

THE ATOMIC ARRANGEMENT IN GLASS

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1. Introduction

It must be frankly admitted that we know practically nothing about the atomic arrangement in glasses. Glasses are described as supercooled liquids or as solids. The former term is justifiable from the point of view of physical chemistry, the latter from the theory of elasticity. It seems rather futile, however, to try to decide which of the two descriptions is the proper one to use, when we are ignorant about the characteristic properties of the atomic arrangement.

- network-forming systems ($\text{SiO}_2, \text{GeO}_2, \text{B}_2\text{O}_3$) → continuous random network
- close-packed systems (metalli, colloidi, polimeri) → random close packing
- frustrazione geometrica → struttura localmente preferita

Periodic Table of the Elements

1 1A 1A	2 IIA 2A											13 IIIA 3A	14 IVA 4A	15 VA 5A	16 VIA 6A	17 VIIA 7A	18 VIIIA 8A
1 1.008 H Hydrogen 1 1s ¹																	2 4.003 He Helium 2 1s ²
3 6.941 Li Lithium 2.1 [He]2s ¹	4 9.012 Be Beryllium 2.2 [He]2s ²											5 10.811 B Boron 2.3 [He]2s ² 2p ¹	6 12.011 C Carbon 2.4 [He]2s ² 2p ²	7 14.007 N Nitrogen 2.5 [He]2s ² 2p ³	8 15.999 O Oxygen 2.6 [He]2s ² 2p ⁴	9 18.998 F Fluorine 2.7 [He]2s ² 2p ⁵	10 20.180 Ne Neon 2.8 [He]2s ² 2p ⁶
11 22.990 Na Sodium 2.8 [Ne]3s ¹	12 24.305 Mg Magnesium 2.8 [Ne]3s ²											13 26.982 Al Aluminum 2.8 [Ne]3s ² 3p ¹	14 28.086 Si Silicon 2.8 [Ne]3s ² 3p ²	15 30.974 P Phosphorus 2.8 [Ne]3s ² 3p ³	16 32.066 S Sulfur 2.8 [Ne]3s ² 3p ⁴	17 35.453 Cl Chlorine 2.8 [Ne]3s ² 3p ⁵	18 39.948 Ar Argon 2.8 [Ne]3s ² 3p ⁶
19 39.098 K Potassium 2.8 [Ar]4s ¹	20 40.078 Ca Calcium 2.8 [Ar]4s ²	21 44.956 Sc Scandium 2.8 [Ar]3d ¹ 4s ²	22 47.88 Ti Titanium 2.8 [Ar]3d ² 4s ²	23 50.942 V Vanadium 2.8 [Ar]3d ³ 4s ²	24 51.996 Cr Chromium 2.8 [Ar]3d ⁵ 4s ¹	25 54.938 Mn Manganese 2.8 [Ar]3d ⁵ 4s ²	26 55.845 Fe Iron 2.8 [Ar]3d ⁶ 4s ²	27 58.933 Co Cobalt 2.8 [Ar]3d ⁷ 4s ²	28 58.693 Ni Nickel 2.8 [Ar]3d ⁸ 4s ²	29 63.546 Cu Copper 2.8 [Ar]3d ¹⁰ 4s ¹	30 65.38 Zn Zinc 2.8 [Ar]3d ¹⁰ 4s ²	31 69.723 Ga Gallium 2.8 [Ar]3d ¹⁰ 4s ² 4p ¹	32 72.631 Ge Germanium 2.8 [Ar]3d ¹⁰ 4s ² 4p ²	33 74.922 As Arsenic 2.8 [Ar]3d ¹⁰ 4s ² 4p ³	34 78.971 Se Selenium 2.8 [Ar]3d ¹⁰ 4s ² 4p ⁴	35 79.904 Br Bromine 2.8 [Ar]3d ¹⁰ 4s ² 4p ⁵	36 84.798 Kr Krypton 2.8 [Ar]3d ¹⁰ 4s ² 4p ⁶
37 84.468 Rb Rubidium 2.8 [Kr]5s ¹	38 87.62 Sr Strontium 2.8 [Kr]5s ²	39 88.906 Y Yttrium 2.8 [Kr]4d ¹ 5s ²	40 91.224 Zr Zirconium 2.8 [Kr]4d ² 5s ²	41 92.906 Nb Niobium 2.8 [Kr]4d ⁴ 5s ¹	42 95.95 Mo Molybdenum 2.8 [Kr]4d ⁵ 5s ¹	43 98.907 Tc Technetium 2.8 [Kr]4d ⁵ 5s ²	44 101.07 Ru Ruthenium 2.8 [Kr]4d ⁷ 5s ¹	45 102.906 Rh Rhodium 2.8 [Kr]4d ⁸ 5s ¹	46 106.42 Pd Palladium 2.8 [Kr]4d ¹⁰	47 107.868 Ag Silver 2.8 [Kr]4d ¹⁰ 5s ¹	48 112.414 Cd Cadmium 2.8 [Kr]4d ¹⁰ 5s ²	49 114.818 In Indium 2.8 [Kr]4d ¹⁰ 5s ² 5p ¹	50 118.711 Sn Tin 2.8 [Kr]4d ¹⁰ 5s ² 5p ²	51 121.760 Sb Antimony 2.8 [Kr]4d ¹⁰ 5s ² 5p ³	52 127.6 Te Tellurium 2.8 [Kr]4d ¹⁰ 5s ² 5p ⁴	53 126.904 I Iodine 2.8 [Kr]4d ¹⁰ 5s ² 5p ⁵	54 131.29 Xe Xenon 2.8 [Kr]4d ¹⁰ 5s ² 5p ⁶
55 132.905 Cs Cesium 2.8 [Xe]6s ¹	56 137.328 Ba Barium 2.8 [Xe]6s ²	57-71 Lanthanide Series	72 178.49 Hf Hafnium 2.8 [Xe]4f ¹⁴ 5d ² 6s ²	73 180.948 Ta Tantalum 2.8 [Xe]4f ¹⁴ 5d ³ 6s ²	74 183.84 W Tungsten 2.8 [Xe]4f ¹⁴ 5d ⁴ 6s ²	75 186.207 Re Rhenium 2.8 [Xe]4f ¹⁴ 5d ⁵ 6s ²	76 190.23 Os Osmium 2.8 [Xe]4f ¹⁴ 5d ⁶ 6s ²	77 192.217 Ir Iridium 2.8 [Xe]4f ¹⁴ 5d ⁷ 6s ²	78 195.085 Pt Platinum 2.8 [Xe]4f ¹⁴ 5d ⁹ 6s ¹	79 196.967 Au Gold 2.8 [Xe]4f ¹⁴ 5d ¹⁰ 6s ¹	80 200.592 Hg Mercury 2.8 [Xe]4f ¹⁴ 5d ¹⁰ 6s ²	81 204.383 Tl Thallium 2.8 [Xe]4f ¹⁴ 5d ¹⁰ 6s ² 6p ¹	82 207.2 Pb Lead 2.8 [Xe]4f ¹⁴ 5d ¹⁰ 6s ² 6p ²	83 208.980 Bi Bismuth 2.8 [Xe]4f ¹⁴ 5d ¹⁰ 6s ² 6p ³	84 [208.982] Po Polonium 2.8 [Xe]4f ¹⁴ 5d ¹⁰ 6s ² 6p ⁴	85 209.987 At Astatine 2.8 [Xe]4f ¹⁴ 5d ¹⁰ 6s ² 6p ⁵	86 222.018 Rn Radon 2.8 [Xe]4f ¹⁴ 5d ¹⁰ 6s ² 6p ⁶
87 223.020 Fr Francium 2.8 [Rn]7s ¹	88 226.025 Ra Radium 2.8 [Rn]7s ²	89-103 Actinide Series	104 [261] Rf Rutherfordium 2.8 [Rn]5f ¹⁴ 6d ² 7s ²	105 [262] Db Dubnium 2.8 [Rn]5f ¹⁴ 6d ³ 7s ²	106 [266] Sg Seaborgium 2.8 [Rn]5f ¹⁴ 6d ⁴ 7s ²	107 [264] Bh Bohrium 2.8 [Rn]5f ¹⁴ 6d ⁵ 7s ²	108 [269] Hs Hassium 2.8 [Rn]5f ¹⁴ 6d ⁶ 7s ²	109 [268] Mt Meitnerium 2.8 [Rn]5f ¹⁴ 6d ⁷ 7s ²	110 [269] Ds Darmstadtium 2.8 [Rn]5f ¹⁴ 6d ⁸ 7s ²	111 [272] Rg Roentgenium 2.8 [Rn]5f ¹⁴ 6d ⁹ 7s ²	112 [277] Cn Copernicium 2.8 [Rn]5f ¹⁴ 6d ¹⁰ 7s ²	113 unknown Uut Ununtrium 2.8 [Rn]5f ¹⁴ 6d ¹⁰ 7s ² 7p ¹	114 [289] Fl Flerovium 2.8 [Rn]5f ¹⁴ 6d ¹⁰ 7s ² 7p ²	115 unknown Uup Ununpentium 2.8 [Rn]5f ¹⁴ 6d ¹⁰ 7s ² 7p ³	116 [298] Lv Livermorium 2.8 [Rn]5f ¹⁴ 6d ¹⁰ 7s ² 7p ⁴	117 unknown Uus Ununseptium 2.8 [Rn]5f ¹⁴ 6d ¹⁰ 7s ² 7p ⁵	118 unknown Uuo Ununoctium 2.8 [Rn]5f ¹⁴ 6d ¹⁰ 7s ² 7p ⁶

