



# International School on Fundamental Crystallography and Workshop on Structural Phase Transitions

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# Crystallographic point groups (II).

## Overview

- ▶ group actions
- ▶ conjugation, normalizers
- ▶ Wyckoff positions
- ▶ overview of crystallographic point groups

## From symmetry operations to abstract groups and back

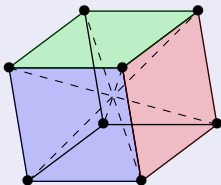
- ▶ Symmetry operations of an (idealized) crystal structure leave the whole structure invariant, but map substructures to others, e.g. atoms, bonds, coordination polyhedra etc.
- ▶ For abstract groups, the concept of **group actions** reinstalls the fact, that the group elements can be **applied to certain objects**.

### Definition

A group  $\mathcal{G}$  is said to **act** on a set  $\Omega$  if an object  $\omega \in \Omega$  is moved to another object  $g(\omega) \in \Omega$  by  $g \in \mathcal{G}$  such that:

- $h(g(\omega)) = (hg)(\omega)$ , i.e. applying two group elements consecutively is the same as applying their product;
- $e(\omega) = \omega$ , i.e. applying the identity element of  $\mathcal{G}$  has no effect.

## Example: Symmetry group $\mathcal{G}$ of a cube



- ▶  $\mathcal{G}$  acts on the 8 corners of the cube, but also on its 12 edges, its 6 faces and its 4 space diagonals.
- ▶ Since the cube is imbedded in 3D-space  $\mathbb{R}^3$ ,  $\mathcal{G}$  acts on the points in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ , but also on the 1D-lines and 2D-planes in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .
- ▶ The action on lines and planes can be restricted to the subsets of lines and planes containing the center of the cube.

# Two concepts and a theorem

## Definition

- ▶ The set

$$\mathcal{G}(\omega) = \{g(\omega) \mid g \in \mathcal{G}\}$$

of objects to which  $\omega$  is moved by the elements of  $\mathcal{G}$  is called the **orbit** of  $\omega$  under  $\mathcal{G}$ .

- ▶ The set

$$S_{\mathcal{G}}(\omega) = \{g \in \mathcal{G} \mid g(\omega) = \omega\}$$

of group elements that do not move  $\omega$  is a subgroup of  $\mathcal{G}$ , called the **stabilizer** of  $\omega$  in  $\mathcal{G}$ .

## Orbit-stabilizer theorem

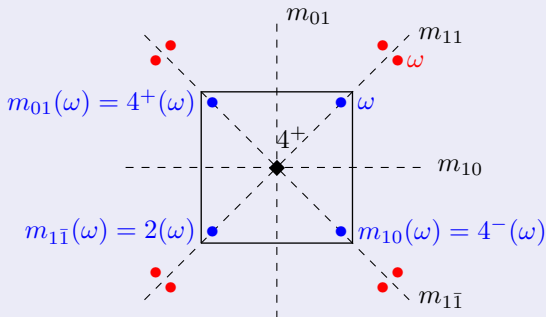
- ▶ The length  $|\mathcal{G}(\omega)|$  of the orbit  $\mathcal{G}(\omega)$  is equal to the index  $[\mathcal{G} : S_{\mathcal{G}}(\omega)]$  of the stabilizer in  $\mathcal{G}$ , i.e. to the number of cosets of  $\mathcal{G}$  relative to  $S_{\mathcal{G}}(\omega)$ .
- ▶ In particular, the length of the orbit divides the group order  $|\mathcal{G}|$ .
- ▶ More precisely, if

$$\mathcal{G} = g_1 S_{\mathcal{G}}(\omega) \cup g_2 S_{\mathcal{G}}(\omega) \cup \dots \cup g_m S_{\mathcal{G}}(\omega)$$

is the coset decomposition of  $\mathcal{G}$  relative to  $S_{\mathcal{G}}(\omega)$ , then

- ▶  $g_1(\omega), g_2(\omega), \dots, g_m(\omega)$  is the full orbit  $\mathcal{G}(\omega)$  and
- ▶ the coset  $g_i S_{\mathcal{G}}(\omega)$  collects together precisely those elements of  $\mathcal{G}$  that move  $\omega$  to  $g_i(\omega)$ .

## Example: Orbits of $4mm$



- ▶ point  $\omega = \bullet$ : trivial stabilizer  $\{1\}$  → point in general position
- ▶ point  $\omega = \bullet$ : stabilizer  $\{1, m_{11}\}$  → point in special position

## Not-so-quick quiz

Every point in an orbit gives rise to the same orbit  $\mathcal{G}(g(\omega)) = \mathcal{G}(\omega)$ , but what is the relation between the stabilizers  $S_{\mathcal{G}}(\omega)$  and  $S_{\mathcal{G}}(g(\omega))$ ?

