.city, numberOfFlights
LIMIT 10;



To identify potential new routes based on missing connections in your Neo4j database, you can look for pairs of airports that don't currently have a direct flight between them but are connected to common airports. This might suggest a demand for a direct route.

MATCH (srcAirport:Airport)-[:FLIES_TO]->(commonAirport:Airport)<-[:FLIES_TO]-(destAirport:Airport)

WHERE NOT (srcAirport)-[:FLIES_TO]->(destAirport)

AND srcAirport <> destAirport

WITH srcAirport, destAirport, COUNT(commonAirport) AS commonConnections

ORDER BY commonConnections DESC

RETURN srcAirport.iata, destAirport.iata, commonConnections

LIMIT 10;

Table		srcAirport.iata	destAirport.iata	commonConnections
A		"IST"	"IST"	3377
Code		"FRA"	"FRA"	3377
		"FRA"	"FRA"	3377
		"IST"	"IST"	3377
		"CDG"	"CDG"	3223
		"CDG"	"CDG"	3223
				<u> </u>
Sta	rted strea	ming 10 records after 22 ms and completed after 13943	6 ms.	

To analyze airport connectivity within a specific continent in your Neo4j database, we can create a query that counts the number of direct flight connections each airport has within the same continent. This will give us an insight into how well-connected different airports are within a continent.

MATCH (a1:Airport)-[:FLIES_TO]->(a2:Airport)

WHERE a1.continent = a2.continent

WITH a1, COUNT(a2) AS numberOfConnections

ORDER BY numberOfConnections DESC

RETURN a1.iata, a1.city, a1.continent, numberOfConnections
LIMIT 10;

neo	4j\$ M #	ATCH (a1:Airport)	-[:FLIES_T0]→(a2:Airp	oort) WHERE a1.continent = a	a2.continent WITH a1, COUNT(a2) 🕨
Table		a1.iata	a1.city	a1.continent	numberOfConnections
A		"DFW"	"Dallas"	"NA"	1338
∑_ Code		"ORD"	"Chicago"	"NA"	1320
		"ATL"	"Atlanta"	"NA"	1260
		"DEN"	"Denver"	"NA"	1248
		"STN"	"London"	"EU"	1134
		"DFW"	"Dallas"	"NA"	1115
Sta	rted strea	ming 10 records after 17 ms a	and completed after 872 ms.		

To calculate the average distance of routes per airport in your Neo4j database, you can use a Cypher query that aggregates the distances of all flights departing from each airport and then computes the average

MATCH (a:Airport)-[f:FLIES_TO]->()
WITH a, AVG(f.distance) AS averageDistance
ORDER BY averageDistance DESC

RETURN a.iata, a.city, averageDistance;



To discover direct connections between continents in your Neo4j database, you can write a Cypher query that finds flights linking airports on different continents. This involves matching Airport nodes that have a FLIES_TO relationship and are located on different continents. Here's how you can structure this query:

MATCH (a1:Airport)-[:FLIES_TO]->(a2:Airport)

WHERE a1.continent <> a2.continent

WITH a1.continent AS DepartureContinent, a2.continent AS ArrivalContinent, COUNT(*) AS NumberOfFlights

RETURN DepartureContinent, ArrivalContinent, NumberOfFlights

ORDER BY NumberOfFlights DESC;

neo	4j\$ MATCH (a1:Airport)-[:FLIES_TO]→(a2:Airport) WHERE a1.continent <	> a2.continent WITH a1.continent >
Table	DepartureContinent	ArrivalContinent	NumberOfFlights
A	1 "EU"	"AS"	24374
∑_ Code	² "AS"	"EU"	21644
	3 "AF"	"EU"	10906
	4 "EU"	"AF"	10822
	s "NA"	"EU"	9450
	EU"	"NA"	9296
Sta	7 orted streaming 30 records after 18 ms and completed after	r 700 ms.	

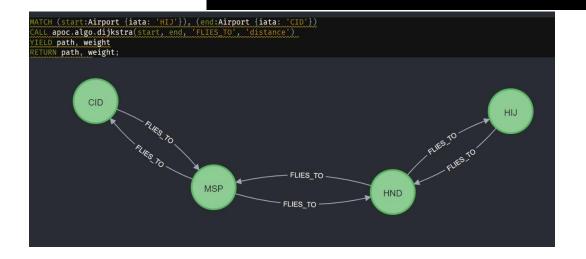
A sample Cypher query for finding the shortest path between two airports using Dijkstra's algorithm with APOC

MATCH (start:Airport {iata: 'HIJ'}), (end:Airport {iata: 'CID'})

CALL apoc.algo.dijkstra(start, end, 'FLIES_TO', 'distance')

