

# EPFL

# *Physics of Materials*

## Chapter 11

## Phase Transformations 1: Solidification

Dr. Thomas LaGrange

LUMIES



Masters Course PHYS-307

Fall 2024

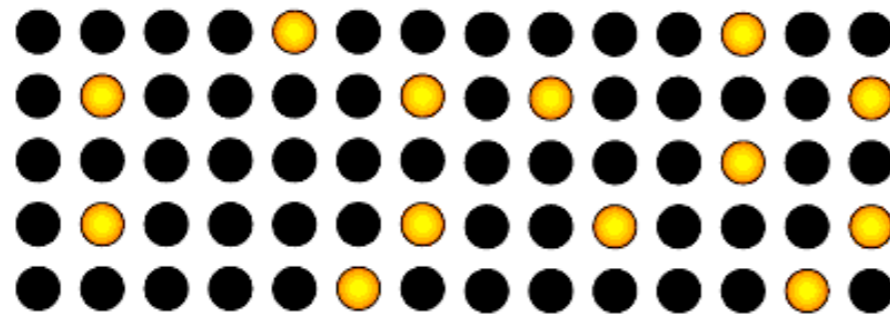
# Thermodynamics: mixing energy

Concentration  $X_A = \frac{N_A}{N_A + N_B}$

$$\Delta G_m = \Delta H_m - T \Delta S_m$$

Ideal solution  $\Delta H_m = 0$

Calculation of the mixing entropy  $\Delta S_m$



$$T \Delta S_m = kT \ln \left( \frac{(N_A + N_B)!}{N_A! N_B!} \right)$$

Stirling formula:  $\ln N! \approx N \ln N - N$

$$T \Delta S_m = kT \left[ (N_A + N_B) \ln(N_A + N_B) - N_A \ln N_A - N_B \ln N_B \right] \quad \boxed{N_A = X_A n_a}$$

$$T \Delta S_m = kT \left[ n_a (X_A + X_B) \left[ \ln n_a + \ln(X_A + X_B) \right] - n_a \left( X_A (\ln n_a + \ln X_A) \right) + X_B (\ln n_a + \ln X_B) \right]$$

$$T \Delta S_m = kT \left[ -n_a (X_A \ln X_A + X_B \ln X_B) \right] = -RT (X_A \ln X_A + X_B \ln X_B) \quad \boxed{X_A + X_B = 1}$$

# Thermodynamics: mixing energy

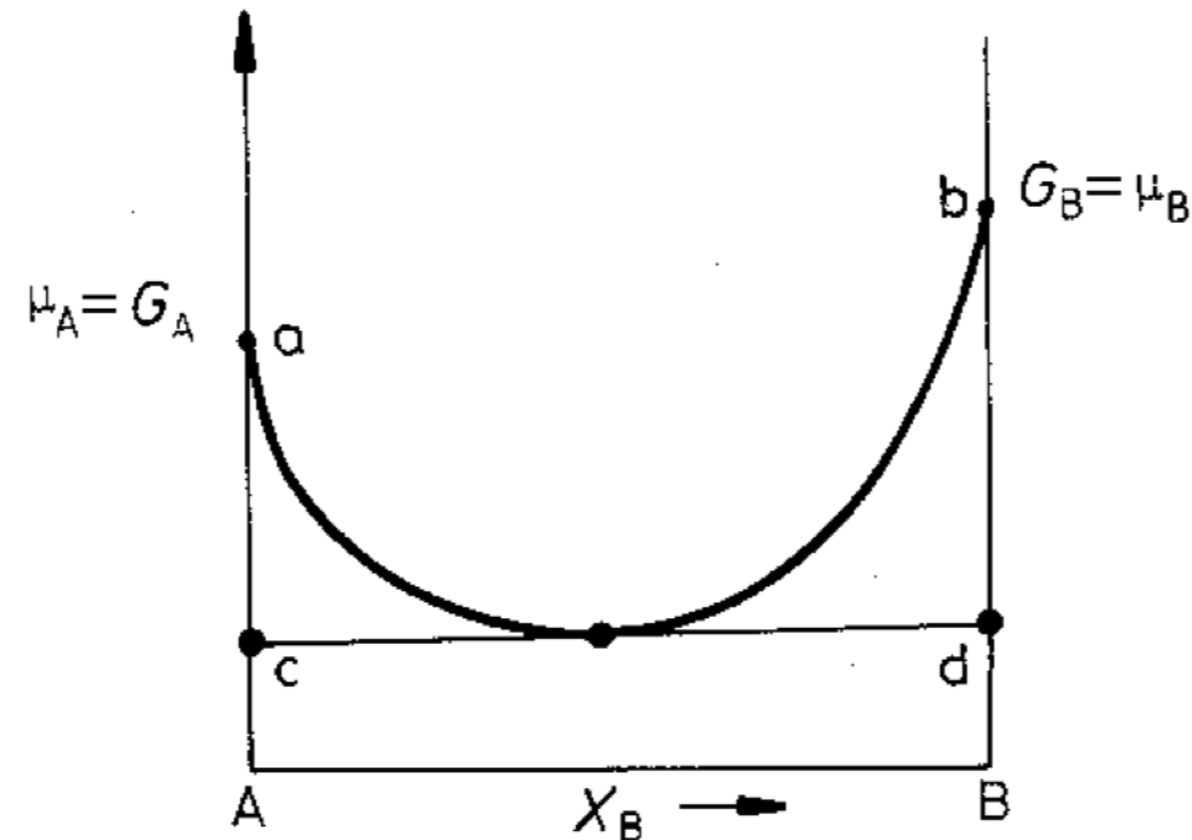
Total free energy of the mixture:  $\Delta H_m = 0$

$$G = G_A X_A + G_B X_B + RT (X_A \ln X_A + X_B \ln X_B)$$

$$G = \mu_A X_A + \mu_B X_B$$

$$\mu_A = G_A + RT \ln X_A$$

$$\mu_B = G_B + RT \ln X_B$$



# Calculation of the mixing enthalpy $\Delta H_m \neq 0$

$V_{AA}$  = potential of interaction  $A-A$

$V_{BB}$  = potential of interaction  $B-B$

$V_{AB}$  = potential of interaction  $A-B$

$$\Delta H_m \approx \Delta E_m = N_{AA}V_{AA} + N_{BB}V_{BB} + N_{AB}V_{AB}$$

number of pairs  $A-A$       $N_{AA} = \frac{1}{2}NX_A \cdot zX_A$

$$X_A = X \quad X_B = 1 - X$$

$$N_{AA} = \frac{1}{2}NzX^2 \quad N_{BB} = \frac{1}{2}Nz(1-X)^2 \quad N_{AB} = NzX(1-X)$$

$$\Delta H_m \cong \Delta E_m = \frac{1}{2}NzX^2V_{AA} + \frac{1}{2}Nz(1-X)^2V_{BB} + NzX(1-X)V_{AB}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2}Nz \left[ XV_{AA} - X(1-X)V_{AA} + (1-X)V_{BB} - X(1-X)V_{BB} + 2X(1-X)V_{AB} \right]$$

# Calculation of the mixing enthalpy

$$\Delta H_m = \frac{1}{2} N_Z \left[ X V_{AA} + (1-X) V_{BB} + 2X(1-X) \left( V_{AB} - \frac{V_{AA} + V_{BB}}{2} \right) \right]$$

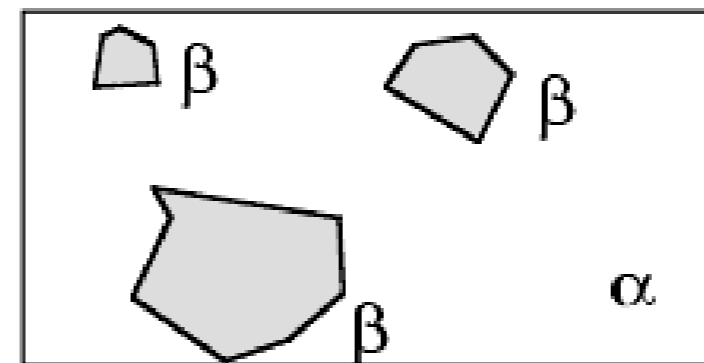
$$\Delta H_m = \frac{1}{2} N_Z \left[ X V_{AA} + (1-X) V_{BB} + 2X(1-X) V \right] \quad V = V_{AB} - \frac{V_{AA} + V_{BB}}{2}$$

## 3 possible cases

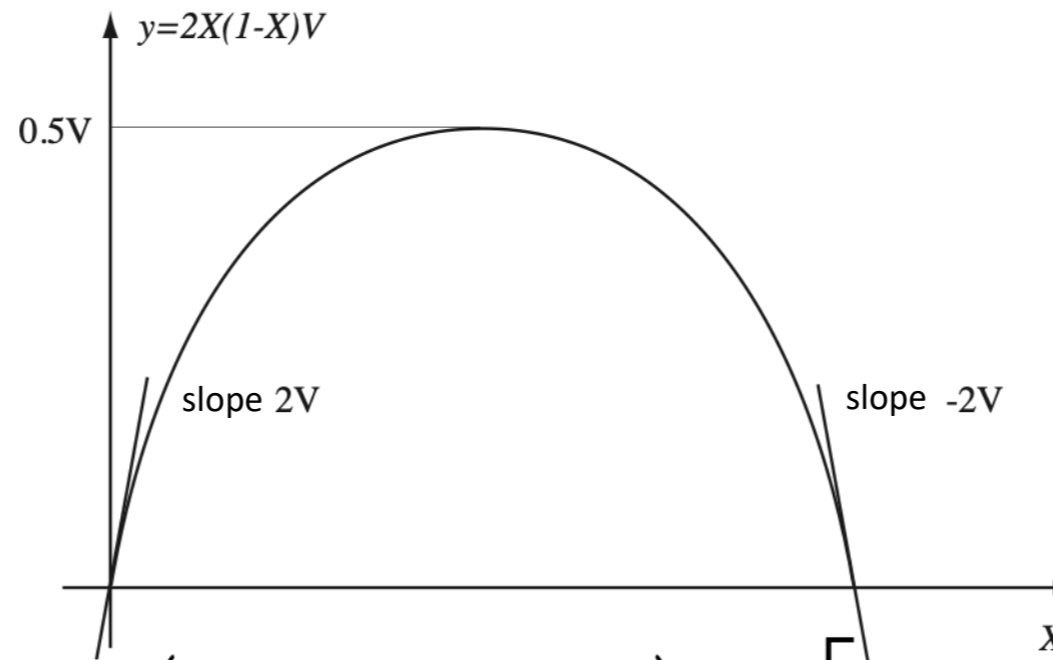
1)  $V = 0$  that is  $V_{AA} \sim V_{AB} \sim V_{BB}$  **Disordered solution**

2)  $V > 0$  or  $V_{AB} > \frac{V_{AA} + V_{BB}}{2}$  **Separation of phases (precipitation)**

3)  $V < 0$  or  $V_{AB} < \frac{V_{AA} + V_{BB}}{2}$  **Alloy**



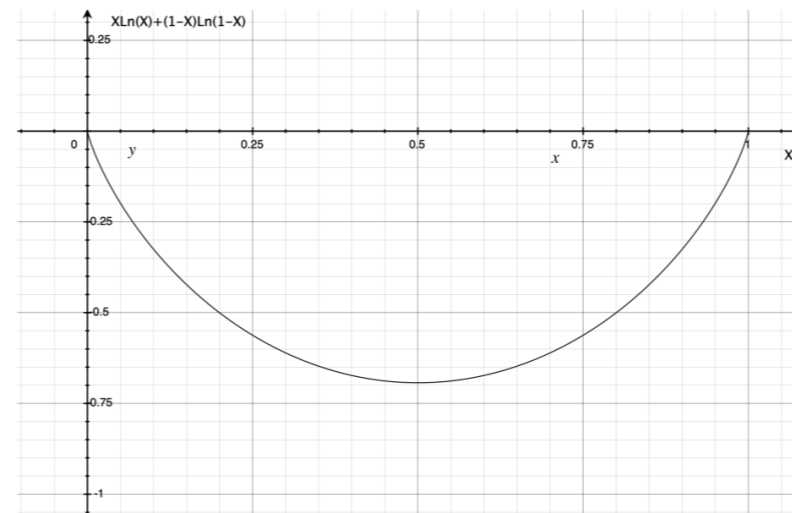
# The interaction potential $V(\Omega)$



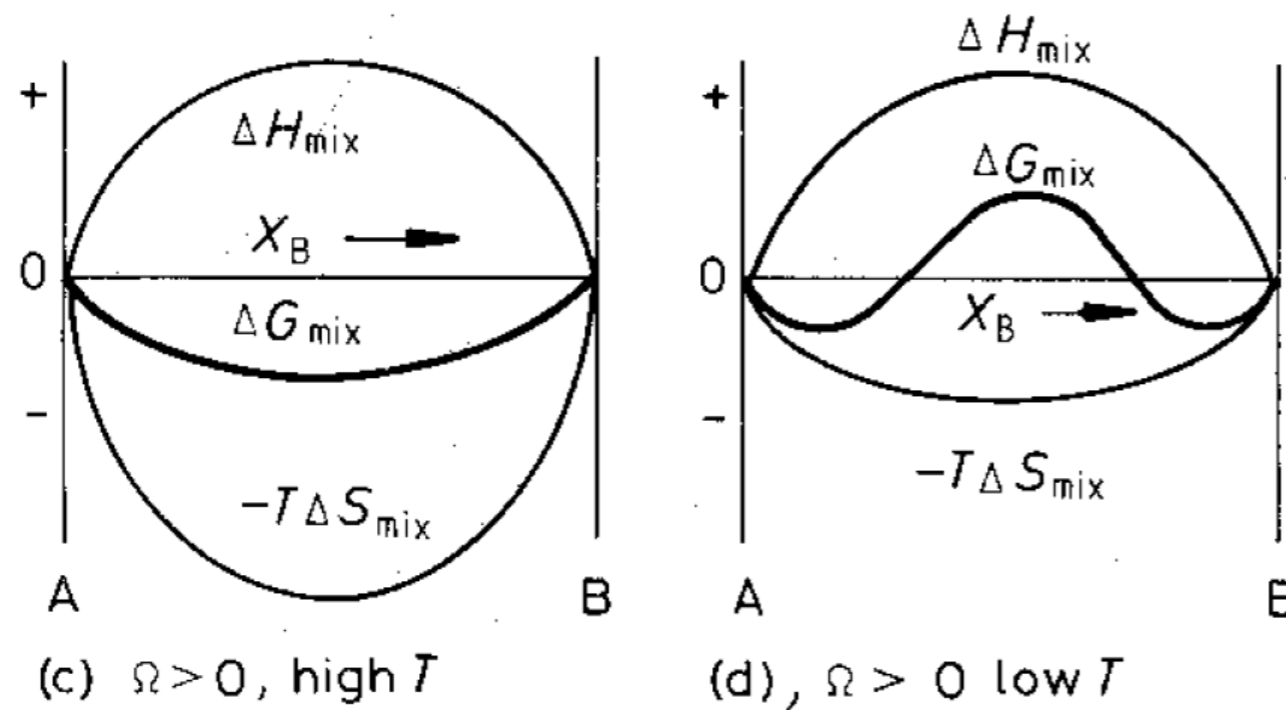
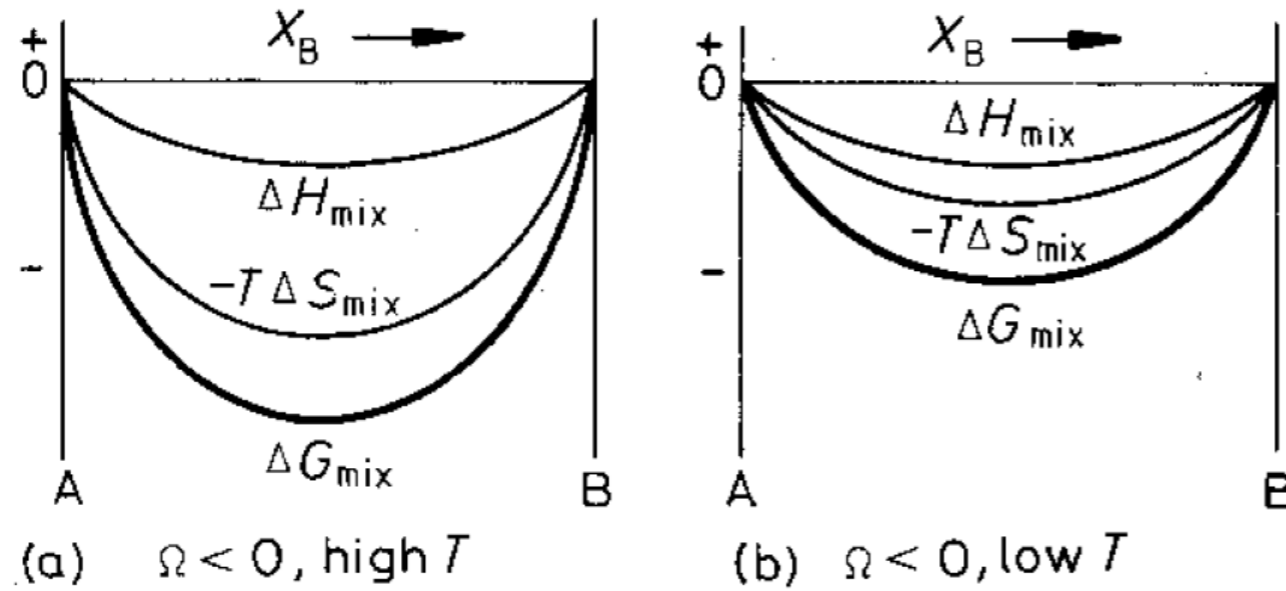
$$NzX(1-X)V = \Omega X_A X_B = \Omega (X_A^2 X_B + X_A X_B^2) = \Omega \left[ X_A (1 - X_A)^2 + X_B (1 - X_B)^2 \right]$$

$$\Delta H_m = \Omega X_A X_B$$

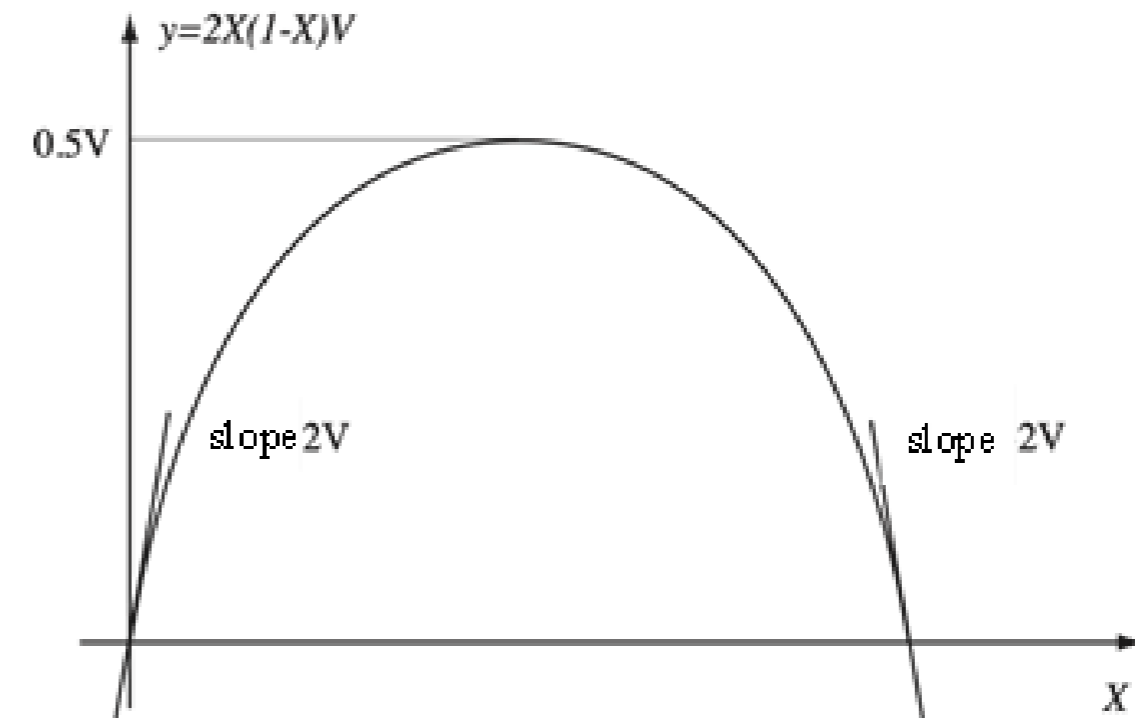
$$\Delta G_m = \Delta H_m - T \Delta S_m = G_A X_A + G_B X_B + \Omega X_A X_B + RT (X_A \ln X_A + X_B \ln X_B)$$



