IUPAC International Chemical Identifier (InChI)

InChI version 1, software version 1.04 (September 2011)

API Reference

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Overview

The current version of InChI Identifier is 1; the current version of the InChI software is 1.04 (September 2011). Previously released versions 1.01 (2006), 1.02-beta (2007), 1.02-standard (2009), and 1.03 (June 2010) as well as all earlier versions, are now considered obsolete.

By default, InChI software v. 1.04 generates standard InChI. In particular, standard identifier is generated when the software is used without any passed options. If some options are specified, and at least one of them qualifies as related to non-standard InChI, the software produces non-standard InChI/InChIKey.

However, for compatibility with the previous v. 1.02-standard (2009) release, API calls which deal only with standard InChI – for example, GetStdINCHI() - are retained (technically, they provide pre-customized interface to general-purpose API functions).

Below is a brief description of InChI/InChIKey API functions (for more details on the related data structures/parameters and see `inchi_api.h` header file in the InChI software source code).

InChI API - "classic" – general-purpose

The API functions for "classic" (v. 1.01-style, non-modularized) are similar to those present in InChI software v. 1.01 and v. 1.02-beta (see, however, the notes below).

GetINCHI

```
int INCHI_DECL GetINCHI(inchi_Input *inp, inchi_Output *out)
```

Description

`GetINCHI()` is the primary function producing InChI.

`GetINCHI` produces standard InChI if no InChI creation/stereo modification options are specified. If at least one of the options `SUU | SLUUD | RecMet | FixedH | Ket | 15T | SRel | SRac | SUCF` is specified, generated InChI will be non-standard one.

Input

Data structure `inchi_Input` is created by the user.
Its layout is described in `inchi_api.h` header file in the InChI software source code.

Options supplied to `GetINCHI` in `inchi_Input.szOptions` should be preceded by '/' under Windows or '-' Linux). Valid options are listed below.

Option	Meaning	Default behavior (standard; if no option supplied)
	Structure perception (compatible with standard InChI)	
`NEWPSOFF`	Both ends of wedge point to stereocenters	Only narrow end of wedge points to stereocenter
`DoNotAddH`	All hydrogens in input structure	Add H according to usual

	are explicit	valences
SNon	Ignore stereo	Use absolute stereo
	Stereo interpretation (lead to generation of non-standard InChI)	
SRel	Use relative stereo	Use absolute stereo
SRac	Use racemic stereo	Use absolute stereo
SUCF	Use Chiral Flag in MOL/SD file record: if On – use Absolute stereo, Off – Relative	Use absolute stereo
ChiralFlagON	Set chiral flag ON	-
ChiralFlagOFF	Set chiral flag OFF	-
	InChI creation options (lead to generation of non-standard InChI)	
SUU	Always indicate unknown/undefined stereo	Does not indicate unknown/undefined stereo unless at least one defined stereo is present
SLUUD	Stereo labels for “unknown” and “undefined” are different, ‘u’ and ‘?’, resp. (new option)	Stereo labels for “unknown” and “undefined” are the same (‘?’)
FixedH	Include reconnected metals results	Do not include
RecMet	Include Fixed H layer	Do not include
KET	Account for keto-enol tautomerism (experimental; extension to InChI 1)	Ignore keto-enol tautomerism
15T	Account for 1,5-tautomerism (experimental; extension to InChI 1)	Ignore 1,5-tautomerism

	Miscellaneous	
AuxNone	Omit auxiliary information	Include
Wnumber	Set time-out per structure in seconds; W0 means unlimited	The default value is unlimited
OutputSDF	Output SDfile instead of InChI	
WarnOnEmptyStructure	Warn and produce empty InChI for empty structure	
SaveOpt	Save custom InChI creation options (non-standard InChI)	

Output

Data structure inchi_Output is described in inchi_api.h header file.

inchi_Output does not need to be initialized out to zeroes; see FreeNCHI()/FreeSTDINCHI() on how to deallocate it. Strings in inchi_Output are allocated and deallocated by InChI.

