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# SPECIFICATION

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## **Automation systems and integration — Object-Process Methodology**

*Systèmes d'automatisation et intégration — Object-Process  
Methodology*



Reference number  
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## Contents

	Page
<b>Foreword</b> .....	<b>vi</b>
<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>vii</b>
<b>1 Scope</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>2 Normative references</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>3 Terms and definitions</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>4 Symbols</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>5 Conformance</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>6 OPM principles and concepts</b> .....	<b>10</b>
6.1 OPM modelling principles.....	10
6.1.1 Modelling as a purpose-serving activity.....	10
6.1.2 Unification of function, structure, and behaviour.....	11
6.1.3 Identifying functional value.....	11
6.1.4 Function versus behaviour.....	11
6.1.5 System boundary setting.....	12
6.1.6 Clarity and completeness trade-off.....	12
6.2 OPM Fundamental concepts.....	12
6.2.1 Bimodal representation.....	12
6.2.2 OPM modelling elements.....	12
6.2.3 OPM things: objects and processes.....	13
6.2.4 OPM links: procedural and structural.....	13
6.2.5 OPM context management.....	14
6.2.6 OPM model implementation.....	14
<b>7 OPM thing syntax and semantics</b> .....	<b>15</b>
7.1 Objects.....	15
7.1.1 Description.....	15
7.1.2 Representation.....	15
7.2 Processes.....	15
7.2.1 Description.....	15
7.2.2 Representation.....	16
7.3 OPM things.....	16
7.3.1 OPM thing defined.....	16
7.3.2 Object-process test.....	16
7.3.3 OPM thing generic properties.....	17
7.3.4 Default values of thing generic properties.....	18
7.3.5 Object states.....	18
<b>8 OPM link syntax and semantics overview</b> .....	<b>20</b>
8.1 Procedural link overview.....	20
8.1.1 Kinds of procedural links.....	20
8.1.2 Procedural link uniqueness OPM principle.....	20
8.1.3 State-specified procedural links.....	20
8.2 Operational semantics and flow of execution control.....	20
8.2.1 The Event-Condition-Action control mechanism.....	20
8.2.2 Preprocess object set and postprocess object set.....	21
8.2.3 Skip semantics of condition versus wait semantics of non-condition links.....	21
<b>9 Procedural links</b> .....	<b>22</b>
9.1 Transforming links.....	22
9.1.1 Kinds of transforming links.....	22
9.1.2 Consumption link.....	22
9.1.3 Result link.....	23
9.1.4 Effect link.....	23
9.1.5 Basic transforming links summary.....	23

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9.2	Enabling links.....	24
9.2.1	Kinds of enabling links .....	24
9.2.2	Agent and Agent Link.....	24
9.2.3	Instrument and Instrument Link.....	25
9.2.4	Basic enabling links summary.....	26
9.3	State-specified transforming links.....	26
9.3.1	State-specified consumption link.....	26
9.3.2	State-specified result link.....	27
9.3.3	State-specified effect links.....	28
9.3.4	State-specified transforming links summary.....	30
9.4	State-specified enabling links .....	31
9.4.1	State-specified agent link.....	31
9.4.2	State-specified instrument link.....	32
9.4.3	State-specified enabling links summary .....	32
9.5	Control links.....	33
9.5.1	Kinds of control links .....	33
9.5.2	Event links .....	34
9.5.3	Condition links.....	40
9.5.4	Exception links .....	47
<b>10</b>	<b>Structural links .....</b>	<b>48</b>
10.1	Kinds of structural links.....	48
10.2	Tagged structural link.....	48
10.2.1	Unidirectional tagged structural link.....	48
10.2.2	Unidirectional null-tagged structural link.....	49
10.2.3	Bidirectional tagged structural link.....	49
10.2.4	Reciprocal tagged structural link.....	49
10.3	Fundamental structural relations.....	50
10.3.1	Kinds of fundamental structural relations .....	50
10.3.2	Aggregation-participation relation link.....	51
10.3.3	Exhibition-characterization link.....	52
10.3.4	Generalization-specialization and inheritance.....	55
10.3.5	Classification-instantiation link.....	58
10.3.6	Fundamental structural relation link and tagged structural link summary.....	61
10.4	State-specified structural relations and links .....	62
10.4.1	State-specified characterization relation link.....	62
10.4.2	State-specified tagged structural relations.....	63
<b>11</b>	<b>Relationship cardinalities .....</b>	<b>67</b>
11.1	Object multiplicity in structural and procedural links .....	67
11.2	Object multiplicity expressions and constraints.....	69
11.3	Attribute value and multiplicity constraints.....	71
<b>12</b>	<b>Logical operators: AND, XOR, and OR.....</b>	<b>71</b>
12.1	Logical AND procedural links.....	71
12.2	Logical XOR and OR procedural links.....	73
12.3	Diverging and converging XOR and OR links .....	74
12.4	State-specified XOR and OR link fans .....	76
12.5	Control-modified link fans .....	77
12.6	State-specified control-modified link fans.....	77
12.7	Link probabilities and probabilistic link fans.....	79
<b>13</b>	<b>Execution path and path labels .....</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Context management with OPM .....</b>	<b>83</b>
14.1	Completing the SD.....	83
14.2	Achieving model comprehension.....	83
14.2.1	OPM refinement-abstraction mechanisms.....	83
14.2.2	Control (operational) semantics within an in-zoomed process context.....	87
14.2.3	OPM fact consistency principle.....	98
14.2.4	Abstraction ambiguity resolution for procedural links.....	99

