

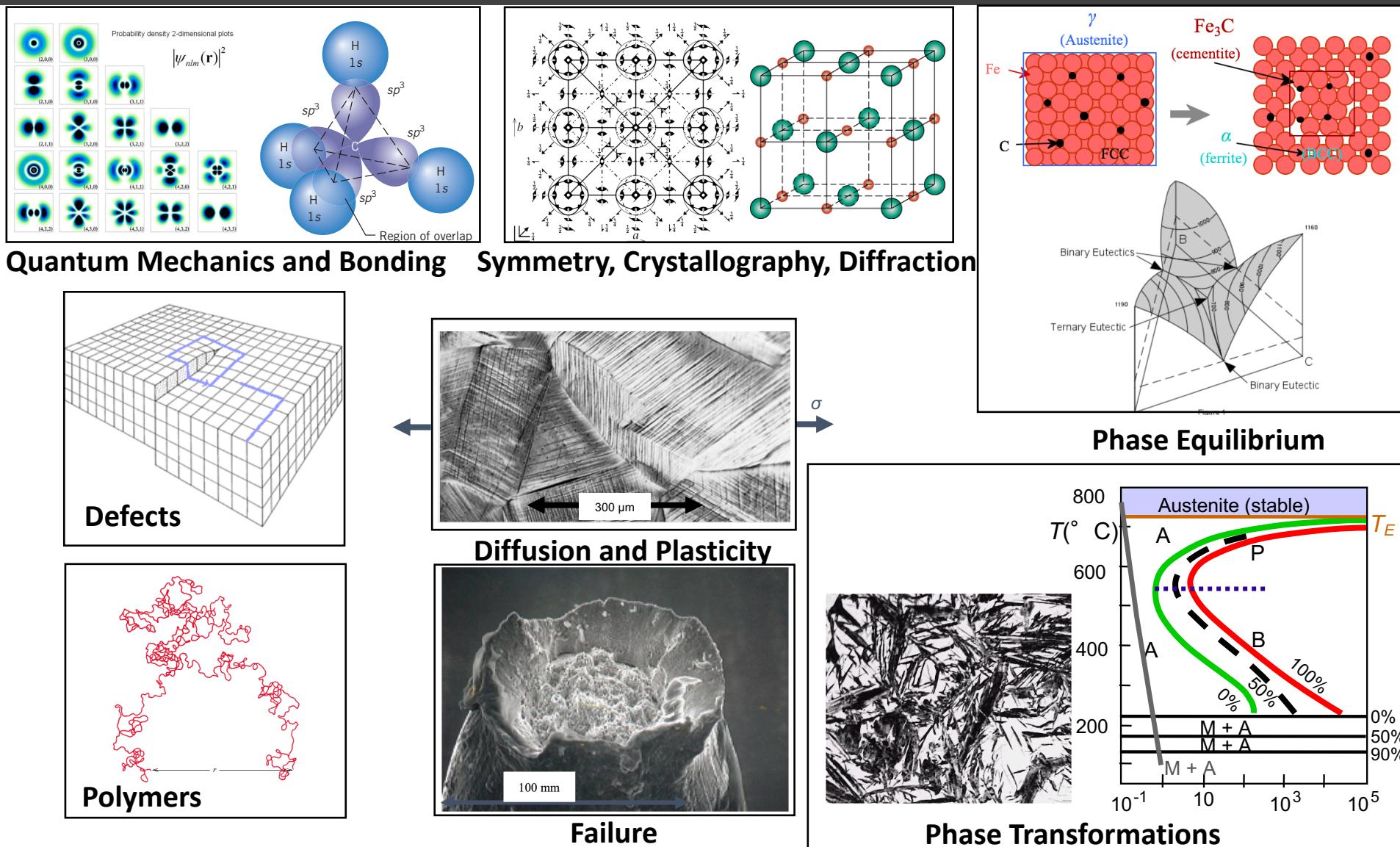
# MEAM/MSE 507

## Fundamentals of Materials

Prof. Jordan R. Raney

**Week 4, Lecture 1: Foundations of crystallography: Symmetry operations  
Asynchronous**

