

Title: The Chemical Imagination at Work in VERY Tight Places

Date: Mar 28, 2018 02:00 PM

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Abstract: <p>Diamond anvil cells and shock techniques now permit the study of matter under multimegabar (i.e. several hundred GPa) pressures. The properties of matter in this pressure regime differ drastically from those known at 1 atm. Just how different physics and chemistry are at high pressure and the role that a chemical intuition for bonding and structure can have in understanding matter at high pressures will be explored in this lecture. I will discuss in detail an overlapping hierarchy of responses to increased density, consisting of (a) squeezing out van der Waals space (for molecular crystals); (b) increasing coordination; (c) decreasing the bond length of covalent bonds and the size of anions; and (d) an extreme regime of electrons moving off atoms and new modes of correlation. Examples of the startling chemistry and physics that emerge under such extreme conditions will alternate in this account with qualitative chemical ideas about the bonding involved.</p>



The Chemical Imagination at Work in Very Tight Places

Roald Hoffmann

working together with
Neil W. Ashcroft

NSF, DOE (EFree)

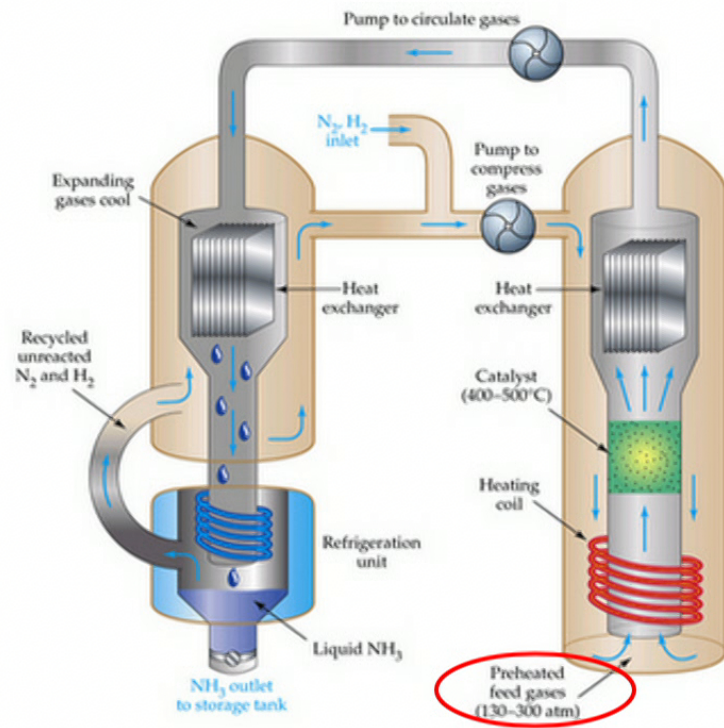
10,000 bar = 9,869 atm = 145,038 lbs/sq.in. = 1 GPa

Pressure at center of earth ~3.5 million atmospheres ~350 Gigapascals

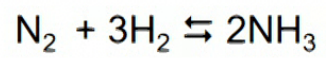
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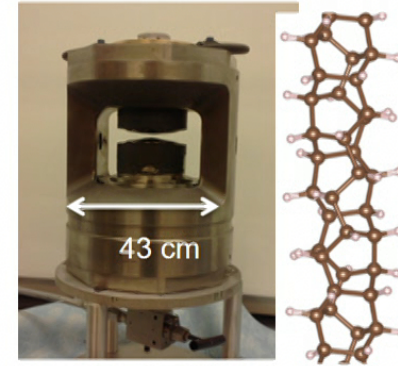
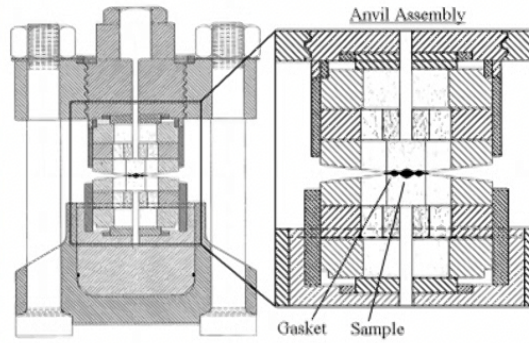
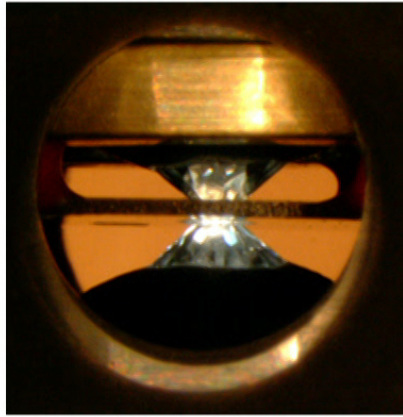
Pressure at center of earth ~3.5 million atmospheres ~350 Gigapascals

On going from 1 atm to 350 Gpa, the **volume** of solid Li or methane or benzene decreases by a factor of ~5, NaCl or H₂O ~3, Fe, Au ~1.7

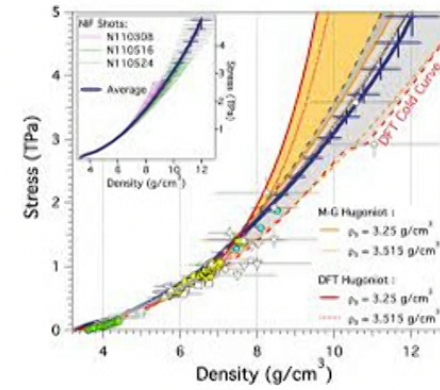
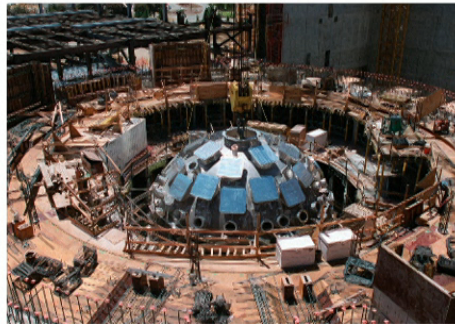
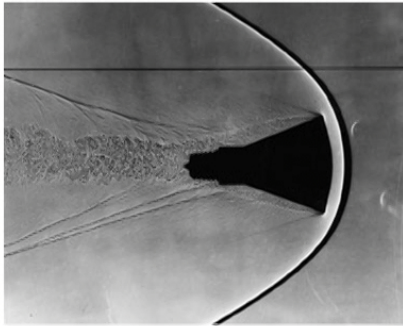


