ON THE THEORY OF STRUCTURE PHASE TRANSITIONS IN CRYSTALS WITH INTERNAL DEGREES OF FREEDOM

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The theory of structure phase transitions in crystals with internal degrees of freedom may be developed as the generalization of the Landau theory of the second order phase transitions. As it is known [1] the second order phase transitions may not be connected obligatory with the changing of Fedorov-Schönflies space symmetry group $\Phi_{\rho^{\bullet}}$ which describes the atom configurations in crystal structure. They may be connected with some other symmetry changing. The well-known example are the spin reorientation phase transitions in magnetic crystals which change the order properties in the spin substructure of the crystal structure.

This kind of symmetry is known as magnetic symmetry. It is defined by the specific group of the proper symmetry $\infty/\text{mm'm'} = \infty 2' 2' \$ 1$ of the stationary magnetic moment and by the way how the component of the combined operators p\$\ph\$ act on the coordinates of the external (geometric) R and the internal (spin) S subspaces of the magnetic crystal space.

All the known kinds of magnetic symmetry P, Q, Wp and Wq may be embedded in the construction of the wreath product of two groups [2,3]

$$\Phi^{(h)} \subseteq \mathbb{P}[\Phi_{\mathrm{mod}N} = (\widetilde{\mathbb{P}}^{\Phi_1} \otimes \widetilde{\mathbb{P}}^{\Phi_2} \otimes \ldots \otimes \widetilde{\mathbb{P}}^{\Phi_N}) \otimes \Phi_{\mathrm{mod}N} = \widetilde{\mathbb{Q}} \widetilde{\mathbb{P}} \otimes \Phi_{\mathrm{mod}N} \quad ,$$

), \otimes and \otimes being the symbols of the wreath, direct and semidirect products. The crystal space group $\Phi_{\rho^{\bullet}} = \Phi_{\mathrm{mod}N}$ is restricted there by modulo N, N being a big figure.

 $\vec{P} = \infty \infty$ 1' is the permutation group of states possible for the spin coordinates $\$ \in S$, $\infty \infty$ being the proper part of the orthogonal group of $0^+(3)$ and 1' the time inversion operator which acts at the spin s of the point $\$(\vec{r}) = (\$, \vec{r})$ as follows: 1' $\$(\vec{r}) = -\(\vec{r}) .

In the cases of P - and Q - symmetry the composite space of a crystal (S,R) = {($\mathring{s},\mathring{r}$)} is homogeneous in a sense that operators $\phi^{(p)} = p\phi$ and $\phi^{(q)} = q\phi$ of the generalized groups $0^{(p)}$ and $0^{(q)}$ act globally on the every point $(\mathring{s},\mathring{r})\in(S,R)$ as rigid motions:

$$p\phi(\mathring{s},\mathring{r}) = (p\mathring{s},\phi\mathring{r}), p\phi \in \Phi^{(p)} = p\Phi \subseteq \widetilde{P}\Phi\Phi_{\rho}, P\subseteq \widetilde{P}, p\in P, \phi \in \Phi_{\rho}$$

$$\mathbf{q} \diamond (\mathring{\mathbf{s}}, \mathring{\mathbf{r}}) \; = \; (\mathbf{q} [\, \diamond \,] \mathring{\mathbf{s}} \, , \, \diamond \mathring{\mathbf{r}}) \; , \; \, \mathbf{q} \diamond \in \boldsymbol{\varpi}^{(\mathbf{q})} \; = \; \mathsf{Q} \boldsymbol{\varpi} \subseteq \widetilde{\mathsf{Q}} \; \textcircled{\$} \; \boldsymbol{\varpi}_{\rho^{\bullet}} \; , \; \; \mathsf{Q} \subseteq \widetilde{\mathsf{Q}} \cong \widetilde{\underline{\mathsf{P}}} \; , \; \; \mathbf{q} \in \mathsf{Q}$$

For the non-magnetic atoms $(\mathring{s},\mathring{r}) = (o,\mathring{r})$, $[\phi]$ being the proper part of the operator $\phi \in \emptyset$.

