CommonRoad: Documentation of the XML Format
(Version 2018b)

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Abstract

This document presents the XML format in *CommonRoad* for specifying road traffic scenarios. The provided scenarios in *CommonRoad* are described in the scenario documentation. The *CommonRoad* XML files are composed of (1) a formal representation of the road network, (2) static and dynamic obstacles, and (3) the planning problem for the ego vehicle(s). So far, we have not discovered any limitations when building scenarios using the proposed format.

Contents

Introduction

Within *CommonRoad* [1][1], XML files are used to store the data for specific driving scenarios. In this documentation, we present the definition of the XML files, which are composed of (1)

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[1] commonroad.in.tum.de

a formal representation of the road network (see Section 2.4), (2) static and dynamic obstacles (see Section 2.5), and (3) the planning problem of the ego vehicle(s) (see Section 2.6). In non-collaborative scenarios, only one planning problem exists, while in collaborating scenarios several planning problems have to be solved.

Throughout this documentation, we provide some snippets to illustrate the implementation in XML. For more examples, see the example file XML_commonRoad_minimalExample or any benchmark scenario on our website.

A *CommonRoad* XML file consists of an XML header (XML version and encoding type) and the *CommonRoad* root element.

```xml
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<commonRoad commonRoadVersion='2018b' benchmarkID='documentation_example'
date='2018-10-05' author="Markus Koschi" affiliation="Technical University of
Munich, Germany" source="Next Generation Simulation (NGSIM) and OpenStreetMaps
(OSM)" tags="..." timeStepSize='0.1'>
    <lanelet id='10'>
       ...
    </lanelet>
    ...
    <obstacle id='50'>
       ...
    </obstacle>
    ...
    <planningProblem id='100'>
       ...
    </planningProblem>
    ...
</commonRoad>
```

Changes Compared to Version 2018a

For a quick reference, we summarize the major changes of Version 2018b compared to Version 2018a:

- All obstacles (dynamic and static) have an initial state specifying their configuration at $t = 0$.

- Instead of numeric values, all time stamps (exact and intervals) are given as integers. The time in seconds is implicitly given by the fixed, global time step size of the scenario (specified by the attribute in the CommonRoad root element).

Specification of the XML Format

Fig. 1 specifies the overall structure of the XML files. The *CommonRoad* root element contains one or more elements of type *lanelet*, *obstacle*, and *planningProblem*. Each has a unique[2] ID (of type positive integer) making it possible to reference it. The numbers in square brackets denote the number of allowed elements (while N can be different for each element), the data in round brackets the attributes of an element, ref to a reference to one element, the data behind a double column the value of the element, and the symbol # a comment.

