

Textual Markup

HTML, CSS, XML (typographic, structural, semantic markup)

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Introduction

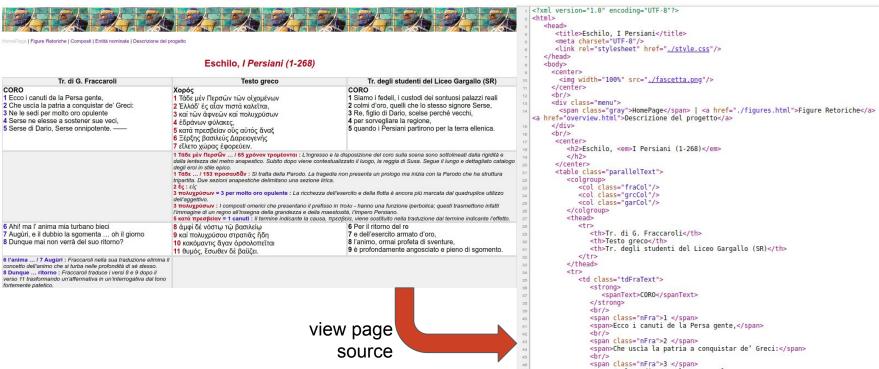
We will study the principles of textual markup and the basic elements of three formalisms created by the W3C (http://w3c.org):

- HyperText Markup Language (HTML)
- Cascading Style Sheets (CSS)
- eXtensible Markup Language (XML)

HTML



The source code of a web page



Markup

Markup languages **represent, describe** data, whereas programming languages **process** data.

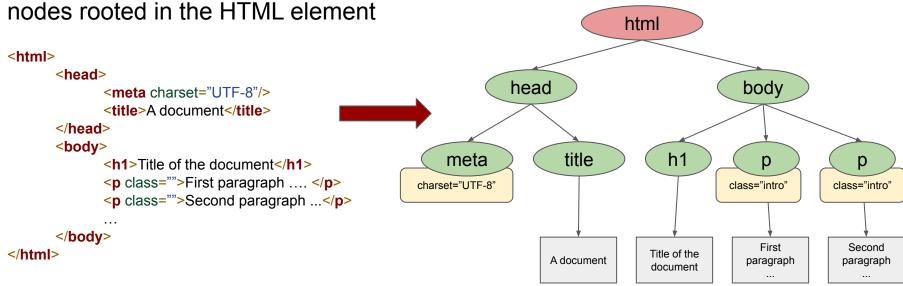
Markup languages do not **perform** arithmetic or logical operations

Typically a markup language uses **tags** (e.g. and) delimited by **metacharacters** (e.g. < and >) to record **secondary information** (e.g. layout specifications) about **primary information** (e.g. textual content, expressed by character sequences)

HTML describes interlinked documents exchanged on the web

Elements and attributes

Any HTML document has a hierarchical structure that is represented by a tree of



Elements and attributes

Elements are data containers. If they have textual or mixed content, they are delimited by a **starting tag** and an **ending tag**

```
First <em>>paragraph</em>><br/>br/>with two lines
```

if they are **empty**, they are constituted by an **empty tag**

```
Starting tag syntax: < + tagName + > Ending tag syntax: < + / + tagName + > Empty tag syntax: < + tagName + / + >
```

Elements and attributes

Elements may have attributes.

Attributes are constituted by two parts:

attribute name

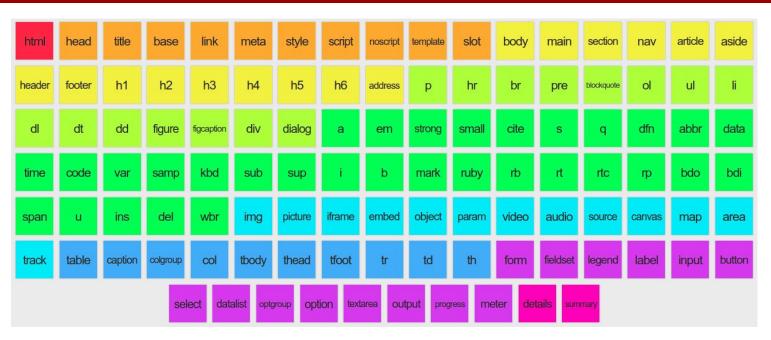
and attribute value.

