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# DERIVATION OF THREE-DIMENSIONAL SIMILARITY SYMMETRY GROUPS

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**Abstract**

**Full Text**

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*CRYSTALLOGRAPHY*

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## **DERIVATION OF THREE-DIMENSIONAL SIMILARITY SYMMETRY GROUPS**

*(Presented by Academician A. V. Shubnikov, May 26, 1967)*

1. In 1960 A. V. Shubnikov proposed the idea of similarity symmetry<sup>(1)</sup>. A refinement of the concept of similarity symmetry groups, the transfer to them of the idea of antisymmetry<sup>(2)</sup>, a description of two-dimensional crystallographic groups of similarity symmetry and antisymmetry, and their generalization with the concept of antisymmetry of various kinds<sup>(3)</sup> are given in<sup>(4)</sup>. Three-dimensional groups of similarity symmetry and antisymmetry have been studied in part<sup>(5,6)</sup>.

A group  $G$  of similarity transformations in  $n$ -dimensional Euclidean space will be called an  $n$ -dimensional similarity group (s.g.) if: a)  $G$  contains at least one similarity transformation  $P$  with coefficient  $k \neq 1$ ; b) at least one point of the space is isolated in the infinite class of its images under all transformations from  $G$ <sup>(5)</sup>. The point  $O$ , fixed under the transformation  $P$ , will be called a special point of the group  $G$ ; it is fixed under all transformations of the group  $G$ <sup>(4,5)</sup>.

The derivation of two-dimensional groups of similarity symmetry and antisymmetry in<sup>(4)</sup> is reduced to the consideration of symmetry and antisymmetry groups of rods<sup>(7)</sup>. The generalization of these and other groups with the concept of antisymmetry of various kinds was carried out in parallel<sup>(4,8)</sup>. Two-dimensional groups of similarity symmetry and antisymmetry have been applied to the description and derivation of a special class of three-dimensional s.g.'s—the so-called conical ones (three-dimensional with a special plane)<sup>(4,6)</sup>. Crystallographic conical s.g.'s have been completely generalized with the concept of antisymmetry of various kinds<sup>(6)</sup>. The study of noncrystallographic conical and two-dimensional s.g.'s is also reduced to consideration of the better-known noncrystallographic rod groups (symmetry of chain molecules<sup>(9,10)</sup>).

The central content of the present work is the derivation of all three-dimensional s.g.'s. By the method of generalized projections in the spirit of<sup>(11)</sup>, they can be interpreted as point groups of symmetry and antisymmetry<sup>(2,12)</sup> and of color symmetry<sup>(13)</sup>. Many general properties of s.g.'s are valid for any dimension  $n$ .

2. Let  $G$  be an  $n$ -dimensional s.g. with special point  $O$ . Every transformation  $g$  of the group  $G$  is uniquely representable as the product of a homothety  $h$ , with center  $O$ , and a transformation of classical symmetry  $s$ , keeping  $O$  fixed (a “rotation” about  $O$ ), which we shall call the components of  $g$ . It is easy to see that the collections  $H$  and  $S$ , respectively, of the homotheties and “rotations” occurring in the transformations of the group  $G$ , are also groups.

Construct mappings  $\varphi$  and  $\psi$  of the group  $G$  onto  $S$  and onto  $H$  according to the rule  $\varphi(g) = s$ ,  $\psi(g) = h$ , where  $g = hs$  ( $g \in G$ ). Obviously,  $\varphi$  and  $\psi$  are homomorphisms, whose kernels are the subgroup  $H_0$  of all homotheties in  $G$  ( $H_0 = G \cap H$ ) and the subgroup  $S_0$  of all “rotations” in  $G$  ( $S_0 = G \cap S$ ). By the homomorphism theorem <sup>(14)</sup>,  $H_0$  and  $S_0$  are normal divisors of the group  $G$ , and moreover  $G/H_0 \cong S$  and  $G/S_0 \cong H$ .

