

# Point groups and morphological symmetry. Introduction to the stereographic projection



## 2022 Spring Festival Crystallographic School and Workshop on Crystal-field Applications

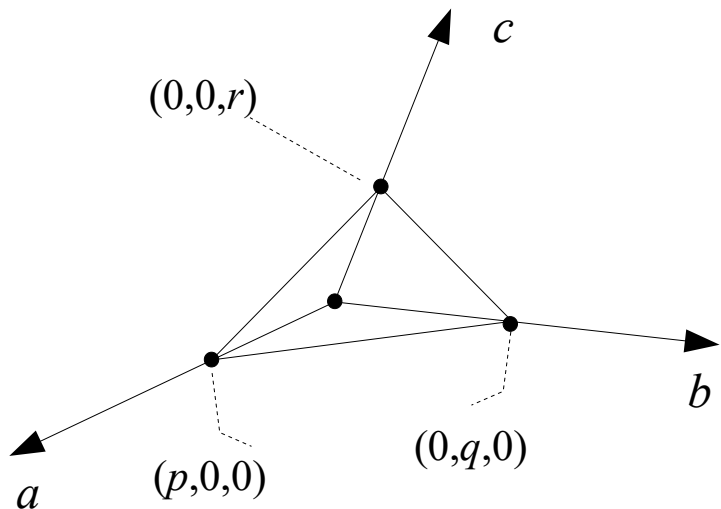
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# Lattice planes and Miller indices

# Planes passing through lattice nodes are called “rational planes”



Largest common integer factor for  $p, q, r = 1 \rightarrow$  the plane shown is the first one for the chosen inclination passing through lattice node on **all** the three axes

The values  $h, k$  and  $l$  are called the **Miller indices** of the lattice plane and give its **orientation**.

All lattice planes in the same family have the same orientation  $\rightarrow (hkl)$  represents the whole **family of lattice planes**.

Equation of the plane:  $x'/pa + y'/qb + z'/rc = 1$

Define:  $x = x'/a; y = y'/b; z = z'/c$

Equation of the plane:  $x/p + y/q + z/r = 1$

$$(qr)x + (pr)y + (pq)z = pqr$$

$$hx + ky + lz = m$$

Making  $m$  variable, we obtain a *family* of lattice planes,  $(hkl)$ , where  $h, k$  and  $l$  are called the Miller indices.

First plane of the family  $(hkl)$  for  $m = 1$

$$hx + ky + lz = 1$$

Intercepts of the first ( $m = 1$ ) plane of the family  $(hkl)$  on the axes

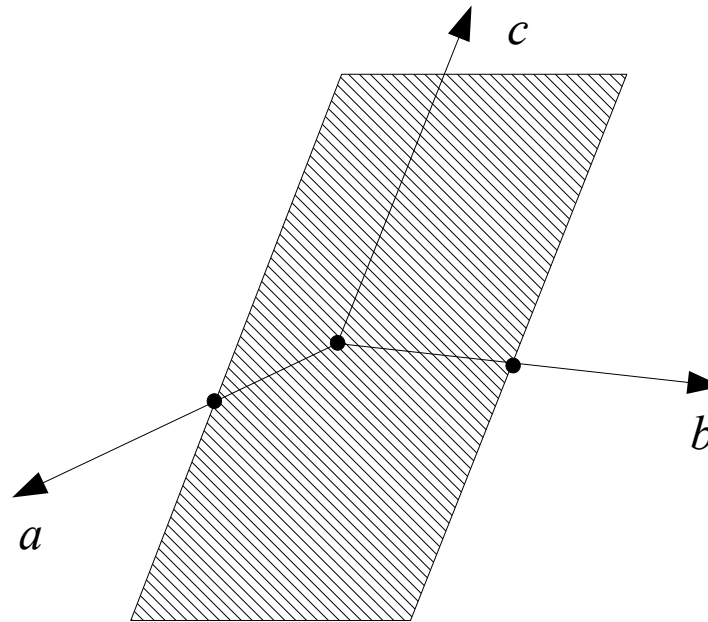
$$p = pqr/qr = m/h = 1/h$$

$$q = pqr/pr = m/k = 1/k$$

$$r = pqr/pq = m/l = 1/l$$

# Why the *reciprocal* of the intersection ( $1/p$ ) rather than the intersection ( $p$ ) itself?

Consider a plane parallel to an axis – for example  $c$



What is the intersection of this plane with the axis  $c$ ?  $\infty$

What is the  $l$  Miller intersection of this plane?  $1/\infty = 0$

# Example: family (112) in a primitive lattice

Intercepts of the first plane  
of the family:

on  $a$ : 1/1

on  $b$ : 1/1

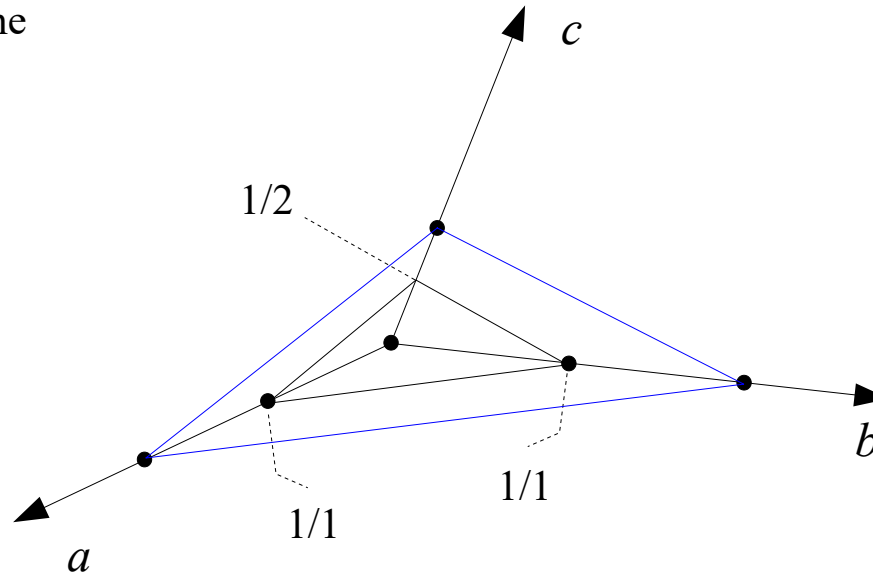
on  $c$ : 1/2

Intercepts of the second  
plane of the family:

on  $a$ : 2/1

on  $b$ : 2/1

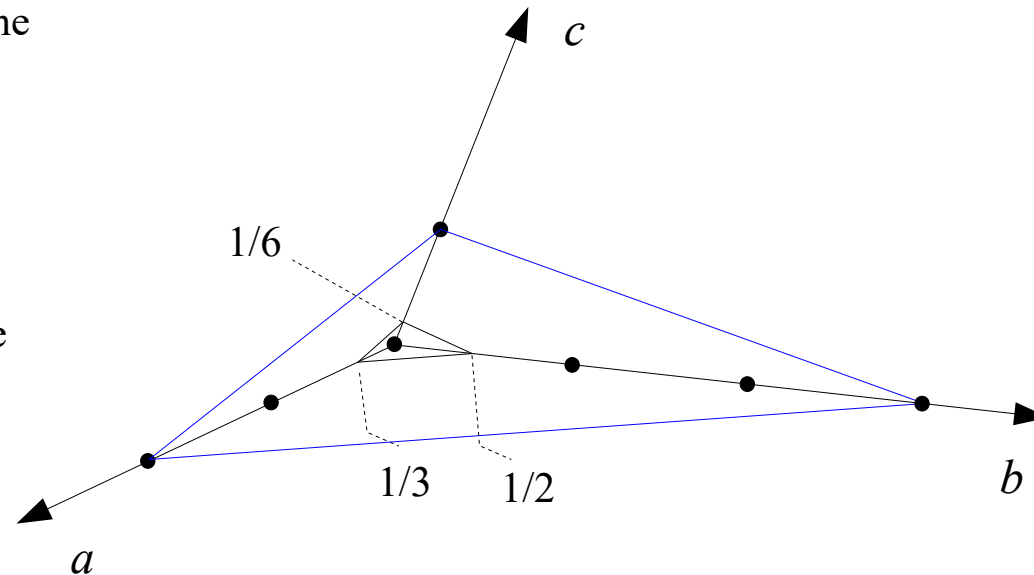
on  $c$ : 2/2



# Example: family (326) in a primitive lattice

Intercepts of the first plane  
of the family:  
on  $a$ :  $1/3$   
on  $b$ :  $1/2$   
on  $c$ :  $1/6$

Intercepts of the sixth plane  
of the family:  
on  $a$ :  $6/3$   
on  $b$ :  $6/2$   
on  $c$ :  $6/6$



# Miller indices for a primitive lattice are relatively prime integers

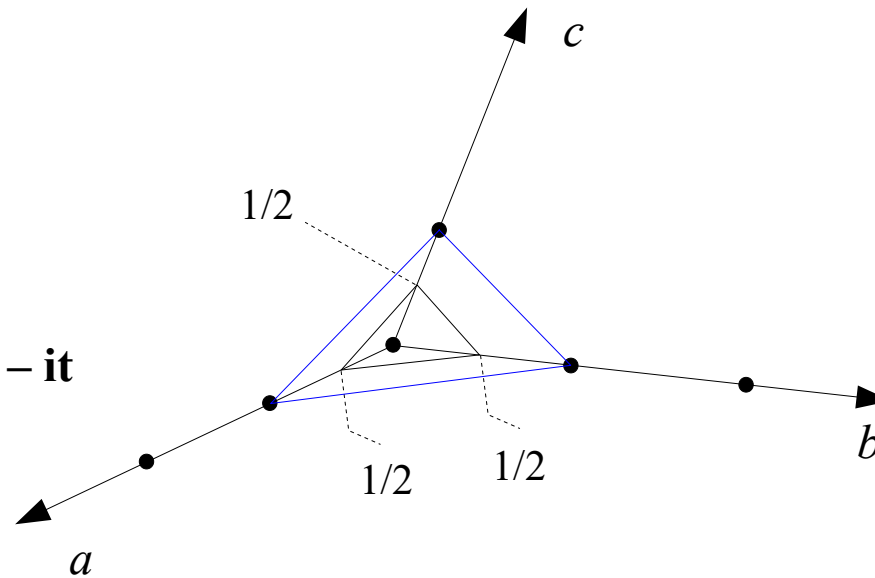
Intercepts of the first plane  
of a hypothetic family (222):

on  $a$ :  $1/2$

on  $b$ :  $1/2$

on  $c$ :  $1/2$

**This plane does not pass  
through any lattice node – it  
is an *irrational* plane**



The first rational plane of  
this family has intercepts:

