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# Data Format Description Language (DFDL) v1.0 Specification

Status of This Document

This document provides information to the OGF community on a standard Data Format Description Language (DFDL). Distribution is unlimited.

This is a working draft that is in the process of being updated to incorporate identified errata. All changes due to errata are flagged as Word comments.



Abstract

This document provides a definition of a standard Data Format Description Language (DFDL). This language allows description of dense binary and legacy data formats in a vendor-neutral declarative manner. DFDL is an extension to the XML Schema Description Language (XSDL).

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## 1. Introduction

Data interchange is critically important for most computing. Grid computing and all forms of distributed computing require distributed software and hardware resources to work together. Inevitably, these resources read and write data in a variety of formats. General tools for data interchange are essential to solving such problems. Scalable and High Performance Computing (HPC) applications require high-performance data handling, so data interchange standards must enable efficient representation of data. Data Format Description Language (DFDL) enables powerful data interchange and very high-performance data handling.

We envisage three dominant kinds of data in the future, as follows:

1. Textual data defined by a format specific schema such as XML or JSON.
2. Binary data in standard formats.
3. Data with DFDL descriptors.

Textual XML data is the most successful data interchange standard to date. All such data are by definition new, by which we mean created in the XML era. Because of the large overhead that XML tagging imposes, there is often a need to compress and decompress XML data. However, there is a high-cost for compression and decompression that is unacceptable to some applications. Standardized binary data are also relatively new, and is suitable for larger data because of the reduced costs of encoding and more compact size. Examples of standard binary formats are data described by modern versions of ASN.1, or the use of XDR. These techniques lack the self-describing nature of XML-data. Scientific formats, such as NetCDF and HDF are used by some communities to provide self-describing binary data. There are also standardized binary-encoded XML data formats such as EXI..

It is an important observation that both XML format and standardized binary formats are *prescriptive* in that they specify or prescribe a representation of the data. To use them your applications must be written to conform to their encodings and mechanisms of expression.

DFDL suggests an entirely different scheme. The approach is *descriptive* in that one chooses an appropriate data representation for an application based on its needs and one then describes the format using DFDL so that multiple programs can directly interchange the described data. DFDL descriptions can be provided by the creator of the format, or developed as needed by third parties intending to use the format. That is, DFDL is not a format for data; it is a way of describing any data format. DFDL is intended for data commonly found in scientific and numeric computations, as well as record-oriented representations found in commercial data processing.

DFDL can be used to describe legacy data files, to simplify transfer of data across domains without requiring global standard formats, or to allow third-party tools to easily access multiple formats. DFDL can also be a powerful tool for supporting backward compatibility as formats evolve.

DFDL is designed to provide flexibility and also permit implementations that achieve very high levels of performance. DFDL descriptions are separable and native applications do not need to use DFDL libraries to parse their data formats. DFDL parsers can also be highly efficient. The DFDL language is designed to permit implementations that use lazy evaluation of formats and to support seekable, random access to data. The following goals can be achieved by DFDL implementations:

- Density. Fewest bytes to represent information (without resorting to compression). Fastest possible I/O.
- Optimized I/O. Applications can write data aligned to byte, word, or even page boundaries and to use memory-mapped I/O to insure access to data with the smallest number of machine cycles for common use cases without sacrificing general access.

DFDL can describe the same types of abstract data that other binary or textual data formats can describe and, furthermore, it can describe almost any possible representation scheme for those data. It is the spirit of DFDL to support canonical data descriptions that correspond closely to the original in-memory representation of the data, and also to provide sufficient information to write as well as to read the given format.

### 1.1 Why is DFDL Needed?

The question arises of why DFDL is needed in an era when there are so many standard data formats available. Ultimately, it is because there are a number of social phenomena in the way software is developed that have lead to the situation today where DFDL is needed to standardize descriptions of diverse data formats.

First, programs are very often written speculatively, that is, without any advance understanding of how important they will become. Given this situation, little effort is expended on data formats since it remains easier to program the I/O in the most straightforward way possible with the programming tools in use. Even something as simple as using an XML-based data format is harder than just using the native I/O libraries of a programming language.

In time, however, it is realized that a software program is important because either many people are using it, or it has become important for business or organizational needs to start using it in larger scale deployments. At that point it is often too late to go back and change the data formats. For example, there may be real or perceived business costs to delaying the deployment of a program for a rewrite just to change the data formats, particularly if such rewriting will reduce the performance of the program and increase the costs of deployment. (It takes *longer* to program, but at least it's *slower* when you are done☺)

Additionally, the need for data format standardization for interchange with other software may not be clear at the point where a program first becomes 'important'. Eventually, however, the need for data interchange with the program becomes apparent.

The above phenomena are not something that is going away any time soon. There are, of course, efforts to smoothly integrate standardized data format handling into programming languages. Nevertheless, we see a critical role for DFDL since it allows after-the-fact description of a data format.

### 1.2 What is DFDL?

DFDL is a language for describing data formats. A DFDL description allows data to be read from its native format and to be presented as an instance of an information set or indeed converted to the corresponding XML document. DFDL also allows data to be taken from an instance of an information set and written out to its native format.

DFDL achieves this by leveraging W3C XML Schema Definition Language (XSDL) 1.0. [XSDLV1]

An XML schema is written for the logical model of the data. The schema is augmented with special DFDL annotations. These annotations are used to describe the native representation of the data. This is an established approach that is already being used today in commercial systems.

#### 1.2.1 Simple Example

Consider the following XML data:

```
<w>5</w>
<x>7839372</x>
<y>8.6E-200</y>
<z>-7.1E8</z>
```

The logical model for this data can be described by the following fragment of an XML schema document that simply provides description of the name and type of each element:

```
<xs:complexType name="example1">
  <xs:sequence>
    <xs:element name="w" type="xs:int"/>
    <xs:element name="x" type="xs:int"/>
    <xs:element name="y" type="xs:double"/>
    <xs:element name="z" type="xs:float"/>
  </xs:sequence>
</xs:complexType>
```

Now, suppose we have the same data but represented in a non-XML format. A binary representation of the data could be visualized like this (shown as hexadecimal):

```
0000 0005 0077 9e8c
169a 54dd 0a1b 4a3f
ce29 46f6
```

To describe this in DFDL, we take our original XML schema document that described the data model and we annotate the type definition as follows:

```
<xs:complexType >
  <xs:sequence dfdl:byteOrder="bigEndian">
    <xs:element name="w" type="xs:int">
      <xs:annotation>
        <xs:appinfo source="http://www.ogf.org/dfdl/">
          <dfdl:element representation="binary"
                    binaryNumberRep="binary"
                    byteOrder="bigEndian"
                    lengthKind="implicit"/>
        </xs:appinfo>
      </xs:annotation>
    </xs:element>
    <xs:element name="x" type="xs:int ">
      <xs:annotation>
        <xs:appinfo source="http://www.ogf.org/dfdl/">
          <dfdl:element representation="binary"
                    binaryNumberRep="binary"
                    byteOrder="bigEndian"
                    lengthKind="implicit"/>
        </xs:appinfo>
      </xs:annotation>
    </xs:element>
    <xs:element name="y" type="xs:double">
      <xs:annotation>
        <xs:appinfo source="http://www.ogf.org/dfdl/">
          <dfdl:element representation="binary"
                    binaryFloatRep="ieee"
                    byteOrder="bigEndian"
                    lengthKind="implicit"/>
        </xs:appinfo>
      </xs:annotation>
    </xs:element>
    <xs:element name="z" type="xs:float" >
      <xs:annotation>
        <xs:appinfo source="http://www.ogf.org/dfdl/">
          <dfdl:element representation="binary"
                    byteOrder="bigEndian"
                    lengthKind="implicit"
                    binaryFloatRep="ieee" />
```

```
        </xs:appinfo>
      </xs:annotation>
    </xs:element>
  </xs:sequence>
</xs:complexType>
```

This simple DFDL annotation expresses that the data are represented in a binary format and that the byte order will be big endian. This is all that a DFDL parser needs to read the data.

Consider if the same data are represented in a text format:

```
5,7839372,8.6E-200,-7.1E8
```

Once again, we can annotate the same data model, this time with properties that provide the character encoding, the field separator (comma) and the decimal separator (period):

```
<xs:complexType >
  <xs:sequence >
    <xs:annotation>
      <xs:appinfo source="http://www.ogf.org/dfdl/">
        <dfdl:sequence encoding="UTF-8" byteOrder="bigEndian"
                       separator="," />
      </xs:appinfo>
    </xs:annotation>
    <xs:element name="w" type="xs:int">
      <xs:annotation>
        <xs:appinfo source="http://www.ogf.org/dfdl/">
          <dfdl:element representation="text"
                        encoding="UTF-8"
                        textNumberRep ="standard"
                        textNumberPattern="####0"
                        textStandardGroupingSeparator=","
                        textStandardDecimalSeparator="."
                        lengthKind="delimited"/>
        </xs:appinfo>
      </xs:annotation>
    </xs:element>
    <xs:element name="x" type="xs:int">
      <xs:annotation>
        <xs:appinfo source="http://www.ogf.org/dfdl/">
          <dfdl:element representation="text"
                        encoding="UTF-8"
                        textNumberRep ="standard"
                        textNumberPattern="#######0"
                        textStandardGroupingSeparator=","
                        textStandardDecimalSeparator="."
                        lengthKind="delimited"/>
        </xs:appinfo>
      </xs:annotation>
    </xs:element>
    <xs:element name="y" type="xs:double">
      <xs:annotation>
        <xs:appinfo source="http://www.ogf.org/dfdl/">
          <dfdl:element representation="text"
                        encoding="UTF-8"
                        textNumberRep ="standard"
                        textNumberPattern="0.0E+000"
                        textStandardGroupingSeparator=","
```

```
                        textStandardDecimalSeparator="."
                        lengthKind="delimited"/>
          </xs:appinfo>
        </xs:annotation>
      </xs:element>
      <xs:element name="z" type="xs:float">
        <xs:annotation>
          <xs:appinfo source="http://www.ogf.org/dfdl/">
            <dfdl:element representation="text"
                        encoding="UTF-8"
                        textNumberRep ="standard"
                         textNumberPattern="0.0E0"
                        textStandardGroupingSeparator=","
                        textStandardDecimalSeparator="."
                        lengthKind="delimited"/>
          </xs:appinfo>
        </xs:annotation>
      </xs:element>
    </xs:sequence>
  </xs:complexType>
```

### 1.3 What DFDL is not

DFDL maps data from a non-XML representation to an instance of an information set. This can be thought of as a data transformation. However, DFDL is not intended to be a general transformation language and, in particular, DFDL does not intend to provide a mechanism to map data to arbitrary XML models. There are two specific limitations on the data models that DFDL can work to:

1. DFDL uses a subset of XML Schema, in particular, you cannot use XML attributes in the data model.
2. The order of the data in the data model must correspond to the order and structure of the data being described.

This latter point deserves some elaboration. The XML schema used must be suitable for describing the physical data format. There must be a correspondence between the XML schema's constructs and the physical data structures. For example, generally the elements in the XML schema must match the order of the physical data. DFDL does allow for certain physically unordered formats as well.

The key concept here is that when using DFDL, you do not get to design an XML schema to your preference and then populate it from data. That would involve describing the data format, and describing a transformation for mapping it to the XML schema you have designed. DFDL is only about the format part of this problem. There are other languages, such as XSLT, which are for transformation. In DFDL, you describe only the format of the data, and this format constrains the nature of the XML schema you must use in its description.

### 1.4 Scope of version 1.0

The goals of version 1.0 are as follows:

1. Leverage XML technology and concepts
2. Support very efficient parsers/formatters
3. Avoid features that require unnecessary data copying
4. Support round-tripping, that is, read and write data in a described format from the same description
5. Keep simple cases simple
6. Simple descriptions should be "human readable" to the same degree that XSDL is.

The general features of version 1.0 are as follows:

a) Text and binary data parsing and unparsing

b) Validate the data when parsing and unparsing using XSDL validation.

c) Defaulted input and output for missing representations

d) Reference – use of the value of a previously read element in subsequent expressions

e) Choice – capability to select among format variations

f) Hidden sequence of elements – A description of an intermediate representation whose corresponding Infoset is not exposed in the final result.

g) Basic Math – in DFDL expressions

h) Out-of-type value handling (e.g., The string value 'NIL' to indicate nil for an integer)

i) Speculative parsing to resolve uncertainty.

j) Very general parsing capability: Lookahead/Push-back

Version 1.0 of DFDL is a language capable of expressing a wide range of binary and text-based data formats.

DFDL is capable of describing binary data as found in the data structures of COBOL, C, PL1, Fortran, etc. In particular, it is able to describe repeating sub-arrays where the length of an array is stored in another location of the structure.

DFDL is capable of describing a wide variety of textual data formats such as HL7, X12, and SWIFT. Textual data formats often use syntax delimiters, such as initiators, separators and terminators to delimit fields.

DFDL has certain composition properties. I.e., two formats can be nested or concatenated and a working format results.

The following topics have been deferred to future versions of the standard:

- Extensibility: There are real examples of proprietary data format description languages that we use as our base of experience from which to derive standard DFDL. However, there are no examples of extensible format description languages. Therefore, while extensibility is desirable in DFDL, there is not yet a base of experience with extensibility from which to derive a standard.
- Rich Layering: Some formats require data to be described in multiple passes. Combining these into one DFDL schema requires very rich layering functionality. In these layers one element's value becomes the representation of another element. DFDL V1.0 allows description of only a limited kind of layering.

### 1.5 Related standards

1. Prescriptive systems:
    a. JSON
    b. EXI (binary XML) (http://www.w3.org/TR/exi)
    c. Thrift (http://thrift.apache.org/static/files/thrift-20070401.pdf)
    d. Avro (http://avro.apache.org/docs/1.3.0/spec.html)
    e. ASN.1 with any of the prescribed encoding rules: Basic Encoding Rules (BER), Distinguished Encoding Rules (DER), Canonical Encoding Rules(CER) (http://www.itu.int/rec/T-REC-X.690-200811-I/en) or Packed Encoding Rules (PER) (http://www.itu.int/rec/T-REC-X.691-200811-I/en)
2. Descriptive systems:
    a. ASN1 Encoding Control Notation (also known as ITU-T X.692) (http://www.itu.int/rec/T-REC-X.692-200811-I)

## 2. Notational and Definitional Conventions

The key words *must*, *must not*, *required*, *shall*, *shall not*, *should*, *should not*, *recommended*, *may*, *may not* and *optional* in this document are to be interpreted as described in [RFC 2119]. Note that for reasons of clarity these words are not always capitalized in this document.

Examples are for illustration purposes only and for clarity they will often not include all the necessary DFDL properties.

### 2.1 Failure Types

Where the phrase "must be consistent with" is used, it is assumed that a conforming DFDL implementation must check for the consistency and issue appropriate diagnostic messages when an inconsistency is found.

There are several kinds of failures that can occur when a DFDL processor is handling data and/or a DFDL schema.

### 2.2 Schema Definition Error

When the DFDL schema itself contains an error, it implies that the DFDL processor cannot process data because the DFDL schema is not meaningful. It may be ambiguous, or contain conflicting definitions. Equivalently, we can say that there is no possible data that conforms to the schema; hence, the schema cannot be meaningful. All conforming DFDL processors must detect all schema definition errors, and must issue some kind of appropriate diagnostic message. The behavior of a DFDL processor after a schema definition error is detected is out of scope for this specification.

When a Schema definition error can be detected given only the schema, it is desirable, though not required by the DFDL standard, that such errors be detected and diagnostic messages issued before any data are processed. Of course not all schema definition errors can be detected without reference to data as some representation properties may obtain their values from the data (see section 2.3.1 Ambiguity of Data Formats).

The expression language included within DFDL is strongly, statically type checkable. This means that type checking of expressions can be performed without processing data, and implementations are encouraged to perform this checking statically so that schema definition errors having to do with type inconsistencies can be detected before processing data.

Note that schema definition errors cannot be suppressed by points of uncertainty.

In addition, a DFDL processor:

- That only implements a DFDL parser does not have to check (for schema definition errors) properties that are solely used when unparsing, though it is recommended that it does so for portability reasons.
- That does not implement some optional features does not have to check properties or annotations required by those optional features, but MUST issue a warning that an unrecognized property or annotation has been encountered.
- Need not check global objects as they may legitimately be incomplete due to properties intended to be supplied based on scoping rules and the context at the point of use,

  There are two exceptions to this, which must be checked:

  - Global simple types that are referenced by prefixLengthType property
  - Global elements that are the document root.

Some situations suggest likely errors, but a DFDL processor cannot be certain. In these situations, a DFDL processor may issue warnings to assist a DFDL schema author in identifying likely errors. An important case of this is when the DFDL processor encounters a schema

component and annotation where there are explicitly properties that are not relevant to the component as defined. Depending on the specifics of the component and property the DFDL processor can or must take certain actions. If the:

- Property is not applicable to the component's DFDL annotation.

  Schema definition error. Example is lengthKind on xs:sequence.

- Property is not applicable because of simple type.

  Warning (optional). Example is calendarPatternKind on xs:string.

- Property is not applicable because of another DFDL property setting.

  Warning (optional). Example is binaryNumberRep when representation is text.

- Property is not applicable because object is local, global or reference.

  Warning (optional). Example is occursCountKind on a global xs:element.[1]

#### 2.2.1.1 Schema Component Constraint: Unique Particle Attribution

A DFDL processor MUST implement the Schema Component Constraint: Unique Particle Attribution defined in *XML Schema Part 1: Structures* [XSDLV1] that applies to the DFDL schema subset.

Two elements **overlap** if

- They are both element declaration particles whose declarations have the same name and target namespace.

A schema will violate the unique attribution constraint if it contains two particles which overlap and which either

- Are both in the particles of a *choice* group

Or

- Either may validate adjacent information items and the first has xs:minOccurs less than xs:maxOccurs.

### 2.3 Processing Errors

If a DFDL schema contains no schema definition errors, then there is the additional possibility that when processing data using a DFDL schema, the data do not conform to the format described by the schema. This is known as a *processing error*.
Processing errors can be suppressed by a point of uncertainty. See section 9.1.1 Resolving Points of Uncertainty.

It is expected that DFDL implementations will provide additional mechanisms for dealing with effective processing errors such as the means of specifying retry points or the means of skipping some data so as to recover from the error in some way.

Exceptions that occur in the evaluation of the DFDL expression language are processing errors.

Non-conformance with the *xs:minOccurs* constraint is either a processing error or only a validation error depending on the value of the dfdl:occursCountKind property.

Non-conformance with the *xs:maxOccurs* constraint is a validation error.

#### 2.3.1 Ambiguity of Data Formats

[1] Excludes inputValueCalc and outputValueCalc.

A data format using delimiters may be ambiguous if the delimiters are not distinct and a data format description which has fixed data requirements (that is, where some elements have fixed values), may be ambiguous even with fixed length elements.[2]

If the delimiter string values are stored within the data, perhaps as elements of a header part of the data, then this ambiguity certainly cannot be examined until the data is available.

Given an ambiguous grammar, a DFDL implementation may successfully parse a particular input data stream. That is, the part of the schema with the ambiguity may not be exercised by a particular data stream, or the data may parse successfully anyway because the ambiguity may not cause any kind of failure or processing error.

Hence, to insure compatible behavior, DFDL v1.0 implementations MUST NOT detect grammar ambiguities as errors. Implementations are of course free to issue warnings to help users identify these situations, but ambiguity is neither a Schema Definition Error nor a Processing Error.

#### 2.3.1.1 **Unparsing Must be Unambiguous**

Usually, the behavior of the unparser is symmetric to the behavior of the parser; however, there are cases where the DFDL schema will accept several equivalent representations for the same logical data. In this case it would be ambiguous which of these equivalent representations should be produced by the unparser. The DFDL standard contains representation properties which are used to eliminate this ambiguity. It is a schema definition error if a DFDL schema is being used to unparse data and there is any ambiguity about the representation.

### 2.4 Validation Errors

Logical validation checks are constraints expressed in XSDL and they apply to the logical value of the infoset. Hence, parsing must successfully construct the infoset from the representation in order for validation checks to be meaningful. This implies that validation errors cannot affect the ability of a DFDL processor to successfully parse or unparse data.

DFDL processors may provide both validating and non-validating behaviors on either or both of parse and unparse. (A DFDL implementation could support validate on parse, but not support it on unparse and still be considered conforming.)

The behavior of a DFDL processor after a validation error is not specified by the DFDL language.

Validation on unparsing takes place on the augmented infoset that is created by the unparser as a side-effect of creating the output data stream.

When resolving points of uncertainty, validation errors are ignored.

The following DFDL schema constructs are allowed in DFDL and are checked when validating:

1. XSDL pattern facet - (for xs:string type elements only)
2. XSDL minLength, maxLength
3. XSDL minInclusive, minExclusive, maxInclusive, maxExclusive
4. XSDL enumeration
5. XSDL maxOccurs

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[2] A very complex analysis is needed to identify this sort of grammar ambiguity in general. While we believe this may be decidable for DFDL v1.0, future versions of DFDL may add features (such as recursive types) which make this analysis undecidable.

Note that validation is distinct from the checking of DFDL assert or discriminator predicates. When a DFDL discriminator or assert is used to discriminate a choice or other point of uncertainty when parsing, then that assert or discriminator is essential to parsing and it is evaluated irrespective of whether validation is enabled or disabled.

Note that validation errors cannot be suppressed by points of uncertainty.

### 2.5 Recoverable Error

This error type is used with the dfdl:assert annotation when parsing to permit the checking of physical format constraints without terminating a parse. For example, some formats will have redundancy by having known lengths, as well as delimiters. A recoverable error can be issued, using an assert to check a physical length constraint when property lengthKind is 'delimited'.

Recoverable errors are independent of validation, and when resolving points of uncertainty, recoverable errors are ignored.

## 3. Glossary

Adjacent - Two parts of the input/output stream are adjacent if they are at consecutive addresses.

Addressable Unit, or Unit - This is the unit of storage that makes up the input or output stream holding the representation of the data. The units are bits, bytes, or characters.

Annotation point - A location within a DFDL schema where DFDL annotation elements are allowed to appear.

Applicable properties - All the DFDL properties that apply to that type of schema construct. For example all the DFDL properties that apply to an xs:simpleType.

Array - The set of adjacent elements whose XSDL element declaration specifies the potential for it to have more than one occurrence (xs:maxOccurs > 1 or unbounded). Of course any given array occurrence can have any number of elements, including zero elements or exactly 1 element as long as the occurrence constraints are met. If xs:maxOccurs is 'unbounded' then there is no constraint to the maximum number of occurrences, though implementations may have maximum capabilities. An optional element (xs:maxOccurs=1, xs:minOccurs=0) is not considered to be an array as described in this document. Note that a sequence is not to be confused with an array. A sequence is a complex tuple type for an element; the children of a sequence can be of different types. All elements of an array have the same type and have the same information item members except for the value member.

Array Element – an element declaration or reference with xs:maxOccurs>1 or unbounded.

Augmented Infoset - When unparsing one begins with the DFDL schema and conceptually with the logical infoset. As the values of items are filled in by defaulting, and by use of the DFDL outputValueCalc property (including on hidden items), these new item values augment the infoset. The resulting infoset is called the augmented infoset.

Byte - The term “byte” refers to an 8-bit octet.

Component - A construct within a DFDL schema that may contain a DFDL annotation..

Content - The content is the bits of data that are interpreted to compute a logical value.

Content Model - Used in describing the syntactic structure of XSD and DFDL annotations of it. An element of a schema can have empty, simple, element-only, or mixed content. An element declaration for an element of complex type containing a xs:sequence element is said to have a sequence in its content model.

Contiguous - An element has a contiguous representation if all parts of its representation are adjacent in the input/output stream. Most simple types have contiguous representations naturally. Groups containing elements that are themselves contiguous are also considered to have contiguous representations irrespective of alignment fill or padding of any kind that exists within the group. Similarly, arrays of elements that are themselves contiguous are also contiguous. An example of a non-contiguous representation would be a nillable element, where a flag is used to determine whether or not the element is nil, and the location of that flag is not adjacent to the value representation.

Count - The number of occurrences of an element.

Defining Annotations - The annotation elements dfdl:defineFormat, dfdl:defineVariable, and dfdl:defineEscapeScheme

Delimiter - A character or string used to separate, or mark the start and end of, items of data. In DFDL, dfdl:lengthKind 'delimited' searches for separators and terminators.

Delimiter scanning - When parsing, the process of scanning for a specific item in the data which marks the end of an item, or the beginning of a subsequent item is referred to as delimiter scanning, or simply scanning for short. Scanning also takes into account escape schemes so as to allow the delimiters to appear within data if properly escaped.

DFDL – Data Format Description Language

DFDL Processor - A program that uses DFDL schemas in order to process data described by them.

DFDL Schema - an XML schema containing DFDL annotations to describe data format.

Dynamic extent - This is a characteristic of the data stream. When parsing a declaration or definition, the collection of bits within the data stream that contain any aspect of the representation of that element make up the element's dynamic extent.

Dynamic scope - This is a characteristic of parts of the DFDL schema. When a definition or declaration contains or references another declaration or definition, then the contained definition or declaration is said to be in the dynamic scope of the enclosing one. The important characteristic of dynamic scoping is that it traverses references. When parsing, the dynamic scope of an element declaration includes all definitions and declarations used as part of parsing that element.

Element - A part of the data described by an element declaration in the schema and presented as an element information item in the infoset.

Explicit properties - The explicit properties are the combination of any defined locally on the annotation and any defined by a dfdl:defineFormat annotation referenced by a local dfdl:ref property.

Fixed Array Element - An array element where minOccurs is equal to maxOccurs.

Format annotations - The annotation elements dfdl:format, dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType, dfdl:group, dfdl:sequence, dfdl:choice, and dfdl:escapeScheme.

Format Properties - the attributes on format annotations which specify characteristics of data format.

Framing - framing is the term we use to describe the delimiters, length fields, and other parts of the data stream which are present, and may be necessary to determine the length or position of the content of an element.

Index - The position of an occurrence in a count, starting at 1.

Item - A DFDL information set consists of a number of ***information items***; or just *items* for short.

Length - When discussing data items and their representations, the term 'length' is used to refer to the measure of the size of the representation of an item in units of bits, bytes, or characters. The length of an array is the number of bits, bytes, or characters making up its representation, and has nothing to do with the number of occurrences, or dimensionality, of the array. Any item or array has length. Only array elements and optional elements have numbers of occurrences other than 1.

Lexical scope - In a DFDL Schema document, the lexical scope of any element is the collection of schema declarations, definitions, and annotations contained within the element textually.

Local properties – Local properties are the properties defined on an annotation in either short, attribute or element form

Logical layer - A DFDL Schema with all the DFDL annotations ignored is an ordinary XSDL schema. The logical structure described by this XSDL is called the DFDL *logical layer*.

Occurrence - An instance of an element in the data, or an item in the DFDL Infoset.

Optional Element - An element declaration or reference where minOccurs is equal to zero.

Optional Occurrence - An occurrence with an index greater than minOccurs.

Packed decimal – A physical representation of a decimal and integer number where each digit is packed into one nibble of a byte. There are several variants, some also include a sign nibble and

some include a padding nibble. The term covers all the following enums of the dfdl:binaryNumberRep and dfdl:binaryCalendarRrp properties – 'packed' (IBM 390 packed), 'bcd' (standard binary coded decimals or BCDs) and 'ibm4690Packed' (IBM 4690 packed).

Potentially represented - an element declaration in the schema describes a *potentially represented* item if that element declaration does not have an inputValueCalc property. Whether the element declaration describes an item that is actually represented or not depends on whether the element declaration is for an optional element or variable array element, and whether the element has a corresponding value in the augmented infoset.

Physical Layer - A DFDL Schema adds DFDL annotations onto an XSDL language schema. The annotations describe the physical representation or *physical layer* of the data.

Point of uncertainty - A point of uncertainty occurs in the data stream when there is more than one schema component that might occur at that point.

Representation Property – The properties on component format annotations that affect the representation of the data described by that schema component. These are all the properties with the exception of dfdl:ref and dfdl:hiddenGroupRef.

Required Element. An element declaration or reference where minOccurs is greater than zero.

Required Occurrence - An occurrence with an index less than or equal to minOccurs.

Required Property – A DFDL property that must have a value. The required properties for each xs:schema component are listed in the Property Precedence tables in section 23.

Resolved set of annotations - When DFDL annotations appear on a group reference and the sequence or choice of the referenced global group, or appear among an element reference, an element declaration, and its type definition, then they are combined together and the resulting set of annotations is referred to as the *resolved set of annotations* for the schema component.

Scan – Examine the input data looking for delimiters such as separators and terminators.

Schema - The set of all declarations and definitions in the schema, including all included and imported schemas taken together. This includes both the XSDL declarations and definitions, and the DFDL definitions provided in the top-level DFDL annotations.

Schema Definition Order – the order that the schema components are defined in a schema document.

Specified length - An item has specified length when dfdl:lengthKind="implicit", "explicit", or "prefixed".

Speculative Parsing – When the parser reaches a point of uncertainty it attempts to parse each option in turn until one is known to exist or known not to exist.

Statement annotations - The annotation elements dfdl:assert, dfdl:discriminator, dfdl:setVariable, and dfdl:newVariableInstance. Also called DFDL Statements.

Target length - When unparsing, the length (in dfdl:lengthUnits) of an item's representation is the target length. The length of the content corresponding to a logical data value in the infoset may be shorter or longer than the target length, in which case padding or truncation may be necessary to make the logical data content conform to the target length. Rules for when padding and truncation occur, and how they are applied are specific to simple data types, and are controlled by a number of DFDL format properties.

Unpadded length - This is the length of the content of an item of the infoset, prior to any filling or padding which might be introduced due to dfdl:lengthKind="prefixed" or dfdl:lengthKind="explicit". It is equal to or smaller than the target length.

Variable Array Element. An array element where minOccurs is not equal to maxOccurs.

# 4. The DFDL Information Set (Infoset)

This section defines an abstract data set called the ***DFDL Information Set*** (***Infoset***). Its purpose is to define the abstract data structure that must be provided:

- To an invoking application by a DFDL parser when parsing DFDL-described data using a DFDL Schema;
- To a DFDL unparser by an invoking application when generating DFDL-described data using a DFDL Schema

The DFDL Infoset contains enough information so that a DFDL schema can be defined that will unparse the infoset and reparse the resultant datastream to produce the same infoset..

There is no requirement for DFDL-described data to be valid in order to have a DFDL information set.

DFDL information sets may be created by methods (not described in this specification) other than parsing DFDL-described data.

A DFDL information set consists of a number of ***information items***; or just *items* for short. The information set for any well-formed DFDL-described data will contain at least a document information item and one element information item. An information item is an abstract description of a part of some DFDL-described data: each information item has a set of associated named ***members***. In this specification, the member names are shown in square brackets, **[thus]**. The types of information item are listed in Section 4.1 Information Items.

The DFDL Information Set does not require or favor a specific interface or class of interfaces. This specification presents the information set as a modified tree for the sake of clarity and simplicity, but there is no requirement that the DFDL Information Set be made available through a tree structure; other types of interfaces, including (but not limited to) event-based and query-based interfaces, are also capable of providing information conforming to the DFDL Information Set.

The terms "information set" and "information item" are similar in meaning to the generic terms "tree" and "node", as they are used in computing. However, the former terms are used in this specification to reduce possible confusion with other specific data models.

The DFDL Information Set is similar in purpose to the XML Information Set [XMLInfo], however, it is not identical, nor a perfect subset, as there are important differences.

## 4.1 Information Items

An information set contains two different types of information items, as explained in the following sections. Every information item has members. For ease of reference, each member is given a name, indicated **[thus]**.

### 4.1.1 Document Information Item

There is exactly one ***document information item*** in the information set, and all other information items are accessible through the [root] member of the document information item.

There is no specific DFDL schema component that corresponds to this item. It is a concrete artifact describing the information set.

The document information item has the following members:

1. **[root]** The element information item corresponding to the root element declaration of the DFDL Schema.
2. **[dfdlVersion]** String. The version of the DFDL specification to which this information set conforms. For DFDL V1.0 this is 'dfdl-1.0'

3. **[schema]** String. This member is reserved for future use.

4. **[unicodeByteOrderMark]** Enum**.** When the encoding of the root element of the document is exactly UTF-8, UTF-16, or UTF-32 (or CCSID equivalent), the member value indicates whether the document starts with a Byte-order-mark (BOM), and what the value of the mark was. If there is a BOM at the start of the data stream, then for UTF-8 encoding the value is 'UTF-8'; for UTF-16 encoding the value is 'UTF-16LE' or 'UTF-16BE'; for UTF-32 the value is 'UTF-32LE' or 'UTF-32BE'. If there is no BOM then the member value is empty. When the encoding of the root element of the document is any other encoding, the member value is empty. When unparsing, if this member is not empty and the encoding is UTF-8, UTF-16, or UTf-32, then this member's value is used to determine the specific byte-order mark written, and for UTF-16 and UTF-32, the byte order used when characters are encoded to the output data stream.

### 4.1.2 Element Information Items

There is an ***element information item*** for each value parsed from the non-hidden DFDL-described data. This corresponds to an occurrence of a non-hidden element declaration of simple type in the DFDL Schema and is known as a ***simple element information item***.

There is an ***element information item*** for each explicitly declared structure in the DFDL-described data. This corresponds to an occurrence of an element declaration of complex type in the DFDL Schema and is known as a ***complex element information item***.

In this information set, as in an XML document, an array is just a set of adjacent elements with the same name and namespace. (To represent the array explicitly, introduce a new complex type element to contain the array elements only.)

One of the element information items is the [root] member of the document information item, corresponding to the root element declaration of a DFDL Schema, and all other element information items are accessible by recursively following its [children] member.

An element information item has the following members:

1. **[namespace]** String. The namespace, if any, of the element. If the element does not belong to a namespace, the value is the empty string.

2. **[name]** String. The local part of the element name.

3. **[document]** The document information item representing the DFDL information set that contains this element. This element is empty except in the root element of an information set.

4. **[datatype]** String. The name of the XML Schema 1.0 built-in simple type to which the value corresponds. DFDL supports a subset of these types listed in section 5.1 DFDL Subset of XML Schema. In a complex element information item this member has no value.

5. **[dataValue]** The value in the value space (as defined by XML Schema Part 2: Datatypes [XSDLV1] ) of the [datatype] member or special value *nil***.** In a complex element information item this member has no value.

   For information items of datatype xs:string, the value is an ordered collection of unsigned 16-bit integer codepoints each having any value from 0x0000 to 0xFFFF. Where defined, these are interpreted as the ISO646 character codes. Codepoints disallowed by ISO 10646, such as 0xD800 to 0xDFFF are explicitly allowed by the DFDL infoset. The codepoints of the string are stored in 'implicit' (also known as logical), left-to-right bidirectional ordering and orientation. DFDL's infoset represents Unicode characters with

character codes beyond 0xFFFF by way of surrogate pairs (2 adjacent codepoints) in a manner consistent with the UTF-16 encoding of ISO 10646.

6. **[children]** An ordered set of zero or more element information items. The order they appear in the set is the order implied by the DFDL Schema. 'Ordered set' is not formally defined here, but two operations are assumed: 'count' gives the number of information items, and 'at (index)' gives the element at ordinal position 'index' starting from 1. In a simple element information item this member has no value. In a document information item this member contains exactly one element information item.

7. **[parent]** The complex element information item which contains this information item in its [children] member. In the root element of an information set this member is empty.

8. **[schema]** String. A reference to a schema component associated with this information item, if any. If not empty, the value must be an absolute or relative Schema Component Designator (SCD).

9. **[valid]** Boolean[4]. True if the element is valid as determined by a DFDL implementation that performs validation checking. A complex element information item is not valid if any of its [children] are not valid. Empty if validation is not enabled.

10. **[unionMemberSchema]**[5] String. For simple element information items, this member contains an SCD reference to the member of the union that matched the value of the element. Empty if validation is not enabled. Empty if the element's type is not a union.

On unparsing, any non-empty values for the **[valid]** or **[unionMemberSchema]** members are ignored. However, in the augmented infoset which is built during the unparse operation **[valid]** will have a value, and **[unionMemberSchema]** may have a value.

### 4.2 "No Value"

Some members may sometimes have the value ***no value***, and it is said that such a member has no value. This value is distinct from all other values. In particular it is distinct from the empty string, the empty set, and the empty list, each of which simply has no members, and it is also distinct from the special value *nil*.

### 4.3 DFDL Information Item Order

On parsing and unparsing information items will be presented in the order they are defined in the DFDL Schema.

### 4.4 DFDL Infoset Object model

By way of illustration, the DFDL information set is presented below as an object model using a Unified Modeling Language (UML) class diagram, augmented using the Object Constraint Language (OCL) [http://www.omg.org/technology/documents/modeling_spec_catalog.htm].

The structure of the information set follows the Composite design pattern. In case of inconsistency or ambiguity, the preceding discussion takes precedence.

---

[4] The purpose of this member is to support construction of a W3C standard Post Schema Validation Infoset (PSVI) from a DFDL Infoset.

[5] Also to support PSVI construction.

DFDL is able to describe the format of the physical representation for data whose structure conforms to this model. Note that this model allows hierarchically nested data, but does not allow representation of arbitrary connected graphs of data objects.

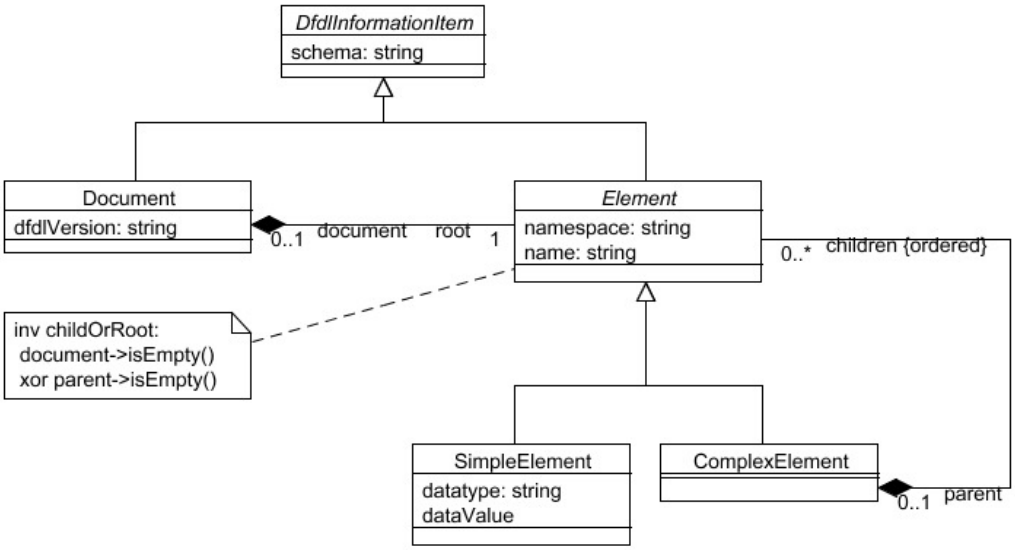



**Figure 1 DFDL Infoset Object Model**

### 4.5 DFDL Augmented Infoset

When unparsing, one begins with the DFDL schema and conceptually with the logical infoset. As the values of items are filled in by defaulting, and by use of the dfdl:outputValueCalc property (including on hidden items) (see section 117 Calculated Value Properties.), these new item values augment the infoset. The resulting infoset is called the augmented infoset.

An element declaration in the schema describes a *potentially represented* item if that element declaration does not have a dfdl:inputValueCalc property (see section 17 Calculated Value Properties.). Whether the element declaration describes an item that is actually represented or not depends on whether the element declaration is for an optional element or variable array element, and whether the element has a corresponding value in the augmented infoset.

In expressions, the function dfdl:representationLength() can be called to determine the length of the representation of an item including all content and framing. If an element declaration is not potentially represented, then dfdl:representationLength() is defined to return 0.

When unparsing, an element declaration and the infoset are considered as follows below. An implementation may use any technique consistent with this algorithm:

a) If the element declaration has a dfdl:outputValueCalc property then the expression which is the dfdl:outputValueCalc property value is evaluated and the resulting value becomes the value of the element item in the augmented infoset. Any pre-existing value for the infoset item is superseded by this new value.

References to other augmented infoset items from within the outputValueCalc expression must obtain their values from the augmented infoset directly (when the value is already present) or by recursively using these methods (a) and (b) as needed.

b) If the element declaration has no corresponding value in the augmented infoset, and the element declaration is for a *required* occurrence, and it *has a default value specified*, then an element item having the default value is created in the augmented infoset.

c) If any Infoset item's value is requested recursively as a part of (a) above and (a) does not apply, and the corresponding value is not present, and (b) does not apply then it is a processing error.

Given this augmented infoset, then if the potentially represented element declaration has a corresponding infoset item then that item is converted to its representation according to its DFDL properties. If the element declaration is for a required occurrence, and there is no value in the augmented infoset then it is a processing error.

Because rule (a) above is used even if the augmented infoset item already exists and has a value, it is possible for an outputValueCalc expression to be evaluated multiple times. DFDL implementations are free to cache values and avoid this repeated evaluation for efficiency, as the semantics of DFDL require that the outputValueCalc expression return the same value every time it is evaluated.

## 5. DFDL Schema Component Model

When using DFDL, the format of data is described by means of a *DFDL Schema*.

The DFDL Schema Component Model is shown in conceptual UML in Figure 2. First we show the model for elements, groups and the top of the type hierarchy.

The shaded boxes have direct corresponding element syntax and therefore appear in DFDL schema

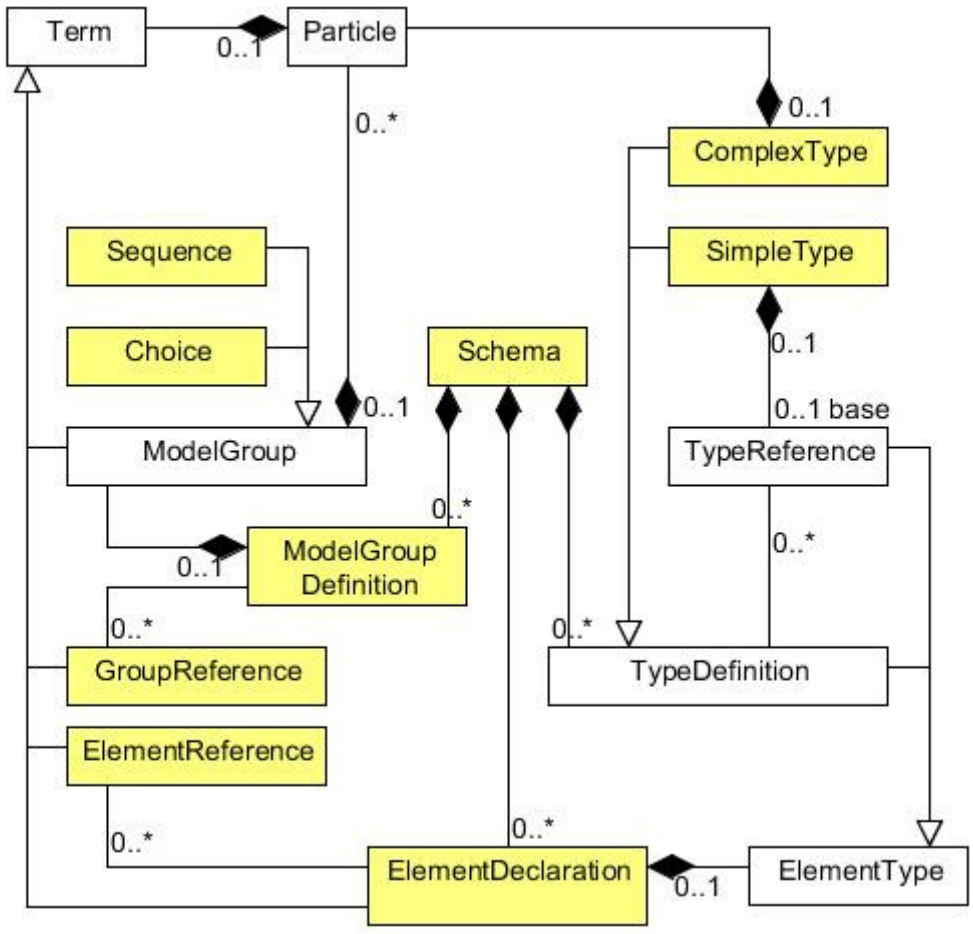
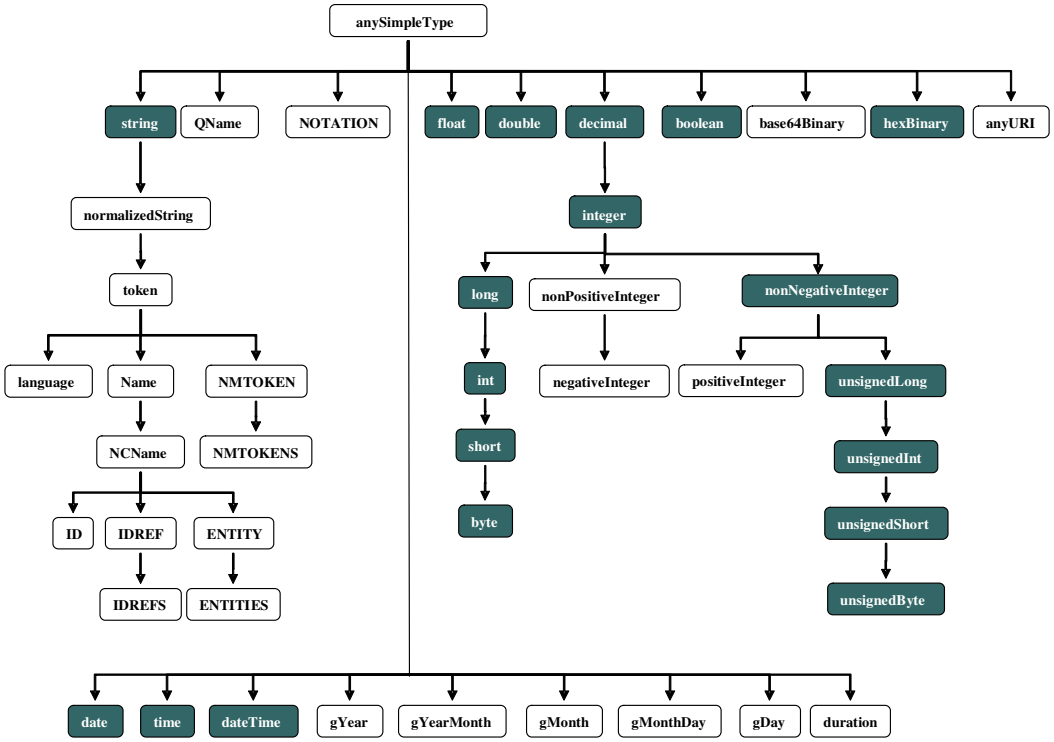



**Figure 2 DFDL Schema UML diagram**

The simple types are shown in Figure 3. The graph shows all the types defined by XML Schema version 1.0, and the subset of these types supported by DFDL are shown as shaded.

# DFDL built-in types



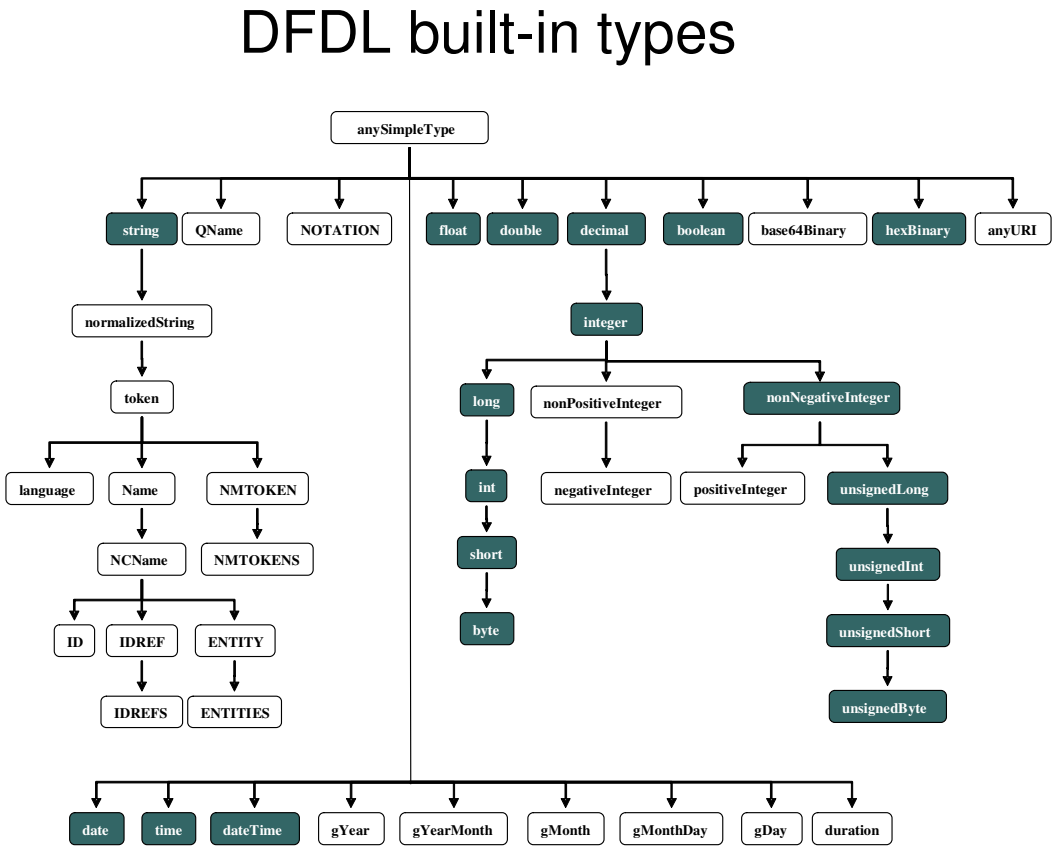



**Figure 3 DFDL simple types**

These types are defined as they are in XML Schema, with exceptions for:

> String – In DFDL a string can contain any character codes. None are reserved. (Including the character with character code U+0000, which is not permitted in XML documents.)

