

Work-Package 3: "Modeling"

openETCS System Architecture and Design Specification

First Iteration: ETCS Kernel Functions

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October 2014



Funded by:


 Federal Ministry
 of Education
 and Research

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Work-Package 3: “Modeling”OETCS/WP3/D3.5.1.1
October 2014

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First Iteration: ETCS Kernel Functions

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Architecture and Design Specification

Prepared for openETCS@ITEA2 Project

Abstract: This document gives an introduction to the architecture of the first openETCS iteration, the openETCS kernel functions. It has to be read as an add-on to the models in SysML, Scade and to additional reading referenced from the document.

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Modification History

Version	Section	Modification / Description	Author
0.1	all	Initial document providing the structure	Bernd Hekele
0.2	3.5.3	initial contribution and some pretty printing	Christian Stahl
0.3	all	collecting feedback and completion on initial sections	Bernd Hekele
0.4	all	changed document style to openETCS report improved pretty printing	Peter Mahlmann
0.4.1	all	adding content	Bernd Hekele

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1 Introduction

1.1 Motivation

The openETCS work package WP3 aims to provide the architecture and the design of the openETCS OBU software as mainly specified in UNISIG Subset_026 version_3.3.0 [1].

The appropriate functionality has been divided into a list of functions of different complexity (see the WP3 function list [2]).

All these functions are object of the openETCS project and have to be analysed from their requirements and subsequently modelled and implemented. With limited manpower, a reasonable selection and order of these functions is required for the practical work that allows the distribution of the workload, more openETCS participants to join and leads to an executable—limited—kernel function as soon as possible.

While the first version of this document focuses on the first version of the limited kernel function, it is intended to grow in parallel to the growing openETCS software.

1.2 Objectives

The first objective of WP3 software shall be

- “Make the train run as soon as possible, with a very minimum functionality, and in the form of a rapid prototype.”

This does not contradict the openETCS goal to conform to EN50128.

- After a phase of prototyping, the openETCS software shall be implemented in compliance to EN50128 for SIL4 systems.

Additional goals for this document are

- Identification of the functions required for a minimum OBU kernel,
- Architecture overview regarding the minimum OBU kernel,
- Technical approach: Description of the proceeding and methods to be used,
- Road map of the minimum OBU kernel functions, and
- Road map thereafter

Note: This document will be extended according to the progress of WP3.

1.3 History

1.4 Goals of the openETCS Modelling Work

1.4.1 Functional Scope: The Minimum OBU Kernel Function

The objective “Make the train run with a very minimum functionality” (see Chapter 1.2) shall be in terms of ETCS OBU translated into

- “The Train moves on a track equipped with balises and determines its position.”

That means, for this very first step, the train shall neither supervise the maximum speed nor activate the brakes. The minimum function set shall be limited to:

- Receive, filter and manage balise information received from track (see <https://github.com/openETCS/SRS-Analysis/issues/12>);
- Calculate the actual train position based on balise and odometry information (see <https://github.com/openETCS/SRS-Analysis/issues/8>);
- Calculate the distances between the actual train position to track elements in its front.

The activities of the first iteration are collected in the openETCS WP3 backlog for the first iteration [3].

A more detailed architectural breakdown of these functions is available as a SysML model [4]. Diagrams used in the document at hand describing the architecture are taken from the model in [4].

The design is implemented in the Scade Model [5]. Design documents are taken from this model. Design diagrams used in this document are generated from the model. The design documents produced from the scade model are provided in the design location on Github [6].

In addition, the work on this minimum functionality requires to be supported by

- The availability of the ETCS language as specified in Subset UNISIG Subset_026, chapters 7 and 8;
- The ability to link intermediate and final results with the requirements of the ETCS specification (subset_026, etc.).

These supporting prerequisites are under construction and therefore currently not completely operable. How to deal with these restrictions, will be outlined in Chapter ??.

1.5 Glossary and Abbreviations

API Application Programming Interface

EVC European Vital Computer

BTM Balise Transmission Module

SRS System Requirements Specification

2 The openETCS Architecture of the Initial Kernel Functions

2.1 The openETCS Tool Chain and its Impacts on the Actual Model

For understanding the modelling process and the modeling guidelines, we refer to [7].

To summarize the design process, the following rules are in use:

- Papyrus / SysML is used for modelling the architecture. Functions are visible on this SysML level.
- No behaviour model is allowed on SysML level.
- For referencing the requirements, links from the SysML model to the requirements document (in ProR) are being used.
- Details and especially behaviour is modelled in Scade.
- All interfaces (see also data-dictionary below) are available on bit-level.
- In the architecture model in SysML, all interfaces are available on a functional level for interfaces inside and outside the model and for interfaces between dedicated functions. Due to tool constraints the current model does not show all details for all interfaces (see the data dictionary [8]).

The openETCS tool-chain for doing the modelling work consists of the following components:

Papyrus for modelling the architecture (Kepler version). In this phase only the Kepler version of the tool can be used due to incompatibilities of the Kepler and the Luna version on the SysML model. The SysML models are stored at <https://github.com/openETCS/modeling/tree/master/model/sysml>.

