Oral presentation

"Crystallography: X-ray vision" A textbook for secondary school and university teachers and students

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On the occasion of the International Year of Crystallography 2014 (IYCr2014), issued by the United Nations in 2014 to celebrate the discovery, in 1912, of X-ray diffraction, the Italian Crystallographic Association (AIC) promoted and supported a portfolio of individual-member realized activities, aiming at making the great public aware of the existence, importance and potential of this fundamental, but often underestimated, scientific discipline.

Among the IYCr2014 initiatives sponsored by AIC was the book entitled *Cristallografia: la visione a raggi X* (Crystallography: X-ray vision), written with high-school students and teachers and natural science undergraduates in mind. The project was launched in 2011 at a gathering of the AIC assembly which took place during the XL AIC Conference in Siena, Italy. Massimo Moret and Pietro Roversi volunteered in that occasion, while Simona Galli joined the two colleagues in 2012.

The Italian version of the book was published in paperback in 2014 (Fig. 1a) and it is since available also as a downloadable PDF file.[1] Hundreds of copies were distributed by AIC individual members to schools, town libraries and universities. The Spanish translation of the book is also available as print-on-demand.[2] The English translation is being completed and will be distributed under IUCr sponsorship also as print-on-demand.

This oral contribution will relate on the writing of the book, give an overview of the topics it covers (Fig. 1b-d) and provide representative examples of its use.

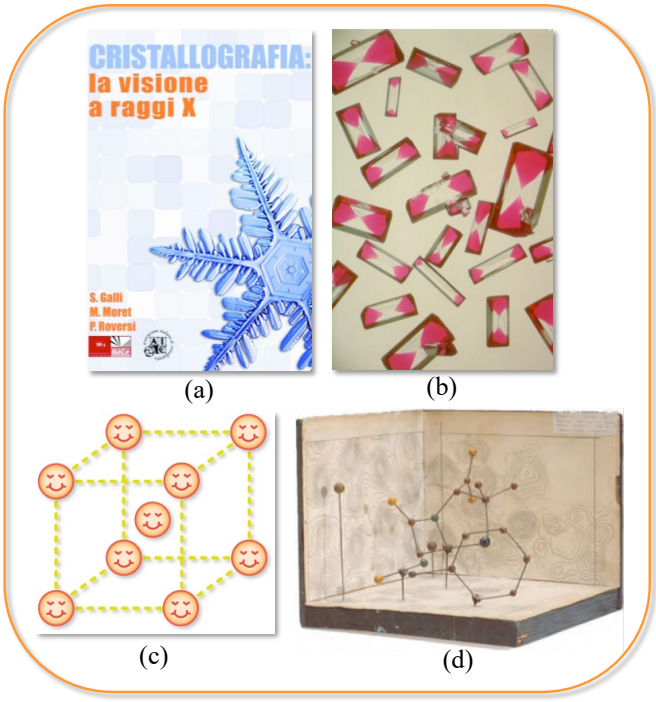

Figure 1. a) Front cover of the Italian version of the book. b) Crystals of potassium sulphate grown in presence of the acid fuchsin dye. c) Body-centred packing. d) Ball-and-stick model of a salt of penicillin G, exhibited at the Science Museum in London during a temporary exhibition dedicated to this drug.

[1] https://cristallografia.org/cristallografia-la-visione-a-raggi-x/

[2] https://www.lulu.com/shop/pietro-roversi-and-massimo-moret-and-simona-galli/cristalografia-la-vision-de-rayos-x/paperback/product-1yjqvqw5.html?page=1&pageSize=4

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