

no:sql(br)/v2

# Modeling with Graphs

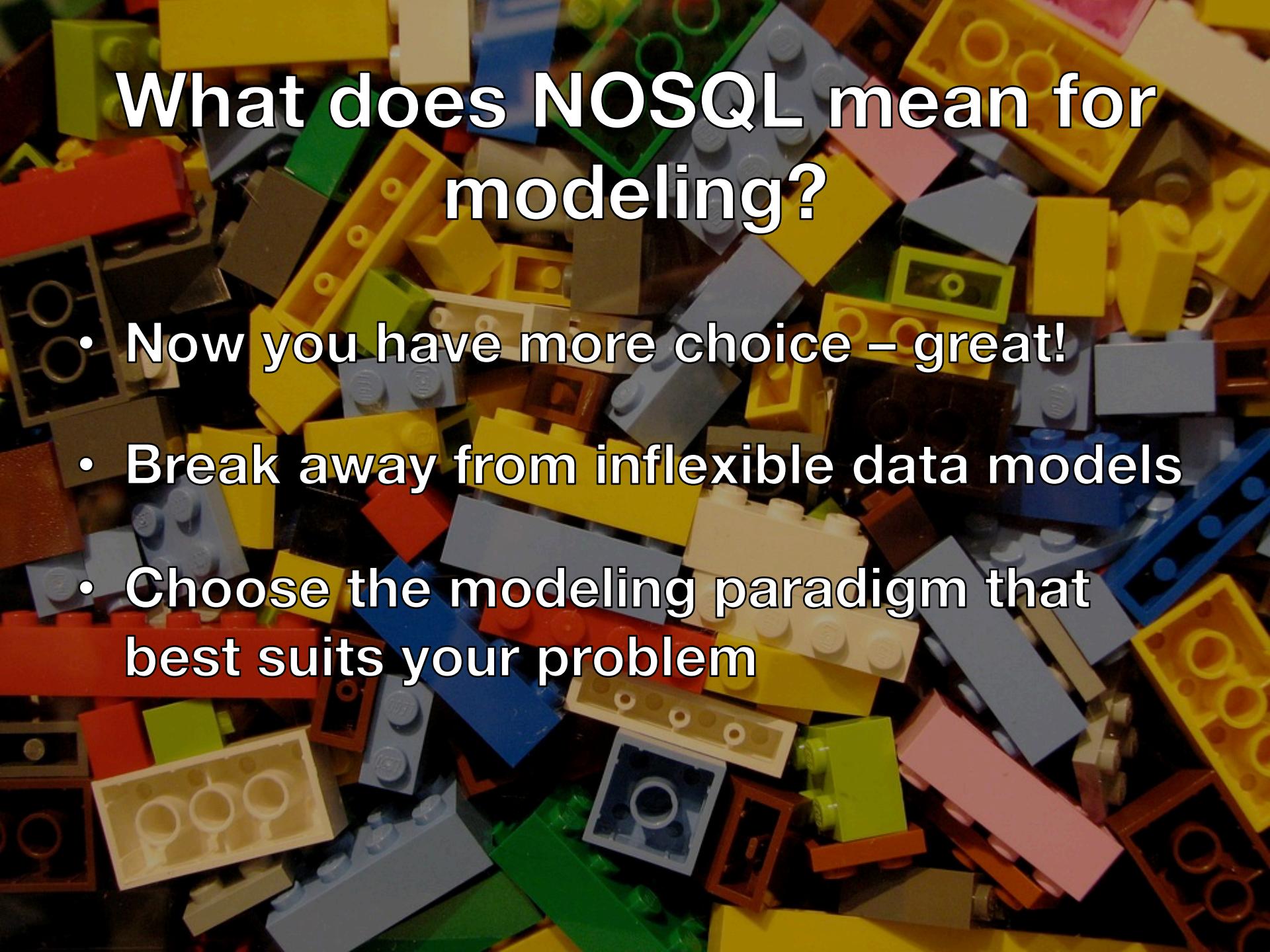
alistair.jones@neotechnology.com  
@apcj



# What is modeling?



- Where does this data belong?
- How should I query and update it?



# What does NOSQL mean for modeling?

- Now you have more choice – great!
- Break away from inflexible data models
- Choose the modeling paradigm that best suits your problem

Simple

# Model Complexity

Complex

## Key-Value

$K \rightarrow V$   
 $K \rightarrow V$

Keys

Values

## Document

$K \rightarrow \{ k: v, k: v \}$   
 $K \rightarrow \{ k: v, k: v \}$

Keys

Documents  
(Structured Values)

## BigTable

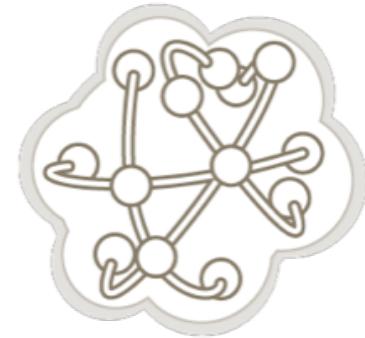
			1	
1			1	
	1		1	
		1		
		1		1
			1	
1			1	
		1		1
		1		1
			1	

Rows

Columns

(but no joins)

