

G23-UMTS Protocol Stack  
**Introduction to ASN.1**

**Author:** Condat AG  
Alt Moabit 90a  
10559 Berlin  
Germany

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## 0 Document Control

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Condat AG  
Alt Moabit 90a  
10559 Berlin  
Germany

Telephone: +49.30.39 49 0  
Fax: +49.30.39 49 1300  
Internet: [www.condat.de](http://www.condat.de)

### 0.1 Document History

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### 0.2 References, Abbreviations, Terms

[C\_7010.801] 7010.801, References and Vocabulary, Condat AG

## 1 Introduction

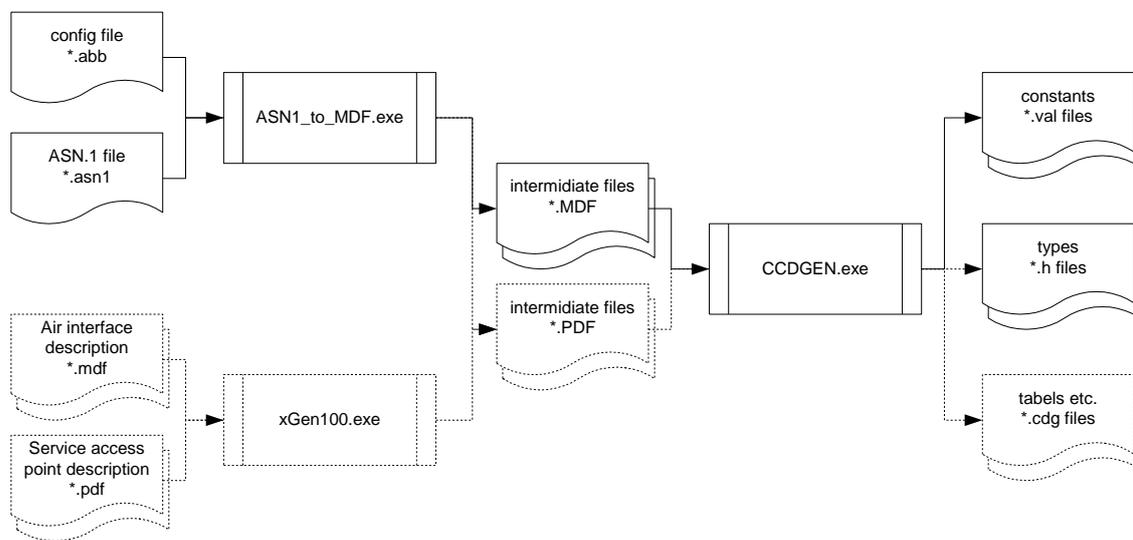
The purpose of this document is to give a brief introduction to how the ASN.1 to MDF compiler and CCDGEN works together to produce an h-file

Knowledge of ASN.1 and C is necessary to understand this document

Basic knowledge of BNF syntax description and regular search expressions<sup>1</sup> is recommended for chapter 3 as well

However only knowledge of C, UMTS and the stuff mentioned in chapter 2 should be needed to use the include files<sup>2</sup> that is the final product the 2 compilers ASN1\_to\_MDF.exe and CCDGEN.exe.

The following drawing shows the tool and files related to ASN.1 compilation



The command line syntax of ASN1\_to\_MDF is simple it takes one parameter, the name of the ASN.1 file the config file must have the same base name as the ASN.1 file

<sup>1</sup> Known from perl, awk, sed, python, and many editors

<sup>2</sup> h-files and val-files

## 2 Facilities

### 2.1 Name transformation

Names are transformed from the ASN.1 form to the C form through several steps

- 1) Create proper C-identifiers (done by
  - a. Abbreviate words and sequences of words according to abbreviating list
  - b. Replace dash (-) with underscore (\_)
  - c. Insert underscore on all word boundaries where not already present
  - d. Make all character lowercase

ASN.1 example	C example
UPPERMix	upper_mix
UPPER-lowerMix2	upper_lower_mix_2

- 2) If this is an unnamed embedded type created a name by concatenating container name and member name separated by 2 underscores (\_\_)

