

MODELING LIQUID METALS and BULK METALLIC GLASSES

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T. EGAMI, (*JINS*, Oak Ridge & U. Tennessee, Knoxville)

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Content

1. Metal Liquids and Glasses
2. Cluster Models
3. Delone Graphs
4. The Anankeon Theory
5. Towards a Dissipative Dynamics

I - Metal Liquids and Glasses

Bulk Metallic Glasses

1. Examples *(Ma, Stoica, Wang, Nat. Mat. '08)*

- $\text{Zr}_x\text{Cu}_{1-x}$ $\text{Zr}_x\text{Fe}_{1-x}$ $\text{Zr}_x\text{Ni}_{1-x}$
- $\text{Cu}_{46}\text{Zr}_{47-x}\text{Al}_7\text{Y}_x$ $\text{Mg}_{60}\text{Cu}_{30}\text{Y}_{10}$

2. Properties *(Hufnagel web page, John Hopkins)*

- High *Glass Forming Ability* (GFA)
- High *Strength*, comparable or larger than steel
- Superior *Elastic limit*
- High *Wear* and *Corrosion* resistance
- *Brittleness* and *Fatigue* failure

Bulk Metallic Glasses

Applications *(Liquidmetal Technology www.liquidmetal.com)*

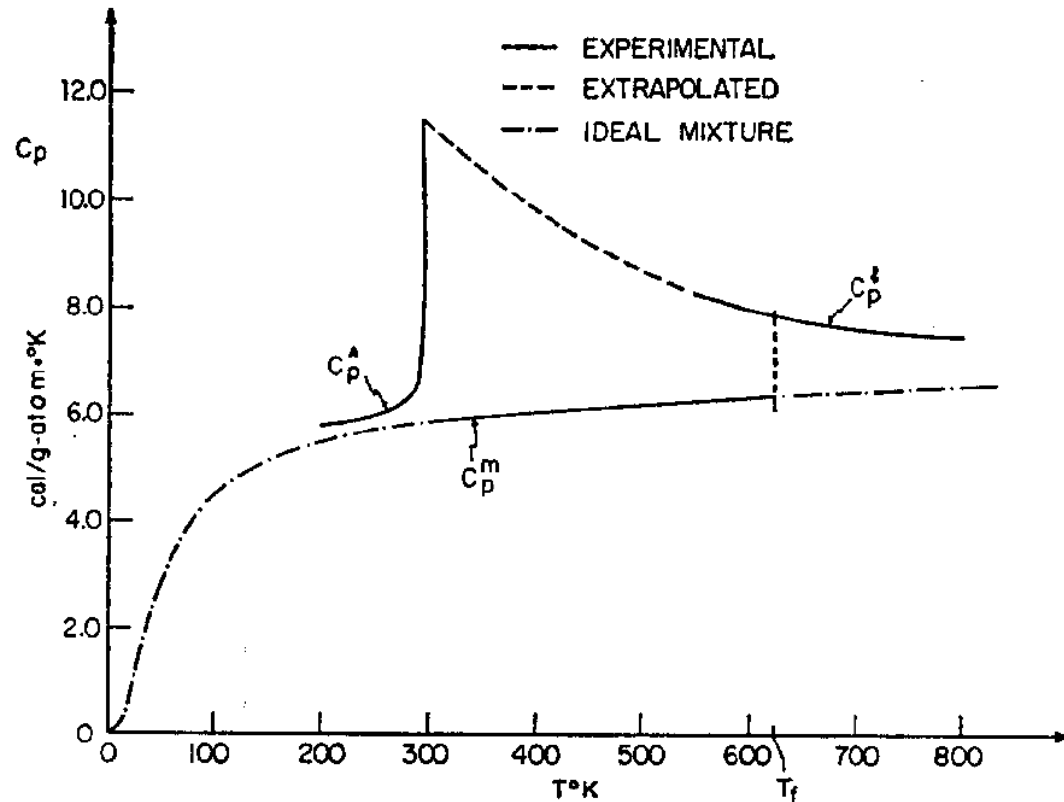
- *Orthopedic implants* and medical Instruments
- Material for *military components*
- Sport items, *golf clubs, tennis rackets, ski, snowboard, ...*



Pieces of Titanium-Based Structural
Metallic-Glass Composites

(Johnson's group, Caltech, 2008)

Bulk Metallic Glasses

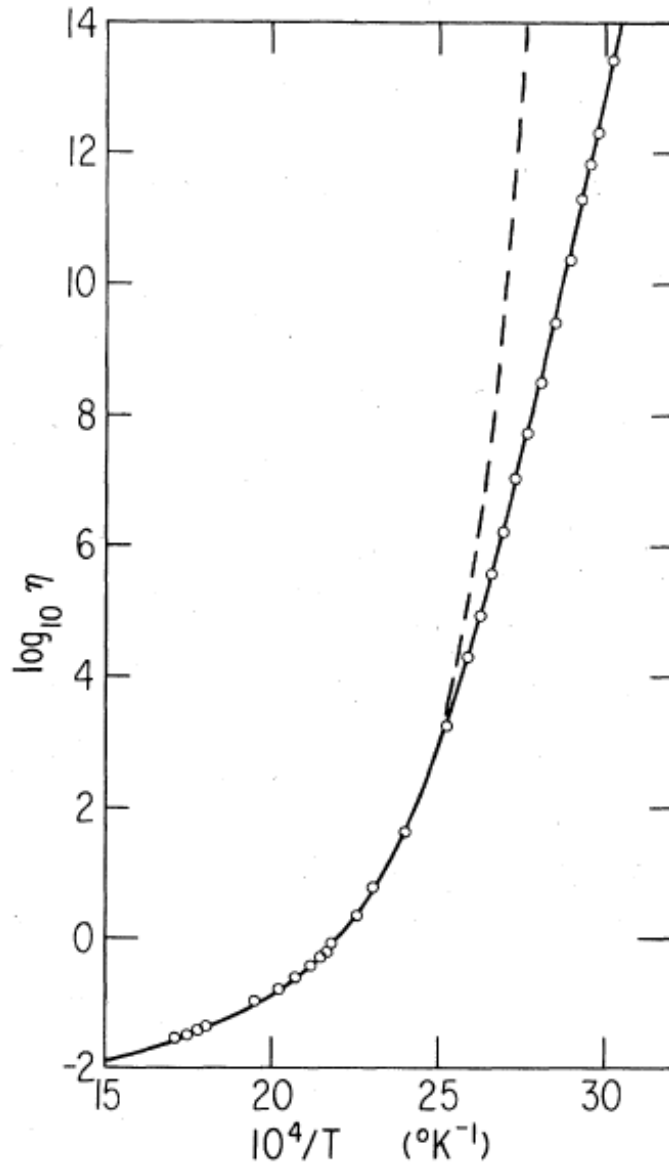


Smoothed values of specific heats of $Au_{.77}Ge_{.136}Si_{.094}$ signaling a glass-liquid transition

"A" designates the amorphous state
"m" designates the mixture
"l" designates the liquid

taken from
H. S. CHEN and D. TURNBULL, *J. Chem. Phys.*,
48, 2560-2571, (1968)

Bulk Metallic Glasses



Viscosity vs temperature for tri-anaphthylbenzene, with fits coming from the *free volume theory*

Solid curve fit from [1] below

Dashed curve: fit from [1] with a simplified theory

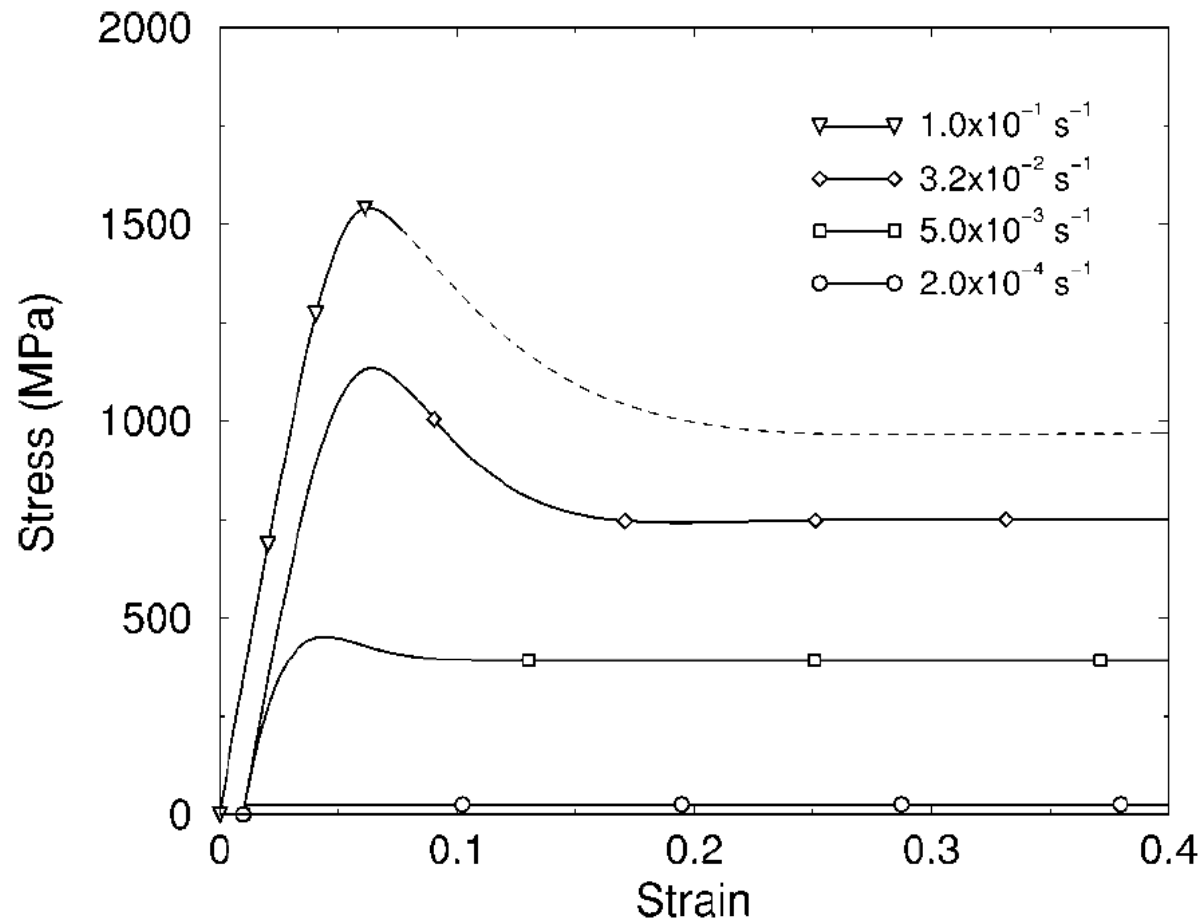
Circles: data from [2] below

taken from

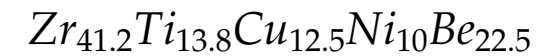
[1] MORREL H. COHEN & G. S. GREST, *Phys. Rev. B*, **20**, 1077-1098, (1979)

[2] D. J. PLAZEK and J. H. MAGILL, *J. Chem. Phys.*, **45**, 3757, (1967); J. H. MAGILL, *ibid.* **47**, 2802, (1967)

Bulk Metallic Glasses



Theoretical curves of tensile stress versus strain for the bulk metallic glass using the *STZ theory*



at several different strain rates as shown. The temperature is $T=643 \text{ K}$.

For clarity, all but the first of these curves have been displaced by the same amount along the strain axis.

taken from

[1] M. L. FALK, J. S. LANGER & L. PECHENIK, *Phys. Rev. E*, **70**, 011507, (2004)

Bulk Metallic Glasses

1. No *structural difference* between liquid and glass. No sharp discontinuity of equilibrium variables
2. The *time scales change sharply* from liquid to glass. The glass transition temperature is defined by a conventional time scale beyond which the dynamics is hard to observe.

