

DTS207TC Database Development and Design

Lecture 4 XML

Chap 30 textbook

Di Zhang, Autumn 2025

*Page titles with * will not be assessed*

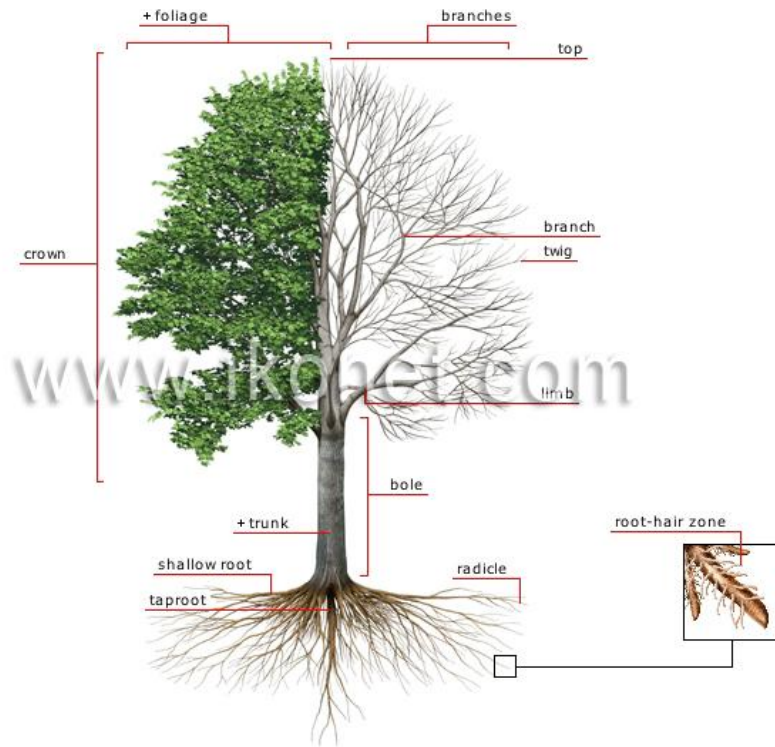
*Analog



- Possible patterns: Array, Tree, Graph. Nothing else!

Outline

- Semi-Structured Data
- XML
 - Introduction
 - Structure
 - Schema
 - Query
 - API



Semi-Structured Data

- Many applications require storage of complex data, whose schema changes often
- The relational model's requirement of atomic data types may be an overkill
 - E.g., storing set of interests as a set-valued attribute of a user profile may be simpler than normalizing it
- Data exchange can benefit greatly from semi-structured data
 - Exchange can be between applications, or between back-end and front-end of an application
 - Web-services are widely used today, with complex data fetched to the front-end and displayed using a mobile app or JavaScript

- **Flexible schema**
 - **Wide column** representation: allow each tuple to have a different set of attributes, can add new attributes at any time
 - **Sparse column** representation: schema has a fixed but large set of attributes, by each tuple may store only a subset
- **Multivalued data types**
 - **Sets, multisets**
 - E.g.,: set of interests {'basketball', 'La Liga', 'cooking', 'anime', 'jazz'}
 - **Key-value map** (or just **map** for short)
 - Store a set of key-value pairs
 - E.g., {(brand, Apple), (ID, MacBook Air), (size, 13), (color, silver)}
 - Operations on maps: *put*(key, value), *get*(key), *delete*(key)
 - **Arrays**
 - Widely used for scientific and monitoring applications

- **Arrays**
 - Widely used for scientific and monitoring applications
 - E.g., readings taken at regular intervals can be represented as array of values instead of (time, value) pairs
 - [5, 8, 9, 11] instead of {(1,5), (2, 8), (3, 9), (4, 11)}
- Multi-valued attribute types
 - Modeled using *non first-normal-form (NFNF)* data model
- Json

- XML: Extensible Markup Language
- Defined by the WWW Consortium (W3C)
- Derived from SGML (Standard Generalized Markup Language), but simpler to use than SGML
- Documents have tags giving extra information about sections of the document
 - E.g., `<title> XML </title>` `<slide> Introduction ...</slide>`
- **Extensible**, unlike HTML
 - Users can add new tags, and *separately* specify how the tag should be handled for display

XML Introduction (Cont.)

