

## 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  $e^-$ 's in a solid-state material requires consideration of the arrangements of the atoms in the solid.
- periodic positioning of ions modifies the  $e^-$  states of the system
- importantly, movement of the ions & their interaction w/  $e^-$ '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  $\vec{r}$  position  $\vec{R}$  where:

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

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

- 2) Infinite set of points  $\vec{r}$  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.

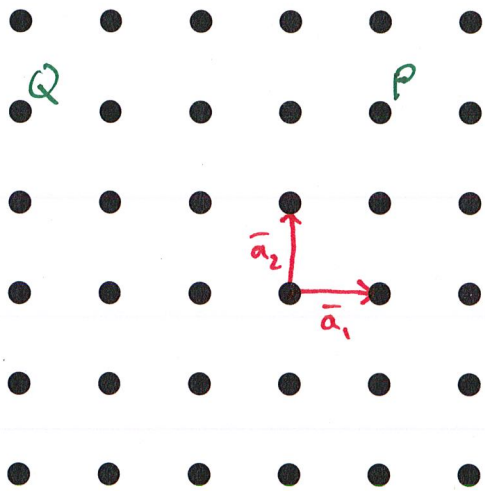
→ not all periodic structures correspond to a B-L

↳ 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.

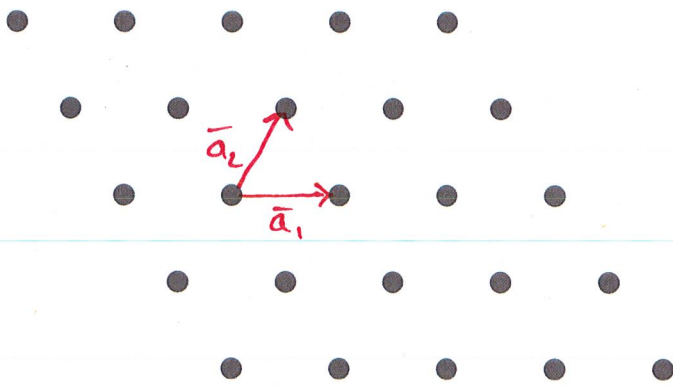


2D Bravais lattice  
(square)

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

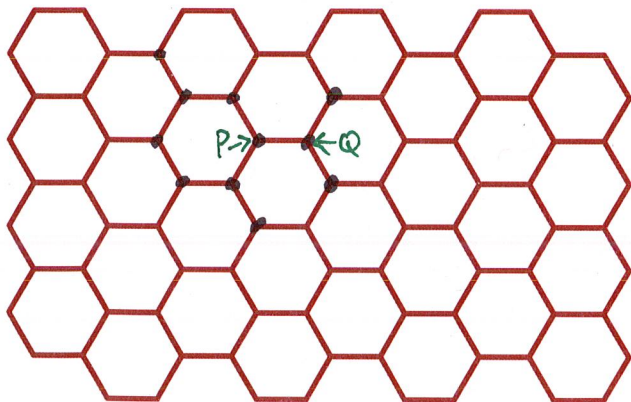
$$\text{e.g. } \bar{P} = \bar{a}_1 + 2\bar{a}_2$$

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



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.

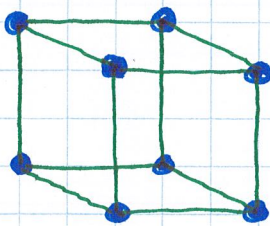
$$\bar{R} = n_1 \bar{a}_1 + n_2 \bar{a}_2 + n_3 \bar{a}_3$$

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

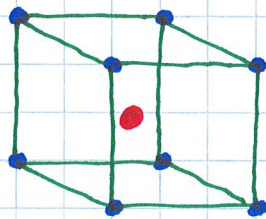
$\rightarrow$  choice of  $\bar{a}_i$  not unique - infinite choices!

