

Symmetry

CHAN PARK

for animated images of point groups,

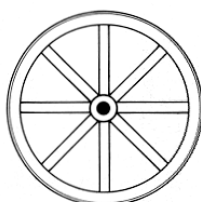
<http://neon.mems.cmu.edu/degraeef/pg/pg.html#AGM>

1 CHANPARK, MSE, SNU Spring-2019 Crystal Structure Analyses

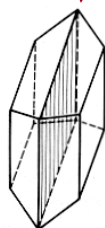
Symmetry

- All repetition operations are called symmetry operations
 - ✓ Symmetry consists of the repetition of a pattern by the application of specific rules
- When a symmetry operation has a locus, that is a point, or a line, or a plane that is left unchanged by the operation, this locus is referred to as the symmetry element

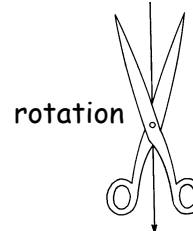
Symmetry operation	Geometrical representation	Symmetry element
Rotation	Axis (line)	Rotation axis
Inversion	Point (center)	Inversion center (center of symmetry)
Reflection	Plane	Mirror plane
Translation	vector	Translation vector



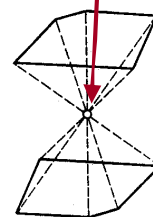
rotation



reflection



rotation



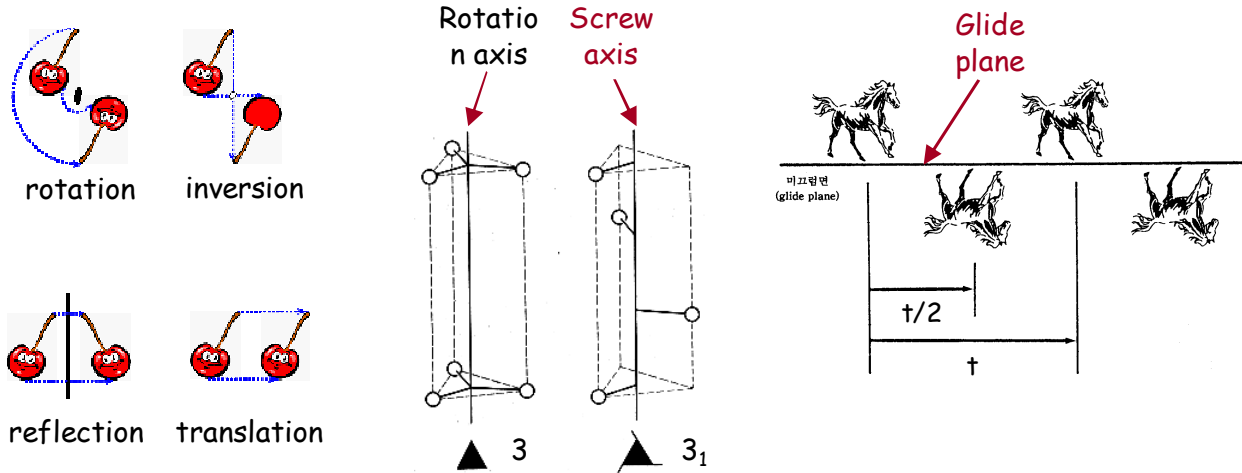
inversion

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Symmetry operation

- (1) Rotation; 1 2 3 4 6 (2) Reflection; m ($= \bar{2}$)
- (3) Inversion (center of symmetry) ($= \bar{1}$)
- (4) Rotation-inversion; $\bar{1}$ (=center of symmetry), $\bar{2}$ (= mirror), $\bar{3}$, $\bar{4}$, $\bar{6}$
- (5) Screw axis; rotation + translation 2_1 , 3_1 , 3_2 , 4_1 , 4_2 , 4_3 , 6_1 , ---, 6_5
- (6) Glide plane; reflection + translation, a , b , c , n , d



Crystal symmetry, 14 Bravais lattice

Crystal System	Bravais Lattices	Symmetry	Symmetry	Axis System
Cubic	P, I, F	m3m	m3m	$a=b=c$, $\alpha=\beta=\gamma=90$
Tetragonal	P, I	4/mmm	4/mmm	$a=b \neq c$, $\alpha=\beta=\gamma=90$
Orthorhombic	P, C, I, F	mmm	mmm	$a \neq b \neq c$, $\alpha=\beta=\gamma=90$
Hexagonal	P	6/mmm	6/mmm	$a=b \neq c$, $\alpha=\beta=90$, $\gamma=120$
Rhombohedral	R	3m	3m	$a=b=c$, $\alpha=\beta=\gamma \neq 90$
Monoclinic	P, C	2/m	2/m	$a \neq b \neq c$, $\alpha=\gamma=90$, $\beta \neq 90$
Triclinic	P	1	1	$a \neq b \neq c$, $\alpha \neq \beta \neq \gamma \neq 90$

Quartz

Crystal System: trigonal

Bravais Lattice: primitive

Space Group: **P3₂21**

Lattice Parameters: 4.9134 x 4.9134 x 5.4052 Å

Atom Positions:

	x	y	z
Si	0.470	0	0.667
O	0.414	0.268	0.786

P3₂21

P 3₂ 2 1

6/mmm

6/m m m

Symmetry directions, Space group

Xtal systems	Symmetry directions		
Triclinic			
Monoclinic		b	
Orthorhombic	a	b	c
Tetragonal	c	<a>	<110>
Trigonal	c	<a>	
Hexagonal	c	<a>	<210>
Cubic	<a>	<111>	<110>

Fmmm

Face centered lattice
 $m \perp$ to a axis
 $m \perp$ to b axis
 $m \perp$ to c axis


P3₂21

Primitive lattice
 3_2 along the c axis
 2 fold rot axis along the a axis
 1 fold rot axis along the <210>

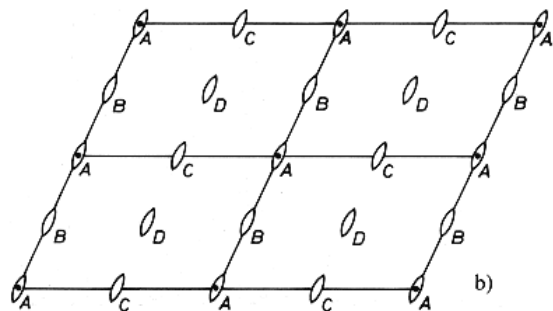
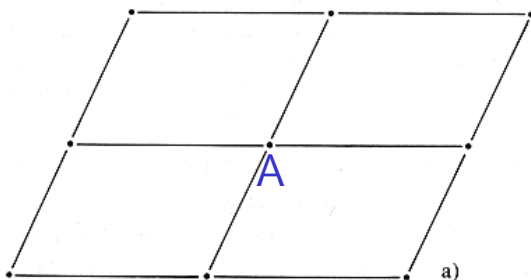
Fd3m

Face centered lattice
 $d \perp$ to a axis
 3 fold axis along the <111>
 $m \perp$ to c axis

Rotation Axis

- general plane lattice
- 180° rotation about the central lattice point A → coincidence
 → 2-fold rotation axis; symbol 2,  (normal to plane of paper), → (parallel to plane of paper)

Order (multiplicity) of the rotation axis $n = \frac{360^\circ}{\phi} = \frac{2\pi}{\phi}$



➤ Two objects are EQUIVALENT

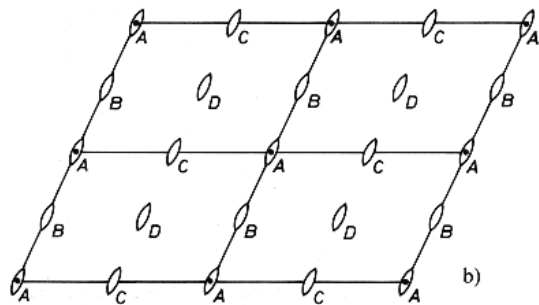
- ✓ When they can be brought into coincidence by application of a symmetry operation

➤ Two objects are IDENTICAL

- ✓ When no symmetry operation except lattice translation is involved
- ✓ equivalent by translation

➤ All A's are equivalent to one another

➤ A is not equivalent to B

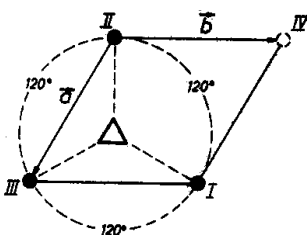


Rotation Axis

- n-fold axis $n = \frac{360^\circ}{\phi} = \frac{2\pi}{\phi}$ ϕ : minimum angle required to reach a position indistinguishable from the starting point
- Axis with $n > 2$ will have at least two other points lying in a plane \perp to it
 - ✓ 3 non-colinear points define a plane \rightarrow must be a lattice plane (translational periodicity)

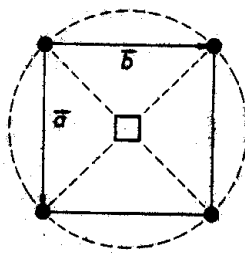
3-fold axis ▲

$\phi = 120^\circ, n = 3$



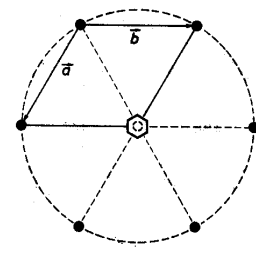
4-fold axis ■

$\phi = 90^\circ, n = 4$



6-fold axis ●

$\phi = 60^\circ, n = 6$

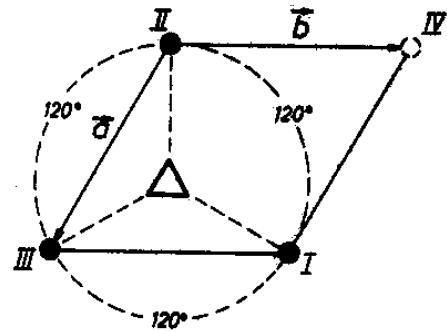


➤ In space lattices and consequently in crystals, only 1-, 2-, 3-, 4-, and 6-fold rotation axes can occur.

