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**Geographic information — Geography
Markup Language (GML) —**

**Part 1:
Fundamentals**

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Contents

	Page
Foreword	x
Introduction	xii
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Terms, definitions, symbols and abbreviated terms	2
3.1 Terms and definitions	2
3.2 Abbreviated terms	9
4 Conformance	10
4.1 Conformance requirements	10
4.2 Conformance classes related to GML application schemas	10
4.3 Conformance classes related to GML profiles	11
4.4 Conformance classes related to GML documents	12
4.5 Conformance classes related to software implementations	12
5 Conventions	13
5.1 XML namespaces	13
5.2 Versioning	13
5.3 Deprecated parts of previous versions of GML	13
5.4 UML notation	13
5.5 XML Schema	15
6 Overview of the GML schema	15
6.1 GML schema	15
6.2 GML application schemas	15
6.3 Relationship between the ISO 19100 series of International Standards, the GML schema and GML application schemas	16
6.4 Organization of this document	17
6.5 Deprecated and experimental schema components	18
7 GML schema — General rules and base schema components	19
7.1 GML model and syntax	19
7.1.1 GML instance documents	19
7.1.2 Lexical conventions	20
7.1.3 XML Schema definition of GML language	20
7.2 gmlBase schema components	21
7.2.1 Goals of base schema components	21
7.2.2 Base objects	21
7.2.3 GML properties	22
7.2.4 Standard properties of GML objects	27
7.2.5 Collections of GML objects	27
7.2.6 Metadata	28
8 GML schema — Xlinks and basic types	31
8.1 Xlinks — Object associations and remote properties	31
8.2 Basic types	33
8.2.1 Overview	33
8.2.2 Relationship with ISO 19103	33
8.2.3 Simple types	33
8.2.4 Lists	38
9 GML schema — Features	40
9.1 General concepts	40
9.2 Relationship with ISO 19109	40
9.3 Features	41
9.3.1 AbstractFeatureType	41
9.3.2 AbstractFeature	41

9.4	Standard feature properties	41
9.4.1	boundedBy, BoundingShapeType, EnvelopeWithTimePeriod, EnvelopeWithTimePeriodType	41
9.4.2	locationName, locationReference	42
9.4.3	FeaturePropertyType, FeatureArrayPropertyType	43
9.5	Geometry properties	43
9.6	Topology properties	44
9.7	Temporal properties	45
9.8	Defining application-specific feature types	46
9.9	Feature collections	47
9.9.1	GML feature collections	47
9.9.2	AbstractFeatureMemberType and derived property types	48
9.10	Spatial reference system used in a feature or feature collection	48
10	GML schema — Geometric primitives	49
10.1	General concepts	49
10.1.1	Overview	49
10.1.2	Relationship with ISO 19107	49
10.1.3	Abstract geometry	50
10.1.4	Coordinate geometry, vectors and envelopes	52
10.2	Abstract geometric primitives	54
10.2.1	AbstractGeometricPrimitiveType, AbstractGeometricPrimitive	54
10.2.2	GeometricPrimitivePropertyType	55
10.3	Geometric primitives (0-dimensional)	55
10.3.1	PointType, Point	55
10.3.2	PointPropertyType, pointProperty	55
10.3.3	PointArrayPropertyType, pointArrayProperty	56
10.4	Geometric primitives (1-dimensional)	56
10.4.1	AbstractCurveType, AbstractCurve	56
10.4.2	CurvePropertyType, curveProperty	56
10.4.3	CurveArrayPropertyType, curveArrayProperty	57
10.4.4	LineStringType, LineString	57
10.4.5	CurveType, Curve	57
10.4.6	OrientableCurveType, OrientableCurve, baseCurve	58
10.4.7	Curve segments	58
10.5	Geometric primitives (2-dimensional)	67
10.5.1	AbstractSurfaceType, AbstractSurface	67
10.5.2	SurfacePropertyType, surfaceProperty	68
10.5.3	SurfaceArrayPropertyType, surfaceArrayProperty	68
10.5.4	PolygonType, Polygon	68
10.5.5	exterior, interior	68
10.5.6	AbstractRingType, AbstractRing	69
10.5.7	AbstractRingPropertyType	69
10.5.8	LinearRingType, LinearRing	69
10.5.9	LinearRingPropertyType	70
10.5.10	SurfaceType, Surface	70
10.5.11	OrientableSurfaceType, OrientableSurface, baseSurface	70
10.5.12	Surface patches	72
10.6	Geometric primitives (3-dimensional)	76
10.6.1	AbstractSolidType, AbstractSolid	76
10.6.2	SolidPropertyType, solidProperty	76
10.6.3	SolidArrayPropertyType, solidArrayProperty	77
10.6.4	SolidType, Solid	77
10.6.5	ShellType, Shell	77
10.6.6	ShellPropertyType	78
11	GML schema — Geometric complex, geometric composites and geometric aggregates	78
11.1	Overview	78
11.2	Geometric complex and geometric composites	79

