

# **Cavities and Chemical Disorder in Chalcogenide Glasses**

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# Outline

- Introduction
- Cavities in Insulating Glasses and Ionic Diffusion/Exchange
  - Ge-S glasses
  - Diffraction studies and DFT-MD modelling
  - Definition of cavities
  - Ag tracer diffusion
  - Anderson-Stuart model for ionic transport
  - Chemical sensing and ion exchange
- Chemical Disorder in Glassy  $\text{As}_2\text{Te}_3$ 
  - Collapse of  $(\text{As}_4\text{Te}_6)_\infty$  ribbon: a possible scenario
  - Diffraction data and RMC/DFT modelling
  - Glassy  $\text{As}_2\text{Te}_3$  under high pressure
- Conclusions

# Acknowledgments

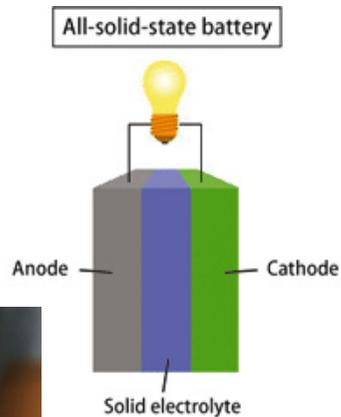
## A – J

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# Chalcogenide Glasses



Infrared Optics

Passive and active optical devices

Phase-Change Materials

DVD, Blu-Ray

All-Solid State Batteries

( $\text{Li}_2\text{S-P}_2\text{S}_5$ )

Chemical and Biosensors

# Chalcogenide vs. Oxide/Halide Glasses

Pure chalcogens are glass-formers, especially Selenium

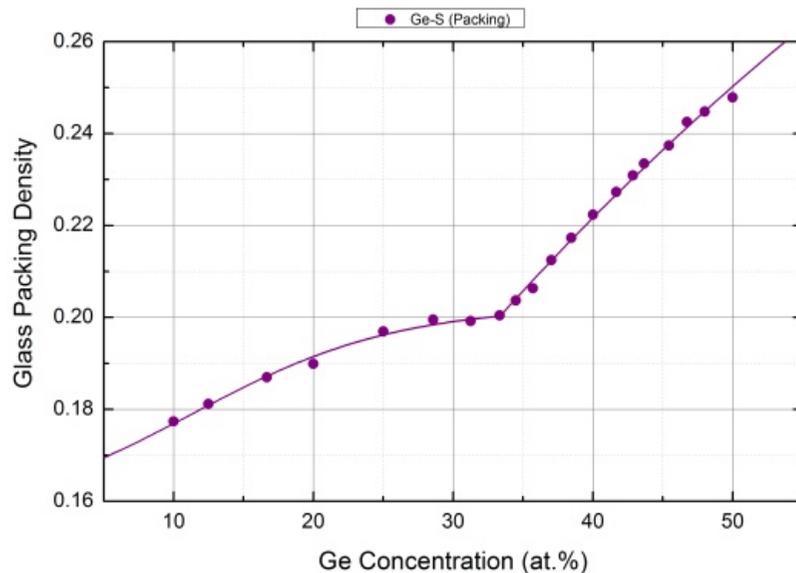
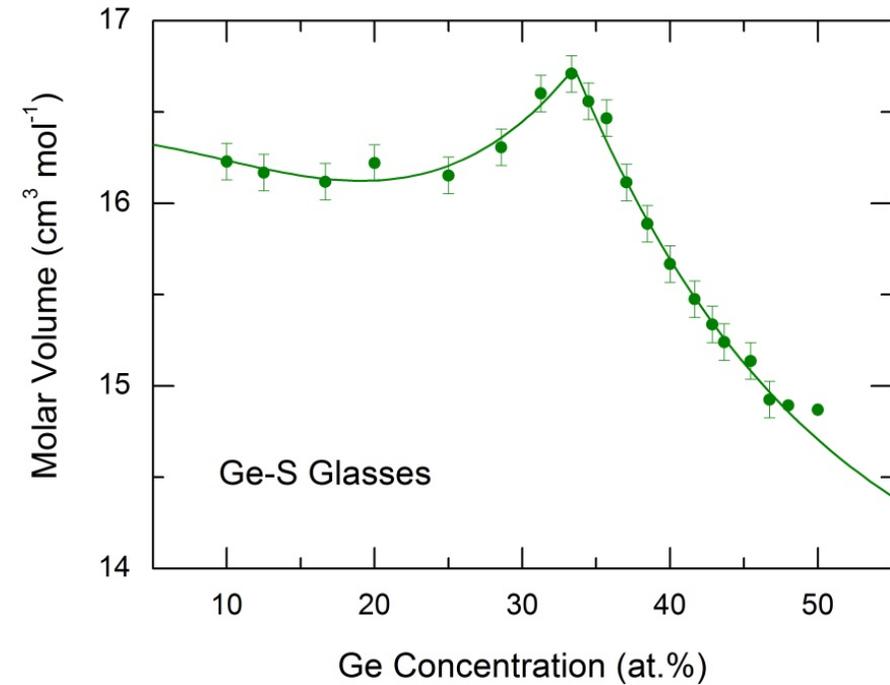
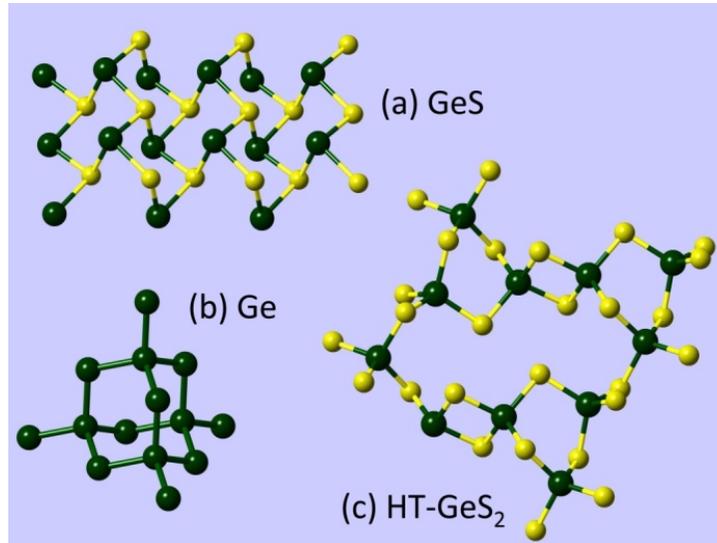
Wide glass-forming range not limited to stoichiometric compositions

Chemical disorder

Mixed chalcogen glasses

# Cavities in Insulating Glasses and Ionic Diffusion / Exchange

# Ge-Rich Sulphide Glasses: Molar Volume & Packing Density

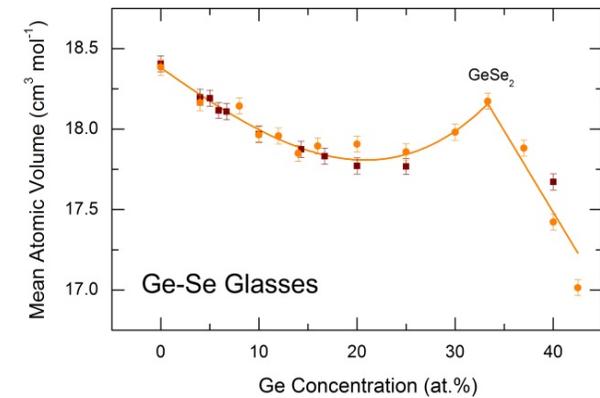


$$\rho = \frac{V_a^0}{V_a}$$

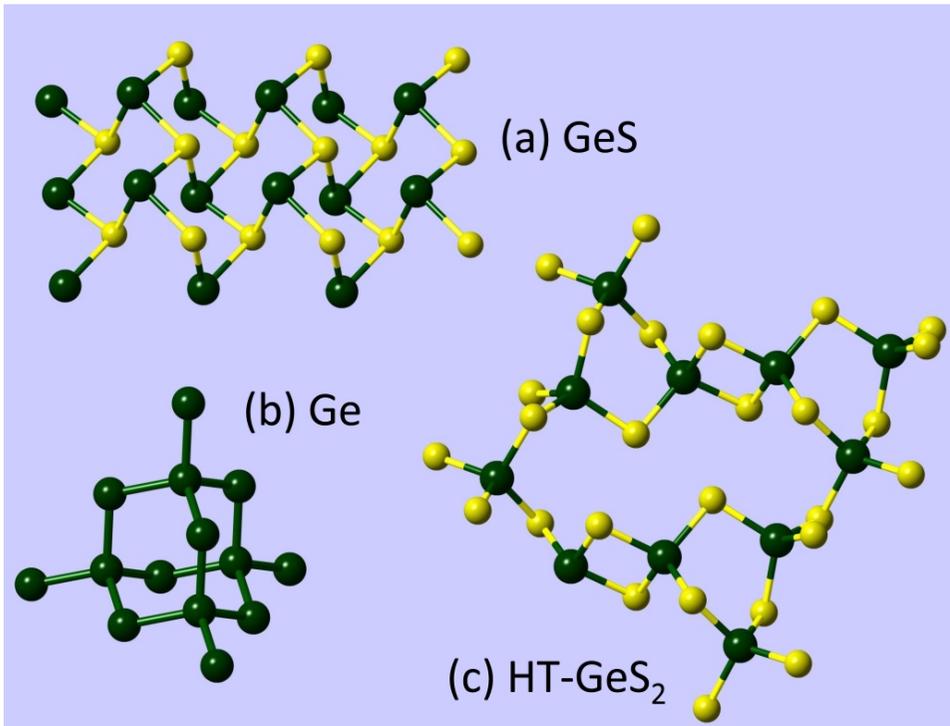
$$V_a^0 = \sum_i c_i \frac{4\pi}{3} r_i^3$$

$$V_a = \frac{\sum_i c_i M_i}{d N_A}$$

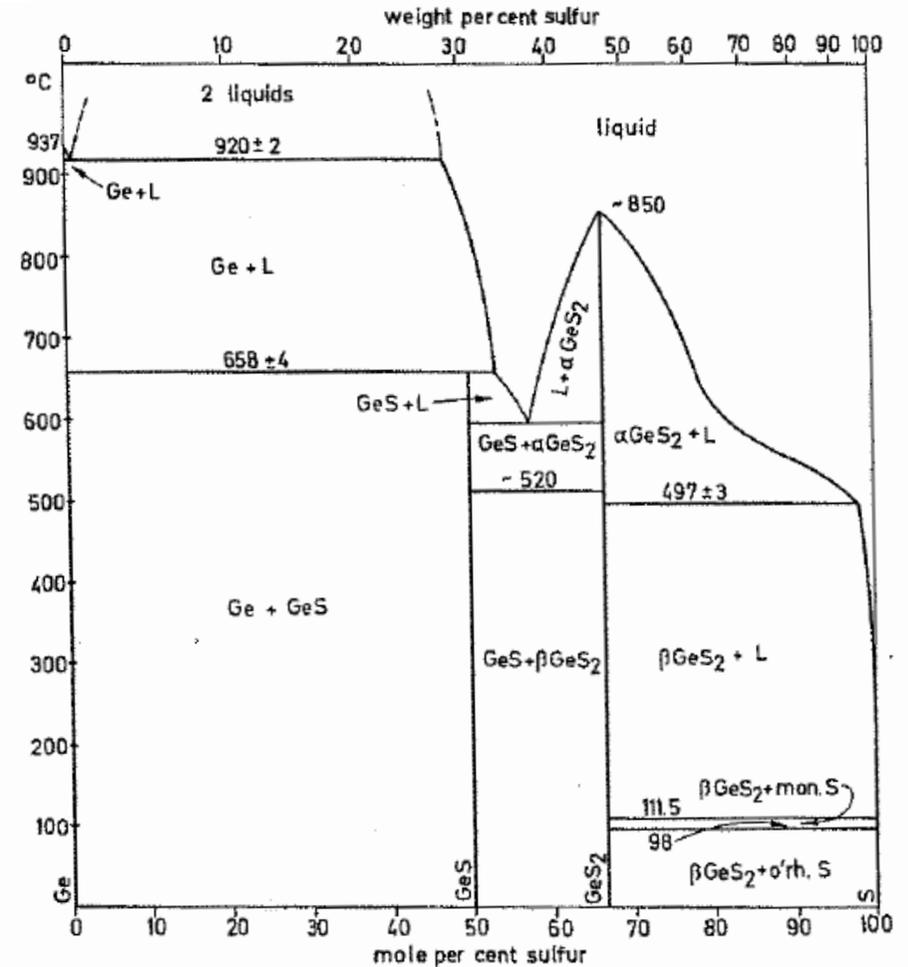
Packing density



# Ge-Rich Sulphide Glasses



(a) Orthorhombic GeS, (b) cubic Ge and (c) monoclinic HT-GeS<sub>2</sub> crystalline forms related to the structural motifs present in Ge-rich sulphide glasses.

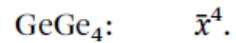
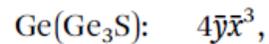
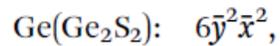
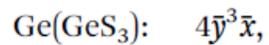


W. Viane, G. H. Moh, N. Jb. Miner. Abb. (1973)

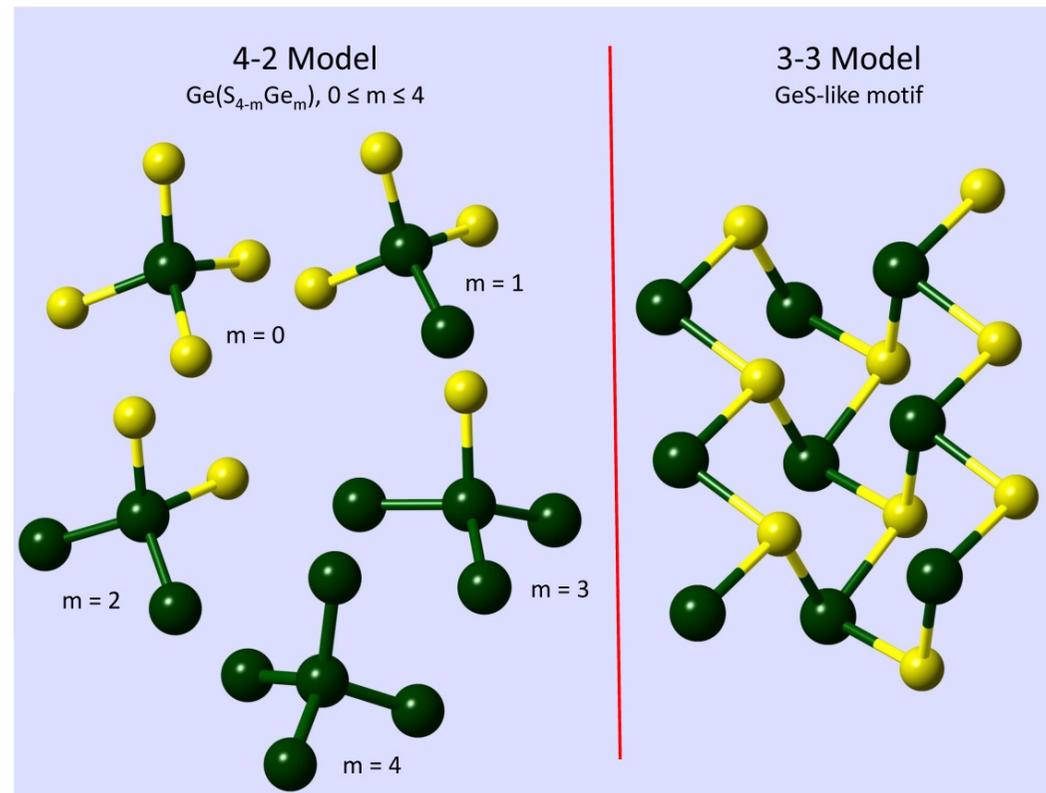
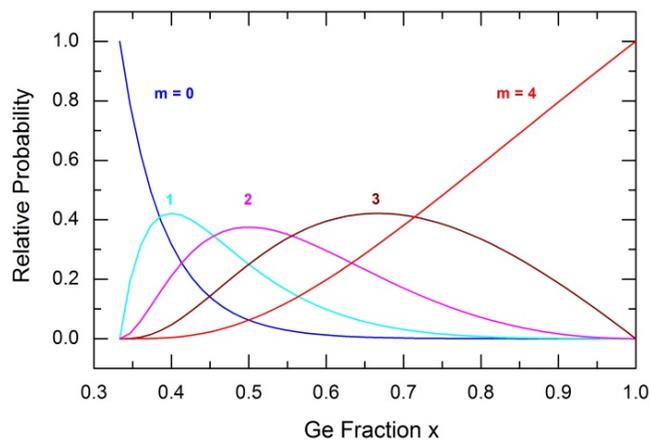
# Two Structural Hypotheses

Chemically-ordered random network  
or 4-2 model, Lucovsky et al. (1974)  
based on Philipp's model:  $\text{SiO}_x$  (1972)

Distorted NaCl or 3-3 model  
Bienenstock (1973)

