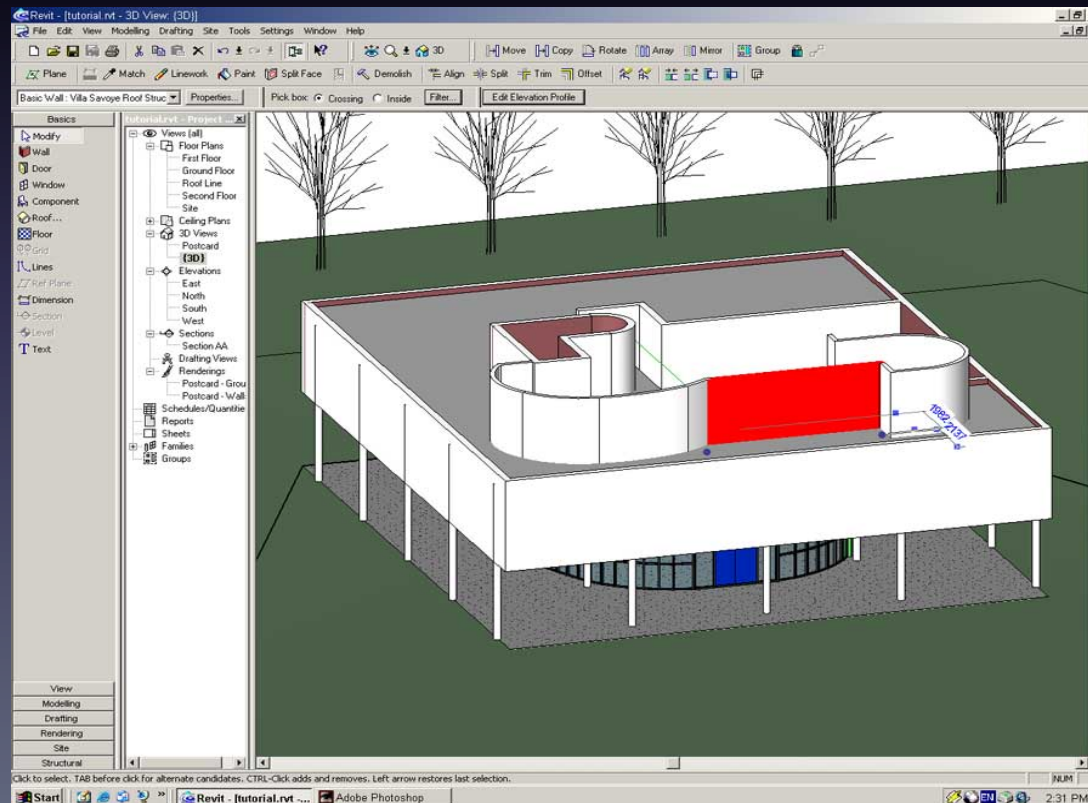


**ifcXMLNetwork:** A visualization to  
explore and understand relationships  
between elements in an ifcXML file

By: Nayantara Duttachoudhury

# BIM: Building Information Model

- Building information modeling (**BIM**) is a process involving the generation and management of digital representations of physical and functional characteristics of places.



# IFC Viewers

The screenshot displays a software interface for IFC validation. The top-left pane shows a 'Rule Set' tree with various categories like 'EDM Validation - Architecture', 'Space Checking', and 'Security Check'. The main 3D view shows a multi-story building model with a vertical red wall highlighted. The bottom-left pane provides details for '(A) Wall.3.3', noting a 13% filling percentage. The bottom-right pane lists 'Issues' with a table of error messages and a 'Comments' section with a note: 'Structural walls don't match with Architectural walls in this location'.

Issue ID	Description	Status
Us3a [5/5]		
(A) Wall.3.3		✗
(A) Wall.4.214		✗
(A) Wall.5.411		✗
(A) Wall.6.366		✗
(A) Wall.7.248		✗
V53 [0/0]		✓
V55 [68/68]		✓
V55_PUTICT [6/6]		✓
Us3a [1/1]		

# Problems?

- IFC Viewers concentrate on spatial properties of BIM models.
- Relationships between different kind of elements are not directly shown.
- This information is hard to retrieve from ifcXML files. Data in different elements connected through reference identifiers.