ProR for keeping the requirements (REQIF). The subset 26 is converted into a REQIF-format and also stored in the modeling repository on Github. The openETCS toolchain supports the linking of SysML model parts to SRS-Requirements. These results are also part of the architecture.

Scade for designing and formalising the functions Scade version 15.2 is used. The models are stored at <https://github.com/openETCS/modeling/tree/master/model/Scade>. With the component Scade System Scade also has a component for designing the architecture.

In principle, the synchronisation mechanism of Scade was planned to be used for synchronising the SysML architecture and the Scade models. The idea is to automatically synchronise the SysML types and blocks with the Scade type definitions and the Scade Operators. Unfortunately, with the current set of tools this idea cannot be realised. We will investigate other tools and models to find a solution.

In addition, faults in the Kepler Papyrus version made it difficult for several members of the team to work on different submodels of the openETCS model. The issue will be solved when changing to the Luna version of Papyrus.

2.2 The openETCS Application Software Architecture

The following diagrams are taken from the SysML model [4].

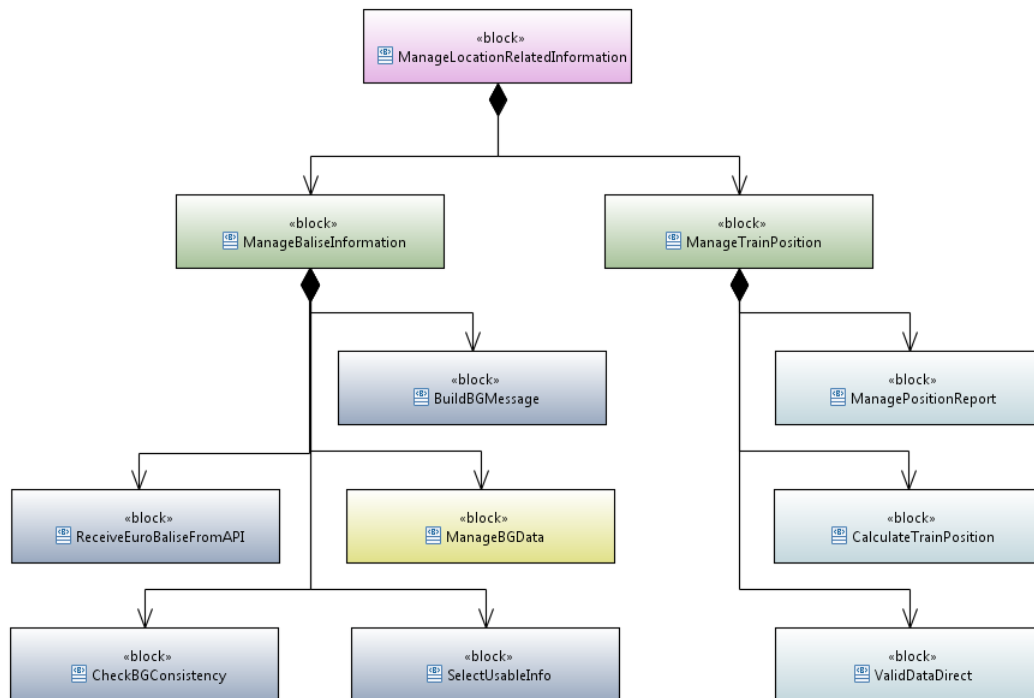


Figure 1. Block Definition Diagram of the First Iteration Architecture

The diagram shows the hierarchy of the EVC model. The boundaries of the model are given with the API (interfaces into and outside the EVC model), which actually is not part of the diagram. The runtime system of the EVC is also seen as a part outside the model.

Green blocks in this diagram are seen as data collected by the “train” without making use of the function in focus.

Interface of the model Input to the model is via the API. The border is inside the EVC Scade model.
defined by the API?

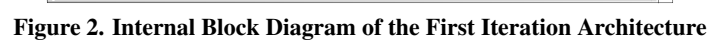
2.3 openETCS Data Dictionary

In the first iteration, the openETCS data dictionary gives some basic constructs for the project, the definition of interfaces in a central place and the definition of the ETCS language [8].

2.3.1 ETCS Language

The type definitions of Subset 26 chapters 7 and 8 (called the ETCS language) are provided as SysML resp. Scade types to the openETCS model. For the SysML model the types have been generated based on tools and provided as <>package<> imported to the openETCS toolchain.

2.3.2 openETCS Interfaces



Interfaces used between submodels and interfaces from outside and to outside the EVC kernel are defined as types in the data dictionary.

In the Scade model the ETCS language is available in the oETCS projects S026-7 and S026-8.

2.3.3 Data Dictionary Outlook

In the first iteration the use of the data dictionary concept is reduced to a minimum. The full openETCS process is tailored for a bigger team to cooperate and make use of tools to collect data and generate code.

In the Scade model the types needed to build the interface between models are defined in the projects Obu_Basic_Types.etp, BG_Types.etp, and TrainPosition_Types.etp.

