

Lecture 1 - Ionic structures

Course Summary

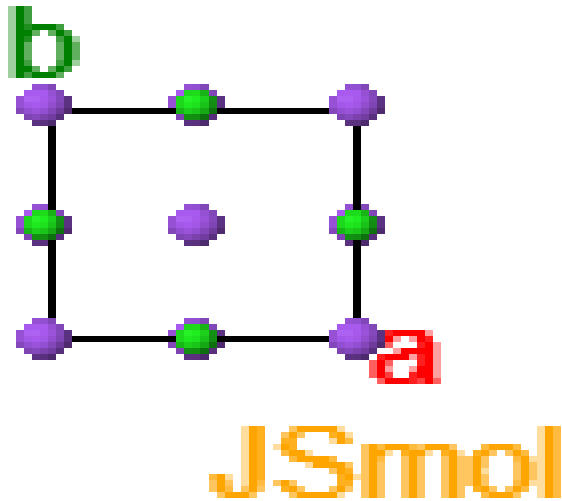
This course aims to introduce you to the importance of ionic materials in many applications.

What do I want you to do?

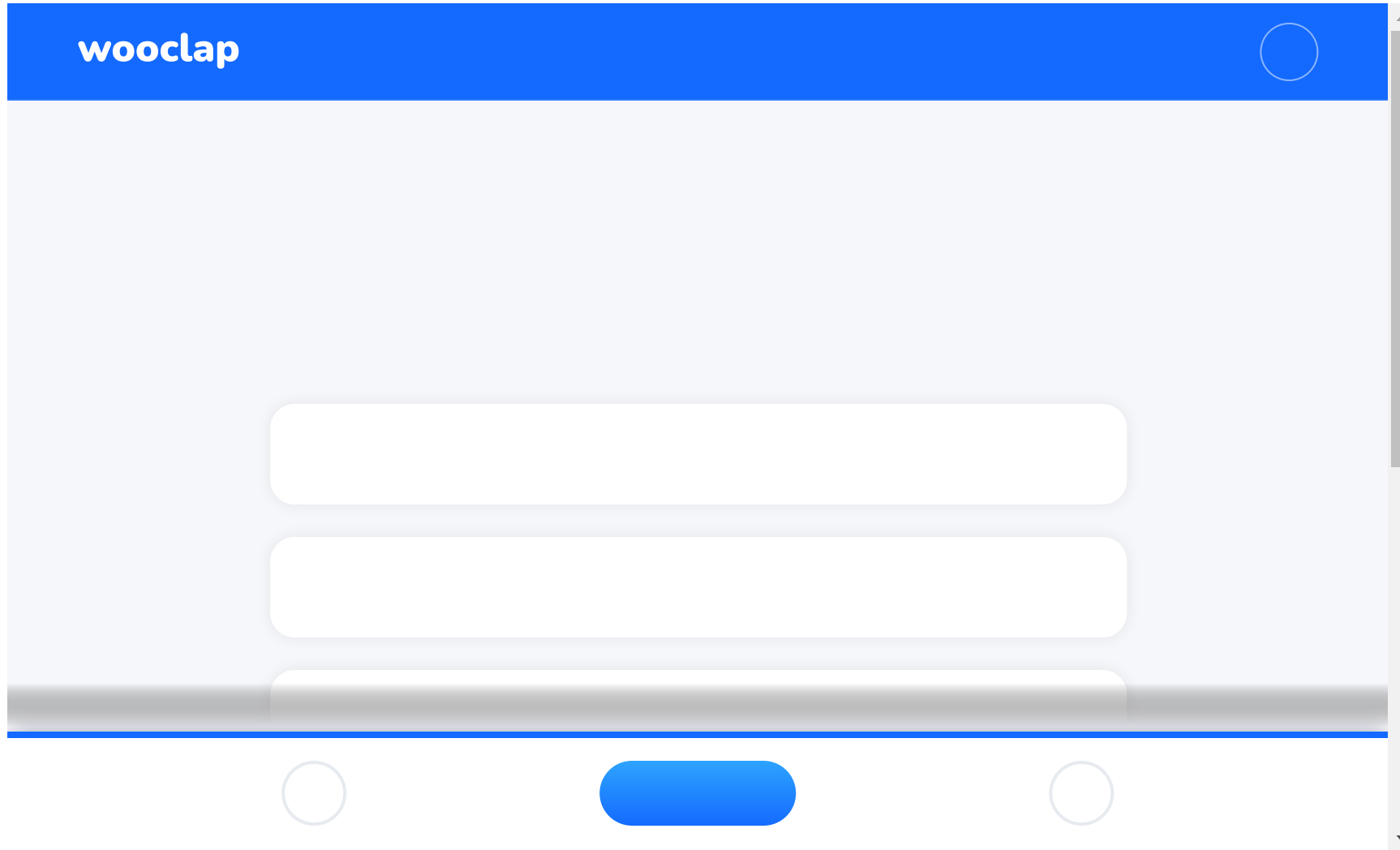
- Revise basic crystallography and ionic solids
- Try to understand examples, **don't memorise them**
- If in doubt - ask questions!

Lecture Notes

- Interactive HTML notes
 - Detailed instructions on overview page
 - Explore the jmol structures!
 - We'll have live quizzes during lectures - please engage
- PDF notes also on Learn if needed