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[2]Unique within the whole XML document.

```
[1] commonRoad (commonRoadVersion, ...)
  ├─ [0..1] geoTransformation
  │    ├─ [0..1] geoReference
  │    └─ [0..1] additionalTransformation
  │         ├─ [1] xTranslation
  │         ├─ [1] yTranslation
  │         ├─ [1] zRotation
  │         └─ [1] scaling
  ├─ [1..N] lanelet (id)
  │    ├─ [1] leftBound
  │    │    ├─ [2..N] point
  │    │    └─ [0..1] lineMarking
  │    ├─ [1] rightBound
  │    │    ├─ [2..N] point
  │    │    └─ [0..1] lineMarking
  │    ├─ [0..N] predecessor (ref to lanelet)
  │    ├─ [0..N] successor (ref to lanelet)
  │    ├─ [0..1] adjacentLeft (ref to lanelet, drivingDir=same/opposite)
  │    ├─ [0..1] adjacentRight (ref to lanelet, drivingDir=same/opposite)
  │    └─ [0..1] speedLimit
  ├─ [0..N] obstacle (id)    # static
  │    ├─ [1] role:  static
  │    ├─ [1] type:  parkedVehicle/.../unknown
  │    ├─ [1] shape
  │    └─ [1] initialState
  ├─ [0..N] obstacle (id)    # dynamic (with either of the three future behaviors)
  │    ├─ [1] role:  dynamic
  │    ├─ [1] type:  car/truck/.../unknown
  │    ├─ [1] shape
  │    ├─ [1] initialState
  │    ├─ [0..1] trajectory    # dynamic with known behavior
  │    │    └─ [1..N] state
  │    OR
  │    ├─ [0..1] occupancySet    # dynamic with unknown behavior
  │    │    └─ [1..N] occupancy
  │    OR
  │    └─ [0..1] probabilityDistribution    # dynamic with unknown stochastic behavior
  └─ [1..N] planningProblem (id)
       ├─ [1] initialState
       └─ [1..N] goalState
```
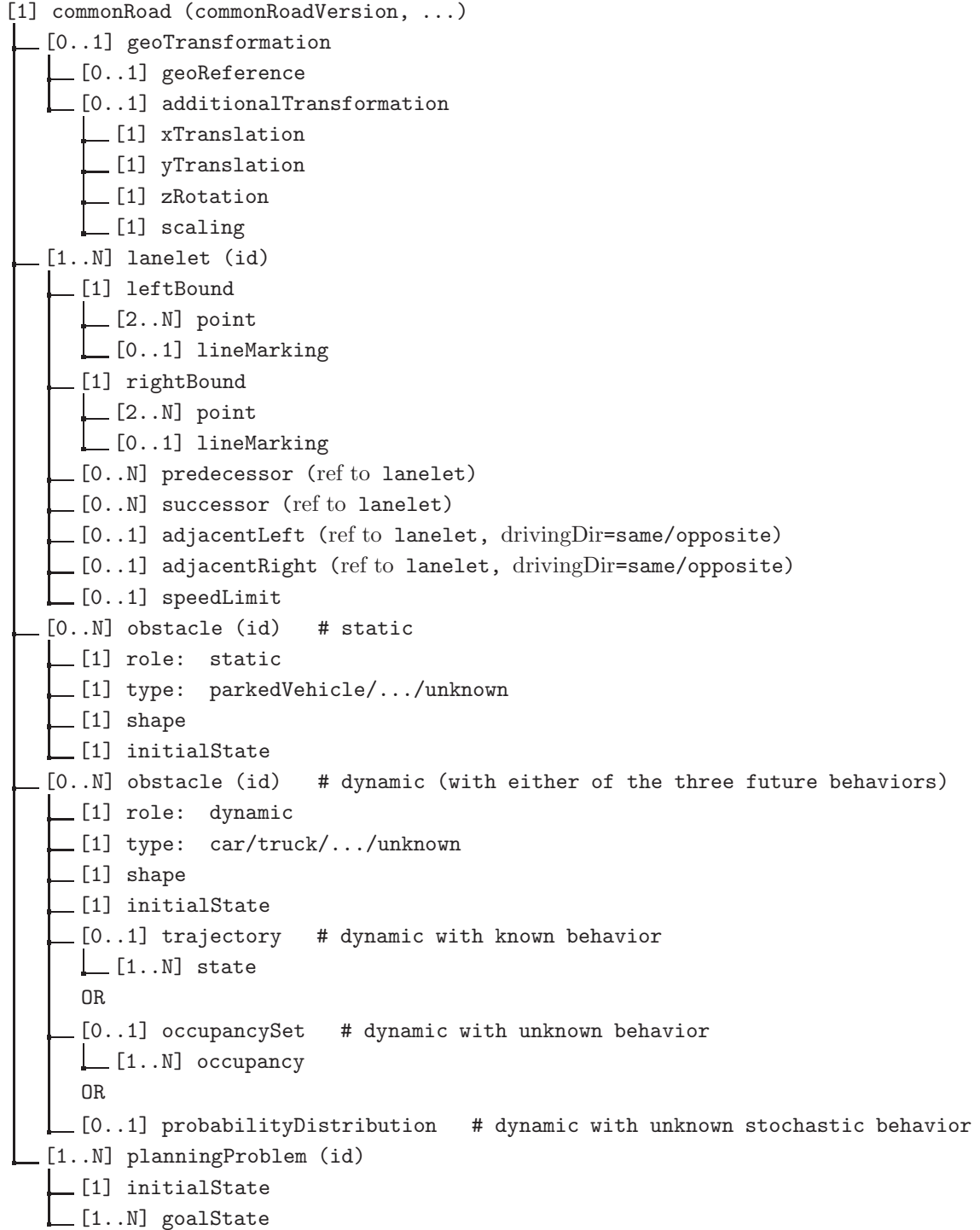
Figure 1: Structure of the XML files encoding each scenario

To check the compliance of an XML file, we provide the XML Schema Definition (XSD) of our format on our website.

All variables are given by decimal numbers based on SI units. We use a common Cartesian coordinate frame, where angles are measured counter-clockwise around the positive z-axis with the zero angle along the x-axis.

