## ShEx: Shape Expressions language

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## 

2. Against a schema.

XML Schema Definition language: schema prescribes conditions to which an XML document must conform to be considered valid.

### XML Data

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<purchaseOrder orderDate="1999-10-20">
  <shipTo country="US">
    <name>Alice Smith</name>
    <street>123 Maple Street</street>
    <city>Mill Valley</city>
    <state>CA</state>
    <zip>90952</zip>
  </shipTo>
  <br/><billTo country="US">
    <name>Robert Smith</name>
    <street>8 Oak Avenue</street>
    <city>Old Town</city>
    <state>PA</state>
    <zip>95819</zip>
 </billTo>
```

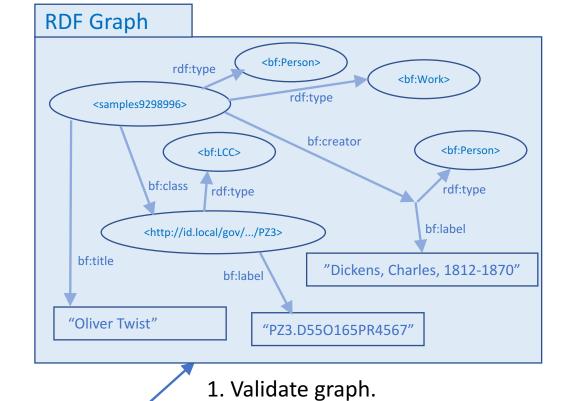
1. Validate data.

Validation

3. To yield a validation result

D:\data\purchase order23.xml is valid.

## ShEx Schema [ShExC syntax] <Work> EXTRA rdf:type { rdf:type [bf:Work] ?; bf:title LITERAL; bf:class @<Classification> \*; bf:creator @<Person> OR @<Organization> +; bf:derivedFrom IRI \*; } <Classification> [<http://id.loc.gov/.../>~] AND EXTRA rdf:type { rdf:type [bf:LCC] ?; bf:label LITERAL; }



2. Against a schema.

Shape Expressions language (ShEx): schema prescribes conditions to which an RDF graph must conform to be considered valid.

\_\_\_

Validation

3. To yield a validation result

✓<samples9298996>@<Work>

validating samples9298996bad as Work:
validating http://...oliverTwist:
Error validating http://...oliverTwist
as nodeKind literal:
iri found when literal expected

```
<Work> EXTRA rdf:type {
  rdf:type [bf:Work] ?;
  bf:title LITERAL;
  bf:class @<Classification> *;
  bf:creator @<Person> OR @<Organization> +;
  bf:derivedFrom IRI *;
}

<Classification>
  [<http://id.loc.gov/.../>~]
AND
  EXTRA rdf:type {
  rdf:type [bf:LCC] ?;
  bf:label LITERAL;
}
```

RDF Data [Turtle syntax]

```
<samples9298996>
rdf:type bf:Text;
rdf:type bf:Work;
bf:title "Oliver Twist.";
bf:class <id.loc.gov/.../PZ3>;
bf:creator [
   rdf:type bf:Person;
   bf:label "Dickens, Charles, 1812-1870.";
].
<id.loc.gov/.../PZ3>
rdf:type bf:LCC;
bf:label "PZ3.D55O165PR4567".
```

1. Validate data.

2. Against a schema.

Shape Expressions language (ShEx): schema prescribes conditions to which RDF data must conform to be considered valid.

Validation

```
✓<samples9298996>@<Work>

validating samples9298996bad as Work:
validating http://...oliverTwist:
Error validating http://...oliverTwist
as nodeKind literal:
iri found when literal expected
```

### RDF Data [Turtle syntax]

