# Introduction to crystal symmetry

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# Symmetry, NCS and Pseudosymmetry



Generic Non-Crystallographic Symmetry (NCS): - symmetry is **local** and **approximate** 

Pseudosymmetry (a limiting case of NCS) - symmetry is **global** and **approximate** 



Crystallographic symmetry - symmetry is **global** and **exact** 

# Symmetry, NCS and Pseudosymmetry



Generic Non-Crystallographic Symmetry (NCS): - symmetry is local and approximate



Pseudosymmetry (a limiting case of NCS) - symmetry is **global** and **approximate** 

may be misinterpreted as crystallographic symmetry



Crystallographic symmetry - symmetry is global and exact

# **Pseudotranslation**

### Crystallographic translation





### Pseudotranslation C/2

Planes 2L+1 contain weak reflections

# Crystallographic translation

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Limiting case, C' = C/2

• Weak reflections vanish

Two times larger reciprocal lattice spacing

# **Pseudotranslation**





### Pseudotranslation C/2

Planes 2L+1 contain weak reflections

Crystallographic translation



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Limiting case, C' = C/2

• Weak reflections vanish

Two times larger reciprocal lattice spacing

Space group assignment (e.g. Pointless)



Space group assignment (e.g. Pointless)



User: decision making



Lattice point group



Probable crystal point group

Online dictionary of Crystallography: The point group of a crystal is called merohedry if it is a subgroup of the point group of its lattice.

In classification of twins, the word pseudomerohedry is used when the lattice has accidental high symmetry that is not defined by crystal symmetry (e.g.  $\beta$ =90° in P 1 2<sub>1</sub> 1)



# (Pseudo)merohedral twinning

# Twinning by (pseudo)merohedry



# Twinning by (pseudo)merohedry





### less weak reflections

Allows for twinning tests based on statistics of intensities

# **Twinning tests**

(Pseudo)merohedral twinning cannot be readily seen from diffraction images because reflections from twin individuals overlap:

- exactly in merohedral twins
- exactly or approximately in pseudomerohedral twins.

Week reflections in "twinned data" are less frequent than "in non-twinned data".

This allows for twinning tests based on statistics of normalised intensities: cumulative distribution of normalised intensities, Britton test, second moments tests, H-test, L-test, ...

# **Twinning tests**

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This allows for twinning tests based on statistics of normalised intensities: cumulative distribution of normalised intensities, Britton test, second moments tests, H-test, L-test, ...

Pseudo-translation, if present, increases relative fraction of week reflections and makes some of the twinning tests inconclusive.



### L = |J1 - J2| / (J1 + J2)



- L-test is designed to be suitable for most of cases
- with and without pseudo-translation
- isotropic and anisotropic data

# **Theoretical distribution of L**





### Data reduction - AIMLESS

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### L-test plot and also a warning on possible twinning



### Scores for each symmetry element

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		as multiple space gro	pups have the same score	Data Internal	consister	icy stat	listics
		WARNING: You will have to det The 'space group' written to outp com	ging statisti xia2/a/b	statistics for dataset /a/b			
					Overall	Inner	Outer
		Solution ty	pe: point group	Low resolution limit	32.63	32.63	1.73
	•	Group name P	2 2 2 2	High resolution limit	1.69	8.96	1.69
		Reindex	000	Rmerge(within $ +/ -)^*$	0.066	0.038	0.000
		Laue group confidence	.992	Pmerge(all I+ and I_)*	0.086	0.056	0.000
		Laue group probability	.992		0.001	0.054	0.000
		Systematic absence probability 0	.751	Rmeas (within I+/I-)*	0.091	0.054	0.000
		Scores for each	symmetry element	Rmeas (all I+ & I-)*	0.115	0.074	0.000
		Lattice grou	up name P 2 2 2	Rpim (within I+/I–)	0.062	0.038	0.000
		Likelihood CC R	Symmetry	Rpim (all I+ & I−)	0.076	0.048	0.000
		0.942 0.97 0.117	identity	Rmerge in top intensity bin*	0.042		
		0.955 0.98 0.081 *** 2	P-fold I (001) {-h,-k,I} -fold k (010) {-h k -I}	Number of observations	13126	162	14
		0.954 0.98 0.095 *** 2	-fold h ( 1 0 0) {h,-k,-l}	Number unique	9175	98	14
	_					_	

Space group assignment (e.g. Pointless)



User: decision making

# **Untwinned data**

Scores for each symmetry element

Lattice group name P 6 2 2

Reindex operator from input to lattice: [h,k,l]

Likelihood	CC	R		Symmetry
0.952	0.97	0.146		identity
0.954	0.98	0.111	***	2-fold l ( 0 0 1) {-h,-k,l}
0.956	0.99	0.075	***	2-fold k ( 0 1 0) {-h,h+k,-l}
0.955	0.98	0.098	***	2-fold h (1 0 0) {h+k,-k,-l}
0.954	0.98	0.128	***	2-fold ( 1-1 0) {-k,-h,-l}
0.954	0.98	0.112	***	2-fold ( 2-1 0) {h,-h-k,-l}
0.956	0.99	0.100	***	2-fold (-1 2 0) {-h-k,k,-l}
0.954	0.98	0.119	***	2-fold ( 1 1 0) {k,h,-l}
0.953	0.97	0.105	***	3-fold l ( 0 0 1) {k,-h-k,l}
0.954	0.98	0.112	***	6-fold I ( 0 0 1) {h+k,-h,l}

Single crystal





This is a **single** crystal, **P622** or  $P6_122$  or  $P6_222$  or ...