## Not-so-quick quiz

Every point in an orbit gives rise to the same orbit  $\mathcal{G}(g(\omega)) = \mathcal{G}(\omega)$ , but what is the relation between the stabilizers  $S_{\mathcal{G}}(\omega)$  and  $S_{\mathcal{G}}(g(\omega))$ ?

## Answer

- ▶ If  $h \in S_{\mathcal{G}}(\omega)$  and  $\omega' = g(\omega)$ , then

$$ghg^{-1}(\omega') = ghg^{-1}g(\omega) = gh(\omega) = g(\omega) = \omega'$$

i.e.  $ghg^{-1}$  lies in the stabilizer of  $g(\omega)$ .

- ▶ Reversing the roles of  $\omega$  and  $\omega'$  shows that

$$gS_{\mathcal{G}}(\omega)g^{-1} = \{ghg^{-1} \mid h \in S_{\mathcal{G}}(\omega)\}$$

is the full stabilizer of  $\omega' = g(\omega)$ .



## Conjugate elements

- ▶ Two elements  $h$  and  $ghg^{-1}$  are said to be **conjugate by  $g$** .
- ▶ Conjugation is a group action  $g(h) = ghg^{-1}$  of  $\mathcal{G}$  on its elements.
- ▶ Conjugate elements lie in the same orbit, the orbits are called **conjugacy classes of elements**
- ▶ The stabilizer of an element is called its **centralizer**

$$\mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{G}}(h) = \{g \in \mathcal{G} \mid ghg^{-1} = h\} = \{g \in \mathcal{G} \mid gh = hg\}$$

and consists of the elements of  $\mathcal{G}$  commuting with  $h$ .

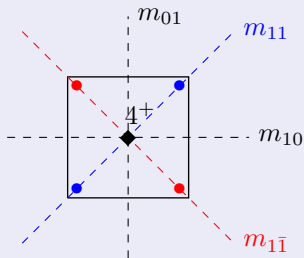
## Conjugate subgroups

- ▶ Two subgroups  $\mathcal{H}$  and  $g\mathcal{H}g^{-1} = \{ghg^{-1} \mid h \in \mathcal{H}\}$  are said to be **conjugate subgroups by  $g$** .
- ▶ Conjugation is a group action  $g(\mathcal{H}) = g\mathcal{H}g^{-1}$  of  $\mathcal{G}$  on its subgroups.
- ▶ Conjugate subgroups lie in the same orbit, the orbits are called **conjugacy classes of subgroups**
- ▶ The stabilizer of a subgroup is called its **normalizer**

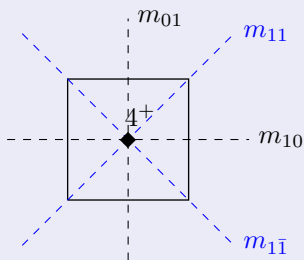
$$\mathcal{N}_{\mathcal{G}}(\mathcal{H}) = \{g \in \mathcal{G} \mid g\mathcal{H}g^{-1} = \mathcal{H}\} = \{g \in \mathcal{G} \mid g\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}g\}$$

and consists of the elements of  $\mathcal{G}$  that conjugate all the elements of  $\mathcal{H}$  into  $\mathcal{H}$ .

## Example: Normalizers in $\mathcal{G} = 4mm$



- ▶ 2-fold rotation 2 interchanges the • points, and thus conjugates their stabilizers
- ▶ both points have the same stabilizer  $\mathcal{H} = \{1, m_{11}\}$ , hence 2 lies in the normalizer of  $\mathcal{H}$
- ▶  $4^+$  moves the • points to the • points with stabilizer  $\mathcal{H}' = \{1, m_{1\bar{1}}\} \neq \mathcal{H}$
- ▶  $\mathcal{N}_{\mathcal{G}}(\mathcal{H}) = \langle m_{11}, 2 \rangle = \{1, 2, m_{11}, m_{1\bar{1}}\}$



- ▶  $\mathcal{H} = \{1, 2, m_{11}, m_{1\bar{1}}\}$ ,
- ▶  $4^+$  interchanges the reflection lines but fixes the pair of reflection lines
- ▶  $\mathcal{N}_{\mathcal{G}}(\mathcal{H}) = \mathcal{G}$
- ▶ The normalizer describes the symmetry of the symmetries.

