

# Database Systems I

CMPT 354 Summer 2024 Zhengjie Miao

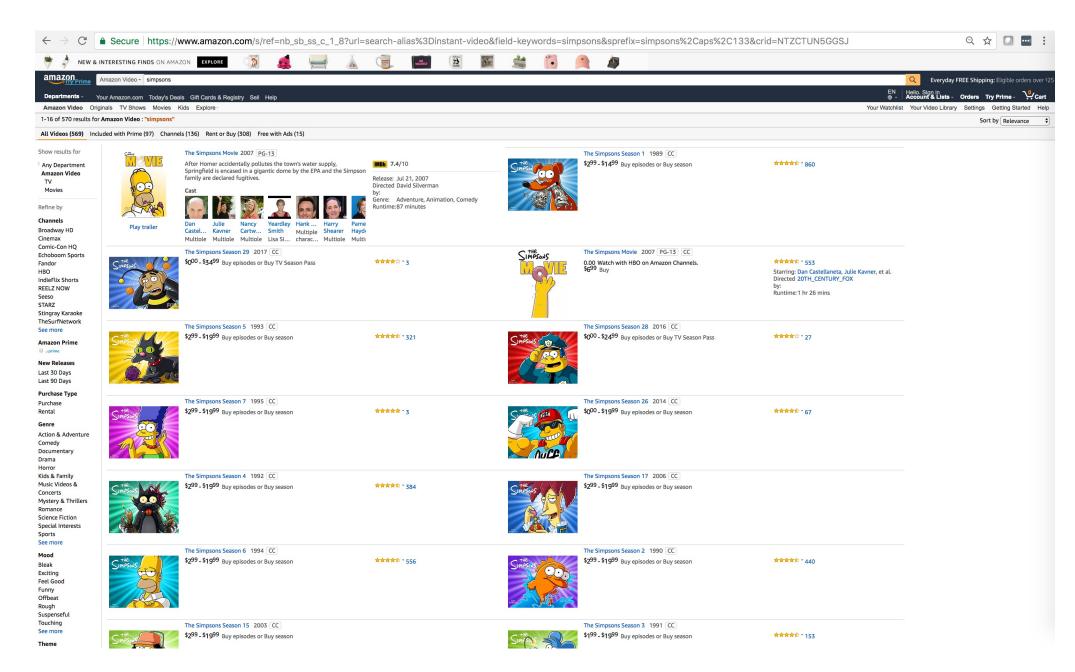
#### Announcements (Wed. June 26)

Assignment 4 to be assigned tomorrow; due July 7

#### Structured vs. unstructured data

- Relational databases are highly structured
  - All data resides in tables
  - You must define schema before entering any data
  - Every row confirms to the table schema
  - Changing the schema is hard and may break many things
- Texts are highly unstructured
  - Data is free-form
  - There is no pre-defined schema, and it's hard to define any schema
  - Readers need to infer structures and meanings

What's in between these two extremes?



#### Semi-structured data

- Observation: most data have some structure, e.g.:
  - Book: chapters, sections, titles, paragraphs, references, index, etc.
  - Item for sale: name, picture, price (range), ratings, promotions, etc.
  - Web page: HTML

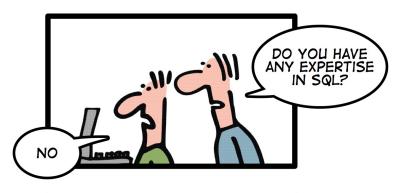
Every time the data changes in a relational database, you need to change the schema For a non-relational database, you can add the changes to the new data and do not need to change everything

- Ideas:
  - Ensure data is "well-formatted"
  - If needed, ensure data is also "well-structured"
    - But make it easy to define and extend this structure
  - Make data "self-describing"

#### SQL vs. NoSQL

- SQL's rigidity in face of semistructured data is one of the reasons behind the rise of (some) NoSQL systems
  - NoSQL has other motivations, which we hope to get to in a later part of this course