Element symbol represents state at room temperature.

Solid, Liquid or Gas

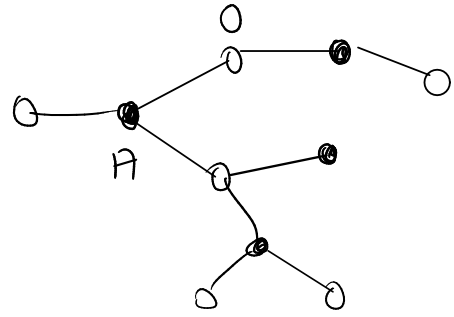
Atomic Number	Atomic Mass
Symbol	
Name	
Electron Shells	
Electron Configuration	

57 138.905 La Lanthanum 2.8 [Xe]5d ¹ 6s ²	58 140.116 Ce Cerium 2.8 [Xe]4f ¹ 5d ¹ 6s ²	59 140.908 Pr Praseodymium 2.8 [Xe]4f ³ 6s ²	60 144.243 Nd Neodymium 2.8 [Xe]4f ⁴ 6s ²	61 144.913 Pm Promethium 2.8 [Xe]4f ⁵ 6s ²	62 150.36 Sm Samarium 2.8 [Xe]4f ⁶ 6s ²	63 151.964 Eu Europium 2.8 [Xe]4f ⁷ 6s ²	64 157.25 Gd Gadolinium 2.8 [Xe]4f ⁷ 5d ¹ 6s ²	65 158.925 Tb Terbium 2.8 [Xe]4f ⁹ 6s ²	66 162.500 Dy Dysprosium 2.8 [Xe]4f ¹⁰ 6s ²	67 164.930 Ho Holmium 2.8 [Xe]4f ¹¹ 6s ²	68 167.259 Er Erbium 2.8 [Xe]4f ¹² 6s ²	69 168.934 Tm Thulium 2.8 [Xe]4f ¹³ 6s ²	70 173.055 Yb Ytterbium 2.8 [Xe]4f ¹⁴ 6s ²	71 174.967 Lu Lutetium 2.8 [Xe]4f ¹⁴ 5d ¹ 6s ²
89 227.028 Ac Actinium 2.8 [Rn]6d ¹ 7s ²	90 232.038 Th Thorium 2.8 [Rn]6d ² 7s ²	91 231.036 Pa Protactinium 2.8 [Rn]5f ² 6d ¹ 7s ²	92 238.029 U Uranium 2.8 [Rn]5f ³ 6d ¹ 7s ²	93 237.048 Np Neptunium 2.8 [Rn]5f ⁴ 6d ¹ 7s ²	94 244.064 Pu Plutonium 2.8 [Rn]5f ⁶ 7s ²	95 243.061 Am Americium 2.8 [Rn]5f ⁷ 7s ²	96 247.070 Cm Curium 2.8 [Rn]5f ⁷ 6d ¹ 7s ²	97 247.070 Bk Berkelium 2.8 [Rn]5f ⁹ 7s ²	98 251.080 Cf Californium 2.8 [Rn]5f ¹⁰ 7s ²	99 [254] Es Einsteinium 2.8 [Rn]5f ¹¹ 7s ²	100 257.095 Fm Fermium 2.8 [Rn]5f ¹² 7s ²	101 258.1 Md Mendelevium 2.8 [Rn]5f ¹³ 7s ²	102 259.101 No Nobelium 2.8 [Rn]5f ¹⁴ 7s ²	103 [262] Lr Lawrencium 2.8 [Rn]5f ¹⁴ 6d ¹ 7s ²

