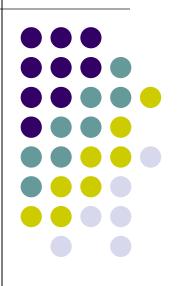
SPARQL



Overview

- Introduction
- SPARQL Query Language
 - Graph Patterns
 - Query Ordering
 - Query Forms
 - Testing Values
- SPARQL Protocol and
- SPARQL Results Format
- SPARQL Support







RDF – flexible and extensible way to represent information about WWW resources

SPARQL = SQL-like Query Language for RDF

RDF Notatins overview



Graph Notation:

http://www.example.org/

http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/contributor

http://www.example.org/alice>

Triple Notation:

```
<a href="http://www.example.org/"><a href="http://www.example.org/"><a href="http://www.example.org/"><a href="http://www.example.org/alice"><a href="http://www.example.org/alice">><a href
```

RDF/XML Notation:

Turtle notation



- Turtle: An RDF serialization
 - The RDF part of N3
 - Commonly used in examples
 - SPARQL uses Turtle+variables as triple pattern syntax

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Data description format - Turtle

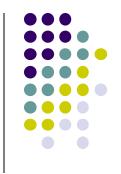


```
@prefix dc: <http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/> .
@prefix : <http;//example.org/book/> .
:book1 dc:title "SPARQL Tutorial" .
```

```
@prefix rdf: <http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#> .
@prefix dc: <http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/> .
@prefix ex: <http://example.org/stuff/1.0/> .

<http://www.w3.org/TR/rdf-syntax-grammar>
    dc:title "RDF/XML Syntax Specification (Revised)" ;
    ex:editor [ ex:fullname "Dave Beckett";
    ex:homePage <http://purl.org/net/dajobe/> ] .
```

SPARQL Query Language



- SPARQL query language for getting information from RDF graphs. It provides facilities to:
 - extract information in the form of URIs, blank nodes, plain and typed literals.
 - extract RDF subgraphs.
 - construct new RDF graphs based on information in the queried graphs
- matching graph patterns
- variables global scope; indicated by '?' or '\$'
- query terms based on Turtle syntax
- terms delimited by "<>" are relative URI references
- data description format Turtle

Simple query



Data

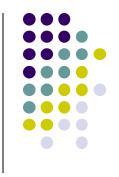
```
<http;//example.org/book/book1>
<http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/title> "SPARQL Tutorial" .
```

Query

Result

title
"SPARQL Tutorial"

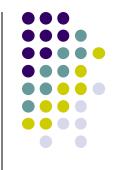
Simple SPARQL example



```
PREFIX foaf: <a href="http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/">http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/>
SELECT ?name
FROM <data.rdf>
WHERE { ?x foaf:name ?name }
```

- SELECT specifies what the query should return
- FROM is an optional clause that provides the URI of the dataset to use.
 - points to local file or the URL of a graph on the Web.
- WHERE clause consists of a series of triple patterns, expressed using Turtle-based syntax. These triples together comprise what is known as a graph pattern.

Graph Patterns



Basic Graph Pattern – set of *Triple Patterns*

Group Pattern - a set of graph patterns must all match

Value Constraints - restrict RDF terms in a solution

Optional Graph Patterns .- additional patterns may extend the solution

Alternative Graph Pattern – two or more possible patterns are tried

Patterns on Named Graphs - patterns are matched against named graphs

Basic Graph Pattern



- Set of Triple Patterns
 - Triple Pattern similar to an RDF Triple (subject, predicate, object), but any component can be a query variable; literal subjects are allowed

?book dc:title ?title

- Matching a triple pattern to a graph: bindings between variables and RDF Terms
- Matching of Basic Graph Patterns
 - A Pattern Solution of Graph Pattern GP on graph G is any substitution S such that S(GP) is a subgraph of G.

SELECT ?x ?v WHERE { ?x ?x ?v }

x	V
rdf:type	rdf:Property

rdf:type rdf:Property

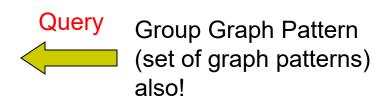
Basic Graph Pattern - Multiple Matches



Data

```
@prefix foaf: <http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/> .
   _:a foaf:name "Johnny Lee Outlaw" .
   _:a foaf:mbox <mailto:jlow@example.com> .
   _:b foaf:name "Peter Goodguy" .
   _:b foaf:mbox <mailto:peter@example.org> .
```

```
PREFIX foaf: <a href="http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/">http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/>
SELECT ?name ?mbox
WHERE
{ ?x foaf:name ?name .
    ?x foaf:mbox ?mbox }
```



