

# SPARQL Query Language

#### Ernesto Jiménez-Ruiz

Lecturer in Artificial Intelligence

#### **Polls and Forums**

- Group work VS individual work.
- Extra lab hour during during drop-in session (Wednesdays 1-2pm).
- Reading week (Week 6) extra session for Q&A.
- Please do not hesitate to use the forums.

# Recap: RDF-based Knowledge Graphs

### **Recap: RDF triples**

- The W3C representation of knowledge in the Semantic Web is RDF (Resource Description Framework)
- RDF talks about resources identified by URIs.
- In RDF, all knowledge is represented by triples (aka statements or facts)

## **Recap: RDF triples**

- The W3C representation of knowledge in the Semantic Web is RDF (Resource Description Framework)
- RDF talks about resources identified by URIs.
- In RDF, all knowledge is represented by triples (aka statements or facts)
- A triple consists of subject, predicate, and object
  - URI references may occur in all positions
  - Literals may only occur in object position
  - Literals may only occur in object position
  - Blank nodes can not occur in predicate position



INM713 Semantic Web Technologies and Knowledge Graphs SPAROL Query Language

### **Recap: RDF Literals**

- Can only appear as object in the triple.
- Literals can be
  - Plain, without language tag: dbp:london rdfs:label "London" .
  - Plain, with language tag:

```
dbp:london rdfs:label "Londres"@es .
dbp:london rdfs:label "London"@en .
```

Typed, with a URI indicating the type:

```
dbp:london dbpo:population 9,304,000^xsd:integer .
```

## **Recap: RDF and RDFS Vocabularies**

- Prefix rdf: <http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#>
- Prefix rdfs: <http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#>
- They need to be declared like all others.
- Examples:

```
dbp:london rdf:type geo:City .
dbpo:locationCountry a rdf:Property .
dbp:london rdfs:label "London" .
```

Note that the keyword "a" is an alternative for rdf:type.

#### London is a city in England called Londres in Spanish

```
dbp:london a dbpo:City .
```

dbp:london dbpo:locationCountry dbp:england .

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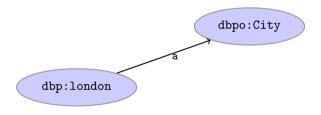
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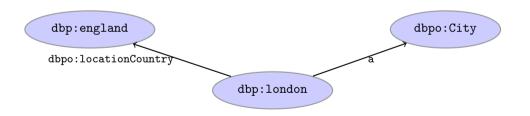
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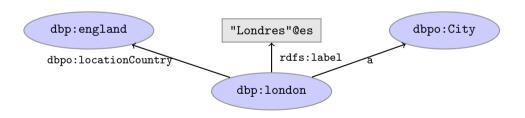
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#### Blank nodes are like resources without a URI

```
_:x a city:Module .
_:x city:givenBy city:ernesto .
_:x dbpo:year "2021"^^xsd:gYear .
_:x city:code "INM713" .
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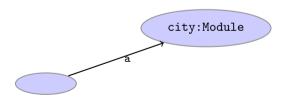
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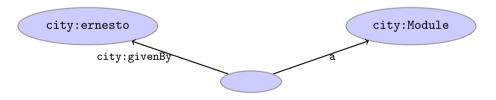
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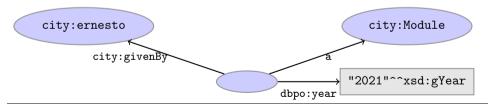
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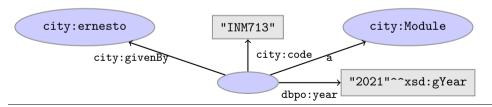
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- Iterates over a graph:

```
for s, p, o in g:
    print((s.n3(), p.n3(), o.n3()))
```

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city = Namespace("http://ex.org/univ/city#")
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- e.g., city.ernesto is equivalent to
URIRef("http://ex.org/univ/city#ernesto")

– Adding triples:

