COMP60411: Modelling Data on the Web

Tree Data Models

Week 2

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University of Manchester
Reminder: Plagiarism & Academic Malpractice

- We assume that you have all by now successfully completed the Plagiarism and Malpractice Test
- ...if you haven’t:
  do so before you submit any coursework (assignment or assessment)
- ...because we work under the assumption that
  – you know what you do
  – you take pride in your own thoughts & your own writing
  – you don’t steal thoughts or words from others
- ...and if you don’t, and submit coursework where you have copied other people’s work without correct attribution
  it costs you at least marks or more, e.g., your MSc
Reminder

We maintain 3 sources of information:

- **syllabus** …/pgt/COMP60411/syllabus/
- **materials** …/pgt/COMP60411/
  - growing continuously
  - with slides, reading material, etc
  - with TA lab times
- **Blackboard** via myManchester
  - growing continuously
  - Forums
    - General
    - Week 1, Week 2, …
  - Coursework

Subscribe
Read
Contribute
Learning & Teaching Style

• We try to prepare you for postgraduate life:
  – a life-long learner
  – able to find and digest relevant information
    • even if it’s from tough sources, e.g., W3C specifications
    • even if it involves locating a good source
  – ...without getting lost in the depth/wilderness of the web
  – able to develop solutions to a problem
    • without being told how to do so
    • even if the problem looks tricky/isn’t broken down nicely
  – able to see advantages/disadvantages of a solution
    • often, there is no best or right solution
Learning & Teaching Style

• We try to prepare you for postgraduate life:
  • hence
    – we don’t spoon-feed you
    – we don’t break coursework down too much
    – we expect you to read up on things
      • mainly technical specifications,
      • descriptions of schema and query languages
      • ...
    – and we don’t tell you where the best source for X is
      • although we do give you some pointers on the course web site

• You may find it takes some time to get used to this
  – but your predecessors did
  – ...and learned for life!
Coursework - Week 1

- Q1: looks good, will look better next week
- SE1: looks mostly good
  - use a good spell checker!
  - answer the question!
- M1:
  - struggled with ‘SQL programme’, will be easier next weeks
- CW1:
  - see previous slide: some ‘big sentences/specifications’
Today

We will encounter many things:

• Semi-structured data
  – datamodel
  – trees
  – XML
• Parsing & serializing
• DOM trees and DOM API
• Self-describing and why schemas
• A first schema language: RelaxNG
• A brief note on namespaces

• …we will re-visit these in Week 3 and 4!
Last Week’s Running Example
Extended Running Example

- consider last week’s example:
  - per person 1 data record
- now combine this with **management information**:
  - who supervises/line manages whom?

### Employees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employee ID</th>
<th>Postcode</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1234123</td>
<td>M16 0P2</td>
<td>Manchester</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1234124</td>
<td>M2 3OZ</td>
<td>Manchester</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1234567</td>
<td>SW1 A</td>
<td>London</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Management

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Manager ID</th>
<th>Managee ID</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1234124</td>
<td>1234123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1234567</td>
<td>1234124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1234124</td>
<td>1234567</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- ...what could go wrong?
- ...what did go wrong?
Running Example (2)

- Take a few minutes and sketch 2 SQL queries that return
  1. all Postcodes of 4th-level managers
  2. “error” if we have a cyclic management structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employees</th>
<th>Management</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employee ID</td>
<td>Postcode</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1234123</td>
<td>M16 0P2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1234124</td>
<td>M2 3OZ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1234567</td>
<td>SW1 A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>…</td>
<td>…</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

...
Tricky:

- Postcodes of all managers:

\[
\text{SELECT Postcode} \\
\text{FROM Employees E, Management M} \\
\text{WHERE E.EmployeeID = M.ManagerID}
\]

- Postcode of 2nd level managers:

\[
\text{SELECT Postcode} \\
\text{FROM Employees E} \\
\text{INNER JOIN} \\
(\text{SELECT ManagerID} \\
\text{FROM Management M1, Management M2} \\
\text{WHERE M1.ManageeID = M2.ManagerID}) \text{ M} \\
\text{ON E.EmployeeID = M.ManagerID}
\]

- ...more and more joins!
Tricky (2):

- Detecting management cycles of length 1:

  ```sql
  SELECT EmployeeID
  FROM Management M
  WHERE M.ManageeID = M.ManagerID
  ```

- Detecting management cycles of length 2:

  ```sql
  SELECT EmployeeID
  FROM Employees E1
  INNER JOIN
  (SELECT EmployeeID
   FROM Management M1, Management M2
   WHERE M1.ManageeID = M2.ManagerID) M
  ON E1.EmployeeID = M.ManagerID
  ```

- ...where do we stop?
A new example: UniProt, a Protein Database

- a research community based & curated knowledge base of
  - 550K protein sequences,
  - comprising 192M amino acids
  - abstracted from 220K references.
- Proteins largely determine how (parts of) living things work and interact
  - how/where diseases work
- used for a variety of research into
  - diseases
  - genetics
  - (personalized) drugs
**Q9BX63 (FANCJ_HUMAN) Reviewed, UniProtKB/Swiss-Prot**

Last modified August 10, 2010. Version 80. [History...](#)

Clusters with 100%, 90%, 50% identity | Documents (6) | Third-party data

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### Names and origin

**Protein names**

- **Recommended name:** Fanconi anemia group J protein
- **Short name:** Protein FACJ
- **EC:** 3.6.4.13
- **Alternative name(s):**
  - ATP-dependent RNA helicase BRIP1
  - BRCA1-interacting protein C-terminal helicase 1
  - **Short name:** BRCA1-interacting protein 1
  - BRCA1-associated C-terminal helicase 1

**Gene names**

- **Name:** BRIP1
- **Synonyms:** BACH1, FANCJ

**Organism**

- **Homo sapiens (Human) [Complete proteome]**

**Taxonomic identifier**

- **9606 [NCBI]**

**Taxonomic lineage**

- Eukaryota • Metazoa • Chordata • Craniata • Vertebrata • Euteleostomi • Mammalia • Eutheria • Euarchontoglires • Primates • Haplorrhini • Catarrhini

### Protein attributes

- **Sequence length:** 1249 AA.
- **Sequence status:** Complete.
- **Protein existence:** Evidence at protein level.

### General annotation (Comments)

**Function**

DNA-dependent ATPase and 5' to 3' DNA helicase required for the maintenance of chromosomal stability. Acts late in the Fanconi anemia pathway, and is involved in the repair of DNA double-strand breaks by homologous recombination in a manner that depends on its association with BRCA1.

**Catalytic activity**

- **ATP + H₂O → ADP + phosphate.**

**Substrate**

- **Global helicase activity**
Protein data from UniProt

UniProt

• provides a web query interface to Uniprot database

• e.g., query http://www.uniprot.org/uniprot/ for ‘BRCA’

• ...biologists need to integrate, share, query, analyse, and search this data
• ...so what format is/should it be in?
• ...or what format should it be made available in to be integrated with other data?
## Protein data from UniProt in a table (1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Protein Full Name</th>
<th>Short Name</th>
<th>Alternative Name 1</th>
<th>Alternative Name 2</th>
<th>Alternative Name 3</th>
<th>Gene 1</th>
<th>Gene 2</th>
<th>Gene 3</th>
<th>...</th>
<th>Organism</th>
<th>Taxon 1</th>
<th>Taxon 2</th>
<th>...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fanconi anemia group J</td>
<td>FACJ</td>
<td>ATP-dependent RNA helicase</td>
<td>BRCA 1-interacting protein C-termin</td>
<td>BRCA 1-interacting protein 1</td>
<td>BRIP1</td>
<td>BACH 1</td>
<td>FANC J</td>
<td>Halorubrum phage HF2</td>
<td>Viruses</td>
<td>dsDNA viruses, no RNA stage</td>
<td>...</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATP-dependent helicase</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>helicase</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Gallus gallus / Chicken</td>
<td>Eukaryota</td>
<td>Metazoa</td>
<td>...</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Protein data from UniProt in many tables (2)

