

# Lecture 2 - defects

# Lecture summary

- Introduction to defects
- Types of defect
- Intrinsic and extrinsic defects
- Defect equations

# Defects

**All** crystals contain defects of some sort, for example:

- Missing atoms (*vacancies*)
- Atoms in the 'wrong' place
  - *interstitials* (between lattice sites) or *substitutions* (different atom types)
- Extended defects of lines or planes of atoms

# Defects

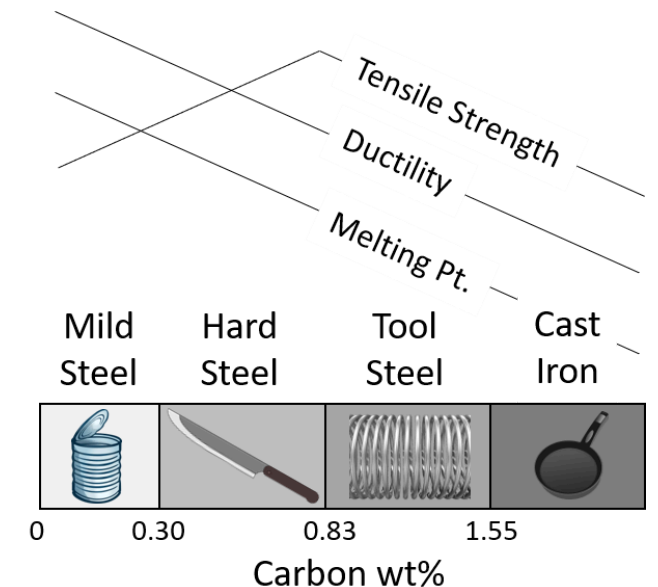
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Defects are often the source of interesting properties