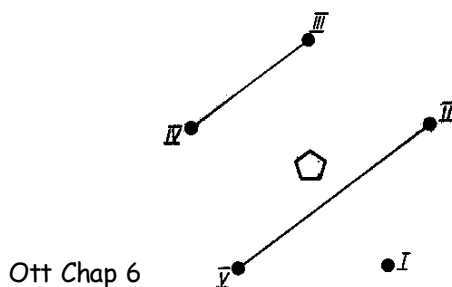
To be a lattice plane

- The points generated by rotation axis must fulfil the conditions for being a lattice plane --- parallel lattice lines should have the same translation period

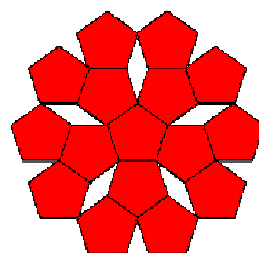
- Lattice translation moves I \rightarrow IV
- 4 points produce a unit mesh of a lattice plane
- \rightarrow 3 fold axes are compatible with space lattice



5-fold Rotation Axis



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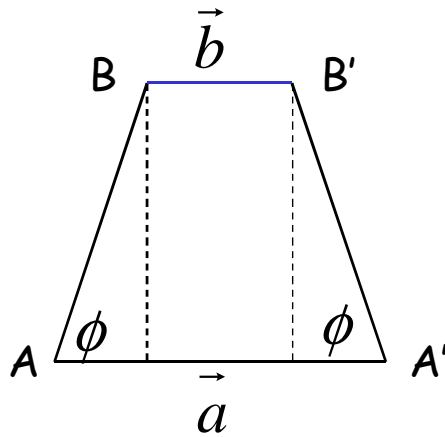
$$\phi = 72^\circ, n=5$$

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- II-V and III-IV parallel but not equal or integral ratio \rightarrow no 5-fold axes in space lattice
- This structure does not have translational symmetry in 3-dimensions \rightarrow do not have finite unit cell \rightarrow called quasicrystal
 - ✓ Quasi - because there is no translational symmetry
 - ✓ Crystal - because they produce discrete, crystal-like diffraction patterns
- It is impossible to completely fill the area in 2-dimensions with pentagons without creating gaps

Rotation Axis > why 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 only ?

- limitation of ϕ set by translation periodicity



1, 2, 3, 4, 6

$$\vec{b} = m\vec{a} \quad \text{where } m \text{ is an integer}$$

$$ma = a - 2a \cos \phi$$

$$m = 1 - 2 \cos \phi$$

$$\cos \phi = \frac{1-m}{2}$$

m	cos ϕ	ϕ	n
-1	1	2π	1
0	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\pi/3$	6
1	0	$\pi/2$	4
2	$-\frac{1}{2}$	$2\pi/3$	3
3	-1	π	2

symmetry operation vs symmetry element, proper vs improper

- Rotation by 60° around an axis \rightarrow symmetry operation
- 6-fold rotation axis is a symmetry element which contains six rotational symmetry operations

➤ Proper symmetry elements

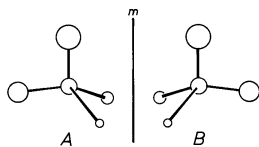
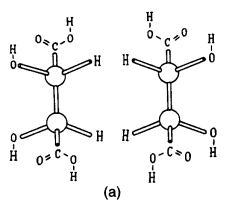
- ✓ Rotation axes, screw axes, translation vectors

➤ Improper symmetry elements

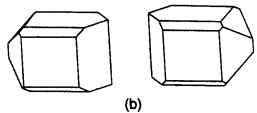
- ✓ Inverts an object in a way that may be imaged by comparing right & left hands
- ✓ Inverted object is called an enantiomorph of the direct object (right vs left hand)
- ✓ Center of inversion, roto-inversion axes, mirror plane, glide plane

Reflection

➤ reflection, a plane of symmetry or a mirror plane, m , σ (bold line), σ

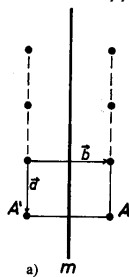


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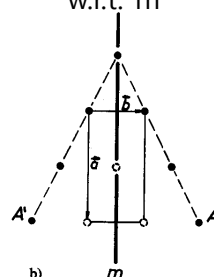
(b)

Lattice line // m

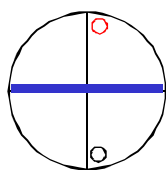


rectangular

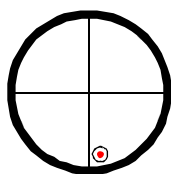
Lattice line tilted w.r.t. m



centered rectangular



m_{yz} (m_x)



m_{xy} (m_z)

- down
- up

Black & Red; enantiomorphs

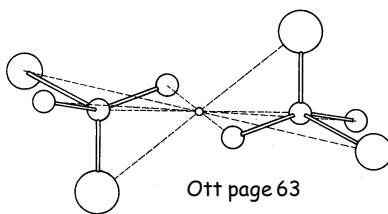
- down, left
- up, right

Inversion

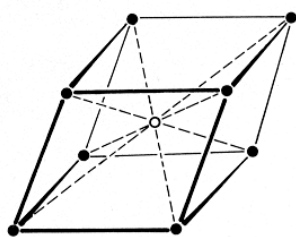
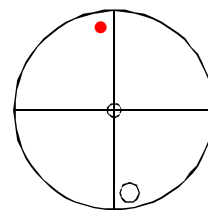
➤ inversion, center of symmetry or inversion center, $\bar{1}$ ○



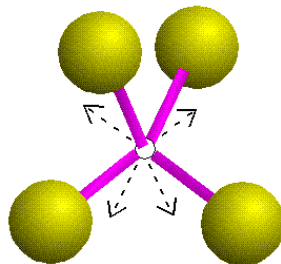
Hammond page 82



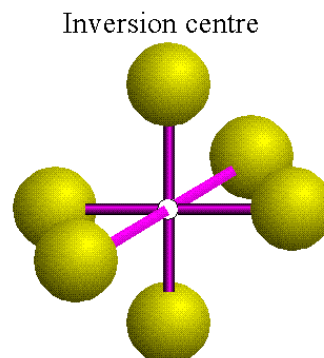
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No inversion centre



Inversion centre

All lattices are centrosymmetric.

www.gh.wits.ac.za/craig/diagrams/

Compound Symmetry Operation

➤ compound symmetry operation

- ✓ two symmetry operation in sequence as a single event

➤ combination of symmetry operations

- ✓ 2 or more individual symmetry operations are combined, which are themselves symmetry operations

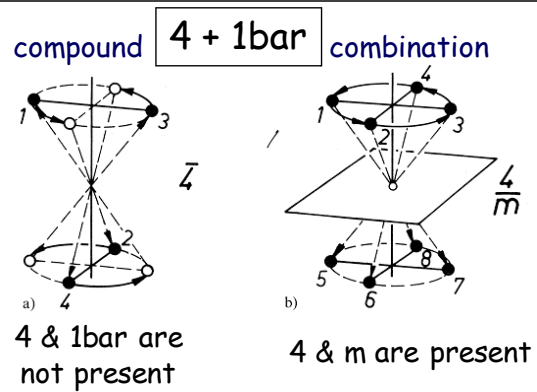


Table 5.1. Compound symmetry operations of simple operations. The corresponding symmetry elements are given in round brackets

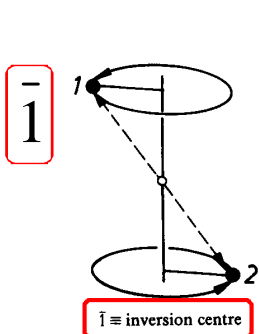
	Rotation	Reflection	Inversion	Translation
Rotation	×	Roto-reflection	Roto-inversion	Screw rotation
Reflection	(Roto-reflection axis)	×	2-fold rotation	Glide reflection
Inversion	(Roto-inversion axis)	(2-fold rotation axis)	×	Inversion
Translation	(Screw axis)	(Glide plane)	(Inversion centre)	×

Rotoinversion

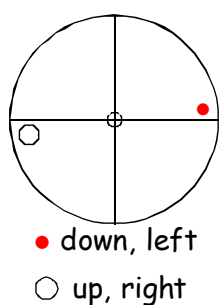
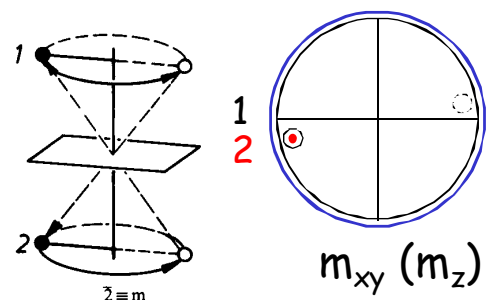
➤ compound symmetry operation of rotation and inversion

➤ rotoinversion axis \bar{n}

- 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 → $\bar{1}$ (=center of symmetry), $\bar{2}$ (= mirror), $\bar{3}$, $\bar{4}$, $\bar{6}$

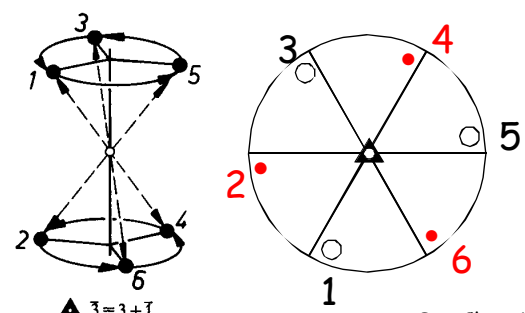


$\bar{2} (\equiv m)$



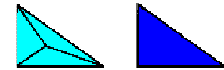
$\bar{3} (\equiv 3 + \bar{1})$ ▲

Rare case of "compound symmetry operation = combination of symmetry operation"

