

What is a graph database?

NOSQL CONCEPTS



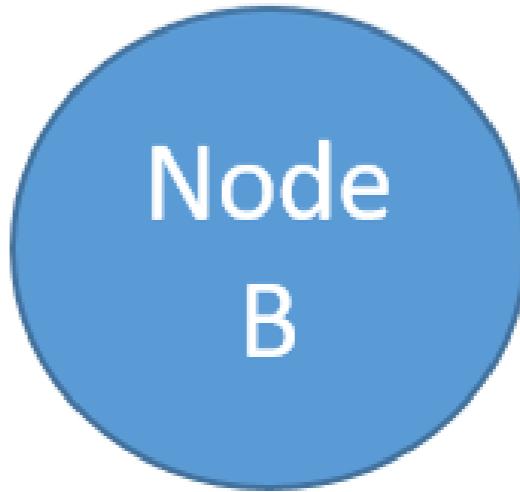
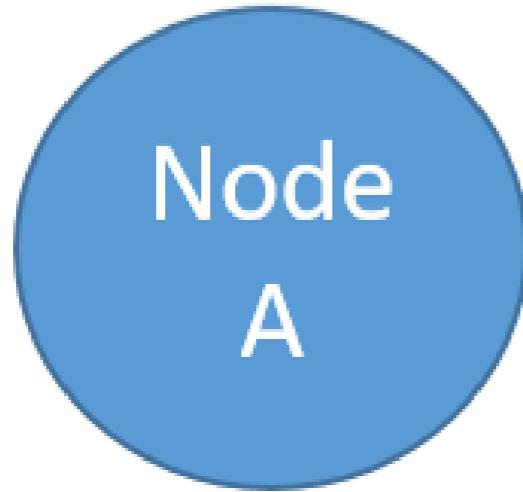
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Graph databases - overview

- Treat **data** and its **relationships** with the same importance
- Based on **graph theory**
 - branch of mathematics
 - studies graphs for modeling the relationships between objects

