

# Diffusion in multicomponent solids

Anton Van der Ven

Department of Materials Science and Engineering

University of Michigan

Ann Arbor, MI

# **Coarse graining time Diffusion in a crystal**

**Two levels of time coarse graining**

---

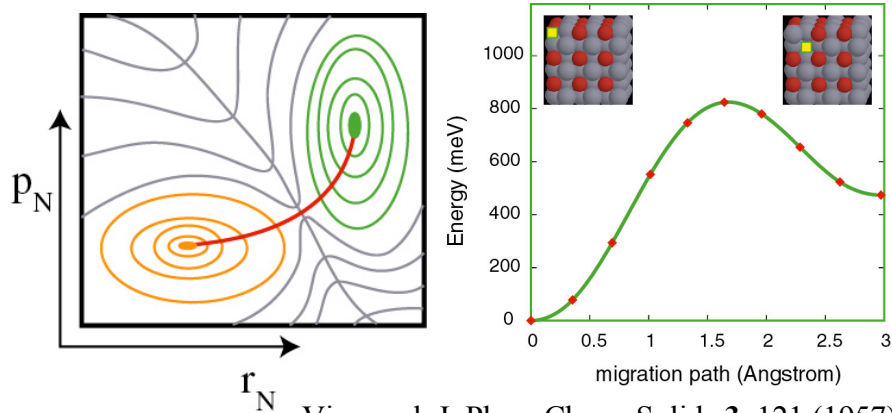
# Coarse graining time Diffusion in a crystal

## Two levels of time coarse graining

Short-time coarse graining:  
transition state theory

$$\Gamma = \nu * \exp\left(\frac{-\Delta E_B}{kT}\right)$$

- MD simulations
- Harmonic approximation



Vineyard, J. Phys. Chem. Solids **3**, 121 (1957).

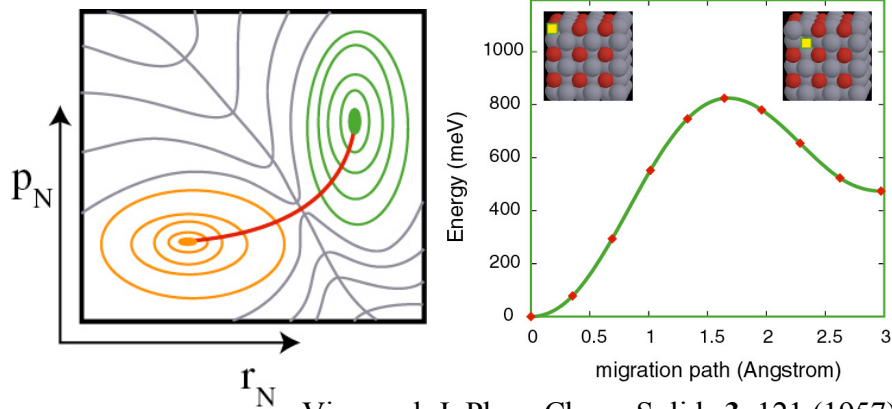
# Coarse graining time Diffusion in a crystal

## Two levels of time coarse graining

Short-time coarse graining:  
transition state theory

$$\Gamma = \nu * \exp\left(\frac{-\Delta E_B}{kT}\right)$$

- MD simulations
- Harmonic approximation



Vineyard, J. Phys. Chem. Solids **3**, 121 (1957).

A second level of coarse graining  
that leads to Fick's law

$$J = -D\nabla C$$

**Green-Kubo**

Kinetic coefficients derived from  
fluctuations **at equilibrium**

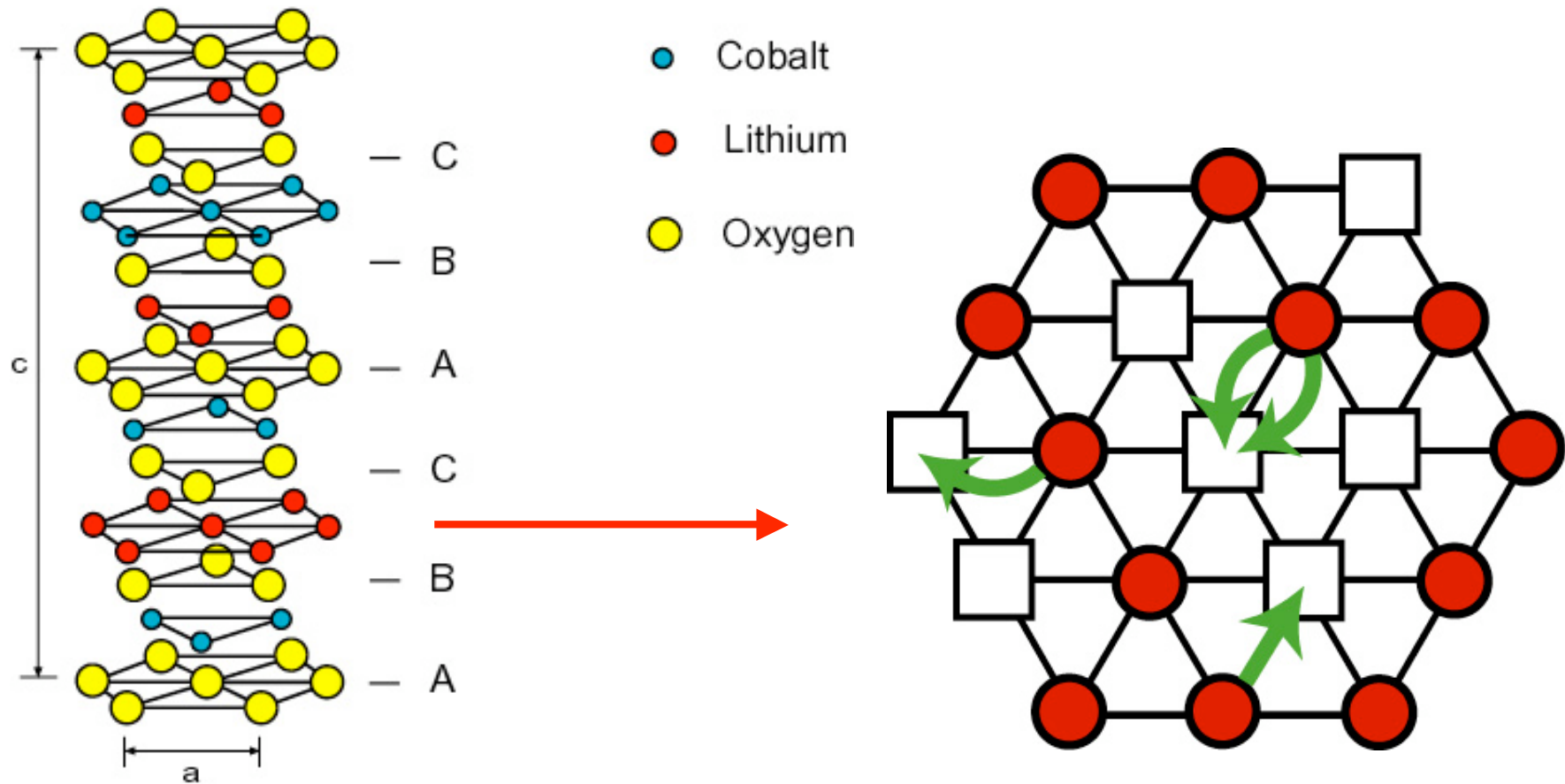
Zwanzig, Annu. Rev. Phys. Chem. **16**, 67 (1965).

# Interstitial diffusion

- C diffusion in bcc Iron (steel)
- Li diffusion in transition metal oxide host
- O diffusion on Pt-(111) surface

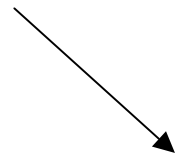
In all examples, diffusion occurs on a rigid lattice which is externally imposed by a host or substrate

# Example of interstitial diffusion

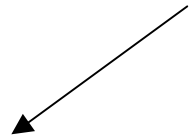


# Irreversible thermodynamics: interstitial diffusion of one component

$$J = -L\nabla\mu$$



$$D = L \frac{d\mu}{dC}$$



$$J = -D\nabla C$$

# Notation

$M$  = number of lattice sites

$N$  = number of diffusing atoms

$v_s$  = volume per lattice site

$x = N/M$

$C = x/v_s$



# Interstitial diffusion: one component

Kubo-Green relations  
(linear response statistical mechanics)

$$D = L \cdot \Theta$$

**Thermodynamic factor**

$$\Theta = \frac{\partial \mu}{\partial C}$$

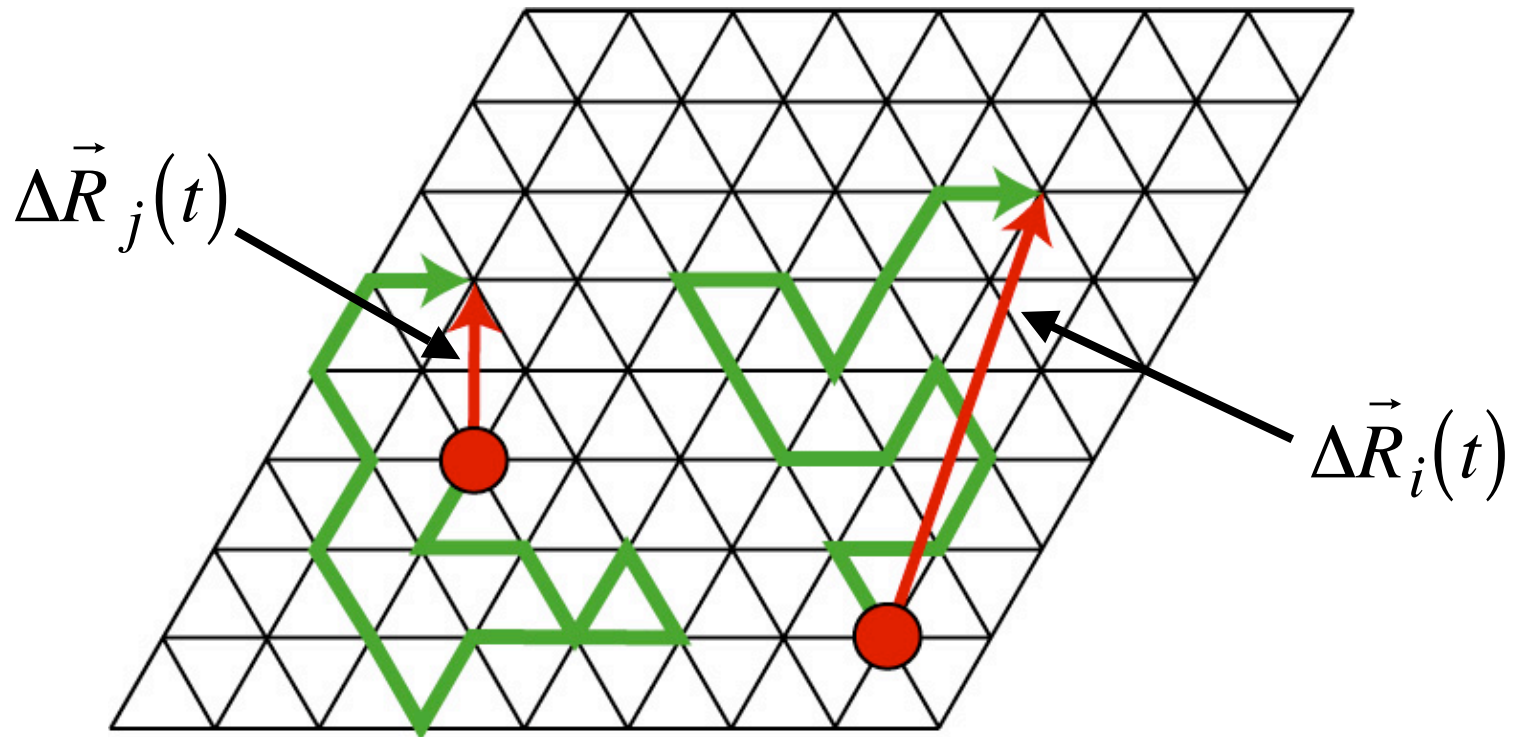
**Kinetic coefficient**

$$L = \frac{1}{(2d)tMv_s kT} \left\langle \left( \sum_{i=1}^N \Delta \vec{R}_i(t) \right)^2 \right\rangle$$

R. Gomer, Rep. Prog. Phys. **53**, 917 (1990)/

A. Van der Ven, G. Ceder, Handbook of Materials Modeling, chapt. 1.17, Ed. S. Yip, Springer (2005).

# Trajectories



$$D_J = \frac{1}{(2d)t} \left\langle \frac{1}{N} \left( \sum_{i=1}^N \Delta \vec{R}_i(t) \right)^2 \right\rangle$$

# More familiar form

$$D = D_J \cdot \tilde{\Theta}$$

**Thermodynamic factor**

$$\tilde{\Theta} = \frac{\partial \left( \frac{\mu}{kT} \right)}{\partial \ln x}$$

**Self diffusion coefficient**

$$D_J = \frac{1}{(2d)t} \left\langle \left( \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \Delta \vec{R}_i(t) \right)^2 \right\rangle$$

# Common approximation

$$D = D^* \cdot \tilde{\Theta}$$

Thermodynamic factor

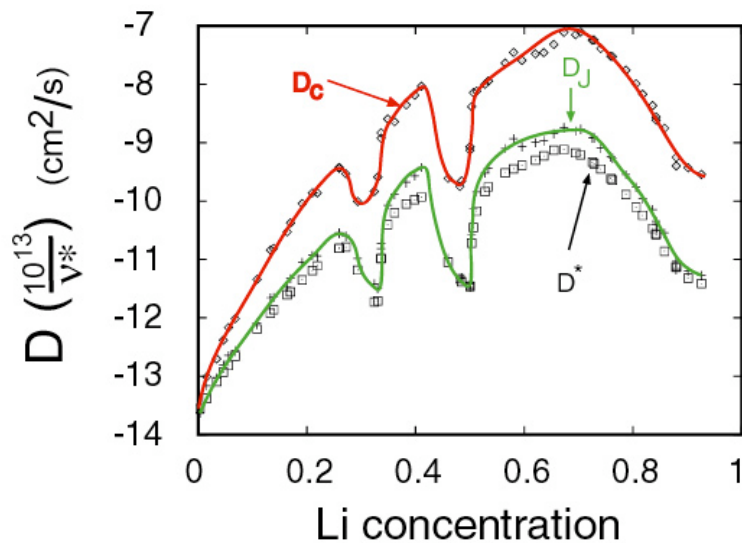
$$\tilde{\Theta} = \frac{\partial \left( \frac{\mu}{kT} \right)}{\partial \ln x}$$

Tracer diffusion coefficient

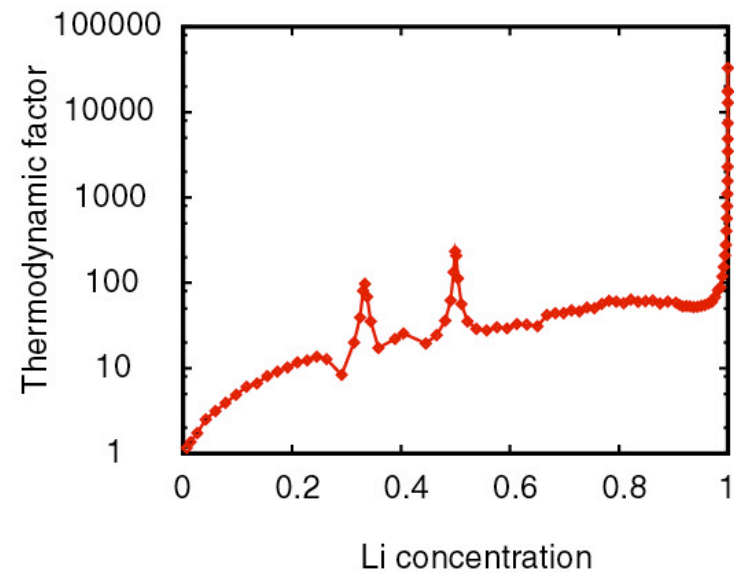
$$D^* = \frac{\left\langle (\Delta R_i(t))^2 \right\rangle}{(2d)t}$$

$$D = D_J \cdot \Theta^z$$

### Diffusion coefficient at 300 K



### Thermodynamic factor $\Theta$



## Interstitial diffusion (two components)

- C & N diffusion in bcc Iron (steel)
- Li & Na diffusion in transition metal oxide host
- O & S diffusion on Pt-(111) surface

In all examples, diffusion occurs on a rigid lattice which is externally imposed by a host or substrate

# Diffusion of two species on a lattice

$$J_A = -L_{AA}\nabla\mu_A - L_{AB}\nabla\mu_B$$

$$J_B = -L_{BA}\nabla\mu_A - L_{BB}\nabla\mu_B$$

$$D = L \cdot \Theta$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} D_{AA} & D_{AB} \\ D_{BA} & D_{BB} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} L_{AA} & L_{AB} \\ L_{BA} & L_{BB} \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial\mu_A}{\partial C_A} & \frac{\partial\mu_A}{\partial C_B} \\ \frac{\partial\mu_B}{\partial C_A} & \frac{\partial\mu_B}{\partial C_B} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$J_A = -D_{AA}\nabla C_A - D_{AB}\nabla C_B$$

$$J_B = -D_{BA}\nabla C_A - D_{BB}\nabla C_B$$

# Alternative factorization

$$\begin{pmatrix} D_{AA} & D_{AB} \\ D_{BA} & D_{BB} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{L}_{AA} & \tilde{L}_{AB} \\ \tilde{L}_{BA} & \tilde{L}_{BB} \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial \left( \frac{\mu_A}{kT} \right)}{\partial x_A} & \frac{\partial \left( \frac{\mu_A}{kT} \right)}{\partial x_B} \\ \frac{\partial \left( \frac{\mu_B}{kT} \right)}{\partial x_A} & \frac{\partial \left( \frac{\mu_B}{kT} \right)}{\partial x_B} \end{pmatrix}$$

Kubo-Green

$$\tilde{L}_{ij} = \frac{\left\langle \left( \sum_{\zeta} \Delta \vec{R}_{\zeta}^i(t) \right) \cdot \left( \sum_{\xi} \Delta \vec{R}_{\xi}^j(t) \right) \right\rangle}{(2d)tM}$$

