

Karlo Kević, PhD in Technical Sciences

Karlo Kević defended his doctoral dissertation, *An Ontology-based Model for Automated Spatiotemporal Disaggregation of Population Data*, at the Faculty of Geodesy, University of Zagreb, on 22 December 2025. The dissertation was prepared under the supervision of Assist. Prof. Ana Kuveždić Divjak, PhD, Faculty of Geodesy, University of Zagreb, and was defended before a committee comprising Assoc. Prof. Hrvoje Tomić, PhD, Prof. Damir Medak, PhD, both from the Faculty of Geodesy, University of Zagreb, and Assoc. Prof. Martina Baučić, PhD, from the Faculty of Civil Engineering, Architecture and Geodesy, University of Split. The same committee also served as the doctoral dissertation evaluation committee.

Karlo Kević was born in 1994 in Split, Croatia, where he completed his primary and secondary education. After completing his undergraduate studies at the Faculty of Civil Engineering, Architecture and Geodesy, University of Split, in 2016, he obtained a master's degree in Geodesy and Geoinformatics from the Faculty of Geodesy, University of Zagreb, in 2019. He defended his master's thesis entitled *Photogrammetric Modelling of an Archaeological Artefact*. Following the completion of his studies, he enrolled in the doctoral programme at the Faculty of Geodesy in 2019 while simultaneously working as a teaching and research assistant at the Chair of Geoinformation. As part of his academic duties, he participated in several undergraduate and graduate courses and was actively involved as an early-stage researcher in two international scientific projects. Throughout his career to date, he has participated in and presented his research at numerous national and international scientific conferences. He is also the author of several scientific papers published in international journals and conference proceedings.

The doctoral dissertation consists of seven chapters and comprises a total of 141 pages, including 174 bibliographic references, 50 figures, and 8 tables. It begins with abstracts in Croatian and English and concludes with appendices and the author's Curriculum Vitae.

The introductory chapter addresses the problem of the insufficient spatial and temporal resolution of available population data, which represents a significant limitation to their broader application in contemporary analyses and decision-making processes. Particular emphasis is placed on the impact of personal data protection regulations, which require population data to be disseminated in an aggregated form within statistical spatial units. As a potential solution to these limitations, the dissertation

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An Ontology-based Model for Automated Spatiotemporal Disaggregation of Population Data

The dissertation is divided into seven chapters:

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Spatiotemporal Disaggregation of Population Data
- 3 Ontology and Semantic Web
- 4 Spatiotemporal Population Disaggregation Ontology (POPDO)
- 5 Automated Population Disaggregation
- 6 Discussion
- 7 Conclusion



Karlo Kević, doktor tehničkih znanosti

Karlo Kević obranio je 22. prosinca 2025. na Geodetskom fakultetu Sveučilišta u Zagrebu doktorski rad "Ontološki model za automatiziranu prostorno-vremensku disagregaciju podataka o stanovništvu" (engl. *An Ontology-Based Model for Automated Spatiotemporal disaggregation of population data*). Doktorski rad izrađen je pod mentorstvom doc. dr. sc. Ane Kuveždić Divjak s Geodetskog fakulteta Sveučilišta u Zagrebu i obranjen pred povjerenstvom u sastavu: izv. prof. dr. sc. Hrvoje Tomić i prof. dr. sc. Damir Medak s Geodetskog fakulteta Sveučilišta u Zagrebu i izv. prof. dr. sc. Martina Baučić s Fakulteta građevinarstva, arhitekture i geodezije Sveučilišta u Splitu. Povjerenstvo za ocjenu doktorskog rada bilo je u istom sastavu.