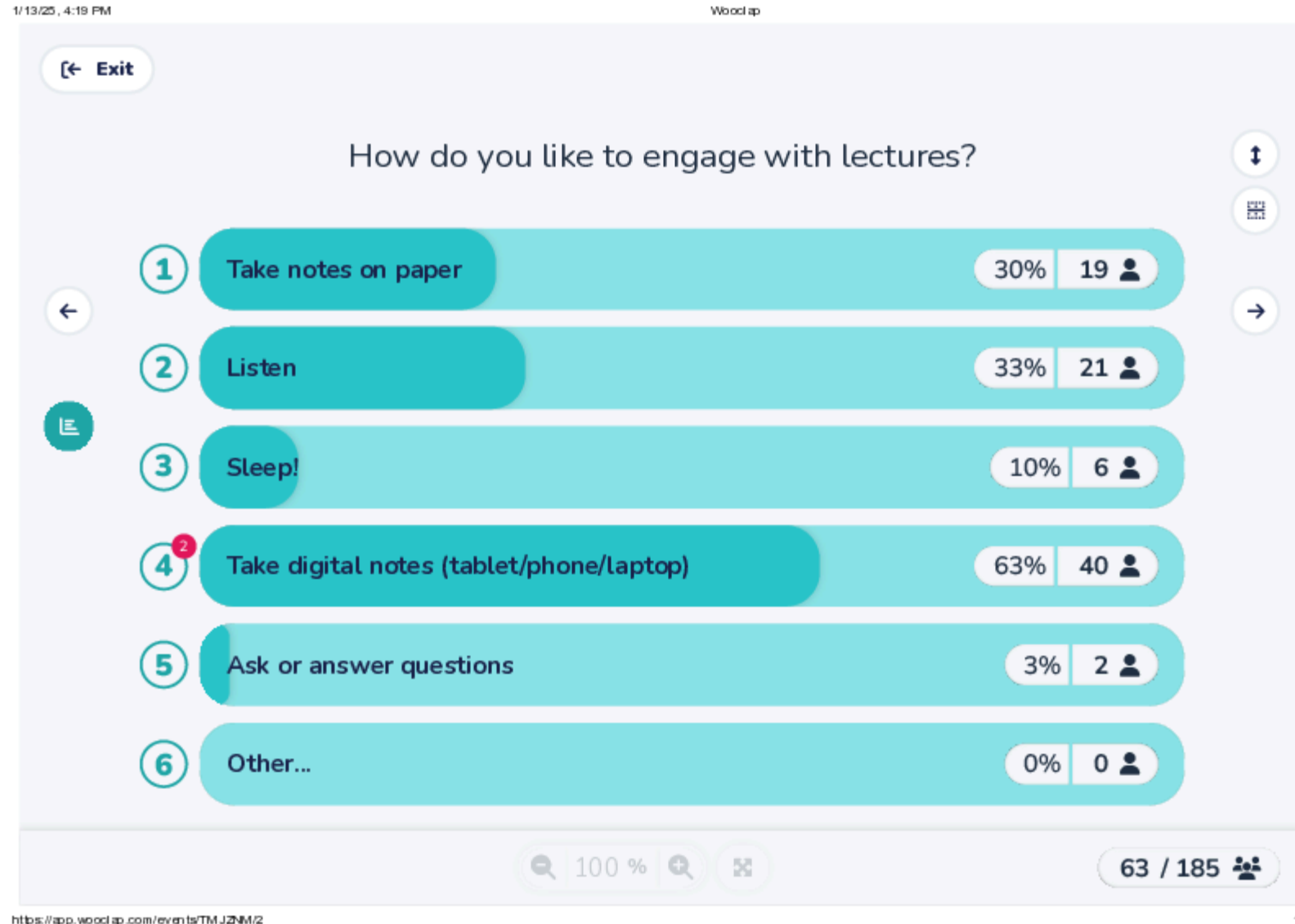


Test poll!



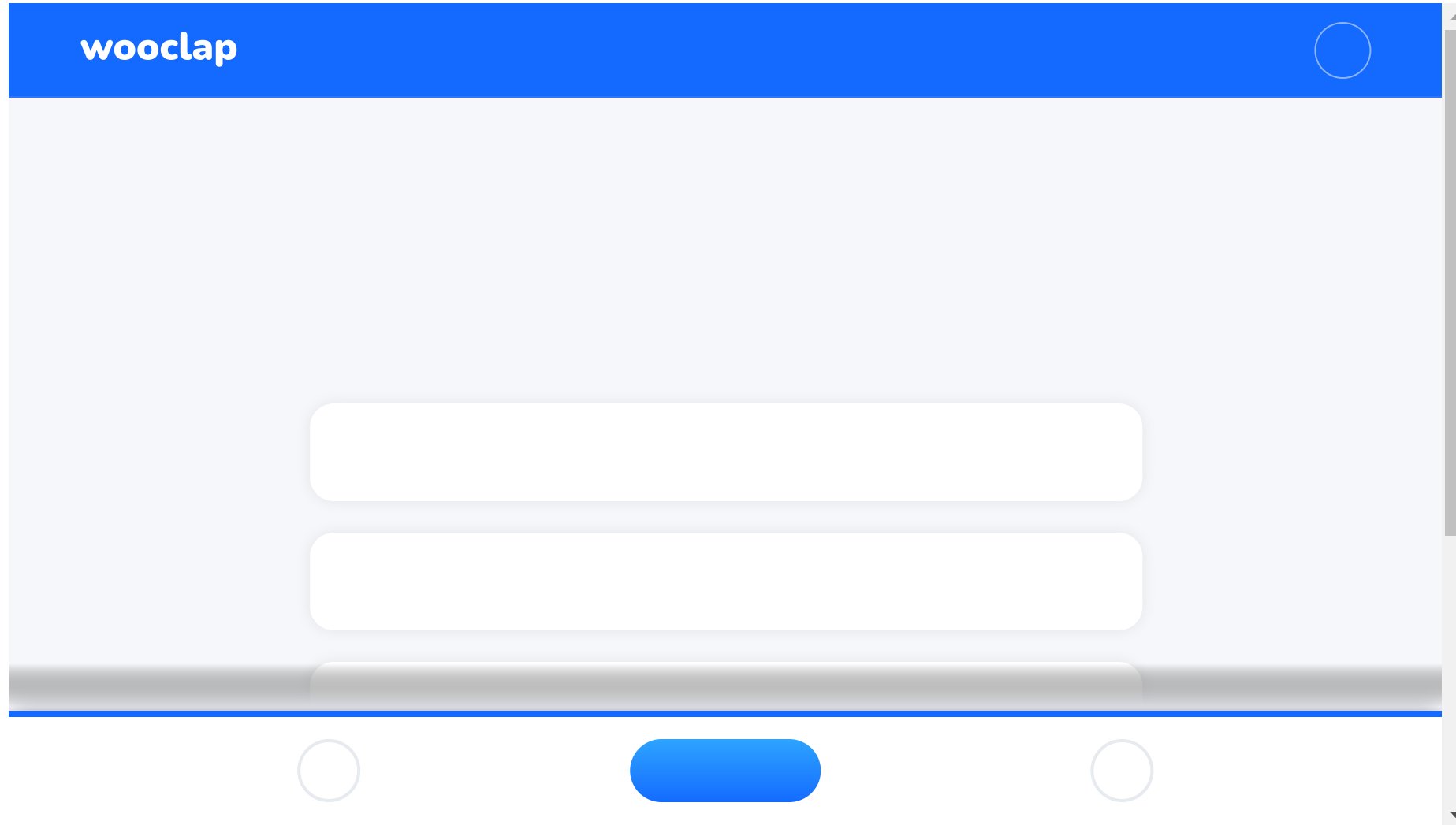
The image shows a mobile application interface for Wooclap. At the top, there is a blue header bar with the word "wooclap" in white lowercase letters on the left and a white circular icon on the right. Below the header, the main content area has a light gray background. In the center of this area, there are three white, rounded rectangular input fields stacked vertically. At the bottom of the screen, there is a blue navigation bar. In the center of this bar is a blue rounded rectangular button. On either side of this button are two white circular icons. A vertical gray scrollbar is visible on the right side of the main content area.