Proteins

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Protein ID</th>
<th>Full Name</th>
<th>Short Name</th>
<th>Organism</th>
<th>...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1234123</td>
<td>Fanconi anemia</td>
<td>FACJ</td>
<td>Halorubrum phage HF2</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1234567</td>
<td>ATP-dependent</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Gallus gallus / Chicken</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Protein-names

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Protein ID</th>
<th>Alternative Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1234123</td>
<td>ATP-dependent RNA helicase BRIP1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1234123</td>
<td>BRCA1-interacting protein C-terminal helicase 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1234123</td>
<td>BRCA1-interacting protein 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Protein-genes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Protein ID</th>
<th>Genes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1234123</td>
<td>BRIP1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1234123</td>
<td>BACH1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1234567</td>
<td>helicas</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

... too many joins!
Protein data from UniProt in an XML doc (1)

<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
xsi:schemaLocation="http://uniprot.org/uniprot http://www.uniprot.org/support/docs/uniprot.xsd">
<entry dataset="Swiss-Prot" created="2005-01-04" modified="2010-08-10" version="80">
  <accession>Q9BX63</accession>
  <accession>Q3MJE2</accession>
  <accession>Q8NCI5</accession>
  <name>FANCJ_HUMAN</name>
  <protein>
    <recommendedName ref="1">
      <fullName>Fanconi anemia group J protein</fullName>
      <shortName>Protein FACJ</shortName>
    </recommendedName>
    <alternativeName>
      <fullName>ATP-dependent RNA helicase BRIP1</fullName>
    </alternativeName>
    <alternativeName>
      <fullName>BRCA1-interacting protein C-terminal helicase 1</fullName>
    </alternativeName>
    <alternativeName>
      <fullName>BRCA1-associated C-terminal helicase 1</fullName>
    </alternativeName>
  </protein>
  <gene>
    <name type="primary">BRIP1</name>
    <name type="synonym">BACH1</name>
    <name type="synonym">FANCJ</name>
  </gene>
</entry>
</uniprot>
Homo sapiens

Human

NCBI Taxonomy id=9606

BACH1, a novel helicase-like protein, interacts directly with BRCA1 and contributes to its DNA repair function.

Cantor S.B.; Bell D.W.; Ganesan S.; Kass E.M.; Drapkin R.
Two problems common to both examples

Storing data in RDBMs/tables may require

- **Many** joins
  - due to irregular structure
    - varying number of ‘values’ for certain attributes
    - e.g., phone number, email, …
    - e.g., author, alternative name, Protein Names
  - Recursive joins
    - due to unbounded depth,
    - e.g., “cyclic management”

Pain points!
Alternative to Tables:
Semi-Structured Data Models
Database Alternatives to Tables

• **Trees**, underlying various **semi-structured data models**:
  – OEM
  – Lore
  – JSON
  – XML

• **Graphs**
  - what are they?
  - what are they good at?
  - Schema Languages: how do we describe ‘legal structures’?
  - Data Manipulation: how do we interact with them?
The Basics First: Semi-structured data

Semi-structured data

- predates XML
- is an attempt to reconcile
  - (Web) document view and
  - (DB) strict structures
- is data organised in semantic entities, where
  - similar entities are grouped together
  - entities in same group may not have same fields
- often defined as a possibly nested set of field-value pairs
- order of fields is not necessarily important
  - e.g.: do we have sets or lists of telephone numbers?
  - ..... fixing an order allows to give meaning to rank
- not all fields may be required
- carries its own description

{name: {first:"Uli", last: "Sattler"},
tel: 56176,
email:"sattler@cs.man.ac.uk"}

aka attribute-value pairs
The Basics First: Semi-structured data

Example (ctd):
Values can in turn be **structured**:

```
{name: {first:"Uli", last: “Sattler"},
tel: 56176,
email:"sattler@cs.man.ac.uk"}
```

And we can have **several values** for the same field:

```
{name: {first:"Uli", last: “Sattler"},
tel: 56176,
tel: 56182,
email:"sattler@cs.man.ac.uk"}
```
Important: are field-value pairs lists or sets?

I.e., is

{name: {first:”Uli”, last: “Sattler”},
 tel: 56182,
 tel: 56176,
 email:”sattler@cs.man.ac.uk”}

the same as

{name: {first:”Uli”, last: “Sattler”},
 tel: 56176,
 tel: 56182,
 email:”sattler@cs.man.ac.uk”}

(yes if f-v-ps are sets, no if they are lists)
The Basics First: Semi-structured data

**Important:** does white space matter?

I.e., is

```
{name: {first:”Uli”, last: “Sattler”},
tel: 56182,
tel: 56176,
email:”sattler@cs.man.ac.uk”}
```

the same as

```
{name: {first:”Uli”, last: “Sattler”},
tel: 56182,
tel: 56176,
email:”sattler@cs.man.ac.uk”}
```
We need an **Internal Representation**

to know when two pieces of semi-structured data are the same,

to determine what matters
The Basics First: trees as InternRepr for SSD

Let's view/treat nested field-value pairs as trees.

```
{name: {first: "Uli", last: "Sattler"},
  tel: 56176,
  tel: 56182,
  email: "sattler@cs.man.ac.uk"}
```
The Basics First: trees as InternRepr for SSD

Let’s view/treat nested field-value pairs as trees

{name: {first: ”Uli”, last: “Sattler”},
  tel: 56176,
  tel: 56182,
  email: ”sattler@cs.man.ac.uk”}

Is this the same or a different tree?
Is this the same or different data?
The Basics First: trees as InternRepr for SSD

- In general, a piece of SSD/nested set of field-value pairs,
  - can be represented as a tree
    - **leaf** nodes standing for single **data items**
    - **inner** nodes carry no label
    - **edges** labelled with **field names**

```json
{name: {first:"Uli", last: "Sattler"},
  tel: 56182,
  tel: 56176,
  email:"sattler@cs.man.ac.uk"}
```

```
name
  tel.
    tel.
      tel.
        tel.
        email
          "sattler@cs.man.ac.uk"

first
  last
"Uli"
"Sattler"
```
Semi-structured data: tuples with variations

We can easily represent nested tuples

[[[Uli, Sattler], 56176, sattler@cs.man.ac.uk],
 [Bijan, 56183, 783 4672, bparsia@cs.man.ac.uk],
 [Leo, 8488342, leo@gmx.com]]

as sets of field-value pairs

...even if they have missing or duplicated pairs

...best if we know which element belongs to what

e.g., is “783 4672” Bijan’s telephone number? his email address? age?