# Normal subgroups

## Definition

A subgroup  $\mathcal{H}$  of  $\mathcal{G}$  is called a **normal subgroup** if  $g\mathcal{H}g^{-1} = \mathcal{H}$  for all  $g \in \mathcal{G}$ , i.e. if  $\mathcal{N}_{\mathcal{G}}(\mathcal{H}) = \mathcal{G}$ . Notation:  $\mathcal{H} \trianglelefteq \mathcal{G}$ .

## Properties of normal subgroups

- ▶ Each left coset  $g\mathcal{H}$  coincides with the right coset  $\mathcal{H}g$  with the same representative.
- ▶ A subgroup of index 2 is always a normal subgroup.
- ▶ In an abelian group, every subgroup is a normal subgroup.
- ▶ The cosets relative to  $\mathcal{H}$  form a group with the product

$$(g\mathcal{H}) \circ (g'\mathcal{H}) = (gg')\mathcal{H}$$

(representative of the product is the product of the representatives), called the **factor group** of  $\mathcal{G}$  by  $\mathcal{H}$  and denoted by  $\mathcal{G}/\mathcal{H}$ .

## Normal subgroups in $\mathcal{G} = 4mm$

order

8

$\mathcal{G}$

4

$\{1, 2, m_{10}, m_{01}\}$     $\{1, 2, 4^+, 4^-\}$     $\{1, 2, m_{11}, m_{1\bar{1}}\}$

2

$\{1, m_{10}\} - \{1, m_{01}\}$     $\{1, 2\}$     $\{1, m_{11}\} - \{1, m_{1\bar{1}}\}$

1

$\{1\}$

# Normal subgroups of the tetrahedral group $\mathcal{G} = 23$

order

12

$\mathcal{G}$

4

$\langle 2_{100}, 2_{010}, 2_{001} \rangle$

3

$\langle 3_{111}^+ \rangle$  —  $\langle 3_{1\bar{1}\bar{1}}^+ \rangle$  —  $\langle 3_{\bar{1}\bar{1}1}^+ \rangle$  —  $\langle 3_{\bar{1}1\bar{1}}^+ \rangle$

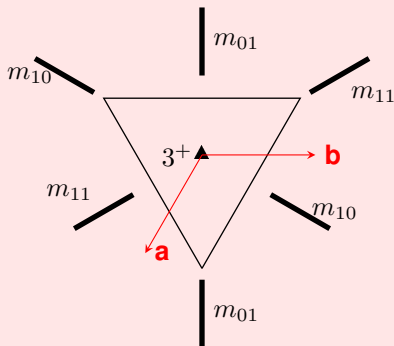
2

$\langle 2_{100} \rangle$  —  $\langle 2_{010} \rangle$  —  $\langle 2_{001} \rangle$

1

$\{1\}$

## Exercise



Determine

- ▶ the subgroup diagram,
- ▶ conjugation relations between subgroups,
- ▶ the normal subgroups

of the symmetry group  $\mathcal{G} = 3m$  of an equilateral triangle.

## Answer

order

6

$\mathcal{G}$

3

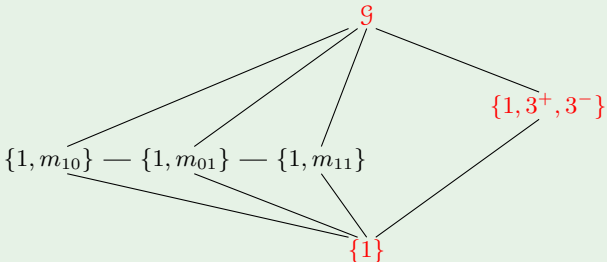
$\{1, 3^+, 3^-\}$

2

$\{1, m_{10}\} - \{1, m_{01}\} - \{1, m_{11}\}$

1

$\{1\}$





# Construction of 2D point groups

## Crystallographic restriction

- ▶ crystallographic symmetry operation: acting on the translation lattice of a periodic crystal pattern
- ▶  $n$ -fold rotation by angle  $\theta = \frac{360^\circ}{n}$  has matrix  $\begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{pmatrix}$  with respect to orthonormal basis
- ▶ matrix with respect to lattice basis is integral  
 $\Rightarrow$  trace  $2 \cos \theta$  is an integer (trace is invariant under basis transformation)
- ▶ the only possibilities for  $\cos \theta$  are  $0, \pm\frac{1}{2}, \pm 1$

$\cos \theta$	$\theta$	$n = 360^\circ / \theta$
1	$360^\circ = 0^\circ$	1
$\frac{1}{2}$	$60^\circ$	6
0	$90^\circ$	4
$-\frac{1}{2}$	$120^\circ$	3
-1	$180^\circ$	2