```
g.add((city.ernesto, RDF.type, FOAF.Person))
g.add((city.ernesto, FOAF.name, name))
g.add((city.ernesto, city.teaches, city.inm713))
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- Prefixes: g.bind("city", city)

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– Creates empty graph:

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Model model = dataset.getDefaultModel();
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OutputStream out = new FileOutputStream(output_file);
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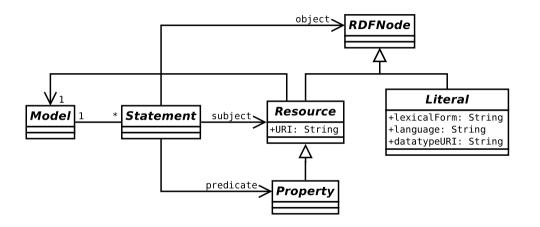
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```
OutputStream out = new FileOutputStream(output_file);
RDFDataMgr.write(out, model, RDFFormat.TURTLE);
```

– Iterator over RDF statements:

```
StmtIterator iter = model.listStatements();
```



- Creates a Resource:

```
Resource ernesto_res =
model.createResource("http://ex.org/univ/city#ernesto");
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```

- Creates a literal: Literal year\_lit =
model.createTypedLiteral("2021", XSDDatatype.XSDgYear);

Default namespaces and vocabulary:

```
import org.apache.jena.datatypes.xsd.XSDDatatype;
import org.apache.jena.vocabulary.RDF;
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− e.g., RDF.type is equivalent to

```
model.createProperty(
"http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#type"
);
```

– Adding triples:

```
model.add(ernesto_res, RDF.type, Person_res)
model.add(ernesto_res, name_prop, name_lit)
model.add(ernesto_res, teaches_prop, inm713_res)
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```

- Prefixes: model.setNsPrefix("city", "http://ex.org/univ/city#");

# SPARQL by Example

### **SPARQL**

- SPARQL Protocol And RDF Query Language
- Standard language to query graph data represented as RDF triples
- W3C Recommendations
  - SPARQL 1.0: W3C Recommendation 15 January 2008
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  - SPARQL 1.0: W3C Recommendation 15 January 2008
  - SPARQL 1.1: W3C Recommendation 21 March 2013
- This lecture is about <u>SPARQL 1.0</u>.
- Documentation:
  - Syntax and semantics of the SPARQL query language for RDF.
     http://www.w3.org/TR/rdf-sparql-query/

# **SPARQL Examples (i)**

- DBpedia: RDF version of Wikipedia with information about actors, movies, etc.: https://dbpedia.org/
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### People called "Johnny Depp"

```
PREFIX foaf: <http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/>
SELECT DISTINCT ?jd WHERE {
    ?jd foaf:name "Johnny Depp" .
}
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```
PREFIX foaf: <http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/>
SELECT DISTINCT ?jd WHERE {
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}
```

#### Answer:

```
?jd
<http://dbpedia.org/resource/Johnny_Depp>
```

## **SPARQL Examples (ii)**

### Films starring people called "Johnny Depp"

```
PREFIX foaf: <a href="http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/">
PREFIX dbo: <a href="http://dbpedia.org/ontology/">
SELECT ?m WHERE {
    ?jd foaf:name "Johnny Depp"@en .
    ?m dbo:starring ?jd .
}
```

# SPARQL Examples (ii)

### Films starring people called "Johnny Depp"

#### Answer:

```
?m

<http://dbpedia.org/resource/Dead_Man>
<http://dbpedia.org/resource/Edward_Scissorhands>
<http://dbpedia.org/resource/Arizona_Dream>
...
```

## Simple Examples (cont.)

### Names of people who co-starred with "Johnny Depp"

```
SELECT DISTINCT ?costar WHERE {
    ?jd foaf:name "Johnny Depp"@en .
    ?m dbo:starring ?jd .
    ?m dbo:starring ?other .
    ?other foaf:name ?costar .
}
```

