



# Modular compounds

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# Summary

- 📌 **What is it ? What is the aim ?**
- 📌 **Useful properties of the superspace formalism**
- 📌 **The method : keys ...**
- 📌 **Some examples, step by step ...**
- 📌 **Conclusion**

# Summary

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**Modular compounds consist of**

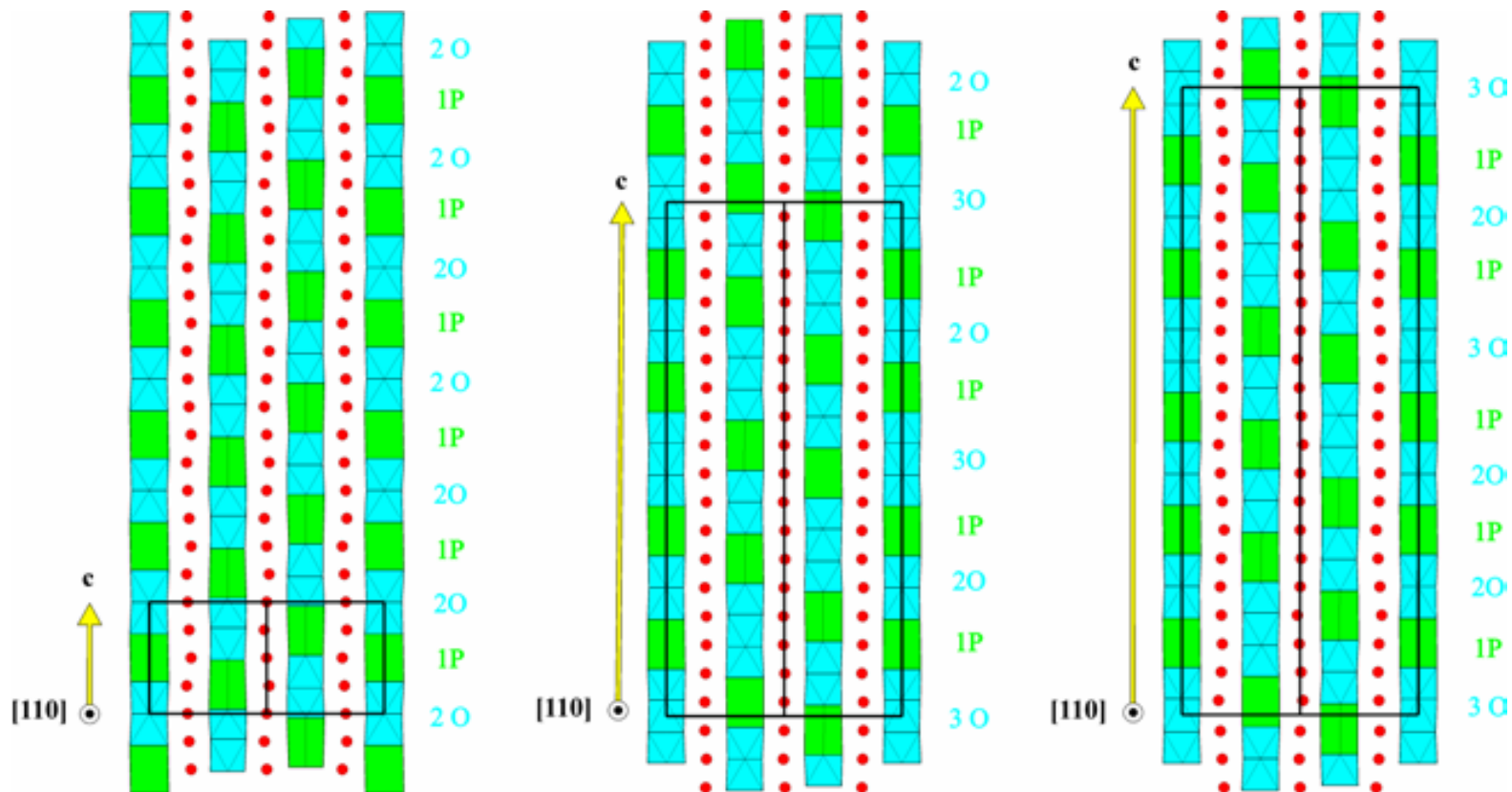
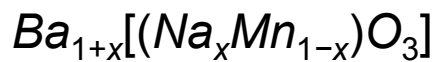
**limited number of different building blocks,  
forming layers stacked in the third direction**

**Classical periodic structures ...**

**Forms large families with :**

- ✂ structural similarities**
- ✂ composition, cell parameters evolving for the  $\neq$  members**
- ✂ structural complexity increasing for the  $\neq$  members**
- ✂  $\neq$  symmetries for the  $\neq$  members**

## Hexagonal phases

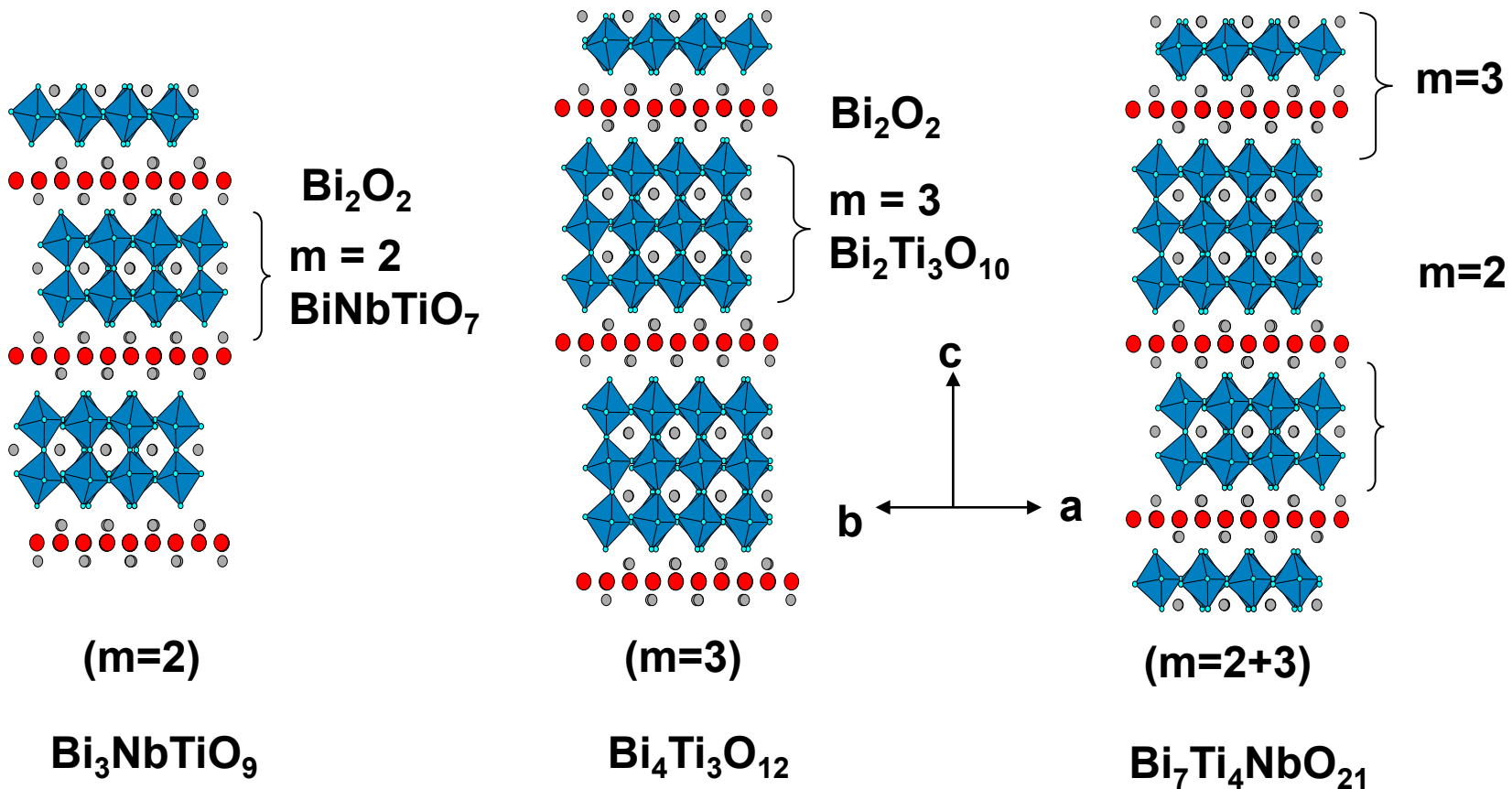


≠ sequences in the stacking direction

$\text{NaO}_6$  prismatic  
 $\text{MnO}_6$  octahedral

environments

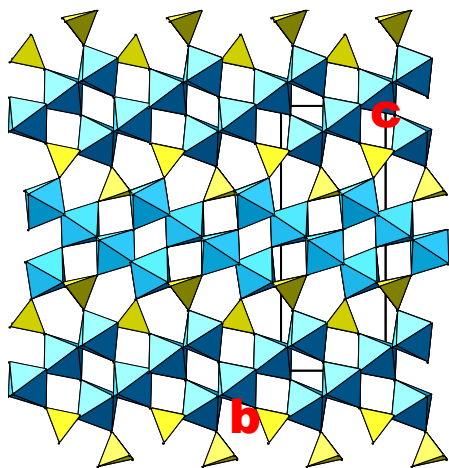
## Aurivillius phases



stacking of  $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_2$  layers and perovskite layers with variable thickness

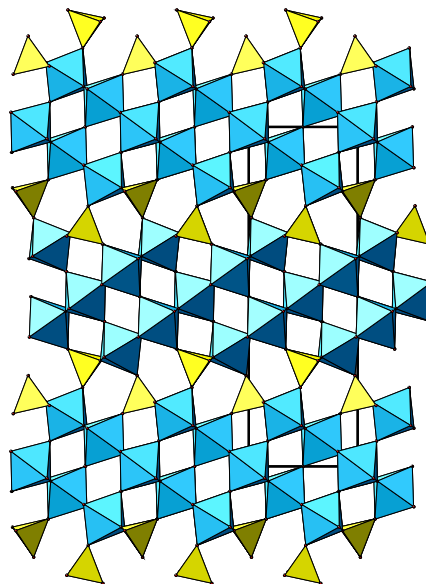
Tungsten Phosphate Bronzes  $(PO_2)_4(WO_3)_{2m}$  with  $4 \leq m \leq 14$

$m=4, P_4W_8O_{32}$



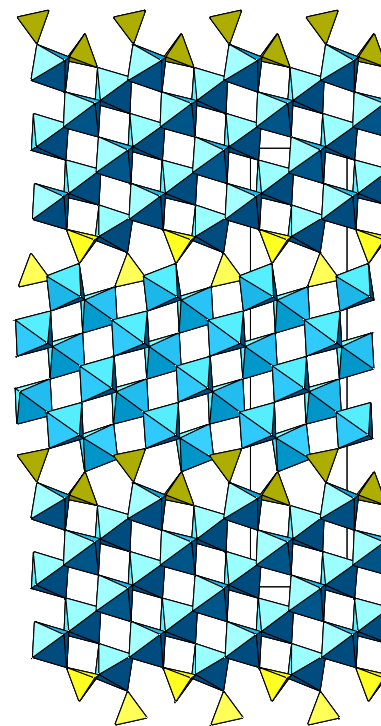
$a=5.28$   $b=6.57$   $c=17.35$   
 $P2_12_12_1$

$m=5, P_4W_{10}O_{38}$



$a=5.28$   $b=6.57$   $c=20.45$   
 $\beta=90.40^\circ$   $P2_1/n$

$m=8, P_4W_{16}O_{56}$



$a=5.29$   $b=6.57$   $c=23.55$   
 $P2_12_12_1$

Thickness of the  $WO_3$  slabs is function of  $m$  ...





**Aim : to unify the description of the homologous series  
using superspace formalism**

**to emphasize, to reveal common properties  
(symmetry, composition ...) hidden by the  
overlapping of sub- and super- periodicities**

*to reduce the number of refinement parameters*

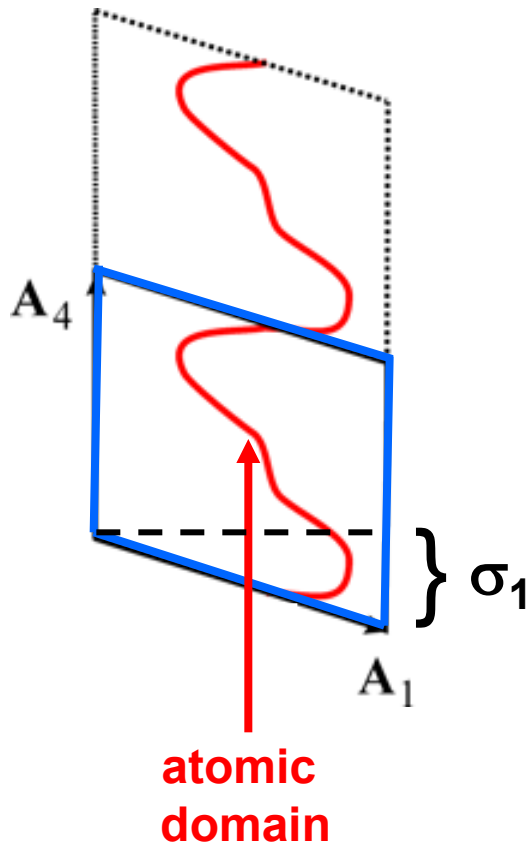
**→ application of superspace formalism to commensurate structures**



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## supercrystal



🔗 supercell :

$$\mathbf{A}_1 = \mathbf{a} - \sigma_1 \mathbf{e}_4, \mathbf{A}_2 = \mathbf{b} - \sigma_2 \mathbf{e}_4, \mathbf{A}_3 = \mathbf{c} - \sigma_3 \mathbf{e}_4, \mathbf{A}_4 = \mathbf{e}_4$$

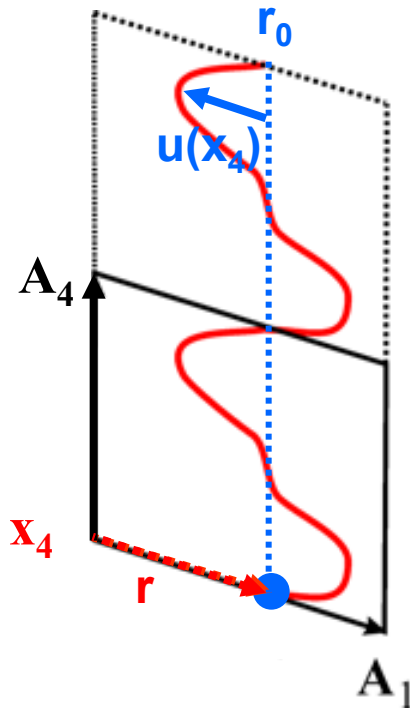
$$\text{with } \mathbf{q} = \sigma_1 \mathbf{a}^* + \sigma_2 \mathbf{b}^* + \sigma_3 \mathbf{c}^*$$

🔗 atomic position :  $\mathbf{r} = x_1 \mathbf{A}_1 + x_2 \mathbf{A}_2 + x_3 \mathbf{A}_3$  and  $x_4$

$$x_4 = \mathbf{q} \cdot (\mathbf{r} + \mathbf{p})$$

$$\mathbf{p} = n_1 \mathbf{A}_1 + n_2 \mathbf{A}_2 + n_3 \mathbf{A}_3, n_i \in \mathbb{N}$$

## supercrystal



🔗 supercell :

$$\mathbf{A}_1 = \mathbf{a} - \sigma_1 \mathbf{e}_4, \mathbf{A}_2 = \mathbf{b} - \sigma_2 \mathbf{e}_4, \mathbf{A}_3 = \mathbf{c} - \sigma_3 \mathbf{e}_4, \mathbf{A}_4 = \mathbf{e}_4$$

$$\text{with } \mathbf{q} = \sigma_1 \mathbf{a}^* + \sigma_2 \mathbf{b}^* + \sigma_3 \mathbf{c}^*$$

🔗 atomic position :  $\mathbf{r} = x_1 \mathbf{A}_1 + x_2 \mathbf{A}_2 + x_3 \mathbf{A}_3 + x_4 \mathbf{A}_4$

$$x_4 = \mathbf{q} \cdot (\mathbf{r} + \mathbf{p})$$

$$\mathbf{p} = n_1 \mathbf{A}_1 + n_2 \mathbf{A}_2 + n_3 \mathbf{A}_3, n_i \in \mathbb{N}$$

🔗  $\mathbf{r}(x_4)$

$$\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{r}_0 + \mathbf{u}(x_4) \rightarrow \text{atomic displacement}$$

two contributions

## How describe $u(x_4)$ ?

### pool of periodic functions

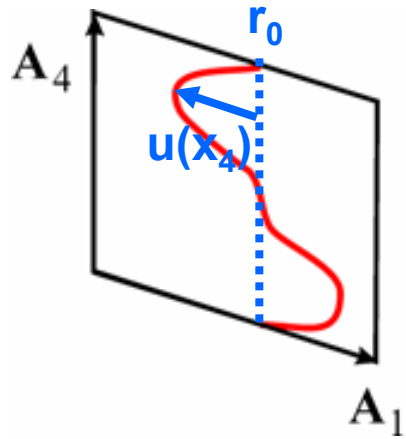
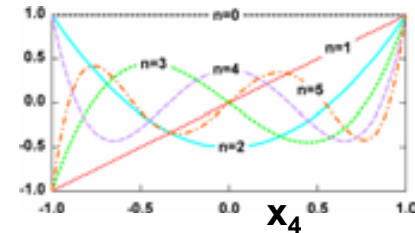
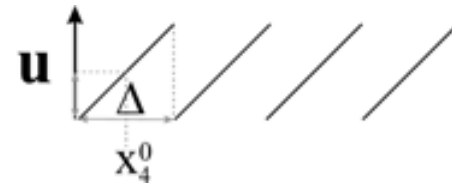
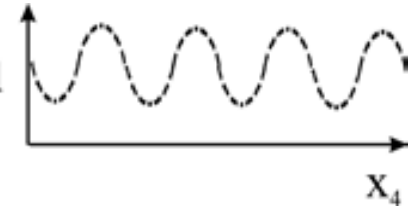
🔗 **Fourier series** developed up to the  $n$  order

$$u^j(x_4) = \sum_n A_n^j \sin(2n\pi i x_4) + B_n^j \cos(2n\pi i x_4)$$

🔗 **sawtooth functions**

🔗 **zigzag functions**

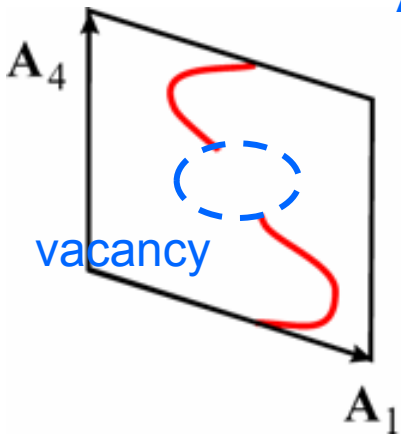
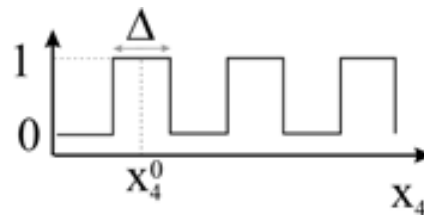
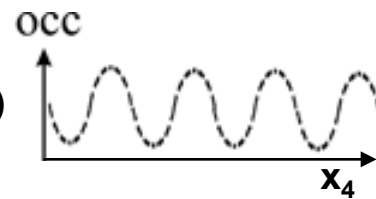
🔗 **Legendre polynomials**



### And what about the occupancy ?

🔗  $P(x_4) = P_0 + \sum_n A_n^j \sin(2n\pi i x_4) + B_n^j \cos(2n\pi i x_4)$

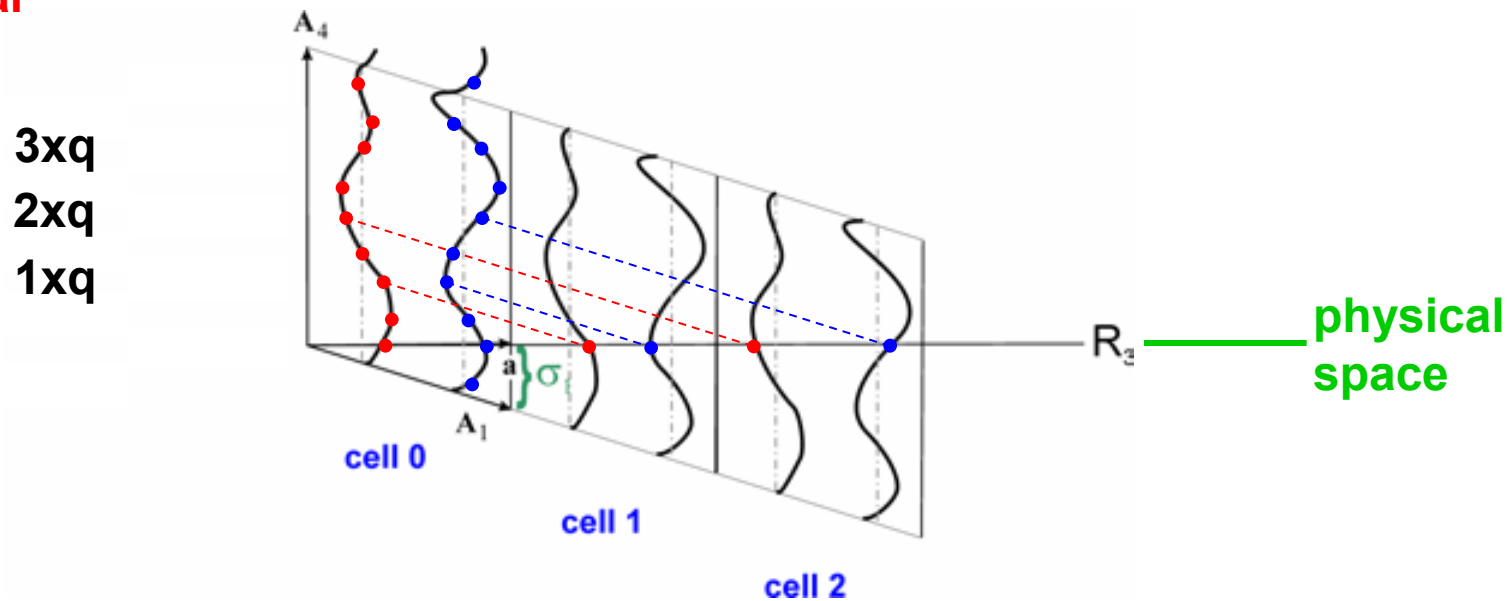
🔗 **crenel functions**



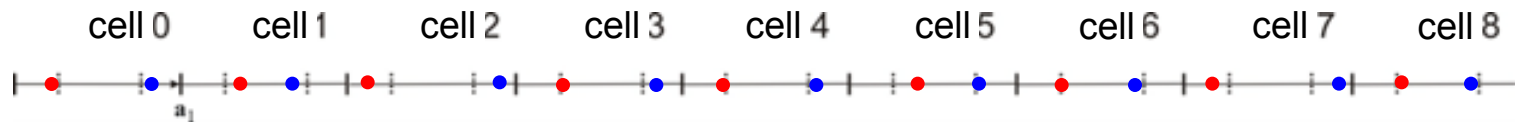
## Building of the 3d structure from supercrystal ?