- The ability to specify new tags, and to create nested tag structures make XML a great way to exchange **data**, not just documents.
- Much of the use of XML has been in data exchange applications, not as a replacement for HTML
- Tags make data (relatively) self-documenting

- E.g.,

```
<university>
  <department>
    <dept_name> Comp. Sci. </dept_name>
    <building> Taylor </building>
    <budget> 100000 </budget>
  </department>
  <course>
    <course_id> CS-101 </course_id>
    <title> Intro. to Computer Science </title>
    <dept_name> Comp. Sci </dept_name>
    <credits> 4 </credits>
  </course>
</university>
```


- Data interchange is critical in today's networked world
 - Examples:
 - Banking: funds transfer
 - Order processing (especially inter-company orders)
 - Scientific data
 - Chemistry: ChemML, ...
 - Genetics: BSML (Bio-Sequence Markup Language), ...
 - Paper flow of information between organizations is being replaced by electronic flow of information
- Each application area has its own set of standards for representing information
- XML has become the basis for all new generation data interchange formats



XML Motivation (Cont.)

- Earlier generation formats were based on plain text with line headers indicating the meaning of fields
 - Similar in concept to email headers
 - Does not allow for nested structures, no standard “type” language
 - Tied too closely to low level document structure (lines, spaces, etc)
- Each XML based standard defines what are valid elements, using
 - XML type specification languages to specify the syntax
 - DTD (Document Type Descriptors)
 - XML Schema
 - Plus textual descriptions of the semantics
- XML allows new tags to be defined as required
 - However, this may be constrained by DTDs
- A wide variety of tools is available for parsing, browsing and querying XML documents/data

Structure of XML Data

- **Tag**: label for a section of data
- **Element**: section of data beginning with `<tagname>` and ending with matching `</tagname>`
- Elements must be properly **nested**
 - Proper nesting
 - `<course> ... <title> </title> </course>`
 - Improper nesting
 - `<course> ... <title> </course> </title>`
 - Formally: every start tag must have a unique matching end tag, that is in the context of the same parent element.
- Every document must have a single top-level element

Example of Nested Elements



1

```
<purchase_order>
  <identifier> P-101 </identifier>
  <purchaser> .... </purchaser>
  <itemlist>
    <item>
      <identifier> RS1 </identifier>
      <description> Atom powered rocket sled </description>
      <quantity> 2 </quantity>
      <price> 199.95 </price>
    </item>
    <item>
      <identifier> SG2 </identifier>
      <description> Superb glue </description>
      <quantity> 1 </quantity>
      <unit-of-measure> liter </unit-of-measure>
      <price> 29.95 </price>
    </item>
  </itemlist>
</purchase_order>
```

Motivation for Nesting

- Nesting of data is useful in data transfer
 - Example: elements representing *item* nested within an *itemlist* element
- Nesting is not supported, or discouraged, in relational databases
 - With multiple orders, customer name and address are stored redundantly
 - normalization replaces nested structures in each order by foreign key into table storing customer name and address information
 - Nesting is supported in object-relational databases
- But nesting is appropriate when transferring data
 - External application does not have direct access to data referenced by a foreign key

Structure of XML Data (Cont.)



Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University

西交利物浦大學

- Mixture of text with sub-elements is legal in XML.

- Example:

```
<course>
```

This course is being offered for the first time in 2009.

```
<course id> BIO-399 </course id>
```

```
<title> Computational Biology </title>
```

```
<dept name> Biology </dept name>
```

```
<credits> 3 </credits>
```

```
</course>
```

- Useful for document markup, but discouraged for data representation

- Elements can have **attributes**

```
<course course_id= "CS-101">  
  <title> Intro. to Computer Science</title>  
  <dept name> Comp. Sci. </dept name>  
  <credits> 4 </credits>  
</course>
```

- Attributes are specified by *name=value* pairs inside the starting tag of an element
- An element may have several attributes, but each attribute name can only occur once

```
<course course_id = "CS-101" credits="4">
```

Attributes vs. Subelements



2

- Distinction between subelement and attribute
 - In the context of documents, attributes are part of markup, while subelement contents are part of the basic document contents
 - In the context of data representation, the difference is unclear and may be confusing
 - Same information can be represented in two ways
 - `<course course_id= "CS-101"> ... </course>`
 - `<course>
 <course_id>CS-101</course_id> ...
 </course>`
 - Suggestion: use attributes for identifiers of elements, and use subelements for contents

