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Why Cypher query returns a null value in average function?



I am working with a Neo4j (2.2.0 M2) embedded graph application. For query this graph I use the Cypher way, using the `GraphDatabaseService` class and its method `execute(query, params)`, which returns a `org.neo4j.graphdb.Result` instance. The problem is when I use an aggregated function (avg) in the query:

```
MATCH
(e:Person {person_id: {id} }) <-[:ASSIGNED_TO]-(t:Task)
WHERE t.start_date >= {cutoff_date}
RETURN AVG(t.estimated_time) as avgte
```

For briefly understand of this query: id and cutoff_date are parameters I put then in a Mapset, last of them is a date in UTC (long) and comparable. The result of this query, using the Neo4j browser manager, and giving some values to the specified parameters, is the following:

avgte

6.166666666666667

Returned 1 row in 665 ms.

Perfect!, now, when I expect the same result using Cypher in the Java code (I have avoided "try", and "with resources"):

```
//Same params
int id = 187;
long longDate = 1357016400000L;

Map<String, Object> params= new HashMap<>();
params.put("id", id);
params.put("cutoff_date", longDate);

//same query
String query = "MATCH"+
"(e:Person {person_id: {id} }) <-[:ASSIGNED_TO]-(t:Task) " +
"WHERE t.start_date >= {cutoff_date} " +
"RETURN AVG(t.estimated_time) as avgte";

GraphDatabaseService gdb = new
    GraphDatabaseFactory().
        newEmbeddedDatabase(DB_NAME) ;

Result result = gdb.execute(query, params);
Map<String, Object> firstRow = result.next();
Object avgteObject = firstRow.get("avgte");

//Using the most basic transformation: as String
System.out.println("AVGTE: "+String.valueOf(avgteObject));
```


The result is: "AVGTE: null". How can this be possible!? Also I've used other classes like `ExtendedExecutionResult`, and `ExecutionResult` from `org.neo4j.cypher` package, but also returns the same output. The problem is not the Query, it works perfectly so I think it is when using the Cypher classes, it doesn't load the value of the aggregated function.

asked 4 months ago

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Any ideas??

java neo4j cypher

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asked Mar 27 at 9:40



Rigoberto Peña
53 • 5

- 1 Are you sure DB_NAME points correctly to your database? If the database folder doesn't exist neo4j will silently create empty database, hence your null result. – [frant.hartm](#) Mar 27 at 17:28

Yeap, everything about database configuration is OK. The DB_NAME var contains a correctly String with the specified database location. Also, with this same code I have executed another queries, and they work. – [Rigoberto Peña](#) Mar 27 at 19:10

Thanks @frant.hartm, that was the problem, an empty database creation. – [Rigoberto Peña](#) Mar 29 at 15:52

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2 Answers

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Perhaps you have a node without `estimated_time` property in your db?

- 1 Try to return `t` or `t.estimated_time` to see the raw data

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answered Mar 28 at 21:26



Michael Hunger
25.2k • 2 • 21 • 41

Michael, first of all thanks for your answer, really I was expecting it. trying your solution I found an empty resultset. That doesn't solve my problem, but I release that the graph database was empty. As @frant.hartm said an empty database was created, and consequently a null response. Creating a new project, and checking every step, the result of avg function did work perfectly!!! The problem: bad location of graph database. I think Neo4j Community must fix this kind of database creation to prevent this issue. – [Rigoberto Peña](#) Mar 29 at 15:45

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My bad: creating an empty database. The snippet code: DB_NAME takes the following value: "gespro_graph_db"

0

```
GraphDatabaseService gds = new  
    GraphDatabaseFactory().  
    newEmbeddedDatabase(DB_NAME) ;
```

It works if the graph database location is in the same project path, but it is in folder structure like this: `/project_path/gespro_graph/gespro_graph_db/`, where last folder is the real location. My project was pointing to `/project_path/gespro_graph_db`, and this is empty.

share improve this answer

answered Mar 29 at 15:51



Rigoberto Peña
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