

**NDBI040: Modern Database Concepts**

<http://www.ksi.mff.cuni.cz/~svoboda/courses/191-NDBI040/>

Lecture 4

# **RDF Stores: SPARQL**

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# Lecture Outline

## **RDF stores**

- Introduction
- Linked Data

## **SPARQL query language**

- Graph patterns
- Filter constraints
- Solution modifiers
- Aggregation
- Query forms

# RDF Stores

## Data model

- **RDF triples**
  - Components: **subject**, **predicate**, and **object**
  - Each triple represents a **statement** about a real-world entity
- Triples can be viewed as **graphs**
  - **Vertices** for subjects and objects
  - **Edges** directly correspond to individual statements

## Query language

- **SPARQL**: *SPARQL Protocol and RDF Query Language*

## Representatives

- Apache **Jena**, **rdf4j** (Sesame), Algebraix
- *Multi-model*: **MarkLogic**, OpenLink **Virtuoso**

# Linked Data

## Linked Data

- Method of **publishing structured and interlinked data** in a way that allows for an **automated processing by programs** rather than browsing by human readers

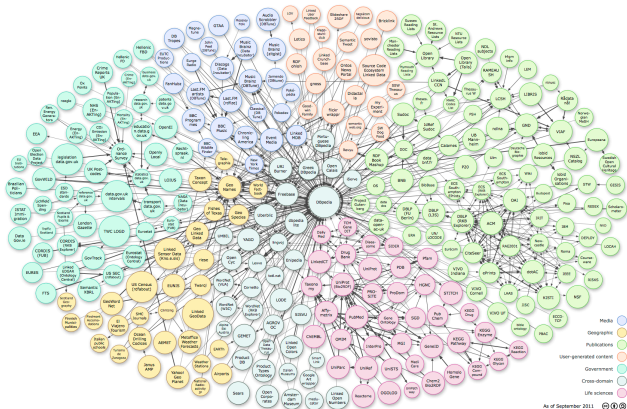
## Principles of Linked Open Data

- **Identify resources** using URIs or even better using **URLs**
- **Publish data** about resources in standard formats via **HTTP**
- Mutually **interlink resources** to form Web of Data
- Release the data under an **open licence**



# Linked Open Data Cloud

September 2011



Source: <http://lod-cloud.net/>



# Linked Data

## Statistics

- October 2007
  - 25 datasets
  - 2 billion triples, 2 million links
- September 2011
  - 295 datasets
  - 31 billion triples, 504 million links
- August 2017
  - 1163 datasets



# **SPARQL Query Language**

# SPARQL

## SPARQL Query Language

- Query language for RDF data
  - **Graph patterns**, optional graph patterns, **subqueries**, negation, **aggregation**, value constructors, ...
- Versions: 1.0 (2008), **1.1** (2013)
- W3C recommendations
  - <https://www.w3.org/TR/sparql11-query/>
  - Altogether 11 recommendations: query language, update facility, federated queries, protocol, result formats, ...

# Sample Data

## Graph of **movies** <http://db.cz/movies>

```
@prefix i: <http://db.cz/terms#> .
@prefix m: <http://db.cz/movies/> .
@prefix a: <http://db.cz/actors/> .
m:vratnelahve
  rdf:type i:Movie ; i:title "Vratné lahve" ;
  i:year 2006 ;
  i:actor a:sverak , a:machacek .
m:samotari
  rdf:type i:Movie ; i:title "Samotáři" ;
  i:year 2000 ;
  i:actor a:schneiderova , a:trojan , a:machacek .
m:medvidek
  rdf:type i:Movie ; i:title "Medvídek" ;
  i:year 2007 ;
  i:actor a:machacek , a:trojan ;
  i:director "Jan Hřebejk" .
m:zelary
  rdf:type i:Movie .
```