- XML data has to be exchanged between organizations
- Same tag name may have different meaning in different organizations, causing confusion on exchanged documents
- Specifying a unique string as an element name avoids confusion
- Better solution: use `unique-name:element-name`
- Avoid using long unique names all over document by using XML Namespaces

```
<university xmlns:yale="http://www.yale.edu">
  ...
  <yale:course>
    <yale:course_id> CS-101 </yale:course_id>
    <yale:title> Intro. to Computer Science</yale:title>
    <yale:dept_name> Comp. Sci. </yale:dept_name>
    <yale:credits> 4 </yale:credits>
  </yale:course>
  ...
</university>
```

More on XML Syntax



3

- Elements without subelements or text content can be abbreviated by ending the start tag with a `>` and deleting the end tag
 - `<course course_id="CS-101" Title="Intro. To Computer Science" dept_name = "Comp. Sci." credits="4" />`
- To store string data that may contain tags, without the tags being interpreted as subelements, use CDATA as below
 - `<![CDATA[<course> ... </course>]]>`

Here, `<course>` and `</course>` are treated as just strings

CDATA stands for “character data”



- Database schemas constrain what information can be stored, and the data types of stored values
- XML documents are not required to have an associated schema
- However, schemas are very important for XML data exchange
 - Otherwise, a site cannot automatically interpret data received from another site
- Two mechanisms for specifying XML schema
 - **Document Type Definition (DTD)**
 - Widely used
 - **XML Schema**
 - Newer, increasing use

Document Type Definition (DTD)

- The type of an XML document can be specified using a DTD
- DTD constraints structure of XML data
 - What elements can occur
 - What attributes can/must an element have
 - What subelements can/must occur inside each element, and how many times.
- DTD does not constrain data types
 - All values represented as strings in XML
- DTD syntax
 - `<!ELEMENT element (subelements-specification) >`
 - `<!ATTLIST element (attributes) >`

Element Specification in DTD



- Subelements can be specified as
 - names of elements, or
 - #PCDATA (parsed character data), i.e., character strings
 - EMPTY (no subelements) or ANY (anything can be a subelement)

- Example

```
<! ELEMENT department (dept_name building, budget)>
```

```
<! ELEMENT dept_name (#PCDATA)>
```

```
<! ELEMENT budget (#PCDATA)>
```

- Subelement specification may have regular expressions

```
<!ELEMENT university ( ( department | course | instructor | teaches )+)>
```

- Notation:
 - “|” - alternatives
 - “+” - 1 or more occurrences
 - “*” - 0 or more occurrences



4

```
<!DOCTYPE university [  
  <!ELEMENT university ( (department|course|instructor|teaches)+)>  
  <!ELEMENT department ( dept name, building, budget)>  
  <!ELEMENT course ( course id, title, dept name, credits)>  
  <!ELEMENT instructor (IID, name, dept name, salary)>  
  <!ELEMENT teaches (IID, course id)>  
  <!ELEMENT dept name( #PCDATA )>  
  <!ELEMENT building( #PCDATA )>  
  <!ELEMENT budget( #PCDATA )>  
  <!ELEMENT course id ( #PCDATA )>  
  <!ELEMENT title ( #PCDATA )>  
  <!ELEMENT credits( #PCDATA )>  
  <!ELEMENT IID( #PCDATA )>  
  <!ELEMENT name( #PCDATA )>  
  <!ELEMENT salary( #PCDATA )>  
  
>
```

Attribute Specification in DTD



Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University

西交利物浦大学

- Attribute specification : for each attribute
 - Name
 - Type of attribute
 - CDATA
 - ID (identifier) or IDREF (ID reference) or IDREFS (multiple IDREFs)
 - more on this later
 - Whether
 - mandatory (#REQUIRED)
 - has a default value (value),
 - or neither (#IMPLIED)
- Examples
 - <!ATTLIST course course_id CDATA #REQUIRED>, or
 - <!ATTLIST course
 - course_id ID #REQUIRED
 - dept_name IDREF #REQUIRED
 - instructors IDREFS #IMPLIED>