**Theorem 1.** *Every s.g. contains a transformation with the least similarity coefficient exceeding unity.*

The given group  $G$ , by property a), contains a transformation with coefficient  $k > 1$ , and by b) there exists a point  $A$  (different from  $O$ ) whose  $\varepsilon$ -neighborhood which contains no other points of the class of its  $G$ -images. Every transformation  $g$  from  $G$  with coefficient  $k' > 1$  carries this  $\varepsilon$ -neighborhood into an  $\varepsilon'$ -neighborhood of the point  $A' = g(A)$ , containing no other points of this class, with  $\varepsilon' > \varepsilon$ . Therefore, in the layer between the spheres of radii  $OA$  and  $k \cdot OA$  with center  $O$ , the point  $A'$  can assume only a finite number of positions; hence the number of such values  $k'$ ,  $1 \leq k' < k$ , is finite, and one may choose the smallest of them.

From the theorem just proved it follows that: 1) the group  $H$  of homotheties occurring among the transformations of the group  $G$  is cyclic (generated by a homothety with the smallest coefficient  $k' > 1$ ); 2) if the subgroup  $H_0$  of homotheties of the group  $G$  is nontrivial, then it is cyclic and its index in the group  $H$  is finite.

Let us now note that, for  $n \geq 3$ , the definition given in Section 1 is satisfied not only by discrete groups, but also by groups of semicontinua (for example, the three-dimensional finite group  $\{K\}(\infty : m)$  in the notation of <sup>(6)</sup>). Therefore we shall replace requirement b) by a stronger one: b') there exist  $n$  points not lying in one  $(n - 2)$ -dimensional plane, each of which is isolated in the class of its  $G$ -images\*. In what follows we consider only groups defined by requirements a) and b').

**Theorem 2.** *If a subgroup  $G_0$  of the group  $G$  is itself an f.s.g., then the index of  $G_0$  in  $G$  is finite.*

We give the proof for three-dimensional groups.

By property a),  $G_0$  contains a transformation with coefficient  $k > 1$ . By b'), for  $G$  there exist noncollinear points  $A, B, C$ , isolated in the classes of their

$G$ -images; two of them, for example  $A$  and  $B$ , are noncollinear with  $O$ . Every adjacent class  $gG_0$  contains such a transformation  $g'$  that

$$OA \leq OA' < k \cdot OA, \quad OB \leq OB' < k \cdot OB, \quad \text{where } A' = g'(A), \\ B' = g'(B). \quad (*)$$

Reasoning with spherical layers, as in Theorem 1, we find that for  $g' \in G$  there are only a finite number  $p$  of points  $A'$  and a finite number  $q$  of points  $B'$  satisfying condition (\*). Consequently, the triangle  $OA'B'$  (the  $g'$ -image of the triangle  $OAB$ ) assumes no more than  $pq$  positions; but a similarity transformation in space is determined two-valuedly by specifying a triangle and its image<sup>(15)</sup>, and therefore there are no more than  $2pq$  distinct  $g'$  satisfying (\*). Hence the number of adjacent classes  $gG_0$  is finite.

For any  $n > 3$  the basic idea of the argument is exactly the same.

From this theorem it follows that: 1) the subgroup  $S_0$  of "rotations" of the group  $G$  is finite (if  $g' \in S_0$ , then it satisfies condition (\*)); 2) if  $G$  has a nontrivial subgroup of homotheties  $H_0$ , then  $G/H_0$  and the group  $S$  of "rotations" occurring among the transformations of  $G$  are finite.

3. Let now  $G$  be an f.s.g. with a nontrivial subgroup of homotheties  $H_0$ . Then, by Section 2,  $G/H_0$  is finite;  $H_0 = \{K\}$ , where  $K$  is a homothety from  $G$  with the smallest coefficient  $k > 1$ ; every adjacent class  $gH_0$  contains the unique transformation  $g'$  satisfying condition (\*) for any points  $A$  and  $B$  distinct from  $O$ , and its coefficient is equal to one of the numbers  $1, k^{1/p}, \dots, k^{p-1/p}$  ( $p$  is the index of the subgroup  $H_0$  in  $H$ ). Choose a sphere of radius  $R$  with center  $O$ , and on it a point  $A$ ; the class of its  $H_0$ -images consists of the intersections of the ray  $OA$  with all spheres of radii  $Rk^l$  (where  $l$  is any integer) having center  $O$ ; the points  $A'$  satisfying (\*) will lie on the concentric spheres of radii  $R, Rk^{1/p}, \dots, Rk^{p-1/p}$ . Project the points  $A'$  and their  $H_0$ -images (and these exhaust all  $G$ -images of the point  $A$ ) from the center  $O$  onto the chosen sphere of radius  $R$ , and color their projections in  $p$  different colors corresponding to the  $p$  "spherical levels" of the points  $A'$ : to the point  $\bar{A}$ , which is the projection of the point  $A'$  (and of its  $H_0$ -images),