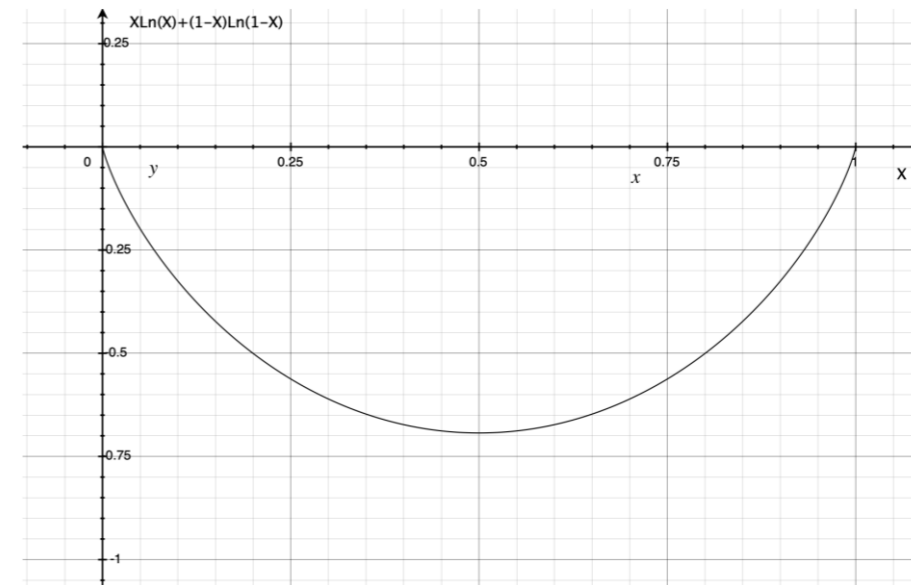
# The interaction potential $V(\Omega)$



$$\Delta H_m = \Omega X_A X_B$$



$$-T\Delta S_m = RT(X \ln X + (1-X) \ln(1-X))$$



# Chemical potential and activity (real solutions)

$$\Delta G_m = \Delta H_m - T\Delta S_m = G_A X_A + G_B X_B + \Omega X_A X_B + RT(X_A \ln X_A + X_B \ln X_B)$$

$$\Omega X_A X_B = \Omega \left[ X_A (1 - X_A)^2 + X_B (1 - X_B)^2 \right]$$

$$\mu_A = G_A + \Omega(1 - X_A)^2 + RT \ln X_A \qquad \mu_B = G_B + \Omega(1 - X_B)^2 + RT \ln X_B$$

ideal solution

$$\mu_A = G_A + RT \ln X_A$$

$$\mu_B = G_B + RT \ln X_B$$

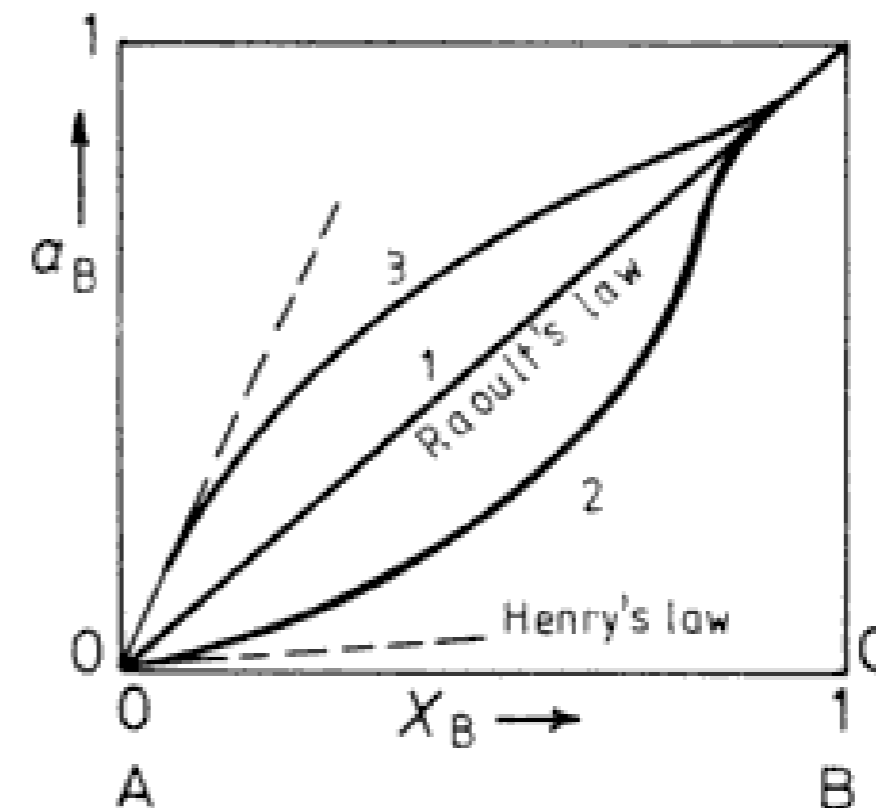
$$\mu_A = G_A + RT \ln a_A$$

$$\mu_B = G_B + RT \ln a_B$$

$$\frac{a_A}{X_A} = \gamma_A$$

activity coefficient

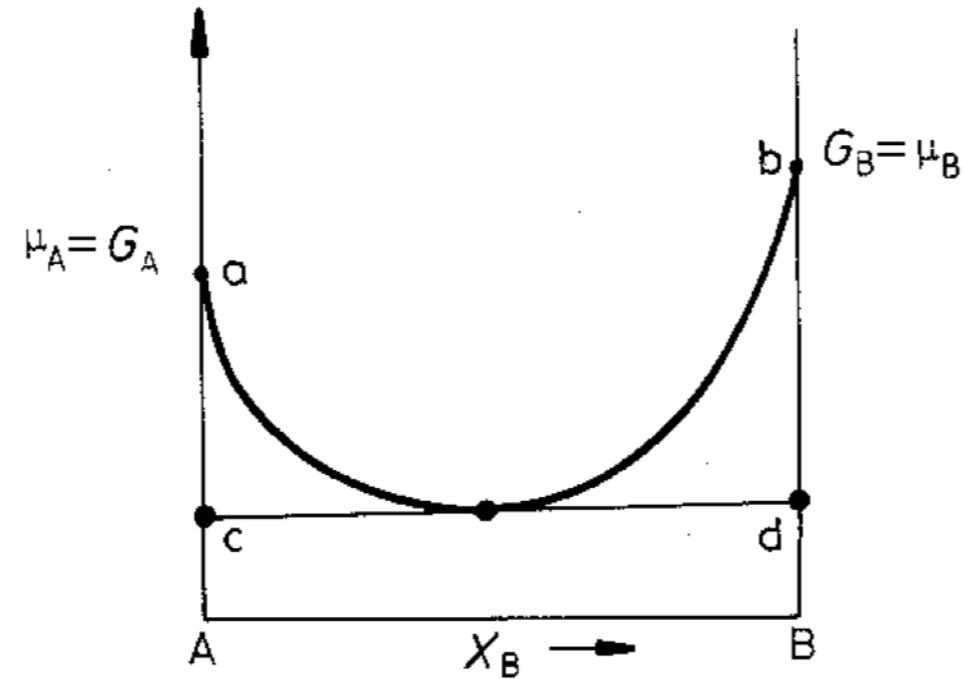
$$\ln \frac{a_A}{X_A} = \frac{\Omega}{RT} (1 - X_A)^2$$



# Binary phase diagram

## Ideal solution

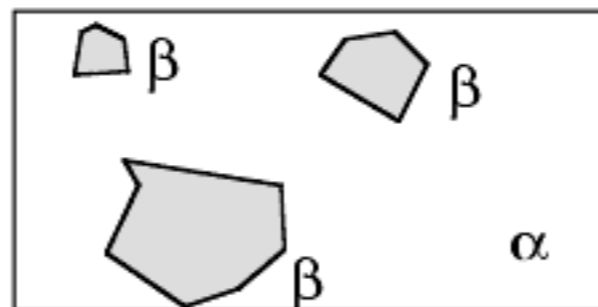
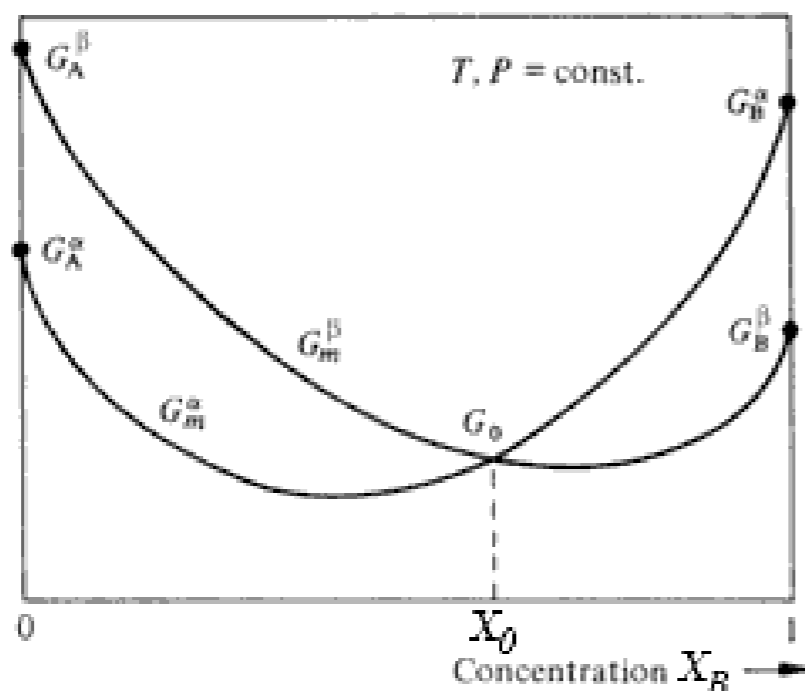
$$\mu_A^\alpha = G_A^\alpha + RT \ln X_A^\alpha \quad \mu_A^\beta = G_A^\beta + RT \ln X_A^\beta$$



Equilibrium (minimum)

$$\mu_A^\alpha = \mu_A^\beta \quad \mu_B^\alpha = \mu_B^\beta$$

# Binary phase diagram



Concentration  $X = X_A$

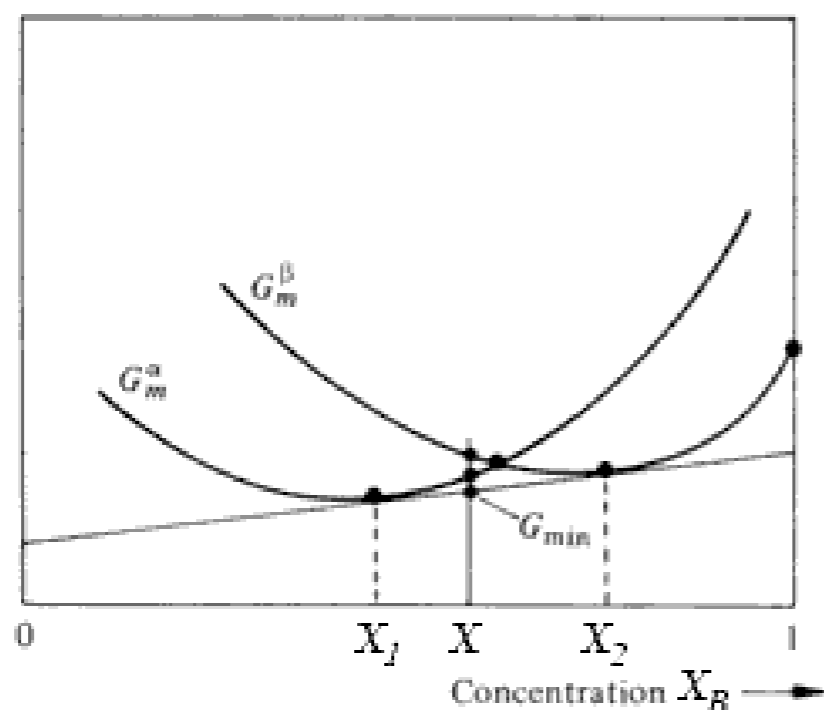
$$X = f^\alpha X^\alpha + f^\beta X^\beta = f^\alpha X^\alpha + (1 - f^\alpha) X^\beta$$

$$f^\alpha = \frac{X^\beta - X}{X^\beta - X^\alpha} \quad f^\beta = 1 - f^\alpha = \frac{X - X^\alpha}{X^\beta - X^\alpha}$$

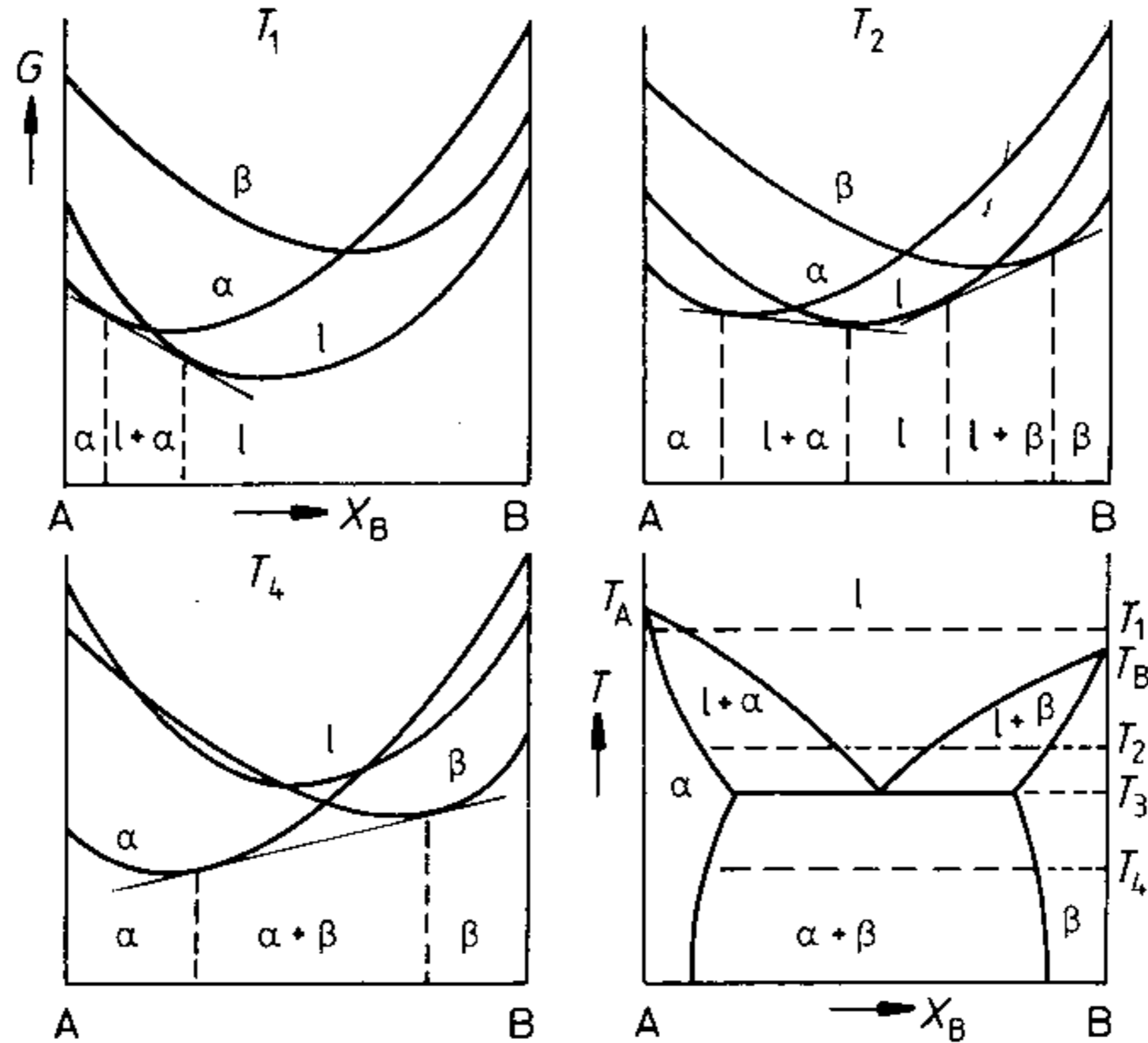
$$G = f^\alpha G^\alpha + f^\beta G^\beta = \frac{X^\beta - X}{X^\beta - X^\alpha} G^\alpha + \frac{X - X^\alpha}{X^\beta - X^\alpha} G^\beta$$

$$G = G^\alpha + \frac{G^\beta - G^\alpha}{X^\beta - X^\alpha} (X - X^\alpha)$$

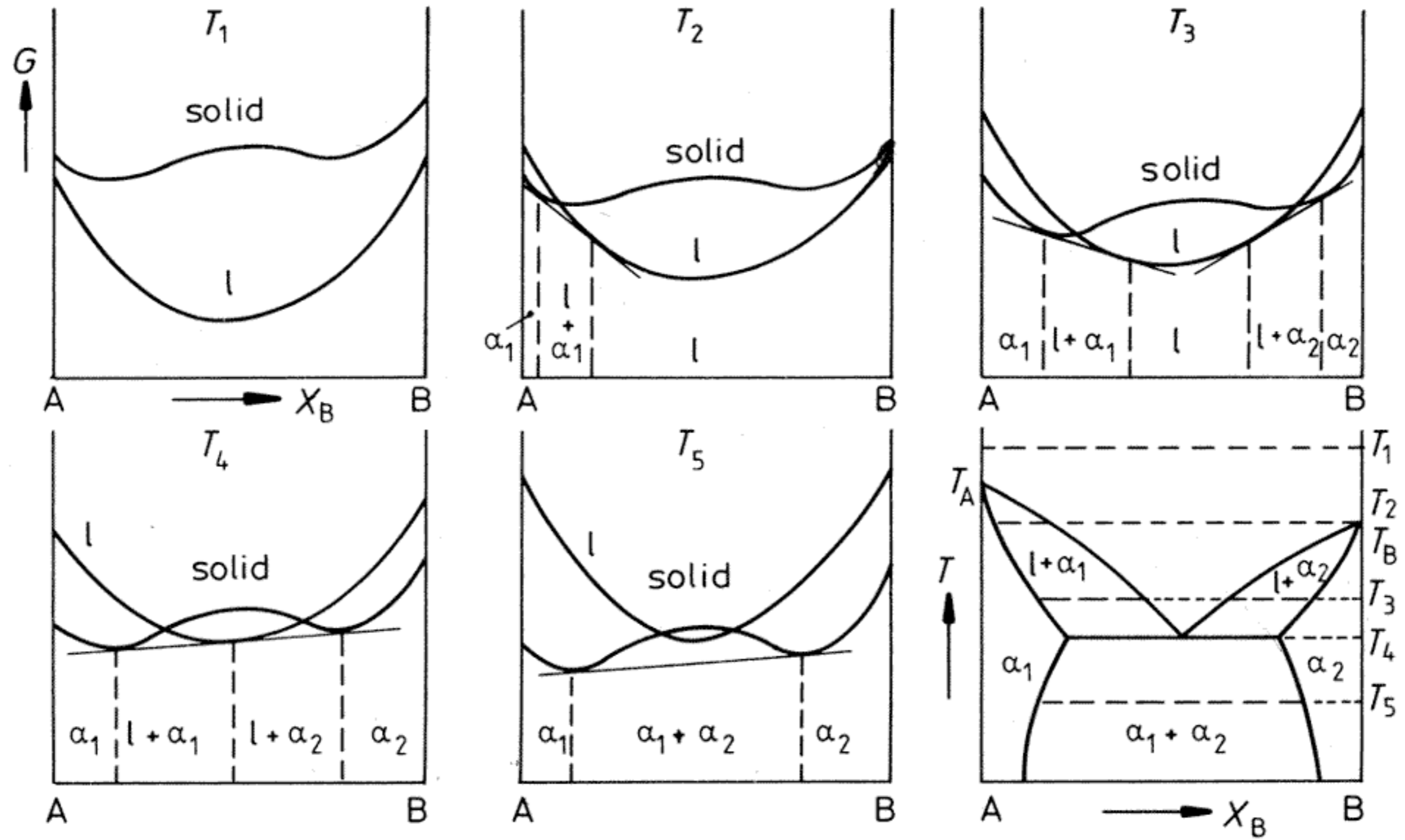
$$G_{\min} = G_{c1}^\alpha + \frac{G_{c2}^\beta - G_{c1}^\alpha}{X^\beta - X^\alpha} (X - X^\alpha) \quad \text{construction of the common tangent}$$