II - Cluster Models

Cluster Models

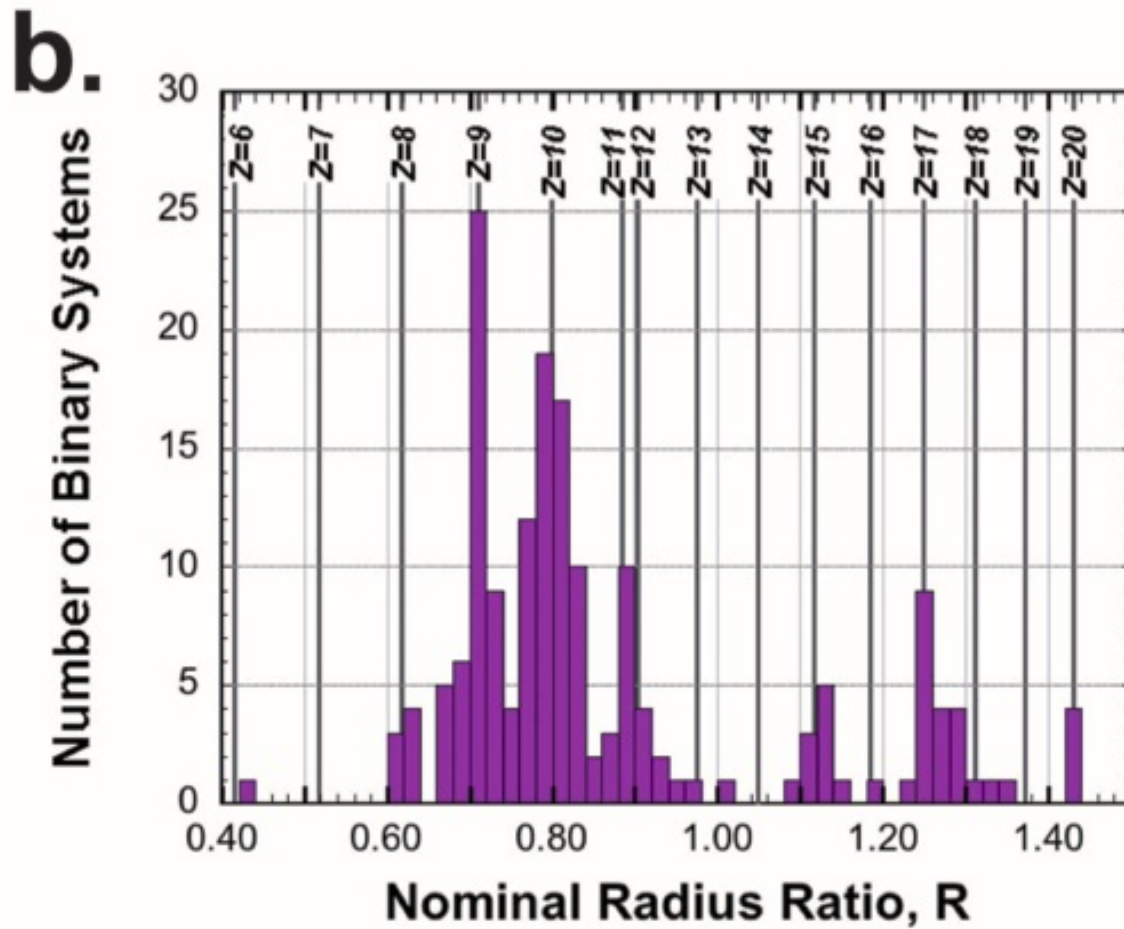
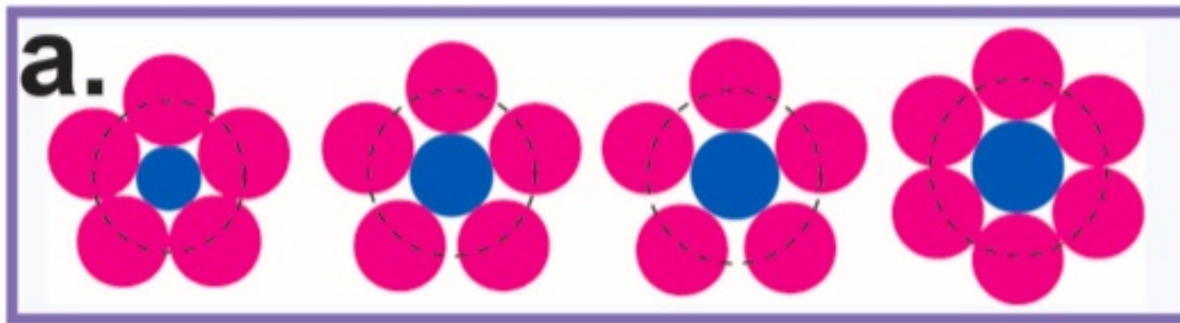
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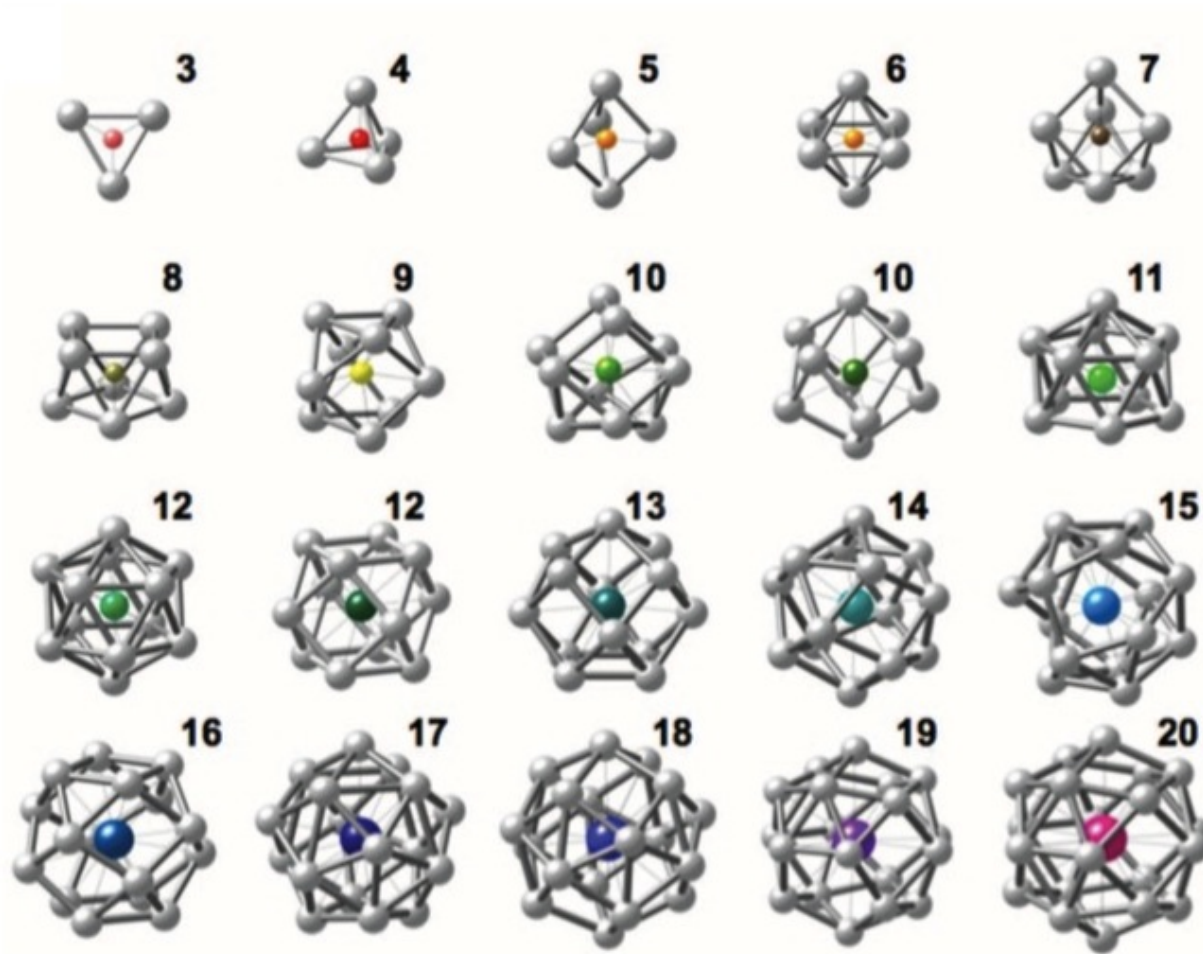
D. B. MIRACLE, *A structural model for metallic glasses*, Nature Mat., **3**, (2004), 697-702.

1. Cluster models are based on *densest packing* distributions of hard spheres.
2. A *cluster* is formed from one solute atom and a layer of solvent atoms.
3. At larger scales cluster behave like new particles with almost spherical shape.



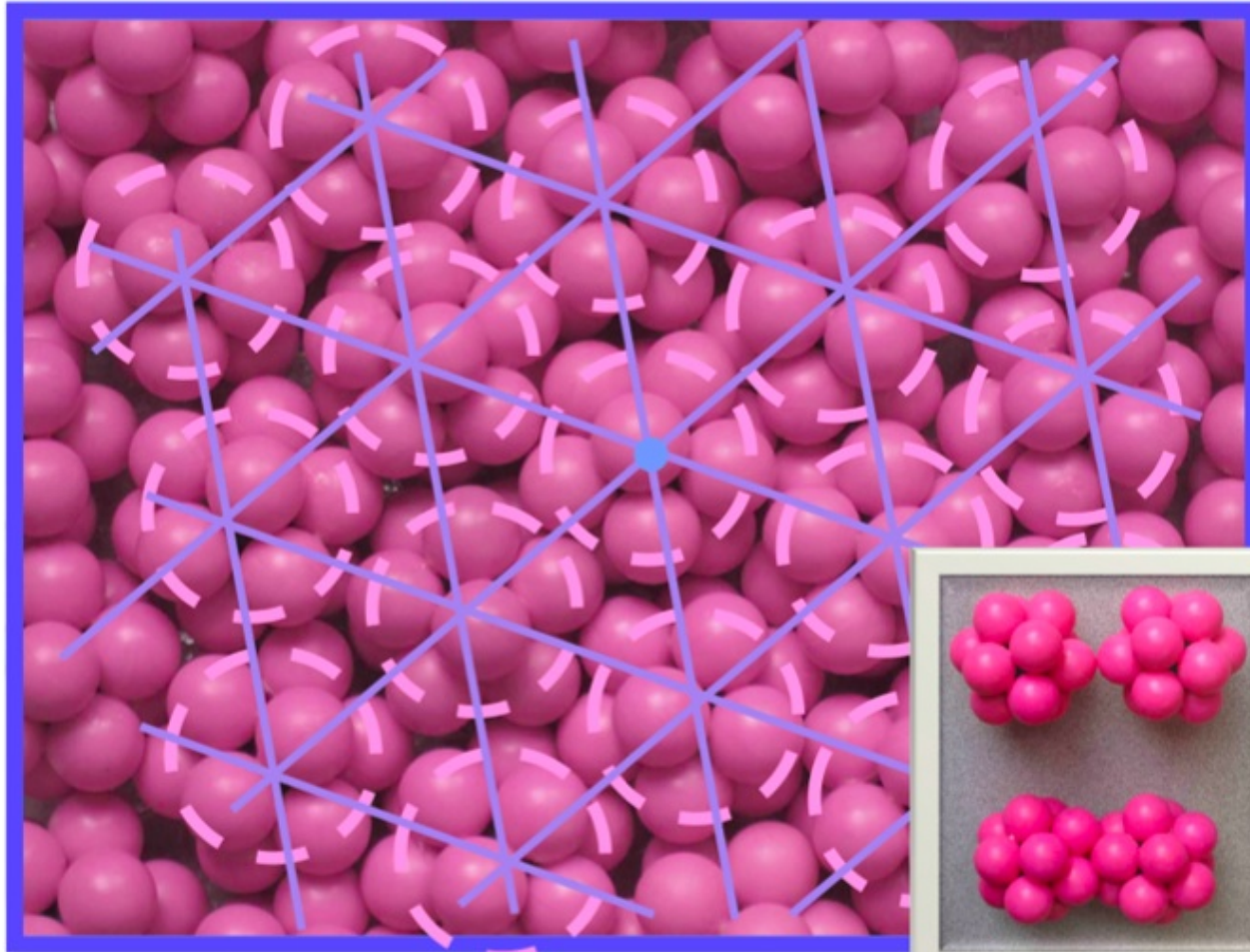
2D-clusters

(T. Egami, Y. Waseda, '84)
(D. Miracle, et al. '04)



3D-clusters

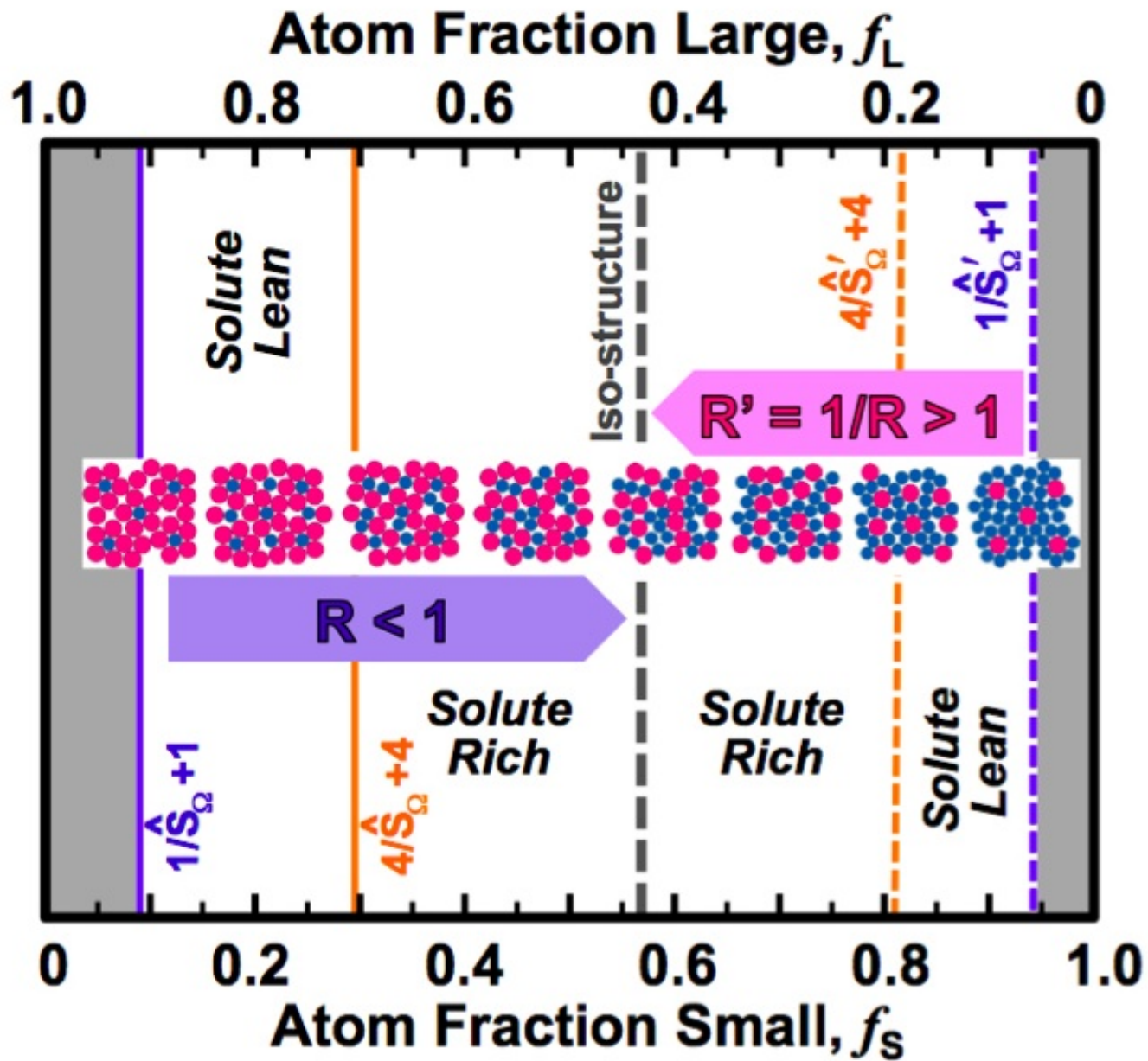
(D. Miracle, et al. '04)