ASN.1 example	C example
<pre> outer SEQUENCE {   inner SEQUENCE { -- outer__inner, 2 underscores!     i INTEGER (0..255)   } } </pre>	<pre> typedef struct {   U8 i; } T_PREFIX_outer__inner;  typedef struct {   T_PREFIX_outer__inner inner; } T_PREFIX_outer; </pre>
<pre> other SEQUENCE {   inner SEQUENCE { -- other__inner, 2 underscores!     i INTEGER (0..255)   } } </pre>	<pre> typedef struct {   U8 i; } T_PREFIX_other__inner;  typedef struct {   T_PREFIX_other__inner inner; } T_PREFIX_other; </pre>

- 3) If this is an implicit counter (c\_), valid-flag (v\_), or union-controller (ctrl\_) add the corresponding prefix see example in:

v\_: 2.3.5.1 SEQUENCE element

c\_: 2.3.6 BIT STRING, 2.3.7 OCTET STRING, 2.3.8 SEQUENCE OF

ctrl\_: 2.3.9 UNION

- 4) Add module prefix (UNTS\_AS\_ASN1\_)
- 5) Add T\_ prefix for types

### 2.1.1 Compiler responsible for transforming

ASN1\_to\_MDC does step 1, 2 and c\_ of 3.

CCDGen does step v\_ and ctrl\_ of 3 and 4 and 5.

## 2.2 Configuration file syntax (\*.abb for abbreviation)

The abbreviation file contains additional information needed by CCD/CCDGen but not present in the ASN.1 syntax:

These are abbreviations, top level types, where to put pointers

The syntax of the file is line oriented and “#” is used for commenting out the rest of the line, empty lines are ignored.

### 2.2.1 Top level types

Top level types lines list top level type, direction and message id.

These identifies types for which CCD encoder / decoder function can be called and information to be given to CCD to identify the types when actual calling CCD.

Syntax:

```

TopLevelTypeSpec      :      TypIdentifier “=” ( “downlink” | “uplink” ) CCDMessageTypeValue
                        ;
TypIdentifier          :      /[A-Z][A-Za-z0-9]*(-[A-Za-z0-9]+)*/
                        ;
CCDMessageTypeValue   :      /[0-9]+/
                        ;
  
```

Semantic constraint

CCDMessageTypeValue must be in range 0..255

### 2.2.2 Abbreviations

Abbreviation was introduced due to the following facts:

Names have been constructed for anonymous inner types for the sake of c-compiler and other tools and to help a little on readability for such names it was found necessary to abbreviate common words in such a way that no type name was longer than approximately 100 characters.

For some common word it was kind of random if they was abbreviated i.e. in some context they was and in some context they was not

The abbreviation list is also used to split words that is not detected as concatenated words due to odd usage of upper/lower cases.

Syntax:

```

AbbreviationSpec      :      AbbreviationExpression
                        |      AbbreviationExpression PartialIdentifier
                        ;
AbbreviationExpression :      /[-:!\^]?[A-Za-z0-9]+([-:!\^][A-Za-z0-9]+) [-:!\$]?/
                        ;
PartialIdentifier     :      /[A-Za-z0-9_]+/
                        ;
  
```

Semantic behaviour for AbbreviationSpec:

use '^' to test for start of identifier

use '\$' to test for end of identifier

use ':' to test for class scope separator

use '!' to test for tag member separator (between enumerated class name and enumerator name at inner most level)

use '-' to test for '-'

if a word starts with upper case and rest is lower case then case are ignored for first letter

use '/' to test for word boundary (this is optional)

Word boundary is always detected in the following cases:

Before and after a number	e.g. ASN2MDF == ASN/2/MDF
Just before a single upper case char	e.g. firstCharUpperCaseWords == first/char/upper/case/words
At special chars	e.g. dash-separated-word == dash/sepated/word
Just before several uppercase chars	e.g. myEG == my/EG

Word boundary is detected based on word content

After or before last of several uppercase chars if the word on both sides is known and there is only one way to split	e.g. assuming known words: ASN, MDF, words ASNwords-to-MDF Words == ASN/words/to/MDF/Words
	e.g. assuming known words: PC, PCP, reconf, preconf can't split PCPreconf is it PCP/reconf or PC/Preconf?  e.g. assuming unknown word: ab can't split PCab (to much assumption)

Word boundary is NOT detected

When all chars is lowercase	e.g. lowercase -> lowercase; NOT lower/case
-----------------------------	---

If no PartialIdentifier is present the word(s) is protected against replacement (but word splitting will still occur).