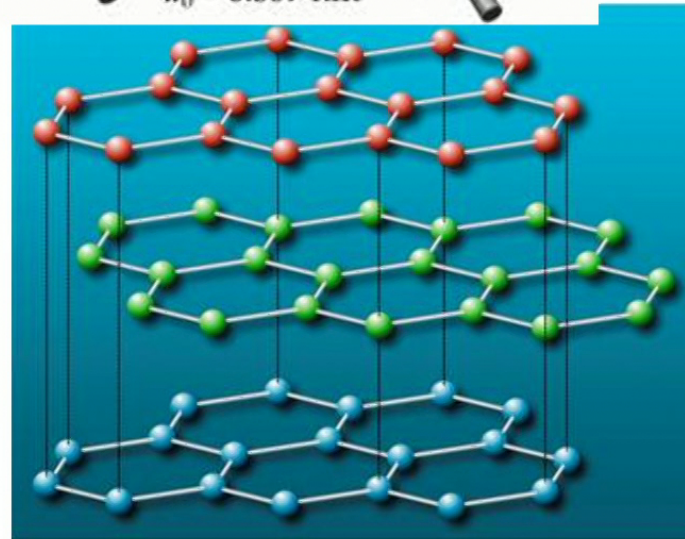
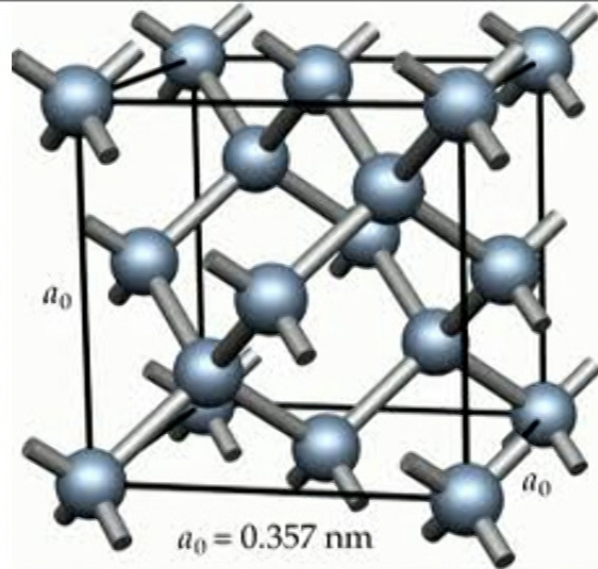
Haber-Bosch process



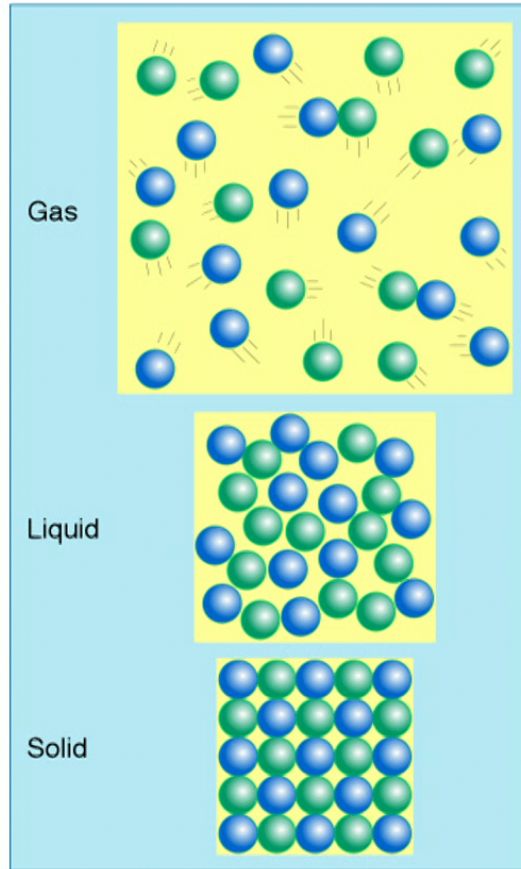


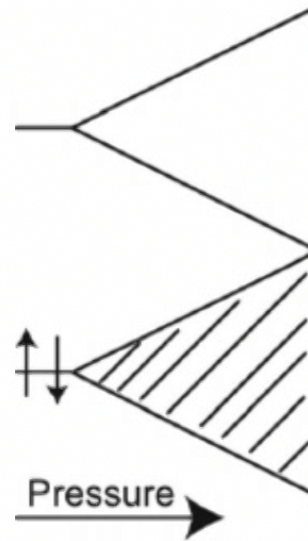
Paris-Edinburgh cell at ORNL





densities of graphite 2.27, diamond 3.51 g/cm³

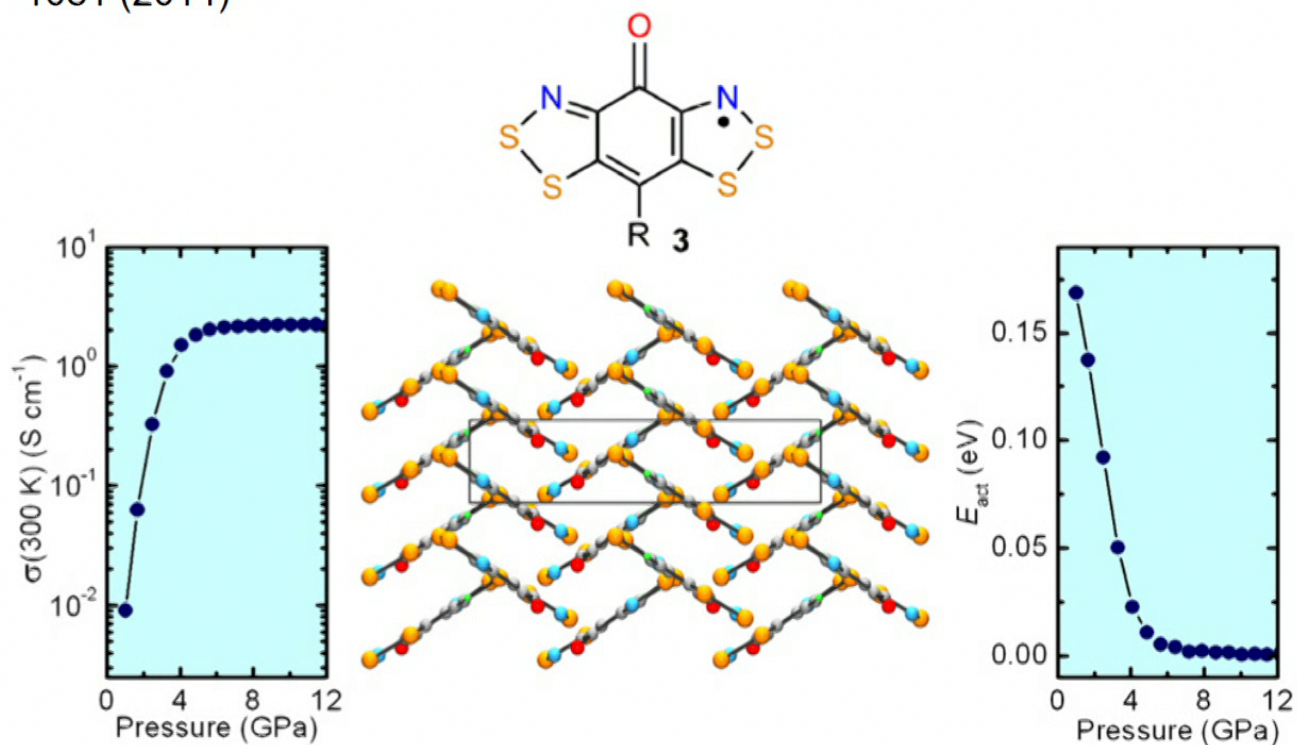




Virtually all materials become metallic under sufficiently high pressure.