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

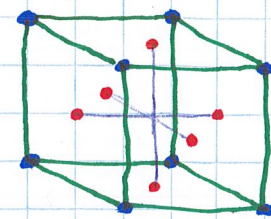
### Cubic structures



simple cubic (sc)



body-centered cubic (bcc)



face-centered cubic (fcc)

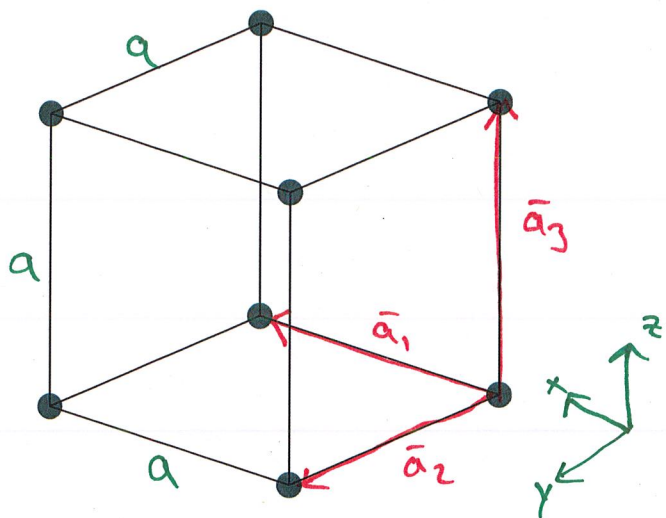
"primitive cubic"

$\rightarrow$  See tables 4.1 & 4.2 for elements w/ bcc or fcc crystal structures

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

Coordination Number: # of nearest neighbours

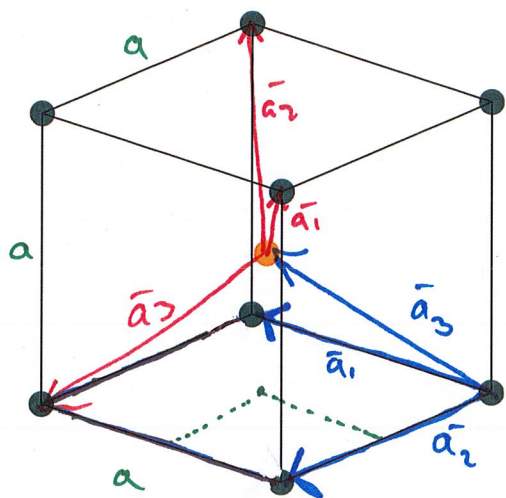
simple cubic: 6  
 body centered cubic: 8  
 face centered cubic: 12



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

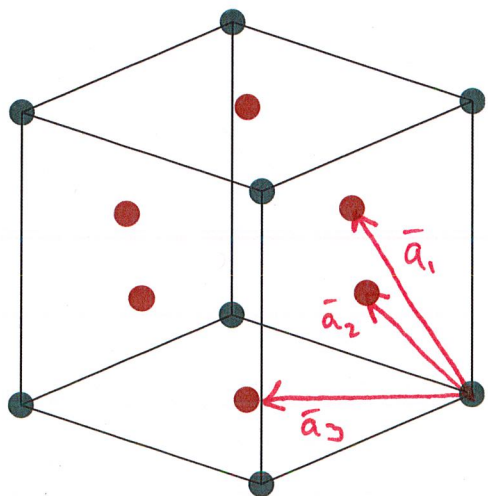
$$\bar{a}_1 = a\hat{x} \quad \bar{a}_2 = a\hat{y} \quad \bar{a}_3 = \frac{a}{2}(\hat{x} + \hat{y} + \hat{z})$$

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  $\infty$  possible primitive unit cells.

Volume of primitive cell:

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

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

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

Aside:  $n_L$  is related to, but not necessarily, the # density of '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):  $V_{sc} = a^3$

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

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

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

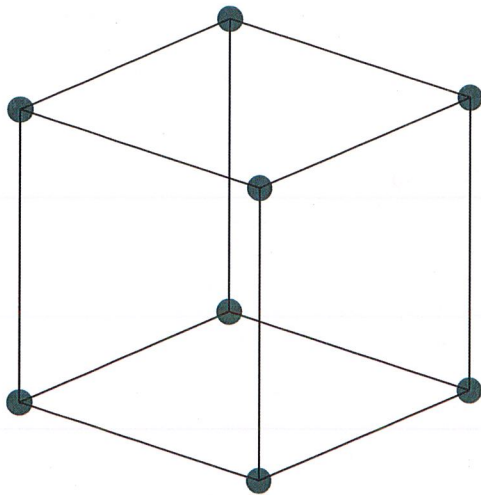
$$\begin{aligned} \bar{a}_2 \times \bar{a}_3 &= (0-0)\hat{x} + \left(\frac{a^2}{4}-0\right)\hat{y} + \left(\frac{a^2}{4}-0\right)\hat{z} \\ &= \frac{a^2}{4} (\hat{y} + \hat{z}) \end{aligned}$$

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

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

$\Rightarrow$  There is any easier way...