Query Result

name	mbox	
"Johnny Lee Outlaw"	<mailto:jlow@example.com></mailto:jlow@example.com>	
"Peter Goodguy"	<mailto:peter@example.org></mailto:peter@example.org>	
		12

Basic Graph Pattern -Matching RDF Literals



Data

```
@prefix dt:
                  <http://example.org/datatype#> .
@prefix ns:
                  <http://example.org/ns#> .
@prefix :
                  <http://example.org/ns#> .
@prefix xsd:
                  <a href="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#">http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#>...
                  "cat"@en .
: X
         ns:p
                  "42"^^xsd:integer .
: V
         ns:p
                  "abc"^^dt:specialDatatype .
: Z
         ns:p
```

Basic Graph Pattern-Matching RDF Literals



- Matching literals with language tags
 - Query:

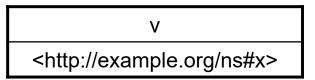
```
SELECT ?v WHERE {?v ?p "cat"}

Result:

Query:

SELECT ?v WHERE {?v ?p "cat"@en}
```

Result:



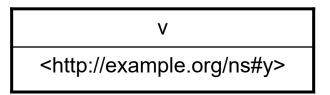
Basic Graph Pattern-Matching RDF Literals



- Matching literals with numeric types
 - Query:

```
SELECT ?v WHERE {?v ?p 42}
```

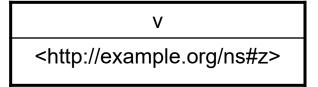
Result:



- Matching literals with arbitrary datatypes
 - Query:

```
SELECT ?v WHERE {?v ?p
"abc"^^<http://example.org/datdatype#specialDatatype>}
```

Result:



Basic Graph Pattern - Blank Nodes



- Query results can contain blank nodes.
- Blank nodes are written as "_:" followed by a blank node label
- Data

Query

```
PREFIX foaf: <http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1>
SELECT ?x ?name
WHERE {?x foaf:name ?name}
```

Result

X	name
_:c	"Alice"
_:d	"Bob"

There is no need that the blank node in result should have the same label as in data.

Graph Patterns

Basic Graph Pattern – set of *Triple Patterns*

Group Pattern - a set of graph patterns must all match

Value Constraints - restrict RDF terms in a solution

Optional Graph Patterns .- additional patterns may extend the solution

Alternative Graph Pattern – two or more possible patterns are tried

Patterns on Named Graphs - patterns are matched against named graphs





A set of graph patterns must all match

```
PREFIX foaf: <a href="http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/">http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/>
SELECT ?name ?mbox
WHERE
{ ?x foaf:name ?name .
    ?x foaf:mbox ?mbox }
```

```
PREFIX foaf:
<a href="http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/">
<a href="http://xml
```

Graph Patterns

Basic Graph Pattern – set of *Triple Patterns*

Group Pattern - a set of graph patterns must all match

Value Constraints - restrict RDF terms in a solution

Optional Graph Patterns - additional patterns may extend the solution

Alternative Graph Pattern – two or more possible patterns are tried

Patterns on Named Graphs - patterns are matched against named graphs

Value Constraints - FILTER



- FILTER can set the constraints for the solutions to those which the filter expression evaluates to be TRUE.
- Data

```
@PREFIX dc: <http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/> .
@PREFIX : <http://example.org/book/> .
@PREFIX ns: <http://example.org/ns#> .

:book1 dc:title "SPARQL Tutorial" .
:book1 ns:price 42 .
:book2 dc:title "The Semantic Web" .
:book2 ns:price 23 .
```



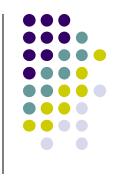


- FILTER functions
 - Can restrict on arithmetic expressions
 - Query

Result

title	price
"The Semantic Web"	23

Value Constraints - FILTER



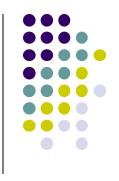
- FILTER functions
 - regex: match only plain literals with no language tag.
 - Query

```
PREFIX dc: <http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/>
SELECT ?title
WHERE { ?x dc:title ?title
        FILTER regex(?title, "^SPARQL")
    }
```

Result

title
"SPARQL Tutorial"

Value Constraints - FILTER



- FILTER functions
 - Regular expression matches may be made caseinsensitive with the "i" flag.
 - Query

```
PREFIX dc: <http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/>
SELECT ?title
WHERE { ?x dc:title ?title
        FILTER regex(?title, "web", "i" )
}
```

Result

title

"The Semantic Web"

Graph Patterns

Basic Graph Pattern – set of *Triple Patterns*

Group Pattern - a set of graph patterns must all match

Value Constraints - restrict RDF terms in a solution

Optional Graph Patterns .- additional patterns may extend the solution

Alternative Graph Pattern – two or more possible patterns are tried

Patterns on Named Graphs - patterns are matched against named graphs

Optional graph patterns - Optional matching



 If optional part does not match, it creates no bindings but does not eliminate the solution.