CommonRoad Root Element

The *CommonRoad* root element has the following attributes (its elements are shown in Fig. 1):

- `commonRoadVersion`: version of the XML specification,
- `benchmarkID`: benchmark ID of the scenario (see Sec. 2.1.1),
- `date`: date when scenario was generated,
- `author`: author(s) of the scenario in alphabetic order,
- `affiliation`: affiliation of the author(s), e.g., name and country of the university or company,
- `source`: if applicable, description of the data source of the scenario, e.g., name of dataset or map service,
- `tags`: keywords describing the type of scenario (see Sec. 2.1.2),
- `timeStepSize`: global step size of the time-discrete scenario.

Benchmark ID

The benchmark ID of each scenarios consists of four elements: COUNTRY_SCENE_CONFIG_PRED. The scenario ID has the prefix C- if the scenario has multiple planning problems, i.e. it is a cooperative planning problem (otherwise, it has no prefix).

COUNTRY   is the capitalized three-letter country code defined by the ISO 3166-1 standard[3], e.g. Germany has DEU and United States has USA. If a scenario is based on an artificial road network, we use ZAM for Zamunda[4].

SCENE   = MAP-{1-9}* specifies the road network. MAP is for rural scenarios a two/three letter city code (e.g. Muc) and for highways/major roads the road code (e.g. A9 or Lanker). It is appended by an integer counting up. Note that if COUNTRY_SCENE is the same for two scenarios, all their lanelets are identical.

CONFIG   = {1-9}* specifies the initial configuration of obstacles and the planning problem(s). Note that CONFIG is counting independently for non-cooperative scenarios (i.e. only one planning problem) and cooperative scenarios (i.e. multiple planning problems), since the prefix allows to distinguish between them. Thus, if PREFIX-COUNTRY_SCENE_CONFIG is the same for two scenarios, the road network, initial configuration of obstacles, and the planning problem(s) are equal, and only the prediction of the obstacles differs.

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[3]https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/#search/code/
[4]en.wikipedia.org/?title=Zamunda

PRED = {S,T,P}-{1-9}* specifies the future behavior of the obstacles, i.e. their prediction, where S = set-based occupancies, T = single trajectories, P = probability distributions, appended by an integer to distinguish predictions on the same initial configuration but with different prediction parameters. If no prediction is used (i.e. the scenario has no dynamic obstacles), we omit the element PRED in the benchmark ID.

Examples   C-USA_US101-1_123_T-1, DEU_FFB-2_42_S-4, DEU_Hhr-1_1.

Tags for Scenarios

To allow users to select scenarios meeting their needs, the list of scenarios on our website can be filtered by the tags given in the attribute `tags` in each XML file. These are *type of road* (a single-lane road has only one lane, a two-lane road has one lane per driving direction, and a multi-lane road has multiple lanes per driving direction) and *type of required planning maneuver* among others (see website for all options). The tags are strings in a space-separated list.

GeoTransformation Element

To specify the geometrical transformation which were performed while creating the lanelets, one can add a `geoTransformation` element. This may contain two children:

GeoReference Element

The `geoReference` element should contain a proj-string describing a map projection from geodetic coordinates to the projected (cartesian) coordinates used in the XML file. This projection can then be used to transform the cartesian coordinates back to geodetic coordinates which is what OSM uses.

AdditionalTransformation Element

The `additionalTransformation` element can describe geometrical operations which were performed beforehand in order to create the lanelet map in the XML file. The execution order of these operations is equivalent to the order of the following list.

- `xTranslation` Translating x-coordinates of all points by this value.
- `yTranslation` Translating y-coordinates of all points by this value.
- `zRotation` Rotating all points by this value around the origin, with respect to a right-handed coordinate system.
- `scaling` Multiplying all x- and y-coordinates by this value.

Auxiliary Elements

Within the XML file, we use the following auxiliary geometry elements:

Point   A point is the simplest primitives and described by an x-coordinate and a y-coordinate.

```
/
├──point OR center
│   ├──[1] x
│   └──[1] y
├──rectangle
│   ├──[1] length
│   ├──[1] width
│   ├──[0..1] orientation
│   └──[0..1] center
├──circle
│   ├──[1] radius
│   └──[0..1] center
├──polygon
│   └──[3..N] point
└──shape
    └──[1..N] rectangle/circle/polygon
```
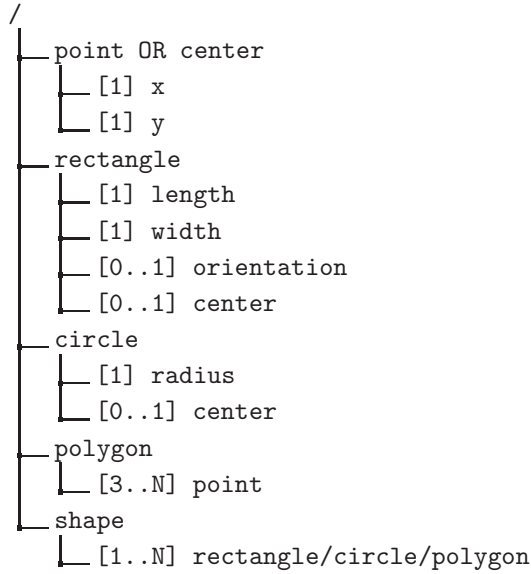
Figure 2: Auxiliary elements of the XML file

Rectangle   The element *rectangle* can be used to model rectangular obstacles, e.g. a vehicle. It is specified by the length (longitudinal direction) and the width (lateral direction), the orientation, and a center point (reference point of a rectangle is its geometric center). If the orientation and the x and y coordinates of the center are zero, both elements can be omitted.

Circle   The element *circle* can be used to model circular obstacles, for example a pedestrian or a vehicle by using three circles. A circle is defined by its radius and its center (reference point of a circle is its geometric center). Analogously to the rectangle, the center can be omitted if its x and y values are zero.

Polygon   The element *polygon* can be used to model any other two-dimensional obstacle. A polygon is defined by an ordered list of points, in which the first one is its reference point. We adhere to the convention that the polygon points are ordered clockwise.

Shape   Elements of type *shape* specify the dimension of an object and can contain one or more elements of the geometric primitives (i.e. rectangle, circle, or polygon). Please note that we separate the representation of the dimension and position/orientation of an object into the elements shape and position/orientation (described subsequently), respectively. Thus, the shape elements should usually use the origin as center point and an orientation of zero, unless a certain offset is desired.

Positions   The position of an object is specified by the element *position* which contains either a point, rectangle, circle, polygon, or lanelet (unless for a planning problem as specified later), as shown in Fig. 3.

Note that if the position of an object is given as an area (i.e. not a single point), the area does not enclose the geometric shape of the object, but only models the interval of possible positions, e.g. the uncertainty of the position measurement.

```
/
└── [1] position
     ├── [1] point
     │   OR
     ├── [1..N] rectangle/circle/polygon
     │   OR
     └── [1..N] lanelet (ref to lanelet)
```
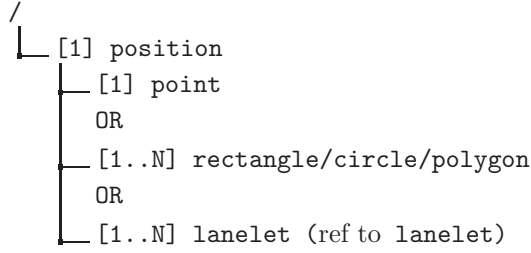
Figure 3: Element *position*.

Numeric Values Elements describing the state of an object, e.g. orientation or velocity, can have either an exact value or an interval of values, e.g. to specify the goal state or to include uncertainties. For example, an *orientation* element can be defined using `exact` or `intervalStart` and `intervalEnd`:

```xml
<orientation>
        <exact>0.0</exact>
        <!-- or -->
        <intervalStart>-1.5708</intervalStart>
        <intervalEnd>1.5708</intervalEnd>
</orientation>
```

Time All time elements are not given as numeric values, but as integers (i.e. non-negative whole numbers). Thus, the time element can specify the time stamp of an time-discrete object. Since the initial time is always 0 and the constant time step size is given in the CommonRoad root element, the time in seconds can be directly calculated.

Lanelets

For our benchmarks we use *lanelets* [2] as drivable road segments to represent the road network. Fig. 1 shows the specification of a *lanelet* element. It is defined by its *left* and *right boundary*, where each boundary is represented by an array of points (a polyline), as shown in Fig. 4. We have chosen lanelets since they are as expressible as other formats, such as e.g. OpenDRIVE[5], yet have a lightweight and extensible representation. Our converter from OpenDRIVE to Lanelets is available on our website.

