International Tables for Crystallography (2006). Vol. D, Section 1.1.2.4.3, pp. 6–7.

$$\mathbf{e}_i \cdot \mathbf{e}'_j = A_i^j \mathbf{e}'_k \cdot e'_j = A_i^j g'_{kj} = A_i^j \delta_{kj} \quad \text{(written correctly)},$$

which can also be written, if one notes that variance is not apparent in an orthonormal frame of coordinates and that the position of indices is therefore not important, as

$$\mathbf{e}_i \cdot \mathbf{e}'_j = A_i^j \quad \text{(written incorrectly)}.$$

The matrix coefficients, A_i^j, are the direction cosines of $\mathbf{e}'_j$ with respect to the $\mathbf{e}_i$ basis vectors. Similarly, we have

$$B_j^i = \mathbf{e}_i \cdot \mathbf{e}'_j$$

so that

$$A_i^j = B_j^i \quad \text{or} \quad A = B^T,$$

where ^{T} indicates transpose. It follows that

$$A = B^T \text{ and } A = B^{-1}$$

so that

$$\left.\begin{array}{lll} A^T = A^{-1} & \Rightarrow & A^T A = I \\ B^T = B^{-1} & \Rightarrow & B^T B = I. \end{array}\right\} \tag{1.1.2.7}$$

The matrices A and B are unitary matrices or matrices of rotation and

$$\Delta(A)^2 = \Delta(B)^2 = 1 \Rightarrow \Delta(A) = \pm 1. \tag{1.1.2.8}$$

If $\Delta(A) = 1$ the senses of the axes are not changed – *proper* rotation.

If $\Delta(A) = -1$ the senses of the axes are changed – *improper* rotation. (The right hand is transformed into a left hand.)

One can write for the coefficients A_i^j

$$A_i^j B_j^k = \delta_i^k; \quad A_i^j A_j^k = \delta_i^k,$$

giving six relations between the nine coefficients A_i^j. There are thus *three* independent coefficients of the 3×3 matrix A.

1.1.2.4. *Covariant coordinates – dual or reciprocal space*

1.1.2.4.1. *Covariant coordinates*

Using the developments (1.1.2.1) and (1.1.2.5), the scalar products of a vector $\mathbf{x}$ and of the basis vectors $\mathbf{e}_i$ can be written

$$x_i = \mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{e}_i = x^j \mathbf{e}_j \cdot \mathbf{e}_i = x^j g_{ij}. \tag{1.1.2.9}$$

The n quantities x_i are called *covariant* components, and we shall see the reason for this a little later. The relations (1.1.2.9) can be considered as a system of equations of which the components x^j are the unknowns. One can solve it since $\Delta(g_{ij}) \neq 0$ (see the end of Section 1.1.2.2). It follows that

$$x^j = x_i g^{ij} \tag{1.1.2.10}$$

with

$$g^{ij} g_{jk} = \delta_k^i. \tag{1.1.2.11}$$

The table of the g^{ij}'s is the inverse of the table of the g_{ij}'s. Let us now take up the development of $\mathbf{x}$ with respect to the basis $\mathbf{e}_i$:

$$\mathbf{x} = x^i \mathbf{e}_i.$$

Let us replace x^i by the expression (1.1.2.10):

$$\mathbf{x} = x_j g^{ij} \mathbf{e}_i, \tag{1.1.2.12}$$

and let us introduce the set of n vectors

$$\mathbf{e}^j = g^{ij} \mathbf{e}_i \tag{1.1.2.13}$$

which span the space E^n $(j = 1, \ldots, n)$. *This set of n vectors forms a basis* since (1.1.2.12) can be written with the aid of (1.1.2.13) as

$$\mathbf{x} = x_j \mathbf{e}^j. \tag{1.1.2.14}$$

The x_j's are the components of $\mathbf{x}$ in the basis $\mathbf{e}^j$. This basis is called the *dual basis*. By using (1.1.2.11) and (1.1.2.13), one can show in the same way that

$$\mathbf{e}_j = g_{ij} \mathbf{e}^j. \tag{1.1.2.15}$$

It can be shown that the basis vectors $\mathbf{e}^j$ transform in a change of basis like the components x^j of the physical space. They are therefore *contravariant*. In a similar way, the components x_j of a vector $\mathbf{x}$ with respect to the basis $\mathbf{e}^j$ transform in a change of basis like the basis vectors in direct space, $\mathbf{e}_j$; they are therefore *covariant*:

$$\left.\begin{array}{ll} \mathbf{e}^j = B_k^j \mathbf{e}'^k; & \mathbf{e}'^k = A_j^k \mathbf{e}^j \\ x_i = A_i^j x'_j; & x'_j = B_j^i x_i. \end{array}\right\} \tag{1.1.2.16}$$

