

**ZTF-FCT**

Zientzia eta Teknologia Fakultatea  
Facultad de Ciencia y Tecnología



Universidad  
del País Vasco

Euskal Herriko  
Unibertsitatea

# **Magnetic Symmetry. Magnetic superspace groups**

**J. Manuel Perez-Mato**

**Facultad de Ciencia y Tecnología**

**Universidad del País Vasco, UPV-EHU**

**BILBAO, SPAIN**

## TOPICAL REVIEW

# Magnetic superspace groups and symmetry constraints in incommensurate magnetic phases

J M Perez-Mato<sup>1</sup>, J L Ribeiro<sup>2</sup>, V Petricek<sup>3</sup> and M I Aroyo<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Departamento de Física de la Materia Condensada, Facultad de Ciencia y Tecnología, Universidad del País Vasco, UPV/EHU, Apartado 644, E-48080 Bilbao, Spain

<sup>2</sup> Centro de Física da Universidade do Minho, P-4710-057 Braga, Portugal

<sup>3</sup> Institute of Physics, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic v.v.i., Na Slovance 2, CZ-18221 Praha 8, Czech Republic

E-mail: [jm.perez-mato@ehu.es](mailto:jm.perez-mato@ehu.es)

Received 11 November 2011, in final form 13 February 2012

Published 26 March 2012

Online at [stacks.iop.org/JPhysCM/24/163201](http://stacks.iop.org/JPhysCM/24/163201)

### Abstract

Superspace symmetry has been for many years the standard approach for the analysis of non-magnetic modulated crystals because of its robust and efficient treatment of the structural constraints present in incommensurate phases. For incommensurate magnetic phases, this generalized symmetry formalism can play a similar role. In this context we review from a practical viewpoint the superspace formalism particularized to magnetic incommensurate phases. We analyse in detail the relation between the description using superspace symmetry

# Symmetry-Based Computational Tools for Magnetic Crystallography

J.M. Perez-Mato,<sup>1</sup> S.V. Gallego,<sup>1</sup> E.S. Tasci,<sup>2</sup>  
L. Elcoro,<sup>1</sup> G. de la Flor,<sup>1</sup> and M.I. Aroyo<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Departamento de Física de la Materia Condensada, Facultad de Ciencia y Tecnología,  
Universidad del País Vasco, UPV/EHU, 48080 Bilbao, Spain; email: jm.perez-mato@ehu.es

<sup>2</sup>Department of Physics Engineering, Hacettepe University, 06800 Ankara, Turkey

[Annu. Rev. Mater. Res. 2015. 45:217–48](#)

[DOI: 10.1146/annurev-matsci-070214-021008](#)



## MAGNDATA: towards a database of magnetic structures. II. The incommensurate case

Samuel V. Gallego,<sup>a</sup> J. Manuel Perez-Mato,<sup>a\*</sup> Luis Elcoro,<sup>a</sup> Emre S. Tasci,<sup>b</sup>  
Robert M. Hanson,<sup>c</sup> Mois I. Aroyo<sup>a</sup> and Gotzon Madariaga<sup>a</sup>

Received 1 July 2016  
Accepted 3 October 2016

<sup>a</sup>Departamento de Física de la Materia Condensada, Facultad de Ciencia y Tecnología, Universidad del País Vasco (UPV/EHU), Apartado 644, Bilbao 48080, Spain, <sup>b</sup>Department of Physics Engineering, Hacettepe University, Ankara 06800, Turkey, and <sup>c</sup>Department of Chemistry, St Olaf College, Northfield, MN 55057, USA. \*Correspondence e-mail: jm.perez-mato@ehu.es

Edited by G. Kosterz, ETH Zurich, Switzerland

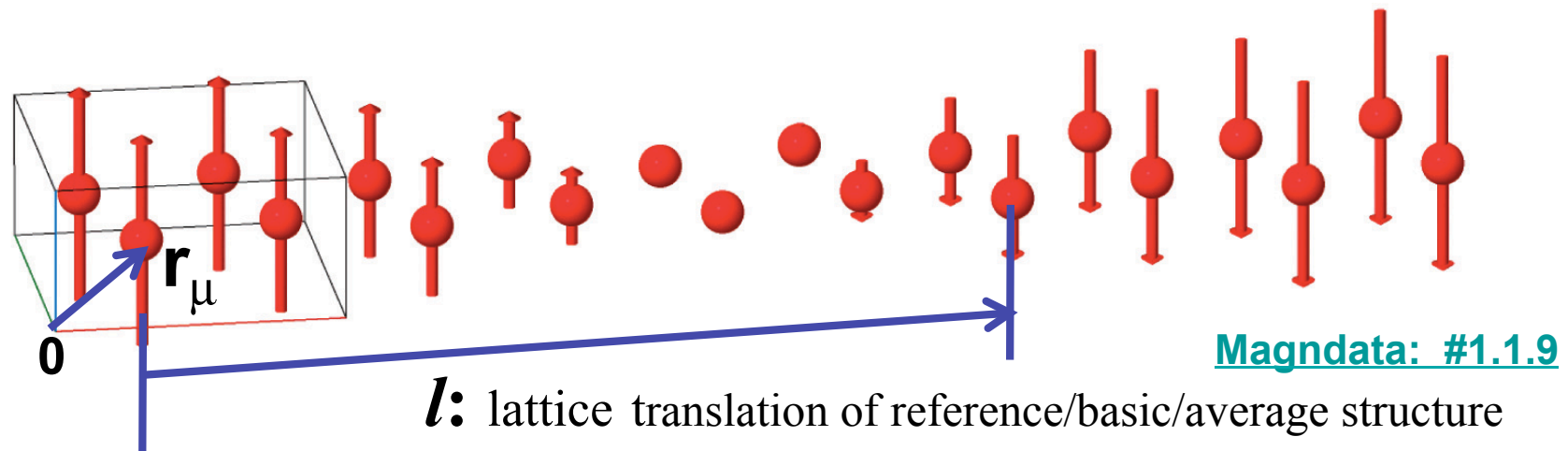
**Keywords:** magnetic structures database; MAGNDATA; incommensurate magnetic structures; magnetic superspace groups; Bilbao Crystallographic Server; superspace symmetry; irreducible representations.

A free web page under the name *MAGNDATA*, which provides detailed quantitative information on more than 400 published magnetic structures, has been made available at the Bilbao Crystallographic Server (<http://www.cryst.ehu.es>). It includes both commensurate and incommensurate structures. In the first article in this series, the information available on commensurate magnetic structures was presented [Gallego, Perez-Mato, Elcoro, Tasci, Hanson, Momma, Aroyo & Madariaga (2016). *J. Appl. Cryst.* **49**, 1750–1776]. In this second article, the subset of the database devoted to incommensurate magnetic structures is discussed. These structures are described using magnetic superspace groups, *i.e.* a direct extension of the non-magnetic superspace groups, which is the standard approach in the description of aperiodic crystals. The use of magnetic superspace symmetry ensures a robust and unambiguous description of both atomic positions and magnetic moments within a common unique formalism.

*J. Appl. Cryst.* (2016) **49**, 1941–1956



## Incommensurate modulated structures



Harmonic Modulation with propagation vector  $k$  of “quantity”  $A$  of atom  $\mu$ :

$$A(l, \mu) = A_{\mu} e^{-i2\pi k \cdot (l + r_{\mu})} + A_{\mu}^* e^{i2\pi k \cdot (l + r_{\mu})}$$

if  $k$  is incommensurate  $k \cdot l \pmod{1}$  takes **ANY VALUE** at some lattice vector  $l$

How do we describe a modulated structure without periodicity?

Simplest case: single-k modulated structures

(One incommensurate propagation vector  $k$  (and its opposite  $-k$ !)) :

Incommensurate  
Structure

=

Basic (periodic) structure

+

set of atomic modulation functions  $A_\mu(x_4)$

general anharmonic case

$\mu = 1, \dots, n$  atoms in unit cell of basic structure

$$A(l, \mu) = \sum_n A_{\mu, n} e^{-i2\pi n k \cdot (l + r_\mu)} + A_{\mu, n}^* e^{i2\pi n k \cdot (l + r_\mu)}$$

$$A_\mu(x_4) = \sum_n A_{\mu, n} e^{i2\pi n x_4} + A_{\mu, n}^* e^{-i2\pi n x_4}$$

$$A(x_4) = A(x_4 + 1)$$

$$A_\mu(x_4) = A_{\mu 0} + \sum_{n=1, \dots} A_{\mu, ns} \sin(2\pi n x_4) + A_{\mu, nc} \cos(2\pi n x_4)$$

$$A(l, \mu) = A_\mu(x_4 = k \cdot (l + r_\mu))$$

# Description of an incommensurate modulated structure

**1) Basic structure:**  $\mathbf{r}_{l\mu} = \mathbf{l} + \mathbf{r}_{\mu}$       $\mathbf{l}$ : basic lattice/periodicity

$\mu = 1, \dots, n$  atoms in unit cell of basic structure

**2) Modulations (magnetic moments, atomic displacements,..):**

**modulation functions:**

$$A_{\mu}(x_4) = A_{\mu 0} + \sum_{n=1, \dots} A_{\mu, ns} \sin(2\pi n x_4) + A_{\mu, nc} \cos(2\pi n x_4)$$

**Value of A for atom ( $l, \mu$ ):**  $A(l, \mu) = A_{\mu}(x_4 = \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}_{l\mu})$

$\mathbf{k}$  = incommensurate  
propagation vector

[example: 1.1.9](#)

fourth coordinate in superspace

**A global shift of the modulation functions along  $x_4$  keeps the energy invariant**

## The superspace:

We can use the additional coordinate  $x_4$  of the modulations functions  $A_\mu(x_4)$  defining the modulation of the structure as an additional dimension and construct in this “superspace” a mathematical 4-dim lattice periodic “supercrystal” where the equation:

$$A(l, \mu) = A_\mu(x_4 = k \cdot (l + r\mu))$$

which defines the atomic values of the real crystal is equivalent to considering a certain section of this mathematical 4-dim construct.

The superspace concept is just a mathematical construct, which allows to interpret the equations characterizing incommensurate structures and their symmetry as analogous to those of ordinary crystallography for a structure with lattice periodicity, but in a (3+1)-dim mathematical space.

**BUT this superspace concept is just a help. Essential are only the equations!, and these can be derived without the need of a 4-dim superspace.**

## MAGNETIC SYMMETRY IN COMMENSURATE CRYSTALS: MAGNETIC SPACE GROUPS OR SHUBNIKOV GROUPS

A symmetry operation fullfills:

- the operation belongs to the set of transformations that keep the energy invariant:  
rotations  
translations  
space inversion  
time reversal
- the system is undistinguishable after the transformation

Symmetry operations in commensurate magnetic crystals:

magnetic space group:  $\{ \{ \mathbf{R}_i | \mathbf{t}_i \} , \{ \mathbf{R}'_j | \mathbf{t}_j \} \}$

or  $\{ \{ \mathbf{R}_i , \theta | \mathbf{t}_i \} \}$   $\theta = +1$  without time reversal  
 $\theta = -1$  with time reversal

# SYMMETRY OF INCOMMENSURATE PHASES

**Phase shift of the whole modulation: energy invariant!**

## Symmetry operations in 1-k incommensurate crystals:

sym. operations: space group operations

+ phase shifts of the modulation

magnetic superspace group:  $\{ \{ \mathbf{R}_i | \mathbf{t}_i, \tau_i \}, \{ \mathbf{R}'_j | \mathbf{t}_j, \tau_j \} \}$

Incommensurate magnetic structures have an unambiguous magnetic point group symmetry

**magnetic point group:** set of all roto-inversion and roto-inversion+time inversion operations  $\{\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{R}'\}$  in its magnetic **superspace group!**

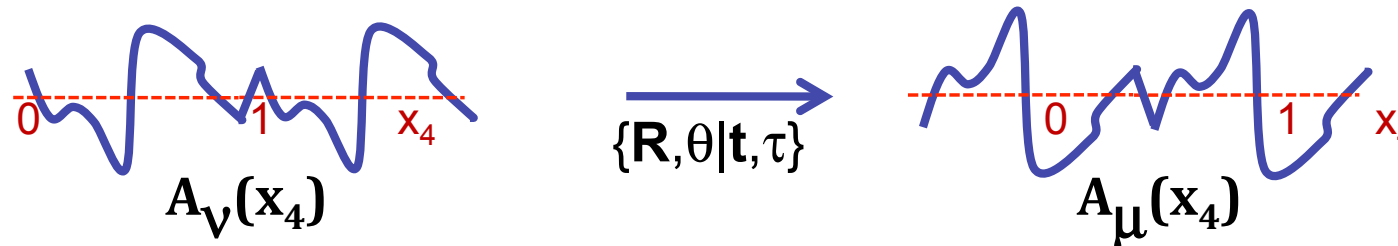
# Symmetry relations between the modulation functions of different atoms in the basic unit cell due to a symmetry operation.

