

# Coordinate File Description (PDB Format)

## General Information

The following describes the minimum coordinate specification in PDB format that is required by the RCSB validation and deposition software. The PDB record formats for coordinate data are reproduced here for your convenience; however, the validation check and deposition may only require the specification of a few of these records. In many cases, a file with the following format is all that is required.

- Each line is 80 columns wide and is terminated by an end-of-line indicator.
- The first six columns of every line contain a "record name". This must be an exact match to one of the stated record names described in detail below.
- The list of ATOM records in each polymer chain must be terminated by a TER record.
- ATOM records for polymer atoms must include non-blank chain ID fields.
- To use the automatic validation check, the coordinate file must include a complete CRYST1 record defining the unit cell and space group information.
- If an alternate setting is being used for the space group symmetry then the orthogonal to fractional transformation must be specified in SCALE records.
- Each file should terminate with a line containing only the word END.
- If atom names or HETATM residue names are unrecognized in the dictionaries, validation results will not be optimal. Definitions for any new HETATM groups sent to [deposit@deposit.rcsb.org](mailto:deposit@deposit.rcsb.org) will be included in our dictionaries.

## Coordinate Record Descriptions

[CRYST1](#) | [ORIGXn](#) | [SCALEn](#) | [MTRIXn](#) | [TVECT](#) | [MODEL](#)  
[ATOM](#) | [ANISOU](#) | [TER](#) | [HETATM](#) | [ENDMDL](#)

### Record: CRYST1

Contains: unit cell parameters, space group, and Z value

- Notes:
- If the structure was not determined by crystallographic means (a = b = c = 1.0, alpha = beta = gamma = 90 degrees, space group = P 1, and Z = 1)
  - The Hermann-Mauguin space group symbol is given without the 'n' e.g., P 21 21 2 and using the full symbol, e.g., C 1 2 1 instead of C 1 2 1 n
  - The screw axis is described as a two digit number.
  - For a rhombohedral space group in the hexagonal setting, the Z value is the number of polymeric chains in a unit cell. Z is the number of occurrences of the most populous chain.
  - In the case of a polycrystalline fiber diffraction study, CRYST1 and SCALE contain the normal unit cell data.
  - The unit cell parameters are used to calculate SCALE.

COLUMNS	DATA TYPE	CONTENTS
1 - 6	Record name	"CRYST1"
7 - 15	Real (9.3)	a (Angstroms)
16 - 24	Real (9.3)	b (Angstroms)
25 - 33	Real (9.3)	c (Angstroms)
34 - 40	Real (7.2)	alpha (degrees)
41 - 47	Real (7.2)	beta (degrees)
48 - 54	Real (7.2)	gamma (degrees)
56 - 66	LString	Space group
67 - 70	Integer	Z value

Example:

	1	2	3	4	5	
123456789012345678901234567890123456789012345678901234						
CRYST1	117.000	15.000	39.000	90.00	90.00	90.00

## Record: ORIGXn

Contains: the transformation from the orthogonal coordinates contained in the database entry to the submitted coordinates

Notes: If the original submitted coordinates are Xsub, Ysub, Zsub a



46 - 55            Real (10.5)            u[n]

Example:

	1	2	3	4	5
123456789012345678901234567890123456789012345678901234					
SCALE1	0.019231	0.000000	0.000000		0.0000
SCALE2	0.000000	0.017065	0.000000		0.0000
SCALE3	0.000000	0.000000	0.016155		0.0000

## Record: MTRIXn

**Contains:** the transformations expressing non-crystallographic symmetries

**Notes:** The MTRIX transformations operate on the coordinates in the equivalent representations of the molecule in the same coordinate system. The MTRIX record with a constant serial number is given non-crystallographic symmetry operation defined.

COLUMNS	DATA TYPE	CONTENTS
1 - 6	Record name	"MTRIXn" (n=1, 2, or 3)
8 - 10	Integer	Serial number
11 - 20	Real (10.6)	m[n] [1]
21 - 30	Real (10.6)	m[n] [2]
31 - 40	Real (10.6)	m[n] [3]
46 - 55	Real (10.5)	v[n]
60	Integer	1 if coordinates for the otherwise, blank.