{person:
  {name: {first: “Uli”, last: “sattler}, tel: 56176, email: “sattler@cs.man.ac.uk”}
person:
  {name: “Bijan”, tel: 56183, tel: 783 4672,
   email: “bparsia@cs.man.ac.uk”}
person:
  {name: “Leo”, tel: 8488342, email: “leo@gmx.com”}}
Semi-structured data: tuples with variations

We can easily represent nested tuples

```
[[[Uli, Sattler], 56176, sattler@cs.man.ac.uk],
 [Bijan, 56183, 783 4672, bparsia@cs.man.ac.uk],
 [Leo, 8488342, leo@gmx.com]]
```

as sets of field-value pairs

...but also without knowing role of elements:

```
{1:
  {1: “Uli”, 2: “sattler}, 2: 56176, 3: “sattler@cs.man.ac.uk”}
2:
  {1: “Bijan”, 2: 56183, 3: 783 4672, 4: “bparsia@cs.man.ac.uk”}
3:
  {1: “Leo”, 2: 8488342, 3: “leo@gmx.com”}}
```
SSD: representing relational data

Consider two relations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>a</th>
<th>b</th>
<th>c</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>R</td>
<td>a1</td>
<td>b1</td>
<td>c1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a2</td>
<td>b2</td>
<td>c2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>c</th>
<th>d</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>c2</td>
<td>d2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>c3</td>
<td>d3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>c4</td>
<td>d4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

and their tree representation:

→ we can represent relational data, though with an overhead
SSD: representing object databases

- we can represent data from object-oriented DBMSs or SE as SSD
  - provided we have object identifiers, e.g., &o1
  - so that objects can refer to each other

Example: 
```json
{ persons: 
{person: &o1 { name: “John”,
age: 47,
relatives: {child: &o2,
child: &o3}}

person: &o2 { name: “Mary”,
age: 21,
relatives: {father: &o1,
sister: &o3}}

person: &o3 { name: “Paula”,
age: 23,
relatives: {father: &o1,
sister: &o2}}} }
```

→ Draw a graph representation of this piece of semi-structured data!
SSD: how to represent/store

- there are various formalisms to store semi-structured data
  - for example
    - Object Exchange Model (OEM, close to previous examples)
    - Lore
    - XML
    - JSON
- different formalisms with different
  - internal representations
  - mechanisms for self-describing
  - datatypes (e.g., integer, Boolean, string,...) supported
- description mechanisms for (semi) structure:
  - schema languages to describe
    - which fields are allowed/required where
    - which values allowed/required where
  - query languages & manipulation mechanisms
XML
a data model with
a tree-shaped internal representation
XML

• is a formalism for the representation of *semi-structured data*
  – e.g., used by UniProt
  – suitable for humans and computers
• is *not* designed to specify the lay-out of documents
  – this what html, css and others are for
• alone will not solve the problem of **efficiently querying (web) data**: we might have to use RDBMSs technology as well
  see COMP62421
A brief history of XML

- **GML** (Generalised Markup Language), 60ies, IBM
- **SGML** (Standard Generalised Markup Language), 1985:
  - flexible, expressive, with DTDs
  - custom tags
- **HTML** (Hypertext Markup Language), early 1990ies:
  - application of SGML
  - designed for **presentation of documents**
  - single document type, presentation-oriented tags, e.g., `<h1>...</h1>`
  - led to the web as we know it
  - a **W3C** standard
  - subset/fragment of SGML
  - designed
    - to be “web friendly”
    - for the **exchange/sharing of data**
    - to allow for the principled decentralized extension of HTML and
    - the elimination or radical reduction of **errors** on the web
- **XHTML** is an application of XML
  - almost a fragment of HTML
A rough map of a part of Acronym World

- HTML is an application of SGML
- XHTML is an application of SGML
- SGML is basically a restriction of XML
- XML describes DTD
- XML describes XML Schema
- XML describes Schematron
- XML describes RelaxNG
- XML describes XQuery
- XSLT describes XML
- XQuery describes XML
- XPath describes XML
Back to our very simple XML example

```xml
{name: {first: "Uli", last: "Sattler"},
tel: 56182,
tel: 56176,
email: "sattler@cs.man.ac.uk"}
```

In badly layed out XML:

```xml
<person><name><first>Uli</first><last>Sattler</last></name><tel>56182</tel><tel>56176</tel><email>sattler@cs.man.ac.uk</email></person>
```

XML documents are text documents.
Back to our very simple XML example

{name: {first:”Uli”, last: “Sattler”},
tel: 56182,
tel: 56176,
email:”sattler@cs.man.ac.uk”}

In better layed out XML:

```xml
<person>
  <name>
    <first>Uli</first>
    <last>Sattler</last>
  </name>
  <tel>56182</tel>
  <tel>56176</tel>
  <email>sattler@cs.man.ac.uk</email>
</person>
```

XML documents are text documents.
Back to our very simple XML example

{name: {first:”Uli”, last: “Sattler”},
  tel: 56182,
  tel: 56176,
  email:”sattler@cs.man.ac.uk”}

In better layed out XML with syntax highlighting:

```xml
<person>
  <name>
    <first>Uli</first>
    <last>Sattler</last>
  </name>
  <tel>56182</tel>
  <tel>56176</tel>
  <email>sattler@cs.man.ac.uk</email>
</person>
```

Use an XML editor to work with XML documents
Back to our very simple XML example

```
{name: {first:"Uli", last: "Sattler"},
   tel: 56182,
   tel: 56176,
   email:"sattler@cs.man.ac.uk"}
```

In a different **format**, with better layed out XML with syntax highlighting:

```xml
<person>
  <name first="Uli" last="Sattler"/>
  <phone>
    <number value="56182"/>
    <number value="56176"/>
  </phone>
  <email>
    <address value="sattler@cs.man.ac.uk"/>
  </email>
</person>
```

Design choices for format for your data affect query-ability, robustness
An XML Example

A snippet of XML describing the above Dilbert cartoon

```xml
<cartoon copyright="United Feature Syndicate" year="2000">
  <prolog>
    <series>Dilbert</series>
    <author>Scott Adams</author>
    <characters>
      <character>The Pointy-Haired Boss</character>
      <character>Dilbert</character>
    </characters>
  </prolog>
  <panels>
    <panel colour="none">
      <scene>Pointy-Haired Boss and Dilbert sitting at table.</scene>
      <bubbles>
        <bubble>
          <speaker>Dilbert</speaker>
          <speech>You haven’t given me enough resources to do my project.</speech>
        </bubble>
      </bubbles>
    </panel>
    ...
  </panels>
</cartoon>
```
What is XML?

- XML is a specialization of SGML
- XML is a W3C standard since 1998, see http://www.w3.org/XML/
- XML was designed to be simple, generic, and extensible
- an XML document is a piece of text that
  - describes
    - structure
    - data
  - can be associated with a tree, its DOM tree or infoset
  - is divided into smaller pieces called elements (associated with nodes in tree), which can
    - contain elements - nesting!
    - contain text/data
    - have attributes
- an XML document consists of (some administrative information followed by)
  - a root element containing all other elements
Example

And here is the full XML document

```xml
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<!DOCTYPE cartoon SYSTEM "cartoon.dtd">
<cartoon copyright="United Feature Syndicate" year="2000">
  <prolog>
    <series>Dilbert</series>
    <author>Scott Adams</author>
    <characters>
      <character>The Pointy-Haired Boss</character>
      <character>Dilbert</character>
    </characters>
  </prolog>
  <panels>
    ....
  </panels>
</cartoon>
```
What is XML? (ctd)

The above mentioned administrative information of an XML document:
1. **XML declaration**, e.g., `<?xml version="1.0" encoding="iso-8859-1"?>` (optional) identifies the
   - XML version (1.0) and
   - character encoding (iso-8859-1)
2. **document type declaration** (optional) references a grammar describing document/schema called **Document Type Definition**
   - e.g. `<!DOCTYPE cartoon SYSTEM "cartoon.dtd">`
   1. a DTD constrains the structure, content & tags of a document
   2. can either be local or remote
3. then we find the **root element** -- also called **document element**
4. which in turn contains other elements with possibly more elements....
XML Elements

- **elements** are delimited by **tags**
- **tags** are enclosed in angle brackets, e.g., `<panel>`, `</from>`
- tags are case-sensitive, i.e., `<FROM>` is not the same as `<from>`
- we distinguish
  - **start tags**: `<...>`, e.g., `<panel>`
  - **end tags**: `</...>`, e.g., `</from>`
- a pair of matching start- and end tags delimits an **element** (like parentheses)
- **attributes** specify properties of an element
  e.g., `<cartoon copyright="United Feature Syndicate">`
Example

And here is the full XML document

```xml
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<!DOCTYPE cartoon SYSTEM "cartoon.dtd">
<cartoon copyright="United Feature Syndicate" year="2000">
    <prolog>
        <series>Dilbert</series>
        <author>Scott Adams</author>
        <characters>
            <character>The Pointy-Haired Boss</character>
            <character>Dilbert</character>
        </characters>
    </prolog>
    <panels>
        ....
    </panels>
</cartoon>
```
Example

