

# THE WORLD OF GRAPH DATABASES

- FROM AN INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVE

Yuanyuan Tian  
Gray Systems Lab, Microsoft

# A bit about myself related to graphs

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- **Long standing interest in graphs since 2003**
  - Two books on graphs
  - 19/50+ publications on graphs (2700+ citations)
- **Current: Principal Scientist Manager @ GSL**
  - Working on graph projects with Azure Data and Liquid Team @ LinkedIn
- **Past: Principal Research Staff Member @ IBM Research**
  - The tech lead for IBM Db2 Graph product



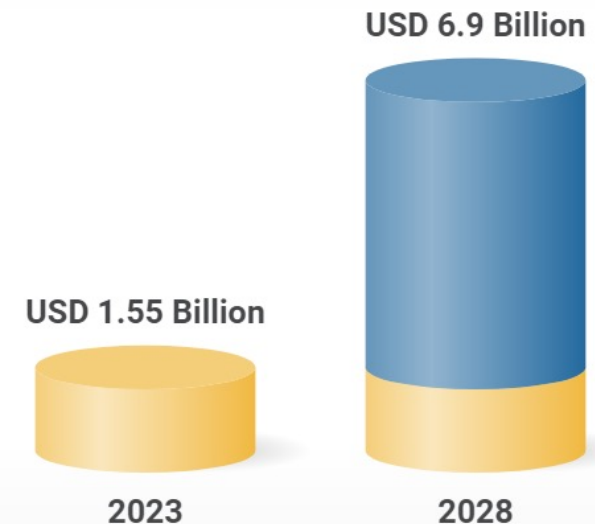
# Market Research

- The global graph analytics market in 2022 was valued at **\$1.14B**
- Global market for graph databases will grow at projected CAGR of **34.8%** during forecasted period (2023-2028) and reach **\$6.9B** by 2028.



## Global Graph Analytics Market

Market forecast to grow at a CAGR of 34.8%



# Customer Use Cases

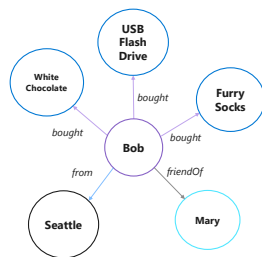
- Finance
- Insurance
- Healthcare
- Security
- Retail
- Energy
- Power
- Manufacturing
- Supply chains
- Transportation

# Graph Workloads

## Graph Queries (Graph OLTP)

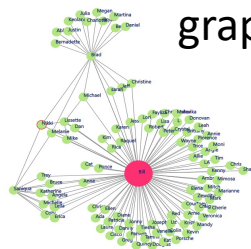
low-latency graph traversal  
and pattern matching

