

## SGML

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## SGML

- **Standard Generalized Markup Language (SGML, ISO 8879:1986)**

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## SGML

- “SGML is a **metalanguage** for defining **markup languages**, and HTML is an **instance**, specified as a **document-type definition (DTD)**, of such a language.”  
Larry Press, *CACM* 38/3 (1995): 21.

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## Key Concepts

1. Metalanguage
2. Markup Language
3. Document Type Definition

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## Structured Documents & SGML

- Documents are **generic**
  - concept of **Document Type**
- Content can be **modelled**
  - concept of **Content Model**

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## Document Type Definition (DTD)

- Markup required by a Document Type to present the Content Model formally declared in a Document Type Definition (DTD)
- The DTD is written in SGML and defines the **allowable** markup the **rules** for the use of that markup

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### Validation

- How do you know that you have followed the tags and rules for their usage set out in the DTD enforced?
- By validating your document instance against the Document Type Definition using an SGML Parser
- If the files passes without error then you have created a valid SGML instance

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