

3.6. CLASSIFICATION AND USE OF MACROMOLECULAR DATA

(c) AUDIT_LINK

- `_audit_link.block_code`
- `_audit_link.block_description`

The bullet (•) indicates a category key. Where multiple items within a category are marked with a bullet, they must be taken together to form a compound key. The arrow (→) is a reference to a parent data item. Items in italics have aliases in the core CIF dictionary formed by changing the full stop (.) to an underscore (_).

The sole data item in the category ENTRY, `_entry.id`, is a label that identifies the current data block. This label is used as the formal key in several categories that record information that is relevant to the entire data block (e.g. `_cell.entry_id`, `_geom.entry_id`), so care should be taken to select a label that is informative and unique.

Data items in the ENTRY_LINK category record the relationships between the current data block and other data blocks within the current file which may be referenced in the current data block. Since there are no formal constraints on the value of `_entry.id` assigned to each data block, authors must take care to ensure that an mmCIF comprised of several distinct data blocks uses a different value for `_entry.id` in each block.

As mentioned in the introductory paragraph of Section 3.6.9, the ENTRY_LINK category is used in mmCIF applications instead of the core category AUDIT_LINK. The latter is retained formally in the mmCIF dictionary for strict compatibility with the core dictionary, and the data items in this category, `_audit_link.blockcode` and `_audit_link.block_description`, are aliased to corresponding core data names (see Section 3.2.6.1). Their use is not recommended in mmCIF applications.

3.6.9.3. Other category classifications

The following categories, already described elsewhere in this chapter, are included in other formal category groups:

Compliance with earlier dictionaries

COMPLIANCE group

DATABASE

Compatibility with PDB format files

PDB group

DATABASE_PDB_CAVEAT

DATABASE_PDB_MATRIX

DATABASE_PDB_REMARK

DATABASE_PDB_REV

DATABASE_PDB_REV_RECORD

DATABASE_PDB_TVECT

The COMPLIANCE group includes categories that appear in the mmCIF dictionary for the sole purpose of ensuring compliance with earlier dictionaries. They are not intended for use in the creation of new mmCIFs. As was discussed in Section 3.6.8.3, the DATABASE category of the core CIF is replaced in mmCIF by the more structured DATABASE_2 category. Thus the core CIF DATABASE category appears in the mmCIF COMPLIANCE group. At the time of writing (2005), DATABASE is the only category in the COMPLIANCE group.

The PDB group includes a number of categories that record unstructured information imported from various records in Protein Data Bank (PDB) format files. These categories are also part of the DATABASE group and were discussed in Section 3.6.8.3.2.

Appendix 3.6.1**Category structure of the mmCIF dictionary**

Table A3.6.1.1 provides an overview of the structure of the mmCIF dictionary by category group and member categories.

Appendix 3.6.2**The Protein Data Bank exchange data dictionary**

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In developing a data-management infrastructure, the Protein Data Bank (PDB; Berman *et al.*, 2000) has chosen the mmCIF dictionary technology for describing the data that it collects and disseminates. To accommodate the growth in the PDB's activities, data collection, processing and annotation now occur at three sites worldwide: the Research Collaboratory for Structural Bioinformatics (RCSB/PDB), the Macromolecular Structural Database (MSD) at the European Bioinformatics Institute (EBI) and the Protein Data Bank Japan (PDBj) at Osaka. Together these facilities form the Worldwide PDB (wwPDB) (Berman *et al.*, 2003). In order to maintain the fidelity of the single archive of three-dimensional macromolecular structure, a precise content description is required to support the accurate exchange of data among the different sites and the exchange of information between different file formats.

A key strength of the mmCIF technology is the extensibility afforded by a framework based on a software-accessible data dictionary. The PDB has exploited this functionality by using the mmCIF dictionary as a foundation and supplementing it with extensions in order to describe all aspects of data processing and database operations.

These extensions include content required to support reversible format translation, noncrystallographic structure determination methods and the details of protein production. They also support recommendations by the International Union of Crystallography (IUCr) and the International Structural Genomics Organization (ISGO) as to which data should be deposited. In the following sections, the extensions to the mmCIF data dictionary developed by the PDB (<http://mmcif.pdb.org/>) are described.

A3.6.2.1. Data exchange and format translation

The majority of crystallographic and structural concepts embodied in the PDB are already well described in the mmCIF data dictionary. However, while there is a conceptual description of most crystallographic information in PDB-format files within the mmCIF dictionary, the precise representation of this information can differ subtly. To guarantee accurate data exchange and to facilitate reversible format translation between PDB and mmCIF formats, all such differences in representation must be resolved.

To accommodate content and semantic differences between formats, extensions to the dictionary have been created. These extensions take one of two forms: the addition of new definitions to existing categories or the creation of new categories. Where possible, extensions are added to existing categories. This is done when the new definition supplements the content of the category without changing the category definition or its fundamental organization. However, if a new definition cannot be added to an existing category, a new category is created to hold the extension. All new data items and categories include the prefix `pdbx` in their names.

For example, the level of detail in the PDB description of the biological source exceeds the description provided by mmCIF. In this case, dictionary extensions have been added to the existing categories ENTITY_SRC_NAT and ENTITY_SRC_GEN (where 'nat' and 'gen' stand for naturally occurring and genetically engineered, respectively). The PDB description of atomic coordinates includes two items that are not described in mmCIF: the insertion code