This is a preview of "ISO/PAS 19450:2015". [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

<b>Annex A</b> (normative) <b>OPL formal syntax in EBNF</b> .....	<b>102</b>
<b>Annex B</b> (informative) <b>Guidance for OPM</b> .....	<b>121</b>
<b>Annex C</b> (informative) <b>Modelling OPM using OPM</b> .....	<b>124</b>
<b>Annex D</b> (informative) <b>OPM dynamics and simulation</b> .....	<b>157</b>
<b>Bibliography</b> .....	<b>163</b>

## 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](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

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The committee responsible for this document is Technical Committee ISO/TC 184, *Automation systems and integration*, Subcommittee SC 5, *Interoperability, integration, and architectures for enterprise systems and automation applications*.

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## Introduction

Object-Process Methodology (OPM) is a compact conceptual approach, language, and methodology for modelling and knowledge representation of automation systems. The application of OPM ranges from simple assemblies of elemental components to complex, multidisciplinary, dynamic systems. OPM is suitable for implementation and support by tools using information and computer technology. This Publicly Available Specification specifies both the language and methodology aspects of OPM in order to establish a common basis for system architects, designers, and OPM-compliant tool developers to model all kinds of systems.

OPM provides two semantically equivalent modalities of representation for the same model: graphical and textual. A set of hierarchically structured, interrelated Object-Process Diagrams (OPDs) constitutes the graphical model, and a set of automatically generated sentences in a subset of the English language constitutes the textual model expressed in the Object-Process Language (OPL). In a graphical-visual model, each OPD consists of OPM elements, depicted as graphic symbols, sometimes with label annotation. The OPD syntax specifies the consistent and correct ways to manage the arrangement of those graphically elements. Using OPL, OPM generates the corresponding textual model for each OPD in a manner that retains the constraints of the graphical model. Since the syntax and semantics of OPL are a subset of English natural language, domain experts easily understand the textual model.

OPM notation supports the conceptual modelling of systems with formal syntax and semantics. This formality serves as the basis for model-based systems engineering in general, including systems architecting, engineering, development, life cycle support, communication, and evolution. Furthermore, the domain-independent nature of OPM opens system modelling to the entire scientific, commercial and industrial community for developing, investigating and analysing manufacturing and other industrial and business systems inside their specific application domains; thereby enabling companies to merge and provide for interoperability of different skills and competencies into a common intuitive yet formal framework.

OPM facilitates a common view of the system under construction, test, integration, and daily maintenance, providing for working in a multidisciplinary environment. Moreover, using OPM, companies can improve their overall, big-picture view of the system's functionality, flexibility in assignment of personnel to tasks, and managing exceptions and error recovery. System specification is extensible for any necessary detail, encompassing the functional, structural and behavioural aspects of a system.

One particular application of OPM is in the drafting and authoring of technical standards. OPM helps sketch the implementation of a standard and identify weaknesses in the standard to reduce, thereby significantly improving the quality of successive drafts. With OPM, even as the model-based text of a system expands to include more details, the underlying model keeps maintaining its high degree of formality and consistency.

This Publicly Available Specification provides a baseline for system architects and designers, who can use it to model systems concisely and effectively. OPM tool vendors can utilise the PAS as a formal standard specification for creating software tools to enhance conceptual modelling.

This Publicly Available Specification provides a presentation of the normative text that follows the Extended Backus-Naur Form (EBNF) specification of the language syntax. All elements are presented in [Clauses 6 to 13](#) with only minimal reference to methodological aspects, [Clause 14](#) presents the context management mechanisms related to in-zooming and unfolding.

This specification utilizes several conventions for the presentation of OPM. Specifically, Arial bold font in text and Arial bold italic font in figure captions, table captions and headings distinguish label names for OPM objects, processes, states, and link tags. OPL reserved words are in Arial regular font with commas and periods in Arial bold font. Most figures contain both a graphic image, the OPD portion, and a textual equivalent, the OPL portion. Because this is a language specification, the precise use of term definitions is essential and several terms in common use have particular meaning when using OPM. Clause B.6 explains other conventions for the use of OPM.

Annex A presents the formal syntax for OPL, in EBNF form.

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Annex B presents conventions and patterns commonly used in OPM applications.

Annex C presents aspects of OPM as OPM models.

Annex D summarizes the dynamic and simulation capabilities of OPM.

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) draws attention to the fact that it is claimed that compliance with this document may involve the use of a patent concerning OPM as a modelling system given in [Clauses 6](#) to [14](#).

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