~1% Substitution in  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$

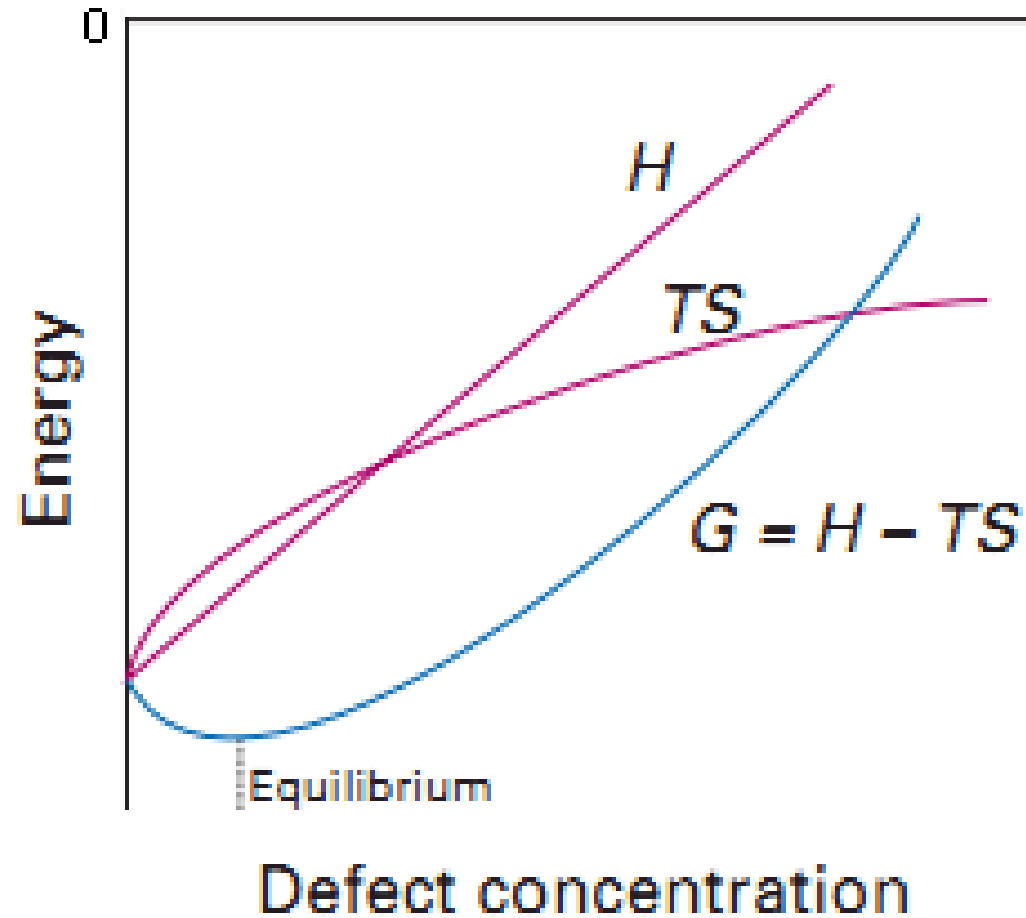


Effect of interstitial carbon on iron properties

# Defect amounts

The number of defects is a fine balance of entropy and enthalpy


- Defects gain entropy but have a (often large) formation energy



Minimum in  $\Delta G$  depends on structure and bonding, but typically  $\ll 1\%$ .


# Types of defect

The three most common defect types in ionic solids are:

Vacancy	Interstitial						Substitution					
M X M X M X	M X M X M X							M X M X M X				
X M X M X M	X M X M X M							X M X M X M				
M X M X M X	M X M X M X							M X M X M X				
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Additionally, defects can be either

- *intrinsic* (maintaining stoichiometry) or
- *extrinsic* (non-stoichiometric)

# Intrinsic defects

Two of the most common stoichiometric defects are:

## Schottky

- Charge-balanced combination of anion and cation vacancies

## Frenkel

- Ions displaced to interstitial sites

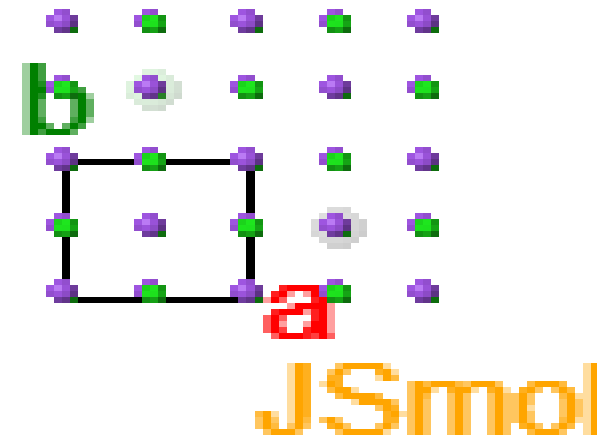
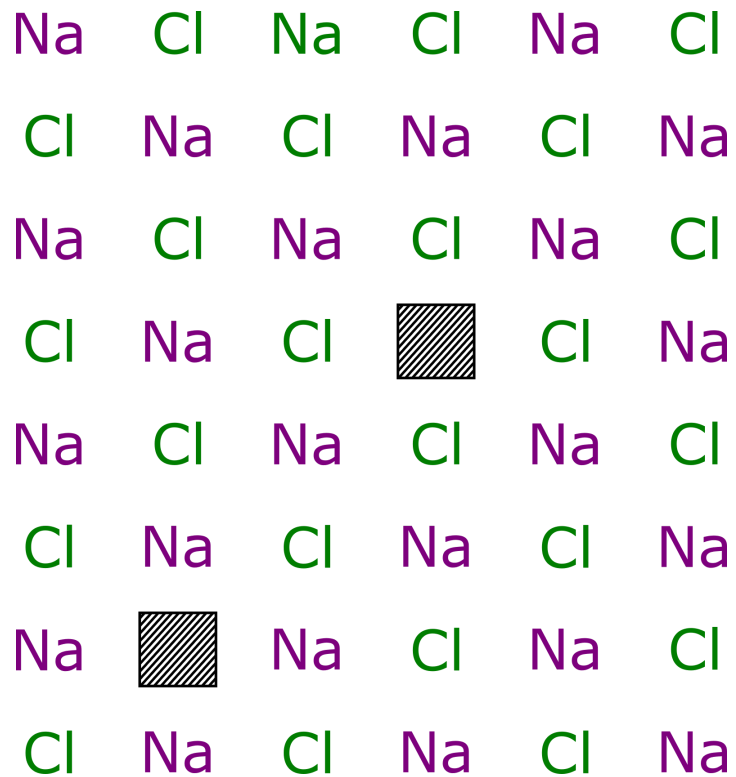
Defects observed depend on both structure type and atoms involved.





