

# A Structural Approach to Indexing Triples

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(2) TU/e (Eindhoven, NL)

(3) ULB (Brussels, BE)

# Introduction

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- The challenge:
  - to speed up querying over huge RDF datasets
- Usually assumed to be large datasets with few updates, so we can relatively freely introduce extra indexes
  - Hexastore: [VLDB 2008, Weiss, Karras & Bernstein]
    - indexes on *spo*, *sop*, *ps**o*, *pos*, *ops*, *osp*
  - RDF3X [VLDB 2008, Neumann & Weikum]
    - also indexes on: *s*, *p*, *o*, *sp*, *so*, *ps*, *po*, *os*, *op*
- Up to now fairly classical indexing techniques
  - **Recent Survey:** Storing and Indexing Massive RDF Datasets. Yongming Luo, Francois Picalausa, George H. L. Fletcher, Jan Hidders and Stijn Vansummeren. In: De Virgilio, R., et al. (eds.) Semantic Search over the Web, Data-Centric Systems and Applications, pp. 31–60. Springer, Heidelberg (2012).
- We focus on **structural indexes**,
  - a holistic type of indexing known from XML databases to speed up path expression evaluation

# SPARQL Query Processing

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Subject	Predicate	Object
Sue	Manages	Joe
Joe	Manages	Larry
Larry	Manages	Sarah
Sue	FriendOf	John
John	FriendOf	Hiromi
Hiromi	FriendOf	Sarah

Subject	Predicate	Object
Sue	Type	CEO
Manages	Type	socialRelation
FriendOf	Type	socialRelation
Likes	Type	socialRelation

Find the people who are indirectly related.

# SPARQL Query Processing

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Find the people who are indirectly related.

```
SELECT ?e1 ?e3 WHERE {  
    ?rel1          :Type          :socialRelation .  
    ?e1            ?rel1          ?e2 .  
    ?rel2          :Type          :socialRelation .  
    ?e2            ?rel2          ?e3 .  
}
```

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Find the people who are indirectly related.

Sue	Larry
Joe	Sarah
Sue	Hiromi
John	Sarah

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SELECT ?e1 ?e3 WHERE {
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```
  ?rel1          :Type          :socialRelation .
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```
  ?e1            ?rel1          ?e2 .
```

```
  ?rel2          :Type          :socialRelation .
```

```
  ?e2            ?rel2          ?e3 .
```

```
}
```

# SPARQL Query Processing

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Joe	Manages	Larry	Manages	Type	socialRelation
Larry	Manages	Sarah	FriendOf	Type	socialRelation
Sue	FriendOf	John	Likes	Type	socialRelation
John	FriendOf	Hiromi			
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Find the people who are indirectly related.

Sue	Larry
Joe	Sarah
Sue	Hiromi
John	Sarah

# Adding join information

Subject	Predicate	Object	Subject	Predicate	Object
Sue	Manages	Joe	Sue	Type	CEO
Joe	Manages	Larry	Manages	Type	socialRelation
Larry	Manages	Sarah	FriendOf	Type	socialRelation
Sue	FriendOf	John	Likes	Type	socialRelation
John	FriendOf	Hiromi			
Hiromi	FriendOf	Sarah			



We mark all triples  $(s_1, p_1, o)$  such that their **object**  $o$  occurs as the **subject** of some other triple  $(o, p_2, o_2)$

# Using join information

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Find the people indirectly related.

