



## **FME Form for beginners**



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## Brief overview of FME Form

- In a nutshell: FME Form performs spatial data ETL (Extract, Transform, Load)
  - <u>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spatial\_ETL</u>
  - In FME jargon: Reader(s) → Transformer(s) → Writer(s)
- Interface areas (see next slides)
  - Workspace
  - Navigator
  - Transformer gallery
  - Translation log (and other views)
  - Menu and toolbar
- Data exploration
  - Visual Preview (in FME Workbench)
  - FME Data inspector (external application)
- Some advanced functionalities (not treated in these slides)
  - Customisation: Create your own transformers
  - Programmability: Python-based transformers can be created
  - Automation: Parent transformers can launch children transformers

#### **TUDelft** 3Dgeoinfo FME Form Workbench





#### **FME** Data Inspector

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#### **Readers & writers**

- Lots of spatial and non-spatial formats
  - <u>https://docs.safe.com/fme/html/FME\_Desktop\_Documentation/FME\_ReadersWrit</u> <u>ers/Format-List-All.htm</u>
  - E.g. vector: DWG/DXG, shp, txt, csv, Esri Geodatabase, GeoJSON, OBJ, PostgreSQL/PostGIS, R, WMS, WFS, etc...
  - Raster: JPG, GeoTiff, ...
  - CityGML + Application Domain Extensions (ADEs)
  - CityJSON

 WARNING: There is NO MAGIC! An FME reader/writer does not "save" you from the need to know the characteristics of a specific format. But it simplifies life a lot!

FME in a nutshell

**TUDelft** 3Dgeoinfo

🕞 Add Reader Reader

#### **Readers & writers**

FME in a nutshell
Readers and
writers
Transformers
Data types
Geometry model
Other stuff

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## Reader(s)

1a) Click the reader button and select the reader depending on format, OR1b) Type the reader format (e.g. SHAPEFILE) in the workbench area, OR1c) Drag and drop the file in the workbench area

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#### **TUDelft** 3Dgeoinfo

#### Writer(s)

#### 1a) Click the writer button and select the reader depending on format, OR1b) Type the writer format (e.g. SHAPEFILE) in the workbench area

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Help • Apply to...

**P**Filter

ОК

Cancel



- Green: attribute is mapped and will be written
- Yellow: attribute is not mapped, needs to be connected manually (e.g. ground\_z to ground\_z\_v)
- Red: attribute without correspondence; it will be written, but will remain empty

![](_page_9_Picture_0.jpeg)

FME in a nutshell Readers and writers

Transformers

Geometry model

Data types

Other stuff

### Transformer(s)

- A transformer... transforms data! 🙂
- Circa 500 transformers, thematically classified
- In general, transformers work sequentially (FIFO = First In, First out)
- Possibility to interface to e.g. Python
- Possibility to define/create your own transformer
- If you feel lost: <u>use the help</u>!

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![](_page_10_Picture_0.jpeg)

## Transformer(s)

1a) Double click on the transformer name in the Transformer gallery, OR1b) Drag and drop the transformer from the Transformer gallery into the workbench area OR1c) Directly type the transformer name (e.g. 3Dforcer) in the workbench area

![](_page_10_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_11_Picture_0.jpeg)

# **Transformer(s)**

FME in a nutshell Readers and writers Transformers Data types Geometry model Other stuff

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![](_page_12_Picture_0.jpeg)

# **Transformer(s)**

FME in a nutshell Readers and writers Transformers Data types Geometry model Other stuff

![](_page_12_Figure_3.jpeg)

 Alternatively, more advanced string and arithmetic operations can be carried out

![](_page_13_Picture_0.jpeg)

#### Data types

- For **non-spatial data** FME Form *generally* takes care of automatically choosing the correct type (integer, string, date, Boolean, etc.)
- Data is dealt with as tabular data, generally associated to geometries
- Transformers are available for most typical alphanumeric data operations
- For time/date formats, you may have to use transformers to adapt them (e.g. DateTimeConverter)

![](_page_14_Picture_0.jpeg)

#### Data types: lists

- Lists are denoted by a pair of curly brackets ("{}")
  - E.g. name\_of\_list{}
- Lists can contain attributes associated to each item. A period (".") denotes them
  - E.g. trees{}.name, trees{}.species, etc.
- It is good habit to prefix lists with an underscore ("\_")
  - E.g. \_trees{}
- Further info:
  - <u>https://docs.safe.com/fme/html/FME\_Desktop\_Documentation/FME\_Desktop/!List\_Attribute</u>
     <u>s/Understanding-List-Attributes.htm</u>

![](_page_15_Picture_0.jpeg)