3 openETCS Kernel Functions

3.1 openETCS Model Runtime System

The openETCS model runtime system also provides:

- **Input Functions from other Units**
In this entity messages from other connected units are received. maybe use a descr
- **Output Functions to other Units**
The entity writes messages to other connected units.
- **Conversation Functions for Messages (Bitwalker)**
The conversion function are triggered by Input and Output Functions. The main task is to convert input messages from an bit-packed format into logical ETCS messages (the ETCS language) and Output messages from Logical into a bit-packed format. The logical format of the messages is defined for all used types in the openETCS data dictionary.
Variable size elements in the Messages are converted to fixed length arrays with an used elements indicator.
Optional elements are indicated with an valid flag. The conversion routines are responsible for checking the data received is valid. If faults are detected the information is passed to the openETCS executable model for further reaction.
- **Model Cycle**
The executable model is called in cycles. In the cycle
 - First the received input messages are decoded.
 - The input data is passed to the executable model in a predefined order. (**Details for the interface to be defined**).
 - Output is encoded according to the SRS and passed to the buffers to the units.

The openETCS system contains two APIs:

1. *openETCS API*: the interface specification between the EVC platform and the openETCS application;
2. *Model API*: the interface between the model itself written in SCADE and the surrounding runtime. Both the SCADE model and the runtime are making the openETCS application.

Figure 3 shows both openETCS API and model API on the software stack.

3.1.1 openETCS API

The openETCS API is currently defined by two documents, one written by Alstom [9] and a more abstract specification written by openETCS members [10].

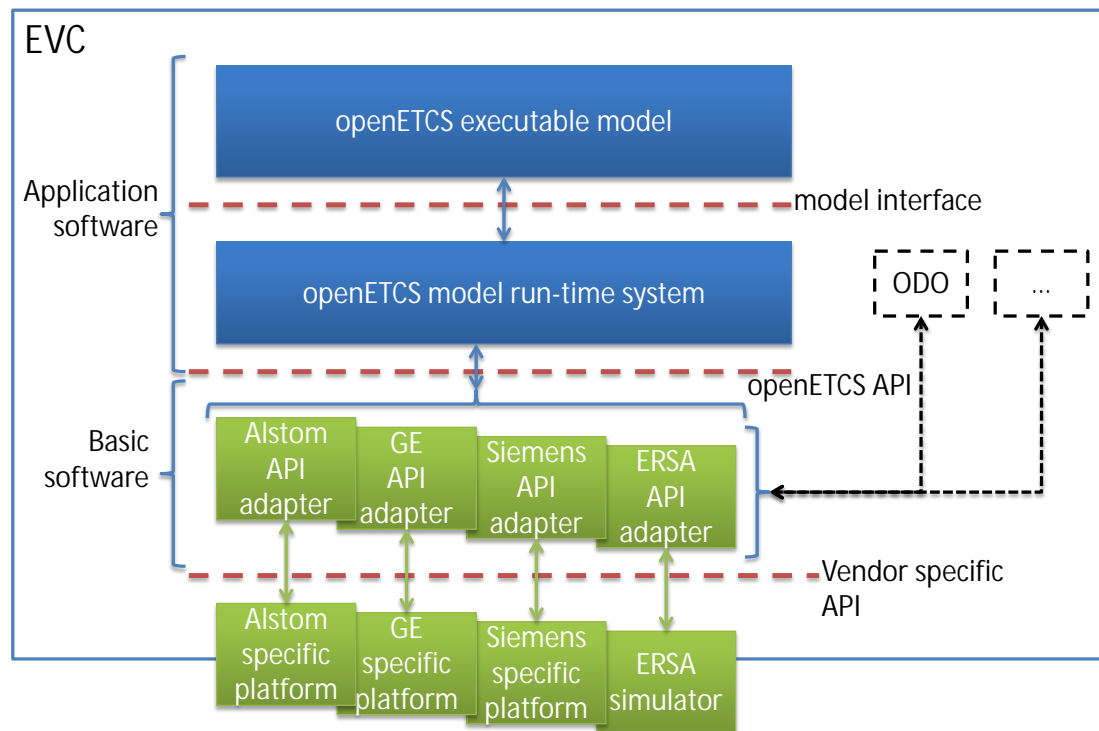


Figure 3. openETCS software architecture

The openETCS API defines the interfaces between the EVC platform and the openETCS application for the following units surrounding the EVC:

- TIU (Train Interface Unit),
- ODO (Odometry),
- DMI (Driver Machine Interface);
- STM (Specific Transmission Module, up to 8 units),
- BTM (Balise Transmission Module),
- LTM (Loop Transmission Module),
- EURORADIO,
- JRU (Juridical Recording Unit), and
- zero or more vendor specific units.

3.1.2 Model API

The model API is currently defined by the inputs and outputs of the SCADE model.

FIXME: How to give a precise pointer within the SCADE model? Reference to a specific block within the model?

For the proper working of the SCADE model, a set of assumptions are assumed:

- **Eurobalise (BTM):** It is assumed that at most one “telegram” is provided per call of the SCADE model. This “telegram” is the merge of the telegrams of the balises making a balise group.

3.2 First Iteration: Used API Functions and Interfaces to the Basic Software

Note: The basic functions and the API is not implemented in the first iteration. Instead, the Scade test environment is used for this purpose. However, the interface used in the model is described as if they were available.

1. Runtime System

The Runtime System calls the openETCS kernel model in a cyclic way. Input parameters are updated with every cycle.