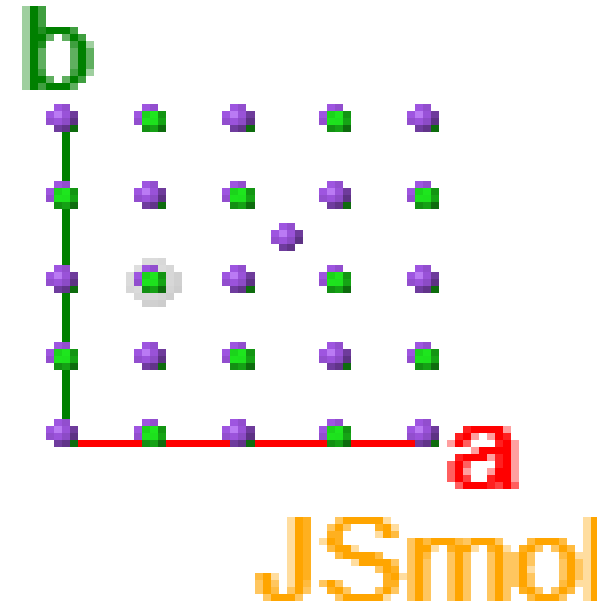
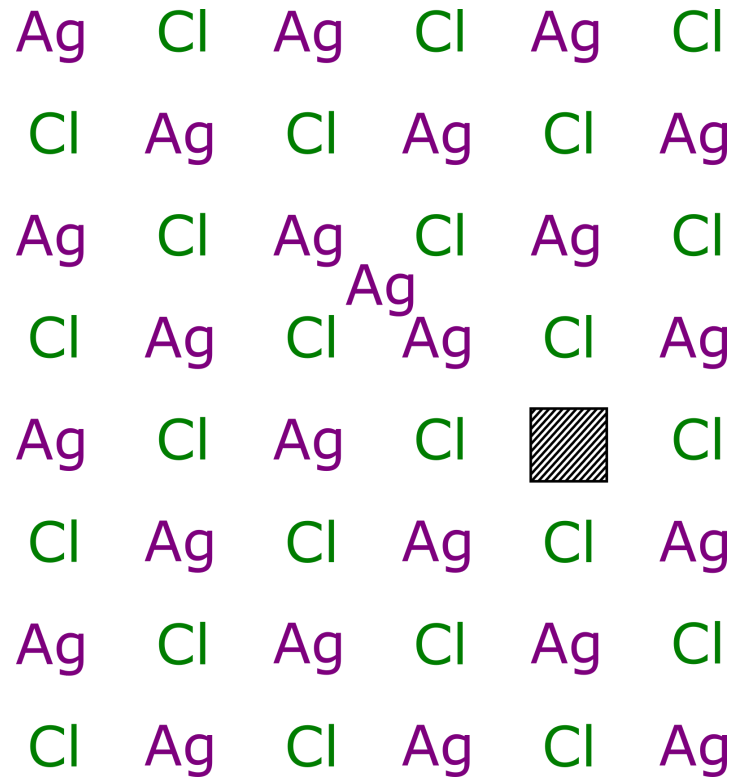
# Schottky defects

- Typically occur when anions and cations have similar size (e.g. NaCl structure)
- Reduced density compared with the ideal material
- e.g. NaCl - equal numbers of Na and Cl vacancies



# Frenkel defects

- Smaller ion normally displaced
- Only one ion type shows defect
- e.g. AgCl (NaCl-type)
  - Smaller  $\text{Ag}^+$  ion displaced to tetrahedral holes in CCP  $\text{Cl}^-$  structure



# Defect equations

Useful to write equation for defects, using **Kroger-Vink** notation:

- Normal chemical symbols used for atoms, and  $V$  for vacancies

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- Charges shown relative to the ideal host site:
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  - ' for 1−, '' for 2−, etc.;
  - • for 1+, •• for 2+, etc.;
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- For example:
  - Na vacancy in NaCl:  $V_{\text{Na}}'$
  - Ag interstitial in AgCl:  $\text{Ag}_i^{\bullet}$

