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Contents

Introduction

This manual presents the MkIV way of dealing with xml. Although the traditional MkII streaming parser has a charming simplicity in its control, for complex documents the tree based MkIV method is more convenient. We expect that the old method will be used less and less and eventually it might become a module in MkIV.

The user interface is sort of experimental but most commands discussed here are in use already in styles that we make and therefore these commands will stay. Over time we will add more examples to this document.

If you are familiar with xml processing in MkII, then you will have noticed that the MkII commands have XML in their name. The MkIV commands have a lowercase xml in their names. That way there is no danger for a mixup.

You may wonder why we do these manipulations in TEX and not use xslt instead. The advantage of an integrated approach is that it simplifies usage. Think of not only processing the a document, but also using xml for managing resources in the same run. An xslt approach is just as verbose (after all, you still need to produce TEX code) and probably less readable. In the case of MkIV the integrated approach is is also faster and gives us the option to manipulate content at runtime using Lua.

This manual is dedicated to Taco Hoekwater, one of the first ConTEXt users, and also the first to use it for processing xml. Who could have thought at that time that we would have a more convenient way of dealing with those angle brackets.

Hans Hagen, Pragma ADE, August 2008

This mechanism described here is still somewhat experimental and will be cleaned up and improved. In the case of resolved bugs you might need to upgrade your styles accordingly.

Introduction

1 Setting up a converter

1.1 from structure to setup

We use a very simple document structure for demonstrating how a converter is defined. In practice a mapping will be more complex, especially when we have a style with non standard titles and formatting.

Say that this document is stored in the file demo.xml, then the following code can be used as starting point:

```
\startxmlsetups xml:demo:base
  \xmlsetsetup{demo}{*}{-}
  \xmlsetsetup{demo}{document|section|p}{xml:demo:*}
\stopxmlsetups

\xmlregisterdocumentsetup{demo}{xml:demo:base}

\startxmlsetups xml:demo:document
  \title{Contents}
  \placelist[chapter]
  \page
  \xmlflush{#1}
\stopxmlsetups

\startxmlsetups xml:demo:section
  \chapter{\xmlfirst{#1}{/title}}
  \xmlfirst{#1}{/content}

\stopxmlsetups
```

Setting up a converter

```
\startxmlsetups xml:demo:p
  \xmlflush{#1}\endgraf
\stopxmlsetups
```

\xmlprocessfile{demo}{demo.xml}{}

Watch out! These are not just setups, but specific xml setups which get an argument passed (the #1). If for some reason your xml processing fails, it might be that you mistakenly have used a normal setup definition. The argument #1 represents the current node (element) and is unique.

For the moment stop wondering what some (empty) arguments are doing here. Contrary to the style definitions this interface looks rather low level (with no optional arguments) and the main reason for this is that we want processing to be fast. So, the basic framework is:

```
\startxmlsetups xml:demo:base
    % associate setups with elements
\stopxmlsetups

\xmlregisterdocumentsetup{demo}{xml:demo:base}

% define setups for matches

\xmlprocessfile{demo}{demo.xml}{}
```

In this example we mostly just flush the content of an element and in the case of a section we flush explicit child elements. The #1 in the example code represents the current element. The line:

```
\xmlsetsetup{demo}{*}{-}
```

sets the default for each element to 'just ignore it'. A + would make the default to always flush the content. This means that at this point we only handle:

```
<section>
  <title>Some title</title>
    <content>
      a paragraph of text
    </content>
</section>
```

In the next section we will deal with the slightly more comples itemize and figure placement.

1.2 alternative solutions

Dealing with an itemize is rather simple (as long as we forget about attributes that control the behaviour):

```
<itemize>
  <item>first</item>
  <item>second</item>
</itemize>
First we need to add itemize to the setup assignment:
\xmlsetsetup{demo}{document|section|p|itemize}{xml:demo:*}
The setup can look like:
\startxmlsetups xml:demo:itemize
  \startitemize
    \xmlfilter{#1}{/item/command(xml:demo:itemize:item)}
  \stopitemize
\stopxmlsetups
\startxmlsetups xml:demo:itemize:item
  \startitem
    \xmlflush{#1}
  \stopitem
\stopxmlsetups
An alternative is to map item directly:
\xmlsetsetup{demo}{document|section|p|itemize|item}{xml:demo:*}
and use:
\startxmlsetups xml:demo:itemize
  \startitemize
    \xmlflush{#1}
  \stopitemize
\stopxmlsetups
\startxmlsetups xml:demo:item
  \startitem
```

```
\xmlflush{#1}
\stopitem
\stopxmlsetups
```

\stopxmlsetups

Sometimes a more local solution makes sense, especially when the item tag is used for other purposes as well.

This leaves us with dealing with the resources, like figures.

At this point it is good to notice that \xmlatt{#1}{file} is passed as it is, a macro call. This means that when a macro like \externalfigure uses the first argument frequently without first storing its value, the lookup is done several times. A solution for this is:

```
\startxmlsetups xml:demo:external
  \expanded{\externalfigure[\xmlatt{#1}{file}]}
\stopxmlsetups
```

Because the lookup is rather fast, normally there is no need to bother about this too much.

An alternative definition for placement is the following:

```
\xmlsetsetup{demo}{resource}{xml:demo:resource}
with:
```

```
\startxmlsetups xml:demo:resource
\placefloat
    [\xmlatt{#1}{type}]
    {\xmlfirst{#1}{/caption}}
    {\xmlfirst{#1}{/content}}
\stopxmlsetups
```

This way you can specify table as type too. Because you can define your own float types, more complex variants are also possible. In that case it makes sense to provide some default behaviour too:

```
\definefloat[figure-here][figures-here][figure]
\definefloat[figure-left][figures-left][figure]
\definefloat[table-here] [tables-here] [table]
\definefloat[table-left] [tables-left] [table]

\setupfloat[figure-here][default=here]
\setupfloat[figure-left][default=left]
\setupfloat[table-here] [default=here]
\setupfloat[table-left] [default=left]

\startxmlsetups xml:demo:resource
\placefloat
    [\xmlattdef{#1}{type}{figure}-\xmlattdef{#1}{location}{here}]
    {\xmlfirst{#1}{/caption}}
    {\xmlfirst{#1}{/content}}

\stopxmlsetups
```

In this example we support two types and two locations. We default to a figure placed (when possible) at the current location.