# Eutectic binary phase diagram

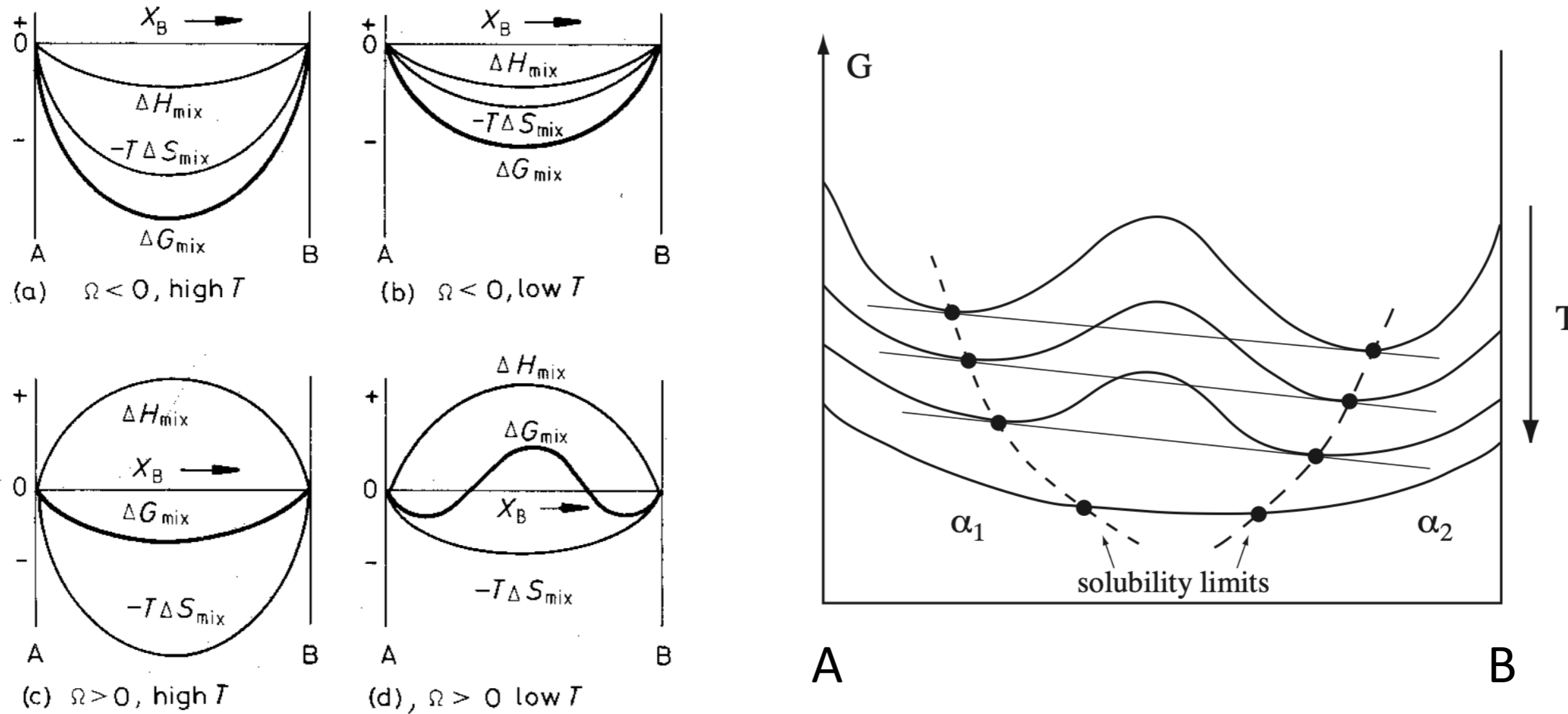


# Binary phase diagram (alpha<sub>1</sub> and alpha<sub>2</sub> phases)

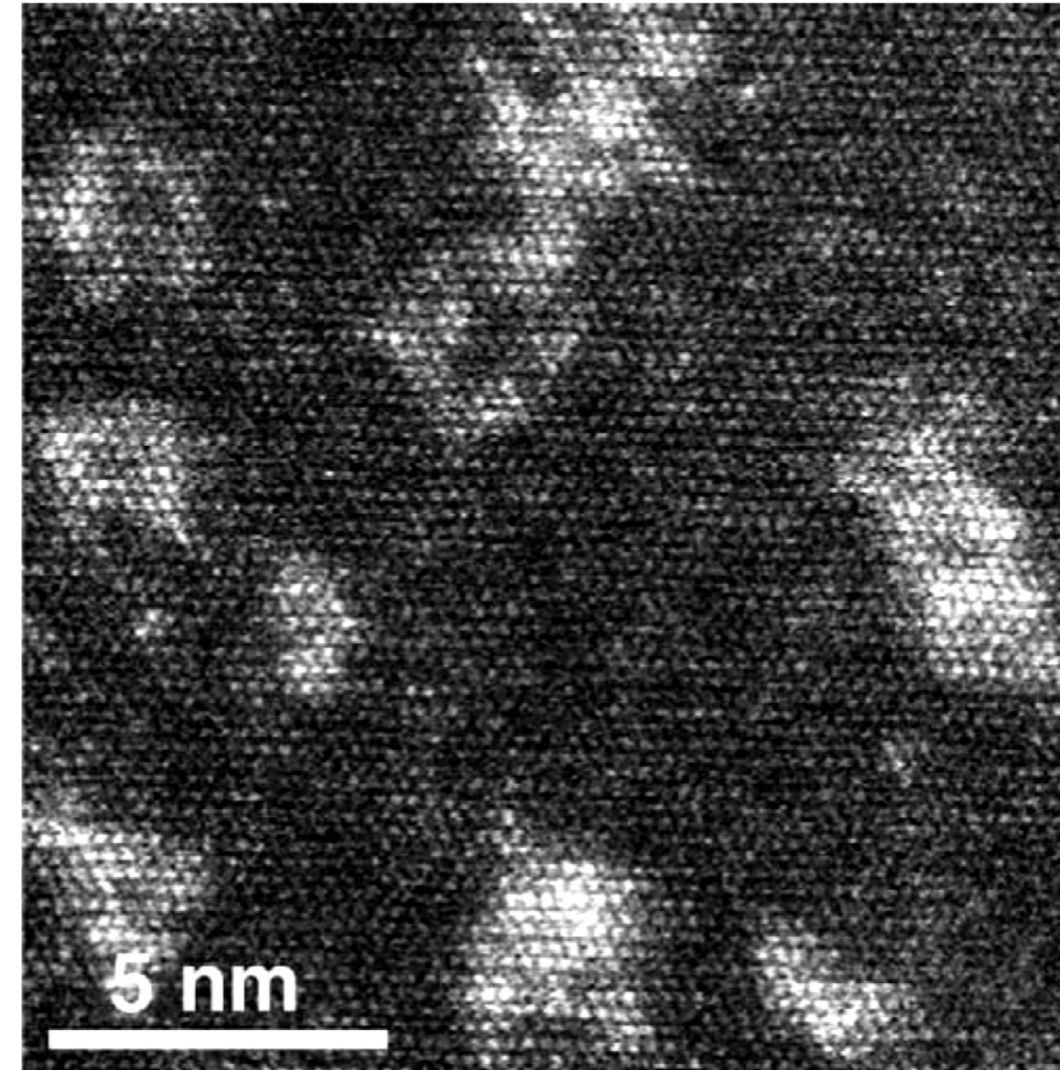
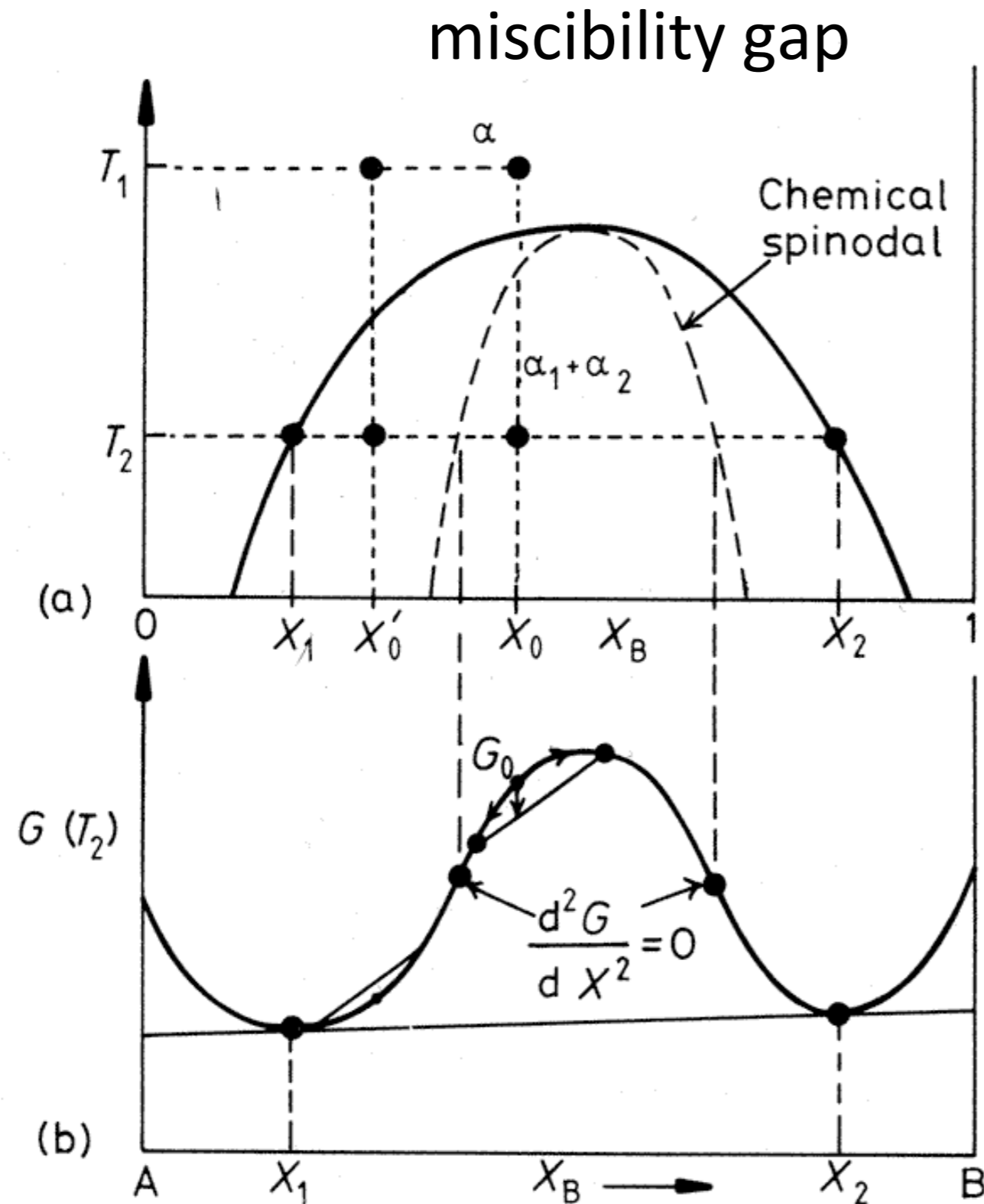


# Spinodal diagram

miscibility gap



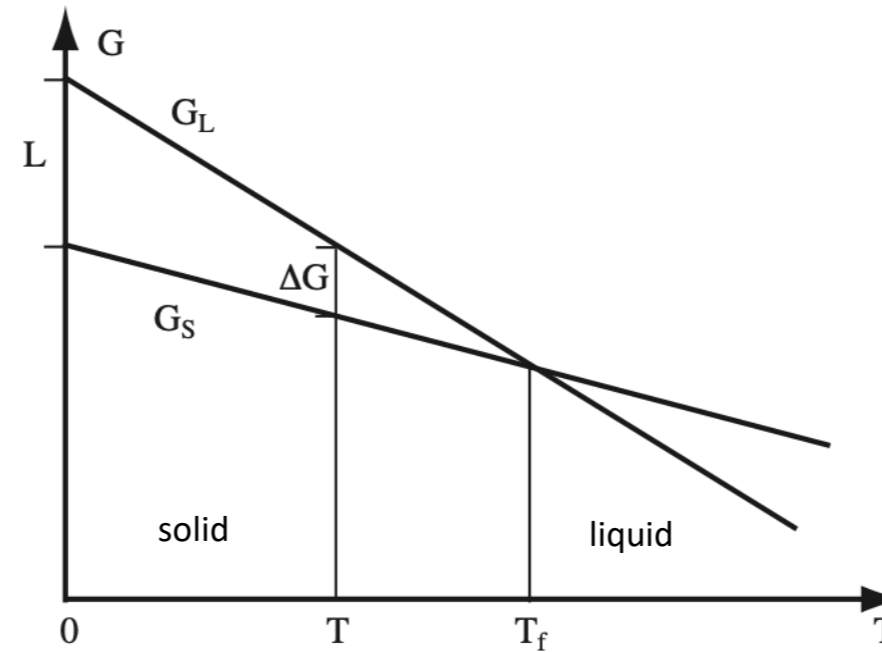
# Spinodal diagram



GP zones in Al-Ag

Spinodal  
decomposition

# Solidification



$$G_L = H_L - TS_L$$

$$G_S = H_S - TS_S$$

$$G_L = G_S \Rightarrow H_L - T_F S_L = H_S - T_F S_S$$

$$\Delta H_F = H_L - H_S = T_F (S_L - S_S) = T_F \Delta S_F$$

$$\Delta H_F = H_L - H_S = L \quad \text{Latent heat}$$

$$\Delta S_F = \frac{L}{T_F}$$

# Clausius-Clapeyron equation

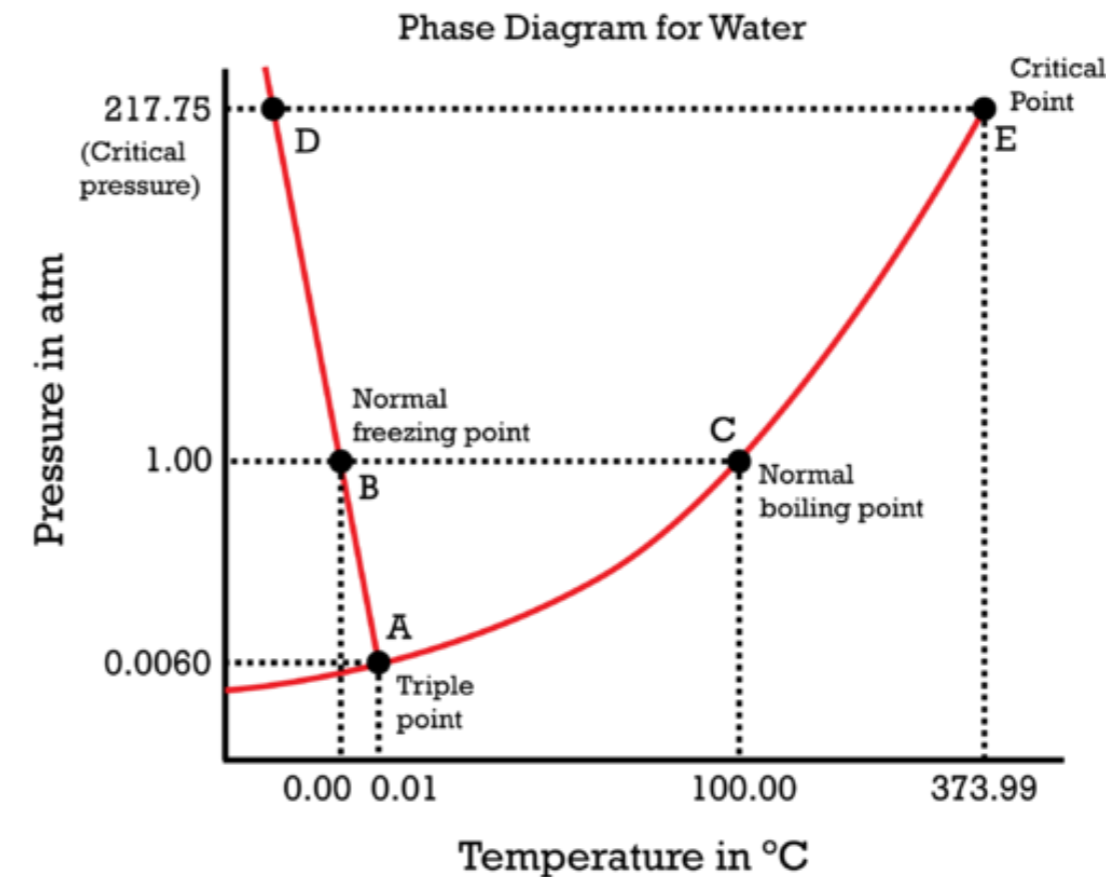
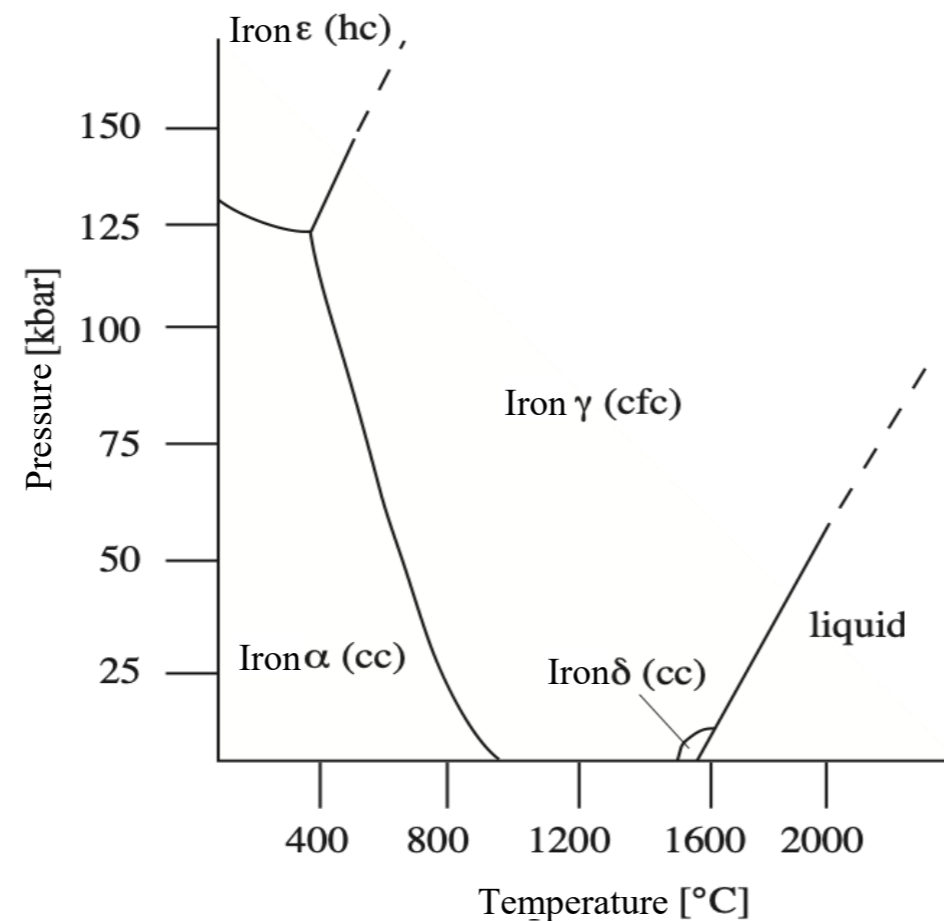
$$dG^\alpha = V^\alpha dP - S^\alpha dT$$

$$dG^\beta = V^\beta dP - S^\beta dT$$

$$dG^\alpha = dG^\beta$$

$$\left(\frac{dP}{dT}\right)_{eq} = \frac{S^\beta - S^\alpha}{V^\beta - V^\alpha} = \frac{\Delta S}{\Delta V}$$

$$\left(\frac{dP}{dT}\right)_{eq} = \frac{\Delta H}{T_{eq} \Delta V}$$



# Nucleation

$$T < T_F$$

$$\Delta G = G_L - G_S = \Delta H_F - T(S_L - S_S) = L - T\Delta S$$

$$\Delta G = L - T \frac{L}{T_F} = \frac{L}{T_F} (T_F - T) = \Delta S_F \Delta T \quad \text{Supercooling energy}$$

Energy due to the formation of an interface

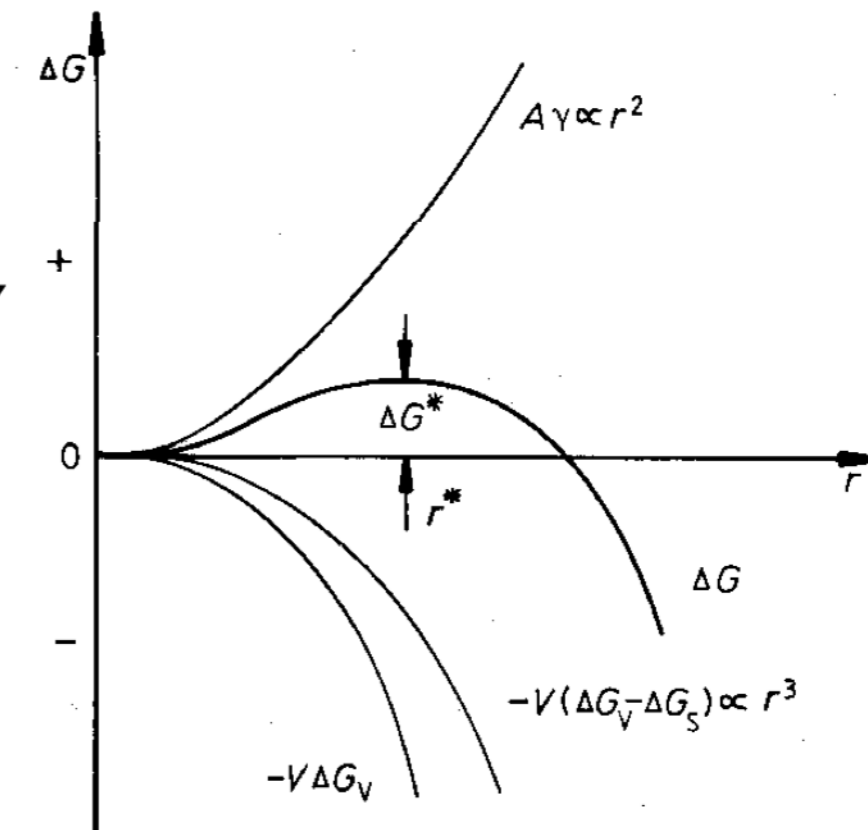
1) homogeneous nucleation

$$\Delta G_g = \Delta g_V V + \Delta g_s s$$

$$\Delta G_g = (g_S - g_L) \frac{4}{3} \pi r^3 + 4\pi r^2 \gamma = -\frac{4}{3} \pi r^3 \frac{L}{T_F} \Delta T + 4\pi r^2 \gamma$$

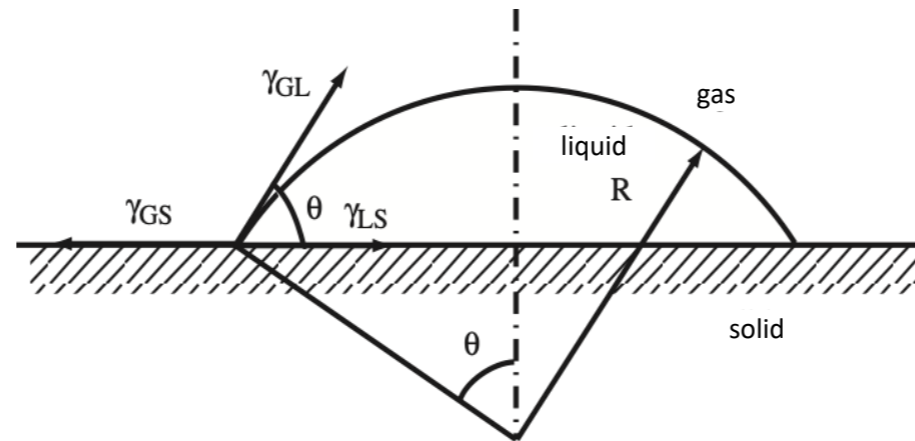
$$r^* = \frac{2\gamma T_F}{L\Delta T}$$

$$\Delta G^* = \frac{16}{3} \pi \gamma^3 \frac{T_F^2}{L^2 \Delta T^2} = \frac{16}{3} \pi \frac{\gamma^3}{\Delta G^2}$$