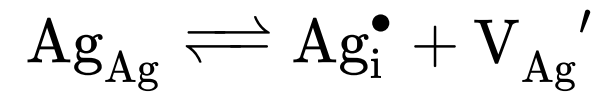
# Defect equations (2)

like normal, defect equations must balance in terms of:

- composition
  - vacancies are not treated as an atom
- charges
- **sites**
  - *specified* atomic positions cannot be created or destroyed
  - interstitials are ignored in balancing

# Examples

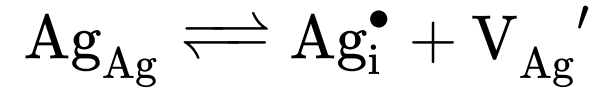
AgCl interstitial formation again:





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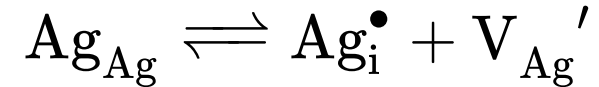


NaCl Schottky formation:



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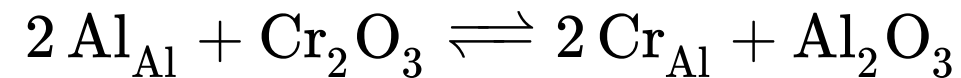
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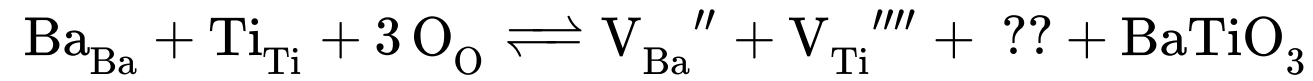
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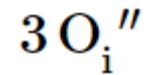
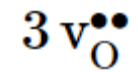
Easily extended to substitutions, e.g. substituting  $\text{Al}^{3+}$  with  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  in  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  (ruby):



# Quick test - BaTiO<sub>3</sub> Schottky Formation

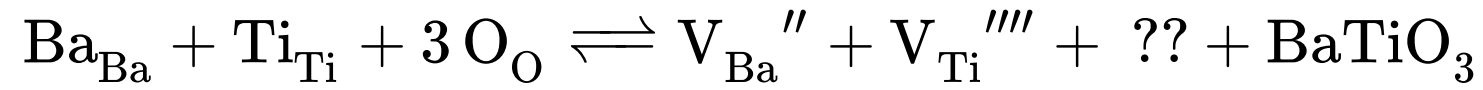


**What is missing?**



 Submit





# wooclap

Quiz results will be available here  
after the lecture

# Ionic Substitution

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  - often represented by a variable such as  $x$ :
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- Substitution can dramatically affect properties:
  - e.g.  $\text{La}_{2-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{CuO}_4$ :
    - semiconducting for  $x = 0$
    - superconducting (below 40 K) for  $x = 0.15$

# Extrinsic defects

Substitution can also drive formation of defects, e.g. doping NaCl with CaCl<sub>2</sub>:

Overall synthesis reaction:





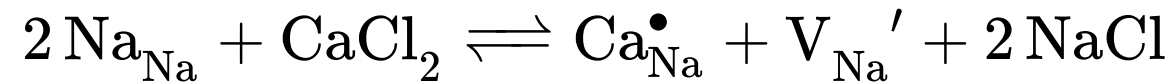
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Kroger-Vink notation:



# More complex example

Sometimes, substitution (or 'doping') can give rise to multiple potential defects.

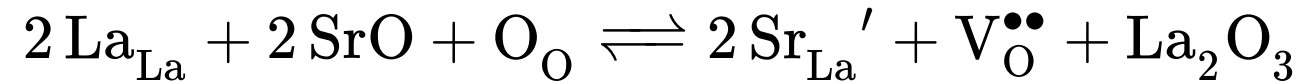
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- by creating oxygen vacancies;

