

# Dislocations in graphene

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Workshop on PDEs and Materials

Oberwolfach, September 13-19, 2009

# Graphene



Andre K. Geim  
School of Physics  
& Astronomy  
Manchester University



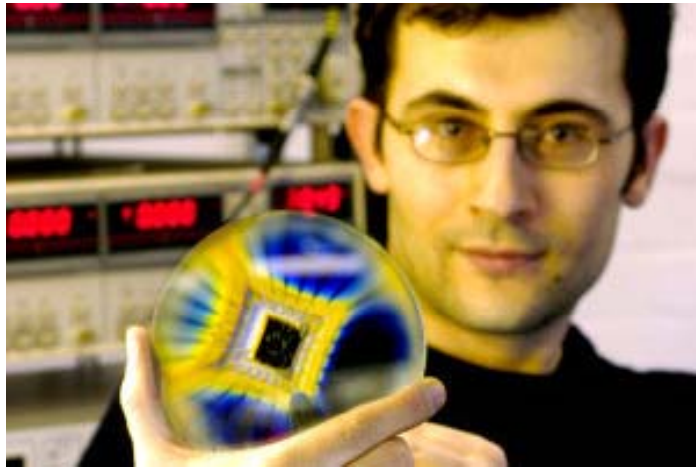
- First fabricated by Novoselov, K.S., *et al.* "Electric field effect in atomically thin carbon films" *Science*, 306 (2004) pp. 666-669
- One-atom thick free-standing carbon sheet
- Stable under ambient conditions
- 2D crystal arranged in a chicken-wire or honeycomb lattice
- Fabricated by:
  - *Mechanical cleavage of graphite (manually, ultrasonic)*
  - *Epitaxial growth followed by chemical etching*

# Graphene

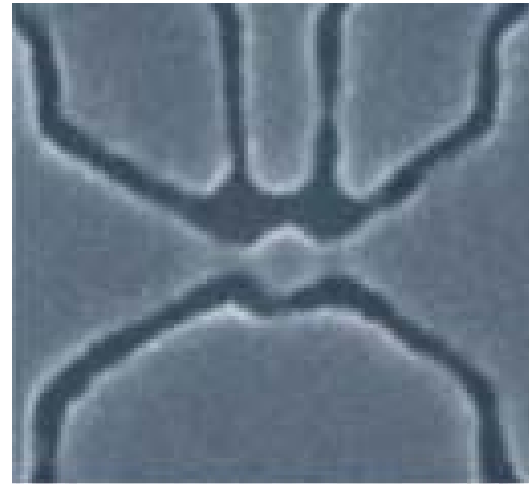
- A.K. Geim, “Graphene: Status and Prospects”, *Science*, **324** (2009) pp. 1530-1534:
  - *Graphene is a wonder material*
  - *Thinnest known material in the universe and the strongest ever measured*
  - *Its charge carriers exhibit giant intrinsic mobility, have zero effective mass, and can travel for micrometers without scattering at room temperature.*
  - *Can sustain current densities six orders of magnitude higher than that of copper*
  - *Shows record thermal conductivity and stiffness, is impermeable to gases*
  - *Electron transport in graphene is described by a (relativistic-quantum) Dirac-like equation*



# Graphene - Applications



"Graphene used to create world's smallest transistor. Graphene can be carved into tiny electronic circuits with individual transistors having a size not much larger than that of a molecule"



Graphene-based single-electron transistor. Device with the central island of 250 nm in diameter and distant side gates; high resolution lithography allows features down to 10 nm (Ponomarenko, L.A., et al., "Chaotic Dirac Billiard in Graphene Quantum Dots," *Science*, **320** (2008) pp. 356-358)



<http://www.manchester.ac.uk/aboutus/news/>

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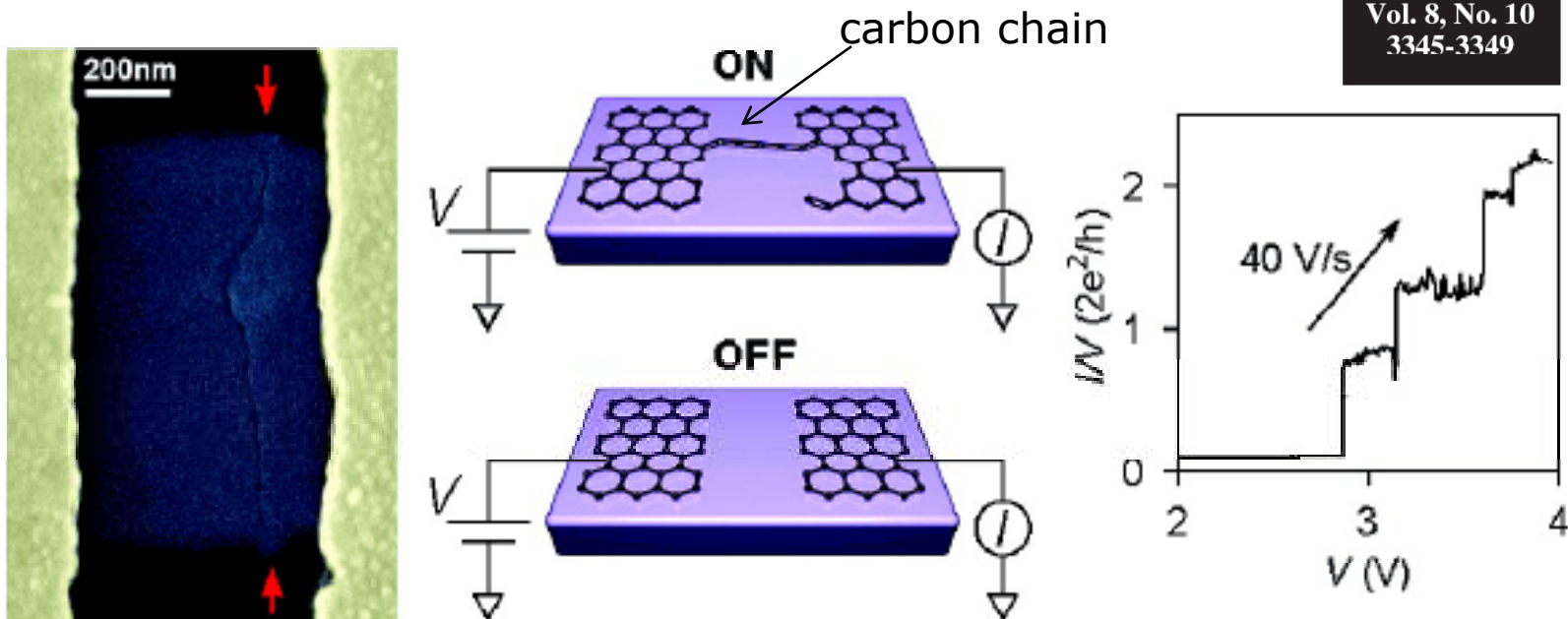
# Graphene - Applications

## Graphene-Based Atomic-Scale Switches

Brian Standley,<sup>†</sup> Wenzhong Bao,<sup>‡</sup> Hang Zhang,<sup>‡</sup> Jehoshua Bruck,<sup>§</sup>  
Chun Ning Lau,<sup>‡</sup> and Marc Bockrath<sup>\*,†</sup>

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Vol. 8, No. 10  
3345-3349



nonvolatile memory element  
based on graphene break junctions



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# Graphene and defects

## THEORETICAL STUDIES OF ICOSAHEDRAL $C_{60}$ AND SOME RELATED SPECIES

A.J. STONE and D.J. WALES

*University Chemical Laboratories, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1EW, UK*

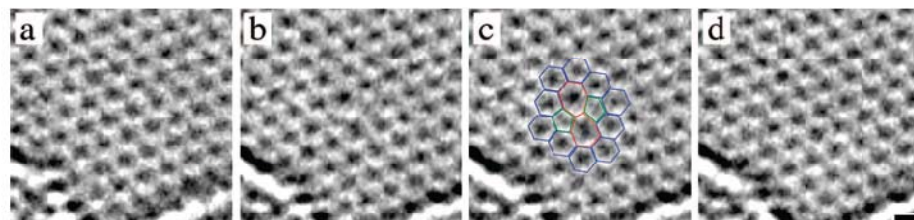
Received 1 May 1986; in final form 23 May 1986

