

SDXML VT2024 Models and languages for semi-structured data and XML

Product-specific techniques Oracle Database

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Corresponding reading
Product documentation
Compendium with introduction Oracle
Section 13.3 of the course book



Oracle Database 21c

- Support for a big part of SQL/XML according to SQL:2006
- Custom additions
 - Methods for XML objects (qualification is required!)
 - » Extract
 - » Transform

» ...

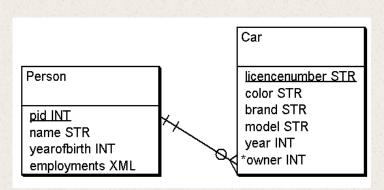
- Functions (many deprecated since version 12)
 - » Extract, ExtractValue, existsNode
 - » UpdateXML, InsertXML, DeleteXML, ...
 - » XMLTransform, XMLColAttVal

» ...

- XQuery additions (deprecated since version 12)
 - » ora:view, ora:contains, ora:matches ...
- Even more Oracle-specific solutions in previous versions, now removed or deprecated.



Sample data



PERSON

pid	name	yearofbirth	
1	John Higgins	1975	
2	Steven Hendry	1973	
3	Matthew Stevens	1982	
4	Ronnie O'Sullivan	1980	
5	Ken Doherty	1974	
6	Steve Davis	1960	
7	Paul Hunter	1983	
8	Neil Robertson	1982	

CAR

licencenumber	color	brand	model	year	owner
ABC123	black	NISSAN	Cherry	1995	1
CCD457	blue	FIAT	Forza	2001	2
DKL998	green	SAAB	9000C	1998	3
RSQ199	black	NISSAN	Micra	1999	4
WID387	red	FIAT	Nova	2003	5
ROO197	blue	SAAB	900i	1982	3
TYD226	black	NISSAN	Cherry	1990	1
PTF357	red	VOLVO	V70	2001	6
DAVIS1	red	VOLVO	V90	2007	6

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Sample data

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⁴ pid	employments
1	<root><employment employer="ABB" enddate="2009-02-28" startdate="2001-08-20"></employment> <employment employer="UPC" startdate="2009-04-15"></employment></root>
2	<root><employment employer="ABB" enddate="2003-06-30" startdate="2002-08-20"></employment> <employment employer="UPC" startdate="2003-08-01"></employment> <employment employer="ABB" startdate="2006-11-01"></employment></root>
3	<root><employment employer="UPC" startdate="2003-01-10"></employment> </root>
4	<root><employment employer="LKP" enddate="2010-05-22" startdate="2002-03-10"></employment> <employment employer="STG" startdate="2010-08-15"></employment></root>
5	<pre><root><employment employer="LKP" enddate="2003-05-11" startdate="2002-02-12"></employment> <employment employer="ABB" enddate="2003-12-02" startdate="2003-05-12"></employment> <employment employer="LKP" enddate="2005-02-17" startdate="2003-12-06"></employment> <employment employer="FFD" enddate="2008-05-16" startdate="2005-02-18"></employment> <employment employer="STG" startdate="2008-06-02"></employment></root></pre>
6	<root><employment employer="ABB" enddate="2005-12-31" startdate="2001-01-05"></employment> <employment employer="LKP" enddate="2009-01-22" startdate="2006-01-15"></employment> <employment employer="FFD" startdate="2009-02-01"></employment> <employment employer="XAB" startdate="2009-02-01"></employment></root>
7	<root><employment employer="FFD" enddate="2008-09-29" startdate="2004-01-10"></employment> <employment employer="LKP" enddate="2010-11-20" startdate="2008-10-01"></employment></root>
8	<root><employment employer="UPC" enddate="2008-10-30" startdate="2006-02-03"></employment></root>

<employment startdate="2008-11-20" employer="ABB"/></root>



Oracle - data type

XMLTYPE

- Supports explicit association to XML Schema
- Structural validation
- Stores the validation status
- Constructor function XMLTYPE
 - » XMLTYPE('<a/>')
 - » Only XML documents
- Only XML document in columns
- Full validation with
 - procedure SchemaValidate
 - » stores the result
 - » can be tested with the method IsSchemaValidated
 - method IsSchemaValid
 - » returns the result
- Attribute nodes are not handled very well



Oracle - SQL/XML

Supports the following functions

- XMLELEMENT (partially) - XMLQUERY (only CONTENT?)

