



# The GeoSPARQL OGC Standard

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**ORACLE**



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In Conjunction with the 11<sup>th</sup> International Semantic Web Conference  
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# Agenda

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- About the GeoSPARQL SWG
- Use Cases & Requirements
- GeoSPARQL Technical Details
- Implementation Considerations
- Live Demos
  - BBN Parliament (Dave Kolas)
  - Strabon (Kostis Kyzirakos)

# Group Members



- Open Geospatial Consortium standards working group
  - 13 voting members, 36 observers
  - Editors: Matthew Perry and John Herring
  - Chairs: John Herring and Dave Kolas
- Submitting Organizations

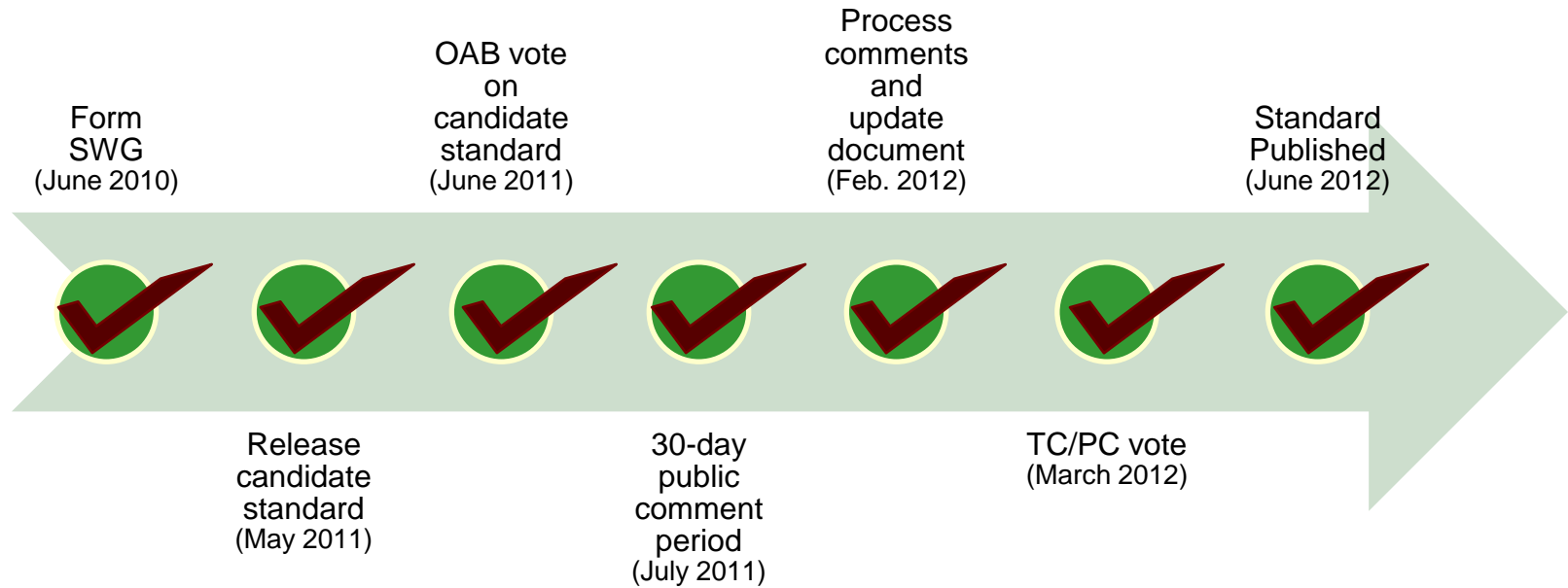


Defence Geospatial Information Working Group



*Traverse Technologies, Inc.*

# Standardization Process



# Implementations



**Raytheon**  
BBN Technologies

**Parliament™**



**ORACLE®**  
DATABASE



**OGC®**



# **SOME USE CASES FOR GEOSPARQL**

# Linked Geo Data



- Many LOD datasets have geospatial components



GeoNames



OpenStreetMap  
The Free Wiki World Map



data.gov.uk <sup>BETA</sup>



YAHOO!  
GEO TECHNOLOGIES



LinkedSensorData

- Barriers to integration

- Vendor-specific geometry support
- Different vocabularies
  - W3C Basic Geo, GML XMLLiteral, Vendor-specific
- Different spatial reference systems
  - WGS84 Lat-Long, British National Grid

What **DBPedia** Historic Buildings are within walking distance?

What **OpenStreetMap** Dog Parks are inside **Ordnance Survey** Southampton Administrative District?

