# Chapter 3: The structure of crystalline solids

#### Outline

- Fundamental concepts
- Unit cells
- Metallic crystal structure
- Density
- Crystal systems



# **Fundamental concepts**

 Crystalline materials: atoms are situated in a repeating or periodic array over large atomic distances-

Long Range Order

- Crystalline structure: how atoms, ions, or molecules are spatially arranged
- Lattice: a three-dimensional array of points coinciding with atom position





# **Crystal Systems**

Unit cell: smallest repetitive volume which contains the complete lattice pattern of a crystal.





Fig 3.1 (a) a hard sphere unit cell (b) a reduced-sphere unit cell, (c) an aggregate of many atoms



### Metallic crystal structures

- Features of metallic crystal structures
  - non-directional in nature
  - no restriction on the number and position of nearest-neighbor atoms
  - close-packed: low energy
  - common type:
    - face-centered cubic (FCC)
    - body-centered cubic (BCC)
    - hexagonal closed-packed (HCP)



### Face Centered Cubic Structure (FCC)

- Atoms touch each other along face diagonals.
  - --Note: All atoms are identical; the face-centered atoms are shaded differently only for ease of viewing.

ex: Al, Cu, Au, Pb, Ni, Pt, Ag

• Coordination # = 12





#### The FCC crystal structure

- Total atoms per unit cell=
- The relation between cubic edge a and the radius R=





# Atomic Packing Factor (APF)



• APF for FCC=





# Body Centered Cubic Structure (BCC)

- Atoms touch each other along cube diagonals.
  - --Note: All atoms are identical; the center atom is shaded differently only for ease of viewing.

ex: Cr, W, Fe ( $\alpha$ ), Tantalum, Molybdenum

• Coordination # = 8



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(Courtesy P.M. Anderson)

# The BCC crystal structure

- Total atoms per unit cell:
- Coordination number:
- The relation between cubic edge a and the radius

$$a = \frac{4R}{\sqrt{3}}$$

• Atomic packing factor (APF)=0.68





# Hexagonal Close-Packed Structure (HCP)

- ABAB... Stacking Sequence
- 3D Projection



2D Projection
 Top layer
 Middle layer
 Bottom layer

- Coordination # = 12
- APF = 0.74
- *c*/*a* = 1.633

6 atoms/unit cell

ex: Cd, Mg, Ti, Zn



# Theoretical Density, $\rho$

Density = 
$$\rho$$
 =  $\frac{\text{Mass of Atoms in Unit Cell}}{\text{Total Volume of Unit Cell}}$ 

$$\rho = \frac{nA}{V_C N_A}$$

Where 
$$n =$$
 number of atoms/unit cell  
 $A =$  atomic weight  
 $V_C =$  Volume of unit cell =  $a^3$  for cubic  
 $N_A =$  Avogadro's number  
= 6.023 x 10<sup>23</sup> atoms/mol



#### **Crystal systems**

#### Table 3.2 Lattice Parameter Relationships and Figures Showing Unit Cell Geometries for the Seven Crystal Systems



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# **Crystal systems**



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#### **Crystal Systems**



Cubic: Lead ore





Hexagonal: Emerald



Tetragonal: idocrase

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Triclinic: Axinite

