

## Physical Foundations of Dental Materials Science

### 5.

Crystallisation. Metals, alloys, ceramics.

**E-book Chapters:**  
9-11

**Homework:**  
**Chapter 3:**  
3-5, 8, 10, 12, 14, 18

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## Types of dental materials

**METALS**

Metallic bond

Molecules composed of series of monomeric building blocks

**CERAMICS**

Compounds of metals and non-metals

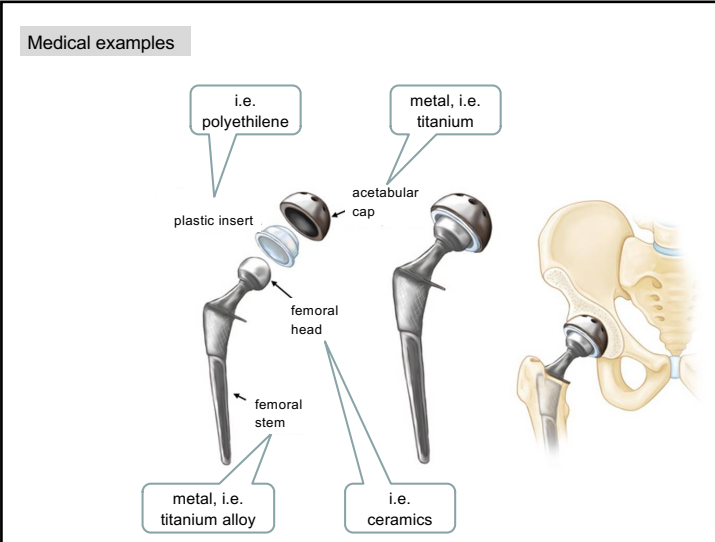
**POLYMERS**

**COMPOSITES**

Contains at least two of the previous three families

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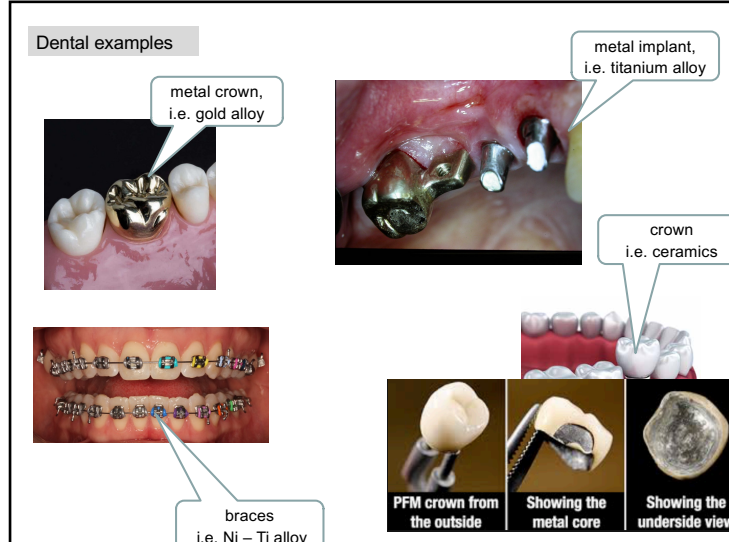
### Medical examples



- plastic insert (i.e. polyethylene)
- acetabular cap (metal, i.e. titanium)
- femoral head (i.e. ceramics)
- femoral stem (metal, i.e. titanium alloy)

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### Dental examples



- metal crown, i.e. gold alloy
- metal implant, i.e. titanium alloy
- crown i.e. ceramics
- braces i.e. Ni - Ti alloy
- PFM crown from the outside
- Showing the metal core
- Showing the underside view

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## Metals



amorphous  
metallic  
glass!