Setting up a converter

2 Filtering content

2.1 TeX versus Lua

It will not come as a surprise that we can access xml files from T_EX as well as from Lua. In fact there are two methods to deal with xml in Lua. First there are the low level xml functions in the xml namespace. On top of those functions there is a set of functions in the lxml namespace that deals with xml in a more T_EXie way. Most of these have similar commands at the T_EX end.

```
\startxmlsetups first:demo:one
  \xmlsetsetup {demo} {*} {-}
  \xmlfilter {demo} {artist/name[text()='Randy Newman']/..
    /albums/album[position()=3]/command(first:demo:two)}
\stopxmlsetups

\startxmlsetups first:demo:two
  \blank \start \tt
    \xmldisplayverbatim{#1}
  \stop \blank
\stopxmlsetups

\xmlregistersetup{first:demo:one}

\xmlprocessfile{demo}{music-collection.xml}{}
```

This gives the following snippet of verbatim xml code. The indentation is conform the indentation in the whole xml file.¹

```
<name>Land Of Dreams</name>
<tracks>
  <track length="248">Dixie Flyer</track>
  <track length="212">New Orleans Wins The War</track>
  <track length="218">Four Eyes</track>
  <track length="181">Falling In Love</track>
  <track length="187">Something Special</track>
  <track length="168">Bad News From Home</track>
  <track length="207">Roll With The Punches</track>
  <track length="207">Roll With The Punches</track>
  <track length="209">Masterman And Baby J</track>
  <track length="134">Follow The Flag</track>
  <track length="134">Follow The Flag</track>
  <track length="246">I Want You To Hurt Like I Do</track></track>
  <track length="246">I Want You To Hurt Like I Do</track>
```

The xml file contains the collection stores on my slimserver instance.

```
<track length="248">It's Money That Matters</track>
<track length="156">Red Bandana</track>
</tracks>
```

An alternative written in Lua looks as follows:

```
\blank \start \tt \startluacode
local m = lxml.load("mine","music-collection.xml") -- m == lxml.id("mine")
local p = "artist/name[text()='Randy Newman']/../albums/album[position()=4]"
local l = lxml.filter(m,p) -- returns a list (with one entry)
lxml.displayverbatim(l[1])
\stopluacode \stop \blank
```

This produces:

```
<name>Bad Love</name>
<tracks>
  <track length="340">My Country</track>
  <track length="295">Shame</track>
  <track length="205">I'm Dead (But I Don't Know It)</track>
  <track length="213">Every Time It Rains</track>
  <track length="213">Every Time It Rains</track>
  <track length="206">The Great Nations of Europe</track>
  <track length="200">The One You Love</track>
  <track length="164">The World Isn't Fair</track>
  <track length="264">Big Hat, No Cattle</track>
  <track length="243">Better Off Dead</track>
  <track length="243">Better Off Dead</track>
  <track length="126">Going Home</track>
  <track length="126">Going Home</track>
  <track length="180">I Want Everyone To Like Me</track>
  </tracks>
```

You can use both methods mixed but in practice we will use the T_EX commands in regular styles and the mixture in modules, for instance in those dealing with MathML and cals tables.

2.2 a few details

In ConT_EXt setups are a rather common variant on macros. An example of a setup is:

```
\startsetup doc:print
  \setuppapersize[A4][A4]
\stopsetup
\startsetup doc:screen
```

```
\setuppapersize[S6][S4]
\stopsetup

Later on we can say something like:

\doifmodeelse {paper} {
  \setup[doc:print]
} {
  \setup[doc:screen]
}

Another example is:

\startsetup[doc:header]
  \marking[chapter]
  \space
  --
  \space
  \pagenumber
\stopsetup

in combination with:
```

\setupheadertexts[\setup{doc:header}]

Here the advantage is that instead of ending up with an unreadable header definitions, we use a nicely formatted setup. A nice feature of a setup is that spaces are ignored so you don't need to worry about spurious spaces.

The only difference between setups and xml setups is that the later ones get an argument (#1) that reflects the current node in the xml tree.

Filtering content

3 Commands

3.1 nodes and lpaths

The amount of commands available for manipulating the xml file is rather large. Many of the commands cooperate with so called setups, a fancy name for a collection of macro calls either or not mixed with text.

Most of the commands are just shortcuts to Lua calls, which means that the real work is done by Lua. In fact, what happens is that we have a continuous transfer of control from TEX to Lua, where Lua prints back either data (like element content or attribute values) or just invokes a setup whereby it passes a reference to the node resolved conform the path expression. The invoked setup itself might return control to Lua again, etc.

This sounds complicated but examples will show what we mean here. First we present the whole repertoire of commands. Because users can read the source code, they might uncover more commands, but only the ones discussed here are official. The commands are grouped in categories.

In the following sections node means a reference to a node: a document id (string) or an argument to a setup (result from a lookup). A lpath is a fancy name for a path expression (as with xslt) but resolved by Lua. A filter is an action that is applied to the result of a lookup.

3.2 loading

\xmlload {id} {filename} loads the file filename and registers it under id

\xmlloadbuffer {id} {buffer} loads the buffer buffer and registers it under id

\xmlloaddata {id} {string} loads string and registers it under id

\xmlinclude {node} {lpath} {attribute} includes the file specified by attribute of the element located by lpath at node node

\xmlprocessfile {id} {filename} {initial-xml-setup} registers file filename as id and process the tree starting with initial-xml-setup

\xmlprocessbuffer {id} {buffer} {initial-xml-setup} registers buffer buffer as id and process the tree starting with initial-xml-setup

\xmlprocessdata {id} {string} {initial-xml-setup} registers string as id and process the tree starting with initial-xml-setup

The initial setup defaults to xml:process that is defined as follows:

```
\startsetups xml:process
  \xmlregistereddocumentsetups\xmldocument
  \xmlmain\xmldocument
  \stopsetups
```

First we apply the setups associated with the document (including common setups) and then we flush the whole document. The macro \xmldocument expands to the current document id. There is also \xmlself which expands to the current node number (#1 in setups).

```
\xmlmain {id} returns the whole documents
```

Normally such a flush will trigger a chain reaction of setups associated with the child elements.