(but... some – Li, Na -- that are metallic at low P become insulating before eventually returning to metallicity)

J. W. L. Wong, A. Mailman, K. Lekin, S. M. Winter, W. Yong, J. Zhao, S. V. Garimella, J. S. Tse, R. A. Secco, S. Desgreniers, Y. Ohishi, F. Borondics and R. T. Oakley. "Pressure Induced Phase Transitions and Metallization of a Neutral Radical Conductor." *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **136**, 1070-1081 (2014)

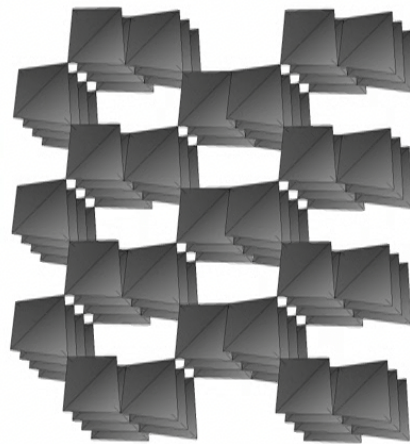
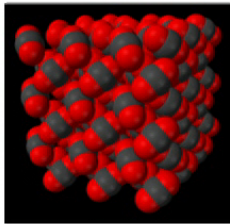


The extreme landscape of high pressure

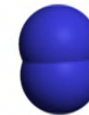
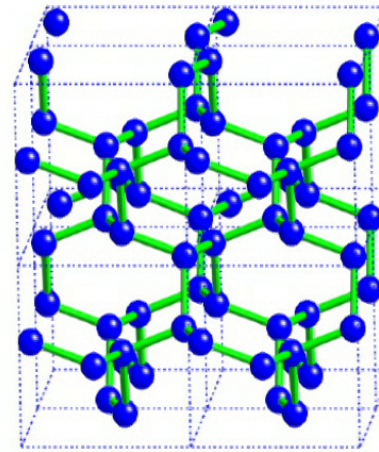
Xe and I₂ can be metallized [Goettel et al, Ruoff et al], as can CsI and BaTe [Eremets et al, Grzybowski et al]

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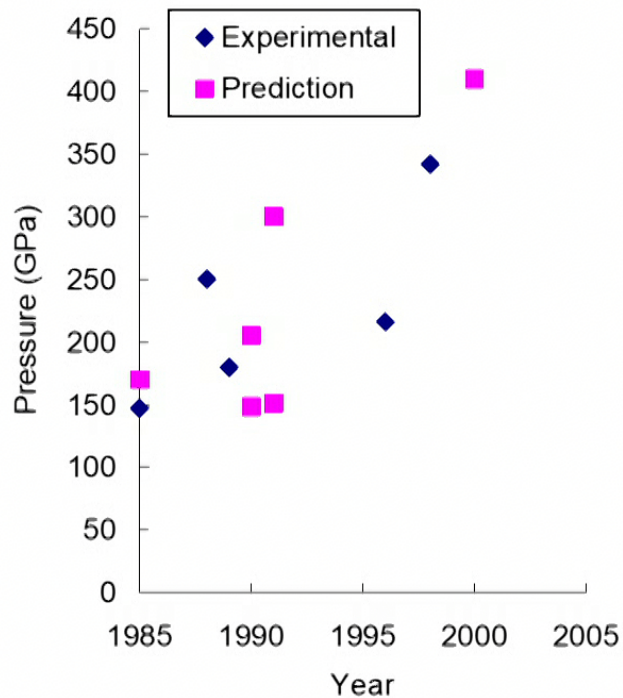


CO₂ (V) 50 GPa



"N₂" >110 GPa and 2000 K
[Eremets et al]

Metallic hydrogen



100 GPa = 1 Mbar

[M. I. Eremets & I. A. Troyan](#)

MPI Chemie, Mainz

Nature Materials, 10, 927–931 (2011)

[W.J. Nellis, Arthur L. Ruoff, Isaac F. Silvera](#)

Has Metallic Hydrogen Been Made in a Diamond Anvil Cell?

arXiv:1201.0407, 2012

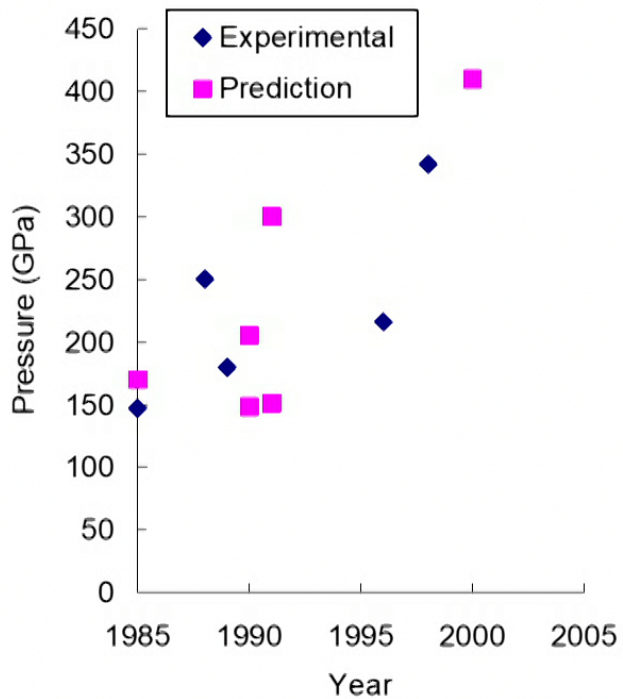
Dias, R.; Silvera, I. F. (2016).

"*Observation of the Wigner-Huntington Transition to Solid Metallic Hydrogen*".
Science 255, 715 (2017)

[W. J. Nellis](#)

"*Dynamic Compression of Materials: Metallization of Fluid Hydrogen at High Pressures*", *Rep. Prog. Phys.* 69, 1479-1580 (2006).

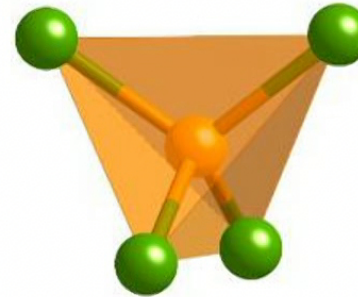
Metallic hydrogen



100 GPa = 1 Mbar

Chemical precompression

Neil Ashcroft



CH_4 , SiH_4 , GeH_4 , ...
 LiBH_4 , NaAlH_4 , ...
 K_2ReH_9 , $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{ReH}_9$

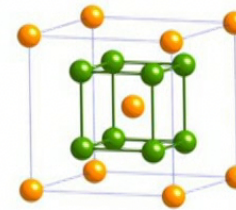
SiH_4 m.p. -185 C, b.p. -112 C

Autoignites 21 C

Structures and Potential Superconductivity in SiH_4 at High Pressure - *En Route to “Metallic Hydrogen”*

Ji Feng, Wojciech Grochala, Tomasz Jaroń, Roald Hoffmann, Aitor Bergara and N.
W. Ashcroft

Physical Review Letters, **96**, 017006, (2006).