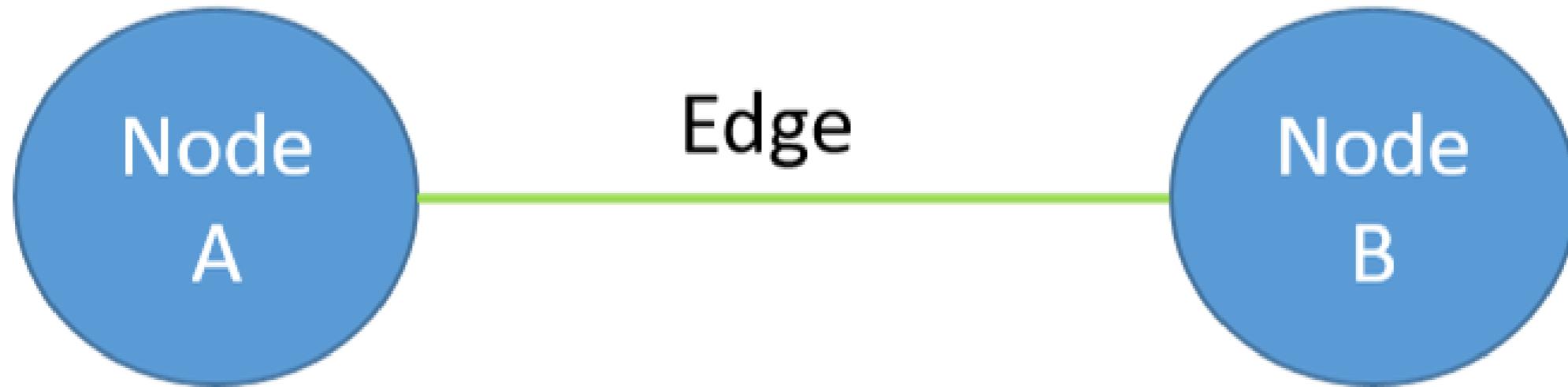
Graph databases - parts of a graph

- Vertices/nodes
- Edges



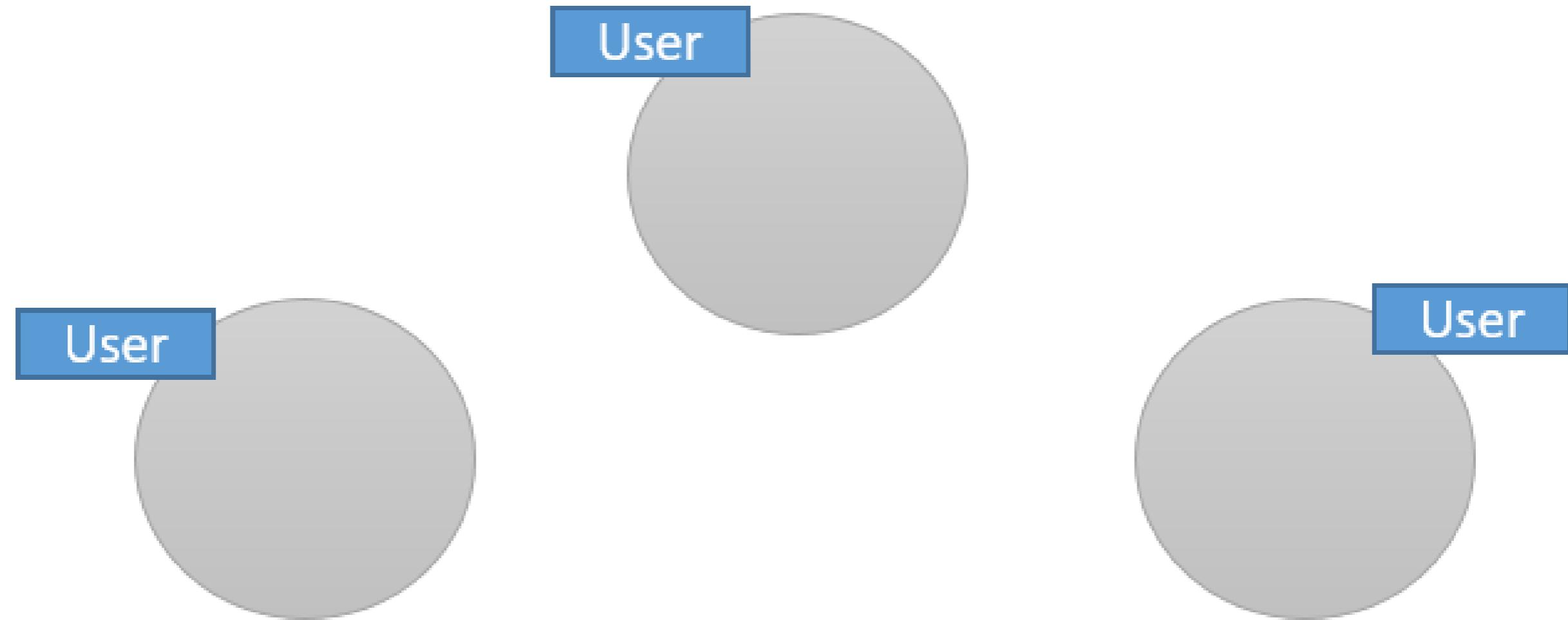
Graph databases - parts of a graph

- Vertices/nodes
- Edges/links/arcs



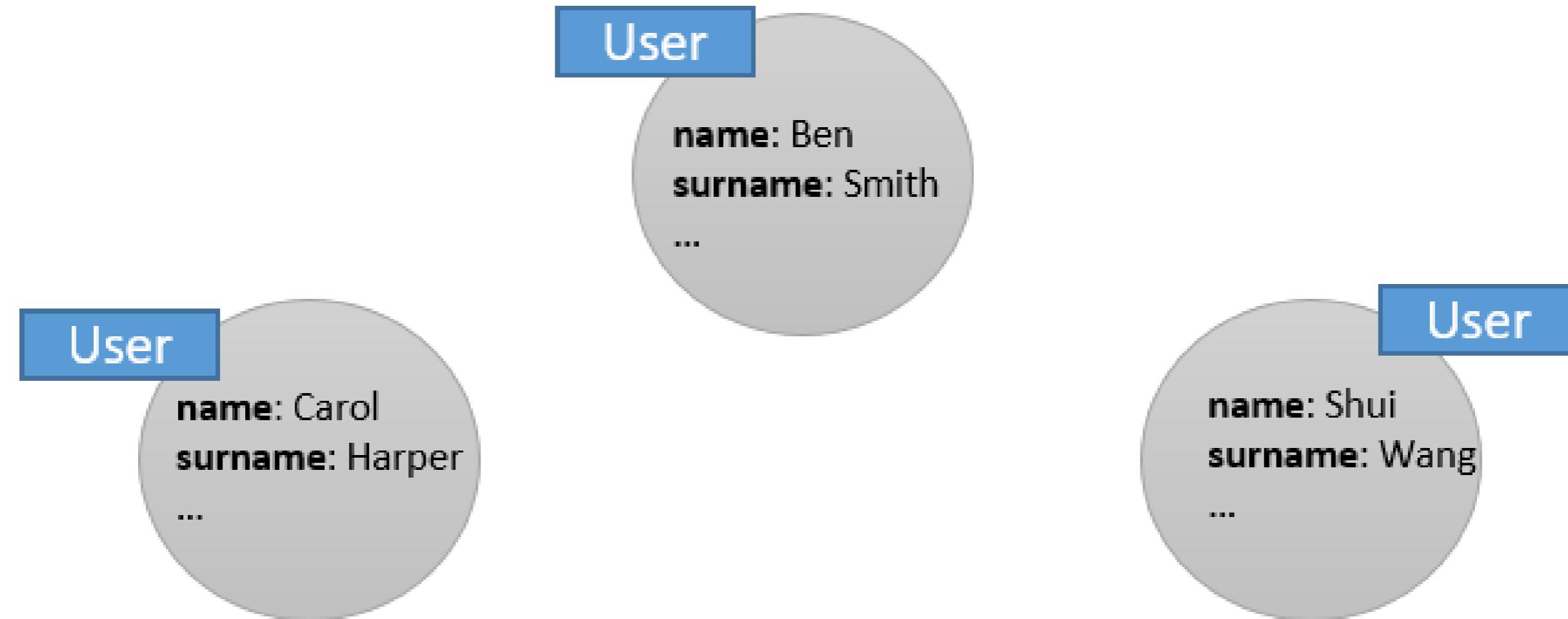
Graph databases - nodes

- Represent **entities** (users, cities, airports, employees...)
- Have **properties**



