

# II. The Reciprocal Lattices

e.g.  $\vec{a}_1$  has units of length

A. Every Bravais Lattice (for crystals in real or direct space) has a corresponding Reciprocal Lattice (forming the reciprocal space)

$\vec{a}_1, \vec{a}_2, \vec{a}_3$  : Bravais Lattice (1A of them)

Define

$$\vec{b}_1 \equiv \frac{2\pi \vec{a}_2 \times \vec{a}_3}{\vec{a}_1 \cdot (\vec{a}_2 \times \vec{a}_3)} ; \vec{b}_2 \equiv \frac{2\pi \vec{a}_3 \times \vec{a}_1}{\vec{a}_2 \cdot (\vec{a}_3 \times \vec{a}_1)} ; \vec{b}_3 \equiv \frac{2\pi \vec{a}_1 \times \vec{a}_2}{\vec{a}_3 \cdot (\vec{a}_1 \times \vec{a}_2)} \quad (1)$$

$\Omega_c =$  volume of primitive unit cell (length<sup>3</sup>)

Numerators: (length)<sup>2</sup>

$\therefore |\vec{b}_1|, |\vec{b}_2|, |\vec{b}_3|$  have units of 1/length

Use  $\vec{b}_1, \vec{b}_2, \vec{b}_3$  as Primitive Translation Vectors, map out the Reciprocal Lattice (2)

Define  $\vec{G} = n_1 \vec{b}_1 + n_2 \vec{b}_2 + n_3 \vec{b}_3$  (3)

↗ ↖ ↗ ↖ ↗ ↖  
 integers (0, ±1, ±2, ...)

Reciprocal Lattice Vectors

(Key Concept)

All  $\vec{G}$ 's dot out the Reciprocal Lattice

$\vec{a}_1, \vec{a}_2, \vec{a}_3$

$\vec{b}_1, \vec{b}_2, \vec{b}_3$

$\vec{R} = l_1 \vec{a}_1 + l_2 \vec{a}_2 + l_3 \vec{a}_3$

$\vec{G} = n_1 \vec{b}_1 + n_2 \vec{b}_2 + n_3 \vec{b}_3$

(Direct)

(Reciprocal)

← "dual lattice of each other" →

Ex: Show that the reciprocal lattice of a reciprocal lattice is the Direct Lattice

## Logic

- 14 Bravais Lattices in 3D
  - $\vec{a}_1, \vec{a}_2, \vec{a}_3$  map out a 3D lattice
  - $\vec{b}_1, \vec{b}_2, \vec{b}_3$  map out the reciprocal lattice, which is also a 3D lattice
  - Reciprocal Lattice is also one of the 14 Bravais lattice
  - Every Bravais lattice has a reciprocal lattice, which is one of the Bravais lattices
    - only that  $\vec{b}$ 's are  $\frac{1}{\text{length}}$
- [a pair of Dual Lattices]

E.g. Simple Cubic  $\vec{a}_1 = a \hat{x}$ ,  $\vec{a}_2 = a \hat{y}$ ,  $\vec{a}_3 = a \hat{z}$

$$\text{Then } \vec{b}_1 = \frac{2\pi}{a^3} (\vec{a}_2 \times \vec{a}_3) = \frac{2\pi}{a^3} \cdot a^2 (\hat{y} \times \hat{z}) = \frac{2\pi}{a} \hat{x}$$

$$\vec{b}_2 = \frac{2\pi}{a} \hat{y} \quad ; \quad \vec{b}_3 = \frac{2\pi}{a} \hat{z}$$

$\therefore \vec{b}_1, \vec{b}_2, \vec{b}_3$  also map out a simple cubic lattice

$$[a \sim \text{few } \text{\AA} \sim \text{few } 10^{-10} \text{ m}] \quad \left[ \frac{2\pi}{a} \sim 10^{10} \text{ m}^{-1} \right]$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Omega_c = a^3 \quad ; \quad \text{Volume of primitive unit cell of reciprocal lattice} \\ = \vec{b}_1 \cdot (\vec{b}_2 \times \vec{b}_3) = \frac{(2\pi)^3}{a^3} = \frac{(2\pi)^3}{\Omega_c} = \Omega_G \end{aligned}$$

$$\boxed{\begin{array}{l} \Omega_c \cdot \Omega_G = (2\pi)^3 \\ \uparrow \qquad \qquad \uparrow \\ \text{Volume of primitive unit cell in direct space} \quad \text{Volume of primitive unit cell in reciprocal space} \end{array}}$$

(4)

Ex: { What are  $\vec{b}_1, \vec{b}_2, \vec{b}_3$  for real space FCC lattice?  
 { What is the reciprocal space of FCC lattice?

{ What are  $\vec{b}_1, \vec{b}_2, \vec{b}_3$  for real space hexagonal lattice?  
 { What is the reciprocal space of hexagonal lattice?

---

<u>Direct</u>	<u>Reciprocal</u>
FCC (Semiconductors)	BCC
BCC	FCC
SC	SC

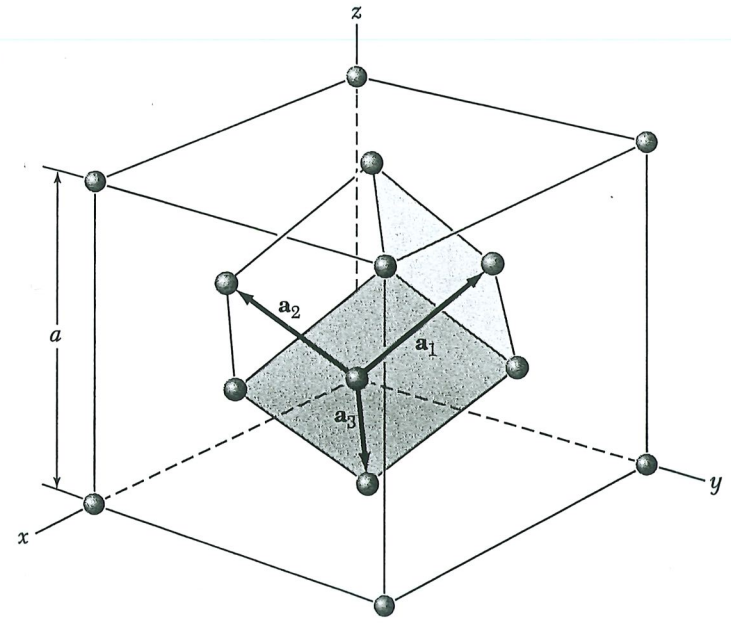
← (Self-Dual) →

FCC is the (Direct) Lattice for Si, Ge, GaAs, ...  
 (Most important for Semiconductors)

