

PHYS485
Materials Physics

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EM Waves and the Lattice

- A plane wave $\vec{E}(\vec{r}, t) = \hat{n} \tilde{E}_0 e^{i(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{r} - \omega t)}$ travels through a Bravais lattice (set of points $\vec{R} = n_1 \vec{a}_1 + n_2 \vec{a}_2 + n_3 \vec{a}_3$)
- For certain choices of wavevector the wave will have the same periodicity as the lattice.
- The set of all wavevectors $\vec{G} = k_1 \vec{b}_1 + k_2 \vec{b}_2 + k_3 \vec{b}_3$ that yield plane waves with the periodicity of the Bravais lattice is known as the **reciprocal lattice**

The Reciprocal Lattice

- Motivation ...
- Recall the **Fourier Series**: any periodic function, $f(t)$, can be expanded in

$$f(t) = \frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} [a_n \cos(n\omega t) + b_n \sin(n\omega t)]$$

where $a_n = \frac{2}{T} \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} f(t) \cos(n\omega t) dt, \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$

$$b_n = \frac{2}{T} \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} f(t) \sin(n\omega t) dt, \quad n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

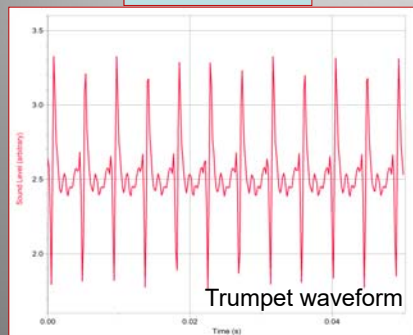
- The **Fourier Series** can also be written as

$$f(t) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} c_n e^{in\omega t} = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} c_n e^{i2\pi n t/T}, \quad n = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots$$

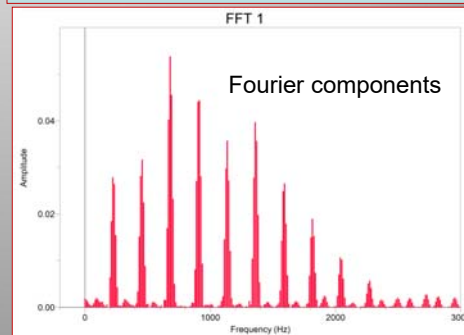
where $c_n = \frac{1}{T} \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} f(t) e^{-in\omega t} dt$

- One context: **sound**

“time domain”

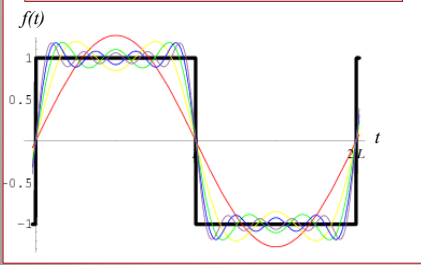


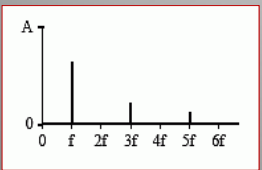
“Fourier space” or “frequency domain”



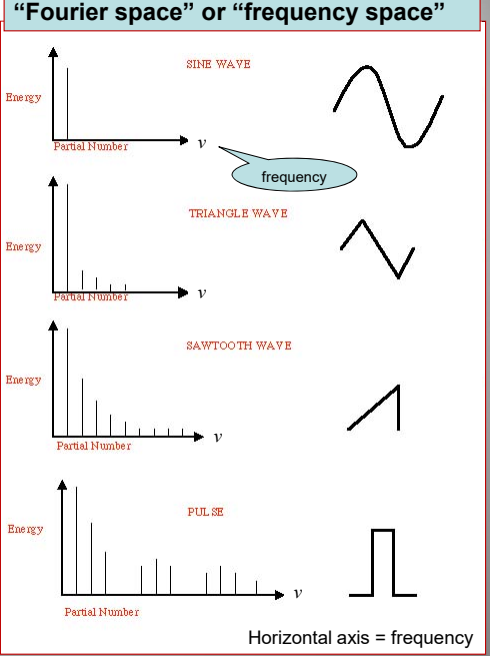
• Other examples:

“time space” or “time domain”



$$f(t) = \frac{4}{\pi} \sum_{n=1,3,5,\dots}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi t}{T}\right)$$


“Fourier space” or “frequency space”