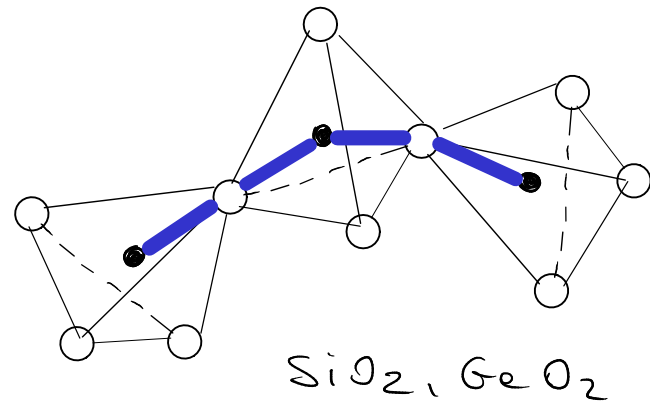
- Alkali Metal
- Alkaline Earth
- Transition Metal
- Basic Metal
- Metalloid
- Nonmetal
- Halogen
- Noble Gas
- Lanthanide
- Actinide

Network-forming glasses

1932 Zachariasen $\rightarrow A_n O_m$



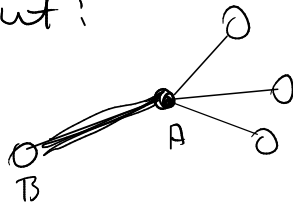
$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} x_o \\ x_A \end{array} \right.$ concentrazioni $1 = x_A + x_o$
 $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} z_o \\ z_A \end{array} \right.$ n. coordinazioni



ES: z_A, z_B fissati
 $x_A, x_B = 1 - x_A$ tali
 che network connesso?

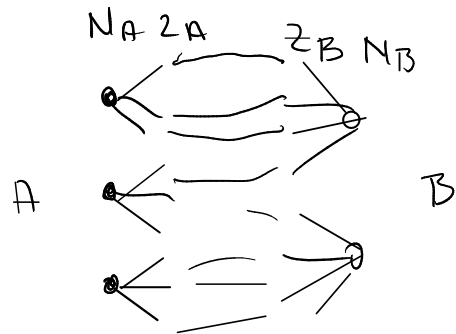
$$x_A z_A = x_B z_B$$

Hint:



$$N_b \frac{1}{z_A} = N_B$$

$$N_b \frac{1}{z_B} = N_A$$



$$z_{Si} = 4, z_o = 2$$

$$4 x_{Si} = (1 - x_{Si}) 2 \rightarrow 6 x_{Si} = 2 \rightarrow x_{Si} = 1/3 \rightarrow x_o = 2/3$$

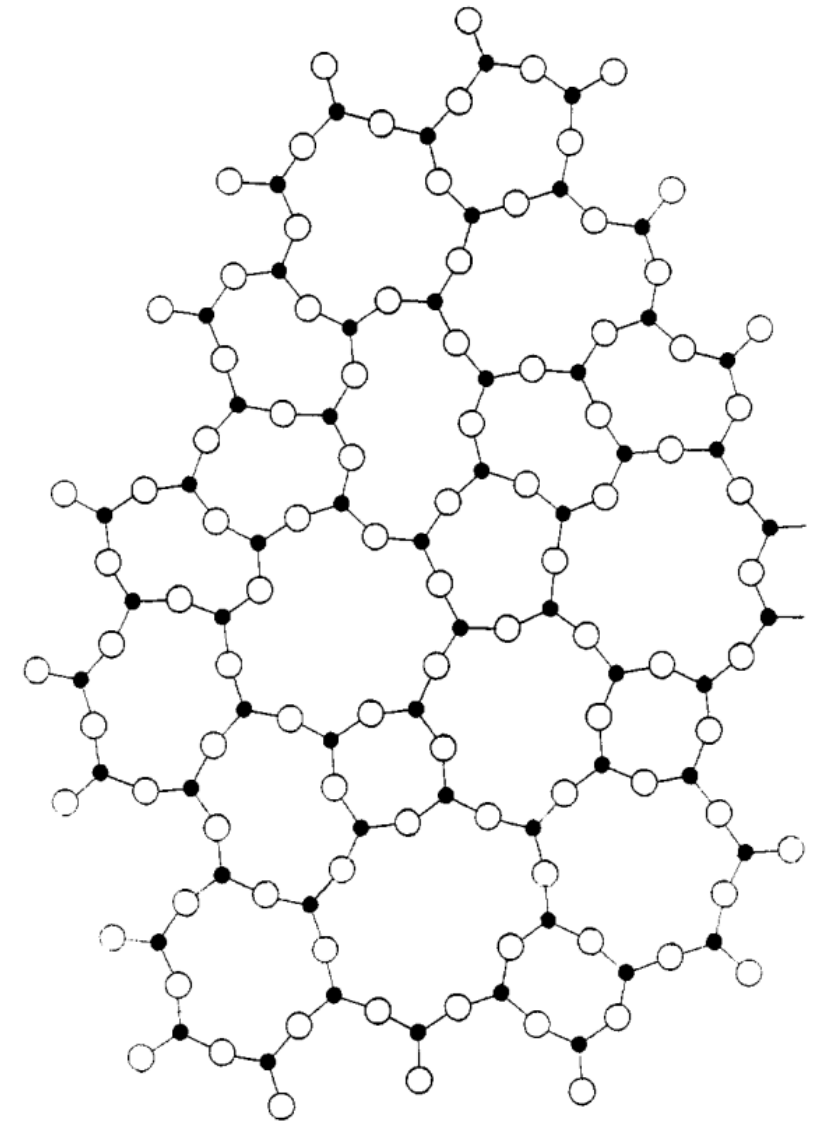
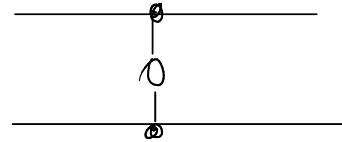
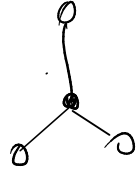


