

Crystal Lattices

- until now, we have largely ignored the underlying structure of the materials, i.e. (+) ions in the material provide charge balance.
- a complete model of \bar{e} 's in a solid-state material requires consideration of the arrangements of the atoms in the solid.
- periodic positioning of ions modifies the \bar{e} states of the system
- importantly, movement of the ions & their interaction w/ \bar{e} 's must be considered
 - ↳ coupled motion of the ions \Rightarrow phonons...
- like most of Physics, symmetry plays a huge role.

Solid-state materials:

- elemental solids (e.g. C) exist in a crystalline state.
 - ↳ includes metals! metals are crystals
- also many ionic (e.g. salts) & covalent (e.g. ceramics, H_2O) compounds.
- alternative to crystalline is amorphous solid:
e.g. glass, wax, many plastics (polymers).
- IRL most crystalline materials are polycrystalline i.e. many single crystals bonded together!

crystal lattice: highly ordered structure consisting of a repeating group of atom(s) which extends in all directions.

Mathematical formulation: Bravais Lattice

- 1) A 3-D Bravais Lattice consists of all points \vec{R} in position \vec{R} where:

$$\vec{R} = n_1 \vec{a}_1 + n_2 \vec{a}_2 + n_3 \vec{a}_3$$

where n_i = integer, and \vec{a}_i are 3-vectors not all in same plane.

- 2) Infinite set of points in arrangement & orientation exactly the same, from whichever pt. the set is viewed.

→ the Bravais lattice is the mathematical construction used to describe real crystals. It is infinite

→ real crystal would occupy some finite volume of its B-L.

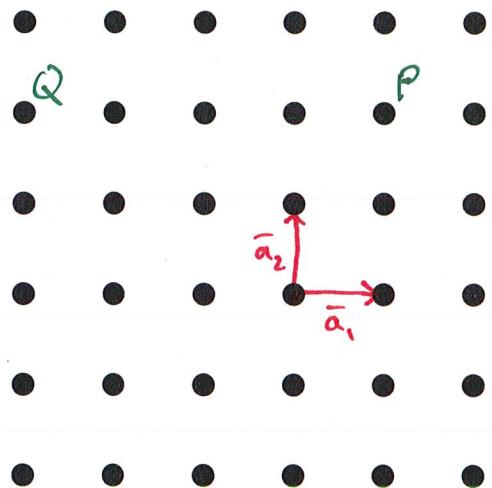
→ not all periodic structures correspond to a B-L

↳ BUT, they can be represented by one

→ the B-L represents fundamental symmetries of the structure:

In 2-D: 5 unique B-L

3-D: 14 unique B-L.

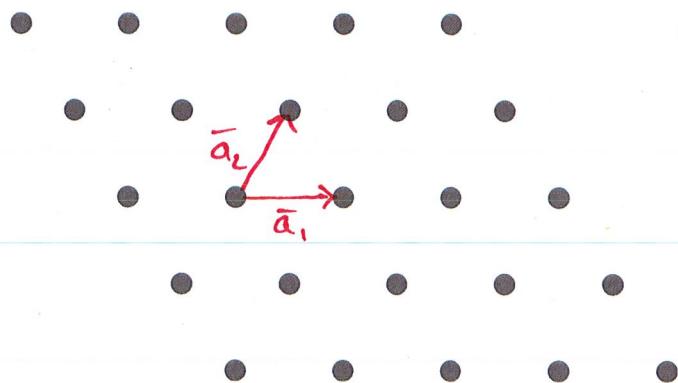


2D Bravais lattice
(square)

primitive vectors \bar{a}_1 & \bar{a}_2

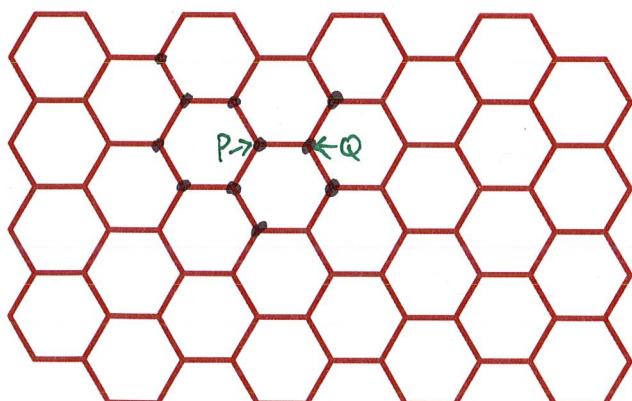
$$\text{e.g. } \bar{P} = \bar{a}_1 + 2\bar{a}_2$$

$$\bar{Q} = -3\bar{a}_1 + 2\bar{a}_2$$



arbitrary 2D lattice
Bravais Lattice (no particular sym)

\bar{a}_1 & \bar{a}_2 span lattice



Honeycomb lattice, pts @ vertex.
 → periodic/repeating
 → NOT Bravais Lattice

e.g. P & Q do not share
same "view"
 → they are mirrored.

