Modeling an application domain extension of CityGML in UML

Copyright © 2012 Open Geospatial Consortium.
To obtain additional rights of use, visit http://www.opengeospatial.org/legal/.

Warning
This document is not an OGC Standard. This document is an OGC Discussion Paper and is therefore not an official position of the OGC membership. It is distributed for review and comment. It is subject to change without notice and may not be referred to as an OGC Standard. Further, an OGC Discussion Paper should not be referenced as required or mandatory technology in procurements.
License Agreement

Permission is hereby granted by the Open Geospatial Consortium, ("Licensor"), free of charge and subject to the terms set forth below, to any person obtaining a copy of this Intellectual Property and any associated documentation, to deal in the Intellectual Property without restriction (except as set forth below), including without limitation the rights to implement, use, copy, modify, merge, publish, distribute, and/or sublicense copies of the Intellectual Property, and to permit persons to whom the Intellectual Property is furnished to do so, provided that all copyright notices on the intellectual property are retained intact and that each person to whom the Intellectual Property is furnished agrees to the terms of this Agreement.

If you modify the Intellectual Property, all copies of the modified Intellectual Property must include, in addition to the above copyright notice, a notice that the Intellectual Property includes modifications that have not been approved or adopted by LICENSOR.

THIS LICENSE IS A COPYRIGHT LICENSE ONLY, AND DOES NOT CONVEY ANY RIGHTS UNDER ANY PATENTS THAT MAY BE IN FORCE ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD.

THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY IS PROVIDED "AS IS", WITHOUT WARRANTY OF ANY KIND, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, AND NONINFRINGEMENT OF THIRD PARTY RIGHTS. THE COPYRIGHT HOLDER OR HOLDERS INCLUDED IN THIS NOTICE DO NOT WARRANT THAT THE FUNCTIONS CONTAINED IN THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY WILL MEET YOUR REQUIREMENTS OR THAT THE OPERATION OF THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY WILL BE UNINTERRUPTED OR ERROR FREE. ANY USE OF THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY SHALL BE MADE ENTIRELY AT THE USER’S OWN RISK. IN NO EVENT SHALL THE COPYRIGHT HOLDER OR ANY CONTRIBUTOR OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS TO THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY BE LIABLE FOR ANY CLAIM, OR ANY DIRECT, INDIRECT, SPECIAL, CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES OR ANY DAMAGES WHATSOEVER RESULTING FROM ANY ALLEGED INFRINGEMENT OR ANY LOSS OF USE, DATA OR PROFITS, WHETHER IN AN ACTION OF CONTRACT, NEGLIGENCE OR UNDER ANY OTHER LEGAL THEORY, ARISING OUT OF OR IN CONNECTION WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION, USE, COMMERCIALIZATION OR PERFORMANCE OF THIS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY.

This license is effective until terminated. You may terminate it at any time by destroying the Intellectual Property together with all copies in any form. The license will also terminate if you fail to comply with any term or condition of this Agreement. Except as provided in the following sentence, no such termination of this license shall require the termination of any third party end-user sublicense to the Intellectual Property which is in force as of the date of notice of such termination. In addition, should the Intellectual Property, or the operation of the Intellectual Property, infringe, or in LICENSOR’s sole opinion be likely to infringe, any patent, copyright, trademark or other right of a third party, you agree that LICENSOR, in its sole discretion, may terminate this license without any compensation or liability to you, your licensees or any other party. You agree upon termination of any kind to destroy or cause to be destroyed the Intellectual Property together with all copies in any form, whether held by you or by any third party.

Except as contained in this notice, the name of LICENSOR or of any other holder of a copyright in all or part of the Intellectual Property shall not be used in advertising or otherwise to promote the sale, use or other dealings in this Intellectual Property without prior written authorization of LICENSOR or such copyright holder. LICENSOR is and shall at all times be the sole entity that may authorize you or any third party to use certification marks, trademarks or other special designations to indicate compliance with any LICENSOR standards or specifications.