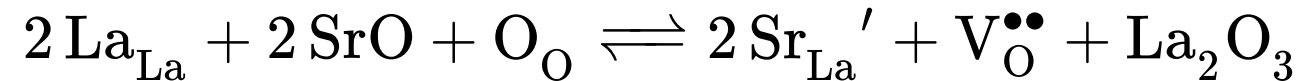


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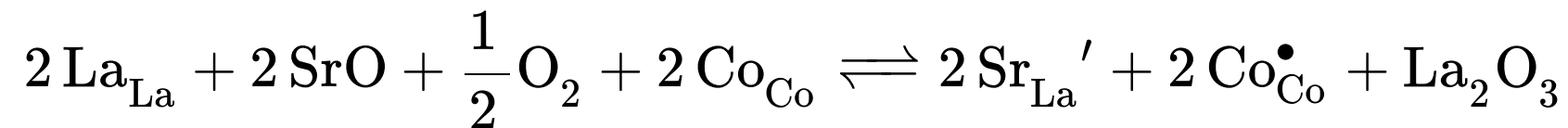
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- or by oxidising  $\text{Co}^{3+}$  to  $\text{Co}^{4+}$



## Quiz 2 - Extrinsic defects

At high pressure, oxygen vacancies in  $\text{Mg}_2\text{SiO}_4$  can react with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  to form new defects.

The interface is a web-based quiz tool. At the top right is a gear icon for settings. Below it, the instruction "Assign these as reagents / products / unused" is displayed in a bold, dark blue font. Underneath this is a smaller instruction: "Drag & drop items on the image, or click on an item then on its position on the image". The main area is a large, empty white space. On the right side of this space, the word "Reagent" is written in a large, red, serif font. Below the word "Reagent" is a large, solid black upward-pointing arrow. At the bottom of the interface is a horizontal bar containing three elements: a circular button with a left-pointing chevron, a button with a paper plane icon and the text "Submit", and a circular button with a right-pointing chevron. To the right of this bar is a vertical scrollbar with a grey track and a white slider.

**Assign these as reagents / products / unused**

Drag & drop items on the image, or click on an item then on its position on the image

Reagent

Submit

## Results - Extrinsic defects

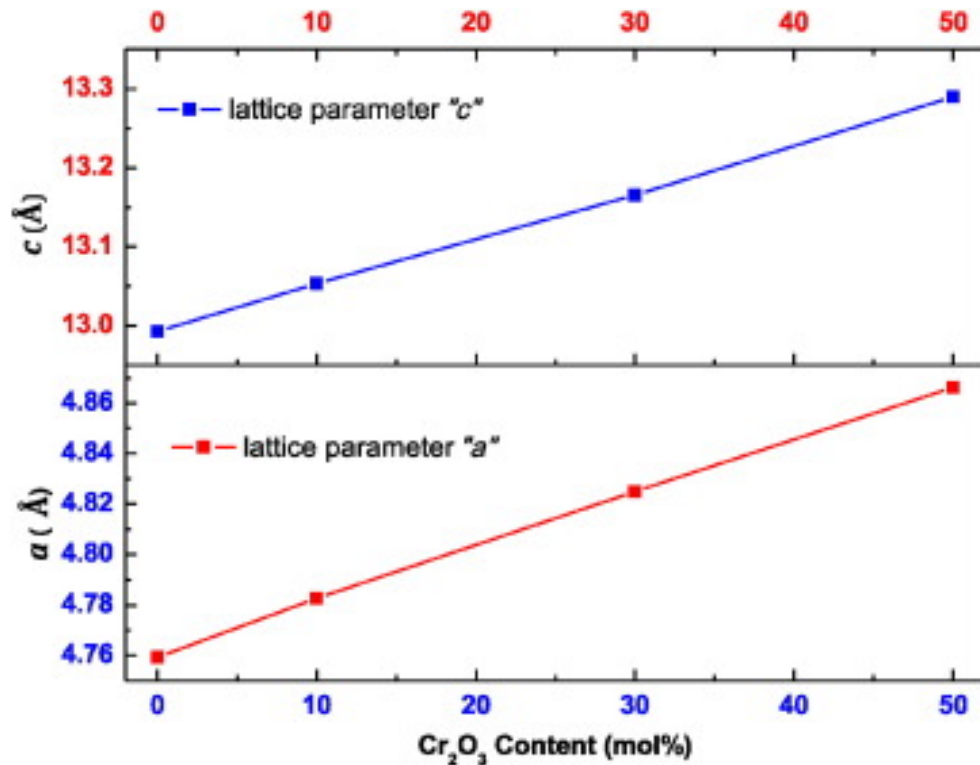
**wooclap**

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# Solid solutions

Frequently, substitutional defect concentrations can exceed 1%

- known as a 'solid solution'
- Very important for tuning properties *via* synthesis
- Often useful to think of the "average ion" properties at each site
  - e.g. ionic radius, resulting in *Vegard's Law*
    - Lattice parameter is weighted average of the end-members, e.g.  $\text{Al}_{2-x}\text{Cr}_x\text{O}_3$ :