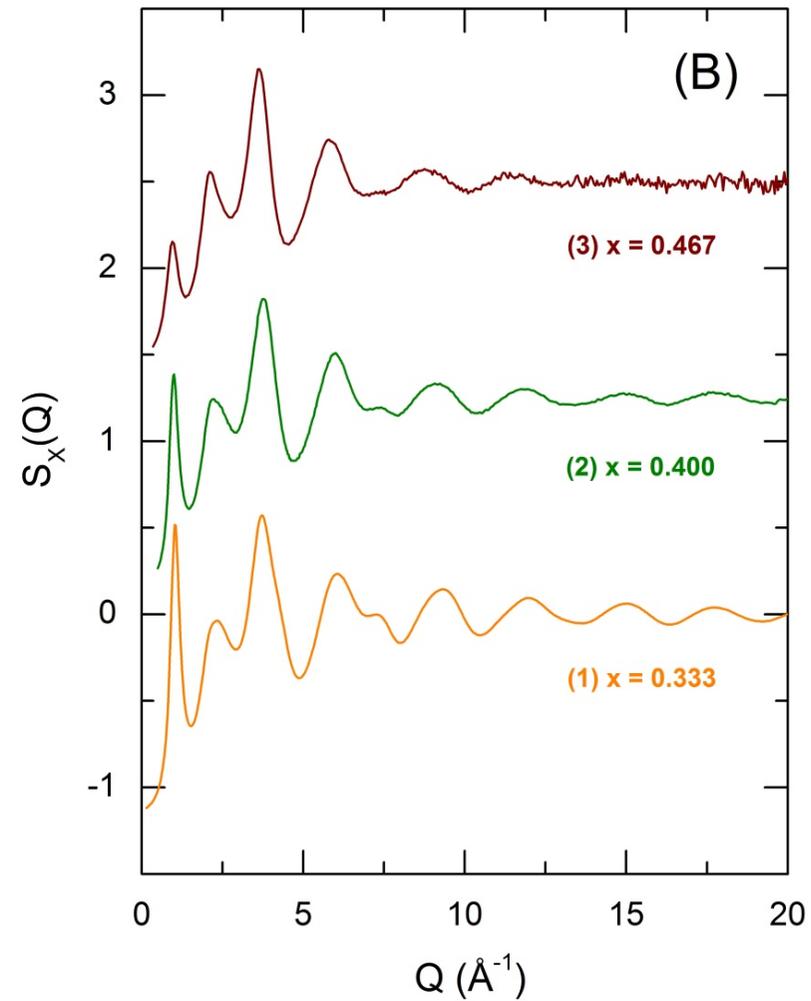
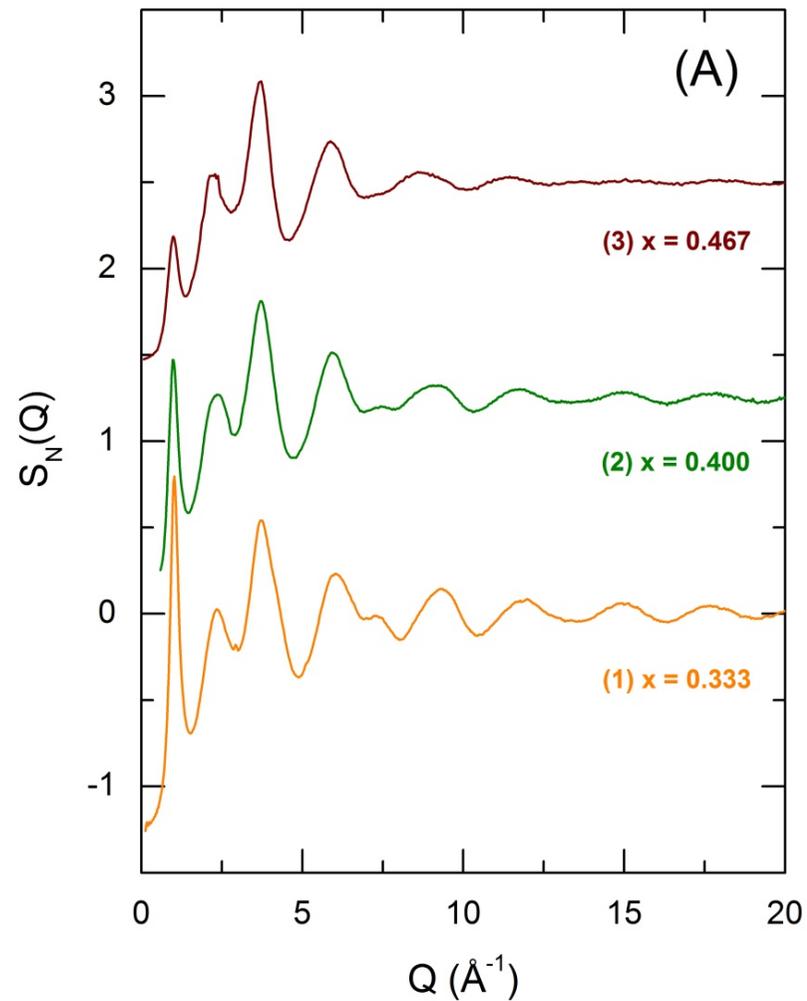


$$\bar{y} = \frac{1-x}{2x} \text{ and } \bar{x} + \bar{y} = 1$$

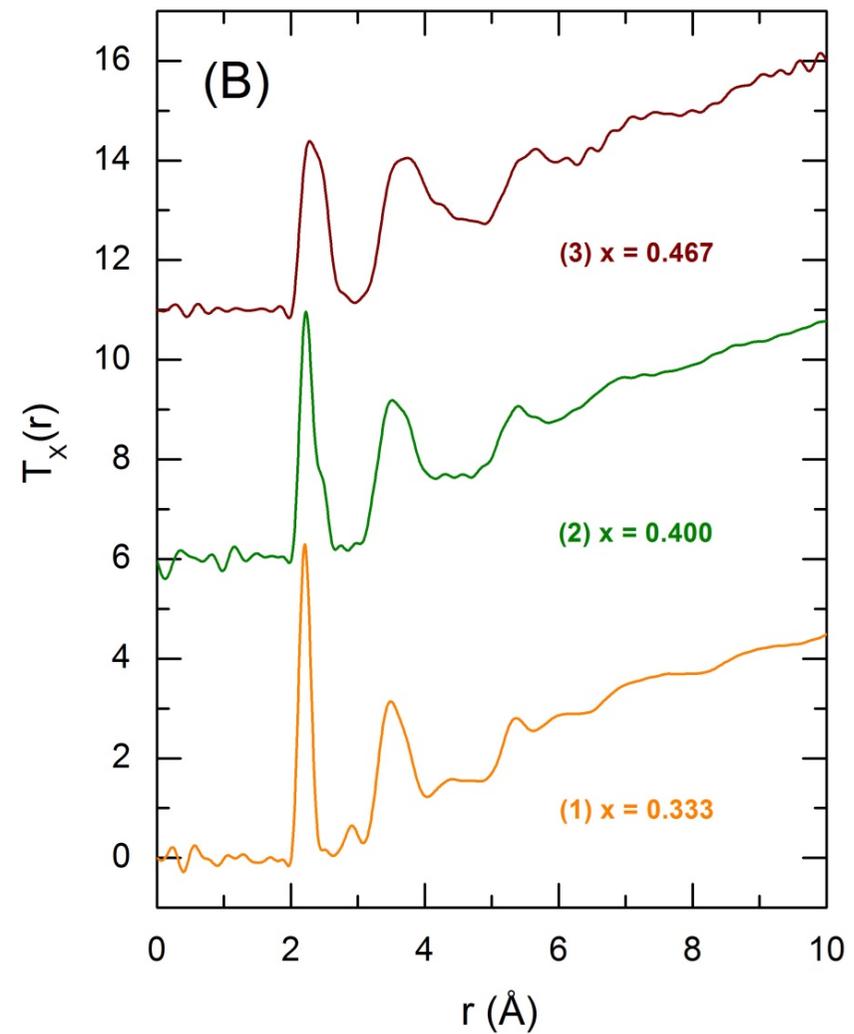
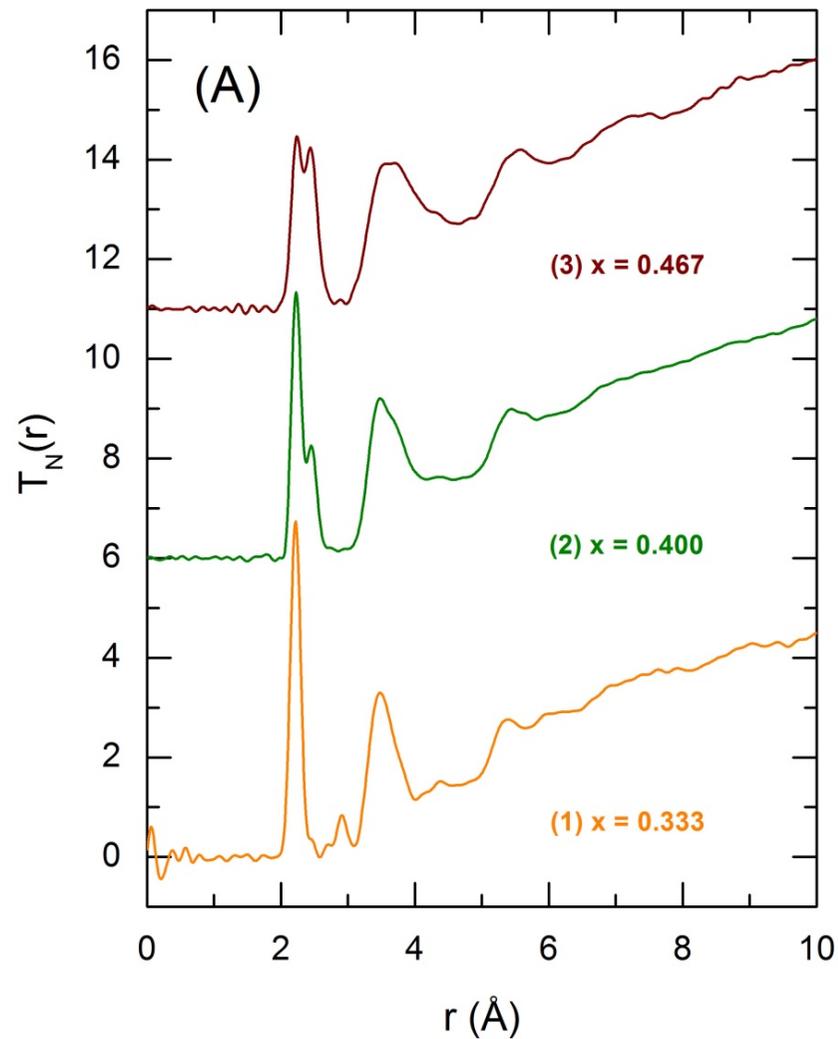


No compelling evidence in the last 40  
years, rather contradictory reports

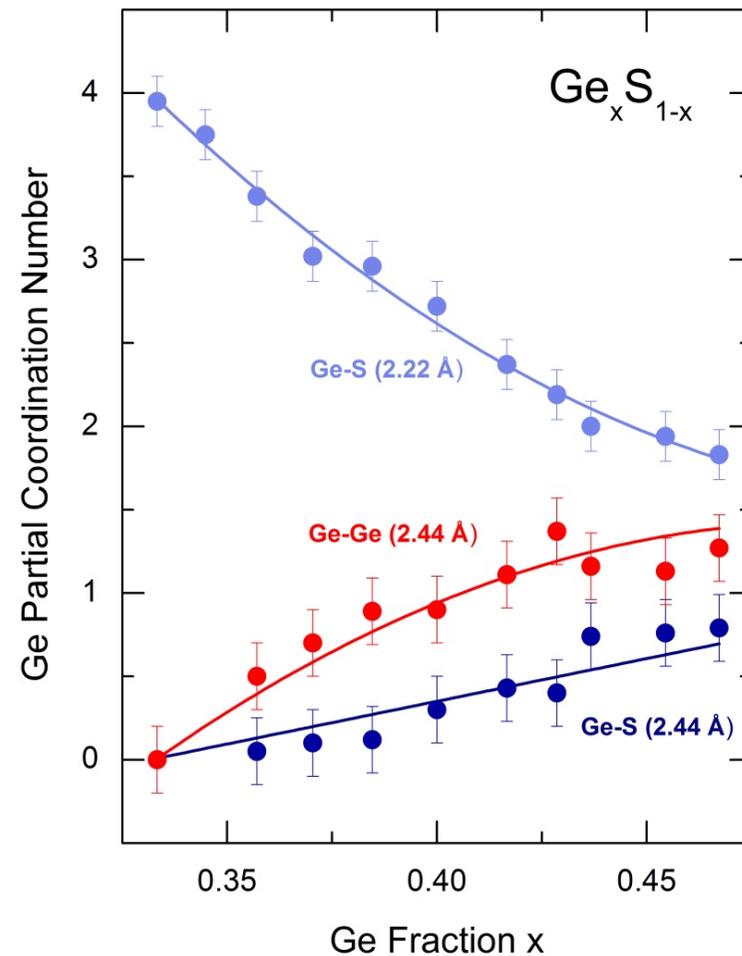
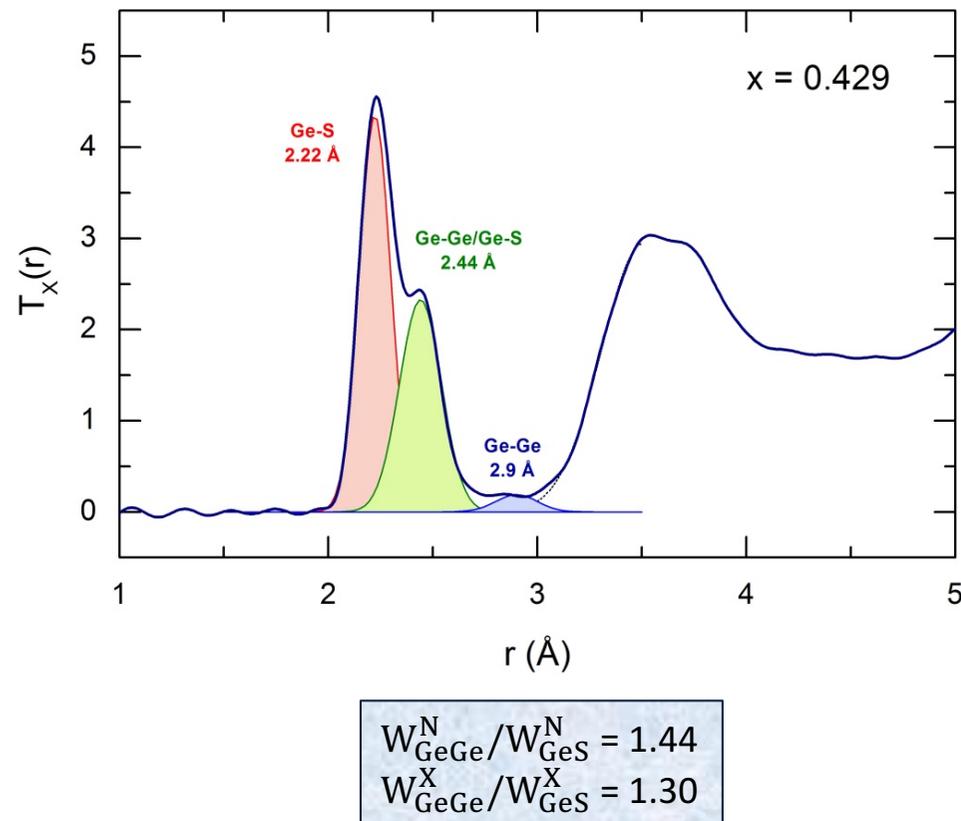
# Pulsed Neutron and High-Energy X-Ray Diffraction of Ge-Rich Glasses (Q-Space)