# Simple Examples (cont.)

### Names of people who co-starred with "Johnny Depp"

```
SELECT DISTINCT ?costar WHERE {
    ?jd foaf:name "Johnny Depp"@en .
    ?m dbo:starring ?jd .
    ?m dbo:starring ?other .
    ?other foaf:name ?costar .
}
```

#### Answer:

```
?costar

"Al Pacino"@en

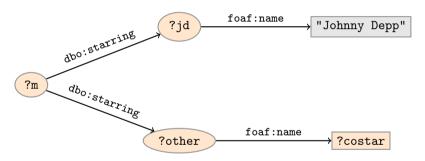
"Antonio Banderas"@en

"Johnny Depp"@en

"Marlon Brando"@en
```

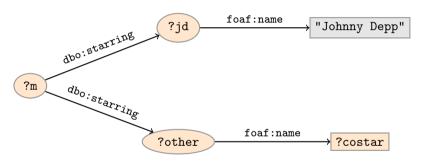
# **Graph Patterns**

The previous SPARQL query as a graph:



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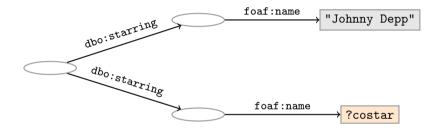
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**Pattern matching**: assign values to variables to make this a sub-graph of the RDF graph!

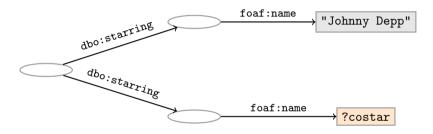
## Graph with blank nodes

Variables not SELECTED can equivalently be blank:



# Graph with blank nodes

Variables not SELECTED can equivalently be blank:



**Pattern matching**: a function that assigns values (*i.e.*, resource, a blank node, or a literal) to variables and blank nodes to make this a sub-graph of the RDF graph!

#### Names of people who co-starred with "Johnny Depp"

```
SELECT DISTINCT ?costar WHERE {
    _:jd foaf:name "Johnny Depp" .
    _:m dbo:starring _:jd .
    _:m dbo:starring _:other .
    _:other foaf:name ?costar.
}
```

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}
```

```
SELECT DISTINCT ?costar WHERE {
   _:m dbo:starring [foaf:name "Johnny Depp"] .
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    _:other foaf:name ?costar.
}
```

```
SELECT DISTINCT ?costar WHERE {
    [ dbo:starring [foaf:name "Johnny Depp"] ;
    dbo:starring [foaf:name ?costar]
]
```

### Names of people who co-starred with "Johnny Depp"

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```

# SPARQL Systematically

```
PREFIX foaf: <a href="http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/">http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/>
PREFIX dbo: <a href="http://dbpedia.org/ontology/">http://dbpedia.org/ontology/>
SELECT DISTINCT ?costar
FROM <a href="http://dbpedia.org">http://dbpedia.org</a>
WHERE {
     ?jd foaf:name "Johnny Depp"@en .
     ?m dbo:starring ?jd .
     ?m dbo:starring ?other .
     ?other foaf:name ?costar .
     FILTER (STR(?costar)!="Johnny Depp")
ORDER BY ?costar
```

### Prologue: prefix definitions

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     ?m dbo:starring ?other .
     ?other foaf:name ?costar .
     FILTER (STR(?costar)!="Johnny Depp")
ORDER BY ?costar
```

Results: (1) variable list, (2) query type (SELECT, ASK, CONSTRUCT, DESCRIBE), (3) remove duplicates (DISTINCT, REDUCED)

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PREFIX dbo: <a href="http://dbpedia.org/ontology/">http://dbpedia.org/ontology/>
SELECT DISTINCT ?costar
FROM <a href="http://dbpedia.org">http://dbpedia.org</a>
WHERE {
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## **Dataset specification**

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### Query pattern: graph pattern to be matched

