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Internet of Things (IoT) — Interoperability for IoT Systems Part 4 Syntactic Interoperability

ICS 35.020

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NATIONAL FOREWORD

This Indian Standard (Part 4) which is identical to ISO/IEC 21823-4 : 2022 'Internet of things (IoT) Interoperability for IoT systems — Part 4: Syntactic interoperability' issued by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) jointly was adopted by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) on the recommendation of the Internet of Things and Digital Twin Sectional Committee and approval of the Electronics and Information Technology Division Council.

This standard (Part 4) is one of the parts of a series of standards on 'Internet of Things (IoT) Interoperability for IoT Systems'. The other parts in this series are:

- Part 1 Framework
- Part 2 Transport interoperability
- Part 3 Semantic interoperability

The text of ISO/IEC standard has been approved as suitable for publication as an Indian Standard without deviations. Certain conventions are, however, not identical to those used in Indian Standards. Attention is particularly drawn to the following:

- a) Wherever the words 'International Standard' appears referring to this standard, they should be read as 'Indian Standard'; and
- b) Comma (,) has been used as a decimal marker while in Indian Standards, the current practice is to use a point (.) as the decimal marker.

The Committee has reviewed the provisions of the following International Standards referred in this adopted standard and has decided that they are acceptable for use in conjunction with this standard. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document applies, including any corrigenda and amendment. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies:

International Standard Title

ISO/IEC 20924 Internet of Things (IoT) — Vocabulary

For the purpose of deciding whether a particular requirement of this standard is complied with, the final value, observed or calculated, expressing the result of a test or analysis, shall be rounded off in accordance with IS 2 : 2022 'Rules for rounding off numerical values (*second revision*)'. The number of significant places retained in the rounded off value should be same as that of the specified value in this standard.

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INTRODUCTION

In the world of the Internet of Things (IoT), heterogeneous systems and devices need to be connected and exchange data with others. How data exchange can be implemented becomes a key issue of interoperability among IoT industries. Information models (IMs), which can well represent specifications of data, are adopted and utilized to solve the interoperability problem. Meanwhile, as systems and devices in IoT can have different information models with different modelling methodologies and formats, interoperability based on different information models is recognized as an urgent problem. The IoT interoperability related systems and applications have an 11 trillion market potentially [\[1\]](#page-42-1)^{[1](#page-4-1)}.

The ISO/IEC 21823 series standards address issues that relate to interoperability both between different IoT systems and within a single IoT system. ISO/IEC 21823-1 [\[2\]](#page-42-2) describes a general framework for interoperability for IoT systems. It includes a five facet model for interoperability that includes transport, syntactic, semantic, behavioural, and policy viewpoints.

Different parts of ISO/IEC 21823, based on one of the facets, provide specifications from their corresponding viewpoints. Each of the parts can refer to others but is independent. Currently, ISO/IEC 21823-2 [\[3\]](#page-42-3) defines specifications from the transport viewpoint, ISO/IEC 21823-3 [\[4\]](#page-42-4) defines requirements, provides guidance, etc. from the semantic viewpoint, and ISO/IEC 21823-4 specifies the syntactic interoperability.

Syntactic interoperability means that exchanged information can be understood by the participating IoT systems which contain IoT devices. In more detail, the syntactic interoperability is related to the information models' representing formats, structures, and grammar of their modelling languages such as a length of a data string, constraints on data types, and forbidden characters.

This document first provides the principle of how to achieve syntactic interoperability based on metamodel-driven approaches. In other words, the reason why the information exchange rules based on metamodels can support syntactic interoperability among different IoT systems will be elaborated. Secondly, requirements on information models such as metamodels and models of IoT systems including IoT devices are described. Features related to IoT devices such as the identifier, device type, setup environments, and functions need to be considered to accomplish syntactic interoperability among different information models utilized in IoT systems. Thirdly, a framework for processes on developing information exchange rules related to IoT devices from the syntactic viewpoint is provided. For example, the kinds of metamodels, and the types of entities and relationships that shall be selected are specified, and the procedure of how to build the information exchange rules from different information models is provided.

In [Annex A,](#page-33-0) possible intrinsic and extrinsic properties of IoT devices are listed as additional information of Clause [6.](#page-12-2) In [Annex B,](#page-37-0) a use case of how the syntactic interoperability in accordance with specifications in this document among industrial IoT systems and IoT devices is described.

With this document, system and device vendors, who need to improve and/or develop their products to comply with IoT requirements, can implement specifications of this document to their products for an automatic or semi-automatic realization of IoT syntactic interoperability.

Numbers in square brackets refer to the Bibliography.