→ true crystal = section of the super crystal

super crystal



true crystal (in the physical space)



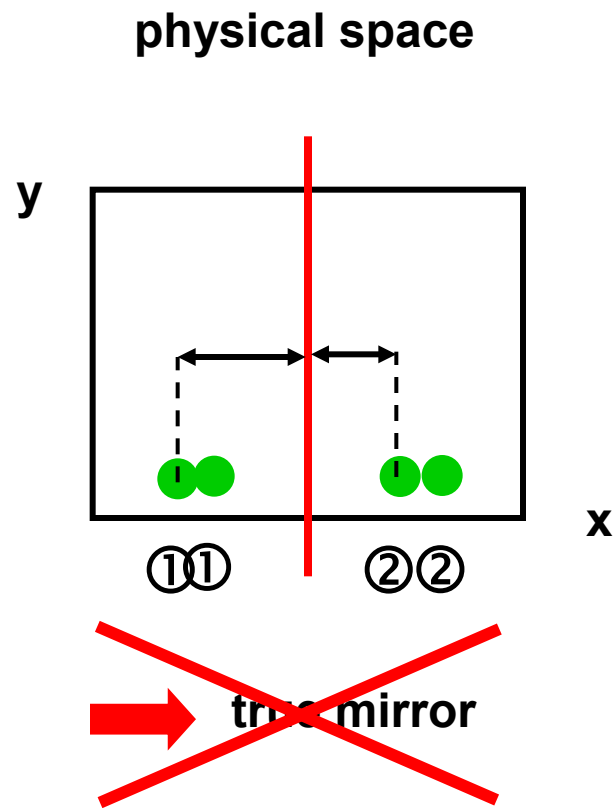
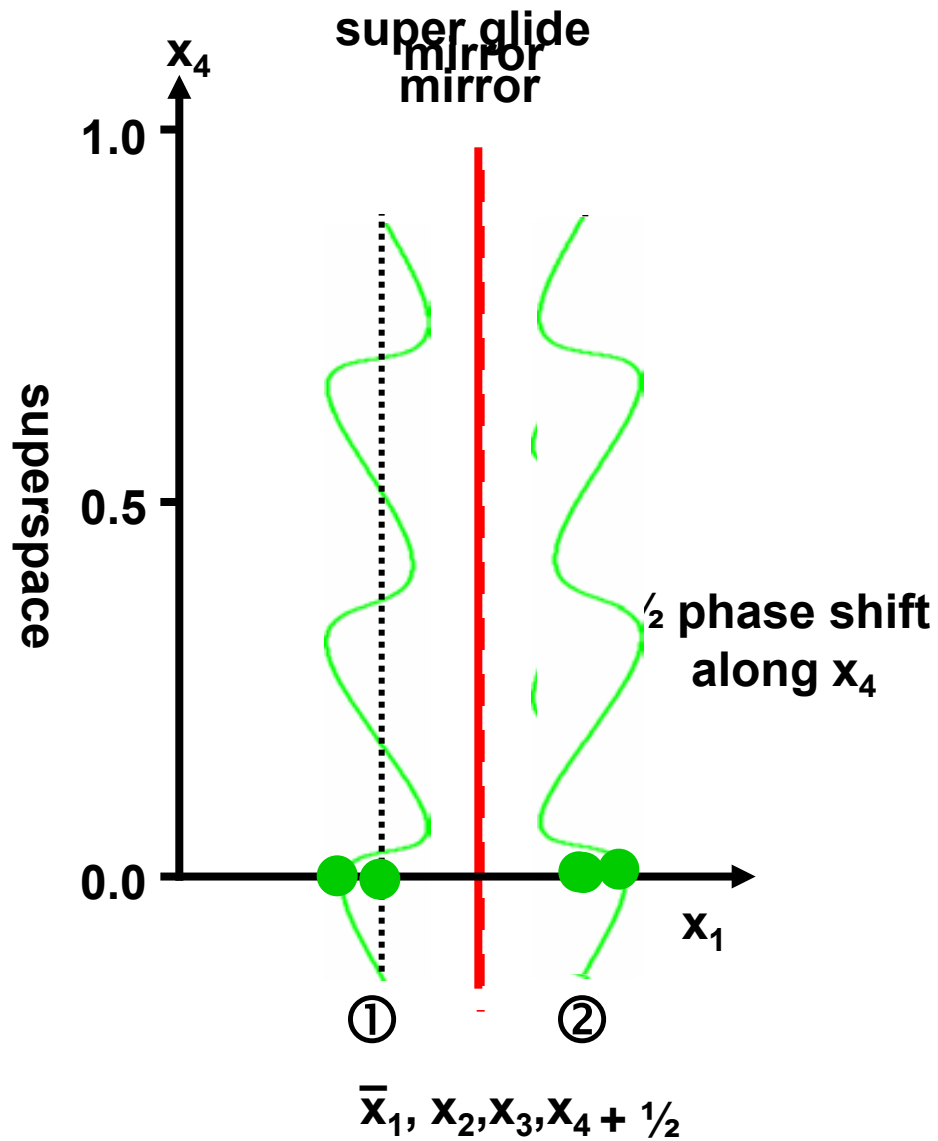
physical space

$(3+1)d$  space

✓ multiple atoms



single atomic domain

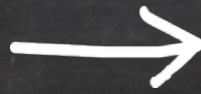




physical space

$(3+1)d$  space

✓ multiple atoms

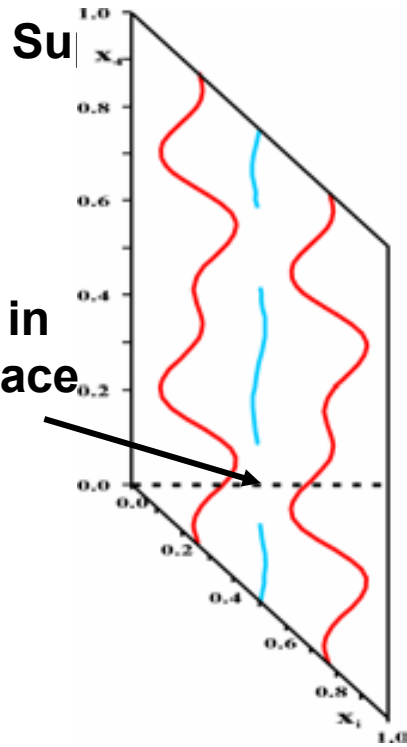


single atomic domain

✓ independent atoms

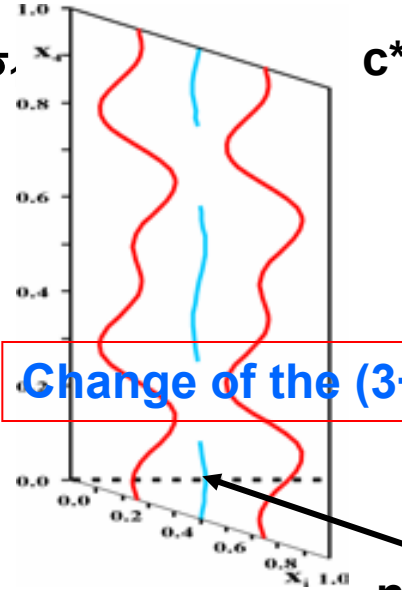


symmetry related atoms



$$\mathbf{A}_1 = \mathbf{a} - \sigma_1 \mathbf{e}_4, \mathbf{A}_2 = \mathbf{b} - \sigma_2 \mathbf{e}_4, \mathbf{A}_3 = \mathbf{c} - \sigma_3 \mathbf{e}_4, \mathbf{A}_4 = \mathbf{e}_4$$

with  $\mathbf{q} = \sigma_i$



$\mathbf{c}^*$

Change of the (3+1)d cell by changing  $\mathbf{q}$

Physical space

no vacancy in the 3d space

2 independant atomic domains (displacements and/or vacancies)

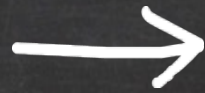
same modulation functions

3 choices of  $\mathbf{q}$  vector  $\rightarrow$  3  $\neq$  super-cells

physical space

$(3+1)d$  space

✓ multiple atoms



single atomic domain

✓ independent atoms



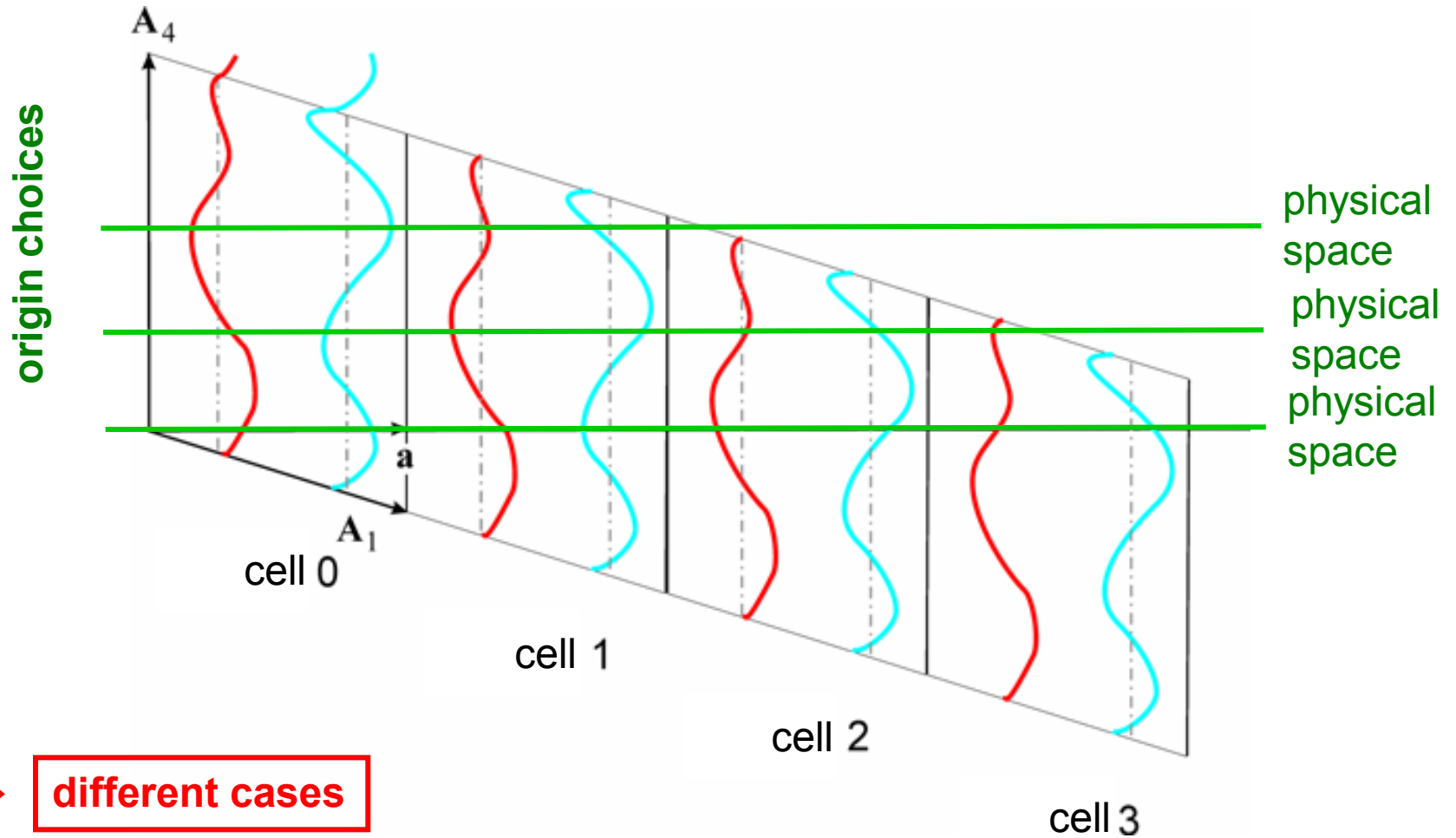
symmetry related atoms

✓ different structures



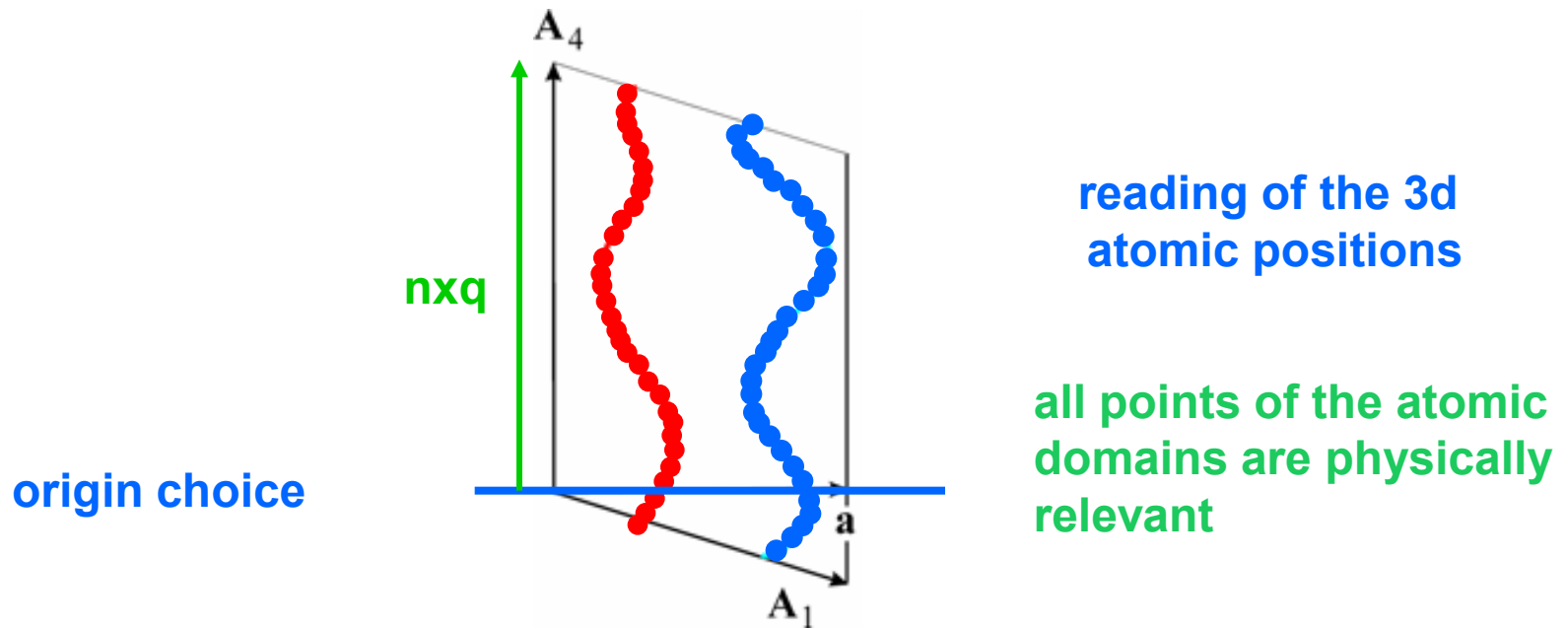
1 model +  $\neq$  wave vectors

### the problem of section choices



## Incommensurate modulated structure

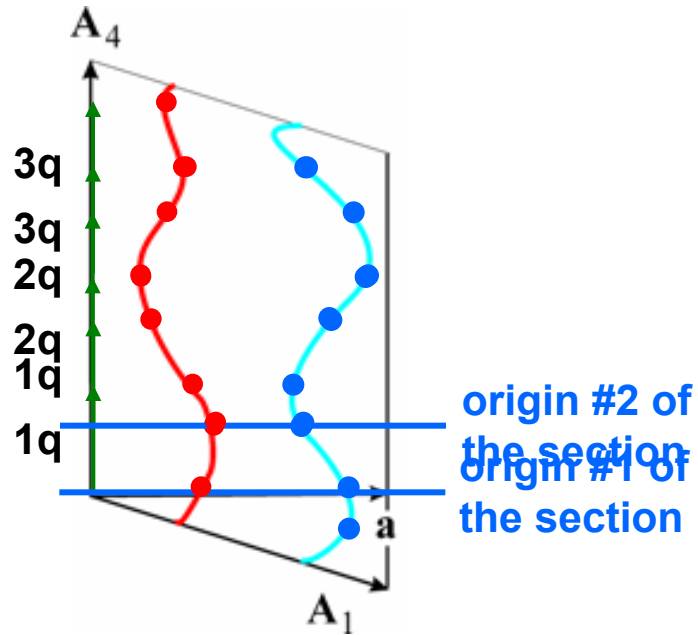
➔ wave vector with at least one irrational component



all the 3d sections are equivalent

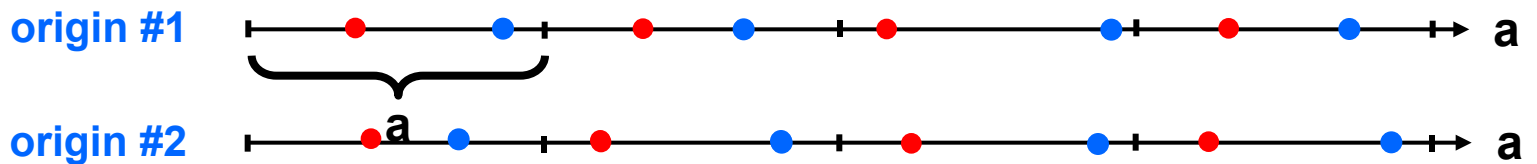
## Commensurate modulated structure

 wave vector with rational components



only some points of the  
atomic domains are  
physically significant

2 choices of origin  
=  
2 different 3d structures



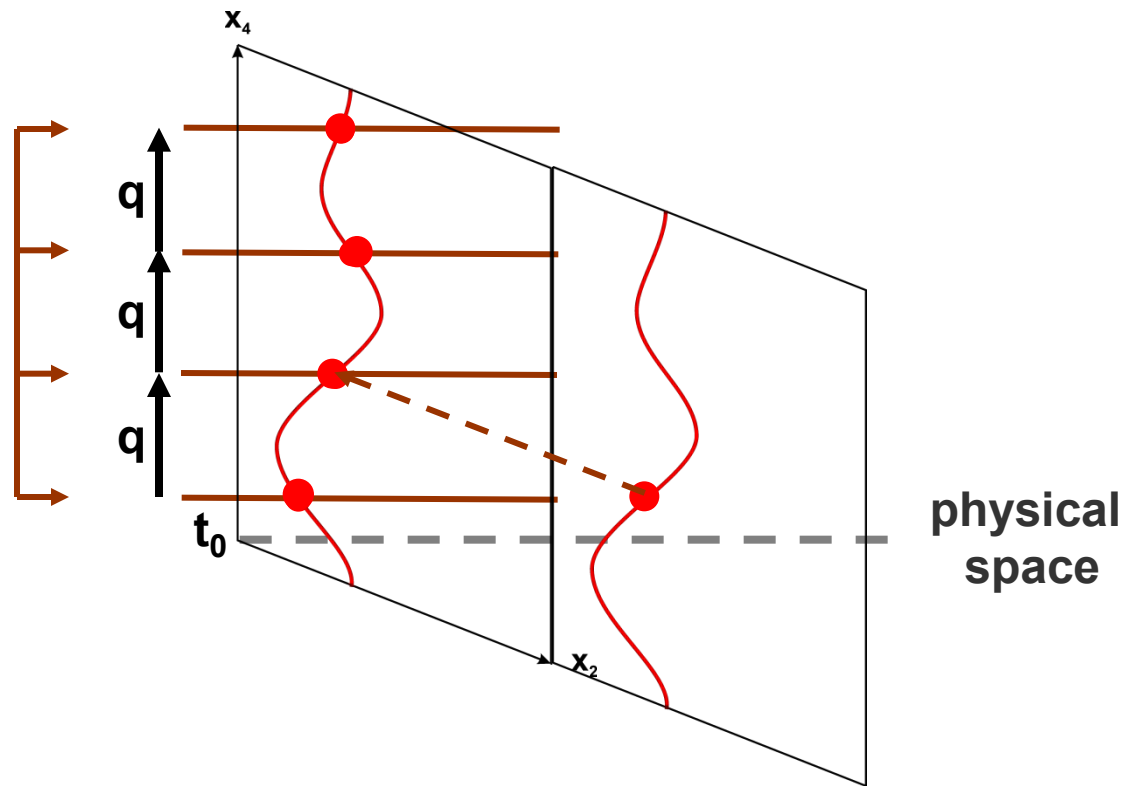
commensurate modulated  
structure with  $q = \frac{1}{4} b^*$

