It is clear that the changes produced by (4) are not negligible for angular deviations of the order of a min of arc, and should be seen in experiments having the requisite angular resolution and stability. Inclusion of the 10% contributions due to (1) would enhance the 222 curves, and reduce the $\bar{2}22$ curves, by the same factor, but without reversing the sign of the latter. Obviously, the curves in Fig. 1, which only include σ polarization, do not account for a finite incident beam width or for possible broadening by imperfections.

Actual experiments are, of course, also influenced by contributions of order $(1/\xi_L)^2$ to (1), and therefore also to (3), but, since these are intrinsically symmetric in φ_T, they superimpose a symmetric shift on the curves of Fig. 1, without eliminating the asymmetry due to (4). First-order theory giving rise to (4) predominates in the far wings. Second-order terms will begin to contribute to Fig. 1 below about $\frac{1}{2}'$, and much closer to the three-beam point the interaction becomes much more complex.

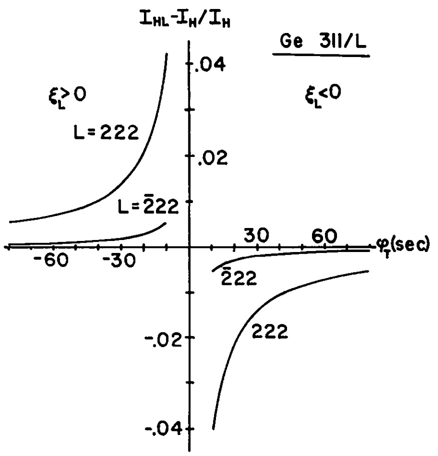

Fig.1. Relative change of integrated intensity of the Ge 311/L interaction in a Renninger scan with azimuthal angle φ_T, for L = 222, $\bar{2}22$, $\lambda = 1{\cdot}541$ Å. ξ_L measures the distance of L from the Ewald sphere. σ polarization only.

In conclusion, under the conditions where this analysis applies, the extraction of invariant phases in three-beam interactions when F_H is large and F_L is very small is not straightforward as long as the asymmetry of the modified absorption terms is not negligible. More generally, the extent to which phase-sensitive contributions control the observable asymmetry in any particular interaction may play a role in the discussion of experimental results under these conditions (*e.g.* Post & Ladell, 1985).

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Lattice complexes and limiting complexes *versus* orbit types and non-characteristic orbits: a comparative discussion. Erratum.

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Abstract

In the paper by Koch & Fischer [*Acta Cryst.* (1985), **A41**, 421-426] the words 'or more' are missing on p. 423 (left column, sixth line from bottom). The sentence should read: Then the point configurations of the intersection form another lattice complex or, in very exceptional cases, two or more other lattice complexes (for a proof see Koch, 1974).

All information is given in the *Abstract*.

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