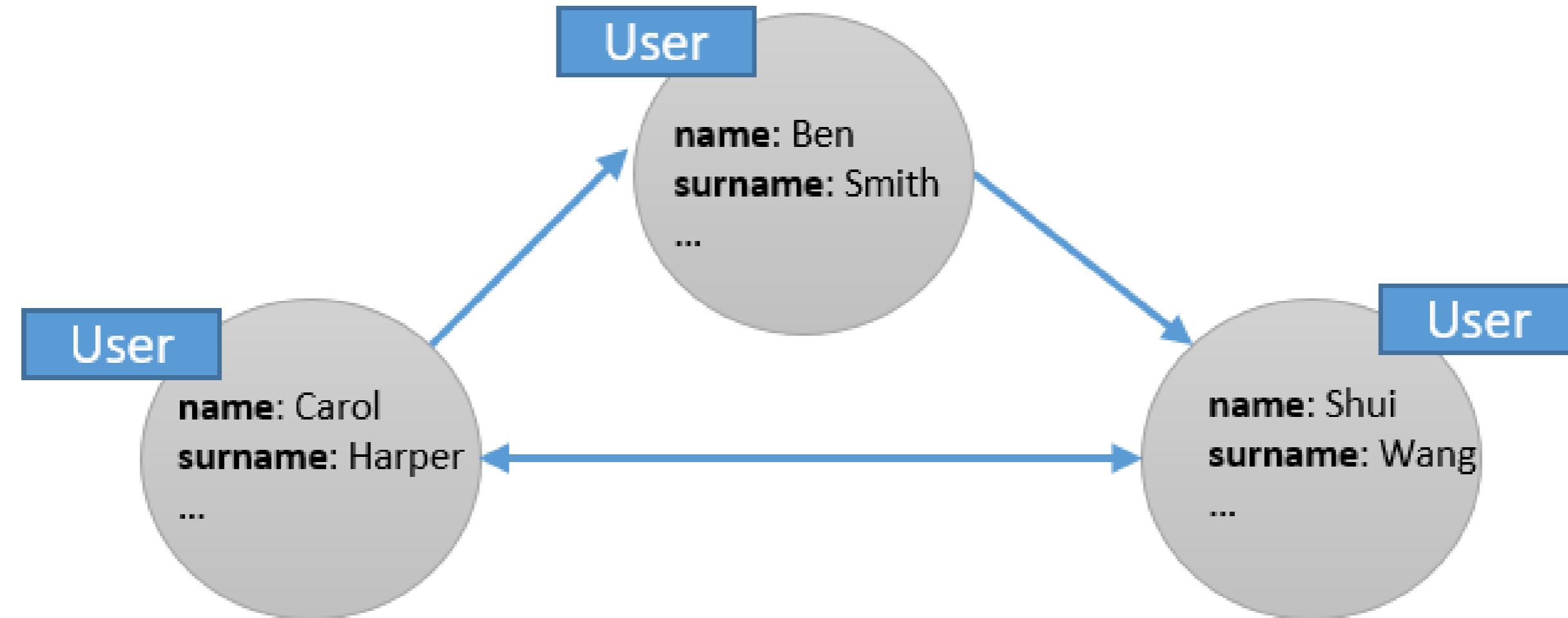
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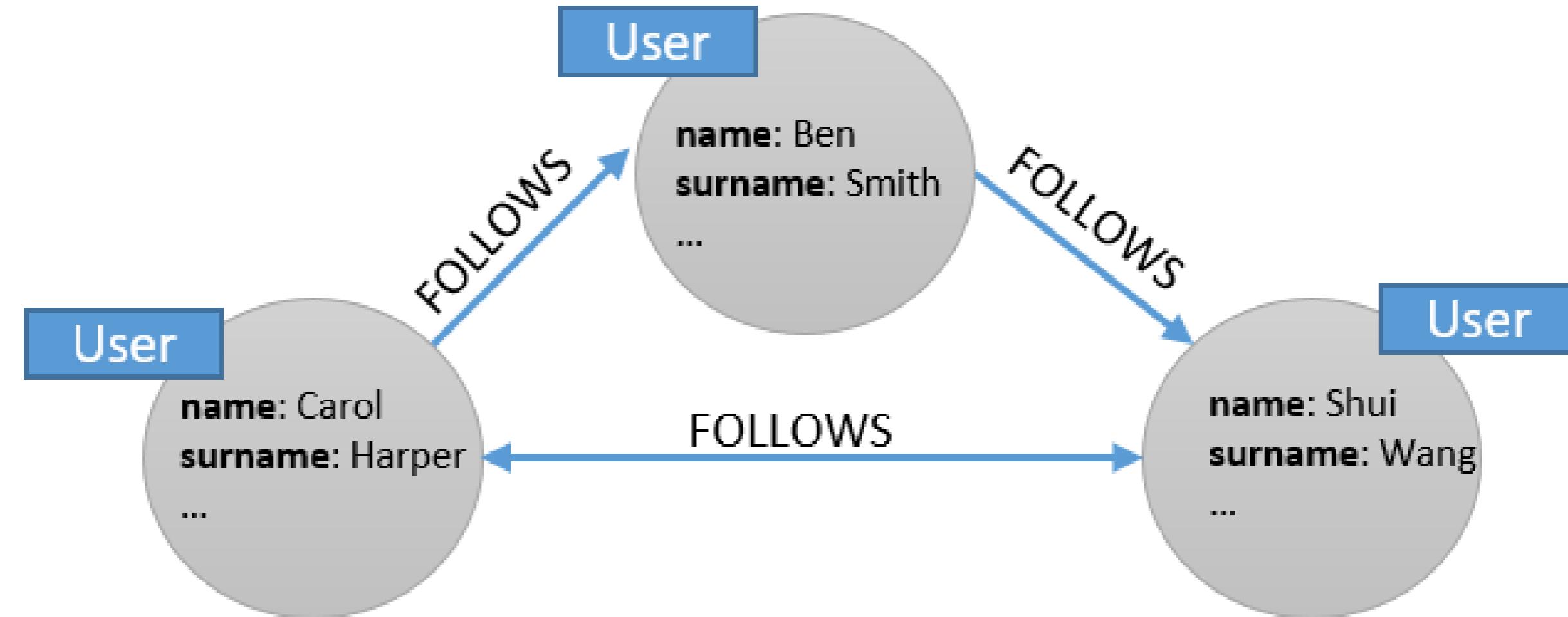
Graph databases - edges