Karlo Kević rođen je 1994. u Splitu gdje je pohađao osnovnu i srednju školu, a 2016. godine završio preddiplomski studij geodezije i geoinformatike na Fakultetu građevinarstva, arhitekture i geodezije Sveučilišta u Splitu. Godine 2016. upisuje diplomski studij, smjer geoinformatika, na Geodetskom fakultetu Sveučilišta u Zagrebu kojeg završava 2019. obranom diplomskog rada "Fotogrametrijsko modeliranje arheološkog artefakta". Od 1. listopada 2019. zaposlen je kao asistent na Katedri za geoinformacije na Geodetskom fakultetu u Zagrebu. Sudjeluje u izvođenju nastave na kolegijima s prijediplomskog i diplomskog studija, a kao mladi istraživač sudjelovao je na dvama međunarodnim projektima. Sudjelovao je i izlagao na nekoliko domaćih i međunarodnih znanstvenih skupovima, a autor je više znanstvenih radova objavljenih u međunarodnim časopisima i zbornicima radova.

Doktorski rad strukturiran je u sedam poglavlja, sadržava ukupno 141 stranicu formata A4, 174 reference, 50 slika i 8 tablica. Rad započinje sažetkom na hrvatskom i engleskom jeziku, a završava prilogima i životopisom autora.

U uvodnom poglavlju doktorskog rada razmatra se problem nedostatne prostorne i vremenske rezolucije dostupnih podataka o stanovništvu, koja je značajno ograničenje njihove šire primjene u suvremenim analizama i procesima odlučivanja. Posebno se naglašava utjecaj zaštite osobnih podataka, zbog kojih se podaci moraju dijeliti u agregiranom obliku unutar statističkih prostornih jedinica. Kao mogući smjer rješavanja navedenih ograničenja ističe se iskorištavanje proceduralne prirode tehnika prostorne disagregacije, koje su jedan od najzastupljenijih pristupa povećanju prostorne rezolucije podataka. U kombinaciji s tehnologijama semantičkog weba, takav pristup ima potencijal automatizirati postupke obrade podataka te

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Ontološki model za automatiziranu prostorno-vremensku disagregaciju podataka o stanovništvu

Doktorski rad podijeljen je u sedam poglavlja:

1. Uvod
2. Prostorno-vremenska disagregacija podataka o stanovništvu
3. Ontologija i semantički web
4. Ontologija za prostorno vremensku disagregaciju podataka o stanovništvu (POPDO)
5. Automatizirana disagregacija podataka o stanovništvu
6. Diskusija
7. Zaključak

proposes exploiting the procedural nature of spatial disaggregation techniques, one of the most widely adopted approaches for increasing the spatial resolution of data. Combined with Semantic Web technologies, such an approach has the potential to automate data processing workflows and provide rapid, straightforward, and widely accessible access to population data with enhanced spatial and temporal granularity.

The second chapter is devoted to the issue of population data disaggregation and is organised into two thematic sections: spatial disaggregation and temporal modelling. The section on spatial disaggregation presents the fundamental approaches to areal interpolation, a specific form of spatial interpolation that utilises the spatial characteristic of data to derive a more detailed spatial distribution. In addition to describing the process itself, the chapter introduces a classification of disaggregation methods according to the type of data they employ, distinguishing between methods based on the geometric properties of spatial units and those that incorporate ancillary spatial data. An overview of existing computational implementations of these methods is also provided, together with their common conceptualisation as a universal approach to spatial disaggregation. Within the context of temporal modelling, the requirements imposed by the temporal dimension of population data are identified, and the principal temporal models applicable within GIS environments are examined.

The third chapter examines ontologies and the concept of the Semantic Web, providing a detailed description of the relevant layers of the Semantic Web technology stack. Particular attention is given to data modelling through RDF and URIs, formal knowledge representation using ontologies, RDF Schema and the OWL language, as well as data querying through SPARQL. The central part of the chapter is dedicated to the analysis of existing ontologies relevant to the population data domain and their application in spatial disaggregation processes. Based on a critical evaluation of ontologies for the representation of space, statistical characteristics of population data, time, and processes, four foundational domain ontologies, GeoSPARQL, RDF Data Cube, OWL Time, and The Function Ontology, were selected as the basis for the proposed Population Data Spatiotemporal Disaggregation Ontology (POPDO).