Fig. 1b.

Zachariasen 1932

ES: Ge + Se
 As + Se

Silice 2d $\Rightarrow x_n = ? \quad x_0 = ?$

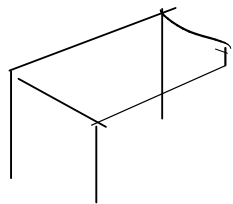


$$\begin{cases} z_n = 3 \\ z_0 = 2 \end{cases}$$

Teoria della rigidità

- 1) Gupta - Cooper (1978) \sim Zachariasen
- 2) Phillips - Thorpe (1979) \sim bonds

Idea: rigidità "minimale" \rightarrow glass-forming ability
ISOSTATICITÀ



$n = 2$ instabile
 $n = 3$ stabile marginale / isostaticità
 $n = 4$ stabile

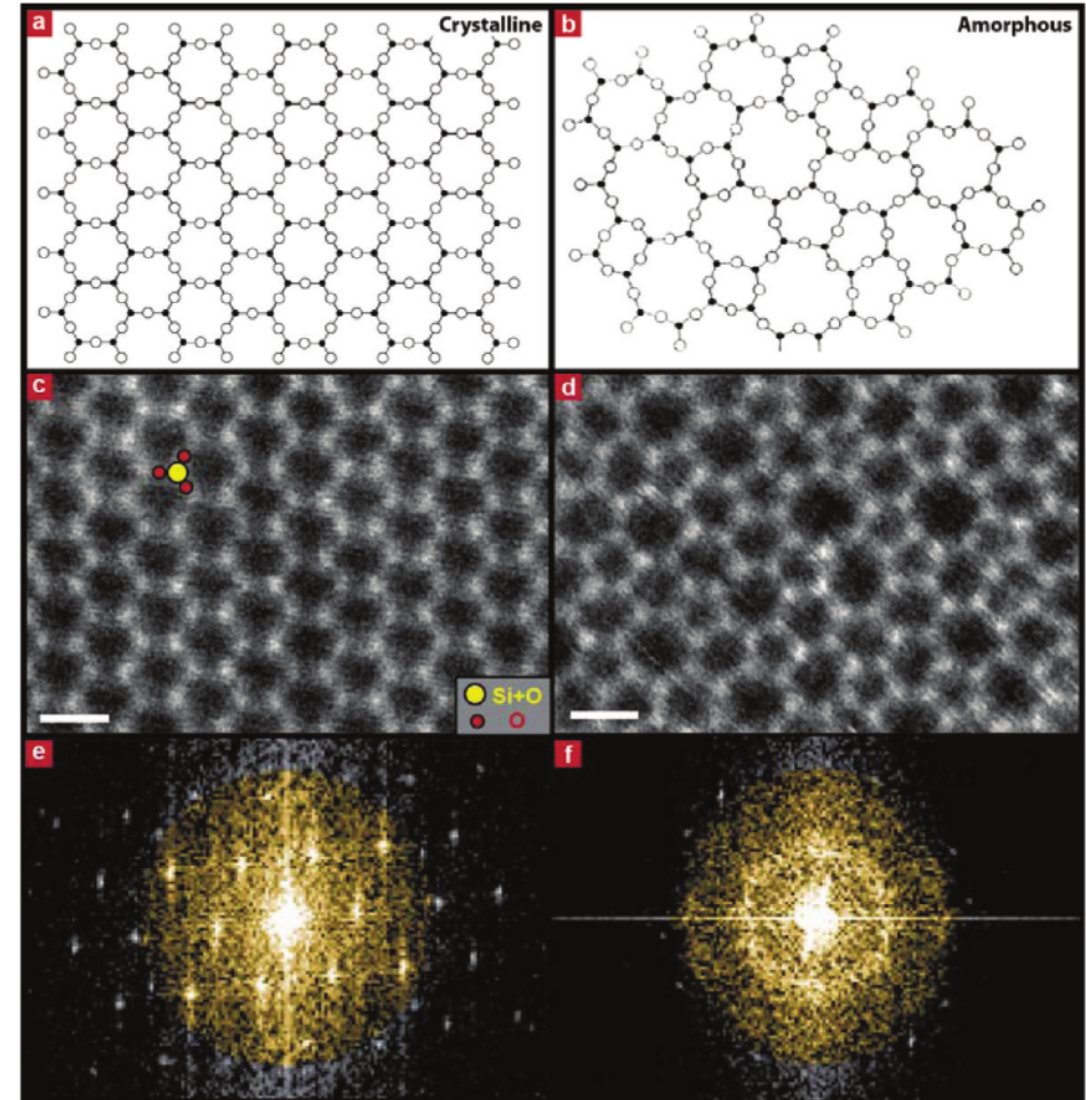
Criterio di Maxwell: isostaticità se

$$n. \text{ gradi libertà} = n. \text{ vincoli}$$

Direct Imaging of a Two-Dimensional Silica Glass on Graphene

Pinshane Y. Huang,^{†,■} Simon Kurasch,^{‡,■} Anchal Srivastava,^{§,○} Viera Skakalova,^{§,||} Jani Kotakoski,^{||,⊥}
 Arkady V. Krashennnikov,^{⊥,||} Robert Hovden,[†] Qingyun Mao,[†] Jannik C. Meyer,^{‡,||} Jurgen Smet,[§]
 David A. Muller,^{*,†,□} and Ute Kaiser^{*,‡}

