# Introduction to Database Systems CSE 444

Lecture 28: XML

# Class Evaluation

# About the Final

- Open book and open notes
  - But you won't have time to read during final!
  - No laptops, no mobile devices
- Topics:
  - Lectures 16 through the end of quarter
  - Projects 3 and 4
  - HW3
- Sample finals on course website!

# XML

Readings
New edition: Sections 11.1 – 11.3 and 12.1
Old edition: Subset of material in 4.6 and 4.7
(coverage of XML is better in new version)

# XML Outline

- What is XML?
- Syntax
- Semistructured data
- DTDs
- XPath

# What is XML?

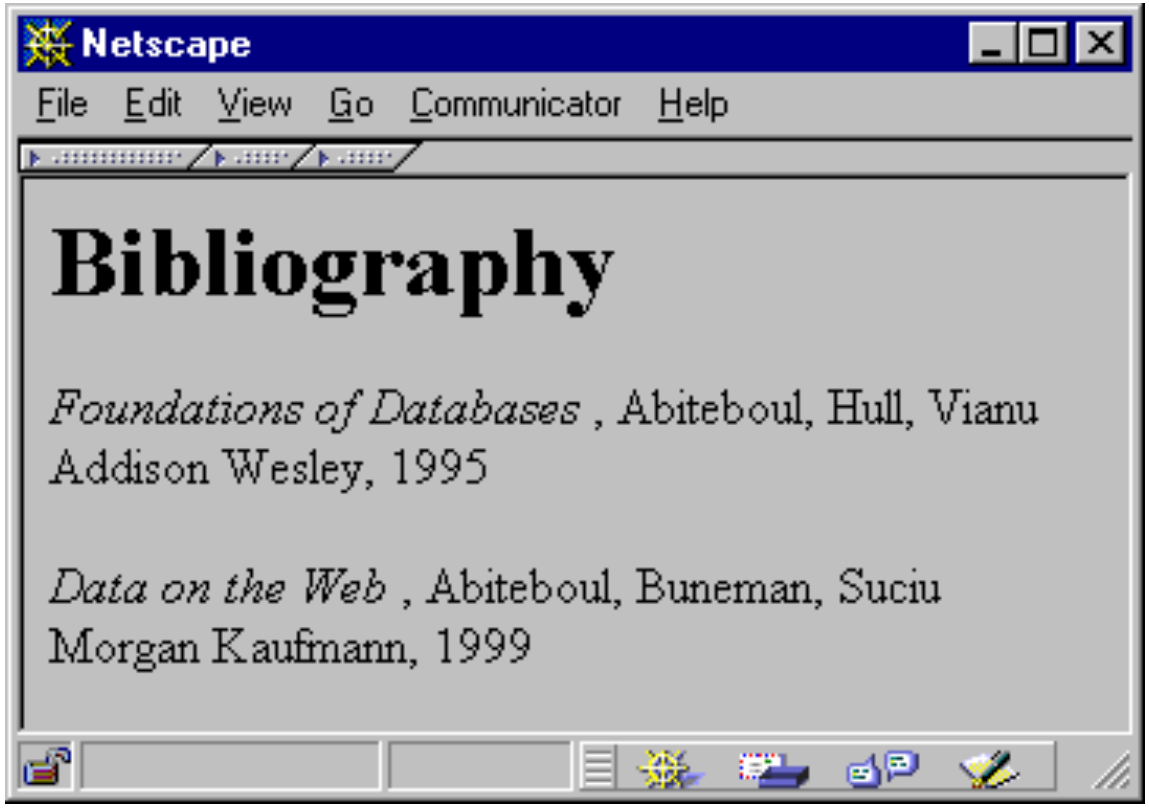
- Stands for eXtensible Markup Language
- Applications:
  - Data exchange
  - Un-normalized data
- Other usages:
  - Configuration files: e.g. Web.Config
  - Document markup: e.g. XHTML
- Roots: SGML - a very nasty language