Example:

	1	2	3	4	5
123456789012345678901234567890123456789012345678901234					
MTRIX1	1	-1.000000	0.000000	-0.000000	0.0000
MTRIX2	1	-0.000000	1.000000	0.000000	0.0000
MTRIX3	1	0.000000	-0.000000	-1.000000	0.0000

**Record: TVECT**

**Contains:** the translation vector which have infinite covalent connector

**Notes:** For structures not comprised of discrete molecules (e.g., infi polysaccharide chains), the entry contains a fragment which the full structure by the simple translation vectors of TVECT

COLUMNS	DATA TYPE	CONTENTS
1 - 6	Record name	"TVECT "
8 - 10	Integer	Serial number
11 - 20	Real(10.5)	t[1]
21 - 30	Real(10.5)	t[2]
31 - 40	Real(10.5)	t[3]
41 - 70	String	Text comment

Example:

	1	2	3	4	5
123456789012345678901234567890123456789012345678901234					
TVECT	1	0.00000	0.00000	28.30000	

**Record: MODEL**

**Contains:** the model serial number when a single coordinate entry con

**Notes:**

- Models are numbered sequentially beginning with 1.
- If an entry contains more than 99,999 total atoms, then it must be divided among multiple models.
- Each MODEL must have a corresponding ENDMDL rec
- In the case of an NMR entry the EXPDTA record states that are present in the individual entry.

COLUMNS	DATA TYPE	CONTENTS
1 - 6	Record name	"MODEL "

Example:

```

      1           2           3           4           5
123456789012345678901234567890123456789012345678901234
MODEL          1
ATOM           1  N   ALA           1           11.104      6.134      -6.504
ATOM           2  CA  ALA           1           11.639      6.071      -5.147
...
...
ATOM          293 1HG  GLU           18           -14.861     -4.847       0.361
ATOM          294 2HG  GLU           18           -13.518     -3.769       0.084
TER           295          GLU           18
ENDMDL
MODEL          2
ATOM           1  N   ALA           1           11.304      6.234      -6.104
ATOM           2  CA  ALA           1           11.239      6.371      -5.247
...
...
ATOM          293 1HG  GLU           18           -14.752     -4.948       0.461
ATOM          294 2HG  GLU           18           -13.630     -3.769       0.160
TER           295          GLU           18
ENDMDL

```

## Record: ATOM

Contains: the atomic coordinates for standard residues and the occupancy

- Notes:
- ATOM records for proteins are listed from amino to carboxyl
  - Nucleic acid residues are listed from the 5' to the 3' terminus
  - No ordering is specified for polysaccharides.
  - The list of ATOM records in a chain is terminated by a TER
  - If an atom is provided in more than one position, then a location indicator must be used. Within a residue, all atoms of the same conformation are assigned the same alternate position indicator
  - Additional atoms (modifying group) to side chains of standard residues which is assigned its own residue name. The chainID, sequence number, and insertion code assigned to the HET group is the standard residue to which it is attached.
  - In some entries, the occupancy and temperature factor are provided
  - The segment identifier is a string of up to four (4) alphanumeric characters, include a space, e.g., CH86, A 1, NASE.

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COLUMNS	DATA TYPE	CONTENTS
1 - 6	Record name	"ATOM "
7 - 11	Integer	Atom serial number.
13 - 16	Atom	Atom name.
17	Character	Alternate location indi
18 - 20	Residue name	Residue name.
22	Character	Chain identifier.
23 - 26	Integer	Residue sequence number
27	AChar	Code for insertion of r
31 - 38	Real(8.3)	Orthogonal coordinates
39 - 46	Real(8.3)	Orthogonal coordinates
47 - 54	Real(8.3)	Orthogonal coordinates
55 - 60	Real(6.2)	Occupancy.
61 - 66	Real(6.2)	Temperature factor (Def
73 - 76	LString(4)	Segment identifier, lef
77 - 78	LString(2)	Element symbol, right-j
79 - 80	LString(2)	Charge on the atom.