- Connect the nodes
- Define the **relationships** between the nodes



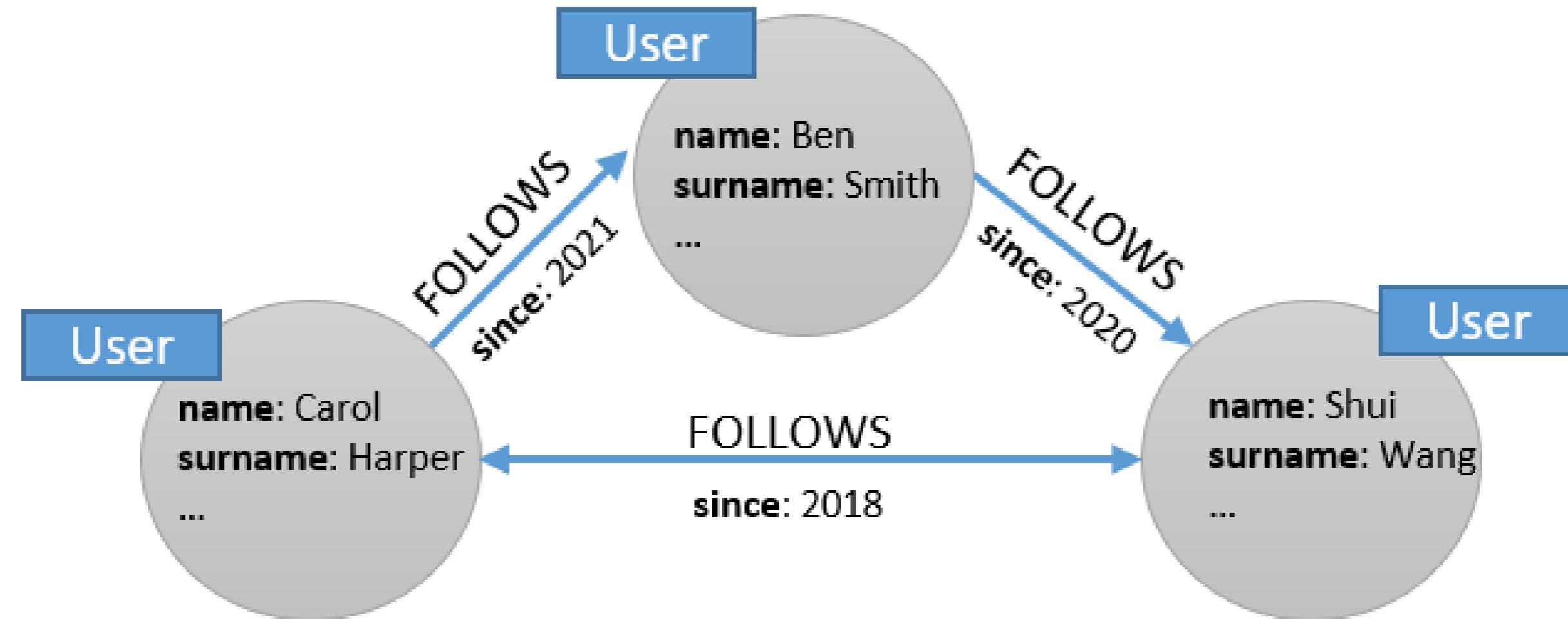
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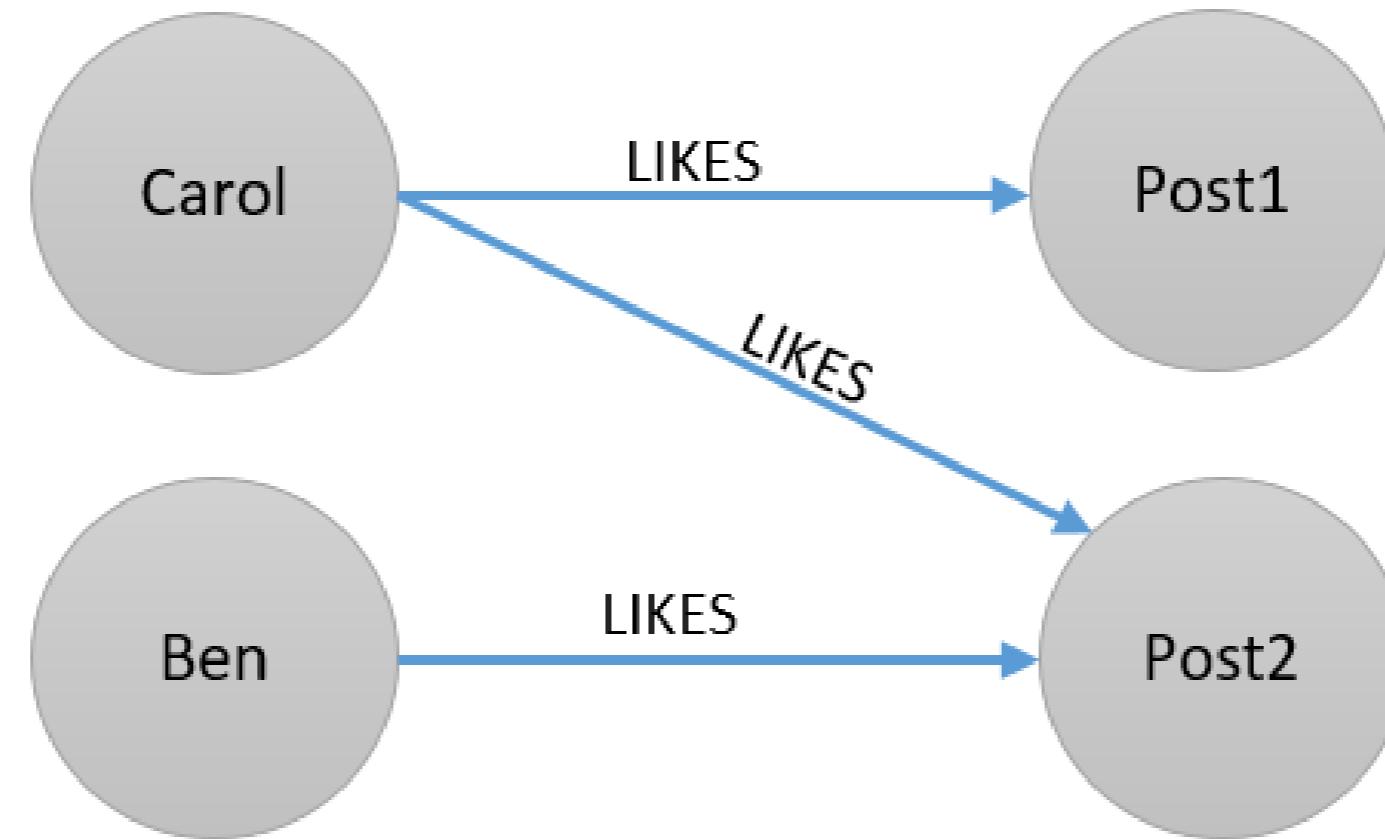
Graph databases - edges