In order to represent the graph of the road network, the elements *predecessor*, *successor*, *adjacentLeft*, and *adjacentRight* are used, which are omitted if they are empty (see Fig. 1). Since these elements only contain objects which are already present in the XML file, we refrain from copying their data but introduce references to the neighboring lanelets by an attribute referring to their unique ID. The elements *predecessor* and *successor* can be present multiple times to represent multiple longitudinally adjacent lanelets, e.g. for a road fork. In contrast, a lanelet can have at the most one *adjacentLeft* and one *adjacentRight* neighbor and thus at the most one element of this type. The additional attribute *drivingDir* specifies the driving direction of the neighboring lanelet as `same` or `opposite`.

The driving direction of a lanelet is implicitly defined by its left and right bound. Optionally, line markings (solid, dashed, ...) or the speed limit can be included to model the traffic conditions more precisely (see Fig. 1). Further traffic signs will be added to the *CommonRoad* XML format in a later release to represent traffic conditions more precisely.
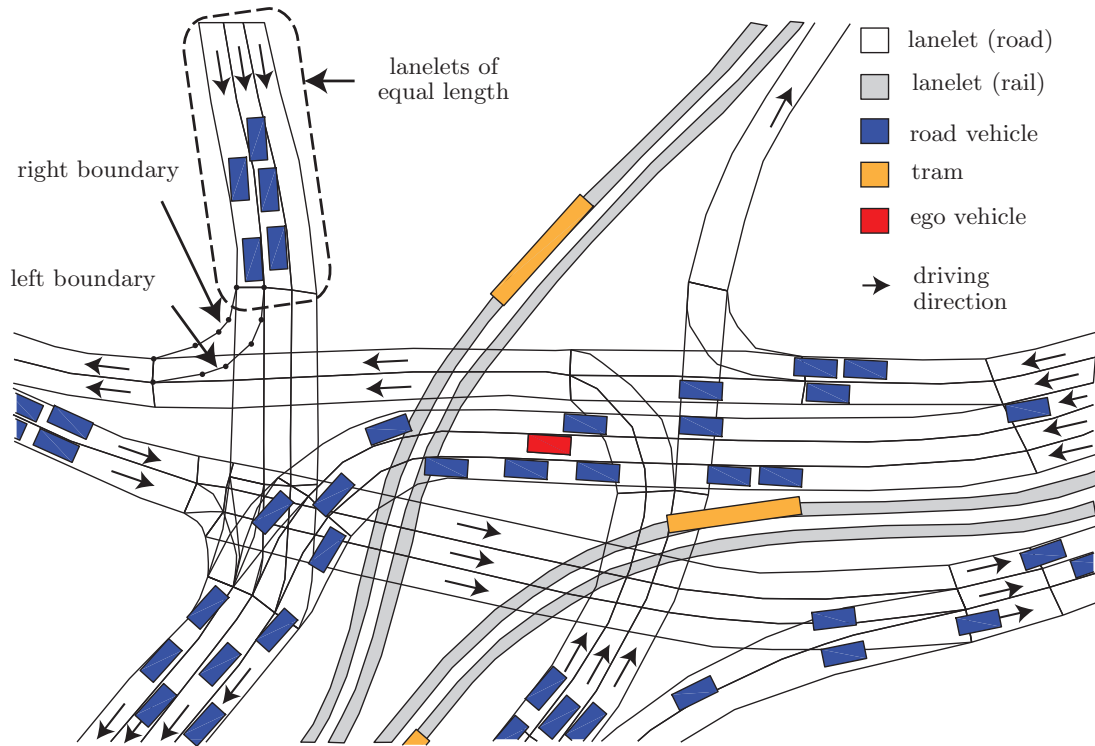
---

[5]opendrive.org

Figure 4: Lanelets of a complex intersection in the city center of Munich. Besides roads, also tram rails are modeled by lanelets.

Geometrical Requirements of Lanelets

All *CommonRoad* scenarios meet the following requirements, which assure that lanelets form a road without holes or incorrect overlaps.

- The two polylines forming the right and left bound of a lanelet must consist of the same amount of nodes. In addition, the imaginary straight line connection between two corresponding nodes, one in the left and one in the right bound, should be perpendicular to the center line of the lanelet.

- In case of a two-lane or multi-lane road, a polyline can be shared by two lanelets, i.e. the same points are used to mark the right respectively left boundary of the corresponding lanelets.

- For longitudinal adjacent lanelets, the connection nodes of two consecutive lanelets have to be identical, i.e. the end nodes of the predecessor are identical to the start nodes of the successor.

- To ensures continuous lanes, the bounds of merging and forking lanelets start/end at the corresponding left or right bound of another lanelet, as shown in Fig. 5.