 XMLATTRIBUTES - XMLTABLE (partially)

 XMLFOREST - XMLEXISTS

XMLCONCAT

XMLCOMMENT XMLSERIALIZE

- XMLCAST - XMLPI

- XMLPARSE XMLAGG

- XMLNAMESPACES is not supported, but
 - namespaces can be created with XMLATTRIBUTES!
- Dynamic node names with the keyword EVALNAME
 - Works with XMLELEMENT, XMLATTRIBUTES, XMLFOREST, XMLPI



Oracle - other functions

- XMLCDATA
- XMLISVALID
- XMLCOLATTVAL
- XMLTRANSFORM

Deprecated:

- EXTRACT
- EXTRACTVALUE
- EXISTSNODE
- XMLSEQUENCE

- Deprecated:
 - UPDATEXML
 - APPENDCHILDXML
 - INSERTCHILDXML
 - INSERTCHILDXMLAFTER
 - INSERTCHILDXMLBEFORE
 - INSERTXMLAFTER
 - INSERTXMLBEFORE
 - DELETEXML
 - XMLROOT



Oracle - XMLTYPE

- Methods (sometimes referred to as "member functions")
 - extract
 - existsNode
 - transform
 - isSchemaValidated
 - isSchemaValid
 - isSchemaBased
 - isFragment
 - getStringVal
 - getNumberVal
 - getCLOBVal
 - getBLOBVal
 - getNamespace
 - getRootElement
 - getSchemaURL



Oracle - XMLCDATA

- Equivalent to SQL/XML's XMLTEXT
 - Puts the text inside <![CDATA[value]]>

SELECT XMLELEMENT(NAME Person, XMLCDATA(name))
FROM person
WHERE pid = 1

<PERSON><![CDATA[John Higgins]]></PERSON>

SELECT XMLELEMENT(NAME Sign, '<') FROM dual <SIGN>&It;</SIGN>

SELECT XMLELEMENT(NAME Sign, XMLCDATA('<')) FROM dual <SIGN><![CDATA[<]]></SIGN>



Oracle - XMLISVALID

- Equivalent to SQL/XML's XMLVALIDATE
 - implicit schema XMLISVALID(xml-value)
 - explicit schemaXMLISVALID(xml-value, schema-name)



Oracle - XMLCOLATTVAL

- Generates one XML fragment per row
 - One column element per column/cell

SELECT XMLCOLATTVAL(name, yearofbirth) FROM person WHERE pid = 1

<column name = "NAME">John Higgins</column>
<column name = "YEAROFBIRTH">1975</column>

SELECT XMLCOLATTVAL('nikos' AS "Subject", 'lectures' AS "Predicate") FROM dual

<column name = "Subject">nikos</column>
<column name = "Predicate">lectures</column>



Oracle - EXTRACT

- Applies an XPath expression to an XML value
 - Returns XML
 - Deprecated. Replaced by SQL/XML's XMLQUERY

SELECT name, EXTRACT(employments, '//employment[1]') FROM Person

John Higgins<employment startdate="2001-08-20" enddate="2009-02-28" employer="ABB"/>Stephen Hendry<employment startdate="2002-08-20" enddate="2003-06-30" employer="ABB"/>Matthew Stevens<employment startdate="2003-01-10" employer="UPC"/>Ronnie O'Sullivan<employment startdate="2002-03-10" enddate="2010-05-22" employer="LKP"/>Ken Doherty<employment startdate="2002-02-12" enddate="2003-05-11" employer="LKP"/>Steve Davis<employment startdate="2001-01-05" enddate="2005-12-31" employer="ABB"/>Paul Hunter<employment startdate="2004-01-10" enddate="2008-09-29" employer="FFD"/>Neil Robertson<employment startdate="2006-02-03" enddate="2008-10-30" employer="UPC"/>

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Oracle - EXTRACT

SELECT name, EXTRACT(employments, '//employment[1]/@employer') FROM person

John Higgins ABB
Stephen Hendry ABB
Matthew Stevens UPC
Ronnie O'Sullivan LKP
Ken Doherty LKP
Steve Davis ABB
Paul Hunter FFD
Neil Robertson UPC



Oracle - EXTRACTVALUE

- · Applies an XPath expression to an XML value
 - Returns a value
 - Deprecated. Replaced by SQL/XML's XMLQUERY

SELECT name, EXTRACTVALUE(employments, '//employment[1]/@employer') FROM Person

John Higgins ABB Stephen Hendry ABB **Matthew Stevens** UPC LKP Ronnie O'Sullivan **Ken Doherty** LKP **Steve Davis ABB Paul Hunter FFD Neil Robertson UPC**



