



NFDI Nexus Workshop

March 2022

Open Data Access Initiatives

- CAMECA's AP Suite software works with an open container format file meant to facilitate access to
 - *The .APT file contains a number of sections each with a distinct type of data relevant for a particular analysis*
 - *It provides an extensible format which will accommodate new types of data classifications, derived data, or meta data, in the future without changing the format*
 - *Created as a lightweight format to enable custom analyses*
 - *Full specification is in AP Suite 6 User Guide appendix C*
- In parallel, we are monitoring efforts of the IFES society to define an HDF5 format and hashing protocol with the intention of providing support once adopted

File Header

Every .APT file starts with a header with the following information:

```
struct APTFileHeader
{
    char        cSignature[4];           // "APT\0"
    int         iHeaderSize;            // Header size, bytes (540)
    int         iHeaderVersion;         // Version # (2)
    wchar_t     wcFilename[256];        // Original filename, UTF16, null terminated.
    FILETIME   ftCreationTime;         // Original file creation time
    int64       llIonCount;             // Number of ions represented by file
};
```

Section Header

Following the file header, there can be any number of sections. Each section starts with the following header:

```
struct APTSectionHeader
{
    char        cSignature[4];           // Section signature, "SEC\0"
    int         iHeaderSize;            // Size of the section header, bytes (148)
    int         iHeaderVersion;         // Version # of this section header (2)

    wchar_t     wcSectionType[32];      // String representation of the section type. UTF16
    int         iSectionVersion;        // Version of this section data
    REL_TYPE    eRelationshipType;      // How the records relate to ion #

    RECORD_TYPE eRecordType;            // Type of record (fixed, variable, etc.)
    RECORD_DATATYPE eRecordDataType;   // The data type of the records (int, float, etc.)
    int         iDataTypeSize;          // The size, in bits, of the data type (eg 8 = 1 byte)
    int         iRecordSize;            // Size of the record (bytes). This must be a multiple
                                        // of iDataTypeSize and 8, or 0 for variable length
    wchar_t     wcDataUnit[16];         // UTF16 string representing the unit of the data (eg "nm")
    int64       llRecordCount;          // Number of records following this header.
                                        // DO NOT USE for seeking to next section, use llByteCount
    int64       llByteCount;            // Number of bytes following the header. This may be
                                        // > llRecordCount * iRecordSize to allow for padding
};
```