# Sample Data

## Graph of **actors** <http://db.cz/actors>

```
@prefix i: <http://db.cz/terms#> .
@prefix a: <http://db.cz/actors/> .
a:trojan
  rdf:type i:Actor ;
  i:firstname "Ivan" ; i:lastname "Trojan" ;
  i:year 1964 .
a:machacek
  rdf:type i:Actor ;
  i:firstname "Jiří" ; i:lastname "Macháček" ;
  i:year 1966 .
a:schneiderova
  rdf:type i:Actor ;
  i:firstname "Jitka" ; i:lastname "Schneiderová" ;
  i:year 1973 .
a:sverak
  rdf:type i:Actor ;
  i:firstname "Zdeněk" ; i:lastname "Svěrák" ;
  i:year 1936 .
```

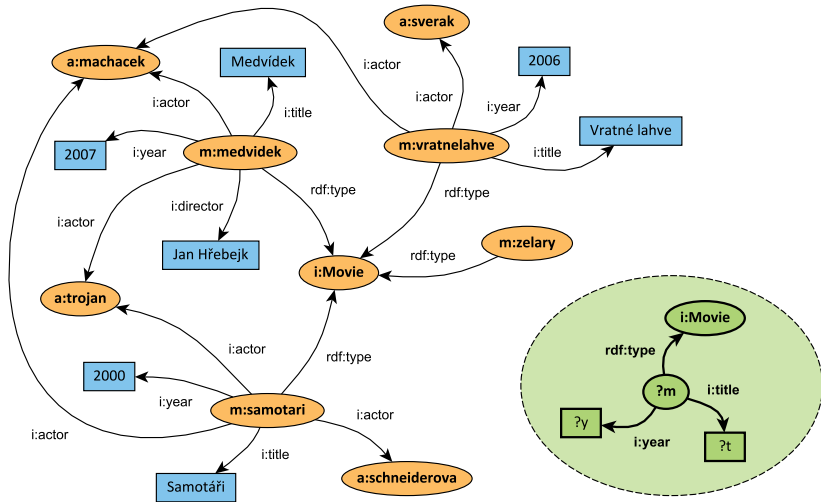
# Sample Query

Find all movies, return their titles and years they were filmed

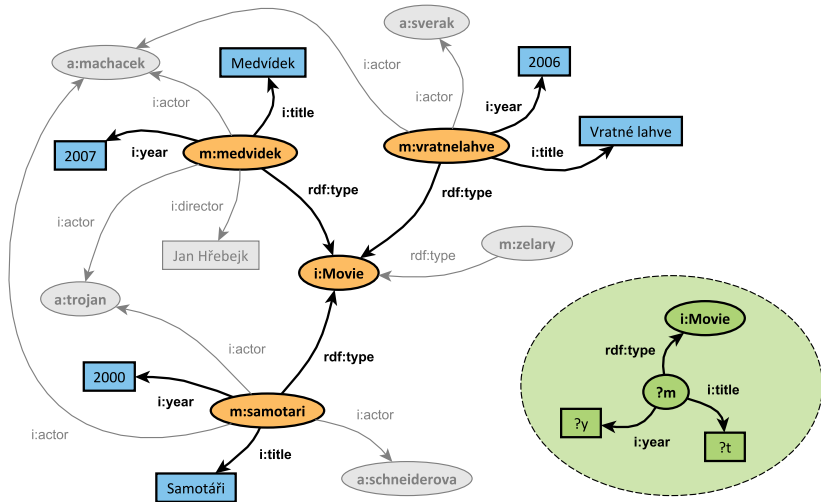
```
PREFIX i: <http://db.cz/terms#>
SELECT ?t ?y
FROM <http://db.cz/movies>
WHERE
{
  ?m rdf:type i:Movie ;
    i:title ?t ;
    i:year ?y .
}
ORDER BY ?y
```

?t	?y
Samotáři	2000
Vratné lahve	2006
Medvídek	2007

# Sample Query



# Sample Query



# Graph Pattern Matching

## Graph patterns

- **Basic graph pattern**
  - Based on ordinary **triples with variables**
    - ?variable or \$variable
- More complicated graph patterns
  - E.g. group, optional, minus, ...