Results

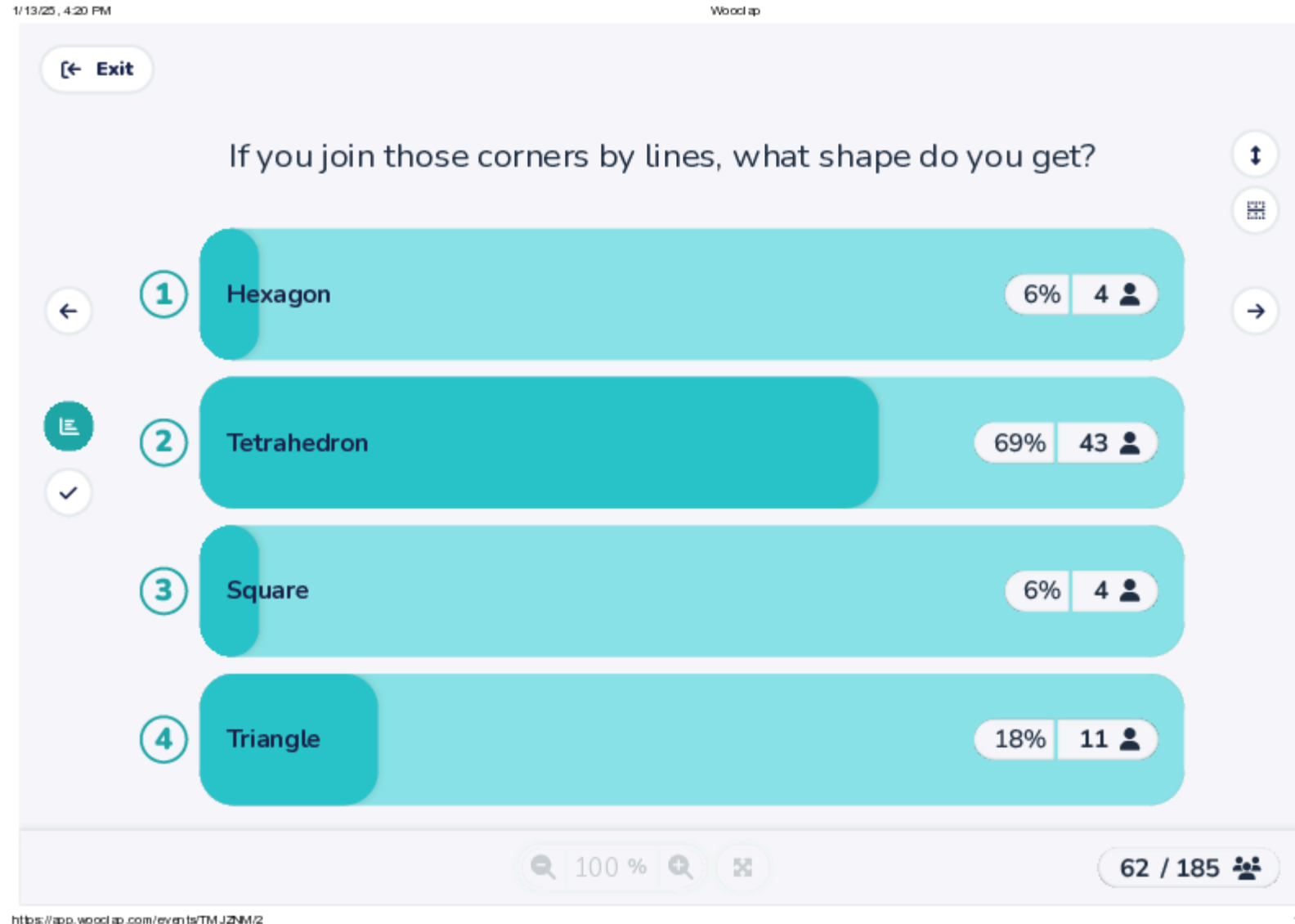


Let's get you thinking in 3D!

Picture a cube. Imagine touching one corner, and then also touch every corner that is two edges away from it.



Results



Lecture 1 Summary

- Types and applications of ionic materials
- Crystallography recap
- Lattice energy and ionic bonding
- Close-packing and ionic structure types

Introduction

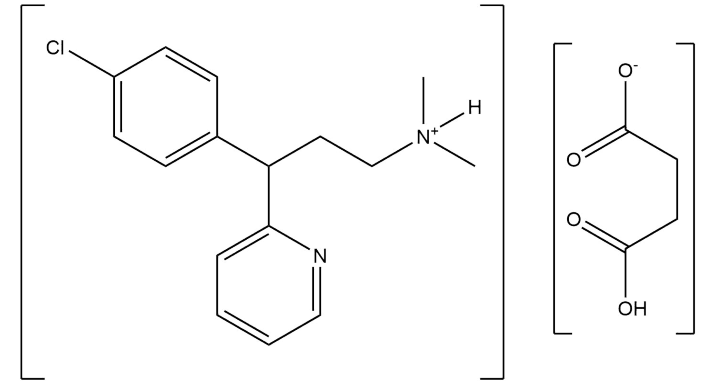
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 - ammonium acetate $\text{NH}_4^+ \text{CH}_3\text{COO}^-$
 - [chlorphenirammonium maleate](#) (active part of Piriton®)

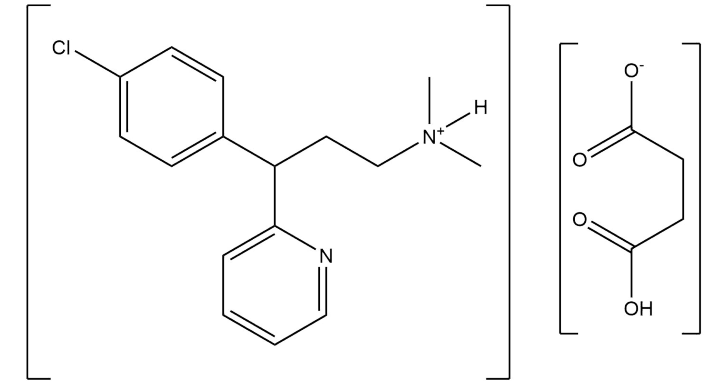


Chlorphenirammonium maleate

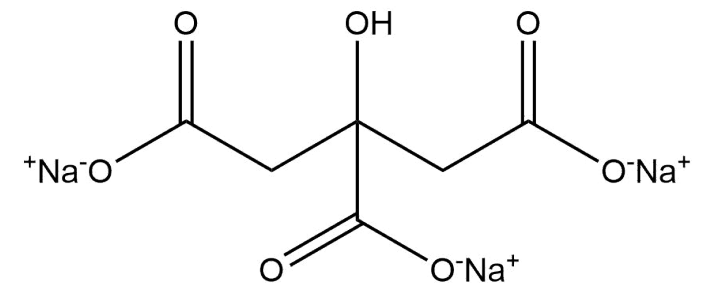
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- (in)organic salts
 - Mono-/Di-/Tri-Sodium citrate $\text{Na}_x \text{C}_6\text{H}_8_{-x} \text{O}_7$
 - collectively used as E331 in food
 - x can be varied from 1–3



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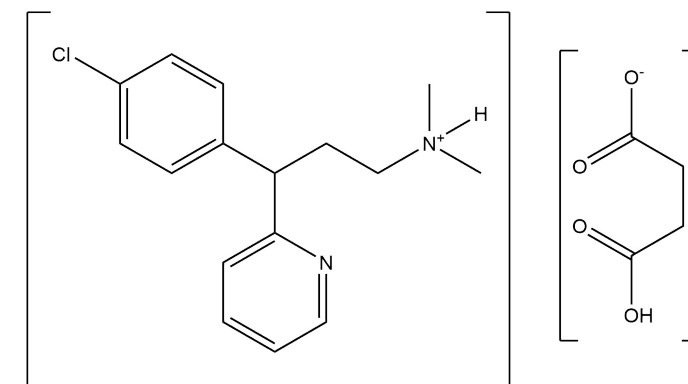


Trisodium Citrate (x=3)

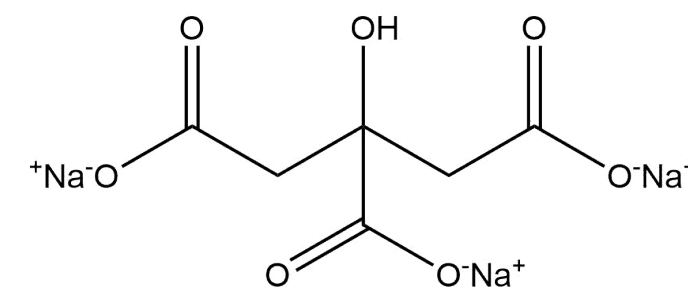
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- Ionic liquids
 - Either organic or inorganic, liquid below 100 °C



Chlorphenirammonium maleate



Trisodium Citrate (x=3)

Why are they interesting?