And here is the full XML document

```xml
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<!DOCTYPE cartoon SYSTEM "cartoon.dtd">
<cartoon copyright="United Feature Syndicate" year="2000">
  <prolog>
    <series>Dilbert</series>
    <author>Scott Adams</author>
    <characters>
      <character>The Pointy-Haired Boss</character>
      <character>Dilbert</character>
    </characters>
  </prolog>
  <panels>....</panels>
</cartoon>
```
XML Core Concepts: elements *(the main concept)*

- arbitrary number of attributes is allowed
- each *attr-decl* is of the form `attr-name="attr-value"`
- but each *attr-name* occurs **at most once** in one element
- the *content* can be
  - empty
  - text and/or
  - one or more elements
    - ...those *contained* elements are the element’s **child elements**
- an empty element can be abbreviated as `<element-name attr-decl1 ... attr-decln/>`

```xml
<element-name attr-decl1 ... attr-decln>
  content
</element-name>
```

```xml
<cartoon copyright="United Feature">
  content
</cartoon>
```
Example

```xml
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<!DOCTYPE cartoon SYSTEM "cartoon.dtd">
<cartoon copyright="United Feature Syndicate" year="2000">

<prolog>
<series>Dilbert</series>
<author>Scott Adams</author>
<characters>
  <character>The Pointy-Haired Boss</character>
  <character>Dilbert</character>
</characters>
</prolog>
<panels>
  ....
</panels>
</cartoon>
```
XML Core Concepts:  
Prologue - XML declaration

More at http://www.w3.org/TR/REC-xml/

Each parameter is in the form

```
parameter-name="parameter-value"
```

<?xml param1 param2 ...?>

An XML document *should have* an XML declaration (but does not need to)
XML Core Concepts: Prologue - Doctype declaration

<!DOCTYPE element-name PUBLIC "pub-id" "f-name.dtd" | SYSTEM "f-name.dtd" | [dt-declarations]>

- at most one such declaration, before root element
  - links document to (a simple) schema describing its structure
- element-name is the name of the root element of the document
- the optional dt-declarations is
  - called internal subset
  - a list of document type definitions
- the optional f-name.dtd refers to the external subset also containing document type definitions

- e.g., <!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "http://www.abc.org/dtds/html.dtd" "http://www.abc.org/dtds/html.dtd" >
What is XML? (ctd)

- in XML, the set of tags/element names is not fixed
  - ...you can use whatever you want (within spec)
  - in HTML, the tag set is fixed
  - `<h1>`, `<b>`, `<ul>`,...

- elements can be **nested**, to **arbitrary** depth
  ```
  <p>  <p>  <p>  ...</p>  </p>  </p>  </p>
  ```

- the same **element name** can occur many times in a document,
  - e.g.,
    ```
    <p>...</p><p>...</p>...
    ```

- XML itself is not a markup language, but we can **specify** markup languages with XML
  - an XML document can **contain** or **refer to** its specification: !DOCTYPE
How to view or edit XML?

• XML is not really for human consumption
  – far too verbose
  – in contrast to HTML, your browser won’t easily help:
    • you can only do a “view source” or
    • first style it (using XSLT or CSS, later more) to transform XML into HTML

• XML is text, so you can use your favourite editor, e.g., emacs in XML mode

• Or you can use an XML editor, e.g., XMLSpy, Stylus Studio, <oXygen/>,
  MyEclipse, and many more

• <oXygen/> runs on the lab machines
  – it supports many features
  – query languages
  – schemas, etc.
  – has been given to us for free: license details are in Blackboard
XML versus HTML

- XML is always case sensitive, i.e., "Hello" is different from "hello"
  - HTML isn’t: it uses SGML's default "ignore case"
- in XML, all tags must be present
  - in HTML, some "tag omission" may be permissible (e.g., <br>)
- in XML, we have a special way to write empty tags <myname/>
  - which can’t be used in HTML
- in XML, all attribute values must be quoted, e.g., <name lang= "eng">...
  - in SGML (and therefore in HTML) this is only required if value contains space
- in XML, attribute names cannot be omitted
  - in HTML they may be omitted using shorttags
When is an XML document well-formed?

An XML document is **well-formed** if

1. there is exactly one root element
2. tags, <, and > are correct (incl. no un-escaped < or & in character data)
3. tags are properly nested
4. attributes are unique for each tag and attribute values are quoted
5. no comments inside tags

Well-formedness is a very weak property: basically, it only ensures that we can **parse a document into a tree**
Interlude: Trees!

play a central role for SSD, XML, .... everything!
Trees come in different shapes!
Interlude: Abstract trees - nodes as strings!

A tree

A tree with strings as node names

A labelled tree over \{A,B,C\} (as node labels)

- so we can refer to nodes by names
- order matters!
  - the node 0,0 is different from 0,1

- so we can distinguish
  - a node from
  - a node’s label
Interlude: Abstract trees - nodes as strings!

The tree $T$ as a function:

- $T(\varepsilon) = B$
- $T(0) = A$
- $T(1) = A$
- $T(0,0) = B$
- $T(0,1) = A$
- ....

A labelled $T$ tree over \{A,B,C\} (as node labels)

- so we can distinguish
  - a node from
  - a node’s label
Interlude: Abstract trees - nodes as strings!

- We use $\mathbb{N}$ for the non-negative integers (including 0)
- we use $\mathbb{N}^*$ for the set of all (finite) strings over $\mathbb{N}$
  - $\varepsilon$ is used for the empty string
  - 0,1,0 is a string of length 3
  - each string stands for a node

- An alphabet is a finite set of symbols

- A tree $T$ over an alphabet $\Sigma$ is a mapping $T: \mathbb{N}^* \rightarrow \Sigma$ whose domain is
  - finite, i.e., $T(n)$ is defined for only finitely many strings over $\mathbb{N}$
    - each tree has only finitely many nodes
  - contains $\varepsilon$, i.e., $T(\varepsilon)$ is defined
    - each tree has a root $\varepsilon$
  - is prefixed-closed, i.e., if $T(w,n)$ is defined, then $T(w)$ is as well
    - the predecessor $w$ of a node $(w,n)$ is in $T$
Interlude: Abstract trees - nodes as strings!

- Explanation:
  - the **strings** in the domain of T represent T’s nodes
  - (w,n) is the successor of w,
  - T(w) is the label of w (as shown in picture)
  - we use nodes(T) for the (finite) domain of nodes in T

- **Is the following mapping T a tree? If yes, draw the tree T!**

\[ \Sigma = \{W, X, Y, Z\} \]
\[ T(\epsilon) = X \]
\[ T(0) = X \]
\[ T(1) = X \]
\[ T(2) = X \]
\[ T(3) = Z \]
\[ T(0,0) = Y \]
\[ T(0,0,0) = Y \]
\[ T(3,1) = Z \]
An Internal Representation for XML documents

- An XML document is a **piece of text**
  - it has tags, etc.
  - it has **no** nodes, structure, successors, etc.
  - it may have whitespace, new lines, etc.

