

5.3. X-RAY DIFFRACTION METHODS: SINGLE CRYSTAL

4.1.1; Gabe, 1980), the reciprocal-cell parameters are related to the orientation matrix by the following equation:

$$\mathbf{A}^* \mathbf{A}^{*'} = \mathbf{U} \cdot \mathbf{U}', \quad (5.3.3.2)$$

where $\mathbf{A}^* \mathbf{A}^{*'} = \mathbf{G}^{-1}$ is given by (5.3.3.1b). It is thus possible to calculate the lattice parameters from the terms of the orientation matrix.

The determination of the orientation matrix is usually the first step in measurements performed on the four-circle diffractometer. This task can be accomplished when the preliminary lattice-parameter values are known, and even when they are unknown. In the first case, the setting angles of two reflections, and, in the second, of three reflections, have to be determined. The procedure (Busing & Levy, 1967; Hamilton, 1974) is usually accomplished by the software of the four-circle diffractometer. Least-squares refinement of the lattice and orientation parameters may be performed when the setting angles of several reflections have been observed (Clegg, 1984). Appropriate constraints, resulting from the presence of symmetry elements in the given crystal structure, to be introduced during the refinement, are discussed by Bolotina (1989).

In a particular case, the four-circle diffractometer can be used for lattice-parameter measurements performed in the plane perpendicular to the main goniometer axis (say, the horizontal plane), for which $\chi = 0^\circ$, so that, in practice, only 2θ and ω values are used for lattice-parameter determination (see also §5.3.3.4.1). The equations to be solved can be simplified if only axial reflections are taken into account. In an example described by Luger (1980, Section 4.2.2), the \mathbf{b}^* axis of a monoclinic crystal is oriented in the direction of the main axis. Then each of the two axial lengths, a^* and c^* (see Fig. 5.3.3.1), can be obtained from only one measurement:

$$a^* = \frac{2 \sin \theta}{|h| \lambda}, \quad (5.3.3.3a)$$

$$c^* = \frac{2 \sin \theta}{|l| \lambda}, \quad (5.3.3.3b)$$

whereas φ values of two reflections are used to determine the β^* angle between \mathbf{a}^* and \mathbf{c}^* axes, since

$$\beta^* = \varphi_{h00} - \varphi_{00l}. \quad (5.3.3.3c)$$

This method is more suitable for orthogonal systems than for non-orthogonal ones, because of the difficulties in obtaining the proper orientation in the case of the monoclinic and, particularly, the triclinic system. In the latter case, the crystal has to be set three times.

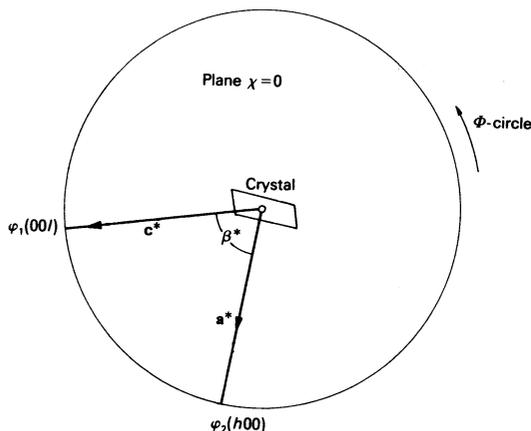


Fig. 5.3.3.1. Determination of reciprocal-lattice angles on the θ circle (after Luger, 1980).

5.3.3.2.2. Two-circle diffractometer

Lattice-parameter determination by the use of the two-circle (inclination) diffractometer, the so-called ‘Weissenberg diffractometer’, is more troublesome than by means of the four-circle one, because only two rotations [ω (or φ) of the crystal, and 2θ (or γ) of the detector] are motor-driven under computer control, while two inclination angles (μ for the crystal and ν for the detector) must be set by hand.

The problem of application of the popular two-circle (Eulerian-cradle) diffractometer for measurements similar to those presented in §5.3.3.2.1 was discussed by Clegg & Sheldrick (1984). The main idea of their paper was to introduce equations combining setting angles, obtained for selected reflections, with reciprocal-cell parameters, for calculating the latter. The authors started with zero-layer reflections for which, for a crystal mounted about the c axis,

$$\sin \theta = (x^2 + y^2)^{1/2}, \quad (5.3.3.4a)$$

$$\omega = \omega_0 + \theta - \tan^{-1}(y, x), \quad (5.3.3.4b)$$

where

$$x = \lambda(ha^* + kb^* \cos \gamma^*)/2, \quad (5.3.3.4c)$$

$$y = (\lambda kb^* \sin \gamma^*)/2, \quad (5.3.3.4d)$$

and ω_0 is a zero-point correction.