This Agreement is governed by the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The application to this Agreement of the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods is hereby expressly excluded. In the event any provision of this Agreement shall be deemed unenforceable, void or invalid, such provision shall be modified so as to make it valid and enforceable, and as so modified the entire Agreement shall remain in full force and effect. No decision, action or inaction by LICENSOR shall be construed to be a waiver of any rights or remedies available to it.
Foreword

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. Open Geospatial Consortium shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. However, to date, no such rights have been claimed or identified.

Recipients of this document are requested to submit, with their comments, notification of any relevant patent claims or other intellectual property rights of which they may be aware that might be infringed by any implementation of the specification set forth in this document, and to provide supporting documentation.

This best practice paper is based on a paper, presented at 3D GeoInfo, May 2012, in Quebec, Canada by the following authors: Linda van den Brink\textsuperscript{1}, Jantien Stoter\textsuperscript{1,2,3}, and Sisi Zlatanova\textsuperscript{2}.

\begin{footnotesize}
\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{1} Geonovum, Amersfoort, \{l.vandenbrink|j.stoter\}@geonovum.nl
\item \textsuperscript{2} OTB, TU Delft, \{j.e.stoter|s.zlatanova\}@tudelft.nl
\item \textsuperscript{3} Kadaster, Apeldoorn, Jantien.stoter@kadaster.nl
\end{itemize}
\end{footnotesize}
Abstract

This paper presents key aspects of the development of a Dutch 3D standard IMGeo as a CityGML ADE. The new ADE is modeled using UML class diagrams. However the OGC CityGML specification does not provide clear rules on modeling an ADE in UML. This paper describes how the extension was built, which provides general insight how CityGML can be extended for a specific applications starting from the UML diagrams. Several alternatives for modeling ADEs in UML have been investigated and compared. The best suited for the 3D standard option is selected and applied. Open issues and challenges are discussed in the conclusions.
1. Introduction

Recently a national 3D standard has been established in The Netherlands as a CityGML ADE (Van den Brink et al 2012; Stoter et al 2011). This ADE completely integrates CityGML with the existing national Information Model for large scale topography (called Information Model Geography or ‘IMGeo’). IMGeo is modeled in UML (Unified Modeling Language), and contains object definitions for large scale representations of roads, water, land use/land cover, bridges, tunnels etc. and their properties, and prescribes 2D point, curve or surface geometry for all objects. As the new version of IMGeo (version 2.0) is completely integrated with CityGML, 2D IMGeo data can be extended into 2.5D (i.e. as height surface representation) and 3D (as volumetric representation) according to geometric and semantic principles of CityGML.

In line with the Dutch practice of modeling geo-information in UML the IMGeo CityGML ADE is modeled using UML class diagrams. However, the CityGML specifications do not provide rules or guidance on modeling an ADE in UML (CityGML ADE, 2012). It describes only how an ADE must be modeled in the XML schemas.

Based on the lessons learned from developing the CityGML-IMGeo ADE, this paper describes how CityGML can be extended for specific applications starting from the UML diagrams. A complete description of the CityGML-IMGeo ADE can be found in Van den Brink et al (2011). This paper summarizes the technical modeling, i.e. how the UML models of CityGML can be extended to also support the concepts defined in a specific domain, and how a GML application schema (OGC 2007) conforming to the CityGML ADE rules can be automatically generated from the UML model. Our experiences can serve as best practice to standardize the developments of domain specific CityGML ADEs in the near future. Firstly, because this process is not standardized yet and, secondly, because our approach was established through intensive discussions on possible alternatives with the OGC CityGML Working Group, members of the Special Interest Group 3D (SIG 3D) and other experts. An important step in this process, has been the decision of SIG 3D to adopt our UML modeling approach for ADE’s in March, 2012.

The IMGeo standard, in which the approach described in this best practice paper is implemented, has been formally approved as a Dutch national standard in February 2012. This forms evidence of implementation of this best practice. The IMGeo standard is used in the Dutch base registry for large scale topography, part of the national system of base registries for sharing data. Government agencies who are data provider of large scale topography are required by law to supply at least their data as defined in the mandatory core of IMGeo, and encouraged to supply also any optional data they have.