```
SELECT ?e1 ?e3 WHERE {  
    ?re1 :Type :socialRelation .  
    ?e1 ?re1 ?e2 .  
    ?re2 :Type :socialRelation .  
    ?e2 ?re2 ?e3 .  
}
```

# Motivation

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- Traditional relational SPARQL query engines fetch triples corresponding to individual triple patterns **independently**
- Rich history of introducing join information into query engines
  - Join Indexes: Precompute a single join (e.g.  $R.a = S.b$ )
  - Object Oriented indexes: Precompute join of single path in class hierarchy
  - Structural Indexes (for XML and RDF):  
Group **nodes** according to join similarity, fixed set of edge label
- By grouping together **triples** that can be joined in a “similar fashion”, we can avoid fetching useless triples from disk.
  - How do we compute and store these groups?
  - How can we use them to process queries?

# Table of Contents

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- A Structural Index for Triples
- Building the Index
- Processing SPARQL queries

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# Real-World SPARQL Queries

---

**Definition:** The **equality type** of two triples  $t = (t_1, t_2, t_3)$  and  $u = (u_1, u_2, u_3)$  is the set  $\text{eqtp}(t, u) = \{ (i, j) \mid t_i = u_j, \text{ and } 1 \leq i, j \leq 3 \}$  of positions where the triples share an equal value.

$t$ : Sue     Manages     Joe

$u$ : Joe     Manages     Larry

$\text{eqtp}(t, u) = \{(3,1), (2,2)\}$



# Structural Index

**Definition:** A structural index is an edge labeled graph  $(V,E)$ , where  
The nodes  $V$  are a partition of the RDF dataset  
The edges  $E$  are labeled by the equality types between triples in nodes

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1

Sue	FriendOf	John
Sue	Manages	Joe

2

John	FriendOf	Hiromi
Joe	Manages	Larry

3

Hiromi	FriendOf	Sarah
Larry	Manages	Sarah

4

Sue	Type	CEO
-----	------	-----

5

Manages	Type	socialRelation
FriendOf	Type	socialRelation

6

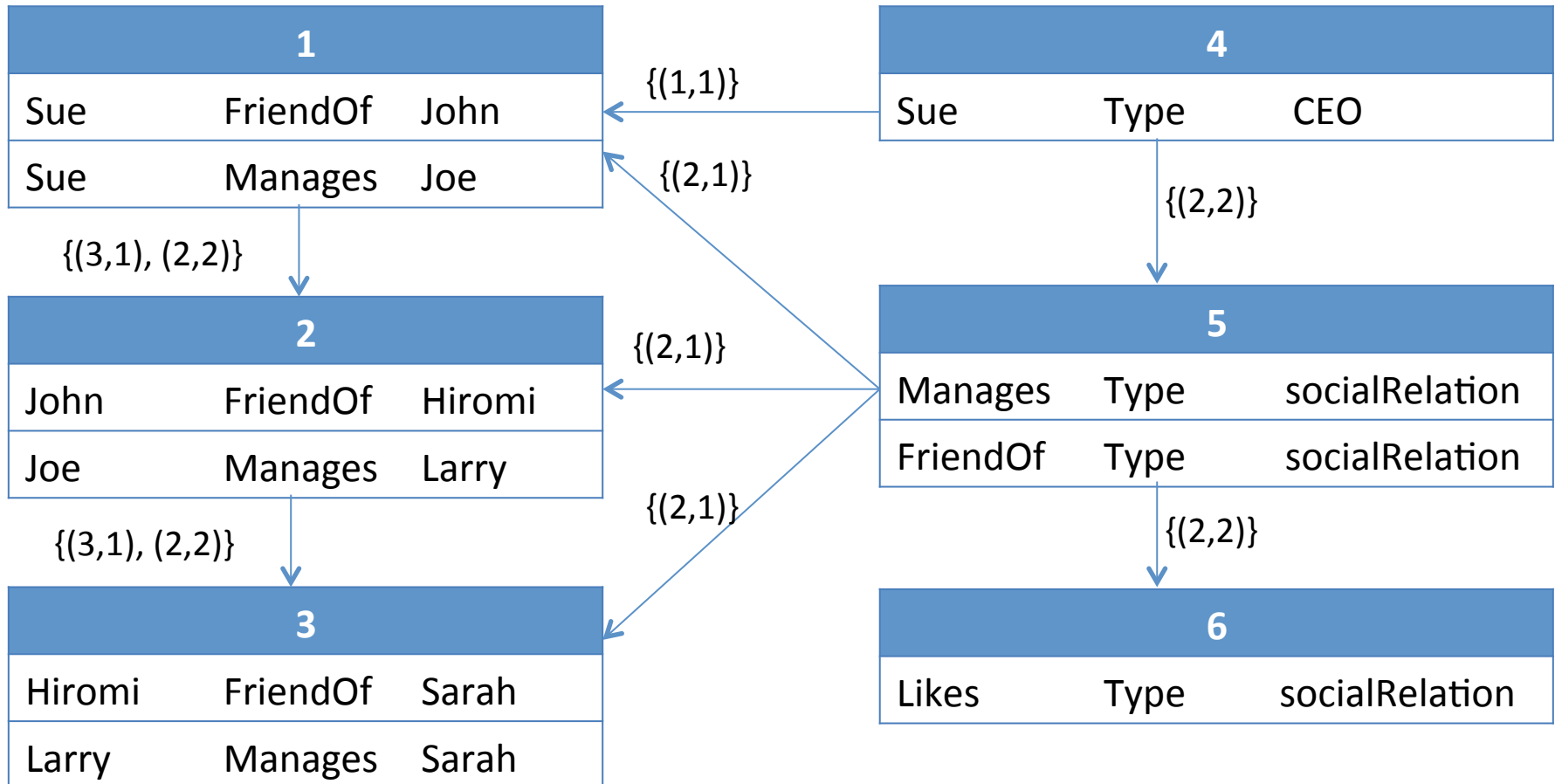
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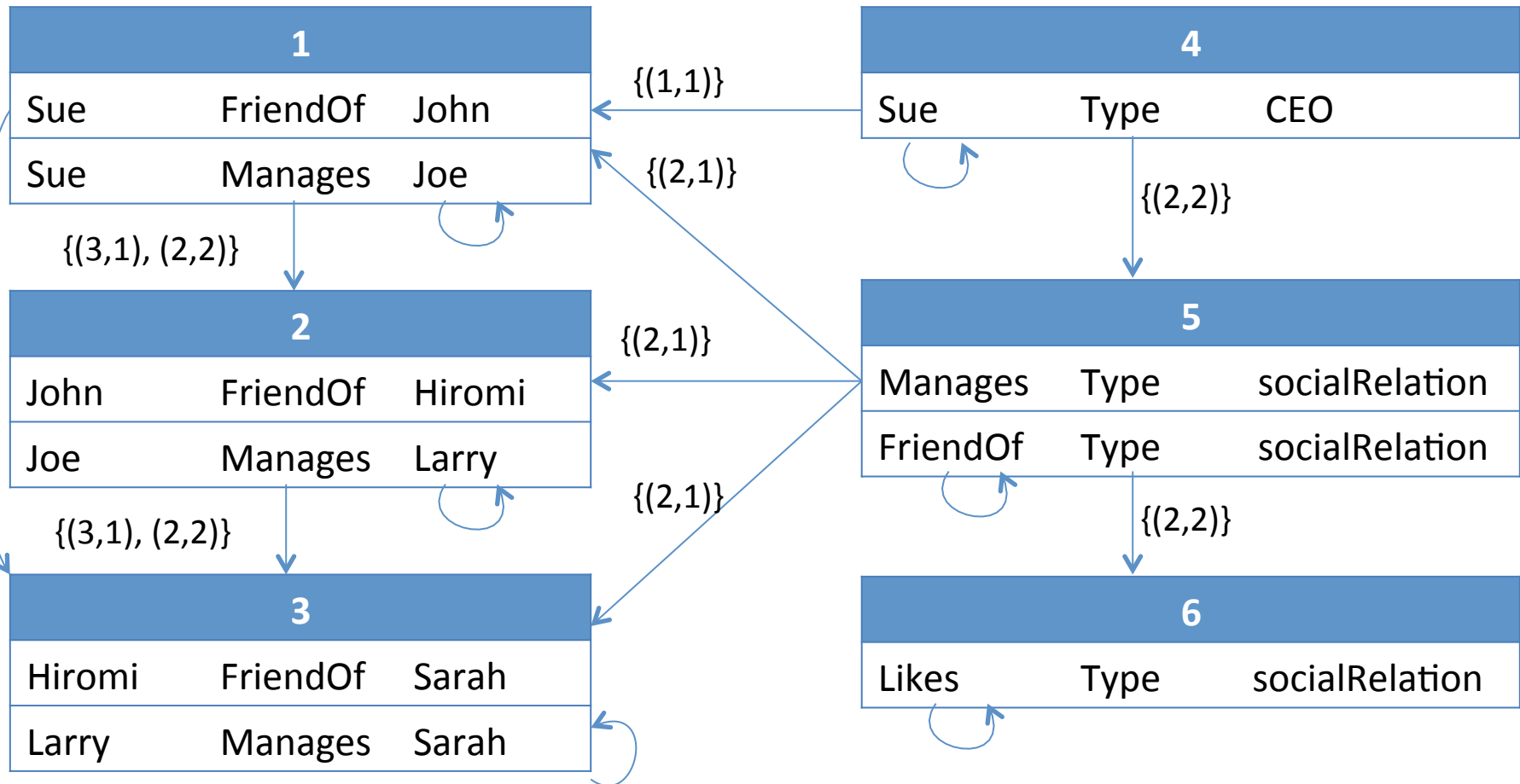
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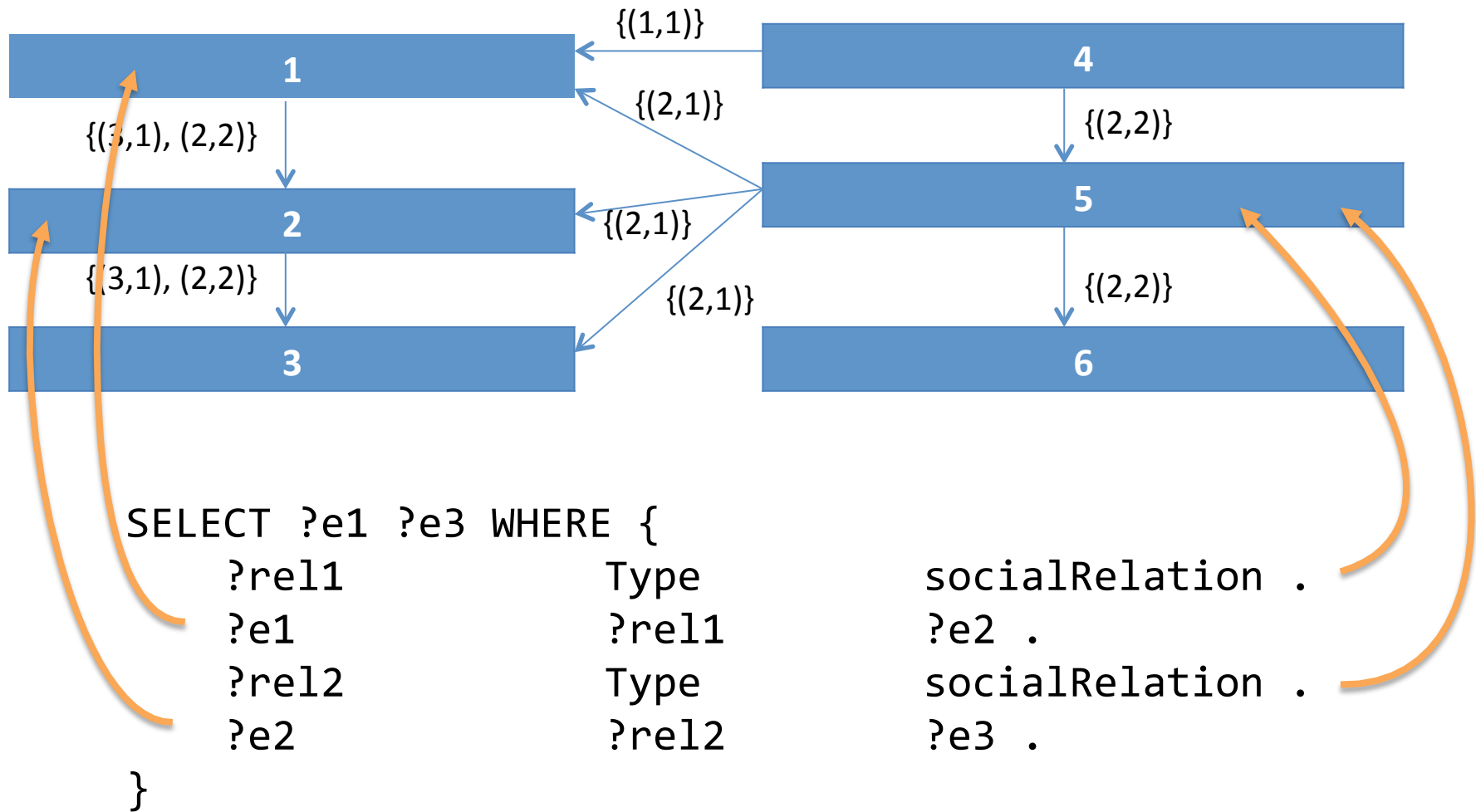


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# Querying the Index