## Graph pattern matching

- Our goal is to find all **subgraphs of the data graph that are matched by the query graph pattern**
  - I.e. subgraphs of the data graph that are identical to the query graph pattern with variables substituted by particular terms
- One matching subgraph = one **solution** = one row of a table



# Graph Pattern Matching

Query result = **solution sequence** = ordered multiset of solutions

?t	?y
Samotáři	2000
Vratné lahve	2006
Medvídek	2007

```
{  
  { (?t, "Samotáři"), (?y, "2000") },  
  { (?t, "Vratné lahve"), (?y, "2006") },  
  { (?t, "Medvídek"), (?y, "2007") }  
}
```

**Solution** = set of variable bindings

?t	?y
Samotáři	2000

```
{ (?t, "Samotáři"), (?y, "2000") }
```

**Variable binding** = pair of a variable name and a value it is assigned

?t
Samotáři

```
(?t, "Samotáři")
```

# Graph Pattern Matching

## Compatibility of solutions

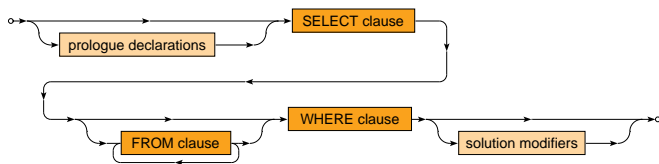
- Two solutions are mutually compatible if and only if all the variables they share are pairwise bound to identical values

## Examples

- Compatible solutions
  - { (?m, m:samotari), (?t, "Samotáři") }
  - { (?m, m:samotari), (?y, "2000") }
- Incompatible solutions
  - { (?m, m:samotari), (?t, "Samotáři") }
  - { (?m, m:medvidek), (?y, "2007") }

# Select Queries

## SELECT queries

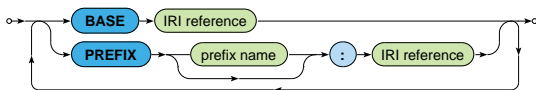


- **Prologue declarations** – PREFIX, BASE
- **Main clauses**
  - **SELECT** – **variables to be projected**
  - **FROM** – **data graphs to be queried**
  - **WHERE** – **graph patterns to be matched**
- **Solution modifiers** – ORDER BY, ...

# Prologue Declarations

## Prologue declarations

- Allow to simplify IRI references by declaring **base IRIs**



## BASE clause

- One **single base IRI** is defined, all **relative IRI references** are then related to this base IRI

## PREFIX clause

- Several base IRIs** are defined, each is associated with a name, all **prefixed names** are then related to the respective base IRI

# Prologue Declarations

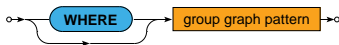
## Examples

- When `BASE <http://db.cz/>` is defined, then a relative IRI reference `terms#Movie` is interpreted as `http://db.cz/terms#Movie`
- When `PREFIX i: <http://db.cz/>` is defined, then a prefixed name `i:terms#Movie` is interpreted as `http://db.cz/terms#Movie`

# Where Clause

## WHERE clause

- Describes one **group graph pattern**



## Types of graph patterns

- **Basic** – triple patterns to be matched
- **Group** – set of graph patterns to be matched
- **Optional** – graph pattern to be matched only if possible
- **Alternative** – two or more alternative graph patterns
- ...

Graph patterns can be inductively combined into complex ones

# Graph Patterns

## Basic Graph Pattern

### Basic graph pattern (triple block)

One or more triple patterns to be all matched

- Ordinary **triples** separated by .
- ... or their abbreviated forms inspired by Turtle notation
  - **Object lists** using ,
  - **Predicate-object lists** using ;
  - **Blank nodes** using []

### Examples

- `s p1 o1 . s p1 o2 . s p2 o3 .`
- `s p1 o1 , o2 ; p2 o3 .`

# Graph Patterns

## Basic Graph Pattern

### Interpretation

- **All the involved triple patterns must be matched**
  - I.e. we combine them as if they were in conjunction
  - More precisely...
    - **Each triple pattern is evaluated to its solution sequence**
    - **All combinations of compatible solutions are then found**
- Note that all the variables need to be bound
  - I.e. if any of the involved variables cannot be bound at all, then the entire basic graph pattern cannot be matched!



