

2. BASIC CRYSTALLOGRAPHY

Table 2.1.3.3

The icosahedral point group 532

For details see Table 2.1.3.1. Adapted with permission from *IT A* (2005), Table 10.1.4.3.

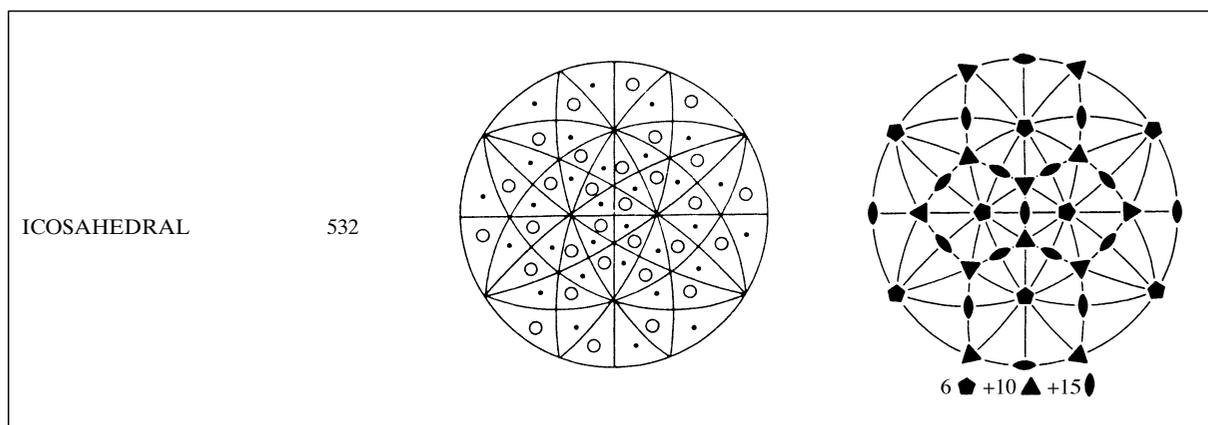


Table 2.1.3.4

The seven crystal systems

Crystal system	Conditions imposed on cell geometry	Minimum point-group symmetry
Triclinic	None	1
Monoclinic	Unique axis b : $\alpha = \gamma = 90^\circ$	2
Orthorhombic	$\alpha = \beta = \gamma = 90^\circ$	222
Tetragonal	$a = b$; $\alpha = \beta = \gamma = 90^\circ$	4
Trigonal	Hexagonal axes: $a = b$; $\alpha = \beta = 90^\circ$; $\gamma = 120^\circ$	3
Hexagonal	Rhombohedral axes: $a = b = c$; $\alpha = \beta = \gamma \dagger$	6
Cubic	$a = b = c$; $\alpha = \beta = \gamma = 90^\circ$	23

† A rhombohedral unit cell can be regarded as a cube extended or compressed along the body diagonal (the threefold axis) (see Fig. 2.1.3.2).

has three mutually perpendicular twofold (screw) axes. Another convention is that in tetragonal, trigonal and hexagonal crystals, the axis of highest symmetry is labelled c . These conventions can deviate from the guide rules for unit-cell choice given in Section 2.1.1.

The seven crystal systems are based on the point-group symmetry. Except for the triclinic unit cell, all other cells can occur either as primitive unit cells or as centred unit cells (Section 2.1.1). A total of 14 different types of unit cell exist, depicted in Fig. 2.1.3.3. Their corresponding crystal lattices are commonly called Bravais lattices.

2.1.4. Basic diffraction physics

2.1.4.1. Diffraction by one electron

The scattering of an X-ray beam by a crystal results from interaction between the electric component of the beam and the electrons in the crystal. The magnetic component has hardly any effect and can be disregarded.