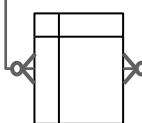
## Graph



## Relational

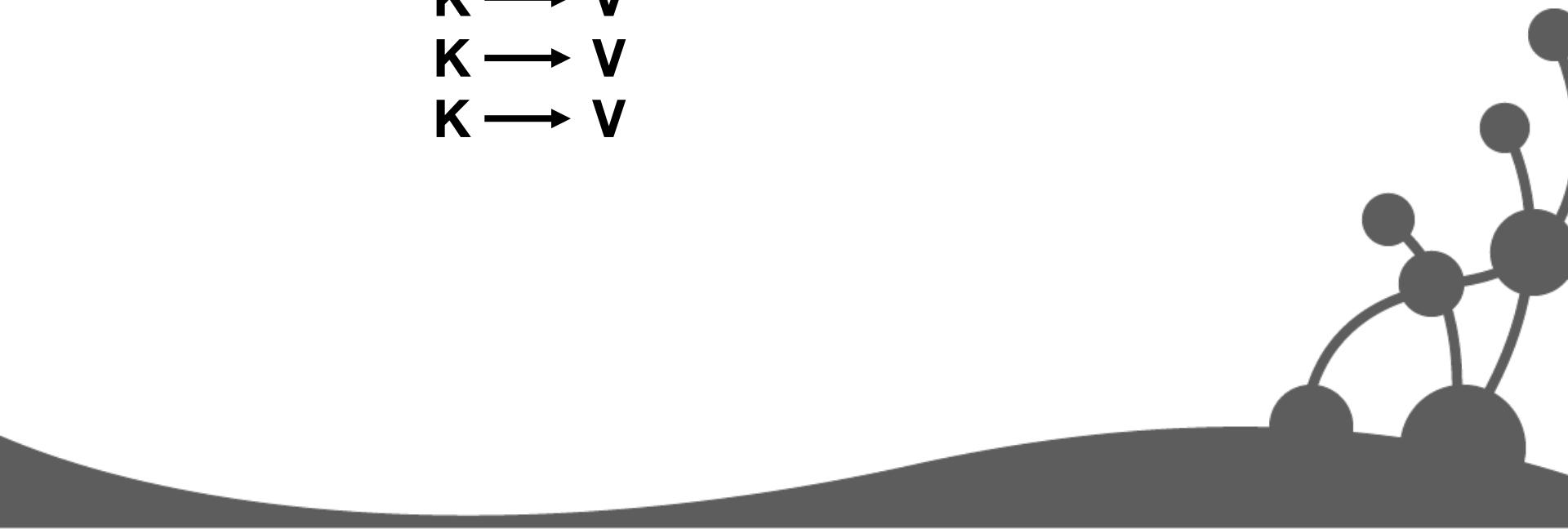
Relationships

Properties



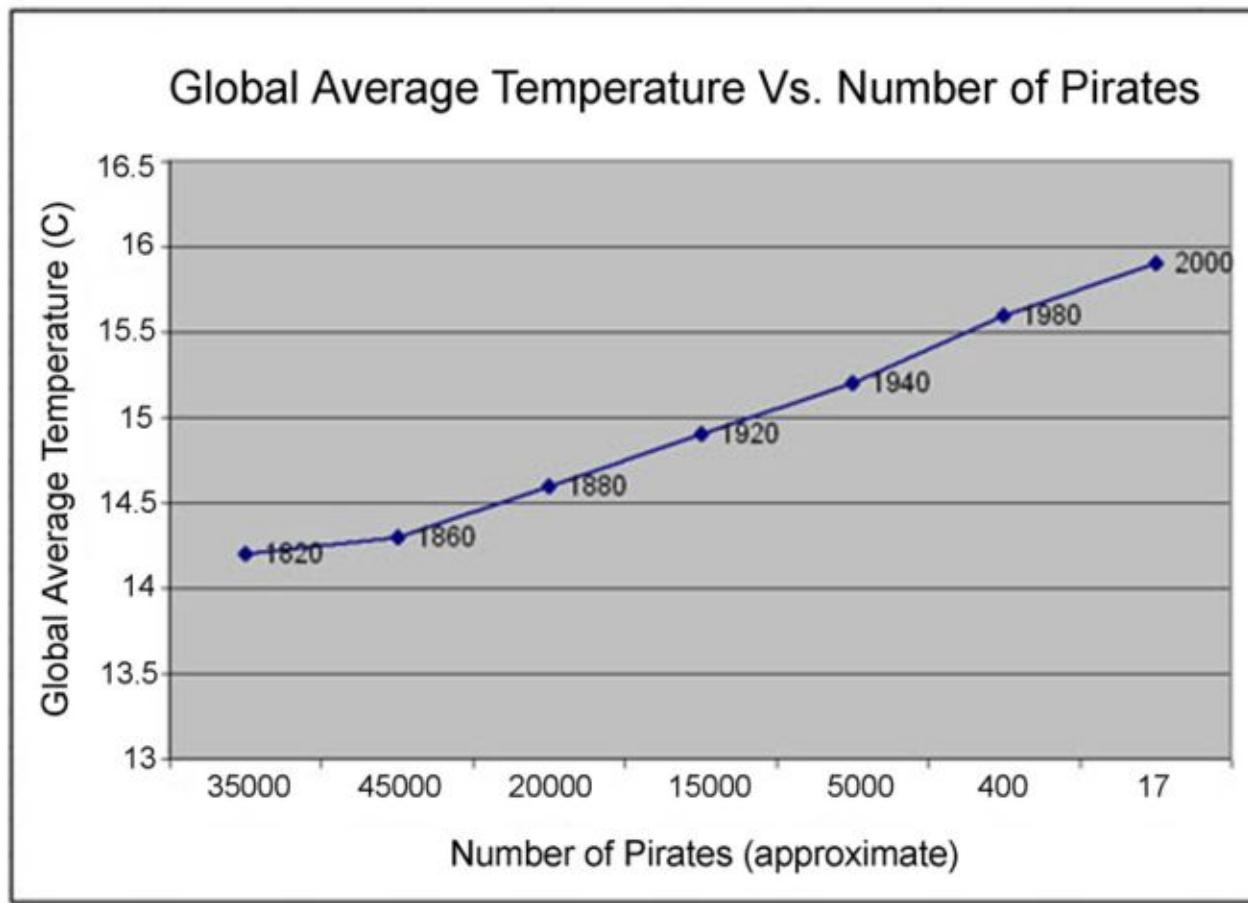
$K \rightarrow V$

$K \rightarrow \{ k: v, k: v \}$

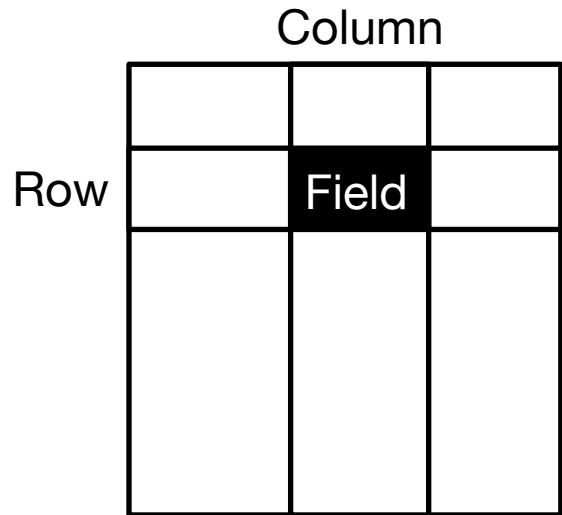


# What's a graph?

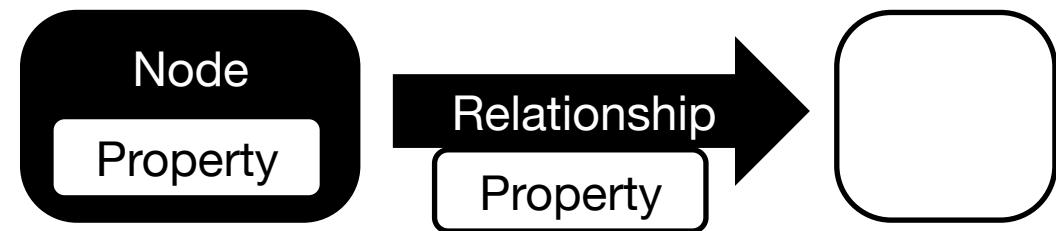
**STOP GLOBAL WARMING: BECOME A PIRATE**



