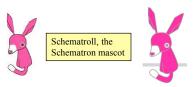
Schematron



"Sounds like a particle accelerator for XML Schemas" - Marlon Burney

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Schematron

Outline

- Overview and Background
- Basic Features
- 3 Advanced Features
- New Features (not well supported yet)
- 5 Implementations

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Overview

- Rule-based rather than grammar-based
 - DTD, XML Schema and RELAX NG are all grammar-based
 - grammar-based approaches take a closed approach
 - · everything not explicitly allowed is treated as invalid
 - rule-based approaches take an open approach
 - · everything not explicitly disallowed is treated as valid
- Not typically the only validation method used
 - use one grammar-based method for structure and value constraints
 - use Schematron for constraints that can't be described in grammar-based methods
 - such as constraints between multiple elements/attributes and validation across documents (using document function)
- Designed by Rick Jelliffe
- Main web site: http://www.schematron.com

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Overview (Cont'd)

- Syntax is XML
 - described by
 - RELAX NG compact schema (Annex A)
 - Schematron schema (Annex B) for constraints that RELAX NG can't describe
- Rules use XPath expressions
 - can validate anything that can be expressed as a boolean XPath expression

see XPath overview on next page

- Rule location
 - can be in a separate file, typically with a ".sch" extension
 - can be embedded within other schema files, such as RELAX NG
- Implementations
 - designed so that XSLT-based implementations are easy to create
 - can also been implemented without using XSLT for better performance
 - see list of implementations later

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XPath Overview

- XPath is to XML what regular expressions are to strings
 - result is a node set or a value (boolean, string or number)
 - composed of "steps" separated by slashes
 - steps navigate through XML hierarchy
- Step syntax
 - axis::node-test[predicate-1]...[predicate-n]
 - axis can be one of
 - child, descendant, parent, ancestor, attribute, namespace, following-sibling, preceding-sibling, following, preceding, self, descendant-or-self, ancestor-or-self
 - · defaults to child when axis:: is omitted
 - node-test can be one of
 - an element name, * (for any element), node() (for any node), text(), comment(), processing-instruction('pi-name')
 - **predicates** are optional and each further reduces the result set

many examples will be shown later

an XPath expression that begins with "/" starts at "document root";

makes it absolute instead of

relative to context node

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XPath Overview (Cont'd)

- Supports a set of **operators**
 - arithmetic: +, -, *, div, mod
 - relational: =, !=, <, >, <= and >=
 - boolean: and, or, not()
 - node-set union: |
- Supports a set of functions
 - string functions include:

concat(value1, value2, ...)
contains(value, substring)
format-number(value, format)
starts-with(value, substring)
string-length([value])
substring(value, start[, length])
substring-after(value, substring)
substring-before(value, substring)

– math functions include:

count (node-set)
sum (node-set)

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many examples of XPath expressions will be shown later

XPath Examples

- Use XML Spy to practice writing XPath expressions
 - start XML Spy
 - open labs/Schematron/MusicCollection/music-collection.xml
 - on the XML menu, select "Evaluate XPath..."
 - Enter the following XPath expressions
 - To see the root element, /*
 - To see the direct children of the root element, /music-collection/*
 - To see the name of every artist, /music-collection/artist/name
 - To see the name of all artists whose name begins with "C", /music-collection/artist[starts-with(name, 'C')]/name
 - To see the year of every CD, //cd/@year
 - To see the title of all CDs from 1993, //cd[@year=1993]/title
 - To verify the number of CDs from 1993, count(//cd[@year=1993]) = 5

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Schematron

Document Schema Definition Languages (DSDL)

- DSDL is defined by ISO/IEC 19757
 - "The main objective of DSDL is to bring together different validation-related tasks and expressions to form a single extensible framework that allows technologies to work in series or in parallel to produce a single or a set of validation results."
 - don't have to use one schema language to perform all the validation on a given document
 - see http://dsdl.org/
- Schematron is undergoing standarization as one part of this
 - "Rule-based validation Schematron" part 3
 - see http://dsdl.org/0524.pdf

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(Cont'd)

• Other parts include

- "Regular-grammar-based validation RELAX NG" part 2
- "Namespace-based Validation Dispatching Language NVDL" part 4
 - allows validation to be dispatched to a different schema for each namespace used in a document
- "Data types" part 5
 - · such as XML Schema data types
- "Path-based Integrity Constraints" part 6
 - · such as XPath