- having a **InR** for XML documents makes many things easier:
  - talking about **structure**: documents, elements, nodes, child-nodes etc.
  - ignoring things like whitespace issues, etc.
  - implementing software that handles XML
  - specifying schema languages, other formalisms around it
    ➡ think of relational model as basis for rel. DBMSs

- this has motivated the
  - **XML Information Set** recommendation,
  - Document Object Model, **DOM**, and others

- unsurprisingly, they model an XML document as a **tree**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Data unit examples</th>
<th>Information or Property required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>cognitive</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>application</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tree adorned with...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>namespace</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>schema</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tree</td>
<td></td>
<td>well-formedness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>token</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>complex</td>
<td><code>&lt;foo:Name t=&quot;8&quot;&gt;Bob</code></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>simple</td>
<td><code>&lt;foo:Name t=&quot;8&quot;&gt;Bob</code></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>character</td>
<td><code>&lt;foo:Name t=&quot;8&quot;&gt;Bob</code></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bit</td>
<td><code>10011010</code></td>
<td>which encoding (e.g., UTF-8)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Diagram:**

- `Element` node
- `Element` node
- `Attribute` node

**Internal Representation**: Nothing

**External Representation**: A schema

---

*The University of Manchester*
DOM!
DOM trees as an InR for XML documents

A simple example:

```xml
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<mytext content="medium">
  <title>Hallo!</title>
  <content>Bye!</content>
</mytext>
```
DOM: InR for XML documents

- we will use the DOM tree as an internal representation: it can be viewed as an implementation of the slightly more abstract infoset
- DOM is a platform & language independent specification of an API for accessing an XML document in the form of a tree
  - “DOM parser” is a parser that outputs a DOM tree
  - but DOM is much more
Programmatic Manipulation of XML Documents

As a rule, whenever we manipulate XML documents in an application, we should use standard APIs:

- XML document
- Parser
- Serializer
- Standard API (eg. DOM)
- your application
Parsing & Serializing XML documents

- **parser:**
  - reads & analyses XML document
  - *may* generate parse tree that reflect document’s element structure
    - e.g., DOM tree
      - with nodes labelled with
        - tags,
        - text content, and
        - attributes and their values

- **serializer:**
  - takes a data structure, e.g., some trees, linked objects, etc.
  - generates an XML document

- **round tripping:**
  - XML \(\rightarrow\) tree \(\rightarrow\) XML
  - ...doesn’t have to lead to identical XML document...more later
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Data unit examples</th>
<th>Information or Property required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>cognitive</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>application</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tree adorned with...</td>
<td></td>
<td>nothing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>namespace</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>schema</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tree</td>
<td></td>
<td>well-formedness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>token complex</td>
<td><code>&lt;foo:Name t=&quot;8&quot;&gt;Bob</code></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>token simple</td>
<td><code>&lt;foo:Name t=&quot;8&quot;&gt;Bob</code></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>character</td>
<td><code>&lt;foo:Name t=&quot;8&quot;&gt;Bob</code></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bit</td>
<td><code>10011010</code></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- `Element`: Represents a fundamental unit of data in XML.
- `Attribute`: Contains additional information about the `Element`.
- `namespace schema`: Defines the context for the `Element`.
- `tree`: Represents a hierarchical structure of data.
- `well-formedness`: Ensures that the data is valid according to the schema.
- `parsing`: The process of converting a data structure into a more human-readable format.
- `serializing`: The process of converting a data structure into a machine-readable format.
DOM trees as an InR for XML documents

A simple example:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<mytext content="medium">
  <title>Hallo!</title>
  <content>Bye!</content>
</mytext>
```
DOM trees as an InR for XML documents

- In general, we have the following correspondence:
  - XML document $D \rightarrow$ tree $t(D)$
  - element $e$ in $D \rightarrow$ node $t(e)$ in $t(D)$
  - empty element $\rightarrow$ leaf node
  - root element $e$ in $D \rightarrow$ not root node in $t(D)$, but document node

<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<mytext content="medium">
  <title>Hallo!</title>
  <content>Bye!</content>
</mytext>
DOM trees as an InR for XML documents

- In general, we have the following correspondence:
  - XML document $D$ $\rightarrow$ tree $t(D)$
  - element $e$ in $D$ $\rightarrow$ node $t(e)$ in $t(D)$
  - empty element $\rightarrow$ leaf node
  - root element $e$ in $D$ $\rightarrow$ not root node in $t(D)$, but document node

- DOM’s Node interface provides the following attributes to navigate around a node in the DOM tree:

  - parentNode
  - previousSibling
  - nextSibling
  - firstChild
  - ChildNodes
  - lastChild
  - attributes

- and also methods such as appendChild, hasAttributes, insertBefore, etc.
DOM by example

A little Java example:
   “if 1st child of mytexts is “Hallo” return the content of 2nd child”
1. let a parser build the DOM of mydocument.xml
   
   factory = DocumentBuilderFactory.newInstance();
   myParser = factory.newDocumentBuilder();
   parseTree = myParser.parse("mydocument.xml");

2. Retrieve all “mytext” nodes into a NodeList interface:
   mytextNodes = parseTree.getElementsByTagName("mytext")

3. Navigate and retrieve all contents:
   
   for (int i=0; i < mytextNodes.getLength(); i++) {
     actmytextNode = mytextNodes.item(i);
     acttitleNode = actmytextNode.getFirstChild();
     actstring = acttitleNode.getFirstChild().getNodeValue();
     if (actstring.equals("Hallo")) {
       actcontentNode = acttitleNode.getNextSibling();
       returnstring = actcontentNode.getFirstChild().getNodeValue();
       break; } }
Parsing XML

• **DOM parsers** parse an XML document into a DOM tree
  – this might be huge/not fit in memory
  – your application may take a few relevant bits from it and build an own datastructure, so (DOM) tree was short-lived/built in vain

• **SAX parsers** work very differently
  – they don’t build a tree but
  – go through document depth first and “shout out” their findings...
Self-Describing
Self-describing?!

- XML is said to be **self-describing**…what does this mean?

  ```xml
  <a123>
    <b345 b345="$%#987">Hi there!</b345>
  </a123>
  ```

- ...is this well-formed?
- ...can you understand what this is about?
- Let’s compare to **CSV** (comma separated values):
  - each line is a **record**
  - commas separate **fields** (and no commas in fields!)
  - each record has the same number of fields

  Bijan, Parsia, 2.32
  Uli, Sattler, 2.24

- …can you understand what this is about?
Self-describing?!  

- One way of translating our example into XML  
  - ...can you understand what this is about?

```xml
<csvFile>
  <record>
    <field>Bijan</field>
    <field>Parsia</field>
    <field>2.32</field>
  </record>
  <record>
    <field>Uli</field>
    <field>Sattler</field>
    <field>2.24</field>
  </record>
</csvFile>
```
Self-describing?!

• Let’s consider a **self-describing CSV (ExCSV)**
  – first line is **header** with **field names**
  – ...can you understand what this is about?

• We could even **generically** translate such CSVs in XML:

```
<csvFile>
  <record>
    <name>Bijan</name>
    <surname>Parsia</surname>
    <room>2.32</room>
  </record>

  <record>
    <name>Uli</name>
    <surname>Sattler</surname>
    <room>2.21</room>
  </record>
</csvFile>
```

or, manually, even better:

```
<addresses>
  <address>
    <name>Bijan</name>
    <surname>Parsia</surname>
    <room>2.32</room>
  </address>

