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Industrial automation systems and integration — Product data representation and exchange —

Part 11: Description methods: The EXPRESS language reference manual

*Systèmes d'automatisation industrielle et intégration — Représentation
et échange de données de produits —*

*Partie 11: Méthodes de description: Manuel de référence du langage
EXPRESS*



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ISO 10303-11 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 184, *Industrial automation systems and integration*, Subcommittee SC 4, *Industrial data*.

This second edition of ISO 10303-11 constitutes a minor revision of the first edition (ISO 10303-11:1994), which is provisionally retained in order to support continued use and maintenance of implementations based on the first edition and to satisfy the normative references of other parts of ISO 10303. This second edition also incorporates the Technical Corrigendum ISO 10303-11:1994/Cor.1:1999(E).

ISO 10303 is organized as a series of parts, each published separately. The structure of ISO 10303 is described in ISO 10303-1.

Each part of ISO 10303 is a member of one of the following series: description methods, implementation methods, conformance testing methodology and framework, integrated generic resources, integrated application resources, application protocols, abstract test suites, application interpreted constructs, and application modules. This part is a member of the description methods series.

A complete list of parts of ISO 10303 is available from the Internet:

<<http://www.tc184-sc4.org/titles/>>

0.1 General

ISO 10303 is an International Standard for the computer-interpretable representation of product information and for the exchange of product data. The objective is to provide a neutral mechanism capable of describing products throughout their life cycle. This mechanism is suitable not only for neutral file exchange, but also as a basis for implementing and sharing product databases, and as a basis for archiving.

This part of ISO 10303 specifies the elements of the EXPRESS language. Each element of the language is presented in its own context with examples. Simple elements are introduced first, then more complex ideas are presented in an incremental manner.

The changes that lead to this edition were driven by requirements from multi-schema specifications. The new concepts constitute an architecture for extensible data models. The following keywords have been added to this edition:

- BASED_ON;
- END_SUBTYPE_CONSTRAINT;
- EXTENSIBLE;
- GENERIC_ENTITY;
- RENAMED;
- SUBTYPE_CONSTRAINT;
- TOTAL_OVER;
- WITH.

Schemas that contain these words as EXPRESS identifiers become invalid under this edition. Else, the modifications that are incorporated in this edition are upwardly compatible with the previous edition.

0.2 Language overview

EXPRESS is the name of a formal information requirements specification language. It is used to specify the information requirements of other parts of ISO 10303. It is based on a number of design goals among which are:

- the size and complexity of ISO 10303 demands that the language be parsable by both computers and humans. Expressing the information elements of ISO 10303 in a less formal manner would eliminate the possibility of employing computer automation in checking for inconsistencies in presentation or for creating any number of secondary views, including implementation views;
- the language is designed to enable partitioning of the diverse material addressed by ISO 10303. The schema is the basis for partitioning and intercommunication;

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of a domain and the constraints on that domain;

- the language seeks to avoid, as far as possible, specific implementation views. However, it is possible to manufacture implementation views (such as static file exchange) in an automatic and straightforward manner.

In EXPRESS, entities are defined in terms of attributes: the traits or characteristics considered important for use and understanding. These attributes have a representation which might be a simple data type (such as integer) or another entity type. A geometric point might be defined in terms of three real numbers. Names are given to the attributes which contribute to the definition of an entity. Thus, for a geometric point the three real numbers might be named *x*, *y* and *z*. A relationship is established between the entity being defined and the attributes that define it, and, in a similar manner, between the attribute and its representation.

NOTE 1 A number of languages have contributed to EXPRESS, in particular, Ada, Algol, C, C++, Euler, Modula-2, Pascal, PL/I and SQL. Some facilities have been invented to make EXPRESS more suitable for the job of expressing an information model.

NOTE 2 The examples of EXPRESS usage in this manual do not conform to any particular style rules. Indeed, the examples sometimes use poor style to conserve space or to show flexibility. The examples are not intended to reflect the content of the information models defined in other parts of ISO 10303. They are crafted to show particular features of EXPRESS. Any similarity between the examples and the normative information models specified in other parts of ISO 10303 should be ignored.