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Reusable SHACL Constraint Components for Validating Geospatial Linked Data

Christophe Debruyne

Smals Research

Belgium

Kris McGlinn

ADAPT Centre, Trinity College Dublin

Ireland

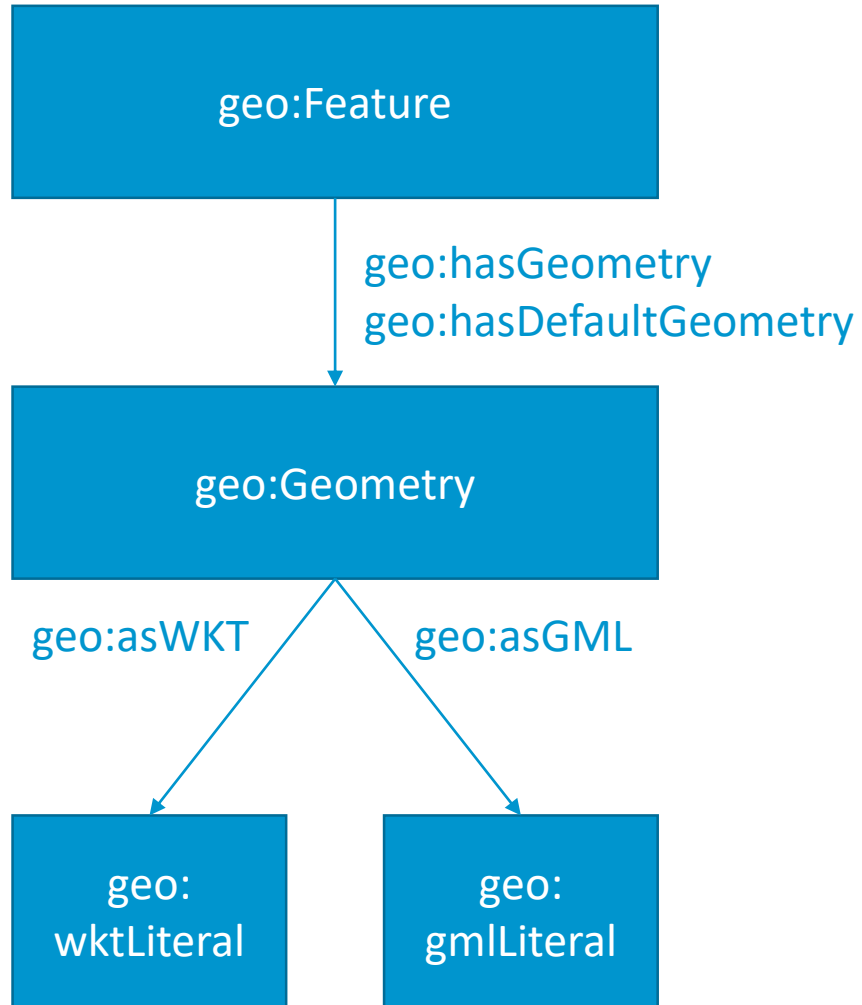
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Problem

- SHACL is a W3C Recommendation for validating RDF graphs. While the constructs SHACL provides may, arguably, be limited, SHACL none the less allows one to create custom components based on SPARQL. But,...
- Problem: many constraints are applicable to many applications, datasets, etc. Are people continuously reinventing the wheel when writing SHACL?
- As many Linked Data datasets have a geospatial dimension and GeoSPARQL is an important standard, we propose **GeoSHACL**; a set of constraint components for GeoSPARQL published as per Linked Data best practices.
- To the best of our knowledge, no prior work on SHACL constraints shared per Linked Data principles.

GeoSPARQL



- An OGC Standard since 2012
- GeoSPARQL provides **functions** (e.g., `geof:sfDisjoint`) and **relations** (e.g., `geo:sfDisjoint`)
- GeoSPARQL provides **query-transformation rules**
E.g., a triplepattern using `geo:sfDisjoint` will be rewritten as that triplepattern and the union of other graph patterns using the function `geof:sfDisjoint`.
- Query-transformation rules are part of the specification, but **not all implementation support those (by default)**

GeoSHACL: Design and Implementation

- Starting from GeoSPARQL's **simple feature relation family** providing 8 topological relations
 - equals, disjoint, intersects, touches, crosses, within, contains, and overlaps
- In GeoSPARQL, points can never be equal (as they have empty boundaries). We therefore introduced an "**intuitive equals**" based on contains and within.
- The **behavior** of the constraint components should resemble those of **SHACL core comparison operators**
 - Compare the lexical representation of a geometry (via a path) with either a constant or the lexical representation of a geometry via a predicate
- **We will not assume that query transformation rules have been enabled.** I.e., the implementation "depends" on the spatial functions **applied on literals**.