If a monochromatic polarized beam hits an electron, the electron starts to oscillate in the direction of the electric vector of the incident beam (Fig. 2.1.4.1). This oscillating electron acts as the aerial of a transmitter and radiates X-rays with the same or lower frequency as the incident beam. The frequency change is due to the Compton effect: the photons of the incident beam collide with the electron and lose part of their energy. This is inelastic scattering, and the scattered radiation is incoherent with the incident beam. Compton scattering contributes to the background in a diffraction experiment. In elastic scattering, the scattered radiation has the same wavelength as the incident

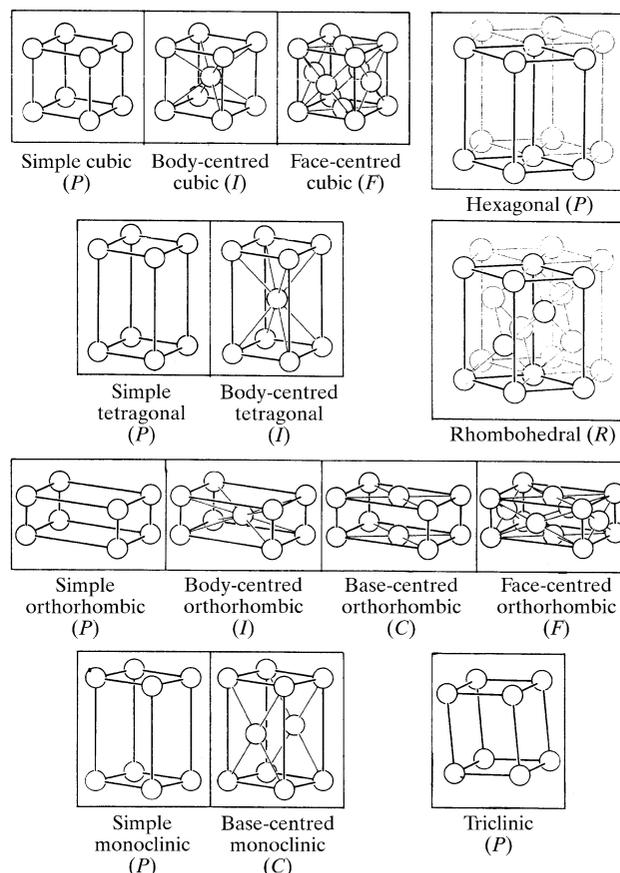
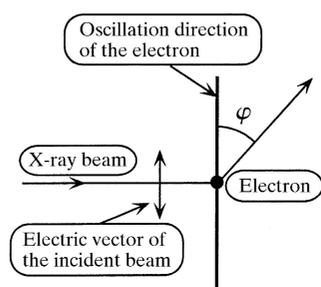
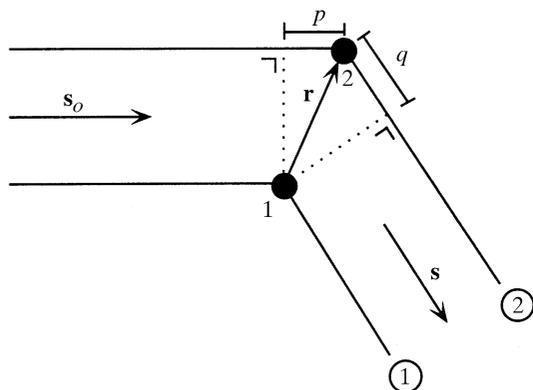


Figure 2.1.3.3
The 14 Bravais lattices. Reproduced with permission from Burzlaff & Zimmermann (2005).


Figure 2.1.4.1

The electric vector of a monochromatic and polarized X-ray beam is in the plane. It hits an electron, which starts to oscillate in the same direction as the electric vector of the beam. The oscillating electron acts as a source of X-rays. The scattered intensity depends on the angle φ between the oscillation direction of the electron and the scattering direction [equation (2.1.4.1)]. Reproduced with permission from Drenth (1999). Copyright (1999) Springer-Verlag.


Figure 2.1.4.2

The black dots are electrons. The origin of the system is at electron 1; electron 2 is at position \mathbf{r} . The electrons are irradiated by an X-ray beam from the direction indicated by vector \mathbf{s}_o . The radiation scattered by the electrons is observed in the direction of vector \mathbf{s} . Because of the path difference $p + q$, scattered beam 2 will lag behind scattered beam 1 in phase. Reproduced with permission from Drenth (1999). Copyright (1999) Springer-Verlag.

radiation, and this is the radiation responsible for the interference effects in diffraction. It was shown by Thomson that if the electron is completely free the following hold:

- (1) The phase difference between the incident and the scattered beam is π , because the scattered radiation is proportional to the displacement of the electron, which differs by π in phase with its acceleration imposed by the electric vector.
- (2) The amplitude of the electric component of the scattered wave at a distance r which is large in comparison with the wavelength of the radiation is

$$E_{\text{el}} = E_o \frac{1}{r} \frac{e^2}{mc^2} \sin \varphi,$$

where E_o is the amplitude of the electric vector of the incident beam, e is the electron charge, m is its mass, c is the speed of light and φ is the angle between the oscillation direction of the electron and the scattering direction (Fig. 2.1.4.1). Note that $E_o \sin \varphi$ is the component of E_o perpendicular to the scattering direction.