- Roads are divided in so called *Lane Sections*[6]. As shown in Fig. 6, each lane section has the same number of lateral adjacent lanelets and all lanelets start and end at the border of a lane section. Thus, all laterally adjacent lanes have the same *length*, which allows us to set the lateral adjacencies correctly (e.g. in Fig. 6, lanelet 1 and 2 are lateral adjacent to each other; as well as lanelet 4, 5, and 6; and lanelet 7 and 8).
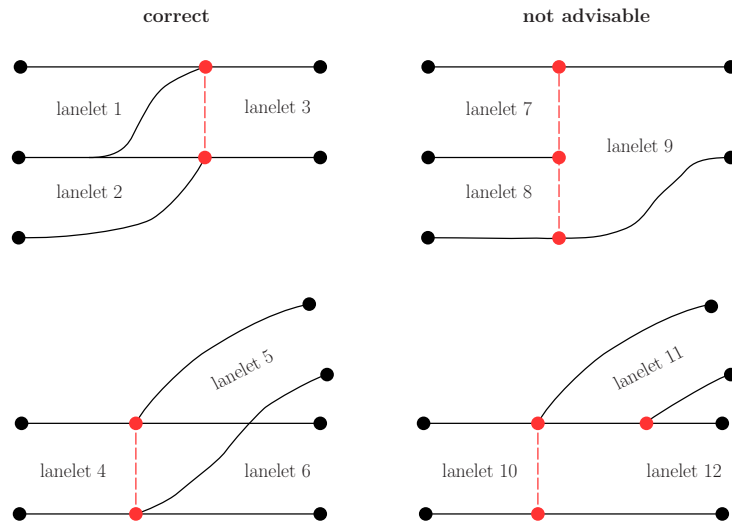
---

[6]opendrive.org/

correct   not advisable

lanelet 1   lanelet 3   lanelet 7   lanelet 9

lanelet 2   lanelet 8

lanelet 5   lanelet 11

lanelet 4   lanelet 6   lanelet 10   lanelet 12

Figure 5: Spatial division of merging and forking lanelets.

Start of lane section   End of lane section

lanelet 1   lanelet 4   lanelet 7

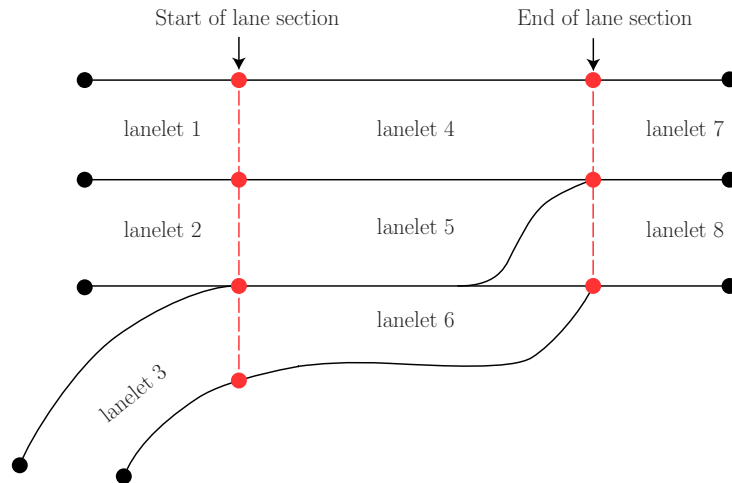lanelet 2   lanelet 5   lanelet 8

lanelet 6

lanelet 3

Figure 6: Definition of lane sections.

Connection to OpenStreetMap

As proposed in [2][7], our XML structure is inspired by the data structure of OpenSteetMap[8] (OSM), which uses the elements *nodes*, *ways* and *relations*.

With the XML format of OpenStreetMap, it easy to create new road networks using *JavaOpenStreetMap* (JOSM)[9] and also to edit existing road networks. However, the OSM format has several shortcomings when representing traffic scenarios, e.g. non-Cartesian coordinate frame and inconsistent use of attributes/references instead of elements. Thus, we have developed the *CommonRoad* XML format, which uses a different XML notation and incorporates only a small subset of the OSM attributes, but offers all elements required to specify a traffic scenario.

Obstacles

The element *obstacle* is used to represent different kinds of traffic participants within the scenario. An obstacle is either static or dynamic, which is specified by the element *role*. Each role allows different *types* of an obstacle as listed in Table 1.

Table 1: Types of obstacles.

