(*c*) If $\mathcal{U}$ char $\mathcal{N} \trianglelefteq \mathcal{H}$, then $\mathcal{U} \trianglelefteq \mathcal{H}$, since the conjugation with any element of $\mathcal{H}$ induces an automorphism of $\mathcal{N}$.

1.4.3.6. *An example*

Let us consider the tetrahedral group, Schoenflies symbol T_d, which is defined as the symmetry group of a tetrahedron. It permutes the four apices P_1, P_2, P_3, P_4 of the tetrahedron and hence every element of T_d defines a bijection of $V := \{P_1, P_2, P_3, P_4\}$ onto itself. The only element that fixes all the apices is e. Therefore the set V is a faithful T_d-set. Let us calculate the order of $|T_d|$. Since there are elements in T_d that map the first apex P_1 onto each one of the other apices, V is a transitive T_d-set. Let $\mathcal{S} := \mathrm{Stab}_{T_d}(P_1)$ be the stabilizer of P_1. By Theorem 1.4.3.2.8, $|T_d| = |V||\mathcal{S}| = 4|\mathcal{S}|$. The group $\mathcal{S}$ is generated by the threefold rotation r around the 'diagonal' of the tetrahedron through P_1 and the reflection s at the symmetry plane of the tetrahedron which contains the edge (P_1, P_2). In particular, $\mathcal{S}$ acts transitively on the set $\{P_2, P_3, P_4\}$. The stabilizer of P_2 in $\mathcal{S}$ is the cyclic group $\langle s\rangle \cong \mathcal{C}yc_2$ generated by s. (The Schoenflies notation for $\langle s\rangle$ is C_s and the Hermann–Mauguin symbol is m.) Therefore $|\mathcal{S}| = 3|\langle s\rangle| = 6$ and $|T_d| = 24$. In fact, we have seen that T_d is isomorphic to the group of all bijections of V onto itself, which is the symmetric group $\mathcal{S}ym_4$ of degree 4 and the group $\mathcal{S} \cong \mathcal{S}ym_3$ is the symmetric group on $\{P_2, P_3, P_4\}$. The Schoenflies notation for $\mathcal{S}$ is C_{3v} and its Hermann–Mauguin symbol is $3m$.

In general, let $n \in \mathbb{N}$ be a natural number. Then the group of all bijective mappings of the set $\{1, \ldots, n\}$ onto itself is called the *symmetric group of degree n* and denoted by

$$\mathcal{S}ym_n := \{f : \{1, \ldots, n\} \to \{1, \ldots, n\} \mid f \text{ is bijective}\}.$$

The *alternating group* is the normal subgroup $\mathcal{A}lt_n$ consisting of all even permutations of $\{1, \ldots, n\}$.

Let us construct a normal subgroup of T_d. The tetrahedral group contains three twofold rotations r_1, r_2, r_3 around the three axes of the tetrahedron through the midpoints of opposite edges. Since T_d permutes these three axes and hence conjugates the three rotations into each other, the group

$$\mathcal{U} := \langle r_1, r_2, r_3\rangle$$

generated by these three rotations is a normal subgroup of T_d. Since these three rotations commute with each other, the group $\mathcal{U}$ is Abelian. Now $r_1 r_2 = r_3$ and hence $\mathcal{U} = \{e, r_1, r_2, r_3\} \cong D_2$ (in Schoenflies notation) $\cong 222$ (Hermann–Mauguin symbol) is of order 4. There are three normal subgroups of order 2 in $\mathcal{U}$, namely $\langle r_i\rangle$ for $i = 1, 2, 3$. The factor group $\mathcal{U}/\langle r_1\rangle$ is again of order 2. Since all groups of order 2 are cyclic, $\langle r_1\rangle \cong \mathcal{U}/\langle r_1\rangle \cong \mathcal{C}yc_2$. The set $\mathcal{U}$ is the set of all products of elements from the two normal subgroups $\langle r_1\rangle$ and $\langle r_2\rangle$, hence $\mathcal{U}$ is isomorphic to the *direct product* $\mathcal{C}yc_2 \times \mathcal{C}yc_2$ in the sense of the following definition.

Definition 1.4.3.6.1. [*cf.* Ledermann (1976), Section 13, or Ledermann & Weir (1996), Section 2.7.] Let $\mathcal{G}$ and $\mathcal{H}$ be two groups. Then the *direct product* $\mathcal{G} \times \mathcal{H}$ is the group $\mathcal{G} \times \mathcal{H} = \{(g, h) \mid g \in \mathcal{G}, h \in \mathcal{H}\}$ with multiplication $(g, h)(g', h') := (gg', hh')$. □

Let us return to the example above. The centralizer of one of the three rotations, say of r_1, is of index 3 in T_d and hence a Sylow 2-subgroup of T_d with order 8. Following Schoenflies, we will denote this group by D_{2d} (another Schoenflies symbol for this group is S_{4v} and its Hermann–Mauguin symbol is $\bar{4}2m$).