```
<samples9298996>
rdf:type bf:Text;
rdf:type bf:Work;
bf:title "Oliver Twist.";
bf:class <id.loc.gov/.../PZ3>;
bf:creator [
   rdf:type bf:Person;
   bf:label "Dickens, Charles, 1812-1870.";
].
<id.loc.gov/.../PZ3>
rdf:type bf:LCC;
bf:label "PZ3.D55O165PR4567".
```

2. Against a schema.

1. Validate data.

ShExJ syntax, interchangeable with

3. To yield a validation result

Validation

```
<Works

rdf:type [bf:Work] ?;

bf:title LITERAL;

bf:class @<Classification> *;

bf:creator @<Person> OR @<Organization> +;

bf:derivedFrom IRI *;

}

<Classification>
  [<http://id.loc.gov/.../>~]

AND
  EXTRA rdf:type {
  rdf:type [bf:LCC] ?;
  bf:label LITERAL;
}
```

### RDF Data [Turtle syntax]

```
<samples9298996>
rdf:type bf:Text;
rdf:type bf:Work;
bf:title "Oliver Twist.";
bf:class <id.loc.gov/.../PZ3>;
bf:creator [
   rdf:type bf:Person;
   bf:label "Dickens, Charles, 1812-1870.";
].
<id.loc.gov/.../PZ3>
   rdf:type bf:LCC;
bf:label "PZ3.D55O165PR4567".
```

1. Validate data.

2. Against a schema.

A resource in RDF data matching the "Work" shape1:

Validation

3. To yield a validation result

<sup>1</sup> Note: a pre-processing step uses the ShEx ShapeMap language to associate an RDF nodes with ShEx shapes, here: <samples9298996>@<Work>. Associations can be enumerated (in "fixed shape maps") or generated automatically (in "query shape maps") depending on the degree of control desired.

✓<samples9298996>@<Work>

validating samples9298996bad as Work:
validating http://...oliverTwist:
Error validating http://...oliverTwist
as nodeKind literal:
iri found when literal expected

```
<Work> EXTRA rdf:type {
  rdf:type [bf:Work] ?;
  bf:title LITERAL;
  bf:class @<Classification> *;
  bf:creator @<Person> OR @<Organization> +;
  bf:derivedFrom IRI *;
}

<Classification>
  [<http://id.loc.gov/.../>~]

AND
  EXTRA rdf:type {
  rdf:type [bf:LCC] ?;
  bf:label LITERAL;
}
```

2. Against a schema.

A resource in RDF data matching the "Work" shape Has zero or one "rdf:type bf:Work" statements

## RDF Data [Turtle syntax]

```
<samples9298996>
rdf:type bf:Text;
rdf:type bf:Work;
bf:title "Oliver Twist.";
bf:class <id.loc.gov/.../PZ3>;
bf:creator [
   rdf:type bf:Person;
   bf:label "Dickens, Charles, 1812-1870.";
].
<id.loc.gov/.../PZ3>
   rdf:type bf:LCC;
bf:label "PZ3.D55O165PR4567".
```

1. Validate data.

Validation

```
<Works
EXTRA rdf:type
rdf:type [bf:Work] ?;
bf:title LITERAL;
bf:class @<Classification> *;
bf:creator @<Person> OR @<Organization> +;
bf:derivedFrom IRI *;
}

<Classification>
[<http://id.loc.gov/.../>~]
AND
EXTRA rdf:type {
  rdf:type [bf:LCC] ?;
  bf:label LITERAL;
}
```

2. Against a schema.

A resource in RDF data matching the "Work" shape: Has zero or one "rdf:type bf:Work" statements **Optionally has an extra "rdf:type" statement** 

## RDF Data [Turtle syntax]

```
<samples9298996>
rdf:type bf:Text;
rdf:type bf:Work;
bf:title "Oliver Twist.";
bf:class <id.loc.gov/.../PZ3>;
bf:creator [
   rdf:type bf:Person;
   bf:label "Dickens, Charles, 1812-1870.";
].
<id.loc.gov/.../PZ3>
   rdf:type bf:LCC;
bf:label "PZ3.D55O165PR4567".
```

1. Validate data.

Validation

