

A.1.7 Tree Model of XML Documents

It is possible to represent well-formed XML documents as trees; thus trees provide a formal data model for XML. This representation is often instructive. As an example, consider the following document:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-16"?>
<!DOCTYPE email SYSTEM "email.dtd">
<email>
  <head>
    <from  name="Michael Maher"
          address="michaelmaher@cs.gu.edu.au"/>
    <to    name="Grigoris Antoniou"
          address="grigoris@cs.unibremen.de"/>
    <subject>Where is your draft?</subject>
  </head>
  <body>
    Grigoris, where is the draft of the paper
    you promised me last week?
  </body>
</email>
```

Figure A.1 shows the tree representation of this XML document. It is an ordered, labeled tree:

- There is exactly one root.
- There are no cycles.
- Each node, other than the root, has exactly one parent.
- Each node has a label.
- The order of elements is important.