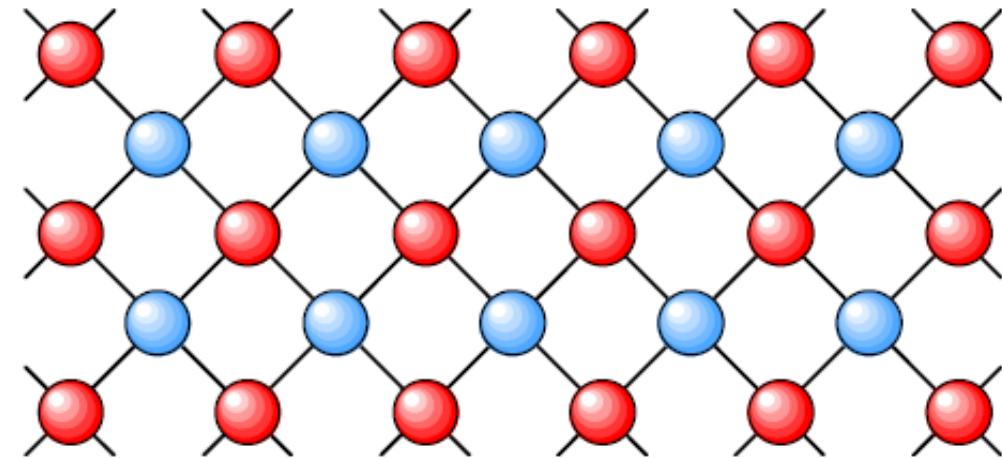
# Major topics of the course



# Crystal structure

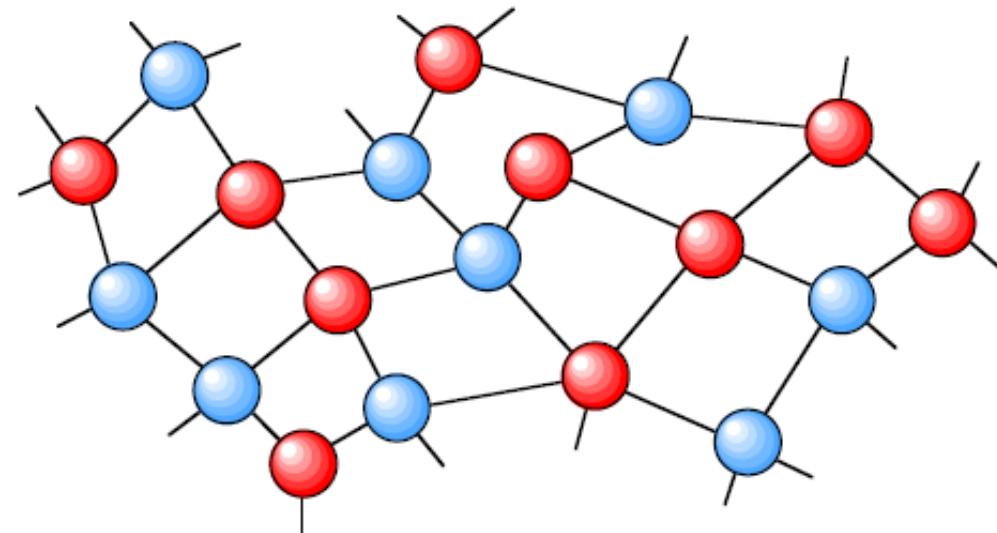
## Crystal

- Long range order
- Periodicity



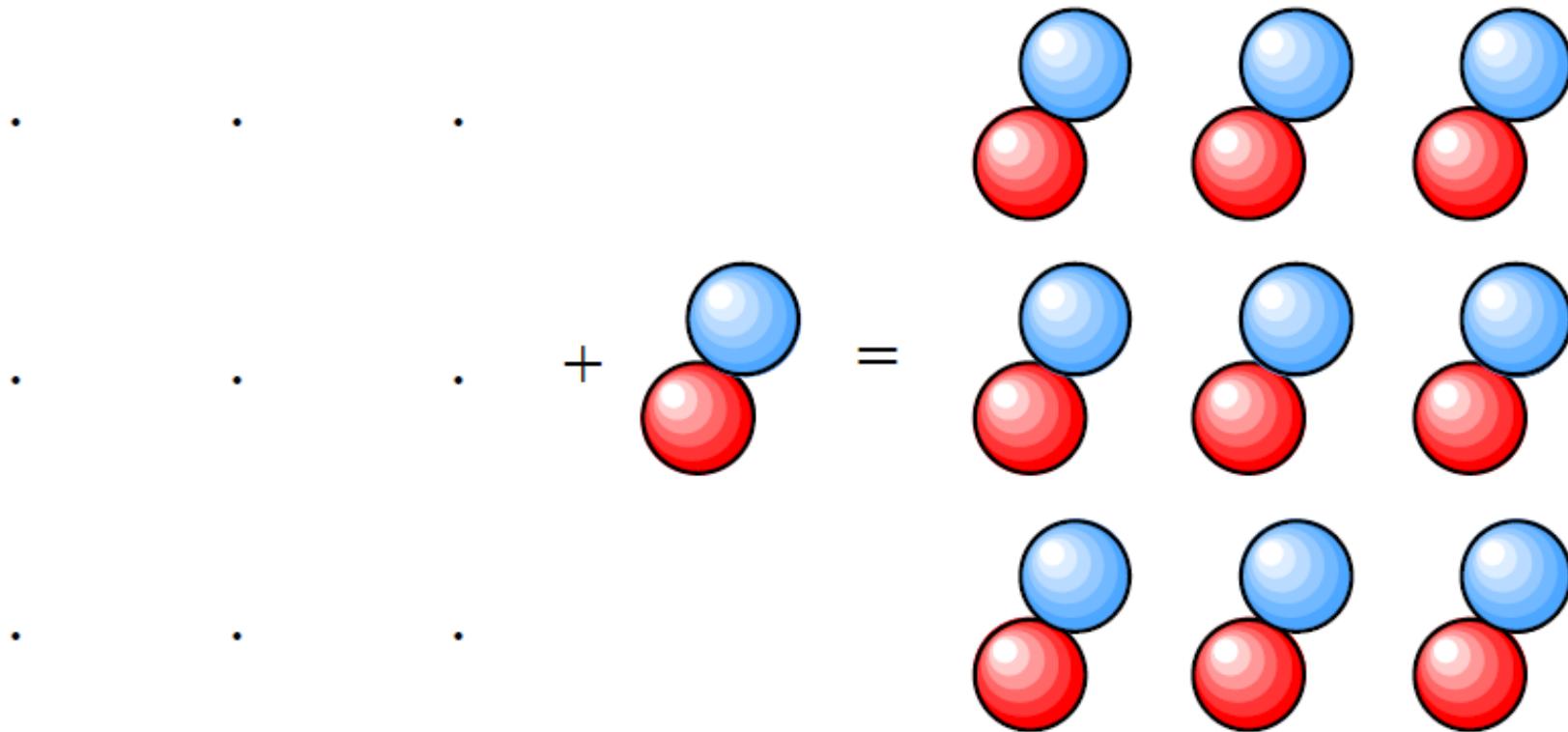
