

2-2-10. Assume that atoms in an fcc lattice can be modeled as hard touching balls and calculate the percentage of the crystal volume occupied by the atoms.

Solution:

The volume of the unit cell of an fcc lattice is $V_p = a^3$ (four atoms per unit cell). The distance between the nearest neighbors is equal to $a\sqrt{2}$. Hence the radius of each atom is $r = a/2\sqrt{2}$. The volume of each atom is $4\pi r^3/3 = \frac{\pi a^3}{12\sqrt{2}}$. Hence the volume of all four atoms is $\frac{\pi a^3}{3\sqrt{2}}$. The fraction of the volume of a unit cell occupied by these four atoms is $\left[\frac{\pi a^3}{3\sqrt{2}}\right] / a^3 = \frac{\pi}{3\sqrt{2}} \approx 0.74$.

2-2-11. Which plane (100), (110) or (111) in diamond structure has the highest density of atoms?

Solution:

1) Diamond Structure:

	100	110	111
Area of the unit cell in the plane	a^2	$2^{1/2}a^2$	$3^{1/2}a^2/2$
Number of atoms the unit cell in the plane	2	4	2
Atoms per unit area (density)	$2/a^2$	$2^{3/2}/a^2$	$4/(3^{1/2}a^2)$

1) FCC Structure:

	100	110	111
Area of the unit cell in the plane	a^2	$2^{1/2}a^2$	$3^{1/2}a^2/2$
Number of atoms the unit cell in the plane	2	2	2
Atoms per unit area (density)	$2/a^2$	$2^{1/2}/a^2$	$4/(3^{1/2}a^2)$