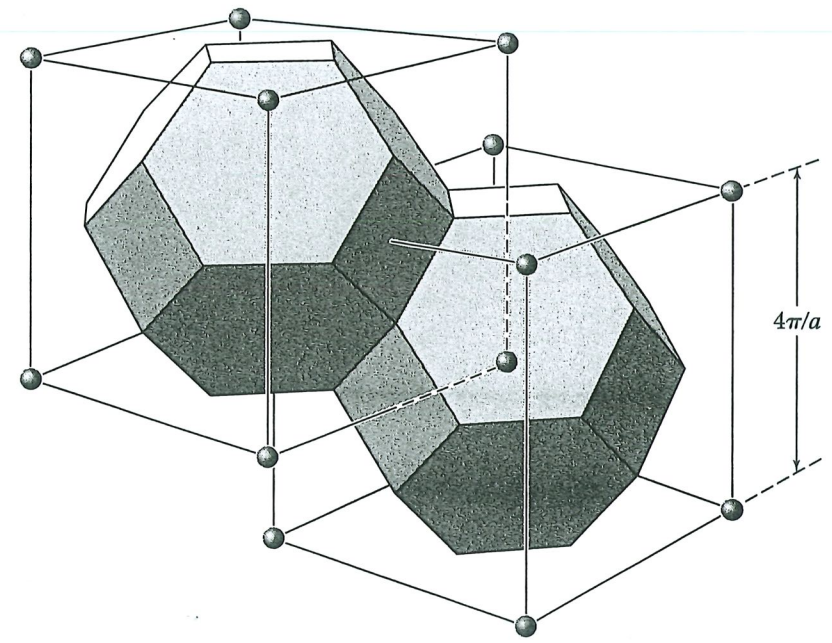
$$\vec{a}_1 = \frac{a}{2}(\hat{x} + \hat{y}) ; \quad \vec{a}_2 = \frac{a}{2}(\hat{y} + \hat{z}) ; \quad \vec{a}_3 = \frac{a}{2}(\hat{z} + \hat{x})$$

From definition: 
$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \vec{b}_1 = \frac{2\pi}{a}(\hat{x} + \hat{y} + \hat{z}) \\ \vec{b}_2 = \frac{2\pi}{a}(-\hat{x} + \hat{y} + \hat{z}) \\ \vec{b}_3 = \frac{2\pi}{a}(\hat{x} - \hat{y} + \hat{z}) \end{array} \right. \quad (5) \quad (Ex)$$

Map out a Body-centered cubic Reciprocal Lattice,  
 with a conventional unit cell of cube edge  $\left(\frac{4\pi}{a}\right)$ .



FCC Lattice (Direct Lattice)



(See Eq. (5))  $\vec{b}_1, \vec{b}_2, \vec{b}_3$  give a reciprocal lattice which is BCC

The region in reciprocal space bounded by the polyhedron is called the Brillouin Zone (an important concept) (See Sec. D)

B. Why bother with all these? What for?

- Most important concept in handling crystalline solids  
periodic

- Need it to understand X-ray diffraction patterns

Not taking picture of Direct Lattice  
But map out Reciprocal Lattice!

- Need it to understand waves in solids

lives in  
reciprocal space

↳ (Electron Waves in Solids [Band Structure]  $E(\vec{k})$ )  
↳ (Elastic Waves in Solids [lattice vibrations, phonon dispersion])  
↳ electrons scattered by phonons (resistivity)

$\omega(\vec{q})$   
↑  
lives in reciprocal space



Why so?

▪ Much to do with Fourier Series (Analysis) of Periodic Functions

↗  
 Many of them  
 in crystalline solids!

▪ Life is easier if we only have cubic structure

(always  $\hat{x}$ ,  $\hat{y}$ ,  $\hat{z}$  (orthogonal, same edge length))

▪ But in solids, we need the formal  $\vec{b}_1, \vec{b}_2, \vec{b}_3$  (for  $\vec{a}_1, \vec{a}_2, \vec{a}_3$ )  
 to get ready for any of the 14 Bravais Lattices

(Those interested only in semiconductors can focus on FCC and its reciprocal lattice)

## Relations between $(\vec{b}_1, \vec{b}_2, \vec{b}_3)$ and $(\vec{a}_1, \vec{a}_2, \vec{a}_3)$

$$\vec{a}_1 \cdot \vec{b}_1 = \vec{a}_1 \cdot \frac{2\pi}{\Omega_c} (\vec{a}_2 \times \vec{a}_3) = 2\pi = 2\pi \delta_{11}$$

$\swarrow \quad \nwarrow$   
 $\vec{a}_0 \quad \vec{b}_0$

$$\vec{a}_1 \cdot \vec{b}_2 = \vec{a}_1 \cdot \frac{2\pi}{\Omega_c} \underbrace{(\vec{a}_3 \times \vec{a}_1)}_{\perp \vec{a}_1} = 0 = 2\pi \underbrace{\delta_{12}}_{\text{"0"}}$$

$$\therefore \boxed{\vec{a}_i \cdot \vec{b}_j = 2\pi \delta_{ij}} \quad (6) \quad \text{(Key Result)}$$

$\{ \vec{b}_i \}$  are intentionally defined to obey these relations

What for?

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Consider } \vec{R} \cdot \vec{G} &= (l_1 \vec{a}_1 + l_2 \vec{a}_2 + l_3 \vec{a}_3) \cdot (n_1 \vec{b}_1 + n_2 \vec{b}_2 + n_3 \vec{b}_3) \\ &= 2\pi (l_1 n_1 + l_2 n_2 + l_3 n_3) = 2\pi \cdot (\text{integer}) \end{aligned} \quad \text{(Key Result)}$$

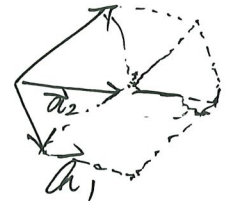
any lattice vector
any reciprocal lattice vector

$$\therefore e^{i\vec{G} \cdot \vec{R}} = e^{i 2\pi \cdot (\text{integer})} = 1 \quad (7) \quad (\text{Key Result})$$

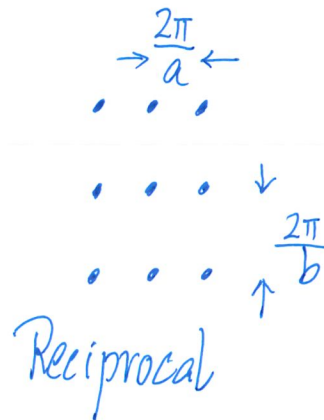
Appreciation:  $\vec{G}$  (infinitely many, any one of them)  
 $\vec{R}$  (infinitely many, any one of them)

$\vec{a}_i$  (not necessarily orthogonal to each other)  $\vec{a}_3$

$\vec{b}_i$  (constructed to be  $\vec{a}_i \cdot \vec{b}_j = 2\pi \delta_{ij}$ )