Horizontal axis = frequency

The Lattice

- In a crystal the lattice vectors describe translational symmetry

$$\vec{R} = n_1 \vec{a}_1 + n_2 \vec{a}_2 + n_3 \vec{a}_3$$
- The **electron number density** is a periodic function

$$n(\vec{r} + \vec{R}) = n(\vec{r})$$
- So, in 1-D, we can write

$$n(x) = \sum_p n_p e^{i2\pi px/a}, \quad p = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots$$

where $n_{-p}^* = n_p$ and $n_p = \frac{1}{a} \int_0^a n(x) e^{-i2\pi px/a} dx$

The points $2\pi p/a$ are **reciprocal lattice points**

n affects scattering of photons, neutrons & electrons

The Reciprocal Lattice

- Since p indexes the *allowed* $2\pi p/a$ values (some have non-zero integrals) we can say that the **reciprocal lattice points** tell us the *allowed* terms in the Fourier series. A term is allowed if it is consistent with the periodicity of the Xtal!

- In 3-D, we need the set of all vectors, \vec{G} , such that

$$n(\vec{r}) = \sum_{\vec{G}} n_{\vec{G}} e^{i\vec{G}\cdot\vec{r}}$$

is invariant under all Xtal translations.

- The Fourier coefficients determine (X-ray) *scattering amplitude*. Inverting gives

$$n_{\vec{G}} = \frac{1}{V_{cell}} \int_{cell} dV n(\vec{r}) e^{i\vec{G}\cdot\vec{r}}$$

Reciprocal Lattice Vectors

- Look at the vectors, \vec{G}
- Construct axis vectors of the reciprocal lattice:

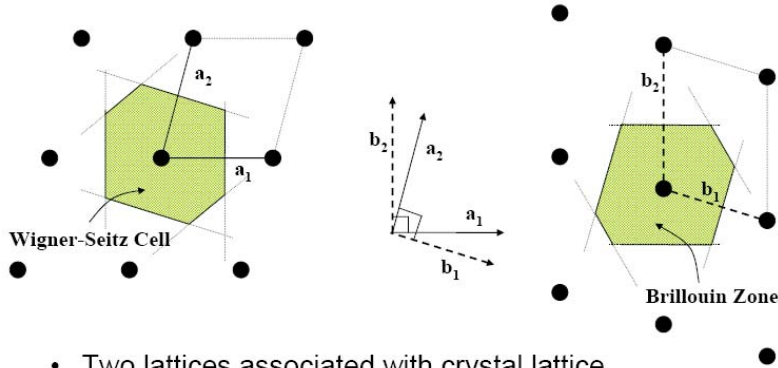
$$\vec{b}_1 = \frac{2\pi \vec{a}_2 \times \vec{a}_3}{\vec{a}_1 \cdot (\vec{a}_2 \times \vec{a}_3)} \quad \vec{b}_2 = \frac{2\pi \vec{a}_3 \times \vec{a}_1}{\vec{a}_2 \cdot (\vec{a}_3 \times \vec{a}_1)} \quad \vec{b}_3 = \frac{2\pi \vec{a}_1 \times \vec{a}_2}{\vec{a}_3 \cdot (\vec{a}_1 \times \vec{a}_2)}$$

Note that $\vec{a}_i \cdot \vec{b}_j = 2\pi \delta_{ij}$

For cubic lattice

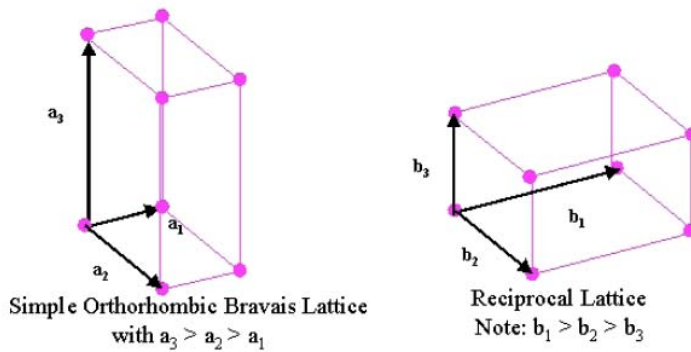
$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \vec{a}_i = a \hat{e}_i \\ \vec{b}_i = \frac{2\pi}{a} \hat{e}_i \end{array} \right.$$

Real & Reciprocal lattices in 2 D



- Two lattices associated with crystal lattice
- \mathbf{b}_1 perpendicular to \mathbf{a}_2 , \mathbf{b}_2 perpendicular to \mathbf{a}_1
- Wigner-Seitz cell of reciprocal lattice called the “First Brillouin Zone” or just “Brillouin Zone”