Oracle - EXISTSNODE

- Tests if an XPath expression matches at least one node in an XML value
 - Deprecated. Replaced by SQL/XML's XMLEXISTS
 - Returns 1 (true) or 0 (false)

SELECT name FROM Person WHERE EXISTSNODE(employments, '//employment[@employer="ABB"]') = 1

John Higgins
Stephen Hendry
Ken Doherty
Steve Davis
Neil Robertson



Oracle - XMLSEQUENCE

- Splits an XML fragment/sequence into many XML values
 - Deprecated. Replaced by SQL/XML's XMLTABLE

SELECT e.*
FROM Person,
TABLE(XMLSEQUENCE(EXTRACT(employments, '//employment'))) e
WHERE pid = 5

<employment startdate="2002-02-12" enddate="2003-05-11" employer="LKP"/>
<employment startdate="2003-05-12" enddate="2003-12-02" employer="ABB"/>
<employment startdate="2003-12-06" enddate="2005-02-17" employer="LKP"/>
<employment startdate="2005-02-18" enddate="2008-05-16" employer="FFD"/>
<employment startdate="2008-06-02" employer="STG"/>

Five rows in the result.



Oracle - XMLTRANSFORM

Transforms an XML document according to an XSLT document (XSLT 1.0)

```
SELECT XMLTRANSFORM(employments,
'<xsl:transform xmlns:xsl="http://www.w3.org/1999/XSL/Transform" version="1.0">
 <xsl:output method="xml"/>
 <xsl:template match="/">
   <xsl:element name="Employers">
     <xsl:for-each select="//employment/@employer">
     <xsl:element name="Employer"><xsl:value-of select="."/></xsl:element>
     </xsl:for-each>
   </xsl:element>
 </xsl:template>
</xsl:transform>')
FROM Person
WHERE name = 'Ken Doherty'
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<Employers>
 <Employer>LKP</Employer>
 <Employer>ABB</Employer>
 <Employer>LKP</Employer>
 <Employer>FFD</Employer>
 <Employer>STG</Employer>
</Employers>
```

```
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```

Oracle - XMLTRANSFORM

```
SELECT XMLTRANSFORM(employments,
'<xsl:transform xmlns:xsl="http://www.w3.org/1999/XSL/Transform" version="1.0">
 <xsl:output method="xml"/>
 <xsl:template match="/">
   <xsl:element name="Employers">
     <xsl:for-each select="//employment[not (@employer =
                              preceding::employment/@employer)]/@employer">
     <xsl:element name="Employer">
      <xsl:value-of select="."/>
     </xsl:element>
     </xsl:for-each>
   </xsl:element>
 </xsl:template>
</xsl:transform>')
FROM Person
WHERE name = 'Ken Doherty'
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<Employers>
 <Employer>LKP</Employer>
 <Employer>ABB</Employer>
 <Employer>FFD</Employer>
 <Employer>STG</Employer>
</Employers>
```



Oracle - XMLTYPE DML

- DEPRECATED
 Functions that change an XML value and return the modified XML value
 - UpdateXML
 - DeleteXML
 - AppendXML
 - InsertChildXML, InsertChildXMLBefore, InsertChildXMLAfter
 - InsertXMLBefore, InsertXMLAfter
- The whole XML value in a cell must be replaced

UPDATE Person

SET employments = DML-function(employments, ...)

WHERE ...



Oracle - XML DML

- XQuery Update Facility
 - some syntax differences
- · transform statements
 - copy clause
 - modify clause
 - » delete node(s)
 - » insert node(s)
 - » rename node
 - » replace node
 - return clause

- keywords for insert
 - » before
 - » after
 - » as first into
 - » as last into
 - » into
- keywords for replace
 - » (value of) ... with ...
- keywords for rename
 - » as



Oracle - XML DML

· The whole XML value in a cell must be replaced

UPDATE Person

SET employments = XMLQUERY('transform statement'
PASSING employments
RETURNING CONTENT)

WHERE ...



Oracle - transform - insert

XQUERY

copy \$x := <root><a>456<a>789</root> modify insert node <a>123 as first into \$x return \$x



Oracle - transform - insert

XQUERY

Buggy in versions prior to 18:

Didn't work: [text() = 789] or [. = 789]

Worked: [number(.) = 789] or [string(.) = "789"]



Oracle - transform - insert

XQUERY

copy \$x := <root><a>456<a>789</root> modify insert node attribute c {5} into \$x/a[2] return \$x



Oracle - transform - insert



Oracle - transform - delete

