P™/D  
Draft Standard for

Developed by the

of the

IEEE

Approved

IEEE SA Standards Board

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Abstract: This standard defines the syntax of Shape Expression schemas represented in JavaScript Object Notation (JSON), Resource Description Framework (RDF) and plain text. This standard includes formal semantics for validation of RDF knowledge graphs using Shape Expressions. This validation process includes the definition of ShapeMaps to associate nodes in RDF graphs with labeled Shape Expressions. A test suite covers all aspects of syntax and validation.

Keywords: IEEE 3330™, RDF, Schema, Shape Expressions, Structure Definition, Structural Validation

[[1]](#footnote-1)•

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Introduction

This introduction is not part of P/D, Draft for .

The Shape Expressions (ShEx) language provides a structural schema for RDF data. This can be used to document APIs or datasets, aid in development of API-conformant messages, minimize defensive programming, guide user interfaces, or anything else that involves a machine-readable description of data organization and typing requirements.

ShEx describes [RDF graph](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-rdf-graph) [[RDF11-CONCEPTS](#bib-rdf11-concepts)] structures as sets of potentially connected [Shapes](#dfn-shape). These constrain the [triples](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-rdf-triple) involving nodes in an [RDF graph](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-rdf-graph). Node Constraints constrain RDF nodes by constraining their node kind ([IRI](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-iri), [blank node](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-blank-node) or [Literal](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-literal)), enumerating permissible values in value sets, specifying their datatype, and constraining value ranges of Literals. Additionally, they constrain lexical forms of [Literals](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-literal), [IRIs](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-iri) and [labeled blank nodes](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-blank-node-identifier). Shape Expressions schemas share blank nodes with the constrained [RDF graphs](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-rdf-graph) in the same way that graphs in [RDF datasets](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-rdf-dataset) [[rdf11-concepts](#bib-rdf11-concepts)] share blank nodes.

ShEx can be represented in JSON structures ([ShExJ](#dfn-shexj)) or a compact syntax ([ShExC](#dfn-shexc)). The compact syntax is intended for human consumption; the JSON structure for machine processing. This document defines ShEx in terms of [ShExJ](#dfn-shexj) and includes a [section on the ShEx Compact Syntax (ShEx)](#shexc).

This is an editor's draft of the Shape Expressions specification. ShEx 2.x differs significantly from the W3C ShEx Submission. The [July 2017 publication](http://shex.io/shex-semantics-20170713/) included a [definition of validation](#validation) which implied infinite recursion. This version explicitly includes recursion checks. No tests changed as a result of this and no implementations or applications are known to have been affected.

If you wish to make comments regarding this document, please raise them as GitHub issues. There are separate interfaces for [specification](https://github.com/shexSpec/spec/issues), [language](https://github.com/shexSpec/shex/issues) and [test](https://github.com/shexSpec/shexTest/issues) issues. Only send comments to [public-shex@w3.org](mailto:public-shex@w3.org) ([subscribe](mailto:public-shex-request@w3.org?subject=subscribe), [archives](https://lists.w3.org/Archives/Public/public-shex/)) if you are unable to raise issues on GitHub. All comments are welcome.

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Draft for

Overview

The Shape Expressions (ShEx) language describes [RDF nodes](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-node) and [graph](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-rdf-graph) structures. A node constraint describes an RDF node ([IRI](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-iri), [blank node](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-blank-node) or [literal](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-literal)) and a shape describes the [triples](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-rdf-triple) involving nodes in an [RDF graph](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-rdf-graph). These descriptions identify [predicates](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-predicate) and their associated cardinalities and datatypes. ShEx shapes can be used to communicate data structures associated with some process or interface, generate or validate data, or drive user interfaces.

This document defines the ShEx language. See the [Shape Expressions Primer](file:///C:/src/shexSpec/primer/index.html) for a non-normative description of ShEx.

Scope

This standard defines the syntax of Shape Expression schemas represented in JavaScript Object Notation (JSON), Resource Description Framework (RDF) and plain text. This standard includes formal semantics for validation of RDF knowledge graphs using Shape Expressions. This validation process includes the definition of ShapeMaps to associate nodes in RDF graphs with labeled Shape Expressions. A test suite covers all aspects of syntax and validation.

Word usage

The word *shall* indicates mandatory requirements strictly to be followed in order to conform to the standard and from which no deviation is permitted (*shall* equals *is required to*).[[7]](#footnote-7),[[8]](#footnote-8)

The word *should* indicates that among several possibilities one is recommended as particularly suitable, without mentioning or excluding others; or that a certain course of action is preferred but not necessarily required (*should* equals *is recommended that*).

The word *may* is used to indicate a course of action permissible within the limits of the standard (*may* equals *is permitted to*).

The word *can* is used for statements of possibility and capability, whether material, physical, or causal (*can* equals *is able to*).

Security considerations

Revealing the structure of an RDF graph can reveal information about the content of conformant data. For instance, a schema with a predicate to describe cancer stage indicates that conforming graphs describe patients with cancer.

The process of testing a graph's conformance to a schema may involve many detailed queries which could draw resources to respond to API calls or SPARQL queries.

ShEx has an extension mechanism which can, in principle, evalute arbitrary code, possibly as some trusted agent. Such extensions should not be executed if they don't come from a trusted source.

Since [ShEx](#dfn-shex) is intended to be a pure data exchange format for validating [RDF graphs](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-rdf-graph), the [ShExJ](#dfn-shexj) serialization *SHOULD NOT* be passed through a code execution mechanism such as JavaScript's eval() function to be parsed. An (invalid) document may contain code that, when executed, could lead to unexpected side effects compromising the security of a system.

See also, [IANA Considerations](#iana-considerations).

Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document (i.e., they must be understood and used, so each referenced document is cited in text and its relationship to this document is explained). For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments or corrigenda) applies.

[ECMASCRIPT-6.0]

Allen Wirfs-Brock. [ECMA-262 6th Edition, The ECMAScript 2015 Language Specification](http://www.ecma-international.org/ecma-262/6.0/index.html). Ecma International. June 2015. Standard. URL: <http://www.ecma-international.org/ecma-262/6.0/index.html>

[JSON-LD]

Manu Sporny; Gregg Kellogg; Markus Lanthaler. [JSON-LD 1.0](https://www.w3.org/TR/json-ld/). W3C. 3 November 2020. W3C Recommendation. URL: <https://www.w3.org/TR/json-ld/>

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Richard Cyganiak; David Wood; Markus Lanthaler. [RDF 1.1 Concepts and Abstract Syntax](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/). W3C. 25 February 2014. W3C Recommendation. URL: <https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/>

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Patrick Hayes; Peter Patel-Schneider. [RDF 1.1 Semantics](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-mt/). W3C. 25 February 2014. W3C Recommendation. URL: <https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-mt/>

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T. Berners-Lee; R. Fielding; L. Masinter. [Uniform Resource Identifier (URI): Generic Syntax](https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc3986). IETF. January 2005. Internet Standard. URL: <https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc3986>

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A. Phillips, Ed.; M. Davis, Ed.. [Matching of Language Tags](https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc4647). IETF. September 2006. Best Current Practice. URL: <https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc4647>

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T. Bray, Ed.. [The JavaScript Object Notation (JSON) Data Interchange Format](https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc7159). IETF. March 2014. Proposed Standard. URL: <https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc7159>

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Gregg Kellogg. [Shape Expression Vocabulary](http://www.w3.org/ns/shex). URL: [http://www.w3.org/ns/shex#](http://www.w3.org/ns/shex)

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Steven Harris; Andy Seaborne. [SPARQL 1.1 Query Language](https://www.w3.org/TR/sparql11-query/). W3C. 21 March 2013. W3C Recommendation. URL: <https://www.w3.org/TR/sparql11-query/>

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Eric Prud'hommeaux; Gavin Carothers. [RDF 1.1 Turtle](https://www.w3.org/TR/turtle/). W3C. 25 February 2014. W3C Recommendation. URL: <https://www.w3.org/TR/turtle/>

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Tim Bray; Jean Paoli; Michael Sperberg-McQueen; Eve Maler; François Yergeau et al. [Extensible Markup Language (XML) 1.0 (Fifth Edition)](https://www.w3.org/TR/xml/). W3C. 26 November 2008. W3C Recommendation. URL: <https://www.w3.org/TR/xml/>

[xmlschema-2]

Paul V. Biron; Ashok Malhotra. [XML Schema Part 2: Datatypes Second Edition](https://www.w3.org/TR/xmlschema-2/). W3C. 28 October 2004. W3C Recommendation. URL: <https://www.w3.org/TR/xmlschema-2/>

[xpath-functions]

Ashok Malhotra; Jim Melton; Norman Walsh; Michael Kay. [XQuery 1.0 and XPath 2.0 Functions and Operators (Second Edition)](https://www.w3.org/TR/xpath-functions/). W3C. 14 December 2010. W3C Recommendation. URL: <https://www.w3.org/TR/xpath-functions/>

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Michael Kay. [XPath and XQuery Functions and Operators 3.1](https://www.w3.org/TR/xpath-functions-31/). W3C. 21 March 2017. W3C Recommendation. URL: <https://www.w3.org/TR/xpath-functions-31/>

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Anders Berglund; Scott Boag; Don Chamberlin; Mary Fernandez; Michael Kay; Jonathan Robie; Jerome Simeon et al. [XML Path Language (XPath) 2.0 (Second Edition)](https://www.w3.org/TR/xpath20/). W3C. 14 December 2010. W3C Recommendation. URL: <https://www.w3.org/TR/xpath20/>

Definitions, acronyms, and abbreviations

Definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms *and definitions apply. The IEEE Standards Dictionary Online* should be consulted for terms not defined in this clause.[[9]](#footnote-9)

Shape expressions are defined using terms from RDF semantics [[rdf11-mt](#bib-rdf11-mt)]:

[Node](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/" \l "dfn-node): one of [IRI](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/" \l "dfn-iri), [blank node](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/" \l "dfn-blank-node), [Literal](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/" \l "dfn-literal)

[Graph](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/" \l "dfn-rdf-graph): a set of [Triples](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/" \l "dfn-rdf-triple) of ([subject](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/" \l "dfn-subject), [predicate](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/" \l "dfn-predicate), [object](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/" \l "dfn-object))

The following functions access the elements of an [RDF graph](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-rdf-graph) G containing a node n:

* + - 1. arcsOut(G, n) is the set of [triples](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-rdf-triple) in a [graph](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-rdf-graph) G with [subject](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-subject) n.
      2. predicatesOut(G, n) is the set of [predicates](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-predicate) in [arcsOut](#dfn-arcsout)(G, n).
      3. arcsIn(G, n) is the set of [triples](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-rdf-triple) in a [graph](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-rdf-graph) G with [object](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-object) n.
      4. predicatesIn(G, n) is the set of [predicates](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-predicate) in [arcsIn](#dfn-arcsin)(G, n).
      5. neigh(G, n) is the neighbourhood of the [node](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-node) n in the [graph](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-rdf-graph) G.  
         [neigh](#dfn-neigh)(G, n) = [arcsOut](#dfn-arcsout)(G, n) ∪ [arcsIn](#dfn-arcsin)(G, n).
      6. predicates(G, n) is the set of [predicates](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-predicate) in [neigh](#dfn-neigh)(G, n).  
         [predicates](#dfn-predicates)(G, n) = [predicatesOut](#dfn-predicatesout)(G, n) ∪ [predicatesIn](#dfn-predicatesin)(G, n).
      7. def(Sch, label) is the decl.shapeExpr where decl.label = label. Sch must have exactly one def(Sch, label).

Consider the [RDF graph](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-rdf-graph) G represented in Turtle:

* + - 1. PREFIX ex: <http://schema.example/#>
      2. REFIX inst: <http://inst.example/#>
      3. PREFIX foaf: <http://xmlns.com/foaf/>
      4. PREFIX xsd: http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#
      5. inst:Issue1
      6. ex:state ex:unassigned ;
      7. ex:reportedBy \_:User2 .
      8. \_:User2
      9. foaf:name "Bob Smith" ;
      10. foaf:mbox <mailto:bob@example.org> .

There are two arcs out of \_:User2; [arcsOut](#dfn-arcsout)(G, \_:User2):

\_:User2 foaf:name "Bob Smith" .  
\_:User2 foaf:mbox <mailto:bob@example.org> .

There is one arc into \_:User2; [arcsIn](#dfn-arcsin)(G, \_:User2):

inst:Issue1 ex:reportedBy \_:User2 .

There are three arcs in the neighbourhood of \_:User2 set, [neigh](#dfn-neigh)(G, \_:User2):

\_:User2 foaf:name "Bob Smith" .  
\_:User2 foaf:mbox <mailto:bob@example.org> .  
inst:Issue1 ex:reportedBy \_:User2 .

Acronyms and abbreviations

BNF Backus Naur Form

CSS Cascading Stylesheets

IANA Internet Assigned Numbers Authority

IRI Internationalized Resource Identifier

RDF Resource Description Framework

ShEx Shape Expressions RDF schema language

ShExC ShEx Compact syntax

ShExJ ShEx JSON (or JSON-LD) syntax

ShExR ShEx RDF syntax

SPARQL RDF Query Language

URL Uniform Resource Locator

UTF-8 Unicode Transformation Format

XML Extensible Markup Language

XPath Path Language for XML

Notation

The JSON [[rfc7159](#bib-rfc7159)] Syntax serves as a serializable proxy for an abstract syntax.

[RDF terms](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-rdf-term) are represented as [JSON-LD nodes](https://www.w3.org/TR/json-ld/#dfn-node).

[IRIs](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-iri) are represented as a [JSON string](https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc7159#section-7) consisting of the IRI string, e.g.  
"http://example.org/resource"

[Blank nodes](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-blank-node) are represented as a JSON string composed of the concatenation of "\_:" and a [blank node identifier](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/" \l "dfn-blank-node-identifier), e.g.  
"\_:blank3"

[Literals](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-literal) are represented as a [JSON object](https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc7159#section-4)s following the composition rules for [JSON-LD values](https://www.w3.org/TR/json-ld/#dfn-json-ld-value), i.e.

literals with the datatype http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string are represented with the value property, e.g.  
{ "value": "abc" }.

[language-tagged strings](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-language-tagged-string) are represented with an additional language property, e.g.  
{ "value": "hello world", "langague": "en-US" }

datatyped literals are represented with an additional datatype property, e.g.  
{ "value": "123", "datatype": "http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#integer" }

JSON grammar

This specification uses a JSON grammar to describe the set of JSON documents that can be interpreted as a ShEx schema. ShEx data structures are represented as [JSON objects](https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc7159" \l "section-4) with a member with the name "type" (i.e. an object with a type attribute):

{ "type": "typeName", member0…n }

These are expressed in JSON grammar as typeName { member\* }. [RFC7159 Section 2](https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc7159#section-2) provides syntactic constraints for JSON — the grammar constraining those to valid [ShExJ](#dfn-shexj) constructs is composed of:

typeName is the name of the typed data structure. Types are referenced in the definitions of object members and in the definitions of the semantics for those data structures.

member\* is a list of zero or more terminals or references to other typeExpressions.

A typeExpression is one of:

typeName — an object of corresponding type

array: [ typeExpression+ ]— an array of one or more JSON values matching the typeExpression.

choice: typeExpression1 | typeExpression2 | …— a choice between two or more typeExressions.

Cardinalities are represented as by the strings ?, +, \* following the [notation in the XML specification](https://www.w3.org/TR/xml/#sec-notation)[[XML](#bib-xml)] or {m,} to indicate a that at least m elements are required.

The following examples are excerpts from the definitions below. In the JSON notation,

[Schema](#dfn-shapes-schema) { [startActs](#dfn-startacts):[[SemAct](#dfn-semact)+]? [start](#dfn-start):[shapeExpr](#dfn-shapeexpr)? [imports](#dfn-imports):[[IRI](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-iri)+]? [shapes](#dfn-shapes):[[shapeExpr](#dfn-shapeexpr)+]? }

signifies that a Schema has four optional components called [startActs](#dfn-startacts), [start](#dfn-start), [imports](#dfn-imports) and [shapes](#dfn-shapes):

startActs is a list of one or more [SemAct](#dfn-semact).

start is a [shapeExpr](#dfn-shapeexpr).

imports is a list of one or more [IRI](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-iri).

shapes is an array of [shapeExpr](#dfn-shapeexpr).

[shapeExpr](#dfn-shapeexpr) = [ShapeOr](#dfn-shapeor) | [ShapeAnd](#dfn-shapeand) | [ShapeNot](#dfn-shapenot) | [NodeConstraint](#dfn-nodeconstraint) | [Shape](#dfn-shape) | [ShapeExternal](#dfn-shapeexternal) ;

signifies that a [shapeExpr](#dfn-shapeexpr) is one of seven object types: [ShapeOr](#dfn-shapeor) | [ShapeAnd](#dfn-shapeand) | ….

[NodeConstraint](#dfn-nodeconstraint) { nodeKind:("iri" | "bnode" | "nonliteral" | "literal")? [xsFacet](#dfn-xsfacet)\* } [xsFacet](#dfn-xsfacet) = [stringFacet](#dfn-stringfacet) | [numericFacet](#dfn-numericfacet) ;

signifies that a NodeConstraint has a nodeKind of one of the four literals followed by any number of [xsFacet](#dfn-xsfacet) and an [xsFacet](#dfn-xsfacet) is either a [stringFacet](#dfn-stringfacet) or a [numericFacet](#dfn-numericfacet).

Note

The [executable JSON grammar for ShExJ](https://github.com/shexSpec/shexTest/blob/main/doc/ShExJ.jsg#L11) specifically disables the requirement for a matching "type" attribute in ObjectLiteral as "type" is instead used for the datatype of a [JSON-LD typed value](https://www.w3.org/TR/json-ld11/#dfn-typed-value).

References

[ShExJ](#dfn-shexj) is a dialect of JSON-LD [[JSON-LD](#bib-json-ld)] and the member id is used as a [node identifier](https://www.w3.org/TR/json-ld/#node-identifiers). An ShapeDecl or tripleExpr may be represented inline or referenced by its id which may be either a [blank node](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-blank-node) or an [IRI](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-iri).

[ShapeOr](#dfn-shapeor) { [id](#dfn-id):[shapeExprLabel](#dfn-shapeexprlabel)? [shapeExprs](#dfn-shapeexprs):[[shapeExpr](#dfn-shapeexpr){2,}] } [shapeExprLabel](#dfn-shapeexprlabel) = [IRIREF](#dfn-iriref) | [BNODE](#dfn-bnode) ; [EachOf](#dfn-eachof) { [id](#dfn-id):[tripleExprLabel](#dfn-tripleexprlabel)? [expressions](#dfn-expressions):[[tripleExpr](#dfn-tripleexpr){2,}] ... } [tripleExprLabel](#dfn-tripleexprlabel) = [IRI](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-iri) | [BNODE](#dfn-bnode) ;

The JSON structure may include references to [shape expressions](#dfn-shape) and [triple expressions](#dfn-triple-expressions):

[shapeExpr](#dfn-shapeexpr) = [ShapeOr](#dfn-shapeor) | ... | [shapeExprRef](#dfn-shapeexprref) ; [shapeExprRef](#dfn-shapeexprref) = [shapeExprLabel](#dfn-shapeexprlabel) ; [tripleExpr](#dfn-tripleexpr) = [EachOf](#dfn-eachof) | ... | [tripleExprRef](#dfn-tripleexprref) ; [tripleExprRef](#dfn-tripleexprref) = [tripleExprLabel](#dfn-tripleexprlabel) ;

An object with a circular reference must be referenced by an id. This example uses a nested shape reference on a value expression ([defined below](#dfn-tripleconstraint)).

* + - 1. { "type": "Schema", "shapes": [
      2. { "id": "http://schema.example/#IssueShape",
      3. "type": "Shape", "expression": {
      4. "type": "TripleConstraint", "predicate": "http://schema.example  
         /#related",
      5. "valueExpr": "http://schema.example/#IssueShape", "min":   
         0 } } ] }

Not captured in this JSON syntax definition is the rule that every [shapeExpr](#dfn-shapeexpr) nested in a schema's [shapes](#dfn-shapes) must have an id and no other [shapeExpr](#dfn-shapeexpr) may have an id. The JSON syntax definitition simplifies this by adding [id](#dfn-id):[shapeExprLabel](#dfn-shapeexprlabel)? to every [shapeExpr](#dfn-shapeexpr). This example includes a nested shape. Nested shapes are not permitted to have ids.

* + - 1. { "type": "Schema", "shapes": [
      2. { "id": "http://schema.example/#IssueShape",
      3. "type": "Shape", "expression": {
      4. "type": "TripleConstraint", "predicate": "http://schema.example/#submittedBy",
      5. "valueExpr": {
      6. "type": "Shape", "expression": {
      7. "type": "TripleConstraint", "predicate": "http://schema.example/#name",
      8. "valueExpr": {
      9. "type": "NodeConstraint", "nodeKind": "literal"
      10. } } } } } ] }

Document style

JSON examples are rendered in a .json CSS style. Partial examples include ranges in a .comment CSS style to indicate text which would be substituted in a complete example. For example { "type": "ShapeAnd", "shapeExprs": [ SE1, … ] } indicates that both SE1 and … would be substituted in a complete example.

In javascript-enabled browsers, schemas with a json button can be converted between the JSON representation and the compact syntax by clicking the button. The button text indicates the currently shown representation. Selecting the example and pressing "j" or "c" converts the example to the JSON (ShExJ) or compact form (ShExC). Pressing "shift J" or "shift C" converts all such examples to ShExJ or ShExC.

Graph access

The validation process defined in this document relies on matching [triple patterns](https://www.w3.org/TR/sparql11-query/#defn_TriplePattern) in the form (subject, predicate, object) where each position may be supplied by a constant, a previously defined term, or the underscore "\_", which represents a previously undefined element or wildcard. This corresponds to a [SPARQL Triple Pattern](https://www.w3.org/TR/sparql11-query/" \l "defn_TriplePattern) where each "\_" is replaced by a unique [blank node](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-blank-node). Matching such a [triple pattern](https://www.w3.org/TR/sparql11-query/#defn_TriplePattern) against a [graph](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-rdf-graph) is defined by [SPARQL Basic Graph Pattern Matching](https://www.w3.org/TR/sparql11-query/#BGPsparql) (BGP) with a BGP containing only that [triple pattern](https://www.w3.org/TR/sparql11-query/#defn_TriplePattern).

Namespaces

This specification makes use of the following namespaces:

foaf:

http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/

rdf:

http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#

rdfs:

http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#

shex:

http://www.w3.org/ns/shex#

xsd:

<http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#>

The Shape Expressions language

A Shape Expressions (ShEx) schema is a collection of labeled [Shapes](#dfn-shape) and [Node Constraints](#node-constraints). These can be used to describe or test nodes in [RDF graphs](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-rdf-graph). ShEx does not prescribe a language for associating [nodes](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-node) with [shapes](#dfn-shape) but several approaches are [described in the ShEx Primer](file:///C:/src/shexSpec/primer/index.html#associating-nodes-with-shapes).

Shapes Schema

A shapes schema is captured in a Schema object with a list of Shape Declarationss:

[Schema](#dfn-shapes-schema) { imports:[[IRIREF](#dfn-iriref)+]? startActs:[[SemAct](#dfn-semact)+]? start:[shapeExpr](#dfn-shapeexpr)? shapes:[[ShapeDecl](#dfn-shapedecl)+]? }

[ShapeDecl](#dfn-shapedecl) { id:[shapeExprLabel](#dfn-shapeexprlabel) abstract:[BOOL](#dfn-bool)? shapeExpr:[shapeExpr](#dfn-shapeexpr) | [ShapeExternal](#dfn-shapeexternal) }

where [shapes](#dfn-shapes) is a list of [ShapeDecls](#dfn-shapedecl).

* + - 1. { "type": "Schema", "shapes": [
      2. { "id": "http://schema.example/#IssueShape", … },
      3. { "id": "\_:UserShape", … },
      4. { "id": "http://schema.example/#EmployeeShape", … } ] }
      6. ex:IssueShape { … }
      7. \_:UserShape { … }
      8. ex:EmployeeShape { … }
      9. json

Validation Definition

For a graph G, a schema Sch and a fixed ShapeMap ism, isValid(G, Sch, ism) indicates that for every shape association (node: n, shape: sl, exact: exact) in ism, the node n satisfies the shape expression identified by sl. If exact is true, the result is [satisfies](#dfn-satisfies)(n, [def](#dfn-def)(s.label), G, Sch, [completeTyping](#dfn-completetyping)(G, Sch), neigh(n)) , otherwise, the result is [satisfiesDescendant](#dfn-satisfiesdescendant)(n, [def](#dfn-def)(s.label), G, Sch, [completeTyping](#dfn-completetyping)(G, Sch), neigh(n)). The function [satisfies](#dfn-satisfies) is defined for every kind of [shape expression](#dfn-shape-expressions).

The validation of an RDF graph G against a ShEx schema Sch is based on the existence of [completeTyping](#dfn-completetyping)(G, Sch). For an RDF graph G and a shapes schema Sch, a typing is a set of pairs of the form (n, l) where n is a node in G and l is a shape label that appears in the shape declarations of the schema. A correct typing is a typing such that for every RDF node/shape pair (n,l), satisfies(n, def(l), G, Sch, typing, neigh(n)) holds or satisfiesDescendant(n, def(l), G, Sch, typing, neigh(n)) holds. A [completeTyping](#dfn-completetyping)(G, Sch) is a unique correct typing that exists for every graph and every ShEx schema that satisfies the [schema requirements](#schema-requirements).

