more or less horizontal; the basis vector **a** pointing at the user, **b** pointing to the user's right-hand side, *i.e.* the basis vectors **a**, **b** and **c** form a *right-handed* set. Such a basis will be called a *conventional crystallographic basis* in this chapter. (In the usual basis of mathematics and physics the basis vector **a** points to the right-hand side and **b** points away from the user.) The lengths of the basis vectors, the inclination of the **ab** plane relative to the **c** axis and the angles between the basis vectors are determined by the symmetry of the point group and the specific values of the lattice parameters of the crystal structure.

The letter C is used for *cyclic groups* of rotations around a rotation axis which is conventionally **c**. The order n of the rotation is appended as a subscript index: C_n; Fig. 1.4.1.1(a) represents C_2. The values of n that are possible in the rotation symmetry of a crystal are 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 (*cf.* Section 1.3.3.1 for a discussion of this basic result). The axis of an n-fold rotoreflection, *i.e.* an n-fold rotation followed or preceded by a reflection through a plane perpendicular to the rotation axis (such that neither the rotation nor the reflection is in general a symmetry operation) is designated by S_n, see Fig. 1.4.1.1(b) for S_4.

The following types of point groups exist:

(1) cyclic groups

(a) of rotations (C):

$$C_1,\ C_2,\ C_3,\ C_4,\ C_6;$$

(b) of rotoreflections (S, for the names in parentheses see later):

$$S_1\ (=C_{1h}=C_s),\ S_2\ (=C_i),\ S_3\ (=C_{3h}),\ S_4,\ S_6\ (=C_{3i}).$$

(2) In dihedral groups D_n an n-fold (vertical) rotation axis is accompanied by n symmetry-equivalent horizontal twofold rotation axes. The symbols are D_2 [in older literature, as in *IT* (1952), one also finds V instead of D_2, taken from the *Vierergruppe* of Klein (1884)], $D_3,\ D_4,\ D_6$; D_3 is visualized in Fig. 1.4.1.1(c).

(3) Other crystallographic point groups can be constructed by a C_n rotation axis or a D_n combination of rotation axes with a horizontal symmetry plane, leading to symbols C_{nh} or D_{nh}:

$$C_{2h}, C_{3h}, C_{4h}, C_{6h}, D_{2h}, D_{3h}, D_{4h}, D_{6h}.$$

The point groups C_{4h} and D_{6h} are represented by Figs. 1.4.1.1(d) and 1.4.1.1(e).

(4) Vertical rotation axes C_n can be combined with a vertical reflection plane, leading to n symmetry-equivalent vertical reflection planes (denoted v) which all contain the rotation axis:

$$C_{2v},\ C_{3v},\ C_{4v},\ C_{6v}$$

with Fig. 1.4.1.1(f) for C_{3v}.

(5) Combinations D_n of rotation axes may be combined with vertical reflection planes which bisect the angles between the horizontal twofold axes, such that the vertical planes (designated by the index d for 'diagonal') alternate with the horizontal twofold axes:

$$D_{2d} \text{ with } n=2 \text{ or } D_{3d} \text{ with } n=3;$$

see Fig. 1.4.1.1(g) for D_{3d}. In both point groups rotoreflections S_{2n}, *i.e.* S_4 or S_6, occur. Note that the classification of crystal classes into crystal systems follows the order of rotoinversions $\overline{N}$, not that of rotoreflections S_n (*cf.* Section 1.2.1 for the definition of rotoinversions). Therefore, D_{2d} is tetragonal ($S_4 \sim \overline{4}$) and D_{3d} is trigonal because of $S_6^5 = \overline{3}$). Analogously, C_{3h} and D_{3h} are hexagonal because they contain $S_3 \sim \overline{6}$. The point groups D_{4d} and D_{6d} are not crystallographic as they contain noncrystallographic eightfold or 12-fold rotoreflections S_8 or S_{12}.

(6) In all these groups the directions of the vectors $\pm$**c** are not equivalent to any other directions. There are, however, also cubic point groups and thus cubic space groups in which the basis vector **c** is symmetry-equivalent to both basis vectors **a** and **b**. T, T_h and T_d can be derived from the rotation group T of the tetrahedron, see Fig. 1.4.1.1(h). O and O_h can be derived from the rotation group O of the octahedron. The indices h and d have the same meaning as before.

(7) Some of these symbols are no longer used but are replaced by more visual ones. S_1 describes a reflection through a horizontal plane, it is replaced now by C_{1h} or by C_s; S_2 describes an inversion in a centre, it is replaced by C_i. The symbol S_3 describes the same arrangement as C_{3h} and is thus not used. S_6 contains an inversion centre combined with a threefold rotation axis and is replaced by C_{3i}.

The description of crystal classes using Schoenflies symbols is intuitive and much more graphic than that by Hermann–Mauguin symbols. It is useful for morphological studies investigating the symmetry of the ideal shape of crystals. Schoenflies symbols of crystal classes are also still used traditionally by physicists and chemists, in particular in spectroscopy and quantum chemistry.

1.4.1.3.2. Schoenflies symbols of the space groups

Different space groups of the same crystal class are distinguished by their superscript index, for example C_1^1; $D_{2h}^1, D_{2h}^2, \ldots, D_{2h}^{28}$ or $O_h^1, \ldots, O_h^{10}$.

Schoenflies symbols display the space-group symmetry only partly. Therefore, they are nowadays rarely used for the description of the symmetry of crystal structures. In comparison with the Schoenflies symbols, the Hermann–Mauguin symbols are more indicative of the space-group symmetry and that of the crystal structures.

1.4.1.4. Hermann–Mauguin symbols of the space groups

1.4.1.4.1. Introduction

The Hermann–Mauguin symbols, abbreviated as HM symbols in the following sections, were proposed by Hermann (1928, 1931) and Mauguin (1931), and introduced to the *Internationale Tabellen zur Bestimmung von Kristallstrukturen* (1935) according to the decision of the corresponding Programme Committee (Ewald, 1930). There are different kinds of HM symbols of a space group. One distinguishes *short HM symbols*, *full HM symbols* and *extended HM symbols*. The *full HM symbols* will be the basis of this description. They form the most transparent kind of HM symbols and their use will minimize confusion, especially for those who are new to crystallography.

As the name suggests, the *short HM symbols* are mostly shortened versions of the full HM symbols: some symmetry information of the full HM symbols is omitted such that these symbols are more convenient in daily use. The full HM symbol can be reconstructed from the short symbol. In the *extended HM symbols* the symmetry of the space group is listed in a more complete fashion (*cf.* Section 1.5.4). They are rarely used in crystallographic practice.

In the next section general features of the HM symbols will be discussed. Thereafter, the HM symbols for each crystal system will be presented in a separate section, because the appearance of