The remaining parameter c had to be determined from the inclination angle μ , measured by hand. The use of zero-layer reflections was advantageous, apart from the simplicity of the formulae (5.3.3.4a,b,c,d), because they were less affected by crystal misalignment than were upper-layer reflections. However, a zero-point correction ω_0 for ω had to be performed. For this purpose, the ω_0 value was treated as an additional parameter in off-line least-squares refinement.

As the next step, the authors introduced equations for a general crystal orientation instead of an aligned crystal (cf. §5.3.3.2.1) and derived equations defining the setting angles for an arbitrary reflection useful for data collection from a randomly oriented crystal if preliminary lattice-parameter values had been assumed. This made possible measurements of reflections on a range of layers; only one crystal mounting was required. The matrix formulae suitable for Eulerian-geometry diffractometers are also given by Kheiker (1973, Chap. 3, Section 9) and Gabe (1980).

In order to perform precise refinement of all six cell parameters, Clegg & Sheldrick (1984) used least squares with empirical weights:

$$W_{hkl} = 1/\sqrt{\omega_{hkl}}, \quad (5.3.3.5)$$

where ω_{hkl} is the width of the hkl reflection. An additional (third) motor to control the μ circle was proposed.

The authors point out that the two-circle diffractometer, owing to its simpler construction in comparison with the four-circle one, is well suited to operations that require additional attachments; for example, for low-temperature operation.

5.3.3.3. Data processing and optimization of the experiment

5.3.3.3.1. Models of the diffraction profile

Every measurement is based on a certain model of its object. By ‘model’ we understand here* all the ‘systematized *a priori*

*Statisticians (Schwarzenbach, Abrahams, Flack, Gonschorek, Hahn, Huml, Marsh, Prince, Robertson, Rollett & Wilson, 1989) define model as ‘conjecture about physical reality used to interpret the observations’. Based on their definition, the author proposes its operative interpretation.

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knowledge concerning the given measurement, necessary for planning and performing the experiment and for estimating parameters being determined. The use of an incorrect model results in a bias, *i.e.* an additional systematic error that may appear aside from physical and geometric aberrations. Therefore, the choice of a well founded model is essential in accurate measurements.

In the case of lattice-parameter determination, the object of direct measurements is a diffraction profile, already mentioned in Subsection 5.3.1.1, and the quantity that is directly determined from the experiment is the Bragg angle θ .

The *a priori* information about the diffraction profile should define: (i) the way in which the Bragg angle θ is related to the measured profile $h(\omega)$, *i.e.* a measure of location; (ii) the mean values of the measured intensities within the profile; and (iii) their variances.

(i) In traditional photographic methods, the Bragg angle is determined from the measurement of distance on the film, where points or lines of the most intense blackening are taken into account. The blackening, which corresponds to the recorded intensity, may be estimated qualitatively ('by eye') or quantitatively, by means of a special device. In the second case, the intensity is determined as a function of the coordinates on the photograph, which, in turn, are related to the angular positions of diffracted beams. The distribution so obtained, *i.e.* the line profile or the diffraction profile, allows more precise measurements of the distances and the determination of θ angles, if a definition of the point (θ_0, h_0) of the profile $h(\theta)$, corresponding to the Bragg angle, *i.e.* a measure of location, is accepted. The analogous situation appears when the diffraction profile is recorded by means of the counter diffractometer. Then the intensities are measured by a counter, while the angular positions of the detector (2θ scan) or the sample (θ scan), or both (ω - 2θ scan), are controlled by stepping motor. The device is normally combined with a computer, which facilitates the data processing.

There are various measures of location of the diffraction profile (Wilson, 1965; Thomsen & Yap, 1968). The most popular are:

(1) the centroid or the centre of gravity, defined as

$$\theta_c = \frac{\int_{\Omega_1}^{\Omega_2} \theta h(\theta) d\theta}{\int_{\Omega_1}^{\Omega_2} h(\theta) d\theta}, \quad (5.3.3.6)$$

where Ω_1 and Ω_2 are the selected truncation limits;

(2) the median, the value θ_m that equally divides some specified portion of the line profile, *i.e.*

$$\int_{\Omega_1}^{\theta_m} h(\theta) d\theta = \int_{\theta_m}^{\Omega_2} h(\theta) d\theta; \quad (5.3.3.7)$$

(3) the geometrical peak – the abscissa value θ_p for which the maximum occurs, *i.e.*

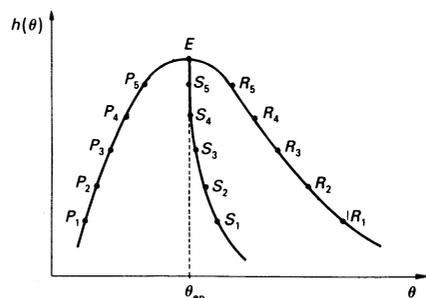


Fig. 5.3.3.2. The extrapolated-peak procedure (after Bearden, 1933).

$$[dh(\theta)/d\theta]_{\theta=\theta_p} = 0; \quad (5.3.3.8)$$

(4) the extrapolated peak or the midchord peak, introduced by Bearden (1933) – the point θ_{ep} of intersection of two curves, one of them approximating the midpoints of chords drawn through the profile parallel to the abscissa axis (or to the background) and the other approximating the data points (Fig. 5.3.3.2);

(5) the single midpoint of a chord θ_{mc} drawn horizontally at the defined height, αH , where H is the peak height and α is the truncation level, $0 < \alpha < 1$.