Direct



Reciprocal

(X-ray diffraction of Direct lattice pattern gives spots with pattern of the Reciprocal lattice)

## A quick application

(hkl) planes  $\vec{g} = h \underbrace{\left(\frac{\Omega_c}{2\pi} \vec{b}_1\right)} + k(\vec{a}_3 \times \vec{a}_1) + l(\vec{a}_1 \times \vec{a}_2)$   
 $\perp$  (hkl) planes

$$d(hkl) = \frac{\Omega_c}{|\vec{g}|}$$

no common divisor

With Reciprocal Lattice Vectors  $\vec{G}$ ,  $\vec{G}(hkl) = h\vec{b}_1 + k\vec{b}_2 + l\vec{b}_3$   
 is normal to (hkl) planes

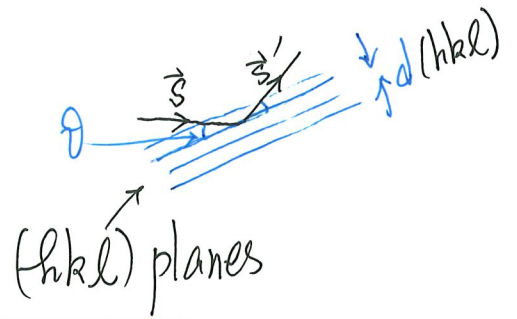
$$d(hkl) = \frac{\Omega_c}{|\vec{g}|} = \frac{\Omega_c}{\frac{\Omega_c}{2\pi} |\vec{G}(hkl)|} = \frac{2\pi}{|\vec{G}(hkl)|} \quad (8)$$

$\uparrow$   
 separation  
 between adjacent  
 crystal planes  
 (real space quantity)

$\uparrow$   
 length of  $\vec{G}(hkl) \perp$  planes  
 $\uparrow$   
 reciprocal space quantity

# C. Emergence of Notion of Reciprocal Lattice in X-ray (EM waves) diffraction

Elementary Level



$\vec{S}$  = wave vector

$$|\vec{S}| = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda}$$

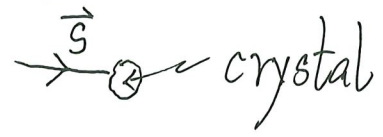
$$|\vec{S}'| = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} \text{ (Elastic scattering)}$$

$$2 d(hkl) \sin \theta = n \lambda$$

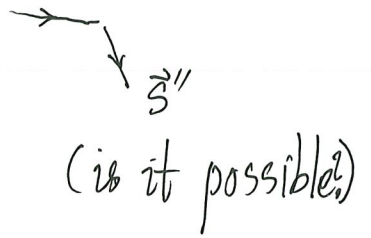
(9)

Bragg condition  
(n = positive integer)

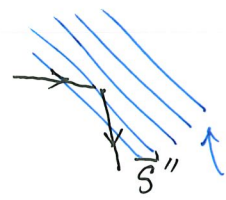
Meaning: Incident Light  $\vec{S}$



look for sets of planes that satisfy Bragg condition for some angle



Are there



planes of proper d

How about



Etc.

Equivalent to ask whether  $\vec{s}' - \vec{s} = \vec{G}$  or Not!

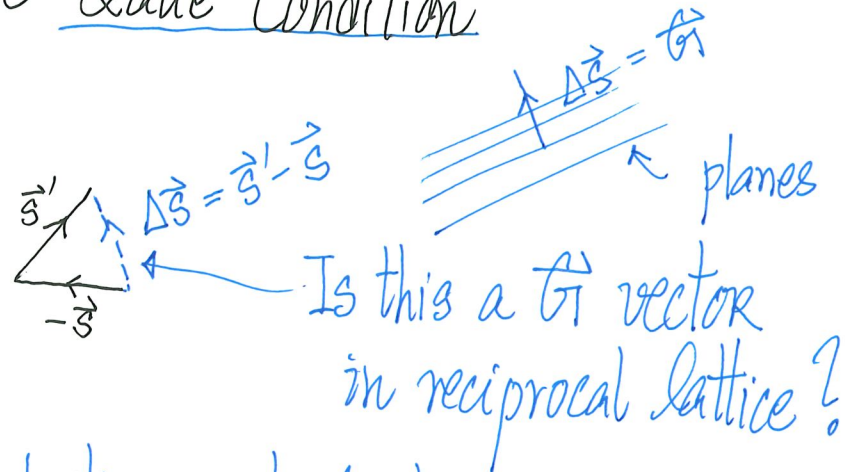
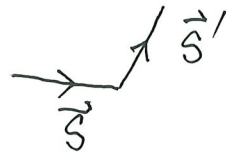
$\vec{s}'$  ← coming out  
 $\vec{s}$  ← incident  
 $\vec{G}$  ← some reciprocal lattice vector

if yes, see bright spot (at least possible) in  $\vec{s}'$  direction

$\Delta\vec{s} \equiv \vec{s}' - \vec{s} = \vec{G}$  is called the Laue Condition

(10)

Meaning:



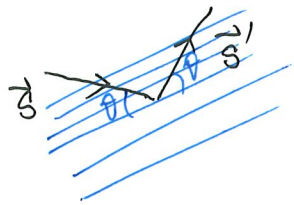
Recall:  $\vec{G}$  is  $\perp$  to a set of planes

e.g.  $\vec{G}(hkl) \perp (hkl)$  planes

$h\vec{b}_1 + k\vec{b}_2 + l\vec{b}_3$

↑ ↑ ↑  
no divisor (corresponds to  $n=1$ )

$$\underline{\Delta \vec{s} = \vec{G}} \quad \text{and} \quad \underline{2d \sin \theta = n\lambda}$$



$$\Delta \vec{s} = \vec{s}' - \vec{s} = \vec{G} \quad \leftarrow \text{some } \vec{G} \quad (\text{Laue condition})$$

$$\begin{aligned} |\vec{G}|^2 &= s'^2 + s^2 - 2|\vec{s}||\vec{s}'|\cos 2\theta \\ &= 2s^2(1 - \cos 2\theta) = 4s^2 \sin^2 \theta \end{aligned}$$

$$|\vec{G}| = 2s \sin \theta = 2 \cdot \left(\frac{2\pi}{\lambda}\right) \sin \theta$$

$$\vec{G} = v_1 \vec{b}_1 + v_2 \vec{b}_2 + v_3 \vec{b}_3 \quad (v_1, v_2, v_3 \text{ integers})$$

$$= n (h \vec{b}_1 + k \vec{b}_2 + l \vec{b}_3)$$

$\uparrow$   
common divisor of  $v_1, v_2, v_3$  (thus  $h, k, l$  have no common divisor)

