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19th XBRL Europe day | Eurofiling 23rd workshop | Tutorials | Academic Track

**XBRL FORMULA LANGUAGE,
PROGRESS, COMPARISONS WITH
FORMULA LINKBASE**

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FORMULA PURPOSE AND DEPLOYMENT

Validation of business reports

- Submissions to regulatory agencies

Introduced when Xlink Linkbases were vogue

- Intended to exploit the XML syntax

Difficult and low level nature

- perceived as a deterrent to wider use of XBRL Formula.

Benefits of first-order predicate language ideally suited to report validation

- Similar origins as SQL
 - . SQL has survived for decades, but with a programming language syntax.
- Ideas originally in the Prolog language
- Maps well into validation of large sets of data with complex accounting and submission rules

MANIFEST LIMITATIONS

Standard had been based on a linkbase syntax

- Formula files almost unreadable
- Modularity hidden by Xlink syntax
- Requires specialized tools (which are few)

Assertion processing is unmanaged

- Control of which ones run based on report and outcome of other formulas
- Assertions run even when not relevant (to data, to control flow)
- Desire workflow of collections of assertion



WHY XLINK AND XML

2002-2007 was “heyday” for linkbases

Formula intended to use linkbases for extensibility of

- Formula labeling and messaging
- Override and customization of filters
- Partitioning modularity of files for development

Retrospective

- No known use of override or customization by formula linkbases



LINKBASE CREATION TOOLS

Authoring

- A few tools create formula linkbases at syntax element level
- DPM Architect creates formula linkbases for DPM-structured projects

LANGUAGE BASED SYNTAX

Style of language, tradeoffs

- SQL is a predicate-based language (but specific to databases)
- Java and C-based languages incompatible with XPath expression styles

Goal is to compile syntax language into formula linkbase

- Preserve investment in formula processors
- Preserve investment of existing formula linkbases of projects

XPATH EXPRESSION SYNTAX SOLUTION

The XQuery-style syntax wraps XPath expressions

- Grammar for formula syntax is based on XQuery style
- Other styles were not compatible with a simple-to-parse grammar

Prototype grammar construction guided completion of the syntax solution

- It was necessary to build working translators to/from syntax, to complete the grammar

A CDP FORMULA LINKBASE 1/2

```
<gen:link xlink:type="extended" xlink:role="http://www.xbrl.org/2008/role/link">
  <validation:assertionSet xlink:type="resource" xlink:label="assertionSet" xlink:title="assertionSet" id="assertionSet"/>
  <va:valueAssertion xlink:type="resource" xlink:label="valueAssertion" xlink:title="valueAssertion" id="valueAssertion"
    aspectModel="dimensional" implicitFiltering="true"
    „test="fn:number(fn:string($OperationsYearEnding)) &gt;= 2010 and fn:number(fn:string($OperationsYearEnding)) &lt;= 2016"/>
  <gen:arc xlink:type="arc" xlink:arcrole="http://xbrl.org/arcrole/2008/assertion-set" xlink:from="assertionSet" xlink:to="valueAssertion"
    „xlink:title="user-defined: assertionSet to valueAssertion" priority="0" order="1.0"/>
  <variable:factVariable xlink:type="resource" xlink:label="factVariable" xlink:title="factVariable" id="factVariable" bindAsSequence="false"
    fallbackValue="0" nils="true"/>
  <variable:variableArc xlink:type="arc" xlink:arcrole="http://xbrl.org/arcrole/2008/variable-set" xlink:from="valueAssertion"
    xlink:to="factVariable" xlink:title="user-defined: valueAssertion to factVariable" priority="0" order="1.0"
    name="OperationsYearEnding"/>
  <cf:conceptName xlink:type="resource" xlink:label="conceptName" xlink:title="conceptName" id="conceptName">
    <cf:concept>
      <cf:qname>cdp-og:EmissionsIntensitiesScope1Scope2ProductionOperationsYearEnding</cf:qname>
    </cf:concept>
  </cf:conceptName>
  <variable:variableFilterArc xlink:type="arc" xlink:arcrole="http://xbrl.org/arcrole/2008/variable-filter" xlink:from="factVariable"
    xlink:to="conceptName" xlink:title="user-defined: factVariable to conceptName" priority="0" order="1.0" complement="false"
    cover="true"/>
```


