

Examples of groups (continued)

Any rotation can be represented as a product of rotations in planes.

$$M = M_1 M_2 \dots M_n$$

$$\det M = 1$$

Orthogonal group in d dimensions: $O(d) = \mathcal{I} \otimes SO(d)$

What is \mathcal{I} in a general case?

It is a reflection of an odd number of axes!

Reflection of an even number of axes can be achieved by consecutive rotations over π in different planes (odd # of rotations):

$x_1, x_2 \rightarrow -x_1, -x_2 \equiv$ rotation by π in the (x_1, x_2) -plane.

$x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 \rightarrow -x_1, -x_2, -x_3, -x_4 \equiv x_1, x_2 \rightarrow -x_1, -x_2$, then $-x_2, x_3 \rightarrow x_2, -x_3$, then $x_2, x_4 \rightarrow -x_2, -x_4$.

Point groups

$O(d)$ leaves the origin of co-ordinates invariant.

Any subgroup of $O(d)$ has the same property and comprises a point group.

Trivial case:

$O(d')$, $SO(d')$, where $d' = 1, 2, \dots, d$, are subgroups of $O(d)$.

Subgroups are divided into the

1st kind: containing only rotations;

2nd kind: all the others (i.e., containing \tilde{M} with $\det \tilde{M} = -1$).

In what follows, we consider point groups in 3D, i.e., subgroups of $O(d)$.

The simplest case: C_n

There is a (directed) axis C in 3D. Then C_n is the group of rotations around C over angles, which are integer multiples of $2\pi/n$.

If we denote by c_n the rotation over $2\pi/n$, then

$$C_n = \{e, c_n, c_n^2, \dots, c_n^{n-1}\}.$$

Order of this point group = n . C_n is cyclic.

Let $C_n \subseteq G$

Then the axis C is called an axis of the n th order.

If G contains a rotation by π around an axis perpendicular to C or a rotation around C times reflection then c_n and c_n^{-1} are conjugate.

Two axes C and C' are equivalent if c'_n is conjugate to c_n or to c_n^{-1} . This is true, if G contains an element that transforms C to C' .

D_n This is a group that maps a right prism with an n -sided regular polygon base to itself. It has one axis C_n of the n th order and n axes u_i of the 2nd order orthogonal to C_n .

Rotation around each u_i maps C_n to itself.

c_n and c_n^{n-1} are conjugate; c_n^k and c_n^{n-k} are conjugate.

Axes $\left. \begin{array}{l} u_1, u_3, u_5, \dots \text{ are equivalent} \\ u_2, u_4, u_6, \dots \text{ are equivalent} \end{array} \right\}$ by rotation around C_n

If n is odd, then all $u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4, \dots$ are equivalent.

Classes: n even

$$\{e\}, \{c_1, c_n^{n-1}\}, \dots, \{c_n^{n/2-1}, c_n^{n/2+1}\}, \{c_n^{n/2}\}, \{u_1, u_3, \dots\}, \{u_2, u_4, \dots\}$$

$$q(D_n) = \frac{1}{2}n + 3$$

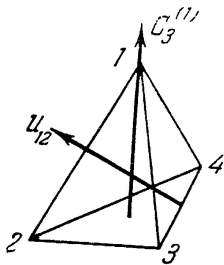
n odd

$$\{e\}, \{c_1, c_n^{n-1}\}, \dots, \{c_n^{(n-1)/2}, c_n^{(n+1)/2}\}, \{u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4, \dots\}$$

$$q(D_n) = \frac{1}{2}(n + 3)$$

T

The tetrahedral group is a rotational symmetry group of the regular tetrahedron. Order = 12.



Axes $C_3^{(i)}$, $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$, are equivalent, but unidirectional.
2nd-order axes u_{ik} are equivalent.

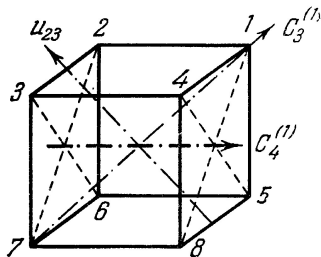
Four classes:

$$\{e\}, \{C_3^{(1)}, \dots, C_3^{(4)}\}, \{C_3^{(1)2}, \dots, C_3^{(4)2}\}, \{u_{12}, u_{13}, u_{23}\}$$

O

The octahedral group is a rotational symmetry group of the cube.

Order = 24. O is isomorphic to S_4 .



$$\left. \begin{array}{l} C_3^{(i)}, \quad i = 1, 2, 3, 4 \\ C_4^{(i)}, \quad i = 1, 2, 3 \end{array} \right\} \text{two - directional}$$

2nd-order axes: $u_{12}, u_{23}, u_{34}, u_{41}, u_{26}, u_{37}$

Classes:

$$\{e\}, \{C_4^{(i)}, C_4^{(i)3}\}, \{C_4^{(i)2}\}, \{C_3^{(i)}, C_3^{(i)2}\}, \{u_{ik}\}$$

/ (alternative notation: Y)

The icosahedral group is the rotational symmetry group of both the regular dodecahedron and the regular icosahedron.