- Connect the nodes
- Define the **relationships** between the nodes



Graph databases - types of edges

- Directed:
 - Specific direction



Graph databases - types of edges

- Undirected:
 - No direction
 - The relationship is mutual



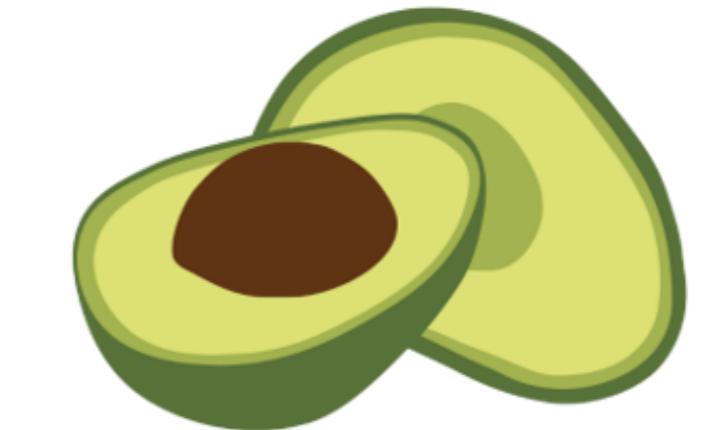
Graph databases - queries

- **Traversing** the graph
- Examples:
 - Get all the users that Ben follows
 - Get when Carol started following Shui
 - Get the shortest path from one city to another
- **Path:** set of nodes and edges across a graph
- **Query languages:** Cypher, Gremlin, etc.

Popular graph databases



Azure Cosmos DB



ArangoDB

Let's practice!

NOSQL CONCEPTS

Advantages and limitations of graph databases

NOSQL CONCEPTS



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Advantages - flexibility

- Can **change** as applications and industries change
- **Don't need** to define the final **final structure** in advance
- Can **add/delete nodes, properties, and edges**

Advantages - performance

- Doesn't need to perform **joins**
 - Joining can be potentially **time-consuming**
- Follow edges from node to node
 - **Simpler and faster**

Advantages - easy representation of the data

- **Similar structure to human thinking**
 - Graph modeling very **intuitive**
- **Easily visualized**
- **Facilitates understanding**

Advantages - horizontal scalability

- It is **possible**
- **More difficult** than in other NoSQL databases
 - Graphs are connected
 - Need to be distributed across multiple machines

Limitations

- Entity properties with **extremely large values**
 - BLOBs (Binary Large Objects): multimedia objects
 - CLOBs (Character Large Objects): collections of character data
 - Graph databases **won't perform well**
 - **Bad practice**
 - Use **another database** to store that information
- **Significant change** for developers
 - New data modeling mindset
 - Learn Cypher, Gremlin...

Let's practice!

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When to use graph databases

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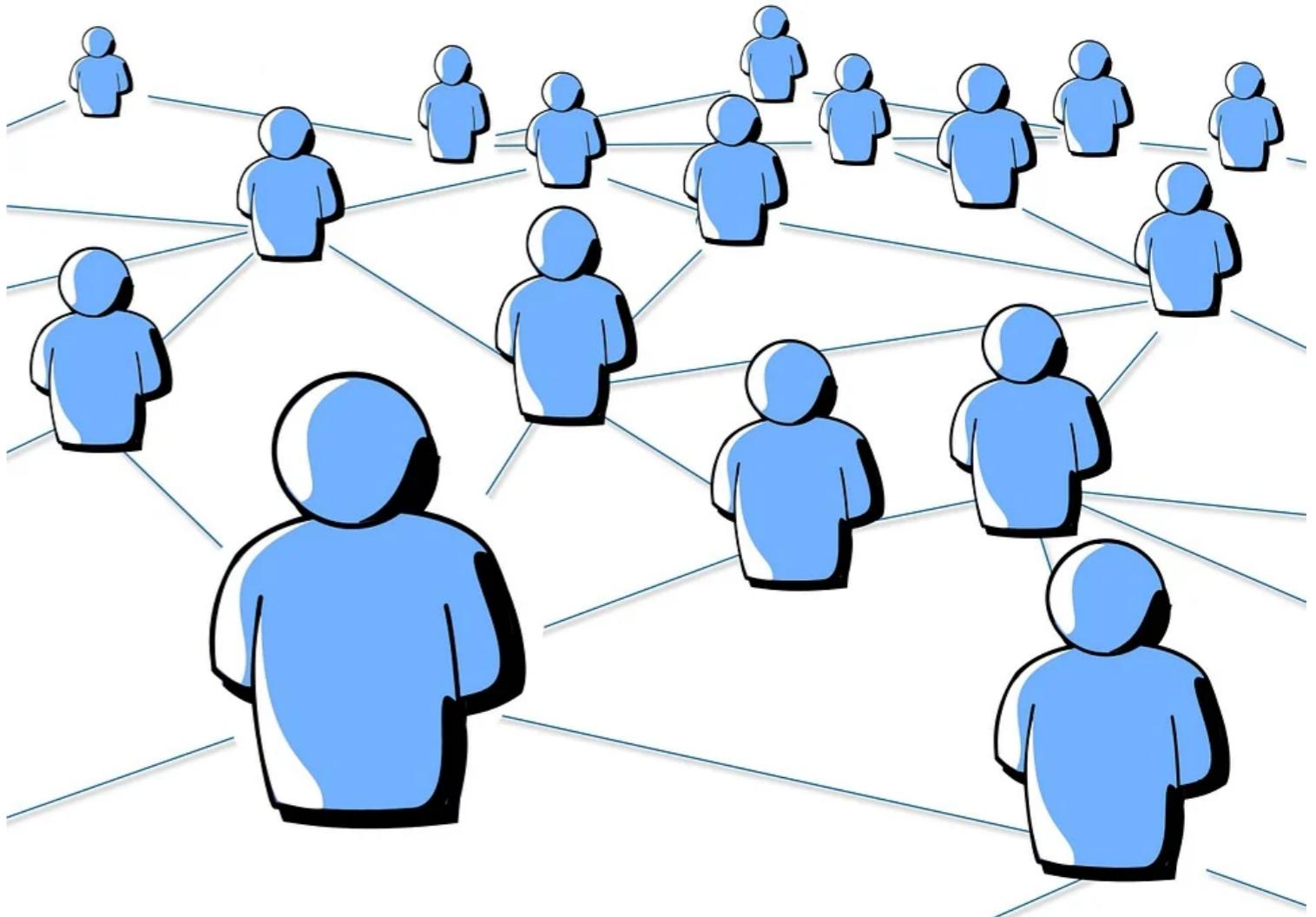
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Suitable cases - General information