- Large range of practical applications
 - important for energy storage, but lots of other applications!
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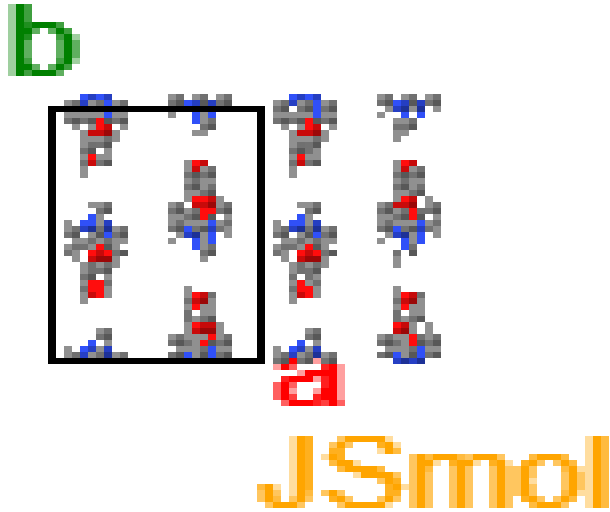
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- High melting points due to Coloumbic energy (see [later](#))
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 - Electronegativity differences promote localised electrons
- Usually hard, and often robust to harsh conditions
 - e.g. Synroc* is used to encapsulate nuclear waste



We can divide solids into two categories:

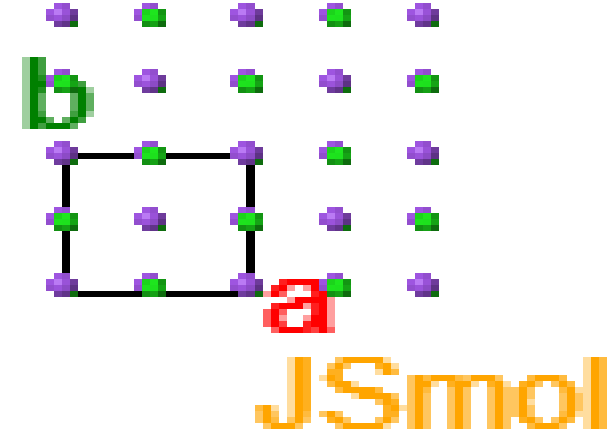
Molecular (e.g. paracetamol)

- Strong intramolecular bonds
- Weaker intermolecular interactions



Infinite (e.g. NaCl)

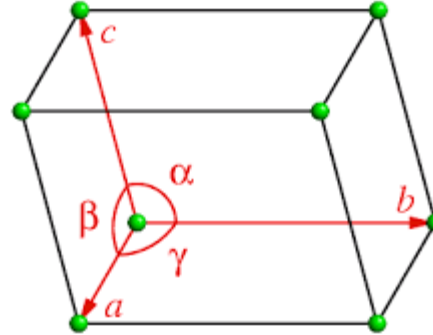
- Strong bonds between all atoms
- No discrete molecules



We'll concentrate on **infinite materials**.

Recap on crystal structure

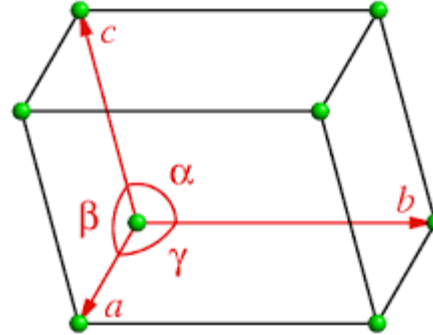
Periodic solids can be described by a unit cell



- Defined by lengths (a , b , c) and angles (α , β , γ)
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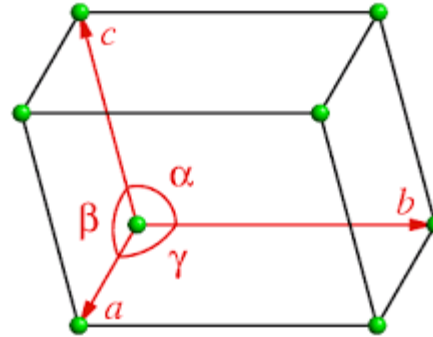
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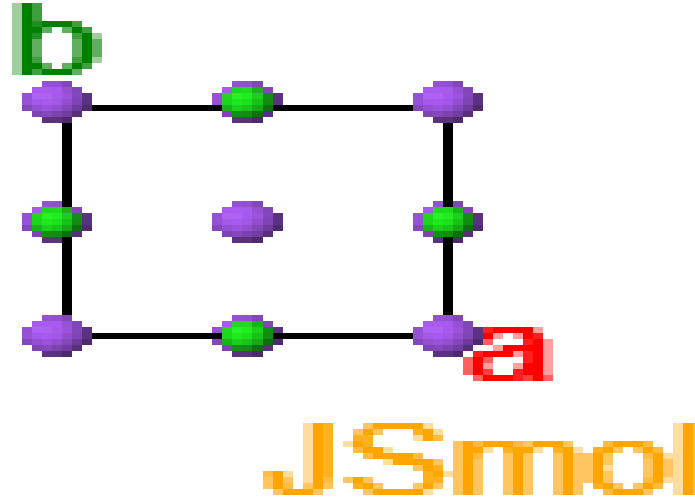
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- Possesses 'space group' symmetry (an extension of point groups)
- Atom positions defined by fractional position along lattice directions

Example: Sodium chloride



Cubic structure	$a = b = c = 5.62 \text{ \AA}$, $\alpha = \beta = \gamma = 90^\circ$	
Spacegroup	$Fm\bar{3}m$ (#225, point group = O_h)	
Na atoms at:	(0 0 0) $(\frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{2} 0)$ $(\frac{1}{2} 0 \frac{1}{2})$ $(0 \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{2})$	(all symmetry-related)
Cl atoms at:	$(\frac{1}{2} 0 0)$ $(0 \frac{1}{2} 0)$ $(0 0 \frac{1}{2})$ $(\frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{2})$	(all symmetry-related)

Because of symmetry, we only need to define one Na and one Cl position.

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- q is the charge on ions i , j and r is the distance between them
- $\frac{1}{r}$ dependence makes long-range interactions important

Infinite summations

- For infinite solids, periodicity usually means the sum converges
 - As r increases, the contribution becomes smaller.