#### HOW TO WRITE A CV







Leverage the NoSQL boom

# Our roadmap thru the NoSQL land

#### But can't relational databases do XML?

Json does not have many query languages which work specifically with it

```
" id" : "B000944", "birthday" : ISODate("1952-11-09T00:00:00Z"), "gender" : "M",
"district": 13. "enddate": ISODate("1995-01-03T00:00:00Z"), "party": "Democrat",
                                                                                                           993-01-05T00:00:00Z").
"state": "OH", "type": "rep" }, { "district": 13, "enddate": ISODate("1997-01-03
                                                                                                             emocrat", "startdate"
: ISODate("1995-01-04T00:00:00Z"), "state": "OH", "type": "rep" }, { "district":
03T00:00:00Z"), "party": "Democrat", "startdate": ISODate("1997-01-07T00:00:00Z"),
: 13, "enddate" : ISODate("2001-01-03T00:00:00Z"), "party" : "Democrat", "startdate"
"OH", "type" : "rep" }, { "district" : 13, "enddate" : ISODate("2003-01-03T00:00:00
ISODate("2001-01-03T00:00:00Z"), "state" : "OH", "type" : "rep" }, { "district" : 13
"party": "Democrat", "startdate": ISODate("2003-01-07T00:00:00Z"), "state": "OH"
: ISODate("2007-01-03T00:00:00Z"), "party" : "Democrat", "startdate" : ISODate("2005
                                                                                                        'state"
                                                                                                               : "OH", "type" :
"rep" }, { "enddate" : ISODate("2013-01-03T00:00:00Z"), "party" : "Democrat", "start
                                                                                     ate" : ISODate("2007-01-04 00:00:00Z"),
"state" : "OH", "type" : "sen" }, { "current" : 1, "enddate" : ISODate("2019-01-03T0
                                                                                                               rat", "startdate" :
ISODate("2013-01-03T00:00:00Z"), "state" : "OH", "type" : "sen"
" id": "C000127", "birthday": ISODate("1958-10-13T00:00:00Z"), "gender": "F",
"district": 1, "enddate": ISODate("1995-01-03T00:00:00Z"), "party": "Democrat",
"state" : "WA", "type" : "rep" }, { "enddate" : ISODate("2007-01-03T00:00:00Z"),
01-03T00:00:00Z"), "state": "WA", "type": "sen" }, { "enddate": ISODate("2013-01-
"startdate" : ISODate("2007-01-04T00:00:00Z"), "state" : "WA", "type" : "sen" }, { "current" : 1, "enddate" : ISODate("2019-01-
03T00:00:00Z"), "party": "Democrat", "startdate": ISODate("2013-01-03T00:00:00Z"), "state": "WA", "type": "sen" } ] }
```

### HTML: language of the Web

<h1>Bibliography</h1>
<i>Foundations of Databases</i>
Abiteboul, Hull, and Vianu
<br/>
<br/>
Addison Wesley, 1995
...



#### **Bibliography**

Foundations of Databases, Abiteboul, Hull, and Vianu Addison Wesley, 1995

Data on the Web, Abiteboul, Buneman, and Suciu Morgan Kaufmann, 1999

HTML can be considered a special case of XML

- It started mostly as a "formatting" language
- It mixes presentation and content
  - Hard to change presentation (say, for different displays)
  - Hard to extract content

# XML: eXtensible Markup Language

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



#### Bibliography

Foundations of Databases, Abiteboul, Hull, and Vianu Addison Wesley, 1995

Data on the Web, Abiteboul, Buneman, and Suciu Morgan Kaufmann, 1999

- Text-based
- Capture data (content), not presentation
- Data self-describes its structure
  - Names and nesting of tags have meanings!

#### Other nice features of XML

With transferring data from relational databases, you need to be sure that the other person is working with the same DMBS as you.

- Portability: Just like HTML, you can ship XML data across platforms
  - Relational data requires heavy-weight API's
- Flexibility: You can represent any information (structured, semistructured, documents, ...)
  - Relational data is best suited for structured data
- Extensibility: Since data describes itself, you can change the schema easily
  - Relational schema is rigid and difficult to change

### XML terminology

- Tag names: book, title, ...
- Start tags: <book>, <title>, ...
- End tags: </book>, </title>, ...
- - Elements can be nested: <book>...<title>...</title>...</book>
  - Empty elements: <is\_textbook></is\_textbook></is\_</li>
    - Can be abbreviated: <is\_textbook/>
- Elements can also have attributes: <book ISBN="..." price="80.00">
- Ordering generally matters, except for attributes

```
<bibliography>
  <book ISBN="ISBN-10" price="80.00">
        <title>Foundations of Databases</title>
        <author>Abiteboul</author>
        <author>Hull</author>
        <author>Vianu</author>
        <publisher>Addison Wesley</publisher>
        <year>1995</year>
        </book>...
</bibliography>
```