Packing Clusters

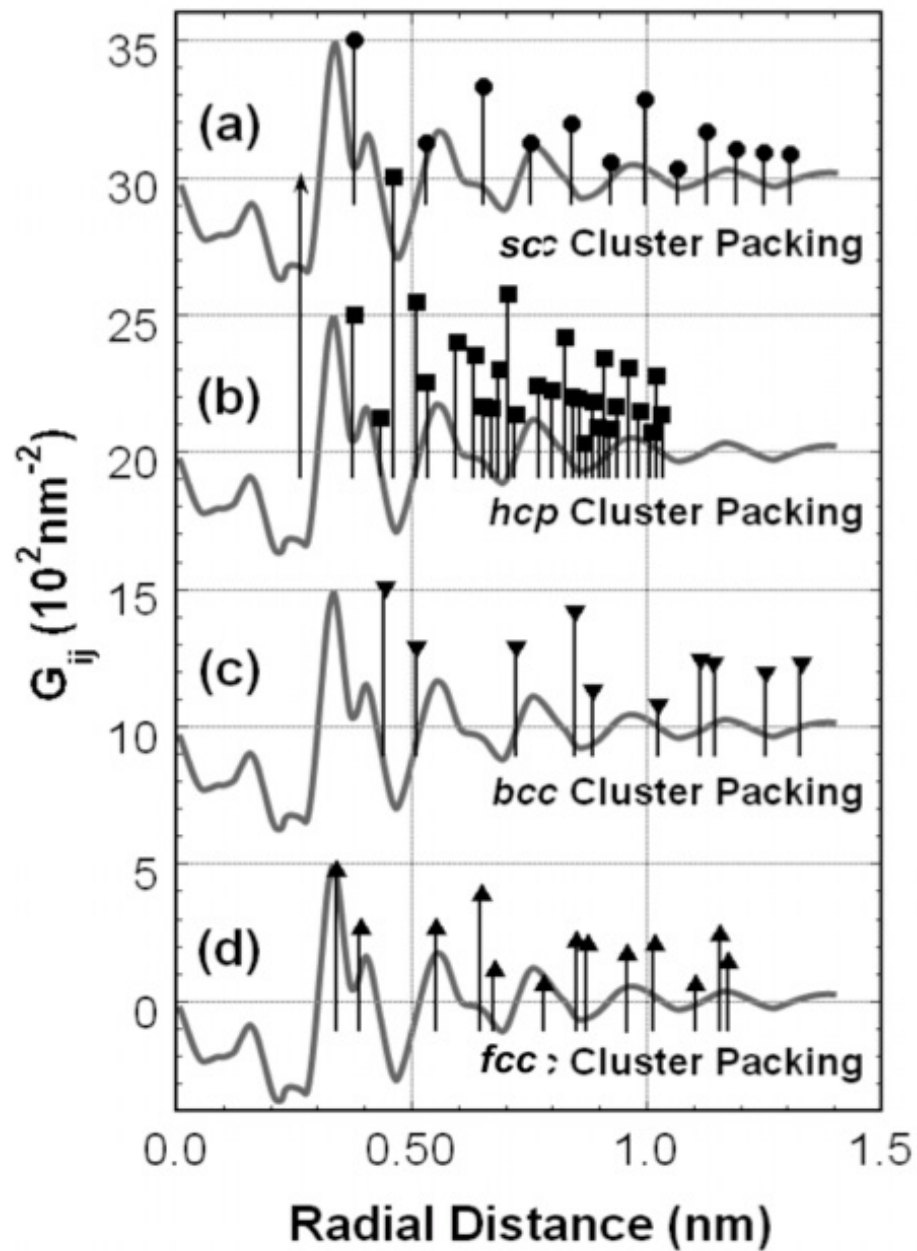
(D. Miracle, et al. '04)





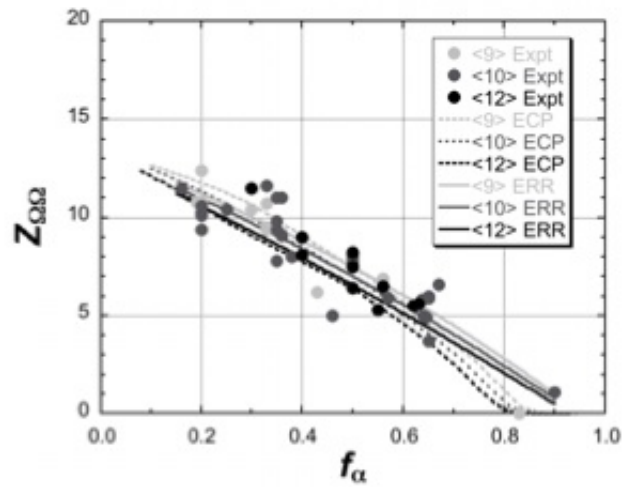
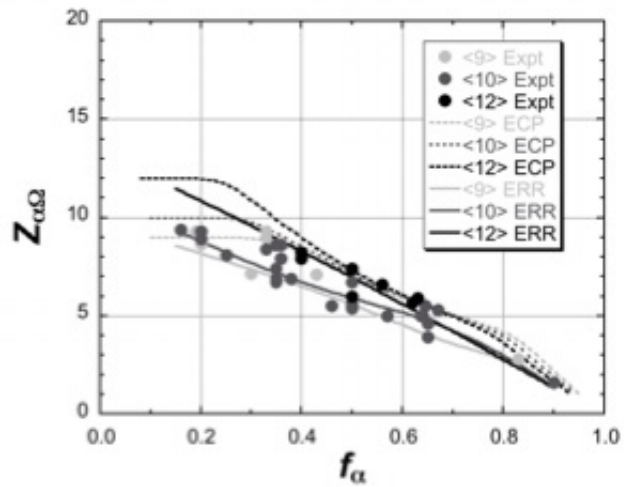
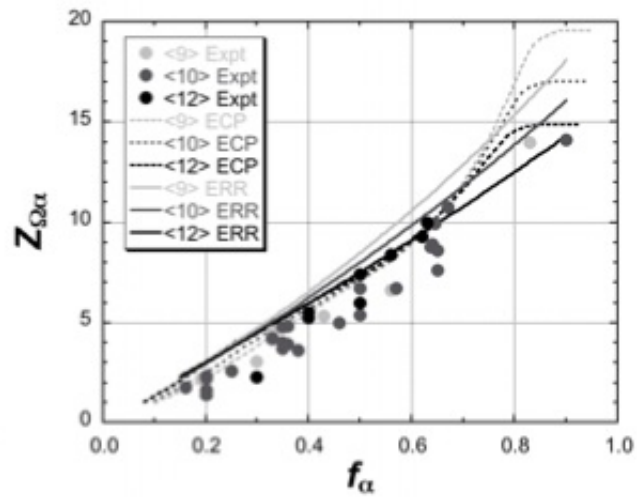
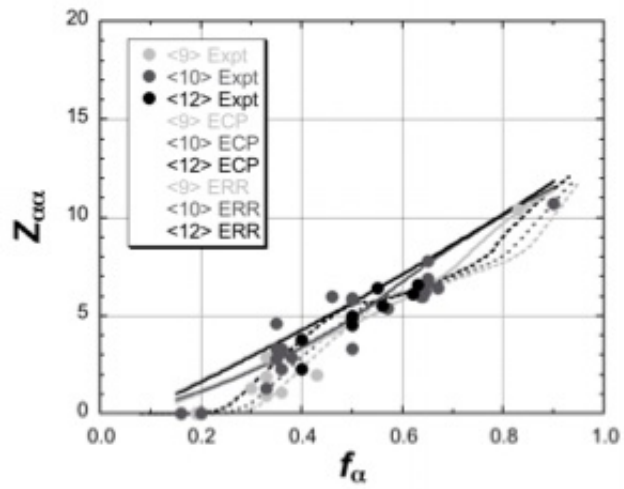
Clusters Evolution

(D. Miracle, et al. '04)



Comparison between cluster packing and Correlation for various crystals

(D. Miracle, et al. '04)



Measured (filled circles) and predicted (lines) partial coordination numbers.

(D. Miracle, et al. '04)

Diffraction

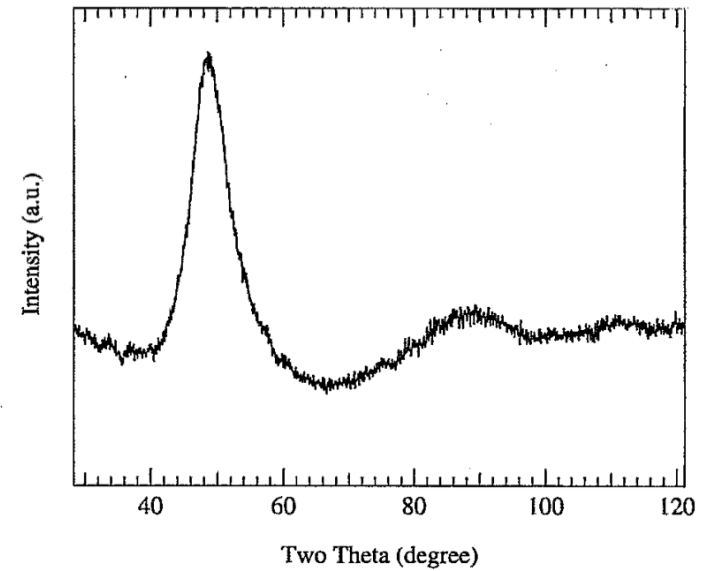
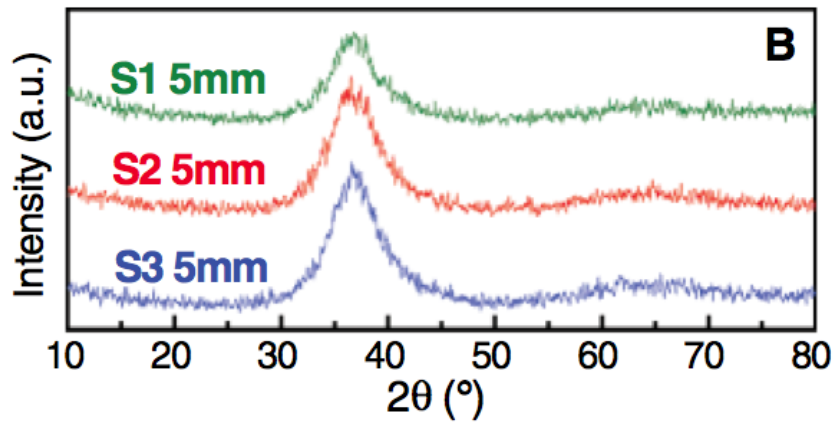


FIG. 3. X-ray-diffraction pattern (Co $K\alpha$ radiation) taken from the cross-sectioned surface of $4 \times 6 \times 20 \text{ mm}^3$ $\text{Ti}_{34}\text{Zr}_{11}\text{Cu}_{47}\text{Ni}_8$ strip obtained by metal mold casting.

Y.H. LIU, *et. al.*, *Science*, **135**, (2007), 1385-1388.

X.H. LIN, W. JOHNSON, *J. Appl. Phys.*, **78**, (1995), 6514-6519.

Diffraction

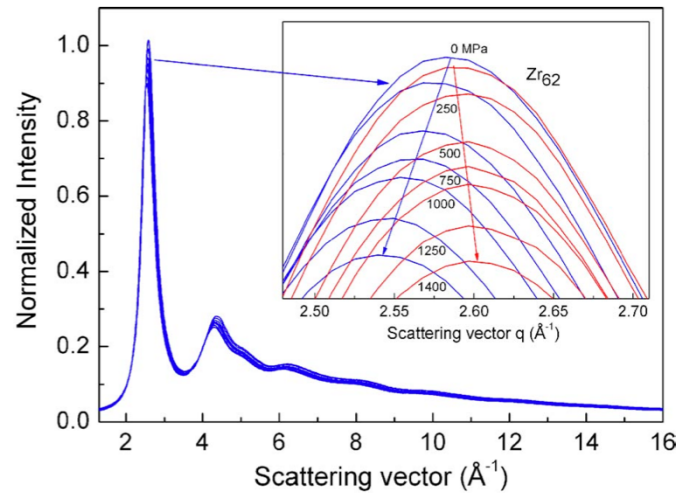


FIG. 1. (Color online) Normalized diffraction curves $I(q)$ of the tensile direction and the top part magnification of first peaks in $I(q)$ of tensile/transverse directions changing with increasing stress for $Zr_{62}Al_8Ni_{13}Cu_{17}$ BMG.

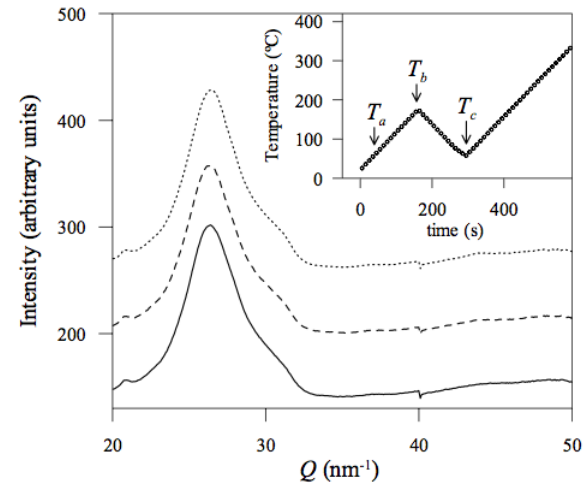


Figure 2.

