
Geographic information — Well-known text representation of coordinate reference systems

Information géographique — Représentation textuelle bien lisible de systèmes de référence par coordonnées



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Contents

Page

Foreword	vii
Introduction.....	viii
1 Scope	1
2 Conformance requirements	1
3 Normative references	2
4 Definitions and abbreviations	2
4.1 Definitions	2
4.2 Abbreviations.....	8
5 Backus-Naur Form notation and syntax	8
6 WKT string form	9
6.1 Overview.....	9
6.2 Encoding	9
6.3 Characters used in WKT	9
6.3.1 Basic characters.....	9
6.3.2 Numbers	11
6.3.3 Date and time	11
6.3.4 CRS WKT characters.....	12
6.3.5 Double quote.....	13
6.4 Delimiter	13
6.5 Case sensitivity	13
6.6 Reserved keywords.....	13
6.7 Backward compatibility	15
7 WKT representation of common attributes	15
7.1 Introduction.....	15
7.2 Name.....	15
7.3 Scope, extent, identifier and remark	15
7.3.1 Introduction.....	15
7.3.2 Scope	16
7.3.3 Extent.....	16
7.3.4 Identifier	18
7.3.5 Remark.....	19
7.4 Unit and unit conversion factor	20
7.5 Coordinate system	21
7.5.1 Syntax.....	21
7.5.2 Coordinate system type and dimension	22
7.5.3 Axis name and abbreviation.....	23
7.5.4 Axis direction.....	24
7.5.5 Axis order	25
7.5.6 Axis unit and coordinate system unit	25
7.5.7 Examples of WKT describing coordinate systems.....	26
8 WKT representation of geodetic coordinate reference systems.....	28
8.1 Overview.....	28
8.2 Geodetic datum	28
8.2.1 Ellipsoid.....	28
8.2.2 Prime meridian.....	29
8.2.3 Datum.....	30
8.3 Coordinate systems for geodetic CRSs.....	31
8.4 Examples of WKT describing a geodetic CRS	31

9	WKT representation of projected CRSs	32
9.1	Overview	32
9.2	Base CRS	32
9.2.1	General	32
9.2.2	Ellipsoidal CS unit	33
9.3	Map projection	33
9.3.1	Introduction	33
9.3.2	Map projection name and identifier	34
9.3.3	Map projection method	34
9.3.4	Map projection parameter	35
9.4	Coordinate systems for projected CRSs	35
9.5	Examples of WKT describing a projected CRS	35
10	WKT representation of vertical CRSs	36
10.1	Overview	36
10.2	Vertical datum	37
10.3	Vertical coordinate system	37
10.4	Example of WKT describing a vertical CRS	37
11	WKT representation of engineering CRSs	37
11.1	Overview	37
11.2	Engineering datum	38
11.3	Coordinate systems for engineering CRSs	38
11.4	Examples of WKT describing an engineering CRS	38
12	WKT representation of image CRSs	39
12.1	Overview	39
12.2	Image datum	39
12.3	Coordinate systems for image CRSs	40
13	WKT representation of parametric CRSs	40
13.1	Overview	40
13.2	Parametric datum	40
13.3	Parametric coordinate system	40
13.4	Example of WKT describing a parametric CRS	41
14	WKT representation of temporal CRSs	41
14.1	Overview	41
14.2	Temporal datum	41
14.3	Temporal coordinate system	41
14.4	Example of WKT describing a temporal CRS	41
15	WKT representation of derived CRSs	42
15.1	Overview	42
15.2	Derived CRS conversion	42
15.2.1	Introduction	42
15.2.2	Derived CRS conversion method	43
15.2.3	Derived CRS conversion parameter	43
15.2.4	Derived CRS conversion parameter file	44
15.2.5	Derived CRS conversion example	44
15.3	Derived CRS of type geodetic	44
15.3.1	Representation	44
15.3.2	Example of WKT describing a derived geodetic CRS	45
15.4	Derived CRS of type vertical	45
15.5	Derived CRS of type engineering	46
15.5.1	Representation	46
15.5.2	Examples of WKT describing a derived engineering CRS	47
15.6	Derived CRS of type parametric	48
15.7	Derived CRS of type temporal	48
16	WKT representation of compound coordinate reference systems	49
16.1	Overview	49
16.2	Examples of WKT describing a compound CRS	50