**Superspace symmetry operation:**  $\{\mathbf{R}, \theta | \mathbf{t}, \tau\}$

$\{\mathbf{R} | \mathbf{t}\}$  : is a space group operation of the basic (periodic) structure



superspace symmetry operation  $(\mathbf{R}, \theta | \mathbf{t}, \tau)$  implies a relation among the modulation functions of the atoms  $v$  and  $\mu$  of the basic structure:



For the modulation of magnetic moments:

$$\mathbf{M}_\mu(R_I x_4 + \tau_0 + \mathbf{H}_R \cdot \mathbf{r}_v) = \theta \det(\mathbf{R}) \mathbf{R} \cdot \mathbf{M}_v(x_4)$$

$R_I, \tau_0, \mathbf{H}_R$  defined by  $\{\mathbf{R}, \theta | \mathbf{t}, \tau\}$

**If  $\mu = v \longrightarrow \mathbf{M}_v(x_4)$  symmetry constrained!**



**Symmetry relations between the modulation functions of different atoms in the basic unit cell due to the symmetry operation  $\{\mathbf{R}, \theta | \mathbf{t}, \tau\}$  :**

$$\mathbf{M}_\mu(\mathbf{R}_I \mathbf{x}_4 + \tau_0 + \mathbf{H}_R \cdot \mathbf{r}_V) = \theta \det(\mathbf{R}) \mathbf{R} \cdot \mathbf{M}_V(\mathbf{x}_4)$$

$\mathbf{R}_I, \tau_0, \mathbf{H}_R$  defined by  $\{\mathbf{R}, \theta | \mathbf{t}, \tau\}$  :

$$\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{R} = R_I \mathbf{k} + \mathbf{H}_R \quad R_I = +1 \text{ or } -1$$

$$\tau_0 = \tau + \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{t}$$

$\tau_0$  is independent of the translation  $\mathbf{t}$  !  
operations are then rather given and listed as  $\{\mathbf{R}, \theta | \mathbf{t}, \tau_0\}$ , the  $\mathbf{t}$  implying also a translation  $-\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{t}$  along  $x_4$

Example and notation of operation with  $\mathbf{H}_R \neq 0$  :

$\mathbf{R}_S$  4X4 matrix  $\mathbf{k} = (\alpha, 1/2, 0)$   $\xrightarrow{m_y}$   $\mathbf{k}' = (\alpha, -1/2, 0) = \mathbf{k} + (0, -1, 0)$

$\{m'_y | 1/2 \ 1/2 \ 0 \ 1/2\}$   $R_I = +1 \quad \mathbf{H}_R = (0, -1, 0)$

$$\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \mathbf{R} & \begin{array}{c} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{array} \\ \hline \hline \mathbf{H}_R & \mathbf{R}_I \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{c} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} t_1 \\ t_2 \\ t_3 \\ \tau_0 \end{array} = \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \begin{array}{ccc} 1 & 0 & 0 \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{array} \\ \hline \hline \begin{array}{ccc} 0 & -1 & 0 \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{array} \\ \hline \hline \begin{array}{ccc} 0 & -1 & 0 \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} 1 \end{array} \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{c} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} 1/2 \\ 1/2 \\ 0 \\ 1/2 \end{array} = x_1 + 1/2, -x_2 + 1/2, x_3, -x_2 + x_4, -1$$

Science in the making 2: From 1940 to the early 1980s / *La science en mouvement 2 : de 1940 aux premières années*  
1980

# Magnetic structures Structures magnétiques

A recent review for the general case of  
several incommensurate wave vectors

DOI: 10.1016/j.crhy.2019.07.004

Juan Rodríguez-Carvajal <sup>a</sup>  , Jacques Villain <sup>b</sup> 

## 8. Superspace approach to invariance symmetry of crystal structures and spin configurations

### 8.1. Concept of superspace

The basic concepts related with incommensurate crystal structures and their symmetry description using superspace groups can be found in references [81], [82], [83], [84], [85], [86], [87]. The case of magnetic superspace groups has been treated exhaustively in reference [88] and here we will follow some of their explanations and generalise some expressions for multiple propagation vectors.

The concept of superspace comes from the consideration that all Bragg spots observed in a modulated structure can be indexed using a series of modulation (propagation) vectors  $\mathbf{q}_p$  with  $p = 1, 2, \dots, d$ . The scattering vector for a Bragg spot (diffraction vector) can be written as:

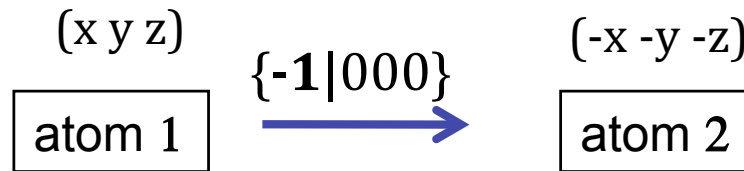
$$\mathbf{h} = h_1 \mathbf{a}_1^* + h_2 \mathbf{a}_2^* + h_3 \mathbf{a}_3^* + \sum_{p=1}^d m_p \mathbf{q}_p \quad (41)$$

The extra integer indices  $m_p$  correspond to the harmonics of the modulation

# Symmetry relations between the atomic modulations

$$M_i(x_4) = M_{i \sin 1} \sin(2\pi x_4) + M_{i \cos 1} \cos(2\pi x_4) \quad i=x,y,z$$

**Example: inversion**



**superspace operation**

$$(-1|000,0): \quad -x_1 \ -x_2 \ -x_3 \ -x_4 \ +1$$

$$\mathbf{k} \xrightarrow{-1} -\mathbf{k}$$

$$R_I = -1 \quad \mathbf{H}_R = 0$$

$$\tau_0 = 0 + \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{t} = 0$$

$$\mathbf{M}_\mu(R_I x_4 + \tau_0 + \mathbf{H}_R \cdot \mathbf{r}_V) = \theta \det(\mathbf{R}) \mathbf{R} \cdot \mathbf{M}_V(x_4)$$

$$\mathbf{M}_2(-x_4) = \mathbf{M}_1(x_4)$$

Relation between the modulation of their magnetic moments

$$\text{atom 2} \quad \mathbf{M}_{\sin n}^2 = -\mathbf{M}_{\sin n}^1$$

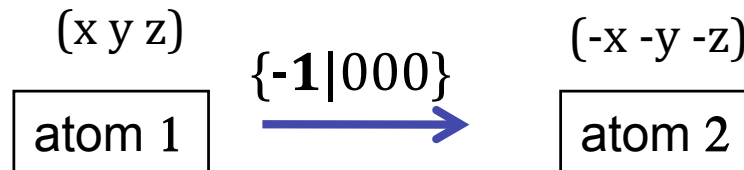
$$\mathbf{M}_{\cos n}^2 = \mathbf{M}_{\cos n}^1$$

it chooses the origin along  $x_4$  on the inversion center

# Symmetry relations between the atomic modulations

$$M_i(x_4) = M_{i \sin 1} \sin(2\pi x_4) + M_{i \cos 1} \cos(2\pi x_4) \quad i=x,y,z$$

**Example: inversion**



**superspace operation**

$$(-1|000,0): \quad -x_1 \ -x_2 \ -x_3 \ -x_4 \ +1$$

$$k \xrightarrow{-1} -k$$

$$R_I = -1 \quad \mathbf{H}_R = 0$$

$$\mathbf{M}^\mu(R_I x_4 + \tau_0 + \mathbf{H}_R \cdot \mathbf{r}_V) = \theta \det(\mathbf{R}) \mathbf{R} \cdot \mathbf{M}^V(x_4)$$

$$\tau_0 = 0 + k \cdot t = 0$$

$$\mathbf{M}^2(-x_4) = \mathbf{M}^1(x_4)$$

Relation between the modulation of their magnetic moments

$$M_{\sin n}^2 = -M_{\sin n}^1 \quad M_{\cos n}^2 = M_{\cos n}^1$$

**If atom 1 = atom 2:**

only cosine terms

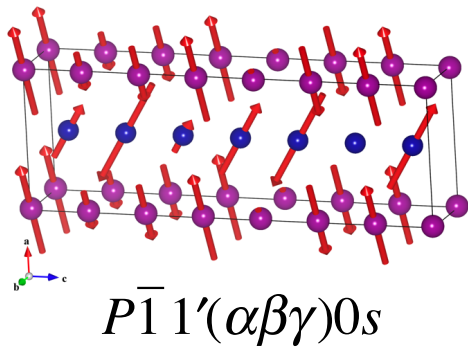
all modulations  
in phase

$$M_{\sin n}^1 = 0$$

$$M_{1\alpha}(x_4) = M_{\alpha 0}^1 + \sum_n M_{\alpha, \cos n}^1 \cos(2\pi n x_4)$$

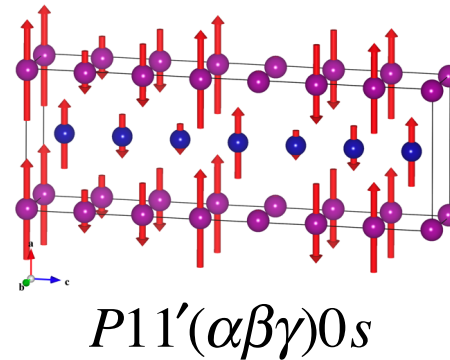
$\alpha = x, y, z$  (collinear)

**A centrosymmetric  
incommensurate  
modulation**



$$\begin{aligned}\{1|0000\} &: x_1 x_2 x_3 x_4 + 1 \\ \{\bar{1}|0000\} &: -x_1 -x_2 -x_3 -x_4 + 1 \\ \{1'|000\frac{1}{2}\} &: x_1 x_2 x_3 x_4 + \frac{1}{2} - 1 \\ \{\bar{1}'|000\frac{1}{2}\} &: -x_1 -x_2 -x_3 -x_4 + \frac{1}{2} - 1\end{aligned}$$

**A non-  
centrosymmetric  
incommensurate  
modulation**



propagation vector:

$$k=(\alpha,\beta,\gamma)$$

$$\begin{aligned}\{1|0000\} &: x_1 x_2 x_3 x_4 + 1 \\ \{1'|000\frac{1}{2}\} &: x_1 x_2 x_3 x_4 + \frac{1}{2} - 1\end{aligned}$$

## Translation into FullProf k-vector parameters:

$$M^v(x_4) = M_o^v + \sum_{n=1, \dots} [M_{\sin n}^v \sin(2\pi n x_4) + M_{\cos n}^v \cos(2\pi n x_4)]$$

atom v at cell L:

$$M_L^v = M^v(x_4 = \mathbf{k} \cdot (\mathbf{L} + \mathbf{r}_v))$$

$$M_L^v = M_o^v + \sum_k [S_k^v \exp(-i2\pi \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{L}) + S_k^{v*} \exp(i2\pi \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{L})]$$

$$2S_k^v e^{i2\pi \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}_v} = M_{\cos 1}^v + i M_{\sin 1}^v$$

Superspace

FullProf

## Translation into FullProf k-vector parameters:

$$M^v(x_4) = M_o^v + \sum_{n=1, \dots} [M_{\sin n}^v \sin(2\pi n x_4) + M_{\cos n}^v \cos(2\pi n x_4)]$$

atom v at cell L:

$$M_L^v = M^v(x_4 = \mathbf{k} \cdot (\mathbf{L} + \mathbf{r}_v))$$

Superspace

$$M_L^v = M_o^v + \sum_k [S_k^v \exp(-i2\pi \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{L}) + S_k^{v*} \exp(i2\pi \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{L})]$$

FullProf

$$S_k^v e^{i2\pi \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}_v} = M_{\cos 1}^v + i M_{\sin 1}^v$$

## Symmetry relation for the FullProf parameters:

$\{\mathbf{R}, \theta | \mathbf{t}, \tau\} : (l, v) \longrightarrow (l, \mu)$  same cell:  $\mathbf{t}$  must be a specific one

$$S_k^\mu = \theta \det(\mathbf{R}) \mathbf{R} \cdot S_k^v \exp(-i2\pi \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{t}) \exp(i2\pi \tau_o) \quad \text{if } R_l = +1$$

$$S_k^\mu = \theta \det(\mathbf{R}) \mathbf{R} \cdot S_k^{v*} \exp(-i2\pi \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{t}) \exp(i2\pi \tau_o) \quad \text{if } R_l = -1$$

$\mathbf{t}$  must be such that  $\mu$  atom is in zero cell !