```
Buggy in versions prior to 18:
```

Didn't work: [text() = 789] or [. = 789]

Worked: [number(.) = 789] or [string(.) = "789"]



Oracle - transform - delete



Oracle - transform - delete



Oracle - transform - replace

```
XQUERY
```

```
copy $x := <root><a>456</a><a>789</a></root>
modify replace node $x/a[2] with <b>123</b>
return $x
```

Buggy in versions prior to 18:

Didn't work: [text() = 789] or [. = 789]

Worked: [number(.) = 789] or [string(.) = "789"]



Oracle - transform - replace

XQUERY

copy \$x := <root><a>456<a>789</root> modify replace value of node \$x/a[2] with 123 return \$x



Oracle - transform - replace

XQUERY

copy \$x := <root>456<a>789</root> modify replace node \$x/a[1]/@b with attribute f {"ddd"} return \$x

```
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```

Oracle - transform - rename

XQUERY

copy \$x := <root><a>456<a>789</root> modify rename node \$x/a[2] as "b" return \$x

Oracle - transform - rename

```
XQUERY
copy $x := <root><a>456</a><a>789</a></root>
modify for $a in $x/a
    return rename node $a as "b"
return $x

Does not work. Returns $x unchanged:
<root>
    <a>456</a>
<a>789</a><</root>
</root>
```

```
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```

</root>

Oracle - transform - rename

But this works:

Oracle - transform - rename

But this does not work:



Oracle - XMLTYPE methods

- For XML objects in a column, the column name must be qualified:
 - table-alias.column.method()
- Most methods correspond to functions where the XML object is the first argument. Example:
 - EXTRACT(xml-object, xpath-expression)
 - xml-object.extract(xpath-expression)



Oracle - extract

- Corresponds to the function EXTRACT
- Returns XML based on an XPath expression

SELECT EXTRACT(employments, '//employment[1]'), p.employments.extract('//employment[1]') FROM Person p

The two columns in the result are identical.



Oracle - existsNode

- Corresponds to the function EXISTSNODE
- Checks if an XPath expression matches at least one node
 - Returns 1 (true) or 0 (false)

SELECT name,

EXISTSNODE(employments, '//employment[@employer="ABB"]'), p.employments.existsNode('//employment[@employer="ABB"]') FROM Person p

John Higgins	1	1
Stephen Hendry	1	1
Matthew Stevens	0	0
Ronnie O'Sullivan	0	0
Ken Doherty	1	1
Steve Davis	1	1
Paul Hunter	0	0
Neil Robertson	1	1



Oracle - transform

- Corresponds to the function XMLTRANSFORM
 - Does not accept the XSLT document as a string