### 2.2.3 Pointer configurations

If flat types was generated from the ASN.1 types the size of the biggest of these would be more than 1 mega byte, however this is a rather academic figure since it comes from e.g. multiple levels of variable sized arrays, and these are constraint by non ASN.1 visible constraints to not all be of maximal size.

Hence a method for making some struct elements pointers have been introduced:

Syntax:

```

PointerMemberSpec      :      QualifiedMemberIdentifier "=" "dynamic"
                        ;
QualifiedMemberIdentifier :      TypeIdentifier NestedMemberIdentifier
                        ;
NestedMemberIdentifier  :      MemberIdentifier
                        |      NestedMemberIdentifier "." MemberIdentifier
                        ;
MemberIdentifier        :      /[a-z][A-Za-z0-9]*(- [A-Za-z0-9]+)*/

```

;

## 2.2.4 Static analyse configuration

This facility is for TI internal use only

Syntax:

```

StaticAnalyseSpec      :      MemberIdentifier "=" "capability" NonASN1VisibleConstarint
                        |      "align_size" "=" PositiveNumericValue
                        |      "dyn_size" "=" PositiveNumericValue
                        |      TypedIdentifier "=" "skip"
NonASN1VisibleConstraint :  /[0-9]+/
  
```

## 2.3 Type mapping

### 2.3.1 BOOL

BOOL are mapped to U8

### 2.3.2 NULL

NULL are mapped to U8

### 2.3.3 INTEGER

INTEGER are mapped to one of U8, S8, U16, S16, U32, S32 according to their range

### 2.3.4 ENUMERATED

An enum is generated each ENUMERATED type (in \*.val files)

But this enum is not used in the struct and union types, this are due to the fact that enum best fit is not supported by the target compiler

### 2.3.5 SEQUENCE

SEQUENCE are mapped to a struct unless they are empty in which case they are mapped to U8

ASN.1 example	C example
<pre> S1 ::= SEQUENCE {   something INTEGER (0..65535),   extension SEQUENCE {} }   </pre>	<pre> typedef struct {   U16 something;   U8 extension; } T_..._s_1;   </pre>

#### 2.3.5.1 SEQUENCE element

SEQUENCE elements are coded in 2 different ways depending on their type.

INTEGER, ENUMERATED, BOOLEAN, NULL, and empty SEQUENCE are coded as is, see respective types for examples.

SEQUENCE, BIT STRING, OCTET STRING, and SEQUENCE OF is coded as array of [1]

ASN.1 example	C example
<pre> S2 ::= SEQUENCE {   </pre>	<pre> typedef struct {   </pre>

<pre> a S1, b INTEGER } </pre>	<pre> T_..._s_1 a[1]; U8 extension; } T_..._s_2; </pre>
--------------------------------	---

The array of 1 ([1]) means that you should always use pointers (->) to dereference struct members originating from ASN.1 no matter if it is dynamic or not

### 2.3.5.2 OPTIONAL SEQUENCE element

OPTIONAL elements can be coded in 2 different ways depending on whether the element is an ordinary element or a dynamic element (pointer)

Ordinary OPTIONAL elements are coded as 2 struct members, where the member value is prefixed with a valid flag named `v_membername`

ASN.1 example	C example
i INTEGER (0..255) OPTIONAL	U8 v_i; U8 i;

Dynamic OPTIONAL elements are coded as only 1 struct element, which is a point to the OPTIONAL element, the pointer acts as its own valid flag and if the element is absent the pointer is 0

INTEGER, ENUMERATED, BOOLEAN, NULL, and empty SEQUENCE can not be dynamic.

ASN.1 example	C example
i SEQUENCE {...} OPTIONAL	T_..._i *ptr_i;

In general the following rule can be used to determine if there should be checked for presents

Element name	Optional
Have v_...	Yes, present if v_... != 0
Is ptr_bits	No, always present
Is ptr_elements	No, always present
Is ptr_...	Yes, present if ptr_... != 0
Else	No, always present <sup>3</sup>

### 2.3.5.3 DEFAULT SEQUENCE element

Only DEFAULT INTEGER and DEFAULT ENUMERATED are supported, all aspects of the DEFAULT modifier are handled by the tool chain and are fully transparent to the c-code developer, i.e. if during decoding the default flag was set (no value was in the coded data) then CCD is instructed to store the DEFAULT value from the ASN.1 in the corresponding struct member, the opposite approach is taken during encoding.