A. Van der Ven, G. Ceder, Handbook of Materials Modeling, chapt. 1.17, Ed. S. Yip, Springer (2005).

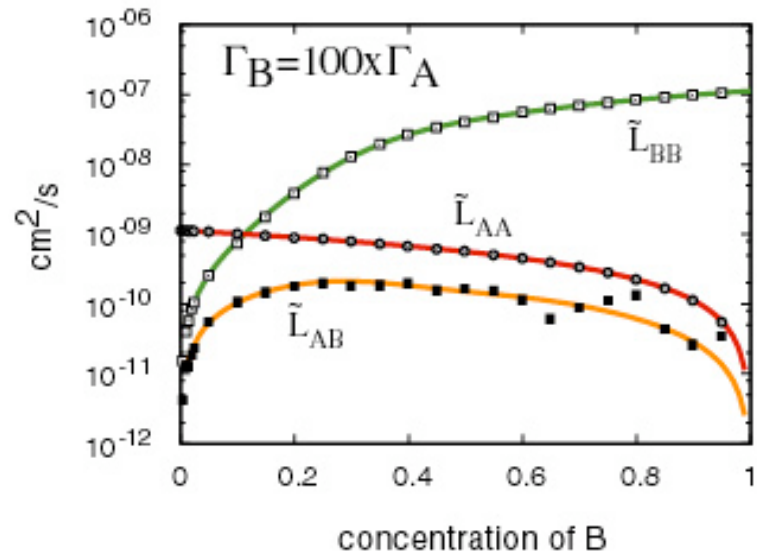
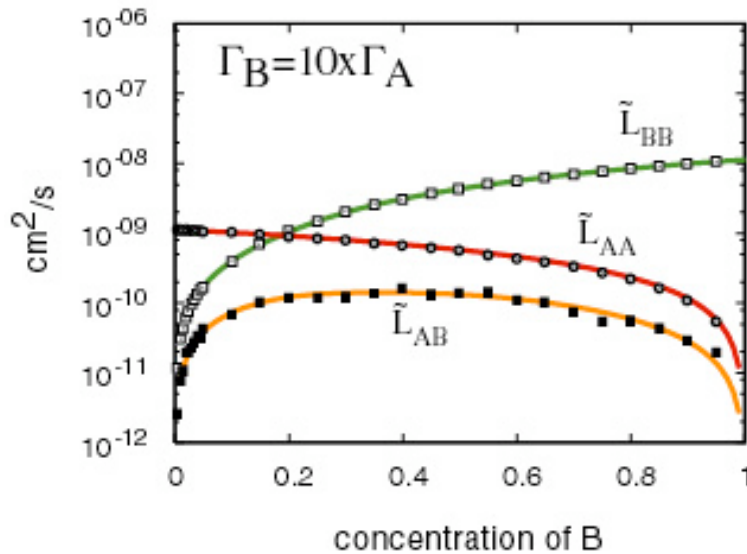
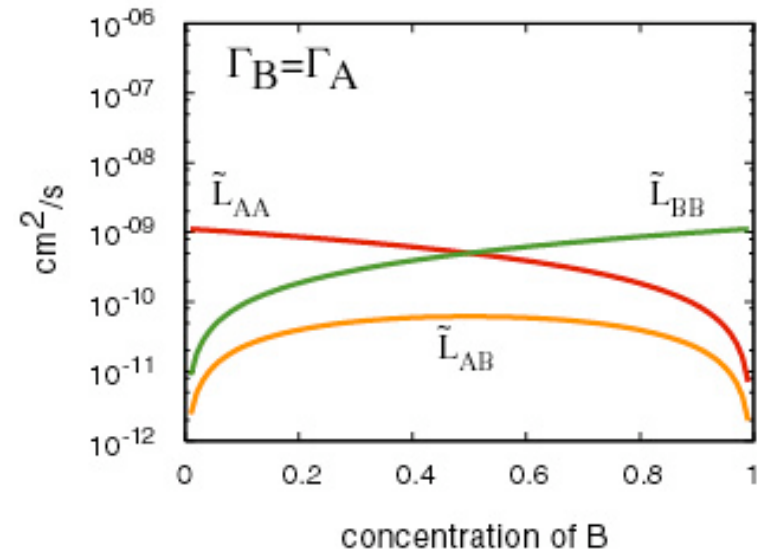
A.R. Allnatt, A.B. Lidiard, *Atomic Transport in Solids* (Cambridge Univ. Press, 1993).



# Kinetic coefficients

(fcc lattice in dilute vacancy limit, ideal solution)

$$\tilde{L}_{ij} = \frac{\left\langle \left( \sum_{\zeta} \Delta \vec{R}_{\zeta}^i(t) \right) \cdot \left( \sum_{\zeta} \Delta \vec{R}_{\zeta}^j(t) \right) \right\rangle}{(2d)tM}$$

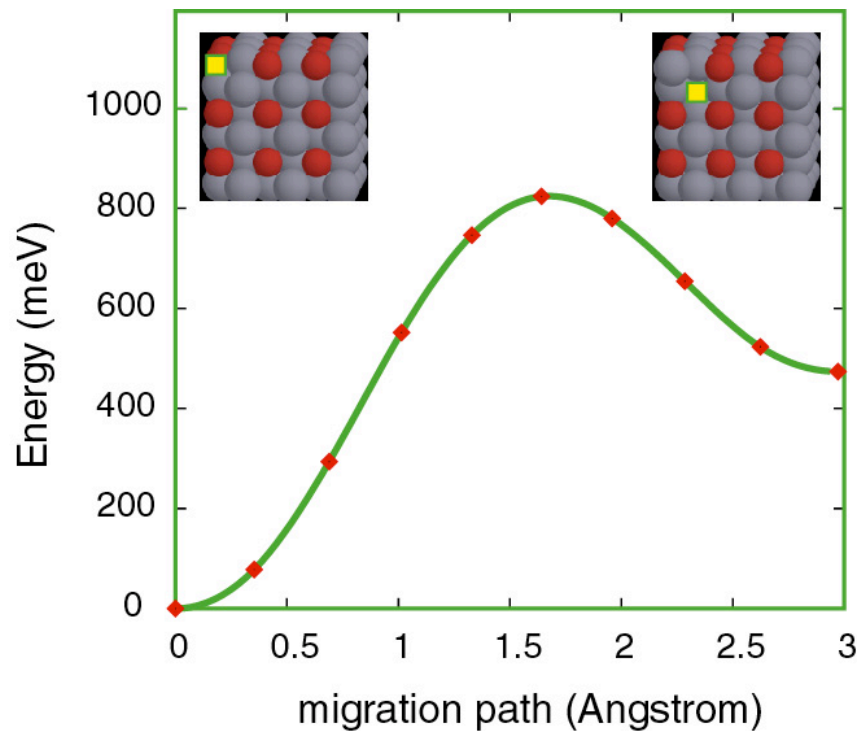


# Diffusion in an alloy: substitutional diffusion

Not interstitial diffusion

Instead, diffusing atoms form the lattice

Dilute concentration of vacancies



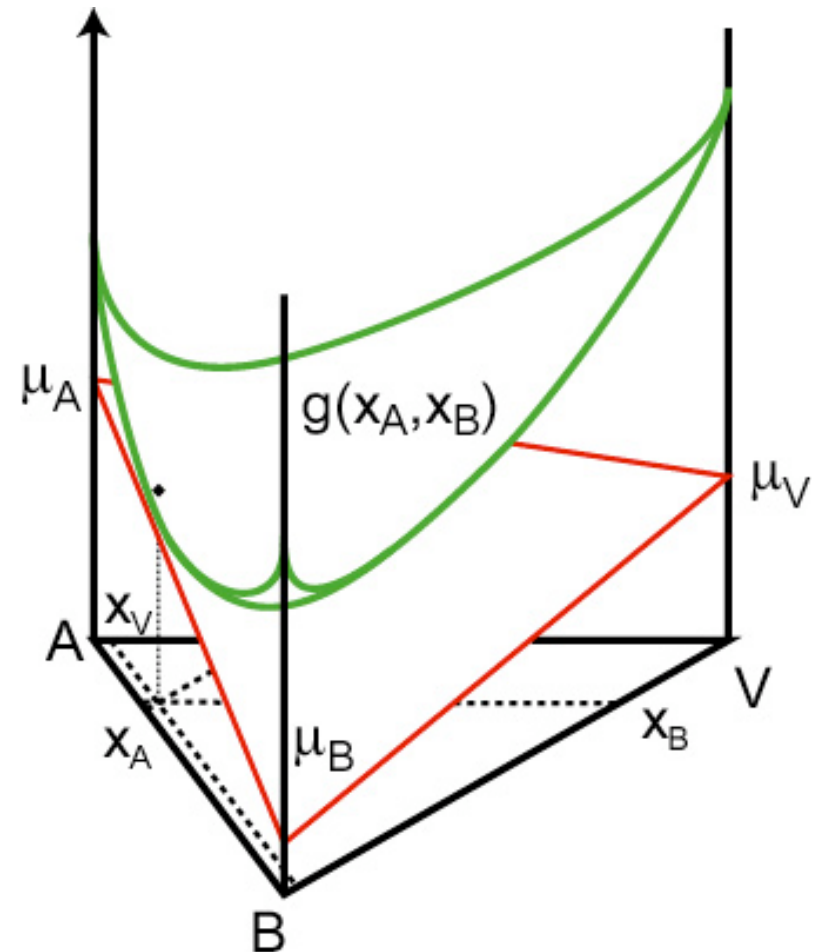
# Thermodynamic driving forces for substitutional diffusion

$$J_A = -L_{AA}\nabla\tilde{\mu}_A - L_{AB}\nabla\tilde{\mu}_B$$

$$J_B = -L_{BA}\nabla\tilde{\mu}_A - L_{BB}\nabla\tilde{\mu}_B$$

$$\tilde{\mu}_A = \mu_A - \mu_V$$

$$\tilde{\mu}_B = \mu_B - \mu_V$$



# Textbook treatment of substitutional diffusion Not Rigorous

$$J_A = -L_{AA}\nabla\tilde{\mu}_A - L_{AB}\nabla\tilde{\mu}_B$$

$$J_B = -L_{BA}\nabla\tilde{\mu}_A - L_{BB}\nabla\tilde{\mu}_B$$

---

# Textbook treatment of substitutional diffusion Not Rigorous

$$J_A = -L_{AA}\nabla\tilde{\mu}_A - L_{AB}\nabla\tilde{\mu}_B$$

$$J_B = -L_{BA}\nabla\tilde{\mu}_A - L_{BB}\nabla\tilde{\mu}_B$$

## Traditional

Assume vacancy concentration  
in equilibrium everywhere

$$\mu_V = 0 \quad d\mu_V = 0$$

Gibbs-Duhem  $\downarrow$   $x_A d\mu_A + x_B d\mu_B = 0$

$$J_A = -D_A \nabla C_A$$

$$J_B = -D_B \nabla C_B$$

# Textbook treatment of substitutional diffusion Not Rigorous

$$J_A = -L_{AA}\nabla\tilde{\mu}_A - L_{AB}\nabla\tilde{\mu}_B$$

$$J_B = -L_{BA}\nabla\tilde{\mu}_A - L_{BB}\nabla\tilde{\mu}_B$$

**Traditional**

**Rigorous**

Assume vacancy concentration  
in equilibrium everywhere

$$\mu_V = 0 \quad d\mu_V = 0$$

Gibbs-Duhem  $\downarrow$   $x_A d\mu_A + x_B d\mu_B = 0$

$$J_A = -D_A \nabla C_A$$

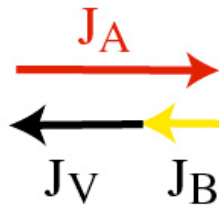
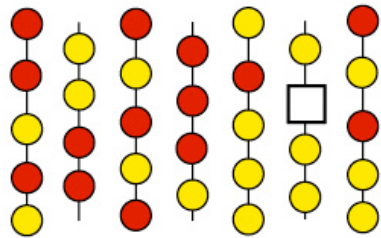
$$J_B = -D_B \nabla C_B$$

$$J_A = -D_{AA}\nabla C_A - D_{AB}\nabla C_B$$

$$J_B = -D_{BA}\nabla C_A - D_{BB}\nabla C_B$$

# Lattice frame and laboratory frame of reference

Lattice frame of reference



$$v_{lattice} = V_m \cdot J_V = -V_m \cdot (J_A + J_B)$$

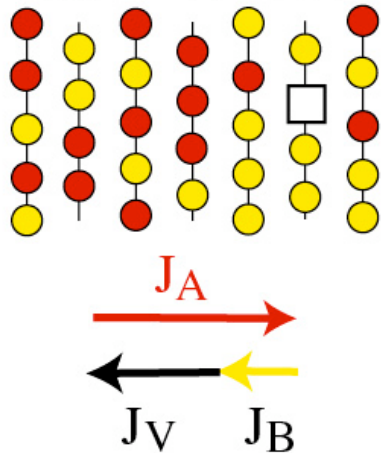
Fluxes in the laboratory frame

$$\tilde{J}_A = J_A + x_A J_V$$

$$\tilde{J}_B = J_B + x_B J_V$$

# Lattice frame and laboratory frame of reference

Lattice frame of reference



$$v_{lattice} = V_m \cdot J_V = -V_m \cdot (J_A + J_B)$$

Fluxes in the laboratory frame

$$\tilde{J}_A = J_A + x_A J_V$$

$$\tilde{J}_B = J_B + x_B J_V$$

$$J_V = -\tilde{W} \nabla C_B$$

$$J_B + x_B J_V = -\tilde{D} \nabla C_B$$

**Drift**

$$\tilde{W} = D_A - D_B$$

**Interdiffusion**

$$\tilde{D} = x_B D_A + x_A D_B$$



## Rigorous treatment

$$J_A = -D_{AA}\nabla C_A - D_{AB}\nabla C_B$$

$$J_B = -D_{BA}\nabla C_A - D_{BB}\nabla C_B$$

# Rigorous treatment

$$J_A = -D_{AA}\nabla C_A - D_{AB}\nabla C_B$$

$$J_B = -D_{BA}\nabla C_A - D_{BB}\nabla C_B$$

## Diagonalize the D-matrix

Yields a mode corresponding to

(a) density relaxation

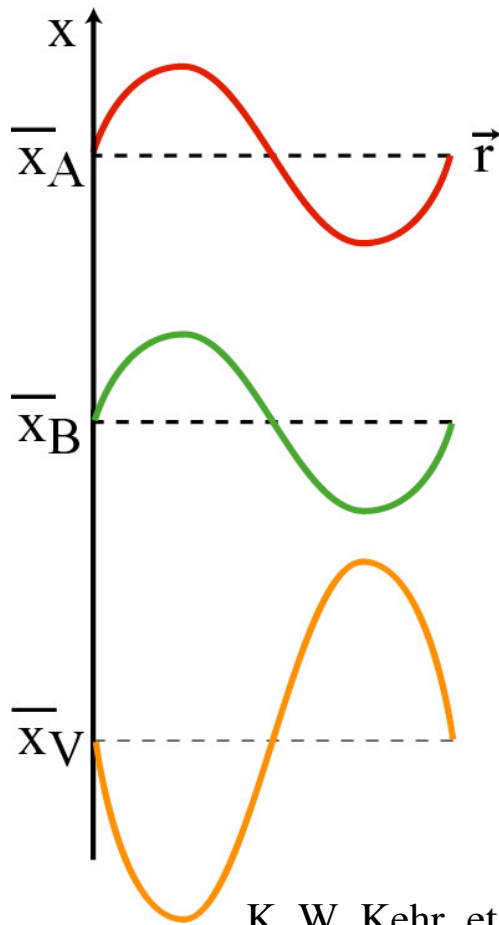
(b) interdiffusion

$$\begin{pmatrix} D_{AA} & D_{AB} \\ D_{BA} & D_{BB} \end{pmatrix} = E \cdot \begin{pmatrix} \lambda^+ & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda^- \end{pmatrix} \cdot E^{-1}$$

# Physical meaning of modes $\lambda^+$ and $\lambda^-$

# Physical meaning of modes $\lambda^+$ and $\lambda^-$

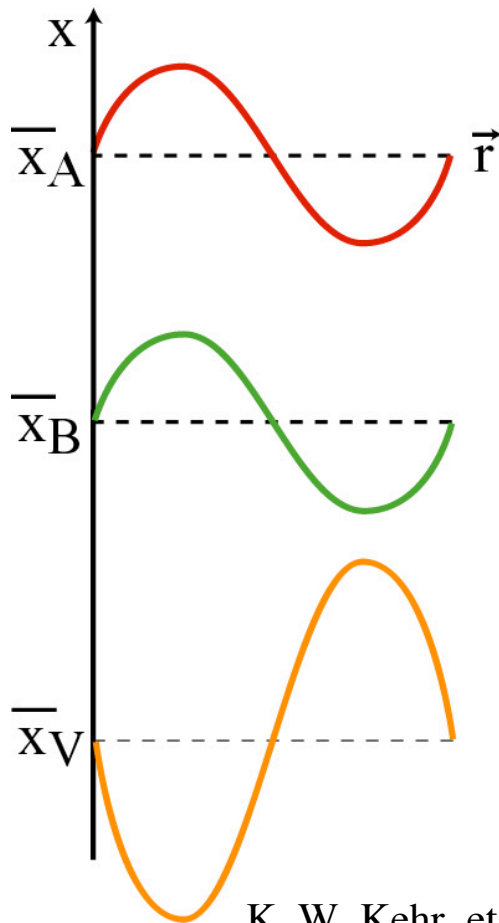
Density fluctuations relax with a time constant of  $\lambda^+$



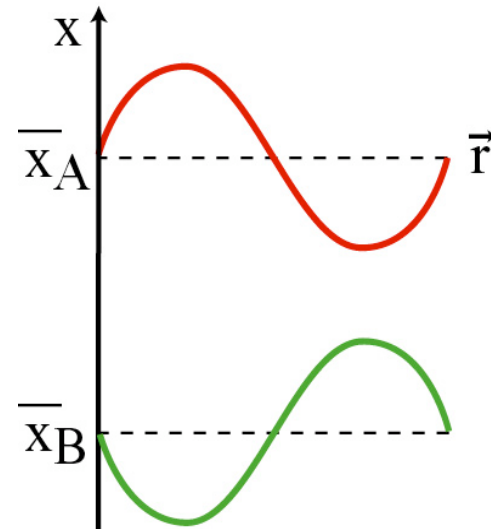
K. W. Kehr, et al, Phys. Rev. B **39**, 4891 (1989)