```
<Work> EXTRA rdf:type {
  rdf:type [bf:Work] ?;
  bf:class @<Classification> *;
  bf:creator @<Person> OR @<Organization> +;
  bf:derivedFrom IRI *;
}

<Classification>
  [<http://id.loc.gov/.../>~]
AND
  EXTRA rdf:type {
  rdf:type [bf:LCC] ?;
  bf:label LITERAL;
}
```

## 2. Against a schema.

A resource in RDF data matching the "Work" shape: Has zero or one "rdf:type bf:Work" statements Optionally has an extra "rdf:type" statement Has exactly one "bf:title" statement with literal value

## RDF Data [Turtle syntax]

```
<samples9298996>
rdf:type bf:Text;
rdf:type bf:Work;
bf:title "Oliver Twist.";
bf:class <id.loc.gov/.../PZ3>;
bf:creator [
rdf:type bf:Person;
bf:label "Dickens, Charles, 1812-1870.";
].

<id.loc.gov/.../PZ3>
rdf:type bf:LCC;
bf:label "PZ3.D55O165PR4567".
```

1. Validate data.

Validation

# ShEx Schema [ShExC syntax] <Work> EXTRA rdf:type { rdf:type [bf:Work] ?; bf:title LITERAL; bf:class @<Classification> \*; bf:creator @<Person> OR @<Organization> +; bf:derivedFrom IRI \*; } <Classification> [<http://id.loc.gov/.../>~] AND EXTRA rdf:type { rdf:type [bf:LCC] ?; bf:label LITERAL; }

## 2. Against a schema.

A resource in RDF data matching the "Work" shape:
Has zero or one "rdf:type bf:Work" statements
Optionally has an extra "rdf:type" statement
Has exactly one "bf:title" statement with literal value
Has zero or more "bf:class" statements taking objects
that match the "Classification" shape

## RDF Data [Turtle syntax]

```
<samples9298996>
rdf:type bf:Text;
rdf:type bf:Work;
bf:title "Oliver Twist.";
bf:class <id.loc.gov/.../PZ3>;
bf:creator [
   rdf:type bf:Person;
   bf:label "Dickens, Charles, 1812-1870.";
].
<id.loc.gov/.../PZ3>
   rdf:type bf:LCC;
bf:label "PZ3.D55O165PR4567".
```

1. Validate data.

**Validation** 

# ShEx Schema [ShExC syntax] <Work> EXTRA rdf:type { rdf:type [bf:Work] ?; bf:title LITERAL; bf:class @<Classification> \*; bf:creator @<Person> OR @<Organization> +; bf:derivedFrom IRI \*; } <Classification> [<http://id.loc.gov/.../>~] AND EXTRA rdf:type { rdf:type [bf:LCC] ?; bf:label LITERAL; }

## 2. Against a schema.

A resource in RDF data matching the "Work" shape:
Has zero or one "rdf:type bf:Work" statements
Optionally has an extra "rdf:type" statement
Has exactly one "bf:title" statement with literal value
Has zero or more "bf:class" statements taking objects
that match the "Classification" shape

Has one or more "bf:creator" statements taking objects that match either the "Person" or the "Organization" shape

## RDF Data [Turtle syntax]

```
<samples9298996>
rdf:type bf:Text;
rdf:type bf:Work;
bf:title "Oliver Twist.";
bf:class <id.loc.gov/.../PZ3>;
bf:creator [
rdf:type bf:Person;
bf:label "Dickens, Charles, 1812-1870.";
].