### Properties:

- common material; diverse properties
- relatively large density
- solid at room temperature (except for Ga and Hg)
- relatively large toughness and strength
- relatively good deformability
- tendency to corrode (except for precious metals)
- properties can be influenced by alloying
- good heat and electric conductivity
- metallic color
- mostly not biocompatible

### Structure:

- metallic bond
- Atoms with identical size in pure metals
- crystalline (typically hexagonal or cubic)\*
- polycrystalline\*\*

### examples for application:

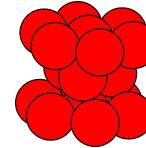
- crown, bridge
- implants
- filling
- orthodontics

Production: melting, casting

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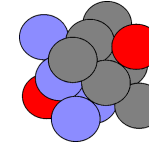
## \*Why is the hexagonal and cubic lattice common among metals?

close packing of equal spheres!



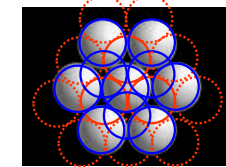
hexagonal close packed  
(hcp)

pl. Ti, Cd, Co, Zn, ...



face centered cubic  
(fcc)

pl. Ag, Au, Pt, Al, Cu, Ni, ...



less packed body  
centered cubic  
(bcc)

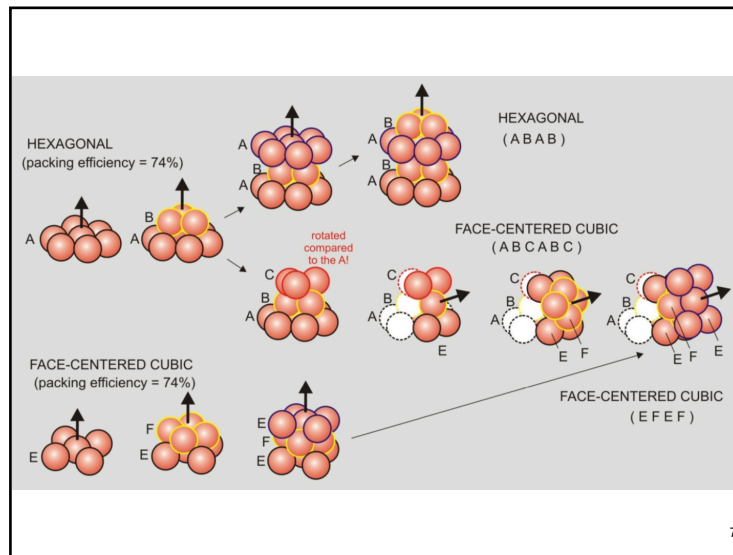
pl. Fe, Cr, ...

space filling: 74 %

74 %

68 %

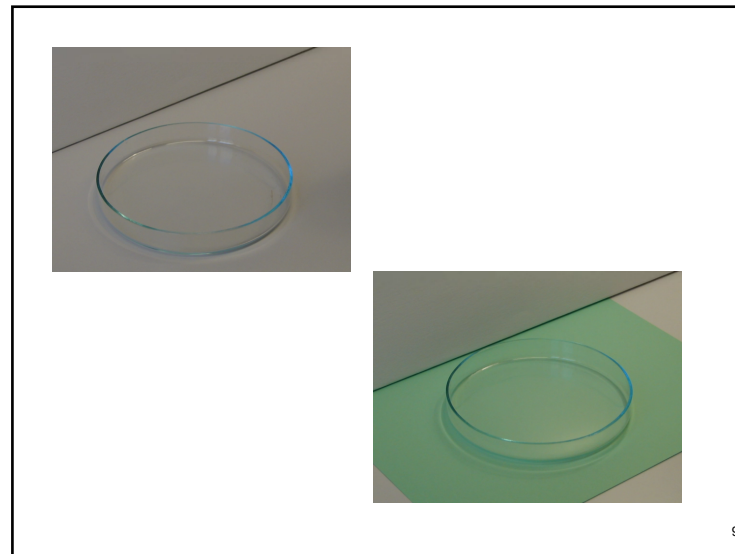
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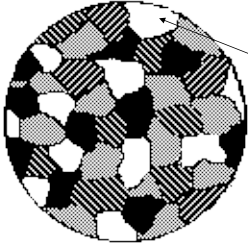
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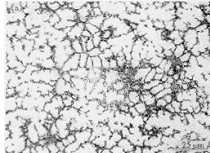
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## \*\*Polycrystalline structure