Main diffraction peak of melt spun $Al_{90}Fe_5Nd_5$ alloy at 3 points of the annealing protocol detailed in the inset. Solid line: $T_a=59.8$ °C. Dashed line: $T_b=174.6$ °C. Dotted line: $T_c=57.8$ °C.

X.D. WANG, *et. al.*, *Appl. Phys. Lett.*, **91**, (2007), 081913

E. PINEDA, *et. al.*, *J. Alloy Compounds*, **483**, (2009), 578-581.

Medium Range Structure

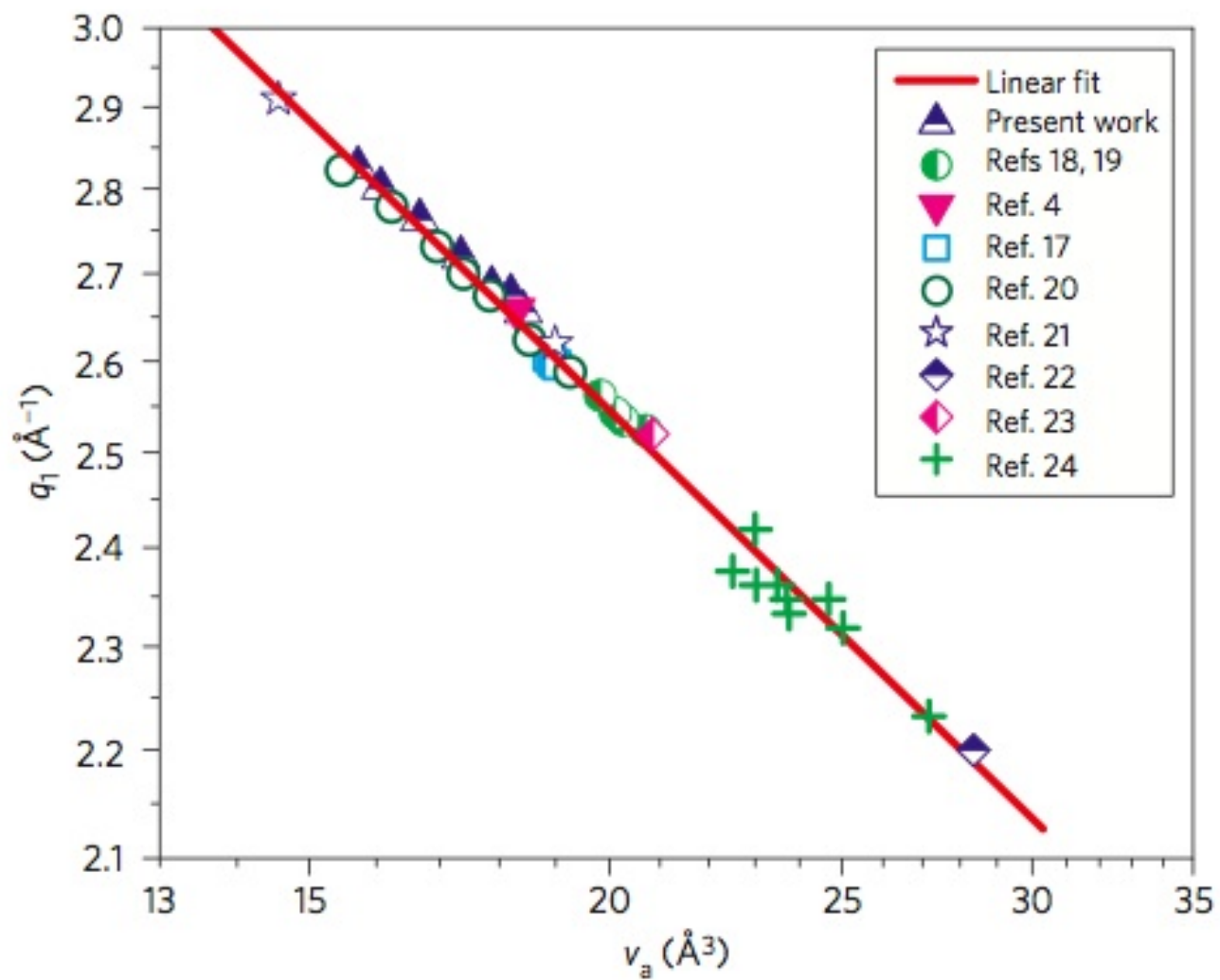
D. MA, A. D. STOICA, X.-L. WANG, Nature Mat., 8, (2009), 30-34.

- The *Medium Range* (MR) structure has been studied using neutron and X-ray diffractions techniques.
- If q_1 denotes the position of the *first sharp diffraction peak* and if v is the *atomic volume*, the Ehrenfest relation predicts

$$q_1 v^{1/3} = \text{const.} \quad (\text{Ehrenfest})$$

- In BMG's *measurements* show that, at distance of order $4-6\text{\AA}$.

$$q_1 v^\alpha = \kappa \quad \alpha = 0.433 \pm 0.007 \quad \kappa = 9.3 \pm 0.2$$



Experimental fit with
 $q_1 v_a^\alpha = \kappa$

(D.Ma et al. '09)

III - Delone Graphs

Delone Sets

- The set \mathcal{V} of atomic positions is *uniformly discrete* if there is $b > 0$ such that in any ball of radius b there is at *most* one atomic nucleus.

(Then minimum distance between atoms is $\geq 2b$)

- The set \mathcal{V} is *relatively dense* if there is $h > 0$ such that in any ball of radius h there is at *least* one atomic nucleus.

(Then maximal vacancy diameter is $\leq 2h$)

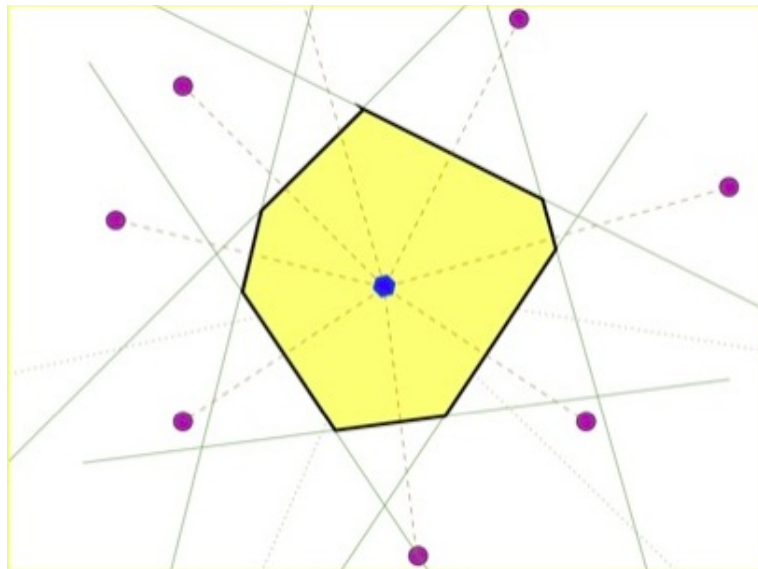
- If \mathcal{V} is both uniformly discrete and relatively dense, it is called a *Delone set*.
- $\text{Del}_{b,h}$ denotes the set of *Delone sets* with parameters b, h .

Voronoi Cells

- Let $\mathcal{V} \in \text{Del}_{b,h}$. If $x \in \mathcal{V}$ its *Voronoi cell* is defined by

$$V(x) = \{y \in \mathbb{R}^d ; |y - x| < |y - x'| \forall x' \in \mathcal{V}, x' \neq x\}$$

$V(x)$ is open. Its closure $T(x) = \overline{V(x)}$ is called the *Voronoi tile* of x



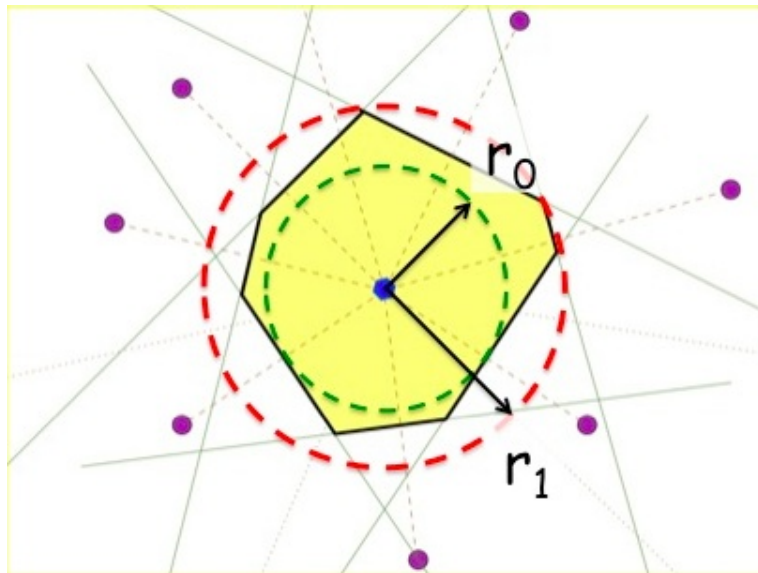
Proposition: If $\mathcal{V} \in \text{Del}_{r_0,r_1}$ the Voronoi tile of any $x \in \mathcal{V}$ is a convex polytope

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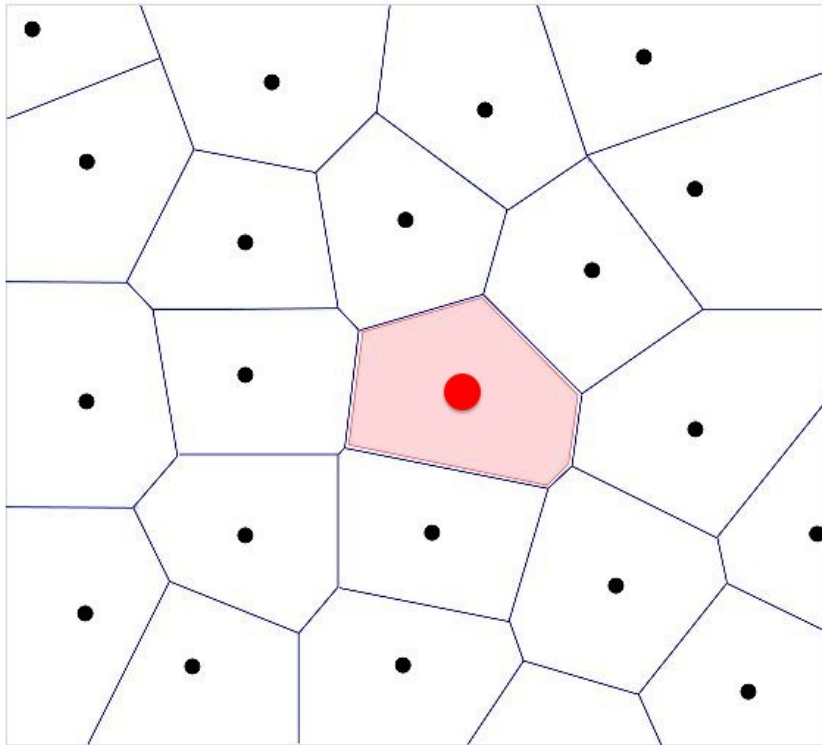
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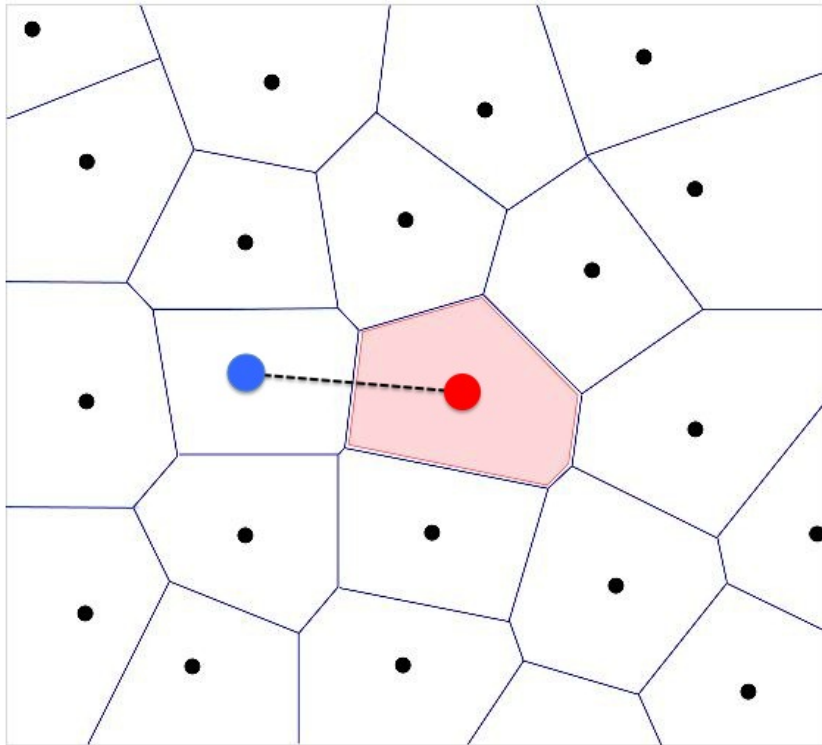
Proposition: If $\mathcal{V} \in \text{Del}_{r_0, r_1}$ the Voronoi tile of any $x \in \mathcal{V}$ is a convex polytope containing the ball $\overline{B}(x; r_0)$ and contained in the ball $\overline{B}(x; r_1)$

The Delone Graph



Proposition: *the Voronoi tiles of a Delone set touch face-to-face*

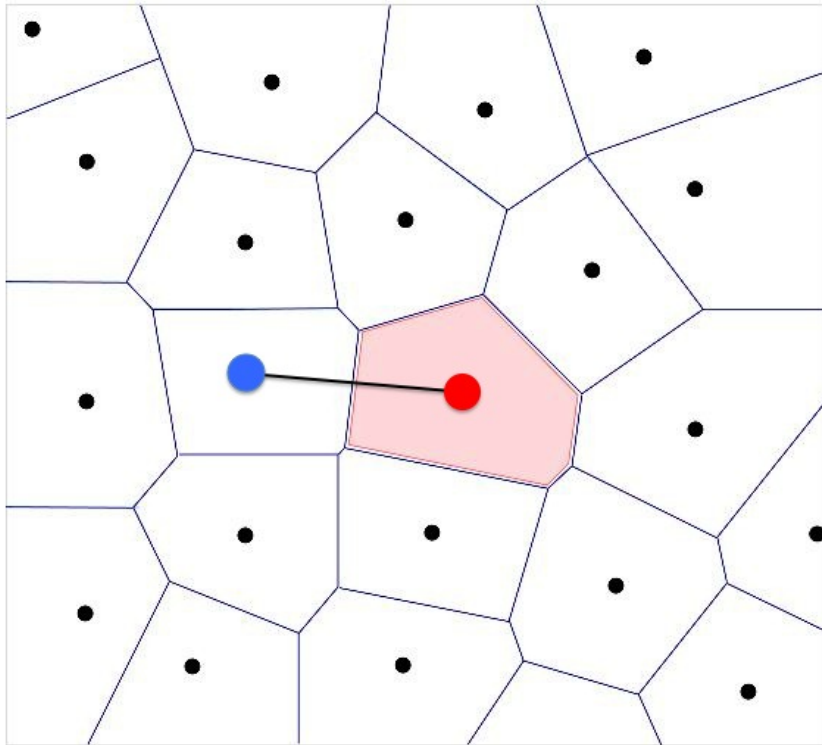
The Delone Graph



Proposition: *the Voronoi tiles of a Delone set touch face-to-face*

Two atoms are *nearest neighbors* if their Voronoi tiles touch along a face of *maximal dimension*.

