



Introducing UnitsML

CALCONNECT

UnitsML for semantic units

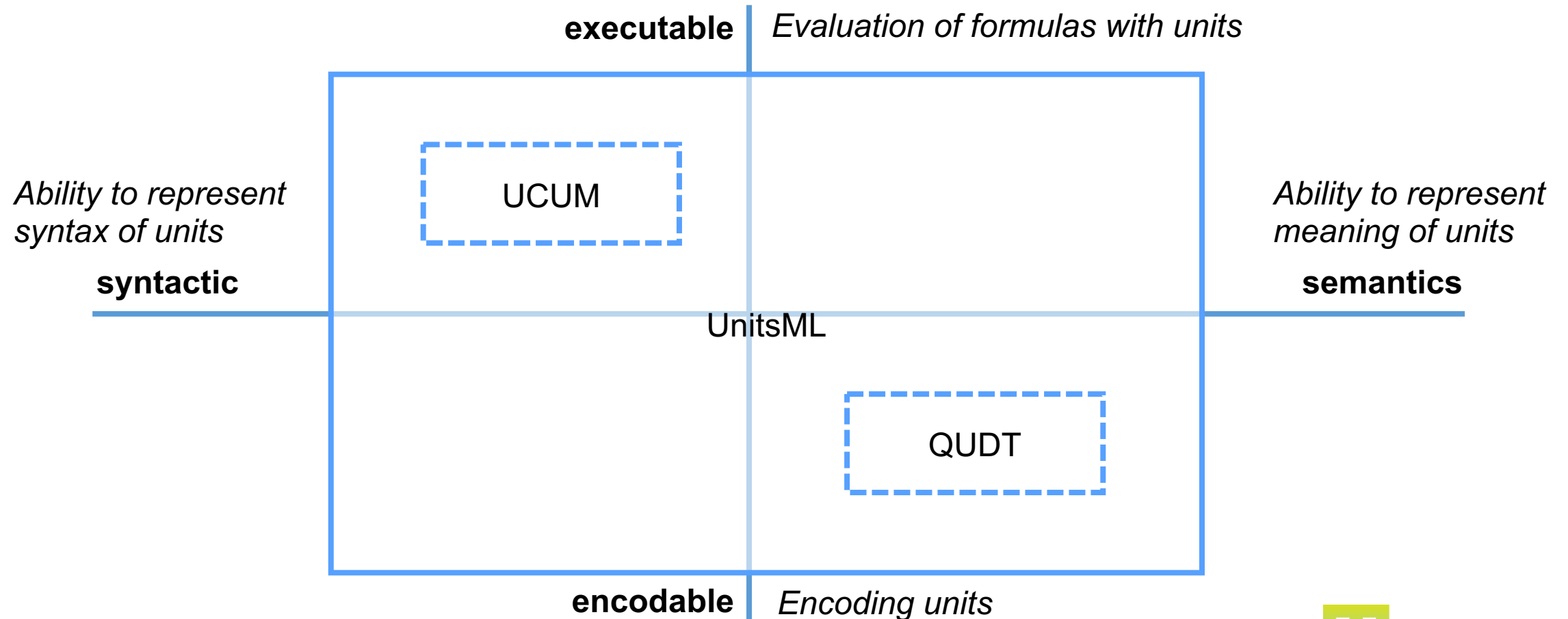
Our vision

- facilitate unit information processing
- validating consistent usage of units, quantities, and prefixes
- unit conversion and manipulation

Digital units systems

- UCUM: representation of units and quantities in plain text
- QUDT: ontology of units, quantities
- UnitsML:
 - UnitsML XML: representation of units in XML
 - AsciiUnits: representation of units in plain text
 - UnitsML/MathML: representation of units with quantities in XML
 - AsciiUnits/AsciiMath: representation of units with quantities in plain text
 - UnitsDB: definitions, ontology of units

Digital units landscape



A history of UnitsML

- **1998:** Initiated by Frank Olken, John McCarthy at LBNL
- **2003:** UnitsML partially funded by NIST SIMA program, contributions from Bob Dragoset and many other NIST members
- **2006:** UnitsML getting standardized at OASIS, proposed by NIST PML (previously PL) and sponsored by NIST
- **2016:** OASIS TC UnitsML closed due to completion of work
- **2020:** UnitsML work continues with NIST contributors, used by the BIPM SI Brochure's semantic version, new website
- **2022:** CalConnect TC UNITS established to continue UnitsML work (joint TC with OASIS being discussed)