→ will learn to treat this
later.

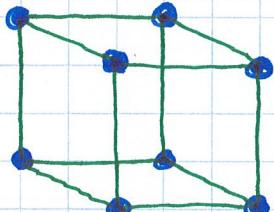
$$\vec{R} = n_1 \vec{a}_1 + n_2 \vec{a}_2 + n_3 \vec{a}_3$$

$\vec{a}_1, \vec{a}_2, \vec{a}_3 \rightarrow$ primitive lattice vectors
 \rightarrow 'span' or 'generate' the array.

\rightarrow choice of \vec{a}_i not unique - infinite choices!

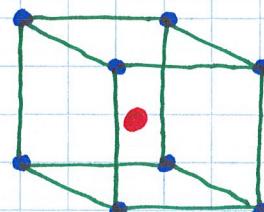
\rightarrow identifying a Bravais lattice & appropriate primitive lattice vectors can be challenging.

Cubic structures

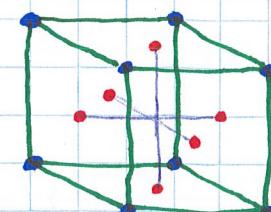


"primitive cubic"

simple cubic
(sc)



body-centered cubic
(bcc)



face-centered cubic
(fcc)

\rightarrow See tables 4.1 & 4.2 for elements in bcc or fcc crystal structures

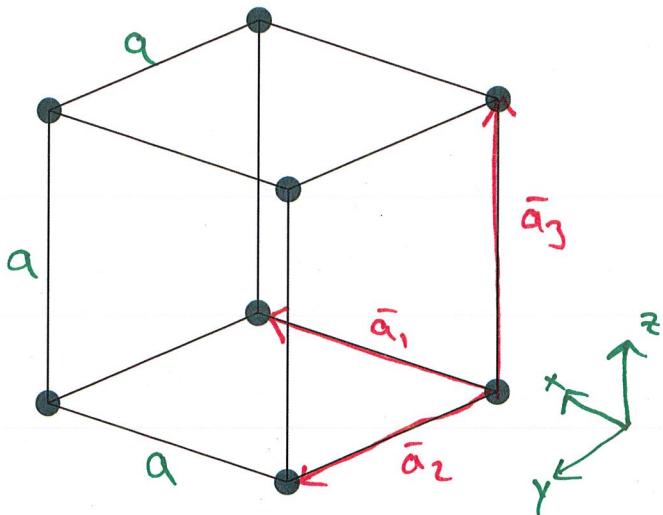
\rightarrow many ionic salts have simple cubic structure
e.g. NaCl

Coordination Number: # of nearest neighbours

Simple cubic: 6

body centered cubic: 8

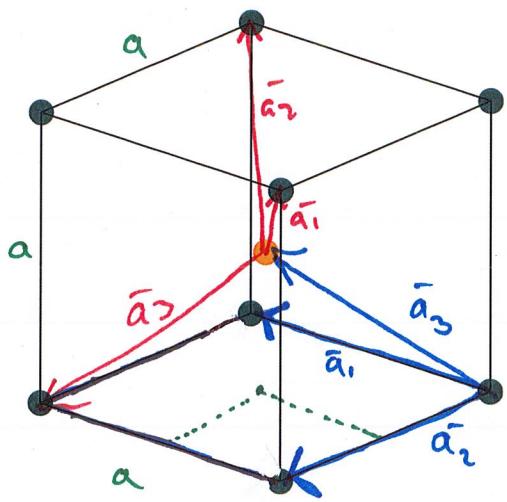
face centered cubic: 12



sc (primitive cubic)

primitive vectors

$$\bar{a}_1 = a\hat{x} \quad \bar{a}_2 = a\hat{y} \quad \bar{a}_3 = a\hat{z}$$



bcc

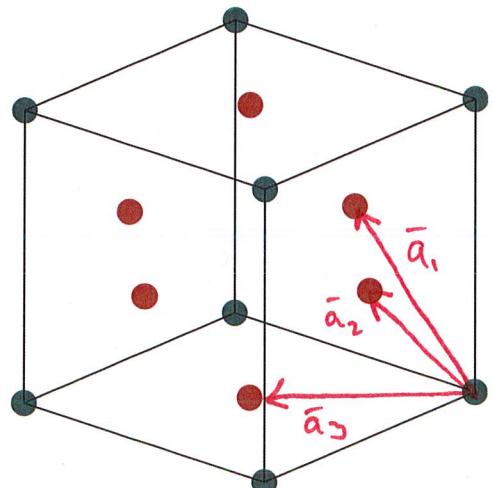
$$\bar{a}_1 = a\hat{x} \quad \bar{a}_2 = a\hat{y} \quad \bar{a}_3 = \frac{a}{2}(\hat{x} + \hat{y} + \hat{z})$$

