



# SPARQL @ TPAC

"2023-09-12"^^xsd:date

- Incoming
  - Integrate quoted triples
  - Directional language
  - Lang tag formatting
- EXISTS
- Other
  - Implicit timezone
- AOB



# EXIST Issues

<https://github.com/w3c/spargl-query/issues?q=is%3Aissue+is%3Aopen+exists>

1. Some uses of EXISTS are not defined during evaluation
2. Substitution happens where definitions are only for variables
3. Blank nodes substituted into BGPs act as variables
4. Substitution can flip MINUS to its disjoint-domain case
5. Substitution affects disconnected variables

# Some Examples

Location must be a variable:

```
EXISTS { BIND ( :e AS ?var ) ?s ?p ?z } , EXISTS { VALUES ?var (1 2 3) . . . }  
EXISTS { SELECT ?var { . . . }  
EXISTS { . . . BOUND(?var) . . . }
```

Variable scope

```
{ ?s :p ?var } FILTER EXISTS { SELECT ?x { ?s :p ?var } }
```

Blank Nodes moved across BGPs

```
current row ?var = _:b123 FILTER EXISTS { ?var :p ?o }
```



# Related SPARQL Issues

## Parameterized Queries

<https://github.com/w3c/sparql-dev/issues/89#issuecomment-547352909>

<https://github.com/w3c/sparql-dev/issues/57>

LATERAL join : <https://github.com/w3c/sparql-dev/blob/main/SEP/SEP-0006/sep-0006.md>



# Possible Solutions

1. [SEP-0007 : Improved substitution](#)
2. [spargl-exists#proposal-a](#)
3. Pattern restrictions (not explored)
4. Other?



# Proposal A

## Summary

[sparql-exists#proposal-a](#)

This proposal for **EXISTS** emphasizes simplicity and the SPARQL notions of variable scoping and bottom-up evaluation of sub-queries over maximum compatibility with the current SPARQL definition for **EXISTS**. Its basic idea is to inject values for the variables in-scope just outside a **FILTER** expression at the beginning of the pattern argument to **EXISTS** almost as if a **VALUES** construct was injected there.

...

Change the definition of the **exists** function to:

Let  $\mu$  be the current solution mapping for a filter,  $t$  a token, and  $P$  a graph pattern: The value **exists**(**Initial**( $t$ ), $P$ ) given  $D(G)$  is true iff **eval**( $D(G)$ , $P'$ ) is a non-empty multiset of solution bindings, where  $P'$  is  $P$  with **Initial**( $t$ ) replaced by  $\{\mu\}$ .



# SEP-0007 : Improved substitution

Intuition - [SQL Correlated Subquery](#).

The current row provides values for to use in the sub-query.

- Don't substitute. Instead, inject a variable binding into the BGP at the point of use
- Rename variables in hidden scopes.
- Disallow uses of variables that can not be replaced by a value e.g. BIND

<https://github.com/w3c/sparql-dev/blob/main/SEP/SEP-0007/sep-0007.md>

```
PREFIX : <http://example/>
SELECT * {
  BIND( 53 AS ?z )
  EXISTS { :s :q ?o FILTER (?o < ?z ) }
```

Proposal-A: ?z not in scope at the filter

```
Join ( { ?z = 53 } ,
  { :s :q ?o FILTER (?o < ?z ) }
)
```

Correlated evaluation: ?z is in scope at the filter

```
?z = 53 :s :q ?o FILTER (?o < ?z )
```



```
PREFIX : <http://example/>
SELECT * {
  BIND( 53 AS ?z )
  EXISTS {
    { :s :q ?o FILTER ( ?z < ?o ) }
    UNION
    { :s :r ?z }
  }
}
```

### Proposal-A: ?z not in scope at the filter

```
EXISTS { Join( { ?z = 53 },
              Union( :s :q ?o FILTER ( ?z > 26 ) ,
                    :s :r ?z
                  )
            )
}
```

### Correlated evaluation: ?z is in scope at the filter

```
EXISTS { UNION(
  { ?z = 53 :s :q ?o FILTER ( ?z > 26 ) },
  { ?z = 53 :s :r ?z }
) }
```



# Correlated Subquery Approach

How best to express injecting values:

1. Rewrite as BIND/VALUES before BGP etc
  - Logically, as a Join of a refined VALUES clause but only with places variables can be set (BGPs, ...)
  - `?z = 53 :s :q ?o FILTER ( ?o < ?z ) ⇒`  
`Filter ( ?o < ?z ,`  
`Join(VALUES ?z { 53 }, BGP(:s :q ?o)`  
`)`
2. New algebra operator “Take value from current row”
3. ??

There are only a few places where variables are associated with values.

BGPs, Paths , Assignment (BIND, VALUES, SELECT, GROUP BY) , GRAPH