We will study only XML as data

# Data Exchange

- Relational data does not have a syntax
  - I can't "give" you my relational database or parts of it
  - Need some file format:
    CSV (comma-separated-values), ASN.1
- XML
  - Is a more advanced file format
  - Also has its own data model: *semistructured*
- Main idea: applications exchange information in XML

# From HTML to XML




HTML describes the presentation

# HTML

```
<h1> Bibliography </h1>
<p> <i> Foundations of Databases </i>
        Abiteboul, Hull, Vianu
        <br> Addison Wesley, 1995
<p> <i> Data on the Web </i>
        Abiteboul, Buneman, Suciu
        <br> Morgan Kaufmann, 1999
```

HTML describes the presentation

# XML Syntax

```
<bibliography>
    <book>   <title> Foundations… </title>
             <author> Abiteboul </author>
             <author> Hull </author>
             <author> Vianu </author>
             <publisher> Addison Wesley </publisher>
             <year> 1995 </year>
    </book>
    …
</bibliography>
```

XML describes the content

# XML Terminology

- Tags: book, title, author, …
- Start tag: <book>,  end tag: </book>
- Elements: <book>…</book>,<author>…</author>
- Elements are nested
- Empty element: <red></red> abbrv. <red/>
- An XML document: single *root element*

*Well formed* XML document
- Has matching tags
- A short header
- And a root element

# Well-Formed XML

```
<? xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8" standalone="yes" ?>
<SomeTag>
    …
</SomeTag>
```

# More XML: Attributes

```
<book price = “55” currency = “USD”>
   <title> Foundations of Databases </title>
   <author> Abiteboul </author>
    …
   <year> 1995 </year>
</book>
```

# Attributes v.s. Elements

```
<book price = “55” currency = “USD”>
  <title> Foundations of DBs </title>
  <author> Abiteboul </author>
   …
  <year> 1995 </year>
</book>
```

```
<book>
  <title> Foundations of DBs </title>
  <author> Abiteboul </author>
   …
  <year> 1995 </year>
  <price> 55 </price>
  <currency> USD </currency>
</book>
```