# Pulsed Neutron and High-Energy X-Ray Diffraction of Ge-Rich Glasses (r-Space)

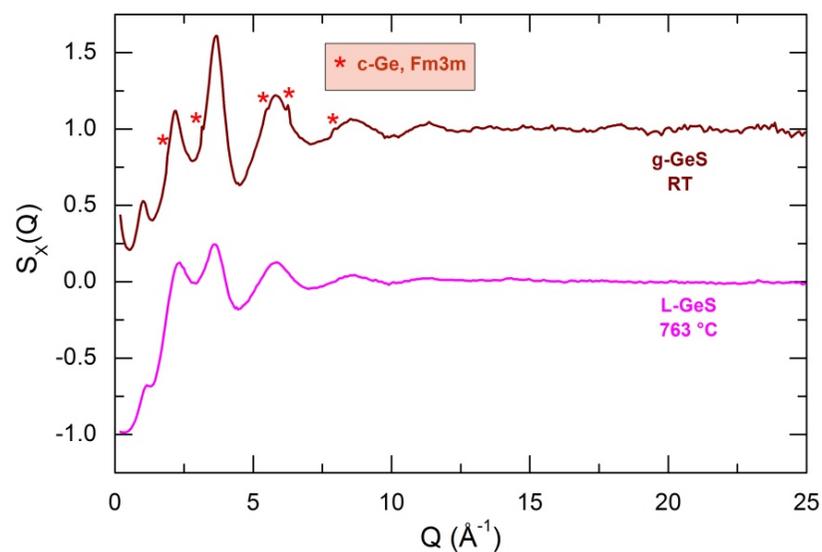
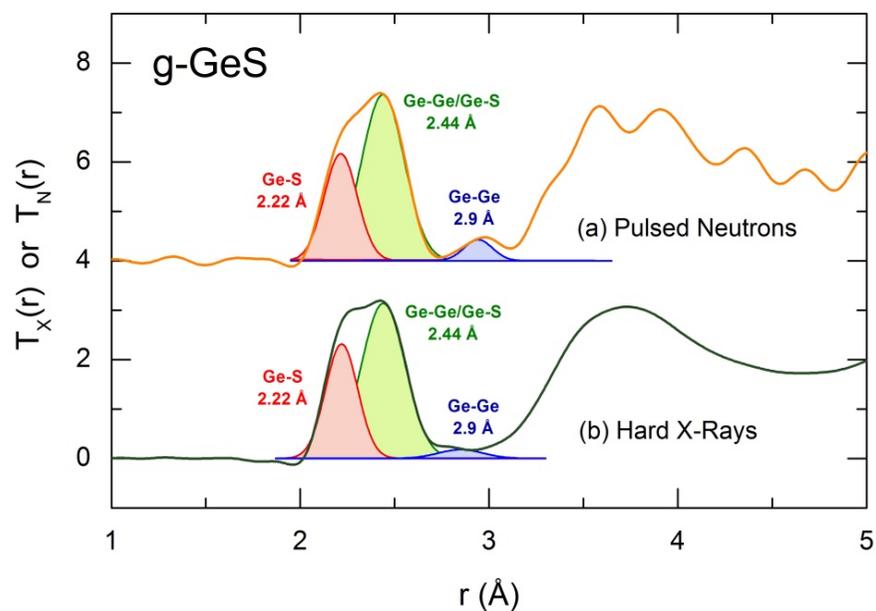
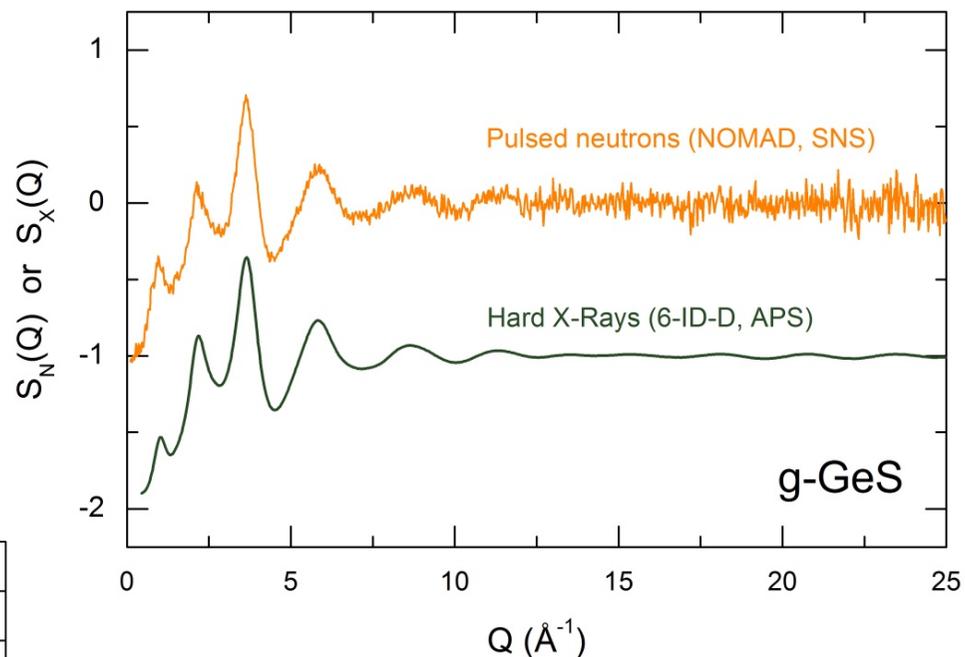


# Pulsed Neutron and High-Energy X-Ray Diffraction of Ge-Rich Glasses (Fitting)



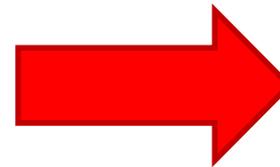
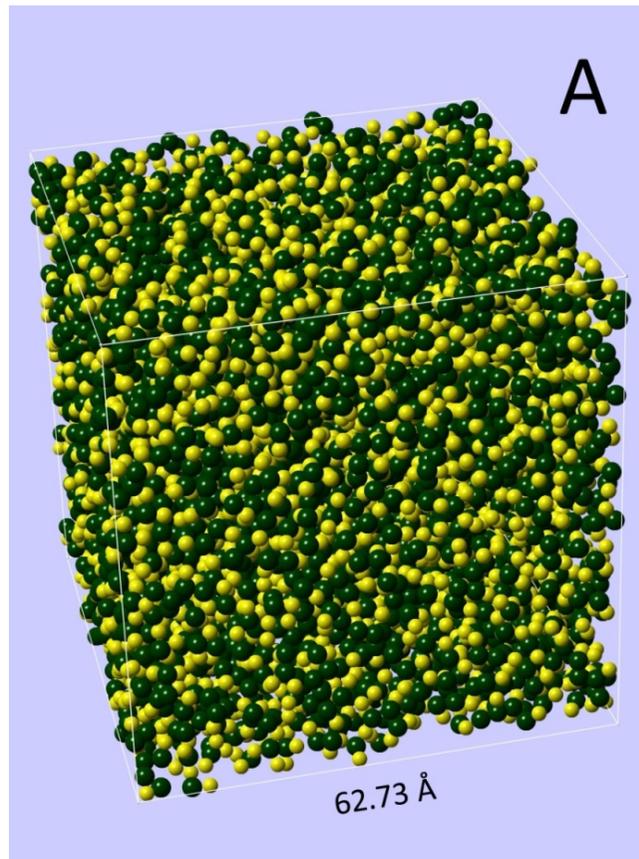
$N_{\text{Ge-X}} = N_{\text{Ge-S}} + N_{\text{Ge-Ge}} \approx 4$  ( $0.33 \leq x \leq 0.46$ )  
 What happens in glassy GeS?

# Glassy GeS: Neutron Diffraction on a 2.6 mg Sample



$N_{\text{Ge-X}} = N_{\text{Ge-S}} + N_{\text{Ge-Ge}} \approx 3.6 !!!$

# Ge-Rich Sulphide Glasses: RMC, DFT, DFT-MD



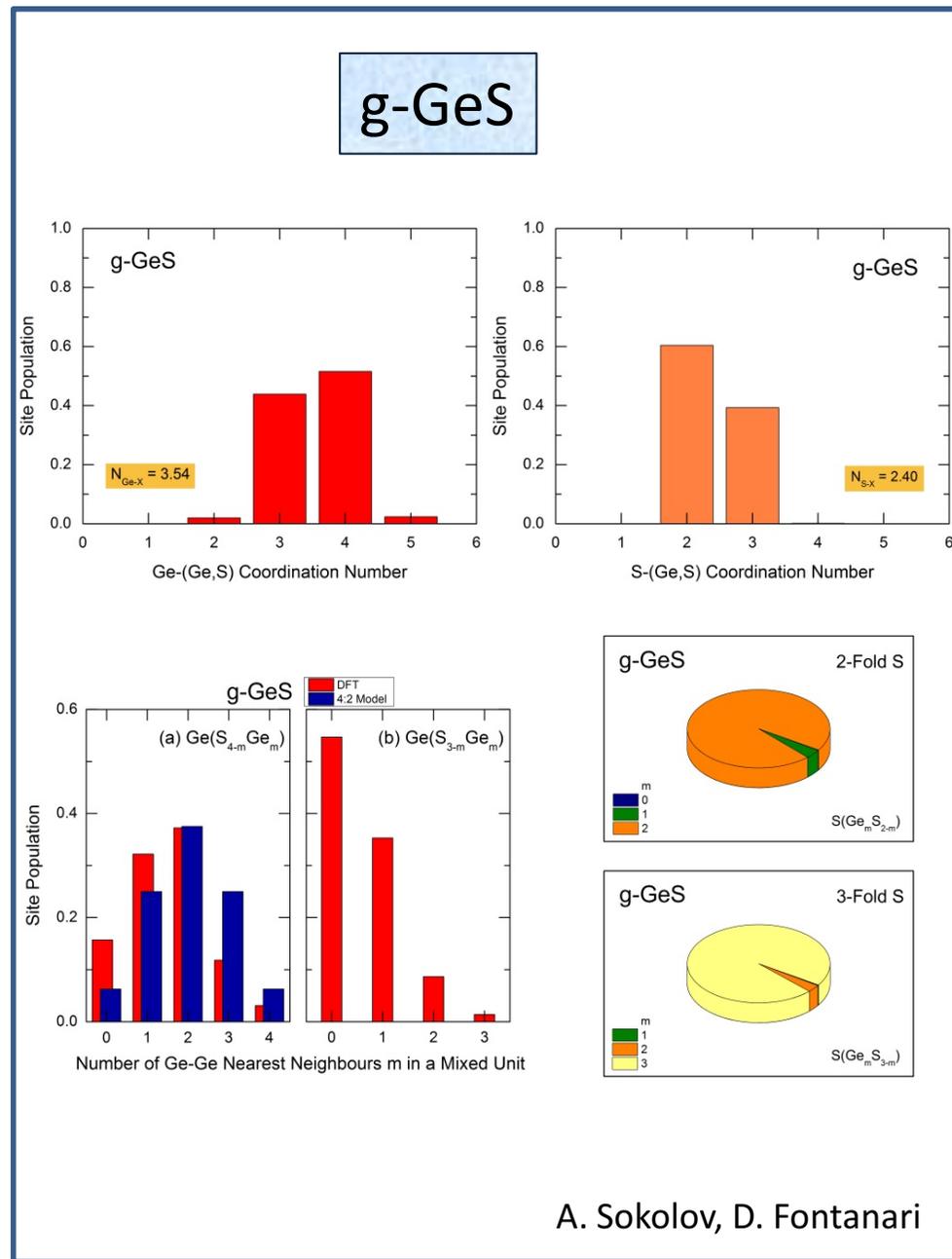
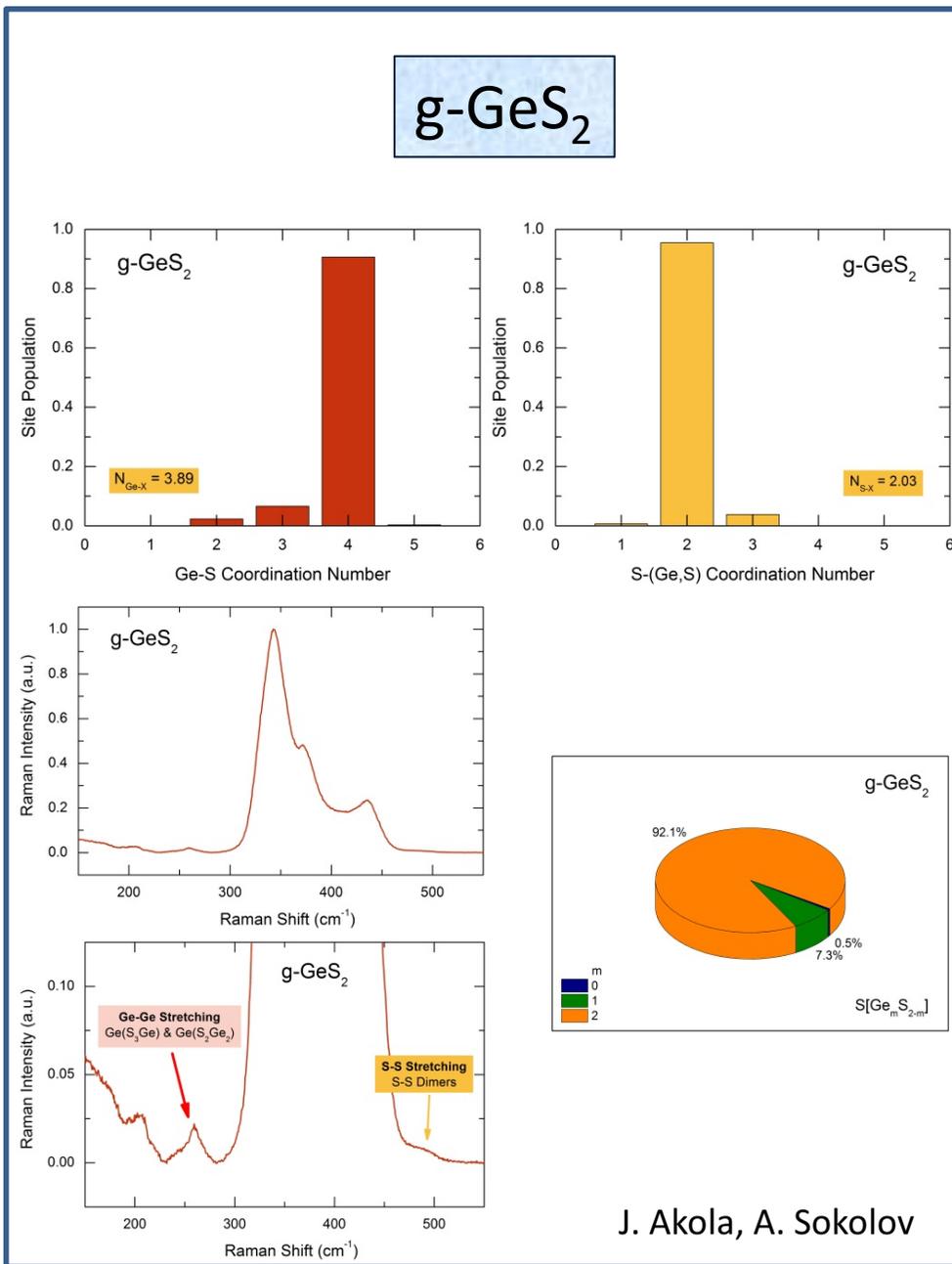
Partial Functions  
 Coordination  
 Local Environment  
 Angles  
 Connectivity/Chains  
 Rings  
 Characteristic Motifs  
 Voids/Cavities

RMC → initial cfg for DFT → DFT-MD  
 DFT/DFT-MD Angles → optimised RMC

RMC: 5k – 10k atoms  
 DFT: 1000 – 2500 atoms  
 DFT-MD: ≤ 1000 atoms

	RMC	DFT	DFT-MD
Energy	0	-(1 to 3) eV/atom	-0.3 eV/atom
Average displacement	0	1.0-1.5 Å	
Electronic structure	Metal	Semiconductor	

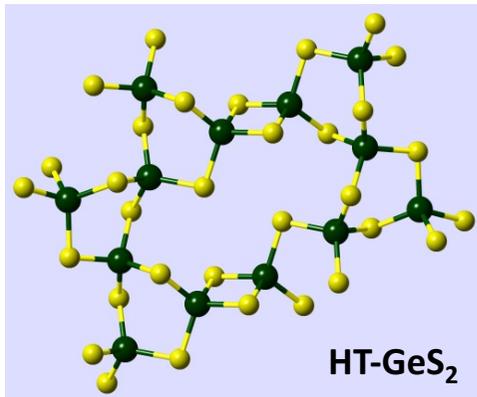
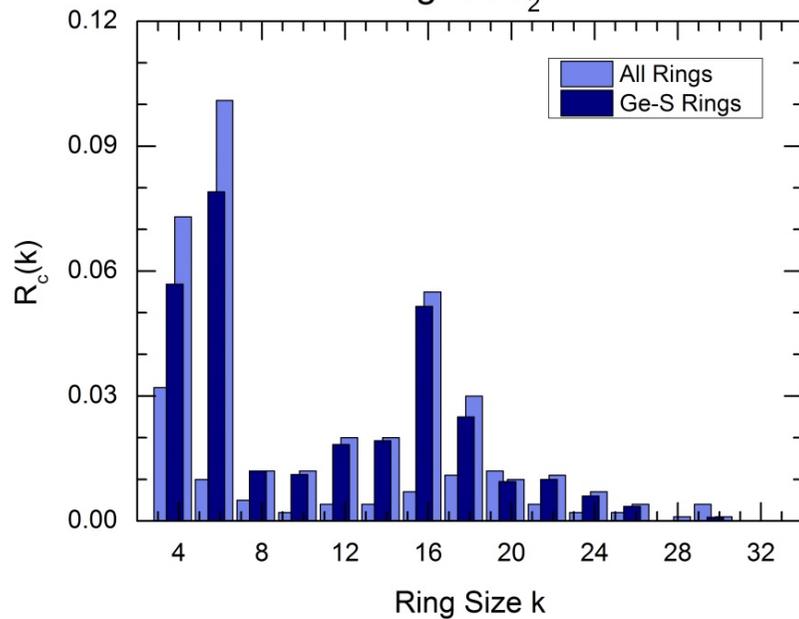
# Ge-Rich Sulphide Glasses: Some DFT/DFT-MD Results