# Non-stoichiometry

Some materials are naturally non-stoichiometric even without extrinsic defects

- Very common in transition metal compounds
  - multiple oxidation states available
- Example: FeO (wustite, NaCl structure) cannot actually form stoichiometrically at ambient pressure
  - Actually  $\text{Fe}_{1-x}\text{O}$ , with  $0.05 \leq x \leq 0.15$



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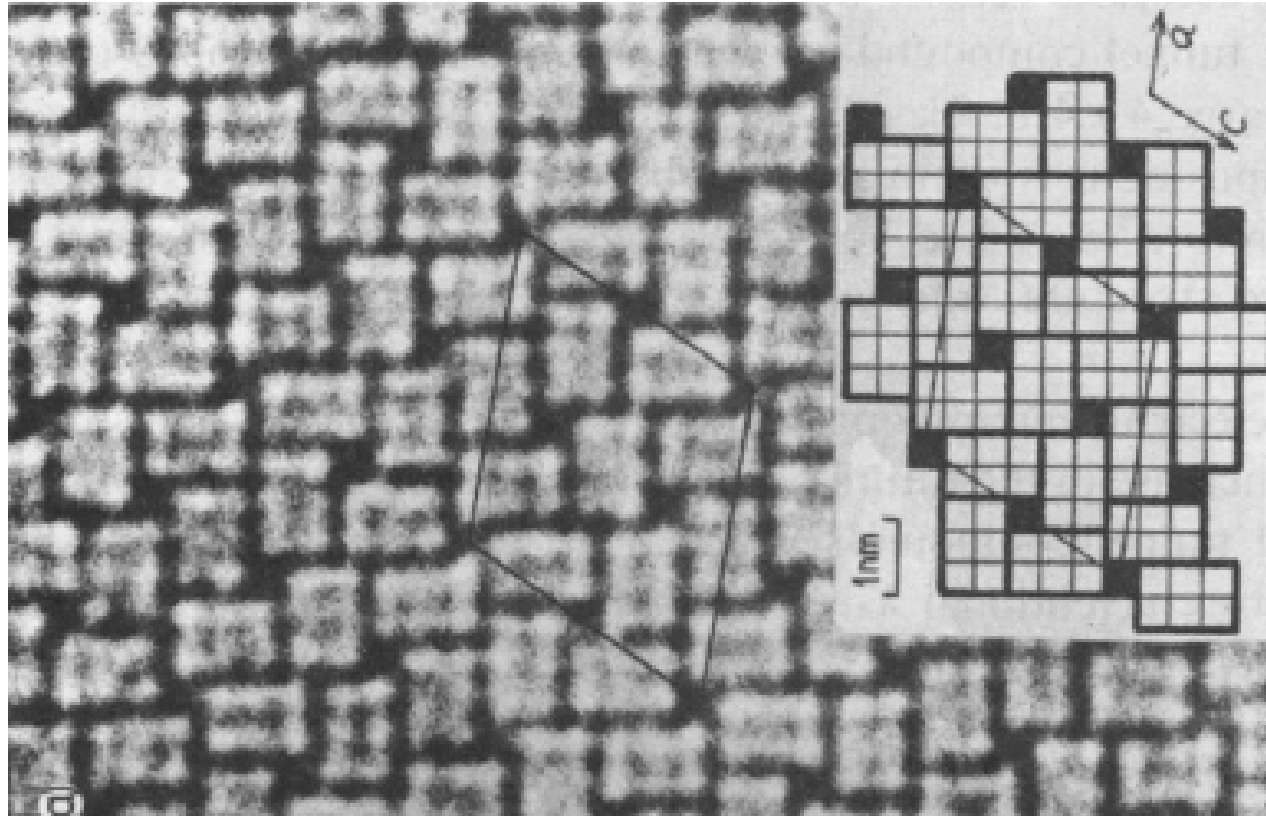
**Note: From cation:anion ratio alone you cannot determine the defect type(s)**

e.g. Fe:O ratio of 0.9 could equally be  $\text{Fe}_{0.9}\text{O}$  or  $\text{FeO}_{1.11}$ !