# ifcXML

```
- <IfcWallStandardCase id="146">
  <GlobalId>3MOsHIDNf9nAQRk6F$pGmY</GlobalId>
  + <OwnerHistory>
    <Name>Basic Wall:Interior - 6 1/8" Partition (2-hr):133257</Name>
    <ObjectType>Basic Wall:Interior - 6 1/8" Partition (2-hr):262</ObjectType>
  + <ObjectPlacement>
  + <Representation>
    <Tag>133257</Tag>
  </IfcWallStandardCase>

  - <IfcRelVoidsElement id="164">
    <GlobalId>2xzS9PRmT0nh66mJZe7UGt</GlobalId>
    + <OwnerHistory>
    - <RelatingBuildingElement>
      <IfcWallStandardCase xsi:nil="nil" ref="146" />
    </RelatingBuildingElement>
    - <RelatedOpeningElement>
      <IfcOpeningElement xsi:nil="nil" ref="172" />
    </RelatedOpeningElement>
  </IfcRelVoidsElement>

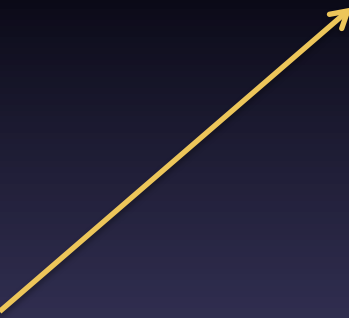
- <IfcOpeningElement id="172">
  <GlobalId>22MNdeNJf5YvWewJDWbew2</GlobalId>
  + <OwnerHistory>
    <Name>Single-Flush:30" x 80":30" x 80":144728:1</Name>
    <ObjectType>Opening</ObjectType>
  + <ObjectPlacement>
  + <Representation>
  </IfcOpeningElement>

  - <IfcRelFillsElement id="152">
    <GlobalId>DouI3MQ9r8FvK596Mgkjar</GlobalId>
    + <OwnerHistory>
    - <RelatingOpeningElement>
      <IfcOpeningElement xsi:nil="nil" ref="172" />
    </RelatingOpeningElement>
    - <RelatedBuildingElement>
      <IfcDoor xsi:nil="nil" ref="139" />
    </RelatedBuildingElement>
  </IfcRelFillsElement>

- <IfcDoor id="139">
  <GlobalId>3RcTPG0t190QscFhI7eB_o</GlobalId>
  + <OwnerHistory>
    <Name>Single-Flush:30" x 80":30" x 80":144728</Name>
    <ObjectType>30" x 80"</ObjectType>
  + <ObjectPlacement>
  + <Representation>
    <Tag>144728</Tag>
    <OverallHeight>6.566666666666667</OverallHeight>
    <OverallWidth>2.5</OverallWidth>
  </IfcDoor>
```

# Understanding the Data

- Schema: Structure of ifcXML file.
- Object: Real world object.
- Properties: Information about objects.
- Elements [Relational and Non-relational]: Similar to tables in relational databases.
- Data instances: Rows of data in tables.
- Attributes: Column name in table



	Column Name
	Data instance

# Tasks and Encoding

→ Summarize

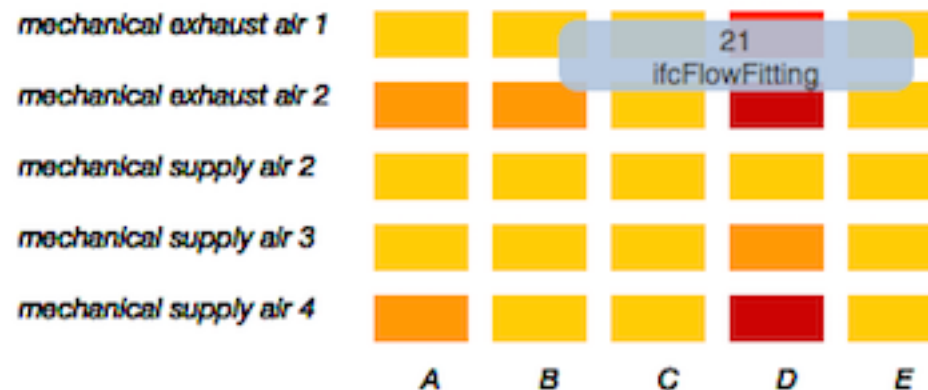


## Overview

X-Axis: Common non-relational elements amongst subsystems

Y-Axis: Systems defined in the ifcXML file


A.ifcFlowSegment, B.ifcFlowFitting, C.ifcBuildingElementProxy  
D.ifcDistributionPort E.ifcFlowTerminal



# Tasks and Encoding

➔ Search

	Target known	Target unknown
Location known	⋯ Lookup	☺ Browse
Location unknown	🔍 Locate	🔍 Explore