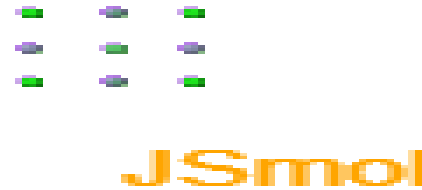
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For example NaCl:

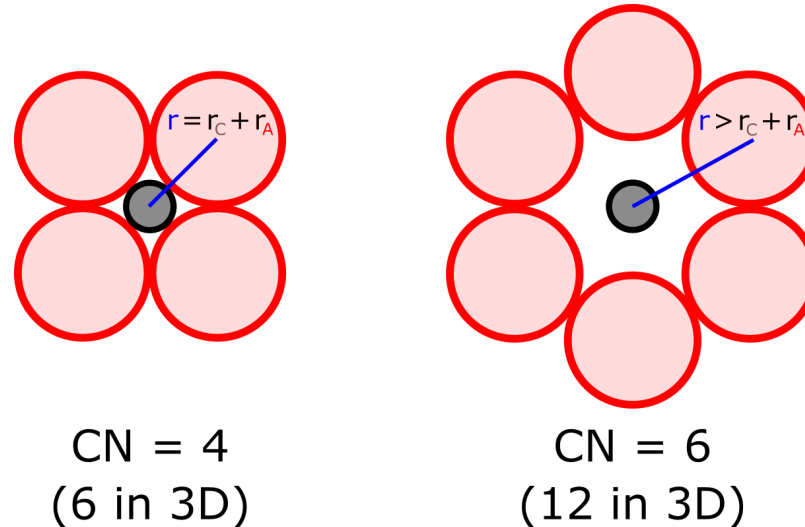


$$\begin{aligned} E_{\text{Madelung}} &= \sum_{i \neq j} \frac{q_i q_j}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r} \\ &= \frac{N_A q_i q_j}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r} \left(6 - \frac{12}{\sqrt{2}} + \frac{8}{\sqrt{3}} - \frac{6}{2} + \frac{24}{\sqrt{5}} - \dots \right) \\ &\simeq \frac{N_A q_i q_j}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r} \times 1.74756 \end{aligned}$$

Ionic Structures

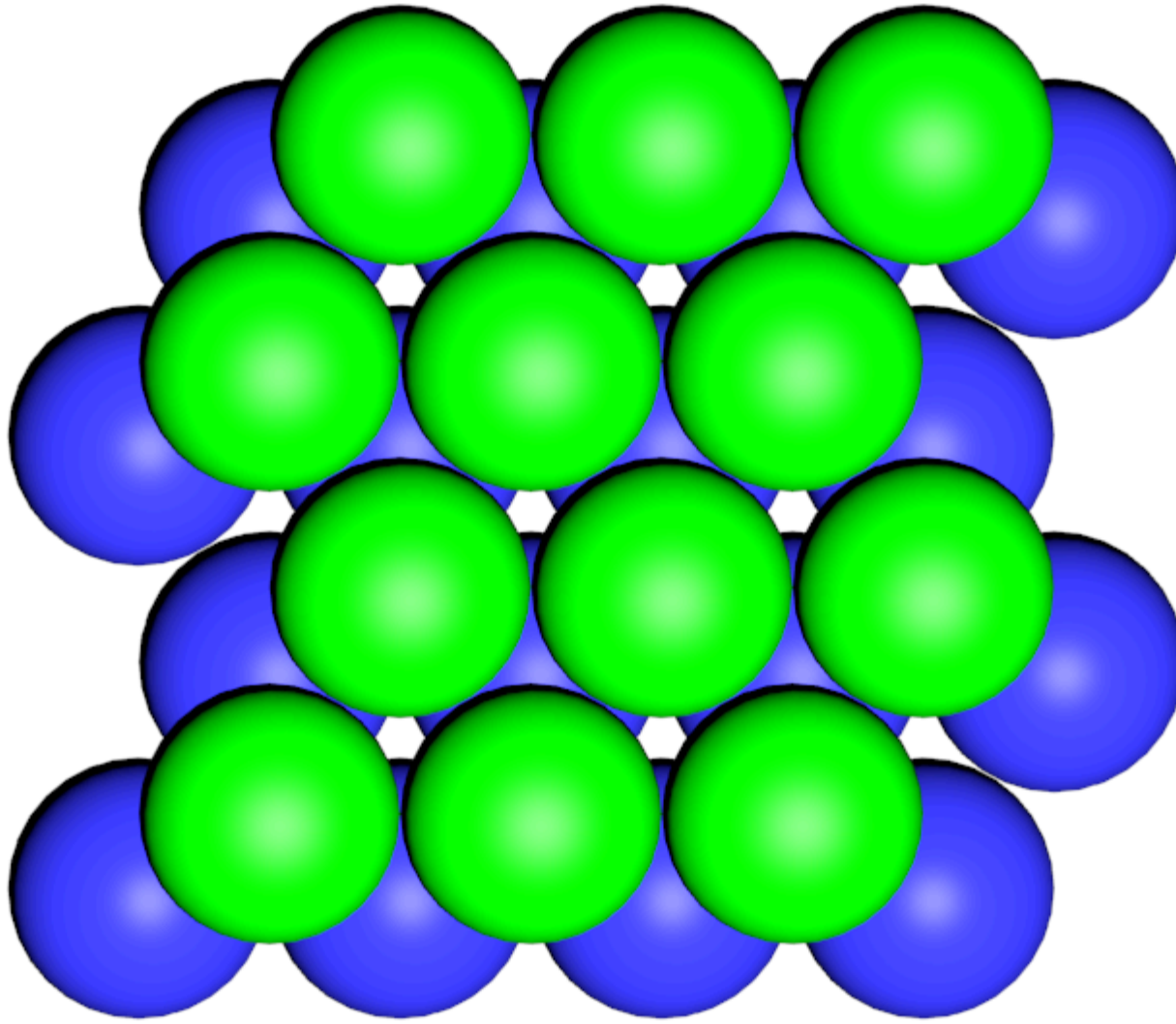
Generally, structures **maximise cation-anion** interactions (-ve energy) while **minimising like-charge** interactions (+ve energy)

- Maximise cation-anion coordination number
 - Ideally, ions should be densely packed



In many materials, the optimum is found when the largest ion (often oxide) is **close-packed**

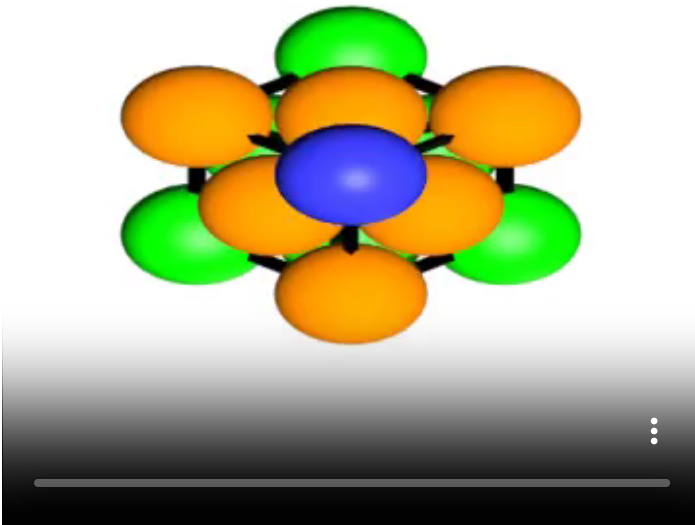
Close packing



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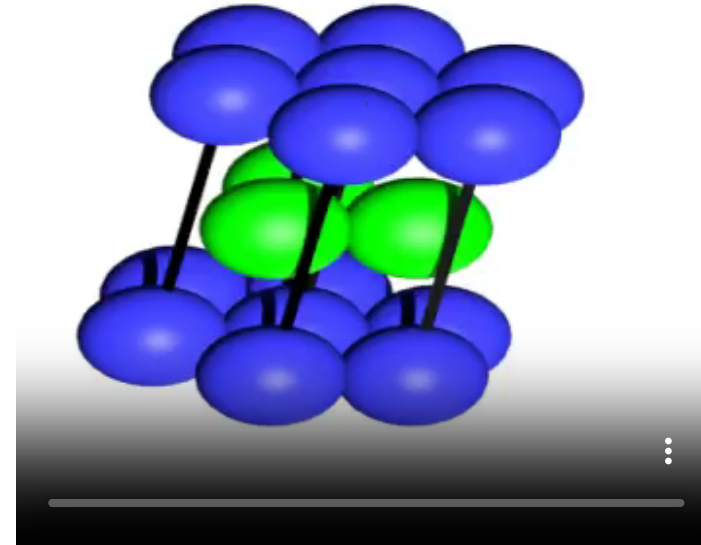
Face-centered cubic (FCC)

... ABCABC ...



