## BRAVAIS LATTICES

Bravais in 1948 showed that 14 types of unit cells under seven crystal systems arepossible. They are commonly called as `Bravais lattices'.
S.No. Crystal system Axial length Interfacial angles Example
1.

Cubic $a=b=c$
$\alpha=\beta=\gamma=90^{\circ}$
$\mathrm{NaCl}, \mathrm{CaF}_{2}, \mathrm{Au}, \mathrm{Cu}$
2.

Tetragonal $a=b \neq c$

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
\alpha=\beta=\gamma=90^{\circ} \quad & \text { Ordinary white, tin, } \\
& \text { Indium, } \mathrm{SnO}_{2}
\end{array}
$$

3. Orthorhombic $\mathrm{a} \neq \mathrm{b} \neq \mathrm{c}$
$\alpha=\beta=\gamma=90^{\circ}$
Sulphur, Topaz, BaSO4,
KNO3
4. Monoclinic $a \neq b \neq c$
$\alpha=\beta=90^{\circ} ; \gamma \neq$
Na2So4, FeSo4, Gypsum
$90^{\circ}$
5. Triclinic $\mathrm{a} \neq \mathrm{b} \neq \mathrm{c}$
6. Rhombohedral $\mathrm{a}=\mathrm{b}=\mathrm{c}$
$\alpha \neq \beta \neq \gamma \neq 90^{\circ}$
CuSo4, $\mathrm{K}_{2} \mathrm{Cr} 2 \mathrm{O} 7$
7. Hexagonal $a=b \neq c$
$\alpha=\beta=\gamma \neq 90^{\circ} \quad$ Calcite, $\mathrm{Sb}, \mathrm{Bi}$.
$\alpha=\beta=90^{\circ} ; \quad$ Quartz, Zn, Mg.
$\gamma=120^{\circ}$

## Cubic

$\mathbf{a}_{1}=\mathbf{a}_{2}=\mathbf{a}_{3}=\mathbf{a}=$ lattice constant $\quad\left\langle=®=\right.$ © $=90^{\circ}$


## Tetragonal

$\mathbf{a}_{1}=\mathbf{a}_{2} \quad \mathbf{a}_{3} \quad\left\langle=®=\odot=90^{\circ}\right.$




## Describing Directions and Planes by Miller Indices

Working with lattices and crystals produces rather quickly the need to describe certain directions and planes in a simple and unambigous way. Stating that an elemental facecentered cubic crystal can be made by assigning one atom to any lattice point found on "that plane that runs somehow diagonally through the unit cell" just won't do it. So William Hallowes Miller invented a system with a lot of power for doing that in 1839. What we do is to describe any direction or any plane by three integer numbers, called Miller indices.

How to derive the Miller indices of a certain direction or plane is easy. Here is the recipe for directions (in 2 dimensions for simplicity); the figure below illustrates it:

- Start the desired direction from the origin.
- Express the direction as a vector given in integer multiples $u, v, w$ of the base vectors.
- Make sure the three integers have the smallest possible value.
- Write the direction as [u v w] or <u v w> (we won't concern us here with the subtleties involved in using two kinds of brackets).
- Negative integer values are written with a dash on top of the number instead of the conventional "-" sign. (not possible in simple HTML)


Getting Miller indices for planes is a bit more involved. Here is how it's done; the figure below gives examples:

- Put the origin not on the plane but on a neighboring plane.
- Find the intersection points h', k', and l' of the plane with the (extended) base vectors. If there is none, the value is $\square$.
- Form the reciprocal values of $h^{\prime}$, $\mathrm{k}^{\prime}$, and I ' and call them $\mathrm{h}, \mathrm{k}$, and I . If, for example, $\mathrm{h}^{\prime}=\square$, you have $\mathrm{h}=\left(1 / \mathrm{h}^{\prime}\right)=0$.
- The Miller indices of the plane to be indexed then are \{hkl\} or (hkl).