# Graph Patterns: Example

## Basic Graph Pattern

Titles and years of all movies

```
PREFIX i: <http://db.cz/terms#>
SELECT ?t ?y
FROM <http://db.cz/movies>
WHERE
{
  ?m rdf:type i:Movie . # triple 1
  ?m i:title ?t .       # triple 2
  ?m i:year ?y .       # triple 3
}
```

?t	?y
Vratné lahve	2006
Samotáři	2000
Medvídek	2007

# Graph Patterns: Example

## Basic Graph Pattern

$\llbracket t_1 \rrbracket =$

?m
m:vratnelahve
m:samotari
m:medvidek
m:zelary

$\llbracket t_2 \rrbracket =$

?m	?t
m:vratnelahve	Vratné lahve
m:samotari	Samotáři
m:medvidek	Medvídek

$\llbracket t_3 \rrbracket =$

?m	?y
m:vratnelahve	2006
m:samotari	2000
m:medvidek	2007

?t	?y
Vratné lahve	2006
Samotáři	2000
Medvídek	2007



# Graph Patterns

## Basic Graph Pattern

### Equivalence of IRIs

### Equivalence of literals

- Values must be identical
- And when **types / language tags** are specified, these must be identical as well
  - E.g.: "Medvídek"@cs != "Medvídek"

### Equivalence of blank nodes

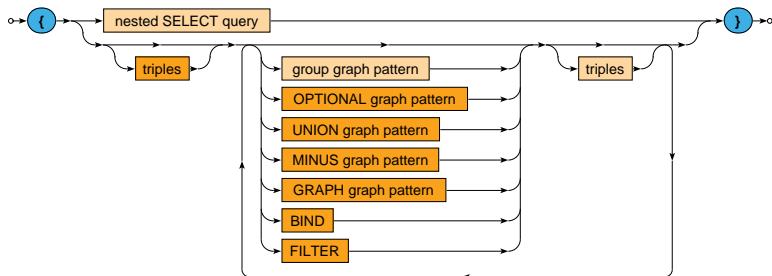
- Blank nodes in query patterns act as **non-selectable variables**
- **Labels of blank nodes** in data graphs / query graph patterns / query results **may not refer to the same nodes despite being the same**
  - I.e. the scope of validity is always local only

# Graph Patterns

## Group Graph Pattern

### Group graph pattern

Set of graph patterns to be all matched



# Graph Patterns

## Group Graph Pattern

Two modes

- **Nested SELECT query**
  - Only with SELECT and WHERE clauses and solution modifiers  
i.e. without FROM clause
- **Set of graph patterns interleaved by triple blocks**

Interpretation

- **All the involved graph patterns must be matched**
  - I.e. we combine them as if they were in conjunction

Notes

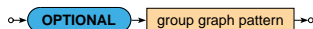
- Empty group patterns `{}` are also allowed

# Graph Patterns

## Optional Graph Pattern

### OPTIONAL graph pattern

One group graph pattern is tried to be matched



### Interpretation

- **When the optional part does not match, it creates no bindings but does not eliminate the solution**

# Graph Patterns: Example

## Optional Graph Pattern

Movies together with their directors when possible

```
PREFIX i: <http://db.cz/terms#>
SELECT ?t ?y ?d
FROM <http://db.cz/movies>
WHERE
  {
    ?m rdf:type i:Movie ;
      i:title ?t ;
      i:year ?y .
    OPTIONAL { ?m i:director ?d . }
  }
```

?t	?y	?d
Vratné lahve	2006	
Samotáři	2000	
Medvídek	2007	Jan Hřebejk

# Graph Patterns

## Alternative Graph Pattern

### UNION graph pattern

Two or more group graph patterns are to be matched



### Interpretation

- Standard set **union** of the involved query results

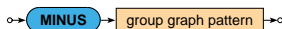


# Graph Patterns

## Minus Graph Pattern

### MINUS graph pattern

One group graph pattern removing compatible solutions



### Interpretation

- **Solutions of the first pattern are preserved if and only if they are not compatible with any solution of the second pattern**
  - I.e. minus graph pattern does not correspond to the standard set minus operation!