CalConnect TC UNITS

- TC UNITS is a standing committee chartered to provide international standards for:
 - representation and encoding of units, quantities, and dimensions;
 - mechanisms for encoding and interpretation of formulas that utilize units.
- The TC aims to work closely with the BIPM, CIPM and CGPM towards an interoperable “Digital SI” infrastructure, and advocate such throughout technologies and standards developed at CalConnect.
- Co-chairs: Karen Olsen (NIST), Nick Nicholas (Ribose)
- *In discussion with OASIS on a Joint TC (OASIS and CalConnect have a reciprocal membership agreement)*

Components of UnitsML

- **UnitsML schema:** XML schema for encoding and constructing scientific units of measure
 - <https://schema.unitsml.org>
- **UnitsDB:** Data repository of known units of measure with encoding and rendering information on units, quantities, prefixes
 - <https://github.com/unitsml/unitsdb>
- **UnitsML tools:** Tools for parsing, rendering and manipulation of units in UnitsML

UnitsML XML schemas



UNITSML UnitsML XML schemas

SCHEMAS

- (current) UnitsML 1.0 ([XSD annotated schema](#))
- (deprecated) UnitsML Lite 0.9.18 ([XSD annotated schema](#))

For UnitsML 1.0, please use the following value:

```
https://schema.unitsml.org/unitsml/unitsml-v1.0
```

The following URL pattern is used for schema documents:

```
https://schema.unitsml.org/{SchemaName}.xsd
```

Schema Document Properties

Elements
AmountOfSubstance
CodeListValue
ConversionDescription
ConversionNote
Conversions
CountedItem
CountedItemSet
Dimension
DimensionSet
ElectricCurrent
EnumeratedRootUnit
ExternalRootUnit
Float64ConversionFrom
Item
ItemDefinition
ItemHistory

Units Markup language (UnitsML) Schema Documentation unitsml-v1.0

Schema Document Properties

Target Namespace	https://schema.unitsml.org/unitsml/1.0
Version	1.0
Element and Attribute Namespaces	• Global element and attribute declarations belong to this schema's target namespace. • By default, local element declarations belong to this schema's target namespace. • By default, local attribute declarations have no namespace.
Schema	• This schema imports schema(s) from the following

<https://schema.unitsml.org>

<https://schema.unitsml.org/docs/unitsml/unitsml-v1.0/>

UnitsML works with MathML

```
<math xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1998/Math/MathML">
  <mn>0.012</mn>
  <mo rspace="thickmathspace">⋅</mo>
  <mrow xref="U_kg.mol-1">
    <mi mathvariant="normal">kg</mi>
    <mo rspace="thickmathspace">⋅</mo>
    <msup>
      <mrow>
        <mi mathvariant="normal">mol</mi>
      </mrow>
      <mrow>
        <mo>⋅</mo>
        <mn>1</mn>
      </mrow>
    </msup>
  </mrow>
</math>
```

UnitsDB

- Managed dataset as ISO 19135 registry that provides information needed to reference units by machines
- Provides detailed units, dimensionality information for SI units and common non-SI units (>400):
 - unique identifiers
 - unit symbols
 - language-specific unit names
 - representations in terms of other units (including conversion factors)
- And unit systems, prefixes and quantities

Sources of UnitsDB

- BIPM SI Brochure
- NIST SP 811
- ISO 80000 series
- in some cases, "Encyclopaedia of Scientific Units, Weights and Measures, Their SI Equivalences and Origins" by François Cardarelli, is consulted

UnitsDB sample entry

"NISTu5":

dimension_url: "#NISTd5"

short: kelvin

root: true

unit_system:

type: "SI_base"

name: "SI"

unit_name:

- "kelvin"

root_units:

enumerated_root_units:

- unit: "kelvin"

power_denominator: 1

power_numerator: 1

quantity_reference:

- name: "thermodynamic temperature"

url: "#NISTq5"

unit_symbols:

- id: "K"

ascii: "K"

html: "K"

mathml: "<mi mathvariant='normal'>K</mi>"

latex: \ensuremath{\mathrm{K}}

unicode: "K"

- id: "degK"

ascii: "degK"

html: "°K"

mathml: "<mi mathvariant='normal'>°K</mi>"

latex: \ensuremath{\mathrm{^{\circ}K}}

unicode: "°K"