In the cases of Wp- and Wq - symmetry the space (S,R) is inhomogeneous and splits into the set of homogeneous subspaces of (S,R). The single component $\mathbf{p_i}^{\phi_k}$ of the combined operator $\langle \mathbf{p_i}^{\phi_1} \dots \mathbf{p_i}^{\phi_k} \dots \mathbf{p_i}^{\phi_k} | \phi_i \rangle$ acts locally on the spin of the point $(\$, \vec{r_k}) \in (S,R)$ according to the ordering $\vec{r_k} = \phi_k \vec{r_i}$ which is defined on R:

$$< \dots q_{1}^{\phi_{k}} \dots |\phi_{1}>(\mathring{s},\mathring{r}_{k})| = (p_{1}^{\phi_{k}}\mathring{s},\phi_{1}\mathring{r}_{k}), < \dots |\phi_{1}> \in \emptyset^{(w_{p})} \subseteq \widetilde{p} \setminus \emptyset_{modN}$$

$$< \dots q_{1}^{\phi_{k}} \dots |\phi_{1}>(\mathring{s},\mathring{r}_{k})| = (q_{1}^{\phi_{k}} [\phi_{1}]\mathring{s},\phi_{1}\mathring{r}_{k}), < \dots |\phi_{1}> \in \emptyset^{(w_{q})} \subseteq \widetilde{Q} \setminus \emptyset_{modN}$$

From the physical point of view the P- symmetry corresponds to the spin to spin interactions and the Q-symmetry to the spin to lattice ones [4].

It is important to note that the phase transition of the second order from the paramagnetic phase $1^{(\infty 1')} \otimes \Phi_{\rho^e}$ into the magnetic ordered phase $\Phi_{\rho^e}^{(p)}$ is connected with the decreasing $\Phi^* \subset \Phi_{\rho^e}$ of the space symmetry group $\Phi_{\rho^e} = \Phi^* \Phi_1 \cup \Phi^* \Phi_2 \cup \dots \cup \Phi^* \Phi_j$ into the subgroup Φ^* of the index j at the classical level only. This decreasing is compensated by the appearance of the new symmetry properties in the physical system on the level of the magnetic group $\Phi^{(p)} = \Phi^* \Phi_1 \cup \Phi^{(p)} \cup \dots \cup \Phi^* \Phi_j$ which is isomorphic to $\Phi^{(p)} \hookrightarrow \Phi$. At the same time the factor $\Phi^{(p)} \hookrightarrow \Phi^* \to \Phi$ at the same time the factor $\Phi^{(p)} \hookrightarrow \Phi^* \to \Phi^*$ is changed by the factors $\Phi^{(p)} \to \Phi^* \to \Phi^*$ or $\Phi^{(p)} \to \Phi^* \to \Phi^*$ which preserve the function $\Phi^{(p)} \to \Phi^*$ of the temperature-press dependence of the spin s at the fixed point $\Phi^{(p)} \to \Phi^*$ for the 3-dimensional, complanar and collinear ordered magnetic crystals [5]. All the

restrictions on the space modulation of the crystal lattice parameters are removed in the theory of the magnetic symmetry [4]. The reason is that the group $\varphi_{\rho^{\bullet}}$ may always be multiplied by the local symmetry group $\Omega_{\text{helix}}^{(W)}$ of the magnetic helix in the direct way.

The abovementioned theory deals with the magnetic interpretation of the P-, Q- and W-colour symmetry groups. It may be generalized on the case of crystals with internal degrees of freedom which correspond to other coordinates than spin ones. The generalized coordinates describe the internal motions of substructures of the crystal structure, for instance the space modulation of the crystal lattice parameters connected with the charge density wave, the occupation wave or with the wave of the atom deviations from the equilibrium positions.

