

Evaluation of the **Virtual Crystal Approximation** for Predicting Alloy Thermal Conductivity

Jason Larkin and Alan J. H. McGaughey

Department of Mechanical Engineering
Carnegie Mellon University

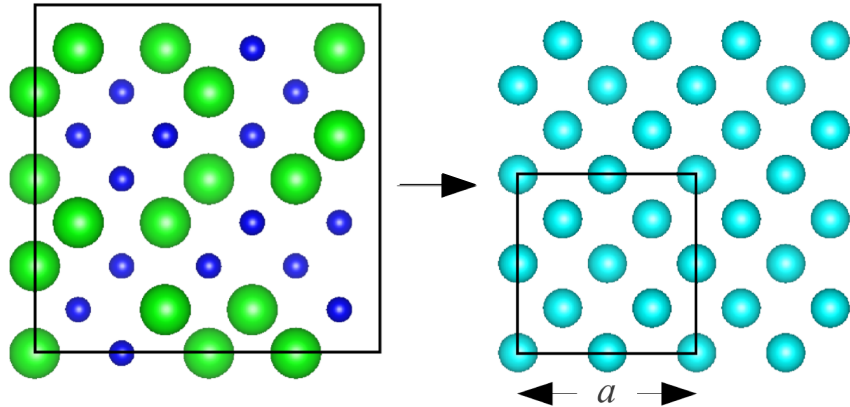
<http://ntpl.me.cmu.edu/>

04/04/13

Virtual Crystal Approximation

Gamma

VC



$$\bar{m}^{\mu} = (1 - c)m^i + cm^j$$

Lennard-Jones Argon and Alloys

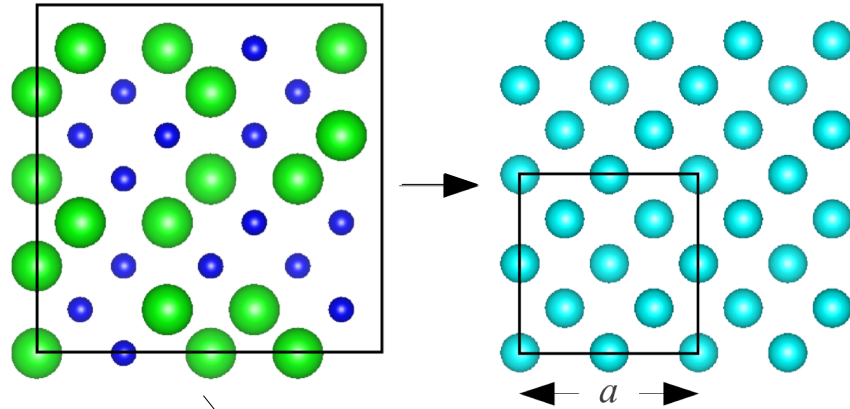
$$k_{ph,\mathbf{n}} = \sum_{\boldsymbol{\kappa}} \sum_{\nu} \frac{k_B}{V} D_{ph,\mathbf{n}}\left(\frac{\boldsymbol{\kappa}}{\nu}\right)$$

$$D_{ph,\mathbf{n}}\left(\frac{\boldsymbol{\kappa}}{\nu}\right) = v_{g,\mathbf{n}}^2\left(\frac{\boldsymbol{\kappa}}{\nu}\right) \tau\left(\frac{\boldsymbol{\kappa}}{\nu}\right)$$

Virtual Crystal: Diffusivities

Gamma

VC



$$D_{ph,n}(\kappa) = v_{g,n}^2(\nu) \tau(\nu)$$

Allen-Feldman (**AF**) Theory:

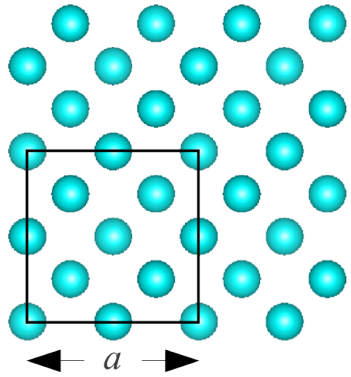
$$k_{AF} = \sum_{diffusons} \frac{k_B}{V} D_{AF,i}(\omega_i)$$

$$D_{AF,i}(\omega_i) = v_g^2 \tau$$

?

VC-ALD Diffusivities: Lifetimes

VC



$$D_{ph,n}(\kappa) = v_{g,n}^2(\kappa) \tau(\kappa)$$

Perturbation theory:

Anharmonic Lattice
Dynamics (**ALD**)

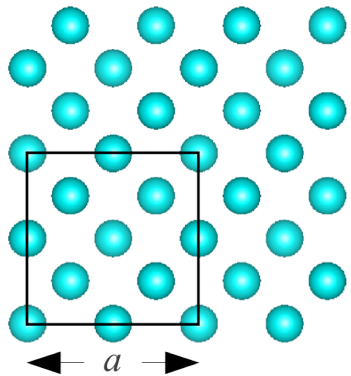
Matthiessen's Rule:



$$\frac{1}{\tau(\kappa)} = \frac{1}{\tau_{p-p}(\kappa)}$$

VC-ALD Diffusivities: Lifetimes

VC



$$D_{ph,n}(\kappa) = v_{g,n}^2(\kappa) \tau(\kappa)$$

Perturbation theory:

Anharmonic Lattice Dynamics (**ALD**)

Phonon-Defect¹

Matthiessen's Rule:

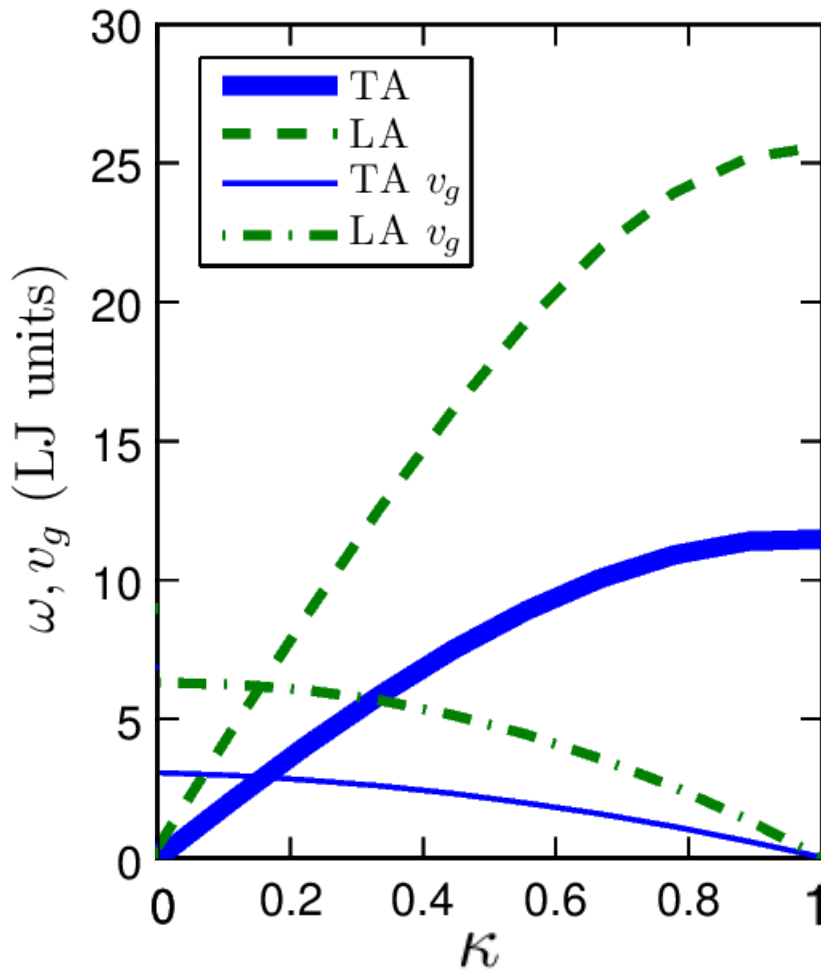


$$\frac{1}{\tau(\kappa)} = \frac{1}{\tau_{p-p}(\kappa)} + \frac{1}{\tau_{p-d}(\kappa)}$$

VC-ALD Diffusivities: Group Velocity

$$\mathbf{v}_{g,n}(\boldsymbol{\kappa}) = \frac{\partial \omega(\boldsymbol{\kappa})}{\partial \boldsymbol{\kappa}}$$

$$D_{ph,n}(\boldsymbol{\kappa}) = v_{g,n}^2(\boldsymbol{\kappa}) \tau(\boldsymbol{\kappa})$$



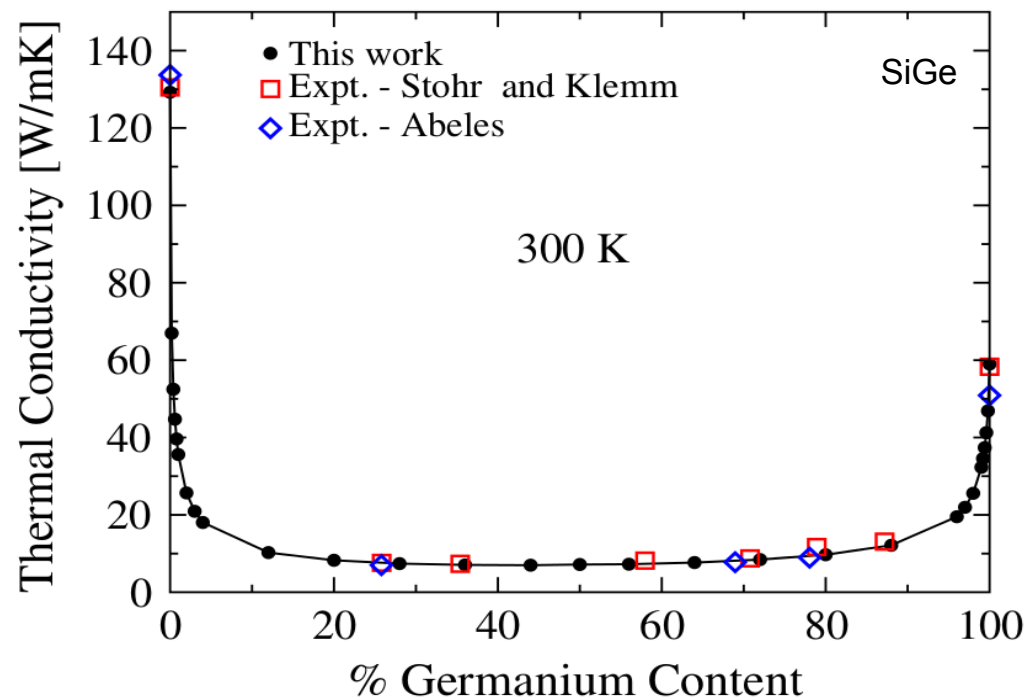
$$D_{ph}(\boldsymbol{\kappa}) \approx 0$$