- An element can have at most one attribute of type ID
- The ID attribute value of each element in an XML document must be distinct
 - Thus the ID attribute value is an object identifier
- An attribute of type IDREF must contain the ID value of an element in the same document
- An attribute of type IDREFS contains a set of (0 or more) ID values. Each ID value must contain the ID value of an element in the same document

University DTD with Attributes



Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University

西交利物浦大学

- University DTD with ID and IDREF attribute types.

```
<!DOCTYPE university-3 [  
  <!ELEMENT university ( (department|course|instructor)+)>  
  <!ELEMENT department ( building, budget )>  
  <!ATTLIST department  
    dept_name ID #REQUIRED >  
  <!ELEMENT course (title, credits )>  
  <!ATTLIST course  
    course_id ID #REQUIRED  
    dept_name IDREF #REQUIRED  
    instructors IDREFS #IMPLIED >  
  <!ELEMENT instructor ( name, salary )>  
  <!ATTLIST instructor  
    IID ID #REQUIRED  
    dept_name IDREF #REQUIRED >  
  . . . declarations for title, credits, building,  
    budget, name and salary . . .
```



5

]>



6

```
<university-3>
  <department dept name="Comp. Sci.">
    <building> Taylor </building>
    <budget> 100000 </budget>
  </department>
  <department dept name="Biology">
    <building> Watson </building>
    <budget> 90000 </budget>
  </department>
  <course course id="CS-101" dept name="Comp. Sci"
    instructors="10101 83821">
    <title> Intro. to Computer Science </title>
    <credits> 4 </credits>
  </course>
  ...
  <instructor IID="10101" dept name="Comp. Sci.">
    <name> Srinivasan </name>
    <salary> 65000 </salary>
  </instructor>
  ...
</university-3>
```

- No typing of text elements and attributes
 - All values are strings, no integers, reals, etc.
- Difficult to specify unordered sets of subelements
 - Order is usually irrelevant in databases (unlike in the document-layout environment from which XML evolved)
 - $(A \mid B)^*$ allows specification of an unordered set, but
 - Cannot ensure that each of A and B occurs only once
- IDs and IDREFs are untyped
 - The *instructors* attribute of an course may contain a reference to another course, which is meaningless
 - *instructors* attribute should ideally be constrained to refer to instructor elements

- XML Schema is a more sophisticated schema language which addresses the drawbacks of DTDs. Supports
 - Typing of values
 - E.g., integer, string, etc
 - Also, constraints on min/max values
 - User-defined, complex types
 - Many more features, including
 - uniqueness and foreign key constraints, inheritance
- XML Schema is itself specified in XML syntax, unlike DTDs
 - More-standard representation, but verbose
- XML Schema is integrated with namespaces
- BUT: XML Schema is significantly more complicated than DTDs.

XML Schema Version of Univ. DTD



7

```
<xs:schema xmlns:xs="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema">
  <xs:element name="university" type="universityType" />
  <xs:element name="department">
    <xs:complexType>
      <xs:sequence>
        <xs:element name="dept name" type="xs:string"/>
        <xs:element name="building" type="xs:string"/>
        <xs:element name="budget" type="xs:decimal"/>
      </xs:sequence>
    </xs:complexType>
  </xs:element>
  ....
  <xs:element name="instructor">
    <xs:complexType>
      <xs:sequence>
        <xs:element name="IID" type="xs:string"/>
        <xs:element name="name" type="xs:string"/>
        <xs:element name="dept name" type="xs:string"/>
        <xs:element name="salary" type="xs:decimal"/>
      </xs:sequence>
    </xs:complexType>
  </xs:element>
  ... Contd.
```



8

```
....  
<xs:complexType name="UniversityType">  
  <xs:sequence>  
    <xs:element ref="department" minOccurs="0"  
maxOccurs="unbounded"/>  
    <xs:element ref="course" minOccurs="0"  
maxOccurs="unbounded"/>  
    <xs:element ref="instructor" minOccurs="0"  
maxOccurs="unbounded"/>  
    <xs:element ref="teaches" minOccurs="0"  
maxOccurs="unbounded"/>  
  </xs:sequence>  
</xs:complexType>  
</xs:schema>
```

- Choice of "xs:" was ours -- any other namespace prefix could be chosen
- Element "university" has type "universityType", which is defined separately
 - xs:complexType is used later to create the named complex type "UniversityType"