Each object defined by a class in the above UML is called a *DFDL Schema component*.

We express the DFDL Schema Model using a subset of the XML Schema Description Language (XSDL). XSDL provides a standardized schema language suitable for expressing the DFDL Schema Model.

A DFDL Schema is an XML schema containing only a restricted subset of the constructs available in full W3C XML Schema Description Language. Within this XML schema, special DFDL annotations are distributed that carry the information about the data's format or representation.

A DFDL Schema is a valid XML schema. However, the converse is not true since the DFDL Schema Model does not include many concepts that appear in XML schema.

### 5.1 DFDL Subset of XML Schema

The DFDL subset of XSDL is a general model for hierarchically-nested data. It avoids the XSDL features used to describe the peculiarities of XML as a syntactic textual representation of data, and features that are simply not needed by DFDL.

The following lists detail the similarities and differences between general XSDL and this subset.

DFDL Schemas consist of:

- Standard XSDL namespace management
- Standard XSDL import and management for multiple file schemas
- Local element declarations with dimensionality via xs:maxOccurs and xs:minOccurs.
- Global element declarations
- ComplexType definitions with empty or element-only content models.
- DFDL appinfo annotations describing the data format
- These simple types: string, float, double, decimal, integer, long, int, short, byte, nonNegativeInteger, unsignedLong, unsignedInt, unsignedShort, unsignedByte, boolean, date, time, dateTime, hexBinary
- These facets: minLength, maxLength, minInclusive, maxInclusive, minExclusive, maxExclusive, totalDigits, fractionDigits, enumeration, pattern (for xs:string type only)
- Fixed values
- Default values
- 'sequence' model groups (without xs:minOccurs and xs:maxOccurs)
- 'choice' model groups (without xs:minOccurs and xs:maxOccurs)
- Simple type derivations derived by restriction from the allowed built-in types
- Reusable Groups: named model group definitions can only contain one model group
- Element references with dimensionality via xs:maxOccurs and xs:minOccurs.
- Group references without dimensionality
- xs:nillable="true"
- Appinfo annotations for sources other than DFDL are permitted and ignored
- Unions; the memberTypes must be derived from the same simple type. DFDL annotations are not permitted on union members.[6]
- XML Entities

[6] The purpose of unions is to allow multiple constraints via facets such as multiple independent range restrictions on numbers. This enhances the ability to do rich validation of data.

Note: xs:nonNegativeInteger is treated as an unsigned xs:integer.

The following constructs from XML Schema are not used as part of the DFDL Schema Model of DFDL v1.0 schemas; however, they are all reserved[7] for future use since the data model may be extended to use them in future versions of DFDL:

- Attribute declarations (local or global)
- Attribute references
- Attribute group definitions
- Complex type derivations where the base type is not xs:anyType.
- Complex types having mixed content models or simple content models
- List simple types
- Union simple types where the member types are not derived from the same simple type.
- These atomic simple types: normalizedString, token, Name, NCName, QName, language, positiveInteger, nonPositiveInteger, negativeInteger, gYear, gYearMonth, gMonth, gMonthDay, gDay, ID, IDREF, IDREFS, ENTITIES, ENTITY, NMTOKEN, NMTOKENS, NOTATION, anyURI, base64Binary
- xs:maxOccurs and xs:minOccurs on model groups
- xs:minOccurs = 0 on branches of xs:choice model groups
- Identity Constraints
- Substitution Groups
- xs:all groups
- xs:any element wildcards
- Redefine - This version of DFDL does not support xs:redefine. DFDL schemas must not contain xs:redefine directly or indirectly in schemas they import or include.
- whitespace facet
- Recursively-defined types and elements (defined by way of type, group, or element references)

### 5.2 XSD Facets, min/maxOccurs, default, and fixed

XSD element declarations and references can carry several attributes and properties that express constraints on the described data. These constraints are mainly used for validation. These attributes and properties include:

- the facets
- xs:minOccurs, xs:maxOccurs
- default
- fixed

The facets and the types they are applicable to are:

[7] By reserved we mean that conforming DFDL v1.0 implementations MAY NOT assign semantics to them.

- minLength maxLength (for types xs:string, and xs:hexBinary)
- pattern (all types)
- enumeration (all types except xs:boolean)
- maxInclusive, maxExclusive, minExclusive, minInclusive (for types xs:float, xs:double, xs:date, xs:time, xs:dateTime, xs:decimal and all integer types descending from xs:decimal in Figure 3)
- totalDigits (for type xs:decimal and all integer types descending from xs:decimal in Figure 3 )
- fractionDigits (for type xs:decimal)

The facets (but not maxOccurs nor minOccurs) are also checked by the dfdl:checkConstraints DFDL expression language function.

The following sections describe these in more detail.

### 5.2.1 MinOccurs and MaxOccurs

The xs:minOccurs value is used:

- To determine if an element declaration or reference is an array, an optional element, or neither.
- For some values of the property dfdl:occursCountKind, to determine the necessary minimum number of occurrences of an array both when parsing and unparsing
- If validating, to determine the minimum acceptable number of occurrences of an array both when parsing and unparsing.

The xs:maxOccurs value is used:

- To determine if an element declaration or reference is an array, an optional element, or neither.
- When dfdl:occursCountKind="fixed", then the xs:maxOccurs value is the fixed number of occurrences of the array element, which is then called a Fixed Array Element. It is a schema definition error if xs:minOccurs is not equal to xs:maxOccurs.
- If validating, to determine the maximum acceptable number of occurrences of an array both when parsing and unparsing.

It is a processing error when an array is found to have a number of occurrences not conforming to the xs:minOccurs constraints in the absence of a default value specification.

Note that specifically, this is not a validation error, it is a processing error. For example, if the array occurrences are delimited, we might be able to successfully separate them from each other and the surrounding data depending on the delimiter specifications; however, if the number of these occurrences is not conforming to the xs:minOccurs cardinality constraints then it is a processing error.

### 5.2.2 MinLength, MaxLength

These facets are used:

- When dfdl:lengthKind="implicit" and type is xs:string or xs:hexBinary. In that case the length is given by the value of xs:maxLength. In this case xs:minLength is required to be equal to maxLength (schema definition error otherwise).
- For validation of variable length string elements.

### 5.2.3 MaxInclusive, MaxExclusive, MinExclusive, MinInclusive, TotalDigits, FractionDigits

- Used for validation only

The format of numbers is not derived from these facets. Rather dfdl properties are used to specify the format.

#### 5.2.4 Pattern

- Allowed only on elements of type xs:string or derived from it.
- Used for validation only

It is important to avoid confusion of the pattern facet with other uses of regular expressions that are needed in DFDL. For example, to determine the length of an element by regular expression matching.

Note: in XSD, pattern is about the lexical representation of the data, and since all is text there, everything has a lexical representation. In DFDL only strings are guaranteed to have a lexical and logical value that is identical.

#### 5.2.5 Enumeration

Enumerations are used to provide a list of valid values in XSD.

- Used for validation only

Note: in DFDL we do not use XSD enumeration as a means to define symbolic constants. These are captured using dfdl:defineVariable constructs so they can be referenced from expressions.

#### 5.2.6 Default

The 'default' attribute is used:

- To provide the logical value of a required element while parsing when the element is missing. See 13.15 Nils and Default processing
- To provide the logical value of a required element when unparsing when element is missing. See 13.15 Nils and Default processing

#### 5.2.7 Fixed

The 'fixed' attribute is used:

- To constrain the logical value of an element when validating.
- To provide the logical value of a required element while parsing when the element is missing. See 13.15 Nils and Default processing
- To provide the logical value of a required element when unparsing when element is missing. See 13.15 Nils and Default processing

# 6. DFDL Syntax Basics

Using DFDL, a data format is described by placing special annotations at various positions within an XML schema. This XML schema conveys the basic structure of the data format, while the annotations fill in the detail. Annotations are used to describe aspects such as the file encoding and byte ordering, as well as declaring variables for reference elsewhere, and specifying properties that govern the capabilities of the DFDL processor. A DFDL processor requires these annotations, along with the structural information of the enclosing XML schema, to make sense of the physical data model.

## 6.1 Namespaces

The xs:appinfo source URI http://www.ogf.org/dfdl/ is used to distinguish DFDL annotations from other annotations.

The element and attribute names in the DFDL syntax are in a namespace defined by the URI http://www.ogf.org/dfdl/dfdl-1.0/. All symbols in this namespace are reserved. DFDL implementations may not provide extensions to the DFDL standard using names in this namespace. Within this specification, the namespace prefix for DFDL is “dfdl” referring to the namespace http://www.ogf.org/dfdl/dfdl-1.0/.

Attributes on DFDL annotations that are not in the DFDL namespace or or in no namespace are ignored.

A DFDL Schema document contains XML schema annotation elements that define and assign names to parts of the format specification. These names are defined using the target namespace of the schema document where they reside, and are referenced using QNames in the usual manner. A DFDL schema document can include or import another schema document, and namespaces work in the usual manner for XML schema documents. The *schema* is the schema including all additional schemas referenced through import and include. Generally, in this specification, when we refer to the DFDL Schema we mean the schema. When we refer to a specific document we will use the term DFDL Schema document.

## 6.2 The DFDL Annotation Elements

DFDL annotations must be positioned specifically where DFDL annotations are allowed within an XML schema document. These positions are known as *annotation points*. When an annotation is positioned at an annotation point, it binds some additional information to the schema component that encloses it. The description of a data format is achieved by correctly placing annotations on the structural components of the schema.

DFDL specifies a collection of annotations for different purposes. They are organized into three different annotation types: Format Annotations, Statement Annotations, and Defining Annotations

At any single annotation point of the schema there can be only one format annotation, but there can be several statement annotations although there are rules about which of those are allowed to co-exist as well which will be described in sections about those specific annotation types.

| Annotation Type | Annotation Element(s) | Description |
|---|---|---|
| Format Annotation | choice | Defines the physical data format properties of an xs:choice group. See section 7.1.1 |
| | element | Defines the physical data format properties of an xs:element and xs:element reference. See section 7.1.1 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | format | Defines the physical data format properties for multiple DFDL schema constructs. Used on an xs:schema and as a child of a dfdl:defineFormat annotation. This includes aspects such as the encodings, separators, and many more. See section 7.1 |
| | group | Defines the physical data format properties of an xs:group reference. See section 7.1.1 |
| | property | Used in the syntax of format annotations. See section 7.1.3.2. |
| | sequence | Defines the physical data format properties of an xs:sequence group. See section 7.1.1 |
| | simpleType | Defines the physical data format properties of an xs:simpleType. See section 7.1.1 |
| | escapeScheme | Defines the scheme by which quotation marks and escape characters can be specified. This is for use with delimited text formats. See section 7.6 |
| Statement Annotation | assert | Defines a test to be used to ensure the data are well formed. Assert is used only when parsing data. See section 7.3 |
| | discriminator | Defines a test to be used when resolving a point of uncertainty such as choice branches, optional elements, or variable array elements. A dfdl:discriminator is used only when parsing data to resolve the point of uncertainty to one of the alternatives. See section 7.4 |
| | newVariableInstance | Creates a new instance of a variable. See section 7.8 |
| | setVariable | Sets the value of a variable whose declaration is in scope See section 7.9 |
| Defining Annotation | defineEscapeScheme | Defines a named, reusable escapeScheme See section 7.5 |
| | defineFormat | Defines a reusable data format by collecting together other annotations and associating them with a name that can be referenced from elsewhere. See section 7.2 |
| | defineVariable | Defines a variable that can be referenced elsewhere. This can be used to communicate a parameter from one part of processing to another part. See section 7.7 |

**Table 1 - DFDL Annotation Elements**

### 6.3 DFDL Properties

Properties on DFDL annotations may be one or more of the following types

- DFDL string literal
  The property value is a string that represents a sequence of literal bytes or characters which appear in the data stream.
- DFDL expression
  The property value is a DFDL subset XPath 2.0 expression that returns a value derived from other property values and/or from the DFDL infoset.
- DFDL regular expression
  The property value is a regular expression that can be used as a pattern to calculate the length of an element by applying that pattern to the sequence of literal bytes or characters which appear in the data stream.
- Enumeration
  The property value is one of the allowed values listed in the property description. An enumeration is of type string unless otherwise stated.
- Logical Value.
  The property value is a string that describes a logical value. The type of the logical value is one of the XML schema simple types. The string must conform to the XML schema lexical representation for the type.
- QName
  The property value is an XML Qualified Name as specified in “Namespaces in XML” [XMLNS10]

Some properties accept a list or union of types

- List of DFDL String Literals or Logical Values
  The property value is a space-separated list of the specified type. When parsing, if more than one string literal in the list matches the portion of the data stream being evaluated then the longest matching value in the list must be used. When unparsing, the first value in the list must be used. String literals containing whitespace or string literals representing the empty string must use character class entities in their syntax.
- Union of types and expressions.
  The property value is a union of DFDL expression and exactly one of the other types. The expression must resolve to a value of the other type.
- Union of types.
  The property value is a union of two or more types. The type is dependent on the value of another property. For example dfdl:nilValue can be a List of DFDL String Literals or a List of Strings depending on dfdl:nilKind

#### 6.3.1 DFDL String Literals

DFDL String Literals represent a sequence of literal bytes or characters which appear in the data stream. This presents the following challenges

- the literal characters in the data stream might not be in the same encoding as the DFDL schema
- it may be necessary to specify a literal character which is not valid in an XML document
- it may be necessary to specify one or more raw byte values

A DFDL string literal can describe any of the following types of literal data in any combination:

- a single literal character in any encoding

- a string of literal characters in any encoding
- a bi-directional character string
- one or more characters from a set of related characters ( e.g. end-of-line characters)
- a literal byte value

A DFDL string literal is therefore able to describe any arbitrary sequence of bytes and characters.

***Empty Strings:*** Empty string is not allowed as a string literal value unless explicitly stated otherwise in the description of a property. In this case the use of empty string provides some property specific behavior different from simply using the empty string as a value. When the empty string is to be used as a value, the entity %ES; must be used in the corresponding string literal.

***Whitespace in String Literals:*** When whitespace must be used as part of a property value, the string literal must use entities (such as %WSP;) to represent the whitespace. (This allows string literals to represent lists of string literals by using literal spaces to separate list elements.)

#### 6.3.1.1 Character strings in DFDL String Literals

A literal string in a DFDL Schema is written in the character set encoding specified by the XML directive that begins all XML documents:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" ?>
```

In this example, the DFDL schema is written in UTF-8, so any literal strings contained in it, and particularly string literals found in its representation property bindings in the format annotations, are expressed in UTF-8.

However, these strings are being used to describe features of text data that are commonly in other character set encodings. For example, we may have EBCDIC data that is comma separated. A comma in EBCDIC has a single-byte code unit of 0x6B in the data, the numeric value of which does not correspond to the Unicode character code for comma which is U+002C. However, when we indicate that an item is "," (comma) separated and we specify this using a string literal along with specifying the 'encoding' property to be 'ebcdic-cp-us' then this means that the data are separated by EBCDIC commas regardless of what character set encoding is used to write the DFDL Schema.

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8">
<xs:schema ... >
    ...
    <dfdl:format encoding="ebcdic-cp-us" separator=","/>
    ...
</xs:schema>
```

When a DFDL processor uses the separator expressed in this manner, the string literal "," is *translated* into the character set encoding of the data it is separating as specified by the encoding representation property. Hence, in this case we would be searching the data for a character with codepoint 0x6B (the EBCDIC comma), not a UTF-8 or Unicode (0x2C) comma which is what exists in the DFDL schema document file.

Character strings can include bidirectional data.

#### 6.3.1.2 DFDL Character Entities in String Literals

DFDL character entities specify a single Unicode character and provide a convenient way to specify code points that appear in the data stream but would be difficult to specify in XML strings. For example, common non-printable characters or code points, such as 0x00, that are not valid in XML documents. DFDL entities are based on XML entities, which can also be used in a DFDL schema.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| DfdlCharEntity | ::= | DfdlEntity \|<br>DecimalCodePoint \|<br>HexadecimalCodePoint |
| DfdlEntity | ::= | '%' DfdlEntityName ';' |
| DfdlEntityName | ::= | 'NUL'\|'SOH''\|'STX'\|'ETX'\|<br>'EOT'\|'ENQ'\|'ACK'\|'BEL'\|<br>'BS'\|'HT'\|'LF'\|'VT'\|'FF'\|<br>'CR'\|'SO'\|'SI'\|'DLE'\|<br>'DC1'\|'DC2'\|'DC3'\|'DC4'\|<br>'NAK'\|'SYN'\|'ETB'\|'CAN'\|<br>'EM'\|'SUB'\|'ESC'\|'FS'\|<br>'GS'\|'RS'\|'US'\|'SP'\|<br>'DEL'\|'NBSP'\|'NEL'\|'LS' |
| DecimalCodePoint | ::= | '%#' [0-9]+ ';' |
| HexadecimalCodePoint | ::= | '%#x' [0-9a-fA-F]+ ';' |

**Table 2 DFDL Character Entity syntax**

Using %% inserts a single literal "%" into the string literal. This "%" is subject to character set encoding translation as is any other character.

A HexadecimalCodePoint provides a hexadecimal representation of the character's code point in ISO/IEC 10646.

A DecimalCodePoint provides a decimal representation of the character's code point in ISO/IEC 10646.

A dfdlEntityName is one of the mnemonics given in the following tables.

| Mnemonic | Meaning | Unicode Character Code |
|---|---|---|
| NUL | null | U+0000 |
| SOH | start of heading | U+0001 |
| STX | start of text | U+0002 |
| ETX | end of text | U+0003 |
| EOT | end of transmission | U+0004 |
| ENQ | enquiry | U+0005 |
| ACK | acknowledge | U+0006 |
| BEL | bell | U+0007 |
| BS | backspace | U+0008 |
| HT | horizontal tab | U+0009 |
| LF | line feed | U+000A |
| VT | vertical tab | U+000B |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| FF | form feed | U+000C |
| CR | carriage return | U+000D |
| SO | shift out | U+000E |
| SI | shift in | U+000F |
| DLE | data link escape | U+0010 |
| DC1 | device control 1 | U+0011 |
| DC2 | device control 2 | U+0012 |
| DC3 | device control 3 | U+0013 |
| DC4 | device control 4 | U+0014 |
| NAK | negative acknowledge | U+0015 |
| SYN | synchronous idle | U+0016 |
| ETB | end of transmission block | U+0017 |
| CAN | cancel | U+0018 |
| EM | end of medium | U+0019 |
| SUB | substitute | U+001A |
| ESC | escape | U+001B |
| FS | file separator | U+001C |
| GS | group separator | U+001D |
| RS | record separator | U+001E |
| US | unit separator | U+001F |
| SP | space | U+0020 |
| DEL | delete | U+007F |
| NBSP | no break space | U+00A0 |
| NEL | Next line | U+0085 |
| LS | Line separator | U+2028 |

**Table 3 DFDL Entities**

#### 6.3.1.3 DFDL Character Class Entities in DFDL String Literals

The following DFDL character classes are provided to specify one or more characters from a set of related characters.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| DfdlCharClass | ::= | '%' DfdlCharClassName ';' |
| DfdlCharClassName | ::= | 'NL' \| 'WSP' \| 'WSP*' \| 'WSP+' \| 'ES' |

**Table 4 DFDL Character Class Entity syntax**

| Mnemonic | Meaning | Unicode Character Code(s) |
|---|---|---|
| NL | Newline<br>On parse any one of the single | U+000A LF |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | characters CR, LF, NEL or LS or the character combination CRLF.<br>On unparse the value of the dfdl:outputNewLine property is output, which must specify one of the single characters %CR;, %LF;, %NEL;, or %LS; or the character combination %CR;%LF;. | U+000D CR<br>U+000D U+000A CRLF<br>U+0085 NEL<br>U+2028 LS |
| WSP | Single whitespace<br>On parse any white space character<br>On unparse a space (U+0020) is output | U+0009-U+000D (Control characters)<br>U+0020 SPACE<br>U+0085 NEL<br>U+00A0 NBSP<br>U+1680 OGHAM SPACE MARK<br>U+180E MONGOLIAN VOWEL SEPARATOR<br>U+2000-U+200A (different sorts of spaces)<br>U+2028 LSP<br>U+2029 PSP<br>U+202F NARROW NBSP<br>U+205F MEDIUM MATHEMATICAL SPACE<br>U+3000 IDEOGRAPHIC SPACE |
| WSP* | Optional Whitespaces<br>On parse whitespace characters are ignored<br>On unparse nothing is output | Same as WSP |
| WSP+ | Whitespaces<br>On parse one or more whitespace characters are ignored. It is an processing error if no whitespace character is found<br>On unparse a space (U+0020) is output | Same as WSP |
| ES | Empty String<br>Used in space separated lists when empty string is one of the values<br>(may only be used for the nilValue property) | |

**Table** 5 **DFDL Character Class Entities**

#### 6.3.1.4 DFDL Byte Value Entities in DFDL String Literals

DFDL byte value entities provide a way to specify a single byte as it appears in the data stream without any character set encoding translation. To specify a string of byte values, a sequence of two or more byte value entities must be used.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ByteValue | ::= | '%#r' [0-9a-fA-F]{2} ';' |

**Table 6 DFDL Byte Value Entity syntax**

### 6.3.2 DFDL Expressions

Some DFDL properties allow DFDL expressions [see Section 23 Expression language ] to be used so that the property can be set dynamically at processing-time.

The general syntax of expressions is “{“ expression “}”

The rules for recognizing DFDL expressions are

- Must start with a '{' in the first position and end with '}' in the last position.
- '{' in any position other than the first is treated as a literal
- '}' in any position other than the last position is treated as a literal.
- '{{' as the first characters are treated as the literal '{' and not as the start of a DFDL expression.

DFDL expressions reference other items in the infoset or augmented infoset using absolute or relative paths. Relative paths are evaluated when the component containing the expression is referenced not when it is declared. For example a global element may have a DFDL property which is an expression that contains a relative path to another element. The relative path is evaluated when the global element is referenced from an element reference.

DFDL expressions that are used to provide the value of DFDL properties in the dfd:format annotation on the top level xs:schema declaration MAY NOT contain relative paths.

### 6.3.3 DFDL Regular Expressions

The DFDL lengthPattern property expects a regular expression to be specified. The DFDL Regular Expression language is defined in the section 24 DFDL Regular Expressions.

### 6.3.4 Enumerations in DFDL

Some DFDL properties accept an enumerated list of valid values. It is a schema definition error if a value other than one of the enumerated values is specified. The case of the specified value must match the enumeration. An enumeration is of type string unless otherwise stated.

## 7. Syntax of DFDL Annotation Elements

This section describes the syntax of each of the DFDL annotation elements along with discussion of their basic meanings.

The DFDL annotation elements are listed in **Table 1 - DFDL Annotation Elements**

### 7.1 Component Format Annotations

A data format can be 'used' or put into effect for a part of the schema by use of the component format annotation elements.

There are specific annotations for each type of schema component that supports only the representation properties applicable to that component. The table below gives the specific annotation for each schema component.

| Schema component | DFDL annotation |
|---|---|
| xs:choice | dfdl:choice |
| xs:element | dfdl:element |
| xs:element reference | dfdl:element |
| xs:group reference | dfdl:group |
| xs:schema | dfdl:format |
| xs:sequence | dfdl:sequence |
| xs:simpleType | dfdl:simpleType |

**Table 7 DFDL Component Format Annotations**

In addition the dfdl:format annotation is used inside a dfdl:defineFormat annotation to define a named reusable set of representation properties that can be referenced from any component specific format annotation or from other named format definitions.

A dfdl:format annotation at the top level of a schema, that is as an annotation child element on the xs:schema, provides a set of default properties for the lexically enclosed schema document. See 8.1 Providing Defaults for DFDL properties.

Example of DFDL component format annotation:

```
<xs:schema ...>
  ...
  <xs:element name="root">
    <xs:annotation>
      <xs:appinfo source="http://www.ogf.org/dfdl/">
        <dfdl:element ref="aBaseConfig"
                      representation="text"
                      encoding="UTF-8"/>
      </xs:appinfo>
    </xs:annotation>
  </xs:element>
  ...
</xs:schema>
```

### 7.1.1 Syntax of Component Format Annotations

| Property Name | Description |
|---|---|
| ref | QName<br>Reference to a named dfdl:defineFormat annotation that provides a reusable set of DFDL format properties<br>The ref property is always local to the component format annotation on which it is used, even when specified on a format annotation on the xs:schema element.<br>See 7.2 dfdl:defineFormat - Reusable Data Format Definitions<br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType, dfdl:sequence, dfdl:choice, dfdl:group |
| representation properties | All other attributes on format annotation elements are representation property bindings. These are defined in sections starting with section 9 DFDL Processing Introduction<br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType, dfdl:sequence, dfdl:choice, dfdl:group |

**Table 8 Component Annotation Syntax**

### 7.1.2 Ref Property

A named, reusable, dfdl:defineFormat definition is used by referring to its name from a format annotation using the 'ref' attribute. For example:

```
<dfdl:element ref="reusableDef" encoding="ebcdic-cp-us" />
```

The behavior of this dfdl:defineFormat definition is as if all representation properties defined by the named dfdl:defineFormat definition were instead written directly on this format annotation; however, these are superseded by any representation properties that are defined here such as the encoding property in the example above.

### 7.1.3 Property Binding Syntax

The format properties may be specified in one of three forms:

1. Attribute form
2. Element form
3. Short form

A DFDL property may be specified using any form with the following exceptions

- The ref property may be specified in attribute or short form
- The escapeSchemeRef property may be specified in attribute or short form
- The hiddenGroupRef property may be specified in attribute or short form
- The prefixLengthType property may be specified in attribute or short form
- Short form is not allowed on the xs:schema element..

It is a schema definition error if the same property is specified in more than one form in the resolved set of annotations for an annotation point.

#### 7.1.3.1 Property Binding Syntax: Attribute Form

Within the format annotation elements are bindings for properties of the form:

*Property*='*Value*'

For example:

```
  <xs:annotation>
    <xs:appinfo source="http://www.ogf.org/dfdl/">
      <dfdl:format encoding="utf-8" separator="%NL;"/>
  </xs:appinfo>
 </xs:annotation>
```

The *Property* is the name of the property. The *Value* is an XML string literal corresponding to a value of the appropriate type.

#### 7.1.3.2 Property Binding Syntax: Element Form

The representation properties can sometimes have complex syntax, so an element form for representation property bindings is provided as element content within the format element content model. This is provided to ease syntactic expression difficulties. The element is called dfdl:property and it has one attribute 'name' which provides the name of the property.

For example:

```
  <xs:annotation>
    <xs:appinfo source="http://www.ogf.org/dfdl/">
      <dfdl:format>
        <dfdl:property name='encoding'>utf-8</dfdl:property>
        <dfdl:property name='separator'>%NL;</dfdl:property>
      </dfdl:format>
    </xs:appinfo>
  </xs:annotation>
```

Element form is mostly used for properties that themselves contain the quotation mark characters and escape characters so that they can be expressed without concerns about confusion with the XSDL syntax use of these same characters. CDATA encapsulation can be used so as to allow malformed XML and mismatched quotes to be easily used as representation property values:

```
<dfdl:property name='initiator'><[CDATA[<!-- ]]></dfdl:property>
```

#### 7.1.3.3 Property Binding Syntax:Short Form

To save textual clutter, short-form syntax for format annotations is also allowed on xs:element, xs:sequence, xs:choice, xs:group (for group references only), and xs:simpleType schema elements. (The xs:schema element cannot carry short-form annotations). Attributes which are in the namespace 'http://www.ogf.org/dfdl/dfdl-1.0/' and whose local name matches one of the DFDL representation properties are assumed to be equivalent to specific DFDL attribute form annotations.

For example the two forms below are equivalent in that they describe the same data format. The first is the short form of the second:

```
<xs:element name="elem1">
  <xs:complexType>
     <xs:sequence dfdl:separator="%HT;" >
       ...
     </xs:sequence>
  </xs:complexType>
</xs:element>

<xs:element name="elem2">
```

```
  <xs:complexType>
    <xs:sequence>
      <xs:annotation><xs:appinfo source="http://www.ogf.org/dfdl/">
        <dfdl:sequence separator="%HT;" />
      </xs:appinfo></xs:annotation>
      ...
    </xs:sequence>
  </xs:complexType>
</xs:element>
```

Another example:

```
<xs:sequence dfdl:separator=",">
  <xs:element name="elem1" type="xs:int" maxOccurs="unbounded"
                       dfdl:representation="text"
                       dfdl:textNumberRep="standard"
                       dfdl:initiator="["
                       dfdl:terminator="]"/>

  <xs:element name="elem2" type="xs:int" maxOccurs="unbounded">
    <xs:annotation><xs:appinfo source="http://www.ogf.org/dfdl/">
      <dfdl:element representation="text"
                    textNumberRep="standard"
                    initiator="["
                    terminator="]"/>
    </xs:appinfo></xs:annotation>
  </xs:element>
</xs:sequence>
```

Because short form syntax is not allowed on the xs:schema element, an attribute form dfdl:format annotation must be used instead.

### 7.1.4 Empty String as a Property Value

DFDL provides no mechanism to un-set a property. Setting a representation property's value to the empty string doesn't remove the value for that property, but sets it to the empty string value. This may not be appropriate as a value for certain properties.

For example, in delimited text representations, it is sensible for the separator to be defined to be the empty string. This turns off use of separator delimiters. For many other string-valued properties, it is a schema definition error to assign them the empty string value. For example, the character set encoding property (dfdl:encoding) cannot be set to the empty string.

## 7.2 dfdl:defineFormat - Reusable Data Format Definitions

One or more dfdl:defineFormat annotation elements can appear within the annotation children of the xs:schema element. DFDL defining annotation elements may only appear as annotation children of the xs:schema element.

The order of their appearance does not matter, nor does their position relative to other non-annotation children of the xs:schema.

Each dfdl:defineFormat has a required name attribute.

The construct creates a named data format definition. The value of the name attribute is of XML type NCName. The format name will become a member of the schema's target namespace. These names must be unique within the namespace.

If multiple format definitions have the same 'name' attribute, in the same namespace, then it is a schema definition error.

Here is an example of a format definition:

```
<xs:schema ...>
  <xs:annotation>
    <xs:appinfo source="http://www.ogf.org/dfdl/">
      <dfdl:defineFormat name="myConfig" >
        <dfdl:format representation="text"
                     ref="textSpecialFormat1" />
      </dfdl:defineFormat>
    </xs:appinfo>
  </xs:annotation>
  ...
</xs:schema>
```

A dfdl:defineFormat serves only to supply a named definition for a format for reuse from other places. It does not cause any use of the representation properties it contains to describe any actual data.

### 7.2.1 Inheritance for dfdl:defineFormat

A dfdl:defineFormat declaration can inherit from another named format definition by use of the ref property of the dfdl:format annotation. This allows a single-inheritance hierarchy that reuses definitions. When one definition extends another in this way, any property definitions contained in its direct elements override those in any inherited definition.

Conceptually, the 'ref' inheritance chains can be *flattened* and removed by copying all inherited property bindings and then superseding those for which there is a local binding. Throughout this document we will assume inheritance is fully flattened. That is, all 'ref' inheritance is first removed by flattening before any other examination of properties occurs.

It is a schema definition error if use of the ref property results in a circular path.

### 7.2.2 Using/Referencing a Named Format Definition

See section 7.1.2 Ref Property

## 7.3 The dfdl:assert Statement Annotation Element

The dfdl:assert statement annotation element is used to assert truths about a DFDL model that are used only when parsing to ensure that the data are well-formed. These checks are separate from validation checking and are performed even when validation is off. This distinction is needed to ensure that switching validation off does not affect parsing.

Examples of dfdl:assert elements are below:

```
<dfdl:assert message="Value is not zero." test="{ ../x ne 0}" />

<dfdl:assert message="Precondition violation." >
        {../x le 0 and ../y ne "-->" and ..y ne "<!–" }
</dfdl:assert>


<dfdl:assert message="Postcondition violation."  testKind='expression'>
     {../x ne "'"}
</dfdl:assert>
```

### 7.3.1 Properties for dfdl:assert

A dfdl:assert annotation contains a test expression or a test pattern. The dfdl:assert is said to be successful if the test expression evaluates to true or the test pattern returns a non-zero length match, and unsuccessful if the test expression evaluates to false or the test pattern returns a zero length match. An unsuccessful dfdl:assert causes a processing error.

The dfdl:testKind attribute specifies whether an expression or pattern is used by the dfdl:assert. The expression or pattern can be expressed as an attribute or as a value.

```
<dfdl:assert  test="{test expression}" />

<dfdl:assert>
            {test expression}
</dfdl:assert>
```

It is a schema definition error if a property is specified in more than one form.

It is a schema definition error if both a test expression and a test pattern are specified.

A dfdl:assert can appear as an annotation on:

- an xs:element declaration (local or global)
- an xs:element reference
- an xs:group reference
- an xs:sequence
- an xs:choice
- an xs:simpleType definition (local or global)

If the resolved set of statement annotations for a schema component contains multiple dfdl:assert statements, then those with testKind='pattern' are executed before those with testKind='expression' (the default). However, within each group the order of execution among them is not specified. Schema authors can insert xs:sequence constructs to control the timing of evaluation of statements more precisely.

| Property Name | Description |
|---|---|
| testKind | Enum (optional)<br>Valid values are 'expression', 'pattern'<br>Default value is 'expression'<br>Specifies whether a DFDL expression or DFDL regular expression is used in the dfdl:assert.<br>Annotation: dfdl:assert |
| test | DFDL Expression<br>Applies when dfdl:testKind is 'expression'<br>A DFDL expression that evaluates to true or false. If the expression evaluates to true then parsing continues. If the expression evaluates to false then a processing error is raised.<br>Any element referred to by the expression must have already been processed or is a descendent of this element.<br>The expression must have been evaluated by the time this element and it descendents have been processed. |

| | |
|---|---|
| | If a processing error occurs during the evaluation of the test expression then the dfdl:assert also fails.<br>It is a schema definition error if dfdl:test is the empty string and the value is not specified and dfdl:testKind is 'expression' or not specified.<br>Annotation: dfdl:assert |
| testPattern | DFDL Regular Expression<br>Applies when dfdl:testKind is 'pattern'<br>A DFDL regular expression that is applied against the data stream starting at the data position corresponding to the beginning of the representation. Consequently the framing (including any initiator) is visible to the pattern.at the start of the component on which the dfdl:assert is positioned.<br>If the length of the match is zero then the dfdl:assert evaluates to false and a processing error is raised.<br>If the length of the match is non-zero then the dfdl:assert evaluates to true.<br>If a processing error occurs during the evaluation of the test regular expression then the dfdl:assert also fails.<br>It is a schema definition error if dfdl:testPattern is the empty string and the value is not specified and dfdl:testKind is 'pattern'.<br>In order for a testPattern to be used, the data subject to the pattern must be scannable using a DFDL regular expression otherwise the results are not predictable.<br>It is a schema definition error if there is no value for the dfdl:encoding property in scope.<br>It is a schema definition error if dfdl:leadingSkip is other than 0.<br>It is a schema definition error if the dfdl:alignment is not 1 or ‘implicit’<br>Annotation: dfdl:assert |
| Message | String<br>Defines text to be used as a diagnostic code or for use in an error message. The DFDL specification does not specify how a DFDL processor uses this message text.<br>Annotation: dfdl:assert |
| failureType | Enum (optional)<br>Valid values are 'processingError', 'recoverableError'.<br>Default value is 'processingError'.<br>Specifies the type of failure that occurs when the dfdl:assert is unsuccessful.<br>When 'processingError', a processing error is raised.<br>When 'recoverableError', a recoverable error is raised.<br>If an error occurs while evaluating the test expression, a processing error occurs, not a recoverable error.<br>Recoverable errors do not cause backtracking like processing errors.<br>Annotation: dfdl:assert |

**Table 9 dfdl:assert properties**

### 7.4 The dfdl:discriminator Statement Annotation Element

DFDL discriminators are used to resolve points of uncertainty that cannot be resolved by speculative parsing. They can also be used to force a resolution earlier during the parsing of a group so that subsequent parsing errors are treated as processing errors of a known component rather than a failure to find a component.

A discriminator determines the existence or non-existence of a component. If the discriminator is successful then the component is known to exist and any subsequent errors will not cause backtracking at points of uncertainty. If a discriminator is unsuccessful then the component is known not to exist and backtracking occurs immediately.

If the complex type of an element contains a sequence group as its content model then if the sequence group is known not to exist, then the element is known not to exist.

Examples of dfdl:discriminator annotation are below :

```
<dfdl:discriminator>{ ../recType eq 0 }</dfdl:discriminator>

<dfdl:discriminator test="{ ../recType eq 0}" />
```

When the discriminator's expression evaluates to "false", then it causes a processing error, and the discriminator is said to fail.

#### 7.4.1 Properties for dfdl:discriminator

A DFDL discriminator contains a test expression that is an expression that evaluates to true or false. The discriminator is said to be successful if the test evaluates to true and unsuccessful (or fails) if the test evaluates to false.

The dfdl:testKind attribute specifies whether an expression or pattern is used by the dfdl:discriminator. The expression or pattern can be expressed as an attribute or as a value.

```
<dfdl:discriminator  test="{test expression}" />

<dfdl:discriminator>{ test expression }</dfdl:discriminator>
```

It is a schema definition error if a property is specified in more than one form.

It is a schema definition error if both a test expression and a test pattern are specified.

A dfdl:discriminator can be an annotation on

- an xs:element declaration (local or global)
- an xs:element reference
- an xs:group reference
- an xs:sequence
- an xs:choice
- an xs:simpleType definition (local or global)

The resolved set of statement annotations for a schema component can contain only a single dfdl:discriminator or one or more dfdl:asserts, but not both. To clarify: dfdl:assert annotations and dfdl:discriminator annotations are exclusive of each other. It is a schema definition error otherwise.

| Property Name | Description |
|---|---|
| testKind | Enum |

| | |
|---|---|
| | Valid values are 'expression', 'pattern'<br>Default value is 'expression'<br>Specifies whether a DFDL expression or DFDL regular expression is used in the dfdl:discriminator .<br>Annotation: dfdl:discriminator |
| test | DFDL Expression<br>Applies when dfdl:testKind is 'expression'<br>A DFDL expression that evaluates to true or false. If the expression evaluates to true then the discriminator succeeds and parsing continues. If the expression evaluates to false then the discriminator fails and a processing error is raised.<br>If a processing error occurs during the evaluation of the test expression then the discriminator also fails.<br>Any element referred to by the expression must have already been processed or is a descendent of this element.<br>The expression must have been evaluated by the time this element and it descendents have been processed or when a processing error occurs when processing this element or its descendents.<br>It is a schema definition error if dfdl:test is the empty string and the value is not specified and dfdl:testKind is 'expression' or not specified<br>Annotation: dfdl:discriminator |
| testPattern | DFDL Regular Expression<br>Applies when dfdl:testKind is 'pattern'<br>A DFDL regular expression that is applied against the data stream starting at the data position corresponding to the beginning of the representation. Consequently the framing (including any initiator) is visible to the pattern.at the start of the component on which the dfdl:discriminator is positioned.<br>If the length of the match is zero then the dfdl:discriminator evaluates to false and a processing error is raised.<br>If the length of the match is non-zero then the dfdl:discriminator evaluates to true.<br>It is a schema definition error if dfdl:testPattern is the empty string and the value is not specified and dfdl:testKind is 'pattern'.<br>In order for a testPattern to be used, the data subject to the pattern must be scannable using a DFDL regular expression otherwise the results are not predictable.<br>It is a schema definition error if there is no value for the dfdl:encoding property in scope.<br>It is a schema definition error if dfdl:leadingSkip is other than 0.<br>It is a schema definition error if the dfdl:alignment is not 1 or ‘implicit’<br>Annotation: dfdl:discriminator |
| message | String<br>Defines text to be used as a diagnostic code or for use in an error message. |

| | |
|---|---|
| | The DFDL specification does not specify how a DFDL processor uses this message text.<br>Annotation: dfdl:discriminator |

**Table 10 dfdl:discriminator properties**

```
<xs:sequence>
  <xs:choice>
    <xs:element  name='branchSimple' >
      <xs:annotation>
        <xs:appinfo source="http://www.ogf.org/dfdl/">
          <dfdl:discriminator test='{. eq "a"}'       />
        </xs:appinfo>
      </xs:annotation>
    </xs:element>

    <xs:element name='branchComplex' >
      <xs:annotation>
        <xs:appinfo source="http://www.ogf.org/dfdl/">
          <dfdl:discriminator test='{./identifier eq "b"}' />
        </xs:appinfo>
      </xs:annotation>
      <xs:complexType >
         <xs:sequence>
          <xs:element name='identifier'  />
          ...
         </xs:sequence>
      </xs:complexType>
    </xs:element>

    <xs:element name='branchNestedComplex' >
      <xs:annotation>
       <xs:appinfo source="http://www.ogf.org/dfdl/">
          <dfdl:discriminator test='{./Header/identifier eq "c"}'/>
        </xs:appinfo>
      </xs:annotation>
      <xs:complexType >
        <xs:sequence>
          <xs:element name='Header'  />
            <xs:complexType >
              <xs:sequence>
                <xs:element name='identifier'  />
                ...
              </xs:sequence>
            </xs:complexType>
          </xs:element>
        </xs:sequence>
      </xs:complexType>
    </xs:element>
  </xs:choice>
</xs:sequence>
```

### 7.5 The dfdl:defineEscapeScheme Defining Annotation Element

One or more dfdl:defineEscapeScheme annotation elements can appear within the annotation children of the xs:schema. The dfdl:defineEscapeScheme elements may only appear as annotation children of the xs:schema.

The order of their appearance does not matter, nor does their position relative to other annotation or non-annotation children of the xs:schema.

Each dfdl:defineEscapeScheme has a required name attribute and a required dfdl:escapeScheme child element.

The construct creates a named escape scheme definition. The value of the name attribute is of XML type NCName. The name will become a member of the schema's target namespace. These names must be unique within the namespace among escape schemes.

If multiple dfdl:defineEscapeScheme definitions have the same 'name' attribute, in the same namespace, then it is a schema definition error.

Each dfdl:defineEscapeScheme annotation element contains a dfdl:defineEscapeScheme annotation element as detailed below.

Here is an example of an escapeScheme definition:

```
<xs:schema ...>
  <xs:annotation>
    <xs:appinfo source="http://www.ogf.org/dfdl/">
      <dfdl:defineEscapeScheme name="myEscapeScheme">
        ...
        <dfdl:escapeScheme escapeKind="escapeCharacter"
                           escapeCharacter='/' />
        ...
      </dfdl:defineEscapeScheme>
    </xs:appinfo>
  </xs:annotation>
  ...
</xs:schema>
```

A dfdl:defineEscapeScheme serves only to supply a named definition for an escapeScheme for reuse from other places. It does not cause any use of the representation properties it contains to describe any actual data.

#### 7.5.1 Using/Referencing a Named escapeScheme Definition

A named, reusable, escape scheme is used by referring to its name from an escapeSchemeRef property on an element. For example:

```
<xs:element name="foo" type="xs:string" >
  <xs:annotation><xs:appinfo source="http://www.ogf.org/dfdl/">
    <dfdl:element representation="text"
                  escapeSchemeRef="myEscapeScheme"/>
  </xs:appinfo></xs:annotation>
</xs:element>
```

### 7.6 The dfdl:escapeScheme Annotation Element

The escapeScheme annotation is used within a dfdl:defineEscapeScheme annotation to group the properties of an escape scheme and allows a common set of attributes to be defined that can be reused.

An escape scheme defines the properties that describe the text escaping rules in force when data such as text delimiters are present in the data. There are two variants on such schemes,

- The use of a single escape character to cause the next character to be interpreted literally. The escape character itself is escaped by the escape escape character.
- The use of a pair of escape strings to cause the enclosed group of characters to be interpreted literally. The ending escape string is escaped by the escape escape character.

On parsing, the escape scheme is applied after padding characters are trimmed and on unparsing before padding characters are added.

DFDL does not provide a substitution mechanism similar to XML which would replace a character entity such as < with its literal value <.

The syntax of escapeScheme is defined in Section 13.2.1

The dfdl:escapeScheme Properties.

### 7.7 The dfdl:defineVariable Annotation Element

Variables provide a means for communication within a set of DFDL schema. They are defined as top-level elements in a schema and therefore have global scope. .

A new variable is introduced using dfdl:defineVariable:

```
<dfdl:defineVariable
      name = NCName
      type? = QName
      defaultValue? = logical value or dfdl expression
      external? = 'false' | 'true' >
  <!-- Contains: logical value or dfdl expression (default value) -->
</dfdl:defineVariable>
```

The name of a newly defined variable is placed into the target namespace of the schema containing the annotation. Variable names are distinct from format and escape scheme names and so cannot conflict with them. A variable can have any type from the DFDL subset of XML schema simple types. If no type is specified, the type is xs:string.

The defaultValue is optional. This is a literal value or an expression which evaluates to a constant, and it can be specified as an attribute or as the element value. If specified the default value must match the type of the variable (otherwise it is a schema definition error).

Note that the syntax supports both a defaultValue attribute and the 'defaultValue' being specified by the element value. Only one or the other may be present. (Schema definition error otherwise.)

Note the value of the name attribute is an NCName. The name of a variable is defined in the target namespace of the schema containing the definition. If multiple dfdl:defineVariable definitions have the same 'name' attribute in the same namespace then it is a schema definition error.

A default *instance* of the variable is created (with global scope). Further instances of the variable may subsequently be created on schema elements. If the variable has a default value, this will used as the default value for any *instances* of the variable (unless overridden when the instance is created).

The external attribute is optional. If not specified it takes the default value 'false'. If true the value may be provided by the DFDL processor and this external value will be used as the global default

value (overriding any defaultValue specified on the dfdl:defineVariable). The mechanism by which the processor provides this value is unspecified and implementation specific.

There is no required order between dfdl:defineVariable and other schema level defining annotations or a dfdl:format annotation that may refer to the variable.

A defaultValue expression is evaluated before processing the data stream begins.

A defaultValue expression can refer to other variables but not to the infoset (so no path locations).The referenced variable must either have a defaultValue or be external. It is a schema definition error otherwise.

If a defaultValue expression references another variable then that prevents the referenced variable's value from ever changing, that is, it is considered to be a read of the variable's value.

If a defaultValue expression references another variable and this causes a circular reference, it is a schema definition error.

It is a schema definition error if the type of the variable is a user-defined simple type restriction.

### 7.7.1 Examples

```
 <dfdl:defineVariable name="EDIFACT_DS" type="xs:string"
                      defaultValue="," />

<dfdl:defineVariable name="codepage" type="xs:string"
                      external="true">utf-8</dfdl:defineVariable>
```

### 7.7.2 Predefined Variables

The following variables are predefined

| Name | Namespace URI | Type | Default value | External |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Encoding | http://www.ogf.org/dfdl/dfdl-1.0/ | xs:string | 'UTF-8' | true |
| byteOrder | http://www.ogf.org/dfdl/dfdl-1.0/ | xs:string | 'bigEndian' | true |
| binaryFloatRep | http://www.ogf.org/dfdl/dfdl-1.0/ | xs:string | 'ieee' | true |
| outputNewLine | http://www.ogf.org/dfdl/dfdl-1.0/ | xs:string | '%LF;' | true |

**Table 11 Pre-defined variables**

These variables are expected to be commonly set externally so are predefined for convenience.

```
      <xs:element name="title" type="xs:string">
        <xs:annotation>
          <xs:appinfo source="http://www.ogf.org/dfdl/">
            <dfdl:element encoding="{$dfdl:encoding}" />
          </xs:appinfo>
        </xs:annotation>
      </xs:element>
```

## 7.8 The dfdl:newVariableInstance Statement Annotation Element

Scoped instances of defined variables are created using dfdl:newVariableInstance:

```
<dfdl:newVariableInstance
      ref = QName
      defaultValue? = logical value or dfdl expression >
  <!-- Contains: logical value or dfdl expression (value) -->
</dfdl:newVariableInstance>
```

Since an initial instance is created when the variable is defined, the use of dfdl:newVariableInstance is optional. It would be used if an instance with restricted scope is needed.

The dfdl:newVariableInstance annotation can be used on a group reference, sequence or choice only. It is a schema definition error otherwise.

The scope of the instance of a variable is the *dynamic scope* of the schema component and its content model and so is inherited by any contained constructs or construct references.

The ref attribute is a QName. That is, it may be qualified with a namespace prefix.