The definition of completeTyping(G, Sch) is based on a [stratification](#dfn-stratification) of Sch. The number of strata of Sch is the number of maximal strongly connected components of the [hierarchy and dependency graph](#dfn-hierarchy-and-dependency-graph) of Sch. A stratification of a schema Sch with k strata is a function stratum that associates with every shape label from the shape declarations of Sch a natural number between 1 and k such that:

If l1 and l2 belong to the same maximal strongly connected component, then stratum(l1) = stratum(l2).

If there is a reference from l1 to l2 and l1 and l2 do not belong to the same maximal strongly connected component, then stratum(s2) < stratum(s1).

The existence of a stratification for every schema is guaranteed by the [negation requirement](#negation-requirement).

Given a [stratification](#dfn-stratification) stratum of Sch with k strata, define inductively the series of k typings completeTypingOn(1, G, Sch) … completeTypingOn(k, G, Sch).

completeTypingOn(1, G, Sch) is the union of all correct typings that contain only RDF node/shape pairs (n,s) with stratum(s) = 1;

for every i between 2 and k, completeTypingOn(i, G, Sch) is the union of all correct typings that:

contain only RDF node/shape pairs (n,s) with stratum(s) ≤ i

are equal to completeTypingOn(i-1, G, Sch) when restricted to their RDF node/shape pairs (n1,s1) for which stratum(s1) < i.

Then completeTyping(G, Sch) = completeTypingOn(k, G, Sch).

1. The definition of strongly connected component and maximal strongly connected component of a graph can be found at Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Strongly\_connected\_component.
2. The definition of strongly connected component and maximal strongly connected component of a graph can be found at Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Strongly\_connected\_component.
3. The schema Sch might have several different stratifications but completeTyping(G, Sch) is the same for all these stratifications. This property is reminiscent of the use of stratified negation in Datalog.

In order to decide isValid(Sch, G, m), it is sufficient to compute only a portion of the complete typing using an appropriate algorithm.

1. Popular methods for constructing the input fixed ShapeMaps can be found at https://www.w3.org/2001/sw/wiki/ShEx/ShapeMap.

Shape Expressions

A shape expression is composed of four kinds of objects combined with the algebraic operators And, Or and Not:

A node constraint ([NodeConstraint](#dfn-nodeconstraint)) defines the set of allowed values of a node. These include specification of RDF node kind, literal datatype, XML string and numeric facets and enumeration of value sets.

A shape constraint ([Shape](#dfn-shape)) defines a constraint on the allowed neighbourhood of a node, that is, the allowed triples that contain this node as subject or object.

An external shape ([ShapeExternal](#dfn-shapeexternal)) is an extension mechanism allowing a [ShapeDecl](#dfn-shapedecl) to denote an externally defined [shapeExpr](#dfn-shapeexpr). It can be used to reference e.g. functional shapes or prohibitively large value sets.

A shape reference ([shapeExprLabel](#dfn-shapeexprlabel)) identifies another shape in the schema or an [imported schema](#import).

JSON Syntax

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| shapeExpr | = | [ShapeOr](#dfn-shapeor) | [ShapeAnd](#dfn-shapeand) | [ShapeNot](#dfn-shapenot) | [NodeConstraint](#dfn-nodeconstraint) | [Shape](#dfn-shape) | [shapeExprRef](#dfn-shapeexprref) ; |
| ShapeOr | { | shapeExprs:[[shapeExpr](#dfn-shapeexpr){2,}] } |
| ShapeAnd | { | shapeExprs:[[shapeExpr](#dfn-shapeexpr){2,}] } |
| ShapeNot | { | shapeExpr:[shapeExpr](#dfn-shapeexpr) } |
| ShapeExternal | { | } |
| ShapeExprRef | { | label:shapeExprLabel exact:[BOOL](#dfn-bool)? } |
| shapeExprLabel | = | [IRIREF](#dfn-iriref) | [BNODE](#dfn-bnode) ; |

Examples of shape expressions:

{ "type": "Shape", … }

{ }

json

{ "type": "ShapeAnd", "shapeExprs": [  
 { "type": "NodeConstraint", "nodeKind": "iri" },  
 { "type": "ShapeOr", "shapeExprs": [  
 "http://schema.example/#IssueShape",  
 { "type": "ShapeNot", "shapeExpr": { "type": "Shape", … } }  
 ] } ] }

AND  
(  
 @<http://schema.example/#IssueShape>  
 OR NOT { }  
)

json

In this ShapeOr's shapeExprs, "http://schema.example/#IssueShape" is a reference to the [shape expression](#dfn-shape-expressions) with the id "http://schema.example/#IssueShape".

Semantics

For a node n of the graph G, we define neigh(n) as the set of triples adjacent to n in the graph; these are the triples that have n either as subject or as object.

For a shape expression se we define its set of shapes nestedShapes(se) recursively on the structure of se:

if se is a [NodeConstraint](#dfn-nodeconstraint), then [nestedShapes](#dfn-nestedshapes)(se) = emptyset

if se is a [Shape](#dfn-shape), then [nestedShapes](#dfn-nestedshapes)(se) = {se}

if se is a [ShapeNot](#dfn-shapenot), then [nestedShapes](#dfn-nestedshapes)(se) = shapes(se.shapeExpr)

if se is a [ShapeAnd](#dfn-shapeand) or [ShapeOr](#dfn-shapeor), then [nestedShapes](#dfn-nestedshapes)(se) is the union of the sets [nestedShapes](#dfn-nestedshapes)(se2) for all se2 in se.shapeExprs

if se is a [shapeExprRef](#dfn-shapeexprref) with label lab, then [nestedShapes](#dfn-nestedshapes)(se) = [nestedShapes](#dfn-nestedshapes)([def](#dfn-def)(L))

if se is a [ShapeExternal](#dfn-shapeexternal), then [nestedShapes](#dfn-nestedshapes)(se) is the set of shapes denoted by se.

For shape expression labels label1, label2, we say that label2 directly extends label1 if [nestedShapes](#dfn-nestedshapes)([def](#dfn-def)(label2)) contains a Shape s such that s.extends contains label2. The extension hierarchy graph of a shapes schema is a directed graph whose nodes are the shape expression labels of the schema and that has an edge from label2 to label1 whenever label2 [directly extends](#dfn-directly-extends) label1.

satisfies: The expression satisfies(n, se, G, Sch, t, R) indicates that a node n, a subset R of neigh(n), and a [graph](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-rdf-graph) G satisfy a [shape expression](#dfn-shape-expressions) se with [typing](#dfn-typing) t for schema Sch.  
satisfiesDescendant: The expression satisfiesDescendant(n, shapeExprLabel, G, Sch, t, R) indicates that n, a subset R of neigh(n), and G and some non-abstract child of shapeExprLabel in the [extension hierarchy graph](#dfn-extension-hierarchy-graph) [satisfies](#dfn-satisfies)(n, child, G, Sch, t, R), with the given [typing](#dfn-typing) t.

[satisfies](#dfn-satisfies)(n, se, G, Sch, t, R) is true if and only if:

se is a [NodeConstraint](#dfn-nodeconstraint) and [satisfies2](#satisfies2-NodeConstraint)(n, se) as described below in [Node Constraints](#node-constraints). Note that testing if a node satisfies a node constraint does not require a [graph](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-rdf-graph) or [typing](#dfn-typing).

se is a [Shape](#dfn-shape) and [matchesShape](#dfn-matchesshape)(n, S, G, Sch, m, R) is true.

se is a [ShapeOr](#dfn-shapeor) and there is some [shape expression](#dfn-shape-expressions) se2 in se.shapeExprs such that [satisfies](#dfn-satisfies)(n, se2, G, Sch, t, R).

se is a [ShapeAnd](#dfn-shapeand) and for every [shape expression](#dfn-shape-expressions) se2 in se.shapeExprs, [satisfies](#dfn-satisfies)(n, se2, G, Sch, t, R).

se is a [ShapeNot](#dfn-shapenot) and for the [shape expression](#dfn-shape-expressions) se2 at se.shapeExpr, [satisfies](#dfn-satisfies)(n, se2, G, Sch, t, R) is false.

se is a [ShapeExternal](#dfn-shapeexternal) and implementation-specific mechansims not defined in this specification indicate success.

se is a [ShapeExprRef](#dfn-shapeexprref). If ShapeExprRef.exact, [satisfies](#dfn-satisfies)(n, [def](#dfn-def)(se.label), G, Sch, t, R), otherwise [satisfiesDescendant](#dfn-satisfiesdescendant)(n, se.label, G, Sch, t, R).

Given the three shape expressions SE1, SE2, SE3 in a [Schema](#dfn-shapes-schema) Sch, such that:

[satisfies](#dfn-satisfies)(n, SE1, G, Sch, m)

[satisfies](#dfn-satisfies)(n, SE2, G, Sch, m)

NOT [satisfies](#dfn-satisfies)(n, SE3, G, Sch, m)

the following hold:

* satisfies(
* n,
* { "type": "ShapeAnd", "shapeExprs": [ SE1, SE2 ] }
* ,  
  G, Sch, m)
* satisfies(
* n,
* { "type": "ShapeOr", "shapeExprs": [ SE1, SE2, SE3 ] }
* ,  
  G, Sch, m)
* NOT
* satisfies(
* n,
* { "type": "ShapeNot", "shapeExpr": {  
   { "type": "ShapeOr", "shapeExprs": [  
   SE1,  
   { "type": "ShapeAnd", "shapeExprs": [ SE2, SE3 ] }  
   ] }  
   } }
* ,  
  G, Sch, m)

If Sch's [shapes](#dfn-shapes) maps "http://schema.example/#shape1" to SE1 then the following holds:

* satisfies(
* n,
* http://schema.example/#shape1"
* ,  
  G, Sch, m)

In this example, EmployeeShape [directly extends](#dfn-directly-extends) PersonShape and transitively extends EntityShape

{"type" : "Schema",  
 "shapes" : [ {  
 "id" : "http://schema.example/#EntityShape",  
 "type" : "Shape",  
 "expression" : {  
 "type" : "TripleConstraint",  
 "predicate" : "http://schema.example/#entityId"  
 }  
 }, {  
 "id" : "http://schema.example/#PersonShape",  
 "type" : "Shape",  
 "extends" : [ "http://schema.example/#EntityShape" ],  
 "expression" : {  
 "type" : "TripleConstraint",  
 "predicate" : "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/name"  
 }  
 }, {  
 "id" : "http://schema.example/#EmployeeShape",  
 "type" : "Shape",  
 "extends" : [ "http://schema.example/#PersonShape" ],  
 "expression" : {  
 "type" : "TripleConstraint",  
 "predicate" : "http://schema.example/#employeeNumber"  
 }  
 } ] }

ex:EntityShape {  
  
  
  
 ex:entityId .  
 }  
  
 ex:PersonShape EXTENDS @ex:EntityShape {  
  
  
  
  
 foaf:name .  
 }  
  
 ex:EmployeeShape EXTENDS @ex:PersonShape {  
  
  
  
  
 ex:employeeNumber .  
 }

json

In this example, UserShape [directly extends](#dfn-directly-extends) PersonShape, and PersonShape directly references a conjunct which [directly extends](#dfn-directly-extends) EntityShape. Through this, UserShape transitively extends EntityShape.

{ "type": "Schema",  
 "shapes": [  
 { "id": "http://schema.example/#EntityShape",  
 "type": "Shape",  
 "closed": true,  
 "expression": {  
 "type": "TripleConstraint",  
 "predicate": "http://schema.example/#entityId"  
 } },  
 { "id": "http://schema.example/#PersonShape",  
 "type": "ShapeAnd",  
 "shapeExprs": [  
 { "type": "Shape",  
 "extends": [ "http://schema.example/#EntityShape" ],  
 "closed": true,  
 "expression": {  
 "type": "TripleConstraint",  
 "predicate": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/name"  
 } },  
 { "type": "Shape",  
 "expression": {  
 "type": "TripleConstraint",  
 "predicate": "http://schema.example/#entityId",  
 "valueExpr": {  
 "type": "NodeConstraint",  
 "datatype": "http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#integer"  
 } } }  
 ] },  
 { "id": "http://schema.example/#UserShape",  
 "type": "Shape",  
 "extends": [ "http://schema.example/#PersonShape" ],  
 "expression": {  
 "type": "TripleConstraint",  
 "predicate": "http://schema.example/#userId"  
 } }  
] }

<#EntityShape> CLOSED {  
  
  
  
  
 :entityId .  
 }  
 <#PersonShape> EXTENDS @<#EntityShape> CLOSED {  
  
  
  
   
  
  
  
 foaf:name .  
 } AND {  
  
  
  
 :entityId  
  
  
 xsd:integer  
 }  
  
 <#UserShape> EXTENDS @<PersonShape>{  
  
   
  
  
 :userId .  
 }

json

Node Constraints

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| NodeConstraint | { | nodeKind:("iri" | "bnode" | "nonliteral" | "literal")? datatype:[IRIREF](#dfn-iriref)? [xsFacet](#dfn-xsfacet)\* values:[[valueSetValue](#dfn-valuesetvalue)+]? } |
| xsFacet | = | [stringFacet](#dfn-stringfacet) | [numericFacet](#dfn-numericfacet) ; |
| stringFacet | = | (length|minlength|maxlength):[INTEGER](#dfn-integer) | pattern:[STRING](#dfn-string) flags:[STRING](#dfn-string)? ; |
| numericFacet | = | (mininclusive|minexclusive|maxinclusive|maxexclusive):[numericLiteral](#dfn-numericliteral) |
|  | | | (totaldigits|fractiondigits):[INTEGER](#dfn-integer) ; |
| numericLiteral | = | [INTEGER](#dfn-integer) | [DECIMAL](#dfn-decimal) | [DOUBLE](#dfn-double) ; |
| valueSetValue | = | [objectValue](#dfn-objectvalue) | [IriStem](#dfn-iristem) | [IriStemRange](#dfn-iristemrange) | [LiteralStem](#dfn-literalstem) | [LiteralStemRange](#dfn-literalstemrange) | [Language](#dfn-language) | [LanguageStem](#dfn-languagestem) | [LanguageStemRange](#dfn-languagestemrange) ; |
| objectValue | = | [IRIREF](#dfn-iriref) | [ObjectLiteral](#dfn-objectliteral) ; |
| ObjectLiteral | { | value:[STRING](#dfn-string) language:[STRING](#dfn-string)? type:[STRING](#dfn-string)? } |
| IriStem | { | stem:[IRIREF](#dfn-iriref) } |
| IriStemRange | { | stem:([IRIREF](#dfn-iriref) | [Wildcard](#dfn-wildcard)) exclusions:[[IRIREF](#dfn-iriref)|[IriStem](#dfn-iristem)+]? } |
| LiteralStem | { | stem:[STRING](#dfn-string) } |
| LiteralStemRange | { | stem:([STRING](#dfn-string) | [Wildcard](#dfn-wildcard)) exclusions:[[STRING](#dfn-string)|[LiteralStem](#dfn-literalstem)+]? } |
| Language | { | languageTag:[LANGTAG](#dfn-langtag) } |
| LanguageStem | { | stem:[LANGTAG](#dfn-langtag) } |
| LanguageStemRange | { | stem:([LANGTAG](#dfn-langtag) | [Wildcard](#dfn-wildcard)) exclusions:[[LANGTAG](#dfn-langtag)|[LanguageStem](#dfn-languagestem)+]? } |
| Wildcard | { | /\* empty \*/ } |

Semantics

For a node n and constraint nc, satisfies2(n, nc) if and only if for every nodeKind, datatype, xsFacet and values constraint value v present in nc nodeSatisfies(n, v). The following sections define nodeSatisfies for each of these types of constraints:

[Node Kind Constraints](#nodeKind)

[Datatype Constraints](#datatype)

[XML Schema String Facet Constraints](#xs-string)

[XML Schema Numeric Facet Constraints](#xs-numeric)

[Values Constraints](#values)

Node Kind Constraints

For a node n and constraint value v, nodeSatisfies(n, v) if:

v = "iri" and n is an [IRI](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-iri).

v = "bnode" and n is a [blank node](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-blank-node).

v = "literal" and n is a [Literal](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-literal).

v = "nonliteral" and n is an [IRI](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-iri) or [blank node](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-blank-node).

Node Kind example 1

The following examples use a [TripleConstraint](#dfn-tripleconstraint) object described later in the document. The

{ "type": "Schema", "shapes": [  
 { "id": "http://schema.example/#IssueShape",  
 "type": "Shape", "expression": {  
 "type": "TripleConstraint", "predicate": "http://schema.example/#state",  
 "valueExpr": { "type": "NodeConstraint", "nodeKind": "iri" } } } ] }

ex:IssueShape {  
 ex:state IRI  
 }

json

<issue1> ex:state ex:HunkyDory .  
<issue2> ex:taste ex:GoodEnough .  
<issue3> ex:state "just fine" .

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| node | shape | result | reason |
| <issue1> | <IssueShape> | pass |  |
| <issue2> | <IssueShape> | fail | expected 1 ex:state property. |
| <issue3> | <IssueShape> | fail | ex:state expected to be an IRI, literal found. |

Note that <issue2> fails not because of a nodeKind violation but instead because of a [Cardinality](#matches-cardinality) violation described below.

Datatype Constraints

For a node n and constraint value v, nodeSatisfies(n, v) if n is a Literal with the datatype v and, if v is in the set of [SPARQL operand data types](https://www.w3.org/TR/sparql11-query/#operandDataTypes)[[sparql11-query](#bib-sparql11-query)], an XML schema string with a value of the lexical form of n can be cast to the target type v per [XPath Functions 3.1 section 19 Casting](https://www.w3.org/TR/xpath-functions-31/#casting)[[xpath-functions](#bib-xpath-functions)]. The lexical form and numeric value (where applicable) of all datatypes required by [SPARQL XPath Constructor Functions](https://www.w3.org/TR/sparql11-query/#FunctionMapping) *MUST* be tested for conformance with the corresponding XML Schema form. ShEx extensions *MAY* add support for other datatypes.

Datatype example 1

{ "type": "Schema", "shapes": [  
 { "id": "http://schema.example/#IssueShape",  
 "type": "Shape", "expression": {  
 "type": "TripleConstraint", "predicate": "http://schema.example/#submittedOn",  
 "valueExpr": {  
 "type": "NodeConstraint",  
 "datatype": "http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#date"  
 } } } ] }

ex:IssueShape {   
 ex:submittedOn xsd:date  
 }

json

<issue1> ex:submittedOn "2016-07-08"^^xsd:date .  
<issue2> ex:submittedOn "2016-07-08T01:23:45Z"^^xsd:dateTime .  
<issue3> ex:submittedOn "2016-07"^^xsd:date .

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| node | shape | result | reason |
| <issue1> | <IssueShape> | pass |  |
| <issue2> | <IssueShape> | fail | ex:submittedOn expected to be an xsd:date, xsd:dateTime found. |
| <issue3> | <IssueShape> | fail | 2016-07 is not a valid xsd:date. |

Note

In RDF 1.1, [language-tagged strings](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/" \l "dfn-language-tagged-string)[[rdf11-concepts](#bib-rdf11-concepts)] have the datatype http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#langString.

RDF 1.0 included [RDF literals](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-literal) with no datatype or language tag. These are called "[simple literals](https://www.w3.org/TR/sparql11-query/#simple_literal)" in SPARQL11[[sparql11-query](#bib-sparql11-query)]. In RDF 1.1, these literals have the datatype http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#string.

Datatype example 2

{ "type": "Schema", "shapes": [  
 { "id": "http://schema.example/#IssueShape",  
 "type": "Shape", "expression": {  
 "type": "TripleConstraint",  
 "predicate": "http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#label",  
 "valueExpr": {  
 "type": "NodeConstraint",  
 "datatype": "http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#langString"  
 } } } ] }

ex:IssueShape {  
 rdfs:label rdf:langString  
 }

json

<issue3> rdfs:label "emits dense black smoke"@en .  
<issue4> rdfs:label "unexpected odor" .

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| node | shape | result | reason |
| <issue3> | <IssueShape> | pass |  |
| <issue4> | <IssueShape> | fail | rdfs:label expected to be an rdf:langString, xsd:string found. |

XML Schema String Facet Constraints

String facet constraints apply to the lexical form of the [RDF Literals](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-literal) and [IRIs](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-iri) and [blank node identifiers](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-blank-node-identifier) (see [note below](#blank-node-label) regarding access to [blank node identifiers](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-blank-node-identifier)).  
Let lex =

if the value n is an [RDF Literal](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-literal), the [lexical form](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-lexical-form) of the literal (see [[rdf11-concepts](#bib-rdf11-concepts)] [section 3.3 Literals](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#section-Graph-Literal)).

if the value n is an [IRI](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-iri), the [IRI string](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-iri) (see [[rdf11-concepts](#bib-rdf11-concepts)] [section 3.2 IRIs](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#section-iris)).

if the value n is a [blank node](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-blank-node), the [blank node identifier](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-blank-node-identifier) (see [[rdf11-concepts](#bib-rdf11-concepts)] [section 3.4 Blank Nodes](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#section-blank-nodes)).

Let len = the number of unicode codepoints in lex  
For a node n and constraint value v, nodeSatisfies(n, v):

for "length" constraints, v = len,

for "minlength" constraints, v >= len,

for "maxlength" constraints, v <= len,

for "pattern" constraints, v is unescaped into a valid [XPath 3.1 regular expression](https://www.w3.org/TR/xpath-functions-31/#regex-syntax)[[xpath-functions-31](#bib-xpath-functions-31)] re and invoking [fn:matches](https://www.w3.org/TR/xpath-functions-31/#func-matches)(lex, re) returns fn:true. If the flags parameter is present, it is passed as a third argument to fn:matches. The pattern may have XPath 3.1 regular expression escape sequences per the modified production [10] in [section 5.6.1.1](https://www.w3.org/TR/xpath-functions-31/#matching-start-and-end) as well as numeric escape sequences of the form 'u' HEX HEX HEX HEX or 'U' HEX HEX HEX HEX HEX HEX HEX HEX. Unescaping replaces numeric escape sequences with the corresponding unicode codepoint.

String Facets example 1

{ "type": "Schema", "shapes": [  
 { "id": "http://schema.example/#IssueShape",  
 "type": "Shape", "expression": {  
 "type": "TripleConstraint",  
 "predicate": "http://schema.example/#submittedBy",  
 "valueExpr": { "type": "NodeConstraint", "minlength": 10 } } } ] }

ex:IssueShape {  
 ex:submittedBy MINLENGTH 10  
 }

json

<issue1> ex:submittedBy <http://a.example/bob> . # 20 characters  
<issue2> ex:submittedBy "Bob" . # 3 characters

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| node | shape | result | reason |
| <issue1> | <IssueShape> | pass |  |
| <issue2> | <IssueShape> | fail | ex:submittedBy expected to be >= 10 characters, 3 characters found. |

Note

Access to [blank node identifiers](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-blank-node-identifier) may be impossible or unadvisable for many use cases. For instance, the SPARQL Query and SPARQL Update languages treat blank nodes in the query, labeled or otherwise, as variables. Lexical constraints on [blank node identifiers](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-blank-node-identifier) can only be implemented in systems which preserve such labels on data import.

String Facets example 2

{ "type": "Schema", "shapes": [  
 { "id": "http://schema.example/#IssueShape",  
 "type": "Shape", "expression": {  
 "type": "TripleConstraint",  
 "predicate": "http://schema.example/#submittedBy",  
 "valueExpr": { "type": "NodeConstraint",  
 "pattern": "genuser[0-9]+", "flags": "i" }  
} } ] }

ex:IssueShape {  
 ex:submittedBy /genuser[0-9]+/i  
 }

json

<issue6> ex:submittedBy \_:genUser218 .  
<issue7> ex:submittedBy \_:genContact817 .

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| node | shape | result | reason |
| <issue6> | <IssueShape> | pass |  |
| <issue7> | <IssueShape> | fail | \_:genContact817 expected to match genuser[0-9]+. |

When expressed as JSON strings, regular expressions are subject to the JSON string escaping rules.

String Facets example 3

{ "type": "Schema", "shapes": [  
 { "id": "http://schema.example/#ProductShape",  
 "type": "Shape", "expression": {  
 "type": "TripleConstraint",  
 "predicate": "http://schema.example/#trademark",  
 "valueExpr": { "type": "NodeConstraint",  
 "pattern": "^/\\t\\\\\uD835\uDCB8\\?$" }  
} } ] }

ex:ProductShape {  
 ex:trademark /^\/\t\\\U0001D4B8\?$/  
 }

json

<product6> ex:trademark " \\𝒸?" .  
<product7> ex:trademark "\t\\\U0001D4B8?" . # Turtle literals have escape characters [tbnrf"'\].  
<product8> ex:trademark "\t\\\\U0001D4B8?" .

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| node | shape | result | reason |
| <product6> | <ProductShape> | pass |  |
| <product7> | <ProductShape> | pass |  |
| <product8> | <ProductShape> | fail | found "\U0001D4B8" instead of "𝒸" (codepoint U+1D4B8). |

XML Schema Numeric Facet Constraints

Numeric facet constraints apply to the numeric value of [RDF Literals](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-literal) with datatypes listed in [SPARQL 1.1 Operand Data Types](https://www.w3.org/TR/sparql11-query/#operandDataTypes)[[sparql11-query](#bib-sparql11-query)]. Numeric constraints on non-numeric values fail. totaldigits and fractiondigits constraints on values not derived from xsd:decimal fail.