# Nucleation

## 1) localized (heterogeneous) nucleation



$$\gamma_{GS} = \gamma_{LS} + \gamma_{GL} \cos \theta$$

$$R_c^{loc} = -\frac{2\gamma_{LS}}{\Delta g_V}$$

$$\Delta G_c^{loc} = \frac{4}{3} \pi \frac{\gamma_{LS}^3}{\Delta g_V^2} (2 - 3 \cos \theta + \cos^3 \theta)$$

$$\theta = \pi : \Delta G_c^{loc} = \Delta G_c^{gen}$$



a)

$$\theta = 0 : \Delta G_c^{loc} = 0$$



b)

# Nucleation statistics

$$N^* = N_\alpha e^{-\frac{\Delta G^*}{kT}} \quad \Delta G^* = \frac{16}{3} \pi \gamma^3 \frac{T_F^2}{L^2 (T_F - T)^2}$$

Nucleation rate

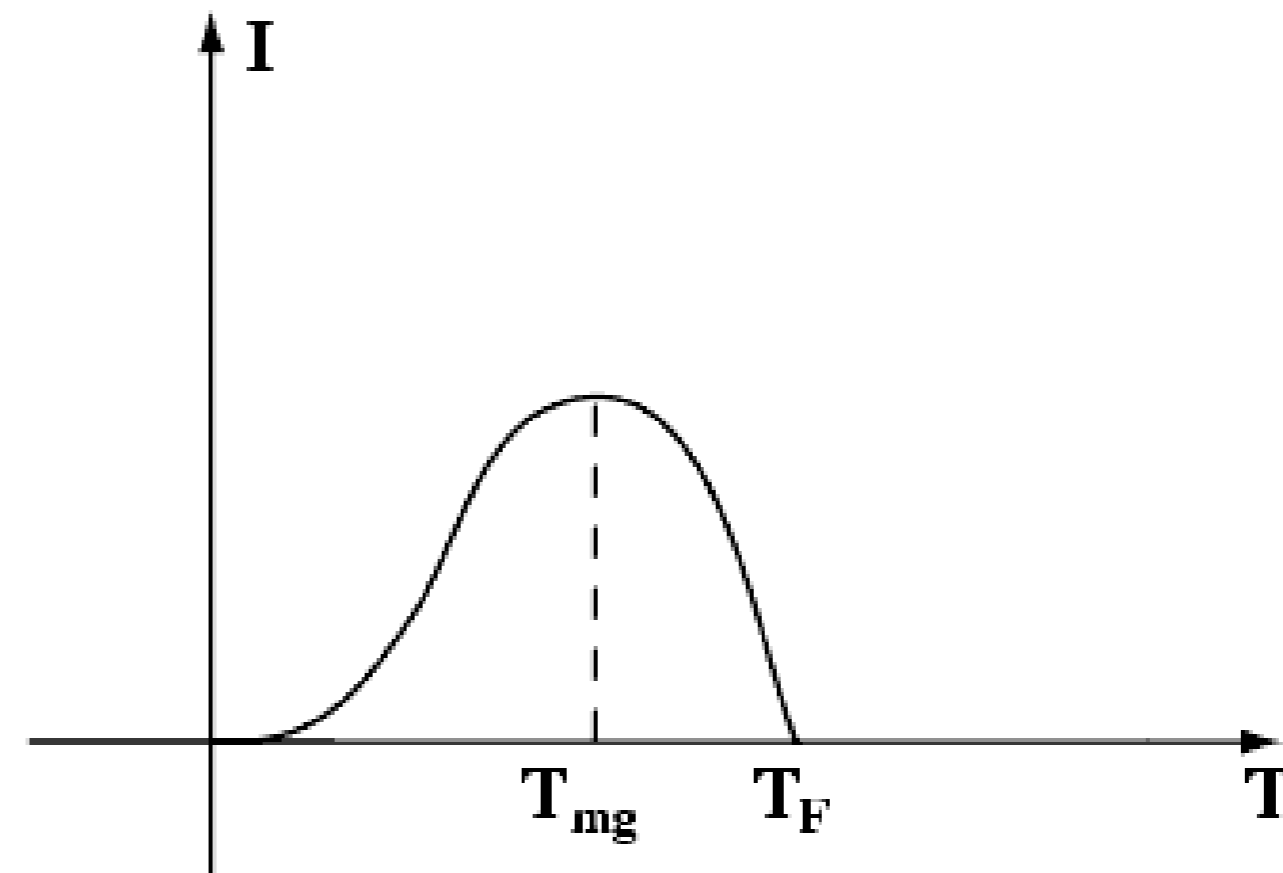
$$I = N^* n_s v_c$$

$$v_c = v_D z e^{-\frac{\Delta G^s}{kT}}$$

$$I = I_0 e^{-\frac{\Delta G^* + \Delta G^s}{kT}}$$

$$T \rightarrow T_F \quad \Delta G^* \rightarrow \infty \quad I \rightarrow 0$$

$$T \rightarrow 0 \quad I \rightarrow 0$$



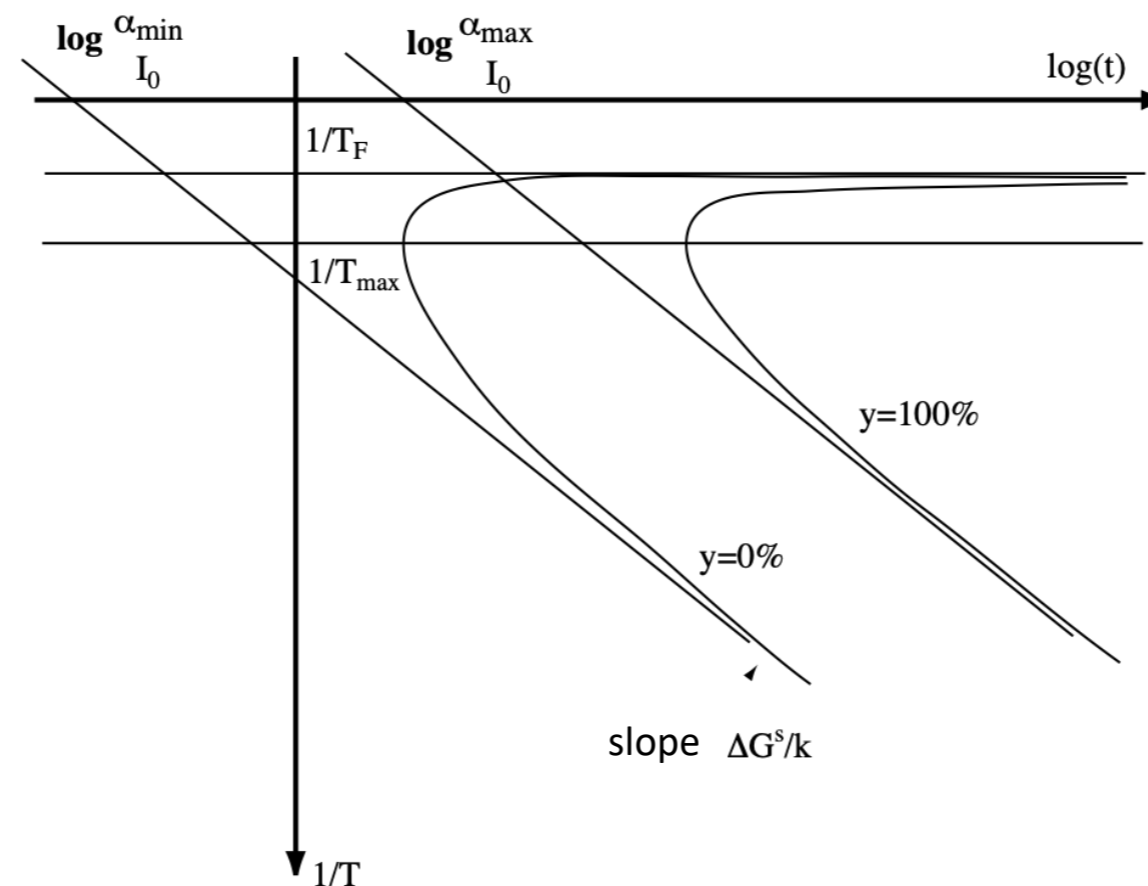
# Nucleation statistics

$$\alpha = I \cdot t \text{ number of nuclei/cm}^3$$

$$I = I_0 e^{-\frac{\Delta G^* + \Delta G^S}{kT}} \quad \log t = \log \frac{\alpha}{I_0} + \frac{\Delta G^*}{kT} + \frac{\Delta G^S}{kT}$$

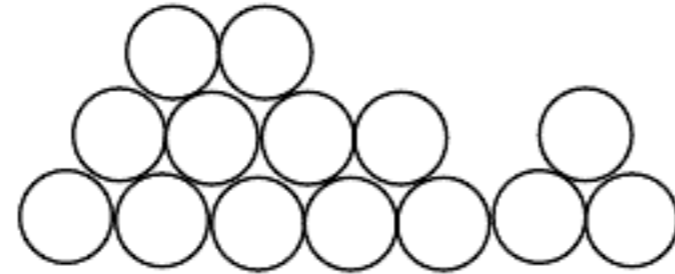
$$T \rightarrow 0 \quad \Delta G^* \text{ is small} \quad \log t \simeq \log \frac{\alpha}{I_0} + \frac{\Delta G^S}{kT} \quad T \rightarrow T_F \quad \Delta G^* \rightarrow \infty \quad \log t \rightarrow \infty$$

Diagram Temperature-Transformation Time (TTT)

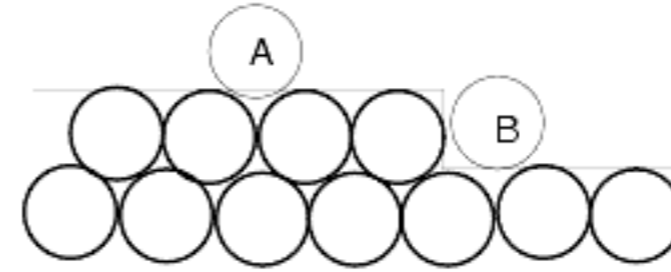


# Crystalline growth

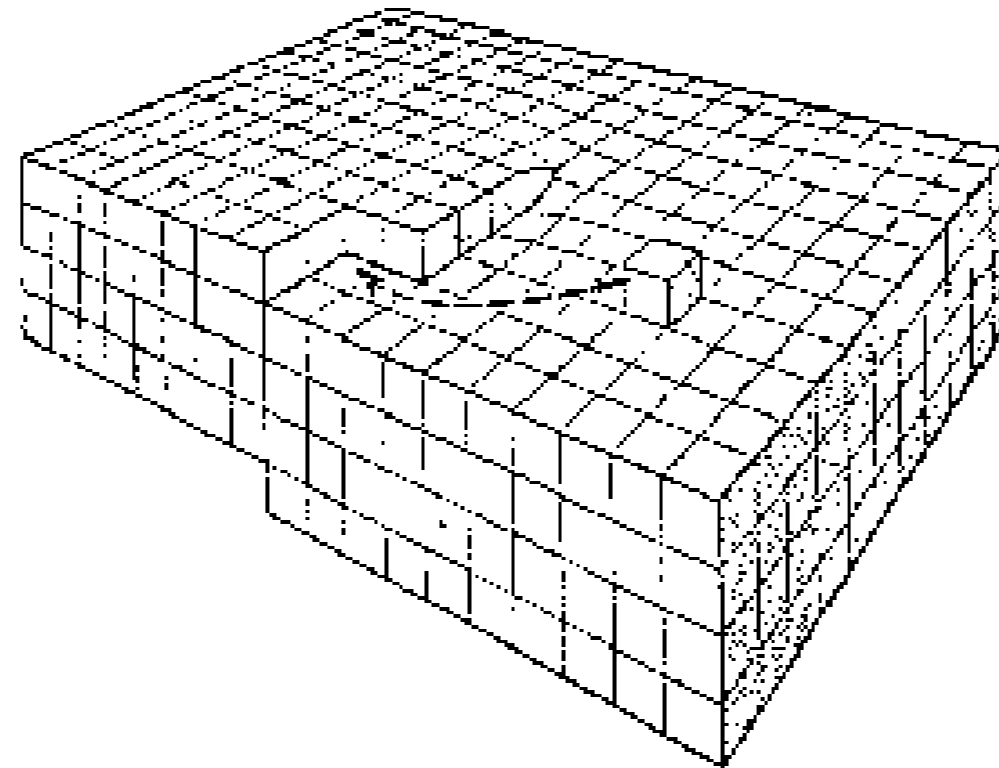
a-rough



b-smooth



$$G_{surf} = H_{surf} - TS_{surf}$$



# Dendritic growth

Thermal balance

$$\vec{J} = \lambda \overrightarrow{\text{grad}T}$$

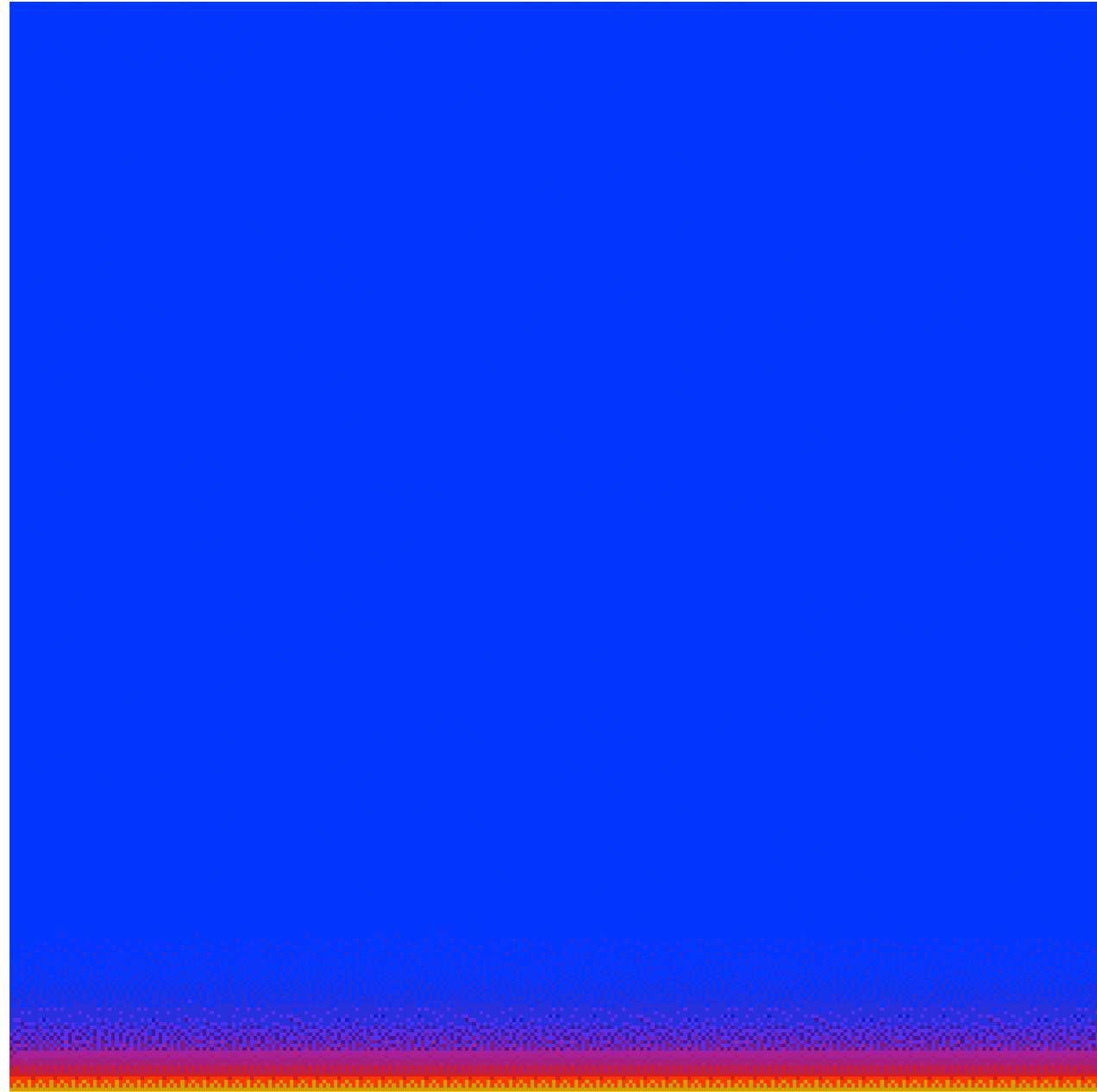
$$\lambda_S \left( \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} \right)_S = L_V v_i + \lambda_L \left( \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} \right)_L$$

$$v_i = \frac{1}{L_V} \left( \lambda_S \left( \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} \right)_S - \lambda_L \left( \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} \right)_L \right)$$

$\lambda$ =thermal conductivity

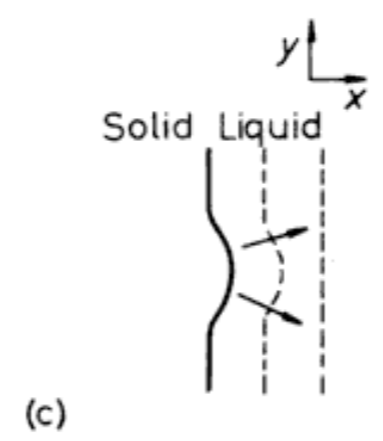
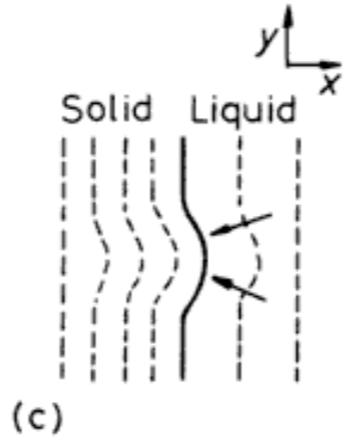
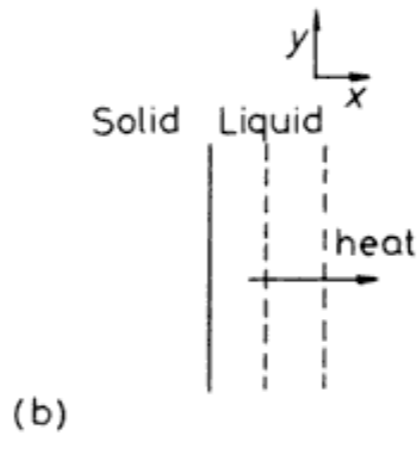
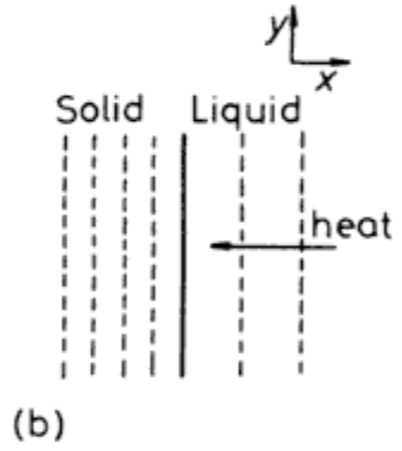
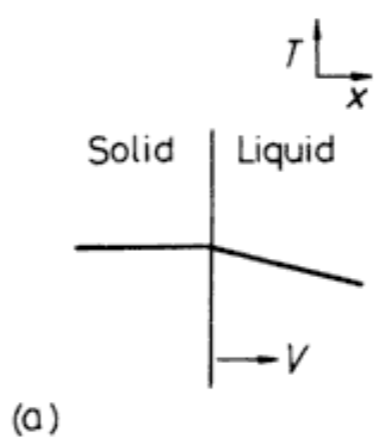
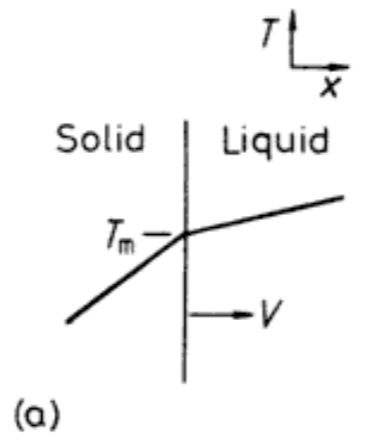
$L_V$

latent heat/  
volume unit



# Dendritic growth

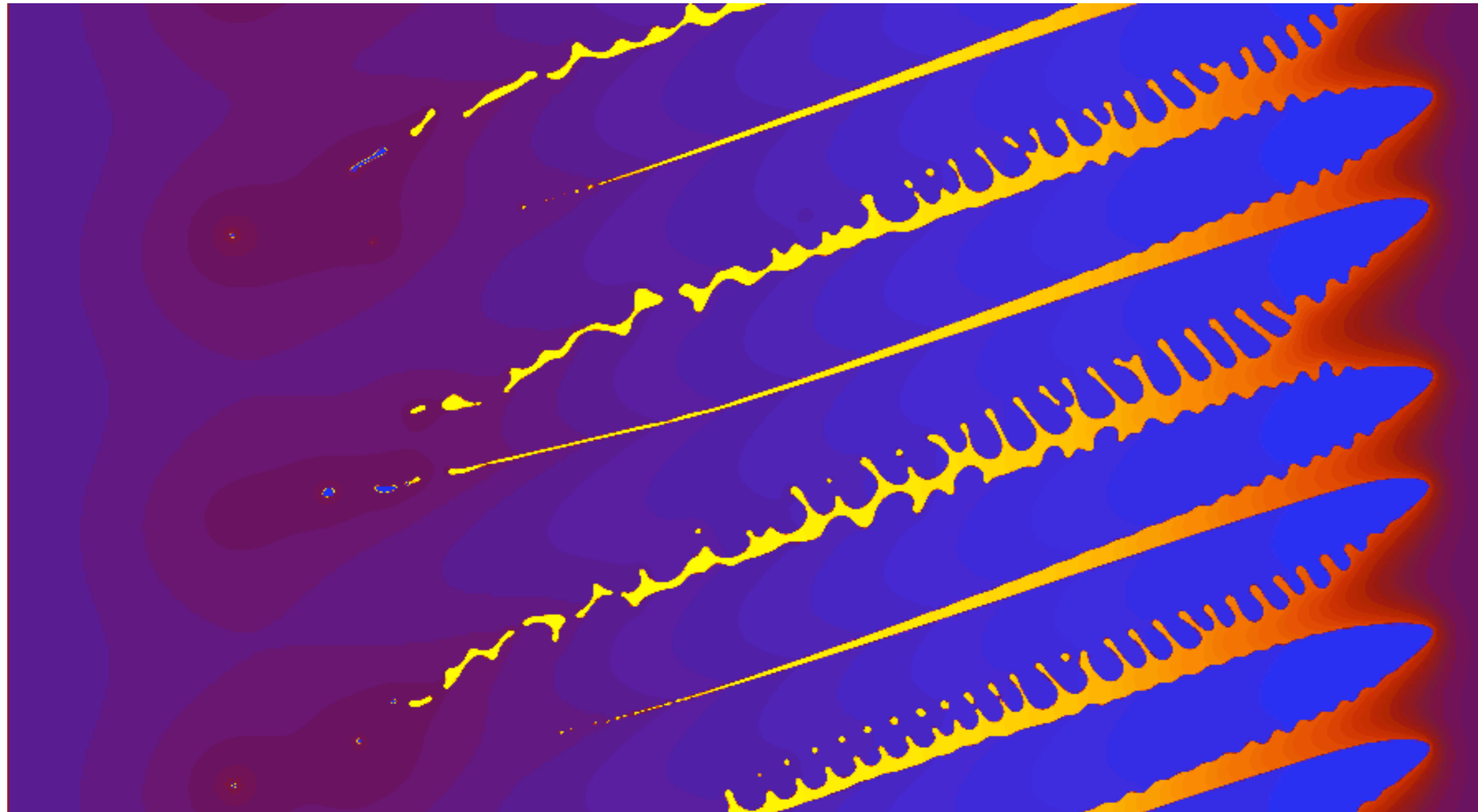
$$v_i = \frac{1}{L_V} \left( \lambda_S \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} \right)_S - \lambda_L \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} \Big|_L$$