An optional defaultValue *for the instance* may be specified. It can be specified as an attribute or as the element value. The expression must not contain forward references to elements which have not yet been processed nor to the current component. If specified the default value must match the type of the variable as specified by dfdl:defineVariable. If the instance is not assigned a new default value then it will inherit the default value specified by dfdl:defineVariable or externally provided by the DFDL processor. If a default value is not specified (and has not been specified by dfdl:defineVariable) then the value of this instance is undefined until explicitly set (using dfdl:setVariable).

If a default value is specified this initial value of the instance will be set when the instance is created. The value will override any (global) default value which was specified by dfdl:defineVariable or which was provided externally to the DFDL processor. A variable instance with a valid value (specified or default) can be referenced anywhere within the scope of the element on which the instance was created.

Note that the syntax supports both a defaultValue attribute and the 'defaultValue' being specified by the element value. Only one or the other may be present. (Schema definition error otherwise.)

The resolved set of annotations for a component may contain multiple dfdl:newVariableInstance statements. They must all be for unique variables, it is a schema definition error otherwise. However, the order of execution among them is not specified. Schema authors can insert sequences to control the timing of evaluation of statements more precisely.

There is no short form syntax for creating variable instances.

### 7.8.1 Examples

```
<dfdl:newVariableInstance ref="EDIFACT_DS" defaultValue=","/>

<dfdl:newVariableInstance ref="lengthUnitBits">
    { if dfdl:property("lengthUnits")eq "bits" then 1 else 8 }
</dfdl:newVariableInstance>
```

## 7.9 The dfdl:setVariable Statement Annotation Element

Variable instances get their values either by default, by external definition, or by subsequent assignment using the dfdl:setVariable statement annotation.

```
<dfdl:setVariable
      ref = QName
      value? = logical value or dfdl expression
  <!-- Contains: logical value or dfdl expression (value) -->
</dfdl:setVariable>
```

The dfdl:setVariable annotation can be used on a simpleType, group reference, sequence or choice. It may be used on an element or element reference only if the element is of simple type. It is a schema definition error if dfdl:setVariable appears on an element of complex type, or an element reference to an element of complex type.

The ref attribute is a QName. That is, it may be qualified with a namespace prefix.

The syntax supports both a value attribute and the 'value' being specified by the element value. Only one or the other may be present. (Schema definition error otherwise.)

The value must match the type of the variable as specified by dfdl:defineVariable.

A dfdl:setVariable value expression may refer to the value of this element using a relative path value ".". Use of relative path expressions is recommended wherever possible as this will allow the behavior of the parser to be more effectively scoped. However this practice is not enforced and there may be situations in which use of an absolute path is in fact necessary.

The declaration of a variable must be in scope at the point of the assignment, and at the point of reference.

In normal processing, the value of an instance can only be set once using dfdl:setVariable. Attempting to set the value of the variable instance for a second time is a schema definition error. In addition, if a reference to the variable's value has already occurred and returned a default or an externally supplied value, then no assignment (even a first one) can occur. An exception to this behavior occurs whenever the DFDL processor backtracks because it is processing multiple arms of a choice or as a result of speculative parsing. In this case the variable state is also rewound.

A dfdl:setVariable will override any default value specified on either dfdl:defineVariable or dfdl:newVariableInstance, or externally.

The resolved set of annotations for an annotation point may contain multiple dfdl:setVariable statements. They must all be for unique variables and it is a schema definition error otherwise. However, the order of execution among them is not specified. Schema authors can insert sequences to control the timing of evaluation of statements more precisely.

There is no short form syntax for variable assignment.

### 7.9.1 Examples

```
<xs:element name="ds" type="xs:string">
   <xs:annotation>< xs:appinfo source=”http://www.ogf.org/dfdl/”>
      <dfdl:setVariable ref="EDI:EDIFACT_DS" value="{.}" />
      <dfdl:setVariable ref="delta"> {.} </dfdl:setVariable>
   </xs:appinfo></xs:annotation>
</xs:element>
```

In the above example, the element named "ds" contains the string to be used as the EDI:EDIFACT_DS delimiter at other places in the data, so the above defines the value of the EDI:EDIFACT_DS variable to take on the value of this element.

## 8. Property Scoping Rules

This section describes the rules that govern the scope over which DFDL representation properties apply

The scope of the representational properties on each of the component format annotations is given in **Table 12 DFDL annotation scoping**

| Annotation Point | Property Scope |
|---|---|
| Schema declaration | dfdl:format representation properties apply *lexically* as default properties over all components in the schema |
| Element declaration | dfdl:element properties apply locally |
| Element reference | dfdl:element properties apply locally |
| Simple type definition | dfdl:simpleType properties apply locally |
| Sequence | dfdl:sequence properties apply locally |
| Choice | dfdl:choice properties apply locally |
| Group reference | dfdl:group properties apply locally |

**Table 12 DFDL annotation scoping**

Note: This table lists DFDL annotations on schema components. DFDL annotations can also be placed on other DFDL annotations, such as a dfdl:format within a dfdl:defineFormat, to provide a named reusable format definition. In this case the annotation applies only where the named format is referenced.

DFDL representation properties explicitly defined on annotations, other than a dfdl:format on an xs:schema declaration, apply locally to that component only. The explicitly defined properties are the combination of any defined locally on the annotation and any defined on the dfdl:defineFormat annotation referenced by a local dfdl:ref property. When a property is defined both locally and on the dfdl:defineFormat, the locally defined property takes precedence.

The dfdl:format annotation on the top level xs:schema declaration provides defaults for the DFDL representation properties at every DFDL-annotatable component contained in the schema document. They do not apply to any components in any included or imported schema document (these may have their own defaults).

### 8.1 Providing Defaults for DFDL properties

A dfdl:format annotation on the top level xs:schema declaration may provide defaults for some or all the DFDL representation properties at every annotation point within the schema document. The default properties may be specified in attribute or element form. (Short form is not allowed on the xs:schema element.)

The dfdl:ref property is not a representation property so no default can be set.

The dfdl:escapeSchemeRef property provides a default reference to a dfdl:defineEscapeScheme, the properties of dfdl:escapeScheme are not defaulted individually.

DFDL representation properties defined explicitly on a component apply only to that component and override the default value of that property provided by a default format specified by an xs:schema dfdl:format annotation.

The example below demonstrates the overriding of a format encoding property. The `'ASCII'` dfdl:format encoding is the default value for the `title` element, but then it is overridden by the locally defined `utf-8` format encoding, which takes precedence.

```
<xs:schema>
```

```
  <xs:annotation>
    <xs:appinfo source="http://www.ogf.org/dfdl/">
      <dfdl:format encoding="ASCII" />
    </xs:appinfo>
  </xs:annotation>

  <xs:element name="book">
    <xs:complexType>
      <xs:sequence>
        <xs:element name="title" type="xs:string">
          <xs:annotation>
            <xs:appinfo source="http://www.ogf.org/dfdl/">
              <dfdl:element encoding="utf-8" />
            </xs:appinfo>
          </xs:annotation>
        </xs:element>
        <xs:element name="pages" type="xs:int"/>
      </xs:sequence>
    </xs:complexType>
  </xs:element>
</xs:schema>
```

### 8.2 Combining DFDL Representation Properties from a dfdl:defineFormat

The DFDL representation properties contained in a referenced dfdl:defineFormat are combined with any DFDL representation properties defined locally on a construct as if they had been defined locally. If the same property is defined locally in and in the referenced dfdl:defineFormat then the local property takes precedence. The combined set of explicit DFDL properties has precedence over any defaults set by a dfdl:format on the xs:schema.

```
<xs:schema>
  <xs:annotation>
    <xs:appinfo source="http://www.ogf.org/dfdl/">
      <dfdl:defineFormat name='myFormat'>
        <dfdl:format encoding="ASCII" />
      </dfdl:defineFormat>
    </xs:appinfo>
  </xs:annotation>

  <xs:element name="book">
    <xs:complexType>
      <xs:sequence>
        <xs:element name="title" type="xs:string">
          <xs:annotation>
            <xs:appinfo source="http://www.ogf.org/dfdl/">
              <dfdl:element ref='myFormat' encoding="UTF-8" />
            </xs:appinfo>
          </xs:annotation>
        </xs:element>
        <xs:element name="pages" type="xs:int"/>
      </xs:sequence>
    </xs:complexType>
  </xs:element>
</xs:schema>
```

The example above demonstrates the overriding of an encoding property. The 'ASCII' format encoding from the 'myFormat' is overridden by the UTF-8 format encoding, which as a locally defined property takes precedence.

### 8.3 Combining DFDL Properties from References

The DFDL properties from the following types of reference are combined using the rules below:

- An xs:element and its referenced xs:simpleType restriction,
- An xs:element reference and its referenced global xs:element
- An xs:group reference and an xs:sequence or xs:choice in its referenced global xs:group
- An xs:simpleType restriction and its base xs:simpleType restriction

Rules

1. Create an empty working set of "explicit" properties. Create an empty working set of "default" properties.
2. Move to the innermost schema component in the chain of references.
3. Assemble its applicable "explicit" properties from its local dfdl:ref (if present) and its local properties (if present), the latter overriding the former (that is, local wins over referenced).
4. Combine these with the current working set of "explicit" properties. It is a schema definition error if the same property appears twice. The result is a new working set of "explicit" properties.
5. Obtain applicable "default" properties from a dfdl:format annotation on the xs:schema that contains the component (if such annotation is present). Combine these with the current working set of "default" properties, the latter overriding the former (that is, inner wins). Result is a new working set of "default" properties.
6. Move to the schema component that references the current component, and repeat starting at step 3. If there is no referencing component, carry out step 5 and then go to step 7.
7. Combine the resultant sets of properties. The "explicit" properties take priority, "defaults" only used when no "explicit" is present. It is a schema definition error if a required property is in neither the "explicit" nor the "default" working sets.

"Applicable" properties are all the DFDL properties that apply to that schema component. For example all the DFDL properties that apply to a particular xs:simpleType (as defined by section 13).

```
<xs:simpleType name="newType">
  <xs:annotation>
    <xs:appinfo source=”http://www.ogf.org/dfdl/”>
      <dfdl:simpleType alignment="16"/>
    </xs:appinfo>
  </xs:annotation>
  <xs:restriction base="xs:integer">
    <xs:maxInclusive value="10"/>
  </xs:restriction>
</xs:simpleType>

<xs:element name="testElement1" type="newType">
  <xs:annotation>
    <xs:appinfo source=”http://www.ogf.org/dfdl/”>
      <dfdl:element representation="binary"/>
    </xs:appinfo>
  </xs:annotation>
</xs:element>
```

The locally defined dfdl:alignment property with value '16' from the xs:simpleType 'newType' is combined with the locally defined dfdl:representation property with value 'binary' and applied to element 'testElement1',

```
<xs:simpleType name="otherNewType">
  <xs:annotation>
    <xs:appinfo source=”http://www.ogf.org/dfdl/”>
      <dfdl:simpleType alignment="64"/>
    </xs:appinfo>
  </xs:annotation>
  <xs:restriction base="newType">
    <xs:maxInclusive value="5"/>
  </xs:restriction>
</xs:simpleType>

<xs:simpleType name="newType">
  <xs:annotation>
    <xs:appinfo source=”http://www.ogf.org/dfdl/”>
      <dfdl:simpleType representation='binary'/>
    </xs:appinfo>
  </xs:annotation>
  <xs:restriction base="xs:int">
    <xs:maxInclusive value="10"/>
  </xs:restriction>
</xs:simpleType>
```

The locally defined dfdl:representation property with value 'binary' is combined with the locally defined dfdl:alignment property with value '64' from the xs:simpleType restriction 'otherNewType'.

```
<xs:sequence>
  <xs:element ref="testElement1">
    <xs:annotation>
      <xs:appinfo source=”http://www.ogf.org/dfdl/”>
        <dfdl:element binaryNumberRep ="binary"/>
      </xs:appinfo>
    </xs:annotation>
  </xs:element>
</xs:sequence>

<xs:element name="testElement1" type="newType">
  <xs:annotation>
    <xs:appinfo source=”http://www.ogf.org/dfdl/”>
      <dfdl:element representation="binary"/>
    </xs:appinfo>
  </xs:annotation>
</xs:element>

<xs:simpleType name="newType">
  <xs:annotation>
    <xs:appinfo source=”http://www.ogf.org/dfdl/”>
      <dfdl:simpleType alignment="16"/>
    </xs:appinfo>
  </xs:annotation>
  <xs:restriction base="xs:int">
    <xs:maxInclusive value="10"/>
  </xs:restriction>
</xs:simpleType>
```

The locally defined dfdl:alignment property with value '16' from the xs:simpleType 'newType' is combined with the locally defined dfdl:representation property with value 'binary' and locally defined dfdl:binaryNumberRep with a value of 'binary'

```
<!-- SCHEMA1 -->
<xs:schema targetNamespace="" xmlns:tns1="http://tns1">

  <xs:annotation>
    <xs:appinfo source="http://www.ogf.org/dfdl/">
      <dfdl:format encoding="ASCII" byteOrder="littleEndian"
                initiator="" terminator=""
                sequenceKind="ordered"  />
    </xs:appinfo>
  </xs:annotation>

  <xsd:import namespace="http://tns2" schemaLocation="SCHEMA2.xsd"/>

  <xs:element name="book">
    <xs:complexType>
      <xs:group ref="tns2:ggrp1" dfdl:separator=","></xs:group>
    </xs:complexType>
  </xs:element>

</xs:schema>
```

```
<!-- SCHEMA2 -->
<xs:schema targetNamespace="" xmlns:tns2="http://tns2">

  <xs:annotation>
    <xs:appinfo source="http://www.ogf.org/dfdl/">
      <dfdl:format encoding="UTF-8" byteOrder="littleEndian"
                initiator=""
                sequenceKind="ordered"  />
    </xs:appinfo>
  </xs:annotation>

  <xs:group name="ggrp1" >
    <xs:sequence dfdl:separatorPosition="infix" >
      <xs:element name="customer" type="xs:string"
              dfdl:length="8" dfdl:lengthKind="explicit" />
    </xs:sequence>
  </xs:group>
</xs:schema>
```

The DFDL properties applied to the xs:sequence in xs:group "ggrp1" in SCHEMA2 when referenced from the group reference in SCHEMA1 are

1. dfdl:separator="," from the group reference in SCHEMA1
2. dfdl:separatorPosition="infix" from the group declaration in SCHEMA2
3. dfdl:encoding="UTF-8", dfdl:initiator="" from the default dfdl:format annotation in SCHEMA2
4. dfdl:terminator ="" from the default dfdl:format annotation in SCHEMA1

# 9. DFDL Processing Introduction

A *DFDL Parser* is an application or code library that can take as input:

- A DFDL schema
- A data stream.

It is able to use the DFDL description to interpret the data stream and realize the DFDL Information Model. This information set could then be written out (for example it could be realized as an XML text string) or it could be accessed by an application through an API (for example, a DOM-like tree could be created in memory for access by applications).

Symmetrically, there is a notion of a *DFDL Unparser*. The unparser works from an instance of the DFDL Information Model, a DFDL annotated schema and writes out to a target data stream in the appropriate representation formats.

Often both parser and unparser would be implemented in the same body of software and so we do not always distinguish them. Collectively they are called the DFDL *Processor*. The parser and unparser may, of course, be different bodies of software. Conforming DFDL processors may optionally implement an unparser.

## 9.1 Parser Overview

The DFDL logical parser is a recursive-descent parser [RDP] having guided, but potentially unbounded look ahead that is used to resolve points of *uncertainty*. (See 9.1.1 Resolving Points of Uncertainty.). A DFDL parser reads a specification (the DFDL schema) and it recursively walks down and up the schema as it processes the data. This is done in a manner consistent with the scoping of properties and variables described in Section 8 Property Scoping Rules.

The unbounded look ahead means that there are situations where the parser must speculatively attempt to parse data where the occurrence of a processing error causes the parser to suppress the error, back out and make another attempt.

Implementations of DFDL may provide control mechanisms for limiting the speculative search behavior of DFDL parsers. The nature of these mechanisms is beyond the scope of the DFDL specification which defines the behavior of conforming parsers only on correct data. That is, data that can be parsed without any effective processing errors.

The logical parser recursively descends the DFDL schema beginning with the element declaration specified (in an implementation specific manner, see Section 18) of the *distinguished root node* of the schema passed to the DFDL processor. Depending on the kind of schema construct that is encountered and the DFDL annotations on it, and the pre-existing context, the parser performs specific parsing operations on the data stream. These parsing operations typically recognize and consume data from the stream and construct values in the logical model. For values of complex types and for arrays, these logical model values may incorporate values created by recursive parsing.

DFDL Implementations are free to use whatever techniques for parsing they wish so long as the semantics are equivalent to that of the speculative recursive-descent logical parser described in this specification. It is required that implementations distinguish the various kinds of errors (schema definition error, processing error, etc.) no matter what time they are detected. Some implementations may not detect certain schema definition errors until data are being parsed; however, they must still distinguish schema definition errors (which indicate that the schema itself is not meaningful), from parsing errors (which indicate that the input data doesn't satisfy the requirements of the schema), or unparsing errors (which indicate that the infoset does not satisfy the requirements of the schema).

### 9.1.1 Resolving Points of Uncertainty.

A point of uncertainty occurs in the data stream when there is more than one schema component that might occur at that point. Points of uncertainty can be nested.

A point of uncertainty is caused when one of the following constructs are used in a DFDL schema

1. An xs:choice
2. An unordered xs:sequence (dfdl:sequenceKind='unordered')
3. An xs:element which is optional (xs:minOccurs = 0, xs:maxOccurs=1)
4. An xs:element is an array with a variable number of occurrences (xs:minOccurs not equal to xs:maxOccurs, and xs:maxOccurs > 1)
5. An xs:sequence containing one or more floating elements.

An xs:choice point of uncertainty is resolved by parsing each choice branch in schema definition order until one is known to exist. It is a processing error if none of the choice branches are known to exist.

An unordered xs:sequence point of uncertainty is resolved by parsing for the child components of the sequence in schema definition order at each point in the data stream where a component can exist until the required number of occurrences of each child component is known to exist or the sequence is terminated by delimiters or specified length.

An optional element point of uncertainty is resolved by parsing the element until it is either known to exist or known not to exist.

For a variable array element the point of uncertainty is resolved for each occurrence separately. The array is known to exist if one of its occurrences exists.

A sequence with a floating child element point of uncertainty is resolved by parsing for the expected ordered component at that point in the data stream. If the expected component is known not to exist then an occurrence of each floating component is parsed in schema definition order.

A component is known to exist when

1. All the syntax and content (initiator if defined, content and terminator if defined) of the component are successfully parsed and any dfdl:assert if defined evaluates to true.
2. A dfdl:discriminator on the component evaluates to true.
3. A xs:sequence or xs:choice with dfdl:initiatedContent 'yes' and initiator for the component is found

A component is known not to exist when

1. A dfdl:assert on the component evaluates to false or a processing error occurs while evaluating the expression.
2. A dfdl:discriminator on the component evaluates to false or a processing error occurs while evaluating the expression.
3. An xs:sequence or xs:choice with dfdl:initiatedContent 'yes' and the initiator is not found.
4. A processing error occurs when parsing the component. Processing errors include, but are not limited to, failure to convert the data to the built-in logical type. Validation errors do not cause a component to be known not to exist.

Note: when processing a sequence, the presence of a separator is not sufficient to cause the parser to assert that an associated component is known to exist.

DFDL discriminators are described in section: 7.4 The dfdl:discriminator Statement Annotation Element

### 9.1.2 Evaluation Order for Statement Annotations

Of the resolved set of annotations for a schema component, some are statement annotations and the order of their evaluation relative to the actual processing of the schema component itself (parsing or unparsing per its format annotation) is as given in the ordered lists below.

For elements and element refs:

1. dfdl:discriminator or dfdl:assert(s) with testKind='pattern' (parsing only)
2. dfdl:element following property scoping rules
3. dfdl:setVariable(s)
4. dfdl:discriminator or dfdl:assert(s) with testKind='expression' (parsing only)

For sequences, choices and group refs:

1. dfdl:discriminator or dfdl:assert(s) with testKind='pattern' (parsing only)
2. dfdl:newVariableInstance(s)
3. dfdl:setVariable(s)
4. dfdl:sequence or dfdl:choice or dfdl:group following property scoping rules
5. dfdl:discriminator or dfdl:assert(s) with testKind='expression' (parsing only)

Asserts and Discriminators with testKind 'expression'

Implementations are free to optimize by recognizing and executing discriminators or asserts with testKind 'expression' earlier so long as the resulting behavior is consistent with what results from the description above.

Discriminators with testKind 'expression'

When parsing, an attempt to evaluate a discriminator must be made even if preceding statements or the parse of the schema component ended in a processing error.

This is because a discriminator's expression could evaluate to true thereby resolving a point of uncertainty even if the complete parsing of the construct ultimately caused a processing error.

Such discriminator evaluation has access to the DFDL Infoset of the attempted parse as it existed immediately before detecting the parse failure. Attempts to reference parts of the DFDL Infoset that do not exist are processing errors.

Elements and setVariable

The resolved set of dfdl:setVariable statements for an element are executed **after** the parsing of the element. This is in contrast to the resolved set of dfdl:setVariable statements for a group which are executed **before** the parsing of the group.

For elements, this implies that these variables are set after the evaluation of expressions corresponding to any computed DFDL properties for that element, and so the variables may not be referenced from expressions that compute these DFDL properties.

That is, if an expression is used to provide the value of a property (such as dfdl:terminator or dfdl:byteOrder), the evaluation of that property expression occurs before any dfdl:setVariable annotation from the resolved set of annotations for that element are executed; hence, the expression providing the value of the property may not reference the variable. Schema authors can insert sequences to provide more precise control over when variables are set.

### 9.2 DFDL Data Syntax Grammar

Data in a format describable via a DFDL schema obeys the grammar given here. A given DFDL schema is read by the DFDL processor to provide specific meaning to the terminals and decisions in this grammar.

The bits of the data are divided into two broad categories:

1 Content

2 Framing

The content is the bits of data that are interpreted to compute a logical value.

*Framing* is the term we use to describe the delimiters, length fields, and other parts of the data stream which are present, and may be necessary to determine the length or position of the content of DFDL Infoset items.

Note that sometimes the framing is not strictly necessary for parsing, but adds useful redundancy to the data format, allowing corrupt data to be more robustly detected, and sometimes the framing adds human readability to the data format.

In our grammar tables below primitive content is in italic font. The primitive content is one subset of the grammar's terminal symbols. The terminal symbols that are framing are shown in bold italic font.

| ***Productions*** |
|---|
| Document = ***UnicodeByteOrderMark*** DocumentElement<br>DocumentElement = SimpleElement \| ComplexElement<br><br>SimpleElement = SimpleLiteralNilElementRep \| SimpleEmptyElementRep \|<br>SimpleNormalRep<br>SimpleEnclosedElement = SimpleElement \| AbsentElementRep<br><br>ComplexElement = ComplexLiteralNilElementRep \| ComplexNormalRep \|<br>ComplexEmptyElementRep<br>ComplexEnclosedElement = ComplexElement \| AbsentElementRep<br><br>EnclosedElement = SimpleEnclosedElement \| ComplexEnclosedElement |
| AbsentElementRep = ***Absent*** |
| SimpleEmptyElementRep = EmptyElementLeftFraming EmptyElementRightFraming<br>ComplexEmptyElementRep = EmptyElementLeftFraming EmptyElementRightFraming<br><br>EmptyElementLeftFraming = LeadingAlignment ***EmptyElementInitiator*** PrefixLength |

EmptyElementRightFraming = ***EmptyElementTerminator*** TrailingAlignment

SimpleLiteralNilElementRep = NilElementLeftFraming [***NilLiteralCharacters*** |
NilElementLiteralContent] NilElementRightFraming
ComplexLiteralNilElementRep = NilElementLeftFraming NilElementRightFraming

NilElementLeftFraming = LeadingAlignment ***NilElementInitiator*** PrefixLength
NilElementRightFraming = ***NilElementTerminator*** TrailingAlignment

NilElementLiteralContent = ***LeftPadding*** ***NilLiteralValue*** RightPadOrFill

SimpleNormalRep = LeftFraming PrefixLength SimpleContent RightFraming
ComplexNormalRep = LeftFraming PrefixLength ComplexContent ***ElementUnused***
RightFraming

LeftFraming = LeadingAlignment ***Initiator***
RightFraming = ***Terminator*** TrailingAlignment

PrefixLength = SimpleContent | PrefixPrefixLength SimpleContent
PrefixPrefixLength = SimpleContent

SimpleContent = ***LeftPadding*** [ ***NilLogicalValue*** / ***SimpleValue*** ] RightPadOrFill

ComplexContent = Sequence | Choice

| |
|---|
| Sequence = LeftFraming SequenceContent RightFraming<br>SequenceContent = [ ***PrefixSeparator*** EnclosedContent [ ***Separator*** EnclosedContent ]* ***PostfixSeparator*** ]<br><br>Choice = LeftFraming ChoiceContent RightFraming<br>ChoiceContent = [ EnclosedContent ] ***ChoiceUnused***<br><br>EnclosedContent = [ EnclosedElement \| Array \| Sequence \| Choice ]<br><br>Array = [ EnclosedElement [ ***Separator*** EnclosedElement ]* [ ***Separator*** StopValue] ]<br>StopValue = SimpleElement |
| LeadingAlignment = ***LeadingSkip AlignmentFill***<br>TrailingAlignment = ***TrailingSkip***<br>RightPadOrFill = ***RightPadding*** \| ***RightFill*** |

**Table 13 DFDL Grammar Productions**

Some definitions are needed to cover the range of representations that are possible in the data stream for an element. These definitions are with respect to the grammar above.

***Nil representation***

An element occurrence has a nil representation if the element is nillable and the occurrence either:

a) conforms to the grammar for SimpleNilLiteralElementRep or ComplexNilLiteralElementRep. ***NilElementInitiator*** and ***NilElementTerminator*** regions must be conformant with nilValueDelimiterPolicy. (If non-conformant it is not a processing error and the representation is not nil).
b) conforms to the grammar for SimpleNormalRep and its value is ***NilLogicalElementValue***.

LeadingAlignment, TrailingAlignment, PrefixLength regions may be present.

***Empty representation***

An element occurrence has an empty representation if the occurrence does not have a nil representation and it conforms to the grammar for SimpleEmptyElementRep or ComplexEmptyElementRep. ***EmptyElementInitiator*** and ***EmptyElementTerminator*** regions must be conformant with dfdl:emptyValueDelimiterPolicy. (If non-conformant it is not a processing error and the representation is just not empty). The occurrence's content in the data stream is of length zero. LeadingAlignment, TrailingAlignment, PrefixLength regions may be present.

***Normal representation***

An element occurrence has a normal representation if the occurrence does not have the nil representation or the empty representation and it conforms to the grammar for SimpleNormalRep or ComplexNormalRep.

***Absent representation***

An element occurrence has an absent representation if the occurrence does not have a nil or empty or normal representation, and it conforms to the grammar for AbsentElementRep which is to say the occurrence's representation in the data stream is of length zero. Consequently, the Initiator, Terminator, LeadingAlignment, TrailingAlignment, PrefixLength regions must not be present.

Example of an absent representation. During unparsing, if an optional element does not have an item in the infoset then nothing is output. However if a separator of an enclosing structure is subsequently output as the immediate next thing, then a subsequent parse of the element may return a representation of length zero (this is dependent on dfdl:lengthKind). If this happens, and this length zero representation does not conform to either the nil representation or the empty representation or the normal representation, then it is the absent representation, and it behaves *as if the element occurrence is 'missing'*.

***Missing***

When parsing, an element occurrence is missing if it does not have any of the above representations, or it has the absent representation. When unparsing, an element occurrence is missing if there is no item in the infoset.

When parsing, an occurrence is 'known to exist' if it has normal, nil or empty representation, or an occurrence is 'known not to exist' if it has absent representation or is missing.

**Examples**

The following examples illustrate missing and empty.

```
<xs:sequence dfdl:separator="," dfdl:terminator="@"
             dfdl:separatorSuppressionPolicy="trailingEmpty">
      <xs:element name="A" type="xs:string"
                  dfdl:lengthKind="delimited"/>
      <xs:element name="B" type="xs:string" minOccurs="0"
                  dfdl:lengthKind="delimited"/>
      <xs:element name="C" type="xs:string" minOccurs="0"
                  dfdl:lengthKind="delimited"/>
</xs:sequence>
```

In data stream `aaa,@` element B has the empty representation, and element C does not have a representation so is missing.

```
<xs:sequence dfdl:separator=","
             dfdl:separatorSuppressionPolicy="anyEmpty">
      <xs:element name="A" type="xs:string"
                  dfdl:lengthKind="delimited" dfdl:initiator="A:"
                  dfdl:emptyValueDelimiterPolicy=initiator”/>
      <xs:element name="B" type="xs:string" minOccurs="0"
                  dfdl:lengthKind="delimited" dfdl:initiator="B:"
                  dfdl:emptyValueDelimiterPolicy=”initiator”/>
      <xs:element name="C" type="xs:string" minOccurs="0"
                  dfdl:lengthKind="delimited" dfdl:initiator="C:"
                  dfdl:emptyValueDelimiterPolicy=initiator”/>
</xs:sequence>
```

In data stream `A:aaaa,C:cccc` element B does not have a representation so is missing.

In data stream `A:aaaa,B:,C:cccc` element B has the empty representation.

In the data stream `A:aaaa,,C:cccc` element B has the absent representation so is missing.

Note that round tripping, meaning the unparser writing out exactly what was parsed, is not guaranteed. An empty string in the Infoset will be output as the empty representation, but if the element is nillable and empty string (%ES;) is a nil value and nilValueDelimiterPolicy is the same as emptyValueDelimiterPolicy, then when parsed the Infoset will contain nil.

### 9.2.1 Establishing Representation when Parsing

If a processing error or schema definition error occurs either (a) when parsing a simple element, or (b) when parsing a complex element and a processing error is not suppressed by an enclosed point of uncertainty, then the element occurrence is 'known not to exist'. This is equivalent to the element being missing.

If no such error occurs, then an element occurrence either has a representation (one of nil, empty, normal or absent) or is missing.

If it has a representation, then it must be established if it is nil, empty, normal or absent. Key to this is to see if the content is of length zero. This is dfdl:lengthKind dependent.

- explicit => length is zero (either fixed or from expression evaluation)
- prefixed => prefix length is zero
- implicit (simple) => length is zero from type facets
- implicit (complex) => consumed length is zero upon return from descending into children.
- delimited => length is zero after scanning for delimiter(s)
- pattern => pattern returns zero length match
- endOfParent => already positioned at parent's end so length is zero

For a simple element, length plus initiator and terminator enables the representation to be established.

For a complex element, length plus initiator and terminator enables the nil representation to be established[8], but all other representations can only be determined by descending into the complex type for the element. If the descent returns successfully (that is, no unsuppressed processing error occurs) then the other representations may be established.

The DFDL parser shall not descend into a complex element when it has established that the element occurrence does ***not*** have a representation or is missing or has the absent representation. Otherwise this could give rise to misleading error messages where the parser reported that required child elements were missing required occurrences. (This is consistent with XML Schema validation, where if a required element is missing, it gets reported as such, and there is nothing reported about its children).

For the purposes of establishing representation, a local sequence or choice effectively has lengthKind 'implicit', except that delimiting regime of parent is retained.

#### 9.2.1.1 Empty Representation when Parsing: Default Values

If *empty* representation is established when parsing, the possibility of applying a default value arises. Essentially, if a required occurrence of an element has empty representation, then a default value will be applied if present, though there are a couple of variations on this rule. Remember that in order to have established empty representation, the occurrence must be

[8] It is a schema definition error if a complex element is nillable 'true' and lengthKind 'implicit'.

compliant with the emptyValueDelimiterPolicy for the element, and for a complex element the parser must have descended into the type and returned with no unsuppressed processing error.

There are three main cases to consider. In what follows the term 'string' encompasses both xs:string and xs:hexBinary as these are the two data types for which a zero length (empty) string is valid for the type. This behaviour is independent of occursCountKind.

#### *9.2.1.1.1 Simple element (non-string)*

Required occurrence: If a XSD 'default' or 'fixed' property is specified then an item is added to the Infoset using the value of the property, otherwise nothing is added to the Infoset. (This may cause a subsequent processing error – see 'Required occurrences' below).

Optional occurrence: Nothing is added to the Infoset.

#### *9.2.1.1.2 Simple element (string)*

Required occurrence: If a XSD 'default' or 'fixed' property is specified then an item is added to the infoset using the value of the property, otherwise an item is added to the Infoset using empty string as the value.

Optional occurrence: If emptyValueDelimiterPolicy is not 'none'[9] then an item is added to the Infoset using empty string as the value, otherwise nothing is added to the Infoset.

(To prevent unwanted empty strings from being added to the Infoset, use minLength > '0' and a dfdl:assert that uses the dfdl:checkConstraints() function, to raise a processing error.)

#### *9.2.1.1.3 Complex element*

Required occurrence: An item is added to the Infoset.

Optional occurrence: If emptyValueDelimiterPolicy is not 'none' then an item is added to the Infoset, otherwise nothing is added to the Infoset.

For both required and optional occurrences, the Infoset item may also have a child item.

A) If the first child element of the complex type is a required simple element, then an empty string or default value will also be added to the Infoset.
B) If the first child element of the complex type is a required complex element, then an item is added to the Infoset (which may itself have a child via A)

***Example:***

Consider a sequence S0 with a separator that contains among other content an optional non-nillable non-initiated element E1 of complex type. The content of the type is a sequence S1 with a different separator and the first child is a required non-initiated element E2 of type xs:string. The lengthKind of both E1 and E2 is 'delimited'. The representation of E1 has zero length, that is, the data contains adjacent S0 separators. On processing E1, the parser will establish a point of uncertainty and descend into E1's complex type and process E2. It scans for in-scope delimiters and immediately encounters S0 separator. E2 has the empty representation, so E1 is added to the Infoset along with a value of empty string for E2. All other content of S1 is missing, so the parser returns from the descent. E1 is therefore 'known to exist'. Because the position in the data has not changed, E1 therefore has the empty representation. Because E1 is empty and optional it is not added to the Infoset, and the Infoset items for E1 and E2 are discarded.

### 9.2.2 Missing when Unparsing

[9] If other than 'none', either an initiator, terminator or both must have been found in the data stream.

If an element is *missing* from the Infoset when unparsing, the possibility of applying a default value arises. Essentially if a required occurrence of an element is missing, then a default value will be applied if present.

There are two main cases to consider. This behaviour is independent of occursCountKind.

#### 9.2.2.1 Simple element

Required occurrence: If a XSD 'default' or 'fixed' property is specified then an item is added to the augmented Infoset using the property value, otherwise nothing is added. (This may cause a subsequent processing error – see 'Required occurrences' below).

Optional occurrence: Nothing is added to the augmented Infoset.

#### 9.2.2.2 Complex element

Required occurrence: An item is added to the augmented Infoset.

Optional occurrence: Nothing is added to the augmented Infoset.

For a required occurrence, the unparser descends into the complex type:

- For a sequence, each child element is examined in schema order and the rules for simple and complex elements applied (recursively). The lack of a default value may give rise to a processing error, as described below.
- For a choice, each branch is examined in schema order and the above rules applied recursively to the branch. The lack of a default value may give rise to a processing error, as described below, and if so the error is suppressed and the next branch is tried, otherwise that branch is selected. It is a processing error if no choice branch is ultimately selected.

### 9.2.3 Required occurrences

On parsing, if a required occurrence does not produce an item in the Infoset (after any default is applied) then it is a processing error or a validation error (if enabled), dependent on occursCountKind (see section 3).

On unparsing, if a required occurrence does not produce an item in the augmented Infoset (after any default is applied) then it is a processing error or a validation error (if enabled), dependent on occursCountKind (see section 3).

### 9.2.4 Optional occurrences

On parsing, nothing is added to the Infoset for an optional occurrence if it is missing or has the absent representation. If it has empty representation, then there are circumstances when an item is added to the Infoset, as described earlier. This is independent of occursCountKind.

On unparsing, nothing is added to the augmented Infoset nor output to the data stream for an optional occurrence if it is missing (including any framing). This is independent of occursCountKind.

## 10. Core Representation Properties and their Format Semantics

The next sections specify the core set of DFDL v1.0 properties that may be used in DFDL annotations in DFDL Schemas to describe data formats.

It is a schema definition error when a DFDL schema does *not* contain a definition for a representation property that is needed to interpret the data. For example, a DFDL schema containing any textual data must provide a definition of the character set encoding property (dfdl:encoding) for that textual data, and if it is not part of the format properties context for that data, then it is a schema definition error.

Furthermore, no default values are provided for representation properties as built-in definitions by any DFDL processor. This requires DFDL schemas to be explicit about the representation properties of the data they describe, and avoids any possibility of DFDL schemas that are meaningful for some DFDL processors but not others.

The properties are organized as follows:

- Common to both Content and Framing (see 11)
- Common Framing, Position, and Length (see 12)
- Simple Type Content (see 13 )
- Sequence Groups (see 14 )
- Choice Groups (see 15 )
- Array elements and optional elements (see 16 )
- Calculated Values (see 17 )

Where properties are specific to a physical representation, the property name may choose to reflect this. Where properties are related to a specific logical type grouping (defined below), the property name may choose to reflect this.

A limited number of properties can take a DFDL expression which must return a value of the proper type for the property. Those properties that take an expression explicitly state in the description. Other properties do not take an expression.

The property description defines which schema component that the property may be specified on. In addition all the DFDL properties may be specified on a dfdl:format annotation.

## 11. Properties Common to both Content and Framing

| Property Name | Description |
|---|---|
| byteOrder | Enum or DFDL Expression<br>Valid values ‘bigEndian’, ‘littleEndian’.<br>This property can be computed by way of an expression which returns the string 'bigEndian' or 'littleEndian'. The expression must not contain forward references to elements which have not yet been processed.<br>Note that there is, intentionally, no such thing as 'native' endian[10].<br>This property applies to all Numbers and Calendars with representation binary. Specifically that is binary integers, all packed decimals, binary floats, binary seconds and binary milliseconds.<br>This property is never used to establish the byte order for text /strings with Unicode fixed-width encodings that do not specify the byte order (UTF-16 and UTF-32). See Section 11.1 Unicode Byte Order Marks (BOM) for details.<br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType, dfdl:sequence, dfdl:choice, dfdl:group |
| encoding | Enum or DFDL Expression<br>Values are IANA charsets or CCSID[11]s, or one of a set of DFDL-specific encoding names.<br>This property can be computed by way of an expression which returns an appropriate enum value. The expression must not contain forward references to elements which have not yet been processed.<br>Note that there is, deliberately, no concept of 'native' encoding[12].<br>Conforming DFDL v1.0 processors must accept at least 'UTF-8'', 'UTF-16', 'UTF-16BE', 'UTF-16LE', 'ASCII', and 'ISO-8859-1' as encoding names.<br>Encoding names are case-insensitive, so 'utf-8' and 'UTF-8' are equivalent.<br>Unicode character set encodings that do not specify a byte order (such as UTF-16 or UTF-32) can have their byte-order controlled by a document-level byte-order-mark (BOM). See Section 11.1 Unicode Byte Order Marks |

[10] The concept of native-endian is avoided in DFDL since a DFDL schema containing such a property binding does not contain a complete description of data, but rather an incomplete one which is parameterized by characteristics of the machine and implementation where the DFDL processor is executed. In DFDL this same behavior is achieved using variables or, for example, by use of external setting of pre-defined variables to set dfdl:byteOrder.

[11] CCSID stands for Coded Character Set ID, a decimal number syntax for a coded charater set specifier. [CCSID].

[12] The concept of native character encoding is avoided in DFDL since a DFDL schema containing such a property binding does not contain a complete description of data, but rather an incomplete one which is parameterized by characteristics of the operating environment where the DFDL processor executes. In DFDL this same behavior is achieved through use of true parameterization using variables or, for example, by use of external setting of pre-defined variables to set dfdl:encoding.

| | |
|---|---|
| | (BOM) for details.<br><br>The encoding name ‘UTF-8’ is interpreted strictly and does not include variants such as CESU-8.<br><br>DFDL-specific encoding names include:<br><br>• US-ASCII-7bit-packed – a US-ASCII variant where character codes occupy only 7 bits, not a full 8-bit byte.<br><br>Implementations may allow additional DFDL-specific encoding names only for character set encodings for which there is no IANA name standard nor CCSID standard. These implementation-specific encodings must have "x-" as a prefix to their name, and they are subject to being superceded with DFDL standard names in future versions of the specification.<br><br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType, dfdl:sequence, dfdl:choice, dfdl:group |
| utf16Width | Enum<br><br>Valid values are 'fixed', variable'.<br><br>Applies only when encoding is 'UTF-16', 'UTF-16BE', UTF16-LE' or their CCSID equivalents.<br><br>Specifies whether the encoding 'UTF-16' should be treated as a fixed or variable width encoding. 'UTF-16' is a variable width encoding and 'UCS-2' is the fixed width subset. However it is common for users to specify 'UTF-16' when they mean when they should be specifying 'UCS-2' This property effectively converts 'UTF-16' to 'UCS-2'.<br><br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType, dfdl:sequence, dfdl:choice, dfdl:group |
| ignoreCase | Enum<br><br>Valid values are 'yes', 'no'.<br><br>Whether mixed case data is accepted when matching delimiters and data values on input.<br><br>This affects the behavior of matching for these properties: initiator, terminator, separator, nilValue, textStandardExponentRep, textStandardInfinityRep, textStandardNaNRep, textStandardZeroRep, textBooleanTrue, textBooleanFalse,<br><br>On unparsing always use the delimiters or value as specified.<br><br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType, dfdl:sequence, dfdl:choice, dfdl:group |
| encodingErrorPolicy | Enum<br><br>Valid values are 'error' or 'replace'.<br><br>This property applies whenever dfdl:encoding is applicable.<br><br>This property provides control of how decoding and encoding errors are handled when converting the data to text, or text to data. This includes converting when scanning for delimiters, matching regular expression length or test patterns, matching textual data type representation patterns against the data, and of course isolating the text content that will become the value of an element (parsing) or constructing the content from the value (unparsing). |

| | |
|---|---|
| | When parsing, an error can occur when decoding characters from their encoded form into the DFDL Infoset character set (ISO10646). This can occur due to invalid byte sequences, or not enough bytes found to make up the full encoding of a character.<br><br>If 'replace', then the Unicode replacement character (U+FFFD) is substituted for the offending errors, one replacement character for any incorrect fragment of an encoding.<br><br>If 'error' then a processing error occurs.<br><br>When unparsing, the errors that can occur when encoding characters from Unicode/ISO 10646 into the specified encoding include when no mapping is provided by the encoding specification and when there is not enough space to output the entire encoding of the character (e.g., need 2 bytes for a 2-byte character codepoint, but only 1 byte remains in the available length.)<br><br>If 'replace' then encoding-specific replacement/substitution character is output. It is a processing error if no such character is defined, and it is a processing error if there is any error when attempting to output the replacement (such as not enough room for the representation of the entire encoding of the replacement character).<br><br>If error' then a processing error occurs.<br><br>See Section 11.2 Character Encoding and Decoding Errors for further details.<br><br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType, dfdl:sequence, dfdl:choice, dfdl:group |

### 11.1 Unicode Byte Order Marks (BOM)

DFDL provides automatic detection and generation of Unicode BOMs at the document level and saves (for parsing), or retrieves (for unparsing) the BOM information from the DFDL Infoset **[unicodeByteOrderMark]** member.

*Parsing behaviour:* When the dfdl:encoding property of the root element is specified, and is exactly one of UTF-8, UTF-16, or UTF-32 (or CCSID equivalents), then a DFDL parser will look for the appropriate BOM as the very first bytes in the data stream.

- UTF-8. If a BOM is found[13] then this is used to set the document information item **[unicodeByteOrderMark]** member. If no BOM is found the parser takes no action. There is no need to model the BOM explicitly.
- UTF-16. If a BOM is found then this is used to set the document information item **[unicodeByteOrderMark]** member, and all data with dfdl:encoding UTF-16 throughout the rest of the stream are assumed to have the implied byte order. If no BOM is found then all data with dfdl:encoding UTF-16 throughout the rest of the stream are assumed to have big-endian byte order. There is no need to model the BOM explicitly.

[13] While UTF-8 has no true notion of byte-order, the 16-bit codepoint for a byte-order mark is often translated into a 3-byte utf-8 sequence of bytes that appear at the start of a document. This information is helpful to establish that the document is encoded in Unicode (specifically UTF-8).

- UTF-32. If a BOM is found then this is used to set the document information item **[unicodeByteOrderMark]** member, and all data with dfdl:encoding UTF-32 throughout the rest of the stream are assumed to have the implied byte order . If no BOM is found then all data with dfdl:encoding UTF-32 throughout the rest of the stream are assumed to have big-endian byte order. There is no need to model the BOM explicitly.

When the dfdl:encoding property of the root element is specified, and is exactly one of UTF-16LE, UTF-16BE, UTF-32LE or UTF-32BE (or CCSID equivalents), then a DFDL parser will **not** look for the appropriate BOM. The byte order to use is implicit in the encoding. If a BOM does appear at the start of the data stream, then it must be explicitly modelled as such, otherwise if parsed as part of an xs:string it will be interpreted as a zero-width non-breaking space (ZWNBS) character.

The dfdl:byteOrder property is never used to establish the byte order for Unicode encodings.

The parser never looks for a BOM at any other point in the data stream. If a BOM does appear at any other point, then it must be explicitly modeled as a separate element. Otherwise if parsed as part of an xs:string it will be interpreted as a ZWNBS character.

*Unparsing behaviour:* When the dfdl:encoding property of the root element is specified, and is exactly one of UTF-8, UTF-16 or UTF-32 (or CCSID equivalents), then a DFDL unparser will look in the infoset document information item for a BOM.

- UTF-8. If the document information item **[unicodeByteOrderMark]** member is 'UTF-8', the UTF-8 BOM is output as the very first bytes in the data stream. If the property is empty then no BOM is output. If the property has any other value, it is a processing error. There is no need to model the BOM explicitly.
- UTF-16. If the document information item **[unicodeByteOrderMark]** member is 'UTF-16LE' or 'UTF-16BE', the corresponding UTF-16 BOM is output as the very first bytes in the data stream, and all data with dfdl:encoding UTF-16 throughout the rest of the document will be output with the implied byte order. If the property is empty then no BOM is output, and all data with dfdl:encoding UTF-16 throughout the rest of the document are assumed to have big-endian byte order. If the property has any other value, it is a processing error. There is no need to model the BOM explicitly.
- UTF-32. If the document information item **[unicodeByteOrderMark]** member is 'UTF-32LE' or 'UTF-32BE', the corresponding UTF-32 BOM is output as the very first bytes in the data stream, and all data with dfdl:encoding UTF-32 throughout the rest of the document will be output with the implied byte order . If the property is empty then no BOM is output, and all data with dfdl:encoding UTF-32 throughout the rest of the document are assumed to have big-endian byte order. If the property has any other value, it is a processing error. There is no need to model the BOM explicitly.

When the dfdl:encoding property of the root element is specified, and is exactly one of UTF-16LE, UTF-16BE, UTF-32LE or UTF-32BE (or CCSID equivalents), then a DFDL unparser will **not** look at the document information item **[unicodeByteOrderMark]** member and will **not** output a BOM. The byte order to use is implicit in the encoding. If a BOM does need to be output at the start of the data stream, then it must be explicitly modelled as such.

The dfdl:byteOrder property is never used to establish the byte order for Unicode encodings.

The unparser never outputs a BOM at any other point in the data stream. If a BOM needs to appear, then it must be explicitly modelled as such.

### 11.2 Character Encoding and Decoding Errors

When parsing, these are the errors that can occur when decoding characters into Unicode/ISO 10646.

1. The data is broken - invalid bit/byte sequences are found which do not match the definition of a character for the encoding.

2. Not enough data is found to make up the entire encoding of a character. That is, a fragment of a valid encoding is found.

When unparsing, these are the errors that can occur when encoding characters from Unicode/ISO 10646 into the specified encoding.

1. No mapping provided by the encoding specification.
2. Not enough room to output the entire encoding of the character (e.g., need 3 bytes for a character encoding that uses 3-bytes for that character, but only 1 byte remains in the available length.

The subsections below describe how these errors are handled.

### 11.2.1 Property dfdl:encodingErrorPolicy

The property dfdl:encodingErrorPolicy has two possible values: 'error' and 'replace'.

#### 11.2.1.1 dfdl:encodingErrorPolicy 'error'

If 'error', then any error when decoding characters while parsing causes a processing error. For unparsing, any error when encoding characters causes a processing error.

When parsing, it does not matter if this happens when scanning for delimiters, matching a regular expression, matching a literal nil value, or constructing the value of a textual element.

There is one exception. When dfdl:lengthUnits is 'bytes', the 'not enough data' decoding error is ignored, and the data making up the fragment character is skipped over. Symmetrically, when unparsing the 'not enough room' encoding error is ignored and the left-over bytes are filled with the dfdl:fillByte.

#### 11.2.1.2 dfdl:encodingErrorPolicy 'replace' for parsing

If 'replace' then any error when decoding characters results in the insertion of the Unicode Replacement Character (U+FFFD) as the replacement for that error.

It does not matter if this error and replacement happens when scanning for delimiters, matching a regular expression, matching a literal nil value, or constructing the value of a textual element.

There is one exception. When dfdl:lengthUnits is 'bytes', the 'not enough data' decoding error is ignored, no replacement character is created. The data making up the fragment character is skipped over. (It will be filled with the dfdl:fillByte when unparsing.)

