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## Guidelines for Translation of UML Information Model to YANG Data Model

### draft-mansfield-netmod-uml-to-yang-03

#### Abstract

This document defines guidelines for translation of data modeled with UML to YANG including mapping of object classes, attributes, data types, associations, interfaces, operations and operation parameters, notifications, and lifecycle.

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## 1. Introduction

As discussed in draft-lam-teas-usage-info-model-net-topology [5] a Data Model (DM) may be derived from an Information Model (IM). However, in order to assure a consistent and valid data modelling language representation that enables maximum interoperability, translation guidelines are required. A set of translation rules also assists in development of automated tooling.

This draft defines guidelines for translation of data modelled with UML [6] (as constrained by the ONF's UML Modeling Guidelines [7]) to YANG (defined in RFC6020 [1] and YANG 1.1 [4]) including mapping of object classes, attributes, data types, associations, interfaces, operations and operation parameters, notifications, and lifecycle.

## 2. Terminology

The following terms are defined in RFC6020 [1]

- anydata
- anyxml
- augment
- container
- data node
- identity
- instance identifier
- leaf
- leaf-list
- list
- module
- submodule

The following terms are defined in UML 2.4 [6]

- association
- attribute
- data type
- interface
- object class
- operation
- parameter
- signal (used to model notifications)

### 3. Overview

This document defines translation rules for all constructs used in a UML based IM to a data model using YANG.

While some mapping rules are straightforward, an IM in UML uses some constructs that cannot be mapped directly to a DM using YANG and conventions are described to make the translation predictable. Additionally, in some cases multiple mapping approaches are possible and selection among these is also necessary to assure interoperability.

Mapping guidelines for these constructs are provided in the following sections.

## **4. Mapping Guidelines**

### **4.1 Mapping Guideline Considerations**

Where "??" is inserted in the table, it means that the specific mapping is for further study as it is either as yet unclear how to map the construct or that there are multiple ways of doing the mapping and a single one needs to be selected.

A table will be included summarizing constructs in UML that do not directly map to YANG and where in this draft the associated guidelines for mapping these constructs will be provided.

### **4.2 Mapping of Object Classes**

Object Class		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Real object classes having/inheriting at least one attribute identified as "partOfObjectKey" will be mapped to a "list" statement</li> <li>- Real object classes not having/inheriting any attribute identified as "partOfObjectKey" will be mapped to a "container" statement</li> <li>- Abstract object classes used for inheritance will be mapped to a "grouping" statement</li> </ul>		
UML Artifact	YANG Artifact	Comment
documentation "Applied comments" (carried in XMI as "ownedComment")	"description" substatement	Multiple "applied comments" defined in UML, need to be collapsed into a single "description" substatement.
superclass(es)	"grouping" statement	Concrete superclasses are then mapped to container/list which uses these groupings.
abstract	"grouping" statement	It is possible that the superclass or abstract class contains the key attribute for the instantiated subclass, this requires the creation of the grouping but later when the subclass is instantiated the key value must be identified from within the grouping.
object identifier  Note: Attributes used as object identifier are defined in UML by the attribute property "partOfObjectKey".	list:"key" substatement	It is possible that the superclass or abstract class contains the key attribute for the instantiated subclass.
object identifier list  Does not appear in the UML when mapping to YANG.		The splitting of a list attribute (marked as key) into a single key attribute and an additional list attribute will be done in UML during Pruning and Refactoring. i.e. The mapping tool will never get a list attribute which is part of the object identifier.
objectCreationNotification [YES/NO/NA]	"notification" statement	Goes beyond the simple "a notification has to be sent": a tool can construct the signature of the notification by reading the created object.
objectDeletionNotification	"notification" statement	Goes beyond the simple "a notific-

[YES/NO/NA]		ation has to be sent": a tool can construct the signature of the notification by reading the deleted object. (i.e. not necessary to provide the attributes of the deleted object).
multiplicity >1 on association to the class	list:"min-elements" "max-elements" substatements	min-elements default = 0 max-elements default=unbounded mandatory default=false
<<Reference>>	"reference" substatement	
<<Example>>	Ignore Example elements and all composed parts	
lifecycleState	"status" substatement	<<UML>> -> "YANG" <<Deprecated>> "deprecated", <<Experimental>> description, <<Faulty>> description, <<LikelyToChange>> description, <<Mature>> "current", <<Obsolete>> "obsolete", <<Preliminary>> description
Proxy Class XOR	"choice" substatement	
support	"if-feature" substatement	Support and condition belong together. If the "support" is conditional, then the "condition" explains the conditions under which the class has to be supported.
condition		
operation	"action" substatement	YANG 1.0 supports only rpc -> add prefix to the rpc name; i.e. objectClass::rpc; "action" requires YANG 1.1
Conditional PACs	container::presence" substatement	
constraint property	list:"unique" substatement	UML is not able to define a group of attributes to be unique as YANG can do using the "unique" substatement.
{<constraint>}	"when" substatement	

Figure 1: Mapping of Object Classes



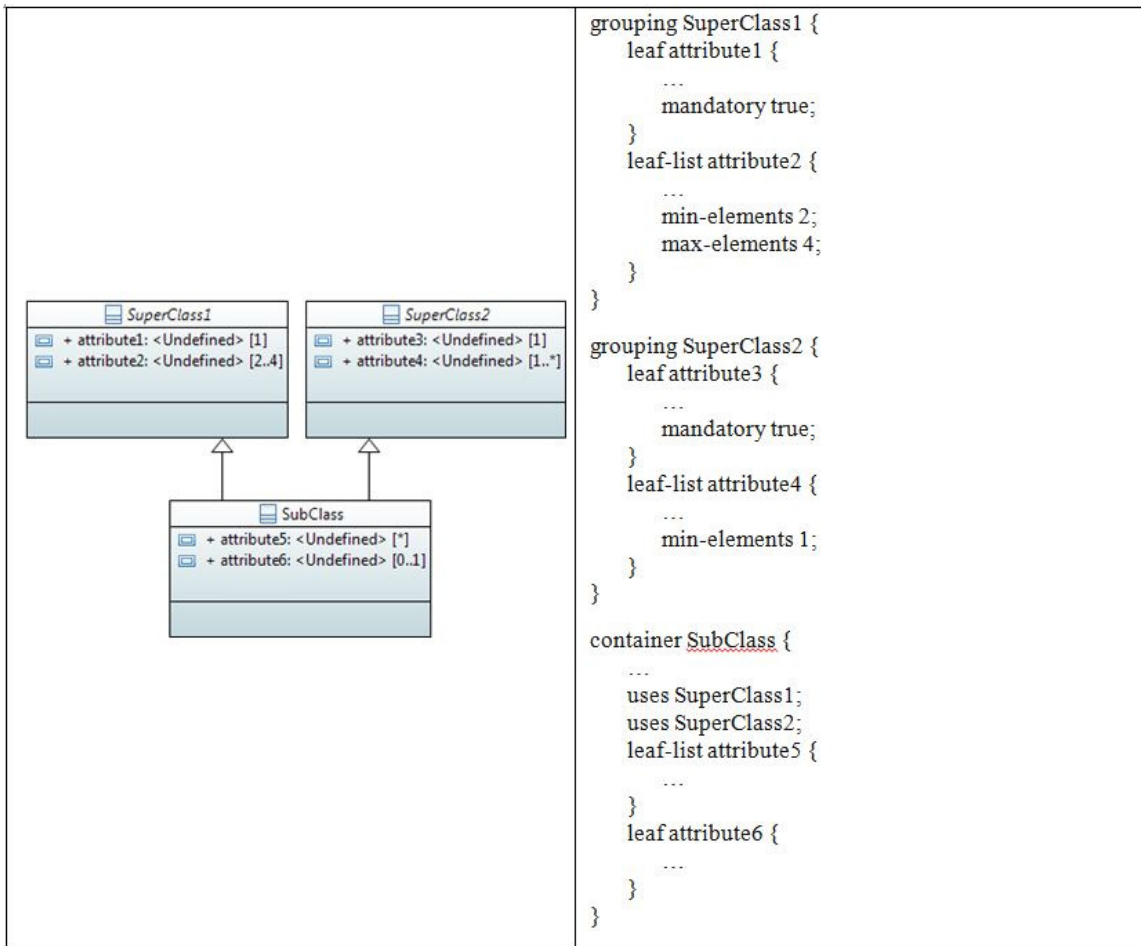


Figure 2: Example of Abstract Object Class Mapping (Available in PDF or HTML versions)