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- A Structural Index for Triples
- **Building the Index**
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# Real-World SPARQL Queries

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**Fact:** Most queries posed in practice only use basic graph pattern (BGP).  
**99%** of real-world BGP queries are found to be **acyclic**.

[Picalausa, Vansummeren – in SWIM2011]

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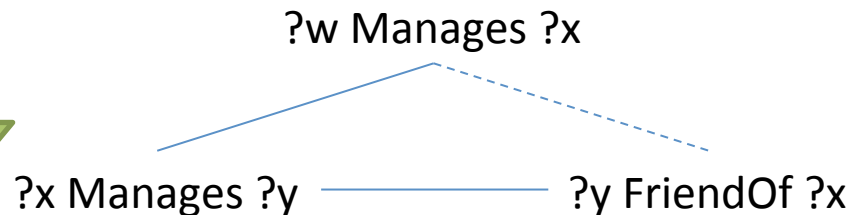
[Picalausa, Vansummeren – in SWIM2011]

A query Q is acyclic if it has a join forest.

A join forest for Q is a forest F whose set of nodes are the triple patterns of the query.  
For any pair of triple patterns p and q in Q that have a variable in common:

1. p and q belong to the same connected component of F
2. All variables common to p and q occur in every triple pattern on the path in F from p to q

?w Manages ?x .  
?x Manages ?y .  
?y FriendOf ?w .





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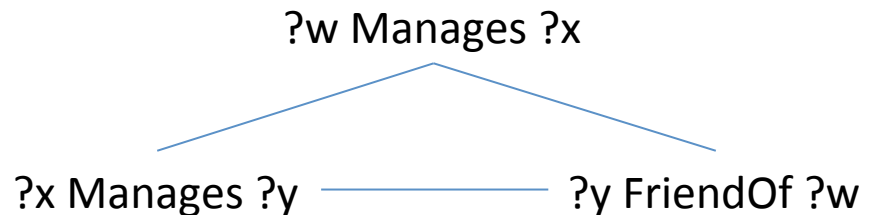
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# Structural Characterization