The Unicode Replacement Character must not appear in any delimiter, pad character, nil value, regular expression, number pattern or calendar pattern, or in any other DFDL property value or attribute value where the Unicode Replacement Character would be expected in the data being parsed. It is a schema definition error if the Unicode Replacement Character appears in any of these locations of a DFDL schema, or is part of the value of an expression that returns a string to be used as the value of a DFDL property.

Note that the "." wildcard in regular expressions will match the Unicode Replacement Character, so ".*" and ".+" regular expressions can potentially cause very large matches (up to the entire data stream) to occur when data contains errors and dfdl:encodingErrorPolicy 'replace'. DFDL Schema authors are advised that bounded length regular expressions can help in this case. E.g., ".{0,50}" says to match any character (including Unicode Replacement Characters), but only up to length 50.

It is also worth noting that the Unicode Replacement Character can appear in data as an ordinary character, and this cannot be distinguished from the insertion of the Unicode Replacement Character due to a decoding error. This is likely to happen for data that is (a) initially parsed by a DFDL parser with dfdl:encodingErrorPolicy 'replace', and (b) which contains some decoding errors, but (c) is nevertheless successfully parsed, (d) is written back out to a file or other data

repository, and (e) is parsed again. The written data will have replaced data errors with the Unicode Replacement Character, and so if the data is parsed again, it will no longer have errors, but will have the Unicode Replacement Character as a regular character in the data.

If dfdl:lengthUnits is 'characters', then a Unicode Replacement Character counts as contributing a single character to the length.

If the data contains more than one adjacent decode error, then the specific number of Unicode Replacement Characters that are inserted as the replacement of these errors is implementation dependent. That is, some implementations may view, for example, three consecutive erroneous bytes as three separate decode errors, others may view them as a single or two decode errors. All implementations MUST, however, insert some number of Unicode Replacement Characters, and then continue to decode characters following the erroneous data.

The trimming of padding characters always happens after Unicode Replacement Characters have been inserted into the data.

#### 11.2.1.3 dfdl:encodingErrorPolicy 'replace' for unparsing

For unparsing, each encoding has a replacement/substitution character specified by the ICU. This character is substituted for the unmapped character or the character that has too large an encoding to fit in the available space.

There is one exception. When dfdl:lengthUnits is 'bytes', the 'not enough room' encoding error is ignored. The left-over bytes are filled with the dfdl:fillByte (they are skipped when parsing.)

The definitions of these substitution characters can be conveniently found for many encodings in the ICU Converter Explorer (http://demo.icu-project.org/icu-bin/convexp).

An encoding error is a processing error if the encoding does not provide a substitution/replacement character definition. (This would be rare, but could occur if a DFDL implementation allows many encodings beyond the minimum set.)

### 11.2.2 Unicode UTF-16 Decoding/Encoding Non-Errors

The following specific situations involving encodings UTF-16, UTF-16LE, and UTF-16BE when dfdl:utf16Width="fixed", and they do not cause a decoding or encoding error.

- unpaired surrogate codepoint
- out-of-order surrogate codepoint pair
- surrogate codepoint pair is encountered

In all these cases the code-point(s) becomes a character code in the DFDL Information Item for the string.

### 11.2.3 Preserving Data Containing Decoding Errors

There can be situations where data wants to be preserved exactly even if it contains errors.

It is suggested that if a DFDL schema author wants to preserve information containing data where the encodings have these kinds of errors, that they model such data as xs:hexBinary, or as xs:string but using an encoding such as iso-8859-1 which preserves all bytes.

# 12. Framing

Several properties are common across the various framing styles or are used to distinguish them. Generally these have to do with position and length for text, bit fields, or opaque data.

## 12.1 Aligned Data

Alignment properties control the leading alignment and trailing alignment regions.

When the alignment properties are applied to an array element, the properties are applied to each occurrence of the element; that is, not only to the first occurrence.

The following properties are used to define alignment rules.

| Property Name | Description |
|---|---|
| alignment | Non-negative Integer or 'implicit'<br>A non-negative number that gives the alignment required for the beginning of the item. If alignment is needed then the size of the ***AlignmentFill*** grammar region will be non-zero if the item must be aligned to a boundary.<br>'implicit' specifies that the natural alignment for the representation type is used. See the table of implicit alignments Table 14 Implicit Alignment in bits for simple elements. The 'implicit' alignment of complex elements and groups is the alignment of its child with the greatest alignment. If alignment is 'implicit' then alignmentUnits is ignored.<br>For textual data, minimum alignment is mandated by the character-set encoding, and this property must be 'implicit' or set to a multiple of the character-set's mandatory alignment. See Section 12.1.2.<br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType, dfdl:sequence, dfdl:choice, dfdl:group |
| alignmentUnits | Enum<br>Valid values are 'bits' or 'bytes'<br>Scales the alignment so alignment can be specified in either units of bits or units of bytes.<br>Only used when dfdl:alignment not 'implicit'<br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType, dfdl:sequence, dfdl:choice, dfdl:group |
| fillByte | DFDL String Literal<br>A single byte specified as a DFDL byte value entity or a single character. If a character is specified, it must be a single-byte character in the applicable encoding.<br>Used on unparsing to fill empty space such as between two aligned elements.<br>Used to fill these regions specified in the grammar: ***RightPadOrFill***, ***ElementUnused***, ***ChoiceUnused, LeadingSkip***, ***AlignmentFill***, and ***TrailingSkip***.<br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType, dfdl:sequence, dfdl:choice, dfdl:group |
| leadingSkip | Non-negative Integer |

| | |
|---|---|
| | A non-negative number of bytes or bits, depending on dfdl:alignmentUnits, to skip before alignment is applied. Gives the size of the grammar region having the same name.<br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType, dfdl:sequence, dfdl:choice, dfdl:group |
| trailingSkip | Non-negative Integer<br>A non-negative number of bytes or bits, depending on dfdl:alignmentUnits, to skip after the element, but before considering the alignment of the next element. Gives the size of the grammar region having the same name.<br>If dfdl:trailingSkip is specified when dfdl:lengthKind is 'delimited' then a dfdl:terminator must be specified.<br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType, dfdl:sequence, dfdl:choice, dfdl:group |

There are two properties which control the data alignment by controlling the length of the ***AlignmentFill*** region

- alignment - an integer 1 or greater
- alignmentUnits - bits or bytes

An element's representation is aligned to N units if P is the first position in the representation and P mod N = 1. When parsing, the position of the first unit of the data stream is 1.

For example, if alignment=4, and alignmentUnits='bytes', then the element's representation must begin at 1 or 1 plus a multiple of 4 bytes. I.e., 1, 5, 9, 13, 17 and so on.

The length of the ***AlignmentFill*** region is measured in bits. If alignmentUnits is 'bytes' then we multiply the alignment value by 8 to get the *bit alignment*, B. If the current position (first position after the end of the previous element) is bit position N, then the length of the ***AlignmentFill*** region is the smallest non-negative integer L such that (L + N) mod B = 1. The position of the first bit of the aligned element is P = L + N.

To avoid ambiguity when parsing, optional elements and variable array elements where the minimum number of occurrences is zero cannot have alignment properties different from the items that follow them. It is a schema definition error otherwise. This avoids the possibility that the following item is incorrectly parsed as if it were a valid optional element occurrence or a valid variable array element occurence.

The ***LeadingSkip*** and ***TrailingSkip*** regions length are controlled by two properties of corresponding names and the dfdl:alignmentUnits property.

### 12.1.1 Implicit Alignment

When dfdl:alignment is 'implicit' the following alignment values are applied for each logical type.

| **Type** | **Alignment** | |
|---|---|---|
| | **text** | **binary** |
| String | | Not applicable |
| Float | | 32 |
| Double | | 64 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Decimal, Integer, nonNegativeInteger | Encoding Specific (usually 8 bits, with exceptions: See Section 12.1.2) | Packed decimals: 8 | binary: 8 |
| Long, UnsignedLong | | | binary: 64 |
| Int, UnsignedInt | | | binary: 32 |
| Short, UnsignedShort | | | binary: 16 |
| Byte, UnsignedByte | | | binary: 8 |
| DateTime | | | binarySeconds: 32, binaryMilliseconds:64 |
| Date | | | binarySeconds: 32, binaryMilliseconds:64 |
| Time | | | binarySeconds: 32, binaryMilliseconds:64 |
| Boolean | | 32 | |
| HexBinary | Not applicable | 8 | |

**Table 14 Implicit Alignment in bits**

Note: The above table specifies the implicit alignment in bits, but this does not imply that dfdl:lengthUnits 'bits' can be specified for all simple types. Rather, dfdl:alignmentUnits and dfdl:lengthUnits are independent and have their own rules for when they are applicable.

### 12.1.2 Mandatory Alignment for Textual Data

We use the term textual data to describe data with dfdl:representation="text", as well as data being matched to delimiters (parsing) or output as delimiters (unparsing), and data being matched to regular expressions (parsing only - as in a dfdl:assert with testKind='pattern').

Textual data has mandatory alignment that is character-set-encoding dependent. That is, these mandates come from the character set encoding specified by the dfdl:encoding property.

When processing textual data, it is a schema definition error if the dfdl:alignment and dfdl:alignmentUnits properties are used to specify alignment that is not a multiple of the encoding-specified mandatory alignment.

If the data is not aligned to the proper boundary for the encoding when textual data is processed, then bits are skipped (parsing) or filled from dfdl:fillByte (unparsing) to achieve the mandatory alignment.

All required character set encodings in DFDL have 8-bit/1-byte alignment.

Some implementations may include additional encodings which have other alignments. The DFDL standard specifies a name for one such character set encoding though conforming implementations are not required to support this encoding:

- US-ASCII-7bit-packed: the alignment is 1-bit (textual data in this encoding may appear on any bit boundary, i.e., no byte alignment is required).

Implimentations may also provide identifiers for non-standard encodings, and these will have their own specific alignments as well.

Note the 16-bit and 32-bit Unicode character set encodings UTF-16, UTF-16BE, UTF-16LE, UTF-32, UTF-32BE, UTF-32LE, all have 8-bit/1-byte alignment.

### 12.2 Properties for Specifying Delimiters

The following properties apply to all objects that use text delimiters to delimit, that is, to initiate and/or terminate data. Delimiters can apply to binary data; however they are most often called 'text' delimiters because the concept is much more commonly used for textual data formats.

| Property Name | Description |
|---|---|
| initiator | List of DFDL String Literals or DFDL Expression<br>Specifies a whitespace separated list of alternative literal strings one of which marks the beginning of the element or group of elements. This property can be computed by way of an expression which returns a string containing a whitespace separated list of DFDL String Literals. The expression must not contain forward references to elements which have not yet been processed.<br>The ***Initiator*** region contains one of the initiator strings defined by dfdl:initiator.<br>When parsing, the list of values is processed in a greedy manner, meaning it takes all the initiators, that is, each of the string literals in the white space separated list, and matches them each against the data. In each case the longest possible match is found. The initiator with the longest match is the one that is selected as having been 'found', with length-ties being resolved so that the matching initiator is selected that is first in the order written in the schema. Once a matching initiator is found, no other matches will be subsequently attempted (ie, there is no backtracking).<br>When an initiator is specified, it is a processing error if the component is required and one of the values is not found.<br>If dfdl:initiator is "" (the empty string), then the ***Initiator*** region is of length zero, and no initiator is expected. It is not permitted for an expression to return an empty string. That is a schema definition error.<br>On unparsing the first initiator in the list is automatically inserted into the ***Initiator*** region.<br>If dfdl:ignoreCase is 'yes' then the case of the string is ignored by the parser.<br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType, dfdl:sequence, dfdl:choice, dfdl:group |

| | |
|---|---|
| terminator | List of DFDL String Literals or DFDL Expression<br>Specifies a whitespace separated list of alternative text strings that one of which marks the end of an element or group of elements. The strings MUST be searched for in the longest first order.<br>This property can be computed by way of an expression which returns a string of whitespace separated list of values. The expression must not contain forward references to elements which have not yet been processed.<br>The ***Terminator*** region contains the terminator string.<br>If dfdl:terminator is "" (the empty string), then the terminator region is of length zero, and no terminator is expected. It is not permitted for an expression to return an empty string, that is a schema definition error.<br>When parsing, the list of values is processed in a greedy manner, meaning it takes all the terminators, that is, each of the string literals in the white space separated list, and matches them each against the data. In each case the longest possible match is found. The terminator with the longest match is the one that is selected as having been 'found', with length-ties being resolved so that the matching terminator is selected that is first in the order written in the schema. Once a matching terminator is found, no other matches will be subsequently attempted (ie, there is no backtracking).<br>When a terminator is expected it is a processing error if no matching terminator is found. However, if dfdl:documentFinalTerminatorCanBeMissing is specified then it is not an error if the last terminator in the data stream is not found.<br>On unparsing the first terminator in the list is automatically inserted in the ***Terminator*** region.<br>If dfdl:ignoreCase is 'yes' then the case of the string is ignored by the parser.<br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType, dfdl:sequence, dfdl:choice, dfdl:group |

| | |
|---|---|
| emptyValueDelimiterPolicy | Enum<br>Valid values are 'none', 'initiator', 'terminator' or 'both'<br>Indicates that when an element in the data stream is empty, an initiator (if one is defined), a terminator (if one is defined), both an initiator and a terminator (if defined) or neither must be present.<br>Ignored if both dfdl:initiator and dfdl:terminator are "" (empty string).<br>'initiator' indicates that, on parsing, if the content region (which can be either the SimpleContent region or the ComplexContent region defined in Section 9.2) is empty then the dfdl:initiator must be present. It also indicates that on unparsing when the content region is empty that the dfdl:initiator will be output.<br>'terminator' indicates that, on parsing, if the content region is empty then the dfdl:terminator must be present. It also indicates that on unparsing when the content region is empty the dfdl:terminator will be output.<br>'both' indicates that, on parsing, if the content region is empty both the dfdl:initiator and dfdl:terminator must be present. On unparsing when the content region is empty the dfdl:initiator followed by the dfdl:terminator will be output.<br>'none' indicates that if the content region is empty neither the dfdl:initiator or dfdl:terminator must be present. On unparsing when the content region is empty nothing will be output.<br>It is a schema definition error if emptyValueDelimiterPolicy set to 'none' or 'terminator' when the parent xs:sequence has dfdl:initiatedContent 'yes'.<br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType |
| documentFinalTerminator CanBeMissing | Enum<br>Valid values are 'yes', 'no'<br>When the documentFinalTerminatorCanBeMissing property is true, then when an element is the last element in the data stream, then on parsing, it is not an error if the terminator is not found.<br>For example, if the data are in a file, and the format specifies lines terminated by the newline character (typically LF or CRLF), then if the last line is missing its newline, then this would normally be an error, but if documentFinalTerminatorCanBeMissing is true, then this is not a processing error.<br>On unparsing the terminator is always written out regardless of the state of this property.<br>Annotation: dfdl:format (but applies to elements only) |

| | |
|---|---|
| outputNewLine | DFDL String Literal or DFDL Expression<br>Specifies the character or characters that will be used to replace the %NL; character class entity during unparse<br>It is a schema definition error if any of the characters are not in the set of characters allowed by the DFDL entity %NL; Only individual characters or the %CR;%LF; combination are allowed.<br>It is a schema definition error if the DFDL entity %NL; is specified<br>This property can be computed by way of an expression which returns a DFDL string literal. The expression must not contain forward references to elements which have not yet been processed.<br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType, dfdl:sequence, dfdl:choice, dfdl:group |

### 12.3 Properties for Specifying Lengths

These properties are used to determine the representation length of an element and apply to elements of all types (simple and complex).

| Property Name | Description |
|---|---|
| lengthKind | Enum<br>Controls how the representation length of the component is determined.<br>Valid values are: 'explicit', 'delimited', 'prefixed', 'implicit', 'pattern', 'endOfParent'<br>A full description of each enumeration is given in the later sections.<br>'explicit' means the length of the element is given by the dfdl:length property<br>'delimited' means the element length is determined by scanning for a terminator or separator.<br>‘prefixed’ means the length of the element is given by an immediately preceding PrefixLength data region the format of which is specified using prefixLengthType.<br>‘implicit means the length is to be determined in terms of the type of the element and its schema-specified properties if any.<br>‘pattern’ means the length of the element is given by scanning for a regular expression specified using the dfdl:lengthPattern property.<br>‘endOfParent’ means that the length extends to the end of the containing (parent) construct.<br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType |
| lengthUnits | Enum<br>Valid values ‘bytes’, ‘characters’, ‘'bits’.<br>Specifies the units to be used whenever a length is being used to extract or write data. Applicable when lengthKind is ‘explicit’, 'implicit' (for xs:string and xs:hexBinary) or ‘prefixed’.<br>'characters' may only be used for simple elements with representation 'text' and complex elements where all the simple child elements must be |

| | |
|---|---|
| | dfdl:representation 'text', dfdl:lengthUnits 'characters' and the same dfdl:encoding as the parent.<br>'bits' may only be used for xs:boolean, xs:byte, xs:short, xs:int, xs:long, xs:unsignedByte, xs:unsignedShort, xs:unsignedInt, and xs:unsignedLong simple types with representation 'binary'.<br>For signed types, the physical bits are interpreted as a twos-complement integer.<br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType |

### 12.3.1 dfdl:lengthKind 'explicit'

When lengthKind='explicit' the length of the item is given by the dfdl:length property, and is measured in units given by dfdl:lengthUnits. Used on parsing and unparsing.

When unparsing an element with dfdl:lengthKind ‘explicit’ and where dfdl:length is an expression, then the data in the Infoset is treated as variable length and not fixed length. The behaviour is the same as dfdl:lengthKind ‘prefixed’. See Section 12.3.4.

When parsing, data is extracted without regard to any in-scope delimiters.

| Property Name | Description |
|---|---|
| length | Non-negative Integer or DFDL Expression.<br>Only used when lengthKind is ’explicit’.<br>Specifies the length of this element in units specified by dfdl:lengthUnits.<br>This property can be computed by way of an expression which returns a non-negative integer. The expression must not contain forward references to elements which have not yet been processed.<br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType |

When dfdl:lengthKind 'explicit', the method of extracting data is described in section: 12.3.7 Elements of Specified Length

### 12.3.2 dfdl:lengthKind 'delimited'

On parsing, the length of an element with dfdl:lengthKind 'delimited' is determined by scanning the datastream for the delimiter.

The data stream is scanned for any of

- the element's terminator (if specified)
- an enclosing construct's separator or terminator
- the end of an enclosing element designated by its known length
- the end of the data stream

dfdl:lengthKind 'delimited' may be specified for

- elements of simple type with dfdl:representation 'text'
- elements of number or calendar simple type with dfdl:representation 'binary' that have a packed decimal representation
- elements of type xs:hexBinary
- elements of complex type.

The rules for resolving ambiguity between delimiters are:

1. When two delimiters have a common prefix, the longest delimiter is tried first.
2. When two delimiters have exactly the same length, but on different schema components, the innermost (most deeply nested) delimiter is tried first.
3. When the separator and terminator on a group have the same value, then at a point in the data where either the separator or terminator could be found, the separator is tried first. (Speculative execution may try the terminator subsequently).
4. If the length of the delimiters cannot be determined because character class entities (which are variable length) are being used then the delimiters must each be matched against the data, and the longest matching delimiter is taken as the match for the delimiter.
5. Ties (same matched length) are broken by giving a separator priority over a terminator of a sequence, or by choosing the innermost, or first in schema order.

When unparsing a simple element with text representation, the length in the data stream is the length of the content region, padded to dfdl:textOutputMinLength or xs:minLength if dfdl:textPadKind is 'padChar'.

When unparsing a simple element with binary representation, then for hexBinary the length is the number of bytes in the infoset value padded to xs:minLength using dfdl:fillByte, and for the other types the length is the minimum number of bytes to represent the value and any sign.

When unparsing a complex element, the length is that of the ComplexContent region.

#### 12.3.2.1 **Simple Elements of Specified Length within Delimited Constructs**

When a simple or complex element has a specified length or lengthKind 'pattern' then delimiter scanning is suspended for the duration of the processing of that element.

This allows formats to be parsed which are delimited, but have nested elements which contain non-character data.

#### 12.3.2.2 **Delimited Binary Data**

Formats involving binary data, most notably packed decimals, can use delimiters but care must be taken that the delimiters cannot match data represented in these formats. In particular, the

delimiters must be chosen with knowledge that BCD data can contain any byte both of whose nibbles are 0 to 9 (that is, excluding A to F). Packed data adds bytes with a sign indicator, that is, a nibble in the range A to F.

General binary data can contain any bit pattern whatsoever, so delimiters for numbers and calendars with dfdl:representation ‘binary’ are disallowed, with the specific exception of packed decimals. Delimiters and lengthKind ‘delimited’ are also allowed for type xs:hexBinary.

Carefully chosen delimiters can avoid the byte values that can appear within the data.

### 12.3.3 dfdl:lengthKind 'implicit'

When dfdl:lengthKind is ‘implicit', the length is determined in terms of the type of the element and its schema-specified properties.

For complex elements, 'implicit' means the length is determined by the combined lengths of the contained children, that is the ComplexContent region.

For simple elements the length is fixed and is given in Table 15 Length in Bits for SimpleTypes when dfdl:lengthKind='implicit' .

<table>
<tr><th rowspan="2">Type</th><th colspan="3">Length</th></tr>
<tr><th>text</th><th colspan="2">binary</th></tr>
<tr><td>String</td><td>maxlength gives length in either characters or bytes depending on the value of dfdl:lengthUnits.</td><td colspan="2">Not applicable</td></tr>
<tr><td>Float</td><td>Not allowed</td><td colspan="2">32</td></tr>
<tr><td>Double</td><td>Not allowed</td><td colspan="2">64</td></tr>
<tr><td>Decimal, Integer, nonNegativeInteger</td><td>Not allowed</td><td rowspan="8">packed decimal: Not allowed</td><td>binary: Not allowed</td></tr>
<tr><td>Long, UnsignedLong</td><td>Not allowed</td><td>binary: 64</td></tr>
<tr><td>Int, UnsignedInt</td><td>Not allowed</td><td>binary: 32</td></tr>
<tr><td>Short, UnsignedShort</td><td>Not allowed</td><td>binary: 16</td></tr>
<tr><td>Byte, UnsignedByte</td><td>Not allowed</td><td>binary: 8</td></tr>
<tr><td>DateTime</td><td>Not allowed</td><td>binarySeconds:32, binaryMilliseconds:64</td></tr>
<tr><td>Date</td><td>Not allowed</td><td>binarySeconds:32, binaryMilliseconds:64</td></tr>
<tr><td>Time</td><td>Not allowed</td><td>binarySeconds:32, binaryMilliseconds:64</td></tr>
<tr><td>Boolean</td><td>Length of longest of textBooleanTrue and</td><td colspan="2">32</td></tr>
</table>

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | textBooleanFalse values | |
| HexBinary | Not applicable | maxlength |

**Table 15 Length in Bits for SimpleTypes when dfdl:lengthKind='implicit'**

- 'Not Allowed' means that there is no implicit length for the combination of simple type and representation and it is a schema definition error if dfdl:lengthKind='implicit' is specified.
- packed decimal means binaryNumberRep is 'packed', 'bcd', or 'ibm4690Packed'
- binary means binaryNumberRep is 'binary'
- binarySeconds means binaryCalendarRep is 'binarySeconds'
- binaryMilliseconds means binaryCalendarRep is 'binaryMilliseconds'
- maxLength means xs:maxlength, and gives length for strings in either characters or bytes depending on dfdl:lengthUnits.

Note: Specifying the implicit length in bits does not imply that dfdl:lengthUnits 'bits' can be specified for all simple types.

When dfdl:lengthKind is 'implicit', the method of extracting data that is described in section: 12.3.7 Elements of Specified Length

### 12.3.4 dfdl:lengthKind 'prefixed'

When dfdl:lengthKind is 'prefixed' the length of the element is given by the PrefixLength region specified using prefixLengthType. The property prefixIncludesPrefixLength also can be used to adjust the length appropriately.

When dfdl:lengthKind is 'prefixed' the method of extracting data that is described in section: 12.3.7 Elements of Specified Length

Data is extracted without regard to any in-scope delimiters.

| **Property Name** | Description |
|---|---|
| prefixIncludesPrefixLength | Enum<br>Valid values are 'yes', 'no'<br>Whether the length given by a prefix includes the length of the prefix as well as the length of the content region (which can be either the SimpleContent region or the ComplexContent region defined in Section **Error! Reference source not found.**).)<br>Used only when dfdl:lengthKind 'prefixed'.<br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType |
| prefixLengthType | QName<br>Name of a simple type derived from xs:integer or any subtype of it.<br>This type, with its DFDL annotations specifies the representation of the length prefix, which is in the PrefixLength region.<br>It is a schema definition error if the xs:simpleType specifies dfdl:lengthKind 'delimited' or 'endOfParent' or 'pattern' or 'explicit' |

| | |
|---|---|
| | where length is an expression, a dfdl:outputValueCalc, a value for dfdl:initiator or dfdl:terminator other than empty string, dfdl:alignment other than '1', or dfdl:leadingSkip or dfdl:trailingSkip other than '0'.[14]<br><br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType |

The representation of the element is in two parts.

1. The 'prefix length' is an integer which specifies the length of the element's content. The representation of the length prefix is described by a simple type which is identified using the dfdl:prefixLengthType property.
2. The content of the element.

When parsing, the length of the element's content is obtained by parsing the simple type specified by dfdl:prefixLengthType to obtain an integer value. Note that all required properties must be present on the specified simple type or defaulted because there is no element declaration to supply any missing required properties.

If the dfdl:prefixIncludesPrefixLength property is 'yes' then the length of the element's content is the value of the prefix length minus the length of the content of the prefix length.

If the prefix type is lengthKind 'implicit' or 'explicit' then the lengthUnits properties of both the prefix type and the element must be the same.

The DFDL properties that specify the format of the prefix come from annotations directly on the prefixLengthType's type definition, and from the default format annotation for the schema document containing the definition of that type. . If the using element resides in a separate schema, the simple type does not pick up values from the element's schema's default dfdl:format annotation.

When unparsing, the length of the element's content region must be determined first as described below. Then the value of the prefix length must be adjusted using dfdl:prefixIncludesPrefixLength.

Then the prefix length can be written to the data stream using the properties on the dfdl:prefixLengthType, and finally the element's content can be written to the data stream.

Consider this example:

```
<xs:element name="myString" type="xs:string"
                    dfdl:lengthKind="prefixed"
                    dfdl:prefixIncludesPrefixLength="false"
                    dfdl:prefixLengthType="packed3"/>

<xs:simpleType name="packed3"
            dfdl:representation="binary"
            dfdl:binaryNumberRep="packed"
            dfdl:lengthKind="explicit"
            dfdl:length="2" >
```

[14] Note: These restrictions are in place because it would not be sensible for these properties to reside on a type used for a prefixLengthType. These properties are irrelevant to the format of a SimpleContent region (they control regions that are part of other surrounding regions present only for a full element). However, the dfdl:simpleType annotation allows these properties to be present on a simpleType definition. It is only in this specific usage of simpleType to define a type for use as a prefixLengthType that these properties are disallowed. Normal usage of a simpleType from an element would combine these with properties on the element to create a combined set, and in that case, these properties might be expressed on the simpleType, but be used when the combined set of properties is created.

```
  <xs:restriction base="integer" />
</xs:simpleType>
```

In the above, the string has a prefix length of type 'packed3' containing 3 packed decimal digits.

The property dfdl:prefixIncludesPrefixLength is an enumeration which allows the length computation to be varied to include or exclude the length of the prefix element itself.

The prefix length's value contains the length measured in units given by dfdl:lengthUnits.

When parsing, if the lengthUnits are bits, then any number of bits can be in the representation.However, the same is not true when unparsing. The DFDL Infoset does not store the number of bits in a number, so the number of bits will always be a multiple of 8 bits.

When unparsing, the value of the prefix is computed automatically by obtaining the length of the element's content.

For a simple element with text representation, the length is computed as for lengthKind 'delimited'.

For a simple element with binary representation, the length is given in the table below.

For a complex element, the length is that of the ComplexContent region.

| **Type** | **Length** | |
|---|---|---|
| String | Not applicable | |
| Float | 32 | |
| Double | 64 | |
| Decimal, Integer, NonNegativeInteger | Minimum number of bytes to represent significant digits and sign | |
| Long, UnsignedLong | packed decimal: as Decimal | binary: 64 |
| Int, UnsignedInt | | binary: 32 |
| Short, UnsignedShort | | binary: 16 |
| Byte, UnsignedByte | | binary: 8 |
| DateTime | | binarySeconds: 32, binaryMilliseconds:64 |
| Date | | binarySeconds: 32, binaryMilliseconds:64 |
| Time | | binarySeconds: 32, binaryMilliseconds:64 |
| Boolean | 32 | |
| HexBinary | Number of bytes in the infoset value padded to xs:minLength using xs:fillByte if necessary. | |

**Table 7 Unparse Lengths (in Bits) for dfdl:lengthKind 'prefixed'**

#### 12.3.4.1 Nested Prefix Lengths[15]

It is possible for a prefix length, as specified by prefixLengthType, to itself have a prefix length

It is a schema definition error if this nesting exceeds 1 deep. That is, an element can have a prefix length, which defines a PrefixLength region (see Section **Error! Reference source not found.**). The PrefixLength region can itself have a type which also specifies a prefix length, thereby defining a PrefixPrefixLength region. It is a schema definition error unless the type associated with the PrefixPrefixLength is different from the type associated with the PrefixLength.

### 12.3.5 dfdl:lengthKind 'pattern'

The dfdl:lengthKind 'pattern' means the length of the element is given by a regular expression specified using the dfdl:lengthPattern property. The DFDL processor scans the data stream to determine a string value that is the longest match to a regular expression. The pattern is only used on parsing,

When dfdl:lengthKind is 'pattern', it means that delimiter scanning is turned off and in-scope delimiters are not looked for within or between elements.

| Property Name | Description |
|---|---|
| lengthPattern | DFDL Regular Expression.<br>Only used when lengthKind is 'pattern'.<br>Specifies a regular expression that, on parsing, is executed against the datastream to determine the length of the element.<br>The data stream beginning at the starting offset of the content region (which can be either the SimpleContent region or the ComplexContent region defined in Section **Error! Reference source not found.**)) of the element is interpreted as a stream of characters in the encoding of the element, and the regular expression contained in the dfdl:lengthPattern property is executed against that stream of characters. When the element is complex this is the dfdl:encoding of the complex element itself. Child content and framing contained within the element must be scannable (see below).<br>Escape schemes are not applied when executing the regular expression.<br>If the regular expression returns a matched length of zero ( i.e. no match ) then the element has a zero-length representation. If the element is not allowed to have a zero-length representation then the appropriate processing error is reported. Otherwise, normal processing of nils and default values occurs.<br>It is a processing error if conversion of data into a string based on the character set encoding causes an error due to illegal bit patterns that are not legal for the encoding. See also encodingErrorPolicy in Section 11 Properties Common to both Content and Framing.<br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType |

On unparsing the behavior is the same as for lengthKind 'prefixed'.

---

[15] This feature allows DFDL to describe the needed "one more level" of prefix that is needed for modeling an ASN.1 format, but without the complexities of general recursion

#### 12.3.5.1 Pattern-Based Lengths - Scanability

Any element (complex or simple type) may have a dfdl:lengthKind of 'pattern' as long as the data in the content region (which can be either the SimpleContent region or the ComplexContent region defined in Section **Error! Reference source not found.**) of the element is legal in the stated encoding of that element. Data which satisfies this is referred to as *scannable* data.

Specifically, data is scannable and length kind ‘pattern’ can be used only for:

- elements of simple type with representation 'text'
- elements of complex type where:
    1. all simple child elements must have representation 'text' and have the same encoding as the parent complex element, and
    2. all complex child elements must themselves follow 1 and 2 (recursively).

### 12.3.6 dfdl:lengthKind 'endOfParent'

The dfdl:lengthKind ‘endOfParent’ means that the element is terminated by the end of the data stream or the end of an enclosing complex element, sequence or choice. The enclosing component must have an identifiable end point, such as a known length, a delimiter, a pattern, or end of data stream. The enclosing component does not have to be the immediate parent of the element, but there must be no other elements defined between the element specifying 'endOfParent' and the end of the enclosing component.

A dfdl:lengthKind of 'endOfParent' can only be used on simple and complex elements in the following locations:

- When the immediate parent is a sequence, on the final element in the sequence
- When the immediate parent is a choice, on any element that is a branch of the choice
- A simple type or global element declaration referenced by one of the above.
- A global element declaration that is the document root.

It is a schema definition error if:

- the element has a terminator.
- the element has dfdl:trailingSkip not equal to 0.
- the element has maxOccurs > 1.
- any other element is defined between this element and the end of the enclosing component.
- parent element lengthKind is 'implicit' or 'delimited'.

If the element is in a sequence then it is a schema definition error if:

- the sequence is not the content model of a complex type definition
- the separatorPosition of the sequence is 'postFix'
- the sequenceKind of the sequence is not 'ordered'
- the sequence has a terminator
- there are floating elements in the sequence
- the sequence has a non-zero trailingSkip

If the element is in a choice where choiceLengthKind is ‘implicit’ then it is a schema definition error if:

- the choice is not the content model of a complex type definition
- the choice has a terminator
- the choice has a non-zero trailingSkip

A simple element must have either type xs:string, or dfdl:representation ‘text’, or type xs:hexBinary, or dfdl:representation ‘binary’ and a packed decimal representation.

The dfdl:lengthKind 'endOfParent' is used when the length of an element is defined by an enclosing element . For example, the parent is a fixed length element then an element with dfdl:lengthKind 'endOfParent' will consume all the remaining data up to the length of the parent. A dfdl:lengthKind 'endOfParent' can also be used to allow the last element to consume the data up to the end of the data stream.

This is distinct from situation where the lengths of the elements of a sequence are known but are not sufficient to fill the fixed length parent. In that case the remaining data are ignored on parsing and filled with dfdl:fillByte on unparsing.

When looking for end of parent, the parser is not sensitive to any in-scope terminating delimiters.

A complex element can have 'endOfParent'. If so then its last child element can be any dfdl:lengthKind including 'endOfParent'.

An element with ‘endOfParent’ must be the last thing in its ‘box’. A ‘box’ is defined as a portion of the data stream that has an established length prior to the parsing of its children. Specifically a box is either:

- A complex element with dfdl:lengthKind 'explicit', 'prefixed' or 'pattern' AND no (sequence right framing or sequence postfix separator or choice right framing)
- A choice with choiceLengthKind 'explicit'

When unparsing, if the parent is a complex element with dfdl:lengthKind ‘explicit’ or a choice with dfdl:choiceLengthKind ‘explicit‘ then the element with dfdl:lengthKind ‘endOfParent’ is padded or filled in the usual manner to the required length.

### 12.3.7 Elements of Specified Length

An element has a specified length when dfdl:lengthKind is 'explicit', 'implicit' (simple type only) or 'prefixed'. The units that the length represents are specified by the dfdl:lengthUnits property, except when dfdl:lengthKind is 'implicit' and the simpleType is not xs:string or xs:hexBinary.

If dfdl:lengthUnits='bytes' then the value of the length property gives the exact length in bytes.

If dfdl:lengthUnits='characters' then the length in bytes will depend on the encoding of the characters. If the encoding property specifies a fixed-width encoding then the length in bytes is (character width*length). If the encoding property specifies a variable-width encoding then the length in bytes will depend on the actual characters in the element's value. The dfdl:lengthUnits 'characters' may only be used when dfdl:representation is 'text', it is a schema definition error otherwise.

If dfdl:lengthUnits='bits' then the value of the length property gives the exact length in bits. 'Bits' may only be used for a limited set of schema types. See section: 12.3.7.2 Length of Bit Fields

Using specified length, it is possible for an element to have content length longer than needed to represent just the data value. For example, a simple text element may be padded in the ***RightPadOrFill*** region if the data is not long enough.

When an element has specified length, delimiter scanning is turned off and in-scope delimiters are not looked for within or between elements.

When unparsing a specified length element of type xs:hexBinary, and the simple content region is larger than the length of the element in the Infoset, then the remaining bytes are filled using the dfdl:fillByte property.

The dfdl:fillByte is *not* used to trim an element of type xs:hexBinary when parsing.

An element of specified length with dfdl:lengthKind 'implicit' or ‘explicit’ where dfdl:length is not an expression has a known length forwhen unparsing. However, an element of specified length with dfdl:lengthKind 'prefixed' or ‘explicitexplicit’ where dfdl:length is an expression is considered to have a *variable* length element.when unparsing.Specifically:

- InFor dfdl:lenghKindlengthKind 'explicit' (expression), the processor cannot automatically determine in what way the length information is to be stored. Normally the values of one or more elements would be computed using dfdl:outputValueCalc, with expressions that measure the length of the element using functions such as dfdl:contentLength or dfdl:valueLength.
- InFor dfdl:lengthKind 'prefixed' the processor automatically determines the value to store in the prefix, based on the length of the infoset element, and the properties which modify the interpretation of the prefix length value, such as dfdl:prefixIncludesPrefixLength.

#### 12.3.7.1 **Length of Simple Elements with dfdl:representation 'text'**

*Textual data* is defined to mean either data of type string or data where the representation property is 'text'.

##### *12.3.7.1.1 Character Width*

The *width* of a character is the length of its representation in bytes and depends on the dfdl:encoding property.

Character encodings are themselves either intrinsically fixed or variable width, but this is modified by additional properties.

| fixed, 1 byte (e.g., ASCII) | fixed, 2 byte (e.g., UCS-2) | fixed, 4 byte (e.g., UTF-32) | variable (e.g., Shift_JIS, UTF-8, UTF-16) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 4 | Variable width.<br>Min = 1, Max = encoding dependent |

**Table 16 Character Widths**

We define the term *fixed width encoding* to mean an encoding and associated other representation properties where the value in the bottom row of the above table is a fixed integer.

The term *variable width encoding* is the opposite. In a variable width encoding, the characters have a minimum and a maximum length. The maximum depends on the encoding, but is typically either 3 (Shift-JIS), or 4 (UTF-8).

UTF-16, UTF16LE and UTF16BE are variable width encodings, however when dfdl:utf16Width is 'fixed' they are treated as a 2 byte fixed width encoding.

##### *12.3.7.1.2 Text Length in Characters when Specified in Bytes*

If a simple element has dfdl:representation=’text’ but dfdl:lengthUnits=’bytes’ then the following rules apply:

The length of the simple content region (i.e., SimpleContent defined in Section **Error! Reference source not found.**)

- is the length in bytes, the length being calculated using the normal rules.

- When parsing, as many characters as possible are extracted from the bytes of the simple content region. Any left over bytes are skipped.
- When unparsing, if the simple content region is larger than the encoded length of the element then the remaining bytes are filled with dfdl:fillByte (This is the grammar ***RightPadOrFill*** region.).

#### *12.3.7.1.3 Byte Order Mark*

DFDL only interprets Unicode byte order marks at the document level, that is, at the start of the document information item, and the start of the data stream. See Section 11.1 Unicode Byte Order Marks (BOM) for details.

If a byte-order mark codepoint appears within the data, either within or at the start of a UTF-8, UTF-16 or UTF-32 encoded string then the byte-order mark will be included as part of the string payload[16] as a character codepoint. That is, for the UTF-8, UTF-16 and UTF-32 character encodings, a byte-order-mark codepoint is treated as a character of the string in DFDL and contributes 1 character length unit to the length.

A way of eliminating the byte-order mark at the beginning of a string so that it does not end up in the infoset is that the byte-order mark can be modeled as a separate element before the string. This BOM element can be either required or optional depending on whether a byte order mark is expected or optional at the beginning of the string.

### 12.3.7.2 **Length of Bit Fields**

A bit field is an element of signed or unsigned integer or boolean type where the lengthUnits='bits'.

For signed integer types, the bits are interpreted as a twos-complement integer with the most-significant bit representing the sign (0 for positive, 1 for negative).

It is a schema definition error if the length of a bit field is too large for the corresponding integer type, and the length can be statically determined (from the schema only).

It is a schema definition error if the type is a signed integer type, and the length is 1 bit.

It is a runtime schema definition error if the length of a bit field can only be determined dynamically (for example because it is stored in the data), and the resulting length is too large for the integer type, or is 1 bit for a signed integer type.

**Definition: Bit position**

The data stream is assumed to be a collection of consecutively numbered unsigned bytes. Each byte is a numeric value, and bit position within an individual byte is given by numeric behavior. The bits within each byte are numbered, with the most significant bit having position 1, and the least significant bit having position 8.

This gives every bit in the data stream a specific bit position. Furthermore, the bit position of the least significant bit of byte N is numerically adjacent to the bit position of the most significant bit of byte N+1.

**Definition: Bit string**

For types xs:boolean, xs:byte, xs:short, xs:int, xs:long, xs:unsignedByte, xs:unsignedShort, xs:unsignedInt, and xs:unsignedLong, it is possible to specify dfdl:lengthUnits='bits', dfdl:lengthKind='explicit', and then provide a dfdl:length expression. This expression must be a

[16] The codepoint of the byte-order-mark is the same as the ZWNBS (Zero-Width Non-Breaking Space) character.

literal integer, the value of which is between (inclusively) 1 and 32, 8, 16, 32, and 64 respectively for unsigned types, and between 2 and those same upper limits for the corresponding signed types. Such an element is called a bit string for brevity.

If the dfdl:length property contains a value out of range then it is a schema definition error. Note that for signed number types, the minimum value for the dfdl:length is 2.

When parsing, if the data stream ends without enough bits to parse a bit string, that is, N bits are needed based on the dfdl:length, but only M < N bits are available, then it is a processing error.

(Note: This is not specific to bit strings. Any type whose length cannot be satisfied from the data will cause a processing error.

**Bit strings, Alignment, and dfdl:fillByte**

The dfdl:alignmentUnits='bits', and dfdl:alignment='1' can be used to position a bit string anywhere in the data stream without regard for any other grouping of bits into bytes.

The numeric value of the unsigned integer represented by a bit string is unaffected by alignment.

When unparsing a bit string, alignment may cause the bits of the bit string to occupy only some of the bits within a byte of the data stream. The bits of data in the alignment fill region are unspecified by the elements of the DFDL schema, and are not found in the DFDL infoset. Such unspecified bits are filled in using the value of the dfdl:fillByte property. Corresponding bits from the dfdl:fillByte value are used to fill in unspecified bits of the data stream. That is, if bit K (K will be 1 or greater, but less than or equal to 8) of a data stream byte is unspecified, its value will be taken from bit K of the dfdl:fillByte property value.

Since the value of any bit string element is unaffected by alignment, the logical integer value for a bit-string is always computed as if the first bit were at position 1 of the bit stream. If the dfdl:length for the bit-string evaluates to M, then the bit-string conceptually occupies bits 1 to M of a data stream for purposes of computing its value.

**Bits within Bit Strings of Length <= 8**

Any time the length in bits is < 8, then when set, the bit at position Z supplies value 2^(M-Z), and the value of the bit string as an integer is the sum of these values for each of its bits.

**Bits within Bit Strings of Length > 8**

Call M the length of the bit string element in bits. In general, when M > 8 the contribution of a bit in position i to the numeric value of a bit string is given by a formula specific to the dfdl:byteOrder.

For dfdl:byteOrder='bigEndian' the value of bit i is given by 2^(M - i).

For dfdl:byteOrder='littleEndian' the value of bit i is given by a more complex formula. The following pseudo code computes the value of a bit in a littleEndian bit string. It is just a very big expression, but is spread out over many local variables to illustrate the various sub-calculations clearly. DFDL implementations may use any way of converting bit strings to the corresponding integer values that is consistent with this:

In the pseudo code below:

- '%' is modular division (division where remainder is returned)
- '/' is regular division (quotient is returned)
- the expression 'a ? b : c' means 'if a is true, then the value is b, otherwise the value is c'

```
littleEndianBitValue(bitPosition, bitStringLength)
    assert bitPosition >= 1;
    assert bitStringLength >= 1;
    assert bitStringLength >= bitPosition;
    numBitsInFinalPartialByte = bitStringLength % 8;
    numBitsInWholeBytes = bitStringLength -
```

```
                                numBitsInFinalPartialByte;
        bitPosInByte = ((bitPosition - 1) % 8) + 1;
        widthOfActiveBitsInByte = (bitPosition <= numBitsInWholeBytes)
             ? 8 : numBitsInFinalPartialByte;
        placeValueExponentOfBitInByte = widthOfActiveBitsInByte -
                                        bitPosInByte;
        bitValueInByte = 2^placeValueExponentOfBitInByte;
        byteNumZeroBased = (bitPosition - 1)/8;
        scaleFactorForBytePosition = 2^(8 * byteNumZeroBased);
        bitValue = bitValueInByte * scaleFactorForBytePosition;
        return bitValue;
```

**Figure 4 Little Endian bit position and value**

**Examples**

Consider the first three bytes of the data stream. Imagine their numeric values as 0x5A 0x92 0x00.

```
Positions:
00000000 01111111 11122222
12345678 90123456 78901234
Bits:
01011010 10010010 00000000

Hex values
   5   A    9   2    0   0
```

Beginning at bit position 1, (the very first bit) if we consider the first two bytes as a bigEndian short, the value will be 0x5A92.

```
  <xs:element name="num" type="unsignedShort"
        dfdl:alignment="1"
        dfdl:alignmentUnits="bytes"
        dfdl:byteOrder="bigEndian"
        dfdl:representation="binary"/>
```

As a littleEndian short, the value will be 0x925A.

```
  <xs:element name="num" type="unsignedShort"
        dfdl:alignment="1"
        dfdl:alignmentUnits="bytes"
        dfdl:byteOrder="littleEndian"
        dfdl:representation="binary"/>
```

Now let us examine a bit string of length 13, beginning at position 2.

```
<xs:sequence>
  <xs:element name="ignored" type="unsignedByte"
        dfdl:alignment="1"
        dfdl:alignmentUnits="bits"
        dfdl:lengthUnits="bits"
        dfdl:length="1"
        dfdl:representation="binary"/>
  <xs:element name="x" type="unsignedShort"
        dfdl:alignment="1"
        dfdl:alignmentUnits="bits"
        dfdl:byteOrder="bigEndian"
        dfdl:lengthUnits="bits"
        dfdl:length="13"
        dfdl:representation="binary"/>
   ...
```

```
</xs:sequence>
```

Let's examine the same data stream and consider the bit positions that make up element 'x', which are the bits at positions 2 through 14 inclusive.

```
Positions:
00000000 01111111 11122222
12345678 90123456 78901234
Bits:
 1011010 100100
```

Since alignment does not affect logical value, we will obtain the same logical value as if we realigned the bits. That is, the value is the same as if we began the bits of the element's representation with bit position 1.

```
Realigned Positions:
00000000 01111111 11122222
12345678 90123456 78901234
Bits:
10110101 00100
```

The DFDL schema fragment above gives element ‘x’ the dfdl:byteOrder='bigEndian' property. In this case the place value of each position is given by 2^(M – i)

PlaceValue positions 2^(M - i)

```
...11110 00000000
...21098 76543210

Bit values

...10110 10100100
Hex values
   1   6    A   4
```

The value of element 'x' is 0x16A4. Notice how it is the most-significant byte -- which is the first byte when big endian -- that becomes the partial byte (having fewer than 8 bits) in the case where the length of the bit string is not a multiple of 8 bits.

For dfdl:byteOrder='littleEndian'. The place values of the individual bits are not as easily visualized. However there is still a basic formula (given in the pseudo code in Figure 4 Little Endian bit position and value.

Looking again at our realigned positions:

```
Realigned Positions:
00000000 01111111 11122222
12345678 90123456 78901234
Bits:
10110101 00100
```

The place values of each of these bits, for little endian byte order can be seen to be:

```
PlaceValue positions

00000000 ...11100
76543210 ...21098

Bit values

10110101 ...00100
Hex values
   B   5    0   4
```

We must reorder the bytes for little endian byte order. The value of element 'x' is 0x04B5. In little endian form, the first 8 bits make up the first byte, and that contains the least-significant byte of

the logical numeric unsignedShort value. The additional bits of the partial byte are once again the most significant byte; however, for little endian form, this is the second byte. The second byte contains only 5 bits, those make up the least significant 5 bits of that byte, but that logical 5-bit value makes up the most-significant byte of the unsignedShort integer.

**Booleans**

The properties dfdl:binaryBooleanTrueRep and dfdl:binaryBooleanFalseRep are unsigned integers. Specifically, their numeric ranges are restricted as if of type xs:unsignedInt, with additional restriction in range when the dfdl:lengthUnits='bits' and dfdl:length are used to specify fewer than the maximum of 32 bits.

#### 12.3.7.3 Length of Complex Element of Specified Length

A complex element of known length is defining a 'box' in which its child element exist. For example a fixed length record with a variable number of children that may not fill the full length of the record.

For example, an element of complex type may have explicit length of 100 bytes, but contain a sequence of child elements that use up less than 100 bytes of data. In this case the remaining unused data is called the ***ElementUnused.*** It is skipped when parsing, and is filled with the dfdl:fillByte on unparsing.

When the dfdl:lengthUnits is 'characters' on a complex element of specified length then the dfdl:lengthUnits of all its children must be characters also with the same encoding, otherwise it is a schema definition error.