**Local Traversal**



e.g. neighbors of a vertex,  
shortest path between two  
vertices

e.g. node embedding,  
graph embedding

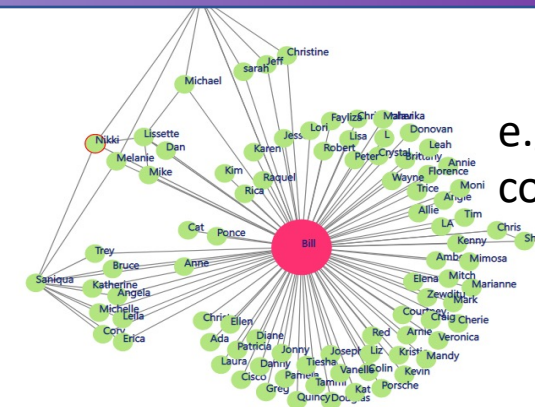


vector

## Graph Algorithms (Graph OLAP)

iterative, long running, graph processing

**Global Computation**



e.g. Pagerank,  
community detection

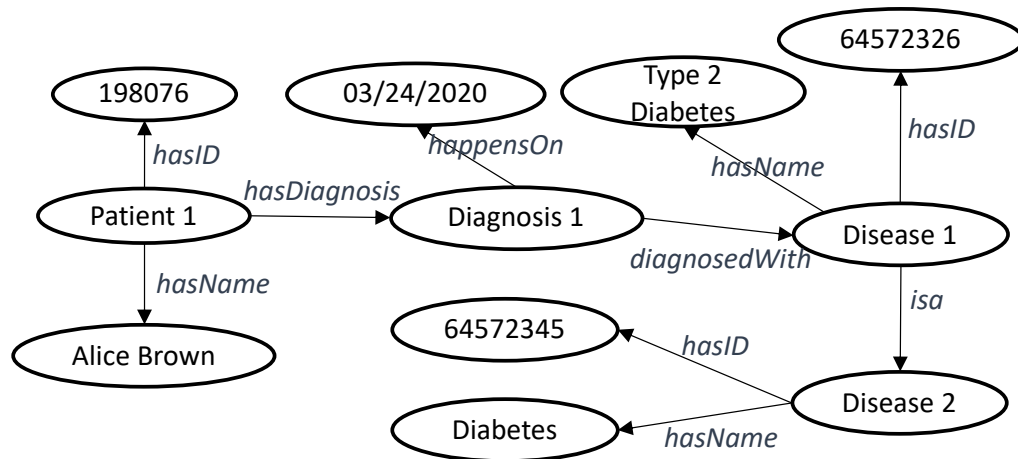
**New Trend: Graph ML/AI**

**GNN**

# Graph Models

## Resource Description Framework (RDF)

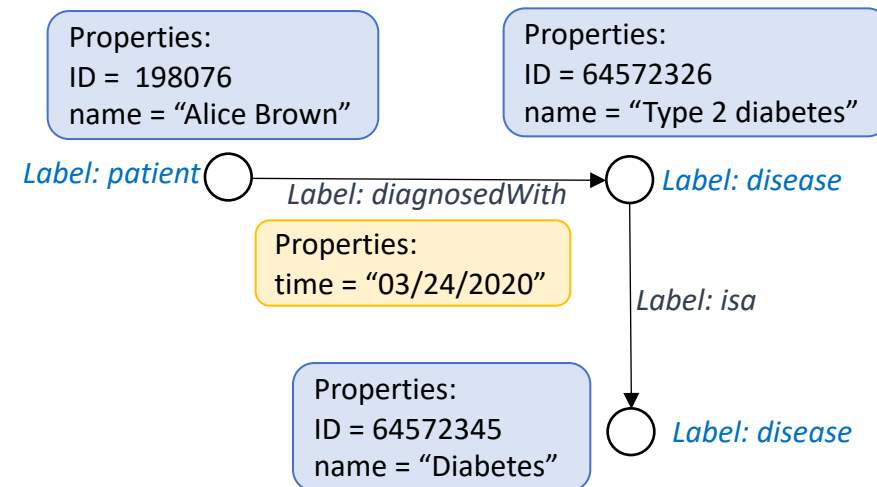
- Directed, edge-labeled graph (subject-predicate-object triple)
- Application