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**Definition:** A BGP query is **pure** if it contains only variables.

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**Theorem:** Given two triples  $t$ , and  $u$ , the following are equivalent:

- $t$  is in  $Q(D)$  if and only if  $u$  is in  $Q(D)$ , for every *pure acyclic BGP*  $Q$
- $t$  is *similar* to  $u$

[Fletcher, Hidders, Vansummeren, Luo, Picalausa, De Bra — DBPL 2011]

Consider a RDF dataset  $D$ . A triple  $t$  of  $D$  **simulates** a triple  $u$  of  $D$  guardedly if for every triple  $t'$  of  $D$ , there exists some triple  $u'$  of  $D$  such that  $\text{eqtp}(t,t') \subseteq \text{eqtp}(u,u')$  and  $t'$  simulates  $u'$ .

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(Sue, FriendOf, John)  $\xrightarrow{\{(3,1), (2,2)\}}$  (John, FriendOf, Hiromi)  $\xrightarrow{\{(2,1)\}}$  (FriendOf, Type, relation)

(Joe, Manages, Larry)  $\xrightarrow{\quad}$  (Larry, Manages, Sarah)  $\xrightarrow{\quad}$  (Manages, Type, relation)

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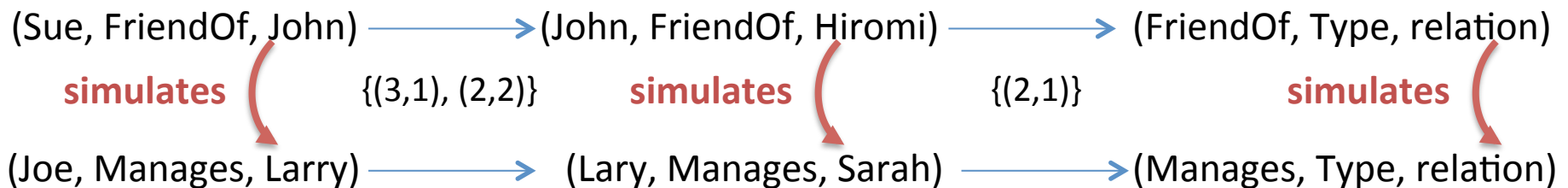
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[Fletcher, Hidders, Vansummeren, Luo, Picalausa, De Bra — DBPL 2011]

