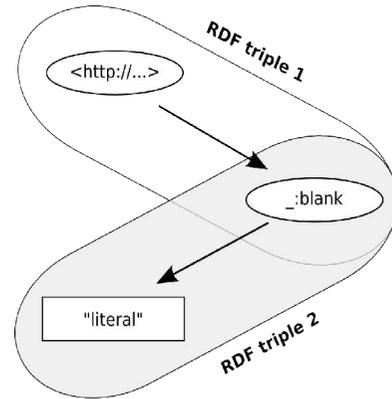


SPARQL RDF Query Language Reference v1.8

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Latest version: <<http://www.dajobe.org/2005/04-sparql/>>
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1. RDF Model and SPARQL RDF Terms Syntax

RDF Graph:	A set of RDF Triples
RDF Triple:	A triple (3-tuple) of:
Subject:	IRI or Blank Node
Predicate:	IRI
Object:	IRI or Blank Node or Literal



URI:	An absolute IRI which may include a # fragment. < http://www.w3.org/ > < http://example.org/#fragment > <abc.rdf> Relative IRI resolved against base IRI. <> Base IRI, usually the query document IRI ex:name IRI shorthand using XML-style prefix ex and local name. Declared with PREFIX (SPARQL) or @prefix (Turtle)
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RDF Literal:	A Unicode string with an optional language tag. "hello" "bonjour"@fr
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RDF Typed Literal:	A Unicode string and datatype IRI for encoding datatypes. "abc"^^< http://example.org/myDatatype > abbreviated with an XML QName style as: "10"^^xsd:integer Short forms for several common datatypes: -10 "-10"^^xsd:integer 1.2345 "1.2345"^^xsd:decimal true "true"^^xsd:boolean
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Blank Node:	A node in a graph with a local name. The scope of the name is the RDF graph. _:node
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2. Common RDF Namespaces and Prefixes

Namespace	Common Prefix	Namespace URI
RDF	rdf:	http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#
Dublin Core	dc:	http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/
FOAF	foaf:	http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/
XML Schema Datatypes	xsd:	http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#
RDFS	rdfs:	http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#
OWL	owl:	http://www.w3.org/2002/07/owl#

3. SPARQL Query Language Reference

Based on SPARQL Query 23 Nov 2005 <<http://www.w3.org/TR/2005/WD-rdf-sparql-query-20051123/>>.

RDF Term:	A part of an RDF Triple. An IRI, Blank Node or a Literal. <uri> _:b1 "Literal"@en "abc123"^^my:datatype
Query Variable:	Identifiers for binding to RDF Terms in matches. ?a / \$b or in lists: \$name \$title \$place ?a / \$b or in lists: \$name \$title \$place
Anonymous Query Variable:	Blank Nodes in a graph pattern act as variables that cannot be SELECTed _:abc
Triple Pattern:	An RDF Triple with Query Variables or blank nodes allowed in each term: < http://example.org/abc > ?x "Hello" ?subject ?predicate ?object Turtle abbreviations can be used for Triple Patterns, see Section 4 .
Graph Pattern:	A block that matches part of the queried RDF graph.
Basic Graph Pattern:	A set of Triple Patterns binding RDF Terms in the graph to variables. Written as a { . . } block with '.' separating the triple patterns: { < http://example.org/abc > ?y "Hello" . ?subject \$predicate "Literal" }
Group Graph Pattern:	A graph pattern containing multiple graph patterns which must all match { { ?person rdf:type foaf:Person } { ?person foaf:name "Dave" } }
Optional Graph Pattern:	A graph pattern which may fail to match and provide bindings but not cause the entire query to fail. Written with OPTIONAL before a graph pattern. OPTIONAL { ?person foaf:nick ?nick }
Union Graph Pattern:	A pair of graph patterns any of which may match and bind the same variables. Written with the UNION keyword between two graph patterns. { ?node ex:name ?name } UNION { ?node vcard:FN ?name }
Graph Graph Pattern:	A keyword for specifying a graph name to use or to return a graph name as a binding. Written with the GRAPH keyword before a graph pattern. GRAPH < http://example.org/myfoaf > { ?person foaf:name ?name } GRAPH ?graph { ?person foaf:name ?name }
Value Constraints:	A boolean expression in a graph pattern over query variables that constrains matched graph patterns. { ?item ex:size \$size . FILTER (\$size < 10) }

4. SPARQL Query Language Structure

Prologue (optional)	BASE <iri> PREFIX prefix: <iri> (repeatable)
Query Result forms (required, pick 1)	SELECT (DISTINCT) sequence of ?variable SELECT (DISTINCT)* DESCRIBE sequence of ?variable or <iri> DESCRIBE * CONSTRUCT { graph pattern } ASK
Query Dataset Sources (optional)	Add triples to the background graph (repeatable): FROM <iri> Add a named graph (repeatable): FROM NAMED <iri>
Graph Pattern (optional, required for ASK)	WHERE { graph pattern [FILTER expression] }
Query Results Ordering (optional)	ORDER BY ...
Query Results Selection (optional)	LIMIT n, OFFSET m

