## Negative thermal expansion and local dynamics

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## <u>Overview</u>

- Negative thermal expansion (NTE)
- EXAFS and local dynamics
- EXAFS studies of NTE materials

#### Thermal expansion in 2-atomic systems

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#### Thermal expansion in many-atomic systems

 $V(\vec{r}_1, \vec{r}_2, \dots, \vec{r}_n)$ 

Crystal potential defined in 3n-dim. configurational space



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#### "Global" approach to NTE

$$V(\vec{r}_1, \vec{r}_2, \dots \vec{r}_n)$$

Crystal potential defined in 3n-dim. configurational space

Born - von Karman power expansion with respect to atomic displacements

anharmonic terms  $\Leftrightarrow$  thermal expansion





#### **Bond distances**

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Fornasini et al., Phys. Rev. B 70, 174301 (2004)

#### **Thermal factors**

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Fornasini et al., Phys. Rev. B 70, 174301 (2004)



#### NTE structures studied by EXAFS (a)



#### NTE structures studied by EXAFS (b)

















# Bond expansion and asymmetry of the effective potential

• Thermal expansion due to asymmetry  $\delta a = -3k_3 \, \delta C_2^* / k_0$ 



#### **EXAFS** thermal expansion

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#### Local dynamical properties of NTE materials



### **Conclusions**

- > The NN bond always undergoes positive expansion (PTE).
- For iso-structural crystals, the stronger is the lattice NTE, the stronger are the bond PTE and the perpendicular MSRD.
- A correlation can be established between MSRD anisotropy and NTE strength.
- EXAFS measurements substantiate the local model based on the competition between stretching and tension effects.
- Bond stretching is due to anharmonicity plus shift of the effective pair potential.

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