A triple  $t$  of  $D$  is **similar** to a triple  $u$  of  $D$ , denoted  $t \approx u$ , if  $t$  simulates  $u$  and  $u$  simulates  $t$ .



# Structural Index

---


1		
Sue	FriendOf	John
Sue	Manages	Joe



2		
John	FriendOf	Hiromi
Joe	Manages	Larry




3		
Hiromi	FriendOf	Sarah
Larry	Manages	Sarah



4		
Sue	Type	CEO

5		
Manages	Type	socialRelation
FriendOf	Type	socialRelation



6		
Likes	Type	socialRelation

# Table of Contents

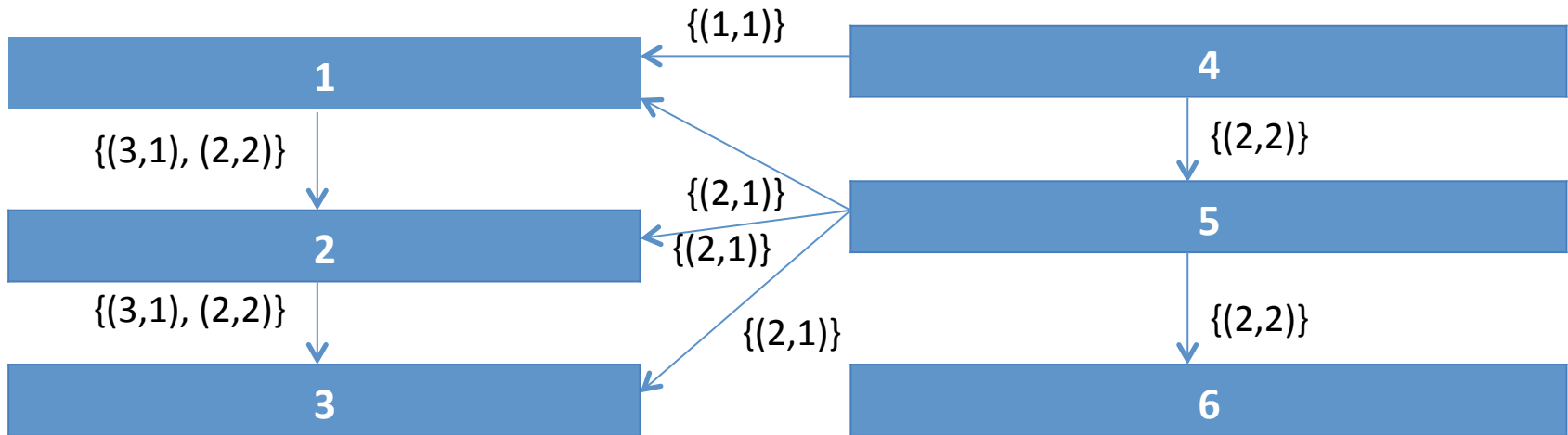
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- A Structural Index for Triples
- Building the Index
- Processing SPARQL queries



# Structural Index Storage

Ideally, the structural index is sufficiently small to be kept in main memory

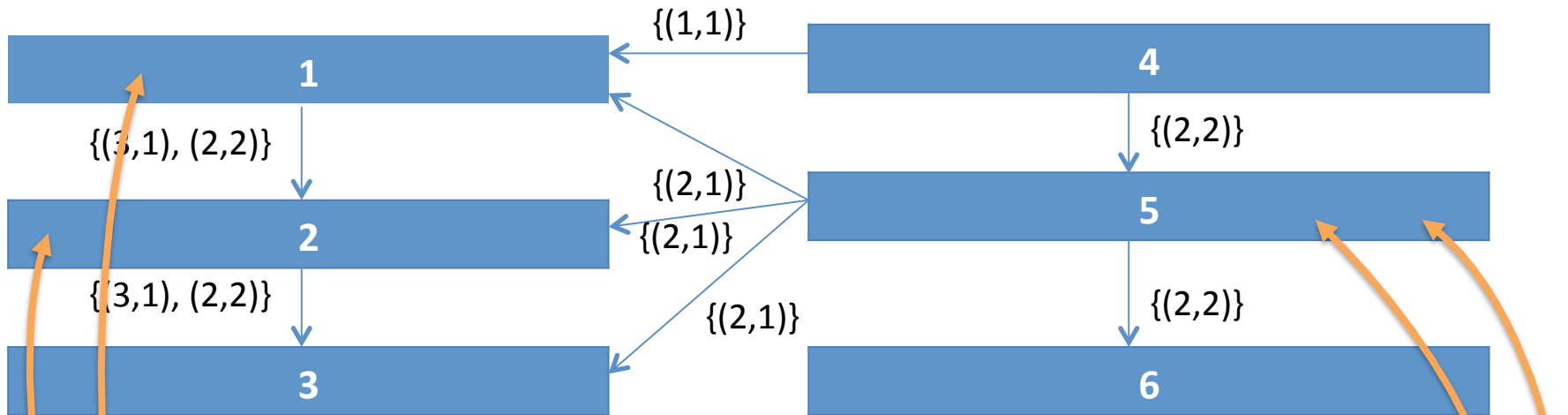


Each triple (subject, predicate, object) are stored as a quad (subject, predicate, object, partition)

Subject	Predicate	Object	Partition
Sue	Manages	Joe	1
Joe	Manages	Larry	2
Larry	Manages	Sarah	3
Sue	FriendOf	John	1

# Querying the Index

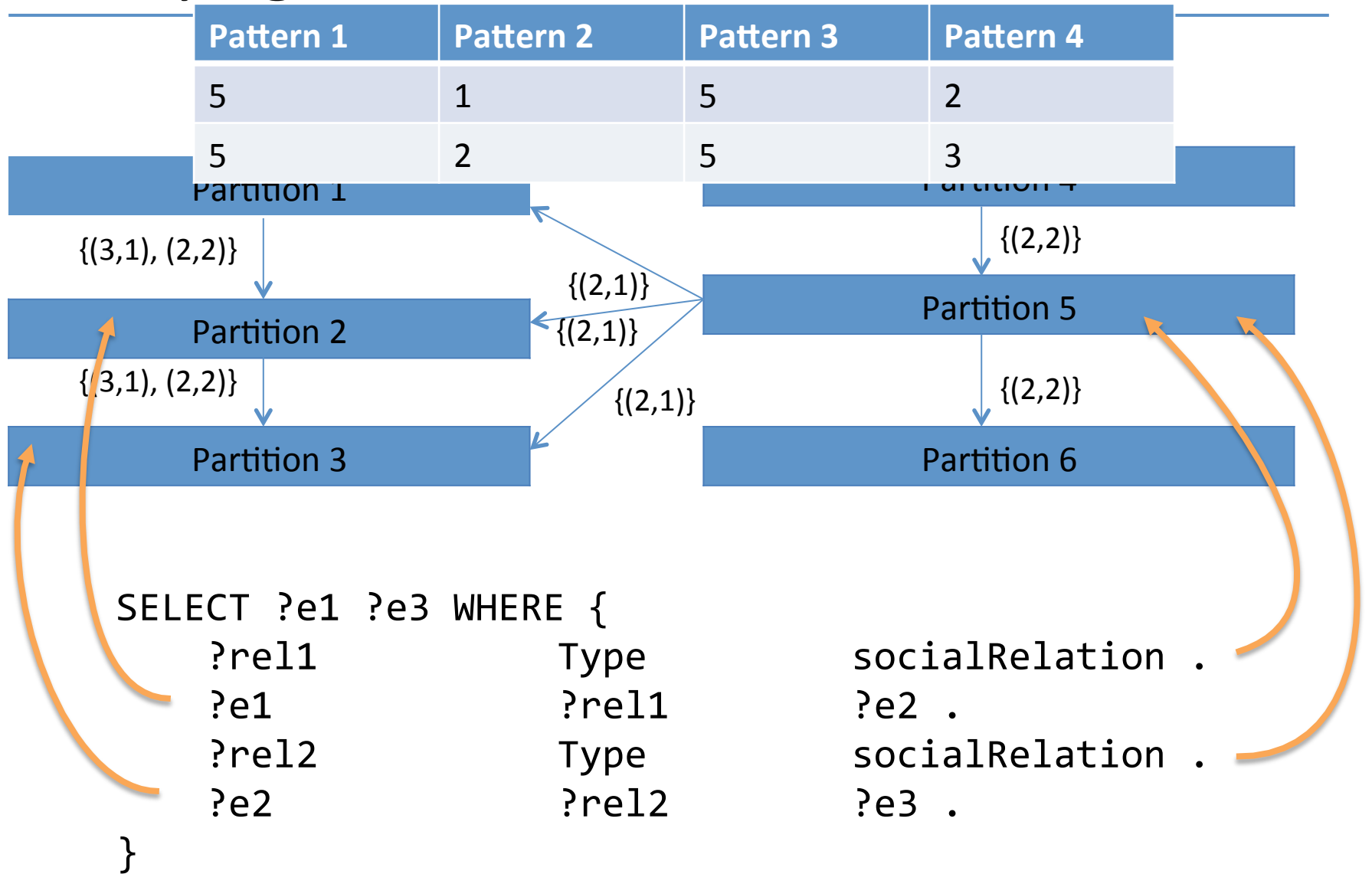
Pattern 1	Pattern 2	Pattern 3	Pattern 4
5	1	5	2