Return codes

Code	Value	Meaning
inchi_Ret_OKAY	0	Success; no errors or warnings
inchi_Ret_WARNING	1	Success; warning(s) issued
inchi_Ret_ERROR	2	Error: no InChI has been created
inchi_Ret_FATAL	3	Severe error: no InChI has been created (typically, memory allocation failure)
inchi_Ret_UNKNOWN	4	Unknown program error
inchi_Ret_BUSY	5	Previuos call to InChI has not returned yet
inchi_Ret_EOF	-1	no structural data has been provided
inchi_Ret_SKIP	-2	not used in InChI library

FreeINCHI

```
void INCHI_DECL FreeINCHI(inchi_Output *out)
```

Description

This function should be called to deallocate char* pointers obtained from each `GetINCHI` call.

GetINCHIfromINCHI

```
int INCHI_DECL GetINCHIfromINCHI(inchi_InputINCHI *inpInChI,
                                 inchi_Output *out)
```

Description

`GetINCHIfromINCHI` does same as -InChI2InChI option: converts InChI into InChI for validation purposes. It may also be used to filter out specific layers. For instance, `SNon` would remove stereochemical layer. Omitting `Fixed`H and/or `RecMet` would remove Fixed-H or Reconnected layers. Option `InChI2InChI` is not needed.
Notes: options are supplied in inpInChI,szOptions should be preceded by '/' under Windows or '-' under Linux; there is no explicit tool to conversion from/to standard InChI

Input

`inchi_InputINCHI` is created by the user.

Output

Strings in `inchi_Output` are allocated and deallocated by InChI. `inchi_Output` does not need to be initilized out to zeroes; see `FreeINCHI()` on how to deallocate it.

Return codes

Same as for `GetINCHI`.

GetStructFromINCHI

```
int INCHI_DECL GetStructFromINCHI(inchi_InputINCHI *inpInChI,
inchi_OutputStruct *outStruct)
```

Description

This function creates structure from InChI string.
Option `Inchi2Struct` is not needed for `GetStructFromINCHI`.

Input

Data structure inchi_`Input`inchi_InputINCHI is created by the user.
For the description, see header file `inchi_api.h`.

Output

For the description of `inchi_OutputStruct`, see header file `inchi_api.h`. Pointers in `inchi_OutputStruct` are allocated and deallocated by InChI. `inchi_OutputStruct` does not need to be initilized out to zeroes; see `FreeStructFromINCHI`() on how to deallocate it.

Return codes

The same as for `GetINCHI`.

FreeStructFromINCHI

void INCHI_DECL FreeStructFromINCHI(inchi_OutputStruct *out)

Description

Should be called to deallocate pointers obtained from each `GetStructFromINCHI`.

Free_inchi_Input

void INCHI_DECL Free_inchi_Input(inchi_Input *pInp)

Description

To deallocate and write zeroes into the changed members of `pInchiInp->pInp` call `Free_inchi_Input( inchi_Input *pInp )`.

Get_inchi_Input_FromAuxInfo

int INCHI_DECL Get_inchi_Input_FromAuxInfo(
char *szInchiAuxInfo, int bDoNotAddH, int bDiffUnkUndfStereo, InchiInpData *pInchiInp)

Description

This function creates input data structure for InChI out of auxiliary information string. Note the parameter bDiffUnkUndfStereo (if not 0, use different labels for unknown and undefined stereo) appeared in the software v. 1.03.

Input

`szInchiAuxInfo`

contains ASCIIZ string of InChI output for a single structure or only the AuxInfo line

`bDoNotAddH`

if 0 then InChI will be allowed to add implicit H

`bDiffUnkUndfStereo`

if not 0, use different labels for unknown and undefined stereo

`pInchiInp`

should have a valid pointer `pInchiInp->pInp` to an empty (all members = 0) `inchi_Input` structure

Output

The following members of pInp may be filled during the call: `atom, num_atoms, stereo0D, num_stereo0D`

Return codes

Same as for `GetINCHI`.

CheckINCHI

int INCHI_DECL CheckINCHI(const char *szINCHI, const int strict)

Description

Check if the string represents valid InChI/standard InChI.

Input

Input:

`szINCHI` source InChI

`strict` if 0, just briefly check for proper layout (prefix, version, etc.).

The result may not be strict.

If not 0, try to perform InChI2InChI conversion and returns success if a resulting InChI string exactly match source. Be cautious: the result may be too strict, i.e. the 'false alarm', due to imperfectness of conversion.