# Dendritic growth: simulations

V. Pavlik, U. Dilthey, Aachen University

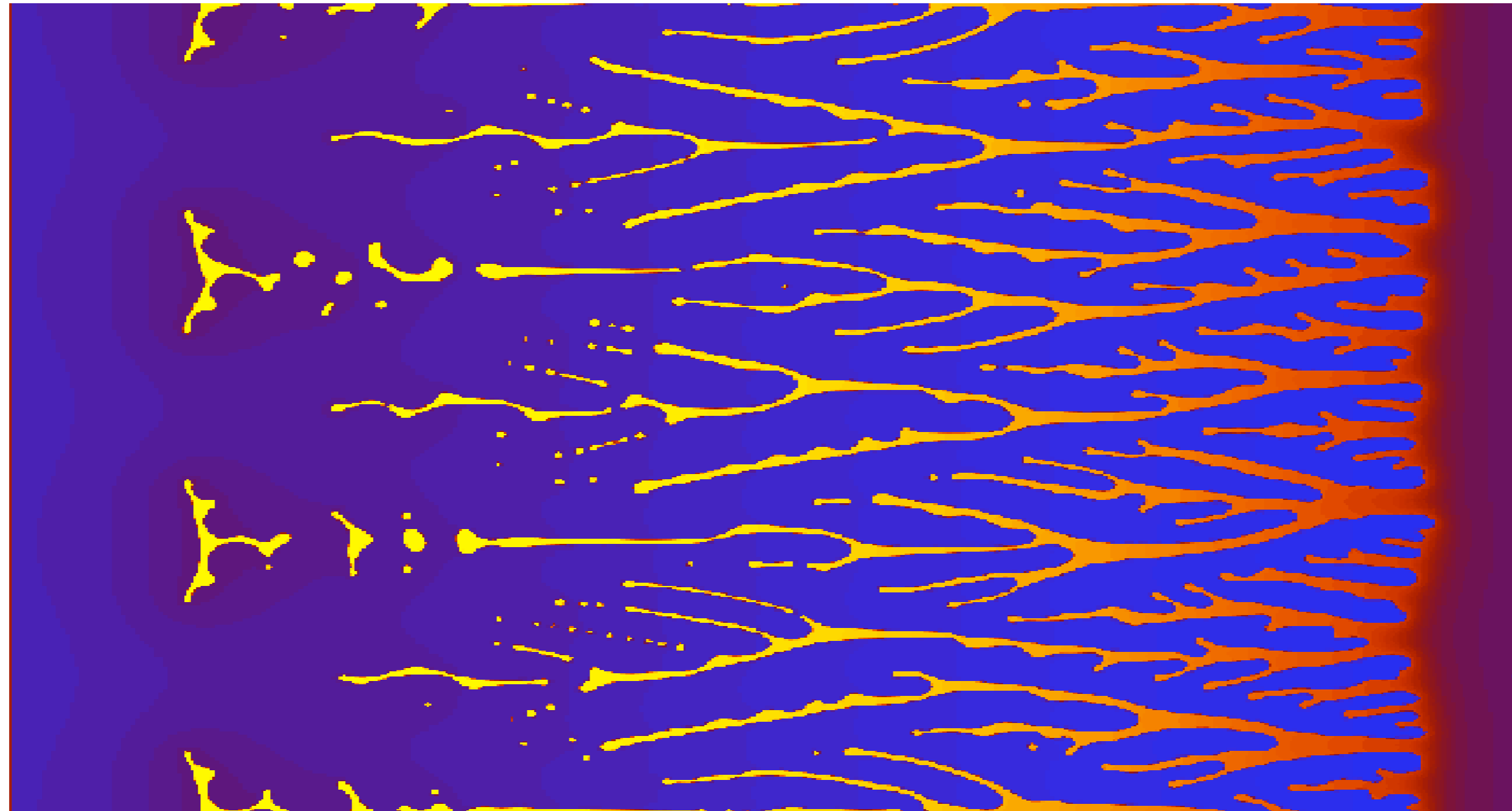
Fe-0.11%C  $v=10$  mm/s,  $\text{grad}(T)=100$  K/mm



# Dendritic growth: simulations

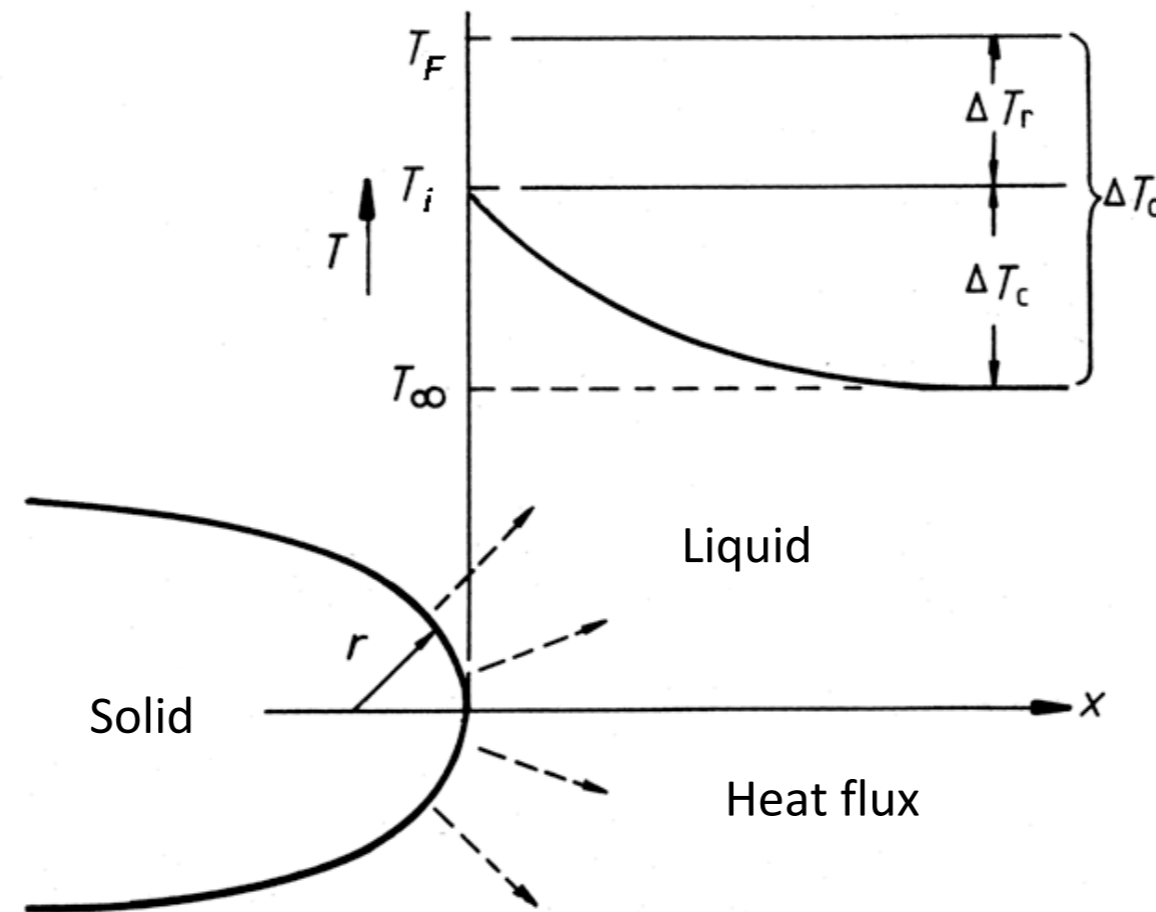
V. Pavlik, U. Dilthey, Aachen University

Fe-0.11%C  $v=0.1$  mm/s,  $\text{grad}(T)=15$  K/mm



# Dendritic growth: effect of the curvature radius, $\lambda_S \ll \lambda_L$

$$\left. \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} \right)_L = \frac{T_\infty - T_i}{\alpha r} = -\frac{\Delta T_c}{\alpha r} \quad v_i = -\left. \frac{\lambda_L}{L_V} \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} \right)_L \quad v_i = -\frac{\lambda_L}{L_V} \frac{\Delta T_c}{\alpha r}$$

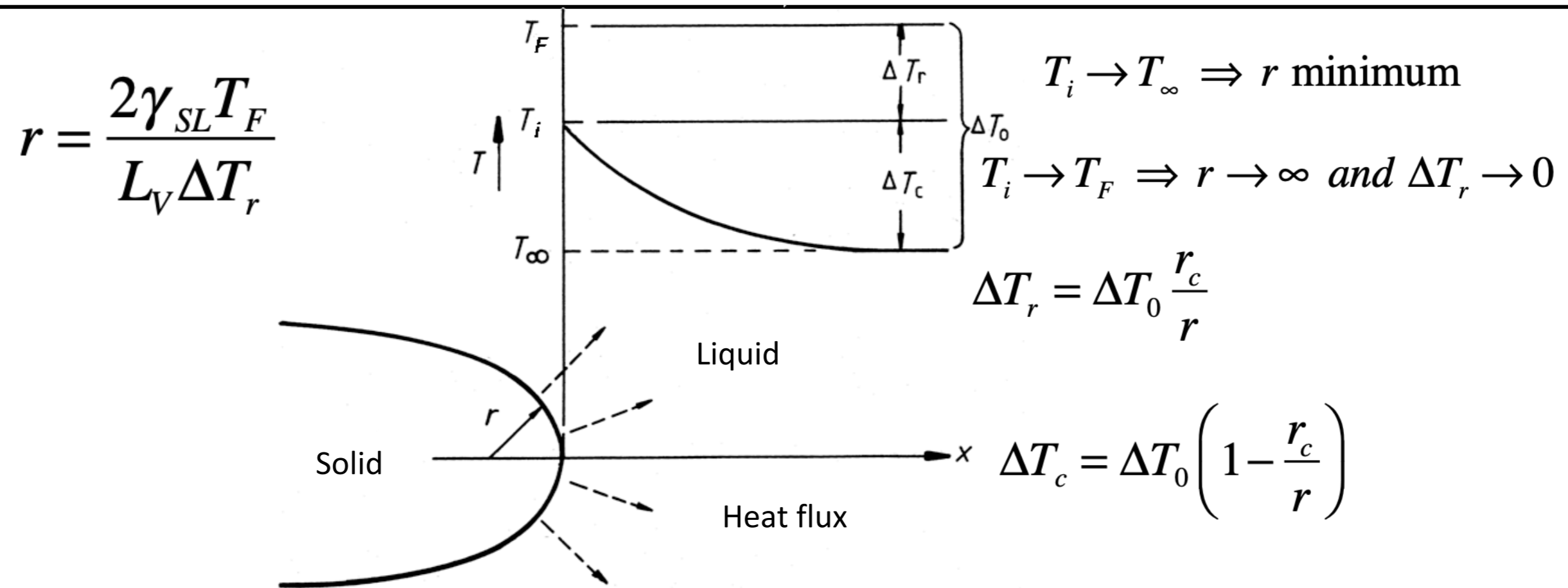


$$r^* = \frac{2\gamma T_F}{L\Delta T} \Rightarrow r = \frac{2\gamma_{SL} T_F}{L_V (T_F - T_i)} = \frac{2\gamma_{SL} T_F}{L_V \Delta T_r}$$

$$T_i \rightarrow T_\infty \Rightarrow r \text{ minimum}$$

$$T_i \rightarrow T_F \Rightarrow r \rightarrow \infty$$

# Dendritic growth: effect of the curvature radius, $\lambda_S \ll \lambda_L$

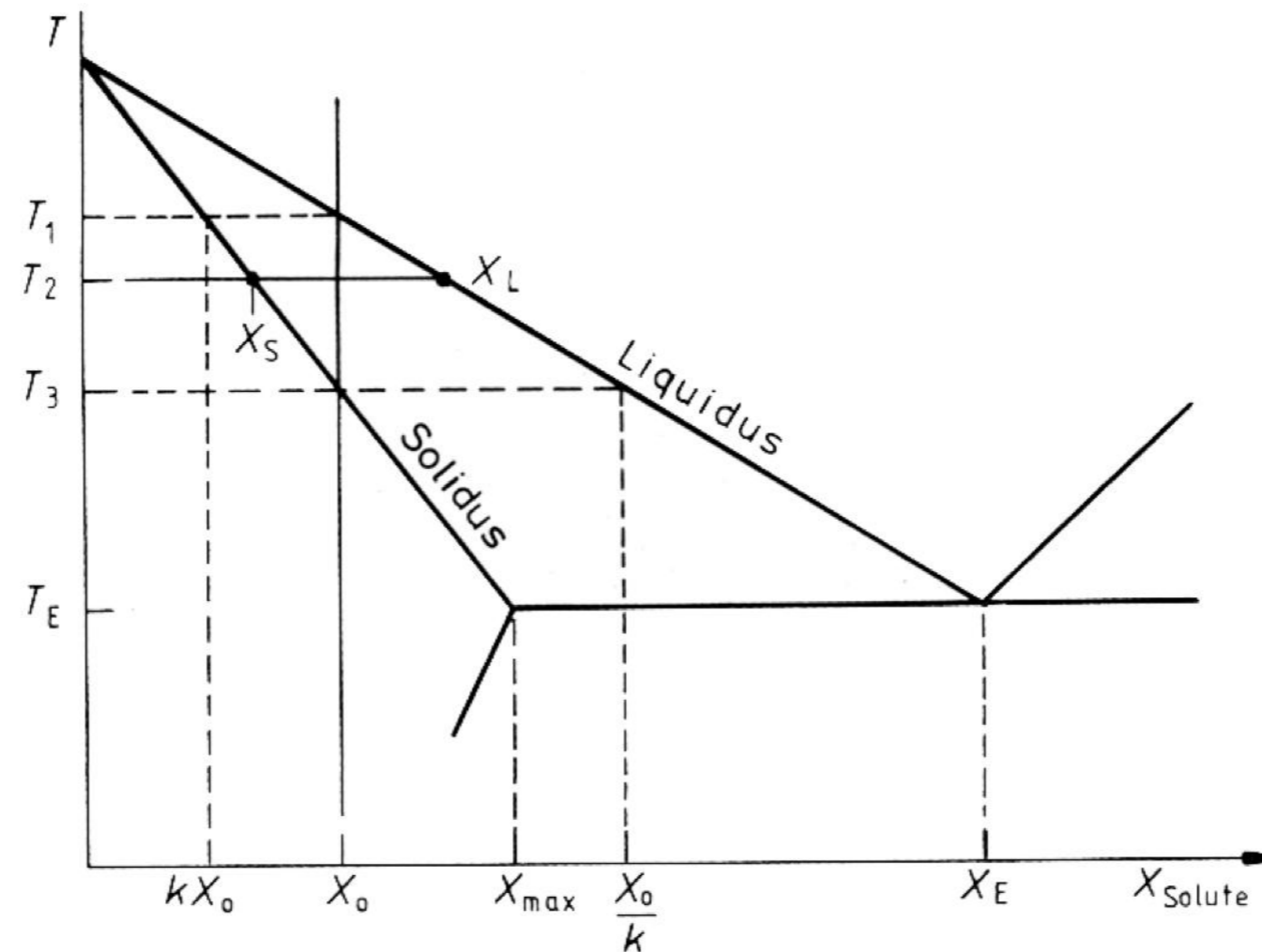


$r > r_c \Rightarrow T_i > T_\infty$  solidification produces heat

$r < r_c \Rightarrow T_i < T_\infty$  melting absorbs heat: the dendrite melts

$$v_i = -\frac{\lambda_L}{L_V} \frac{\Delta T_0}{\alpha r} \left(1 - \frac{r_c}{r}\right) \quad \text{max for } r = 2r_c$$

# Solidification of two component alloys

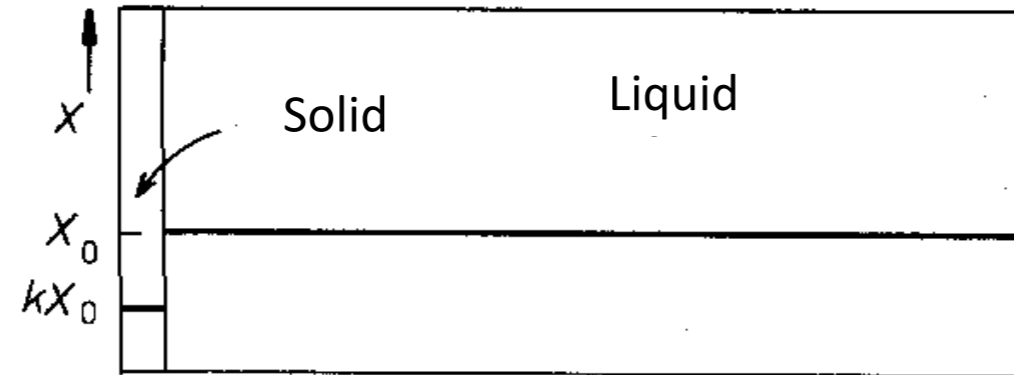


$$T = k_S X_S + T_0$$

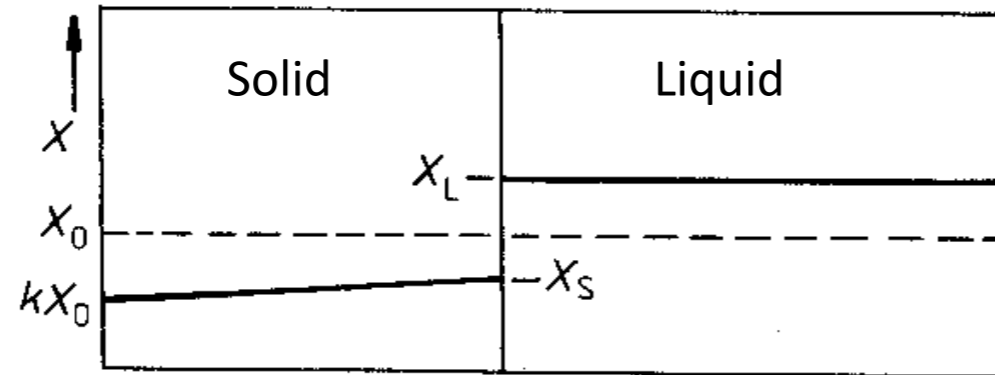
$$T = k_L X_L + T_0$$

$$X_S = \frac{k_L}{k_S} X_L = k X_L$$

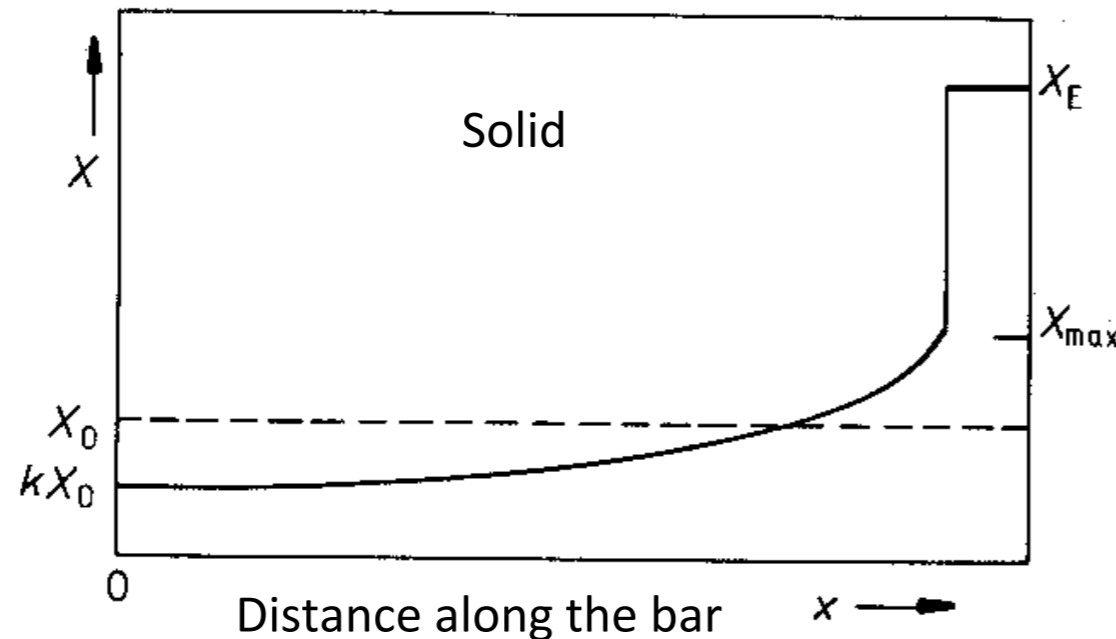
# Thermodynamic equilibrium in a liquid - no diffusion in the solid (Scheil law)