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```

### Components of an SPARQL query

#### Solution modifiers: ORDER BY, LIMIT, OFFSET

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PREFIX dbo: <a href="http://dbpedia.org/ontology/">http://dbpedia.org/ontology/>
SELECT DISTINCT ?costar
FROM <a href="http://dbpedia.org">http://dbpedia.org</a>
WHERE {
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```

#### Types of Queries (i)

#### SELECT Compute table of bindings for variables

```
SELECT DISTINCT ?a ?b WHERE {
   [ dbo:starring ?a ;
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#### CONSTRUCT Use bindings to construct a new RDF graph

```
CONSTRUCT {
    ?a foaf:knows ?b .
} WHERE {
    [ dbo:starring ?a ;
     dbo:starring ?b ]
}
```

#### Types of Queries (ii)

```
ASK Answer (yes/no) whether there is \geq 1 match ASK WHERE { ?jd foaf:name "Johnny Depp"@en . }
```

# Types of Queries (ii)

# SPARQL Systematically: Solution Modifiers

# **Solution Sequences and Modifiers**

- Permitted to SELECT queries only
- SELECT treats solutions as a sequence (solution sequence)
- Query patterns generate an unordered collection of solutions

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- Permitted to SELECT queries only
- SELECT treats solutions as a sequence (solution sequence)
- Query patterns generate an unordered collection of solutions
- Sequence modifiers can modify the solution sequence (not the solution itself). Applied in this order:
  - Order
  - Projection
  - Distinct
  - Reduced
  - Offset
  - Limit

#### **ORDER BY**

- Used to sort the solution sequence in a given way:
- SELECT ... WHERE ... ORDER BY ...
- ASC for ascending order (default) and DESC for descending order

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        geo:population ?pop .
} ORDER BY ?country ?city DESC(?pop)
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    ?city geo:containedIn ?country ;
        geo:population ?pop .
} ORDER BY ?country ?city DESC(?pop)
```

- Standard defines sorting conventions for literals, URIs, etc.
- Not all "sorting" variables are required to appear in the solution.

### **ORDER BY (Example)**

```
SELECT DISTINCT ?costar
FROM <a href="http://dbpedia_dataset">http://dbpedia_dataset</a>
WHERE {
    ?jd foaf:name "Johnny Depp"@en .
    ?m dbo:starring ?jd .
    ?m dbo:starring ?other .
    ?other foaf:name ?costar .
    FILTER (STR(?costar)!="Johnny Depp")
ORDER BY ?costar
```

#### Projection, DISTINCT, REDUCED

- Projection means that only some variables are part of the solution
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  - A solution is a duplicate if it assigns the same RDF terms to all variables as another solution.
- REDUCED allows to remove some or all duplicate solutions
  - Done with SELECT REDUCED ?x ?y WHERE {?x ?y ?z...}
  - Motivation: Can be expensive to find and remove all duplicates
  - Rarely used.

#### **OFFSET and LIMIT**

- LIMIT: limits the number of results
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- Useful for paging through a large set of solutions

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SELECT ... WHERE {...} ORDER BY ... LIMIT 10 OFFSET 50
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#### **OFFSET and LIMIT**

- LIMIT: limits the number of results
- OFFSET: position/index of the first returned result
- Useful for paging through a large set of solutions
- For example, solutions number 51 to 60: SELECT ... WHERE {...} ORDER BY ... LIMIT 10 OFFSET 50
- LIMIT and OFFSET can be used separately
- OFFSET not meaningful without ORDER BY.