## Direct Imaging of Lattice Atoms and Topological Defects in Graphene Membranes

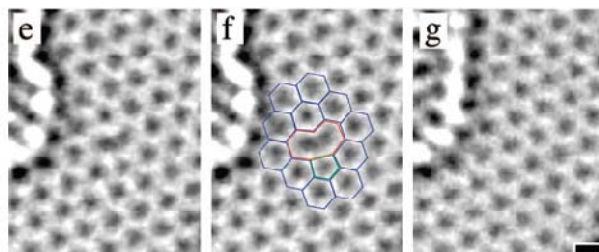
Jannik C. Meyer,<sup>†</sup> C. Kisielowski,<sup>‡</sup> R. Erni,<sup>‡</sup> Marta D. Russell,<sup>‡</sup> M. F. Crommie,<sup>†</sup> and A. Zettl<sup>\*,†</sup>

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2008  
Vol. 8, No. 11  
3582-3586



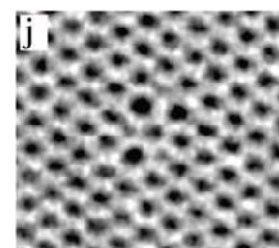
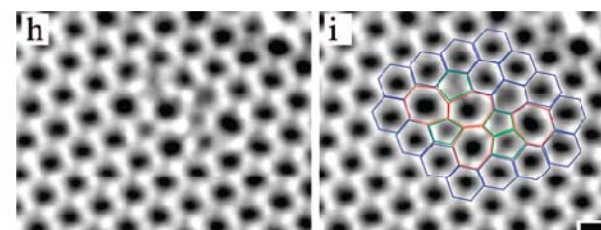
Stone-Wales defect



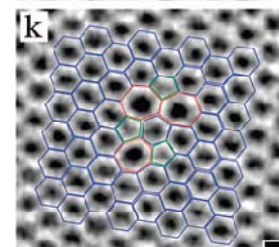
vacancy



Stone-Wales defect



heptagons and pentagons



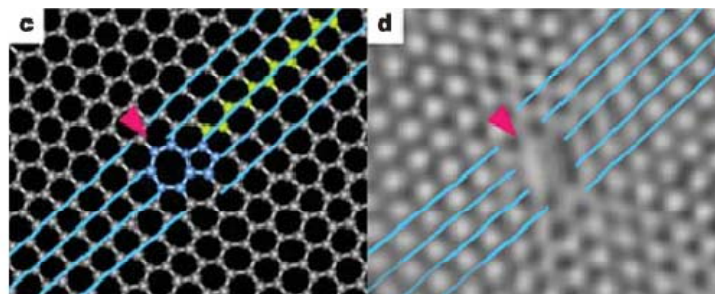
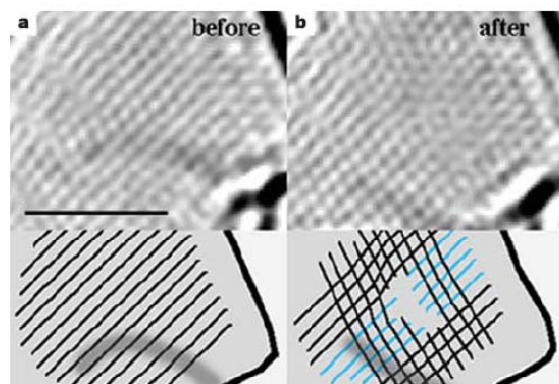
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# Graphene and defects

## Direct evidence for atomic defects in graphene layers

Ayako Hashimoto<sup>1</sup>, Kazu Suenaga<sup>1</sup>, Alexandre Gloter<sup>1,2</sup>, Koki Urita<sup>1,3</sup> & Sumio Iijima<sup>1</sup>

NATURE | VOL 430 | 19 AUGUST 2004 | www.nature.com/nature



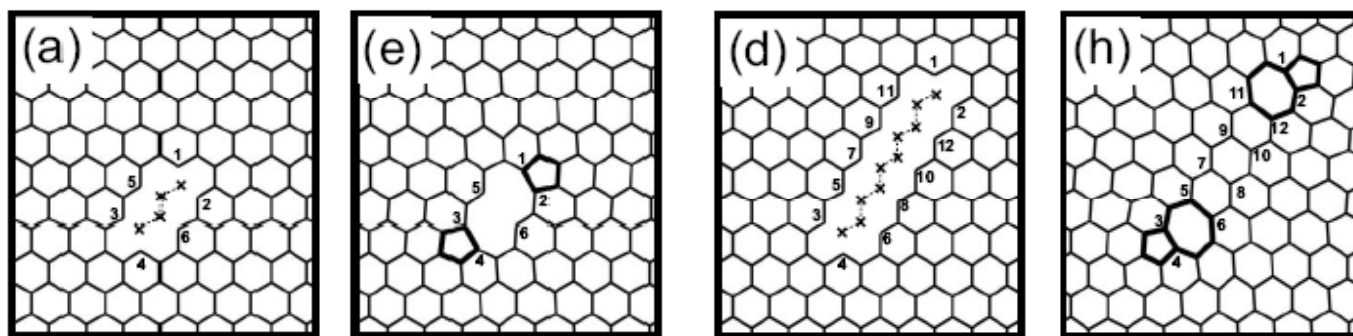
edge dislocation  
(missing zig-zag chain)

topological defects induced  
by electron-beam irradiation

PHYSICAL REVIEW B 78, 165403 (2008)

## Stability of dislocation defect with two pentagon-heptagon pairs in graphene

Byoung Wook Jeong,<sup>1</sup> Jisoon Ihm,<sup>1</sup> and Gun-Do Lee<sup>2</sup>



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# Graphene and defects

- Majority of studies to date computational:
  - *Ab initio*: Restricted to small cells, difficult to extract thermodynamic properties...
  - *Molecular dynamics*: Predictiveness limited by empirical potentials, cell size, time step...
  - *Mixed continuum atomistic*: Ad hoc, patchwork...
- Main issues of interest:
  - *Properties of individual defects*: Core structure, core energies, limiting behaviors (dilute, continuum...)
  - *Equilibrium properties of defect ensembles*: Free energy, critical temperature for spontaneous defect nucleation
- Defect densities at critical temperature small, not accessible to direct simulation!