Role	Type
Static	parkedVehicle, constructionZone, roadBoundary, unknown
Dynamic	car, truck, bus, bicycle, pedestrian, priorityVehicle, train, unknown

The dimensions of an obstacle is specified by the element *shape* (cf. Sec. 2.3), and its initial configuration by the element *initialState*.

Initial state of obstacles   The configuration of an obstacle at the initial time ($t = 0$) is specified by the element *initialState* with the following state variables: *position*, *orientation*, and *time*, *velocity* (scalar), *acceleration* (scalar), *yawRate*, and *slipAngle*, as shown in Fig. 7.
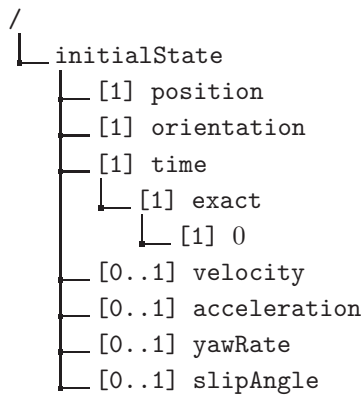
```
/
└── initialState
    ├── [1] position
    ├── [1] orientation
    ├── [1] time
    │   └── [1] exact
    │       └── [1] 0
    ├── [0..1] velocity
    ├── [0..1] acceleration
    ├── [0..1] yawRate
    └── [0..1] slipAngle
```

Figure 7: Element *initialState* of an obstacle, where each state variable (except time) can be exact or an interval.

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[7]github.com/phbender/liblanelet
[8]openstreetmap.org
[9]josm.openstreetmap.de

Static Obstacles

A static obstacle has no further information, as shown in Fig. 1.

In addition to static obstacles, traffic scenarios can contain dynamic obstacles. Please note that only elements of either of the following three behavior models may be present: with known behavior, with unknown behavior, or with unknown stochastic behavior. We do not use these different behavior models together within one traffic scenario, as indicated in Fig. 1.

Dynamic Obstacles with Known Behavior

A dynamic obstacle with known behavior contains a trajectory of states (cf. Fig. 1). The trajectory allows us to represent the states of a dynamic traffic participant along a path for $t > 0$. The trajectory is obtained from a dataset (whose measurements can be exact or with uncertainties), from a prediction (which generates a single trajectory for each obstacle), or created hand-crafted.

States   The time-discrete states of a trajectory are specified by the element *state* with the following state variables: *position*, *orientation*, and *time*, *velocity* (scalar), *acceleration* (scalar), *yawRate*, and *slipAngle*, as shown in Fig. 8.
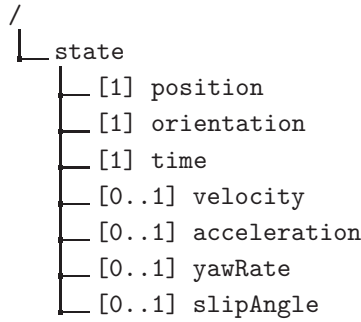
```
/
└── state
    ├── [1] position
    ├── [1] orientation
    ├── [1] time
    ├── [0..1] velocity
    ├── [0..1] acceleration
    ├── [0..1] yawRate
    └── [0..1] slipAngle
```

Figure 8: Element *state* of a trajectory, where each state variable can be exact or an interval.
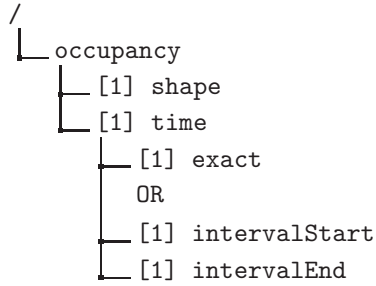
Dynamic Obstacles with Unknown Behavior

For motion planning, we often do not know the exact future behavior of dynamic obstacles, but we instead represent their future behavior by bounded sets. Thus, dynamic obstacles with a unknown behavior are specified by an *occupancy set*, which represents the occupied area over time by bounded sets. As shown in Fig. 1, an *occupancy set* contains a list of *occupancy* elements.

Occupancies   The *occupancy* element consists of a shape (occupied area) and a time, as shown in Fig. 9.