## Amorphous/Glass

- No long range order
- Short range order



# Crystal structure

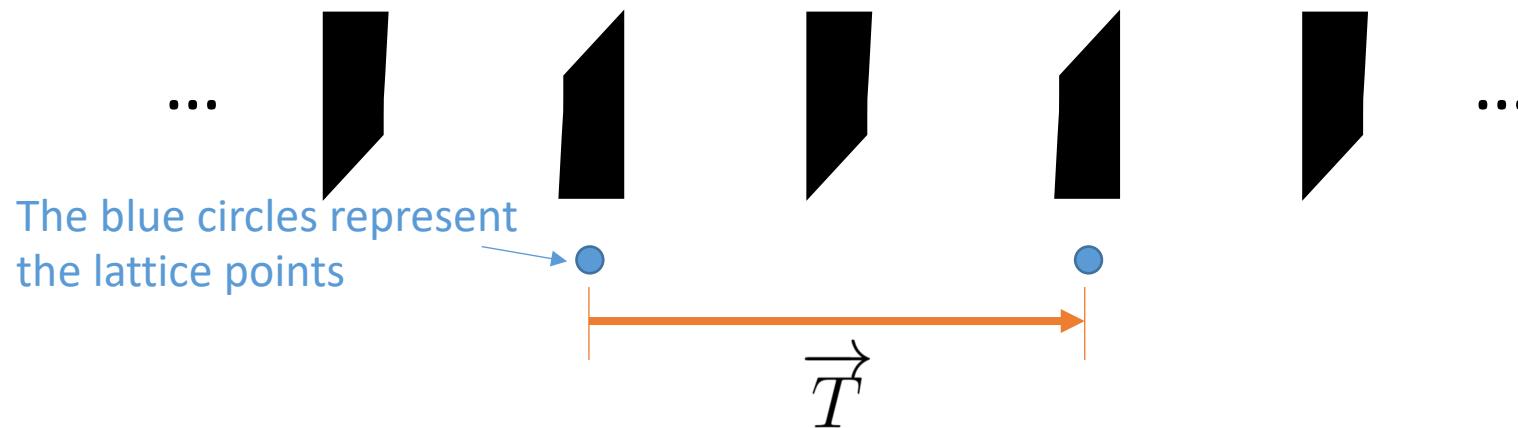
- A crystal has a **space lattice** and a **basis** (or “motif”)