A CDP FORMULA LINKBASE 2/2

```
<df:typedDimension xlink:type="resource" xlink:label="typedDimension" xlink:title="typedDimension"
  id="typedDimension">
  <df:dimension>
    <df:qname>cdp-og:EmissionsIntensitiesScope1Scope2ProductionOperationsAxis</df:qname>
  </df:dimension>
</df:typedDimension>
<variable:variableFilterArc xlink:type="arc" xlink:arcrole="http://xbrl.org/arcrole/2008/variable-filter"
  xlink:from="factVariable" xlink:to="typedDimension" xlink:title="user-defined: factVariable to typedDimension"
  priority="0" order="2.0" complement="false" cover="true"/>
<msg:message xlink:type="resource" xlink:label="message" xlink:role="http://www.xbrl.org/2010/role/message"
  xlink:title="message" xml:lang="en" id="label">Emissions intensities (Scope1 + Scope 2) associated with current
  production and operations, Year ending must be between 2010 and 2016.
</msg:message>
<gen:arc xlink:type="arc" xlink:arcrole="http://xbrl.org/arcrole/2010/assertion-unsatisfied-message"
  xlink:from="valueAssertion" xlink:to="message" xlink:title="user-defined: valueAssertion to message"
  priority="0" order="1.0"/>
</gen:link>
</link:linkbase>
```

SAME CDP EXAMPLE IN XF (LANGUAGE)

```
namespace cdp-og = "http://www.cdp.net/xbml/cdp/og/2016-08-30/";
assertion-set assertionSet {
  assertion valueAssertion {
    unsatisfied-message (en) "Emissions intensities (Scope1 + Scope 2) associated with current production
                              and operations, Year ending must be between 2010 and 2016. ";
    variable $OperationsYearEnding {
      nils
      fallback {0}
      concept-name cdp-og:EmissionsIntensitiesScope1Scope2ProductionOperationsYearEnding;
      typed-dimension cdp-og:EmissionsIntensitiesScope1Scope2ProductionOperationsAxis;
    };
    test {fn:number(fn:string($OperationsYearEnding)) >= 2010 and
          fn:number(fn:string($OperationsYearEnding)) <= 2016};
  };
};
```

XF GRAMMAR, MODULE LEVEL

```
module ::=  
  (namespace-declaration)*  
  defaults*  
  parameter*  
  (filter-declararion | fact-variable | general-variable | function-declaration)*  
  (assertion-set | assertion)*
```

```
comment ::=  
  "(:" comment-contents ":)"
```

```
comment-contents ::=  
  (Char+ - (Char* ('(:' | ':)') Char*))
```

comments are removed from XPath contents when generating formula linkbase

```
separator = ";"
```

XF SYNTAX, ASSERTION

enclosed-expression ::=
"{" XPath-expression "}"

XPath-expression ::=
regex "[\s]*[\S]+[\s\S]*"

assertion ::=
"assertion" name "{"
(label ("(" lang ")")? quoted-string separator) |
("satisfied-message" | "unsatisfied-message") ("(" lang ")")? quoted-string separator) |
("unsatisfied-severity" message-severity separator) |
("aspect-model-non-dimensional" separator) |
("no-implicit-filtering" separator))*
filter-declararion*
group-filter*
(variable | referenced-parameter)*
precondition*
(value-expression | existence-expression)
"}" separator

value-expression ::=
"test" enclosed-expression separator

XF SYNTAX, ASPECT RULES & VARIABLE

aspect-rules ::=

```
"aspect-rules" ("source" qname)? "{"  
  (  
    "concept" (qname | enclosed-expression)?  
      separator |  
    "entity-identifier"  
      ("scheme" enclosed-expression)?  
      ("identifier" enclosed-expression)?  
      separator |  
    "period"  
      ("forever" |  
      "instant" enclosed-expression? |  
      "duration"  
        ("start" enclosed-expression)?  
        ("end" enclosed-expression)? )  
      separator |
```

```
"unit" "augment"? "{"  
  (("multiply-by" | "divide-by")  
  ("source" qname)?  
  ("measure" enclosed-expression)?  
  separator  
  )*  
  "}" separator |  
"explicit-dimension" qname "{"  
  (("member" (qname | enclosed-expression) |  
  "omit") separator)*  
  "}" separator |  
"typed-dimension" qname "{"  
  (("xpath" enclosed-expression |  
  "value" quoted-xml-string |  
  "omit") separator)*  
  "}" separator  
  )*  
  "}" separator
```

fact-variable ::=

```
"variable" "$" name "{"  
  "bind-as-sequence"?  
  "nils"?  
  "matches"?  
  ("fallback" enclosed-expression)?  
  filter*  
  "}" separator
```