More features of XML Schema



Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University
西交利物浦大學

- Attributes specified by xs:attribute tag:
 - `<xs:attribute name = “dept_name”/>`
 - adding the attribute `use = “required”` means value must be specified
- Key constraint: “department names form a key for department elements under the root university element:

```
<xs:key name = “deptKey”>
```

```
  <xs:selector xpath = “/university/department”/>
```

```
  <xs:field xpath = “dept_name”/>
```

```
</xs:key>
```

- Foreign key constraint from course to department:

```
<xs:keyref name = “courseDeptFKey” refer=“deptKey”>
```

```
  <xs:selector xpath = “/university/course”/>
```

```
  <xs:field xpath = “dept_name”/>
```

```
</xs:keyref>
```

Querying XML Data

- Translation of information from one XML schema to another
- Querying on XML data
- Above two are closely related, and handled by the same tools
- Standard XML querying languages
 - XPath
 - Simple language consisting of path expressions
 - XQuery
 - An XML query language with a rich set of features

Tree Model of XML Data

- Query and transformation languages are based on a **tree model** of XML data
- An XML document is modeled as a tree, with **nodes** corresponding to elements and attributes
 - Element nodes have child nodes, which can be attributes or subelements
 - Text in an element is modeled as a text node child of the element
 - Children of a node are ordered according to their order in the XML document
 - Element and attribute nodes (except for the root node) have a single parent, which is an element node
 - The root node has a single child, which is the root element of the document



9

- XPath is used to address (select) parts of documents using **path expressions**
- A path expression is a sequence of steps separated by "/"
 - Think of file names in a directory hierarchy
- Result of path expression: set of values that along with their containing elements/attributes match the specified path
- E.g., `/university-3/instructor/name` evaluated on the university-3 data we saw earlier returns

```
<name>Srinivasan</name>
<name>Brandt</name>
```
- E.g., `/university-3/instructor/name/text()` returns the same names, but without the enclosing tags

- The initial “/” denotes root of the document (above the top-level tag)
- Path expressions are evaluated left to right
 - Each step operates on the set of instances produced by the previous step
- Selection predicates may follow any step in a path, in []
 - E.g., `/university-3/course[credits >= 4]`
 - returns account elements with a balance value greater than 400
 - `/university-3/course[credits]` returns account elements containing a credits subelement
- Attributes are accessed using “@”
 - E.g., `/university-3/course[credits >= 4]/@course_id`
 - returns the course identifiers of courses with credits >= 4
 - IDREF attributes are not dereferenced automatically (more on this later)



10

- XPath provides several functions
 - The function `count()` at the end of a path counts the number of elements in the set generated by the path
 - E.g., `/university-2/instructor[count(./teaches/course)> 2]`
 - Returns instructors teaching more than 2 courses (on university-2 schema)
 - Also function for testing position (1, 2, ..) of node w.r.t. siblings
 - Boolean connectives `and` and `or` and function `not()` can be used in predicates

More XPath Features

- Operator “|” used to implement union
 - E.g., `/university-3/course[@dept name=“Comp. Sci”] | /university-3/course[@dept name=“Biology”]`
 - Gives union of Comp. Sci. and Biology courses
 - However, “|” cannot be nested inside other operators.
- “//” can be used to skip multiple levels of nodes
 - E.g., `/university-3//name`
 - finds any `name` element *anywhere* under the `/university-3` element, regardless of the element in which it is contained.
- A step in the path can go to parents, siblings, ancestors and descendants of the nodes generated by the previous step, not just to the children
 - “//”, described above, is a short from for specifying “all descendants”
 - “..” specifies the parent.