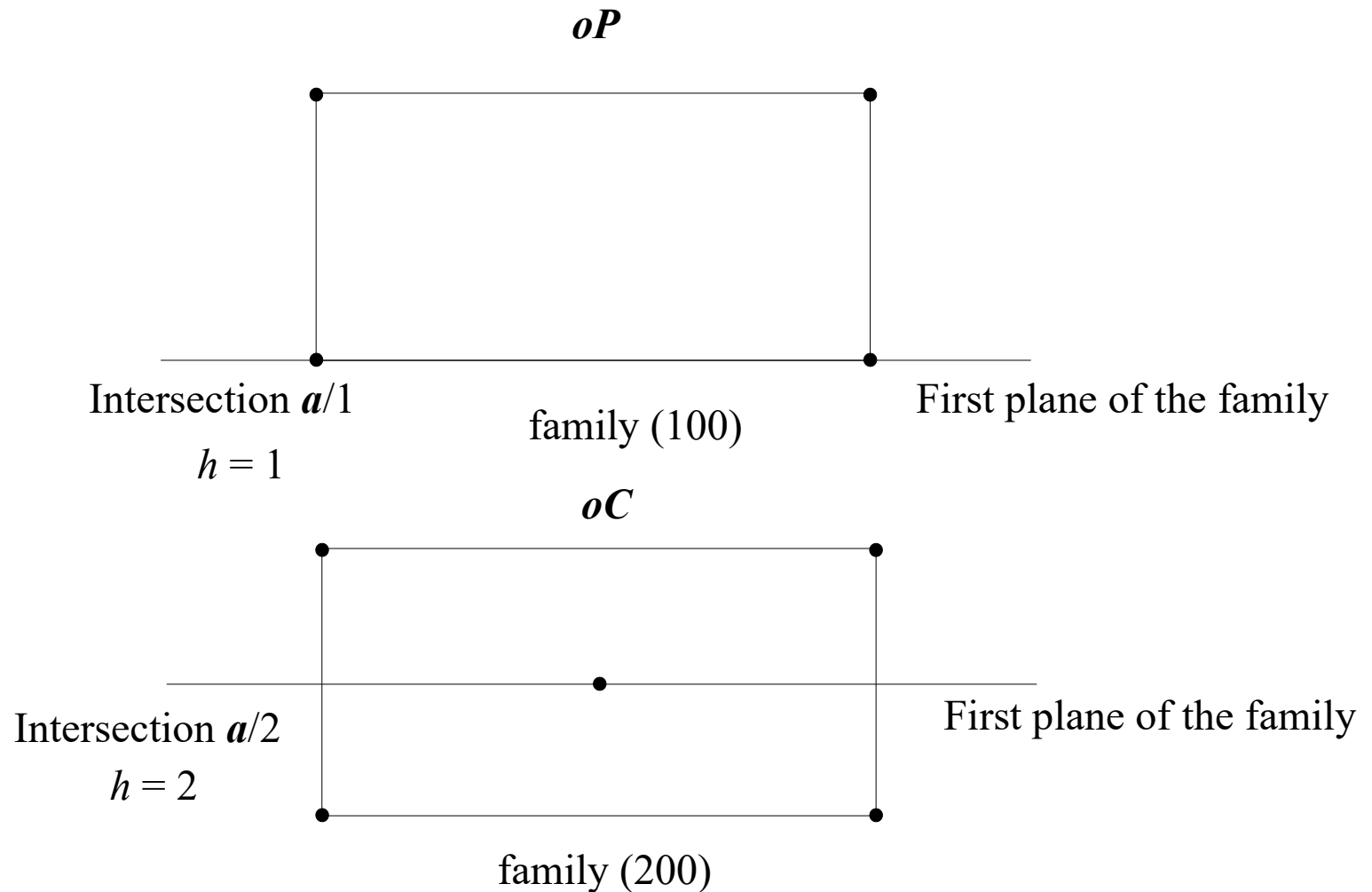
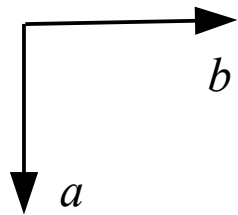
on  $a$ :  $1/1$

on  $b$ :  $1/1$

on  $c$ :  $1/1$

**In a primitive lattice, the Miller indices of a family of lattice planes are  
relatively prime integers: (111)**

# Miller indices for different types of lattice : $(h00)$ in $oP$ and $oC$ (projection on $ab$ )



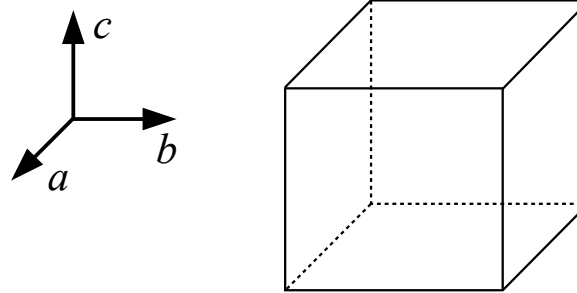
**In morphology, we do not see the lattice and thus the Miller indices of a face are usually relatively prime integers**



# The concept of form: set of faces equivalent by symmetry

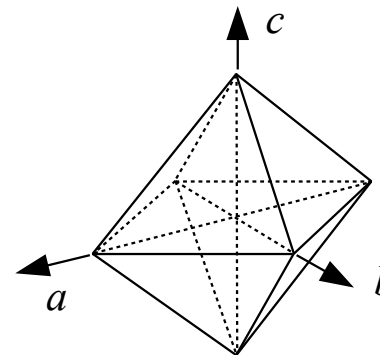
## Example in the cubic crystal system

Form  $\{100\}$ : the cube



Multiplicity 6

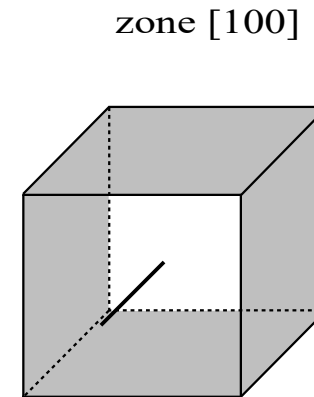
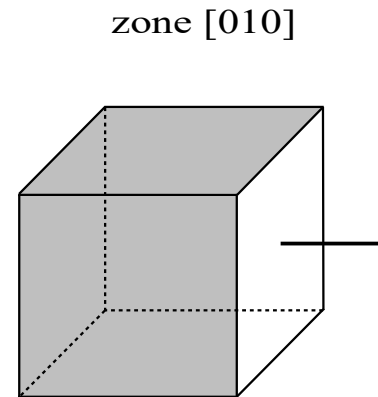
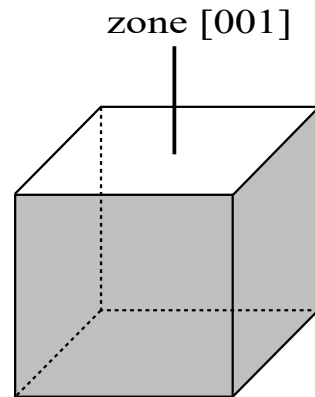
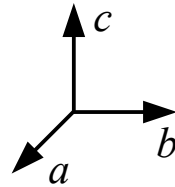
Form  $\{111\}$ : the octahedron



Multiplicity 8

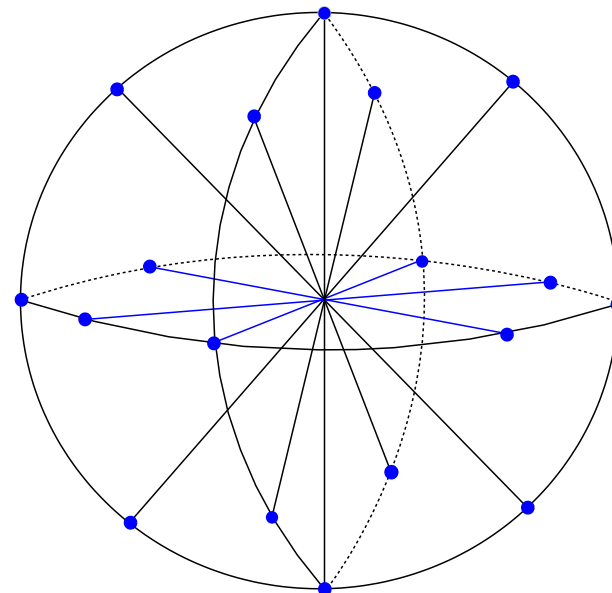
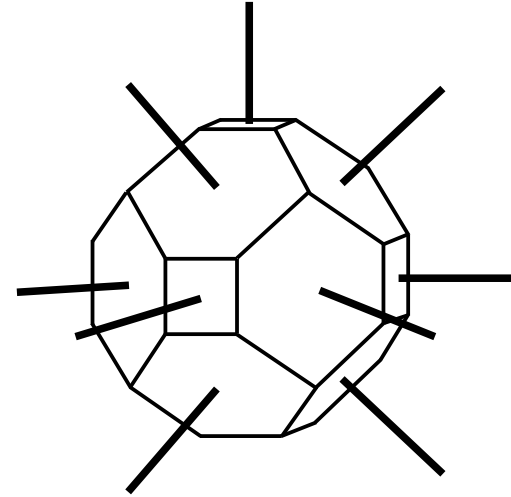
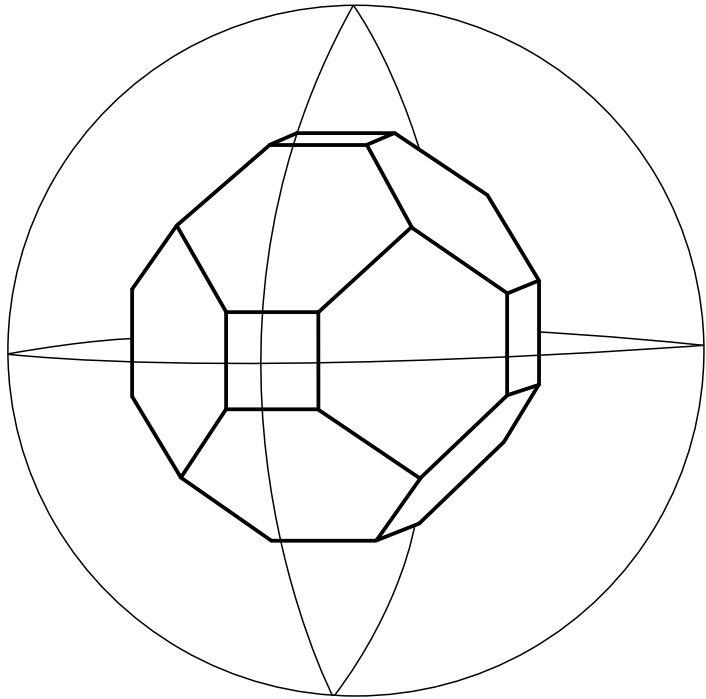
# Zone: set of faces whose intersection is parallel to a same direction, called the zone axis