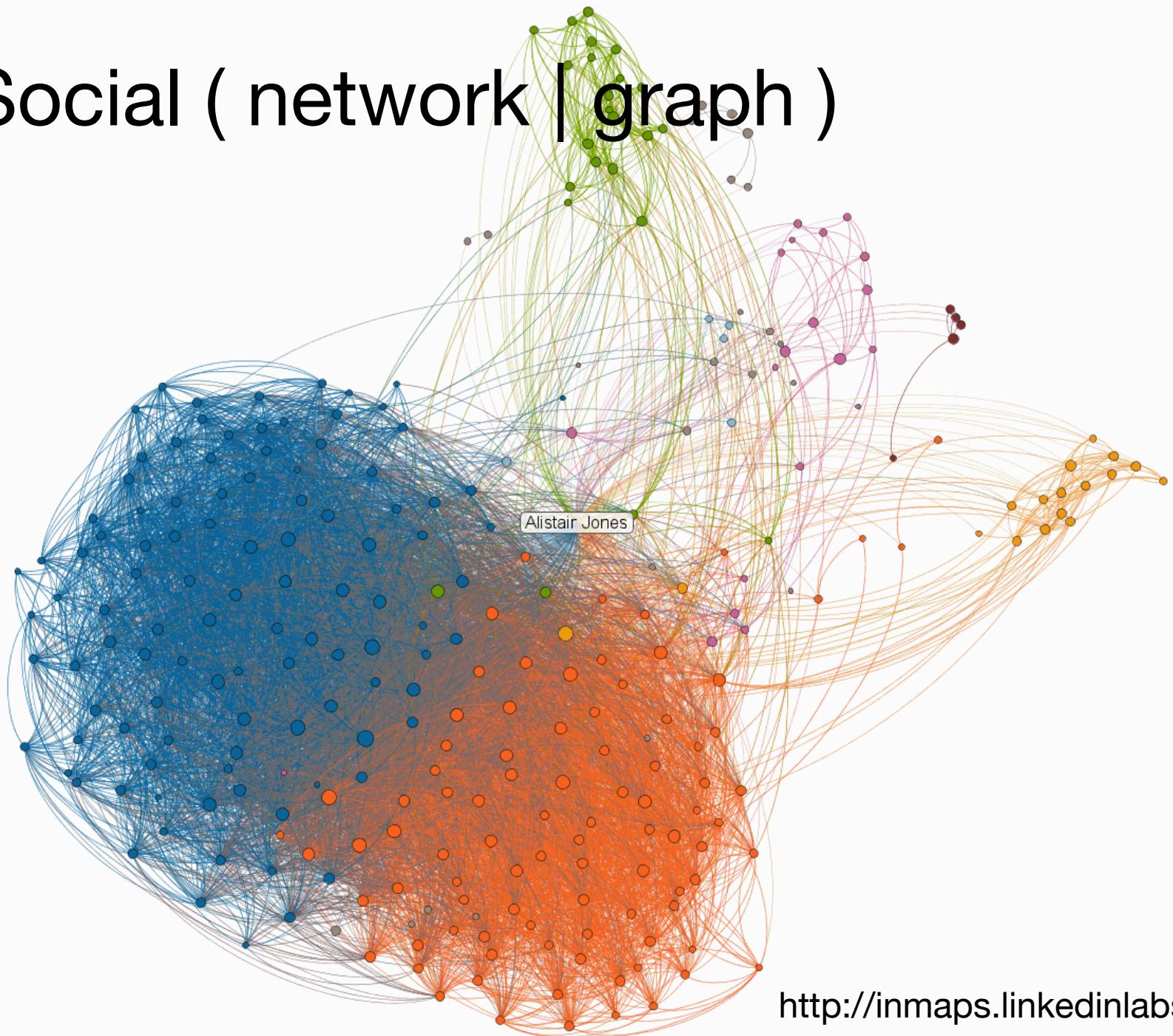
# Relational



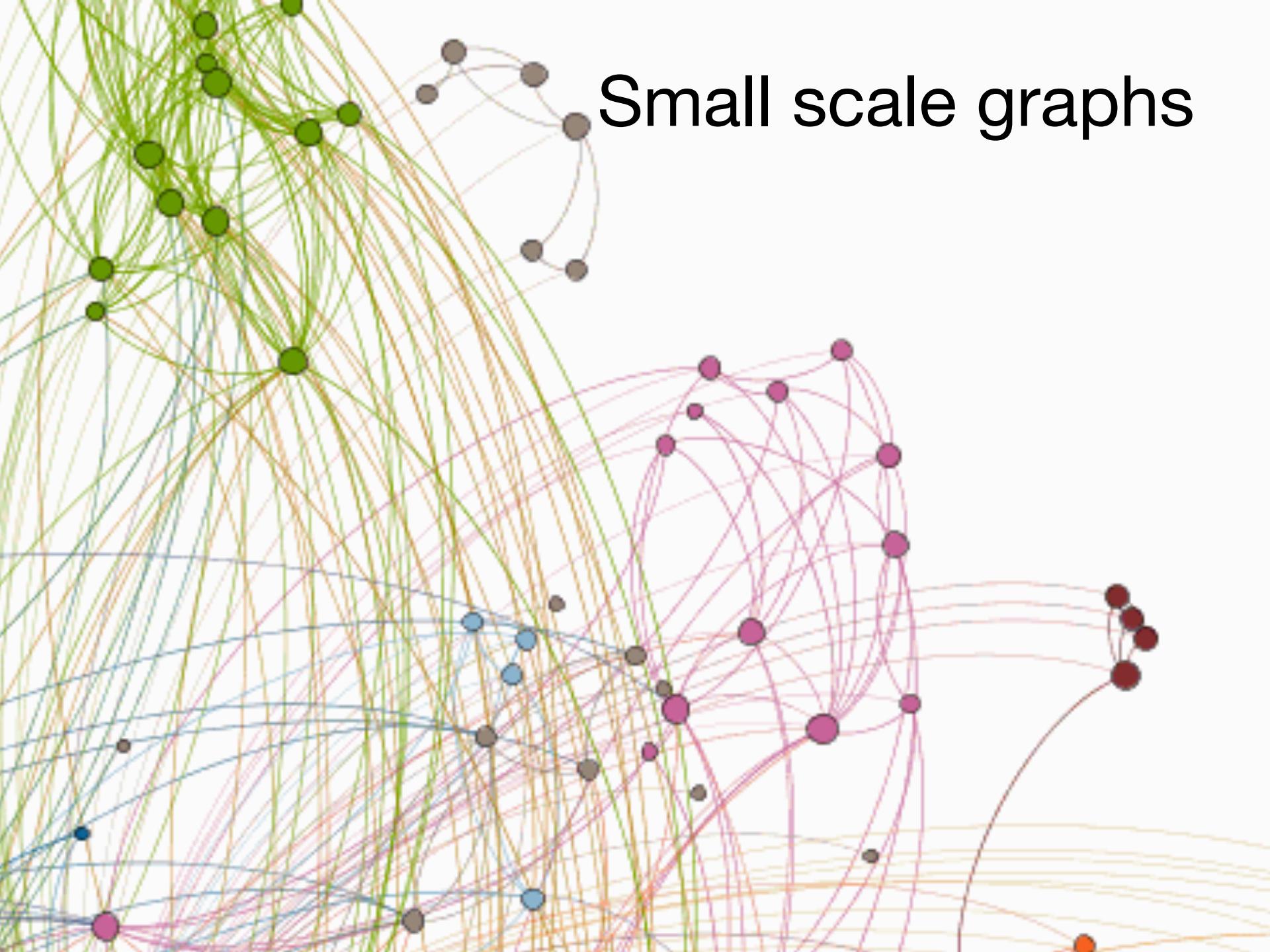
# Graph



# Social ( network | graph )



# Small scale graphs



**Graph  
Databases**

**Are really good for**

**Highly  
connected  
data**

# Why choose a graph database?

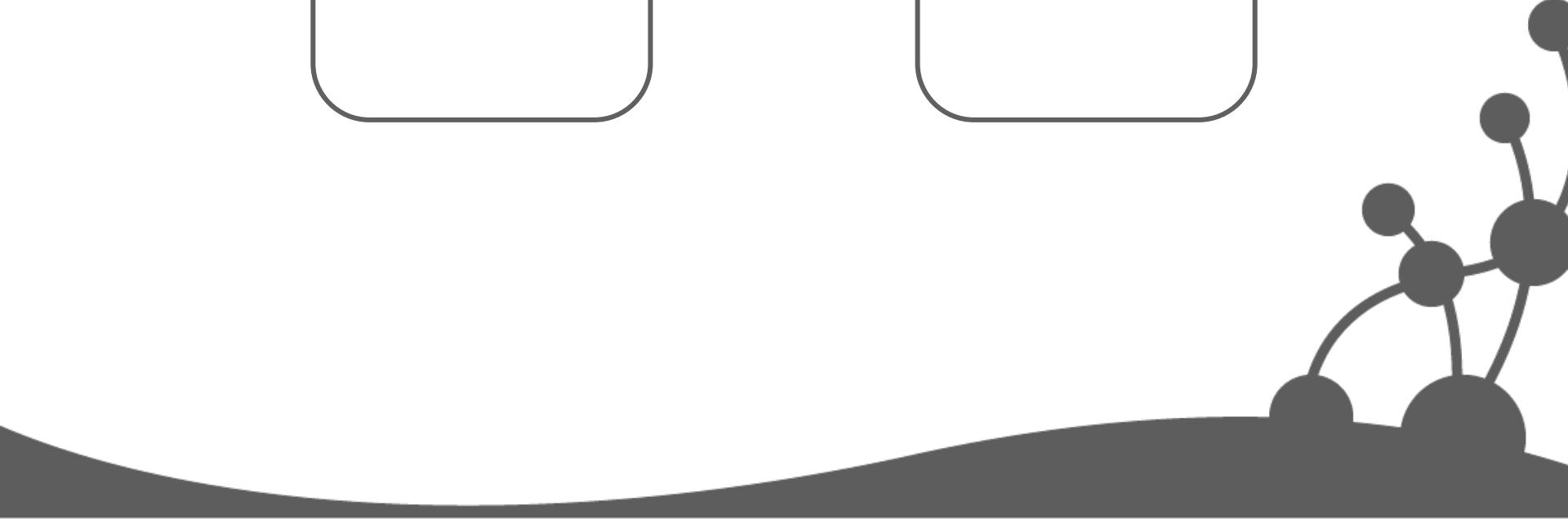
- You need to access data through multi-step traversals  
(find data in a **network** or **hierarchy**)  
or
- You need flexibility on how to access the data in the future  
(a graph database is **easier to change** than other models)



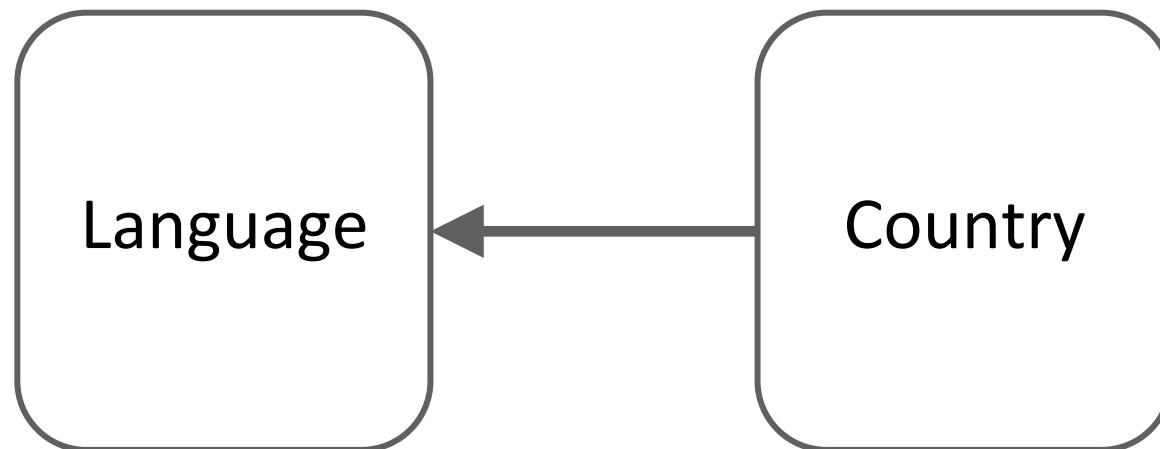
# What language do they speak here?

Language

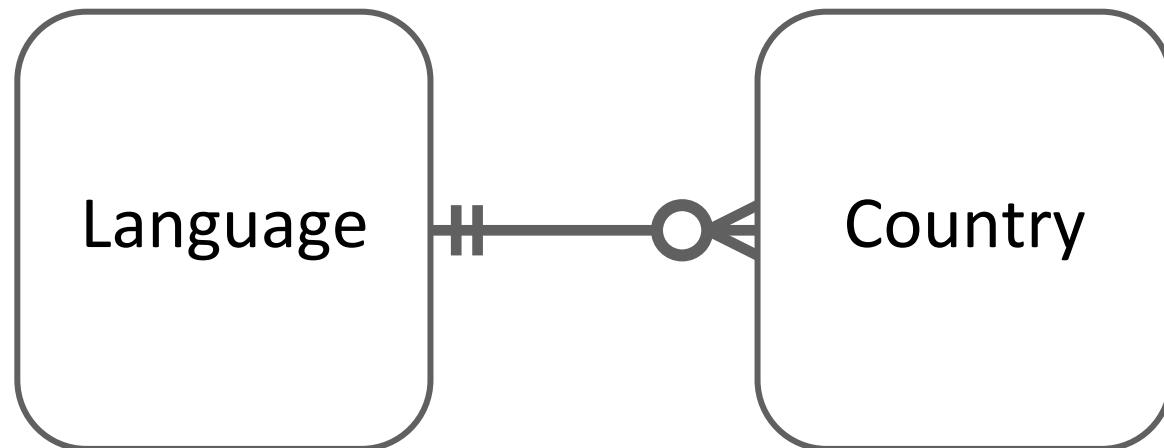
Country



# What language do they speak here?



# What language do they speak here?



# Tables

## Language

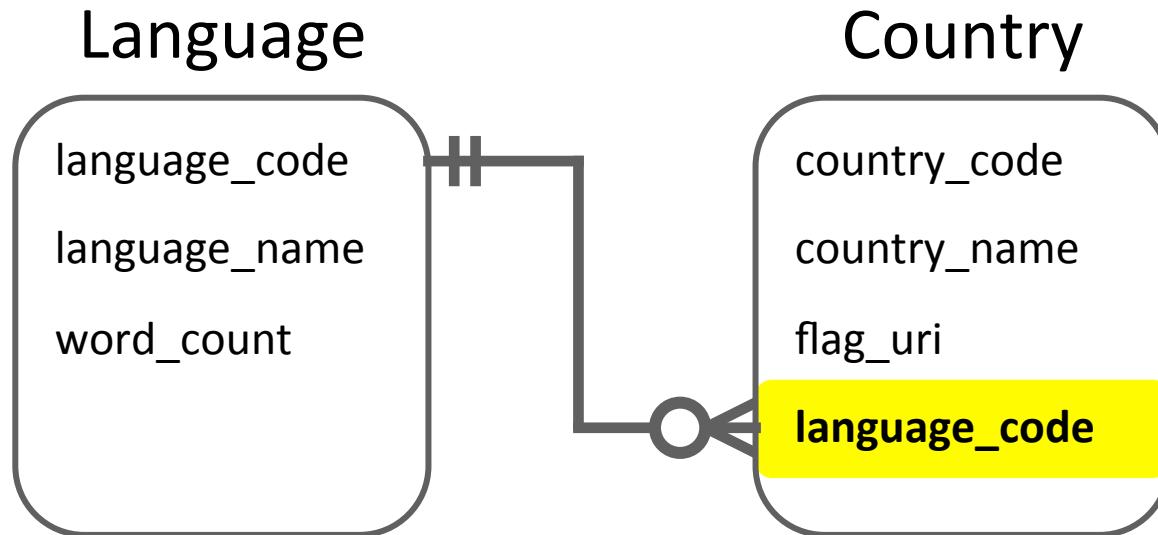
- language\_code
- language\_name
- word\_count

## Country

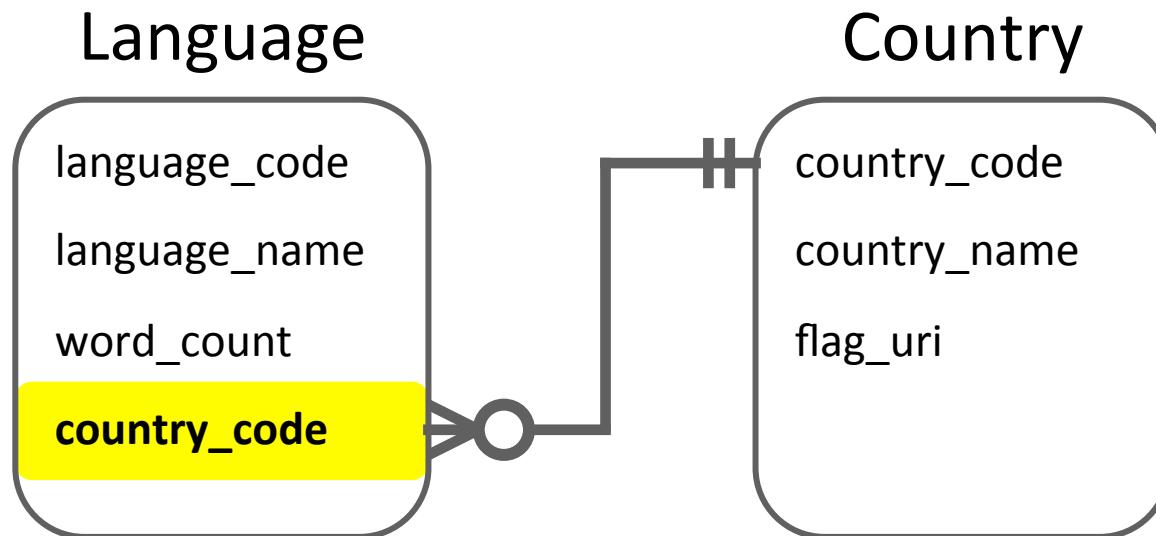
- country\_code
- country\_name
- flag\_uri