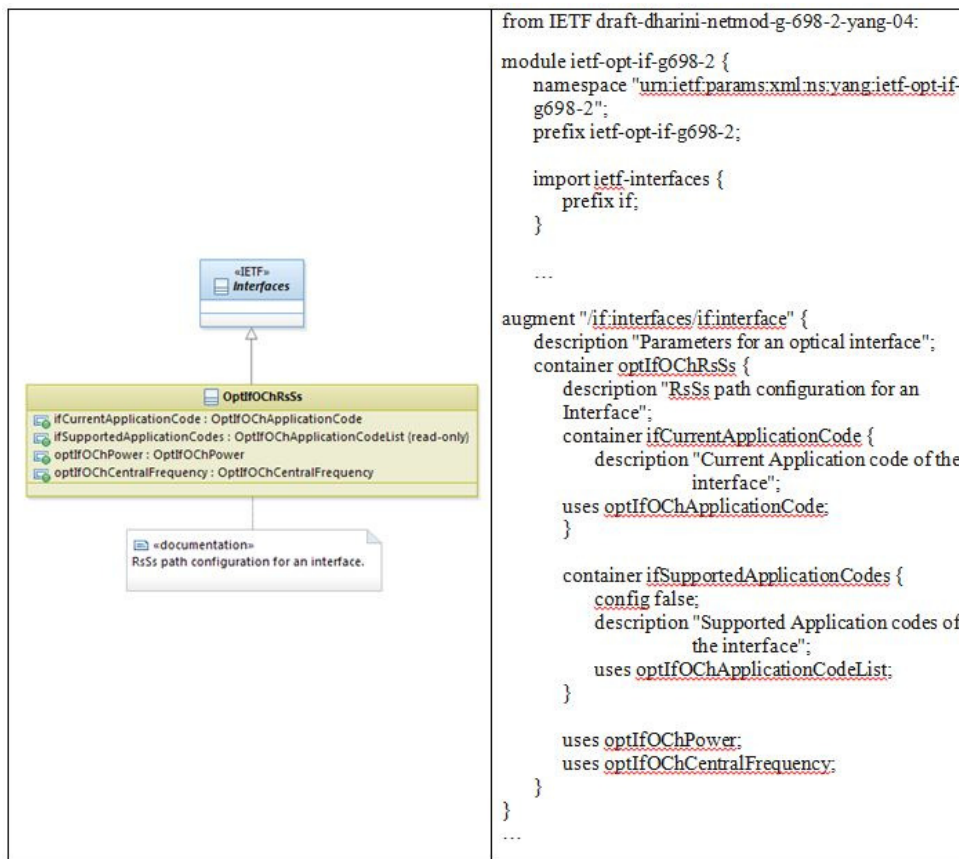


Figure 3: Example of Non-Abstract Object Class Mapping (Available in PDF or HTML versions)

### 4.3 Mapping of Attributes

Attribute --> "leaf" (single) or "leaf list" (multiple) statement		
UML Artifact	YANG Artifact	Comment
documentation "Applied comments" (carried in XMI as "ownedComment")	"description" substatement	Multiple "applied comments" defined in UML, need to be collapsed into a single "description" substatement.
type	"type" substatement (built-in or derived)	
readOnly	"config" substatement (false)	config default = true
isOrdered	"ordered-by" substatement ("system" or "user")	ordered-by default = system
isUnique	No unique sub-statement in leaf-list	Only relevant for multi-valued attributes.
Multiplicity (carried in XMI as lowerValue and upperValue)	"mandatory" or "min-elements" and "max-elements" substatements [0..1]>no mapping needed; is default substatement=false [1]>mandatory substatement=true [0..x]> no mapping needed; is default [1..x]> min-elements substatement = 1 [0..3]> max-elements substatement = 3	min-elements default = 0 max-elements default=unbounded mandatory default=false
defaultValue	"default" substatement	If a default value exists and it is the desired value, the parameter does not have to be explicitly configured by the user.
isInvariant	"extension" substatement -> ompExt:isInvariant	
valueRange	For string type: "pattern" and/or "length" substatement of "type" substatement For integer and decimal type: "range" substatement of "type" substatement For all other typed attributes and for string or integer or decimal typed attributes where the UML definition is not compliant to YANG: "description" substatement	The tool should provide a warning at the output of mapping process notifying when one or more UML valueRange definitions are contained in the description substatement of the corresponding leaf or leaf-list. When the value of "valueRange" is "null", "NA", "See data type", the tool ignores it and doesn't print out "range" substatement.
passedByReference	if passedByReference = true -> type leafref { path "/<object>/<objectidentifier>"} if passedByReference =	Relevant only to attributes that have an object class defined as their type.

	false -> either "list" statement (key property, multiple instances) or "container" statement (single instance)	
partOfObjectKey > 0	list:"key" substatement	It is possible that the (abstract) superclass contains the key attribute for the instantiated subclass.
unit	"units" substatement	
<<Reference>>	"reference" substatement	
<<Example>>	Ignore Example elements and all composed parts	
lifecycleState	"status" substatement	<<UML>> -> "YANG" <<Deprecated>> "deprecated", <<Experimental>> description, <<Faulty>> description, <<LikelyToChange>> description, <<Mature>> "current", <<Obsolete>> "obsolete", <<Preliminary>> description
support	For conditional support only:	Support and condition belong together. If the "support" is conditional, then the "condition"
condition	"if-feature" substatement  "when" substatement if condition can be formalized as XPath expression (i.e., it is conditioned by the value of another attribute)	explains the conditions under which the class has to be supported.
error notification??	"must" substatement	
{<constraint>}	"when" substatement	

Figure 4: Mapping of Attributes

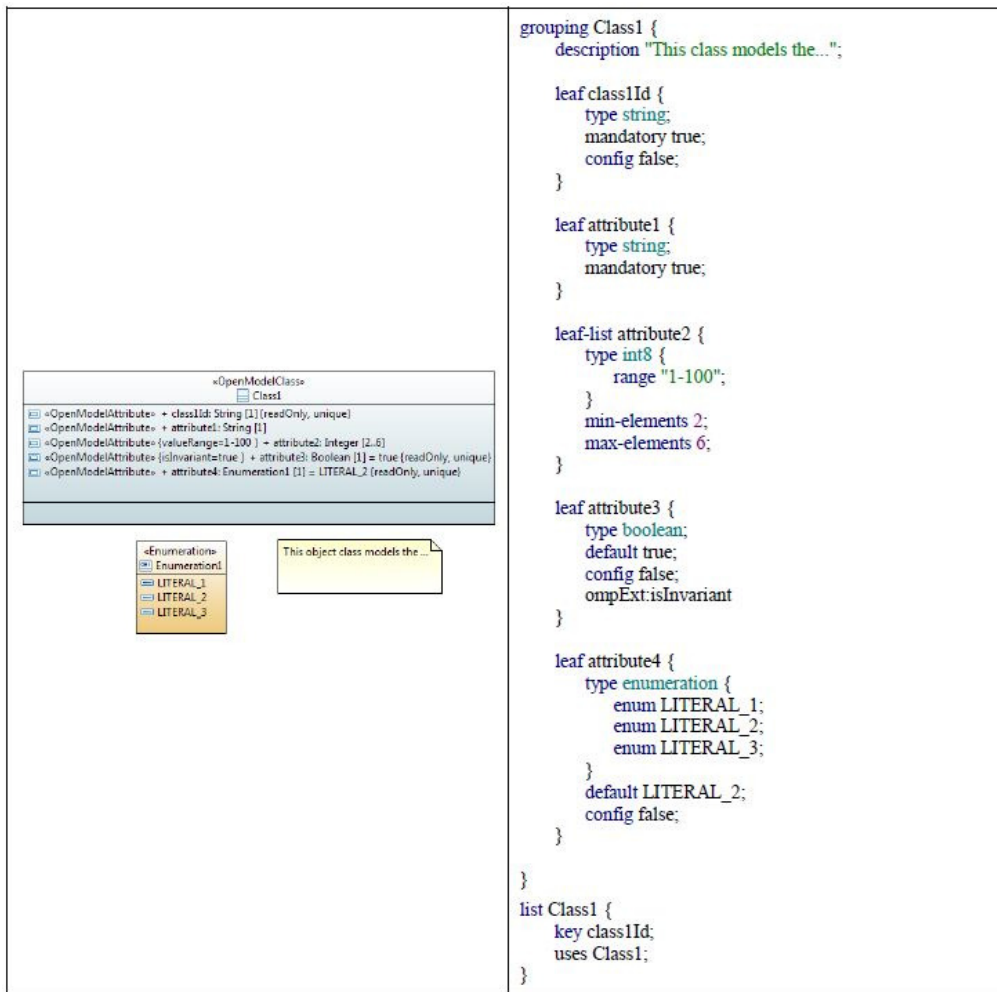


Figure 5: Example of Attribute Mapping (Available in PDF or HTML versions)

#### 4.4 Mapping of Types

Types		
UML Artifact	YANG Artifact	Comment
Primitive Type	Built-In Type if defined	e.g., Integer
Complex Data Type	"grouping" statement	e.g., date-time
Enumeration	"enum" statement	