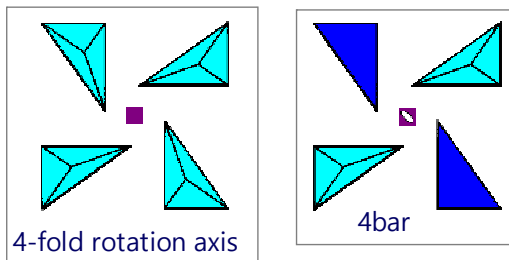
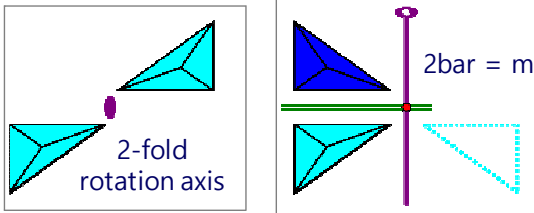
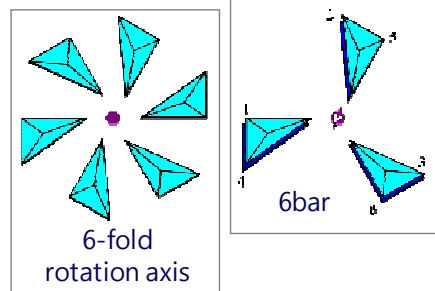
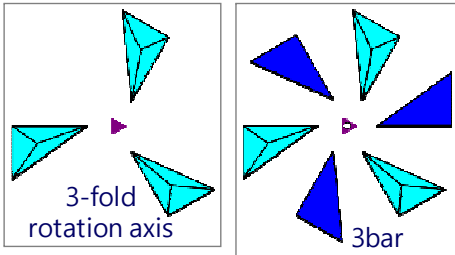
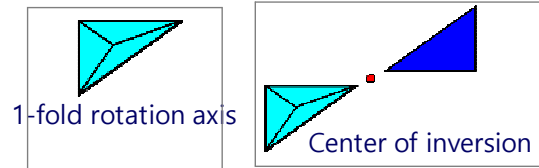


Symmetry elements

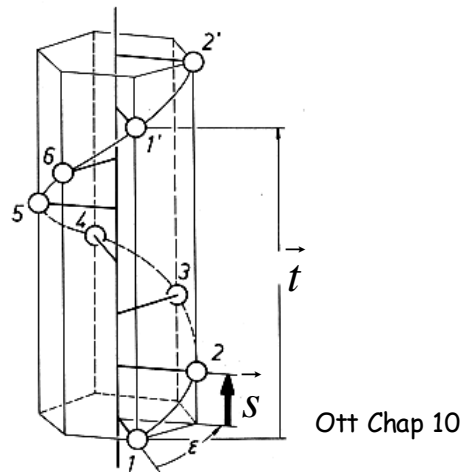
- 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 (proper rotation axes)
- $\bar{1}$ = inversion center, $\bar{2} = m$, $\bar{3}$, $\bar{4}$, $\bar{6}$ (improper axes; right & left hands → enantiomorph)
- Screw axes (rotation + translation)
- Glide planes (reflection + translation)



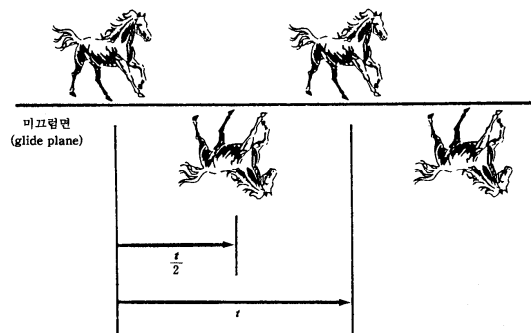
Enantiomorphous objects



Screw axes (rotation + translation)



Glide planes (reflection + translation)

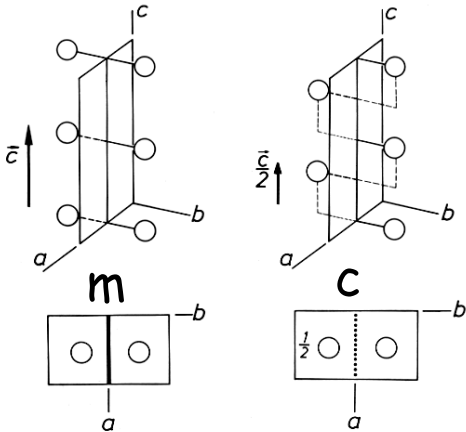
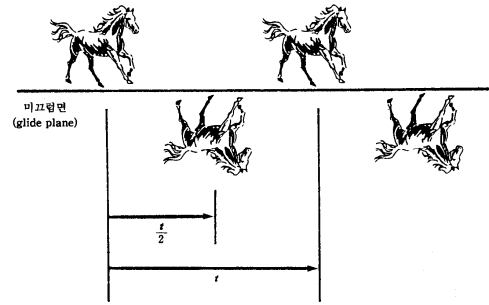


Glide Plane

- i) reflection
- ii) translation by the vector \vec{g} parallel to the plane of reflection where $|\vec{g}|$ is called glide component

\vec{g} is one half of a lattice translation parallel to the glide plane

$$|\vec{g}| = \frac{1}{2} |\vec{t}|$$



➤ glide plane can only occur in an orientation that is possible for a mirror plane

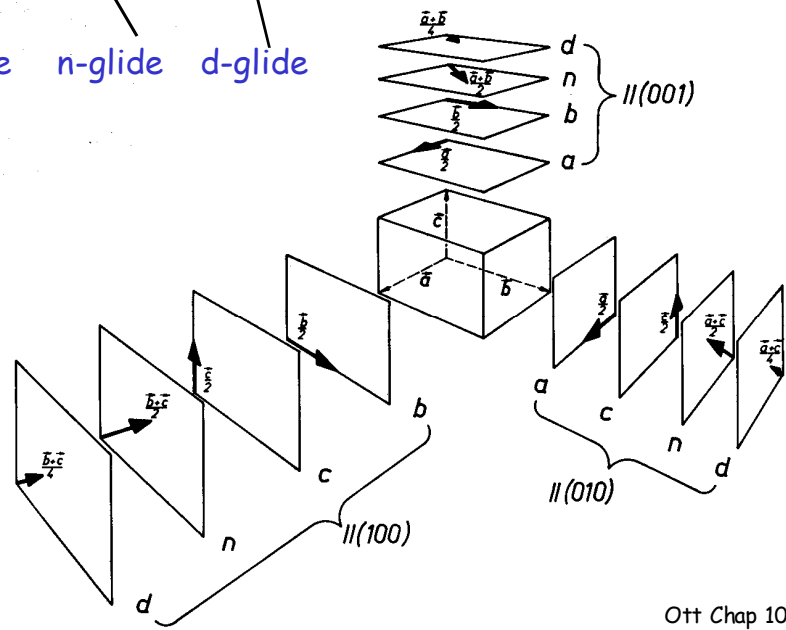
Glide Plane

Orthorhombic P2/m2/m2/m

(100), (010), (001) possible

Glide plane // (100) → $\frac{1}{2}|\vec{b}|, \frac{1}{2}|\vec{c}|, \frac{1}{2}|\vec{b}+\vec{c}|, \frac{1}{4}|\vec{b}\pm\vec{c}|$

b-glide c-glide n-glide d-glide



Glide Plane

Reflection plus $\frac{1}{2}$ cell translation

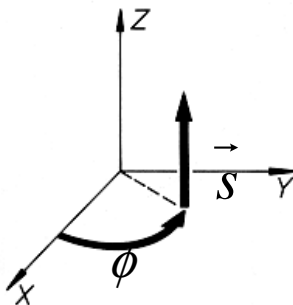
- a - glide: $a/2$ translation
- b - glide: $b/2$ translation
- c - glide: $c/2$ translation
- n - glide (normal to a): $b/2+c/2$ translation
- n - glide (normal to b): $a/2+c/2$ translation
- n - glide (normal to c): $a/2+b/2$ translation
- d - glide : $(a + b)/4, (b + c)/4, (c + a)/4$
- g - glide line (two dimensions)

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Screw Axis

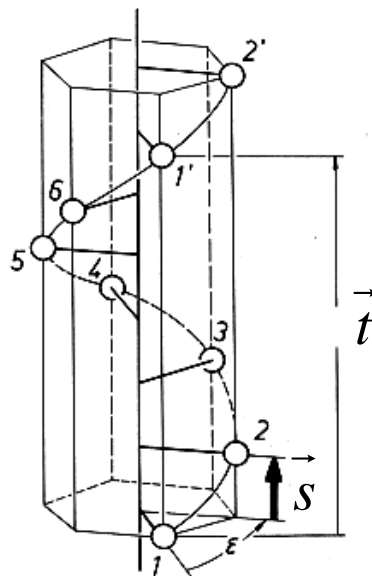
i) rotation $\phi = \frac{2\pi}{X}$ ($X=1,2,3,4,6$)

ii) translation by a vector \vec{s} parallel to the axis
 where $|\vec{s}|$ is called the screw component