# Physical meaning of modes $\lambda^+$ and $\lambda^-$

Density fluctuations relax with a time constant of  $\lambda^+$



Compositional inhomogeneities decay with a time constant of  $\lambda^-$



K. W. Kehr, et al, Phys. Rev. B **39**, 4891 (1989)

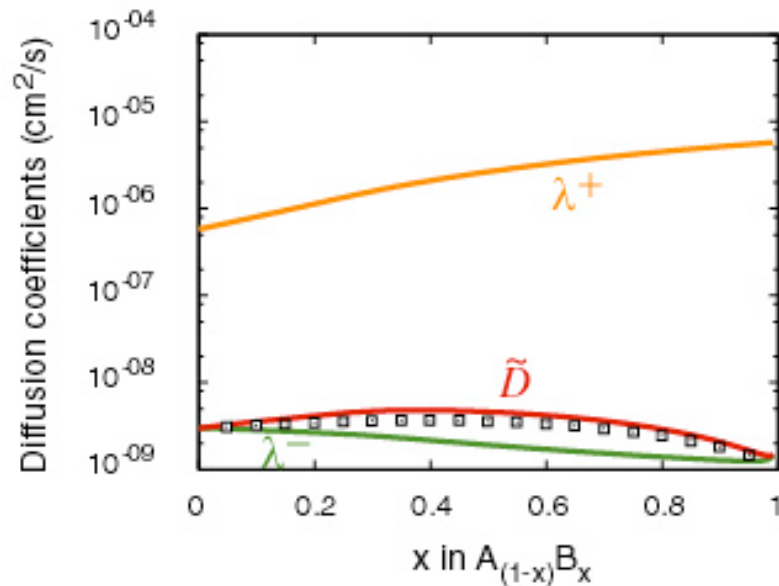
# Comparisons of different treatments

## Random alloy

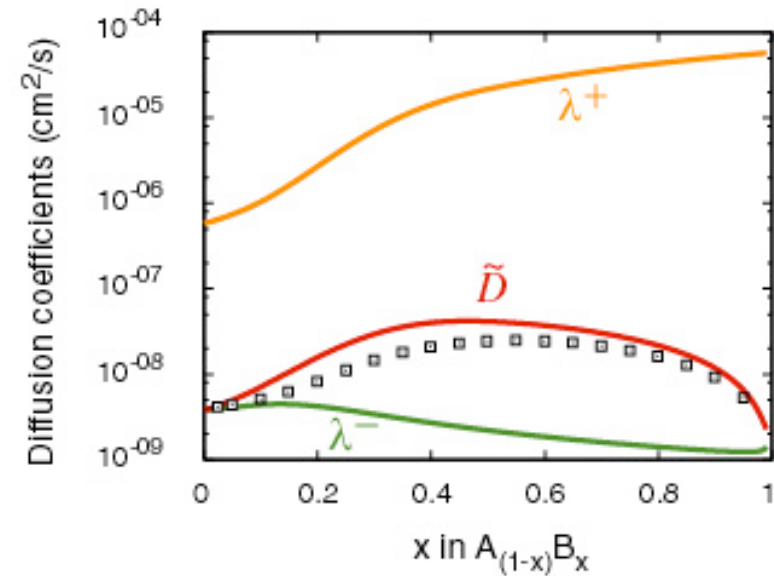
Traditional and rigorous treatment are equivalent only when

$$\Gamma_B = \Gamma_A$$

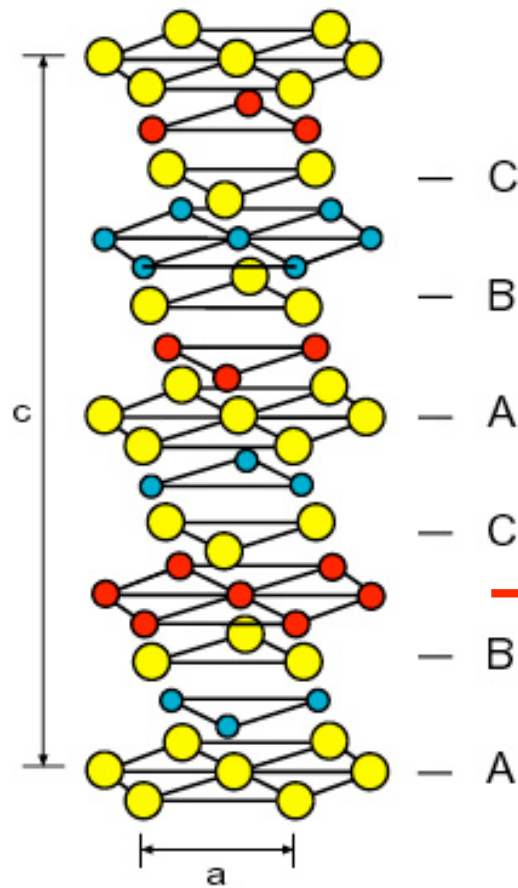
$$\Gamma_B = 10 \times \Gamma_A$$



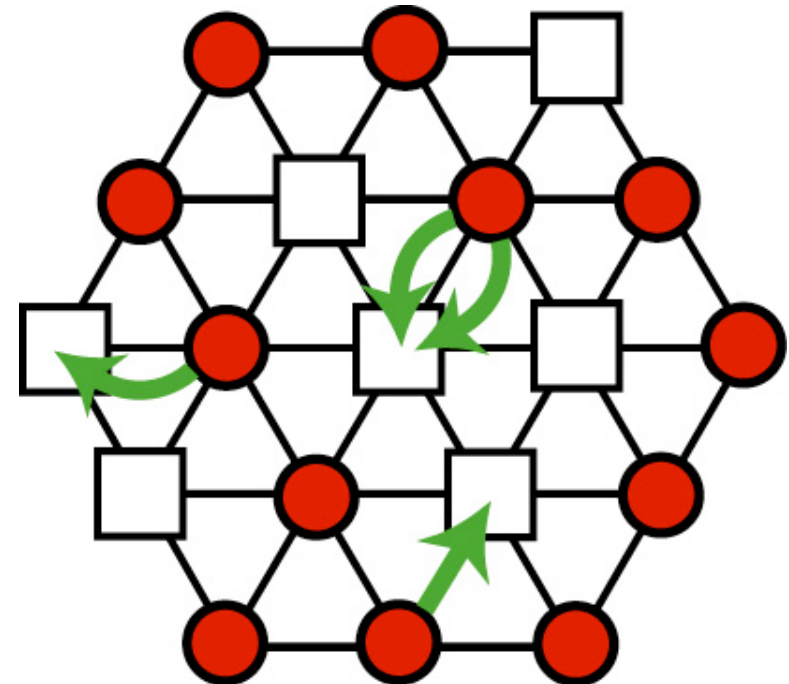
$$\Gamma_B = 100 \times \Gamma_A$$



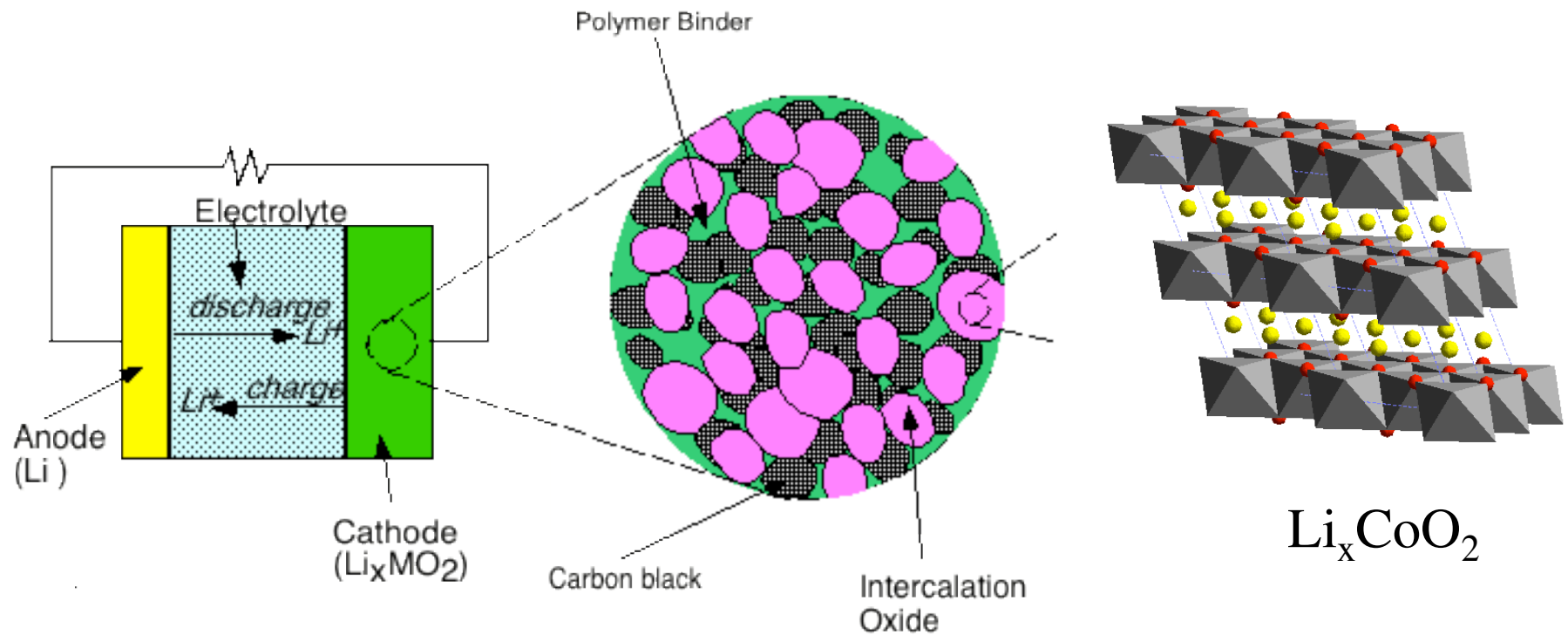
# Example: $\text{Li}_x\text{CoO}_2$



- Cobalt
- Lithium
- Oxygen



# Intercalation Oxide as Cathode in Rechargeable Lithium Battery





# First-Principles (Density Functional Theory)



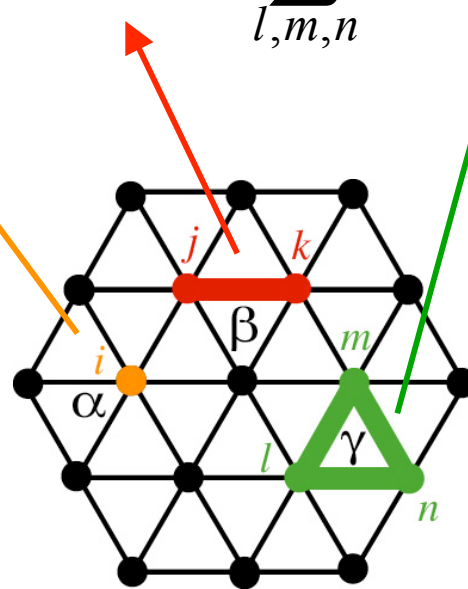
## Cluster Expansions

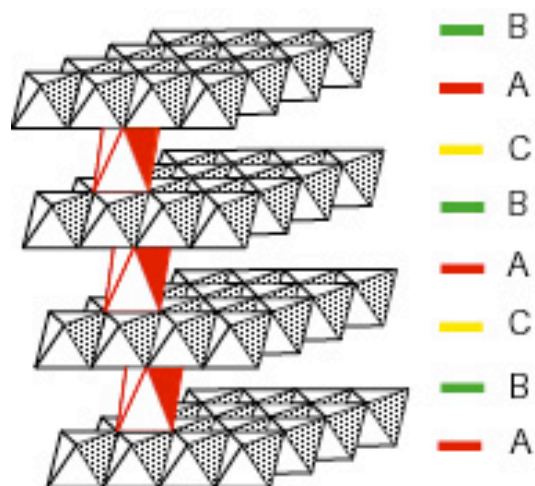
Fit  $V_\alpha, V_\beta, V_\gamma, \dots$   
to first-principles energies

$$F(\sigma) = V_0 + \sum_i V_\alpha \sigma_i + \sum_{j,k} V_\beta \sigma_j \sigma_k + \sum_{l,m,n} V_\gamma \sigma_l \sigma_m \sigma_n + \dots$$

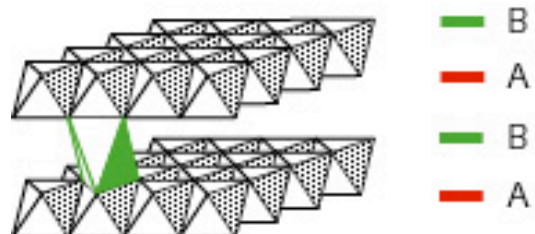
## Monte Carlo

$$Z = \sum_{\sigma} \exp\left(-\frac{F(\sigma)}{k_B T}\right)$$

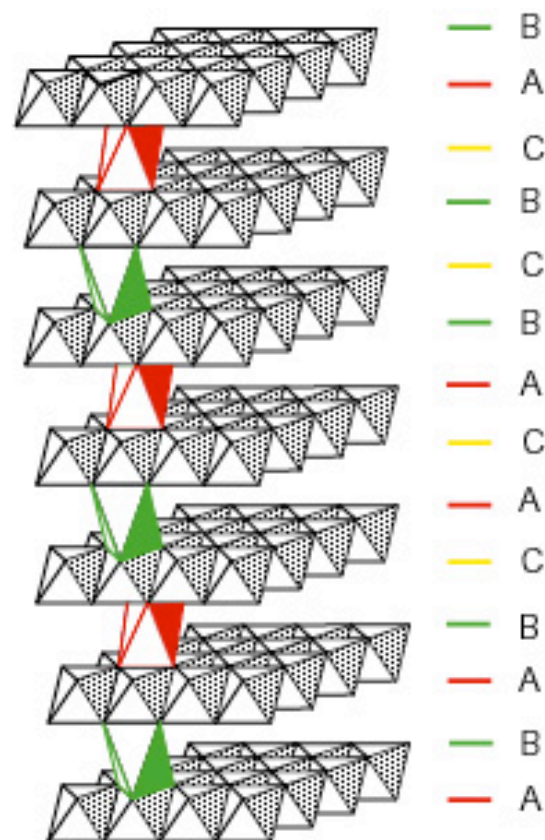




O3 host



O1 host



H1-3 host



O octahedra surrounding Co

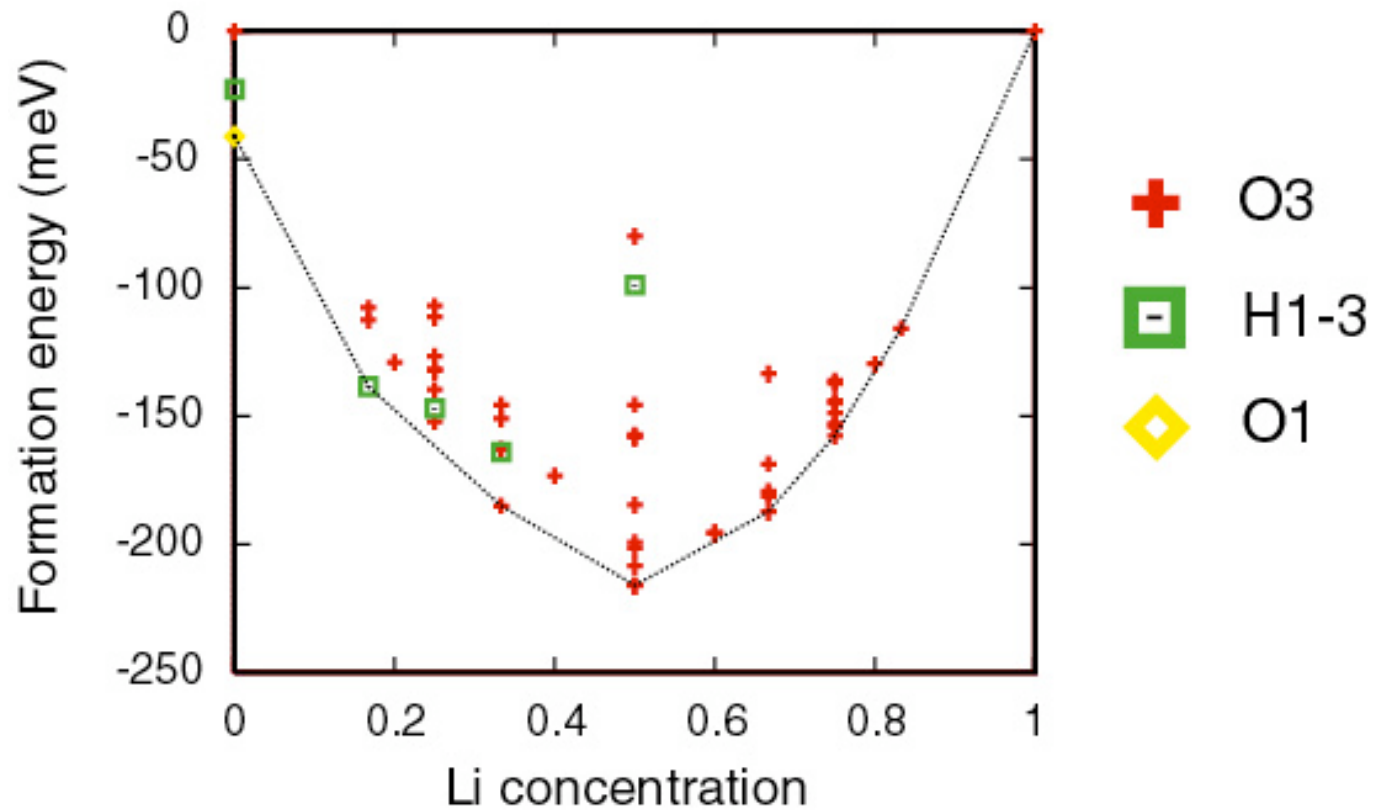


Edge sharing O octahedra in Li



Face sharing O octahedra in Li plane

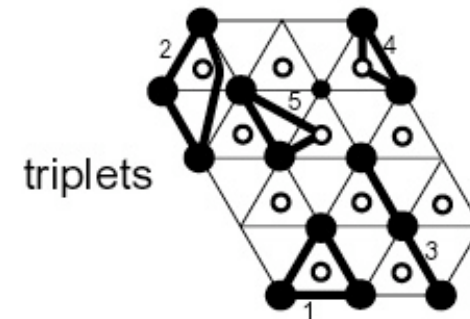
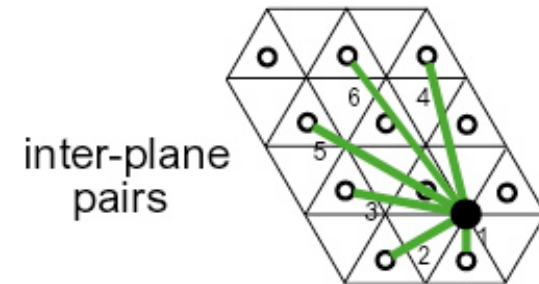
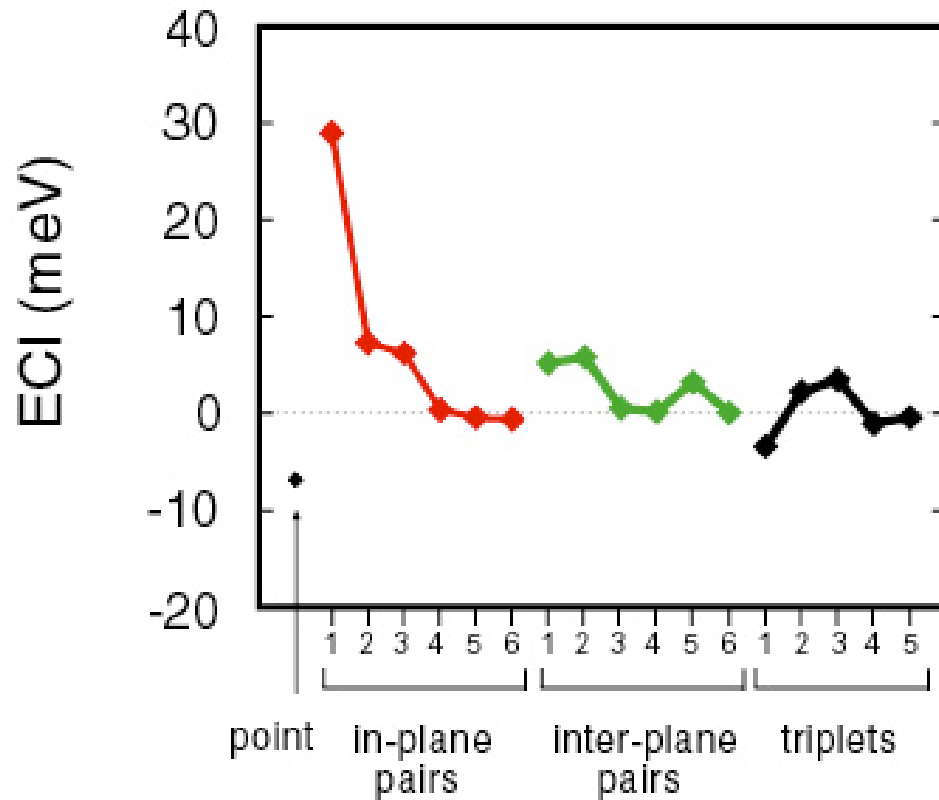
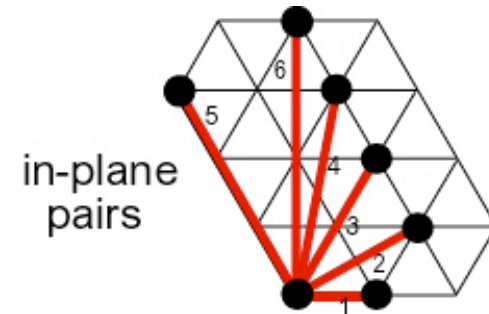
# First principles energies (LDA) of different lithium-vacancy configurations