# Ge-Rich Sulphide Glasses: Rings

**g-GeS<sub>2</sub>**

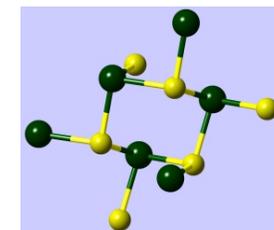
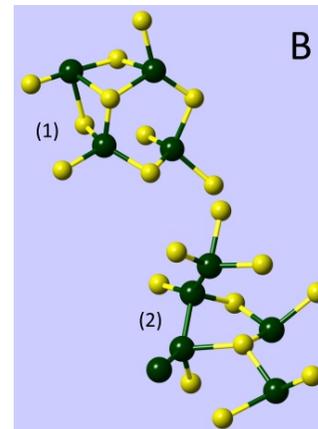
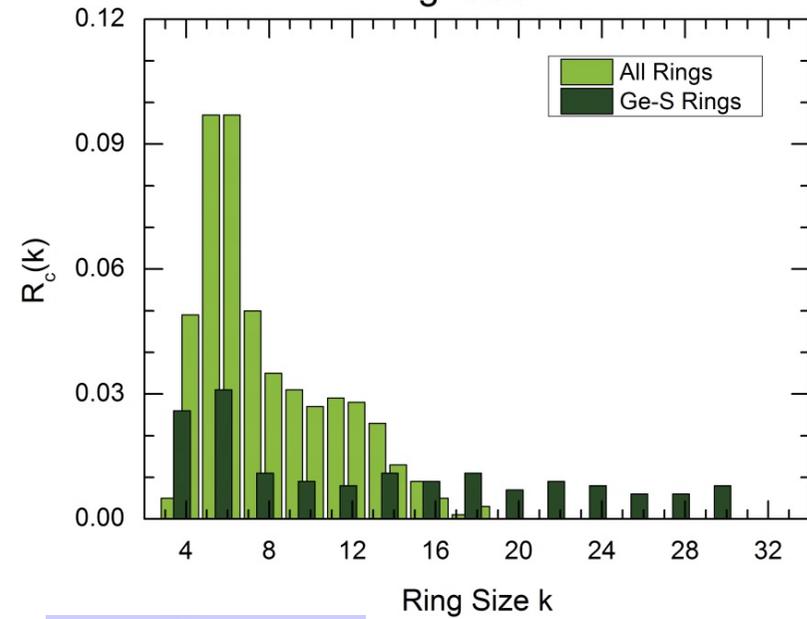
g-GeS<sub>2</sub>



J. Akola, A. Sokolov

**g-GeS**

g-GeS

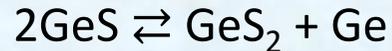


A. Sokolov, D. Fontanari

# Conclusion 1

## Ge-Rich Sulphide Glasses

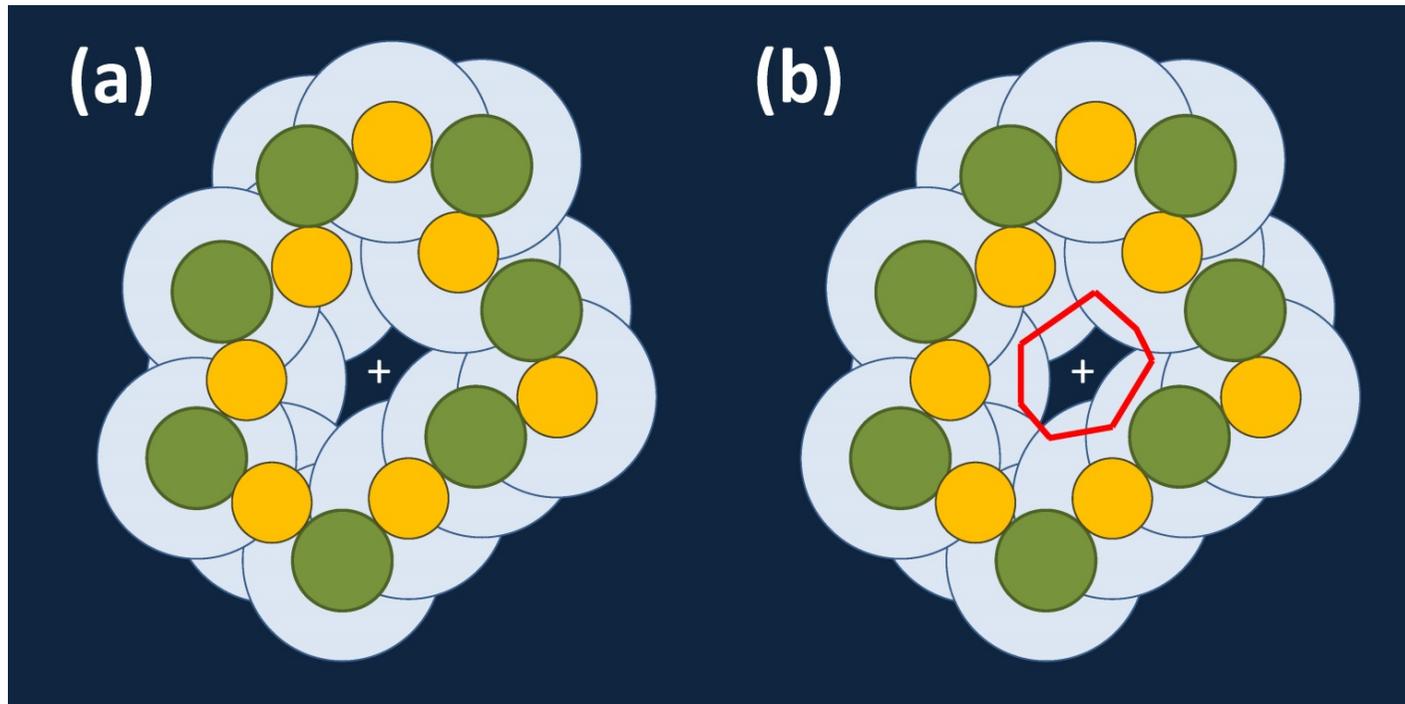
Neither the 4:2 nor the 3:3 model alone can explain the structural features of Ge-rich sulphide glasses. The complicated structure of these glasses is related to incongruent melting of GeS roughly presented by the following reaction:



Quenching the melt into a glass gives first a variety of mixed tetrahedra  $\text{Ge}(\text{S}_{4-m}\text{Ge}_m)$ , then (below 658 °C) a variety of mixed trigonal units  $\text{Ge}(\text{S}_{3-m}\text{Ge}_m)$ .

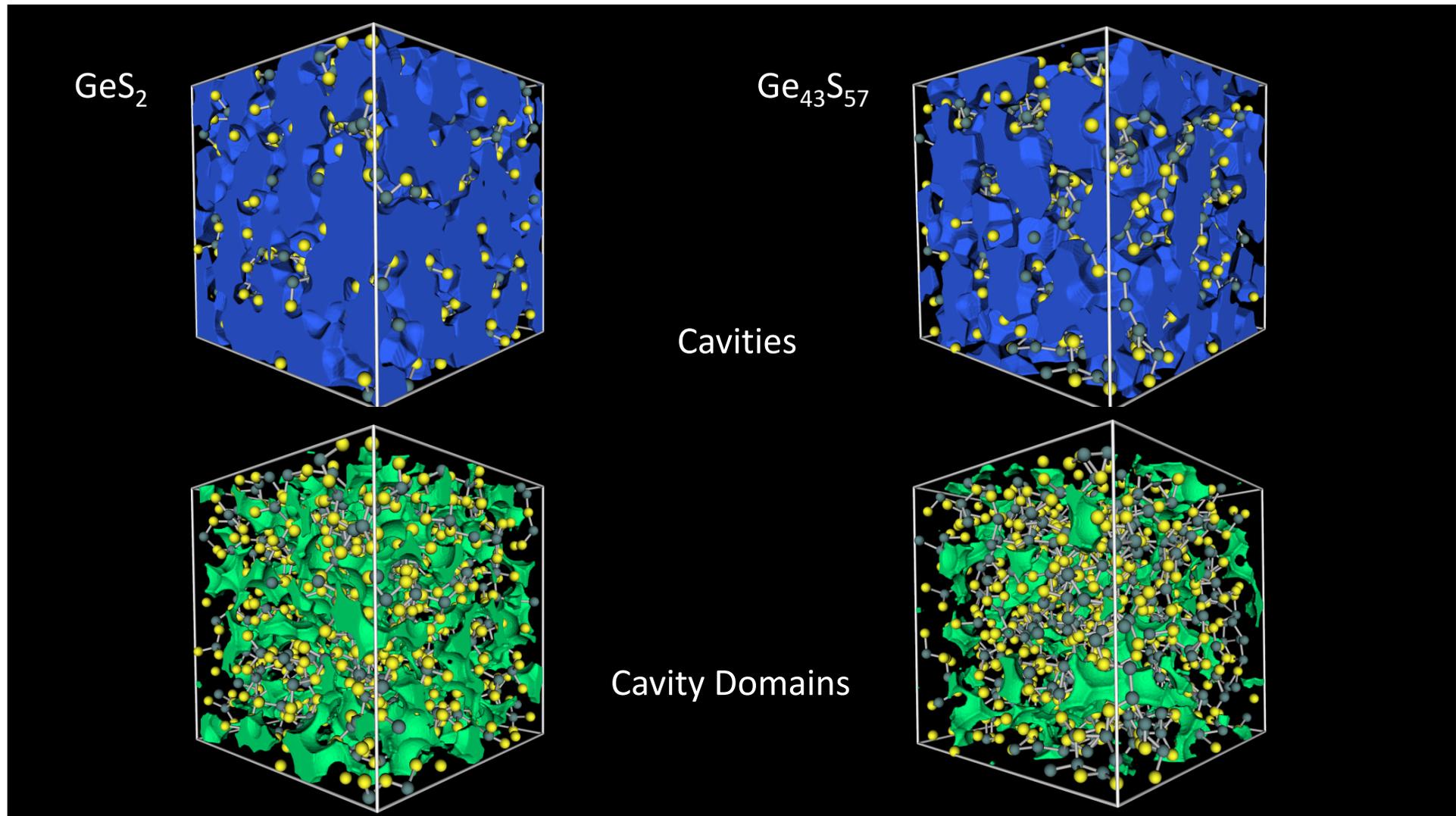
# Calculating Cavities

Jaakko Akola & Robert Jones



Schematic representation of cavities in Ge-S glasses: the covalent radius of Ge (green) is set to  $1.25 \text{ \AA}$ , that of S (yellow) to  $1.0 \text{ \AA}$ . The cutoff radius  $r_c$  (light blue) is  $2.5 \text{ \AA}$ . (a) A cavity domain with its center; (b) a Voronoi polygon (red) built using the cavity domain center.

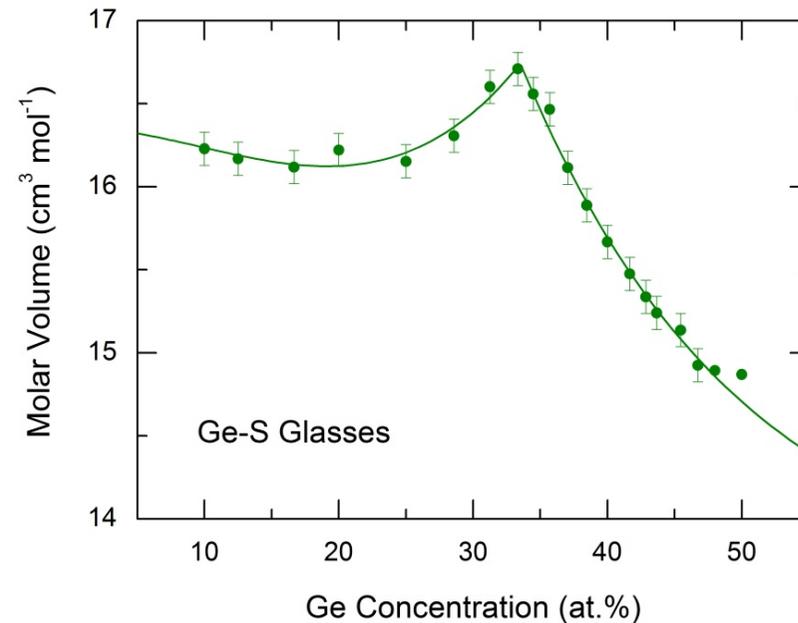
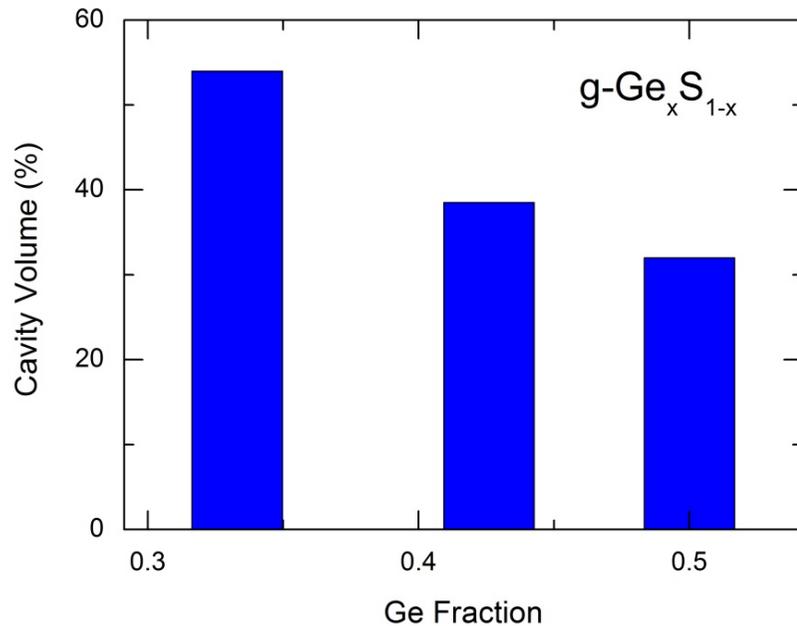
# RMC, DFT-MD Modelling of $\text{GeS}_2$ and $\text{Ge}_{43}\text{S}_{57}$ Glasses and Cavity Calculations



$\text{GeS}_2$ ,  $r_C = 2.5 \text{ \AA}$ , **53-55 %** cavities

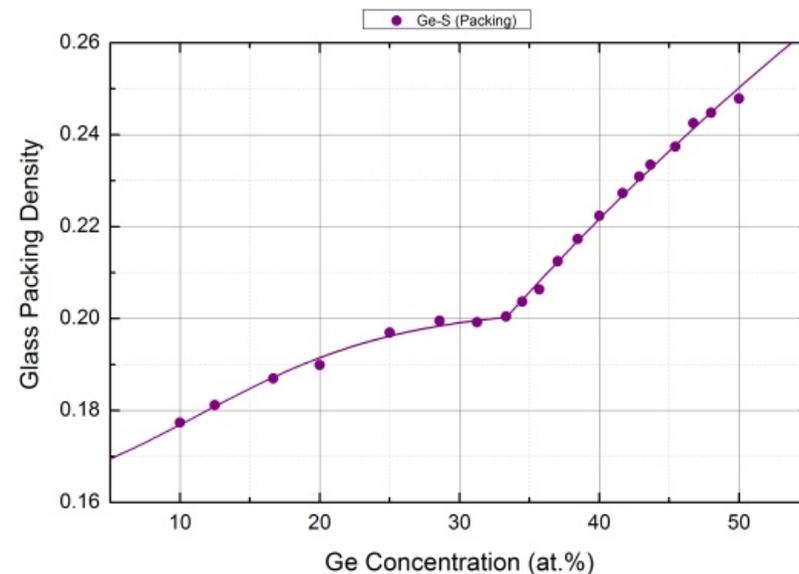
$\text{Ge}_{43}\text{S}_{57}$ ,  $r_C = 2.5 \text{ \AA}$ , **36-41 %** cavities

# Ge-Rich Sulphide Glasses: Cavities vs. Molar Volume and Packing Density

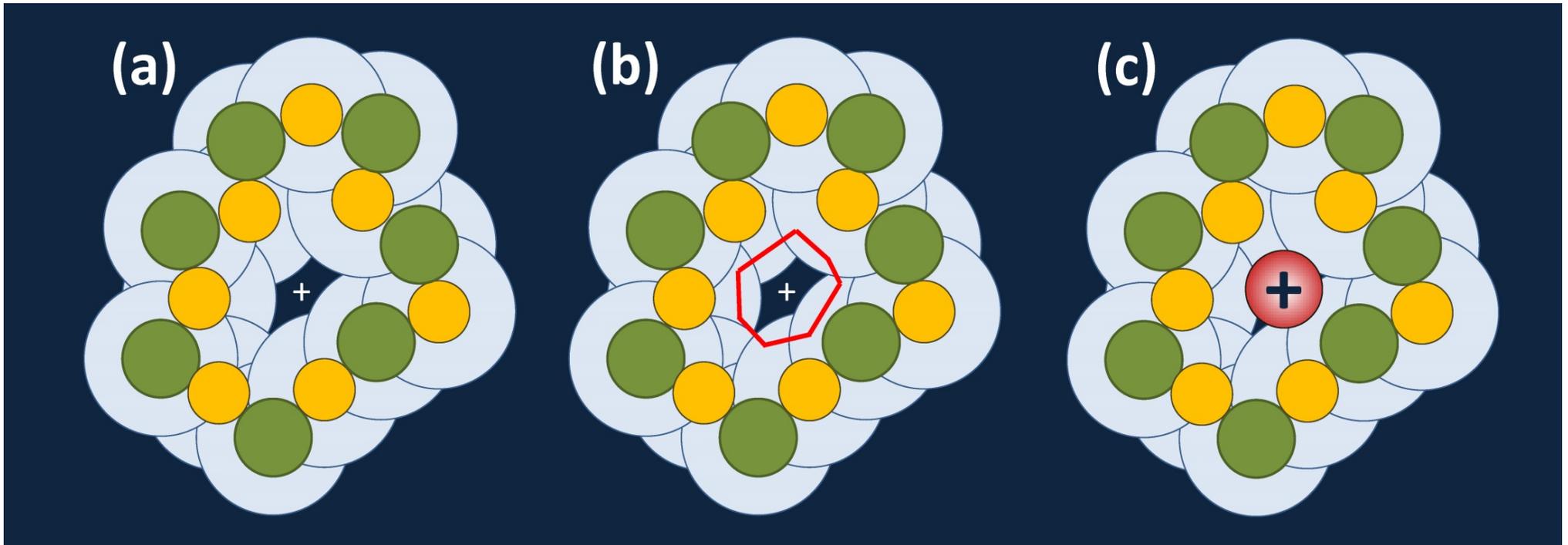


$$\frac{V_{\text{cav}}(\text{GeS}_2)}{V_{\text{cav}}(\text{GeS})} = 1.69$$

How could we check this trend and the existence of cavities?