11.2.1	Geometric complex	79
11.2.2	Composite geometries	79
11.3	Geometric aggregates	81
11.3.1	Aggregates of unspecified dimensionality	81
11.3.2	0-Dimensional aggregates	82
11.3.3	1-Dimensional aggregates	83
11.3.4	2-Dimensional aggregates	84
11.3.5	3-Dimensional aggregates	85
12	GML schema — Coordinate reference systems schemas	85
12.1	Overview	85
12.1.1	General	85
12.1.2	Relationship with ISO 19111	86
12.1.3	Important XML elements	86
12.2	Reference systems	87
12.2.1	Overview	87
12.2.2	IdentifiedObjectType	88
12.2.3	Abstract coordinate reference system	88
12.3	Coordinate reference systems	89
12.3.1	Overview	89
12.3.2	Abstract coordinate reference systems	89
12.3.3	Concrete coordinate reference systems	90
12.4	Coordinate systems	96
12.4.1	Overview	96
12.4.2	Coordinate system axes	96
12.4.3	Abstract coordinate system	97
12.4.4	Concrete coordinate systems	98
12.5	Datums	103
12.5.1	Overview	103
12.5.2	Abstract datum	103
12.5.3	Geodetic datum	104
12.5.4	Other concrete datums	106
12.6	Coordinate operations	108
12.6.1	Overview	108
12.6.2	Abstract coordinate operations	109
12.6.3	Concrete coordinate operations	112
12.6.4	Parameter values and groups	115
12.6.5	Operation method	117
12.6.6	Operation parameters and groups	118
13	GML schema — Topology	120
13.1	General concepts	120
13.1.1	Overview	120
13.1.2	Relationship with ISO 19107	120
13.2	Abstract topology	121
13.3	Topological primitives	121
13.3.1	Abstract topological primitives	121
13.3.2	Topological primitives (0-dimensional)	121
13.3.3	Topological primitives (1-dimensional)	122
13.3.4	Topological primitives (2-dimensional)	123
13.3.5	Topological primitives (3-dimensional)	124
13.4	Topological collections	125
13.4.1	Topological collection (0-dimensional)	125
13.4.2	Topological collection (1-dimensional)	126
13.4.3	Topological collection (2-dimensional)	126
13.4.4	Topological collection (3-dimensional)	127
13.5	Topology complex	127
13.5.1	TopoComplexType, TopoComplex	127
13.5.2	Maximal, sub- and super-complexes	128