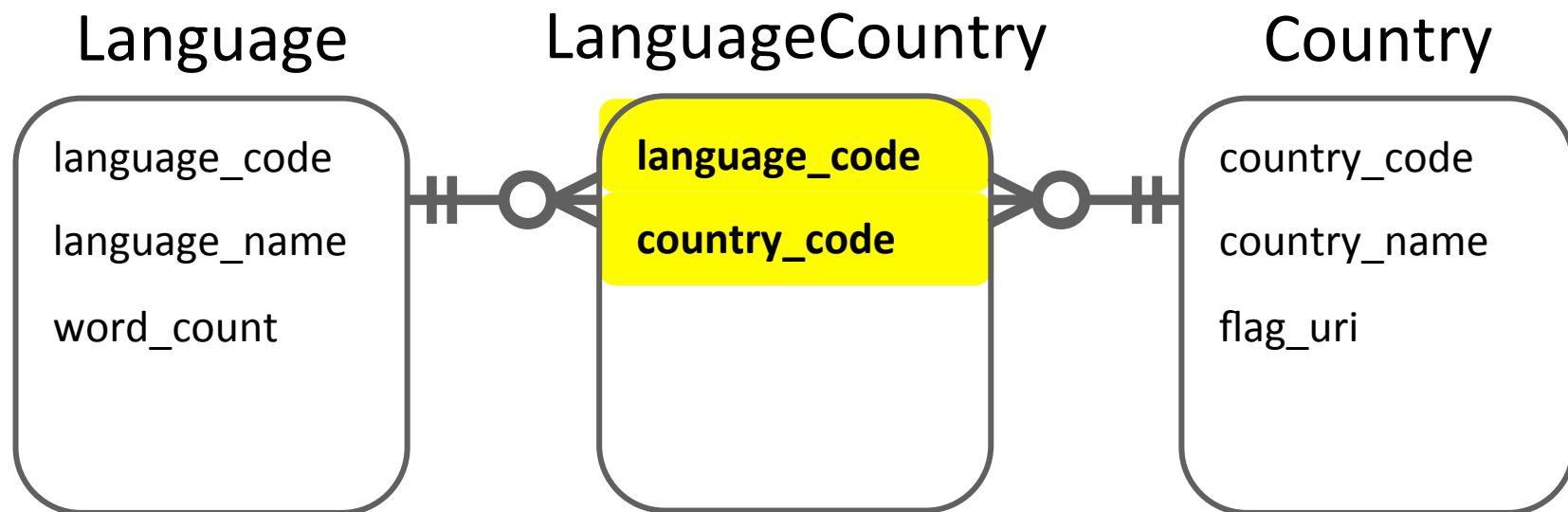
# Need to model the relationship



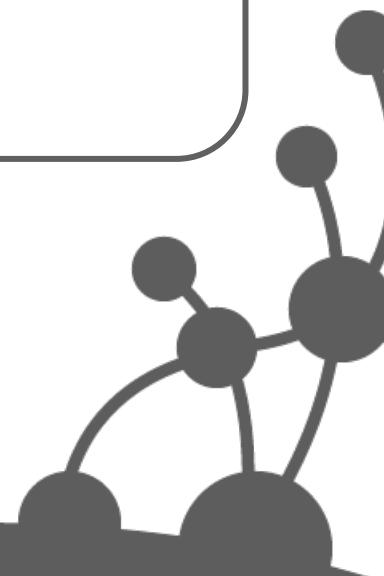
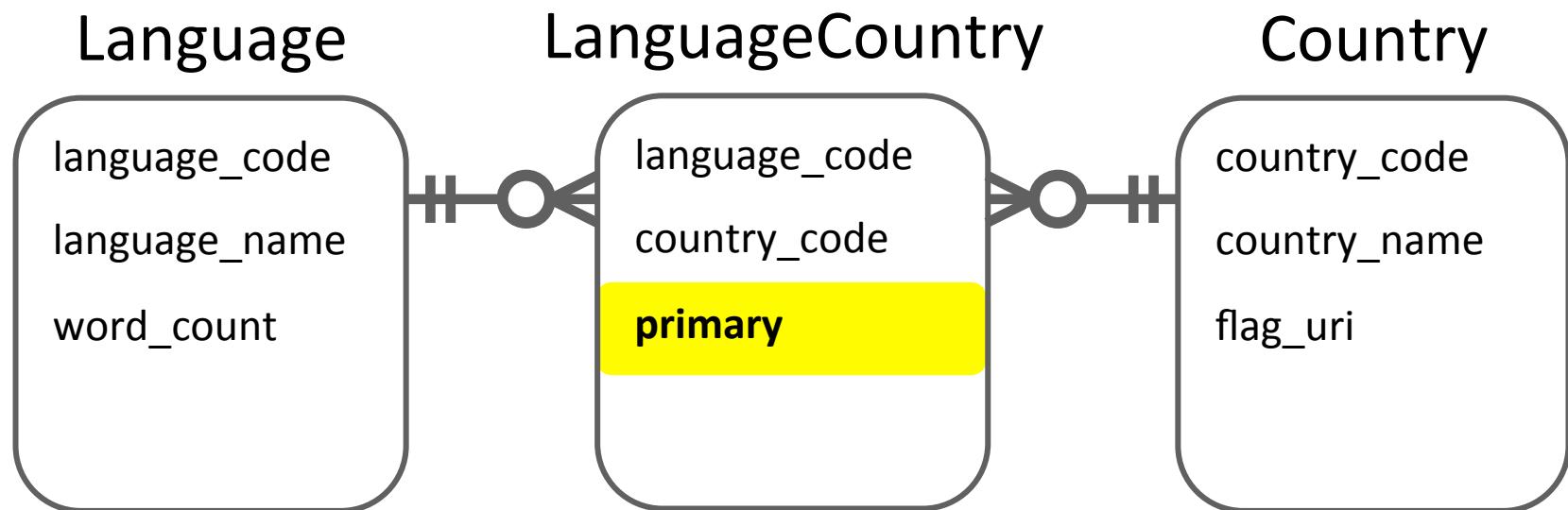
# What if the cardinality changes?



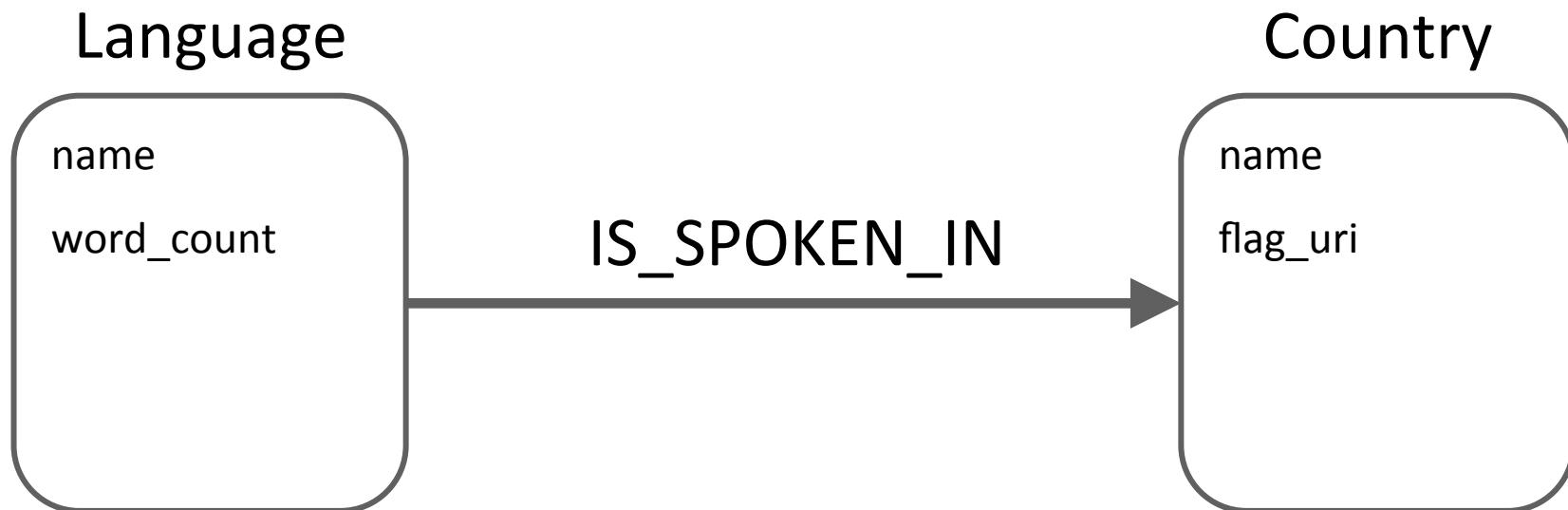
# Or we go many-to-many?

