3.4. CLASSIFICATION AND USE OF MODULATED AND COMPOSITE STRUCTURES DATA

Data items revised in these categories are as follows:

(*a*) AUDIT
    `_audit_block_code`
(*b*) AUDIT_LINK
    `_audit_link_block_code`

The core dictionary definitions of these items are revised in order to formalize the relationships between multiple data blocks representing reference and modulated structures. Guidance is provided in the msCIF dictionary on how to label data blocks in a way that makes their mutual relationships clear.

3.4.4. Use of the msCIF dictionary

In this section, some of the capabilities of the dictionary will be demonstrated using simple examples. More detailed examples can be found at http://www.iucr.org/iucr-top/cif/ms and on the CD-ROM accompanying this volume.

3.4.4.1. Description of reciprocal space

Modulated and composite structures need more than three reciprocal vectors in order to index the whole set of reflections with integer numbers. Hence a diffraction vector is written as

$$\mathbf{H} = h\mathbf{a}^* + k\mathbf{b}^* + l\mathbf{c}^* + m_1\mathbf{q}_1 + \ldots + m_d\mathbf{q}_d, \qquad (3.4.4.1)$$

where the notation has been chosen according to the core CIF dictionary. In the case of a modulated structure, $\mathbf{a}^*$, $\mathbf{b}^*$ and $\mathbf{c}^*$ are the reciprocal vectors of the reference structure (and therefore h, k and l index the main reflections). $\mathbf{q}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{q}_d$ are the modulation wave vectors. They are three-dimensional vectors with some irrational component (if the modulated structure is incommensurate) in the lattice spanned by $\mathbf{a}^*$, $\mathbf{b}^*$ and $\mathbf{c}^*$. d is the dimension of the modulation. In the case of composite structures, the diffraction pattern can be indexed using $3 + d$ (arbitrarily selected) vectors $\mathbf{a}_k^*$ ($k = 1, \ldots, 3+d$). $\mathbf{a}_1^*$ ($\equiv \mathbf{a}^*$), $\mathbf{a}_2^*$ ($\equiv \mathbf{b}^*$) and $\mathbf{a}_3^*$ ($\equiv \mathbf{c}^*$) normally span the reciprocal lattice of the main reflections of one of the substructures (notice that this is only one particular, but highly intuitive, choice). The remaining d vectors with $k = 4, \ldots, d$ are the wave vectors of the modulation [$\mathbf{q}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{q}_d$ in equation (3.4.4.1)].

In a composite structure, the $(3 + d)$-dimensional reciprocal basis of the subsystem ν is determined by a $(3 + d) \times (3 + d)$ matrix W^ν [see van Smaalen (1995) and references therein]:

$$\mathbf{a}_i^{*\nu} = \sum_{k=1}^{3+d} W_{ik}^\nu \mathbf{a}_k^*, \quad i = 1, \ldots, 3+d, \qquad (3.4.4.2)$$

where the subscripts $i = 1$, 2 and 3 label the reciprocal vectors $\mathbf{a}^{*\nu}$, $\mathbf{b}^{*\nu}$ and $\mathbf{c}^{*\nu}$, and $i = 4, \ldots, d$ label the wave vectors of the modulation expressed as linear combinations of $\mathbf{a}^{*\nu}$, $\mathbf{b}^{*\nu}$ and $\mathbf{c}^{*\nu}$.

The simplest case corresponds to a one-dimensional ($d = 1$) modulated structure. Consider for example the incommensurate phase of K_2SeO_4. The wave vector of the modulation can be chosen to be $\mathbf{q}_1 = \alpha\mathbf{a}^*$. Relevant information about the diffraction pattern of this compound is expressed using both the core CIF and msCIF dictionaries as shown in Example 3.4.4.1.

A more complicated example is the composite structure $(LaS)_{1.14}NbS_2$. The two mutually incommensurate subsystems (along the *a* axis) are (van Smaalen, 1991) NbS_2 ($\nu = 1$) and LaS ($\nu = 2$). The reciprocal basis can be chosen to be $\mathbf{a}_1^* = \mathbf{a}^{*1}$, $\mathbf{a}_2^* = \mathbf{b}^{*1}$, $\mathbf{a}_3^* = \mathbf{c}^{*1}$ and $\mathbf{a}_4^* = \mathbf{a}^{*2}$. For this particular choice, the two W matrices [see equation (3.4.4.2)] are

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Example 3.4.4.1. *msCIF description of the diffraction pattern of a one-dimensional modulated structure.*

```
_exptl_crystal_type_of_structure           'mod'
_cell_reciprocal_basis_description
; a*,b*,c* (reciprocal basis spanning the lattice of
  main reflections), q modulation wave vector.
;

_diffrn_symmetry_description
; The whole diffraction pattern shows orthorhombic
  symmetry. The following extinction rules were
  detected:
      0kl0    k+l=odd
      h0lm    h+m=odd
      hk0m    m=odd
      h00m    h,m=odd
  Superspace group: P:Pnam:-1ss
;

_diffrn_reflns_satellite_order_max            1

_diffrn_reflns_theta_max                     40.14
_diffrn_reflns_theta_min                      3.32
_diffrn_reflns_limit_h_max                       8
_diffrn_reflns_limit_k_max                      18
_diffrn_reflns_limit_l_max                      10
_diffrn_reflns_limit_index_m_1_max               1
_diffrn_reflns_limit_h_min                       0
_diffrn_reflns_limit_k_min                       0
_diffrn_reflns_limit_l_min                       0
_diffrn_reflns_limit_index_m_1_min              -1

# Modulation wave vector
  loop_
     _cell_wave_vector_seq_id
     _cell_wave_vector_x
      1          0.318(5)
```

$$W^1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad W^2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

This information is transcribed to CIF format as shown in Example 3.4.4.2. (Note that the default values for the wave vector components and the elements of W are 0.)

3.4.4.2. Description of symmetry

The symmetry of a modulated or composite structure is described by a superspace group which leaves the $(3 + d)$-dimensional embedding of the structure invariant. Superspace is built of two orthogonal subspaces and both of them are kept invariant separately by the superspace symmetry operations. (In reciprocal space this means that, for these structures, main reflections and satellite reflections are never transformed into one another by superspace symmetry operations.) Consequently, superspace groups are not general $(3 + d)$-dimensional space groups. The standard notation for superspace groups only covers the one-dimensional superspace groups, which are listed in Janssen *et al.* (2004). As a consequence, msCIFs must include a list of all the symmetry operations in an (x, y, z) format (using as symbols $x_1 \ldots x_{3+d}$) similar to that used in the core CIF dictionary. Superspace-group names for one-dimensional structures can be expressed either according to Janssen *et al.* (2004) or according to the original notation of de Wolff *et al.* (1981). Alternative names or higher-dimensional superspace groups can also be included, but not parsed.