OR

$$\bar{a}_1 = \frac{a}{2}(\hat{y} + \hat{z} - \hat{x})$$

$$\bar{a}_2 = \frac{a}{2}(\hat{z} + \hat{x} - \hat{y})$$

$$\bar{a}_3 = \frac{a}{2}(\hat{x} + \hat{y} - \hat{z})$$



fcc

$$\bar{a}_1 = \frac{a}{2}(\hat{y} + \hat{z})$$

$$\bar{a}_2 = \frac{a}{2}(\hat{z} + \hat{x})$$

$$\bar{a}_3 = \frac{a}{2}(\hat{x} + \hat{y})$$

Unit cell: fundamental repeating unit of lattice
e.g. the cubes of sc, bcc, or fcc

Primitive unit cell: smallest (in volume) unit cell

- must fill all space when translated via primitive vectors \bar{a}_i
- can not overlap when translated via \bar{a}_i
- must contain precisely one lattice pt.
- just like choice of \bar{a}_i , there are ∞ possible primitive unit cells.

Volume of primitive cell:

if the density of lattice points is n_L $\Rightarrow \text{pts}/\text{volume}$
and the volume of the primitive cell $\Rightarrow V_{pc} \Rightarrow \text{Vol}/\text{cell}$

$$\text{then: } n_L V_{pc} = 1 \quad \frac{\text{pts}}{\text{V}} \cdot \frac{\text{V}}{\text{cell}} = \frac{\text{pts}}{\text{cell}} = 1$$

$$V_{pc} = \frac{1}{n_L}$$

Aside: n_L is related to, but not necessarily, the # density of \vec{e} 's.

Note: n_L does not change w/ choice of \bar{a}_i ; or prim. cell.

i.e. all primitive unit cells for given B.C. have the same volume.

One choice of primitive cell is the parallelepiped formed by the primitive unit vectors, \bar{a}_i ; volume given by triple product:

$$V_0 = \bar{a}_1 \cdot (\bar{a}_2 \times \bar{a}_3)$$

e.g. simple cubic (trivial): $V_{sc} = a^3$

$$fcc: \bar{a}_1 = \frac{a}{2}(\hat{y} + \hat{z})$$

$$\bar{a}_2 = \frac{a}{2}(\hat{z} + \hat{x})$$

$$\bar{a}_3 = \frac{a}{2}(\hat{x} + \hat{y})$$

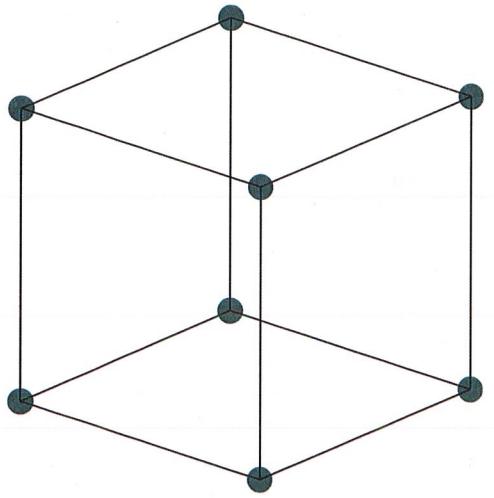
$$\begin{aligned}\bar{a}_2 \times \bar{a}_3 &= (0-0)\hat{x} + \left(\frac{a^2}{4}-0\right)\hat{y} + \left(\frac{a^2}{4}-0\right)\hat{z} \\ &= \frac{a^2}{4}(\hat{y} + \hat{z})\end{aligned}$$

$$\bar{a}_1 \cdot (\bar{a}_2 \times \bar{a}_3) = \frac{a}{2} \left(\frac{a^2}{4} + \frac{a^2}{4} \right) = \frac{a^3}{4}$$

\therefore Volume of fcc prim. cell is $\frac{1}{4}$ that of the sc unit cell.

\Rightarrow There is an easier way...

Count # of points in sc. unit cell.