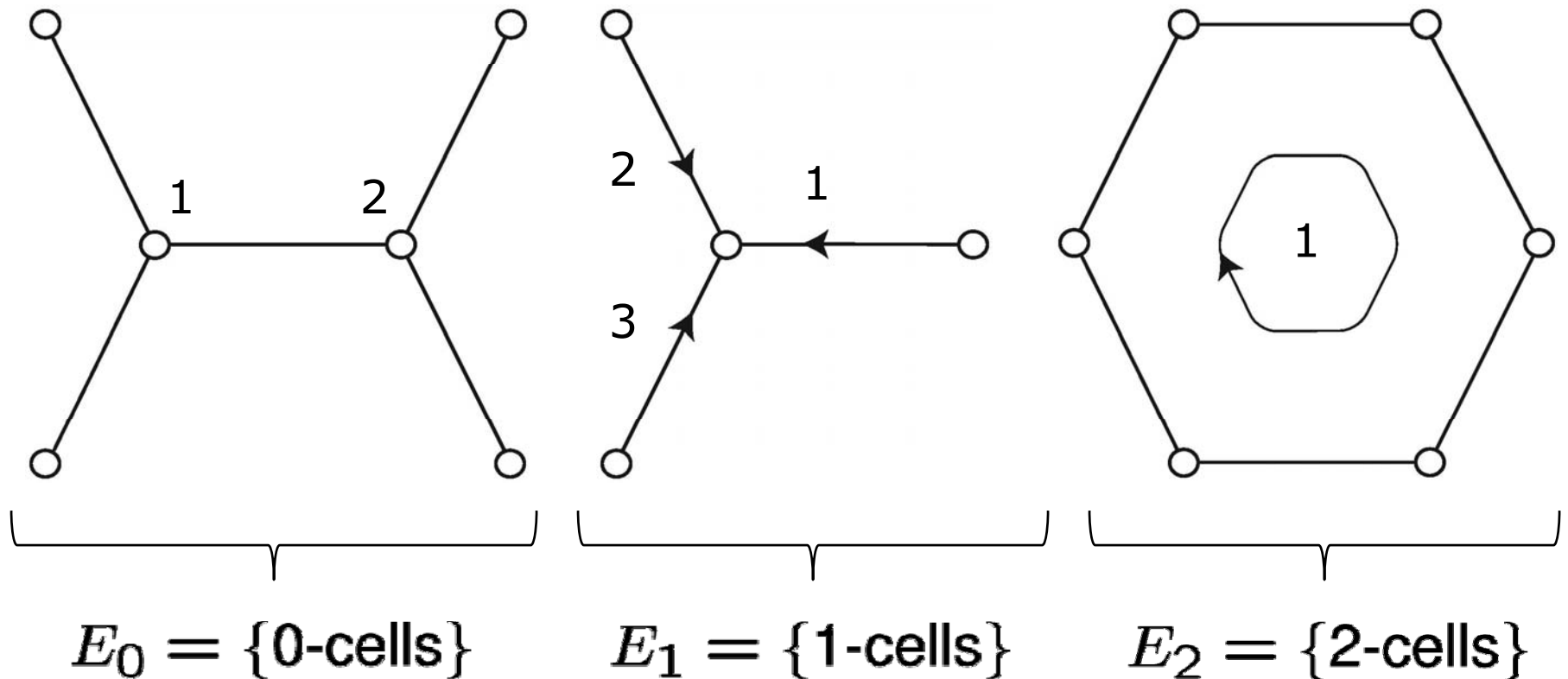


# Graphene and defects

- Our approach:
  - *Graphene lattice as differential complex*
  - *Defects as eigendeformations*
  - *Formal asymptotics and/or  $\Gamma$ -convergence*
  - *Equilibrium statistical mechanics*
- Results to date:
  - *Dislocation core structures, validation*
  - *Core energies, prelogarithmic energy factors*
  - *Continuum and dilute limits of stored energies:*
    - *Direct numerical simulation*
    - *Formal asymptotics*
    - *$\Gamma$ -convergence (in progress)*
  - *Critical temperature, scaling (in progress)*