3.3 flushing data

When we flush an element, the associated xml setups are expanded. The most straightforward way to flush an element is the following. Keep in mind that the returned valus itself can trigger setups and therefore flushes.

\xmlflush {node} returns all nodes under node

You can restrict flushing by using commands that accept a specification.

\xmltext {node} {lpath} returns the text of the matching lpath under node

\xmlall {node} {lpath} returns all nodes under node that matches lpath

\xmlfirst {node} {lpath} returns the first node under node that matches lpath

\xmllast {node} {lpath} returns the last node under node that matches lpath

\xmlfilter {node} {lpath/filter} at a match of lpath a filter filter is applied and the result is returned

 $\verb|\xmlsnippet {node}| \ \, \{n\} \quad returns \ the \ n^{th} \ element \ under \ node$

\xmlindex {node} {lpath} {n} returns the nth match of lpath at node node; a negative number starts at the end

\xmlconcat {node} {lpath} {text} returns the sequence of nodes that match lpath at
node whereby text is put between each match

\xmlconcatrange {node} {lpath} {text} {n} {m} returns the nth upto mth of nodes that match lpath at node whereby text is put between each match

\xmlcommand {node} {lpath} {xml-setup-id} apply the given setup to each match of lpath at node node

\xmlstrip {node} {lpath} remove leading and trailing spaces from nodes under node that match lpath

\xmlstripped {node} {lpath} remove leading and trailing spaces from nodes under node that match lpath and return the content afterwards

\xmlstripnolines {node} {lpath} remove leading and trailing spaces as well as collapse embedded spaces from nodes under node that match lpath

\xmlstrippednolines {node} {lpath} remove leading and trailing spaces as well as collapse embedded spaces from nodes under node that match lpath and return the content afterwards

\xmlinlineverbatim {node} {lpath} return the content of the lpath match as inline verbatim code, that is no further interpretation (expansion) takes place and spaces are honoured

\xmldisplayverbatim {node} {lpath} return the content of the lpath match as display verbatim code, that is no further interpretation (expansion) takes place and leading and trailing spaces and newlines are treated special

3.4 information

The following commands return strings. Normally these are used in tests.

\xmlname {node} returns the complete name (including namespace prefix) of the given node

\xmlnamespace {node} returns the namespace of the given node

\xmltag {node} returns the tag of the element, without namespace prefix

\xmltags {node} {lpath} returns a comma-separated list of tags of elements that match the lpath

\xmlcount {node} {lpath} returns the number of matches of lpath at node node

\xmlnofelements {node} returns the number of elements at node node

\xmlatt {node} {name} returns the value of attribute name or empty if no such attribute exists

\xmlattdef {node} {name} {default} returns the value of attribute name or default if no such attribute exists

\xmlattribute {node} {lpath} {name} finds a first match for lpath at node and returns the value of attribute name or empty if no such attribute exists

\xmlattributedef {node} {lpath} {name} {default} finds a first match for lpath at node and returns the value of attribute name or default if no such attribute exists

3.5 manipulation

You can use Lua code to manipulate the tree and it makes no sense to duplicate this in TEX. In the future we might provide an interface to some of this functionality. Keep in mind that manipulating the tree might have side effects as we maintain several indices into the tree that also needs to be updated then.

3.6 integration

If you write a module that deals with xml, for instance processing cals tables, then you need ways to control specific behaviour. For instance, you might want to add a background to the table. Such directives are collected in xml files and can be loaded on demand.

\xmlloaddirectives {filename} loads ConTEXt directives from filename that will get interpreted when processing documents

A directives definition file looks as follows:

Examples of usage can be found in x-cals.mkiv. The directive is triggered by an attribute. Instead of setup you can specify before and after.

\xmldirectives {node} {lpath} apply the setups directive associated with the found nodes

\xmldirectivesbefore {node} {lpath} apply the before directives associated with the found nodes

\xmldirectivesafter {node} {lpath} apply the after directives associated with the found nodes

Normally a directive will be put in the xml file, for instance as:

```
<?context-mathml-directive minus reduction yes ?>
```

Here the mathml is the general class of directives and minus a subclass, in our case a specific element. You can also invoke such directives directly:

 $\label{thm:contextdirective kind} $$\{\class\} $$\{\class\} $$\{\class\} $$\{\class\} $$ $\{\class\} $$ $$ $$ execute the directive associated with kind and pass three arguments to it$

This assumes that there is a command xmlkinddirective or in the MathML example xmlmathmldirective that does something useful.

3.7 setups

The basic building blocks of xml processing are setups. These are just collections of macros that are expanded. These setups get one argument passed (#1):

```
\startxmlsetups somedoc:somesetup
   \xmlflush{#1}
\stopxmlsetups
```

This argument is normally a number that internally refers to a specific node in the xml tree. The user should see it as an abstract entity and not depend on it being a number. Just think of it as 'the current node'. You can (and probably will) call such setups directly:

```
\xmlsetup {name} {node} expands setup name and pass node as argument
```

However, in most cases the setups are associated to specific elements, something that users of xslt might recognize as templates.