#### Well-formed XML documents

#### A well-formed XML document

- Follows XML lexical conventions
  - Wrong: <section>We show that x < 0...</section>
  - Right: <section>We show that x &lt; 0...</section>
    - Other special entities: > becomes > and & becomes &
- Contains a single root element
- Has properly matched tags and properly nested elements
  - Right: <section>...</subsection>...</section>
  - Wrong: <section>...</subsection>...</subsection>

<bibliography> <book ISBN="ISBN-10" price="80.00"> <title>Foundations of Databases</title> <author>Abiteboul</author> A tree representation <author>Hull</author> <author>Vianu</author> <publisher>Addison Wesley</publisher> bibliography) <year>1995 </book>... </bibliography> book book ••• publisher title author author author section ••• year **Foundations** Abiteboul Hull Addison 1995 Vianu of Databases Wesley section title section content Introduction In this section we introduce the notion of semi-structured 13 data

#### More XML features

- Processing instructions for apps: <? ... ?>
  - An XML file typically starts with a version declaration using this syntax: <?xml version="1.0"?>
- Comments: <!-- Comments here -->
- CDATA section: <! [CDATA[Tags: <book>,...]]>
- ID's and references

• ID value must start with a non-digit

CDATA section: escapes everything within the section and treats them as strings

Namespaces allow external schemas and qualified names

```
<myCitationStyle:book xmlns:myCitationStyle="http://.../mySchema">
    <myCitationStyle:title>...</myCitationStyle:title>
    <myCitationStyle:author>...</myCitationStyle:author>...
</book>
```

• And more...

#### Valid XML documents

- A valid XML document conforms to a Document Type Definition (DTD)
  - A DTD is optional
  - A DTD specifies a grammar for the document
    - Constraints on structures and values of elements, attributes, etc.

#### Example

#### Review this section

```
<!DOCTYPE bibliography [</pre>
       <!ELEMENT bibliography (book+)>
       <!ELEMENT book (title, author*, publisher?, year?, section*)>
       <!ATTLIST book ISBN ID #REQUIRED>
       <!ATTLIST book price CDATA #IMPLIED>
                                                                    <bibliography>
                                                                      <book ISBN="ISBN-10" price="80.00">
       <!ELEMENT title (#PCDATA)>
                                                                        <title>Foundations of Databases</title>
       <!ELEMENT author (#PCDATA)>
                                                                        <author>Abiteboul</author>
       <!ELEMENT publisher (#PCDATA)>
                                                                        <author>Hull</author>
       <!ELEMENT year (#PCDATA)>
                                                                        <author>Vianu</author>
                                            Ask professor about this constraint.
       <!ELEMENT i (#PCDATA)>
                                                                        <publisher>Addison Wesley</publisher>
       <!ELEMENT content (#PCDATA|i)*> Is it not the same as (#PCDATA)*?
                                                                        <year>1995</year>
                                                                      </book>...
       <!ELEMENT section (title, content?, section*)>
                                                                    </bibliography>
]>
```

#### Why use DTD or XML Schema?

Benefits of not using them

- Text
- Unstructured data is easy to represent
- Overhead of validation is avoided
- Benefits of using them
  - Serve as schema for the XML data
    - Guards against errors
    - Helps with processing
  - Facilitate information exchange
    - People can agree to use a common DTD or XML Schema to exchange data (e.g., XHTML)

#### XML versus relational data

#### Relational data

XML data
Should there not be a note saying how there may be a schema?

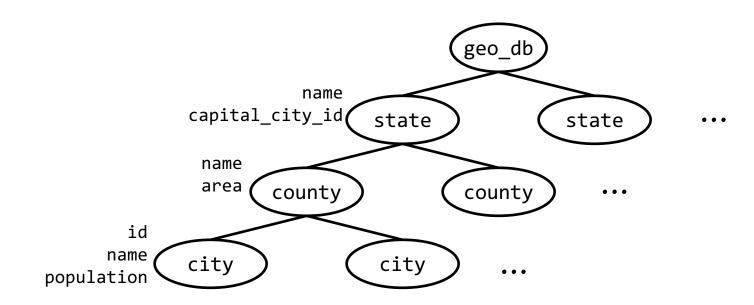
- Schema is always fixed in advance and difficult to change
- Simple, flat table structures
- Ordering of rows and columns is unimportant
- Exchange is problematic
- "Native" support in all serious commercial DBMS

