

# Atomic Distributions Observed In Group Iv-Iv Binary Tetrahedron Alloys: A Revised Analysis Of Sige And Gesn Compounds

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**Abstract:** This manuscript is an attempt to extend the Strained Tetrahedron Model to the interpretation of the EXAFS spectra of Group-IV-IV binary tetrahedron ordered B3 zinc blende alloys. The analysis clearly points out the difference of these systems respect to other binary alloys. To illustrate and describe the application of the Strained Tetrahedron Model a revised characterization of  $Ge_{1-x}Si_x$  and  $Ge_{1-x}Sn_x$  alloys is presented and discussed.

**Keywords:** Group IV-IV binary tetrahedron ordered alloys, Site occupation preference, GeSn, GeSi

## 1. INTRODUCTION.

Carbon as other Group-IV elements: Si, Ge, Sn and Pb, can crystallize in the cubic allotropic variety, characterized by the tetrahedron ordered diamond (B4) crystal structure. Their binary alloys within the Group-IV elements also can crystallize as tetrahedron ordered zinc blende (B3) crystal structures. Tetrahedron configured crystal structures have one atom at the center and four at the apexes of the elemental tetrahedron. In Group-IIIeV, Group-IIeVI and Group-I-VII alloys, an ion of one group occupies the central configuration position, while the four peripheral positions are taken by ions of the other group, with rather rare anti-site exceptions. In Group-IV-IV alloys all atoms are fundamentally ambi-site free to take either of the two positions. Thus canonically one has to develop, for AB binary Group-IV-IV alloys a model useful for their analysis.

In tetrahedron configured B3 AB binary Group-IV-IV alloys, we have ten configurations, of which four are regular tetrahedra known in the literature, while six are strained tetrahedra to be determined (cf. Appendix). In the 1980's the local structure of crystalline and amorphous SiGe binary alloys were intensively studied by EXAFS spectroscopy Refs. [1e3] using the theoretical models available at the time Refs. [1e9]. In 1999 Aubry et al. Ref. [10] analyzed the EXAFS spectra for c- $Ge_{1-x}Si_x$  alloys grown by molecular beam epitaxy (MBE), measuring both the Ge K-edge x-ray absorption spectra (XAS) at the Cornell High Energy Synchrotron Source (CHESS) and the Si K-edge XAS at the Canadian Synchrotron Facility at the Synchrotron Radiation Center (SRC) line in Stoughton. High quality spectra at both Si and Ge K-edges allowed to identify accurate interatomic distances vs. the relative content x. Data pointed out a significant disagreement with the theoretical model, still unresolved. This open scenario motivated the present analysis.

For Groups III-V, II-VI and I-VII ternary compounds a successful attempt to resolve the disagreement with experimental observations was obtained introducing the Strained Tetrahedron Model (STM) Refs. [11,12]. The model is presently being extended to Group IV-IV tetrahedron structured binary alloys.

In Ref. [11] we developed the STM to interpret EXAFS spectra of B3 and B4 ternary alloys; to recover from observed EXAFS spectra the three SOP W-coefficients, one needs  $3 N_i$  observed values, while to obtain the  $R_i$  values, besides the  $3 \times 2 R_i$  observed values, one needs the corresponding lattice parameter  $a$  [ $\text{\AA}$ ] (Table A1). SOP W-coefficients can be determined when  $N_i$  values are not observed provided  $3 \times 2 p_3 R_i$  values are observed. In Ref. [12] was also introduced a Statistical model to interpret FIR spectra of B3 and B4 ternary alloys; the Kramer-Kronig treatment of experimental FIR spectra yields abscissa in absolute units, but ordinates in relative units, requiring to be normalized knowledge of both dielectric constants, static  $\epsilon_0$  and dynamic  $\epsilon_\infty$  (Table A1). In Ref. [13] we extended the interpretation to Heusler L1<sub>2</sub> ternary alloys and in Refs. [14] to B3 structured pseudo-quaternary  $A_{1-x}B_xY_yZ_{1-y}$  systems. Later in Ref. [15] EXAFS and FIR observations of B4 crystal were compared and it was applied to the hydrogenation of a CdTe sample Ref. [16] by FIR. In Ref. [17] Laves phase C15 ternaries were treated, in Ref. [18] a B3 truly-quaternary was analyzed while Ref. [19] is a review of the Site Occupation Preference (SOP) coefficients-W and attenuation coefficients-C investigated alloys.

These initial studies concerned Group II-VI Refs. [11,12,14e16,20e26] and III-V Refs. [11,14,18,20,22,24e31] and later Group I-VII alloys such as (KRb)Br and Rb(BrI). We now present and discuss the interpretation of EXAFS spectra of Group IV-IV tetrahedron structured binary alloys. To describe the more complex rhombohedron with its dimer chain structures requires additional parameters and a larger number of experimental observations Ref. [31]. Within these limitations the STM model is here applied to analyze the available data of two tetrahedron-structured Group IV-IV binary alloys  $Ge_{1-x}Si_x$  Ref. [10] and  $Ge_{1-x}Sn_x$  Ref.