	13.5.3	topoPrimitiveMember	128
	13.5.4	topoPrimitiveMembers	128
	13.5.5	TopoComplexPropertyType, topoComplexProperty	128
14		GML schema — Temporal information and dynamic features	129
14.1		General concepts	129
	14.1.1	Overview	129
	14.1.2	Relationship with ISO 19108	130
14.2		Temporal schema	130
	14.2.1	Abstract temporal objects	130
	14.2.2	Temporal geometry	132
14.3		Temporal topology schema	137
	14.3.1	General	137
	14.3.2	Temporal topology objects	137
14.4		Temporal reference systems	140
	14.4.1	Overview	140
	14.4.2	Basic temporal reference system, TimeReferenceSystem	140
	14.4.3	TimeCoordinateSystem	141
	14.4.4	Calendars and clocks	142
	14.4.5	Ordinal temporal reference systems	144
14.5		Representing dynamic features	146
	14.5.1	Overview	146
	14.5.2	dataSource	146
	14.5.3	Dynamic properties	147
	14.5.4	DynamicFeature	147
	14.5.5	DynamicFeatureCollection	147
	14.5.6	AbstractTimeSlice	148
	14.5.7	history	149
15		GML schema — Definitions and dictionaries	150
15.1		Overview	150
15.2		Dictionary schema	151
	15.2.1	Definition, DefinitionType, remarks	151
	15.2.2	Dictionary, DictionaryType	151
	15.2.3	dictionaryEntry, DictionaryEntryType	152
	15.2.4	Using definitions and dictionaries	152
16		GML schema — Units, measures and values	153
16.1		Introduction	153
16.2		Units schema	154
	16.2.1	Overview	154
	16.2.2	Using unit definitions	154
	16.2.3	unitOfMeasure, UnitOfMeasureType	154
	16.2.4	UnitDefinition, UnitDefinitionType	155
	16.2.5	quantityType, quantityTypeReference	155
	16.2.6	catalogSymbol	155
	16.2.7	BaseUnit, BaseUnitType, unitsSystem	155
	16.2.8	DerivedUnit, DerivedUnitType	156
	16.2.9	derivationUnitTerms, DerivationUnitTermType	156
	16.2.10	ConventionalUnit, ConventionalUnitType	156
	16.2.11	conversionToPreferredUnit, roughConversionToPreferredUnit, ConversionToPreferredUnitType, FormulaType	157
	16.2.12	Example of units dictionary <informative>	158
16.3		Measures schema	159
	16.3.1	Overview	159
	16.3.2	measure	159
	16.3.3	Scalar measure types	159
	16.3.4	angle	160
16.4		Value objects schema	160
	16.4.1	Introduction	160

16.4.2	Value element hierarchy	160
16.4.3	Boolean, BooleanList	161
16.4.4	Category, CategoryList	161
16.4.5	Count, CountList	162
16.4.6	Quantity, QuantityList	162
16.4.7	AbstractValue, AbstractScalarValue, AbstractScalarValueList	163
16.4.8	Value	163
16.4.9	valueProperty, valueComponent, valueComponents	163
16.4.10	CompositeValue	164
16.4.11	ValueArray	165
16.4.12	Typed ValueExtents: CategoryExtent, CountExtent, QuantityExtent	166
16.4.13	BooleanPropertyType, CategoryPropertyType, CountPropertyType, QuantityPropertyType	167
17	GML schema — Directions	167
17.1	Direction schema	167
17.2	direction, DirectionPropertyType	167
17.3	DirectionVectorType	167
17.4	DirectionDescriptionType	168
18	GML schema — Observations	169
18.1	Observations	169
18.2	Observation schema	169
18.2.1	Overview	169
18.2.2	Observation	169
18.2.3	using	170
18.2.4	target	170
18.2.5	resultOf	171
18.2.6	DirectedObservation	171
18.2.7	DirectedObservationAtDistance	172
19	GML schema — Coverages	173
19.1	The coverage model and representations	173
19.1.1	General remarks	173
19.1.2	Formal description of a coverage	174
19.1.3	Coverage in GML	174
19.1.4	Relationship with ISO 19123	175
19.2	Grids schema	175
19.2.1	Overview	175
19.2.2	Grid	175
19.2.3	RectifiedGrid	176
19.3	Coverage schema	178
19.3.1	AbstractCoverageType, AbstractCoverage	178
19.3.2	DiscreteCoverageType, AbstractDiscreteCoverage	178
19.3.3	AbstractContinuousCoverageType, AbstractContinuousCoverage	178
19.3.4	domainSet, DomainSetType	179
19.3.5	rangeSet, RangeSetType	179
19.3.6	DataBlock	180
19.3.7	rangeParameters	180
19.3.8	tupleList	180
19.3.9	doubleOrNilReasonTupleList	181
19.3.10	File, FileType	181
19.3.11	coverageFunction, CoverageFunctionType	182
19.3.12	CoverageMappingRule	183
19.3.13	GridFunction, GridFunctionType	184
19.3.14	sequenceRule, SequenceRuleType, SequenceRuleEnumeration	184
19.3.15	Specific Coverage Types in GML	185
19.3.16	MultiPointCoverage	185
19.3.17	MultiCurveCoverage	186
19.3.18	MultiSurfaceCoverage	187