Order = 60

Classes:

$$\{e\}, \{c_5^{(i)}, c_5^{(i)4}\}, \{c_5^{(i)2}, c_5^{(i)3}\}, \{c_3^{(j)}, c_3^{(j)2}\}, \{c_2^{(k)}\}$$

$$i = 1, \dots, 6; \quad j = 1, \dots, 10; \quad k = 1, \dots, 15$$

This is a full list of the finite point groups of the 1st kind.

Limit $n \rightarrow \infty$

C_∞ – trivial (rotations in 2D);

$D_\infty = C_n \otimes U$, where U is a group of rotations around a 2nd-order axis $u \perp C_\infty$

Finite point groups of the 1st kind: Summary

Group Order # of classes

C_n	n	n
D_n	$2n$	$\frac{n}{2} + 3$, , $n = 2k$
		$\frac{n+3}{2}$, , $n = 2k + 1$
T	12	4
O	24	5
Y	60	5

Point groups of the 2nd kind

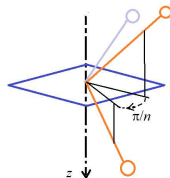
S_{2n}

$2n$ -fold rotation-reflection symmetry group (not to be confused with the group of permutations!)

S_{2n} is a cyclic group of order $2n$:

$$e, s_{2n}, s_{2n}^2, \dots, s_{2n}^{2n-1}.$$

$$\{e, s_{2n}^2, s_{2n}^4, \dots, s_{2n}^{2n-2}\} = C_n \subset S_{2n}$$



C_{nh}

Rotations and rotation-reflections over angles
(integer) $\times 2\pi/n$

Order = $2n$. Elements:

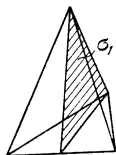
$$c_n^k, \sigma_h c_n^k = s(2\pi k/n), \quad k = 0, 1, \dots, n-1,$$

σ_h is the reflection in the horizontal ($\perp C_n$) plane.

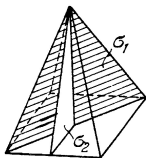
Each class consists of only one element.

Group of symmetry of a regular n -gonal pyramid.

n odd



n even



One rotation axis of the order n and n “vertical” (i.e., containing this axis) reflection planes.

C_{nv} and D_n are isomorphous:

$$C_n^k \leftrightarrow C_n^k, \quad \sigma_{k+1} \leftrightarrow u_{k+1}, \quad k = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n-1.$$

Isomorphism \Rightarrow the same number of classes,

$$q(C_{nv}) = \frac{n}{2} + 3, \quad n \text{ even}; \quad q(C_{nv}) = \frac{n+3}{2}, \quad n \text{ odd}$$

D_{nh}

Group of symmetry of a regular n -sided prism.

$4n$ elements: $2n$ elements of C_{nh} ;

n horizontal 2nd-order axes u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n ;

n vertical reflection planes $\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \dots, \sigma_n$.

The axis C_n is two-directional. Therefore, the rotations are distributed into classes in the same way as in the group C_{nv} .

The same is true for rotation-reflections $\sigma_h C_n^k$.

Other classes:

n even:

$$\{\sigma_1, \sigma_3, \dots, \sigma_{n-1}\}, \{\sigma_2, \sigma_4, \dots, \sigma_n\},$$

$$\{u_1, u_3, \dots, u_{n-1}\}, \{u_2, u_4, \dots, u_n\}.$$

n odd:

$$\{\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \sigma_3, \dots, \sigma_{n-1}, \sigma_n\}, \{u_1, u_2, u_3, \dots, u_{n-1}, u_n\}.$$

Classes in total:

$$q(D_{nh}) = n + 10, \quad n \text{ even}; \quad q(D_{nh}) = n + 5, \quad n \text{ odd}$$

D_{nd}

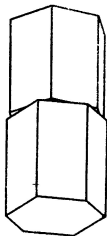
Group of symmetry of two regular n -sided prisms, put on top of each other and rotated by π/n with respect to each other.

$4n$ elements: $2n$ elements of \mathcal{S}_{2n} ;

n horizontal 2nd-order axes u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n ;

n vertical reflection planes $\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \dots, \sigma_n$,

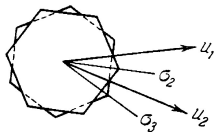
see the bottom figure.



Classes:

$\{e\}, \{s_{2n}, s_{2n}^{2n-1}\}, \dots, \{s_{2n}^{n-1}, s_{2n}^{n+1}\}, \{s_{2n}^n\},$

$\{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n\}, \{\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \dots, \sigma_n\}$



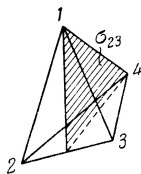
$$q(D_{nd}) = n + 3$$

T_d

Group of symmetry of a tetrahedron.