# Symmetry relations between the atomic modulations if described with FullProf parameterization

## Example: inversion

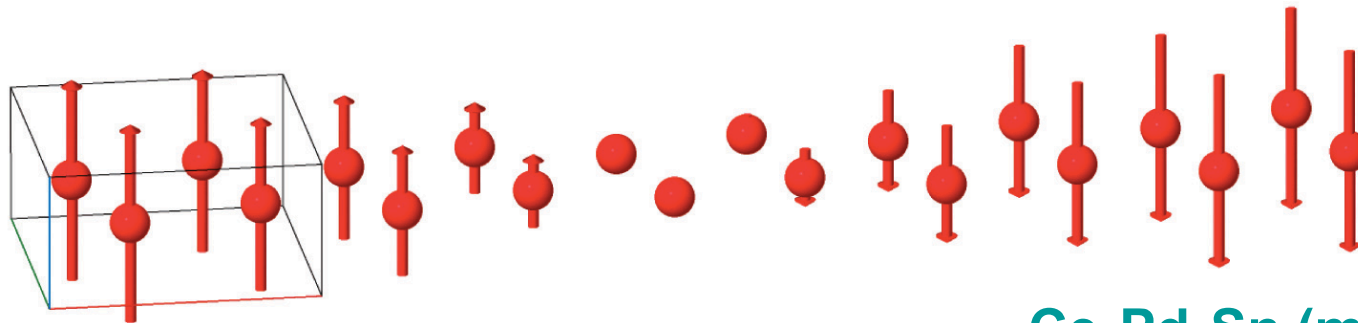
superspace operation

$$(-1|000,0): \quad -x_1 \ -x_2 \ -x_3 \ -x_4 \ +1$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} (x \ y \ z) & & (-x \ -y \ -z) \\ \boxed{\text{atom 1}} & \xrightarrow{(-1|000)} & \boxed{\text{atom 2}} \text{ (at cell } l) \end{array}$$

$$S_{nk}^2 = S_{nk}^{1*} \exp(-i2\pi nk \cdot l)$$

The lattice translation  $l$  depends on which cell goes the atom 2, directly related with atom 1 by the inversion  $(-1|000)$



## Ce<sub>2</sub>Pd<sub>2</sub>Sn (magndata #1.1.9)

### magCIF file

```

_space_group_magn_ssg_name "Pbam1'(a00)0s0s"
_space_group_magn_point_group_name "mmm1'"
_space_group_magn_point_group_number "8.2.25"
_cell_length_a 7.7620(5)
_cell_length_b 7.7620(5)
_cell_length_c 3.9300(10)
_cell_angle_alpha 90
_cell_angle_beta 90
_cell_angle_gamma 90

```

```

loop_
_space_group_symop_magn_ssg_operation.id
_space_group_symop_magn_ssg_operation.algebraic
1 x1,x2,x3,x4,+1
2 -x1,-x2,x3,-x4,+1
3 -x1+1/2,x2+1/2,-x3,-x4+1/2,+1
4 x1+1/2,-x2+1/2,-x3,x4+1/2,+1
5 -x1,-x2,-x3,-x4,+1
6 x1,x2,-x3,x4,+1
7 x1+1/2,-x2+1/2,x3,x4+1/2,+1
8 -x1+1/2,x2+1/2,x3,-x4+1/2,+1

```

```

loop_
_space_group_symop_magn_ssg_centering.id
_space_group_symop_magn_ssg_centering.algebraic
1 x1,x2,x3,x4,+1
2 x1,x2,x3,x4+1/2,-1

```

**(1' | 0 0 0 ½)**

```

loop_
_atom_site_label
_atom_site_type_symbol
_atom_site_fract_x
_atom_site_fract_y
_atom_site_fract_z
_atom_site_occupancy
Ce1 Ce 0.17810(10) 0.6781 0.5 1
Pd1 Pd 0.37340(10) 0.8734 0 1
Sn1 Sn 0 0 0 1

```

```

loop_
_atom_site_moment.label
_atom_site_moment.crystalaxis_x
_atom_site_moment.crystalaxis_y
_atom_site_moment.crystalaxis_z
_atom_site_moment.symmform
Ce1 0 0 0 0,0,0

```

average moment  
cero  
(symmetry forced)

```

loop_
_atom_site_Fourier_wave_vector.seq_id
_atom_site_Fourier_wave_vector.q1_coeff
1 1

```

```

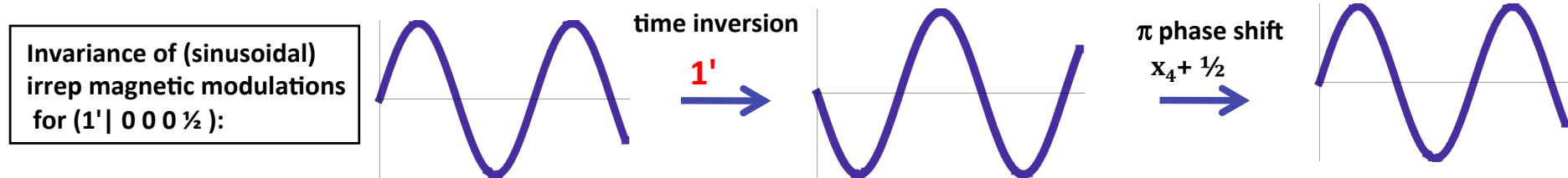
loop_
_atom_site_moment_Fourier.atom_site_label
_atom_site_moment_Fourier.axis
_atom_site_moment_Fourier.wave_vector_seq_id
_atom_site_moment_Fourier.param.cos
_atom_site_moment_Fourier.param.sin
_atom_site_moment_Fourier.param.cos_symmform
_atom_site_moment_Fourier.param.sin_symmform
Ce1 x 1 0 0 0 0
Ce1 y 1 0 0 0 0
Ce1 z 1 1.70(5) 0 0 0 0

```

moment along z  
(symmetry forced)

A simple but very important general “Theorem”:

$(1' | 0 0 0 \frac{1}{2})$  is a superspace symmetry operation of any single-k INC magnetic modulation.



time inversion belongs to the symmetry point group of a single-k INC phase (grey point group)

Consequences of  $(1' | 0 0 0 \frac{1}{2})$ :  $A_{\mu}(x_4 + \frac{1}{2}) = 1' A_{\mu}(x_4)$

modulation of  
magnetic moments

$$M_{\mu}(x_4 + \frac{1}{2}) = - M_{\mu}(x_4)$$

odd-harmonics :  $1k, 3k, 5k \dots$

modulation of  
atomic displac.

$$u_{\mu}(x_4 + \frac{1}{2}) = u_{\mu}(x_4)$$

even-harmonics :  $2k, 4k \dots$

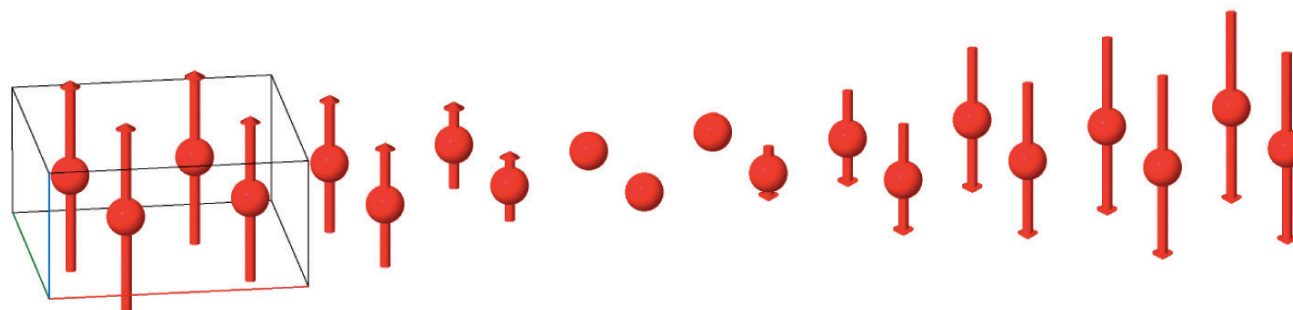
**Ce<sub>2</sub>Pd<sub>2</sub>Sn** [magndata 1.1.9](#)

space inversion is maintained

superspace group: Pbam1'(a00)0s0s

parent space group: P4/mbm

4 magnetic atoms per primitive unit cell



**Average atomic positions**

Atom	x	y	z
1	0.17810	0.67810	0.50000
2	0.82190	0.32190	0.50000
3	0.32190	0.17810	0.50000
4	0.67810	0.82190	0.50000

irrep basis modes: 3 parameters

refined model: all modulations in phase (1 parameter)

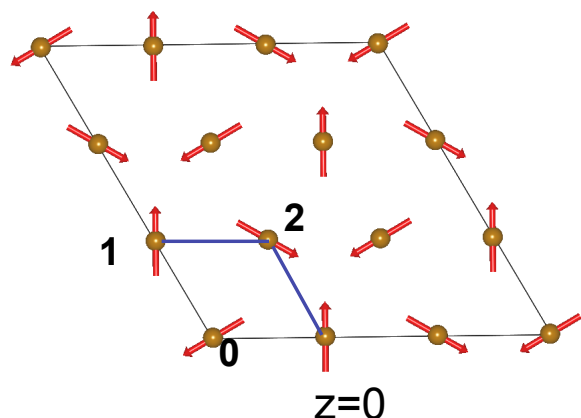
superspace symmetry constraint: 2 parameters  
(same amplitude for the 4 atoms, but atoms related by inversion are not in phase but with opposite phases)

Atom	Magnetic moment Fourier Cos coeffs						Magnetic moment Fourier Sin coeffs					
	Symmetry constraints			Numerical values			Symmetry constraints			Numerical values		
	x	y	z	x	y	z	x	y	z	x	y	z
1	0	0	$M_z \cos 1$	0.0	0.0	1.70000	0	0	$M_z \sin 1$	0.0	0.0	0.0
2	0	0	$M_z \cos 1$	0.0	0.0	1.70000	0	0	$-M_z \sin 1$	0.0	0.0	0.0
3	0	0	$M_z \cos 1$	0.0	0.0	1.70000	0	0	$-M_z \sin 1$	0.0	0.0	0.0
4	0	0	$M_z \cos 1$	0.0	0.0	1.70000	0	0	$M_z \sin 1$	0.0	0.0	0.0

**Mulferroic  $\text{RbFe}(\text{MoO}_4)_2$  :**

**Superspace group:  $\text{P}31'(1/3\ 1/3\ \gamma)\ \text{ts}$   
or  $\text{P}31'(1/3\ 1/3\ \gamma)\text{-ts}$**

**A “120° spin arrangement” and a spiral modulation is forced by the superspace group:**



[magndata 1.1.2](#)