## Example in the cubic crystal system

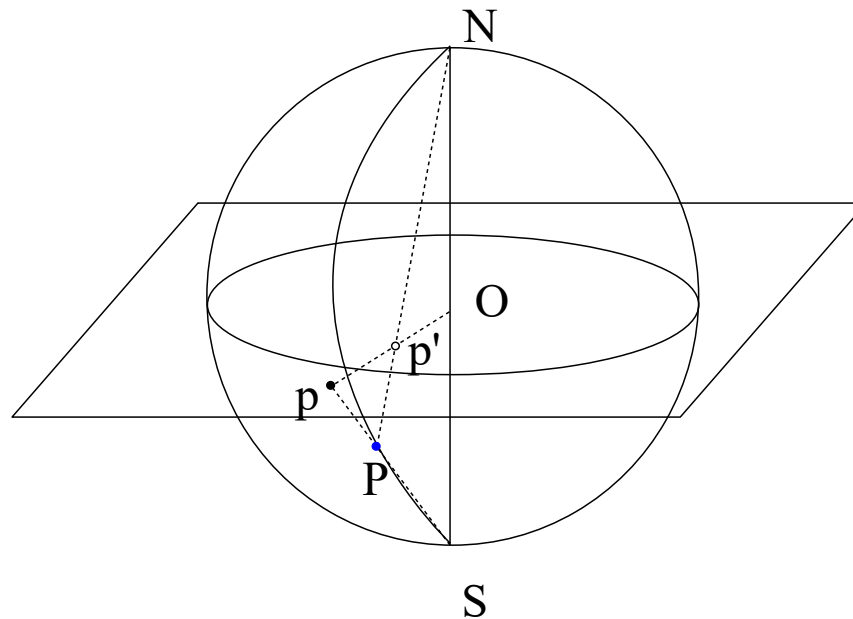
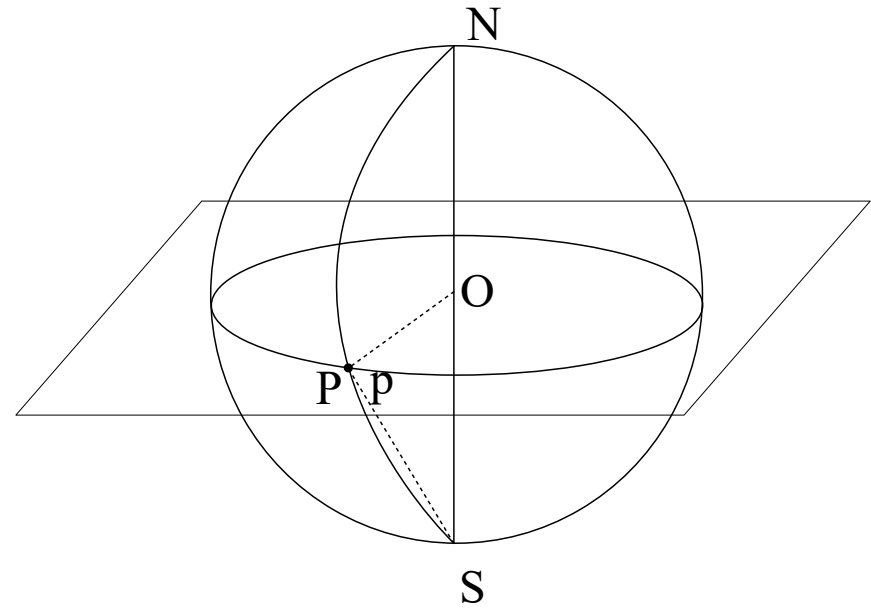
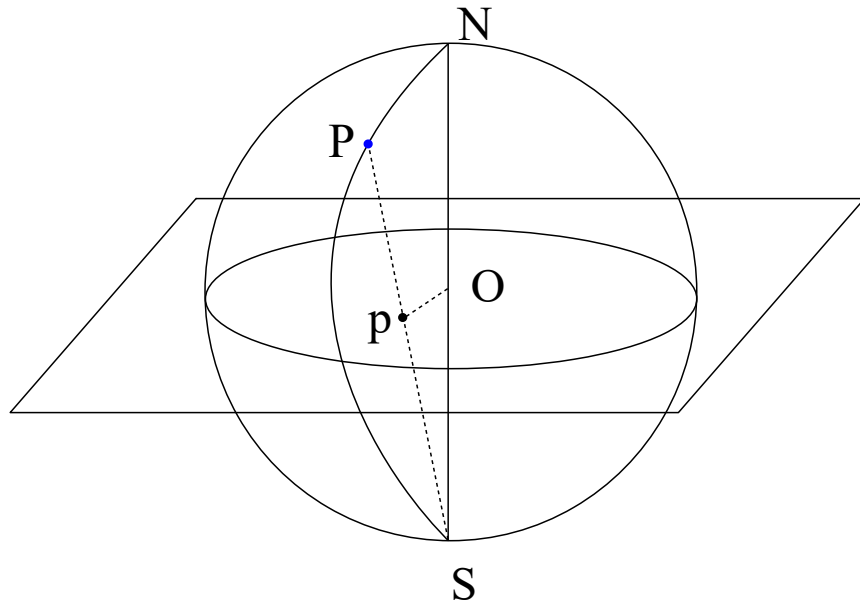


# The stereographic projection: how to get rid of accidental morphological features of a crystal

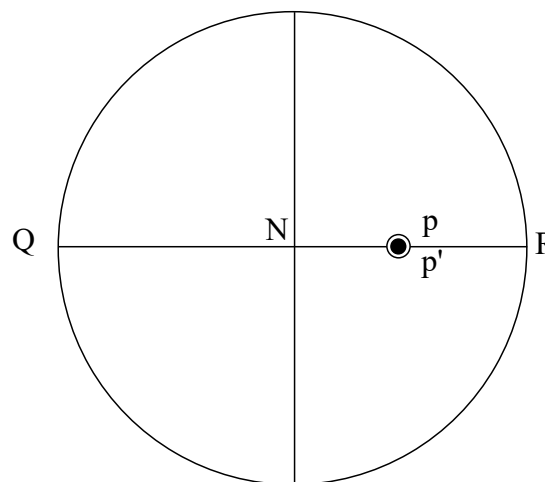
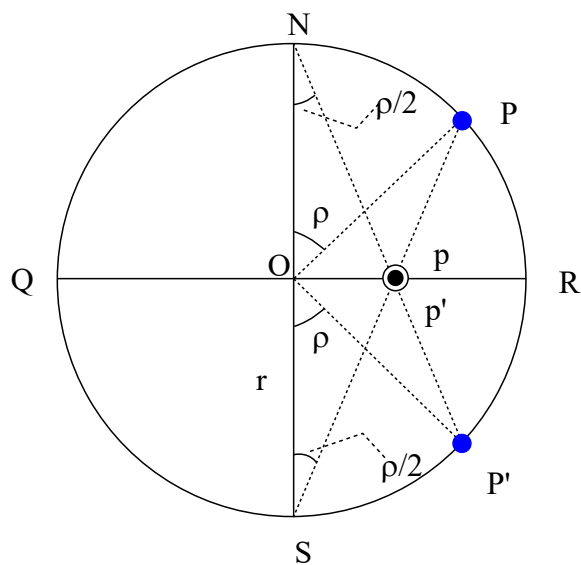
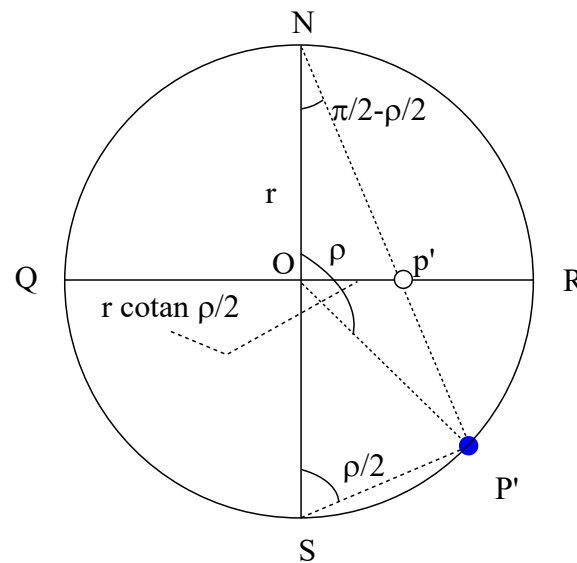
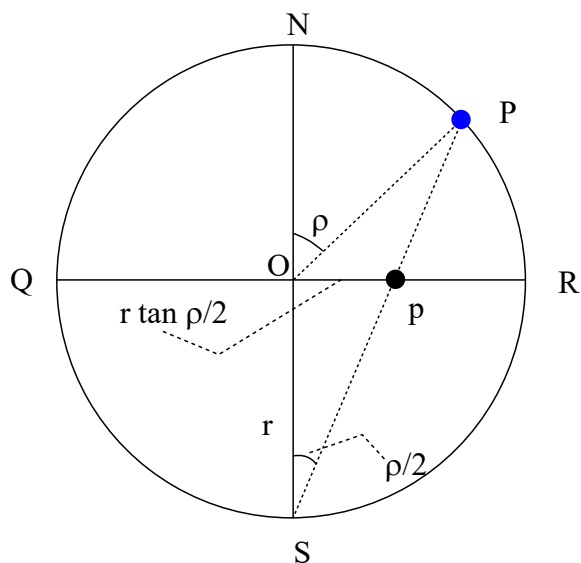
# Spherical projection and spherical poles