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Schematron

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Main Concepts

Assertions

 conditions to be tested such as existence and values of elements/attributes

Rules

- groups of assertions (assert and report elements)
- selects the set of context nodes under which they are evaluated

Patterns

- groups of rules with an id (used by phases)
- each node being tested will only be used as the context node of a single rule within the pattern (more on page 18)

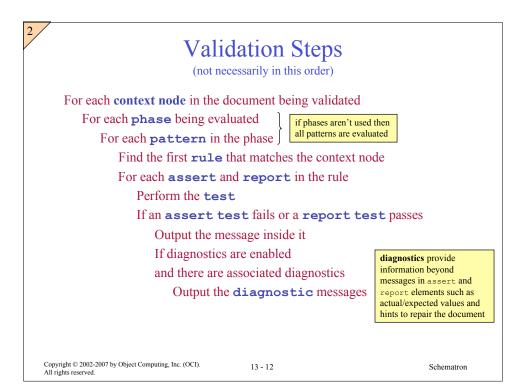
Phases

named groups of patterns (specified by their id)
 that allow evaluating only the rules in those patterns

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Schema · All elements of a Schematron schema are wrapped in a schema root element in latest spec. the Schematron namespace is Example http://purl.oclc.org/dsdl/schematron, but the ref. impl. and Jing still require this previous namespace <?xml version="1.0"?> <schema xmlns="http://www.ascc.net/xml/schematron"> <title>schema title goes here</title> ← optional; not used by ref. impl. or Jing <ns prefix="prefix" uri="namespace-uri"/> can have any number of these: ... phases go here ... the prefixes are used in rule element context attributes and ... patterns go here ... assert/report element test attributes patterns contain rules; ... diagnostics go here ... rules contain assert and report elements </schema> Copyright $\ensuremath{\mathbb{C}}$ 2002-2007 by Object Computing, Inc. (OCI). All rights reserved. 13 - 11 Schematron



Order

- Only the order of rule elements is significant
 - for each context node,
 only the first matching rule within a pattern is used
- The order of other things is implementation dependent
 - order in which context nodes are validated
 - order in which phases are evaluated
 - order in which patterns within a phase are evaluated
 - order in which asserts and reports within a rule are tested

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Schematron



Assertions

- Conditions to be tested such as
 - existence of elements/attributes
 - values of elements/attributes
- Positive assertions
 - specified with <assert test="boolean-xpath">message</assert>
 - message is output if test evaluates to false
- Negative assertions
 - specified with <report test="boolean-xpath"/>message</report>
 - message is output if test evaluates to true

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Assertions (Cont'd)

- · name element
 - used in messages to output name of context node being tested
 - doesn't output namespace prefixes or URIs
 - optional path attribute is used to output the name of a node found relative to the context node
 - for example, <name path="*[1]"/> outputs name of first child element of context node
 - see example on page 20
- value-of element
 - used in messages to output the value of other nodes found relative to the context node being tested

In both the ref. impl. and Jing, value-of seems to only be able to get values of attributes!

- · allowed in assert, report and diagnostic elements
 - some implementations, such as Jing 20030619, only support value-of in diagnostic elements
- see example on page 27

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Schematron

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Rules

- Groups of assertions
- Selects set of context nodes under which they are evaluated

```
    Syntax
```

```
<rule context="xpath">
... assertions go here ...
</rule>
```

• Example

```
must be 100.
  </assert>
  <report test="count(candidate) < 2">
    There must be at least two candidate elements inside candidates.
  </report>
  </rule>
```

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Rules (Cont'd)

- One rule per pattern is evaluated
 - for each node being tested,
 the first rule within a pattern that matches it is the only one within that pattern
 that will be evaluated