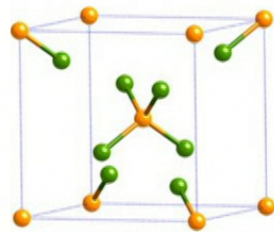


M1. $Im\bar{3}m$

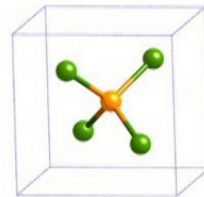
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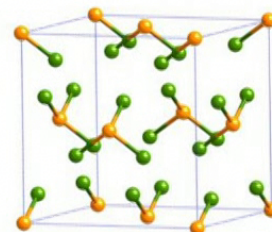
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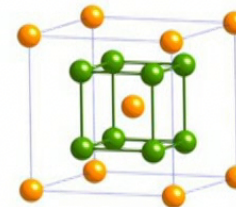
T1. $I\bar{4}3m$



T2. $P\bar{4}3m$



T3. $I\bar{4}2m$

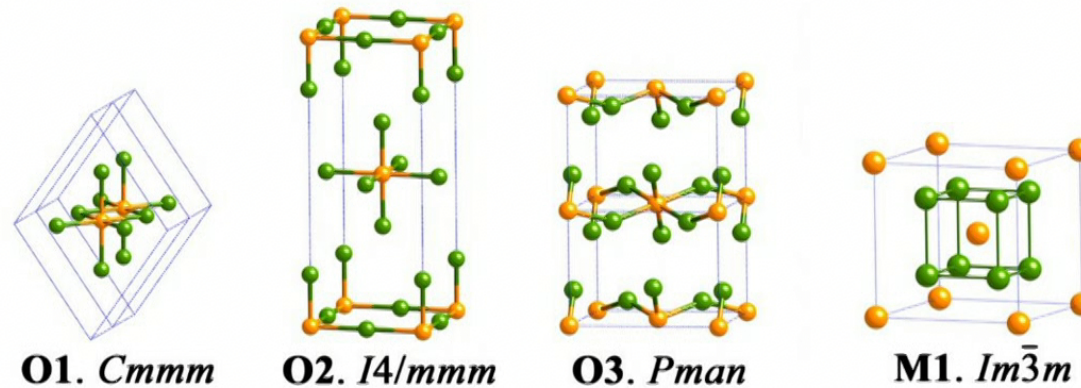
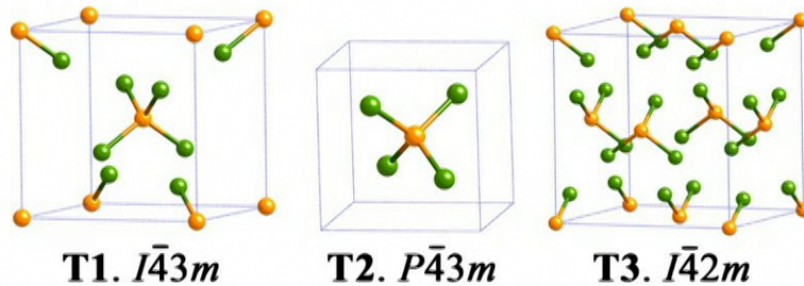


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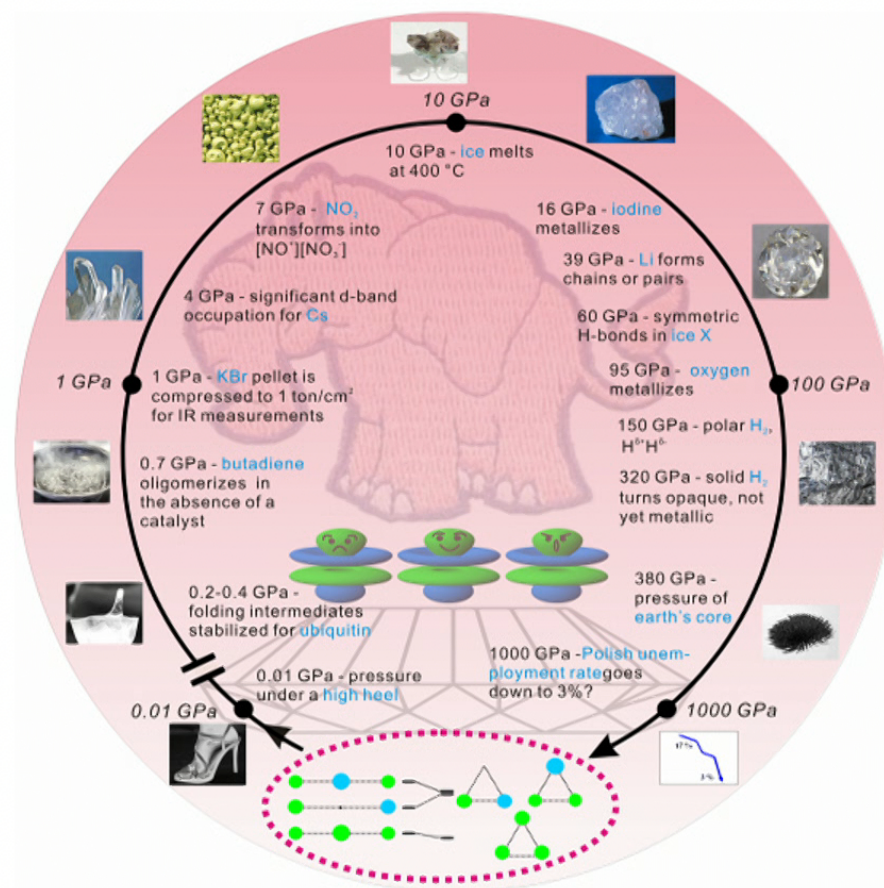
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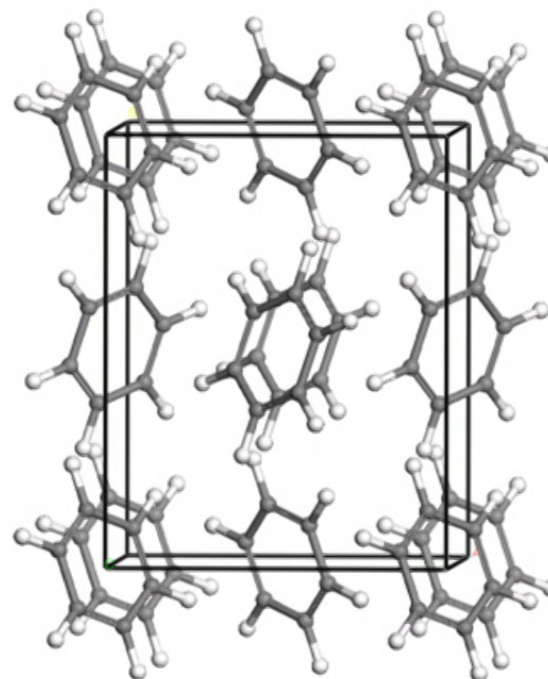
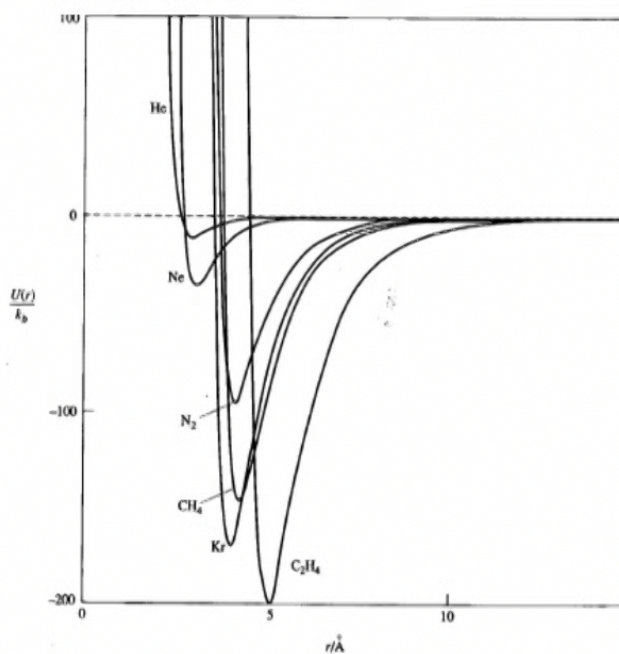
Wojciech Grochala, Roald Hoffmann, Ji Feng, and Neil W. Ashcroft

Angewandte Chemie, **46**(20), 3620-3642 (2007).

