research papers



Received 21 January 2020 Accepted 27 May 2020

Edited by J.-G. Eon, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Keywords: Cayley graphs; free abelian groups; computational group theory; vertex-transitive graphs; isotopy.

Supporting information: this article has supporting information at journals.iucr.org/a



On Cayley graphs of \mathbb{Z}^4

Igor A. Baburin*

Theoretische Chemie, Technische Universität Dresden, Bergstraße 66c, Dresden, 01062, Germany. *Correspondence e-mail: baburinssu@gmail.com

The generating sets of \mathbb{Z}^4 have been enumerated which consist of integral fourdimensional vectors with components -1, 0, 1 and allow Cayley graphs without edge intersections in a straight-edge embedding in a four-dimensional Euclidean space. Owing to computational restrictions the valency of enumerated graphs has been fixed to 10. Up to isomorphism 58 graphs have been found and characterized by coordination sequences, shortest cycles and automorphism groups. To compute automorphism groups, a novel strategy is introduced that is based on determining vertex stabilizers from the automorphism group of a sufficiently large finite ball cut out from an infinite graph. Six exceptional, rather 'dense' graphs have been identified which are locally isomorphic to a fivedimensional cubic lattice within a ball of radius 10. They could be built by either interconnecting interpenetrated three- or four-dimensional cubic lattices and therefore necessarily contain Hopf links between quadrangular cycles. As a consequence, a local combinatorial isomorphism does not extend to a local isotopy.

1. Introduction

Cayley graphs provide a helpful tool to 'visualize a group' and to derive its properties (*e.g.* defining relations) in an essentially geometric way (*cf.* Löh, 2017). As usual, we consider a Cayley graph of a group *G* with an inverse-closed finite generating set *S* (such that $S = S^{-1} \neq 1$) as an undirected graph whose vertices correspond to group elements and vertices $g, h \in G$ are connected by an edge whenever $gs = h, s \in S$. For additive groups (*e.g.* for \mathbb{Z}^n , *n* being a positive integer) we may write s = h - g.

Cayley graphs of crystallographic groups in a Euclidean plane were treated in detail in a well known book by Coxeter & Moser (1980). The situation in higher dimensions (>2) is far from having been completely explored. Although in dimension 3 different enumeration methods indeed produced many Cayley graphs of crystallographic groups relevant to structural chemistry (e.g. Fischer, 1974, 1993), their potential has never been used in full [some applications are described by Eon (2012)]. Despite some results on lattice nets or bouquet nets (Delgado-Friedrichs & O'Keeffe, 2009; Moreira de Oliveira & Eon, 2014), the terms adopted by crystallographers for Cayley graphs of \mathbb{Z}^n , complete enumerations for \mathbb{Z}^3 (under fairly natural assumptions) have become available only recently (Power et al., 2020). Many important properties of Cayley graphs of \mathbb{Z}^n were derived by Kostousov (2007) which we quote below (Section 2.1).

There exists only one (up to isomorphism) Cayley graph of \mathbb{Z}^4 with valency 8 that corresponds to a four-dimensional hypercubic lattice. In this paper we provide a complete catalogue of Cayley graphs of \mathbb{Z}^4 with valency 10 which arise for generating sets of integral vectors with components -1, 0, 1

(loosely speaking, the shortest) and which are embedded in a four-dimensional Euclidean space, *i.e.* free of edge crossings in a straight-edge embedding (in other words, edges intersect at most at common vertices). The restriction to valency 10 in the present study is due to a significant increase in the computational demand for isomorphism checking already for the next possible valency 12, in which case effective invariants are to be developed to quickly distinguish non-isomorphic graphs. The structure of graphs is characterized in terms of coordination sequences and shortest cycles. Additionally, we apply a novel strategy to compute automorphism groups.

2. Theoretical background and computational methodology

2.1. Some properties of Cayley graphs of \mathbb{Z}^n

We start by summarizing important facts about Cayley graphs of \mathbb{Z}^n . In the following, we associate \mathbb{Z}^n with an additive group of *n*-dimensional integral vectors of an affine Euclidean space \mathbb{R}^n .