<id.loc.gov/.../PZ3>
rdf:type bf:LCC;
bf:label "PZ3.D550165PR4567".
```

1. Validate data.

Validation

## 3. To yield a validation result

✓<samples9298996>@<Work>

validating samples9298996bad as Work:
validating http://...oliverTwist:
Error validating http://...oliverTwist
as nodeKind literal:

X<samples9298996bad>@!<Work>

iri found when literal expected

# ShEx Schema [ShExC syntax] <Work> EXTRA rdf:type { rdf:type [bf:Work] ?; bf:title LITERAL; bf:class @<Classification> \*; bf:creator @<Person> OR @<Organization> +; bf:derivedFrom IRI \*; } <Classification> [<http://id.loc.gov/.../>~] AND EXTRA rdf:type { rdf:type [bf:LCC] ?; bf:label LITERAL; }

## 2. Against a schema.

A resource in RDF data matching the "Work" shape:
Has zero or one "rdf:type bf:Work" statements
Optionally has an extra "rdf:type" statement
Has exactly one "bf:title" statement with literal value
Has zero or more "bf:class" statements taking objects
that match the "Classification" shape
Has one or more "bf:creator" statements taking objects
that match either the "Person" or the "Organization"
Shape

And zero or more "bf:derivedFrom" statements taking an IRI as object.

### RDF Data [Turtle syntax]

```
<samples9298996>
  rdf:type bf:Text;
  rdf:type bf:Work;
  bf:title "Oliver Twist.";
  bf:class <id.loc.gov/.../PZ3>;
  bf:creator [
    rdf:type bf:Person;
    bf:label "Dickens, Charles, 1812-1870.";
  ].

<id.loc.gov/.../PZ3>
  rdf:type bf:LCC;
  bf:label "PZ3.D55O165PR4567".
```

1. Validate data.

Validation

## 3. To yield a validation result

✓<samples9298996>@<Work>

validating samples9298996bad as Work:
validating http://...oliverTwist:
Error validating http://...oliverTwist
as nodeKind literal:
iri found when literal expected

# ShEx Schema [ShExC syntax] <Work> EXTRA rdf:type { rdf:type [bf:Work] ?; bf:title LITERAL; bf:class @<Classification> \*; bf:creator @<Person> OR @<Organization> +; bf:derivedFrom IRI \*; } <Classification> [<http://id.loc.gov/.../>~] AND EXTRA rdf:type { rdf:type [bf:LCC] ?; bf:label LITERAL; }

## RDF Data [Turtle syntax]

```
<samples9298996>
  rdf:type bf:Text;
  rdf:type bf:Work;
  bf:title "Oliver Twist.";
  bf:class <id.loc.gov/.../PZ3>;
  bf:creator [
    rdf:type bf:Person;
    bf:label "Dickens, Charles, 1812-1870.";
  ].

<id.loc.gov/.../PZ3>
  rdf:type bf:LCC;
  bf:label "PZ3.D55O165PR4567".
```

2. Against a schema.

A resource matching the "Classification" shape:

Validation

1. Validate data.

3. To yield a validation result

✓<samples9298996>@<Work>

validating samples9298996bad as Work:
validating http://...oliverTwist:
Error validating http://...oliverTwist
as nodeKind literal:
iri found when literal expected

## ShEx Schema [ShExC syntax] <Work> EXTRA rdf:type { rdf:type [bf:Work] ?; bf:title LITERAL; bf:class @<Classification> \*;

## bf:creator @<Person> OR @<Organization> +; bf:derivedFrom IRI \*; <Classification> [<http://id.loc.gov/.../>~] AND EXTRA rdf:type { rdf:type [bf:LCC] ?; bf:label LITERAL;

2. Against a schema.

A resource matching the "Classification" shape: is identified with an IRI starting with "id.loc.gov"

## RDF Data [Turtle syntax]

```
<samples9298996>
 rdf:type bf:Text ;
 rdf:type bf:Work;
 bf:title "Oliver Twist.";
 bf:class <id.loc.gov/.../PZ3>;
 bf:creator [
   rdf:type bf:Person;
   bf:label "Dickens, Charles, 1812-1870.";
<id.loc.gov/.../PZ3>
 rdf:type bf:LCC;
 bf:label "PZ3.D55O165PR4567".
```

1. Validate data.

Validation