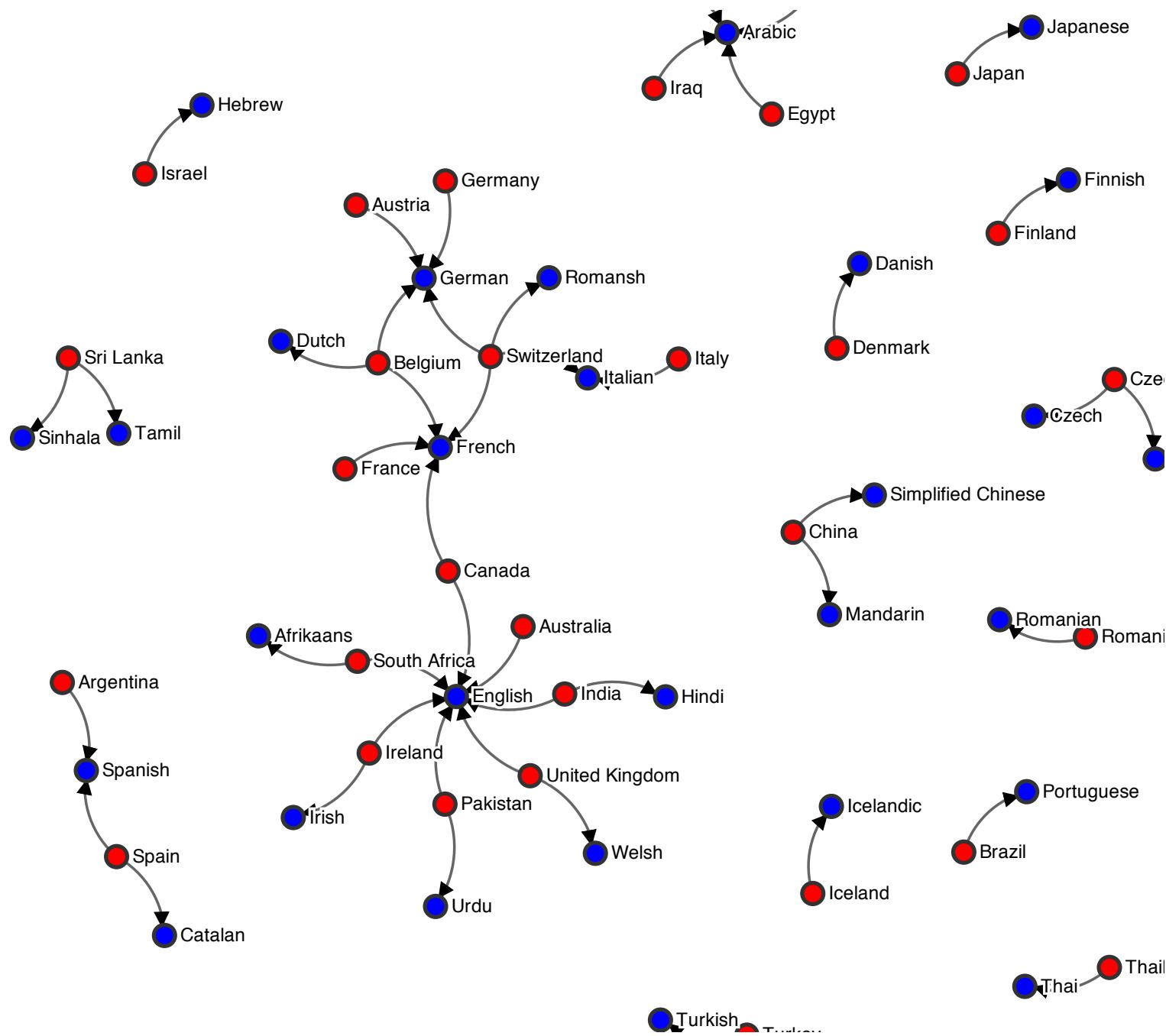


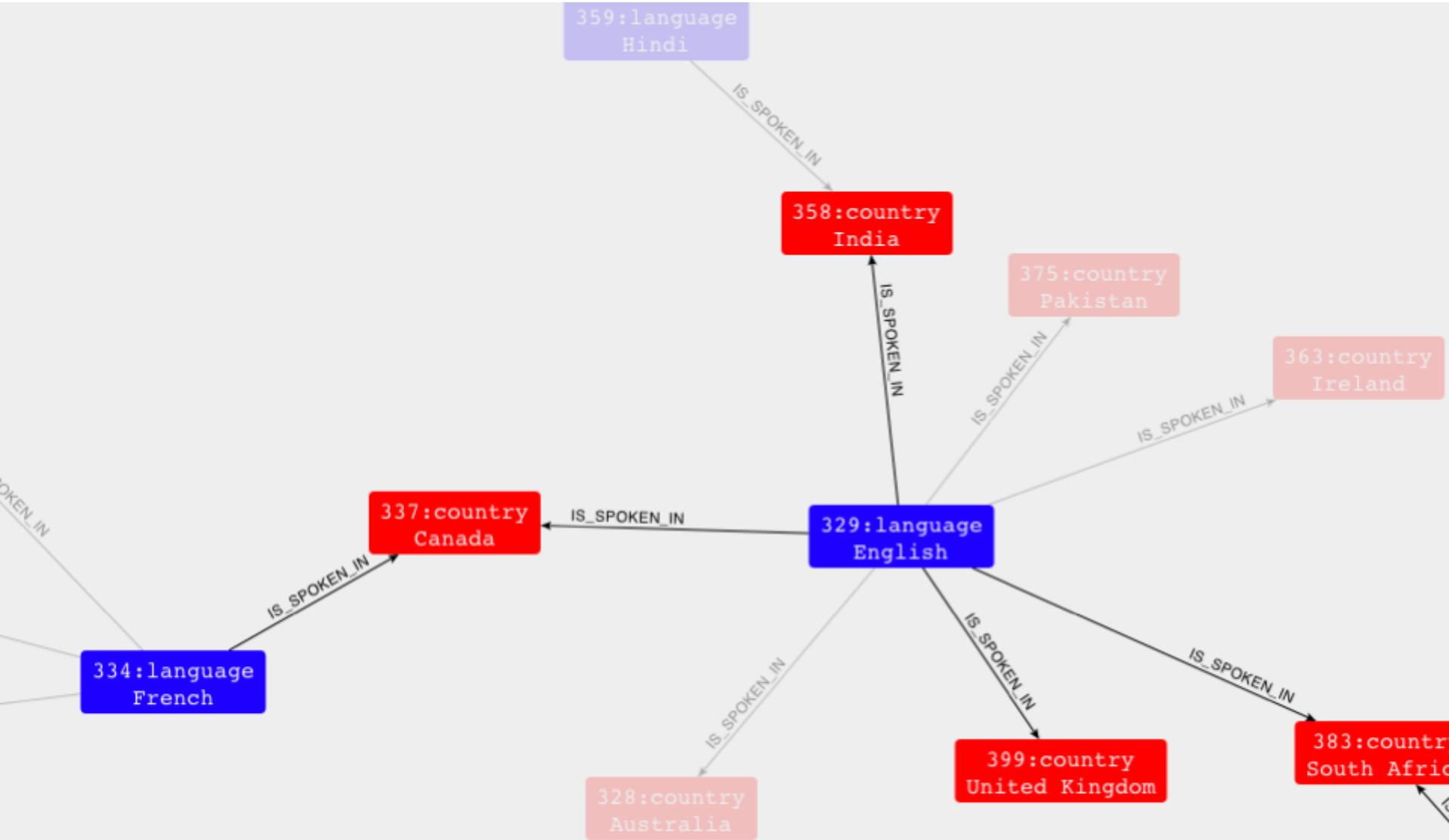
# Or we want to qualify the relationship?



# Explicit Relationship



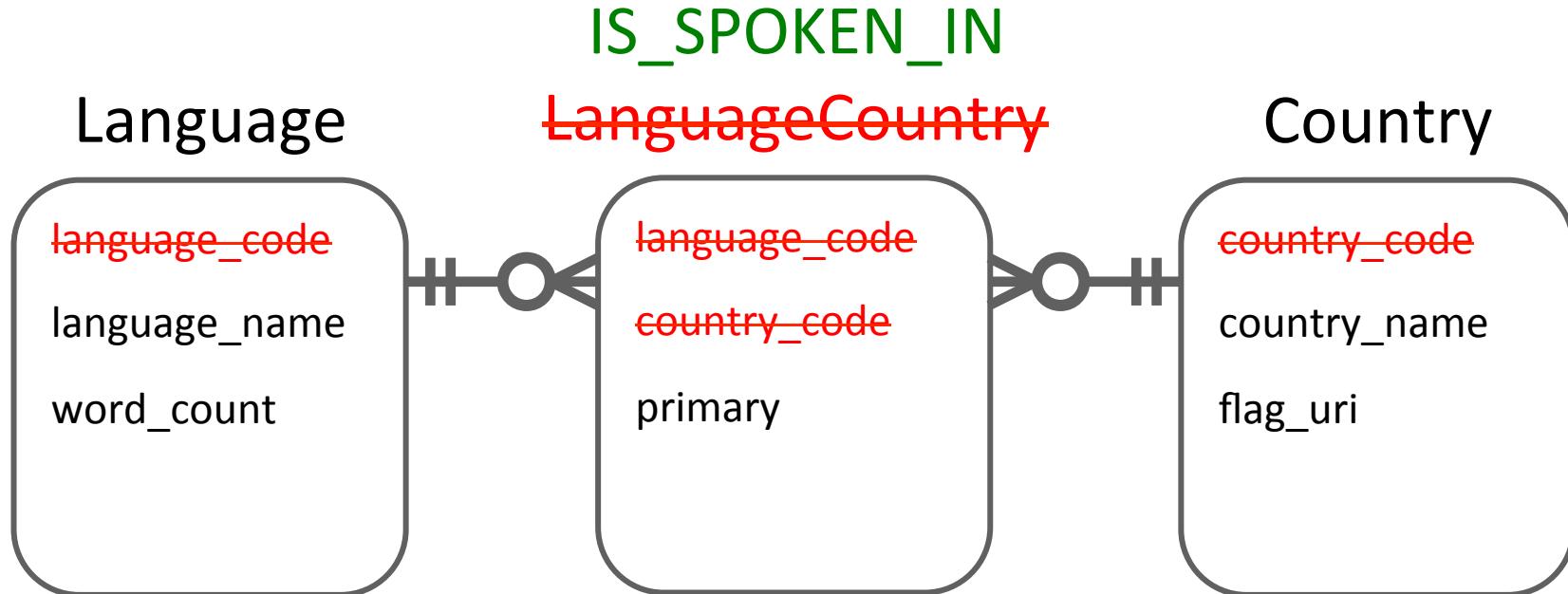




# Relationship Properties



# What's different?



- Implementation of maintaining relationships is left up to the database
- Surrogate keys disappear or are unnecessary (with the exception of node id)
- Relationships get an explicit name



# Object ( graph | relational ) mapping



## **Relational**

## **Graph**

Java Domain  
Objects / POJOs

*Your Application  
Code*

Java Domain  
Objects / POJOs

Hibernate

*Object Mapping  
Library*

Spring Data Neo4J

SQL

*Query Language*

Cypher

Tables  
Rows  
Columns  
Foreign Keys

*Core Database  
Concepts*

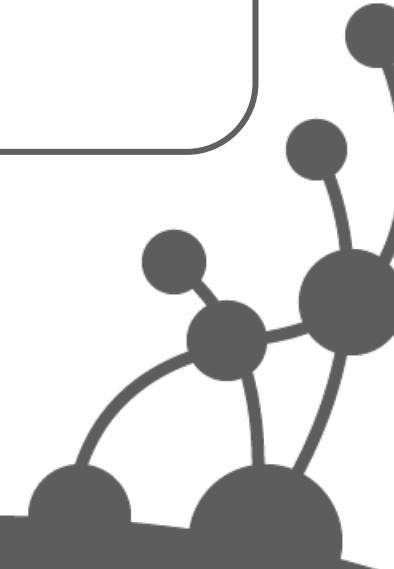
Nodes  
Relationships  
Properties

# Spring Data Neo4j

```
@NodeEntity  
public class Language {  
  
    @Indexed  
    String languageCode;  
  
    String name;  
  
    int wordCount;  
  
    @RelatedTo(type="SPOKEN_IN",  
               direction = OUTGOING)  
    Set<Country> countriesSpokenIn;  
  
}
```

```
@NodeEntity  
public class Country {  
  
    @Indexed  
    String countryCode;  
  
    String name;  
  
    String flagUri;  
  
    @RelatedTo(type="PRIMARY_LANGUAGE",  
               direction = OUTGOING)  
    Language primaryLanguage;  
  
}
```