Nano Lett. 2012, 12, 1081–1086



$T=0$ fisso distanza legame + angoli tra 2 legami

$z_\alpha \rightarrow$ legami specie α

$$N_v = \sum_{\alpha} N_{\alpha} \frac{z_{\alpha}}{2} + N_{\alpha} (2z_{\alpha} - 3) \rightarrow n_v = \sum_{\alpha} x_{\alpha} \left(\frac{z_{\alpha}}{2} + 2z_{\alpha} - 3 \right)$$

$$\langle z \rangle = \sum_{\alpha} x_{\alpha} z_{\alpha}$$

$$n_v = \frac{\langle z \rangle}{2} + 2\langle z \rangle - 3$$

Condizione Maxwell $N \rightarrow \infty$

$$3N = N n_v + 6 \approx N n_v \Rightarrow n_v = 3 \quad (3d)$$

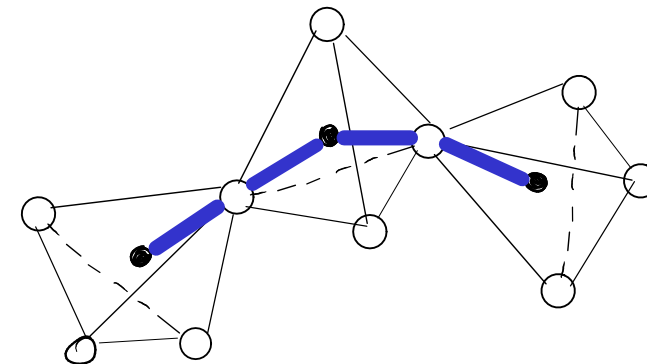
$$\frac{\langle z \rangle}{2} + 2\langle z \rangle = 6$$

$$\frac{5}{2} \langle z \rangle = 6$$

$$\langle z \rangle = \frac{12}{5} = 2.4 \quad (MF) \rightarrow \text{SiO}_2, \text{GeO}_2$$

Es: SiO_2

$$\langle z \rangle = \frac{1}{3} 4 + \frac{2}{3} 2 = \frac{8}{3} \approx 2.4$$



Close-packed glasses

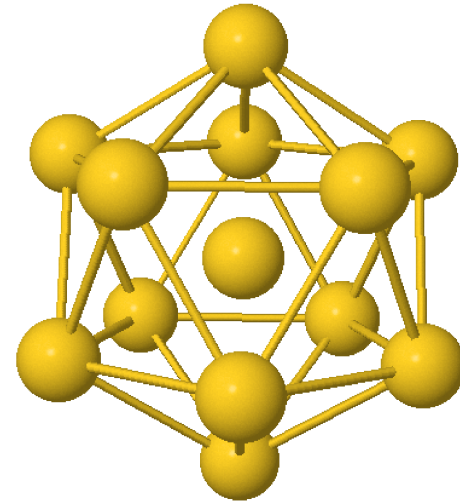
SUPERCOOLING OF LIQUIDS

1952

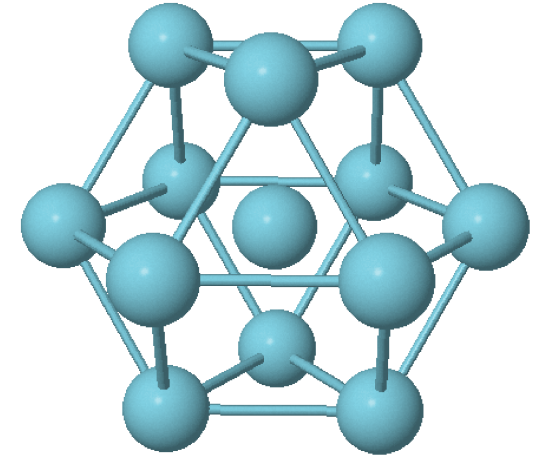
BY F. C. FRANK

H. H. Wills Physics Laboratory, Bristol University

I shall concentrate upon reviewing the important recent change in our appreciation of the facts of supercooling which has been brought about particularly by the work of Turnbull at the General Electric Research Laboratory in Schenectady. I suppose that most of us, talking about supercooling a couple of years ago, would have divided substances into two classes, one with simple crystal structures like gold, and all the other 'good' metals on the one hand, and those with complex crystal structures, such as glycerol and the silicates on the other; saying that whereas the latter class can be very much supercooled, and will form glasses, the former class can only be supercooled a very few degrees. Then we would have added that there are some 'bad' metals, with moderately complex crystal structures, such as antimony or bismuth, which can be supercooled some tens of degrees, forming an intermediate class.