Return codes

Code	Value	Meaning
`INCHI_VALID_STANDARD`	0	InChI is valid and standard
`INCHI_VALID_NON_STANDARD`	-1	InChI is valid and non-standard
`INCHI_INVALID_PREFIX`	1	InChI has invalid ptefix
`INCHI_INVALID_VERSION`	2	InChI has invalid version number (not equal to 1)
`INCHI_INVALID_LAYOUT`	3	InChI has invalid layout
`INCHI_FAIL_I2I`	4	Checking InChI thru InChI2InChI is either failed or produced the result which does not match source InChI string

InChI API - "classic" – standard InChI subset

Described below are "standard" counterparts of general-purpose functions; these "standard" API calls are retained for compatibility reasons.

GetStdINCHI

```
int INCHI_DECL GetStdINCHI(inchi_Input *inp, inchi_Output
*out)
```

Description

This is a "standard" counterpart of `GetINCHI()` which may produce only the standard InChI.

Input

The same as for `GetINCHI` except that perception/creation options supplied in inchi_Input.szOptions may be only:

`NEWPSOFF  DoNotAddH  SNon`

Other possible options are:

`AuxNone`

`Wnumber`

`OutputSDF`

`WarnOnEmptyStructure`

Output

The same as for `GetINCHI` except for that only standard InChI is produced.

Return codes

The same as for `GetINCHI`.

FreeStdINCHI

```
void INCHI_DECL FreeStdINCHI(inchi_Output *out)
```

Description

This is a "standard" counterpart of `FreeINCHI` which should be called to deallocate char* pointers obtained from each `GetStdINCHI` call.

GetStructFromStdINCHI

int INCHI_DECL GetStructFromStdINCHI(inchi_InputINCHI *inpInChI,
inchi_OutputStruct *outStruct)

Description

This is a "standard" counterpart of `GetStructFromINCHI`.

Input

The same as for GetStructFromINCHI.

Output

The same as for GetStructFromINCHI.

Return codes

The same as for GetStructFromINCHI.

FreeStructFromStdINCHI

void INCHI_DECL FreeStructFromStdINCHI(inchi_OutputStruct *out)

Description

Should be called to deallocate pointers obtained from each GetStructFromINCHI.

Free_std_inchi_Input

```
void INCHI_DECL Free_std_inchi_Input( inchi_Input *pInp )
```

Description

This is a "standard" counterpart of `Free_inchi_Input`

Get_std_inchi_Input_FromAuxInfo

```
int INCHI_DECL Get_std_inchi_Input_FromAuxInfo(char *szInchiAuxInfo,
                                               int bDoNotAddH,
                                               InchiInpData *pInchiInp )
```

Description

This is a "standard" counterpart of `Get_std_inchi_Input_FromAuxInfo`.

InChI API - modularized – general-purpose

The main purpose of modularized interface of InChI library is to modularize the process of InChI generation by separating normalization, canonicalization, and serialization stages. Using these API functions allows, in particular, checking intermediate normalization results before performing further steps and getting diagnostics messages from each stage independently. The functions use exactly the same `inchi_Input` and `inchi_Output` data structures as "classic" InChI API functions do. However, a new data structure, `INCHIGEN_DATA`, has been added to expose the normalization results (see `inchi_api.h` header file).

A typical process of InChI generation with this API calls is as follows.

1) Get handle of a new InChI generator object:
   `HGen = INCHIGEN_Create();`
2) read a molecular structure and use it to initialize the generator:
   `result = INCHIGEN_Setup(HGen, pGenData, pInp);`
3) normalize the structure:
   `result = INCHIGEN_DoNormalization(HGen, pGenData);`
   optionally, look at the results;
4) obtain canonical numberings:
   `result = INCHIGEN_DoCanonicalization(HGen, pGenData);`
5) serialize, i.e. produce InChI string:
   `retcode=INCHIGEN_DoSerialization(HGen,GenData, pResults);`
6) reset the InChI generator
   `INCHIGEN_Reset(HGen, pGenData, pResults);`
   and go to step 2 to read next structure, or
7) Finally destroy the generator object and free standard InChI library memories:
   `INCHIGEN_Destroy(HGen);`

INCHIGEN_Create

INCHIGEN_HANDLE INCHI_DECL INCHIGEN_Create(void)

Description

InChI Generator: create generator.