The Delone Graph

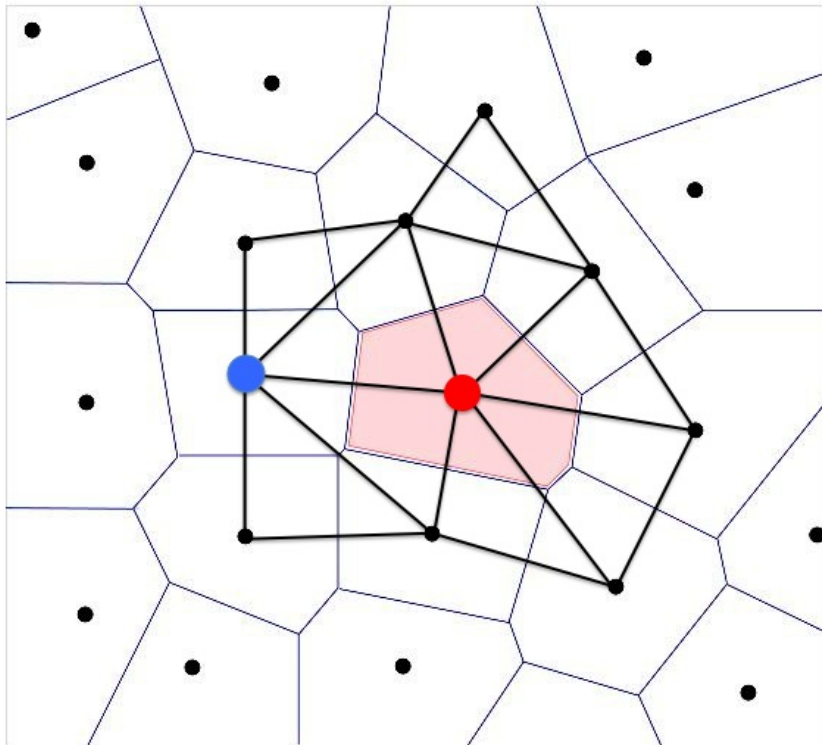


Proposition: *the Voronoi tiles of a Delone set touch face-to-face*

Two atoms are *nearest neighbors* if their Voronoi tiles touch along a face of *maximal dimension*.

An *edge* is a pair of nearest neighbors. \mathcal{E} denotes the set of edges.

The Delone Graph



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Two atoms are *nearest neighbors* if their Voronoi tiles touch along a face of *maximal dimension*.

An *edge* is a pair of nearest neighbors. \mathcal{E} denotes the set of edges.

The family $\mathcal{G} = (\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{E})$ is the Delone graph.

The Delone Graph

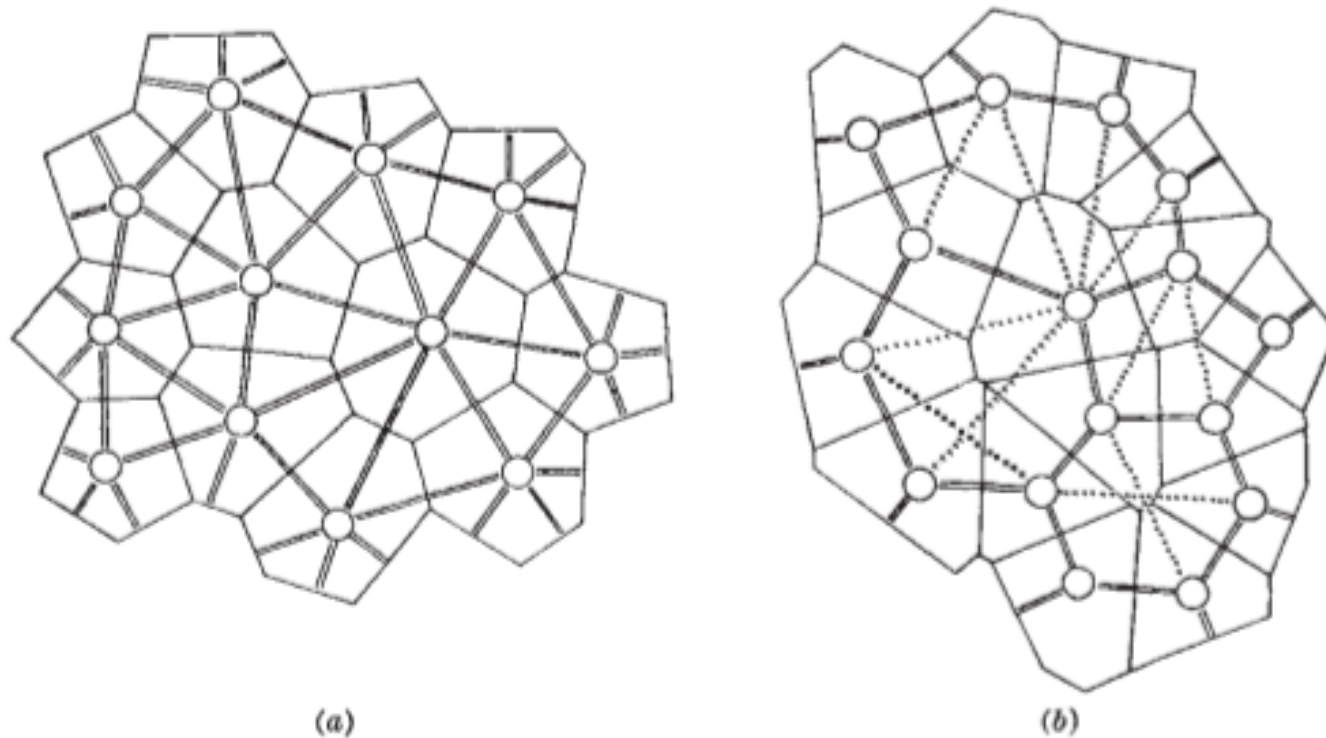


Fig. 1. Diagram of neighbourhood polyhedra, geometrical and physical, for two-dimensional arrays of points. (a) High co-ordinated; —, physical neighbours; (b) low co-ordinated;, geometrical neighbours

taken from J. D. BERNAL, Nature, 183, 141-147, (1959)

Properties of the D-graph

- **Graphs:** (*non-oriented*) graph $\mathcal{G} = (\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{E})$ is a pair of sets with a map $\partial : \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{V} \times \mathcal{V}$, called *boundary map*.
- **Graph maps:** $f : \mathcal{G} = (\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{E}) \rightarrow \mathcal{G}' = (\mathcal{V}', \mathcal{E}')$ is a pair of maps $f_v : \mathcal{V} \rightarrow \mathcal{V}'$, $f_e : \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}'$ such that

$$\partial f_e(e) = (f_v \times f_v) (\partial e)$$

- **Composition:** $f \circ g = (f_v \circ g_v, f_e \circ g_e)$.
- **Isomorphism:** $f : \mathcal{G} = (\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{E}) \rightarrow \mathcal{G}' = (\mathcal{V}', \mathcal{E}')$ is an isomorphism if there is $g : \mathcal{G}' = (\mathcal{V}', \mathcal{E}') \rightarrow \mathcal{G} = (\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{E})$ with $f \circ g = \mathbf{1}_{\mathcal{G}'}$, $g \circ f = \mathbf{1}_{\mathcal{G}}$.

Properties of the D-graph

Proposition: *Given two integers N_v, N_e , the number of graphs modulo isomorphism with less than N_v vertices and less than N_e edges is finite*

Consequence: There are only finitely many D-Graphs representing a configuration of the glass in a ball of finite radius. D-graphs discretize the information.

Properties of the D-graph

- The incidence number n_x of a vertex $x \in \mathcal{V}$ is bounded by

$$d + 1 \leq n_x \leq \frac{\sqrt{\pi} \Gamma\{(d - 1)/2\}}{\Gamma(d/2) \int_0^{\theta_m} \sin^{d-1}(\theta) d\theta}, \quad \sin \theta_m = b/2h.$$

- A *local patch* of radius $n \in \mathbb{N}$ is an *isomorphism class* of subgraphs $(x, \mathcal{V}_x, \mathcal{E}_x)$ of the Delone graph, such that $x \in \mathcal{V}$, \mathcal{V}_x is the set of vertices at graph-distance at most n from x .
- If \mathcal{P}_n denote the *set of local patches* of radius n then there is $C = C(b, h) > 0$ such that

$$\#\mathcal{P}_n \leq e^{C(2n+1)^d}$$

Likelihood: Genericity

Genericity is a topological concept.

- In a topological space X , a subset $A \subset X$ is *dense* if any nonempty open set intersects A .
- A G_δ -set is the intersection of a countable family of open sets.
- *Baire Category Theorem*: if X is homeomorphic to a complete metric space, then a countable intersection of dense open sets is dense.
- A property is called *generic* when it holds in a dense G_δ .

Likelihood: Almost Surely

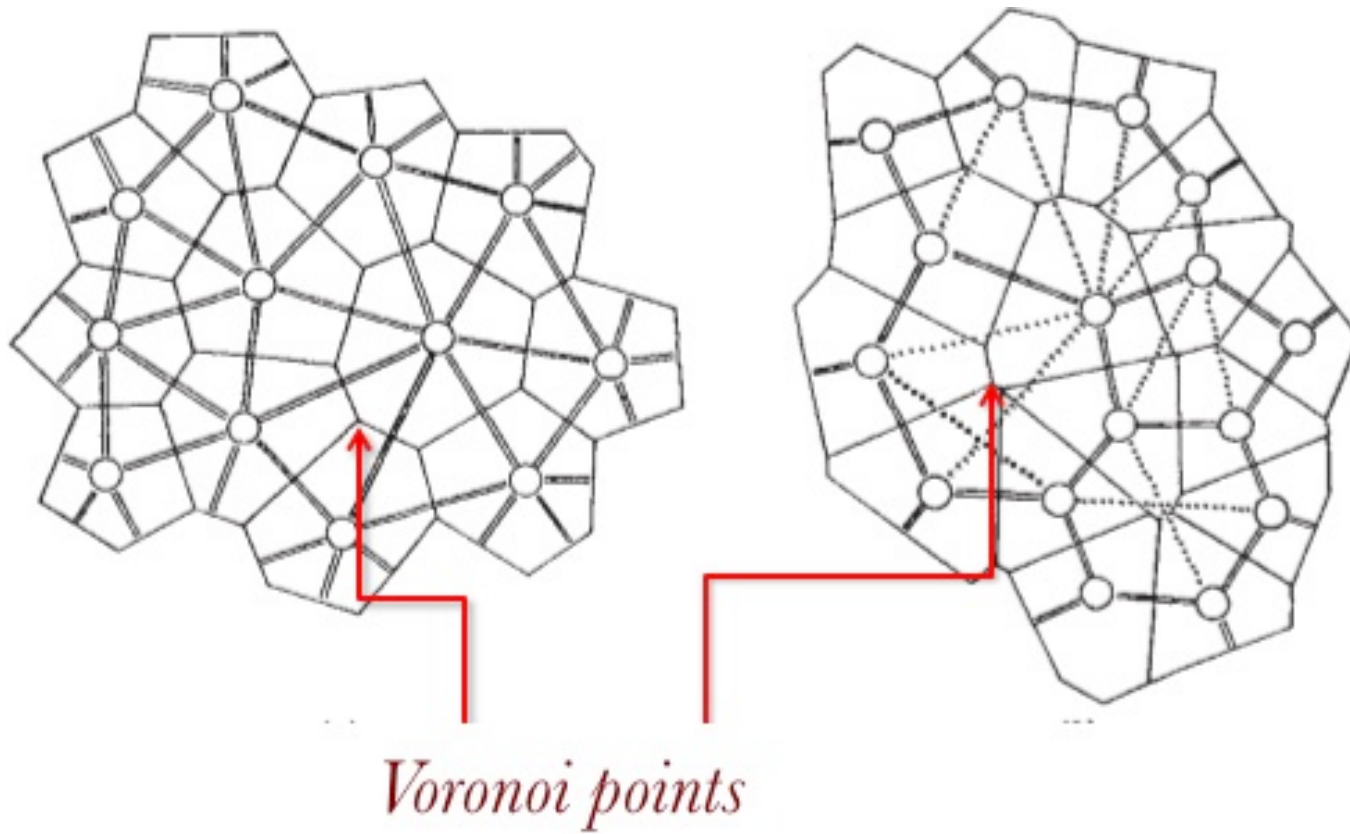
Almost Surely is a measure theoretic or probability concept concept.