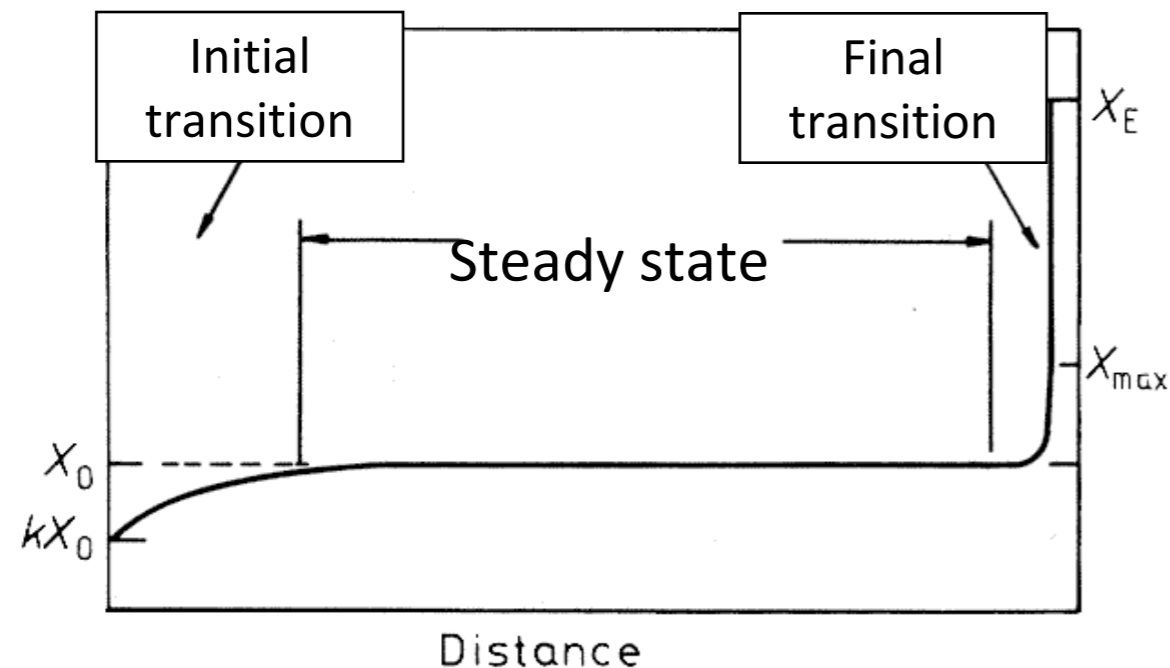
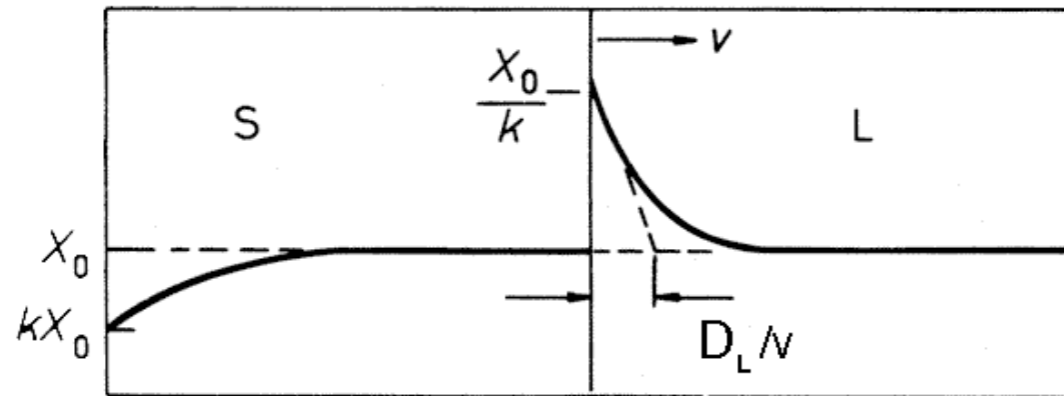
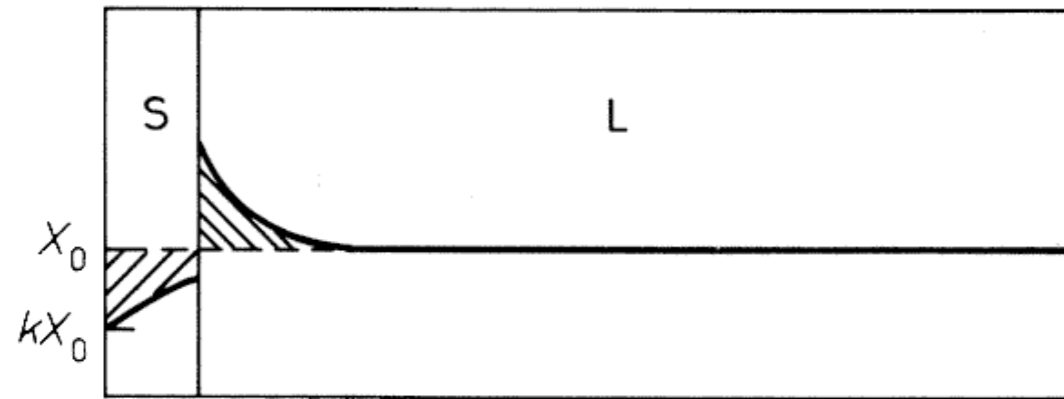
$$X_S = kX_0 (1 - f_s)^{(k-1)}$$



$$X_L = X_0 (f_L)^{(k-1)}$$



# Controlled solidification by diffusion in the liquid phase



$$vX_S = vX_L + D_L \frac{\partial X_L}{\partial x}$$

$$v(X_S - X_L) = D_L \frac{\partial X_L}{\partial x}$$

$$X_L(x) = X_0 \left[ 1 + \frac{1-k}{k} \exp\left(-\frac{(1-k)x}{D_L/v}\right) \right]$$

$$X_S = kX_L \quad \text{with } k < 1$$

# Constitutional supercooling

$$T_e = T_0 + k_L X_L$$

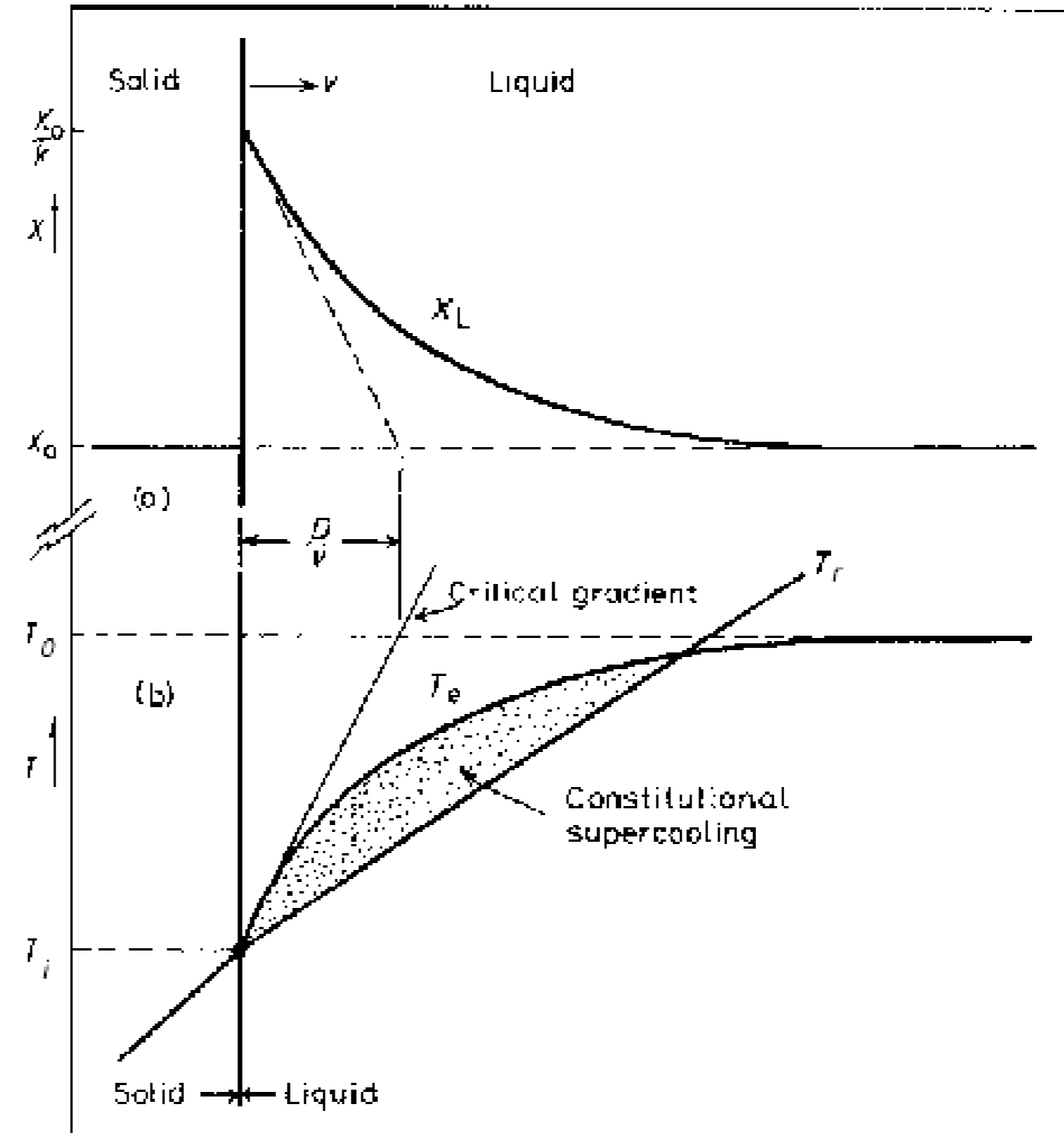
$$T_e = T_0 + k_L X_0 \left[ 1 + \frac{1-k}{k} \exp\left(-\frac{(1-k)x}{D_L/v}\right) \right]$$

At the solidification front

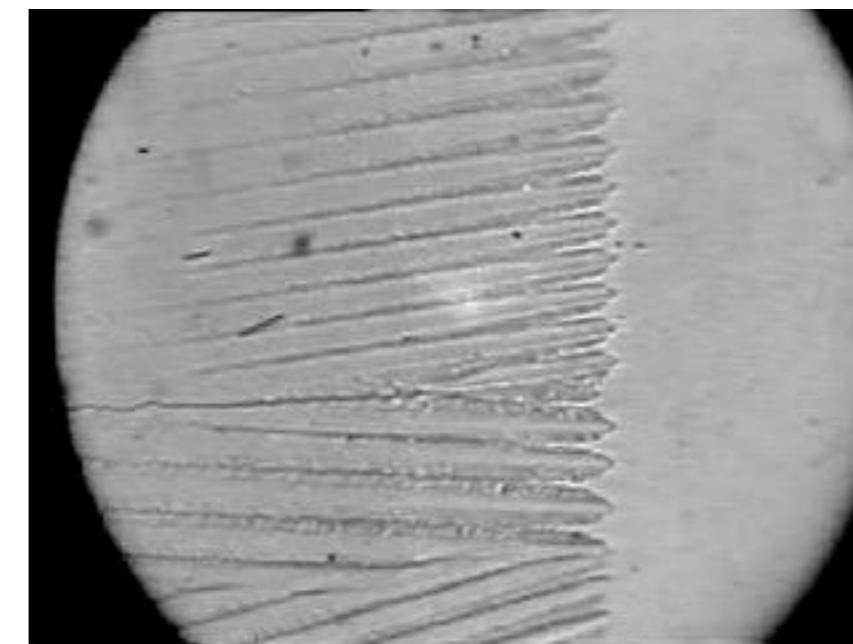
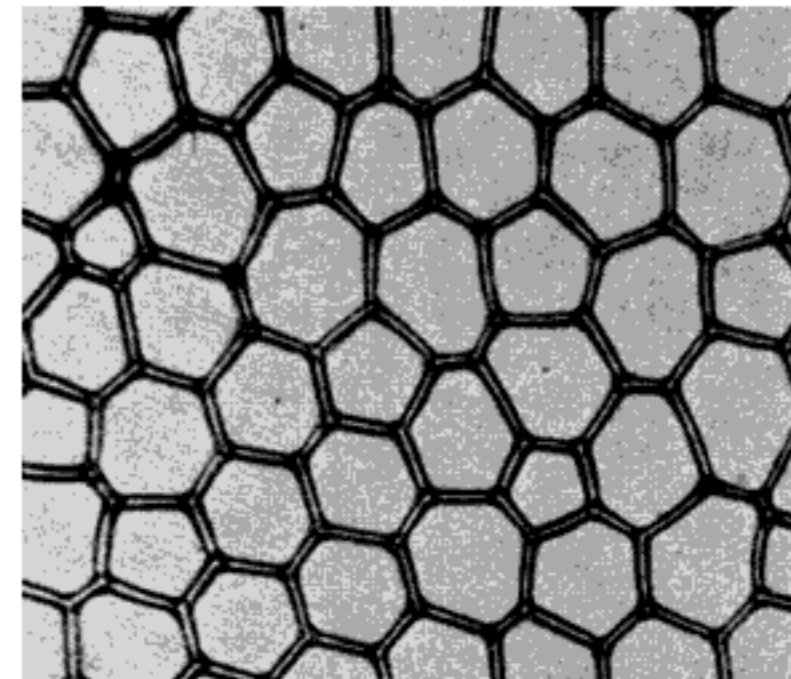
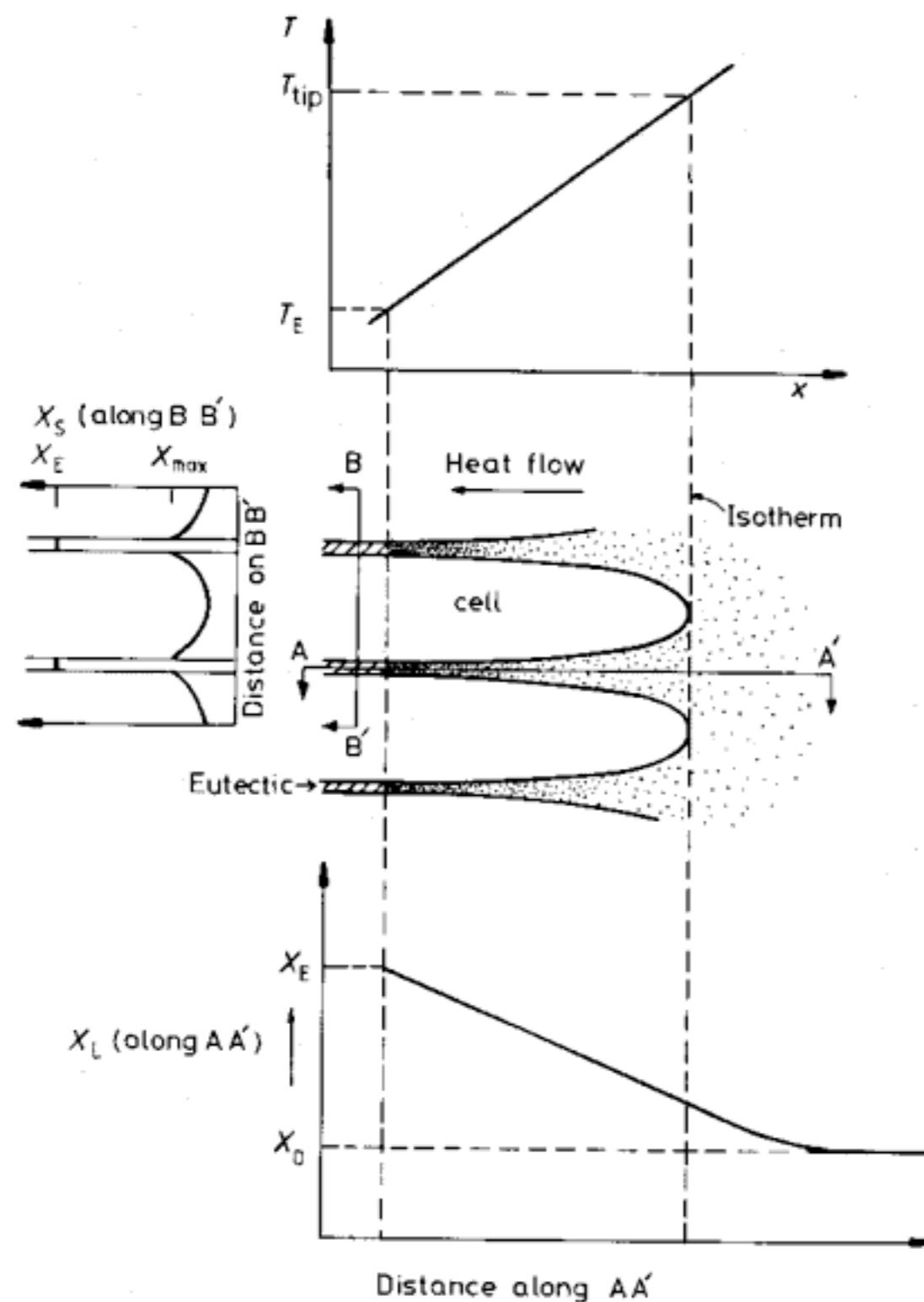
$$T_r = T_i + \left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial x}\right)_L x = T_0 + k_L \left(\frac{X_0}{k}\right) + \left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial x}\right)_L x$$

progress condition of the solidification front

$$\left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial x}\right)_L < \frac{k_L X_0 v (1-k)^2}{k D_L}$$