# Graph Patterns: Example

## Minus Graph Pattern

Titles of movies that have no director

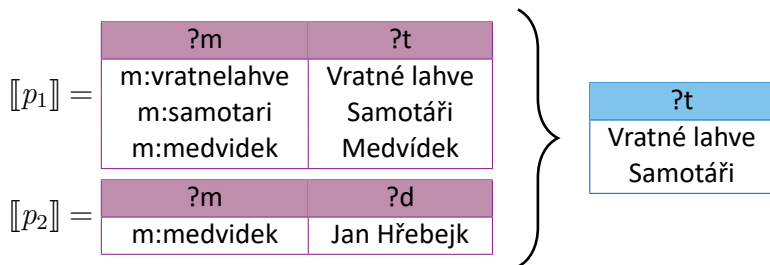
```
PREFIX i: <http://db.cz/terms#>
SELECT ?t
FROM <http://db.cz/movies>
WHERE
{
  ?m rdf:type i:Movie ;
    i:title ?t . # pattern 1
  MINUS { ?m rdf:type i:Movie ; i:director ?d . } # pattern 2
}
```

?t

Vratné lahve  
Samotáři

# Graph Patterns: Example

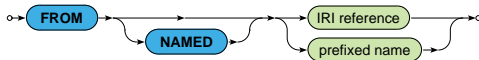
## Minus Graph Pattern



# From Clause

## FROM clause

- Defines data graphs to be queried



## Dataset = collection of graphs to be queried

- One **default graph**
  - Merge of all the declared graphs from unnamed FROM clauses
  - Empty when no unnamed FROM clause is provided
- Zero or more **named graphs**

**Active graph** = used for the evaluation of graph patterns

- The default graph unless changed using GRAPH graph pattern

# From Clause: Example

Names of actors who played in *Medvídek* movie

```
PREFIX i: <http://db.cz/terms#>
PREFIX m: <http://db.cz/movies/>
SELECT ?f ?l
FROM <http://db.cz/movies>
FROM <http://db.cz/actors>
WHERE
{
  m:medvidek i:actor ?a .
  ?a i:firstname ?f ; i:lastname ?l .
}
```

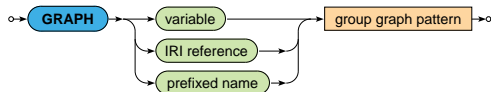
?f	?l
Jiří	Macháček
Ivan	Trojan

# Graph Patterns

## Graph Graph Pattern

### GRAPH graph pattern

Pattern evaluated with respect to a particular named graph



- **Changes the active graph** for a given group graph pattern
  - `GRAPH <http://db.cz/actors> { ... }`
- We can also consider all the named graphs
  - `GRAPH ?g { ... }`

# Graph Patterns: Example

## Graph Graph Pattern

Names of actors who played in *Medvídek* movie

```
PREFIX i: <http://db.cz/terms#>
PREFIX m: <http://db.cz/movies/>
SELECT ?f ?l
FROM <http://db.cz/movies>
FROM NAMED <http://db.cz/actors>
WHERE
  {
    m:medvidek i:actor ?a .
    GRAPH <http://db.cz/actors> {
      ?a i:firstname ?f ; i:lastname ?l .
    }
  }
```

?f	?l
Jiří	Macháček
Ivan	Trojan

# Variable Assignments

## **BIND** graph pattern

Explicitly assigns a value to a given variable



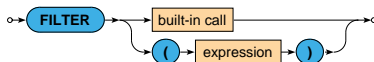
- This variable must not yet be bound!



# Filter Constraints

## FILTER constraints

Impose constraints on variables and their values



- **Only solutions satisfying the given condition are preserved**
- Does not create any new variable bindings!
- Always applied on the entire group graph pattern  
i.e. evaluated at the very end

# Filter Constraints: Example

Movies filmed in 2005 or later where *Ivan Trojan* played

```
PREFIX i: <http://db.cz/terms#>
PREFIX a: <http://db.cz/actors/>
SELECT ?t ?y
FROM <http://db.cz/movies>
WHERE
{
  ?m rdf:type i:Movie ;
    i:title ?t ;
    i:year ?y .
  FILTER (
    (?y >= 2005) &&
    EXISTS { ?m i:actor a:trojan . }
  )
}
```