- A *probability space* is a triple (X, Σ, \mathbb{P}) , where X is a set, Σ a family of subsets of X containing X , that is closed under complementation and countable intersection (called the *σ -algebra of measurable sets*) and \mathbb{P} is a *probability measure*, namely $\mathbb{P} : \Sigma \rightarrow [0, 1]$ satisfying standard assumptions.
- In a probability space (X, Σ, \mathbb{P}) , a property is *almost sure* whenever it occurs in a measurable subset $A \in \Sigma$ having probability $\mathbb{P}(A) = 1$.

Likelihood

- There are examples of *generic subsets* of $[0, 1]$ with *zero probability* (w.r.t the Lebesgue measure), the complement of which is almost sure without being generic.
- If $X \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ is closed and if $\mathbb{P} = F(x)d^n x$ is “absolutely continuous”, then a property valid of a dense open set $U \subset X$, with piecewise smooth boundary, is both generic and almost sure.

Voronoi Points

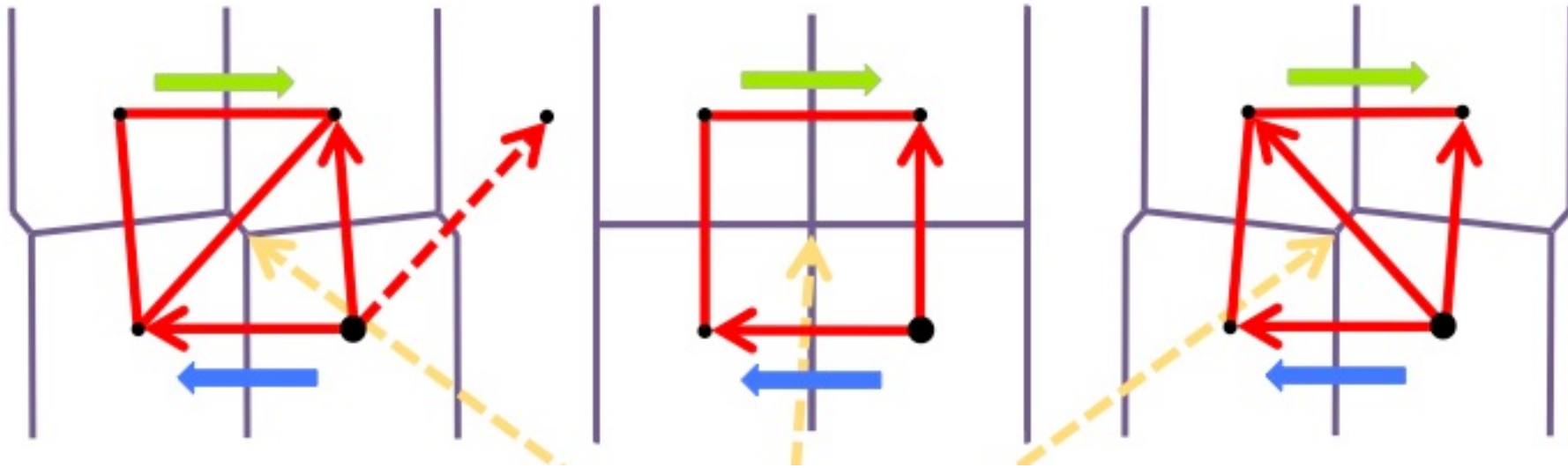


The vertices of the Voronoi cells are called *Voronoi Points*.

Voronoi Points

- **Theorem:** *A Voronoi point is at equal distance from every atom the Voronoi tile of which it belongs.*
- **Theorem:** *Generically and almost surely a Voronoi point belongs to exactly $d + 1$ Voronoi tiles in dimension d .*

Generic Local Patches

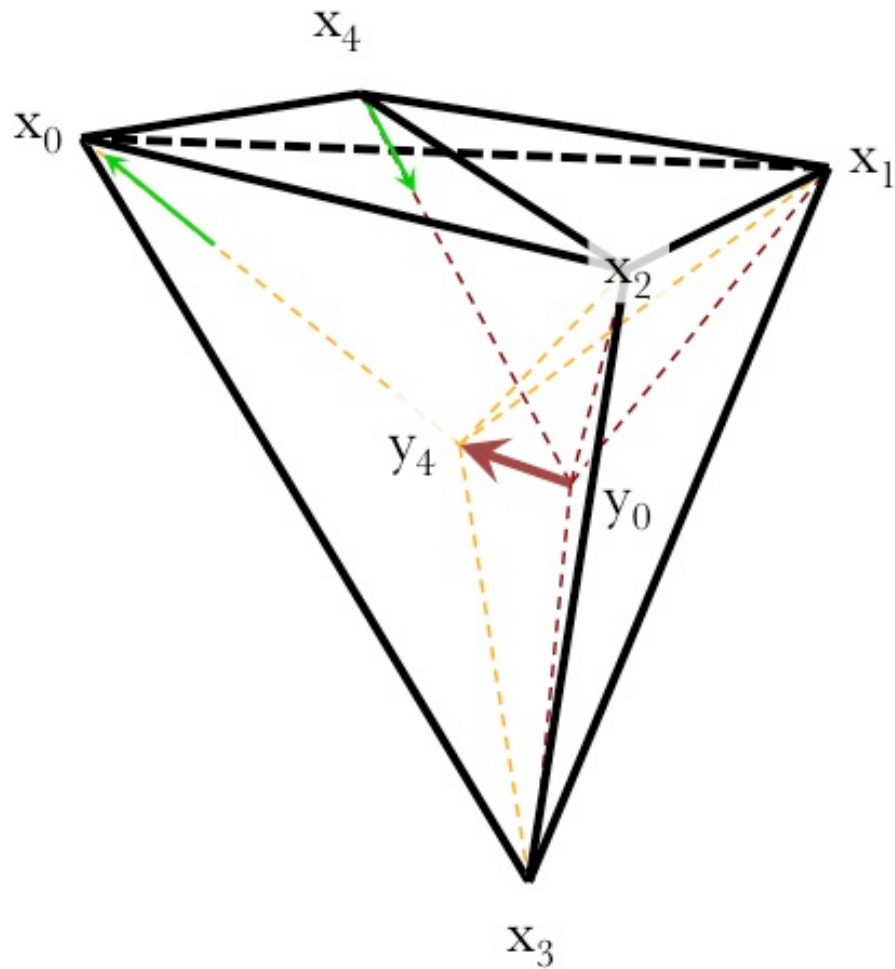


Shear modifies local patches. The middle one is *unstable*. The transition from left to right requires transiting through a *saddle point* of the potential energy.

The Voronoi cell boundaries are shown in blue.

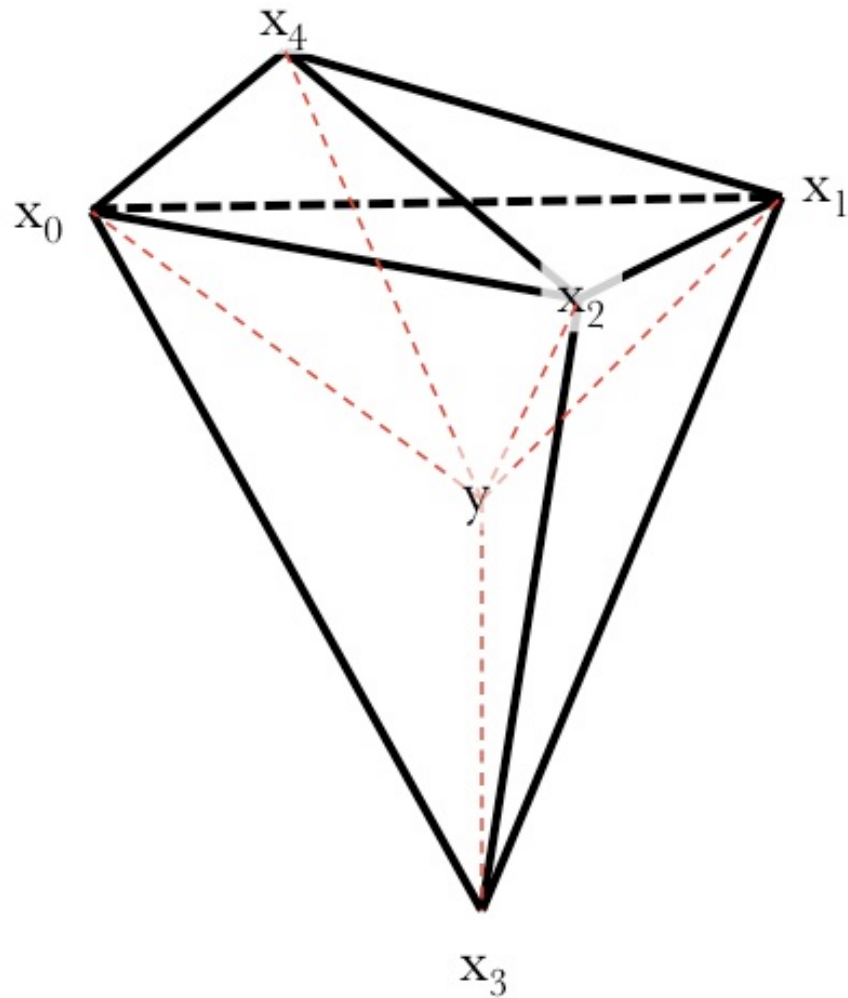
At the bifurcation a Voronoi vertex touches one more Voronoi cell than in the generic case

Generic Local Patches



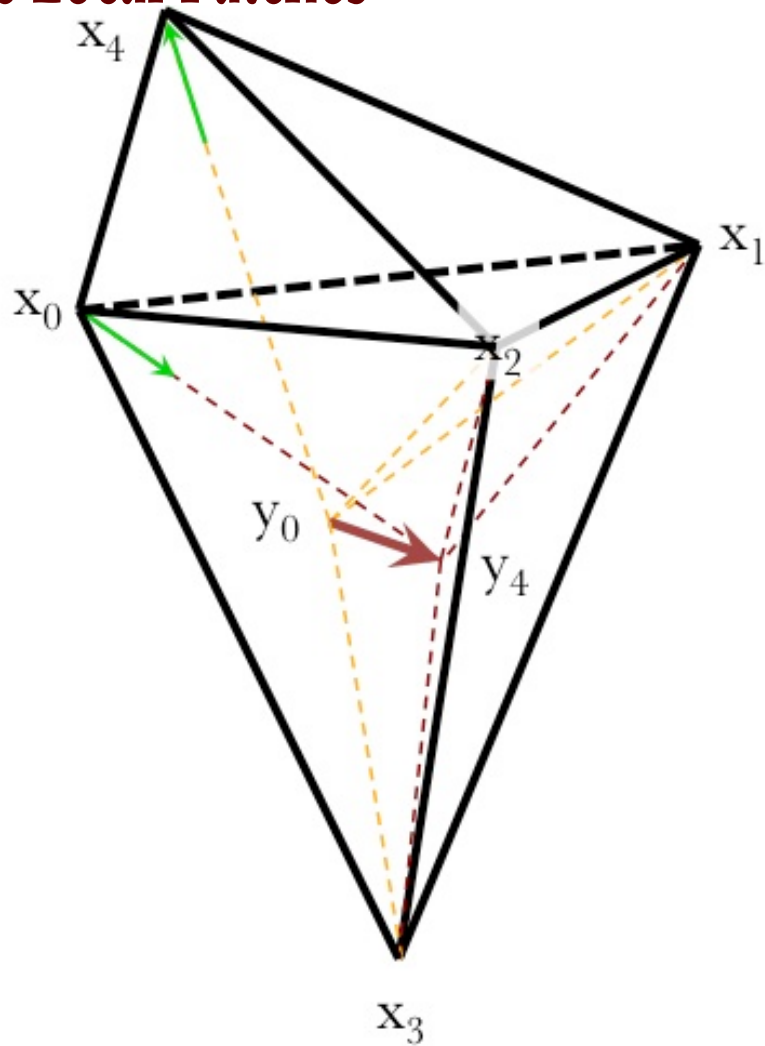
An example of a generic 3D bifurcation.