[32]. The SOP coefficients  $W_{kj}$  and the corresponding attenuation factors  $C_{kj}$  of each random Bernoulli Eigen-function of the six canonical binary distorted tetrahedron configurations  $[(4j)A_jB Tk, j|k|/4A, B; j|k|/4 1, 3]$  have been obtained using the procedure and the equations previously developed Ref. [12]. Here we use the notations relative to NN (Nearest Neighbor) and to NNN (Next Nearest Neighbor) coordination numbers  $N_1$  and  $N_2$ ,  $[Ni, kj]^{i/4} 1, 2; k|4A, B; j|4A, B;$  while the bond distances  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are  $[R_i, kj]^{i/4} 1, 2; k|4A, B; j|4A, B,$  where “ $i$ ” relates to NN or NNN components, “ $k$ ” to the atom at the tetrahedron center A or B, and “ $j$ ” to the observed atom of the configuration around A or B.

## 2. The $Ge_{1-x}Si_x$ analysis

Aubry et al. Ref. [10] collected  $Ge_{1-x}Si_x$  data (Table 1) on both Si and Ge K-edges. To characterize the respective configurations by the SOP-coefficients  $W_{kj}$ ’s, one needs at least three  $N_1$  values, while to determine the  $R_1$  values six extra values are required. Our analysis was performed determining, either restrictively the SOP-coefficients, and when possible the  $R_1$ ’s. Indeed for both relaxed and strained samples the coverage of the  $x_{Si}$ -range is not sufficient limiting the interpretation of the SOP results.

Table 1

Looking at Fig. 6 in Refs. [10] that reports data from both Si and Ge K-edges for both relaxed thin layered with the undisturbed internal structure, and strained samples with internal stresses induced during the layer growth, we underline that within the concentration  $x_{Si} \in [0, 1]$  range, the coverage of the two K-edges is not uniform. For the relaxed samples for both Si and Ge K-edges data are sufficient within the  $x_{Si} \in [0.29, 0.78]$  range. For the strained samples Si K-edge spectra are sufficient for SOP calculations, while the four observations at the Ge K-edge allow getting the SOP-coefficients, but not the six  $R_1$  values. Moreover, the two  $N_{1,GeGe}$  are not sufficient to determine the three SOP parameters. To characterize the respective configurations by the SOP-coefficients  $W_{kj}$ ’s, one needs at least three  $N_1$  values, while to determine the  $R_1$  values six additional values are required. The analysis has been done accordingly, determining, either restrictively the SOP-coefficients, and where possible the information on the  $R_1$ ’s, function of the  $x_{Si}$ -range coverage of the samples.

Fulfilling the conditions for SOP calculations (number of data number of the relative parameters) Aubrey’s data are analyzed in three successive ways for the SOP analysis of available Si and Ge centered tetrahedron populations (Table 1):

1. Data in Table 1. We derive the  $[W_{kj}]_{k|4A, B; j|41, 3}$  and  $[C_{kj}]_{k|4A, B; j|41, 3}$  values and  $R_1$  values of the tetrahedron configurations for both Si- and Ge-centered tetrahedra (Table 2 and Fig. 1). The observations at the Si K-edge are used for the analysis of the Si-centered tetrahedra, while those at the Ge K-edge determine Ge-centered tetrahedra; the observed distribution within Si-centered configurations  $Ge_1Si_1T_{Si,1}, Ge_2Si_1T_{Si,2}, Ge_3Si_1T_{Si,3}$ , are respectively  $C_{Si,1} \approx 0.52, C_{Si,2} \approx 0.75, C_{Si,3} \approx 0.86$ , with a mean value of 0.71, while  $C_{Ge,1} \approx 0, C_{Ge,2} \approx 0.85, C_{Ge,3} \approx 0.81$ , with a mean value of 0.55. (Table 2 and Fig. 1). Actually, the mean- $C_{kj} \in [0, 1]$  value is an index of how the observed distribution compare to the random Bernoulli distribution (mean  $\approx 1$ ) and to the fully ordered distribution (mean  $\approx 0$ ) with no distorted configurations.
2. Relaxed data  $x_{Si} \in [0.29, 0.78]$ . The analysis yields:  $C_{Si,1} \approx 0.48, C_{Si,2} \approx 0.88, C_{Si,3} \approx 0.98$ , with a mean value of 0.78, while  $C_{Ge,1} \approx 0, C_{Ge,2} \approx 0.85, C_{Ge,3} \approx 0.81$ , with a mean value of 0.55.
3. Strained data: all three Si-centered tetrahedra are formed, with  $C_{Si,1} \approx 0.62, C_{Si,2} \approx 0.52, C_{Si,3} \approx 0.54$ , with a mean value of 0.56. No data are reported for Ge-centered tetrahedra.  $N_1, N_2$  and  $R_1, R_2$  values Ref. [10] as obtained by the fit of the FT of the 1st shell EXAFS signal of  $Ge_{1-x}Si_x$  alloys. Ge K-edge data are shown in italic-bold. (The parameter  $N_{1,GeGe} \approx 3.4 @ x \approx 0.992$  has not been considered because the value reported in Ref. [10] is physically inconsistent).