Attribute syntax:

attributeName + = + " + attributeValue + "

Also empty elements may have attributes

HTML tags



https://allthetags.com



The head

Within the **html root element**, an html document contains a section for metadata: **head**, and a section for textual and (possible) multimedia content: **body**

head contains the title of the document, a list of meta elements e.g. with character encoding, link with stylesheet reference, etc. and it may contain also scripts to provide the document with commands to process contents

Character encoding

Character encoding of the entire document is declared in in the head:

```
<head>
<meta charset="UTF-8"/>
</head>
```

UTF-8 is one of the most efficient serializations for unicode

"Unicode is the universal character encoding, maintained by the Unicode Consortium (http://unicode.org). This encoding standard provides the basis for processing, storage and interchange of text data in any language. [...] Unicode covers all the characters for all the writing systems of the world, modern and ancient. It also includes technical symbols, punctuations, and many other characters used in writing text." (http://unicode.org)

In HTML (special) characters can be encoded also as entities, e.g.

< →
 > → >

• & → &

• " → "

(more entities: https://bit.ly/2ZDyqNY)



Semantic elements & outer document structure

Inside the body is possible to define a **header**, a menu (**nav**), a division in **article**s or **section**s and a

footer

```
<body>
      <header>Header info here</header>
      <nav>
            <a href="hp.html">HomePage</a> |
            <a href="a.html">About</a>
      </nav>
      <article>
            <h2>First article</h2>
            An article about Marco Polo
      </article>
      <article>
            <h2>Second article</h2>
            Another article about Marco Polo
      </article>
      <footer>Footer info here</footer>
</body>
```

Header info here

HomePage | About

First article

An article about Marco Polo

Second article

Another article about Marco Polo

Footer info here



Inner document structure

The inner document structure is articulated in text blocks or divisions (**<div>**...**</div>**), which usually are constituted by paragraphs (...)

```
<div>
 <h2>First division</h2>
 First paragraph
 Second paragraph
</div>
<div>
 <h2>Second division</h2>
Just one paragraph
</div>
```

First division

First paragraph

Second paragraph

Second division

Just one paragraph

Lists

Ordered lists (...) and unordered lists (...) contain list items (...)

```
    First ordered item
    Second ordered item
    Third ordered item

        First unordered item
        Second unordered item
        Third unordered item
        Third unordered item
        Third unordered item
        Ii>Third unordered item
        Ii>Third unordered item
```

- First ordered item
- Second ordered item
- Third ordered item
- First unordered item
- Second unordered item
- Third unordered item



Formatting

Typographic bold and italic are marked as **strong** and **em**(phasis).

```
This is regular, <br/>
<strong>this is usually rendered as bold</strong><br/>
and <em>this is usually rendered in italic.</em>
```



This is regular, this is usually rendered as bold and this is usually rendered in italic.

Multimedia

A HTML document can embed multimedia content, such as images, audio, video, etc.

The most frequent multimedia content is an image ()



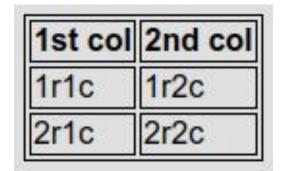




Tables

Tables (...) are constituted by table rows (...), which contain table headers (...) or table data (...).

```
>1st col
>1st col
>2nd col
>2nd col
>4th>>2nd col
>4
```



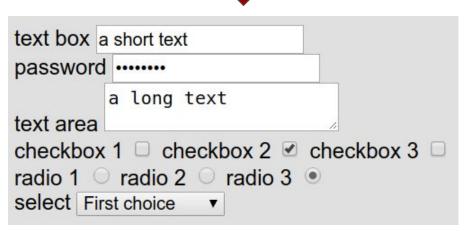


Forms

Forms provide documents with interaction between the user, the front-end (client side, on the browser) or the back-end (server side) of the application.

Form widgets

```
< form id="form1" action="/script.jsp">
 <label>text box</label> <input id="tb" type="text"/><br/>>
 <label>password</label> <input id="pwd" type="password"/><br/>
 <label>text area</label> <textarea id="in3"></textarea><br/>
 <label>checkbox 1</label> <input id="cb1" type="checkbox" value="1"/>
 <label>checkbox 2</label> <input id="cb2" type="checkbox" value="2" checked="true"/>
 <label>checkbox 3</label>
 <input id="cb3" type="checkbox" value="3"/><br/>
 <label>radio 1</label>
 <input id="r1" name="group1" type="radio" value="1"/>
 <label>radio 2</label>
 <input id="r2" name="group1" type="radio" value="2"/>
 <label>radio 3</label>
 <input id="r3" name="group1" type="radio" value="3"/><br/>
 <label>select</label>
 <select id="sel">
   <option id="opt1" value="1">First choice</option>
   <option id="opt2" value="2">Second choice</option>
   <option id="opt3" value="3">Third choice</option>
 </select>
</form>
```



CSS



CSS

Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) describe how HTML elements must be rendered, i.e. graphically represented by browsers on different media devices (e.g. desktops, laptops, tablets or smartphones) and different operative systems (e.g. Linux, Mac, Windows, Androids) in similar ways but with the necessary adaptation due to screen size, screen ratio and so on.

