Announcements (October 21)

- Midterm has been graded
  - Sample solution is available
  - Please verify your score on Blackboard
- Homework #2 should be graded by Thursday
- Homework #3 will be handed out on Thursday
- Project milestone #2 due in 3 weeks
  - Email feedback on milestone #1 by this weekend

XSLT

- XML-to-XML rule-based transformation language
  - Used most frequently as a stylesheet language
  - An XSLT program is an XML document itself
  - Current version is 2.0; W3C recommendation since January 2007

![Diagram of XSLT processor]

Actually, output does not need to be in XML in general.
XSLT program

- An XSLT program is an XML document containing
  - Elements in the `<xsl:` namespace
  - Elements in user namespace
- The result of evaluating an XSLT program on an input
  XML document = the XSLT document where each `<xsl:` element has been replaced with the result of its evaluation
- Basic ideas
  - Templates specify how to transform matching input nodes
  - Structural recursion applies templates to input trees recursively
- Uses XPath as a sub-language

XSLT elements

- Element describing transformation rules
  - `<xsl:template>`
- Elements describing rule execution control
  - `<xsl:apply-templates>`
  - `<xsl:call-template>`
- Elements describing instructions
  - `<xsl:if>, <xsl:for-each>, <xsl:sort>`, etc.
- Elements generating output

XSLT example

- Find titles of books authored by "Abiteboul"

```xml
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<xsl:stylesheet

  xmlns:xsl="http://www.w3.org/1999/XSL/Transform"

  version="2.0">

  <xsl:template match="book[author='Abiteboul']">
    <booktitle>
      <xsl:value-of select="title"/>
    </booktitle>
  </xsl:template>
</xsl:stylesheet>
```

- Not quite; we will see why later
<xsl:template>
  <xsl:template match="book[author='Abiteboul']">
    <booktitle>
      <xsl:value-of select="title"/>
    </booktitle>
  </xsl:template>
</xsl:template>

- <xsl:template match="match_expr"> is the basic XSLT construct describing a transformation rule
  - match_expr is an XPath-like expression specifying which nodes this rule applies to
- <xsl:value-of select="xpath_expr"/> evaluates xpath_expr within the context of the node matching the template, and converts the result sequence to a string
- <booktitle> and </booktitle> simply get copied to the output for each node match

Template in action

- Example XML fragment
  
  <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>

    <title>A First Course in Databases</title>
    <author>Ullman</author>
    <author>Widom</author>
    <publisher>Prentice-Hall</publisher>
    <year>2002</year>
  </book>

- Template applies
   - <booktitle> Foundations of Databases </booktitle>
- Template does not apply; default behavior is to process the node recursively and print out all text nodes

  A First Course in Databases
  Ullman
  Widom
  Prentice-Hall
  2002

Removing the extra output

- Add the following template:
  <xsl:template match="text()|@*"/>
- This template matches all text and attributes
- XPath features
  - text() is a node test that matches any text node
  - @* matches any attribute
  - | means "or" in XPath
- Body of the rule is empty, so all text and attributes become empty string
  - This rule effectively filters out things not matched by the other rule
Again, find titles of books authored by “Abiteboul”; but make the output look like <book title="booktitle"/>

A more general method

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Another slightly different example: return (entire) books authored by “Abiteboul”

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Formatting XML into HTML

Example templates to:
- Render a book title in italics in HTML.
- Render the authors as a comma-separated list.