### Data types: spatial data

- For spatial data, FME has its own internal geometry model. All geometries are mapped to/from it
  - <u>https://docs.safe.com/fme/html/FME\_Desktop\_Documentation/FME\_Desktop/!FME\_Geometry/FME\_Geometry\_Model\_.htm</u>
- It is rather intuitive, however with some peculiar semantics
  - Area: a 2D polygon with or without holes is called a "Donut" or a "SimpleArea", respectively
  - Surface: a 3D geometry (simple or composite) that is made of 3D entities (Face, RectangleFace, ... Mesh) and has a surface normal
- Examples of series of geometrical transformations could be:
  - donut -> face -> multisurface
  - polygon -> face -> composite surface -> Brep-solid
- WATCH OUT: A "classical" 3D polygon can be many things in FME!
- Geometries can have "internal" attributes called geometry traits
  - E.g. they are needed for CityGML

![](_page_16_Picture_0.jpeg)

FME in a nutshell Readers and writers Transformers Data types **Geometry model** Other stuff

#### FME Geometry Model

FME provides a comprehensive geometry model that includes everything from the simplest geometry to the most complex.

Click on a geometry class for more information.

![](_page_16_Figure_5.jpeg)

Understanding FME Geometry
Geometry Concepts
FME Geometry Model
Nulls (IFMENull)
Points (IFMEPoint)
Text (IFMEText)
Curves (IFMECurve)
Segments (IFMESegment)
Paths (IFMEPath)
Areas (IFMEArea)
Simple Areas (IFMESimpleArea)
Donuts (IFMEDonut)
Surfaces (IFMESurface)
Simple Surfaces (IFMESimpleSurface)
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Composite Solids (IEMECompositeSolid)
Rasters (IEMERaster)
Point Clouds (IEMEPointCloud)
Multis
Aggregates (IFMEAggregate)
Feature Tables (IFMEFeatureTable)
Geometry Definitions and Instances
Multiple Geometries

![](_page_17_Picture_0.jpeg)

• How to check which geometry data type is used?

- One possibility is to open the **Data Inspector**, select the geometry and check in the Feature Information tab. At the end, you will see the geometry type and the associated geometry traits (if any)
- The hierarchy and the nested geometries will be shown, too.
- See next slides for examples

![](_page_18_Picture_0.jpeg)

#### Geometry model

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#### Geometry model

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	6	6	UUID_fffff	Power Plant "h	Services	Power plant	<missing></missing>		1	1	1890 red		0 Group D
	7	7	UUID_ggqq	C-shaped Build	I Industrial	Food indust	ry Cheese factory		1	0	1840 yellow		0 Group C
							·		-				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
													,
	β			~	in any column		`	/					1 selected / 13 row(s)
											X: -8	54.6881 Y: 337067.	2130 EPSG:28992 METER

![](_page_20_Picture_0.jpeg)

- *Polygons* and *donuts* are 2D geometry types
- FME in a nutshell Readers and writers Transformers
   To transform them into 3D entities, in general they must become (3D) *faces* You can use the FaceReplacer transformer, after (optionally) forcing them to 3D using a 3DForcer transformer
  - Faces have the additional property of having a positive and negative *side* (wrt. the surface normal vector)
    - You may have to check the orientation with the Orientor transformer
  - The two sides of a face are visualised differently in FME:
    - Solid-colour for the positive/front side of the surface
    - Semi-transparent surface for the negative/back side
    - Watch out! When visualised, the triangulation does not affect the real geometry. It is only for visualisation purposes (unless you are working with triangular geometries!)

Geometry model

Other stuff

![](_page_21_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_21_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_22_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_22_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_23_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_23_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_24_Picture_0.jpeg)

- FME in a nutshell Readers and writers Transformers Data types **Geometry model** Other stuff
- You can transform geometries from one type to another using, for example, the **GeometryCoercer** transformer
  - Beware: not all transformation combinations are possible
  - Beware: geometries might *look* the same, but they are implicitly different (see previous slides)
    - Both look like 3D extrusions, but they can be modelled as MultiSurface objects, or BRepSolids, or Extrusions
- The **Aggregator/Deaggregator** transformers allow to group/ungroup geometries (and, more in general, features)
  - Handy transformer to go from "simple" geometries to **multi**-geometries.
- The GeometryFilter allows to select specific geometry types
- The **GeometryValidator** allows to check the validity and automatically repair (some) errors of geometries

![](_page_25_Picture_0.jpeg)

#### Other stuff

#### **Common transformers:**

- AttributeCreator, AttributeRemover, AttributeKeeper, AttributeRenamer
- AttributeManager
- Sorter
- AttributeFilter
- Tester
- FeatureMerger
- GeometryValidator, GeometryRemover
- GeometryCoercer
- GeometryFilter
- 2DForcer, 3DForcer, Extruder
- FaceReplacer, Orientor
- GeometryPropertySetter, GeometryPropertyRemover

FME in a nutshell

![](_page_26_Picture_0.jpeg)

### Other goodies

- You can group transformers using **Bookmarks**
- You can attach annotations to each transformer, and to bookmarks, too
- You can change the shape of the connection lines
- You can create "tunnels" in the connections
- ...and much more!

![](_page_26_Figure_7.jpeg)

![](_page_27_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_27_Picture_1.jpeg)

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![](_page_27_Picture_8.jpeg)