

- a) For a spherical nucleus, derive the following expression, the energy change during nucleation as a function of number of atoms  $n$  in cluster ( $v$  is atomic volume).

$$\Delta G = -n \Delta G_a + (36\pi)^{\frac{1}{3}} n^{\frac{2}{3}} v^{\frac{2}{3}} \gamma$$

$$\Delta G = -\frac{4}{3}\pi r^3 \Delta G_v + 4\pi r^2 \gamma$$

$$\frac{4}{3}\pi r^3 = n \cdot v \quad \text{or} \quad r = (3nv/4\pi)^{\frac{1}{3}}$$

$$\Delta G = -n \cdot v \Delta G_v + 4\pi \left(\frac{3nv}{4\pi}\right)^{\frac{2}{3}} \cdot \gamma$$

$$= -nv \Delta G_v + (36\pi)^{\frac{1}{3}} n^{\frac{2}{3}} v^{\frac{2}{3}} \gamma$$

- b) Using the result of (a), derive the expression for the critical number of atoms and energy barrier.

$$\left. \frac{\partial \Delta G}{\partial n} \right|_{n=n^*} = -v \Delta G_v + \frac{2}{3} (36\pi)^{\frac{1}{3}} \cdot n^{-\frac{1}{3}} \cdot v^{\frac{2}{3}} \gamma \Big|_{n=n^*}$$

$$= -v \Delta G_v + \frac{2}{3} (36\pi)^{\frac{1}{3}} (n^*)^{-\frac{1}{3}} v^{\frac{2}{3}} \gamma = 0$$

$$(n^*)^{\frac{1}{3}} = \frac{2}{3} (36\pi)^{\frac{1}{3}} V^{\frac{2}{3}} \gamma$$

$$V \Delta G_v$$

$$\therefore n^* = \frac{2}{3} \frac{\pi \cdot \gamma^3}{V (\Delta G_v)^3}$$

$$\Delta G^* = -\frac{32\pi\gamma^3}{3V(\Delta G_v)^2} \cancel{V \Delta G_v} + (36\pi)^{\frac{1}{3}} \left( \frac{32\pi\gamma^3}{3V(\Delta G_v)^2} \right)^{\frac{1}{3}} \cdot \cancel{V^{\frac{2}{3}} \gamma}$$

$$= \frac{1}{3\Delta G_v} \left[ -32\pi\gamma^3 + \left( \frac{4 \cdot 36\pi^2}{8\pi} \right)^{\frac{1}{3}} \cdot \pi \cdot \gamma^3 \right]$$

$$= \frac{4\pi}{3} \cdot \frac{\gamma^6}{(\Delta G_v)^2}$$

c) Assuming isotropic and constant surface energy for both of graphite and diamond, and using the data :  $\gamma_{gr} = 3.1 \text{ J/m}^2$ ,  $\gamma_{dia} = 3.6, 3.65$  and  $3.7 \text{ J/m}^2$ , respectively

$$\gamma_{gr} = 8 \text{ \AA}^3/\text{atom}, \quad V_{dia} = 6 \text{ \AA}^3/\text{atom}, \quad {}^0G_{dia} - {}^0G_{gr} = 0.02 \text{ eV/atom}$$

For the three slightly different values of surface energy of diamond, compute the number of atoms in clusters where the stability of diamond becomes the same as that of graphite.