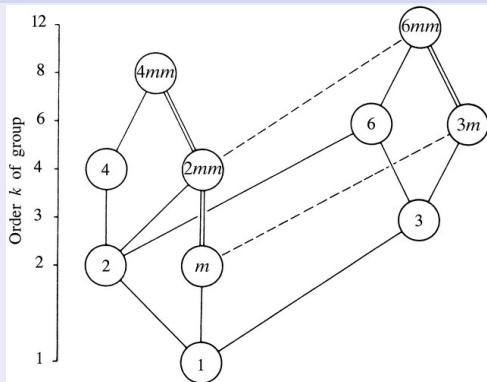
## Overview of 2D point groups

- ▶ rotation groups of order 1, 2, 3, 4, 6
- ▶ adding a reflection to an  $n$ -fold rotation gives dihedral group of order  $2n$

object	rotation group	symmetry group
trapezium	1	$m$
rectangle	2	$2mm$
triangle	3	$3m$
square	4	$4mm$
hexagon	6	$6mm$

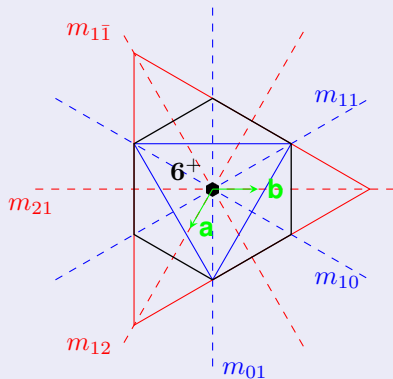
# Overview of 2D point groups

## Combined and contracted subgroup diagram



- ▶ solid line: normal subgroup;
- ▶ double/triple solid line: two/three (non-conjugate) normal subgroups of this type;
- ▶ dashed line: non-normal subgroups (number = index).

## Maximal subgroups of $\mathcal{G} = 6mm$



- ▶ **type 6:**  $\{1, 2, 3^+, 3^-, 6^+, 6^-\}$
- ▶ **type  $3m$ :**  $\{1, 3^+, 3^-, m_{10}, m_{01}, m_{11}\}$
- ▶ **type  $3m$ :**  $\{1, 3^+, 3^-, m_{21}, m_{12}, m_{1\bar{1}}\}$

# Symmetry operations in 3D

Rotations:  $\det = +1$

▶  $n$ -fold rotation:  $n_{001}^+ = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta & 0 \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$

⇒ same crystallographic restriction as in 2D:  $n = 2, 3, 4, 6$

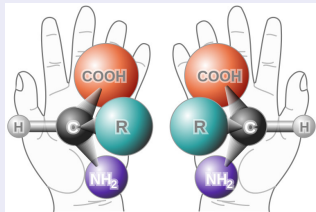
Improper rotations:  $\det = -1$  (reversing chirality)

▶ reflection:  $m_{001} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$

▶ inversion:  $\bar{1} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$

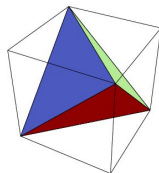
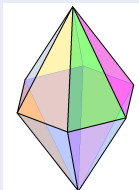
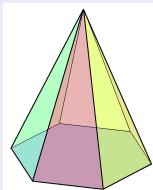
▶  $n$ -fold rotoinversion ( $n$ -fold rotation composed with inversion):

$$\bar{n}_{001}^+ = \begin{pmatrix} -\cos \theta & \sin \theta & 0 \\ -\sin \theta & -\cos \theta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \text{ (note that } \bar{2} = m \text{)}$$



# Construction of 3D point groups

## Proper rotation groups



- ▶ cyclic groups 1, 2, 3, 4, 6: rotation groups of pyramids
- ▶ dihedral groups 222, 32, 422, 622: rotation groups of double pyramids
- ▶ cubic groups 23, 432: rotation groups of tetrahedron and cube

## Group $\mathcal{G}$ containing improper rotations

- ▶ proper rotations form rotational subgroup  $\mathcal{H}$  of index 2 in  $\mathcal{G}$
- ▶ two cases:  $\mathcal{G}$  contains inversion  $\bar{1}$  or not:
  - ▶  $\bar{1} \in \mathcal{G}$ : coset decomposition  $\mathcal{G} = \mathcal{H} \cup \bar{1}\mathcal{H} \Rightarrow \mathcal{G} = \mathcal{H} \times \langle \bar{1} \rangle$
  - ▶  $\bar{1} \notin \mathcal{G}$ : coset decomposition  $\mathcal{G} = \mathcal{H} \cup g\mathcal{H}$  for an improper rotation  $g$   
 $-g = \bar{1} \cdot g$  is a proper rotation and  $\tilde{\mathcal{G}} = \mathcal{H} \cup (-g)\mathcal{H}$  is a rotational group containing  $\mathcal{H}$  as a subgroup of index 2
- ▶ two construction methods from a rotational group  $\mathcal{H}$ :
  - ▶ rotational group  $\mathcal{H}$  yields  $\mathcal{G} = \mathcal{H} \times \langle \bar{1} \rangle$
  - ▶ rotational group  $\mathcal{H}$  with subgroup  $\mathcal{H}'$  of index 2 and coset decomposition  $\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}' \cup g\mathcal{H}'$  yields  $\mathcal{G} = \mathcal{H}(\mathcal{H}') = \mathcal{H}' \cup (-g)\mathcal{H}'$
  - ▶ note that  $\mathcal{H}(\mathcal{H}')$  is a subgroup of index 2 in  $\mathcal{H} \times \langle \bar{1} \rangle$

