

SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

Contributions intended for publication under this heading should be expressly so marked; they should not exceed about 1000 words; they should be forwarded in the usual way to the appropriate Co-editor; they will be published as speedily as possible.

Acta Cryst. (1989). A45, 347

On integrating the techniques of direct methods with anomalous dispersion: the one-phase structure seminvariants in the monoclinic and orthorhombic systems. I. Theoretical background. Erratum.

By D. VELMURUGAN and HERBERT H. HAUPTMAN, *Medical Foundation of Buffalo, Inc., 73 High Street, Buffalo, New York 14203-1196, USA*

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Abstract

There are two errors in the paper by Velmurugan & Hauptman [*Acta Cryst.* (1989), A45, 158-163]. In equation (3.3), A should read

$$A = 8RR^2_K \bar{R}^2_K [C_2(C_{12} + C_{\bar{1}2}) + S_2(S_{12} + S_{\bar{1}2})],$$

and in Table 1, the third row and second column should read

$$R_1 = |E_{\bar{h}\bar{k}l}|.$$

All relevant information is given in the *Abstract*.

International Union of Crystallography

Acta Cryst. (1989). A45, 347

Discontinuation of free offprints

In view of substantial losses suffered by the Union on offprints for articles published in *Acta Crystallographica*, the Executive Committee of the Union in consultation with the Editorial Board has reluctantly decided to discontinue the provision of free offprints to authors for articles published in Section C and not to provide free offprints for articles published in the Fast Communications section of Section A. Authors may still purchase offprints if they wish. The provision of free offprints to authors will continue for

articles published in Section B, for articles other than those in the Fast Communications section of Section A, and for articles published in the *Journal of Applied Crystallography*.

The Executive Committee took note of the fact that in Section C nearly all the articles are only two or three pages and without half-tone illustrations, whilst the Fast Communications articles are even shorter, and authors may photocopy their articles instead of ordering offprints. Furthermore, individual readers of *Acta Crystallographica* and the *Journal of Applied Crystallography*, and non-profit libraries acting for them, are permitted to make 'fair use' of the material in the journals, such as to copy an article for use in teaching or research.

Book Reviews

Works intended for notice in this column should be sent direct to the Book-Review Editor (R. O. Gould, Department of Chemistry, University of Edinburgh, West Mains Road, Edinburgh EH9 3JJ, Scotland). As far as practicable books will be reviewed in a country different from that of publication.

Acta Cryst. (1989). A45, 347-348

Thermotropic liquid crystals. (Critical reports on applied chemistry, Vol. 22.) Edited by G. W. GRAY. Pp. xii+178. Chichester, England and New York, USA: John Wiley and Sons, 1987. Price £38.

Thermotropic liquid crystals, fundamentals. (Springer series in chemical physics, Vol. 45.) By G. W. VERTOGEN and W. H. DE JEU. Pp. xi+324. Berlin: Springer-Verlag, 1987. Price DM 134.

Both of these books deal with thermotropic liquid crystals, but they address different audiences. The book edited by

Gray introduces liquid crystals to those unfamiliar with the diverse terminology and concepts of the field. It is addressed especially to chemists, and it enumerates the great advances that have been made in understanding and utilizing liquid crystals since the advent of liquid-crystal commercial devices two decades ago. The six authors and the editor continually relate the commercial applications of liquid-crystal compounds and mixtures to the basic molecular structures. The book is fascinating reading as it explains the various liquid-crystalline displays in use and under development. The explanations as to how twisted nematics are used in liquid-crystal displays (LCD's) in watches and calculators and how encapsulated cholesterics are used to non-invasively measure temperatures of rooms are both interesting and informative.