

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

	PAGE
Elastic Constants of Quartz. BY B. RAMACHANDRA RAO	17
The Distribution of the Mean of Samples from a Rectangular Population BY P. V. KRISHNA IYER	18
New Bands of the H ₂ Br Molecule. BY K. R. RAO AND G. V. S. RAMACHANDRA RAO	19
Magnetism of Germanium. BY S. RAMACHANDRA RAO	19
A New Method of Designing Packed Columns. BY J. SIMON	20

	PAGE
A New Anti-Snake-Venom Serum. BY A. K. HAZRA, D. C. LAHIRI AND S. S. SOKHEY	20
Thermal Reactions of Iron Pyrites. BY B. S. OGALE AND K. R. KRISHNASWAMI	21
Influence of Carbohydrate to Nitrogen Ratio on the Formation of Diastase by <i>Aspergillus oryzae</i> . BY A. N. BINDAL AND M. SREENIVASAYA	21
Ergot and Sphaecelial Stages on Some Wild Grasses in Mysore. BY M. J. THIRUMALACHAR	22
Anomalous Vegetative Reproduction by Cuttings in <i>Ficus religiosa</i> Linn. BY G. A. KAPADIA	23

ELASTIC CONSTANTS OF QUARTZ

The elastic constants of quartz have been determined by Voigt¹ by static methods, and by Atanasoff and Hart² by dynamical methods employing high frequencies. Various oriented quartz plates were used by these authors. In the present investigation, the phenomenon of the diffraction of light by ultrasonic waves set up in liquids has been utilized for detecting the resonant frequencies of the piezoelectrically-driven plates of quartz.

Quartz (point group D_{3d}) has six elastic constants. The velocities of propagation of a sound wave in a direction normal to the face of an X-cut plate are the roots of

$$(C_{11} - \rho c^2)(C_{66} - \rho c^2)(C_{44} - \rho c^2) - C_{14}^2 = 0 \quad (1)$$

The linear mode corresponds to a longitudinal vibration which gives intense diffraction patterns if the plates are silvered uniformly and these are used for evaluating C₁₁. The quadratic form represents two more complicated modes one of which can be made to appear when the plates are unsymmetrically silvered. Similarly the velocities in a direction normal to a Y-cut plate are the roots of

$$(C_{66} - \rho c^2)(C_{11} - \rho c^2 - C_{44} - \rho c^2 - C_{14}^2) = 0 \quad (2)$$

The linear factor comes out as an independent factor even when fully silvered plates are used and yields C₁₁. From the relation C₆₆ = (C₁₁ - C₁₂)/2, C₁₂ may be calculated. The coupled modes corresponding to the quadratic factor in (2) are excited by adopting unsymmetrical silvering. Solving the quadratic factors of (1) and (2), the constants C₁₁ and C₁₂ are evaluated. For a plate cut with its normal in the YZ plane and making an angle of 45° with the Z axis, the velocities of propagation will be the roots of

$$\begin{aligned} & \{C_{44} - C_{66} - 2C_{14} - \rho c^2\} \{C_{11} - C_{12} - C_{44} - \rho c^2\} \\ & \times \{C_{66} - C_{11} - \rho c^2\} + C_{14}^2 - C_{12}^2 - C_{44}^2 = 0 \quad (3) \end{aligned}$$

The quadratic factor contains two modes excited by unsymmetrical silvering and one of them is used for evaluating C₁₂. In evaluating the constant C₁₂, a Z-cut plate is taken and the method of transmission evolved in this laboratory and described in a previous paper³ is employed. A consideration of the modes left out in the above calculations furnishes two or three additional checks. The results thus obtained have been corrected for the forces arising from the polarization produced by the vibrations as pointed out by Lawson⁴ and the corrected values along with those of Voigt (static) and Atanasoff (dynamic) are given below:

Elastic Constants of Quartz

	Author	Voigt	Atanasoff
C ₁₁	86.04	86.82	86.75
C ₁₂	6.96	7.00	6.87
C ₄₄	57.42	58.23	57.86
C ₁₃	15.60	14.38	14.70
C ₁₄	107.80	107.45	106.80
C ₁₄	17.43	17.15	17.06

Agreement is satisfactory in respect of all the constants except C₁₂. In this case Atanasoff used an orientation which results in a very complicated expression and a large correction. The discrepancy is probably due to this.

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1. Voigt, W., *Lehrbuch der Kristallphysik*, 1928.
2. Atanasoff, J. V., and Hart, P. J., *Phys. Rev.*, 1941, **59**, 86.
3. Ramachandram, S., and Ramaseshachari, L., *Proc. Ind. Acad. Sci.*, 1944, **20**, 208.
4. Lawson, *Phys. Rev.*, 1941, **59**, 838.