

Universal features of the equation of state of metals

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The zero-temperature equation of state of metals, in the absence of phase transitions, is shown to be accurately predicted from zero-pressure data. Upon appropriate scaling of experimental pressure-volume data a simple universal relation is found. These results provide further experimental confirmation of the recent observation that the total-binding-energy-versus-separation relations for metals obey a universal scaling relation. Important to our results is a parameter η , which is a measure of the anharmonicity of a crystal. This parameter is shown to be essential in predicting the equation of state. A simple formula is given which predicts the zero-temperature derivative of the bulk modulus with respect to pressure.

I. INTRODUCTION

Many aspects of the energetics of metals can be understood if the zero-temperature equation of state (EOS) is known. Predictions of the EOS are difficult and therefore rare. In this paper we will show that the zero-temperature EOS of metals (both alloys and elements) can rather generally be determined, in the absence of phase transitions, from a universal function. These results also allow the approximate determination of the pressure-volume relation for the experimentally inaccessible regime of negative hydrostatic pressure as well as the ultrahigh-pressure regime.

Recently, three of the authors¹⁻⁵ have examined the nature of metallic bonding. It was predicted on the basis of theoretical calculations that the binding-energy-distance relation could be *quantitatively* described in terms of a simple two-parameter scaling of a universal function and knowledge of the equilibrium specific volume per atom. The zero-temperature EOS follows directly from the universal energy relation and is specified by the zero pressure, equilibrium values of the cohesive energy ΔE , the isothermal bulk modulus B , and the specific volume per atom, which we characterize by the Wigner-Seitz equilibrium radius r_{WSE} .

The major results of this paper are as follows. Firstly, we show that in the absence of a phase transition, the EOS can be straightforwardly predicted. Secondly, we show that the experimental data can be transformed into a universal function F^* which is related to the pressure P and the volume V as $F^* \propto V^{2/3}P(V)$. The fact that a universal form emerges when $V^{2/3}P(V)$ is appropriately

scaled experimentally confirms the existence of a universal binding-energy-distance relation for bulk metals under compression.

The theoretical development of the EOS from the results of Refs. 4 and 5 are carried out in Sec. II. We find a length scale l which describes the range over which strong forces act. The ratio of the size of the atomic cell to this length, $\eta \equiv r_{\text{WSE}}/l$, provides a measure of the anharmonicity of a crystal. A table of this anharmonicity parameter is provided for many of the elemental metals. Other results in this section include a table characterizing the rupture pressure for a metal under negative hydrostatic pressure and a simple expression for the change in the bulk modulus with pressure.

The experimental confirmation of a universal form for the binding-energy-distance relation is given in Sec. III. First we show that given the universal energy relationship derived in Refs. 4 and 5 as well as ΔE , r_{WSE} , and the isothermal bulk modulus B , we can accurately predict the EOS for a number of elemental metals and for a representative alloy, 347 stainless steel. We collect these results and show (1) that a universal form for F^* in fact exists, and (2) that its form was predicted by theory. We conclude this section by comparing the experimental results for $(\partial B/\partial P)_T$ with the prediction of theory. Our theory predicts $(\partial B/\partial P)_T$ for the covalent semiconductors Ge and Si as well as for metals. We conclude the paper with a discussion of our results. One point of particular importance is that (to the accuracy of our results) the prediction of the EOS reduces to the prediction of the three input parameters ΔE , B , and r_{WSE} .

II. THEORY

Detailed, first-principles calculations of the cohesive energy of metals as a function of lattice parameter have appeared in recent years.⁶⁻¹⁰ It has recently been shown^{1,4,5} that the shape of these curves can be obtained from a simple two-parameter scaling of a universal function $E^*(a^*)$,

$$E(r_{WS}) = \Delta E E^*(a^*). \quad (2.1)$$

Here E is the binding energy per atom, r_{WS} is the radius of the Wigner-Seitz sphere containing an average volume per atom, and ΔE is the equilibrium binding energy. The parameter a^* is a scaled length determined by r_{WS} ,

$$a^* = (r_{WS} - r_{WSE})/l. \quad (2.2)$$

The equilibrium radius is r_{WSE} and l is the length scale which we have introduced. Thus, the total energy as a function of separation relative to the equilibrium radius can be accurately represented in terms of the two parameters ΔE and l once $E^*(a^*)$ is known.