High-Scatter limit:¹

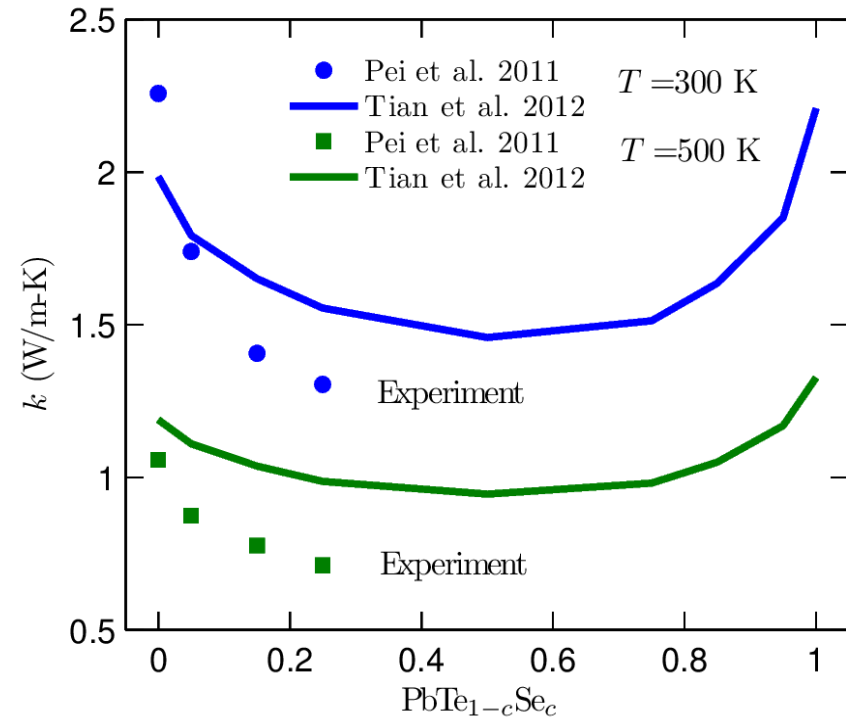
$$D_{HS} = \frac{1}{3} v_s a$$

VC-ALD: experimental accuracy

Density Functional Theory (DFT) + **(VC-ALD)**



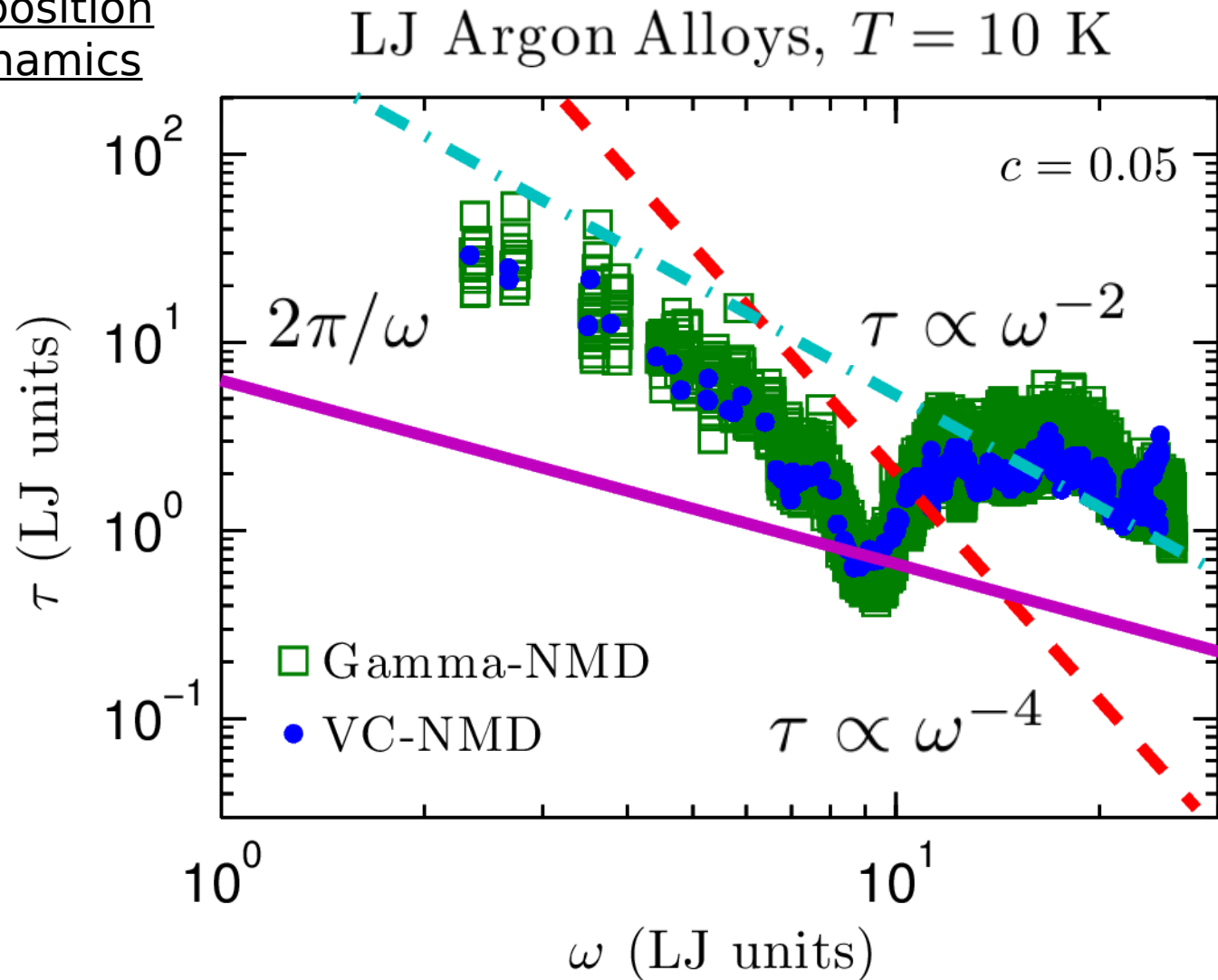
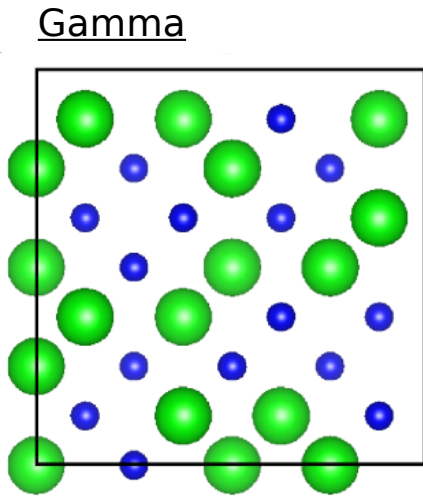
PRL 106, 045901 (2011)



PRB 85, 184303 (2012)

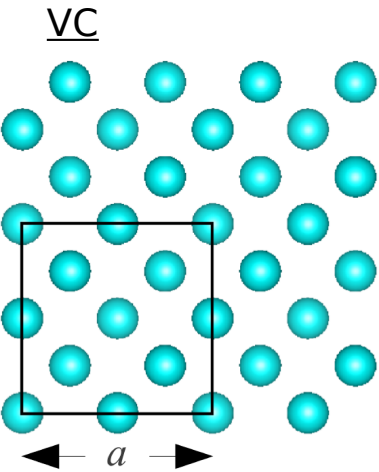
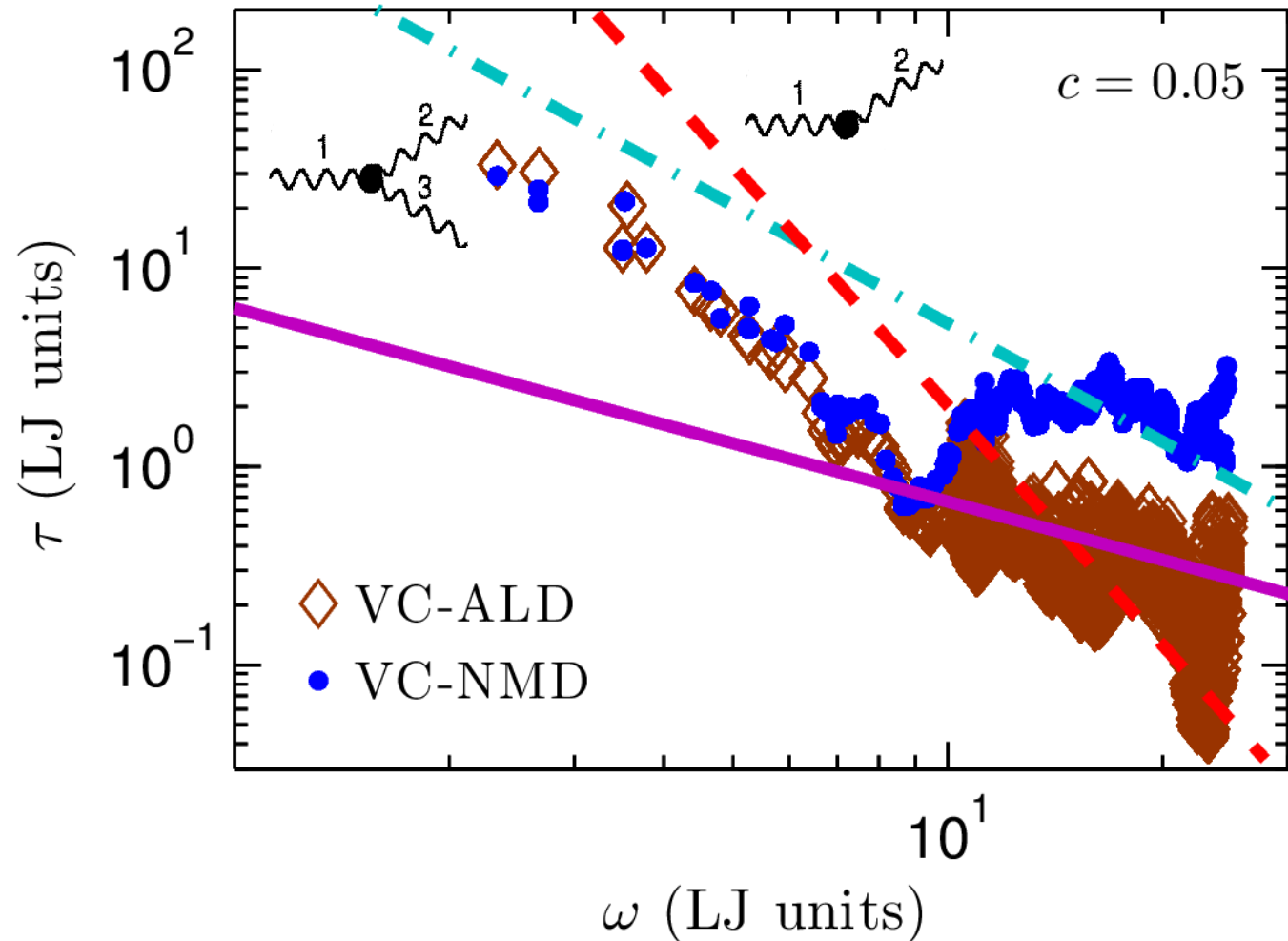
Explicit disorder: NMD

