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SPIN in Five Slides

<http://spinrdf.org>

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Example file: <http://topbraid.org/examples/spinsquare.ttl>
Open Source API: <http://topbraid.org/spin/api/>

SPIN is an RDF Syntax for SPARQL

SPIN provides a vocabulary to represent SPARQL queries as RDF triples.

```
# Width and height must be equal
ASK WHERE {
  ?this ss:width ?width .
  ?this ss:height ?height .
  FILTER (?width != ?height) .
}
```

```
[ a    sp:Ask ;
  rdfs:comment "Width and height must be equal"^^xsd:string ;
  sp:where ([ sp:object _:b1 ;
    sp:predicate ss:width ;
    sp:subject spin:_this
  ] [ sp:object _:b2 ;
    sp:predicate ss:height ;
    sp:subject spin:_this
  ] [ a    sp:Filter ;
    sp:expression [ a sp:ne ; sp:arg1 _:b1 ; sp:arg2 _:b2
    ]
  ])
].
```

Benefits

- Stores SPARQL queries together with model
- Easy to share on the semantic web
- Referential integrity (true resource references)
- Namespaces are managed once, not for every query

SPIN is a SPARQL Constraint Language

The property `spin:constraint` can be used to link a class with SPARQL queries that formalize invariants for the members of that class.

+

=

▼

Name:

ss:Square

Ok

▼ Annotations

rdfs:label

▼

S Square

▼

▼ Class Axioms

rdfs:subClassOf

▼

ss:Rectangle

▼

▼ Other Properties

spin:constraint

▼

★

Width and height must be equal

ASK WHERE {

?this ss:width ?width .

?this ss:height ?height .

FILTER (?width != ?height) .

}

▼

Benefits

- Natural object-oriented way of modeling
- SPARQL is very expressive
- Constraints can be natively executed by SPARQL engines of the database
- Easy to combine with other SPARQL constraint bases like SKOS SPIN

SPIN is a SPARQL Rules Language

The property `spin:rule` can be used to link a class with SPARQL CONSTRUCT queries that define inference rules for the members of the class

The screenshot shows a 'Class Form' window for the class 'ss:Rectangle'. It has several sections: 'Annotations' with 'rdfs:label' set to 'Rectangle'; 'Class Axioms' with 'rdfs:subClassOf' set to 'rdfs:Resource'; and 'Other Properties' with 'spin:rule' set to a SPARQL query. The query is:
Computes area := width * height
CONSTRUCT {
 ?this ss:area ?area .
}
WHERE {
 ?this ss:width ?width .
 ?this ss:height ?height .
 LET (?area := (?width * ?height)) .
}

Benefits

- Natural object-oriented way of modeling
- SPARQL is very expressive
- Rules can be natively executed by SPARQL engines of the database
- Easy to combine with other SPARQL rule bases like OWL RL

SPIN can define SPARQL Functions

spin:Function can be used to define new SPARQL functions that use other SPARQL queries as their bodies.

spin:body

★

SELECT (?width * ?height)
WHERE {
?arg1 ss:width ?width .
?arg1 ss:height ?height .
}

spin:constraint

★

Argument sp:arg1 : ss:Rectangle

spin:returnType

ⓓ

xsd:integer

rdf:type

●

spin:Function

Benefits

- Can be used to modularize and extend SPARQL
- Fully declarative and web friendly: functions are stored in RDF
- Greatly extend the expressivity of SPARQL (recursion etc)
- Simple form of backward chaining, computing sub-queries on demand

```

CONSTRUCT {
  ?this ss:area ?area .
}
WHERE {
  LET (?area := ss:computeArea(?this)) .
}

```

SPIN can store reusable SPARQL queries

spin:Template can be used to wrap SPARQL queries into reusable building blocks so that they can be instantiated with arguments

```

spin:body
★ CONSTRUCT {
  _b0 a spin:ConstraintViolation .
  _b0 spin:violationRoot ?this .
  _b0 spin:violationPath ?property .
  _b0 rdfs:label ?label .
}
WHERE {
  ?this ?property ?value .
  FILTER (?value <= 0) .
  LET (?label := fn:concat("Property ", ?property, " must only
have positive values, but found ", ?value)) .
}

spin:constraint
★ Argument arg:property : rdf:Property

spin:labelTemplate
S Values of property {?property} must be > 0

rdf:type
● spin:ConstructTemplate

```

Benefits

- Supports object-oriented reuse of modeling patterns
- Defines domain-specific languages
- Easy to fill in the blanks by people with no SPARQL expertise

```

spin:constraint
★ Values of property ss:height must be > 0
★ Values of property ss:width must be > 0

rdf:type
● ss:PositivePropertyValueConstraint

arg:property
■ ss:width

```