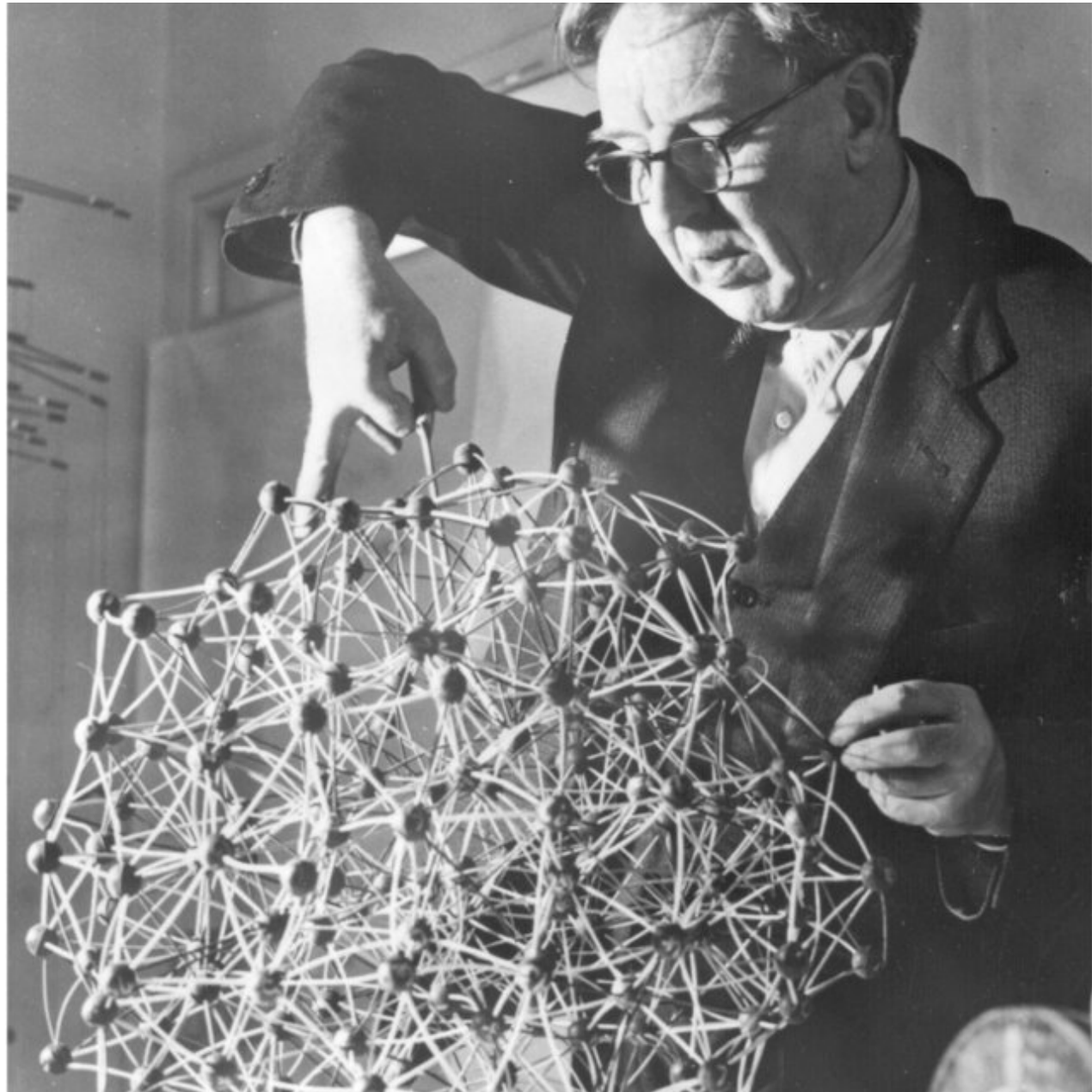


icosaedro



FCC

→ frustrazione geometrica



Bernal 1964

Tassellarioue di Voronoi

→ Wigner-Seitz

cella 3d \equiv poliedro

f : n. facce di un poliedro

p : n. vertici di qui faccia

$$\bar{f} = \frac{12}{6 - \bar{p}}$$

(f_3, f_4, f_5, \dots)