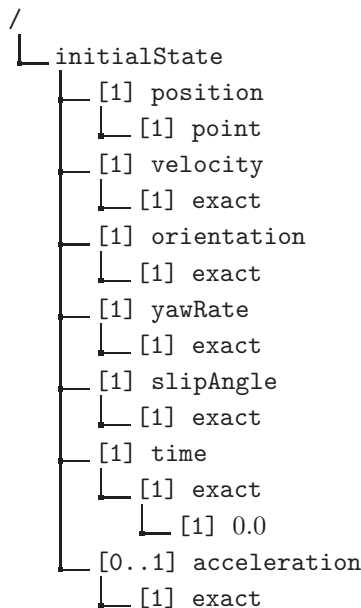**Dynamic Obstacles with Unknown Stochastic Behavior**

One can describe unknown stochastic behavior by probability distributions of states. Since many different probability distributions are used, we only provide a placeholder for probability distributions.

```
/
└── occupancy
    ├── [1] shape
    └── [1] time
        ├── [1] exact
        │   OR
        ├── [1] intervalStart
        └── [1] intervalEnd
```

Figure 9: Element *occupancy* of an occupancy set.

Planning Problem

The element *planningProblem* is used to specify the initial state and one or more goal state(s) for the motion planning problem. Note that the shape of the ego vehicle is not included in the XML scenario description, since this property depends on which vehicle parameter set is chosen (see the *vehicle model documentation* on our website).

Initial States   We use the element *initial state* to describe the initial state of the planning problem. In contrast to the general element *state*, all state variables are mandatory and must be given exact, as shown in Fig. 10. The element *initial state* of each planning problem allows the initialization of each vehicle model, as described in more detail in our *vehicle model documentation*.

```
/
└── initialState
    ├── [1] position
    │   └── [1] point
    ├── [1] velocity
    │   └── [1] exact
    ├── [1] orientation
    │   └── [1] exact
    ├── [1] yawRate
    │   └── [1] exact
    ├── [1] slipAngle
    │   └── [1] exact
    ├── [1] time
    │   └── [1] exact
    │       └── [1] 0.0
    └── [0..1] acceleration
        └── [1] exact
```

Figure 10: Element *initial state* of a planning problem

Goal States   A planning problem may contain several elements *goal state* (cf. Fig. 1). In contrast to the general element *state*, all state variables except time are optional and all variables can only be given as an interval, as specified in Fig. 11.
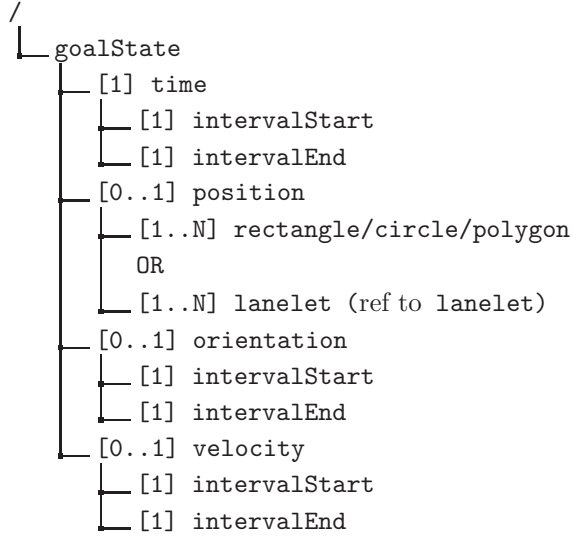
```
/
└─goalState
   ├─[1] time
   │  ├─[1] intervalStart
   │  └─[1] intervalEnd
   ├─[0..1] position
   │  ├─[1..N] rectangle/circle/polygon
   │  │   OR
   │  └─[1..N] lanelet (ref to lanelet)
   ├─[0..1] orientation
   │  ├─[1] intervalStart
   │  └─[1] intervalEnd
   └─[0..1] velocity
      ├─[1] intervalStart
      └─[1] intervalEnd
```

Figure 11: Element *goal state* of a planning problem

Conclusions

The *CommonRoad* XML format is a platform-independent format for specifying road traffic scenarios for motion planning. Complex traffic situations can be encoded by specifying the road network, static and dynamic obstacles, and the planning problem. Details on models for the ego vehicle dynamics can be found in the *vehicle model documentation*. Examples of traffic situations that are specified by this format can be found on the *CommonRoad* website[10]. Please contact us if you have any comments.

Acknowledgment

References

[1] M. Althoff, M. Koschi, and S. Manzinger. CommonRoad: Composable benchmarks for motion planning on roads. In *Proc. of the IEEE Intelligent Vehicles Symposium*, pages 719–726, 2017.

[2] P. Bender, J. Ziegler, and C. Stiller. Lanelets: Efficient map representation for autonomous driving. In *Proc. of the IEEE Intelligent Vehicles Symposium*, pages 420–425, 2014.

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[10]commonroad.in.tum.de