### 12.3.8 Summary: Length of Simple Types with Binary Representations

Elements of type xs:hexBinary or with dfdl:representation 'binary' and a packed decimal representation may be delimited, endOfParent or specified length. All other elements with dfdl:representation 'binary' must be implicit or specified length and it is a schema definition error if dfdl:lengthKind is 'delimited', or 'endOfParent' where the parent dfdl:lengthKind is 'delimited'.

It is a schema definition error if an element with binary representation has dfdl:lengthKind='pattern'.

## 13. Simple Types

The 'representation' property identifies the physical representation of the element. The DFDL logical types are grouped to illustrate which physical representations apply to each logical type.

These properties provide the correct interpretation of the data found in the SimpleContent grammar region.

The allowable physical representations for each logical type grouping are also shown, where the logical type groupings are defined as:

| Logical Type Group | Types |
|---|---|
| Number | xs:double, xs:float, xs:decimal, xs:integer and its restrictions (xs:int, xs:unsignedLong, etc.) |
| String | xs:string |
| Calendar | xs:dateTime, xs:date, xs:time |
| Opaque | xs:hexBinary |
| Boolean | xs:boolean |

**Table 17 Logical type groups**

### 13.1 Properties Common to All Simple Types

| Property Name | Description |
|---|---|
| representation | Enum<br>Valid values are dependent on logical type.<br>**Number:** 'text, 'binary'<br>**String:** representation is assumed to be 'text' and the representation property is not examined<br>**Calendar:** 'text, 'binary'<br>**Boolean:** 'text, 'binary'<br>**Opaque:** representation is assumed to be 'binary' and the representation property is not examined.<br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType |

The permitted representation properties for each logical type are shown in Table 18: Logical Type to Representation properties

| Logical type | dfdl:representation | Additional representation property |
|---|---|---|
| String | Assumed to be text | |
| Float, Double | text | **textNumberRep:**<br>standard |
| | binary | **binaryFloatRep**:<br>ieee, ibm390Hex |
| Decimal, Integer, nonNegativeInteger | text | **textNumberRep:**<br>standard, zoned |
| | binary | **binaryNumberRep:**<br>packed, bcd, ibm4690Packed, binary |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Long, Int, Short, Byte, UnsignedLong, Unsignedint, Unsignedshort, UnsignedByte | text | **textNumberRep:** standard, zoned |
| | binary | **binaryNumberRep:** packed, bcd, ibm4690Packed, binary |
| DateTime, Date, Time | text | |
| | binary | **binaryCalendarRep:** packed, bcd, ibm4690Packed, binarySeconds, binaryMilliseconds |
| Boolean | text | |
| | binary | |
| HexBinary | Assumed to be binary | |

**Table 18: Logical Type to Representation properties**

### 13.2 Properties Common to All Simple Types with Text representation

| Property Name | Description |
|---|---|
| textPadKind | Enum<br>Valid values ‘none’, 'padChar'.<br>Indicates whether to pad the representation text on unparsing.<br>‘none’: No padding occurs. When lengthKind is 'implicit' or 'explicit' the representation text must match the expected length otherwise it is a processing error.<br>'padChar': The element is padded using the dfdl:textStringPadCharacter, dfdl:textNumberPadCharacter, dfdl:textBooleanPadCharacter or dfdl:textCalendarPadCharacter depending on the type of the element<br>When lengthKind is 'implicit' the element is padded to the implicit length for the type.<br>When lengthKind is 'explicit' the element is padded to the length given by the dfdl:length property.<br>When lengthKind is 'delimited', 'prefixed', 'pattern' or 'endOfParent' the element is padded to the length given by the xs:minLength facet for type 'xs:string' or dfdl:textOutputMinLength property for other types.<br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType |
| textTrimKind | Enum<br>Valid values ‘none’, ‘padChar’<br>Indicates whether to trim data on parsing.<br>When 'none' no trimming takes place<br>When 'padChar' the element is trimmed of the dfdl:textStringPadCharacter, dfdl:textNumberPadCharacter, dfdl:textBooleanPadCharacter or dfdl:textCalendarPadCharacter depending on the type of the element..<br>Annotation: dfdl:element , dfdl:simpleType |

| | |
|---|---|
| textOutputMinLength | Non-negative Integer.<br>Only used when dfdl:textPadKind is 'padChar' and dfdl:lengthKind is 'delimited', 'prefixed', 'pattern', 'explicit' (when dfdl:length is an expression) or 'endOfParent', and type is not xs:string<br>Specifies the minimum representation length during unparsing for simple types that do not allow the xs:minLength facet to be specified. The units are specified by the dfdl:lengthUnits property.<br>If dfdl:textOutputMinLength is zero or less than the length of the representation text then no padding occurs.<br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType |
| escapeSchemeRef | QName or empty String<br>The name of the dfdl:defineEscapeScheme annotation that provides the additional properties used to describe the escape scheme. If the value is the empty string then escaping is explicitly turned off.<br>See: The dfdl:defineEscapeScheme Defining Annotation Element and The dfdl:escapeScheme Annotation Element<br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType |

### 13.2.1 The dfdl:escapeScheme Properties

The dfdl:escapeScheme annotation is used within a dfdl:defineEscapeScheme annotation to group the properties of an escape scheme and allows a common set of attributes to be defined that can be reused.

An escape scheme is needed when the content of a text element contains sequences of characters that are the same as an in-scope separator or terminator. If the characters are not escaped, a parser scanning for a separator or terminator would erroneously find the character sequence in the content.

An escape scheme defines the properties that describe the text escaping rules. There are two variants on such schemes:

- The use of a single escape character to cause the next character to be interpreted literally. The escape character itself is escaped by the escape escape character.
- The use of a pair of escape strings to cause the enclosed group of characters to be interpreted literally. The ending escape string is escaped by the escape escape character.

On parsing, the escape scheme is applied after padding characters are trimmed and on unparsing before padding characters are added.

On unparsing, the application of escape scheme processing takes place before the application of the emptyValueDelimiterPolicy property.

DFDL does not provide a substitution mechanism similar to XML that would replace a character entity such as < with its literal value <.

| Property Name | Description |
|---|---|
| escapeKind | Enum<br>Valid values ‘escapeCharacter', 'escapeBlock' |

| | |
|---|---|
| | The type of escape mechanism defined in the escape scheme<br><br>When 'escapeCharacter': On unparsing a single character of the data is escaped by adding an dfdl:escapeCharacter before it. The following are escaped if they are in the data<br>• Any in-scope terminating delimiter by escaping its first character.<br>• dfdl:escapeCharacter (escaped by dfdl:escapeEscapeCharacter)<br>• any dfdl:extraEscapedCharacters<br><br>On parsing the dfdl:escapeCharacter and dfdl:escapeEscapeCharacter are removed from the data, unless the dfdl:escapeCharacter is preceded by the dfdl:escapeEscapeCharacter, or the dfdl:escapeEscapeCharacter does not proceed the dfdl:escapeCharacter.<br><br>When 'escapeBlock': On unparsing the entire data are escaped by adding dfdl:escapeBlockStart to the beginning and dfdl:escapeBlockEnd to the end of the data. The data is either always escaped or escaped when needed as specified by dfdl:generateEscapeBlock. If the data is escaped and contains the dfdl:escapeBlockEnd then first character of each appearance of the dfdl:escapeBlockEnd is escaped by the dfdl:escapeEscapeCharacter.<br><br>On parsing the dfdl:escapeBlockStart is removed from the beginning of the data and dfdl:escapeBlockEnd is removed from end of the data and any dfdl:escapeEscapeCharacters are removed when they precede a dfdl:escapeBlockEnd.<br><br>Annotation: dfdl:escapeScheme |
| escapeCharacter | DFDL String Literal or DFDL Expression<br><br>Specifies one character that escapes the subsequent character.<br><br>Used when dfdl:escapeKind = 'escapeCharacter'<br><br>It is a schema definition error if dfdl:escapeCharacter is empty when dfdl:escapeKind is 'escapeCharacter'<br><br>This property can be computed by way of an expression which returns a character. The expression must not contain forward references to elements which have not yet been processed.<br><br>*Escape and Quoting Character Restrictions:* The string literal is restricted to allow only certain kinds of syntax:<br>• DFDL character entities are allowed<br>• The raw byte entity ( %#r ) is not allowed<br>• DFDL Character classes ( NL, WSP, WSP+, WSP*, ES ) are not allowed<br><br>It is a schema definition error if the string literal contains any of the disallowed constructs.<br><br>Escape characters contribute to the representation length of the field<br><br>Annotation: dfdl:escapeScheme |
| escapeBlockStart | DFDL String Literal<br><br>The string of characters that denotes the beginning of a sequence of |

| | |
|---|---|
| | characters escaped by a pair of escape strings.<br>Used when dfdl:escapeKind = 'escapeBlock'<br>It is a schema definition error if escapeBlockStart is empty when dfdl:escapeKind is 'escapeBlock'<br>The string literal value is restricted in the same way as described in "*Escape and Quoting Character Restrictions*" in the description of the escapeCharacter property.<br>An dfdl:escapeBlockStart string contributes to the representation length of the field<br>Annotation: dfdl:escapeScheme |
| escapeBlockEnd | DFDL String Literal<br>The string of characters that denotes the end of a sequence of characters escaped by a pair of escape strings.<br>Used when dfdl:escapeKind = 'escapeBlock' .<br>It is a schema definition error if dfdl:escapeBlockEnd is empty when dfdl:escapeKind is 'escapeBlock'<br>The string literal value is restricted in the same way as described in "*Escape and Quoting Character Restrictions*" in the description of the escapeCharacter property.<br>A dfdl:escapeBlockEnd string contributes to the representation length of the field<br>Annotation: dfdl:escapeScheme |
| escapeEscapeCharacter | DFDL String Literal or DFDL Expression<br>Specifies one character that escapes the subsequent escape character or first character of dfdl:escapeBlockEnd.<br>Used when dfdl:escapeKind = 'escapeCharacter' or 'escapeBlock'.<br>This property can be computed by way of an expression which returns a character. The expression must not contain forward references to elements which have not yet been processed.<br>The string literal value is restricted in the same way as described in "*Escape and Quoting Character Restrictions*" in the description of the escapeCharacter property.<br>If the empty string is specified then no escaping of escape characters occurs.<br>It is explicitly allowed for both the dfdl:escapeCharacter and the dfdl:escapeEscapeCharacter to be the same character. In that case processing functions as if the dfdl:escapeCharacter escapes itself.<br>Annotation: dfdl:escapeScheme |
| extraEscapedCharacters | List of DFDL String Literals<br>A space separated list of single characters that must be escaped in addition to the in-scope delimiters. If there are no extra characters to escape the property should be set to "".<br>The string literal values are restricted in the same way as described in "*Escape and Quoting Character Restrictions*" in the description of the |

| | |
|---|---|
| | escapeCharacter property.<br>This property only applies on unparsing.<br>Annotation: dfdl:escapeScheme |
| generateEscapeBlock | Enum<br>Valid values ‘always’, ‘whenNeeded’<br>Controls when escaping is used on unparsing when dfdl:escapeKind is ‘escapeBlock’.<br>If ‘always’ then escaping is always occurs as described in dfdl:escapeKind.<br>If ‘whenNeeded’ then escaping occurs as described in dfdl:escapeKind when the data contains any of the following:<br>• any in-scope terminating delimiter<br>• dfdl:escapeBlockStart at the start of the data<br>• any dfdl:extraEscapedCharacters<br>Annotation: dfdl:escapeScheme |

### 13.3 Properties for Bidirectional support for All Simple Types with Text representation

Bidirectional text consists of mainly right-to-left text with some left-to-right nested segments (such as an Arabic text with some information in English), or vice versa (such as an English letter with a Hebrew address nested within it.)

Note: the bidirectional properties apply to the content of the element and not to the initiator, terminator or separator if defined.

| Property name | Description |
|---|---|
| textBidi | Enum<br>Valid values are 'yes', 'no'<br>Indicates the text content of the element is bidirectional.<br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType (representation text) |
| textBidiOrdering | Enum<br>Valid values 'implicit', 'visual'.<br>Defines how bidirectional text is stored in memory.<br>'Implicit' means that the characters are stored in the order they are read or typed. That is with the first character in the first position in the data. (This is also called logical). 'Visual means that the characters are stored in the order they would be printed or displayed. That is, the last character of a right to left sequence is in the first position in the data and the first character of a left to right sequence is in the first position in the data.<br>Annotation: dfdl:element , dfdl:simpleType (representation text) , |
| textBidiOrientation | Enum<br>Valid values 'LTR', 'RTL', 'contextual_LTR', 'contextual_RTL'.<br>Indicates how the text should be displayed.<br>'LTR' means left-to-right<br>'RTL' mean right to left.<br>'contextual_LTR' and 'contextual_RTL' means that the orientation should be taken from the context of the data. The data may contain 'strong' characters that are either orientation left or orientation right. The term following contextual (LTR or RTL) specifies what should be the default orientation when the data are orientation-neutral (i.e. there are no strong characters).<br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType (representation text) |
| textBidiSymmetric | Enum<br>Valid values are 'yes', 'no'<br>Defines whether characters such as < ( [ { that have a symmetric character with an opposite directional meaning: > ) ] } should be swapped<br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType (representation text) |
| textBidiShaped | Enum<br>Valid values are 'yes', 'no'<br>Defines whether characters should be shaped on unparsing. Character |

| | |
|---|---|
| | shaping occurs when the shape of a character is dependent on its position in a word.<br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType (representation text) |
| textBidiNumeralShapes | Enum<br>Valid values ‘nominal’, ‘national’.<br>Defines on unparsing whether logical numbers with text representation should have Arabic shapes (0123456789) or Arabic-Indic ( ٠١٢٣٤٥٦٧٨٩ )<br>When 'nominal': All numbers are presented using Arabic shapes<br>When 'national': All numbers are presented using Arabic-Indic shapes.<br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType (number with representation text) |

### 13.4 Properties Specific to Strings with Text representation

| Property Name | Description |
|---|---|
| textStringJustification | Enum<br>Valid values ‘left’, ‘right’, ‘center’<br>Unparsing:<br>'left': Justifies to the left and adds padding chars to the string contents if the string is too short, to the length determined by the dfdl:textPadKind property.<br>'right': Justifies to the right and adds padding chars to the string contents if the string is too short, to the length determined by the dfdl:textPadKind property.<br>‘center’: Adds equal padding chars left and right of the string contents if the string is too short, to the length determined by the dfdl:textPadKind property. It adds one extra padding char on the left if needed.<br>Parsing:<br>'left': Trims any padding characters from the right of the string, according to dfdl:textTrimKind property.<br>'right': Trims any padding characters from the left of the string, according to dfdl:textTrimKind property.<br>‘center’ Trims any padding characters from the left and right of the string, according to dfdl:textTrimKind property.<br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType |
| textStringPadCharacter | DFDL String Literal<br>The value that is used when padding or trimming string elements. The value can be a single character or a single byte.<br>If a character, then it can be specified using a literal character or using DFDL entities. |

| | |
|---|---|
| | If a byte, then it must be specified using a single byte value entity otherwise it is a schema definition error<br><br>If a pad character is specified when dfdl:lengthUnits='bytes' then the pad character must be a single-byte character.<br><br>If a pad byte is specified when dfdl:lengthUnits='characters' then<br>- the encoding must be a fixed-width encoding<br>- padding and trimming must be applied using a sequence of N pad bytes, where N is the width of a character in the fixed-width encoding.<br><br>*Padding Character Restrictions:* The string literal is restricted to allow only certain kinds of syntax:<br>• DFDL character entities are allowed<br>• The raw byte entity ( %#r ) is allowed.<br>• DFDL Character classes ( NL, WSP, WSP+, WSP*, ES ) are not allowed<br><br>It is a schema definition error if the string literal contains any of the disallowed constructs.<br><br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType |
| truncateSpecifiedLengthString | Enum<br><br>Valid values are 'yes', 'no'<br><br>Used on unparsing only<br><br>'yes' means if the logical type is xs:string and the value is longer than the specified length, the string is truncated to this length. (See section 12.3.7 Elements of Specified Length.) No processing error is raised.<br><br>The position from which data is truncated is determined by the value of the dfdl:textStringJustification property. If the value of the dfdl:textStringJustification property is 'left', data is truncated from the right; if the value of the dfdl:textStringJustification property is 'right', data is truncated from the left. However if the value of the dfdl:textStringJustification property is 'center', truncation does not occur and a processing error occurs if the value is too long.<br><br>When unparsing, validation errors cannot be prevented by truncation as validation takes place on the augmented infoset, before any truncation has occurred.<br><br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType |

### 13.5 Properties Specific to Number with Text or Binary representation

| Property Name | Description |
|---|---|
| decimalSigned | Enum<br>Valid values are 'yes', 'no'<br>Indicates whether an xs:decimal element is signed. See 13.6.2 Converting logical numbers to/from text representation and 13.7.1 Converting Logical Numbers to/from Binary to see how this affects the presence of the sign in the data stream.<br>'yes' means that the xs:decimal element is signed<br>'no' means that the xs:decimal element is not signed<br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType |

### 13.6 Properties Specific to Number with Text representation

| Property Name | Description |
|---|---|
| textNumberRep | Enum<br>Valid values are 'standard', 'zoned'<br>'standard' means represented as characters in the character set encoding specified by the dfdl:encoding property.<br>'zoned' means represented as a zoned decimal in the character set encoding specified by the dfdl:encoding property. Zoned is not supported for float and double numbers. Base 10 is assumed, and the encoding must be for a single-byte character set. It is a schema definition error if any of these requirements are not met.<br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType |
| textNumberJustification | Enum<br>Valid values 'left', 'right', 'center'<br>Controls how the data is padded or trimmed on parsing and unparsing.<br>Behavior as for dfdl:textStringJustification.<br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType |
| textNumberPadCharacter | DFDL String Literal<br>The value that is used when padding or trimming number elements.<br>The value can be a single character or a single byte.<br>If a character, then it can be specified using a literal character or using DFDL entities.<br>If a byte, then it must be specified using a single byte value entity<br>If a pad character is specified when dfdl:lengthUnits='bytes' |

| | |
|---|---|
| | then the pad character must be a single-byte character.<br><br>If a pad byte is specified when dfdl:lengthUnits='characters' then<br><br>• the encoding must be a fixed-width encoding<br>• padding and trimming must be applied using a sequence of N pad bytes, where N is the width of a character in the fixed-width encoding.<br><br>When trimming, the last remaining digit is never trimmed for text numbers regardless of its value (so even if the textNumberPadCharacter is 0, data containing 0000 will be trimmed to 0, not empty string.<br><br>The string literal value is restricted in the same way as described in “Padding Character Restrictions” in the description of the textStringPadCharacter property.<br><br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType |
| textNumberPattern | String<br><br>Defines the ICU-like pattern that describes the format of the text number. The pattern defines where grouping separators, decimal separators, implied decimal points, exponents, positive signs and negative signs appear. It permits definition by either digits/fractions or significant digits. Allows rounding.<br><br>When dfdl:textNumberRep is 'standard' this property only applies when dfdl:textStandardBase is 10. When dfdl:textNumberRep is 'standard' and dfdl:textStandardBase is not 10 the number is represented as the minimum number of characters to represent the digits. There is no sign or virtual decimal point.<br><br>The syntax of dfdl:textNumberPattern is described in section 13.6.1 The textNumberPattern Property<br><br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType |
| textNumberRounding | Enum<br><br>Specifies how rounding is controlled during unparsing.<br><br>Valid values ‘pattern' 'explicit'<br><br>When dfdl:textNumberRep is 'standard' this property only applies when dfdl:textStandardBase is 10.<br><br>If 'pattern' then the rounding increment is specified in the dfdl:textNumberPattern using digits '1' though '9'. The rounding mode is always 'roundHalfEven'. To switch off rounding, do not use digits '1' through '9'.<br><br>If 'explicit' then the rounding increment is specified by the dfdl:textNumberRoundingIncrement property, and any digits '1' through '9' in the dfdl:textNumberPattern are treated as digit '0'. The rounding mode is specified by the dfdl:textRoundingMode property.<br><br>To switch off rounding, use 0.0 for the dfdl:textNumberRoundingIncrement. |

| | |
|---|---|
| | When unparsing a number and excess precision is supplied in the Infoset and rounding is not in effect, it is a processing error.<br><br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType |
| textNumberRoundingMode | Enum<br><br>Specifies how rounding occurs during unparsing, when dfdl:textNumberRounding is 'explicit'.<br><br>When dfdl:textNumberRep is 'standard' this property only applies when dfdl:textStandardBase is 10.<br><br>Valid values ‘roundCeiling’, ‘roundFloor’, ‘roundDown’, ‘roundUp’, ‘roundHalfEven’, ‘roundHalfDown’, ‘roundHalfUp'<br><br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType |
| textNumberRoundingIncrement | Double<br><br>Specifies the rounding increment to use during unparsing, when dfdl:textNumberRounding is 'explicit'.<br><br>When dfdl:textNumberRep is 'standard' this property only applies when dfdl:textStandardBase is 10.<br><br>To switch off rounding, use 0.0.<br><br>When unparsing a number and excess precision is supplied in the Infoset and rounding is not in effect, it is a processing error.<br><br>A negative value is a schema definition error.<br><br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType |
| textNumberCheckPolicy | Enum<br><br>Values are 'strict' and 'lax'.<br><br>Indicates how lenient to be when parsing against the pattern.<br><br>When dfdl:textNumberRep is 'standard' this property only applies when dfdl:textStandardBase is 10.<br><br>If ‘lax' and dfdl:textNumberRep is 'standard' then grouping separators are ignored, leading and trailing whitespace is ignored, leading zeros are ignored and quoted characters may be omitted.<br><br>If 'lax' and dfdl:textNumberRep is 'zoned' then positive punched data is accepted when parsing an unsigned type, and unpunched data is accepted when parsing a signed type<br><br>If ‘strict’ and dfdl:textNumberRep is ‘standard’ then the data must follow the pattern with the exceptions that digits 0-9, decimal separator and exponent separator are always recognised and parsed.<br><br>If ‘strict’ and dfdl:textNumberRep is ‘zoned’ then the data must follow the pattern.<br><br>On unparsing the pattern is always followed and follow the rules in 13.6.2 Converting logical numbers to/from text representation. |

| | |
|---|---|
| | Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType |
| textStandardDecimalSeparator | List of DFDL String Literals or DFDL Expression<br><br>Defines a whitespace separated list of single characters that appear (individually) in the data as the decimal separator.<br><br>This property is applicable when type is xs:decimal, xs:float or xs:double and dfdl:textNumberRep is 'standard' and dfdl:textStandardBase is 10. It must be set if dfdl:textNumberPattern contains a decimal separator symbol ("."), or the E or @ symbols. (schema definition error otherwise.) Empty string is not an allowable value.<br><br>This property can be computed by way of an expression which returns a character. The expression must not contain forward references to elements which have not yet been processed.<br><br>*Text Number Character Restrictions:* The the string literal is restricted to allow only certain kinds of syntax:<br><br>• DFDL character entities are allowed<br>• The raw byte entity ( %#r ) is not allowed.<br>• DFDL Character classes ( NL, WSP, WSP+, WSP*, ES ) are not allowed<br><br>It is a schema definition error if the string literal contains any of the disallowed constructs.<br><br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType |
| textStandardGroupingSeparator | DFDL String Literal or DFDL Expression<br><br>Defines the single character that will appear in the data as the grouping separator.<br><br>This property is applicable when dfdl:textNumberRep is 'standard' and dfdl:textStandardBase is 10. It must be set if dfdl:textNumberPattern contains a grouping separator symbol (schema definition error otherwise.) Empty string is not an allowable value.<br><br>This property can be computed by way of an expression which returns a character. The expression must not contain forward references to elements which have not yet been processed.<br><br>The string literal value is restricted in the same way as described in "*Text Number Character Restrictions*" in the description of the dfdl:textStandardDecimalSeparator property.<br><br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType |
| textStandardExponentRep | DFDL String Literal or DFDL Expression<br><br>Defines the actual character(s) that will appear in the data as the exponent indicator. If the empty string is specified then no exponent character will be used.<br><br>This property is applicable when dfdl:textNumberRep is |

| | |
|---|---|
| | 'standard' and dfdl:textStandardBase is 10. Empty string is an allowable value, so that formats like NNN+M (meaning NNN x 10 with MM exponent) can be expressed.<br><br>This property must be set even if the dfdl:textNumberPattern does not contain an 'E' (exponent) character. It is a schema definition error if this property is not set or in scope for any number with dfdl:representation='text'.<br><br>This property can be computed by way of an expression which returns a DFDL String Literal. The expression must not contain forward references to elements which have not yet been processed.<br><br>The string literal value is restricted in the same way as described in "*Text Number Character Restrictions*" in the description of the dfdl:textStandardDecimalSeparator property.<br><br>If dfdl:ignoreCase is 'yes' then the case of the string is ignored by the parser.<br><br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType |
| textStandardInfinityRep | DFDL String Literal<br><br>The value used to represent infinity.<br><br>Infinity is represented as a string with the positive or negative prefixes and suffixes from the dfdl:textNumberPattern applied<br><br>This property is applicable when dfdl:textNumberRep is 'standard', dfdl:textStandardBase is 10 and the simple type is float or double<br><br>If dfdl:ignoreCase is 'yes' then the case of the string is ignored by the parser.<br><br>The string literal value is restricted in the same way as described in "*Text Number Character Restrictions*" in the description of the dfdl:textStandardDecimalSeparator property.<br><br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType |
| textStandardNaNRep | DFDL String Literal<br><br>The value used to represent NaN.<br><br>NaN is represented as string and the positive or negative prefixes and suffixes from the dfdl:textNumberPattern are not used<br><br>This property is applicable when dfdl:textNumberRep is 'standard', dfdl:textStandardBase is 10 and the simple type is float or double.<br><br>If dfdl:ignoreCase is 'yes' then the case of the string is ignored by the parser.<br><br>The string literal value is restricted in the same way as described in "*Text Number Character Restrictions*" in the description of the dfdl:textStandardDecimalSeparator property. |

| | |
|---|---|
| | Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType |
| textStandardZeroRep | List of DFDL String Literals<br>Valid values: empty string, any character string<br>The whitespace separated list of alternative literal strings that are equivalent to zero, for example the characters ‘zero’.<br>The representation is examined for a match to one of the values of this property after padding has been trimmed away.<br>On unparsing the first value is used.<br>If dfdl:ignoreCase is 'yes' then the case of the string is ignored by the parser.<br>The empty string means that there is no special literal string for zero.<br>This property is applicable when dfdl:textNumberRep is 'standard' and dfdl:textStandardBase is 10.<br>The string literal is restricted to allow only certain kinds of syntax:<br>• DFDL character entities are allowed.<br>• The raw byte entity ( %#r ) is not allowed.<br>• DFDL Character classes ( NL ES ) are not allowed.<br>• DFDL Character classes ( WSP, WSP+, WSP* ) are allowed.<br>It is a schema definition error if the string literal contains any of the disallowed constructs.<br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType |
| textStandardBase | Non-negative Integer<br>Valid Values 2, 8, 10, 16<br>Indicates the number base.<br>Only used when dfdl:textNumberRep is 'standard'.<br>When base is not 10, xs:decimal, xs:float and xs:double are not supported.<br>When dfdl:textNumberRep is 'zoned' dfdl:textNumberBase is not used and base 10 is assumed.<br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType |
| textZonedSignStyle | Enum<br>Specifies the characters that are used to overpunch the sign nibble when the encoding is an ASCII-derived character set.encoding. The location of this sign nibble is indicated in the dfdl:textNumberPattern.<br>This property is applicable when dfdl:textNumberRep is 'zoned'<br>Used only when dfdl:encoding specifies an ASCII-derived |

| | |
|---|---|
| | character set encoding. That is when the character code points 0x20 - 0x7E are assigned the same characters as in the US-ASCII encoding. This includes all the Unicode character set encodings, and all variations of ASCII and ISO-8859.<br><br>Valid values 'asciiStandard', 'asciiTranslatedEBCDIC', 'asciiCARealiaModified', and 'asciiTandemModified'<br><br>Which characters are used to represent 'overpunched' (included) positive and negative signs, varies by encoding, Cobol compiler and system. It is fixed for EBCDIC systems but not for ASCII.<br><br>In EBCDIC-based encodings, characters '{ABCDEFGHI' or '0123456789' represent a positive sign and digits 0 to 9. (Character codes 0xC0 to 0xC9 or 0xF0 to 0xF9). The characters '}JKLMNOPQR' or '^£¥·©§¶¼½¾ 'represent a negative sign and digits 0 to 9. (character codes 0xD0 to 0xD9 or 0xB0 to 0xB9) On parsing both ranges of characters will be accepted. On unparsing the range 0xC0 to 0xC9 will be produced for positive signs and 0xD0 to 0xD9 will be produced for negative signs.<br><br>asciiStandard: ASCII characters '0123456789' represent a positive sign and the corresponding digit. (Sign nibble for '+' is 0x3, which is the high nibble of these character codes unmodified.) ASCII characters 'pqrstuvwxy' represent negative sign and digits 0 to 9. (Character codes 0x70 to 0x79)<br><br>asciiTranslatedEBCDIC: The overpunched character is the ASCII equivalent of the EBCDIC above. So the characters '{ABCDEFGHI' still represent a positive sign and digits 0 to 9. (These are character codes 0x7B, 0x41 through 0x49). The characters '}JKLMNOPQR' still represent negative sign and digits 0 to 9. (These are character codes 0x7D, 0x4A through 0x52). This case comes up if ebcdic zoned decimal data is translated to ASCII as if it were textual data.<br><br>asciiCARealiaModified[17]: In this style, the ASCII characters '0123456789' represent positive sign and digits 0 to 9 as in standard. However, ASCII characters from code 0x20 to 0x29 are used for negative sign and the corresponding decimal digit. This doesn't translate well into printing characters. These characters include the space (' ') for zero, characters |

[17] Reference for this CA Realia 0x20 overpunch for negative sign is the article: "EBCDIC to ASCII Conversion of Signed Fields" at http://www.discinterchange.com/TechTalk_signed_fields_.html, where it says:

COBOL compilers that run on ASCII platforms have a "signed" data type that operates in a similar manner to the EBCDIC Signed field -- that is, they over punch the sign on the LSD. However, this is not standardized in ASCII, and different compilers use different overpunch codes. For example, Computer Associates' Realia compiler uses a 30 hex for positive values and a 20 hex for negative values, but Micro Focus® and Microsoft® use 30 hex for positive values and 70 hex for negative values.

| | |
|---|---|
| | '!"#$%&' for 1 through 6, the single quote character "'" for 7, and the parenthesis '()' for 8 and 9.<br><br>asciiTandemModified: In this style the ascii characters '0-9' represent positive sign and digits 0 to 9, but bytes from 0x80 to 0x89 are used to represent overpunched negative sign and a digit. There are no corresponding character codepoints in the standard ASCII encoding since these values are all above 128 (decimal). (Note that neither ISO-8859-1 encoding nor Unicode have assigned glyphs for these codepoints. They are considered control characters.)<br><br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType |

The dfdl:textStandardDecimalSeparator, dfdl:textStandardGroupingSeparator, dfdl:textStandardExponentRep, dfdl:textStandardInfinityRep, dfdl:textStandardNaNRep, and dfdl:textStandardZeroRep must all be distinct, and it is a schema definition error otherwise. Note that if dfdl:textStandardDecimalSeparator, dfdl:textStandardGroupingSeparator, or dfdl:textStandardExponentRep are expressions, this checking can only be carried out during processing (parsing or unparsing.)

Implementation note: This rule is in the interests of clarity, and is an extra constraint compared to ICU.

### 13.6.1 The textNumberPattern Property

The dfdl:textNumberPattern describes how to parse and unparse text representations of number logical types with base 10.

The length of the representation of the number is determined first, and the number pattern is used only for conversion of the content text to and from a numeric logical infoset value.

The pattern described below is derived from the ICU DecimalFormat class described here: [ICUDecForm]

The pattern is an ICU-like syntax that defines where grouping separators, decimal separators, implied decimal points, exponents, positive signs and negative signs appear. It permits definition by either digits/fractions or significant digits.

If the pattern uses digits/fractions then these must match any XML schema facets. If not it is a schema definition error.

#### 13.6.1.1 dfdl:textNumberPattern for dfdl:textNumberRep 'standard'

When dfdl:textNumberRep is 'standard' this property only applies when dfdl:textStandardBase is 10

The pattern comes in two parts separated by a semi-colon. The first is mandatory and applies to positive numbers, the second is optional and applies to negative numbers.

Examples: The first shows digits/fractions and positive/negative signs, the second shows exponent, the third shows virtual decimal point, the fourth shows scaling position.

+###,##0.00;(###,##0.00)

##0.0#E0

000V00

PPP0000

The 'V' symbol is used to indicate the location of an implied decimal point for fixed point number representations. (This is an extension to the ICU pattern language.)

The 'P' symbol is used to indicate that a decimal scaling factor needs to be applied. (This is an extension to the ICU pattern language.)

The actual grouping separator, decimal separator and exponent characters are defined independently of the pattern.

The actual positive sign and negative sign are defined within the pattern itself.

Many characters in a pattern are taken literally; they are matched during parsing and output unchanged during unparsing. Special characters, on the other hand, stand for other characters, strings, or classes of characters. For example, the '#' character is replaced by a digit.

To insert a special character in a pattern as a literal, that is, without any special meaning, the character must be quoted. There are some exceptions to this which are noted below.

| Symbol | Location | Meaning |
|---|---|---|
| 0 | Number | Digit |
| 1-9 | Number | '1' through '9' indicates rounding. |
| # | Number | Digit, zero shows as absent |
| . | Number | Decimal separator or monetary decimal separator |
| - | Number | Minus sign |
| , | Number | Grouping separator |
| E | Number | Separates mantissa and exponent in scientific notation. Need not be quoted in prefix or suffix. |
| + | Exponent | Prefix positive exponents with plus sign. Need not be quoted in prefix or suffix. |
| ; | Subpattern boundary | Separates positive and negative subpatterns |
| ' | Prefix or suffix | Used to quote special characters in a prefix or suffix, for example, "'#'#" formats 123 to "#123". To create a single quote itself, use two in a row: "# o''clock". |
| * | Prefix or suffix boundary | Pad escape, precedes pad character |
| V | Number | Virtual decimal point marker. Only used with decimal, float and double simple types. |
| P | Number | Decimal scaling position. Only used with decimal, float and double simple types. |
| @ | Number | Significant digits specifier. Only used with decimal simple type. Controls number of significant digits when used alone or in conjunction with the # character. |

**Table 19 dfdl:textNumberPattern special characters**

A pattern contains a positive and negative subpattern, for example, "#,##0.00;(#,##0.00)". Each subpattern has a prefix, a numeric part, and a suffix. If there is no explicit negative subpattern, the negative subpattern is the minus sign prefixed to the positive subpattern. That is, "0.00" alone is

equivalent to "0.00;-0.00". If there is an explicit negative subpattern, it serves only to specify the negative prefix and suffix; the number of digits, minimal digits, and other characteristics are ignored in the negative subpattern. That means that "#,##0.0#;(#)" has precisely the same result as "#,##0.0#;(#,##0.0#)".

The prefixes, suffixes, and various symbols used for infinity, digits, grouping separators, decimal separators, etc. may be set to arbitrary values, and they will appear properly during unparsing. However, care must be taken that the symbols and strings do not conflict, or parsing will be unreliable. For example, either the positive and negative prefixes or the suffixes must be distinct for parse to be able to distinguish positive from negative values.

The *grouping separator* is a character that separates clusters of integer digits to make large numbers more legible. It commonly used for thousands, but in some locales it separates ten-thousands. The *grouping size* is the number of digits between the grouping separators, such as 3 for "100,000,000" or 4 for "1 0000 0000". There are actually two different grouping sizes: One used for the least significant integer digits, the *primary grouping size*, and one used for all others, the *secondary grouping size*. In most locales these are the same, but sometimes they are different. For example, if the primary grouping interval is 3, and the secondary is 2, then this corresponds to the pattern "#,##,##0", and the number 123456789 is formatted as "12,34,56,789". If a pattern contains multiple grouping separators, the interval between the last one and the end of the integer defines the primary grouping size, and the interval between the last two defines the secondary grouping size. All others are ignored, so "#,##,###,####" == "###,###,####" == "##,#,###,####".

The P symbol is used to derive the location of an assumed decimal point when the point is not within the number that appears in the data. It acts as a decimal scaling factor.

The symbol P can be specified only as a continuous string of Ps in the leftmost or rightmost digit positions in the `vpinteger` region of the pattern.

It is a schema definition error if any symbols other than "0", "1" through "9" or # are used in the `vpinteger` region of the pattern.

**Examples**

| Data representation | Pattern | Value |
|---|---|---|
| 123 | PP000 | 0.00123 |
| 123 | 000PP | 12300 |

```
pattern    := subpattern (';' subpattern)?
subpattern := prefix? ((number exponent?)| vpinteger) suffix?
number     := (integer ('.' fraction)?) | sigdigits

vpinteger  := pinteger | (vinteger exponent?)
pinteger   := ('P'* integer) | (integer 'P'* )
vinteger   := ('V'? integer) |
              ('#'* 'V'? integer)|
              ('#'* '0'* 'V'? '0'* '0')|
              (integer 'V'?)

prefix     := '\u0000'..'\uFFFD' - specialCharacters
suffix     := '\u0000'..'\uFFFD' - specialCharacters
integer    := '#'* '0'* '0'
fraction   := '0'* '#'*
sigDigits  := '#'* '@' '@'* '#'*
exponent   := 'E'? '+'? '0'* '0'
padSpec    := '*' padChar
```

```
padChar     := '\u0000'..'\uFFFD' - quote

Notation:
  X*        0 or more instances of X
  X?        0 or 1 instances of X
  X|Y       either X or Y
  C..D      any character from C up to D, inclusive
  S-T       characters in S, except those in T
```

**Figure 5 dfdl:textNumberPattern BNF syntax**

The first subpattern is for positive numbers. The second (optional) subpattern is for negative numbers.

Not indicated in the BNF syntax above:

- The grouping separator ',' can occur inside the `integer` region, between any two pattern characters of that region, as long as the `number` region is not followed by an exponent region.
- Two grouping intervals are recognized: That between the decimal point and the first grouping symbol, and that between the first and second grouping symbols. These intervals are identical in most locales, but in some locales they differ. For example, the pattern "#,##,###" formats the number 123456789 as "12,34,56,789".
- The pad specifier `padSpec` may appear before the prefix, after the prefix, before the suffix, after the suffix, or not at all.
- In place of '0', the digits '1' through '9' in the `number` or `vpinteger` region may be used to indicate a rounding increment.
- The term *maximum fraction digits* is the total number of '0' and '#' characters in the `fraction` sub-pattern above.
- The term *minimum fraction digits* is the total number of '0' characters (only) in the `fraction` sub-pattern above.
- The term *maximum integer digits* is a limit that is implementation dependent, but must be at least 20 (which is the number of digits in a base 10 unsigned long).[18].
- The term *minimum integer digits* is the total number of '0' characters (only) in the `integer` sub-pattern above.
- A pattern with a V symbol must not have # symbols to the right of the V symbol.
- A pattern with P symbols at the left end must not have # symbols .
- A pattern with P symbols at the right end can have # symbols.
- A pattern with a V symbol must not have @ or * symbols.
- A pattern with P symbols must not have @ or E or * symbols.

**Parsing**

During parsing, grouping separators are removed from the data.

[18] Implementations which use current versions of the popular ICU library will allow 309 digits as *maximum integer digits*.

### Unparsing

Unparsing is guided by several parameters all of which can be specified using a pattern. The following description applies to formats that do not use scientific notation.

- If the number of actual integer digits exceeds the *maximum integer digits*, then only the least significant digits are shown. For example, 1997 is formatted as "97" if the maximum integer digits is 2.
- If the number of actual integer digits is less than the *minimum integer digits*, then leading zeros are added. For example, 1997 is formatted as "01997" if the minimum integer digits is 5.
- If the number of actual fraction digits exceeds the *maximum fraction digits*, then half-even rounding it performed to the maximum fraction digits. For example, 0.125 is formatted as "0.12" if the maximum fraction digits is 2. This behavior can be changed by specifying a rounding increment and a rounding mode.
- If the number of actual fraction digits is less than the *minimum fraction digits*, then trailing zeros are added. For example, 0.125 is formatted as "0.1250" if the minimum fraction digits is 4.
- Trailing fractional zeros are not displayed if they occur *j* positions after the decimal, where *j* is less than the maximum fraction digits. For example, 0.10004 is formatted as "0.1" if the maximum fraction digits is four or less.

### Special Values

`NaN` is represented as a string determined by the dfdl:textStandardNaNRep property. This is the only value for which the prefixes and suffixes are not used.

Infinity is represented as a string with the positive or negative prefixes and suffixes applied. The infinity string is determined by the dfdl:textStandardInfinityRep property.

### Scientific Notation

Numbers in scientific notation are expressed as the product of a mantissa and a power of ten, for example, 1234 can be expressed as $1.234 \times 10^3$. The mantissa is typically in the half-open interval [1.0, 10.0) or sometimes [0.0, 1.0), but it need not be. In a pattern, the exponent character immediately followed by one or more digit characters indicates scientific notation. Example: "0.###E0" formats the number 1234 as "1.234E3".

- The number of digit characters after the exponent character gives the minimum exponent digit count. There is no maximum. Negative exponents are formatted using the minus sign, *not* the prefix and suffix from the pattern. This allows patterns such as "0.###E0 m/s". To prefix positive exponents with a plus sign, specify '+' between the exponent and the digits: "0.###E+0" will produce formats "1E+1", "1E+0", "1E-1", etc.
- The minimum number of integer digits is achieved by adjusting the exponent. Example: 0.00123 formatted with "00.###E0" yields "12.3E-4". This only happens if there is no maximum number of integer digits. If there is a maximum, then the minimum number of integer digits is fixed at one.
- The maximum number of integer digits, if present, specifies the exponent grouping. The most common use of this is to generate *engineering notation*, in which the exponent is a multiple of three, e.g., "##0.###E0". The number 12345 is formatted using "##0.####E0" as "12.345E3".

- When using scientific notation, the formatter controls the digit counts using significant digits logic. The maximum number of significant digits limits the total number of integer and fraction digits that will be shown in the mantissa; it does not affect parsing. For example, 12345 formatted with "##0.##E0" is "12.3E3". .

- Exponential patterns may not contain grouping separators.

**Significant Digits**

The '@' pattern character can be used with the '#' to control how many integer and fraction digits are needed to display the specified number of significant digits. The '@' only affects unparsing behavior. Examples:

| Pattern | Minimum significant digits | Maximum significant digits | Number | Formatted Output |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| `@@@` | 3 | 3 | 12345 | `12300` |
| `@@@` | 3 | 3 | 0.12345 | `0.123` |
| `@@##` | 2 | 4 | 3.14159 | `3.142` |
| `@@##` | 2 | 4 | 1.23004 | `1.23` |

- Significant digit counts may be expressed using patterns that specify a minimum and maximum number of significant digits. These are indicated by the `'@'` and `'#'` characters. The minimum number of significant digits is the number of `'@'` characters. The maximum number of significant digits is the number of `'@'` characters plus the number of `'#'` characters following on the right. For example, the pattern `"@@@"` indicates exactly 3 significant digits. The pattern `"@##"` indicates from 1 to 3 significant digits. Trailing zero digits to the right of the decimal separator are suppressed after the minimum number of significant digits have been shown. For example, the pattern `"@##"` formats the number 0.1203 as `"0.12"`.

- If a pattern uses significant digits, it may not contain a decimal separator, nor the `'0'` pattern character. Patterns such as `"@00"` or `"@.###"` are disallowed.

- Any number of `'#'` characters may be prepended to the left of the leftmost `'@'` character. These have no effect on the minimum and maximum significant digits counts, but may be used to position grouping separators. For example, `"#,#@#"` indicates a minimum of one significant digits, a maximum of two significant digits, and a grouping size of three.

- The number of significant digits has no effect on parsing.

- Significant digits may be used together with exponential notation. For example, the pattern `"@@###E0"` is equivalent to `"0.0###E0"`.

- The '@' pattern character can be used only in 'standard' textNumberRep (not 'zoned'), and excludes the 'P' and 'V' pattern characters. It is a schema definition error if the '@' pattern character appears in 'zoned' textNumberRep, or in conjunction with the 'P' or 'V' pattern characters.

**Padding**

Padding may be specified through the pattern syntax. In a pattern the pad escape character, followed by a single pad character, causes padding to be parsed and formatted. The pad escape character is '*'. For example, `"*x#,##0.00"` formats 123 to `"xx123.00"`, and 1234 to `"1,234.00"`.

- When padding is in effect, the width of the positive subpattern, including prefix and suffix, determines the format width. For example, in the pattern `"* #0 o''clock"`, the format width is 10.
- The width is counted in 16-bit code units.
- Some parameters which usually do not matter have meaning when padding is used, because the pattern width is significant with padding. In the pattern "* ##,##,#,##0.##", the format width is 14. The initial characters "##,##," do not affect the grouping size or maximum integer digits, but they do affect the format width.
- Padding may be inserted at one of four locations: before the prefix, after the prefix, before the suffix, or after the suffix. If there is no prefix, before the prefix and after the prefix are equivalent, likewise for the suffix.
- When specified in a pattern, the 32-bit codepoint immediately following the pad escape is the pad character. This may be any character, including a special pattern character. That is, the pad escape *escapes* the following character. If there is no character after the pad escape, then the pattern is illegal.

Note: Padding specified through the pattern syntax is distinct from, and in addition to, padding specified using dfdl:textPadKind.

**Rounding**

How rounding is controlled is given by dfdl:textNumberRounding. The rounding increment may be specified in the dfdl:textNumberPattern itself using digits '1' through '9' or using an explicit increment in dfdl:textNumberRoundingIncrement. For example, 1230 rounded to the nearest 50 is 1250. 1.234 rounded to the nearest 0.65 is 1.3.

- Rounding only affects the string produced by unparsing. It does not affect parsing or change any numerical values.
- In a pattern, digits '1' through '9' specify rounding, but otherwise behave identically to digit '0'. For example, "#,#50" specifies a rounding increment of 50.
- Using digits in a pattern, rounding is always 'half even', meaning rounds towards the nearest integer, or towards the nearest even integer if equidistant.

Using an explicit rounding increment, dfdl:textNumberRoundingMode determines how values are rounded.

#### 13.6.1.2 dfdl:textNumberPattern for dfdl:textNumberRep 'zoned'

When dfdl:textNumberRep is ‘zoned’ a subset of the number pattern language described in Section 13.6.1.1 dfdl:textNumberPattern for dfdl:textNumberRep 'standard' is used.

Only the pattern for positive numbers is used. It is a schema definition error if the negative pattern is specified.

In addition, only the following pattern characters may be used:

- '+' MUST BE present at the beginning or end of the pattern to indicate whether the leading or trailing digit carries the overpunched sign, if the logical type is signed
- '+' MAY BE present at the beginning or end of the pattern to indicate whether the leading or trailing digit carries the overpunched sign, if the logical type is unsigned. If logical type is unsigned and dfdl:textNumberPolicy = 'lax' specified it is a schema definition error if no '+' is present.

- 'V' MAY BE used to indicate the location of an implied decimal point
- 'P' MAY BE used to indicate the decimal scaling
- '0-9' indicates the number of needed digits (including overpunched).
- '#' indicates the number of optional digits.

Rounding occurs as described under Rounding in 13.6.1.1 dfdl:textNumberPattern for dfdl:textNumberRep 'standard'

### 13.6.2 Converting logical numbers to/from text representation

- Signed numbers with dfdl:textNumberRep 'standard' and dfdl:textStandardBase 10 are mapped using the dfdl:textNumberPattern.
- Signed numbers with dfdl:textNumberRep 'standard' and dfdl:textStandardBase not 10 are mapped to an unsigned representation. On unparsing the minimum number of characters to represent the digits is output and it is a processing error if the value is negative.
- Signed numbers with dfdl:textNumberRep 'zoned' are mapped using the dfdl:textNumberPattern to indicate the position of the sign and virtual decimal point. On parsing if the sign is not overpunched, that is it does not have a sign, it is treated as positive. On unparsing the sign is always overpunched.
- Unsigned numbers with dfdl:textNumberRep 'standard' and dfdl:textStandardBase 10 are mapped using the dfdl:textNumberPattern. On parsing it is a processing error if the data are negative.
- Unsigned numbers with dfdl:textNumberRep 'standard' and dfdl:textStandardBase not 10 are mapped to an unsigned representation. On unparsing the minimum number of characters to represent the digits is output. .
- Unsigned numbers with dfdl:textNumberRep 'zoned' are mapped using the dfdl:textNumberPattern to indicate the position of the sign and virtual decimal point. On parsing it is a processing error if the data are negative. On unparsing the data are not overpunched with a sign.

### 13.7 Properties Specific to Numbers with Binary representation

These properties are applicable to decimals types and its derived types. These properties are not applicable to types float and double. See section 1.1

.