Three Dimensional Lattices Simplest examples

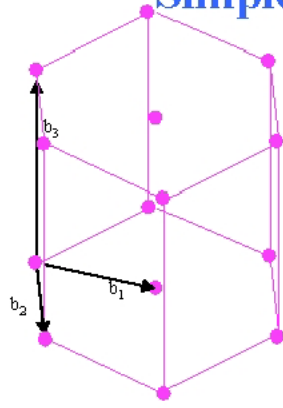


Simple Orthorhombic Bravais Lattice
with $a_3 > a_2 > a_1$

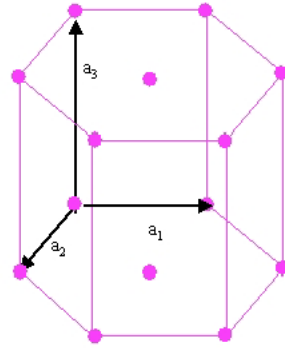
Reciprocal Lattice
Note: $b_1 > b_2 > b_3$

- Long lengths in real space imply short lengths in reciprocal space and vice versa

Three Dimensional Lattices Simplest examples

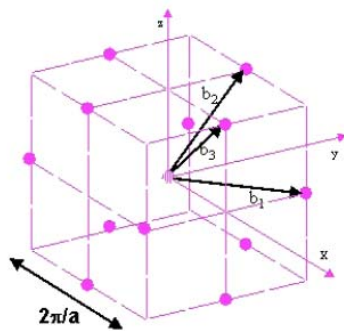


Reciprocal Lattice

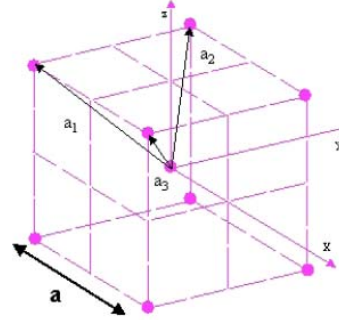


Hexagonal Bravais Lattice

Face Centered - Body Centered Cubic Reciprocal to one another



Reciprocal lattice is
Face Centered Cubic



Primitive vectors and the
conventional cell of bcc lattice

- Points in the reciprocal lattice are mapped by the **reciprocal lattice vectors**

$$\vec{G} = m_1 \vec{b}_1 + m_2 \vec{b}_2 + m_3 \vec{b}_3$$

where the m_i are integers.

Note that $\vec{a}_i \cdot \vec{G} = 2\pi m_i$

- For example, the SC lattice has

$$\vec{G} = m_1 \frac{2\pi}{a} \hat{i} + m_2 \frac{2\pi}{a} \hat{j} + m_3 \frac{2\pi}{a} \hat{k}$$

- These vectors are the ones in the Fourier series and have the desired X-tal invariance.

Reciprocal Lattice Vectors

- **Theorem:** For any family of lattice planes separated by a distance d , there are reciprocal lattice vectors perpendicular to the planes, the shortest of which have a length of $2\pi/d$.
- **Conversely**, for any reciprocal lattice vector, there is a family of lattice planes normal to it and separated by a distance d , where $2\pi/d$ is the length of the shortest reciprocal lattice vector parallel to them.

Diffraction with Real Atoms

- The amplitude of a scattered wave is given by

$$A \propto \left[\sum_R \exp(i\vec{R} \cdot \Delta\vec{k}) \right] \left[\sum_p f_{ap}(\theta) \exp(i\vec{r}_p \cdot \Delta\vec{k}) \right]$$

or $A \propto \sum_R e^{i\vec{R} \cdot \vec{G}} S_{\vec{k}}$ for **constructive interference**

[We'll show this shortly!]

[\vec{R} points to unit cells, \vec{r}_p to atoms in unit cell; \vec{r}' is the integration variable for e- density]

where $S_{\vec{G}} = \sum_p f_{ap}(\theta) e^{i\vec{G} \cdot \vec{r}_p}$ = geometric structure factor

$$f_{ap}(\theta) = f_e(\theta) \int_p \rho(\vec{r}') \exp(i\vec{r}' \cdot \Delta\vec{k}) d^3\vec{r}'$$

$f_{ap}(\theta)$ is the **atomic form factor** (atomic scattering function)

$f_e(\theta)$ is the **electron form factor** (electron scattering function)