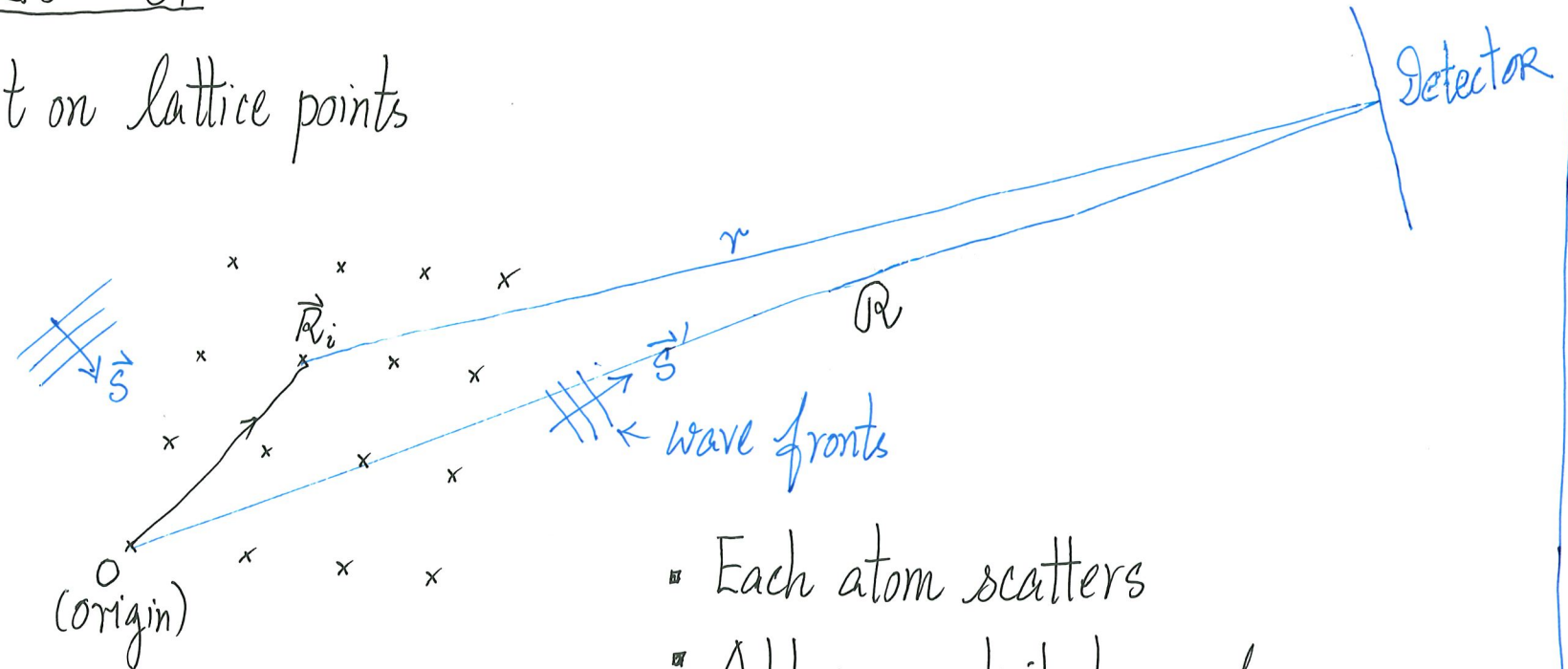
$$n |\vec{G}(hkl)| = |\vec{G}(v_1, v_2, v_3)| = 2 \cdot \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} \sin \theta$$

$$\Rightarrow n\lambda = 2 \cdot \frac{2\pi}{|\vec{G}(hkl)|} \sin \theta = 2 d(hkl) \sin \theta$$

∴ The Laue Condition  $\Delta \vec{s} = \vec{G}$  gives the Bragg condition  $2d(hkl) \sin \theta = n\lambda$   
spots map out reciprocal lattice!

Aside:  $\Delta \vec{s} = \vec{G}$

Atoms sit on lattice points



- Each atom scatters
- Add up contributions from regular array of atoms gives what is detected

From Atom at  $\vec{R}_i$ :

Scattered field at detector  $\propto \frac{e^{isR}}{R} \int e^{-i\Delta \vec{s} \cdot \vec{R}_i}$

$\uparrow$  spherical outgoing  
 $\uparrow$  what atom is there



Adding up all atoms: Scattered field at detector

$$\propto \sum_i e^{-i\Delta\vec{s}\cdot\vec{R}_i}$$

$i \leftarrow$  sum over all atoms in solid

Recall:  $\vec{G}\cdot\vec{R} = 2\pi \cdot (\text{integer})$  and  $e^{i\vec{G}\cdot\vec{R}} = 1$

If  $\Delta\vec{s} \neq \vec{G}$ , then we have "random phases" that tend to cancel (sum to zero)

If  $\Delta\vec{s} = \vec{G}$ , then  $\sum_i e^{-i\Delta\vec{s}\cdot\vec{R}} = \sum_i 1 = \#$  of lattice points in solid

this gives the  
Laue Condition

$10^{23}$  in solid of  $\text{cm}^3$   
(or  $\infty$  for infinite system)

[Same idea works for neutron scattering]

We see a good reason to introduce the Reciprocal Lattice

# Geometric Feature of Laue Condition

$$\Delta \vec{s} = \vec{s}' - \vec{s} = \vec{G} \Rightarrow \vec{s} + \vec{G} = \vec{s}'$$

$$|\vec{s}| = |\vec{s}'| \quad (\text{elastic})$$

$\swarrow \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} \searrow$

$$\Rightarrow s^2 + 2\vec{s} \cdot \vec{G} + G^2 = s'^2 \Rightarrow 2\vec{s} \cdot \vec{G} + G^2 = 0$$

Can rewrite this as  $2\vec{s} \cdot \vec{G} = -G^2$

( $\because -\vec{G}$  is a reciprocal lattice vector if  $\vec{G}$  is one)

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\vec{s} \cdot \vec{G}}{2} = \left(\frac{G}{2}\right)^2$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{s} \cdot \left(\frac{\vec{G}}{2}\right) = \left(\frac{G}{2}\right)^2$$