**Example:**  $\mathcal{H} = 4 = \{1, 2_{001}, 4_{001}^+, 4_{001}^-\}$

- ▶  $\mathcal{H} \times \langle \bar{1} \rangle = 4/m = \{1, 2_{001}, 4_{001}^+, 4_{001}^-, \bar{1}, m_{001}, \bar{4}_{001}^+, \bar{4}_{001}^-\}$
- ▶  $\mathcal{H}' = 2: 4(2) = \bar{4} = \{1, 2_{001}, \bar{4}_{001}^+, \bar{4}_{001}^-\}$

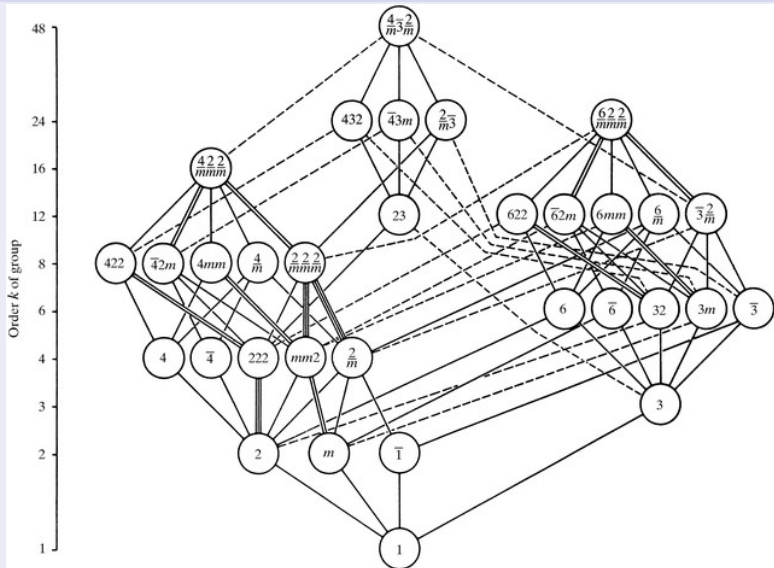
## Overview of 3D crystallographic point groups

	$\mathcal{H}$	$\mathcal{H} \times \langle \bar{1} \rangle$	$\mathcal{H}'$	$\mathcal{H}(\mathcal{H}')$
cyclic	1	$\bar{1}$		
	2	$2/m$	1	$m$
	3	$\bar{3}$		
	4	$4/m$	2	$\bar{4}$
	6	$6/m$	3	$\bar{6}$
dihedral	222	$mmm$	2	$mm2$
	32	$\bar{3}m$	3	$3m$
	422	$4/mmm$	4	$4mm$
			222	$\bar{4}2m$
	622	$6/mmm$	6	$6mm$
			32	$\bar{6}2m$
cubic	23	$m\bar{3}$		
	432	$m\bar{3}m$	23	$\bar{4}3m$



# Subgroup relations of 3D point groups

## Combined and contracted subgroup diagram



# Wyckoff positions

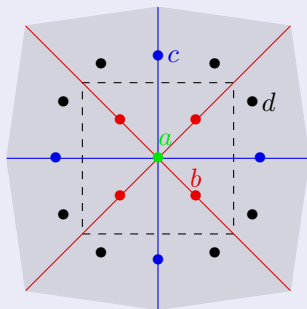
## Specific terminology for (2D or 3D) point groups

- ▶ For a point group  $\mathcal{G}$  acting on  $\mathbb{R}^2$  or  $\mathbb{R}^3$ , the stabilizer of a point  $X = (x, y)$  or  $X = (x, y, z)$  is called the **site-symmetry group** of  $X$ , denoted by  $\mathcal{S}_X$ .
- ▶ The length of the orbit of  $X$  under  $\mathcal{G}$  is called the **multiplicity** of  $X$ .
- ▶ By the orbit-stabilizer theorem, the multiplicity of  $X$  is  $|\mathcal{G}|/|\mathcal{S}_X|$ .
- ▶ A point  $X$  with  $|\mathcal{S}_X| = \{1\}$  is called a point in **general position**, a point with  $|\mathcal{S}_X| > \{1\}$  is called a point in **special position**.

