

# XML and Databases

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## Chapter 6: XML Schema II: Simple Types

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# Objectives

After completing this chapter, you should be able to:

- select or define simple types for an application.
- explain union and list types in XML schema.
- check given XML documents for validity according to a given XML schema, in particular with respect to simple types.



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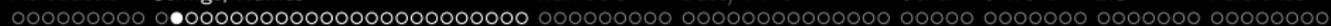






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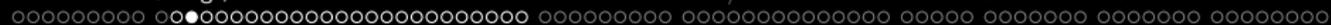


# Strings and Names (1)

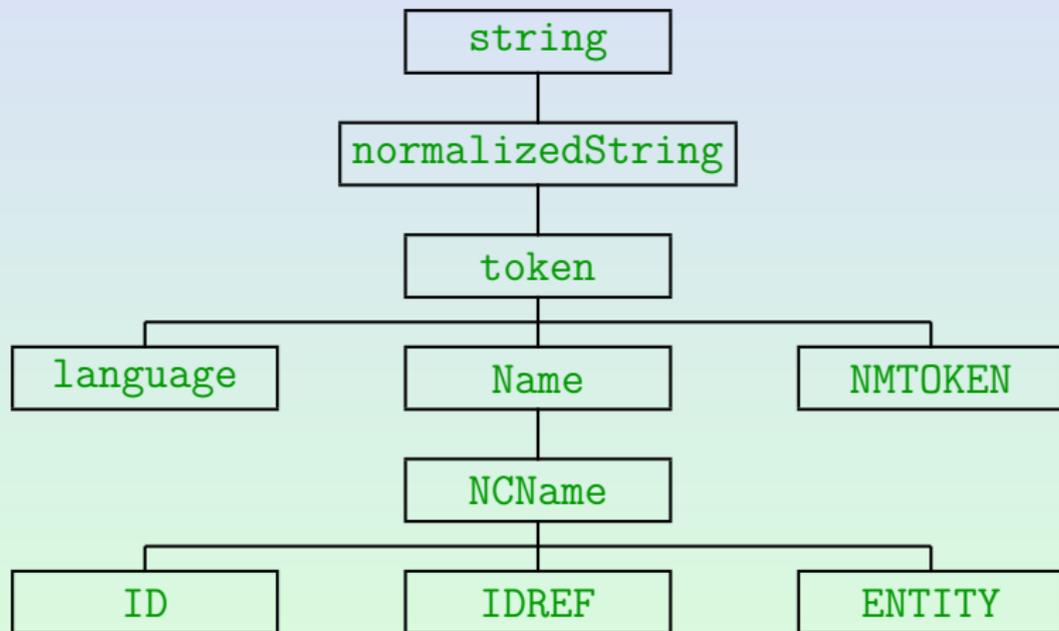
- A string is a finite-length sequence of characters as defined in the XML standard.

The XML standard in turn refers to the Unicode standard, and excludes control characters (except tab, carriage return, linefeed), “surrogate blocks”, `FFFE`, `FFFF`.

- In XML Schema, `string` values are not ordered.
- The following (constraining) facets can be applied to `string` and its subtypes: `length`, `minLength`, `maxLength`, `pattern`, `enumeration`, `whitespace`.
- The hierarchy of types derived from `string` by restriction is shown on the next slide.



# Strings and Names (2)



## Strings and Names (3)

- **normalizedString** are strings that do not contain the characters carriage return, line feed, and tab.
- The XML processor will replace line ends and tabs by spaces.

The combination “carriage return, linefeed” is replaced by a single space. The XML Schema Standard says that even the lexical space does not contain carriage return, linefeed, tab. If I understand correctly, that would mean that they are forbidden in the input. However, the book “Definite XML Schema” states that the processor does this replacement. This seems plausible, because even in the original XML standard, **CDATA** attributes were normalized in this way. By the way, this gives an apparent incompatibility with the original XML standard, when one defines an attribute of type **string**: Does normalization occur anyway, because it is built into XML?