Picture

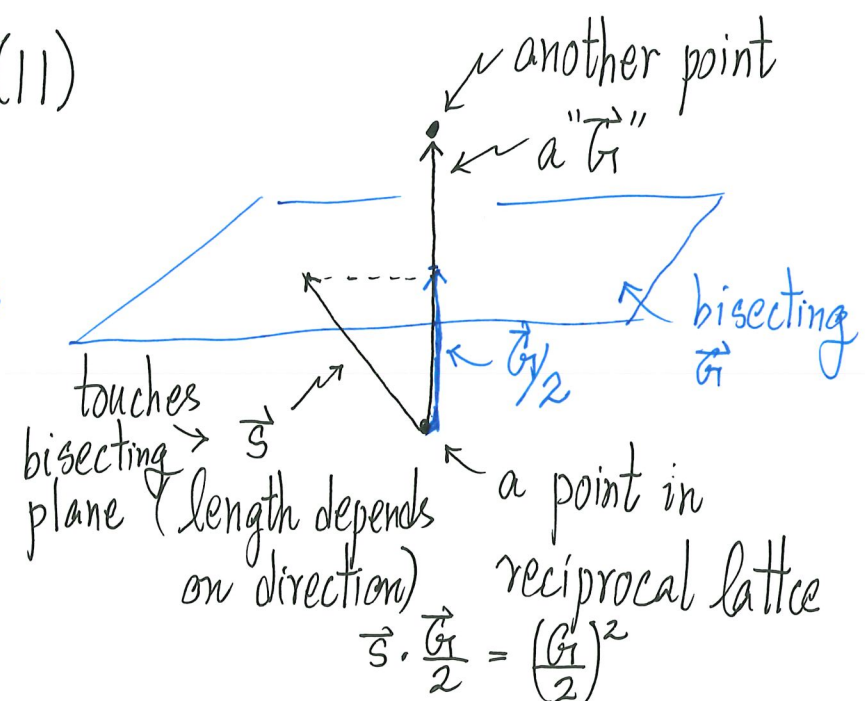
(11)

half of a reciprocal lattice vector

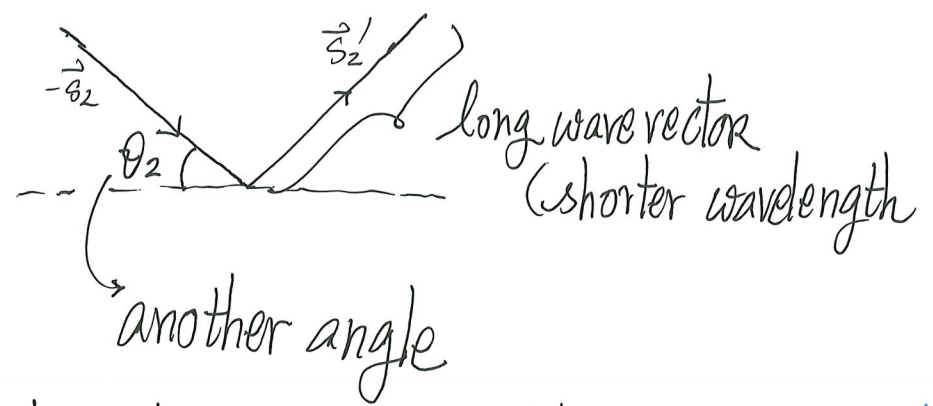
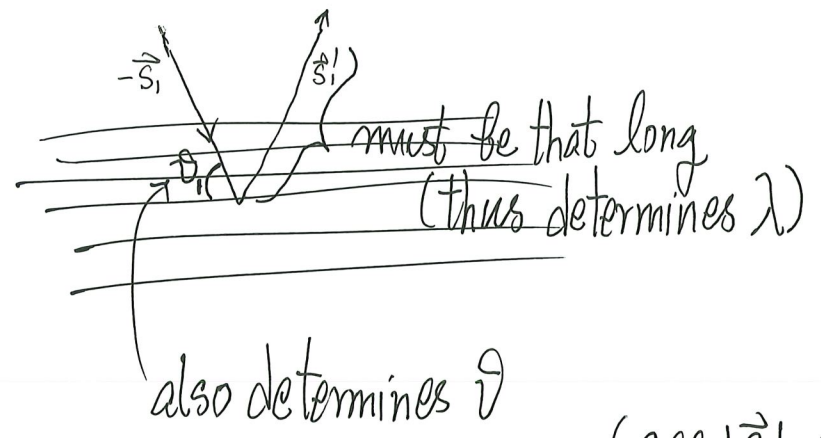
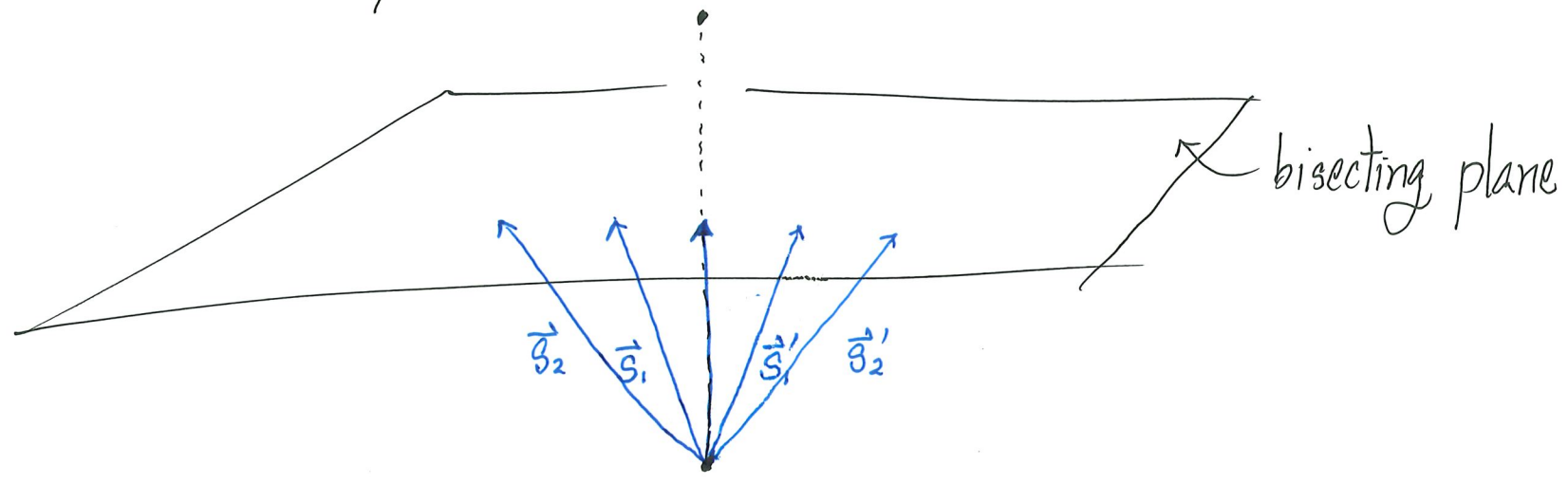
that halved vector's (magnitude)<sup>2</sup>

$\frac{\vec{s} \cdot \vec{G}}{2}$

projecting  $\vec{s}$  onto  $\frac{\vec{G}}{2}$



What does it say?