Let us define now the electron density function of an "imperfect" crystal with the internal degrees of freedom in the composite form $\rho(\vec{r}) = \rho^{\bullet}(\vec{r}) + \delta\rho(\vec{r})$. The function $\delta\rho(\vec{r})$ describes there the deviation of the electron density distribution of the actual crystal from some "perfect" distribution $\rho^{\bullet}(\vec{r})$ which one accepts as a basic one . In the zero approach one neglects the weak perturbation of a system $\rho^{\bullet}(\vec{r})$ connected with the function $\delta\rho(\vec{r})$ and identifies the functions $\rho(\vec{r}) \equiv \rho^{\bullet}(\vec{r})$ and their symmetry groups $\Phi_0 \equiv \Phi_0$:

$$\Phi_{\rho} \cdot \rho \left(\overrightarrow{r} \right) \; = \; \rho \left(\overrightarrow{r} \right) \; \equiv \; \rho^{\bullet} \left(\overrightarrow{r} \right) \; = \; \Phi_{\rho} \bullet \cdot \rho^{\circ} \left(\overrightarrow{r} \right) \; .$$

In the broken symmetry approach which is usual in the theory of imperfect crystals [6-8] and in the theory of the second order phase transitions [1] the perturbation $\delta\rho\left(\overrightarrow{r}\right)$ is taken into account at the level of classical space groups only. In this approach the symmetry group Φ_{ρ} reduces to the intersection (or the common part) of the group Φ_{ρ} and the symmetry group $\Omega_{\delta\rho}$ of the perturbation function, $\Phi_{\rho} = \Phi_{\rho} \cdot \Omega_{\delta\rho} C \Phi_{\rho} \cdot \text{The group } \Phi_{\rho} \text{ will be an untrivial subgroup of } \Phi_{\rho} \cdot \Phi_{\delta\rho} C \Phi_{\rho} \cdot \Phi_{\delta\rho} \cdot \Phi_{$

The broken symmetry approach is useful for the investigation of the local properties of the lattices connected with the local deviations of crystal structures. For the system properties depending on the structure of imperfect crystal as a whole this approach turns out to be too rough. In the latter case a more adequate approach will be the one which is based on the laws of conservation or extension of the abstract symmetry group of a system under consideration [2,9]. In this approaches the symmetry group of imperfect crystal in the initial state or after the second order phase transition is a subgroup Ω of the wreath product \widetilde{P} [Φ_{modN} which maps onto the initial basic space group $\Phi_{o^{\bullet}} = \Phi_{modN}$ isomorphically $(\Omega_{o} \longleftrightarrow \Phi_{o^{\bullet}})$ or homomorphically ($\Omega_{0} \rightarrow \Phi_{0}$). In this sence the symmetry of a crystal in the full correspondence with magnetic analogy is not decreased but increased trough the second order phase transition. Simbolically \mathbf{Q}_{0} , goes to \mathbf{Q}_{0} where

$$\Omega_{\rho} \cdot \rho \ = \ \Omega_{\delta \rho} \, \Phi_{\rho \circ} \, (\delta \rho + \rho) \ = \ \Omega_{\delta \rho} \cdot \delta \rho + \Phi_{\rho \circ} \cdot \rho^{\circ} \ = \ \rho \, , \Omega_{\rho} \ = \ \Omega_{\delta \rho} \, \Phi_{\rho \circ} \subseteq \widetilde{\Omega}_{\delta \rho} \Big) \, \Phi_{\rho \circ} = 0$$

The relations between the groups entering in this symbolic equation are illustrated in Fig. 1.

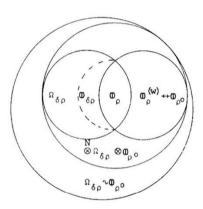


Fig. 1 Euler diagrams show the relation between symmetry groups of imperfect crystals with electron density function $p(\mathbf{r}') = p^*(\mathbf{r}') + \delta_0(\mathbf{r}')$. In the broken symmetry approach $\Omega_p^{\mathsf{'''}}\mathbf{q}' = \mathfrak{p}_p = \Omega_{g_0} \cap \mathfrak{q}_p \in \mathbb{C}_{\mathfrak{q}_p} \quad \text{In the approach of symmetry conservation } \Omega_p^{\mathsf{(h)}} = \mathfrak{q}_p^{\mathsf{(h)}} \times_{\mathfrak{q}_p} = \Omega_{g_0} \cap \mathfrak{q}_p^{\mathsf{(h)}} = \Omega_{g_0} \cap \mathfrak{q}_p^{\mathsf{(h)}} \times_{\mathfrak{q}_p} = \Omega_{g_0} \cap \mathfrak{q}_p^{\mathsf{(h)}} = \Omega_{g_0} \cap \mathfrak{q}_p^{\mathsf{(h)}$