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Indian Standard

INTERNET OF THINGS (IOT) — INTEROPERABILITY FOR IOT SYSTEMS

PART 4 SYNTACTIC INTEROPERABILITY

1 Scope

This part of ISO/IEC 21823 specifies the IoT interoperability from a syntactic point of view. In this document, the following specifications for IoT interoperability from a syntactic viewpoint are included:

- a principle of how to achieve syntactic interoperability among IoT systems which include IoT devices;
- requirements on information related to IoT devices for syntactic interoperability;
- a framework for processes on developing information exchange rules related to IoT devices from the syntactic viewpoint.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO/IEC 20924, *Internet of Things (IoT) – Vocabulary*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO/IEC 20924 and the following apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following web addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at http://www.iso.org/obp
- IEC Electropedia: available at http://www.electropedia.org/

3.1 instance individual entity having its own value and possibly its own identity

[SOURCE: ISO 19103:2015 [\[5\],](#page-42-5) 4.20]

3.2

metamodel

special kind of model that specifies the abstract syntax of a modelling language

Note 1 to entry: A model is an *instance* [\(3.1\)](#page-6-3) of a metamodel

Note 2 to entry: IoT syntactic interoperability is achieved by information exchange rules through the structure, data format, and syntactic constraints using syntactic aspects of the metamodel.

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 19506:2012 [\[6\],](#page-42-6) modified – The description that follows the definition has been deleted. Notes to entry have been added.]

3.3

model abstraction of some aspects of reality

[SOURCE: ISO 19109:2015 [\[7\],](#page-42-7) 4.15]

3.4

property

particular characteristic of an object type

[SOURCE: ISO 16484-5:2017 [\[8\],](#page-42-8) 3.2.74]

3.5

syntactic interoperability

interoperability such that the formats of the exchanged information can be understood by the participating systems

Note 1 to entry: System means IoT system.

Note 2 to entry: IoT device, IoT gateway, sensor and actuator are considered as system.

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 19941:2017 [\[9\],](#page-42-9) 3.1.4, modified – Notes to entry have been added.]

4 Abbreviated terms

XML extensible markup language

5 Principle for IoT syntactic interoperability

5.1 General

In the ISO/IEC 21823 series, ISO/IEC 21823-1 [\[2\]](#page-42-2) defines an overall framework for IoT interoperability. It specifies that IoT interoperability shall be supported by standards from five facets: transport, semantic, syntactic, behavioural, and policy. A standard based on each of the facets shall provide specifications from its corresponding viewpoint. Each of the standards can refer to or can be independent of standards based on other facets. ISO/IEC 21823-2 [\[3\]](#page-42-3) defines specifications from the transport viewpoint. ISO/IEC 21823‑3 [\[4\]](#page-42-4) defines requirements, provides guidance, etc. from the semantic aspect. ISO/IEC 21823-4 (this document) addresses the syntactic interoperability that provides specifications from the syntax viewpoint.

5.2 Principle for IoT syntactic interoperability

In this subclause, a principle for IoT syntactic interoperability is specified. In order for an IoT system to achieve syntactic interoperability with other IoT systems and devices, the information exchange rules between their data are adopted.

The information exchange rules for syntactic interoperability provide the following types of information exchange.

- a) Format exchange.
	- The term "format" is bound for a data format.
	- The "format exchange" means that information in different data formats can be exchanged.

For example, data in the UML format can be exchanged with data in the XML format.

- b) Structure exchange.
	- The term "structure" is bound for a data structure that has a hierarchy and branches.
	- The "structure exchange" means that information in different structures can be exchanged.

For example, information defined in a hierarchical tree structure can be transformed into a flat tree structure.

- c) Syntactic constraint exchange.
	- The term "constraint" is a condition related to syntax or syntactic requirements on data.
	- The "syntactic constraint exchange" means that information with different constraints can be exchanged.

For example, data in IoT System1 have a value of one digit after the decimal point, and data in IoT System2 have a value of two digits after the decimal point. Their data accuracy exchange is classified into syntactic constraint exchange.

Furthermore, information of IoT systems is expressed with models. In each IoT system, its information can be represented with a metamodel, models, and instances [\[10\].](#page-42-10) In order to describe information exchange rules between IoT systems for their syntactic interoperability, syntactic aspects in their metamodels and models are utilized. In addition, specific requirements for metamodels, models, and information exchanges in the IoT domain are included in this document.

5.3 Relevant technologies for syntactic interoperability

5.3.1 Metamodel and syntactic interoperability

A metamodel, as the model's model, consists of statements about models. Especially in the UML as described in [\[10\],](#page-42-10) the metamodel specifies the abstract syntax of the UML. The abstract syntax defines the set of UML modelling concepts, attributes, relationships as well as rules for combining concepts to construct partial UML models.