First-principles calculations of the cohesive energy of Cu⁽⁸⁾, K⁽⁸⁾, Mo⁽⁸⁾, Ba⁽⁷⁾, Sm²⁺⁽⁷⁾, and Sm³⁺⁽⁷⁾ have been scaled and are displayed in Fig. 1. Here ΔE and l have been chosen so that $E^*(a^*=0) = -1$, $E^*(0) = 0$, and $E^{*'}(0) = 1$, where the prime denotes differentiation with respect to a^* . As can be seen, the agreement among these different metals is good. In Refs. 4 and 5 it was further shown that the universal function $E^*(a^*)$ was not restricted to the description of the bulk binding energy of metals. Rather, as shown in Fig. 2, this same function describes *quantitatively* all first-principles calculations of bimetallic adhesion, molecular binding, cohesion, and chemisorption of gas molecules on metals. The degree to which these widely disparate phenomena can be represented by a single two-parameter function is remarkable.

The existence of such a simple form for the binding en-

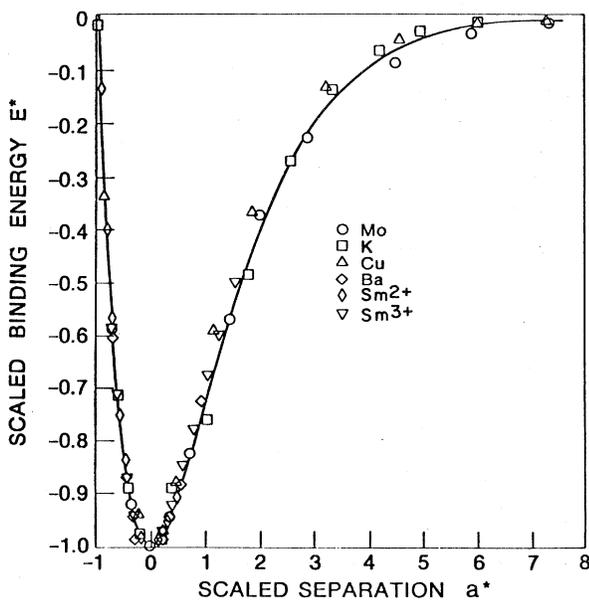


FIG. 1. Bulk energies for various metals scaled using Eqs. (2.1) and (2.2). The Mo, K, and Cu data are from Ref. 8, while the Ba, Sm²⁺, and Sm³⁺ data are from Ref. 7.

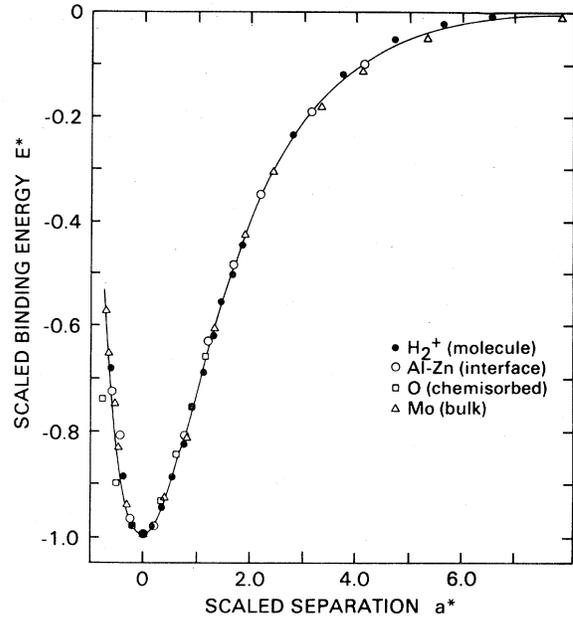


FIG. 2. Binding energy as a function of separation for four systems as noted; scaled in analogy with the bulk energy.

ergy implies a simplification in the EOS. The pressure at $T=0$ ($P = -dE/dV$), can be calculated using Eq. (2.1). We find

$$P(V) = -\frac{\Delta E}{4\pi r_{WS}^2} \frac{1}{l} E^{*'}(a^*). \quad (2.3)$$

Here the prime denotes the derivative with respect to a^* and $V = 4\pi r_{WS}^3/3$ is the volume. Note that Eq. (2.3) implies that there is no two-parameter, universal scaling relation for $P(V)$ because of the coupling between r_{WS}^2 and a^* [Eq. (2.2)]. However, the shape of the force relation,