- The **space lattice** tells us how the structure repeats
- The **basis** tells us what repeats

# Symmetry

Imagine that this repeating pattern of chiral “motifs” extends forever in both directions (1D lattice):



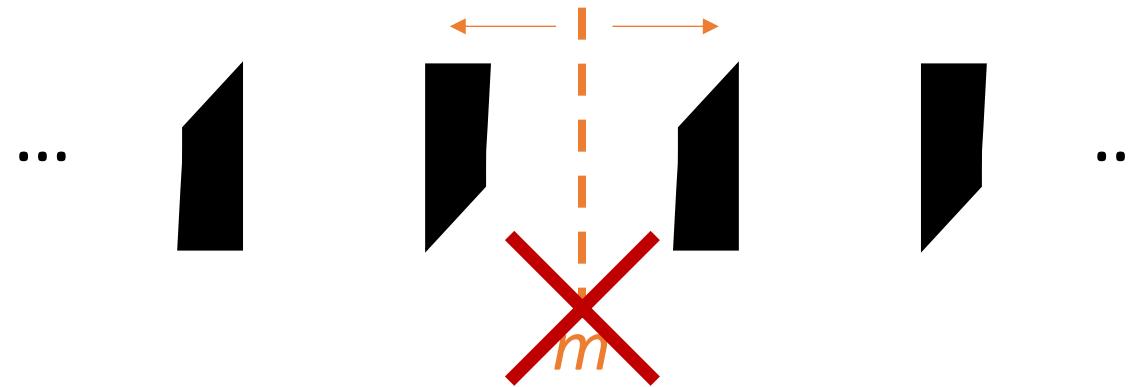
$\vec{T}$  is a “*translation*” symmetry operation

- Since the system is infinite, if the entire chain were shifted by this amount, you wouldn’t be able to tell that anything had happened
- This is a defining feature of any symmetry operation

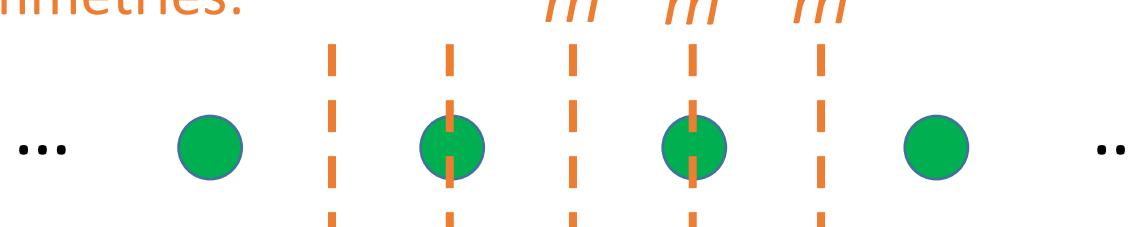
# Symmetry

Another symmetry operation that is possible in 1D is ***mirror symmetry, or reflection.***

Here there is no mirror symmetry due to the *chiral motifs*. This can be seen by trying to place a mirror any where:

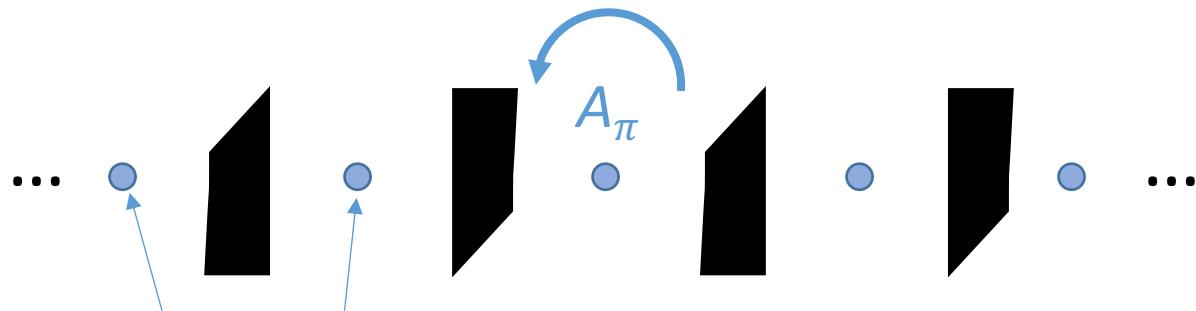


However, if the motifs were symmetric then we would have mirror symmetries:



# Symmetry

If we allow the system to move in 2D, then we have an additional symmetry operation: **rotation**. In 2D, rotation must be defined about a specific point (and in 3D, it must be defined about a specific axis).