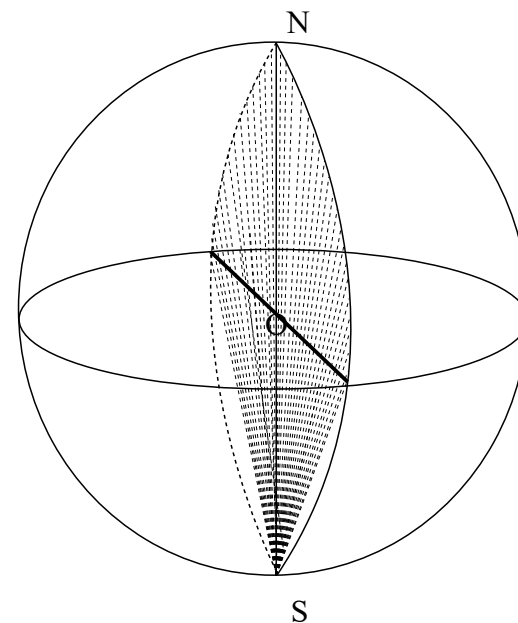
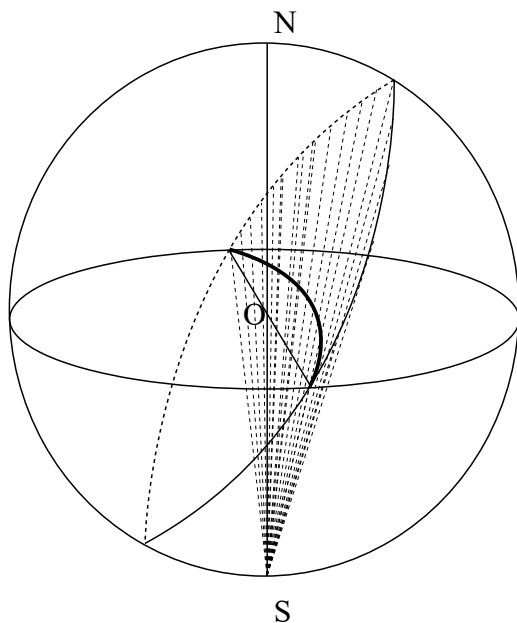
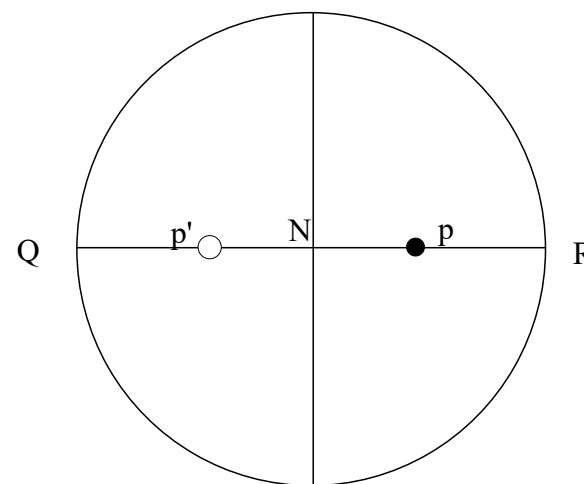
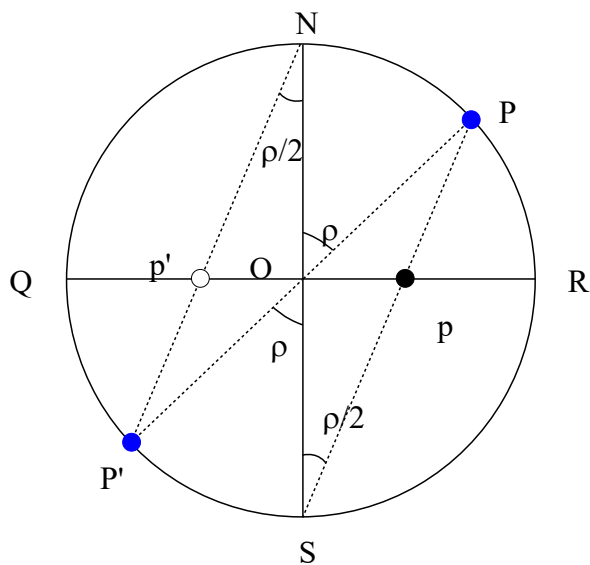
# Building the stereographic projection: from the spherical poles (P) to the stereographic poles (p, p')



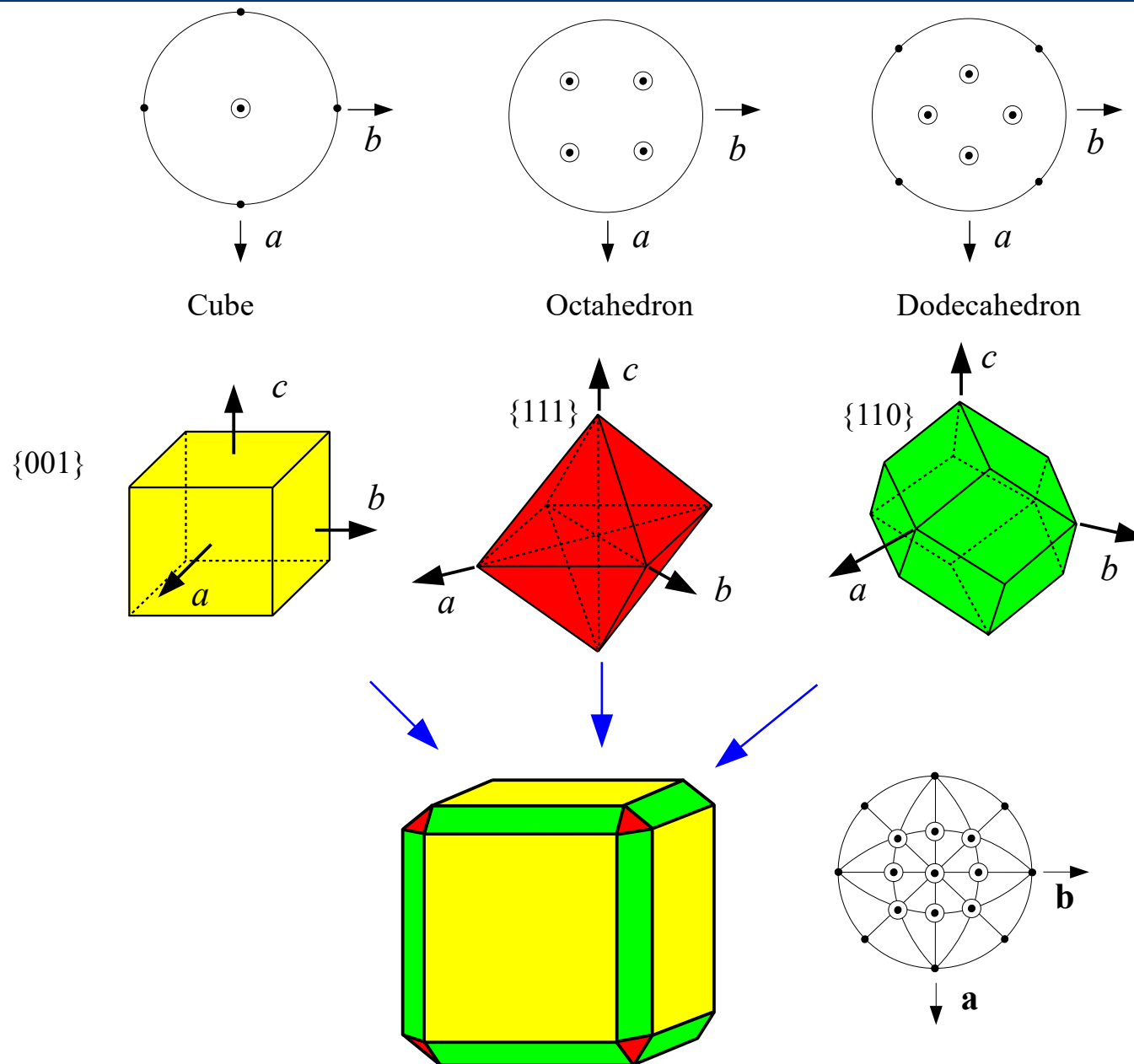
# Building the stereographic projection: from the spherical poles (P) to the stereographic poles (p, p')