2. Input

(a) Control Interface

The control interface triggers the reset of the application software. The reset is modelled as reset flag in the Scade model.

(b) BTM Services

The BTM service passes decoded telegrams to the executable model. The telegram is handed over to the API_balise parameter of the model (see Chapter 3.4.1). In each cycle only one telegram is expected to be passed. For details in the interfaces, The application ?? may need the service brake function. The trigger needs to be passed to a corresponding function inside the application software (not part of the kernel)

(c) Odometry

The input from the odometry is updated with every cycle. The information from the odometry is updated in the parameter actual_odometry of the executable model. cycle=clock?

3. Output

(a) Runtime System

(b) DMI

The application may indicate errors at the balise group interface to the driver. The trigger needs to be passed to a corresponding function inside the application software (not part of the kernel).

(c) Train Interface Unit (TIU)

The application may need the service brake function. The trigger needs to be passed to a corresponding function inside the application software (not part of the kernel).

(d) EuroRadio

The application may trigger the position report via radio interface. The message needs to be passed to a corresponding function inside the application software (not part of the kernel).

3.3 First Iteration: Interfaces to other Functions of the Application Software (not part of First Iteration)

This section mainly refers to interfaces replaced by data implemented in the model.

1. Train-Info

The parameters of the train are seen as a constant to the kernel model. The data are not changed by any function of the kernel model. Only data used in the kernel are listed here. Used Information:

- (a) Level = 1

- (b) Mode =

FIXME: diagram to be added

3.4 F.1 Manage Balise Information

This function manages telegrams of the balise channel. Diagram needs to be added.

1. Functional Description
2. Reference to the Standards
3. Deviations from the Standards, Open Issues
4. Input
5. Output
6. Data

3.4.1 F.1.1 Receive Eurobalise From API

3.4.1.1 Short Description of Functionality

This function defines the interface of the OBU model to the openETCS generic API for Eurobalise Messages. On the interface, either a valid telegram is provided or a telegram is indicated which could not be received correct when passing the balise. The function passes the telegram without major changes of the information to the next entity for collecting the balise group information.

3.4.1.2 Reference to the SRS (or other requirements)

3.4.1.3 Design Constrains and Choices

1. The decoding of balises is done at the API. Also, packets received via the interface are already transformed into a usable shape.
2. Only packets used inside the current model are passed via the interface:
 Packet 5: Linking Information.
 Linking Information is added to the linking array starting from index 0 without gaps. Used elements are marked as valid. Elements are sorted according to the order given by the telegram sequence.