\xmlsetfunction {name} {lpath} {function} associates function Lua function to the elements in namespace name that match lpath

Commands

\xmlsetsetup {name} {lpath} {setup} associates setups (TeX code) setup to the elements in namespace name that match lpath

\xmlprependsetup {setup} pushes setup to the front of global list of setups to be applied

\xmlappendsetup {setup} pushes setup to the end of global list of setups to be applied

\xmlbeforesetup {setup} {position} inserts setup before setup position in the global list of setups to be applied

\xmlaftersetup {setup} {position} inserts setup after setup position in the global list of setups to be applied

\xmlremovesetup {setup} removes setup from the global list of setups to be applied

\xmlprependdocumentsetup {id} {setup} pushes setup to the front of id specific list of setups to be applied

\xmlappenddocumentsetup {id} {setup} pushes setup to the end of id specific list of setups to be applied

\xmlbeforedocumentsetup {id} {setup} {position} inserts setup before setup position in the id specific list of setups to be applied

\xmlafterdocumentsetup {id} {setup} {position} inserts setup after setup position in the id specific list of setups to be applied

\xmlremovedocumentsetup {setup} removes setup from the id specific list of setups to be applied

\xmlresetdocumentsetups {id} removes all setups from the id specific list of setups to be applied

\xmlflushdocumentsetups {id} applies all setups in tagged with id

\xmlregisteredsetups applies all global setups to the current document

\xmlregistereddocumentsetups applies all document specific setups to the current document

3.8 testing

The following test macros all take a node as first argument and an lpath as second:

\xmldoif {node} {lpath} {yes} expands to yes when lpath matches at node node

\xmldoifnot {node} {lpath} {no} expands to no when lpath does not match at node node

\xmldoifelse {node} {lpath} {yes} {no} expands to yes when lpath matches at node node and to no otherwise

\xmldoiftext {node} {lpath} {yes} expands to yes when the node matching lpath at node node has some content

\xmldoifnottext {node} {lpath} {no} expands to do-if-fase when the node matching lpath at node node has no content

\xmldoifelsetext {node} {lpath} {yes} {no} expands to yes when the node matching lpath at node node has content and to no otherwise

\xmldoifelseempty {node} {lpath} {yes} {no} expands to yes when the node matching lpath at node node is empty and to no otherwise

\xmldoifelseselfempty {node} {lpath} {yes} {no} expands to yes when the node
matching lpath at node node is empty and to no otherwise

3.9 initialization

The general setup command (not to be confused with setups) that deals with the MkIV tree handler is \setupxml. There are currently only a few options.

When you set default to text elements with no setup assigned will end up as text. When set to hidden such elements will be hidden.

You can set compress to yes in which case comment is stripped from the tree when the file is read. When entities is set to yes (this is the default) entities are replaced.

\xmlregisterns {internal} {public} associates an internal namespace (like mml) with one given in the document as url (like mathml)

\xmlremapname {node} {lpath} {new-namespace} {new-tag} changes the namespace
and tag of the matching elements

\xmlremapnamespace {node} {lpath} {from} {to} replaces all references to the given namespace to a new one

\xmlchecknamespace {id} {lpath} {new} sets the namespace of the matching elements unless a namespace is already set

3.10 helpers

Often an attribute will determine the rendering and this may result in many tests. Especially when we have multiple attributes that control the output such tests can become rather extensive and redundant because one gets $n \times m$ or more such tests.

Therefore we have a convenient way to map attributes onto for instance strings or commands.

```
\xmlmapvalue {category} {name} {value} associate a value with a category and name
```

\xmlvalue {category} {name} {default} expand the value value associated with a category and name and if not resolved, expand default

This is used as follows. We define a couple of mappings in the same category:

```
\xmlmapvalue{emph}{bold} {\bf}
\xmlmapvalue{emph}{italic}{\it}
```

Assuming that we have associated the following setup with the emph element, we can say (with #1 being the current element):

```
\startxmlsetups demo:emph
  \begingroup
   \xmlvalue{emph}{\xmlatt{#1}{type}}{}
  \endgroup
\stopxmlsetups
```

In this case we have no default. The type attribute triggers the actions, as in:

```
normal <emph type='bold'>bold</emph> normal
```

This mechanism is not really bound to elements and attributes so you can use this mechanism for other purposes as well.

3.11 synonyms

A few of the discussed commands have synonyms

```
\xmlmapval \xmlmapvalue \xmlvalue \xmlregistersetup \xmlappendsetup \xmlregisterdocumentsetup
```

4 Expressions and filters

4.1 path expressions

In the previous chapters we used lpath expressions, which are a variant on xpath expressions as in xslt but in this case more geared towards usage in TeX. This mechanisms will be extended when demands are there.

A path is a sequence of matches. A simple path expression is:

```
a/b/c/d
```

Here each / goes one level deeper. We can go backwards in a lookup with ...:

```
a/b/../d
```

We can also combine lookups, as in:

```
a/(b|c)/d
```

A negated lookup is preceded by a !:

```
a/(b|c)/!d
```

A wildcard is specified with a *:

```
a/(b|c)/!d/e/*/f
```

In addition to these tag based lookups we can use attributes:

```
a/(b|c)/!d/e/*/f[@type=whatever]
```

An @ as first character means that we are dealing with an attribute. Within the square brackets there can be boolean expressions:

```
a/(b|c)/!d/e/*/f[@type=whatever and @id>100]
```

You can use functions as in:

```
a/(b|c)/!d/e/*/f[something(text()) == "oeps"]
```

There are a couple of predefined functions:

```
rootposition number the index of the matched root element (kind of special)
position number the current index of the matched element in the match list
```

Expressions and filters

| match | number | the current index of the matched element sub list with the same |
|-----------|--------|---|
| | | parent |
| index | number | the current index of the matched element in its parent list |
| text | string | the textual representation of the matched element |
| name | string | the full name of the matched element: namespace and tag |
| ns | string | the namespace of the matched element |
| tag | string | the tag of the matched element |
| attribute | string | the value of the attribute with the given name of the matched |
| | | element |

There are fundamental differences between position, match and index. Each step results in a new list of matches. The position is the index in this new (possibly intermediate) list. The match is also an index in this list but related to the specific match of element names. The index refers to the location in the parent element.