# Stereographic projection: poles and symmetry planes

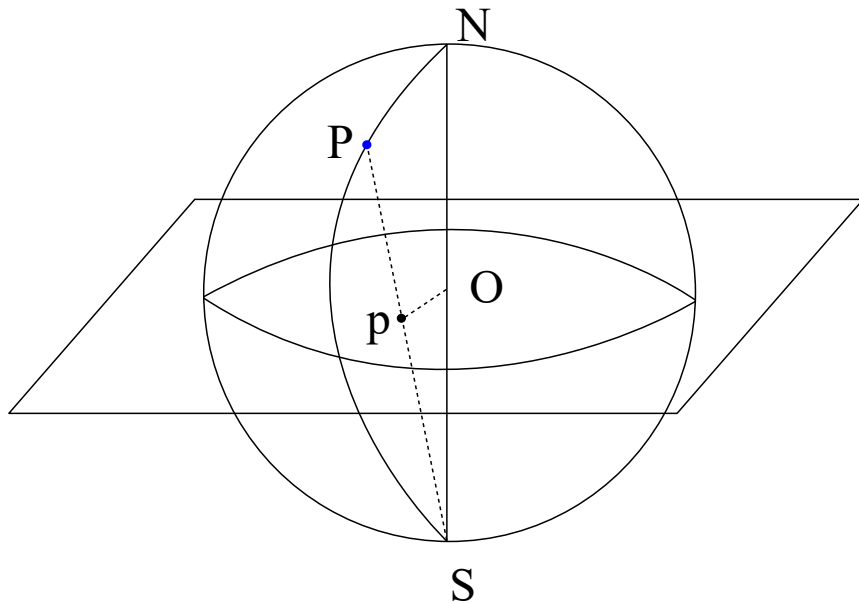


# Example of analysis of the morphology of a crystal

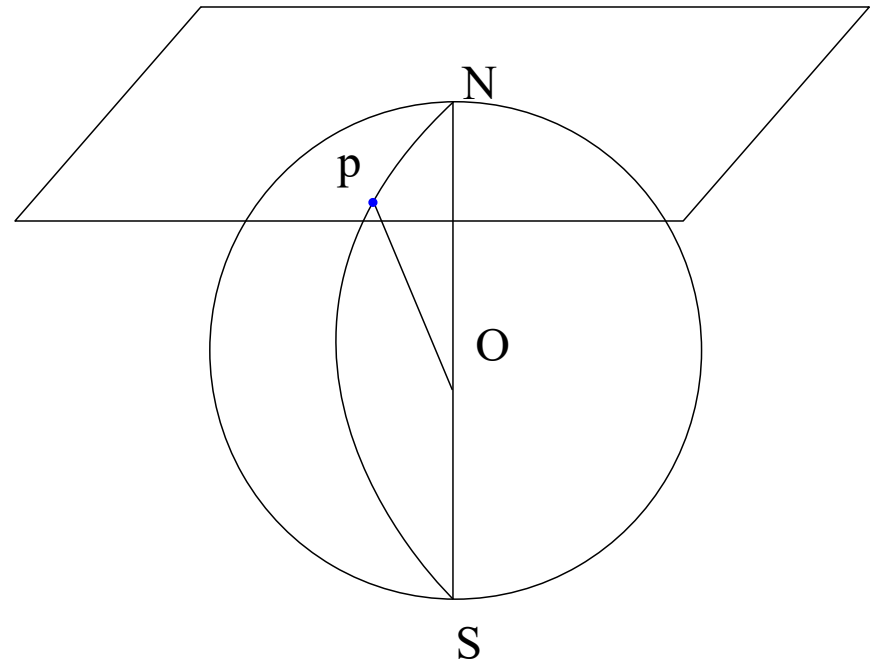




# Stereographic vs. gnomonic projection



Stereographic projection



Gnomonic projection

**Be careful - some textbooks exchange the two terms!**

# Site-symmetry groups (stabilizers) and Wyckoff positions of point groups

Let  $P$  be a crystallographic (thus finite) point group and  $X$  a point in space.

The finite set of points  $\{PX\} = \{X, X', X'' \dots\}$  is the orbit of  $X$  under the action of  $P$ .

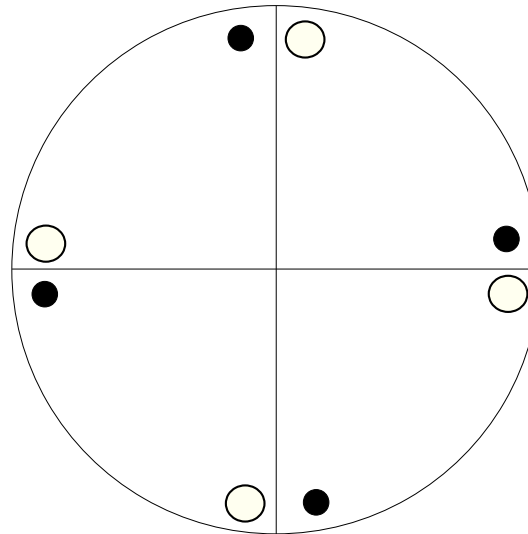
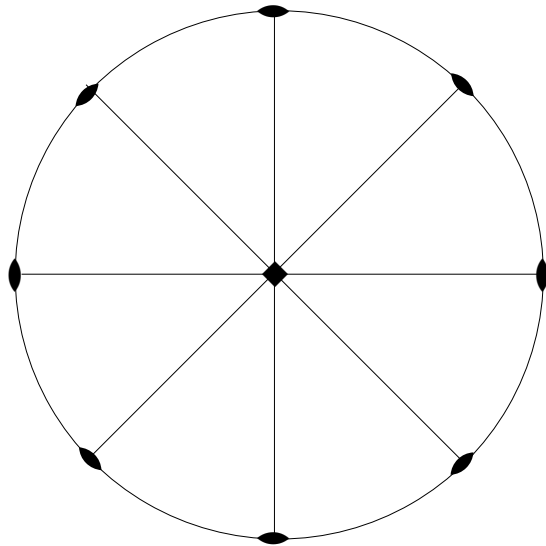
A subgroup  $S$  of  $P$  ( $S \subset P$ , possibly trivial, *i.e.*  $S = 1$ ) leave  $X$  invariant, *i.e.*  $SX = X$

$S$  is called the site-symmetry group (or stabilizer) of  $X$ .

Points whose site-symmetry groups  $S$  are conjugate under  $P$  belong the same Wyckoff position

The number of points obtained as  $\{PX\}$  is the multiplicity  $M$  of the orbit, which is equal to the index of  $S$  in  $P$ :  $M = |P|/|S|$

# Site-symmetry groups (stabilizers) and Wyckoff positions of point groups



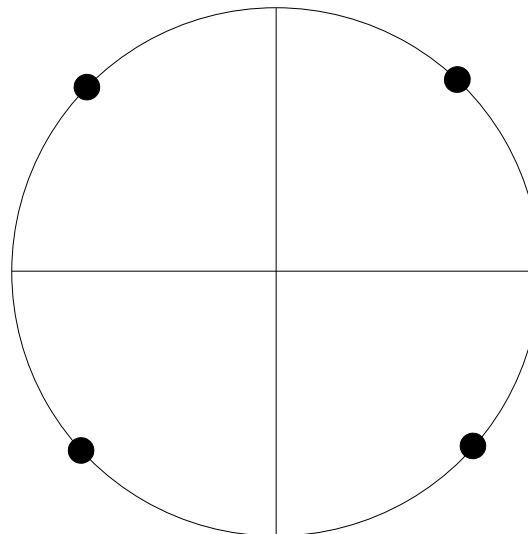
Coordinates

$$\underline{xyz}, \overline{yxz}, \overline{\underline{xyz}}, \overline{yxz}, \\ \underline{xyz}, \underline{yxz}, \underline{xyz}, \underline{yxz}$$

$$S = \{1\}, M = 8$$

**General position**

$$S = \{1\}, M = |P|$$



Coordinates

$$xx0, \overline{xx0}: S = \{1, 2_{[110]}\} \\ \overline{xx0}, \overline{\overline{xx0}}: S = \{1, 2_{[1\bar{1}0]}\}$$

$$S = \{..2\}, M = 4$$

**Special position**

$$S \supset \{1\}, M = |P|/|S|$$

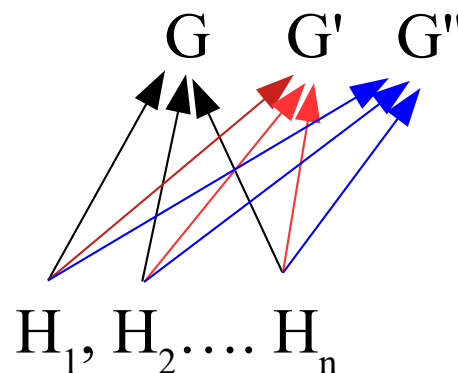
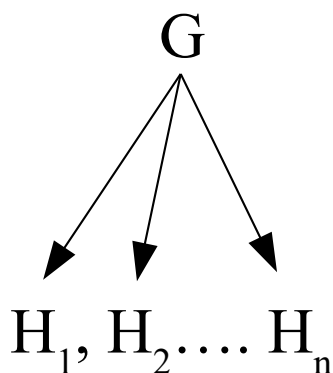
$$\forall p_j \in P$$