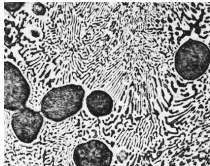
**Microstructure:**



homogenous microstructure



heterogeneous microstructure



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## Metal alloys

**Aim: to improve properties, for example:**

- increase corrosion resistance, i.e. Fe, Ni, Co, ...+Cr
- increase hardness, stiffness, i.e. Au+Cu
- to improve metal-ceramic adhesion, ie. precious metals +Fe, Sn, In

**Classification:**

- metal+metal, i.e. Fe+Cr
- metal+non-metal, i.e. Fe+C
- usage (i.e inlay, crown, ...)
- base element (gold or palladium based, ...)
- number of components (biner, terner, kvaterner,...)
- 3 main element (i.e. Au-Pd-Ag, Ni-Cr-Be, ...)
- type of phase diagram
  - solid solution
  - eutectic alloy
  - peritectic alloy
  - metal alloy

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**Alloying ratios:**

- mass%  $c_{m,1} = \frac{m_1}{m_1 + m_2} (\cdot 100\%)$
- mole%  $c_{v,1} = \frac{V_1}{V_1 + V_2} (\cdot 100\%) \rightarrow \text{properties!}$   
(i.e. Ni-Cr-Mo-Be alloy: Be 1,8 mass%  $\leftrightarrow$  11 mole%)

Conversion:

$$c_{v,1} = \frac{c_{m,1} \cdot M_2}{c_{m,1} \cdot M_2 + c_{m,2} \cdot M_1} (\cdot 100\%) \quad c_{m,1} = \frac{c_{v,1} \cdot M_1}{c_{v,1} \cdot M_1 + c_{v,2} \cdot M_2} (\cdot 100\%)$$

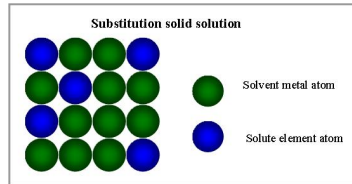
Mean density:  $\bar{\rho} = \frac{\rho_1 \cdot \rho_2}{c_{m,1} \cdot \rho_2 + c_{m,2} \cdot \rho_1}$

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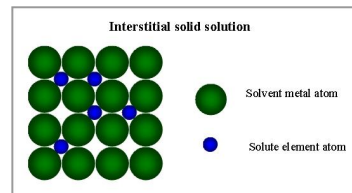
## Solid solution

Good solubility in both liquid and **solid phases**.

**homogenous microstructure**



i.e. Cu-Ni, Pd-Ag, Au-Cu, ...



i.e. Fe-C, CP Ti (O, C, N, H), ...

(CP: Commercial Purity)

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## Criteria of solubility for substitution solid solutions:

- difference between size of atoms is small ( $< 15\%$ )
- same crystal lattice type
- similar electronegativity
- same valence, or the valence of „solvent“ is greater

metal	atomic diameter (nm)	lattice	electro-negativity
Au	0,2882	fcc	2,4
Pt	0,2775	fcc	2,2
Pd	0,2750	fcc	2,2
Ag	0,2888	fcc	1,9
Cu	0,2556	fcc	1,9
Ni	0,25	fcc	1,8
Sn	0,3016	tetragonal	1,8

## Criteria of solubility for interstitial solid solutions:

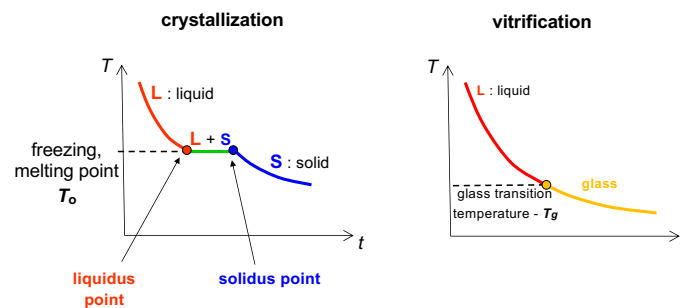
- size of „solute“ atom is much smaller
- amount of „solute“ is low ( $< 10\%$ )