$$\Delta G_{gr} = -n ({}^0G_{gr} - {}^0G_{gr}) + (36\pi)^{\frac{1}{3}} n^{\frac{2}{3}} V_{gr}^{\frac{2}{3}} \gamma_{gr}$$

$$\Delta G_{dia} = -n ({}^0G_{gr} - {}^0G_{dia}) + (36\pi)^{\frac{1}{3}} n^{\frac{2}{3}} V_{dia}^{\frac{2}{3}} \gamma_{dia}$$

$$\text{When } \Delta G_{gr} = \Delta G_{dia}$$

$$-n ({}^0G_{dia} - {}^0G_{gr}) = (36\pi)^{\frac{1}{3}} n^{\frac{2}{3}} (V_{gr}^{\frac{2}{3}} \gamma_{dia} - V_{gr}^{\frac{2}{3}} \gamma_{gr})$$

$${}^0G_{dia} - {}^0G_{gr} = (36\pi)^{\frac{1}{3}} n^{-\frac{1}{3}} (V_{gr}^{\frac{2}{3}} \gamma_{gr} - V_{gr}^{\frac{2}{3}} \gamma_{dia})$$

$$\therefore n = \frac{36\pi (V_{gr}^{\frac{2}{3}} \gamma_{gr} - V_{gr}^{\frac{2}{3}} \gamma_{dia})^{\frac{1}{3}}}{{}^0G_{dia} - {}^0G_{gr}}$$

$$i) \gamma_{dia} = 3.6$$

$$n = \frac{26\pi \left[ (8\text{\AA}^3/\text{atom})^{\frac{1}{3}} \cdot 3.1 \text{ J/m}^2 - (6\text{\AA}^3/\text{atom})^{\frac{1}{3}} \cdot 3.6 \text{ J/m}^2 \right]^{\frac{1}{3}}}{(0.02 \text{ eV/atom})^{\frac{1}{3}}}$$

$$\approx 466 \cdot 10^3 [\text{atom}] = 466 \cdot 10^3$$

$$\left( \because \frac{(10^{-10} \text{ m})^2 \cdot (1 \text{ J/m}^2)}{(1 \text{ eV/atom})^3} = 10^{-60} \left( \frac{\text{J}}{\text{eV}} \right)^3 \cdot \text{atom} \right)$$

$$= 10^{-60} \cdot (10^{19})^3 \cdot \text{atom} = 10^{-2} \cdot 10^3 \text{ atom}$$

$$ii) \gamma_{dia} = 3.65 \text{ J/m}^2 \quad \therefore n = 145 \cdot 10^3$$

$$iii) \gamma_{dia} = 3.7 \text{ J/m}^2 \quad \therefore n = 27 \cdot 10^3$$

- d) What is the necessary condition for a diamond cluster of any size to be more stable than graphite?

$$\Delta G_{\text{dia}}^{\ddagger} < \Delta G_{\text{gr}}^{\ddagger} \text{ or } \Delta E_{\text{dia}}^{\ddagger} < \Delta E_{\text{gr}}^{\ddagger}$$

$$\Delta G_{\text{dia}-\text{gr}} = (\frac{4\pi}{3})^{\frac{1}{3}} n^{-\frac{1}{3}} (V_{\text{gr}}^{\frac{2}{3}} f_{\text{gr}} - V_{\text{dia}}^{\frac{2}{3}} f_{\text{dia}}) \partial M$$

$$(0 > 0)$$

$$V_{\text{gr}}^{\frac{2}{3}} f_{\text{gr}} - V_{\text{dia}}^{\frac{2}{3}} f_{\text{dia}} > 0$$

$$\therefore \left( \frac{V_{\text{gr}}}{V_{\text{dia}}} \right)^{\frac{2}{3}} > \frac{f_{\text{dia}}}{f_{\text{gr}}}$$

- e) Assuming that the critical number of atoms for graphite nucleation is 100, estimate the driving force for graphite nucleation.

$$n_{\text{gr}}^{\ddagger} = \frac{2}{3} \cdot \frac{\pi \cdot 6^3}{V_{\text{gr}} (4f_{\text{gr}})^3} = 100$$

$$\Delta G_{\text{gr}}^{\ddagger} = \left( \frac{32}{300} \cdot \frac{\pi \cdot 6^3}{V_{\text{gr}}} \right)^{\frac{1}{3}}$$

$$= \left( \frac{32}{300} \cdot \frac{\pi \cdot (3.1 \text{ J/m}^3)^3}{8 \times 10^{-10} \text{ m}^3/\text{atom}^3} \right)^{\frac{1}{3}} = 1.26 \times 10^{-10} \text{ (J/m}^3)$$

f) For the three values of surface energy of diamond, compute the ratio of nucleation rate between graphite and diamond,  $I_{\text{gra}}/I_{\text{dia}}$ .