A CSS is constituted by a list of **rules**

```
.abstract{
        color: blue;
}
.intro{
        color: red;
}
```

Any **rule** is constitute by a **selector** and a list of **declarations**. Each declaration is formed by an **attribute name** and an **attribute value**.



Selectors & declarations

Selectors are necessary to identify an element or a set of elements

Most frequent selectors

- element (e.g. p)
- #id (e.g. #w31)
- .class (e.g. .row)

List of selectors and their combinations

https://bit.ly/2ZEqprQ

F. Boschetti & A.M. Del Grosso, Textual Markup

Declarations concern any aspect of the graphical representation of an element Example: how to render a paragraph of class quot in italic, gray, justified and smaller than the other paragraphs in the same div

```
p.abstract{
    color: #c0c0c0;
    text-align: justify;
    font-size: 90%;
}
```

List of properties setted in the declarations

https://bit.ly/3iEDZV8



Cascade

CSS are a cascade of style sheets because properties are combined, calculated, inherited and overwritten in cascade, i.e. according to the hierarchy and the priority of the declarations

```
E.g.
div{
    font-size: 16px;
}
div p{
    font-size: 50%;
}
```

Font size of paragraphs is set to 8px, because the size of the parent element of **p**, which is **div**, is setted to 16px

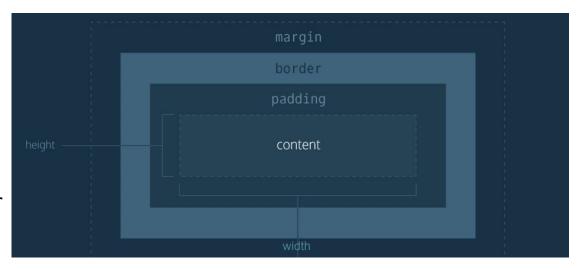
Element box

Each element **content** is located in a **box** surrounded by settable **padding**, **border** and **margin**

padding is a space between
content and border

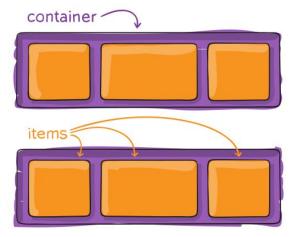
border can be invisible or render by several types of lines

margin is a space beyond the border



Complex layouts

New media devices (tablets, smartphones, etc.) need a complex and dynamic management of web page layouts: **flex display** for containers and **flex properties** for content elements have been created for this purpose



```
div.container{
    display: flex;
}
p.item{
    flex: auto;
    width: 33%;
    text-align: justify;
    margin: 1%;
}
A complete guide to flexbox
    https://bit.ly/2BCpj8e
```

XML



From HTML to XML

HTML is a markup language oriented to the **presentation** and **interlinking** of documents on the web. His expressivity is limited but optimized for the **visualization** of textual and graphic content on the web.

The evolution of the web requires more expressivity: **XML**, the eXtensible Markup Language, was created as a **metalanguage** oriented to **data representation** (instead of **data presentation**).

SGML (the common ancestor)

The **Standard Generalized Markup Language** (**SGML**) is the common ancestor of **HTML** and **XML**.

In the previous slides we introduced only the XHTML serialization for HTML, in order to have HTML documents that are also XML well-formed documents. But HTML can be serialized also to be just an SGML well-formed documents, without being an XML well-formed documents. For this reason, do not surprise if HTML documents can contain empty tags like

instead of

or empty attributes like **selected** instead of **selected="true"**. We will continue using only XHTML!

XML Elements

The prolog contains the XML declaration, optional comment lines, optional processing instructions, and an optional document type declaration. The standalone The XML declaration Comments in the prolog attribute indicates indicates that the The encoding whether the provide additional attribute identifies the information about what a document is written in document contains XML and specifies the character set used in document will be used for any references to version of XML used. the document. external files. and how it was created. (<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" standalone="yes" ?> This document contains data on SJB Pet Boutique holiday specials Filename: sjbpet.xml Author: Patricia Dean Date: 9/18/2017 cproducts> oduct> cproductName>Dog Shirt Gift Basket <manufacturer>SJB Pet Boutique</manufacturer> <description>Something for every day of the week</description> <price>35.99</price> <price>26.79</price> </product> </products> <!-- generated by the finance department --> **DTDs** The document body Found after the document body, schemas contains the document the optional epilog contains any content in a hierarchical final comment lines and processing tree structure. instructions.

XML is used to create markup languages (tag sets, vocabularies, XML applications).

XML is **extensible** because it does not provide any default element but rules to build XML documents

- XML **prolog** (declaration)
- XML **body** (*node tree*)
- XML epilog (final comments)



XML Elements

```
<element>content
```

opening tag: <element>
closing tag: </element>

As in HTML, an **empty element** has no content. An element can contain text or other (nested) elements.