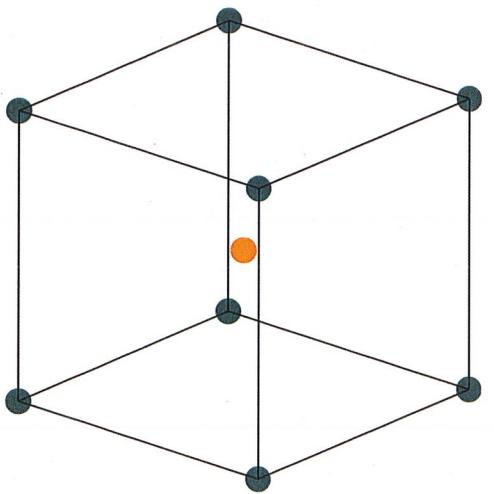
Simple cubic

$$V_0 = a \times a \times a = a^3$$

~~one~~ points:

each corner $\rightarrow \frac{1}{8}$ of a pt.

$$\therefore 8 \times \frac{1}{8} = 1 \text{ pt. (of course)}$$



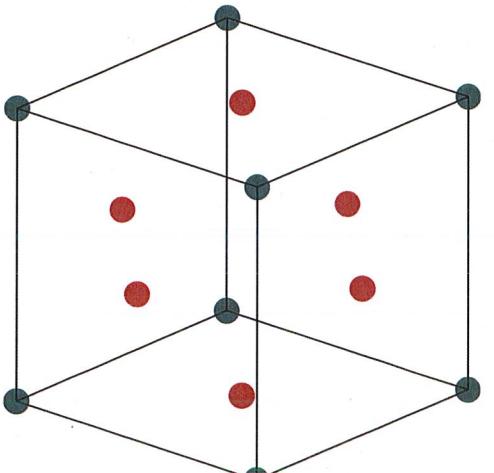
bcc

$$\text{corners: } 8 \times \frac{1}{8} = 1$$

$$\text{center: } 1 \times 1 = 1$$

$\therefore 2$ pts per unit cell

$$\therefore V_0 = \frac{a^3}{2} \Rightarrow \text{primitive volume}$$



fcc

$$\text{corners: } 8 \times \frac{1}{8} = 1$$

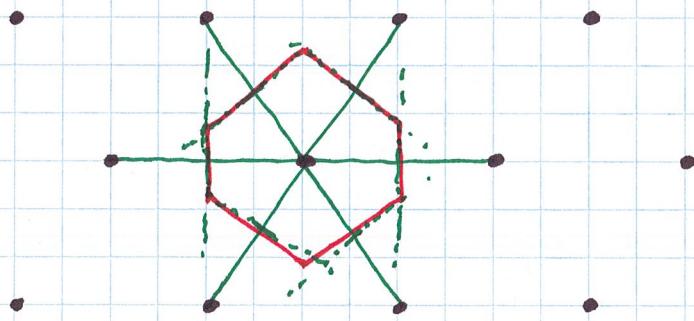
$$\text{faces: } 6 \times \frac{1}{2} = 3$$

$\therefore 4$ pts per unit cell

$$V_0 = \frac{a^3}{4} \Rightarrow \text{confirmed by } \bar{a}_1 \cdot (\bar{a}_2 \times \bar{a}_3)$$

Wigner - Seitz Primitive Cell

- a primitive unit cell which has the full symmetry of the B.L.
- defined by the of space closest to a given lattice pt.
- constructed by bisecting lines joining nearest neighbours



FCC → rhombic dodecahedron

BCC → truncated octahedron

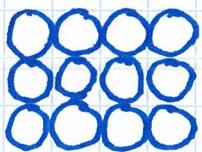
SC → cube

Lattice w/ a basis

- some periodic arrays are not a Bravais lattice e.g. honeycomb.
- we can group lattice pts together such that the "group" forms a Bravais lattice
- the position of each pt. in the group is defined by the basis
- we can envision this in the context of molecular crystals
- each molecule may serve as a lattice pt. in a Bravais lattice
- each atom in the molecule forms a basis point.
- other Bravais lattices can be described using a basis:
 e.g.: fcc is a sc B.L. w/ a 2pt. basis
 basis pts: $0, \frac{a}{2}(\hat{x} + \hat{y} + \hat{z})$
 fcc \rightarrow a sc, B.L. w/ 4 pt. basis:
 $: 0, \frac{a}{2}(\hat{x} + \hat{y}), \frac{a}{2}(\hat{y} + \hat{z}), \frac{a}{2}(\hat{z} + \hat{x})$
- very useful in describing complex crystals

Close-packed structures

- for uniform spheres of constant volume, what structure maximizes density?
- "cannonball problem"



Two basic repeating patterns in 3D:

Hexagonal close-packed (hcp): ABAB... .

Cubic close-packed (ccp): ABCABC... .
↳ is the same as fcc!!

HCP lattice: $\bar{a}_1 = a \hat{x}$

$$\bar{a}_2 = \frac{a}{2} \hat{x} + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} a \hat{y}$$

$$\bar{a}_3 = c \hat{z}$$

Simple hexagonal B.L. w basis pt. e:

$$O, \frac{1}{3}(\bar{a}_1 + \bar{a}_2 + \bar{a}_3)$$