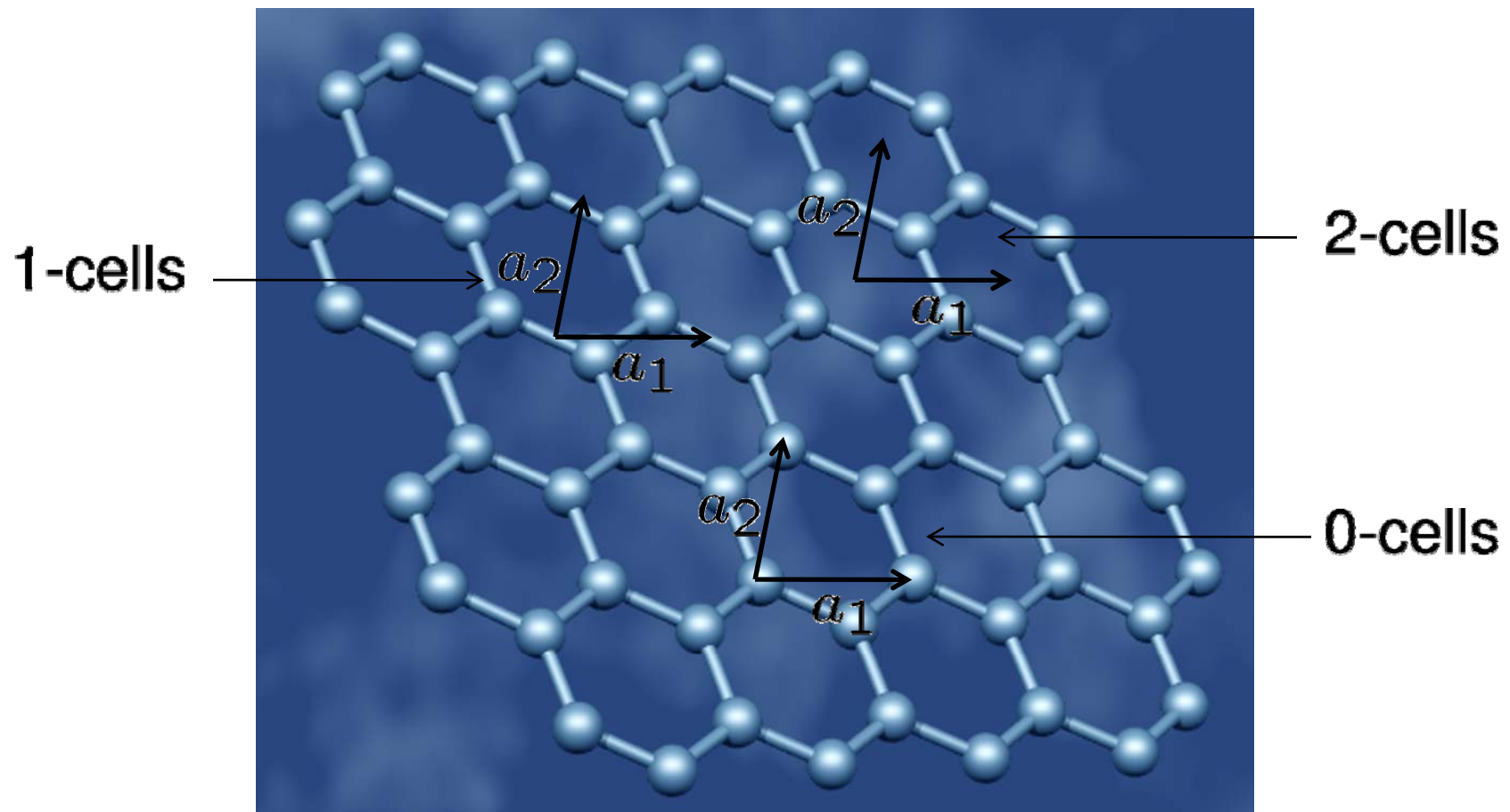
# Graphene – Differential cell complex



the oriented cells of graphene  
classification by type



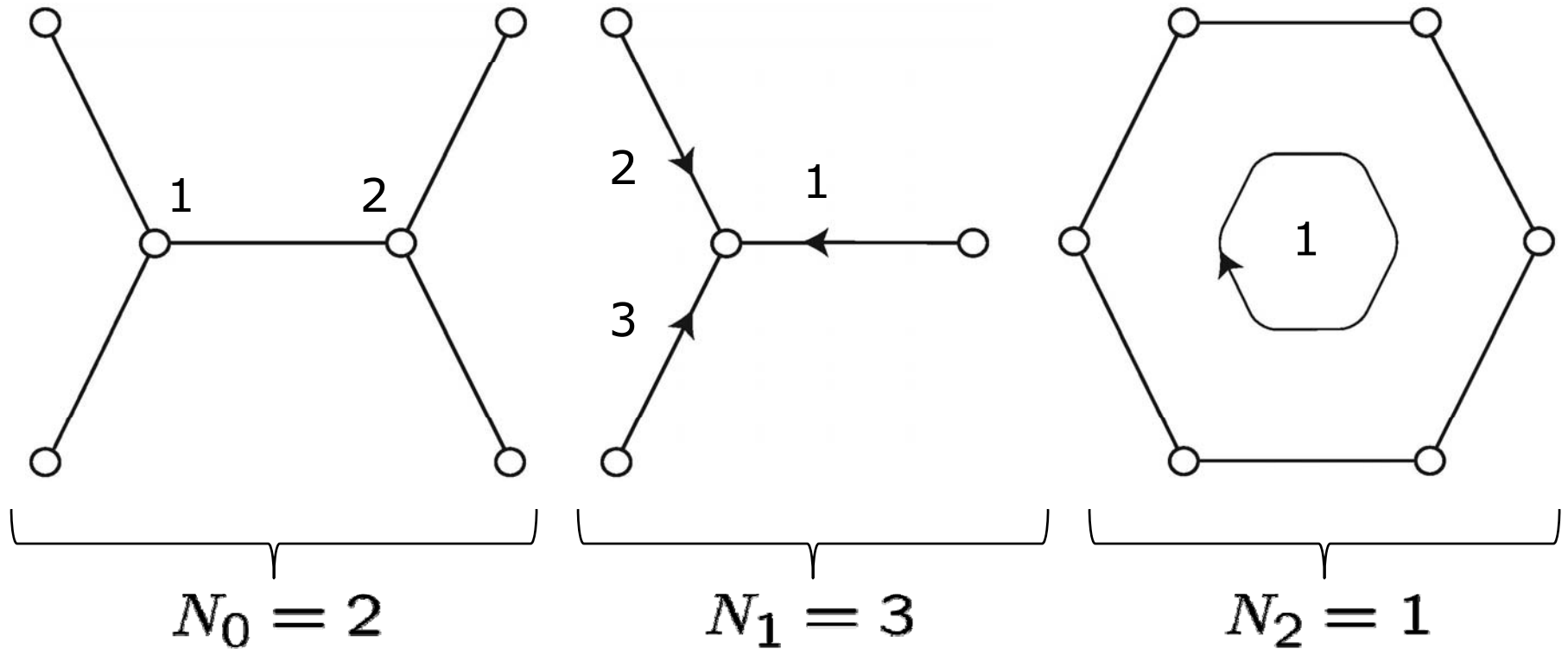
# Graphene – Differential cell complex



cells of same type define  
simple Bravais lattices



# Graphene – Differential cell complex

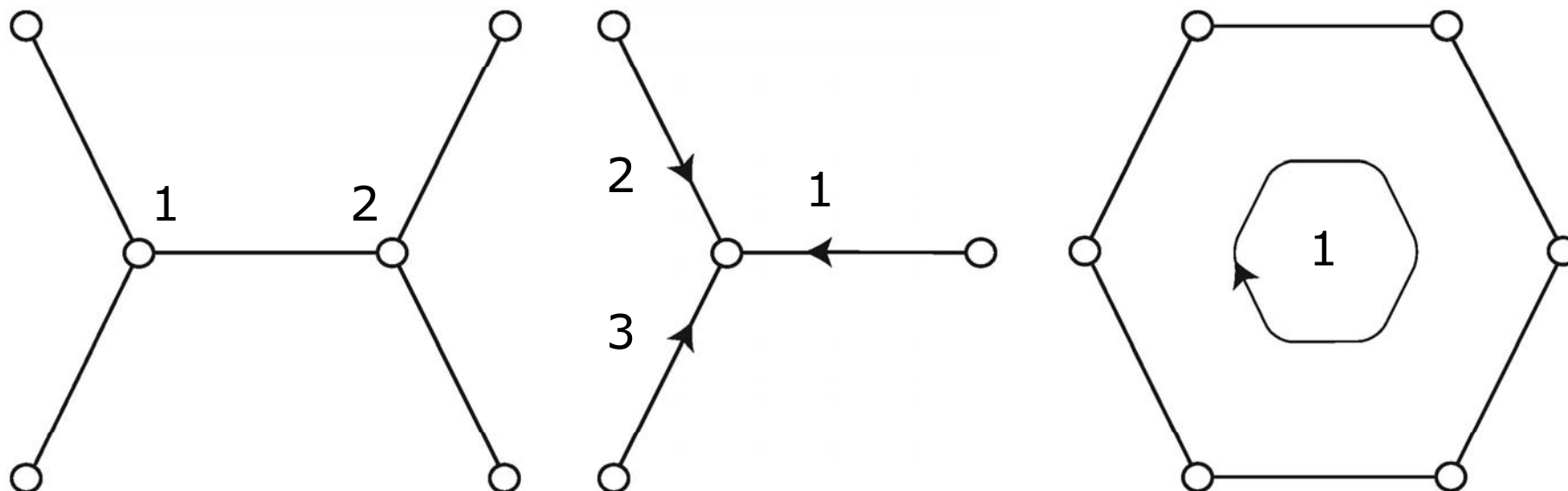


$$E_p = \{e_p(l, \alpha), l \in \mathbb{Z}^2, \alpha = 1, \dots, N_p\}$$

the Bravais lattices of cells of same type



# Graphene – Differential cell complex



discrete  $p$ -forms:  $\Omega^p = \{\omega_p : E_p \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m\}$

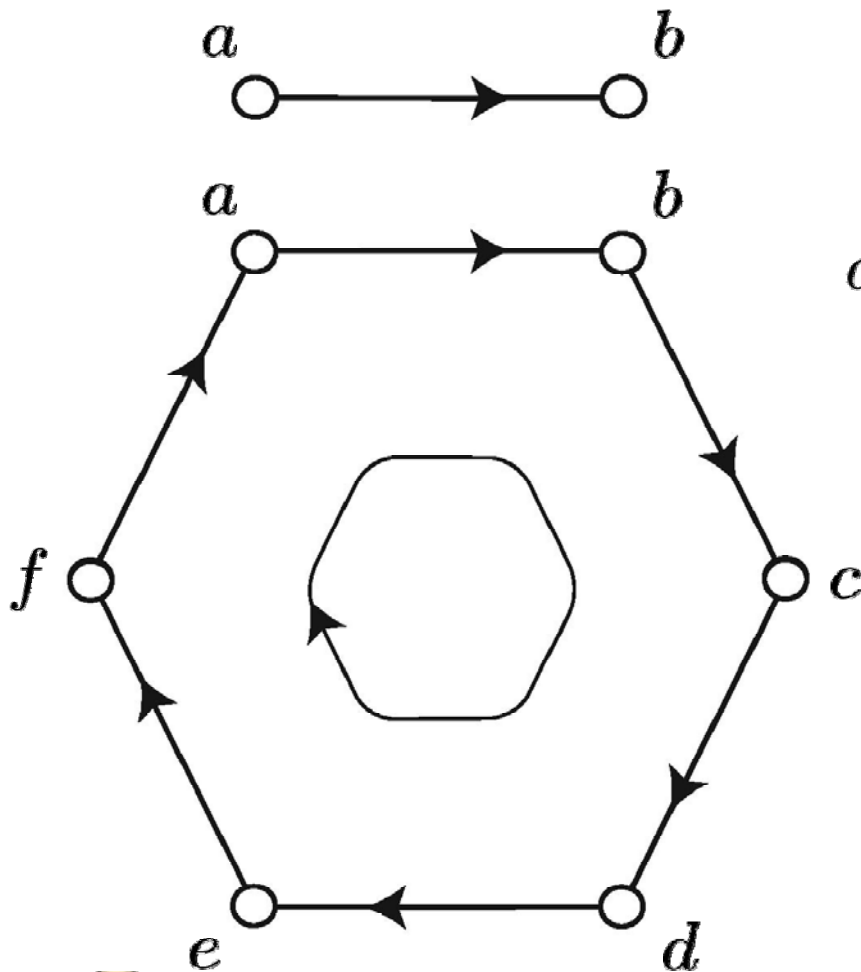
discrete  $p$ -currents:  $\Omega_p = \{\Lambda^p : E_p \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m\}$

duality pairing:  $\langle \Lambda^p, \omega_p \rangle = \sum_{\alpha=1}^{N_p} \sum_{l \in \mathbb{Z}^2} \Lambda^p(l, \alpha) \cdot \omega_p(l, \alpha)$





# Graphene – Differential cell complex



- Differential operator:

$$d\omega(e_{ab}) = \omega(e_b) - \omega(e_a)$$

$$\begin{aligned} d\omega(e_{abcdef}) = & \omega(e_{ab}) + \omega(e_{bc}) \\ & + \omega(e_{cd}) + \omega(e_{de}) \\ & + \omega(e_{ef}) + \omega(e_{fa}) \end{aligned}$$