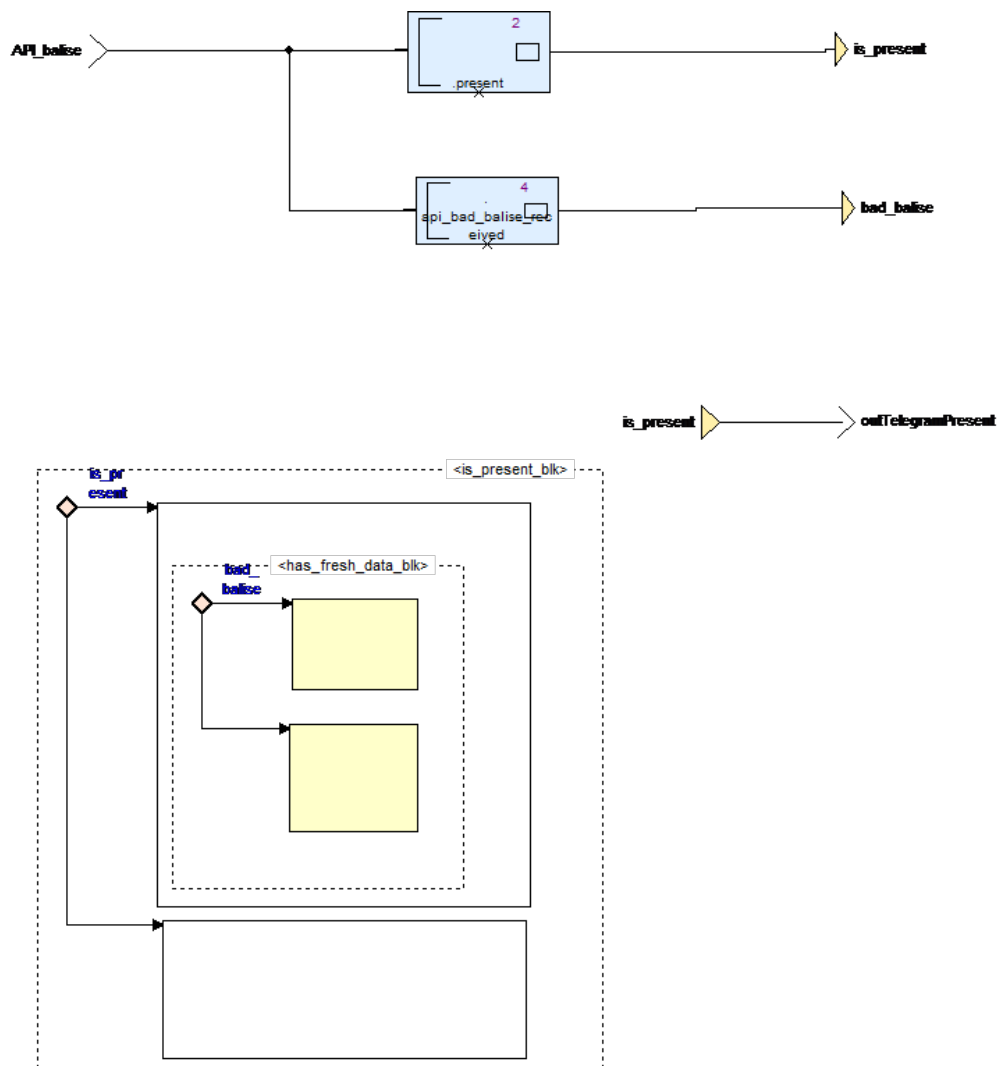


Figure 4. Structure of ReceiveEuroBaliseFromAPI

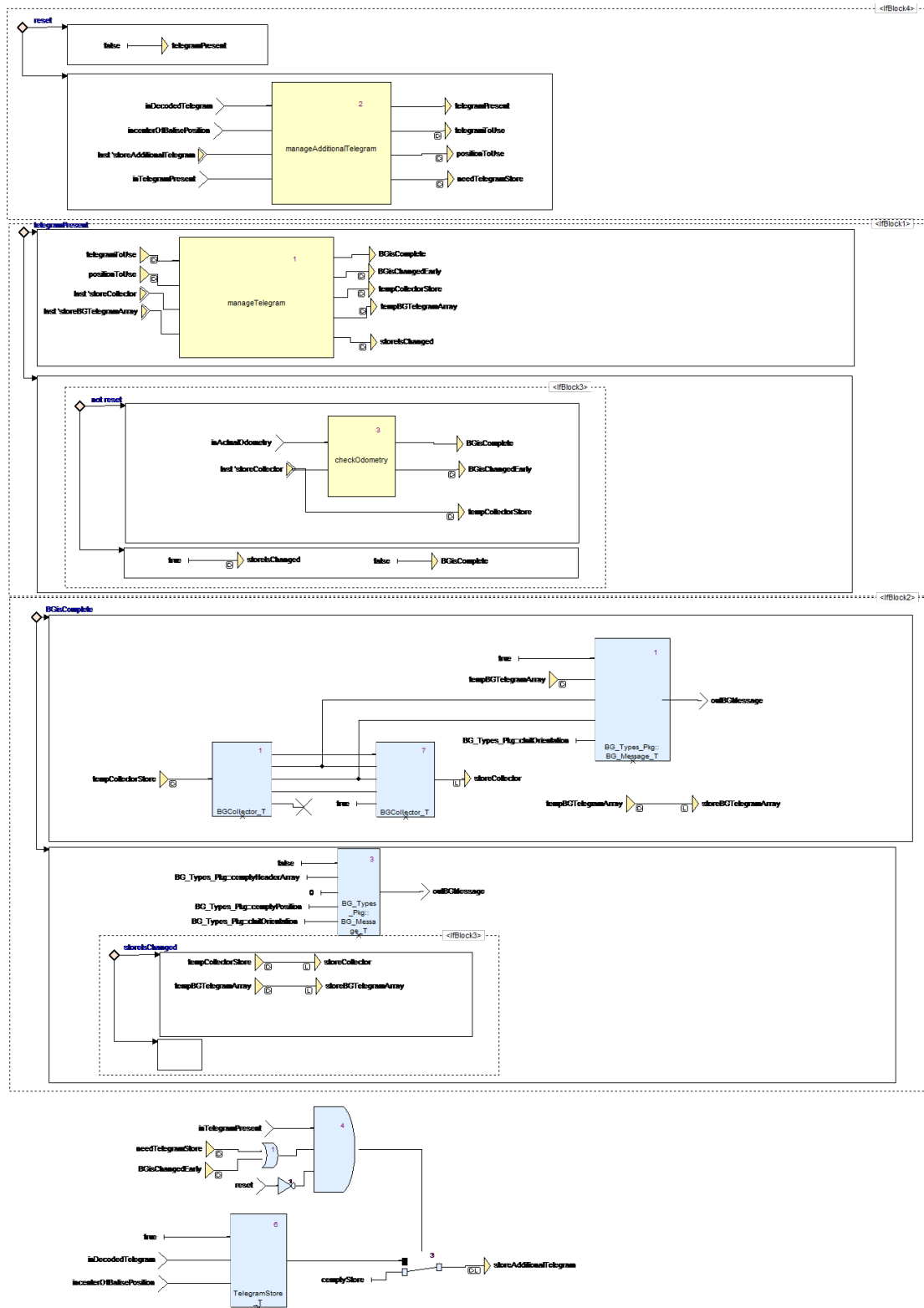


Figure 5. Structure of BuildBGMessage

3.4.2 F.1.2 Build BG Group Message

3.4.2.1 Short Description of Functionality

This entity collects telegrams received via the interface into Balise Group Information.