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Schematron

 $^{2}/$

Patterns

- Groups of rules
 - ordered so the first matching rule is the one that should be used
- Can choose to test only the rules within specified patterns
 - using "phases" (described next)
- Syntax

used to refer to the pattern from a phase

```
Syntax
```

Example

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Music Collection XML

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<music-collection xmlns="http://www.ociweb.com/music">
 <owner>Mark Volkmann</owner>
 <artist type="solo" vocals="female">
   <name>Yamagata, Rachel</name>
    <cd category="pop" year="2004">
     <title>Happenstance</title>
    </cd>
  </artist>
  <artist type="group" vocals="male">
    <name>Cake</name>
    <cd category="pop" year="1996">
     <title>Fashion Nugget</title>
    <cd category="pop" year="1998">
      <title>Prolonging The Magic</title>
    </cd>
  </artist>
</music-collection>
```

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Schematron

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Music Collection Schema

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
     <schema xmlns="http://www.ascc.net/xml/schematron">
       <title>Music Collection Schema</title>
       <ns prefix="m" uri="http://www.ociweb.com/music"/>
        phases aren't used
                                                           This example demonstrates using Schematron to
                                  the only
                                                           validate everything about an XML document
       <pattern name="all">
                                                          except child element order.
         <rule context="/">
                                                          Typically a grammar-based schema language would
           <assert test="m:music-collection">
                                                          be used to validate structure/value constraints.
             Root element must be music-collection.
           </assert>
                                                          In that case, Schematron would only be used
         </rule>
                                                          to validate things that can't be described
                                                          in a grammar-based language, such as
         <rule context="m:music-collection">
                                                          constraints between multiple elements/attributes
           <assert test="count(m:owner) = 1">
             The element <name/> must have one owner child element.
           <assert test="count(*) = count(m:owner|m:artist)">
             The only valid child elements of <name/> are owner and artist.
           </assert>
         </rule>
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                                                13 - 20
                                                                                          Schematron
```

Music Collection Schema (Cont'd)

```
<rule context="m:artist">
 <assert test="parent::m:music-collection">
  The parent of <name/> elements must be music-collection.
 </assert>
 <assert test="count(*) = count(m:name|m:cd)">
  The only valid child elements of <name/> are name and cd.
 </assert>
 <assert test="count(m:name) = 1">
   The element <name/> must have one name child element.
 <assert test="@type">
   The element <name/> requires a type attribute.
 <assert test="@vocals">
   The element <name/> requires a type attribute.
 <assert test="count(@*) = count(@type|@vocals)">
   The only valid attributes of <name/> are type and vocals.
 </assert>
```

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2/

Music Collection Schema (Cont'd)

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Music Collection Schema (Cont'd)

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Schematron

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Music Collection Schema (Cont'd)

```
<assert test="@category='alternative' or</pre>
                @category='classical' or
                @category='country' or
               @category='folk' or
               @category='jazz' or
                @category='pop' or
               @category='rock' or
               @category='other'">
   The category attribute of the <name/> element
   must have a value of "alternative", "classical",
   "country", "folk", "jazz", "pop", "rock" or "other".
 </assert>
 <assert test="not(@import) or @import='true' or @import='false'">
   The import attribute of the <name/> element
   must have a value of "true" or "false".
 </assert>
 <report test="@year &lt; 1990 or @year > 2010">
   The year attribute of a <name/> element
   must be between 1990 and 2010.
 </report>
</rule>
```

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Music Collection Schema (Cont'd)

```
<rul><rule context="m:name"></rul>
           <assert test="parent::m:artist">
            The parent of <name/> elements must be artist.
           </assert>
           <assert test="count(*) = 0">
             The element <name/> doesn't contain child elements.
           </assert>
         </rule>
         <rul><!rule context="m:owner">
           <assert test="parent::m:music-collection">
             The parent of <name/> elements must be music-collection.
           <assert test="count(*) = 0">
             The element <name/> cannot contain child elements.
           <assert test="count(preceding-sibling::*) = 0">
             The <name/> element must be the first child element its parent.
           </assert>
         </rule>
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                                                 13 - 25
                                                                                            Schematron
```

2/

Music Collection Schema (Cont'd)

```
<rul><rule context="m:title">
      <assert test="parent::m:cd">
       The parent of <name/> elements must be cd.
      </assert>
     <assert test="count(*) = 0">
       The element <name/> cannot contain child elements.
      </assert>
    </rule>
                                 catches all nodes not matched by
    <rul><rule context="*">
      <report test="true()">
previous rules within the current pattern
       The element <name/> is not a valid element of the music namespace.
     </report>
    </rule>
 </pattern>
</schema>
```

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Diagnostics

 Optional descriptions of validation errors that provide information beyond what is in assert/report messages spec. doesn't say whether these messages should be output before or after message in assert/report (in Jing it is after)