Figure 6: Mapping of Types

##### 4.4.1 Mapping of Primitive Types

Primitive Type -> "typeDef" statement		
UML Artifact	YANG Artifact	Comment
documentation "Applied comments" (carried in XMI as "ownedComment")	"description" substatement	Multiple "applied comments" defined in UML, need to be collapsed into a single "description" substatement.
type	"type" substatement (built-in type or derived type)	
defaultValue	"default" substatement	If a default value exists and it is the desired value, the parameter does not have to be explicitly configured by the user. When the value of "defaultValue" is "NA", the tool ignores it and doesn't print out "default" substatement.
unit	"units" substatement	
<<Reference>>	"reference" substatement	
<<Example>>	Ignore Example elements and all composed parts	
lifecycleState	"status" substatement	<<UML>> -> "YANG" <<Deprecated>> "deprecated", <<Experimental>> description, <<Faulty>> description, <<LikelyToChange>> description, <<Mature>> "current", <<Obsolete>> "obsolete", <<Preliminary>> description

Figure 7: Mapping of Primitive Types

#### 4.4.2 Mapping of Complex Data Types

Complex Data Type -> "grouping" statement		
UML Artifact	YANG Artifact	Comment
documentation "Applied comments" (carried in XMI as "ownedComment")	"description" substatement	Multiple "applied comments" defined in UML, need to be collapsed into a single "description" substatement.
not used	"action" substatement	
XOR	"choice" substatement	
<<Reference>>	"reference" substatement	
<<Example>>	Ignore Example elements and all composed parts	
lifecycleState	"status" substatement	<<UML>> -> "YANG" <<Deprecated>> "deprecated", <<Experimental>> description, <<Faulty>> description, <<LikelyToChange>> description, <<Mature>> "current", <<Obsolete>> "obsolete", <<Preliminary>> description
complex attribute	"uses" statement	

Figure 8: Mapping of Complex Data Types

Leaf and leaf-list can only use built-in types, typeDef types or enumerations in their type substatement; i.e., not groupings. Complex data types with more than one item (e.g., name value pair) can only be defined using groupings. Groupings can only be used by grouping, container and list statements.

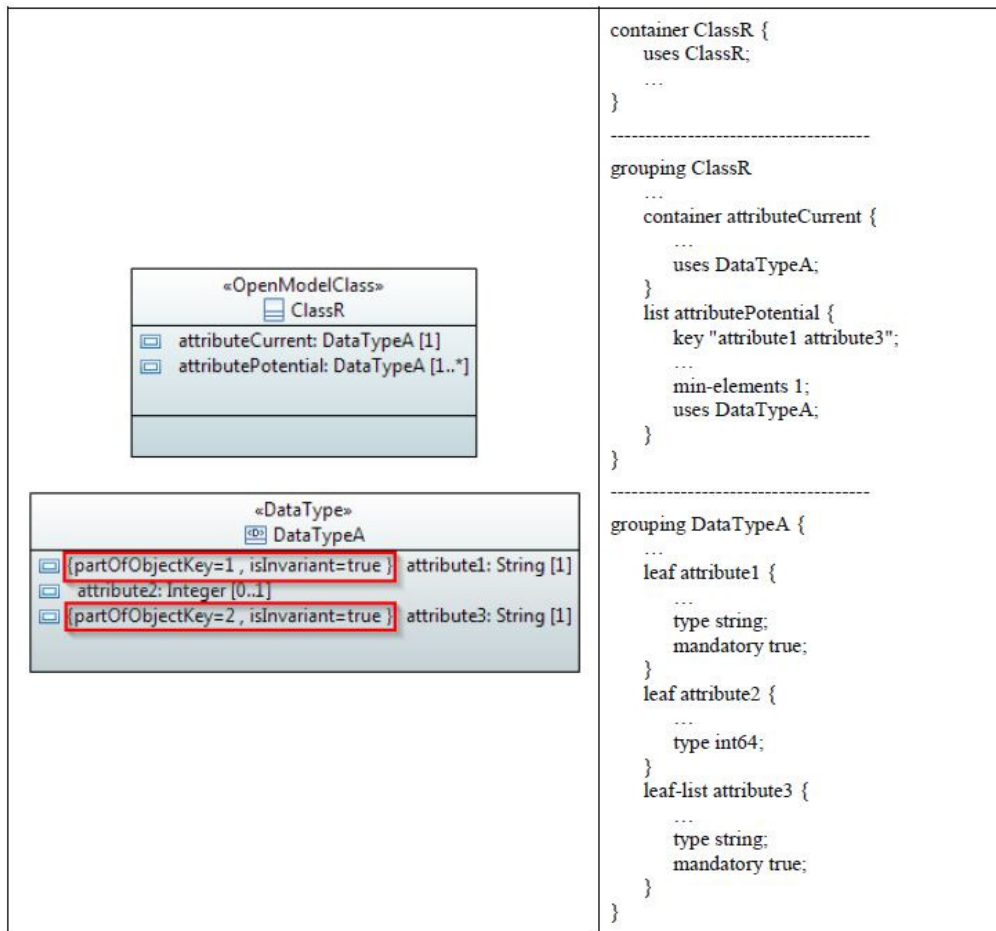


Figure 9: Example of Complex Data Type Mapping (Available in PDF or HTML versions)

#### 4.5 Mapping of Enumeration Types



Enumeration Type -> "enum" statement typedef for reusable (indirect usage) enumerations identity statement?		
UML Artifact	YANG Artifact	Comment
documentation "Applied comments" (carried in XMI as "ownedComment")	"description" substatement	Multiple "applied comments" defined in UML, need to be collapsed into a single "description" substatement.
literal name	enum name	
literal integer	"value" substatement	
isLeaf = true isLeaf = false	"enum" substatement "identity"/"base" pattern	UML definition ""
<<Reference>>	"reference" substatement	
<<Example>>	Ignore Example elements and all composed parts	
lifecycleState	"status" substatement	<<UML>> -> "YANG" <<Deprecated>> "deprecated", <<Experimental>> description, <<Faulty>> description, <<LikelyToChange>> description, <<Mature>> "current", <<Obsolete>> "obsolete", <<Preliminary>> description

Figure 10: Mapping of Enumeration Types

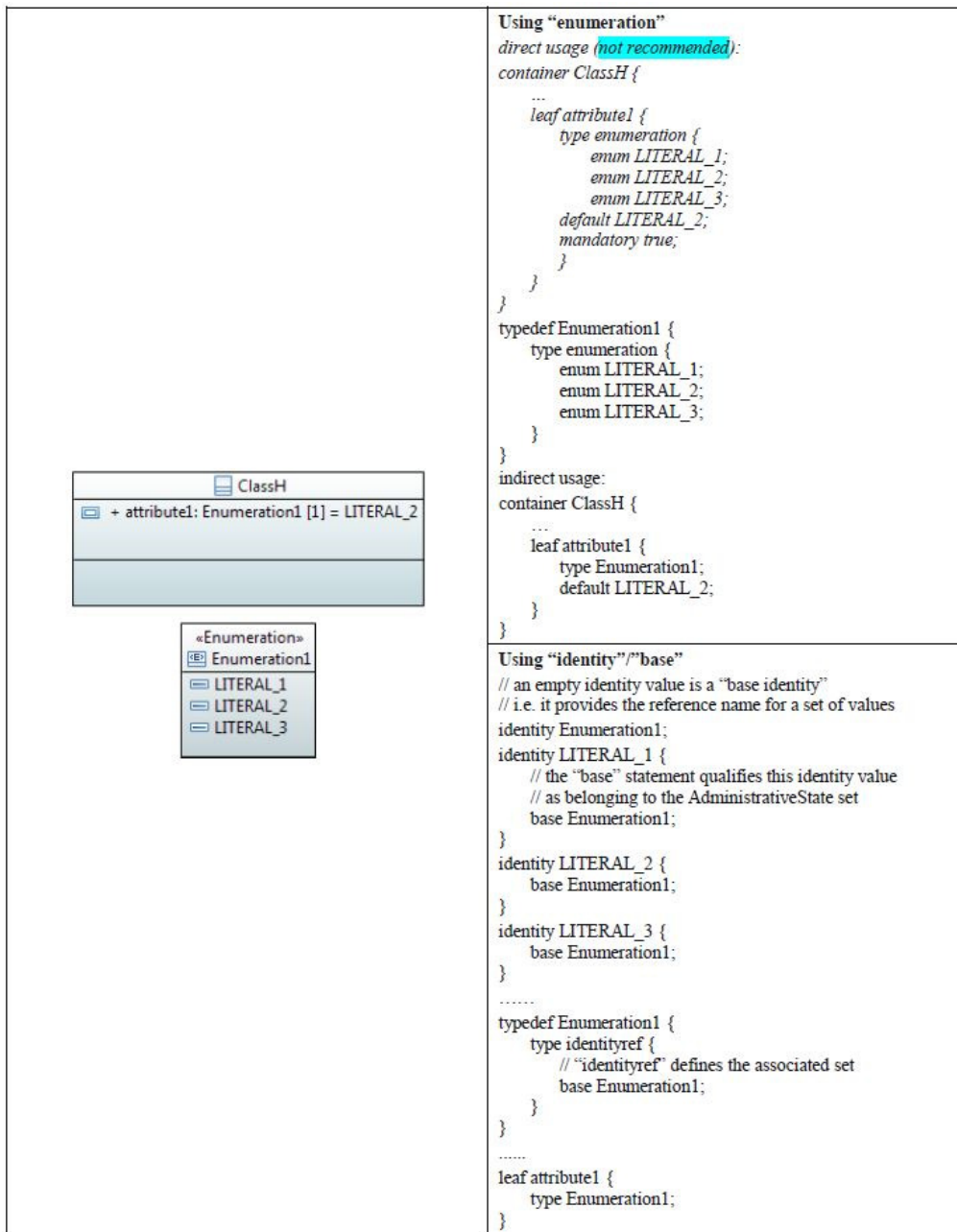


Figure 11: Example of Enumeration Type Mapping (Available in PDF or HTML versions)