?t	?y
Medvídek	2007

# Filter Constraints

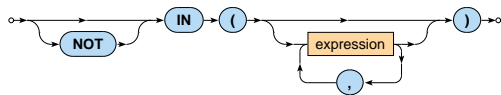
## Relational expressions

- **Comparisons**

- =, !=, <, <=, =>, >
- Unbound variable < blank node < IRI < literal

- **Set membership tests**

- IN and NOT IN



## Numeric expressions

- Unary / binary **arithmetic operators** +, -, \*, /

# Filter Constraints

## Primary expressions

- **Literals** – numeric, boolean, RDF triples
- **Variables**
- Built-in calls
- Parentheses

## Boolean expressions

- Logical connectives
  - Conjunction `&&`, disjunction `||`, negation `!`
- **3-value logic** because of unbound variables (NULL values)
  - true, false, error

# Filter Constraints

## Built-in calls

- **Term accessors**
  - STR – lexical form of an IRI or literal
  - LANG – language tag of a literal
  - DATATYPE – data type of a literal
- **Variable tests**
  - BOUND – true when a variable is bound to a value
  - isIRI, isBLANK, isLITERAL

# Filter Constraints

## Built-in calls

- **Existence tests**

- EXISTS

- True when a provided group graph pattern is evaluated to at least one solution

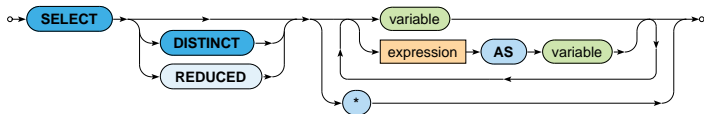
- NOT EXISTS



# Select clause

## SELECT clause

- Enumerates variables to be included in the query result



- Asterisk \* selects all the variables

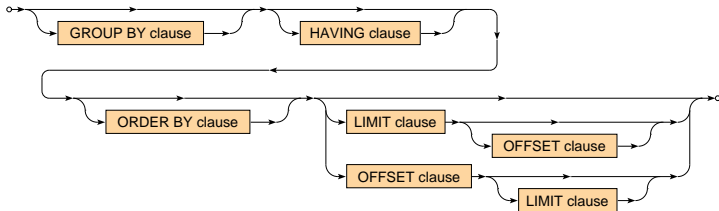
## Solution modifiers

- DISTINCT – **duplicate solutions are removed**
- REDUCED – some duplicate solutions may be removed (implementation-dependent behavior)

# Solution Modifiers

**Solution modifiers** – modify the entire solution sequence

- Aggregation
  - GROUP BY and HAVING
- Ordering
  - ORDER BY
  - LIMIT and OFFSET

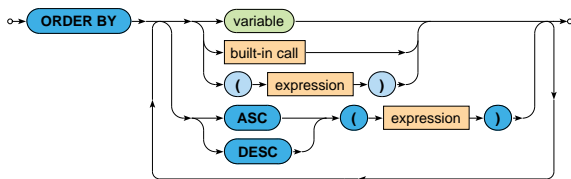




# Solution Modifiers

## ORDER BY clause

- Defines the order of solutions within the query result

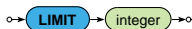


- `ASC(...)` = **ascending** (default)
- `DESC(...)` = **descending**

# Solution Modifiers

## LIMIT clause

- **Limits the number of solutions** in the query result



## OFFSET clause

- **Skips a certain number of solutions** in the query result



# Solution Modifiers: Example

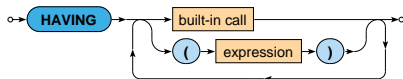
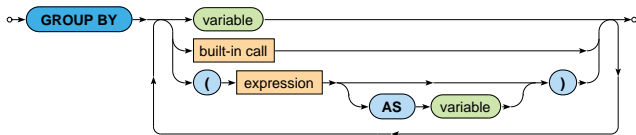
```
PREFIX i: <http://db.cz/terms#>
SELECT ?t ?y
FROM <http://db.cz/movies>
WHERE
  {
    ?m rdf:type i:Movie ;
      i:title ?t ;
      i:year ?y .
  }
ORDER BY DESC(?y) ASC(?t)
OFFSET 1
LIMIT 5
```