# Strings and Names (4)

- `token` is a string without
  - carriage return, linefeed, tab,
  - sequences of two or more spaces,
  - leading or trailing spaces.
- The name “token” is misleading: It is not a single “word symbol”, but a sequence of such “tokens”.

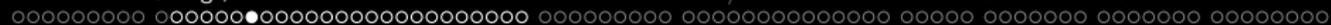
Again, I and the book “Definite XML Schema” believe that the XML processor normalizes input strings in this way, whereas the standard seems to say that the external representation must already fulfill the above requirements. In the XML standard, this normalization is required for all attribute types except `CDATA`.



## Strings and Names (5)

- `normalizedString` and `token` can be derived from `string` by using the facet `whiteSpace`, which has three possible values:
  - `preserve`: the input is not changed.

The XML standard requires that any XML processor replaces the sequence “carriage return, linefeed” by a single linefeed.
  - `replace`: carriage return, linefeed, and tab are replaced by space.
  - `collapse`: Sequences of spaces are reduced to a single one, leading/trailing spaces are removed.



# Strings and Names (6)

- **Name**: An XML name.

I.e. a sequence of characters that starts with a letter, an underscore “\_”, or a colon “:”, and otherwise contains only letters, digits, and the special characters underscore “\_”, colon “:”, hyphen “-”, and period “.”. Letter means an Unicode letter, not only an ASCII letter (actually, there are also more digits in Unicode than in ASCII).

- **NMTOKEN**: Any sequence of XML name characters.

This is like **Name**, but without the requirement that it must start with a letter etc. E.g., a sequence of digits would be valid. For compatibility, **NMTOKEN** should be used only for attributes (not element content).

- **NCName**: “Non-colonized name”, i.e. like **Name**, but without colon “:”.

Important because the colon has a special meaning for namespaces.





# Strings and Names (8)

- **ENTITY**: Syntax like **NCName**, must be declared as an unparsed entity in a DTD.

It is interesting that the XML Schema standard does mention the restriction with the DTD.

- **language**: Language identifier, see RFC 3066.

E.g. **en**, **en-US**, **de**. These are language identifiers according to the ISO standard ISO 639, optionally with a country code as defined in ISO 3166. However, also the IANA (Internet Assigned Numbers Authority) registers languages, their names start with “**i-**”. Unofficial languages start with “**x-**”. The pattern given in the XML Schema standard permits an arbitrary number of pieces (at least one), separated by hyphens, each consisting of 1 to 8 letters and digits (the first piece must be only letters).



# Strings and Names (9)

- The preceding types are derived from `string` directly or indirectly by restriction.

With the facets `whiteSpace` and `pattern` (see below).

- However, there are also built-in types that are derived using the type constructor `list`. The result is a space-separated list of values of the base type.
- The following legacy types are defined as lists:
  - `IDREFS`: list of `IDREF` values.
  - `NMTOKENS`: list of `NMTOKEN` values.
  - `ENTITIES`: list of `ENTITY` values.



# Strings and Names (10)

- **QName** is the type for qualified names, i.e. names that can contain a namespace prefix.

The prefix is not required, either because there is a default namespace declaration, or because the name belongs to no namespace.

- **QName** is not derived from **string**, since it is not a simple string, but contains two parts:
  - The local name, and
  - the namespace URI.

Note the distinction between lexical space and value space: The lexical space contains the prefix (like **xs:**), the value space the corresponding URI.



## Length Restrictions (2)

- One can use `minLength` and `maxLength` together, but not together with `length`.
- For example, strings with 3 to 10 characters:

```
<xs:simpleType name="From3To10Chars">  
  <xs:restriction base="xs:string">  
    <xs:minLength value="3"/>  
    <xs:maxLength value="10"/>  
  </xs:restriction>  
</xs:simpleType>
```

- One cannot specify any of the three facets more than once in the same restriction.