**$\text{P-3} \longrightarrow \text{P}31'(1/3\ 1/3\ \gamma)\ \text{ts} \quad \gamma \approx 0.458$**

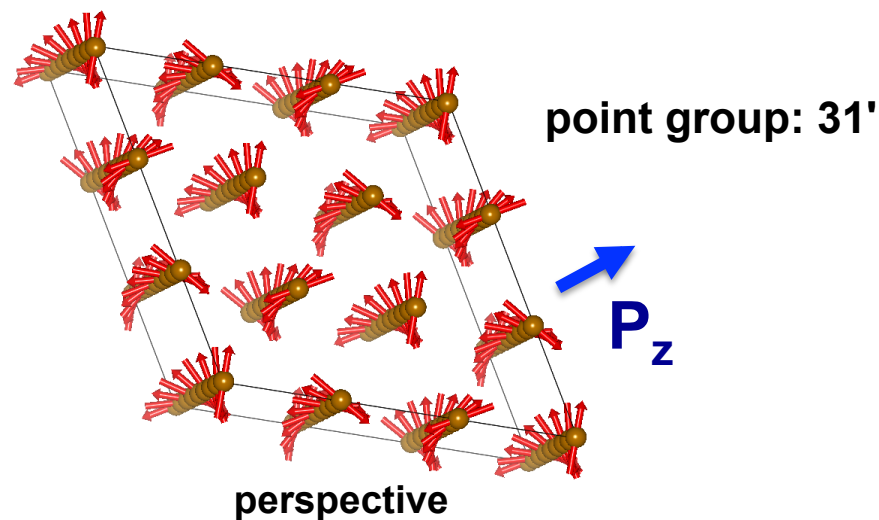
$$\{3_z^\pm \mid 000\frac{1}{3}\}$$

$$\longrightarrow M(x_4 + \frac{1}{3}) = 3_z^- \cdot M(x_4)$$

**atom 0:**  $M(x_4 = 0)$

**atom 1:**  $M(x_4 = k \cdot r_1 = \frac{1}{3}) = 3_z^- \cdot M(0)$

**atom 2:**  $M(x_4 = k \cdot r_2 = \frac{2}{3}) = 3_z^- \cdot M(\frac{1}{3})$



**CeCuAl<sub>3</sub> :** Superspace group: **I41'( 0 0  $\gamma$ ) qs** point group: **41'**

[magndata 1.1.33](#)

$$\mathbf{k} = (0\ 0\ 0.52)$$

Parent space group: **I4mm**

**helical configuration is symmetry dictated (and protected!):**

Ce site at (0,0,0) : invariant for  $\{ \mathbf{4}^+_{001} \mid 0\ 0\ 0\ 1/4 \}$

$$\mathbf{M}_\mu(R_I \mathbf{x}_4 + \tau_o + \mathbf{H}_R \cdot \mathbf{r}_V) = \theta \det(\mathbf{R}) \mathbf{R} \cdot \mathbf{M}_V(\mathbf{x}_4)$$

$$\{ \mathbf{4}^+_{001} \mid 0\ 0\ 0\ 1/4 \} \longrightarrow \mathbf{M}(\mathbf{x}_4 + 1/4) = \mathbf{4}^+_z \cdot \mathbf{M}(\mathbf{x}_4)$$

$$M_i(\mathbf{x}_4) = M_{i \sin 1} \sin(2\pi x_4) + M_{i \cos 1} \cos(2\pi x_4) \quad i=x,y,z$$

$$M_i(\mathbf{x}_4 + 1/4) = M_{i \sin 1} \cos(2\pi x_4) - M_{i \cos 1} \sin(2\pi x_4)$$

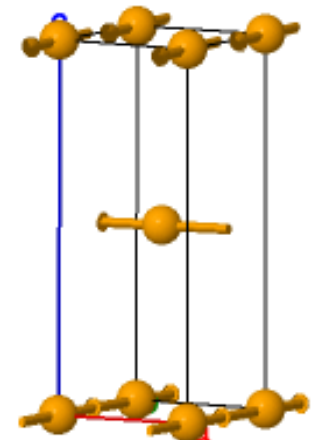
$$\mathbf{4}^+_z \cdot (M_x(\mathbf{x}_4), M_y(\mathbf{x}_4), M_z(\mathbf{x}_4)) = (-M_y(\mathbf{x}_4), M_x(\mathbf{x}_4), M_z(\mathbf{x}_4))$$

$$M_{z \sin 1} \sin(2\pi x_4) + M_{z \cos 1} \cos(2\pi x_4) = M_{z \sin 1} \cos(2\pi x_4) - M_{z \cos 1} \sin(2\pi x_4)$$

$$M_{z \sin 1} = M_{z \cos 1} = 0$$

$$-M_{y \sin 1} \sin(2\pi x_4) - M_{y \cos 1} \cos(2\pi x_4) = M_{x \sin 1} \cos(2\pi x_4) - M_{x \cos 1} \sin(2\pi x_4)$$

$$M_{y \cos 1} = -M_{x \sin 1} ; M_{x \cos 1} = M_{y \sin 1}$$

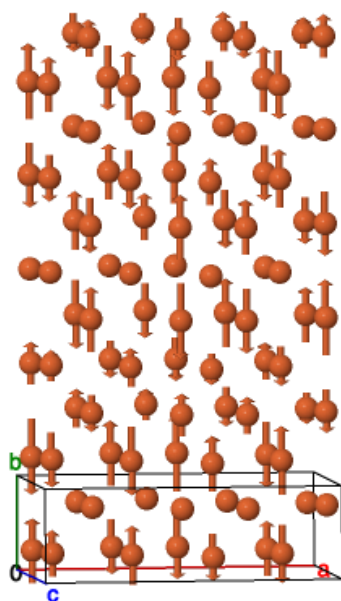




[magndata 1.1.5](#)

Superspace group: **Pnma1'( 0 β 0)000s**

The MSSG symmetry forces that modulations of independent atoms must be in phase



**Pnma** → **Pnma1'( 0 β 0)000s** β≈0.375

*Average atomic positions of symmetry independent atoms*

Label	Atom type	x	y	z	Multiplicity
Fe1	Fe	0.02100(15)	0.25	0.31350(19)	4
Fe2	Fe	0.06677(16)	0.25	0.53727(18)	4
Fe3	Fe	0.30580(17)	0.25	0.12471(18)	4
Fe4	Fe	0.31841(17)	0.25	0.72371(18)	4

$$\{m_{010} | 0 \ 1/2 \ 0 \ 0\} : x_1, -x_2 + 1/2, x_3, -x_4, +1$$

it fixes the global phase

$$M_{\mu}(-x_4) = -m_{010} \cdot M_{\mu}(x_4)$$

M<sub>x</sub>, M<sub>z</sub> : Sin

M<sub>y</sub>: Cos

*Magnetic moment modulation parameters of symmetry independent atoms*

Wave vector 1

in phase

Atom	Magnetic moment Fourier Cos coeffs						Magnetic moment Fourier Sin coeffs					
	Symmetry constraints			Numerical values			Symmetry constraints			Numerical values		
	x	y	z	x	y	z	x	y	z	x	y	z
Fe1	0	M <sub>y</sub> cos1	0	0.0	2.14	0.0	M <sub>x</sub> sin1	0	M <sub>z</sub> sin1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Fe2	0	M <sub>y</sub> cos1	0	0.0	1.55	0.0	M <sub>x</sub> sin1	0	M <sub>z</sub> sin1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Fe3	0	M <sub>y</sub> cos1	0	0.0	-1.83	0.0	M <sub>x</sub> sin1	0	M <sub>z</sub> sin1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Fe4	0	M <sub>y</sub> cos1	0	0.0	1.94	0.0	M <sub>x</sub> sin1	0	M <sub>z</sub> sin1	0.0	0.0	0.0



## Diffraction symmetry (non-polarized)

$$\mathbf{H} = h\mathbf{a}^* + k\mathbf{b}^* + l\mathbf{c}^* + m\mathbf{k} = (h, k, l, m)$$

**Magnetic diffraction at diffraction vector  $\mathbf{H}$  is proportional to the squared modulus of the component of  $F_M(\mathbf{H})$  perpendicular to  $\mathbf{H}$**

Consequences of a symmetry operation  $\{\mathbf{R}, \theta | \mathbf{t}, \tau_o\}$ :

non-magnetic:  $F(\mathbf{H}) = e^{i2\pi\mathbf{H} \cdot \mathbf{t}_s} F(\mathbf{H} \cdot \mathbf{R}_s)$       Intensity( $\mathbf{H} \cdot \mathbf{R}_s$ ) = Intensity( $\mathbf{H}$ )

magnetic:  $F_M(\mathbf{H}) = e^{i2\pi\mathbf{H} \cdot \mathbf{t}_s} \theta \det(\mathbf{R}) \mathbf{R} \cdot F_M(\mathbf{H} \cdot \mathbf{R}_s)$ ,      Intensity( $\mathbf{H} \cdot \mathbf{R}_s$ ) = Intensity( $\mathbf{H}$ )

axial vector

$\mathbf{H} \cdot \mathbf{t}_s$  represents  $ht_1 + kt_2 + lt_3 + m\tau_o$

$\mathbf{H} \cdot \mathbf{R}_s$  stands for  $(hklm) \cdot \mathbf{R}_s$

point-group symmetry  
in the diffraction diagram

**Systematic absences or extinction rules coming from superspace symmetry operations may occur when  $\mathbf{H} = \mathbf{H} \cdot \mathbf{R}_s$**

## Systematic Absence (Extinction rules)

$$H = ha^* + kb^* + lc^* + mk = (h, k, l, m)$$

### Extinction rules: (“trivial” cases)

$$\{1' | 0000\}$$

(non-magnetic structures)

$$F(H) = e^{i2\pi H \cdot t_s} F(H, R_S) \rightarrow F(H) = F(H)$$

no condition

$$F_M(H) = e^{i2\pi H \cdot t_s} \theta \det(R) R \cdot F_M(H, R_S) \rightarrow F_M(H) = -F_M(H)$$

zero!

$$\{1' | 0001/2\}$$

(all 1k magn. structures)

$$F(H) = e^{i\pi m} F(H)$$

absent m= odd

$$F_M(H) = -e^{i\pi m} F_M(H)$$

absent m= even

**Systematic absences or extinction rules coming from superspace symmetry operations:**

**To derive them for any MSSG: program MAGNEXT**

## Diffraction symmetry (non-polarized)

$$H = h\mathbf{a}^* + k\mathbf{b}^* + l\mathbf{c}^* + m\mathbf{k} = (h, k, l, m)$$

### Extinction rules:

$$\{2_x | 1/2 \ 0 \ 0 \ 1/2\} \quad F(h00m) = e^{i\pi(h+m)} \quad F(h00m) \rightarrow \text{absent } h+m = \text{odd}$$

$$\mathbf{k} = (\alpha, 0, 0) \quad F_M(h00m) = e^{i\pi(h+m)} \quad 2_x F_M(h00m) \rightarrow \begin{array}{l} h+m = \text{odd} \quad \mathbf{F}_M = (0, F_y, F_z) \\ h+m = \text{even} \quad \mathbf{F}_M = (F_x, 0, 0) \parallel \mathbf{H} \end{array}$$

Magnetic diffraction: **absent  $h+m = \text{even}$**

$$F(\mathbf{H}) = e^{i2\pi\mathbf{H} \cdot \mathbf{r}_s} F(\mathbf{H}, R_S)$$

$$F_M(\mathbf{H}) = e^{i2\pi\mathbf{H} \cdot \mathbf{r}_s} \theta \det(\mathbf{R}) \mathbf{R} \cdot \mathbf{F}_M(\mathbf{H}, R_S),$$

MAGNEXT provides systematic absences of magnetic diffraction for any (3+1) MSSG

# X-centerings: avoiding complex descriptions of the modulations

$$\mathbf{M}_\mu(\mathbf{R}_\mu \mathbf{x}_4 + \boldsymbol{\tau}_0 + \mathbf{H}_R \cdot \mathbf{r}_V) = \theta \det(\mathbf{R}) \mathbf{R} \cdot \mathbf{M}_V(\mathbf{x}_4)$$

$$\mathbf{H}_R \neq 0$$

Example:  $(\mathbf{a}^*, \mathbf{b}^*, \mathbf{c}^*)$   $\mathbf{k} = (\alpha, 1/2, 0)$  Indexation Bragg peaks:

$$(h, k, l, m) = (h, k, l) + m \mathbf{k}$$

Alternative with X centering:

$$(\mathbf{a}^*, \mathbf{b}^*/2, \mathbf{c}^*) \quad \mathbf{k}' = (\alpha, 0, 0)$$