- Well-formed XML does not require predefined, fixed schema
- Nested structure; ID/IDREF(S) permit arbitrary graphs
- Ordering forced by document format; may or may not be important
- Designed for easy exchange
- Native XML database systems, or "add-on" on top of relations

# Case study

- Design an XML document representing cities, counties, and states
  - For states, record name and capital (city)
  - For counties, record name, area, and location (state)
  - For cities, record name, population, and location (county and state)
- Assume the following:
  - Names of states are unique
  - Names of counties are only unique within a state
  - Names of cities are only unique within a county
  - A city is always located in a single county
  - A county is always located in a single state

# A possible design



# Query languages for XML

- XPath
  - Path expressions with conditions
  - Building block of other standards (XQuery, XSLT, XLink, XPointer, etc.)
- \* XQuery is powerful, but what else? Ask professor

  \*\*Example 1.5 Ask professor

  \*\*Example 2.5 Ask professor

  \*\*Example 3.5 Ask prof
  - XPath + full-fledged SQL-like query language
- XSLT: mostly used a stylesheet language
  - XPath + transformation templates
  - We are not going to cover it in this course

### Query languages for XML (online tool)

There are many online Xpath/Xquery testers, e.g.,

- https://codebeautify.org/Xpath-Tester (XPATH)
- https://videlibri.sourceforge.net/cgibin/xidelcgi (XQUERY)

Try with this example (or change it for different queries)

- Be careful with quotes ("" -> ")
- Not everything works all the time! Try different websites and config

```
<bibliography>
  <book ISBN="ISBN-10" price="80.00">
   <title>Foundations of Databases</title>
   <author>Abiteboul</author>
   <author>Hull</author>
   <author>Vianu</author>
   <publisher>Addison Wesley</publisher>
   <year>1995</year>
   <section>abc</section>
  </book>
  <book ISBN="ISBN-11" price="20.00">
   <title>DBSTS</title>
   <author>Ramakrishnan
   <author>Gehrke</author>
   <publisher>Addison Wesley</publisher>
   <year>1999
   <section>abc</section>
  </book>
</bibliography>
```

#### **XPath**

```
<bibliography>
  <book ISBN="ISBN-10" price="80.00">
        <title>Foundations of Databases</title>
        <author>Abiteboul</author>
        <author>Hull</author>
        <author>Vianu</author>
        <publisher>Addison Wesley</publisher>
        <year>1995</year>
        </book>...
</bibliography>
```

- XPath specifies path expressions that match XML data by navigating down (and occasionally up and across) the tree
- Example
  - Query: /bibliography/book/author
    - Like a file system path, except there can be multiple "subdirectories" with the same name
  - Result: all author elements reachable from root via the path /bibliography/book/author

#### Basic XPath constructs

matches the parent element

separator between steps in a path name matches any child element with this tag name matches any child element @name matches the attribute with this name matches any attribute matches any descendent element or the current element itself matches the current element

### Simple XPath examples

All book titles
 /bibliography/book/title

All book ISBN numbers
 /bibliography/book/@ISBN

- All title elements, anywhere in the document //title
- All section titles, anywhere in the document //section/title
- Authors of bibliographical entries (suppose there are articles, reports, etc. in addition to books)

/bibliography/\*/author

```
<bibliography>
  <book ISBN="ISBN-10" price="80.00">
        <title>Foundations of Databases</title>
        <author>Abiteboul</author>
        <author>Hull</author>
        <author>Vianu</author>
        <publisher>Addison Wesley</publisher>
        <year>1995</year>
        </book>...
</bibliography>
```

# Predicates in path expressions

```
<bibliography>
  <book ISBN="ISBN-10" price="80.00">
        <title>Foundations of Databases</title>
        <author>Abiteboul</author>
        <author>Hull</author>
        <author>Vianu</author>
        <publisher>Addison Wesley</publisher>
        <year>1995</year>
        </book>...
</bibliography>
```

[condition] matches the "current" element if condition evaluates to true on the current element

- Books with price lower than \$50
  - /bibliography/book[@price<50]
  - XPath will automatically convert the price string to a numeric value for comparison
- Books with author "Abiteboul" /bibliography/book[author='Abiteboul']
- Books with a publisher child element /bibliography/book[publisher]
- Prices of books authored by "Abiteboul" /bibliography/book[author='Abiteboul']/@price

This condition implicitly converts the author element to a string in order to compare.

there are multiple authors, then you are

If there are multiple authors, then you are comparing a set of authors against a single author.