Theorem 1. [Kostousov (2007), Theorem 3, part (a), and Proposition 3.] Let S and M be generating sets of \mathbb{Z}^n which consist of *n*-dimensional integral row vectors. The respective Cayley graphs are isomorphic iff there is a matrix $X \in GL(n, \mathbb{Z})$ with $|\det(X)| = 1$ such that M = SX.

Theorem 1 provides a handy criterion for isomorphism testing by solving a system of linear equations. We note that isomorphism testing by computing canonical forms according to Delgado-Friedrichs (2004) turns out to be rather expensive in dimensions n > 3.

Theorem 2. [Kostousov (2007), Theorem 3, part (b); Moreira de Oliveira & Eon (2014), Theorem 4.1.] The automorphism group of a Cayley graph Γ of \mathbb{Z}^n , Aut(Γ), is isomorphic to a crystallographic group.

As an immediate consequence we obtain that vertex stabilizers in $Aut(\Gamma)$ are finite.

Any Cayley graph of \mathbb{Z}^n allows a natural embedding in \mathbb{R}^n , with vertices as nodes of an integral lattice and edges as straight-line segments corresponding to generators. Any automorphism of a graph in this embedding is induced by an affine map of \mathbb{R}^n . The following theorem provides a group-theoretic condition for when this embedding is free of edge intersections.

Theorem 3. [cf. Power et al. (2020), Proposition 4.5.] Let Γ be a Cayley graph of \mathbb{Z}^n with respect to a generating set *S*, and let Γ be embedded in \mathbb{R}^n as described above with edges as straight-line segments. Then Γ is free of edge intersections (except at the vertices of Γ) iff $\langle s_1, s_1^{-1} \rangle$ is a maximal rank 1 subgroup of \mathbb{Z}^n for any $s_1 \in S$ and $\langle s_1, s_1^{-1}, s_2, s_2^{-1} \rangle$ is a maximal rank 2 subgroup of \mathbb{Z}^n for any $s_1 \in S$ and $s_2 \in S \setminus \{s_1, s_1^{-1}\}$.

Proof. A pair of intersecting edges of Γ spans a one- or twodimensional affine subspace. Subgraphs of Γ which correspond to $H^{(1)} = \langle s_1, s_1^{-1} \rangle$ and $H^{(2)} = \langle s_1, s_1^{-1}, s_2, s_2^{-1} \rangle$ are chains and (topological) square grids, respectively. Let $H_{\text{max}}^{(1)}$ and $H_{\text{max}}^{(2)}$ be maximal rank 1 and rank 2 subgroups of \mathbb{Z}^n such that $H^{(1)} \leq H_{\text{max}}^{(1)}$ and $H^{(2)} \leq H_{\text{max}}^{(2)}$. If $H^{(1)} < H_{\text{max}}^{(1)}$, then cosets of $H^{(1)}$ in $H_{\text{max}}^{(1)}$ generate collinear chains in Γ running along the direction defined by s_1 . To have only one chain rather than a set of collinear chains implies $H^{(1)} = H_{\text{max}}^{(1)}$. Similarly, if $H^{(2)} < H_{\text{max}}^{(2)}$, cosets of $H^{(2)}$ in $H_{\text{max}}^{(2)}$ give rise to square grids which are shifted against each other in a two-dimensional plane defined by s_1, s_2 that forces edges to cross. As a consequence, edge intersections do not take place iff subgroups $H^{(1)}$ and $H^{(2)}$ are maximal subgroups of \mathbb{Z}^n with rank 1 and 2, respectively.

Remark 1. If the conditions of Theorem 3 are fulfilled but subsets of S generate non-maximal subgroups of \mathbb{Z}^n with rank $d \ge 3$, then an affine subspace of dimension d accommodates a finite number of connected components (each of dimensionality d) which do not cross each other. This implies the existence of Hopf links between the cycles of a graph (*cf.* Section 3).

Remark 2. From Theorem 3 it is possible to determine the maximal valency for Cayley graphs of \mathbb{Z}^n which can be embedded in \mathbb{R}^n without edge intersections provided the components of generating vectors are restricted to a certain range. For example, if vectors with components -1, 0, 1 are considered, the maximal valency is 6, 14, 30, 62, 126 for n = 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, respectively.

