Alloy Phase diagrams from first-principles

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Monte Carlo for alloys

Lattice gas Hamiltonian:

$$H = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{ij} V_{ij} C_i C_j - \mu \sum_i C_i$$

Metropolis algorithm:

1) Exchange atoms for fixed lattice, concentration, and temperature

2) Keep configuration in sample if

$$r < exp(-\Delta E/k_{B}T) \begin{cases} r: \frac{\text{Random number}}{\text{between 0 and 1}} \\ \Delta E: \frac{\text{Configurational}}{\text{energy difference}} \end{cases}$$

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Landau and Binder: A guide to Monte Carlo Simulations in statistical physics

Cluster expansion i terms of effective interactions

Configurational energy:

$$E = \sum_{i} V_{i}^{(1)} \langle C_{i} \rangle + \sum_{ij} V_{ij}^{(2)} \langle C_{i} C_{j} \rangle + \sum_{ijk} V_{ijk}^{(3)} \langle C_{i} C_{j} C_{k} \rangle$$

Occupation number:

$$C_{i} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if i occupied by A} \bigcirc \\ 0 & \text{if i occupied by B} \end{cases}$$

Spin variable:

$$\sigma_i = 2c_i - 1$$

Correlation function:

$$\xi_{p}^{(n)} = \langle \sigma_{i} \sigma_{j} \dots \sigma_{k} \rangle - \sigma^{n}$$

Random alloy:

 $\xi_p^{(n)} = 0 \quad \forall n, p$ p: shell, triangle, etc.



Short-range order in α-brass



$A_{c}B_{1-c}$ alloy

Configurational energy:

$$\mathsf{E}_{conf} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{ij} V_{ij} C_i C_j$$

Effective pair potential:

$$V_{ij}^{(2)} = V_{ij}^{AA} - 2V_{ij}^{AB} + V_{ij}^{BB}$$



General perturbation method (GPM)

 $V_{ii}^{AB} \propto \int dE f(E) t_i^A \overline{G}_{ij} t_j^B \overline{G}_{ji}$

- / AB Pair potential
 - Coherent potential Green
- G_{ij}: Conerer
- t^A : Single-site t-matrix

Ducastelle and Gautier, J. Phys. F 6, 2039 (1976)

- Α 🔵 Β
- **Effective medium**



GPM potentials



GPM pair-potential:

$$V^{(2)}(R) = V^{(2)}_{GPM}(R) + V_{scr}(R)$$

*) Ducastelle: Order and Phase Stability in alloys, 1991, pg. 468



Screening of an impurity



Screening in random alloys



GPM screened Coulomb contribution

Change in electrostatic energy upon exchange of A and B atoms on site 1 projected onto site 0:

$$V_{scr}(R) = \frac{1}{2} [E_{b}^{el}(R) - E_{a}^{el}(R)]$$





SGPM potentials and ordering in NiPt

Ordering energy:

 $E_{\rm ord}^{L_{1_0}} = \frac{1}{2}C(1-C)\sum_{\rm R} \alpha_{\rm R}^{L_{1_0}} V_{\rm R}$

Short-range order parameter:

$$\alpha_{R}^{L_{1_{0}}} = \left(-\frac{1}{3}, 1, -\frac{1}{3}, 1, \ldots\right)$$



Ordering energy in fcc Cu₇₅Zn₂₅

Ordering energy: $E_{ord} = \frac{1}{2}C(1-C)\sum_{R} \alpha_{R} \bigvee_{R} -1.3$ -1.5GPM: Present results
FP-PAW: Full-potential, VASP $M_{U} = -1.7$ $M_{U} = -1.9$

Include up to 50 shells for coverged ordering energy, cf. short-range order in α -brass





Ordering energies in bcc CuZn

Ordering energy:

$$E_{\rm ord} = \frac{1}{2}C(1-C)\sum_{\rm R} \alpha_{\rm R} V_{\rm R}$$

SGPM result versus fullpotential calculations (Fp-PAW, VASP)

Include only up to 10 to 15 shells for coverged ordering energy



Pair potentials: Concentration dependence



Effective tetrahedron model for local lattice relaxtions

Tetrahedra of configuration:

 $\Sigma = \sigma_i + \sigma_j + \sigma_k + \sigma_l$

Volume relaxation energy:

$$\mathsf{V}^{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}_{\mathsf{elast}} = \mathsf{E}^{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}(\boldsymbol{\Omega}(\boldsymbol{\Sigma})) - \mathsf{E}^{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}(\boldsymbol{\Omega}_{\mathsf{alloy}})$$

 $\Omega_{
m alloy}$: Volume used in Monte Carlo $\Omega(\Sigma)$: Volume from spring model



Spring model of lattice relaxations

Given spring constants and distances:

Derived:

$$K_{MA} = \frac{1}{2} (K_{MM} + K_{AA})$$

$$d_{MA} = \left[\frac{1}{2} (d_{MM}^{0})^{3} + (d_{MM}^{0})^{3}\right]^{1/3} (Zen's law)$$

$$d_{AA} = d_{AA}^{0} + 2(d_{MM}^{0} - d_{AA}^{0})/(2B_{A}/B_{M} + 1)$$

$$d_{AB} = d_{AB}^{0} + 2(d_{MM}^{0} - \frac{1}{2} (d_{AA}^{0} + 2d_{AB}^{0} + d_{BB})/(B_{AB}/B_{MB} + B_{AB}/B_{MA} + 1)$$

Interatomic distances in Au₇₅Cu₂₅

ETM versus full-potential calculations(FP-PAW)

X: Full-potential (FP-PAW), SQS 32

ETM: Effective tetrahedron model

SQS: Special quasi-random structure



Relaxation energies: Impurities in Cu



Monte Carlo simulation of order-disorder transition in

β -brass







Temperature °C



15-05-02 11:23:26



03-05-02 15:31:17





Calculated Cu-Au phase diagram





Ordering in NiPt



Monte Carlo simulations for NiPt surfaces

 $T > T_{Ordering}$

Segregation reversal: Pt prefers second layer

MC: Exchange atoms between surface and bulk requires segregation energy



Monte Carlo simulations for NiPt(111)



Phase equilibria in Pt-rich Pt-Mo alloys



Effective pair interactions in PtMo



Effective multisite interactions in PtMo (in mRy)

 $Pt_{66}Mo_{33}(Pt_{81}Mo_{19})$

"n" is the number of the corresponding cluster per site;





0.28 (0.13)





-5.30(-6.01)



n=12

0.79 (0.20)



5.81 (8.86)

1.84 (1.91)

Pt₂Mo ordered phase

Space group Immm (71)

Order-disorder transition temperature : 2080 K (exp), 2200 K (theor).

 $Pt_2Mo(100)$





A (111)-type snapshot of the ground-state (T=OK) structure



$Pt_{75}Mo_{25}(100)$





A (100)-type snapshot of the ground state (T=0K) structure

Undergoes the 1st order phase transition at about 2000 K.



$Pt_{13}Mo_3(111)$



Pt₁₃Mo₃ structure

Space group: Pm-3n (223) or O_h³ Pearson symbol: cP32 *Strukturbericht designation: ??*



Primitive translations: (1,0,0)a (0,1,0)a (0,0,1)a

Basis: Pt₁ (1/4,0,0) Pt₂ (1/2,0,1/4) Pt₃ (1/4,1/4,1,4) Mo (1/2,1/4,0)

Snapshot of $Pt_{87.5}Mo_{12.5}$ at T= 0K



Phase stability in Pt-rich PtMo alloys