Let num be the numeric value of n.  
For a node n and constraint value v, nodeSatisfies(n, v):

for "mininclusive" constraints, v <= num,

for "minexclusive" constraints, v < num,

for "maxinclusive" constraints, v >= num,

for "maxexclusive" constraints, v > num,

for "totaldigits" constraints, v is less than or equals the number of digits in the [XML Schema canonical form](https://www.w3.org/TR/xmlschema-2/#dt-canonical-representation)[[xmlschema-2](#bib-xmlschema-2)] of the value of n,

for "fractiondigits" constraints, v is less than or equals the number of digits to the right of the decimal place in the [XML Schema canonical form](https://www.w3.org/TR/xmlschema-2/#dt-canonical-representation)[[xmlschema-2](#bib-xmlschema-2)] of the value of n, ignoring trailing zeros.

The operators <=, <, >= and > are evaluated after performing [numeric type promotion](https://www.w3.org/TR/xpath20/#promotion)[[xpath20](#bib-xpath20)].

Numeric Facets example 1

{ "type": "Schema", "shapes": [  
 { "id": "http://schema.example/#IssueShape",  
 "type": "Shape", "expression": {  
 "type": "TripleConstraint",  
 "predicate": "http://schema.example/#confirmations",  
 "valueExpr": { "type": "NodeConstraint", "mininclusive": 1 } } } ] }

ex:IssueShape {  
 ex:confirmations MININCLUSIVE 1  
 }

json

<issue1> ex:confirmations 1 .  
<issue2> ex:confirmations 2^^xsd:byte .  
<issue3> ex:confirmations 0 .  
<issue4> ex:confirmations "ii"^^ex:romanNumeral .

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| node | shape | result | reason |
| <issue1> | <IssueShape> | pass |  |
| <issue2> | <IssueShape> | pass |  |
| <issue3> | <IssueShape> | fail | 0 is less than 1. |
| <issue4> | <IssueShape> | fail | ex:romanNumeral is not a numeric datatype. |

Values Constraint

The nodeSatisfies semantics for [NodeConstraint](#dfn-nodeconstraint) values depends on a nodeIn function [defined below](#nodeIn).

For a node n and constraint value v, nodeSatisfies(n, v) if n matches some [valueSetValue](#dfn-valuesetvalue) vsv in v. A term matches a valueSetValue if:

vsv is an [objectValue](#dfn-objectvalue) and n = vsv.

vsv is a [Language](#dfn-language) with languageTag lt and n is a [language-tagged string](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-language-tagged-string) with a [language tag](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-language-tag) l and l = lt.

vsv is a [IriStem](#dfn-iristem), [LiteralStem](#dfn-literalstem) or [LanguageStem](#dfn-languagestem) with stem st and nodeIn(n, st).

vsv is a [IriStemRange](#dfn-iristemrange), [LiteralStemRange](#dfn-literalstemrange) or [LanguageStemRange](#dfn-languagestemrange) with stem st and exclusions excls and nodeIn(n, st) and there is no x in excls such that nodeIn(n, excl).

vsv is a [Wildcard](#dfn-wildcard) with exclusions excls and there is no x in excls such that nodeIn(n, excl).

nodeIn: asserts that an RDF node n is equal to an RDF term s or is in a set defined by a [IriStem](#dfn-iristem), [LiteralStem](#dfn-literalstem) or [LanguageStem](#dfn-languagestem).  
The expression nodeIn(n, s) is satisfied if:

n = s.

s is a [IriStem](#dfn-iristem), [LiteralStem](#dfn-literalstem) or [LanguageStem](#dfn-languagestem) with stem st and:

s is a [IriStem](#dfn-iristem) and n is an [IRI](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-iri) and [fn:starts-with](https://www.w3.org/TR/xpath-functions-31/#func-starts-with)(n, st).

s is a [LiteralStem](#dfn-literalstem) and n is an [RDF Literal](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-literal) with a lexical value l and [fn:starts-with](https://www.w3.org/TR/xpath-functions-31/#func-starts-with)(l, st).

s is a [LanguageStem](#dfn-languagestem), n is a [language-tagged string](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-language-tagged-string) with a [language tag](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-language-tag) l, st is a basic language range per [Matching of Language Tags](http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc4647.txt) [[rfc4647](#bib-rfc4647)] section 2.1 and l matches st per the basic filtering scheme defined in [[rfc4647](#bib-rfc4647)] section 3.3.1. The basic language range wildcard ("\*") is represented by an empty stem ("").

Values Constraint example 1

NoActionIssueShape requires a state of Resolved or Rejected:

{ "type": "Schema", "shapes": [  
 { "id": "http://schema.example/#NoActionIssueShape",  
 "type": "Shape", "expression": {  
 "type": "TripleConstraint",  
 "predicate": "http://schema.example/#state",  
 "valueExpr": {  
 "type": "NodeConstraint", "values": [  
 "http://schema.example/#Resolved",  
 "http://schema.example/#Rejected" ] } } } ] }

ex:NoActionIssueShape {  
 ex:state [ ex:Resolved ex:Rejected ]  
 }

json

<issue1> ex:state ex:Resolved .  
<issue2> ex:state ex:Unresolved .

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| node | shape | result | reason |
| <issue1> | <NoActionIssueShape> | pass |  |
| <issue2> | <NoActionIssueShape> | fail | ex:state expected to be ex:Resolved or ex:Rejected, ex:Unresolved found. |

Values Constraint example 2

An employee must have an email address that is the string "N/A" or starts with "engineering-" or "sales-" but not "sales-contacts" or "sales-interns":

{ "type": "Schema", "shapes": [  
 { "id": "http://schema.example/#EmployeeShape",  
 "type": "Shape", "expression": {  
 "type": "TripleConstraint",  
 "predicate": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/mbox",  
 "valueExpr": {  
 "type": "NodeConstraint", "values": [  
 {"value": "N/A"},  
 { "type": "IriStem", "stem": "mailto:engineering-" },  
 { "type": "IriStemRange", "stem": "mailto:sales-", "exclusions": [  
 { "type": "IriStem", "stem": "mailto:sales-contacts" },  
 { "type": "IriStem", "stem": "mailto:sales-interns" }  
 ] }  
 ] } } } ] }

ex:EmployeeShape {  
 foaf:mbox [ "N/A"  
 <mailto:engineering->~  
 <mailto:sales->~  
 - <mailto:sales-contacts>~  
 - <mailto:sales-interns>~ ]  
 }

json

<issue3> foaf:mbox "N/A" .  
<issue4> foaf:mbox <mailto:engineering-2112@a.example> .  
<issue5> foaf:mbox <mailto:sales-835@a.example> .  
<issue6> foaf:mbox "missing" .  
<issue7> foaf:mbox <mailto:sales-contacts-999@a.example> .

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| node | shape | result | reason |
| <issue3> | <EmployeeShape> | pass |  |
| <issue4> | <EmployeeShape> | pass |  |
| <issue5> | <EmployeeShape> | pass |  |
| <issue6> | <EmployeeShape> | fail | "missing" is not in value set. |
| <issue7> | <EmployeeShape> | fail | <mailto:sales-contacts-999@a.example> is excluded. |

Values Constraint example 3

An employee must not have an email address that starts with "engineering-" or "sales-":

{ "type": "Schema", "shapes": [  
 { "id": "http://schema.example/#EmployeeShape",  
 "type": "Shape", "expression": {  
 "type": "TripleConstraint",  
 "predicate": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/mbox",  
 "valueExpr": {  
 "type": "NodeConstraint", "values": [  
 { "type": "IriStemRange", "stem": {"type": "Wildcard"},  
 "exclusions": [  
 { "type": "IriStem", "stem": "mailto:engineering-" },  
 { "type": "IriStem", "stem": "mailto:sales-" }  
 ] }  
 ] } } } ] }

ex:EmployeeShape {  
 foaf:mbox [ . - <mailto:engineering->~ - <mailto:sales->~ ]  
 }

json

<issue8> foaf:mbox 123 .  
<issue9> foaf:mbox <mailto:core-engineering-2112@a.example> .  
<issue10> foaf:mbox <mailto:engineering-2112@a.example> .

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| node | shape | result | reason |
| <issue8> | <EmployeeShape> | pass |  |
| <issue9> | <EmployeeShape> | pass |  |
| <issue10> | <EmployeeShape> | fail | <mailto:engineering-2112@a.example> is excluded. |

A value set can have a single value in it. This is used to indicate that a specific value is required, e.g. that an ex:state must be equal to <http://schema.example/#Resolved> or the rdf:type of some node must be foaf:Person.

Shapes and Triple Expressions

Triple expressions are used for defining patterns composed of triple constraints. Shapes associate [triple expressions](#dfn-triple-expressions) with flags indicating whether triples match if they do not correspond to triple constraints in the [triple expression](#dfn-triple-expressions). A triple expression is composed of [TripleConstraint](#dfn-tripleconstraint) and [tripleExprRef](#dfn-tripleexprref) objects composed with grouping and choice operators.

JSON Syntax

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Shape | { | extends:[[shapeExprRef](#dfn-shapeexprref)]? closed:[BOOL](#dfn-bool)? extra:[[IRIREF](#dfn-iriref)+]? expression:[tripleExpr](#dfn-tripleexpr)? semActs:[[SemAct](#dfn-semact)+]? annotations:[[Annotation](#dfn-annotation)+]? } |
| tripleExpr | = | [EachOf](#dfn-eachof) | [OneOf](#dfn-oneof) | [TripleConstraint](#dfn-tripleconstraint) | [tripleExprRef](#dfn-tripleexprref) ; |
| EachOf | { | id:[tripleExprLabel](#dfn-tripleexprlabel)? expressions:[[tripleExpr](#dfn-tripleexpr){2,}] min:[INTEGER](#dfn-integer)? max:[INTEGER](#dfn-integer)? semActs:[[SemAct](#dfn-semact)+]? annotations:[[Annotation](#dfn-annotation)+]? } |
| OneOf | { | id:[tripleExprLabel](#dfn-tripleexprlabel)? expressions:[[tripleExpr](#dfn-tripleexpr){2,}] min:[INTEGER](#dfn-integer)? max:[INTEGER](#dfn-integer)? semActs:[[SemAct](#dfn-semact)+]? annotations:[[Annotation](#dfn-annotation)+]? } |
| TripleConstraint | { | id:[tripleExprLabel](#dfn-tripleexprlabel)? inverse:[BOOL](#dfn-bool)? [predicate](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-predicate):[IRIREF](#dfn-iriref) valueExpr:[shapeExpr](#dfn-shapeexpr)? min:[INTEGER](#dfn-integer)? max:[INTEGER](#dfn-integer)? semActs:[[SemAct](#dfn-semact)+]? annotations:[[Annotation](#dfn-annotation)+]? } |
| tripleExprRef | = | [tripleExprLabel](#dfn-tripleexprlabel) ; |
| tripleExprLabel | = | [IRIREF](#dfn-iriref) | [BNODE](#dfn-bnode) ; |

Semantics

The semantics of the matchesShape function are based on the matches function [defined below](#matches). A [shape](#dfn-shape) may have an expression. For the purposes of evaluation, we define an EmptyExpression which has no [TripleConstraint](#dfn-tripleconstraint)s.

parentShapeLabels is a function from a [shape](#dfn-shape) label to the set of [shapeExprLabels](#dfn-shapeexprlabel) parents of the labels in shape.extends as well as their parents in the [extension hierarchy graph](#dfn-extension-hierarchy-graph).

For a [node](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-node) n, [shape](#dfn-shape) S, [graph](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-rdf-graph) G, a ShExSchema Sch, a [typing](#dfn-typing) m, and a subset R of neigh(n), matchesShape(n, S, G, Sch, m, R) if and only if:

parents is the set parentShapeLabels(S). If s.extends does not exist, then parentShapeLabels(s) is the empty set.

nCard is the length of parents.

R can be partitioned into two sets matched and remainder

matched is partitioned into nCard+1 parts R0, R1 ... RnCard such that

matches(R0, S.tripleExpr, m)

satisfies(n, constraint(L), G, Sch, m, matched)

for every i in 1..nCard, matches(Ri, mainShape(parentsi), m)

for every i in 1..nCard, satisfies(n, constraint(parenti), G, Sch, m, Ri ∪ Q) where Q is the union of all the Rj s.t. parentj is a parent of parenti.

Let outs be the [arcsOut](#dfn-arcsout) in remainder: outs = remainder ∩ [arcsOut](#dfn-arcsout)(G, n).

Let matchables be the triples in outs whose [predicate](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-predicate) appears in a [TripleConstraint](#dfn-tripleconstraint) in one of the mainShape(parentsi) or in S.expression.

There is no triple in matchables which matches a [TripleConstraint](#dfn-tripleconstraint) in one of the mainShape(parentsi) nor one of the TripleConstraint in S.expression.  
Let unmatchables be the triples in outs which are not in matchables. matchables ∪ unmatchables = outs.

There is no triple in matchables whose [predicate](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-predicate) does not appear in extra.

closed is false or unmatchables is empty.

NOTE—The complexity of partitioning is described briefly in the [ShEx2 Primer](file:///C:/src/shexSpec/primer/#partition-complexity)

matches: asserts that a [triple expression](#dfn-triple-expressions) is matched by a set of triples that come from the neighbourhood of a node in an [RDF graph](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-rdf-graph). The expression matches(T, expr, m) indicates that a set of triples T can satisfy these rules:

* expr has semActs and matches(T, expr, m) by the remaining rules in this list and the evaluation of semActs succeeds according to the section below on [Semantic Actions](#semantic-actions).
* matches(
* T,
* { "type": "OneOf", "shapeExprs": [te1, te2, …], "min": 2, "max": 3,   
   "semActs": [SemAct1, SemAct2, …] }
* ( | ) {2,3}    
   %<SemAct>% %<SemAct2>% …
* json
* ,  
  m)
* evaluates as:
* matches(
* T,
* { "type": "OneOf", "shapeExprs": [te1, te2, …], "min": 2, "max": 3 }
* ( | ) {2,3}
* json
* ,  
  m)
* and [semActsSatisfied](#semActsSatisfied)([SemAct1, SemAct2, …])
* expr has a cardinality of min and/or max not equal to 1, where a max of -1 is treated as unbounded, and T can be partitioned into k subsets T1, T2,…Tk such that min ≤ k ≤ max and for each Tn, matches(Tn, expr, m) by the remaining rules in this list.
* matches(
* T,
* { "type": "OneOf", "shapeExprs": [te1, te2, …], "min": 2, "max": 3 }
* ( | ) {2,3}
* json
* ,  
  m)
* evaluates as:
* Let e =
* { "type": "OneOf", "shapeExprs": [te1, te2, …] }
* ( | )
* json
* (matches(T1, e, m) and matches(T2, e, m)  
   and T = T1 ∪ T2)  
  or  
  (matches(T1, e, m) and matches(T2, e, m) and matches(T3, e, m)  
   and T = T1 ∪ T2 ∪ T3)
* expr is a [OneOf](#dfn-oneof) and there is some [shape expression](#dfn-shape-expressions) se2 in shapeExprs such that matches(T, se2, m).
* matches(
* T,
* { "type": "OneOf", "shapeExprs": [  
   { "type": "EachOf", "shapeExprs": [te3, te4, …] },  
   { "type": "TripleExpression", "min": 1, "max": -1,  
   "predicate": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/name" }  
  ] }
* ( ; )  
   | <http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/name> . +
* json
* ,  
  m)
* evaluates as:
* matches(
* T,
* { "type": "EachOf", "shapeExprs": [te3, te4, …] }
* ;
* json
* ,  
  m)
* or matches(
* T,
* { "type": "TripleExpression", "min": 1, "max": -1,   
   "predicate": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/name" }
* <http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/name> . +
* json
* ,  
  m)
* expr is an [EachOf](#dfn-eachof) and there is some partition of T into T1, T2,… such that for every expression expr1, expr2,… in shapeExprs, matches(Tn, exprn, m).
* matches(
* T,
* { "type": "EachOf", "shapeExprs": [  
   { "type": "TripleExpression",  
   "predicate": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/givenName" },  
   { "type": "TripleExpression",  
   "predicate": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/familyName" }  
  ] }
* <http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/givenName> . ;  
    
  <http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/familyName> .
* json
* ,  
  m)
* evaluates as:
* matches(
* T1,
* { "type": "TripleExpression",  
   "predicate": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/givenName" }
* <http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/givenName> .
* json
* ,  
  m)
* and matches(
* T2,
* { "type": "TripleExpression",  
   "predicate": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/familyName" }
* <http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/familyName> .
* json
* ,  
  m)
* and T = T1 ∪ T2
* expr is a [TripleConstraint](#dfn-tripleconstraint) and:
  + T is a set of one triple.  
    Let t be the sole triple in T.
  + t's [predicate](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-predicate) equals expr's [predicate](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-predicate).  
    Let value be t's subject if inverse is true, else t's object.
  + if inverse is true, t is in [arcsIn](#dfn-arcsin), else t is in [arcsOut](#dfn-arcsout).
  + either
    - expr has no valueExpr
    - matches(
    - T,
    - { "type": "TripleExpression",  
       "predicate": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/givenName" }
    - <http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/givenName> . ;
    - json
    - ,  
      m)
    - holds if
      * T has exactly one triple t.
      * t has the [predicate](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-predicate) "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/givenName"
    - or expr.valueExpr is a shapeExprRef, then shapeExprRef.label is in m(value)
    - or expr.valueExpr is not a shapeExprRef, then satisfies(value, valueExpr, G, Sch, m, neigh(value)).
    - matches(
    - T,
    - { "type": "TripleConstraint", "inverse": true,  
       "predicate": "http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/author",  
       "valueExpr": "http://schema.example/#IssueShape" }
    - ^<http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/author>  
       @<http://schema.example/#IssueShape>
    - json
    - ,  
      m)
    - holds if
      * T has exactly one triple t.
      * t has the [predicate](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-predicate) "http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/author"
      * t has a subject n2
      * The schema's [shapes](#dfn-shapes) maps "http://schema.example/#IssueShape" to se2
      * satisfies(n2, se2, G, Sch, m)
* expr is a [tripleExprRef](#dfn-tripleexprref) and satisfies(value, tripleExprWithId(tripleExprRef), G, Sch, Sch, m).  
  The [tripleExprWithId](#dfn-tripleexprwithid) function is defined in [Triple Expression Reference Requirement](#tripleExprRef-requirement) below.
* For the schema
* { "type": "Schema", "shapes": [  
   { "id": "http://schema.example/#EmployeeShape",  
   "type": "Shape", "expression": {  
   "type": "EachOf", "expressions": [  
   "http://schema.example/#nameExpr",  
   { "type": "TripleConstraint",  
   "predicate": "http://schema.example/#empID",  
   "valueExpr": { "type": "NodeConstraint",  
   "datatype": "http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#integer" } } ] } },  
   { "id": "http://schema.example/#PersonShape",  
   "type": "Shape", "expression": {  
   "id": "http://schema.example/#nameExpr",  
   "type": "TripleConstraint",  
   "predicate": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/name" } } ] }
* <http://schema.example/#EmployeeShape> {  
   & ;  
   <http://schema.example/#empID>  
   <http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#integer>  
    
    
    
  }  
  <http://schema.example/#PersonShape> {  
    
     
   <http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/name> . ;  
  }
* json
* matches(
* T,
* "http://schema.example/#PersonShape"
* ,  
  m)
* holds if
  + The schema has a shape se2 with the id "http://schema.example/#PersonShape"
  + satisfies(n, se2, G, Sch, m)

ShEx Import

The presence of imports requires that:

each IRI in imports be resolved and

the returned representation of that IRI be interpreted as a ShEx S and

each [shapeExpr](#dfn-shapeexpr) in S.shapes be in scope for resolving shape expression references and

each [tripleExpr](#dfn-tripleexpr) with a [tripleExprLabel](#dfn-tripleexprlabel) be in scope for resolving triple expression references.

If any imported schema imports other schemas, shape and triple expression labels from those schemas are also in scope.

Import example 1 - Shape and Triple Expressions

schema1:  
{ "type": "Schema", "imports": ["http://schema.example/schema2"], "shapes": [  
 { "id": "http://schema.example/#EmployeeShape",  
 "type": "Shape", "expression": {  
 "type": "EachOf", "expressions": [  
 "http://schema.example/#nameExpr",  
 { "type": "TripleConstraint",  
 "predicate": "http://schema.example/#empID",  
 "valueExpr": { "type": "NodeConstraint",  
 "datatype": "http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#integer" } } ] } } ] }  
schema2:  
{ "type": "Schema", "shapes": [  
 { "id": "http://schema.example/#PersonShape",  
 "type": "Shape", "expression": {  
 "id": "http://schema.example/#nameExpr",  
 "type": "TripleConstraint",  
 "predicate": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/name" } } ] }

<http://schema.example/#EmployeeShape> {  
 &<http://schema.example/#nameExpr> ;  
 <http://schema.example/#empID>  
 <http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#integer>  
  
  
  
  
}  
  
 {  
  
   
 <http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/name> ;  
}

json

Both the shape expression <PersonShape> and the triple expression <nameExpr> are in scope.  
schema2's <nameExpr> is referenced in schema1's <EmployeeShape>

Redundant imports are treated as a single import. This includes circular imports:

Import example 2 - Circular Import

schema1:  
{ "type": "Schema",  
 "imports": ["http://schema.example/schema2", "http://schema.example/schema3"],  
 "shapes": [  
 { "id": "http://schema.example/schema1#S1",  
 "type": "Shape", "expression": {  
 "type": "TripleConstraint", "predicate": "http://schema.example/#p1",  
 "valueExpr": "http://schema.example/schema1#S2"  
 } } ] }  
schema2:  
{ "type": "Schema",  
 "imports": ["http://schema.example/schema3"],  
 "shapes": [  
 { "id": "http://schema.example/schema1#S2",  
 "type": "Shape", "expression": {  
 "type": "TripleConstraint", "predicate": "http://schema.example/#p2",  
 "valueExpr": "http://schema.example/schema1#S3"  
 } } ] }  
schema3:  
{ "type": "Schema",  
 "imports": ["http://schema.example/schema1"],  
 "shapes": [  
 { "id": "http://schema.example/schema1#S3",  
 "type": "Shape", "expression": {  
 "type": "TripleConstraint", "predicate": "http://schema.example/#p3",  
 "valueExpr": "http://schema.example/schema1#S1", "min": 0,  
 } } ] }

IMPORT <http://schema.example/schema2>  
IMPORT <http://schema.example/schema3>  
<http://schema.example/schema1#S1> {  
  
 <http://schema.example/#p1> @<http://schema.example/schema1#S2>  
  
  
  
  
IMPORT <http://schema.example/schema3>  
  
<http://schema.example/schema1#S2> {  
  
 <http://schema.example/#p2> @<http://schema.example/schema1#S3>  
  
  
  
  
IMPORT <http://schema.example/schema1>  
  
<http://schema.example/schema1#S3> {  
  
 <http://schema.example/#p3> @<http://schema.example/schema1#S1>?

json

When some schema A imports schema B, B's [start](#dfn-start) member is ignored.

Import example 3 - Ignored Start In Import

schema1:  
{ "type": "Schema",  
 "imports": ["http://schema.example/schema2"],  
 "shapes": [  
 { "id": "http://schema.example/schema1#S1",  
 "type": "Shape", "expression": {  
 "type": "TripleConstraint", "predicate": "http://schema.example/#p1",  
 "valueExpr": "http://schema.example/schema1#S2"  
 } } ] }  
schema2:  
{ "type": "Schema",  
 "start": "http://schema.example/schema1#S2",  
 "shapes": [  
 { "id": "http://schema.example/schema1#S2",  
 "type": "Shape", "expression": {  
 "type": "TripleConstraint", "predicate": "http://schema.example/#p2"  
 } } ] }

IMPORT <http://schema.example/schema2>  
  
<http://schema.example/schema1#S1> {  
  
 <http://schema.example/#p1> @<http://schema.example/schema1#S2>  
  
}  
  
  
  
  
<http://schema.example/schema1#S2> {  
  
 <http://schema.example/#p2> .  
}

json

schema1 has no start even though it imports a schema with a start.

It is an error if A and B share any labels for shape expressions or triple expressions or if schema B has a [startActs](#dfn-startacts) member.

Import example 4 - Erroneous Import

schema1:  
{ "type": "Schema",  
 "imports": ["http://schema.example/schema2"],  
 "shapes": [  
 { "id": "http://schema.example/schema1#S1",  
 "type": "Shape", "expression": {  
 "type": "TripleConstraint", "predicate": "http://schema.example/#p1",  
 "valueExpr": "http://schema.example/schema1#S2"  
 } } ] }  
schema2:  
{ "type": "Schema",  
"startActs": [ { "type": "semAct",  
 "name": "http://schema.example/schema1#A1" } ],  
 "shapes": [  
 { "id": "http://schema.example/schema1#S1",  
 "type": "Shape", "expression": {  
 "type": "TripleConstraint", "predicate": "http://schema.example/#p1",  
 "valueExpr": "http://schema.example/schema1#S2"  
 } },  
 { "id": "http://schema.example/schema1#S2",  
 "type": "Shape", "expression": {  
 "type": "TripleConstraint", "predicate": "http://schema.example/#p2",  
 "valueExpr": "http://schema.example/schema1#S3"  
 } } ] }

IMPORT <http://schema.example/schema2>  
  
<http://schema.example/schema1#S1> {  
  
 <http://schema.example/#p1> @<http://schema.example/schema1#S2>  
  
}  
  
  
  
  
  
 {  
  
 <http://schema.example/#p1> @<http://schema.example/schema1#S2>  
  
}  
<http://schema.example/schema1#S2> {  
  
 <http://schema.example/#p2>   
  
}

json

This import fails because:

<http://schema.example/schema1#S1> has conflicting definitions and

an included schema has a start directive and

the reference to <http://schema.example/schema1#S3> is not resolvable after imports.