2.2. Computation of automorphism groups for Cayley graphs of \mathbb{Z}^n

Since any Cayley graph Γ of \mathbb{Z}^n obviously does not show up vertex collisions in a barycentric placement, the method of Delgado-Friedrichs (2004) [*cf.* also Delgado-Friedrichs & O'Keeffe (2003) for a less formal exposition] can be used to compute Aut(Γ). Here we have adopted a different strategy that involves a computation of a vertex stabilizer in Aut(Γ) from the local structure of a graph Γ . This strategy is quite general and appears to be very effective for vertex-transitive periodic graphs with finite vertex stabilizers in Aut(Γ).

To facilitate the following discussion, let us establish some notation for graphs and group actions on various sets associated with them.

Let Γ be a connected simple graph with finite valencies of vertices. The distance between vertices *x* and *y*, d(x, y), is defined as the number of edges in a shortest path from *x* to *y*. Then $B_{\Gamma}(v, r) = \{x \mid d(v, x) \leq r\}$ is the ball with a radius of *r* edges centred at *v*, and $\langle B_{\Gamma}(v, r) \rangle$ is the subgraph of Γ induced by $B_{\Gamma}(v, r)$. If there is no ambiguity we shall write B(v, r). A

research papers

Table 1

Vertex stabilizers and automorphism groups for enumerated Cayley graphs of \mathbb{Z}^4 with valency 10.

| TD_{15} is the number of vertices in a ball of radius 15. D_n denotes a difference of the second secon | edral group of order n. |
|---|-------------------------|
|---|-------------------------|

| Graph | Stabilizer | TD ₁₅ | BBNWZ† | Graph | Stabilizer | BBNWZ† | TD ₁₅ |
|-------|--|------------------|-----------|-------|--|---------|------------------|
| #1 | $C_2 \times S_3 \times D_8$ | 58321 | 20/22/1/1 | #30 | $C_2 \times C_2$ | 2/3/2/1 | 165953 |
| #2 | $\tilde{C_2 \times C_2 \times S_4}$ | 58321 | 25/11/2/1 | #31 | $\tilde{C_2}$ | 1/2/1/1 | 185771 |
| #3 | $C_2 \times C_2 \times S_3$ | 83521 | 14/10/1/1 | #32 | $\overline{C_2}$ | 1/2/1/1 | 220707 |
| #4 | $C_2 \times C_2 \times S_3$ | 102631 | 14/10/4/1 | #33 | $\overline{C_2}$ | 1/2/1/1 | 205055 |
| #5 | $C_2 \times C_2 \times C_2$ | 113915 | 4/4/3/1 | #34 | $\overline{C_2} \times \overline{C_2} \times \overline{C_2}$ | 4/4/6/1 | 158993 |
| #6 | $C_2 \times S_4$ | 83521 | 24/5/4/1 | #35 | $C_2 \times C_2$ | 2/3/2/1 | 180113 |
| #7 | $C_2 \times S_4$ | 109001 | 24/5/1/1 | #36 | $\overline{C_2 \times C_2}$ | 2/3/2/1 | 198263 |
| #8 | $\tilde{C_2} \times S_4$ | 128111 | 24/5/3/1 | #37 | $\tilde{C_2} \times \tilde{C_2} \times C_2$ | 4/4/5/1 | 173183 |
| #9 | D_{12} | 113915 | 8/5/1/1 | #38 | $\tilde{C_2} \times \tilde{C_2}$ | 2/3/2/1 | 192083 |
| #10 | D_{12}^{12} | 135937 | 8/5/1/1 | #39 | $\tilde{C_2} \times \tilde{C_2}$ | 2/3/2/1 | 207995 |
| #11 | D_{12}^{12} | 152239 | 8/5/1/1 | #40 | $\tilde{C_2} \times \tilde{C_2}$ | 2/3/2/1 | 212055 |
| #12 | D_{12}^{12} | 141943 | 8/5/1/1 | #41 | $\tilde{C_2} \times \tilde{C_2}$ | 2/3/2/1 | 176105 |
| #13 | D_{12}^{12} | 160533 | 8/5/1/1 | #42 | $\tilde{C_2} \times \tilde{C_2}$ | 2/3/2/1 | 189943 |
| #14 | D_{12}^{12} | 174063 | 8/5/3/1 | #43 | $\tilde{C_2} \times \tilde{C_2}$ | 2/3/2/1 | 195269 |
| #15 | $C_2 \times C_2 \times C_2$ | 158773 | 4/4/5/1 | #44 | $\overline{C_2 \times C_2}$ | 2/3/2/1 | 198423 |
| #16 | $C_2 \times C_2$ | 163723 | 2/3/2/1 | #45 | $C_2 \times C_2$ | 2/3/2/1 | 214729 |
| #17 | $C_2 \times C_2$ | 179453 | 2/3/2/1 | #46 | C_2 | 1/2/1/1 | 202787 |
| #18 | $C_2 \times C_2$ | 190703 | 2/3/2/1 | #47 | C_2 | 1/2/1/1 | 216717 |
| #19 | $C_2 \times C_2$ | 197363 | 2/3/2/1 | #48 | C_2 | 1/2/1/1 | 215653 |
| #20 | $C_2 \times S_5$ | 72601 | 31/7/1/1 | #49 | C_2 | 1/2/1/1 | 235001 |
| #21 | $C_2 \times C_2 \times S_3$ | 100811 | 14/10/2/1 | #50 | C_2 | 1/2/1/1 | 209759 |
| #22 | $C_2 \times C_2 \times S_3$ | 129931 | 14/10/6/1 | #51 | C ₂ | 1/2/1/1 | 218183 |
| #23 | $C_2 \times C_2 \times C_2$ | 126213 | 4/4/5/1 | #52 | C ₂ | 1/2/1/1 | 235955 |
| #24 | $C_2 \times C_2$ | 151733 | 2/3/2/1 | #53 | $\overline{C_2}$ | 1/2/1/1 | 212503 |
| #25 | $\overline{C_2 \times C_2}$ | 174503 | 2/3/2/1 | #54 | $\overline{C_2}$ | 1/2/1/1 | 229905 |
| #26 | $\overline{C_2} \times \overline{C_2} \times \overline{C_2}$ | 135475 | 4/4/6/1 | #55 | $\overline{C_2}$ | 1/2/1/1 | 227335 |
| #27 | $C_2 \times C_2 \times C_2$ | 144913 | 4/4/5/1 | #56 | C_2 | 1/2/1/1 | 234225 |
| #28 | $C_2 \times C_2$ | 170843 | 2/3/2/1 | #57 | C_2 | 1/2/1/1 | 223743 |
| #29 | $C_2 \times C_2$ | 195155 | 2/3/2/1 | #58 | C_2 | 1/2/1/1 | 238785 |
| | | | | | | | |