Example templates to:
- Render a book title in italics in HTML.
- Render the authors as a comma-separated list.
Example: generate a table of contents
- Display books in an HTML unordered list
- For each book, first display its title, and then display its sections in an HTML ordered list
- For each section, first display its title, and then display its subsections in an HTML ordered list

```xml
<xsl:template match="title">
  <xsl:value-of select="normalize-space(.)"/>
</xsl:template>
<xsl:template match="section">
  <li>
    <xsl:apply-templates select="title"/>
    <ol><xsl:apply-templates select="section"/></ol>
  </li>
</xsl:template>
(Continue on next slide)
```

Example continued

```xml
<xsl:template match="book">
  <li>
    <xsl:apply-templates select="title"/>
    <ol><xsl:apply-templates select="section"/></ol>
  </li>
</xsl:template>
<xsl:template match="bibliography">
  <html>
    <head><title>Bibliography</title></head>
    <body>
      <ul><xsl:apply-templates select="book"/></ul>
    </body>
  </html>
</xsl:template>
```

One problem remains
- Even if a book or a section has no sections, we will still generate an empty `<ol>` element

```xml
<xsl:if>
  <xsl:apply-templates select="section"/>
</xsl:if>
```

The body of `<xsl:if test="xpath_cond"/>` is processed only if `xpath_cond` evaluates to true

```xml
<xsl:if>
  <xsl:if test="section">
    <ol><xsl:apply-templates select="section"/></ol>
  </xsl:if>
</xsl:if>
```
Output control

<xsl:output method="html" indent="yes"/>

- Specifies that output
  - Will be HTML.
  - Will be indented to make reading easier.
- Other possible method values include "text", "xml"
  - For XML output method, set
    ommit-xml-declaration="yes"
    to suppress "<?xml ...?>" at the beginning of the output.

White space control

- White space is everywhere in XML.

<xsl:for-each>
  - <xsl:for-each select="xpath_expr">
    <xsl:if test="position()=1">, </xsl:if>
    <xsl:value-of select="normalize-space(.)"/>
  </xsl:for-each>
</xsl:for-each>
Named templates with parameters

- Define a generic template for rendering a list of things as a comma-separated list
  - Cannot use match because we do not know in advance the things to render
  ```xml
  <xsl:template name="comma-separated-list">
    <xsl:param name="things-to-be-formatted"/>
    <xsl:for-each select="$things-to-be-formatted">
      <xsl:if test="position()>1">, </xsl:if>
      <xsl:value-of select="normalize-space(.)"/>
    </xsl:for-each>
  </xsl:template>
  ```

Calling templates & passing parameters

- Use the generic template
  ```xml
  <xsl:template match="book">
    <xsl:value-of select="normalize-space(title)"/>
    <xsl:text>: </xsl:text>
    <xsl:call-template name="comma-separated-list">
      <xsl:with-param name="things-to-be-formatted" select="author"/>
    </xsl:call-template>
    <br/>
  </xsl:template>
  ```

- `<xsl:with-param name="para_name" select="xpath_expr">` evaluates xpath_expr and passes its result as the value of the parameter para_name
- `<xsl:call-template>` invokes the named template without changing the context

Other useful features

- `<xsl:text>&#10;</xsl:text>` inserts a newline in the output
- `<xsl:message>` for debugging
  - `<xsl:message terminate="yes">` exits the program
- `<xsl:variable>` defines a (constant) variable
- `<xsl:function>` defines a function
- `<xsl:key>` defines a key that can be used for lookups
**XSLT summary**

- Used often as a stylesheet language, but can be considered a query language too
  - Grouping in XSLT 2.0 `<xs1:for-each-group>`
  - Very expressive, with full recursion
    - Cannot be replaced by XQuery?
    - Well, XQuery supports user-defined functions, which can be recursive
  - Easily non-terminating, difficult to optimize
    - Cannot replace XQuery
- So many features, so little time! 😊

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**Review**

- XML: tree (or graph)-structured data
- DTD: simple schema for XML
  - Well-formed XML: syntactically correct
  - Valid XML: well-formed and conforms to a DTD
- XPath: path expression language for XML
  - An XPath expression selects a list of nodes in an XML document
  - Used in other languages
- XQuery: SQL-like query language for XML
  - FLWOR expression, quantified expression, aggregation, etc.
- XSLT: stylesheet language for XML, in XML
  - Transforms input XML by applying template rules recursively on the structure of input XML