```

SELECT ?e1 ?e3 WHERE {
    ?rel1      Type      socialRelation .
    ?e1        ?rel1     ?e2 .
    ?rel2      Type      socialRelation .
    ?e2        ?rel2     ?e3 .
}
    
```

# Querying the Index



# Query Processing Strategies

---

Input: The SPARQL query

All embeddings of the query into the structural index

Pattern 1	Pattern 2	Pattern 3	Pattern 4
5	1	5	2
5	2	5	3

Output: A physical query plan

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(M1):  $((\text{Partition1} \bowtie \text{Partition5}) \bowtie (\text{Partition2} \bowtie \text{Partition5}))$   
 $\cup ((\text{Partition2} \bowtie \text{Partition5}) \bowtie (\text{Partition3} \bowtie \text{Partition5}))$

(M2):  $((\text{Partition5} \bowtie (\text{Partition1} \cup \text{Partition2})) \bowtie$   
 $(\text{Partition5} \bowtie (\text{Partition2} \cup \text{Partition3})))$

(M3):  $((\text{Pattern1} \bowtie (\text{Partition1} \cup \text{Partition2})) \bowtie$   
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Only use partitions when query optimizer deems useful

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(M1): ((Partition1  $\bowtie$  Partition5)  $\bowtie$  (Partition2  $\bowtie$  Partition5))  
 $\cup$  ((**Partition2**  $\bowtie$  **Partition5**)  $\bowtie$  (**Partition3**  $\bowtie$  **Partition5**))

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Only use partitions when query optimizer deems useful

# Query Processing Strategies

---

Input: The SPARQL query

All embeddings of the query into the structural index

Pattern 1	Pattern 2	Pattern 3	Pattern 4
5	1	5	2
5	2	5	3

Output: A physical query plan

(M1): ((Partition1  $\bowtie$  Partition5)  $\bowtie$  (Partition2  $\bowtie$  Partition5))  
 $\cup$  ((Partition2  $\bowtie$  Partition5)  $\bowtie$  (Partition3  $\bowtie$  Partition5))

(M2): ((Partition5  $\bowtie$  (Partition1  $\cup$  Partition2))  $\bowtie$   
(Partition5  $\bowtie$  (Partition2  $\cup$  Partition3)))

(M3): ((**Pattern1**  $\bowtie$  (Partition1  $\cup$  Partition2 ))  $\bowtie$   
(Pattern3  $\bowtie$  (Partition2  $\cup$  Partition3 )))

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(M2): ((Partition5  $\bowtie$  (Partition1  $\cup$  Partition2))  $\bowtie$   
(Partition5  $\bowtie$  (Partition2  $\cup$  Partition3)))

(M3): ((Pattern1  $\bowtie$  (**Partition1  $\cup$  Partition2**))  $\bowtie$   
(Pattern3  $\bowtie$  (Partition2  $\cup$  Partition3)))

Only use partitions when query optimizer deems useful

# Query Processing Strategies

---

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All embeddings of the query into the structural index

Pattern 1	Pattern 2	Pattern 3	Pattern 4
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5	2	5	3

Output: A physical query plan

(M1): ((Partition1  $\bowtie$  Partition5)  $\bowtie$  (Partition2  $\bowtie$  Partition5))  
 $\cup$  ((Partition2  $\bowtie$  Partition5)  $\bowtie$  (Partition3  $\bowtie$  Partition5))

(M2): ((Partition5  $\bowtie$  (Partition1  $\cup$  Partition2))  $\bowtie$   
(Partition5  $\bowtie$  (Partition2  $\cup$  Partition3)))

(M3): ((Pattern1  $\bowtie$  (Partition1  $\cup$  Partition2 ))  $\bowtie$   