- Highly **connected** data

Suitable cases - Social graphs

- **Social networks**
 - Users and their relationships
 - Posts
 - Likes
 - ...
- **Employees of a company**
 - Projects
 - Relationships between the employees



Suitable cases - Infectious diseases

- Model:
 - Interactions between people
 - Contact events
 - Exposures
- Help to understand **transmission chains**



Suitable cases - Location services

- Locations and distances
- Optimize the routes for navigation applications
- Recommendations for nearby points of interest:
 - restaurants
 - cinemas
 - hospitals
 - etc.



Suitable cases - Fraud detection

- **Stop fraud in real-time:**
 - Credit card fraud
 - E-commerce fraud
 - Money laundering
- **Model:** individuals, credit cards, phone numbers, devices, IP addresses...
- **Uncover suspicious patterns:**
 - multiple users coming from the same IP
 - ...



Suitable cases - Real-time recommendations

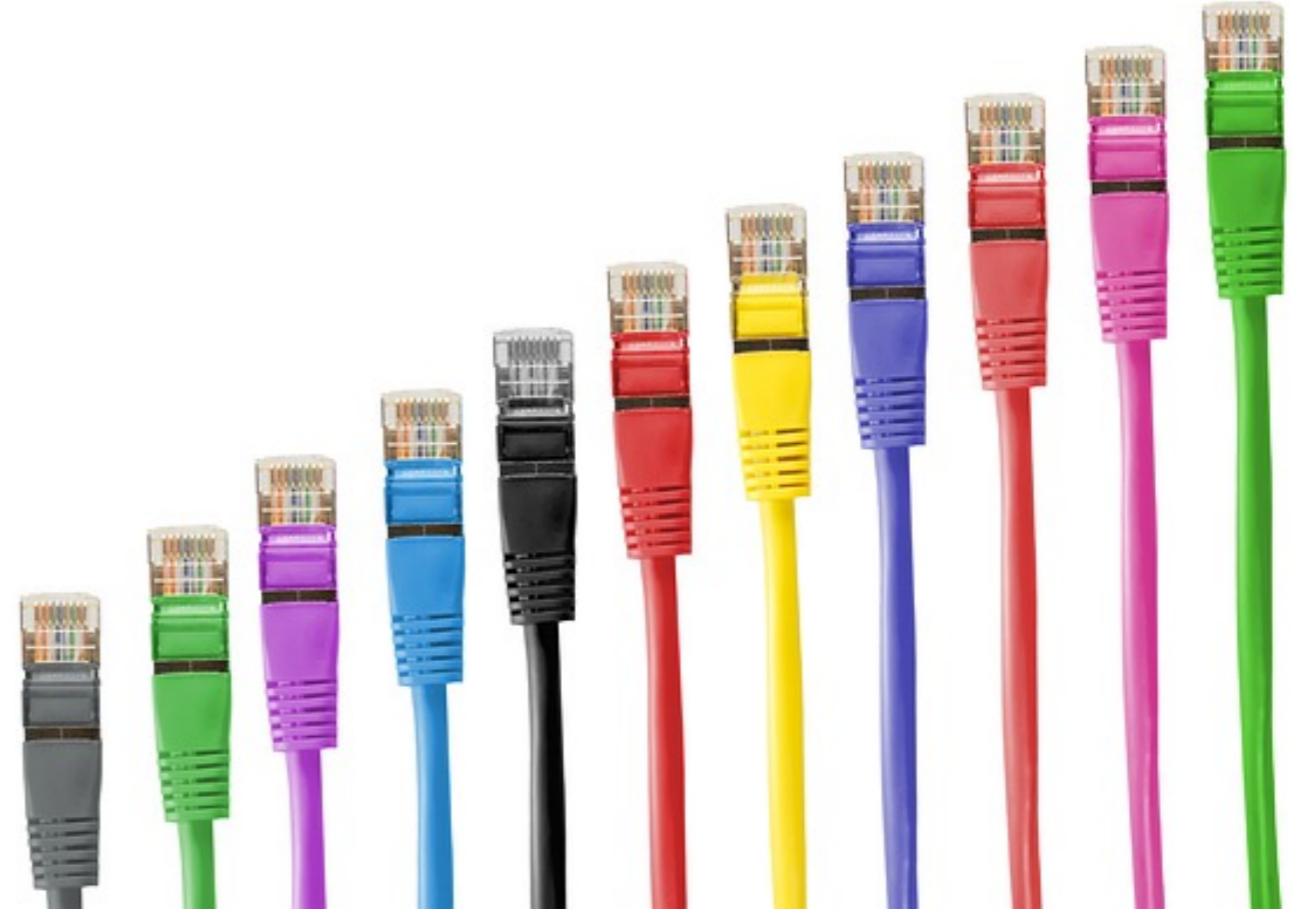
- Store buying history and browsing behavior to **recommend an item**
- Offer an item to a friend
- Show unwatched movies based on similar users

You may also like



Suitable cases - Networks

- Storage of relationships between **networks** and **infrastructure** elements
 - physical machines
 - virtual machines
 - applications
 - routers
 - switches
 - ...
- Alert in real-time about potential **design flaws**



Unsuitable cases

- **Disconnected data**
- **Relationships** between the data are **not important**
- Applications that only perform **general searches** without a specific starting point
 - Are not optimized for those queries
- **Properties** that contain extremely **large values** (BLOBs, CLOBs...)