There are also other definitions for metamodel in ISO/IEC and IEEE standards. Some of them are listed in [Table](#page-41-1) C.1 in [Annex C.](#page-41-2) Several metamodel definitions in different resources are collected in ISO/IEC/IEEE 24765:2017 [\[11\].](#page-42-11) In this document, Definition 7 of metamodel in [Table](#page-41-1) C.1, i.e. "special kind of model that specifies the abstract syntax of a modelling language", is adopted. From this definition, it is clear that an approach of creating information exchange rules with elements available in metamodels is actually based on the syntax and therefore is acceptable for syntactical interoperability. UML, OWL (Ontology Language), OntoML (Ontology Markup Language [\[12\]\)](#page-42-12), XML, etc. are modelling languages adopted and utilized in different systems and domains.

5.3.2 Metamodel-driven approaches supporting interoperability issues

Metamodel-driven information exchange and interoperability approaches are adopted as holistic approaches in industry domains [\[13\],](#page-42-13) [\[14\]](#page-42-14) to enable a model-driven engineering approach in the area of information integration and interoperation. By creating declarative mapping specifications, i.e. exchange rules, automatic information exchange can be executed at run-time and off-line among heterogeneous systems and devices. As the metamodel-driven approaches tackle the interoperability problems at a higher abstraction level than models, it can increase the efficiency of achieving interoperability among heterogeneous systems and devices which comply with the same metamodel. In other words, information exchange rules can be reused by IoT systems and IoT devices whose information models are in compliance with the same metamodel.

5.4 The overall structure of the proposed approach

Figure 1 – The overall structure of the proposed approach

[Figure 1](#page-9-2) illustrates the overall structure of the proposed approach. [Figure 1](#page-9-2) shows two IoT systems: IoT System1 and IoT System2. In each IoT system, its information consists of a metamodel, model, and instance data. In order to achieve syntactic interoperability between these two systems, the information exchange rules based on the metamodels of both IoT systems need to be created. To create information exchange rules, their required properties and resolutions to support executing information exchange need to be analysed and defined.

In [Figure 1:](#page-9-2)

- lines starting with "#" denote comment lines;
- in the text box of "information exchange rule example", sample information for syntactic interoperability is listed;
- in the text box of "required properties and resolutions", example properties and syntactic resolution for mismatch are listed.

In this document, three major clauses are specified to support achieving IoT syntactic interoperability.

- a) In Clause [5,](#page-7-1) relevant technologies of the metamodel and their applicability in the area of solving syntactical interoperability issues are explained. The methodology of how to create information exchange rules among heterogeneous IoT systems and devices is specified. The information exchange rules are in general categorized into two groups:
	- 1) translation rules that specify transformations among elements in metamodels. Details are in [5.6;](#page-11-0)
	- 2) operation rules that specify mismatches between IoT systems. Details are in [6.3.](#page-15-0)
- b) In Clause [6,](#page-12-2) requirements on IoT-related information are specified. Requirements include:
	- 1) firstly, the required properties related to IoT devices for translation rules (specified in [6.2\)](#page-13-0). For example, an identifier of an IoT system or an IoT device is a required property;
	- 2) secondly, the required properties and resolutions for mismatches between IoT systems for operation rules. Mismatches occur during information exchange between IoT systems. Resolutions are required to resolve these mismatches. For example, if the time interval requesting information exchange is different, i.e. not matched in involved IoT systems for their interoperability, then syntactic resolutions are required to fill up this mismatch. Required properties and resolutions for mismatches are analysed and described in [6.3.](#page-15-0)
- c) In Clause [7,](#page-30-0) a framework of how to create information exchange rules is specified. The necessary procedures to realize the IoT syntactic interoperability following the proposed approach are defined. Whether it is necessary to create or extend an IoT system's metamodel, what kinds of information exchange rules are defined, and how exchange rules can be executed and evaluated are also described.

5.5 The methodology of metamodel-driven information exchange

Figure 2 – Model hierarchies and metamodel-driven information exchange rules

During the last decades, in the field of model-based engineering (MBE), models have been constructed to represent information from the physical world. The community of OMG proposes MOF (ISO/IEC 19502 [\[15\]\)](#page-42-15), a four-layer modelling architecture to describe models. Models here in general include the instance in M0-Layer, the model in M1-Layer, the metamodel in M2-Layer, and the meta-metamodel in M3-Layer. M3-Layer is not included in this document thus it is omitted from Figure 2.

As shown in Figure 2, the model in M1-Layer defines structures, available entities, relationships, etc. for instances in M0-Layer, and the metamodel in M2-Layer specifies the syntax for the models. Therefore, models in M1-Layer are the instances of their metamodel in M2-Layer, i.e. M1-Layer has relationships with M2-Layer as "<<instanceOf>>". And the same relationships exist between M0-Layer and M1-Layer. Each metamodel can have many models and each model can have many instances. In Figure 2, Model1 in IoT System1 is the model of Instance1, and Metamodel1 is the metamodel of Model1. Model2 and Metamodel2 in IoT System2 have the same relationships.