atomic domain

different choices  
of sections

for a given  $t_0$   
relevant  
points on each  
atomic domain

grid of equivalent  
sections with  $q$  spacing

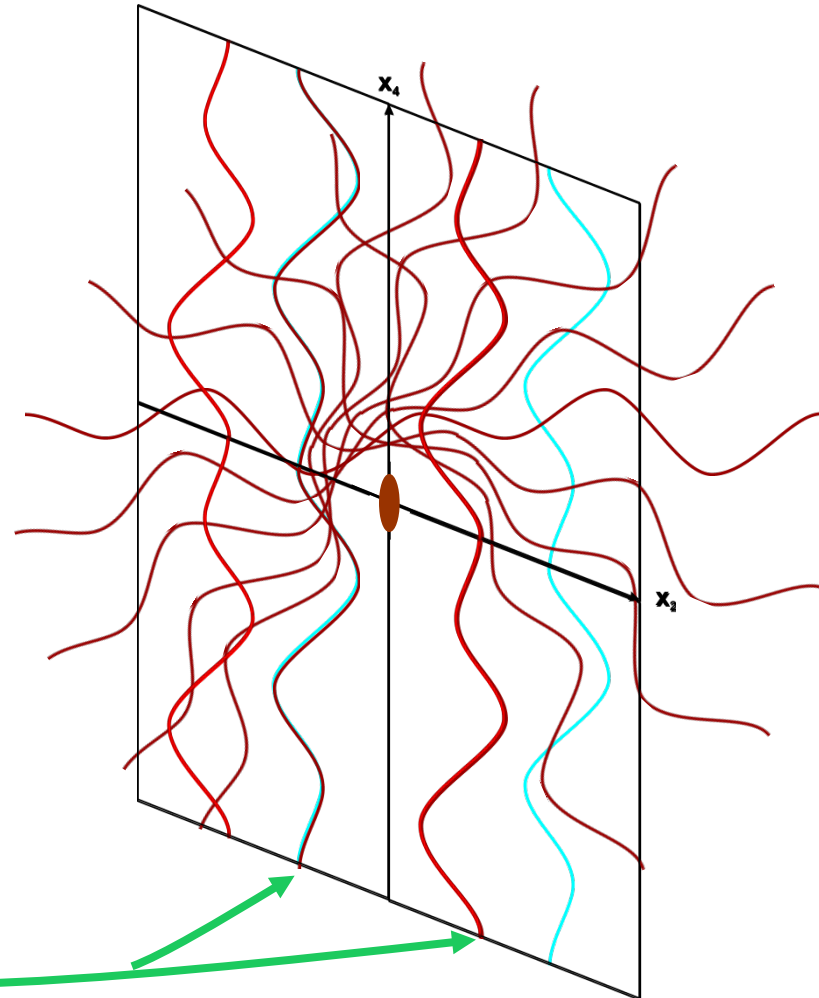


commensurate modulated  
structure with  $q = \frac{1}{4} b^*$

m mirror  $x_1, \bar{x}_2, x_3, \bar{x}_4$

$\approx$  to 2-fold axis  $\perp (x_2, x_4)$

2 equivalent atomic  
domains / super cell





commensurate modulated  
structure with  $q = \frac{1}{4} b^*$

$m$  mirror  $x_1, \bar{x}_2, x_3, \bar{x}_4$

general section

⇒ 1 physical point

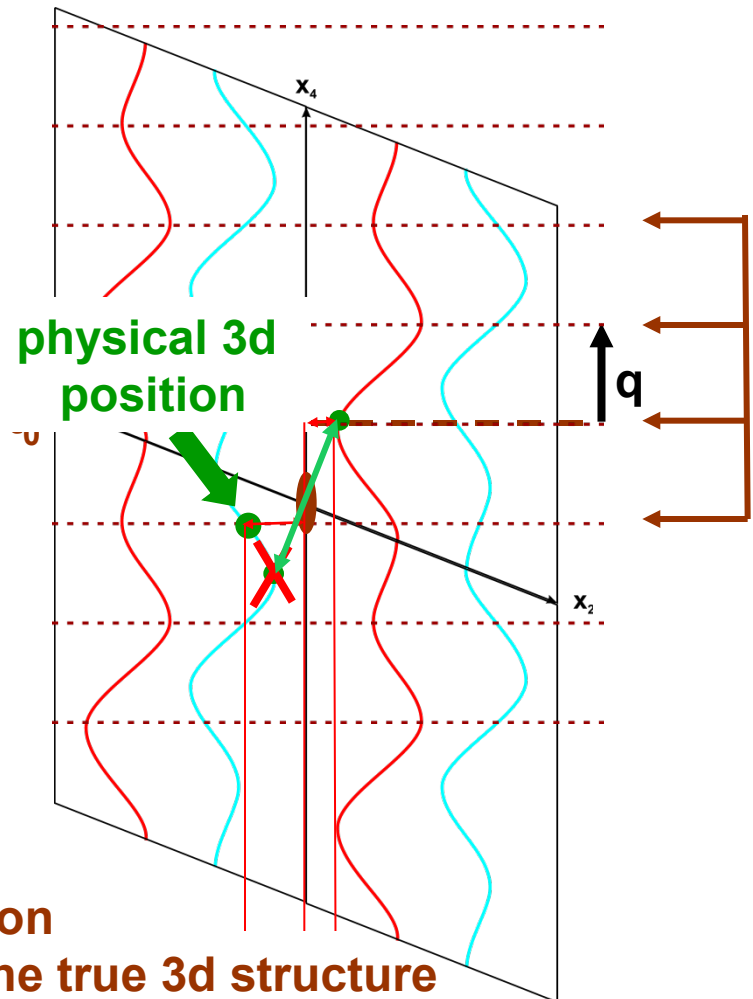
⇒ equivalent point by  $m$

⇒ grid of the equivalent  
sections

➔ does not belong to  
an equivalent section

➔ 2 physical positions are  
not equivalent by  $m$

➔  $m$  does not belong to the  $t_0$  section  
 $m$  does not belong to the SG of the true 3d structure



commensurate modulated  
structure with  $q = \frac{1}{4} b^*$

$m$  mirror  $x_1, \bar{x}_2, x_3, \bar{x}_4$

Section  $t_0 = 0$

⇒ 1 physical point

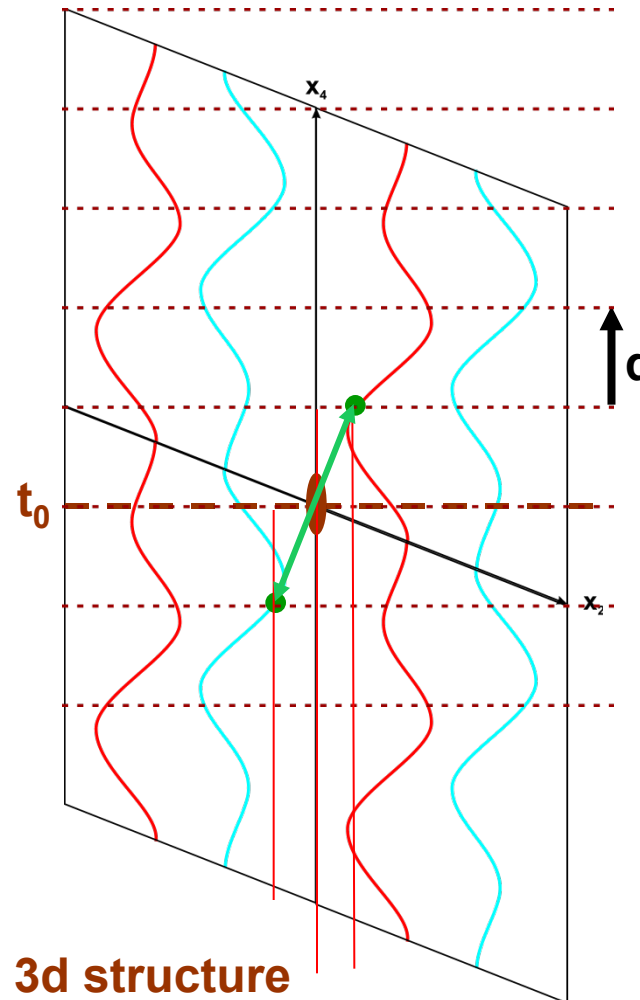
⇒ equivalent point by  $m$

⇒ grid of the equivalent  
sections

➔ belongs to an  
equivalent section

➔ 2 physical positions are  
equivalent by  $m$

➔  $m$  belongs to the  $t_0$  section  
 $m$  belongs to the SG of the true 3d structure



it exists  $\neq$  3d sections with  $\neq$  symmetries

**make an inventory of the equivalents sections and symmetries**

**principle : 1 symmetry element S belongs to a section  $t_0$  if two symmetry related atomic positions belong to  $t_0$**

$$S = \begin{pmatrix} R_E & 0 \\ 0 & \varepsilon \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \tau_E \\ \tau_I \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{lattice translation} \quad T + n_4 A_4 = n_1 A_1 + n_2 A_2 + n_3 A_3 + n_4 A_4$$

$$x_4 \longrightarrow x'_4 = \varepsilon x_4 + \tau_I + n_4$$

$$t = x_4 - q \cdot r \longrightarrow t' = \varepsilon x_4 + \tau_I + n_4 - q [\{R_E | \tau_E\} r + T]$$

$$t \longrightarrow t' = \varepsilon (t + q \cdot r) + \tau_I + n_4 - q [\{R_E | \tau_E\} r + T]$$

$$t \longrightarrow t' = \varepsilon t + \tau_I + n_4 - q [\tau_E + T]$$

**principle :**  $t = \varepsilon t + \tau_I + n_4 - q [\tau_E + T]$

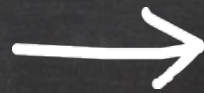
... to be applied to all the symmetry elements of the SSG

**series of equations**

physical space

$(3+1)d$  space

✓ multiple atoms



single atomic domain

✓ independent atoms



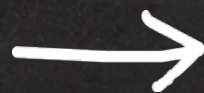
symmetry related atoms

✓ different structures



1 model  $\oplus$   $\neq$  wave vectors

✓ different 3d symmetries



$\exists$   $\neq$  t sections of the model

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Regular use of the superspace formalism ...

unknown structure

**diffraction pattern with different types of reflections**

🔗 main reflections → sub periodicity

🔗 satellite reflections → additional periodicity

irrational positions  $s = ha^* + kb^* + lc^* + mq^*$

🔗 incommensurate structure

🔗 superspace group

**structure solution of the average structure, of the super crystal  
and the of the true incommensurate structure**

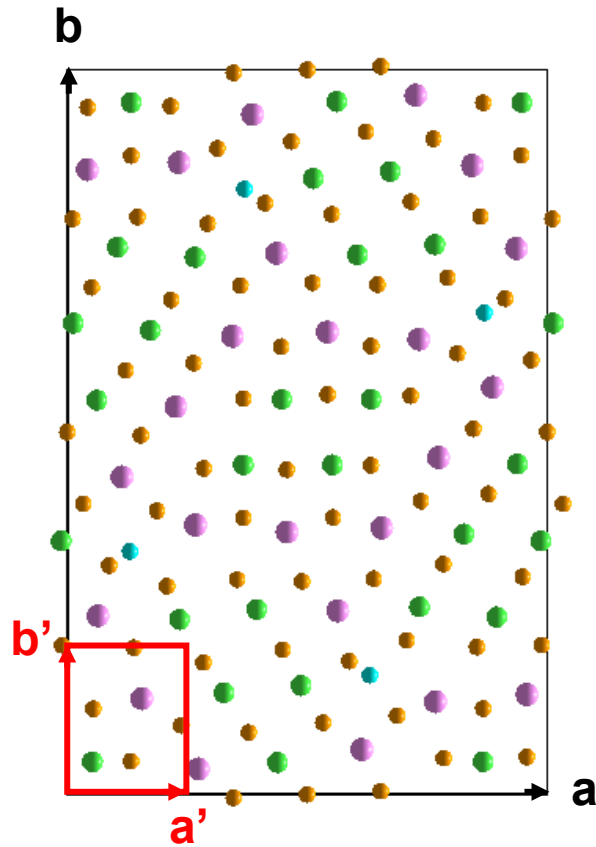
The superspace formalism for unifying a family of compounds ...

**family with well known structures**

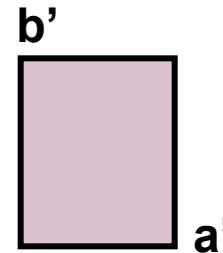
- 🔗 commensurate structures
- 🔗 diffraction pattern with only one class of reflections
- 🔗 sub cell common to all the members of the family ?
  - ➡ different types of reflections ?
  - ➡ sub periodicity in the 3d structure
- 🔗 wave vector related with the composition *i.e.* with the member of the family ?
- 🔗 superspace group compatible with 3d space groups of the family

**(3+1)d model, composition dependent, unifying the description of all the members of the family**

## Embedding of the 3d structure in the (3+1)d super space : principle



3d structure



geometric relationship

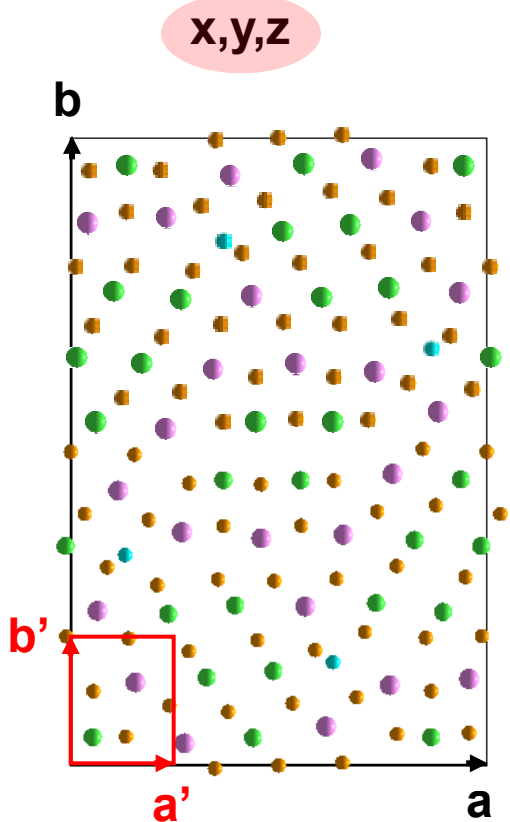
Sub-cell

$$\vec{a}' = \frac{\vec{a}}{n}, \quad \vec{b}' = \frac{\vec{b}}{m}$$

+

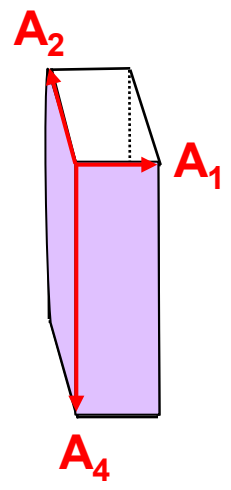
wave vector





3d structure

$$\vec{q} = \frac{1}{n} \vec{a}^{*'} + \frac{1}{m} \vec{b}^{*'}$$

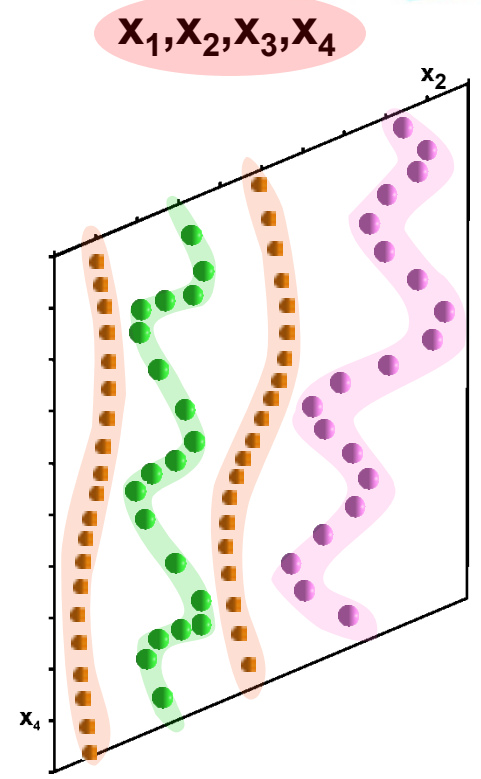


$$\vec{A}_1 = \vec{a}' - \frac{1}{n} \vec{e}_4$$

$$\vec{A}_2 = \vec{b}' - \frac{1}{m} \vec{e}_4$$

$$\vec{A}_4 = \vec{e}_4$$

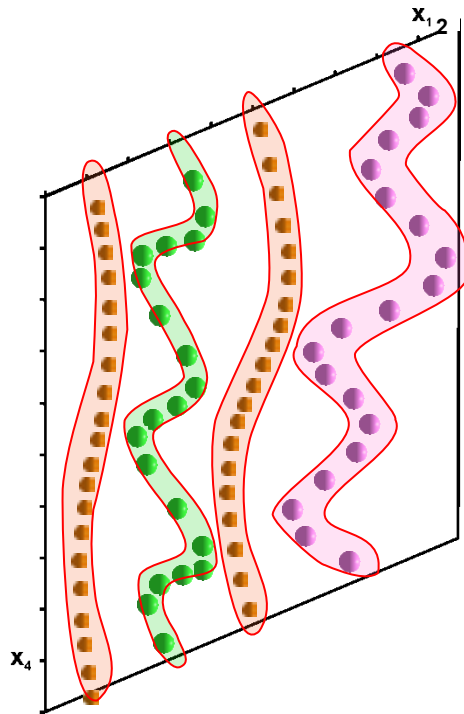
(3+1)d super cell



(3+1)d super crystal



## (3+1)d super crystal



If parameters for the embedding correctly defined

➔ limited number of atomic domains



description of the atomic domains with the pool of functions



determination of the superspace group compatible with the atomic domains



determination of a general (3+1)d model

➔ finding the rules linking the (3+1)d model, the  $q$  vector and the  $\neq$  members of the family

➔ **make the inventory of the equivalents sections and symmetries versus the  $q$  vector and the superspace group**

➔ **Verify the compatibility between**

📌 **the 3d symmetries of the homologous series and the sections analysis**

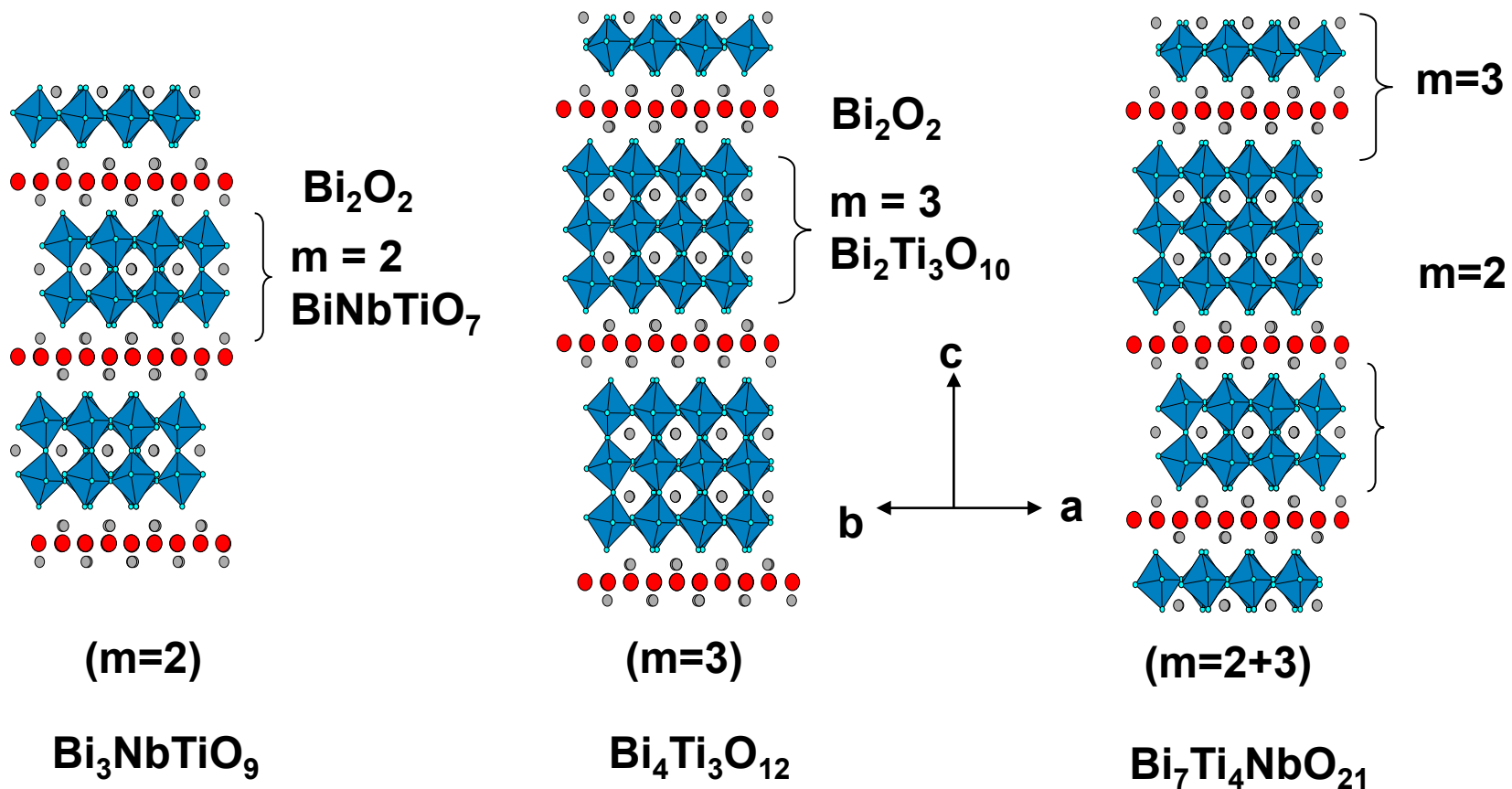
📌 **the structure solved using classical 3d approach and the (3+1)d model**