UnitsML tools

- UnitsML libraries for UnitsDB lookup and manipulation
- Converting AsciiMath

Also works with AsciiMath

Specified as:

```
0.012 "unitsml(kg*mol^(-1))"
```

Rendered as:

0.012 kg mol⁻¹

Encoded as:

```
<math xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1998/Math/MathML">
  <mn>0.012</mn>
  <mo rspace="thickmathspace">&#x2062;</mo>
  <mrow xref="U_kg.mol-1">
    <mi mathvariant="normal">kg</mi>
    <mo rspace="thickmathspace">&#x2062;</mo>
    <msup>
      <mrow>
        <mi mathvariant="normal">mol</mi>
      </mrow>
      <mrow>
        <mo>&#x2212;</mo>
        <mn>1</mn>
      </mrow>
    </msup>
  </mrow>
</math>
```

BIPM. The International System of Units (SI), Semantic Edition, 2022.

Real life example: SI Brochure

Bureau international des poids et mesures (BIPM)

- *the international organization established by the Metre Convention, through which Member States act together on matters related to measurement science and measurement standards*
- *the home of the International System of Units (SI) and the international reference time scale (UTC).*
- See more at <https://www.bipm.org>

SI Brochure: BIPM's core deliverable

- Communicates the standards established by the Metre Convention, the international treaty that forms the basis for international agreement on units of measurement
- Basis of other international/national standards on usage of units (ISO and IEC 80000 series, NIST SP 330, etc.)
- Definitive terminology around units

ISO/IEC SMART levels indicate potential for functionality

A higher SMART level provides “more functionality”:

- ➔ more expressiveness allowed
- ➔ more accurate semantics
- ➔ more functionality possible

Level 1:
Undifferentiated
undifferentiated digital
content organized
primarily for
presentation and
human readability
without particular
regard to semantics

EXAMPLE: A PDF file
generated by a word
processing system.

Level 2:
Presentational
digital content
organised according
to presentational
structure with some
semantically
organized content

EXAMPLE: An XML
document that
provides some
structured terminology
content.

Level 3:
Presentational
with semantics

digital content
organised according
to presentational
structure with some
semantically
enriched content

EXAMPLE: An XML
document that
contains structured
terminology content
and linked references
to external
terminology content.

Level 4:
Semantically
oriented

digital content
organised according
to a semantics-
oriented structure

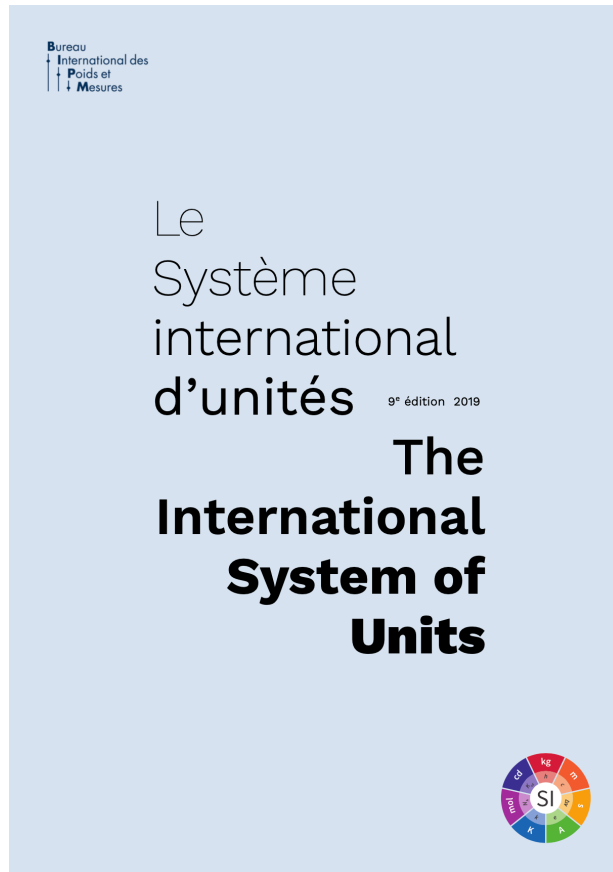
EXAMPLE: An
ontological
representation of
requirements.

Level 5: Native
semantics

digital content
organised
according to their
natural or native
semantic structure

EXAMPLE:
Information models
in EXPRESS and a
registry of such
data.