$$(h, k', l, m') = (h, k', l) + m' \mathbf{k}'$$

$$k' = 2k \quad m' = m$$

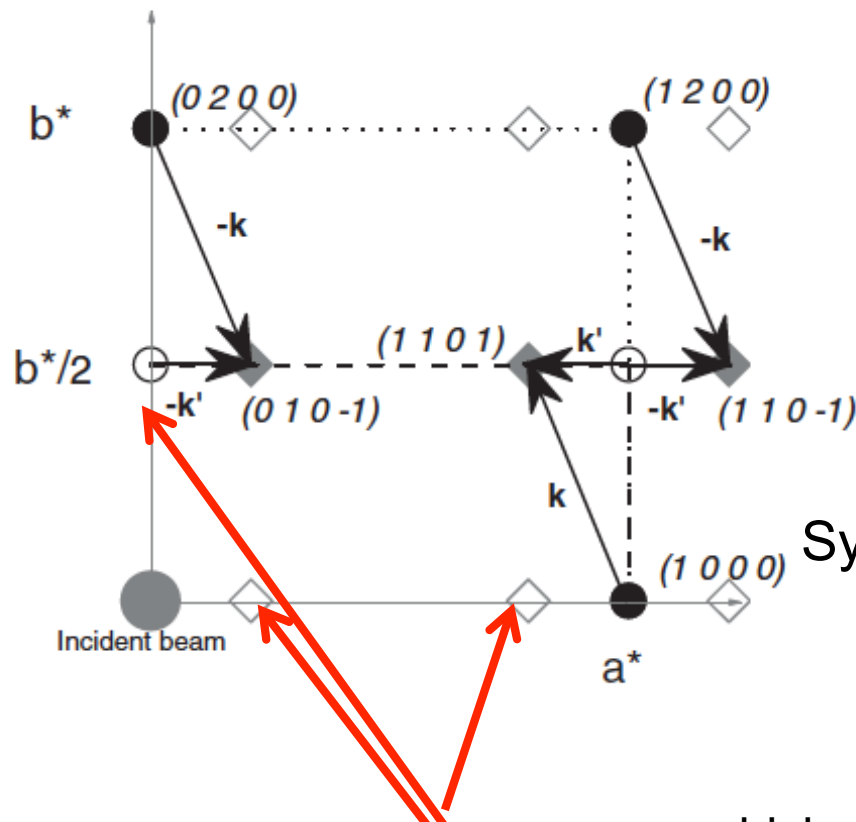
Systematic absence:  $(h, k', l, m'), k' + m' = \text{odd}$

working basic unit cell:  $(\mathbf{a}, 2\mathbf{b}, \mathbf{c})$

with centering operation:  $\{1' | 0, 1/2, 0\}$

which only means modulations of atoms separated by  $\mathbf{b}$  are in antiphase (as they should be):

$$\mathbf{M}_{i+\mathbf{b}}(\mathbf{x}_4 + 1/2) = \mathbf{M}_i(\mathbf{x}_4)$$



systematic absences if indexed with  $\mathbf{b}^*/2$  and  $\mathbf{k}'$

*Acta Cryst.* (1980). A **36**, 399–408

## Symmetry of Incommensurate Crystal Phases. I. Commensurate Basic Structures

BY A. JANNER AND T. JANSSEN



### 9. Magnetic superspace groups

As shown by Overhauser (1962, 1968), the ground state of an electron gas in a crystal does not necessarily have a uniform spin and charge distribution, but may show charge-density waves (CDW) and/or spin-density waves (SDW). We have already seen that CDW's may lead to an incommensurate crystal phase. The same can occur in magnetic crystals through SDW's. Actually, incommensurability was discovered first in magnetic systems, and the canonical example of an

### 10. Magnetic superspace-group symmetry of Cr

Our analysis is based on those of Tsunoda, Mori, Kunitomi, Teraoka & Kanamori (1974), Eagen & Werner (1975) and Pynn, Press & Shapiro (1976). For less recent references the reader is referred to the review

In the  $AF_2$  phase  $\mathbf{S}(\mathbf{k})$  is parallel to the  $z$  axis and left invariant [according to (72)] by  $(4_z, 1)$  and  $(m_x, 1)'$ . Again, if the phase relation (84) holds, then it is also left invariant by  $(m_z, \bar{1})$ . In this case the magnetic superspace group for the  $AF_2$  phase is

$$M_{AF_2} = P I_{\substack{p \\ b1}}^4 / \substack{m' \\ \bar{1} \ 1 \ 1} m' \quad (86)$$

**Magnetic superspace groups  
were proposed from the very “beginning”**

## IUCr Ewald Prize to Janner and Janssen



Netherlands, have been awarded the tenth Ewald Prize, 'for the development of superspace crystallography and its application to the analysis of aperiodic crystals'. The award will be presented on August 5, 2014, at the opening ceremony of the IUCr congress in Montreal, Canada.

Aperiodic crystals are well ordered materials that lack translational lattice periodicity. One of the most famous examples of an aperiodic crystal is calaverite, a gold telluride mineral discovered in the gold mines of California. At the beginning of the 1900's, mineralogists had noticed that the morphology of calaverite's crystal faces did not follow the accepted empirical rule of crystal growth (Haüy's law of rational indices). The diffraction patterns of calaverite also departed from those of a perfect crystal, then defined as an ordered and periodic arrangement of atoms in space. De Wolff linked these spots to the absence of lattice periodicity in  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  crystals. He described these crystals as 'incommensurately modulated structures' - they are superimpositions of basic periodic structures, with a symmetry that can be described by a three-dimensional space group. Janner and Janssen, who were investigating the relationship between symmetry and physical properties in condensed matter, began collaboration with de Wolff. Together they conceived and developed the 'super space' theory, publishing the first complete list of (3+1)-dimensional super space groups in 1981. De Wolff, Janner and Janssen shared the 1998 Gregori Aminoff Prize awarded by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

Janner and Janssen have dedicated more than thirty years to expanding the theoretical treatment of aperiodic crystals. They laid the groundwork for the development of methods to solve and refine the structure of aperiodic crystals, with applications from condensed matter physics to structural biology. Their superspace formalism also applies to the analysis of quasicrystals, a specific class of aperiodic crystals, described in 1982 by Schechtman who won the 2011 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for the discovery. The award of the Ewald Prize to Janner and Janssen highlights the tremendous impact that their work has had on the development of crystallography.



T. W. J. M.  
(Ted) Janssen.



Aloysio Janner.

**Superspace symmetry became rapidly the most efficient approach (software developed!) for the characterization of incommensurate modulated non-magnetic structures and is nowadays routinely used**

But in general the community dedicated to the analysis of **magnetic structures** remained aside from superspace groups until the last decade...

**Why?**



Representation analysis had been taken as a “superior” alternative to magnetic symmetry groups, and it included incommensurate cases



*Acta Cryst.* (1968). A24, 217

## Representation Analysis of Magnetic Structures

BY E. F. BERTAUT

### *Abstract:*

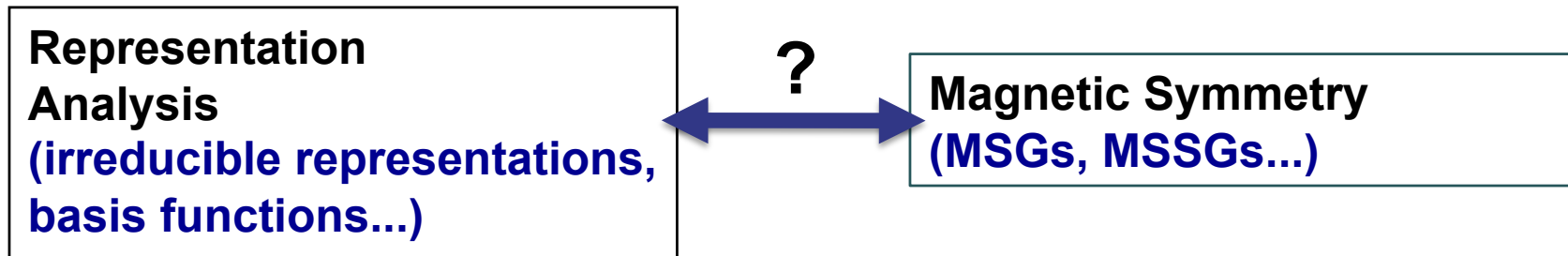
In the analysis of spin structures a ‘natural’ point of view looks for the set of symmetry operations which leave the magnetic structure invariant and has led to the development of magnetic or Shubnikov groups. A second point of view presented here simply asks for the transformation properties of a magnetic structure under the classical symmetry operations of the 230 conventional space groups and allows one to assign irreducible representations of the actual space group to all known magnetic structures. The superiority of representation theory over symmetry invariance under Shubnikov groups is already demonstrated by the fact proven here that the only invariant magnetic structures describable by magnetic groups belong to real one-dimensional representations of the 230 space groups. Representation theory on the other hand is richer because the number of representations is infinite, *i.e.* it can deal not only with magnetic structures belonging to one-dimensional real representations, but also with those belonging to one-dimensional complex and even to two-dimensional and three-dimensional representations associated with any  $\mathbf{k}$  vector in or on the first Brillouin zone.

We generate from the transformation matrices of the spins a representation  $\Gamma$  of the space group

It includes incommensurate magnetic structures...

## Representation analysis vs magnetic symmetry

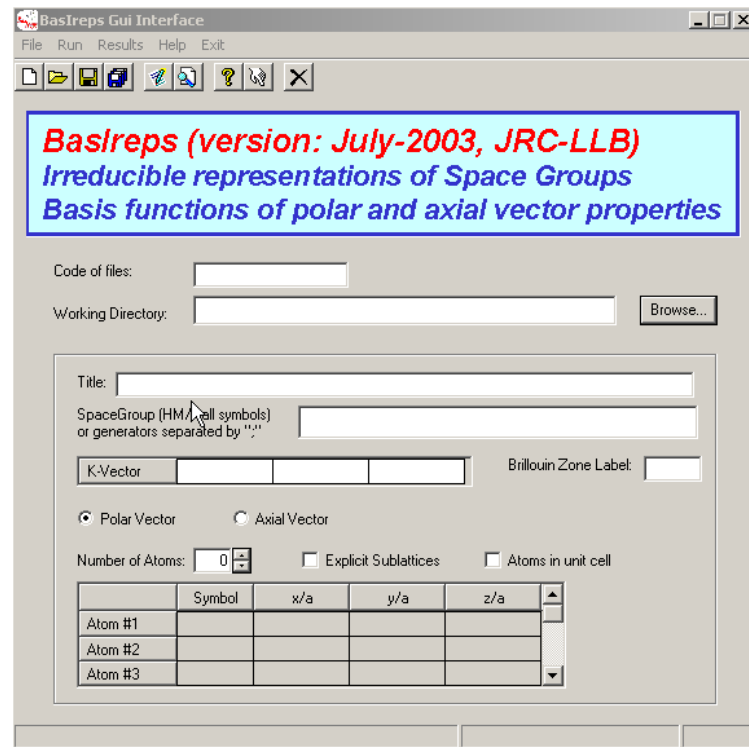
Commensurate magnetic structures:



They are not equivalent: in general several MSGs or MSSGs may be possible for the same irrep.

**But computer tools for applying magnetic superspace groups were not developed until 2009-2010...**

Computer programs for representation analysis were soon available:



from J. Rodriguez-Carvajal



#### SARAh Representational Analysis -

Performs the calculations of Representational Analysis. These allow the determination of atomic displacements or magnetic structures that can accompany a second-order phase transition. Output files includes a tailored summary with cut-and-paste tables written in LaTeX. (Win9x, 2000, Vista and Windows 7) [1]

from A.S. Wills

Once the representation approach became the most used method of analysis, most magnetic structures were determined and reported without the assignment of a space (or superspace) group symmetry,

## Representation analysis vs superspace magnetic symmetry

How to calculate the superspace group (single- $\mathbf{k}$  structures) for an irrep magnetic mode:

(isotropy subgroups (*epikernels and kernel*) of an irrep)

Global (complex) amplitudes of a frozen sinusoidal spin wave with propagation vector  $\mathbf{k}$ :

$$M(\mu, l) = \sum_{i=1, \dots, N} S_i(\mathbf{k}) \sigma_i(\mu) e^{-i 2 \pi \mathbf{k} \cdot (l + \mathbf{r}_\mu)} + S_i(-\mathbf{k}) \sigma_i^*(\mu) e^{i 2 \pi \mathbf{k} \cdot (l + \mathbf{r}_\mu)}$$

**Generalized invariance equation:**

$(\mathbf{R}, \theta | \mathbf{t}, \tau)$  belongs to superspace group if :

$(\mathbf{R} | \mathbf{t})$  is an operation of the grey paramagnetic space group that either keeps  $\mathbf{k}$  invariant or transforms it into  $-\mathbf{k}$

phase shift

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 e^{i 2 \pi \tau} & 0 \\ 0 & 1 e^{-i 2 \pi \tau} \end{bmatrix}$$

Additional term in an incommensurate phase

magnetic space group operation with  $\mathbf{R}\mathbf{q} = \pm \mathbf{q}$  (transformation represented by a  $N \times N$  matrix)

$$T[(\mathbf{R}, \theta | \mathbf{t})] \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{S}(\mathbf{k}) \\ \mathbf{S}(-\mathbf{k}) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{S}(\mathbf{k}) \\ \mathbf{S}(-\mathbf{k}) \end{bmatrix}$$

N-dim

small irrep

$T[(\mathbf{R}, \theta | \mathbf{t})] : 2N \times 2N$  matrices

Possible subgroups (isotropy subgroups) for any irrep are derived both by ISODISTORT ([stokes.byu.edu/isotropy.html](http://stokes.byu.edu/isotropy.html)) or by JANA2006

## Superspace magnetic symmetry produced by an irrep magnetic mode:

Generalized invariance equation:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1e^{i2\pi\tau} & 0 \\ 0 & 1e^{-i2\pi\tau} \end{bmatrix} T[(R|t)] \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{S}(k) \\ \mathbf{S}(-k) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{S}(k) \\ \mathbf{S}(-k) \end{bmatrix}$$

N-dim

↙

If the small irrep is 1-dim: only one global complex amplitude  $\mathbf{S}(k)$  for the spin wave, and a shift of this phase can always be included in the symmetry operation.