  <address>
    <name>Uli</name>
    <surname>Sattler</surname>
    <room>2.21</room>
  </address>
</addresses>
```
Self-describing versus Guessability

- We can go a long way by **guessing**
  - CSV is *not easily* guessable
    - requires background knowledge
  - ExCSV is *more* guessable
    - still some guessing
    - could read the field tags and guess intent
    - had to guess the record type *address*
  - Guessability is tricky

- Is self-describing just being more or less guessable?
Self-describing

\[ The \ \textit{Essence of XML} \ (\text{Siméon and Walder 2003}): \]

“From the \textbf{external representation} one should be able to derive the corresponding \textbf{internal representation}.”

- **External**: the XML document, i.e., text!
- **Internal**:
  - e.g., the DOM tree, our application’s interpretation of the content
  - seems easy, but: in `<room>2.32</room>` is “2.32” a string or a number?
    - room number ⇒ string
    - height ⇒ number

- Are CSV, ExCSV, XML self-describing?
Self-describing

- Given
  1. a base format, e.g., ExCSV
  2. a/some specific document(s), e.g.,

  - what suitable data structure can we extract?

  - CSV, ExCSV: tables, flat records, arrays, lists, etc.
  - XML: labelled, ordered trees of (unbounded) depth!

- Clearly, you could parse *specific* CSV files into trees, but you’d need to use *extra*-CSV rules/information for that

- ...in this sense, XML can be said to be more self-describing than ExCSV still need to know whether “2.32” is a string or a number?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name, Surname, Room</th>
<th>Bijan, Parsia, 2.32</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Uli, Sattler, 2.24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Schemas!**
Schemas: what are they?

A **schema** is a description

- of **DBs**: describes
  - tables,
  - their names and their attributes
  - keys, keyrefs
  - integrity constraints
Schemas: what are they?

A **schema** is a description

- **of DBs**: describes
  - tables,
  - their names and their attributes
  - keys, keyrefs
  - integrity constraints
- **of XML**: describes
  - tag names
  - attribute names
  - structure:
    - how elements are nested
    - which elements have which attributes
  - data: what values (strings? numbers?) go where
Schemas: why?

- **RDBMS**
  - No database without schema
  - DB schema determines tables, attributes, names, etc.
  - Query optimization, integrity, etc.

- **XML**
  - No schema *needed* at all!
  - Well-formed XML can be
    - parsed to yield data that can be
    - manipulated, queried, etc.
  - Non-well formed XML....not so much
  - Well-formedness is a universal minimal schema
Schemas for XML: why?

- Well-formedness is minimal
  - any name can appear as an element or attribute name
  - any shape of content/structure of nesting is permitted
- Few applications want that…
- we’d like to rely on a format with
  - core concepts that result in
  - core (tag & attribute) names and
  - intended structure
  - intended data types
    e.g., string for names, integer for age

  - although you might want to keep it extensible & flexible

```xml
<addresses>
  <name>
    <address>Bijan</address>
    <surname>Parsia</surname>
    <room>2.32</room>
  </name>

  <room>
    <room><room>
      Uli</room>
      Sattler</room>
    <room>2.21</room>
  </room>
</addresses>
```

```xml
<addresses>
  <address>
    <name>Bijan</name>
    <surname>Parsia</surname>
  </address>

  <address>
    <name>Uli</name>
    <minit>M</minit>
    <surname>Sattler</surname>
    <room>2.21</room>
  </address>

</addresses>
```
Schemas for XML: why?

• A schema describes aspects of documents:
  – what’s **legal**: what a document can/may contain
  – what’s **expected**: what a document must contain
  – what’s **assumed**: default values

• Two **modes** for using a schema
  – descriptive:
    • describing documents
    • for other people
    • so that they know how to serialize their data
  – prescriptive:
    • prevent your application from using wrong documents

```
<addresses>
  <address>
    <name>Bijan</name>
    <surname>Parsia</surname>
  </address>
  <address>
    <name>Uli</name>
    <minit>M</minit>
    <surname>Sattler</surname>
    <room>2.21</room>
  </address>
</addresses>
```
Benefits of an (XML) schema

• **Specification**
  – you document/describe/publish your format
  – so that it can be used across multiple implementations

• As **input** for applications
  – applications can do **error-checking** in a **format independent** way
    • checking whether an XML document conforms to a schema
      can be done by a **generic** tool (see CW2),
    • no need to be changed when schema changes
    • automatically!
Benefits of an (XML) schema

- **Specification**
- As *input* for applications
  - applications can do **error-checking** in a **format independent** way

![Diagram of XML processing flow](image)

**Input/Output**
- Schema
- XML document

**Generic tools**
- Schema-aware parser
- Serializer
- Standard API (e.g., DOM or Sax)

**Your code**
- Your code informs/throws exception if doc doesn’t **validate** against schema!
- May contain additional information from schema: PSVI
RelaxNG, a very powerful schema language
RelaxNG: a schema language

- RelaxNG was designed to be a **simpler** schema language
- (described in a readable on-line book by Eric Van der Vlist)
- and allows us to describe XML documents in terms of their **tree abstractions**:
  - no default attributes
  - no entity declarations
  - no key/uniqueness constraints
  - minimal datatypes: only "token" and "string" (like DTDs)
    (but a mechanism to use XSD datatypes)

- since it is so simple/flexible
  - it’s (claimed/designed to be) easy to use
  - it doesn’t have complex constraints on description of element content like determinism/1-unambiguity
  - it’s claimed to be reliable
  - but you need other tools to do other things (like datatypes and attributes)
RelaxNG: another side of Validation

General: reasons why one would want to validate an XML document:
• ensure that structure is ok
• ensure that values in elements/attributes are of the correct data type
• generate PSVI to work with
• check constraints on co-occurrence of elements/how they are related
• check other integrity constraints, eg. a person’s age vs. their mother’s age
• check constraints on elements/their value against external data
  – postcode correctness
  – VAT/tax/other numeric constraints
  – spell checking

...only few of these checks can be carried out by validating against schemas...

RelaxNG was designed to
1. describe/validate structure and
2. link to datatype validators to type check values of elements/attributes
RelaxNG: basic principles

- RelaxNG is based on **patterns** (similar to XPath expressions):
  - a pattern is a description of a set of valid node sets
  - we can view our example as different combinations of different parts, and design **patterns** for each

A first RelaxNG schema:

```xml
grammar {
    start =
    element name {
        element first {text},
        element last {text}
    }
}
```

To describe documents like:

```xml
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<name>
    <first>Harry</first>
    <last>Potter</last>
</name>
```

```xml
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<name>
    <first>Magda</first>
    <last>Potter</last>
</name>
```
RelaxNG: good to know

RelaxNG comes in 2 syntaxes

• the compact syntax
  – succinct
  – human readable

• the XML syntax
  – verbose
  – machine readable

✓ Trang converts between the two, pfew!
  (and also into/from other schema languages)

✓ Trang can be used from Oxygen

```xml
<grammar
  xmlns="http:..."
  xmlns:a="http:..
  datatypeLibrary="http:...">
  <start>
    <element name="name">
      <element name="first"><text/></element>
      <element name="last"><text/></element>
    </element>
  </start>
</grammar>
```
RelaxNG - to describe structure:

- 3 kinds of **patterns**, for the 3 “central” nodes:
  - text
  - attribute
    - attribute age { text },
    - attribute type { text },
  - element
    - element name {
      - element first { text },
      - element last { text }
    }
  - these can be combined:
    - ordered groups
    - unordered groups
    - choices
- we can constrain cardinalities of patterns
- text nodes
  - can be marked as “data” and linked
- we can specify libraries of patterns
RelaxNG: ordered groups

- we can **name** patterns
- in “chains”
- we can use **regular expressions** ,, ?, *, |, and +

```xml
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<people>
  <person age="41">
    <name>
      <first>Harry</first>
      <last>Potter</last>
    </name>
    <address>4 Main Road</address>
    <project type="epsrc" id="1">DeCompO</project>
    <project type="eu" id="3">TONES</project>
  </person>
  ....
</people>
```

```plaintext
grammar { start = people-element

  people-element = element people
                  { person-element+ }

  person-element = element person {
                      attribute age { text },
                      name-element,
                      address-element+, project-element*}

  name-element = element name {
                    element first { text },
                    element middle { text }?,
                    element last { text } }

  address-element = element address { text }

  project-element = element project {
                      attribute type { text },
                      attribute id {text},
                      text }}
```
RelaxNG: different styles

• so far, we modelled ‘element centric’...we can model ‘content centric’:

```
grammar { start = people-description
people-description = element people { person-description+ } } person-description = element person { attribute age { text },
name-description, address-description+, project-description* } name-description = element name { element first { text },
element middle { text }?,
element last { text } } address-description = element address { text } project-description = element project { attribute type { text },
attribute id {text}, text } grammar { start =
    element people {people-content} people-content =
    element person { person-content }+ person-content = attribute age { text },
    element name {name-content},
    element address { text }+,
    element project {project-content}* name-content = element first { text },
    element middle { text }?,
    element last { text } } project-content = attribute type { text },
    attribute id {text},
    text }
```

Claim: A document is valid wrt left one iff it is valid wrt right one.
A document is valid wrt S1 iff it is valid wrt S2.
Documents being valid wrt schema

- Validity of XML documents wrt a RelaxNG schema
  - is a complex concept because RelaxNG is a powerful schema language:
    - other schema languages, e.g. DTDs, are less powerful, so
      - describing things is harder,
      - describing some things is impossible, but
      - validity is easily defined
    - we concentrate here on simple RelaxNG schemata:
      - for each element name X, use a “macro” X-description
      - only patterns of the form
        - start = X-description
        - X-description = element X { text }
        or
        - X-description = element X expression
        where expression is a regular expression over “…-description”s
        …and exactly 1 such pattern per “…-description"
Simple RelaxNG schemas

- Is this schema simple?

- for each element name X, use a “macro” X-description

- only patterns of the form
  - start = X-description
  - X-description = element X \{ text \} or
  - X-description = element X expression
    where expression is a regular expression over “…-description”s

```plaintext
grammar { start = people-description

people-description = element people \{ person-description+ \}

person-description = element person {
    attribute age \{ text \},
    name-description,
    address-description+,
    project-description*}

name-description = element name {
    element first \{ text \},
    element middle \{ text \}?,
    element last \{ text \} }

address-description = element address \{ text \}

project-description = element project {
    attribute type \{ text \},
    attribute id \{ text\},
    text } }
```
Simple RelaxNG schemas

- Is this schema simple?

- for each element name X, use a “macro” X-description
- only patterns of the form
  - start = X-description
  - X-description = element X \{ text \} or
  - X-description = element X expression
    where expression is a regular expression over “…-description”s
    …and exactly 1 such pattern per “…-description”

grammar { start = people-description

people-description = element people \{ person-description+ \}

person-description = element person \{ name-description,
  address-description+, project-description*\}

name-description = element name \{first-description, middle-description?,
  last-description \}

first-description = element first \{ text \}
middle-description = element middle \{ text \}
last-description = element last \{ text \}

address-description = element address \{ text \}

project-description = element project \{ text \} }
Documents described by a RelaxNG schema

- An node $n$ with name $X$ matches an expression
  - `element X {text}` if $X$ has a single child node of text content
  - `element X expression` if the sequence of $n$’s child node names matches expression, after dropping all “-description” in expression

- Eg., $name$ matches element name `{first-description, middle-description?, last-description }`

- An XML document $D$ is valid wrt a simple RelaxNG schema $S$ if
  - $D$’s root node name is $X$ iff $S$ contains `start = X-description`
  - each node $n$ in $D$ matches its description,
    i.e., if $D$’s name is $X$, then $S$ contains a statement $X$-description = $Y$ and $n$ matches $Y$. 
Interlude:
Regular Expressions
Regular Expressions

• a standard concept to describe expressions
• allows us to describe/understand which documents are described here:

```
grammar {start = element test { test-content }

  test-content = (A-content, B-content, C-content)
  A-content = element A {text}
  B-content = element B {text}
  C-content = element C {text}
}
```

and here:

```
grammar {start = element test { test-content }

  test-content = (A-content+, B-content?, C-content*)+, (B-content | C-content*)+
  A-content = element A {text}
  B-content = element B {text}
  C-content = element C {text}
}
```
Regular expressions

- Given a set of symbols $N$, the set of regular expressions $\text{regexp}(N)$ over $N$ is the smallest set containing
  - the empty string $\epsilon$ and all symbols in $N$ and
  - if $e_1$ and $e_2 \in \text{regexp}(N)$, then so are
    - $e_1, e_2$ (concatenation)
    - $e_1 | e_2$ (choice)
    - $e_1^*$ (repetition)

- Given a regular expression $e$, a string $w$ matches $e$,
  - if $w = \epsilon = e$ or $w = n = e$ for some $n$ in $N$, or
  - if $w = w_1 w_2$ and $e = (e_1, e_2)$ and $w_1$ matches $e_1$ and $w_2$ matches $e_2$, or
  - if $e = (e_1 | e_2)$ and $w$ matches $e_1$ or $w$ matches $e_2$
  - if $w = \epsilon$ and $e = e_1^*$
  - if $w = w_1 w_2 \ldots w_n$ and $e = e_1^*$ and each $w_i$ matches $e_1$
Regular expressions

- Hence we can use
  - $e^+$ as abbreviation for $(e,e^*)$
  - $e?$ as abbreviation for $(e|\varepsilon)$
Documents described by a RelaxNG schema

• An node $n$ with name $X$ matches an expression
  - element $X \{\text{text}\}$ if $X$ has a single child node of text content
  - element $X$ expression matches expression, if the sequence of $n$’s child node names matches expression, after dropping all “-description” in expression

  

• Eg.,

  

An XML document $D$ is valid wrt a simple RelaxNG schema $S$ if
  - $D$’s root node name is $X$ iff $S$ contains $\text{start} = X$-description
  - each node $n$ in $D$ matches its description,
    i.e., if $n$’s name is $X$, then $S$ contains a statement $X$-description = $Y$ and $n$ matches $Y$. 
RelaxNG: validity by example

Which of these is valid wrt

```xml
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<name>
  <first>Harry</first>
  <last>Potter</last>
</name>
```

```xml
grammar { start = people-description

people-description = element people { person-description+ }

person-description = element person { name-description,}

name-description = element name {
  first-description, middle-description?, last-description }

first-description = element first { text }
middle-description = element middle { text }
last-description = element last { text }
}
```
Documents valid against RelaxNG schemas

- careful: “is valid” is different from “validates against”

just defined

process, possibly implemented
RelaxNG: regular expressions in XML syntax

```xml
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<grammar xmlns="http://relaxng.org/ns/structure/1.0">
  <start>
    <ref name="people-element"/>
  </start>

  <define name="people-element">
    <element name="people">
      <oneOrMore>
        <ref name="person-element"/>
      </oneOrMore>
    </element>
  </define>

  <define name="person-element">
    <element name="person">
      <attribute name="age"/>
      <name-element />
      <address-element +>
      <project-element */>
    </element>
  </define>

  <define name="name-element">
    <element name="name">
      <element name="first">
        <text/>
      </element>
      <optional>
        <element name="middle">
          <text/>
        </element>
      </optional>
      <element name="last">
        <text/>
      </element>
    </element>
  </define>

  <define name="address-element">
    <element name="address">
      <text/>
    </element>
  </define>

  <define name="project-element">
    <element name="project">
      <attribute name="type"/>
      <attribute name="id"/>
      <text/>
    </element>
  </define>
</grammar>
```
RelaxNG: ordered groups

- we can combine patterns in **fancy ways:**

```
grammar { 
  start = element people {people-content} 
  people-content = element person { person-content }+
}

person-content = HR-stuff, 
  contact-stuff

HR-stuff = attribute age { text }, 
  project-content

contact-stuff = attribute phone { text }, 
  element name {name-content}, 
  element address { text }

name-content = element first { text }, 
  element middle { text }?, 
  element last { text }

project-content = element project { 
  attribute type { text }, 
  attribute id {text}, 
  text }+
```

```xml
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<people>
  <person age="41">
    <name>
      <first>Harry</first>
      <last>Potter</last>
    </name>
    <address>4 Main Road</address>
    <project type="epsrc" id="1">
      DeCompO
    </project>
    <project type="eu" id="3">
      TONES
    </project>
  </person>
  ....
</people>
```
RelaxNG: structure description summary

- RelaxNG’s specification of structure differs from DTDs and XSD:
  - grammar oriented
  - 2 syntaxes with automatic translation
  - flexible: we can gather different aspects of elements into different patterns
  - unconstrained: no constraints regarding unambiguity/1-ambiguity/deterministic content model/Unique Particle Constraints/Element Declarations Consistent
  - we also have an “ALL” construct for unordered groups, “interleave” &:

```
here, the patterns must appear in the specified order,
(except for attributes, which are allowed to appear in any order in the start tag):
```

```plaintext
element person {
  attribute age { text},
  attribute phone { text},
  name-element ,
  address-element+ ,
  project-element*}
```

```
here, the patterns can appear any order:
```

```plaintext
element person {
  attribute age { text } &
  attribute phone { text } &
  name-element &
  address-element+ &
  project-element*}
```
RelaxNG: Over to you - an Example

- Write a RelaxNG schema in compact syntax for documents of this form:

```xml
<library>
  <book id="id0" publishedDate="2013" genre="Textbook">
    <title>Learning SQL</title>
    <authors count="1">
      <author id="id1">Alan Beaulieu</author>
    </authors>
    <characters>
      <character id="3">
        <name>SQL, the query language</name>
      </character>
    </characters>
  </book>

  <book id="id3" publishedDate="2012" genre="Textbook">
    <title>Learning XML</title>
    <authors count="2">
      <author id="id4">Erik T. Ray</author>
      <author id="id5">his friend</author>
    </authors>
    <characters>
      <character id="6">
        <name>XML, a formalism</name>
      </character>
      <character id="7">
        <name>DTDs, a schema language</name>
      </character>
      <character id="8">
        <name>RelaxNG, another schema language</name>
      </character>
    </characters>
  </book>
</library>
```
Remember: Benefits of an (XML) schema

- **Specification**
  - you document/describe/publish your format
  - so that it can be used across multiple implementations
- As **input** for applications
  - applications can do **error-checking** in a **format independent** way
    - checking whether an XML document conforms to a schema can be done by a **generic** tool (see CW1),
    - no need to be changed when schema changes
    - automatically!

![Diagram](image)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Input/Output</th>
<th>Generic tools</th>
<th>Your code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Schema</td>
<td>Schema-aware parser</td>
<td>PSVI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XML document</td>
<td>Serializer</td>
<td>your application</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Validity of XML documents w.r.t. RelaxNG

- Try <oXygen/>
  - for your coursework
  - to write XML documents and RelaxNG schemas
  - it automatically checks
    - whether your document is well-formed and
    - whether your document conforms to your schema!
XML Namespaces

or,

making things “simpler”

by

making them much more complex
An observation

• “plus” elements may occur in different situations
• e.g. in arithmetic expression (see CW2) and in regular expressions:

```xml
<plus>
  <int value="4"/>
  <int value="5"/>
</plus>
```

for 4+5

```xml
<plus>
  <choice>
    <star>A</star>
    <star>B</star>
  </choice>
</plus>
```

for (A*|B*)+

• We have an element name conflict!
• How do we distinguish plus[arithmetic] and plus[reg-exp]?
  • semantically?
  • in a combined document?
Uniquing the names (1)

- We can add some characters

```xml
<calcplus>
  <int value="4"/>
  <int value="5"/>
</calcplus>
```

- No name clash now
  - But the “meaningful” part of name (plus) is hard to see
  - “calcplus” isn’t a real word!
Uniquing the names (2)

- We can use a separator or other convention

```xml
<calc:plus>
  <int value="4"/>
  <int value="5"/>
</calc:plus>
```

```xml
<regex:plus>
  <choice>
    ...
  </choice>
</regex:plus>
```

- No name clash now
- The “meaningful” part of the name is **clear**
- The disambiguator is **clear**
  - But we can get **clashes**!
- Need a **registry** to coordinate?
Uniquing the names (3)

- Use URIs for disambiguation

```
<http://bjp.org/calc/:plus>
  <int value="4"/>
  <int value="5"/>
</http://bjp.org/calc/:plus>
```

```
<http://bjp.org/regex/:plus>
  <choice>
    ...
  </choice>
</http://bjp.org/regex/:plus>
```

- No name clash now
  - The “meaningful” part of the name **clear**
  - The disambiguator is **clear**
    - Clashes are hard to get
    - Existing URI allocation mechanism
  - But **not well formed**!
Uniquing the names (4)

• Combine the (2) and (3)!

<calc:plus xmlns:calc="http://bjp.org/calc/">
  <int value="4"/>
  <int value="5"/>
</calc:plus>

<regex:plus xmlns:regex="http://bjp.org/regex/">
  <choice>
    ...
  </choice>
</regex:plus>

• No name clash now
  • The “meaningful” part of the name clear
  • The disambiguator is clear
    • Clashes are hard to get
    • Existing URI allocation mechanism
  • But well formed!
• But the model doesn’t know
# Layered!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Data unit examples</th>
<th>Information or Property required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>cognitive</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>application</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tree adorned with...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>namespace</td>
<td></td>
<td>nothing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>schema</td>
<td></td>
<td>a schema</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tree</td>
<td></td>
<td>well-formedness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>token</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>complex</td>
<td><code>&lt;foo:Name t=&quot;8&quot;&gt;Bob</code></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>simple</td>
<td><code>&lt;foo:Name t=&quot;8&quot;&gt;Bob</code></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>character</td>
<td><code>&lt;foo:Name t=&quot;8&quot;&gt;Bob</code></td>
<td>which encoding (e.g., UTF-8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bit</td>
<td><code>10011010</code></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Anatomy & Terminology of Namespaces

- **Namespace declarations**, e.g., `xmlns:calc="http://bjp.org/calc/"`
  - looks like/can be treated as a normal attribute
- **Qualified names** ("QNames"), e.g., `calc:plus` consist of
  - **Prefix**, e.g., `calc`
  - **Local name**, e.g., `plus`
- **Expanded name**, e.g., `{http://bjp.org/calc/}plus`
  - they don’t occur in doc
  - but we can talk about them!
- **Namespace name**, e.g., `http://bjp.org/calc/`
We don’t need a prefix

We can have “default” namespaces
  – Terser/Less cluttered
  – Retro-fit legacy documents
  – Safer for non-namespace aware processors

But trickiness!
  – What’s the expanded name of “int” in each document?

- Default namespaces and attributes interact weirdly...
Multiple namespaces

• We can have **multiple declarations**
• Each declaration has a **scope**
• The **scope** of a declaration is:
  – the element where the declaration **appears** together with
  – the **descendants** of that element...
    • ...except those descendants which have a **conflicting declaration**
      – (and their descendants, etc.)
    • I.e., a declaration with the same prefix
• Scopes nest and shadow
  – Deeper nested declarations redefine/overwrite outer declarations

```xml
<plus xmlns="http://bjp.org/calc/
   xmlns:n="http://bjp.org/numbers/">
  <n:int value="4"/>
  <n:int value="5"/>
</plus>

<plus xmlns="http://bjp.org/calc/">
  <int xmlns="http://bjp.org/numbers/
   value="4"/>
  <int value="5"/>
</plus>
```
Some clicker tests...

```xml
<a:expression xmlns="foo1" xmlns:a="foo2" xmlns:b="bah">
  <b:plus xmlns:a="foobah">
    <int value="3"/>
    <a:int value="3"/>
  </b:plus>
</a:expression>
```
Some more about NS in our future

- Issues: Namespaces are increasingly controversial
- Modelling principles
- Schema language support
Phew - Summary of today

- Semi-structured data
  - datamodel
  - XML
  - trees
- Parsing & serializing
- Dom
- Self-describing
- Why schemas
- A first schema language: RelaxNG
- A brief note on namespaces
Coursework

- Quiz
- Short essay
- M2: extend a RelaxNG schema
  - use <OxyGen> for this or some other tools
  - test your schema, share tests
- CW2:
  - use DOM to parse XML document with arithmetic expression, compute value of arithmetic expression after validating it against RelaxNG schema
  - test your program, share tests