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## Aurivillius phases in the pseudo-binary system $\text{Bi}_3\text{TiNbO}_9\text{-Bi}_4\text{Ti}_3\text{O}_{12}$

(exemple kindly provided by Ph. Boullay)



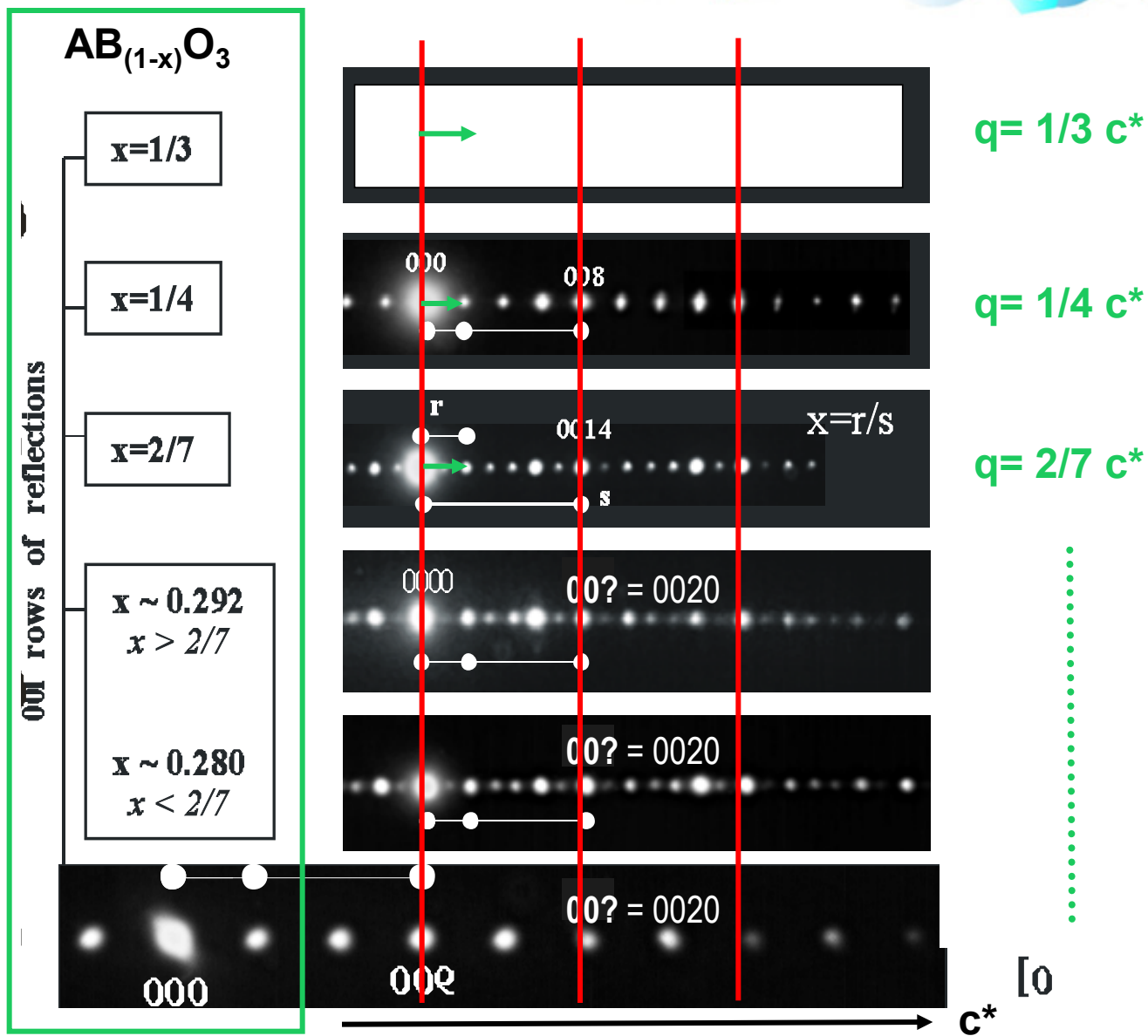
$m=2$   $\text{Bi}_3\text{TiNbO}_9$

$m=3$   $\text{Bi}_4\text{Ti}_3\text{O}_{12}$

$2+3$   $\text{Bi}_7\text{Ti}_4\text{NbO}_{21}$

$\text{BiB}_{(1-x)}\text{O}_3$

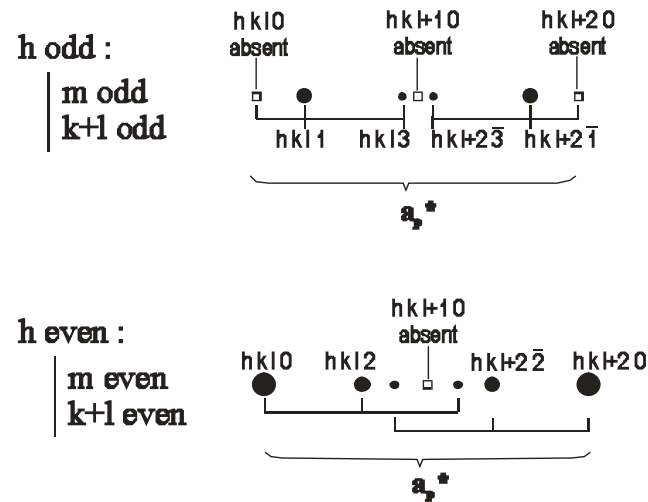
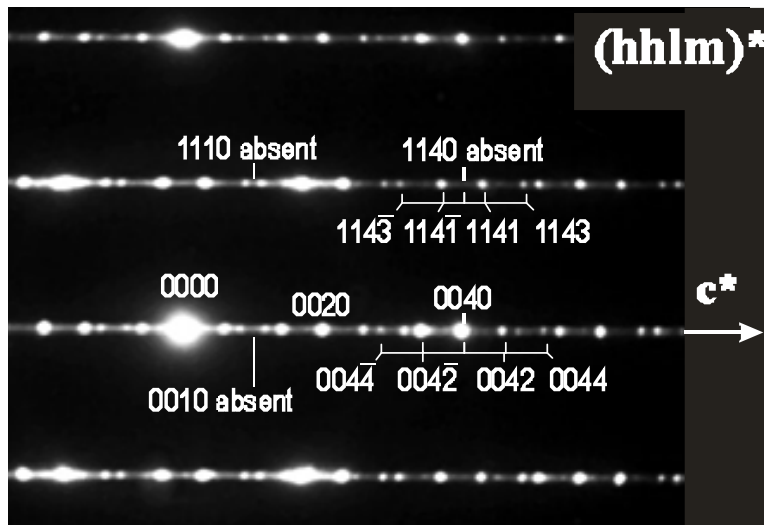
perovskite deficient



determination of the sub cell :  $a \sim ap\sqrt{2}$ ,  $b \sim ap\sqrt{2}$ ,  $c \sim 2 ap$

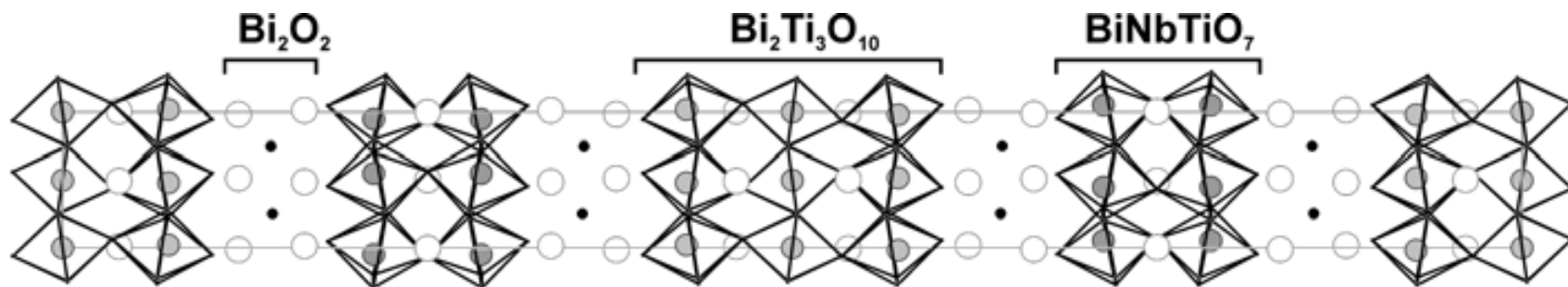
wave vector  $q = x \cdot c^*$       composition dependent evolution

systematic observation of the extinction rules



super space group  $X2cm(00x)000$  with  $X \{ \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{2} 0 / \frac{1}{2} 0 0 \frac{1}{2} / 0 \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{2} \}$

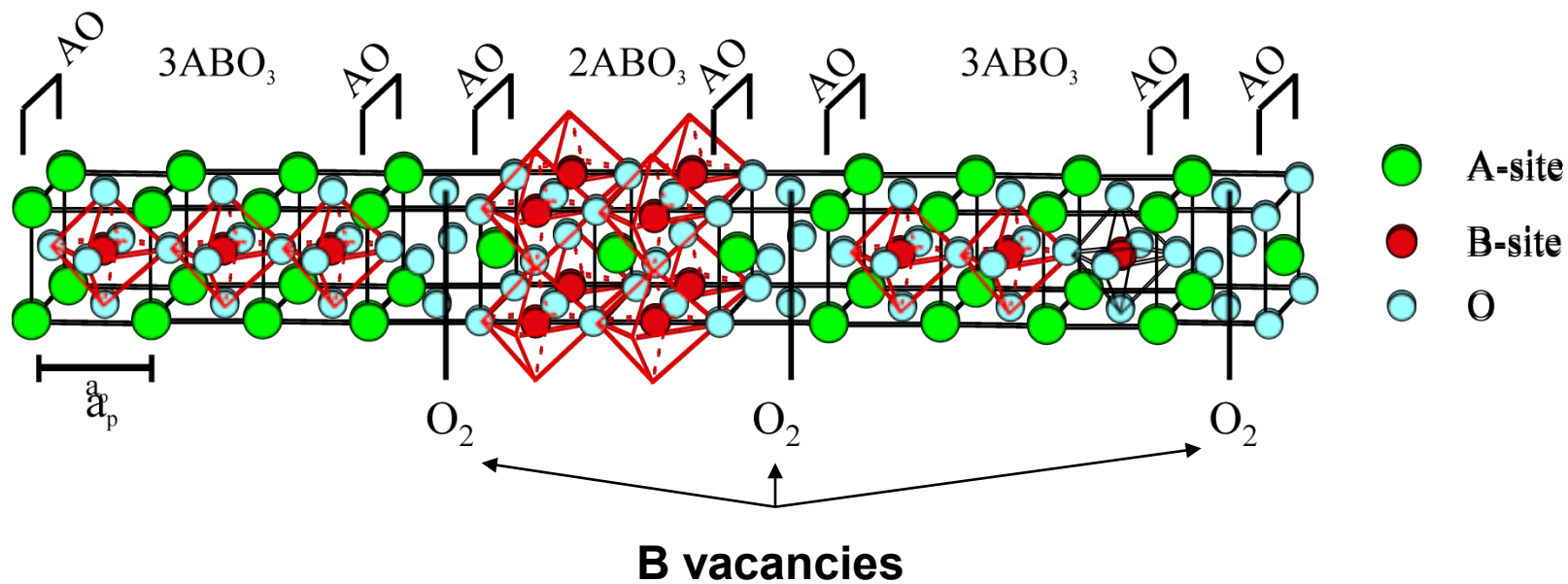
centring lattice vector



perovskite deficient material

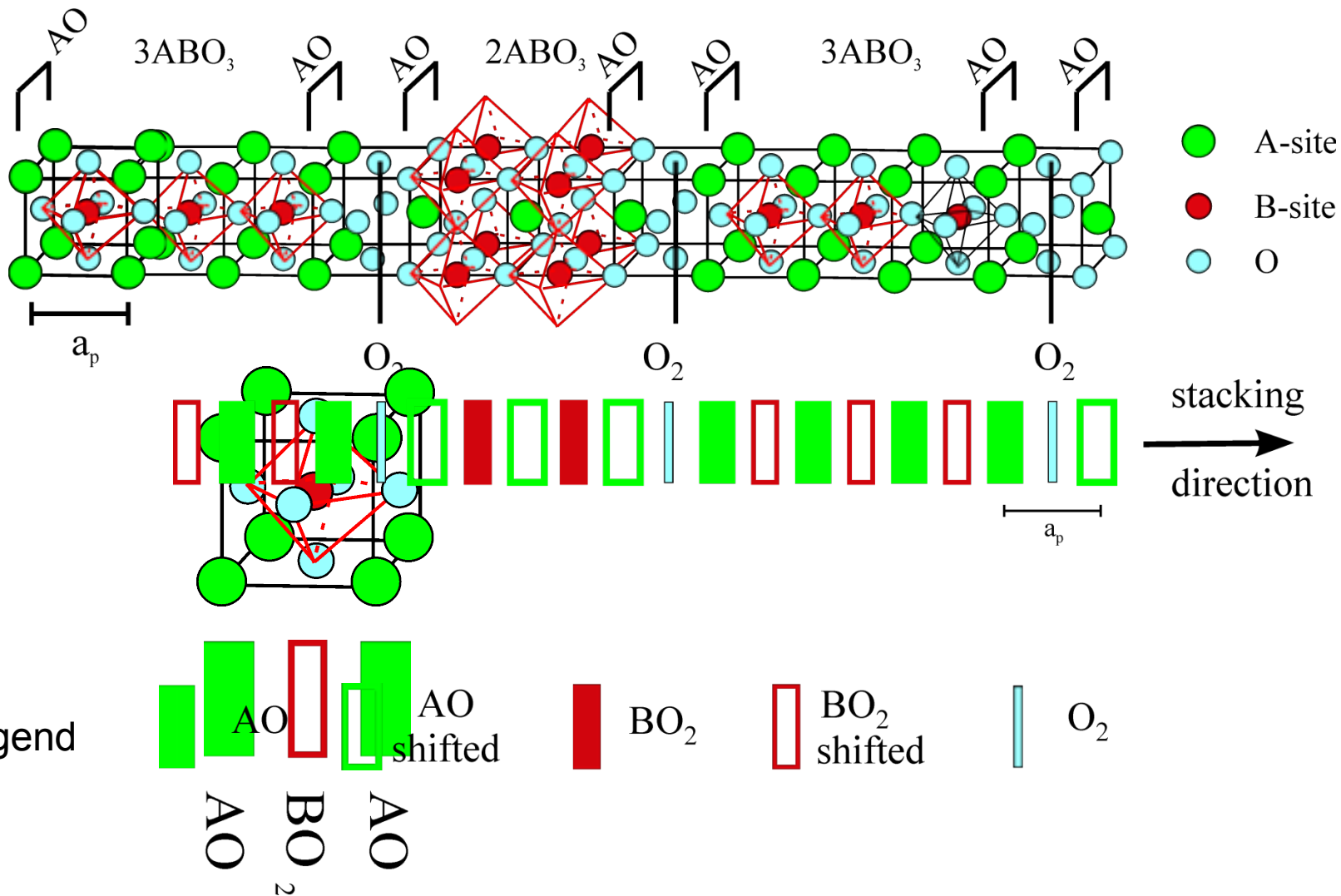


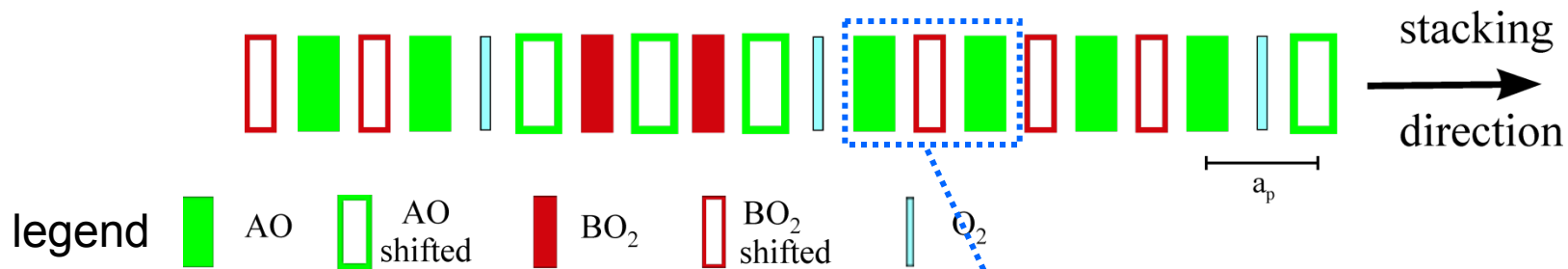
structural description using layers



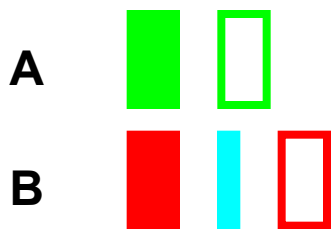


perovskite deficient material  $AB_{1-x}O_3$

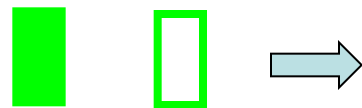




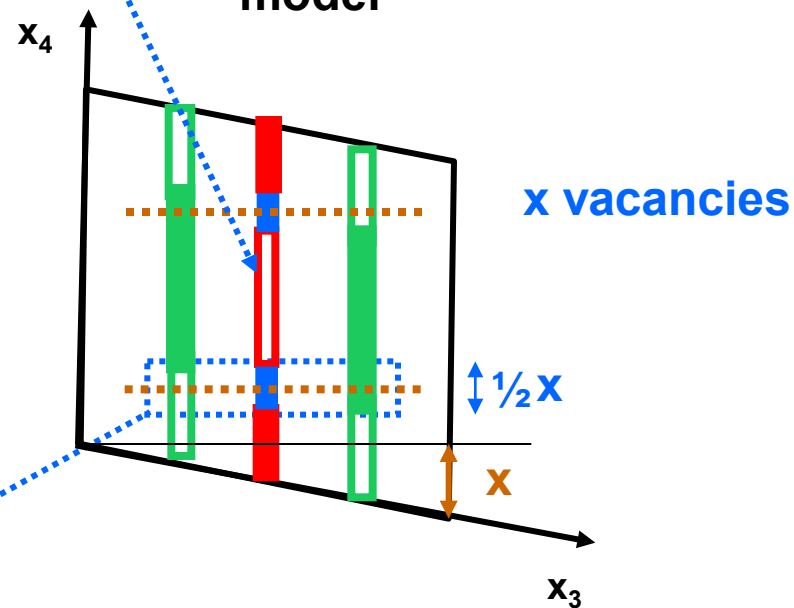
2 atomic domains A and B for the cations built from a sequence of :