#### 4.6 Mapping of Associations

Associations		
UML Artifact	YANG Artifact	Comment
Inheritance	abstract superclass: "grouping" statement concrete superclass: "augment" statement	Multiple inheritance can also be mapped using "groupings" Need to define when augment is used. Note: Augmentation can be conditional.
Composition with (aggregation='composite') "passed by value"	"container" statement containing "list" statement(s) (multiple contained instances) or "container" statement(s) (single contained instances)	How to map "passed by reference"??
Aggregation with (aggregation='shared') "passed by reference"	"leafref" statement	How to map "passed by value"??

Figure 12: Mapping of Associations

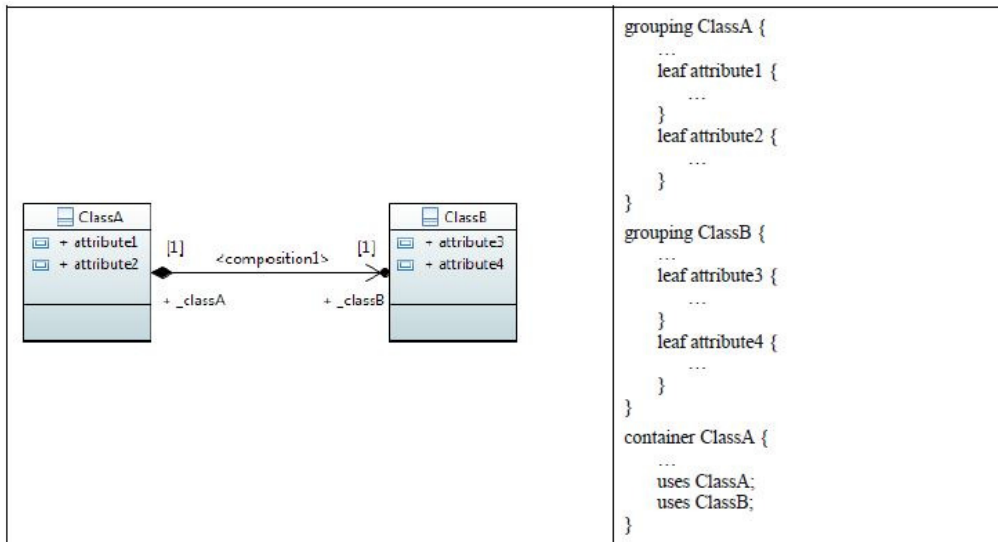


Figure 13: Association Mapping Example 1 (Available in PDF or HTML versions)

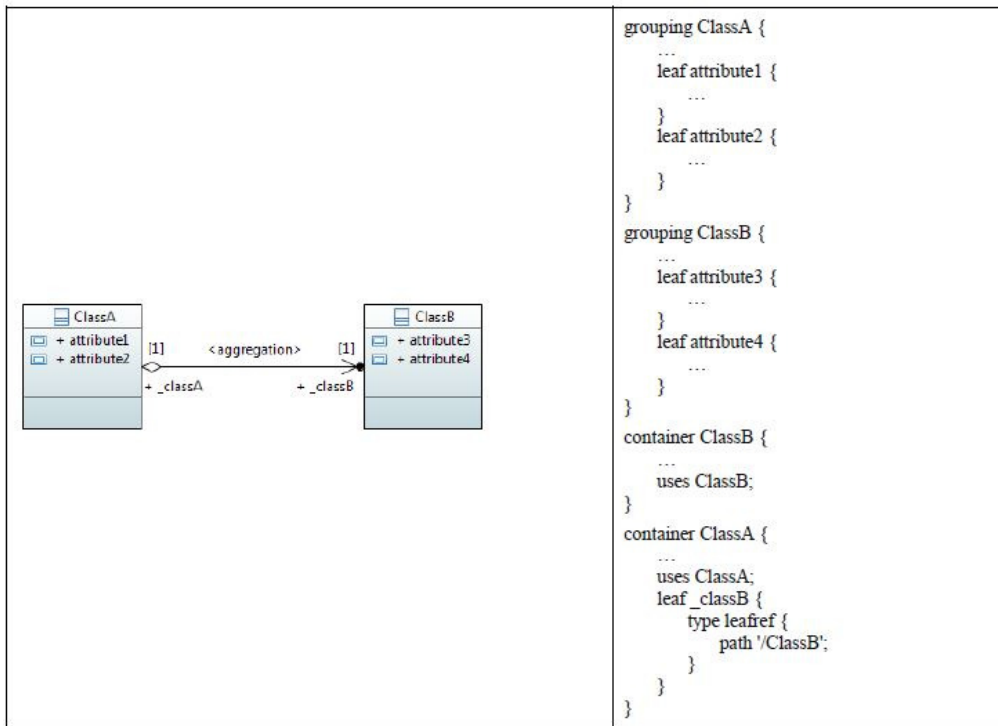


Figure 14: Association Mapping Example 2 (Available in PDF or HTML versions)

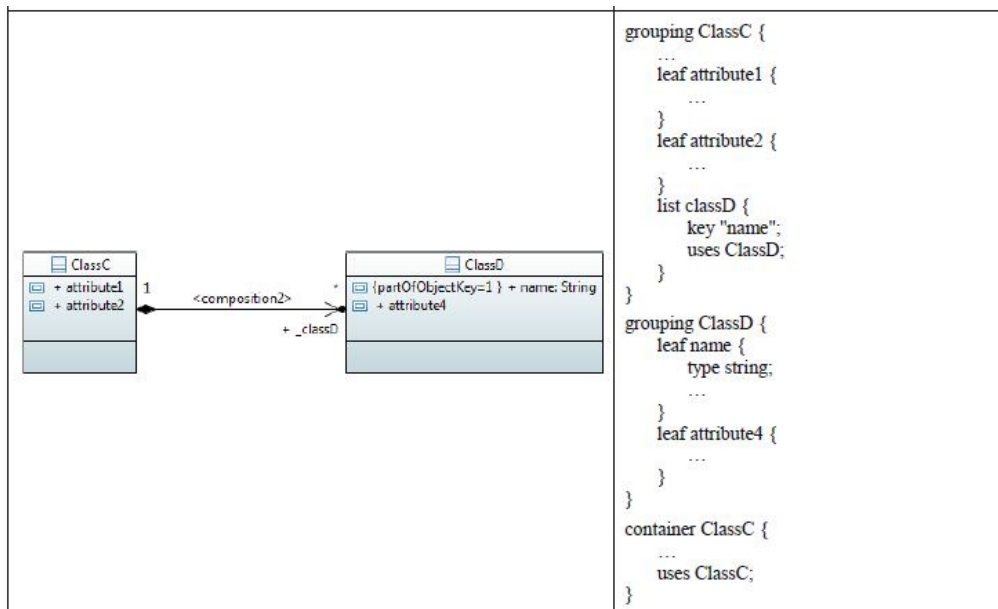


Figure 15: Association Mapping Example 3 (Available in PDF or HTML versions)