# Semantic GIS



- GIS applications with semantically complex thematic aspects
  - Logical reasoning to classify features
    - land cover type, suitable farm land, etc.
  - Complex Geometries
    - Polygons and Multi-Polygons with 1000's of points
  - Complex Spatial Operations
    - Union, Intersection, Buffers, etc.

Find parcels with an **area** of at least 3 sq. miles that **touch** a local feeder road and are **inside** an area of suitable farm land.



# Gazetteers and Linked Open Data Services

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- Provide common terms (place names) to link across existing spatial data resources
- Enable consolidated view across the map layers
- Reconcile differences in data semantics so that they can all “talk” and interoperate
- Resolving semantic discrepancies across databases gazetteers and applications
- Integrate full breath of enterprise content continuum (structured, spatial, email, documents, web services)

# Towards Qualitative Spatial Reasoning

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- Don't always have geometry data
  - Textual descriptions
    - Next to Hilton hotel
    - Inside Union Square
  - Incomplete geometry data
    - Only have geometries for some features
    - Hybrid quantitative and qualitative spatial reasoning
- GeoSPARQL takes some steps in this direction
  - Vocabulary for asserting topological relations
  - Same query specification for qualitative and quantitative systems

# Requirements for GeoSPARQL



- Provide a common target for implementers & users
  - Representation and query
- Work within SPARQL's extensibility framework
- Simple enough for general users
  - Keep the common case simple (WGS 84 point data)
- Capable enough for GIS professionals
  - Multiple SRSs, complex geometries, complex operators
- Don't re-invent the wheel!



ISO 19107 – Spatial Schema  
ISO 13249 – SQL/MM



Simple Features  
Well Known Text (WKT)  
GML  
KML  
GeoJSON



# FROM SPARQL TO GEOSPARQL

# SPARQL QUERY



## RDF Data

```
:res1 rdf:type      :House .
:res1 :baths        "2.5"^^xsd:decimal .
:res1 :bedrooms     "3"^^xsd:decimal .

:res2 rdf:type      :Condo .
:res2 :baths        "2"^^xsd:decimal .
:res2 :bedrooms     "2"^^xsd:decimal .

:res3 rdf:type      :House
:res3 :baths        "1.5"^^xsd:decimal .
:res3 :bedrooms     "3"^^xsd:decimal .
```

## SPARQL Query

```
SELECT ?r ?ba ?br
WHERE { ?r rdf:type :House .
        ?r :baths ?ba .
        ?r :bedrooms ?br }
```

## Result Bindings

?r		?ba		?br
=====				
:res1		"2.5"		"3"
:res3		"1.5"		"3"

# SPARQL QUERY



## RDF Data

```
:res1 rdf:type      :House .
:res1 :baths        "2.5"^^xsd:decimal .
:res1 :bedrooms     "3"^^xsd:decimal .

:res2 rdf:type      :Condo .
:res2 :baths        "2"^^xsd:decimal .
:res2 :bedrooms     "2"^^xsd:decimal .

:res3 rdf:type      :House
:res3 :baths        "1.5"^^xsd:decimal .
:res3 :bedrooms     "3"^^xsd:decimal .
```

## SPARQL Query

```
SELECT ?r ?ba ?br
WHERE { ?r rdf:type :House .
        ?r :baths ?ba .
        ?r :bedrooms ?br
        FILTER (?ba > 2) }
```

## Result Bindings

?r		?ba		?br
=====				
:res1		"2.5"		"3"

# Spatial SPARQL QUERY



## Spatial RDF Data

```
:res1  rdf:type          :House .
:res1  :baths            "2.5"^^xsd:decimal .
:res1  :bedrooms        "3"^^xsd:decimal .
```

This is what we are standardizing

```
:res1  ogc:hasGeometry  :geom1 .
:geom1 ogc:asWKT        "POINT(-122.25 37.46)"^^ogc:wktLiteral .
```

```
:res3  rdf:type          :House
:res3  :baths            "1.5"^^xsd:decimal .
:res3  :bedrooms        "3"^^xsd:decimal .
```

Vocabulary & Datatypes

```
:res3  ogc:hasGeometry  :geom3 .
:geom3 ogc:asWKT        "POINT(-122.24 37.47)"^^ogc:wktLiteral .
```

## GeoSPARQL Query

Find houses within a search polygon

```
SELECT ?r ?ba ?br
WHERE { ?r rdf:type :House .
       ?r :baths ?ba .
       ?r :bedrooms ?br .
       ?r ogc:hasGeometry ?g .
       ?g ogc:asWKT ?wkt
       FILTER(ogcf:sfWithin(?wkt,
                           "POLYGON(...)"^^ogc:wktLiteral)) }
```