The paper is organized as follows. Section 2 describes the optimal modeling approach, which was selected from several alternatives. Section 3 explains how the selected
modeling approach has been applied to model the CityGML ADE ‘IMGeo 2.0’ and Section 4 concludes on findings and topics for further research.
2. APPROACH for modeling CityGML ADEs in UML

This section presents the selection process of the optimal approach for modeling application domain extensions of CityGML in UML. During the development of CityGML_IMGeo, intensive discussions took place on possible alternatives for modeling the ADE in UML, specifically with the OGC CityGML Working Group, members of the Special Interest Group 3D (SIG 3D) and other experts. Some of the alternatives were based on having only generic extension placeholders in the UML model, while the extension would be described informally in some way outside the model. In other alternatives the extension would be described in UML. Most of these alternatives were in some degree in conflict with rules of UML, the ISO19109 General Feature model, or the modular specification standard of OGC (OGC, 2009).

After comparing the advantages and disadvantages of the alternatives, one alternative was selected as the best option for the IMGeo ADE. This approach defines the properties to be added in subclasses in the ADE package but suppresses these subclasses from the generated XML Schema.

An extension subclass is marked as ADE extension in the UML model using a stereotype or tagged value. A stereotype is preferred because it makes clear from the UML diagrams that the ADE subtype is not mapped to an XML Schema component. Tagged values are not always (and usually not) shown in the graphical notation. However, this could be viewed as violating the GML encoding rule that stereotypes are used for conceptual aspects and tagged values for encoding-related aspects.

Several disadvantages to this approach were noted by the participants of the discussions. 1) It is confusing to introduce an ADE subclass of a CityGML type although the ADE hooks provide a means to avoid subclassing. The ADE hooks represent a concept of attribute substitution, for which there is no standard expression method in UML. In UML, using a subclass for extending another class is appropriate. 2) In UML a subclass inherits all methods and attributes from its super class, but in this case that is not intended. In order to stress this, the generalization relation between subclass and CityGML superclass receives a stereotype <<ADE>>. 3) Because in UML the extension is modelled with subclasses, it is not possible to create an instance diagram where an object instance is shown combining properties from different ADE’s. The only way to show instance data is on the XML level.

These disadvantages notwithstanding, there are several reasons why we have chosen this approach. Firstly, conceptually IMGeo is an extension of CityGML and therefore defining the IMGeo classes as subclasses of CityGML classes and adding the extra properties to these subclasses is appropriate. Another aspect in favor of this alternative is that the use of subclassing is understandable for people with basic knowledge of UML class diagrams. This is an important requirement of the IMGeo UML model. Finally, this approach conforms to relevant rules of UML, the ISO 19100 series and OGC unlike most...
of the alternatives. Finally this approach is the most in line with the current geo-
information modeling approach in the Netherlands.

The fact that in the XML Schema implementation the subclasses are omitted, is seen as a
technical implementation choice to allow the combining of properties from different
ADEs. While this is a valid reason on the technical level, it is not taken to mean that in
the conceptual UML model subclassing should also be avoided.
3. Modeling IMGeo as CityGML ADE

This section explains how the selected modeling approach was applied to model the CityGML ADE IMGeo 2.0. Although the focus in this section is on realising a CityGML ADE for the Dutch information model “IMGeo”, the followed procedure contains generalities that can be used to model other ADEs in UML as well.

3.1. Modeling IMGeo classes as subclasses of CityGML classes

Since CityGML is only available as xml schema, the first step is to recreate the UML model in the modeling tool Enterprise Architect, based on (OGC 2008). In the next step all IMGeo classes are modeled as subclasses of CityGML classes. Using the selected modeling approach, these subclasses get the same class name as the CityGML class they are extending. The stereotype <<ADEElement>> is assigned to the subclasses. This stereotype was proposed by Benner and Haefele during the discussion on the selected modeling alternative. This stereotype marks these classes as subtypes that only add properties to the CityGML class, and accordingly no XML component for these classes will be created in the XML Schema. In addition, the specialization relation with the CityGML class is marked with a stereotype <<ADE>>. For documentation purposes, a Dutch translation of the subclass name is added as an alias.