11

- XQuery is a general purpose query language for XML data
- Currently being standardized by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C)
 - The textbook description is based on a January 2005 draft of the standard. The final version may differ, but major features likely to stay unchanged.
- XQuery is derived from the Quilt query language, which itself borrows from SQL, XQL and XML-QL
- XQuery uses a
for ... let ... where ... order by ... result ...
syntax
 - for** ⇔ SQL **from**
 - where** ⇔ SQL **where**
 - order by** ⇔ SQL **order by**
 - result** ⇔ SQL **select**
 - let** allows temporary variables, and has no equivalent in SQL

FLWOR Syntax in XQuery

- For clause uses XPath expressions, and variable in for clause ranges over values in the set returned by XPath
- Simple FLWOR expression in XQuery
 - find all courses with credits > 3, with each result enclosed in an <course_id> .. </course_id> tag

```
for $x in /university-3/course
let $courseId := $x/@course_id
where $x/credits > 3
return <course_id> { $courseId } </course id>
```
 - Items in the **return** clause are XML text unless enclosed in {}, in which case they are evaluated
- Let clause not really needed in this query, and selection can be done In XPath. Query can be written as:

```
for $x in /university-3/course[credits > 3]
return <course_id> { $x/@course_id } </course_id>
```

- Alternative notation for constructing elements:

```
return element course_id { element $x/@course_id }
```



12

- Joins are specified in a manner very similar to SQL

```
for $c in /university/course,  
    $i in /university/instructor,  
    $t in /university/teaches  
where $c/course_id= $t/course_id and $t/IID = $i/IID  
return <course_instructor> { $c $i } </course_instructor>
```

- The same query can be expressed with the selections specified as XPath selections:

```
for $c in /university/course,  
    $i in /university/instructor,  
    $t in /university/teaches[ $c/course_id= $t/course_id  
                             and $t/IID = $i/IID]  
return <course_instructor> { $c $i } </course_instructor>
```


Nested Queries

- The following query converts data from the flat structure for university information into the nested structure used in **university-1**

```
<university-1>
{   for $d in /university/department
    return <department>
        { $d/* }
        { for $c in /university/course[dept name = $d/dept name]
          return $c }
    </department>
}
{   for $i in /university/instructor
    return <instructor>
        { $i/* }
        { for $c in /university/teaches[IID = $i/IID]
          return $c/course id }
    </instructor>
}
</university-1>
```

- **\$c/*** denotes all the children of the node to which **\$c** is bound, without the enclosing top-level tag

Grouping and Aggregation

- Nested queries are used for grouping

```
for $d in /university/department
return
  <department-total-salary>
    <dept_name> { $d/dept name } </dept_name>
    <total_salary> { fn:sum(
      for $i in /university/instructor[dept_name =
$d/dept_name]
      return $i/salary
    ) }
    </total_salary>
  </department-total-salary>
```

Sorting in XQuery

- The **order by** clause can be used at the end of any expression. E.g., to return instructors sorted by name
 for \$i **in** /university/instructor
 order by \$i/name
 return <instructor> { \$i/* } </instructor>
- Use **order by** \$i/name **descending** to sort in descending order
- Can sort at multiple levels of nesting (sort departments by dept_name, and by courses sorted to course_id within each department)

```
<university-1> {  
  for $d in /university/department  
  order by $d/dept name  
  return  
    <department>  
      { $d/* }  
      { for $c in /university/course[dept name = $d/dept name]  
        order by $c/course id  
        return <course> { $c/* } </course> }  
    </department>  
} </university-1>
```



13

- There are two standard application program interfaces to XML data:
 - **SAX** (Simple API for XML)
 - Based on parser model, user provides event handlers for parsing events
 - E.g., start of element, end of element
 - **DOM** (Document Object Model)
 - **XML** data is parsed into a tree representation
 - Variety of functions provided for traversing the DOM tree
 - Also provides functions for updating DOM tree

Storage of XML Data

- XML data can be stored in
 - Non-relational data stores
 - Flat files
 - Natural for storing XML
 - But has all problems discussed in Chapter 1 (no concurrency, no recovery, ...)
 - XML database
 - Database built specifically for storing XML data, supporting DOM model and declarative querying
 - Currently no commercial-grade systems
 - Relational databases
 - Data must be translated into relational form
 - Advantage: mature database systems
 - Disadvantages: overhead of translating data and queries

- Alternatives:
 - String Representation
 - Tree Representation
 - Map to relations

String Representation

- Store each top level element as a string field of a tuple in a relational database
 - Use a single relation to store all elements, or
 - Use a separate relation for each top-level element type
 - E.g., account, customer, depositor relations
 - Each with a string-valued attribute to store the element
- Indexing:
 - Store values of subelements/attributes to be indexed as extra fields of the relation, and build indices on these fields
 - E.g., customer_name or account_number
 - Some database systems support **function indices**, which use the result of a function as the key value.
 - The function should return the value of the required subelement/attribute

String Representation (Cont.)