## Properties of solid solution:

elastic limit, strength, hardness increases  
plasticity decreases, i.e. Au-Cu (5 mass%)

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## Cooling of pure melted metal

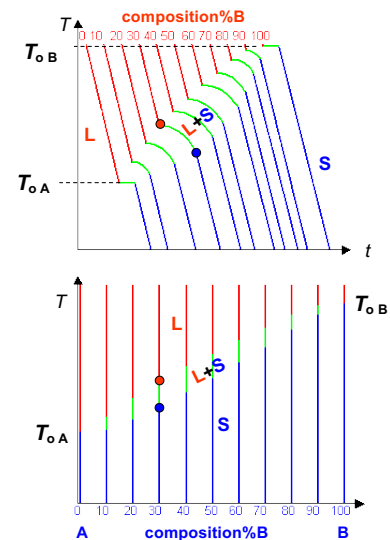


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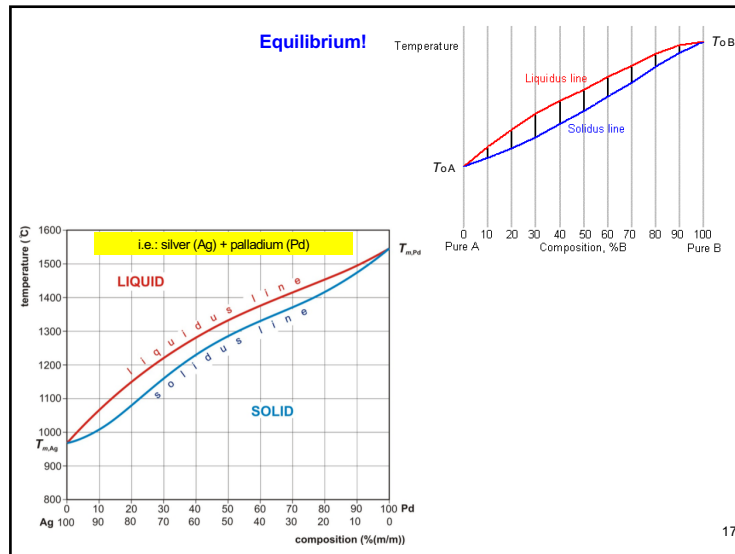
## Cooling of solid solution

## Phase diagram

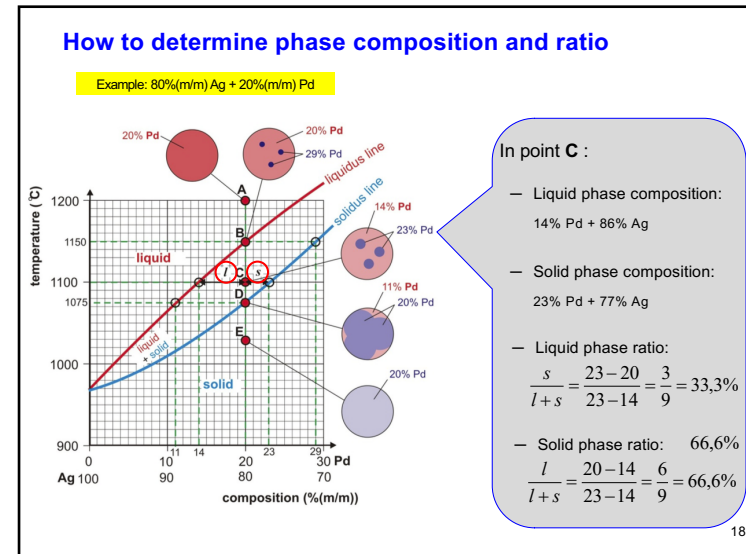
Through equilibrium states! = infinitely slow cooling