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\* By virtue of a), these classes are infinite for at least  $n - 1$  of these points; therefore for  $n \geq 2$ , b') implies b).

we assign the  $j$ -th color if  $OA' = Rk^{j-1/p}$  ( $j = 1, 2, \dots, p$ ). Any transformation from the coset  $gH_0$  maps the class of  $H_0$ -images of the point  $A$  into the class of  $H_0$ -images of the point  $A' = g'(A)$ , where  $g' \in gH_0$ ; therefore, in colored projections onto the sphere the class  $gH_0$  is represented by a transformation of  $p$ -colored symmetry in the sense of Belov<sup>(11)</sup> (for  $p = 2$ , "black-and-white," for  $p = 1$ , classical), carrying  $A$  into  $\bar{A}$  and geometrically coinciding with the "rotations"

entering into the transformations of the class  $gH_0$ . The totality  $\tilde{S}$  of such transformations is a point group of  $p$ -colored symmetry, isomorphic to  $G/H_0$  and obtained from the group  $S$  of “rotations” entering into the transformations  $G$ ;  $\tilde{S}$  is a natural model of  $G/H_0$  and thereby interprets  $G$  (cf. the interpretation of the three-dimensional Fedorov groups in the form of colored two-dimensional methods of generalized projections of Belov–Tarkhova <sup>(11)</sup>).

Thus, all s.s.g. containing nontrivial homotheties can be described by means of point groups of  $p$ -colored symmetry, well studied for  $n = 3$  <sup>(2,12,13)</sup>. Therefore the problem of deriving three-dimensional s.s.g. with homotheties is in fact completely solved. All crystallographic s.s.g. (for which  $S$  is one of the 32 crystallographic point groups <sup>(2,12)</sup>) are easily written out by means of the corresponding  $p$ -colored point groups, assigning to  $p$  the values 1, 2, 3, 4, 6. For  $p = 1$  there are 32 of them, for  $p = 2$  58 <sup>(12)</sup>, for  $p = 3, 4, 6$  there are  $7+4+7 = 18$  <sup>(13)</sup>, and in all 108. Of these, 94 groups are known as 109 conical groups <sup>(4,6)</sup> (in Table 2 of work <sup>(6)</sup>, 15 conical groups repeat those derived earlier, if they are regarded as three-dimensional without taking into account a distinguished direction). The remaining 14 s.s.g., associated with the cubic system, do not fall into the conical series. Let us write them in the notation of <sup>(4,6)</sup>, using for point groups of symmetry, antisymmetry, and color symmetry the notation of <sup>(2,13)</sup>.

The groups  $3/2$  and  $\bar{3}^{(3)}/2$  are interpreted by the s.s.g.  $\{K\}(3/2)$  and  $\{K\}(K'^{1/3}\bar{3}/2)$ ; the groups  $\bar{6}/2$ ,  $\bar{6}/2$ ,  $\bar{6}^{(3)}/2$ , and  $\bar{6}^{(6)}/2$ —by the s.s.g.  $\{K\}(\bar{6}/2)$ ,  $\{K\}(K'^{1/2}\bar{6}/2)$ ,  $\{K\}(K'^{1/3}\bar{6}/2)$ , and  $\{K\}(K'^{1/6}\bar{6}/2)$ ; the groups  $3/\bar{4}$ ,  $3/\bar{4}$ ,  $3/4$ , and  $3/\bar{4}-\{K\}(3/\bar{4})$ ,  $\{K\}(3/K'^{1/2}\bar{4})$ ,  $\{K\}(3/4)$ , and  $\{K\}(3/K'^{1/2}4)$ ; the groups  $\bar{6}/4$ ,  $\bar{6}/4$ ,  $\bar{6}/4$ , and  $\bar{6}/4-\{K\}(\bar{6}/4)$ ,  $\{K\}(K'^{1/2}\bar{6}/4)$ ,  $\{K\}(\bar{6}/K'^{1/2}4)$ , and  $\{K\}(K'^{1/2}\bar{6}/K'^{1/2}4)$ .