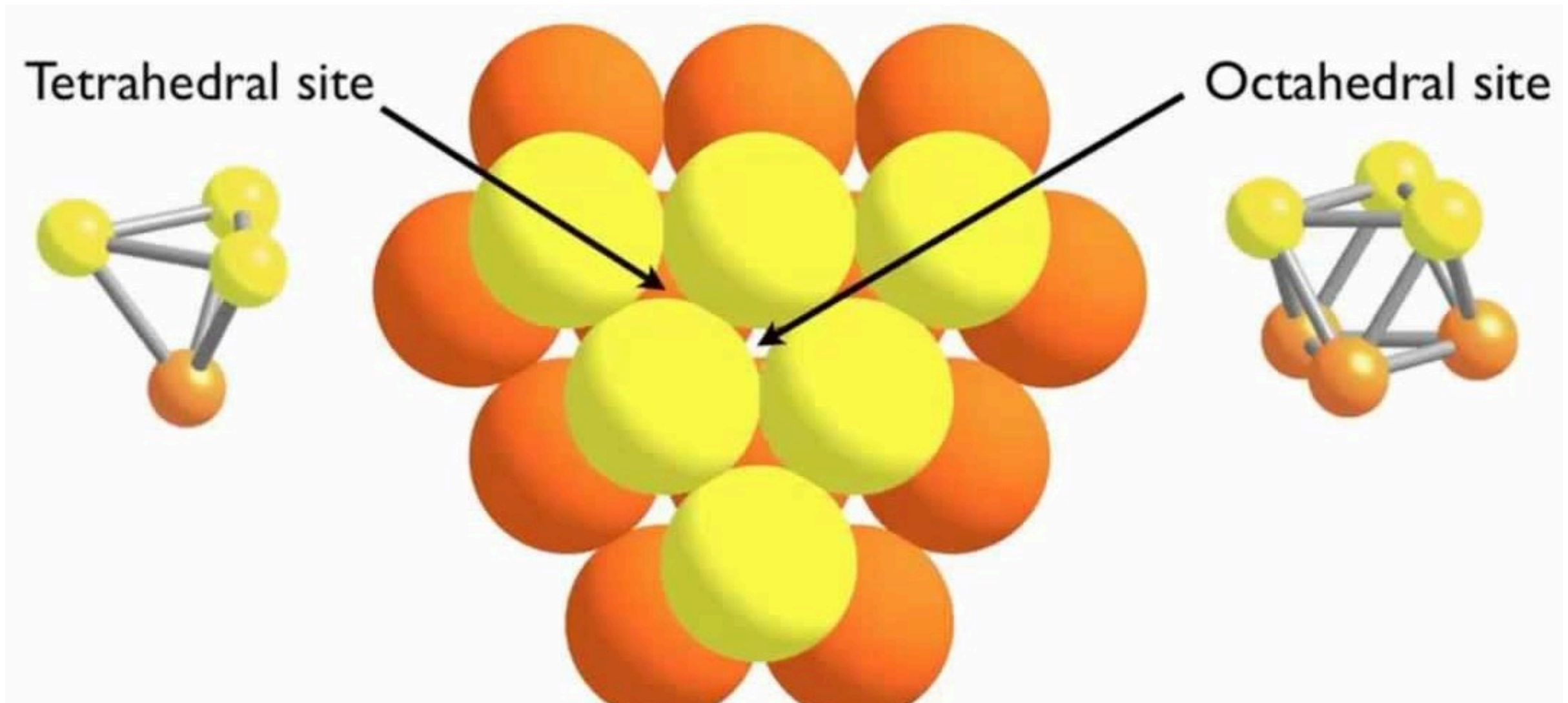
Hexagonal close-packed (HCP)

... ABABAB ...



Holes

CP arrangements of large (an)ions [X] leave 'holes' within the structure, which can be occupied by smaller (cat)ions [M]