Let's practice!

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Neo4j case study

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Neo4j - overview

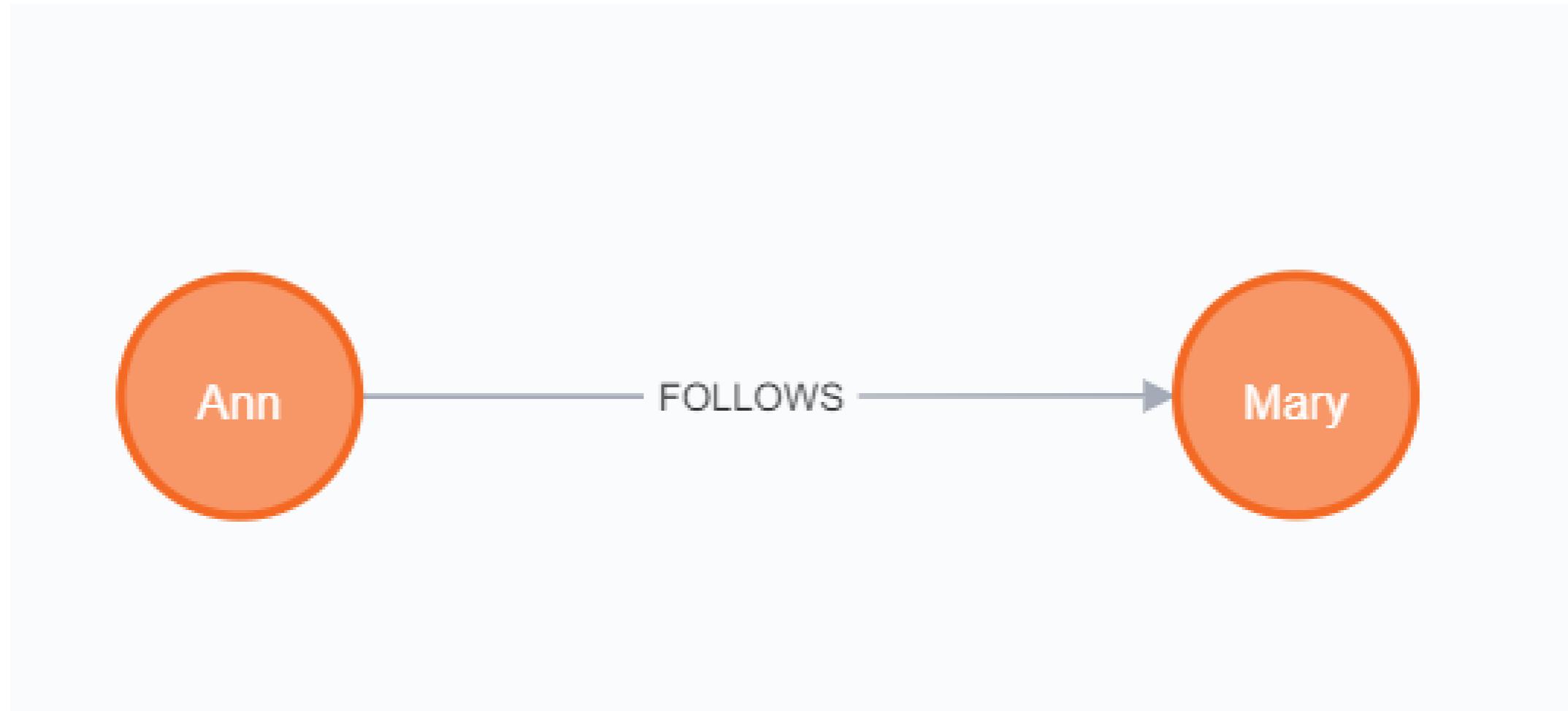
- Leader in **graph database** technology
- 420+ employees
- Reveals and predicts how people, processes, and systems are **interrelated**