A. Van der Ven, et al, Phys. Rev. B 58 (6), p. 2975-87 (1998).

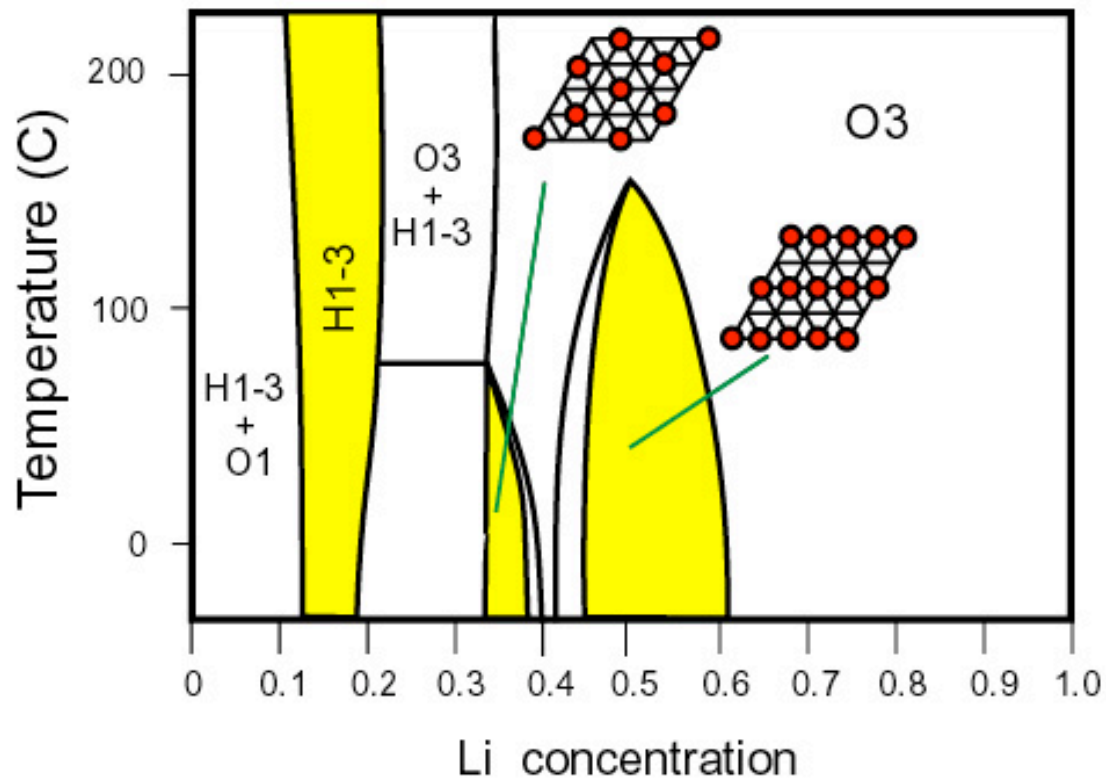
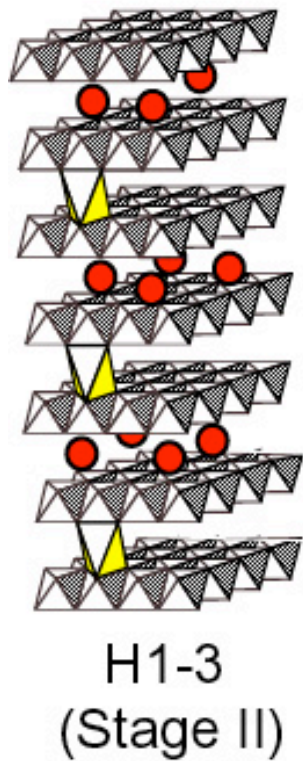
# Cluster expansion for $\text{Li}_x\text{CoO}_2$

$$E(\sigma) = V_0 + \sum_i V_i \sigma_i + \sum_{i,j} V_{i,j} \sigma_i \sigma_j + \sum_{i,j,k} V_{i,j,k} \sigma_i \sigma_j \sigma_k + \dots$$



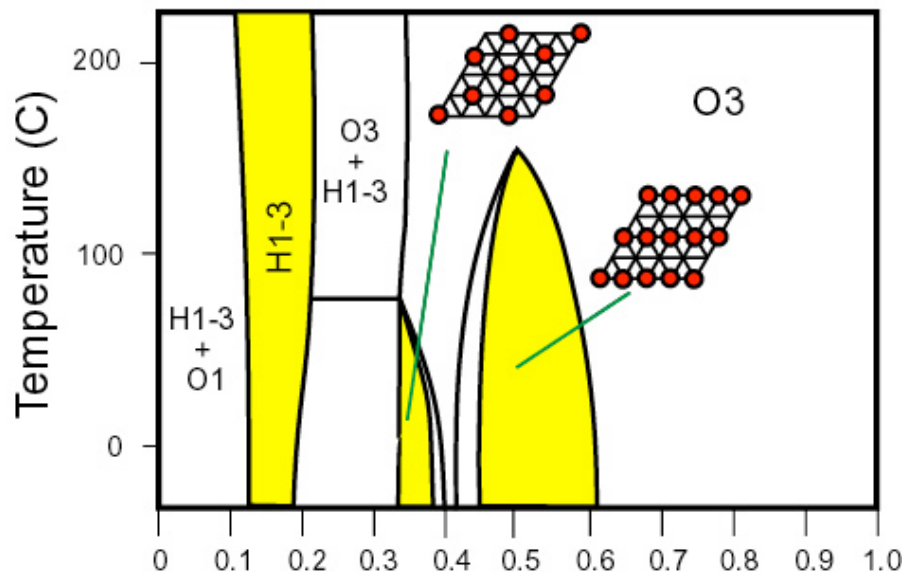
A. Van der Ven, et al, Phys. Rev. B 58 (6), p. 2975-87 (1998).

# Calculated $\text{Li}_x\text{CoO}_2$ phase diagram

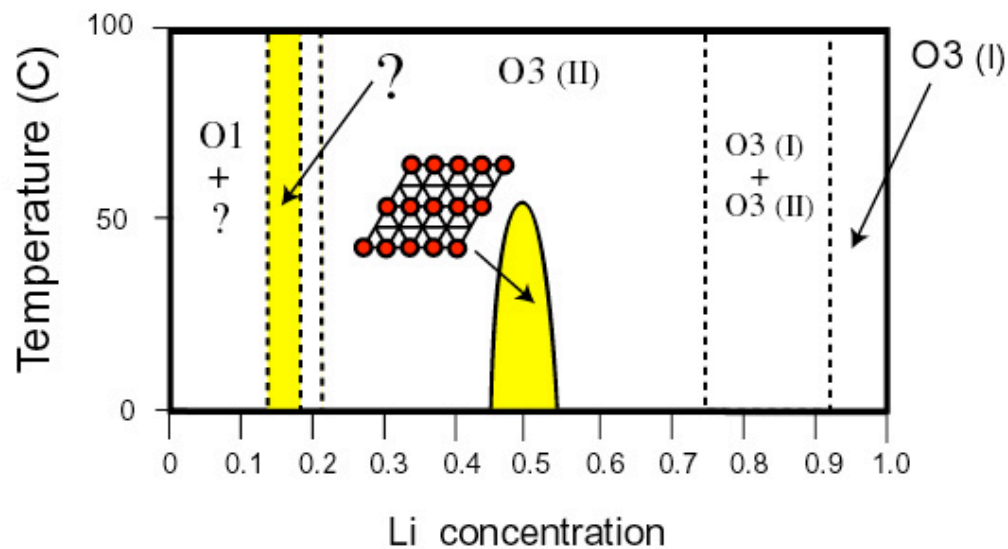


A. Van der Ven, et al, Phys. Rev. B 58 (6), p. 2975-87 (1998).

# Calculated phase diagram

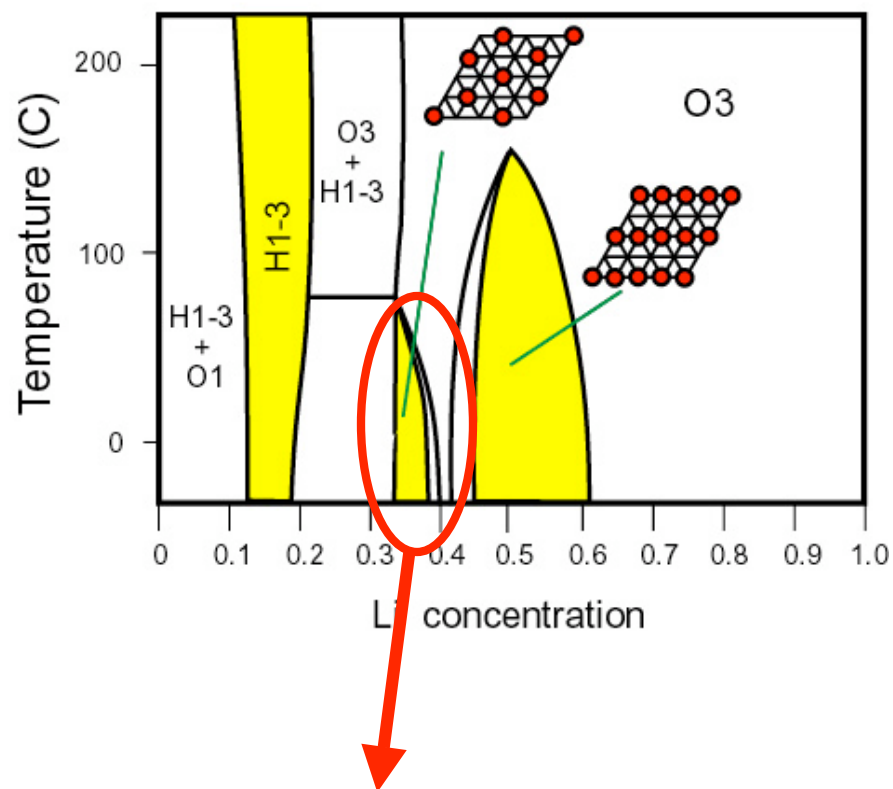


# Experimental phase diagram



Reimers, Dahn, J. Electrochem. Soc, (1992)  
Ohzuku, Ueda, J. Electrochem. Soc. (1994)  
Amatucci et al, J. Electrochem. Soc. (1996)

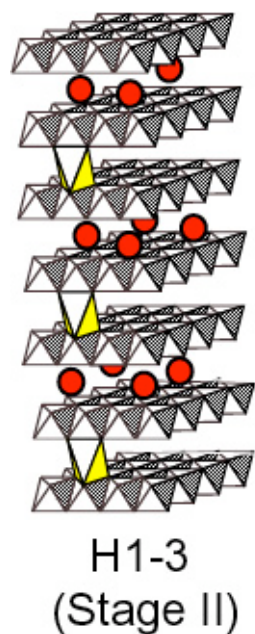
# Predicted phases confirmed experimentally



**Confirmed experimentally with TEM**

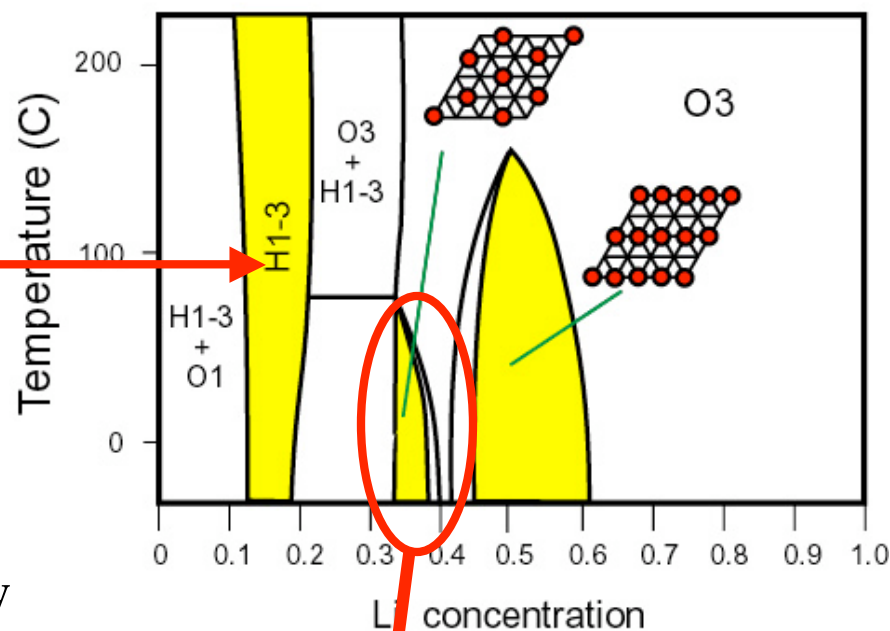
Y. Shao-Horn, S. Levasseur, F. Weill, C. Delmas, J. Electrochem. Soc. **150** (2003), A 366

# Predicted phases confirmed experimentally



## Confirmed experimentally by

Z. Chen, Z. Lu, J.R. Dahn J.  
Electrochem. Soc. 149, A1604 (2002)

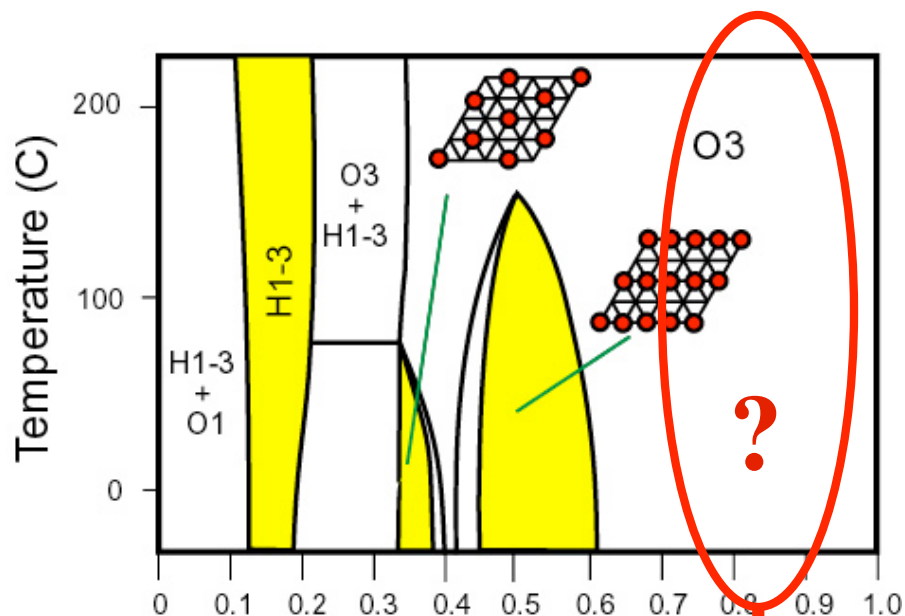


## Confirmed experimentally with TEM

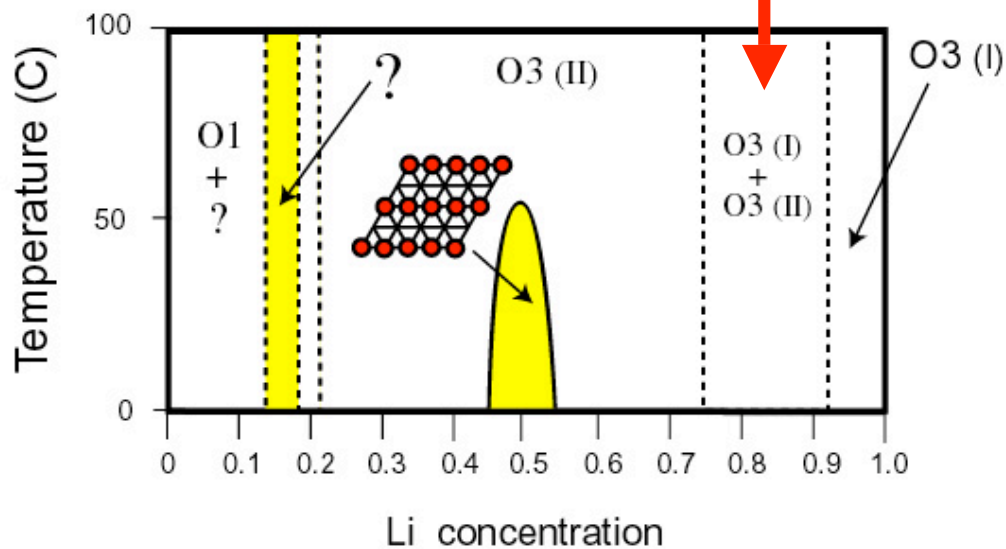
Y. Shao-Horn, S. Levasseur, F. Weill, C. Delmas, J. Electrochem. Soc. **150** (2003), A 366