17	WKT representation of coordinate operations	51
17.1	Coordinate operations	51
17.2	Coordinate operation components	51
17.2.1	Source and target CRS	51
17.2.2	Coordinate operation name and identifier	51
17.2.3	Coordinate operation method	52
17.2.4	Coordinate operation parameter	52
17.2.5	Coordinate operation parameter file	53
17.2.6	Interpolation CRS	53
17.2.7	Coordinate operation accuracy	53
17.2.8	Other coordinate operation attributes	53
17.3	Examples of WKT describing a coordinate operation	54
18	WKT representation of CRS and coordinate operation couplets	55
18.1	Bound CRS	55
18.2	Bound CRS components	56
18.2.1	Abridged coordinate transformation	56
18.2.2	Coordinate operation method in abridged coordinate transformations	56
18.2.3	Abridged coordinate transformation parameter	57
18.2.4	Coordinate operation parameter file	57
18.3	Examples of WKT describing a Bound CRS	58
Annex A	(normative) Abstract test suite	59
A.1	Conformance of a WKT string describing a geodetic CRS	59
A.2	Conformance of a WKT string describing a projected CRS	59
A.3	Conformance of a WKT string describing a vertical CRS	60
A.4	Conformance of a WKT string describing an engineering CRS	60
A.5	Conformance of a WKT string describing an image CRS	61
A.6	Conformance of a WKT string describing a parametric CRS	61
A.7	Conformance of a WKT string describing a temporal CRS	62
A.8	Conformance of a WKT string describing a derived CRS	62
A.9	Conformance of a WKT string describing a compound CRS	63
A.10	Conformance of a WKT string describing a coordinate operation	63
A.11	Conformance of a WKT string describing a Bound CRS	64
Annex B	(informative) Recommended practice for implementation	65
B.1	Introduction	65
B.2	Keywords	65
B.2.1	Keyword case sensitivity	65
B.2.2	Alternative keywords	65
B.2.3	Handling of unrecognised keywords	65
B.3	Characters	65
B.3.1	Handling of unrecognised characters	65
B.3.2	String length	65
B.4	White space	66
B.4.1	Insertion of white space	66
B.4.2	Parsing of white space outside of quoted text	66
B.4.3	Parsing of white space within quoted text	66
B.5	Identifiers	66
B.5.1	Use of identifier	66
B.5.2	Using names to interpret identity	66
B.6	Numbers	67
B.6.1	Precision	67
B.6.2	Defining parameters for a sphere	67
B.6.3	Implied units	67
B.7	Attribute order	67
B.8	Version of CRS WKT	67
Annex C	(informative) Mapping of concepts from previous versions of CRS WKT	68
C.1	BNF	68
C.2	Backward compatibility of CRS common attributes	68
C.2.1	Name	68

C.2.2	ID (Authority)	68
C.3	Backward compatibility of coordinate reference system components	69
C.3.1	Ellipsoid	69
C.3.2	Prime meridian	69
C.3.3	Datum	69
C.3.4	Map projection	70
C.3.5	Coordinate system	71
C.4	Backward compatibility of coordinate reference systems	72
C.4.1	Geodetic CRS	72
C.4.2	Projected CRS	73
C.4.3	Vertical CRS and engineering (local) CRS	73
C.4.4	Compound CRS	74
C.4.5	Fitted CS	74
C.5	Backward compatibility of coordinate operations	74
C.6	Mapping of tokens and keywords from previous versions of CRS WKT to this International Standard	75
Annex D	(informative) Triaxial ellipsoid	79
Annex E	(informative) Identifiers for coordinate operation methods and parameters	80
E.1	Introduction	80
E.2	Map projection methods	81
E.3	Map projection parameters	81
E.4	Coordinate transformation methods	83
E.5	Coordinate transformation parameters	83
Bibliography		85

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. www.iso.org/directives

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For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: [Foreword - Supplementary information](#)

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 211, jointly with the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC).

Introduction

Well-known Text (WKT) offers a compact machine- and human-readable representation of geometric objects. WKT may also be used for succinctly describing the critical elements of coordinate reference system (CRS) definitions.

