

Announcements (October 20)

- Homework #3 assigned today; due on Nov. 1
- Project milestone #1 feedbacks available this weekend

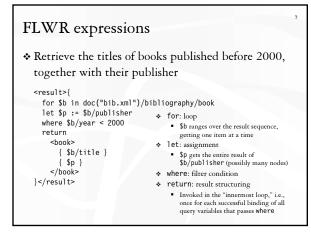
XQuery

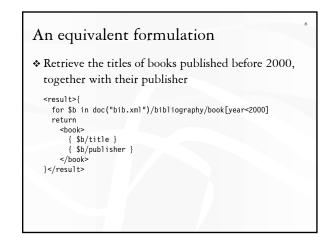
- * XPath + full-fledged SQL-like query language
- * XQuery expressions can be
 - XPath expressions
 - FLWR (❀) expressions
 - Quantified expressions
 - Aggregation, sorting, and more...
- An XQuery expression in general can return a new result XML document
 - Compare with an XPath expression, which always returns a sequence of nodes from the input document or atomic values (boolean, number, string, etc.)

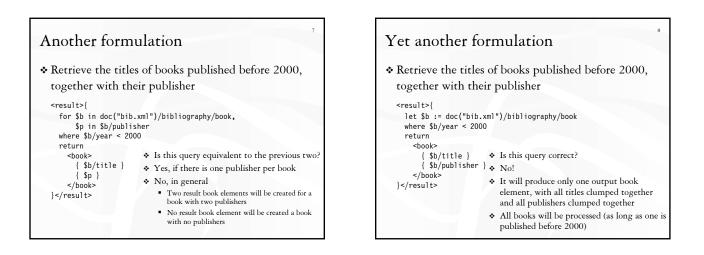
A simple XQuery based on XPath

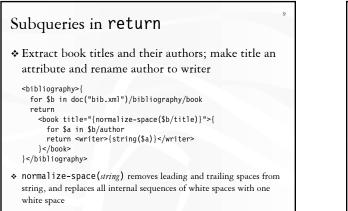
Find all books with price lower than \$50

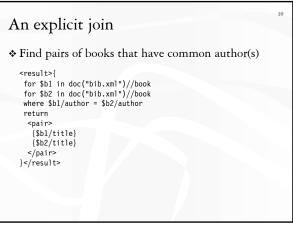
- <result>
- doc("bib.xml")/bibliography/book[@price<50]</pre>
- </result>
- Things outside {}'s are copied to output verbatim
- $\boldsymbol{\diamond}$ Things inside { }'s are evaluated and replaced by the results
 - doc("bib.xml") specifies the document to query
 - The XPath expression returns a sequence of book elements
 - These elements (including all their descendents) are copied to output

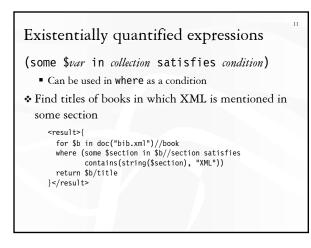


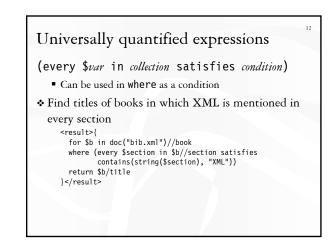












Aggregation

- List each publisher and the average prices of all its books <result>
 - for \$pub in distinct-values(doc("bib.xml")//publisher) let \$price := avg(doc("bib.xml")//book[publisher=\$pub]/@price)
 - return
 - <publisherpricing>
 - sublisherpricing-<publisher>{\$pub}</publisher> <avgprice>{\$price}</avgprice>
 - </publisherpricing>
 - }</result>
 - distinct-values (collection) removes duplicates by value If the collection consists of elements (with no explicitly declared types), they
 are first converted to strings representing their "normalized contents"
 - avg(collection) computes the average of collection (assuming each item in *collection* can be converted to a numeric value)

Sorting (a brief history)

- * XPath always returns a sequence of nodes in original document order
- * for loop will respect the ordering in the sequence
- * August 2002
 - Introduce an operator sort by (sort-by-expression-list) to output results in a user-specified order
 - Example: list all books with price higher than \$100, in order by first author; for books with the same first author, order by title <result>{
 - doc("bib.xml")//book[@price>100] sort by (author[1], title)
 - }</result>

Tricky semantics * List titles of all books, sorted by their prices <result>{ (doc("bib.xml")//book sort by (@price))/title }</result> What is wrong? • A path expression always returns a sequence of nodes in document order! Correct versions <result>{ for \$b in doc("bib.xml")//book sort by (@price) return \$b/title }</result> <result>{ doc("bib.xml")//book/title sort by (../@price) }</result>

Current version of sorting

As of March 2005

- sort by has been ditched
- * Add a new order by clause in FLWR (which now becomes FLWOR)
- * Example: list all books with price higher than \$100, in order by first author; for books with the same first author, order by title

<result>{

```
for $b in doc("bib.xml")//book[@price>100]
stable order by $b/author[1], $b/title empty least
return $b
```

}</result>

Summary

- * Many, many more features not covered in class
- * XPath is fairly mature and stable
 - 1.0 is already a W3C recommendation
 - Implemented in many systems · Used in many other standards
 - 2.0 is being developed jointly with XQuery
- * XQuery is still evolving
 - Still a W3C working draft
 - Some vendors are coming out with implementations
 - To become the SQL for XML?
 - XQuery versus SQL
 - Where did the join go?
 - Strong ordering constraints (can be overridden by unordered { for ... })