  - Knowledge representation & inference
  - Semantic Web



Most graph databases support PG model

## Property Graphs (PG)

- Directed, vertex-labeled, and edge-labeled graph with properties on each vertex/edge
- Application
  - Graph traversals/pattern matching
  - Path/graph analytics



# Graph languages/Interfaces

## Graph OLTP

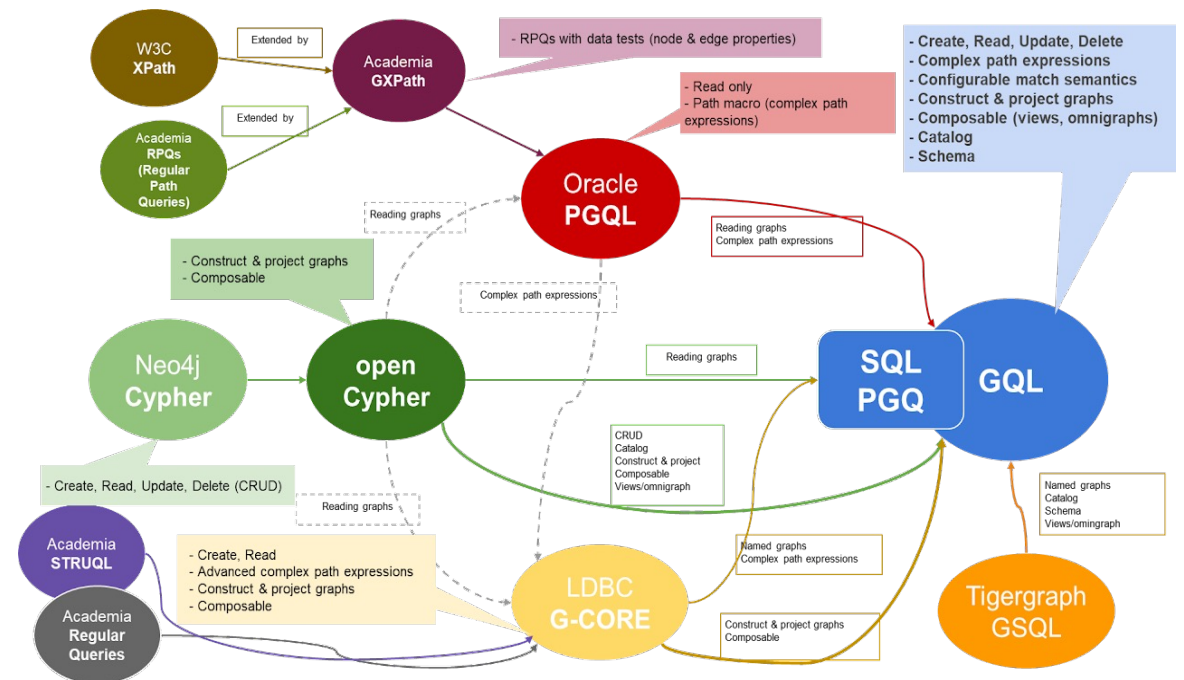
- SPARQL for RDF graphs
- Chaos for PG graphs
  - Gremlin (imperative)
    - Supported by ~30 graph vendors
  - openCypher (declarative)
    - Supported by ~10 graph vendors
  - ISO Standard efforts: GQL and SQL/PGQ (declarative)