### More complex predicates

```
<bibliography>
  <book ISBN="ISBN-10" price="80.00">
        <title>Foundations of Databases</title>
        <author>Abiteboul</author>
        <author>Hull</author>
        <author>Vianu</author>
        <publisher>Addison Wesley</publisher>
        <year>1995</year>
        </book>...
</bibliography>
```

Predicates can use and, or, and not

- Books with price between \$40 and \$50
   /bibliography/book[40<=@price and @price<=50]</li>
- Books authored by "Abiteboul" or those with price no lower than \$50

```
/bibliography/book[author='Abiteboul' or @price>=50]
/bibliography/book[author='Abiteboul' or not(@price<50)]</pre>
```

Any difference between these two queries?

If there is no value for the price, then the first query will fail.

The second query will work since you take the negation.

Review this section.

# A tricky example

This slide differs from the previous one since it has that the price is a element of the book, and not an attribute. Therefore, we can have that there can be multiple prices for a book.

```
<bibliography>
  <book ISBN="ISBN-10">
        <title>Foundations of Databases</title>
        <author>Abiteboul</author>
        <author>Hull</author>
        <author>Vianu</author>
        <publisher>Addison Wesley</publisher>
        <year>1995</year>
        <price>70.00</price>
    </book>...</bibliography>
```

- Suppose for a moment that price is a child element of book, and there may be multiple prices per book
- Books with some price in range [20, 50]
  - Wrong answer:

```
/bibliography/book[price >= 20 and price <= 50]
(returns true with one price 10 and one 70!)

This is comparing a value with a set
```

• Correct answer:

```
/bibliography/book[price[. >= 20 and . <= 50]]
```

# Predicates involving node-sets

#### /bibliography/book[author='Abiteboul']

- There may be multiple authors, so author in general returns a node-set (in XPath terminology)
- The predicate evaluates to true as long as it evaluates to true for at least one node in the node-set, i.e., at least one author is "Abiteboul"
- Tricky query

```
/bibliography/book[author='Abiteboul' and author!='Abiteboul']
```

• Will it return any books?

Yes. In the collection of author names, you only need one author to be Abiteboul and another author to not have this name.

If you have book A authored by Abiteboul and John, this book will be returned

### XPath operators and functions

Frequently used in conditions:

```
contains(x, y) true if string x contains string y
count(node-set) counts the number nodes in node-set
position() returns the "context position" (roughly, the position of the current node in the node-set containing it)
last() returns the "context size" (roughly, the size of the node-set containing the current node)
name() returns the tag name of the current element
```

### More XPath examples

- All elements whose tag names contain "section" (e.g., "subsection")
   //\*[contains(name(), 'section')]
- Title of the first section in each book

```
/bibliography/book/section[position()=1]/title
```

- A shorthand: /bibliography/book/section[1]/title
- Title of the last section in each book

```
/bibliography/book/section[position()=last()]/title
```

Books with fewer than 10 sections

```
/bibliography/book[count(section)<10]</pre>
```

All elements whose parent's tag name is not "book"

```
//*[name()!='book']/*
```

# De-referencing IDREF's

id(identifier) returns the element with identifier

Suppose that books can reference other books

```
<section><title>Introduction</title>
   XML is a hot topic these days; see <bookref ISBN="ISBN-10"/> for more details...
</section>
```

• Find all references to books written by "Abiteboul" in the book with "ISBN-10"

```
/bibliography/book[@ISBN='ISBN-10']
  //bookref[id(@ISBN)/author='Abiteboul']
Or simply:
  id('ISBN-10')//bookref[id(@ISBN)/author='Abiteboul']
```

# XQuery

Sample online Xquery tester:

https://videlibri.sourceforge.net/cgi-bin/xidelcgi

Use Xquery 3.1, node format = xml, output format = adhoc, and compatibility = Standard Xquery in the settings.

Drop doc("bib.xml") in the query

- XPath + full-fledged SQL-like query language
- XQuery expressions can be
  - XPath expressions
  - FLWR expressions
  - Quantified expressions
  - Aggregation, sorting, and more...
- An XQuery expression in general can return a new result XML document
  - Compare with an XPath expression, which always returns a sequence of nodes from the input document or atomic values (boolean, number, string, etc.)