?t	?y
Vratné lahve	2006
Samotáři	2000

# Aggregation

## GROUP BY + HAVING clauses

- Standard aggregation over a solution sequence



# Aggregation: Example

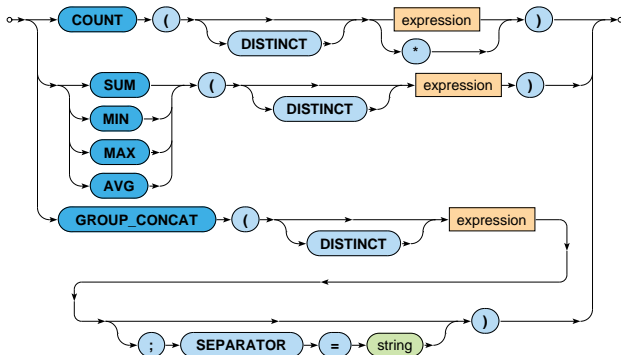
Numbers of actors in movies with at most 2 actors

```
PREFIX i: <http://db.cz/terms#>
SELECT ?t (COUNT(?a) AS ?c)
FROM <http://db.cz/movies>
WHERE
  {
    ?m rdf:type i:Movie ;
      i:title ?t ;
      i:actor ?a .
  }
GROUP BY ?m ?t
HAVING (?c <= 2)
ORDER BY ?c ?t
```

?t	?c
Medvídek	2
Vratné lahve	2

# Aggregation

## Aggregate functions



# Query Forms

## Query forms

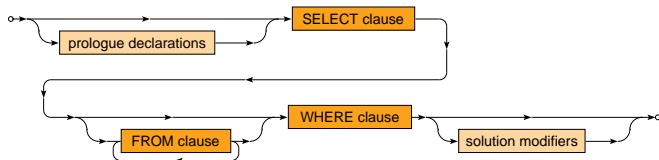
- **SELECT**
  - Finds solutions matching a provided graph pattern
- **ASK**
  - Checks whether at least one solution exists
- **DESCRIBE**
  - Retrieves a graph with data about selected resources
- **CONSTRUCT**
  - Creates a new graph according to a provided pattern

# Query Forms

## SELECT

### SELECT query form

Finds solutions matching a provided graph pattern



### Result

- **Solution sequence** = ordered multiset of solutions

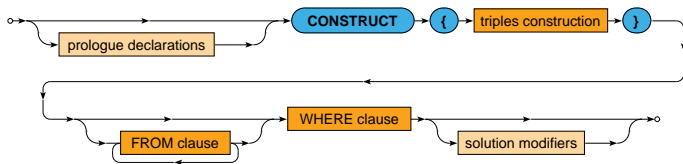


# Query Forms

## CONSTRUCT

### CONSTRUCT query form

Creates a new graph according to a provided pattern



### Result

- **RDF graph** constructed according to a group graph pattern
  - Unbound or invalid triples are not involved

# Query Forms: Example

## CONSTRUCT

```
PREFIX i: <http://db.cz/terms#>
CONSTRUCT
{
  ?a i:name concat(?f, " ", ?l) .
}
FROM <http://db.cz/actors>
WHERE
{
  ?a rdf:type i:Actor ;
    i:firstname ?f ;
    i:lastname ?l .
}
```

```
<http://db.cz/actors/trojan> i:name "Ivan Trojan" .
<http://db.cz/actors/machacek> i:name "Jiří Macháček" .
<http://db.cz/actors/schneiderova> i:name "Jitka Schneiderová" .
<http://db.cz/actors/sverak> i:name "Zdeněk Svěrák" .
```



# Lecture Conclusion

## SPARQL

- **Query forms**
  - SELECT, ASK, DESCRIBE, CONSTRUCT
- **Graph patterns**
  - Basic, group, optional, alternative, minus
  - Variable assignments
  - Filters
- **Solution modifiers**
  - DISTINCT, REDUCED
  - GROUP BY, HAVING
  - ORDER BY, LIMIT, OFFSET