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| x    | Substrate | State              | SiSi        |             |              | SiGe        |            |            | GeGe       |            |            |
|------|-----------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
|      |           |                    | $R_{1,SiS}$ | $N_{1,SiS}$ | $R_{1,SiGe}$ | $N_{1,GeG}$ | $R_{1,Ge}$ | $N_{1,Ge}$ | $R_{1,Ge}$ | $N_{1,Ge}$ | $R_{1,Ge}$ |
| 0    |           |                    |             |             |              |             |            |            |            |            |            |
| 0.05 | Ge        | Strained<br>Mostly |             |             | 2.408        | 0.008       | 3.5        | 0.4        |            |            |            |
| 0.09 | Ge        | relaxed            |             |             | 2.398        | 0.015       | 3.7        | 0.8        |            |            |            |
| 0.12 | Ge        | Strained           |             |             | 2.4          | 0.009       | 3.9        | 0.5        |            |            |            |
| 0.2  | Ge        | Strained           |             |             | 2.407        | 0.014       | 3.2        | 0.8        |            |            |            |
| 0.22 | Ge        | Strained           |             |             | 2.407        | 0.02        | 3.1        | 0.9        |            |            |            |
| 0.29 | Si        | Relaxed            | 2.367       | 0.055       | 1.2          | 0.5         | 2.415      | 0.007      | 3.5        | 0.7        | 1.13       |
| 0.38 | Ge        | Relaxed            | 2.354       | 0.032       | 1.2          | 0.3         | 2.397      | 0.01       | 2.2        | 0.4        | 0.07       |
| 0.42 | Si        | Relaxed            | 2.351       | 0.034       | 1.9          | 0.5         | 2.388      | 0.005      | 2.7        | 0.7        | 1.64       |
| 0.56 | Si        | Relaxed            | 2.354       | 0.017       | 2.2          | 0.4         | 2.395      | 0.007      | 1.7        | 0.4        | 2.16       |
| 0.61 | Si        | Relaxed            | 2.355       | 0.013       | 2.4          | 0.2         | 2.388      | 0.005      | 1.7        | 0.3        | 2.35       |

|       |    |          |       |       |     |     |       |       |     |     |      |      |       |       |      |
|-------|----|----------|-------|-------|-----|-----|-------|-------|-----|-----|------|------|-------|-------|------|
| 0.78  | Si | Relaxed  | 2.369 | 0.01  | 3.3 | 0.2 | 2.389 | 0.005 | 1.3 | 0.3 | 3.47 | 0.13 | 2.495 | 0.01  | 1.24 |
| 0.91  | Si | Strained | 2.35  | 0.009 | 3.2 | 0.2 | 2.388 | 0.003 | 0.6 | 0.2 | 3.55 | 0.14 |       |       |      |
| 0.992 | Si | Strained |       |       |     |     |       |       |     |     |      |      | 2.396 | 0.008 | 3.4  |
| 1     |    |          | 2.352 | 0     | 4   | 0   |       |       |     |     |      |      |       |       | 0.3  |

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Table 2

 $W_{kj}$ ,  $C_{kj}$  and  $R_l$  values of the ambi-site tetrahedron configurations  $T_{Si}$  and  $T_{Ge}$  of  $Ge_{1-x}Si_x$ ; Ge-centered data are in italic-thick.S(Ck)/3  
Ref. [33]

| K              | 0                              | 1                                 | 2                                 | 3                                 | 4                              |  |
|----------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Configurations | <u><math>4GeT_{Si0}</math></u> | <u><math>3Ge1SiT_{Si1}</math></u> | <u><math>2Ge2SiT_{Si2}</math></u> | <u><math>1Ge3SiT_{Si3}</math></u> | <u><math>4SiT_{Si4}</math></u> |  |
|                | $4GeTGe0$                      | $Ge1$                             | $2Ge2SiTGe2$                      | $1Ge3SiTGe3$                      | $4SiTGe4$                      |  |

All Table 1 data

|          |              |                            |      |                   |                   |       |
|----------|--------------|----------------------------|------|-------------------|-------------------|-------|
| $W_{kj}$ | SiSi         | 0.52                       | 1.25 | 0.86              |                   |       |
|          | GeG          |                            |      |                   |                   |       |
| $c_{kj}$ | e            | 0                          | 1.15 | 0.81              |                   |       |
|          | SiSi         | 0.52                       | 0.75 | 0.86              |                   | 0.71  |
|          | GeG          |                            |      |                   |                   |       |
|          | e            | 0                          | 0.85 | 0.81              |                   | 0.55  |
|          | $R_{1,Si}$   |                            |      |                   |                   |       |
| $R_l$    | Si           | 2.45                       | 2.66 | 2.18              | 2.43              |       |
|          | $R_{1,Si}$   |                            |      |                   |                   |       |
|          | Ge           |                            | 2.32 | 2.36              | 2.38              | 2.352 |
|          | $R_{1,GeSi}$ | Non-available <sup>a</sup> |      |                   |                   |       |
|          |              | 2.45                       |      | 2.32 <sup>a</sup> | 2.36 <sup>a</sup> |       |
|          | $R_{1,G}$    |                            |      |                   |                   |       |
|          | eGe          |                            | 2.48 | 2.39              | 2.352             |       |