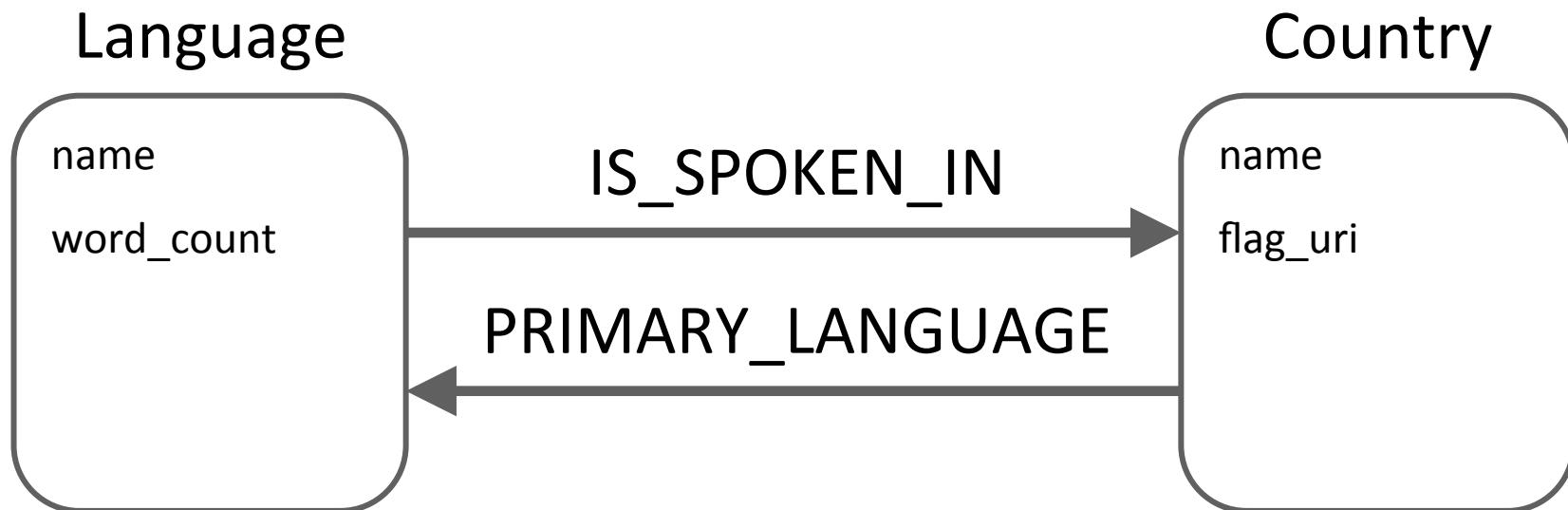
# Relationship specialisation



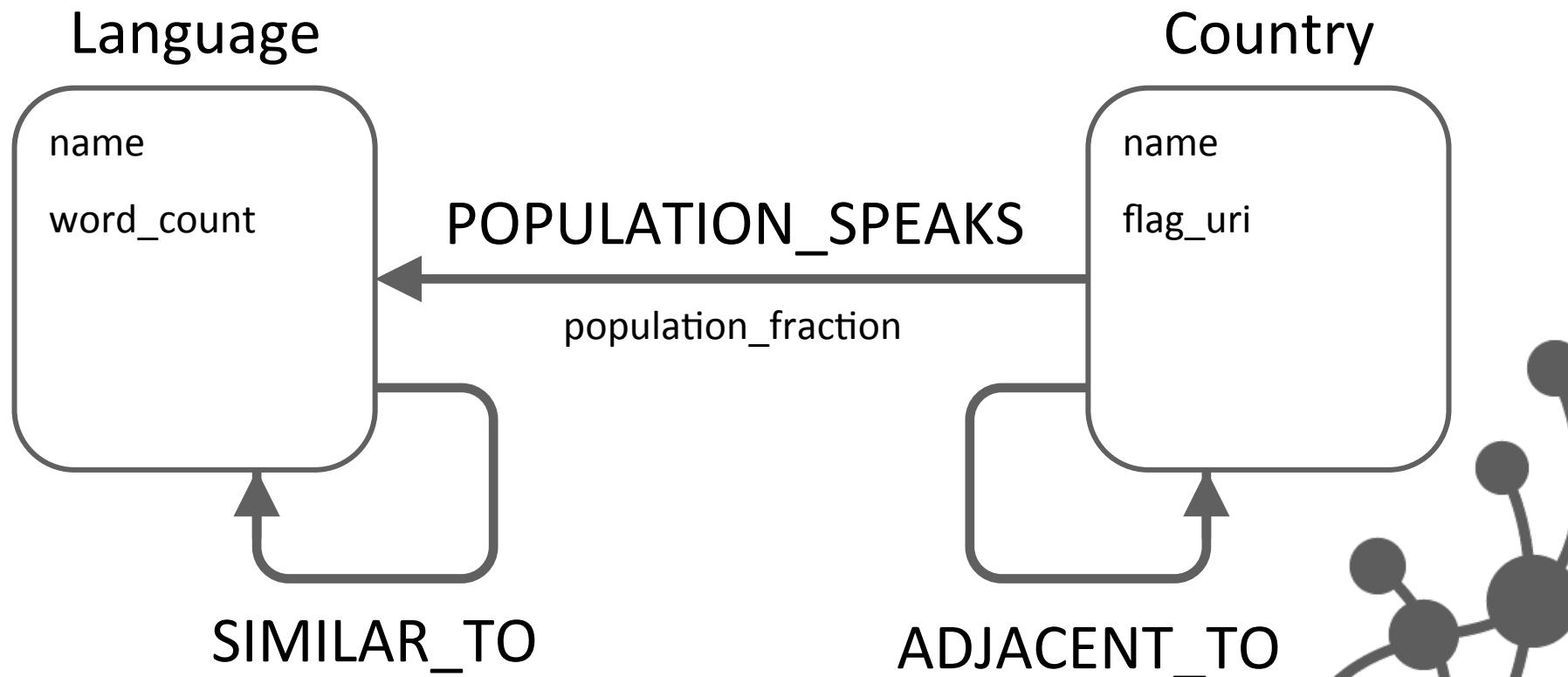
# Weighted relationships



# Bidirectional relationships



# Keep on adding relationships

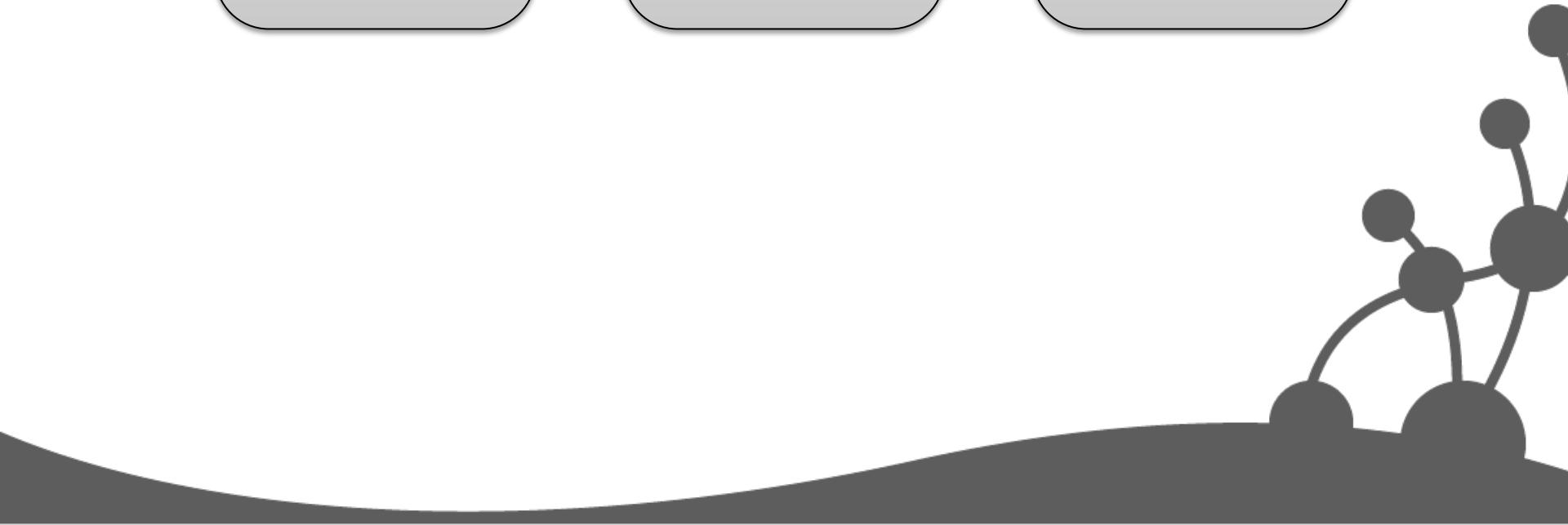


# Graph Modeling Principles

1

2

3

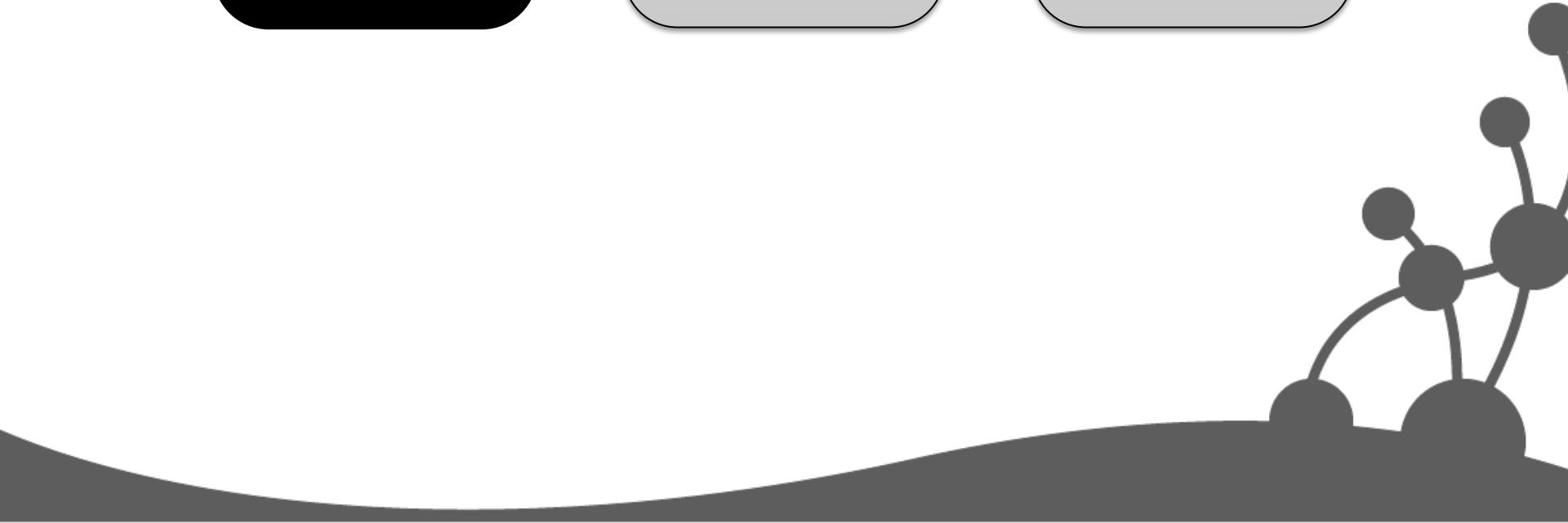


# Graph Modeling Principles

**Embrace  
the  
Paradigm**

**2**

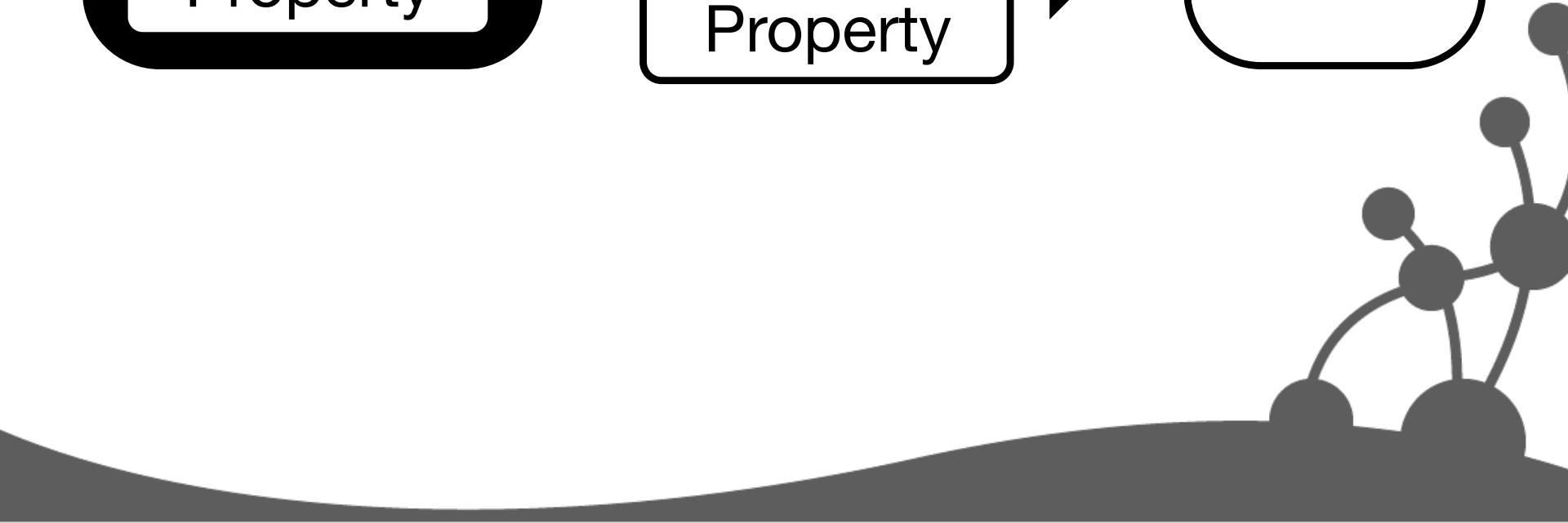
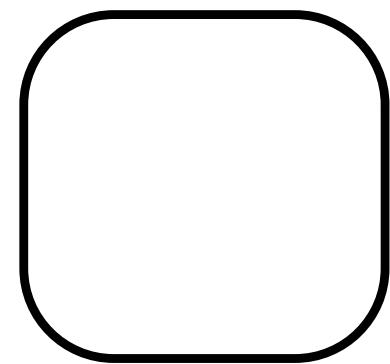
**3**