From the syntactic point of view, information exchange rules as projections allow converting information in all layers from a specific system to information in another system in a modelling environment. The information exchange rules based on metamodels in M2-Layer are applicable to the transformation of models in M1-Layer [\[15\]](#page-42-15)[\[16\]](#page-42-16) because the information in M1-Layer is defined with elements available in M2-Layer. The same relationships are applicable to M1-Layer and M0-Layer. Therefore, the metamodel-based information exchange rules are applicable to its models and instances.

5.6 Information exchange rules

5.6.1 Categories of information exchange rules

As explained in [5.2](#page-7-3) and [5.5,](#page-10-0) for an IoT system including IoT devices (IoT System1), in order to achieve syntactic interoperability with other IoT systems and devices (IoT System2), information exchange rules are adopted. [Figure 3](#page-11-2) shows that the information exchange rules can be classified into two categories.

– Translation rules

Translation rules are created with elements in the metamodels of IoT System1 and IoT System2. Elements in the metamodels are classes, properties, relationships, etc. Transformation rules among these elements are defined and named "translation rules" in order to achieve structure, data format, and syntactic constraints transformations between IoT systems. Required properties for translation rules are specified in [6.2.](#page-13-0)

– Operation rules

Operation rules are specified to resolve mismatches between two IoT systems. Potential operational mismatches that happen during processes of achieving interoperability are detected. To solve these mismatches, necessary properties and available resolutions are specified. Mismatches that cannot be resolved from syntactic viewpoints are out of the scope. Simultaneously, resolutions not based on syntactic approaches for mismatches are also out of the scope. Details of the operation rules are specified in [6.3.](#page-15-0)

The overlapped area includes properties used both in translation rules and operation rules.

5.6.2 Information exchange rules expression

Information exchange rules shall include translation rules among metamodels, and operation rules for IoT syntactic interoperability. Information exchange rules can be expressed in various languages. Some well-known languages such as QVT (Query/View/Transformation [\[17\]\)](#page-42-17), OCL (Object Constraint Language [\[18\]\)](#page-42-18), ATL (Atlas Transformation Language [\[19\]\)](#page-43-0), TGG (Triple graph grammar [\[20\],](#page-43-1) [\[21\]\)](#page-43-2), etc. can be applied to describe information exchange rules among different metamodels and models. This document does not provide new languages for information exchange rules, and sample information exchange rules are described in [Annex B.](#page-37-0) An implementation of this document can define information exchange rules with selected language and data format.

5.6.3 Information exchange rules expression example

```
module Probe2Fiware:
(1)(2)create OUT: Fiware from IN: ProbeVehicle;
(3)-- translation rule: from "name" to "identifier"
(4) rule id {
(5)from
(6)p:Probe!ProbeDataElementType,
(7)pv:Probe!VelocityType
(8)to
(9)v:Fiware!Vehicle schema(
                     id <- p. "ASN.1 name" + p. "ASN.1 object identifier"
(10)(11)\lambda(12) }
(13)(14)- operation rule: if unit mismatch detected dm to m
(15) helper def : transDecimeterToMeter(dm: Integer): Integer =
          dm / 10:(16)
```
Figure 4 – Excerpted information exchange rules for [Annex B](#page-37-4)

Excerpted information exchange rules in ATL for [Annex B](#page-37-4) are listed in [Figure 4.](#page-12-4) In [Figure 4;](#page-12-4)

- loT System1 is a connected vehicle; IoT System2 is a traffic management system (TMS) adopting FIWARE to represent its system. Metamodels of these two systems are defined in line (2) as IN: ProbeVehicle and OUT: Fiware, respectively.
- Lines (4) to (12) show the translation rule of a vehicle "name" and "identifier" to the TMS "name". Properties utilized in translation rules are defined separately in each metamodel [\[22\]](#page-43-3) and [\[23\].](#page-43-4)
- Lines (15) and (16) show an implementation of the operation rule for a unit mismatch resolution. Here, while the unit mismatch is detected, the exchange between different units is specified manually. As explained in [6.3,](#page-15-0) the implementations of resolutions are out of the scope. This example is a guide for implementers.

6 Requirements on information related to IoT devices

6.1 General

In Clause [6,](#page-12-2) requirements on the information which is necessary for IoT syntactic interoperability are described. The information shall be defined in the metamodel or model of an IoT system or an IoT device. The requirements apply to IoT devices for the data exchange among IoT systems, excluding cloud-computing-based back-end services.