Only Relaxed

|          |              |                            |                   |                   |       |       |
|----------|--------------|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------|-------|
| $W_{kj}$ | SiSi         | 0.48                       | 1.12              | 0.98              |       |       |
|          | GeG          |                            |                   |                   |       |       |
| $c_{kj}$ | e            | 0                          | 1.15              | 0.81              |       |       |
|          | SiSi         | 0.48                       | 0.88              | 0.98              |       | 0.78  |
|          | GeG          |                            |                   |                   |       |       |
|          | e            | 0                          | 0.85              | 0.81              |       | 0.38  |
|          | $R_{1,Si}$   |                            |                   |                   |       |       |
| $R_l$    | Si           | 2.45                       | 2.68              | 2.21              | 2.42  |       |
|          | $R_{1,Si}$   |                            |                   |                   |       |       |
|          | Ge           |                            | 2.32              | 2.36              | 2.41  | 2.352 |
|          | $R_{1,GeSi}$ | Non-available <sup>a</sup> |                   |                   |       |       |
|          |              | 2.45                       | 2.32 <sup>a</sup> | 2.36 <sup>a</sup> |       |       |
|          | $R_{1,G}$    |                            |                   |                   |       |       |
|          | eGe          |                            | 2.48              | 2.39              | 2.352 |       |

Only Strained

|          |      |      |      |      |  |
|----------|------|------|------|------|--|
| $W_{kj}$ | SiSi | 0.62 | 1.48 | 0.54 |  |
|----------|------|------|------|------|--|

|          |                   |      |      |      |      |       |
|----------|-------------------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| $c_{kj}$ | SiSi              |      | 0.62 | 0.52 | 0.54 | 0.53  |
| $R_1$    | $R_1.\text{SiSi}$ | 2.45 | 2.68 | 2.21 | 2.42 |       |
|          | $R_1.\text{SiG}$  |      | 1.95 | 4.15 | 0.00 | 2.352 |

<sup>a</sup> Data not available in Refs. [10]; however  $R_1.\text{GeSi} \equiv R_1.\text{SiGe}$  for configurations  $^{2\text{Ge}}\text{Si}_2\text{Ti}_{\text{Si}2}$  and  $^{1\text{Ge}}\text{Si}_3\text{Ti}_{\text{Ge}3}$ , and for  $^{1\text{Ge}}\text{Si}_3\text{Ti}_{\text{Si}3}$  and  $^{4\text{Si}}\text{Ti}_{\text{Ge}4}$ .