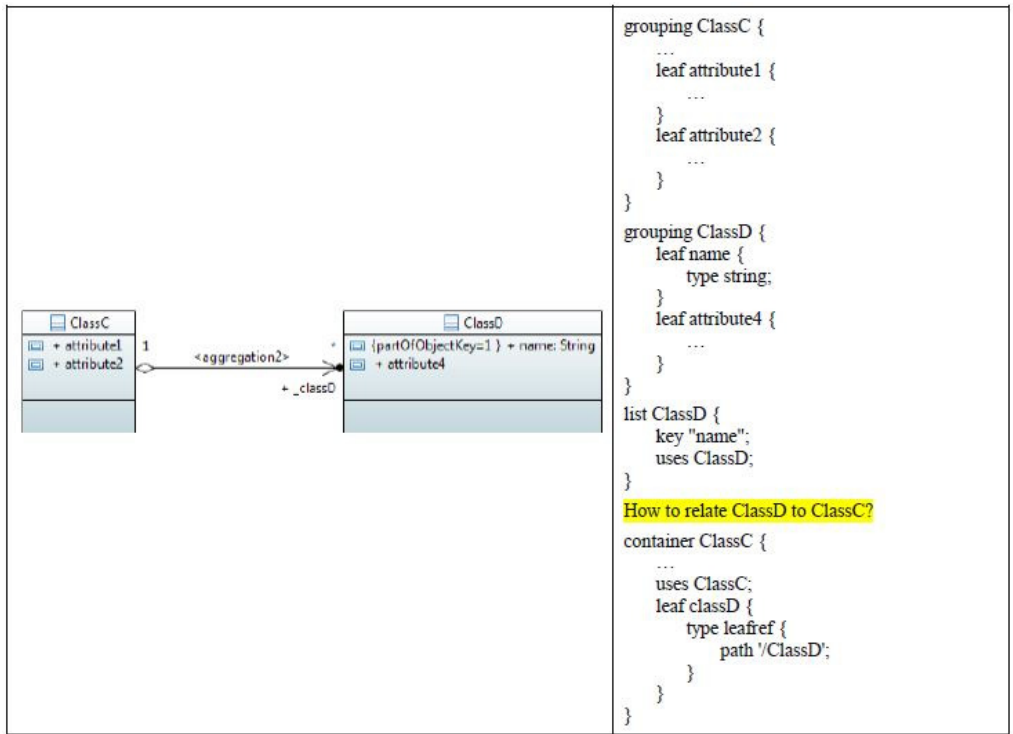


Figure 16: Association Mapping Example 4 (Available in PDF or HTML versions)

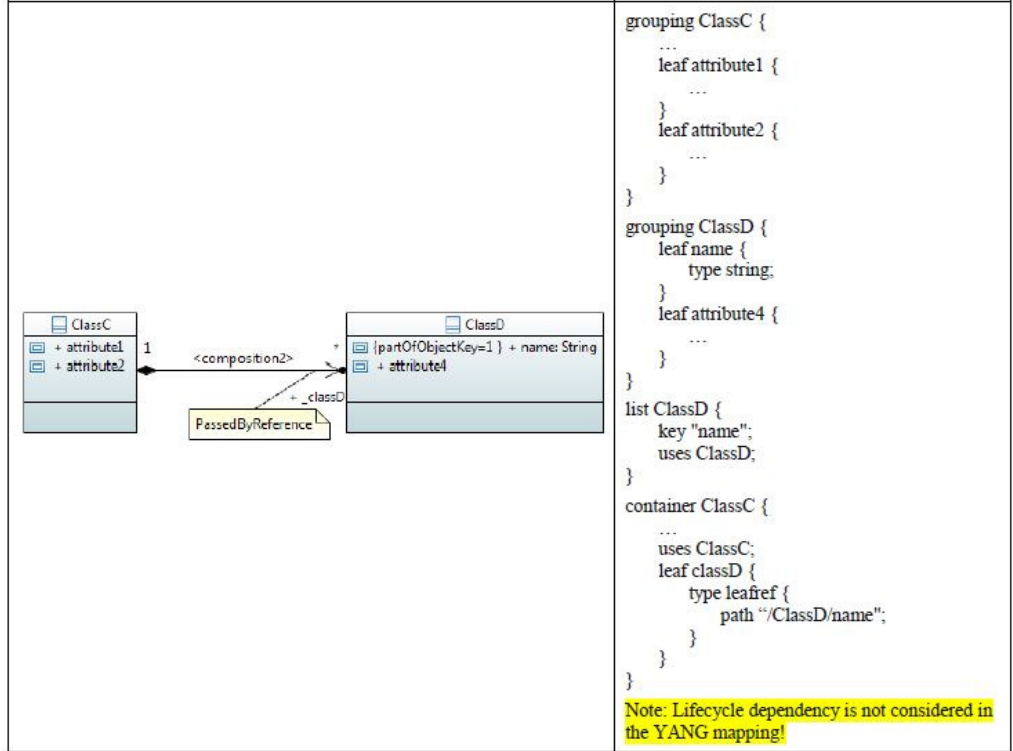


Figure 17: Association Mapping Example 5 (Available in PDF or HTML versions)

		UML		
		containment	association	inheritance
YANG	nesting	X		
	grouping			X abstract superclasses
	augment			X concrete superclasses
	leafref		X	

Figure 18: Association Mapping Summary

### 4.7 Mapping of Interfaces

UML Interface -> Container??		
documentation "Applied comments" (carried in XMI as "ownedComment")	"description" substatement	Multiple "applied comments" defined in UML, need to be collapsed into a single "description" substatement.
abstract	"grouping" statement	
<<Reference>>	"reference" substatement	
<<Example>>	Ignore Example elements and all composed parts	
lifecycleState	"status" substatement	<<UML>> -> "YANG" <<Deprecated>> "deprecated", <<Experimental>> description, <<Faulty>> description, <<LikelyToChange>> description, <<Mature>> "current", <<Obsolete>> "obsolete", <<Preliminary>> description
support	"if-feature" substatement	Support and condition belong together. If the "support" is con- ditional, then the "condition"
condition		explains the con- ditions under which the class has to be supported.

Figure 19: Mapping of Interfaces (grouping of operations)

### 4.8 Mapping of Operations

Operation -> "action" and "rpc" statements (RFC 6020: The difference between an action and an rpc is that an action is tied to a node in the data tree, whereas an rpc is associated at the module level.)		
documentation "Applied comments" (carried in XMI as "ownedComment")	"description" substatement	Multiple "applied comments" defined in UML, need to be collapsed into a single "description" substatement.
pre-condition	"extension" substatement -> ompExt:preCondition	RFC 6020; During the NETCONF <edit-config> processing errors are already sent for: - Delete requests for non-existent data. - Create requests for existing data. - Insert requests with "before" or "after" parameters that do not exist.
post-condition	"extension" substatement ompExt:postCondition	
input parameter	"input" substatement	
output parameter	"output" substatement	
operation exceptions Internal Error Unable to Comply Comm Loss Invalid Input Not Implemented Duplicate Entity Not Found Object In Use Capacity Exceeded Not In Valid State Access Denied	"extension" substatement ompExt:operationExceptions +-----+   error-tag   error-app-tag   +-----+   operation-failed   too-many-elements       too-few-elements       must-violation   +-----+   data-missing   instance-required       missing-choice   +-----+   bad-attribute   missing-instance   +-----+	
isOperationIdempotent	"extension" substatement ompExt:isOperationIdempotent	
isAtomic	"extension" substatement ompExt:isAtomic	Necessary?? Not in UML Guidelines (TR-514); needs to be added??
<<Reference>>	"reference" substatement	
<<Example>>	Ignore Example elements and all composed parts	
lifecycleState	"status" substatement	<<UML>> -> "YANG" <<Deprecated>> "deprecated", <<Experimental>> description, <<Faulty>> description, <<LikelyToChange>> description, <<Mature>> "current", <<Obsolete>>

		"obsolete", <<Preliminary>> description
support	"if-feature" substatement	Support and condition belong together. If the "support" is con- ditional, then the "condition" explains the con- ditions under which the class has to be supported.
condition		

Figure 20: Mapping of Operations

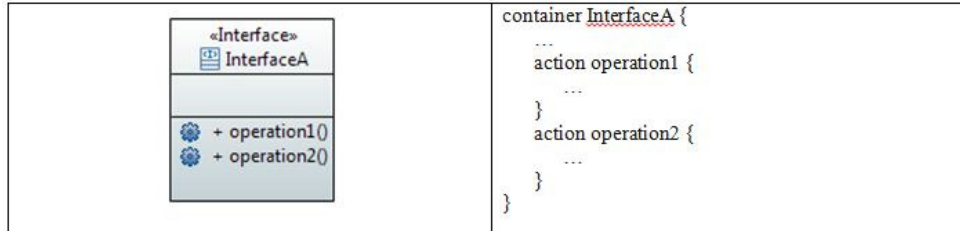


Figure 21: Operation Mapping Example (Available in PDF or HTML versions)

#### 4.9 Mapping of Operation Parameters



Operation Parameters		
documentation "Applied comments" (carried in XMI as "ownedComment")	"description" substatement	Multiple "applied comments" defined in UML, need to be collapsed into a single "description" substatement.
direction	"input" or "output" substatement	
type	see mapping of attribute types	
isOrdered	(grouping, leaf, leaf-list, list, typedef, uses)	
multiplicity		
defaultValue		
valueRange		
passedByReference	if passedByReference = true -> type leafref { path "/<object>/ <objectidentifier>"}  if passedByReference = false -> either "list" statement (key property, multiple instances) or "container" statement( single instance)	Relevant only to attributes that have an object class defined as their type.
<<Reference>>	"reference" substatement	
<<Example>>	Ignore Example elements and all composed parts	
lifecycleState	"status" substatement	<<UML>> -> "YANG" <<Deprecated>> "deprecated", <<Experimental>> description, <<Faulty>> description, <<LikelyToChange>> description, <<Mature>> "current", <<Obsolete>> "obsolete", <<Preliminary>> description
support	"if-feature" substatement not defined for input and output substatements in YANG??	Support and condition belong together. If the "support" is condi- tional, then the "condition" explains the condi- tions under which the class has to be supported.
condition		
XOR	"choice" substatement	
error notification??	"must" substatement	
complex parameter	"uses" substatement	