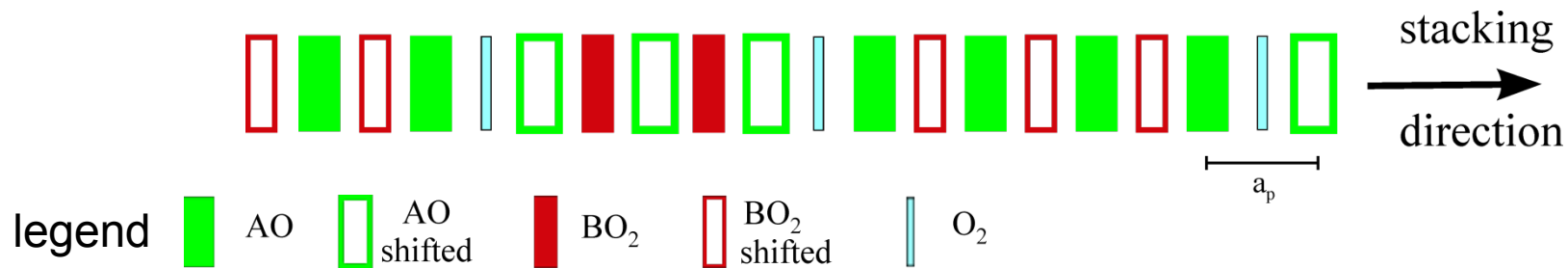
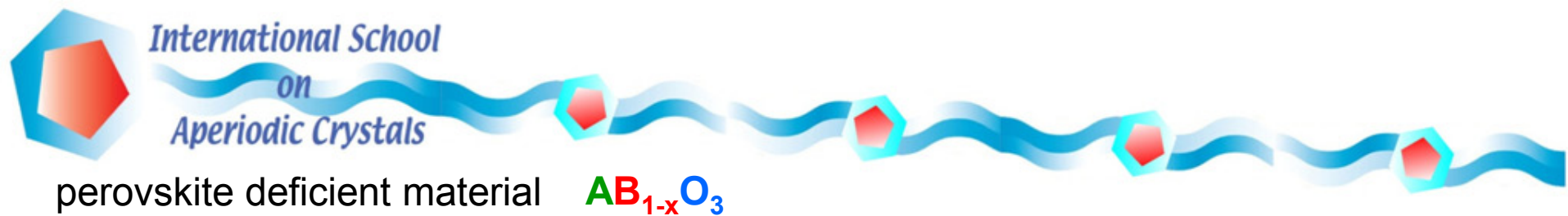


1 rule : between

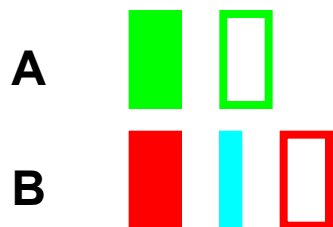


super crystal model

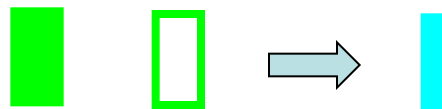




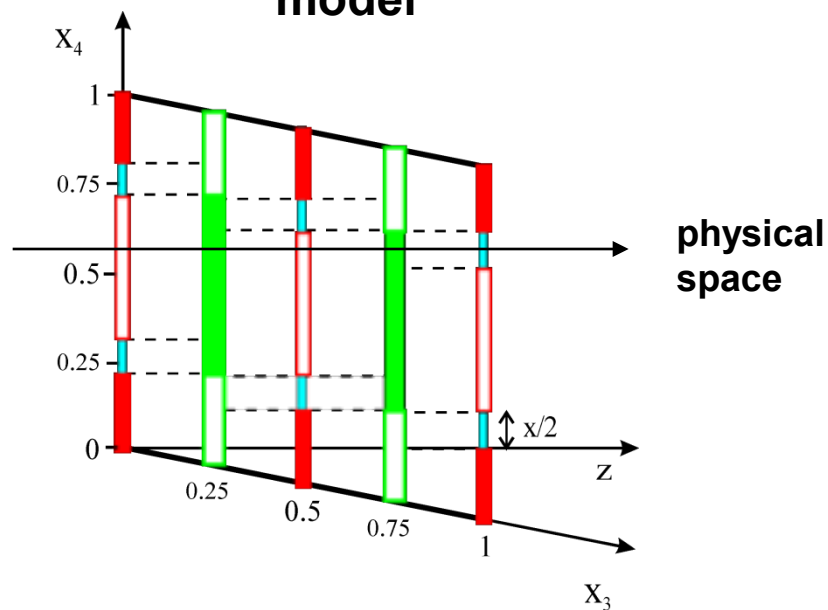
2 atomic domains A and B for the cations built from a sequence of :



1 rule : between



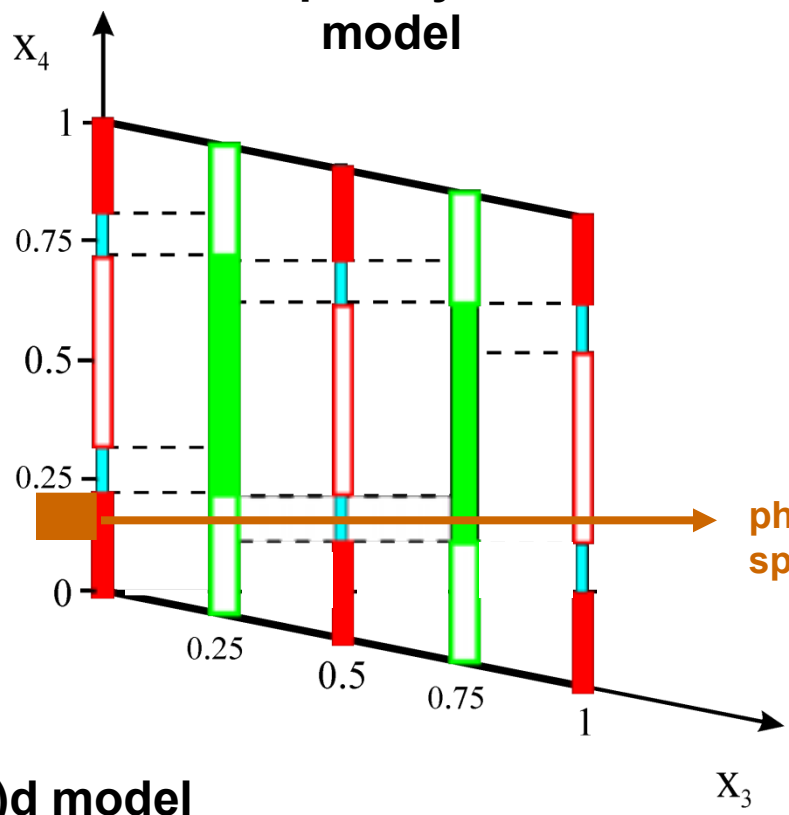
super crystal  
model





**super crystal  
model**

**3d structure**



**(3+1)d model**

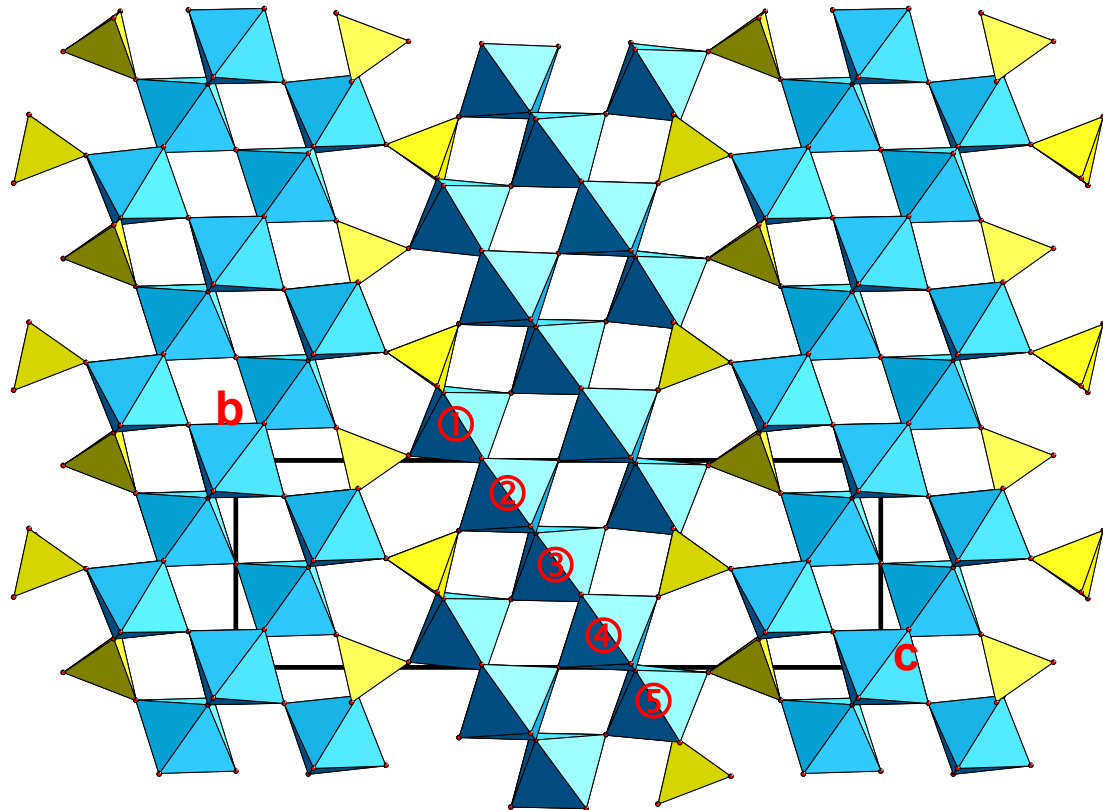
	$x_1$	$x_2$	$x_3$	$x_4$	$\Delta$
<b>A</b>	0	0	$1/4$	$1/2$	$1/2$
<b>B</b>	0	0	0	0	$(1-x)/2$

**crenel functions**

## Mono Phosphate Tungsten Bronzes family

chemical formula  $(PO_2)_4(WO_3)_{2m}$  with  $4 \leq m \leq 14$

**MPTBp  $m=8$ ,  $P_4W_{16}O_{38}$**



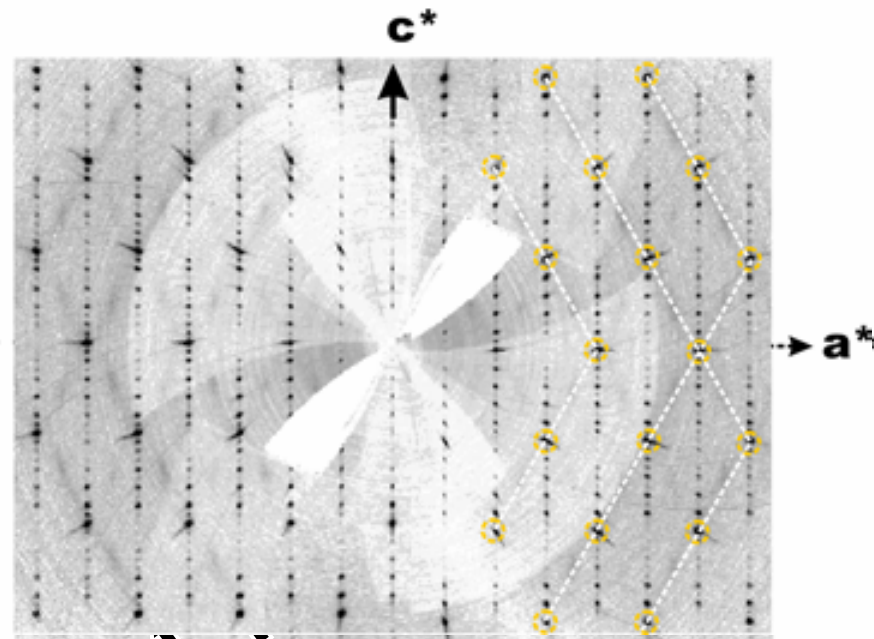
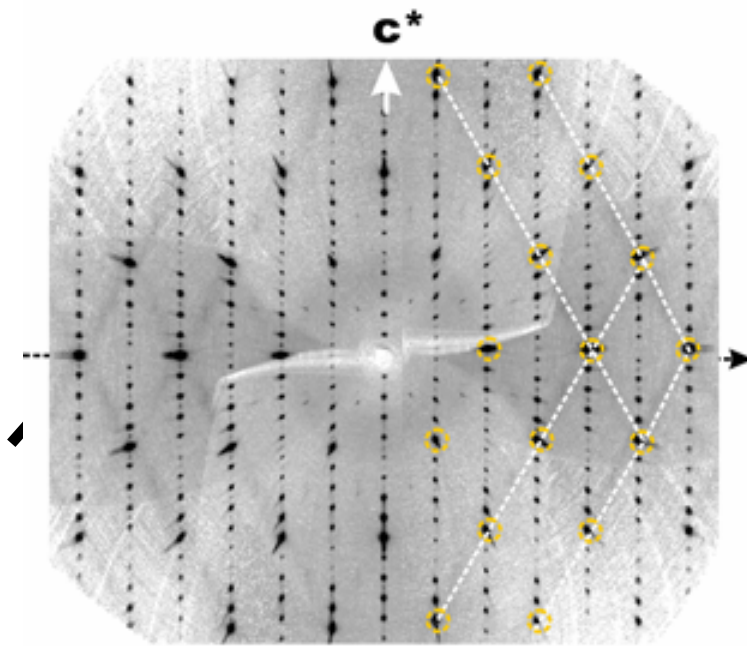
member (m)	chemical formula	$T_{C1}$ (K)	cell parameters (Å) ( $T \geq T_{C1}$ )	Space Group ( $T \geq T_{C1}$ )	structural report
4	$P_4W_8O_{32}$	80	a=5.28 b=6.57 c=17.35	$P2_12_12_1$	Giroult <i>et al</i> , Acta Crystallogr. B37 (1981)
5	$P_4W_{10}O_{38}$	80	a=5.28 b=6.57 c=20.45 $\beta=90.40$	$P12_1/n1$	Roussel <i>et al</i> , Eur. Phys. J. B 12 (1999)
4/6	$P_4W_{10}O_{38}$	158	a=5.28 b=6.57 c=20.57 $\alpha=96.18$	$P2_111$	Benmoussa <i>et al</i> , J. Solid State Chem. 4 (1982)
6	$P_4W_{12}O_{44}$	120	a=5.29 b=6.57 c=23.55	$P2_12_12_1$	Labbé <i>et al</i> , J. Solid State Chem. 61 (1986)
7	$P_4W_{14}O_{50}$	188	a=5.29 b=6.56 c=26.65 $\beta=90.19$	$P12_1/n1$	Roussel <i>et al</i> , J. Solid State Chem. 122 (1996)
8	$P_4W_{16}O_{56}$	220	a=5.29 b=6.55 c=29.7	$P2_12_12_1$	Labbé <i>et al</i> , J. Solid State Chem. 61 (1986)
9	$P_4W_{18}O_{62}$	565	a $\approx$ 5.28 b $\approx$ 6.57 c $\approx$ 32.79 $\beta=?$	$P12_1/n1$	this work
10	$P_4W_{20}O_{68}$	450	a=5.324 b=6.575 c=36.00	$P2_12_12_1$	this work
11	$P_4W_{22}O_{74}$	560	a $\approx$ 5.3 b $\approx$ 6.6 c $\approx$ 39 $\beta=?$	nc	Ottolenghi <i>et al</i> , J. Phys. I Fr. 6 (1996)
12	$P_4W_{24}O_{80}$	535	a=5.31 b=6.55 c=42.11	$P2_12_12_1$	Roussel <i>et al</i> , Acta Crystallogr. B54 (1998)
13	$P_4W_{26}O_{86}$	550	a $\approx$ 5.28 b $\approx$ 6.57 c $\approx$ 45.04 $\beta=?$	nc	Ottolenghi <i>et al</i> , J. Phys. I Fr. 6 (1996)
14	$P_4W_{28}O_{92}$	730	a=5.32 b=6.54 c=48.00	nc	Ottolenghi <i>et al</i> , J. Phys. I Fr. 6 (1996)

m even  $\Rightarrow$  S.G.  $P2_12_12_1$

m odd  $\Rightarrow$  S.G.  $P2_1/n$

**MPTB<sub>p</sub> m=7: P<sub>4</sub>W<sub>14</sub>O<sub>50</sub>**

**MPTB<sub>p</sub> m=8: P<sub>4</sub>W<sub>16</sub>O<sub>56</sub>**



diffuse scattering

Enlightening of intense reflections

definition of a basic subcell using the “enlightened” reflections

$$c = (m+2) c'$$

$$a = 5.29 \text{ \AA} \quad b = 6.55 \text{ \AA} \quad c' = 2.97 \text{ \AA}$$

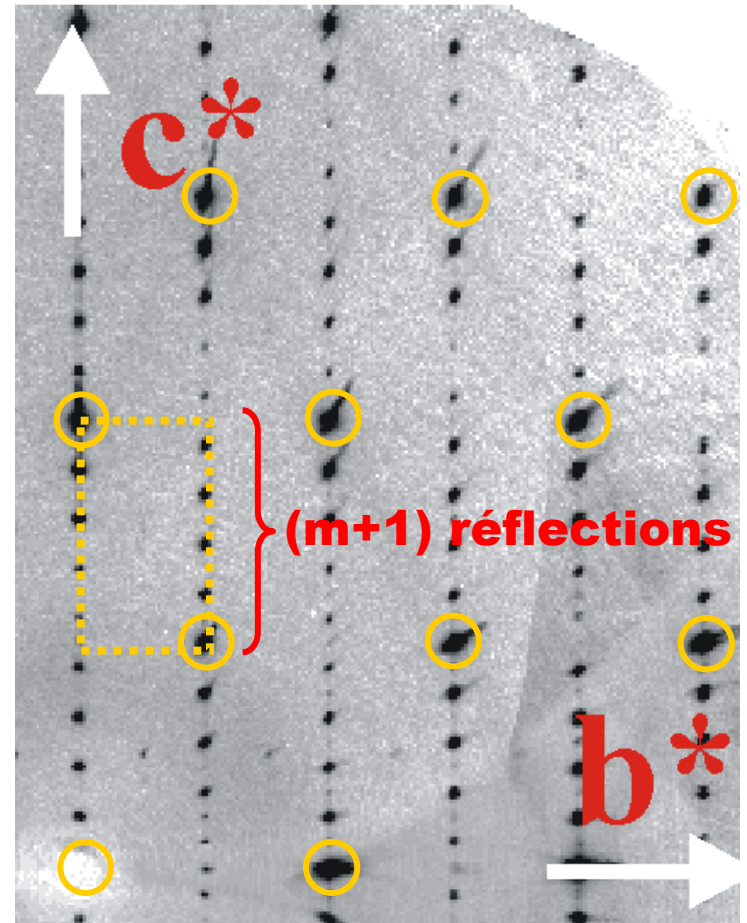
$$\alpha = \beta = \gamma = 90^\circ$$

$$\text{modulation vector : } q = \frac{1}{m+2} c'^*$$

$$s = ha^* + kb^* + \ell c'^* + mq$$

from the extinction rules :

SSG : Pnmm(00 $\gamma$ )0s0



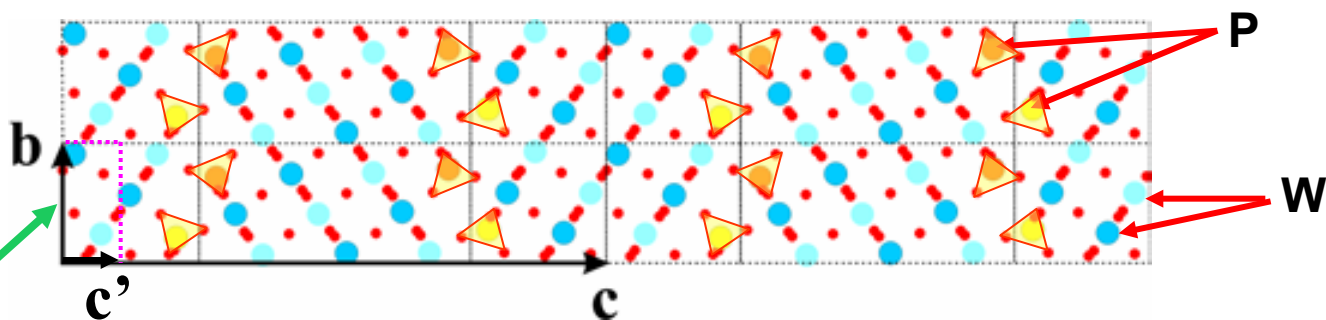


MPTBp  $m=8$ ,  $P_4W_8O_{56}$

cell :  $a=5.29 \text{ \AA}$   $b=6.55 \text{ \AA}$   $c'=2.97 \text{ \AA}$   
 $\beta=90^\circ$ , SG :  $P2_12_12_1$