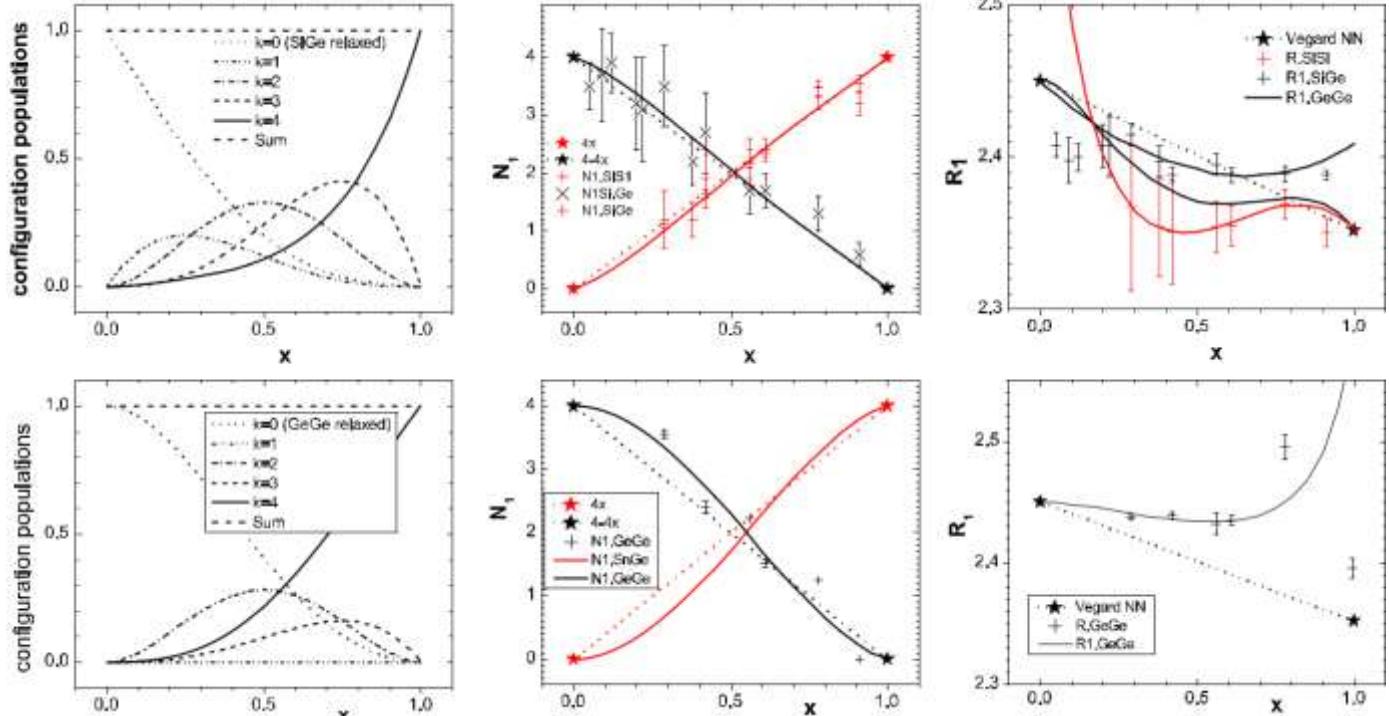


Fig. 1.  $\text{Ge}_{1-x}\text{Si}_x$  from EXAFS data at the Si K-edge (top raw) and Ge Kedge (bottom raw) (left) Configuration populations, (center)  $N_1$  and (right)  $R_1$  values vs.  $x$  (relative to the full set of observed data listed in Table 1).

EXAFS bond-distance data from Ge- ( $R_1.\text{GeSi}$ ) or Si- ( $R_1.\text{SiGe}$ ) K-edge must give the same value to points  $R_1.\text{GeSi} \equiv R_1.\text{SiGe}$ . EXAFS-wise configurations (Table 2)  $2\text{Ge}2\text{SiTSi}2$  and  $1\text{Ge}3\text{SiTGe}3$  are equivalent, as are configurations  $1\text{Ge}_3\text{SiTSi}_3$  and  $4\text{SiTGe}_4$ .

Table 3

$\text{Ge}_{1-x}\text{Sn}_x$  sample thicknesses [nm] and SRD's [%] from Ref. [32].

| Sample              | A2  | A3  | A4  | A5   | B1  | B2  | B3  | B4  | B5  | C2  | C3  | C4   | D1  | D2  | D3  | D4   | D5   |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|------|------|
| $x_{\text{Sn}}$ [%] | 7.2 | 8.1 | 9.1 | 10.5 | 6.7 | 6.8 | 8.5 | 9.5 | 12  | 7.2 | 8.2 | 10.1 | 6   | 7.9 | 8.5 | 10.5 | 12.4 |
| nm                  | 68  | 45  | 59  | 45   | 144 | 113 | 112 | 118 | 116 | 210 | 240 | 213  | 542 | 499 | 420 | 305  | 466  |
| SRD [%]             | 4   | 1   | 3   | 0    | 32  | 19  | 24  | 32  | 19  | 39  | 52  | 44   | 63  | 69  | 64  | 69   | 71   |

Table

4

$\text{Ge}_{1-x}\text{Sn}_x$   $N_1$ ,  $N_2$  and  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$  values from Ref. [32].

|                 | 1           | 2           | 3       | 4       | 5       | 6       | 7       | 8       | 9       | 10         | 11      | 12          | 13          | 14          | 15      | 16   | 17    |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------------|---------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------|------|-------|
| Sample          | D1          | B1          | B2      | A2      | C2      | D2      | A3      | C3      | B3      | D3<br>0.08 | A4      | B4          | C4          | A5          | D4      | B5   | D5    |
| $x^{\text{Sn}}$ | 0.06        | 0.067       | 0.068   | 0.072   | 0.072   | 0.079   | 0.081   | 0.082   | 0.085   | 5          | 0.091   | 0.095       | 0.101       | 0.105       | 0.105   | 0.12 | 0.124 |
| $N_1.\text{Ge}$ | 3.4 (4) (8) | 3.7 (7) (9) | 3.5 (3) | 3.7 (3) | 3.6 (9) | 3.8 (3) | 3.3 (5) | 3.3 (3) | 3.3 (8) | 4.0        | 3.0 (5) | 3.1 (3)     | 3.8 (8)     | 3.4 (2) (6) | 3.1 (2) | 3.4  | 3.2   |
| $N_2.\text{Sn}$ | 1.3 (9) (9) | 2.5 (9) ( ) | 1.5 (9) | 1.8 (6) | 1.6(X)  | 1.5 (9) | 1.2 (9) | 1.8 (7) | ( )     | 1.4(X)     | 2.5 (9) | 1.4 (7) (5) | 1.9 (7) (9) | 1.7 (6)     | 2.5     | 2.5  | 2.5   |

|                |       |      |       |      |       |       |      |       |       |      |         |       |       |      |       |      |          |
|----------------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|------|---------|-------|-------|------|-------|------|----------|
|                | 2.585 | 2.60 | 2.594 | 2.58 | 2.592 | 2.599 | 2.64 | 2.599 | 2.594 | 2.59 | (42.61) | 2.604 | 2.587 | 2.6  | 2.595 | 2.59 | 2.599    |
| R <sub>1</sub> | (9)   | (1)  | (9)   | (2)  | (4)   | (5)   | (3)  | (5)   | (9)   | 3    | (1)     | (9)   | (6)   | (1)  | (5)   | (1)  | (6)      |
|                | 4.00  | 4.10 | 4.05  | 4.00 | 4.01  | 4.08  | 4.08 | 4.04  | 4.04  | 4.01 | 4.11    | 4.02  | 4.03  | 4.01 | 4.05  | 3.98 |          |
| R <sub>2</sub> | (2)   | (9)  | (6)   | (9)  | (2)   | (2)   | (9)  | (2)   | (8)   | (2)  | (6)     | (4)   | (2)   | (9)  | (2)   | (3)  | 4.07 (2) |