Normal Mode Decomposition
(**NMD**): Molecular Dynamics



VC-NMD vs VC-ALD

LJ Argon Alloys, $T = 10$ K

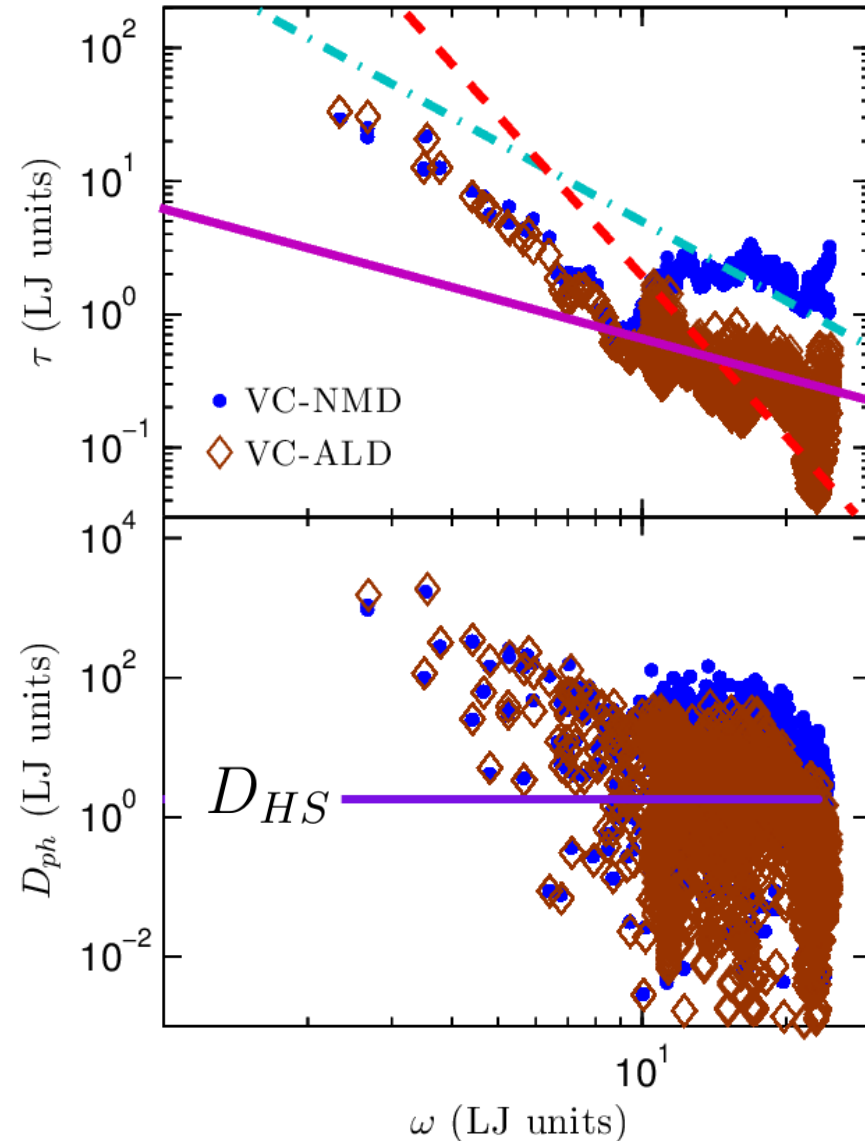


VC Diffusivities

$$D_{ph}(\kappa) \approx 0$$

$$D_{HS} = \frac{1}{3} v_s a$$

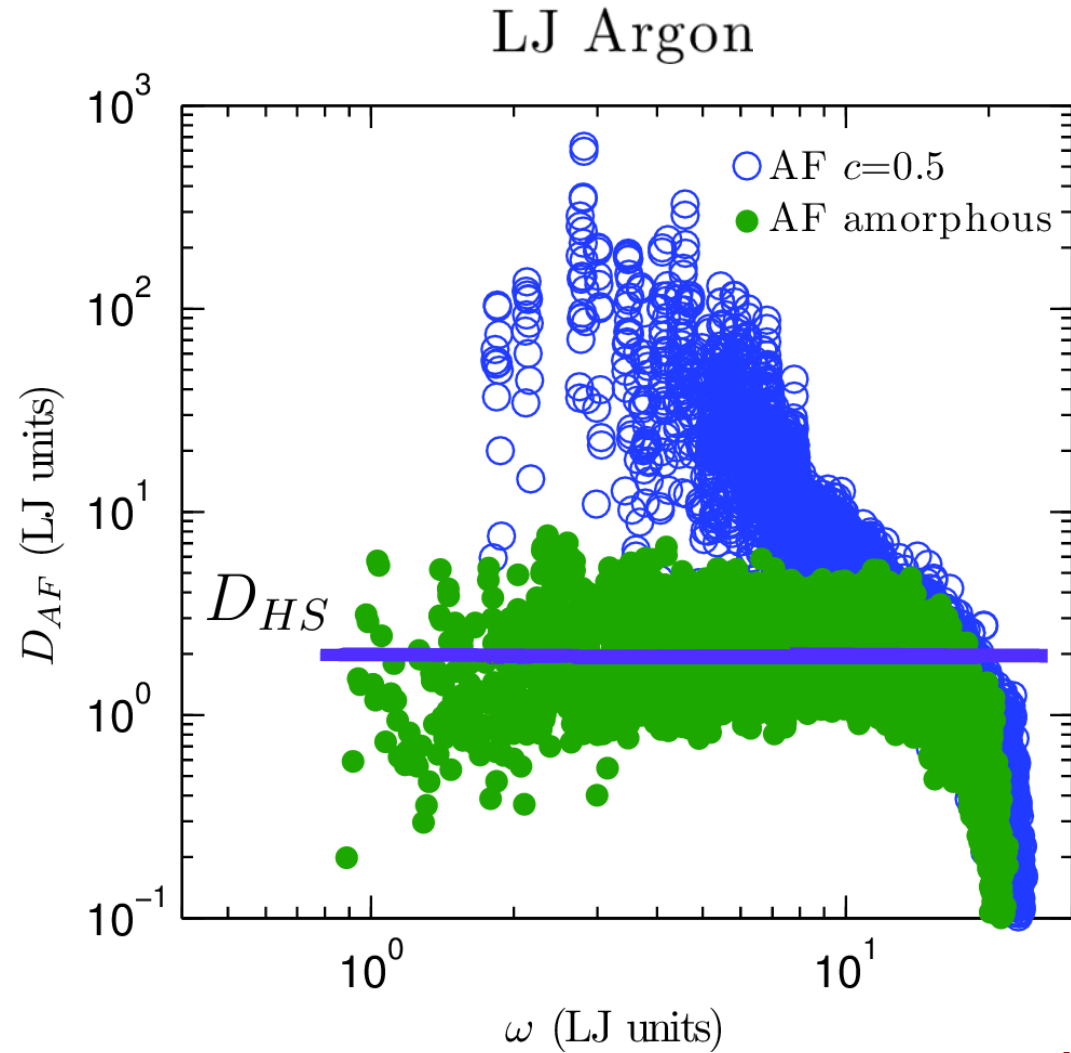
LJ Argon Alloys, $T = 10$ K



AF Diffusivities

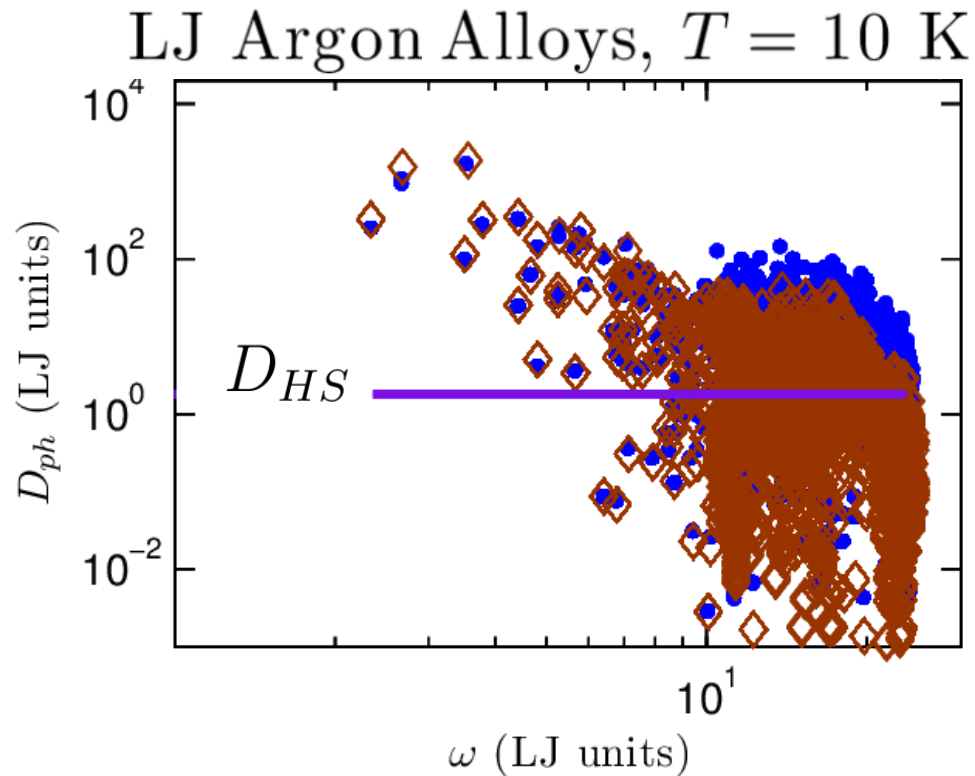
Allen-Feldman (**AF**) Theory:

$$k_{AF} = \sum_{diffusers} \frac{k_B}{V} D_{AF,i}(\omega_i)$$

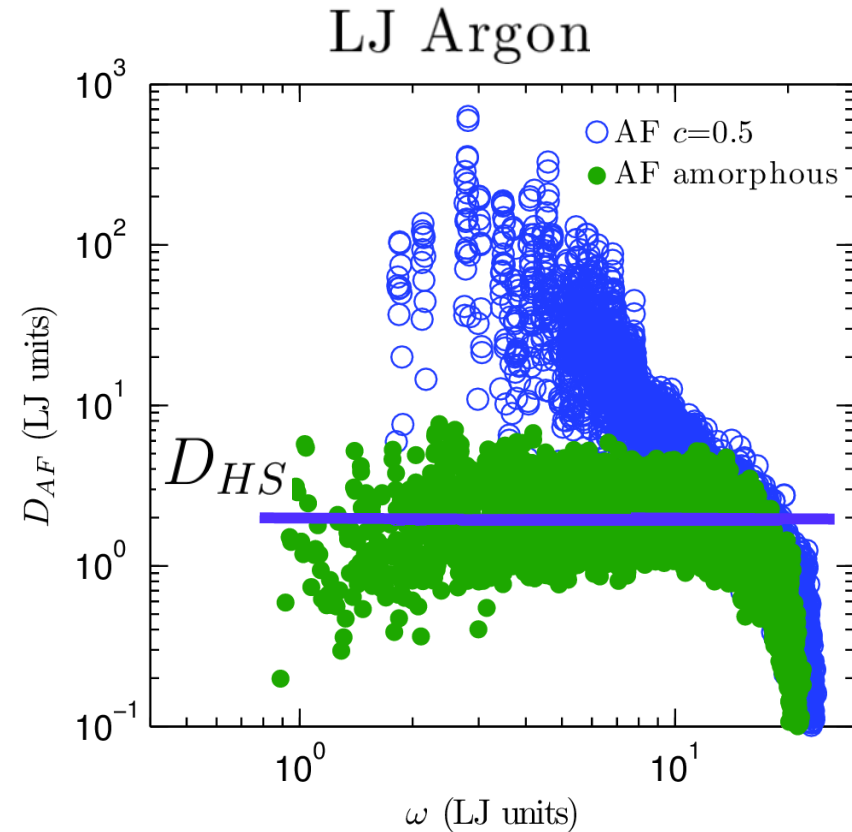


AF and VC Diffusivities

Phonons



Diffusons



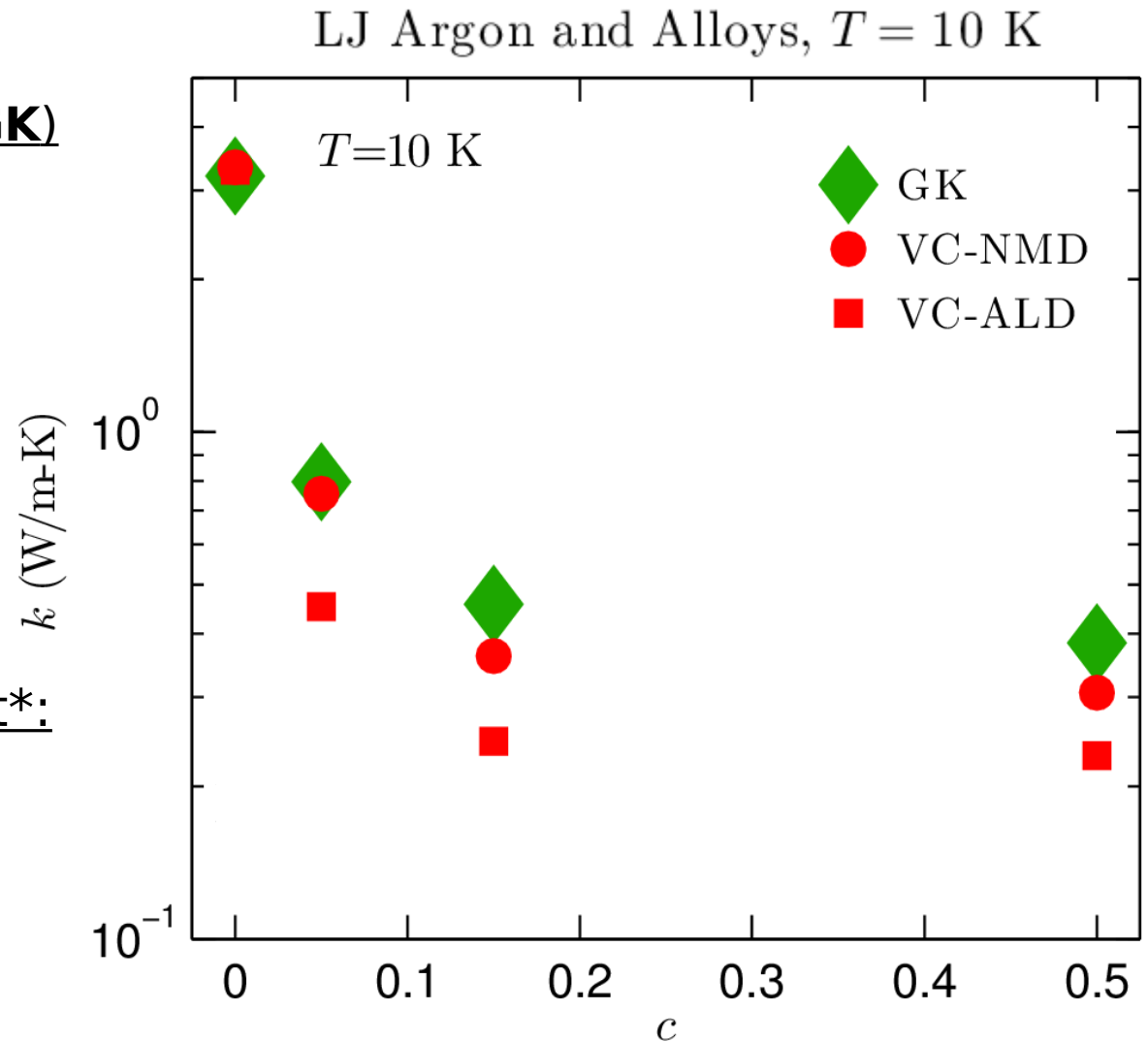
Thermal conductivity

MD-based Green-Kubo (**GK**)

High-scatter adjustment*:

$$D_{ph}(\kappa) < D_{HS}$$

$$D_{ph}(\kappa) = D_{HS}$$



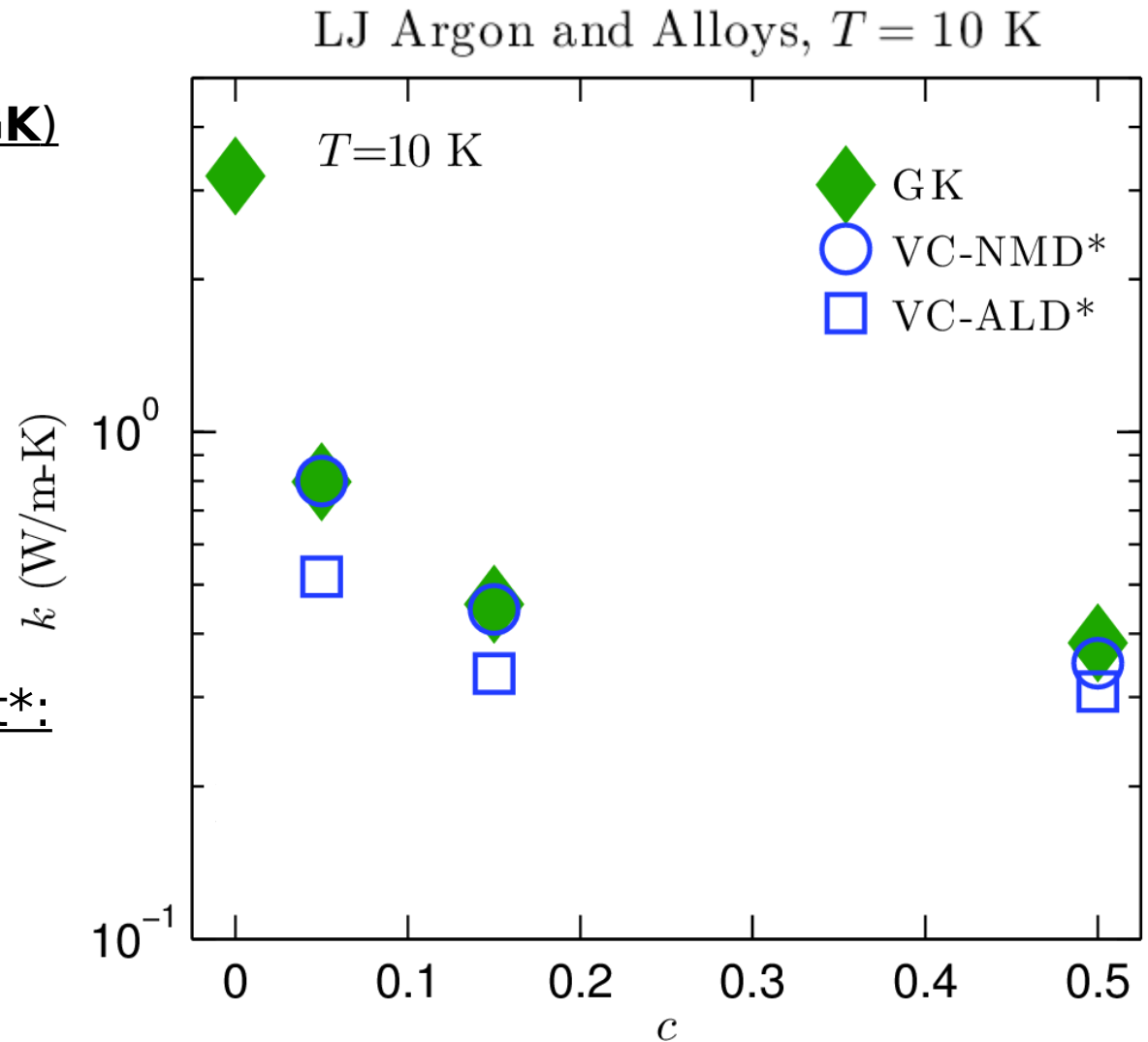
Thermal conductivity

MD-based Green-Kubo (**GK**)

High-scatter adjustment*:

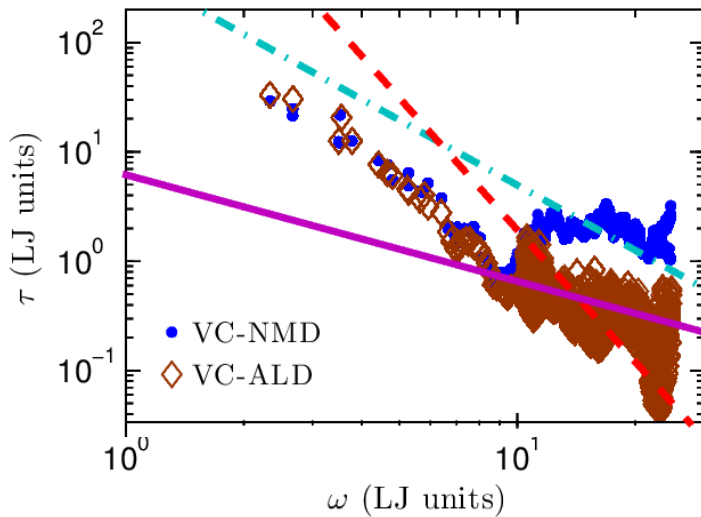
$$D_{ph}(\kappa) < D_{HS}$$

$$D_{ph}(\kappa) = D_{HS}$$

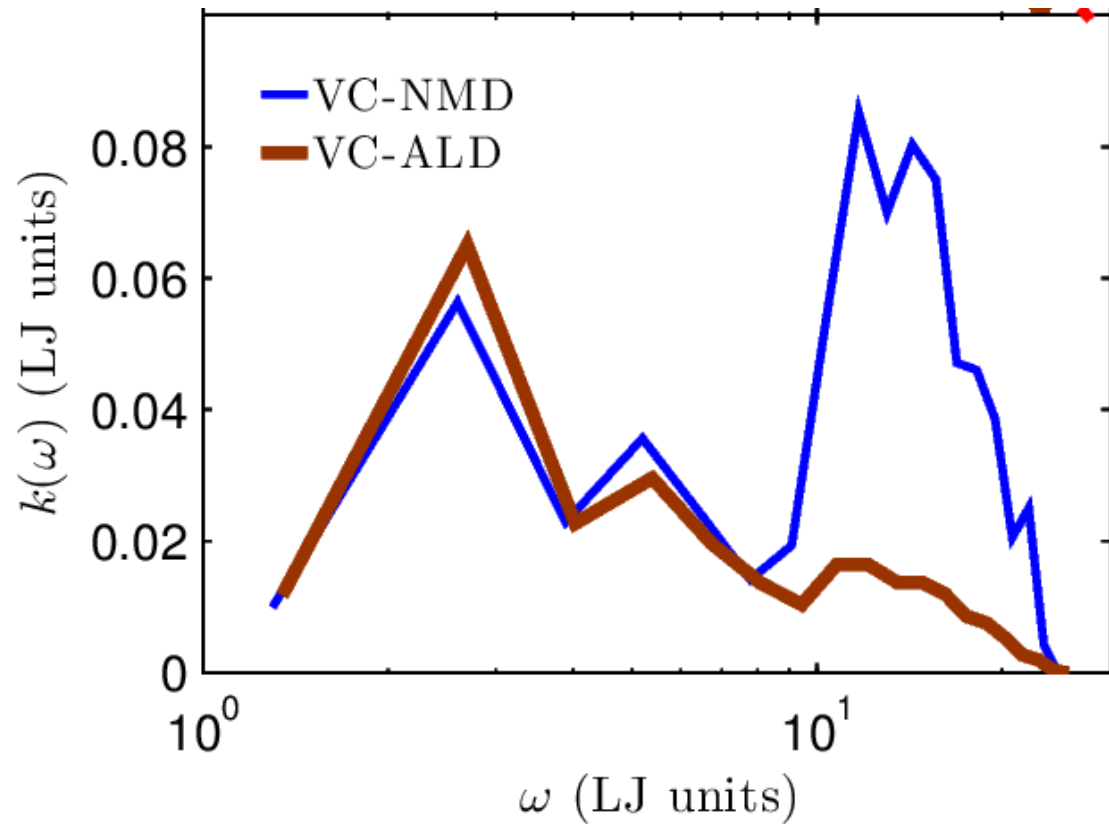
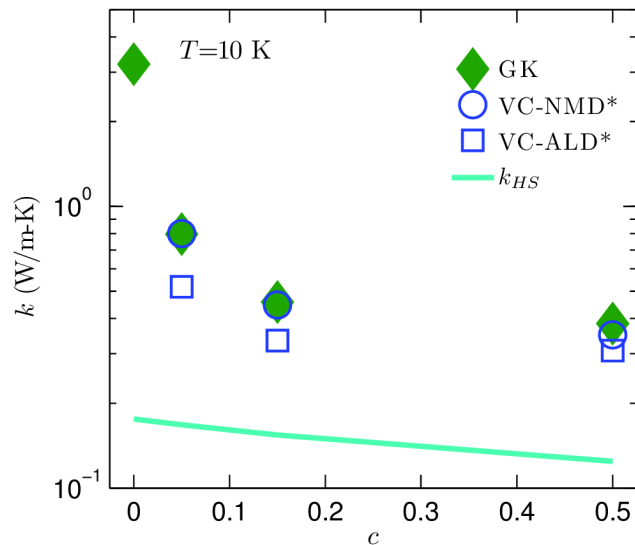