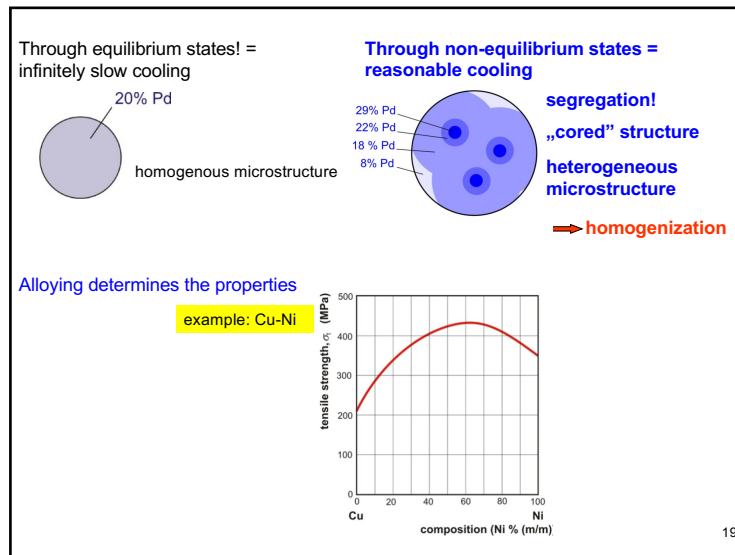
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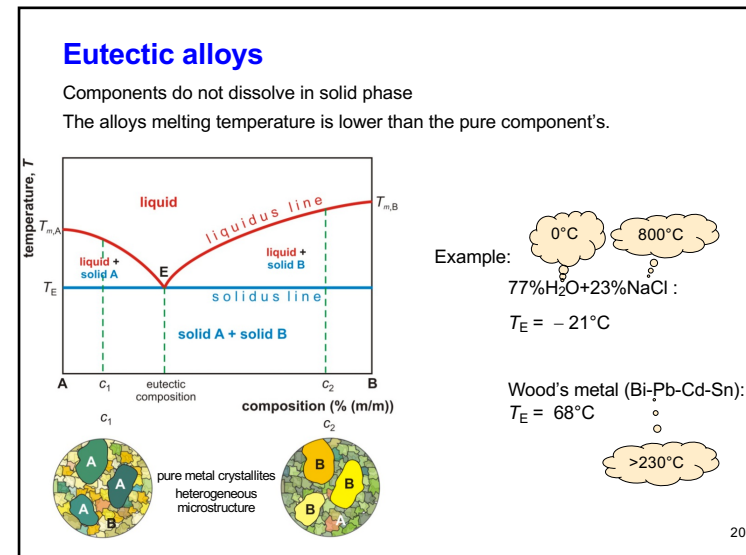
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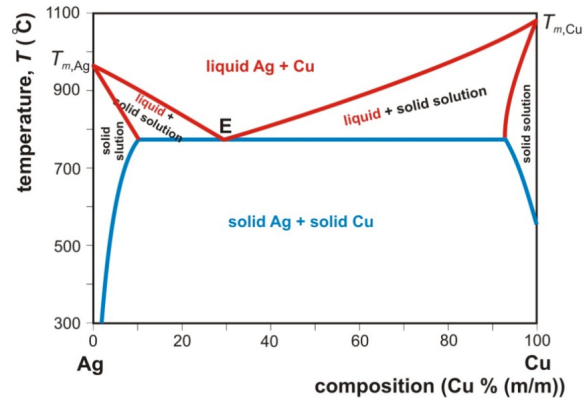


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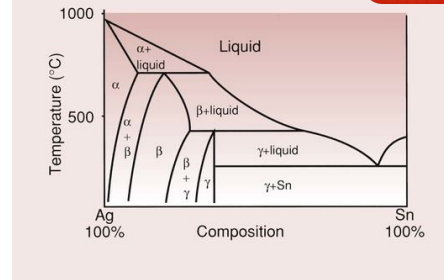
## Ag-Cu