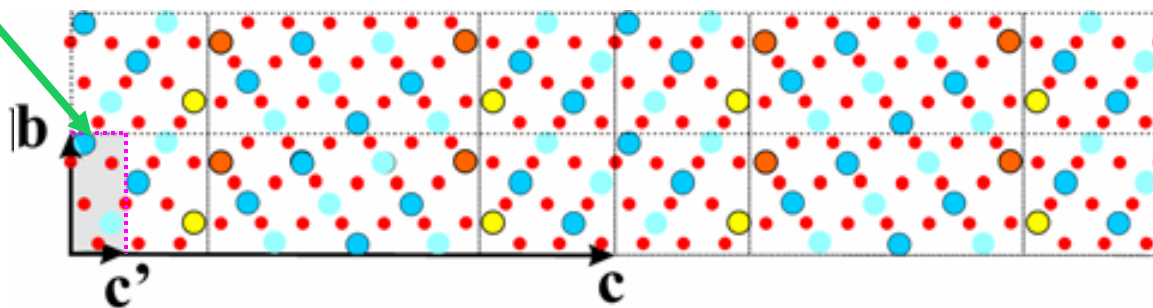
sub cell :  $a=5.29 \text{ \AA}$   $b=6.55 \text{ \AA}$   $c'=2.97 \text{ \AA}$   
 $\beta=90^\circ$

real structure



subcell

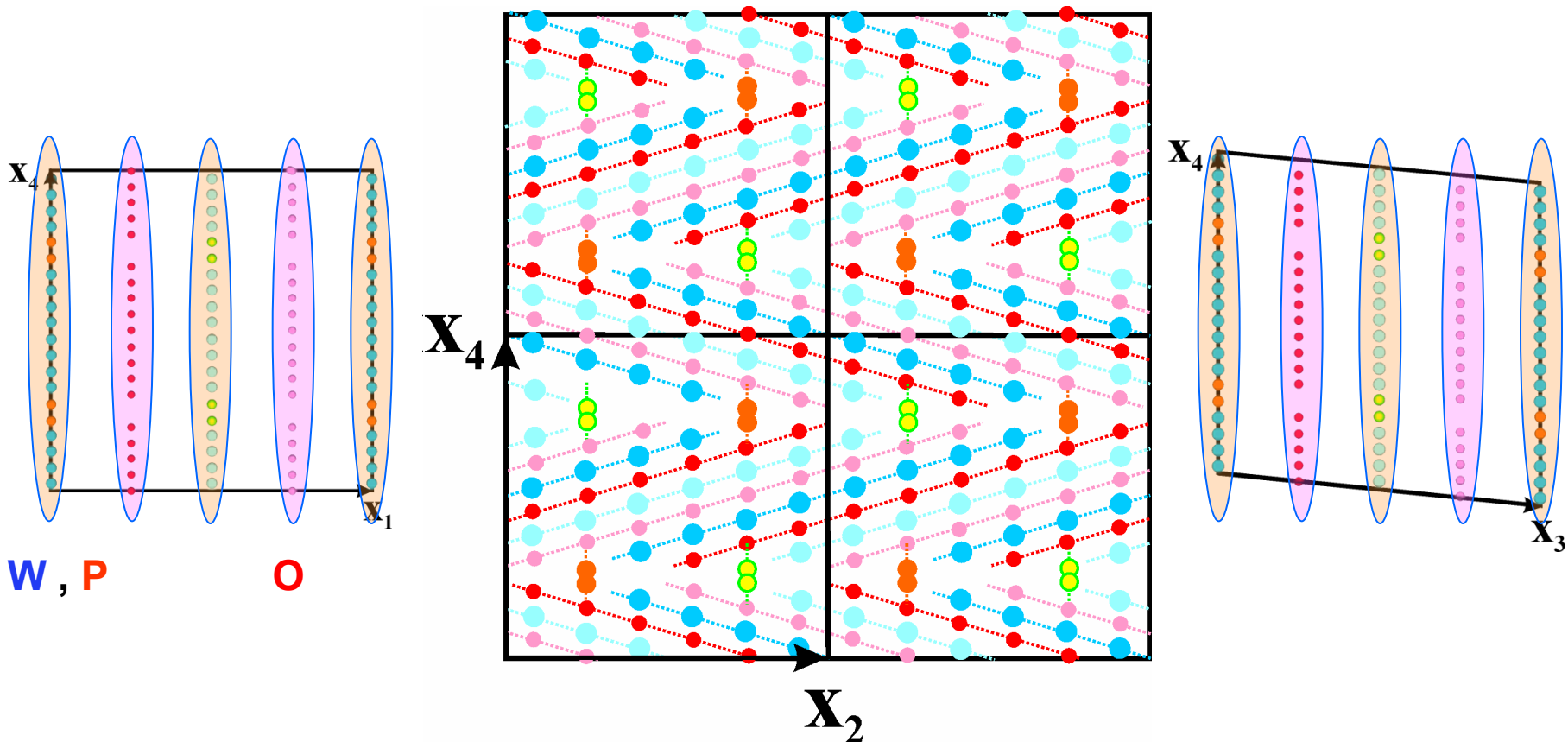
ideal structure (removing PO<sub>4</sub> and WO<sub>6</sub> tilts)



## Embedding of the ideal 3d structure

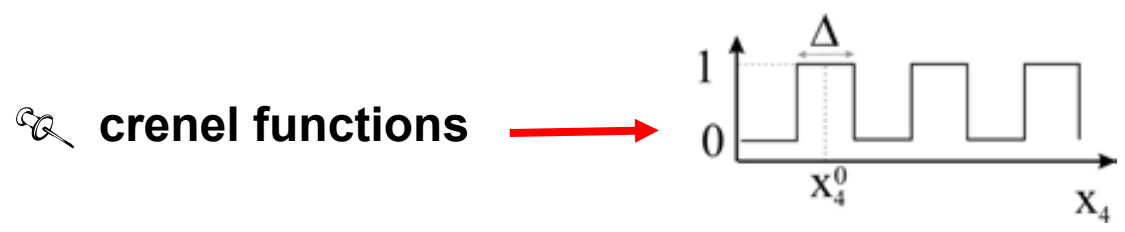
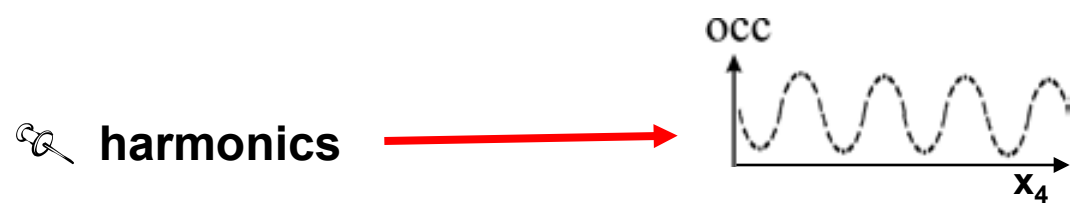
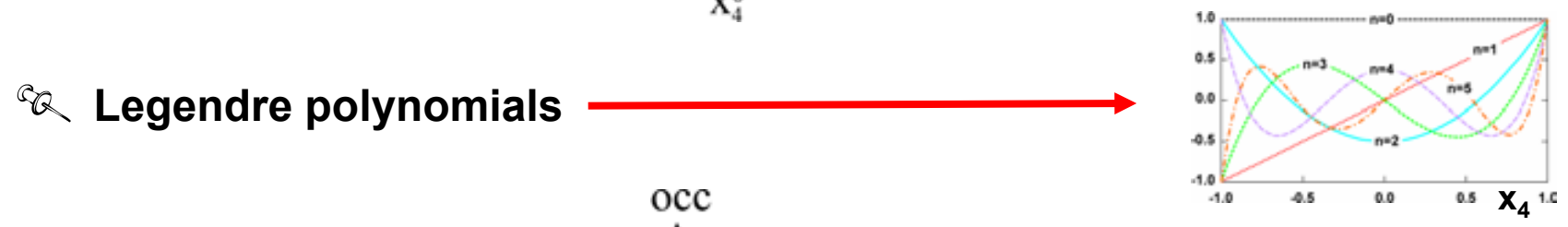
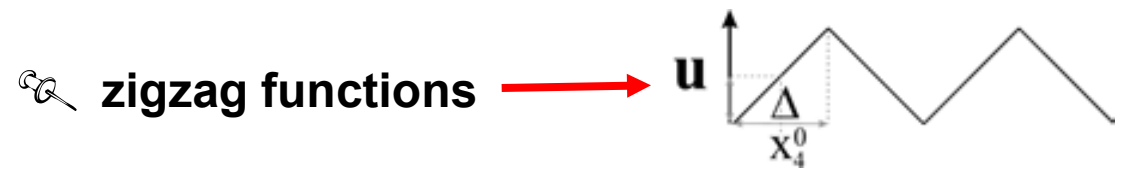
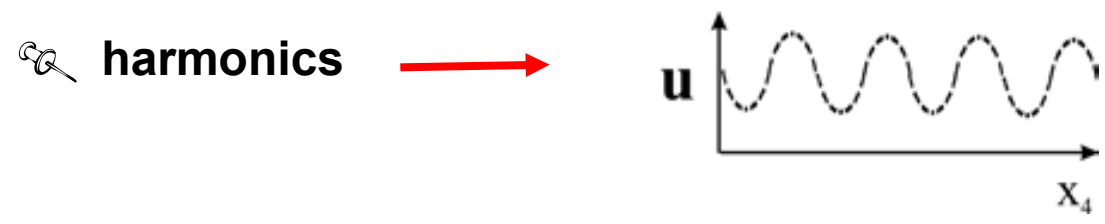
sub cell :  $a=5.29 \text{ \AA}$   $b=6.55 \text{ \AA}$   $c'=2.97 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $\beta=90^\circ$ ,

modulation vector :  $q = \frac{1}{m+2} c'^*$  SSG :  $Pn\bar{m}(00\gamma)0s0$

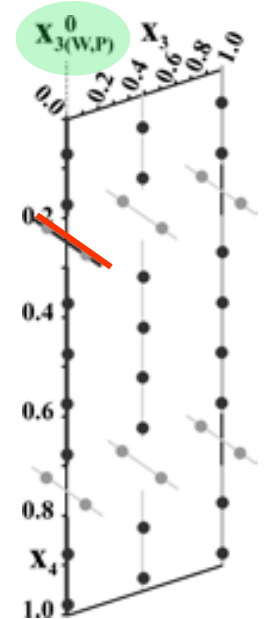
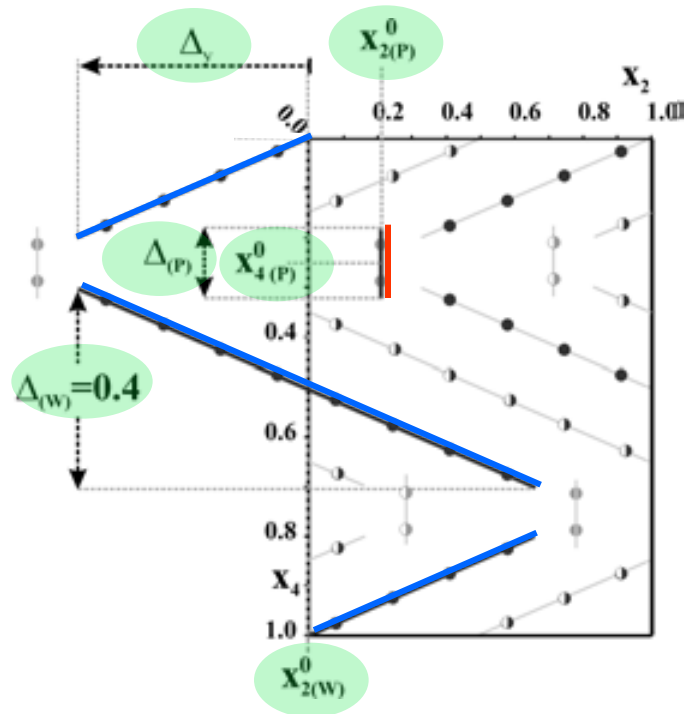
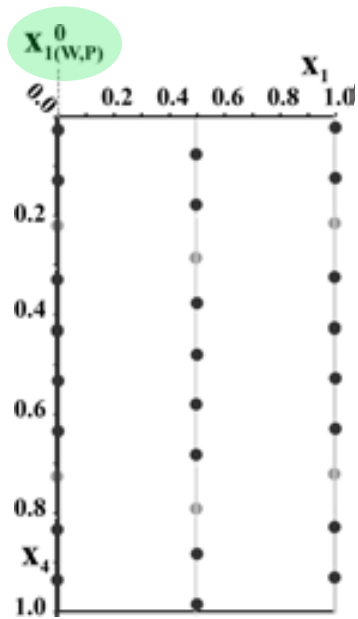


Evidence of 3 atomic domains on the  $(x_4x_1)$  and  $(x_4x_3)$  sections

## Pool of periodic functions

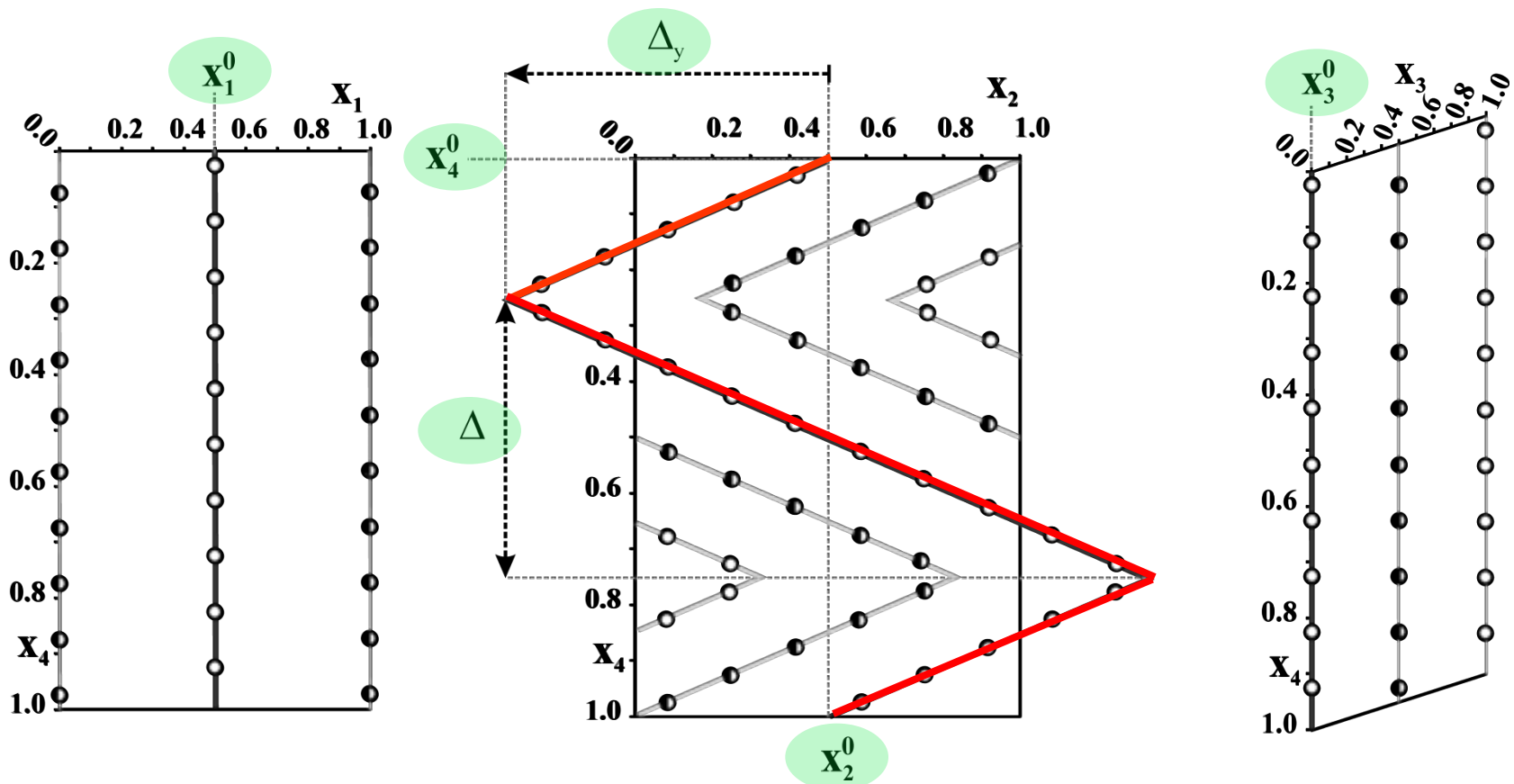


evaluation of the relevant parameters of the zig zag  
function for **W** and of the sawtooth function for **P**



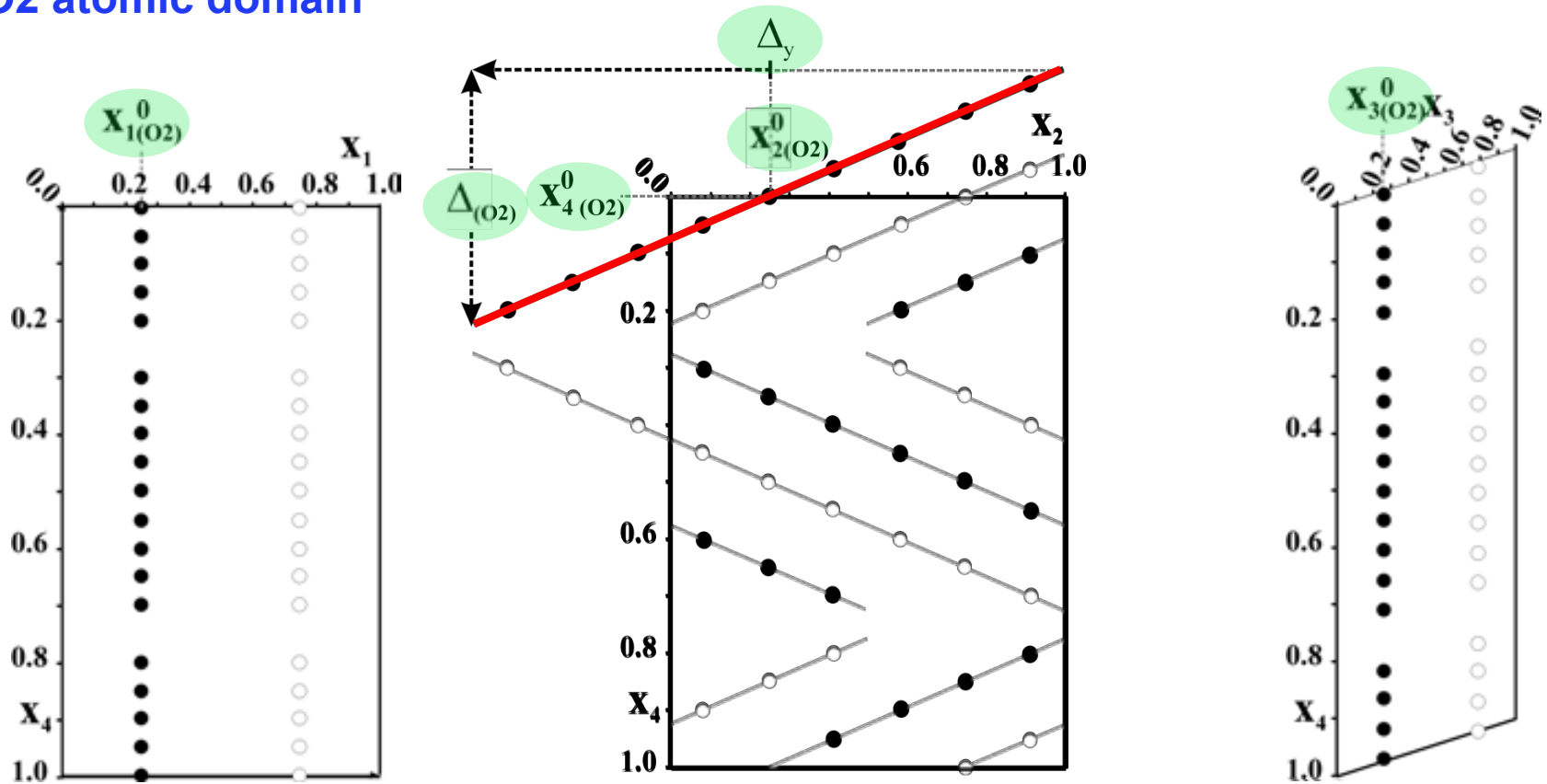
**W** and **P** atomic domains

## O1 atomic domain



evaluation of the relevant parameters of the zig zag function

## O2 atomic domain



evaluation of the relevant parameters of the sawtooth function

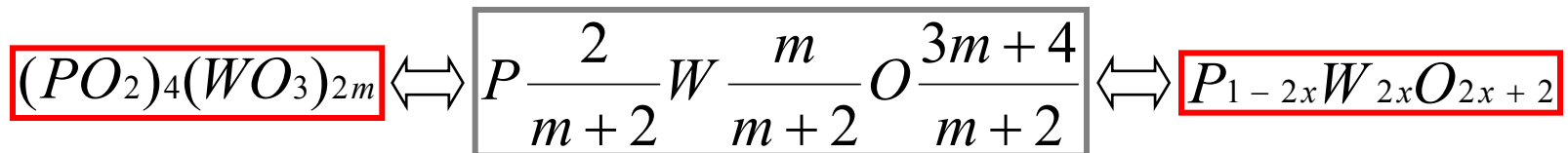
## m dependent model (3+1)d model

evaluation of  
rules linking  
members and  
parameters

atom	$x_1^0$	$x_2^0$	$x_3^0$	$x_4^0$	$\Delta$	$\Delta_x$	$\Delta_y$	$\Delta_z$
W	0	0	0	0	$x = \frac{m}{2(m+2)}$	-	$-\frac{m}{12} = -\frac{x}{3(1-2x)}$	-
P	0	$\frac{8}{9} - \frac{m}{12}$	0	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{m+2} = \frac{1}{2} - x$	-	-	$\frac{1}{4}$
O1	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	-	$-\frac{(m+2)}{12} = \frac{1}{6(1-2x)}$	-
O2	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	0	$\frac{m+1}{2(m+2)} = \frac{1}{4} + \frac{x}{2}$	-	$-\frac{(m+1)}{12} = -\frac{(1+2x)}{12(1-2x)}$	-