<table>
<tr><th>Property Name</th><th>Description</th></tr>
<tr><td>binaryNumberRep</td><td>Enum<br>Valid values are ‘packed’, ‘bcd’, 'binary', ‘ibm4690Packed’<br>Allowable values for each number type are:
<table>
<tr><th>Logical Type</th><th>Permitted Value</th></tr>
<tr><td>Decimal, Integer, NonNegativeInteger</td><td>packed, bcd, binary, ibm4690Packed</td></tr>
<tr><td>Long, Int, Short, Byte,</td><td>packed, binary, ibm4690Packed (but not bcd)</td></tr>
<tr><td>UnsignedLong, Unsignedint, UnsignedShort, UnsignedByte</td><td>packed, bcd, binary, ibm4690Packed</td></tr>
</table>
‘packed’ means represented as an IBM 390 packed decimal. Each byte contains two decimal digits, except for the least significant byte, which contains a sign in the least significant nibble.<br>‘bcd’ means represented as a binary coded decimal with two digits per byte.<br>‘binary’ means represented as twos complement for signed types and unsigned binary for unsigned types.<br>Note that the maximum allowed value for twos-complement binary integers is implementation dependent, but must be at least that of a xs:long type, which is the equivalent of an 8 byte/64-bit signed integer.<br>‘ibm4690Packed’ is a variant of a packed decimal having the following characteristics:<br>• Nibbles represent digits 0 - 9 in the usual BCD manner.<br>• A positive value is simply indicated by digits.<br>• A negative number is indicated by digits with the leftmost nibble being xD.<br>• If a positive or negative value packs to an odd number of nibbles, an extra xF nibble is added on the left.<br>For all values, the dfdl:byteOrder property is used to determine the numeric significance of the bytes making up the representation.<br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType</td></tr>
</table>

| | |
|---|---|
| binaryDecimalVirtualPoint | Integer.<br>Used when base simpleType is xs:decimal.<br>An integer that represents the position of an implied decimal point within a number, or specify 0.<br>If you specify 0 then there is no virtual decimal point<br>If you specify a positive integer, the position of the decimal point is moved left from the right side of the number. For example, if you specify 3, the decimal value 1234 represents 1.234<br>If you specify a negative integer, the position of the decimal point is moved right from the right side of the number. For example, if you specify -3, the decimal value 1234 represents 1 234 000<br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType |
| binaryPackedSignCodes | List of Character<br>Used only when dfdl:binaryNumberRep or dfdl:binaryCalendarRep is 'packed'<br>A space separated string giving the hex sign nibbles to use for a positive value, a negative value, an unsigned value, and zero.<br>Valid values for positive nibble: A, C, E, F<br>Valid values for negative nibble: B, D<br>Valid values for unsigned nibble: F<br>Valid values for zero sign: A C E F 0<br>Example: 'C D F C' – typical S/390 usage<br>Example: 'C D F 0' – handle special case for zero<br>On parsing, whether to accept all valid values for a positive, negative or unsigned number, and for zero, is governed by the dfdl:binaryNumberCheckPolicy property. On unparsing, the specified values are always used.<br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType |
| binaryNumberCheckPolicy | Enum<br>Values are 'strict' and 'lax'.<br>Indicates how lenient to be when parsing binary numbers.<br>If 'lax' then the parser tolerates all valid alternatives where such alternatives exist. Specifically, for dfdl:binaryNumberRep = 'packed' the sign nibble for positive, negative, unsigned and zero is allowed to be any of the valid respective values.<br>On unparsing, the specified value is always used<br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType |

### 13.7.1 Converting Logical Numbers to/from Binary Representation

Signed numbers with dfdl:binaryNumberRep 'packed' are parsed using sign nibble to indicate the sign. The unsigned nibble is treated as positive. On unparsing the sign nibble is written according to dfdl:binaryPackedSignCodes. The unsigned nibble is never written.

Signed numbers with dfdl:binaryNumberRep 'bcd' are always positive. On unparsing it is a processing error if the data is negative.

Signed numbers with dfdl:binaryNumberRep ‘ibm4690Packed’ are parsed using the sign nibble to identify negative values. There is no sign nibble for positive values. On unparsing the nibble 0xD is written for negative values.

Unsigned numbers with dfdl:binaryNumberRep 'packed' are parsed if the nibble is positive or unsigned. It is a processing error if the data is negative. On unparsing the unsigned nibble is used.

Unsigned numbers with dfdl:binaryNumberRep 'bcd' are readily parsed as BCD data is always positive.

Unsigned numbers with dfdl:binaryNumberRep ‘ibm4690Packed’ are parsed if there is no sign nibble of 0xD to identify a negative value. It is a processing error if the data is negative. On unparsing no sign nibble is written.

When unparsing a number and excess precision is supplied in the Infoset no rounding occurs. It is a processing error.

### 13.8 Properties Specific to Float/Double with Binary representation

| Property Name | Description |
|---|---|
| binaryFloatRep | Enum or DFDL Expression<br><br>This specifies the encoding method for the float and double.<br><br>Valid values are 'ieee', 'ibm390Hex',This property can be computed by way of an expression which returns a string of 'ieee' or ' ibm390Hex' . The expression must not contain forward references to elements which have not yet been processed.<br><br>The enumeration value 'ieee' refers to the IEEE 754-1985 specification.<br><br>For both 'ieee' and 'ibm390hex', an xs:float must have a physical length of 4 bytes. It is a schema definition error if there is a specified length not equivalent to 4 bytes.<br><br>Similarly, for both 'ieee' and 'ibm390hex', an xs:double must have a physical length of 8 bytes. It is a schema definition error if there is a specified length not equivalent to 8 bytes.<br><br>The byteOrder property is used to construct a value from the bytes in the binary representation.<br><br>Keep in mind that the DFDL Infoset float and double data types match the precision of the IEEE specification. There may be precision/rounding issues when converting IBM float/double to/from the DFDL infoset float/double types.<br><br>Half-precision IEEE and quad-precision IEEE/IBM are not supported.[19]<br><br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType |

### 13.9 Properties Specific to Boolean with Text representation

| Property Name | Description |
|---|---|
| textBooleanTrueRep | List of DFDL String Literals or DFDL Expression<br><br>A whitespace separated list of representations to be used for 'true'. These are compared after trimming when parsing, and before padding when unparsing.<br><br>If lengthKind is 'explicit' or 'implicit' and either textPadKind or textTrimKind is 'none' then both textBooleanTrueRep and textBooleanFalseRep must have the same length else it is a |

[19] Note that XSDL 1.1 moved to IEEE 754-2008 only because of new decimal support, and not for enhanced float support. That's why in XSDL 1.1 there are still just the xs:float and xs:double built-in types. Any future support for half-precision and quad-precision in XSDL would very likely be implemented by adding new built-in types that derive from xs:anySimpleType. It is likely therefore that future DFDL support for half-precision and quad-precision will build on XSDL.

| | |
|---|---|
| | schema definition error.<br><br>This property can be computed by way of an expression which returns a string of whitespace separated list of values. The expression must not contain forward references to elements which have not yet been processed.<br><br>On unparsing the first value is used<br><br>If dfdl:ignoreCase is 'yes' then the case of the string is ignored by the parser.<br><br>*Text Boolean Character Restrictions:* The string literal is restricted to allow only certain kinds of syntax:<br><br>• DFDL character entities are allowed<br>• The raw byte entity ( %#r ) is not allowed.<br>• DFDL Character classes ( NL, WSP, WSP+, WSP*, ES ) are not allowed<br><br>It is a schema definition error if the string literal contains any of the disallowed constructs.<br><br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType |
| textBooleanFalseRep | List of DFDL String Literals or DFDL Expression<br><br>A whitespace separated list of representations to be used for 'false' These are compared after trimming when parsing, and before padding when unparsing.<br><br>If lengthKind is 'explicit' or 'implicit' and either textPadKind or textTrimKind is 'none' then both textBooleanTrueRep and textBooleanFalseRep must have the same length else it is a schema definition error.<br><br>This property can be computed by way of an expression which returns a string of whitespace separated list of values. The expression must not contain forward references to elements which have not yet been processed.<br><br>On unparsing the first value is used<br><br>If dfdl:ignoreCase is 'yes' then the case of the string is ignored by the parser.<br><br>The string literal value is restricted in the same way as described in "*Text Boolean Character Restrictions*" in the description of the textBooleanTrueRep property.<br><br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType |
| textBooleanJustification | Enum<br><br>Valid values 'left', 'right', 'center'<br><br>Controls how the data is padded or trimmed on parsing and unparsing.<br><br>Behavior as for dfdl:textStringJustification.<br><br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType |
| textBooleanPadCharacter | DFDL String Literal |

| | |
|---|---|
| | The value that is used when padding or trimming boolean elements. The value can be a single character or a single byte.<br>If a character, then it can be specified using a literal character or using DFDL entities.<br>If a byte, then it must be specified using a single byte value entity<br>If a pad character is specified when lengthUnits='bytes' then the pad character must be a single-byte character.<br>If a pad byte is specified when lengthUnits='characters' then<br>• the encoding must be a fixed-width encoding<br>• padding and trimming must be applied using a sequence of N pad bytes, where N is the width of a character in the fixed-width encoding.<br>The string literal value is restricted in the same way as described in "Padding Character Restrictions" in the description of the textStringPadCharacter property.<br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType |

### 13.10 Properties Specific to Boolean with Binary Representation

| Property Name | Description |
|---|---|
| binaryBooleanTrueRep | Non-negative Integer<br>Representation to be used for 'true'<br>The empty string means dfdl:binaryBooleanTrueRep is any value other than dfdl:binaryBooleanFalseRep.<br>If provided, then if the element has specified length, then is is a schema definition error if the length is not between 1 bit and 32 bits (4 bytes). It is also a schema definition error if the value of the binaryBooleanTrueRep cannot fit as an unsigned binary integer in the specified length.<br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType |
| binaryBooleanFalseRep | Non-negative Integer<br>Representation to be used for 'false'<br>If the element has specified length, then is is a schema definition error if the length is not between 1 bit and 32 bits (4 bytes). It is also a schema definition error if the value of the binaryBooleanFalseRep cannot fit as an unsigned binary integer in the specified length.<br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType |

### 13.11 Properties specific to Calendar with Text or Binary representation

The properties describe how a calendar is to be interpreted including a unparsing pattern property plus properties that qualify the pattern.

These properties can be used when a calendar has dfdl:representation 'text' or dfdl:representation 'binary' and a packed decimal representation.

<table>
<tr><th>Property Name</th><th>Description</th></tr>
<tr><td>calendarPattern</td><td>String<br><br>Defines the ICU pattern that describes the format of the calendar. The pattern defines where the year, month, day, hour, minute, second, fractional second and time zone components appear. See calendarPattern property section below.<br><br>When the dfdl:representation is 'binary' and the representation is a packed decimal then the pattern can contain only characters and symbols that always result in the presentation of digits.<br><br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType</td></tr>
<tr><td>calendarPatternKind</td><td>Enum<br><br>Valid values ‘explicit’, ‘implicit’<br><br>‘explicit’ means the pattern is given by dfdl:calendarPattern,<br><br>‘implicit’ means the pattern is derived from the XML schema date/time type.
<table>
<tr><th>Logical Type</th><th>Default Pattern</th></tr>
<tr><td>xs:date</td><td>yyyy-MM-dd</td></tr>
<tr><td>xs:dateTime</td><td>yyyy-MM-dd'T'HH:mm:ss</td></tr>
<tr><td>xs:time</td><td>HH:mm:ssZZZ</td></tr>
</table>
Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType</td></tr>
<tr><td>calendarCheckPolicy</td><td>Enum<br><br>Valid values are 'strict', 'lax'<br><br>Indicates how lenient to be when parsing against the pattern.<br><br>If 'lax' then the parser will convert invalid date/time values to the appropriate in-band value. For example, a date of 2005-05-32 will be converted to 2005-06-01.<br><br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType</td></tr>
<tr><td>calendarTimeZone</td><td>String<br><br>This property provides the time zone that will be assumed if no time zone explicitly occurs in the data.<br><br>Valid values specify a UTC time zone offset by matching the regular expression:<br><br><code>(UTC)([+\-]([01]\d|\d)(([:][0-5]\d){1,2})?))?)</code><br><br>In addition, empty string can be specified to indicate “no time zone”, or the IANA time zone format (also known as the Olson time zone format) may be used. (e.g, America/New_York)) See [OLSON].<br><br>Note that this property is used when parsing only.<br><br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType</td></tr>
<tr><td>calendarObserveDST</td><td>Enum<br><br>Valid values are 'yes', 'no'</td></tr>
</table>

| | |
|---|---|
| | Whether the time zone given in dfdl:calendarTimeZone observes daylight savings time.<br>Ignored if calendarTimeZone is specified in UTC format, or if calendarTimeZone is empty string. That is, this property is used only if the calendarTimeZone is in IANA (aka Olson) format.<br>This property applies to parsing only.<br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType |
| calendarFirstDayOfWeek | Enum<br>Valid values 'Monday' … 'Sunday'<br>The day of the week upon which a new week is considered to start.<br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType |
| calendarDaysInFirstWeek | Non-negative Integer<br>Valid values 1 to 7<br>Specify the number of days of the new year that must fall within the first week.<br>The start of a year usually falls in the middle of a week. If the number of days in that week is less than the value specified here, the week is considered to be the last week of the previous year; hence week 1 starts some days into the new year. Otherwise it is considered to be the first week of the new year; hence week 1 starts some days before the new year.<br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType |
| calendarCenturyStart | Non-negative Integer<br>Valid values 0 to 99.<br>This property determines on parsing how two-digit years are interpreted. Specify the two digits that start a 100-year window that contains the current year. For example, if you specify `89`, and the current year is 2006, all two-digit dates are interpreted as being in the range 1989 to 2088. A two-digit year less than 89 will be interpreted as 20nn and a two-digit year more than or equal to 89 will be treated as 19nn.<br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType |
| calendarLanguage | String<br>The language that is used when the pattern produces a presentation in text. For example 'Monday'<br>The valid values must match the regular expression:<br>`([A-Za-z]{1,8}([\-][A-Za-z0-9]{1,8})*)`<br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType |

### 13.11.1 The dfdl:calendarPattern property

The dfdl:calendarPattern describes how to parse and unparse text and binary representations of dateTime, date and time logical types. The pattern is primarily used on unparsing to define the format but is also used to aid parsing.

The pattern is derived from the ICU SimpleDatetimeFormat class described here: [ICUCalForm]

An extension is the formatting symbols I which means accept a subset of ISO 8601 compliant calendars

Another extension is the use of 'U', to provide modifications of formatting symbols IU and ZU which specifies special use of 'Z' to represent the UTC time zone.

| Symbol | | Meaning | Presentation | Example | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | | era designator | Text | G | AD |
| y | | year | Number | y, yyyy<br>yy | 1996<br>96 |
| u | | year (allows negative years) | Number | u | 1900, 0, -500 |
| Y | | year (of the week of year) | Number | Y | 1997 |
| M | | month in year | Text & Number | M, MM<br>MMM<br>MMMM<br>MMMMM | 09<br>Sept<br>September<br>S |
| d | | day in month | Number | d<br>dd | 2<br>02 |
| h | | hour in am/pm (1~12) | Number | h<br>hh | 7<br>07 |
| H | | hour in day (0~23) | Number | H<br>HH | 0<br>00 |
| m | | minute in hour | Number | m<br>mm | 4<br>04 |
| s | | second in minute | Number | s<br>ss | 5<br>05 |
| S | | fractional second (see note 1) | Number | S<br>SS<br>SSS | 2<br>24<br>235 |
| E | | day of week | Text | E, EE, EEE<br>EEEE<br>EEEEE | Tues<br>Tuesday<br>T |
| e | | day of week (local) | Text & Number | e, ee<br>eee<br>eeee<br>eeeee | 2<br>Tues<br>Tuesday<br>T |
| D | | day in year | Number | D | 189 |
| F | | day of week in month | Number | F | 2 (2nd Wed in July) |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| w | | week in year | Number | w, ww | 27 |
| W | | week in month | Number | W | 2 |
| a | | am/pm marker | Text | A | pm |
| k | | hour in day (0~24 ) | Number | k<br>kk | 2, 24<br>02, 24 |
| K | | hour in am/pm (0~11) | Number | K<br>KK | 0<br>00 |
| z | | Time Zone: specific non-location | Text | z, zz, zzz<br>zzzz | PDT<br>Pacific Daylight Time |
| Z | | Time Zone: RFC 822<br>Time Zone: localized GMT | Text | Z, ZZ, ZZZ<br>ZZZZ | -0800, +0000<br>GMT-08:00, GMT+00:00 |
| ZU | | As Z but with output "Z" if the time zone is +00:00 | Text | ZU, ZZU, ZZZU<br>ZZZZU | -0800, Z<br>GMT-08:00, Z |
| v | | Time Zone: generic non-location | Text | v<br>vvvv | PT<br>Pacific Time |
| V | | Time Zone: generic non-location | Text | V<br>VVVV | PT<br>United States (Los Angeles) |
| I | | ISO8601 Date/Time | Text | I | 2006-10-07T12:06:56.568+01:00 |
| IU | | As I but with output "Z" if the time zone is +00:00 | Text | IU | 2006-10-07T12:06:56.568Z |
| ' | | escape for text | Delimiter | ' | 'Date=' |
| '' | | single quote | Literal | '' | 'o''clock' |

Any number of fractional seconds "S" may by specified in the pattern and accepted by implementations, but an implementation is free to represent a limited number of fractional seconds internally. Round up rounding must occur when converting between external and internal representations. At least millisecond accuracy must be implemented. Unlike other fields, fractional seconds are padded on the right with zero.

The count of pattern letters determines the format as indicated in the table.

If dfdl:representation is text, any characters in the pattern that are not in the ranges of ['a'..'z'] and ['A'..'Z'] will be treated as quoted text. For instance, characters like ':', '.', ' ', '#' and '@' will appear in the formatted output even if they are not embraced within single quotes. The single quote is used to 'escape' letters. If dfdl:representation is binary, any characters in the pattern that are not digits must be quoted.

Two single quotes in a row, whether inside or outside a quoted sequence, represent a 'real' single quote.

The symbols ‘z’, ‘zz’, and ‘zzz’ have identical meaning, as do ‘Z’, ‘ZZ’, and ‘ZZZ’, and ‘ZU’, ‘ZZU’, and ‘ZZZU’.

The 'I' symbol must not be used with any other symbol with the exception of 'escape for text'. It represents calendar formats that match those defined in the restricted profile of the ISO 8601 standard proposed by the W3C at http://www.w3.org/TR/NOTE-datetime. The formats are referred to as 'granularities'.

- xs:dateTime. When parsing, the data must match one of the granularities. When unparsing, the fullest granularity is used.
- xs:date. When parsing, the data must match one of the date-only granularities. When unparsing, the fullest date-only granularity is used. 'IU' is permitted for xs:date but the 'U' is ignored as there is no time zone in the date-only granularities.
- xs:time. When parsing, the data must match only the time components of one of the granularities that contains time components. When unparsing, the time components of the fullest granularity are used. The literal 'T' character is not expected in the data when parsing and is not output when unparsing.
- The number of fractional second digits supported is implementation dependent but must be at least one.

When parsing, for any pattern that omits components the values for the omitted components are supplied from the Unix epoch 1970-01-01T00:00:00.000.[21]

When unparsing, and the pattern contains a formatting symbol that requires a component of the date/time and the infoset value does not contain that component, it is a processing error.

When parsing a calendar element with a packed decimal representation then the nibbles from the data are converted to text digits without any trimming of leading or trailing zeros, and the result is then matched against the pattern according to the usual rules.

### 13.12 Properties specific to calendar with Text representation

| Property Name | Description |
|---|---|
| textCalendarJustification | Enum<br>Valid values ‘left’, ‘right’, ‘center’<br>Controls how the data is padded or trimmed on parsing and unparsing.<br>Behavior as for dfdl:textStringJustification.<br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType |
| textCalendarPadCharacter | DFDL String Literal<br>The value that is used when padding or trimming calendar elements. The value can be a single character or a single byte.<br>If a character, then it can be specified using a literal character or using DFDL entities.<br>If a byte, then it must be specified using a single byte value entity<br>If a pad character is specified when dfdl:lengthUnits='bytes' then the pad character must be a single-byte character. |

[21] Note that DFDL does not support a pure month or day or year, as it does not support the XSD simple types xs:gMonth, xs:gDay, and xs:gYear.

| | |
|---|---|
| | If a pad byte is specified when dfdl:lengthUnits='characters' then<br>- the encoding must be a fixed-width encoding<br>- padding and trimming must be applied using a sequence of N pad bytes, where N is the width of a character in the fixed-width encoding.<br><br>The string literal value is restricted in the same way as described in *"Padding Character Restrictions"* in the description of the textStringPadCharacter property.<br><br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType |

### 13.13 Properties specific to Calendar with Binary Representation

| Property Name | Description |
|---|---|
| binaryCalendarRep | Enum<br><br>Valid values are 'packed', 'bcd', 'ibm4690Packed', 'binarySeconds', 'binaryMilliseconds'<br><br>For all values, the dfdl:byteOrder property is used to determine the numeric significance of the bytes making up the representation.<br><br>'packed' means represented as an IBM 390 packed decimal. Each byte contains two decimal digits, except for the rightmost byte, which contains a sign to the right of a decimal digit.<br><br>'bcd' means represented as a binary coded decimal with two digits per byte.<br><br>'ibm4690Packed' means represented as a variant of packed format as described in property dfdl:binaryNumberRep.<br><br>For packed decimals the following properties are also applicable<br>• dfdl:binaryPackedSignCodes ('packed' only)<br>• dfdl:binaryNumberCheckPolicy<br><br>For packed decimals the property dfdl:calendarPatternKind must be 'explicit' because the default patterns for 'implicit' use non-numeric characters. It is a schema definition error otherwise. Similarly, dfdl:calendarPattern can contain only characters and symbols that always result in the presentation of digits.<br><br>See Properties specific to numbers with binary representation section : 13.7 Properties Specific to Numbers with Binary representation.<br><br>Note also that a virtual decimal point for the boundary between seconds and fractional seconds is implied from the pattern at the boundary of 's' and 'S', i.e., where the substring 'sS' appears in the pattern.<br><br>'binarySeconds' means represented as a 4 byte signed integer that is the number of seconds from the epoch (positive or negative). It is a schema definition error if there is a specified length not equivalent to 4 bytes.<br><br>'binaryMilliseconds' means represented as an 8 byte signed |

| | |
|---|---|
| | integer that is the number of milliseconds from the epoch (positive or negative). It is a schema definition error if there is a specified length not equivalent to 8 bytes.<br>binarySeconds and binaryMilliseconds may only be used when the type is xs:dateTime. (It is a schema definition error otherwise.)<br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType |
| binaryCalendarEpoch | DateTime<br>Used when dfdl:binaryCalendarRep is 'binarySeconds' or 'binaryMilliseconds'<br>The epoch from which to calculate dates and times.<br>If the time zone is omitted from the value, then UTC is used.<br>Annotation: dfdl:element, dfdl:simpleType |

Examples of packed decimal format calendars for December 14, 1923 and calendarPattern of 'MMddyy' would be:

packed: (hexadecimal) `01 21 42 3C`,

bcd: (hexadecimal) `12 14 23`

ibm4690Packed: (hexadecimal) `12 14 23`

The 'C' nibble at the end of the 'packed' representation is a sign nibble, and the leading 0 nibble is just to align to a byte boundary..

### 13.14 Properties Specific to Opaque Types (hexBinary)

There are no properties specific to opaque types

### 13.15 Nils and Default processing

This section describes details of two related concepts, nil values, and default processing.

Sometimes it is desirable to represent an unused element, place-holder for unknown information, or inapplicable information *explicitly* with an element, rather than by an absent element.

For example, it may be desirable to represent a sparsely populated array of data using a distinguished nil element to fill the locations where data is absent, thereby preserving the position for the elements that are present.

Such cases can be represented using the DFDL nil mechanism which is based on the XML Schema's nil mechanism. DFDL provides what are commonly called "in-band" nil values by way of dfdl:nilKind='logicalValue', and also provides for literal text indicators of nil through dfdl:nilKind='literalValue' and dfdl:nilKind='literalCharacter'.Nil processing is used when the XSDL 'nillable' attribute of an element is true.

DFDL allows elements of complex type to be nillable. However, to avoid the concept of a complex element having a value, which is not possible in DFDL, the only permissible nil value is the empty string, represented by the DFDL %ES; entity using dfdl:nilKind='literalValue'.

Default processing provides a value for an element that is missing from the data stream on parsing or the infoset on unparsing. Default processing applies to both simple and complex elements.

**Definition 'has default'**

A simple element has a default if any of these are true:

The xs:default attribute exists. The default value is the attribute's value.

1. The xs:fixed attribute exists. The default value is the attribute's value.
2. The element has xs:nillable='true' and dfdl:useNilForDefault is specified. The default value is nil.

A complex element has a default if either:

1. The content model is a sequence and all the required children of a complex element have a default.
2. The content model is a choice and one of the choice branches has a default. The default is the first choice branch in schema definition order to have a default.

Otherwise the element has no default.

**Definition: 'required parent context'**

A required element (defined below) is only required when its enclosing parent element is one of the following

- The document root
- A required element within a sequence.
- An optional element or variable array element that is not missing within a sequence
- The selected branch of a xs:choice

**Definition: 'required element'**

When an element is in a 'required parent context', we define the term 'required element' to be :

- An occurence of a fixed array element
- An occurrence of a variable array element if its index is less than or equal to the value of minOccurs.
- An occurrence of a non-optional and non-array element. (minOccurs='1' and maxOccurs='1', or one or both of those are not mentioned on the element declaration or element reference.)

On parsing, a required element in a required parent context must produce a value in the infoset otherwise it is a processing error.

On unparsing a required element in a required parent context must produce a value in the augmented infoset otherwise it is a processing error.

**Definition 'missing element'**

On parsing, an element is missing

- IF an initiator is defined AND dfdl:emptyValueDelimiterPolicy is 'initiator' or 'both' but the initiator is not found in the data stream. OR the content region (which can be either the SimpleContent region or the ComplexContent region defined in Section **Error! Reference source not found.**) in the data stream is empty.

n unparsing, an element is missing if it is not in the infoset.

**Definition 'is nil'**

On parsing, an element is nil if xs:nillable is 'true' AND one of the following:

1. dfdl:nilKind is 'logicalValue' and the ***SimpleRepresentation*** region of the data stream, converted to its logical type, matches any of the dfdl:nilValue values.

2. dfdl:nilKind is 'literalValue' and the ***SimpleRepresentation*** region of the data stream matches any of the dfdl:nilValue values
3. dfdl:nilKind is 'literalCharacter' and all characters in the ***SimpleRepresentation*** region of the data stream match the dfdl:nilValue character.
4. dfdl:nilKind is 'literalValue', dfdl:nilValue is "%ES;", the type is complex, and the ***ComplexContent*** region of the data stream matches the empty representation..

Note that property nilValueDelimiterPolicy controls whether matching one of the nilValues also involves matching the initiator or terminator specified by the element. A nil indicator may or may not also require the delmiters that data elements require.

On unparsing an element is nil if xs:nillable is 'true' AND the element value is nil in the infoset.

**Definition 'nil output representation'**

The 'nil output representation' is one of the following:

1. When dfdl:nilKind is 'logicalValue' then the representation is the first value of dfdl:nilValue converted to the physical representation.
2. When dfdl:nilKind is 'literalValue' then the representation is the first value of dfdl:nilValue
3. When dfdl:nilKind is 'literalCharacter' then the representation is the character from dfdl:nilValue repeated to the needed length

### 13.15.1 Nils and Defaults on Parsing

For simple elements the following applies:

- If 'missing element':
  1. If both dfdl:initiator and dfdl:terminator are not specified
     a. If 'is nil' then the infoset value is nil
     b. Else if 'required element', and 'has a default' then the infoset value is the value provided by the default
     c. Else If 'required element', it is a processing error
     d. Otherwise nothing is added to the infoset
  2. Otherwise
     a. If 'is nil' and the initiator and/or terminator comply with dfdl:nilValueDelimiterPolicy then the infoset value is nil
     b. Else if 'required element', and 'has a default' and the initiator and/or terminator comply with dfdl:emptyValueDelimiterPolicy then the infoset value is the value provided by the default
     c. Else If 'required element', it is a processing error
     d. Otherwise nothing is added to the infoset
- Otherwise
  1. If both dfdl:initiator and dfdl:terminator are not specified
     a. If 'is nil' then the infoset value is nil
     b. Otherwise the infoset value is the parsed value from the data stream

2. Otherwise

    a. If 'is nil' and the initiator and/or terminator comply with dfdl:nilValueDelimiterPolicy then the infoset value is nil

    b. Otherwise the infoset value is the parsed value from the data stream

For complex elements the following applies:

- If 'missing element':

1. If both dfdl:initiator and dfdl:terminator are not specified

    a. If 'required element', and 'has a default' then the element is added to the Infoset and 'missing element' processing is applied to all child elements.

    b. Else if 'required element' it is a processing error

    c. Otherwise nothing is added to the infoset

2. Otherwise

    a. If 'required element', and 'has a default' and the initiator and/or terminator comply with dfdl:emptyValueDelimiterPolicy then the element is added to the infoset and 'missing element' processing is applied to all child elements.

    b. Else if 'required element' it is a processing error

    c. Otherwise nothing is added to the infoset

Otherwise the element is added to the infoset.

**13.15.2 Nils and Defaults on Unparsing**

For simple elements the following applies:

- If 'missing element'

1. If both dfdl:initiator and dfdl:terminator are not specified

    a. If 'required element' and 'has a default' then the value to be output is provided by the default value.

    b. Else if 'required element' it is a processing error

    c. Otherwise nothing is output

2. Otherwise

    a. If 'required element' and 'has a default' then the value to be output is provided by the default, with initiator and/or terminator as controlled by dfdl:emptyValueDelimiterPolicy if the value is the empty string or dfdl:nilValueDelimiterPolicy if dfdl:useNilForDefault' is 'true' .

    b. Else if 'required element' it is a processing error

    c. Otherwise nothing is output

- Otherwise

1. If xs:nillable is not 'true' and the infoset value is nil it is a processing error.

2. Else if both dfdl:initiator and dfdl:terminator are not specified

    a. If 'is nil' then the nil representation is output .

    b. Otherwise output the unparsed representation of the value from the infoset..

3. Otherwise

    a. If 'is nil' then the 'nil output representation' is output with initiator and/or terminator as controlled by dfdl:nilValueDelimiterPolicy.

    b. Otherwise output the unparsed representation of the value from the infoset with initiator and/or terminator as controlled by dfdl:emptyValueDelimiterPolicy if the value is the empty string.

For complex elements the following applies:

- If 'missing element'
    1. If both dfdl:initiator and dfdl:terminator are not specified

        a. If 'required element' and 'has a default' then 'missing element' processing is applied to all child elements.

        b. Else if 'required element' it is a processing error

        c. Otherwise nothing is output

    2. Otherwise

        a. If 'required element' and 'has a default' then 'missing element' processing is applied to all child elements, and initiator and/or terminator are output (as controlled by dfdl:emptyValueDelimiterPolicy if the children's total representation is the empty string).

        b. Else if 'required element' it is a processing error

        c. Otherwise nothing is output

- Otherwise
    1. If dfdl:initiator and dfdl:terminator are not specified then nothing is output for this element.
    2. Else if dfdl:initiator and/or dfdl:terminator are specified then the initiator and/or terminator are output as controlled by dfdl:emptyValueDelimiterPolicy if the children's total representation is the empty string

### 13.16 Properties for Nillable Elements

These properties are used when the XSDL 'nillable' attribute of an element is true, and they control when and how the representation data are interpreted as having the logical meaning 'nil'. They apply only to elements of simple type.

| Property Name | Description |
|---|---|
| nilKind | Enum<br>Valid values 'literalValue', 'logicalValue', 'literalCharacter',<br>Used when xs:nillable is 'true'<br>Specifies how dfdl:nilValue is interpreted to represent the nil value in the data stream.. |

| | |
|---|---|
| | If 'literalCharacter' then dfdl:nilValue specifies a single character or a single byte that, when repeated to the length of the element, is the nil value. 'literalCharacter' may only be specified for fixed length elements, that is dfdl:lengthKind 'implicit' and 'explicit' when dfdl:length is not a DFDL expression, otherwise it is a schema definition error.<br><br>If 'literalValue' then dfdl:nilValue specifies a list of DFDL literal strings that are the possible representations for nil.<br><br>If 'logicalValue' then dfdl:nilValue specifies a list of logical values that are the possible logical values for nil.<br><br>Complex elements can be nillable, but nilKind can only be 'literalValue' and nilValue must be "%ES;". It is a schema definition error otherwise.<br><br>Annotation: dfdl:element(simpleType) |
| nilValue | List of DFDL String Literals, List of Logical Values, DFDL String Literal<br><br>Specifies the text strings that are the possible literal or logical nil values of the element.<br><br>If dfdl:nilKind is 'literalValue' then nilValue specifies a white space separated list of DFDL literal strings that are the possible representations for nil. On parsing the element value is nil if the trimmed data matches one of the literal strings in the list. On unparsing if the element value is nil the first nilValue from the list is output.<br><br>If dfdl:nilKind is 'logicalValue' then nilValue specifies a white space separated list of logical values that are the possible logical values for nil. On parsing the element value is nil if the data, converted to its logical type, matches any of the logical values in the list. On unparsing if the element value is nil, the first nilValue from the list is converted to its physical representation and output.<br><br>If dfdl:nilKind is 'literalCharacter' then nilValue specifies a single character or byte that, when repeated to the length of the element, is the nil representation. If a character, then it can be specified using a literal character or using DFDL entities. If a character is specified when dfdl:lengthUnits='bytes' then the nilValue must be a single-byte character. If a byte, then it must be specified using a single %#r entity If a byte is specified when dfdl:lengthUnits='characters' then the encoding must be a fixed-width encoding<br><br>On parsing the element value is nil if all characters in the untrimmed data content match the nilValue character . On unparsing if the element value is nil the nilValue character is output to the needed length.<br><br>There are restrictions on the string literal syntax of nilValue.<br><br>When nilKind is literalValue and representation is text:<br>o DFDL character entities are allowed<br>o The raw byte entity ( %#r ) is allowed |

| | |
|---|---|
| | ○ DFDL Character classes ( NL, WSP, WSP+, WSP*, ES ) are allowed.<br>When nilKind is literal value and representation is binary:<br>○ DFDL character entities are allowed<br>○ The raw byte entity ( %#r ) is allowed<br>○ DFDL Character class ES is allowed.<br>○ Other DFDL Character classes ( NL, WSP, WSP+, WSP* ) are not allowed.<br>When nilKind is literalCharacter and representation is text:<br>○ DFDL character entities are allowed<br>○ The raw byte entity ( %#r ) is allowed subject to the restrictions already documented for this property<br>○ DFDL Character classes ( NL, WSP, WSP+, WSP*, ES ) are not allowed.<br>When nilKind is literalCharacter and representation is binary:<br>○ DFDL character entities are allowed<br>○ The raw byte entity ( %#r ) is allowed<br>○ DFDL Character classes ( NL, WSP, WSP+, WSP*, ES ) are not allowed.<br>nilValue is sensitive to ignoreCase when nilKind is 'literalValue' or 'logicalValue', but not when nilKind is 'literalCharacter'<br>Complex elements can be nillable, but nilKind can only be 'literalValue' and nilValue must be "%ES;". It is a schema definition error otherwise.<br>Annotation: dfdl:element(simpleType) |
| nilValueDelimiterPolicy | Enum<br>Valid values are 'none', 'initiator', 'terminator' or 'both'.<br>Indicates that when the value nil is represented, an initiator (if one is defined), a terminator (if one is defined), both an initiator and a terminator (if defined) or neither must be present.<br>Ignored if both dfdl:initiator and dfdl:terminator are "" (empty string).<br>Ignored if nilKind is set to 'logicalValue' In this case the DFDL processor treats a nil representation like any other representation of the element in that it expects delimiters when parsing, outputs them when unparsing.<br>'initiator' indicates that, on parsing, the dfdl:initiator followed by one of the dfdl:nilValue is the necessary syntax to indicate that a nil representation is present. It also indicates that on unparsing when the logical value is nil that the dfdl:initiator will be output followed by the first of the dfdl:nilValue.<br>'terminator' indicates that, on parsing, one of the dfdl:nilValue followed by the dfdl:terminator is the necessary syntax to indicate that a nil representation is present. It also indicates that on unparsing when the logical value is nil the first of the dfdl:nilValue followed by the dfdl:terminator will be output.<br>'both' indicates that, on parsing, both the dfdl:initiator and |

| | |
|---|---|
| | dfdl:terminator must be present with one of the dfdl:nilValue to indicate that a nil representation is present. On unparsing the dfdl:initiator followed by the first dfdl:nilValue, followed by the dfdl:terminator will be output.<br>'none' indicates that one of the dfdl:nilValue without any dfdl:initiator or dfdl:terminator triggers creation of a nil value. On unparsing the first of the dfdl:nilValue is output without the dfdl:initiator or dfdl:terminator.<br>It is a schema definition error if dfdl:nilValueDelimiterPolicy is set to 'none' or 'terminator' when the parent xs:sequence has dfdl:initiatedContent 'yes'.<br>Annotation: dfdl:element(simpleType) |

### 13.17 Properties for Default Value Control

The DFDL default processing uses xs:default, xs:fixed or dfdl:useNilForDefault to provide a default value. See section 13.15 Nils and Default processing for a full description.

| Property Name | Description |
|---|---|
| useNilForDefault | Enum<br>Valid values are 'yes', 'no'<br>Use nil as the default value<br>This property has precedence over the xs:default and xs:fixed attributes. It is only used, and must be defined, if xs:nillable is true.<br>Defaulting occurs as described above with nil as the default value. The dfdl:nilValue property must specify at least one nil value otherwise a schema definition error occurs.<br>Annotation: dfdl:element (simpleType) |

## 14. Sequence Groups

The following properties are specific to sequences.

| Property Name | Description |
|---|---|
| sequenceKind | Enum<br>Valid values are 'ordered', 'unordered'<br>When 'ordered', this property means that the contained items of the sequence will be encountered in the same order that they appear in the schema, which is called schema-definition-order.<br>When 'unordered', this property means that the items of the sequence will be encountered in any order. Repeating occurences of the same element do not need to be contiguous. The children of an unordered sequence MUST be xs:element otherwise it is a schema definition error.<br>Annotation: dfdl:sequence, dfdl:group (sequence) |
| initiatedContent | Enum<br>Valid values are 'yes', 'no'<br>When 'yes' indicates that all the children of the sequence are initiated. It is a schema definition error if any children have their dfdl:initiator property set to the empty string.<br>If the child is optional then it is deemed to have been found when its initiator has been found. Any subsequent error parsing the child will not cause the parser to backtrack to try other alternatives.<br>When 'no', the children of the sequence may have their dfdl:initiator property set to the empty string.<br>Annotation: dfdl:sequence, dfdl:choice, dfdl:group |

A sequence can have an initiator and/or a terminator as described earlier.

### 14.1 Empty Sequences

A sequence having no children is syntactically legal in DFDL. In the data stream, such a sequence can have non-zero length ***LeftFraming*** and ***RightFraming*** regions, but the SequenceContent region in between must be empty. It is a processing error if the SequenceContent region of an empty sequence has non-zero length when parsing.

XML schema does not define an empty sequence that is the content model of a complex type definition as effective content so any DFDL annotations on such a construct would be ignored. It is a schema definition error if the empty sequence is the content model of a complex type, or if a complex type has nothing in its content model at all.

### 14.2 Sequence Groups with Delimiters

The following additional properties apply to sequence groups that use text delimiters to separate child content.

| Property Name | Description |
|---|---|
| separator | List of DFDL String Literals or DFDL Expression<br><br>Specifies a whitespace separated list of alternative literal strings that are the possible separators between a sequence of elements or multiple occurrences of an element.<br><br>This property can be computed by way of an expression which returns a string of whitespace separated values. The expression must not contain forward references to elements which have not yet been processed.<br><br>The ***Separator, PrefixSeparator*** and ***PostfixSeparator*** regions contain one of the strings specified by the dfdl:separator property. When this property has "" (empty string) as its value then the separator region is of length zero. It is not permitted for an expression to return an empty string. That is a schema definition error.<br><br>When parsing, the list of values is processed in a greedy manner, meaning it takes all the separators, that is, each of the string literals in the white space separated list, and matches them each against the data. In each case the longest possible match is found. The separator with the longest match is the one that is selected as having been 'found', with length-ties being resolved so that the matching separator is selected that is first in the order written in the schema. Once a matching separator is found, no other matches will be subsequently attempted (ie, there is no backtracking).<br><br>On unparsing the first separator in the list is used as the separator.<br><br>If a child element uses an escape scheme, then the escape scheme also applies to any separator.<br><br>If dfdl:ignoreCase is 'yes' then the case of the string is ignored by the parser.<br><br>Annotation: dfdl:sequence, dfdl:group (sequence) |
| separatorPosition | Enum<br><br>Valid values 'infix', 'prefix', 'postfix'<br><br>'infix' means the separator occurs between the elements in the ***Separator*** grammar region.<br><br>'prefix' means the separator occurs before each element n both the ***Separator*** grammar region and the ***PrefixSeparator*** grammar region.<br><br>'postfix' means the separator occurs after each element in the ***Separator*** grammar region and the ***PostfixSeparator*** grammar region. |

| | |
|---|---|
| | Annotation: dfdl:sequence, dfdl:group (sequence). |
| separatorSuppressionPolicy | Enum<br>Valid values 'never', 'anyEmpty', 'trailingEmpty', 'trailingEmptyStrict'<br>Only applicable if separator is not "" (empty string) and sequenceKind is 'ordered'.<br>Controls the circumstances when separators are expected in the data when parsing, or generated when unparsing, if an element occurrence or group has a representation of length zero.<br>See section 0<br>Sequence Groups and Separators.<br>When sequenceKind is 'unordered' then 'anyEmpty' is implied.<br>Annotation: dfdl:sequence, dfdl:group (sequence)'never', 'anyEmpty', 'trailingEmpty', 'trailingEmptyStrict''anyEmpty' 'trailingEmptyStrict' 'trailingEmpty' referencing a |

### 14.2.1 Sequence Groups and Separators

A number of issues arise in explaining sequence groups having separators.There are 5 distinct kinds of sequence groups:

| sequenceKind | separatorSuppressionPolicy | Implications |
|---|---|---|
| Ordered | never | All occurrences MUST be found in the data, along with their associated separator. |
| Ordered | trailingEmptyStrict | Trailing occurrences that have zero length representation MUST be omitted from the data, along with their associated separator. |
| Ordered | trailingEmpty | Trailing occurrences that have zero length representation MAY be omitted from the data, along with their associated separator. |
| Ordered | anyEmpty | Occurrences that have zero length representation MAY be omitted from the data, along with their associated separator. It must be possible for speculative parsing to identify which elements are present. |
| Unordered | ignored (anyEmpty behavior is implied for unordered sequences) | |

**Table 20 Sequence groups and separators**

Note: In the sections below, it is important that the information is interpreted correctly. The separatorSuppressionPolicy property is carried on the sequence. The occursCountKind property is carried on an *element* in that sequence.

**14.2.1 Sequence Groups and Separators**

When parsing a sequence group that specifies a separator, the number of occurrences and separators that are expected in the data stream for a child element depends on several factors:

- Whether the element is required
- The occursCountKind of the element
- The separatorSuppressionPolicy of the sequence
- Whether occurrences are optional or required
- Whether occurrences are trailing
- The representation of the occurrences

*Potentially trailing element* – An array or optional element describes an occurrence that is said to be *potentially trailing* if the element is capable of having a zero length representation and is followed in its enclosing group definition by only additional potentially trailing elements or potentially trailing groups.

*Potentially trailing group* – A group is said to be *potentially trailing* if the group has no framing and contains only potentially trailing element declarations/references, or recursively similar sequence or choice groups, and is followed in its enclosing group definition by only additional potentially trailing elements or potentially trailing groups.

*Trailing or Actually Trailing* – An element occurrence or group occurrence in the data is said to be actually *trailing* if it is potentially trailing and has zero-length representation and is not followed in the data by any other non-zero length element occurrence or group occurrence.

It is a schema definition error if a sequence has separatorSuppressionPolicy 'never' and a child element has occursCountKind 'implicit' and maxOccurs 'unbounded'.

It is a schema definition error if a sequence has separatorSuppressionPolicy 'trailingEmptyStrict' or 'trailingEmpty', and a child element has occursCountKind 'implicit' and maxOccurs 'unbounded' and either the child element cannot have potentially trailing occurrences or the child element can have potentially trailing occurrences but the element is not declared last in the sequence.

### 14.2.2 Parsing

When an element is required and is not an array then one occurrence is always expected along with its separator. The separatorSuppressionPolicy is not applicable and the implied behaviour is 'never'.

Otherwise the behaviour is dependent on occursCountKind.

When occursCountKind is 'fixed' minOccurs occurrences are always expected along with their separators. The separatorSuppressionPolicy is not applicable and the implied behaviour is 'never'.

When occursCountKind is 'expression' occursCount occurrences are always expected along with their separators. The separatorSuppressionPolicy is not applicable and the implied behaviour is 'never'.

When occursCountKind is 'parsed' any number of occurrences and their separators are expected. The separatorSuppressionPolicy is not applicable and the implied behaviour is 'anyEmpty'.

When occursCountKind is 'stopValue', any number of occurrences and their separators are expected followed by the stop value and its separator. The separatorSuppressionPolicy is not applicable and the implied behaviour is 'anyEmpty'.

When occursCountKind is 'implicit', between minOccurs and maxOccurs (inclusive) occurrences and their separators are expected. The separatorSuppressionPolicy is applicable and determines when separators are expected for optional zero length occurrences.

The behaviour for 'implicit' is more fully expressed in matrix form. The cells in the matrix give the number of occurrences of element values that are expected in the data stream when parsing, for the different values of separatorSuppressionPolicy. The number of occurrences also depends whether maxOccurs is unbounded or not, and the position of the element in the sequence. The number of separators can be inferred from this, taking into account separatorPosition.

<table>
<tr><th rowspan="4">separatorSuppressionPolicy</th><th colspan="5">occursCountKind implicit</th></tr>
<tr><th colspan="4">Potentially Trailing</th><th rowspan="2">Not Potentially Trailing</th></tr>
<tr><th colspan="2">maxOccurs unbounded</th><th colspan="2">maxOccurs bounded</th></tr>
<tr><th>element not declared last</th><th>element declared last</th><th>element declared last, or occurrence followed by end-of-group</th><th>element not declared last, and occurrence not followed by end-of-group</th><th>maxOccurs unbounded</th><th>maxOccurs bounded</th></tr>
<tr><td>never</td><td rowspan="3">schema definition error</td><td rowspan="2">RepDef(min) ~ Rep(M < INF)</td><td colspan="2" rowspan="2">RepDef(min) ~ Rep(max - min)</td><td rowspan="3">schema definition error</td><td rowspan="3">RepDef(min) ~ Rep(max - min)</td></tr>
<tr><td>trailingEmptyStrict</td></tr>
<tr><td>trailingEmpty</td><td rowspan="2">RepDef(min) ~ Rep(M <= max - min)</td></tr>
<tr><td>anyEmpty</td><td colspan="2"></td><td>RepDef(min) ~ Rep(M < INF)</td><td>RepDef(min) ~ Rep(M <= max - min)</td></tr>
</table>

*Terminology used in the matrix:*

RepDef(min) means minOccurs occurrences of nil, empty or normal representation[22]. These are required occurrences so default rules apply for empty representations. If permitted, minOccurs may be 0, in which case there are no occurrences.

Rep(M) means M occurrences of nil, empty, normal or absent representation. These are optional occurrences so default rules do not apply for empty representations.

RepNonZero(1) means an occurrence of a nil, empty or normal representation where such a representation does not have zero-length[23]. This is an optional occurrence so default rules do not apply.

### 14.2.3 Unparsing

When an element is required and is not an array then one occurrence is always output along with its separator. The separatorSuppressionPolicy is not applicable and the implied behaviour is 'never'.

[22] Absent representation implies processing error for 'implicit' when less than or equal to minOccurs.

[23] Absent representation always implies zero-length.

Otherwise the behaviour is dependent on occursCountKind.

When occursCountKind is 'fixed' or 'expression' the occurrences in the augmented Infoset are always output along with their separators. The separatorSuppressionPolicy is not applicable and the implied behaviour is 'never'.

When occursCountKind is 'parsed' non zero-length occurrences in the augmented Infoset are output along with their separators. The separatorSuppressionPolicy is not applicable and the implied behaviour is 'anyEmpty'.

When occursCountKind is 'stopValue' non zero-length occurrences in the augmented Infoset are output along with their separators followed by the stop value and its separator. The separatorSuppressionPolicy is not applicable and the implied behaviour is 'anyEmpty'.

When occursCountKind is 'implicit' the occurrences in the augmented Infoset are output along with their separators. The separatorSuppressionPolicy is applicable and helps determine whether optional zero length occurrences and their separators are output.

The behaviour for 'implicit' is more fully expressed in matrix form. The cells in the matrix give the number of occurrences of element values that are output to the data stream when unparsing, for the different values of separatorSuppressionPolicy. The number of occurrences also depends whether maxOccurs is unbounded or not, and the position of the element in the sequence. The number of separators output can be inferred from this, taking into account separatorPosition.