Thermal conductivity spectrum

LJ Argon and Alloys, $T = 10$ K

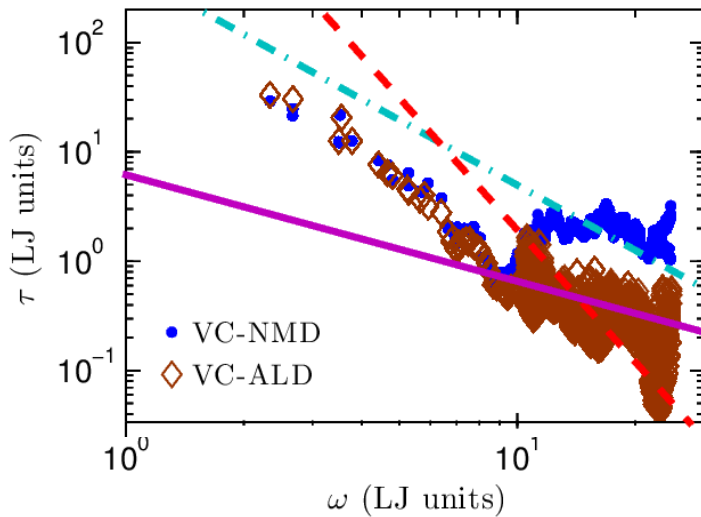


LJ Argon and Alloys, $T = 10$ K

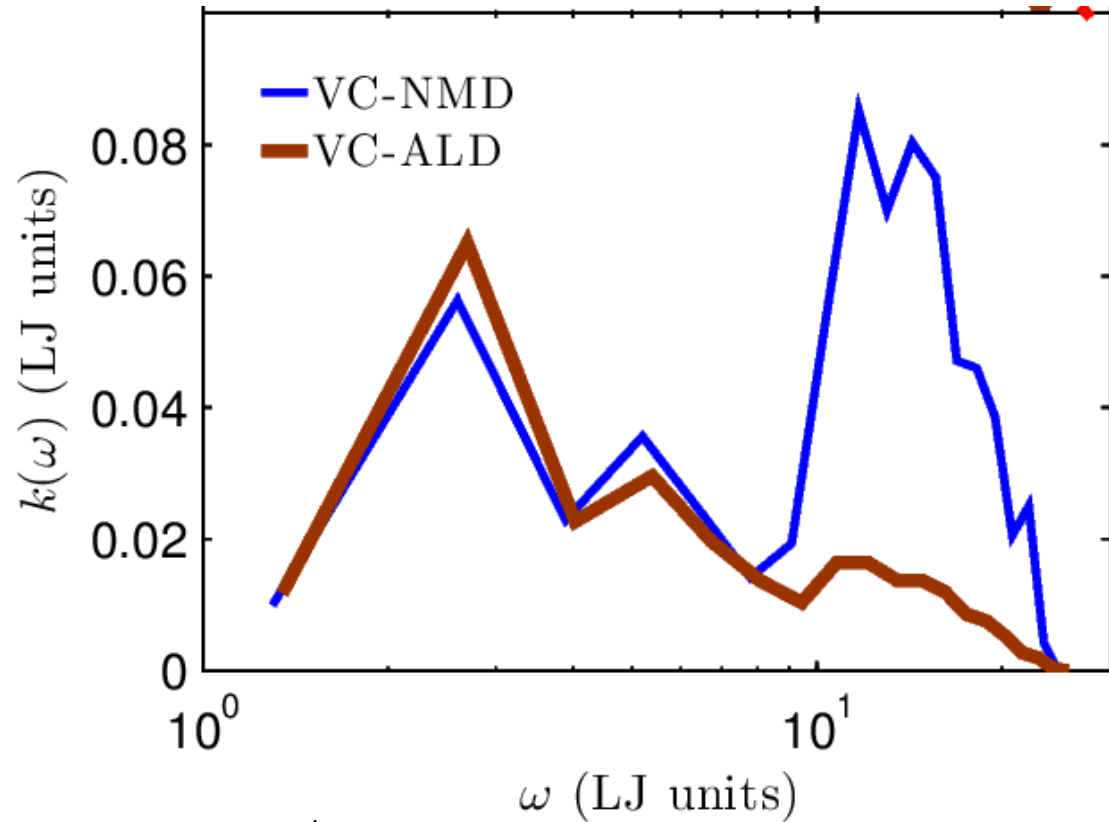
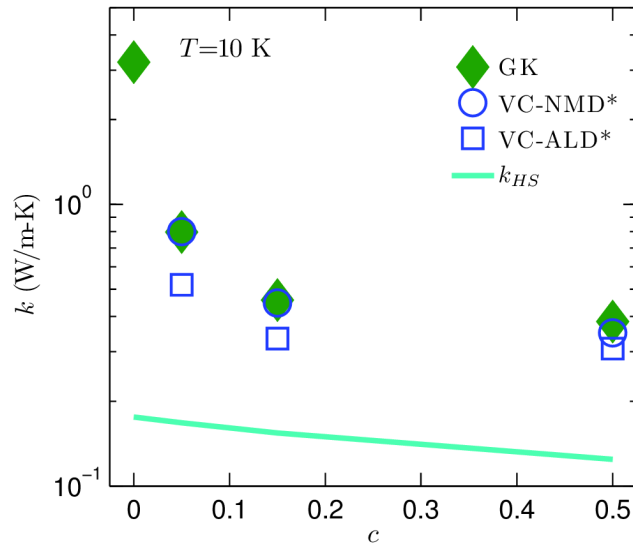


Thermal conductivity spectrum

LJ Argon and Alloys, $T = 10$ K



LJ Argon and Alloys, $T = 10$ K

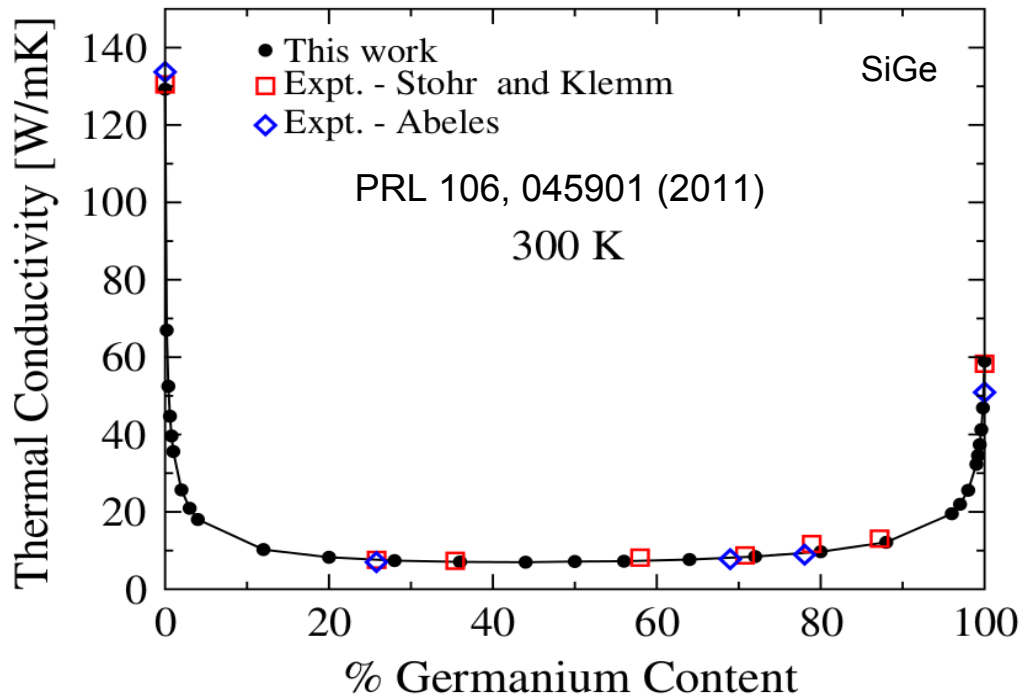


Phonon-Defect¹

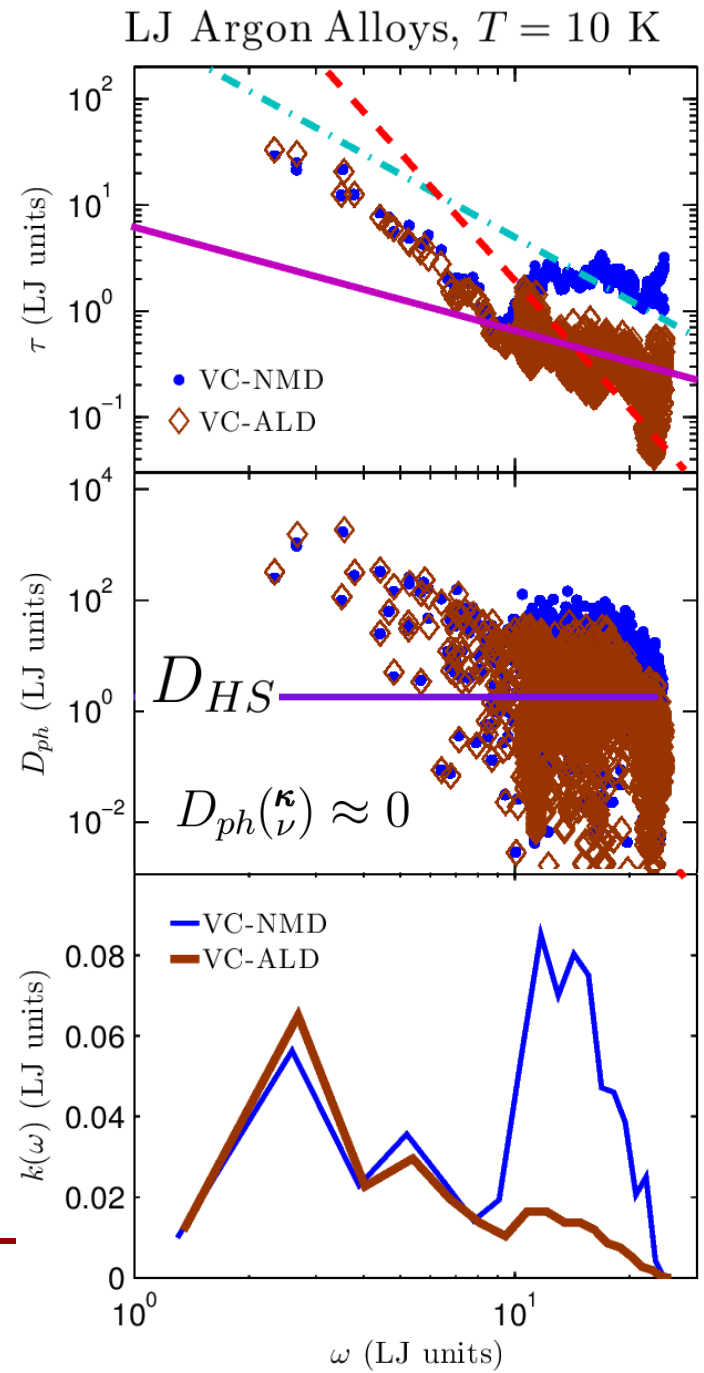
¹Tamura, PRB 27, 858866 (1983)



Summary

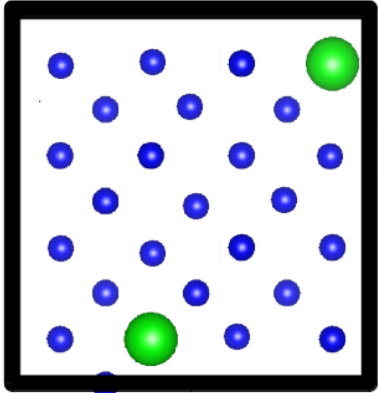


This work was supported by AFOSR award FA95501010098 and by a grant of computer time from the DOD High Performance Computing Modernization Program at the US Army Engineer Research and Development Center.