Schema Requirements

The semantics defined above assume three structural requirements beyond those imposed by the grammar of the abstract syntax. These ensure referential integrity and eliminate logical paradoxes such as those that arrise through the use of negation. These are not constraints expressed by the schema but instead those imposed on the schema.

Schema Validation Requirement

A [graph](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-rdf-graph) G is said to conform with a [schema](#dfn-shapes-schema) S with a ShapeMap m when:

Every, [SemAct](#dfn-semact) in the [startActs](#dfn-startacts) of S has a successful evaluation of [semActsSatisfied](#semActsSatisfied).

Every [node](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-node) n in m [conforms](#dfn-conforms) to its associated [shapeExprRefs](#dfn-shapeexprref) sen where for each [shapeExprRef](#dfn-shapeexprref) sei in sen:

1. sei references a [ShapeExpr](#dfn-shapeexpr) in [shapes](#dfn-shapes), and
2. [satisfies](#dfn-satisfies)(n, sei, G, Sch, m) for each [shape](#dfn-shape) sei in sen.

Shape Expression Reference Requirement

A [shapeExprRef](#dfn-shapeexprref) *MUST* appear in the schema's [shapes](#dfn-shapes) map (or an [imported schema's](#import) map) and the corresponding [shape expression](#dfn-shape-expressions) *MUST* be a [Shape](#dfn-shape) with a shapeExpr. The function shapeExprWithId(shapeExprRef) returns the shape expression with an id of shapeExprRef.

Additionally, a [shapeExprLabel](#dfn-shapeexprlabel) cannot refer to itself through a shape reference either directly or recursively. The shapeExprRef closure of a [shape expression](#dfn-shape-expressions) se is the set of shape expression labels used as references in se. The [shapeExprLabel](#dfn-shapeexprlabel) sl belongs to shapeExprRefClosure(se) if and only if:

sl appears as an atomic [shapeExprRef](#dfn-shapeexprref) in se, or

sl belongs to shapeExprRefClosure(shapeExprWithId(sl2)) for some [shapeExprLabel](#dfn-shapeexprlabel) sl2 that belongs to shapeExprRefClosure(se).

A shapes schema *MUST NOT* define a shape label sl that belongs to the shapeExprRef closure of its definition shapeExprWithId(sl).

Following are two valid shapeExprRefs:

{"type" : "Schema",  
 "shapes" : [ {  
 "id" : "http://schema.example/#PersonShape",  
 "type" : "Shape",  
 "expression" : {  
 "type" : "TripleConstraint",  
 "predicate" : "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/name"  
 }  
 }, {  
 "id" : "http://schema.example/#EmployeeShape",  
 "type" : "ShapeAnd",  
 "shapeExprs" : [ "http://schema.example/#PersonShape", {  
 "type" : "Shape",  
 "expression" : {  
 "type" : "TripleConstraint",  
 "predicate" : "http://schema.example/#employeeNumber"  
 }  
 } ]  
 } ]  
}

ex:PersonShape {  
  
  
  
 foaf:name .  
 }  
  
 ex:EmployeeShape  
  
 @ex:PersonShape AND {  
  
  
  
 ex:employeeNumber .  
 }

json

{"type" : "Schema",  
 "shapes" : [ {  
 "id" : "http://schema.example/#PersonShape",  
 "type" : "Shape",  
 "expression" : {  
 "type" : "TripleConstraint",  
 "predicate" : "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/name"  
 }  
 }, {  
 "id" : "http://schema.example/#EmployeeShape",  
 "type" : "Shape",  
 "expression" : {  
 "type" : "TripleConstraint",  
 "predicate" : "http://schema.example/#dependent",  
 "valueExpr" : "http://schema.example/#PersonShape",  
 "min" : 0,  
 "max" : -1  
 }  
 } ]  
}

ex:PersonShape {  
  
  
  
 foaf:name .  
 }  
  
 ex:EmployeeShape {  
  
  
  
 ex:dependent  
 @ex:PersonShape  
 \*  
  
 }

json

This shapeExprRef is invalid because there is no corresponding [shape expression](#dfn-shape-expressions):

{ "type":"Schema", "shapes": [  
 { "id": "http://schema.example/#S1",  
 "type":"Shape", "expression":  
 "http://schema.example/#MissingShapeExpr"  
} ] }

ex:S1 {  
  
 &ex:MissingShapeExpr  
}

json

This shapeExprRef is invalid because the referenced object is a [triple expression](#dfn-triple-expressions) instead of a [shape expression](#dfn-shape-expressions):

{"type" : "Schema",  
 "shapes" : [ {  
 "id" : "http://schema.example/#CustomerShape",  
 "type" : "Shape",  
 "expression" : {  
 "id" : "http://schema.example/#discountExpr",  
 "type" : "TripleConstraint",  
 "predicate" : "http://schema.example/#discount"  
 }  
 }, {  
 "id" : "http://schema.example/#EmployeeShape",  
 "type" : "Shape",  
 "expression" : {  
 "type" : "TripleConstraint",  
 "predicate" : "http://schema.example/#contactFor",  
 "valueExpr" : "http://schema.example/#discountExpr"  
 }  
 } ]  
}

ex:CustomerShape {  
  
  
 $ex:discountExpr  
  
 ex:discount .  
 }  
  
 ex:EmployeeShape {  
  
  
  
 ex:contactFor  
 @ex:discountExpr  
 }

json

These shapeExprRefs are invalid because they recursively refer to each other.

{"type" : "Schema",  
 "shapes" : [ {  
 "id" : "http://schema.example/#PersonShape",  
 "type" : "ShapeAnd",  
 "shapeExprs" : [ "http://schema.example/#EmployeeShape", {  
 "type" : "Shape",  
 "expression" : {  
 "type" : "TripleConstraint",  
 "predicate" : "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/name"  
 }  
 } ]  
 }, {  
 "id" : "http://schema.example/#EmployeeShape",  
 "type" : "ShapeAnd",  
 "shapeExprs" : [ "http://schema.example/#PersonShape", {  
 "type" : "Shape",  
 "expression" : {  
 "type" : "TripleConstraint",  
 "predicate" : "http://schema.example/#employeeNumber"  
 }  
 } ]  
 } ] }

ex:PersonShape  
  
 @ex:EmployeeShape AND {  
  
  
  
 foaf:name .  
 }  
  
  
 ex:EmployeeShape  
  
 @ex:PersonShape AND {  
  
  
  
 ex:employeeNumber .  
 }

json

Triple Expression Reference Requirement

An [tripleExprRef](#dfn-tripleexprref) *MUST* identify a [triple expression](#dfn-triple-expressions) in the schema. The function tripleExprWithId(tripleExprRef) returns the [triple expression](#dfn-triple-expressions) with the id tripleExprRef.

Additionally, a [tripleExprLabel](#dfn-tripleexprlabel) cannot refer to itself through a triple expression reference either directly or recursively. The tripleExprRef closure of a [triple expression](#dfn-triple-expressions) te is the set of triple expression labels used as references in te. The [tripleExprLabel](#dfn-tripleexprlabel) tl belongs to tripleExprRefClosure(te) if and only if:

tl appears as an atomic [tripleExprRef](#dfn-tripleexprref) in te, or

tl belongs to tripleExprRefClosure(tripleExprWithId(tl2)) for some [tripleExprLabel](#dfn-tripleexprlabel) tl2 that belongs to tripleExprRefClosure(te).

A shapes schema *MUST NOT* define a triple expression label tl that belongs to the tripleExprRef closure of its definition tripleExprWithId(tl).

Following is a valid [triple expression](#dfn-triple-expressions) reference:

{ "type":"Schema", "shapes": [  
 { "id": "http://schema.example/#PersonShape",  
 "type":"Shape", "expression": {  
 "id": "http://schema.example/#nameExpr",  
 "type": "TripleConstraint",  
 "predicate": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/name"  
 } },  
 { "id": "http://schema.example/#EmployeeShape",  
 "type":"Shape", "expression": { "type":"EachOf", "expressions": [  
 "http://schema.example/#nameExpr",  
 { "type": "TripleConstraint",  
 "predicate": "http://schema.example/#employeeNumber" }  
] } } ] }

ex:PersonShape {  
 $ex:nameExpr foaf:name .  
 }  
  
  
  
 ex:EmployeeShape {  
 &ex:nameExpr ;  
 ex:employeeNumber .  
 }

json

This [triple expression](#dfn-triple-expressions) reference is invalid because there is no corresponding triple expression:

{ "type":"Schema", "shapes": [  
 { "id": "http://schema.example/#S1",  
 "type":"Shape", "expression":  
 "http://schema.example/#missingTripleExpr"  
} ] }

ex:S1 {  
 &ex:missingTripleExpr  
 }

json

This triple expression reference is invalid because the referenced object is a [shape expression](#dfn-shape-expressions) instead of a triple expression:

{ "type":"Schema", "shapes": [  
 { "id": "http://schema.example/#CustomerShape",  
 "type":"ShapeAnd", "shapeExprs": [ … ]  
 },  
 { "id": "http://schema.example/#PreferredCustomerShape",  
 "type":"Shape", "expression": { "type":"EachOf", "expressions": [  
 "http://schema.example/#CustomerShape",  
 { "type": "TripleConstraint",  
 "predicate": "http://schema.example/#discount" }  
] } } ] }

ex:CustomerShape {  
 ;   
 }  
 ex:PreferredCustomerShape {  
 &ex:CustomerShape ;  
 ex:discount .  
 }

json

shapeExprRef non-abstract shape requirement

Every [shapeExprRef](#dfn-shapeexprref) referer *MUST* identify at least one non-abstract shape.

Following is a valid example with a shape with a [shapeExprRef](#dfn-shapeexprref) that references an abstract shape with two non-abstract descendants:

{"type" : "Schema",  
 "shapes" : [ {  
 "id": "http://schema.example/#IssueShape",  
 "type": "Shape",  
 "expression": {  
 "type": "TripleConstraint",  
 "predicate": "http://schema.example/#approvedBy",  
 "valueExpr": "http://schema.example/#EngineerShape"  
 }  
 }, {  
 "id" : "http://schema.example/#EntityShape",  
 "type" : "Shape", "abstract": true,  
 "expression" : {  
 "type" : "TripleConstraint",  
 "predicate" : "http://schema.example/#entityId"  
 }  
 }, {  
 "id" : "http://schema.example/#PersonShape",  
 "type" : "Shape",  
 "extends" : [ "http://schema.example/#EntityShape" ],  
 "expression" : {  
 "type" : "TripleConstraint",  
 "predicate" : "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/name"  
 }  
 }, {  
 "id" : "http://schema.example/#EmployeeShape",  
 "type" : "Shape",  
 "extends" : [ "http://schema.example/#PersonShape" ],  
 "expression" : {  
 "type" : "TripleConstraint",  
 "predicate" : "http://schema.example/#employeeNumber"  
 }  
} ] }

ex:IssueShape {  
  
  
  
 ex:approvedBy  
 @ex:EntityShape  
 }  
  
 ABSTRACT ex:EntityShape {  
  
  
  
 ex:entityId .  
 }  
  
 ex:PersonShape EXTENDS @ex:EntityShape {  
  
  
  
  
 foaf:name .  
 }  
  
 ex:EmployeeShape EXTENDS @ex:EntityShape {  
  
  
  
  
 ex:employeeNumber .  
 }

json

This [shapeExprRef](#dfn-shapeexprref) is invalid because it references only abstract descendants:

{"type" : "Schema",  
 "shapes" : [ {  
 "id": "http://schema.example/#IssueShape",  
 "type": "Shape",  
 "expression": {  
 "type": "TripleConstraint",  
 "predicate": "http://schema.example/#approvedBy",  
 "valueExpr": "http://schema.example/#EngineerShape"  
 }  
 }, {  
 "id" : "http://schema.example/#EntityShape",  
 "type" : "Shape", "abstract": true,  
 "expression" : {  
 "type" : "TripleConstraint",  
 "predicate" : "http://schema.example/#entityId"  
 }  
 }, {  
 "id" : "http://schema.example/#PersonShape",  
 "type" : "Shape", "abstract": true,  
 "extends" : [ "http://schema.example/#EntityShape" ],  
 "expression" : {  
 "type" : "TripleConstraint",  
 "predicate" : "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/name"  
 }  
 }, {  
 "id" : "http://schema.example/#EmployeeShape",  
 "type" : "Shape", "abstract": true,  
 "extends" : [ "http://schema.example/#PersonShape" ],  
 "expression" : {  
 "type" : "TripleConstraint",  
 "predicate" : "http://schema.example/#employeeNumber"  
 }  
} ] }

ex:IssueShape {  
  
  
  
 ex:approvedBy  
 @ex:EntityShape  
 }  
  
 ABSTRACT ex:EntityShape {  
  
  
  
 ex:entityId .  
 }  
  
 ABSTRACT ex:PersonShape EXTENDS @ex:EntityShape {  
  
  
  
  
 foaf:name .  
 }  
  
 ABSTRACT ex:EmployeeShape EXTENDS @ex:EntityShape {  
  
  
  
  
 ex:employeeNumber .  
 }

json

Negation Requirement

A schema *MUST NOT* contain any [shapeExprLabel](#dfn-shapeexprlabel) that has a [negated reference](#dfn-negated-reference) to itself, either directly or transitively. This is formalized by the requirement that the [hierarchy and dependency graph](#dfn-hierarchy-and-dependency-graph) of a schema *MUST NOT* have a cycle that traverses some [negated reference](#dfn-negated-reference).

The set of atomic shapes of a [shapeExpr](#dfn-shapeexpr) se contains a [Shape](#dfn-shape) s if s or its id appears either directly or by [shapeExprRef](#dfn-shapeexprref) in se. That is, s belongs to atomicShapes(se) if and only if

s appears as an atomic shape in se, or

sid is the id of s and sid appears as an atomic shapeExprRef in se, or

s belongs to atomicShapes(se2) for some shape expression se2 such that the id of se2 belongs to the shapeExprRefClosure of se.

The set of atomicTripleConstraints of a [tripleExpr](#dfn-tripleexpr) te includes every [TripleConstraint](#dfn-tripleconstraint) tc that appears directly or by [tripleExprRef](#dfn-tripleexprref) in te. That is, tc belongs to [atomicTripleConstraints](#dfn-atomictripleconstraints)(te) if and only if:

tc is an atomic [TripleConstraint](#dfn-tripleconstraint) in te, or

te is an atomic [TripleConstraint](#dfn-tripleconstraint) in tripleExprWithId(tl) for some [tripleExprLabel](#dfn-tripleexprlabel) tl that belongs to tripleExprRefClosure(te).

The shape expression s1 has a reference to the shape label l2 if

there is a shape sh in atomicShapes(s1) and

there is a triple constraint tc in atomicTripleConstraints(sh) and

tc.valueExpr is present and

tc.valueExpr contains a shape reference to l2.

The reference from s1 to l2 is a negated reference if the reference to l2 appears under an odd number of ShapeNot in tc.valueExpr.

The hierarchy and dependency graph of a schema is the graph whose nodes are the shape labels that appear in the shape declarations of the schema, and that has an edge from l1 to l2 if:

the definition of l1 has a reference to l2, or

there is an edge from l1 to l2 in the hieararchy graph, or

there is an edge from l2 to l1 in the hieararchy graph.

The edge from l1 to l2 is negative if the definition of l1 has a negative reference to l2, otherwise the edge is positive.

Examples with [ShapeNot](#dfn-shapenot)

This negated self-reference violates the negation requirement.

{ "type": "Schema", "shapes": [  
 { "id": "http://schema.example/#S",  
 "type": "Shape",  
 "expression": { "type": "TripleConstraint",  
 "predicate": "http://schema.example/#p",  
 "valueExpr": { "type": "ShapeNot",  
 "shapeExpr": "http://schema.example/#S" } } }  
 ] }

ex:S {ex:p @ex:S}

json

This indirect self-reference does not violate the negation requirement.

{ "type": "Schema",  
 "shapes": [  
 { "id": "http://schema.example/#US",  
 "type": "Shape",  
 "expression": { "type": "TripleConstraint",  
 "predicate": "http://schema.example/#Up",  
 "valueExpr": { "type": "ShapeNot",  
 "shapeExpr": "http://schema.example/#UT" } } },  
 { "id": "http://schema.example/#UT",  
 "type": "Shape",  
 "expression": { "type": "TripleConstraint",  
 "predicate": "http://schema.example/#Uq",  
 "valueExpr": "http://schema.example/#US" } }  
 ] }

ex:US {ex:Up NOT @ex:UT}   
  
  
  
  
  
  
ex:UT { ex:Uq @ex:US}

json

This negated, indirect self-reference violates the negation requirement.

{"type" : "Schema",  
 "shapes" : [ {  
 "id" : "http://schema.example/#S",  
 "type" : "Shape",  
 "expression" : {  
 "type" : "TripleConstraint",  
 "predicate" : "http://schema.example/#p",  
 "valueExpr" : {  
 "type" : "ShapeNot",  
 "shapeExpr" : "http://schema.example/#T"  
 }  
 }  
 } , {  
 "id" : "http://schema.example/#T",  
 "type" : "Shape",  
 "expression" : {  
 "type" : "TripleConstraint",  
 "predicate" : "http://schema.example/#q",  
 "valueExpr" : "http://schema.example/#S"  
 }  
 } ] }

ex:S {  
  
  
  
 ex:p   
  
 NOT  
 @ex:T  
 }   
  
  
 ex:T {  
  
  
  
 ex:q  
 @ex:S  
 }

json

This is a direct, negated self-reference of the shape with id ex:T and violates the negation requirement.

{"type" : "Schema",  
 "shapes" : [ {  
 "id" : "http://schema.example/#T",  
 "type" : "Shape",  
 "expression" : {  
 "type" : "TripleConstraint",  
 "predicate" : "http://schema.example/#p",  
 "valueExpr" : "http://schema.example/#S"  
 }  
 } , {  
 "id" : "http://schema.example/#S",  
 "type" : "ShapeAnd",  
 "shapeExprs" : [ {  
 "type" : "ShapeNot",  
 "shapeExpr" : "http://schema.example/#T"  
 }, "http://schema.example/#U" ]  
 }, {  
 "id" : "http://schema.example/#U",  
 "type" : "Shape"  
 } ] }

ex:T {  
  
  
  
 ex:p  
 @ex:S  
 }  
  
 ex:S  
  
  
 (NOT  
 @ex:T)  
 AND @ex:U  
  
 ex:U .

json

This doubly-negated self-reference of ex:T does not violate the negation requirement.

{"type" : "Schema",  
 "shapes" : [{  
 "id" : "http://schema.example/#T",  
 "type" : "Shape",  
 "expression" : {  
 "type" : "TripleConstraint",  
 "predicate" : "http://schema.example/#p",  
 "valueExpr" : "http://schema.example/#S"  
 }  
 } , {  
 "id" : "http://schema.example/#S",  
 "type" : "ShapeNot",  
 "shapeExpr" : {  
 "type" : "ShapeAnd",  
 "shapeExprs" : [ {  
 "type" : "ShapeNot",  
 "shapeExpr" : "http://schema.example/#T"  
 }, "http://schema.example/#U" ]  
 }  
 }, {  
 "id" : "http://schema.example/#U",  
 "type" : "Shape"  
 } ] }

ex:T {  
  
  
  
 ex:p  
 @ex:S  
 }  
  
 ex:S  
 NOT  
  
  
 (  
 (NOT  
 @ex:T)  
 AND @ex:U )  
  
  
 ex:U .

json

There is a cycle of negated references between the shape that defines ex:T and the shape that defines ex:U, so the negation requirement is violated.

{"type" : "Schema",  
 "shapes" : [{  
 "id" : "http://schema.example/#T",  
 "type" : "Shape",  
 "expression" : {  
 "type" : "TripleConstraint",  
 "predicate" : "http://schema.example/#p",  
 "valueExpr" : {  
 "type" : "ShapeNot",  
 "shapeExpr" : "http://schema.example/#S"  
 }  
 }  
 } , {  
 "id" : "http://schema.example/#U",  
 "type" : "Shape",  
 "expression" : {  
 "type" : "TripleConstraint",  
 "predicate" : "http://schema.example/#q",  
 "valueExpr" : "http://schema.example/#S"  
 }  
 }, {  
 "id" : "http://schema.example/#S",  
 "type" : "ShapeAnd",  
 "shapeExprs" : [ {  
 "type" : "ShapeNot",  
 "shapeExpr" : "http://schema.example/#T"  
 }, "http://schema.example/#U" ]  
 } ] }

ex:T {  
  
  
  
 ex:p  
  
 NOT  
 @ex:S  
 }  
  
  
 ex:U {  
  
  
  
 ex:q  
 @ex:S  
 }  
  
 ex:S  
  
  
 (NOT  
 @ex:T)  
 AND @ex:U

json

This satisfies the negation requirement, as ex:U does not refer to ex:T (compared to the previous example).

{"type" : "Schema",  
 "shapes" : [{  
 "id" : "http://schema.example/#T",  
 "type" : "Shape",  
 "expression" : {  
 "type" : "TripleConstraint",  
 "predicate" : "http://schema.example/#p",  
 "valueExpr" : {  
 "type" : "ShapeNot",  
 "shapeExpr" : "http://schema.example/#S"  
 }  
 }  
 } , {  
 "id" : "http://schema.example/#U",  
 "type" : "Shape",  
 "expression" : {  
 "type" : "TripleConstraint",  
 "predicate" : "http://schema.example/#q"  
 }  
 }, {  
 "id" : "http://schema.example/#S",  
 "type" : "ShapeAnd",  
 "shapeExprs" : [ {  
 "type" : "ShapeNot",  
 "shapeExpr" : "http://schema.example/#T"  
 }, "http://schema.example/#U" ]  
 } ] }

ex:T {  
  
  
  
 ex:p  
 NOT  
  
 @ex:S  
 }  
  
  
 ex:U {  
  
  
  
 ex:q .  
 }  
  
 ex:S  
  
  
 (NOT  
 @ex:T)  
 AND @ex:U

json

Examples with [Shape](#dfn-shape).extra predicate

This self-reference on a [predicate](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-predicate) designated as extra violates the negation requirement:

{ "type": "Schema", "shapes": [  
 { "id": "http://schema.example/#S",  
 "type": "Shape",  
 "extra": [ "http://schema.example/#p" ], "expression":  
 { "type": "TripleConstraint",  
 "predicate": "http://schema.example/#p",  
 "valueExpr": "http://schema.example/#S"  
} } ] }

ex:S EXTRA ex:p {  
 ex:p @ex:S  
 }

json

The same shape with a negated self-reference still violates the negation requirement because the reference occurs with a [ShapeNot](#dfn-shapenot):

{ "type": "Schema", "shapes": [  
 { "id": "http://schema.example/#S",  
 "type": "Shape",  
 "extra": [ "http://schema.example/#p" ],  
 "expression": {  
 "type": "TripleConstraint",  
 "predicate": "http://schema.example/#p",  
 "valueExpr": {  
 "type": "ShapeNot", "shapeExpr": "http://schema.example/#S"  
} } } ] }

ex:S EXTRA ex:p {  
 ex:p NOT @ex:S  
 }

json

Acyclic Extension Requirement

The [extension hierarchy graph](#dfn-extension-hierarchy-graph) must be acyclic.

Extension Coherence

A [shapeDecl](#dfn-shapedecl) D with label L and D.shapeExpr se is called extendable if it satisfies all of:

it is of the form either s or ShapeAnd(s, se), where s is a Shape and se is a shapeExpr. In this case we denote s as `mainShape(L)` and se as constraint(L):

def(L') is an extendable shape expression for every L' in s.extends (note that this condition is trivially met when s.extends is empty),

the set `predicates(se) is included the union of the sets predicates([mainShape](#dfn-mainshape)(L')) for all shape expression names L' that belong to [parentShapeLabels](#dfn-parentshapelabels)(L)`.

**Schema requirement** EXTENDS appears only in extendable shape expressions. That is, for every Shape s that appears in the schema, if s.extends is non empty and for every shapeExpr se in the schema, if s belongs to [nestedShapes](#dfn-nestedshapes)(se), then se is an extendable shape expression.

Semantic Actions

Semantic actions serve as an extension point for Shape Expressions. They appear in lists in [Schema](#dfn-shapes-schema)'s startActs and [Shape](#dfn-shape), [OneOf](#dfn-oneof), [EachOf](#dfn-eachof) and [TripleConstraint](#dfn-tripleconstraint)'s semActs.

A semantic action is a tuple of an identifier and some optional code:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| SemAct | { | name:[IRIREF](#dfn-iriref) code:[STRING](#dfn-string)? } |

Semantics

The evaluation semActsSatisfied on a list of [SemAct](#dfn-semact)s returns success or failure. The evaluation of an individual [SemAct](#dfn-semact) is implementation-dependent.

Use - informative

A practical evaluation of a [SemAct](file:///C:\Users\pgibbons\Desktop\SemAct) will provide access to some context. For instance, the [http://shex.io/extensions/Test/](http://shex.io/extensions/Test/#def) extension requires access to the subject, [predicate](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-predicate) and object of a triple matching a [TripleConstraint](#dfn-tripleconstraint). These are used in a print function.