Extension Functions



# **GEOSPARQL TECHNICAL DETAILS**



# Components of GeoSPARQL



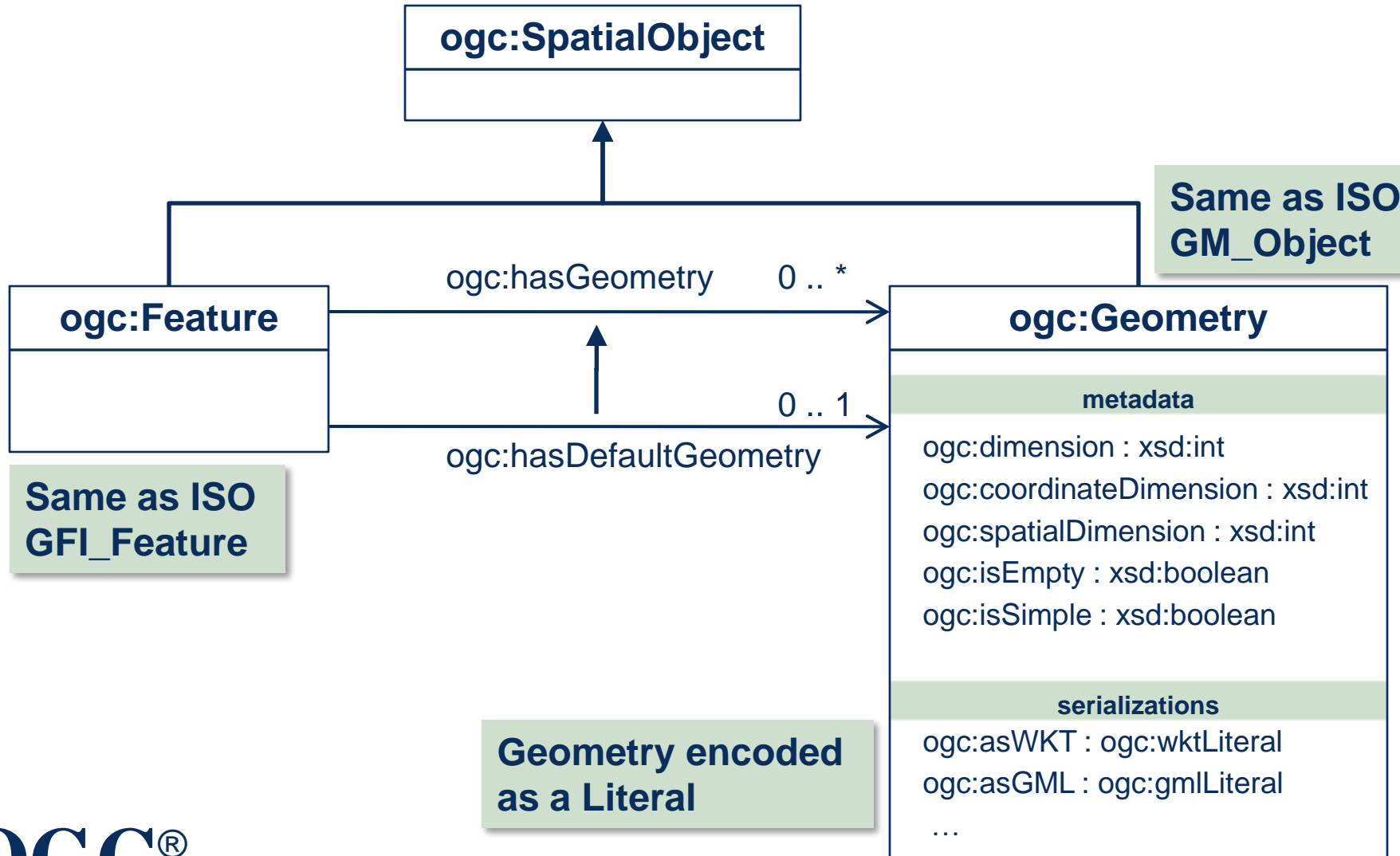
- Vocabulary for Query Patterns
  - Classes
    - Spatial Object, Feature, Geometry
  - Properties
    - Topological relations
    - Links between features and geometries
  - Datatypes for geometry literals
    - `ogc:wktLiteral`, `ogc:gmlLiteral`
- Query Functions
  - Topological relations, distance, buffer, intersection, ...
- Entailment Components
  - RDFS entailment
  - RIF rules to compute topological relations



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# **GEOSPARQL VOCABULARY**

# GeoSPARQL Vocabulary: Basic Classes and Relations



# Details of ogc:wktLiteral



All RDFS Literals of type `ogc:wktLiteral` shall consist of an optional IRI identifying the spatial reference system followed by Simple Features Well Known Text (WKT) describing a geometric value [ISO 19125-1].

```
"<http://www.opengis.net/def/crs/OGC/1.3/CRS84>  
POINT(-122.4192 37.7793)"^^ogc:wktLiteral
```

WGS84 longitude – latitude  
is the default CRS

```
"POINT(-122.4192 37.7793)"^^ogc:wktLiteral
```

European Petroleum Survey Group (EPSG)  
maintains a set of CRS identifiers.