#### **OFFSET and LIMIT (Example)**

```
SELECT DISTINCT ?costar
FROM <a href="http://dbpedia_dataset">http://dbpedia_dataset</a>
WHERE {
    ?jd foaf:name "Johnny Depp"@en .
    ?m dbo:starring ?jd .
    ?m dbo:starring ?other .
    ?other foaf:name ?costar .
    FILTER (STR(?costar)!="Johnny Depp")
ORDER BY ?costar
LIMIT 10 OFFSET 50
```

# SPARQL Systematically: Query Graph Patterns

#### **Query patterns**

- Types of graph patterns for the query pattern (WHERE clause):
  - Basic Graph Patterns (BGP)
  - Filters or Constraints (FILTER)
  - Optional Graph Patterns (OPTIONAL)
  - Union Graph Patterns (UNION, Matching Alternatives)
  - Graph Graph Patterns (RDF Datasets)

### **Basic Graph Patterns (BGP)**

A Basic Graph Pattern is a set of triple patterns.

```
- e.g.
WHERE {
    _:jd foaf:name "Johnny Depp"@en .
    _:m dbo:starring _:jd .
    _:m dbo:starring ?other .
}
```

Scope of blank node labels is the BGP

# **Basic Graph Patterns (BGP)**

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WHERE {
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    _:m dbo:starring _:jd .
    _:m dbo:starring ?other .
}
```

- Scope of blank node labels is the BGP
- Pattern matching: a function that maps
  - (i) every variable and every blank node in the pattern
  - (ii) to a resource, a blank node, or a literal in the RDF graph.

### Filters (i)

- A set of triple patterns may include constraints or filters
- Reduces matches of surrounding group where filter applies
- Example:

```
WHERE {
    ?x a dbo:Place ;
      dbo:population ?pop .
    FILTER (?pop > 1000000)
}
```

#### Filters (ii)

#### – Example:

```
WHERE {
    ?jd foaf:name "Johnny Depp"@en .
    ?m dbo:starring ?jd .
    ?m dbo:starring ?other .
    ?other foaf:name ?costar .
    FILTER (STR(?costar)!="Johnny Depp")
}
```

# **Filters: Functions and Operators**

- Usual binary operators: ||, &&, =, !=, <, >, <=, >=, +, -, \*, /.
- Usual unary operators: !, +, -.
- Unary tests: bound(?var), isURI(?var), isBlank(?var),
  isLiteral(?var).
- Accessors: str(?var), lang(?var), datatype(?var), year(?date),
   xsd:integer(?value)
- regex is used to match a variable with a regular expression. Always use with str(?var). E.g.: regex(str(?costar), "Alpacino").

More details in specification: http://www.w3.org/TR/rdf-sparql-query/

#### **OPTIONAL Patterns**

 Allows a match to leave some variables unbound (e.g. no data is available). e.g.,:

```
WHERE {
    ?x a dbo:Person ;
       foaf:name ?name .
    OPTIONAL {
       ?x dbo:birthDate ?date .
    }
}
```

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    }
}
```

- ?x and ?name bound in every match, ?date is **bound if available**.
- Groups can contain several optional parts, evaluated separately

#### **OPTIONAL Patterns: with FILTER**

```
- Example:
    WHERE {
      ?x a dbo:Person :
         foaf:name ?name ...
      OPTIONAL {
        ?x dbo:birthDate ?date .
        FILTER (?date > "1980-01-01T00:00:00"^^xsd:dateTime)
```

 - ?x and ?name bound in every match, ?date is bound if available and from 1980 onwards.

#### **OPTIONAL Patterns: Negation as Failure**

- Testing if a graph pattern is not expressed.
- An OPTIONAL graph pattern introduces the variable.
- FILTER tests the variable is not bound.

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```
- E.g.
    WHERE {
          ?x a dbo:Person ;
               foaf:name ?name .
          OPTIONAL {
                ?x dbo:birthDate ?date .
                FILTER (!bound(?date))
          }
```

#### **Matching Alternatives (UNION)**

- A UNION pattern matches if any of some alternatives matches
- E.g.