Semantic Actions example 1

{ "type": "Schema", "shapes": [  
 { "id": "http://schema.example/#S1",  
 "type": "Shape", "expression": {  
 "type": "TripleConstraint", "predicate": "http://schema.example/#p1",  
 "min": 1, "max": -1,  
 "semActs": [  
 { "type": "SemAct", "code": " print(s) ",  
 "name": "http://shex.io/extensions/Test/" },  
 { "type": "SemAct", "code": " print(o) ",  
 "name": "http://shex.io/extensions/Test/" } ] } } ] }

ex:S1 {  
 ex:p1 .+ %Test:{ print(s) %} %Test:{ print(o) %}  
 }

json

<http://a.example/n1> <http://a.example/p1> <http://a.example/o1> .  
<http://a.example/n2> <http://a.example/p1> "a", "b" .  
<http://a.example/n3> <http://a.example/p2> <http://a.example/o2> .

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| node | shape | result | print arguments |
| <n1> | <S1> | pass | http://a.example/s1 http://a.example/o1 |
| <n2> | <S1> | pass | http://a.example/s1 "a" http://a.example/s1 "b" |
| <n3> | <S1> | fail |  |

Annotations

Annotations provide a format-independent way to provide additional information about elements in a schema. They appear in lists in [Shape](#dfn-shape), [OneOf](#dfn-oneof), [EachOf](#dfn-eachof) and [TripleConstraint](#dfn-tripleconstraint)'s annotations.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Annotation | { | [predicate](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-predicate):[IRIREF](#dfn-iriref) object:[objectValue](#dfn-objectvalue) } |

Semantics - informative

Annotations do not affect whether a node conforms to some shape. Because they are part of the structure of the schema, they can be parsed in one ShEx format and emitted in that format or another.

Annotations example 1

{ "type": "Schema", "shapes": [  
 { "id": "http://schema.example/#IssueShape",  
 "type": "Shape", "expression": {  
 "type": "TripleConstraint",  
 "predicate": "http://schema.example/#status",  
 "annotations": [  
 { "type": "Annotation",  
 "predicate": "http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#comment",  
 "object": {"value": "Represents reported software issues."} },  
 { "type": "Annotation",  
 "predicate": "http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#label",  
 "object": {"value": "software issue"} } ] } } ] }

ex:IssueShape {  
 ex:status .  
 // rdfs:comment "Represents reported software issues."  
 // rdfs:label "software issue"  
 }

json

Validation Examples

The following examples demonstrate proofs for validations in the form of a nested list of invocations of the evaluation functions defined above.

Simple Examples

Schema:

S1  
  
nc1

{ "type": "Schema", "shapes": [  
 { "id": "http://schema.example/#IntConstraint",  
 "type": "NodeConstraint",  
 "datatype": "http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#integer"  
 } ] }

ex:IntConstraint  
  
 xsd:integer

json

Here the shape identified by http://schema.example/#IntConstraint is a [shape expression](#dfn-shape-expressions) consisting of a single [NodeConstraint](#dfn-nodeconstraint). Per [Shape Expression Semantics](#shape-expression-semantics), "30"^^<http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#integer> satisfies IntConstraint.

This document uses this nested tree convention to indicate that the dependency of an evaluation on those nested inside it. Nesting is expressed as indentation. Here, the evaluation of satisfies NodeConstraint ("30"^^xsd:integer, S1, G, m) depends on satisfies2 NodeConstraint ("30"^^xsd:integer, S1).

Validate "30"^^<http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#integer> as IntConstraint:

[satisfies NodeConstraint](#satisfies-NodeConstraint) ("30"^^xsd:integer, S1, G, m)

[satisfies2 NodeConstraint](#satisfies2-NodeConstraint) ("30"^^xsd:integer, S1)

Validating a shape requires evaluating it's [triple expression](#dfn-triple-expressions) as well as the variables and functions [neigh](#dfn-neigh)(G, n), matched, remainder, outs, matchables and unmatchables:

Schema:

S1  
tc1

{ "type": "Schema", "shapes": [  
 { "id": "http://schema.example/#UserShape",  
 "type": "Shape", "expression":  
 { "type": "TripleConstraint",  
 "predicate": "http://schema.example/#shoeSize"  
 } } ] }

ex:UserShape {  
 ex:shoeSize .  
 }

json

Data:

t1

BASE <http://a.example/>  
PREFIX xsd: <http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#>  
<Alice> ex:shoeSize "30"^^xsd:integer .

Validate <Alice> as http://schema.example/#UserShape:

* G = [t1] The [graph](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-rdf-graph) G consists of one [triple](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-rdf-triple).
* [satisfies Shape](#satisfies-Shape) (<Alice>, S1, G, m)
  + [neigh](#dfn-neigh)(G, <Alice>) = [t1] /\* The neighborhood around <Alice> consists of one triple. \*/
  + matched = [t1] /\* That triple is matched in the nested evaluation. \*/
  + remainder = Ø /\* The remainder is the empty set. \*/
  + [matches TripleConstraint](#matches-TripleConstraint) ([t1], tc1, m)
  + outs = [t1] /\* There is one arc out. \*/
  + matchables = Ø /\* There are no remaining arcs out of <Alice> with [predicates](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-predicate) appearing in tc1. \*/
  + unmatchables = Ø /\* There are no other arcs out of <Alice>. \*/
  + closed is false /\* The [Shape](#dfn-shape)'s closed paramater has a value of false. \*/

It is quite common that Shapes will constrain their nested TripleConstraints with NodeConstraints. Here is an example including that, extra triples and a closed shape:

Schema:

S1  
tc1  
  
  
  
nc1

{ "type": "Schema", "shapes": [  
 { "id": "http://schema.example/#UserShape",  
 "type": "Shape",  
 "extra": ["http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#type"],  
 "expression": {  
 "type": "TripleConstraint",  
 "predicate": "http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#type",  
 "valueExpr":  
 { "type": "NodeConstraint",  
 "values": ["http://schema.example/#Teacher"]  
 } } } ] }

ex:UserShape EXTRA a {  
 a  
  
  
  
  
 [ex:Teacher]  
 }

json

Data:

t1  
t2  
t3  
t4  
t5

BASE <http://a.example/>  
PREFIX xsd: <http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#>  
<Alice> ex:shoeSize "30"^^xsd:integer .  
<Alice> a ex:Teacher .  
<Alice> a ex:Person .  
<SomeHat> ex:owner <Alice> .  
<TheMoon> ex:madeOf <GreenCheese> .

Validate <Alice> as http://schema.example/#UserShape:

* G = [t1,t2,t3,t4,t5]
* [satisfies Shape](#satisfies-Shape) (<Alice>, S1, G, m)
  + [neigh](#dfn-neigh)(G, <Alice>) = [t1,t2,t3,t4], matched = [t2], remainder = [t1,t3]
  + [matches TripleConstraint](#matches-TripleConstraint) ([t2], tc1, m)
    - [satisfies NodeConstraint](#satisfies-NodeConstraint) (ex:Teacher, nc1, G, m)
      * [satisfies2 NodeConstraint](#satisfies2-NodeConstraint) (ex:Teacher, nc1)
  + outs = [t1,t2,t3]
  + matchables = [t3], unmatchables = [t1], closed is false

The non-empty matchables is permitted because the triple t3 has a [predicate](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-predicate) which appears in the "extra" list: ["http://schema.example/#Teacher"].

Disjunction Example

Schema:

S1  
te1  
tc1  
  
  
nc1  
te2  
tc2  
  
  
nc2  
tc3  
  
  
nc3

{ "type": "Schema", "shapes": [  
 { "id": "http://schema.example/#UserShape",  
 "type": "Shape", "expression":  
 {"type": "OneOf", "expressions": [  
 { "type": "TripleConstraint",  
 "predicate": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/name",  
 "valueExpr":  
 { "type": "NodeConstraint", "nodeKind": "literal" } },  
 { "type": "EachOf", "expressions": [  
 { "type": "TripleConstraint", "min": 1, "max": -1 ,  
 "predicate": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/givenName",  
 "valueExpr":  
 { "type": "NodeConstraint", "nodeKind": "literal" } },  
 { "type": "TripleConstraint",  
 "predicate": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/familyName",  
 "valueExpr":  
 { "type": "NodeConstraint", "nodeKind": "literal" } }  
 ] }  
 ] }  
 } ] }

ex:UserShape  
 {  
 (   
 foaf:name  
  
  
 LITERAL |  
 (   
 foaf:givenName  
  
  
 LITERAL+ ;  
 foaf:familyName  
  
  
 LITERAL  
 )  
 )  
 }

json

Data:

t1  
t2  
t3  
t4  
t5  
t6

BASE <http://a.example/>  
PREFIX foaf: <http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/>  
<Alice> foaf:givenName "Alice" .  
<Alice> foaf:givenName "Malsenior" .  
<Alice> foaf:familyName "Walker" .  
<Alice> foaf:mbox <mailto:alice@example.com> .  
<Bob> foaf:knows <Alice> .  
<Bob> foaf:mbox <mailto:bob@example.com> .

Per [Shape Expression Semantics](#shape-expression-semantics), <Alice> satisfies S1 with the simple ShapeMap

m:

{ "http://a.example/Alice": "http://a.example/UserShape }

as seen in this validation.

Validate <Alice> as http://schema.example/#UserShape:

* G = [t1,t2,t3,t4,t5,t6]
* [satisfies Shape](#satisfies-Shape) (<Alice>, S1, G, m)
  + [neigh](#dfn-neigh)(G, <Alice>) = [t1,t2,t3,t4,t5], matched = [t1,t2,t3], remainder = [t4,t5]
  + [matches OneOf](#matches-OneOf) ([t1,t2,t3], te1, m)
    - [matches EachOf](#matches-EachOf) ([t1,t2,t3], te2, m)
      * [matches cardinality](#matches-cardinality) ([t1,t2], tc2, m)
        + [matches TripleConstraint](#matches-TripleConstraint) ([t1], tc2, m)

[satisfies NodeConstraint](#satisfies-NodeConstraint) ("Alice", nc2, G, m)

[satisfies2 NodeConstraint](#satisfies2-NodeConstraint) ("Alice", nc2)

* + - * + [matches TripleConstraint](#matches-TripleConstraint) ([t2], tc2, m)

[satisfies NodeConstraint](#satisfies-NodeConstraint) ("Malsenior", nc2, G, m)

[satisfies2 NodeConstraint](#satisfies2-NodeConstraint) ("Malsenior", nc2)

* + - * [matches TripleConstraint](#matches-TripleConstraint) ([t3], tc3, m)
        + [satisfies NodeConstraint](#satisfies-NodeConstraint) ("Walker", nc3, G, m)

[satisfies2 NodeConstraint](#satisfies2-NodeConstraint) ("Walker", nc3)

* + outs = [t4] /\* t5 is in [ArcsIn](#dfn-arcsin)(G, <Alice>)>, t6 is not in [neigh](#dfn-neigh)(G, <Alice>)>. \*/
  + matchables = Ø, unmatchables = [t5], closed is false

Replacing triples 1-3 with a single foaf:name property will also satisfy the schema.

Data:

t4  
t5  
t6  
t7

BASE <http://a.example/>  
PREFIX foaf: <http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/>  
<Alice> foaf:mbox <mailto:alice@example.com> .  
<Bob> foaf:knows <Alice> .  
<Bob> foaf:mbox <mailto:bob@example.com> .  
<Alice> foaf:name "Alice Malsenior Walker" .

Validate <Alice> as http://schema.example/#UserShape:

* G = [t4,t5,t6,t7]
* [satisfies Shape](#satisfies-Shape) (<Alice>, S1, G, m)
  + [neigh](#dfn-neigh)(G, <Alice>) = [t4,t5,t7], matched = [t7], remainder = [t4,t5]
  + [matches OneOf](#matches-OneOf) ([t7], te1, m)
    - [matches TripleConstraint](#matches-TripleConstraint) ([t7], tc1, m)
      * [satisfies NodeConstraint](#satisfies-NodeConstraint) ("Walker", nc3, G, m)
        + [satisfies2 NodeConstraint](#satisfies2-NodeConstraint) ("Walker", nc3)
  + outs = [t4]
  + matchables = Ø, unmatchables = [t5], closed is false

Any mixure of foaf:name with foaf:givenName or foaf:familyName will fail to satisfy the schema as there will be a matchable triple t3 that is not used in the [triple expression](#dfn-triple-expressions) te1.

Data:

t3  
t4  
t5  
t6  
t7

BASE <http://a.example/>  
PREFIX foaf: <http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/>  
<Alice> foaf:familyName "Walker" .  
<Alice> foaf:mbox <mailto:alice@example.com> .  
<Bob> foaf:knows <Alice> .  
<Bob> foaf:mbox <mailto:bob@example.com> .  
<Alice> foaf:name "Alice Malsenior Walker" .

Validate <Alice> as http://schema.example/#UserShape:

* G = [t4,t5,t6,t7]
* [satisfies Shape](#satisfies-Shape) (<Alice>, S1, G, m)
  + [neigh](#dfn-neigh)(G, <Alice>) = [t4,t5,t7], matched = [t7], remainder = [t4,t5]
  + [matches OneOf](#matches-OneOf) ([t7], te1, m)
    - [matches TripleConstraint](#matches-TripleConstraint) ([t7], tc1, m)
      * [satisfies NodeConstraint](#satisfies-NodeConstraint) ("Walker", nc3, G, m)
        + [satisfies2 NodeConstraint](#satisfies2-NodeConstraint) ("Walker", nc3)
  + outs = [t4]
  + matchables = [t3], unmatchables = [t5], closed is false

Adding a foaf:familyName to S1's extra would allow this [graph](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-rdf-graph) to satisfy the schema.

S1

{ "type": "Schema", "shapes": [  
 { "id": "http://schema.example/#UserShape",  
 "type": "Shape", "extra": ["http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/familyName"] …  
 } ] }

Closing S1 would also cause a validation failure if unmatchables were not empty:

S1

{ "type": "Schema", "shapes": [  
 { "id": "http://schema.example/#UserShape",  
 "type": "Shape", "closed": true …  
 } ] }

* G = [t4,t5,t6,t7]
* [satisfies Shape](#satisfies-Shape) (<Alice>, S1, G, m)
  + …
  + unmatchables = [t5], closed is true

Dependent Shape Example

Schema:

S1  
tc1  
  
  
nc1  
  
S2  
tc2  
  
  
  
nc2

{ "type": "Schema", "shapes": [  
 { "id": "http://schema.example/#IssueShape",  
 "type": "Shape", "expression":  
 { "type": "TripleConstraint",  
 "predicate": "http://schema.example/#reproducedBy",  
 "valueExpr":  
 "http://schema.example/#TesterShape" } },  
 { "id": "http://schema.example/#TesterShape",  
 "type": "Shape", "expression":  
 { "type": "TripleConstraint",  
 "predicate": "http://schema.example/#role",  
 "valueExpr":  
 { "type": "NodeConstraint",  
 "values": [ "http://schema.example/#testingRole" ] } } }  
 ] }

ex:IssueShape  
 {  
  
 ex:reproducedBy  
  
 @ex:TesterShape }  
ex:TesterShape  
 {  
  
 ex:role  
  
 [ex:testingRole] }

json

Data:

t1  
t2

PREFIX ex: <http://schema.example/#>  
PREFIX inst: <http://inst.example/>  
inst:Issue1 ex:reproducedBy inst:Tester2 .  
inst:Tester2 ex:role ex:testingRole .

inst:Issue1 satisfies S1 with the ShapeMap

m:

{ "http://inst.example/Issue1": "http://schema.example/#IssueShape",  
 "http://inst.example/Tester2": "http://schema.example/#TesterShape",  
 "http://inst.example/Testgrammer23": "http://schema.example/#ProgrammerShape" }

Validate inst:Issue1 as http://schema.example/#IssueShape:

as seen in this evaluation:

* G = [t1]
* [satisfies Shape](#satisfies-Shape) (inst:Issue1, S1, G, m)
  + [neigh](#dfn-neigh)(G, inst:Issue1) = [t1,t2], matched = [t1,t2], remainder = Ø
  + [matches TripleConstraint](#matches-TripleConstraint) ([t1], tc1, m)
    - [satisfies NodeConstraint](#satisfies-NodeConstraint) (inst:Tester2, nc1, G, m)
      * [satisfies2 NodeConstraint](#satisfies2-NodeConstraint) (inst:Tester2, nc1)
        + [satisfies Shape](#satisfies-Shape) (inst:Tester2. S2, G, m)

[neigh](#dfn-neigh)(G, inst:Tester2) = [t2], matched = [t2], remainder = Ø

[matches TripleConstraint](#matches-TripleConstraint) ([t2], tc2, m)

[satisfies NodeConstraint](#satisfies-NodeConstraint) (ex:testingRole, nc2, G, m)

[satisfies2 NodeConstraint](#satisfies2-NodeConstraint) (ex:testingRole, nc2)

outs = Ø

matchables = Ø, unmatchables = Ø, closed is false

* + outs = Ø
  + matchables = Ø, unmatchables = Ø, closed is false

Recursion Example

Schema:

S1  
tc1  
  
  
nc1

{ "type": "Schema", "shapes": [  
 { "id": "http://schema.example/#IssueShape",  
 "type": "Shape", "expression":  
 { "type": "TripleConstraint", "min": 0, "max": -1,  
 "predicate": "http://schema.example/#related",  
 "valueExpr":  
 "http://schema.example/#IssueShape"  
 } } ] }

ex:IssueShape {  
  
  
 ex:related  
  
 @ex:IssueShape\*  
}

json

Data:

t1  
t2  
t3

PREFIX ex: <http://schema.example/#>  
PREFIX inst: <http://inst.example/>  
inst:Issue1 ex:related inst:Issue2 .  
inst:Issue2 ex:related inst:Issue3 .  
inst:Issue3 ex:related inst:Issue1 .

inst:Issue1 satisfies S1 with the ShapeMap

m:

{ "http://inst.example/Issue1": "http://schema.example/#IssueShape",  
 "http://inst.example/Issue2": "http://schema.example/#IssueShape",  
 "http://inst.example/Issue3": "http://schema.example/#IssueShape" }

Validate inst:Issue1 as http://schema.example/#IssueShape:

as seen in this evaluation:

* G = [t1,t2,t3]
* [satisfies Shape](#satisfies-Shape) (inst:Issue1, S1, G, m)
  + [neigh](#dfn-neigh)(G, inst:Issue1) = [t1], matched = [t1], remainder = Ø
  + [matches TripleConstraint](#matches-TripleConstraint) ([t1], tc1, m)
    - [satisfies NodeConstraint](#satisfies-NodeConstraint) (inst:Issue2, nc1, G, m)
      * [satisfies2 NodeConstraint](#satisfies2-NodeConstraint) (inst:Issue2, nc1)
        + [satisfies Shape](#satisfies-Shape) (inst:Issue2. S2, G, m)

[neigh](#dfn-neigh)(G, inst:Issue2) = [t3], matched = [t3], remainder = Ø

[matches TripleConstraint](#matches-TripleConstraint) ([t3], tc3, m)

[satisfies NodeConstraint](#satisfies-NodeConstraint) (inst:Issue3, nc3, G, m)

[satisfies2 NodeConstraint](#satisfies2-NodeConstraint) (inst:Issue3, nc3)

[satisfies Shape](#satisfies-Shape) (inst:Issue3. S2, G, m)

[neigh](#dfn-neigh)(G, inst:Issue3) = [t3], matched = [t3], remainder = Ø

[matches TripleConstraint](#matches-TripleConstraint) ([t3], tc3, m)

[satisfies NodeConstraint](#satisfies-NodeConstraint) (inst:Issue1, nc3, G, m)

[satisfies2 NodeConstraint](#satisfies2-NodeConstraint) (inst:Issue1, nc3)  
This is known to be true or the initial typing would not be satisfied.

outs = Ø

matchables = Ø, unmatchables = Ø, closed is false

outs = Ø

matchables = Ø, unmatchables = Ø, closed is false

* + outs = Ø
  + matchables = Ø, unmatchables = Ø, closed is false

Simple Repeated Property Examples

Schema:

S1  
te1  
tc1  
  
  
nc1  
  
tc2  
  
  
nc2

{ "type": "Schema", "shapes": [  
 { "id": "http://schema.example/#TestResultsShape",  
 "type": "Shape", "expression": {  
 "type": "EachOf", "expressions": [  
 { "type": "TripleConstraint", "min": 1, "max": -1,  
 "predicate": "http://schema.example/#val",  
 "valueExpr":  
 { "type": "NodeConstraint",  
 "values": [ {"value": "a"}, {"value": "b"}, {"value": "c"} ] } },  
 { "type": "TripleConstraint", "min": 1, "max": -1,  
 "predicate": "http://schema.example/#val",  
 "valueExpr":  
 { "type": "NodeConstraint",  
 "values": [ {"value": "b"}, {"value": "c"}, {"value": "d"} ] } }  
 ] } } ] }

<http://schema.example/#TestResultsShape>  
{  
  
  
 <http://schema.example/#val>  
  
  
 ["a" "b" "c"]+ ;  
  
 <http://schema.example/#val>  
  
  
 ["b" "c" "d"]+  
}

json

Data:

t1  
t2  
t3  
t4

BASE <http://a.example/>  
PREFIX ex: <http://schema.example/#>  
<s> ex:val "a" .  
<s> ex:val "b" .  
<s> ex:val "c" .  
<s> ex:val "d" .

<s> satisfies S1 with:

m:

{ "http://a.example/s": "http://a.example/S1" }

Validate <s> as http://schema.example/#TestResultShape:

If tc1 consumes as many triples as it can, it consumes three and tc2 consumes one:

* G = [t1,t2,t3,t4]
* [satisfies Shape](#satisfies-Shape) (<s>, S1, G, m)
  + [neigh](#dfn-neigh)(G, <s>) = [t1,t2,t3,t4], matched = [t1,t2,t3,t4], remainder = Ø
  + [matches EachOf](#matches-EachOf) ([t1,t2,t3,t4], te1, m)
    - [matches cardinality](#matches-cardinality) ([t1,t2,t3], tc1, m)
      * [matches TripleConstraint](#matches-TripleConstraint) ([t1], tc1, m)
        + [satisfies NodeConstraint](#satisfies-NodeConstraint) ("a", nc1, G, m)

[satisfies2 NodeConstraint](#satisfies2-NodeConstraint) ("a", nc1)

* + - * [matches TripleConstraint](#matches-TripleConstraint) ([t2], tc1, m)
        + [satisfies NodeConstraint](#satisfies-NodeConstraint) ("b", nc1, G, m)

[satisfies2 NodeConstraint](#satisfies2-NodeConstraint) ("b", nc1)

* + - * [matches TripleConstraint](#matches-TripleConstraint) ([t3], tc1, m)
        + [satisfies NodeConstraint](#satisfies-NodeConstraint) ("c", nc1, G, m)

[satisfies2 NodeConstraint](#satisfies2-NodeConstraint) ("c", nc1)

* + - [matches cardinality](#matches-cardinality) ([t4], tc2, m)
      * [matches TripleConstraint](#matches-TripleConstraint) ([t4], tc2, m)
        + [satisfies NodeConstraint](#satisfies-NodeConstraint) ("d", nc2, G, m)

[satisfies2 NodeConstraint](#satisfies2-NodeConstraint) ("d", nc2)

* + outs = Ø
  + matchables = Ø, unmatchables = Ø, closed is false

If we eliminate t4, either t2 or t3 must be allocated to tc2:

* G = [t1,t2,t3]
* [satisfies Shape](#satisfies-Shape) (<Alice>, S1, G, m)
  + [neigh](#dfn-neigh)(G, <Alice>) = [t1,t2,t3], matched = [t1,t2,t3], remainder = Ø
  + [matches EachOf](#matches-EachOf) ([t1,t2,t3], te1, m)
    - [matches cardinality](#matches-cardinality) ([t1,t2], tc1, m)
      * [matches TripleConstraint](#matches-TripleConstraint) ([t1], tc1, m)
        + [satisfies NodeConstraint](#satisfies-NodeConstraint) ("a", nc1, G, m)

[satisfies2 NodeConstraint](#satisfies2-NodeConstraint) ("a", nc1)

* + - * [matches TripleConstraint](#matches-TripleConstraint) ([t2], tc1, m)
        + [satisfies NodeConstraint](#satisfies-NodeConstraint) ("b", nc1, G, m)

[satisfies2 NodeConstraint](#satisfies2-NodeConstraint) ("b", nc1)

* + - [matches cardinality](#matches-cardinality) ([t3], tc2, m)
      * [matches TripleConstraint](#matches-TripleConstraint) ([t3], tc2, m)
        + [satisfies NodeConstraint](#satisfies-NodeConstraint) ("d", nc2, G, m)

[satisfies2 NodeConstraint](#satisfies2-NodeConstraint) ("d", nc2)

* + outs = Ø
  + matchables = Ø, unmatchables = Ø, closed is false

Repeated Property With Dependent Shapes Example

Schema:

S1  
te1  
  
tc1  
  
nc1  
  
tc2  
  
nc2  
  
S2  
  
tc3  
  
  
nc3  
  
S3  
  
tc4  
  
  
nc4

{ "type": "Schema", "shapes": [  
 { "id": "http://schema.example/#IssueShape",  
 "type": "Shape", "expression":  
 { "type": "EachOf", "expressions": [  
 { "type": "TripleConstraint",  
 "predicate": "http://schema.example/#reproducedBy",  
 "valueExpr":  
 "http://schema.example/#TesterShape" },  
 { "type": "TripleConstraint",  
 "predicate": "http://schema.example/#reproducedBy",  
 "valueExpr":  
 "http://schema.example/#ProgrammerShape" }  
 ] } },  
 { "id": "http://schema.example/#TesterShape",  
 "type": "Shape", "expression":  
 { "type": "TripleConstraint",  
 "predicate": "http://schema.example/#role",  
 "valueExpr":  
 { "type": "NodeConstraint",  
 "values": [ "http://schema.example/#testingRole" ] } } },  
 { "id": "http://schema.example/#ProgrammerShape",  
 "type": "Shape", "expression":  
 { "type": "TripleConstraint",  
 "predicate": "http://schema.example/#department",  
 "valueExpr":  
 { "type": "NodeConstraint",  
 "values": [ "http://schema.example/#ProgrammingDepartment" ] } } }  
 ] }

ex:IssueShape {  
  
  
  
 ex:reproducedBy  
  
 @ex:TesterShape;  
  
 ex:reproducedBy  
  
 @ex:ProgrammerShape  
}  
ex:TesterShape {  
  
  
 ex:role  
  
 [ex:testingRole]  
}  
ex:ProgrammerShape {  
  
  
 ex:department  
  
 [ex:ProgrammingDepartment]  
}

json

Data:

t1  
t2  
  
  
t3  
  
  
t4  
t5

PREFIX ex: <http://schema.example/#>  
PREFIX inst: <http://inst.example/>  
inst:Issue1  
 ex:reproducedBy inst:Tester2 ;  
 ex:reproducedBy inst:Testgrammer23 .  
  
inst:Tester2   
 ex:role ex:testingRole .  
  
inst:Testgrammer23   
 ex:role ex:testingRole ;   
 ex:department ex:ProgrammingDepartment .

inst:Issue1 satisfies S1 with the ShapeMap

m:

{ "http://inst.example/Issue1": "http://schema.example/#IssueShape",  
 "http://inst.example/Tester2": "http://schema.example/#TesterShape",  
 "http://inst.example/Testgrammer23": "http://schema.example/#ProgrammerShape" }

Validate inst:Issue1 as http://schema.example/#IssueShape:

as seen in this evaluation:

* G = [t1,t2,t3,t4,t5]
* [satisfies Shape](#satisfies-Shape) (inst:Issue1, S1, G, m)
  + [neigh](#dfn-neigh)(G, inst:Issue1) = [t1,t2], matched = [t1,t2], remainder = Ø
  + [matches EachOf](#matches-EachOf) ([t1,t2], te1, m)
    - [matches TripleConstraint](#matches-TripleConstraint) ([t1], tc1, m)
      * [satisfies NodeConstraint](#satisfies-NodeConstraint) (inst:Tester2, nc1, G, m)
        + [satisfies2 NodeConstraint](#satisfies2-NodeConstraint) (inst:Tester2, nc1)

[satisfies Shape](#satisfies-Shape) (inst:Tester2. S2, G, m)

[neigh](#dfn-neigh)(G, inst:Tester2) = [t3], matched = [t3], remainder = Ø

[matches TripleConstraint](#matches-TripleConstraint) ([t3], tc3, m)

[satisfies NodeConstraint](#satisfies-NodeConstraint) (ex:testingRole, nc3, G, m)

[satisfies2 NodeConstraint](#satisfies2-NodeConstraint) (ex:testingRole, nc3)

outs = Ø

matchables = Ø, unmatchables = Ø, closed is false

* + - [matches TripleConstraint](#matches-TripleConstraint) ([t2], tc1, m)
      * [satisfies NodeConstraint](#satisfies-NodeConstraint) (inst:Testgrammer23, nc2, G, m)
        + [satisfies2 NodeConstraint](#satisfies2-NodeConstraint) (inst:Testgrammer23, nc2)

[satisfies Shape](#satisfies-Shape) (inst:Testgrammer23. S3, G, m)

[neigh](#dfn-neigh)(G, inst:Testgrammer23) = [t5], matched = [t5], remainder = Ø

[matches TripleConstraint](#matches-TripleConstraint) ([t5], tc3, m)

[satisfies NodeConstraint](#satisfies-NodeConstraint) (ex:testingRole, nc4, G, m)

[satisfies2 NodeConstraint](#satisfies2-NodeConstraint) (ex:testingRole, nc4)

outs = Ø

matchables = Ø, unmatchables = Ø, closed is false

* + outs = Ø
  + matchables = Ø, unmatchables = Ø, closed is false

Negation Example

Setting the maximum [cardinality](#dfn-cardinality) of a TripleConstraint with [predicate](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-predicate) p to zero (i.e. "max": 0 in [ShExJ](#dfn-shexj) or {0} or {0, 0} in [ShExC](#dfn-shexc)) asserts that matching nodes must have no triples with [predicate](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-predicate) p.

Schema:

S1  
te1  
tc1  
  
  
nc1  
  
tc2

{ "type": "Schema", "shapes": [  
 { "id": "http://schema.example/#TestResultsShape",  
 "type": "Shape", "expression": {  
 "type": "EachOf", "expressions": [  
 { "type": "TripleConstraint", "min": 1, "max": -1,  
 "predicate": "http://schema.example/#p1",  
 "valueExpr":  
 { "type": "NodeConstraint",  
 "values": [ {"value": "a"}, {"value": "b"} ] } },  
 { "type": "TripleConstraint", "min": 1, "max": -1,  
 "predicate": "http://schema.example/#p2", "min": 0, "max": 0 }  
 ] } } ] }

<http://schema.example/#TestResultsShape>  
{  
  
  
 <http://schema.example/#p1>  
  
  
 ["a" "b"] + ;  
  
 <http://schema.example/#p2> . {0}  
}

json

Data:

t1

BASE <http://a.example/>  
PREFIX ex: <http://schema.example/#>  
<s> ex:p1 "a" .

<s> satisfies S1 with:

m:

{ "http://a.example/s": "http://a.example/S1" }

Validate <s> as http://schema.example/#TestResultShape:

This is trivially satisfied by tc1 consuming one triple and tc2 consuming none:

* G = [t1]
* [satisfies Shape](#satisfies-Shape) (<s>, S1, G, m)
  + [neigh](#dfn-neigh)(G, <s>) = [t1], matched = [t1], remainder = Ø
  + [matches EachOf](#matches-EachOf) ([t1], te1, m)
    - [matches cardinality](#matches-cardinality) ([t1], tc1, m)
      * [matches TripleConstraint](#matches-TripleConstraint) ([t1], tc1, m)
        + [satisfies NodeConstraint](#satisfies-NodeConstraint) ("a", nc1, G, m)

[satisfies2 NodeConstraint](#satisfies2-NodeConstraint) ("a", nc1)

* + - [matches cardinality](#matches-cardinality) ([], tc2, m)
      * [matches TripleConstraint](#matches-TripleConstraint) ([], tc2, m)
  + outs = Ø
  + matchables = Ø, unmatchables = Ø, closed is false

If we add a t2 which matches tc2:

Data:

t1  
t2

BASE <http://a.example/>  
PREFIX ex: <http://schema.example/#>  
<s> ex:p1 "a" .  
<s> ex:p2 5 .

every partition fails, either because matchables is non-empty or because the maximum cardinality on tc2 is exceeded:

* G = [t1]
* [satisfies Shape](#satisfies-Shape) (<s>, S1, G, m)
  + [neigh](#dfn-neigh)(G, <s>) = [t1], matched = [t1], remainder = Ø
  + [matches EachOf](#matches-EachOf) ([t1], te1, m)
    - [matches cardinality](#matches-cardinality) ([t1], tc1, m)
      * [matches TripleConstraint](#matches-TripleConstraint) ([t1], tc1, m)
        + [satisfies NodeConstraint](#satisfies-NodeConstraint) ("a", nc1, G, m)

[satisfies2 NodeConstraint](#satisfies2-NodeConstraint) ("a", nc1)

* + - [matches cardinality](#matches-cardinality) ([t2], tc2, m)
      * [matches TripleConstraint](#matches-TripleConstraint) ([t2], tc2, m)
  + outs = Ø
  + matchables = Ø, unmatchables = Ø, closed is false

ShEx Compact syntax (ShExC)

The ShEx Compact Syntax expresses ShEx schemas in a compact, human-friendly form. Parsing ShExC transforms a [ShExC](#dfn-shexc) document into an equivalent [ShExJ](#dfn-shexj) structure. This is defined as a BNF which accepts [ShExC](#dfn-shexc) followed by instructions for tranlating the rules in the BNF production into their corresponding [ShExJ](#dfn-shexj) objects. For example, "shapeExprDecl returns [shapeExpression](#prod-shapeExpression)" indicates that the result of matching the shapeExprDecl production is the object produced by parsing the shapeExpression production.

Semantic actions before the first [shape expression declaration](#prod-shapeExprDecl) are [startActs](#dfn-startacts). After the first [shape expression declaration](#prod-shapeExprDecl), semantic actions are associated with the previous declaration.

As with Turtle and SPARQL, ShExC offers URL resolution relative to a base per [[RFC3986](#bib-rfc3986)] and prefixes map to provide shorthand ways to write IRI identifiers.

Display grammar only

Below is the [ShExC](#dfn-shexc) grammar following the [notation in the XML specification](https://www.w3.org/TR/xml/#sec-notation)[[XML](#bib-xml)]:

[1]

shexDoc

   ::=

[directive](#prod-directive)\* (([notStartAction](#prod-notStartAction) | [startActions](#prod-startActions)) [statement](#prod-statement)\*)?

followed by the associated [ShExJ](#dfn-shexj) object(s):

[Schema](#dfn-shapes-schema)

{

[startActs](#dfn-startacts):[[SemAct](#dfn-semact)+]? [start](#dfn-start):[shapeExpr](#dfn-shapeexpr)? [imports](#dfn-imports):[[IRIREF](#dfn-iriref)+]? [shapes](#dfn-shapes):[[ShapeDecl](#dfn-shapedecl)+]? }

and a description of the mapping of rules in the production to elements of the [ShExJ](#dfn-shexj) object:

* [startActs](#dfn-startacts) comes from [startActions](#prod-startActions) production.
* [start](#dfn-start) comes from the [start](#prod-start) production.
* [shapes](#dfn-shapes) come from the [shapeExprDecl](#prod-shapeExprDecl) production.

[2]

directive

   ::=

[baseDecl](#prod-baseDecl) | [prefixDecl](#prod-prefixDecl) | [importDecl](#prod-importDecl)

[3]

baseDecl

   ::=

"BASE" [IRIREF](#term-IRIREF)

[4]

prefixDecl

   ::=

"PREFIX" [PNAME\_NS](#term-PNAME_NS) [IRIREF](#term-IRIREF)

[4½]

importDecl

   ::=

"IMPORT" [IRIREF](#term-IRIREF)

"IMPORT" is described in [ShEx Import](#import).

[5]

notStartAction

   ::=

[start](#prod-start) | [shapeExprDecl](#prod-shapeExprDecl)

[6]

start

   ::=

"start" '=' [inlineShapeExpression](#prod-inlineShapeExpression)

[7]

startActions

   ::=

[codeDecl](#prod-codeDecl)+

[8]

statement

   ::=

[directive](#prod-directive) | [notStartAction](#prod-notStartAction)

[9]

shapeExprDecl

   ::=

[shapeExprLabel](#prod-shapeExprLabel) ([shapeExpression](#prod-shapeExpression) | "EXTERNAL")

If the "EXTERNAL" keyword is present, [shapeExprDecl](#prod-shapeExprDecl) returns a [ShapeDecl](#dfn-shapedecl) object whose shapeExpr is a [ShapeExternal](#dfn-shapeexternal):

[ShapeDecl](#dfn-shapedecl)

{

id:[shapeExprLabel](#dfn-shapeexprlabel) abstract:[BOOL](#dfn-bool)? shapeExpr: { type: "ShapeExternal" } }

* abstract is true if "ABSTRACT" was matched.

otherwise [shapeExprDecl](#prod-shapeExprDecl) returns a ShapeDecl object whose shapeExpr is a [shapeExpression](#prod-shapeExpression).

[ShapeDecl](#dfn-shapedecl)

{

id:[shapeExprLabel](#dfn-shapeexprlabel) abstract:[BOOL](#dfn-bool)? shapeExpr: [shapeExpr](#dfn-shapeexpr) }

* abstract is true if "ABSTRACT" was matched.

Shape expressions are logical combinations of shape atoms. Inline variants of [shape expressions](#dfn-shape-expressions) are used in [tripleConstraint](#prod-tripleConstraint)s and are not permitted to have annotations or semantic actions.

[10]

shapeExpression

   ::=

[shapeOr](#prod-shapeOr)

[11]

inlineShapeExpression

   ::=

[inlineShapeOr](#prod-inlineShapeOr)

[12]

shapeOr

   ::=

[shapeAnd](#prod-shapeAnd) ("OR" [shapeAnd](#prod-shapeAnd))\*

[13]

inlineShapeOr

   ::=

[inlineShapeAnd](#prod-inlineShapeAnd) ("OR" [inlineShapeAnd](#prod-inlineShapeAnd))\*

If the right [shapeAnd](#prod-shapeAnd) matches one or more times, the result is a [ShapeOr](#dfn-shapeor) object with shapeExprs containing the first [shapeAnd](#prod-shapeAnd) followed by the ordered list from the second [shapeAnd](#prod-shapeAnd):

[ShapeOr](#dfn-shapeor)

{

id:[shapeExprLabel](#dfn-shapeexprlabel)? shapeExprs:[[shapeExpr](#dfn-shapeexpr){2,}] }

otherwise the result is the left [shapeAnd](#prod-shapeAnd).

[14]

shapeAnd

   ::=

[shapeNot](#prod-shapeNot) ("AND" [shapeNot](#prod-shapeNot))\*

[15]

inlineShapeAnd

   ::=

[inlineShapeNot](#prod-inlineShapeNot) ("AND" [inlineShapeNot](#prod-inlineShapeNot))\*

If the right [shapeNot](#prod-shapeNot) matches one or more times, the result is a [ShapeAnd](#dfn-shapeand) object with shapeExprs containing the first [shapeNot](#prod-shapeNot) followed by the ordered list from the second [shapeNot](#prod-shapeNot):

[ShapeAnd](#dfn-shapeand)

{

id:[shapeExprLabel](#dfn-shapeexprlabel)? shapeExprs:[[shapeExpr](#dfn-shapeexpr){2,}] }

otherwise the result is the left [shapeNot](#prod-shapeNot).

[16]

shapeNot

   ::=

"NOT"? [shapeAtom](#prod-shapeAtom)

[17]

inlineShapeNot

   ::=

"NOT"? [inlineShapeAtom](#prod-inlineShapeAtom)

If the left "NOT" matches, the result is a [ShapeNot](#dfn-shapenot) object with shapeExpr containing the [shapeAtom](#prod-shapeAtom):

[ShapeNot](#dfn-shapenot)

{

id:[shapeExprLabel](#dfn-shapeexprlabel)? shapeExpr:[shapeExpr](#dfn-shapeexpr) }

otherwise the result is the [shapeAtom](#prod-shapeAtom).

Shape atoms are shape references (indicated by "@"), definitions, or nested expressions.

[18]

shapeAtom

   ::=

[nonLitNodeConstraint](#prod-nonLitNodeConstraint) [shapeOrRef](#prod-shapeOrRef)?  
| [litNodeConstraint](#prod-litNodeConstraint)  
| [shapeOrRef](#prod-shapeOrRef) [nonLitNodeConstraint](#prod-nonLitNodeConstraint)?  
| '(' [shapeExpression](#prod-shapeExpression) ')'  
| '.'

[19]

shapeAtomNoRef

   ::=

[nonLitNodeConstraint](#prod-nonLitNodeConstraint) [shapeOrRef](#prod-shapeOrRef)?  
| [litNodeConstraint](#prod-litNodeConstraint)  
| [shapeDefinition](#prod-shapeDefinition) [nonLitNodeConstraint](#prod-nonLitNodeConstraint)?  
| '(' [shapeExpression](#prod-shapeExpression) ')'  
| '.'

[20]

inlineShapeAtom

   ::=

[nonLitNodeConstraint](#prod-nonLitNodeConstraint) [inlineShapeOrRef](#prod-inlineShapeOrRef)?  
| [litNodeConstraint](#prod-litNodeConstraint)  
| [inlineShapeOrRef](#prod-inlineShapeOrRef) [nonLitNodeConstraint](#prod-nonLitNodeConstraint)?  
| '(' [shapeExpression](#prod-shapeExpression) ')'  
| '.'

* If the matching production inludes both a node constraint ([litNodeConstraint](#prod-litNodeConstraint) OR [nonLitNodeConstraint](#prod-nonLitNodeConstraint)) nc and a [shapeOrRef](#prod-shapeOrRef), the result is a [ShapeAnd](#dfn-shapeand) object with shapeExprs containing the list of nc and a [shapeOrRef](#prod-shapeOrRef).
* If the "(" [shapeExpression](#prod-shapeExpression) ")" production matches, the result is the result of [shapeExpression](#prod-shapeExpression).
* If the "." production matches, the result is an empty shape: {"type": "Shape"}.

[21]

shapeOrRef

   ::=

[shapeDefinition](#prod-shapeDefinition) | [shapeRef](#prod-shapeRef)

[22]

inlineShapeOrRef

   ::=

[inlineShapeDefinition](#prod-inlineShapeDefinition) | [shapeRef](#prod-shapeRef)

[23]

shapeRef

   ::=

   ( [ATPNAME\_LN](#term-ATPNAME_LN) | [ATPNAME\_NS](#term-ATPNAME_NS) | '@' [shapeExprLabel](#prod-shapeExprLabel) ) "EXACTLY"

* If the [shapeDefinition](#prod-shapeDefinition) production matches, the result is [shapeDefinition](#prod-shapeDefinition).
* Otherwise, the result is a [ShapeExprRef](#dfn-shapeexprref) to [shapeExprLabel](#dfn-shapeexprlabel).

[ShapeExprRef](#dfn-shapeexprref)

{

label: [shapeExprLabel](#dfn-shapeexprlabel) }

* exact is true if the "EXACTLY" choice was matched.

Node constraints identify a (possibly infinite) set of matching RDF nodes.

[24]

litNodeConstraint

   ::=

   "LITERAL" [xsFacet](#prod-xsFacet)\*  
| [datatype](#prod-datatype) [xsFacet](#prod-xsFacet)\*  
| [valueSet](#prod-valueSet) [xsFacet](#prod-xsFacet)\*  
| [numericFacet](#prod-numericFacet)+

[25]

nonLitNodeConstraint

   ::=

[nonLiteralKind](#prod-nonLiteralKind) [stringFacet](#prod-stringFacet)\*  
| [stringFacet](#prod-stringFacet)+

[NodeConstraint](#dfn-nodeconstraint)

{

id:[shapeExprLabel](#dfn-shapeexprlabel)? nodeKind:("iri" | "bnode" | "nonliteral" | "literal")? datatype:[IRIREF](#dfn-iriref)? [xsFacet](#dfn-xsfacet)\* values:[[valueSetValue](#dfn-valuesetvalue)+]? }

[26]

nonLiteralKind

   ::=

"IRI" | "BNODE" | "NONLITERAL"

[27]

xsFacet

   ::=

[stringFacet](#prod-stringFacet) | [numericFacet](#prod-numericFacet)

[xsFacet](#dfn-xsfacet)

=

[stringFacet](#dfn-stringfacet) | [numericFacet](#dfn-numericfacet) ;

[28]

stringFacet

   ::=

[stringLength](#prod-stringLength) [INTEGER](#term-INTEGER)  
| [REGEXP](#term-REGEXP)

[29]

stringLength

   ::=

"LENGTH" | "MINLENGTH" | "MAXLENGTH"

[stringFacet](#dfn-stringfacet)

=

(length|minlength|maxlength):[INTEGER](#dfn-integer) | pattern:[STRING](#dfn-string) flags:[STRING](#dfn-string)? ;

[30]

numericFacet

   ::=

[numericRange](#prod-numericRange) [numericLiteral](#prod-numericLiteral)  
| [numericLength](#prod-numericLength) [INTEGER](#term-INTEGER)

[31]

numericRange

   ::=

"MININCLUSIVE" | "MINEXCLUSIVE" | "MAXINCLUSIVE" | "MAXEXCLUSIVE"

[32]

numericLength

   ::=

"TOTALDIGITS" | "FRACTIONDIGITS"

[numericFacet](#dfn-numericfacet)

=

(mininclusive|minexclusive|maxinclusive|maxexclusive):[numericLiteral](#dfn-numericliteral) | (totaldigits|fractiondigits):[INTEGER](#dfn-integer) ;

Shape defintions associate a [triple expression](#dfn-triple-expressions) with a closed flag and a list of partially constrained (extra) [predicates](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-predicate). Any [predicate](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-predicate) appearing in a [triple expression](#dfn-triple-expressions) is fully constrained unless it appears in the list of extras.

[33]

shapeDefinition

   ::=

([extraPropertySet](#prod-extraPropertySet) | "CLOSED")\* '{' [tripleExpression](#prod-tripleExpression)? '}' [annotation](#prod-annotation)\* [semanticActions](#prod-semanticActions)

[34]

inlineShapeDefinition

   ::=

([extraPropertySet](#prod-extraPropertySet) | "CLOSED")\* '{' [tripleExpression](#prod-tripleExpression)? '}'

[Shape](#dfn-shape)

{

extends:[[shapeExprLabel](#dfn-shapeexprlabel)]? closed:[BOOL](#dfn-bool)? extra:[[IRIREF](#dfn-iriref)+]? expression:[tripleExpr](#dfn-tripleexpr)? semActs:[[SemAct](#dfn-semact)+]? annotations:[[Annotation](#dfn-annotation)+]? }

* closed is true if the "CLOSED" choice was matched one or more times.
* extra is the set of IRIs matching the [extraPropertySet](#prod-extraPropertySet) production.
* expression comes from the [tripleExpression](#prod-tripleExpression) production.
* annotations is the set of [Annotation](#dfn-annotation)s matching the [annotation](#prod-annotation) production.
* semActs is the set of semantic actions matching the [semanticActions](#prod-semanticActions) production.

[35]

extraPropertySet

   ::=

"EXTRA" [predicate](#prod-predicate)+

Triple expressions are arrangements of triple constraints.

[36]

tripleExpression

   ::=

[oneOfTripleExpr](#prod-oneOfTripleExpr)

[37]

oneOfTripleExpr

   ::=

[groupTripleExpr](#prod-groupTripleExpr) | [multiElementOneOf](#prod-multiElementOneOf)

[38]

multiElementOneOf

   ::=

[groupTripleExpr](#prod-groupTripleExpr) ('|' [groupTripleExpr](#prod-groupTripleExpr))+

If the right [groupTripleExpr](#prod-groupTripleExpr) matches one or more times, the result is a [OneOf](#dfn-oneof) object with expressions containing the first [groupTripleExpr](#prod-groupTripleExpr) followed by the ordered list from the second [groupTripleExpr](#prod-groupTripleExpr):

[OneOf](#dfn-oneof)

{

id:[tripleExprLabel](#dfn-tripleexprlabel)? expressions:[[tripleExpr](#dfn-tripleexpr){2,}] min:[INTEGER](#dfn-integer)? max:[INTEGER](#dfn-integer)? semActs:[[SemAct](#dfn-semact)+]? annotations:[[Annotation](#dfn-annotation)+]? }

otherwise the result is the left [groupTripleExpr](#prod-groupTripleExpr).

[40]

groupTripleExpr

   ::=

[singleElementGroup](#prod-singleElementGroup) | [multiElementGroup](#prod-multiElementGroup)

[41]

singleElementGroup

   ::=

[unaryTripleExpr](#prod-unaryTripleExpr) ';'?

[42]

multiElementGroup

   ::=

[unaryTripleExpr](#prod-unaryTripleExpr) (';' [unaryTripleExpr](#prod-unaryTripleExpr))+ ';'?

If the right [unaryTripleExpr](#prod-unaryTripleExpr) matches one or more times, the result is a [EachOf](#dfn-eachof) object with expressions containing the first [unaryTripleExpr](#prod-unaryTripleExpr) followed by the ordered list from the second [unaryTripleExpr](#prod-unaryTripleExpr):

[EachOf](#dfn-eachof)

{

id:[tripleExprLabel](#dfn-tripleexprlabel)? expressions:[[tripleExpr](#dfn-tripleexpr){2,}] min:[INTEGER](#dfn-integer)? max:[INTEGER](#dfn-integer)? semActs:[[SemAct](#dfn-semact)+]? annotations:[[Annotation](#dfn-annotation)+]? }

otherwise the result is the left [unaryTripleExpr](#prod-unaryTripleExpr).

[43]

unaryTripleExpr

   ::=

   ('$' [tripleExprLabel](#prod-tripleExprLabel))? ([tripleConstraint](#prod-tripleConstraint) | [bracketedTripleExpr](#prod-bracketedTripleExpr))  
| [include](#prod-include)

[44]

bracketedTripleExpr

   ::=

'(' [tripleExpression](#prod-tripleExpression) ')' [cardinality](#prod-cardinality)? [annotation](#prod-annotation)\* [semanticActions](#prod-semanticActions)

Triple constraints are matched against RDF triples.