In coincidence with the two categories of the information exchange rues described in [5.6.1,](#page-11-1) the requirements for the information related to IoT devices are also classified into two groups: the requirements on translation rules and those on operation rules as shown in [Figure 5.](#page-13-3)

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- Requirements on translation rules are further divided into two groups depending on required properties. One group is "Required intrinsic properties of physical IoT devices" and the other is "Required extrinsic properties of physical IoT devices" [\[24\],](#page-43-5) [\[25\].](#page-43-6) They are specified in [6.2.2](#page-13-2) and [6.2.3,](#page-14-0) respectively. An intrinsic property is defined as a property of a specified subject that exists itself or within the subject, and an extrinsic property is a property not essential or inherent to the subject that is being characterized [\[25\].](#page-43-6)
- Required properties and resolutions for operation rules are specified in [6.3.](#page-15-0)

Figure 5 – Classifications of requirements on information related to IoT devices

6.2 General requirements on the translation rules

6.2.1 General

The translation rules are specified with elements in metamodels of IoT systems. An IoT system contains IoT devices, and the information of IoT devices is represented with properties. In [6.2,](#page-13-0) required properties related to IoT devices for syntactic interoperability are specified.

- No new identification structure nor new data modelling method is specified in this document for IoT syntactic interoperability.
- Existing ID standards and data models adopted in the IoT systems shall be applied if they are used in an IoT system while realizing its syntactic interoperability.
- For each property, no specific property definitions, formats, or classifications are required. But if there are standards for its definition, format, etc., and these standards are used in an IoT system, then the property complying with these standards shall be applied for realizing its IoT syntactic interoperability.

NOTE The above descriptions are to avoid misunderstanding.

6.2.2 Required intrinsic properties of physical IoT devices (IPIoT)

In order to support IoT syntactic interoperability, intrinsic properties of physical IoT devices are required and provided by an IoT system. Available informative intrinsic properties are listed in Clause [A.1.](#page-33-1) Some typical properties utilized in IoT use cases are explained in [Table 1.](#page-14-1)

Table 1 – Required intrinsic properties of physical IoT devices

6.2.3 Required extrinsic properties of physical IoT devices (EPIoT)

In order to support IoT syntactic interoperability, extrinsic properties of physical IoT devices are required and provided by an IoT system. Extrinsic properties shall be defined in a metamodel/model of an IoT device or an IoT system. Available informative extrinsic properties are listed in Clause [A.2.](#page-35-0) Some typical properties utilized in IoT use cases are explained in [Table 2.](#page-15-2)

6.3 General requirements on the operation rules

6.3.1 Overview of mismatches between IoT systems

Required properties and resolutions for operation rules are related to the mismatches between what one IoT system is expecting and what the other IoT system can provide. A mismatch is a difference between these two IoT systems regarding a specified property for data. To accomplish syntactic interoperability, the mismatches between IoT systems are detected by comparing the required properties of two IoT systems. The operation rules are prepared to resolve the mismatches. These required properties and resolutions are defined as requirements on the operation rules.

[Figure 6](#page-16-0) shows the overall procedures for mismatch detection and resolution. Firstly, the mismatch is detected by comparing the required properties. If the property is defined in the metamodel, the translation rule is created to resolve the format and structural differences. After creating the translation rules, the operation rules are created. If the property is not defined in the metamodel, either the metamodel is extended to include the property, or operation rules are directly created.

Figure 6 – A procedure for mismatch detection and resolution

[Figure 7](#page-17-1) shows an example of IoT mismatch and its syntactic resolution. IoT System2 requires data with 3 significant figures for the temperature, while IoT System1 can provide data with 5 significant figures. Required properties for this mismatch are "significantFigure". The "significantFigure" describes the precision or uncertainty of data by the number of digits. The property of IoT System1 has RDF format, while the property of IoT System2 has JSON format, thus they have format differences. They also have structural differences.

In the example in [Figure 7,](#page-17-1) firstly, the mismatch is detected by comparing the "significantFigure" properties. Then, the differences in format and structure are resolved by translation rules. For example, IoT System1's significantFigure property is translated to JSON format: "significantFigure":{"type":"int", "value":5}. Then, the operation rule detects the mismatch by comparing the value of the "significantFigure" property between IoT System1 (i.e. 5) and IoT System2 (i.e. 3). In case that the prepared "syntactic resolution" for this "significantFigure mismatch" is "truncation", a user can implement the "truncation" function to establish interoperability between IoT System1 and IoT System2. Finally, the value or temperature "24.475" is truncated to "24.4" in this case.

These kinds of mismatches are intended to be resolved by the operation rules. However, for each mismatch, it can have resolution methods from various perspectives such as syntactic, semantic, policy-based, etc. Only syntactic resolutions are specified, and resolutions from other aspects of IoT interoperability are out of the scope.