Say that we have:

```
<collection>
  <resources>
    <manual>
      <screen>.1.</screen>
      <paper>.1.</paper>
    </manual>
    <manual>
      <paper>.2.</paper>
      <screen>.2.</screen>
    </manual>
  <resources>
  <resources>
    <manual>
      <screen>.3.</screen>
      <paper>.3.</paper>
    </manual>
  <resources>
<collection>
```

The following then applies:

```
collection/resources/manual[position()==1]/paper .1.
collection/resources/manual[match()==1]/paper .1. .3.
collection/resources/manual/paper[index()==1] .2.
```

In most cases the position test is more restrictive than the match test.

You can pass your own functions too. Such functions are defined in the the xml.expressions namespace. We have defined a few shortcuts:

```
xml.expressions.contains = string.find
xml.expressions.find = string.find
xml.expressions.upper = string.upper
xml.expressions.lower = string.lower
xml.expressions.number = tonumber
xml.expressions.boolean = toboolean -- mkiv specific
```

You can also use normal Lua functions as long as you make sure that you pass the right arguments. There are a few predefined variables available inside such functions.

```
table the list of matches
number the current index in the list of matches
element the current element that matched
order number the position of the root of the path
```

The given expression between [] is converted to a Lua expression so you can use the usual ingredients:

```
== \sim = <= >= < >  not and or ()
```

In addition, = equals == and != is the same as ~=. If you mess up the expression, you quite likely get a Lua error message.

4.2 functions as filters

At the Lua end a whole lpath expression results in a (set of) node(s) with its environment, but that is hardly usable in TeX. Think of code like:

```
for e in xml.collected(xml.load('text.xml'),"title") do
  -- e = the element that matched
end
```

The older variant is still supported but you can best use the previous variant.

```
for r, d, k in xml.elements(xml.load('text.xml'),"title") do
  -- r = root of the title element
  -- d = data table
  -- k = index in data table
end
```

Here d[k] points to the title element and in this case all titles in the tree pass by. In practice this kind of code is encapsulated in function calls, like those returning elements

one by one, or returning the first or last match. The result is then fed back into TeX, possibly after being altered by an associated setup. We've seen the wrappers to such functions already in a previous chapter.

In addition to the previously discussed expressions, one can add so called filters to the expression, for instance:

```
a/(b|c)/!d/e/text()
```

In a filter, the last part of the lpath expression is a function call. The previous example returns the text of each element e that results from matching the expression. Examples of functions are:

```
text string returns the content
name string returns the (either or not remapped) namespace
ns string returns gives the original namespace
tag string returns the elements name
count number returns the elements name
```

Not all such functions make sense in TEX, for instance because they return a data structure that is useless for TEX itself. Instead of using functions like first(), you can as well use the somewhat less efficient \xmlfirst and friends.

```
attribute(name) returns the attribute with the given name

command(name) expands the setup with the given name for each found element

position(n) processes the n<sup>th</sup> instance of the found element

processes the first instance of the found element

processes the last instance of the found element
```

These filters are in fact Lua functions which means that if needed more of them can be added. Indeed this happens in some of the xml related MkIV modules, for instance in the MathML processor.

4.3 example

The number of commands is rather large and if you want to avoid them this is often possible. Take for instance:

Alternatively you can use:

```
\xmlfilter{#1}{/a/b[position()>3]/all()}
```

and actually this is also faster as internally it avoids a function call. Of course in practice this is hardly measurable.

In previous examples we've already seen quite some expressions, and it might be good to point out that the syntax is modelled after xslt but is not quite the same. The reason is that we started with a rather minimal system and have already styles in use that depend on compatibility.

```
namespace:// axis node(set) [expr 1]..[expr n] / ... / filter
```

When we are inside a ConT_EXt run, the namespace is tex. Hoewever, if you want not to print back to T_EX you need to be more explicit. Say that we typeset examns and have a (not that logical) structure like:

```
<question>
  <text>...</text>
  <answer>
    <item>one</item>
    <item>two</item>
    <item>three</item>
  </answer>
  <alternative>
    <condition>true</condition>
    <score>1</score>
  </alternative>
  <alternative>
    <condition>false</condition>
    <score>0</score>
  </alternative>
  <alternative>
    <condition>true</condition>
    <score>2</score>
  </alternative>
</question>
Say that we typeset the questions with:
\startxmlsetups question
  \blank
  score: \xmlfunction{#1}{totalscore}
  \blank
  \xmlfirst{#1}{text}
  \startitemize
      \xmlfilter{#1}{/answer/item/command(answer:item)}
  \stopitemize
```

\endgraf

```
\blank
\stopxmlsetups
Each item in the
```

Each item in the answer results in a call to:

```
\startxmlsetups answer:item
  \xmlflush{#1}
  \endgraf
  \xmlfilter{#1}{../../alternative[position()=rootposition()]/
    condition/command(answer:condition)}
  \stopitem
\stopxmlsetups
\startxmlsetups answer:condition
  \endgraf
  condition: \xmlflush{#1}
  \endgraf
\stopxmlsetups
```

Now, there are two rather special filters here. The first one involves calculating the total score. As we look forward we use a function to deal with this.

```
\startluacode
function xml.functions.totalscore(root)
  local score = 0
  for e in xml.collected(root,"/alternative") do
     score = score + xml.filter(e,"xml:///score/number()") or 0
  end
  tex.write(score)
end
\stopluacode
```

Watch how we use the namespace to keep the results at the Lua end.

The second special trick shown here is to limit a match using the current position of the root (#) match.

As you can see, a path expression can be more than just filtering a few nodes. At the end of this manual you will find a bunch of examples.

4.4 tables

If you want to know how the internal xml tables look you can print such a table:

```
print(table.serialize(e))
```

This produces for instance:

```
t={
    ["at"]={
        ["label"]="whatever",
    },
    ["dt"]={ "some text" },
    ["ns"]="",
        ["rn"]="",
        ["tg"]="demo",
}
```

The rn entry is the renamed namespace (when renaming is applied). If you see tags like <code>@pi@</code> this means that we don't have an element, but (in this case) a processing instruction.

```
@rt@ the root element
@dd@ document definition
@cm@ comment, like <!-- whatever -->
@cd@ so called CDATA
@pi@ processing instruction, like <?whatever we want ?>
```

There are many ways to deal with the content, but in the perspective of TeX only a few matter.

```
xml.sprint(e) print the content to TEX and apply setups if needed
xml.tprint(e) print the content to TEX (serialize elements verbose)
xml.cprint(e) print the content to TEX (used for special content)
```

Keep in mind that anything low level that you uncover is not part of the official interface unless mentioned in this manual.