### A simple XQuery based on XPath

Find all books with price lower than \$50

```
<result>{
  doc("bib.xml")/bibliography/book[@price<50]
}</result>
```

- Things outside {}'s are copied to output verbatim
- Things inside {}'s are evaluated and replaced by the results
  - doc("bib.xml") specifies the document to query
    - Can be omitted if there is a default context document
  - The XPath expression returns a sequence of book elements
  - These elements (including all their descendants) are copied to output

### FLWR expressions

 Retrieve the titles of books published before 2000, together with their publisher

```
<result>{
  for $b in doc("bib.xml")/bibliography/book
  let $p := $b/publisher
  where $b/year < 2000
  return
    <book>
      { $b/title }
      { $p }
    </book>
}</result>
```

- for: loop
  - \$b ranges over the result sequence, getting one item at a time
- let: "assignment"
  - \$p gets the entire result of \$b/publisher (possibly many nodes)
- where: filtering by condition
- return: result structuring
  - Invoked in the "innermost loop," i.e., once for each successful binding of all query variables that satisfies where

#### An equivalent formulation

 Retrieve the titles of books published before 2000, together with their publisher

#### Another formulation

 Retrieve the titles of books published before 2000, together with their publisher

```
<result>{
  for $b in doc("bib.xml")/bibliography/book,
       $p in $b/publisher
Variables must start with dollar sign
  where $b/year < 2000
  return
     <book>
       { $b/title }
                  Curly brackets indicate that you
                want to evaluate the value inside them
}</result>
```

Is this query equivalent to the previous two?

Nested loop

- Yes, if there is one publisher per book
- No, in general
  - Two result book elements will be created for a book with two publishers
  - No result book element will be created for a book with no publishers

#### Yet another formulation

 Retrieve the titles of books published before 2000, together with their publisher

```
<result>{
  let $b := doc("bib.xml")/bibliography/book
 where $b/year < 2000
  return
    <book>
      { $b/title }
      { $b/publisher }
    </book>
}</result>
```

This condition does not return all the books published before 200, but instead gets all books if there exists one published before 2000

- Is this query correct?
- No!
- It will produce only one output book element, with all titles clumped together and all publishers clumped together
- All books will be processed (as long as one is published before 2000)

#### Subqueries in return

 Extract book titles and their authors; make title an attribute and rename author to writer

```
<bibliography>{
  for $b in doc("bib.xml")/bibliography/book
  return
                                                                      Ask
    <book title="{normalize-space($b/title)}">{
                                                                   professor to
      for $a in $b/author
                                                                     explain
      return <writer>{string($a)}</writer>
                                                                   again what
    }</book>
                                                                    the string
                         What happens if we replace it with $a?
}</bibliography>
                                                                    function
                                                                     does
```

 normalize-space(string) removes leading and trailing spaces from string, and replaces all internal sequences of white spaces with one white space

# An explicit join

Find pairs of books that have common author(s)

```
<result>{
  for $b1 in doc("bib.xml")//book
  for $b2 in doc("bib.xml")//book
  where $b1/author = $b2/author
    and $b1/title > $b2/title
  return
    <pair>
      {$b1/title}
      {$b2/title}
      </pair>
}</result>
```

← These are string comparisons, not identity comparisons!

### More features (skip)

- Existential (some) and Universal (all)
- Aggregation
- Conditional
  - Use anywhere you'd expect a value, e.g.:

```
• let $foo := if (...) then ... else ...
```

• return <bar blah="{ if (...) then ...
else ... }"/>

```
Find titles of books in which XML is mentioned in some section

<result>{
   for $b in doc("bib.xml")//book
   where (some $section in $b//section satisfies
contains(string($section), "XML"))
   return $b/title
}</result>
```

# XQuery vs. SQL

With SQL, you need to work on multiple tables. With XQuery, you are more likely to work on one document

Where did the join go?