### 2.3.6 BIT STRING

BIT STRING are mapped to a **struct** this struct contains a byte array capable of holding the specified number of bits, and if a variable number of bits are specified the struct contains a counter as well

Type	ASN.1 example	C example
Fixed size BIT STRING	FBS ::= BIT STRING ( SIZE (255))	typedef struct

<sup>3</sup> But if the element has a default value CCD might have set the default value during decode / will remove the default value during encode.

		<pre>{   U8 bits[255]; } T_..._fbs;</pre>
Variable size BIT STRING	VBS ::= BIT STRING ( SIZE (0..255))	<pre>struct {   U8 c_bits;   U8 bits[255]; } T_..._vbs;</pre>
Dynamic variable size BIT STRING	<pre>--ASN1 DBS ::= BIT STRING ( SIZE (0..255)) --ABB: DBS=dynamic</pre>	<pre>struct {   U8 c_bits;   U8 *ptr_bits; } T_..._dbs;</pre>

### 2.3.7 OCTET STRING

OCTET STRING are mapped to a **struct** this struct contain a byte array capable of holding the specified number of octets, and if a variable number of octets are specified the struct contains a counter as vel

Type	ASN.1 example	C example
Fixed size OCTET STRING	FOS ::= BIT STRING ( SIZE (255))	<pre>typedef struct {   U8 elements[255]; } T_..._FOS;</pre>
Variable size OCTET STRING	VOS ::= BIT STRING ( SIZE (0..255))	<pre>typedef struct {   U8 c_elements;   U8 elements [255]; } T_..._VOS;</pre>
Dynamic variable size OCTET STRING	<pre>--ASN1 DOS ::= BIT STRING ( SIZE (0..255)) --ABB: DOS=dynamic</pre>	<pre>typedef struct {   U8 c_elements;   U8 *ptr_elements; } T_..._DOS;</pre>

### 2.3.8 SEQUENCE OF

SEQUENCE OF are mapped to a **struct** this struct contain an array capable of holding the specified number of elements, and if a variable number of elements are specified the struct contains a counter as vel

Type	ASN.1 example	C example
Fixed size SEQUENCE OF	FOS ::= SEQUENCE ( SIZE (255)) OF INTEGER (-128..127)	<pre>struct {</pre>

		S8 elements[255]; }
Variable size SEQUENCE OF	VOS ::= SEQUENCE ( SIZE (0..255)) OF INTEGER (-128..127)	struct { U8 c_elements; S8 elements [255]; }
Dynamic variable size SEQUENCE OF	--ASN1 DOS ::= SEQUENCE ( SIZE (0..255)) OF INTEGER (-128..127) --ABB: DOS=dynamic	struct { U8 c_elements; S8 *ptr_elements; }

### 2.3.9 UNION

UNION are mapped to a **struct** this struct contain an union capable of holding the specified types of elements, and a controller identifying which element type that is contained

Type	ASN.1 example	C example
UNION	FU ::= UNION { a INTEGER (0..65535), b SmallSomething }	typedef enum { ..._FU_A=0, ..._FU_B=1 } T_..._ctrl_fu_body; typedef union { U16 a; T_..._small_something b; } T_..._fu_body; typedef struct { T_..._ctrl_fu ctrl_body; T_..._fu_body body; } T_..._fu;
Dynamic UNION	--ASN1 DU ::= UNION { a INTEGER, c BigSomething } --ABB: DU:b=dynamic	/* T_..._ctrl_du_body is similar to T_..._ctrl_fu_body */ typedef union { U16 a; T_..._big_something *ptr_b; } T_..._fu_body;

		/* T_..._du is similar to T_..._fu */
--	--	---------------------------------------

## 2.4 Comments

The comments in h-file are on form */\* ... asn1-name (asn1-type) number-of- elements \*/*

The comments in mdf-file are on form *;"asn1-name (asn1-type) number-of- elements" debug-info*

The mdf file also contains comments about configuration at the start and name and type statistics at the end.