Data

```
@PREFIX foaf: <http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/> .
@PREFIX rdf: <http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-
syntax-ns#> .

_:a rdf:type foaf:Person .
_:a foaf:name "Alice" .
_:a foaf:mbox <mailto:alice@example.com> .
_:a foaf:mbox <mailto:alice@work.example> .

_:b rdf:type foaf:person .
_:b foaf:name "Bob" .
```

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Query

Result

name	mbox
"Alice"	<mailto:alice@example.com></mailto:alice@example.com>
"Alice"	<mailto:alice@work.example></mailto:alice@work.example>
"Bob"	

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Optional matching



Data

```
@PREFIX dc: <http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/> .
@PREFIX : <http://example.org/book/> .
@PREFIX ns: <http://example.org/ns#> .

:book1 dc:title "SPARQL Tutorial" .
:book1 ns:price 42 .
:book2 dc:title "The Semantic Web" .
:book2 ns:price 23 .
```





Query

Result

title	price
"SPARQL Tutorial"	
"The Semantic Web"	23

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Data





Query

```
PREFIX foaf: <http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/>
SELECT ?name ?mbox ?hpage
WHERE { ?x foaf:name ?name .
         OPTIONAL { ?x foaf:mbox ?mbox } .
         OPTIONAL { ?x foaf:homepage ?hpage }
     }
```

Result

name	mbox	hpage
"Alice"		http://work.example.org/alice/>
"Bob"	<mailto:bob@work.example></mailto:bob@work.example>	

Graph Patterns

Basic Graph Patterns – set of *Triple Patterns*

Group Patterns - a set of graph patterns must all match

Value Constraints - restrict RDF terms in a solution

Optional Graph Patterns .- additional patterns may extend the solution

Alternative Graph Patterns – two or more possible patterns are tried

Patterns on Named Graphs - patterns are matched against named graphs

Alternative Graph Patterns - Matching Alternatives



- SPARQL provides a means of combining graph patterns using "UNION".
- Data





Query

```
PREFIX dc10: <http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.0/>
PREFIX dc11: <http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/>

SELECT ?title
WHERE {    ?book dc10:title ?title } UNION { ?book dc11:title ?title} }
```

Result

title	
"SPARQL Query Language Tutorial"	
"SPARQL"	
"SPARQL Protocol Tutorial"	
"SPARQL (updated)"	





Query

```
PREFIX dc10: <http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.0/>
PREFIX dc11: <http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/>

SELECT ?x ?y
WHERE {   ?book dc10:title ?x } UNION { ?book dc11:title ?y} }
```

Result

X	у
"SPARQL Query Language Tutorial"	
"SPARQL"	
	"SPARQL Protocol Tutorial"
	"SPARQL (updated)"

Matching Alternatives



Query

Result

title	author
"SPARQL Query Language Tutorial"	"Alice"
"SPARQL Protocol Tutorial"	"Bob"

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Graph Patterns

Basic Graph Pattern – set of *Triple Patterns*

Group Pattern - a set of graph patterns must all match

Value Constraints - restrict RDF terms in a solution

Optional Graph Patterns .- additional patterns may extend the solution

Alternative Graph Pattern – two or more possible patterns are tried

Patterns on Named Graphs - patterns are matched against named graphs

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Specifying RDF datasets



- An RDF Dataset comprises
 - one graph, the default graph, which does not have a name, and
 - zero or more named graphs, where each named graph can be identified by an URIs.
- A SPARQL query may specify the dataset to be used for matching by using the FROM clause and the FROM NAMED clause.
- The FROM and FROM NAMED keywords allow a query to specify an RDF dataset by reference:
 - A default graph consisting of the RDF merge of the graphs referred to in the FROM clauses, and
 - A set of named graph pairs, one from each FROM NAMED clause
 - If there is no FROM clause, but one or more FROM NAMED clauses, then the dataset includes an empty graph for the default graph.