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## Amalgam

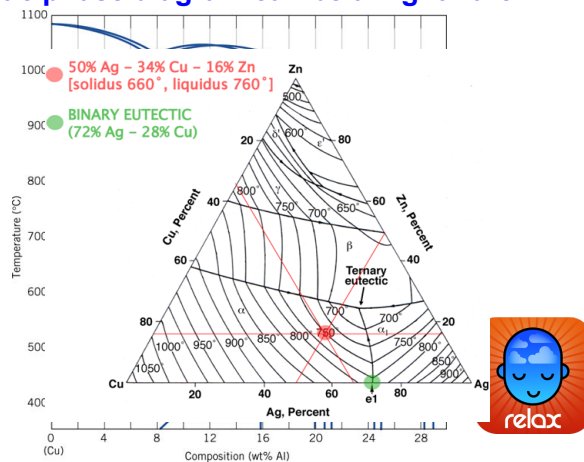
### Ag-Sn phase diagram



$\gamma$  phase:  $Ag_3Sn$

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## Eutectic phase diagram can be a nightmare!



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## Ceramics

**Definition:** mixture of metallic and non-metallic elements (there are exemptions!)

### Properties:

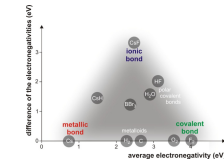
- medium density
- solid at room temperature
- large stiffness, hard, not deformable, brittle
- great heat- and corrosion resistance
- heat shock sensitive
- bad heat- and electric conduction
- diverse optical properties
- biocompatible

### Structure:

- mainly ionic bond, less covalent
- ions of different sizes
- crystalline or amorphous or mixed\*\*

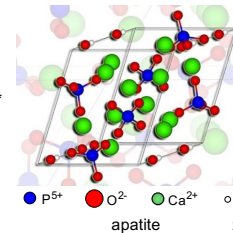
### Applications:

- crowns, bridges
- implants
- cements
- polishing materials

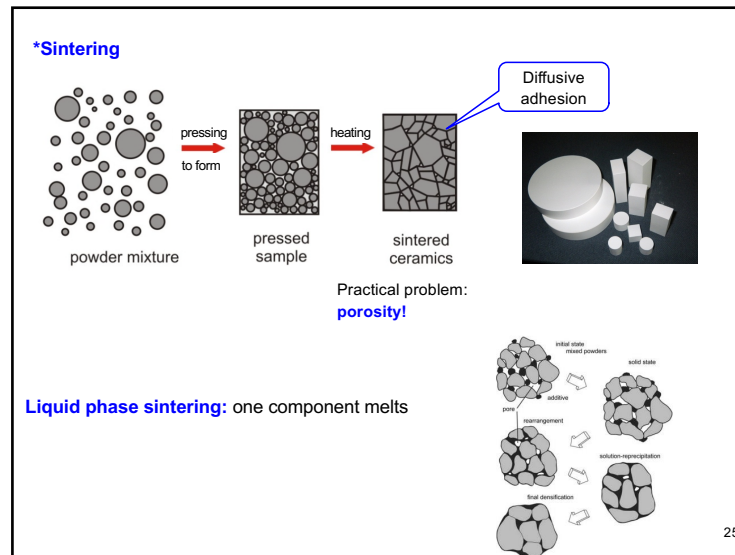


### Production:

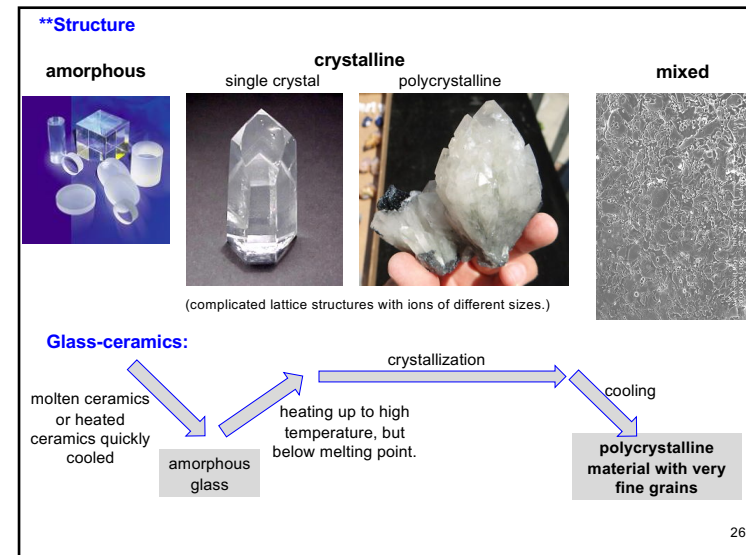
- melting
- sintering\*



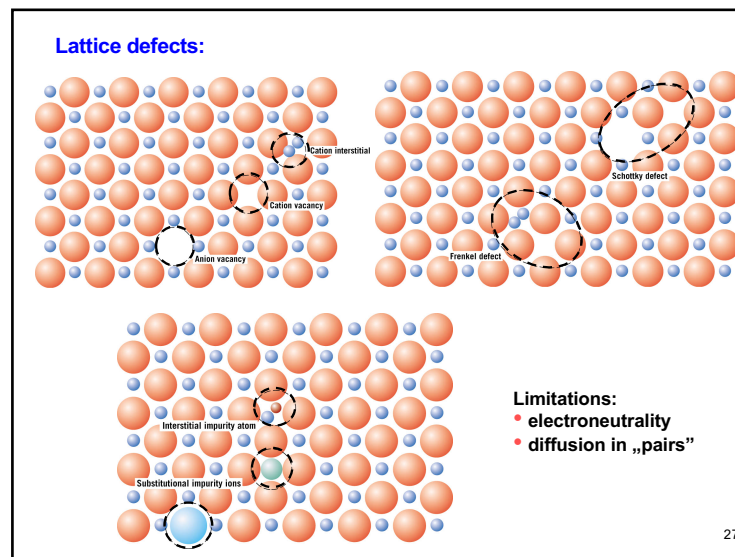
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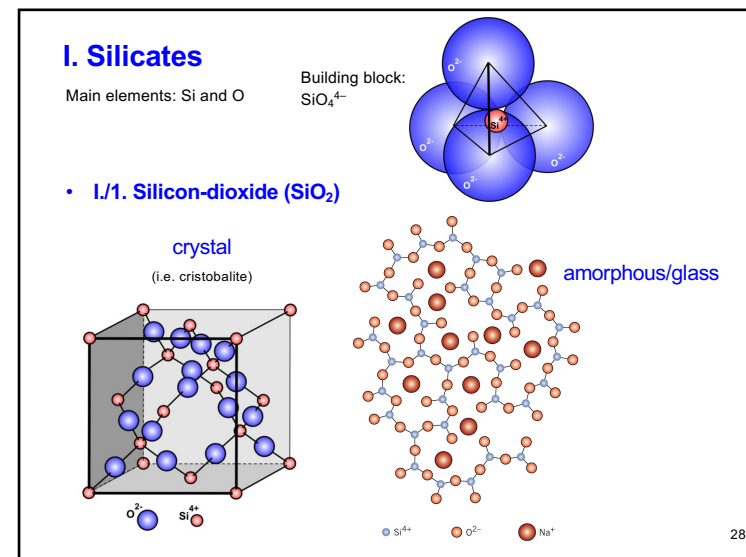
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- **I./2. Porcelain (traditional)**

Kaolinite  
( $\text{Al}_2(\text{Si}_2\text{O}_5)(\text{OH})_4$ )

$\text{Al}_2(\text{OH})_4^{2+}$  Layer  
 $(\text{Si}_2\text{O}_5)^{2-}$  Layer

+ quartz  
+ feldspar

→ drying, heating

Crack in quartz grain  
Pore  
Glassy (nm) phase  
Quartz grain  
Feldspar grain

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- **I./3. Dental silicate ceramics (dental porcelain)**