## Definition

- ▶ Two points  $X$  and  $Y$  belong to the same **Wyckoff position** of  $\mathcal{G}$  if their site-symmetry groups  $\mathcal{S}_X$  and  $\mathcal{S}_Y$  are conjugate subgroups of  $\mathcal{G}$ .
- ▶ In particular, points in the same orbit under  $\mathcal{G}$  belong to the same Wyckoff position.

# Example: $\mathcal{G} = 4mm$ (in 2D)

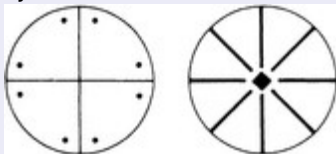


multiplicity,  
letter,  
site-symmetry

8	<i>d</i>	1	$(x, y)$	$(-x, -y)$	$(-y, x)$	$(y, -x)$
			$(x, -y)$	$(-x, y)$	$(-y, -x)$	$(y, x)$
4	<i>c</i>	<i>.m.</i>	$(x, 0)$	$(-x, 0)$	$(0, x)$	$(0, -x)$
4	<i>b</i>	<i>..m</i>	$(x, x)$	$(-x, -x)$	$(-x, x)$	$(x, -x)$
1	<i>a</i>	<i>4mm</i>	$(0, 0)$			

## Example: $\mathcal{G} = 4mm$ (in 3D)

- ▶ stereographic projection

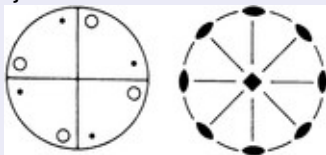


- ▶  $\mathcal{G} = \langle 4_{001}^+, m_{100} \rangle$
- ▶ all  $g \in \mathcal{G}$  leave  $z$ -coordinate fixed  
 $\Rightarrow$  same Wyckoff positions as for 2D-group  $4mm$  (with general  $z$ -coordinate added)

8	$d$	1	$(x, y, z)$	$(-x, -y, z)$	$(-y, x, z)$	$(y, -x, z)$
			$(x, -y, z)$	$(-x, y, z)$	$(-y, -x, z)$	$(y, x, z)$
4	$c$	$.m.$	$(x, 0, z)$	$(-x, 0, z)$	$(0, x, z)$	$(0, -x, z)$
4	$b$	$..m$	$(x, x, z)$	$(-x, -x, z)$	$(-x, x, z)$	$(x, -x, z)$
1	$a$	$4mm$	$(0, 0, z)$			

## Example: $\mathcal{G} = 422$ (in 3D)

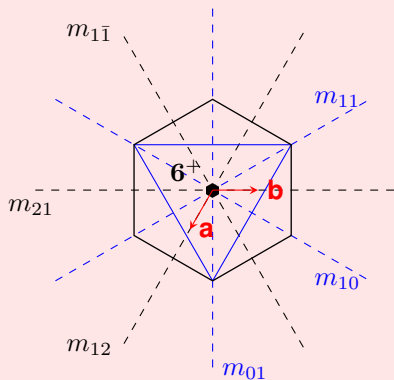
- ▶ stereographic projection



- ▶  $\mathcal{G} = \langle 4_{001}^+, 2_{100} \rangle$
- ▶ 2-fold rotations (corresponding to reflections in 2D  $4mm$ ) map  $z$ -coordinate to  $-z$

8	$e$	1	$(x, y, z)$	$(-x, -y, z)$	$(-y, x, z)$	$(y, -x, z)$
			$(-x, y, -z)$	$(x, -y, -z)$	$(y, x, -z)$	$(-y, -x, -z)$
4	$d$	.2.	$(x, 0, 0)$	$(-x, 0, 0)$	$(0, x, 0)$	$(0, -x, 0)$
4	$c$	..2	$(x, x, 0)$	$(-x, -x, 0)$	$(-x, x, 0)$	$(x, -x, 0)$
2	$b$	4..	$(0, 0, z)$	$(0, 0, -z)$		
1	$a$	422	$(0, 0, 0)$			

## Exercise



Determine the Wyckoff positions of the groups:

- ▶  $3m = \left\langle 3^+ = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}, m_{10} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle$  (triangle);
- ▶  $6mm = \left\langle 6^+ = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, m_{10} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle$  (hexagon).