RDF Dataset- The Relationship between Named and Default Graphs



```
# Default graph
@PREFIX dc: <a href="http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/">http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/> .
<http://example.org/bob> dc:publisher "Bob" .
<http://example.org/alice> dc:publisher "Alice" .
# Named graph: http://example.org/bob
@PREFIX foaf: <http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1> .
:a foaf:name "Bob" .
:a foaf:mbox <mailto:bob@oldcorp.example.org> .
# Named graph: http://example.org/alice
@PREFIX foaf: <http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1> .
:a foaf:name "Alice" .
:a foaf:mbox <mailto:alice@work.example.org> .
```

FROM



Data (stored at http://example.org/foaf/aliceFoaf)

Query

```
PREFIX foaf: <http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/> .
SELECT ?name
FROM <http://example.org/foaf/aliceFoaf>
WHERE { ?x foaf:name ?name }
```

Result

name "Alice"



FROM NAMED

Data (named graphs)

Query

```
PREFIX foaf: <http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/> .

SELECT ?name

FROM NAMED <http://example.org/alice>
FROM NAMED <http://example.org/bob>

WHERE { ?x foaf:name ?name }

"Alice"
```

1/23/2025 "Bob"

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FROM and FROM NAMED



Data

```
# Named Graph: http://example.org/bob
@PREFIX foaf: <http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/> .

_:a foaf:name
_:a foaf:mbox <mailto:bob@oldcorp.example.org> .
```

FROM and FROM NAMED



Query

```
PREFIX foaf: <http://xmlns.com/foaf/1.0/>
PREFIX dc: <http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/>

SELECT ?who ?g ?mbox
FROM <http://example.org/dft.tt1>
FROM NAMED <http://example.org/alice>
FROM NAMED <http://example.org/bob>
WHERE
{
    ?g dc:pulisher ?who .
    GRAPH ?g { ?x foaf:mbox ?mbox }
}
```

Result

who	g	mbox
"Bob Hacker"	http://example.org/bob	<mailto:bob@oldcorp.example.org></mailto:bob@oldcorp.example.org>
"Alice Hacker"	http://example.org/alice	<mailto:alice@work.example.org></mailto:alice@work.example.org>

GRAPH

- GRAPH is used to match patterns against named graphs.
- Data

```
# Named Graph: http://example.org/foaf/aliceFoaf
@PREFIX foaf:
               <http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/> .
@PREFIX rdf: <http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#> .
@PREFIX rdfs: <http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#> .
:a foaf:name
               "Alice" .
:a foaf:mbox
                <mailto:alice@work.example> .
:a foaf:knows
                :b .
:b foaf:name
                "Bob" .
:b foaf:mbox
               <mailto:bob@work.example> .
:b foaf:nick
                "Bobby".
:b foaf:seeAlso <http://example.org/foaf/bobFoaf> .
<http://example.org/foaf/bobFoaf> rdf:type foaf:PersonalProfileDocument .
```

GRAPH

Data

GRAPH – accessing graph names

- src variable bounds to URIs of the graph being matched
- Query

Result

src	bobNick
http://example.org/foaf/aliceFoaf	"Bobby"
http://example.org/foaf/bobFoaf	"Robert"



- The query can restrict the matching applied to a specific graph by supplying the graph URI.
- Query

Result

nick "Robert"

Restricting possible Graph URIs

- A variable used in the GRPAH clause may also be used in another GRAPH clause or in a graph pattern.
- Query

```
<http://example.org/foaf/>
PREFIX data:
                      <http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/>
PREFIX foaf:
                      <a href="http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#">http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#></a>
PREFIX rdfs:
SELECT ?mbox ?nick ?ppd
FROM NAMED <a href="http://example.org/foaf/aliceFoaf">http://example.org/foaf/aliceFoaf</a>
FROM NAMED <a href="http://example.org/foaf/bobFoaf">http://example.org/foaf/bobFoaf</a>
WHERE
     GRAPH data:aliceFoaf
     { ?alice foaf:mbox <mailto:alice@work.example> ;
                 foaf:knows ?whom .
        ?whom foaf:mbox ?mbox ;
               rdfs:seeAlso ?ppd .
        ?ppd a foaf:PersonProfileDocument . } .
     GRAPH ?ppd
     { ?x foaf:mbox ?mbox ;
           foaf:nick ?Nick
```

Restricting possible Graph URIs

Result

mbox	nick	ppd
<mailto:bob@work.example></mailto:bob@work.example>	"Robert"	<http: bobfoaf="" example.org="" foaf=""></http:>