# Use the building blocks

Node  
Property

Relationship  
Property



# Anti-pattern: rich properties

name: "Canada"

languages\_spoken: "[ 'English', 'French' ]"

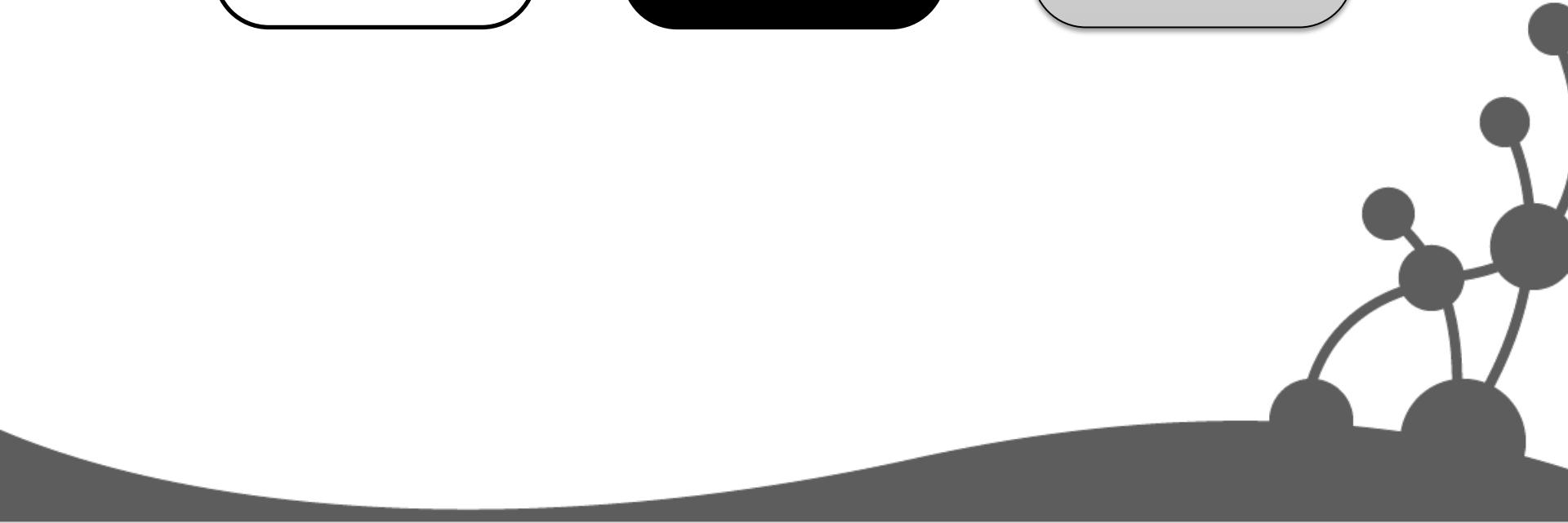


# Graph Modeling Principles

Embrace  
the  
Paradigm

Nodes for  
Identity

3



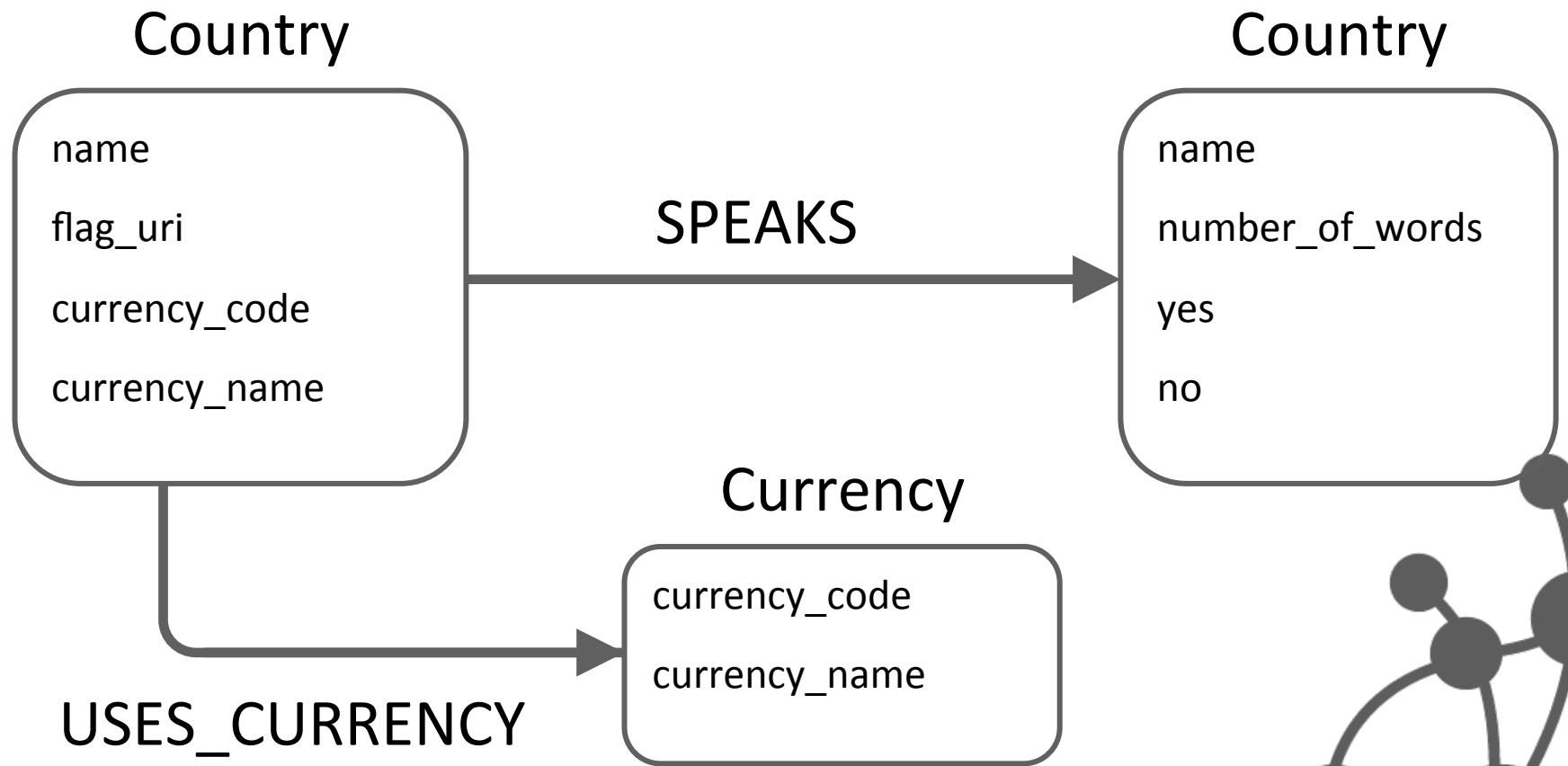
# Node represents multiple concepts

Country

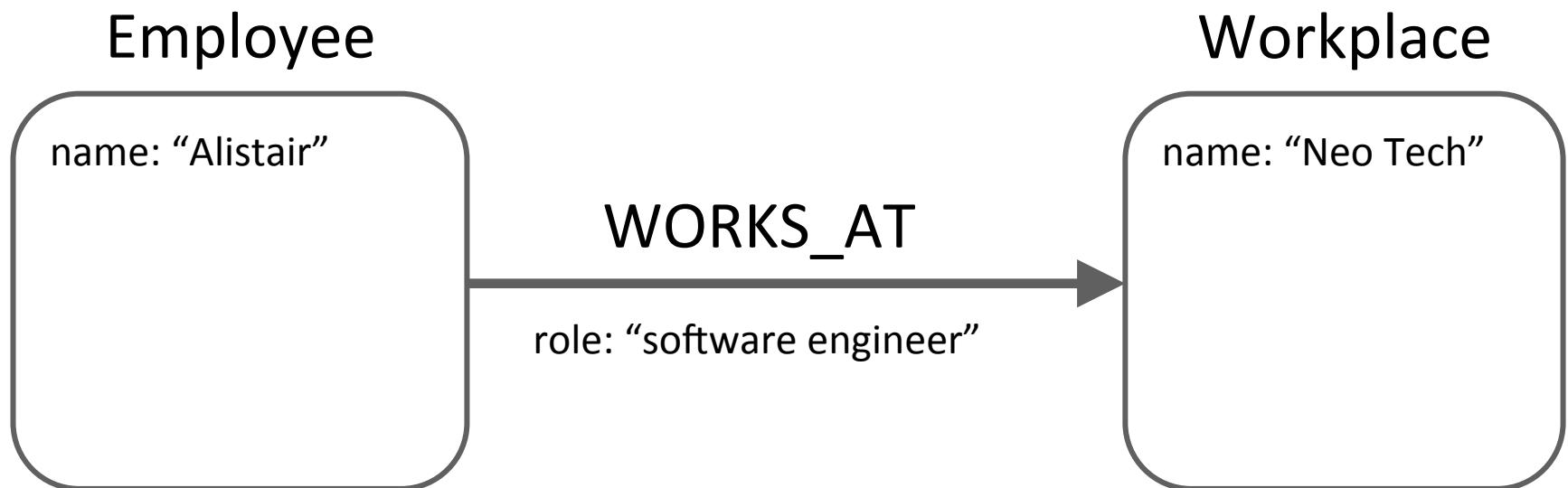
- name
- flag\_uri
- language\_name
- number\_of\_words
- yes\_in\_langauge
- no\_in\_language
- currency\_code
- currency\_name



