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## return partial match in cypher

asked 4 months ago

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▲ Hi I'm using this query to return the common child nodes of three starting nodes.

0  
▼  
★  

```
MATCH (c1:node)-[*]->(x), (c2:node)-[*]->(x), (c3:node)-[*]->(x)
USING INDEX c1:node(name)
USING INDEX c2:node(name)
USING INDEX c3:node(name)
WHERE c1.name = "Tobin" AND c2.name = "John" AND c3.name = "Clarke"
RETURN DISTINCT x
```

Currently it does not return anything unless all three nodes have a common child node. How can I have it return a partial match where say Tobin and John have a common child that Clarke does not?

Ideally in this case i would then separately have it return Clarke's first child even though it's not a match to the others.. but maybe i'm asking too much from one query?

Thanks!

neo4j match cypher partial

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asked Mar 27 at 16:33

 **Damon**  
20 ● 2

### 1 Answer

active oldest votes

▲ It's kinda hard, because any child of any of your 3 nodes would match that condition. So what you're creating there is a cross product.

0  
▼  
In Neo4j 2.2.0 you could try this:

```
MATCH (c1:node),(c2:node), (c3:node)
USING INDEX c1:node(name)
USING INDEX c2:node(name)
USING INDEX c3:node(name)
WHERE c1.name = "Tobin" AND c2.name = "John" AND c3.name = "Clarke"
MATCH (c1)-[*]->(x)
WHERE shortestPath((c2)-[*]->(x)) oR shortestPath((c3)-[*]->(x))
RETURN DISTINCT x
```

share improve this answer


answered Mar 28 at 21:20

 **Michael Hunger**  
25.2k ● 2 ● 21 ● 41

Thanks Michael, This works to some degree but returns different results depending on the order of the nodes and/or location of unmatched nodes. Ideally it would be order independent. I know.. I'm asking a lot.. – [Damon](#) Mar 29 at 1:34

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