The fourth chapter describes the development of the high-level conceptual ontology POPDO. A three-layer architecture is proposed, consisting of domain, role, and process layers. The domain layer (POPDOd) models data and the relationships between their statistical, spatial, and temporal components. It is founded upon three core classes linked to the corresponding domain ontologies: GeoSPARQL, RDF Data Cube, and OWL Time. The upper layer of the architecture (POPDOp) describes the disaggregation

process using The Function Ontology, in which the process is decomposed into a method, disaggregation steps, and algorithmic steps. This structure enables the modular execution of the workflow through four principal phases: temporal harmonisation of data for the reference year, calculation of spatial weights, disaggregation, and aggregation of data. The intermediate layer (POPDOr) links the process and domain layers by defining the roles that spatial data may have during the disaggregation process. Three fundamental role classes, SourceZone, TargetZone, and AncillaryData, are introduced, allowing data to remain stored within their original domains while their specific roles in the process are assigned as required.

The fifth chapter presents the evaluation of the developed POPDO ontology through a case study involving the disaggregation of population counts within the administrative area of the City of Trogir, Croatia. For this purpose, an extended ontology, BDASY, was developed on the basis of POPDO to describe a specific disaggregation method – Building Area Dasymetric Mapping. The study utilised open population and population change data published by the National Bureau of Statistics, together with spatial unit and building data provided by the State Geodetic Administration. The evaluation relies on the semantic descriptions of the disaggregation process contained within the BDASY ontology, while the individual stages were executed through programmed scripts responsible for carrying out the corresponding micro-processes. The overall system was conceived as a combination of a graph database storing semantically described data and procedures, and an orchestration script responsible for managing process execution. The chapter concludes with the presentation and analysis of the results obtained during the evaluation.

The sixth and seventh chapters discuss the research findings in relation to the stated hypotheses and present the final conclusions of the dissertation. The results demonstrate that the procedural nature of spatial disaggregation methods can be successfully integrated with Semantic Web technologies to establish a fully automated disaggregation workflow. Furthermore, the findings indicate that the existing repository of semantic descriptions can support automated disaggregation processes with relatively minor modifications, although the introduction of a layered architecture is necessary to preserve the semantic coherence of the model.

The dissertation concludes with a set of appendices that include the conceptual ontology model, a description of the datasets employed, a representation of data encoded within the Semantic Web framework, and the Python scripts used in the implementation.

Ana Kuveždić Divjak ■

omogućiti brz, jednostavan i široko dostupan pristup podacima veće prostorne i vremenske detaljnosti.

Drugo poglavlje posvećeno je problemu disagregacije podataka o stanovništvu i organizirano u dvije tematske cjeline: prostornu disagregaciju i modeliranje vremenske komponente. U dijelu koji se odnosi na prostornu disagregaciju prikazani su temeljni pristupi površinskoj interpolaciji kao posebnoj vrsti prostorne interpolacije, a koja koristi prostornu komponentu podataka za određivanje njihove detaljnije prostorne raspodjele. Osim opisa procesa, prikazana je klasifikacija metoda disagregacije prema vrsti informacija koje koriste, pri čemu se razlikuju metode temeljene na geometrijskim svojstvima prostornih jedinica od onih koje uključuju dodatne pomoćne prostorne podatke. Također je dan pregled postojećih računalnih primjena tih metoda te njihova zajednička konceptualizacija kao univerzalni pristup prostornoj disagregaciji. U okviru modeliranja vremenske komponente identificirani su zahtjevi koje vremenska dimenzija postavlja pred podatke o stanovništvu te su analizirani osnovni modeli vremena primjenjivi u GIS okruženju.