## Answer $3m$

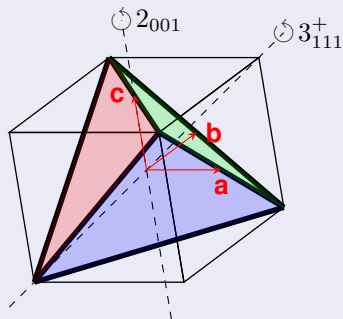
multiplicity,  
letter,  
site-symmetry

6	$c$	1	$(x, y)$	$(-y, x - y)$	$(-x + y, -x)$
			$(-x + y, y)$	$(-y, -x)$	$(x, x - y)$
3	$b$	$.m.$	$(x, 2x)$	$(-2x, -x)$	$(x, -x)$
1	$a$	$3m$	$(0, 0)$		

## Answer $6mm$

12	$d$	1	$(x, y)$	$(-y, x - y)$	$(-x + y, -x)$
			$(-x, -y)$	$(y, -x + y)$	$(x - y, x)$
			$(-x + y, y)$	$(-y, -x)$	$(x, x - y)$
			$(x - y, -y)$	$(y, x)$	$(-x, -x + y)$
6	$c$	$.m.$	$(x, 2x)$	$(-2x, -x)$	$(x, -x)$
			$(-x, -2x)$	$(2x, x)$	$(-x, x)$
6	$b$	$..m$	$(x, 0)$	$(0, x)$	$(-x, -x)$
			$(-x, 0)$	$(0, -x)$	$(x, x)$
1	$a$	$6mm$	$(0, 0)$		

## Example: Rotation group 23 of a tetrahedron

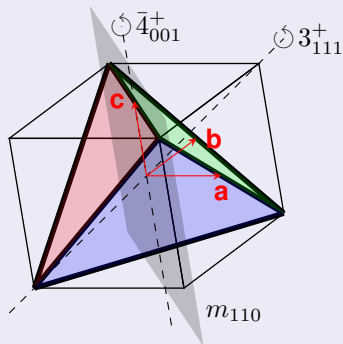


- points in special position are points on the rotation axes

12	<i>d</i>	1	$(x, y, z)$	$(-x, -y, z)$	$(-x, y, -z)$	$(x, -y, -z)$
			$(z, x, y)$	$(z, -x, -y)$	$(-z, -x, y)$	$(-z, x, -y)$
			$(y, z, x)$	$(-y, z, -x)$	$(y, -z, -x)$	$(-y, -z, x)$
6	<i>c</i>	2..	$(x, 0, 0)$	$(-x, 0, 0)$	$(0, x, 0)$	$(0, -x, 0)$
			$(0, 0, x)$	$(0, 0, -x)$		
4	<i>b</i>	.3.	$(x, x, x)$	$(-x, -x, x)$	$(-x, x, -x)$	$(x, -x, -x)$
1	<i>a</i>	23.	$(0, 0, 0)$			



## Example: Full symmetry group $\bar{4}3m$ of a tetrahedron



- ▶ group of order 24
- ▶ 2-fold rotation axes become 4-fold rotoinversion axes  $\Rightarrow$  6 additional elements:  $\bar{4}_{100}^{\pm}$ ,  $\bar{4}_{010}^{\pm}$ ,  $\bar{4}_{001}^{\pm}$
- ▶ 6 additional reflections in planes containing face diagonals:  $m_{110}$ ,  $m_{1\bar{1}0}$ ,  $m_{101}$ ,  $m_{10\bar{1}}$ ,  $m_{011}$ ,  $m_{01\bar{1}}$

24	$e$	1	$(x, y, z) \dots$	general position
12	$d$	$..m$	$(x, x, z) \dots$	on one mirror plane
6	$c$	$2.mm$	$(x, 0, 0) \dots$	on 2-fold axis and two mirror planes
4	$b$	$.3m$	$(x, x, x) \dots$	on 3-fold axis and three mirror planes
1	$a$	$\bar{4}3m$	$(0, 0, 0)$	origin

# Splitting of Wyckoff positions for group-subgroup pairs

## Group-subgroup pair $\mathcal{G} > \mathcal{H}$ with index $[i]$

- ▶ Let  $X$  be a point with site-symmetry group  $\mathcal{S}_X$  and multiplicity  $m_X$  under the action of  $\mathcal{G}$ .
- ▶ Orbit-stabilizer theorem:  $|\mathcal{G}| = m_X \cdot |\mathcal{S}_X|$ .
- ▶ Transition to subgroup  $\mathcal{H}$ : site-symmetry group  $\mathcal{S}'_X$  and multiplicity  $m'_X$  under the action of  $\mathcal{H}$ ,  $|\mathcal{H}| = m'_X \cdot |\mathcal{S}'_X|$ .
- ▶ Divide equations:  $[i] = \frac{|\mathcal{G}|}{|\mathcal{H}|} = \frac{m_X}{m'_X} \cdot \frac{|\mathcal{S}_X|}{|\mathcal{S}'_X|}$  implies that **multiplicity or site-symmetry or both must be reduced**.
- ▶ If the multiplicity is reduced, the orbit  $\mathcal{G}(X)$  of  $X$  under  $\mathcal{G}$  splits into two or more orbits under  $\mathcal{H}$  which can belong to the same or to different Wyckoff positions of  $\mathcal{H}$ .
- ▶ An orbit for the general position of  $\mathcal{G}$  always splits into  $[i]$  orbits for the general position of  $\mathcal{H}$ .