<table>
<tr><td rowspan="4">separatorSuppressionPolicy</td><td colspan="5">occursCountKind implicit</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">Potentially Trailing</td><td rowspan="2">Not Potentially Trailing</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">maxOccurs unbounded</td><td colspan="2">maxOccurs bounded</td></tr>
<tr><td>element not declared last</td><td>element declared last</td><td>element declared last, or occurrence followed by end-of-group</td><td>element not declared last, and occurrence not followed by end-of-group</td><td>maxOccurs unbounded</td><td>maxOccurs bounded</td></tr>
<tr><td>never</td><td rowspan="3">schema definition error</td><td colspan="3" rowspan="3">unparse N occurrences ~ unparse (maxOccurs – N) trailing zero-length occurrences</td><td rowspan="3">schema definition error</td><td rowspan="3">unparse N occurrences ~ unparse (maxOccurs – N) trailing zero-length occurrences</td></tr>
<tr><td>trailingEmptyStrict</td></tr>
<tr><td>trailingEmpty</td><td colspan="2">unparse N occurrences (suppressing trailing zero-length reps)</td></tr>
<tr><td>anyEmpty</td><td colspan="6">unparse N occurrences (suppressing any optional zero-length occurrences)</td></tr>
</table>

*Terminology used in the matrix:*

**N is the number of elements in the augmented Infoset, which includes any defaults.**

### 14.2.4 Round Trip Ambiguities

This section highlights some situations where taking an Infoset, unparsing it, and reparsing it will result in a second Infoset that is not the same as the original. (However taking the second Infoset, unparsing it, and reparsing it, will result in a third Infoset which is the same as the second.)

When unparsing, if a string Infoset item happens to contain a string that matches either one of the nilValues or the default value, it does not matter, the string's characters are output, or if the value

is the empty string, zero length content is output. (Along with an initiator or terminator if defined.) This creates an ambiguity where one can unparse an Infoset item which is not the special value *nil*, but when reparsed will produce *nil* in the Infoset.

These ambiguities are natural. If the nilValue ”nil”, then encountering the characters “nil” in the data stream will parse to produce the special value *nil* in the Infoset. If you unparsed a string infoset item with contents of the characters “nil”, this will be output as the letters “nil”, which on parse will not produce a string with the characters “nil”, but rather the special value *nil* in the Infoset.

To avoid this issue, one can use validation, along with a pattern that prevents the string from matching any of the nil values.

Similarly, for some formats that use separators, when unparsing and there is no Infoset item, the unparser may still output a zero-length representation (meaning optional and not present). In this situation, one can unparse an Infoset where there is no Infoset item, but reparsing that data will create an Infoset item with special value *nil* or an empty string.

Example: A nillable optional array element with occursCountKind ‘implicit’ and %ES; is the first nilValue, within a separated sequence with separatorSuppressionPolicy ”never”, but not potentially trailing. If there are less than maxOccurs items in the Infoset, separators will be output up to maxOccurs with zero length between the separators. On parsing, those zero lengths will be interpreted as *nil*, so the array element will always have maxOccurs Infoset items, some of which will be *nil*.

### 14.3 Unordered Sequence Groups

In DFDL, ordered and unordered are characteristics of the representation only. Logically, sequence groups are always in schema order.

The semantics of unordered groups (sequence with dfdl:sequenceKind='unordered' property) are expressed by way of a source-to-source transformation of the declaration, and by a data transformation on the resulting infoset. An implementation may use any technique consistent with this semantic.

The source to source transformation turns the declaration of an unordered group into an ordered sequence that contains an array element that contains a choice. Each element declaration of the unordered group becomes an alternative element within the choice. The unordered group's separator and terminator become the Separator and Terminator of the surrounding sequence. The dfdl:sequenceKind property is dropped, but other DFDL annotation properties are preserved. The xs:maxOccurs and xs:minOccurs on any element of the unordered sequence are dropped when the element is placed into the choice.

For example:

```
<xs:sequence dfdl:sequenceKind="unordered">
  <xs:element name=”a” type="xs:string"
                        dfdl:initiator="A:" />
  <xs:element name=”b” type="xs:int" minOccurs="0"
                        dfdl:initiator="B:" />
  <xs:element name=”c” type="xs:string" minOccurs=”0” maxOccurs="10"
                        dfdl:initiator="C:" />
</xs:sequence>
```

The above is conceptually rewritten into an element declaration and reference like so:

```
<xs:element name="dummy">
  <xs:complexType>
    <xs:choice>
```

```
      <xs:element name="a" type="xs:string" dfdl:initiator="A:" />
      <xs:element name="b" type="xs:int" dfdl:initiator="B:" />
      <xs:element name="c" type="xs:string" dfdl:initiator="C:" />
    </xs:choice>
  </xs:complexType>
</xs:element>

<xs:sequence dfdl:sequenceKind="ordered">
  <xs:element ref="dummy" minOccurs="1" maxOccurs="12"/>
</xs:sequence>
```

Schema definition errors are then detected as for choice group types. Notice how the xs:minOccurs and xs:maxOccurs for the rewritten element reference are computed based on the possible occurrences from the original source.

Processing then constructs this array element by parsing the data.

The post processing then transforms this array back into the original sequence of non-choice elements. That is, the array is then used to populate the infoset corresponding to:

```
<xs:sequence>
  <xs:element name="a" type="xs:string" />
  <xs:element name="b" type="xs:int" minOccurs="0" />
  <xs:element name="c" type="xs:string" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="10" />
</xs:sequence>
```

This is a logical-value to logical-value transformation. Ordered and unordered are characteristics of the representation only. The transformation here is the obvious one where all array elements having the first choice alternative as their value are accumulated into the first child element of the logical sequence. If there is either no such value or more than one such value, then the first child element must be an array or optional declaration (appropriate xs:minOccurs and xs:maxOccurs) so that it can accommodate the number of values found. The dimensionality of the first element must accommodate the number of values actually found. It is a processing error if it cannot. This algorithm repeats for the array elements having the 2nd choice alternative as their value, and so on until all the choice alternative values have been moved into their corresponding elements/arrays in the logical sequence group, and all logical sequence elements have been populated in a manner conforming to their xs:minOccurs constraints.

An unordered sequence is of fixed length if the same sequence is fixed length when the unordered property is removed.

On Unparsing, the behavior is exactly as if dfdl:sequenceKind='ordered'. That is, the elements are output in schema declaration order.

### 14.4 Floating Elements

Elements within an ordered sequence can be designated as floating which means that they can appear in any position within the sequence.[24]

| Property Name | Description |
|---|---|
| Floating | Enum<br>Valid values are 'yes', 'no'<br>Whether the occurrences of an element in an ordered |

[24] . The NTE segment in the X12 EDI standard is an example of a floating element.

| | |
|---|---|
| | sequence can appear out-of-order in the representation.<br><br>When parsing, and dfdl:floating is 'yes', occurences of the element may be encountered in the representation in any position within its containing sequence. If present they are placed into the infoset in schema declaration order. If the element repeats, occurences do not need to be contiguous in the representation.<br><br>When parsing, and dfdl:floating is 'no', occurences of the element must be in schema declaration order, and, if present, they are placed into the infoset in schema declaration order. It is a processing error if instances of the element are not encountered in schema declaration order.<br><br>When unparsing, occurrences of the element are expected in the infoset in schema declaration order, and are output in the representation in schema declaration order. It is a processing error if occurrences of the element are not encountered in schema declaration order,<br><br>It is a schema definition error if an unordered sequence or a choice contains any element with dfdl:floating='yes'.<br><br>It is a schema definition error if an ordered sequence contains any element with dfdl:floating='yes' and also contains non-element component (such as a choice or sequence model group).<br><br>Annotation: dfdl:element |

An ordered sequence with floating components is similar to an unordered sequence except only the floating elements may be out of order.

An ordered sequence of n element children with either n or n-1 of those children with dfdl:floating='yes' is equivalent to an unordered sequence with the same n element children with dfdl:floating='no'.

A complex element with dfdl:floating='yes' can have as its content model a sequence with elements that also have dfdl:floating='yes'.

This makes every element in a sequence containing one or more floating elements a point of uncertainty, similar to the way every element in an unordered sequence is a point of uncertainty.

A parser MUST look for the element defined at that position in the schema first and then look for the floating elements in the order they are defined in the schema.

### 14.5 Hidden Groups

Some fields in the physical stream provide information about other fields in the stream and are not really part of the data. For example, a field could give the number of repeats in a following array. These fields may not be of interest to an application so may be removed from the Infoset on parsing by marking them as hidden. A hidden sequence group allows fields to be defined that will not be added to the Infoset on parsing and will not be expected in the Infoset on unparsing.

```
<xs:element name="root">
  <xs:complexType>
    <xs:sequence>

      <xs:sequence>
        <dfdl:sequence hiddenGroupRef="tns:hiddenRepeatCount">
```

```
      </xs:sequence>

      <xs:element name="arrayElement" type="xs:int"
                  minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded"
                  dfdl:occursCountKind=”expression”
                  dfdl:occurCount= “{../repeatCount}”
                  dfdl:representation=”binary” dfdl:lengthKind=”implicit” />
    </xs:sequence>
  </xs:complexType>
</xs:element>

<xs:group name="hiddenRepeatCount" >
  <xs:sequence>
    <xs:element name="repeatCount" type=”xs:int”
                dfdl:outputValueCalc=”{count(../arrayElement)}”
                dfdl:representation=”binary” dfdl:lengthKind=”implicit” />
  </xs:sequence>
</xs:group>
```

Hidden elements within a hidden group can be referenced via path expressions using the same DFDL expression that would be used if it were not hidden. To clarify, their names are hidden, but they occupy numeric locations normally as children of their parent element.

Hidden elements can (typically will) contain the regular DFDL annotations to define their physical properties and on unparsing to set their value. They are processed using the same behavior as non-hidden elements.

When the dfdl:hiddenGroupRef property is specified, all other DFDL properties are ignored. It is a schema definition error if the sequence is not empty. It is a schema definition error if the sequence is the only thing in the content model of a complex type definition. It is a schema definition error if dfdl:hiddenGroupRef appears on a xs:group reference, that is,unlike most format properties that apply to sequences, dfdl:hiddenGroupRef cannot be combined from a xs:group reference. . .

A hidden sequence may appear within another hidden sequence.

| Property Name | Description |
|---|---|
| hiddenGroupRef | QName<br>Reference to a global model group definition that defines the hidden element or elements.<br>The model group within the model group definition may be a xs:sequence or xs:choice<br>It is a schema definition error if the value is the empty string.<br>It is not possible to place this property in scope on a dfdl:format annotation.<br>Annotation: dfdl:sequence |

**Table 21 Hidden properties**

## 15. Choice Groups

The following properties are specific to xs:choice.

| Property Name | Description |
|---|---|
| choiceLengthKind | Enum<br>Valid values are 'implicit', 'explicit'<br>'implicit' means the branches of the choice are not filled, so the ChoiceContent region is variable length depending on which branch appears.<br>'explicit' means that the branches of the choice are always filled to the fixed length specified by dfdl:choiceLength, so the ChoiceContent region is fixed length regardless of which branch appears.<br>Annotation: dfdl:choice, dfdl:group (choice) |
| choiceLength | Integer<br>Only used when dfdl:choiceLengthKind is 'explicit'.<br>Specifies the length of the choice in bytes, so the ChoiceContent region is fixed length regardless of which branch appears. A ***ChoiceUnused*** region is therefore possible which when unparsing is filled with dfdl:fillByte.<br>Annotation: dfdl:choice, dfdl:group (choice) |
| initiatedContent | Enum<br>Valid values are 'yes', 'no'<br>When 'yes' indicates that all the branches of the choice are initiated. It is a schema definition error if any children have their dfdl:initiator property set to the empty string. The branch is deemed to have been found when its initiator has been found. Any subsequent error parsing the branch will not cause the parser to backtrack.<br>When 'no', the branches of the choice may have their dfdl:initiator property set to the empty string.<br>Annotation: dfdl:sequence, dfdl:choice, dfdl:group |
| choiceBranchRef | DFDL Expression<br>The expression must evaluate to an xs:string which must not be the empty string.<br>This property is used only when parsing.<br>The resultant string must match (case insensitive) the dfdl:elementID property value of one of the element branches of the choice. If so, it discriminates to that branch. The parser then goes straight to that branch, ignoring consideration of any other choice branches. No backtracking of this decision occurs if there is a subsequent processing error.<br>It is a processing error if the value of the expression does not match one of the elementIDs for the branches.<br>When choiceBranchRef is present, all choice branches must be local elements or element references. It is a schema definition error otherwise. |

| | |
|---|---|
| | It is not possible to place this property in scope on a dfdl:format annotation.<br>Annotation: dfdl:choice |
| elementID | DFDL String Literal<br>This literal provides an alternate identifier for an element. When the choiceBranchRef expression evaluates to a string matching this property's value, the choice is discriminated to this element.<br>It is a schema definition error if individual elementID values are not unique across all elements that are branches of a choice that carries choiceBranchRef, or if the elementId values of global elements are not unique within a given namespace.<br>Raw byte entities and character classes are not allowed.<br>This property is only used when parsing.<br>It is not possible to place this property in scope on a dfdl:format annotation.<br>Annotation: dfdl:element |

A choice can have an initiator and/or a terminator as described earlier.

We will use this terminology:

| | |
|---|---|
| *Branch* | A *branch* is one of the available alternatives within a choice. A branch can be an element of simple type or complex type, or it can be an embedded sequence, choice or group reference. |
| *Root of the Branch* | Each *branch* conceptually has a single element, sequence, choice or group reference component at its root. This element is known as the *Root of the Branch*. |

**Table 22 Choice group terminology**

The Root of the Branch MUST NOT be optional. That is xs:minOccurs MUST BE greater than 0.

When processing a choice group the parser validates any contained path expressions. If a path expression contained inside a choice branch refers to any other branch of the choice, then it is a schema definition error. Note that this rule handles nested choices also. A path that navigates outward from an inner choice to another alternative of an outer choice is violating this rule with respect to the outer choice.

### 15.1 Resolving Choices

A choice corresponds to concepts called variant records, multi-format records, discriminated unions, or tagged unions in various programming languages. In some contexts choices are referred to generally as 'unions'. However, this should not be confused with XML schema unions.

When processing a choice, there are two ways to resolve the intended branch. In one, speculative parsing is used. In the other, a constant-time direct dispatch to a branch is performed.

#### 15.1.1 Resolving Choices via Speculation

Speculative resolution works as follows:

1. Attempt to parse the first branch of the choice.

2. If this fails with a processing error
    a. If a dfdl:discriminator evaluated to true earlier on this branch then the parser is 'bound' to this choice and parsing of the entire choice construct fails with a processing error.
    b. If a dfdl:discriminator has not evaluated to true then we repeat from step 1 for the next branch of the choice.
3. It is a processing error if the branches of the choice are exhausted.
4. If a branch is successfully parsed without error, then that branch's infoset becomes the infoset for the parse of the choice construct.

It is not possible for variable settings to be communicated from the speculative attempt to parse a branch to any other parsing situation. The speculative effort is completely isolated. Whether it succeeds or fails, neither the parse position in the source data, nor anything in the variable memory, nor the infoset is affected.

Nested choices can require unbounded look ahead into the data.

### 15.1.2 Resolving Choices via Direct Dispatch

Direct dispatch provides a constant-time dispatch to a choice branch independent of how many choice branches there are.

Direct dispatch is indicated by the choiceBranchRef property. This expression is evaluated to compute the element identifier matching (case insensitive) the dfdl:elementID property of one of the choice branches, all of which must be local element declarations or element references.

When a match is found, it is as if a discriminator had evaluated to true on that branch. It is selected as resolution of the choice, and there is no backtracking to try other alternative selections.

The elementID property can be placed on global element declarations, element references, or local element declarations. It must be unique within one choice when placed on element references or local element declarations. It must be unique within the namespace if placed on global element declarations.

Note that it is a schema definition error if both initiatedContent and choiceBranchRef are provided on the same choice. However, it is not an error if a discriminator exists on a choice branch along with an elementID.

### 15.1.3 Unparsing Choices

On unparsing there is the question of how one identifies the appropriate schema choice branch corresponding to the data in the infoset. This is complicated by the fact that the children may not be elements. They may themselves be sequences or choices.The selection of the choice branch is as follows: The element in the infoset is used to search the choice branches in the schema, in schema definition order, but without looking inside any complex elements. If the element occurs in a branch, then that branch is selected and if subsequently a processing error occurs, this selection is not revisited (that is, there is no backtracking).

To avoid any unintended behavior, all the children of a choice can be modeled as elements.

## 16. Properties for Array Elements and Optional Elements

These properties are for array elements (xs:maxOccurs >1 or unbounded) or optional elements (xs:minOccurs = 0 and xs:maxOccurs = 1) and apply to local element declarations and element references.

| Property Name | Description |
|---|---|
| occursCountKind | Enum<br>Specifies how the actual number of occurrences is to be established.<br>Valid values 'fixed', 'expression', 'parsed', 'implicit' ,'stopValue',<br>'fixed' means use the value of the xs:maxOccurs on the declaration. It is a schema definition error if the value for xs:minOccurs is not equal to xs:maxOccurs.<br>'expression' means use the value of the dfdl:occursCount property. Applies during parsing only. On unparsing the number of occurrences in the infoset is used, defaulted up to xs:minOccurs if necessary.<br>'parsed' means that the number of occurrences is determined by normal speculative parsing such as discriminating by the initiator<br>'implicit' means that the maxOccurs and minOccurs attributes of the element are used to bound speculative parsing.<br>'stopValue' means look for a logical stop value which signifies the end of the occurrences. The stop value is specified with the occursStopValue property, and it is a schema definition error if that property is absent when 'stopValue' is used.<br>Annotation: dfdl:element |
| occursCount | DFDL Expression<br>Specifies the number of occurrences of the element.<br>This property is computed by way of an expression which returns a non-negative integer. The expression must not contain forward references to elements which have not yet been processed.<br>Annotation: dfdl:element, |
| occursStopValue | List of DFDL Logical Values<br>A space separated list of logical values that specify the alternative logical stop values for the element.<br>Required only when dfdl:occursCountKind='stopValue'.<br>When parsing then if an occurrence of the element has a logical value that matches one of the values in this list then the parser must not expect any more occurrences of the element.<br>On unparsing the first value will be inserted as an additional final value in the array after all of the occurrences in the infoset have been output.<br>Annotation: dfdl:element |

The above properties handle a logical one-dimensional array of any type.

In some situations arrays of elements and sequence groups of elements seem to be similar; however, there is no notion of the array itself independent of its contained elements. Arrays are distinctly different from sequence groups in this way.

A sequence can have its own initiator, and an element having that sequence as its type can also have its own element initiator, so you could express two different initiators.

Unlike a sequence group, an array does not have its own initiator, terminator, or alignment. Those properties apply to each of the child elements of the array. To give an alignment, initiator, separator or terminator for an entire array you must enclose the element declaration for the array in a sequence group and specify the alignment, separator, initiator and terminator on the sequence group.

### 16.1 Default Values for Optional Elements and Variable Array Elements

The number of occurrences of an optional element or a variable array element may be specified in the data (using dfdl:occursCountKind 'expression'), or determined by examining the data stream for specific framing (dfdl:occursCountKind 'parsed', 'implicit') or the infoset for specific values (dfdl:occursCountKind 'stopValue').

To determine the logical values and number of occurrences for a optional element or variable array element, we examine the input stream trying to parse elements one by one potentially with separators between them when there is more than one occurrence.

If the element is not found then defaulting occurs as described in 13.17 Properties for Default Value Control

It is a processing error if a separator is parsed successfully, but parsing does not find the subsequent element successfully, unless dfdl:separatorPosition is 'postfix'.

On parsing and unparsing if the number of occurrences of an element is less than xs:minOccurs and the element has a default specified then the element is defaulted up to xs:minOccurs, otherwise it is a processing error.

When occursCountKind='implicit' then the number of occurrences is limited to maxOccurs (if not unbounded).

### 16.2 Stop Value Delimited Array: Determining the Number of Occurrences

When an optional or array element has occursCountKind 'stopValue' specified, this means that a distinguished logical value is represented in the data to indicate the end of the occurrences. As each occurrence is parsed, its value is compared to the stop value given by occursStopValue, and if it matches, then that ends the array. The stop value itself is not considered to be an element of the array and is not added to the infoset. It is a processing error if the stop value is not represented in the data.

This technique can only be used on arrays of simple type elements. It is a schema definition error if stop values are used on arrays with complex type elements.

### 16.3 Arrays with DFDL Expressions

If the value of a DFDL property of an array element (other than occursCount) is given by a DFDL Expression, then the expression must be re-evaluated for each occurrence of the element.

### 16.4 Parsing Arrays

The full behaviour for parsing arrays and non-arrays is:

```
If minOccurs = maxOccurs = 1
  Expect exactly 1 occurrence
  Processing error if no occurrence found or defaulted
  Stop looking after this occurrence found or defaulted
```

```
occursCountKind is never examined and need not be defined
Else //
Select occursCountKind
    Case: fixed
    Schema definition error if minOccurs <> maxOccurs
      Expect maxOccurs occurrences
      Processing error if < minOccurs occurrence found or defaulted
    Stop looking when maxOccurs occurrences found
  Case: implicit
      Expect up to maxOccurs occurrences
      Processing error if < minOccurs occurrences found or defaulted
Stop looking if >= minOccurs occurrences found and known not to exist
occurs for an occurrence
    Stop looking if and when maxOccurs occurrences found (if not
    unbounded)
    Case: parsed
      Expect any number of occurrences
Parse as many occurrences as possible until known not to exist occurs
for an occurrence
      Validation error if < minOccurs occurrences found or defaulted
      Validation error if > maxOccurs occurrences found or defaulted
    Case: expression
      Evaluate occursCount to give number of occurrences
      Expect occursCount occurrences
      Processing error if occursCount occurrences not found
      Stop looking when occursCount occurrences found
      Validation error if < minOccurs occurrences found or defaulted
      Validation error if > maxOccurs occurrences found or defaulted
    Case: stopValue
      Expect any number of occurrences
      Parse occurrences until logical stop value is found
      Processing error if stop value not found even when zero
      occurrences
      Stop value is never added to Infoset
      Validation error if < minOccurs occurrences found or defaulted
      Validation error if > maxOccurs occurrences found or defaulted
Endif
```

A ‘found occurrence’ is one that results in an item being added to the Infoset. Additionally,

the DFDL parser may apply a default value when it encounters an occurrence with an empty representation, as described in section 2.

When parsing an array, points of uncertainty (PoU) only occur for certain occursCountKinds, as follows:

- fixed. No PoU (maxOccurs occurrences expected).
- implicit. PoU exists after minOccurs occurrences found and until maxOccurs found.
- parsed. PoU exists for all occurrences
- expression. No PoU (occursCount occurrences expected)
- stopValue. No PoU (stopValue must always be present, even when minOccurs=0).

### 16.5 Unparsing Arrays

The full behaviour for unparsing arrays and non-arrays is:

```
If minOccurs = maxOccurs = 1
```

```
  Expect exactly one occurrence
Processing error if no occurrence found or defaulted
Processing error if more than 1 occurrence found
occursCountKind is never examined and need not be defined
Else
Select occursCountKind
    Case: fixed
    Schema definition error if minOccurs <> maxOccurs
      Expect maxOccurs occurrences
      Processing error if < minOccurs occurrences found or defaulted
    Processing error if > maxOccurs occurrences found
  Case: implicit
    Expect up to maxOccurs occurrences
      Processing error if < minOccurs occurrences found or defaulted
    Processing error if > maxOccurs occurrences found
    Case: parsed, expression
      Expect any number of occurrences
      Validation error if < minOccurs occurrences found or defaulted
      Validation error if > maxOccurs occurrences found
    Case: stopValue
      Expect any number of occurrences
      Logical stop value unparsed and output after last occurrence
      Validation error if < minOccurs occurrences found or defaulted
      Validation error if > maxOccurs occurrences found
Endif
```

A ‘found occurrence’ is one that is in the Infoset. Additionally, the DFDL unparser may apply a default when an occurrence is missing from the Infoset, as described in section 2.

### 16.6 Array and Sequence Equivalence

The processing of an array is similar to the processing of an equivalent sequence of elements. The following two schemas have the same result assuming any set of identical DFDL element properties applied to them[25] (excluding necessary name differences due to UPA rules, and any other differences described by the Notes that follow).

```
<xs:sequence>
      <xs:element name="a" type="string" minOccurs ="2" maxOccurs="4"
/>
</xs:sequence>

<xs:sequence>
      <xs:element name="a1" type="string" />
      <xs:element name="a2" type="string" />
      <xs:element name="a3" type="string" minOccurs="0" />
      <xs:element name="a4" type="string" minOccurs="0" />
</xs:sequence>
```

Notes:

- The number of elements in the equivalent sequence is maxOccurs, unless occursCountKind is 'expression' in which case the number is occursCount.
- When occursCountKind is 'stopValue' the sequence ends with an additional, hidden, simple element with the same properties, to handle the stop value itself.

[25] With the exception of properties that are not permitted on arrays, such as inputValueCalc and outputValueCalc

- When occursCountKind is 'stopValue', ‘parsed’ or ‘expression’ it is a validation error if ‘a1’ and/or ‘a2’ are missing from the sequence (rather than a processing error if the first two ‘a’ occurrences are missing from the array).

### 16.7 Forward Progress Requirement

It is a processing error when maxOccurs is ‘unbounded’ and the position in the data does not move during the parsing of an occurrence of the element including any associated separator (that is, the particle for the occurrence). This is to prevent an infinite loop.

### 16.8 Parsing Occurrences with Non-Normal Representation

Each time round the array loop, length extraction properties for the element are re-evaluated. It is therefore possible to have occurrences with different representations (nil, empty, normal, absent) in the same array (although with some lengthKinds certain combinations of representations are not possible).

Occurrences with nil representation are added to the Infoset with value ‘nil’.

Occurrences with empty representation are not added to the Infoset unless they are a required occurrence and a default is defined, in which case the default is added. For a required occurrence, if there is no default value, or if the element is of complex type, it may be a processing error, dependent on occursCountKind. (Modified behaviour for xs:string and xs:hexBinary as noted in section 2 above).

Occurrences with absent representation are not added to the Infoset. For a required occurrence it may be a processing error, dependent on occursCountKind.

Consider parsing an array where optional occurrences with empty representation are present in the data, but there are also later optional occurrences present with normal representation. Such an array is sometimes called a ‘sparse array’.

1. If the indices of the occurrences are significant and need to be preserved, then the array may be modelled using an element with nillable ‘true’, nilKind ‘literalValue’ and nilValue ‘%ES;’. All occurrences with empty representation will then produce nil values in the Infoset, so the absolute positions of all occurrences are preserved.
2. If the indices of the occurrences are not significant, then the array should be modelled using an element with nillable ‘false’. Optional occurrences with empty representation will not create items in the Infoset, so the absolute position of any optional occurrences with normal representation is not preserved. Optional occurrences with empty representation are therefore skipped.

This behaviour is independent of occursCountKind unless explicitly stated otherwise.

## 17. Calculated Value Properties.

This section describes properties which allow the creation of calculated elements. When parsing, the value of a calculated element is derived using a DFDL Expression, and not by processing bytes from the data stream. When unparsing, the value of a calculated element is derived using a DFDL Expression, and is not obtained from the infoset in the usual way.

Calculated elements allow a technique that is commonly called layering. In this technique, some elements are said to be in the physical layer, and some in the logical layer. When parsing, the logical layer values are computed from physical layer values. When unparsing the opposite occurs, that is the physical layer values are computed from the logical layer values.

Calculated elements are commonly used with hidden elements so as to hide the physical layer elements so that they do not become part of the infoset.

When a DFDL Schema is used to both parse and unparse data, then a calculated element on parsing will normally have one or more calculated elements on unparsing.

These properties apply to elements of simple type.

| Property Name | Description |
|---|---|
| inputValueCalc | DFDL Expression<br>An expression that calculates the value of the element when parsing.<br>The element having the inputValueCalc property is called a derived element, and the elements referenced from the inputValueCalc expression are called representation elements.<br>It is a schema definition error if the result type of the expression does not conform to the base type of the element.<br>The value created using inputValueCalc is validated like any other element value (when validation is enabled).<br>An element that specifies an inputValueCalc expression has no representation of its own in the data stream. All other DFDL representation properties are ignored<br>The element must not be optional nor an array nor be global.<br>The DFDL Expression must not refer to this element nor cause a circular reference to this element. The expression must not contain forward references to elements which have not yet been processed.<br>It is a schema definition error if dfdl:inputValueCalc is specified on an element which has an xs:fixed or xs:default value.<br>It is a schema definition error if dfdl:inputValueCalc and dfdl:outputValueCalc are specified on the same element.<br>It is not possible to place this property in scope on a dfdl:format annotation.<br>Annotation: dfdl:element |
| outputValueCalc | DFDL Expression<br>An expression that calculates the value of the current element when unparsing.<br>The element must not be optional nor an array nor be global.<br>It is a schema definition error if the result type of the expression does |

| | |
|---|---|
| | not conform to the base type of the element.<br><br>The value created using inputValueCalc is validated like any other element value (when validation is enabled).<br><br>The value for the element, if any, in the infoset is ignored.<br><br>The DFDL expression must not refer to this element nor cause a circular reference to this element. The expression may contain forward references to elements which have not yet been processed.<br><br>It is a schema definition error if dfdl:outputValueCalc is specified on an element which has an xs:fixed or xs:default value.<br><br>It is a schema definition error if dfdl:inputValueCalc and dfdl:outputValueCalc are specified on the same element.<br><br>It is not possible to place this property in scope on a dfdl:format annotation.<br><br>Annotation: dfdl:element |

### 17.1 Example: 2d Nested Array

Consider this simple example. The data stream contains two elements giving the number of rows and number of columns of an array of numbers. The representation of the array is stored after these two elements.

```
<xs:complexType name="array">
  <xs:sequence dfdl:initiator="" >

    <xs:sequence dfdl:hiddenGroupRef="tns:hiddenArrayCounts"/>

    <xs:element name="rows" maxOccurs=”unbounded”
                dfdl:occursCountKind="expression"
                dfdl:occursCount="{ ../nrows }">
      <xs:complexType>
        <xs:sequence>
          <xs:element name=”cols” type=”xs:float” maxOccurs=”unbounded”
                      dfdl:occursCountKind=”expression”
                      dfdl:occursCount=” { ../../ncols } “ />
        </xs:sequence>
      </xs:complexType>
    </xs:element>
  </xs:sequence>
</xs:complexType>

<xs:group name="hiddenArrayCounts" >
  <xs:sequence>
    <xs:element name="nrows" type="xs:unsignedInt"
                dfdl:representation="binary"
                dfdl:lengthKind="implicit"
                dfdl:outputValueCalc="{ count(../rows) }"/>
    <xs:element name="ncols" type="xs:unsignedInt"
                dfdl:representation="binary"
                dfdl:lengthKind="implicit"
                dfdl:outputValueCalc=
                "{  if ( count(../rows) ge 1 )
                   then
```

```
                    count(../rows[1]/cols)
                  else
                    0
                 }"/>
  </xs:sequence>
</xs:group>
```

In the example above we see that there are two hidden elements named ‘nrows’ and ‘ncols’. These hidden elements’ values are computed when unparsing from the number of occurrences in the ‘rows’ and ‘cols’ repeating elements. The ‘rows’ and ‘cols’ repeating elements number of occurrences are computed when parsing from the hidden elements ‘nrows’ and ‘ncols’.

### 17.2 Example: Three-Byte Date

Logically, the data is a date.

```
<xs:element name=“d” type=“date”/>
```

Physically, it is stored as 3 single byte integers.

The format of this data is expressed as this schema:

```
<xs:sequence dfdl:representation="binary”>
              <xs:element name="mm" type="byte" />
              <xs:element name="dd" type="byte” />
              <xs:element name="yy" type="byte"/>
</xs:sequence>
```

This physical representation can be hidden so that it does not become part of the infoset:

```
<xs:sequence>
  <xs:sequence dfdl:hiddenGroupRef="tns:hiddenpDate"/>

  <xs:element name="d" type="date">
    …
  </xs:element>
</xs:sequence>

<xs:group name="hiddenpDate" >
  <xs:sequence>
    <xs:element name="pdate">
      <xs:complexType>
        <xs:sequence dfdl:representation="binary”>
          <xs:element name="mm" type="byte" />
          <xs:element name="dd" type="byte” />
          <xs:element name="yy" type="byte"/>
        </xs:sequence>
      </xs:complexType>
    </xs:element>
  </xs:sequence>
</xs:group>
```

A calculation can be used to compute the logical date element ‘d’ from the physical ‘pdate’ when parsing:

```
<xs:sequence>
  ... hidden pdate here ...

  <xs:element name="d" type="date">
    <xs:annotation><xs:appinfo source=”http://www.ogf.org/dfdl/”>
      <dfdl:element>
        <dfdl:property name="inputValueCalc">
          {
```

```
          fn:date(fn:concat(if(../pdate/yy gt 50 )then "19" else "20",
                            if ( ../pdate/yy gt 9 )
                               then fn:string(../pdate/yy)
                               else fn:concat("0",
                                      fn:string(../pdate/yy)),
                                      "-",
                                      fn:string(../pdate/mm),
                                      "-",
                                      fn:string(../pdate/dd)))
          }
        </dfdl:property>
      </dfdl:element>
    </xs:appinfo></xs:annotation>
  </xs:element>
  ...
</xs:sequence>
```

The expression above assembles a string resembling, for example, “2005-12-17” or “1957-3-9” which is the string representation of a date that is acceptable to the fn:date constructor function. The hidden element ‘pdate’ is referenced by relative paths. The expression ‘../pdate/yy’ accesses an element of type ‘int’, and the fn:string constructor function turns it into an integer.

Finally, we must handle the unparse case where the physical layer is computed from the logical layer:

```
<xs:sequence dfdl:representation="binary"
  <xs:element name="mm" type="byte"
       dfdl:outputValueCalc="{ fn:month-from-date(../d) }" />
  <xs:element name="dd" type="byte"
       dfdl:outputValueCalc="{ fn:day-from-date(../d) }" />
  <xs:element name="yy" type="byte"
       dfdl:outputValueCalc="{ fn:year-from-date(../d) idivmod 100 }"/>
</xs:sequence>
```

The entire example in one place:

```
<xs:sequence>
  <xs:sequence dfdl:hiddenGroupRef="tns:hiddenpDate"/>

  <xs:element name="d" type="date">
    <xs:annotation><xs:appinfo source=”http://www.ogf.org/dfdl/”>
      <dfdl:element>
        <dfdl:property name="inputValueCalc">
          {
           fn:date(fn:concat(if(../pdate/yy gt 50) then "19" else "20",
                            if ( ../pdate/yy gt 9 )
                               then fn:string(../pdate/yy)
                               else fn:concat("0",
                                      fn:string(../pdate/yy)),
                                      "-",
                                      fn:string(../pdate/mm),
                                      "-",
                                      fn:string(../pdate/dd)))
          }
        </dfdl:property>
      </dfdl:element>
    </xs:appinfo></xs:annotation>
  </xs:element>
  ...
```

```
</xs:sequence>

<xs:group name="hiddenpDate" >
  <xs:sequence>
    <xs:element name="pdate">
      <xs:complexType>
        <xs:sequence dfdl:representation="binary”>
          <xs:element name="mm" type="byte"
                 dfdl:outputValueCalc="{ fn:month-from-date(../d) }" />
          <xs:element name="dd" type="byte"
                 dfdl:outputValueCalc="{ fn:day-from-date(../d) }" />
          <xs:element name="yy" type="byte"
                 dfdl:outputValueCalc="{ fn:year-from-date(../d)
idivmod 100 }" />
        </xs:sequence>
      </xs:complexType>
    </xs:element>
  </xs:sequence>
</xs:group>
```

The above sequence contains logically only a single date element.

## 18. External Control of the DFDL Processor

In addition to providing the DFDL schema and data to be parsed or serialized, DFDL Schemas can also be parameterized by external variables,.

DFDL processors can provide means to specify:

1. The data to be processed: a data stream when parsing or an infoset when unparsing.
2. The DFDL schema to be used
3. The *distinguished root node* element declaration to be used (specifying both name of element and namespace of that name)
4. Values for external variables

Notice also that like any XML schema a DFDL schema can have multiple top-level element declarations, so the distinguished root node is necessary to indicate which of these top-level element declarations is to be the starting point for processing data. The distinguished root node may be omitted if the DFDL schema contains only one top-level element declaration.

The mechanism by which a DFDL processor is controlled is not specified by this standard. For example, command line DFDL processors may use command line options, but DFDL processors embedded in other kinds of software systems may need other mechanisms.

## 19. Built-in Specifications

For convenience, a standard set of named DFDL format definitions may be provided with DFDL processors. These built-in format definitions may be imported by DFDL schema authors.

## 20. Conformance

DFDL conformance can be claimed for schema documents and for processors

A schema document conforms to this specification if it conforms to the subset of XML Schema 1.0 defined in section 5.1 DFDL Subset of XML Schema and consists of components which individually and collectively satisfy all the relevant constraints specified in this document.

Conformance may be claimed separately for a DFDL parser, a DFDL unparser or a DFDL processor that parses and unparses.

1. A DFDL processor claiming conformance MUST identify the level of conformance and version specification claimed.
2. A minimal conforming DFDL processor conforms to this specification when it implements all the non-optional features defined in this document.
3. An extended conforming DFDL processor conforms to the specification when it implements all the non-optional features and some of the optional features defined in this document.
4. A fully conforming DFDL processor conforms to the specification when it implements all the features defined in this document.

See Section 21 Optional DFDL Features for the list of optional feature

It is the intention of the DFDL Work Group to provide a conformance test suit to help verify conformance with this specification..

## 21. Optional DFDL Features

The following table lists the features of the DFDL language that are considered optional for DFDL processor implementations. This list admits very small subsets of the full DFDL specification. For example, a binary-only subset without any expressions or variables is specifically allowed.

| Feature | Detection |
|---|---|
| Validation | External switch |
| Named Formats | dfdl:defineFormat or dfdl:ref |
| Choices | xs:choice in xsd |
| Arrays where size not known in advance | dfdl:occursCountKind 'implicit', 'parsed', 'stopValue' |
| Expressions | Use of a DFDL expression in any property or attribute value |
| End of parent | dfdl:lengthKind = "endOfParent" |
| Simple type restrictions | xs:simpleType in xsd |
| Text representation for types other than String | dfdl:representation="text" for Number, Calendar or Boolean types |
| Delimiters | dfdl:separator <> "" or dfdl:initiator <> "" or dfdl:terminator <> "" or dfdl:lengthKind="delimited" |
| Nils | xs:nillable='true' in xsd |
| Defaults | xs:default or xs:fixed in xsd |
| Bi-Directional text. | dfdl:textBiDi='yes' |
| Lengths in Bits | dfdl:alignmentUnits='bits' or dfdl:lengthUnits='bits' |
| Delimited lengths and representation binary element | dfdl:representation='binary' (or implied binary) and dfdl:lengthKind='delimited' |
| Regular expressions | dfdl:lengthKind='pattern',<br>dfdl:assert with dfdl:testkind 'pattern' ,<br>dfdl:discriminator with dfdl:testkind 'pattern' |
| Zoned numbers | dfdl:textNumberRep='zoned' |
| IBM 390 packed numbers | dfdl:binaryNumberRep='packed' |
| IBM 390 packed calendars | dfdl:binaryCalendarRep='packed' |
| IBM 390 floats | dfdl:binaryFloatRep='ibm390Hex' |
| Unordered sequences | dfdl:sequenceKind='unordered' |
| Floating elements | dfdl:floating='yes' |
| dfdl functions in expression language | dfdl:functions in expression |
| Hidden groups | dfdl:hiddenGroupRef <> '' |
| Calculated values | dfdl:inputValueCalc <> '' or dfdl:outputValueCalc <> '' |
| Escape schemes | dfd:defineEscapeScheme in xsd |
| Extended encodings | Any dfdl:encoding value beyond the core list |
| Asserts | dfdl:assert in xsd |
| Discriminators | dfdl:discriminator in xsd |

| | |
|---|---|
| Prefixed lengths | dfdl:lengthKind='prefixed' |
| Variables | dfdl:defineVariable,<br>dfdl:newVariableInstances,<br>dfdl:setVariable<br>Variables in DFDL expression language<br>Note that variables as a feature is dependent on the Expressions feature. |
| BCD calendars | dfdl:binaryCalendarRep="bcd" |
| BCD numbers | dfdl:binaryNumberRep=”bcd” |
| Multiple schemas | xs:include or xs:import in xsd |
| IBM 4690 packed numbers | dfdl:binaryNumberRep="ibm4690Packed" |
| IBM 4690 packed calendars | dfdl:binaryCalendarRep="ibm4690Packed" |

**Table 23 Optional DFDL features**

In order to provide portability of a DFDL schema, a minimal or extended conforming processor must issue warnings about any DFDL properties it does not implement. This warning can simply state that the property was not recognized.

(This allows the implementation to simply have no knowledge of properties it does not need for the subset of features it implements.)

For example if the bi-directional text feature is not implemented, then the implementation will most likely not recognize the dfdl:textBiDi property at all. Such an implementation must issue a warning that the ‘dfdl:textBiDi’ property was not recognized.

It is a schema definition error if a DFDL schema uses an optional feature that is not supported by a minimal or extended conforming processor.

# 22. Property Precedence

## 22.1 Parsing

The following list gives the order in which DFDL properties are examined when the DFDL parser is positioned at a particular component in the DFDL schema, and about to parse the bitstream modeled by that component.

### 22.1.1 dfdl:element (simple) and dfdl:simpleType

- *Parsing: calculated value (does not apply to dfdl:simpleType or to global elements)*
  - dfdl:inputValueCalc
- *Parsing: common*
  - dfdl:encoding
    - 'UTF-16' 'UTF-16BE' 'UTF-16LE'
      - dfdl:utf16Width
  - dfdl:ignoreCase
- *Parsing: nillable*
  - xs:nillable *(does not apply to dfdl:simpleType)*
    - dfdl:nilKind
      - *"literalValue", "logicalValue", "literalCharacter"*
        - dfdl:nilValue
- *Parsing: occurrences (does not apply to dfdl:simpleType or to global elements)*
  - dfdl:floating
  - (xs:maxOccurs > 1 or unbounded) or (xs:minOccurs = 0 and xs:maxOccurs = 1)
    - dfdl:occursCountKind
      - *"expression"*
        - dfdl:occursCount
      - *"fixed", "implicit"*
        - xs:minOccurs
        - xs:maxOccurs
      - *"parsed"*
      - *"stopValue"*
        - dfdl:occursStopValue
- *Parsing: identification, framing & extraction*
  - dfdl:leadingSkip
    - dfdl:alignmentUnits
  - dfdl:alignment
    - dfdl:alignmentUnits
  - dfdl:initiator
    - dfdl:nilValueDelimiterPolicy *(does not apply to dfdl:simpleType)*

        - dfdl:emptyValueDelimiterPolicy
    - dfdl:representation *"text" or xs:simpleType is 'string'*
        - dfdl:lengthKind
            - *"implicit"*
                - xs:maxLength *or* dfdl:textBooleanTrueRep/dfdl:textBooleanFalseRep
                - dfdl:lengthUnits
            - *"explicit"*
                - dfdl:length
                - dfdl:lengthUnits
            - *"prefixed"*
                - dfdl:prefixLengthType
                - dfdl:prefixIncludesPrefixLength
                - dfdl:lengthUnits
            - *"pattern"*
                - dfdl:lengthPattern
            - *"delimited", "endOfParent"*
                - *None*
        - dfdl:textTrimKind
            - dfdl:textStringPadCharacter, dfdl:textNumberPadCharacter, dfdl:textBooleanPadCharacter or dfdl:textCalendarPadCharacter
            - dfdl:textStringJustification, dfdl:textNumberJustification, dfdl:textBooleanJustification or dfdl:textCalendarJustification
        - dfdl:escapeSchemeRef
        - dfdl:textBidi
            - dfdl:textBidiOrdering
            - dfdl:textBidiOrientation
    - dfdl:representation *"binary" or xs:simpleType is 'hexBinary'*
        - dfdl:lengthKind
            - *"implicit"*
                - xs:maxLength *or* xs:simpleType
                - dfdl:lengthUnits
            - *"explicit"*
                - dfdl:length
                - dfdl:lengthUnits
            - *"prefixed"*
                - dfdl:prefixLengthType
                - dfdl:prefixIncludesPrefixLength

        - dfdl:lengthUnits
      - *“delimited”,”, "endOfParent"*
        - *None*
  - dfdl:terminator
    - dfdl:nilValueDelimiterPolicy *(does not apply to dfdl:simpleType)*
    - dfdl:emptyValueDelimiterPolicy
    - dfdl:documentFinalTerminatorCanBeMissing
  - dfdl:trailingSkip
    - dfdl:alignmentUnits
- *Parsing: conversion*
  - xs:type
    - *"Number"*
      - dfdl: decimalSigned
      - dfdl:representation
        - *"text"*
          - dfdl:textNumberRep
            - *"standard"*
              - dfdl:textNumberPattern
              - dfdl:textStandardDecimalSeparator
              - dfdl:textStandardGroupingSeparator
              - dfdl:textStandardExponentRep
              - dfdl:textNumberCheckPolicy
              - dfdl:textStandardInfinityRep
              - dfdl:textStandardNaNRep
              - dfdl:textNumberRounding
                - "*explicit*"
                  - dfdl:textNumberRoundingMode
                  - dfdl:textNumberRoundingIncrement
              - dfdl:textStandardZeroRep
              - dfdl:textStandardBase
            - *"zoned"*
              - *d*fdl:textNumberPattern
              - dfdl:textNumberCheckPolicy
              - dfdl:textNumberRounding
                - "*explicit*"

- dfdl:textNumberRoundingMode
- dfdl:textNumberRoundingIncrement
- dfdl:textZonedSignStyle

- *"binary"*
  - dfdl:byteOrder
  - *xs:decimal and restrictions*
    - dfdl:binaryNumberRep
      - *"packed"*
        - dfdl:binaryPackedSignCodes
        - dfdl:binaryDecimalVirtualPoint
        - dfdl:binaryNumberCheckPolicy
      - *"bcd", "ibm4690Packed"*
        - dfdl:binaryDecimalVirtualPoint
        - dfdl:binaryNumberCheckPolicy
      - *"binary"*
        - dfdl:binaryDecimalVirtualPoint
  - *xs:float, xs:double*
    - dfdl:binaryFloatRep

- *"String"*
- *"Calendar"*
  - dfdl:representation
    - *"text"*
      - dfdl:calendarPatternKind "*explicit*"
        - dfdl:calendarPattern
      - dfdl:calendarCheckPolicy
      - dfdl:calendarTimeZone
      - dfdl:calendarObserveDST
      - dfdl:calendarFirstDayOfWeek
      - dfdl:calendarDaysInFirstWeek
      - dfdl:calendarCenturyStart
      - dfdl:calendarLanguage
    - *"binary"*

- dfdl:byteOrder
- dfdl:binaryCalendarRep
  - *“packed”*
    - dfdl:packedDecimalSignCodes
    - dfdl:binaryNumberCheckPolicy
    - dfdl:calendarPatternKind
      - "*explicit*"
        - dfdl:calendarPattern
    - dfdl:calendarCheckPolicy
    - dfdl:calendarTimeZone
    - dfdl:calendarObserveDST
    - dfdl:calendarFirstDayOfWeek
    - dfdl:calendarDaysInFirstWeek
    - dfdl:calendarCenturyStart
  - *“bcd”, “ibm4690Packed”*
    - dfdl:binaryNumberCheckPolicy
    - dfdl:calendarPatternKind
      - "*explicit*"
        - dfdl:calendarPattern
    - dfdl:calendarCheckPolicy
    - dfdl:calendarTimeZone
    - dfdl:calendarObserveDST
    - dfdl:calendarFirstDayOfWeek
    - dfdl:calendarDaysInFirstWeek
    - dfdl:calendarCenturyStart
  - *“binarySeconds”, “binaryMilliseconds”*
    - dfdl:binaryCalendarEpoch
- *"Opaque"*
- *"Boolean"*
  - dfdl:representation
    - *"text"*
      - dfdl:textBooleanTrueRep
      - dfdl:textBooleanFalseRep
    - *"binary"*
      - dfdl:byteOrder
      - dfdl:binaryBooleanTrueRep
      - dfdl:binaryBooleanFalseRep

- dfdl:useNilForDefault *(does not apply to dfdl:simpleType)*

- *“true”*
  - *None*
- *“false”*
  - xs:default or xs:fixed

### *22.1.2* dfdl:element (complex)

- *Parsing: common*
  - dfdl:encoding
    - 'UTF-16' 'UTF-16BE' 'UTF-16LE'
      - dfdl:utf16Width
  - dfdl:ignoreCase
- *Parsing: nillable*
  - xs:nillable
    - dfdl:nilKind
      - *"literalValue"*
        - dfdl:nilValue (must be "%ES;")
- *Parsing: occurrences (does not apply to global elements)*
  - dfdl:floating
  - (xs:maxOccurs > 1 or unbounded) or (xs:minOccurs = 0 and xs:maxOccurs = 1)
    - dfdl:occursCountKind
      - *"expression"*
        - dfdl:occursCount
      - *"fixed"* , “*implicit*”
        - xs:minOccurs
        - xs:maxOccurs
      - *"parsed"*
- *Parsing: identification, framing & extraction*
  - dfdl:leadingSkip
    - dfdl:alignmentUnits
  - dfdl:alignment
    - not *“implicit”*
      - dfdl:alignmentUnits
  - dfdl:initiator
    - dfdl:nilValueDelimiterPolicy
    - dfdl:emptyValueDelimiterPolicy
  - dfdl:lengthKind
    - *“explicit”*
      - dfdl:length

            - dfdl:lengthUnits
        - *"prefixed"*
            - dfdl:prefixLengthType
            - dfdl:prefixIncludesPrefixLength
            - dfdl:lengthUnits
        - *“pattern”*
            - dfdl:lengthPattern
        - *“implicit”, "delimited", “endOfParent”*
            - *None*
    - dfdl:terminator
        - dfdl:nilValueDelimiterPolicy
        - dfdl:emptyValueDelimiterPolicy
        - dfdl:documentFinalTerminatorCanBeMissing
    - dfdl:trailingSkip
        - dfdl:alignmentUnits

### *22.1.3* dfdl:sequence and dfdl:group (when reference is to a sequence)

- *Parsing: hidden (xs:sequence only)*
    - dfdl:hiddenGroupRef
- *Parsing: common*
    - dfdl:encoding
        - 'UTF-16' 'UTF-16BE' 'UTF-16LE'
            - dfdl:utf16Width
    - dfdl:ignoreCase
- *Parsing: identification, framing & extraction*
    - dfdl:leadingSkip
        - dfdl:alignmentUnits
    - dfdl:alignment
        - *not “implicit”*
            - dfdl:alignmentUnits
    - dfdl:initiator
    - dfdl:sequenceKind
    - dfdl:initiatedContent
    - dfdl:separator
        - dfdl:separatorPosition
        - dfdl:separatorSuppressionPolicy
    - dfdl:terminator
        - dfdl:documentFinalTerminatorCanBeMissing

- dfdl:trailingSkip
  - dfdl:alignmentUnits

#### 22.1.4 dfdl:choice and dfdl:group (when reference is to a choice)

- *Parsing: common*
  - dfdl:encoding
    - 'UTF-16' 'UTF-16BE' 'UTF-16LE'
      - dfdl:utf16Width
  - dfdl:ignoreCase
- *Parsing: identification, framing & extraction*
  - dfdl:leadingSkip
    - dfdl:alignmentUnits
  - dfdl:alignment
    - *not "implicit"*
      - dfdl:alignmentUnits
  - dfdl:initiator
  - dfdl:choiceLengthKind
    - *"explicit"*
      - dfdl:choiceLength
  - dfdl:initiatedContent
  - dfdl:choiceBranchRef
  - dfdl:elementID
  - dfdl:terminator
    - dfdl:documentFinalTerminatorCanBeMissing
  - dfdl:trailingSkip
    - dfdl:alignmentUnits

### 22.2 Unparsing

The following list gives the order in which DFDL properties are examined when the DFDL unparser is positioned at a particular component in the DFDL Infoset, and about to unparsed and thereby create the bitstream which is the representation of that component.