Once the generator is created, it may be used repeatedly for processing the new structures. Before repetitive use, the pair of calls `INCHIGEN_Reset` / `INCHIGEN_Setup` should occur.

Returns

The handle of InChI generator object or NULL on failure.

Note: the handle is used just to refer to the internal InChI library object, whose structure is invisible to the user (unless the user chooses to browse the InChI source code). This internal object is initialized and modified through the subsequent calls to INCHIGEN API functions.

INCHIGEN_Setup

```
int INCHI_DECL INCHIGEN_Setup(INCHIGEN_HANDLE HGen,
                              INCHIGEN_DATA * pGenData,
                              inchi_Input * pInp)
```

Description

InChI Generator: initialization stage (storing a specific structure in the generator object).

Note: `INCHIGEN_DATA` object contains intermediate data visible to the user, in particular, the string accumulating diagnostic messages from all the steps.

Input

INCHIGEN_HANDLE `HGen` is one obtained through `INCHIGEN_Create` call.

`INCHIGEN_DATA * pGenData` is created by the caller. It need not to be initialized.

Data structure `inchi_Input * pInp` is the same as for `GetINCHI`.

Return codes

The same as for `GetINCHI`.

INCHIGEN_DoNormalization

```
int INCHI_DECL INCHIGEN_DoNormalization(INCHIGEN_HANDLE HGen,
INCHIGEN_DATA * pGenData)
```

Description

InChI Generator: perform structure normalization.
Should be called after `INCHIGEN_Setup`.

Note: `INCHIGEN_DATA` object explicitly exposes the intermediate normalization data, see `inchi_api.h`.

Input

INCHIGEN_HANDLE `HGen` and `INCHIGEN_DATA *pGenData` as they are after calling `INCHIGEN_Setup`.

Return codes

The same as for `GetINCHI`.

INCHIGEN_DoCanonicalization

int INCHI_DECL INCHIGEN_DoCanonicalization(INCHIGEN_HANDLE HGen, INCHIGEN_DATA * pGenData)

Description

InChI Generator: perform structure canonicalization.

Should be called after INCHIGEN_DoNormalization.

Input

INCHIGEN_HANDLE HGen and INCHIGEN_DATA *pGenData as they are after calling INCHIGEN_DoNormalization.

Return codes

The same as for GetINCHI.

INCHIGEN_DoSerialization

```
int INCHI_DECL INCHIGEN_DoSerialization(INCHIGEN_HANDLE HGen,
                                        INCHIGEN_DATA * pGenData,
                                        inchi_Output * pResults)
```

Description

InChI Generator: perform InChI serialization.

Should be called after INCHIGEN_DoCanonicalization.

Input

INCHIGEN_HANDLE `HGen` and `INCHIGEN_DATA *pGenData` as they are after calling INCHI`GEN_DoCanonicalization`.

Return codes

The same as for `GetINCHI`.

INCHIGEN_Reset

void INCHI_DECL INCHIGEN_Reset(INCHIGEN_HANDLE HGen,
INCHIGEN_DATA * pGenData,
inchi_Output * pResults)

Description

InChI Generator: reset (use before calling `INCHIGEN_Setup`(…) to start processing the next structure and before calling `INCHIGEN_Destroy`(...))

Input

INCHIGEN_HANDLE `HGen` and `INCHIGEN_DATA *pGenData` as they are after calling INCHI`GEN_DoSerialization`.

Return codes

The same as for `GetINCHI`.

INCHIGEN_Destroy

void INCHI_DECL INCHIGEN_Destroy(INCHIGEN_HANDLE HGen)

Description

Destroys the generator object and frees associated InChI library memories.

Important: make sure `INCHIGEN_Reset(…)` is called before calling `INCHIGEN_Destroy(…)`.

Input

The handle of InChI generator object.

InChI API - modularized – standard InChI subset

Described below are "standard" counterparts of general-purpose functions; these "standard" API calls are retained for compatibility reasons.

STDINCHIGEN_Create

```
INCHIGEN_HANDLE INCHI_DECL STDINCHIGEN_Create(void)
```

Description

Standard InChI Generator: create generator.