$$|\vec{s}| = \frac{p}{X} |\vec{t}| \quad p=0,1,2,\dots,X-1$$

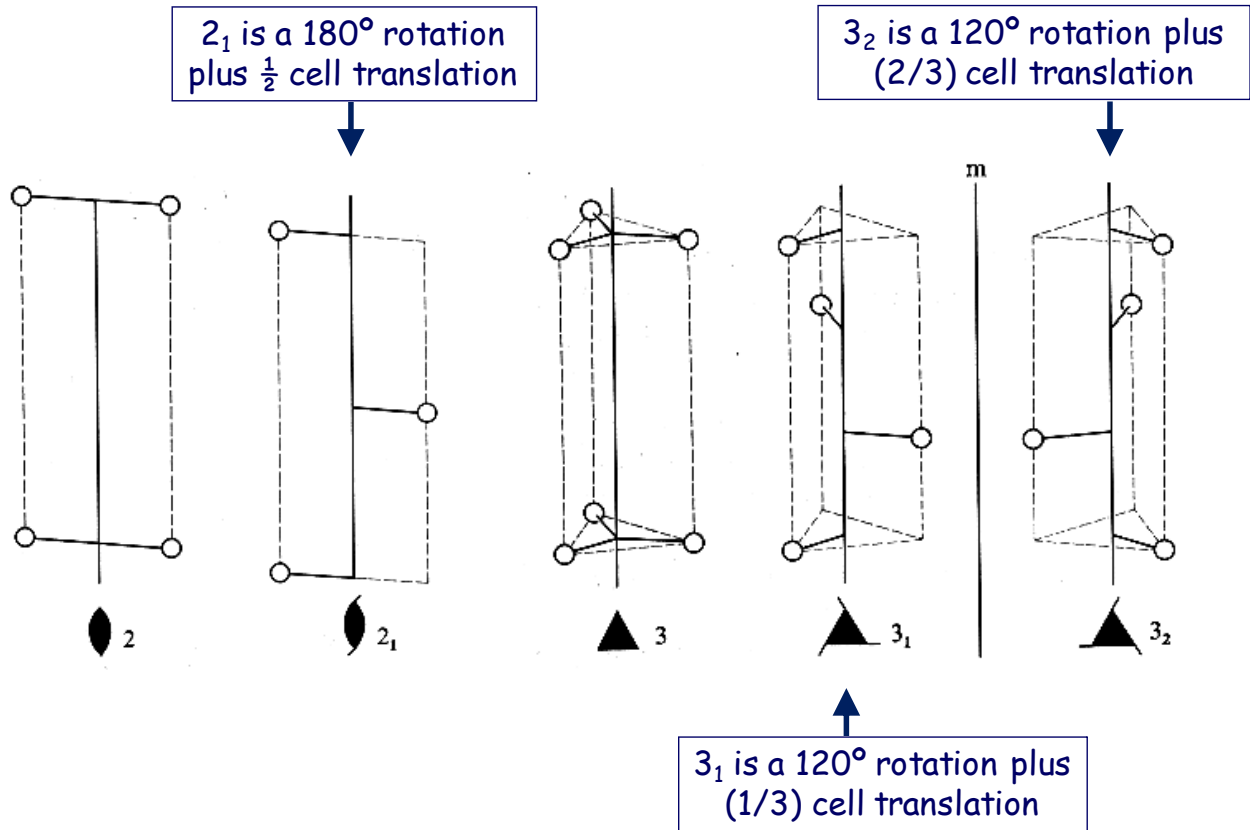
$$X_p = X_0, X_1, \dots, X_{X-1}$$



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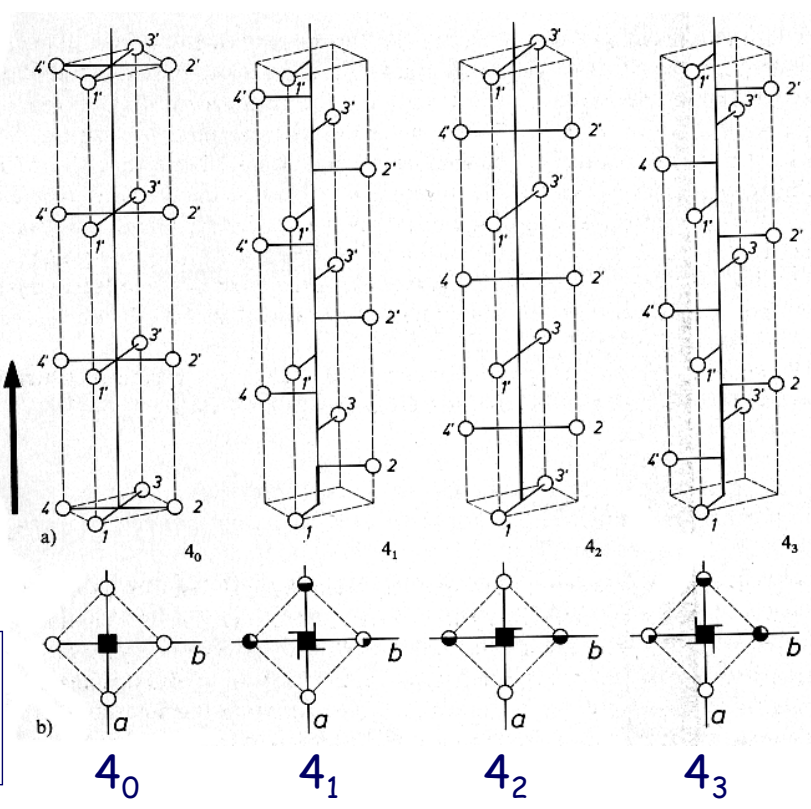
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Screw Axis

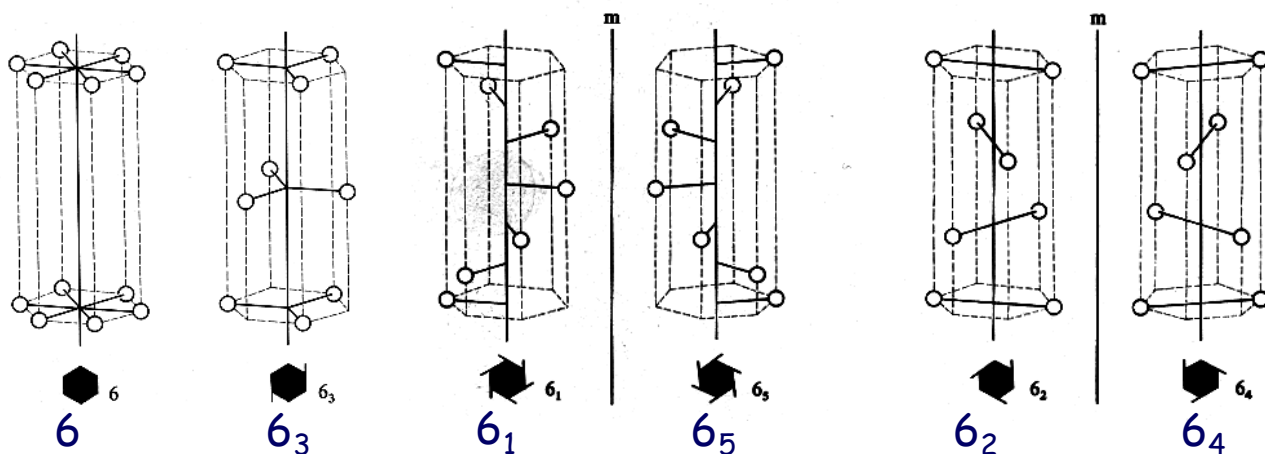


Screw tetrads

- 4_0 is 4-fold rotation axis
- 4_1 is a 90° rotation plus $\frac{1}{4}$ cell translation (right-handed)
- 4_2 is a 90° rotation plus $\frac{1}{2}$ cell translation (no handedness)
- 4_3 is a 90° rotation plus $\frac{3}{4}$ cell translation (right-handed) = a 90° rotation plus $\frac{1}{4}$ cell translation (left-handed)
- Sets of points generated by 4_1 and 4_3 are a pair of enantiomorphs (mirror images of one another)



Screw hexads



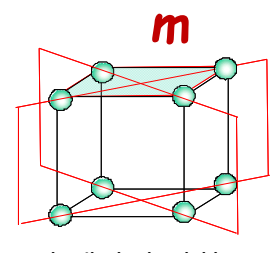
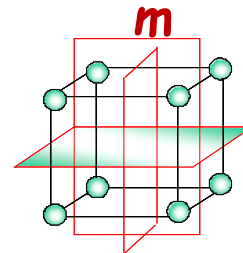
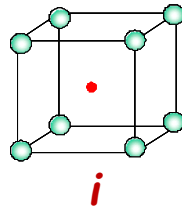
- **6₁** 60° rotation + 1/6 cell translation (right-handed)
- **6₂** 60° rotation + 1/3 cell translation (right-handed)
- **6₃** 60° rotation + 1/2 cell translation (no handedness)
- **6₄** 60° rotation + 2/3 cell translation (right-handed) = (1/3 left-handed)
- **6₅** 60° rotation + 5/6 cell translation (right-handed) = (1/6 left-handed)

Symmetry Element

Type of symmetry element	Written symbol	Graphical symbol	
Center of Symmetry	⊥	⊙	
		Perpendicular to paper	In plane of paper
Mirror plane	m	—————	
Glide plane	a b c	- - - - -	
		glide in plane of paper	arrow shows glide direction
		- - - - -	
		slide out of plane of paper	
	n	- - - - -	
Rotation	2		—————→
	3		
	4		
	6		
Screw Axis	2₁		—————→
	3₁ 3₂		
	4₁ 4₂ 4₃		
	6₁ 6₂ 6₃ 6₄ 6₅		
Inversion Axis	$\bar{3}$		
	$\bar{4}$		
	$\bar{6}$		

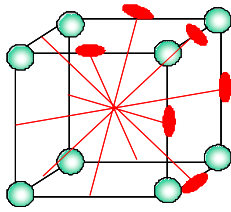
Cube(정육면체)의 대칭요소

- 대칭심(center of symmetry)
- 9개의 거울면(mirror plane)
- 6개의 2회전축(diad axis)
- 4개의 3회전축(triad axis)
- 3개의 4회전축 (tetrad axis)

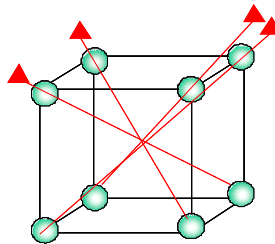


직각 방향 :3개

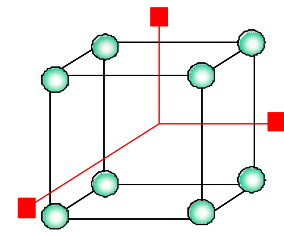
면 대각선 방향 :6개



X=2



X=3

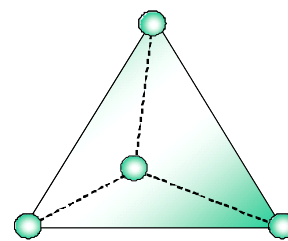
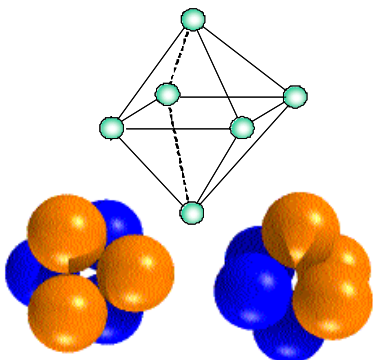


X=4

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Tetrahedron과 Octahedron의 대칭

- 정8면체(octahedron)의 대칭요소 ≡ 정6면체의 대칭요소
- 정4면체(tetrahedron)의 대칭요소
 - ✓ 6개의 거울면
 - ✓ 3개의 4회반축(inverse tetrad axis)
 - ✓ 4개의 3회전축



