

Kittel (8th Edition). Chapter 3. Problem 2.
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$$\begin{aligned}
 u &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\bar{r} \neq 0} 4\epsilon \left[-\frac{1}{p^6} \left(\frac{\sigma}{R} \right)^6 + \frac{1}{p^{12}} \left(\frac{\sigma}{R} \right)^{12} \right] \\
 &= 2\epsilon \left[-\underbrace{\sum_{\bar{r} \neq 0} \frac{1}{p^6} \left(\frac{\sigma}{R} \right)^6}_{A_6} + \underbrace{\sum_{\bar{r} \neq 0} \frac{1}{p^{12}} \left(\frac{\sigma}{R} \right)^{12}}_{A_{12}} \right] \\
 &= 2\epsilon \left[-A_6 \left(\frac{\sigma}{R} \right)^6 + A_{12} \left(\frac{\sigma}{R} \right)^{12} \right]
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial R} = 0 \Rightarrow 2\epsilon \left[-A_6 \frac{\partial}{\partial R} \left(\frac{\sigma}{R} \right)^6 + A_{12} \frac{\partial}{\partial R} \left(\frac{\sigma}{R} \right)^{12} \right] = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow 2\epsilon \left[-6A_6 \frac{\sigma^5}{R^6} + 12A_{12} \frac{\sigma^{11}}{R^{12}} \right] = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow -6A_6 + 12A_{12} \frac{\sigma^6}{R^6} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{R^6}{\sigma^6} = \frac{2A_{12}}{A_6}$$

$$\Rightarrow R = \left(\frac{2A_{12}}{A_6} \right)^{\frac{1}{6}} \sigma$$

$$= \left(\frac{2 \times 12.13188}{14.15392} \right)^{\frac{1}{6}} \sigma = 1.09017 \sigma \quad \text{for fcc.}$$

$$\left(\frac{2 \times 9.11418}{12.2533} \right)^{\frac{1}{6}} \sigma = 1.06844 \sigma \quad \text{for bcc.}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \therefore \frac{u_{\text{bcc}}}{u_{\text{fcc}}} &= \frac{2\epsilon \left[-A_6 \left(\frac{\sigma}{R} \right)^6 + A_{12} \left(\frac{\sigma}{R} \right)^{12} \right]_{\text{bcc}}}{2\epsilon \left[-A_6 \left(\frac{\sigma}{R} \right)^6 + A_{12} \left(\frac{\sigma}{R} \right)^{12} \right]_{\text{fcc}}} = \frac{\left[-12.2533 \left(\frac{1}{1.06844} \right)^6 + 9.11418 \left(\frac{1}{1.06844} \right)^{12} \right]}{\left[-14.45392 \left(\frac{1}{1.09017} \right)^6 + 12.13188 \left(\frac{1}{1.09017} \right)^{12} \right]} \\
 &= \frac{-8.236681 + 4.118281}{-8.610340 + 4.305240} = \underline{\underline{0.9566}}
 \end{aligned}$$

Hence fcc structure is more stable than bcc structure.