

Modeling and simulating ERTMS/ETCS using VDM

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Abstract

Modeling of critical systems is an important tool in software engineering, as it allows us to design a system from specification and verify its properties in a unambiguous way early in the development process. In this report, we use the Vienna Development Method (VDM) to model, simulate and verify a subset of the specifications for the safety-critical European Rail Traffic Management System (ERTMS) level 2 focusing on those properties of ERTMS that concern interlocking of tracks and safety of the trains. In ERTMS, these features are controlled by the European Train Control System (ETCS) component. With VDM, we can perform system design analysis and model verification to catch potential faults early before the system is constructed in an implementation language like Java and deployed to a real system. We start by defining requirements and invariants based on the ERTMS/ETCS specification and then use VDM to design a formal model followed by model-checking. The abstract implementation of ERTMS detailed in this report provide a simple but fundamental understanding of the signaling system's behavior and how to describe its constraints.

Keywords: ERTMS, ETCS, VDM, Formal methods, Interlocking, Safety

1. Introduction

The railway domain was identified as a grand challenge of computing science in 2004 because it is understandable by the general public, provides useful features in terms of transportation and pose many concerns for design and controllability. One part of the challenge is improving the feasibility and capacity of modern railway as the world's population is increasing and rail traffic now moves cross borders.

The European Rail Traffic Management System (ERTMS) is a signaling and control system developed in the start 2000's to address the interoperability issues with cross-border rail traffic in Europe and lack of capacity with legacy systems. Currently many European countries have their own national stand-alone signaling and control system implemented by a certain set of rules that differ from each country. ERTMS is designed to replace the national systems to make rail transport more frictionless, improve rail capacity and more attractive to consumers. It consists of two primary parts, the European Train Control and Command System (ETCS) to govern the positions and safety of trains, known as the Interlocking (ITL), and the GSM-R radio communications system to send messages between trains and the Radio Block Center (RBC). There are three different levels of ERTMS, L1, L2 and L3. We consider L2 in this report. L2 introduces the RBC, a Eurobalise that register train movement and omits any track side signaling equipment. For a train to enter a new track section, it must request a movement authority (MA) for that section from the RBC, which will be further explained in section X. ERTMS defines end of authority (EoA) as the point the train is allowed to move to. We consider this aspect as well.

Figure 1 shows the essential components of ERTMS level 2. The train control (EVC) requests movement authorities from the RBC over GSM-R. A typical national rail way will have multiple RBC's for each region. The RBC's communicate with a central interlocking service, that receives the physical location of trains using the Eurobalises, in order to either grant or deny movement authority to a train.

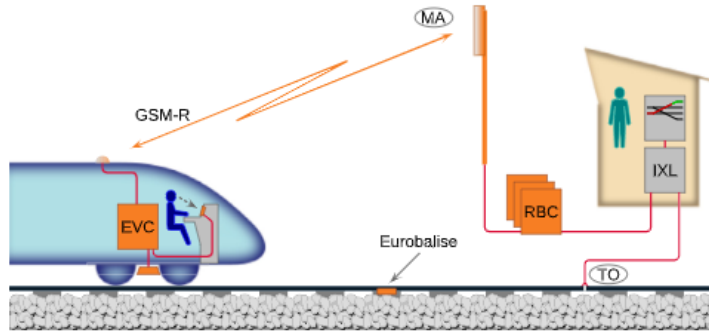


Figure 1: An overview of the ERTMS/ETCS level 2 components.

2. Requirements

The purpose of the model is to design and verify the interlocking properties and operating rules of the ETCS system, a part of ERTMS. With our model we aim to show how VDM can be used to create and satisfy a subset of the real requirements of ETCS interlocking, abstracting away most of the physical constraints you would have in a real system and focusing on the control mechanisms you find in the RadioBlockCenter and Interlocking components, described in the introduction. Our model should demonstrate a simulated train that interacts with the control system when traversing a set of tracks, as it would in real life, while simultaneously monitoring and adhering to the safety features of the system. We address the following requirements:

- R1: A train shall not enter a block section which is occupied by another train (same track).
- R2: A train shall not pass a track boundary without being given a movement authority (MA) to do so.
- R3: A train shall respect the maximum permitted speed of its current track.
- R4: When a train has traversed half of its current track, it shall request a MA for the next track.
- R5: Two trains cannot have a MA for the same track at the same time.
- R6: The system shall not provide an MA for a track that is occupied by a train.
- R7: The RBC shall not answer MA's for tracks it is not responsible for.
- R8: The eurobalise shall report train movement to the interlocking system.

The requirements and the behavior of the ETCS control architecture, that we elaborate on in section 3, are inspired from literature X and X, that describe, model and verify many of the real functional properties of ERTMS. In this report we choose a portion of these to model and test our requirements *R1-R7*. UML will be used to show some of the logical VDM classes and their relationships.

3. Model architecture

- Bullet point one
- Bullet point two

1. Numbered list item one
2. Numbered list item two

3.1. Subsection One

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Treatment 2	0.0015681	0.910
Treatment 3	0.0009271	0.296

Table 1: Table caption

3.2. Subsection Two

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