

1. INTRODUCTION TO SPACE-GROUP SYMMETRY

Table 1.3.3.2

Automorphism groups of three-dimensional primitive lattices

Lattice	Metric tensor	Bravais group	
		Hermann–Mauguin symbol	Generators
Triclinic	$\begin{pmatrix} g_{11} & g_{12} & g_{13} \\ & g_{22} & g_{23} \\ & & g_{33} \end{pmatrix}$	$\bar{1}$	$\bar{1}: \bar{x}, \bar{y}, \bar{z}$
Monoclinic	$\begin{pmatrix} g_{11} & 0 & g_{13} \\ & g_{22} & 0 \\ & & g_{33} \end{pmatrix}$	$2/m$	$2_{010}: \bar{x}, y, \bar{z}$ $m_{010}: x, \bar{y}, z$
Orthorhombic	$\begin{pmatrix} g_{11} & 0 & 0 \\ & g_{22} & 0 \\ & & g_{33} \end{pmatrix}$	mmm	$m_{100}: \bar{x}, y, z$ $m_{010}: x, \bar{y}, z$ $m_{001}: x, y, \bar{z}$
Tetragonal	$\begin{pmatrix} g_{11} & 0 & 0 \\ & g_{11} & 0 \\ & & g_{33} \end{pmatrix}$	$4/mmm$	$4_{001}: \bar{y}, x, z$ $m_{001}: x, y, \bar{z}$ $m_{100}: \bar{x}, y, z$
Hexagonal	$\begin{pmatrix} g_{11} & -\frac{1}{2}g_{11} & 0 \\ & g_{11} & 0 \\ & & g_{33} \end{pmatrix}$	$6/mmm$	$6_{001}: x - y, x, z$ $m_{001}: x, y, \bar{z}$ $m_{100}: \bar{x} + y, y, z$
Rhombohedral	$\begin{pmatrix} g_{11} & g_{12} & g_{12} \\ & g_{11} & g_{12} \\ & & g_{11} \end{pmatrix}$	$\bar{3}m$	$\bar{3}_{111}: \bar{z}, \bar{x}, \bar{y}$ $m_{\bar{1}10}: y, x, z$
Cubic	$\begin{pmatrix} g_{11} & 0 & 0 \\ & g_{11} & 0 \\ & & g_{11} \end{pmatrix}$	$m\bar{3}m$	$m_{001}: x, y, \bar{z}$ $\bar{3}_{111}: \bar{z}, \bar{x}, \bar{y}$ $m_{110}: \bar{y}, \bar{x}, z$

Table 1.3.3.3

Right-coset decomposition of \mathcal{G} relative to \mathcal{T}

$W_1 = e$	W_2	W_3	...	$W_{[i]}$
t_1	$t_1 W_2$	$t_1 W_3$...	$t_1 W_{[i]}$
t_2	$t_2 W_2$	$t_2 W_3$...	$t_2 W_{[i]}$
t_3	$t_3 W_2$	$t_3 W_3$...	$t_3 W_{[i]}$
t_4	$t_4 W_2$	$t_4 W_3$...	$t_4 W_{[i]}$
\vdots	\vdots	\vdots		\vdots

Remark: We can assume some enumeration t_1, t_2, t_3, \dots of the operations in \mathcal{T} because the translation vectors form a lattice. For example, with respect to a primitive basis, the coordinate vectors

of the translations in \mathcal{G} are simply columns $\begin{pmatrix} l \\ m \\ n \end{pmatrix}$ with integral

components l, m, n . A straightforward enumeration of these columns would start with

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \bar{1} \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \bar{1} \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \bar{1} \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \dots$$

Writing out the matrix–column pairs, the coset $\mathcal{T}(W, \mathbf{w})$ consists of the operations of the form $(\mathbf{I}, \mathbf{t})(W, \mathbf{w}) = (W, \mathbf{w} + \mathbf{t})$ with \mathbf{t} running over the lattice translations of \mathcal{T} . This means that the operations of a coset with respect to the translation subgroup all have the same linear part, which is also evident from a listing

of the cosets as columns of an infinite array, as in the example above.

Proposition

Let $W = (W, \mathbf{w})$ and $W' = (W', \mathbf{w}')$ be two operations of a space group \mathcal{G} with translation subgroup \mathcal{T} .

- (1) If $W \neq W'$, then the cosets $\mathcal{T}W$ and $\mathcal{T}W'$ are disjoint, i.e. their intersection is empty.
- (2) If $W = W'$, then the cosets $\mathcal{T}W$ and $\mathcal{T}W'$ are equal, because WW^{-1} has linear part \mathbf{I} and is thus an operation contained in \mathcal{T} .

The one-to-one correspondence between the point-group operations and the cosets relative to \mathcal{T} explicitly displays the isomorphism between the point group \mathcal{P} of \mathcal{G} and the factor group \mathcal{G}/\mathcal{T} . This correspondence is also exploited in the listing of the general-position coordinates. What is given there are the coordinate triplets for coset representatives of \mathcal{G} relative to \mathcal{T} , which correspond to the first row of the array in Table 1.3.3.3. As just explained, the other operations in \mathcal{G} can be obtained from these coset representatives by adding a lattice translation to the translational part.

Furthermore, the correspondence between the point group and the coset decomposition relative to \mathcal{T} makes it easy to find a system of coset representatives $\{W_1, \dots, W_m\}$ of \mathcal{G} relative to \mathcal{T} . What is required is that the linear parts of the W_i are precisely the operations in the point group of \mathcal{G} . If W_1, \dots, W_m are the different operations in the point group \mathcal{P} of \mathcal{G} , then a system of coset representatives is obtained by choosing for every linear part W_i a translation part \mathbf{w}_i such that $W_i = (W_i, \mathbf{w}_i)$ is an operation in \mathcal{G} .

It is customary to choose the translation parts \mathbf{w}_i of the coset representatives such that their coordinates lie between 0 and 1,