Table 5

Ge<sub>1-x</sub>Sn<sub>x</sub> W<sub>kj</sub> and C<sub>kj</sub> values of the tetrahedron configurations from available N<sub>1</sub>, N<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>1</sub> (Table 4 in Ref. [32]).

$$k \quad 0 \quad 1 \quad 2 \quad 3 \quad 4 \quad S(C_k)/3$$

| Configurati<br>ons  | $\frac{4}{3}GeT_S$<br><sub>n0</sub> | $\frac{2}{3}Ge_2SnT_S$<br><sub>n1</sub> | $\frac{1}{3}Ge_3SnT_S$<br><sub>n2</sub> | $\frac{4}{1}SnT_S$<br><sub>n3</sub> | $\frac{4}{5}SnT_S$<br><sub>n4</sub> |      |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------|
| W <sub>kj</sub>     | e                                   | 0.59                                    | 0                                       | 0                                   |                                     |      |
| C <sub>kj</sub>     | e                                   | 0.59                                    | 0                                       | 0                                   | e                                   | 0.36 |
| R <sub>1.Ge</sub>   | 2.450                               | 2.43                                    | e                                       | e                                   | e                                   |      |
| R <sub>1.Sn</sub>   | e                                   | 3.46                                    | e                                       | e                                   | 2.810                               |      |
| R <sub>2.GeGe</sub> | 4.007                               | 4.31                                    | e                                       | e                                   |                                     |      |
| R <sub>2.SnSn</sub> | e                                   | 3.93                                    | e                                       | e                                   | 4.589                               |      |

### 3. THE GE<sub>1-x</sub>SN<sub>x</sub> ANALYSES.

Seventeen mono-crystalline Ge<sub>1-x</sub>Sn<sub>x</sub> samples with fourteen x<sub>Sn</sub>[0.06, 0.124] concentrations were investigated by Gencarelli et al. at the Dutch-Belgian Beam-line DUBBLE (BM26A) of the European Synchrotron Radiation Facility (ESRF, Grenoble, France) at the Sn K-edge spectra. Synthesis and experimental procedures are available in Ref. [32]. Measurements on both strained and relaxed samples have been reported. Results are presented in four subsets: A, B, C and D each with at least three observations, which consents defining the three SOP-coefficients. Sample thicknesses and strain relaxation degrees (SRD) (Table 4) for N<sub>1,Ge</sub>, N<sub>2,Sn</sub> and bond distances (R<sub>1</sub>) and (R<sub>2</sub>) values at the Sn K-edge are listed in Table 5. Lacking the Ge K-edge spectra, only Sn-centered tetrahedra can be analyzed. As per Table 3, all samples A are thin in the range 2 [45e68] nm with a low SRD 2[0e4] %, samples B and C are medium thick 2[112 144] and 2[210 240] nm with SRD 2 [19e32] and 2[39e52] %, respectively and samples D are thick 2[305 542] nm with SRD 2[63e71] %.

Table 6

Ge<sub>1-x</sub>Sn<sub>x</sub> W<sub>kj</sub> and C<sub>kj</sub> values of the tetrahedron-configurations best fitting the available N<sub>1</sub>, N<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>1</sub> values for each A, B, C and D subset from Table 4.

$$k \quad 0 \quad 1 \quad 2 \quad 3 \quad 4 \quad S(C_k)/3$$

| Configurati<br>ons | $\frac{4}{3}GeT_S$<br><sub>n0</sub> | $\frac{2}{3}Ge_2SnT_S$<br><sub>n1</sub> | $\frac{1}{3}Ge_3SnT_S$<br><sub>n2</sub> | $\frac{4}{1}SnT_S$<br><sub>n3</sub> | $\frac{4}{5}SnT_S$<br><sub>n4</sub> |  |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| A                  |                                     |   |   |                                     |                                     |  |
| W <sub>kj</sub>    | e                                   | 0.68                                    | 0.39                                    | 0                                   |                                     |  |
| C <sub>kj</sub>    | e                                   | 0.68                                    | 0.39                                    | 0                                   | 0.36                                |  |
| B                  |                                     |   |   |                                     |                                     |  |
| W <sub>kj</sub>    | e                                   | 0                                       | 0.89                                    | 0                                   |                                     |  |
| C <sub>kj</sub>    | e                                   | 0                                       | 0.89                                    | 0                                   | 0.30                                |  |
| C                  |                                     |   |   |                                     |                                     |  |
| W <sub>kj</sub>    | e                                   | 0.78                                    | 0                                       | 0                                   |                                     |  |
| C <sub>kj</sub>    | e                                   | 0.78                                    | 0                                       | 0                                   | 0.26                                |  |
| D                  |                                     |   |   |                                     |                                     |  |
| W <sub>kj</sub>    | e                                   | 0.44                                    | 0                                       | 0                                   |                                     |  |
| C <sub>kj</sub>    | e                                   | 0.44                                    | 0                                       | 0                                   | 0.15                                |  |