Example:

	1	2	3	4	5	
123456789012345678901234567890123456789012345678901234						
ATOM	145	N VAL A	25	32.433	16.336	57.540
ATOM	146	CA VAL A	25	31.132	16.439	58.160
ATOM	147	C VAL A	25	30.447	15.105	58.363
ATOM	148	O VAL A	25	29.520	15.059	59.174
ATOM	149	CB AVAL A	25	30.385	17.437	57.230
ATOM	150	CB BVAL A	25	30.166	17.399	57.373

ATOM	151	CG1AVAL	A	25	28.870	17.401	57.336
ATOM	152	CG1BVAL	A	25	30.805	18.788	57.449
ATOM	153	CG2AVAL	A	25	30.835	18.826	57.661
ATOM	154	CG2BVAL	A	25	29.909	16.996	55.922

## Record: ANISOU

Contains: the anisotropic temperature factors

- Notes:
- Columns 7 - 27 and 73 - 80 are identical to the corresponding columns in the ATOM records.
  - The anisotropic temperature factors (columns 29 - 70) are presented as integers.
  - The anisotropic temperature factors are stored in the same atomic coordinate records.
  - ANISOU values are listed only if they have been provided.

COLUMNS	DATA TYPE	CONTENTS
1 - 6	Record name	"ANISOU"
7 - 11	Integer	Atom serial number
13 - 16	Atom	Atom name
17	Character	Alternate location indicator
18 - 20	Residue name	Residue name
22	Character	Chain identifier
23 - 26	Integer	Residue sequence number
27	AChar	Insertion code
29 - 35	Integer	u[1][1]
36 - 42	Integer	u[2][2]
43 - 49	Integer	u[3][3]
50 - 56	Integer	u[1][2]
57 - 63	Integer	u[1][3]
64 - 70	Integer	u[2][3]



73 - 76	LString(4)	Segment identifier, left
77 - 78	LString(2)	Element symbol, right-justified
79 - 80	LString(2)	Charge on the atom

Example:

	1	2	3	4	5
123456789012345678901234567890123456789012345678901234					
ATOM	107	N	GLY	13	12.681 37.302 -25.211
ANISOU	107	N	GLY	13	2406 1892 1614 1
ATOM	108	CA	GLY	13	11.982 37.996 -26.241
ANISOU	108	CA	GLY	13	2748 2004 1679 -
ATOM	109	C	GLY	13	11.678 39.447 -26.008
ANISOU	109	C	GLY	13	2555 1955 1468
ATOM	110	O	GLY	13	11.444 40.201 -26.971
ANISOU	110	O	GLY	13	3837 2505 1611 1
ATOM	111	N	ASN	14	11.608 39.863 -24.755
ANISOU	111	N	ASN	14	2059 1674 1462

## Record: TER

Contains: indicates the end of a list of ATOM/HETATM records for a ch

- Notes:
- The TER records occur in the coordinate section of the file. The last residue presented for each polypeptide and/or nucleic acid chain which there are coordinates. For proteins, the residue defining the last record is the carboxy-terminal residue; for nucleic acids it is the 3'-terminal residue.
  - For a cyclic molecule, the choice of termini is arbitrary.
  - Terminal oxygen atoms are presented as OXT for proteins and OXT1 for nucleic acids.
  - The TER record has the same residue name, chain identifier, and insertion code as the terminal residue. The serial number of the TER record is one number greater than the serial number of the last ATOM record preceding the TER.
  - For chains with gaps due to disorder, it is recommended that the atoms be labeled O and OXT.
  - The residue name appearing on the TER record must be the same as that of the immediately preceding ATOM or non-water HETATM record.