† The notation of four-dimensional space groups following Brown et al. (1978).

coordination sequence for a vertex v is a sequence of integers $\{|S(v, i)|\}$ where $S(v, i) = \{x \mid d(v, x) = i\}$ is the sphere of vertices at distance precisely *i* from *v*. The automorphism group of Γ , Aut(Γ), is regarded as a group of all adjacency-preserving permutations on the vertex set of Γ . Two (generally non-isomorphic) vertex-transitive graphs Γ_1 and Γ_2 are said to be *locally isomorphic* within a ball of radius *r* if $\langle B_{\Gamma_1}(x, r) \rangle \cong \langle B_{\Gamma_2}(y, r) \rangle$. If *G* is a permutation group on a set *X*, then Stab_{*G*}(*x*) = $\{g \mid xg = x, g \in G\}$, *i.e.* the stabilizer of an element $x \in X$ in *G*. If $Y \subseteq X$ is *G*-invariant, G^Y is the restriction of *G* to a subset *Y*.

Proposition 1. [Trofimov (2012), Section 3.] Let Γ be a connected vertex-transitive graph and v be a vertex of Γ . For any non-negative integer r there exists a minimal integer $\rho(r) \ge r$ such that

$$\operatorname{Stab}_{\operatorname{Aut}(\langle B(\nu, \rho(r))\rangle)}(\nu)^{B(\nu, r)} = \operatorname{Stab}_{\operatorname{Aut}(\Gamma)}(\nu)^{B(\nu, r)}.$$

In other words, any automorphism of $\langle B(v, r) \rangle$ fixing v which can be extended to an automorphism of $\langle B(v, \rho(r)) \rangle$ can also be extended to an automorphism of Γ .

Proposition 2. Let Γ be a Cayley graph of \mathbb{Z}^n . For any vertex v of Γ , the stabilizer Stab_{Aut(Γ)}(v) acts faithfully on B(v, 1).