# Details of ogc:gmlLiteral

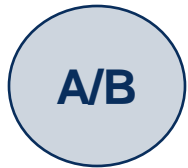


All ogc:gmlLiterals shall consist of a valid element from the GML schema that implements a subtype of GM\_Object as defined in [OGC 07-036].

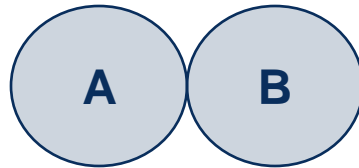
```
"<gml:Point
  srsName=\"http://www.opengis.net/def/crs/OGC/1.3/CRS84\"
  xmlns:gml=\"http://www.opengis.net/gml\">
  <gml:pos>-83.38 33.95</gml:pos>
</gml:Point>"^^ogc:GMLLiteral
```

Note that gmlLiterals are  
NOT rdf:XMLLiterals

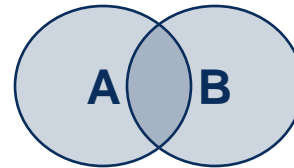
# Topological Relations between ogc:SpatialObject



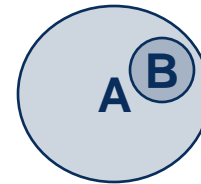
ogc:sfEquals



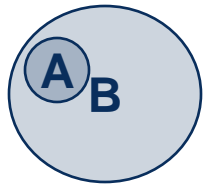
ogc:sfTouches



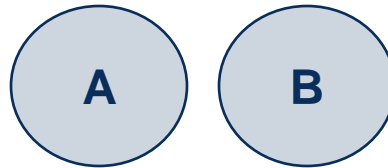
ogc:sfOverlaps



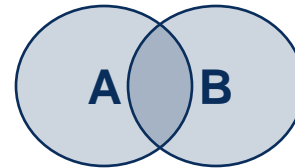
ogc:sfContains



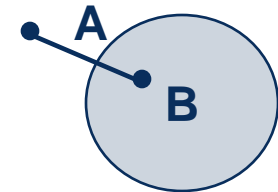
ogc:sfWithin



ogc:sfDisjoint



ogc:sfIntersects



ogc:sfCrosses

- Assumes Simple Features Relation Family
- Also support Egenhofer and RCC8

# RCC8, Egenhofer & Simple Features



Simple Features	Egenhofer	RCC8
equals	equal	EQ
disjoint	disjoint	DC
intersects	$\neg$ disjoint	$\neg$ DC
touches	meet	EC
within	inside+coveredBy	NTPP+TPP
contains	contains+covers	NTPPi+TPPi
overlaps	overlap	PO

# Example Data



```
:City          rdfs:subClassOf    ogc:Feature .
:Park          rdfs:subClassOf    ogc:Feature .
:exactGeometry rdfs:subPropertyOf ogc:hasGeometry .
```

## Meta Information

```
:SanFrancisco    rdf:type      :City .
:UnionSquarePark rdf:type      :Park .
:UnionSquarePark :commissioned "1847-01-01"^^xsd:date .
```

## Non-spatial Properties

```
:UnionSquarePark :exactGeometry :geo1 .
:geo1             ogc:asWKT      "Polygon (...)"^^ogc:wktLiteral .

:SanFrancisco    :exactGeometry :geo2 .
:geo2             ogc:asWKT      "Polygon (...)"^^ogc:wktLiteral .

:UnionSquarePark ogc:sfWithin    :SanFrancisco .
```

## Spatial Properties



# Why Encode Geometry Data as a Literal?



Advantage: single self-contained unit

Consistent way to select geometry information

Find all water bodies that are within 1 km of Route 3

```
SELECT ?water ?wWKT
WHERE {
  ?water      rdf:type                :WaterBody .
  ?water      :hasExactGeometry      ?wGeo .
  ?wGeo       ogc:asWKT               ?wWKT .
  :Route_3    :hasExactGeometry      ?r3Geo .
  :r3Geo      ogc:asWKT               ?r3WKT .
  FILTER(ogcf:distance(?r3WKT, ?wWKT, ...) <= 1000)
}
```