Attributes are alternative ways to represent data

# Comparison

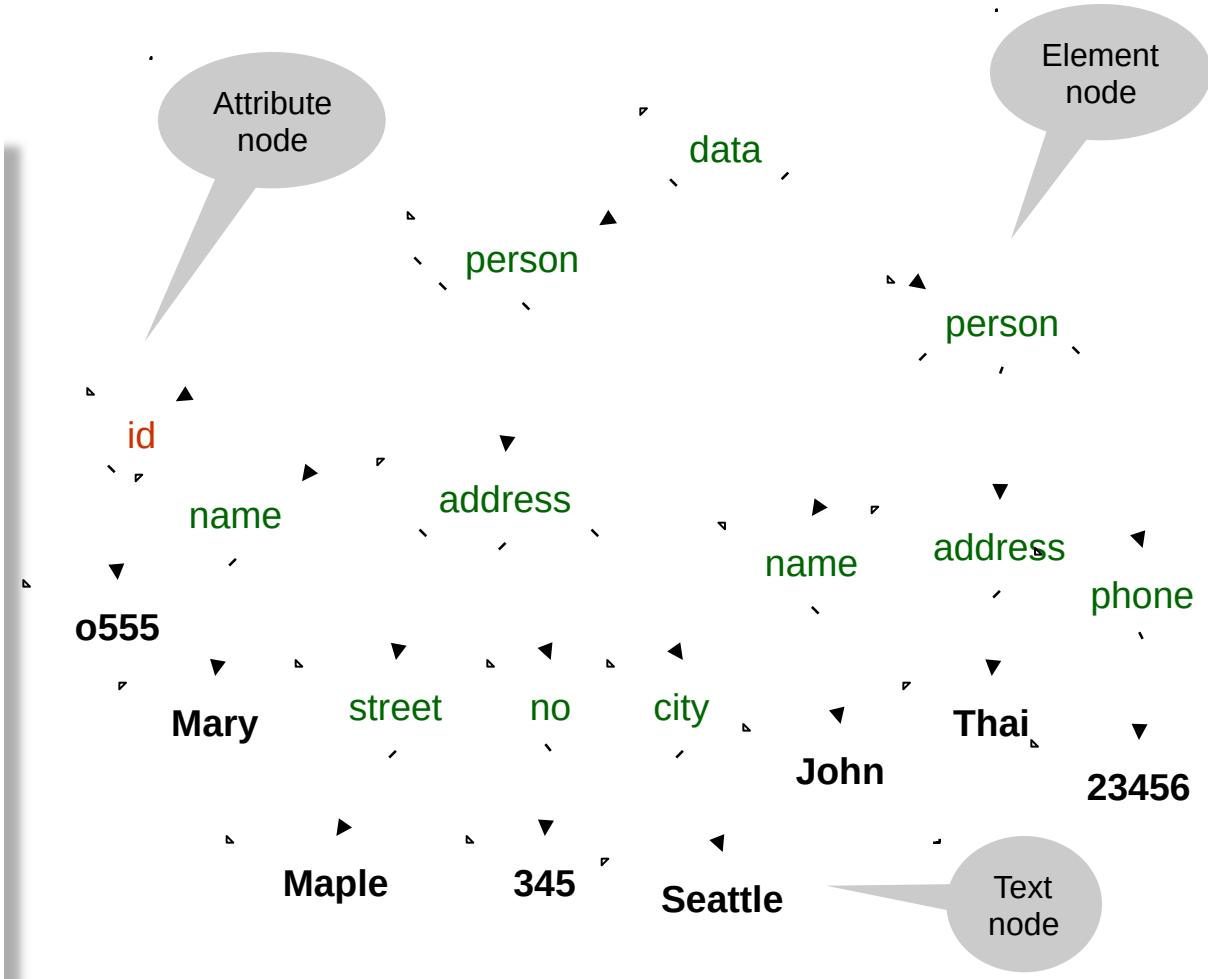
| Elements | Attributes |
| --- | --- |
| Ordered | Unordered |
| May be repeated | Must be unique |
| May be nested | Must be atomic |

# XML v.s. HTML

- What are the differences between XML and HTML ?
  - HTML may be non-well formed: e.g. <br> without </br>. Better: <br/>; XML must be well formed
  - HTML has semantics: <br> means newline, <i> means italic etc. XML has no semantics

# XML Semantics: a Tree !

```
<data>
  <person id="o555" >
    <name> Mary </name>
    <address>
      <street>Maple</street>
      <no> 345 </no>
      <city> Seattle </city>
    </address>
  </person>
  <person>
    <name> John </name>
    <address>Thailand
    </address>
    <phone>23456</phone>
  </person>
</data>
```




Order matters !!!

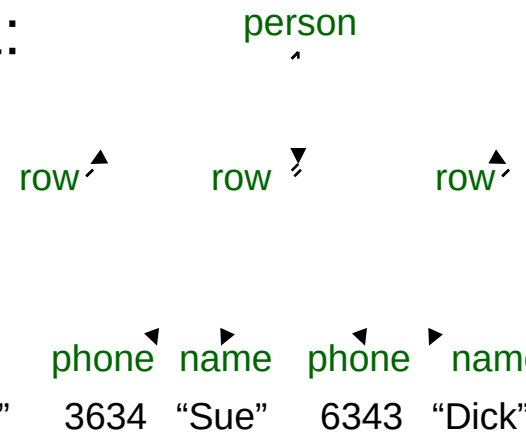
# XML Data

- XML is self-describing
- Schema elements become part of the data
  - Relational schema: person(name,phone)
  - In XML <person>, <name>, <phone> are part of the data, and are repeated many times
- Consequence: XML is much more flexible
- XML = semistructured data

# Mapping Relational Data to XML Data

The canonical mapping:

XML:




Person

| Name | Phone |
|---|---|
| John | 3634 |
| Sue | 6343 |
| Dick | 6363 |

```
<person>
    <row> <name>John</name>
          <phone> 3634</phone></row>
    <row> <name>Sue</name>
          <phone> 6343</phone></row>
    <row> <name>Dick</name>
          <phone> 6363</phone></row>
</person>
```