(see  $|s_1|$  can't be too short to meet condition) ( $\lambda$  can't be too long)

(another way of thinking about Bragg condition/Laue Condition)

## D. Brillouin Zones

- Pick a point in Reciprocal Lattice
- Draw  $\vec{G}$ 's pointing to other points (from shorter  $\vec{G}$ 's to longer  $\vec{G}$ 's)
- Draw Bisecting Planes to every  $\vec{G}$  drawn
- Planes enclosed a "volume" (region) nearest to starting point

1<sup>st</sup> Brillouin Zone (1<sup>st</sup> B.Z.)

- a primitive unit cell of the reciprocal lattice
- best reflects the symmetry of the reciprocal lattice
- other primitive unit cells must of same volume
- Wigner-Seitz cell of Reciprocal Lattice

- There are pieces of disjoint volumes formed by the bisecting planes that are NEXT NEAREST to the starting point
  - Collectively the pieces form the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brillouin Zone  
(the pieces add up to the same volume as the 1<sup>st</sup> B.Z.)
  - Each piece can be translated (moved) into 1<sup>st</sup> B.Z. by a  $\vec{G}$  vector
- 3<sup>rd</sup> B.Z., 4<sup>th</sup> B.Z., ... defined similarly

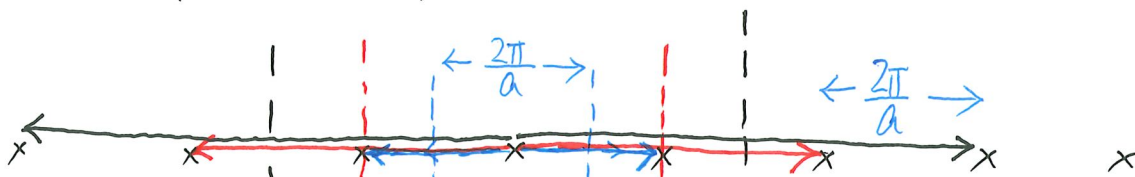
# 1D Example

Direct



$$\vec{a}_1 = a \hat{x}$$

Reciprocal

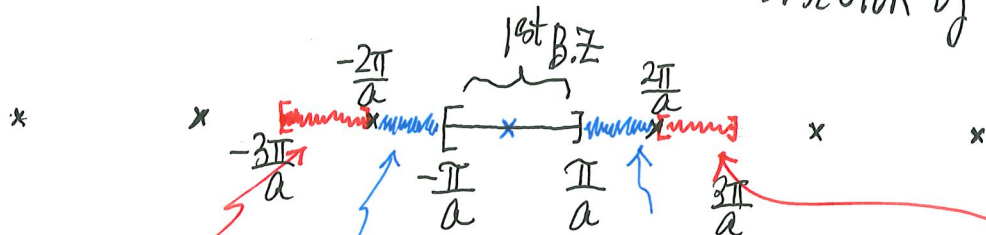


$$\vec{b}_1 = \frac{2\pi}{a} \hat{x}$$

bisector of the (blue)  $\Gamma$ 's

bisector of the (red)  $\Gamma$ 's

bisector of the black  $\Gamma$ 's



part of 3rd B.Z.

can be moved into 1st B.Z. by  $+\frac{2\pi}{a} \hat{x}$  (i.e.  $+\vec{b}_1$ )

part of 2nd B.Z.

can be moved into 1st B.Z. by  $+\frac{2\pi}{a} \hat{x}$  (i.e.  $+\vec{b}_1$ )

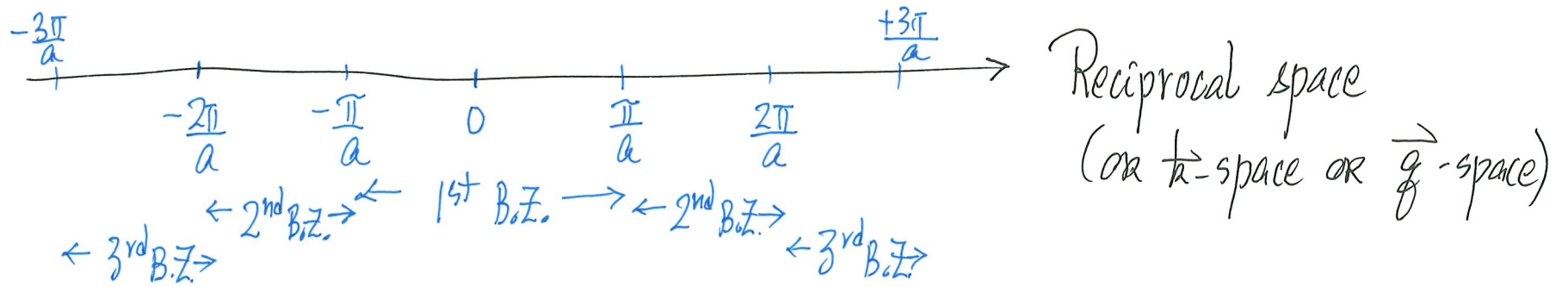
part of 2nd B.Z.

can be moved into 1st B.Z. by  $-\frac{2\pi}{a} \hat{x}$  (which is  $-\vec{b}_1$ )

part of 3rd B.Z.

can be moved into 1st B.Z. by  $-\frac{2\pi}{a} \hat{x}$  (i.e.  $-\vec{b}_1$ )

All we need is a  $\vec{b}_1$  vector that gives  $\vec{a}_1 \cdot \vec{b}_1 = 2\pi$ . Or else, you may introduce  $\vec{a}_2 = \hat{y}$ ,  $\vec{a}_3 = \hat{z}$ .



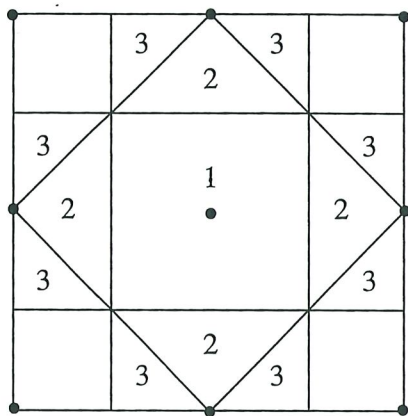
Will be useful in understanding energy bands and band gaps

# 2D Square Lattice

$$\vec{b}_1 = \frac{2\pi}{a} \hat{x}, \quad \vec{b}_2 = \frac{2\pi}{a} \hat{y}$$

$$\vec{a}_1 = a \hat{x}, \quad \vec{a}_2 = a \hat{y}$$

(Reciprocal Lattice is also a Square Lattice, edge  $\frac{2\pi}{a}$ )



The first three Brillouin zones of a two-dimensional square lattice.

1<sup>st</sup> B.Z.