Treće poglavlje obrađuje ontologije i koncept semantičkog weba, pri čemu su detaljno opisani relevantni slojevi tehnološkog stoga semantičkog weba. Naglasak je stavljen na modeliranje podataka korištenjem RDF-a i URI-ja, formalne metode prikaza znanja putem ontologija, RDF Schema i OWL jezika te mogućnosti upita nad podacima pomoću jezika SPARQL. Središnji dio poglavlja posvećen je analizi postojećih ontologija relevantnih za domenu podataka o stanovništvu i njihovu primjenu u procesima prostorne disagregacije. Na temelju kritičke analize ontologija za opis prostora, statističkih obilježja podataka o stanovništvu, vremena i procesa odabrane su bazne domenske ontologije, GeoSPARQL, RDF Data Cube, OWL Time i The Function Ontology, koje čine temelj predložene Ontologije za prostorno-vremensku disagregaciju podataka o stanovništvu (POPDO).

Četvrto poglavlje opisuje razvoj ontologije visoke razine konceptualizacije – POPDO. Predložena je troslojna arhitektura sastavljena od slojeva domene, uloga i procesa disagregacije. Domenski sloj (POPDOd) modelira podatke i međusobne odnose njihovih statističkih, prostornih i vremenskih komponenti. Temelji se na trima osnovnim klasama koje su povezane s pripadajućim domenskim ontologijama GeoSPARQL, RDF Data Cube i OWL Time. Gornji sloj arhitekture (POPDOp) opisuje proces disagregacije korištenjem The Function Ontology, pri čemu se proces

razlaže na metodu, korake disagregacije i korake algoritma. Takva organizacija omogućuje modularnu provedbu postupka kroz četiri osnovne faze: vremensko usklađivanje podataka za referentnu godinu, računanje prostornih težina, disagregaciju i agregaciju podataka. Srednji sloj (POPDOr) povezuje procesni i domenski sloj definiranjem uloga koje prostorni podaci mogu imati tijekom procesa disagregacije. Uvedene su tri temeljne klase uloga, SourceZone, TargetZone i AncillaryData, koje omogućuju da podaci ostanu pohranjeni unutar svoje izvorne domene, dok se njihove uloge u procesu određuju prema potrebi.

Peto poglavlje prikazuje postupak testiranja razvijene ontologije POPDO na primjeru disagregacije broja stanovnika administrativnog područja grada Trogira u Hrvatskoj. U tu je svrhu temeljem POPDO-a razvijena proširena ontologija BDASY, namijenjena opisu specifične metode disagregacije – dasimetrijskog kartiranja temeljenog na površinama zgrada. Korišteni su otvoreni podaci o broju i promjeni broja stanovnika koje objavljuje Državni zavod za statistiku, kao i podaci o prostornim jedinicama i zgradama Državne geodetske uprave. Testiranje se oslanja na semantičke opise procesa disagregacije sadržane u ontologiji BDASY, dok su pojedine faze provedene programskim skriptama zaduženima za izvršavanje odgovarajućih mikroprocasa. Cjelokupan sustav zamišljen je kao kombinacija grafičke baze podataka koja pohranjuje semantički opisane podatke i procedure te orkestracijske skripte koja upravlja izvođenjem procesa. Poglavlje završava prikazom i analizom rezultata dobivenog tijekom testiranja.

Šesto i sedmo poglavlje donose raspravu o dobivenom rezultatu u odnosu na postavljene hipoteze te završne zaključke doktorskog rada. Rezultat istraživanja pokazao je da se proceduralna priroda metoda prostorne disagregacije može uspješno povezati s tehnologijama semantičkog weba radi uspostave potpuno automatiziranog postupka disagregacije. Nadalje, utvrđeno je da postojeća baza semantičkih opisa uz relativno male prilagodbe može podržati automatizirane procese disagregacije, pri čemu je za očuvanje semantičke koherentnosti potrebno uvesti slojevitost arhitekturu modela.

Doktorski rad završava prilogima koji sadrže konceptualni model ontologije, opis korištenih skupova podataka, prikaz zapisa podataka u modelu semantičkog weba i korištene Python skripte.

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