Proof. By Theorem 2 Aut(Γ) is isomorphic to a crystallographic group. Vertices adjacent to ν form an *n*-dimensional convex hull that cannot be stabilized pointwise by any crystallographic isometry (or an affine map) of \mathbb{R}^n .

Proposition 3. Let Γ be a Cayley graph of a group *G* with respect to a generating set *S*, and *ν* be a vertex of Γ. Then $Aut(\Gamma) = \langle S, Stab_{Aut(\Gamma)}(\nu) \rangle$.

For a Cayley graph Γ of \mathbb{Z}^n Propositions 1 and 2 allow us to determine a faithful action of $\operatorname{Stab}_{\operatorname{Aut}(\Gamma)}(\nu)$ on $B(\nu, 1)$ as a permutation group from the restriction of $\operatorname{Stab}_{\operatorname{Aut}(\langle B(\nu, \rho(1))\rangle)}(\nu)$ to $B(\nu, 1)$. A practical computation of $\rho(1)$, $\operatorname{Stab}_{\operatorname{Aut}(\Gamma)}(\nu)$ and eventually $\operatorname{Aut}(\Gamma)$ (the latter requires Proposition 3) is facilitated by employing the fact that any automorphism of Γ is induced by an affine map of \mathbb{R}^n if vertices of Γ are associated with nodes of an integral lattice as done in Section 2.1.

Given an input set *S* of *n*-dimensional integral vectors, the automorphism group of the respective Cayley graph Γ of \mathbb{Z}^n , Aut(Γ), can be computed as a matrix group in the following steps (hereafter *v* is the vertex $(0, \ldots, 0)$ of Γ):

| Table 2 | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|------------|-------------|---------|----------|--------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|
| Coordination sequ | uences (up | to the 15th | sphere) | for some | Cayley | graphs of \mathbb{Z}^4 | and a five-dime | ensional cut | oic lattice. |

Coincident subsequences are highlighted in bold.

| Graph | Coordination sequence | No. interpenetrating cubic lattices, 3D; 4D† | | |
|-------|--|--|--|--|
| 5D | 10 50 170 450 1002 1970 3530 5890 9290 14002 20330 28610 39210 52530 69002 | _ | | |
| #49 | 10 50 170 450 1002 1970 3530 5890 9290 14002 20330 28610 37908 49238 62550 | (2, 3); (3, 4, 5, 6, 7) | | |
| #52 | 10 50 170 450 1002 1970 3530 5890 9290 14002 20330 28318 38002 49616 63324 | (3); (3, 4, 7, 9) | | |
| #54 | 10 50 170 450 1002 1970 3530 5890 9290 14002 20330 27798 36942 47838 60632 | (2, 3); (2, 3, 5, 6, 7) | | |
| #55 | 10 50 170 450 1002 1970 3530 5890 9290 14002 20054 27472 36470 47192 59782 | (3); (3, 5, 6, 7) | | |
| #56 | 10 50 170 450 1002 1970 3530 5890 9290 14002 20330 28144 37684 49112 62590 | (2, 3); (2, 5, 6, 9) | | |
| #58 | $10 \ 50 \ 170 \ 450 \ 1002 \ 1970 \ 3530 \ 5890 \ 9290 \ 14002 \ 20330 \ 28610 \ 38530 \ 50440 \ 64510$ | (3); (3, 5, 7, 9) | | |

† The notation (a, b, c, ...) means that different subsets are possible which contain a (or b, or c, ...) connected components.

(i) For some $k \le \rho(1)$ generate a finite subgraph $\langle B(v, k) \rangle$ of Γ and compute Aut $(\langle B(v, k) \rangle)$.¹

(ii) Compute generators of $\text{Stab}_{\text{Aut}((B(v, k)))}(v)^{B(v, 1)}$ as permutations on vertices of B(v, 1).

(iii) Check (by solving systems of linear equations) if permutations computed at step (ii) are induced by integral $n \times n$ matrices. If so, then $k = \rho(1)$ is found. The set *T* of the so-obtained matrices generates an integral matrix representation of $\operatorname{Stab}_{\operatorname{Aut}(\Gamma)}(v)$, and we proceed to step (iv). Otherwise we set k: = k + 1 and go back to step (i).