**Need a few years to settle down!**

**Choose a standard/popular language and avoid inventing new ones!**

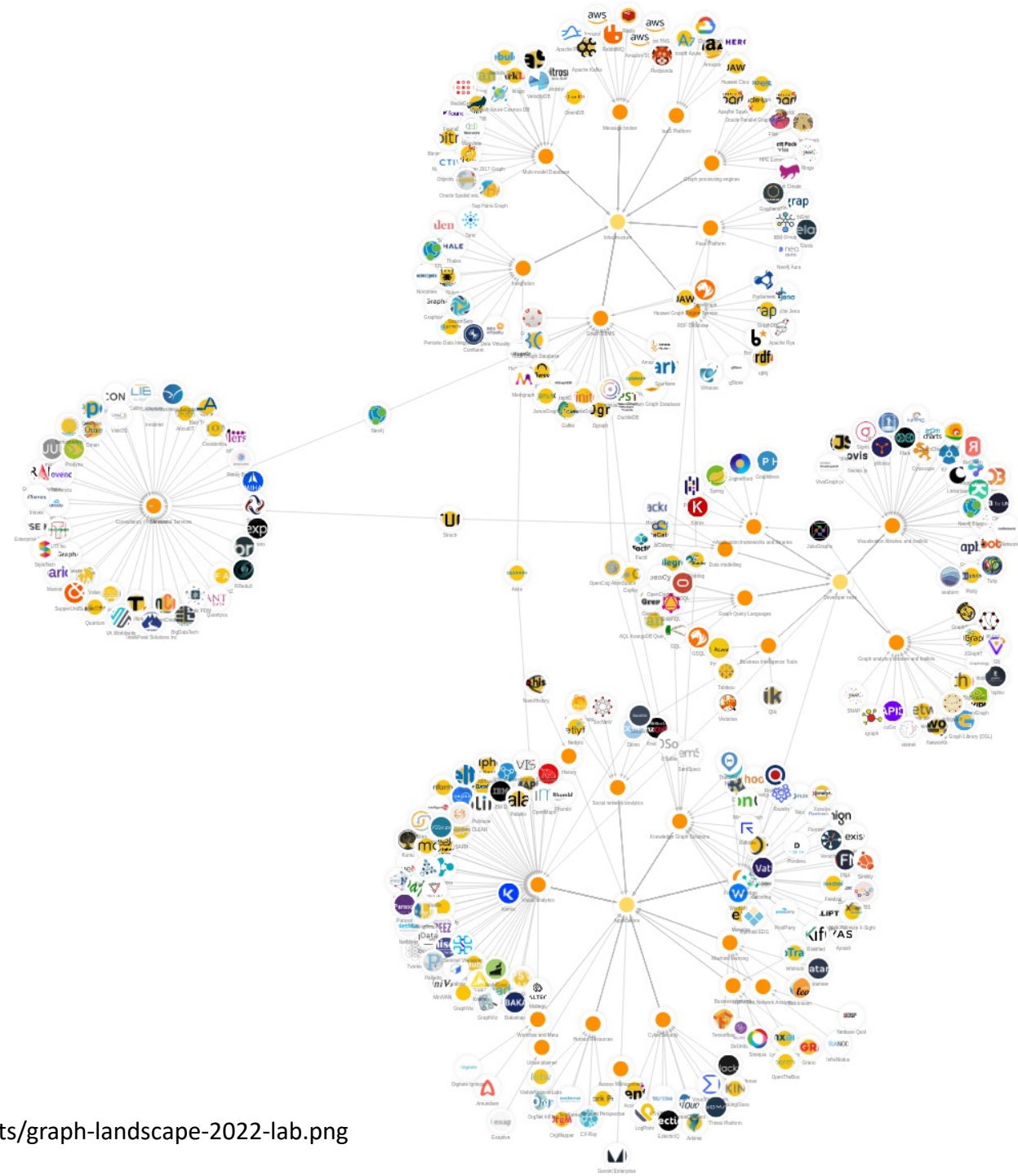
## Graph OLAP

- API/DSL + **built-in algorithms**
  - Most support Pregel-like API



<https://www.gqlstandards.org/existing-languages>

# Graph Technology Landscape 2022





# Competitive Landscape

Graph Only Companies  
Data Companies  
Enterprise Cloud Companies

	Deployment	Graph Model	Graph OLTP			Graph OLAP	Scale-Out
			Query Language	Visualization tools	Transaction		
<b>TigerGraph</b>	On-prem / AWS, Azure, GCP	PG	GSQL	Graph Studio	ACID	GSQL, 23 built-in algorithms	Yes
<b>Neo4J</b>	On-prem / AWS, Azure, GCP	PG	Cypher	Studio	Non-repeatable reads may occur	Pregel API, 48 built-in algorithms (including Graph ML)	Yes*
<b>DataStax</b> Enterprise Graph	On-prem / AWS, Azure, GCP	PG	Gremlin	Studio	Row-level (Cassandra)	SparkGraphComputer API	Yes
<b>Databricks</b> GraphX & GraphFrames	On-prem / AWS, Azure, GCP	PG	Motif Finding DSL	-	-	Pregel API, 7 built-in algorithms	Yes
<b>Amazon</b> Neptune	AWS	PG, RDF	Gremlin, SPARQL	Neptune Workbench	ACID	-	Yes
<b>Microsoft</b> SQL Graph	On-prem / Azure	PG	SQL Extension	Power BI plugin, 3 <sup>rd</sup> party tools	ACID	Python/R scripts via Machine Learning Services	Yes* (Read-Only Queries)
<b>Microsoft</b> Cosmos DB Graph	Azure	PG	Gremlin	Azure Portal, 3 <sup>rd</sup> party tools	-	-	Yes
<b>Oracle</b> Spatial and Graph	On-prem / OCI AWS, Azure, GCP	PG, RDF	PGQL, SPARQL	Graph Studio	ACID	Green Marl DSL, 50+ built-in algorithms (including Graph ML)	Yes
<b>IBM</b> Db2 Graph	On-prem / CP4D	PG	Gremlin	Graph UI	ACID	-	Yes

# Graph Solution Space

## Native Graph DB

Neo4j  
TigerGraph

## Hybrid Graph DB

AWS Neptune

IBM Db2 Graph  
Oracle Spatial & Graph  
DataStax Graph  
Microsoft SQL Graph  
Microsoft Cosmos DB Graph