Figure 22: Mapping of Operation Parameters

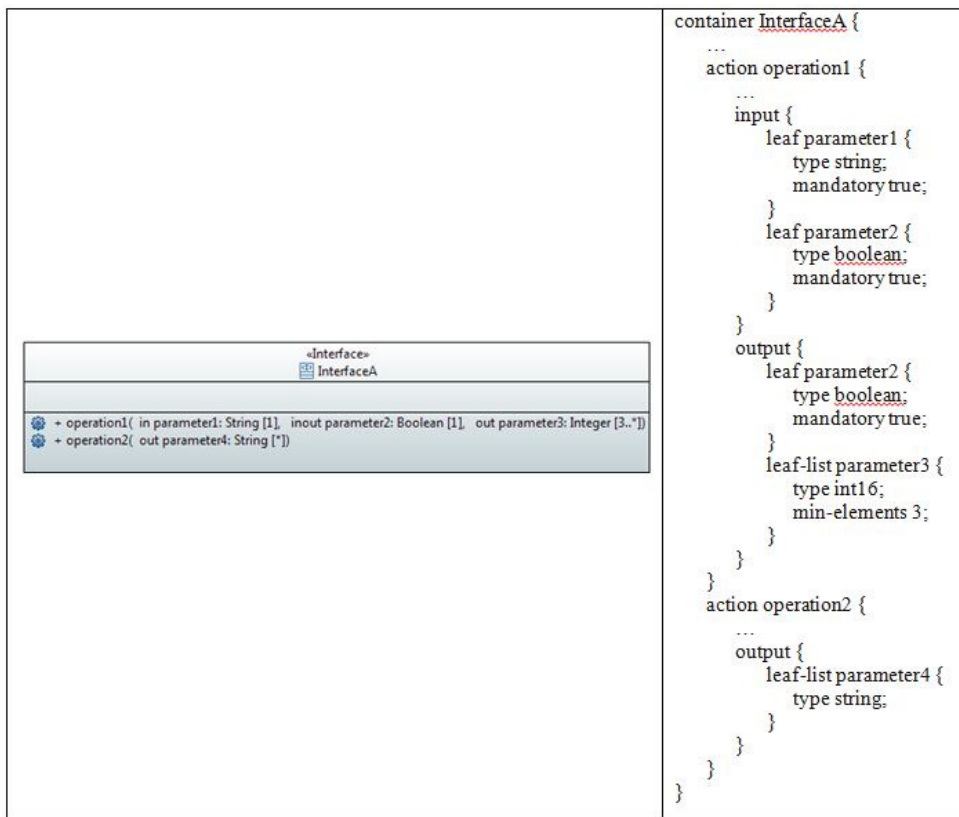


Figure 23: Parameter Mapping Example (Available in PDF or HTML versions)

#### 4.10 Mapping of Notifications

Signal "grouping" statement -> "notification" statement		
documentation "Applied comments" (carried in XMI as "ownedComment")	"description" substatement	Multiple "applied comments" defined in UML, need to be collapsed into a single "description" substatement.
<<Reference>>	"reference" substatement	
<<Example>>	Ignore Example elements and all composed parts	
lifecycleState	"status" substatement	<<UML>> -> "YANG" <<Deprecated>> "deprecated", <<Experimental>> description, <<Faulty>> description, <<LikelyToChange>> description, <<Mature>> "current", <<Obsolete>> "obsolete", <<Preliminary>> description
support	"if-feature" substatement	Support and condition belong together. If the "support" is con- ditional, then the "condition" explains the con- ditions under which the class has to be supported.
condition		
Proxy Class XOR	"choice" substatement	
error notification??	"must" substatement	
attributes	see mapping of attribute types (grouping, leaf, leaf-list, container, list, typedef, uses)	
complex attribute	"uses" substatement	

Figure 24: Mapping of Notifications

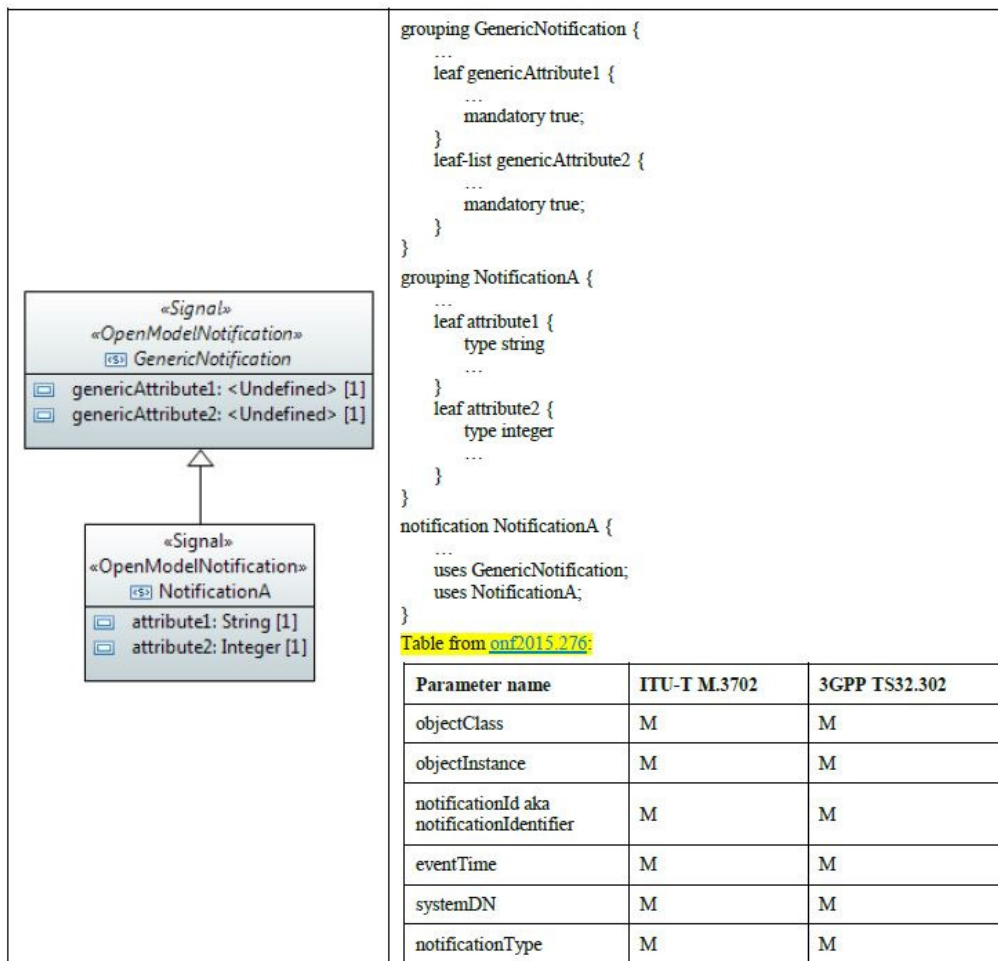


Figure 25: Notification Mapping Example (Available in PDF or HTML versions)

### 4.11 Mapping of Lifecycle

UML Lifecycle		
lifecycle stereotypes	"status" substatement or "description" substatement	<<UML>> -> "YANG" <<Deprecated>> "deprecated", <<Experimental>> description, <<Faulty>> description, <<LikelyToChange>> description, <<Mature>> "current", <<Obsolete>> "obsolete", <<Preliminary>> description

Figure 26: Mapping of Lifecycle

## 5. Mapping Patterns

### 5.1 UML Recursion

As YANG defines hierarchical data store, any instances that need to store recursive containment will require translation. A mapping between object-oriented store and a hierarchical store is possible; however, there is more than one option:

- Reference Based Approach approach - have a flat list of objects, where the objects are linked into a hierarchy using references. An example of a two-way navigable approach is in RFC7223 [2].
- Assume some specific number of "recursions"; i.e., specify some default number of recursion levels, and define a configurable parameter to allow changing the number of levels.