1.1.2.4.2. *Reciprocal space*

Let us take the scalar products of a covariant vector $\mathbf{e}_i$ and a contravariant vector $\mathbf{e}^j$:

$$\mathbf{e}_i \cdot \mathbf{e}^j = \mathbf{e}_i \cdot g^{jk} \mathbf{e}_k = \mathbf{e}_i \cdot \mathbf{e}_k g^{jk} = g_{ik} g^{jk} = \delta_i^j$$

[using expressions (1.1.2.5), (1.1.2.11) and (1.1.2.13)].

The relation we obtain, $\mathbf{e}_i \cdot \mathbf{e}^j = \delta_i^j$, is identical to the relations defining the reciprocal lattice in crystallography; *the reciprocal basis then is identical to the dual basis* $\mathbf{e}^i$.

1.1.2.4.3. *Properties of the metric tensor*

In a change of basis, following (1.1.2.3) and (1.1.2.5), the g_{ij}'s transform according to

$$\left.\begin{array}{l} g_{ij} = A_i^k A_j^m g'_{km} \\ g'_{ij} = B_i^k B_j^m g_{km}. \end{array}\right\} \tag{1.1.2.17}$$

Let us now consider the scalar products, $\mathbf{e}^i \cdot \mathbf{e}^j$, of two contravariant basis vectors. Using (1.1.2.11) and (1.1.2.13), it can be shown that

$$\mathbf{e}^i \cdot \mathbf{e}^j = g^{ij}. \tag{1.1.2.18}$$

In a change of basis, following (1.1.2.16), the g^{ij}'s transform according to

$$\left.\begin{array}{l} g^{ij} = B_k^i B_m^j g'^{km} \\ g'^{ij} = A_k^i A_m^j g^{km}. \end{array}\right\} \tag{1.1.2.19}$$

The volumes V' and V of the cells built on the basis vectors $\mathbf{e}'_i$ and $\mathbf{e}_i$, respectively, are given by the triple scalar products of these two sets of basis vectors and are related by

$$\begin{aligned} V' &= (\mathbf{e}'_1, \mathbf{e}'_2, \mathbf{e}'_3) \\ &= \Delta(B_j^i)(\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{e}_2, \mathbf{e}_3) \\ &= \Delta(B_j^i) V, \end{aligned} \tag{1.1.2.20}$$

where $\Delta(B_j^i)$ is the determinant associated with the transformation matrix between the two bases. From (1.1.2.17) and (1.1.2.20), we can write

$$\Delta(g'_{ij}) = \Delta(B_i^k)\Delta(B_j^m)\Delta(g_{km}).$$

If the basis $\mathbf{e}_i$ is orthonormal, $\Delta(g_{km})$ and V are equal to one, $\Delta(B_j)$ is equal to the volume V' of the cell built on the basis vectors $\mathbf{e}'_i$ and

$$\Delta(g'_{ij}) = V'^2.$$

This relation is actually general and one can remove the prime index:

$$\Delta(g_{ij}) = V^2. \qquad (1.1.2.21)$$

In the same way, we have for the corresponding reciprocal basis

$$\Delta(g^{ij}) = V^{*2},$$

where V^* is the volume of the reciprocal cell. Since the tables of the g_{ij}'s and of the g^{ij}'s are inverse, so are their determinants, and therefore the volumes of the unit cells of the direct and reciprocal spaces are also inverse, which is a very well known result in crystallography.

1.1.3. Mathematical notion of tensor

1.1.3.1. *Definition of a tensor*

For the mathematical definition of tensors, the reader may consult, for instance, Lichnerowicz (1947), Schwartz (1975) or Sands (1995).