```
SELECT DISTINCT ?writer
WHERE
  ?s rdf:type dbo:Book .
    ?s dbo:author ?writer .
  UNION
    ?s dbo:writer ?writer .
```

### **Graph Graph Patterns (RDF datasets)**

- SPARQL queries are executed against an RDF dataset
- An RDF dataset comprises
  - One default graph (unnamed) graph. Target for this week.
  - Zero or more named graphs identified by an URI

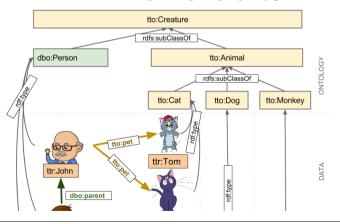
# **Graph Graph Patterns (RDF datasets)**

- SPARQL queries are executed against an RDF dataset
- An RDF dataset comprises
  - One default graph (unnamed) graph. Target for this week.
  - Zero or more named graphs identified by an URI
- FROM and FROM NAMED keywords allows to select an RDF dataset
- Keyword GRAPH makes the named graphs the active graph for pattern matching

# Laboratory: Hands-on SPARQL

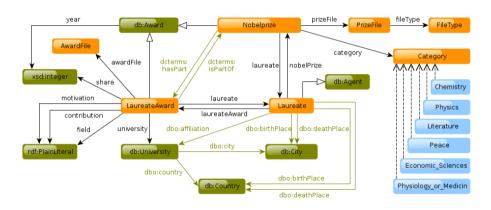
# **SPARQL Playground**

- Platform to learn SPARQL: http://sparql-playground.sib.swiss/



### **Nobel Prize Knowledge Graph**

- https://www.nobelprize.org/about/linked-data-examples/



### SPARQL in Python: Querying Local Graph with RDFLib

– Querying a local Graph:

```
qres = g.query(
   """SELECT ?thing ?name WHRE {
     ?thing tto:sex "female" .
     ?thing dbp:name ?name .
}""")
```

– Iterate over the results:

```
for row in qres:
    print("%s is female with name '%s'" % (str(row.thing),str(row.name)))
```

- row is a dictionary with the RDF terms that match the output variables.

# SPARQL in Python: Remote Access with SPARQLWrapper (i)

- SPARQLWrapper: deals with the connection to a SPARQL endpoint
- A SPARQL Endpoint is a service to receive and process SPARQL queries following a protocol.
- Connection: sparql\_web =
   SPARQLWrapper("http://data.nobelprize.org/sparql")
- Set results format (default XML): sparql\_web.setReturnFormat(JSON)

### SPARQL in Python: Remote Access with SPARQLWrapper (ii)

– Set SPARQL query:

```
spargl_web.setQuery("""
      SELECT DISTINCT ?name laur WHERE {
          ?laur rdf:type nobel:Laureate .
          ?laur rdfs:label ?name laur .
          ?laur foaf:gender "female" . }
  11 11 11
- Get (ison) results: results = sparql_web.query().convert()
– Iterate over the (ison) results:
  for result in results["results"]["bindings"]:
```

```
print(result["name_laur"]["value"])
```

### SPARQL in Java: Querying Local Graph with Jena API (i)

– Set query:

```
Query q = QueryFactory.create(
   "PREFIX ttr: <http://example.org/tuto/resource#>" +
   "PREFIX tto: <http://example.org/tuto/ontology#>" +
   "PREFIX dbp: <http://dbpedia.org/property/>" +
   "SELECT ?thing ?name WHERE {" +
        "?thing tto:sex 'female' ." +
        "?thing dbp:name ?name ." +
   "}")
```

#### – Execute query:

```
QueryExecution qe = QueryExecutionFactory.create(q, model);
ResultSet res = qe.execSelect();
```

# SPARQL in Java: Querying Local Graph with Jena API (ii)

– Iterate over the query results:

```
while( res.hasNext())
   QuerySolution soln = res.next();
   RDFNode thing = soln.get("?thing");
   RDFNode name = soln.get("?name");
```

soln contain the RDF terms that match the output variables.

#### SPARQL in Java: Remote Access with Jena API (ii)

- Similar to local graph access.
- Minor query execution change:

```
QueryExecution qe = QueryExecutionFactory
    .sparqlService("http://data.nobelprize.org/sparql",q);
```