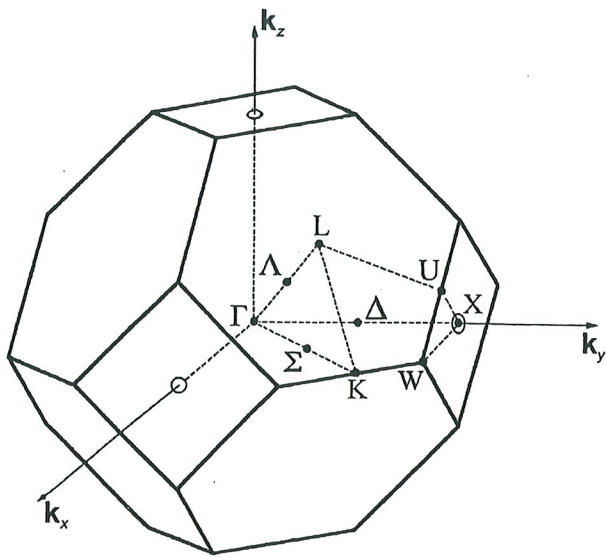
See how the four pieces of 2<sup>nd</sup> B.Z. add up to the correct area and can be moved into 1<sup>st</sup> B.Z. by some  $\vec{G}$ 's

Ex. Graphene has a hexagonal lattice. Work out the reciprocal lattice and identify the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> B.Z.



## 3D Face-Centered Cubic Direct Lattice

- Reciprocal Lattice is BCC, cube edge  $\frac{4\pi}{a}$   
gives the most important 1<sup>st</sup> B.Z. for semiconductors

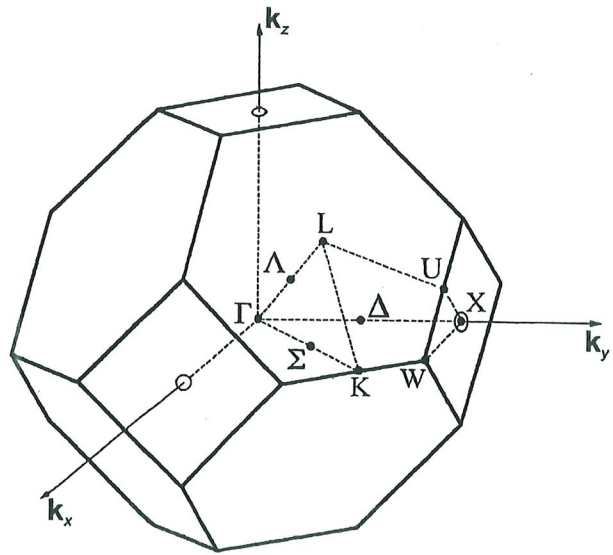


The first Brillouin zone of the diamond and zincblende-type structures. The important symmetry points and lines are indicated.

$\Gamma$  point  $\vec{k} = (0, 0, 0)$

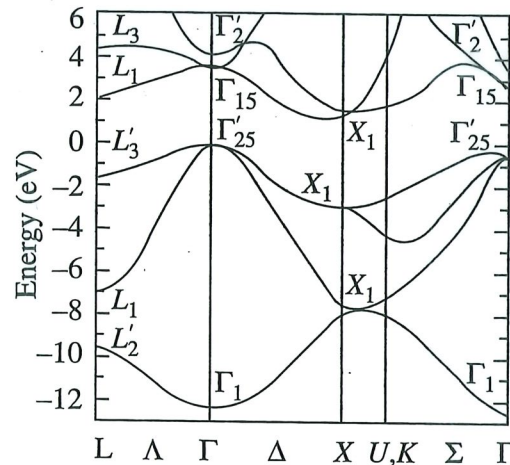
Later, when you see energy band diagram showing  $E(\vec{k})$  from  $\Gamma$  to X, it means  $\vec{k}$  starts from  $(0, 0, 0)$  to  $(\frac{2\pi}{a}, 0, 0)$  along  $k_x$ .

Applicable to Si, Ge, GaAs, ...  
(diamond and zincblende crystal structure)



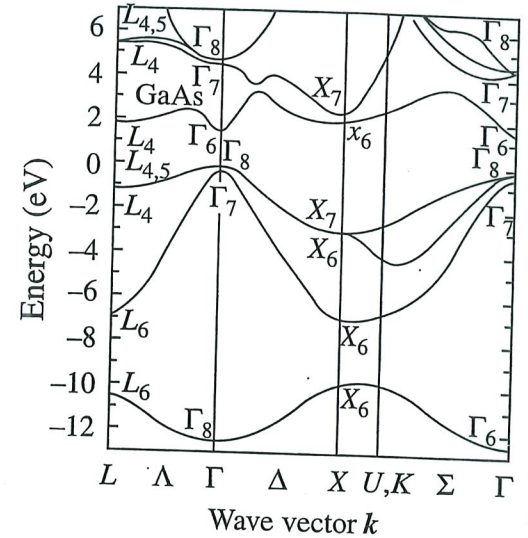
1<sup>st</sup> B.Z.

### Silicon



Band structure of Si (after Chelikowsky and Cohen 1976).

### GaAs



Band structure of GaAs (after Chelikowsky and Cohen 1976).

" $\Delta$ ": a line from  $\Gamma$  to X

x-axis: trace some paths in B.Z

(line to edge (zone edge) and back)

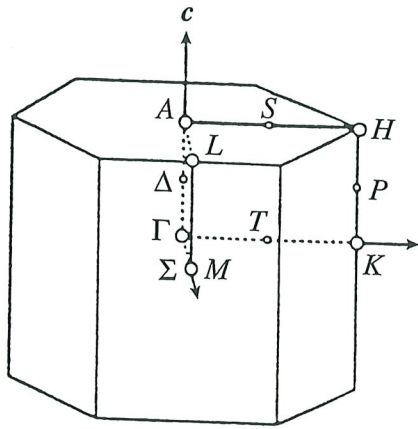
[Why does 1<sup>st</sup> B.Z. play such an important role in semiconductor energy band studies?]

Chelikowsky and Cohen, Phys. Rev. B14, 556 (1976)

## 3D Hexagonal Lattice

Some II-VI compounds have the Wurtzite structure  
hexagonal direct lattice

Reciprocal Lattice is also hexagonal. (Ex.)