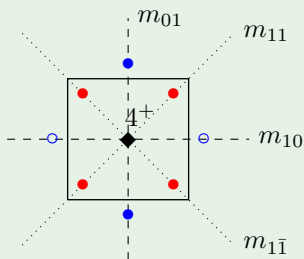
## Special case of index $[i] = 2$

▶  $\frac{m_X}{m'_X} \cdot \frac{|\mathcal{S}_X|}{|\mathcal{S}'_X|} = 2$

▶ 2 cases:

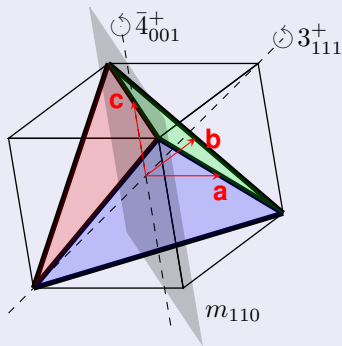
- ▶ multiplicity remains the same and site-symmetry is reduced by a factor of 2
- ▶ site-symmetry remains the same and multiplicity is halved, in this case the orbit under  $\mathcal{G}$  splits into two orbits of half the size under  $\mathcal{H}$

Example:  $\mathcal{G} = 4mm$ ,  $\mathcal{H} = \{1, 2, m_{10}, m_{01}\} = 2mm$



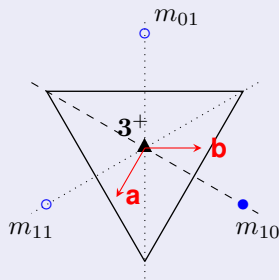
- ▶ point  $(x, x)$ : multiplicity remains 4, site-symmetry is reduced from  $\{1, m_{1\bar{1}}\}$  to 1 (general position for  $\mathcal{H}$ )
- ▶ point  $(x, 0)$ : site-symmetry remains  $\{1, m_{01}\}$ , orbit splits into two orbits  $\{(x, 0), (-x, 0)\}$  and  $\{(0, x), (0, -x)\}$  belonging to different Wyckoff positions of  $\mathcal{H}$

# Example: Splitting from $\bar{4}3m$ to $23$



Wyckoff positions of $\bar{4}3m$			→	Wyckoff positions of $23$				
24	<i>e</i>	1	$(x, y, z) \dots$	→	12	<i>d</i>	1	$(x, y, z) \dots$
				→	12	<i>d</i>	1	$(y, x, z) \dots$
12	<i>d</i>	$..m$	$(x, x, z) \dots$	→	12	<i>d</i>	1	$(x, x, z) \dots$
6	<i>c</i>	$2.mm$	$(x, 0, 0) \dots$	→	6	<i>c</i>	$2..$	$(x, 0, 0) \dots$
4	<i>b</i>	$.3m$	$(x, x, x) \dots$	→	4	<i>b</i>	$.3.$	$(x, x, x) \dots$
1	<i>a</i>	$\bar{4}3m$	$(0, 0, 0)$	→	1	<i>a</i>	$23.$	$(0, 0, 0)$

## Example with $[i] > 2$



- ▶  $\mathcal{G} = \{1, 3^+, 3^-, m_{10}, m_{01}, m_{11}\}$
- ▶  $\mathcal{H} = \{1, m_{10}\}$  has index 3 in  $\mathcal{G}$
- ▶ point  $(x, 2x)$  has orbit  $(x, 2x), (-2x, -x), (x, -x)$  under  $\mathcal{G}$

- ▶ site-symmetry remains the same  $\Rightarrow$  multiplicity is reduced from 3 to 1
- ▶ orbit splits into two orbits under  $\mathcal{H}$ :
  - ▶  $(x, 2x)$ : multiplicity 1, site-symmetry of order 2;
  - ▶  $(-2x, -x), (x, -x)$ : multiplicity 2, site-symmetry 1 (general position)
- ▶ Wyckoff position  $3b$  of  $\mathcal{G}$  splits into  $1a + 2b$  of  $\mathcal{H}$ .