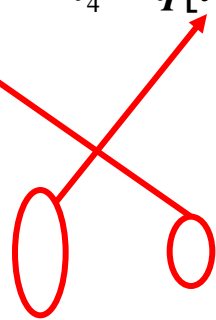
basic cell :  $a=5.29 \text{ \AA}$   $b=6.55 \text{ \AA}$   $c'=2.97 \text{ \AA}$   $\alpha=\beta=\gamma=90^\circ$

modulation vector :  $\vec{q} = \frac{1}{m+2} \vec{c} = \frac{1-2x}{2} \vec{c}$  with  $x = \frac{m}{2(m+2)}$



inventory of the equivalents sections and  
versus the q vector and the superspace g

principle :  $t = \varepsilon t + \tau_I + n_4 - q[\tau_E + T]$



$2_1$

$\frac{1}{2}$

$x_1, x_2, x_3, \frac{1}{2} + x_4$   
 $\frac{1}{2} + x_1,$   
 $\frac{1}{2} - x_1,$   
 $\bar{x}_1, \bar{x}_2, x_3, \frac{1}{2} + x_4$

S

$$t = -t + 0 + n_4 - \frac{1}{m+2} \left[ \frac{1}{2} + n_3 \right]$$

$$2t = n_4 - \frac{1}{m+2} \left[ \frac{1}{2} + n_3 \right]$$

$$t = \frac{1}{4(m+2)} \left[ -(1 + 2n_3) + 2n_4(m+2) \right]$$

odd

$$t = \frac{1}{4(m+2)} \left[ -1 - 2n_3 + 2n_4(m+2) \right]$$

$$t = \frac{2\nu + 1}{4(m+2)}$$

$x_1, x_2, x_3, \frac{1}{2} - x_4$

$2_1$

$2_1$



member (m)	chemical formula	$T_{C1}$ (K)	cell parameters (Å) ( $T \geq T_{C1}$ )	Space Group ( $T \geq T_{C1}$ )	structural report
4	$P_4W_8O_{32}$	80	a=5.28 b=6.57 c=17.35	$P2_12_12_1$	Giroult et al, Acta Crystallogr. B37 (1981)
5	$P_4W_{10}O_{38}$	80	a=5.28 b=6.57 c=20.45 $\beta=90.40$	$P12_1/n1$	Roussel et al, Eur. Phys. J. B 12 (1999)
4/6	$P_4W_{10}O_{38}$	158	a=5.28 b=6.57 c=20.57 $\alpha=96.18$	$P2_111$	Benmoussa et al, J. Solid State Chem. 4 (1982)
6	$P_4W_{12}O_{44}$	120	a=5.29 b=6.57 c=23.55	$P2_12_12_1$	Labbé et al, J. Solid State Chem. 61 (1986)
7	$P_4W_{14}O_{50}$	188	a=5.29 b=6.56 c=26.65 $\beta=90.19$	$P12_1/n1$	Roussel et al, J. Solid State Chem. 122 (1996)
8	$P_4W_{16}O_{56}$	220	a=5.29 b=6.55 c=29.7	$P2_12_12_1$	Labbé et al, J. Solid State Chem. 61 (1986)
9	$P_4W_{18}O_{62}$	565	a $\approx$ 5.28 b $\approx$ 6.57 c $\approx$ 32.79 $\beta=?$	$P12_1/n1$	this work
10	$P_4W_{20}O_{68}$	450	a=5.324 b=6.575 c=36.00	$P2_12_12_1$	this work
11	$P_4W_{22}O_{74}$	560	a $\approx$ 5.3 b $\approx$ 6.6 c $\approx$ 39 $\beta=?$	nc	Ottolenghi et al, J. Phys. I Fr. 6 (1996)
12	$P_4W_{24}O_{80}$	535	a=5.31 b=6.55 c=42.11	$P2_12_12_1$	Roussel et al, Acta Crystallogr. B54 (1998)
13	$P_4W_{26}O_{86}$	550	a $\approx$ 5.28 b $\approx$ 6.57 c $\approx$ 45.04 $\beta=?$	nc	Ottolenghi et al, J. Phys. I Fr. 6 (1996)
14	$P_4W_{28}O_{92}$	730	a=5.32 b=6.54 c=48.00	nc	Ottolenghi et al, J. Phys. I Fr. 6 (1996)

m even  $\Rightarrow$  S.G.  $P2_12_12_1$

m odd  $\Rightarrow$  S.G.  $P2_1/n1$

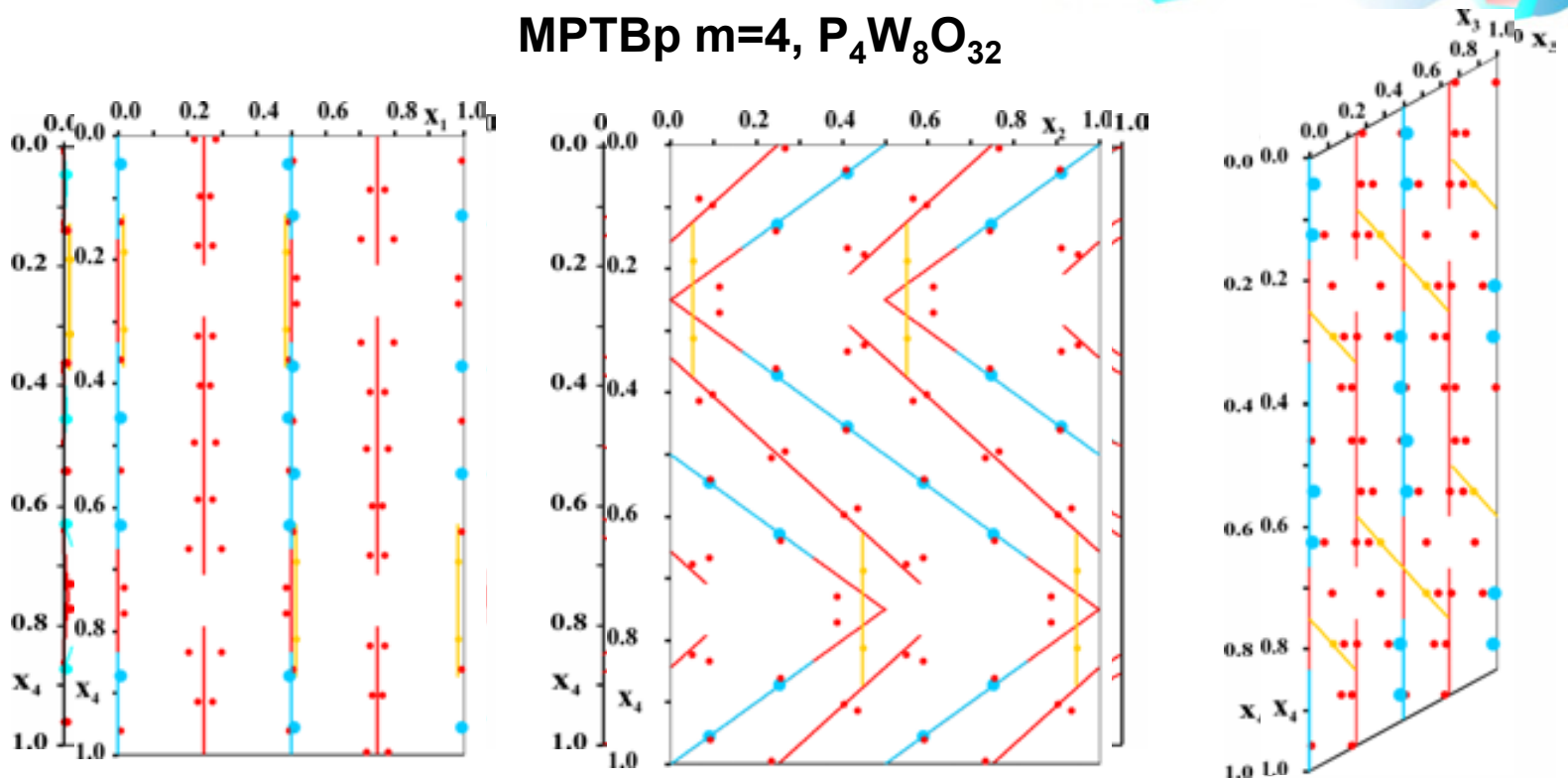
## inventory of the equivalent sections and symmetries versus the $q$ vector and the superspace group

### Compatibility with the observed 3d space groups

### SSG $Pn\bar{m}(00\gamma)0s0$

(3+1)d Symmetry operators			
$x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4$	$\bar{x}_1, \bar{x}_2, \bar{x}_3, \bar{x}_4$		
$\frac{1}{2} + x_1, \frac{1}{2} - x_2, \frac{1}{2} - x_3, \bar{x}_4$	$\frac{1}{2} - x_1, \frac{1}{2} + x_2, \frac{1}{2} + x_3, x_4$		
$\frac{1}{2} - x_1, \frac{1}{2} + x_2, \frac{1}{2} - x_3, \frac{1}{2} - x_4$	$\frac{1}{2} + x_1, \frac{1}{2} - x_2, \frac{1}{2} + x_3, \frac{1}{2} + x_4$		
$\bar{x}_1, \bar{x}_2, x_3, \frac{1}{2} + x_4$	$x_1, x_2, \bar{x}_3, \frac{1}{2} - x_4$		
3d sections			
	section	section	section
	$t_0 = \frac{2\nu}{4m+2}$	$t_0 = \frac{2\nu+1}{4m+2}$	$\forall t_0$
m even	$P11\frac{2_1}{m}$	$P2_12_12_1$	$P112_1$
m odd	$P1\frac{2_1}{n}1$	$P2_1nm$	$P1n1$

MPTBp  $m=4$ ,  $P_4W_8O_{32}$

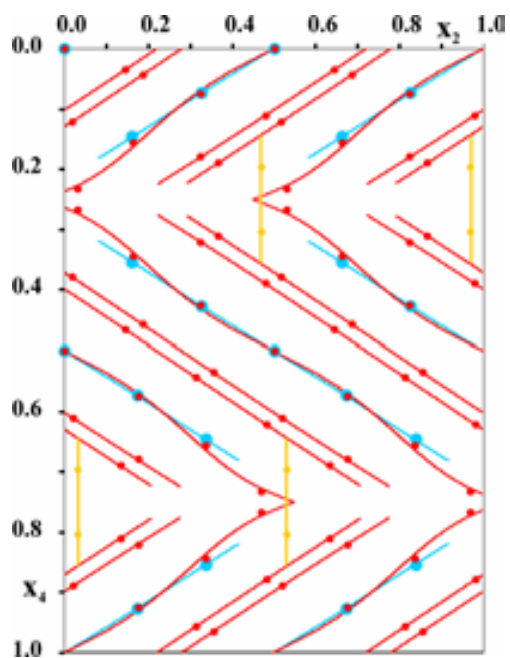


applying the (3+1)d model

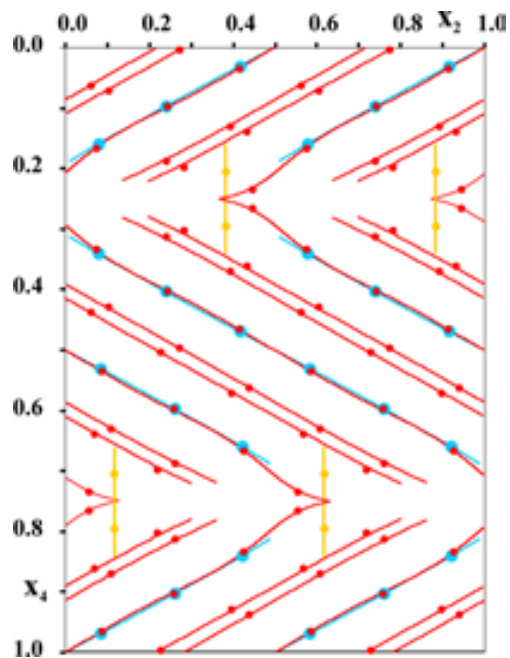
correct for P and W but too simplistic for O

using additional atomic displacements

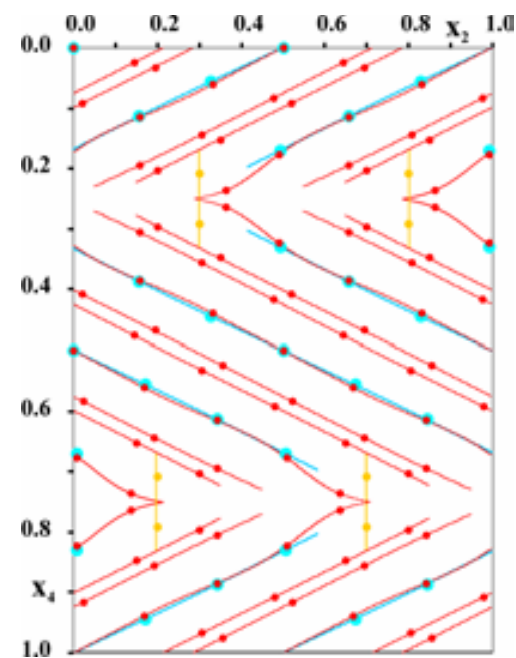
$m=5, P_4W_{10}O_{38}$



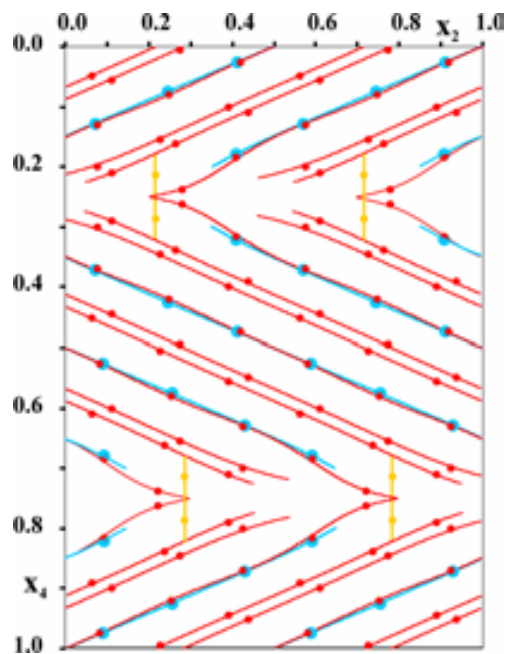
$m=6, P_4W_{12}O_{44}$



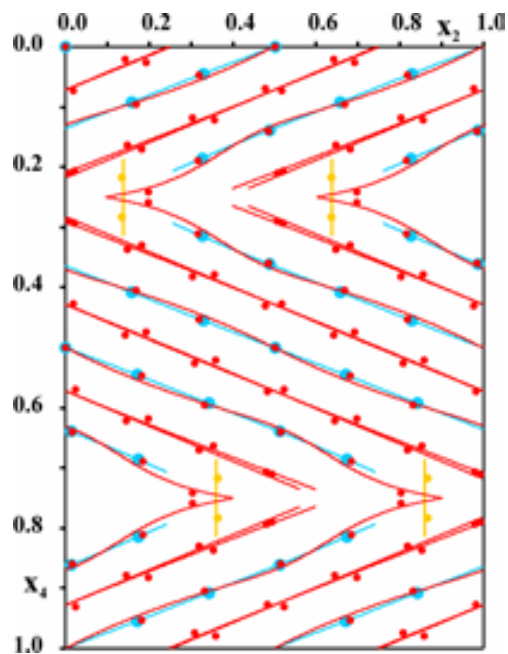
$m=7, P_4W_{14}O_{50}$



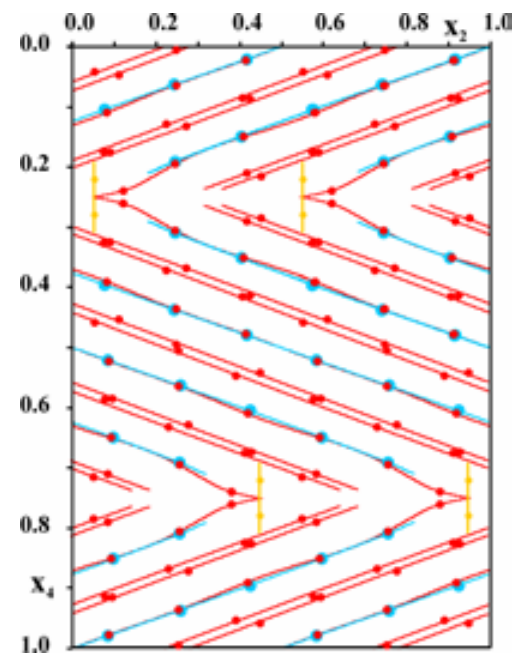
$m=8, P_4W_{16}O_{56}$



$m=9, P_4W_{18}O_{62}$



$m=10, P_4W_{20}O_{68}$



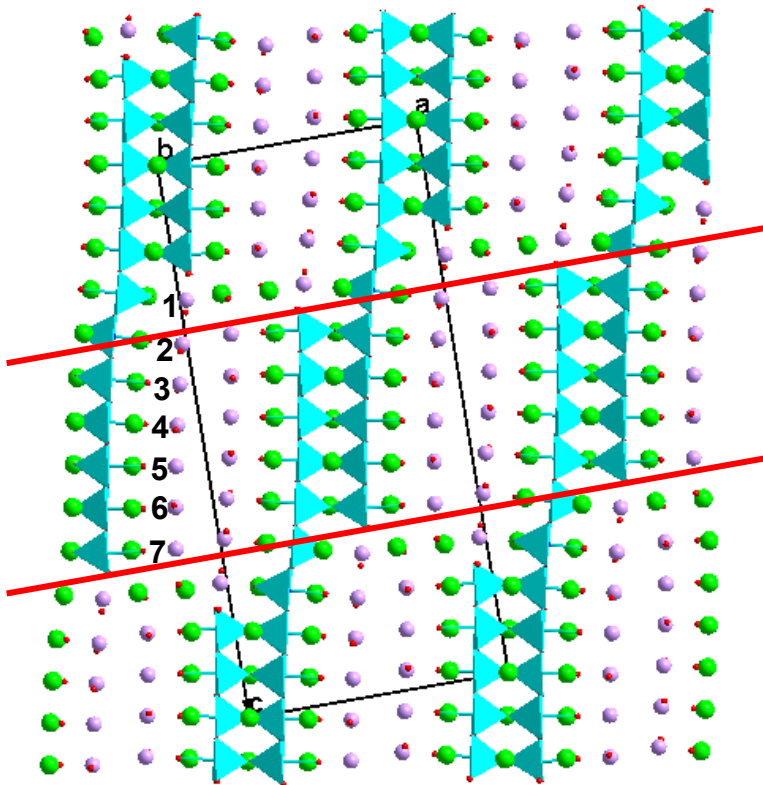
# Summary

- 📌 **What is it ? What is the aim ?**
- 📌 **Useful properties of the superspace formalism**
- 📌 **The method : keys ...**
- 📌 **Some examples, step by step ...**
- 📌 **Conclusion**