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Point groups

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-
- Lattice - an array of points in space in which the environment of each point is identical
 - Basis (motif) - repeating unit of pattern
 - Lattice + basis \rightarrow crystal structure

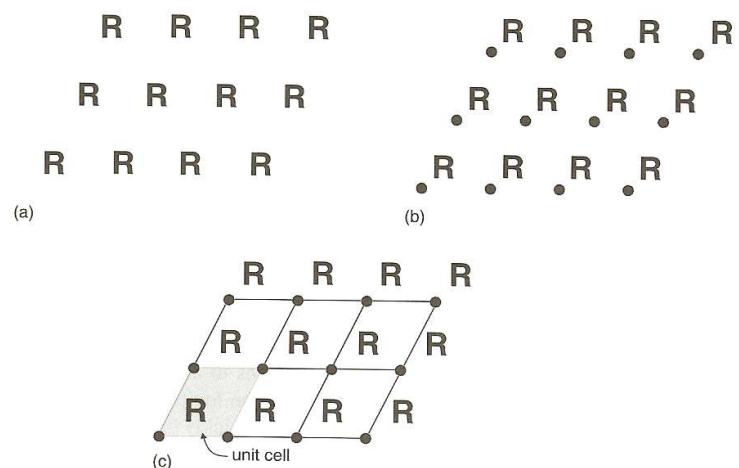
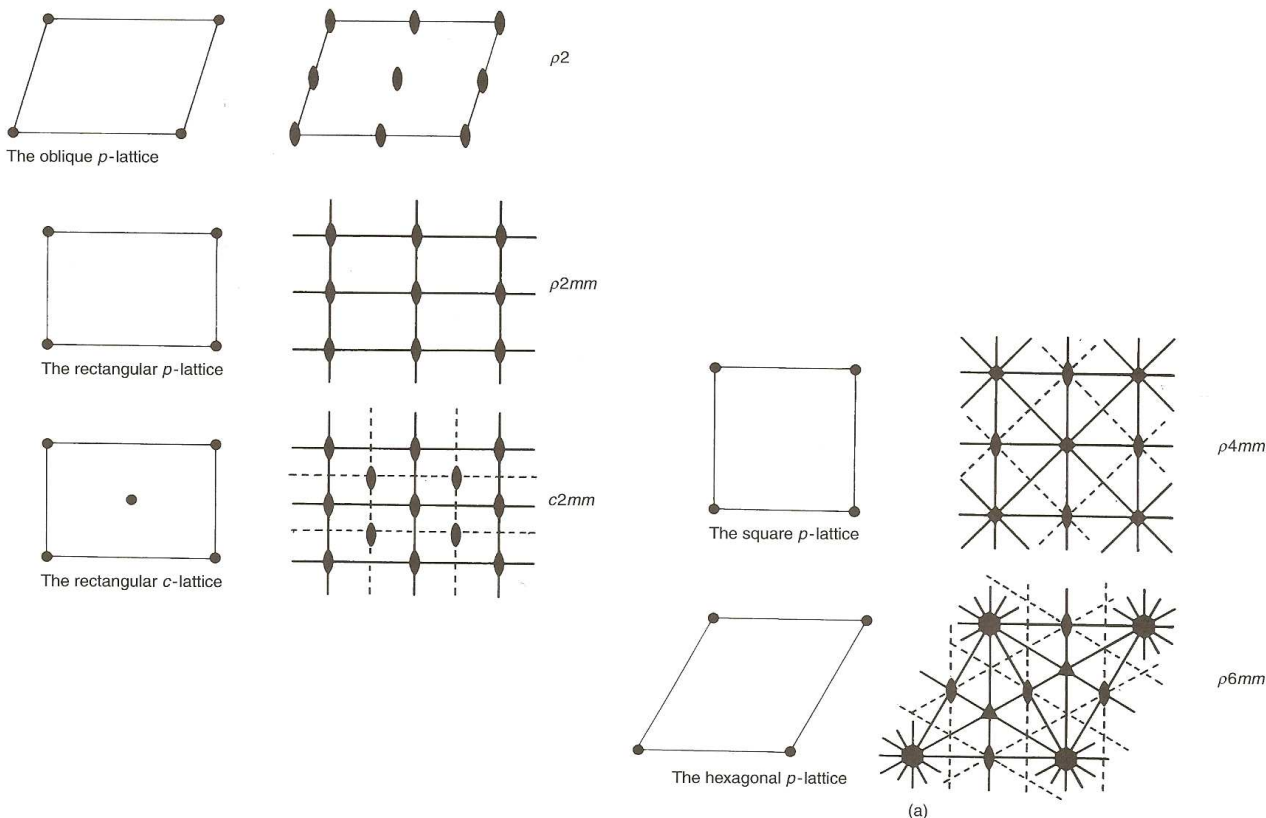


Fig. 2.1. (a) A pattern with the motif **R**, (b) with the lattice points indicated and (c) the lattice and a unit cell outlined (Drawn by K. M. Crennell).

- Ten 2-D point groups (plane point groups)
 - ✓ 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, m, 2mm, 3m, 4mm, 6mm
 - ✓ Only these combinations of axes & mirror lines can occur in regular repeating patterns in two dimensions
- 5 lattices in 2-D (5 plane lattices)
- A basis can possess one of ten point group symmetries in two dimension
- There are only ten different types of two-dimensional patterns, distributed among the five plane lattices (10 plane point groups)
- 17 plane groups
 - ✓ p1, p2, p3, p4, p6, pm, pg, cm, p2mm, p2mg, c2mm, p2gg, p4mm, p4gm, p31m, p3m1, p6mm
- 3-D, 14 possible lattices, **7 different axis systems**
- The application and permutation of all symmetry elements to patterns in space give rise to **230 space groups** (instead of 17 plane groups) distributed among **14 space lattices** (instead of 5 plane lattices) and **32 point group symmetries** (instead of 10 plane point group symmetries)
- **Space group symmetry** - the way things are packed together and fill space
- Space group - translational component = point group

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5 plane lattices



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Hammond Chap 2

17 plane groups

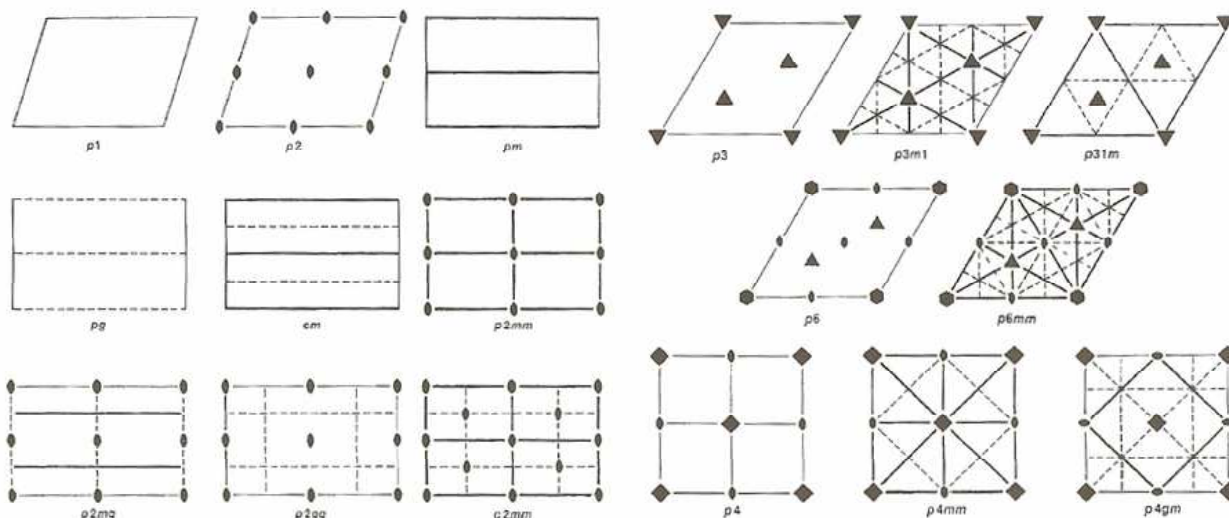
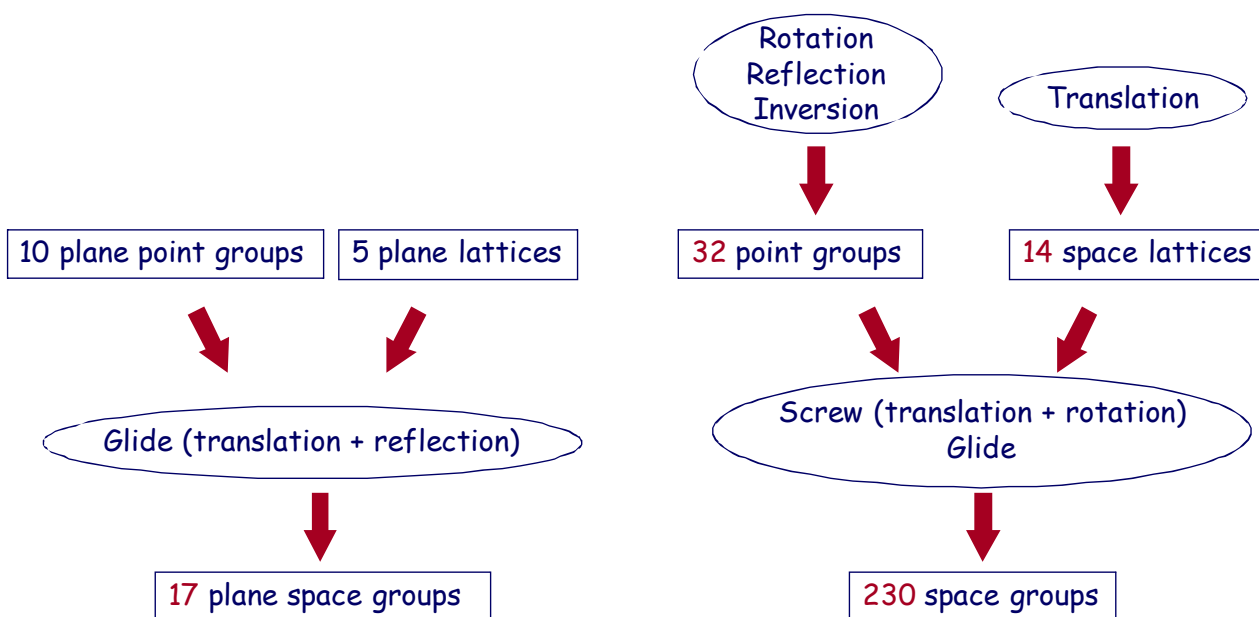