Calculated  
phase diagram



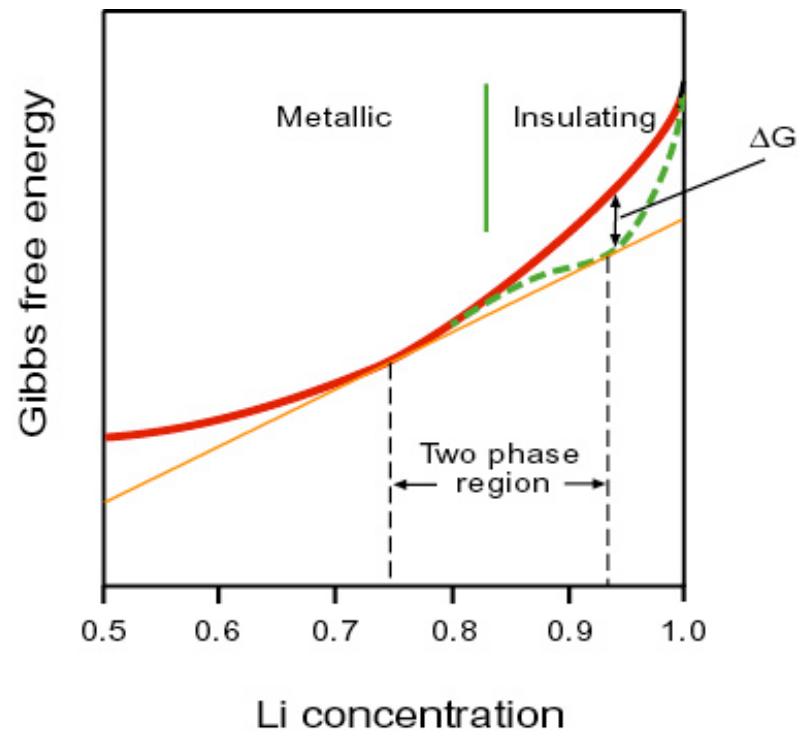
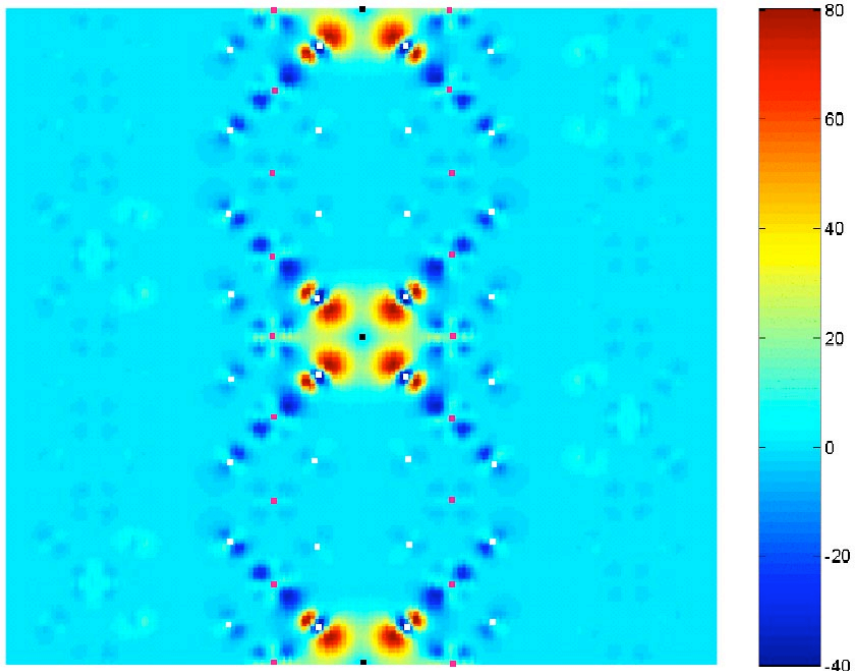
Experimental  
phase diagram



Reimers, Dahn, J. Electrochem. Soc, (1992)  
Ohzuku, Ueda, J. Electrochem. Soc. (1994)  
Amatucci et al, J. Electrochem. Soc. (1996)

# Effect of metal insulator transition

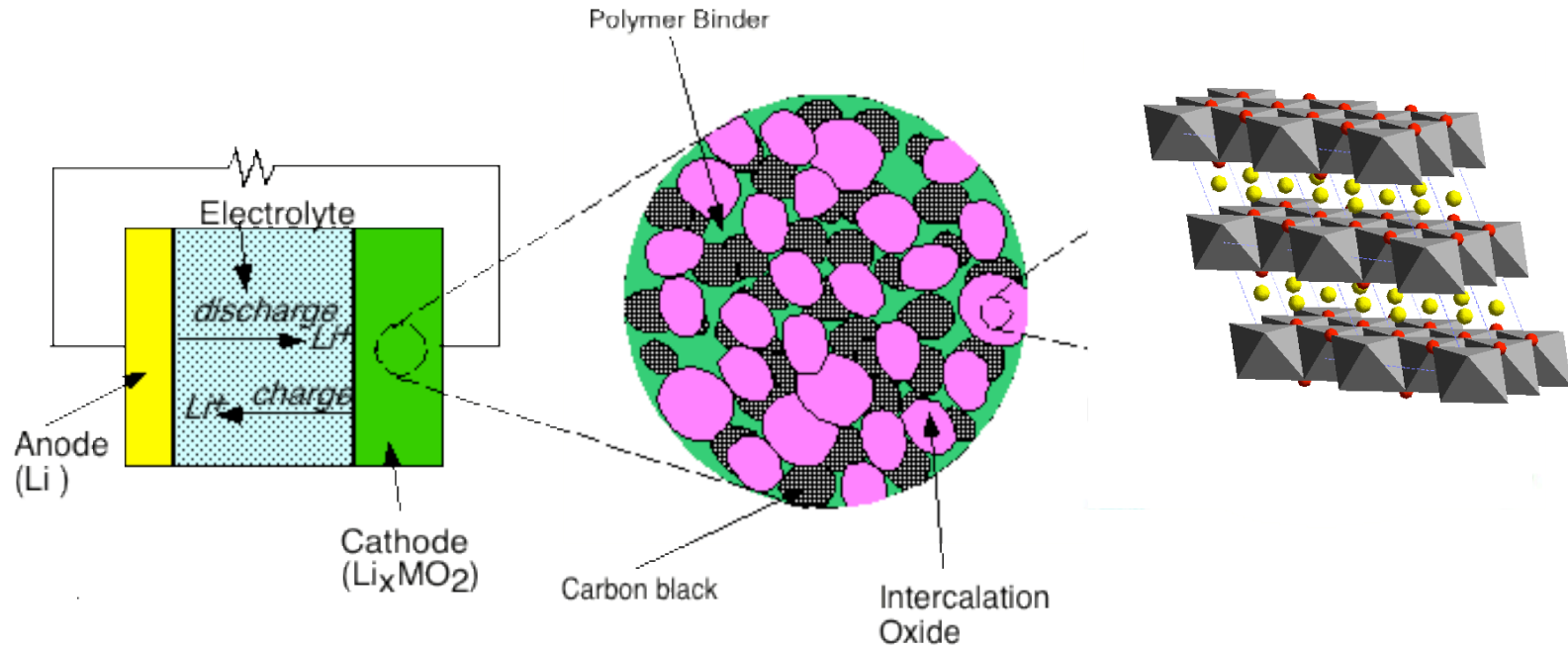
Holes in the valence band  
**localize** in space



C. A. Marianetti et al, Nature Materials, 3, 627 (2004).

LDA & GGA fails to accurately describe localized electronic states

# Diffusion



Fick's Law

$$J = -D\nabla C$$

# Interstitial diffusion and configurational disorder

Kubo-Green relations

$$D = D_J \cdot \tilde{\Theta}$$

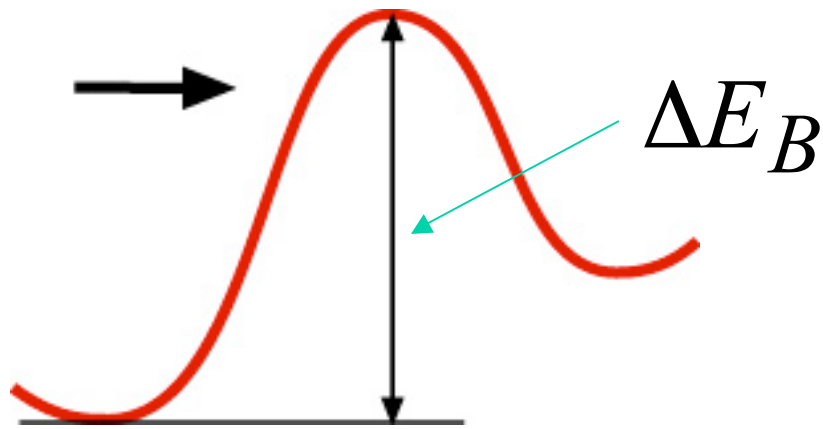
Thermodynamic factor

$$\tilde{\Theta} = \frac{\partial \left( \frac{\mu}{kT} \right)}{\partial \ln x}$$

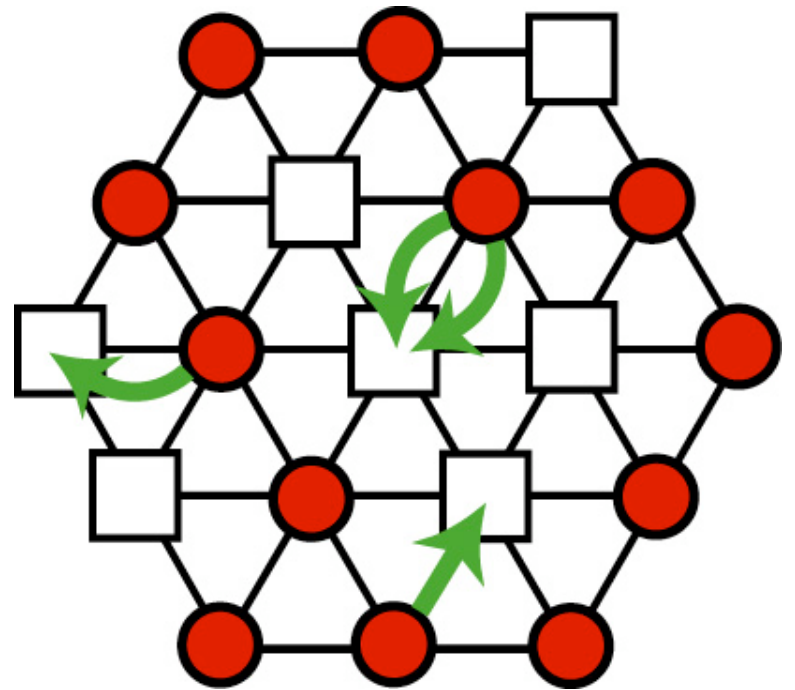
Self diffusion coefficient

$$D_J = \frac{1}{(2d)t} \left\langle \frac{1}{N} \left( \sum_{i=1}^N \Delta \vec{R}_i(t) \right)^2 \right\rangle$$

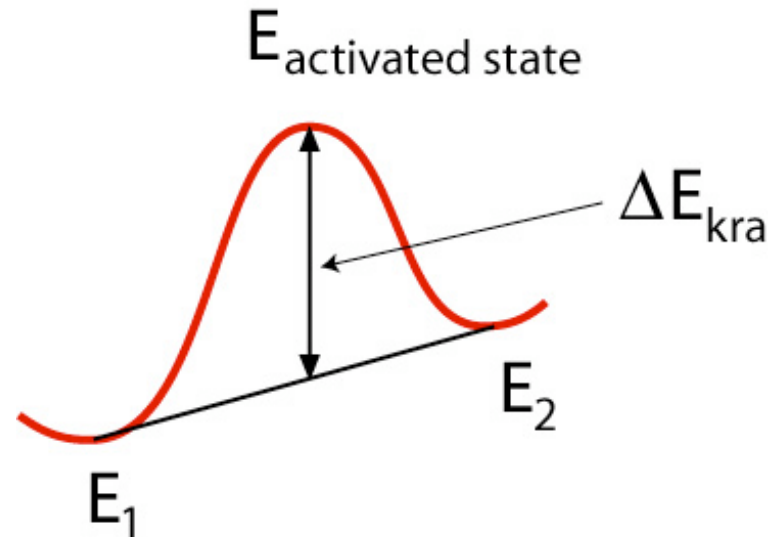
# Individual hops: Transition state theory



$$\Gamma = \nu * \exp\left(\frac{-\Delta E_B}{kT}\right)$$



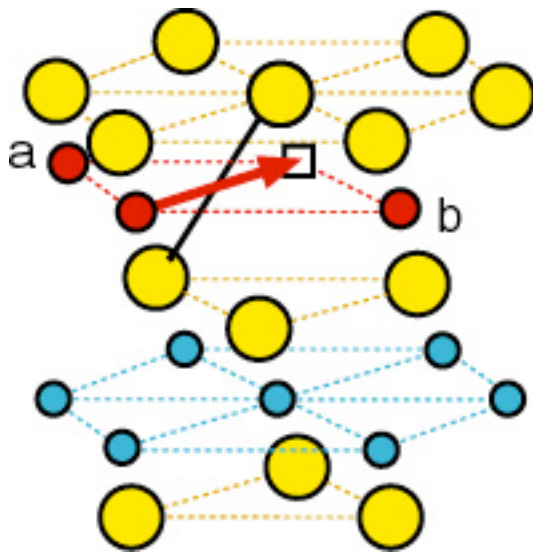
# Kinetically resolved activation barrier



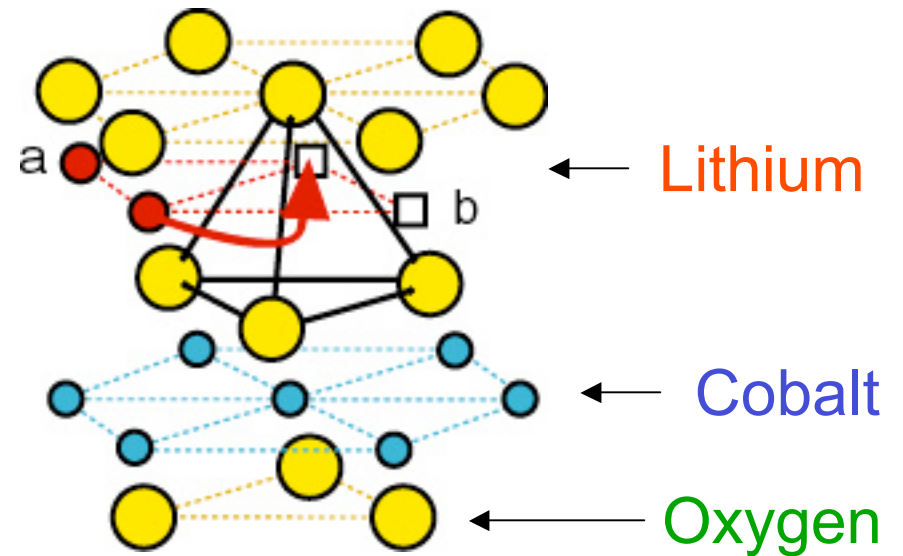
$$\Delta E_{kra} = E_{\text{activated state}} - \frac{1}{2}(E_1 + E_2)$$

$$\Delta E_{\text{barrier}} = \Delta E_{kra} + \frac{1}{2}(E_{\text{final}} - E_{\text{initial}})$$

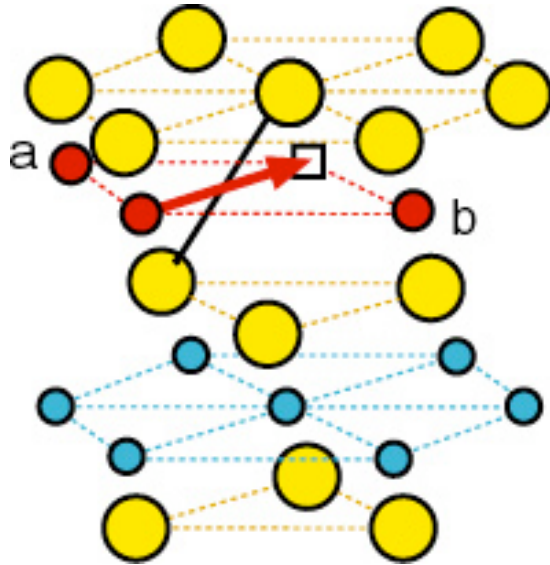
# Migration mechanism in $\text{Li}_x\text{CoO}_2$



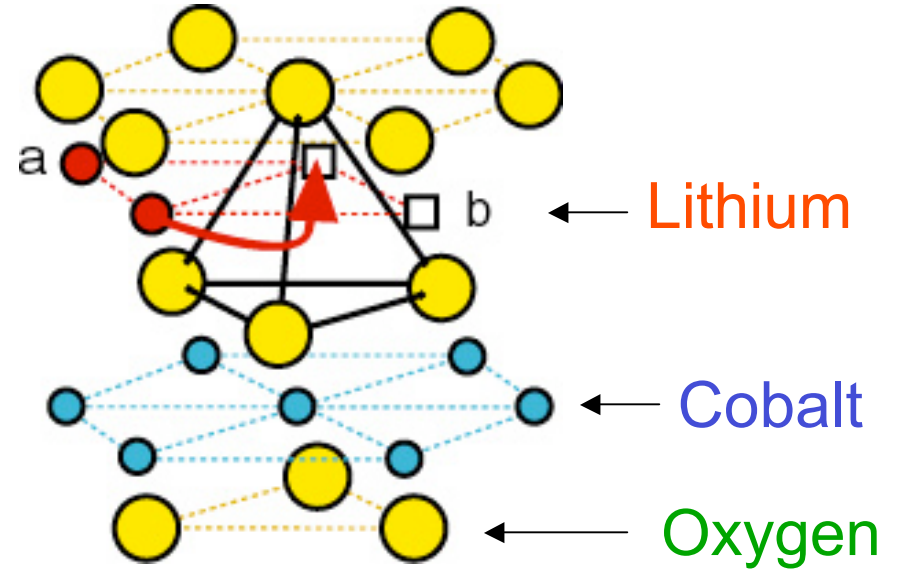
**Single vacancy hop  
mechanism**



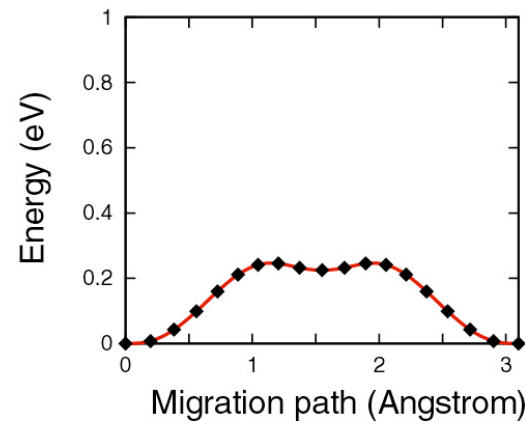
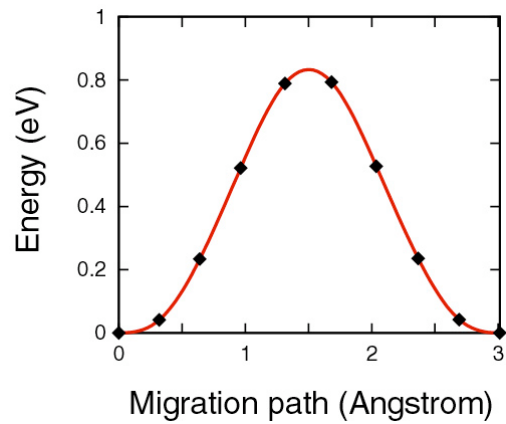
**Divacancy hop  
Mechanism**



