

- 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).

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

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

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

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta G &= -n \cdot v \Delta G_v + 4\pi \left(\frac{3nv}{4\pi} \right)^{\frac{2}{3}} \gamma \\ &= -nv \Delta G_v + (36\pi)^{\frac{1}{3}} n^{\frac{2}{3}} v^{\frac{2}{3}} \gamma \end{aligned}$$

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

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

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

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

$$\therefore n^* = \frac{9}{3} \cdot \frac{\pi \cdot \gamma^3}{v (\Delta G_v)^3}$$

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

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

$$= \frac{16}{3} \pi \cdot \frac{\gamma^3}{(\Delta G_v)^2}$$

- 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 J/m^2 , respectively
 $v_{gr} = 8 \text{ Å}^3/\text{atom}$, $v_{dia} = 6 \text{ Å}^3/\text{atom}$, ${}^oG_{dia} - {}^oG_{gr} = 0.02 \text{ eV/atom}$

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.

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta G_{gr} &= -n({}^oG_v - {}^oG_{gr}) + (36\pi)^{\frac{1}{3}} n^{\frac{2}{3}} v_{gr}^{\frac{2}{3}} \gamma_{gr} \\ \Delta G_{dia} &= -n({}^oG_v - {}^oG_{dia}) + (36\pi)^{\frac{1}{3}} n^{\frac{2}{3}} v_{dia}^{\frac{2}{3}} \gamma_{dia} \end{aligned}$$

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

$$-n({}^oG_{dia} - {}^oG_{gr}) = (36\pi)^{\frac{1}{3}} n^{\frac{2}{3}} (v_{dia}^{\frac{2}{3}} \gamma_{dia} - v_{gr}^{\frac{2}{3}} \gamma_{gr})$$

$${}^oG_{dia} - {}^oG_{gr} = (36\pi)^{\frac{1}{3}} n^{-\frac{1}{3}} (v_{gr}^{\frac{2}{3}} \gamma_{gr} - v_{dia}^{\frac{2}{3}} \gamma_{dia})$$

$$\therefore n = \frac{36\pi (v_{gr}^{\frac{2}{3}} \gamma_{gr} - v_{dia}^{\frac{2}{3}} \gamma_{dia})^3}{({}^oG_{dia} - {}^oG_{gr})^3}$$

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

$$n = \frac{36\pi \left[(8 \text{ Å}^3/\text{atom})^{\frac{2}{3}} \cdot 3.1 \text{ J/m}^2 - (6 \text{ Å}^3/\text{atom})^{\frac{2}{3}} \cdot 3.6 \text{ J/m}^2 \right]^3}{(0.02 \text{ eV/atom})^3}$$

$$\cong 466185 [10^{-3} \cdot \text{atom}] = 466 \text{ nM}$$

$$\left(\therefore \frac{(10^{-20} \text{ J/atom})^2 \cdot (J/m^2)^3}{(eV/atom)^3} = 10^{-60} \left(\frac{J}{eV} \right)^3 \cdot \text{atom} \right.$$

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

$$ii) \gamma_{dia} = 3.65 \text{ J/m}^2 \quad \rightarrow \quad n = 145 \text{ nM}$$

$$iii) \gamma_{dia} = 3.7 \text{ J/m}^2 \quad \rightarrow \quad n = 26 \text{ nM}$$

