indicate the connection to the initial CIF, since the original block ID is retained.

A potential future use for block pointers may be to reference non-CIF data files that contain large two- and three-dimensional data structures. This is expected to become increasingly important as neutron and synchrotron instruments are constructed that cover increasing ranges of solid angle. As mentioned in Section 3.3.2, CIF is not well suited to these complex, large and possibly irregular measurement arrays. The NeXus format has been developed by a consortium of synchrotron and neutron laboratories to address these concerns and is currently being used for a variety of scattering applications (NeXus, 1999). The NeXus format is based on the platform-independent HDF binary standard (HDF, 1998). The use of block pointers to resolve references to non-CIF documents will require additional definitions.

3.3.8. pdCIF for storing unprocessed measurements

While many researchers prepare a CIF only when a project is complete, there are good reasons for preparing a pdCIF when the diffraction data are measured, as this is the best time to document how the measurement was performed. Much of the instrumental information will remain unchanged for all pdCIFs from a given diffraction instrument, so it is a good idea to prepare a file that describes each of the common settings for an instrument. This file will probably contain some of the following data items and their associated values:

(i) The **_pd_instr_*** items, such as the instrument type in **_pd_instr_geometry**, the size of the instrument and the collimation in **_pd_instr_dist_*** and **_pd_instr_divg_***, and monochromatization in **_pd_instr_monochr_*** (see Section 3.3.4.3)

(ii) Depending on how the calibration is performed, it may be appropriate to include **_pd_calib_*** items.

(iii) Information about the radiation source should be specified using the **_diffrn_radiation_*** and **_diffrn_source_*** data items.

(iv) Detector information should be specified using **_diffrn_detector_*** items, for example, the detector type in **_diffrn_detector_type** and perhaps calibration values such as the deadtime (in **_diffrn_detector_dtime**).

A second section of the pdCIF will contain information specific to the experiment, such as the diffraction conditions (*i.e.* pressure and temperature) recorded using the **_diffrn_ambient_*** data items. Sample and specimen information will appear in the **_pd_prep_***, **_pd_spec_*** and **_pd_char_*** data items.

A third section of the pdCIF contains the observations. The data items used to specify the unprocessed observations will vary with the type of instrument used, as described in Sections 3.3.8.1 to 3.3.8.10 below.

3.3.8.1. Single pulse-counting detectors

In the most common measurement method, where a single pulse-counting detector is scanned over a range of 2θ, the **_pd_meas_*** entries (see Section 3.3.4.4) will be of the form shown in Example 3.3.8.1. If the data were scanned using a variable step size, the observations might be given as shown in Example 3.3.8.2. Note that when **_pd_meas_counts_*** is used, the values given must be counts, so that the standard uncertainty will be the square root of the intensity values. This means that the intensity values must not be scaled, for example if the values were counts per second; otherwise the statistical uncertainty estimates will be incorrect.

Example 3.3.8.1. *Measurements from a single pulse-counting detector with constant-step scan.*

```
_pd_meas_2theta_range_min  5.0
_pd_meas_2theta_range_max 65.0
_pd_meas_2theta_range_inc  0.02
_pd_meas_number_of_points  3001
_pd_meas_scan_method       step
_pd_meas_step_count_time   10
loop_
  _pd_meas_counts_total
  10 16 23 18 30 45 58 123 80 67 32 21 12 ...
```

Example 3.3.8.2. *Measurements from a single pulse-counting detector with variable-step scan.*

```
_pd_meas_number_of_points  3001
_pd_meas_scan_method       step
_pd_meas_step_count_time   10
loop_
  _pd_meas_2theta_scan
  _pd_meas_counts_total
  5.00 10 5.02 16 5.04 23 5.06 18 5.07 30 5.08 45
  ... ...
```

3.3.8.2. Detectors that do not count pulses

When the method used to detect intensities does not count individual quanta as they hit the detector, for example, the digitization of intensities recorded on film or on an imaging plate, or even with data recorded using a detector having a built-in deadtime correction, the standard-uncertainty values are not the square root of the intensities. [Note that when the actual deadtime correction is known, it is best to incorporate this scaling into the monitor value (see **_pd_meas_counts_monitor** in Section 3.3.4.4) or else save the uncorrected measurements and create a second set of corrected intensity values as **_pd_proc_intensity_net** (see Section 3.3.5.1).] The **_pd_meas** entries for an experiment using non-pulse-counting detection will look like the examples given in Section 3.3.8.1, except that the data loop will be in the form

```
loop_
  _pd_meas_intensity_total
  10 16 23 18 30 45 58 123 80 67 32 21 12 ...
```

or

```
loop_
  _pd_meas_2theta_scan
  _pd_meas_intensity_total
  5.00 10 5.02 16 5.04 23 5.06 18 5.07 30 5.08 45
  ... ...
```

If standard uncertainties for the intensity values are known, they can be given using the conventional notation

```
loop_
  _pd_meas_2theta_scan
  _pd_meas_intensity_total
  5.00 10(10) 5.02 16(11) 5.04 23(13) 5.06 18(12)
  5.07 30(18) ...
```

Note that when **_pd_meas_intensity_*** is used, it is best to specify **_pd_meas_units_of_intensity** as well.

3.3.8.3. Multiple detectors

At present, CIF does not offer the ability to construct true multi-dimensional data structures. However, many instruments with multiple detectors produce reasonably tractable numbers of data points. For such instruments, it is possible to include an additional data item, **_pd_meas_detector_id**, in the loop with the data to indicate the detector that made the observation.