**Single vacancy hop**

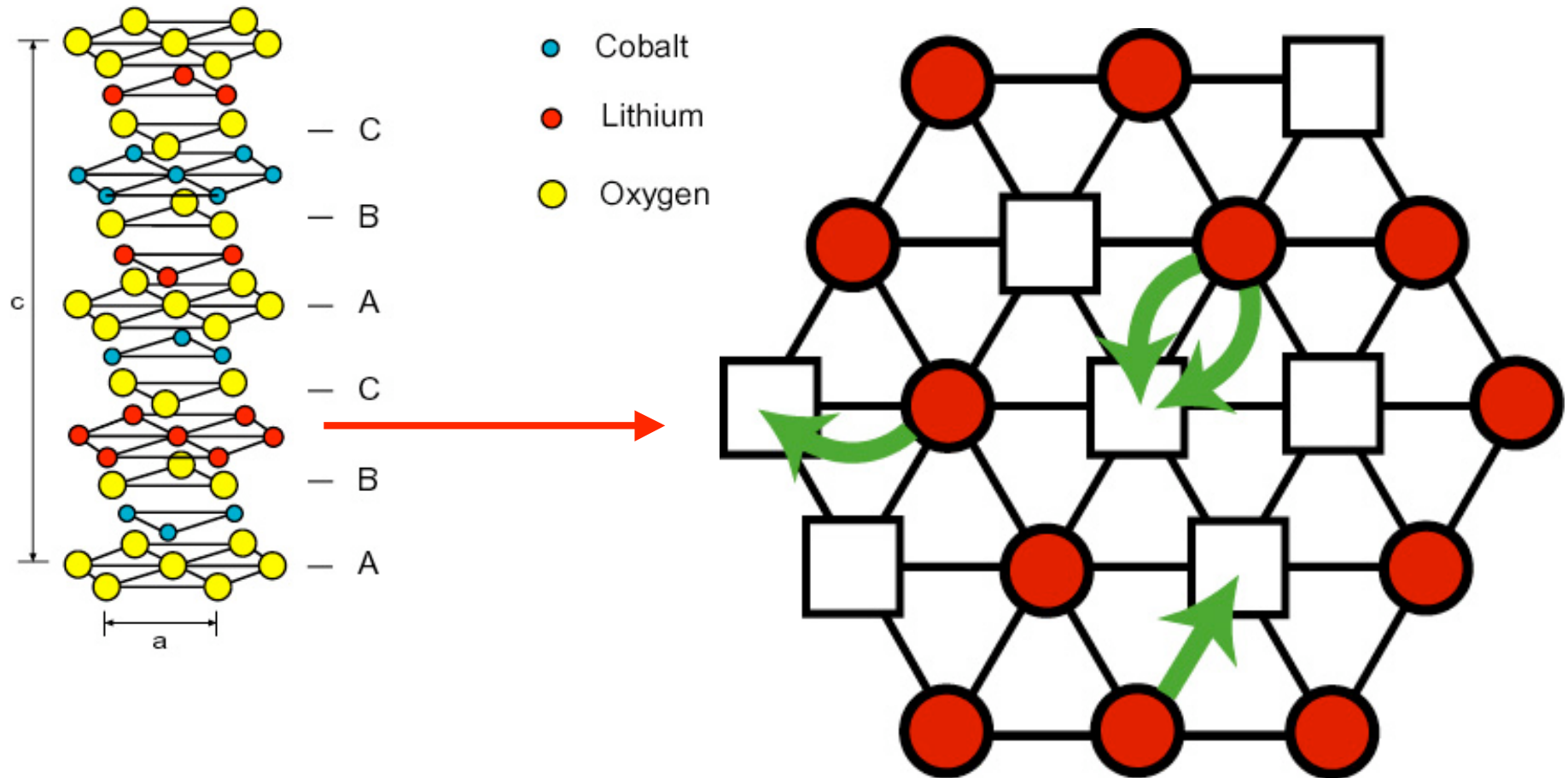


**Divacancy hop**

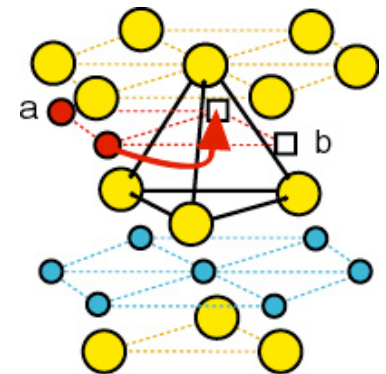
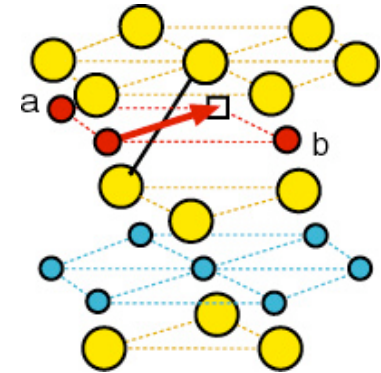
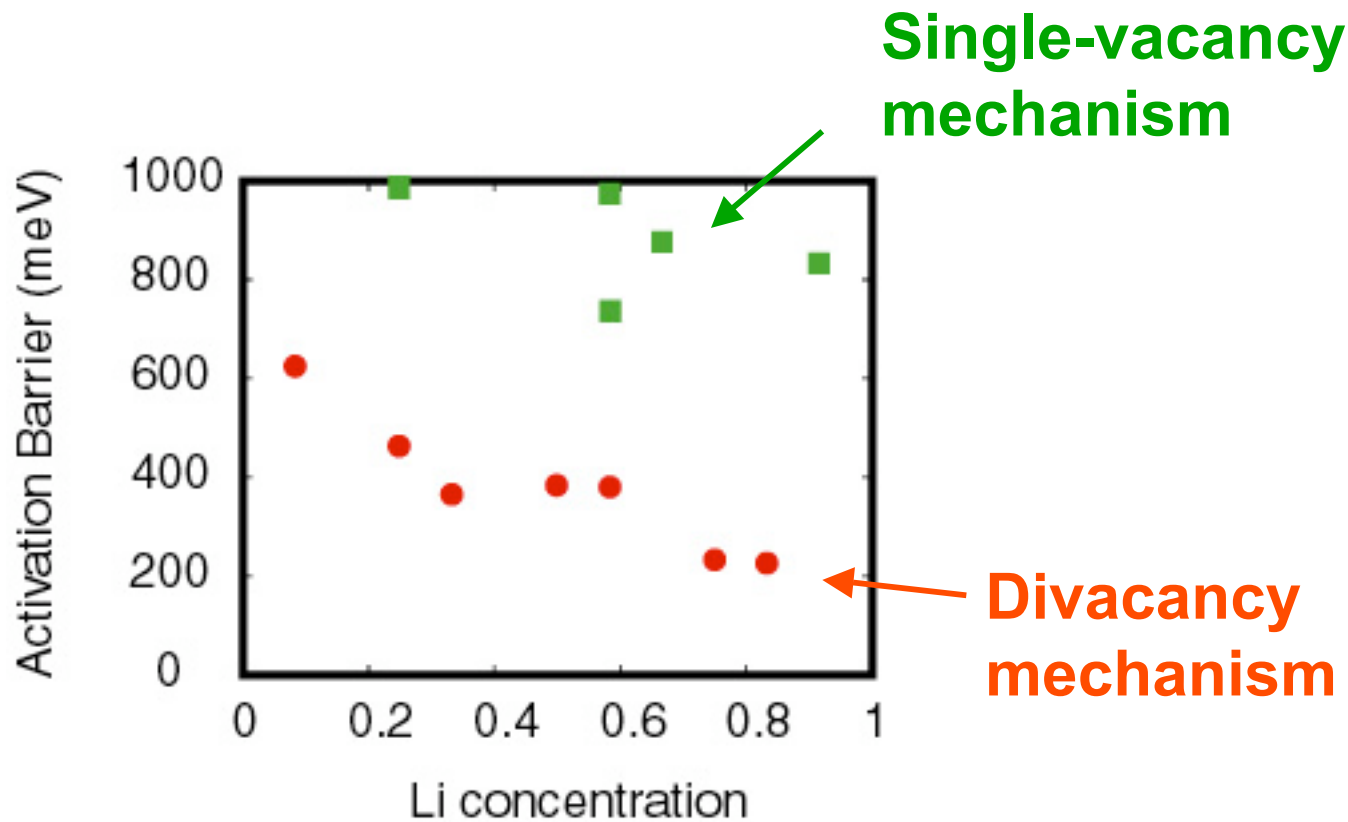




# Many types of hop possibilities in the lithium plane



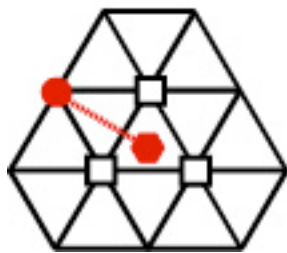
# Migration barriers depend on configuration and concentration



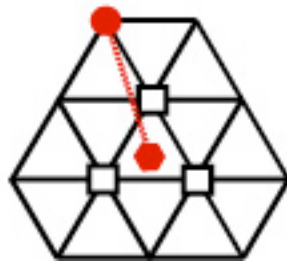
# Local Cluster expansion for divacancy migration barrier

$K_0 = 411$  meV

$K_1 = -14.9$



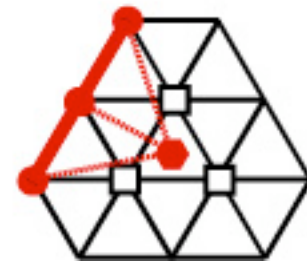
$K_2 = -26.5$



$K_3 = 15.2$



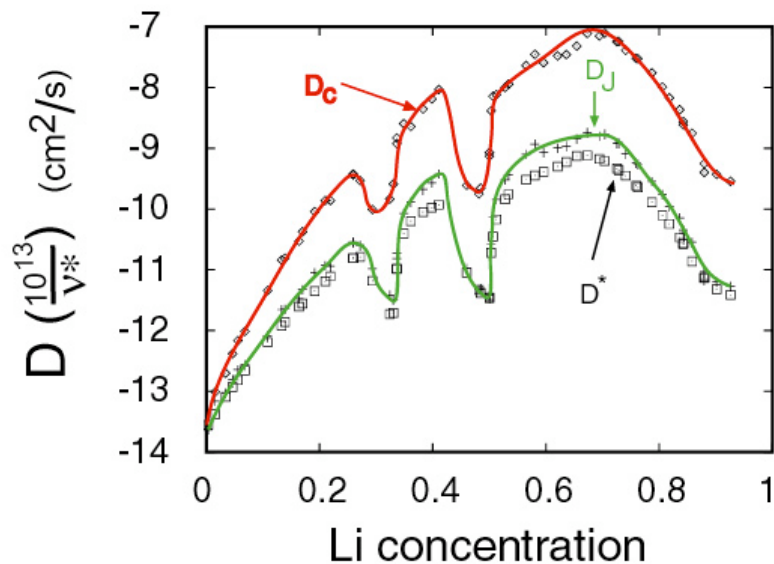
$K_4 = -10.5$



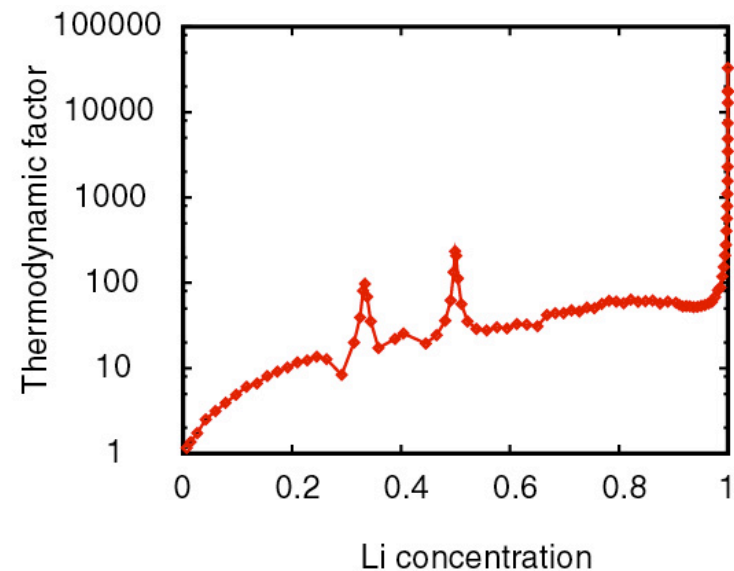
# Calculated diffusion coefficient (First Principles cluster expansion + kinetic Monte Carlo)

$$D = \Theta \cdot D_J$$

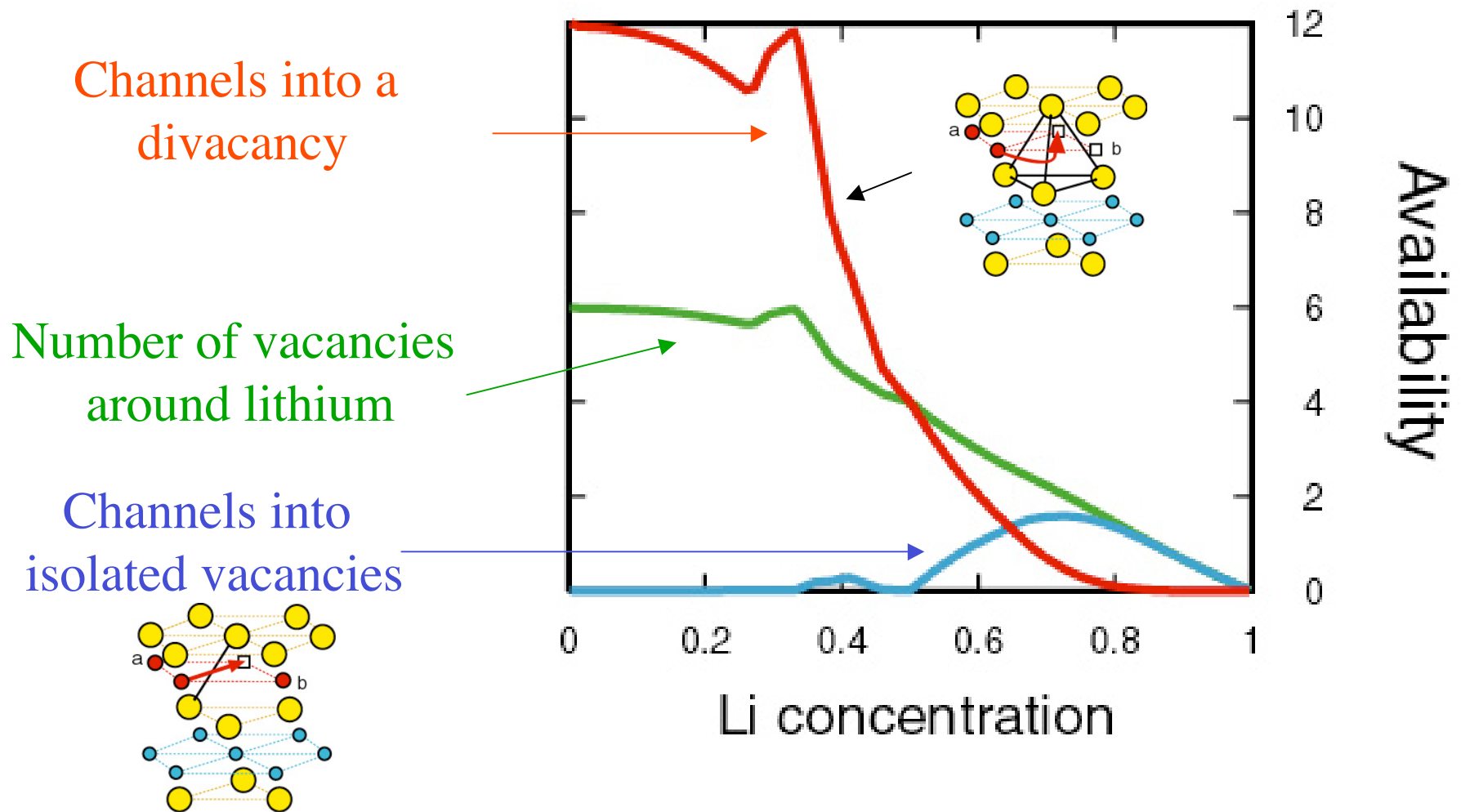
## Diffusion coefficient at 300 K



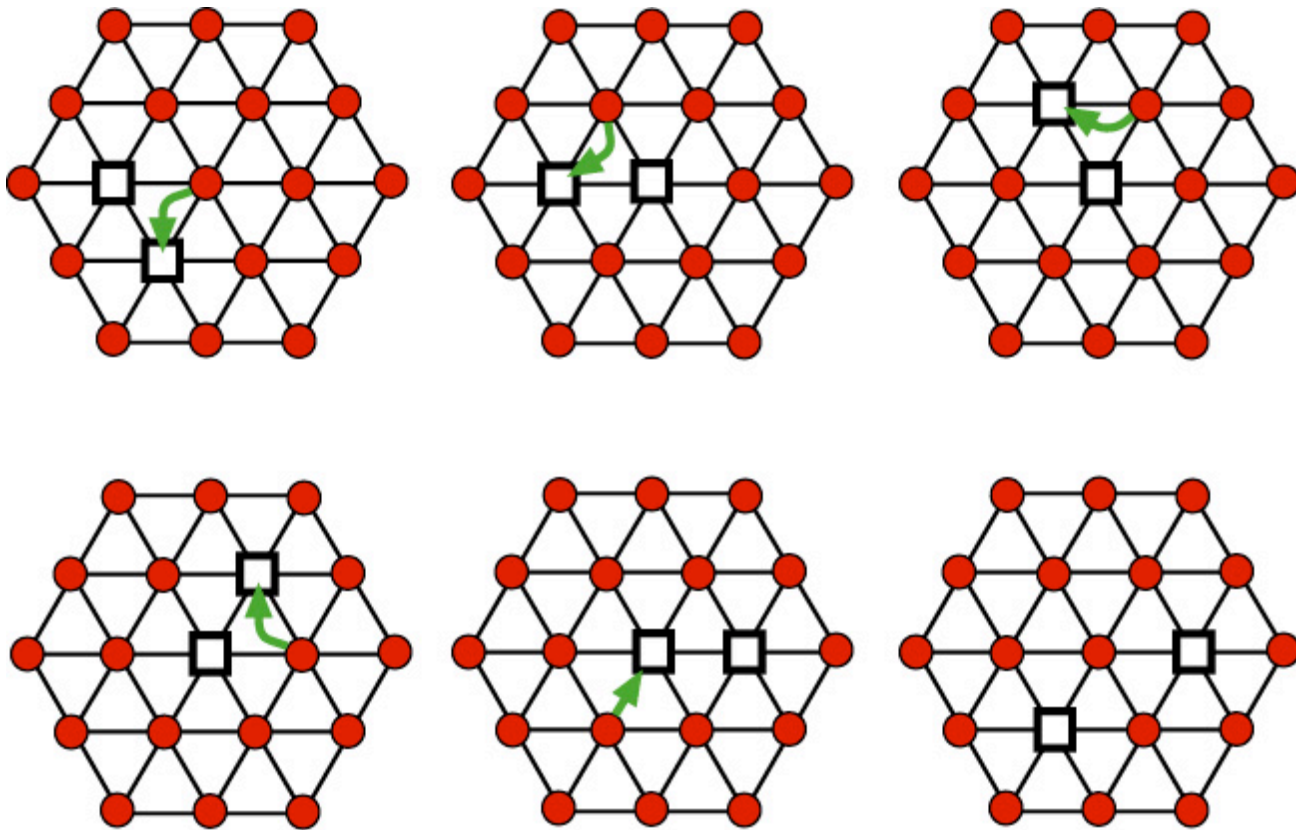
## Thermodynamic factor $\Theta$



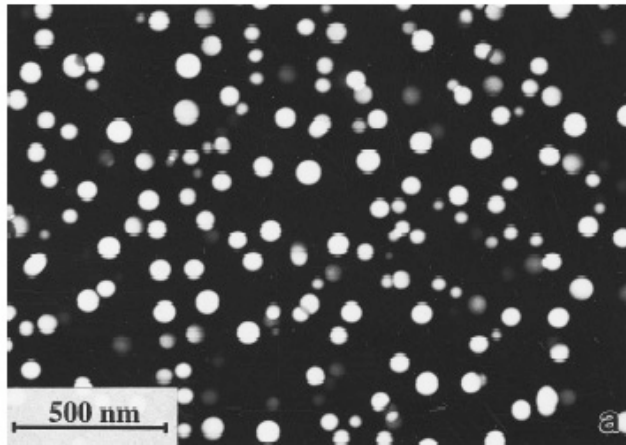
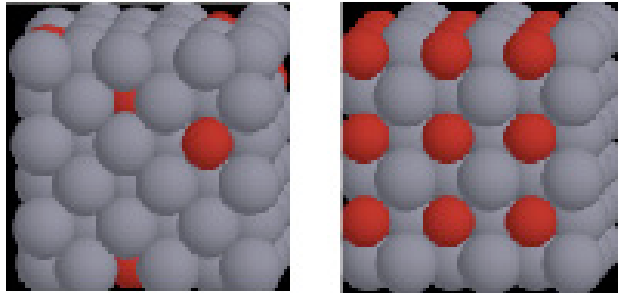
# Available migration mechanisms for each lithium ion