N = 1

one to one correspondance irrep – superspace group

But including  
operations  
changing  $k$  into  $-k$  !

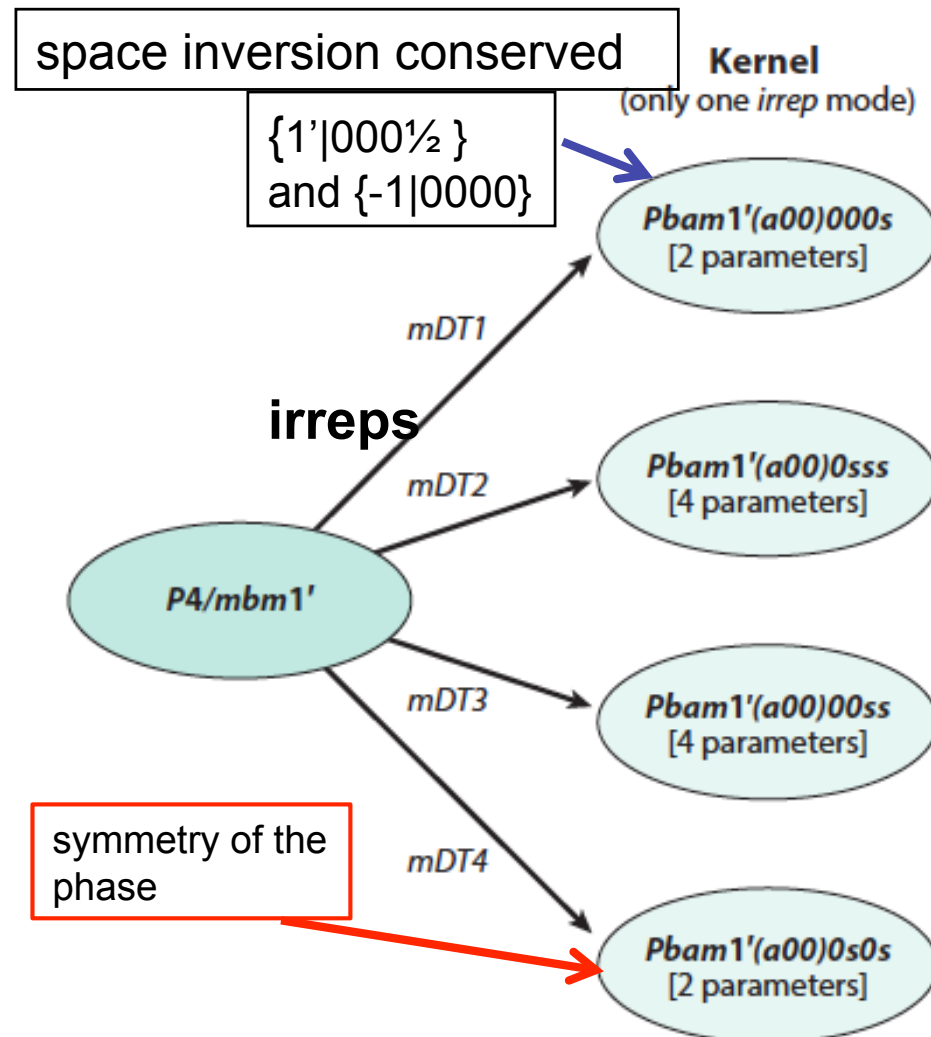
**Ce<sub>2</sub>Pd<sub>2</sub>Sn** [magndata 1.1.9](#)

**space inversion is maintained !**

superspace group:  $Pbam1'(\alpha 00)0s0s$

parent space group:  $P4/mbm$

$\mathbf{k} = (\alpha, 0, 0)$



## Superspace magnetic symmetry produced by an irrep magnetic mode:

Generalized invariance equation:

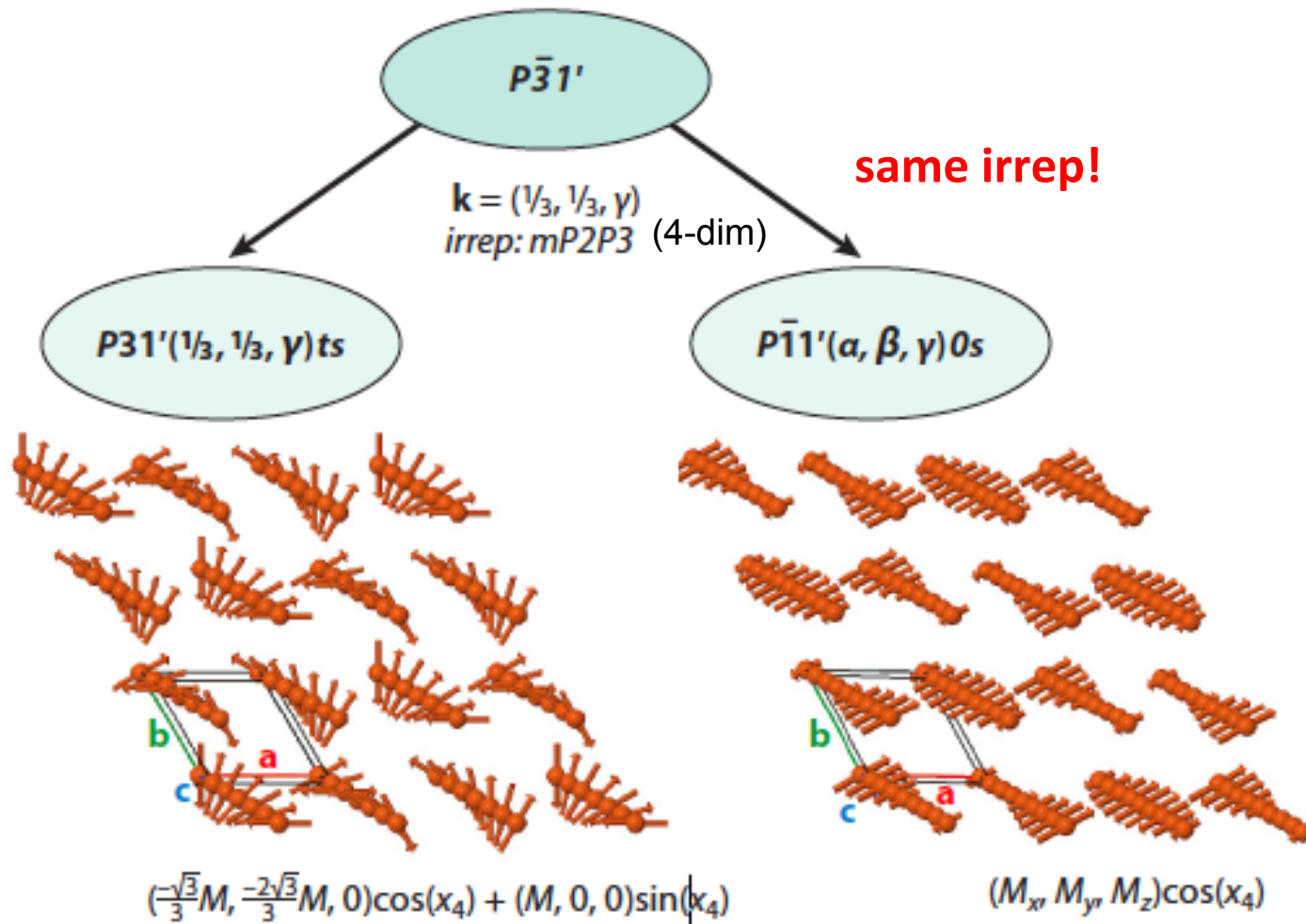
$$N > 1$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1e^{i2\pi\tau} & 0 \\ 0 & 1e^{-i2\pi\tau} \end{bmatrix} T[(\mathbf{R}|\mathbf{t})] \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{S}(\mathbf{k}) \\ \mathbf{S}(-\mathbf{k}) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{S}(\mathbf{k}) \\ \mathbf{S}(-\mathbf{k}) \end{bmatrix}$$

N-dim  
↙

One irrep with  $N > 1 \rightarrow$  several possible  
superspace groups

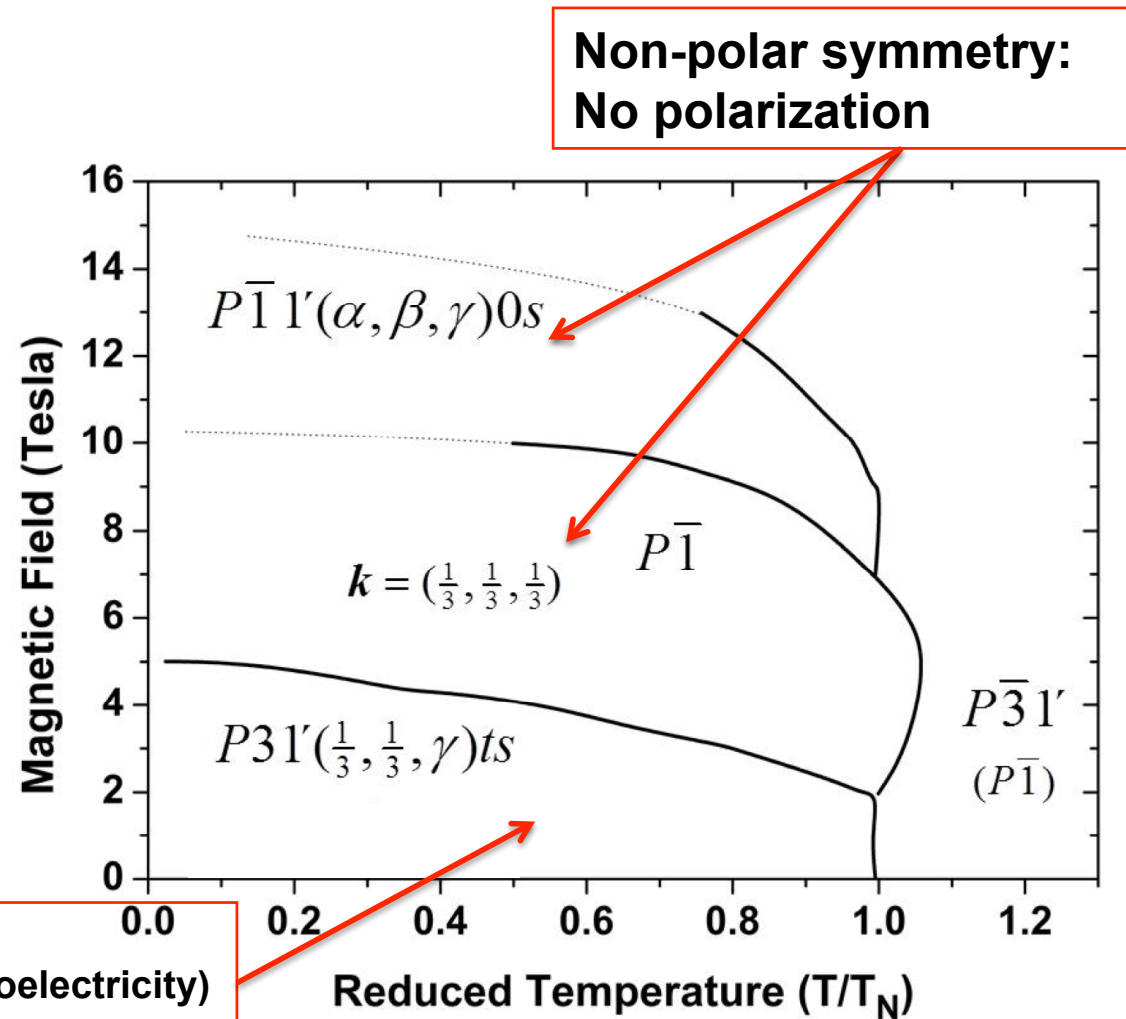
Another example: two possible higher alternative superspace symmetries for the same irrep.