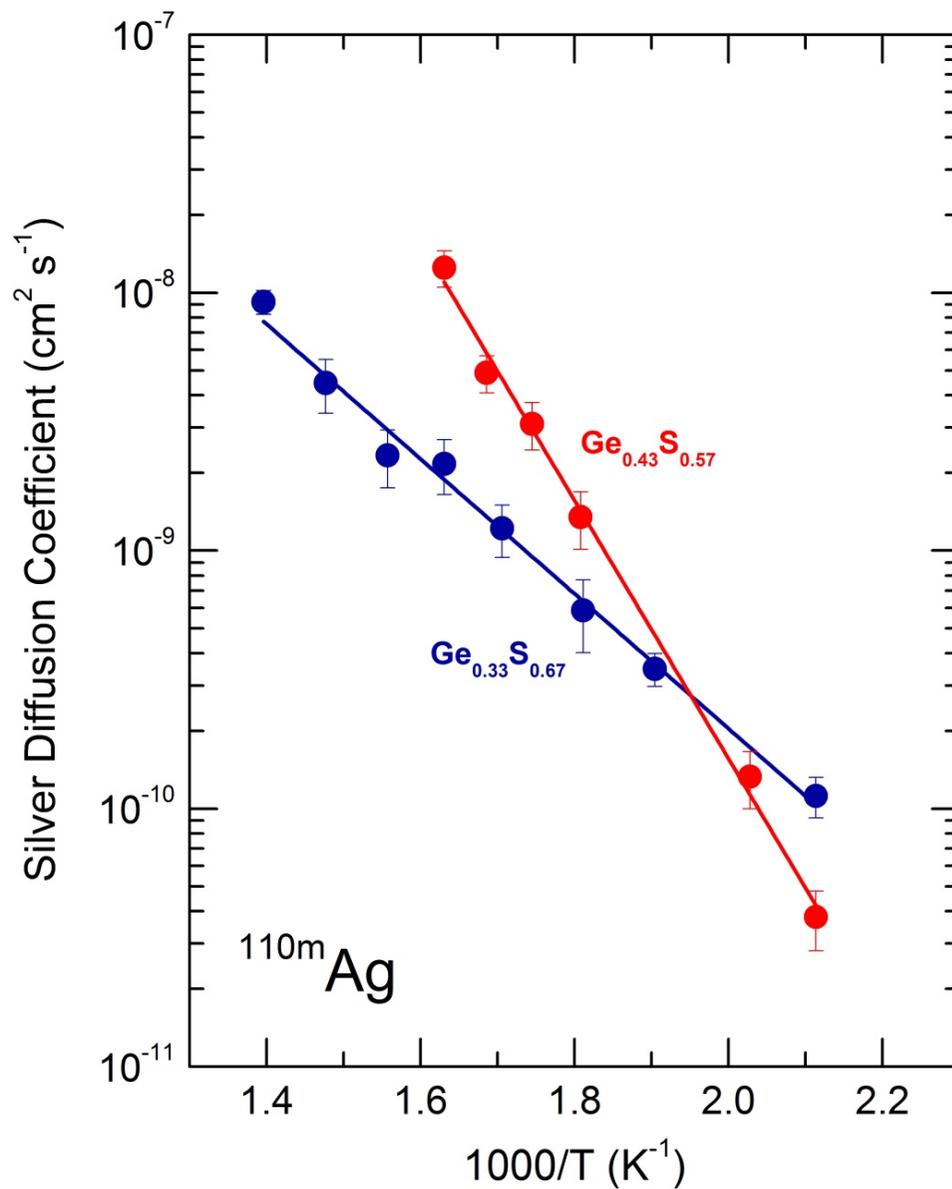


# Cavity Domains as Residence Sites for Mobile Ions



Schematic representation of cavities in Ge-S glasses: the covalent radius of Ge (green) is set to 1.25 Å, that of S (yellow) to 1.0 Å. The cutoff radius  $r_c$  (light blue) is 2.5 Å and the Ag<sup>+</sup> ionic radius 1.26 Å. (a) A cavity domain with its center; (b) a Voronoi polygon (red) built using the cavity domain center; (c) an Ag<sup>+</sup> ion residing in a cavity formed around the cavity domain center.

# $^{110m}\text{Ag}$ Tracer Diffusion Ge-Rich Sulphide Glasses



Diffusion Activation Energy	
$\text{GeS}_2$	0.52(2) eV
$\text{Ge}_{43}\text{S}_{57}$	0.99(3) eV

# Anderson-Stuart Model (1954)

$$E_d = E_b + E_s, \quad (1)$$

where

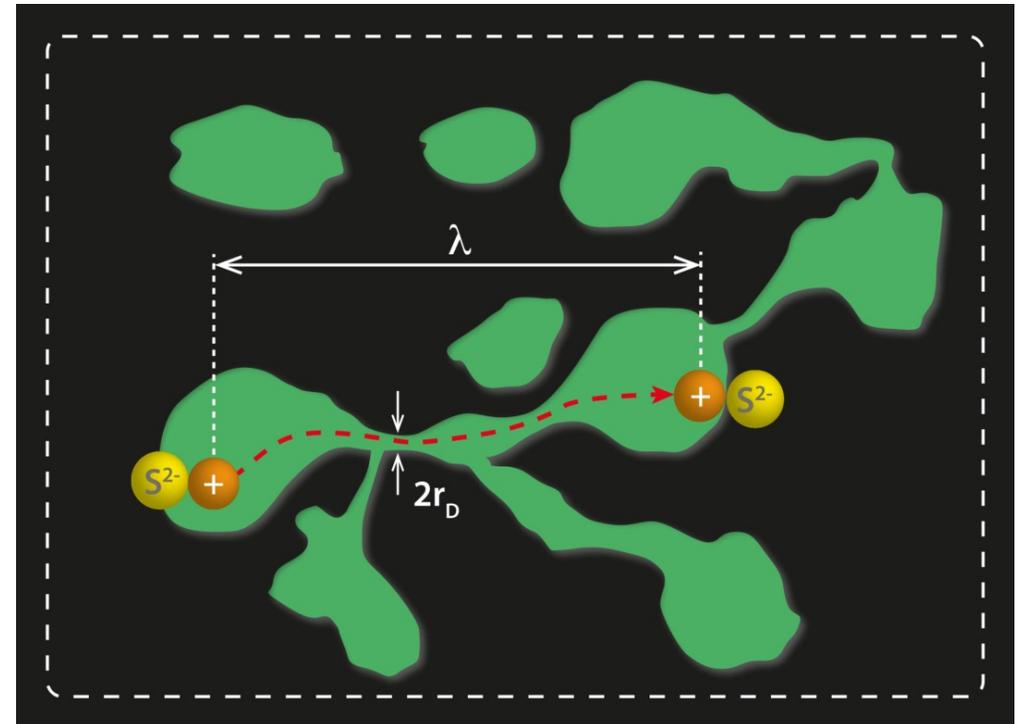
$$E_b = \frac{z_i z_0 e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0\epsilon_r} \left( \frac{1}{r_i + r_0} - \frac{2}{\lambda} \right), \quad (2)$$

and

$$E_s = \frac{1}{2} \pi G \lambda (r_i - r_D)^2, \quad (3)$$

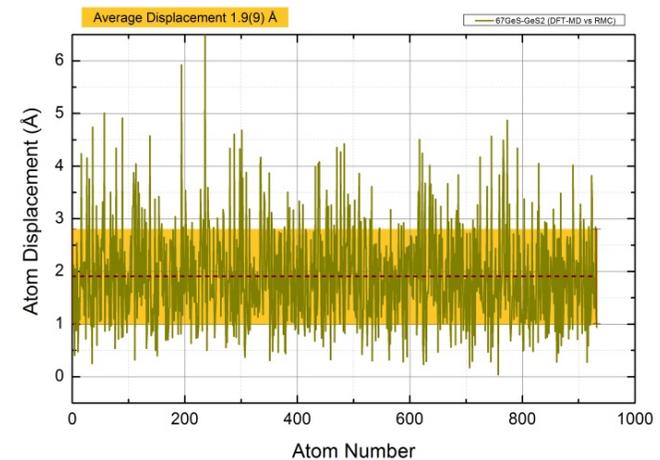
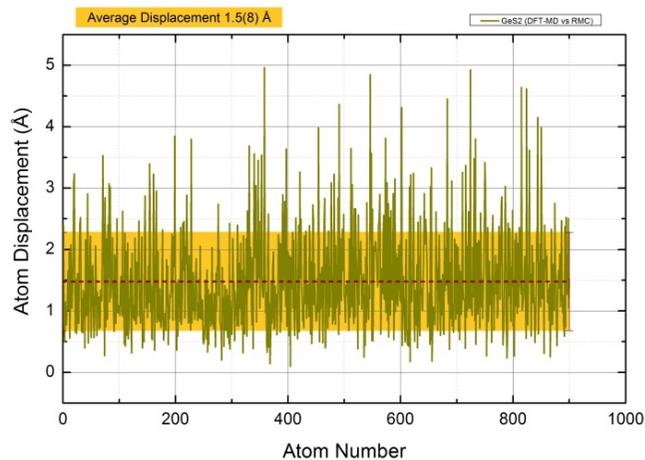
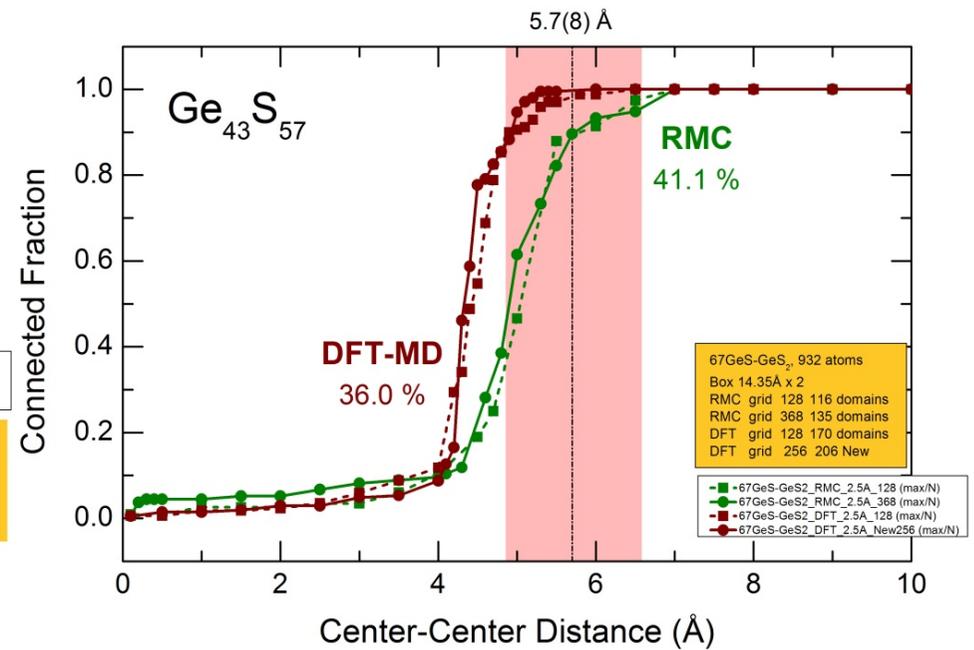
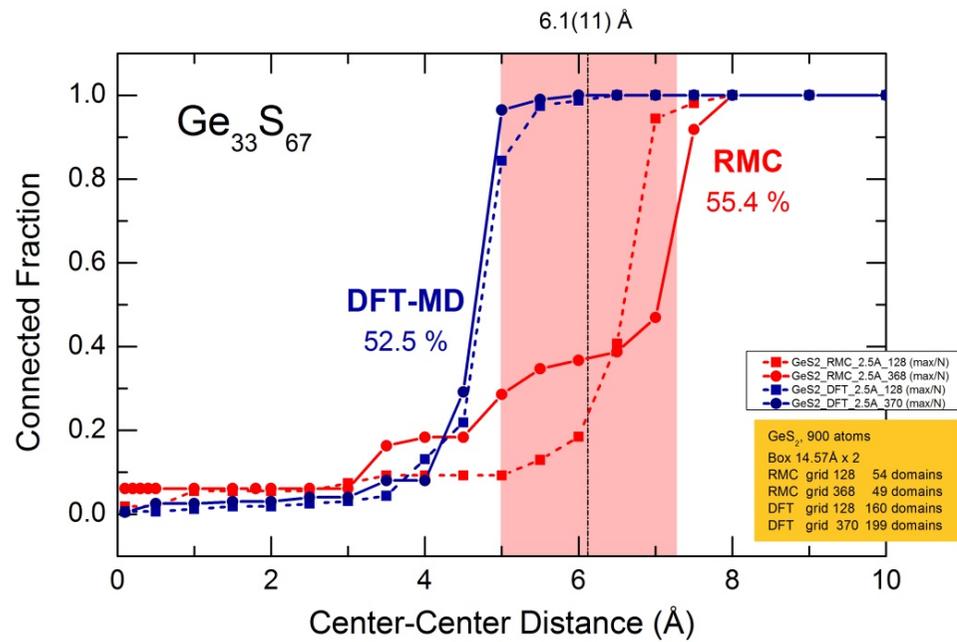
$z_i, z_0, r_i, r_0$  are the charge and the radii of the mobile cation and non-bridging anion, respectively,  $G$  is the shear modulus,  $\lambda$  is the site (cavity) separation distance,  $r_D$  is a doorway radius.

The elastic energy term  $E_s$ , eq. (3), was modified by McElfresh and Howitt in 1986.