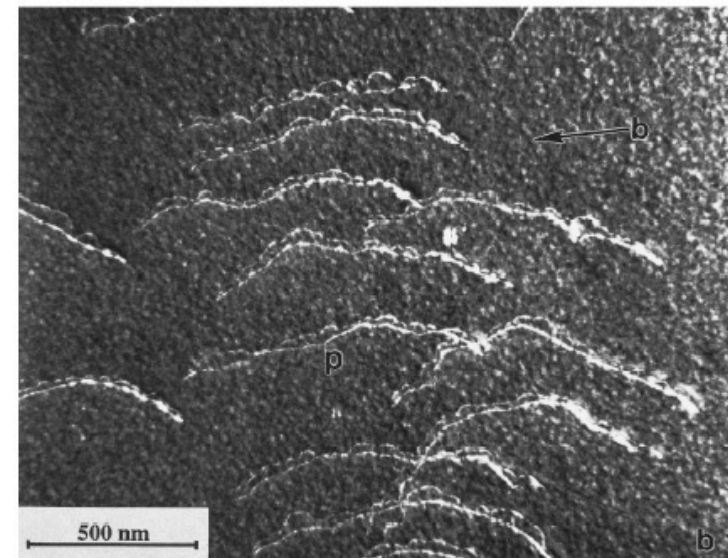
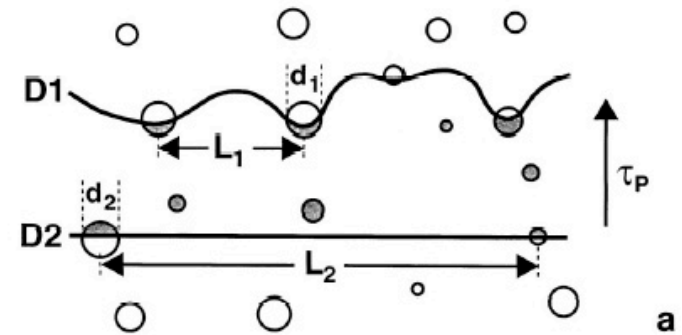
# Diffusion occurs with a divacancy mechanism



# Diffusion and phase transformations in Al-Li alloys



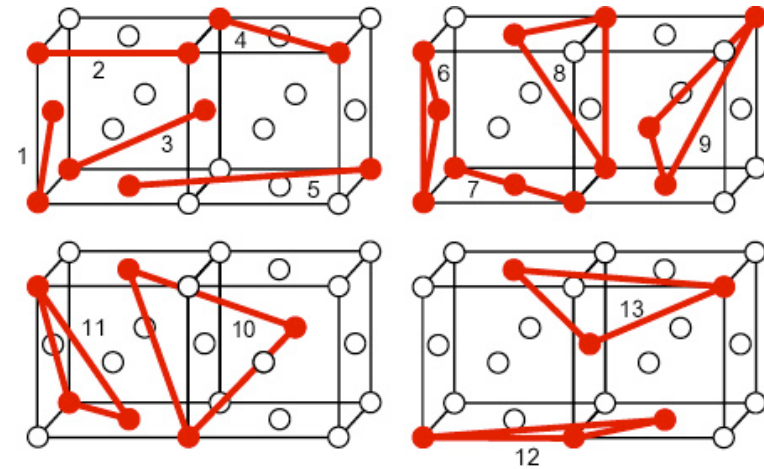
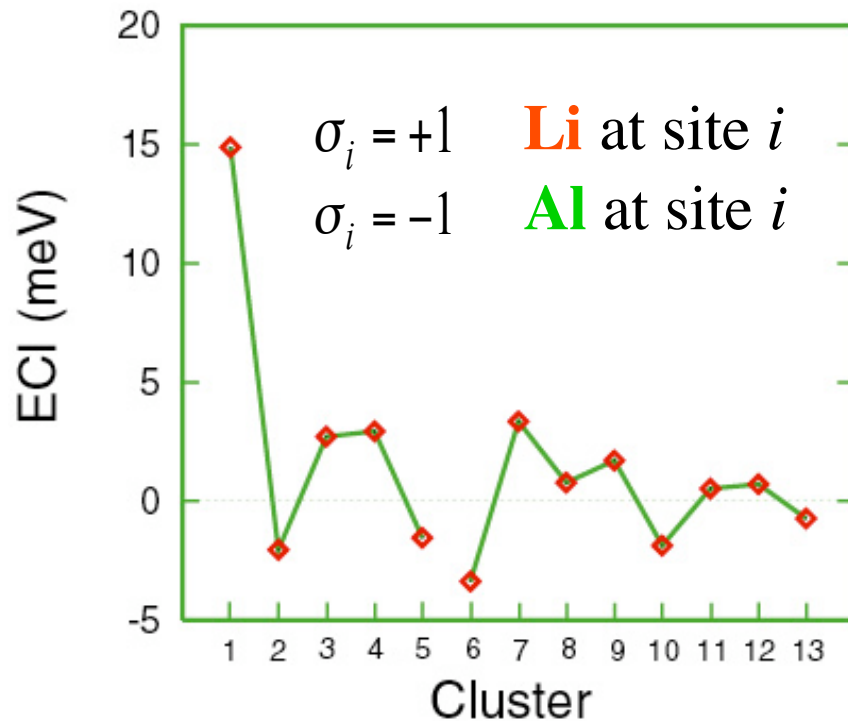
Dark field TEM  
A. Kalogeridis, J. Pesieka, E. Nembach, Acta Mater 47 (1999) 1953



Dark field in situ TEM, peak aged Al-Li specimen under full load  
H. Rosner, W. Liu, E. Nembach, Phil Mag A, 79 (1999) 2935

# fcc Al-Li alloy

## Binary cluster expansion



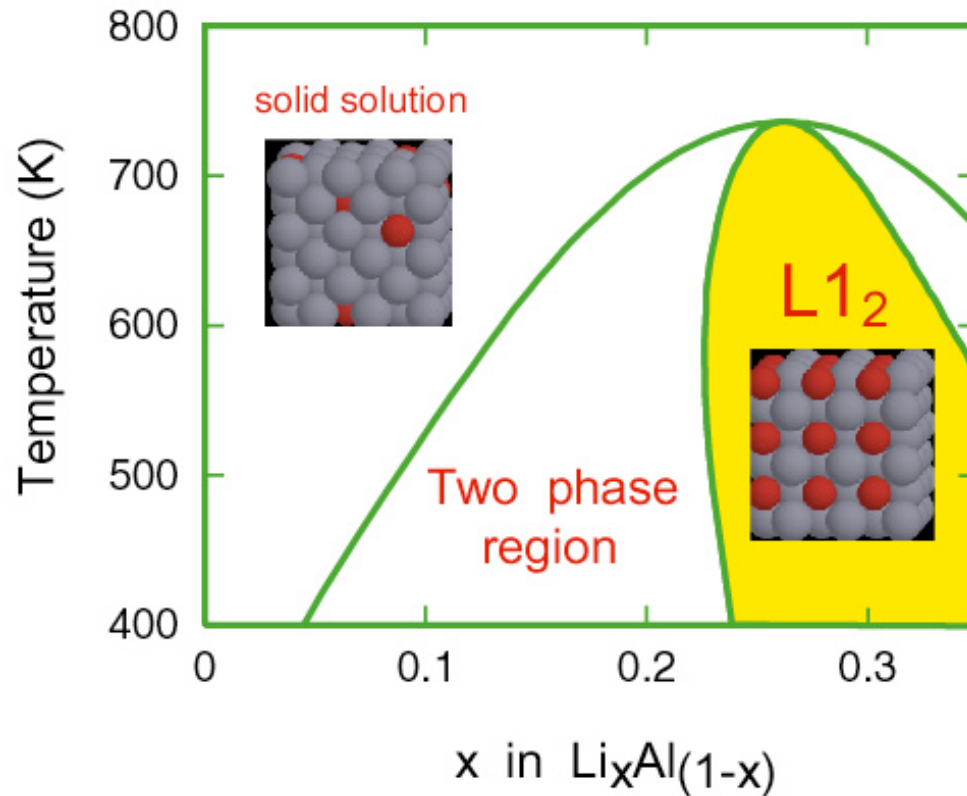
Fit to LDA energies of  
70 different Al-Li  
arrangements on fcc

$$E(\sigma) = V_0 + \sum_i V_i \sigma_i + \sum_{i,j} V_{i,j} \sigma_i \sigma_j + \sum_{i,j,k} V_{i,j,k} \sigma_i \sigma_j \sigma_k + \dots$$



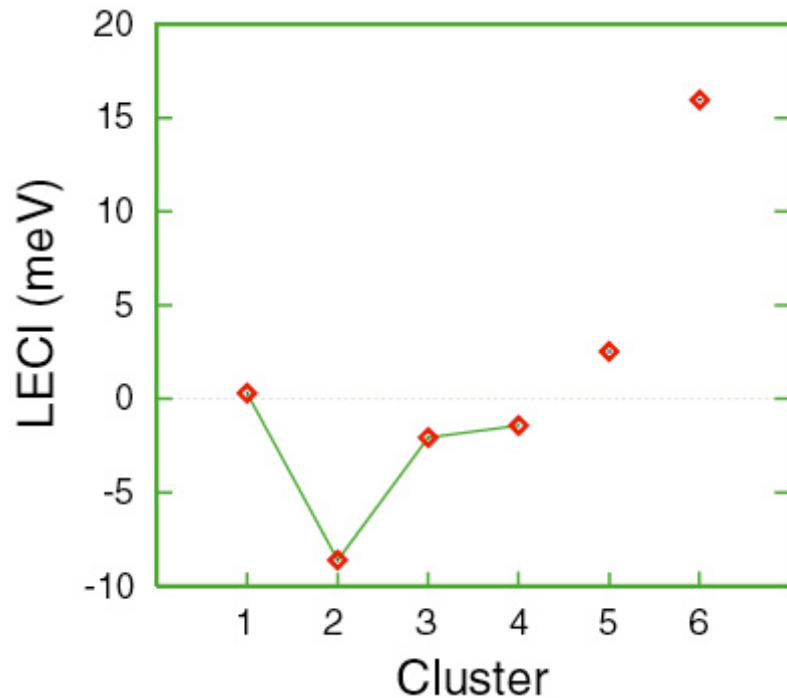
# Calculated thermodynamic and kinetic properties of Al-Li alloy

First principles cluster expansion + Monte Carlo



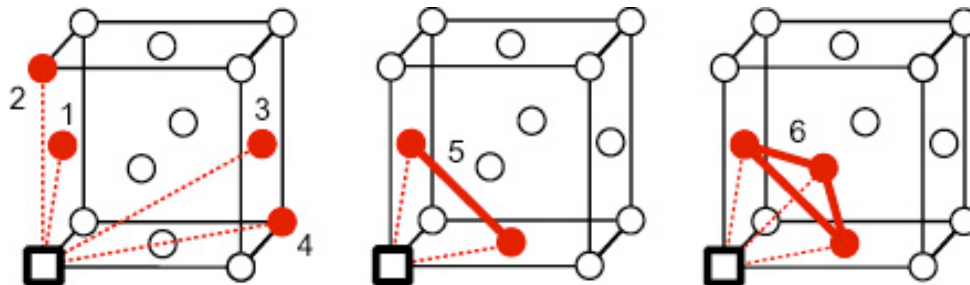
A. Van der Ven, G. Ceder, Phys. Rev. B71, 054102(2005)

# Expand environment dependence of vacancy formation energy



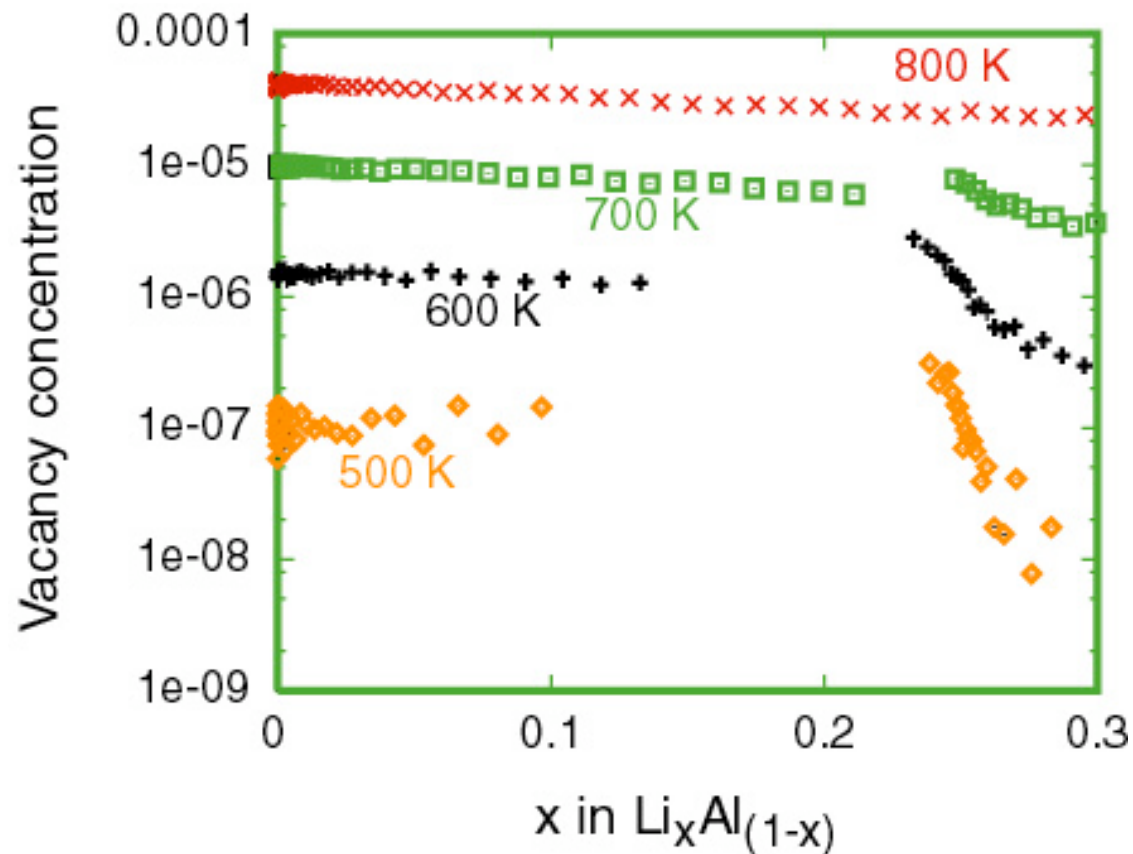
Local cluster expansion\*  
(perturbation to binary cluster expansion)

Fit to 23 vacancy LDA formation energies in different Al-Li arrangements (107 atom supercells).



