

dire d'éviter soigneusement la précipitation et la prévention; et de ne comprendre rien de plus en mes jugements, que ce qui se présenterait si clairement et si distinctement à mon esprit, que je n'eusse aucune occasion de le mettre en doute.

The usual justification put forward is the protection of intellectual property. In our opinion, in view of the very small number of authors of original crystallographic software, all well known to each other, a simple copyright claim in the sources should be just as effective.

Executable code may be difficult to prove incorrect, and cannot be rectified without the sources. If, in fact, the code is incorrect or deficient, only the originator can modify it, a procedure which is usually lengthy or even non-existent. With sources available, exchange of corrections and improvements to the program is made possible within the group of registered users. The practice of exchange of this information within this group would seem neither to violate any copyright nor jeopardize any commercial interests of the originator.

In the case of complex instruments like diffractometers, the source code is probably the only detailed technical information on the hardware control. Without this code, it is impossible to make any improvements. Should the manufacturer withdraw support for the instrument, as has happened, there is then no way any changes can be made.

We feel that sources are an integral part of any scientific software. Crystallographers should ponder this point before buying or otherwise acquiring any software, especially if it constitutes the only way of driving an expensive and long-lived piece of hardware.

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(Received 8 July 1988;  
accepted 25 July 1988)

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## International Union of Crystallography

*J. Appl. Cryst.* (1988). **21**, 994–995

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The Executive Committee of the International Union of Crystallography is pleased that it has not been necessary to increase the subscription rates and the prices of back numbers for *Acta Crystallographica* and *Journal of Applied Crystallography* as from 1 January 1989. This is the sixth consecutive year for which prices have remained constant.

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**International Union of Crystallography**

*J. Appl. Cryst.* (1988), **21**, 995–996

**XV International Congress of Crystallography, Bordeaux, France, 19–28 July 1990. Call for program proposals**

The XV Congress of the International Union of Crystallography will be held on the Campus of Bordeaux University. The opening ceremony will take place on Thursday 19 July 1990 and the closing ceremony on Saturday 28 July. The Chairman of the Organizing Committee is Dr M. Hospital, Laboratoire de Cristallographie et Physique Cristalline, Université de Bordeaux I, F-33405 Talence CEDEX, France.

There will be, as usual, Main Lectures, Microsymposia and Poster Sessions. In addition, Discussion Sessions following Poster Sessions will be organized experimentally in a certain number of cases. The list of Topics and Categories for submission of papers will be revised and the Microsymposia topics will be included as a subset of the general list of Topics.

The National Committees and the Commissions of the Union have been invited to submit proposals for all parts of the scientific program. Individual suggestions are also welcome and I invite all crystallographers to send in their proposals for:

Main lectures, topics and speakers  
Microsymposia topics, chairpersons and speakers

Revision of the list of Categories and Topics either through the Secretary of their National Committee or directly to me.

This announcement will only appear late 1988, early 1989. It is however absolutely necessary that answers reach me by **28 February 1989** at the latest to allow sufficient time for consultations with Programme Committee Members before the Programme is finalized in July 1989.

A list of the Satellite Meetings which will accompany the main Congress is included in this announcement with the names and addresses of the organizers who can give information on these meetings. It is important to note that all of these Satellite Meetings are organized in conjunction with or by Commissions of the Union.

The list of the Members of the International Programme Committee is also included.

A. AUTHIER  
Chairman of the Programme Committee

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**Satellite Meetings**

1. *Short Range Order in III Ordered Materials*  
Orsay (near Paris), 16–18 July 1990