YIELD path, weight

RETURN path, weight;



To find airports with the most international connections in your Neo4j database, you can write a Cypher query that counts the number of distinct foreign countries each airport has flights to. This will help identify airports that serve as

MATCH (a:Airport)-[:FLIES_TO]->(b:Airport)

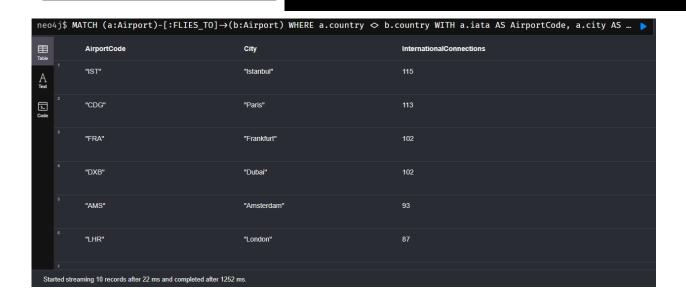
WHERE a.country <> b.country

WITH a.iata AS AirportCode, a.city AS City, COUNT(DISTINCT b.country) AS InternationalConnections

ORDER BY InternationalConnections DESC

RETURN AirportCode, City, InternationalConnections

LIMIT 10;



To find hub airports in each continent, we'll look for airports with the highest number of direct connections (either incoming or outgoing flights) within their respective continents. This can be done using a Cypher query in Neo4j, which aggregates the number of FLIES_TO relationships for each airport and groups them by continent.

MATCH (a:Airport)-[:FLIES_TO]->(b:Airport)

WHERE a.continent = b.continent

WITH a.continent AS Continent, a, COUNT(b) AS Connections

ORDER BY Connections DESC

RETURN Continent, a.iata AS AirportCode, a.city AS City, Connections
LIMIT 10;

neo	4]\$ MA	TCH (a:Airport)-[:FLIES_10]	→(b:Airport) WHERE a.continent =	b.continent WITH a.contine	nt AS Continent, a,
Table		Continent	AirportCode	City	Connections
A	1	"NA"	"DFW"	"Dallas"	1338
∑. Code		"NA"	"ORD"	"Chicago"	1320
		"NA"	"ATL"	"Atlanta"	1260
		"NA"	"DEN"	"Denver"	1248
		"EU"	"STN"	"London"	1134
		"NA"	"DFW"	"Dallas"	1115
Sta	rted strear	ming 10 records after 29 ms and completed after	1334 ms.		



MATCH (a:Airport)

RETURN a.iata AS IATA, a.city AS City, a.altitude AS Altitude

ORDER BY a.altitude DESC

LIMIT 1



Query for the Lowest Airport

MATCH (a:Airport)

RETURN a.iata AS IATA, a.city AS City, a.altitude AS Altitude

ORDER BY a.altitude ASC

LIMIT 1;



Query for the Longest Route

MATCH (a1:Airport)-[f:FLIES_TO]->(a2:Airport)

RETURN a1.iata AS DeparturelATA, a2.iata AS ArrivallATA, f.distance AS Distance

ORDER BY f. distance DESC

LIMIT 1:



Query for the Shortest Route

neo4j\$ M	ATCH (a1:Airport)-[f:FLIES_T0]→(a2:Airport) RE	TURN a1.iata AS DepartureIATA, a2.iata AS	ArrivalI
Table	DepartureIATA	ArrivallATA	Distance
A Text	"PPW"	"WRY"	
}_ ≿ode			
Started stream	aming 1 records after 11 ms and completed after 527 ms.		

MATCH (a1:Airport)-[f:FLIES_TO]->(a2:Airport)

RETURN a1.iata AS DepartureIATA, a2.iata AS ArrivalIATA, f.distance AS Distance

ORDER BY f. distance ASC

LIMIT 1;

Average Number of Runways per Country

MATCH (a:Airport)

WITH a.country AS Country, AVG(a.runways) AS AverageRunways

RETURN Country, AverageRunways

ORDER BY AverageRunways DESC;



Finding Isolated Airports

MATCH (a:Airport)

OPTIONAL MATCH (a)-[f:FLIES_TO]->()

WITH a, COUNT(f) AS numberOfConnections

WHERE numberOfConnections <= 1

RETURN a.iata AS IATA, a.city AS City, a.country AS Country, numberOfConnections

ORDER BY numberOfConnections ASC;



Airports Serving the Most Countries

MATCH (a:Airport)-[:FLIES_TO]->(b:Airport)

WHERE a.country <> b.country

WITH a.iata AS AirportCode, a.city AS City, COUNT(DISTINCT b.country) AS NumberOfCountries