Fig. 2.6. (a) The seventeen plane groups (from *Point and Plane Groups* by K. M. Crennell). The numbering 1–17 is that which is arbitrarily assigned in the International Tables. Note that the 'shorthand' symbols do not necessarily indicate all the symmetry elements which are present in the patterns. (b) The symmetry elements outlined within (conventional) unit cells of the seventeen plane groups, heavy solid lines and dashed lines represent mirror and glide lines respectively (from *Manual of Mineralogy* 21st edn, by C. Klein and C. S. Hurlbut, Jr., John Wiley, 1999).

plane groups vs. space groups

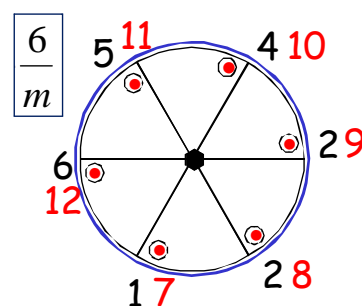
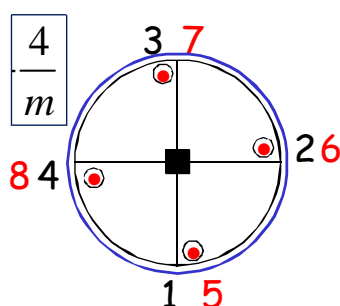
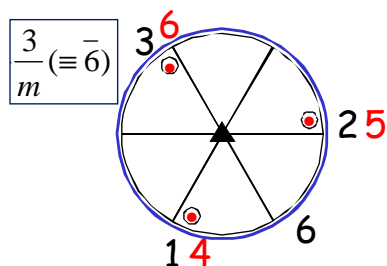
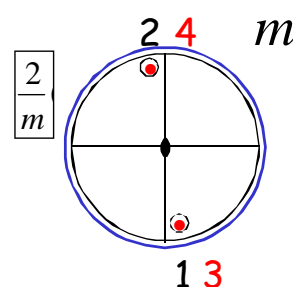
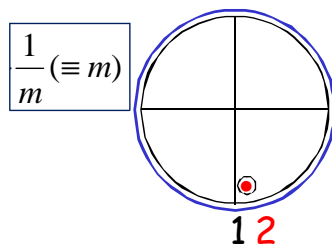
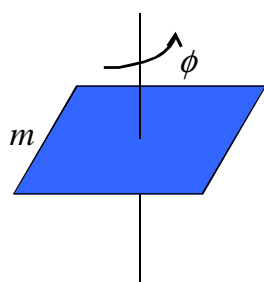


Point group

- A group of point symmetry operations whose operation leaves at least one point unmoved (lattice translation is not considered in point group)
- 32 unique combination of symmetry operations about a point in space → **32 point groups** (32 three-dimensional point groups; ten two-dimensional point groups)

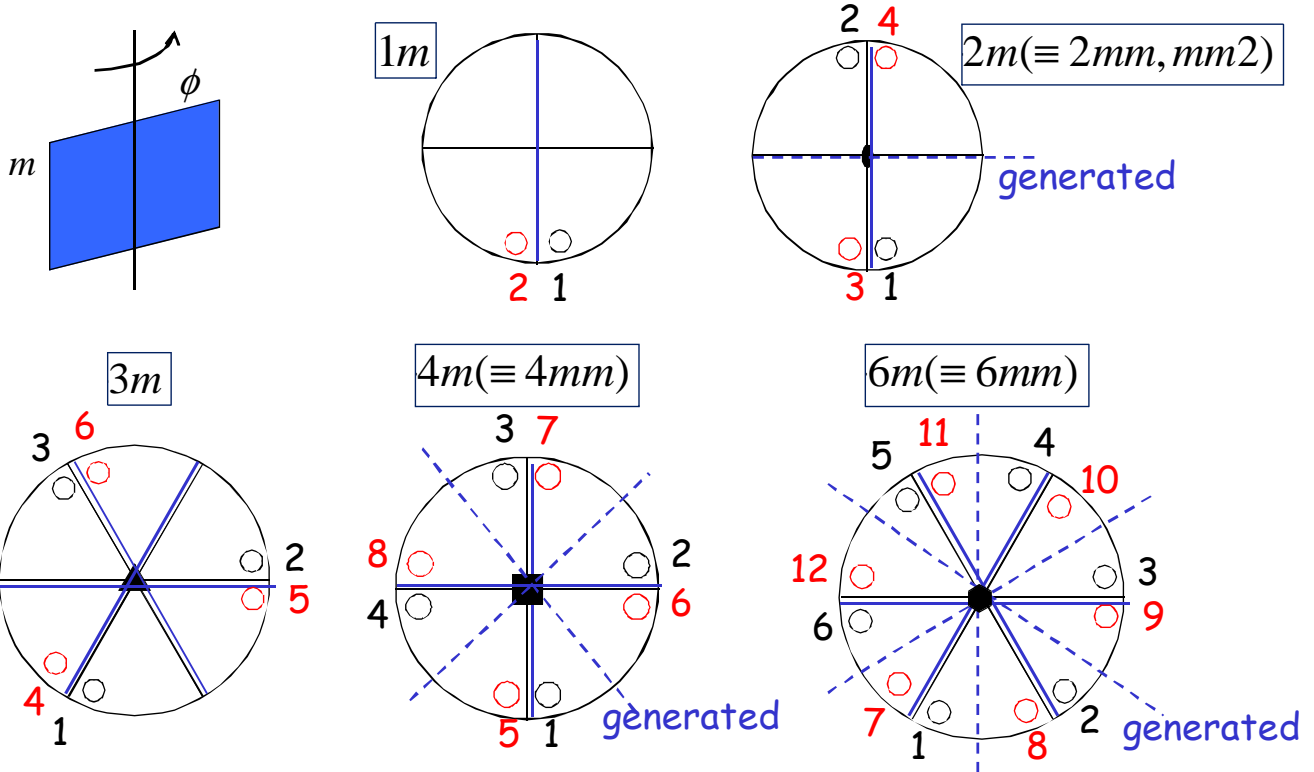
Combination > X/m

- a mirror plane is added normal to the rotation axis, $\frac{X}{m}$



Combination > Xm

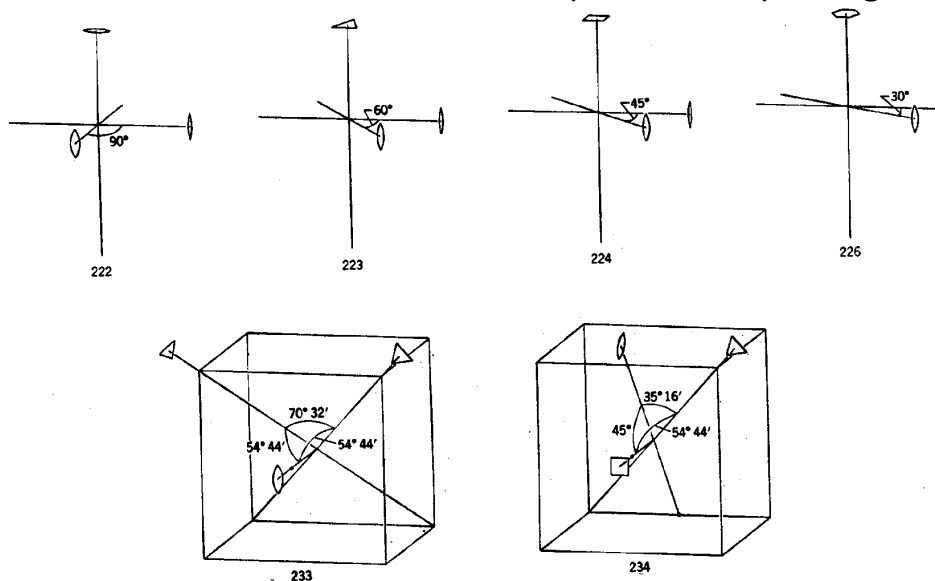
> a mirror plane is added parallel to the rotation axis, Xm



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Combination of rotation axes - should be mutually consistent

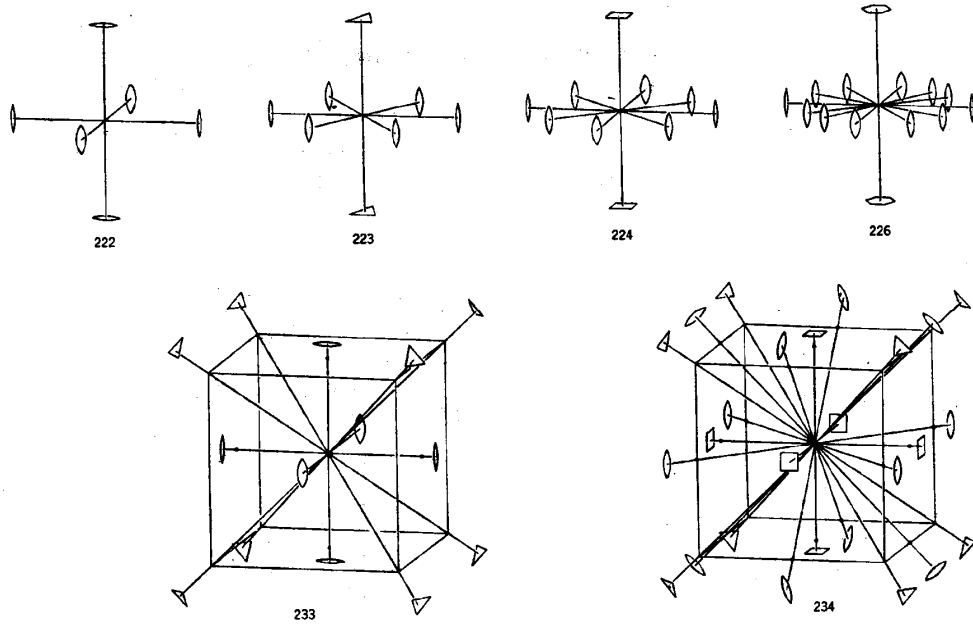
Allowed sets of simultaneous rotational symmetries passing thru a point