Neo4j graph platform

- Suite of applications and tools
 - Interact and use graph data

Neo4j graph platform - Graph database

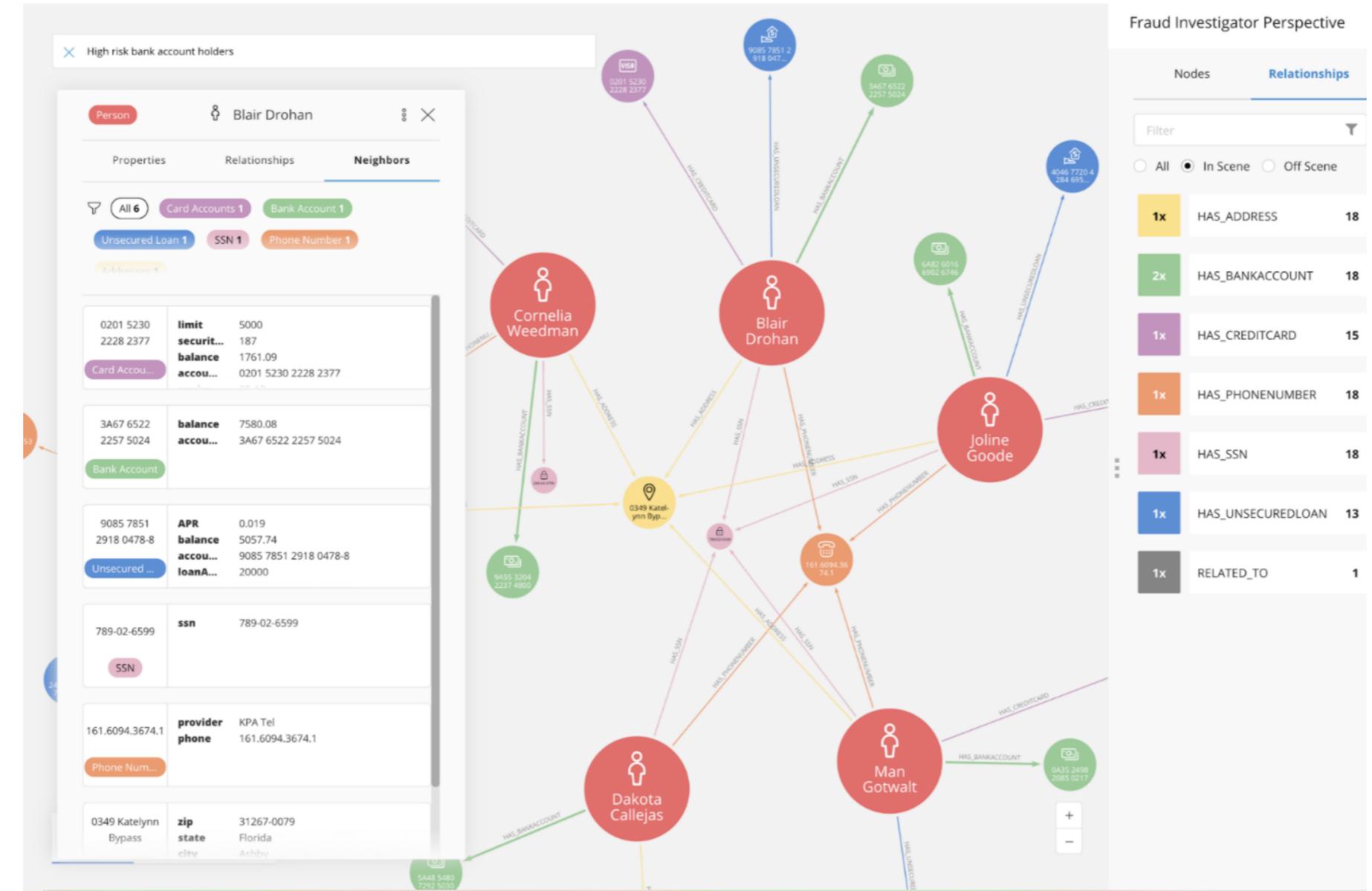


- **Store and connect** the data

Neo4j graph platform - Graph data science library

- Used for executing **graph algorithms**:
 - Path finding
 - Centrality
 - Community detection
 - Similarity
 - Link prediction
 - Node embeddings
 - Node classification

Neo4j graph platform - Bloom



- View and analyze data without any programming knowledge

Neo4j graph platform - Cypher

- Powerful **query language**
- Inspired by SQL
- **Save and get** data from the graph database
- Multiple queries within the **same transaction**

```
CREATE (:User {name: 'Ann'})
```

Neo4j graph platform - Connectors and Integrations

- Facilitate the use of Neo4j in existing architectures
 - Neo4j Connector for Apache Spark
 - Neo4j Connector for Apache Kafka
 - Neo4j Connector for BI
 - Neo4j Labs Integrations

Neo4j graph platform - Developer tools

- Neo4j Desktop
 - Local Neo4j databases
- Neo4j Browser
 - Interact with the graphs using a browser
- Neo4j Sandbox
 - Learn about Neo4j, test personal ideas...

Neo4j graph platform - Aura

- Cloud Database Service
- Run in the cloud without managing the infrastructure



Neo4j - drivers

- **Official drivers:** C#, Java, Python, JavaScript, Spring...
- **Community drivers:** R, PHP, Ruby...

Neo4j - popular uses

- Analytics and artificial intelligence
- Fraud detection
- Real-time recommendations
- Knowledge graphs
- Life sciences
- Telecommunications
- ...

Neo4j - customers



Vanguard®



Adobe



v o l v o



Gousto - overview

- Recipe box company
- Delivers over a million meals each month
- 400+ staff



Gousto - problem and solution

- **Problem:** More choice implied difficulty to navigate
- **Solution:** Use Neo4j
 - Internal **recommendation system** with recipes
 - subscriber's previous interactions with the menu
 - information on upcoming recipes

Gousto - results

- 30% increase in the number of customers that select recommended recipes
- Better cost control

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¹ <https://neo4j.com/case-studies/>

Let's practice!

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Congratulations!

NOSQL CONCEPTS



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Chapter 1

- Differences between **NoSQL** and **relational databases**
- Main concepts of **key-value** databases
- **Advantages**
 - simplicity
 - horizontal scalability
 - flexibility
- **Limitations**
 - no complex queries
 - search just by key

Chapter 1

- **Suitable cases**
 - user-session information
 - user profiles and user preferences
 - shopping carts
 - ...
- **Unsuitable cases**
 - search a key based on its value
- **Case study:** Editoo and Redis
 - reduction in downtime
 - higher performance

Chapter 2

- Basics of **document** databases
- **Advantages**
 - flexibility
 - horizontal scalability
 - intuitive for developers
- **Limitations**
 - care about the code
 - care about redundant data

Chapter 2

- **Suitable cases**
 - catalogs
 - event logging
 - user profiles
 - etc.
- **Unsuitable cases**
 - very structured data
- **Case study:** Shutterfly and MongoDB
 - improved its performance

Chapter 3

- Basics of **column family** databases
- **Advantages**
 - flexibility
 - speed
 - horizontal scalability
- **Limitations**
 - no multirow transactions
 - no joins
 - no subqueries

Chapter 3

- **Suitable** scenarios
 - event logging
 - Content Management Systems
 - time-series data
- **Unsuitable** scenarios
 - need to change the queries very often
 - need complex queries and joins
 - don't deal with large amounts of data
- **Case study:** Bigmate and Apache Cassandra
 - can handle concurrent millions of operations

Chapter 4

- Main concepts of **graph** databases
- **Advantages**
 - flexibility
 - high performance
 - horizontal scalability
 - easiness of data representation
- **Limitations**
 - extremely large objects (BLOBs, CLOBs...)
 - significant change for developers

Chapter 4

- **Suitable** situations
 - social graphs
 - infectious diseases
 - fraud detection
 - location services
 - etc.
- **Unsuitable** situations
 - disconnected data
 - unimportant relationships between data
 - etc.

Chapter 4

- **Case study:** Gousto and Neo4j
 - better cost control
 - increased number of customers that select recommended recipes

Thank you!

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