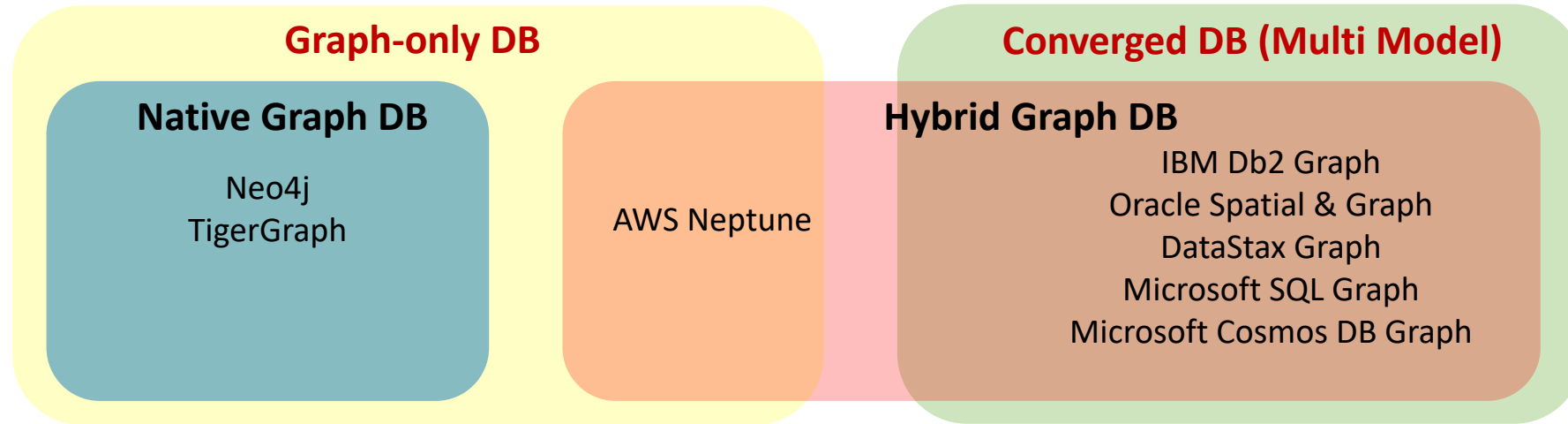
## Native Graph DB

- Everything from scratch
- Pros: performance
- Cons: high engineering cost

## Hybrid Graph DB

- Graph engine + existing backend store
- Pros: faster development, leverage backend store
- Cons: performance

# Graph Solution Space



## Graph-only DB

- Only support graph workload (con)

## Converged DB

- Support poly query languages/APIs on the shared data (pro)

# Advantage of Converged DB solution

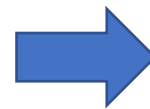
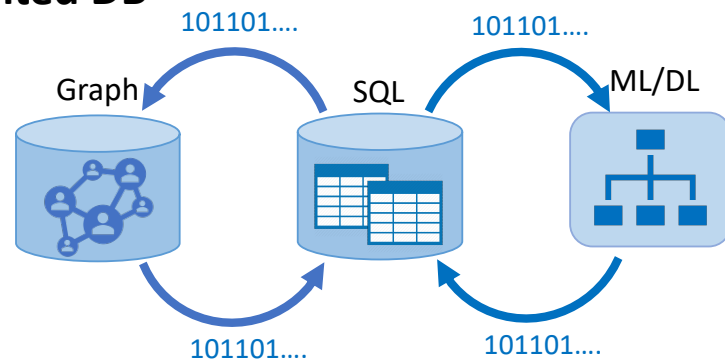
## Poly languages/APIs on shared data

- View the data in the way that is needed!
- No data transfer or transformation cost
- *If graph queries on original data*  
(no schema change, no secondary copy)
  - No disturbance of existing applications
  - Transaction updates are visible to graph analysis in real time

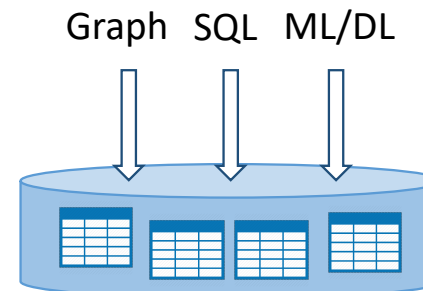
## Leverage of existing backend data store

- Transaction support
- Access control
- Compliance to audits and regulations
- Temporal support
- Scalability
- HA & DR

## Fragmented DB



## Converged DB



# Graph Benchmarks

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- Graph500 Benchmark
- HPC Scalable Graph Analysis Benchmark
- LinkBench
- Open Graph Benchmark
- **LDBC Benchmarks (most comprehensive)**
  - LDBC-SNB (used by TigerGraph and Neo4j)
  - LDBC Graphalytics
  - LDBC SPB
  - FinBench

**All future performance studies should adopt LDBC benchmarks!**

# Opportunities and Directions


Growing market for graph databases (CAGR 34.8%, \$6.9B by 2027)

Graph-only vendors are currently leading

- Strength: performance and algorithm support
- Weakness: Data import/export is a bottleneck for end-to-end scenarios

Major cloud vendors are investing in graph space

- Advantage: they own the *whole stack*, including the *source of truth*



# Recommendation for Researchers (more practical impact)

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- Use widely-adopted graph models, languages, and benchmarks
- Practical challenges that industry faces:
  - Multi-tenancy and access control
  - Security and compliance
  - End-to-end pipelines with mixed graph and non-graph workloads
  - Dynamic graphs



Questions & Suggestions?

THANK YOU!