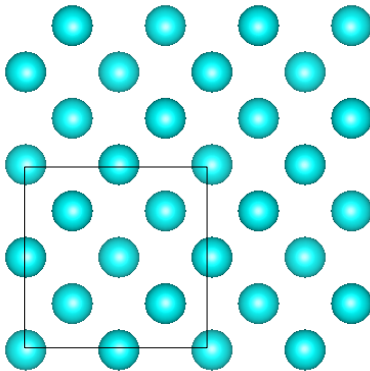
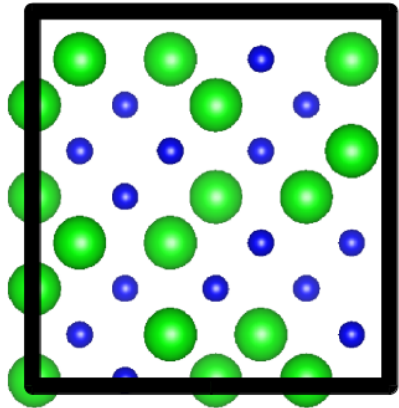
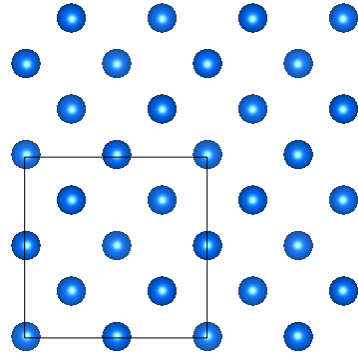


Explicit disorder: VC vs Gamma

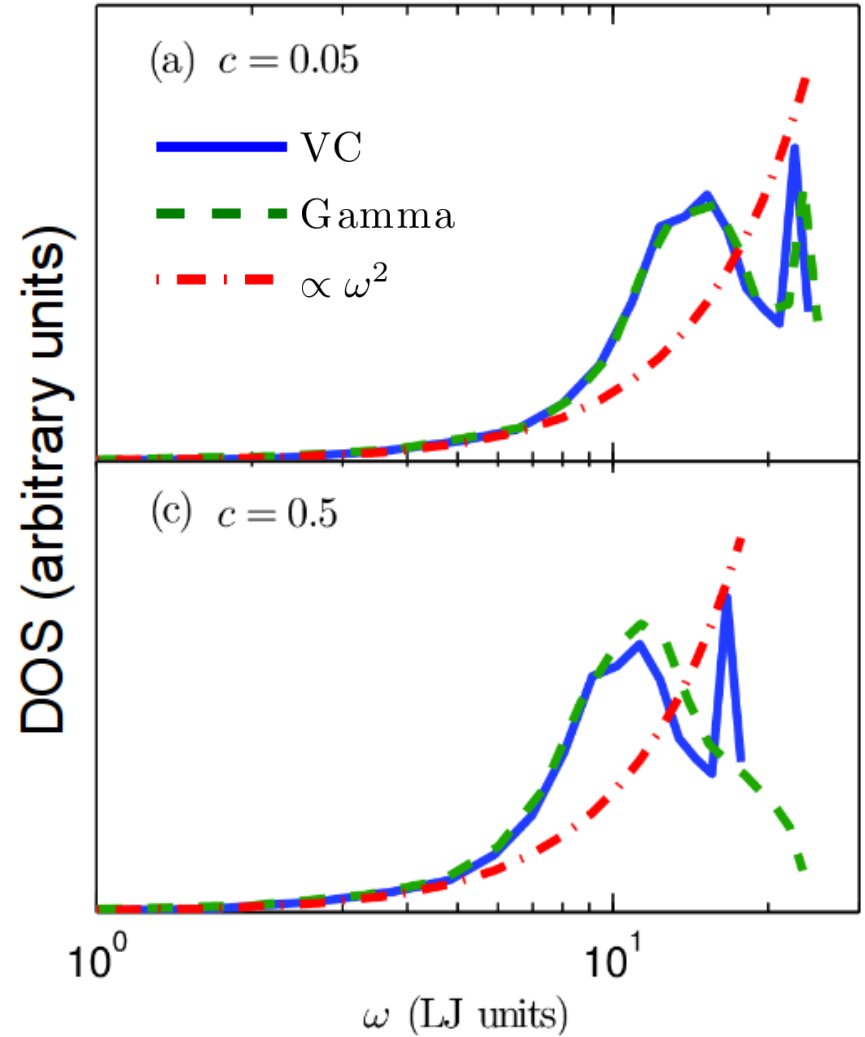
Gamma



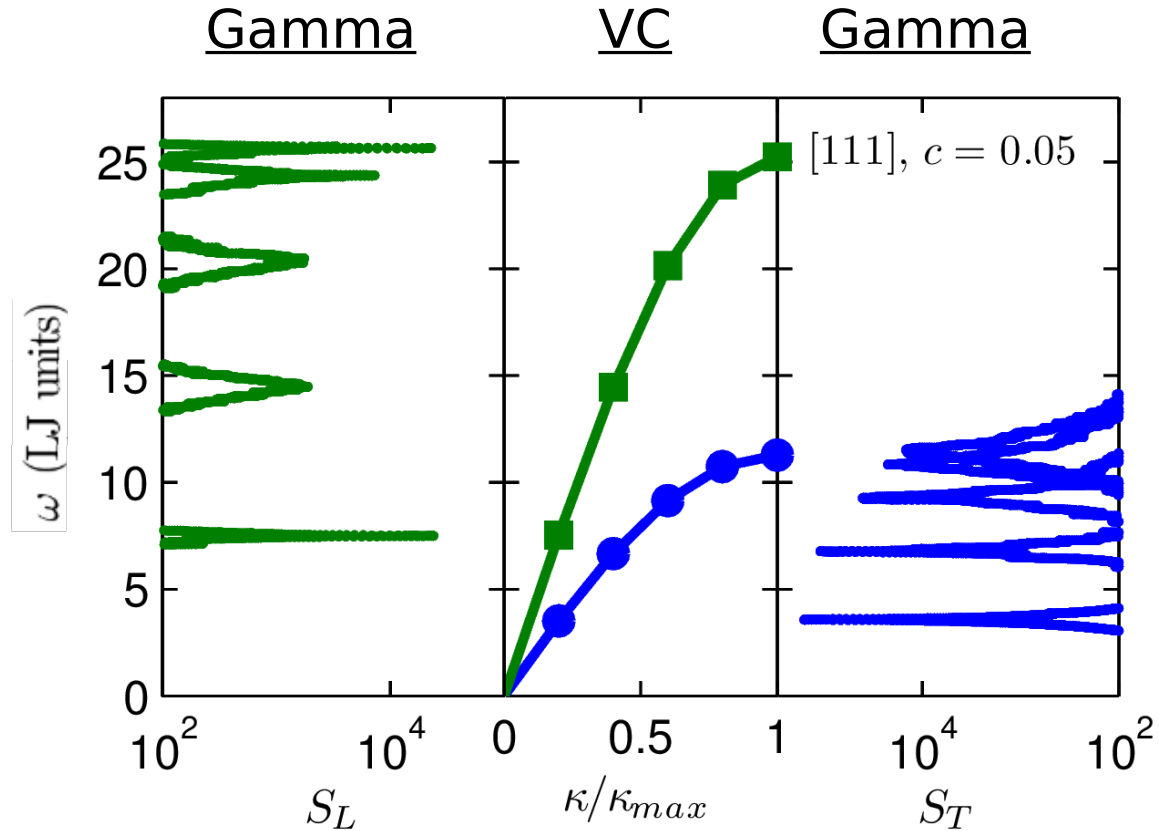
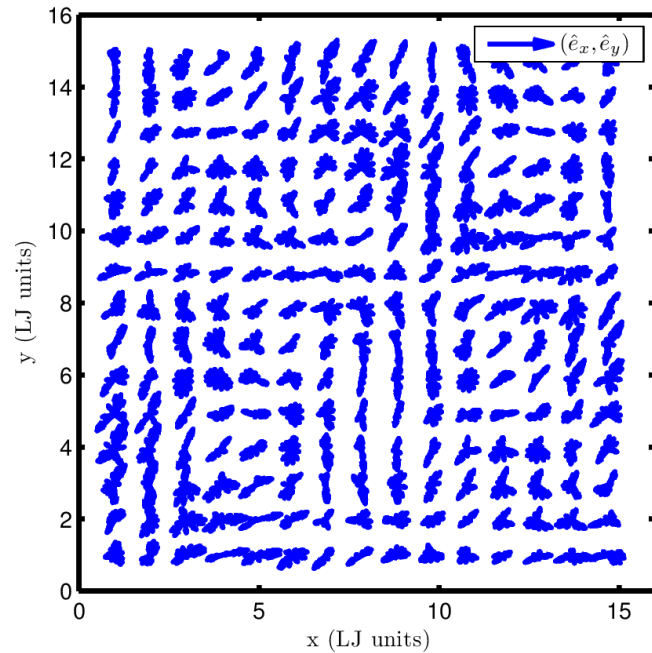
VC



LJ Argon Alloys

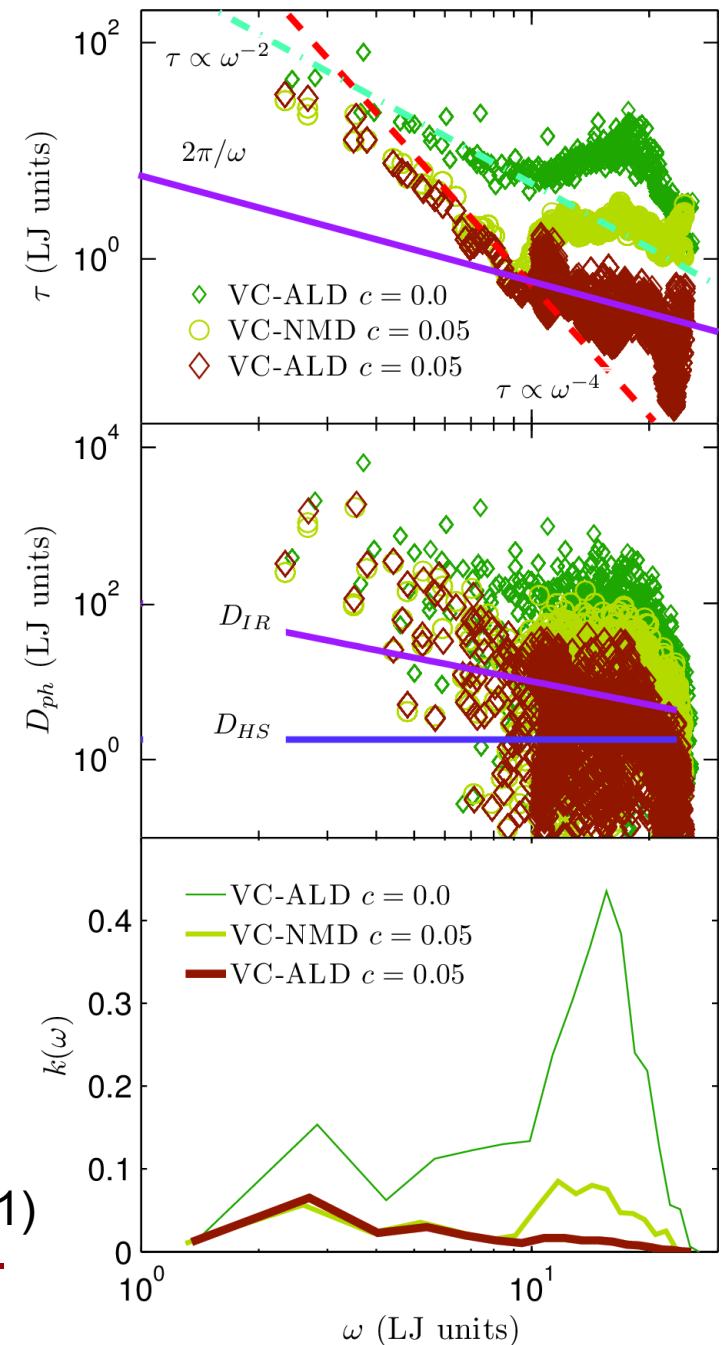
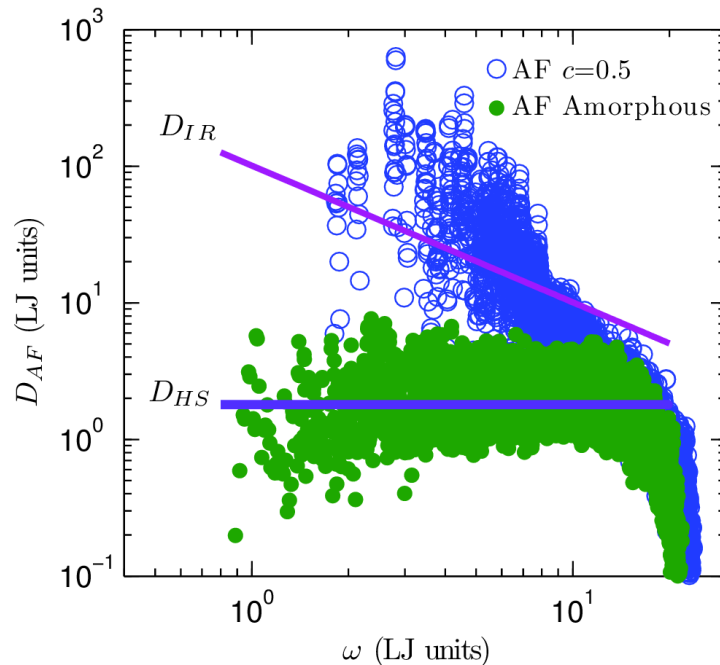