- amorphous glass (alkali feldspars -  $\text{NaAlSi}_3\text{O}_8$ ,  $\text{KAlSi}_3\text{O}_8$ ,  $\text{SiO}_2$ ,  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ , ...)
- amorphous glass with crystalline regions
  - amorphous feldspar glass + few leucite crystals ( $\text{KAlSi}_2\text{O}_6$ )
  - amorphous feldspar glass + 50% leucite crystals ( $\text{KAlSi}_2\text{O}_6$ )
  - Li-silicate glass + 70% Li-disilicate crystals ( $\text{Li}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_5$ )

glass-ceramic

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## II. Oxide ceramics

- **II./1. Zirconium-dioxide ( $\text{ZrO}_2$ , zirconia)**

Properties (when sintered to compact state):

- white
- density approx.  $6 \text{ g/cm}^3$
- great strength, toughness, stiffness, hardness (see later)

Production:

- from  $\text{ZrSiO}_4$
- expensive purification steps
- cold or hot extrusion, sintering

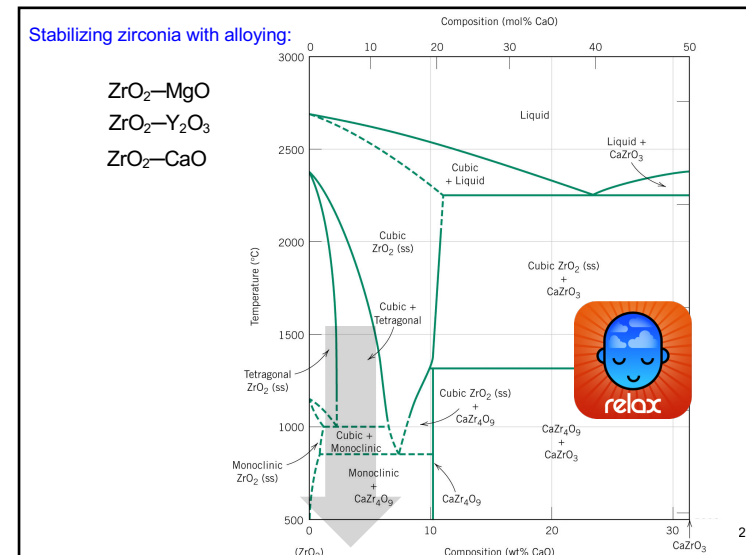
monoclinic  
tetragonal  
cubic  
liquid

about 5% volume increase

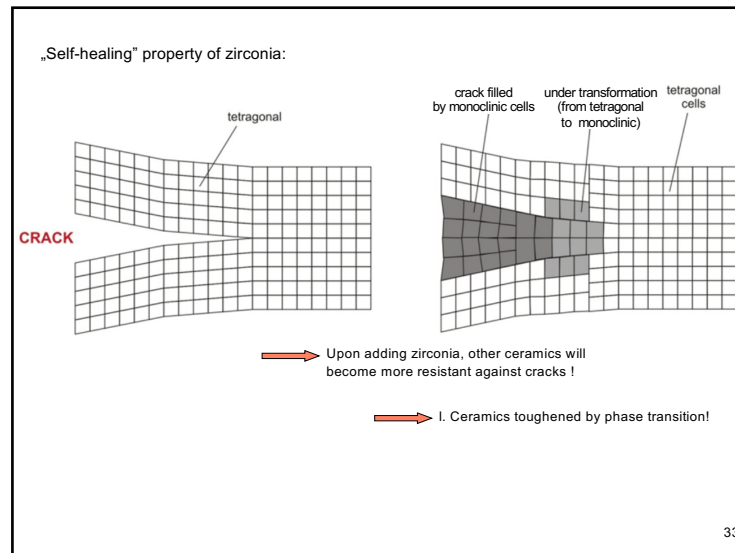
sintering

cracks!

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• II./2. Aluminium-oxide ( $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ )

Properties:

- colorless, white
- melting point  $2700^\circ\text{C}$
- density approx.  $4 \text{ g/cm}^3$
- very hard (see later)

Crystalline forms: corundum

$\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 + \text{CrO}_2 \rightarrow \text{ruby}$

$\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 + \text{CoO}_2 \rightarrow \text{sapphire}$

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• II./3. Oxide ceramics crystal + glass