(iv) Aut(Γ) is output as a matrix group generated by *S* and *T*: Aut(Γ) = $\langle S, T \rangle$ (elements of *S* and *T* are expressed here as $(n+1) \times (n+1)$ augmented matrices).

Remark. Recently another method [see Section 3.1 in Bremner *et al.* (2014)] has come to our attention that allows one to compute $\operatorname{Stab}_{\operatorname{Aut}(\Gamma)}(v)$ [$v = (0, \ldots, 0)$] as an integral matrix group by making use of a positive definite symmetric matrix $Q = \sum_i s_i s_i^T$, where the sum runs over *column vectors* $s_i \in S, i = 1, \ldots, |S|$. The automorphism group of Q, $\operatorname{Aut}(Q)$, is defined as

$$Aut(Q) = \{X \in GL(n, \mathbb{Z}) \mid XQX^{\mathrm{T}} = Q\}$$

and corresponds to the isometry group of an *n*-dimensional integral lattice with a Gram matrix Q. Aut(Q) can be computed using the algorithm of Plesken & Souvignier (1997) as implemented in the AUTO program.² Stab_{Aut(Γ)}(v) is readily obtained as a *setwise* stabilizer of S in Aut(Q).

3. Results and discussion

With the above theory in mind, we have implemented in the GAP programming language (GAP, 2019) the search for generating sets of \mathbb{Z}^4 which give rise to Cayley graphs of

valency 10 by enumerating quintuples of four-dimensional vectors with components -1, 0, 1. Filtering out generating sets which satisfy our Theorem 3 (Section 2.1) and yield isomorphic graphs was done on the fly, and the computation of automorphism groups was implemented in a separate program making use of *nauty* (McKay, 2009) and the *Cryst* package (Eick *et al.*, 2019). For checking purposes, automorphism groups were also computed with an alternative method based on the Remark in Section 2.2. The results are gathered in Table 1. Furthermore, the supporting information contains explicit lists of generators, point symbols (Blatov *et al.*, 2010) and coordination sequences up to the 15th sphere.

To our knowledge, only three out of the 58 graphs have been known before, namely, #1, #2 and #20 which correspond to primitive hexagonal tetragonal, *I*-centred cubic orthogonal and primitive icosahedral lattices³ (O'Keeffe, 1995). The 'topological' diversity of the graphs is very much restricted since they all turn out to be closely related to a fivedimensional (primitive) cubic lattice as shown by point symbols and coordination sequences. This is not accidental since Cayley graphs of \mathbb{Z}^n with valency 2(n+1) are indeed quotients of an (n+1)-dimensional cubic lattice with respect to some rank 1 subgroup (*cf.* Eon, 2011). Low-dimensional quotients necessarily inherit certain properties from their parent higher-dimensional counterparts.

Generating sets for 55 graphs (all except #1, #2 and #20) contain subsets corresponding to non-maximal \mathbb{Z}^3 or \mathbb{Z}^4 subgroups (or both). This means that quadrangular cycles of the graphs are linked (*cf.* Remark 1 to Theorem 3). Let us discuss this phenomenon in more detail for six exceptional graphs (#49, #52, #54, #55, #56, #58, see Table 2) which are *locally isomorphic* to a five-dimensional cubic lattice within a ball of radius 10, as proven by isomorphism computations. Subgraph enumeration for #49, #52, #54, #55, #56, #58 has identified sets of three- as well as four-dimensional cubic lattices (last column of Table 2). These sets contain a finite number of connected components which interpenetrate each other in a manner as shown in Fig. 1. As a result, the above graphs could be built by interconnecting 'layers' of

¹ In actual computations, if a graph in question is a quotient of some other graph (as is the case for 10-valent Cayley graphs of \mathbb{Z}^4 which are quotients of a five-dimensional hypercubic lattice, *cf.* Section 3), a good initial guess for *k* is the radius starting from which coordination sequences of a graph and its quotient become different. Then the described procedure for finding $\rho(r)$ converges rather rapidly. For the graphs from Table 1 computations yield $\rho(1) \leq 13$.

² This program can also be accessed from the GAP package *Polyhedral* (Dutour Sikirić, 2015).

³ In this section, by a lattice we actually mean a Cayley graph of \mathbb{Z}^n for some standard generating set [*e.g.* for a (hyper)cubic lattice the set consists of *n* orthogonal unit vectors and their inverses].