	19.3.19 MultiSolidCoverage.....	189
	19.3.20 GridCoverage.....	189
	19.3.21 RectifiedGridCoverage.....	190
20	Profiles.....	191
	20.1 Profiles of GML and application schemas.....	191
	20.2 Definition of profile.....	191
	20.3 Relation to application schema.....	191
	20.4 Rules for elements and types in a profile.....	192
	20.5 Rules for referencing GML profiles from application schemas.....	192
	20.6 Recommendations for application schemas using GML profiles.....	193
	20.7 Summary of rules for GML profiles.....	193
21	Rules for GML application schemas.....	194
	21.1 Instances of GML objects.....	194
	21.1.1 GML documents.....	194
	21.1.2 GML object elements in other XML documents.....	194
	21.2 GML application schemas.....	194
	21.2.1 General.....	194
	21.2.2 Target namespace.....	196
	21.2.3 Import GML schema.....	196
	21.2.4 Object type derivation.....	196
	21.2.5 Elements representing objects.....	196
	21.2.6 Property type derivation.....	196
	21.2.7 Elements representing properties.....	197
	21.3 Schemas defining Features and Feature Collections.....	197
	21.3.1 General.....	197
	21.3.2 Import GML schema components.....	197
	21.3.3 Elements representing features.....	198
	21.3.4 Application features are features.....	198
	21.4 Schemas defining spatial geometries.....	198
	21.4.1 Import GML geometry schema components.....	198
	21.4.2 User-defined geometry types and geometry property types.....	198
	21.5 Schemas defining spatial topologies.....	199
	21.5.1 Import GML topology schema components.....	199
	21.5.2 User-defined topology types and topology property types.....	200
	21.6 Schemas defining time.....	200
	21.6.1 Import GML temporal schema components.....	200
	21.6.2 User-defined temporal types and temporal property types.....	200
	21.7 Schemas defining coordinate reference systems.....	201
	21.7.1 General.....	201
	21.7.2 Import GML coordinate reference system schema components.....	202
	21.8 Schemas defining coverages.....	202
	21.8.1 General.....	202
	21.8.2 Import GML coverage schema components.....	202
	21.8.3 User-defined coverage types.....	202
	21.8.4 Range parameters shall be substitutable for AbstractValue.....	202
	21.8.5 Coverage document.....	203
	21.9 Schemas defining observations.....	203
	21.9.1 General.....	203
	21.9.2 Import GML observation schema components.....	203
	21.9.3 User-defined observation types.....	204
	21.9.4 Observation collections.....	204
	21.9.5 Observations are features.....	204
	21.9.6 Observation collection document.....	204
	21.10 Schemas defining dictionaries and definitions.....	204
	21.10.1 General.....	204
	21.10.2 Import GML dictionary schema components.....	204
	21.10.3 User-defined definition types.....	204

21.10.4	User-defined dictionary types.....	205
21.11	Schemas defining values.....	205
21.11.1	General.....	205
21.11.2	Import GML value objects schema components.....	205
21.11.3	Construction of new value types.....	205
21.12	GML profiles of the GML schema.....	205
Annex A	(normative) Abstract test suites for GML application schemas, GML profiles and GML documents	208
Annex B	(normative) Abstract test suite for software implementations	222
Annex C	(informative) GML schema	226
Annex D	(normative) Implemented profile of the ISO 19100 series of International Standards and extensions	228
Annex E	(normative) UML-to-GML application schema encoding rules	289
Annex F	(normative) GML-to-UML application schema encoding rules	308
Annex G	(informative) Guidelines for subsetting the GML schema	317
Annex H	(informative) Default styling	329
Annex I	(informative) Backwards compatibility with earlier versions of GML	339
Annex J	(informative) Modularization and dependencies	355
Bibliography	357

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 211, *Geographic information/Geomatics*.

This first edition of ISO 19136-1 cancels and replaces ISO 19136:2007, which has been technically revised.

The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

- The Geography Markup Language (GML) was originally developed within the Open Geospatial Consortium, Inc. (OGC). ISO 19136 was prepared by ISO/TC 211 jointly with the OGC. This edition of this document is a revision to GML 3.2.1 (ISO 19136:2007). It addresses the OGC Change Request 12-092 (gml:id attribute on LinearRing) by applying the following changes:
 - the XML attribute gml:id in gml:AbstractGMLType has been made optional;
 - the elements gml:AbstractRing and gml:Shell have been added to the substitutionGroups gml:AbstractCurve and gml:AbstractSurface respectively;
 - the types gml:AbstractRingType and gml:ShellType are now extended from base types gml:AbstractCurveType and gml:AbstractSurfaceType respectively;

These changes correct inconsistencies with ISO 19107 without breaking the validity of instance documents created using the GML 3.2.1 schema. i.e. all GML 3.2 instance documents that are valid against the GML 3.2.1 schema are also valid against the GML 3.2.2 schema.