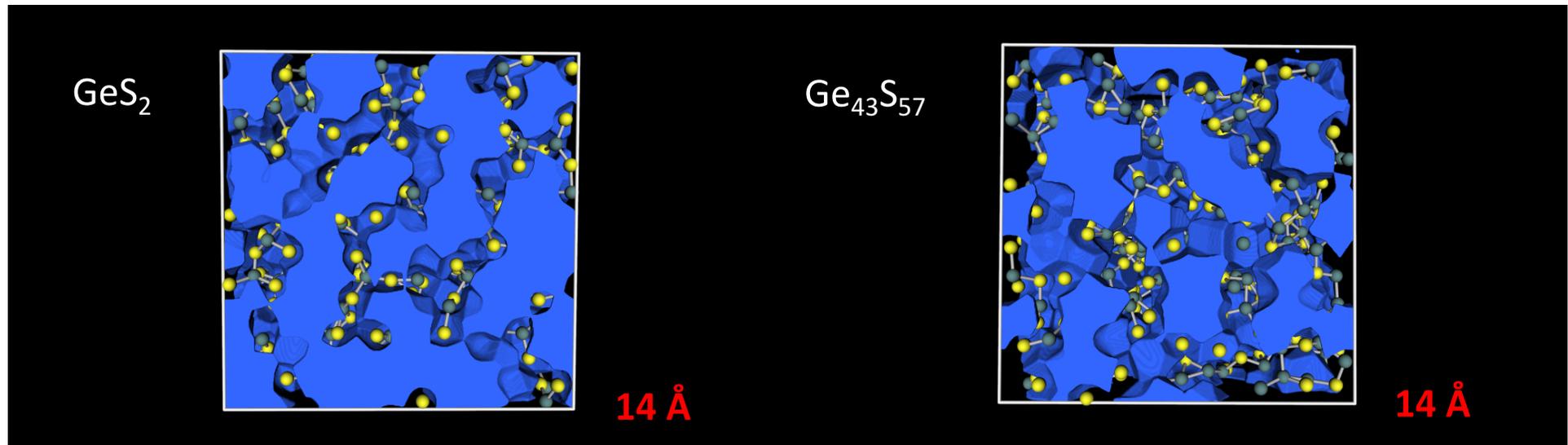


# Percolating Cavity Through Cavity Domains

## Looking for $\lambda$

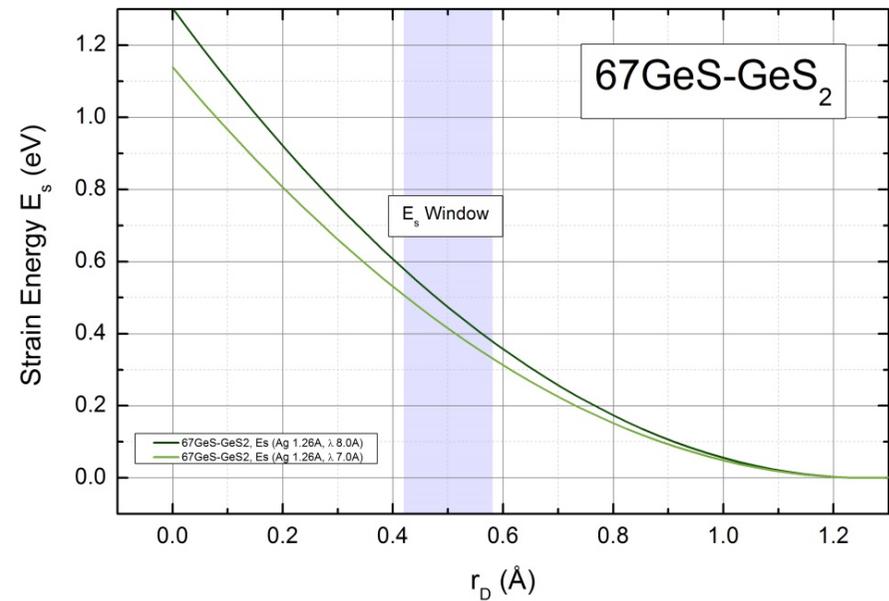
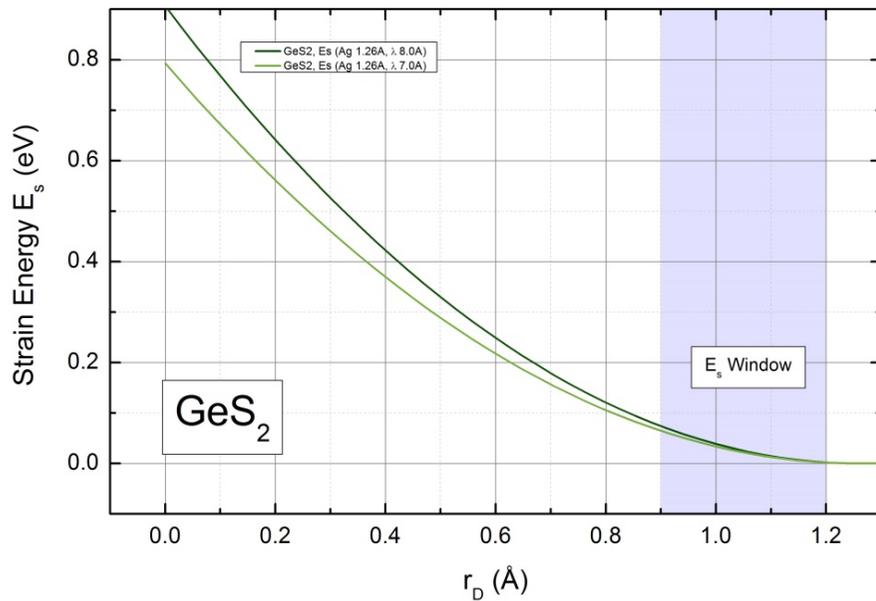
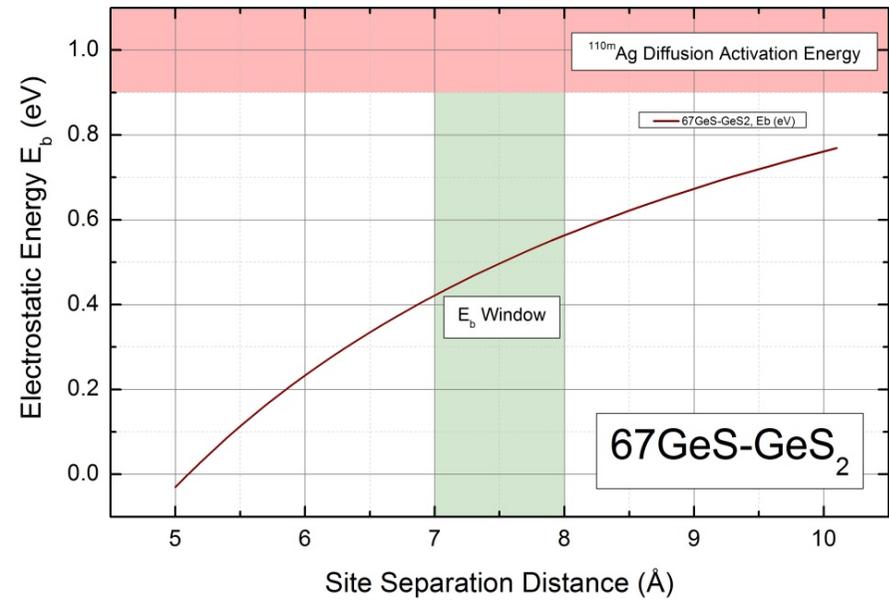
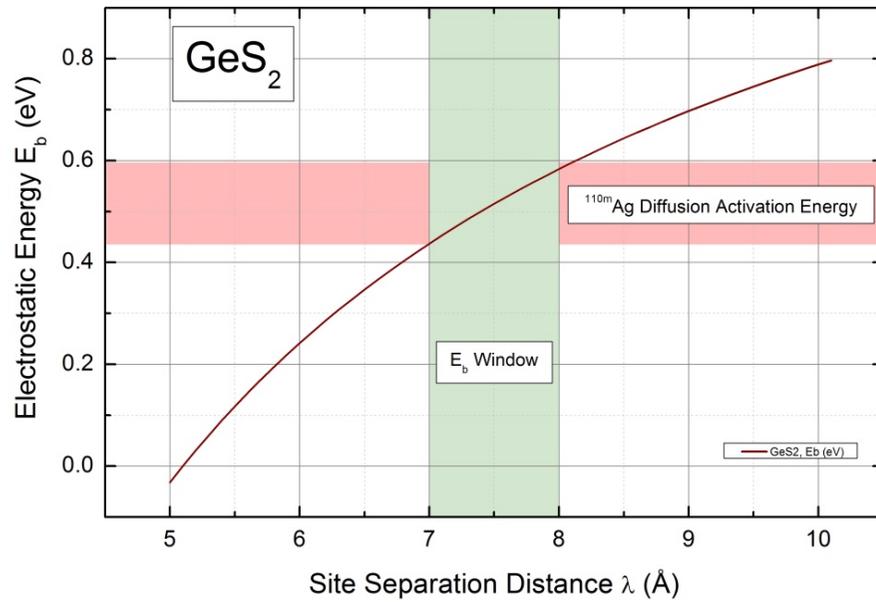


# Percolating Cavity Through Cavity Domains Looking for $r_D$



$$r_D(\text{GeS}_2) > r_D(\text{Ge}_{43}\text{S}_{57})$$

# Calculating $E_b$ and $E_s$

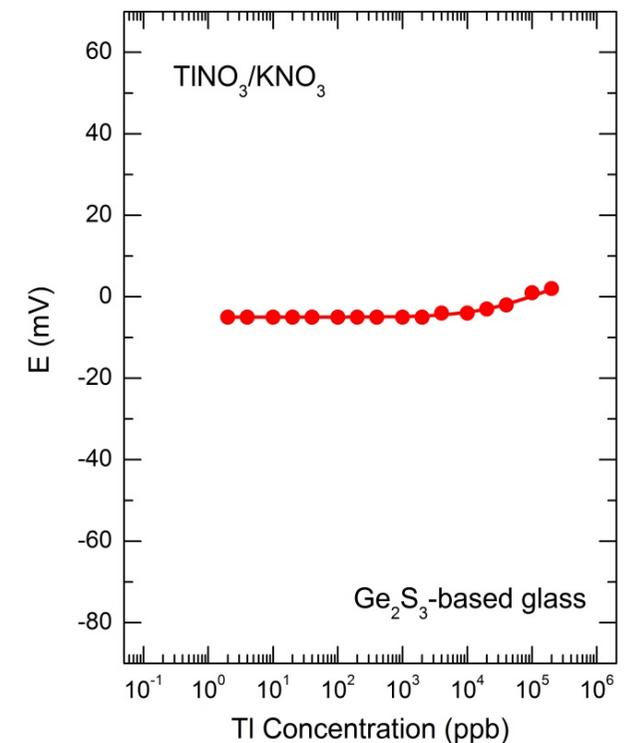
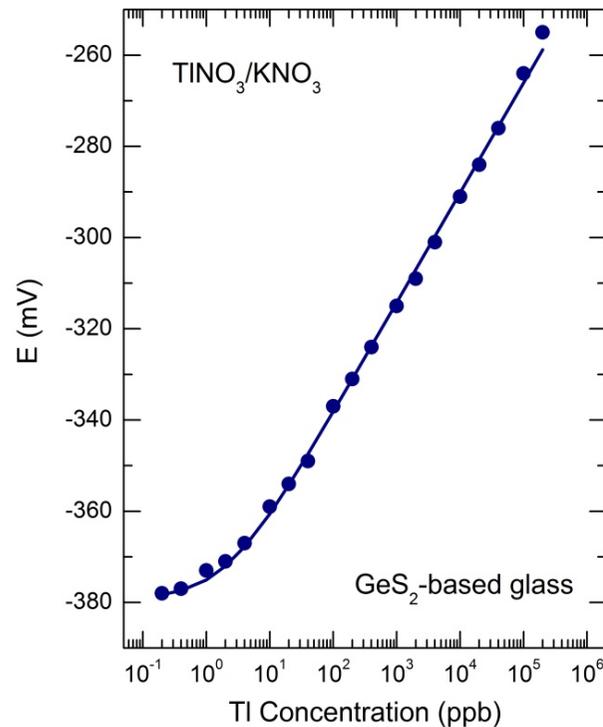


# Tl<sup>+</sup> Ion Sensitivity of GeS<sub>2</sub>- and Ge<sub>2</sub>S<sub>3</sub>-Based Glasses

Chalcogenide glasses are promising materials for heavy-metal chemical sensors

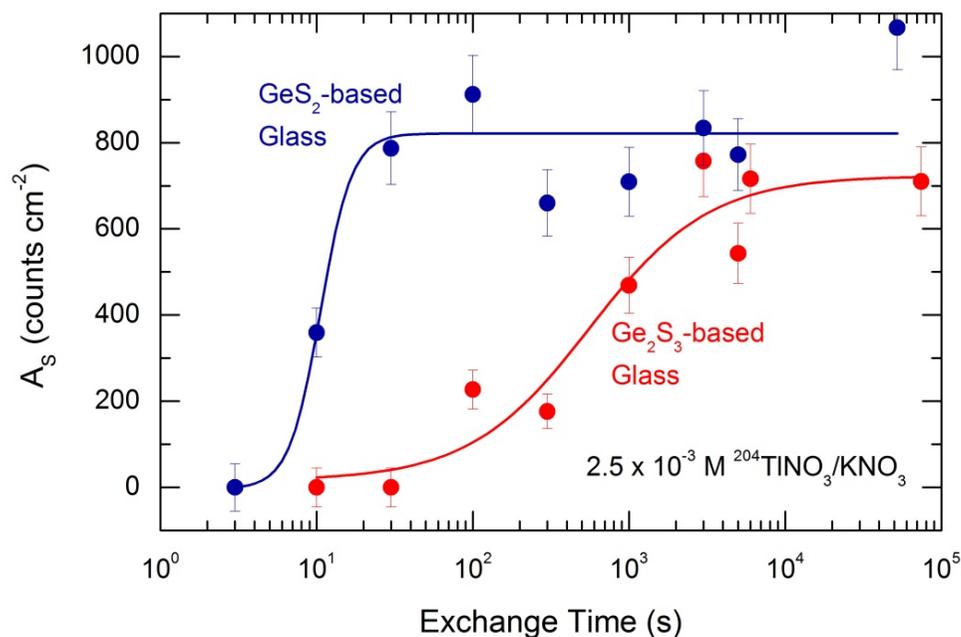


Tl<sup>+</sup> ion radius is 1.59 Å.  
Are the cavities at the glass surface involved in the Tl<sup>+</sup> ion exchange ?



Tl<sup>+</sup> chemical sensors based on **GeS<sub>2</sub>** glasses show excellent performance with a low detection limit of 2 ppb Tl. Chemically-similar compositions based on **Ge<sub>2</sub>S<sub>3</sub>** glasses exhibit erratic behaviour and poor sensitivity.

# $^{204}\text{Tl}$ Ion Exchange Between Solution and $\text{GeS}_2$ - or $\text{Ge}_2\text{S}_3$ -Based Glasses



Fast  $^{204}\text{Tl}$  exchange between thallium nitrate and  $\text{GeS}_2$  based glass correlates with remarkable sensitivity of chemical sensors and enhanced cavity volume in glassy  $\text{GeS}_2$ . Bad sensor performance of  $\text{Ge}_2\text{S}_3$  based glasses is associated with slow  $^{204}\text{Tl}$  exchange and reduced volume of cavities in vitreous  $\text{Ge}_2\text{S}_3$ .

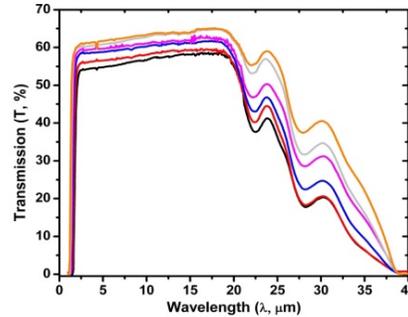
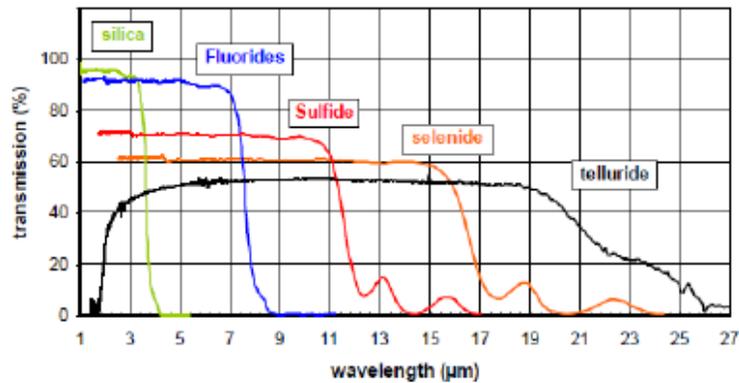
# Conclusion 2

Silver tracer diffusion in insulating Ge-rich sulphide glasses and thallium ion exchange for  $\text{GeS}_2$ - and  $\text{Ge}_2\text{S}_3$ -based glasses show a good correlation with calculated volume and connectivity of cavities.

The cavity calculations could be used to re-animate the Anderson-Stuart model for ionic transport in insulating glasses.

Chemical Disorder in  $\text{As}_2\text{Te}_3$ :  
Bonding Preferences, Ribbon  
Structure or Metallisation

# Telluride Glasses: Far-IR Transmittance and Phase-Change Memories

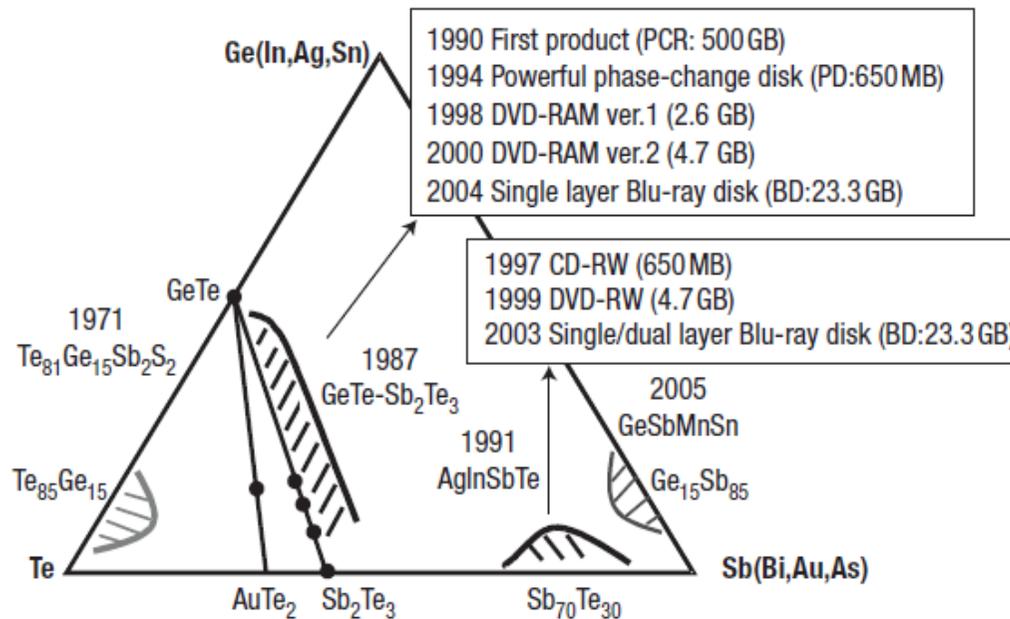


D. Le Coq et al. (2017)

Selective remote IR spectroscopy of various biotoxin and gas species

Thermal imaging

Interstellar IR detection of life signature at exoplanetary systems, etc.