# **Pseudosymmetry**

Scores for each symmetry element

Lattice group name P 6 2 2

Reindex operator from input to lattice: [h,k,l]

Likelihood	CC	R		Symmetry
0.898	0.90	0.060		identity
0.079	0.23	0.678		2-fold I ( 0 0 1) {-h,-k,I}
0.778	0.75	0.169	88	2-fold k ( 0 1 0) {-h,h+k,-l}
0.819	0.77	0.163	88	2-fold h ( 1 0 0) {h+k,-k,-l}
0.824	0.77	0.163	88	2-fold ( 1-1 0) {-k,-h,-l}
0.077	0.22	0.675		2-fold ( 2-1 0) {h,-h-k,-l}
0.079	0.22	0.674		2-fold (-1 2 0) {-h-k,k,-l}
0.080	0.23	0.675		2-fold ( 1 1 0) {k,h,-l}
0.903	0.88	0.089	***	3-fold I ( 0 0 1) {k,-h-k,l}
0.078	0.22	0.619		6-fold I ( 0 0 1) {h+k,-h,l}

Single crystal





### This is a **single** crystal, **P3** or **P3**<sub>1</sub> or **P3**<sub>2</sub> There is a pseudosymmetry

# **Partial twin**

Scores for each symmetry element

Lattice group name P 6 2 2

Reindex operator from input to lattice: [h,k,l]

Likelihood	CC	R		Symmetry
0.898	0.90	0.060		identity
0.079	0.23	0.678		2-fold I ( 0 0 1) {-h,-k,I}
0.778	0.75	0.169	88	2-fold k ( 0 1 0) {-h,h+k,-l}
0.819	0.77	0.163	88	2-fold h ( 1 0 0) {h+k,-k,-l}
0.824	0.77	0.163	88	2-fold ( 1-1 0) {-k,-h,-l}
0.077	0.22	0.675		2-fold ( 2-1 0) {h,-h-k,-l}
0.079	0.22	0.674		2-fold (-1 2 0) {-h-k,k,-l}
0.080	0.23	0.675		2-fold (110) {k,h,-l}
0.903	0.88	0.089	***	3-fold I ( 0 0 1) {k,-h-k,l}
0.078	0.22	0.619		6-fold I ( 0 0 1) {h+k,-h,l}

Partial twin





### This is a partial twin, P3 or P3<sub>1</sub> or P3<sub>2</sub> There may be a pseudosymmetry

# **Perfect twin**

Scores for each symmetry element

Lattice group name P 6 2 2

Reindex operator from input to lattice: [h,k,l]

Likelihood	СС	R		Symmetry
0.952	0.97	0.146		identity
0.954	0.98	0.111	***	2-fold l ( 0 0 1) {-h,-k,l}
0.956	0.99	0.075	***	2-fold k ( 0 1 0) {-h,h+k,-l}
0.955	0.98	0.098	***	2-fold h ( 1 0 0) {h+k,-k,-l}
0.954	0.98	0.128	***	2-fold ( 1-1 0) {-k,-h,-l}
0.954	0.98	0.112	***	2-fold ( 2-1 0) {h,-h-k,-l}
0.956	0.99	0.100	***	2-fold (-1 2 0) {-h-k,k,-l}
0.954	0.98	0.119	***	2-fold (110) {k,h,-l}
0.953	0.97	0.105	***	3-fold l ( 0 0 1) {k,-h-k,l}
0.954	0.98	0.112	***	6-fold l ( 0 0 1) {h+k,-h,l}

This is likely to be a perfectly twinned crystal. Space group is quite uncertain at this point. Most likely: the space group is NOT  $P6_x22$ but one of its subgroups:  $P6_x$ ,  $P3_x21$ ,  $P3_x12$ ,  $C222_x$ , or even P3 *etc*. Perfect twin





# **Subgroups of the point group 622**



- To test all possibilities, we have to run Phaser once for each point group and ask to try all the corresponding space groups
- E.g. for point group 3, Phaser will try P 3, P 3<sub>1</sub>, P3<sub>2</sub>.

# An alternative approach: structure solution in P1

Can be used with close homologues and requires complete data in P1

- Scale and merge data in P 1 (Aimless)
- Solve in P1
- Use Zanuda program to restore the correct space group

# Forcing P 1 space group assignment

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# Switching to twin refinement

Twin refinement: Off On