The availability and correctness of the functions are a different concern. GeoSHACL is not a GeoSPARQL benchmark or test suite.

GeoSHACL: Design and Implementation

Are things that Foo contains actually within Foo?

ex:FooShape

a sh:NodeShape ;

sh:targetNode ex:Foo ;

sh:property [

sh:path (geo:sfContains geo:hasGeometry geo:asWKT) ;

geosh:within geo:asWKT ;

] ;

.

From ex:Foo, we refer to the literals we want to compare.

Check these values whether they are within the literal of ex:Foo's geo:asWKT

```
# Implementation of geof:sfWithin constraints
```

```
geosh:withinConstraint
```

```
  a sh:ConstraintComponent ;
```

```
  sh:parameter [ sh:path geosh:within ; ] ;
```

```
  sh:validator [
```

```
    a sh:SPARQLAskValidator ;
```

```
    sh:message "Value is not within {$within}. " ;
```

```
    sh:ask ""
```

```
      PREFIX geo: <http://www.opengis.net/ont/geosparql#>
```

```
      PREFIX geof: <http://www.opengis.net/def/function/geosparql/>
```

```
      ASK {
```

```
        { FILTER( geof:sfWithin($value, $within) ) } # when comparing constants
```

```
        UNION {
```

```
          FILTER( isIRI($within) ) # when comparing value of property
```

```
          $this $within ?otherValue .
```

```
          FILTER( geof:sfWithin($value, ?otherValue) )
```

```
        }
```

```
      }
```

```
    ""
```

```
  ]
```

Published as Linked Data

Ontology Specification Draft

GeoSHACL language [en](#)

Release 2021-03-04

Latest version:
<https://w3id.org/geoshacl>

Authors:
Christophe Debruyne, ([Smals Research](#))

Contributors:
Kris McGlinn, ADAPT Centre

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1. Cross reference for GeoSHACL classes, properties and dataproperties

This section provides details for each class and property defined by GeoSHACL. [back to ToC](#)

1.1. Named Individuals

contains constraint	crosses constraint	disjoint constraint	equals constraint
intersects constraint	intuitive equals constraint	overlaps constraint	touches constraint
within constraint			

While not an ontology in the traditional sense, we have published GeoSHACL according to best practices in Linked Data and, as CC BY 4.0, and accessible via a persistent identifier.

geosh: <https://w3id.org/geoshacl#>

Discussion

- Little to no prior work (to the best of our knowledge)
- Our approach does not only support WKT. Support for other literals, as is the case with Apache Jena, depends on the endpoint
- When GeoSPARQL functions are not supported, the constraint components fail "gracefully". See SPARQL 1.1 Query Language - Expressions and Testing Values.
- Testing whether an endpoint supports GeoSPARQL functions is not *and should not be* GeoSHACL's concern.
 - Benchmarks do exist (*)
 - One can write SHACL constraints to tests the existence / correct implementation of GeoSPARQL, but then we are creating a test suite or benchmark. This may be useful to be declared separately?

Conclusions and Future Work

Conclusions

- While SHACL is powerful, one also has to consider sharing and reusing constraint components that may hold in many domains, applications,...
- We demonstrate how we can tackle this problem (method) for GeoSPARQL (the domain) with [GeoSHACL](#). [GeoSHACL](#) shares SHACL Constraint Components according to Linked Data principles for GeoSPARQL.
- Our contribution seems simple, but we provide an important first step towards realizing this

Future work

- Incorporate functions beyond the simple features relation family
- Constraints ([stored separately](#)) to test an endpoint's GeoSPARQL capabilities



Smals Research

<https://www.smalsresearch.be/>

Christophe Debruyne

christophe.debruyne@smals.be

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