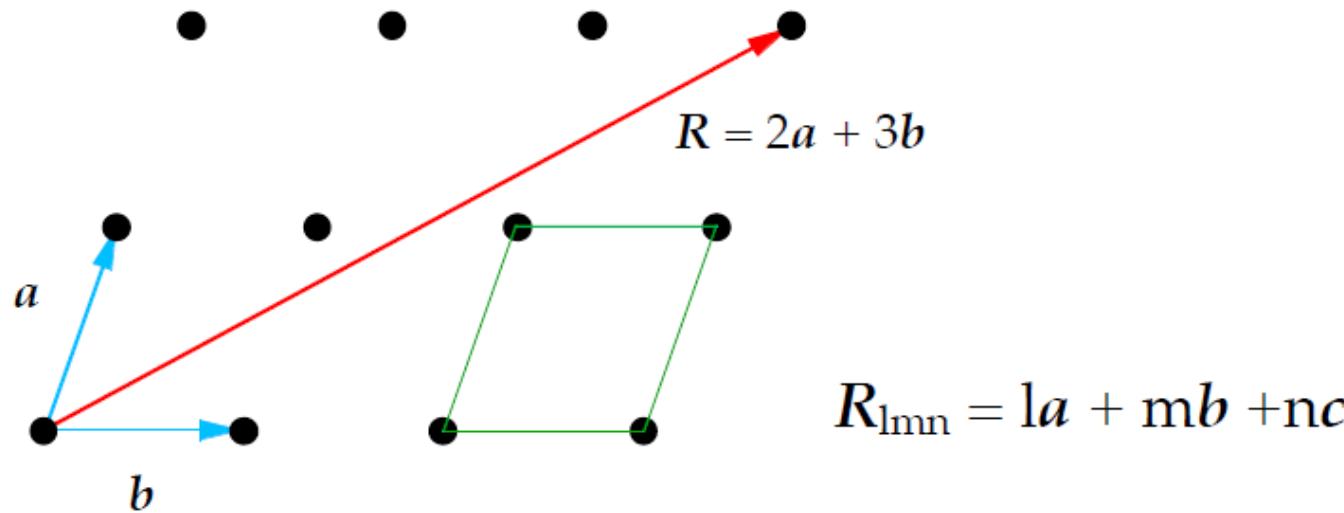


We could rotate the entire system by  $\pi$  radians ( $180^\circ$ ) about any of these points (but not elsewhere!).

These points could be indicated by writing  $A_\pi$  (to indicate rotation by  $\pi$  radians at point A) or, equivalently, by writing  $C_2$  to indicate a “2-fold” rotation axis (we’ll talk more about this later).

# The 2D space lattice

- Every point in the space lattice is identical
- The translation vector tells how to get from any point to any other equivalent point



- $a, b, c$  are lattice vectors;  $l, m, n$  are integers
- A good set of lattice vectors allows the translation vector to span from any point in the lattice to any other
- Unit cell is parallelepiped whose edges are  $a, b, c$

# 2D symmetry operations

Symmetry operations involve transformation of coordinates:

## 1. Translation

$$(x, y) \xrightarrow{\vec{T}} (x + a, y + b) \xrightarrow{\vec{T}} (x + 2a, y + 2b)$$

## 2. Mirror / reflection

Need to define a “mirror axis” (in 2D) or “mirror plane” (in 3D)

E.g., for a mirror axis parallel with the y-axis in 2D:

$$(x, y) \xrightarrow{M} (-x, y) \xrightarrow{M} (x, y)$$

*M changes the sense of one coordinate*

## 3. Rotation

Need to define a point (in 2D) or axis (in 3D) around which rotation occurs. E.g.,  $A_\pi$  rotates everything by  $\pi$  radians around point A.

*Rotation can change the sense of two coordinates*