Random close packing

Congettura Eulero: $\phi_{FCC} = 0.74$

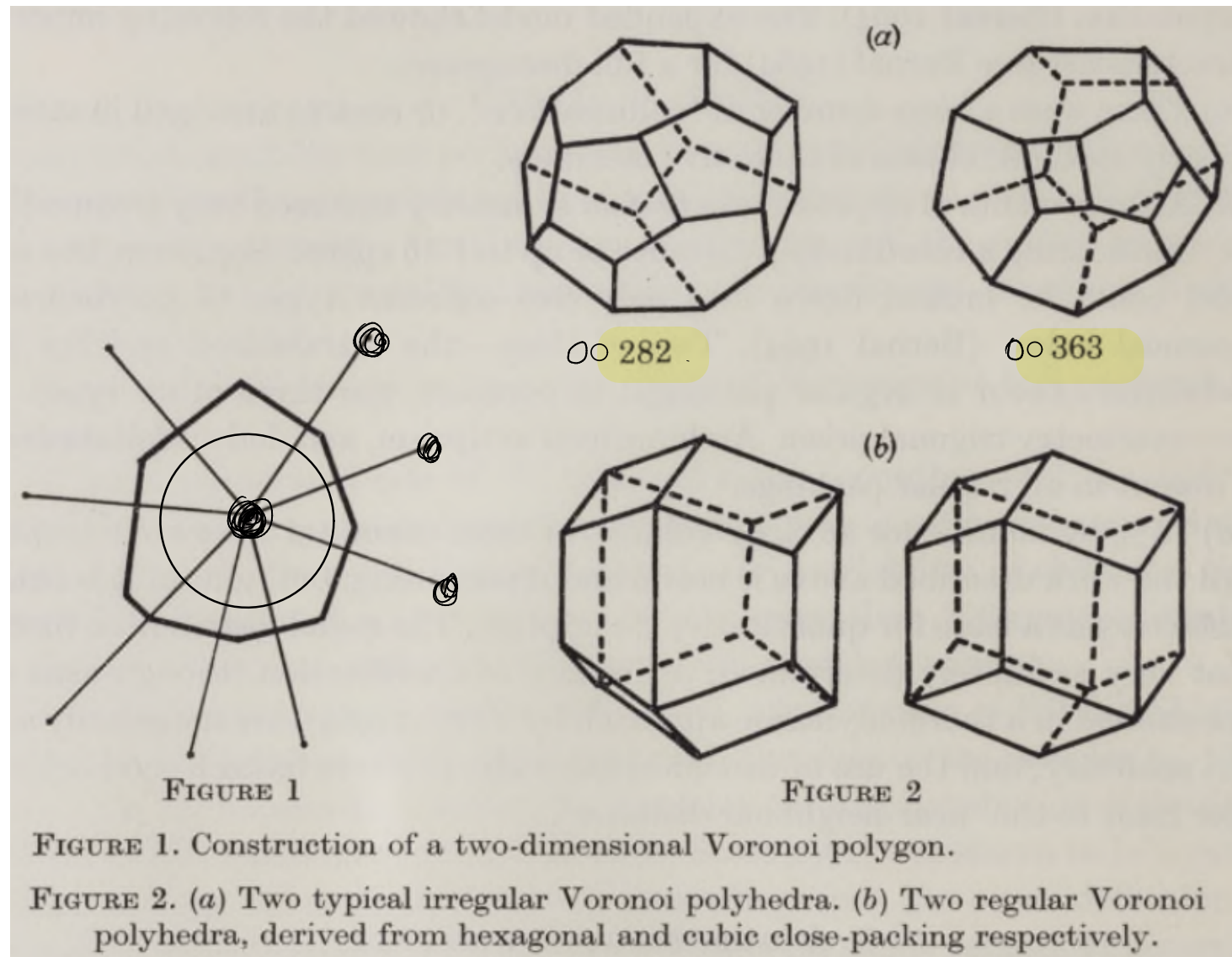
$\phi_{RCP} \approx 0.64 - 0.68$

Packing isostatici: $dN = \frac{1}{2} Nz$

$$z = 2d$$

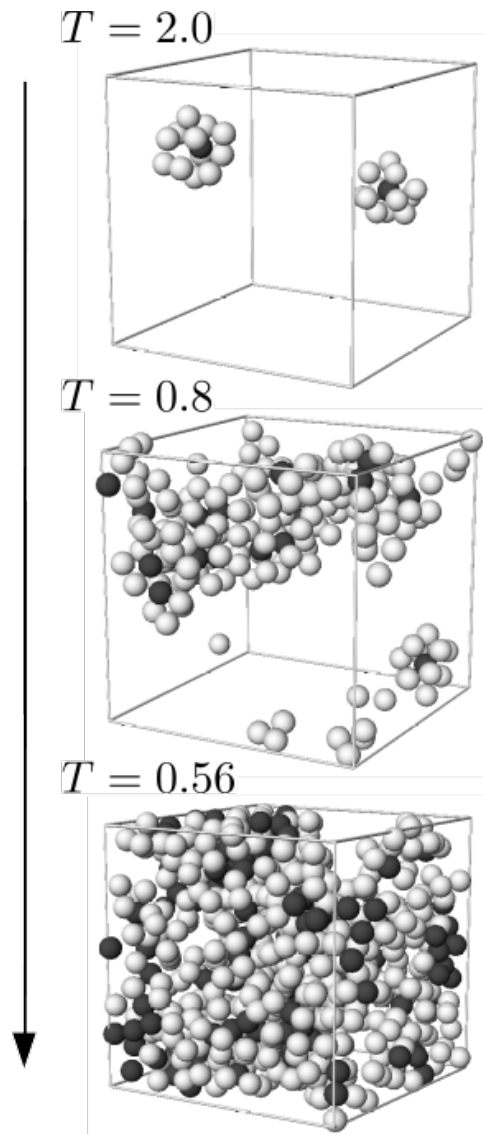
→

JAMMING



Finney & Bernal 1972

Strukturen lokalmente favorite (LFS)



Hansen, Barrat, Pastore

$$u_{\alpha\beta}(r) = \epsilon_{\alpha\beta} \left(\frac{\sigma_{\alpha\beta}}{r} \right)^{12}$$

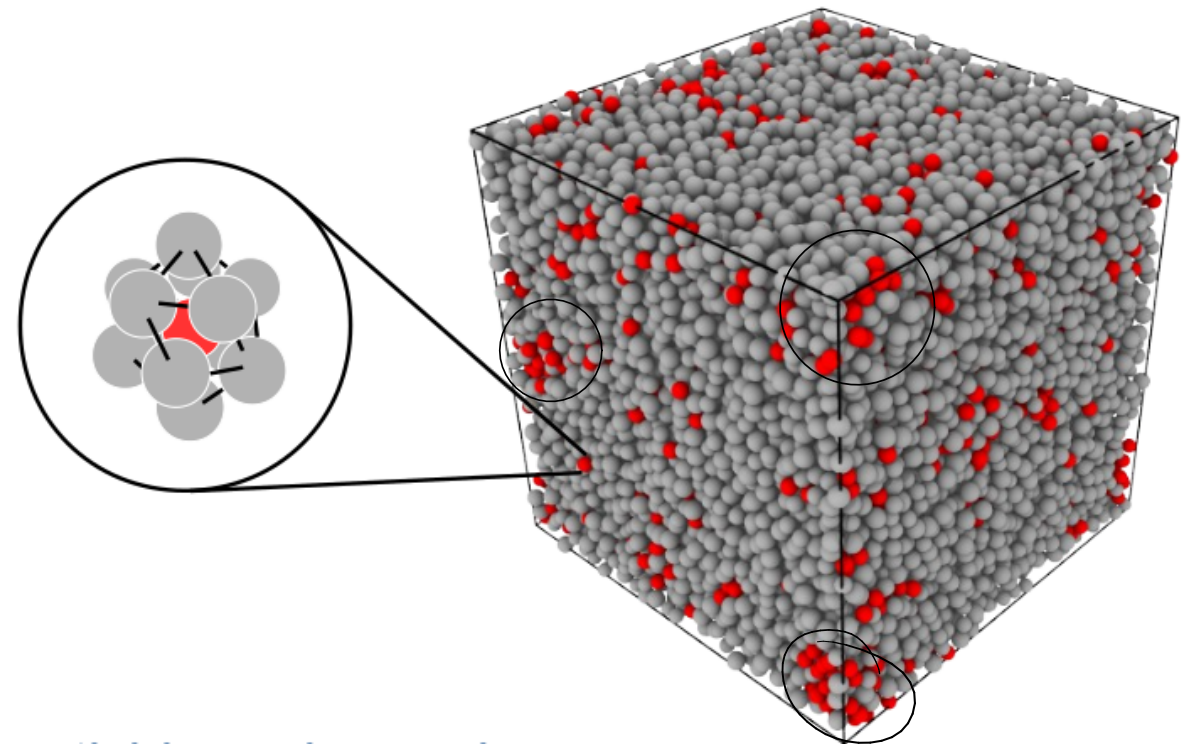
$$\frac{\sigma_{AA}}{\sigma_{BB}} = 1.4 \quad \epsilon_{AA} = \epsilon_{BB} = \epsilon_{AB}$$