#### 22.2.1 dfdl:element (simple) and dfdl:simpleType

- *Unparsing: calculated value (does not apply to dfdl:simpleType or to global elements)*
  - dfdl:inputValueCalc (if set then element is ignored)
  - dfdl:outputValueCalc
- *Unparsing: common*
  - dfdl:outputNewLine
  - dfdl:encoding
    - 'UTF-16' 'UTF-16BE' 'UTF-16LE'

        - dfdl:utf16Width
    - dfdl:fillByte
- *Unparsing: repeats (does not apply to dfdl:simpleType or to global elements)*
    - (xs:maxOccurs > 1 or unbounded) or (xs:minOccurs = 0 and xs:maxOccurs = 1)
        - dfdl:occursCountKind
            - *"expression"*
                - dfdl:occursCount
            - *"fixed", "implicit"*
                - xs:minOccurs
                - xs:maxOccurs
            - *"parsed"*
            - *"stopValue"*
                - dfdl:occursStopValue
- *Unparsing: conversion*
    - dfdl:useNilForDefault *(does not apply to dfdl:simpleType)*
        - *"true"*
            - *None*
        - *"false"*
            - xs:default *or* xs:fixed
    - xs:nillable *(does not apply to dfdl:simpleType)*
        - dfdl:nilKind
            - *"literalValue", "logicalValue", "literalCharacter"*
                - dfdl:nilValue
    - xs:type
        - *"Number"*
            - dfdl:decimalSigned
            - dfdl:representation
                - *"text"*
                    - dfdl:textNumberRep
                        - *"standard"*
                            - dfdl:textNumberPattern
                            - dfdl:textStandardBase
                            - dfdl:textStandardDecimalSeparator
                            - dfdl:textStandardGroupingSeparator
                            - dfdl:textStandardExponentRep

- dfdl:textNumberCheckPolicy
- dfdl:textStandardInfinityRep
- dfdl:textStandardNaNRep
- dfdl:textNumberRounding
  - "*explicit*"
    - dfdl:textNumberRoundingMode
    - dfdl:textNumberRoundingIncrement
- dfdl:textStandardZeroRep

- *"zoned"*
  - dfdl:textNumberPattern
  - dfdl:textNumberCheckPolicy
  - dfdl:textNumberRounding
    - "*explicit*"
      - dfdl:textNumberRoundingMode
      - dfdl:textNumberRoundingIncrement
  - dfdl:textZonedSignStyle

- dfdl:textBidi
  - dfdl:textBidiOrdering
  - dfdl:textBiDiOrientation
  - dfdl:textBidiNumeralShapes

- *"binary"*
  - dfdl:byteOrder
  - *xs:decimal and restrictions*
    - dfdl:binaryNumberRep
      - *“packed”*
        - dfdl:binaryPackedSignCodes
        - dfdl:binaryDecimalVirtualPoint
      - *“bcd”, “ibm4690Packed”*
        - dfdl:binaryDecimalVirtualPoint
      - *“binary”*
        - dfdl:binaryDecimalVirtualPoint
  - *xs:float, xs:double*

- dfdl:binaryFloatRep
- *"String"*
  - dfdl:textBidi
    - dfdl:textBidiOrdering
    - dfdl:textBiDiOrientation
    - dfdl:textBidiSymmetric
    - dfdl:textBidiShaped
- *"Calendar"*
  - dfdl:representation
    - *"text"*
      - dfdl:calendarPatternKind "*explicit*"
        - dfdl:calendarPattern
      - dfdl:calendarCheckPolicy
      - dfdl:calendarTimeZone
      - dfdl:calendarObserveDST
      - dfdl:calendarFirstDayOfWeek
      - dfdl:calendarDaysInFirstWeek
      - dfdl:calendarLanguage
      - dfdl:textBidi
        - dfdl:textBidiOrdering
        - dfdl:textBiDiOrientation
        - dfdl:textBidiSymmetric
        - dfdl:textBidiShaped
    - *"binary"*
      - dfdl:byteOrder
      - dfdl:binaryCalendarRep
        - *“packed”*
          - dfdl:packedDecimalSignCodes
          - dfdl:decimalVirtualPoint
          - dfdl:calendarPatternKind
            - "*explicit*"
              - dfdl:calendarPattern
          - dfdl:calendarCheckPolicy
          - dfdl:calendarTimeZone
          - dfdl:calendarObserveDST
          - dfdl:calendarFirstDayOfWeek
          - dfdl:calendarDaysInFirstWeek

        - dfdl:calendarCenturyStart
    - *"bcd", "ibm4690Packed"*
        - dfdl:decimalVirtualPoint
        - dfdl:calendarPatternKind
            - "*explicit*"
                - dfdl:calendarPattern
        - dfdl:calendarCheckPolicy
        - dfdl:calendarTimeZone
        - dfdl:calendarObserveDST
        - dfdl:calendarFirstDayOfWeek
        - dfdl:calendarDaysInFirstWeek
        - dfdl:calendarCenturyStart
    - *"binarySeconds", "binaryMilliseconds"*
        - dfdl:binaryCalendarEpoch
- *"Opaque"*
- *"Boolean"*
    - dfdl:representation
        - *"text"*
            - dfdl:textBooleanTrueRep
            - dfdl:textBooleanFalseRep
            - dfdl:textBidi
                - dfdl:textBidiOrdering
                - dfdl:textBiDiOrientation
                - dfdl:textBidiSymmetric
                - dfdl:textBidiTextShaped
        - *"binary"*
            - dfdl:byteOrder
            - dfdl:binaryBooleanTrueRep
            - dfdl:binaryBooleanFalseRep

- *Unparsing: insertion & framing*
    - dfdl:leadingSkip
        - dfdl:alignmentUnits
    - dfdl:alignment
        - *not "implicit"*
            - dfdl:alignmentUnits
    - dfdl:representation *"text" or xs:simpleType 'string'*
        - dfdl:escapeSchemeRef

- dfdl:lengthKind
  - *"implicit"*
    - xs:maxLength *or* dfdl:textBooleanTrueRep/dfdl:textBooleanFalseRep
    - dfdl:lengthUnits
    - dfdl:textPadKind
      - dfdl:textStringPadCharacter, dfdl:textNumberPadCharacter, dfdl:textBooleanPadCharacter or dfdl:textCalendarPadCharacter
      - dfdl:textStringJustification, dfdl:textNumberJustification, dfdl:textBooleanJustification or dfdl:textCalendarJustification
    - dfdl:truncateSpecifiedLengthString
  - *"explicit"*
    - *not expression*
      - dfdl:length
      - dfdl:truncateSpecifiedLengthString
    - *expression*
      - xs:minLength *or* dfdl:textOutputMinLength
    - dfdl:lengthUnits
    - dfdl:textPadKind
      - dfdl:textStringPadCharacter, dfdl:textNumberPadCharacter, dfdl:textBooleanPadCharacter or dfdl:textCalendarPadCharacter
      - dfdl:textStringJustification, dfdl:textNumberJustification, dfdl:textBooleanJustification or dfdl:textCalendarJustification
  - *"prefixed"*
    - dfdl:prefixLengthType
    - dfdl:prefixIncludesPrefixLength
    - dfdl:lengthUnits
    - dfdl:textPadKind
      - dfdl:textStringPadCharacter, dfdl:textNumberPadCharacter, dfdl:textBooleanPadCharacter or dfdl:textCalendarPadCharacter
      - dfdl:textStringJustification, dfdl:textNumberJustification,

dfdl:textBooleanJustification or
dfdl:textCalendarJustification

- xs:minLength *or* dfdl:textOutputMinLength

- *"pattern", "delimited", "endOfParent"*
  - dfdl:textPadKind
    - dfdl:textStringPadCharacter, dfdl:textNumberPadCharacter, dfdl:textBooleanPadCharacter or dfdl:textCalendarPadCharacter
    - dfdl:textStringJustification, dfdl:textNumberJustification, dfdl:textBooleanJustification or dfdl:textCalendarJustification
    - xs:minLength *or* dfdl:textOutputMinLength

- dfdl:representation *"binary" or xs:simpleType 'hexBinary'*
  - dfdl:lengthKind
    - *"implicit"*
      - xs:maxLength *or* xs:simpleType
      - dfdl:lengthUnits
    - *"explicit"*
      - dfdl:length
      - dfdl:lengthUnits
    - *"prefixed"*
      - dfdl:prefixLengthType
      - dfdl:prefixIncludesPrefixLength
      - dfdl:lengthUnits
    - *"delimited", "endOfParent"*
      - *None*

- dfdl:initiator
  - dfdl:nilValueDelimiterPolicy *(does not apply to dfdl:simpleType)*
  - dfdl:emptyValueDelimiterPolicy
- dfdl:terminator
  - dfdl:nilValueDelimiterPolicy *(does not apply to dfdl:simpleType)*
  - dfdl:emptyValueDelimiterPolicy
- dfdl:trailingSkip
  - dfdl:alignmentUnits

### *22.2.2* dfdl:element (complex)

- *Unparsing: common*
  - dfdl:outputNewLine

- dfdl:encoding
  - 'UTF-16' 'UTF-16BE' 'UTF-16LE'
    - dfdl:utf16Width
- dfdl:fillByte

- *Unparsing: nillable*
  - xs:nillable *(does not apply to dfdl:simpleType)*
    - dfdl:nilKind
      - *"literalValue"*
        - dfdl:nilValue (must be "%ES;")
- *Unparsing: repeats (does not apply to global elements)*
  - (xs:maxOccurs > 1 or unbounded) or (xs:minOccurs = 0 and xs:maxOccurs = 1)
    - dfdl:occursCountKind
      - *"expression"*
        - dfdl:occursCount
      - *"fixed"*, *"implicit"*
        - xs:minOccurs
        - xs:maxOccurs
      - *"parsed"*
- *Unparsing: insertion & framing*
  - dfdl:leadingSkip
    - dfdl:alignmentUnits
  - dfdl:alignment
    - *not "implicit"*
      - dfdl:alignmentUnits
  - dfdl:initiator
    - dfdl:nilValueDelimiterPolicy
    - dfdl:emptyValueDelimiterPolicy
  - dfdl:lengthKind
    - *"explicit"*
      - dfdl:length
      - dfdl:lengthUnits
    - *"prefixed"*
      - dfdl:prefixLengthType
      - dfdl:prefixIncludesPrefixLength
      - dfdl:lengthUnits
    - *"implicit", "pattern", "delimited", "endOfParent"*
      - *None*

- dfdl:terminator
  - dfdl:nilValueDelimiterPolicy
  - dfdl:emptyValueDelimiterPolicy
- dfdl:trailingSkip
  - dfdl:alignmentUnits

### *22.2.3* dfdl:sequence and dfdl:group (when reference is a sequence)

- *Unparsing: hidden (xs:sequence only)*
  - dfdl:hiddenGroupRef
- *Unparsing: common*
  - dfdl:outputNewLine
  - dfdl:encoding
    - 'UTF-16' 'UTF-16BE' 'UTF-16LE'
      - dfdl:utf16Width
  - dfdl:fillByte
- *Unparsing: insertion & framing*
  - dfdl:leadingSkip
    - dfdl:alignmentUnits
  - dfdl:alignment
    - *not "implicit"*
      - dfdl:alignmentUnits
  - dfdl:initiator
  - dfdl:separator
    - dfdl:separatorPosition
    - dfdl:separatorSuppressionPolicy
  - dfdl:terminator
  - dfdl:trailingSkip
    - dfdl:alignmentUnits

### *22.2.4* dfdl:choice and dfdl:group (when reference is a choice)

- *Unparsing: common*
  - dfdl:outputNewLine
  - dfdl:encoding
    - 'UTF-16' 'UTF-16BE' 'UTF-16LE'
      - dfdl:utf16Width
  - dfdl:fillByte
- *Unparsing: insertion & framing*
  - dfdl:leadingSkip

        - dfdl:alignmentUnits
    - dfdl:alignment
        - *not "implicit"*
            - dfdl:alignmentUnits
    - dfdl:initiator
    - dfdl:choiceLengthKind
        - *explicit"*
            - dfdl:choiceLength
    - dfdl:terminator
    - dfdl:trailingSkip
        - dfdl:alignmentUnits

## 23. Expression language

The DFDL expression language allows the processing of values conforming to the data model defined in the DFDL Infoset. It allows properties in the DFDL schema to be dependent on the value of an occurrence of an element or the value of a DFDL variable. For example the length of the content of an element can be made dependent on the value of another element in the document.

The main uses of the expression language are as follows:

1. When a DFDL property needs to be set dynamically at parse time from the value of one or more elements of the data. Properties such as initiator, terminator, length, occursCount and separator accept an expression.
2. In a dfdl:assert annotation
3. In a dfdl:discriminator annotation to resolve uncertainty when parsing
4. In a dfdl:inputValueCalc property to derive the value of an element in the logical model that doesn't exist in the physical data.
5. In a dfdl:outputValueCalc property to compute the value of an element on unparsing.
6. As the value in a dfdl:setVariable annotation or the dfdl:defaultValue in a dfdl:defineVariable or dfdl:newVariableInstance.

The DFDL expression language is a subset of XPath 2.0 [XPath2]. DFDL uses a subset of XML schema and has a simpler information model, so only a subset of XPath 2.0 expressions is meaningful in DFDL Schemas. For example there are no attributes in DFDL so the attribute axis is not needed.

In addition, DFDL expressions never return node-sequences having more than one node. DFDL expressions either return a simple value, a node sequence containing exactly one node/value, or an empty node sequence.

It is a schema definition error if an array element appears as a segment in a path location and is not qualified by a predicate. There are two exceptions to this: the dfdl:occursCount and dfdl:occursCountWithDefault functions take a path ending in the name of an array or optional element.

DFDL implementations MUST comply with the error code behaviour in Appendix G of the XPath 2.0 spec and map these to the correct DFDL failure type. All but one of XPath's errors map to a schema definition error. The exception is XPTY0004, which is used both for static and dynamic cases of type mismatch. A static type mismatch maps to a schema definition error, whereas a dynamic type mismatch maps to a processing error. A DFDL implementation should distinguish the two kinds of XPTY0004 error if it is able to do so, but if unable it should map all XPTY0004 errors to a schema definition error

Implementation Note: DFDL implementations may use off-the-shelf XPath 2.0 processors, but will need to pre-process DFDL expressions to ensure that the behaviour matches the DFDL specification:

- Wrap path locations in a call to fn:exactly-one() except when the path location occurs within certain functions which operate on arrays
- Check for the disallowed use of those XPath 2.0 functions that are not in the DFDL subset

### 23.1 Expression Language Data Model

The DFDL expression language operates on the DFDL infoset with the addition of the hidden elements. That is, it operates on the *augmented* infoset.

During parsing, expressions can reference any element preceding the current position. During parsing only a limited degree of reference to elements following the current position is allowed. Forward reference can occur only in the context of a dfdl:discriminator annotation and implementations may have varying ability to support forward reference.

During unparsing, expressions can reference any element either preceding or following the current element in the data stream.

Implementations may have specific limitations on the use of these forward or backward reference, or may provide controls for bounding the reach of such references. These mechanisms are beyond the scope of this specification.

## 23.2 Variables

A variable is a binding between a (qualified) name and a (typed) value. Variables are defined using the dfdl:defineVariable annotation (see 7.7); defining a variable causes an initial instance also to be created. Further instances of variables are created using the dfdl:newVariableInstance annotation. Instances of variables are assigned a value using the dfdl:setVariable annotation. Variables are referenced in expressions by preceding the QName with '$'.

This section describes the semantics of variables. Any implementation consistent with the behavior described here is acceptable.

The memory where the information about a variable is stored during DFDL processing is called the *variable memory*. A variable is a name that is associated with a storage tuple in the variable memory.

Specifically, the variable memory contains:

- a counter used to generate locations for new tuples. Initial value is 1.
- an ordered list of locations. Each location contains a tuple of values:
    - has-been-set flag. This Boolean is originally false. dfdl:setVariable changes this flag to true.
    - has-been-referenced flag. This Boolean is originally false. Evaluation of an expression that uses the variable value changes the value to true.
    - has-value flag. This Boolean is originally true if the dfdl:defineVariable or dfdl:newVariableInstance annotation has a default value specified, or if a default value has been supplied externally. Otherwise it is false, but is set to true if a dfdl:setVariable annotation is processed.
    - typeID. This string is a type identifier taken from the type specified in the dfdl:defineVariable annotation.
    - value. This is a typed value, or the distinguished value "unknown". The type of the value must correspond to the typeID. The value is optionally specified in dfdl:defineVariable or dfdl:newVariableInstance annotations in which case we refer to it as the *default value* for the variable. A default value may also be provided by the DFDL processor when the variable is defined with external=”true”.

The variable memory is initialized when a dfdl:defineVariable annotation is encountered.

Each time a dfdl:newVariableInstance annotation is encountered, the parser captures the current value of the counter from the variable memory. It then creates a new variable memory where the location counter's value is one greater, and where the list of locations has been augmented with a new tuple at the location given by the prior value of the location counter. The tuple is initialized based on the specifics of the dfdl:defineVariable annotation.

### 23.2.1 Rewinding of Variable Memory State

Upon exit of the scope where the new variable instance was created, the newly created variable memory is discarded and the prior variable memory is restored.

Note that the above algorithm insures that each time a dfdl:newVariableInstance is encountered, a fresh location is initialized for it, and once the scope containing that variable goes out of scope, the instance tuple for the variable can no longer be reached. A different variable instance tuple may now be visible if there is one still in an enclosing scope.

### 23.2.2 Variable Memory State Transitions

The flags in the variable memory tuples are interpreted and modified as follows:

| **DFDL annotation** | ***before annotation processed*** | | | ***after annotation processed*** | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | ***has-been-set*** | ***has-been-referenced*** | ***has-value*** | ***has-been-set*** | ***has-been-referenced*** | ***has-value*** |
| defineVariable (without default or external value) | tuple doesn't exist | | | false | false | false |
| defineVariable (with default value) | tuple doesn't exist | | | false | false | true |
| defineVariable (with external value) | tuple doesn't exist | | | false | false | true |
| newVariableInstance (without default value) | tuple doesn't exist | | | false | false | false |
| newVariableInstance (with default value) | tuple doesn't exist | | | false | false | true |
| setVariable | tuple doesn't exist | | | schema definition error | | |
| | false | false | false | true | false | true |
| | false | false | true | true | false | true (also value changed to new value) |
| | false | true | true | schema definition error – set after reference not allowed. | | |
| | true | any | true | schema definition error - double set not allowed. | | |
| reference variable (from DFDL expression) | tuple doesn't exist | | | schema definition error | | |
| | false | false | false | schema definition error – undefined variable | | |
| | any | any | true | false | true (value is returned) | true |

**Table 24 Variable memory states.**

The above table describes a set of rules which might be abbreviated as:

- write once, read many
- no write after the value has been read

An exception to this behavior occurs whenever the DFDL processor backtracks because it is processing multiple arms of a choice or as a result of speculative parsing. In this case the variable state is also rewound.

It is a schema definition error if a dfdl:setVariable or a variable reference occurs and there is no corresponding variable name defined by a dfdl:defineVariable annotation.

It is a schema definition error if a dfdl:setVariable provides a value of incorrect type which does not correspond to the type specified by the dfdl:defineVariable.

It is a schema definition error if a variable reference in an expression is able to return a value of incorrect type for the evaluation of that expression. That is, DFDL - including the expressions contained in it - is a statically type-checkable language. DFDL implementations may issue these schema definition errors prior to processing time.

Even if the errors are detected at processing time, the errors associated with write-after-read, and double-write are schema definition errors because they indicate the schema is not properly designed to use variables consistent with their single-assignment behavior.

### 23.3 General Syntax

DFDL expressions follow the XPath 2.0 syntax rules but are always enclosed in curly braces “{“ and “}”.

When a property accepts either a DFDL string literal or a DFDL expression, and the value is a string literal starting with a “{“ character, then “{{“must be used to escape the “{“ character.

The syntax “{}” is a schema definition error as it results in an empty XPath 2.0 expression which is not legal. It is not the equivalent of setting the property to empty string.

Examples

```
{ /book/title }
{ $x+2 }
{ if (fn:exists(../field1))  then 1 else 0  }
```

The result of evaluating the expression must be a single atomic value of the type expected by the context, and it is a schema definition error otherwise. Some XPath expressions naturally return a sequence of values, and in this case it is also schema definition error if an expression returns a sequence containing more than one item.

Additionally:

- Every property that accepts an expression states exactly what the expression is expected to return. To ensure the returned value is of the correct type, an expression must use XPath constructors or the correct literal values.
- What appears lexically as the syntax of an expression follows XPath 2.0 rules. Note specifically that this is not the same as xs:default and xs:fixed lexical syntax. Specifically, xs:default and xs:fixed do not accept expressions. They are always interpreted as XML Schema string literals. See [XSDLV1] for details.
- No extra auto-casting is performed over and above that provided by XPath 2.0. XPath 2.0 has rules for when it promotes types and when it allows types to be substituted. These are in Appendix B.1 of the XPath 2.0 spec.
- If the property is not expecting an expression to return a DFDL string literal, the returned value is never treated as a DFDL string literal.
- If expecting an expression to return a DFDL string literal, the returned value is always treated as a DFDL string literal.
- Within an expression, a string is never interpreted as a DFDL string literal.

### 23.4 DFDL Expression Syntax

Refer to XML Path Language (XPath) 2.0 [XPath2 for a description of XPath expressions

```
DFDL Expression      ::=  "{" Expr "}"

Expr                 ::=  ExprSingle

ExprSingle           ::=   IfExpr
                         | OrExpr

IfExpr               ::=  "if" "(" Expr ")" "then" ExprSingle
                          "else" ExprSingle

OrExpr               ::=  AndExpr ( "or" AndExpr )*

AndExpr              ::=  ComparisonExpr ( "and"
                          ComparisonExpr )*

ComparisonExpr       ::=  AdditiveExpr ( (ValueComp
                          ) AdditiveExpr)?

AdditiveExpr         ::=  MultiplicativeExpr ( ("+" | "-")
                          MultiplicativeExpr )*

MultiplicativeExpr   ::=  UnaryExpr  ( ("*" | "div" | "idiv"
                          | "mod") UnaryExpr  )*

UnaryExpr            ::=  ("-" | "+")* ValueExpr

ValueExpr            ::=  PathExpr

ValueComp            ::=  "eq" | "ne" | "lt" | "le" | "gt" |
                          "ge"

PathExpr             ::=  ("/" RelativePathExpr?)
                          | RelativePathExpr | FilterExpr

RelativePathExpr     ::=  StepExpr (("/") StepExpr)*

StepExpr             ::=  AxisStep

AxisStep             ::=  (ReverseStep | ForwardStep)
                          Predicate?

ForwardStep          ::=  (ForwardAxis NodeTest) |
                          AbbrevForwardStep

ForwardAxis          ::=  ("child" "::")
                          | ("self" "::")


AbbrevForwardStep    ::=  NodeTest | ContextItemExpr

ReverseStep          ::=  (ReverseAxis NodeTest) |
                          AbbrevReverseStep

ReverseAxis          ::=  ("parent" "::")
                          ")
```

```
AbbrevReverseStep    ::=  ".."

NodeTest             ::=  NameTest

NameTest             ::=  QName

FilterExpr           ::=  PrimaryExpr Predicate?

Predicate            ::=  "[" Expr "]"

PrimaryExpr          ::=  Literal | VarRef |
                          ParenthesizedExpr | ContextItemExpr
                          | FunctionCall

Literal              ::=  NumericLiteral | StringLiteral

NumericLiteral       ::=  IntegerLiteral | DecimalLiteral |
                          DoubleLiteral

VarRef               ::=  "$" VarName

VarName              ::=  QName

ParenthesizedExpr    ::=  "(" Expr ")"

ContextItemExpr      ::=  "."

FunctionCall         ::=  QName "(" (ExprSingle ("," 
                          ExprSingle)*)? ")"
```

**Table 25 DFDL Expression Language**

Notes:

1. Only *If* and *path* expression types are supported
2. Only the *child*, *parent*, and *self* axes are supported
3. Predicates are only used to index arrays and so must be integer expressions otherwise a schema definition error occurs
4. A subset of the XPath 2.0 operators are supported

## 23.5 Constructors, Functions and Operators

In the function signatures below a '?' following an argument name, argument type or result type indicates that the argument/result can be a node or value of the expected type or it can have no value.

### 23.5.1 Constructor Functions for XML Schema Built-in Types

The arguments to the constructors are all of type xs:anyAtomicType. Since the expression language can be statically type checked, it is a schema definition error if the type of the argument is not one of the DFDL-supported subtypes of xs:anyAtomicType,

However, many statically type-correct values will still not be convertible to the result type.It is a processing error if the supplied argument value is not convertible to the constructed type.

The following constructor functions for the built-in types are supported:

- xs:string($arg as xs:anyAtomicType) as xs:string
- xs:boolean($arg as xs:anyAtomicType) as xs:boolean
- xs:decimal($arg as xs:anyAtomicType) as xs:decimal
- xs:float($arg as xs:anyAtomicType) as xs:float
- xs:double($arg as xs:anyAtomicType) as xs:double
- xs:dateTime($arg as xs:anyAtomicType) as xs:dateTime
- xs:time($arg as xs:anyAtomicType) as xs:time
- xs:date($arg as xs:anyAtomicType) as xs:date
- xs:hexBinary($arg as xs:anyAtomicType) as xs:hexBinary
- xs:integer($arg as xs:anyAtomicType) as xs:integer
- xs:long($arg as xs:anyAtomicType) as xs:long
- xs:int($arg as xs:anyAtomicType) as xs:int
- xs:short($arg as xs:anyAtomicType) as xs:short
- xs:byte($arg as xs:anyAtomicType) as xs:byte
- xs:nonNegativeInteger($arg as xs:anyAtomicType) as xs:nonNegativeInteger
- xs:unsignedLong($arg as xs:anyAtomicType) as xs:unsignedLong
- xs:unsignedInt($arg as xs:anyAtomicType) as xs:unsignedInt
- xs:unsignedShort($arg as xs:anyAtomicType) as xs:unsignedShort
- xs:unsignedByte($arg as xs:anyAtomicType) as xs:unsignedByte

A special constructor function is provided for constructing a `xs:dateTime` value from an `xs:date` value and an `xs:time` value.

- fn:dateTime($arg1 as xs:date, $arg2 as xs:time) as xs:dateTime

### 23.5.2 Standard XPath Functions

#### 23.5.2.1 Boolean functions

The following additional constructor functions are defined on the boolean type.

| Function | Meaning |
|---|---|
| fn:true() | Constructs the xs:boolean value 'true'. |
| fn:false() | Constructs the xs:boolean value 'false'. |

**Table 26 Boolean functions**

The following functions are defined on boolean values:

| Function | Meaning |
|---|---|
| fn:not($arg?) | If `$arg` is the empty sequence or nil, `fn:not` returns `true`.<br>If `$arg` is a sequence containing a node, `fn:not` returns `false`.<br>If `$arg` is a value of type `xs:boolean` or a derived from `xs:boolean`, `fn:not` returns the boolean inverse of `$arg`.<br>If `$arg` is a value of type `xs:string` or a type derived from `xs:string`, `fn:not` returns `true` if the operand value has zero length; otherwise it returns `false`.<br>If `$arg` is a value of any numeric type or a type derived from a numeric type, `fn:not` returns `true` if the operand value is `NaN` or is numerically equal to zero; otherwise it returns `false`.<br>In all other cases, `fn:not` raises a processing error.<br>Inverts the xs:boolean value of the argument. |

**Table 27 Boolean functions**

### 23.5.2.2 Numeric Functions

The following functions are defined on numeric types. Each function returns a value of the same type as the type of its argument. The argument must be convertible to a number type.

| Function | Meaning |
|---|---|
| fn:abs($arg as numeric) | Returns the absolute value of the argument. |
| fn:ceiling($arg as numeric) | Returns the smallest number with no fractional part that is greater than or equal to the argument. |
| fn:floor($arg as numeric) | Returns the largest number with no fractional part that is less than or equal to the argument. |
| fn:round($arg as numeric) | Rounds to the nearest number with no fractional part. |
| fn:round-half-to-even($arg as numeric)<br>fn:round-half-to-even($arg as numeric, $precision as xs:integer) | Takes a number and a precision and returns a number rounded to the given precision. If the fractional part is exactly half, the result is the number whose least significant digit is even. |

**Table 28 Numeric Functions**

### 23.5.2.3 String Functions

The following functions are defined on values of type `xs:string` and types derived from it.

| Function | Meaning |
|---|---|

| Function | Meaning |
|---|---|
| fn:concat( $arg1 as xs:anyAtomicType, $arg2 as xs:anyAtomicType, ... ) | Concatenates two or more xs:anyAtomicType arguments cast to xs:string. |
| fn:substring($sourceString as xs:string, $startingLoc as xs:double)<br>fn:substring($sourceString as xs:string, $startingLoc as xs:double, $length as xs:double) | Returns the xs:string located at a specified place within an argument xs:string. |
| fn:string-length($arg as xs:string) | Returns the length of the argument as an xs:integer |
| fn:upper-case($arg as xs:string) | Returns the upper-cased value of the argument. |
| fn:lower-case($arg as xs:string) | Returns the lower-cased value of the argument. |

| Function | Meaning |
|---|---|
| fn:contains($arg1 as xs:string, $arg2 as xs:string)<br>fn:contains($arg1 as xs:string, $arg2 as xs:string, $collation as xs:string) | Returns xs:boolean indicating whether one xs:string contains another xs:string. A collation may be specified. |
| fn:starts-with($arg1 as xs:string, $arg2 as xs:string)<br>fn:starts-with($arg1 as xs:string, $arg2 as xs:string, $collation as xs:string) | Returns xs:boolean indicating whether the value of one xs:string begins with the collation units of another xs:string. A collation may be specified. |
| fn:ends-with($arg1 as xs:string, $arg2 as xs:string)<br>fn:ends-with($arg1 as xs:string, $arg2 as xs:string, $collation as xs:string) | Returns xs:boolean indicating whether the value of one xs:string ends with the collation units of another xs:string. A collation may be specified. |
| fn:substring-before($arg1 as xs:string, $arg2 as xs:string)<br>fn:substring-before($arg1 as xs:string, $arg2 as xs:string, $collation as xs:string) | Returns the collation units of one xs:string that precede in that xs:string the collation units of another xs:string. A collation may be specified. |
| fn:substring-after($arg1 as xs:string, $arg2 as xs:string)<br>fn:substring-after($arg1 as xs:string, $arg2 as xs:string, $collation as xs:string) | Returns the collation units of xs:string that follow in that xs:string the collation units of another xs:string. A collation may be specified. |

**Table 29 String Functions**

#### 23.5.2.4 Date, Time functions

| Function | Meaning |
|---|---|
| fn:year-from-dateTime($arg as xs:dateTime) | Returns the year from an xs:dateTime value. |
| fn:month-from-dateTime($arg as xs:dateTime) | Returns the month from an xs:dateTime value. |
| fn:day-from-dateTime($arg as xs:dateTime) | Returns the day from an xs:dateTime value. |
| fn:hours-from-dateTime($arg as xs:dateTime) | Returns the hours from an xs:dateTime value. |
| fn:minutes-from-dateTime($arg as xs:dateTime) | Returns the minutes from an xs:dateTime value. |
| fn:seconds-from-dateTime($arg as xs:dateTime) | Returns the seconds from an xs:dateTime value. |
| fn:year-from-date($arg as xs:date) | Returns the year from an xs:date value. |
| fn:month-from-date($arg as xs:date) | Returns the month from an xs:date value. |
| fn:day-from-date($arg as xs:date) | Returns the day from an xs:date value. |
| fn:hours-from-time($arg as xs:time) | Returns the hours from an xs:time value. |
| fn:minutes-from-time($arg as xs:time) | Returns the minutes from an xs:time value. |
| fn:seconds-from-time($arg as xs:time) | Returns the seconds from an xs:time value. |

**Table 30 Date, Time functions**

#### 23.5.2.5 Node Sequence Test Functions

The following functions are defined on sequences. (Note that DFDL v1.0 does not support sequences of length > 1.)

| Function | Meaning |
|---|---|
| fn:empty($arg?) | Indicates whether or not the provided sequence is empty. |
| fn:exists($arg?) | Indicates whether or not the provided sequence is not empty. |
| fn:exactly-one($arg?) | True if the provided sequence contains exactly one node/value. |

**Table 31 Sequences functions**

#### 23.5.2.6 Node functions

This section discusses functions and operators on nodes.

| Function | Meaning |
|---|---|
| fn:name()<br>fn:name($arg?) | Returns the name of the context node (".") or the specified node as an xs:string. Returns zero-length string if the arg is an empty sequence. Returns an xs:string in the form of an xs:QName otherwise. |
| fn:local-name()<br>fn:local-name($arg) | Returns the local name of the context node or the specified node as an xs:NCName. |
| fn:namespace-uri()<br>fn:namespace-uri($arg) | Returns the namespace URI as an xs:string for the argument node or the context node if the argument is omitted. Returns empty string if the argument/context node is in no namespace. |

**Table 32 Node functions**

### 23.5.3 DFDL Functions

| Function | Meaning |
|---|---|
| dfdl:contentLength($node, $lengthUnits) | Returns the length of the supplied node's SimpleContent region for elements of simple type, or ComplexContent region for elements of complex type. These regions are defined in Section 9.2 DFDL Data Syntax Grammar. The value is returned as an xs:unsignedLong.<br>The second argument is 'bytes', 'characters', or 'bits' and determines the units of length. |
| dfdl:valueLength($node, $lengthUnits) | Returns the length of the supplied node's ***SimpleValue or NilLogicalValue*** region for elements of simple type, or ComplexContent region for elements of complex type. These regions are defined in Section 9.2 DFDL Data Syntax Grammar. The value is returned as an xs:unsignedLong.<br>For simple types, the valueLength() function returns a length which excludes any padding or filling.<br>The second argument is 'bytes', 'characters', or 'bits' and determines the units of length. |
| dfdl:testBit($data, $bitPos) | Returns Boolean true if the bit number given by $bitPos is set on in |

| Function | Meaning |
|---|---|
| | the byte given by $data, otherwise returns Boolean false. |
| dfdl:setBits($bit1, $bit2, ... $bit8) | Returns an unsigned byte being the value of the bit positions provided by the Boolean arguments, where true=1, false=0. The number of arguments must be 8. |
| dfdl:occursCountWithDefault($arrayPath) | Returns the count of the number of occurrences including the effect of defaulting as an xs:long.<br>The $arrayPath argument must end in the name of an element without any index/predicate. |
| dfdl:occursCount($arrayPath) | Returns the count of the number of occurrences excluding the effect of defaulting as an xs:long.<br>The $arrayPath argument must end in the name of an element without any index/predicate. |
| dfdl:occursIndex() | Returns the position of the current item within an array as an xs:long.<br>The first element is at position 1. |
| dfdl:checkConstraints($node) | Returns boolean true if the specified node value satisfies the XML schema facet constraints that are associated with it. Returns false if the specified node does not meet the constraints or does not exist.<br>The facets that are checked are<br>• minLength, maxLength<br>• pattern<br>• enumeration<br>• maxInclusive, maxExclusive, minExclusive, minInclusive<br>• totalDigits<br>• fractionDigits<br>See Section 5.2 for which facets are checked for each simple type.<br>Additionally the fixed attribute is checked. |
| dfdl:stringLiteralFromString($arg) | Returns a DFDL string literal constructed from the $arg string argument. If $arg contains any '%' |

| Function | Meaning |
|---|---|
| | and/or space characters, then the return value replaces each '%' with '%%' and each space with '%SP;', otherwise $arg is returned unchanged.<br><br>Use this function when the value of a DFDL property is obtained from the data stream using an expression, and the type of the property is DFDL String Literal or List of DFDL String Literals, and the values extracted from the data stream could contain '%' or space characters. If the data already contains DFDL entities, this function should not be used. |
| dfdl:containsEntity($arg) | Returns a Boolean indicating whether the $arg string argument contains one or more DFDL entities. |

**Table 33 DFDL Functions**

Notes:

dfdl:valueLength(path, lengthUnits) - returns the value length which excludes any padding or filling which might be added for a *specified length*

If the element declaration in the DFDL schema corresponding to the infoset item is not potentially represented, then the unpadded length is defined to be 0.

The value length includes the length contributions from introduced escape characters needed to escape contained delimiters (if such are defined, and will appear in the output representation).

The value length is also a function of the dfdl:encoding property. Multi-byte and variable-width character set encodings will commonly contribute more bytes to the value length than a single-byte character set would.

The value length is computed from the DFDL infoset value, ignoring the dfdl:length or dfdl:textOutputMinLength property. Other DFDL properties which affect the length of a text or binary representation are respected, it is only an explicit length which is ignored.

For a complex type, this means a bottom up totaling of the dfdl:contentLength() of all the contents and framing of the complex type.

dfdl:contentLength(path, lengthUnits) – returns the length of the content of the infoset data item as identified by the path argument. This includes padding or filling or truncation which might be carried out for a *specified length* item.

If the element declaration in the DFDL schema corresponding to the infoset item is not potentially represented (e.g., has an dfdl:inputValueCalc property), then the length is defined to be 0.

When unparsing with dfdl:lengthKind="explicit", the calculation of dfdl:contentLength() returns the value of the dfdl:length property.

For both dfdl:contentLength() and dfdl:valueLength(), the content length excludes any alignment filling as well as excluding any leading or trailing skip bytes. That is, the returned length is about the length of the content, and not about the position of that content in the output data stream.

## 24. DFDL Regular Expressions

A DFDL regular expression may be specified for the dfdl:lengthPattern format property and the dfdl:testPattern attribute of the dfdl:assert and dfdl:disciminator annotations.

A DFDL regular expression may be either a PERL regular expression [PERLRE] or a Java® regular expression [JAVARE]. For portability it is recommended that use is restricted to a common subset of the PERL and Java syntax.

DFDL regular expressions do not interpret DFDL entities.

## 25. Security Considerations

All locations must be properly initialized before writing so as to prevent accidental (or purposeful) transmission of data in the unused parts of data formats. Even when a DFDL description does not specify that data should be written to a particular part of the output representation, a defined pattern should always be written.

When unparsing data it is a schema definition error if the representation properties that control filling and padding are not defined by the DFDL schema. The DFDL processor must fail if they are not defined so that it is certain no region of the output data has unspecified contents.

If regions within a DFDL-described data object are encrypted, then when decrypting them proper means must be used to assure secure passage of passwords to the decrypting software. Such means are beyond the scope of the DFDL language specification.

In addition, if encryption passwords/keys are stored in DFDL schema-described data, then proper means must be used to assure that the decrypted form of these passwords is not revealed. Such means are beyond the scope of the DFDL language specification.

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## 29. Full Copyright Notice

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[JAVARE] Java regular expressions.
http://download.oracle.com/javase/1.4.2/docs/api/java/util/regex/Pattern.html

[RDP] recursive descent parser**.** A "top-down" parser built from a set of mutually-recursive procedures or a non-recursive equivalent where each such procedure usually implements one of the productions of the grammar. Thus the structure of the resulting program closely mirrors that of the grammar it recognises.
["Recursive Programming Techniques", W.H. Burge, 1975, ISBN 0-201-14450-6].
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[OLSON] http://www.iana.org/time-zones

# 31. Appendix A:Escape Scheme Use Cases

## 31.1 Escape Character same as dfdl:escapeEscapeCharacater

EscapeKind='escapeCharacter', escapeCharacter='/', ecsapeEscapeCharacater='/', separator=';', extraEscapeCharacter='?'

| *Logical Data* | *Physical Data / Representation* |
|---|---|
| …….. | …….. |
| ……/…….. | ……//…….. |
| ……/…./…….. | ……//….//…….. |
| ……//…….. | ……////…….. |
| /…….. | //…….. |
| ……../ | ……..// |
| /……/…….. | //……//…….. |
| ……/……../ | ……//……..// |
| ……;…….. | ……/;…….. |
| ……/;…….. | ……///;…….. |
| ;…….. | /;…….. |
| ……?…….. | ……/?…….. |

## 31.2 Escape Character different from dfdl:escapeEscapeCharacater

EscapeKind='escapeCharacter', escapeCharacter='/', ecsapeEscapeCharacater='%', separator=';', extraEscapeCharacter='?'

| *Logical Data* | *Physical Data / Representation* |
|---|---|
| …….. | …….. |
| ……/…….. | ……%/…….. |
| ……/…./…….. | ……%/….%/…….. |
| ……//…….. | ……%/%/…….. |
| /…….. | %/…….. |
| ……../ | ……..%/ |
| /……/…….. | %/……%/…….. |
| ……/……../ | ……%/……..%/ |
| ……;…….. | ……/;…….. |
| ……/;…….. | ……%//;…….. |
| ;…….. | /;…….. |
| ……?…….. | ……/?…….. |
| ……%…….. | ……%…….. |
| ……%/…….. | ……%%/…….. |

| | |
|---|---|
| **……/%……..** | **……%/%……..** |

EscapeKind='escapeCharacter', escapeCharacter='/', ecsapeEscapeCharacater='%', separator='sep', extraEscapeCharacter='?'

| *Logical Data* | *Physical Data / Representation* |
|---|---|
| **……sep……..** | **……/sep……..** |
| **……/sep……..** | **……%//sep……..** |
| **sep……..** | **/sep……..** |

### 31.3 Escape block with different start and end characters

EscapeKind='escapeBlock', escapeBlockStart='[', escapeBlockEnd=']', ecsapeEscapeCharacater='%', separator=';', extraEscapeCharacter='?'

| *Logical Data* | *Physical Data / Representation* |
|---|---|
| **……..** | **……..** |
| **[……..** | **[[……..]** |
| **]……..** | **]……..** |
| **……[……..** | **……[……..** |
| **……]……..** | **……]……..** |
| **……..]** | **……..]** |
| **[[……..** | **[[[……..]** |
| **……..]]** | **……..]]** |
| **……[[……..** | **……[[……..** |
| **……]]……..** | **……]]……..** |
| **[……..]** | **[[……%]]** |
| **[……]……..** | **[[……%]……..]** |
| **……[……..]** | **……[……..]** |
| **[……[……..]** | **[[……[……..%]]** |
| **[……]……..]** | **[[……%]……..%]]** |
| **[[……..]** | **[[[……..%]]** |
| **[……..]]** | **[[……%]%]]** |
| **[[……..]]** | **[[[……..%]%]]** |
| **……%……..** | **……%……..** |
| **……%%……..** | **……%%……..** |
| **……%[……..** | **……%[……..** |
| **……%]……..** | **……%]……..** |
| **%[……..** | **%[……..** |
| **……..%]** | **……..%]** |
| **%[……..%]** | **%[……..%]** |

| | |
|---|---|
| [……%……..] | [[……%……..%]] |
| [……%]……..] | [[……%%]……..%]] |
| ……;…….. | [……;……] |
| ……%;…….. | [……%;……..] |
| [……;……] | [[……;……..%]] |
| ……?…….. | [……?……..] |

### 31.4 Escape block with same start and end characters

EscapeKind='escapeBlock', escapeBlockStart=' '', escapeBlockEnd=' '', ecsapeEscapeCharacater='%', separator=';', extraEscapeCharacter='?'

| *Logical Data* | *Physical Data / Representation* |
|---|---|
| …….. | …….. |
| '…….. | '%'……..' |
| ……'…….. | ……'…….. |
| ……..' | ……..' |
| ''…….. | '%'%'……..' |
| ……..'' | ……..'' |
| ……''…….. | ……''…….. |
| '……..' | '%'……..%'' |
| '……'…….. | '%'……%'……..' |
| ……'……..' | ……'……..' |
| '……''……..' | '%'……%'……..%'' |
| ''……..' | '%'%'……..%'' |
| '……..'' | '%'……..%'%'' |
| ''……..'' | '%'%'……..%'%'' |
| ……%…….. | ……%…….. |
| ……%%…….. | ……%%…….. |
| ……%'…….. | ……%'…….. |
| %'…….. | %'…….. |
| ……..%' | ……..%' |
| '……..%' | '%'……..%%'' |
| %'……..%' | %'……..%' |
| '……%……..' | '%'……%……..%'' |
| '……%'……..' | '%'……%%'……..%'' |
| ……;…….. | '……;……..' |
| ……%;…….. | '……%;……..' |

| | |
|---|---|
| '……;……..' | '%'……;……..%'' |
| ……?…….. | '……?……..' |

## 32. Appendix B: Encoding of delimiters different from encoding of data (eg, initiator and terminator different to data)

Use <xs:sequence> to wrap the element and carry the delimiters, for example:

```
<xs:sequence dfdl:encoding="ascii" dfdl:separator=":">
  <xs:sequence dfdl:encoding=" ebcdic-cp-us" dfdl:initiator="VAL"
               dfdl:terminator="END">
    <xs:element name="val" type="..." dfdl:encoding="ascii" />
  </xs:sequence>
</xs:sequence>
```

The same technique can be used with dfdl:ignoreCase when the case-sensitivity of data is different to that of surrounding delimiters

## 33. Appendix C: Rationale for Single-Assignment Variables

DFDL is intended to be a description language. That is, the capture of a data format should be as descriptive/declarative as possible.

An additional quite critical goal for DFDL is that it allows very high performance implementations, including use of parallel processing wherever possible.

DFDL contains an expression language with variables for use in creating parameterized DFDL schemas.

However, the way variables can be used in DFDL is quite constrained. Specifically, the variables are single-assignment.

Single-assignment variables solve a number of problems.

First, they keep the schema more declarative, because the name of a variable represents a value, not a location. Before assignment, the value is not yet known, after the assignment the value is known, but the consumer of the value need only know the name, and need not be aware of the mechanism by which it gets its value or when.

Second, single-assignment variables avoid over-constraining the implementation, thereby preserving the potential for high-performance and parallel processing.

Some digression is useful here: Any variable creates a data dependency in order of processing. The part of the schema reading/using the variable's value depends upon the data value coming from the part of the schema providing that value. This kind of data dependency is inherent and inescapable. Values must be created before they can be used.

However, if you consider a variable to be a location that can be assigned repeatedly, then things are more complex because you not only have data dependency on the value (one part of the schema writes the location, another reads that location), but you have the dependency in the other direction: you must read the location before it can be used again for the *next* value. This is usually called anti-dependency. Anti-dependency is the enemy of high-performance and parallel execution. It forces specific and artificial sequential ordering on things that is due to the way variable names are allocated to storage locations.

If variables are single-assignment only, then only data-dependencies exist. Anti-dependencies don't exist, and implementations are free to work in any way consistent with the (inescapable) data dependencies.