5. SPARQL Query Result Forms

Variable Bindings: A sequence of (set of variable bindings) for each query pattern match.
SELECT *
WHERE { \$a rdf:type \$b }
to ask for bindings for all variables mentioned in the query and
SELECT \$a ?b
WHERE { \$a rdf:type ?b }
to list them explicitly

RDF Graph:

Describe Resources: An RDF graph describing resources either given by URI
DESCRIBE <http://example.org/thing>
or by binding variables using the same syntax as SELECT.
DESCRIBE ?person
WHERE { ?person foaf:name "Dave" }
Build an RDF graph: An RDF graph made by substituting variables into a triple template.
CONSTRUCT { ?a foaf:knows ?b }
WHERE { ?a ex:KnowsQuiteWell ?b }
Boolean: True if the query pattern could be answered.
ASK
WHERE { ?a rdf:type foaf:Person }

6. Query Results Ordering and Modifying

The optional modifications on query results are performed in the following order:

1. DISTINCT to ensure solutions in the sequence are unique
1. ORDER BY ordering solutions sequences by variable, expression or extension function call:
ORDER BY DESC(?date) ?title ASC(?familyName) my:fn(?a)
in descending order by *date*, by ascending *title* order, by *familyName* ascending, by extension function
2. LIMIT *n* to restrict the number of solutions to *n*
3. OFFSET *m* to start the results in the solution from item *m*

7. Values – datatypes, expressions and operators

Supported datatypes: RDF Terms, xsd:boolean, xsd:string, xsd:double, xsd:float, xsd:decimal, xsd:integer and xsd:dateTime

Logical operators: Logical: $A || B, A \&\& B, !A, (A)$
Comparison ($A \text{ op } B$): =, !=, <, >, <=, >=
Arithmetic operators: Unary: +A, -A
Binary ($A \text{ op } B$): +, -, *, /
RDF operators: Boolean: BOUND(A), isIRI(A) / isURI(A), isBlank(A), isLiteral(A)
String: STR(A), LANG(A), DATATYPE(A)
String Match operator: REGEX (*string expression*, *pattern expression* [*flags expression*])
pattern syntax is from XQuery 1.0 / XPath 2.0, XML Schema and similar to Perl. *flags* are s, m, i, x
QName (*expression*, *expression*, ...)
Extension Functions and Explicit Type Casting:
Automatic Type Promotion: from xsd:decimal to xsd:float
from xsd:float to xsd:double

8. Turtle RDF Syntax Reference

Turtle (Terse RDF Triple Language) describes triples in an RDF graph and allows abbreviations. Triple Patterns in SPARQL can use the same abbreviations.

This description is based on Turtle 2006-01-21 from <http://www.dajobe.org/2004/01/turtle/>

RDF Terms:

IRI <IRI> (<> is the base IRI, often the document IRI)
Literal: "string" or "string"@language or ^^<datatype IRI>
Blank Node: _: name or [] for an anonymous blank node

@prefix operator: IRIs can be written as XML-style QNames by defining a prefix / IRI binding:
@prefix dc: <http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/> .

Triples: Written as 3 RDF terms with whitespace separating them as necessary, and '.' between triples:
<> dc:title "SPARQL Reference" .
<> dc:date "2006-02-06"^^xsd:dateTime .

, operator: Triples with the same subject and predicate may be abbreviated with ',':
<http://example.org/mybook> dc:title "My Book", "Mein Buch"@de .

; operator: Triples with the same subject may be abbreviated with ';':
<http://work.example.org/> dc:title "My Workplace";
dc:publisher "My Employer" .

[...] operator: A sequence of (predicate object) pairs may be put inside [...] and a blank node subject will be assigned to them:
<> dc:creator [foaf:name "Dave"; foaf:homePage <http:...>] .

[] operator: A blank node:
[] a ex:Book [dc:title "Thing"; dc:description "On the shelf"] .

a predicate: The often-used rdf:type QName may be abbreviated by the keyword a as a predicate:
<> a Foaf:Document .

Decimal integers: Positive or negative decimal integers can be written directly (type xsd:integer)
<> ex:sizeInBytes 12345 .

Decimal numbers: Positive or negative decimal numbers can be written directly (type xsd:decimal)
<> ex:shoeSize 8.5 .

(...) collections: RDF collections can be written inside (...) as a space-separated list of the contents:
<> ex:contents (ex:apple ex:banana ex:pear) .

9. Example SPARQL Query

```
BASE <http://example.org/>
PREFIX rdf: <http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#>
PREFIX foaf: <http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/>
# This is a relative IRI to BASE above
PREFIX ex: <properties/1.0#>
```

```
SELECT DISTINCT $person ?name $age
FROM <http://rdf.example.org/personA.rdf>
FROM <http://rdf.example.org/personB.rdf>
WHERE { $person a foaf:Person ;
        foaf:name ?name.
        OPTIONAL { $person ex:age $age } .
        FILTER (!REGEX(?name, "Bob"))
}
ORDER BY ASC(?name) LIMIT 10 OFFSET 20
```