**RbFe(MoO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub> :** A phase diagram with phases and symmetries caused by a single active 4-dim magnetic irrep

Magnetic field  
along [1,-1,0]



Polar symmetry:  
induced (improper ferroelectricity)  
Multiferroic phase

# Programs that determine the epikernels and kernel of any irrep, and produce magnetic structural models complying with them, using MSSGs

## Program for mode analysis:

### ISODISTORT

<http://stokes.byu.edu/iso/isotropy.php>

Stokes & Campbell, Provo

Version 6.1.8, November 2014

Harold T. Stokes, Branton J. Campbell, and Dorian M. Hatch, Department of Physics and Astronomy, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, 84602, USA, stokes@byu.edu

**Description:** ISODISTORT is a tool for exploring the structural distortion modes of crystalline materials. It provides a user-friendly interface to many of the algorithms used by the [Isotropy Software Suite](#), allowing one to generate and explore distortion modes induced by irreducible representations of the parent space-group symmetry. It also provides a Java applet for visualizing and interactively manipulating the free parameters associated with these modes.

[Help](#), [Tutorials](#), [Version History](#)

**NOTICE:** Version 6.1 is a major new release. We appreciate your bug reports -- please send relevant input files along with the html page showing the failed output.

[Legacy copy of ISODISTORT version 5.6.1, August 2013](#)


Begin by entering the structure of parent phase: ?

[Get started quickly with a cubic perovskite parent.](#)

Import parent structure from a CIF structure file:   No file selected.

Both programs also support incommensurate cases, deriving epikernels and kernel of the irreps in the form of MSSGs, and corresponding magnetic models

## Program for structure refinement:



Institute of Physics <http://jana.fzu.cz/> V. Petricek, Prague  
Department of Structure Analysis  
Cukrovarnicka 10  
16253 Praha 6  
Czech Republic

Academy of Sciences | Institute of Physics  
Dept of Structure Analysis | Laboratory of Crystallography  
ECA-SIG#3 | [Contact Us](#)

**CRYSTALLOGRAPHIC COMPUTING SYSTEM FOR STANDARD AND MODULATED STRUCTURES**

Vaclav Petricek, Michal Dusek & Lukas Palatinus

**News**

January 24, 2015 **ABEPIDIC2015:** abstract submission deadline 30 April

## Beware when interpreting ISODISTORT output:

### ISODISTORT: order parameter direction

Space Group: 127 P4/mbm D4h-5, Lattice parameters: a=7.76200, b=7.76200, c=3.93000, alpha=90.00000, beta=90.00000, gamma=90.00000

Default space-group preferences: monoclinic axes a(b)c, monoclinic cell choice 1, orthorhombic axes abc, origin choice 2, hexagonal axes, SSG :

Ce1 4h (x,x+1/2,1/2), x=0.17810, Pd1 4g (x,x+1/2,0), x=0.37340, Pd2 4e (0,0,z), z=0.31900, occ=0.03100, Sn1 2a (0,0,0), occ=0.93800

Include strain, displacive ALL, magnetic Ce distortions

k point: DT (0,b,0), b=0.70000 (1 incommensurate modulation/2 arms)

IR: mDT1

can be misleading!

**1 Order Parameter  
with ANY OP direction (not (a,0))**

Finish selecting the distortion mode by choosing an order parameter direction ?



☒ P (a,0;0,0) 55.1.9.4.m354.2 Pcm1'(0,0,g)000s, basis={(1,0,0,0),(0,0,-1,0),(0,1,0,0),(0,0,0,1)}, origin=(0,0,0,0), s=1, i=2, k-active= (0,0.300,0)

☐ C (a,b;0,0) 26.1.9.1.m67.2 Pmc2\_11'(0,0,g)000s, basis={(0,0,1,0),(1,0,0,0),(0,1,0,0),(0,0,0,1)}, origin=(1/4,0,0,0), s=1, i=4, k-active= (0,0.300,0)

OK


**it requires 2 independent Order  
Parameters  
with the same irrep  
(Landau condition is not fulfilled)**

# Superspace magnetic symmetry tools and applications in the BCS :

Magnetic Symmetry and Applications	
<b>MGENPOS</b>	General Positions of Magnetic Space Groups
<b>MWYCKPOS</b>	Wyckoff Positions of Magnetic Space Groups
<b>MKVEC</b> 	The k-vector types and Brillouin zones of Magnetic Space Groups
<b>IDENTIFY MAGNETIC GROUP</b>	Identification of a Magnetic Space Group from a set of generators in an arbitrary setting
<b>BNS2OG</b>	Transformation of symmetry operations between BNS and OG settings
<b>mCIF2PCR</b>	Transformation from mCIF to PCR format (FullProf).
<b>MPOINT</b>	Magnetic Point Group Tables
<b>MAGNEXT</b>	Extinction Rules of Magnetic Space Groups
<b>MAXMAGN</b>	Maximal magnetic space groups for a given space group and a propagation vector
<b>MAGMODELIZE</b>	Magnetic structure models for any given magnetic symmetry
<b>STRCONVERT</b>	Convert & Edit Structure Data (supports the CIF, mCIF, VESTA, VASP formats -- with magnetic information where available)
<b>k SUBGROUPSMAG</b>	Magnetic subgroups consistent with some given propagation vector(s) or a supercell
<b>MAGNDATA</b>	A collection of magnetic structures with portable cif-type files
<b>MVISUALIZE</b>	3D Visualization of magnetic structures with Jmol
<b>MTENSOR</b> 	Symmetry-adapted form of crystal tensors in magnetic phases
<b>MAGNETIC REP.</b>	Decomposition of the magnetic representation into irreps
<b>Get_mirreps</b>	Irreps and order parameters in a paramagnetic space group- magnetic subgroup phase transition

# MAGNEXT: Magnetic diffraction systematic absences

## Magnetic Symmetry and Applications

<b>MGENPOS</b>	General Positions of Magnetic Space Groups
<b>MWYCKPOS</b>	Wyckoff Positions of Magnetic Space Groups
<b>MKVEC</b> ⚠	The k-vector types and Brillouin zones of Magnetic Space Groups
<b>IDENTIFY MAGNETIC GROUP</b>	Identification of a Magnetic Space Group from a set of generators in an arbitrary setting
<b>BNS2OG</b>	Transformation of symmetry operations between BNS and OG settings
<b>mCIF2PCR</b>	Transformation from mCIF to PCR format (FullProf).
<b>MPOINT</b>	Magnetic Point Group Tables
 <b>MAGNEXT</b>	Extinction Rules of Magnetic Space Groups
<b>MAXMAGN</b>	Maximal magnetic space groups for a given space group and a propagation vector
<b>MAGMODELIZE</b>	Magnetic structure models for any given magnetic symmetry
<b>STRCONVERT</b>	Convert & Edit Structure Data (supports the CIF, mCIF, VESTA, VASP formats -- with magnetic information where available)
<b>k-SUBGROUPSMAG</b>	Magnetic subgroups consistent with some given propagation vector(s) or a supercell
<b>MAGNDATA</b>	A collection of magnetic structures with portable cif-type files
<b>MVISUALIZE</b>	3D Visualization of magnetic structures with Jmol
<b>MTENSOR</b> ⚠	Symmetry-adapted form of crystal tensors in magnetic phases
<b>MAGNETIC REP.</b>	Decomposition of the magnetic representation into irreps
<b>Get_mirreps</b>	Irreps and order parameters in a paramagnetic space group- magnetic subgroup phase transition

## MAGNEXT: Magnetic Systematic Absences

inction rules for  
any Shubnikov magnetic

be obtained introducing the  
l for this purpose at the  
pted form of the structure

r a set of generators in any  
patible with a set of  
or a superspace group

### Option A: Systematic absences for a magnetic space group in standard settings

Magnetic Space Group number: Please, enter the label of group or

Standard/Default Setting

#### Other interfaces for alternative uses MAGNEXT are:


- **Option B:** For systematic absences for a magnetic space group **in any setting**, click [here](#)
- **Option C:** For a list of magnetic space groups **compatible with a given set of systematic absences**, click [here](#)
- For systematic absences for [magnetic superspace groups](#) click [here](#)

*also for incommensurate magnetic structures from  
the input of its superspace group operations*



# MTENSOR: Symmetry-adapted form of crystal tensors properties of magnetic crystals. **Only the magnetic point group is relevant!**

## Magnetic Symmetry and Applications

<b>MGENPOS</b>	General Positions of Magnetic Space Groups
<b>MWYCKPOS</b>	Wyckoff Positions of Magnetic Space Groups
<b>MKVEC</b> ⚠	The k-vector types and Brillouin zones of Magnetic Space Groups
<b>IDENTIFY MAGNETIC GROUP</b>	Identification of a Magnetic Space Group from a set of generators in an arbitrary setting
<b>BNS2OG</b>	Transformation of symmetry operations between BNS and OG settings
<b>mCIF2PCR</b>	Transformation from mCIF to PCR format (FullProf).
<b>MPOINT</b>	Magnetic Point Group Tables
<b>MAGNEXT</b>	Extinction Rules of Magnetic Space Groups
<b>MAXMAGN</b>	Maximal magnetic space groups for a given space group and a propagation vector
<b>MAGMODELIZE</b>	Magnetic structure models for any given magnetic symmetry
<b>STRCONVERT</b>	Convert & Edit Structure Data (supports the CIF, mCIF, VESTA, VASP formats -- with magnetic information where available)
<b>k-SUBGROUPSMAG</b>	Magnetic subgroups consistent with some given propagation vector(s) or a supercell
<b>MAGNDATA</b>	A collection of magnetic structures with portable cif-type files
<b>MVISUALIZE</b>	3D Visualization of magnetic structures with Jmol
 <b>MTENSOR</b> ⚠	Symmetry-adapted form of crystal tensors in magnetic phases
<b>MAGNETIC REP.</b>	Decomposition of the magnetic representation into irreps
<b>Get_mirreps</b>	Irreps and order parameters in a paramagnetic space group- magnetic subgroup phase transition

# MTENSOR

## Magnetoelectric tensor:

Group 6/m' (#23.4.85)

$\alpha_{ij}^T$		j		
i		1	2	3
	1	$\alpha_{11}^T$	$\alpha_{12}^T$	0
	2	$-\alpha_{12}^T$	$\alpha_{11}^T$	0
	3	0	0	$\alpha_{33}^T$

Number of independent coefficients: 3

Group 622 (#24.1.87)

$\alpha_{ij}^T$		j		
i		1	2	3
	1	$\alpha_{11}^T$	0	0
	2	0	$\alpha_{11}^T$	0
	3	0	0	$\alpha_{33}^T$

Number of independent coefficients: 2

Group 62'2' (#24.4.90)

$\alpha_{ij}^T$		j		
i		1	2	3
	1	0	$\alpha_{12}^T$	0
	2	$-\alpha_{12}^T$	0	0
	3	0	0	0

Number of independent coefficients: 1

Group 6mm (#25.1.91)

$\alpha_{ij}^T$		j		
i		1	2	3
	1	0	$\alpha_{12}^T$	0
	2	$-\alpha_{12}^T$	0	0
	3	0	0	0

Number of independent coefficients: 1

Group 6m'm' (#25.4.94)

$\alpha_{ij}^T$		j		
i		1	2	3
	1	$\alpha_{11}^T$	0	0
	2	0	$\alpha_{11}^T$	0
	3	0	0	$\alpha_{33}^T$

Number of independent coefficients: 2

Group -6'm'2 (#26.3.97)

$\alpha_{ij}^T$		j		
i		1	2	3
	1	$\alpha_{11}^T$	0	0
	2	0	$\alpha_{11}^T$	0
	3	0	0	$\alpha_{33}^T$

Number of independent coefficients: 2

Group -6'm'2' (#26.4.98)

$\alpha_{ij}^T$		j		
i		1	2	3
	1	0	$\alpha_{12}^T$	0
	2	$-\alpha_{12}^T$	0	0
	3	0	0	0

Number of independent coefficients: 1


Group 6/m'mm (#27.3.102)