Consistent way to pass geometry information around

# Why don't you have `ogc:myFavoriteProperty`?



- GeoSPARQL vocabulary is not comprehensive
  - Just enough to define a reasonable set of query patterns
  - More structural than semantic
- There are other efforts for more comprehensive vocabularies
  - ISO / TC 211
  - SOCoP
  - GeoVocamps
- GeoSPARQL vocabulary can easily be extended with other application/domain-specific vocabularies

# Why don't you support W3C Basic Geo?



- Too simple to meet our requirements
  - Can't use different datums and coordinate systems
  - Limited number of geometry types
- W3C Basic Geo data can easily be converted to wktLiteral

```
PREFIX geo: <http://www.w3.org/2003/01/geo/wgs84_pos#>
PREFIX ogc: <http://www.opengis.net/ont/geosparql#>
SELECT (STRDT(CONCAT("POINT(",?long," ",?lat,")"),
                ogc:wktLiteral) AS ?wktLit)
WHERE { ?point geo:long ?long .
        ?point geo:lat ?lat }
```



# **GEOPARQL QUERY FUNCTIONS**

# GeoSPARQL Query Functions



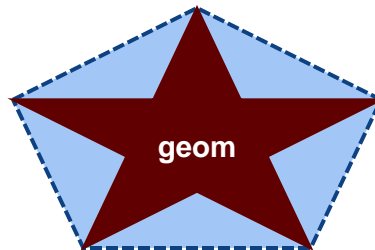
- `ogcf:distance(geom1: ogc:wktLiteral, geom2: ogc:wktLiteral, units: xsd:anyURI): xsd:double`



- `ogcf:buffer(geom: ogc:wktLiteral, radius: xsd:double, units: xsd:anyURI): ogc:wktLiteral`



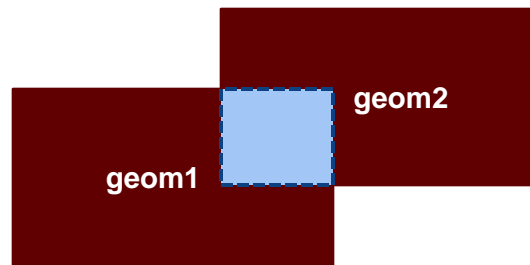
- `ogcf:convexHull(geom: ogc:wktLiteral): ogc:wktLiteral`



# GeoSPARQL Query Functions



- `ogcf:intersection(geom1: ogc:wktLiteral,  
geom2: ogc:wktLiteral): ogc:wktLiteral`



- `ogcf:union(geom1: ogc:wktLiteral,  
geom2: ogc:wktLiteral): ogc:wktLiteral`



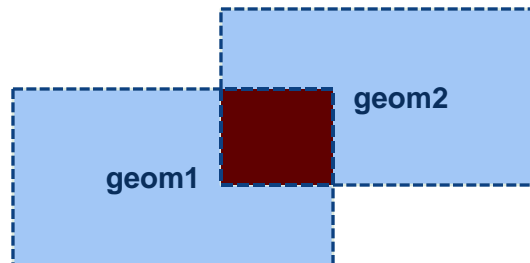
# GeoSPARQL Query Functions



- `ogcf:difference (geom1: ogc:wktLiteral,  
geom2: ogc:wktLiteral) : ogc:wktLiteral`



- `ogcf:symDifference (geom1: ogc:wktLiteral,  
geom2: ogc:wktLiteral) : ogc:wktLiteral`



# GeoSPARQL Query Functions



– `ogcf:envelope (geom: ogc:wktLiteral) : ogc:wktLiteral`



– `ogcf:boundary (geom1: ogc:wktLiteral) : ogc:wktLiteral`



– `ogcf:getSRID (geom: ogc:wktLiteral) : xsd:anyURI`



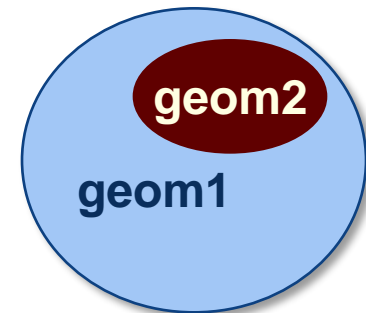
# GeoSPARQL Topological Query Functions



```
- ogcf:relate (geom1: ogc:wktLiteral,  
              geom2: ogc:wktLiteral,  
              patternMatrix: xsd:string): xsd:boolean
```

**DE-9IM Intersection Matrix**

		geom2		
		Interior	Boundary	Exterior
geom1	Interior	T	T	T
	Boundary	F	F	T
	Exterior	F	F	T