$$F(V) = 4\pi r_{WS}^2 P(V) = -\frac{\Delta E}{l} E^{*'}(a^*), \quad (2.4)$$

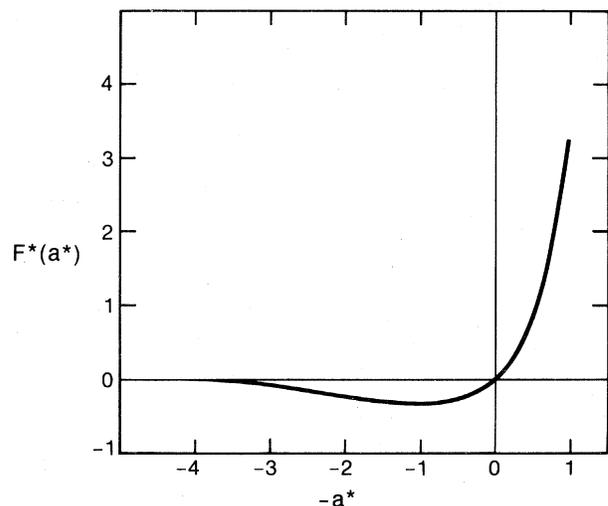


FIG. 3. Shows the function $F^*(a^*)$ plotted vs $-a^*$. Thus, the values of F^* to the right of $-a^*=0$ correspond to compression of the solid and values to the left correspond to rarefaction.

III. EXPERIMENTAL VERIFICATION OF THE UNIVERSAL BONDING RELATION

In this section we collect experiments on the compression of metals with pressure [$V(P)$] and use them to test our hypothesis of a universal form for $E^*(a^*)$ and $F^*(a^*)$. Two types of experiment were considered. First, there are static press measurements which were made by Bridgman up to 100 kbar.¹⁴ The second class of experiments involve shock-wave experiments¹⁵ in which metals are collided at high velocities. Very large compressions ($V/V_0 \sim \frac{1}{2}$) and pressures (up to 10 Mbar) have been achieved by this technique. Unfortunately, the determination of both the pressure and volume are indirect. For example, in a shock-wave experiment on Pd, the internal temperature is as high as 7000 K.¹⁵ From a model of the shock-wave experiment, the experimentalist predicts a zero-temperature isotherm. Clearly, some room for systematic error lies here. Mao *et al.*¹⁶ have used shock-wave data¹⁷ for four elements (Pd, Ag, Cu, and Mo) to establish a high-pressure scale based on a ruby crystal fluorescence line. Given the importance of this scale, we have included these four elements in our studies. Agreement between theory and experiment not only tests the hypothesis, but also tests the accuracy of the shock-wave data and analysis.

In Fig. 4 we show the experimental EOS's for four metals and compare them with the theory. Similarly, Fig. 5 shows the same comparison for four other metals. Note particularly that an alloy [stainless steel 347 (Ref. 18), taken as 70% Fe, 19% Cr, and 11% Ni for our calculations] has been included. The data for Li and Rb come from Bridgman's work¹⁴ and thus are independent of the shocked-wave analysis. The theory curves use Eq. (2.11) and the zero-pressure data in Tables I and II. The elemental input data have been taken from handbook values extrapolated to zero temperature and have not been adjusted to improve agreement. In the case of stainless steel the bulk modulus was determined from the experimental data and l was found by an average over the concentration for the constituent elements. As can be seen, the overall agreement for the eight metals plotted is good. For five of the cases (Li, Rb, Ag, Cu, and stainless steel) the agreement is essentially exact. For Pd, Mo, and Pt the small discrepancy is unexplained. Its origin may lie either in a small correction to our hypothesis or more probably in the analysis of the shock-wave data. Overall the agreement between theory and experiment is satisfactory.

The clearest demonstration of a universal relation results from scaling the experimental data using the zero-pressure data r_{WSE} , ΔE , and B . As discussed in Sec. II the function $F^*(a^*)$ is expected to have a universal form. F^* can be related to experimental results via Eqs. (2.4) and (2.5), which yield

$$F^*(a^*) = \frac{1}{3} \frac{r_{WSE}}{l} \left(\frac{V}{V_0} \right)^{2/3} \frac{P(V)}{B}. \quad (3.1)$$

Figure 6 shows the results of transforming the data for the eight metals previously cited. As can be seen, a single functional relation clearly emerges. We note that a^* is defined by Eq. (2.2). Thus, only ΔE , B , and r_{WSE} enter in the determination of Eq. (3.1). A theoretical estimate for

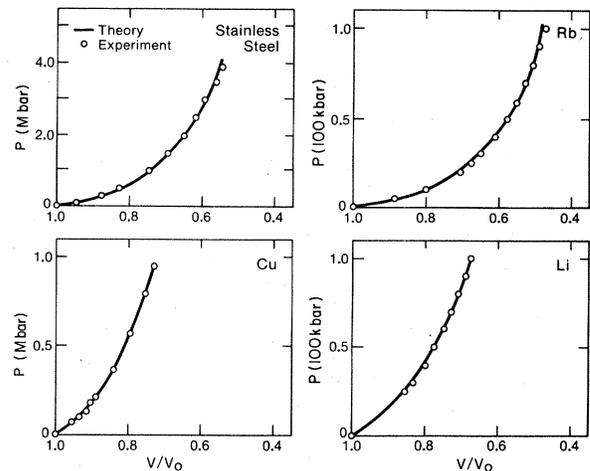


FIG. 4. Predicted (solid line) and experimental EOS (\circ 's) is shown for four metals. Note the very different pressure scales. Rb and Li are from Ref. 14, stainless steel from Ref 18, and Cu from Refs. 16 and 17.