3.4.2.2 Reference to the SRS (or other requirements)

3.4.2.3 Design Constrains and Choices

1. Telegrams received as invalid are passed to the “Check-Function” to process errors in communication with the track side according to the requirements and in a single place. Telegrams are added to the telegram array starting from index 0 without gaps. Used elements are marked as valid. Elements are stored according to the order given by the telegram sequence.
2. This function does not process information from the packets. The information is passed to the check without further processing of the values.

3.4.3 F.1.3 Check BG Consistency

3.4.3.1 Short Description of Functionality

3.4.3.2 Reference to the SRS (or other requirements)

3.4.3.3 Design Constrains and Choices

3.4.4 F.1.4 Determine BG- Orientation and LRBG

3.4.4.1 Short Description of Functionality

3.4.4.2 Reference to the SRS (or other requirements)

3.4.4.3 Design Constrains and Choices

3.4.5 F.1.5 Select Useable Info

3.4.5.1 Short Description of Functionality

The function Select Useable Info filters information received from balises that have been passed, radio, and EUROLOOP. Filtering is done depending on the mode of the train, the current ETCS level, the type/content of the information, and the transition media of the information. As neither radio messages nor EUROLOOP are part of the first iteration of work, not all functionality of the filter described in the specification is currently implemented.

3.4.5.2 Reference to the SRS (or other requirements)

The functionality of Select Useable Info is described in Chapter 4.8 of the SRS. The following list gives an overview of the most important sections for each of the blocks in the model.

First filter The first filter, i.e., the filter on the level, is described in [1, Chapter 4.8.3].

Second filter The second filter, i.e., the filter on the transition media, is described in [1, Chapter 4.8.3].

Third filter The second filter, i.e., the filter on the modes, is described in [1, Chapter 4.8.4].

Transition buffers Details on the handling of the transition buffers used in the first and the second filter are described in [1, Chapter 4.8.5].

3.4.5.3 Design Constrains and Choices

The first iteration of the model takes only balise group messages into account. This implies that a large part of the specification of this function described in [1] is not relevant for the first iteration. This in particular applies to the filter on the transition medium, because radio messages are not part of the model so far, and to the filter on level, because the first iteration of the model implements only ETCS level 1.

3.5 F.2 Manage Train Position

3.5.1 F.2.1 Validate Data Direction

3.5.1.1 Short Description of Functionality

3.5.1.2 Reference to the SRS (or other requirements)

3.5.1.3 Design Constrains and Choices

3.5.2 F.2.2 Calculate Train Position

3.5.2.1 Short Description of Functionality

The main purpose of the function is to calculate the locations of linked and unlinked balise groups (BGs) and the current train position while the train is running along the track.

Functional Structure in Stages

The function `calculateTrainPosition` is divided into the following four functions, which are being performed sequentially:

1. ***calculateBGLocations***: Calculate the balise group locations

The first stage is triggered each time the train passes a balise group (input *passedBG*). It takes the balise group header with the BG identification, the linking information (Subset 26, packet 5) and the current odometry values as inputs and calculates the location of the the passed balise group. If the passed BG has been announced via linking information previously, it takes into account the linking as well as the odometry information. If the passed BG does not meet the tolerance window announced by linking, an error flag is set. If the passed BG is an unlinked BG, its location is determined by odometry only, but related to the next previously passed linked BG, if there is one.

Then, if the passed BG is a linked BG comprising linking information for BGs ahead, the linking information is evaluated by creating the announced BGs and computing their locations from the linking distances.

The passed and the announced BGs are stored in a list *BGs*, ordered by their nominal location