[45]

tripleConstraint

   ::=

[senseFlags](#prod-senseFlags)? [predicate](#prod-predicate) [inlineShapeExpression](#prod-inlineShapeExpression) [cardinality](#prod-cardinality)? [annotation](#prod-annotation)\* [semanticActions](#prod-semanticActions)

[TripleConstraint](#dfn-tripleconstraint)

{

id:[tripleExprLabel](#dfn-tripleexprlabel)? inverse:[BOOL](#dfn-bool)? predicate:[IRIREF](#dfn-iriref) valueExpr:[shapeExpr](#dfn-shapeexpr)? min:[INTEGER](#dfn-integer)? max:[INTEGER](#dfn-integer)? semActs:[[SemAct](#dfn-semact)+]? annotations:[[Annotation](#dfn-annotation)+]? }

* inverse is true if the [senseFlags](#prod-senseFlags) matched "^".
* [predicate](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-predicate) comes from the [predicate](#prod-predicate) production.
* valueExpr comes from the [inlineShapeExpression](#prod-inlineShapeExpression) production. It it is an empty shape {"type": "Shape"}, valueExpr is not assigned.
* min comes from the [cardinality](#prod-cardinality) production.
* max comes from the [cardinality](#prod-cardinality) production.
* annotations is the set of [Annotation](#dfn-annotation)s matching the [annotation](#prod-annotation) production.
* semActs is the set of semantic actions matching the [semanticActions](#prod-semanticActions) production.

[46]

cardinality

   ::=

'\*' | '+' | '?' | [REPEAT\_RANGE](#term-REPEAT_RANGE)

In [ShExJ](#dfn-shexj), "\*" is represented as -1, standing for the unbounded cardinality..

[47]

senseFlags

   ::=

'^'

Value sets identify ranges of RDF nodes by explicit inclusion or by range (indicated by "~"). Ranges may include exclusions, which may also be ranges but must not in turn contain exclusions. A [valueSetValue](#dfn-valuesetvalue) may be an [objectValue](#dfn-objectvalue) or one of [IriStem](#dfn-iristem), [IriStemRange](#dfn-iristemrange), [LiteralStem](#dfn-literalstem), [LiteralStemRange](#dfn-literalstemrange), [LanguageStem](#dfn-languagestem), [LanguageStemRange](#dfn-languagestemrange), .

[48]

valueSet

   ::=

'[' [valueSetValue](#prod-valueSetValue)\* ']'

[49]

valueSetValue

   ::=

[iriRange](#prod-iriRange) | [literalRange](#prod-literalRange) | [languageRange](#prod-languageRange)  
| [exclusion](#prod-exclusion)+

If "." matches and [exclusion](#prod-exclusion) matches one or more times, all matched items must be consistently iri, literal, or language. valueSetValue returns either a [IriStemRange](#dfn-iristemrange), [LiteralStemRange](#dfn-literalstemrange), or [LanguageStemRange](#dfn-languagestemrange) object with exclusions equal to the set of results of [exclusion](#prod-exclusion):

[IriStemRange](#dfn-iristemrange)

{

stem:([IRIREF](#dfn-iriref) | [Wildcard](#dfn-wildcard)) exclusions:[[IRIREF](#dfn-iriref)|[IriStem](#dfn-iristem) +] }

[LiteralStemRange](#dfn-literalstemrange)

{

stem:([STRING](#dfn-string) | [Wildcard](#dfn-wildcard)) exclusions:[[STRING](#dfn-string)|[LiteralStem](#dfn-literalstem) +] }

[LanguageStemRange](#dfn-languagestemrange)

{

stem:([LANGTAG](#dfn-langtag) | [Wildcard](#dfn-wildcard)) exclusions:[[LANGTAG](#dfn-langtag)|[LanguageStem](#dfn-languagestem) +] }

If "~" matches with no [exclusion](#prod-exclusion), valueSetValue returns a [Wildcard](#dfn-wildcard) object:

[Wildcard](#dfn-wildcard)

{

/\* empty \*/ }

[50]

exclusion

   ::=

'.' ([iriExclusion](#prod-iriExclusion) | [literalExclusion](#prod-literalExclusion) | [languageExclusion](#prod-languageExclusion)) +

[50.1]

iriExclusion

   ::=

'-' [iri](#prod-iri) '~'?

[50.2]

literalExclusion

   ::=

'-' [literal](#prod-literal) '~'?

[50.3]

languageExclusion

   ::=

'-' [LANGTAG](#term-LANGTAG) '~'?

[51]

iriRange

   ::=

[iri](#prod-iri) ('~' [iriExclusion](#prod-iriExclusion)\*)?

If [iri](#prod-iri) matches with no "~", iriRange returns [iri](#prod-iri).

If [iri](#prod-iri) and "~" match with no [iriExclusion](#prod-iriExclusion), iriRange returns a [IriStem](#dfn-iristem) object:

[IriStem](#dfn-iristem)

{

stem:[IRIREF](#dfn-iriref) }

If [iri](#prod-iri) and "~" match and [iriExclusion](#prod-iriExclusion) matches one or more times, iriRange returns a [IriStemRange](#dfn-iristemrange) object with exclusions equal to the set of results of [iriExclusion](#prod-iriExclusion):

[IriStemRange](#dfn-iristemrange)

{

stem:([IRIREF](#dfn-iriref) | [Wildcard](#dfn-wildcard)) exclusions:[[IRIREF](#dfn-iriref)|[IriStem](#dfn-iristem) +] }

[52]

iriExclusion

   ::=

'-' [iri](#prod-iri) '~'?

[53]

literalRange

   ::=

[literal](#prod-literal) ('~' [literalExclusion](#prod-literalExclusion)\*)?

If [literal](#prod-literal) matches with no "~", literalRange returns [literal](#prod-literal).

If [literal](#prod-literal) and "~" match with no [literalExclusion](#prod-literalExclusion), literalRange returns a [LiteralStem](#dfn-literalstem) object:

[LiteralStem](#dfn-literalstem)

{

stem:[STRING](#dfn-string) }

If [literal](#prod-literal) and "~" match and [literalExclusion](#prod-literalExclusion) matches one or more times, literalRange returns a [LiteralStemRange](#dfn-literalstemrange) object with exclusions equal to the set of results of [literalExclusion](#prod-literalExclusion):

[LiteralStemRange](#dfn-literalstemrange)

{

stem:([STRING](#dfn-string) | [Wildcard](#dfn-wildcard)) exclusions:[[STRING](#dfn-string)|[LiteralStem](#dfn-literalstem) +] }

[54]

literalExclusion

   ::=

'-' [literal](#prod-literal) '~'?

[55]

languageRange

   ::=

[LANGTAG](#term-LANGTAG) ('~' [languageExclusion](#prod-languageExclusion)\*)?  
| '@' '~' [languageExclusion](#prod-languageExclusion)\*

If [LANGTAG](#term-LANGTAG) matches with no "~" match , languageRange returns a [Language](#dfn-language) object with languageTag equal to [LANGTAG](#term-LANGTAG):

[Language](#dfn-language)

{

languageTag:[LANGTAG](#dfn-langtag) }

If [LANGTAG](#term-LANGTAG) and "~" match with no [languageExclusion](#prod-languageExclusion), languageRange returns a [LanguageStem](#dfn-languagestem) object:

[LanguageStem](#dfn-languagestem)

{

stem:[LANGTAG](#dfn-langtag) }

If [LANGTAG](#term-LANGTAG) and "~" match and [languageExclusion](#prod-languageExclusion) matches one or more times, languageRange returns a [LanguageStemRange](#dfn-languagestemrange) object with exclusions equal to the set of results of [languageExclusion](#prod-languageExclusion):

[LanguageStemRange](#dfn-languagestemrange)

{

stem:([LANGTAG](#dfn-langtag) | [Wildcard](#dfn-wildcard)) exclusions:[[LANGTAG](#dfn-langtag)|[LanguageStem](#dfn-languagestem) +] }

If '@' '~' matched with no [languageExclusion](#prod-languageExclusion), languageRange returns a [LanguageStemRange](#dfn-languagestemrange) object with an empty stem:

[LanguageStemRange](#dfn-languagestemrange)

{

stem: "" }

If '@' '~' matched and [languageExclusion](#prod-languageExclusion) matches one or more times, languageRange returns a [LanguageStemRange](#dfn-languagestemrange) object with an empty stem ad exclusions equal to the set of results of [languageExclusion](#prod-languageExclusion):

[LanguageStemRange](#dfn-languagestemrange)

{

stem: "" exclusions:[[LANGTAG](#dfn-langtag)|[LanguageStem](#dfn-languagestem) +] }

[56]

languageExclusion

   ::=

'-' [LANGTAG](#term-LANGTAG) '~'?

Triple expressions can include the [shapeExpression](#prod-shapeExpression) in a [shapeExprDecl](#prod-shapeExprDecl).

[57]

include

   ::=

'&' [tripleExprLabel](#prod-tripleExprLabel)

Per the [triple expression refrence requirement](#tripleExprRef-requirement), tripleExprLabel property *MUST* appear in the schema's [shapes](#dfn-shapes) map and the corresponding [triple expression](#dfn-triple-expressions) *MUST* be a [Shape](#dfn-shape) with a tripleExpr.

[tripleExprRef](#dfn-tripleexprref)

=

[tripleExprLabel](#dfn-tripleexprlabel) ;

Triple expressions can include annotations in the form of a tuple of a [predicate](#prod-predicate) and an [iri](#prod-iri) or [literal](#prod-literal).

[58]

annotation

   ::=

"//" [predicate](#prod-predicate) ([iri](#prod-iri) | [literal](#prod-literal))

[Annotation](#dfn-annotation)

{

[predicate](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-predicate):[IRIREF](#dfn-iriref) object:[objectValue](#dfn-objectvalue) }

Triple expressions can include semantic actions consisting of an [iri](#prod-iri) and an optional code string.

[59]

semanticActions

   ::=

[codeDecl](#prod-codeDecl)\*

[60]

codeDecl

   ::=

'%' [iri](#prod-iri) ([CODE](#term-CODE) | '%')

[SemAct](#dfn-semact)

{

name:[IRIREF](#dfn-iriref) code:[STRING](#dfn-string)? }

The remaining productions come from the specifications for SPARQL and Turtle.

[13t]

literal

   ::=

[rdfLiteral](#prod-rdfLiteral) | [numericLiteral](#prod-numericLiteral) | [booleanLiteral](#prod-booleanLiteral)

[61]

predicate

   ::=

[iri](#prod-iri) | [RDF\_TYPE](#term-RDF_TYPE)

[62]

datatype

   ::=

[iri](#prod-iri)

[63]

shapeExprLabel

   ::=

[iri](#prod-iri) | [blankNode](#prod-blankNode)

[64]

tripleExprLabel

   ::=

[iri](#prod-iri) | [blankNode](#prod-blankNode)

[16t]

numericLiteral

   ::=

[INTEGER](#term-INTEGER) | [DECIMAL](#term-DECIMAL) | [DOUBLE](#term-DOUBLE)

[65]

rdfLiteral

   ::=

[langString](#prod-langString) | [string](#prod-string) ("^^" [datatype](#prod-datatype))?

returns: [literal](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-literal)

The literal has a lexical form of the first rule argument, String. If the '^^' iri rule matched, the datatype is iri and the literal has no [language tag](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-language-tag). If the langString rule matched, the datatype is rdf:langString and the [language tag](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-language-tag) is extracted from langTag. If neither matched, the datatype is xsd:string and the literal has no [language tag](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-language-tag).

[134s]

booleanLiteral

   ::=

"true" | "false"

returns: [literal](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-literal)

The literal has a lexical form of the true or false, depending on which matched the input, and a datatype of xsd:boolean.

[135s]

string

   ::=

[STRING\_LITERAL1](#term-STRING_LITERAL1) | [STRING\_LITERAL\_LONG1](#term-STRING_LITERAL_LONG1)  
| [STRING\_LITERAL2](#term-STRING_LITERAL2) | [STRING\_LITERAL\_LONG2](#term-STRING_LITERAL_LONG2)

[66]

langString

   ::=

[LANG\_STRING\_LITERAL1](#term-LANG_STRING_LITERAL1) | [LANG\_STRING\_LITERAL\_LONG1](#term-LANG_STRING_LITERAL_LONG1)  
| [LANG\_STRING\_LITERAL2](#term-LANG_STRING_LITERAL2) | [LANG\_STRING\_LITERAL\_LONG2](#term-LANG_STRING_LITERAL_LONG2)

[136s]

iri

   ::=

[IRIREF](#term-IRIREF) | [prefixedName](#prod-prefixedName)

[137s]

prefixedName

   ::=

[PNAME\_LN](#term-PNAME_LN) | [PNAME\_NS](#term-PNAME_NS)

[138s]

blankNode

   ::=

[BLANK\_NODE\_LABEL](#term-BLANK_NODE_LABEL)

Terminals

Terminals return:

* the RDF abstract types [IRI](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-iri), [lexical form](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-lexical-form), [literal](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-literal), [language tag](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/" \l "dfn-language-tag).
* a string of unicode codepoints for [CODE](#term-CODE).
* a repeat range for [REPEAT\_RANGE](#term-REPEAT_RANGE). A repeat range is a tuple of non-negative integers or a non-negative integer and a token for \*.

[67]

<CODE>

   ::=

"{" ([^%\\] | "\\" [%\\] | [UCHAR](#term-UCHAR))\* "%" "}"

returns: a string of unicode codepoints

The characters between "{" and "%}" are taken, with the [numeric escape sequences](https://www.w3.org/TR/turtle/#numeric) unescaped, to form the unicode string of the IRI.

[68]

<REPEAT\_RANGE>

   ::=

"{" [INTEGER](#term-INTEGER) ( "," ([INTEGER](#term-INTEGER) | "\*")? )? "}"

returns: repeat range

The base-10 numeric values of [INTEGER](#term-INTEGER) are taken or a non-negative integer and an \* token if "\*" was matched.

[69]

<RDF\_TYPE>

   ::=

"a"

returns: [IRI](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-iri)

The iri http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns# is returned.

[18t]

<IRIREF>

   ::=

"<" ([^#0000- <>\"{}|^`\\] | [UCHAR](#term-UCHAR))\* ">"

returns: [IRI](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-iri)

The characters between "<" and ">" are taken, with the [numeric escape sequences](https://www.w3.org/TR/turtle/#numeric) unescaped, to form the unicode string of the IRI. Relative IRI resolution is performed per Turtle [Section 6.3](https://www.w3.org/TR/turtle/#sec-iri-references).

[140s]

<PNAME\_NS>

   ::=

[PN\_PREFIX](#term-PN_PREFIX)? ":"

returns: [PREFIX](#dfn-prefix)

When used in a [prefixDecl](#prod-prefixDecl) production, the prefix is a potentially empty unicode string matching the first argument of the rule and serves as a key into the [prefixes map](#dfn-prefixes-map).

returns: [IRI](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-iri)

When used elsewhere, the iri is the value in the [prefixes map](#dfn-prefixes-map) corresponding to the first argument of the rule.

[141s]

<PNAME\_LN>

   ::=

[PNAME\_NS](#term-PNAME_NS) [PN\_LOCAL](#term-PN_LOCAL)

returns: [IRI](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-iri)

A potentially empty [prefix](#dfn-prefix) is identified by the first token, PNAME\_NS. The unicode string of the IRI is formed by unescaping the [reserved characters](https://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc3987#page-9) [[rfc7159](#bib-rfc7159)] in the second argument, PN\_LOCAL, and concatenating this onto the namespace found in the [prefixes map](#dfn-prefixes-map)'s entry for PNAME\_NS.

[70]

<ATPNAME\_NS>

   ::=

"@" [PNAME\_NS](#term-PNAME_NS)

returns: [IRI](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-iri)

The iri is the value in the [prefixes map](#dfn-prefixes-map) corresponding to the second token of the rule.

[71]

<ATPNAME\_LN>

   ::=

"@" [PNAME\_LN](#term-PNAME_LN)

returns: [IRI](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-iri)

A potentially empty [prefix](#dfn-prefix) is identified by the second token, PNAME\_NS. The unicode string of the IRI is formed by unescaping the [reserved characters](https://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc3987#page-9) [[rfc7159](#bib-rfc7159)] in the third token, PN\_LOCAL, and concatenating this onto the namespace found in the [prefixes map](#dfn-prefixes-map)'s entry for PNAME\_NS.

[72]

<REGEXP>

   ::=

'/' ([^/\\\n\r]  
     | '\\' [nrt\\|.?\*+(){}$-\[\]^/]  
     | [UCHAR](#term-UCHAR)  
    )+ '/' [smix]\*

{

pattern:[STRING](#dfn-string) flags:[STRING](#dfn-string)? }

returns: [JSON object](http://www.ecma-international.org/ecma-262/6.0/index.html#sec-terms-and-definitions-object)

pattern is a unicode string formed from the characters between the outermost '/'s by unescaping matches of '\\' '/' in the terminal pattern as well as the [numeric escape sequences](https://www.w3.org/TR/turtle/#numeric) matched by [UCHAR](#term-UCHAR). The remaining escape sequences are included verbatim in pattern, e.g.

^\/\t\\\U0001D4B8$

would become

^/\t\\\U0001D4B8$

.  
flags is a sequence of the characters [smix] if any were matched. Otherwise no flags attribute is returned.

[142s]

<BLANK\_NODE\_LABEL>

   ::=

"\_:" ([PN\_CHARS\_U](#term-PN_CHARS_U) | [0-9]) (([PN\_CHARS](#term-PN_CHARS) | ".")\* [PN\_CHARS](#term-PN_CHARS))?

returns: [blank node](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-blank-node)

The characters following the "\_:" form a [blank node identifier](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-blank-node-identifier). This corresponds to any [blank node](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-blank-node) in the input dataset that had the same label.

[145s]

<LANGTAG>

   ::=

"@" ([a-zA-Z])+ ("-" ([a-zA-Z0-9])+)\*

returns: [language tag](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-language-tag)

The characters following the @ form the unicode string of the [language tag](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-language-tag).

[19t]

<INTEGER>

   ::=

[+-]? [0-9]+

returns: [literal](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-literal)

The literal has a lexical form of the input string, and a datatype of xsd:integer.

[20t]

<DECIMAL>

   ::=

[+-]? [0-9]\* "." [0-9]+

returns: [literal](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-literal)

The literal has a lexical form of the input string, and a datatype of xsd:double.

[21t]

<DOUBLE>

   ::=

[+-]? ([0-9]+ "." [0-9]\* [EXPONENT](#term-EXPONENT) | "."? [0-9]+ [EXPONENT](#term-EXPONENT))

returns: [literal](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-literal)

The literal has a lexical form of the input string, and a datatype of xsd:double.

[155s]

<EXPONENT>

   ::=

[eE] [+-]? [0-9]+

[156s]

<STRING\_LITERAL1>

   ::=

"'" ([^'\\\n\r] | [ECHAR](#term-ECHAR) | [UCHAR](#term-UCHAR))\* "'"

returns: [lexical form](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-lexical-form)

The characters between the outermost "'"s are taken, with [numeric](https://www.w3.org/TR/turtle/#numeric) and [string](https://www.w3.org/TR/turtle/#string) escape sequences unescaped, to form the unicode string of a lexical form.

[157s]

<STRING\_LITERAL2>

   ::=

'"' ([^\"\\\n\r] | [ECHAR](#term-ECHAR) | [UCHAR](#term-UCHAR))\* '"'

returns: [lexical form](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-lexical-form)

The characters between the outermost '"'s are taken, with [numeric](https://www.w3.org/TR/turtle/#numeric) and [string](https://www.w3.org/TR/turtle/#string) escape sequences unescaped, to form the unicode string of a lexical form.

[158s]

<STRING\_LITERAL\_LONG1>

   ::=

"'''" ( ("'" | "''")? ([^\\'\\] | [ECHAR](#term-ECHAR) | [UCHAR](#term-UCHAR)) )\* "'''"

returns: [lexical form](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-lexical-form)

The characters between the outermost "'''"s are taken, with [numeric](https://www.w3.org/TR/turtle/#numeric) and [string](https://www.w3.org/TR/turtle/#string) escape sequences unescaped, to form the unicode string of a lexical form.

[159s]

<STRING\_LITERAL\_LONG2>

   ::=

'"""' ( ('"' | '""')? ([^\"\\] | [ECHAR](#term-ECHAR) | [UCHAR](#term-UCHAR)) )\* '"""'

returns: [lexical form](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-lexical-form)

The characters between the outermost '"""'s are taken, with [numeric](https://www.w3.org/TR/turtle/#numeric) and [string](https://www.w3.org/TR/turtle/#string) escape sequences unescaped, to form the unicode string of a lexical form.

[73]

<LANG\_STRING\_LITERAL1>

   ::=

"'" ([^'\\\n\r] | [ECHAR](#term-ECHAR) | [UCHAR](#term-UCHAR))\* "'" [LANGTAG](#term-LANGTAG)

returns: [lexical form](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-lexical-form)

The characters between the outermost "'"s are taken, with [numeric](https://www.w3.org/TR/turtle/#numeric) and [string](https://www.w3.org/TR/turtle/#string) escape sequences unescaped, to form the unicode string of a lexical form. The trailing [LANGTAG](#term-LANGTAG) is used to create a [language-tagged string](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-language-tagged-string).

[74]

<LANG\_STRING\_LITERAL2>

   ::=

'"' ([^\"\\\n\r] | [ECHAR](#term-ECHAR) | [UCHAR](#term-UCHAR))\* '"' [LANGTAG](#term-LANGTAG)

returns: [lexical form](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-lexical-form)

The characters between the outermost '"'s are taken, with [numeric](https://www.w3.org/TR/turtle/#numeric) and [string](https://www.w3.org/TR/turtle/#string) escape sequences unescaped, to form the unicode string of a lexical form. The trailing [LANGTAG](#term-LANGTAG) is used to create a [language-tagged string](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-language-tagged-string).

[75]

<LANG\_STRING\_LITERAL\_LONG1>

   ::=

"'''" ( ("'" | "''")? ([^\\'\\] | [ECHAR](#term-ECHAR) | [UCHAR](#term-UCHAR)) )\* "'''" [LANGTAG](#term-LANGTAG)

returns: [lexical form](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-lexical-form)

The characters between the outermost "'''"s are taken, with [numeric](https://www.w3.org/TR/turtle/#numeric) and [string](https://www.w3.org/TR/turtle/#string) escape sequences unescaped, to form the unicode string of a lexical form. The trailing [LANGTAG](#term-LANGTAG) is used to create a [language-tagged string](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-language-tagged-string).

[76]

<LANG\_STRING\_LITERAL\_LONG2>

   ::=

'"""' ( ('"' | '""')? ([^\"\\] | [ECHAR](#term-ECHAR) | [UCHAR](#term-UCHAR)) )\* '"""' [LANGTAG](#term-LANGTAG)

returns: [lexical form](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-lexical-form)

The characters between the outermost '"""'s are taken, with [numeric](https://www.w3.org/TR/turtle/#numeric) and [string](https://www.w3.org/TR/turtle/#string) escape sequences unescaped, to form the unicode string of a lexical form. The trailing [LANGTAG](#term-LANGTAG) is used to create a [language-tagged string](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-language-tagged-string).

[26t]

<UCHAR>

   ::=

   "\\u" [HEX](#term-HEX) [HEX](#term-HEX) [HEX](#term-HEX) [HEX](#term-HEX)  
| "\\U" [HEX](#term-HEX) [HEX](#term-HEX) [HEX](#term-HEX) [HEX](#term-HEX) [HEX](#term-HEX) [HEX](#term-HEX) [HEX](#term-HEX) [HEX](#term-HEX)

[160s]

<ECHAR>

   ::=

"\\" [tbnrf\\\"\\']

[164s]

<PN\_CHARS\_BASE>

   ::=

   [A-Z] | [a-z]  
| [#00C0-#00D6] | [#00D8-#00F6] | [#00F8-#02FF]  
| [#0370-#037D] | [#037F-#1FFF]  
| [#200C-#200D] | [#2070-#218F] | [#2C00-#2FEF]  
| [#3001-#D7FF] | [#F900-#FDCF] | [#FDF0-#FFFD]  
| [#10000-#EFFFF]

[165s]

<PN\_CHARS\_U>

   ::=

[PN\_CHARS\_BASE](#term-PN_CHARS_BASE) | "\_"

[167s]

<PN\_CHARS>

   ::=

[PN\_CHARS\_U](#term-PN_CHARS_U) | "-" | [0-9]  
| [#00B7] | [#0300-#036F] | [#203F-#2040]

[168s]

<PN\_PREFIX>

   ::=

[PN\_CHARS\_BASE](#term-PN_CHARS_BASE) ( ([PN\_CHARS](#term-PN_CHARS) | ".")\* [PN\_CHARS](#term-PN_CHARS) )?

[77]

<PN\_LOCAL>

   ::=

([PN\_CHARS\_U](#term-PN_CHARS_U) | ":" | [0-9] | [PLX](#term-PLX)) (([PN\_CHARS](#term-PN_CHARS) | "." | ":" | [PLX](#term-PLX))\* ([PN\_CHARS](#term-PN_CHARS) | ":" | [PLX](#term-PLX)))?

[170s]

<PLX>

   ::=

[PERCENT](#term-PERCENT) | [PN\_LOCAL\_ESC](#term-PN_LOCAL_ESC)

[171s]

<PERCENT>

   ::=

"%" [HEX](#term-HEX) [HEX](#term-HEX)

[172s]

<HEX>

   ::=

[0-9] | [A-F] | [a-f]

[173s]

<PN\_LOCAL\_ESC>

   ::=

"\\" ( "\_" | "~" | "." | "-" | "!" | "$" | "&" | "'" | "(" | ")" | "\*" | "+" | "," | ";" | "=" | "/" | "?" | "#" | "@" | "%" )

[98]

PASSED TOKENS

   ::=

   [ \t\r\n]+  
| "#" [^\r\n]\*  
| "/\*" ([^\*] | '\*' ([^/] | '\\/'))\* "\*/"

ShEx JSON Syntax (ShExJ)

This section aggregates the [JSON grammar](#dfn-json-grammar) rules defined above and includes terminals referenced above.

