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CMD<sup>®</sup> Case Studies (2)

### Theoretical Calculations by Computations to Go beyond Theories

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# Theories & *ab initio* Calculations



### Contents

#### Introduction to Computation (ab initio and beyond)

- ✓ Thermal Conductivity
- ✓ Thermal Expansion
- ✓ Conclusions

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# **Three Ways of Computations**

## ✓ Simulation

To reproduce something, and identify governing factors

## ✓Theoretical Calculation

To use no theory for properties, but fundamental theory

### ✓Computational Experiment

To do experiments in computers

## **Conflicting Demands for Materials**



# Selective Control of Thermal Conduction





**Electronic Cond** 

Ihermal Cond.



Melting Point Strength (Bond Strength)

### **Problems:**

- Easy to decrease thermal conductivity ALONE
- Conventionally, discussing "Mean Free Path" Length of Defects  $\rightarrow$  Remains qualitative  $\rightarrow$  No quantitative guideline
- Unclear: Selective control of thermal conduction without deteriorating other properties needed

Through computations,

Guidelines to control beyond correlation or trade-off

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# **Layered Thermoelectric Oxides**

 $\checkmark$  Introduction to Computation (ab initio and beyond)

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# Similarities and Differences: (Electrons and Phonons)

- ~1960: Equally discussed and theories developed
- After discovery of semiconductors: Phonons left behind electrons
- Reactivated in 21st century → Phonon conduction is complicated

#### Electrons

Fermi-Dirac statistics



Phonons

**Bose-Einstein statistics** 



Only Electrons near Fermi level contribute to **T** 



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## Approaches to Thermal Conduction

- Phonons: Classical MD (Modeling)
  Force-Field: From *ab initio* calc.
  Mechanism: Original ways
- 3. Guideline for control Computational Experiment

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## Thermal Conductivity: Existing Methods



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# Understanding through Comp. Exp.



### Exp. Observation Understood



# **CTE: Coeff. Thermal Expansion**

- ✓ Introduction to Computation (ab initio and beyond)
- ✓ Thermal Conductivity
- ✓ Thermal Expansion
- $\checkmark$  Conclusions



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#### The most serious concern is lifetime.

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# Mitigate Thermal Fatigue and Fracture

- 1. Suppress Phase Transformation: Gibbs Free Energy (at high T & P)
- 2. Control CTE: Anharmonicity?

Grüneisen parameter (anharmonicity) Differences attributed to  $\gamma$  (Conventional)

$$\alpha = \frac{\rho C_V \gamma}{K_T}$$

 $\alpha$  : Coeff. Thermal Expansion  $\rho$  : Density (Mass)  $C_V$ : Specific Heat  $K_T$ : Elastic Constant  $\gamma$  : Grüneisen parameter

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Questions left:

- How to change anharmonicity of phonons?
- Wther thermal conductivity is sacrificed or not?
- Can we use the equation above?

→Directly calculate equilibrium volume at each T having minimum Gibbs free energy

### Approaches to Thermal Expansion

1.	CTE~10 <sup>-6</sup> /K:	ab initio Calc.
2.	Phonons:	Lattice Dynamics (not MD)
3.	T dependence:	"Quasi-"harmonic Approx.
4.	f -electrons:	Almost frozen (pseudized)
5.	Crystal Symmetry:	Not fixed (exp. at high T)
6.	Preliminary:	Machine Learning

Validity of these assumption verified before main calc.

(Vol.: -0.5% underestimated, CTEs are good agreements with exp.)

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# **Conclusions #2**

#### It is probably a good idea

#### For Experiments

To talk with computer guys not for ideal values or theoretical values but to sort out complexity of reality and to find out mechanism behind phenomena

#### For computer guys

To go out to find that world is wider

To talk with your colleague to find out what to calculate

#### For Theorist (Analytical)

To let computers help you to solve your problem while sleeping

#### **Conclusions #1**

For computational studies to do some role, It is critically important

- > To fully understand advantages and limitations of each method
- > To carefully set a problem (What to understand)
- To discuss experimentalist beforehand

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