Figure 7 – An example of mismatch detection and resolution

6.3.2 Required properties and syntactic resolutions for potential IoT mismatches

In [6.3.2,](#page-17-0) required properties and syntactic resolutions for potential IoT mismatches are described. [Table 3](#page-18-1) lists the minimal required properties and resolutions for the potential mismatches between IoT systems.

- The required properties and syntactic resolutions for each mismatch are specified.
- The classification of syntactic resolutions (F: Format, S: Structure, C: Syntactic Constraint) is also specified in the "Type" column of [Table 3.](#page-18-1)
- For reference, sample non-syntactic resolutions are explained in the "non-syntactic resolution" column of [Table 3](#page-18-1) to clarify that there can exist other resolutions except syntactic ones.

For reference, the data quality indicators defined in ISO/IEC 25012 [\[26\],](#page-43-7) which might be affected by the mismatches, are described. To avoid degradations of data quality while exchanging information between IoT systems, the resolutions which supplement mismatches shall be considered.

Table 3 – Required properties and resolutions for potential IoT mismatches

6.3.3 Details of required properties and syntactic resolutions for potential IoT mismatches

In [6.3.3,](#page-18-0) each mismatch listed in [Table 3](#page-18-1) is expressed in detail.

For all tables in [6.3.3,](#page-18-0) the "Required property" line defines the property by a pseudo schema in XML format. The "<name>" tag specifies the required name of the property. The "<datatype>" tag adopts IEC 61360-1:2017 [\[27\]](#page-43-8) for its description. Other tags in the XML are for additional information of the property.

The "Function Signature" in "Mismatch detection" and "Syntactic resolution" lines specifies the method name, arguments, and requirements.

– Mismatch1: Synchronization mismatch

See [Table 4.](#page-19-0)

Table 4 – Mismatch1: Synchronization mismatch

– mismatch2: Sampling Frequency mismatch See [Table 5.](#page-20-0)

Table 5 – Mismatch2: Sampling frequency mismatch

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– mismatch3: Location mismatch See [Table 6.](#page-21-0)

Table 6 – Mismatch3: Location mismatch

– mismatch4: Data recording pattern mismatch See [Table 7.](#page-22-0)

Table 7 – Mismatch4: Data recording pattern mismatch

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– mismatch5: Precision mismatch See [Table 8.](#page-23-0)

Table 8 – Mismatch5: Precision mismatch

– mismatch6: Significant figure mismatch See [Table 9.](#page-24-0)

Table 9 – Mismatch6: Significant figure mismatch

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– mismatch7: Range mismatch See [Table](#page-25-0) 10.

Table 10 – Mismatch7:Range mismatch

– mismatch8: Calibration mismatch See [Table](#page-26-0) 11.

Table 11 – Mismatch8: Calibration mismatch

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– mismatch9: Response time mismatch See [Table](#page-27-0) 12.

Table 12 – Mismatch9: Response time mismatch

– Mismatch10: Acquisition status mismatch See [Table](#page-28-0) 13.

Table 13 – Mismatch10: Acquisition status mismatch

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– Mismatch11: Unit mismatch See [Table](#page-29-0) 14.

Table 14 – Mismatch11: Unit mismatch

7 A framework for IoT syntactic interoperability

7.1 General

Figure 8 – A framework for processes on developing information exchange rules related to IoT devices from the syntactic viewpoint

In order to realize the syntactic interoperability between IoT systems, a framework shown in [Figure 8](#page-30-2) shall be provided according to descriptions in Clause [5](#page-7-1) and Clause [6.](#page-12-2) The implementation of the framework is out of the scope.

Procedures in the framework are classified into three groups.

- Procedure A enclosed by a blue dashed line is to prepare necessary properties and resolutions based on the requirements of [6.3.](#page-15-0) This procedure's output is "dataset for operation rules"(DOR).
- Procedure B enclosed by a red dashed line is to create information exchange rules. This procedure's output is "dataset for information exchange rules" (DIER). DIER is composed of DOR and "dataset for translation rules" (DTR).
- Procedure C enclosed by a green dashed line is to execute the information exchange rules and check the result.

In [Figure 8,](#page-30-2) the created DOR shall be reused by IoT systems for syntactic interoperability. And the DIER shall be reused if an IoT system has the same metamodel as Metamodel1 (MM1) or Metamodel2 (MM2).

Once the DOR and DIER are created, Procedure A and Procedure B can be omitted for two IoT systems that are satisfied to reuse DOR and DIER.