XML element content

- structural: only other elements
- mixed: other elements and text
- textual: only text

Opening and closing tags must have the same name. Tags can be used more than one time. A **vocabulary** is constituted by a tag set

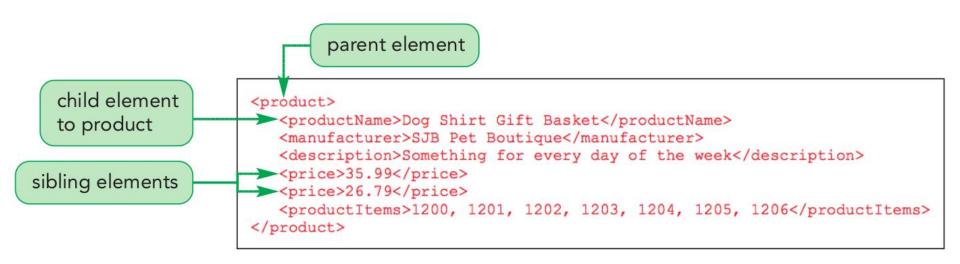
A nested element (child) is contained inside another element (parent).

Sibling element are hierarchically equivalent

Sibling element are hierarchically equivalent and positionally sequential.



XML Elements



XML attributes

The order of the attributes is not relevant.

XML elements may have one or more attributes.

An attribute describe a property of the element.

An attribute has two components: name and value.

The value is a string and must be always surrounded by quotation marks.

XML schema

XML is a metalanguage. Any specific XML language is described by an XML schema, which define the vocabulary of the language (the tag set) and the syntactic structure of the language (content model)

The schema may be created a priori, to validate all the documents defined by the schema, or a posteriori from non validated but well-formed documents. Some applications (e.g. oXigen can be used to extract a schema from well-formed documents

Well-formed and valid documents

Well-formed documents

General XML syntactic rules are respected (e.g. the rules to open and close tags)

Any XML document must be well formed: no syntactic errors are allowed

Valid documents

The constraints of the XML schema are respected

Any valid document must be also well-formed



SVG, MathML and other popular XML schemas

Many XML schemas have been created for specific purposes, e.g. SVG (graphics), MathML (mathematics), docbook (publishing)

```
<mrow>
 <msup>
  <mfenced>
   <mrow>
    <mi>a</mi>
    <mo>+</mo>
    <mi>h</mi>
   </mrow>
  </mfenced>
  <mn>2</mn>
 </msup>
</mrow>
```

A minimalist HTML doc vs a minimalist TEI-XML

```
<html>
<head>
<meta charset="UTF-8"/>
<title>HTML doc</title>
</head>
<body>
<div>
<h1></h1>
Textual content
</div>
</body>
</html>
```

```
<?xml version="1" encoding="utf-8" ?>
<!DOCTYPE TEL SYSTEM "tei-all.dtd">
<TEI>
    <teiHeader>
          <fileDesc>
               <!-- mandatory data -->
          </fileDesc>
     </te>
    <text>
          <body>
               <div>
                    <head></head>
                    <q>
                         Textual content
                    <a>
               </div>
          </body>
     </text>
</TEI>
```

The header in HTML and TEI-XML

```
<head>
  <title>Decameron</title>
  <meta name="author"
    content="G. Boccaccio">
  <meta name="description"
    content="VeDPH Project">
  <meta name="keywords"
    content="italian literature">
  <meta charset="UTF-8">
  rel="stylesheet"
    href="style.css">
  <script
    src="app.js"></script>
  <meta name="application-name"
         content="Decameron
    digital edition">
</head>
```

```
<?xml version="1" encoding="utf-8"?>
<teiHeader>
    <fileDesc>
        <titleStmt>
            <title>Decameron digitale</title>
            <author xml:id="qb">G. Boccaccio</author>
            <respStmt>
                <resp>[...]</resp>
                 <name>[...]</name>
            </respStmt>
        </titleStmt>
        <noteStmt>[...]</noteStmt>
        <publicationStmt>[...]
        <sourceDesc><bibl>Decameron</bibl></sourceDesc>
    </fileDesc>
    <encodingDesc><(p>VeDPH Project
    cprofileDesc>
    <revisionDesc></revisionDesc>
</te>
```

Conclusion

HTML, CSS and XML are technologies in evolution and the general trend is the max separation of concern between data **structure**, **semantics**, **representation** and **presentation**

New versions of HTML are more and more open to semantics (i.e. data representation *vs* data presentation) and customization (i.e. component embedding and tag set extension). Next HTML specification tags like <app-my-project>...</app-my-project> can be embedded in an HTML document, in order to provide the language with custom expressivity