## Regular Expressions (2)

- E.g., a type for product codes that consist of an uppercase letter and four digits (e.g., **A1234**) could be defined as follows:

```
<xs:simpleType name="prodCode">
  <xs:restriction base="xs:token">
    <xs:pattern value="[A-Z][0-9]{4}"/>
  </xs:restriction>
</xs:simpleType>
```

- One can specify more than one **pattern**, then it suffices if one of the pattern matches.



# Regular Expressions (3)

- A regular expression is composed from zero or more branches, separated by “|” characters.

As usual, “|” indicates an alternative: The language defined by the regular expression  $b_1 | \dots | b_n$  is the union of the languages defined by the branches  $b_i$  (see below).

- A branch consists of zero or more pieces, concatenated together.

The language defined by the regular expression  $p_1 \dots p_n$  consists of all words  $w$  that can be constructed by concatenating words  $w_i$  of the languages defined by the pieces  $p_i$ , i.e.  $w = w_1 \dots w_n$ .

# Regular Expressions (4)

- A piece consists of an atom and an optional quantifier:  $?$ ,  $*$ ,  $+$ ,  $\{n, m\}$ ,  $\{n\}$ ,  $\{n, \}$ .

The quantifier permits repetition of the piece, see below. If the quantifier is missing, the language defined by the piece is of course equal to the language defined by the atom. Otherwise, the language defined by the piece consists of all words of the form  $w_1 \dots w_k$ , where each  $w_i$  is from the language defined by the atom, and  $k$  satisfies the requirements of the quantifier (see next slide).

- An atom is
  - a character (except metacharacters, see below)
  - a character class (see below),
  - or a regular expression in parentheses “ $(\dots)$ ”.



# Regular Expressions (5)

- Meaning of quantifiers (permitted repetitions  $k$ ):
  - (No quantifier): exactly once ( $k = 1$ ).
  - $?$ : optional ( $k = 0$  or  $k = 1$ ).
  - $*$ : arbitrarily often (no restriction on  $k$ ).
  - $+$ : once or more ( $k \geq 1$ ).
  - $\{n, m\}$ : between  $n$  and  $m$  times ( $n \leq k \leq m$ ).
  - $\{n\}$ : exactly  $n$  times ( $k = n$ ).
  - $\{n, \}$ : at least  $n$  times ( $k \geq n$ ).



# Regular Expressions (6)

- Metacharacters are characters that have a special meaning in regular expressions. One needs a character class escape (see below) for a regular expression that matches them.

Metacharacters are: `., \, ?, *, +, |, {, }, (, ), [, ]`.

- Character classes are:
  - Character class escape: `\...` (see below)
  - Character class expressions: `[...]` (see below)
  - The wildcard `.`

Matches any character except carriage return and newline.



# Regular Expressions (7)

- Character class escapes (slide 1/2):
  - `\x` for every metacharacter `x`: matches `x`.
  - `\n`: newline
  - `\r`: carriage return
  - `\t`: tab
  - `\d`: any decimal digit
  - `\s`: any whitespace character
  - `\i`: any character allowed first in XML name  
I.e. a letter, underscore “\_”, or colon “:”.
  - `\c`: any character allowed inside XML name



# Regular Expressions (8)

- Character class escapes (slide 2/2):
  - `\w`: any character not in categories “punctuation”, “separator”, “other” in the Unicode standard.

In Perl, this is simply an alphanumeric “word character”, i.e. a letter, a digit, or the underscore “\_”.
  - `\p{x}`: Any character in Unicode category `x`.

E.g.: `\p{L}`: all letters, `\p{Lu}`: all uppercase letters, `\p{Ll}`: all lowercase letters, `\p{Sc}`: all currency symbols, `\p{isBasicLatin}`: all ASCII characters (codes `#x0000` to `#x007F`), `\isCyrillic{Sc}`: all cyrillic characters (codes `#x0400` to `#x04FF`).