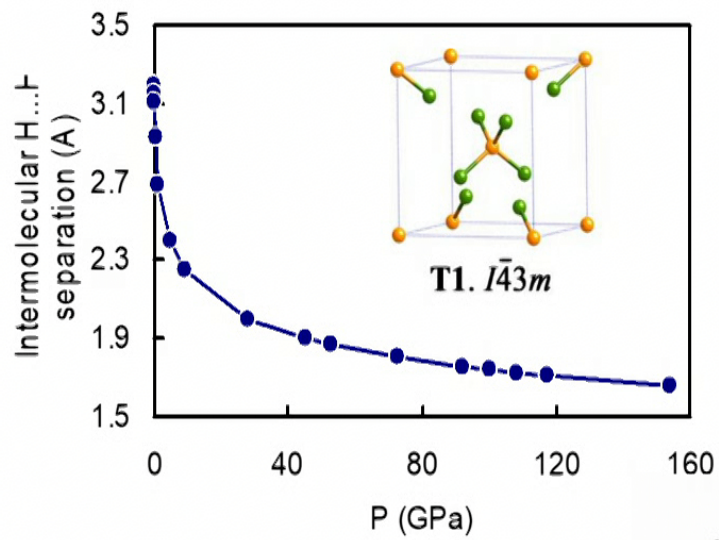


A Hierarchy of Responses to Pressure in Crystals

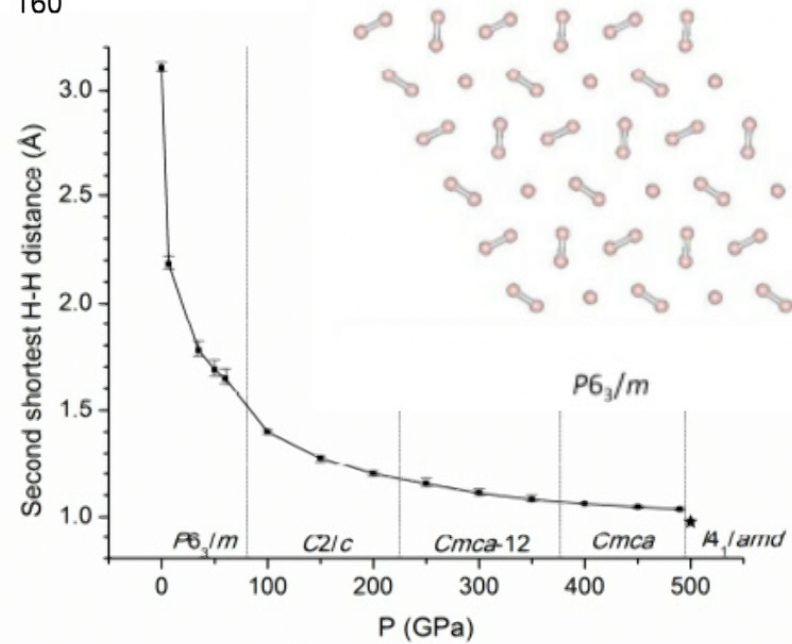
- Penetrating the repulsive region of intermolecular potentials
- Increasing coordination at main group and transition metal elements
- Decreasing the bond length of covalent bonds, and the size of anions
- A new world of electrons moving off their atoms, new modes of correlation



dispersion (= van der Waals) forces -- weak forces between molecules and atoms, attractive at long distance ($1/r^6$, due to induced-dipole, induced-dipole interactions), repulsive at short separations

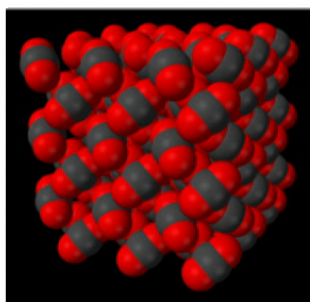


van der Waals space is most easily compressed.



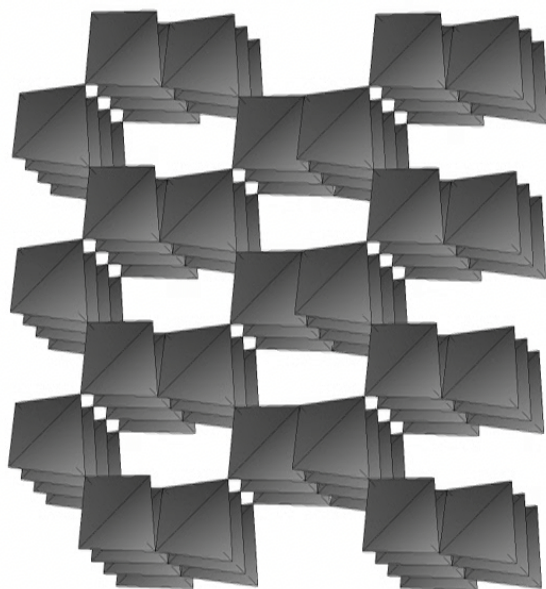
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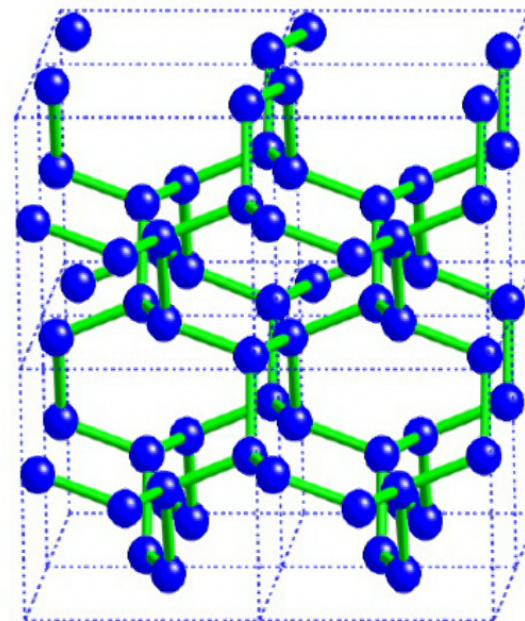


