Site Selection Rule 2

- Recall that for metals close-packed planes of atoms stacked on one another generate both FCC and HCP crystal structures.
- Similarly, a number of ceramic crystal structures may be considered in close-packed planes of ions as well as unit cells.
- Ordinarily, the close-packed planes are composed of the large anions, as these planes are stacked atop each other, small interstitial sites are created between them in which cations may reside:

Fig. The stacking of one close packed plane (red spheres) on top of another (blue spheres). Cations can fill tetrahedral and/or octahedral positions.

- As previously discussed in the FCC and HCP metal structures, each close packed site has one 6-coordinate octahedral site and two 4-coordinate tetrahedral sites (1 T+ site and 1 T- site):

- Likewise, in ionic structures (FCC anion lattices have ABCABC… stacking and HCP anion lattices have ABAB… stacking), each anion has two tetrahedral and one octahedral sites nearby.
Site Selection Rule 2 (continued)

- The composition of the ionic material can be determined by cation fractional occupation on these interstitial sites.
- Consider **Rocksalt** or **B1 crystal structure**, e.g. NaCl, Each Na\(^+\) has 6 Cl\(^-\) N.N. If we take a slice of the cube corner, along the \{111\} plane, the anions lie on this plane and the cations occupy the interstitial octahedral sites, since they have 6 N.N. anions.
- Furthermore, all octahedral sites are filled, since there is a single octahedral site per anion, and the ratio of anions to cations is 1:1.
- This leads to second site selection rule, which is based on **stoichiometry**, if all of one type of site is full the remainder have to go into other types of sites.
- **Example**: We know that an FCC unit cell has 4 \(O_H\) and 8 \(T_D\) sites. If for a specific ceramic each unit cell has 6 cations and the cations prefer \(O_H\) sites, then 4 will be in \(O_H\) sites and 2 will be in \(T_D\) sites.
- For NaCl, there are 4 Na\(^{1+}\) and 4Cl\(^{1-}\)/unit cell. Thus, the 4 Na cations will go in \(O_H\) sites.
- MgO and FeO also have Rocksalt structure.
- \(O^{2-}\) \quad \(r_O = 0.140\ \text{nm} \quad r_{\text{Mg}}/r_O = 0.514\)
- \(Mg^{2+}\) \quad \(r_{\text{Mg}} = 0.072\ \text{nm} \quad \therefore\) predicts that cations prefer octahedral sites
If charges on cations and anions are not the same, a compound can exist with the chemical formula $A_nB_m$, where $n$ and/or $m \neq 1$.

Example: **Fluorite or C1 crystal structure**, $AB_2$ compound, calcium fluorite ($\text{CaF}_2$) prototype.

It is important to note that the anions do not necessarily need to be in the close-packed eutactic positions. 

- $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ ions are in the CCP eutactic sites (CN=8) and $\text{F}^-$ ions fill the tetrahedral sites (CN=4).
- $\text{Ca}^{2+} (R_A=0.112\text{nm})$ and $\text{F}^- (R_B=0.131\text{nm}): \rho=0.855$

\[
0.732 < \frac{R_A}{R_B} < 4.44
\]

All of the tetrahedral sites ($T_D$) will be occupied because the ratio of $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ to $\text{F}^-$ is 1:2 and there are 2 $T_D$ sites per $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ (e.g., 4 $\text{Ca}^{2+} = 8$ $T_D$ sites).

Other examples are $\text{UO}_2$, $\text{SrCl}_2$, c-$\text{ZrO}_2$, $\text{CeO}_2$

**Antifluorite structure** – cations and anions reversed to get $A_2B$ compound, e.g. $\text{K}_2\text{O}$, $\text{Rb}_2\text{S}$, $\text{Na}_2\text{Se}$, $\text{Li}_2\text{Te}$
The corundum or $D_{5h}$ crystal structure (sapphire $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$) has HCP ($\text{ABAB..}$) planes of O$^2-$ anions. There are 30 ions per unit cell and the $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ formula requires that these 30 ions be divided into 12 Al$^{3+}$ and 18 O$^2-$ ions. Thus there are how many formula units per cell? According to ρ, Al$^{3+}$ has CN=6 (sits in octahedral site) which means O$^2-$ must have CN=4 (T$_D$). Based on previous Table, stoichiometry will not allow the cation to sit in tetrahedral site (CN=4). Also, two-thirds of the octahedral positions will be filled with Al$^{3+}$ ions, since the ratio of Al$^{3+}$ to O$^2-$ ions is 2:3 and there is one octahedral site per O$^2-$ anion.

Two close-packed O$^2-$ planes and the octahedral positions between these planes that will be filled with Al$^{3+}$ ions (top view sketched below):

Other examples: $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$, $\text{Ti}_2\text{O}_3$, $\alpha$-$\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$, $\text{Ga}_2\text{O}_3$
Bond Hybridization – significant covalent bonding

- The hybrid orbitals can have impact if significant covalent bond character present
- For example in SiC
  - $X_{Si} = 1.8$ and $X_{C} = 2.5$

$$\text{% ionic character} = 100 \{ 1 - \exp[-0.25( X_{Si} - X_{C} )^2 ] \} = 11.5\%$$

- $\sim 89\%$ covalent bonding
- Both Si and C prefer $sp^3$ hybridization
- Therefore in SiC we get tetrahedral sites, Si has CN=4.
Zincblende (sphalerite) or B3 crystal structure (O sits on FCC sites)

\[
\frac{r_{\text{Zn}^{2+}}}{r_{\text{O}^{2-}}} = \frac{0.06}{0.138} = 0.435 \Rightarrow \text{Octahedron?}
\]

- Size arguments predict Zn\(^{2+}\) in octahedron sites,
- In observed structure Zn\(^{2+}\) in tetrahedron sites

**Why is Zn\(^{2+}\) in tetrahedron sites?**
- Bonding hybridization of zinc favors tetrahedron sites

Since the ratio of Zn\(^{2+}\) to O\(^{2-}\) is 1:1 and there are two tetrahedral sites per O\(^{2-}\) ion, only one-half of the tetrahedral (T\(^{-}\) shown or T\(^{+}\)) positions will be occupied. Exs: BN, GaAs, ZnO*, ZnS, SiC *Note ZnO typically crystallizes in wurtzite or B4 crystal structure (O sits on HCP sites); we’ll return to this structure later when we discuss basis vectors.