**ogc:contains**

**patternMatrix: TTFFFTFFT**

# GeoSPARQL Topological Query Functions



- **ogcf:sfEquals** (geom1: ogc:wktLiteral,  
geom2: ogc:wktLiteral): xsd:boolean
- **ogcf:sfDisjoint** (geom1: ogc:wktLiteral,  
geom2: ogc:wktLiteral): xsd:boolean
- **ogcf:sfIntersects** (geom1: ogc:wktLiteral,  
geom2: ogc:wktLiteral): xsd:boolean
- **ogcf:sfTouches** (geom1: ogc:wktLiteral,  
geom2: ogc:wktLiteral): xsd:boolean
- **ogcf:sfCrosses** (geom1: ogc:wktLiteral,  
geom2: ogc:wktLiteral): xsd:boolean
- **ogcf:sfWithin** (geom1: ogc:wktLiteral,  
geom2: ogc:wktLiteral): xsd:boolean
- **ogcf:sfContains** (geom1: ogc:wktLiteral,  
geom2: ogc:wktLiteral): xsd:boolean
- **ogcf:sfOverlaps** (geom1: ogc:wktLiteral,  
geom2: ogc:wktLiteral): xsd:boolean

# Example Query



Find all land parcels that are within the intersection of :City1 and :District1

PREFIX : <http://my.com/appSchema#>

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

PREFIX ogcf: <http://www.opengis.net/def/geosparql/functions/>

PREFIX epsg: <http://www.opengis.net/def/crs/EPSG/0/>

SELECT ?parcel

WHERE {

?parcel	rdf:type	:Residential	.
?parcel	:exactGeometry	?pGeo	.
?pGeo	ogc:asWKT	?pWKT	.

:District1	:exactGeometry	?dGeo	.
?dGeo	ogc:asWKT	?dWKT	.

:City1	:extent	?cGeo	.
?cGeo	ogc:asWKT	?cWKT	.

