

Foundations of XML Types: An Introduction

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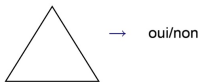
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3 Essential Tasks & Related Languages

Validation

Check that an XML document is valid w.r.t. a given type

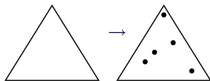
DTD, XML Schema...



Navigation/Extraction

Select a set of nodes from an XML document

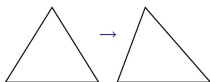
XPath



Transformation

Build a new document from an existing one

XQuery (or XSLT)



Some Essential Questions

- Can I express structural requirement X using XML type language Y? (Expressive Power)
- Can I check forward-compatibility when my XML file format evolves? Can I check type inclusion? (Operations over XML Types)
- Can we make sure my XML manipulating program will never output an invalid document? (Static Type-Checking)

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For all these problems, we must know more about XML Types...

Objectives of this Session

- Get a higher level perspective on XML type languages (DTD, XML Schema...)
- Know more about their theoretical foundations (where they do come from)
- Discover a general framework in which all these languages fit
- Understand better their relative expressive power
- Get an overview of some helpful theoretical tools, enrich your algorithmic toolbox
- Get a flavour of research ongoing in this area
- Get some elements for answering preceding questions...

Preliminary Question

How to measure expressive power?...

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Some Answers

- Computational complexity classes provide a graduation
- Corresponding known problems (e.g. classes of logical formulas) give hints, and also provide help to prove that something cannot be expressed in a given language

Recall: Computational Complexity