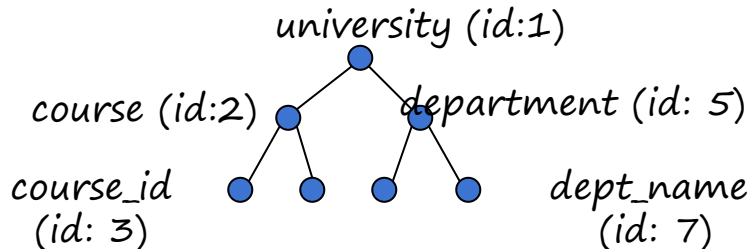
Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University

西交利物浦大學

- Benefits:
 - Can store any XML data even without DTD
 - As long as there are many top-level elements in a document, strings are small compared to full document
 - Allows fast access to individual elements.
- Drawback: Need to parse strings to access values inside the elements
 - Parsing is slow.

Tree Representation

- **Tree representation:** model XML data as tree and store using relations
nodes(id, parent_id, type, label, value)



- Each element/attribute is given a unique identifier
- Type indicates element/attribute
- Label specifies the tag name of the element/name of attribute
- Value is the text value of the element/attribute
- Can add an extra attribute *position* to record ordering of children

Tree Representation (Cont.)

- Benefit: Can store any XML data, even without DTD
- Drawbacks:
 - Data is broken up into too many pieces, increasing space overheads
 - Even simple queries require a large number of joins, which can be slow

Mapping XML Data to Relations

- Relation created for each element type whose schema is known:
 - An id attribute to store a unique id for each element
 - A relation attribute corresponding to each element attribute
 - A parent_id attribute to keep track of parent element
 - As in the tree representation
 - Position information (i^{th} child) can be store too
- All subelements that occur only once can become relation attributes
 - For text-valued subelements, store the text as attribute value
 - For complex subelements, can store the id of the subelement
- Subelements that can occur multiple times represented in a separate table
 - Similar to handling of multivalued attributes when converting ER diagrams to tables

- Applying above ideas to department elements in university-1 schema, with nested course elements, we get
department(id, dept_name, building, budget)
course(parent id, course_id, dept_name, title, credits)
- **Publishing**: process of converting relational data to an XML format
- **Shredding**: process of converting an XML document into a set of tuples to be inserted into one or more relations
- XML-enabled database systems support automated publishing and shredding
- Many systems offer *native storage* of XML data using the **xml** data type. Special internal data structures and indices are used for efficiency

- New standard SQL extension that allows creation of nested XML output
 - Each output tuple is mapped to an XML element *row*

```
<university>
  <department>
    <row>
      <dept name> Comp. Sci. </dept name>
      <building> Taylor </building>
      <budget> 100000 </budget>
    </row>
```

.... more rows if there are more output tuples ...

```
</department>
... other relations ..
```

```
</university>
```



14

- **xmlelement** creates XML elements
- **xmlattributes** creates attributes

```
select xmlelement (name "course",  
    xmlattributes (course id as course id, dept name as dept  
name),  
    xmlelement (name "title", title),  
    xmlelement (name "credits", credits))  
from course
```

- **Xmlagg** creates a forest of XML elements

```
select xmlelement (name "department",  
    dept_name,  
    xmlagg (xmlforest(course_id  
        order by course_id))  
from course  
group by dept_name
```

*XML Applications

- Storing and exchanging data with complex structures
 - E.g., Open Document Format (ODF) format standard for storing Open Office and Office Open XML (OOXML) format standard for storing Microsoft Office documents
 - Numerous other standards for a variety of applications
 - ChemML, MathML
- Standard for data exchange for Web services
 - remote method invocation over HTTP protocol
 - More in next slide
- Data mediation
 - Common data representation format to bridge different systems

*Web Services

- The Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP) standard:
 - Invocation of procedures across applications with distinct databases
 - XML used to represent procedure input and output
- A *Web service* is a site providing a collection of SOAP procedures
 - Described using the Web Services Description Language (WSDL)
 - Directories of Web services are described using the Universal Description, Discovery, and Integration (UDDI) standard

*Pros and cons



Genius Inflator