FILTER (ogcf:sfWithin (?pWKT,  
ogcf:intersection (?dWKT, ?cWKT)) ) }



# **GEOSPARQL ENTAILMENT COMPONENTS**

# GeoSPARQL RDFS Entailment Extension

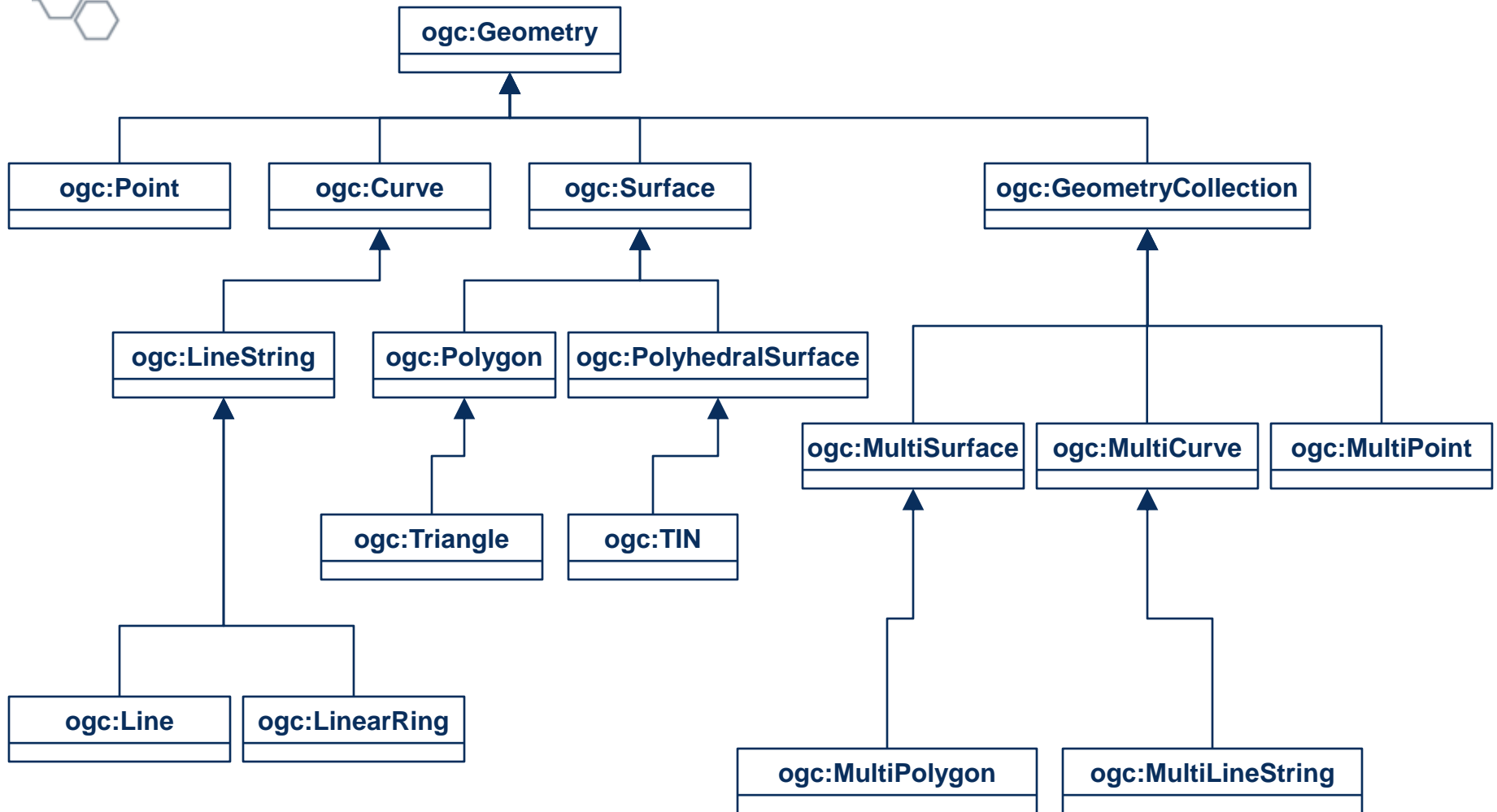


## Main Requirements:

Basic graph pattern matching shall use the semantics defined by the **RDFS Entailment Regime** [W3C SPARQL Entailment]

Implementations shall support graph patterns involving terms from an **RDFS/OWL class hierarchy of geometry types** consistent with the one in the specified *version* of Simple Features / GML

# Simple Features Geometry Types



# GeoSPARQL Query Rewrite Extension



Find all water bodies within New Hampshire

```
SELECT ?water
WHERE { ?water rdf:type      :WaterBody .
        ?water  ogc:rcc8Within  :NH }
```

Same Query Specification

Qualitative

RCC8 Backward  
Chaining

Quantitative

```
SELECT ?water
WHERE { ?water  rdf:type      :WaterBody .
        ?water  ogc:hasDefaultGeometry  ?wGeo .
        ?wGeo   ogc:asWKT                ?wWKT .
        :NH     ogc:hasDefaultGeometry  ?nGeo .
        ?nGeo   ogc:asWKT                ?nWKT .
        FILTER (ogcf:rcc8Within(?wWKT, ?nWKT)) }
```

Query  
Rewrite

Specified with  
a RIF rule

# GeoSPARQL Query Rewrite Extension



## Main Requirement:

Basic graph pattern matching shall use the semantics defined by the **RIF Core Entailment Regime** [W3C SPARQL Entailment] for the RIF rules [W3C RIF Core] `geor:sfEquals`, `geor:sfDisjoint`, `geor:sfIntersects`, `geor:sfTouches`, `geor:sfCrosses`, `geor:sfWithin`, `geor:sfContains`, `geor:sfOverlaps`.