#### 5.1.1 Reference Based Approach

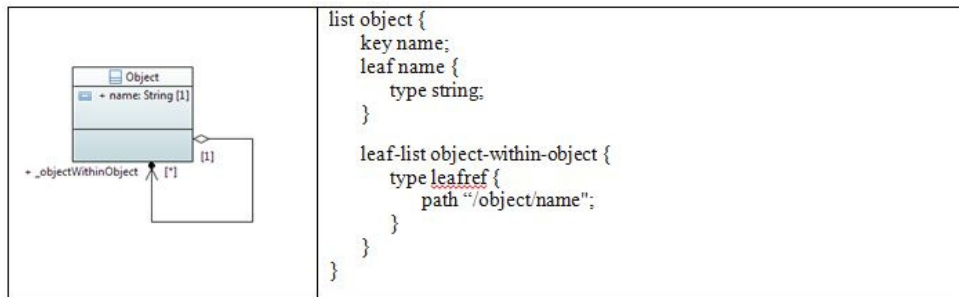


Figure 27: Recursion Mapping Example 1 (Available in PDF or HTML versions)

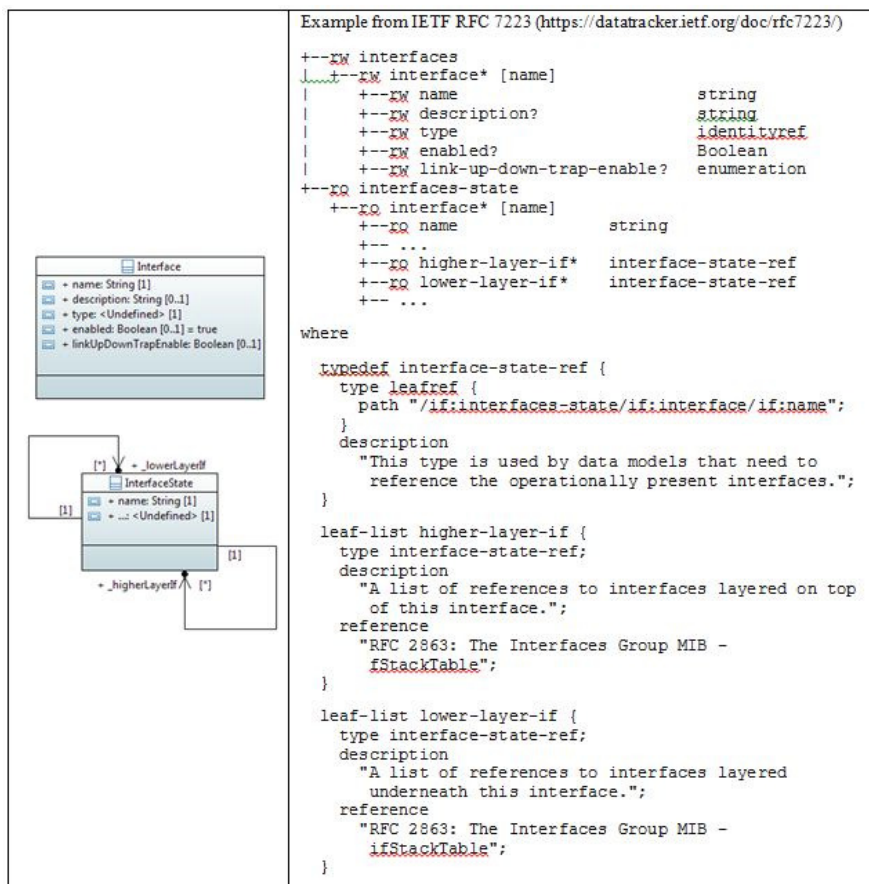


Figure 28: Recursion Mapping Example 2 (Available in PDF or HTML versions)

### 5.2 UML Conditional Pacs

Use the "presence" property of the container statement?

Note: An example of this usage is given in the "Data nodes for the operational state of IP on interfaces." within ietf-ip.yang RFC7277 [3].

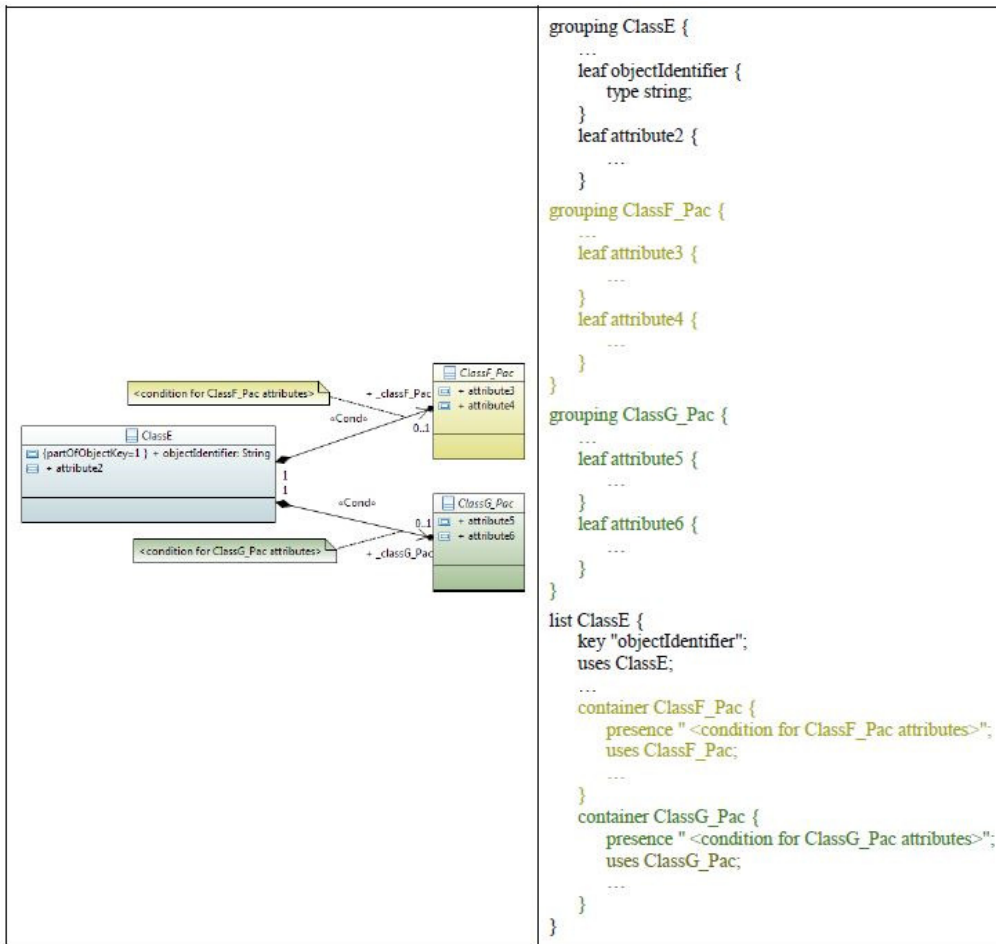


Figure 29: Mapping of Conditional Packages (Available in PDF or HTML versions)

### 5.3 XOR Relationship

The associations related by the "xor" constraint are mapped to the "choice" property of the container/list statement.



Figure 30: XOR Relationship Mapping Example (Available in PDF or HTML versions)

#### 5.4 Choice Stereotype

The choice stereotype can be associated in UML to a class or a data type. The class or a data type which is annotated with the choice stereotype represents one of a set of classes/data types. This pattern is mapped to the "choice" property of the container/list/grouping statement.