Xml data does not tell you how the data is represented nor where it is stored. Although it is

navigational, it is still a high level description

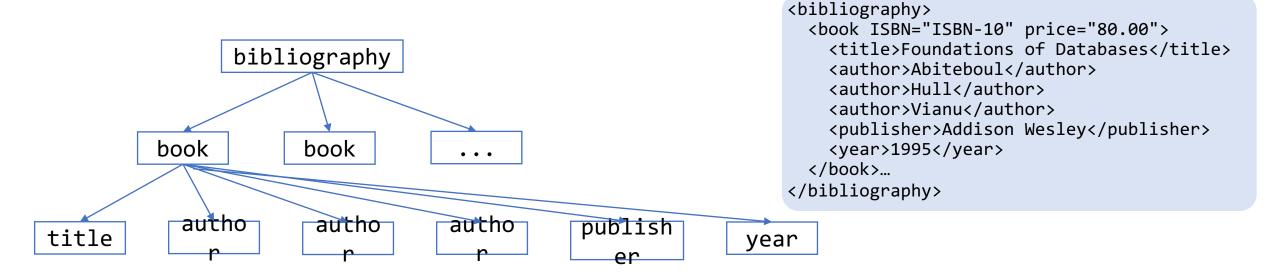
- Is navigational query going to destroy physical data independence?
- Strong ordering constraint
  - Can be overridden by unordered { for... }
  - Why does that matter?

Ask professor to go over ordering constraint

#### Mapping XML to relational

- Store XML in a column
  - Simple, compact
  - CLOB (Character Large OBject) type + full-text indexing, or better, special XML type + functions
  - Poor integration with relational query processing
  - Updates are expensive
- Alternatives?
  - Schema-oblivious mapping: well-formed XML → generic relational schema
    - Node/edge-based mapping for graphs ← Focus of this lecture
    - Interval-based or Dewey-order mapping for trees
  - Schema-aware mapping: valid XML → special relational schema based on DTD

### Node/edge-based: example



- How would you translate it to a relational schema?
  - Element? Attribute? Parent-child relationship?
  - Keys?

### Node/edge-based: schema

- Element(<u>eid</u>, tag)
- Attribute(eid, attrName, attrValue)
  - Attribute order does not matter
- ElementChild(eid, pos, child)
  - pos specifies the ordering of children
  - child references either Element(eid) or Text(tid)
- Text(<u>tid</u>, value)
  - tid cannot be the same as any eid
- Need to "invent" lots of id's
- Need indexes for efficiency, e.g., Element(tag), Text(value)

Key: (eid, attrName)

Keys: (eid, pos), (child)

### Node/edge-based: example

```
<bibliography>
  <book ISBN="ISBN-10" price="80.00">
        <title>Foundations of Databases</title>
        <author>Abiteboul</author>
        <author>Hull</author>
        <author>Vianu</author>
        <publisher>Addison Wesley</publisher>
        <year>1995</year>
        </book>...
</bibliography>
```

#### Text

tid	value
t0	Foundations of Databases
t1	Abiteboul
t2	Hull
t3	Vianu
t4	Addison Wesley
t5	1995

#### Element

eid	tag
e0	bibliography
e1	book
e2	title
e3	author
e4	author
e5	author
е6	publisher
e7	year

#### Attribute

eid	attrName	attrValue
e1	ISBN	ISBN-10
e1	price	80

#### ElementChild

eid	pos	child
e0	1	e1
e1	1	e2
e1	2	e3
e1	3	e4
e1	4	e5
e1	5	е6
e1	6	e7
e2	1	t0
e3	1	t1
e4	1	t2
e5	1	t3
е6	1	t4
e7	1	t5

### Node/edge-based: simple paths

```
//title
SELECT eid FROM Element WHERE tag = 'title';
//section/title
SELECT e2.eid
    FROM Element e1, ElementChild c, Element e2
    WHERE e1.tag = 'section'
    AND e2.tag = 'title'
    AND e1.eid = c.eid
    AND c.child = e2.eid;
```

- Path expression becomes joins!
  - Number of joins is proportional to the length of the path expression

### Node/edge-based: complex paths

```
    //bibliography/book[author="Abiteboul"]/@price

    SELECT a.attrValue

     FROM Element e1, ElementChild c1,
          Element e2, Attribute a
     WHERE e1.tag = 'bibliography'
     AND e1.eid = c1.eid AND c1.child = e2.eid
     AND e2.tag = 'book'
     AND EXISTS (SELECT * FROM ElementChild c2,
                          Element e3, ElementChild c3, Text t
                 WHERE e2.eid = c2.eid AND c2.child = e3.eid
                 AND e3.tag = 'author'
                 AND e3.eid = c3.eid AND c3.child = t.tid
                 AND t.value = 'Abiteboul')
     AND e2.eid = a.eid
     AND a.attrName = 'price';
```