From the values in Table 4 we derive the [W<sub>kj</sub>]<sub>k=4A,B; j=1,3</sub> and [C<sub>kj</sub>]<sub>k=4A,B; j=1,3</sub> values and the R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> values of the tetrahedron configurations (Table 5). Of the three configurations only  $\frac{2}{3}Ge_2SnT_{Ge1}$  is formed, with C<sub>Sn,1</sub> 1/4 0.59, C<sub>Sn,2</sub> 1/4 0, C<sub>Sn,3</sub> 1/4 0, with a mean value of 0.36. The analysis of distinct subsets indicates for A C<sub>Sn,1</sub> 1/4 0.59, C<sub>Sn,2</sub> 1/4 0, C<sub>Sn,3</sub> 1/4 0, with a mean value of 0.36, for B C<sub>Sn,1</sub> 1/4 0, C<sub>Sn,2</sub> 1/4 0.89, C<sub>Sn,3</sub> 1/4 0, with a mean value of 0.30, for C C<sub>Sn,1</sub> 1/4 0.78, C<sub>Sn,2</sub> 1/4 0, C<sub>Sn,3</sub> 1/4 0, with a mean value of 0.26, and for D C<sub>Sn,1</sub> 1/4 0.44, C<sub>Sn,2</sub> 1/4 0, C<sub>Sn,3</sub> 1/4 0, with a mean value of 0.15 (Table 6).

In all samples, the configuration  $\frac{1}{3}Ge_3SnT_{Sn3}$  is lacking. Apparently the increase of SRD enhances the structural stability. Moreover, the obtained set of SOPeW<sub>Sn,j</sub> values leads to a reasonable agreement among STM results and experimental values (Fig. 2).

#### 4. CONCLUSIONS.

This manuscript describes the application of the Strained Tetrahedron Model to EXAFS spectra of binary alloys. We illustrated its application analyzing data of  $\text{Ge}_{1-x}\text{Si}_x$  Ref. [10] and  $\text{Ge}_{1-x}\text{Sn}_x$  Ref. [10] binary systems of the Group IV-IV of binary tetrahedron ordered B3 alloys. We determined the atomic distributions among the three strained tetrahedron-configurations although some conclusions are limited by the published data available.

The analysis of  $\text{Ge}_{1-x}\text{Si}_x$  samples points out that from both Si and

Ge K-edges, all three Si-centered tetrahedra are present, while in Ge-centered tetrahedra the  ${}^3\text{GeSi}_1\text{T}_{\text{Ge}1}$  configuration is not detected and, at present, it is not clear the reason of the lack of this configuration. However, the expected behavior using the SOP-concept instead of the random Bernoulli distribution, matches reasonably well the discrete distribution emerging from the experimental data considering also the dispersion of some experimental points.

$\text{GeSn}$  alloy spectra were collected only at the Sn K-edge, and we investigate the three Sn-centered tetrahedra. Of the three expected configurations only the  ${}^3\text{GeSn}_1\text{T}_{\text{Sn}1}$  configuration is detected. Within the present experimental limitations, the ST-model has been successfully applied on the available data of Group IV-IV binary tetrahedron ordered B3 alloys obtaining both the SOP coefficients  $W_{kj}$  and the corresponding attenuation factors  $C_{kj}$  of each random Bernoulli Eigen-function of the observed distorted tetrahedron configurations. This confirms once more the reliability of this model to investigate different binary alloys and its possible use for technological applications in materials science.

