

**Physics 489 S 04 Lecture 5**  
**The Reciprocal Lattice (Ashcroft and Mermin, chapter 5)**

1. Fourier Series for periodic function:

For *any* property of a periodic system:

If  $f(x + T_n) = f(x)$  for all translations  $T_n = na$ ,  $n = \text{integer}$ ,

then

$$f(x) = \sum_G f_G e^{iGx}, \text{ where } G = \text{integer} \times 2\pi/a.$$

Extends to any dimension:

$$f(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{m_1, m_2, m_3} f(\mathbf{G}_{m_1, m_2, m_3}) e^{i\mathbf{G}_{m_1, m_2, m_3} \cdot \mathbf{r}}, \text{ or } f(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{\mathbf{G}} f(\mathbf{G}) e^{i\mathbf{G} \cdot \mathbf{r}},$$

2. Definition of Reciprocal Lattice

a. Bravais lattice of points in reciprocal space (k-space or G-space):

$$\mathbf{G}_{m_1, m_2, m_3} = m_1 \mathbf{b}_1 + m_2 \mathbf{b}_2 + m_3 \mathbf{b}_3$$

b. Expressions for primitive vectors  $\mathbf{b}_i$ :

$$\mathbf{b}_i \cdot \mathbf{a}_j = 2\pi \delta_{ij}$$

Explicit forms in 1,2,3 dimensions

c. Volume of primitive cell of reciprocal lattice =  $(2\pi)^3/\Omega$ , where  $\Omega$  = volume of primitive cell of real lattice.

3. Examples:

Real lattice	Reciprocal lattice
simple cubic	simple cubic
fcc	bcc
bcc	fcc
tetragonal ( $ a_3  >  a_1 ,  a_2 $ )	tetragonal ( $ b_3  <  b_1 ,  b_2 $ )
simple hexagonal	simple hexagonal (rotated)

4. Brillouin Zones:

First Brillouin Zone (BZ) = Wigner-Seitz cell of Reciprocal lattice

5. Lattice planes:

Miller indices: (h,k,l) denotes family of planes; {h,k,l} denotes set of equivalent (h,k,l)

One-one correspondence: family of planes (h,k,l) to a reciprocal lattice vector  $\mathbf{G}$  that is the shortest  $\mathbf{G}$ -vector orthogonal to the planes

Easier to use planes in some cases, e.g., to describe a plane of atoms that forms a surface

In general, much easier to use reciprocal lattice to describe properties of periodic crystals