AI3001

Knowledge Representation and Reasoning

Week 09

Adil Sheraz

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Outline

- What is SPARQL?
- Core Concepts in SPARQL
- Syntax and Example for SPARQL
- Conclusion

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What is SPARQL ?

- SPARQL (SPARQL Protocol and RDF Query Language) is a powerful query language used to retrieve and manipulate data stored in Resource Description Framework (RDF) format.
- It is essential in the realm of the Semantic Web and Linked Data, enabling users to extract meaningful information from RDF data models by formulating queries.
- SPARQL is to RDF what SQL is to relational databases, providing structured querying capabilities for RDF graphs.

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Core Concepts in SPARQL

- RDF Data Model
  - SPARQL queries operate over RDF datasets, which consist of triples in the form (subject, predicate, object). These triples form a graph where nodes represent entities (subjects and objects) and edges represent relationships (predicates).
- Triple Patterns
  - The fundamental unit of a SPARQL query is a triple pattern, which matches parts of the RDF graph.
  - The triple pattern (subject, predicate, object) is quite scalable.
  - For example, a triple pattern <?s rdf:type ?type> retrieves all subjects <?s> that have a type <?type.>

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Core Concepts in SPARQL

- Queries and Endpoints
  - SPARQL queries are sent to SPARQL endpoints, which are services that process the queries and return results.
  - Many public RDF datasets, such as DBpedia, provide endpoints that users can query directly.

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SPARQL Syntax

- SPARQL provides various types of queries to perform different operations on RDF data.
- It includes:
  - PREFIX - Similar to SQL's use of aliases, SPARQL uses PREFIX to define namespaces, which helps shorten URIs and make queries more readable.
    - Example: PREFIX ex: <http://example.org/>
  - SELECT - The most common type of query, used to extract information from an RDF dataset.
    - Example: SELECT ?variable1 ?variable2

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SPARQL Syntax

- SPARQL provides various types of queries to perform different operations on RDF data.
- It includes:
  - ASK Queries Returns a boolean (TRUE or FALSE) indicating whether the query pattern exists in the data.

    Useful for checking the existence of certain data.
    - Example : ASK WHERE { ?person ex:hasAge "30". }
  - CONSTRUCT Queries Creates new RDF triples based on existing data patterns.
    - The output is an RDF graph.
    - Example :

      CONSTRUCT { ?person ex:isAdult "true". } WHERE { ?person ex:hasAge ?age. FILTER(?age >= 18). }

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SPARQL Syntax

- More constructs
  - DESCRIBE Queries Returns a graph that describes the resources found. The result can vary based on the SPARQL engine used, as it is up to the implementation to decide which triples best describe the resources.
  - Example :

    DESCRIBE ?person
    WHERE {
    ?person ex:hasAge "30". }
  - INSERT and DELETE Used to modify RDF data by adding or removing triples.

PREFIX ex: <http://example.org/> INSERT DATA { ex:book1 ex:hasAuthor ex:author1. }
PREFIX ex: <http://example.org/>
DELETE WHERE {
ex:book1 ex:hasAuthor ex:author1. }

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SPARQL Syntax

- SPARQL Query Clauses and Functions
  - FILTER Used to restrict query results based on conditions.

```
SELECT ?person
WHERE { ?person ex:hasAge ?age.
FILTER(?age > 25) }
```

  - OPTION Retrieves data that may not exist, without excluding results that lack this data.

```
 SELECT ?person ?email
 WHERE {
?person ex:hasName "Alice".
OPTIONAL { ?person ex:hasEmail ?email. }
 }
```

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SPARQL Syntax

- SPARQL Query Clauses and Functions
  - UNION Combines results from multiple patterns.

```
SELECT ?person
WHERE {
   { ?person ex:hasAge "30" }
   UNION
   { ?person ex:hasAge "25" }
}
```

  - ORDER BY Sorts query results based on specified variables.

```
SELECT ?person ?age
WHERE { ?person ex:hasAge ?age. }
ORDER BY ?age
```

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SPARQL Syntax

- SPARQL Query Clauses and Functions
  - LIMIT and OFFSET Controls the number of results returned and skips a specified number of results, respectively.

```
SELECT ?person
WHERE {    ?person ex:hasAge ?age.   }
LIMIT 10
OFFSET 5
```

  - ORDER BY Sorts query results based on specified variables.

```
SELECT ?person ?age
WHERE { ?person ex:hasAge ?age. }
ORDER BY ?age
```

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Conclusion

- SPARQL is a powerful language for extracting and transforming RDF data.
- With its diverse set of clauses and functions, it supports a wide range of querying needs, from simple data retrieval to complex graph construction and reasoning.

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