This is a "standard" counterpart of `INCHIGEN_Create`.

Returns

The handle of standard InChI generator object or NULL on failure. Note: the handle serves to access the internal object, whose structure is invisible to the user (unless the user chooses to browse the InChI library source code which is open).

STDINCHIGEN_Setup

```
int INCHI_DECL STDINCHIGEN_Setup(INCHIGEN_HANDLE HGen,
                                 INCHIGEN_DATA * pGenData,
                                 inchi_Input * pInp)
```

Description

Standard InChI Generator: initialization stage (storing a specific structure in the generator object).

This is a "standard" counterpart of `INCHIGEN_Setup`.

Note: `INCHIGEN_DATA` object contains intermediate data visible to the user, in particular, the string accumulating diagnostic messages from all the steps.

Input

INCHIGEN_HANDLE `HGen` is one obtained through `INCHIGEN_Create` call.

`INCHIGEN_DATA * pGenData` is created by the caller.

Data structure `inchi_Input * pInp` is the same as for `GetINCHI`.

Return codes

The same as for `GetStdINCHI`.

STDINCHIGEN_DoNormalization

int INCHI_DECL STDINCHIGEN_DoNormalization(INCHIGEN_HANDLE HGen,
INCHIGEN_DATA * pGenData)

Description

Standard InChI Generator: perform structure normalization.

The entry is "standard" counterpart of `INCHIGEN_DoNormalization`.

STDINCHIGEN_DoCanonicalization

int INCHI_DECL STDINCHIGEN_DoCanonicalization(INCHIGEN_HANDLE HGen,
INCHIGEN_DATA * pGenData)

Description

Standard InChI Generator: perform structure canonicalization.

The entry is "standard" counterpart of `INCHIGEN_DoCanonicalization`.

STDINCHIGEN_DoSerialization

```
int INCHI_DECL STDINCHIGEN_DoSerialization(
                                INCHIGEN_HANDLE HGen,
                                INCHIGEN_DATA * GenData,
                                inchi_Output * pResults)
```

Description

Standard InChI Generator: perform InChI serialization.

The entry is “standard” counterpart of `INCHIGEN_DoSerialization`.

STDINCHIGEN_Reset

```
void INCHI_DECL STDINCHIGEN_Reset(INCHIGEN_HANDLE HGen,
                                  INCHIGEN_DATA * pGenData,
                                  inchi_Output * pResults);
```

Description

Standard InChI Generator: reset (use before calling `STDINCHIGEN_Setup`(…) to start processing the next structure and before calling `STDINCHIGEN_Destroy`(...))

The entry is “standard” counterpart of `INCHIGEN_Reset`.

STDINCHIGEN_Destroy

INCHI_API void INCHI_DECL STDINCHIGEN_Destroy(INCHIGEN_HANDLE HGen)

Description

Destroys the standard InChI generator object and frees associated InChI library memories.

This is a “standard” counterpart of `INCHIGEN_Destroy`.

Important: make sure `STDINCHIGEN_Reset`(…) is called before calling `STDINCHIGEN_Destroy`(…).

InChIKey API – general-purpose

GetINCHIKeyFromINCHI

int INCHI_DECL GetINCHIKeyFromINCHI(const char* szINCHISource,
const int xtra1, const int xtra2,
char* szINCHIKey,
char* szXtra1, char* szXtra2);

Description

Calculate InChIKey from InChI string.

Input

szINCHISource – source null-terminated InChI string.
xtra1 =1 calculate hash extension (up to 256 bits; 1st block)
xtra2 =1 calculate hash extension (up to 256 bits; 2nd block)

Output

szINCHIKey - InChIKey string, null-terminated. The user-supplied buffer szINCHIKey should be at least 28 bytes long.
szXtra1- hash extension (up to 256 bits; 1st block) string. Caller should allocate space for 64 characters + trailing NULL.
szXtra2 - hash extension (up to 256 bits; 2nd block) string. Caller should allocate space for 64 characters + trailing NULL.