A ShExJ document is a JSON-LD [[JSON-LD](#bib-json-ld)] document which uses a proscribed structure to define a [schema](#dfn-shapes-schema) containing [shape expressions](#dfn-shape-expressions) and [triple expressions](#dfn-triple-expressions). A ShExJ document *MAY* include an @context property referencing http://www.w3.org/ns/shex.jsonld. In the absense of a top-level @context, ShEx Processors *MUST* act as if a @context property is present with the value http://www.w3.org/ns/shex.jsonld.

A ShExJ document can also be thought of as the serialization of an [RDF Graph](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-rdf-graph) using the Shape Expression Vocabulary [[shex-vocab](#bib-shex-vocab)] which conforms to the shape defined in [RDF Representation of ShEx (ShExR)](#shexr). Processors *MAY* interpret a ShExJ document as an RDF Graph. Processors may also transform arbitrary RDF Graphs conforming to [RDF Representation of ShEx (ShExR)](#shexr) into ShExJ using a mechanism not described within this specification.

In ShExJ, the unbounded cardinality constraint is -1, rather than "\*".

This is the complete grammar for ShExJ.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| [Schema](#dfn-shapes-schema) | { | "@context":"http://www.w3.org/ns/shex.jsonld"? [imports](#dfn-imports):[[IRIREF](#dfn-iriref)+]? startActs:[[SemAct](#dfn-semact)+]? [start](#dfn-start):[shapeExpr](#dfn-shapeexpr)? [shapes](#dfn-shapes):[[ShapeDecl](#dfn-shapedecl)+]? } |
| [ShapeDecl](#dfn-shapedecl) | { | id:[shapeExprLabel](#dfn-shapeexprlabel) abstract:[BOOL](#dfn-bool)? shapeExpr:[shapeExpr](#dfn-shapeexpr) | [ShapeExternal](#dfn-shapeexternal) } |
| [shapeExpr](#dfn-shapeexpr) | = | [ShapeOr](#dfn-shapeor) | [ShapeAnd](#dfn-shapeand) | [ShapeNot](#dfn-shapenot) | [NodeConstraint](#dfn-nodeconstraint) | [Shape](#dfn-shape) | [ShapeExprRef](#dfn-shapeexprref) ; |
| [ShapeOr](#dfn-shapeor) | { | shapeExprs:[[shapeExpr](#dfn-shapeexpr){2,}] } |
| [ShapeAnd](#dfn-shapeand) | { | shapeExprs:[[shapeExpr](#dfn-shapeexpr){2,}] } |
| [ShapeNot](#dfn-shapenot) | { | shapeExpr:[shapeExpr](#dfn-shapeexpr) } |
| [ShapeExternal](#dfn-shapeexternal) | { | } |
| [ShapeExprRef](#dfn-shapeexprref) | { | label:shapeExprLabel exact:[BOOL](#dfn-bool)? } |
| [shapeExprLabel](#dfn-shapeexprlabel) | = | [IRIREF](#dfn-iriref) | [BNODE](#dfn-bnode) ; |
| [NodeConstraint](#dfn-nodeconstraint) | { | id:[shapeExprLabel](#dfn-shapeexprlabel)? nodeKind:("iri" | "bnode" | "nonliteral" | "literal")? datatype:[IRIREF](#dfn-iriref)? [xsFacet](#dfn-xsfacet)\* values:[[valueSetValue](#dfn-valuesetvalue)+]? } |
| [xsFacet](#dfn-xsfacet) | = | [stringFacet](#dfn-stringfacet) | [numericFacet](#dfn-numericfacet) ; |
| [stringFacet](#dfn-stringfacet) | = | (length|minlength|maxlength):[INTEGER](#dfn-integer) | pattern:[STRING](#dfn-string) flags:[STRING](#dfn-string)? ; |
| [numericFacet](#dfn-numericfacet) | = | (mininclusive|minexclusive|maxinclusive|maxexclusive):[numericLiteral](#dfn-numericliteral) |
|  | | | (totaldigits|fractiondigits):[INTEGER](#dfn-integer) ; |
| [numericLiteral](#dfn-numericliteral) | = | [INTEGER](#dfn-integer) | [DECIMAL](#dfn-decimal) | [DOUBLE](#dfn-double) ; |
| [valueSetValue](#dfn-valuesetvalue) | = | [objectValue](#dfn-objectvalue) | [IriStem](#dfn-iristem) | [IriStemRange](#dfn-iristemrange) | [LiteralStem](#dfn-literalstem) | [LiteralStemRange](#dfn-literalstemrange) | [Language](#dfn-language) | [LanguageStem](#dfn-languagestem) | [LanguageStemRange](#dfn-languagestemrange) ; |
| [objectValue](#dfn-objectvalue) | = | [IRIREF](#dfn-iriref) | [ObjectLiteral](#dfn-objectliteral) ; |
| [ObjectLiteral](#dfn-objectliteral) | { | value:[STRING](#dfn-string) language:[STRING](#dfn-string)? type:[STRING](#dfn-string)? } |
| [IriStem](#dfn-iristem) | { | stem:[IRIREF](#dfn-iriref) } |
| [IriStemRange](#dfn-iristemrange) | { | stem:([IRIREF](#dfn-iriref) | [Wildcard](#dfn-wildcard)) exclusions:[[IRIREF](#dfn-iriref)|[IriStem](#dfn-iristem)+]? } |
| [LiteralStem](#dfn-literalstem) | { | stem:[STRING](#dfn-string) } |
| [LiteralStemRange](#dfn-literalstemrange) | { | stem:([STRING](#dfn-string) | [Wildcard](#dfn-wildcard)) exclusions:[[STRING](#dfn-string)|[LiteralStem](#dfn-literalstem)+]? } |
| [Language](#dfn-language) | { | languageTag:[LANGTAG](#dfn-langtag) } |
| [LanguageStem](#dfn-languagestem) | { | stem:([LANGTAG](#dfn-langtag) | [EMPTY](#dfn-empty)) } |
| [LanguageStemRange](#dfn-languagestemrange) | { | stem:([LANGTAG](#dfn-langtag) | [EMPTY](#dfn-empty)) exclusions:[[LANGTAG](#dfn-langtag)|[LanguageStem](#dfn-languagestem)+]? } |
| [Wildcard](#dfn-wildcard) | { | /\* empty \*/ } |
| [Shape](#dfn-shape) | { | extends:[[shapeExprRef](#dfn-shapeexprref)]? closed:[BOOL](#dfn-bool)? extra:[[IRIREF](#dfn-iriref)+]? expression:[tripleExpr](#dfn-tripleexpr)? semActs:[[SemAct](#dfn-semact)+]? annotations:[[Annotation](#dfn-annotation)+]? } |
| [tripleExpr](#dfn-tripleexpr) | = | [EachOf](#dfn-eachof) | [OneOf](#dfn-oneof) | [TripleConstraint](#dfn-tripleconstraint) | [tripleExprRef](#dfn-tripleexprref) ; |
| [EachOf](#dfn-eachof) | { | id:[tripleExprLabel](#dfn-tripleexprlabel)? expressions:[[tripleExpr](#dfn-tripleexpr){2,}] min:[INTEGER](#dfn-integer)? max:[INTEGER](#dfn-integer)? semActs:[[SemAct](#dfn-semact)+]? annotations:[[Annotation](#dfn-annotation)+]? } |
| [OneOf](#dfn-oneof) | { | id:[tripleExprLabel](#dfn-tripleexprlabel)? expressions:[[tripleExpr](#dfn-tripleexpr){2,}] min:[INTEGER](#dfn-integer)? max:[INTEGER](#dfn-integer)? semActs:[[SemAct](#dfn-semact)+]? annotations:[[Annotation](#dfn-annotation)+]? } |
| [TripleConstraint](#dfn-tripleconstraint) | { | id:[tripleExprLabel](#dfn-tripleexprlabel)? inverse:[BOOL](#dfn-bool)? [predicate](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-predicate):[IRIREF](#dfn-iriref) valueExpr:[shapeExpr](#dfn-shapeexpr)? min:[INTEGER](#dfn-integer)? max:[INTEGER](#dfn-integer)? semActs:[[SemAct](#dfn-semact)+]? annotations:[[Annotation](#dfn-annotation)+]? } |
| [tripleExprRef](#dfn-tripleexprref) | = | [tripleExprLabel](#dfn-tripleexprlabel) ; |
| [tripleExprLabel](#dfn-tripleexprlabel) | = | [IRIREF](#dfn-iriref) | [BNODE](#dfn-bnode) ; |
| [SemAct](#dfn-semact) | { | name:[IRIREF](#dfn-iriref) code:[STRING](#dfn-string)? } |
| [Annotation](#dfn-annotation) | { | [predicate](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-predicate):[IRIREF](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-iri) object:[objectValue](#dfn-objectvalue) } |
| # Terminals |  | These follow the [rules for terminals in the XML 1.0 5th Edition](http://www.w3.org/TR/2008/PER-xml-20080205/#sec-common-syn) |
|  | # | [Turtle IRIREF](http://www.w3.org/TR/turtle/#grammar-production-IRIREF) without enclosing "<>"s |
| IRIREF | : | ([PN\_CHARS](#dfn-pn_chars) | '.' | ':' | '/' | '\\' | '#' | '@' | '%' | '&' | [UCHAR](#dfn-uchar))\* ; |
|  | # | [Turtle BLANK\_NODE\_LABEL](http://www.w3.org/TR/turtle/#grammar-production-BLANK_NODE_LABEL) |
| BNODE | : | '\_:' ([PN\_CHARS\_U](#dfn-pn_chars_u) | [0-9]) (([PN\_CHARS](#dfn-pn_chars) | '.')\* [PN\_CHARS](#dfn-pn_chars))? ; |
|  | # | [JSON boolean values](https://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc7159#section-3) |
| BOOL | : | "true" | "false" ; |
|  | # | [Turtle INTEGER](http://www.w3.org/TR/turtle/#grammar-production-INTEGER) |
| INTEGER | : | [+-]? [0-9] + ; |
|  | # | [Turtle DECIMAL](http://www.w3.org/TR/turtle/#grammar-production-DECIMAL) |
| DECIMAL | : | [+-]? [0-9]\* '.' [0-9] + ; |
|  | # | [Turtle DOUBLE](http://www.w3.org/TR/turtle/#grammar-production-DOUBLE) |
| DOUBLE | : | [+-]? ([0-9] + '.' [0-9]\* [EXPONENT](#dfn-exponent) | '.' [0-9]+ [EXPONENT](#dfn-exponent) | [0-9]+ [EXPONENT](#dfn-exponent)) ; |
|  | # | [BCP47 Language-Tag](https://tools.ietf.org/html/bcp47#section-2.1) |
| LANGTAG | : | [a-zA-Z]+ ('-' [a-zA-Z0-9]+)\* ; |
|  | # | any [JSON string](https://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc7159#section-7) |
| STRING | : | .\* ; |
|  | # | empty string |
| EMPTY | : | ^$ ; |
| # Components |  | These terminals are referenced by other terminals but not by external productions. |
| PN\_PREFIX | : | [PN\_CHARS\_BASE](#dfn-pn_chars_base) (([PN\_CHARS](#dfn-pn_chars) | '.')\* [PN\_CHARS](#dfn-pn_chars))? ; |
| PN\_CHARS\_BASE | : | [A-Z] | [a-z] | [\u00C0-\u00D6] | [\u00D8-\u00F6] | [\u00F8-\u02FF] | [\u0370-\u037D] | [\u037F-\u1FFF] | [\u200C-\u200D] | [\u2070-\u218F] | [\u2C00-\u2FEF] | [\u3001-\uD7FF] | [\uF900-\uFDCF] | [\uFDF0-\uFFFD] | [\u10000-\uEFFFF] ; |
| PN\_CHARS | : | [PN\_CHARS\_U](#dfn-pn_chars_u) | '-' | [0-9] | '\u00B7' | [\u0300-\u036F] | [\u203F-\u2040] ; |
| PN\_CHARS\_U | : | [PN\_CHARS\_BASE](#dfn-pn_chars_base) | '\_' ; |
| UCHAR | : | '\\u' [HEX](#dfn-hex) [HEX](#dfn-hex) [HEX](#dfn-hex) [HEX](#dfn-hex) | '\\U' [HEX](#dfn-hex) [HEX](#dfn-hex) [HEX](#dfn-hex) [HEX](#dfn-hex) [HEX](#dfn-hex) [HEX](#dfn-hex) [HEX](#dfn-hex) [HEX](#dfn-hex) ; |
| HEX | : | [0-9] | [A-F] | [a-f] ; |
| EXPONENT | : | [eE] [+-]? [0-9]+ ; |

RDF Representation of ShEx (ShExR)

A ShExR graph is any [RDF Graph](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-rdf-graph) which conforms to the following [shapes schema](#dfn-shapes-schema) and meets the [Schema Requirements](#schema-requirements). Every [ShExR](#dfn-shexr) document is [graph isomorphic](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#dfn-graph-isomorphism)[[rdf11-concepts](#bib-rdf11-concepts)] to the [RDF serialization](https://www.w3.org/TR/json-ld11-api/#deserialize-json-ld-to-rdf-algorithm)[[json-ld](#bib-json-ld)] of some [ShExJ](#dfn-shexj) document.

[Example 1](#example-shexr-shape-expression-schema): ShExR Shape Expression Schema

PREFIX sx: <http://www.w3.org/ns/shex#>  
PREFIX xsd: <http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#>  
PREFIX rdf: <http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#>  
BASE <http://www.w3.org/ns/shex>  
start=@<#Schema>  
  
<#Schema> CLOSED {  
 a [sx:Schema] ;  
 sx:imports @<#IriList1Plus> ? ;  
 sx:startActs @<#SemActList1Plus> ? ;  
 sx:start @<#shapeDeclOrExpr> ? ;  
 sx:shapes @<#ShapeDeclList1Plus> ?  
}  
  
<#shapeDeclOrExpr> @<#ShapeDecl> OR @<#shapeExpr>  
  
<#ShapeDecl> CLOSED {  
 a [sx:ShapeDecl] ;  
 sx:abstract [true false] ? ;  
 sx:shapeExpr @<#shapeExpr>  
}  
  
<#shapeExpr> @<#ShapeOr> OR @<#ShapeAnd> OR @<#ShapeNot> OR @<#NodeConstraint> OR @<#Shape> OR @<#ShapeExternal>  
  
<#ShapeOr> CLOSED {  
 a [sx:ShapeOr] ;  
 sx:shapeExprs @<#shapeDeclOrExprList2Plus>  
}  
  
<#ShapeAnd> CLOSED {  
 a [sx:ShapeAnd] ;  
 sx:shapeExprs @<#shapeDeclOrExprList2Plus>  
}  
  
<#ShapeNot> CLOSED {  
 a [sx:ShapeNot] ;  
 sx:shapeExpr @<#shapeDeclOrExpr>  
}  
  
<#NodeConstraint> CLOSED {  
 a [sx:NodeConstraint] ;  
 sx:nodeKind [sx:iri sx:bnode sx:literal sx:nonliteral] ? ;  
 sx:datatype IRI ? ;  
 &<#xsFacets> ;  
 sx:values @<#valueSetValueList1Plus> ? ;  
 sx:semActs @<#SemActList1Plus> ? ;  
 sx:annotation @<#AnnotationList1Plus> ?  
}  
  
<#Shape> CLOSED {  
 a [sx:Shape] ;  
 sx:extends @<#shapeDeclOrExprList1Plus>? ;  
 sx:closed [true false] ? ;  
 sx:extra IRI \* ;  
 sx:expression @<#tripleExpression> ? ;  
 sx:semActs @<#SemActList1Plus> ? ;  
 sx:annotation @<#AnnotationList1Plus> ?  
}  
  
<#ShapeExternal> CLOSED {  
 a [sx:ShapeExternal]  
}  
  
<#SemAct> CLOSED {  
 a [sx:SemAct] ;  
 sx:name IRI ;  
 sx:code xsd:string ?  
}  
  
<#Annotation> CLOSED {  
 a [sx:Annotation] ;  
 sx:predicate IRI ;  
 sx:object @<#objectValue>  
}  
  
<#facet\_holder> { # hold labeled productions  
  
 $<#xsFacets> ( &<#stringFacet> | &<#numericFacet> ) \* ;  
 $<#stringFacet> (  
 sx:length xsd:integer  
 | sx:minlength xsd:integer  
 | sx:maxlength xsd:integer  
 | sx:pattern xsd:string ; sx:flags xsd:string ?  
 ) ;  
 $<#numericFacet> (  
 sx:mininclusive @<#numericLiteral>  
 | sx:minexclusive @<#numericLiteral>  
 | sx:maxinclusive @<#numericLiteral>  
 | sx:maxexclusive @<#numericLiteral>  
 | sx:totaldigits xsd:integer  
 | sx:fractiondigits xsd:integer  
 )  
}  
<#numericLiteral> xsd:integer OR xsd:decimal OR xsd:double  
  
<#valueSetValue> @<#objectValue> OR @<#IriStem> OR @<#IriStemRange>  
 OR @<#LiteralStem> OR @<#LiteralStemRange>  
 OR @<#Language> OR @<#LanguageStem> OR @<#LanguageStemRange>  
<#objectValue> IRI OR LITERAL  
  
<#IriStem> CLOSED { a [sx:IriStem] ; sx:stem xsd:string }  
<#IriStemRange> CLOSED {  
 a [sx:IriStemRange] ;  
 sx:stem xsd:string OR @<#Wildcard> ;  
 sx:exclusion @<#IriStemExclusionList1Plus>  
}  
  
<#LiteralStem> CLOSED { a [sx:LiteralStem] ; sx:stem xsd:string }  
<#LiteralStemRange> CLOSED {  
 a [sx:LiteralStemRange] ;  
 sx:stem xsd:string OR @<#Wildcard> ;  
 sx:exclusion @<#LiteralStemExclusionList1Plus>  
}  
  
<#Language> CLOSED { a [sx:Language] ; sx:languageTag xsd:string }  
<#LanguageStem> CLOSED { a [sx:LanguageStem] ; sx:stem xsd:string }  
<#LanguageStemRange> CLOSED {  
 a [sx:LanguageStemRange] ;  
 sx:stem xsd:string OR @<#Wildcard> ;  
 sx:exclusion @<#LanguageStemExclusionList1Plus>  
}  
  
<#Wildcard> BNODE CLOSED {  
 a [sx:Wildcard]  
}  
  
<#tripleExpression>  
 @<#NotYetResolvedInclusion>  
 OR @<#TripleConstraint>  
 OR @<#OneOf>  
 OR @<#EachOf>  
  
<#NotYetResolvedInclusion> CLOSED {} # will have 1 incoming, 0 outgoing arcs  
  
  
<#OneOf> CLOSED {  
 a [sx:OneOf] ;  
 sx:min xsd:integer ? ;  
 sx:max xsd:integer ? ;  
 sx:expressions @<#tripleExpressionList2Plus> ;  
 sx:semActs @<#SemActList1Plus> ? ;  
 sx:annotation @<#AnnotationList1Plus> ?  
}  
  
<#EachOf> CLOSED {  
 a [sx:EachOf] ;  
 sx:min xsd:integer ? ;  
 sx:max xsd:integer ? ;  
 sx:expressions @<#tripleExpressionList2Plus> ;  
 sx:semActs @<#SemActList1Plus> ? ;  
 sx:annotation @<#AnnotationList1Plus> ?  
}  
  
<#TripleConstraint> CLOSED {  
 a [sx:TripleConstraint] ;  
 sx:inverse [true false] ? ;  
 sx:negated [true false] ? ;  
 sx:min xsd:integer ? ;  
 sx:max xsd:integer ? ;  
 sx:predicate IRI ;  
 sx:valueExpr @<#shapeDeclOrExpr> ? ;  
 sx:semActs @<#SemActList1Plus> ? ;  
 sx:annotation @<#AnnotationList1Plus> ?  
}  
  
# RDF Lists  
  
  
<#tripleExpressionList2Plus> CLOSED {  
 rdf:first @<#tripleExpression> ;  
 rdf:rest @<#tripleExpressionList1Plus>  
}  
<#tripleExpressionList1Plus> CLOSED {  
 rdf:first @<#tripleExpression> ;  
 rdf:rest [rdf:nil] OR @<#tripleExpressionList1Plus>  
}  
  
<#IriList1Plus> CLOSED {  
 rdf:first IRI ;  
 rdf:rest [rdf:nil] OR @<#IriList1Plus>  
}  
  
<#SemActList1Plus> CLOSED {  
 rdf:first @<#SemAct> ;  
 rdf:rest [rdf:nil] OR @<#SemActList1Plus>  
}  
  
<#ShapeDeclList1Plus> CLOSED {  
 rdf:first @<#ShapeDecl> ;  
 rdf:rest [rdf:nil] OR @<#ShapeDeclList1Plus>  
}  
  
<#shapeDeclOrExprList2Plus> CLOSED {  
 rdf:first @<#shapeDeclOrExpr> ;  
 rdf:rest @<#shapeDeclOrExprList1Plus>  
}  
<#shapeDeclOrExprList1Plus> CLOSED {  
 rdf:first @<#shapeDeclOrExpr> ;  
 rdf:rest [rdf:nil] OR @<#shapeDeclOrExprList1Plus>  
}  
  
<#valueSetValueList1Plus> CLOSED {  
 rdf:first @<#valueSetValue> ;  
 rdf:rest [rdf:nil] OR @<#valueSetValueList1Plus>  
}  
  
<#AnnotationList1Plus> CLOSED {  
 rdf:first @<#Annotation> ;  
 rdf:rest [rdf:nil] OR @<#AnnotationList1Plus>  
}  
  
<#IriStemExclusionList1Plus> CLOSED {  
 rdf:first IRI OR @<#IriStem> ;  
 rdf:rest [rdf:nil] OR @<#IriStemExclusionList1Plus>  
}  
  
<#LiteralStemExclusionList1Plus> CLOSED {  
 rdf:first xsd:string OR @<#LiteralStem> ;  
 rdf:rest [rdf:nil] OR @<#LiteralStemExclusionList1Plus>  
}  
  
<#LanguageStemExclusionList1Plus> CLOSED {  
 rdf:first xsd:string OR @<#LanguageStem> ;  
 rdf:rest [rdf:nil] OR @<#LanguageStemExclusionList1Plus>  
}

IANA Considerations

This section has been submitted to the Internet Engineering Steering Group (IESG) for review, approval, and registration with IANA.

text/shex

Type name:

text

Subtype name:

shex

Required parameters:

None

Optional parameters:

None

Encoding considerations:

8-bit text

ShEx Compact Syntax (ShExC) is a text language which is encoded in UTF-8.

Security considerations:

Given that [ShExC](#dfn-shexc) allows the substitution of long IRIs with short terms, [ShExC](#dfn-shexc) documents may expand considerably when processed and, in the worst case, the resulting data might consume all of the recipient's resources. Applications should treat any data with due skepticism.

Interoperability considerations:

Not Applicable

Published specification:

<http://shex.io/shex-semantics/>

Applications that use this media type:

Any programming environment that requires the exchange of directed graphs. Implementations of ShEx have been created for JavaScript, Python, Ruby, and Java.

Fragment Identifier Considerations:

The structure of a ShEx schema is defined by its representation in JSON per [ShEx JSON Syntax (ShExJ)](#shexj). The JSON-LD context <<http://www.w3.org/ns/shex.jsonld>> defines the RDF representation (ShExR) for every ShEx schema. A ShEx fragment identifies an instance of either the [shapeExpr](#dfn-shapeexpr) or [tripleExpr](#dfn-tripleexpr) ShExJ productions, as well as the RDF resource (see [RDF 1.1 Concepts and Abstract Syntax](https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-concepts/#section-fragID) §6 [[RDF11-CONCEPTS](#bib-rdf11-concepts)]) in the corresponding ShExR.

Restrictions on Usage:

None

Provisional Registrations:

Not Applicable

Additional information:

Deprecated alias names for this type:

None

Magic number(s):

File extension(s):

.shex

Macintosh file type code(s):

TEXT

Intended usage:

Common

Other Information & Comments:

None

Contact Person:

Contact Name:

Eric Prud'hommeaux

Contact Email Address:

eric@w3.org

Change controller:

W3C

# (informative) Semantic Action -- Use?

# (informative) Semantics?

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   PDF: ISBN 978-0-XXXX-XXXX-XSTDXXXXX

   Print: ISBN978-0-XXXX-XXXX-XSTDPDXXXXX

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2. * 1. Available at: <https://development.standards.ieee.org/myproject-web/public/view.html#landing>.

   [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. * 1. Available at: <https://standards.ieee.org/about/contact/>.

   [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. * 1. Available at: <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/browse/standards/collection/ieee>.

   [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. * 1. Available at: <https://standards.ieee.org/standard/index.html>.

   [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. * 1. Available at: <https://standards.ieee.org/about/sasb/patcom/materials.html>.

   [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. * 1. The use of the word *must* is deprecated and cannot be used when stating mandatory requirements; *must* is used only to describe unavoidable situations.

   [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. * 1. The use of *will* is deprecated and cannot be used when stating mandatory requirements; *will* is only used in statements of fact.

   [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. * 1. *IEEE Standards Dictionary Online* is available at: <http://dictionary.ieee.org>. An IEEE account is required for access to the dictionary, and one can be created at no charge on the di*ctionary sign-in page.*

   [↑](#footnote-ref-9)