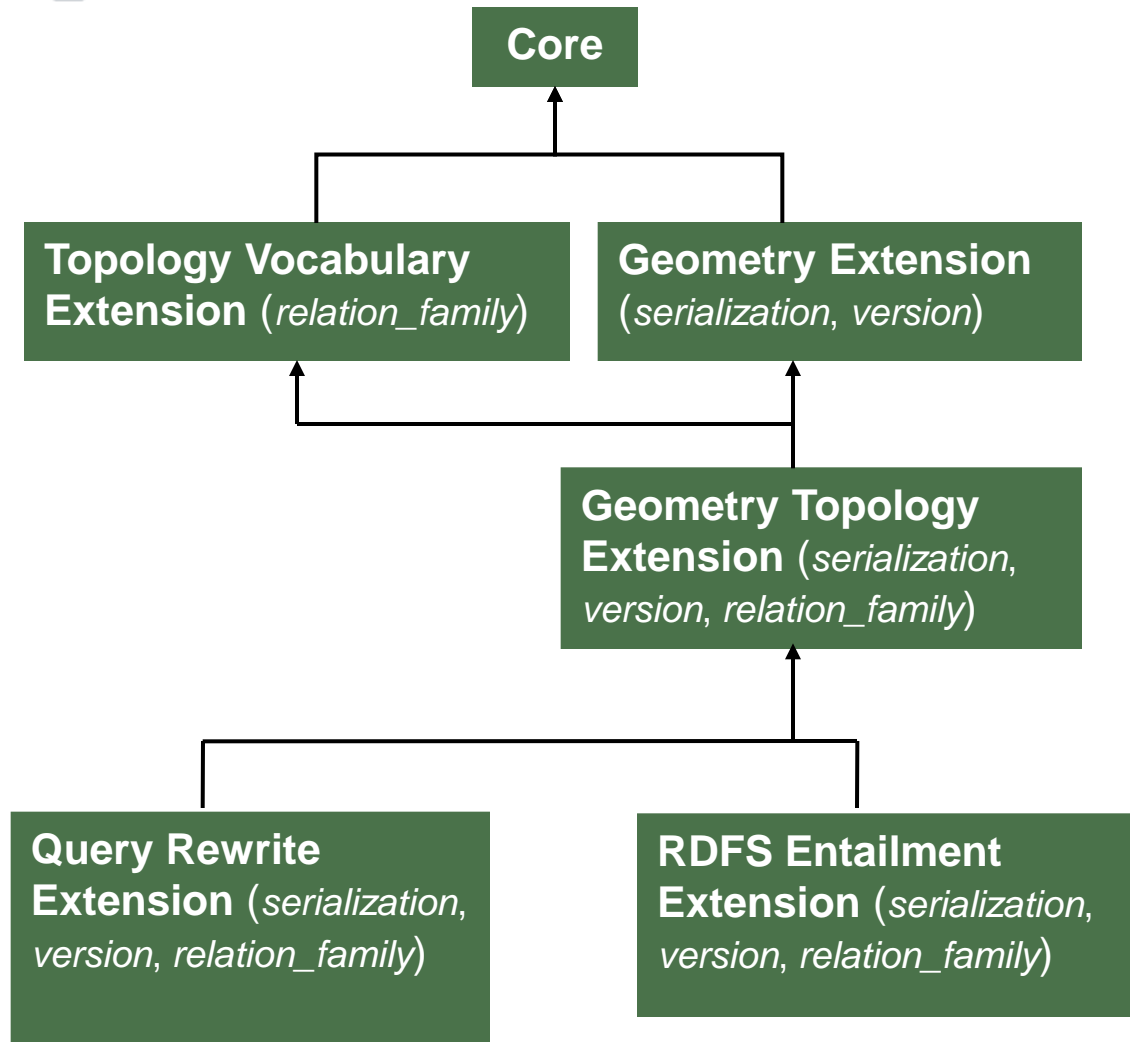
# Query Rewrite Rules



- Used to compute Feature-Feature spatial relations based on default geometries
- Specified as a collection of RIF rules
- Example: ogcr:sfEquals

```
(Forall ?f1 ?f2 ?g1 ?g2 ?g1Serial ?g2Serial
  (f1[ogc:sfEquals->?f2] :-
    And
      (?f1[ogc:hasDefaultGeometry->?g1]
        ?f2[ogc:hasDefaultGeometry->?g2]
        ?g1[ogc:asWKT->?g1Serial]
        ?g2[ogc:asWKT->?g2Serial]
        External(ogcf:sfEquals(?g1Serial,?g2Serial)))
  )
)
```

# Summary of Conformance Classes



## Parameters

- **Serialization**

- *WKT*
- *GML*

Determines geometry classes and geometry literal datatype

- **Relation Family**

- *Simple Features*
- *RCC8*
- *Egenhofer*

Determines topology properties and topology functions



# IMPLEMENTATION CONSIDERATIONS

# Implementing Spatial Operations



- These are standard OGC operators that have been around for some time
- Lots of infrastructure available
  - Open Source



- Commercial



# Other Considerations

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- Have to handle geometries from multiple Spatial Reference Systems simultaneously
  - Normalize to common SRS on-the-fly during computation
  - Pre-normalize ahead of time
- Spatial Indexing very important for performance
  - Normalize to common SRS during indexing

# Summary

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- **GeoSPARQL Defines:**
  - Basic vocabulary, Query functions, Entailment component
- **Based on existing OGC/ISO standards**
  - WKT, GML, Simple Features, ISO 19107
- **Uses SPARQL's built-in extensibility framework**
- **Modular specification**
  - Allows flexibility in implementations
  - Easy to extend
- **Accommodates qualitative and quantitative systems**
  - Same query specification for qualitative (core + topology vocabulary) and quantitative (all components, incl. query rewrite)

# Future Work

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- Define new conformance classes
  - KML, GeoJSON
- Define OWL axioms for qualitative spatial reasoning
  - `ogc:sfWithin rdf:type owl:TransitiveProperty`
- Hybrid qualitative / quantitative spatial reasoning
- Define standard methodology for (virtually) converting legacy feature data represented using the general feature model to RDF (RDB2RDF for spatial)



**Thanks to all members of  
the GeoSPARQL SWG !**

**QUESTIONS?**