Expressions and filters

5 Tracing

It can be hard to debug code as much happens kind of behind the screens. Therefore we have a couple of tracing options. Of course you can typeset some status information, using for instance:

```
\xmlshow{#1}
\xmlname{#1}
```

We also have a bunch of trackers that can be enabled, like:

```
\enabletrackers[xml.show,xml.parse]
```

The full list (currently) is:

```
show what entities are seen and replaced
xml.entities
                show the result of parsing an lpath expression
xml.path
                show stepwise resolving of expressions
xml.parse
xml.profile
                report all parsed lpath expressions (in the log)
                report all parsed lpath expressions (in the log)
xml.profile
xml.profile
                report all parsed lpath expressions (in the log)
xml.profile
                report all parsed lpath expressions (in the log)
                report all parsed lpath expressions (in the log)
xml.profile
                report all parsed lpath expressions (in the log)
xml.profile
                show what namespaces are remapped
xml.remap
                report errors with respect to resolving (symbolic) nodes
lxml.access
                show the comments that are encountered (if at all)
lxml.comments
                show what files are loaded and converted
lxml.loading
                show what setups are being associated to elements
lxml.setups
```

Tracing

6 Expansion

For novice users the concept of expansion might sound frightening and to some extend it is. However, it is important enough to spend some words on it here.

Imagine that we have an xml file that looks as follows:

```
<?xml version='1.0' ?>
<demo>
    <chapter>
        <title>Some <em>short</em> title</title>
        <content>
            zeta
            <index>
                <key>zeta</key>
                <content>zeta again
            </index>
            alpha
            <index>
                <key>alpha</key>
                <content>alpha <em>again</em></content>
            </index>
            gamma
            <index>
                <key>gamma</key>
                <content>gamma</content>
            </index>
            beta
            <index>
                <key>beta</key>
                <content>beta</content>
            </index>
            delta
            <index>
                <key>delta</key>
                <content>delta</content>
            </index>
            done!
        </content>
    </chapter>
</demo>
```

Expansion

There are a few structure related elements here: a chapter (with its list entry) and some index entries. Both are multipass related and therefore travel around. This means that when we let data end up in the auxiliary file, we need to make sure that we end up with either expanded data (i.e. no references to the xml tree) or with robust forward and backward references to elements in the tree.

Here we discuss three approaches (and more may show up later): pushing xml into the auxiliary file and using references to elements either or not with an associated setup. We control the variants with a switch.

```
\newcount\TestMode
\TestMode=0 % expansion=xml
\TestMode=1 % expansion=yes, index, setup
\TestMode=2 % expansion=yes
We apply a couple of setups:
\startxmlsetups xml:mysetups
    \xmlsetsetup{\xmldocument}{demo|index|content|chapter|title|em}{xml:*}
\stopxmlsetups
\xmlregistersetup{xml:mysetups}
The main document is processed with:
\startxmlsetups xml:demo
    \xmlflush{#1}
    \subject{contents}
    \placelist[chapter] [criterium=all]
    \subject{index}
    \placeregister[index] [criterium=all]
    \page % else buffer is forgotten when placing header
\stopxmlsetups
```

First we show three alternative ways to deal with the chapter. The first case expands the xml reference so that we have an xml stream in the auxiliary file. This stream is processed as a small independent subfile when needed. The second case registers a reference to the current element (#1). This means that we have access to all data of this element, like attributes, title and content. What happens depends on the given setup. The third variant does the same but here the setup is part of the reference.

```
\setuphead[chapter][expansion=xml]
        \startchapter[title=eh: \xmltext{#1}{title}]
    \or
        % index is used for access via setup
        \setuphead[chapter][expansion=yes,xmlsetup=xml:title:flush]
        \startchapter[title=\xmlgetindex{#1}]
    \or
        % tex call to xml using index is used
        \setuphead[chapter][expansion=yes]
        \startchapter[title=hm: \xmlreference{#1}{xml:title:flush}]
    \fi
    \xmlfirst{#1}{content}
    \stopchapter
\stopxmlsetups
\startxmlsetups xml:title:flush
    \xmltext{#1}{title}
\stopxmlsetups
We need to deal with emphasis and the content of the chapter.
\startxmlsetups xml:em
    \begingroup\em\xmlflush{#1}\endgroup
\stopxmlsetups
\startxmlsetups xml:content
    \xmlflush{#1}
\stopxmlsetups
A similar approach is followed with the index entries. Watch how we use the numbered
entries variant (in this case we could also have used just entries and keys.
\startxmlsetups xml:index
```

Instead of this flush, you can use the predefined setup xml:flush unless it is overloaded by you.

The file is processed by:

```
\starttext
   \xmlprocessfile{main}{test.xml}{}
\stoptext
```

We don't show the result here. If you're curious what the output is, you can test it yourself. In that case it also makes sense to peek into the test.tuc file to see how the information travels around. The metadata fields carry information about how to process the data.

The first case, the xml expansion one, is somewhat special in the sense that internally we use small pseudo files. You can control the rendering by tweaking the following setups:

```
\startxmlsetups xml:ctx:sectionentry
   \xmlflush{#1}
\stopxmlsetups

\startxmlsetups xml:ctx:registerentry
   \xmlflush{#1}
\stopxmlsetups
```

When these methods work out okay the other structural elements will be dealt with in a similar way.

There is not that much system in the following examples. They resulted from tests with different documents. The current implementation evolved out if the experimental code. For instance, I decided to add the multiple expressions in row handling after a few email exchanges with Jean-Michel Huffen.

One of the main differences between the way xslt resolves a path and our way is the anchor. Take:

```
/something something
```

The first one anchors in the current (!) element so it will only consider direct children. The second one does a deep lookup and looks at the descendants as well. Furthermore we have a few extra shortcuts like ** in a/**/b which represents all descendants.