For the nucleation rate, use the expression:  $I = A \cdot \exp(-\Delta G^{\ddagger}/kT)$ , and assume that A is the same constant for both of graphite and diamond and T = 300 K.

$$\frac{I_{\text{gra}}}{I_{\text{dia}}} = \frac{A_{\text{gra}} \exp(-\Delta G_{\text{gra}}^{\ddagger}/kT)}{A_{\text{dia}} \exp(-\Delta G_{\text{dia}}^{\ddagger}/kT)} = \exp\left(\frac{\Delta G_{\text{dia}}^{\ddagger} - \Delta G_{\text{gra}}^{\ddagger}}{kT}\right)$$

$$\Delta G_{\text{gr}}^{\ddagger} - \Delta G_{\text{dia}}^{\ddagger} = 0.61 \text{ dia} - 0.42 \text{ gr} = 0.19 \text{ eV/atom}$$

$$\Delta G_{\text{dia}}^{\ddagger} = \frac{\Delta H_{\text{dia}} V_{\text{dia}} - 0.02 \text{ eV/atom}}{V_{\text{dia}}} = 1.39 \times 10^{10} \text{ J/m}^3$$

$$\Delta G_{\text{dia}}^{\ddagger} = \frac{fb}{3\pi} \cdot \frac{6^3}{4f_{\text{dia}}^2}$$

$$\text{i) } f_{\text{dia}} = 3.6 \text{ J/m}^2$$

$$\Delta G_{\text{dia}}^{\ddagger} = \frac{fb}{3\pi} \cdot \frac{3.6^3}{(1.39 \times 10^{10})^2} = 4.0 \text{ eV/atom}$$

$$\text{ii) } f_{\text{dia}} = 3.65 \text{ J/m}^2$$

$$\Delta G_{\text{dia}}^{\ddagger} = 4.32 \times 10^{-10} \text{ J}$$

$$\text{iii) } f_{\text{dia}} = 3.7 \text{ J/m}^2$$

$$\Delta G_{\text{dia}}^{\ddagger} = 4.39 \times 10^{-10} \text{ J}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{I_{\text{gra}}}{I_{\text{dia}}} = \exp\left(\frac{\Delta G_{\text{dia}}^{\ddagger} - \Delta G_{\text{gra}}^{\ddagger}}{kT}\right) = \exp\left(\frac{3.6^3 - 4.39 \times 10^{-10}}{kT}\right)$$

$$\text{i) } f_{\text{dia}} = 3.6 \text{ J/m}^2$$

$$\frac{I_{\text{gra}}}{I_{\text{dia}}} = \exp\left(-\frac{4.04 - 4.39}{1.39 \times 10^{10} \times 300} \times 10^{-10}\right) = 6.6 \times 10^{-6}$$

$$\text{ii) } f_{\text{dia}} = 3.65 \text{ J/m}^2$$

$$\frac{I_{\text{gra}}}{I_{\text{dia}}} = 5.08 \times 10^{-7}$$

$$\text{iii) } f_{\text{dia}} = 3.7 \text{ J/m}^2$$

$$\frac{I_{\text{gra}}}{I_{\text{dia}}} = 3.46 \times 10^{-6}$$

- g) What is your conclusion on this problem?

With similar total heat of nucleation, the surface

of diamond has a higher nucleation rate than graphite.

The surface energy of diamond (3.65 ~ 3.7 J/m<sup>2</sup>) is higher than that of graphite (3.6 J/m<sup>2</sup>).