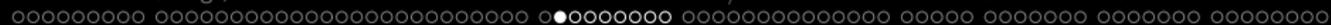
[\[www.unicode.org/Public/3.1-Update/UnicodeCharacterDatabase-3.1.0.html\]](http://www.unicode.org/Public/3.1-Update/UnicodeCharacterDatabase-3.1.0.html).
  - `\D`, `\S`, `\I`, `\C`, `\W`, `\P{x}`: complement of corresponding lowercase escape.





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# Floating Point Numbers

- **float**: 32-bit floating point type

It can be represented as  $m * 2^e$ , where  $m$  is an integer whose absolute value is less than  $2^{24}$ , and  $e$  is an integer with  $-149 \leq e \leq 104$ . In addition, it contains the three special values **-INF** (negative infinity), **+INF** (positive infinity), and **NaN** (“not a number”: error value). **NaN** is incomparable with all other values. This type is very similar to the one defined in IEEE 754-1985, but has only one zero and one **NaN**. Furthermore, **NaN=NaN** in XML Schema. Constants (literals) are, e.g., **-1E2**, **+1.2e-3**, **1.23**, **-0**.

- **double**: 64-bit floating point type

It can be represented as  $m * 2^e$ , where  $m$  is an integer whose absolute value is less than  $2^{53}$ , and  $e$  is an integer with  $-1075 \leq e \leq 970$ .

- The two are distinct primitive types.

# Fixed Point Numbers (1)

- **decimal**: primitive type for fixed point numbers.
  - Exact numeric types in contrast to **float**/**double**, which are approximate numeric types, because the rounding errors are not really foreseeable. E.g., one should not use **float** for amounts of money.
- Value space: numbers of the form  $i * 10^{-n}$ , where  $i$  and  $n$  are integers and  $n \geq 0$  (e.g. **1.23**).
- Lexical space: finite-length sequences of decimal digits with at most one decimal point in the sequence, optionally preceded by a sign (+, -).

The book “Definitive XML Schema” states that the sequence may start or end with a period (e.g. “.123”), the standard does not clearly specify this.



## Fixed Point Numbers (3)

- By using the facets `totalDigits` and `fractionDigits`, one can get the SQL data type `NUMERIC(p,s)`.

$p$  is the precision (`totalDigits`),  $s$  is the scale (`fractionDigits`).

- E.g. `NUMERIC(5,2)` permits numbers with 5 digits in total, of which two are after the decimal point (like `123.45`):

```
<xs:simpleType name="NUMERIC_5_2">
  <xs:restriction base="xs:decimal">
    <xs:totalDigits value="5"/>
    <xs:fractionDigits value="2"/>
  </xs:restriction>
</xs:simpleType>
```





# Fixed Point Numbers (5)

- The facet `whiteSpace` has the fixed value `collapse` for the numeric types: leading and trailing spaces are automatically skipped.

Because the facet value is fixed, one cannot change this behaviour.

- The facet `pattern` is applicable, e.g. one could exclude or require leading zeros.

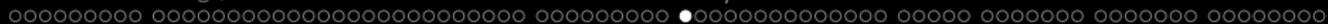
`pattern` applies to the lexical representation of the value.

- The facet `enumeration` is applicable.

E.g. one could list the valid grades in the German system: `1.0`, `1.3`, `1.7`, `2.0`, `...`, `4.3`, `5.0`.







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# Date and Time Types (1)

- A `dateTime`-value has the form (similar to ISO 8601)

`yyyy-mm-ddT hh:mi:ss.xxx zzzzzz`

where (continued on next slide)

- `yyyy` is the year,

It is possible to use negative years for the time Before Christ ("Before Common Era"), but the meaning might change: Currently, there is no year `0000`, the year before `0001` is `-0001`. This was changed in the corresponding ISO standard, `0000` is now 1 BC. More than four digits are permitted (then leading zeros are disallowed).

- `mm` is the month (1 to 12)
- `dd` is the day (1 to max. 31, restricted by month)

E.g., February 30 is impossible, and February 29 only in leap years.