Data



Named and Default Graphs

Data

Query

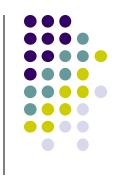
Named and Default Graphs



Result

name	mbox	date
"Bob"	<mailto:bob@oldcorp.example.org></mailto:bob@oldcorp.example.org>	"2004-12-06"^^xsd:date
"Bob"	<mailto:bob@newcorp.example.org></mailto:bob@newcorp.example.org>	"2005-06-06"^^xsd:date

Query Ordering



- A solution sequence modifier is one of
 - Order: put the solutions in order
 - Projection: choose certain variables
 - Distinct: ensure solutions in the sequence are unique
 - Reduced: permit elimination of some non-unique solutions
 - Offset: control where the solutions start from in the overall sequence of solutions
 - Limit: restrict the number of solutions

ORDER BY

- ASC() ascending
- DESC() descending

```
PREFIX foaf: <a href="http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/">
SELECT ?name
WHERE { ?x foaf:name ?name }
ORDER BY ?name

PREFIX foaf: <a href="http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/">
SELECT ?name
WHERE { ?x foaf:name ?name }
ORDER BY DESC(?name)
```

Projection

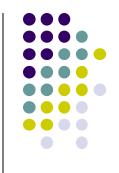


 Projection is reflected in SELECT query form by choosing certain variables

```
PREFIX foaf: <http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/>
SELECT ?name
WHERE { ?x foaf:name ?name }
```



Duplicate solutions



Using DISTINCT or REDUCED to deal with duplicate solutions

```
PREFIX foaf: <http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/>

SELECT ?name

WHERE { ?x foaf:name ?name }

"Alice"

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"Alice"
```

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Duplicate solutions



Using DISTINCT or REDUCED to deal with duplicate solutions

```
PREFIX foaf: <http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/>
SELECT DISTINCT ?name
                                                                  name
WHERE { ?x foaf:name ?name }
                                                                 "Alice"
PREFIX foaf: <http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/>
SELECT REDUCED ?name
WHERE { ?x foaf:name ?name }
                                               name
                             name
                                                                  name
                             "Alice"
                                                                 "Alice"
                                               "Alice"
                                                                 "Alice"
                                               "Alice"
         Not recommended
                                                                 "Alice"
```

OFFSET



- OFFSET tells from which number the solutions should be generated from
- LIMIT sets an upper bound on the number of solutions returned.

```
PREFIX foaf: <http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/>

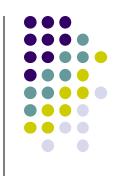
SELECT ?name
WHERE { ?x foaf:name ?name }

ORDER BY ?name
LIMIT 5

OFFSET 10
```

Returned Solutions are generated from the no. 11th solutions with no more than 5 solutions in total

Query Forms



- SPARQL has four query forms
 - SELECT: return all, or a subset of, the variable bound in a query pattern match
 - CONSTRUCT: returns an RDF graph constructed by substituting variables in a set of triple templates
 - ASK: returns a boolean indicating whether a query pattern matches or not
 - DESCRIBE: returns an RDF graph that describes the resources found



Data

Query



SELECT



Result

nameX	nameY	nickY
"Alice"	"Bob"	
"Alice"	"Clare"	"CT"

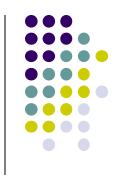


SELECT

Result in SPARQL Query Results XML Format

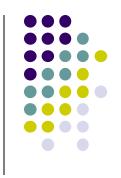
```
<?xml version="1.0" ?>
<sparql xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2005/sparql-results#">
  <head>
    <variable name="nameX"/>
    <variable name="nameY"/>
    <variable name="nickY"/>
  </head>
  <results>
    <result>
      <br/><br/>hinding name="nameX">
         <literal>Alice</literal>
      </binding>
      <br/><binding name="nameY">
         <literal>Bob</literal>
      </binding>
    </result>
    <result>
      <br/><binding name="nameX">
         <literal>Alice</literal>
      </binding>
      <br/><br/>hinding name="nameY">
         <literal>Clare</literal>
      </binding>
      <br/><br/>ding name="nickY">
         <literal>CT</literal>
      </binding>
    </result>
  </results>
</sparql>
```

References:



- SPARQL Query Langauge
 http://www.w3.org/TR/rdf-sparql-query/
- SPARQL Protocol: http://www.w3.org/TR/rdf-sparql-protocol/
- SPARQL Query Results XML Format: <u>http://www.w3.org/TR/rdf-sparql-XMLres/</u>

Fun Examples



 http://www.cambridgesemantics.com/2008/09 /sparql-by-example/#(1)