- such as actual/expected values and hints to repair the document
- Also useful when the same diagnostic message is desired for multiple assert/report elements
- Example

 <diagnostics> ← follows phase elements

 <diagnostic id="artistDetail">

 in artist named <value-of select="name"/>

 with vocals of <value-of select="@vocals"/>

 </diagnostic>

 </diagnostic>

 </diagnostic>

 </diagnostics>

 to include line breaks under Windows, use 

 evaluated relative to current context node

• Implementations aren't required to support these

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Schematron

2/

Diagnostics (Cont'd)

- Referred to by assert and report elements
 - using a space-separated list of diagnostic element ids in the diagnostics attribute
 - example

```
<assert test="boolean-xpath"
diagnostics="artistDetail">message</assert>
```

- Diagnostic messages are only output if enabled
 - details are implementation specific
 - with reference implementation

support for diagnostics seems to be broken in the ref. impl.

- set "diagnose" stylesheet parameter to "yes"
 when generating new stylesheet from schema and ref. impl. XSLT
- when running Xalan from command line, add "-PARAM diagnose yes"
- with Jing
 - add "-d" command-line option

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Checking For Duplicates the XML

```
<movies xmlns="http://www.ociweb.com/movies">
   <title>Elf</title>
   <actor name="Will Ferrell" role="Buddy"/>
   <actor name="James Caan" role="Walter"/>
   <actor name="Bob Newhart" role="Papa Elf"/>
   <actor name="Edward Asner" role="Santa"/>
   <actor name="Mary Steenburgen" role="Emily"/>
   <actor name="Zooey Deschanel" role="Jovie"/>
   <actor name="Mark Volkmann" role="Buddy"/> <
   <actor name="Edward Asner" role="Mr. Grant"/>
</movies>
```

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Schematron

Schematron

Checking For Duplicates -

the schema

```
<schema xmlns="http://www.ascc.net/xml/schematron">
       <ns prefix="m" uri="http://www.ociweb.com/movies"/>
       <pattern name="all">
         <rule context="m:actor">
            <report test="@role=preceding-sibling::m:actor/@role" <</pre>
              diagnostics="duplicateActorRole">
                                                                           this actor can't play
              Duplicate role!
                                                                           the same role as any that
            </report>
                                                                           is a sibling (in same movie)
         </rule>
                                                                           and comes before it
       </pattern>
       <diagnostics>
         <diagnostic id="duplicateActorRole">
            More than one actor plays the role <value-of select="@role"/>.
            A duplicate is named <value-of select="@name"/>.
         </diagnostic>
       </diagnostics>
                            can get name of first actor playing the role, "Will Ferrell" in this case, with
<value-of select="preceding-sibling::m:actor[./@role = @role]/@name"</pre>
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```

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Lab #1

Setup

- The Windows executable version of Jing used for the RELAX-NG labs doesn't support Schematron, but the Java JAR version in this directory does.
- $-\ \mbox{copy}$ labs\Schematron from the instructor PC to your directory
- Create an XML document that conforms to a given Schematron schema
- Steps
 - study movies.sch

contains a couple of validation errors just to demonstrate that the schema is working

- rename the solution from movies.xml to solution.xml
- create your own movies.xml
 that conforms to the supplied movies.sch
- validate by running the supplied script jing.bat

The schema requires the elements in the XML document to be in a certain **namespace**. Declare this as the default namespace on the root element.

- What does this schema do that other schema languages cannot?
 - verifies that no two actors have the same name
 - verifies that no two actors play the same role

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Schematron

Lab #2

- Write your own Schematron schema that validates cards in a poker hand
 - for root element hand
 - · has no attributes
 - · contains five card elements
 - · has no other elements
 - for each card
 - · parent is hand
 - has rank and suit attributes
 - · has no other attributes
 - · has no child elements

see test for valid vocals attribute on page 22

• validate suit - heart, diamond, club or spade

• validate rank - 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, Jack, Queen, King or Ace

• check for duplicate cards - can't do this until we have support for XPath 2!

<report test="concat(@rank,@suit) =
 preceding-sibling::card/concat(@rank,@suit)"
 diagnostics="duplicateCard"/>

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Schematron

Example XML document

<hand>
 <card rank="King" suit="heart"/>
 ...
</hand>

Lab #2 (Cont'd)

- Steps
 - rename the solution from hand.sch to solution.sch
 - create your own hand.sch
 - validate the supplied XML document hand.xml by running the supplied script jing.bat

The elements in the XML document are not in any namespace, so the schema doesn't need to map a prefix to a namespace with an ns element or use prefixes on elements in test attributes.

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Schematron

Abstract Rules

- Rules can be abstract, in which case they have no context
 - example

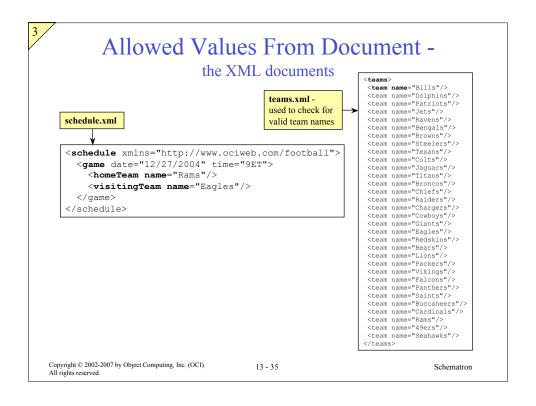
```
<rule abstract="true" id="team">
  ... assertions that apply to all kinds of teams ...
</rule>
```

- abstract rules require an id attribute
- non-abstract rules require a context attribute
 - either have no abstract attribute or abstract="false"
- Rules can extend abstract rules to add their assertions
 - extends element is replaced by content of referenced rule
 - example