For all CityGML classes which are relevant for IMGeo, a subclass is created, adding at least a 2D geometry property to all classes. Figure 1 shows an example in the IMGeo ADE of a subclass TunnelPart which contains additional properties compared to the equivalent CityGML class (2D geometry and LOD0 geometry properties). The yellow classes are classes from the CityGML Tunnel package. The <<ADEElement>> TunnelPart is a class defined in the IMGeo ADE package as a subclass of CityGML TunnelPart class. The Dutch alias is shown between brackets on the class diagram.

The implications of applying this inheritance structure, is that the domain specific information model gets the same structure as defined by the CityGML model.
To identify equivalent concepts that can be modeled via this subclassing method, first a conceptual mapping was made between CityGML and the application information model IMGeo. These mappings compared the concepts at semantic level, i.e. independent of which LOD the concept appears in CityGML.

Obviously, not for every IMGeo class a 1-to-1 mapping to an equivalent CityGML class could be found. For these classes, two solutions are possible. The first option, which is preferred and therefore applied as much as possible, remodels the IMGeo concept so that an equivalent CityGML class can be found. For IMGeo this is for example done for Vegetation that models any vegetation-related concept (in IMGeo 1.0 divided over several classes) and AuxiliaryTrafficArea meant for road segments which are not used for traffic, such as verges (in IMGeo modeled under the classes Road or Land Use).

If it is not possible to remodel the concept into a CityGML class, CityGML is extended with a new class, as a subclass of one of the CityGML classes. Figure 2 shows an example in the IMGeo ADE of a class which is not available in CityGML but needed in IMGeo. The class ‘OverigeConstructie’ (OtherConstruction) is a class to represent man-made constructions other than buildings, bridges and tunnels. Examples are water management constructs such as pumping plants, locks, and weirs but also wharfs, fences, loose-standing walls, high-tension line towers and wind turbines. It is modeled as a <<featureType>> subclass of the CityGML class _Site (with a Dutch class name) which is not suppressed from the XML Schema. The class has its own properties which are modeled similar to CityGML classes, such as implicit geometry on different LODs as well as 2D and 3D geometry up to LOD3.
The use of code lists in the ADE

CityGML provides code lists to allow predefined values for the CityGML attributes. However, the CityGML-IMGeo ADE makes use of national classification code lists instead of the CityGML code lists. Several aspects gave reasons to do this (this is in line with the findings of Portele 2009): the national lists are specifically suited to the Dutch context and contain a definition for each concept, approved by the Dutch organizations involved. Other reasons for not using the CityGML code lists are that IMGeo favors Dutch language code lists and that the CityGML standard does not provide definitions for the code list values, which makes it hard to decide which value to use. There is no need to map the Dutch code lists to the CityGML code lists, as these are non-normative and software does not check on code list values nor process them in specific ways.

Both CityGML and GML do not provide a normative way to structure code lists. Prominent choices are GML dictionary and SKOS (Simple Knowledge Organisation System; SKOS, 2012). GML dictionary was considered but not selected, because these are deprecated in GML 3.3, while SKOS adoption is growing in the geo community. SKOS was therefore selected.

The code lists are maintained in the UML model and XML structured code lists can be generated from the UML using a ShapeChange customization which allows generation of SKOS-encoded code lists from UML classes with a <<codeList>> stereotype. The disadvantage of maintaining the code lists in the UML model, is that the UML model needs to be updated in case the code lists need an update. For IMGeo the code lists are considered as part of the standard and allowed to change only when a new IMGeo version is published.
The SKOS code lists will be published in a national, publicly available registry, which also contains the IMGeo XML Schema. Each code list and code list value is accessible via its own URL.

Code list validation can be done using standard XML techniques such as Schematron constraints (ISO/IEC 19757-3:2006(E)). Further work is needed to assess how the IMGeo code lists are best represented and structured in SKOS.