$\sigma_i = +1$    **Li** at site  $i$   
 $\sigma_i = -1$    **Al** at site  $i$

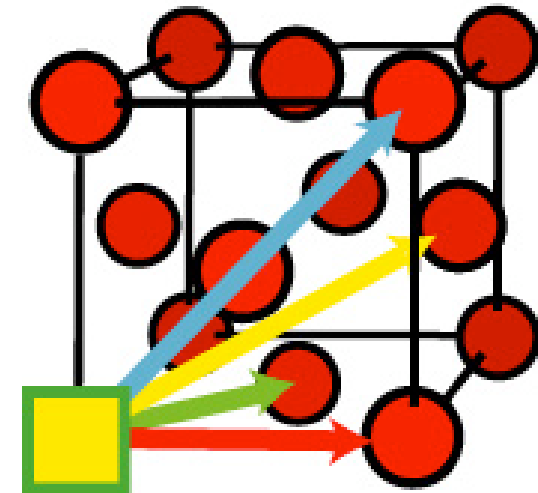
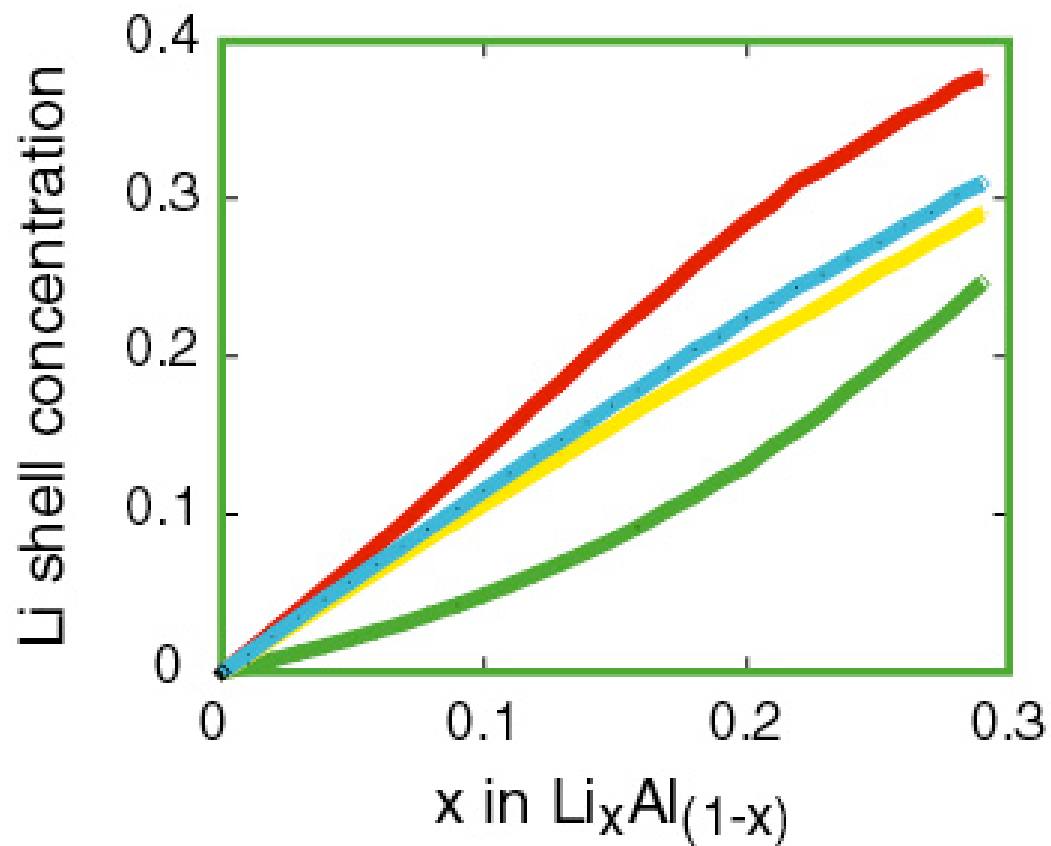
# Equilibrium vacancy concentration (Monte Carlo applied to cluster expansion)



# Vacancy surrounds itself by Al

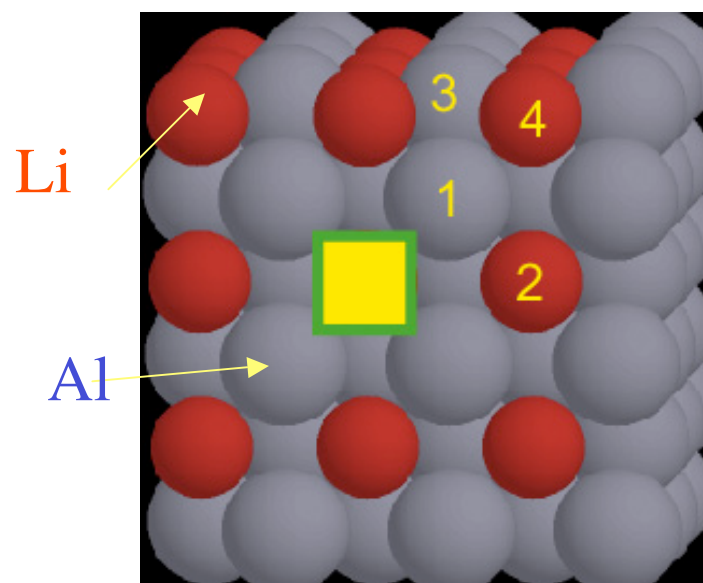
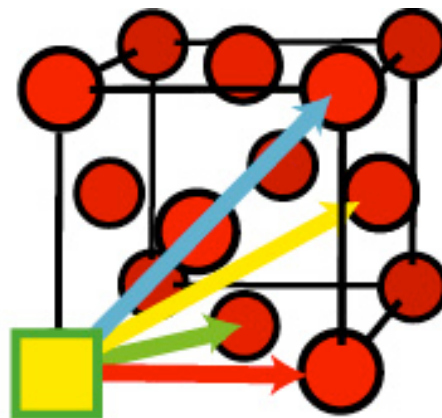
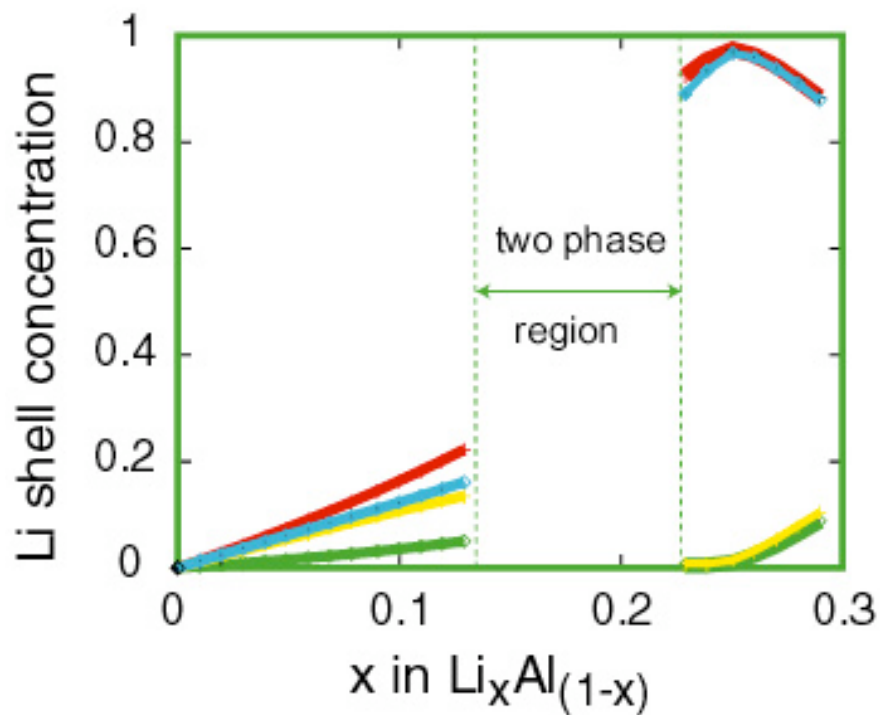
## Short range order around a vacancy

750 Kelvin

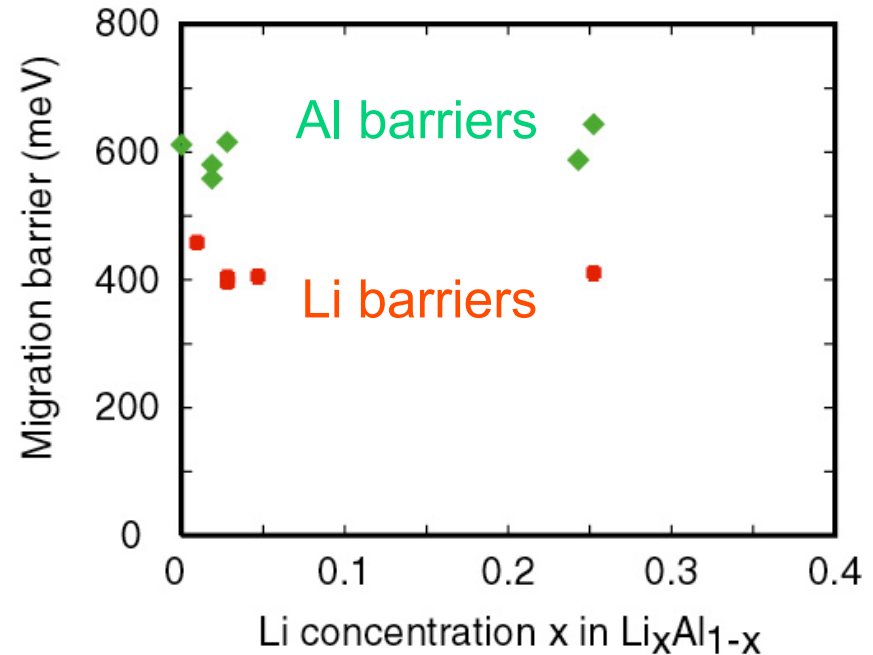
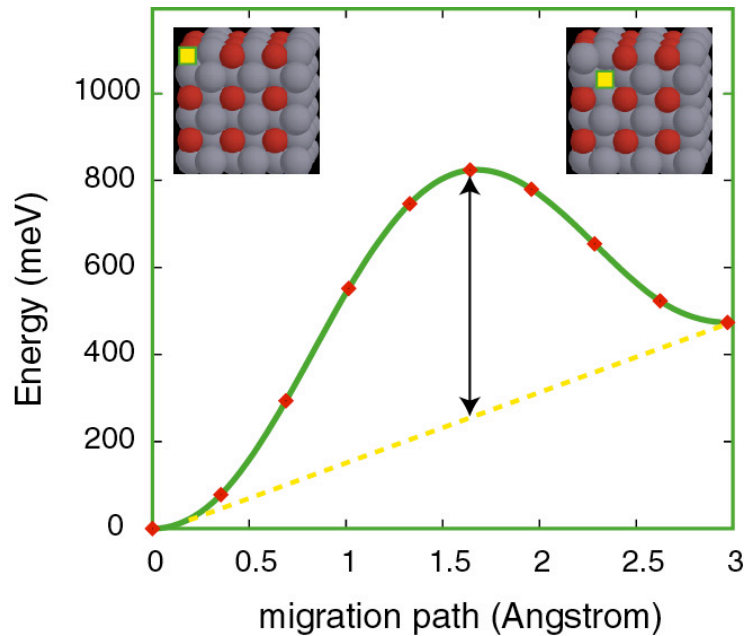


# Vacancies reside on lithium sublattice in L12

600 Kelvin



# Migration barriers for lithium and aluminum differ by ~150 meV

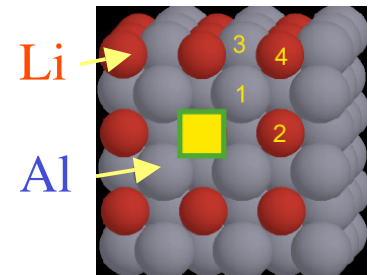
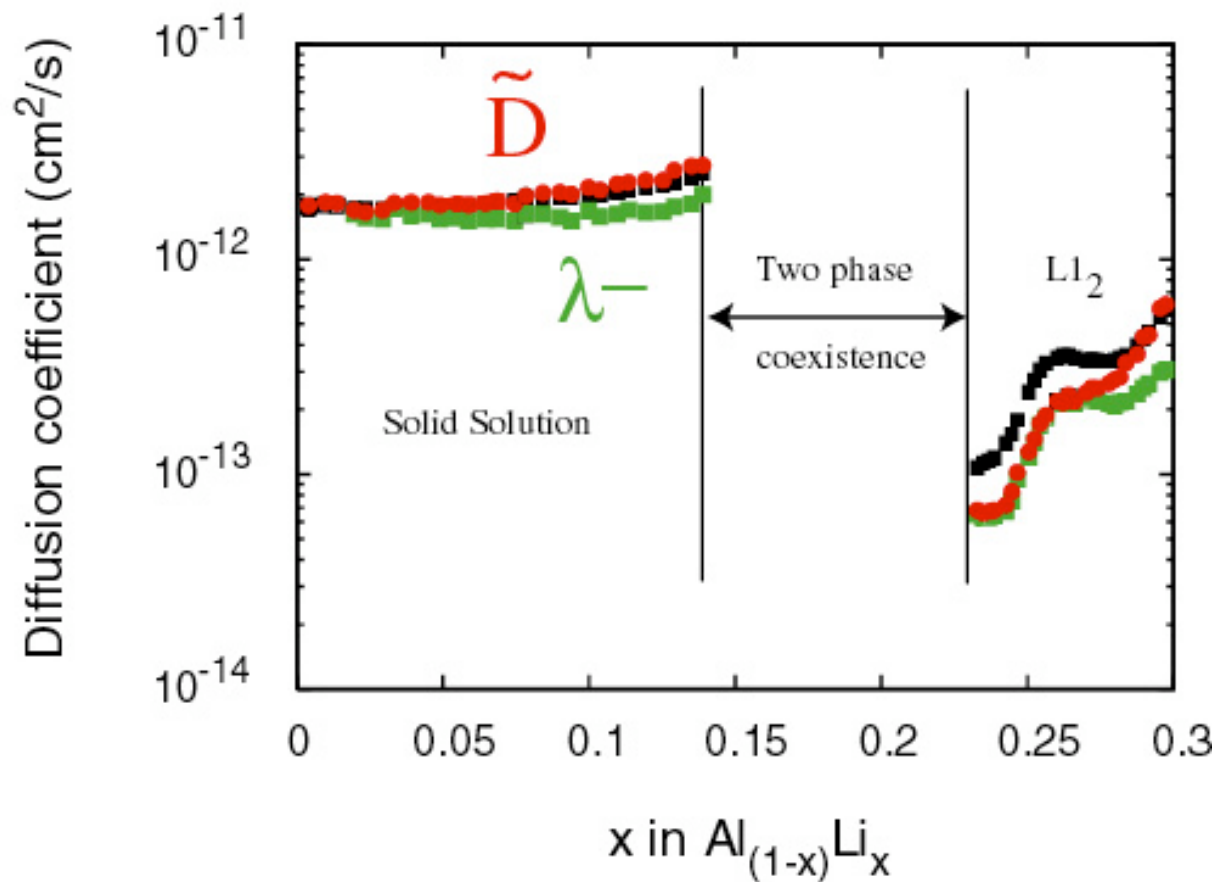


Calculated (LDA) in  
107 atom supercells

$$v_{Al}^* \approx 4.5 \times 10^{13} \text{ Hz}$$

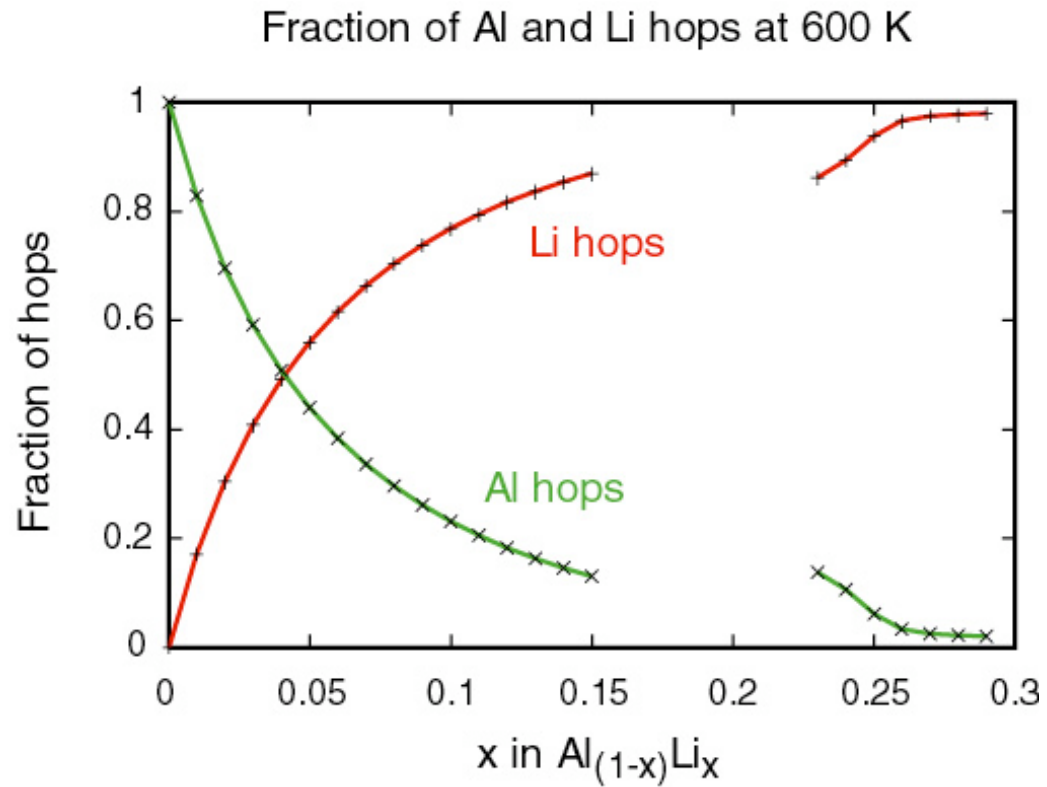
$$v_{Li}^* \approx 7 \times 10^{13} \text{ Hz}$$

# Calculated interdiffusion coefficient



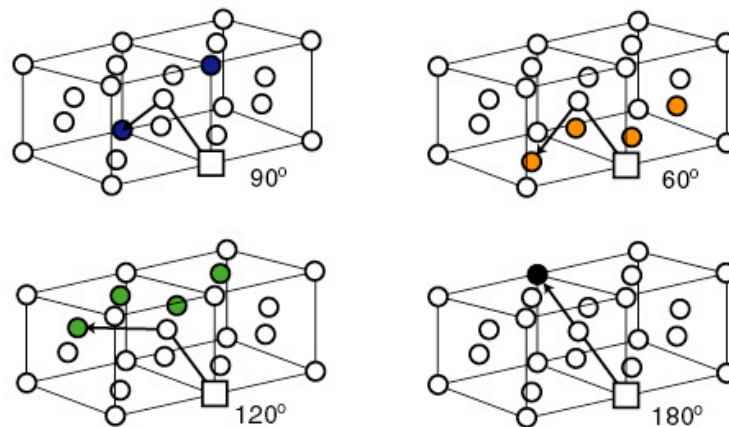
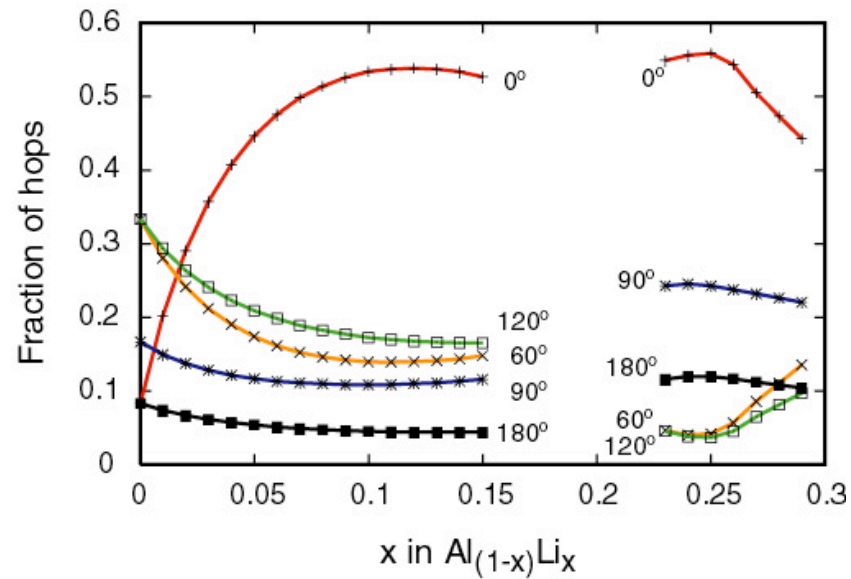
A. Van der Ven, G. Ceder, Phys. Rev. Lett. **94**, 045901 (2005).

# Hop mechanisms





# Frequency of hop angles between successive hops



A. Van der Ven, G. Ceder, Phys. Rev. Lett. **94**, 045901 (2005).

# Conclusion

- Green-Kubo formalism yields rigorous expressions for diffusion coefficients
- Discussed diffusion formalism for both interstitial and substitutional diffusion
- Intriguing hop mechanisms in multi-component solids that can depend on ordering
- Thermodynamics plays a crucial role!