```
vistingTeam rule would also
<rule context="homeTeam">
                                 extend the team abstract rule
  <extends rule="team"/>
                                (see example on page 35)
  ... can add more assertions here ...
</rule>
```

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```
Allowed Values From Document -
                                  the schema
       <schema xmlns="http://www.ascc.net/xml/schematron">
        <ns prefix="f" uri="http://www.ociweb.com/football"/>
         <pattern name="all">
           <rule context="f:homeTeam">
             <extends rule="team"/>
           </rule>
                                                                     the name attribute
           <rule context="f:visitingTeam">
                                                                     must match some
             <extends rule="team"/>
                                                                     t.eam element
                                                                     name attribute
           </rule>
                                                 abstract rule
                                                                     in teams.xml
           <rule abstract="true" id="team">
             <assert test="@name = document('teams.xml')//team/@name"</pre>
              diagnostics="badTeamName">
              An invalid team name was found.
             </assert>
           </rule>
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                                                                         Schematron
```

Allowed Values From Document -

the schema (cont'd)

```
<rul><!rule context="f:game">
           <report test="f:homeTeam/@name = f:visitingTeam/@name"</pre>
              diagnostics="listTeams">
             A team can't play itself.
           </report>
         </rule>
      </pattern>
      <diagnostics>
         <diagnostic id="badTeamName">
           <value-of select="@name"/> is not a valid team name.
         </diagnostic>
         <diagnostic id="listTeams">
           Home team is <value-of select="f:homeTeam/@name"/>.
           Visiting team is <value-of select="f:visitingTeam/@name"/>.
         </diagnostic>
      </diagnostics>
    </schema>
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                                            13 - 37
                                                                                  Schematron
```

3/

Phases

- · Optional, named groups of patterns
- Can evaluate only the rules of specific patterns instead of evaluating all rules in all patterns

in most cases it will be desirable to evaluate all the patterns

- by specifying a phase id
- Options for specifying the phase to evaluate include
 - command-line option
 - selection in a GUI
 - parameter in API call
- Syntax

```
<phase id="phase-id">
  <active pattern="pattern-id"/>
    ... more active elements go here ...
</phase>
```

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Let

The ref. impl. and Jing do not support this!

- Used to define variables that can be used in XPath expressions
- Syntax
 - <let name="name" value="value"/>
- Can appear as a child of schema, phase, pattern or rule
 - when a child of rule, it is evaluated relative to the rule context
 - otherwise it is evaluated relative to document root
- Example

```
<rule context="box">
  <let name="volume" value="width * length * height"/>
   <assert test="$volume > 10">box has insufficient volume</assert>
</rule>
```

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Schematron

4 /

Abstract Patterns

The ref. impl. and Jing do not support this!