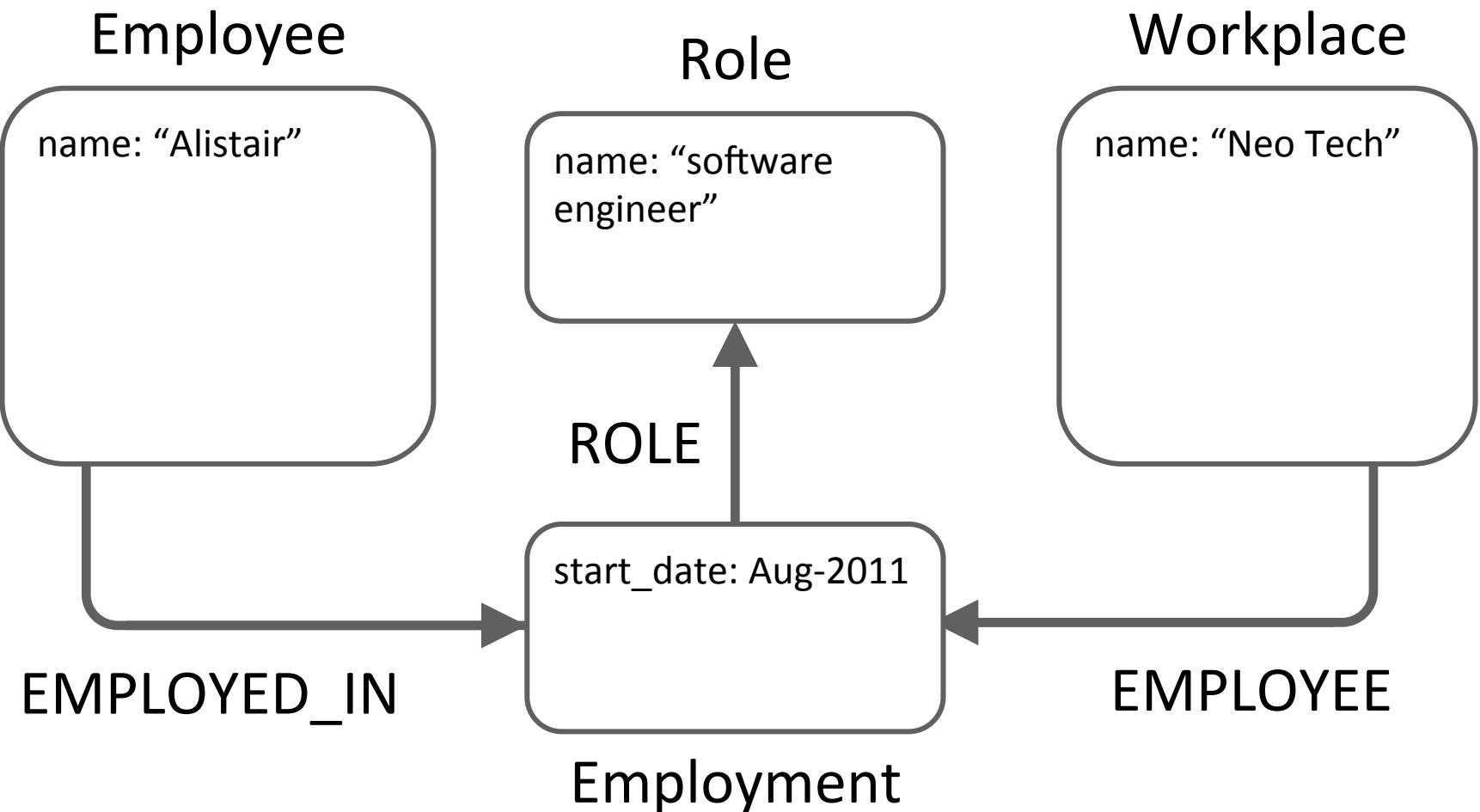
# Break out separate concepts



# Property represents entity



# ( Reify | Nodify ) connecting entities

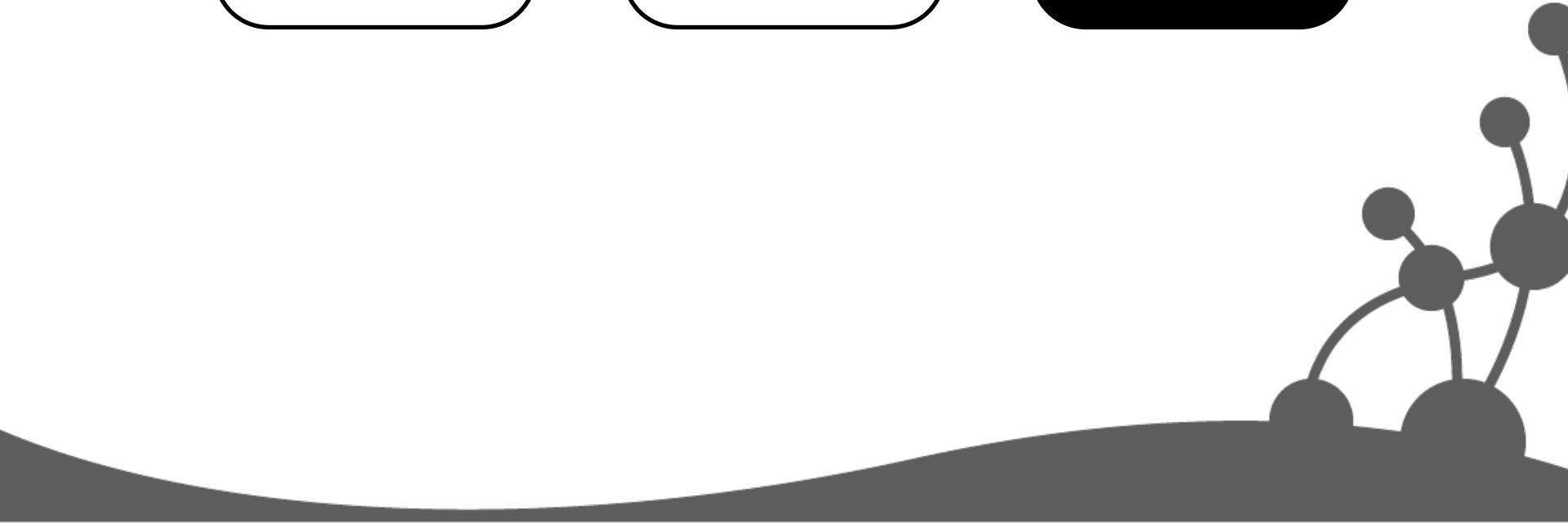


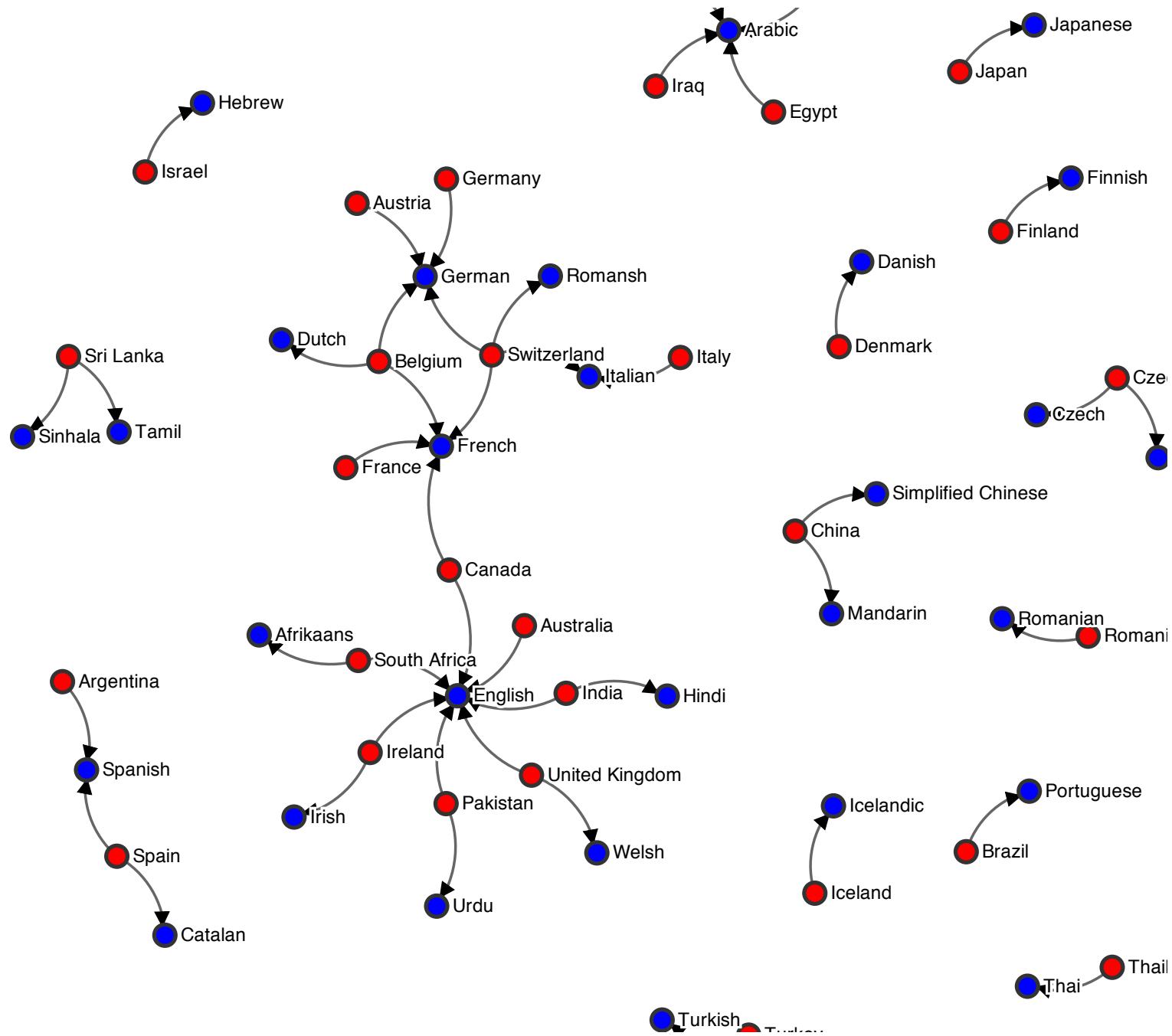
# Graph Modeling Principles

**Embrace  
the  
Paradigm**

**Nodes for  
Identity**

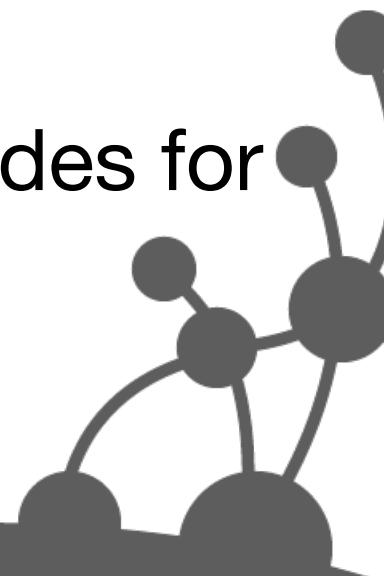
**Relation-  
ships for  
Access**





# Relationships for querying

- Relationships should be the primary means to access nodes in the database
- Traversing relationships is cheap – that's the whole design goal of a graph database
- Use indexes only to find starting nodes for a query



# Reminders

- Is your data connected?
- What's the right database for your application?
- Modeling with graphs similar to relational modeling, just easier



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