If one takes into account that the imperfect crystal in the initial state has non-classical space symmetry group Ω_{ρ_1} then the symmetry changing (\Rightarrow) into the state of Ω_{ρ_2} may be performed through the structure phase transitions in three ways:

The case 2° may be realized for instance as the remodulation phase transition $\delta_{\rho 1} \Rightarrow \delta_{\rho 2}$ which doesn't affect (in the adopted approximation) the basic structure $\rho^{\circ}(\vec{r})$ and acts in the separate space of internal degrees of freedom of a crystal. As an example of such transitions let us consider the physical behavior of Na $_2$ CO $_3$ crystal [10].

Figure 2 taken from [10] gives the temperature dependence $\vec{q}_{0}(T)$ of the stationary space modulation wave vector of $Na_{2}CO_{3}$ crystal betweem 620^{O} and $4.2^{O}K$. Above $620^{O}K$ the crystal has a normal β -phase with the symmetry group $\Phi_{\rho^{o}} = C_{m}^{2} = P_{(\vec{a} + \vec{c})/2} \frac{2}{m}$. Below $130^{O}K$ it has the superstructure δ -phase with the constant wave vector of the commensurate space modulation $\vec{q}_{0} = \frac{1}{6} a^{\bullet} + \frac{1}{3} c^{\bullet}$ and the generalized W_{p} -symmetry group $\Omega_{\vec{q}} = P_{(\vec{a} + \vec{c})} = P_{(\vec{a} + \vec{c})}$

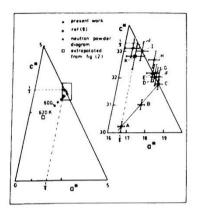
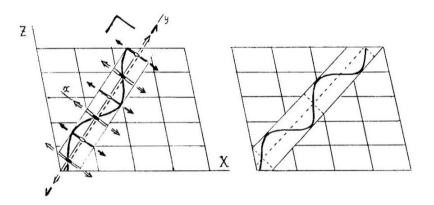


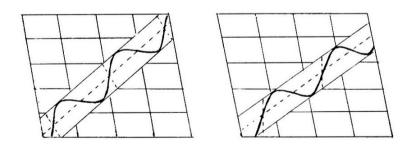
Fig. 2 The temperature dependence of the wave vector of the modulated wave for the incommensurate γ_1 (from A to C), γ_2 (C to G), γ_1 (G to I) and commensurate (I to K) δ -phases of $\mathrm{Na_2CO_3}$ crystal in the plane $\ddot{\mathbf{a}}^*$, $\ddot{\mathbf{c}}^*$ of the reciprocal lattice. A: 470° K, B: 370° K, C: 300° K, D: 295° K, E: 275° K, F: 235° K, G: 200° K, H: 175° K, I: 120° K, J: 20° K and K: $4,2^\circ$ K (according to [10])

But Fig. 2 shows that actually the γ -phase splits at least into two incommensurate phases γ_1 and γ_2 . Let us suppose that the temperature dependence $q_{a^{\sharp}}(T)+\alpha q_{C^{\sharp}}(T)=0$ of the wave vector between 620° and 300° K corresponds to the homogeneous deformation of the compression of the modulation wave in the direction of q. The remodulation phase transition at approximately 300° K may be connected with a shear deformation of the modulation wave. Accordingly the slope of the curve $\vec{q}_{o}(T)$ changes into $q_{\bar{q}_{N}}(T) + q_{\bar{q}_{N}}(T) = \frac{1}{2}$ within the interval 300° to 200° K.

Then follows the complicate remodulation process of the continuous transformation of the modulation wave to the commensurate state which ends at the point 130° K of the lock-in phase transition. The outlined hypothetical scheme is present at Fig. 3.