- Patterns can be abstract
 - allows a set of rules to be parameterized to support reuse for similar XML structures
- Patterns can incorporate rules of abstract patterns
 - using is-a attribute and param child elements
 - allows one pattern to "inherit" the assertions of another

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```
Abstract Patterns (Cont'd) The ref. impl. and Jing
                                                                    do not support this!
                                   example XML
    <root>
                                                    the table and worksheet
       elements have similar structure
          Player Number
        Wayne Gretzky 99
        <worksheet>
        <row>
          <cell>Player</cell> <cell>Number</cell>
        </row>
        <row>
          <cell>Wayne Gretzky</cell> <cell>99</cell>
        </row>
      </worksheet>
    </root>
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                                       13 - 41
                                                                         Schematron
```

```
Abstract Patterns (Cont'd) The ref. impl. and Jing
                                                                   do not support this!
                                 example schema
      <schema xmlns="http://www.ascc.net/xml/schematron">
        <pattern abstract="true" id="table">
          <rule context="$table">
            <assert test="$row">tables must contain row elements</assert>
          </rule>
          <rul><rule context="$row">
            <assert test="$entry">rows must contain entry elements</assert>
          </rule>
        </pattern>
        <pattern is-a="table" id="html">
          <param name="table" value="table"/>
          <param name="row" value="tr"/>
          <param name="entry" value="th|td"/>
        </pattern>
        <pattern is-a="table" id="spreadsheet">
          <param name="table" value="worksheet"/>
          <param name="row" value="row"/>
          <param name="entry" value="cell"/>
        </pattern>
      </schema>
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                                      13 - 42
                                                                        Schematron
```

Implementations

- Reference implementation Schematron 1.5
 - free from Academia Sinica Computing Centre
 - http://xml.ascc.net/schematron/1.5/
 - implemented as an XSLT stylesheet
- Jing
 - free from James Clark
 - http://www.thaiopensource.com/relaxng/jing.html

jing-20030619.zip

- supports RELAX NG and Schematron
- Topologi Schematron Validator
 - commercial from topologi \$495
 - http://www.topologi.com/
 - Rick Jelliffe is C.T.O. of this company
 - supports DTD, Schematron, RELAX NG and XML Schema

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Schematron

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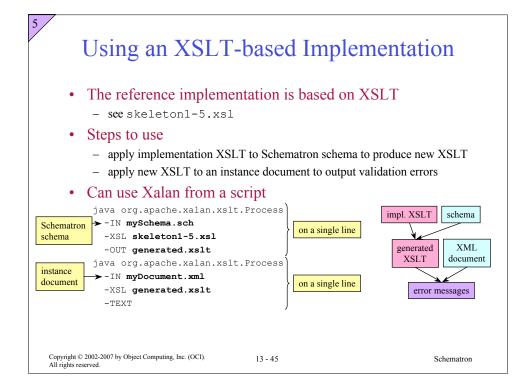
Implementations (Cont'd)

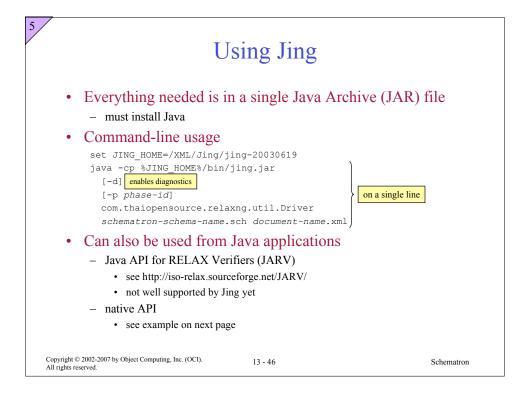
- ZVON Schematron based on XSLT
- 4Suite from FourThought; for Python
- XML::Schematron from Kip Hampton; for Perl
- Xmlform from Ivelin Ivanov; for C++
- Schematron.NET from Daniel Cazzulino; for .NET

see http://xml.ascc.net/schematron/ for URLs of these

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Jing Native API

• Java code to validate against a Schematron schema

```
import com.thaiopensource.validate.ValidationDriver;
...

ValidationDriver driver = new ValidationDriver();
driver.loadSchema(ValidationDriver.fileInputSource(schemaPath));
boolean valid =
    driver.validate(ValidationDriver.fileInputSource(xmlPath));
```

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Schematron

Summary

- Schematron can validate things that can't be validated in other XML schema languages
- Effective use of Schematron requires becoming proficient with XPath
- Use it in conjunction with DTD, XML Schema or RELAX NG

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