WKT was described in the Open Geospatial Consortium implementation specifications 99-036 through 06-103r4 and International Standard ISO 19125-1:2004, "Geographic information – Simple feature access – Part 1: Common architecture". The WKT representation of coordinate reference systems was subsequently extended in Open Geospatial Consortium implementation specification 01-009 "Coordinate Transformation Services" and this extension was later adopted in the Open Geospatial Consortium GeoAPI 3.0 implementation standard 09-083r3 and GeoPackage 1.0 implementation standard 12-128r10. The WKT representation of coordinate reference systems as defined in ISO 19125-1:2004 and OGC specification 01-009 is inconsistent with the terminology and technical provisions of ISO 19111:2007 and OGC Abstract Specification topic 2 (08-015r2), "Geographic information – Spatial referencing by coordinates".

This International Standard provides an updated version of WKT representation of coordinate reference systems that follows the provisions of ISO 19111:2007 and ISO 19111-2:2009. It extends earlier WKT to allow for the description of coordinate operations. This International Standard defines the structure and content of well-known text strings. It does not prescribe how implementations should read or write these strings.

Geographic information — Well-known text representation of coordinate reference systems

1 Scope

This International Standard defines the structure and content of a text string implementation of the abstract model for coordinate reference systems described in ISO 19111:2007 and ISO 19111-2:2009. The string defines frequently needed types of coordinate reference systems and coordinate operations in a self-contained form that is easily readable by machines and by humans. The essence is its simplicity; as a consequence there are some constraints upon the more open content allowed in ISO 19111:2007. To retain simplicity in the well-known text (WKT) description of coordinate reference systems and coordinate operations, the scope of this International Standard excludes parameter grouping and pass-through coordinate operations. The text string provides a means for humans and machines to correctly and unambiguously interpret and utilise a coordinate reference system definition with look-ups or cross references only to define coordinate operation mathematics. Because it omits metadata about the source of the data and may omit metadata about the applicability of the information, the WKT string is not suitable for the storage of definitions of coordinate reference systems or coordinate operations.

2 Conformance requirements

This International Standard defines eleven classes of conformance (see Annex A) in three groups:

- 1) Any WKT string claiming conformance of coordinate reference system definition shall satisfy the requirements in Annex A as shown in Table 1.

Table 1 — Conformance requirements for coordinate reference systems

Coordinate reference system type	Conformance requirements given in
geodetic	A.1
projected	A.2
vertical	A.3
engineering	A.4
image	A.5
parametric	A.6
temporal	A.7
derived geodetic derived vertical derived engineering derived parametric derived temporal	A.8
compound	A.9

- 2) Any WKT string claiming conformance of coordinate operation definition shall satisfy the requirements given in A.10.
- 3) Any WKT string claiming conformance of coordinate transformation bound to a coordinate reference system definition shall satisfy the requirements given in A.11.

Conformance is applicable to the WKT string. Recommended practices for implementations writing or reading coordinate reference system WKT strings are given in Annex B.

3 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 8601:2004, *Data elements and interchange formats — Information interchange — Representation of dates and times*

ISO/IEC 9075-1:2011, *Information technology — Database languages — SQL — Part 1: Framework (SQL/Framework)*

ISO/IEC 9075-2:2011, *Information technology — Database languages — SQL — Part 2: Foundation (SQL/Foundation)*

ISO/IEC 10646:2012, *Information technology — Universal Coded Character Set (UCS)*

ISO 19111:2007, *Geographic information — Spatial referencing by coordinates*

ISO 19111-2:2009, *Geographic information — Spatial referencing by coordinates — Part 2: Extension for parametric values*

4 Definitions and abbreviations

4.1 Definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

4.1.1

affine coordinate system

coordinate system (4.1.8) in Euclidean space with straight axes that are not necessarily mutually perpendicular

[SOURCE: ISO 19111:2007, 4.1]

4.1.2

bearing

horizontal angle at a point relative to a specified direction

Note 1 to entry: The direction is usually specified to be north. In some communities the term bearing refers specifically to grid north and directions relative to true north are then termed 'azimuth'; in other communities a bearing refers specifically to true north. In this International Standard bearing is used for any specified reference direction. The angle may be reckoned positive clockwise or positive counter-clockwise depending upon the application.