# Defect ordering

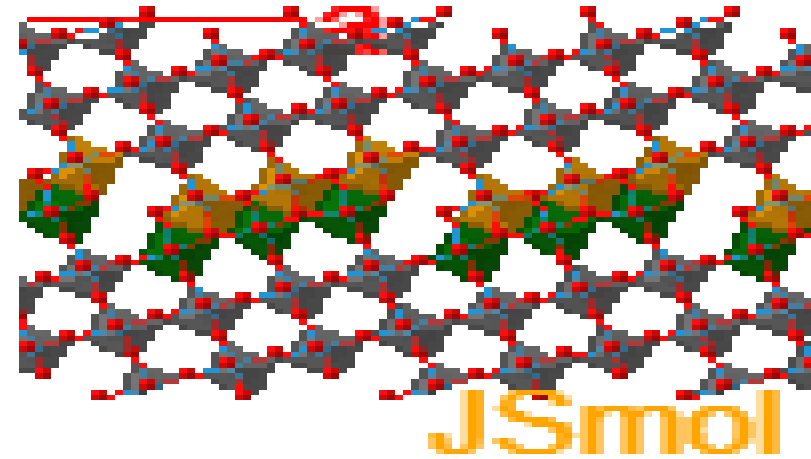
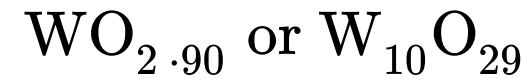
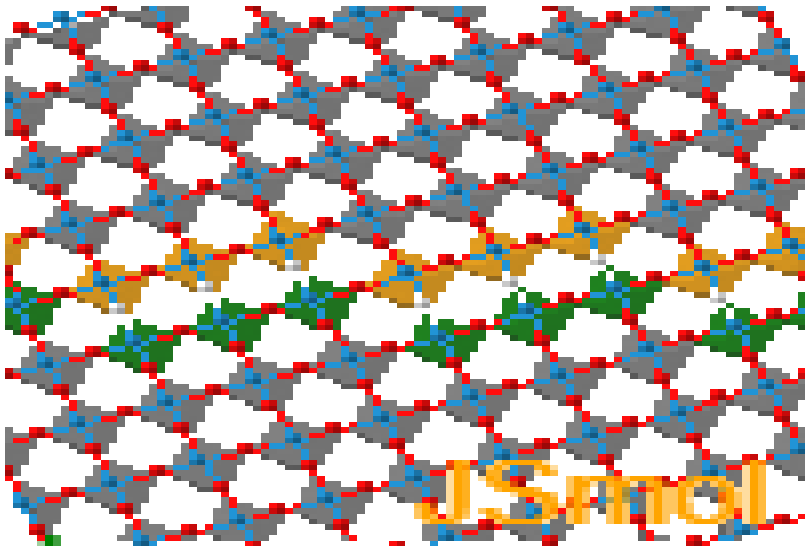
- At large defect concentrations, defects can interact
  - minimises enthalpy
- Can occur as
  - clusters ('0D')
  - lines ('1D')
  - planes ('2D')

Often seen from electron microscopy, e.g.  $\text{ZrNb}_{24}\text{O}_{62}$  shows 2D order in two directions:



# Example - $\text{WO}_3$

Plane-like defects are often described as *shear phases*



# Lecture recap

- Crystals are never perfect!
  - defects favoured at higher temperature
- Three main types of defect:
  - vacancy (called Schottky if stoichiometry maintained)
  - interstitial (called Frenkel if stoichiometry maintained)
  - substitution or extrinsic
- Kroger-Vink notation is a way to write defect equations
- Some materials can form solid solutions and/or non-stoichiometric compositions
- If defects order, this can lead to new stoichiometric structure types

# Feedback



**What did you like or dislike about lecture 2?**

Write your answer...



 **Submit**