```
√<samples9298996>@<Work>

                               validating samples9298996bad as Work:
                                  validating http://...oliverTwist:
                                     Error validating http://...oliverTwist
                                     as nodeKind literal:
X<samples9298996bad>@!<Work>
                                       iri found when literal expected
```

```
<Work> EXTRA rdf:type {
  rdf:type [bf:Work] ?;
  bf:title LITERAL;
  bf:class @<Classification> *;
  bf:creator @<Person> OR @<Organization> +;
  bf:derivedFrom IRI *;
}

<Classification>
  [<http://id.loc.gov/.../>~]
AND
  EXTRA rdf:type {
   rdf:type [bf:LCC] ?;
   bf:label LITERAL;
}
```

2. Against a schema.

A resource matching the "Classification" shape: is identified with an IRI starting with "id.loc.gov" has zero or one "rdf:type bf:LOC statements

### RDF Data [Turtle syntax]

```
<samples9298996>
rdf:type bf:Text;
rdf:type bf:Work;
bf:title "Oliver Twist.";
bf:class <id.loc.gov/.../PZ3>;
bf:creator [
rdf:type bf:Person;
bf:label "Dickens, Charles, 1812-1870.";
].

<id.loc.gov/.../PZ3>
rdf:type bf:LCC;
bf:label "PZ3.D550165PR4567".
```

1. Validate data.

Validation

```
✓<samples9298996>@<Work>

validating samples9298996bad as Work:
validating http://...oliverTwist:
Error validating http://...oliverTwist
as nodeKind literal:
iri found when literal expected
```

```
<Work> EXTRA rdf:type {
  rdf:type [bf:Work] ?;
  bf:title LITERAL;
  bf:class @<Classification> *;
  bf:creator @<Person> OR @<Organization> +;
  bf:derivedFrom IRI *;
}

<Classification>
  [<http://id.loc.gov/.../>~]
AND
  EXTRA rdf:type {
  rdf:type [bf:LCC] ?;
  bf:label LITERAL;
}
```

## 2. Against a schema.

A resource matching the "Classification" shape: is identified with an IRI starting with "id.loc.gov" has zero or one "rdf:type bf:LOC statements optionally has an additional "rdf:type" statement

## RDF Data [Turtle syntax]

```
<samples9298996>
  rdf:type bf:Text;
  rdf:type bf:Work;
  bf:title "Oliver Twist.";
  bf:class <id.loc.gov/.../PZ3>;
  bf:creator [
    rdf:type bf:Person;
    bf:label "Dickens, Charles, 1812-1870.";
].

<id.loc.gov/.../PZ3>
  rdf:type bf:LCC;
  bf:label "PZ3.D55O165PR4567".
```

1. Validate data.

Validation

```
✓<samples9298996>@<Work>

validating samples9298996bad as Work:
validating http://...oliverTwist:
Error validating http://...oliverTwist
as nodeKind literal:
iri found when literal expected
```

```
<Work> EXTRA rdf:type {
  rdf:type [bf:Work] ?;
  bf:title LITERAL;
  bf:class @<Classification> *;
  bf:creator @<Person> OR @<Organization> +;
  bf:derivedFrom IRI *;
}

<Classification>
  [<http://id.loc.gov/.../>~]
AND
  EXTRA rdf:type {
  rdf:type [bf:LCC] ?;
  bf:label LITERAL;
}
```

## 2. Against a schema.

A resource matching the "Classification" shape: is identified with an IRI starting with "id.loc.gov" has zero or one "rdf:type bf:LOC statements optionally has an additional "rdf:type" statement has exactly one "bf:label" statement with a literal value

## RDF Data [Turtle syntax]

```
<samples9298996>
  rdf:type bf:Text;
  rdf:type bf:Work;
  bf:title "Oliver Twist.";
  bf:class <id.loc.gov/.../PZ3>;
  bf:creator [
    rdf:type bf:Person;
    bf:label "Dickens, Charles, 1812-1870.";
  ].

