

## International Union of Crystallography

### Commission on Crystallographic Apparatus

#### *Microdensitometer intensity project*

Microdensitometers are now widely used to measure the intensities of reflexions from single crystals, particularly where large unit cells are concerned. The Commission on Crystallographic Apparatus has decided to make a study of the performance of existing instruments, similar to that undertaken some years ago for single-crystal diffractometers.

All crystallographers using microdensitometers are cordially invited to take part in the project. Though the main aim is to evaluate automatic instruments, laboratories with manual densitometers can also participate.

Two sets of screened non-integrated precession films containing reflexions with two different spot sizes will be

distributed. Each set contains two films with different exposure times. Thus each participant will have to measure four films. The film sets will be circulated as long as they – after inspection – are considered to be undamaged. A standard scale exposed on a film of the same batch will be provided.

The results of the measurements shall be delivered on cards in the form of centred  $x$ ,  $y$  coordinates, indices, integrated intensities and if possible, estimated intensity errors. In addition scaled intensities from the films with different exposure times should be given.

Crystallographers interested in taking part in the project, should contact the following Commission member: Professor Sixten Abrahamsson, Department of Structural Chemistry, Faculty of Medicine, University of Göteborg, P. O. Box, S-400 33 Göteborg 33, Sweden.

### Notes and News

*Announcements and other items of crystallographic interest will be published under this heading at the discretion of the Editorial Board. The notes (in duplicate) should be sent to the Executive Secretary of the International Union of Crystallography (J. N. King, International Union of Crystallography, 13 White Friars, Chester CH1 1NZ, England).*

#### *Anomalous Scattering*

##### **Errata**

A list of corrections to errors noted in *Anomalous Scattering* (1975), edited by S. Ramaseshan and S. C. Abrahams and published for the International Union of Crystallography

by Munksgaard, Copenhagen has been compiled. As one of the corrections is substantial, readers already possessing a copy are advised to write requesting a list of the errata. Copies are available from Munksgaard International Publishers Ltd., 35 Nørre Søgade, DK-1370 Copenhagen K, Denmark or Polycrystal Book Service, P. O. Box 11567, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15238, U.S.A.

### Book Reviews

*Works intended for notice in this column should be sent direct to the Book-Review Editor (J. H. Robertson, School of Chemistry, University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT, England). As far as practicable books will be reviewed in a country different from that of publication.*

**Structural inorganic chemistry.** By A. F. WELLS. 4th ed. Pp.xxiii + 1095, Figs. 538, Tables 262. Oxford Univ. Press, 1975. Price £25.00.

This book is the fourth edition of a textbook which can certainly be considered the best and most comprehensive among those devoted to structural aspects of inorganic chemistry. With respect to the previous (third) edition, this new one is nearly completely rewritten and is expanded in the description of the geometrical and topological aspects of inorganic crystal structures. This expansion has been achieved not so much by increasing the number of the pages (increase of 40) or by modifying the size and compactness of the printing, which has been left practically the same, but by changing the page size so that there is now room for putting bibliographic references and many figures in the lateral margin, and above all by removing or drastically reducing those chapters and paragraphs more devoted to theoretical aspects or to the chemical-physical properties of compounds. Thus chapters treating the fundamentals of valency theory and experimental methods of structural chemistry, and several paragraphs on physical and chemical properties of elements and compounds have been removed.

The reviewer agrees with these changes because, while it is easy to find more developed and complete treatments of the removed topics in many textbooks on general and physical chemistry, it is not so easy to find other textbooks giving such well developed and exhaustive treatments on geometrical aspects of inorganic crystal structures. These aspects are considered with the same elegant and rational treatment developed by the author in several original papers, and the treatment is much deeper and more extended than that required for a student textbook.

As with the third edition, this one is divided into two parts. Part I is a general introduction having the aim of giving the basis for understanding the principles ruling the structure of inorganic crystals. Part II is a systematic and comparative description of the crystal structures of the main elements and compounds.

Part I, which consists of about a quarter of the whole book (255 pages), begins with an introductory chapter on the solid state where the meaning of the structural formulae for inorganic compounds, the geometrical and topological limitations and the general classification of crystals are considered. The following five chapters deal with symmetry, polyhedra and nets, packing of spheres, tetrahedral and