COLUMNS	DATA TYPE	CONTENTS
1 - 6	Record name	"TER "

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7 - 11	Integer	Serial number
18 - 20	Residue name	Residue name
22	Character	Chain identifier
23 - 26	Integer	Residue sequence num
27	AChar	Insertion code

Example:

	1	2	3	4	5
123456789012345678901234567890123456789012345678901234					
ATOM	4150	H	ALA A 431	8.674	16.036
TER	4151		ALA A 431		12.858
ATOM	1403	O	PRO P 22	12.701	33.564
ATOM	1404	CB	PRO P 22	13.512	32.617
ATOM	1405	CG	PRO P 22	12.828	33.382
ATOM	1406	CD	PRO P 22	12.324	34.603
HETATM	1407	CA	BLE P 1	14.625	32.240
HETATM	1408	CB	BLE P 1	15.610	33.091
HETATM	1409	CG	BLE P 1	15.558	34.629
HETATM	1410	CD1	BLE P 1	16.601	35.208
HETATM	1411	CD2	BLE P 1	14.209	35.160
HETATM	1412	N	BLE P 1	14.777	32.703
HETATM	1413	B	BLE P 1	14.921	30.655
HETATM	1414	O1	BLE P 1	14.852	30.178
HETATM	1415	O2	BLE P 1	13.775	30.147
TER	1416		BLE P 1		14.862

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**Record: HETATM**

**Contains:** the atomic coordinate records for atoms within "non-standard" groups. These records are used for water molecules and other groups.

**Notes:**

- Insertion codes, segment id, and element naming are found in the ATOM section of this document.
- Disordered solvents may be represented by the residue
- No ordering is specified for polysaccharides.
- HETATM records must have corresponding HET, HETN, and CONECT records, except for waters.

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## Coordinate File Description (PDB Format)

COLUMNS	DATA TYPE	CONTENTS
1 - 6	Record name	"HETATM"
7 - 11	Integer	Atom serial number.
13 - 16	Atom	Atom name
17	Character	Alternate location indi
18 - 20	Residue name	Residue name
22	Character	Chain identifier
23 - 26	Integer	Residue sequence number
27	AChar	Code for insertion of r
31 - 38	Real(8.3)	Orthogonal coordinates
39 - 46	Real(8.3)	Orthogonal coordinates
47 - 54	Real(8.3)	Orthogonal coordinates
55 - 60	Real(6.2)	Occupancy
61 - 66	Real(6.2)	Temperature factor
73 - 76	LString(4)	Segment identifier, lef
77 - 78	LString(2)	Element symbol, right-j
79 - 80	LString(2)	Charge on the atom

Example:

1	2	3	4	5
123456789012345678901234567890123456789012345678901234				
HETATM 1357 MG	MG	168	4.669	34.118
HETATM 3835 FE	HEM	1	17.140	3.115
			15.066	

**Record: ENDMDL**

Contains: these records are paired with MODEL records to group indiv

- Notes:
- MODEL/ENDMDL records are used only when more than 99,999 atoms are presented in the entry, or if there are more than 99,999 atoms
  - Every MODEL record has an associated ENDMDL record

COLUMNS	DATA TYPE	CONTENTS
1 - 6	Record name	"ENDMDL"

Example:

```

      1          2          3          4          5
12345678901234567890123456789012345678901234
...
...
ATOM  14550  1HG  GLU   122      -14.364   14.787 -14.258
ATOM  14551  2HG  GLU   122      -13.794   13.738 -12.961
TER    14552      GLU   122
ENDMDL
MODEL          9
ATOM  14553  N    SER     1      -28.280    1.567  12.004
ATOM  14554  CA   SER     1      -27.749    0.392  11.256
...
...
ATOM  16369  1HG  GLU   122      -3.757   18.546  -8.439
ATOM  16370  2HG  GLU   122      -3.066   17.166  -7.584
TER    16371      GLU   122
ENDMDL
MODEL         10
ATOM  16372  N    SER     1      -22.285    7.041  10.003
ATOM  16373  CA   SER     1      -23.026    6.872   8.720
...
...
ATOM  18188  1HG  GLU   122      -1.467   18.282 -17.144
ATOM  18189  2HG  GLU   122      -2.711   18.067 -15.913
TER    18190      GLU   122
ENDMDL

```