 $\gamma_1\text{-phase}$ between 620° and 300° K



 γ_2 -phase between 300° and 200° K

In order to receive the Wp-symmetry groups Ω_{ρ} of the phase modulation of Na₂CO₃ let us take the complex coordinate $Q_{\overline{q}} = \eta e^{i\phi}$ as the order parameter [8,10] and construct the phase space $\{(\vec{\phi},\vec{r})\}$ of the crystal. We shall describe the periodical perturbance of the threedimensional basic structure $\rho^{O}(\vec{r})$ of Na₂CO₃ in accordance with [11,12] as the phase modulation wave $\vec{r}_{1k} = \vec{r}_1 + \vec{r}_k + \vec{\lambda}_k \cdot \sin(\vec{q}_0 \cdot \vec{r}_1 + \varphi_k)$ where \vec{r}_{1k} is the coordinate of the atom k in the unit cell 1. Then we combine each coordinate \vec{r}_{1k} with the appropriate phase vector $\vec{\phi}_k = (\vec{n}_k, \varphi_k)$ which lies in the local Gaussian plane x,iy at the angle φ_k to the axis x. It is supposed that all the local systems of reference x,iy,z are parallel to each other, the unit vector of the phase normal \vec{n}_k being parallel to the local axis z and axis Y of the crystal, $y \parallel z$, $x \parallel z$ in the plane X,z.

Symmetry groups which act in the phase space (Ψ,R) are called phase symmetry groups. They may be obtained from the known magnetic P - symmetry groups [2,3,5,13-15] by replacing the spin inversion operator 1' by the operator 1* of complex conjugation, 1* $Q \rightarrow Q_{G}$, i.e. the phase inversion operator $1^* \stackrel{\rightarrow}{\phi} (\stackrel{\rightarrow}{r}) = -\stackrel{\rightarrow}{\phi} (\stackrel{\rightarrow}{r})$, $1^* \varphi = \varphi + \pi$. Applying the phase equivalency condition $\hat{t}Q_{\vec{q}} = e^{-2\pi i \vec{q} \cdot \vec{t}} \cdot \eta e^{i\phi} = \eta e^{i\phi}$ [10] one may verify that Na2CO3 crystal has the superstructure parameters $\vec{A} = 2\vec{a} + 2\vec{c}$, $\vec{B} = \vec{b}$, $\vec{C} = 2\vec{a} + \vec{c}$ in the commensurate δ -phase with $\vec{q}_0 = \frac{1}{6} \vec{a} * + \frac{1}{3} \vec{c} *$. The nodes of the appropriate superstructure lattice have the phases $(\overset{\rightarrow}{\phi},\vec{r})$ equivalent on modulo 2π while two nodes \vec{r} and \vec{r} + $\frac{\vec{A}}{2}$ have the opposite phases $(\vec{\phi}, \vec{r})$ and $(-\vec{\phi}, \vec{r} + \vec{a} + \vec{c})$. Then the junior Wp-symmetry group of δ -phase will be $\Omega_{\overrightarrow{\phi}}^{jun} = P_{(a+c)} * \frac{2^{(2_z, 2_y)}}{m}$ the sense of the color vector $(\stackrel{\rightarrow}{a}+\stackrel{\rightarrow}{c})^*$ being $(a+c)^* \cdot (\stackrel{\rightarrow}{\phi},\stackrel{\rightarrow}{r}) = (\stackrel{\rightarrow}{\psi},\stackrel{\rightarrow}{r}+\stackrel{\rightarrow}{a}+\stackrel{\rightarrow}{c}) = (\stackrel{\rightarrow}{\phi},\stackrel{\rightarrow}{r}+\stackrel{\rightarrow}{a}+\stackrel{\rightarrow}{c})$ and that of the positional rotation operator being

$$2^{(2_{z}, 2_{y})}_{(1/2^{y1}/2)} \vec{o}(000) = [2_{z} \cdot \vec{o}](\hat{2}_{y}(000)) = \pi (101)$$

$$2\frac{(2_{z}, 2_{y})}{(1/\sqrt{11/2})} [\vec{n}, \frac{\pi}{3}] (100) = [\vec{n}, 2/\sqrt{\frac{\pi}{3}})] \mathcal{Q}_{y}(100)) = [\vec{n}, \varphi + \frac{2\pi}{3}] (001)/\text{see Fig.4.} /$$