Coordination Alchemy

$$\Delta H = \Delta E + P\Delta V$$



CO₂ (V) 50 GPa, 1800 K



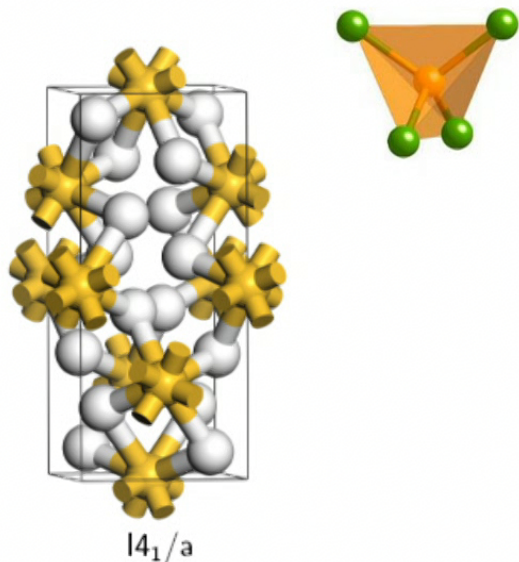
"N₂" >110 GPa, 2000 K



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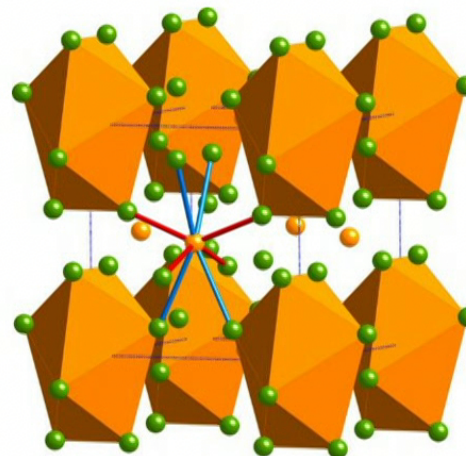
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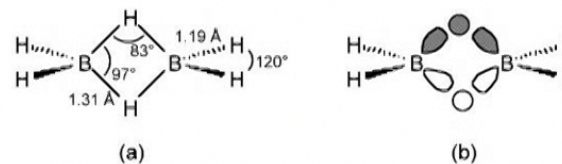
C.J. Pickard, R.J. Needs

each Si atom has 8 nearest neighbor hydrogens, two each bridging to a neighboring Si. The stoichiometry is $\text{SiH}_{8/2}$. Each $\text{Si-H}_2\text{-Si}$ unit uses 4 electrons (one each from each Si and each H) to bond together in diborane fashion the four centers.



Feng et al

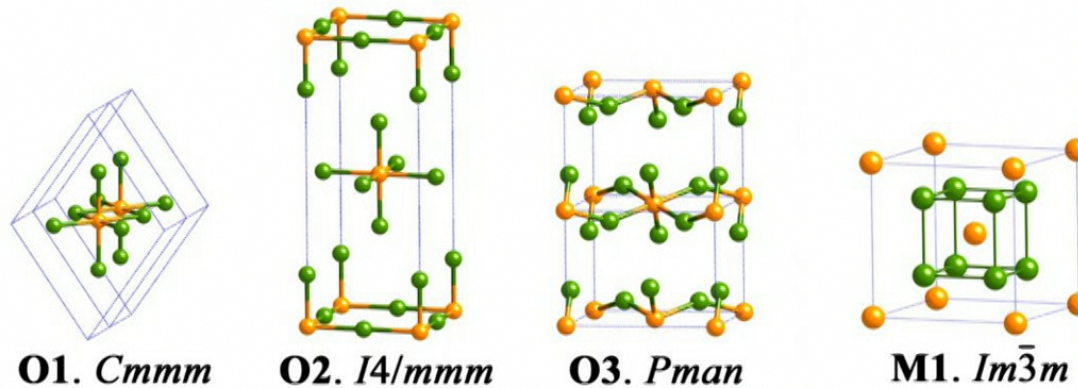
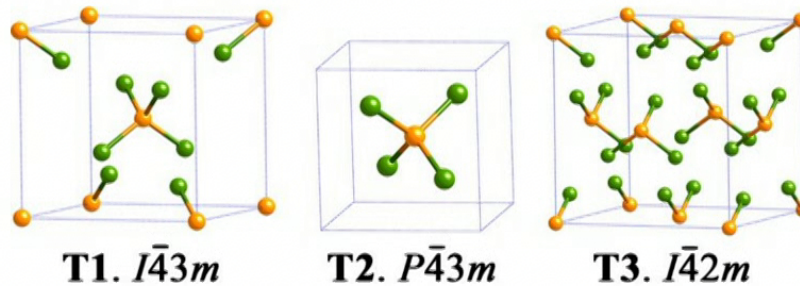
each Si has around it 8 electron deficient bent Si-H-Si three-center bonds



Structures and Potential Superconductivity in SiH_4 at High Pressure - En Route to “Metallic Hydrogen”

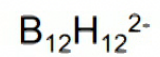
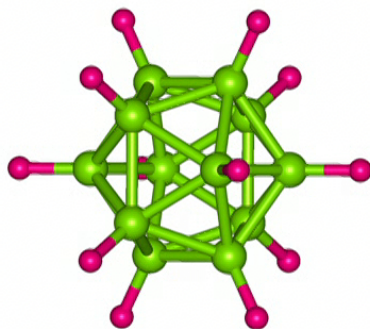
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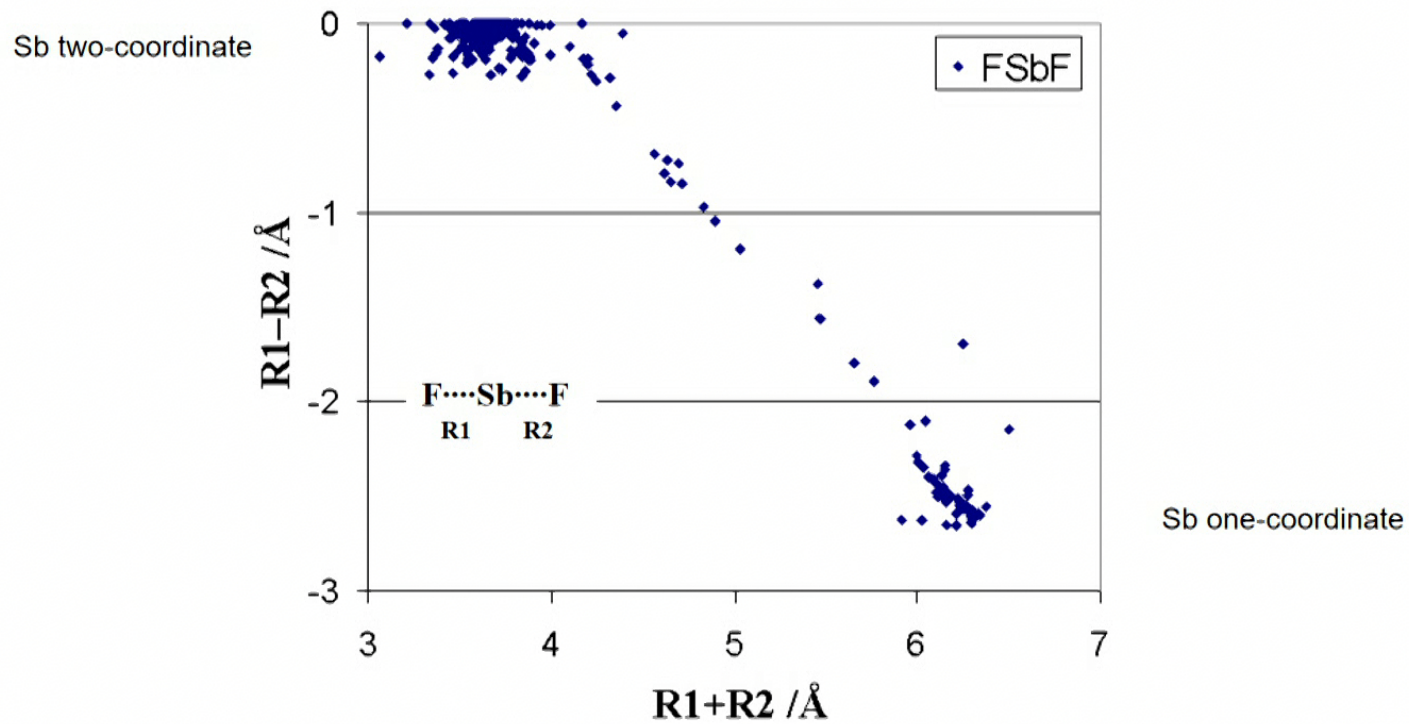