Generic Local Patches



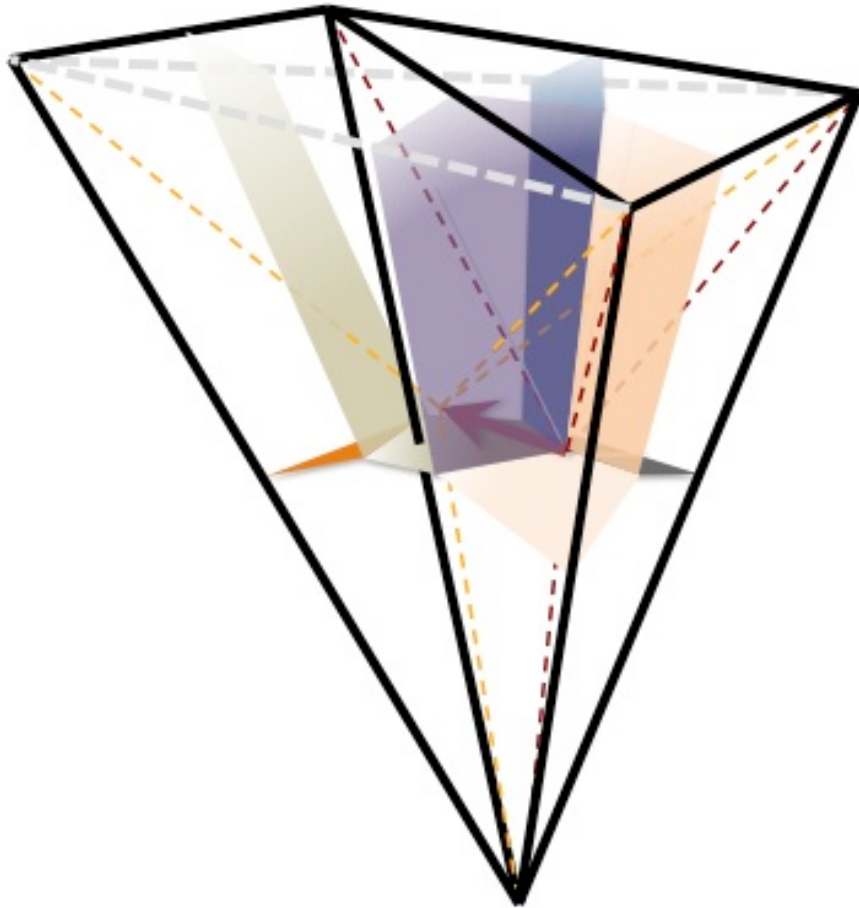
An example of a generic 3D bifurcation.

Generic Local Patches



An example of a generic 3D bifurcation.

Generic Local Patches

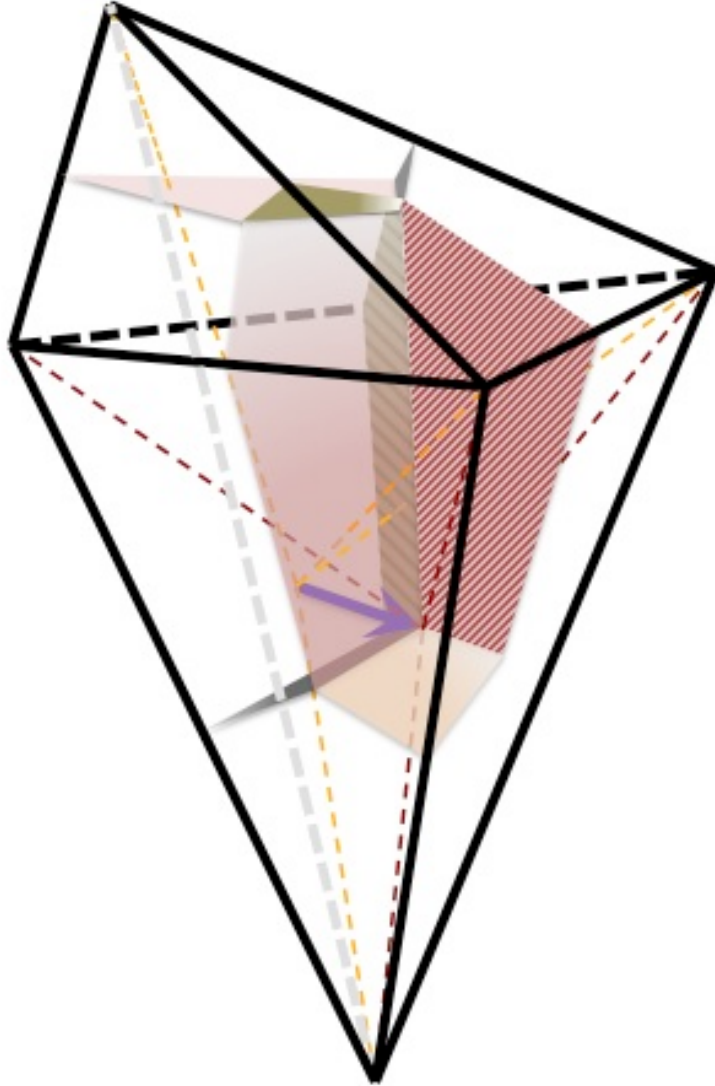


An example of a generic 3D bifurcation.

Graph changes

- The graph edges are indicated in black.
- The grey dotted edges have disappeared during the bifurcation.
- The colored plates are the boundaries of the Voronoi cells.

Generic Local Patches



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Acceptance Domains

- Given a local patch $\mathcal{G} \in \mathcal{P}_n$ its acceptance domain $\Sigma_{\mathcal{G}}$ is the set of all atomic configurations $\mathcal{V} \in \text{Del}_{b,h}$ having \mathcal{G} as their *local patch around the origin*.
- A local patch is *generic* whenever a small local deformation of the atomic configuration does not change the corresponding graph. Let $\mathfrak{B}_n \subset \mathcal{P}_n$ be the set of *generic local patches* of radius n .
- **Theorem:** $\mathcal{G} \in \mathfrak{B}_n$ if and only if $\Sigma_{\mathcal{G}}$ is open and its boundary is *piecewise smooth*.
The union of acceptance domains of the generic patches of size n is dense.
In particular almost surely and generically an atomic configuration admits a generic local patch.

Contiguosness

- The *boundary* of the acceptance domain of a generic graph contains a relatively open dense subset of codimension 1.
- **Definition:** *two generic graphs $\mathcal{G}, \mathcal{G}' \in \mathcal{Q}_n$ are contiguous whenever their boundary share a piece of codimension one.*
- The set \mathfrak{B}_n itself can then be seen as the set of vertices of a graph

$$\mathfrak{G}_n = (\mathfrak{B}_n, \mathfrak{E}_n)$$

called the *graph of contiguousness* where *an edge $E \in \mathfrak{E}_n$ is a pair of contiguous generic local patches.*

IV - The Anankeon Theory

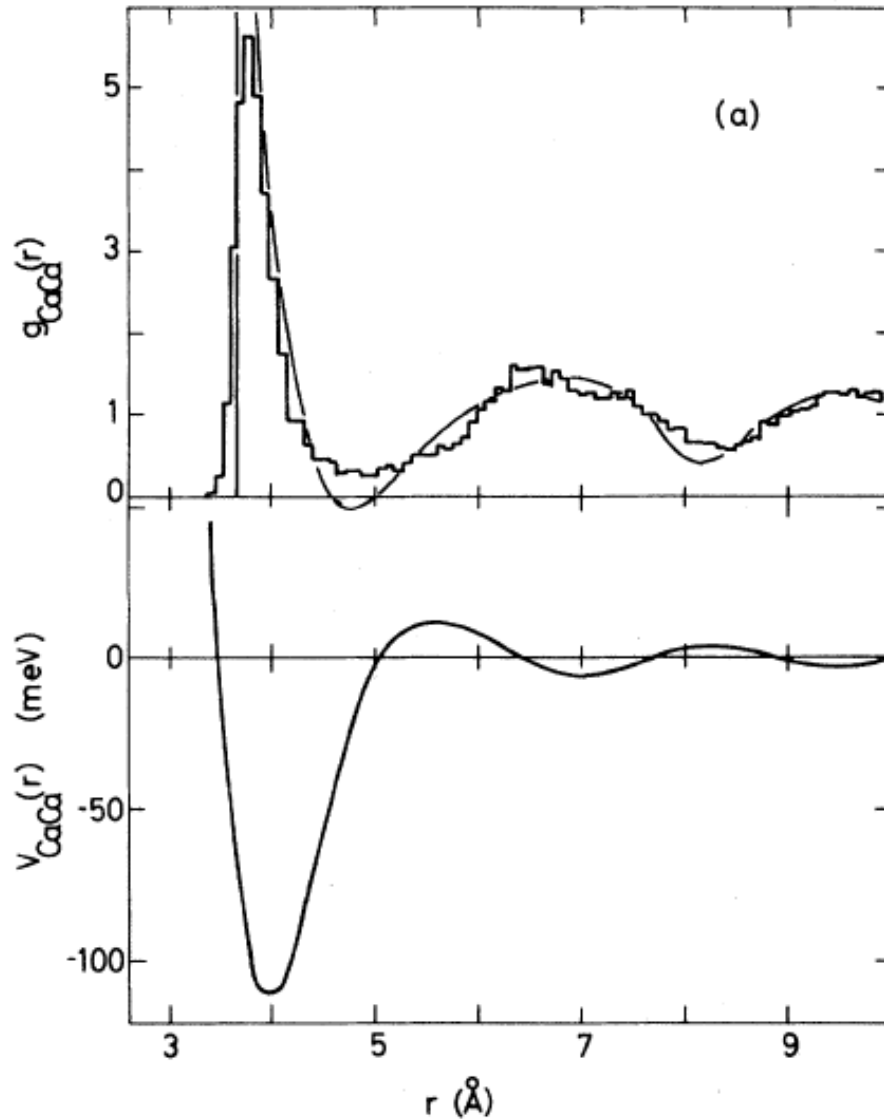
Fundamental Laws

1. The *Coulomb forces* between atomic cores and valence electrons create *chemical bonding* and *cohesion* in solids
2. Electrons are *fermions*: they resist compression. For free Fermi gas (ℓ_{e-e} = average $e - e$ distance, P =pressure)

$$P \sim \ell_{e-e}^5$$

3. In metals, valence electrons are *delocalized*, approximately free. Atomic cores localize themselves to *minimize* the Fermi sea *energy* (*jellium*).
4. A good description of the effective atom-atom interactions is provided by *pair potential* with strong repulsion at short distances, Friedel's oscillations at medium range and exponentially decaying tail.

Pair Potentials



An example of atom-atom pair potential in the metallic glass $\text{Ca}_{70}\text{Mg}_{30}$

Top: the pair creation function
Bottom: the graph of the pair potential

taken from
J. HAFNER, *Phys. Rev. B*, 27, 678-695 (1983)

Dense Packing

1. The shape of the pair potential suggests that there is a *minimal distance* between two atoms.
2. Liquid and solids are *densely packed*. This suggests that there is a *maximal size for vacancies*.
3. However, Mathematics (*ergodic theory*) implies that, given an $\epsilon > 0$, with probability one
 - there are pairs of atoms with distance less than ϵ
 - there are vacancies with radius larger than $1/\epsilon$
4. But these rare events are not seen in practice because their *lifetime is negligibly small* (Bennett et al. '79).

Persistence

- *Persistence* theory gives an idea about why large vacancies have a short lifetime. On discrete subset $\mathcal{V} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$, let, $(n_x)_{x \in \mathcal{V}}$, be a family of *i.i.d random variables* with $n_x \in \{0, 1\}$ and $\text{Prob}\{n_x = 0\} = p > 0$, $\text{Prob}\{n_x = 1\} = 1 - p > 0$.
- Then, if $\Lambda \subset \mathcal{V}$ is a finite set, let $P_\Lambda(t)$ be the probability that $n_x = 0$ for $x \in \Lambda$ and times between 0 and t , given that $n_x = 0$ at $t = 0$ for $x \in \Lambda$. By independence

$$P_\Lambda(t) = \prod_{x \in \Lambda} P_{\{x\}}(t)$$

- Usually $P_{\{x\}}(t) \simeq e^{-t/\tau}$. Hence the life time of Λ as a vacancy is τ/N if Λ has N atoms.

Bonds and Phonons

T. EGAMI, *Atomic Level Stress*, Prog. Mat. Sci., **56**, (2011), 637-653.

1. Atoms can be related by *edges* using Voronoi cells construction. Long edges are *loose*. Short edges are *bonds*.
2. If r is the vector linking two atoms of a bond, there is a local $6D$ *stress tensor* defined by

$$\sigma^{\alpha\beta} = V'(|r|) \frac{r^\alpha r^\beta}{|r|}$$

3. **Liquid Phase:** Bonds constitute the *dominant* degrees of freedom ! Phonons are *damped*.
4. **Glass Phase:** Phonons are the *dominant* degrees of freedom. Bonds are *blocked*.