**(Pattern3**  $\bowtie$  (Partition2  $\cup$  Partition3 )))

Only use partitions when query optimizer deems useful

# Query Processing Strategies

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Input: The SPARQL query

All embeddings of the query into the structural index

Pattern 1	Pattern 2	Pattern 3	Pattern 4
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5	2	5	3

Output: A physical query plan

(M1): ((Partition1  $\bowtie$  Partition5)  $\bowtie$  (Partition2  $\bowtie$  Partition5))  
 $\cup$  ((Partition2  $\bowtie$  Partition5)  $\bowtie$  (Partition3  $\bowtie$  Partition5))

(M2): ((Partition5  $\bowtie$  (Partition1  $\cup$  Partition2))  $\bowtie$   
(Partition5  $\bowtie$  (Partition2  $\cup$  Partition3)))

(M3): ((Pattern1  $\bowtie$  (Partition1  $\cup$  Partition2 ))  $\bowtie$   
(Pattern3  $\bowtie$  (**Partition2  $\cup$  Partition3** )))

Only use partitions when query optimizer deems useful

# Empirical Evaluation

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How do the different processing strategies compare?  
Can traditional query processors benefit from this additional index?

**SAINT-DB:** modification of RDF-3X with structural indexes

Datasets:

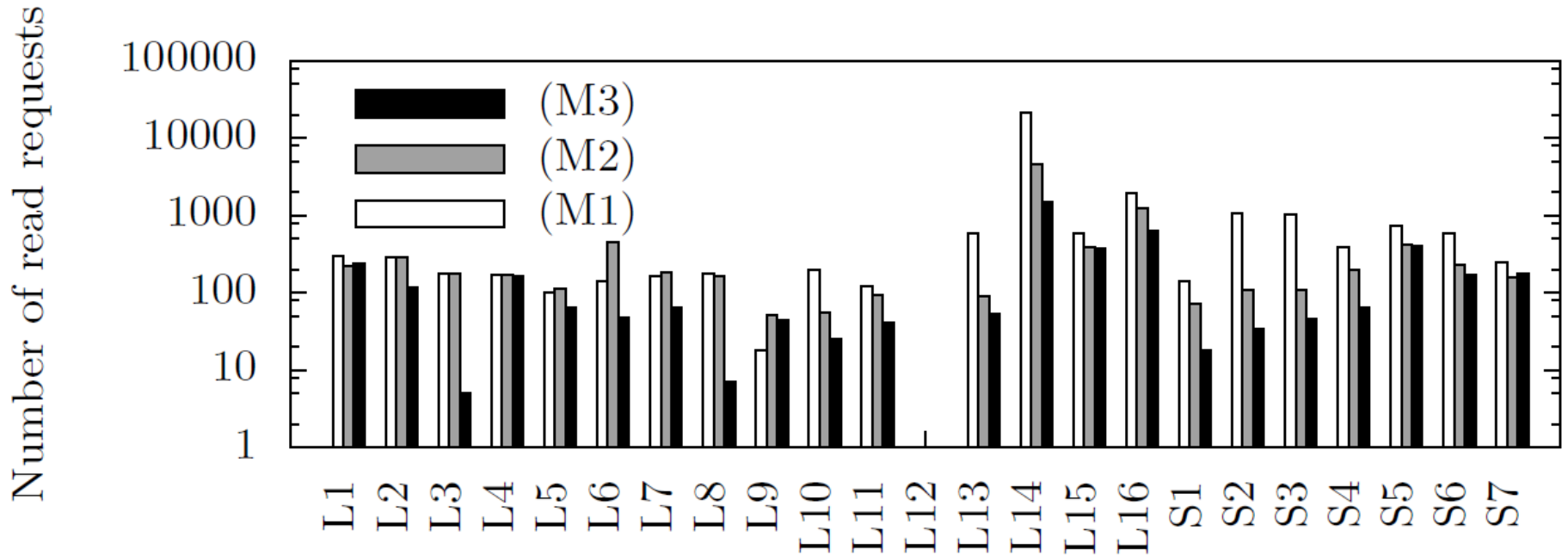
- **LUBM:** Synthetically generated dataset of 2 million triples
- **Southampton:** Real-world dataset of 4 million triples

All results given in number of **disk page reads**



# Comparison of the different strategies

---



# Comparison with RDF-3X

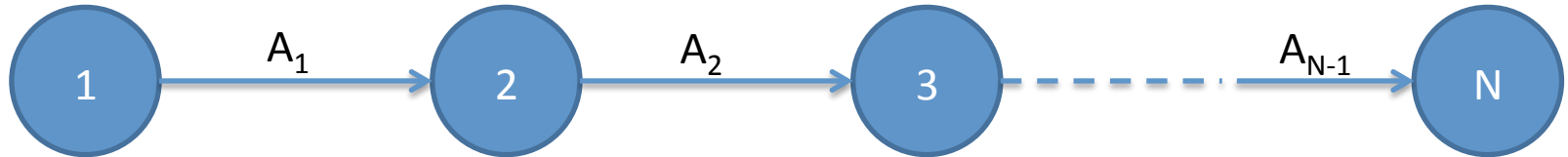
- C1: Single triple pattern  
(Sue, Manages ?y)
- C2: Highly selective triple patterns in the query  
(?x, Type, CEO) (?x, Manages, John)
- C3: Queries with multiple triple patterns, non selective

Processing strategy: M3

	<b>C1</b>			<b>C2</b>				<b>C3</b>				
	<i>L2</i>	<i>L3</i>	<i>L4</i>	<i>L9</i>	<i>S1</i>	<i>S2</i>	<i>S4</i>	<i>L1</i>	<i>L5</i>	<i>L6</i>	<i>L7</i>	<i>L8</i>
SAINT-DB	116	5	163	18	18	36	64	238	39	47	38	7
RDF-3X	89	5	123	12	16	35	53	194	132	39	268	7
<i>Speed-up</i>	0.77	1.00	0.75	0.67	0.89	0.97	0.83	0.82	3.38	0.83	7.05	1.00
	<b>C3</b>											
	<i>L10</i>	<i>L11</i>	<i>L12</i>	<i>L13</i>	<i>L14</i>	<i>L15</i>	<i>L16</i>	<i>S3</i>	<i>S5</i>	<i>S6</i>	<i>S7</i>	
SAINT-DB	25	41	0	53	1519	352	288	48	410	173	175	
RDF-3X	21	30	281	109	2668	2178	1224	33	424	316	236	
<i>Speed-up</i>	0.84	0.73	∞	2.06	1.76	6.19	4.25	0.69	1.03	1.83	1.35	

# Comparison with RDF-3X – Best Case

---



1000 chains are generated for each  $N = 3..5$

Queries are chains of triple patterns of the form

$(?x_1, ?y_1, ?x_2) (?x_2, ?y_2, ?x_3), \dots (?x_n, ?y_n, ?x_{n+1})$

$n = 4..7$

	4	5	6	7
SAINT-DB	306	350	393	438
RDF-3X	3864	4799	5734	6669
<i>Speed-up</i>	12.63	13.71	14.59	15.23

# Conclusion

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- We introduced a triple-based structural index for RDF
- This index is tied to practical fragments of SPARQL
- Our initial empirical study shows that the approach is profitable

# Future Work

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- Alternate Structures for storing the index and dataset
- More optimized query processing strategies
- Efficient external memory and/or distributed computation of the indexes
- Extension to richer fragments of SPARQL

Thank you!