Explicit disorder: Structure Factor



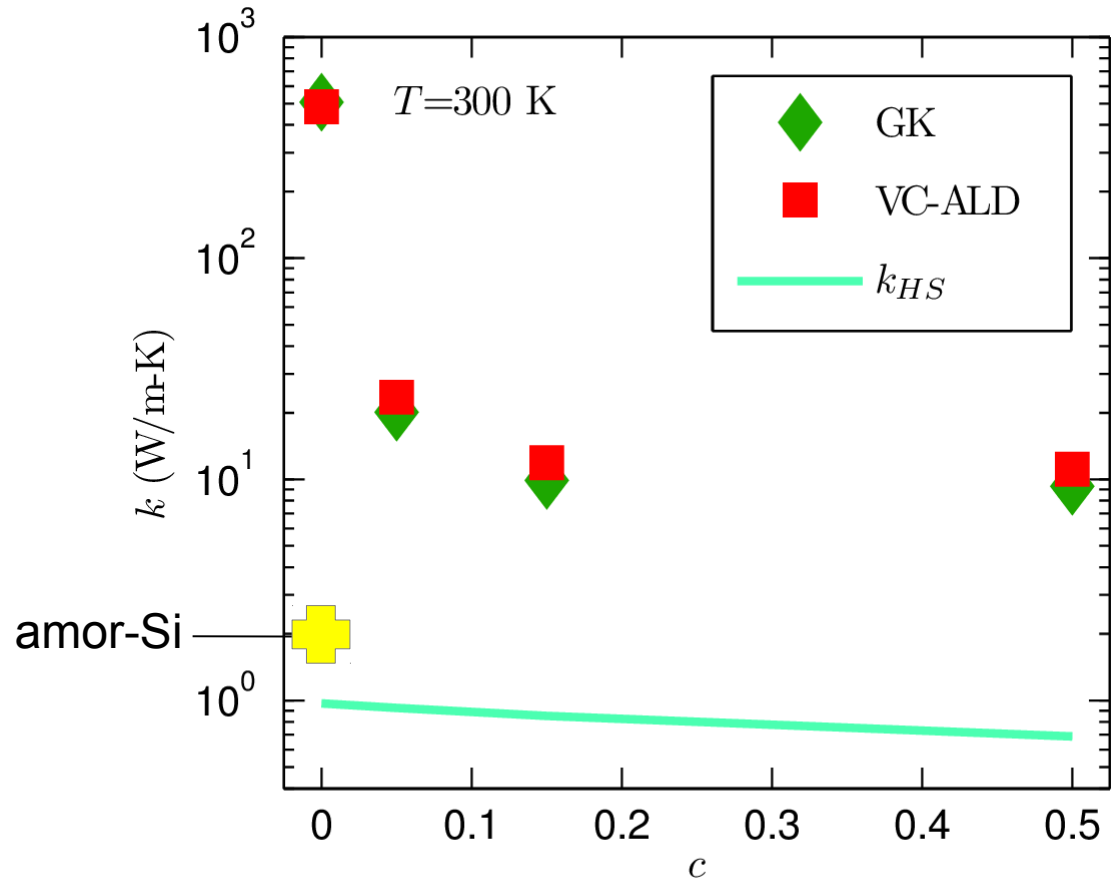
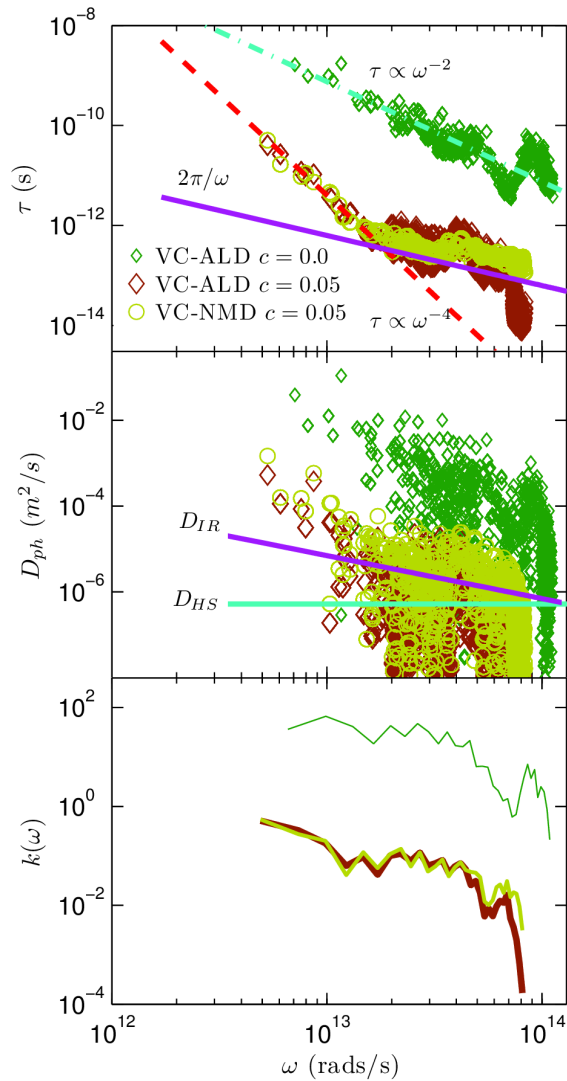
HS/IR Limit