ORDER BY NumberOfCountries DESC

RETURN AirportCode, City, NumberOfCountries

LIMIT 10;



Continental Connectivity

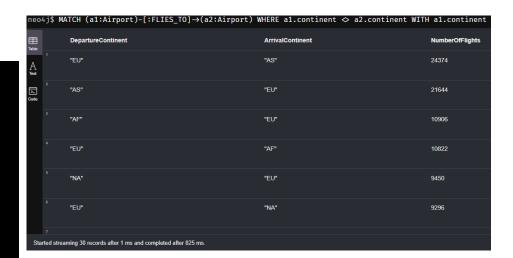
MATCH (a1:Airport)-[:FLIES_TO]->(a2:Airport)

WHERE a1.continent <> a2.continent

WITH a1.continent AS DepartureContinent, a2.continent AS ArrivalContinent, COUNT(*) AS NumberOfFlights

RETURN DepartureContinent, ArrivalContinent, NumberOfFlights

ORDER BY NumberOfFlights DESC;





Average Flight Distance by Continent

MATCH (a1:Airport)-[f:FLIES_TO]->(a2:Airport)

WHERE a1.continent = a2.continent

WITH a1.continent AS Continent, AVG(f.distance) AS AverageDistance

RETURN Continent, AverageDistance

ORDER BY AverageDistance DESC;

Most Common Runway Lengths

MATCH (a:Airport)

WHERE a.longest IS NOT NULL

WITH a.longest AS
RunwayLength, COUNT(*) AS
Frequency

ORDER BY Frequency DESC

RETURN RunwayLength, Frequency;

	neo	4j\$ MA	TCH (a:Airport) WHERE a.longest IS NOT NULL WITH a.longest AS Runwayl	ength, COUNT
	Table		RunwayLength	Frequency
I	A Text		8202	404
	Σ_ Code		9843	340
			6562	248
			8530	212
			7874	208
			6890	180
	Sta	rted strea	ming 1585 records after 9 ms and completed after 34 ms, displaying first 1000 rows.	

Cities with Multiple Airports

MATCH (a:Airport)

WITH a.city AS City, COUNT(*) AS NumberOfAirports

WHERE NumberOfAirports > 1

RETURN City, NumberOfAirports

ORDER BY NumberOfAirports DESC;

ible	City	NumberOfAirports
1 A ext	"London"	24
2 ode	"San Jose"	16
	"Melbourne"	16
	"Santa Rosa"	16
	"Sydney"	12
	"Beijing"	12

Longest Domestic Routes

MATCH (a1:Airport)-[f:FLIES_TO]->(a2:Airport)

WHERE a1.country = a2.country AND a1 <> a2

RETURN a1.iata AS DepartureIATA, a2.iata AS ArrivalIATA, f.distance AS Distance

ORDER BY f. distance DESC

LIMIT 10:

DepartureIATA	ArrivallATA	Distance
"HNL"	"BOS"	5083
"HNL"	"BOS"	5083
"BOS"	"HNL"	5083
"BOS"	"HNL"	5083
"BOS"	"HNL"	5083
"HNL"	"BOS"	5083

Challenges and Solutions: Learning and debugging Cypher queries was a hurdle
that we overcame through practice and consultation of Neo4j's extensive
documentation. While the computational limits of personal laptops hindered our
ability to display the entire network, we mitigated this by focusing on subsets of
the data for analysis and visualization.

Data Visualization and Analysis

- Visualization Techniques: For visualization, we utilized Neo4j's graph visualization tools, adjusting settings for clarity, such as node captions and color coding. We tailored the graph's appearance to enhance readability and interpretability.
- Insights from the Data: Key insights include the identification of major international hubs, the discovery of the longest and shortest routes, and the recognition of potential new route opportunities.

Discussion

- Interpretation of Results: The results highlight the global nature of the aviation network and the critical role of certain airports as international hubs.
- Limitations and Future Work: The primary limitation encountered was the
 inability of the Neo4j interface to display more than 300 nodes at a time without
 performance degradation. This limitation, along with the hardware constraints of
 our personal computers, prevented us from visualizing the entire dataset
 simultaneously. For future iterations of the project, it would be beneficial to use
 more powerful computational resources or cloud services to handle larger
 datasets without performance issues.

Conclusion

Our exploration of the airport network dataset using Neo4j graph database technology provided valuable insights into global connectivity and airport activity. Despite the challenges encountered, including computational limitations and the learning curve associated with Cypher, we successfully visualized and analyzed the dataset to reveal patterns and potential opportunities in global air traffic networks.

References

Neo4j Graph Examples: Airport Routes. Retrieved from https://github.com/neo4j-graph-examples/airport-routes/tree/main