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THE AMERICAN MINERALOGIST, VOL. 52, SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER, 1967

A TECHNIQUE FOR USING TWINS IN CRYSTAL STRUCTURE REFINEMENT

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If the crystal structure of a compound is known and a twin must be used for refinement of the structure, then the twinning relation can be used to interpret the observed intensity values. The problem becomes the task of calculating the crystal-volume ratio, which may be defined as the ratio $K = V_{\beta}/V_{\alpha}$ of the volume V_{β} of the smaller crystal to the volume V_{α} of the larger crystal, $0 < K < 1$. If the twin produces two sets of reflections, each set self-consistent within its own indexing, then the crystal-volume ratio can be calculated by direct comparison of equivalent reflections from each set. If the two twinned crystals produce reflections that are superimposed on each other, then a least-squares solution can be employed as described below. This method has been used successfully (Freed and Peacor, 1967) for a case which yielded the value $K = 0.07$.

Let v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n be the volume fractions of the n constituent crystals in the twin, so that $\sum_{i=1}^n v_i = 1$. For a given reflection hkl the intensities will be v_1I, v_2I, \dots, v_nI , where I stands for $I(hkl)$, the intensity contributed by a volume equal to the total volume $\sum v_i$ of the twin. In a two crystal twin, the fractions will be v and $(1-v)$, and the crystal-volume ratio can be expressed $K = (1-v)/v$.

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Calling, as above, α and β the two crystals in the twin, an observed intensity, I , would be the sum of the intensity vI of the reflection from individual α , and the intensity $(1-v)I$ of the superimposed reflection from individual β . Then if X and x represent the indices of reflections superimposed by the twin law, and if we index the total intensity to correspond to the larger crystal, we have:

$$vI_X + (1 - v)I_x = I_X \quad (1)$$

$$vI_x + (1 - v)I_X = I_x \quad (2)$$

These equations may be combined to give:

$$vI_X = [(v^2)/(2v - 1)]I_X - [v(1 - v)/2v - 1]I_x \quad (3)$$

where vI_X is the desired intensity value.

In order to simplify equation (3), we will define $K_1 = (v^2)/(2v - 1)$, and $K_2 = v(1 - v)/(2v - 1)$. It should be noted at this point that $K_2/K_1 = (1 - v)/v$, which is the crystal-volume ratio. Equation (3) can be written:

$$vI_X = K_1I_X - K_2I_x \quad (3a)$$

Least-squares techniques can be applied to equation (3a) as follows:

$$\gamma = K_1I_X - K_2I_x - vI_X$$

$$\Sigma\gamma^2 = \Sigma(K_1I_X - K_2I_x - vI_X)^2 = \text{minimum.} \quad (4)$$

Taking the partial derivatives of $\Sigma\gamma^2$ with respect to K_1 and K_2 and setting the resulting expressions equal to zero gives:

$$K_1\Sigma I_X^2 - K_2\Sigma I_X I_x = \Sigma I_X v I_X \quad (5a)$$

$$K_1\Sigma I_X I_x - K_2\Sigma I_x^2 = \Sigma I_x v I_X \quad (5b)$$

Equations (5a) and (5b) may be solved for K_1 and K_2 . Therefore, a value for the crystal-volume ratio, $K = K_2/K_1$, can be obtained in terms of the original intensity values and approximate vI_X values initially obtained from structure factor calculations.

The procedure during refinement is to start with the original observed intensity values and approximate values for the vI_X terms, and use the least-squares equations to calculate K_1 and K_2 . Equation (3a) is then used to find new vI_X values which are used in the structure refinement. The structure is refined, a list of calculated structure factors is generated, and these calculated values are then used as new approximate vI_X values. Care should be taken to ensure that the approximate vI_X values used in each cycle of refinement are scaled to the same level. This procedure results in two additional variables being refined (K_1 and K_2), and this must

be considered when using a small number of reflections, and also in the interpretation of the residual, R .

Some other practical considerations are involved in the use of this method. If the twinning can be optically observed, then it may be impossible to apply an adequate absorption correction. If the twinning cannot be observed optically, then the twin "domains" are small, which indicates that an acceptable absorption correction can be applied by treating the twin as a single crystal. The refinement of values of K other than 0.07 has not been tested, and it is not known how difficult it would be to refine structures as K approaches 1.0. Errors in K_1 and K_2 will affect the "Wilson" scale factor, and, therefore, also the calculated temperature factors. Ideally, errors in K_1 and K_2 should be taken into consideration when errors in final parameters are interpreted.

Keffer *et al.*, (1967) used a twin for refinement of the crystal structure of low-temperature lithium phosphate. Their approach was similar to the method outlined above in that unequal volume fractions of two crystals were present in the twin. However, because they were dealing with twinning on a unit-cell scale, there were coherent phase relations between the diffracted beams from the two twinned crystals; therefore, amplitudes rather than intensities were added. (See also Clark *et al.*, 1966.)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The writer is indebted to Profs. Donald R. Peacor and Christer E. Nordman of the University of Michigan for their helpful advice and discussions. Dr. Jack Zussman of Oxford University kindly reviewed the manuscript. Prof. J. D. H. Donnay of the Johns Hopkins University is thanked for his very helpful critical review of the original manuscript.

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