7.2 A conceptual model for dataset of operation rules (DOR)

[Figure 9](#page-31-3) shows the conceptual model for DOR. The following requirements apply for the classes shown in [Figure 9.](#page-31-3)

- DOR shall be created through Procedure A, and it shall contain required properties and required resolutions for mismatches defined in [Table 2,](#page-15-2) required intrinsic properties for IoT devices defined in [6.2.2](#page-13-2) and required extrinsic properties for IoT devices specified in [6.2.3.](#page-14-0)
- The class "RequiredPropertyOfMismatch" shall define required properties for mismatches.
- The class "RequiredSetOfIPIoT" shall define required intrinsic properties for IoT devices.
- The class "RequiredSetOfEPIoT" shall define required extrinsic properties for IoT devices.
- The class "RequiredResolutionOfMismatch" shall inherit all properties from the above three classes.
- The class "RequiredResolutionOfMismatch" shall contain possible resolutions for mismatches. Each mismatch in [6.3.3](#page-18-0) is defined as a class, which shall contain the required properties and syntactic resolutions for the mismatch. The class representing each mismatch has a name the same as the title of each mismatch. For example, the "Class:Synchronization mismatch" is defined in accordance with mismatch1 in [6.3.3.](#page-18-0)This class has a property as "latestSynchronizedTime" and a syntactic resolution as "syntacticResolution()". Other classes for mismatches are defined in the same approach.

All entities in this conceptual model shall be flexibly modified, updated, deleted and added according to evolving requirements from IoT systems and IoT devices.

Figure 9 – An excerpted conceptual model of DOR (dataset of operation rules)

7.3 Detailed procedures for a syntactic interoperability framework

7.3.1 Procedure A to prepare the required properties and resolutions

In order to prepare DOR according to descriptions in Clause [6,](#page-12-2) an overall flowchart of Procedure A is illustrated in [Figure 10.](#page-32-2) In this procedure, the following steps shall be equipped. The order of step A1, step A2, and step A3 can be changed.

- In Step A1, properties for IPIoT shall be defined to achieve syntactic interoperability.
- In Step A2, properties for EPIoT shall be defined.
- In Step A3, properties and syntactic resolutions for IoT mismatches shall be defined.
- In Step A4, all defined data shall be saved to DOR. The DOR shall be in coincidence with the conceptual model shown in [Figure 9.](#page-31-3)
- When there are updates on DOR, updated data shall be defined in Step A5 and be saved to an updated DOR.

Figure 10 – Steps of Procedure A

7.3.2 Procedure B to create information exchange rules (DIER)

A general flowchart of Procedure B is shown in [Figure 8](#page-30-2) from step B1 to step B3. Through Procedure B, information exchange rules between two IoT systems can be generated. The following steps are required.

- In step B1, if Metamodel1 (MM1) of IoT System1 and Metamodel2 (MM2) of IoT System2 do not contain mandatory properties required for the syntactic interoperability, then necessary properties shall be considered to be appropriately added to the metamodels.
- In step B2, information exchange rules between MM1 and MM2 shall be created.
- In step B3, created information exchange rules shall be saved as DIER, which shall be utilized to execute information transformation between MM1 and MM2.

Information exchange rules can be one-directional or bi-directional.

The information exchange rules are dependent on MM1 and MM2. IoT systems complying with MM1 and MM2 can reuse these information exchange rules for their syntactic interoperability.

7.3.3 Procedure C to execute the information exchange rules and check the result

A flowchart of Procedure C is shown in [Figure 8,](#page-30-2) enclosed by a green dashed line. Through Procedure C, Model1 and data in IoT System1 can be transformed into an IoT System2 or vice versa. In Procedure C, the following steps shall be installed.

- In step C1, data in IoT System1, i.e. MM1 and Model1 in IoT System1, and the created information exchange rules shall be input to execute the information transformation.
- Through step C1, Model1 is transformed to Model1' which shall be in accordance with MM2, the metamodel of IoT System2.
- In step C2, it shall be checked whether Model1' complies with MM2. If Model1' complies with MM2, then Model1' can be understood and utilized by IoT System2.

Through procedures in Clause [7,](#page-30-0) the syntactic interoperability between IoT System1 and IoT System2 can be achieved with the created information exchange rules based on their metamodels.

Annex A

(informative)

Properties for physical IoT devices and data

A.1 Intrinsic properties of physical IoT devices

Possible intrinsic properties of physical IoT devices are listed in [Table](#page-33-2) A.1. This list can be evolved in accordance with requirements from IoT devices and IoT systems.

Table A.1 – Intrinsic properties of physical IoT devices

A.2 Extrinsic properties of physical IoT devices

Possible extrinsic properties of physical IoT devices are listed in [Table](#page-36-0) A.2. This list can be evolved in accordance with requirements from IoT devices and IoT systems.

Table A.2 – Extrinsic properties of physical IoT devices

Annex B

(informative)

A use case

B.1 General

A use case achieving IoT syntactic interoperability is introduced in [Annex B.](#page-37-0)

B.2 The use case overview: Connected car and vehicle in smart city

This use case introduces how to realize syntactic interoperability between connected cars and smart city vehicle data models with information exchange rules of their metamodels.