$$p_j 1 p_j^{-1} = 1$$

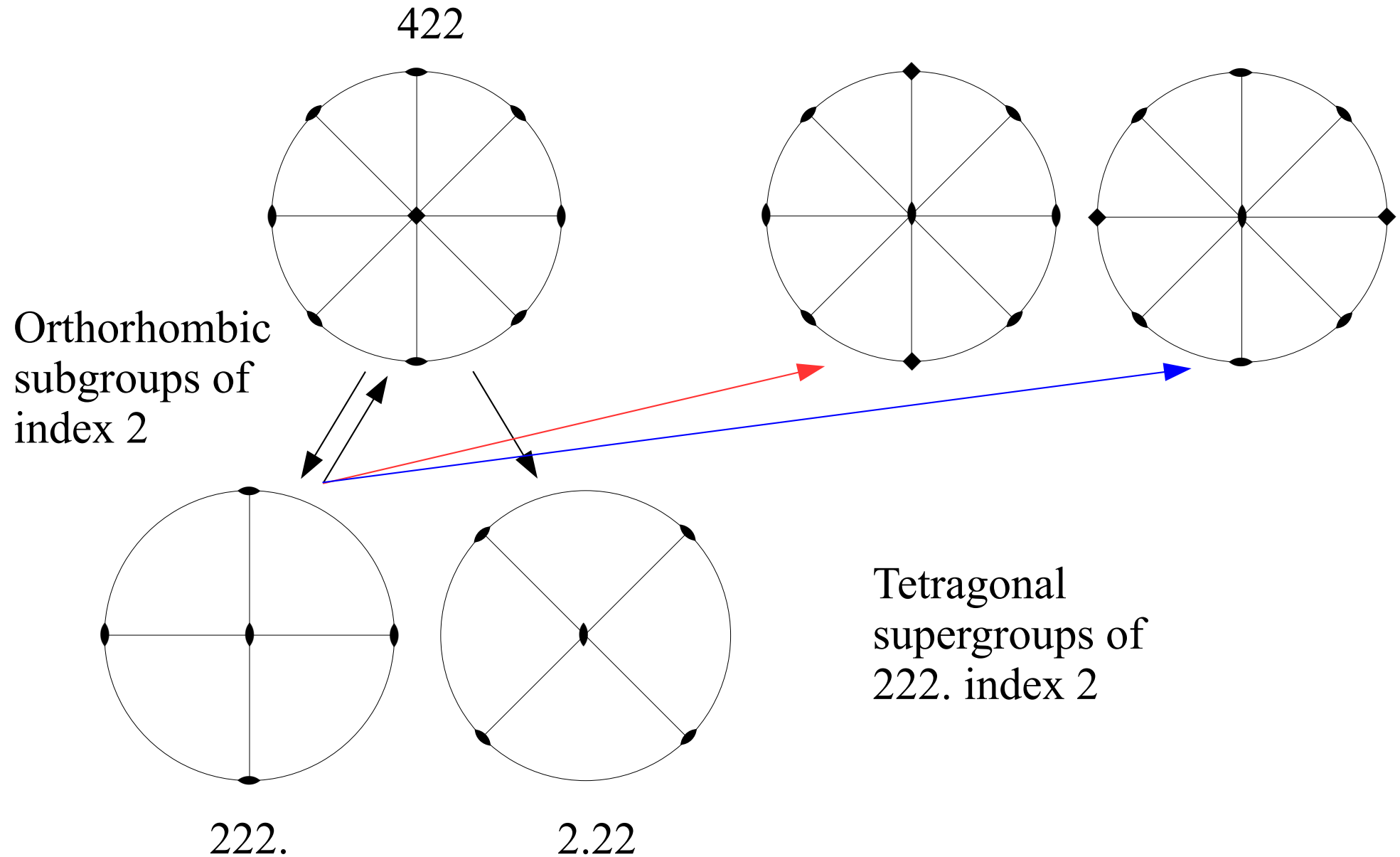
$$p_j 2_{[110]} p_j^{-1} = \{2_{[110]}, 2_{[1\bar{1}0]}\}$$

# Subgroups vs. supergroups: to remove symmetry operations is easier than to add them

$$G \supset H \quad i = |G|/|H|$$

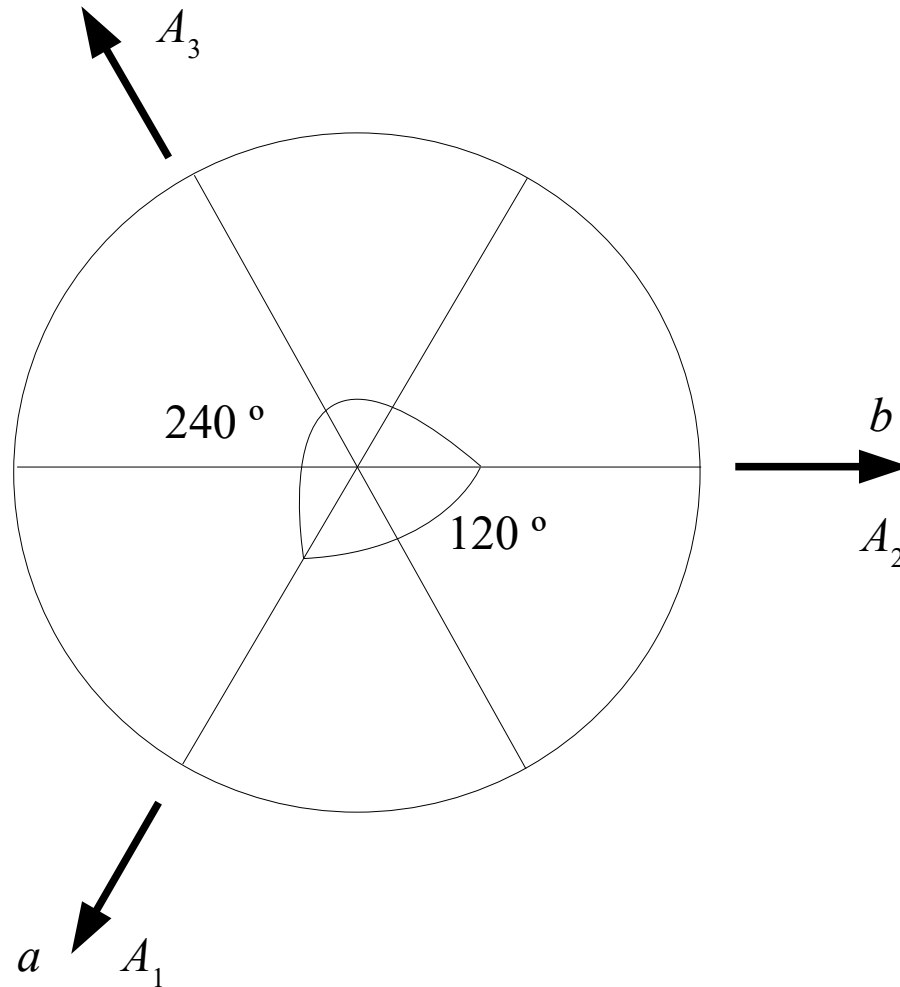


# To remove symmetry operations is easier than to add them



# Indexing crystals of the hexagonal family: Bravais-Miller indices

# Hexagonal axes: Bravais-Miller indices



$$abc \rightarrow \mathbf{A}_1\mathbf{A}_2\mathbf{A}_3\mathbf{C}$$

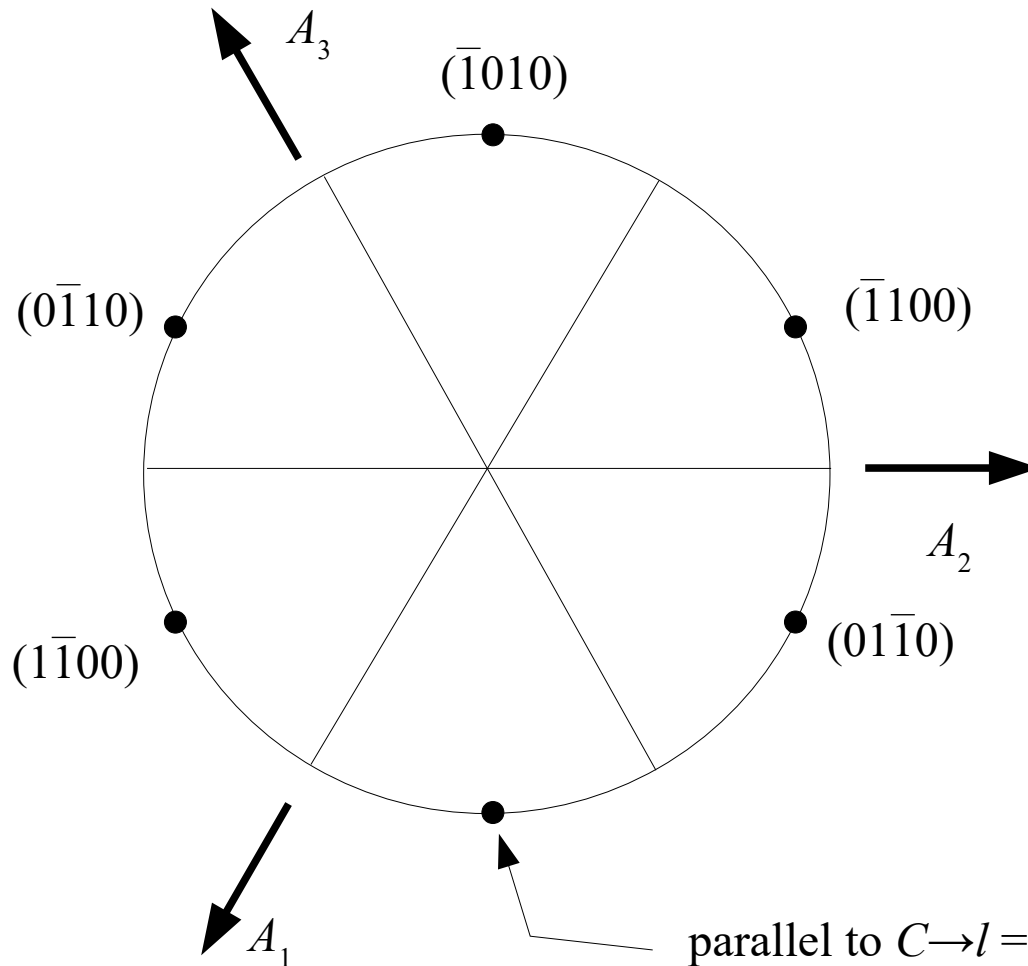
$$hkl \rightarrow hkil$$

Miller indices      Bravais-Miller indices

$$\mathbf{A}_3 = -\mathbf{A}_1 - \mathbf{A}_2$$

$$i = -h - k$$

# Bravais-Miller indices: example



If you use Miller indices the symmetry is less evident!

