In both these structures there are two crystallographically different $M^{2+}(H_2O)_6$ octahedra in special positions, and in each structure only one out of the two octahedra is of the type reported for the nickel sulfate hydrates.

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Short Communications

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The symmetry of phases in the reciprocal lattice. A correction.

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The criticism of the paper by Jeffery (1963) contained in the penultimate two paragraphs of Bertaut's (1964) note on the above subject is invalid, since it rests on a misreading of the original paper.

The error is due to the fact that in the relation between the phase α_{hkl} and the symmetry-related phase $\alpha_{h'k'l'}$, Bertaut (1964) writes α_{hkl} as the dependent variable on the L.H.S., whereas Jeffery (1963) writes $\alpha_{h'k'l'}$ (see his first equation) in this position.

The actual statement in the tables (Jeffery, 1963) is not

$$\alpha_{hkl}=\alpha_{\bar{h}kl}+3(\pi/2)l$$

as misread by Bertaut (1964), but should be read

$$\alpha_{\bar{h}kl}=\alpha_{hkl}+3(\pi/2)l$$

in conformity with Bertaut's result.

The final conclusion is that Buerger's early geometrical method (1949) used in Jeffery's (1963) paper and the algebraic method (Bertaut, 1964) yield the same results, as would be expected.

The opportunity is taken to correct a minor misprint in Jeffery's paper. Under *Application to the tetragonal space groups* (p. 1239) the L.H.S. of the four equations should be $\alpha_{\bar{h}kl}$ *not* $\alpha_{\bar{h}kl}$.

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