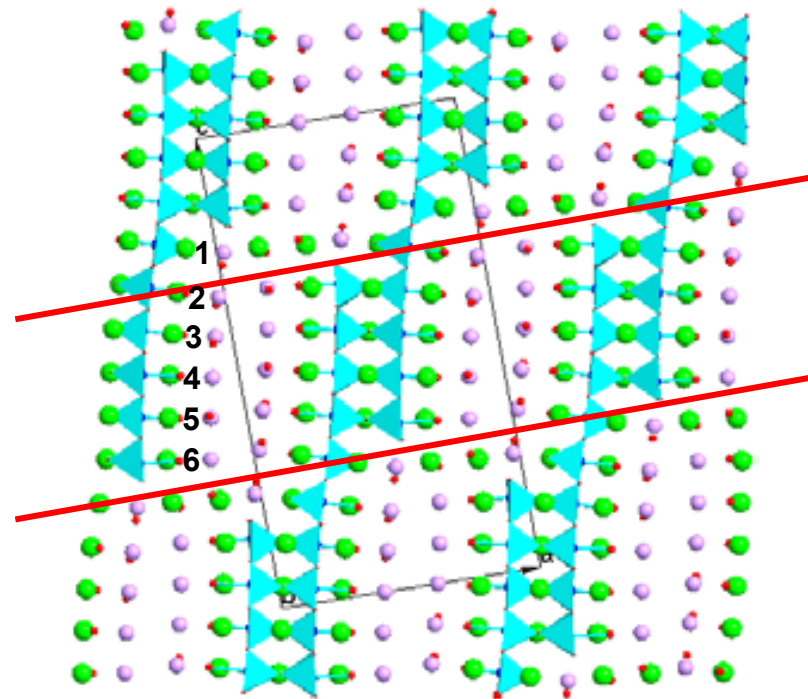


- 📌 **Atypical use of the superspace formalism**
- 📌 **Unified description of  $\neq$  members of families of compounds**
- 📌 **Reveals hidden common properties (symmetry, composition ...)**
- 📌 **Reduces the number of refinement parameters**
- 📌 **For more details you can also contact :**  
**Luis Elcoro :**      [luis.elcoro@ehu.es](mailto:luis.elcoro@ehu.es)  
**Fac. Ciencia y Tecnologia, Universidad del Pais Vasco,**  
**UPV 48080 BILBAO**

family of terrace-like structures



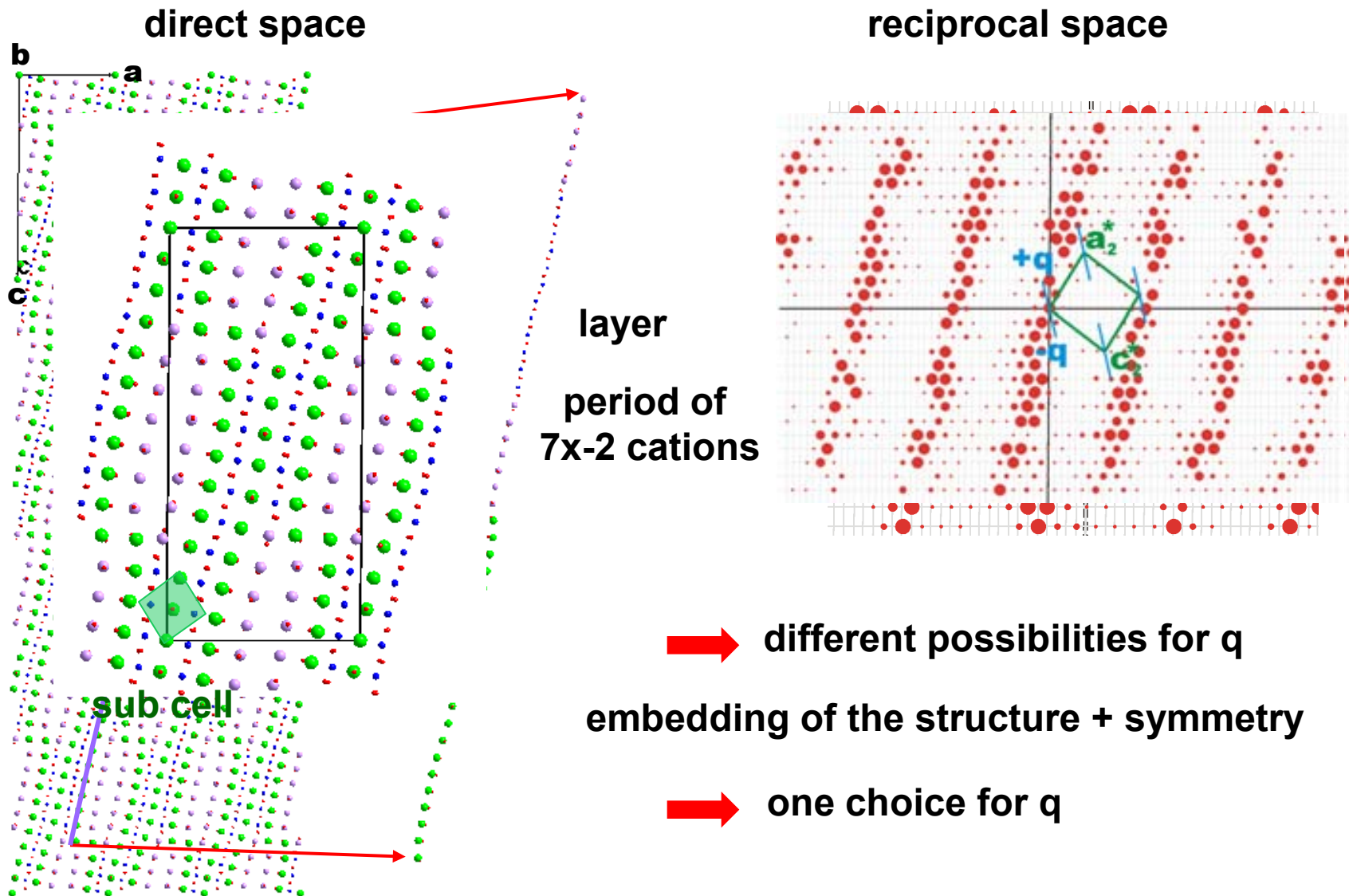
$\text{Bi}_{14}\text{Sr}_{21}\text{Fe}_{12}\text{O}_{61}$  ( $x=7$ ) S.G. I2  
 $a_1=16.55\text{\AA}$   $b_1=5.49\text{\AA}$   $c_1=35.29\text{\AA}$   
 $\beta_1=90.52^\circ$



$\text{Bi}_{12}\text{Sr}_{18}\text{Fe}_{10}\text{O}_{52}$  ( $x=6$ ) S.G. P2<sub>1</sub>/n  
 $a_1=16.48\text{\AA}$   $b_1=5.48\text{\AA}$   $c_1=30.07\text{\AA}$   
 $\beta_1=91.40^\circ$



New definition for composition :  $\text{Bi}_{2x}\text{Sr}_{3x}\text{Fe}_{2x-2}\text{O}_{9x-2}$





subcell

$$a_2 = 3.59 \text{ \AA}$$

$$b_2 = 5.49 \text{ \AA}$$

$$c_2 = 3.46 \text{ \AA}$$

$$\beta_2 = 81.90^\circ$$

wave vector

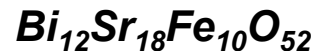
$$q = \frac{1}{7x-2} [(2x-1)a_2 - 2xc_2]$$

from the diffraction patterns : **SSG X2/m(a0g)0s**, with  $X = (\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})$

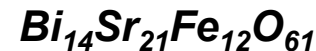
relation with  
supercell

$$a_2 = \frac{1}{7x-2} [(x+1)a_1 + 3c_1] \quad b_2 = b_1 \quad c_2 = \frac{1}{7x-2} [(2-x)a_1 + 4c_1]$$

**x=6**



**x=7**



**q**


$$\frac{11}{40}a_2^* - \frac{12}{40}c_2^*$$

$$\frac{13}{47}a_2^* - \frac{14}{47}c_2^*$$

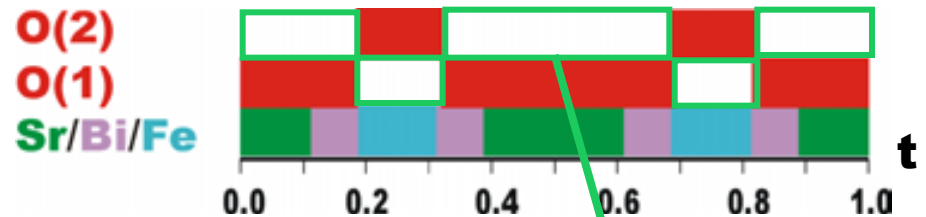
## (3+1)d model with 3 independant atomic domains

### atomic sites

	x	y	z
<b>Bi/Sr/Fe</b>	0	0	0
<b>O(1)</b>	0	0.4477	0
<b>O(2)</b>	0.2611	0.2557	0.2352

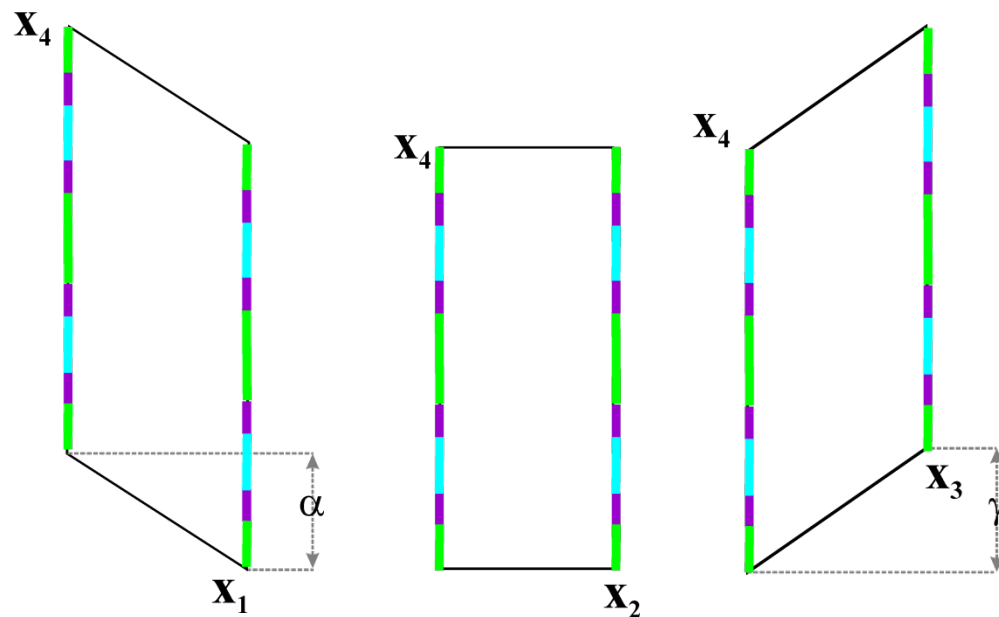
  
 average positions

### atomic occupancies using crenel functions

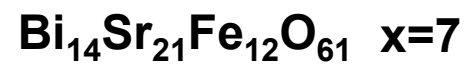
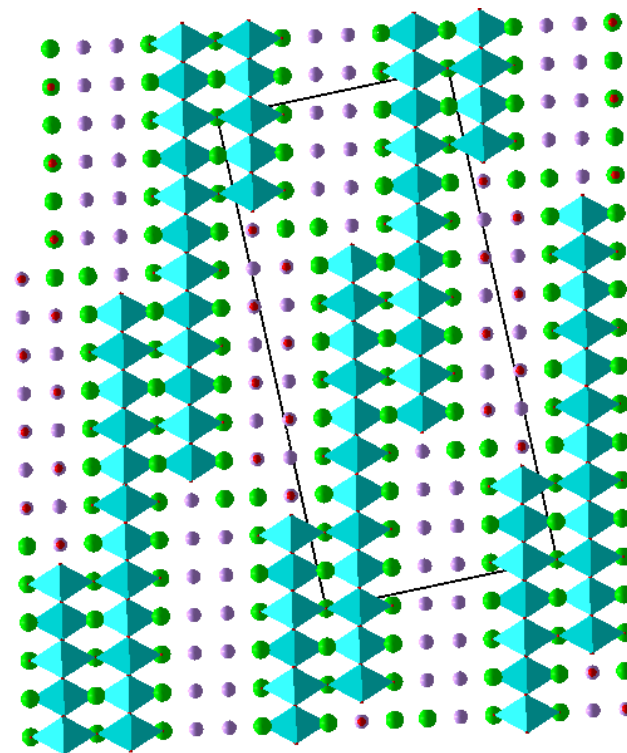


vacancies

with crenel function

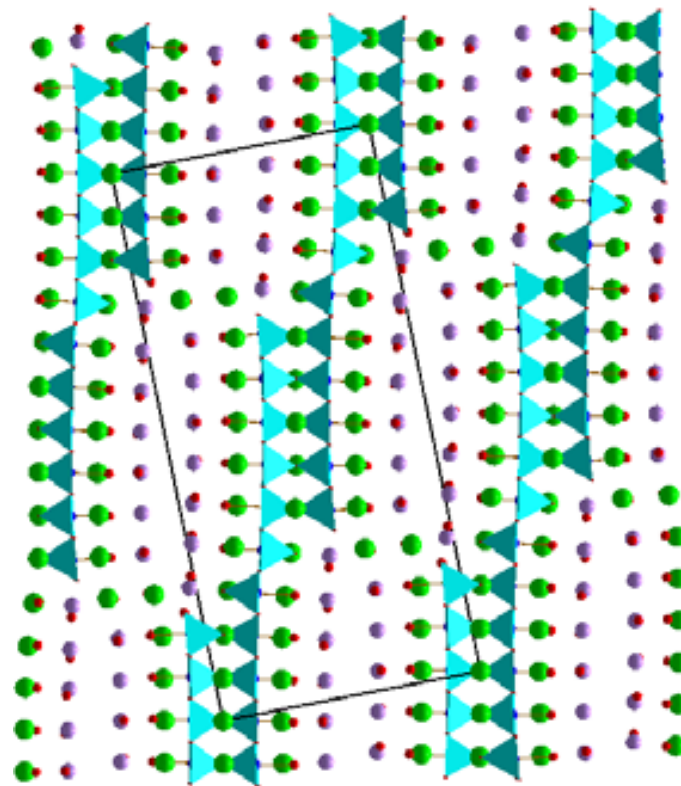
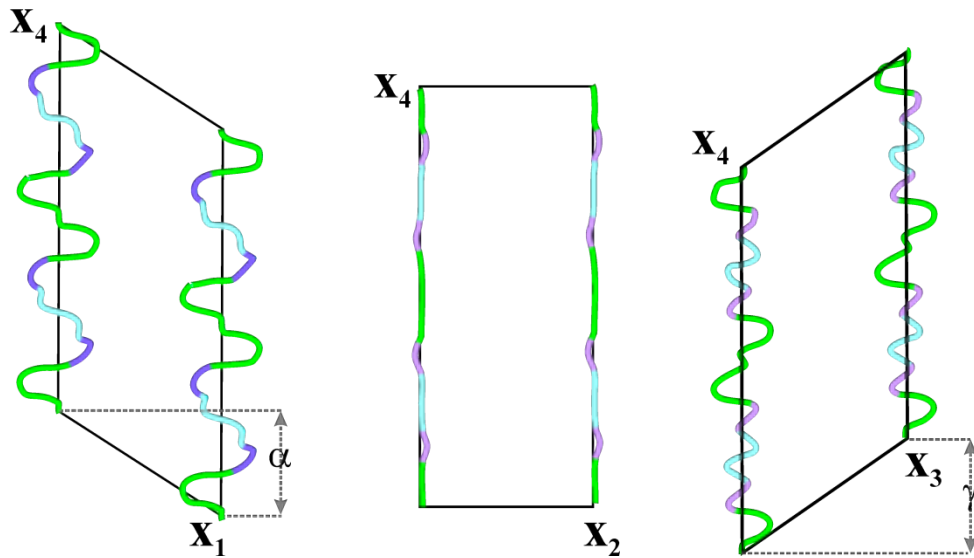


the resulting structure



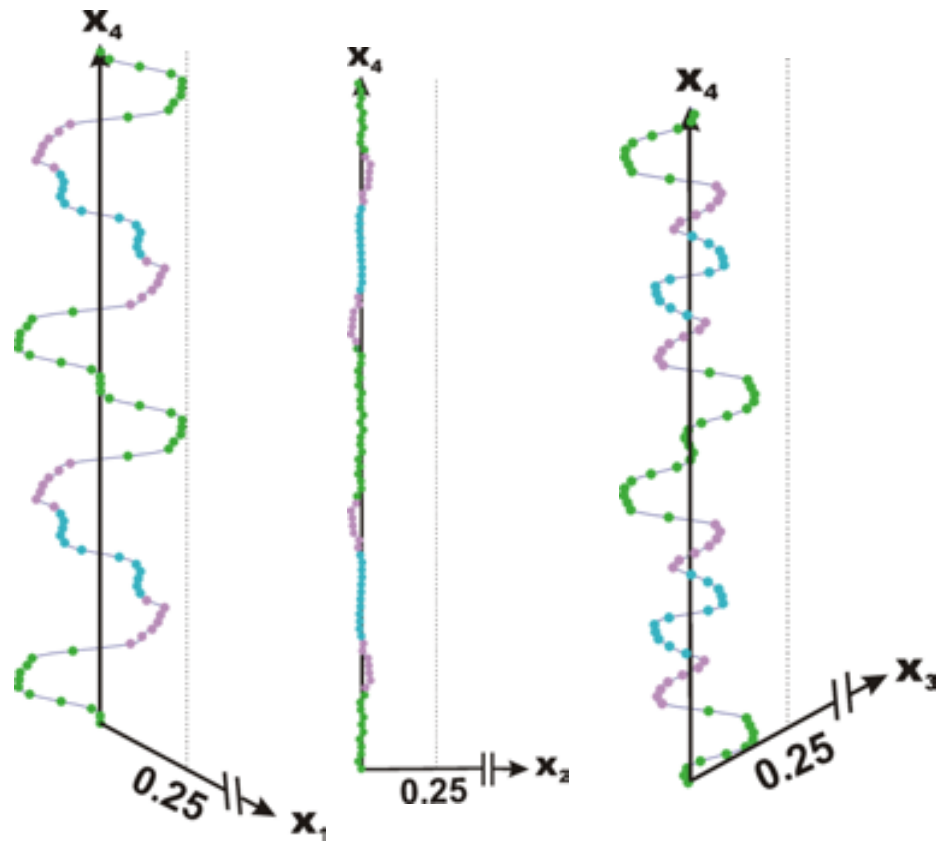
adding atomic displacement  
for cations and oxygen atoms

the resulting structure

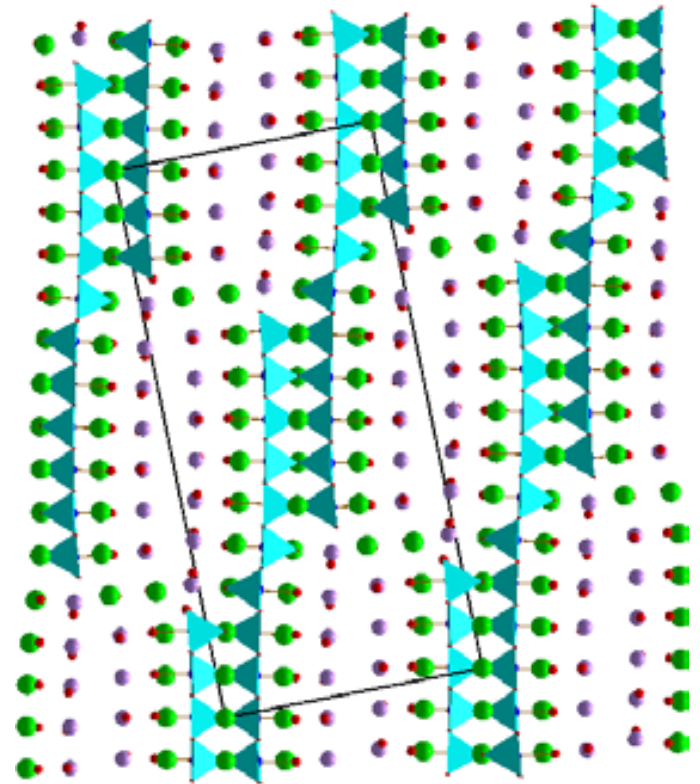


= true structure

adding atomic displacement  
for cations and oxygen atoms

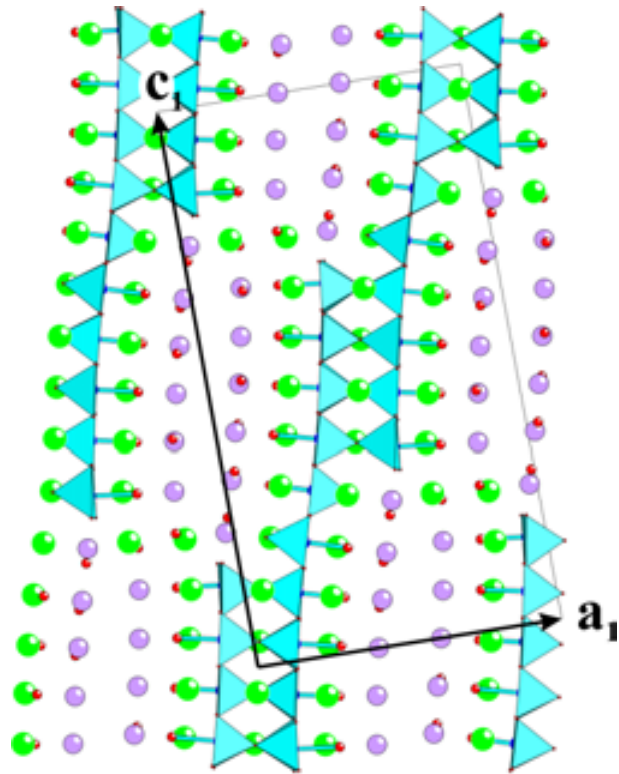


the resulting structure

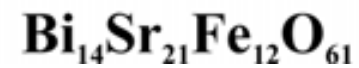
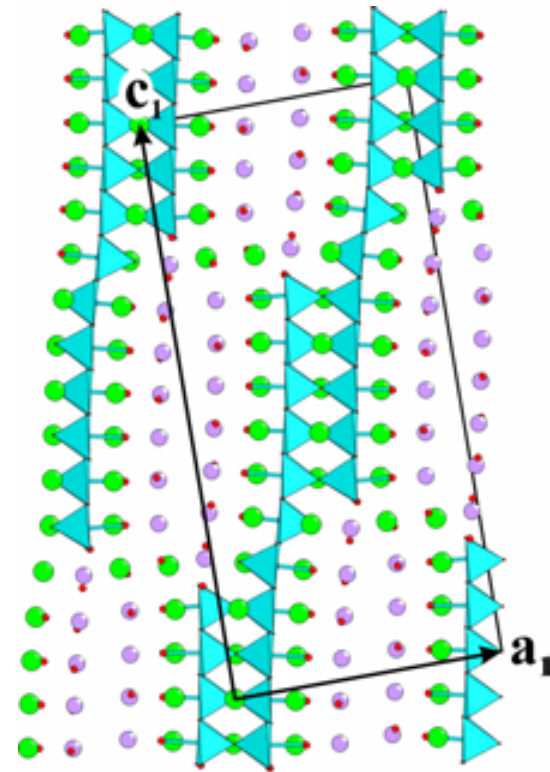


= true structure

Terrace-like phases



$a=16.49\text{\AA}$   $b=5.48\text{\AA}$   $c=30.86\text{\AA}$   
 $\beta=91.39^\circ$  G.E. :  $P2_1/n$



$a=16.54\text{\AA}$   $b=5.49\text{\AA}$   $c=35.29\text{\AA}$   
 $\beta=90.52^\circ$  S.G. :  $I2$



## Symmetry ...

In the physical space ...

glide  
mirror