M. Wuttig, N. Yamada, NMat (2009)

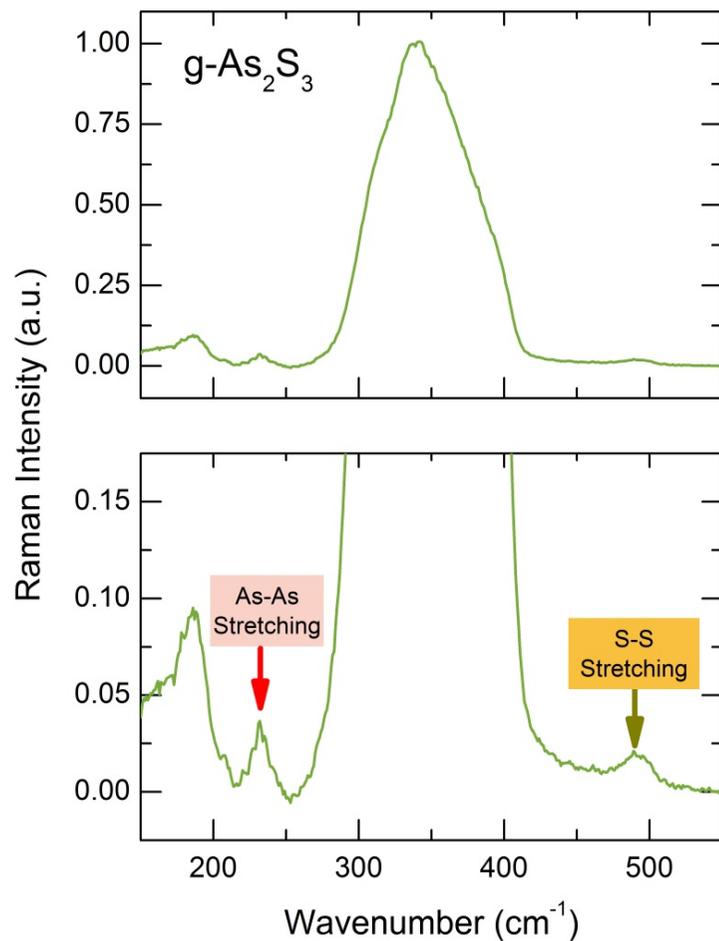
Phase-change materials for rewritable data storage

Non-volatile electronic memory

Mostly Ge-Sb-Te glasses, much less attention to As-Te, in particular,  $As_2Te_3$

# As<sub>2</sub>Te<sub>3</sub> vs. As<sub>2</sub>S<sub>3</sub> Glasses: Raman

g-As<sub>2</sub>S<sub>3</sub>



$$\frac{[\text{As-As}]}{[\text{As-S}] + [\text{As-As}]} = 0.02-0.03$$

Usual degree of chemical disorder

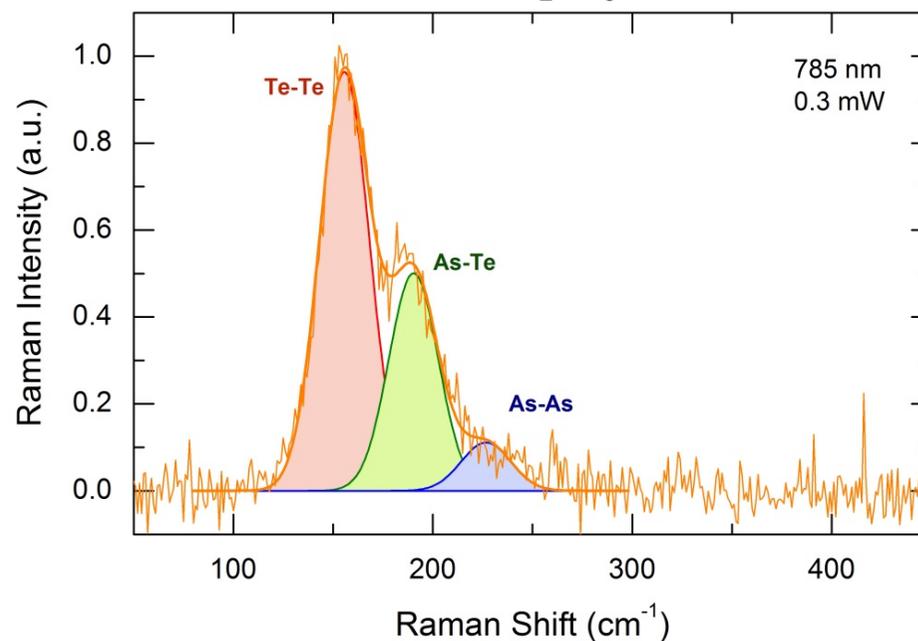
g-As<sub>2</sub>Te<sub>3</sub>

A stoichiometric glass with highest chemical disorder

(1993-2017)

$$0.23 \leq \frac{[\text{As-As}]}{[\text{As-Te}] + [\text{As-As}]} \leq 0.58$$

g-As<sub>2</sub>Te<sub>3</sub>



A. Tverjanovich et al. (2012)

# Possible Origin of High Chemical Disorder in $\text{As}_2\text{Te}_3$

## **(1) Similar bonding energies:**

As-As    134.2 kJ/mol

As-Te    137.0 kJ/mol

Te-Te    137.9 kJ/mol

$P(\text{As-Te})/P(\text{As-As})@500\text{ }^\circ\text{C} \approx 1.3$  and  $\searrow$  with  $T \nearrow$

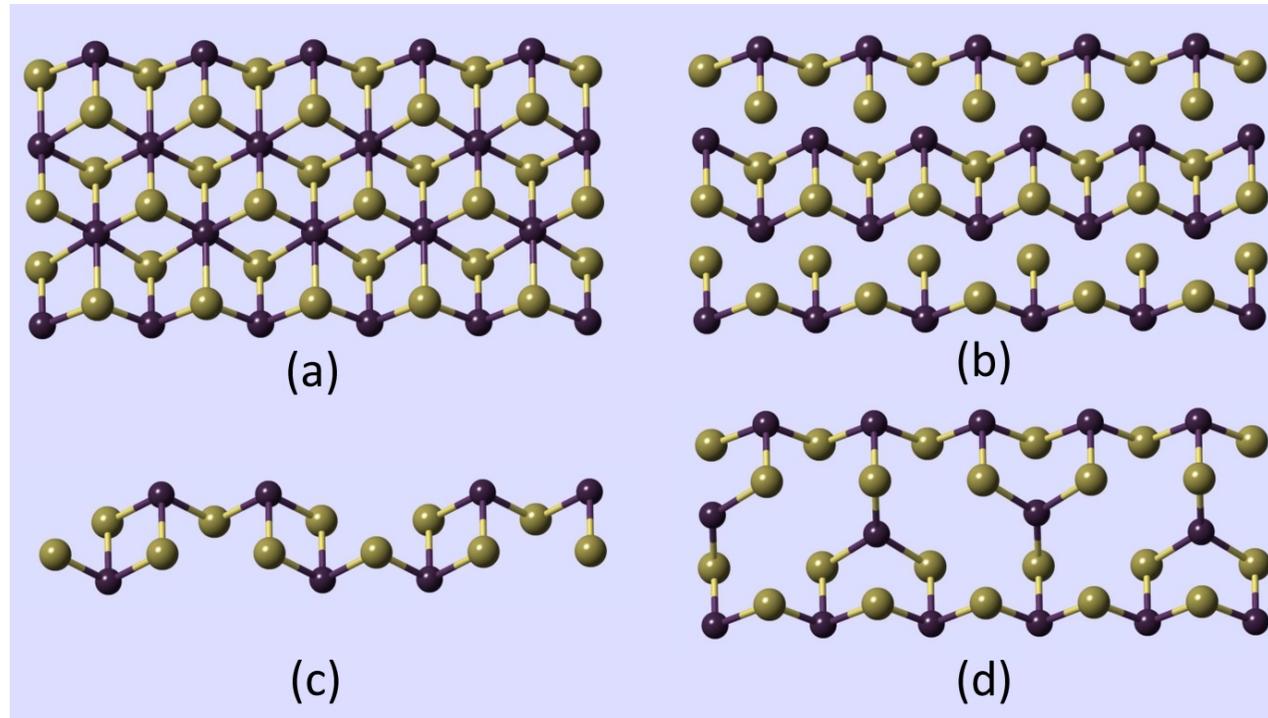
$P(\text{As-S})/P(\text{As-As})@500\text{ }^\circ\text{C} = 10\text{-}20$

**(2) Specific crystal structure** different from that in c- $\text{As}_2\text{S}_3$  or  $\text{As}_2\text{Se}_3$

**(3) Low-T metallisation in the melt**

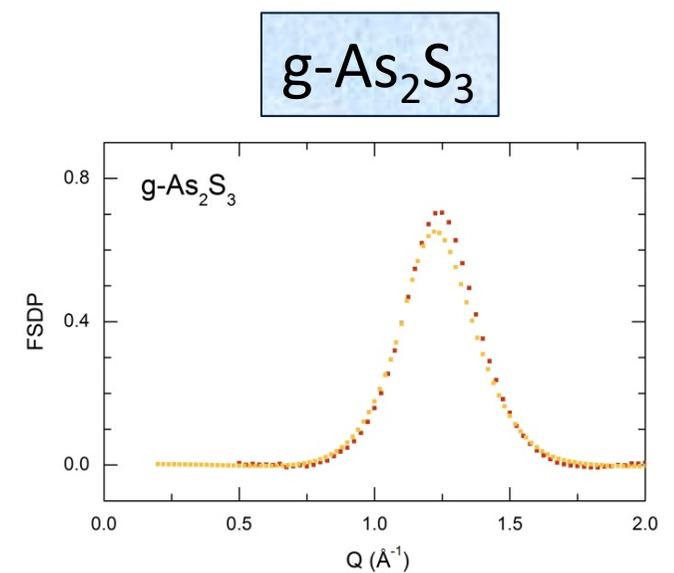
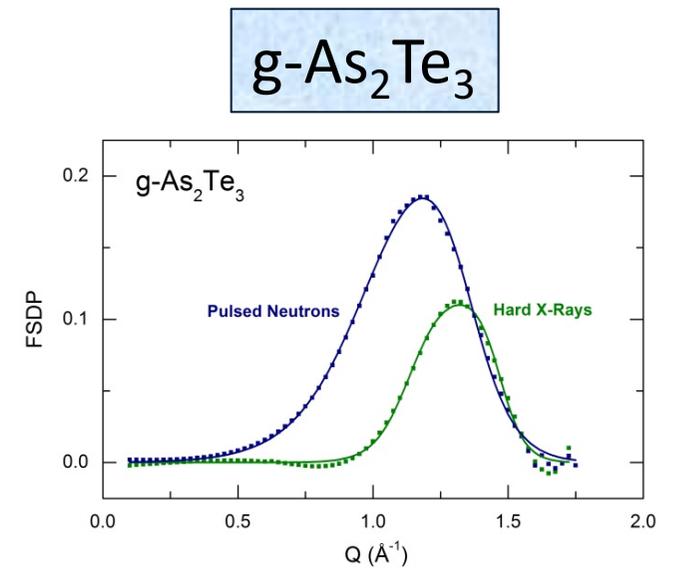
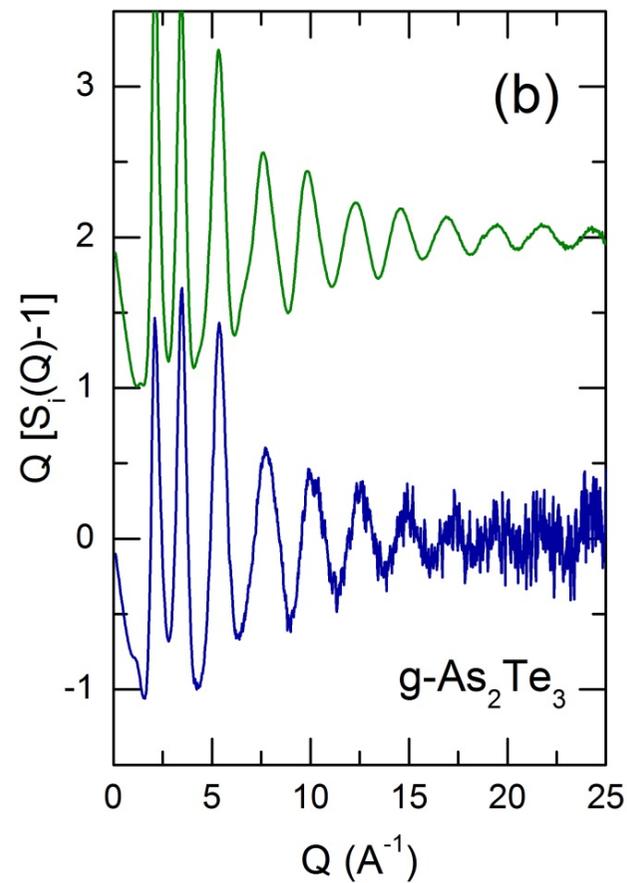
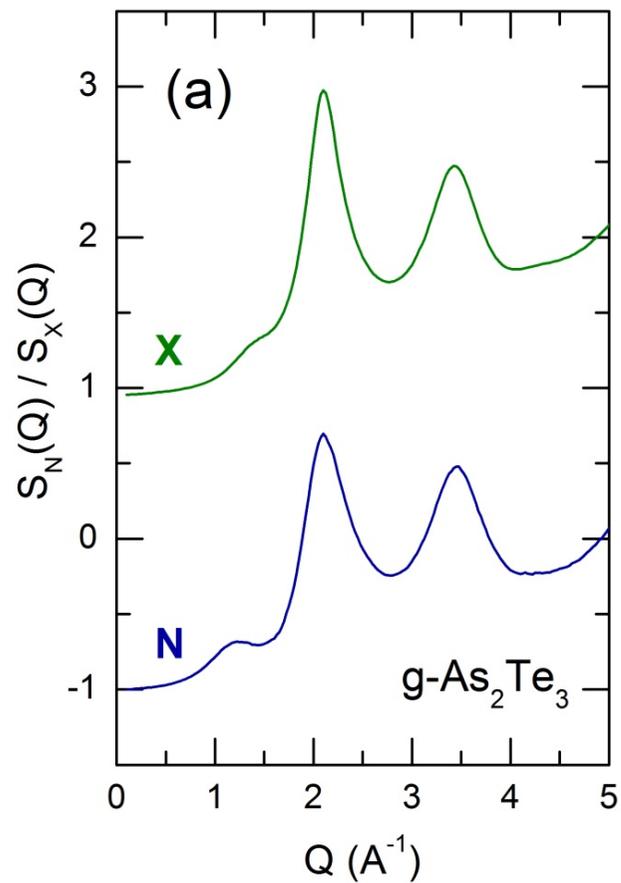
within 250  $^\circ\text{C}$  above  $T_m = 381\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$