The corrected GML 3.2 schema is available at <http://schemas.opengis.net/gml/3.2.1/>. Note that the use of "3.2.1" in the URL is unchanged since this version (3.2.2) replaces the GML 3.2.1 schema. Previous versions of the GML 3.2.1 schema are available at http://schemas.opengis.net/gml/gml-3_2_1.zip.

The change to the gml:id attribute reverts a change that has been made between GML 3.1.1 and GML 3.2.1. Reverting this change also addresses comments raised by several communities since the release of GML 3.2.1 / ISO 19136:2007.

As the correction relaxes a constraint in the XML schema, not all instance documents created based on the GML 3.2.2 schema will be valid against the GML 3.2.1 schema:

- all GML 3.2 instance documents that include a gml:id attribute on a ring or shell element are not valid against the GML 3.2.1 schema;
- all GML 3.2 instance documents that include a feature, a spatial object or a temporal object without a gml:id attribute are not valid against the GML 3.2.1 schema.

Local copies of the GML 3.2.1 schema documents have to be replaced by the GML 3.2.2 schema documents – or be replaced by links to <http://schemas.opengis.net/gml/3.2.1/gml.xsd>.

- URIs have been updated, mainly in examples, where OGC policies have changed since the release of GML 3.2.1 (location of the Xlink schema document, use of OGC HTTP URIs for coordinate reference systems).
- The reference to the normative schema documents in [Annex C](#) now refers to the OGC schema repository. Previously, copies of the GML schema were also published on ISO servers, but the schema documents were not always synchronized. Going forward, all references to the normative GML schema document should go to <http://schemas.opengis.net/gml/>.

A list of all parts in the ISO 19136 series can be found on the ISO website.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

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Introduction

Geography Markup Language (GML) is an XML grammar written in XML Schema for the description of application schemas as well as the transport and storage of geographic information.

The key concepts used by GML to model the world are drawn from the ISO 19100 series of International Standards and the OpenGIS Abstract Specification.

A feature is an “abstraction of real world phenomena” (ISO 19101); it is a geographic feature if it is associated with a location relative to the Earth so a digital representation of the real world may be thought of as a set of features. The state of a feature is defined by a set of properties, where each property may be thought of as a {name, type, value} triple.

The number of properties a feature may have, together with their names and types, is determined by its type definition. Geographic features with geometry are those with properties that may be geometry-valued. A feature collection is a collection of features that may itself be regarded as a feature; as a consequence a feature collection has a feature type and thus may have distinct properties of its own, in addition to the features it contains.

Following ISO 19109, the feature types of an application or application domain is usually captured in an application schema. A GML application schema is specified in XML Schema and can be constructed in two different and alternative ways:

- by adhering to the rules specified in ISO 19109 for application schemas in UML, and conforming to both the constraints on such schemas and the rules for mapping them to GML application schemas specified in this document;
- by adhering to the rules for GML application schemas specified in this document for creating a GML application schema directly in XML Schema.

Both ways are supported by this document. To ensure proper use of the conceptual modelling framework of the ISO 19100 series of International Standards, all application schemas are expected to be modelled in accordance with the General Feature Model as specified in ISO 19109. Within the ISO 19100 series, UML is the preferred language by which to model conceptual schemas.

GML specifies XML encodings, conformant with ISO 19118, of several of the conceptual classes defined in the ISO 19100 series of International Standards and the OpenGIS Abstract Specification. These conceptual models include those defined in:

- ISO/TS 19103 — Conceptual schema language (units of measure, basic types);
- ISO 19107 — Spatial schema (geometry and topology objects);
- ISO 19108 — Temporal schema (temporal geometry and topology objects, temporal reference systems);
- ISO 19109 — Rules for application schemas (features);
- ISO 19111 — Spatial referencing by coordinates (coordinate reference systems);
- ISO 19123 — Schema for coverage geometry and functions.