The expressions (between square brackets) has to be valid Lua and some preprocessing is done to resolve the built in functions. So, you might use code like:

```
my_lpeg_expression:match(text()) == "whatever"
```

given that my_lpeg_expression is known. In the examples below we use the visualizer to show the steps.

```
pattern: /*
1 axis child

pattern: /**
1 axis descendant

pattern: answer

1 axis auto-descendant-or-self
2 nodes *:answer

pattern: answer/test/*

1 axis auto-descendant-or-self
2 nodes *:answer
```

```
3 axis auto-child
4 nodes *:test
5 axis child
pattern: answer/test/child::
1 axis auto-descendant-or-self
2 nodes *:answer
3 axis auto-child
4 nodes *:test
5 axis child
pattern: answer/*
1 axis auto-descendant-or-self
2 nodes *:answer
3 axis child
pattern: answer/*[tag()='p' and position()=1 and text()!='']
       auto-descendant-or-self
1 axis
2 nodes
            *:answer
3 axis child
4 expression tag()='p' and position()=1 and text()!=''
```

```
pattern: **
1 axis descendant
pattern: *
1 axis child
pattern: ..
1 axis parent
pattern: .
1 axis self
pattern: //
1 axis descendant-or-self
pattern: /
pattern: **/
1 axis descendant
pattern: **/*
1 axis descendant
2 axis child
pattern: **/.
1 axis descendant
2 axis self
pattern: **//
1 axis descendant
2 axis descendant-or-self
```

```
pattern: */
1 axis child
pattern: */*
1 axis child
2 axis child
pattern: */.
1 axis child
2 axis self
pattern: *//
1 axis child
2 axis descendant-or-self
pattern: /**/
1 axis descendant
pattern: /**/*
1 axis descendant
2 axis child
pattern: /**/.
1 axis descendant
2 axis self
pattern: /**//
1 axis descendant
2 axis descendant-or-self
```

```
pattern: /*/
1 axis child
pattern: /*/*
1 axis child
2 axis child
pattern: /*/.
1 axis child
2 axis self
pattern: /*//
1 axis child
2 axis descendant-or-self
pattern: ./
1 axis self
pattern: ./*
1 axis self
2 axis child
pattern: ./.
1 axis self
2 axis self
pattern: .//
1 axis self
2 axis descendant-or-self
```

```
pattern: ../
1 axis parent
pattern: ../*
1 axis parent
2 axis child
pattern: ../.
1 axis parent
2 axis self
pattern: ..//
1 axis parent
2 axis descendant-or-self
pattern: one//two
1 axis auto-descendant-or-self
2 nodes *:one
3 axis descendant-or-self
4 nodes *:two
pattern: one/*/two
1 axis auto-descendant-or-self
2 nodes *:one
3 axis child
4 axis auto-child
5 nodes *:two
pattern: one/**/two
1 axis auto-descendant-or-self
2 nodes *:one
3 axis descendant
4 axis auto-child
5 nodes *:two
```

```
pattern: one/***/two
1 axis
       auto-descendant-or-self
2 nodes *:one
3 axis descendant-or-self
4 nodes *:two
pattern: one/x//two
1 axis
       auto-descendant-or-self
2 nodes *:one
3 axis auto-child
4 nodes *:x
5 axis descendant-or-self
6 nodes *:two
pattern: one//x/two
1 axis auto-descendant-or-self
2 nodes *:one
3 axis descendant-or-self
4 nodes *:x
5 axis auto-child
6 nodes *:two
pattern: //x/two
       descendant-or-self
1 axis
2 nodes *:x
3 axis auto-child
4 nodes *:two
pattern: descendant::whocares/ancestor::whoknows
1 axis
         descendant
2 nodes *:whocares
3 axis ancestor
4 nodes *:whoknows
pattern: descendant::whocares/ancestor::whoknows/parent::
1 axis descendant
2 nodes *:whocares
```

```
3 axis ancestor
4 nodes *:whoknows
5 axis parent
pattern: descendant::whocares/ancestor::
1 axis descendant
2 nodes *:whocares
3 axis ancestor
pattern: child::something/child::whatever/child::whocares
1 axis child
2 nodes *:something
3 axis child
4 nodes *:whatever
5 axis child
6 nodes *:whocares
pattern: child::something/child::whatever/child::whocares|whoknows
1 axis child
2 nodes *:something
3 axis child
4 nodes *:whatever
5 axis child
6 nodes *:whocares|*:whoknows
pattern: child::something/child::whatever/child::(whocares|whoknows)
1 axis child
2 nodes *:something
3 axis child
4 nodes *:whatever
5 axis child
6 nodes *:whocares|*:whoknows
pattern: child::something/child::whatever/child::!(whocares|whoknows)
1 axis child
2 nodes *:something
3 axis
         child
```

```
4 nodes *:whatever
5 axis
         child
6 nodes not(*:whocares|*:whoknows)
pattern: child::something/child::whatever/child::(whocares)
1 axis
         child
2 nodes *:something
3 axis
         child
4 nodes *:whatever
5 axis child
6 nodes *:whocares
pattern: child::something/child::whatever/child::(whocares)[position()>2]
1 axis
              child
2 nodes
              *:something
3 axis
              child
4 nodes
              *:whatever
5 axis
              child
6 nodes
              *:whocares
7 expression position()>2
pattern: child::something/child::whatever[position()>2][position()=1]
1 axis
              child
2 nodes
              *:something
3 axis
              child
4 nodes
             *:whatever
5 expression position()>2
6 expression position()=1
pattern: child::something/child::whatever[whocares] [whocaresnot]
1 axis
              child
2 nodes
              *:something
3 axis
              child
4 nodes
              *:whatever
5 expression whocares
6 expression whocaresnot
```

```
pattern: child::something/child::whatever[whocares] [not(whocaresnot)]
1 axis
             child
2 nodes
             *:something
3 axis
            child
4 nodes
            *:whatever
5 expression whocares
6 expression not(whocaresnot)
pattern: child::something/child::whatever/self::whatever
1 axis child
2 nodes *:something
3 axis child