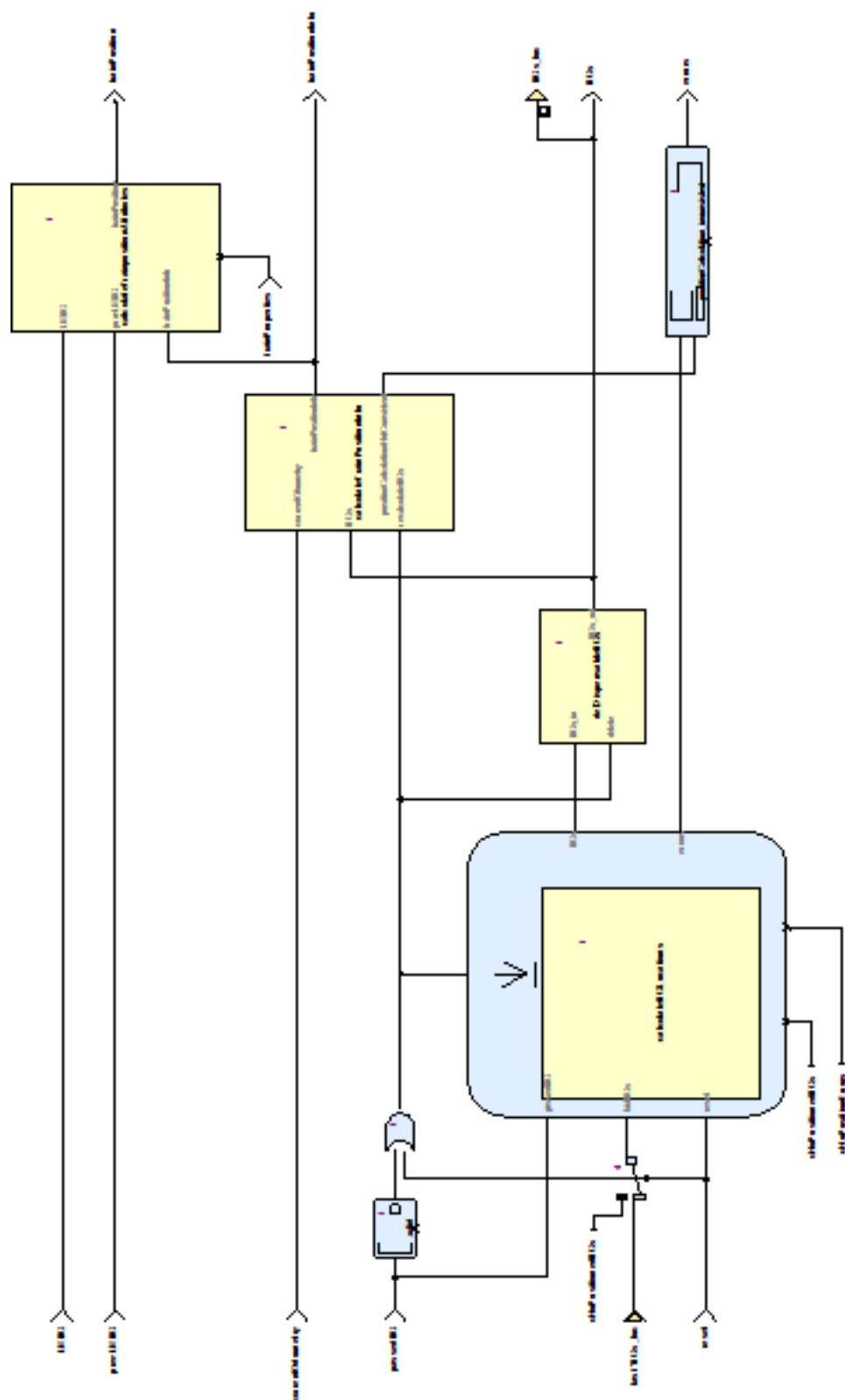


Figure 6. Structure of calculateTrainPosition

on the track.

Afterwards the locations of all BGs are further improved by re-adjusting their locations with reference to the just passed BG. This optimizes the BG location inaccuracies around the current train position (= location of the passed BG).

2. ***delDispensableBGs***: Delete dispensable balise groups
The second stage removes balise groups supposed not to be needed any longer from the list of BGs.
If the number of stored passed linked BGs exceeds the maximum number of eight as specified in [1, Chapter 3.6.2.2.2 c], all BGs astern are deleted. If only (passed) unlinked BGs are in the list and exceed the number of *cNoOfAtLeast_x_unlinkedBGs*, all passed BGs astern to those are removed from the list.
3. ***calculateTrainPositionInfo***: Calculate train position information.
This stage take the list of stored BGs and the current odometry values as inputs and steadily provides the current train position.
4. ***calculateTrainpositionAttributes***: Calculate train position attribute information.
This stage provides several additional position related attributes that might conveniently be used by subsequent consumers in the architecture. It requires the actual LRBG and the previous LRBG to be assigned external from the list BGs.

3.5.2.2 Reference to the SRS (or other requirements)

The component *calculateTrainPosition* determines the location of linked and unlinked balise groups and the current train position during the train trip as specified mainly in [1, Chapter 3.6].

3.5.2.3 Design Constraints and Choices

The following constraints and prerequisites apply:

1. The input data received from the balises groups must have been checked and filtered for validity, consistency and the appropriate train orientation before delivering them to *calculateTrainPosition*.
2. The storage capacity for balise groups is finite. *calculateTrainPosition* will raise an error flag when a balise group cannot be stored due to capacity limitations.
3. *calculateTrainPosition* will raise an error flag if a just passed balise group is not found where announced by linking information. It will not (yet) detect when an announced balise group is missing.
4. *calculateTrainPosition* is not yet prepared for train movement direction changes.
5. *calculateTrainPosition* does not yet consider repositioning information.

3.5.3 Provide Position Report

3.5.3.1 Short Description of Functionality

This function takes the current train position and generates a position report which is sent to the RBC. The point in time when such a report is sent is determined by events, on the one hand,