The group $\mathcal{U}$ above is contained in D_{2d}. It is its own centralizer in T_d: $\mathcal{U} = \mathcal{C}_{T_d}(\mathcal{U})$. Therefore, the factor group $T_d/\mathcal{U}$ acts faithfully (and transitively) on the set $\{r_1, r_2, r_3\}$. The stabilizer of r_1 is the subgroup D_{2d} constructed above. Using this, one easily sees that $T_d/\mathcal{U} \cong \mathcal{S}ym_3$.

Another normal subgroup in T_d is the set of all rotations in T_d. This group contains the normal subgroup $\mathcal{U}$ above of index 3 and is of index 2 in T_d (and hence has order 12). It is isomorphic to $\mathcal{A}lt_4$, the alternating group of degree 4, and has Schoenflies symbol T and Hermann–Mauguin symbol 23.

1.4.4. Space groups

1.4.4.1. *Definition of space groups*

In *IT* A (2005) Section 8.1.6 space groups are introduced as symmetry groups of crystal patterns.

Definition 1.4.4.1.1

(*a*) Let $\mathbf{V}_n$ be the n-dimensional real vector space. A subset $\mathbf{L} \subseteq \mathbf{V}_n$ is called an (n-dimensional) *lattice* if there is a basis $(\mathbf{b}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{b}_n)$ of $\mathbf{V}_n$ such that

$$\mathbf{L} = \mathbb{Z}\mathbf{b}_1 + \ldots + \mathbb{Z}\mathbf{b}_n = \{\sum_{i=1}^{n} a_i\mathbf{b}_i \mid a_i \in \mathbb{Z}\}.$$

(*b*) A *crystal structure* is a mapping $f : \mathbb{E}_n \to \mathbb{R}$ of the Euclidean point space into the real numbers such that $\mathrm{Stab}_{\tau(\mathbb{A}_n)}(f) := \{t \in \tau(\mathbb{A}_n) \mid f(P + t) = f(P) \text{ for all } P \in \mathbb{A}_n\}$ is an n-dimensional lattice in $\tau(\mathbb{A}_n)$.

(*c*) The Euclidean group $\mathcal{E}_n$ acts on the set of mappings $\mathbb{E}_n \to \mathbb{R}$ *via* $(g \cdot f)(P) := f(g^{-1}P)$ for all $P \in \mathbb{E}_n$ and for all $g \in \mathcal{E}_n$ and $f : \mathbb{E}_n \to \mathbb{R}$. A *space group* $\mathcal{R}$ is the stabilizer of a crystal structure $f : \mathbb{E}_n \to \mathbb{R}$; $\mathcal{R} = \mathrm{Stab}_{\mathcal{E}}n(f)$.

(*d*) Let $\mathcal{R} \leq \mathcal{E}_n$ be a space group. The *translation subgroup* $\mathcal{T}(\mathcal{R})$ of $\mathcal{R}$ is defined as $\mathcal{T}(\mathcal{R}) := \mathcal{R} \cap \mathcal{T}_n$. □

The definition introduced space groups in the way they occur in crystallography: The group of symmetries of an ideal crystal stabilizes the crystal structure. This definition is not very helpful in analysing the structure of space groups. If $\mathcal{R}$ is a space group, then the translation subgroup $\mathcal{T} := \mathcal{T}(\mathcal{R})$ is a normal subgroup of $\mathcal{R}$. It is even a characteristic subgroup of $\mathcal{R}$, hence fixed under every automorphism of $\mathcal{R}$. By Definition 1.4.4.1.1, its image under the inverse μ' of the mapping μ in Example 1.4.3.4.4 defined by

$$\mu' : \mathcal{T} \to \tau(\mathbb{E}_n); \left(\begin{array}{c|c} \boldsymbol{I} & \boldsymbol{v} \\ \hline \boldsymbol{o}^{\mathrm{T}} & 1 \end{array}\right) \mapsto \boldsymbol{v}$$

in $\tau(\mathbb{A}_n)$ is an n-dimensional lattice $\mathbf{L}(\mathcal{R})$. Since μ' is an isomorphism from $\mathcal{T}$ onto $\mathbf{L}(\mathcal{R})$, the translation subgroup of $\mathcal{R}$ is isomorphic to the lattice $\mathbf{L}(\mathcal{R})$. In particular, one has $\mu'(t_1t_2) = \mu'(t_1) + \mu'(t_2)$ and the subgroup $\mathcal{T}^p$, formed by the pth powers of elements in $\mathcal{T}$, is mapped onto $p\mathbf{L}(\mathcal{R})$. Lattices are well understood. Although they are infinite, they have a simple structure, so they can be examined algorithmically. Since they lie in a vector space, one can apply linear algebra to them.

Now we want to look at how this lattice $\mathcal{T}(\mathcal{R})$ fits into the space group $\mathcal{R}$. The affine group $\mathcal{A}_n$ acts on $\mathcal{T}_n$ by conjugation as well as on $\tau(\mathbb{A}_n)$ *via* its linear part. Similarly the space group $\mathcal{R}$ acts on $\mathcal{T}(\mathcal{R})$ by conjugation: For $g \in \mathcal{R}$ and $t \in \mathcal{T}$, one gets

references