All edges have
the same length

24 elements: 12 elements of the group T ;
6 reflections w. resp. to planes
 $\sigma_{12}, \sigma_{13}, \sigma_{14}, \sigma_{23}, \sigma_{24}, \sigma_{34}$;
 $2 \times 3 = 6$ rotation-reflections
 s_4, s_4^3 around each of the
three 2nd-order axes.



Five classes:

$$\{e\}, \{c_3^{(i)}, c_3^{(i)2}\}, \{u_{ik}\}, \{s_4^{(ik)}, s_4^{(ik)3}\}, \{\sigma_{ik}\},$$

$$\# \text{ of elements} \quad 1 \quad + \quad 8 \quad + \quad 3 \quad + \quad 6 \quad + \quad 6 \quad = \quad 24$$

with all relevant i, k within a class.

T_h

$T_h = \mathcal{I} \otimes T$, where \mathcal{I} is the group of inversion.

24 elements: 12 elements of the group T ;

1 inversion;

8 rotations-reflections

$$\mathcal{I}c_3^{(i)} = s_6^{(i)5}, \quad \mathcal{I}c_3^{(i)2} = s_6^{(i)}, \quad i = 1, 2, 3, 4;$$

6 reflections

$$\mathcal{I}u_{ik} = \sigma_{ik}, \quad u_{ik} \perp \sigma_{ik}, \quad \{ik\} = \{12\}, \{13\}, \{14\}.$$

Eight classes:

$$\{e\}, \{c_3^{(i)}\}, \{c_3^{(i)2}\}, \{u_{ik}\}, \{\mathcal{I}\}, \{s_6^{(i)}\}, \{s_6^{(i)5}\}, \{\sigma_{ik}\},$$

$$\# \text{ of elem. } 1 + 4 + 4 + 3 + 1 + 4 + 4 + 3 = 24$$

with all relevant i, k within a class.

Group of symmetry of a cube.

48 elements: 24 elements of the group O ;

1 inversion;

3 reflections w. resp. to three planes
parallel to the sides;

6 reflections w. resp. to planes containing
diagonals of opposite sides;

8 rotation-reflections by $\pm\pi/3$ around the
four 3rd-order axes;

6 rotation-reflections by $\pm\pi/4$ around the
four 4th-order axes.

Six classes are the same as in O ; another six classes are obtained from the previous ones by applying inversion.

In total $q(O_h) = 12$

I_h (alternative notation: Y_h)

Group of symmetry of a dodecahedron (Platonic solid with 12 regular pentagonal sides).

$$I_h = \mathcal{I} \otimes I$$

$$\text{Order} = 120; \quad q(I_h) = 10$$

This is a full list of the finite point groups of the 2nd kind.

Limit $n \rightarrow \infty$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} C_{nh} \equiv C_{\infty h}, \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} C_{nv} \equiv C_{\infty v},$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} D_{nh} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} D_{nd} \equiv D_{\infty h}$$

Finite point groups of the 2nd kind: Summary

Group	Order	# of classes
S_{2n}	$2n$	$2n$
C_{nh}	$2n$	$2n$
C_{nv}	$2n$	$\frac{n}{2} + 3 \quad \cdot \cdot \cdot \quad n = 2k$ $\frac{n+3}{2} \quad \cdot \cdot \cdot \quad n = 2k + 1$
D_{nh}	$4n$	$n + 10 \quad \cdot \cdot \cdot \quad n = 2k$ $n + 5 \quad \cdot \cdot \cdot \quad n = 2k + 1$
D_{nd}	$4n$	$n + 3$
T_d	24	5
T_h	24	8
O_h	48	12
I_h	120	10

Crystallographic restriction theorem

Rotational symmetries of a crystal are limited to 2-fold, 3-fold, 4-fold, and 6-fold.

(This does not apply to quasicrystals).

Consider two points, A and B of a crystalline lattice. $\mathbf{r} = \vec{AB}$.

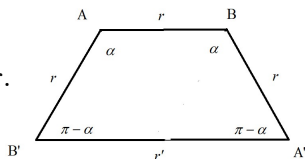
Let α be an angle of rotation leaving the structure invariant.

Rotation by α around A: $B \rightarrow B'$.

Rotation by α around B: $A \rightarrow A'$.

$\mathbf{r}' = \vec{A'B'} = m\mathbf{r}$, where m is integer.

Points A, B, B', A' are vertices of a trapezium.



Three sides with a length r , the side $A'B'$ is of the length r' .

$$r' = r + 2r \cos(\pi - \alpha) = r - 2r \cos \alpha$$

$$\cos \alpha = -\frac{m-1}{2} = \frac{M}{2}, \quad M \text{ integer}$$

$|\cos \alpha| \leq 1 \Rightarrow M = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2 \Rightarrow \alpha = 0, \pi/3, \pi/2, 2\pi/3, \pi$

Either no rotational symmetry or C_2, C_3, C_4, C_6 .