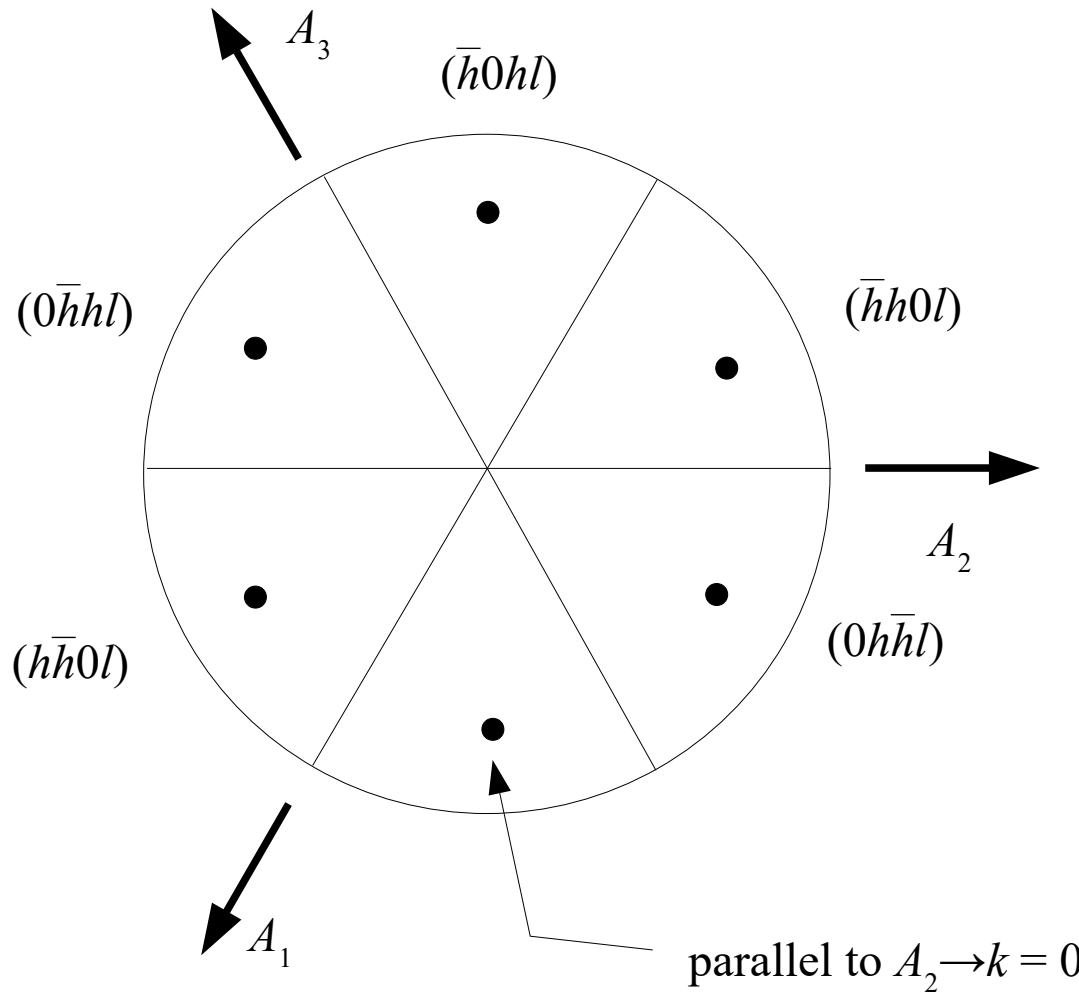
- (100)
- (010)
- (110)
- (100)
- (010)
- (110)

parallel to  $C \rightarrow l = 0$   
parallel to  $A_2 \rightarrow k = 0$

$$(hki) \rightarrow (h0i0) \xrightarrow{i = -h-0} (h0\bar{h}0) \xrightarrow{\text{divide by the common factor}} (10\bar{1}0)$$



# Bravais-Miller indices: example

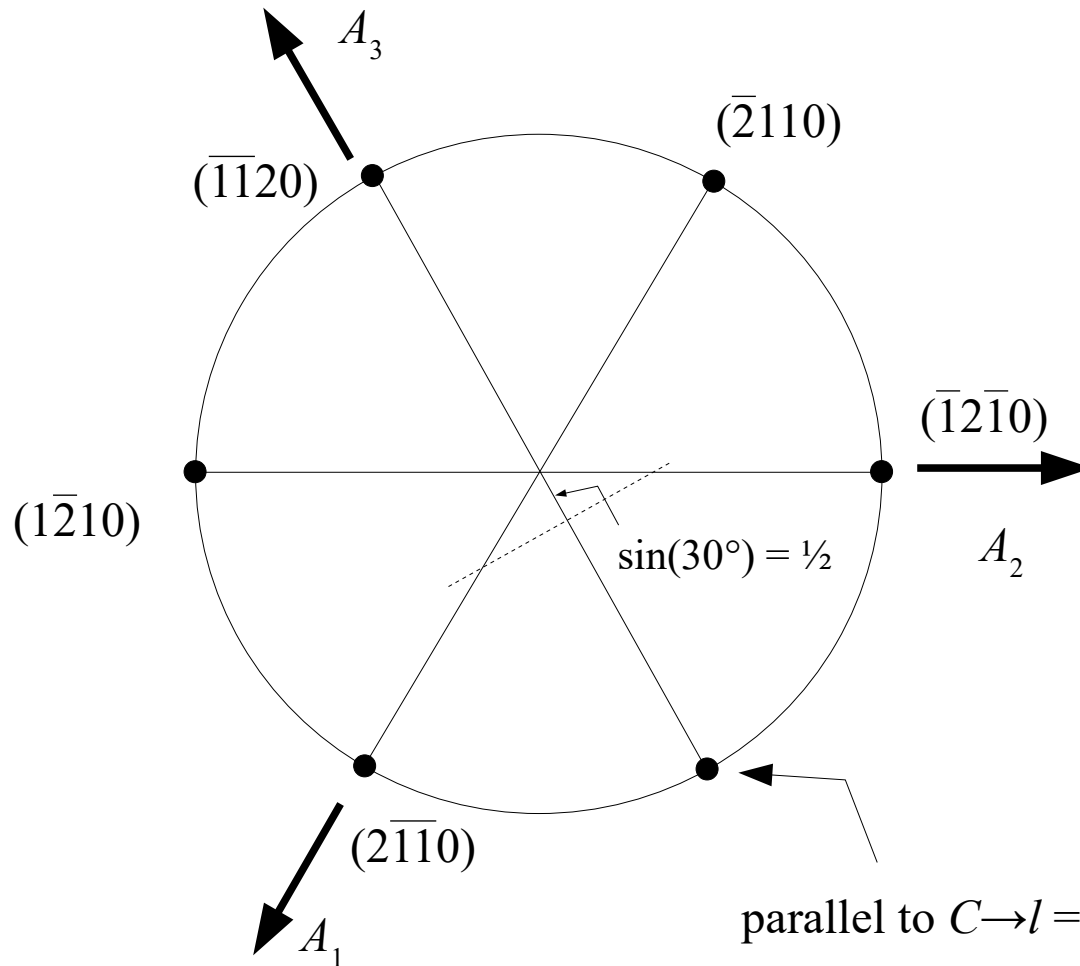


If you use Miller indices the symmetry is less evident!

- $(h0l)$
- $(0hl)$
- $(\bar{h}hl)$
- $(h0l)$
- $(0\bar{h}l)$
- $(h\bar{h}l)$

$$(hki) \rightarrow (h0il) \xrightarrow{i = -h-0} (h0\bar{h}l)$$

# Bravais-Miller indices: example



If you use Miller indices the symmetry is less evident!

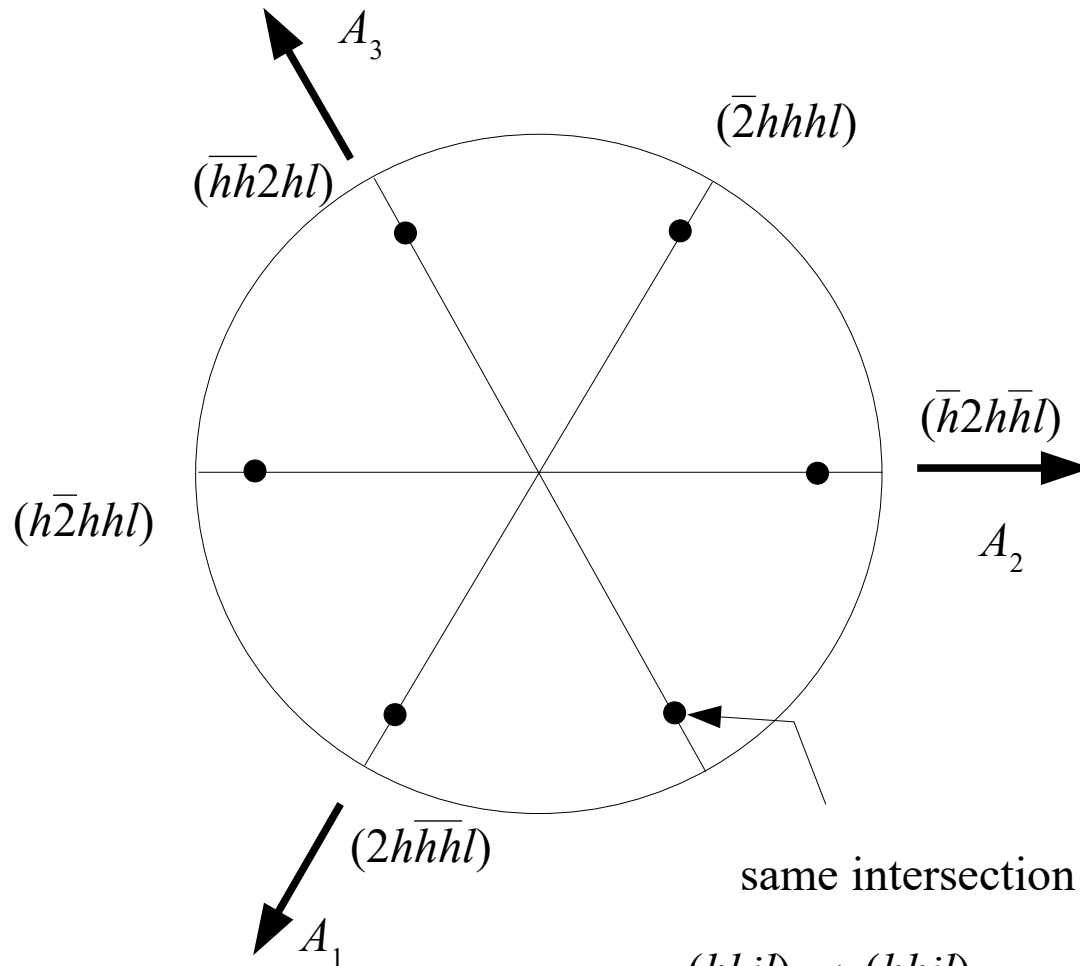
- (110)
- ( $\bar{1}$ 20)
- (210)
- (110)
- ( $\bar{1}$ 20)
- (210)