Among noncrystallographic three-dimensional s.s.g. with homotheties, three are not conical:  $\{K\}(3/5)$ ,  $\{K\}(3/10)$ , and  $\{K\}(3/K'^{1/2}\bar{10})$  (they are interpreted by the groups  $3/5$ ,  $3/\bar{10}$ , and  $3/\bar{10}$  <sup>(2)</sup>; for  $p > 2$  colored groups from  $3/5$  and  $3/\bar{10}$  are not derived). All the remaining three-dimensional groups with homotheties are conical, since the remaining three-dimensional point groups have a plane invariant under all their transformations (distinguished).

4. We shall now show that all three-dimensional s.s.g., with the exception of the 17 listed above, are conical. It remains to consider only groups that do not contain nontrivial homotheties (and, consequently, also homothetic reflections <sup>(4–6)</sup>, and screw motions or reflections <sup>(4–6)</sup> with rotation angles, and mirror rotations entering into them, rational with respect to  $\pi$ ).

**Theorem 3.** *A three-dimensional s.s.g. without nontrivial homotheties is conical.*

Let  $G$  be a three-dimensional s.s.g. without homotheties, and  $P$  a transforma-

tion contained in it with coefficient  $k \neq 1$ . In this case  $P$  can only be a screw motion (or screw reflection) <sup>(4-6)</sup> with an angle of rotation (or mirror rotation)  $\varphi$  irrational with respect to  $\pi$ ; it leaves invariant exactly one line  $d$  (axis). We shall show that  $d$  is a distinguished line of the group  $G$ , i.e., invariant under its transformations.

Suppose that  $G$  contains a transformation  $g$  carrying  $d$  into another line  $d_1$ . The transformation  $P_1 = gPg^{-1}$  is a screw motion (reflection) with coefficient  $k$  and angle  $\varphi$ , but with axis  $d_1$ , and the transformations  $P_2 = PP_1P^{-1}, \dots, P_n = P^{n-1}P_1P^{1-n}, \dots$  are screw motions (reflections)

with coefficient  $k$ , angle  $\varphi$ , and axes  $d_2 = P(d_1), \dots, d_n = P^{n-1}(d_1), \dots$ . Since  $\varphi/\pi$  is irrational, all the lines  $d_i$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots$ ) are distinct; therefore the transformations  $P_i$  are also distinct, and hence so are all  $s_i = P^{-1}P_i$ , belonging to the subgroup  $S_0$  of "rotations" of the group  $G$ . But this contradicts the finiteness of the group  $S_0$  (Corollary 1 to Theorem 2).

Consequently,  $d$  is a special line. But then the plane perpendicular to it and passing through the point  $O$  is also special, i.e., the group  $G$  is finite.

All finite s.s.g., as was already noted in § 1, can be described by means of rod groups of symmetry and antisymmetry, whose survey presents no fundamental difficulty. The problem of deriving three-dimensional s.s.g. may be regarded as completely solved.

5. From §§ 2, 3 it follows that the problem of deriving  $n$ -dimensional s.s.g. with homotheties (in particular, crystallographic ones) comes down directly to the study of  $n$ -dimensional point groups of symmetry and the derivation from them of color groups. The case  $n = 4$  is facilitated by the fact that the point crystallographic groups have already been found <sup>(16)</sup>.

In <sup>(5)</sup> it was noted that the derivation of  $n$ -dimensional s.s.g. makes it possible at once to describe  $(n+1)$ -dimensional linear groups of symmetry with an invariant directed line (symmetry groups of  $(n+1)$ -dimensional directed rods). Thus, in the present work the problem of deriving the symmetry groups of directed 4-dimensional rods has also been solved; there are 108 crystallographic groups among them. For the description of all 4-dimensional rod groups, however, an extension of three-dimensional s.s.g. to the so-called groups of conformal symmetry (§ 5 <sup>(4)</sup>) is required.

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