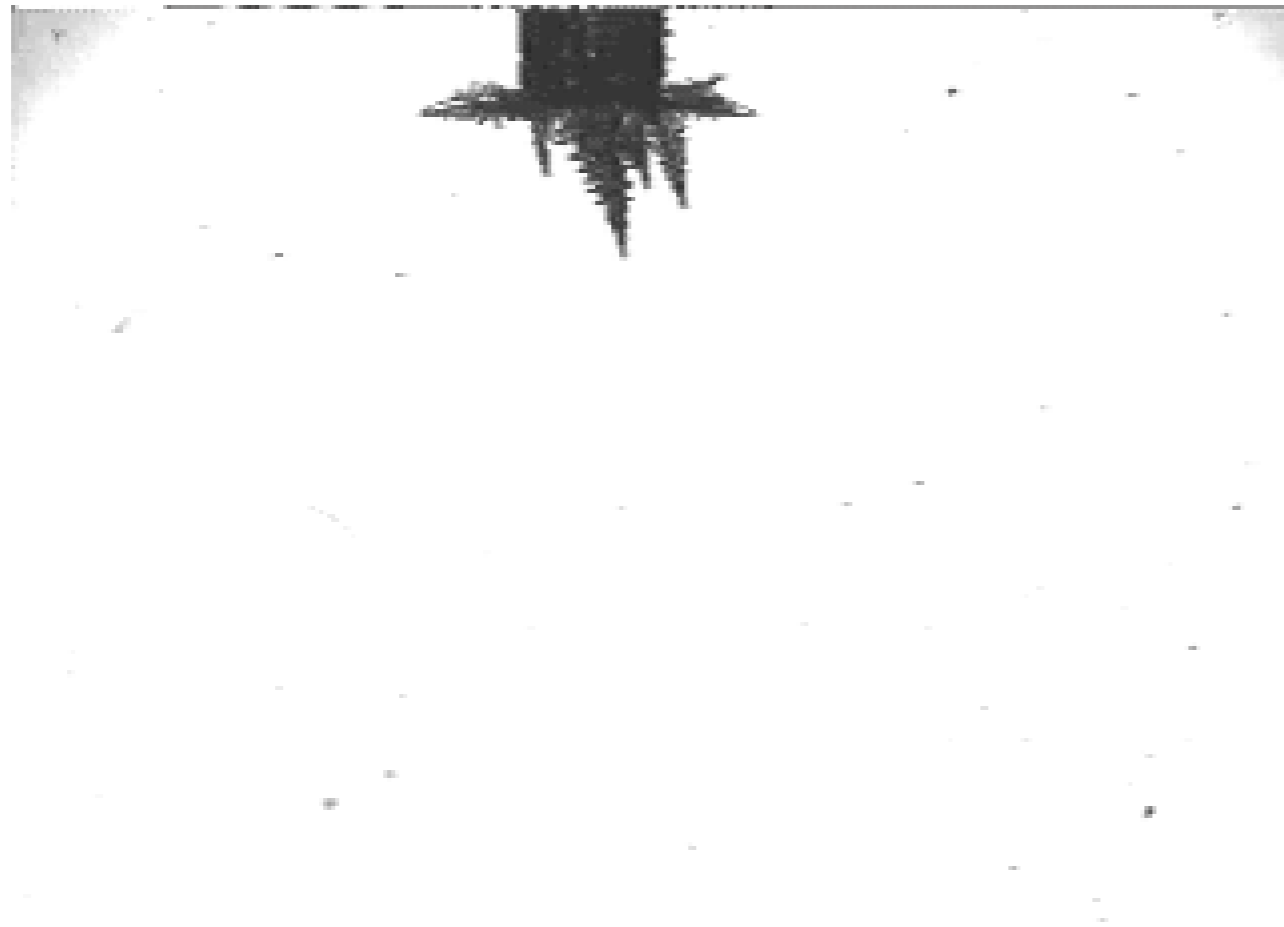
# Growth of a cellular structure



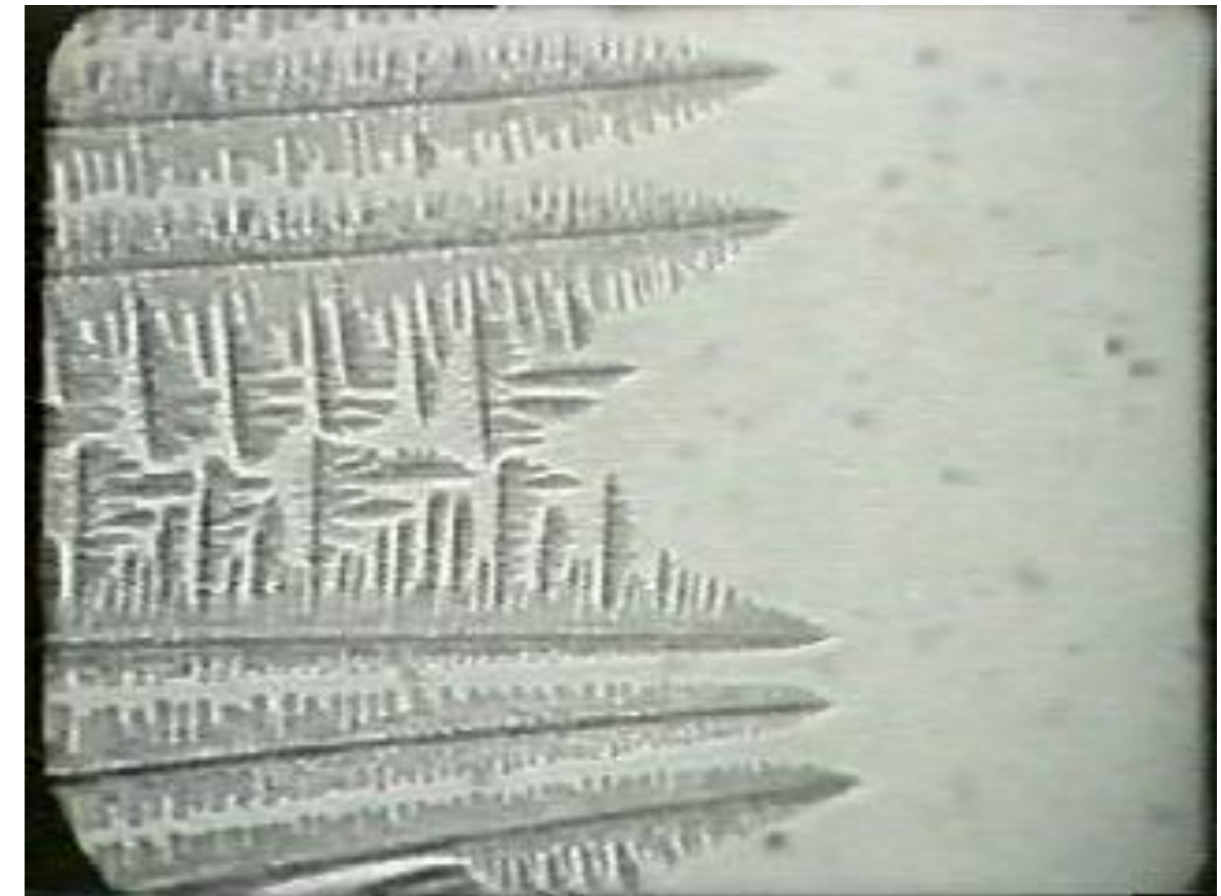
Cellular growth in succinonitrile-acetone (H. Esaka, J. Stramke and W. Kurz DMX-EPFL)

# Dendritic structure

$$v = \frac{D_L}{(X_S - X_L)} \frac{\partial X_L}{\partial x}$$

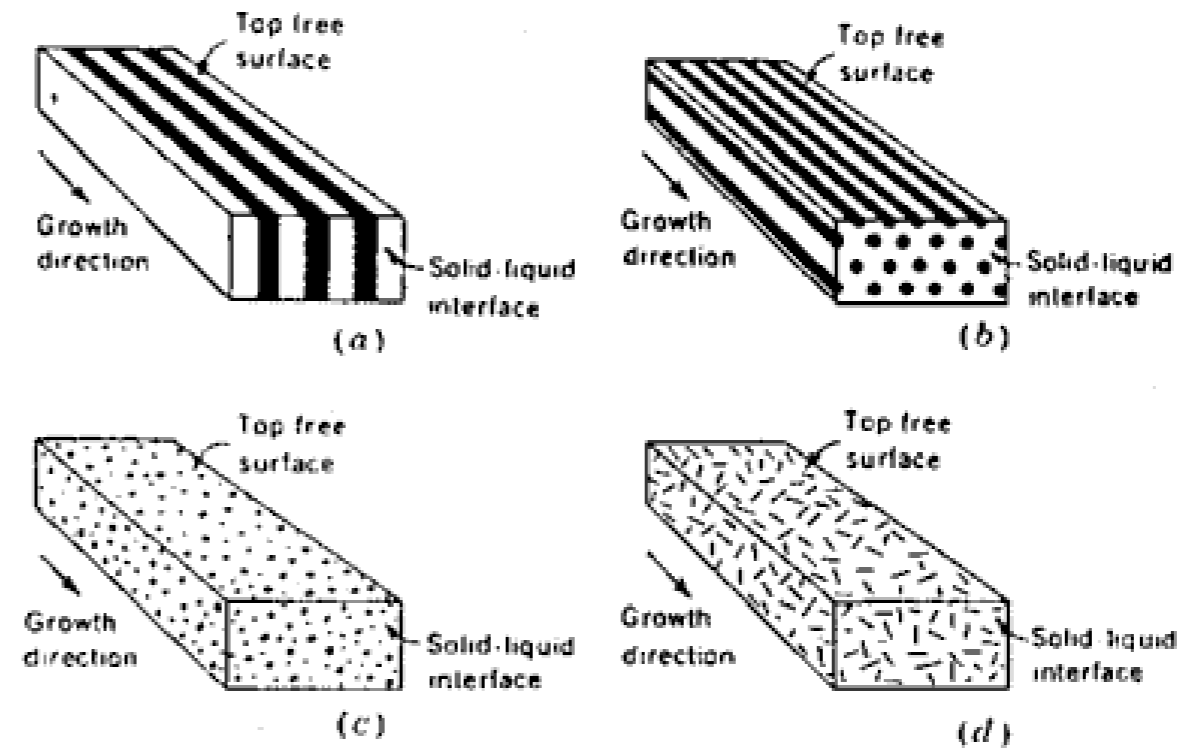
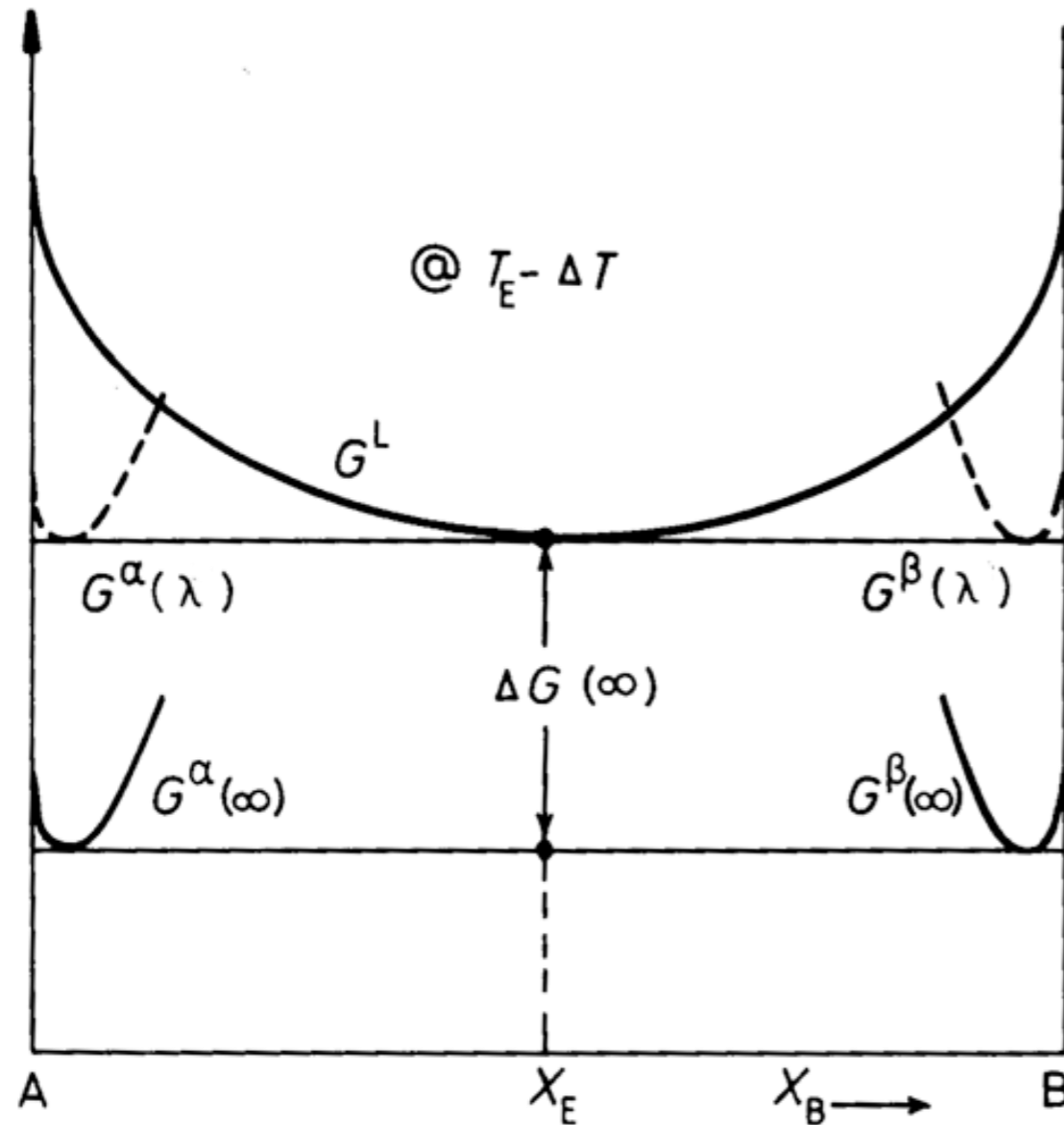


Growth of pivalic acid in  
microgravity (NASA)



Cellular growth in  
succinonitrile-acetone (H. Esaka,  
J. Stramke et W. Kurz DMX-EPFL)

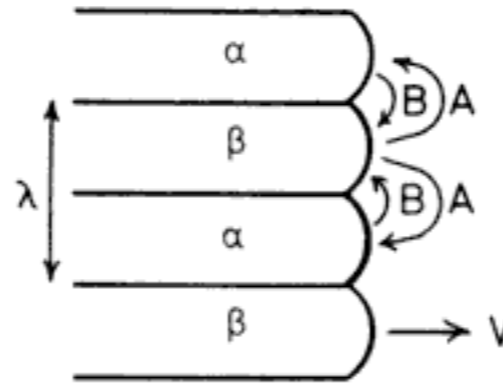
# Eutectic solidification



$$g(\lambda) = g(\infty) + \frac{\gamma_{\alpha\beta} S_{\alpha\beta}}{V} = g(\infty) + \frac{2\gamma_{\alpha\beta}}{\lambda}$$

# Eutectic solidification

$$v(X_S - X_L) = D_L \frac{\partial X_L}{\partial x}$$



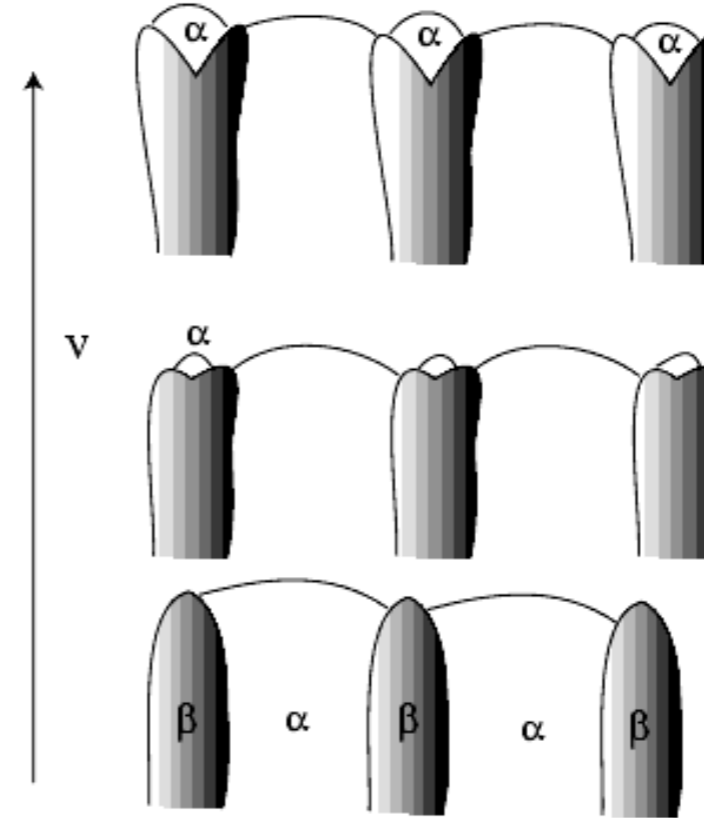
gradient of mean concentration

$$\frac{\Delta X}{\lambda/2} = 2 \frac{(X_B^{L-\beta} - X_B^{L-\alpha})}{\lambda}$$

$$v(X_B^\alpha - X_B^{L-\alpha}) = 2D_L \frac{(X_B^{L-\beta} - X_B^{L-\alpha})}{\lambda}$$

$$v_\alpha = v_\beta = 2D_L \frac{(X_B^{L-\beta} - X_B^{L-\alpha})}{\lambda(X_B^\alpha - X_B^{L-\alpha})}$$

$$\lambda = \lambda_c \text{ that is } X_B^{L-\alpha} = X_B^{L-\beta} \Rightarrow v_\alpha \rightarrow 0$$



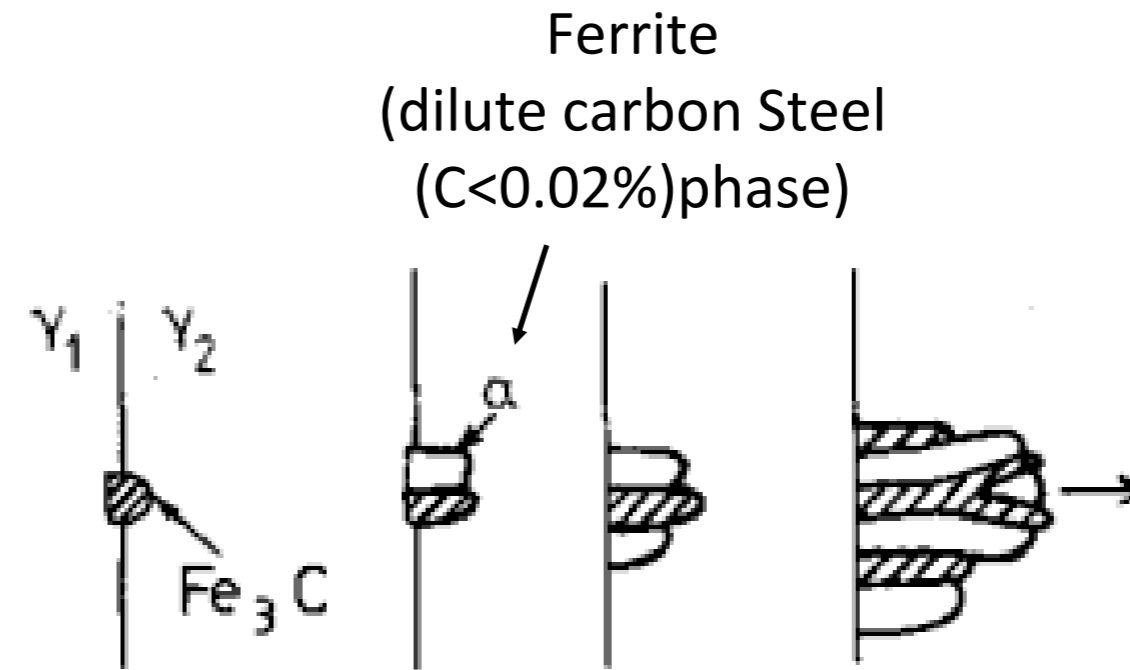
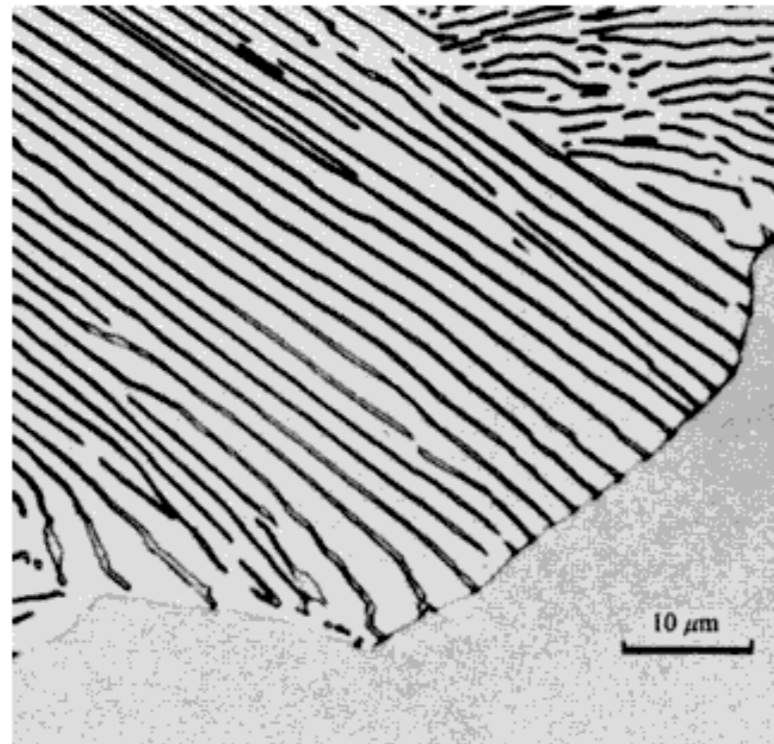
$$\Delta X = \Delta X_0 \left(1 - \frac{\lambda_c}{\lambda}\right)$$

$$v_\alpha = v_\beta = 2D_L \frac{\Delta X_0}{\lambda(X_B^{L-\alpha} - X_B^\alpha)} \left(1 - \frac{\lambda_c}{\lambda}\right)$$