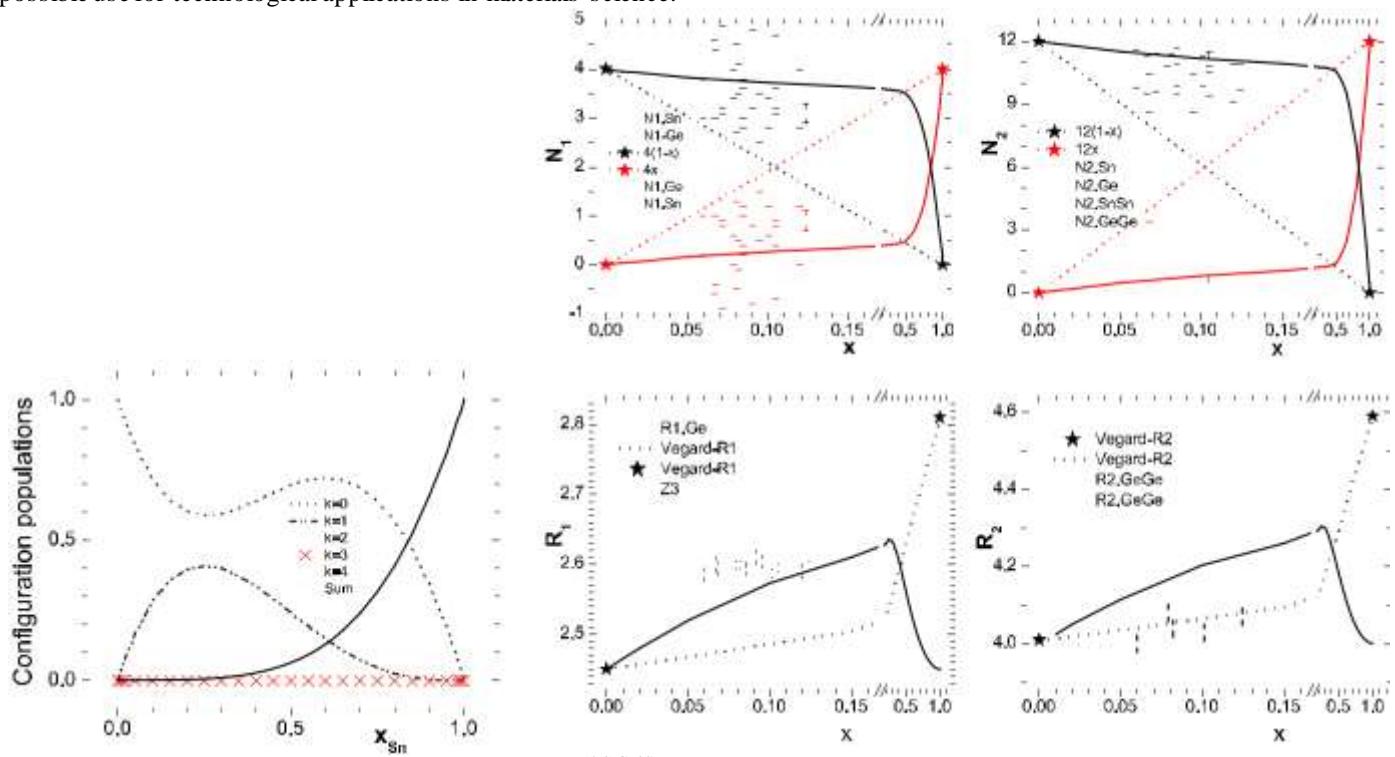


Fig. 2. Population distributions of the  $\text{Ge}_{1-x}\text{Sn}_x$  of  $[{}^{(4-j)}\text{GejSn}_1\text{T}_{kj}]_{k \neq 4}\text{Ge},\text{Sn}_{j \neq 1,3}$  and of  $N_1, N_2, R_1, R_2$  values (Vegard-lines) vs.  $x_{\text{Sn}}$  (experimental dataset listed in Table 4).

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elements and those of binary Group IV-IV compounds that belong to the B3 crystalline group. The remaining six  $[{}^{(4-j)}\text{BjA}_1\text{T}_{kj}]_{k \neq 4}\text{A},\text{Bj} \neq 1,3$  have strained tetrahedron configurations to be

determined.

#### Table

#### A1

Group IV elements and Group IV-IV binary: recovered lattice parameters  $a$  [ $\text{\AA}$ ], bond distances  $R_1$  and dielectric constants: static  $\epsilon_0$  and dynamic  $\epsilon_\infty$

| Element | C | Si | Ge | Sn | Pb |
|---------|---|----|----|----|----|
|---------|---|----|----|----|----|

|                    |             |            |             |            |            |
|--------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|------------|
| a [Å]              | 3.567       | 5.431 [34] | 5.658 [34]  | 6.489 [34] | 6.852 [35] |
| R <sub>1</sub> [Å] | 1.54 [34]   | 2.35 [34]  | 2.45 [34]   | 2.81 [34]  | 2.97       |
| E <sub>0</sub>     | 5.7000 [34] | 11.6 [34]  | 16.00 [34]  | 23 [34]    |            |
| Binary             | SiC         | GeC        | GeSi        | SnC        | SnSi       |
|                    |             |            |             | SnGe       | PbC        |
|                    |             |            |             | PbSi       | PbGe       |
|                    |             |            |             | PbSn       |            |
| a [Å]              | 4.535       | 5.011      |             |            |            |
|                    | 4.360 [35]  | [35]       | 5.503 [35]  | [35]       | 5.953 [35] |
|                    |             |            |             |            | 6.069 [35] |
|                    |             |            |             |            | 5.223 [35] |
|                    |             |            |             |            | 6.128 [35] |
|                    |             |            |             |            | 6.265 [35] |
|                    |             |            |             |            | 6.671 [35] |
| ε <sub>0</sub>     | 9.72 [36]   | [37]       | 12.08       | 34.57      |            |
|                    |             |            |             | [37]       |            |
|                    |             |            |             |            | 10.27      |
|                    |             |            | 10.28 [37]  | [38]       |            |
|                    |             |            |             |            | 13.6       |
|                    |             |            | 7.1 [38,39] | [39]       |            |
|                    |             |            |             |            | 13.6       |
|                    |             |            | 7.2 [39]    |            |            |
| ε <sub>∞</sub>     | 6.52 [36]   | 7.2 [37]   | 15.78 [40]  | [37]       | 24.62 [40] |
|                    |             |            |             |            | 38.87 [40] |

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