$$\frac{\sigma_{AA}}{\sigma_{BB}} = 1.2 \text{ Wahnström}$$

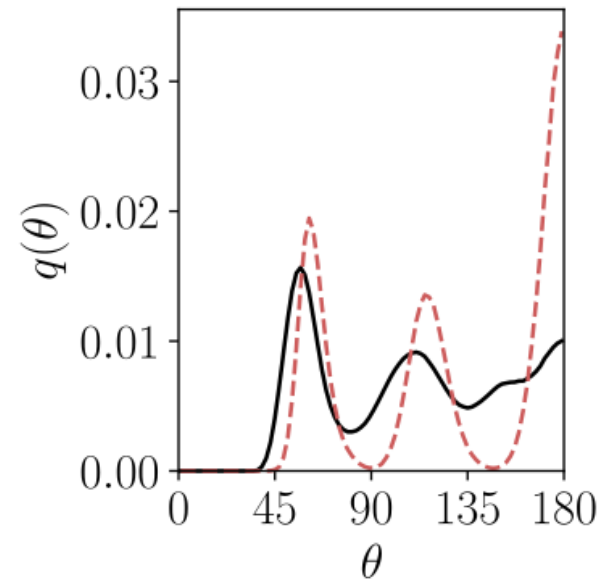
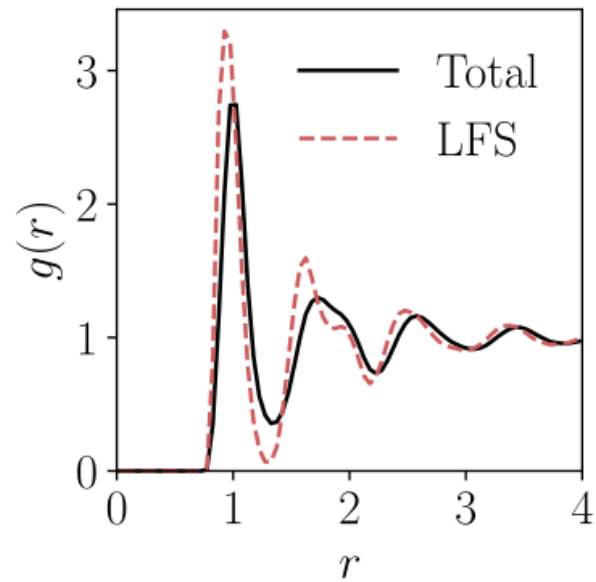
$$T_{\text{ouset}} \approx 1.0$$

$$T_c \approx 0.55$$

$$\triangle \text{ MgZn}_2$$



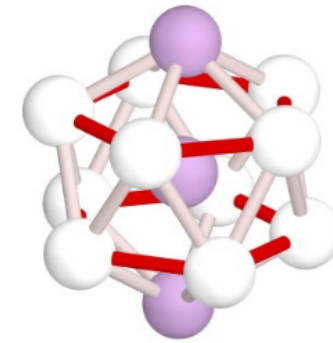
Wahnström



→ community inference

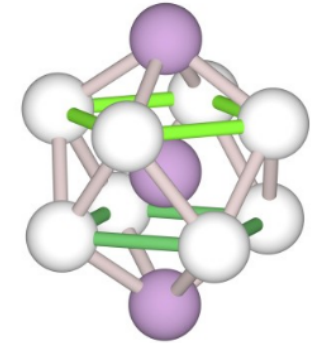
JCP 2019

$(6,0,12)$



Wurtzite
mixture

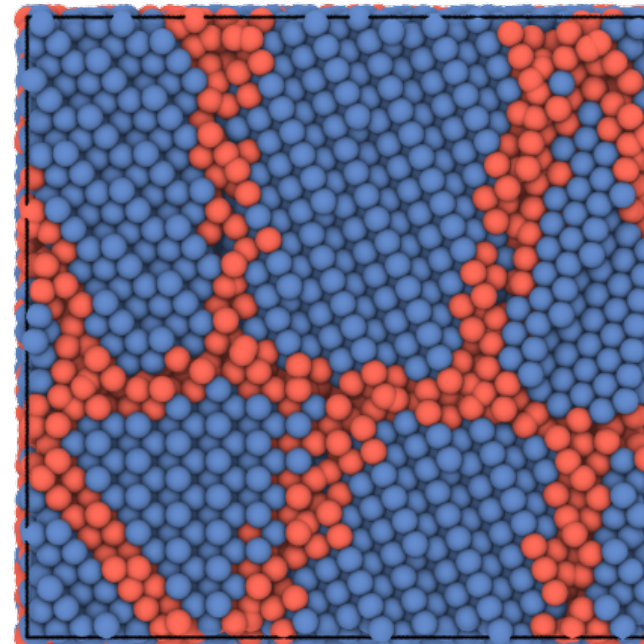
$(0,2,8)$



Rock-salt
mixture

```
from partycls import Trajectory, Workflow

traj = Trajectory('grains.xyz')
wf = Workflow(traj, descriptor='ba', clustering='kmeans')
wf.run()
traj[0].show(color='label', backend='ovito')
```



<https://github.com/jorisparet/partycls>