# Mapping Relational Data to XML Data

Application specific mapping

Person

| Name | Phone |
|---|---|
| John | 3634 |
| Sue | 6343 |

Orders

| PersonName | Date | Product |
|---|---|---|
| John | 2002 | Gizmo |
| John | 2004 | Gadget |
| Sue | 2002 | Gadget |

XML

```
<people>
 <person>
    <name> John </name>
    <phone> 3634 </phone>
    <order>  <date> 2002 </date>
                <product> Gizmo </product>
     </order>
     <order> <date> 2004 </date>
                <product> Gadget </product>
     </order>
 </person>
<person>
    <name> Sue </name>
    <phone> 6343 </phone>
    <order>  <date> 2004 </date>
                <product> Gadget </product>
     </order>
 </person>
</people>
```

# XML is Semi-structured Data

- Missing attributes:

```
<person>   <name> John</name>
           <phone>1234</phone>
 </person>

<person>  <name>Joe</name>
</person>
```

no phone !

- Could represent in a table with nulls

| name | phone |
|---|---|
| John | 1234 |
| Joe | - |

# XML is Semi-structured Data

- Repeated attributes

```
<person> <name> Mary</name>
         <phone>2345</phone>
         <phone>3456</phone>
</person>
```

Two phones !

- Impossible in tables:

| name | phone | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mary | 2345 | 3456 | ??? |

# XML is Semi-structured Data

- Attributes with different types in different objects

```
<person> <name>  <first> John </first>
                 <last> Smith </last>
         </name>
         <phone>1234</phone>
</person>
```

Structured name !

- Nested collections (no 1NF)
- Heterogeneous collections:
  - <db> contains both <book>s and <publisher>s

# Schema

# Document Type Definitions (DTD)

- Part of the original XML specification
- An XML document may have a DTD
- XML document:

  **Well-formed** = if tags are correctly closed

  **Valid** = if it has a DTD and conforms to it
- Validation is useful in data exchange

# DTD

Goals:

- Define what tags and attributes are allowed
- Define how they are nested
- Define how they are ordered

Superseded by XML Schema (Book Sec. 11.4)

- Very complex: DTDs still used widely

# Very Simple DTD

```
<!DOCTYPE company [
  <!ELEMENT company   ((person|product)*)>
  <!ELEMENT person  (ssn, name, office, phone?)>
  <!ELEMENT ssn        (#PCDATA)>
  <!ELEMENT name     (#PCDATA)>
  <!ELEMENT office     (#PCDATA)>
  <!ELEMENT phone    (#PCDATA)>
  <!ELEMENT product  (pid, name, description?)>
  <!ELEMENT pid    (#PCDATA)>
  <!ELEMENT description    (#PCDATA)>
]>
```

# Very Simple DTD

Example of valid XML document:

```
<company>
   <person>  <ssn> 123456789 </ssn>
             <name> John </name>
             <office> B432 </office>
             <phone> 1234 </phone>
   </person>
   <person>  <ssn> 987654321 </ssn>
             <name> Jim </name>
             <office> B123 </office>
   </person>
   <product> ...  </product>
   ...
</company>
```

# DTD: The Content Model


- Content model:
  - Complex = a regular expression over other elements
  - Text-only = #PCDATA
  - Empty = EMPTY
  - Any = ANY
  - Mixed content = (#PCDATA | A | B | C)*

# DTD: Regular Expressions

DTD

XML

Sequence

```
<!ELEMENT name
                (firstName, lastName))>
```

```
<name>
   <firstName>  . . . . . </firstName>
   <lastName>  . . . . . </lastName>
</name>
```

Optional

```
<!ELEMENT name  (firstName?, lastName))>
```

Kleene star

```
<!ELEMENT person   (name, phone*))>
```

```
<person>
   <name>  . . . . . </name>
   <phone>  . . . . . </phone>
   <phone>  . . . . . </phone>
   <phone>  . . . . . </phone>
   . . . . . .
</person>
```