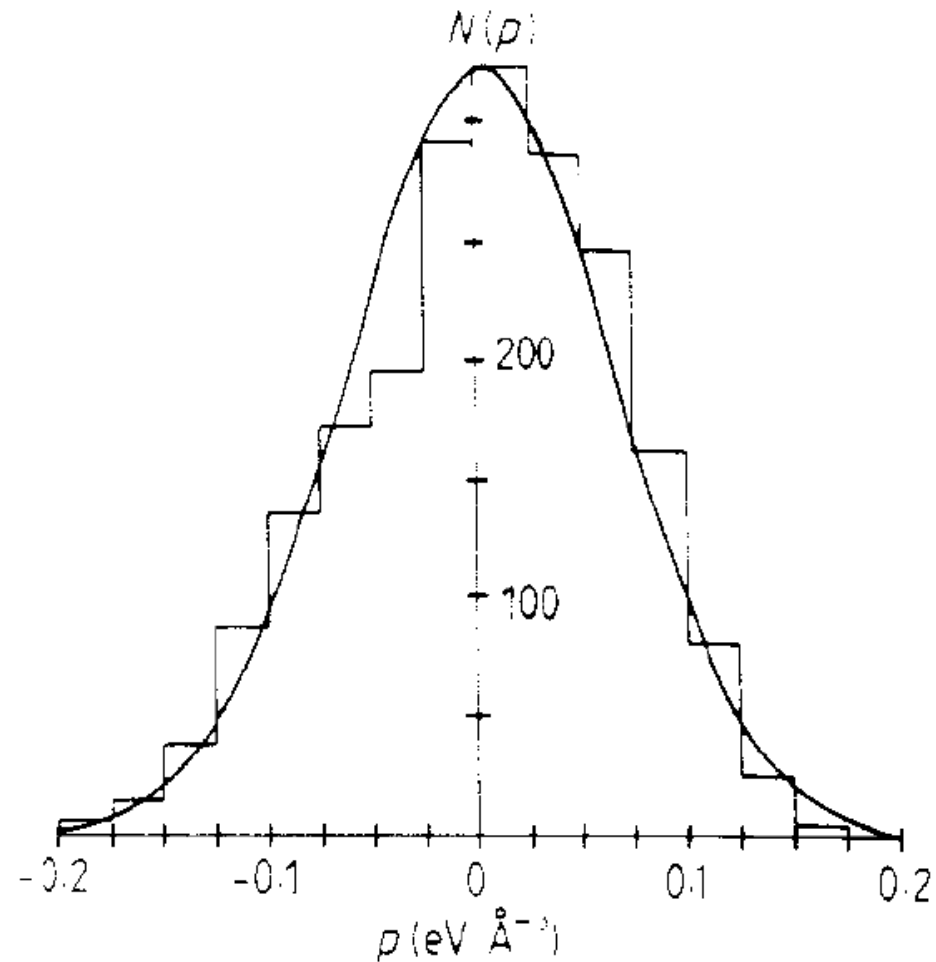
Local Stress Distribution

1. In the liquid state atoms do not find a position minimizing the potential energy, due to *geometrical frustration*. Thermal agitation result in atomic *bond exchanges*, to help atoms minimize their potential energy.
2. The stress tensors associated with bonds behave like *independent random Gaussian variables* !
3. Thanks to *isotropy*, this can be seen on the local *pressure* p and the von Mises local *shear stress* τ

$$p = \frac{1}{3} \sum_{\alpha} \sigma^{\alpha\alpha}$$

$$\tau = \sqrt{\sum_{\alpha < \beta} |\sigma^{\alpha\beta}|^2}$$

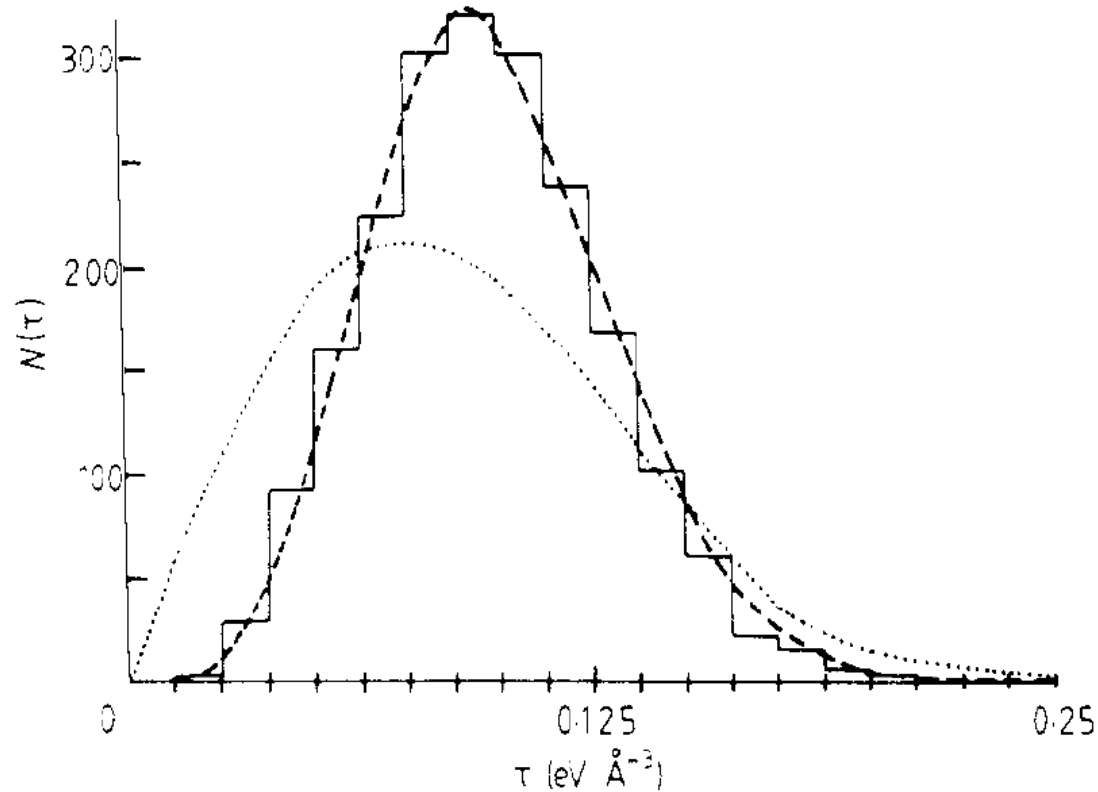
Local Stress Distribution



Pressure distribution in
amorphous and liquid metals

taken from
T. EGAMI & D. SROLOVITZ, *J. Phys. F*, **12**,
2141-2163 (1982)

Local Stress Distribution



Shear stress distribution in
amorphous and liquid
metals

Dotted curve: 2D-Gaussian

Broken curve: 5D-Gaussian

taken from
T. EGAMI & D. SROLOVITZ, *J. Phys. F*, **12**,
2141-2163 (1982)

The Anankeon Theory

*The bond degrees of freedom are the response of atoms to the **stressful** situation in which they are trying to find a better comfortable position, in vain.*

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*whose name comes from the greek word **anagkeia** meaning the **stress of circumstances**. Ananke was representing a power above all including the Gods of the Olympe "even gods don't fight against Ananke" claims a scholar. This character presided to the **creation of the world**, in various versions of the Greek mythology. It expresses the concepts of "**force, constraint, necessity**" and from there it also means "**fate, destiny**" to lead to the concepts of compulsion, torture.*(from Wikipedia)**

The Anankeon Theory

For this reason the configurational degrees of freedom associated with the stress tensor on each bond will be called

ANANKEONS

The Anankeon Theory

- Edge partition function

$$Z(e) = (1 - \pi) \int_{\mathbb{R}^6} e^{-(p^2/2B + \tau^2/2G)/k_B T} dp d^5\tau + \pi$$

- π is the probability for an edge to be *loose*
(V_0 is the pair-potential *maximal depth*)

$$\pi \sim e^{-V_0/k_B T}$$

- B is the *bulk modulus*
- G is the *shear modulus*
- Edge free energy $F(e) = -k_B T \ln Z(e)$

The Anankeon Theory

As a consequence of the anankeon theory, at high temperature, the total potential energy per edge, $3/2 k_B T$, is equally distributed over the six elastic self-energy of the stress components (equipartition)

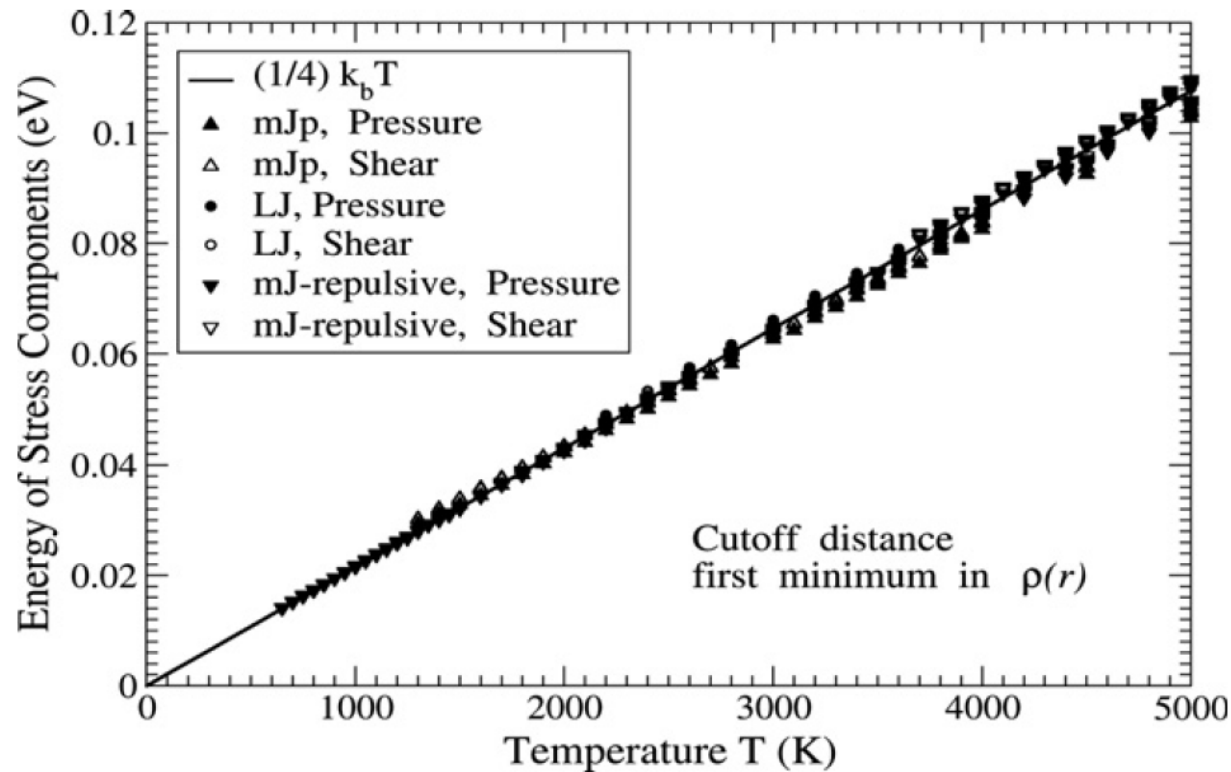
$$\frac{\langle p^2 \rangle}{2B} = \frac{\langle \tau^2 \rangle}{2G} = \frac{k_B T}{4}$$

In particular, the specific heat follows a *law of Dulong-Petit*

$$C_p \stackrel{T \uparrow \infty}{\sim} \frac{3k_B}{2}$$

The corresponding degrees of freedom are the 6 components of the *stress tensor* on each bond.

The Anankeon Theory



Elastic self-energy of
atomic level stresses
tested for various pair
potentials

LJ: Lennard-Jones potential
mJ: Johnson potential including
Friedel's oscillations.

taken from
S.-P. CHEN, T. EGAMI & V. VITEK,
Phys. Rev. B, **37**, 2440-2449, (1988)

The Anankeon Theory

As the temperature decreases, the local edges feel a *long-range stress field* around them. This field can be described through a mean field theory using *continuum elasticity* (Eshleby '57). The stress field is renormalized as

$$K_\alpha \frac{\langle p^2 \rangle}{2B} = K_\gamma \frac{\langle \tau^2 \rangle}{2G} = \frac{k_B T}{4} \quad K_\alpha = \frac{3(1-\nu)}{2(1-2\nu)} \quad K_\gamma = \frac{15(1-\nu)}{7-5\nu}$$

with $\nu = \text{Poisson ratio}$. This leads to a prediction of the *glass transition temperature* where $\epsilon_\nu^{T,crit} \simeq 0.095$ is the *critical strain* computed from percolation theory (Egami T, Poon SJ, Zhang Z, Keppens V., '07)

$$T_g = \frac{2BV}{k_B K_\alpha} (\epsilon_\nu^{T,crit})^2$$

V - Towards a Dissipative Dynamics

(WORK IN PROGRESS)

Configuration Space

- Given $\mathcal{G} \in \mathfrak{B}_n$, each edge e of \mathcal{G} is either *loose* or a *bond*. This can be represented by a random variable $N_e \in \{0, 1\}$ where
 - $N_e = 0$ if e is *loose*
 - $N_e = 1$ if e is a *bond*
 - $\text{Prob}\{N = 0\} = \pi$, $\text{Prob}\{N = 1\} = 1 - \pi$
 - if $e \neq e'$, then $N_e, N_{e'}$ are *independent*.
- Each edge $e \in \mathcal{G}$ with $N_e = 1$ supports the *six components* of a local stress tensor σ_e which is distributed according to *Maxwell-Boltzmann*

$$\text{Prob} \left\{ \sigma_e \in \Delta \subset \mathbb{R}^6 \mid N_e = 1 \right\} = \int_{\Delta} \exp \left\{ - \left(\frac{p_e^2}{2Bk_B T} + \frac{\tau_e^2}{2Gk_B T} \right) \right\} d^6 \sigma_e$$

Interactions

- To build the Hamiltonian describing both the dynamics and the equilibrium, the *continuum elasticity theory* of Eshleby (*Eshleby '57*) must be included as a mean field theory interaction between bonds.
- To describe both the liquid and the solid phase, *phonons* must be included. Since phonons are *damped* in the liquid phase this has to be included in the interaction scheme.
- *Percolation* theory applies thanks to the *loose-bond dichotomy* in the anankeon theory.

Markov Dynamics

- The contiguosness graph \mathfrak{G}_n should leads to a *Markov process* represented by the rate probability of transition $\mathbb{P}_{\mathfrak{G} \rightarrow \mathfrak{G}'}^n$ between two generic *contiguous* local patches

$$\mathbb{P}_{\mathfrak{G} \rightarrow \mathfrak{G}'}^n = \Gamma(\mathfrak{G} \rightarrow \mathfrak{G}') \exp \left\{ - \left(F_{\mathfrak{G}'}(\sigma') - F_{\mathfrak{G}}(\sigma) \right) / k_B T \right\}$$

where $F_{\mathfrak{G}}(\sigma)$ represents the configuration dependent free energy associated with the local patch $\mathfrak{G} \in \mathfrak{B}_n$.

- Here $\Gamma(\mathfrak{G} \rightarrow \mathfrak{G}') \sim e^{-W/k_B T}$ is proportional to the inverse of the *typical transition time*. This time is controlled by the height W of the potential energy barrier between the two configurations, following an *Arrhenius law*.

Markov Dynamics

- Once the model established the *infinite volume limit*, corresponding to the limit $n \rightarrow \infty$ must be considered. Standard theorems exist in the literature on *Dirichlet forms* about the existence and the uniqueness of such limiting processes.
- Then it will be necessary to prove that, within this model, the main properties discovered by theoreticians are actually a consequence of the model.
- One critical data will be to look at the time scale involved in the liquid and the glassy state.



Thanks for Listening!