Spatial arrangements for the six permissible combinations of 3 rotational symmetry axes passing through a point in crystals

Page 149, Allen & Thomas, The Structure of Materials (MIT Series in Materials Science and Engineering) (1999)
Page 43, Buerger, Elementary Crystallography: An introduction to the fundamental geometric features of crystals (1978)

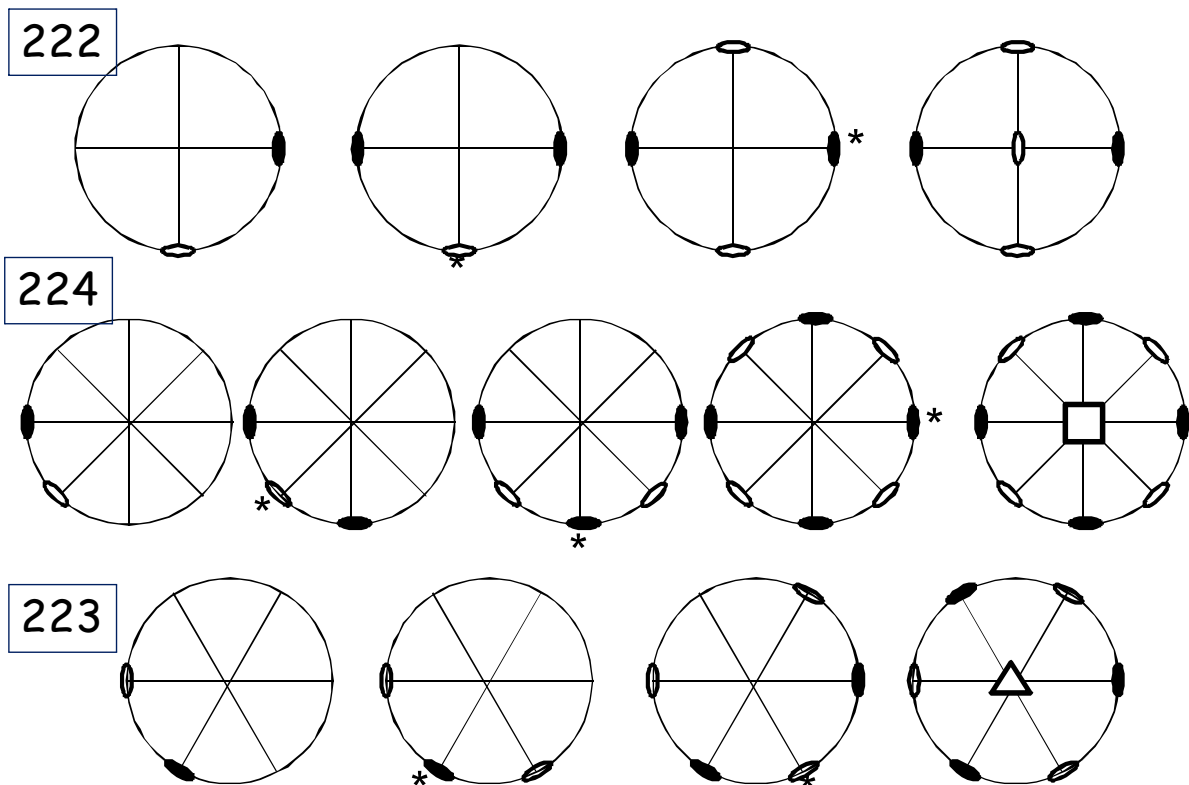
Combination of rotation axes



Spatial arrangements for the 6 permissible combinations of rotational symmetry axes passing through a point in crystals after allowing all rotational repetitions

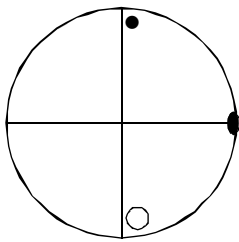
Page 150, Allen & Thomas, *The Structure of Materials* (MIT Series in Materials Science and Engineering) (1999)
 Page 44, Buerger, *Elementary Crystallography: An introduction to the fundamental geometric features of crystals* (1978)

