

## The attempt to destroy the cube's symmetries

s.d.a. ... = symmetrically disposed about ...

# = single introduced cube

3-axis = axis of rotation symmetry order 3, etc.

mirror = plane of symmetry

| 2-COLOUR CUBE<br>ARRANGEMENTS<br>IN<br>2 x 2 x 2 CUBE                                                                                                                                                       |     | How cubes arranged with respect to symmetry elements |                            |                                           |                        |                        |                    |                        |                                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                             |     | s.d.a. a<br>diagonal<br>mirror                       | on a<br>diagonal<br>mirror | s.d.a. an<br>edge-<br>bisecting<br>mirror | s.d.a.<br>a 2-<br>axis | s.d.a.<br>a 3-<br>axis | on<br>a 3-<br>axis | s.d.a.<br>a 4-<br>axis | distinguishing<br>feature: cubes<br>share ... |
| Number<br>of cubes of<br>second colour<br>and their<br>coded<br>arrangement<br><br>'3a' means<br>a cube has been<br>added<br>to '2a', etc.<br><br>The resulting<br>tree is helpful<br><i>but not unique</i> | 1   |                                                      | #                          |                                           |                        |                        | #                  |                        |                                               |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 2a  |                                                      | ##                         |                                           |                        |                        | ##                 |                        | a space<br>diagonal                           |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 2b  |                                                      | ##                         | ##                                        | ##                     |                        |                    |                        | an edge                                       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 2c  |                                                      | ##                         |                                           |                        |                        |                    | ##                     | a face<br>diagonal                            |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 3a  |                                                      | ###                        |                                           |                        |                        |                    |                        |                                               |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 3b  | ##                                                   | #                          |                                           |                        |                        |                    |                        | a face                                        |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 3c  |                                                      |                            |                                           |                        | ###                    |                    |                        |                                               |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 4a  |                                                      |                            |                                           | ####                   |                        |                    |                        |                                               |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 4b1 |                                                      | ####                       |                                           | ####                   |                        |                    | ####                   |                                               |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 4b2 | ##                                                   | ##                         |                                           |                        | ###                    | #                  |                        |                                               |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 4b3 | ##                                                   | ##                         |                                           |                        |                        |                    | ####                   | a face                                        |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 4c  | ##                                                   | ##                         |                                           |                        | ###                    | #                  |                        | no<br>edges                                   |

Observations:

1. Every cube lies at a vertex, on an edge, on a face.
2. Every cube lies on a diagonal mirror and a 3-axis.
3. No cube lies on a 2-axis, a 4-axis or an edge-bisecting mirror.
4. There is no need to go beyond 4 introduced cubes because doing so simply reverses the colours.