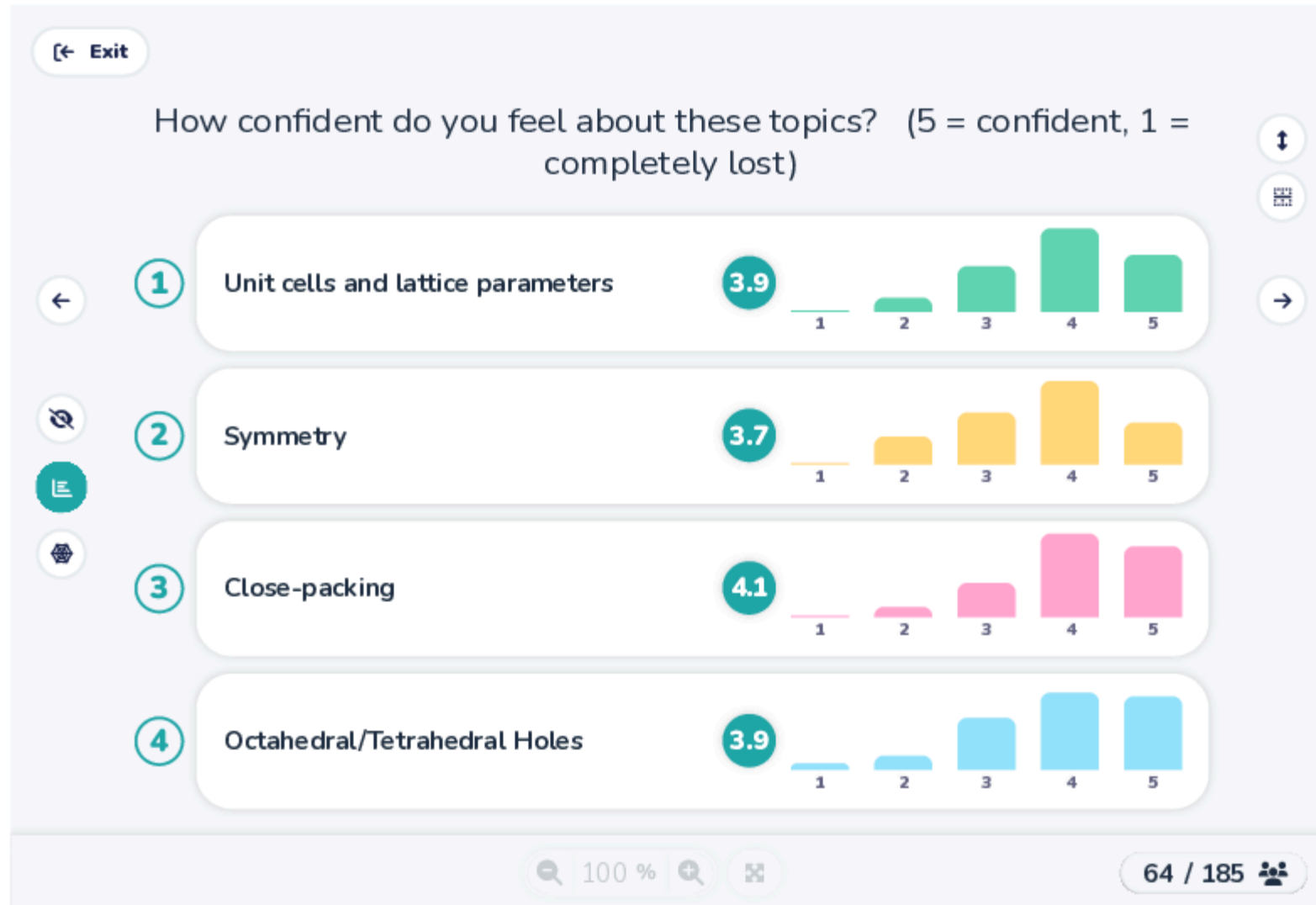
How are you getting on? Vote

The image shows a screenshot of a Wooclap poll interface. At the top, a blue header bar contains the word "wooclap" in white lowercase letters on the left and a small white circle icon on the right. Below the header, the main area has a light gray background. Two identical white rounded rectangular boxes are stacked vertically. Each box contains a horizontal line with five dots. The first dot on each line is a large, solid blue circle, while the other four dots are smaller and gray. Below these boxes, there is a blue horizontal bar. Underneath this bar, there are three elements: a small white circle on the left, a larger blue rounded rectangle in the center, and another small white circle on the right. A vertical gray scrollbar is visible on the right side of the interface.

How are you getting on? Results

1/13/25, 4:20 PM

Woodclap

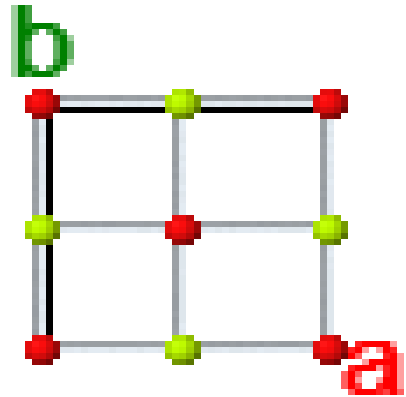


<https://app.woodclap.com/events/TMJ2NM/2>

1/1

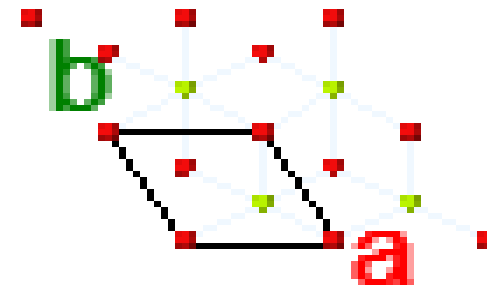
Octahedral holes

One **hole** per **cp ion** - both are 6-coordinate



JSmol

Rock salt (NaCl) structure



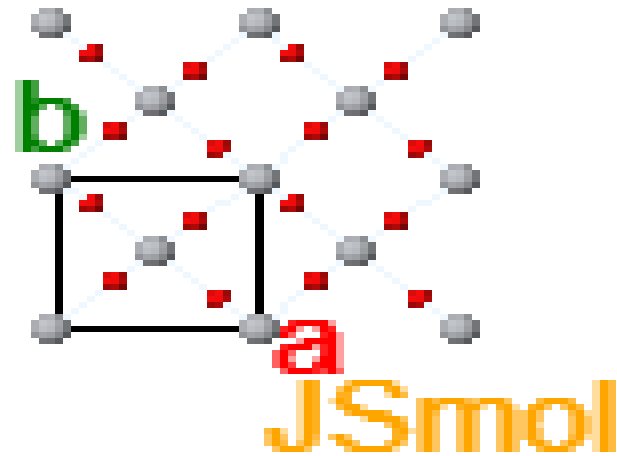
JSmol

Nickel Arsenide structure (e.g. FeS)



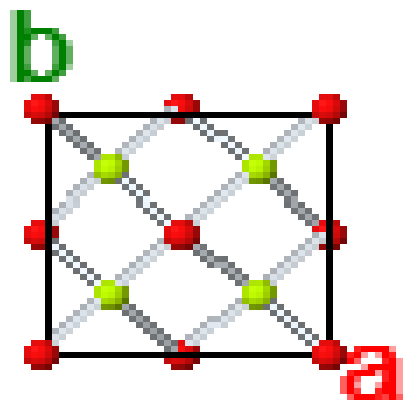
Rutile

Although not strictly close-packed, rutile (TiO_2) is distorted HCP with Ti^{4+} filling half the octahedral holes CN = 6 / 3

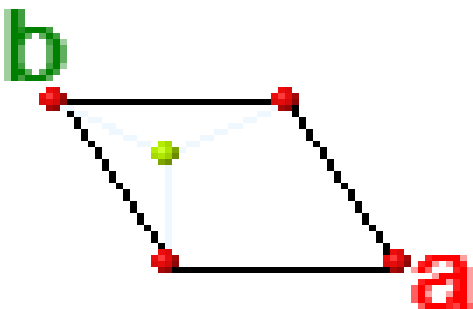


Tetrahedral holes

Two holes per cp ion



JSmol



JSmol

Holes filled	FCC Type	CN(A/X)	HCP Type	CN(A/X)
All	Fluorite (CaF ₂)	4/8	(not possible)	-
Half	Zinc-blende (ZnS)	4/4	Wurtzite (ZnS)	4/4

Which structure type?

Generally, the structure formed depends on the ratio of ionic radii

- Smaller cations will prefer lower coordination numbers

$\frac{r^+}{r^-}$	Cation C.N.	MX Structure	MX ₂ Structure
0.7 - 1.0	8	CsCl	CaF ₂
0.4 - 0.7	6	NaCl	TiO ₂
0.2 - 0.4	4	ZnS (Wurtzite/Zinc-blende)	Anti-fluorite (e.g. Li ₂ S)

These are only approximate 'rules', and other binary structures exist (e.g. CdI₂, CdCl₂, PbO, etc...)