```
SELECT p.employments.transform(XMLTYPE('
<xsl:transform xmlns:xsl="http://www.w3.org/1999/XSL/Transform" version="1.0">
 <xsl:output method="xml"/>
 <xsl:template match="/">
   <xsl:element name="Employers">
     <xsl:for-each select="//employment/@employer">
     <xsl:element name="Employer"><xsl:value-of select="."/></xsl:element>
     </xsl:for-each>
   </xsl:element>
 </xsl:template>
</xsl:transform>'))
FROM Person p
WHERE name = 'Stephen Hendry'
<Employers>
 <Employer>ABB</Employer>
 <Employer>UPC</Employer>
 <Employer>ABB</Employer>
</Employers>
```



Oracle - get...Val

- Methods for converting to other data types
 - getNumberVal
 - getStringVal Deprecated. Replaced by SQL/XML:s XMLSERIALIZE
 - getBLOBVal Deprecated. Replaced by SQL/XML:s XMLSERIALIZE
 - getCLOBVal Deprecated. Replaced by SQL/XML:s XMLSERIALIZE
- Return the value of the node or the node as a value of the corresponding type
 - getNumberVal requires that the node's value is compatible.
 - Behave differently with attribute nodes and element nodes or text nodes.

SELECT XMLTYPE('55').extract('//@v').getNumberVal() FROM dual

SELECT XMLTYPE('55').extract('//text()').getNumberVal() FROM dual



Oracle - getRootElement

- Returns the name of the root element
 - NULL if the XML object is a fragment
 - Deprecated. Replaced by the XQuery function local-name

SELECT XMLTYPE('<TheRoot />').getRootElement() FROM dual

Returns "TheRoot"

SELECT EXTRACT(XMLTYPE('<a>'),'//b').getRootElement() FROM dual

or

SELECT XMLQUERY('for \$a in (1,2) return
RETURNING CONTENT).getRootElement()

FROM dual

Return NULL

XMLTYPE('b/>') does not work!



Oracle - getSchemaURL

- Returns the URL to the XML Schema of the XML document
 - NULL if no schema is associated

SELECT XMLTYPE('<a />').getSchemaURL() FROM dual

Returns NULL



Oracle - schema methods

- isSchemaValid
 - Corresponds to the function XMLISVALID
 - Possible to specify an XML Schema
 - Returns the result (1 or 0)
- isSchemaValidated
 - returns the stored value
- isSchemaBased
 - returns 0 or 1



Oracle - isFragment

- · Checks if an XML value is a fragment or a document
 - Returns 1 (fragment) or 0 (document)

SELECT XMLQUERY('for \$a in (1,2) return
RETURNING CONTENT).isFragment()

FROM dual

Returns 1

SELECT XMLTYPE('<a>').isFragment() FROM dual

Returns 0



Oracle - ora:view

- Oracle-specific XQuery function
 - takes the name of a table/view (qualified with a schema if necessary)
 - returns an XML fragment where
 - » each row is a ROW element
 - » each column is an element with the column name as the element name and the value as a text node

SELECT XMLQUERY('ora:view("person")' RETURNING CONTENT) FROM dual

```
<ROW><PID>1</PID><NAME>John Higgins</NAME><YEAROFBIRTH>1975</YEAROFBIRTH><EMPLOYMENTS><root>
    <employment startdate="2001-08-20" enddate="2009-02-28" employer="ABB"/>
    <employment startdate="2009-04-15" employer="UPC"/>
    </root>
    </EMPLOYMENTS></ROW>
<ROW><PID>2</PID><NAME>Stephen Hendry</NAME><YEAROFBIRTH>1973</YEAROFBIRTH><EMPLOYMENTS><root>
    <employment startdate="2002-08-20" enddate="2003-06-30" employer="ABB"/>
    <employment startdate="2003-08-01" employer="UPC"/>
    <employment startdate="2006-11-01" employer="ABB"/>
    </root>
</EMPLOYMENTS></ROW>
...
```



Oracle - ora:view

SELECT XMLQUERY('for \$r in ora:view("person")/ROW[PID = (1,2,3)]

let \$pd := \$r/PID | \$r/NAME

return element Person {\$pd}'

RETURNING CONTENT)

FROM dual

```
<Person><PID>1</PID><NAME>John Higgins</NAME></Person>
<Person><PID>2</PID><NAME>Stephen Hendry</NAME></Person>
<Person><PID>3</PID><NAME>Matthew Stevens</NAME></Person>
```



Oracle - ora:view

- DEPRECATED. Replaced by fn:collection
 - takes a URI as parameter:
 - oradb:/schema-name/table-name
 - oradb:/PUBLIC/table-name
 - Case-sensitive

SELECT XMLQUERY('fn:collection("oradb:/PUBLIC/PERSON")'
RETURNING CONTENT)
FROM dual



Oracle - XQUERY

- Support for XQuery
 - XQuery statements after the keyword XQUERY

XQUERY for \$a in (1,2,3) return element Number {\$a}

Three rows in the result: <Number>1</Number> <Number>2</Number> <Number>3</Number>

XQUERY element Result {for \$a in (1,2,3) return element Number {\$a}}

<Result>
<Number>1</Number><Number>2</Number><Number>3</Number>
</Result>



Oracle Database & JSON

- JSON data type
- Functions (SQL/JSON)
 - JSON_VALUE, JSON_QUERY, JSON_TABLE, JSON_EXISTS
 - JSON_ARRAYAGG, JSON_OBJECTAGG



Summary

- Oracle follows the SQL standard for the most part
- No XQuery 3
- Not all functions are supported
- Weird handling of attribute nodes, node values
- Nested loops in transform statements don't work
- Use of standard SQL makes migration easier
 - Avoid product specific solutions when possible
 - Avoid deprecated solutions when possible



What to do next

- Introduction to Oracle & XML (compendium)
 - Introduction to Oracle and SQL Developer
 - Examples
- Assignment 7 (Oracle & XML)