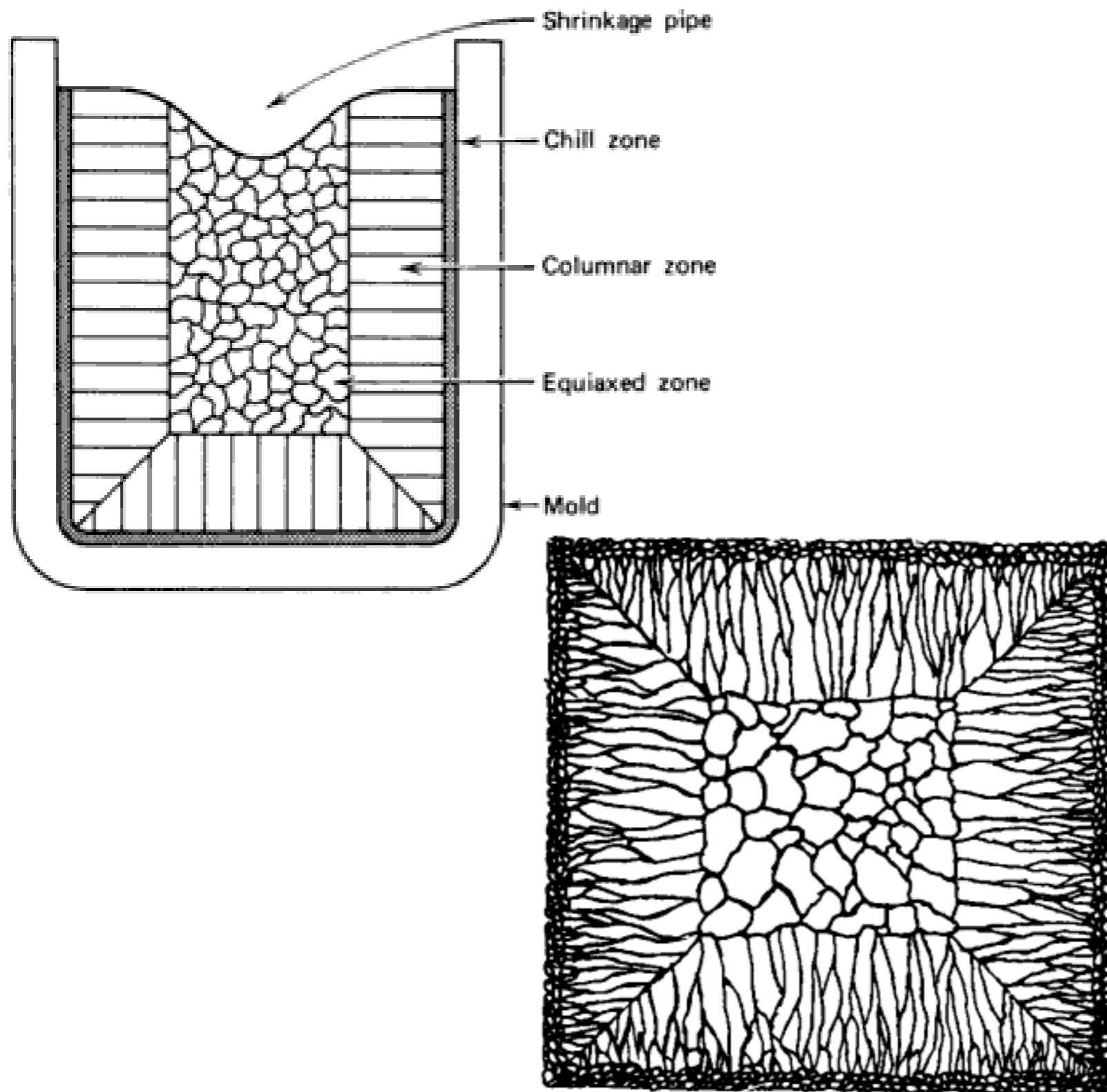
Maximum speed  $\lambda = 2\lambda_c$

$$\lambda_c v_{\max} = \text{const.}$$

# Pearlite structure in steels

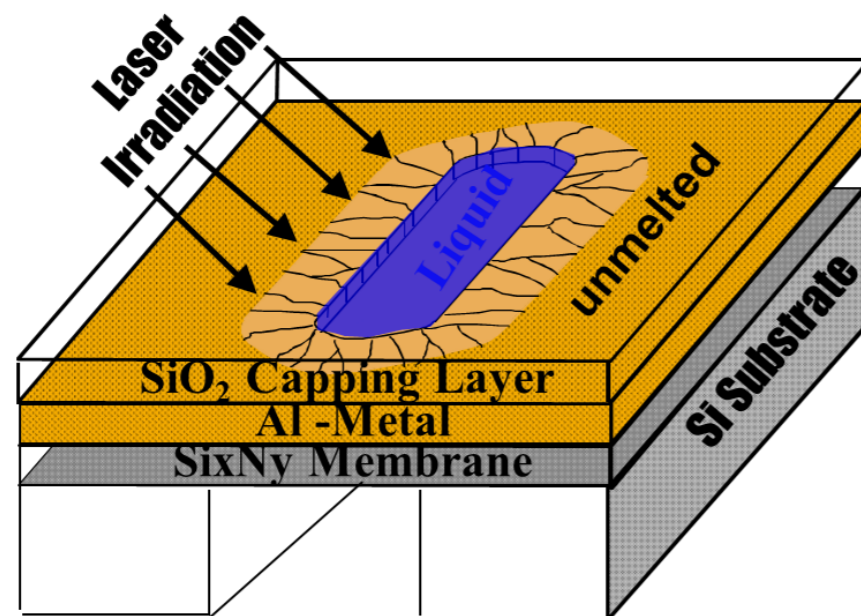
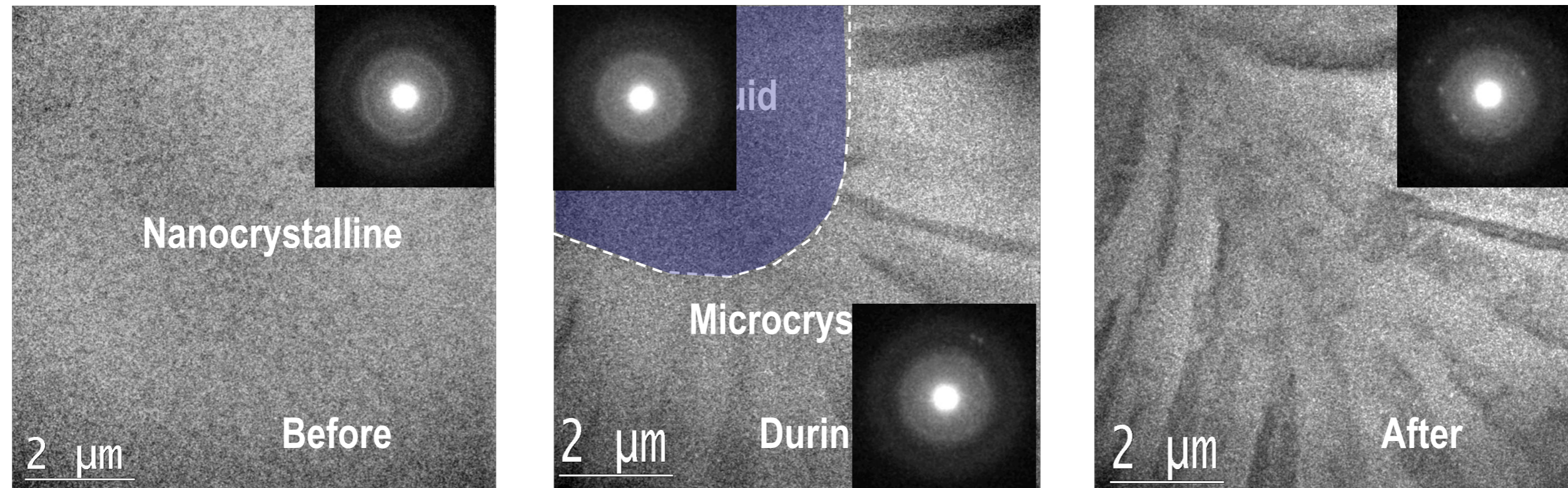


# Solidification of a bar



# Time-resolved Electron Microscopy (DTEM)

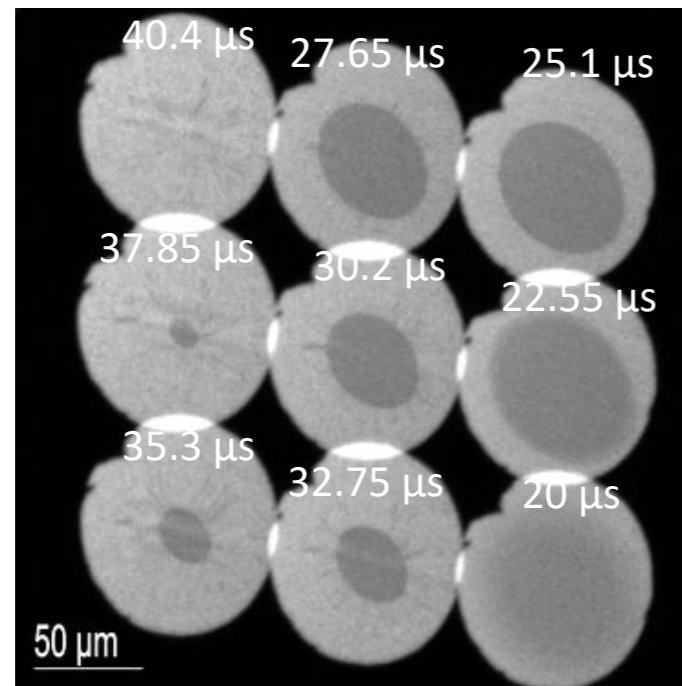
Series of nanosecond bright field TEM images and diffraction patterns showing the rapid dynamics solidification processes after laser melting



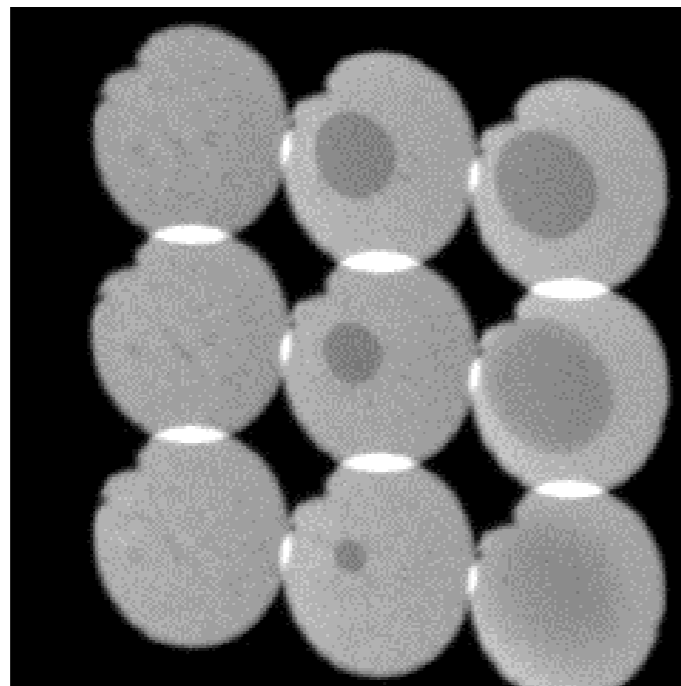
**We can observe morphological changes in liquid-solid interface of rapid lateral solidification (RLS) of molten metal films and quantitatively measure interface velocities moving at  $\sim 3.5$  m/s.**

# Heat extraction controls the solidification velocities

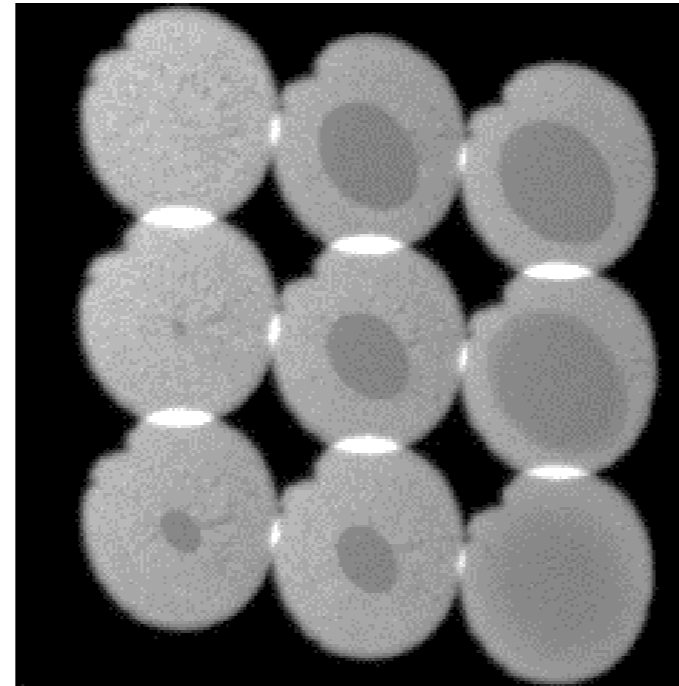
250  $\mu\text{m}$  from corner



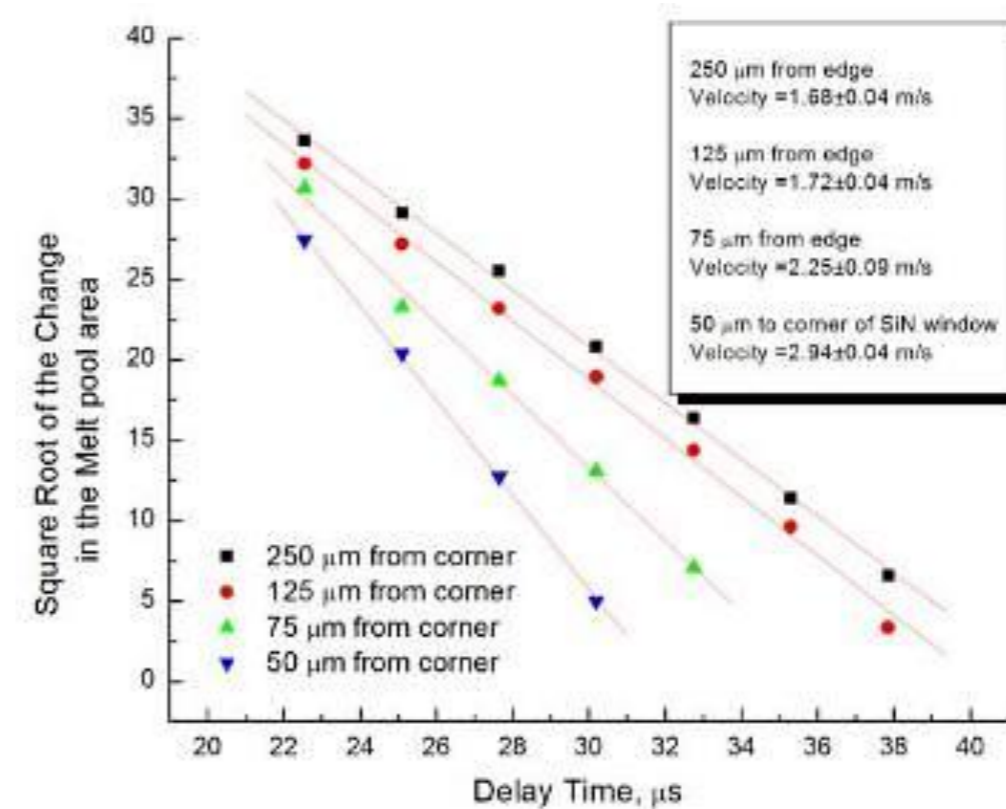
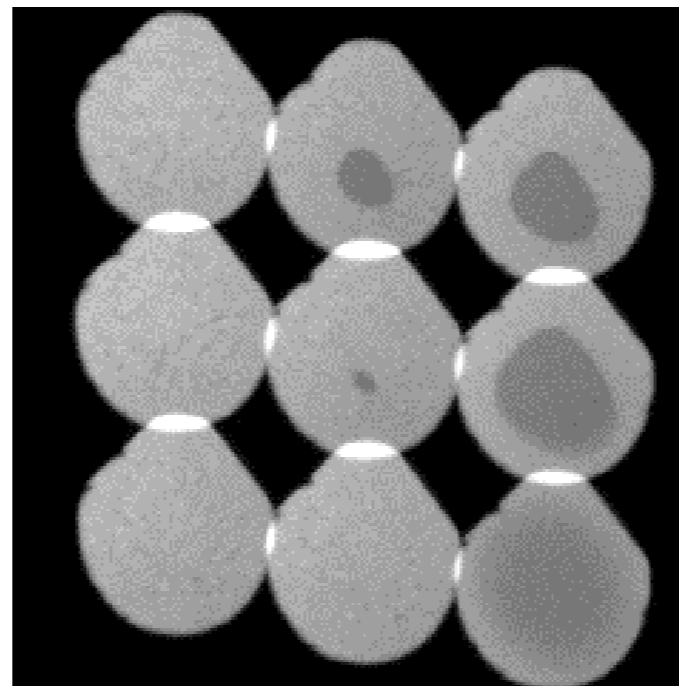
75  $\mu\text{m}$  from corner



125  $\mu\text{m}$  from corner



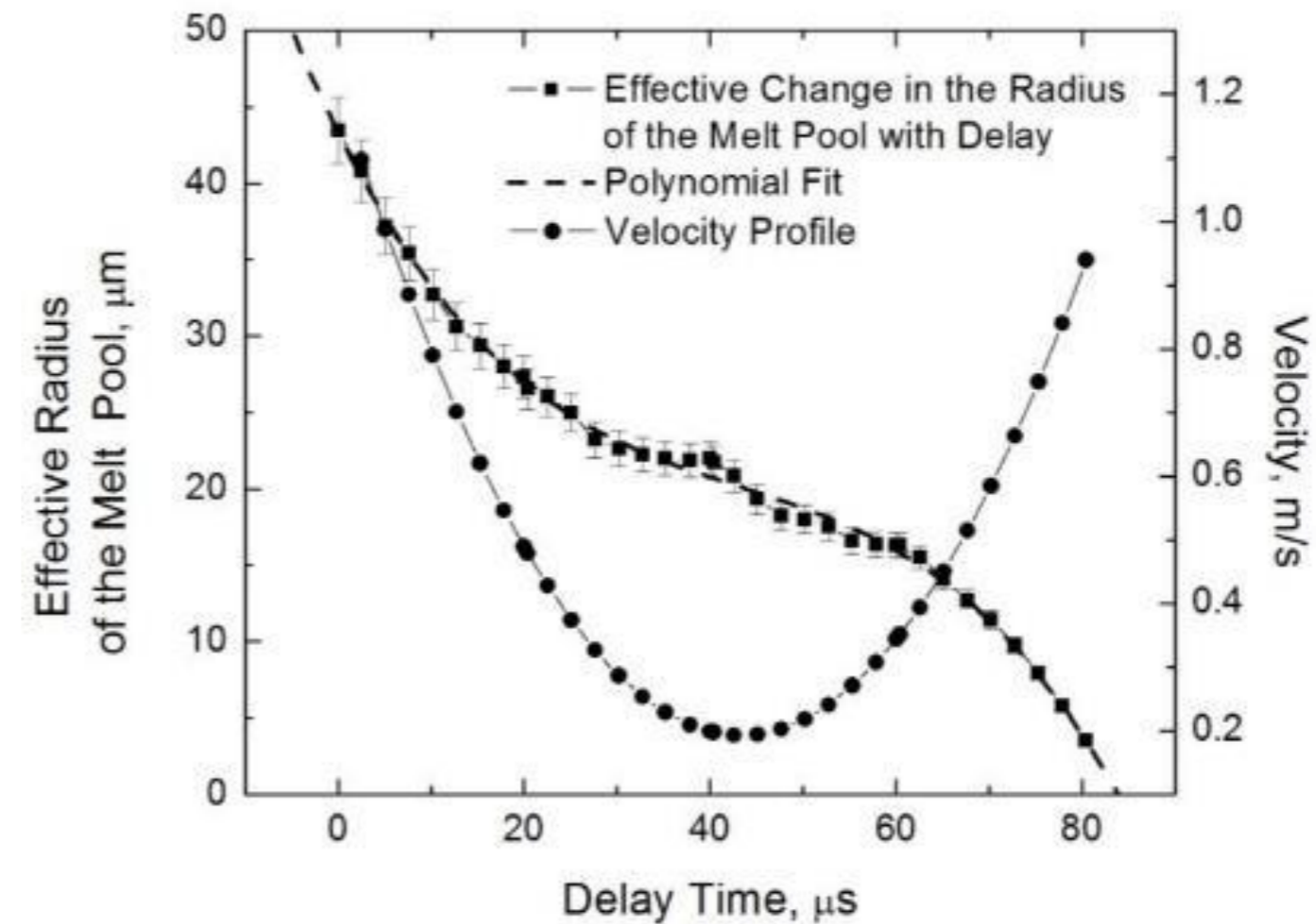
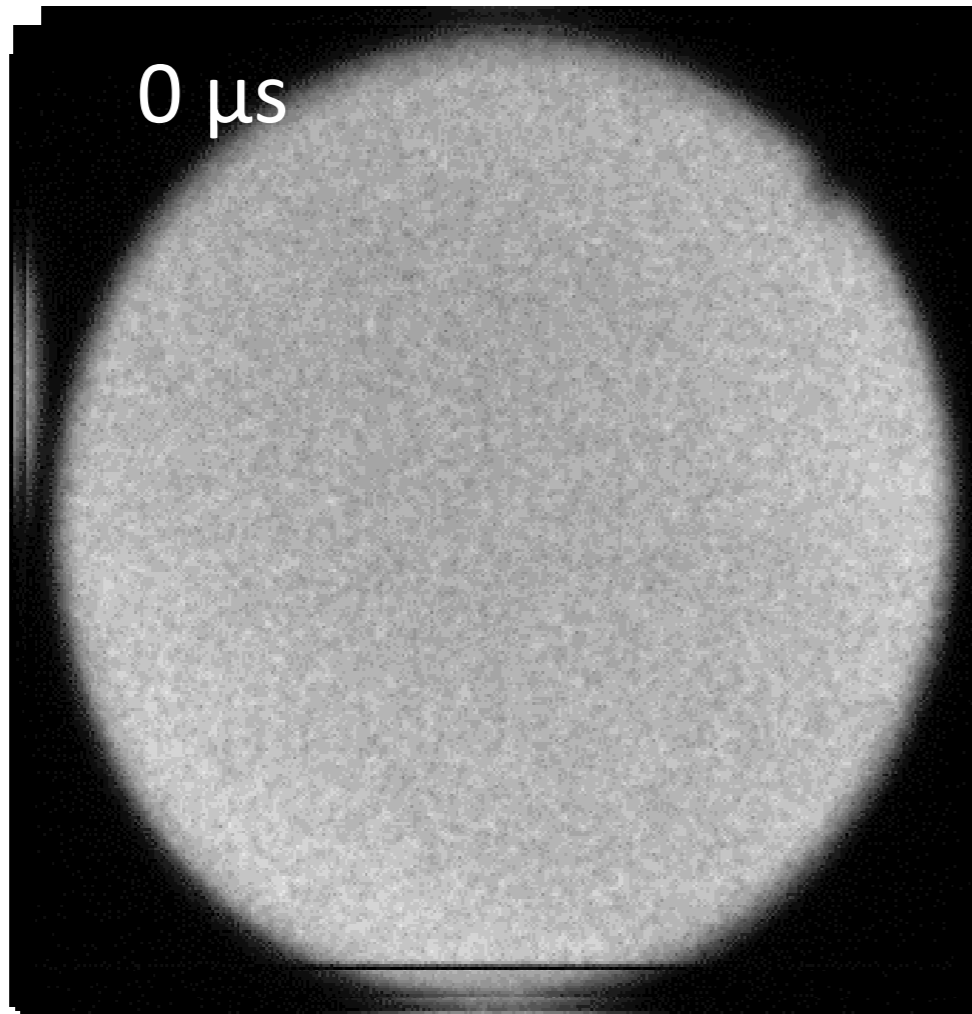
50  $\mu\text{m}$  from corner



$$v_i = \frac{1}{L_V} \left( \lambda_S \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} \right)_S - \lambda_L \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} \Big|_L$$

Only planar front are observed in this thin film geometries

# Al-16%Cu alloy films have a parabolic solidification velocity



Solidification velocities are controlled via an interplay between heat extraction, nucleation, and diffusion kinetics