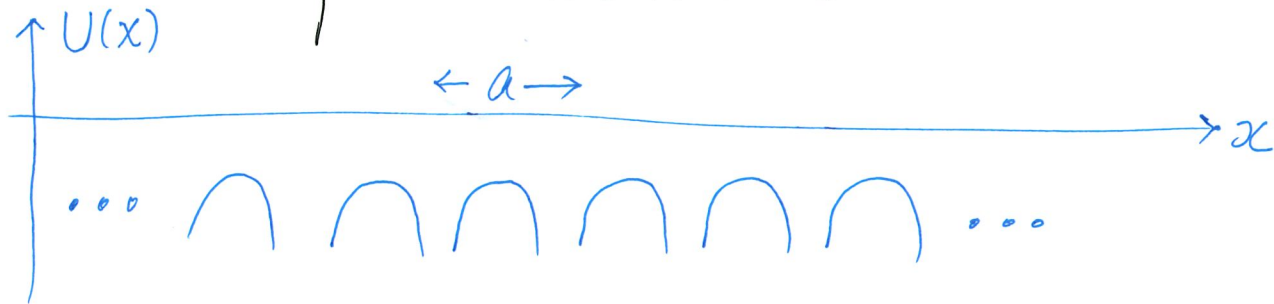


Brillouin zone for the hexagonal lattice.

# E. Application of Reciprocal Lattice Vectors $\vec{G}$ 's in Describing Periodic Functions

• 1D periodic structure  $\dots \times \quad \times \quad \xleftarrow{a} \quad \times \quad \times \quad \times \quad \dots \quad \longrightarrow x$

Some periodic functions<sup>†</sup> come up in such structure



$$U(x + na) = U(x) \quad \text{mathematical expression of periodicity}$$

↑  
integers

We will see a lot of such periodic functions in (3D) solids described by

$$f(\vec{r} + \vec{R}) = f(\vec{r}) \quad (12)$$

↑  
Lattice Vectors

<sup>†</sup> Another example is the electronic density  $n(x)$

For studying energy bands, we need to solve the problem of allowed energies [energy eigenvalues] and allowed electronic states [eigenstates] for an electron under the influence of a periodic potential energy function

$$(1D) \quad \frac{-\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{d^2}{dx^2} \psi(x) + \underbrace{U(x)}_{\text{periodic } [U(x+na) = U(x)]} \psi(x) = E \psi(x) \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{to solve for} \\ \text{MANY } E \leftrightarrow \psi \\ \text{pairs!} \end{array}$$

$$(3D) \quad \frac{-\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla^2 \psi(\vec{r}) + \underbrace{U(\vec{r})}_{\text{periodic}} \psi(\vec{r}) = E \psi(\vec{r}) \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{to solve for} \\ \text{MANY } E \leftrightarrow \psi \\ \text{pairs!} \end{array}$$

$U(\vec{r} + \vec{R}) = U(\vec{r})$   
 $\uparrow$   
 any lattice vector  
 (one of 14 Bravais lattices)

In general,  $f(\vec{r}) = \sum_{\vec{k}} f_{\vec{k}} e^{i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{r}}$  ← plane waves (all  $\vec{k}$ 's are involved)  
 ↑ weighting of  $\vec{k}$ -component

If  $f(\vec{r})$  is periodic,  $f(\vec{r} + \vec{R}) = \sum_{\vec{k}} f_{\vec{k}} e^{i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{r}} e^{i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{R}} = f(\vec{r}) = \sum_{\vec{k}} f_{\vec{k}} e^{i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{r}}$   
 ↑ periodic (definition)

∴ needs  $\vec{k}$  such that  $e^{i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{R}} = 1$

true for  $\vec{k} = \vec{G}$  (a reciprocal lattice vector)

Key Result

∴ If  $f(\vec{r})$  is periodic,  

$$f(\vec{r}) = \sum_{\vec{G}} f_{\vec{G}} e^{i\vec{G}\cdot\vec{r}} \tag{13}$$
 i.e. only plane waves  $e^{i\vec{G}\cdot\vec{r}}$  are needed to construct a periodic function

Appreciation:  $f_{\vec{k}} = 0$  for  $\vec{k} \neq \vec{G}$  (excluded many components!)

In words, a periodic function carries only (still infinitely many in general) Fourier components corresponding to those with wavevectors EQUAL to reciprocal lattice vectors!

This is the key/starting point for many band structure calculations.

obtaining  $E(\vec{k})$   
for a material

# F. Tie Things up

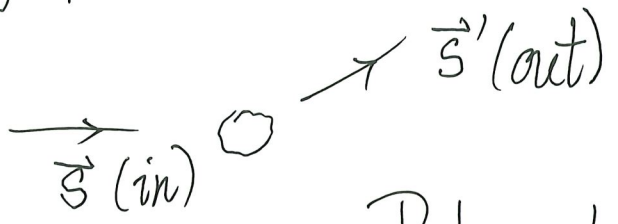
crystal sample (seemingly can do nothing)

Periodicity, e.g. charge (electron) density

$$n(\vec{r}) = n(\vec{r} + \vec{R})$$

$$n(\vec{r}) = \sum_{\vec{G}} n_{\vec{G}} e^{i\vec{G} \cdot \vec{r}}$$

## Scattering processes



Q.M. says

Prob. amplitude for this to happen  $\propto$

what could cause the scattering

$$\int \underbrace{e^{-i\vec{S}' \cdot \vec{r}}}_{\text{final state}} \left( \sum_{\vec{G}} n_{\vec{G}} e^{i\vec{G} \cdot \vec{r}} \right) \underbrace{e^{i\vec{S} \cdot \vec{r}}}_{\text{initial state}} d^3r$$



Pick up

$$\int e^{-i(\vec{s}' - \vec{s}) \cdot \vec{r}} e^{i\vec{G} \cdot \vec{r}} d^3r$$

not negligible only for  $\vec{s}' - \vec{s} = \vec{G}$  (Laue condition, X-ray)

a condition we saw like a momentum

Stretching our imagination a bit...

$$e^{i\vec{G} \cdot \vec{r}} = e^{i\left(\frac{\hbar\vec{G}}{\hbar}\right) \cdot \vec{r}}$$

So, a periodic function is good at providing or destroying discrete values  $\hbar\vec{G}$  of momentum

Thus,  $\vec{s}' - \vec{s} = \vec{G}$  is a way to express momentum change in scattering is compensated by that provided by the crystal.

## Summary

• Easy to define  $\vec{b}_1, \vec{b}_2, \vec{b}_3$  from  $\vec{a}_1, \vec{a}_2, \vec{a}_3$  and map out the Reciprocal Lattice

• But why so needs more appreciation

•  $\vec{G} \perp$  planes, Bragg condition as Laue Condition involves  $\vec{G}$ 's

• X-ray experiments map out reciprocal lattice

•  $\vec{S} \cdot \left(\frac{\vec{G}}{2}\right) = \left(\frac{G}{2}\right)^2$  is Laue Condition

suggests bisecting planes are important for waves in periodic systems

• 1<sup>st</sup> B.Z. and other Brillouin Zones

•  $f(\vec{r}) = \sum_{\vec{G}} f_{\vec{G}} e^{i\vec{G} \cdot \vec{r}}$  involves  $\vec{G}$ 's only if  $f(\vec{r} + \vec{R}) = f(\vec{r})$