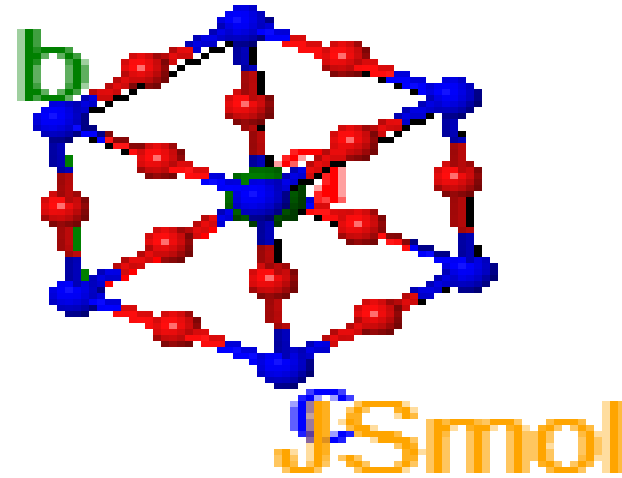
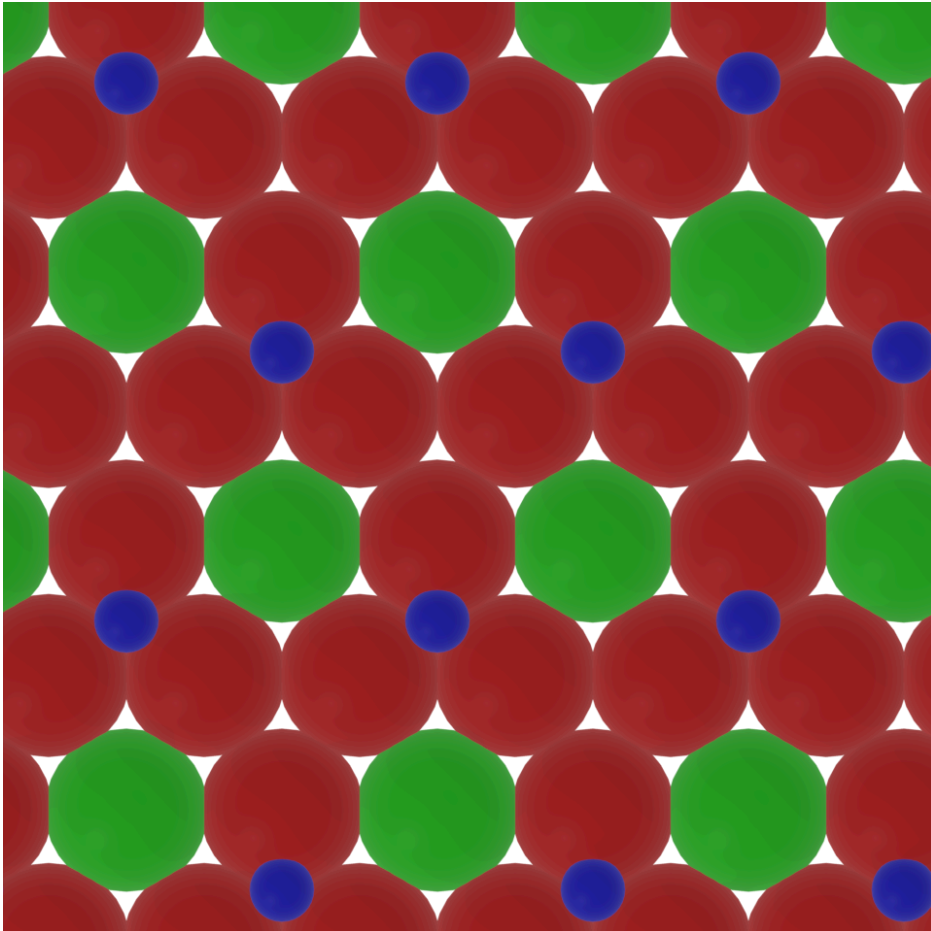
- Very difficult to predict!

Beyond binary compounds

With 3 or more elements, structures become much more complicated!

An important one is perovskite, ABX_3

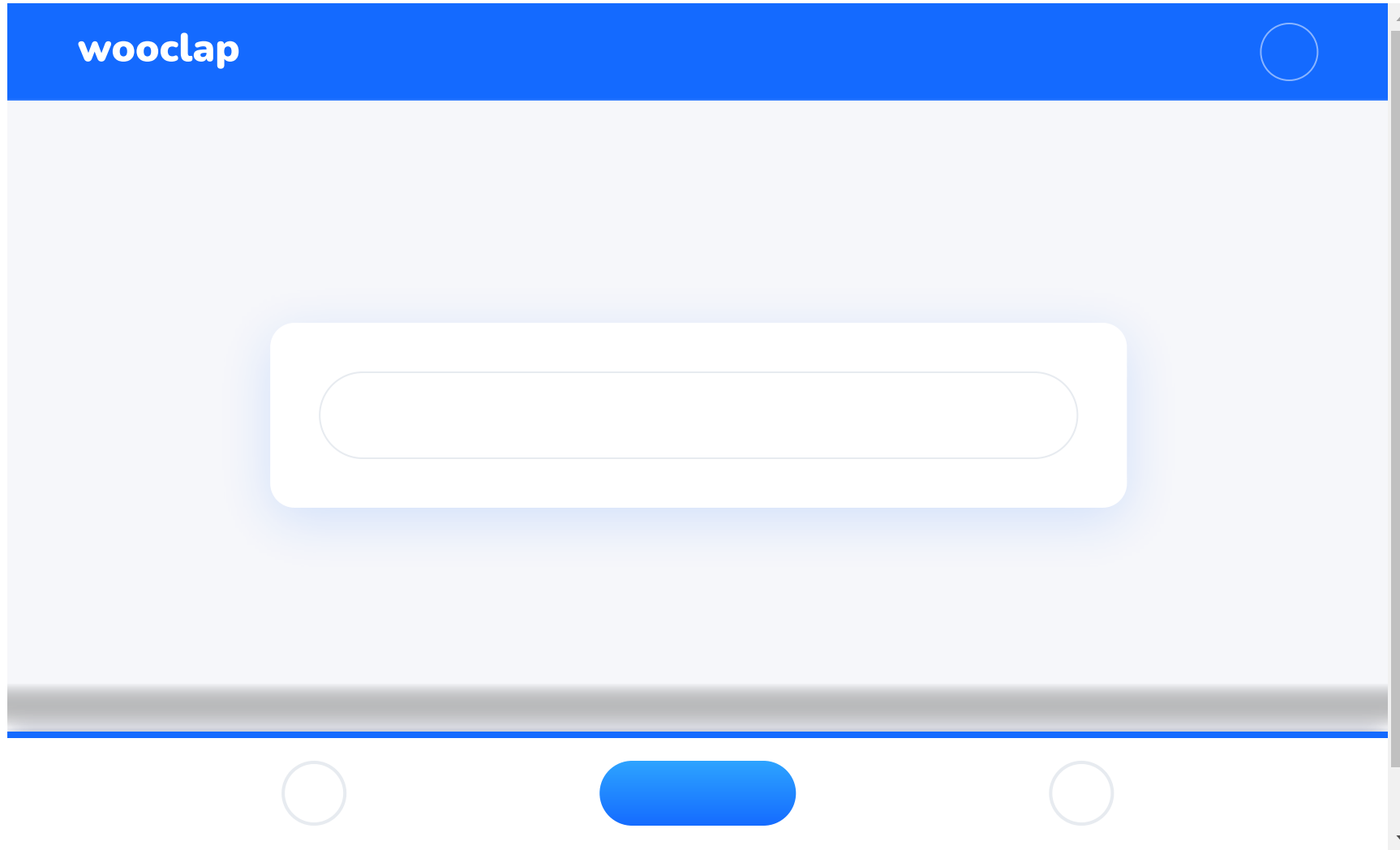
- $r(A) \simeq r(X)$, so can be considered as FCC AX_3 layer with B filling 25% of octahedral holes:



Lecture recap

- Variety of ionic materials with a range of applications
- Revision of basic crystallography
 - Unit cells, symmetry
- Electrostatic interaction hold ionic crystals together
 - Long-ranged
 - Aim to maximise cation-anion interactions
- Close-packing of anions often most stable
 - Ratio of ionic radii suggests which structure is adopted
 - Beyond binary compounds, predicting structures is hard!

Feedback



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