Count # of points in sc. unit cell.



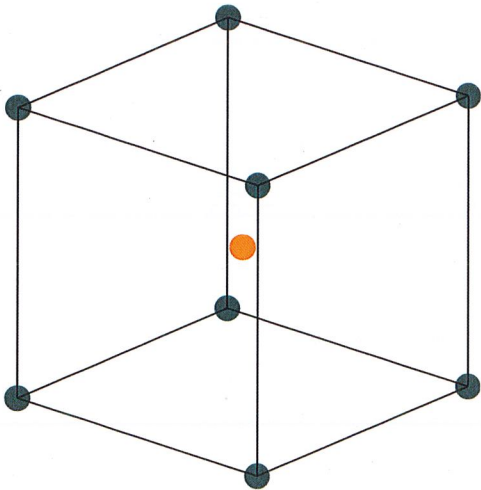
Simple cubic

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

# ~~at~~ points:

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

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



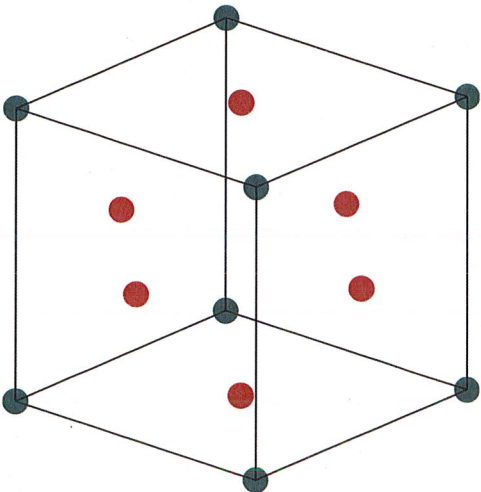
bcc

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

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

$\therefore$  2 pts per unit cell

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



fcc

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

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

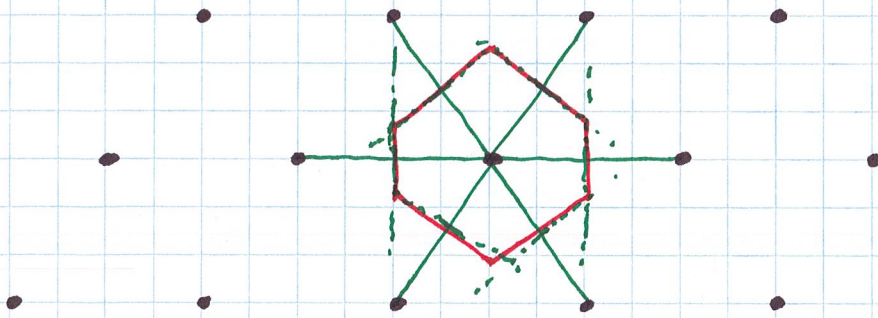
$\therefore$  4 pts per unit cell

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



## Wigner - Seitz Primitive Cell

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



FCC → rhombic dodecahedron

BCC → truncated octahedron

SC → cube

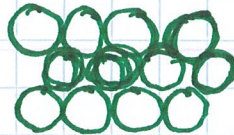
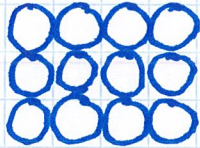
## Lattice $\bar{w}$ a basis

- 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.: bcc is a sc B.L.  $\bar{w}$  a 2pt. basis  
 basis pts:  $0, \frac{a}{2}(\hat{x} + \hat{y} + \hat{z})$
  - fcc  $\Rightarrow$  a sc, B.L.  $\bar{w}$  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.  $\bar{w}$  basis pt.  $e$ :

$$0, \frac{1}{3}(\bar{a}_1 + \bar{a}_2 + \bar{a}_3)$$