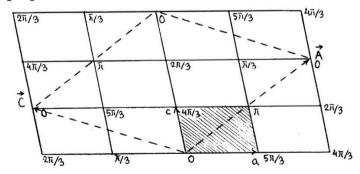


Fig. 4 The enlargedunit cell of the superstructure commensurate s-phase of Na₂CO₃ crystal with the parameters $\frac{1}{8}$ - $\frac{2}{3}$ + $\frac{2}{6}$ c, $\frac{1}{8}$ = $\frac{1}{5}$, $\frac{1}{6}$ - $\frac{1}{6}$ c= $\frac{2}{3}$ + $\frac{1}{6}$ according to [10]. The phases of the nodes are shown Space symmetry group symbol $\frac{(wp)}{6}$ = $\frac{(2\frac{1}{2})}{8}$ P_{(a+c)*}1 $\frac{2(2z, 2y)}{m}$ 1 corresponds to the point group of the shadened unit cell.

The results of the full symmetry analysis of some of the modulated phases of Na₂CO₃ may be summarized as follows:

$$\Omega_{\rho} = \Omega_{\delta\rho}^{\text{point}} \otimes \Omega_{\delta\rho}^{\text{space}} \otimes \Omega_{\delta\rho}^{\text{space}}$$

$$\Omega_{\gamma_{1}}^{\text{space}} = 1 \times \Omega_{\delta\rho}^{\text{point}} \otimes \Omega_{\delta\rho}^{\text{space}} \otimes \Omega_{\rho}^{\text{point}}$$

$$\Omega_{\gamma_{2}}^{\text{wp}} = 1 \times \Omega_{\sigma}^{\text{(a+b)}/2} \times \Omega_{\sigma}^{\text{(a+b$$

where $\Omega_{\delta\rho} \cdot \delta\rho(\vec{r}) = \delta\rho(\vec{r})$, $\Omega_{\delta\rho} = \Omega_{\delta\rho}^{\rm Point} \otimes \Omega_{\delta\rho}^{\rm space}$. For the full symbol of the $\Omega_{\delta\rho}$ -space group see Fig.3.

One can see that those groups are in close relations with the symmetry group of the normal ß-phase $\Omega_{\hat{\beta}} = 1^* \Omega_{\hat{\beta}} =$

Let us stress in the conclusion that in generalized theory of the structure phase transition one must expand Landau potential in powers of the composed order parameter $\eta_{\rho} = \eta_{\rho} + \eta_{\delta\rho}$ to construct the invariants of the generalized symmetry group $\Omega_{\rho} = \Omega_{\delta\rho} \Phi_{\rho}$ of a crystal with internal degrees of freedom.

The classification of those transitions may be obtained according to the irreducible representation of the group $\Omega \subseteq \widetilde{\Omega}_{\delta,0} \setminus 0$. This classification will be more extensive than the ordinary one because all the groups P- and Wp-symmetry Ω_0 allow the gradient Lifschitz invariant $Q_{\stackrel{+}{q}} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} Q_{\stackrel{+}{q}}^{*} - Q_{\stackrel{+}{q}}^{*} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} Q_{\stackrel{+}{q}}^{+}$ without restrictions (compare the analogous result in [10]. In Q and Wq-symmetry approach there may be some restrictions on the space modulation. In any case one can assert that space modulation is not a rarity butageneral phenomenon in the crystal world. Then the problem of the space modulation of crystals appears to be a problem of the physical model of the crystal and the choice of approximation. A lot of interesting physical properties of the space modulated crystals (such as the phase and amplitude fluctuations, the polarization waves in dielectrics, the proper and improper ferroelectricity, the lock-in phase transitions etc. [10,16-20] may be predicted and explained in the frame of the symmetry generalization of the Landau second order phase transition theory.

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