$\alpha_{ij}^T$		j		
i		1	2	3
	1	0	$\alpha_{12}^T$	0
	2	$-\alpha_{12}^T$	0	0
	3	0	0	0

Number of independent coefficients: 1



# Superspace magnetic symmetry tools and applications in the BCS :

Magnetic Symmetry and Applications	
<b>MGENPOS</b>	General Positions of Magnetic Space Groups
<b>MWYCKPOS</b>	Wyckoff Positions of Magnetic Space Groups
<b>MKVEC</b> ⚠	The k-vector types and Brillouin zones of Magnetic Space Groups
<b>IDENTIFY MAGNETIC GROUP</b>	Identification of a Magnetic Space Group from a set of generators in an arbitrary setting
<b>BNS2OG</b>	Transformation of symmetry operations between BNS and OG settings
<b>mCIF2PCR</b>	Transformation from mCIF to PCR format (FullProf).
<b>MPOINT</b>	Magnetic Point Group Tables
<b>MAGNEXT</b>	Extinction Rules of Magnetic Space Groups
<b>MAXMAGN</b>	Maximal magnetic space groups for a given space group and a propagation vector
<b>MAGMODELIZE</b>	Magnetic structure models for any given magnetic symmetry
<b>STRCONVERT</b>	Convert & Edit Structure Data (supports the CIF, mCIF, VESTA, VASP formats -- with magnetic information where available)
<b>k-SUBGROUPSMAG</b>	Magnetic subgroups consistent with some given propagation vector(s) or a supercell
 <b>MAGNDATA</b>	A collection of magnetic structures with portable cif-type files
<b>MVISUALIZE</b>	3D Visualization of magnetic structures with Jmol
<b>MTENSOR</b> ⚠	Symmetry-adapted form of crystal tensors in magnetic phases
<b>MAGNETIC REP.</b>	Decomposition of the magnetic representation into irreps
<b>Get_mirreps</b>	Irreps and order parameters in a paramagnetic space group- magnetic subgroup phase transition

**MAGNDATA: Database with CIF files of magnetic structures both commensurate and incommensurate, using MSGs and MSSGs**

# MAGNDATA: A Collection of magnetic structures with portable cif-type files

[Log in](#)

> 140 incommensurate magnetic structures

## MAGNDATA: A collection of magnetic structures with portable cif-type files

A database of more than 300 published commensurate and incommensurate magnetic structures can be found here. The structures are described using magnetic symmetry (Shubnikov magnetic space groups) in the BNS

[View Full Database](#)

Element search (separate with space or comma):  AND ☐ OR

Enter the label of the structure:

## INCOMMENSURATE STRUCTURES

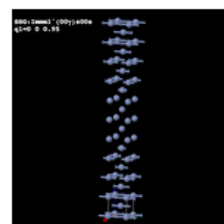
One propagation vector



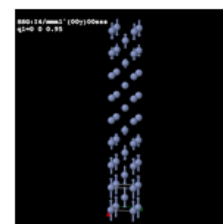
1.1.1  $\text{Cs}_2\text{CuCl}_4$



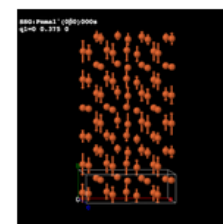
1.1.2  $\text{RbFe}(\text{MoO}_4)_2$



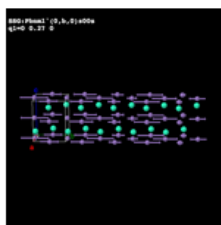
1.1.3  $\text{Cr}$



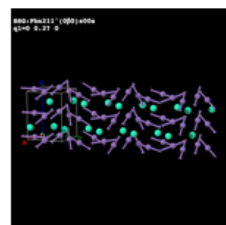
1.1.4  $\text{Cr}$



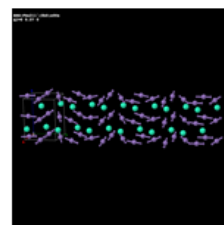
1.1.5  $\text{CaFe}_4\text{As}_3$



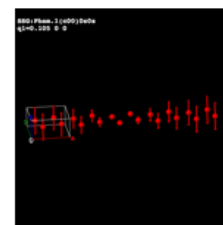
1.1.6  $\text{TbMnO}_3$



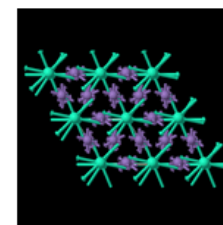
1.1.7  $\text{TbMnO}_3$



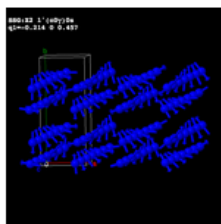
1.1.8  $\text{TbMnO}_3$



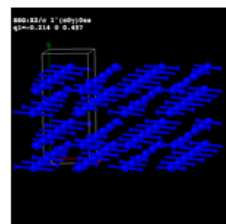
1.1.9  $\text{Ce}_2\text{Pd}_2\text{Sn}$



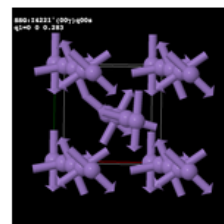
1.1.10  $\text{DyMn}_6\text{Ge}_6$



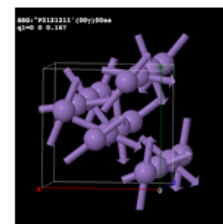
1.1.11  $\text{MnWO}_4$



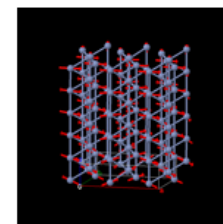
1.1.12  $\text{MnWO}_4$



1.1.13  $\text{MnAu}_2$



1.1.14  $\text{MnGe}$



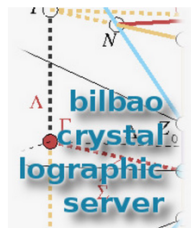
1.1.15  $\text{CaCr}_2\text{O}_4$

# Conclusions:

- *Properties of magnetic phases are constrained by their magnetic symmetry: a magnetic space group (if commensurate) or superspace group (if incommensurate).*
- *Whatever method one has employed to determine a magnetic structure, the final model should include its magnetic symmetry.*
- *Representation analysis of magnetic structures is NOT in general equivalent to the use of magnetic symmetry (i.e. to give an irrep is not equivalent to give the magnetic space (superspace) group of the system)*
- *The best approach in incommensurate structures: to combine magnetic symmetry and representation analysis*



# bilbao crystallographic server



**Crystallography Online: Workshop on the use of the structural and magnetic tools of the Bilbao Crystallographic Server**  
September 2021, Leioa (Spain)

**Forthcoming schools and workshops**

## News:

- **New Article in Nature**  
10/2020: Xu *et al.* "High-throughput calculations of magnetic topological materials" *Nature* (2020) **586**, 702-707.
- New programs: **MBANDREP**, **COREPRESENTATIONS**, **COREPRESENTATIONS PG**, **MCOMPAREL**, **MSITESYM**, **MKVEC**, Check Topological Magnetic Mat  
10/2020: new tools in the sections "Magnetic Symmetry and Applications" and "Representations and Applications". [More info](#)

Contact us

About us

Publications

How to cite the server

Space-group symmetry

Magnetic Symmetry and Applications

Group-Subgroup Relations of Space Groups

Representations and Applications

Solid State Theory Applications

Structure Utilities

Topological Quantum Chemistry

Subperiodic Groups: Layer, Rod and Frieze Groups

Structure Databases

Raman and Hyper-Raman scattering

Point group symmetries

**Quick access to some tables**

Space Groups

Plane Groups

Layer Groups

Rod Groups

Frieze Groups

2D Point Groups

3D Point Groups

Magnetic Space Groups

**Databases**

## Structure Databases

**B-IncStrDB** 

The Bilbao Incommensurate Crystal Structure Database

**MAGNDATA** 

A collection of magnetic structures with portable cif-type files

B-IncStrDB [Home](#) [Explore the database](#) [validate CIF](#) [Report an error](#) [About us](#)

**Fully Upgraded version!**

# The Bilbao Incommensurate Structures Database

## B-IncStrDB

This database is dedicated to incommensurate modulated and composite structures.

Commensurate structures described in the superspace formalism are also included.

The database currently hosts 255 entries (of which 44 are composites).

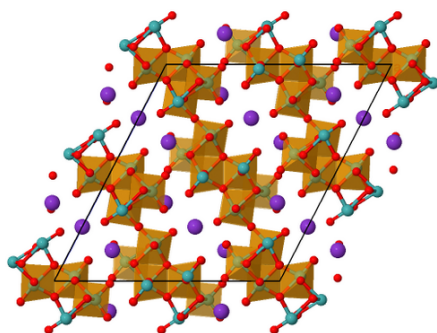
[Explore the database >](#)

# B-IncStrDB: The Bilbao Incommensurate Crystal Structure Database :

Author name  =  Search

Order by:

Search results: 255



Jmol

## The incommensurately modulated structure of the blue bronzes $K_{0.3}MoO_3$ and $Rb_{0.3}MoO_3$

**Authors:**

Schutte, W.J.; de Boer, J.L.

**Journal:**

*Acta Cryst. B* **49** 579-591 (1993)

**DOI:**

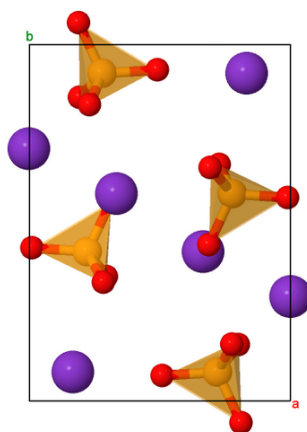
<https://doi.org/10.1107/S0108768192006578>

**Entry date:** 2010-11-08 **B-IncStrDB ID:** 472EPJlsw

[View entry](#)

[Download CIF](#)

[Open in JSmol](#)



Jmol

## Incommensurately Modulated Structure of $K_2SeO_4$

**Authors:**

Yamada, N.; Ikeda, T.

**Journal:**

*J. Phys. Soc. Jpn.* **53** 2555-2564 (1984)

**DOI:**

<https://doi.org/10.1143/JPSJ.53.2555>

**Entry date:** 2010-11-08 **B-IncStrDB ID:** 492E3r0gG

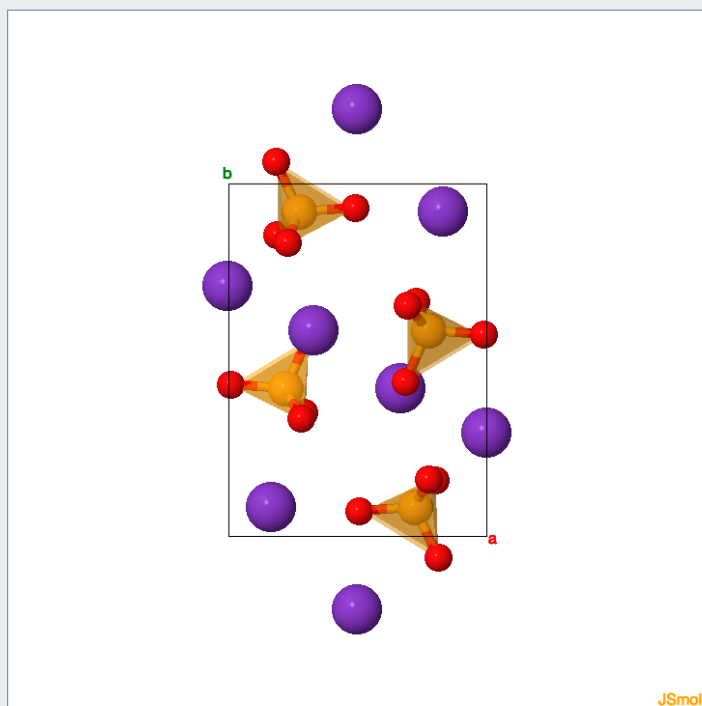
[View entry](#)

[Download CIF](#)

[Open in JSmol](#)

# 3D Visualization of modulated structures with JSmol

Structure code: 492E3r0gG



View Along Axis...

**Atoms**

**Modulation**

**Modulation scale**

**Vectors**

**Plot modulation**

**Window size**

**Phase sliding**

a:  b:  c:

**Draw bonds & polyhedra**

Join atom  with atom

from  to  Å

**Draw**

**Delete**

Jmol help

Jmol console

About the applet

Reload initial model