$E^*(a^*)$ is given by Eqs. (2.2) and (2.10), which allows us to approximately predict F^* as

$$F^*(a^*) = a^* e^{-a^*} [1 - 0.15a^* + 0.05a^{*2}]. \quad (3.2)$$

The theoretical estimate is in complete agreement with the function determined by scaling the experimental data. The range of data used in deriving F^* is quite wide. The Rb data were taken below 100 kbar while the stainless steel represents pressures up to 4 Mbar. Thus, a factor of 50 exists in the measured pressure for comparable points on the curves. It is not possible for us to decide if the small deviations from the predicted curves represent small errors in our hypothesis or if they result from the experimental method and analysis.

Finally, some experimental data exists for the derivative of the bulk modulus with pressure, $\partial B/\partial P$. The last systematic compilation (of which we are aware) for this

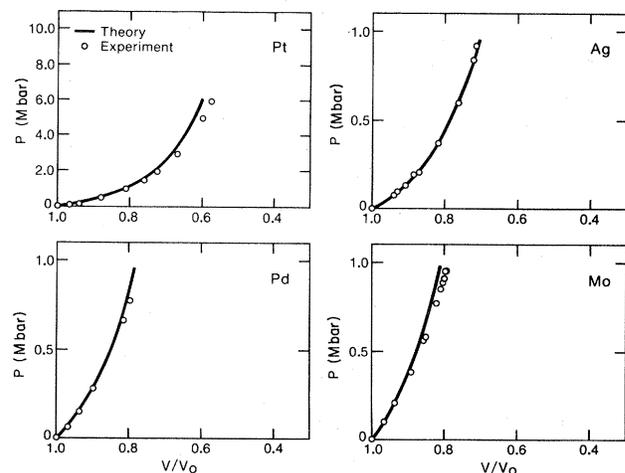


FIG. 5. Predicted (solid line) and experimental EOS (\circ 's) is shown for four metals. Note the very different pressure scales. Ag, Pd, and Mo data are from Refs. 16 and 17. Pt data are from Ref. 15.

of E^* , i.e., $F^*(a^*) = -E^*(a^*)$. Good agreement was obtained with experimentally measured values of EOS's. We then inverted the procedure and scaled the experimental data to obtain an experimental estimate for $F^*(a^*)$. This curve was in good agreement with the predicted $F^*(a^*)$. Thus we have experimentally verified the universal scaling relations (in the region of compressive loading of bulk metals) proposed earlier.¹⁻⁵

The fact that the scaling results exist focuses attention on ΔE , B , and r_{WSE} as crucial variables in the theory of the EOS. If these quantities could be predicted we would have a complete theory of the zero-temperature EOS in the absence of phase transitions. It is thus of some interest to see if these quantities can be predicted empirically, using the quantum-defect method as discussed by Bloch and collaborators,²⁷ or the approach of Miedema.²⁸

Other equations²⁹ (e.g., that of Murnaghan³⁰) have been used to represent the high-pressure EOS of metals. These equations have the common feature that they represent a fit to the high-pressure data. For example, $\partial B/\partial P$ is required as an input. Such equations are unlike the present results since our work predicts the pressure and $\partial B/\partial P$ from zero-pressure measurements.

The accuracy of our predictions for $P(V)$ must be determined by comparison with experiment. This comparison is quite good, as shown in the preceding section. We cannot determine from the current data whether apparent

discrepancies between the experiment and theory are due to inaccuracies of the model or systematic errors in the experimental data. We note that the overall good agreement between theory and experiment lends support to the current pressure scale which was deduced from shock-wave experiments.

In conclusion, the EOS for metals at zero temperature in the absence of a phase transition has been determined from the universal form for the total-energy-distance relation proposed earlier.¹⁻⁵ A universal form, $F^* \propto V^{2/3}P(V)$, was predicted. These predictions were compared with experiment and found to be in good agreement with the data. This work thus serves as a direct verification of the universal binding-energy relation in the compressive region.

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