HMRC CONSISTENCY CHECK (SUM)

undefined-severity ERROR

```
assertion-set intangiblesConsistencyChecks{  
  
  assertion IntangibleAssets {  
    variable $theSum {  
      concept-name IntangibleAssets;  
    }  
    variable $theAddends {  
      bind-as-sequence  
      concept-name IntangibleAssetsGrossCost  
        AccumulatedAmortisationImpairmentIntangibleAssets;  
    }  
    test {  
      $theSum eq sum($theAddends)  
    };  
  };  
};
```

HMRC ... (SUM MULTIPLE ADDENDS)

```
assertion IncreaseDecreaseInIntangibleAssets {
  variable $theSum {
    concept-name IncreaseDecreaseInIntangibleAssets;
  }
  variable $theAddends {
    bind-as-sequence
    concept-name
    TotalAdditionsIncludingFromBusinessCombinationsIntangibleAssets
    DisposalsIntangibleAssets
    DecreaseThroughDiscontinuedOperationsIntangibleAssets
    TotalIncreaseDecreaseFromRevaluationsIntangibleAssets
    IncreaseDecreaseFromForeignExchangeDifferencesIntangibleAsset
    IncreaseDecreaseDueToTransfersIntoOrOutIntangibleAssets
    IncreaseDecreaseDueToTransfersBetweenClassesIntangibleAssets
    FurtherItemIncreaseDecreaseInIntangibleAssetsComponentTotalChangeInIntangibleAssets
    IncreaseDecreaseThroughOtherChangesIntangibleAssets
  };
};
test {
  $theSum eq sum($theAddends)
};
```

HMRC ... (MOVEMENT PATTERN)

```
assertion IntangibleAssetsGrossCost {
  variable $theEndingBalance {
    concept-name IntangibleAssetsGrossCost;
    instant-duration end $theFlowAddends;
  }
  variable $theChanges {
    concept-name IncreaseDecreaseInIntangibleAssets;
  }
  variable $theStartingBalances {
    concept-name IntangibleAssetsGrossCost;
    instant-duration start $theFlowAddends;
  }
  test {
    $theEndingBalance eq $theChanges + $theStartingBalances
  };
};
```


HMRC (DIMENSIONAL AGGREGATION)

```
value-assertion TotalIntangibleAssetsIncludingGoodwillDefault {  
    variable $TotalIntangibleAssetsIncludingGoodwillDefault {  
        dimension IntangibleAssetClassesDimension;  
    };  
    variable $theAggregands {  
        bind-as-sequence  
        dimension IntangibleAssetClassesDimension  
        member $theAggregationSum axis child;  
    };  
    test {$theAggregationSum eq sum($theAggregands)};  
};
```

HMRC (UNSATISFIED MESSAGE)

```
assertion PropertyPlantEquipmentClassesDimension {  
    unsatisfied-message "Consistency checks - Property, plant and equipment - update 07-09-15.  
        aggregation MotorVehicles not equal to sum of members."  
    variable $aggregation {  
        explicit-dimension PropertyPlantEquipmentClassesDimension  
            member MotorVehicles;  
    };  
    variable $aggregands {  
        bind-as-sequence  
        explicit-dimension PropertyPlantEquipmentClassesDimension  
            member CommercialMotorVehicles member MotorCars;  
    };  
    test { $aggregation eq sum($aggregands) };  
};
```

XF CONVERTERS

Arelle open source on GitHub

- Linkbase to xf: plugin [formulaSaver.py](#)
 - GUI: load, Tools->Save Xbrl Formula File
 - Cmd line: `arelleCmdLine -f {dts} --plugins formulaSaver.py --save-xbrl-formula {file-name.xf}`
- Xf to linkbase: plugin [formulaLoader.py](#)
 - Stand-alone or integrated xf-to-linkbase converter
 - `python3.5 formulaLoader.py [--debug] {files}`
 - Linkbase outputs saved as {file}-formula.xml
 - Interactive
 - load in arelle GUI; Tools->Save Xbrl Formula File
 - run in production with xf files instead of formula linkbase files