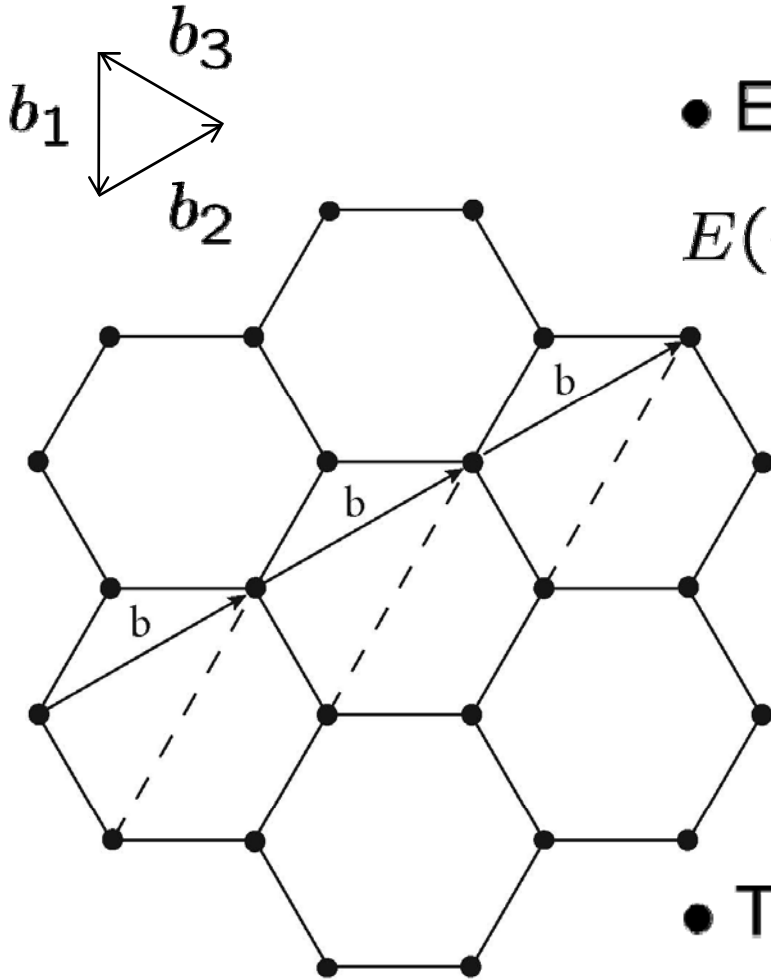
- Codifferential operator:

$$\langle \Lambda, d\omega \rangle = \langle \delta \Lambda, \omega \rangle$$

- Fundamental property:

$$d^2 = 0, \quad \delta^2 = 0$$

# Graphene – Discrete dislocations



- Energy of defective graphene:

$$E(u, \beta) = \frac{1}{2} \langle \Psi * (du - \beta), (du - \beta) \rangle$$

$\Psi \equiv$  bondwise force constants

$\Omega^0 \ni u \equiv$  displacement field

$\Omega^1 \ni du \equiv$  bond deformation

$\Omega^1 \ni \beta \equiv$  eigendeformations

- Three lattice-preserving shears:

$$\beta(e_1) \in b_1\mathbb{Z} + b_2\mathbb{Z} + b_3\mathbb{Z}$$

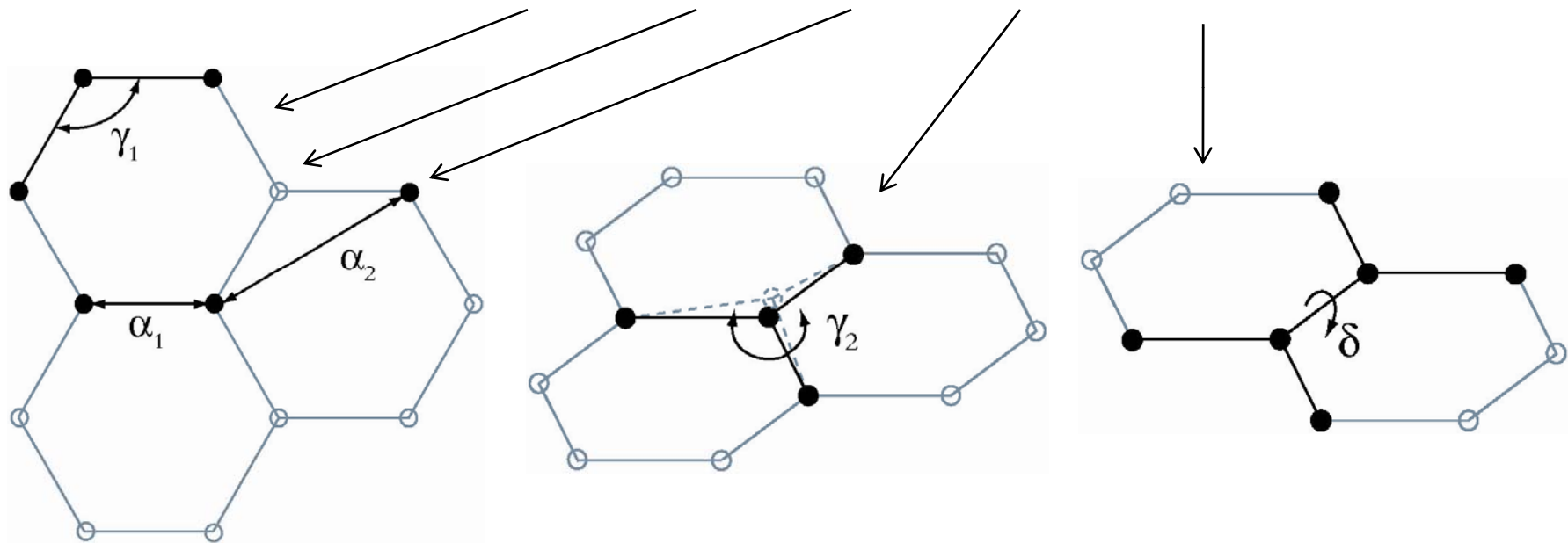


lattice-preserving  
shear deformation

# Graphene – Force constants

- ASOIO Potential:

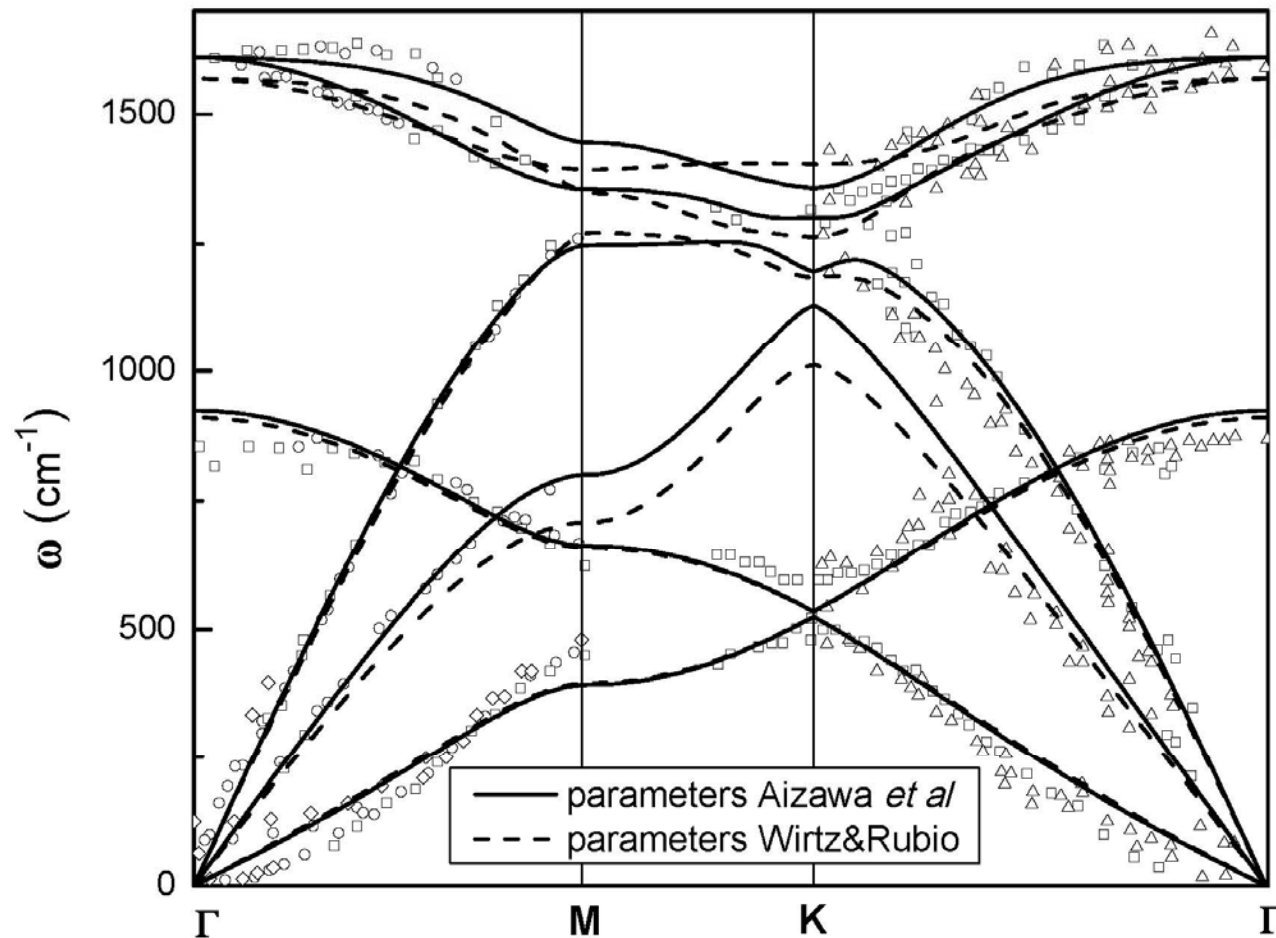
$$E(u) = V_1 + V_2 + V_3 + V_4 + V_5 + V_6$$



Aizawa, T. et al., "Bond Softening in Monolayer Graphite Formed on Transition-Metal Carbide Surfaces"  
Phys. Rev. B, **42**(18) (1990) pp. 11469--11478

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# Graphene – Force constants

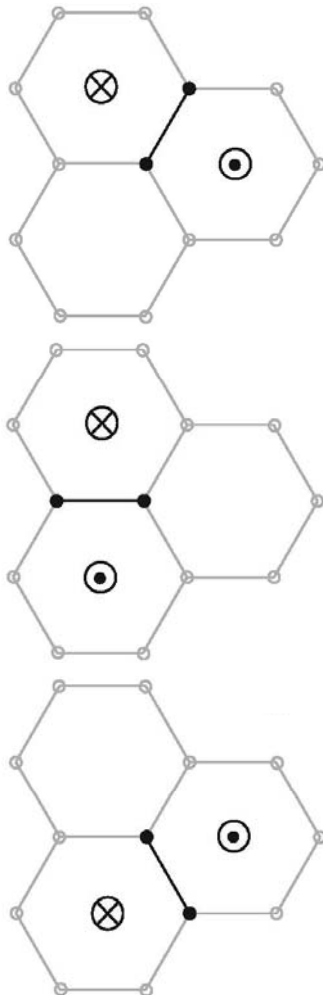


Phonon-dispersion curves computed from ASOIO potential  
(Aizawa *et al.* (1990) and by Wirtz & Rubio (2004))

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# Graphene – Discrete dislocations



basis for  
graphene  
dislocations

- Energy of defective graphene:

$$E(u, \beta) = \frac{1}{2} \langle \Psi * (du - \beta), (du - \beta) \rangle$$

- Displacement equilibrium problem:

$$\delta \Psi * du \equiv \boxed{Au = f} \equiv \delta \Psi \beta$$

- Note:  $\inf E(u, \beta) = 0$  if  $\beta = dv$

- Discrete dislocation density:  $\boxed{\alpha = d\beta}$

- Hodge:  $\alpha = 0$  iff  $\beta = dv$

- Stored energy depends on  $\alpha$ :

$$E(\alpha) = \inf \{ E(u, \beta), d\beta = \alpha \}$$



# Graphene - Discrete Fourier transform

- Discrete Fourier Transform:  $\hat{f}(\theta) = \sum_{l \in \mathbb{Z}^2} f(l) e^{-i\theta \cdot l}$
- Inverse:  $f(l) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^2} \int_{[-\pi, \pi]^2} \hat{f}(\theta) e^{i\theta \cdot l} d\theta$
- Convolution theorem:  $\widehat{f * g} = \hat{f} \hat{g}$
- Parseval identity:  $\langle f, g \rangle = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^2} \int_{[-\pi, \pi]^2} \hat{f}(\theta) \hat{g}^*(\theta) d\theta$
- Differential operator:  $\widehat{d\omega}(\theta) = Q(\theta) \hat{\omega}(\theta)$

$$Q_1(\theta) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -e^{i\theta_2} \\ 1 & -1 \\ 1 & -e^{-i\theta_3} \end{pmatrix}, \quad \theta_3 = \theta_1 - \theta_2$$

$$Q_2(\theta) = (e^{i\theta_3} - 1, 1 - e^{i\theta_1}, e^{i\theta_1} - e^{i\theta_3})$$



# Graphene - Discrete Fourier transform

- For given eigendeformations:  $\hat{u}(\theta) = -\hat{\Phi}^{-1} Q_1^T \hat{\Psi} \hat{\beta}$

where:  $\hat{\Phi}(\theta) = Q_1^T(\theta) \hat{\Psi}(\theta) Q_1^*(\theta)$

- For given discrete dislocation density:

$$E(\alpha) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^2} \int_{[-\pi, \pi]^2} \frac{1}{2} \langle \hat{\Gamma}(\theta) \hat{\alpha}(\theta), \hat{\alpha}^*(\theta) \rangle d\theta$$

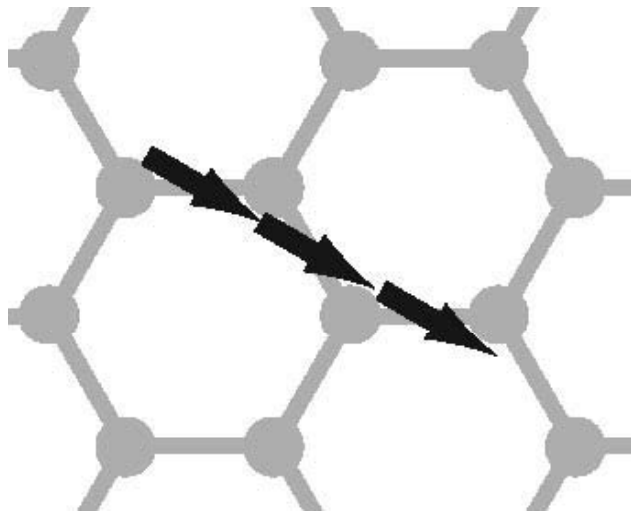
$$\hat{\Gamma}(\theta) = \hat{\Delta}^{-T} (Q_2^* \hat{\Psi} Q_2^T - Q_2^* \hat{\Psi} Q_1^* \hat{\Phi}^{-1} Q_1^T \hat{\Psi} Q_2^T) \hat{\Delta}^{-1}$$