3.3. Generating XML Schema from the UML ADE

The Java tool ShapeChange is used to generate an XML Schema (GML application schema) from the ADE defined in UML (Portele, 2008). As mentioned before, ShapeChange implements the UML to GML encoding rules described in ISO 19136, ISO 10118, and ISO 19109. ShapeChange was modified to add a custom encoding rule for classes with the <<ADEElement>> stereotype. These classes are suppressed from the GML Application schema, while their properties are added to the ADE namespace as substitutes for the CityGML “_GenericApplicationPropertyOf<Featuretypename>” hooks as described in CityGML 10.13.1.

For the national 3D standard it is required to identify the reference system (x, y, z) to be used in the GML files.

IMGeo 2.0 compliant test data has been generated to show how the model works when applied to data, see Figure 3.

Figure 3: Visualisation of CityGML-IMGeo encoded data: CityGML LOD2
4. Conclusion and further research

This paper presents an approach for automatic generation of a CityGML ADE starting from UML schema. After some investigations of the several possibilities, the most beneficial for the Dutch purposes was applied for the CityGML ADE IMGeo (i.e. the Dutch national 3D standard). The main principle of the selected approach is that all classes of IMGeo are modeled as subclasses of CityGML classes and these subclasses get the same class name as the CityGML class they are extending. The stereotype <<ADEElement>> marks these classes as subtypes that only add properties to the CityGML class, and accordingly no XML component for these classes will be created in the XML Schema.

In the development of CityGML ADE IMGeo 2.0 a number of topics are identified that requires further research. Firstly, more research is needed to understand the consequences of this new modeling method for IMGeo when used for both 2D and 3D datasets, e.g. how to preserve the links between the different LODs and how to upgrade 2D LOD to higher LODs. Secondly, knowledge is required on the ability to use 3D IMGeo data in CityGML-aware software, i.e. whether software systems are compatible with our extensions and which adaption is required. Furthermore research is needed to assess how the IMGeo code lists are best represented and structured in SKOS. Finally, the creation and management of CityGML-IMGeo data needs more research attention. Which methods can be used to generate CityGML-IMGeo data? How should this data be validated and maintained? How can 2.5D topology be created and maintained?

These open issues are currently being studied in a follow-up project of the 3D Pilot NL (Stoter et al, 2012). The first phase finished in June, 2011 and has been reported in Stoter et al (2011). Since October 2011 over 100 organizations (Geonovum, 2012) are contributing to the six activities of the second phase of the 3D Pilot NL. The activities related to learn more about the UML modeling approach for ADEs are the generation of 3D IMGeo example data (several levels of detail and several classes) and the design and implementation of a 3D validator that tests whether both the semantics and the geometry of the data are compliant with the standard.

This is the first study on extending the UML diagrams of CityGML for specific domains. Since the OGC CityGML specifications do not provide rules or guidance on correctly modeling an ADE in UML, this paper may serve as best practice for future ADEs to be modeled in UML.
5. Acknowledgments

The authors express their sincere gratitude to Thomas Kolbe, Claus Nagel (both TU Berlin); Carsten Roensdorf (Ordnance Survey and chair of OGC CityGML working group) and Clemens Portele (interactive instruments GmbH), who actively participated in the discussions.

This research is supported by the Dutch Technology Foundation STW, which is part of the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) and partly funded by the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation (project code: 11300).
Bibliography

CityGML ADE, 2012, current ADE are maintained at www.citygmlwiki.org/index.php/CityGML-ADEs

Geonovum, 2012, list of participants of second phase 3D Pilot, online, www.geonovum.nl/dossiers/3d-pilot/deelnemersvervolg


Portele, C., 2008, Mapping UML to GML Application Schemas; ShapeChange - Architecture and Description, version 1.0rc., www.interactive-instruments.de/fileadmin/gdi/docs/ugas/ShapeChange-1.0.pdf

Portele, C., 2009. OGC® OWS-6 UTDS-CityGML Implementation Profile, editor: Clemens Portele, version 0.3.0, OGC 09-037r1

SKOS, 2012, [online] Available from www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/