In this use case, the information model and data requirements for a connected car in ISO 22837 [\[30\]](#page-43-11) and ISO 14817-1:2015 [\[31\]](#page-43-12) are utilized. The information model defined in Annex A of ISO 22837:2009 [\[30\]](#page-43-11) is accepted as the metamodel MM1 for the probe data of a connected car. This information model uses the subset of UML identified in ISO 14817-1:2015 [\[31\].](#page-43-12)

The vehicle data model [\[22\]](#page-43-3) in the FIWARE data model [\[23\]](#page-43-4) for smart cities is accepted as the metamodel MM2 for vehicles.

An overview of this use case is illustrated in [Figure](#page-37-3) B.1. How the information exchange rules based on the metamodels of connected cars (MM1) and a vehicle in FIWARE (MM2) can be applied to support their syntactic interoperability is described.

Figure B.1 – Overall view of use case 1

B.3 A scenario of this use case

B.3.1 The architecture of this use case

As shown in [Figure](#page-38-3) B.2, based on Figure 11 of ISO/IEC 30141:2018 [\[32\],](#page-43-13) a connected car can be recognized as one IoT device. It can share its probe data including environment data, etc. defined in ISO 22837 [\[30\]](#page-43-11) with sub-systems that include vehicle and related definitions in the FIWARE data model. In this use case, one sub-system – traffic management system – can be used to communicate with a connected car.

NOTE Based on Figure 11 of ISO/IEC 30141:2018.

Figure B.2 – Architecture of connected car and vehicle in smart city use case

B.3.2 Scenario: Data exchange between a connected car and a traffic management system (TMS)

Figure B.3 – Information exchange between a car and a TMS

A scenario shown in [Figure](#page-38-4) B.3 is described to explain the information exchange between a connected car and a TMS based on the architecture of [Figure](#page-38-3) B.2.

- The car includes the probe data, and the traffic management system includes the vehicle and related definitions in the FIWARE data model. And the car can communicate with the TMS.
- This scenario is a simple use case for a car to avoid traffic congestion with a recommended driving path from the TMS.
- The purpose of this scenario is to help readers to grasp how the information exchange based on metamodels can be realized.

Details of this scenario are as follows.

- a) The car sends to the TMS information such as its location and its velocity.
- b) The TMS then requires the car to share its destination information.
- c) The car sends to the TMS its destination information such as destination(point), its around obstacle information such as the direction, distance of the obstacle.
- d) The TMS further requires the car to share its environmental information.
- e) The car sends to the TMS its environment information such as its around temperature, rainfallIntensity, and lightCondition.
- f) The TMS finally sends to the car a recommended driving path.

Through the above steps, the probe data of a car can be exchanged with the vehicle-related data of the TMS. The metamodels, models, and data of this scenario are included in the example of Clause [B.2](#page-37-2)

B.4 Examples used in this use case

B.4.1 General

In this use case, MM1 and its model are described in the XML format. MM2 and its model are described with JSON. Files for this use case will be publicly available on https://github.com/21823-4/usecases/.

B.4.2 Illustrated example files and their relationships

Figure B.4 – Relationships of example files for this use case

[Figure](#page-40-1) B.4 shows relationships among MM1, Model1 with its sample instance, MM2, and Model2 with its sample instance.

- MM1 is the metamodel for probe data of connected cars.
- Model1 is an instance of MM1. It can define its sensing data for a location with "latitude", "longitude" and "altitude", as specified in MM1. Excerpted XML file for Model1 and its instance is listed on the left side of [Figure](#page-40-1) B.4. The XML tags such as <latitude>, <degree> and <confidence> are from its metamodel.
- MM2 is the metamodel for vehicle and related definitions in FIWARE data models.
- Model2 is an instance of MM2. It can define its location with a geo:json format which needs to be described as (longitude, latitude, elevation) according to MM2 specifications. Excerpted JSON file for Model2 and its instance is listed on the right side of [Figure](#page-40-1) B.4. The "key" of JSON files such as "location" and its value format must correspond to its metamodel.
- Excerpted information exchange rules between MM1 and MM2 are defined with ATL (Atlas Transformation Language [\[19\]\)](#page-43-0). The information exchange rules can be defined as bidirectional.
- With a rule interpreter, Model1 and its data can be transformed to Model2 and corresponding data, and vice versa.

In conclusion, the probe data of a car can be exchanged with the vehicle-related data of the TMS.

Annex C

(informative)

Other metamodel definitions

Several definitions of metamodel listed in ISO/IEC/IEEE 24765:2017 [\[11\]](#page-42-11) are represented in [Table](#page-41-1) C.1.

Table C.1 – Definitions of metamodel in various resources

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