Notes and News

Acta Cryst. (1987). C**43**, 2472

Standard Crystallographic File Structure–87

How often have you been frustrated by finding that your datafile was in the wrong format for your program? And how much time have you spent in writing conversion programs to change data from one format to another?

In order to minimize these problems, the Data and Computing Commissions of the International Union of Crystallography approved, in 1981, a Standard Crystallographic File Structure (*Acta Cryst.* A**39**, 216–224). This describes a file structure that can be used to store or transfer most kinds of crystallographic data and, at the same time, is easy to program and is adaptable to individual users needs. Since 1981 the standard has been enhanced and in the most recent release (SCFS-87) it can include all the information (including text, tables and supplementary material) required for a short structural paper in *Acta Crystallographica* including the text. It is designed not only for giving structural data, but it can also include data as different as powder patterns and protein derivative structure factors.

Copies of the latest standard can be obtained from: Dr I. D. Brown, Institute for Materials Research, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8S 4M1. 1002332@mcmaster.netnorth

It is available in either hardcopy form or as a machine-readable file which may be sent over the NetNorth/Bitnet/Earn networks. A user-adaptable program to read an SCFS-87 file is available by network from: Dr H. D. Flack, Laboratoire de Cristallographie, Université de Genève, 24 quai Ernest-Ansermet, 1211 Genève 4, Switzerland. "flack@cgeuge52"