Combination of rotation axes

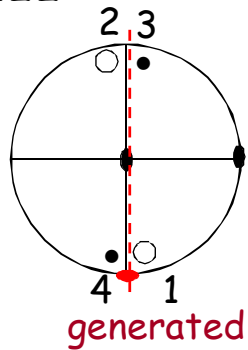


Combination of rotation axes, $n2$

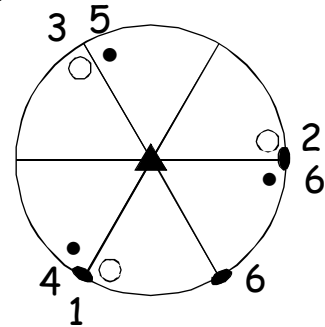
12



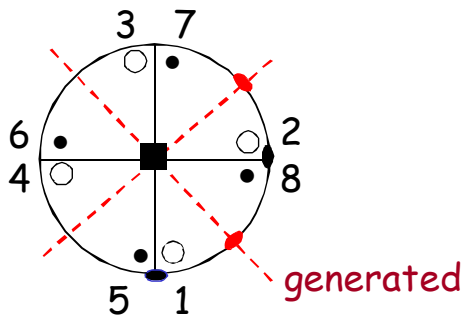
222



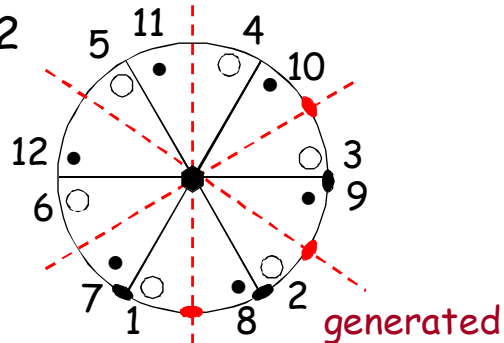
32



422

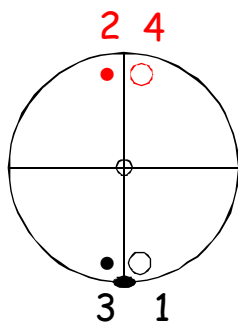


622

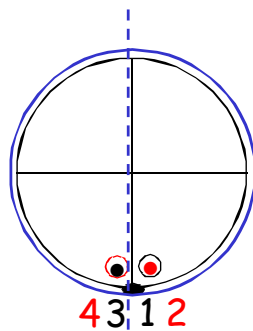


Combination of rotation axes, $\bar{n}2$

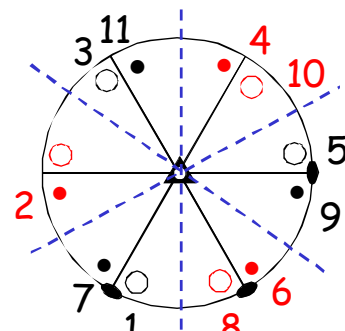
$\bar{1}2(\equiv \frac{2}{m})$



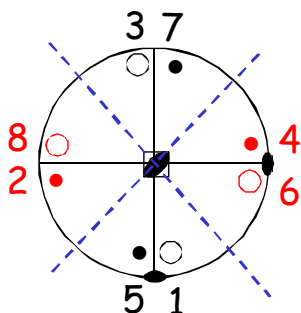
$\bar{2}2(\equiv 2mm)$



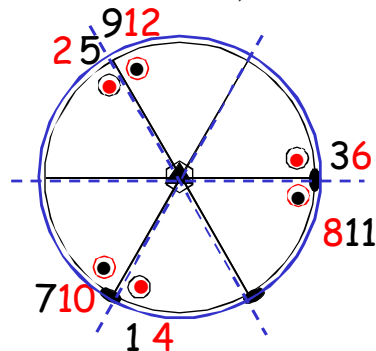
$\bar{3}2(\equiv \bar{3}\frac{2}{m})$



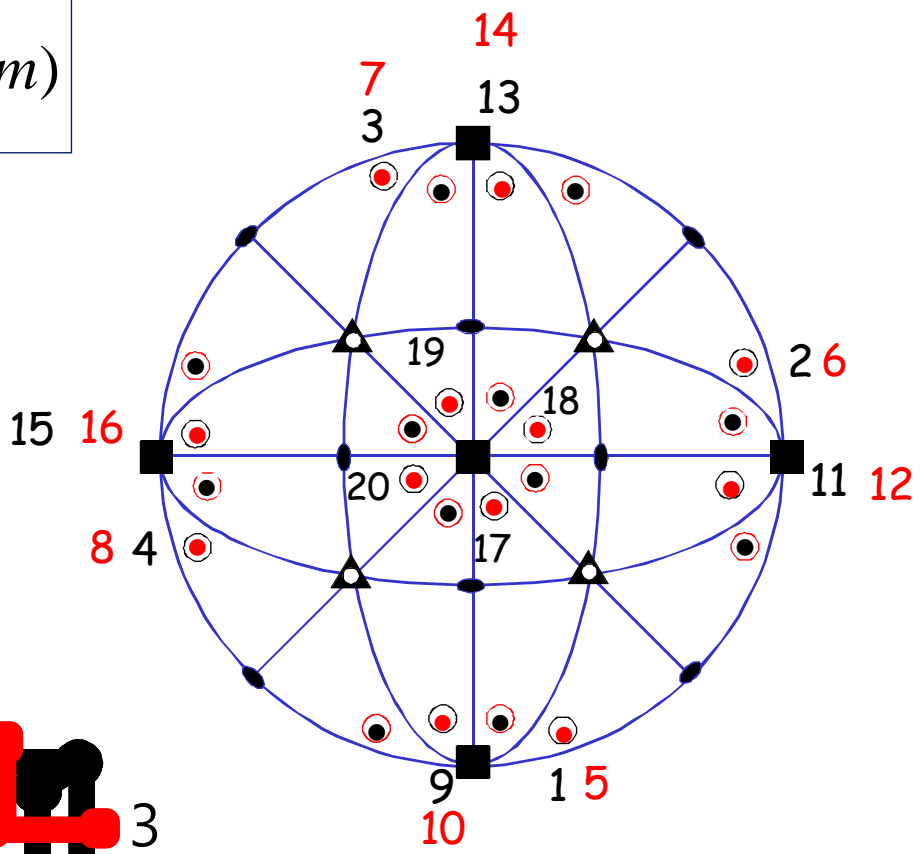
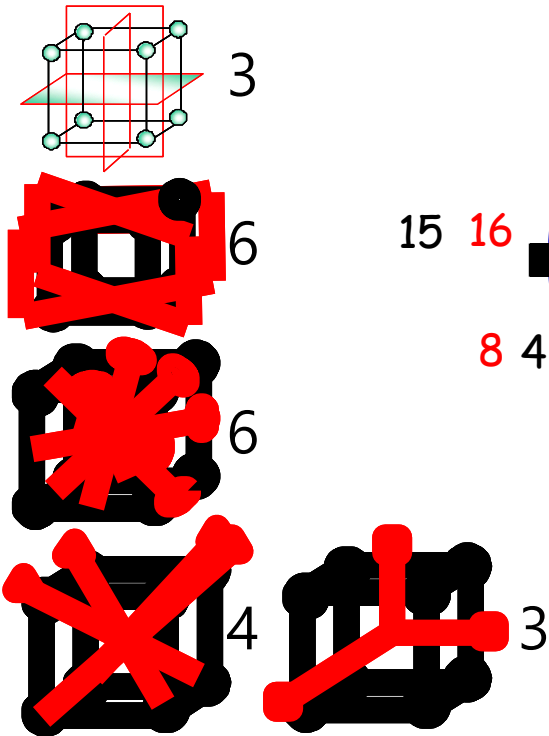
$\bar{4}2(\equiv \bar{4}2m)$



$\bar{6}2(\equiv \bar{6}2m \equiv \bar{6}m2)$



$$\frac{4}{m} \frac{\bar{3}}{m} \frac{2}{m} (\equiv m\bar{3}m)$$



32 Point Groups

- The point groups are made up from point symmetry operation and combinations of them (translation is excluded)
- X : x-fold rotation axis
- m : mirror plane
- $\bar{1}$: inversion centre
- \bar{X} : rotoinversion axis
- X2 : X-fold rotation axis + 2-fold rotation axis ($X \perp 2$)
- X_m(m) : X + m (X // m)
- $\bar{X}2(2)$: \bar{X} + 2-fold axis ($\bar{X} \perp 2$)
- $\bar{X}m$: \bar{X} + m (X // m)
- X/mm : X + m₁ + m₂ (X \perp m₁, X // m₂)

32 Point Group

➤ Schönflies symbol vs. International (Hermann-Mauguin) symbol

C_n : n-fold rotation axis; identical with X

C_n	C_1	C_2	C_3	C_4	C_6
X	1	2	3	4	6

C_{ni} : odd-order rotation axis and inversion centre $i \equiv \bar{X}$ (odd)
 C_s : (s for German Spiegelebene) = mirror plane;
 S_n : n-fold roto-reflection axis (only S_4 and S_6 used)

	C_i	C_3	$C_{3i} \equiv S_6$	S_4	
\bar{X}	$\bar{1}$	$(\bar{2} \equiv)$ m	$\bar{3}$	$\bar{4}$	

C_{nh} : n-fold axis normal to mirror plane $\equiv X/m$

C_{nh}		C_{2h}	C_{3h}	C_{4h}	C_{6h}
X/m		2/m	$(3/m \equiv)$ $\bar{6}$	4/m	6/m

Symmetry directions

Xtal systems	Symmetry directions			
Triclinic	a	b	c	$a_1 \neq a_2 \neq a_3, \alpha \neq \beta \neq \gamma \neq 90^\circ$
Monoclinic	a	b	c	$a_1 \neq a_2 \neq a_3, \alpha = \gamma = 90^\circ \neq \beta$
Orthorhombic	a	b	c	$a_1 \neq a_2 \neq a_3, \alpha = \beta = \gamma = 90^\circ$
Tetragonal	c	$\langle a \rangle$	$\langle 110 \rangle$	$a_1 = a_2 \neq a_3, \alpha = \beta = \gamma = 90^\circ$
Trigonal	c	$\langle a \rangle$	-	$a_1 = a_2 = a_3, \alpha = \beta = \gamma < 120^\circ \neq 90^\circ$
Hexagonal	c	$\langle a \rangle$	$\langle 210 \rangle$	$a_1 = a_2 \neq a_3, \alpha = \beta = 90^\circ, \gamma = 120^\circ$
Cubic	$\langle a \rangle$	$\langle 111 \rangle$	$\langle 110 \rangle$	$a_1 = a_2 = a_3, \alpha = \beta = \gamma = 90^\circ$

Table 8.2. The 32 point groups

Crystal system	Point groups
Triclinic	$\bar{1}$ 1
Monoclinic	2/m m, 2
Orthorhombic	2/m 2/m 2/m mm2, 222 (mmm)
Tetragonal	4/m 2/m 2/m $\bar{4}2m$, 4mm, 422 (4/mmm) 4/m, $\bar{4}$, 4
Trigonal	$\bar{3}$ 2/m 3m, 32, $\bar{3}$, 3 ($\bar{3}m$)
Hexagonal	6/m 2/m 2/m $\bar{6}m2$, 6mm, 622 (6/mmm) 6/m, $\bar{6}$, 6
Cubic	4/m $\bar{3}$ 2/m $\bar{4}3m$, 432, 2/m $\bar{3}$, 23 (m $\bar{3}$)

2
3
3
7
5
7
5

full symbols
(short symbols)

Total 32

Laue class, Laue group; 11 point groups with center of symmetry

Table 2.9 The 11 Laue classes and six “powder” Laue classes.







Crystal system	Laue class	“Powder” Laue class	Point groups
Triclinic	$\bar{1}$	$\bar{1}$	1, $\bar{1}$
Monoclinic	2/m	2/m	2, m, 2/m
Orthorhombic	mmm	mmm	222, mm2, mmm
Tetragonal	4/m	4/mmm	4, $\bar{4}$, 4/m
	4/mmm	4/mmm	422, 4mm, $\bar{4}m2$, 4/mmm
Trigonal	$\bar{3}$	6/mmm	3, $\bar{3}$
	$\bar{3}m$	6/mmm	32, 3m, $\bar{3}m$
Hexagonal	6/m	6/mmm	6, $\bar{6}$, 6/m
	6/mmm	6/mmm	622, 6mm, $\bar{6}m2$, 6/mmm
Cubic	m $\bar{3}$	m $\bar{3}m$	23, m $\bar{3}$
	m $\bar{3}m$	m $\bar{3}m$	432, $\bar{4}3m$, m $\bar{3}m$

Table 2.10 Lattice symmetry and unit cell shapes.





Crystal family	Unit cell symmetry	Unit cell shape/parameters
Triclinic	$\bar{1}$	$a \neq b \neq c; \alpha \neq \beta \neq \gamma \neq 90^\circ$
Monoclinic	2/m	$a \neq b \neq c; \alpha = \gamma = 90^\circ, \beta \neq 90^\circ$
Orthorhombic	mmm	$a \neq b \neq c; \alpha = \beta = \gamma = 90^\circ$
Tetragonal	4/mmm	$a = b \neq c; \alpha = \beta = \gamma = 90^\circ$
Hexagonal and Trigonal	6/mmm	$a = b \neq c; \alpha = \beta = 90^\circ, \gamma = 120^\circ$
Cubic	m $\bar{3}m$	$a = b = c; \alpha = \beta = \gamma = 90^\circ$

Notations in the "International Tables for Crystallography"

Table 1.1. Notation for Asymmetric Units Used to Represent Point Group Symmetry

Notation	Description
	Asymmetric unit in the plane of the page
 	Asymmetric unit above (+) or below (-) the plane of the page
	Apostrophe indicating a left-handed asymmetric unit and clear circle indicating righthandedness.
	Two asymmetric units directly on top of one another, with the "+" meaning above the plane and the "-" meaning below the plane.
	Two asymmetric units directly on top of one another, one left-handed and the other right-handed

Note: The notation derives from the *International Tables for Crystallography*.

-  down
-  up
- Black & Red; enantiomorphs**
-  down, left
-  up, right

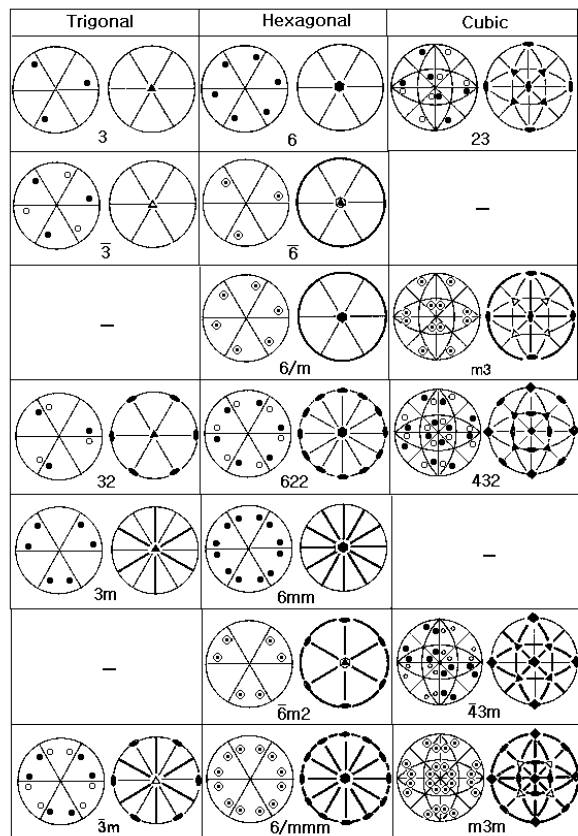


Fig. The 32 crystallographic point group. Each pair of stereograms shows (left) the poles of a general form, (right) the symmetry elements of the point group

