# Orthorhombic symmetry and anisotropic properties of rutile TiO2

## N. Gonzalez Szwacki1, P. Fabrykiewicz2,3, I. Sosnowska1, F. Fauth4, E. Suard5, R. Przeniosło1

### 1Faculty of Physics, University of Warsaw, Pasteura 5,02-093 Warsaw, Poland, 2Institute of Crystallography, RWTH Aachen University, Jägerstr. 17-19, 52066 Aachen, Germany, 3Jülich Centre for Neutron Science at Heinz Maier-Leibnitz Zentrum, Forschungszentrum Jülich GmbH, Lichtenbergstr. 1, 85747 Garching, Germany, 4CELLS-ALBA, Carrer de la Llum 2-26, Cerdanyola del Vallés, ES-08290 Barcelona, Spain, 5Institut Laue-Langevin, 71 avenue des Martyrs, F-38042 Grenoble, France

### radek@fuw.edu.pl

The symmetry of the material is an important factor determining its properties. In this work [1], we demonstrate both experimentally and by numerical simulations that the actual symmetry of the rutile phase of TiO2 is orthorhombic, described by the space group *Pnnm*, see Fig. 1, in contrast to the commonly held view that rutile TiO2 has a tetragonal symmetry, described by the space group *P42/mnm* [2, 3]. We present very precise first-principles calculations for the determination of the structural properties of rutile TiO2 and highlight the relevance of using the revised regularized SCAN meta-GGA density functional for the interpretation and analysis of neutron and synchrotron radiation diffraction measurements. The symmetry lowering has a small but not negligible influence on the elastic, vibrational, and optical properties of rutile TiO2. The symmetry breaking observed for TiO2 is similar to that reported for β-PbO2 [4].



**Figure 1.** Schematic view of the *Pnnm* TiO2 unit cell along the *c*-axis.
Note the correlation of the oxygen atom position with the unit cell parameters.

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