### 3 ASN.1 input syntax

The ASN1\_to\_MDF compiler only accept a subset of the ASN.1 syntax, apart from this a special comment has been introduced to ignore chapter headings from spec and the 2 first lines must contain special ASN.1 line comments with version info.

Here follows BNF for the part of ASN.1 syntax that is supported:

**OpenTypes supported too, need to update this BNF accordingly.**

(knowledge of regular search expressions<sup>4</sup> might be needed to understand part of this BNF)

```

Comment      :      /--.*?--/           // ASN.1 comment ---...-- like c /*...*/
              |      /--.*?$/           // ASN.1 comment ---...<EOL> like c++ //...<EOL>
              |      /^11\[0-9]+.*$/     // NOT ASN.1: introduced to ignore chapter headings from spec
              ;

ASN1File     :      /^--Version +(0x[0-9]+)$/           // version number as hex in ASN.1 line comment
              |      /^--VersionText +(.*$)/           // version text comment in ASN.1 line comment
              ModuleList
              ;

TypeIdentifier :      /[A-Z][A-Za-z0-9]+(-[A-Za-z0-9]*)*/ //according to ASN.1 specification
ModuleIdentifier :      /[A-Z][A-Za-z0-9]+(-[A-Za-z0-9]*)*/ //according to ASN.1 specification
ConstIdentifier :      /[a-z][A-Za-z0-9]+(-[A-Za-z0-9]*)*/ //according to ASN.1 specification
ElementIdentifier :      /[a-z][A-Za-z0-9]+(-[A-Za-z0-9]*)*/ //according to ASN.1 specification
EnumeratorIdentifier :      /[A-Z][A-Za-z0-9]+(-[A-Za-z0-9]*)*/ //according to ASN.1 specification

ModuleList   :      Module
              |      ModuleList      Module
              ;

Enumerator   :      EnumeratorIdentifier (' Value ')
              |      EnumeratorIdentifier
              ;

EnumeratorList :      Enumerator
              |      EnumeratorList      ','      Enumerator
              ;

ChoiceElement :      ElementIdentifier Type
              ;

ChoiceElementList :      ChoiceElement
              |      ChoiceElementList      ','      ChoiceElement
  
```

<sup>4</sup> The regular expression syntax used here is from perl but only the sequence `.*` is special to perl, it means the shortest possible list of any no newline character

```

;
Value      :  '=' NUMBER
           |  NUMBER
           |  Identifier
;
Modifier   :  /*empty*/
           |  'OPTIONAL'
           |  'DEFAULT' Value
;
SequenceElement :  ElementIdentifier Type Modifier
;
SequenceElementList :  SequenceElement
                     |  SequenceElementList ',' SequenceElement
;
Range       :  Value '..' Value
           |  Value
;
Size        :  '(' 'SIZE' '(' Range ')' ')'
;
Type        :  'SEQUENCE' '{ SequenceElementList }'
           |  'SEQUENCE' '{ /*empty*/ }'
           |  'SEQUENCE' Size 'OF' Type
           |  'CHOICE' '{ ChoiceElementList }'
           |  'INTEGER' '(' Range ')'
           |  'OCTET' 'STRING' Size
           |  'BIT' 'STRING' '{ EnumeratorList }' Size
           |  'BIT' 'STRING' Size
           |  'NULL'
           |  'BOOLEAN'
           |  'ENUMERATED' '{ EnumeratorList }'
           |  TypeIdentifier
;
Options     :  /*empty*/
           |  'AUTOMATIC' 'TAGS'
;
Import      :  IdentifierList 'FROM' ModuleIdentifier
;
ImportList  :  Import

```

```

      | ImportList      Import
      ;
ImportSection : /*empty*/
      | 'IMPORTS'      ImportList      ';'
      ;
Definition   : TypeIdentifier      ::=      Type
      | ConstIdentifier 'INTEGER'   ::=      Value
      ;
DefinitionList : Definition
      | DefinitionList Definition
      ;
Module       : ModuleIdentifier 'DEFINITIONS' Options ::=
      'BEGIN'
      ImportSection
      DefinitionList
      'END'
      ;

```