$$D_{IR} = \frac{2\pi}{3} \frac{v_s^2}{\omega}$$

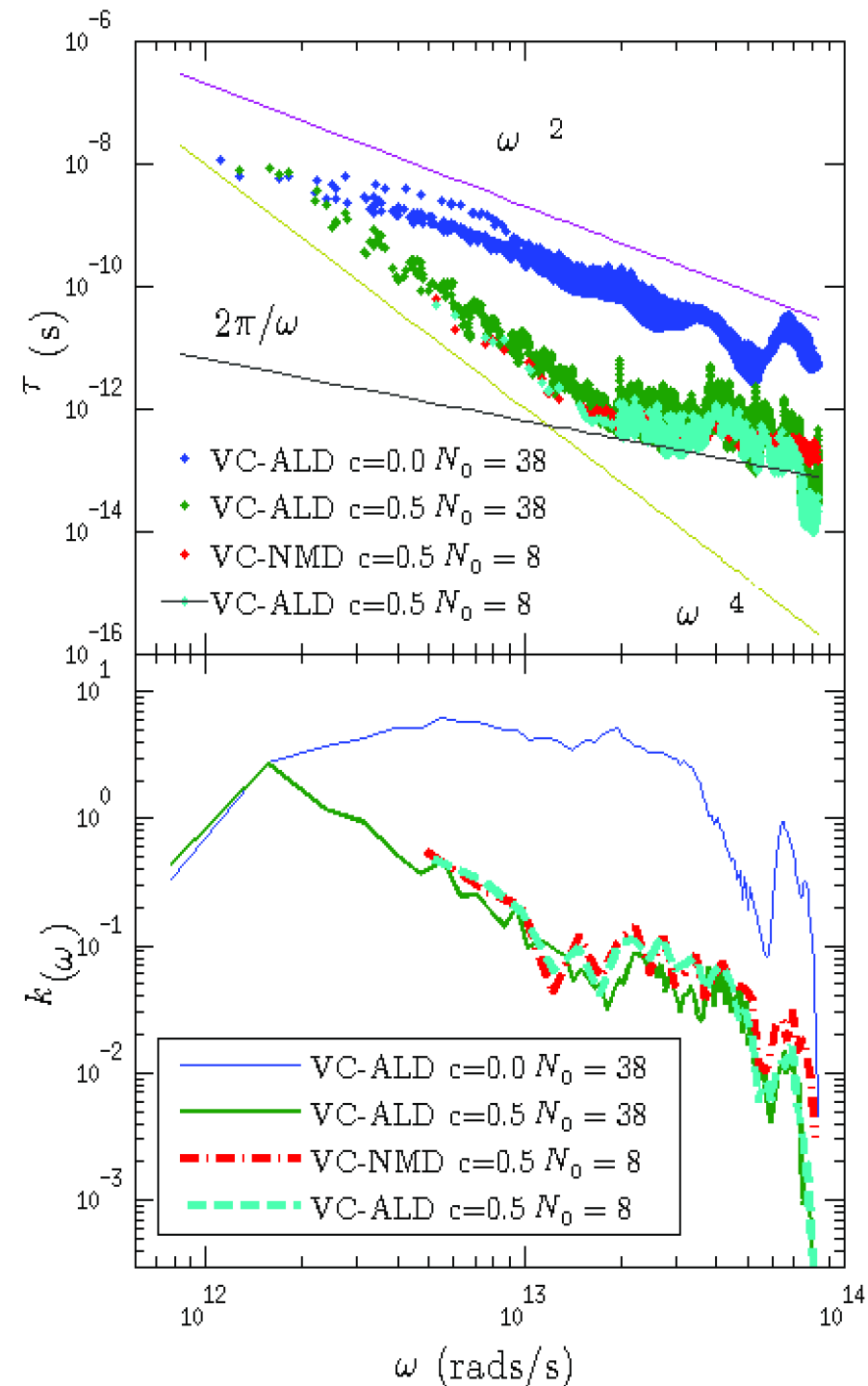


P. Sheng and M. Zhou, Science 253, 539542 (1991)

Thermal conductivity: SW silicon alloy



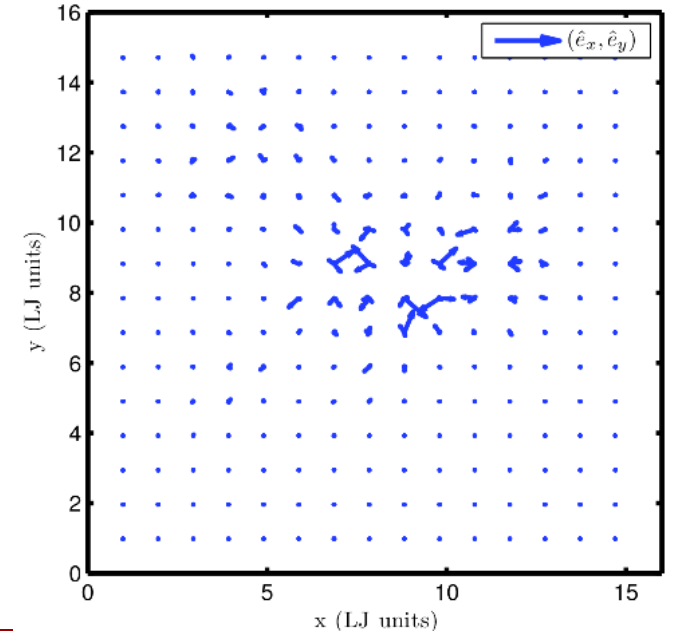
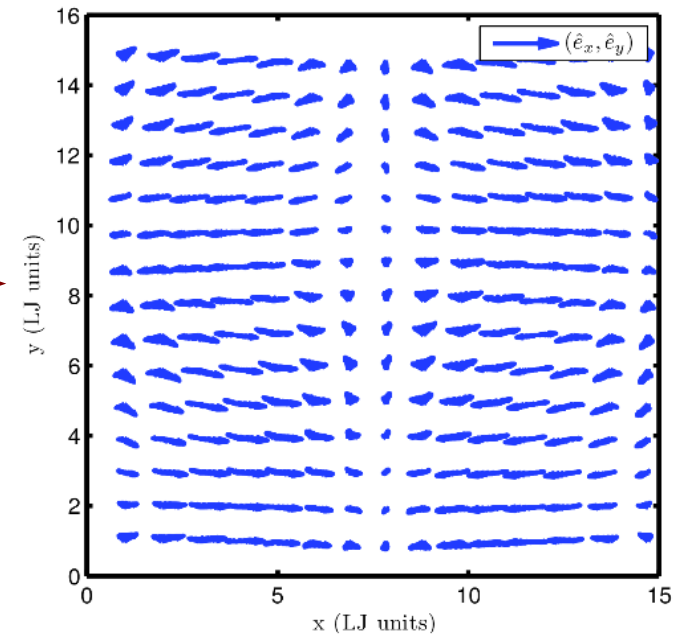
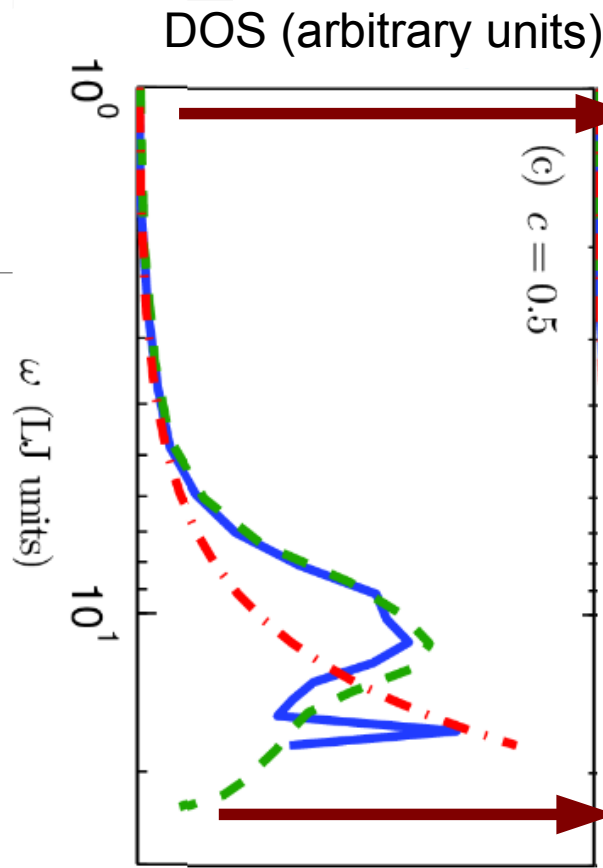
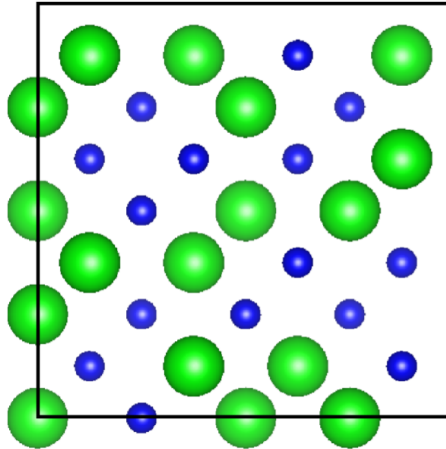
Phonon Spectrum: SW Si



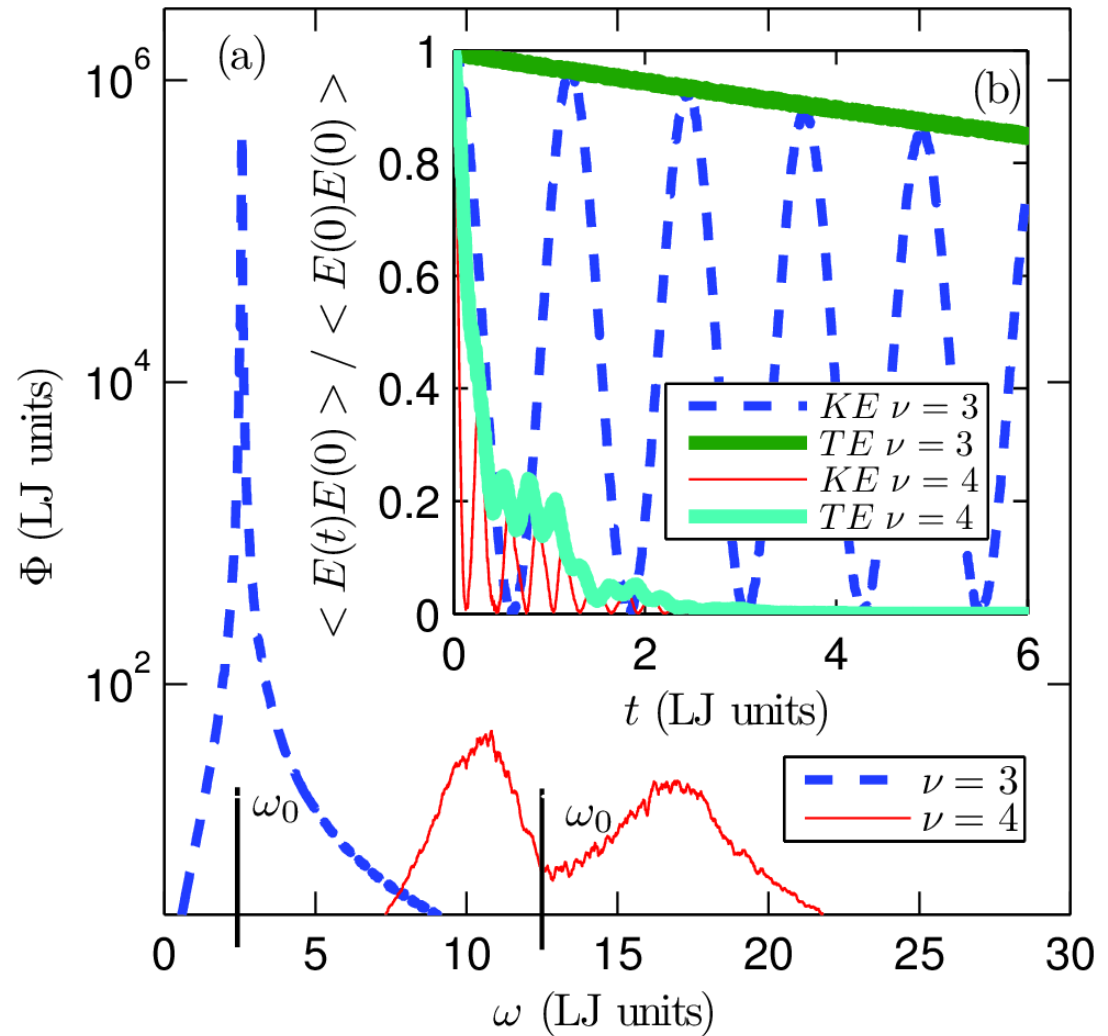
Gamma modes

$$e\left(\begin{smallmatrix} \kappa=0 & b \\ \nu & \alpha \end{smallmatrix}\right)$$

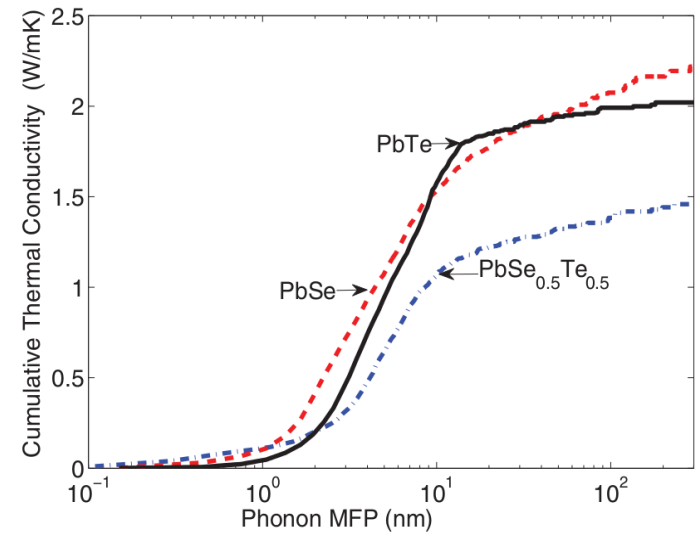
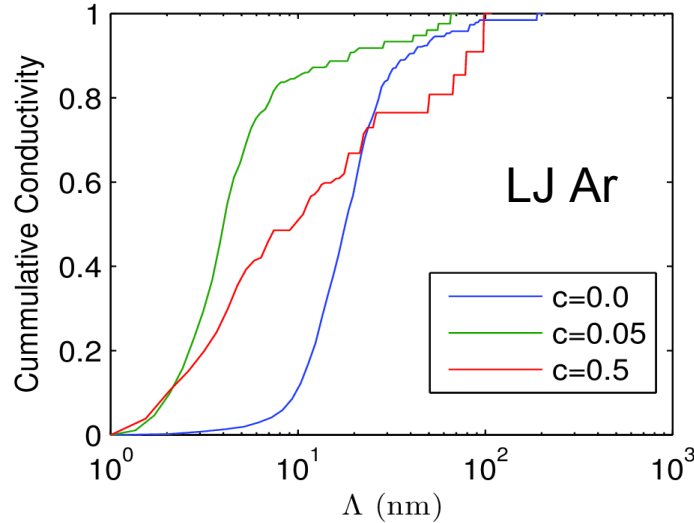
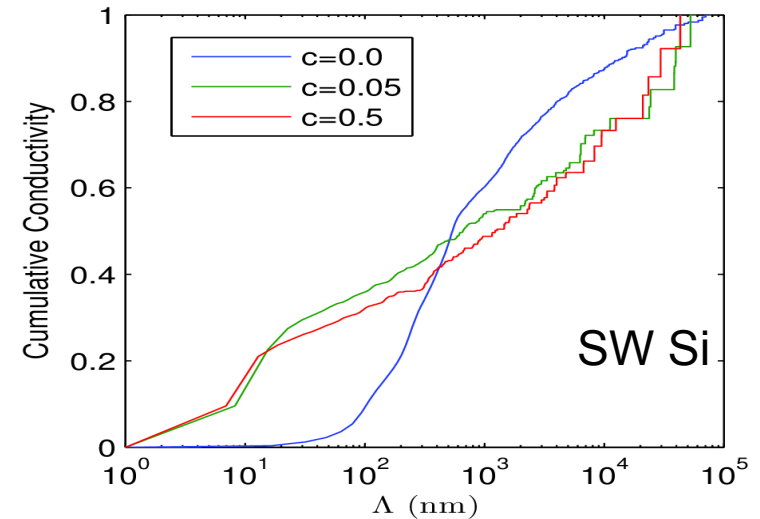
(a) disordered supercell



NMD using VC modes



Conductivity Accumulation



PHYSICAL REVIEW B 85, 184303 (2012)