1.1.3.1.1. *Linear forms*

A linear form in the space E_n is written

$$T(\mathbf{x}) = t_i x^i,$$

where $T(\mathbf{x})$ is independent of the chosen basis and the t_i's are the coordinates of T in the dual basis. Let us consider now a *bilinear* form in the product space $E_n \otimes F_p$ of two vector spaces with n and p dimensions, respectively:

$$T(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = t_{ij} x^i y^j.$$

The np quantities t_{ij}'s are, *by definition*, the components of a tensor of rank 2 and the form $T(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$ is *invariant* if one changes the basis in the space $E_n \otimes F_p$. The tensor t_{ij} is said to be *twice covariant*. It is also possible to construct a bilinear form by replacing the spaces E_n and F_p by their respective conjugates E^n and F^p. Thus, one writes

$$T(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = t_{ij} x^i y^j = t_i^j x^i y_j = t_j^i x_i y^j = t^{ij} x_i y_j,$$

where t^{ij} is the doubly contravariant form of the tensor, whereas t_i^j and t_j^i are mixed, once covariant and once contravariant.

We can generalize by defining in the same way tensors of rank 3 or higher by using trilinear or multilinear forms. A vector is a tensor of rank 1, and a scalar is a tensor of rank 0.

1.1.3.1.2. *Tensor product*

Let us consider two vector spaces, E_n with n dimensions and F_p with p dimensions, and let there be two linear forms, $T(\mathbf{x})$ in E_n and $S(\mathbf{y})$ in F_p. We shall associate with these forms a bilinear form called a *tensor product* which belongs to the product space with np dimensions, $E_n \otimes F_p$:

$$P(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = T(\mathbf{x}) \otimes S(\mathbf{y}).$$

This correspondence possesses the following properties:

(i) it is distributive from the right and from the left;

(ii) it is associative for multiplication by a scalar;

(iii) the tensor products of the vectors with a basis E_n and those with a basis F_p constitute a basis of the product space.

The analytical expression of the tensor product is then

$$\left.\begin{array}{l} T(\mathbf{x}) = t_i x^j \\ S(\mathbf{y}) = s_j y^i \end{array}\right\} P(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = p_{ij} x^i y^j = t_i x^i s_j y^j = t_i s_j x^i y^j.$$

One deduces from this that

$$p_{ij} = t_i s_j.$$

It is a tensor of rank 2. One can equally well envisage the tensor product of more than two spaces, for example, $E_n \otimes F_p \otimes G_q$ in npq dimensions. We shall limit ourselves in this study to the case of *affine* tensors, which are defined in a space constructed from the product of the space E_n with itself or with its conjugate E^n. Thus, a tensor product of rank 3 will have n^3 components. The tensor product can be generalized as the product of multilinear forms. One can write, for example,

$$\left.\begin{array}{l} P(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z}) = T(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \otimes S(\mathbf{z}) \\ p^j_{ik} x^i y_j z^k = t^j_i x^i y_j s_k z^k. \end{array}\right\} \qquad (1.1.3.1)$$

1.1.3.2. *Behaviour under a change of basis*

A multilinear form is, by definition, invariant under a change of basis. Let us consider, for example, the trilinear form (1.1.3.1). If we change the system of coordinates, the components of vectors $\mathbf{x}$, $\mathbf{y}$, $\mathbf{z}$ become

$$x^i = B^i_\alpha x'^\alpha; \quad y_j = A^\beta_j y'_\beta; \quad z^k = B^k_\gamma z'^\gamma.$$

Let us put these expressions into the trilinear form (1.1.3.1):

$$P(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z}) = p^j_{ik} B^i_\alpha x'^\alpha A^\beta_j y'_\beta B^k_\gamma z'^\gamma.$$

Now we can equally well make the components of the tensor appear in the new basis:

$$P(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z}) = p'^\beta_{\alpha\gamma} x'^\alpha y'_\beta z'^\gamma.$$

As the decomposition is unique, one obtains

$$p'^\beta_{\alpha\gamma} = p^j_{ik} B^i_\alpha A^\beta_j B^k_\gamma. \qquad (1.1.3.2)$$

One thus deduces the rule for transforming the components of a tensor q times covariant and r times contravariant: they transform like the product of q covariant components and r contravariant components.

This transformation rule can be taken inversely as the definition of the components of a tensor of rank $n = q + r$.

Example. The operator O representing a symmetry operation has the character of a tensor. In fact, under a change of basis, O transforms into O':

$$O' = AOA^{-1}$$

so that

$$O'^i_j = A^i_k O^k_l (A^{-1})^l_j.$$

Now the matrices A and B are inverses of one another:

$$O'^i_j = A^i_k O^k_l B^l_j.$$

The symmetry operator is a tensor of rank 2, once covariant and once contravariant.

1.1.3.3. *Operations on tensors*

1.1.3.3.1. *Addition*

It is necessary that the tensors are of the same nature (same rank and same variance).