# Date and Time Types (4)

- If timezone information is not specified, as e.g. in

`2007-05-14T16:00:00`

the time is considered to be local time in some (unknown) timezone.

- One should avoid comparing local time and time with timezone information (UTC).

E.g., `2007-05-14T15:30:00Z` and `2007-05-14T16:00:00` are uncomparable (e.g. in Germany, `2007-05-14T16:00:00` would actually be before `2007-05-14T15:30:00`). If, however, the time difference is greater than 14 hours (maximal zone difference), local time and UTC are comparable. Note that all `dateTime`-values without timezone are considered comparable, i.e. it is assumed that they are all in the same timezone.



# Date and Time Types (6)

## `gYearMonth`:

- Value space: Intervals of `dateTime`-values from the beginning of the month (inclusive) to the beginning of the next month (exclusive).

The “g” indicates that this depends on the Gregorian calendar (this is the usual calendar e.g. in Germany and the US). Whereas also `dateTime`-literals are written using the Gregorian Calendar, they can easily be converted into other calendars. For year/month combinations, this conversion is usually not possible.

- Lexical space: Constants are written in the form `yyyy-mm`, with optional time zone information.
- E.g.: `2007-05` (local time), `2007-05+01:00`.



# Date and Time Types (8)

## time:

- An instant of time that recurs every day.
- Constants are written in the form *hh:mi:ss*, with optional fractional seconds and timezone.

This is simply the suffix of `dateTime` literals after the `T`. This especially means that the seconds cannot be left out (`15:30` is invalid).

- E.g. `15:30:00`, `15:30:00.123+01:00`, `15:30:00Z`.
- `time`-values are ordered, with the usual problem that local time and timezoned time can be compared only if the difference is large enough.

# Date and Time Types (9)

## **gDay:**

- A day that recurs every month, e.g. the 15th.  
More precisely, it is a recurring time interval of length one day.
- Lexical representation: *---dd* (plus opt. timezone).

## **gMonth:**

- A month that recurs every year, e.g. May.
- Lexical representation: *--mm* (plus opt. timezone).

## **gMonthDay:**

- A day that recurs every year, e.g. December 24.
- Lexical representation: *--mm-dd* (opt. timezone).

# Date and Time Types (10)

## duration:

- A duration of time, consisting of seven components: sign, and number of years, months, days, hours, minutes, seconds.

Seconds can have a fractional part, the other numbers are integers.

- The constants are written as optional sign, then the letter “P”, then one or more numbers with unit (Y, M, D, H, M, S — in this order), with the letter T used as separator in front of the time-related values.

E.g. P2M is two months, and PT2M is two minutes. The letter “T” must be written if and only if hours, minutes, or seconds are specified.

# Date and Time Types (11)

- Examples:
  - **P1Y2M3D** is a duration of one year, two months, and three days.
  - **P2DT12H** is a duration of two days and twelve hours.
  - **-P1D** is the duration that gives yesterday if added to today's date.
- The values of the components are not restricted by the size of the next larger component, e.g. **PT36H** is possible (36 hours).







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## Union Types (2)

```
<!-- Enumeration type with only value "unbounded" -->
<xs:simpleType name="uType">
  <xs:restriction base="xs:string">
    <xs:enumeration value="unbounded"/>
  </xs:restriction>
</xs:simpleType>

<!-- Defining a union with attribute memberTypes: -->
<xs:simpleType name="cardinality">
  <xs:union memberTypes="nonNegativeInteger uType"/>
</xs:simpleType>
```

# Union Types (3)

```
<!-- Defining a union with simpleType children: -->  
<xs:simpleType name="cardinality">  
  <xs:union>  
    <xs:simpleType>  
      <xs:restriction base="xs:integer">  
        <xs:minInclusive value="0">  
        </xs:restriction>  
    </xs:simpleType>  
    <xs:simpleType>  
      <xs:restriction base="xs:string">  
        <xs:enumeration value="unbounded"/>  
      </xs:restriction>  
    </xs:simpleType>  
  </xs:union>  
</xs:simpleType>
```



# Union Types (5)

## <union>:

- Possible attributes:

- **id**: Unique ID

All XML Schema elements have attribute **id** of type **ID**. It will not be explicitly mentioned for the other element types.