## Search

Enter identifier number to view relationship network

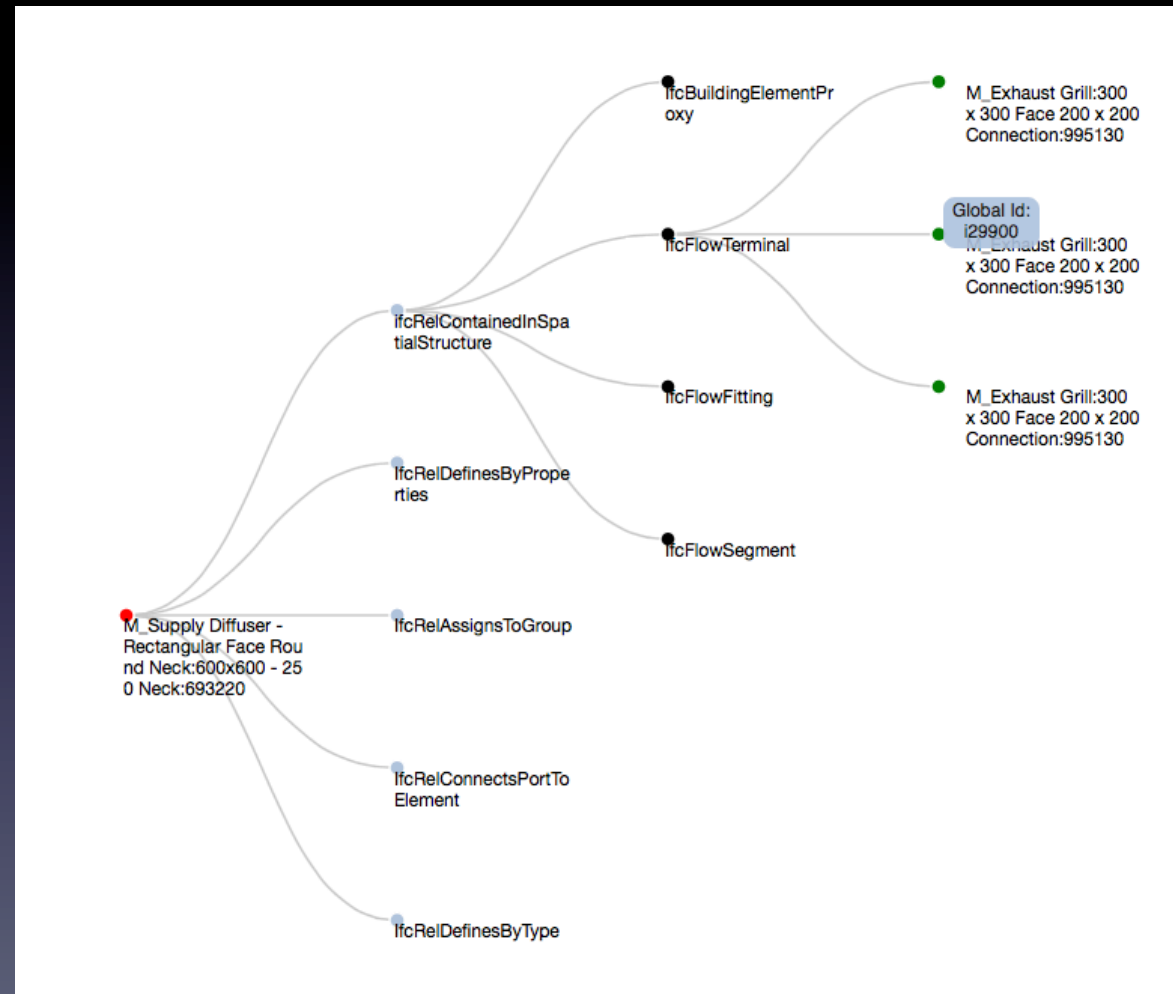

Identifier	Name
i2229	M_Supply Diffuser - Rectangular Face Round Neck:600x600 - 250 Neck:69322
i2535	M_Supply Diffuser - Rectangular Face Round Neck:600x600 - 250 Neck:81693
i64995	M_Supply Diffuser - Rectangular Face Round Neck:600x600 - 250 Neck:143335
i93651	M_Supply Diffuser - Rectangular Face Round Neck:600x600 - 250 Neck:144821
i97069	M_Supply Diffuser - Rectangular Face Round



# Tasks and Encoding

➔ **Node-Link Diagrams**  
Connections and Marks

✓ NETWORKS ✓ TREES



# Demo

QuickTime Player File Edit View Window Help

file:///Users/nayantara/Documents/Nayani's%20Documents/UBC%20Research

i2229.html ifcXMLNetwork

ifcXMLNetwork Home Contact

**ifcXMLNetwork**

A visualization to explore and understand relationships between elements in an ifcXML file

## Overview

**X-Axis: Common non-relational elements amongst subsystems**

**Y-Axis: Systems defined in the ifcXML file**

A.ifcFlowSegment, B.ifcFlowFitting, C.ifcBuildingElementProxy  
D.ifcDistributionPort E.ifcFlowTerminal

<i>mechanical exhaust air 1</i>	■	■	■	■	■
<i>mechanical exhaust air 2</i>	■	■	■	■	■
<i>mechanical supply air 2</i>	■	■	■	■	■
<i>mechanical supply air 3</i>	■	■	■	■	■
<i>mechanical supply air 4</i>	■	■	■	■	■
	A	B	C	D	E

## History

**All visited identifiers are shown here**

## Network

**Relationship Network**

# Summary

- OVERVIEW: Common Non-relational data between subsystems.
- SEARCH: Find specific data instances through identifiers.
- HISTORY: Data instances already visited.
- NETWORK: Display relationship tree of selected data instance.

# Future Work

- Add more interactivity
- Extract more information from ifcXML data and visualize other results.

Thank You