Increased density with increasing pressure

- higher coordination
- more bonds, full or partial, with same number of electrons
- multicenter bonding, electron-rich or electron-poor



How to use P=1 atm data to understand what will happen at higher pressures



Cambridge Structural Database

A Hierarchy of Responses to Pressure in Crystals

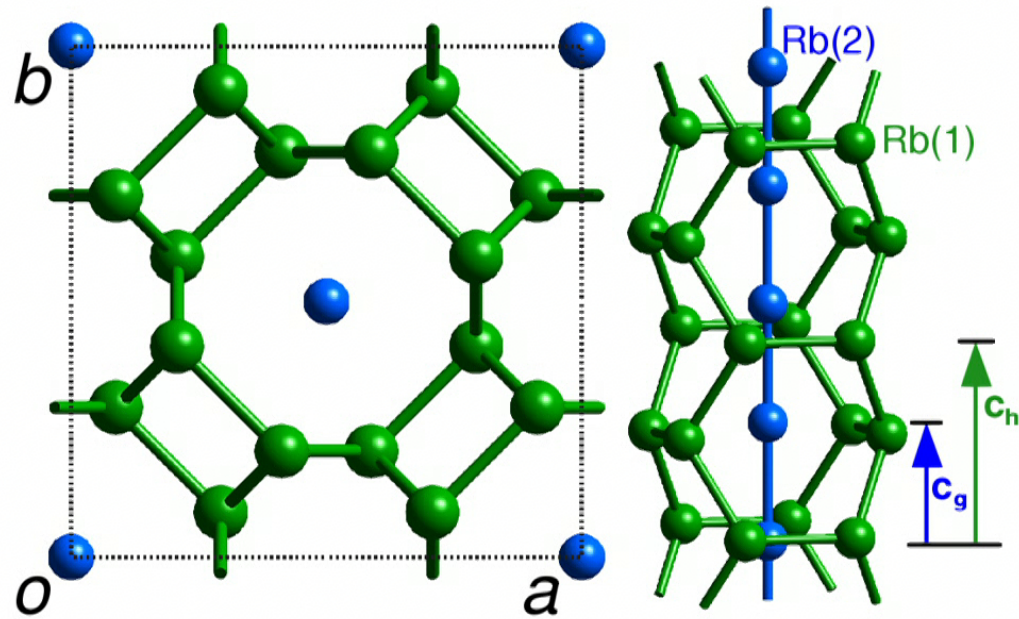
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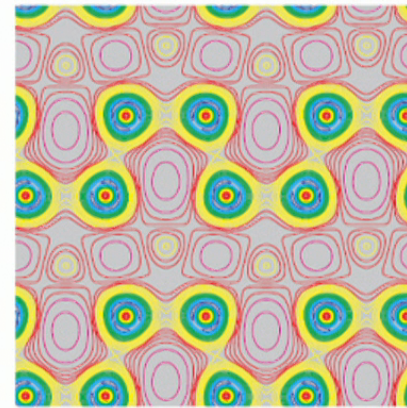
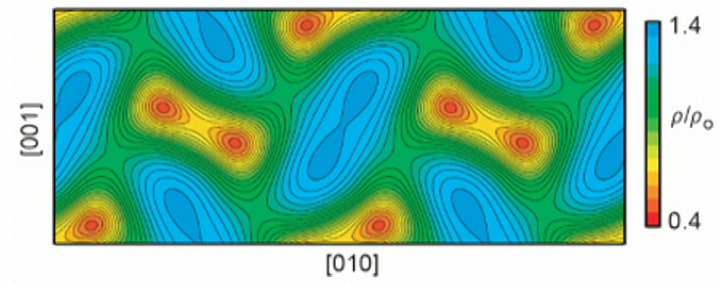
At 1 atm **Ba** is bcc. At 5.5 GPa **Ba-II** is fcc. At 25GPa **Ba-IV** goes into a structure with 288 atoms in a commensurate unit cell

R.J. Nelmes, Edinburgh



Rb-IV at 17.2 GPa

Elemental Li



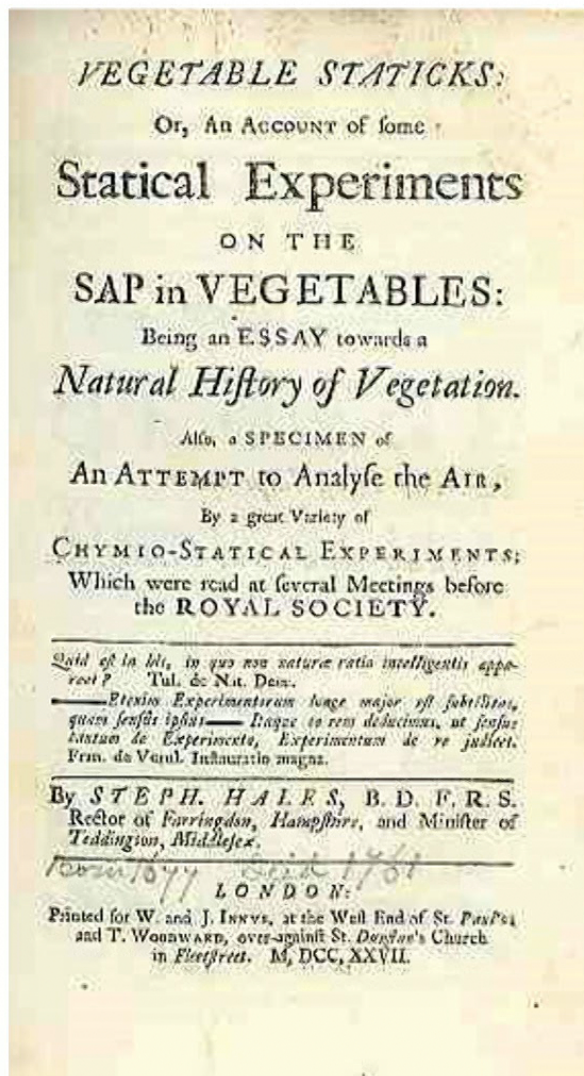
top: Ashcroft group 1999

bottom: Nelmes group 2003

close packing is not close enough

The packing of identical spheres maximizes at ~74% ($\pi/\sqrt{18}$)

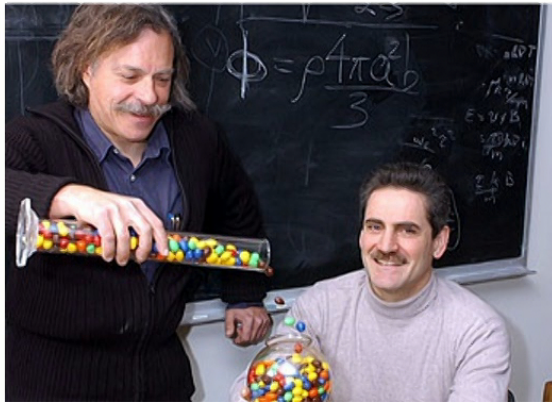




“I compressed several fresh parcels of Pease in the same Pot, with a force equal to 1600, 800, and 400 pounds; in which Experiments, tho’ the Pease dilated, yet they did not raise the lever, because what they increased in bulk was, by the great incumbent weight, pressed into the interstices of the Pease, which they adequately filled up, being thereby formed into pretty regular Dodecahedrons.”