The advantages and disadvantages of these measures of location have been widely discussed (Wilson, 1965, 1967; Thomsen & Yap, 1968; Segmüller, 1970; Kirk & Caulfield, 1977; Grosswig, Jäckel & Kittner, 1986; Gałdecka, 1994), the errors, both systematic (biases) and statistical (variances), resulting from each of these definitions being taken into account. The dependence of these errors on the scanning range (truncation limits) is of great importance. Such features of the definitions as their simplicity or current usage were also considered.

The geometrical peak of the least-squares parabola, approximating the data points near the top of the profile, distinguishes itself with the best precision but rather large bias (because of the asymmetry of the profiles met in practice); the extrapolated peak – commonly used in the case of the Bond (1960) method (definition 4) – permits location of the peak with better accuracy and omitting the dispersion error (*cf.* §5.3.3.4.3.2). The centre of gravity, very useful in theoretical considerations (Wilson, 1963), is strongly dependent on the truncation limits and requires a rather large scanning range. The choice of the definition of the measure of location is the first step of lattice-parameter calculations and also of systematic and statistical error estimation.

In the papers that appeared in the mid-1950's, and which were mainly concerned with powder samples, the centre of gravity as a measure of location was more often used than the peak, probably owing to its property of additivity (the total systematic error in the Bragg angle is a sum of the partial errors related to various physical and apparatus factors) and the estimated errors were consequently referred to this point. The papers were reviewed by Wilson (1963, 1980), one of the authors, in the form of a homogeneous mathematical theory of X-ray powder diffractometry. Some of the formulae describing corrections for displacements of the centroid caused by physical and geometrical factors (collected in convenient tables) proved to be useful for single-crystal methods as well (Smakula & Kalnajs, 1955; Kheiker & Zevin, 1963). Wilson (1963) derived the general formula for calculations of the peak displacements due to various factors. As results from this, the displacements are not additive and, in the case when at least one of the partial distributions is asymmetric, the convolution of the curves [see equation (5.3.1.6)] may lead to an appreciable peak shift, if the distributions are not known. The problem has been treated by Berger (1984, 1986a), who used computer modelling.

In later single-crystal methods, in particular in the Bond (1960) method, the peak position of the profile was determined rather than the centroid and the respective corrections referred to the peak (§5.3.3.4.3.2). As a rule, the corrections that related to the peak position were treated as being independent. In practice, this simplifying assumption can be sufficient in measurements with moderate and even high accuracy. However, if the highest accuracy, say of 1 part in 10^7 , is required, the joint effect of all the aberrations should be considered (the so-called 'cross terms' are used besides the main terms). Such considerations [Härtwig & Grosswig, 1989; *cf.* §5.3.3.4.3.2, point (7)] must be based on a well-founded physical model of the diffraction profile.

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(ii) As already mentioned in Subsection 5.3.1.1, the diffraction profile can be described as a convolution of several factors (distributions), namely the wavelength distribution, crystal profile and certain aberration profiles. To the so-obtained *net* profile [equation (5.3.1.6)], a background should be added – constant in the case of an ω scan (as in one-crystal spectrometers, for example), and more complex (but usually approximated with a straight line within a narrow angular range) in other cases. Thus, to describe accurately the distribution of the mean values of measured intensities, all individual distributions must be given.

Such complete syntheses of the diffraction profile are rarely performed, and only for the highest-accuracy absolute measurements (Härtwig, Hölzer, Förster, Goetz, Wokulska & Wolf, 1994). Since one of the basic factors of the convolution model is the wavelength distribution that characterizes a given source of radiation, its accurate determination and proper scaling in metric units is of primary importance in high-accuracy lattice-parameter measurements. At present, only a few such measurements are reported, which relate to the $\text{Cu}K\alpha$ emission line (Berger, 1986b; Härtwig, Hölzer, Wolf & Förster, 1993; Härtwig, Bąk-Misiuk, Berger, Brühl, Okada, Grosswig, Wokulska & Wolf, 1994) and to the $\text{Cu}K\beta$ line (the latter paper). Owing to a relatively simple analytical model proposed by Berger (1986b) to describe the $K\alpha_{1,2}$ doublet, the measurement results are easy to handle.