<id.loc.gov/.../PZ3>
  rdf:type bf:LCC;
  bf:label "PZ3.D55O165PR4567".
```

1. Validate data.

Validation

```
✓<samples9298996>@<Work>

validating samples9298996bad as Work:
validating http://...oliverTwist:
Error validating http://...oliverTwist
as nodeKind literal:
iri found when literal expected
```

```
<Work> EXTRA rdf:type {
  rdf:type [bf:Work] ?;
  bf:title LITERAL;
  bf:class @<Classification> *;
  bf:creator @<Person> OR @<Organization> +;
  bf:derivedFrom IRI *;
}

<Classification>
  [<http://id.loc.gov/.../>~]
AND
  EXTRA rdf:type {
  rdf:type [bf:LCC] ?;
  bf:label LITERAL;
}
```

2. Against a schema.

Shapes can combine constraints with AND, OR, NOT, and parentheses.

## RDF Data [Turtle syntax]

```
<samples9298996>
rdf:type bf:Text;
rdf:type bf:Work;
bf:title "Oliver Twist.";
bf:class <id.loc.gov/.../PZ3>;
bf:creator [
rdf:type bf:Person;
bf:label "Dickens, Charles, 1812-1870.";
].

<id.loc.gov/.../PZ3>
rdf:type bf:LCC;
bf:label "PZ3.D55O165PR4567".
```

1. Validate data.

Validation

```
✓<samples9298996>@<Work>

validating samples9298996bad as Work:
validating http://...oliverTwist:
Error validating http://...oliverTwist
as nodeKind literal:
iri found when literal expected
```

## Terminology summarized

- A ShEx Schema holds a collection of...
  - Shape Expressions, which logically combine...
    - Node Constraints, which MUST match nodes in RDF Data, and...
    - Shapes, which MUST match triples in RDF Data as specified in...
      - Triple constraints, which MUST match triples touching a given node in RDF Data in terms of...
        - Predicates
        - Direction
        - Cardinality
        - Value

## Focus Node and Neighborhood of a Node

- Focus Node = node that is being validated (here :alice)
- Neighborhood of a node = set of incoming/outgoing triples

```
:alice
              schema:name
                                "Alice";
              schema:follows
                               :bob;
              schema:worksFor :OurCompany .
                                                 Neighbourhood of :alice = {
              foaf:name
                                "Robert" ;
: bob
                                                                                         "Alice")
                                                    (:alice,
                                                                    schema:name,
              schema:worksFor :OurCompany .
                                                    (:alice, schema:follows,
                                                                                         :bob),
                                                    (:alice, schema:worksFor, :OurCompany),
              schema:name
                                "Carol";
:caro1
                                                    (:carol,
                                                                    schema:tollows, :alice),
              schema:follows
                                 alice .
                                                    (:OurCompany, schema:employee, :alice)
                                  "Dave" .
:dave
              schema:name
:OurCompany schema:founder :dave ;
              schema:employee lalice :bob .
                                                                   :OurCompany
                                                                                               :carol
                                                   schema:founder
                                                                         schema:employee
                                                                                 schema:worksFor
                                                                                                   \schema:name
                                                              schema:employee schema:worksFor
                                                  :dave
                                                                           schema:follows schema:name
                                                   schema:name
                                                                      foaf:name
```

## Active and friendly development community

- W3C Shape Expressions Community Group (ShEx CG)
  - <a href="https://www.w3.org/community/shex">https://www.w3.org/community/shex</a> CG homepage
  - <a href="http://shex.io">http://shex.io</a> ShEx homepage
  - http://shex.io/shex-primer/ primer
  - <a href="http://shex.io/shex-semantics/">http://shex.io/shex-semantics/</a> main specification
  - <a href="https://rawgit.com/shexSpec/shex.js/master/doc/shex-simple.html">https://rawgit.com/shexSpec/shex.js/master/doc/shex-simple.html</a> validator