close packing is not close enough

The packing of identical spheres maximizes at ~74% ($\pi/\sqrt{18}$). **If spheres are deformed, they can pack more efficiently** -- vide work on ellipsoids and M&M's, and the trivial case of extreme deformation to cubes. Other polyhedra can also pack space fully



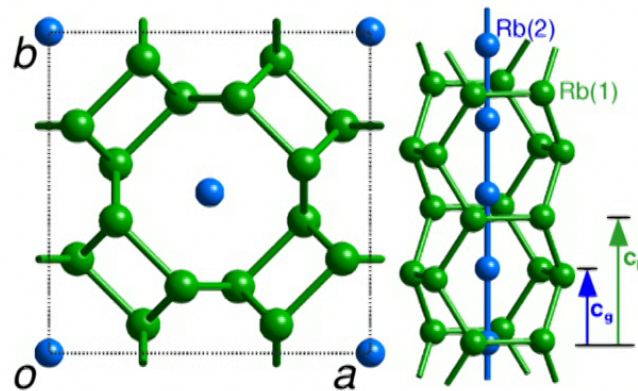
Paul Chaikin NYU



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The packing of identical spheres maximizes at $\sim 74\%$ ($\pi/\sqrt{18}$). **If spheres are deformed, they can pack more efficiently** -- *vide* work on ellipsoids and M&M's, and the trivial case of extreme deformation to cubes. Other polyhedra can also pack space fully.

Spheres of different size may pack more efficiently than spheres of identical size..



close packing is not close enough

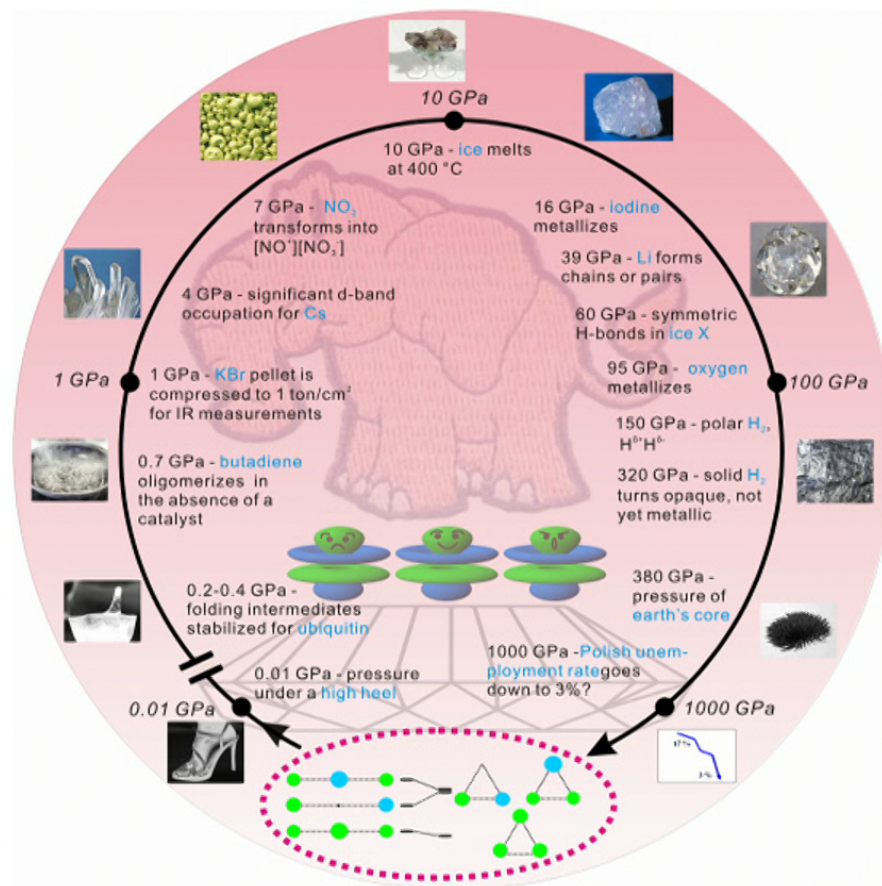
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Spheres of different size may pack more efficiently than spheres of identical size. So.... at some pressure there may be a driving force for a lattice of element E to “electronically disproportionate” to $(E^{\delta+})_m(E^{\delta-})_n$ sublattices. Such sublattices could be of any dimensionality; there could be more than two sublattices.

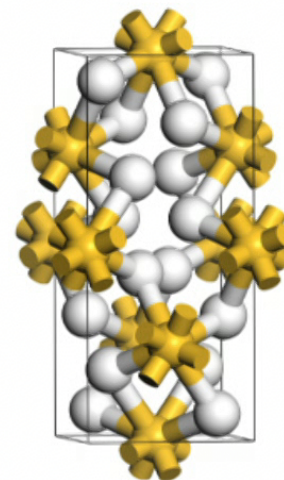
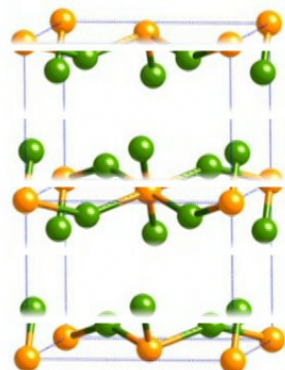
Electron transfer between the sublattices may not be needed to differentiate them. One could imagine a disproportionation to sublattices A, B, C where each is roughly neutral, but characterized by different kinds of bonding – covalent, ionic, or metallic – within each sublattice.

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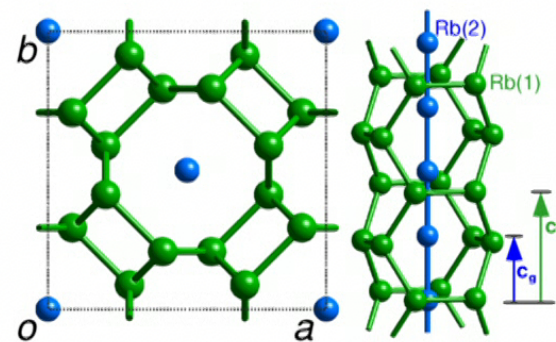
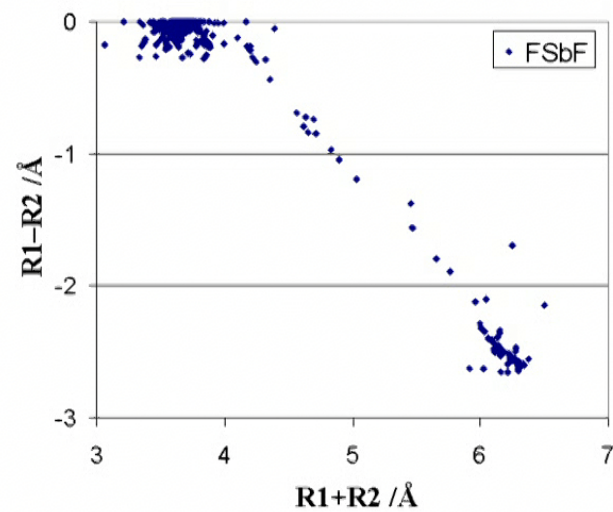
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The **Chemical** Imagination at Work in *Very Tight Places*



$I4_1/a$



A playground for sure,
but also another reason,
a personal and philosophical one....