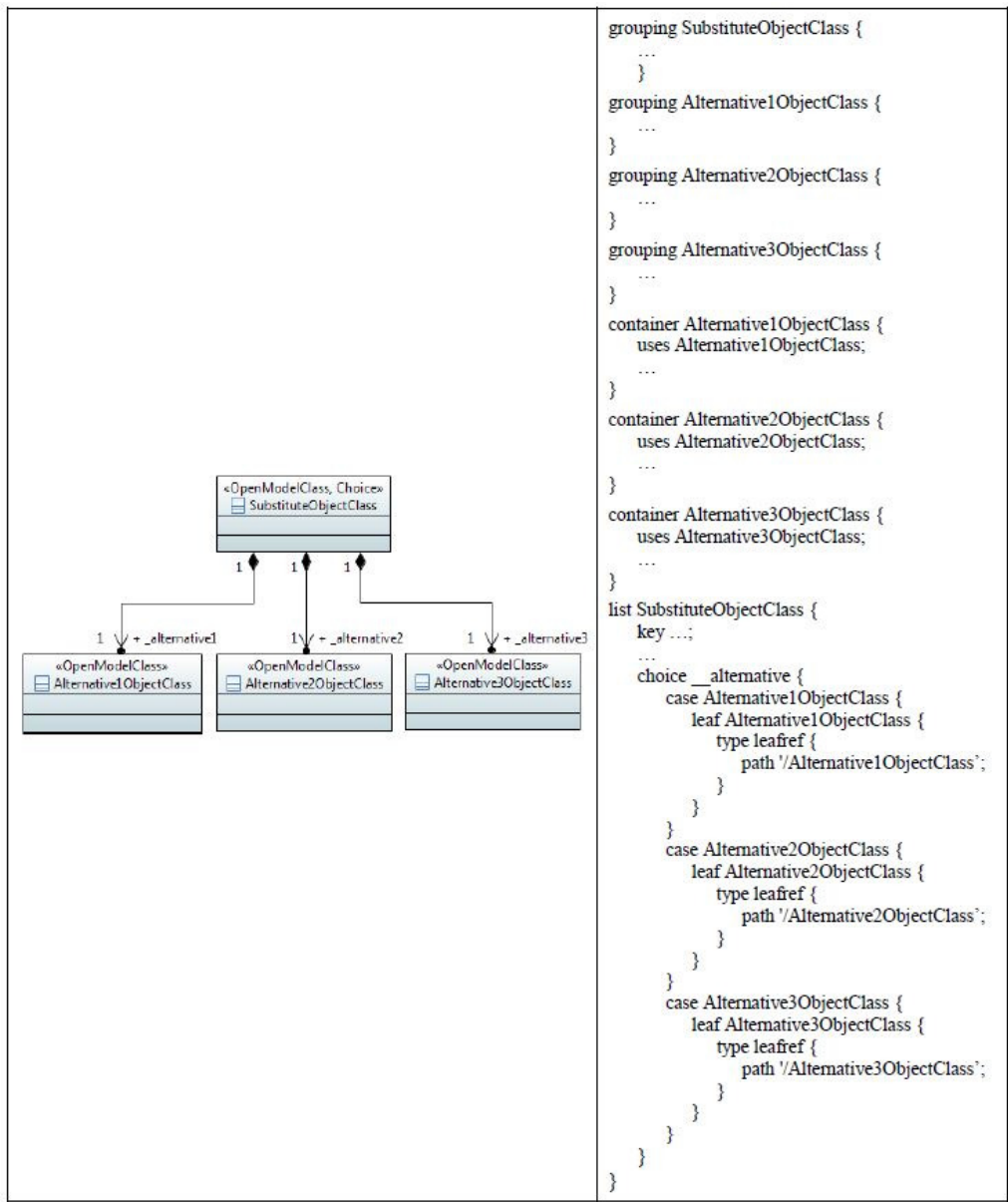


Figure 31: Choice Stereotype Example (Available in PDF or HTML versions)

### 5.5 Mapping of UML Support and Condition

The UML Modeling Guidelines [7] define support and condition for all UML artifacts (M - Mandatory, O - Optional, C - Conditional, CM - Conditional-Mandatory, CO - Conditional-Optional). Support qualifies the support of the artifact at the management interface. Condition contains the condition for the condition-related support qualifiers.

M - Mandatory maps to the "mandatory" substatement in choice and leaf or to the "min-elements" substatement in leaf-list and list.

O - Optional need not be mapped since the per default the "mandatory" and "min-elements" substatements define optional.

All conditional UML support qualifiers are mapped to the "if-feature" substatement.



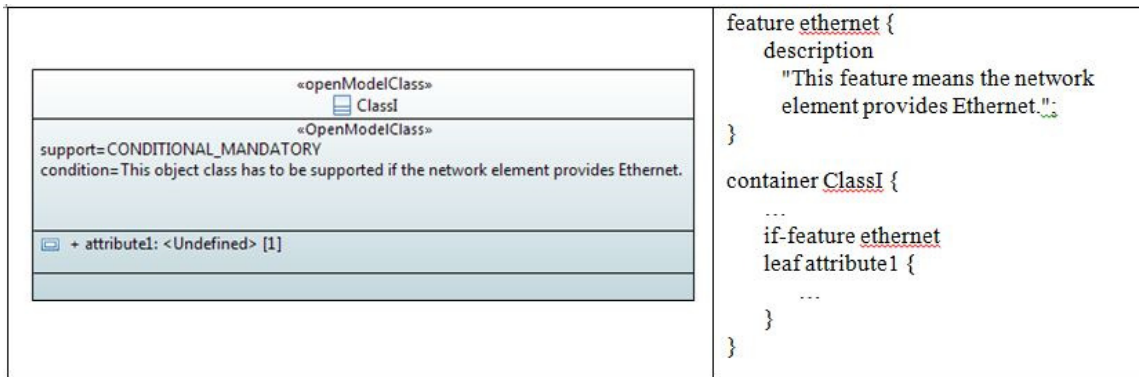


Figure 32: Support and Condition Mapping Example (Available in PDF or HTML versions)

## 6. Mapping Basics

### 6.1 UML-YANG or XMI-YANG

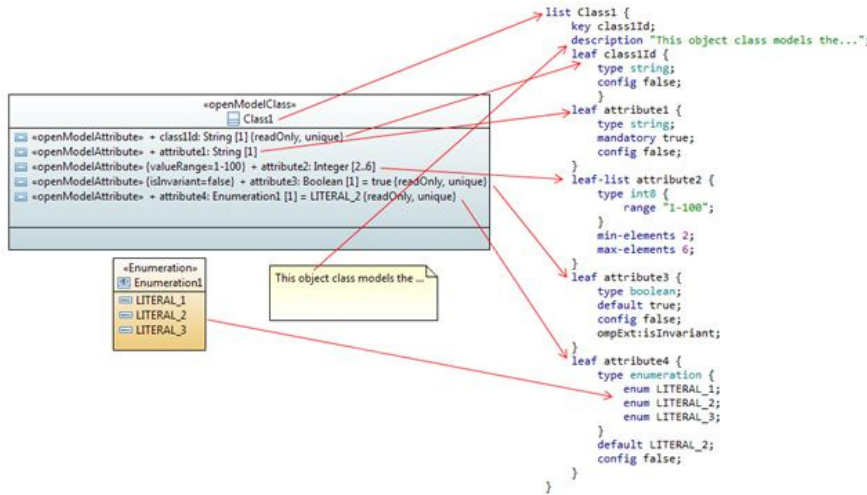


Figure 33: Example UML to YANG Mapping (Available in PDF or HTML versions)

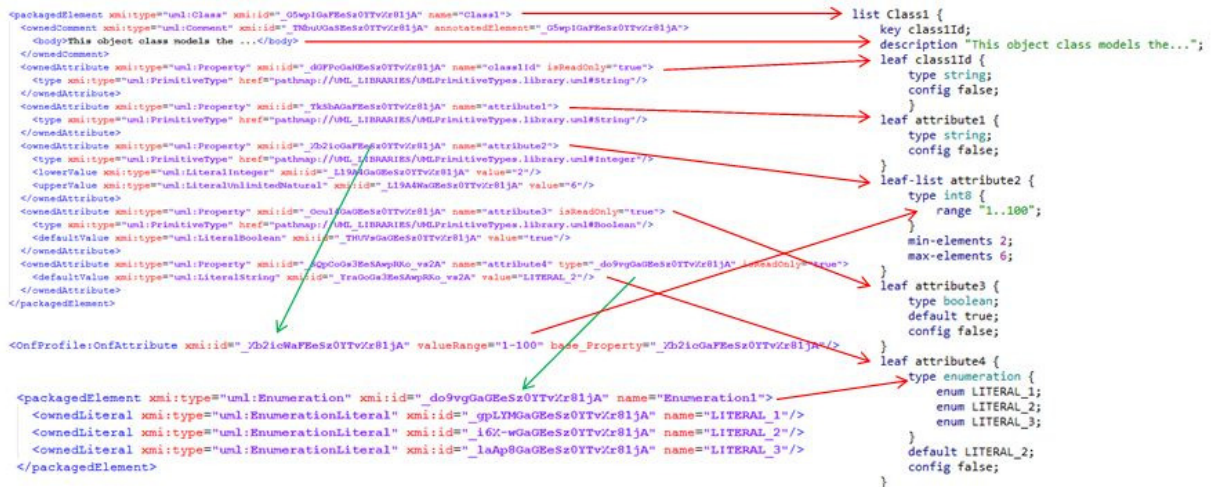


Figure 34: Example XMI (Papyrus) to YANG Mapping (Available in PDF or HTML versions)

## 7. Acknowledgements

## 8. IANA Considerations

This memo includes no request to IANA.

## 9. Security Considerations

This document defines defines guidelines for translation of data modeled with UML to YANG. As such, it doesn't contribute any new security issues beyond those discussed in Sec. 16 of RFC6020 [1].

## 10. Informative References

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- [2] Bjorklund, M., "A YANG Data Model for Interface Management", RFC 7223, DOI 10.17487/RFC7223, May 2014, <<http://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc7223>>.
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- [4] Bjorklund, M., Ed., "The YANG 1.1 Data Modeling Language", RFC 7950, DOI 10.17487/RFC7950, August 2016, <<http://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc7950>>.
- [5] Lam, H., Varma, E., Doolan, P., Davis, N., Zeuner, B., Betts, M., Busi, I., Mansfield, S., Vilata, R., and V. Lopezalvarez, "Usage of IM for network topology to support TE Topology YANG Module Development", Internet-Draft draft-lam-teas-usage-info-model-net-topology-03 (work in progress), May 2016.
- [6] OMG, "Unified Modeling Language (UML)", 2011, <<http://www.omg.org/spec/UML/2.4/>>.
- [7] OMG, "ONF TR-514 v1.0 UML Modeling Guidelines", 2015, <[https://www.opennetworking.org/images/stories/downloads/sdn-resources/technical-reports/UML\\_Modeling\\_Guidelines\\_V1.0.pdf](https://www.opennetworking.org/images/stories/downloads/sdn-resources/technical-reports/UML_Modeling_Guidelines_V1.0.pdf)>.

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