Alternation

```
<!ELEMENT person   (name, (phone|email)))>
```

# Querying

# Querying XML Data

- XPath = simple navigation through the tree
- XQuery = the SQL of XML
- XSLT = recursive traversal
  - will not discuss in class

# Sample Data for Queries

```
<bib>
    <book>  <publisher> Addison-Wesley </publisher>
            <author> Serge Abiteboul </author>
            <author> <first-name> Rick </first-name>
                     <last-name> Hull </last-name>
            </author>
            <author> Victor Vianu </author>
            <title> Foundations of Databases </title>
            <year> 1995 </year>
    </book>
    <book price="55">
            <publisher> Freeman </publisher>
            <author> Jeffrey D. Ullman </author>
            <title> Principles of Database and Knowledge Base Systems </title>
            <year> 1998 </year>
    </book>
</bib>
```

# Data Model for XPath

XPath returns a sequence of items. An item is either:

- A value of primitive type, or
- A node (doc, element, or attribute)

# XPath: Simple Expressions

/bib/book/year

Result: <year> 1995 </year>
<year> 1998 </year>

/bib/paper/year

Result: empty (there were no papers)

/bib

What's the difference ?

/

# XPath: Restricted Kleene Closure

- //author

Result:<author> Serge Abiteboul </author>
<author> <first-name> Rick </first-name>
<last-name> Hull </last-name>
</author>
<author> Victor Vianu </author>
<author> Jeffrey D. Ullman </author>

- /bib//first-name

Result: <first-name> Rick </first-name>

# XPath: Attribute Nodes

- /bib/book/@price

Result: “55”

@price means that price has to be an attribute

# XPath: Wildcard

```
//author/*
```

Result: <first-name> Rick </first-name>
<last-name> Hull </last-name>

* Matches any element

@* Matches any attribute

# XPath: Text Nodes

- /bib/book/author/text()

Result: Serge Abiteboul
Victor Vianu
Jeffrey D. Ullman

Rick Hull doesn't appear because he has first-name, last-name

Functions in XPath:

- text() = matches the text value
- node() = matches any node (= * or @* or text())
- name() = returns the name of the current tag

# XPath: Predicates

- /bib/book/author[first-name]

Result: <author> <first-name> Rick </first-name>
<last-name> Hull </last-name>
</author>

# XPath: More Predicates

- /bib/book/author[first-name][address[.//zip][city]]/last-name

Result: <last-name> … </last-name>
<last-name> … </last-name>

How do we read this ?
First remove all qualifiers (predicates):

- /bib/book/author/last-name

Then add them one by one:

- /bib/book/author[first-name][address]/last-name etc

# XPath: More Predicates

- /bib/book[@price < 60]
- /bib/book[author/@age < 25]
- /bib/book[author/text()]

# XPath: Position Predicates

- /bib/book[2]

The 2nd book

- /bib/book[last()]

The last book

- /bib/book[@year = 1998] [2]

The 2nd of all books in 1998

- /bib/book[2][@year = 1998]

2nd book IF it is in 1998

# XPath: More Axes

. means *current node* /bib/book[.//review]

/bib/book[./review] Same as /bib/book[review]

/bib/author/. /first-name Same as /bib/author/first-name

# XPath: More Axes

.. means *parent node*

- /bib/author/.. /author/zip Same as /bib/author/zip

- /bib/book[.//review/../comments]

Same as

- /bib/book[.//*[comments][review]]

- Hint: don’t use ..

# XPath: Summary

| | |
|---|---|
| bib | matches a bib element |
| * | matches any element |
| / | matches the root element |
| /bib | matches a bib element under root |
| bib/paper | matches a paper in bib |
| bib//paper | matches a paper in bib, at any depth |
| //paper | matches a paper at any depth |
| paper\|book | matches a paper or a book |
| @price | matches a price attribute |
| bib/book/@price | matches price attribute in book, in bib |
| bib/book[@price<“55”]/author/last-name | matches… |
| bib/book[@price<“55” or @price>”99”]/author/last-name | matches… |