Status of Volume A: Space-group Symmetry

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Volume A treats space groups and their applications in all fields of crystallographic research and teaching. The subject matter is presented in three parts of different length and complexity:

(i) Central core of the volume are the plane-group and space-group tabulations in Parts 6 and 7 (620 pages, two pages per group).

(ii) The first 90 pages (Parts 1 to 5) contain definitions, guides to the tables and *practical* hints for the use of the space-group data on a level corresponding to an *elementary* textbook. These parts, as well as 24 selected space-group examples, also form the "*Brief Teaching Edition of Volume A*", which is intended as a brief, inexpensive tool for class-room teaching.

(iii) The final 180 pages of text (Parts 8 to 15) are of a much higher *theoretical* level and in some places correspond to an *advanced* text book of crystallographic symmetry.

The first edition of Volume A was published in 1983, of the Teaching Edition in 1985. The fifth revised editions of both volumes appeared in 2002. These editions are based completely on electronic files, both for tables and text (*c.f. Foreword to the Fifth Edition*). A corrected reprint of the fifth edition, as well as an on-line version, of Vol. A are in preparation and scheduled for 2005.

In order to honor two deceased authors of Volume A and their contributions, two special topics will be briefly discussed: (1) P. M. de Wolff (Delft): Reduced bases and lattice characters; (2) E. F. Bertaut (Grenoble): Extended Hermann-Mauguin space-group symbols and subgroups.

Keywords: space groups, symmetry, International Tables