$$\hat{\Delta}(\theta) = 2(3 - \cos \theta_1 - \cos \theta_2 - \cos \theta_3)$$

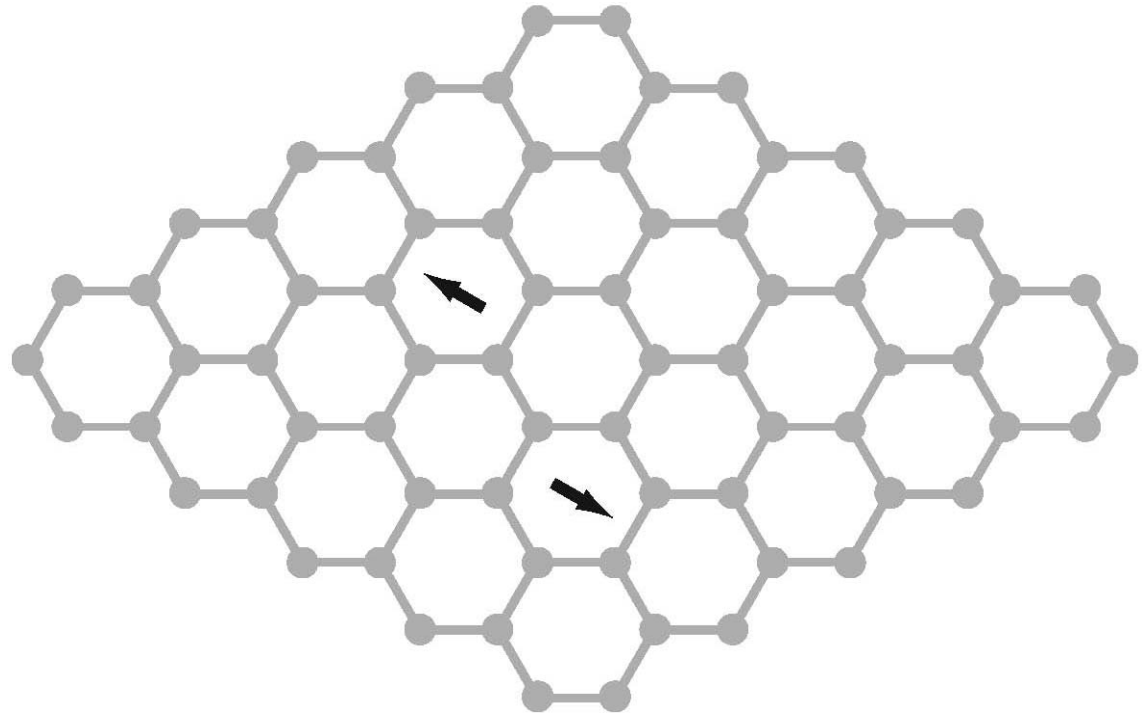
- Periodic case: Integrals reduce to finite sums



# Graphene – Dislocation dipoles



close-up of  
eigendeformations



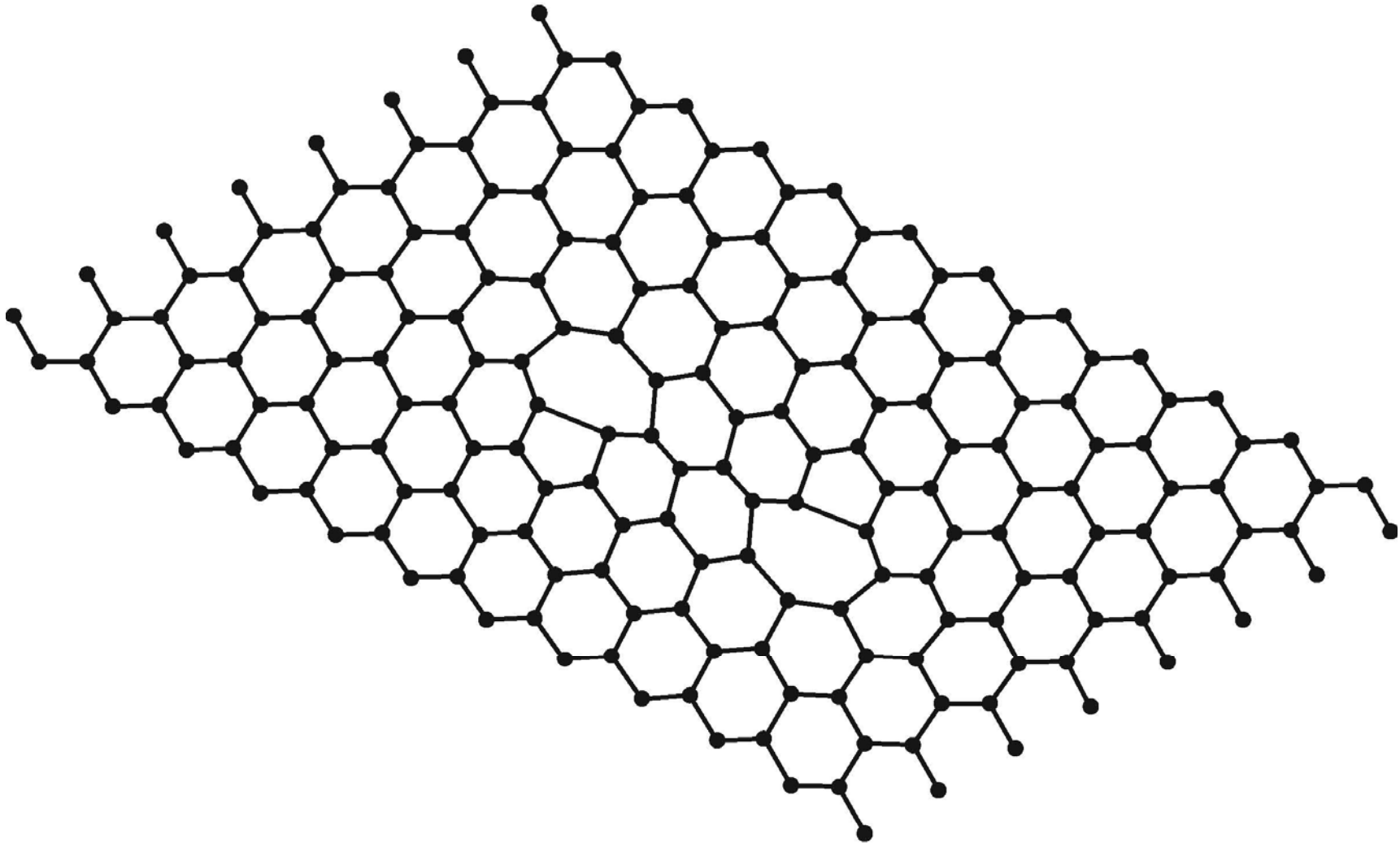
dislocation dipole in unit cell



Periodic arrangement of dislocation dipoles

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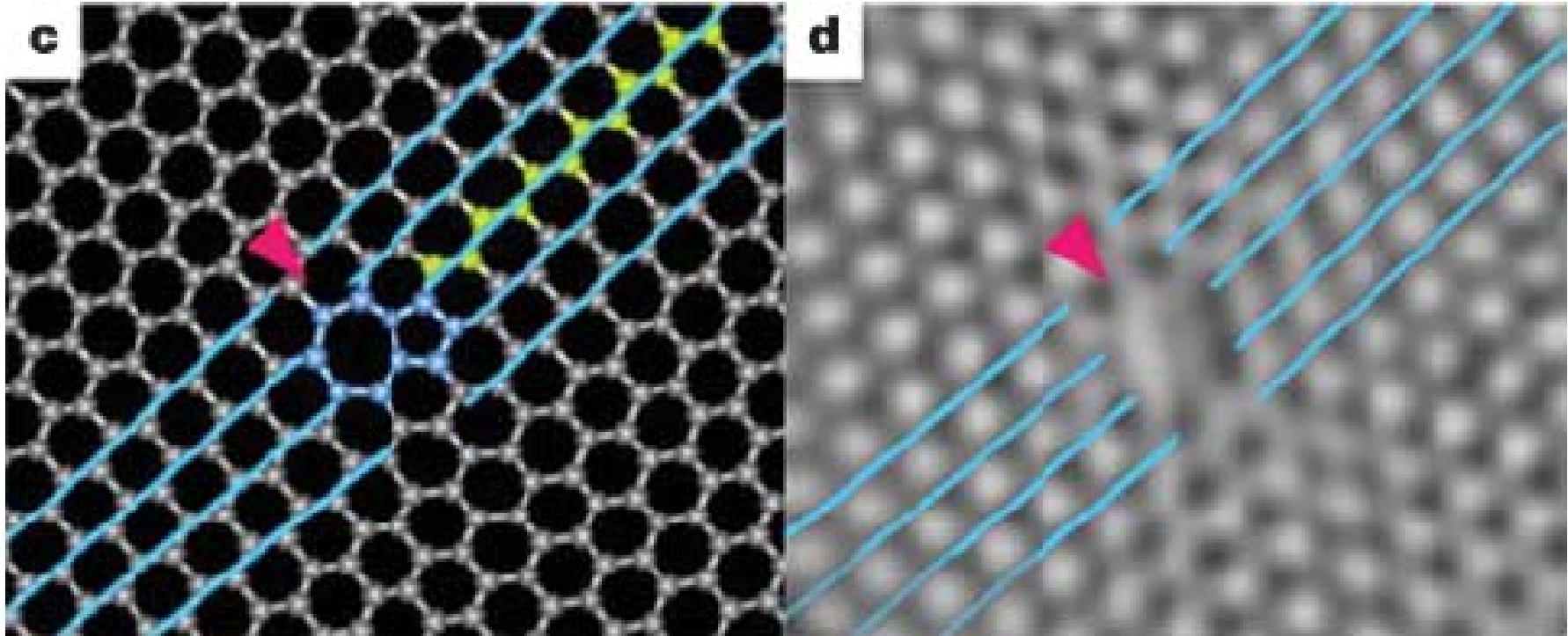
# Graphene – Dislocation dipoles