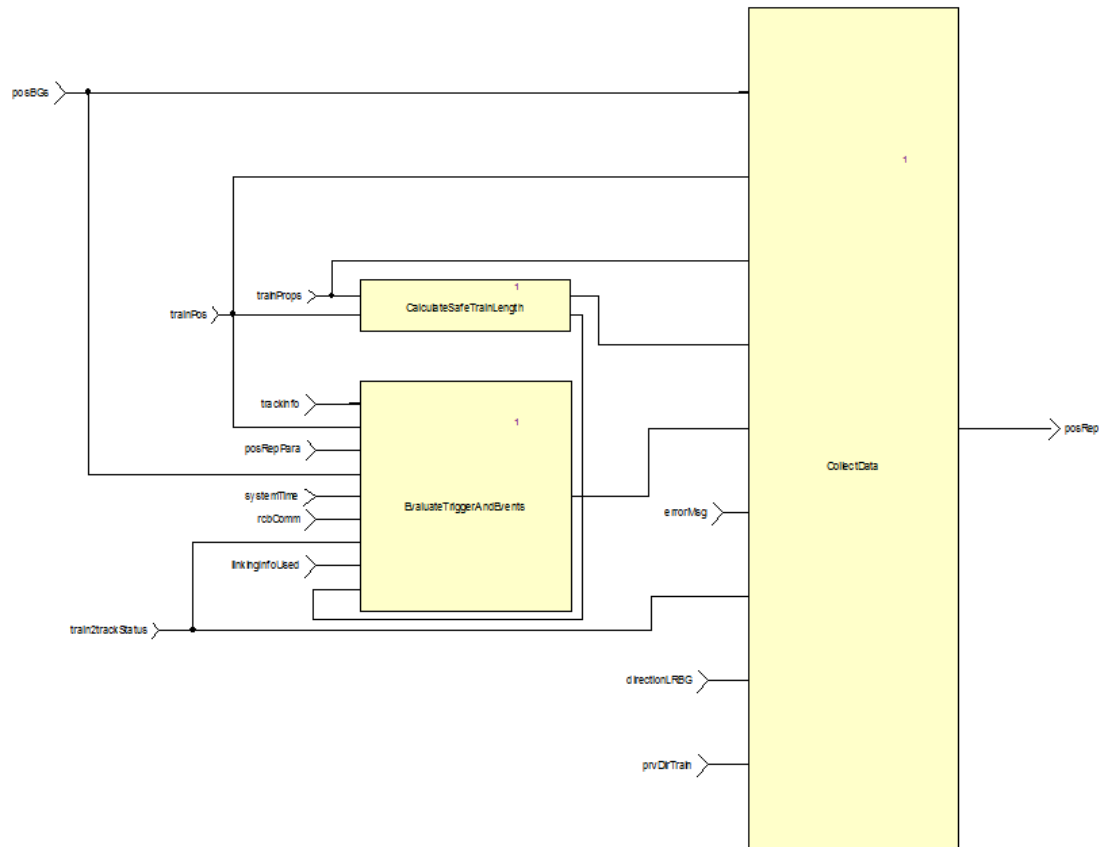


Figure 7. Structure of component ProvidePositionReport

and position report parameters—which are basically triggers—provided by the RBC or a balise group passed, on the other hand. The functionality is modeled using three operations, as shown in Figure 7, which are explained below.

CalculateSafeTrainLength Calculates the the safeTrainLength and the MinSafeRearEnd according to [1, Chapter 3.6.5.2.4/5].

$\text{safeTrainLength} = \text{absolute}(\text{EstimatedFrontEndPosition} - \text{MinSafeRearEnd})$,
 where $\text{MinSafeRearEnd} = \text{minSafeFrontEndPosition} - L_TRAIN$

EvaluateTriggerAndEvents Returns a Boolean modelling whether the sending of the next position report is triggered or not. This value is the conjunction of the evaluation of all triggers (PositionReportParameters, i.e., Packet 58) and events (see [1, Chapter 3.6.5.1.4]).

CollectData This operation aggregates data of Packet 0, ..., Packet 5 and the header to a position report.

3.5.3.2 Reference to the SRS (or other requirements)

Most of the functionality is described in [1, Chapter 3.6.5].

3.5.3.3 Design Constrains and Choices

1. The message length (i.e., attribute L_MESSAGE) is by default set to 0; the actual value will be set by the Bitwalker/API.

2. The attribute Q_SCALE is assumed to be constant; that is, all operations using this attribute do not convert between different values of that attribute.
3. *PositionReportHeader*: The time stamp (i.e., attribute T_TRAIN) is not set; this should be done once the message is being sent by the API.
4. *Packet 4*: When aggregating data for this packet, an error message might be overwritten by a succeeding error message. Because the specification allows only to sent one error in one position report, errors are not being stored in a queue, for instance.
5. *Packet 44*: This packet is currently not contained in a position report as it is not part of the kernel functions.
6. The usage of attributes D_CYCLOC and T_CYCLOC as part of the triggers specified by the position report parameters (i.e., Packet 58 sent by the RBC) may lead to unexpected results if a big clock cycle together with small values for the attributes is used. The cause is that at every clock cycle the current model increments the reference value for the distance and time by at most D_CYCLOC and T_CYCLOC, respectively and not a factor of it.

3.5.3.4 Open Issues

1. The specification requires to store the last eight balise groups for which a position report has been sent (see [1, Chapter 3.6.2.2.2.c]).
2. For all reports that contain Packet 1 (i.e., report based on two balise groups), the RBC sends a coordinate system. It is unclear where this has to be stored (i.e., somehow the balise groups have to be stored in a database which has then to be updated), see [1, Chapter 3.4.2.3.3.6]. Moreover, such a coordination system can be invalid and then has to be rejected (see [1, Chapter 3.4.2.3.3.7-8]). On a more abstract level, we need to think about the interface between the RBC and the OBU or a proper abstraction thereof.

Appendix: References

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