# Collapse of $(As_4Te_6)_\infty$ Ribbon in the Melt: A Possible Scenario



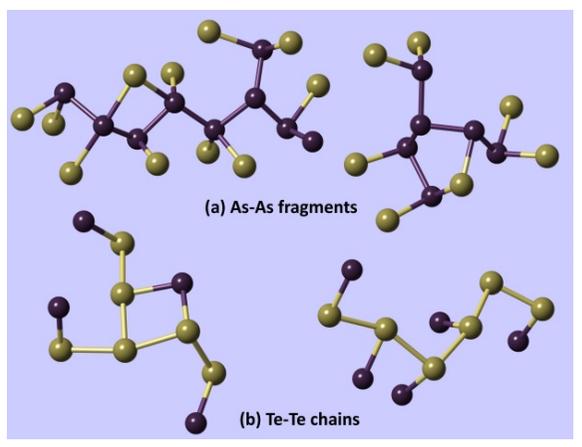
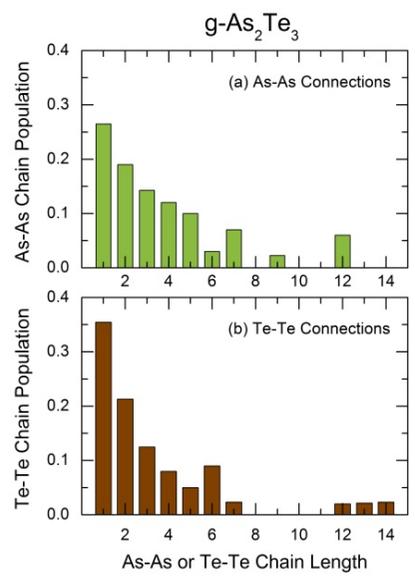
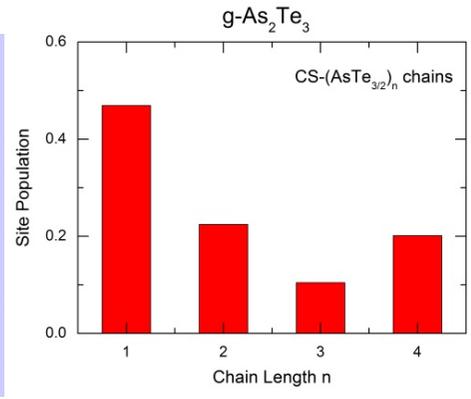
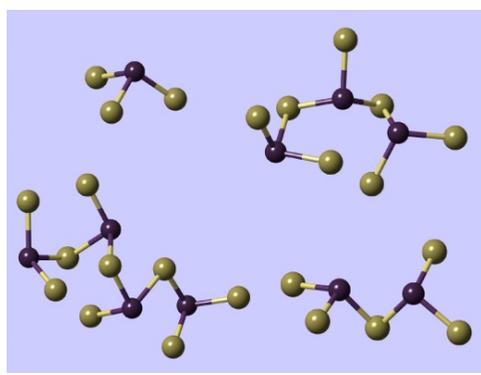
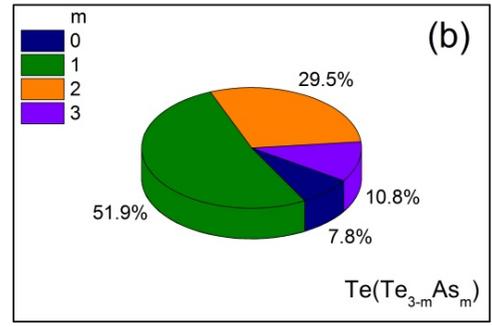
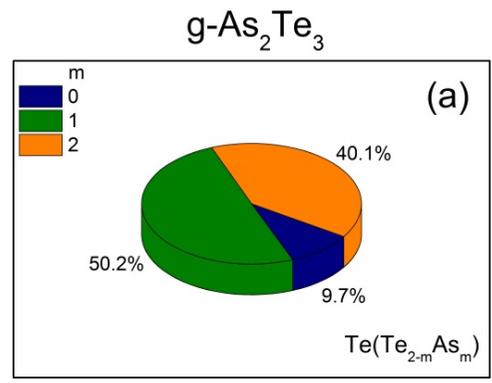
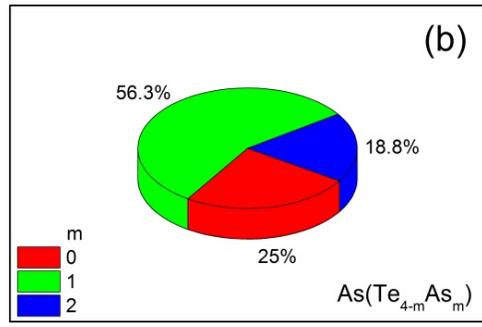
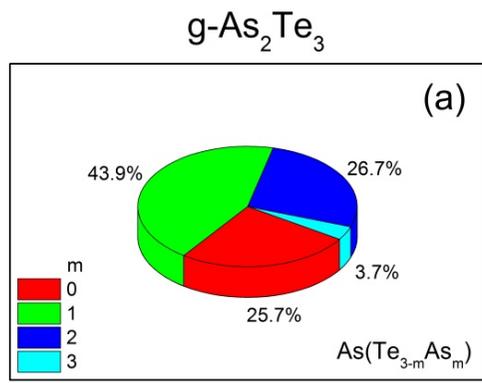
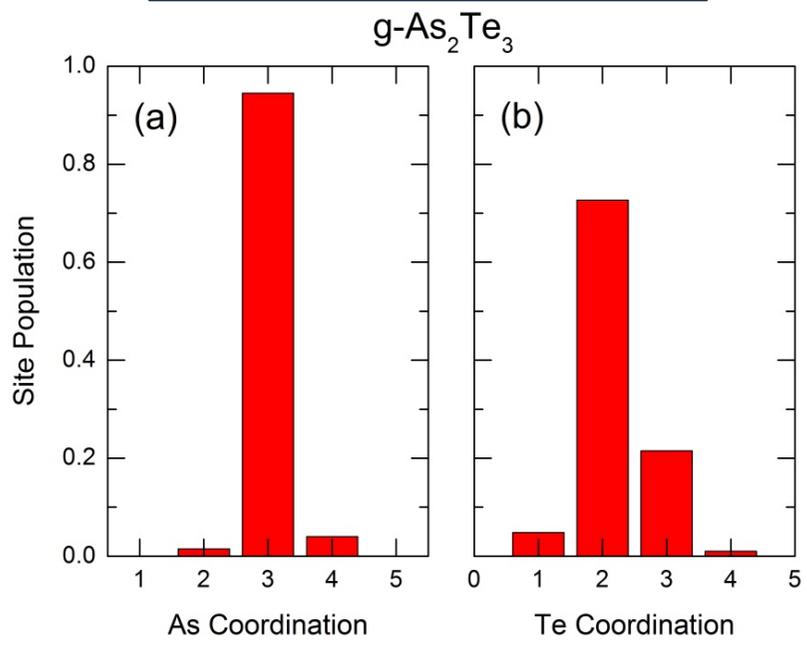
(a) Hypothetical transformation of an  $(As_4Te_6)_\infty$  ribbon in crystalline  $\alpha$ - $As_2Te_3$  into two chemically ordered motifs of  $g$ - $As_2Te_3$ ; (b) the bonding/non-bonding limit is set at  $2.85\text{\AA}$ , the central string,  $ES$ - $AsTe_{3/3}$ , loses every third As atom transforming (c) into a chain consisting of  $AsTe_{3/2}$  pyramids with alternate edge- and corner-sharing, (d) the two lateral chains with remaining As species are forming a new As-Te ribbon consisting of  $As_3Te_3$  and  $As_6Te_6$  rings.

# Looking for Chemically Ordered Motifs in g-As<sub>2</sub>Te<sub>3</sub>



# RMC/DFT Modelling of g-As<sub>2</sub>Te<sub>3</sub>

$$N_{\text{As-X}} = 3.025; N_{\text{Te-X}} = 2.19$$



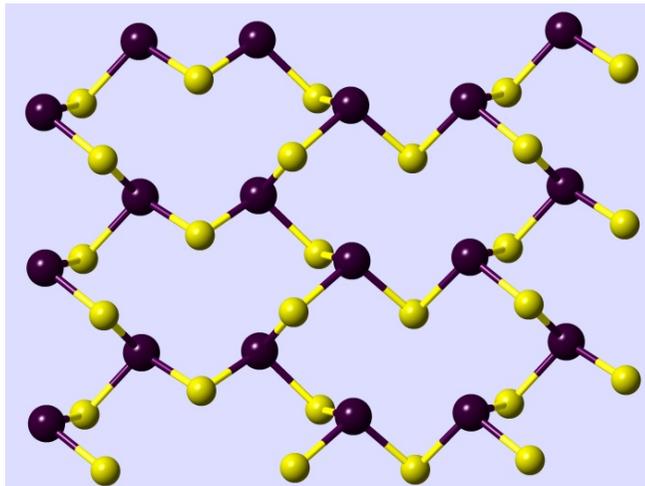
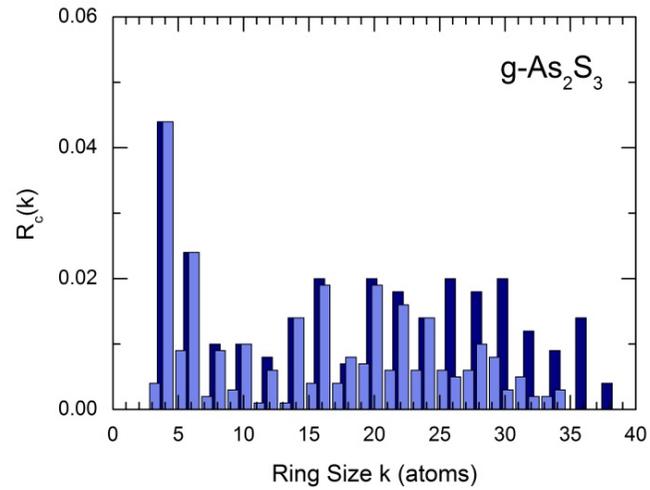
Chemically-ordered fragments exist only as CS oligomeric chains

S. Kohara, Y. Onodera (2017)

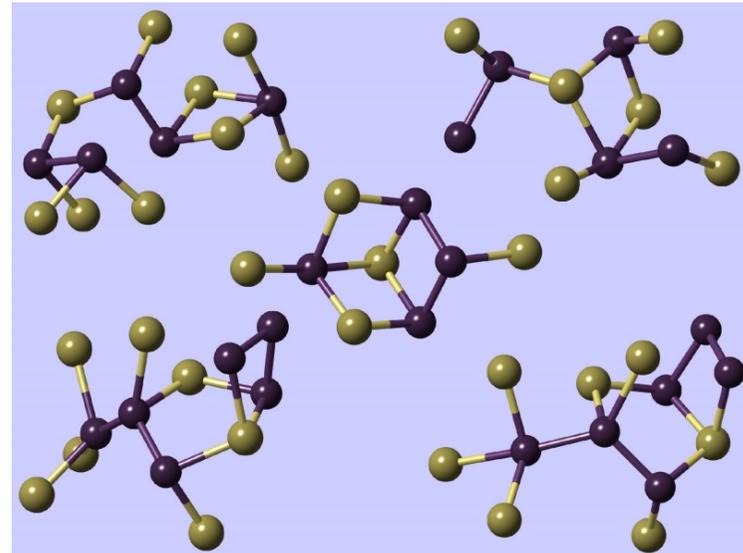
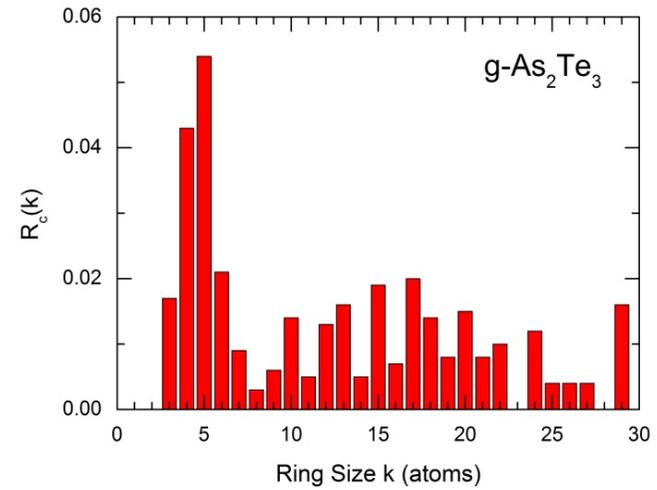
# Glassy $\text{As}_2\text{Te}_3$ vs. $\text{As}_2\text{S}_3$ : Rings

S. Kohara, A. Sokolov

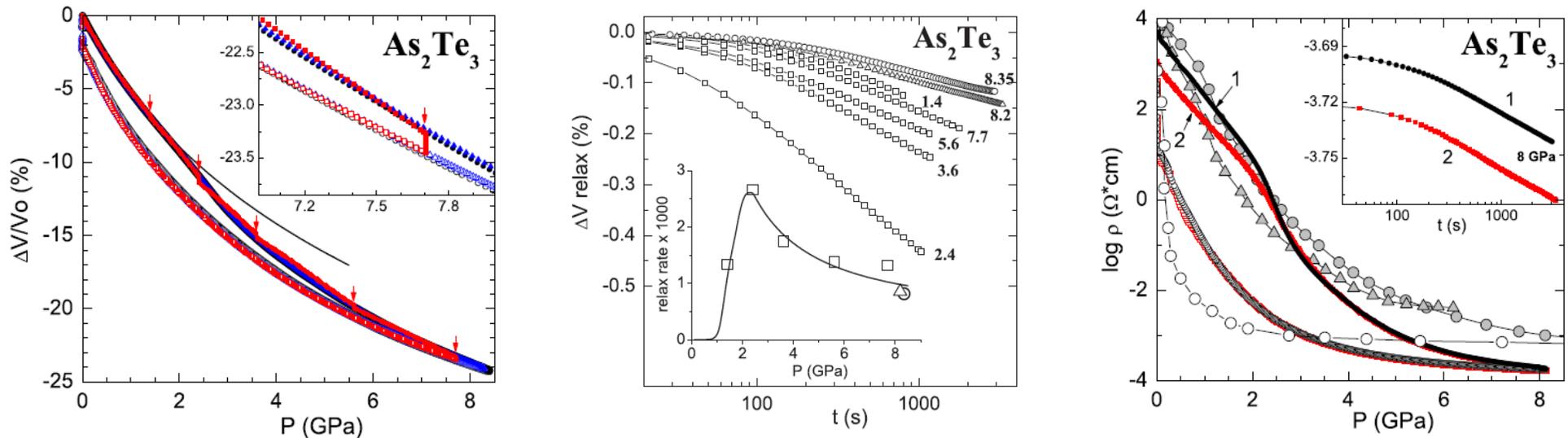
$\text{g-As}_2\text{S}_3$



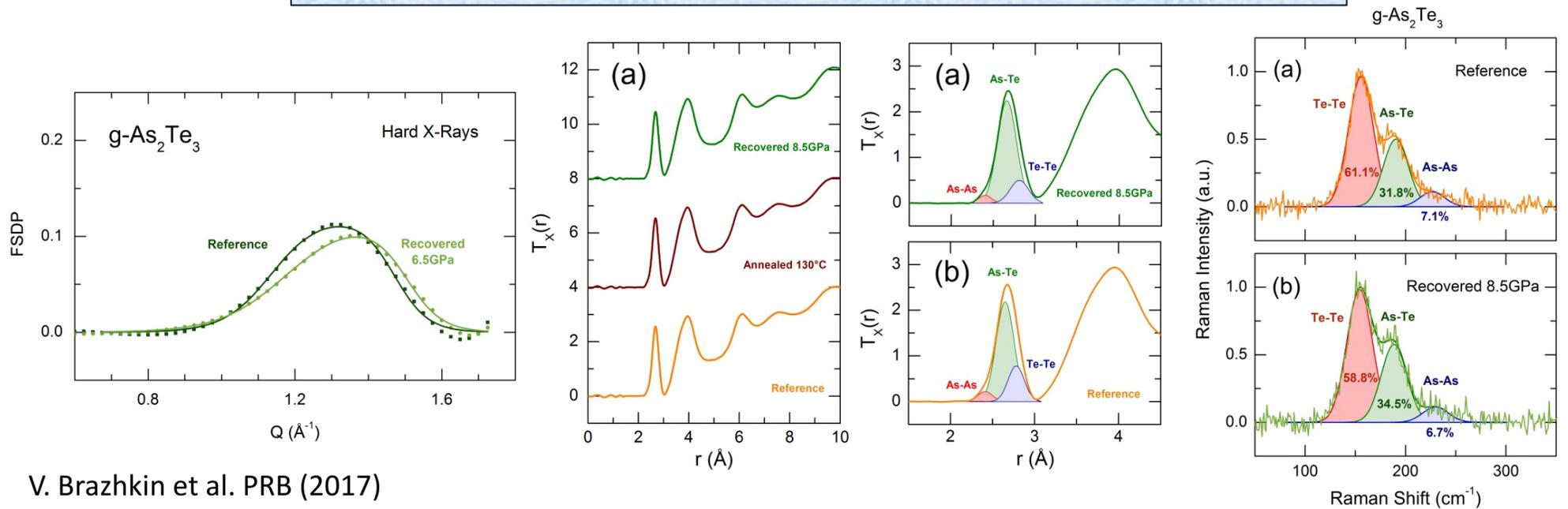
$\text{g-As}_2\text{Te}_3$



# Glassy $\text{As}_2\text{Te}_3$ under High Pressure



Ex-situ HE-XRD and Raman measurements (4 months after HP)



# Conclusion 3

Glassy  $\text{As}_2\text{Te}_3$  exhibits a significant chemical disorder (up to 30-35 %) related to either very similar As-As, As-Te and Te-Te bond energies, or to a low-T metallisation in the glass-forming melt. The local and intermediate-range ordering of g- $\text{As}_2\text{Te}_3$  is reminiscent of both the collapse of  $(\text{As}_4\text{Te}_6)_\infty$  ribbons and to, a less extent, the local coordination increase in the metallic melt.

High-pressure measurements of g- $\text{As}_2\text{Te}_3$  show several interesting phenomena under high pressure up to 8.5 GPa: (i) a remarkable softening of the bulk modulus and a sharp maximum of the relaxation rate at 2.5 GPa indicative of polyamorphism; (ii) smooth metallization at a pressure of 5 GPa with a resistivity decrease of 8 orders of magnitude, and (iii) some unexpected chemical ordering after the high-pressure treatment.

# Thanks