parallel to  $C \rightarrow l = 0$

same intersection on  $A_1$  and  $A_2 \rightarrow k = h$

$$(hki) \rightarrow (hhi) \xrightarrow{i = -h-h} (hh\bar{2}h0) \xrightarrow{\text{divide by the common factor}} (11\bar{2}0)$$

# Bravais-Miller indices: example



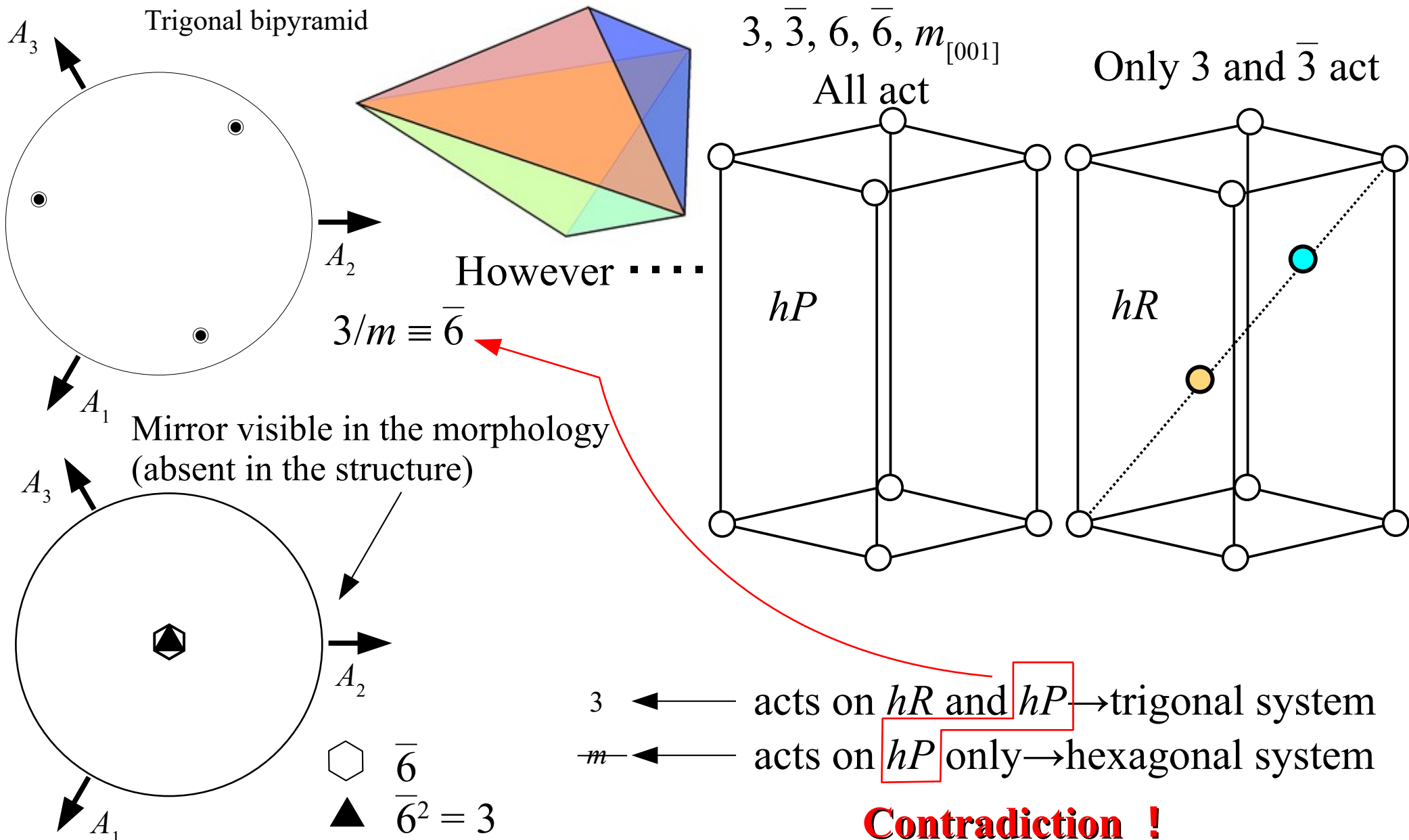
If you use Miller indices the symmetry is less evident!

- $(hhl)$
- $(\bar{h}2hl)$
- $(2hhl)$
- $(hhl)$
- $(h2hl)$
- $(2h\bar{h}l)$

same intersection on  $A_1$  and  $A_2 \rightarrow k = h$

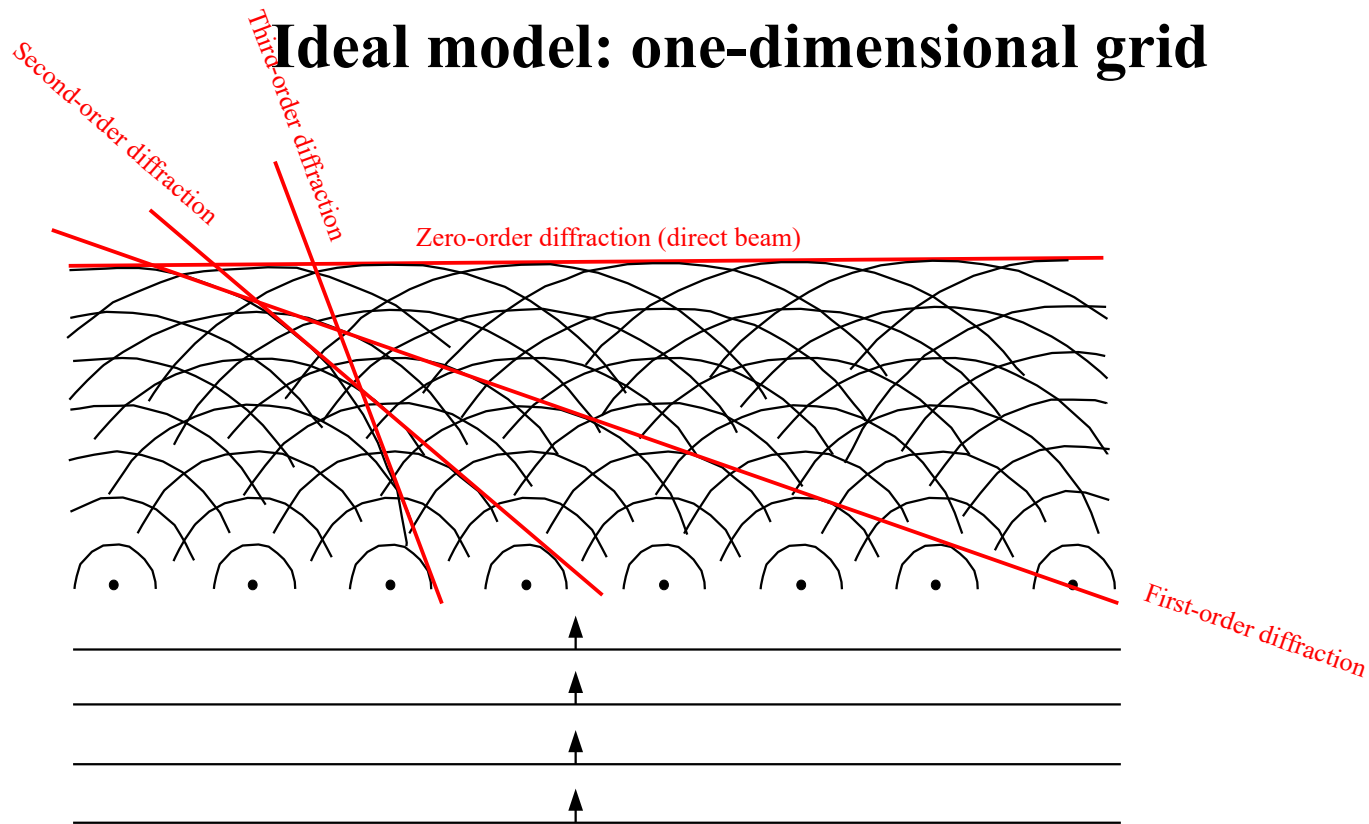
$$(hki) \rightarrow (hhi) \xrightarrow{i = -h-h} (h\bar{h}2hl)$$

# We you don't see $3/m$ in crystallography ?



# Diffraction and Laue indices

# A hyper-simplified view at diffraction phenomenon



Every point of the grid is the source of a spherical wave. Waves which differ by an integer number of wavelengths interfere positively, resulting in diffracted waves. Waves from neighbour points which differ by  $n$  wavelengths result in the  $n$ -th order diffraction.

# Miller indices vs. Laue indices