Profiles connected with individual apparatus factors (collimation, for example) can also be, in principle, described analytically, under some simplifying assumptions. Examples of such profiles are distributions related to the vertical divergence of the beam (Eastabrook, 1952) and to the horizontal (in-plane) divergence (Urbanowicz, 1981a). These are general enough, so can be calculated for given apparatus parameters. While performing high-accuracy measurements, however, the validity of all respective accompanying assumptions must be carefully considered (Urbanowicz, 1981b; Härtwig & Grosswig, 1989; Härtwig *et al.*, 1993).

In wider practice, there is a tendency towards using simpler descriptions of the diffraction profile. Often, one of the factors, apart from the spectral distribution, is dominant, and the influence of the other ones can be neglected. Berger (1986b), for example, neglecting small effects of both the vertical divergence and the crystal profile, obtained an analytical model of the measured $\text{Cu}K\alpha$ emission spectrum, with several adjusted parameters, and so managed to determine the pure $\text{Cu}K\alpha$ emission-spectrum profile without the necessity of calculating the deconvolution of the measured spectrum in relation to the horizontal-divergence profile.

The choice of model of the *shape* of the diffraction profile depends, of course, on the purpose for which it is applied. The simplest possible descriptions are used in low- or medium-accuracy measurements, in which first the *measured* values of Bragg angles are determined by approximation of the measured profiles with simple analytical functions (polynomials or so-called *shape functions*), the parameters of which have no physical meaning, and then all necessary corrections are calculated and subtracted from the *measured* Bragg angles – under the assumption of their additivity, mentioned in (i) – to obtain their *true* values. Another application of the simple models is just the estimation of systematic and statistical errors of the Bragg-angle determination. The choice and use of such simple models will be shown in §5.3.3.2.

(iii) The knowledge of variances (and covariances) of recorded counts is needed to evaluate the goodness of fit while approximating the measured profile with a given model function (appropriate criteria have been formulated by Gałdecka,

1993a,b) and to estimate the precision of the Bragg-angle determination.

Most often, one assumes that the variances of measured intensities are defined by the Poisson statistic, *i.e.*

$$\sigma^2(h) = h, \quad (5.3.3.9)$$

where h is the intensity in number of counts.

Other factors affecting the statistics of recorded counts and the validity of the assumption [equation (5.3.3.9)] have been taken into consideration by Bačkovský (1965) [see also equations (5.3.3.17) and (5.3.3.18) and the comments on these], Wilson (1965), and Gałdecka (1985). The factors are mostly errors in the angle setting and reading and also fluctuations of the primary-beam intensity, of the counting time, and of the temperature of the sample. The use of automatic scanning can cause correlations between intensities measured at different points in the profile (Gałdecka, 1985).

5.3.3.3.2. Precision and accuracy of the Bragg-angle determination; optimization of the experiment

The analysis of the variance $\sigma^2(\theta_0)$ of a chosen measure of location permits a combination of the precision of the Bragg-angle determination, and so of the lattice-parameter determination [equation (5.3.1.4)], with the scanning range $2\Omega = \Omega_2 - \Omega_1$ [see definition (1), §5.3.3.3.1] or truncation level α [see definition (5)], the number of measuring points n (usually $n = 2p + 1$), the parameters of the profile (number of counts H in the peak position, the half-width ω_h), and its shape. It is convenient to present the profile $h(\theta)$ in a standardized form (Thomsen & Yap, 1968) as:

$$h(\theta) = Hv[x(\theta)], \quad (5.3.3.10)$$

where

$$x(\theta) = 2 \frac{\theta - \theta_0}{\omega_h} \quad (5.3.3.10a)$$

are standardized angle values and

$$v(x) = h/H \quad (5.3.3.10b)$$

is the shape function, not dependent on the parameters H and ω_h . For each measure of location [definitions (1)–(5) of §5.3.3.3.1(i)], there is the dependence:

$$\sigma^2(\theta_0) = F \frac{\omega_h^2}{I_p T}, \quad (5.3.3.11)$$

where I_p is the peak intensity, T is the total counting time, and F is a dimensionless factor that depends on the measure of location and the shape of the profile.

Since, in the case of fixed-time counting, the total counting time T is proportional to the number n of measuring points:

$$T = n\Delta t, \quad (5.3.3.12)$$

where Δt is the counting time, and since the number of counts h is proportional to the intensity I :

$$h = I\Delta t, \quad (5.3.3.13)$$

and, in particular, the number of counts H in the peak position is proportional to the peak intensity I_p :

$$H = I_p \Delta t, \quad (5.3.3.13a)$$

the dependence (5.3.3.11) can be presented as

$$\sigma^2(\theta_0) = \frac{F}{n} \frac{\omega_h^2}{H}. \quad (5.3.3.14)$$