Return codes

Code	Value	Meaning
INCHIKEY_OK	0	Success; no errors or warnings
INCHIKEY_UNKNOWN_ERROR	1	Unknown program error

INCHIKEY_EMPTY_INPUT	2	Source string is empty
INCHIKEY_INVALID_INCHI_PREFIX	3	Invalid InChI prefix or invalid version (mot 1)
INCHIKEY_NOT_ENOUGH_MEMORY	4	Not enough memory
INCHIKEY_INVALID_INCHI	20	Source InChI has invalid layout
INCHIKEY_INVALID_STD_INCHI	21	Source standard InChI has invalid layout

CheckINCHIKey

```
int INCHI_DECL CheckINCHIKey(const char *szINCHIKey)
```

Description

Check if the string represents valid InChIKey.

Input

szINCHIKey - source InChIKey string

Return codes

Code	Value	Meaning
INCHIKEY_VALID_STANDARD	0	InChIKey is valid and standard
INCHIKEY_VALID_NON_STANDARD	-1	InChIKey is valid and non-standard
INCHIKEY_INVALID_LENGTH	1	InChIKey has invalid length
INCHIKEY_INVALID_LAYOUT	2	InChIKey has invalid layout
INCHIKEY_INVALID_VERSION	3	InChIKey has invalid version number (not equal to 1)

InChIKey API – standard InChI subset

Described below is "standard" counterpart of general-purpose function; this "standard" API call is retained for compatibility reasons.

GetStdINCHIKeyFromStdINCHI

```
int INCHI_DECL GetStdINCHIKeyFromStdINCHI(
                                    const char* szINCHISource,
                                    char* szINCHIKey);
```

Description

Calculate standard InChIKey from standard InChI string.

"Standard" counterpart of `GetINCHIKeyFromINCHI`.

For compatibility with v. 1.02-standard, no extra hash calculation is allowed. To calculate extra hash(es), use `GetINCHIKeyFromINCHI` with stdInChI as input.

Input

`szINCHISource` – source null-terminated InChI string.

Output

`szINCHIKey` - InChIKey string, null-terminated. The user-supplied buffer `szINCHIKey` should be at least 28 bytes long.

Return codes

The same as for `GetINCHIKeyFromINCHI`.

InChI API – miscellaneous

GetStringLength

```
int INCHI_DECL GetStringLength( char *p )
```

Description

Returns string length.

Examples of InChI API use

The distribution package of InChI software v. 1.04 contains the two examples of API usage.

1. The first one is C calling program located in `inchi_main/` subfolder of `INCHI-1-API/INCHI_API/` folder. This program calls InChI library `libinchi.dll` under Microsoft Windows or `libinchi.so` under Linux or Unix (note that the program is just a sample which is not supposed to be used for the production).

Defining `CREATE_INCHI_STEP_BY_STEP` in `e_mode.h` makes the program use the modularized interface to InChI generation process. This is the default option. Commenting out the line containing this `#define` makes the program use "classic" ("GetINCHI"; software version 1.01-style) interface. The both options provide examples of using interface to the InChIKey part of the library.

If the testing application is compiled with `CREATE_INCHI_STEP_BY_STEP` option, an additional defining of OUTPUT_`NORMALIZATION_DATA` in `e_mode.h` makes the program output the intermediate (normalization) data into the log file. The related data

structures are described in header file `inchi_api.h`; their use is exemplified in `e_ichimain_a.c` file. Note that including the intermediate (normalization) data in the output may produce a very long log file.

Folder `INCHI-1-API/INCHI_API/vc9/inchi_dll/` contains a MS Visual C++ 2008 project to build dynamically linked library libinchi.dll under Windows.

Folder `INCHI-1-API/INCHI_API/vc9/inchi_main/`contains a MS Visual C++ 2008 project to build both dynamically linked library libinchi.dll and the testing application InChI_MAIN.exe under Windows (both library and executable are placed into subfolders Release or Debug of vc6_INCHI_DLL folder).

Folder `INCHI-1-API/INCHI_API/gcc_so_makefile` contains a gcc makefile for creating InChI library as a Linux shared object dynamically linked to the main program.

2. The second example illustrates how the InChI library (Windows DLL/Linux .so) functions may be accessed from within Python. Source code of a sample program is in the folder `INCHI-1-API/INCHI_API/python_sample`. The program has a simple Mol/SDfile reader and produces InChI strings and, optionally, generates InChIKey codes.

More details on these testing applications may be found in readme.txt files in the corresponding directories and in source codes.