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Direct space and simultaneous direct-reciprocal space optimization models for phasing structures

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The phase problem has recently been approached via combinatorial optimization techniques and the resulting Sieve method has been demonstrated to be effective for phasing centrosymmetric structures [1]. The purpose of the current work is to develop a more robust model for accurate phasing in the presence of odd triplets, and more important, to provide a combinatorial optimization approach to phasing non-centrosymmetric crystals. Two mixed-integer linear programming models for phasing are proposed; both of which include the introduction of specific direct space constraints with one additionally operating in reciprocal space. Direct space is constrained through sampling of electron density on a grid. Structure factors are calculated at these points in terms of the integer variables, which describe the phases. Bounds are then formulated using experimental data. Computational results are presented for a variety of structures. References

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Keywords: phasing methods, algorithms, direct methods

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Macromolecular structure solution by charge flipping

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The solution of the crystallographic phase problem continues to be a challenge for the development of new and robust approaches. The recently discovered charge flipping phasing algorithm has received a growing interest in small-molecule crystallography and powder diffraction. This computational methodology radically differs from the classical direct methods as it neither requires a priori knowledge of space-group symmetry nor chemical composition and does not rely on probabilistic phase relations or a statistical framework. We show here that the charge flipping algorithm is capable to solve ab initio large macromolecular structures, up to ~4,000 atoms in the asymmetric unit, using suitable normalized intensity data at atomic resolution (1.1 Å or better). Moreover, we demonstrate that this algorithm also provides a very efficient tool for the determination of complex anomalously-scattering heavy-atom substructures at medium to low resolution (down to 5 Å). With the present extension to macromolecular crystallography charge flipping proves to be a very performing and general phase recovery algorithm in all fields of kinematical diffraction.

Keywords: charge flipping, macromolecular structure determination, sub-structure determination

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Direct observation of structural phase in CBED patterns - applications to structure determination

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It has been shown that the signs of three-phase invariants of a centrosymmetric structure can be observed directly by inspection of 3-beam convergent beam electron diffraction (CBED) patterns [1-5]. This ability to read-off phases directly and quickly from diffraction patterns suggests a new approach to the determination of structures that begins with knowledge of structure factor phases, rather than magnitudes. As demonstrated by Lonsdale [6], almost 80 years ago, knowledge of structure factor phases alone can be sufficient to determine outline structures. However, the difficulty in measuring phase has traditionally meant that structure determinations start from a knowledge of measured magnitudes, not phases. In this paper, we demonstrate practically how the signs of three-phase invariants can be observed directly from 3 beam CBED patterns using corundum as an example. (We will also describe how the corresponding structure factor magnitudes can be determined from the measurement of distances in the same 3 beam patterns.) We demonstrate how these observations of three-phase invariants alone can be applied using Lonsdale's simple, powerful and unambiguous approach to structure solution [6], to determine an outline of the structure of corundum.

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Studies for S-SAD method using various wavelength at SPring-8 and SAGA-LS

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Single-wavelength anomalous dispersion (SAD) method using sulfur atoms as an anomalous dispersion atom (S-SAD) is a powerful tool for the phase determination in protein crystallography. There are two