- **memberTypes**: component types of the union

This is a list of **QName** values. The attribute or a **simpleType**-child (or both) must be present (empty unions are not reasonable).

- Content model:

**annotation?, simpleType\***

# Union Types (6)

## <union>, continued:

- Possible parent element types: **simpleType**.

Normally, it is not really necessary to specify the possible parent element types, since this information can be derived from the content model of the other element types. However, this is at least useful cross-reference information: It simplifies the understanding where the current element type can be used. Furthermore, sometimes an element type has different syntactic variants depending on the context in which it appears (remember that this is a feature of XML Schema that goes beyond the possibilities of DTDs). Then the parent type really gives important information.

- Union types can be restricted by facets **pattern** and **enumeration**.



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# List Types (3)

- Instead of specifying a named component type in the `itemType` attribute, one can also define a type in a `simpleType` child element:

```

<xs:simpleType name="weekdayList">
  <xs:list>
    <xs:simpleType>
      <xs:restriction base="xs:token">
        <xs:enumeration value="Sun"/>
        ...
      </xs:restriction>
    </xs:simpleType>
  </xs:list>
</xs:simpleType>

```



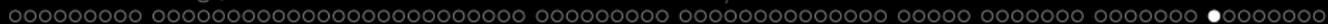


# List Types (5)

**<list>:**

- Possible attributes:
  - `itemType`: Type of list elements (a `QName`).
    - One must use either this attribute or a `simpleType` child element.
    - One cannot use both.
  
- Content model:
  - `annotation?`, `simpleType?`
  
- Possible parent element types: `simpleType`.





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# Restrictions: Summary (2)

## <restriction>, continued:

- The above content model is a little too generous:
  - `length` cannot be used together with `minLength` or with `maxLength`.
  - Also `minExclusive` and `minInclusive` cannot be used together.
  - The same for `maxExclusive` and `maxInclusive`.
  - Except `enumeration` and `pattern`, one cannot use the same facet twice.
- And there are restrictions given by the base type.



# Restrictions: Summary (3)

`<minInclusive>`, `<minExclusive>`, ... (facets):

- Possible attributes:

- `value`: The parameter of the restriction.

This attribute is required. Its type depends on the facet.

- `fixed`: A boolean value that indicates whether this facet can be further restricted in derived types.

The default value is `false`. Note that this attribute is not applicable for `pattern` and `enumeration`.

- Content model:

`annotation?`

- Possible parent element types: `restriction`.

# Simple Types: Declaration (1)

`<simpleType>` (with name):

- Possible attributes:
  - **name**: Name of the type (an **NCName**).
  - **final**: Restrictions for the derivation of other types from this one (see below).
- Content model:  
**annotation?**, (**restriction** | **list** | **union**)
- Possible parent element types: **schema**, **redefine**.

## Simple Types: Declaration (2)

### <simpleType> (without name):

- Possible attributes:
  - (only `id`)
- Content model:  
`annotation?, (restriction | list | union)`
- Possible parent element types: `element`, `attribute`,  
`restriction`, `list`, `union`.

# Simple Types: Declaration (3)

## Attribute `final`:

- One can forbid that a type is used for deriving other types (inspired by object-oriented languages).
- Possible values of the attribute are:
  - `#all`: There cannot be any derived type.
  - Lists of `restriction`, `list`, `union`: Only the explicitly listed type derivations are forbidden.
- If `final` is not specified, the value of the attribute `finalDefault` of the `schema`-element is used (which in turn defaults to `""`, i.e. no restrictions).

# References

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