The Semantic SI Brochure uses UnitsML



- BIPM developed a machine-readable semantic version of its SI Brochure as a SMART Level 4 output
- Used [Metanorma](https://github.com/metanorma/metanorma), an open-source model-based authoring suite for standards
- Available open source at [warning: DRAFT!]:
 - <https://github.com/metanorma/bipm-si-brochure>

Level 1: Undifferentiated digital content

Table 3. Base quantities and dimensions used in the SI

Base quantity	Typical symbol for quantity	Symbol for dimension
time	t	T
length	$l, x, r, \text{etc.}$	L
mass	m	M
electric current	I, i	I
thermodynamic temperature	T	Θ
amount of substance	n	N
luminous intensity	I_v	J

- Some math symbols do not exist in the font needed.
- Some math symbols were represented by images.
- Reusability: very difficult.

BIPM. The International System of Units (SI), Edition 9, 2019.

Level 2: Presentational

Table 6. Examples of SI coherent derived units whose names and symbols include SI coherent derived units with special names and symbols

Derived quantity	Name of coherent derived unit	Symbol	Derived unit expressed in terms of base units
dynamic viscosity	pascal second	Pa s	$\text{kg m}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$
moment of force	newton metre	N m	$\text{kg m}^2 \text{s}^{-2}$
surface tension	newton per metre	N m^{-1}	kg s^{-2}
angular velocity, angular frequency	radian per second	rad s^{-1}	s^{-1}
angular acceleration	radian per second squared	rad s^{-2}	s^{-2}
heat flux density, irradiance	watt per square metre	W m^{-2}	kg s^{-3}

- Some math symbols are represented by normal, italicized or bolded text.
- The typical way to insert math symbols.
- Reusability: less difficult but at the cost of reimplementing semantics.

BIPM. The International System of Units (SI), Edition 9, 2019.

Level 3: Presentational with semantics

Presentation MathML

```
<mi mathvariant="normal">J</mi>  
<mo rspace="thickmathspace">⋅</mo>  
<mi mathvariant="normal">s</mi>
```

Rendered in Level 2:

- **the Planck constant, h , is $6.626\,070\,15 \times 10^{-34}$ J s,**

- Presentation MathML
- Reusability: copyable from XML, the meaning of the unit is lost.

BIPM. The International System of Units (SI), Semantic Edition, 2022.

Level 4: Semantics oriented

Presentation MathML with UnitsML

```
<mrow xref="U_NISTu13.u3">  
  <mi mathvariant="normal">J</mi>  
  <mo rspace="thickmathspace">&#x2062;</mo>  
  <mi mathvariant="normal">s</mi>  
</mrow>
```

Rendered in Level 2:

- **the Planck constant, h , is $6.626\,070\,15 \times 10^{-34}$ J s,**

Reusability: copyable from XML, semantics fully preserved.

UnitsDB entry

```
"NISTu13":  
  dimension_url: "#NISTd15"  
  unit_system:  
    type: "SI_derived_special"  
  unit_name:  
    - "joule"  
  unit_symbols:  
    - id: "J"  
  root_units:  
    enumerated_root_units:  
      - unit: "joule"  
        power_denominator: 1  
        power_numerator: 1  
  quantity_reference:  
    - name: "Lagrange function"  
      url: "#NISTq152"  
  si_derived_bases:  
    - id: NISTu1
```

BIPM. The International System of Units (SI), Semantic Edition, 2022.

Level 5: Native semantics

Content MathML with UnitsML

`<csymbol cd="unitsml">U_NISTu13.u3</csymbol>`

- Reduction of a math formula as digital data.
- Reusability: copyable from XML, semantics fully preserved.

Rendered in Level 2:

- **the Planck constant, h , is $6.626\,070\,15 \times 10^{-34}$ J s,**

BIPM. The International System of Units (SI), Semantic Edition, 2022.

Join us to make UnitsML better!

Current members:

- Mark Carlisle
- Simon Frechette
- Peter Linstrom
- Nick Nicholas
- Karen Olsen
- Ronald Tse
- Mike Douglass

Thank you!

Comparing with UCUM

- Ability to represent formulas with units and quantities in more than one textual format (ASCII, XML and potentially JSON)
- Supports the kilogram as a basic unit (UCUM uses “gram”)
- Allows users to create “custom units” built on SI units (or other UnitsDB units)
- UnitsML suite covers everything that UCUM can do, “UnitsML with AsciiMath” is an ASCII-based math format like UCUM. It could support any representation format in the future, e.g. LaTeX.

Comparing with QUDT

- QUDT is an ontology, it is not meant to facilitate the representation of formulas or execution of them