In terms of energy,

$$I_{\text{el}} = I_o \frac{1}{r^2} \left(\frac{e^2}{mc^2} \right)^2 \sin^2 \varphi. \quad (2.1.4.1a)$$

The scattered energy per unit solid angle is

$$I_{\text{el}}(\Omega = 1) = I_{\text{el}} r^2. \quad (2.1.4.1b)$$

It was shown by Klein & Nishina (1929) [see also Heitler (1966)] that the scattering by an electron can be discussed in terms of the classical Thomson scattering if the quantum energy $h\nu \ll mc^2$. This is not true for very short X-ray wavelengths. For $\lambda = 0.0243 \text{ \AA}$, $h\nu$ and mc^2 are exactly equal, but for $\lambda = 1.0 \text{ \AA}$, $h\nu$ is 0.0243 times mc^2 . Since wavelengths in macromolecular crystallography are usually in the range 0.8–2.5 \AA , the classical approximation is allowed. It should be noted that:

- (1) The intensity scattered by a free electron is independent of the wavelength.
- (2) Thomson's equation can also be applied to other charged particles, e.g. a proton. Because the mass of a proton is 1800 times the electron mass, scattering by protons and by atomic nuclei can be neglected.
- (3) Equation (2.1.4.1a) gives the scattering for a polarized beam. For an unpolarized beam, $\sin^2 \varphi$ is replaced by a suitable polarization factor.

2.1.4.2. Scattering by a system of two electrons

This can be derived along classical lines by calculating the phase difference between the X-ray beams scattered by each of the two electrons. A derivation based on quantum mechanics leads exactly to the same result by calculating the transition probability for the scattering of a primary quantum $(h\nu)_o$, given a secondary quantum $h\nu$ (Heitler, 1966, p. 193). For simplification we shall give only the classical derivation here. In Fig. 2.1.4.2, a system of two electrons is drawn with the origin at electron 1 and electron 2 at position \mathbf{r} . They scatter the incident beam in a direction given by the vector \mathbf{s} . The direction of the incident beam is along the vector \mathbf{s}_o . The length of the vectors can be chosen arbitrarily, but for convenience they are given a length $1/\lambda$. The two electrons scatter completely independently of each other.

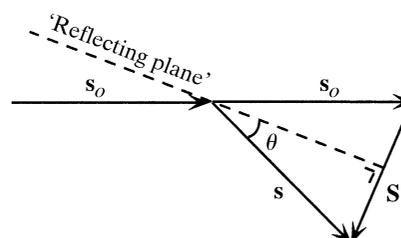
Therefore, the amplitudes of the scattered beams 1 and 2 are equal, but they have a phase difference resulting from the path difference between the beam passing through electron 2 and the beam passing through electron 1. The path difference is $p + q = \lambda[\mathbf{r} \cdot (\mathbf{s}_o - \mathbf{s})]$. Beam 2 lags behind in phase compared with beam 1, and with respect to wave 1 its phase angle is

$$-2\pi\lambda[\mathbf{r} \cdot (\mathbf{s}_o - \mathbf{s})]/\lambda = 2\pi\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{S}, \quad (2.1.4.2)$$

where $\mathbf{S} = \mathbf{s} - \mathbf{s}_o$.

From Fig. 2.1.4.3, it is clear that the direction of \mathbf{S} is perpendicular to an imaginary plane reflecting the incident beam at an angle θ and that the length of \mathbf{S} is given by

$$|\mathbf{S}| = 2 \sin \theta / \lambda. \quad (2.1.4.3)$$


Figure 2.1.4.3

The direction of the incident wave is indicated by \mathbf{s}_o and that of the scattered wave by \mathbf{s} . Both vectors are of length $1/\lambda$. A plane that makes equal angles with \mathbf{s} and \mathbf{s}_o can be regarded as a mirror reflecting the incident beam. Reproduced with permission from Drenth (1999). Copyright (1999) Springer-Verlag.