The aim is to provide a standardized encoding (i.e. a standardized implementation in XML) of types specified in the conceptual models specified by the International Standards listed above. If every application schema were encoded independently and the encoding process included the types from, for example, ISO 19108, then, without unambiguous and completely fixed encoding rules, the XML encodings would be different. Also, since every implementation platform has specific strengths and weaknesses, it is helpful to standardize XML encodings for core geographic information concepts modelled in the ISO 19100 series of International Standards and commonly used in application schemas.

In many cases, the mapping from the conceptual classes is straightforward, while in some cases the mapping is more complex (a detailed description of the mapping is part of this document).

In addition, GML provides XML encodings for additional concepts not yet modelled in the ISO 19100 series of International Standards or the OpenGIS Abstract Specification, for example, dynamic features, simple observations or value objects.

Predefined types of geographic features in GML include coverages and simple observations.

A coverage is a subtype of feature that has a coverage function with a spatiotemporal domain and a value set range of homogeneous 1- to n -dimensional tuples. A coverage may represent one feature or a collection of features “to model and make visible spatial relationships between, and the spatial distribution of, Earth phenomena” (OGC Abstract Specification Topic 6^[18]) and a coverage “acts as a function to return values from its range for any direct position within its spatiotemporal domain” (ISO 19123).

An observation models the act of observing, often with a camera or some other procedure, a person or some form of instrument (Merriam-Webster Dictionary: “an act of recognizing and noting a fact or occurrence often involving measurement with instruments”). An observation is considered to be a GML feature with a time at which the observation took place, and with a value for the observation.

A reference system provides a scale of measurement for assigning values to a position, time or other descriptive quantity or quality.

A coordinate reference system consists of a set of coordinate system axes that is related to the Earth through a datum that defines the size and shape of the Earth.

A temporal reference system provides standard units for measuring time and describing temporal length or duration.

A reference system dictionary provides definitions of reference systems used in spatial or temporal geometries.

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Spatial geometries are the values of spatial feature properties. They indicate the coordinate reference system in which their measurements have been made. The “parent” geometry element of a geometric complex or geometric aggregate makes this indication for its constituent geometries.

Temporal geometries are the values of temporal feature properties. Like their spatial counterparts, temporal geometries indicate the temporal reference system in which their measurements have been made.

Spatial or temporal topologies are used to express the different topological relationships between features.

A units of measure dictionary provides definitions of numerical measures of physical quantities, e.g. length, temperature and pressure, and of conversions between units.

NOTE This document makes reference to ISO 19107:2003 and ISO 19111:2007 (withdrawn standards, replaced by 2019 versions) because this edition of ISO 19136-1 is still an XML implementation of the previous edition of ISO 19107 and other standards.

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Geographic information — Geography Markup Language (GML) —

Part 1: Fundamentals

1 Scope

The Geography Markup Language (GML) is an XML encoding in accordance with ISO 19118 for the transport and storage of geographic information modelled in accordance with the conceptual modelling framework used in the ISO 19100 series of International Standards and including both the spatial and non-spatial properties of geographic features.

This document defines the XML Schema syntax, mechanisms and conventions that:

- provide an open, vendor-neutral framework for the description of geospatial application schemas for the transport and storage of geographic information in XML;
- allow profiles that support proper subsets of GML framework descriptive capabilities;
- support the description of geospatial application schemas for specialized domains and information communities;
- enable the creation and maintenance of linked geographic application schemas and datasets;
- support the storage and transport of application schemas and datasets;
- increase the ability of organizations to share geographic application schemas and the information they describe.

Implementers can decide to store geographic application schemas and information in GML, or they can decide to convert from some other storage format on demand and use GML only for schema and data transport.

NOTE If an ISO 19109 conformant application schema described in UML is used as the basis for the storage and transportation of geographic information, this document provides normative rules for the mapping of such an application schema to a GML application schema in XML Schema and, as such, to an XML encoding for data with a logical structure in accordance with the ISO 19109 conformant application schema.

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 8601-1, *Date and time — Representations for information interchange — Part 1: Basic rules*

ISO/IEC 11404:2007, *Information technology — General-Purpose Datatypes (GPD)*

ISO 19108:2002, *Geographic information — Temporal schema*

ISO 19123:2005, *Geographic information — Schema for coverage geometry and functions*

ISO/IEC 19757-3, *Information technology — Document Schema Definition Languages (DSDL) — Part 3: Rule-based validation — Schematron*