4 nodes *:whatever
5 axis self
6 nodes *:whatever
pattern: /something/whatever
1 axis auto-child
2 nodes *:something
3 axis auto-child
4 nodes *:whatever
pattern: something/whatever
1 axis auto-descendant-or-self
2 nodes *:something
3 axis auto-child
4 nodes *:whatever
pattern: /**/whocares
1 axis descendant
2 axis auto-child
3 nodes *:whocares
pattern: whoknows/whocares
1 axis auto-descendant-or-self
2 nodes *:whoknows
```

```
3 axis auto-child
4 nodes *:whocares
pattern: whoknows
        auto-descendant-or-self
2 nodes *:whoknows
pattern: whocares[contains(text(),'f') or contains(text(),'g')]
1 axis
              auto-descendant-or-self
2 nodes
              *:whocares
3 expression contains(text(),'f') or contains(text(),'g')
pattern: whocares/first()
1 axis
             auto-descendant-or-self
2 nodes
             *:whocares
3 finalizer first()
pattern: whocares/last()
1 axis
             auto-descendant-or-self
2 nodes
             *:whocares
3 finalizer last()
pattern: whatever/all()
1 axis
             auto-descendant-or-self
2 nodes
             *:whatever
3 finalizer all()
pattern: whocares/position(2)
             auto-descendant-or-self
1 axis
2 nodes
             *:whocares
3 finalizer position("2")
pattern: whocares/position(-2)
1 axis
             auto-descendant-or-self
2 nodes
             *:whocares
3 finalizer position("-2")
```

```
pattern: whocares[1]
1 axis
              auto-descendant-or-self
2 nodes
              *:whocares
3 expression 1
pattern: whocares[-1]
1 axis
              auto-descendant-or-self
2 nodes
              *:whocares
3 expression -1
pattern: whocares[2]
1 axis
              auto-descendant-or-self
              *:whocares
2 nodes
3 expression 2
pattern: whocares[-2]
1 axis
              auto-descendant-or-self
2 nodes
              *:whocares
3 expression -2
pattern: whatever[3]/attribute(id)
1 axis
              auto-descendant-or-self
2 nodes
              *:whatever
3 expression 3
4 finalizer
              attribute("id")
pattern: whatever[2]/attribute('id')
1 axis
              auto-descendant-or-self
2 nodes
              *:whatever
3 expression 2
4 finalizer
              attribute('id')
pattern: whatever[3]/text()
1 axis
              auto-descendant-or-self
2 nodes
              *:whatever
```

```
3 expression 3
4 finalizer
             text()
pattern: /whocares/first()
1 axis
             auto-child
2 nodes
            *:whocares
3 finalizer first()
pattern: /whocares/last()
1 axis
             auto-child
2 nodes
             *:whocares
3 finalizer last()
pattern: xml://whatever/all()
1 axis
             auto-descendant-or-self
2 nodes
            *:whatever
3 finalizer all()
pattern: whatever/all()
        auto-descendant-or-self
1 axis
2 nodes
             *:whatever
3 finalizer all()
pattern: //whocares
1 axis descendant-or-self
2 nodes *:whocares
pattern: ..[2]
1 axis
             parent
2 expression 2
pattern: ../*[2]
1 axis
             parent
              child
2 axis
3 expression 2
```

```
pattern: /(whocares|whocaresnot)
         auto-child
1 axis
2 nodes *:whocares|*:whocaresnot
pattern: /!(whocares|whocaresnot)
1 axis
       auto-child
2 nodes not(*:whocares|*:whocaresnot)
pattern: /!whocares
1 axis auto-child
2 nodes not(*:whocares)
pattern: /interface/command/command(xml:setups:register)
1 axis
             auto-child
2 nodes
             *:interface
3 axis
             auto-child
4 nodes
             *:command
5 finalizer command("xml:setups:register")
pattern: /interface/command[@name='xxx']/command(xml:setups:typeset)
1 axis
             auto-child
2 nodes
            *:interface
3 axis
              auto-child
4 nodes
              *:command
5 expression @name='xxx'
6 finalizer
              command("xml:setups:typeset")
pattern: /arguments/*
1 axis
       auto-child
2 nodes *:arguments
3 axis child
pattern: /sequence/first()
1 axis
             auto-child
2 nodes
             *:sequence
3 finalizer first()
```

```
pattern: /arguments/text()
             auto-child
1 axis
2 nodes
             *:arguments
3 finalizer text()
pattern: /sequence/variable/first()
1 axis
             auto-child
2 nodes
            *:sequence
3 axis
             auto-child
4 nodes
            *:variable
5 finalizer first()
pattern: /interface/define[@name='xxx']/first()
             auto-child
1 axis
2 nodes
            *:interface
3 axis
             auto-child
4 nodes
              *:define
5 expression @name='xxx'
6 finalizer
             first()
pattern: /parameter/command(xml:setups:parameter:measure)
1 axis
             auto-child
2 nodes
             *:parameter
3 finalizer command("xml:setups:parameter:measure")
pattern: /(*:library|figurelibrary)/*:figure/*:label
1 axis auto-child
2 nodes *:library|*:figurelibrary
3 axis auto-child
4 nodes *:figure
5 axis auto-child
6 nodes *:label
pattern: /(*:library|figurelibrary)/figure/*:label
1 axis auto-child
2 nodes *:library|*:figurelibrary
```

```
3 axis auto-child
4 nodes *:figure
5 axis auto-child
6 nodes *:label
pattern: /(*:library|figurelibrary)/figure/label
1 axis auto-child
2 nodes *:library|*:figurelibrary
3 axis auto-child
4 nodes *:figure
5 axis auto-child
6 nodes *:label
pattern: /(*:library|figurelibrary)/figure:*/label
1 axis auto-child
2 nodes *:library|*:figurelibrary
3 axis auto-child
4 nodes figure:*
5 axis auto-child
6 nodes *:label
```