Figure 1

Two interpenetrating primitive cubic lattices in a three-dimensional Euclidean space.

interpenetrating cubic lattices in a fourth dimension. Alternatively, they could be viewed as interconnected interpenetrating four-dimensional cubic lattices. Obviously both constructions imply Hopf links between quadrangular cycles. Qualitatively speaking, Hopf links arise from keeping the same amount (40) of quadrangular cycles per vertex while reducing the number of coordinate two-dimensional planes from 10 (in five dimensions) to 6 (in four dimensions). It is clear that quadrangular cycles of a five-dimensional cubic lattice lie separately in orthogonal two-dimensional coordinate planes and therefore are not linked. As a consequence, although being *locally isomorphic* to a five-dimensional cubic lattice, the above graphs are not locally isotopic to it. These examples illustrate perhaps a general phenomenon that knotting in crystal structures can formally arise from projections of high-dimensional periodic nets and represents a compromise of how a high-dimensional object could fit into a lower-dimensional space.

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to Professor Dr Bettina Eick (University of Braunschweig) for having introduced me to the GAP system. I thank Professor Dr Vladimir I. Trofimov and Dr Kirill V. Kostousov (Institute of Mathematics and Mechanics, Ekaterinburg, Russia) for helpful correspondence. I thank both referees for constructive comments. Open access funding enabled and organized by Projekt DEAL.

References

- Blatov, V. A., O'Keeffe, M. & Proserpio, D. M. (2010). CrystEng-Comm, 12, 44–48.
- Bremner, D., Dutour Sikirić, M., Pasechnik, D. V., Rehn, T. & Schürmann, A. (2014). LMS J. Comput. Math. 17, 565–581.
- Brown, H., Bülow, R., Neubüser, J., Wondratschek, H. & Zassenhaus, H. (1978). *Crystallographic Groups of Four-dimensional Space*. New York: Wiley.
- Coxeter, H. S. M. & Moser, W. O. J. (1980). Generators and Relations for Discrete Groups, 4th ed. Berlin, Heidelberg: Springer.
- Delgado-Friedrichs, O. (2004). Graph Drawing. Lecture Notes in Computer Science, edited by G. Liotta, Vol. 2912, pp. 178–189. Berlin, Heidelberg: Springer.
- Delgado-Friedrichs, O. & O'Keeffe, M. (2003). Acta Cryst. A59, 351-360.
- Delgado-Friedrichs, O. & O'Keeffe, M. (2009). Acta Cryst. A65, 360–363.
- Dutour Sikirić, M. (2015). *Polyhedral*, a GAP package. (Available online from http://mathieudutour.altervista.org/Polyhedral/index. html).
- Eick, B., Gähler, F. & Nickel, W. (2019). Cryst Computing with Crystallographic Groups, a refereed GAP 4 package, Version 4.1.19. https://www.gap-system.org/Packages/cryst.html.
- Eon, J.-G. (2011). Acta Cryst. A67, 68-86.
- Eon, J.-G. (2012). Struct. Chem. 23, 987–996.
- Fischer, W. (1974). Z. Kristallogr. 140, 50-74.
- Fischer, W. (1993). Z. Kristallogr. 205, 9-26.
- GAP (2019). GAP Groups, Algorithms, and Programming. Version 4.10.2, available from https://www.gap-system.org.
- Kostousov, K. V. (2007). Siberian Math. J. 48, 489-499.
- Löh, C. (2017). Geometric Group Theory an Introduction. Cham: Springer.
- McKay, B. D. (2009). *nauty*. User's Guide. Version 2.4. https://users.cecs.anu.edu.au/~bdm/nauty.
- Moreira de Oliveira, M. Jr & Eon, J.-G. (2014). Acta Cryst. A70, 217–228.
- O'Keeffe, M. (1995). Z. Kristallogr. 210, 905-908.
- Plesken, W. & Souvignier, B. (1997). J. Symbolic Comput. 24, 327–334.
- Power, S. C., Baburin, I. A. & Proserpio, D. M. (2020). Acta Cryst. A**76**, 275–301.
- Trofimov, V. I. (2012). Tr. Inst. Math. Mekh. (Ekaterinburg), 18, 26– 29. http://mi.mathnet.ru/timm835.