How to find symmetry and symmetry operations?

The inversion center, mirror (reflection) plane, rotation axis etc. are located within a molecule.

A molecule after operation must be identical to the original molecule.

"n" in C_n is defined with the operation rotated by 360°/n.



 S_n is another symmetry operation but it is synthesized from "rotation-reflection."





初めの配置(a)をぇ軸を中心に 90°回転させると(b)の配置となる. (b)の鏡の面は対象面(の)である What is the operation S_4 ?

Reflection with respect to σ_h after C_4 with respect to z. Namely, $S_4 = \sigma_h \bullet C_4$. Please confirm $C_2 = S_4^2$.

演習 Drill





Point Group. 点群

"Group" in mathematically meaning:

the product of an element and an element must be an element in the subset. The group is closed. 要素と要素の積はその集合内の要素でなければならない。群は閉じている。

A tetrahedron: point group $T_{\rm d}$



正四面体型と正八面体型錯体の対称性を調べると、非常に高い対称性をもっている ことがわかる.正四面体型は対称面 σ_d をもっているので、 T_d で示されるが、対称要 素と対称操作の数は次のようになる. symmetry element 対称要素 C_3 C_2 S_4 σ_d Ethe number of symmetry elements 操作の数 8 3 6 6 1 24(合計) ここで、E は操作しない操作(恒等操作)である.正四面体型錯体の対称操作は 24 E: identity or no operation

An octahedron: point group $O_{\rm h}$



symmetry element 対称要素 $C_3 C_2' C_4 C_2$ i $S_4 S_6 \sigma_h \sigma_d E$ the number of symmetry elements 操作の数 8 6 6 3 1 6 8 3 6 1 48(合計) このように, 正八面体型錯体の場合には 48 個の対称操作が存在し, きわめて高い対

称性をもっていることがわかる.

Table of **Five-types** of symmetry elements, operations, and symbols.

Element	Operation	Symbol
Identity	identity	Q1
Proper axis 本義回転	rotation by (360/n)°	Q2
Symmetry plane	reflection in the plane	Q3
Inversion center	inversion of a point at (x,y,z) to (-x,-y,-z)	04
Improper axis 転義回転 (Alternating axis)	rotation by (360/n)°, followed by reflection in the plane perpendicular to the rotation axis 回映	Q5



What is "Chiral"? キラル (化学)、カイラル (物理)

If a molecule belongs to a chiral point group, then it has a mirror image that cannot be superimposed with the original molecule. The two mirror images are called enantiomers.

Chiral point groups are classified into two: (1) chiral groups and (2) purely rotational groups.

(1) point group C_1 (which has E as an only element). Many biological molecules.

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(2) C_{\rm n}, D_{\rm n}, T, O
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"Molecules without S_n symmetry are chiral."



2-blade propeller : two C_2 's perpendicular $C_2(z)$ \rightarrow point group D_2 \rightarrow chiral (case 2)



screw : no C_2 ' perpendicular C_4 \rightarrow point group C_4 \rightarrow chiral (case 2)



1,3,5,7-tetrachloro-1,3,5,7-cyclooctatetraene Only S_4 symmetry is found. \rightarrow point group S_4 \rightarrow achiral ($\neq \exists \mathcal{N} \forall \forall \mathcal{K} \vee$) No σ , no *i*. But the mirror image is superimposed to original one.



† z軸が垂直方向にあると仮定する. On the assumption of z-axis in a vertical direction.

How to determine the point group?

- 1. Determine if the molecule is of high or low symmetry.
- 2. If not, find the highest order rotation axis, C_n .

3. Determine if the molecule has any C_2 axes perpendicular to the principal C_n axis. If so, then there are n such C_2 axes, and the molecule is in the D set of point groups. If not, it is in either the C or S set of point groups.

4. Determine if the molecule has a horizontal mirror plane (σ_h) perpendicular to the principal C_n axis. If so, the molecule is either in the C_{nh} or D_{nh} set of point groups.

5. Determine if the molecule has a vertical mirror plane (σ_v) containing the principal C_n axis. If so, the molecule is either in the C_{nv} or D_{nd} set of point groups. If not, and if the molecule has n perpendicular C_2 axes, then it is part of the D_n set of point groups.

6. Determine if there is an improper rotation axis, S_{2n} , collinear with the principal C_n axis. If so, the molecule is in the S_{2n} point group. If not, the molecule is in the C_n point group.



Point Group Decision Tree

https://www2.chemistry.msu.edu/faculty/reusch/virttxtjml/symmetry/symmtry.htm



F.A. Cotton "Chemical Applications of Group Theory" 2nd Ed. 1971. (訳書は丸善)

Homework

Answer the point group symbol of each compound.



Appendix

Why we name σ_{d} instead of σ_{v} in a series of *D* point groups?

Ans.) When a mirro plane is found in a vertical direction (usually n σ_v) and in a direction just bisecting any two neiboring $C_2'(xy)$ axes, the mirror plane is named a dihedral mirror plane, σ_d . The point group is named D_{nd} .