Discrete dipole core structure in ASOIO graphene,  
exhibiting dissociated pentagon-heptagon ring (5-7-7-5)

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# Graphene – Dislocation dipoles



pentagon–heptagon pair  
in the graphitic network

simulated HR-TEM image

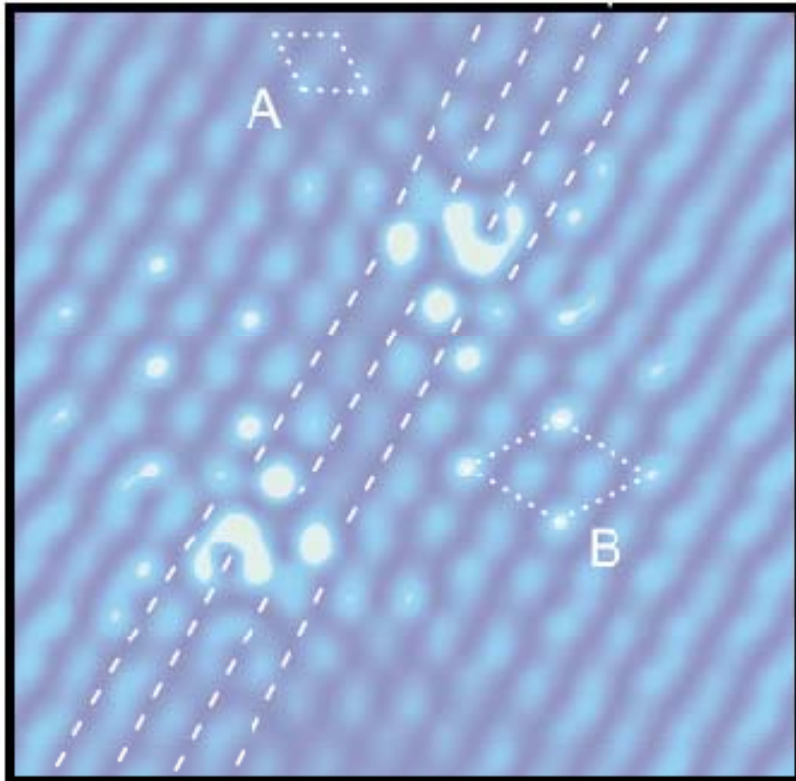
*In situ* observation of a dislocation in a graphene layer  
(Hasimoto *et al.* “Direct evidence for atomic defects  
in graphene layers”, *Letters to Nature*, **430** (2004) pp.870-873)



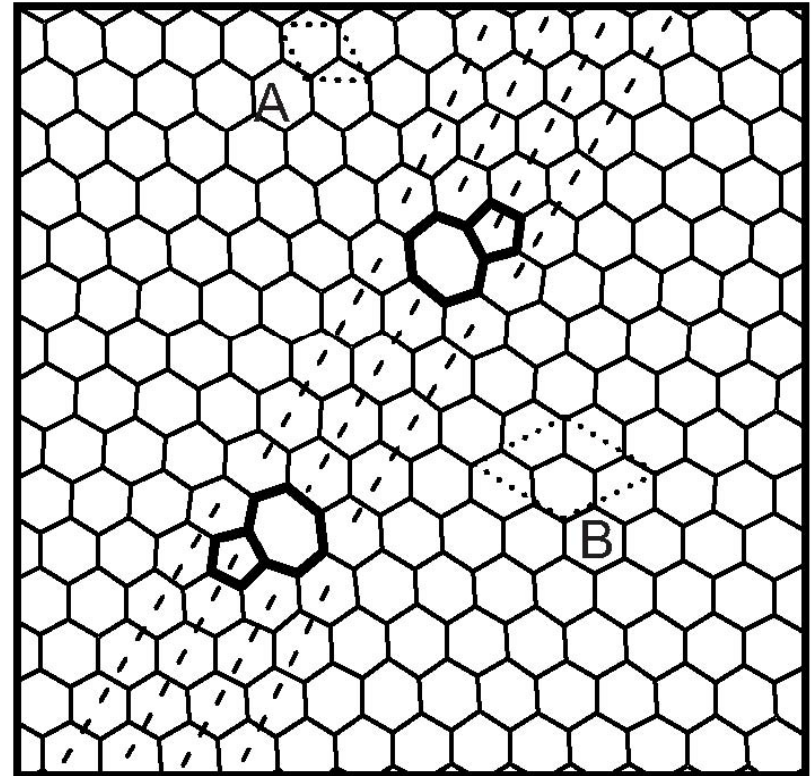
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# Graphene – Dislocation dipoles



Simulated STM image (DFT)



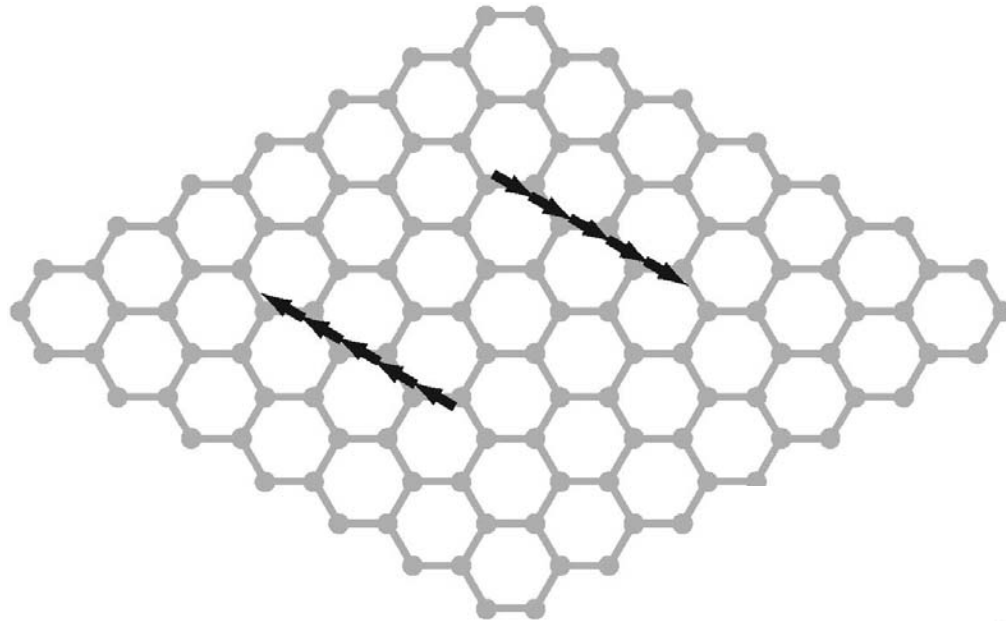
Atomic structure



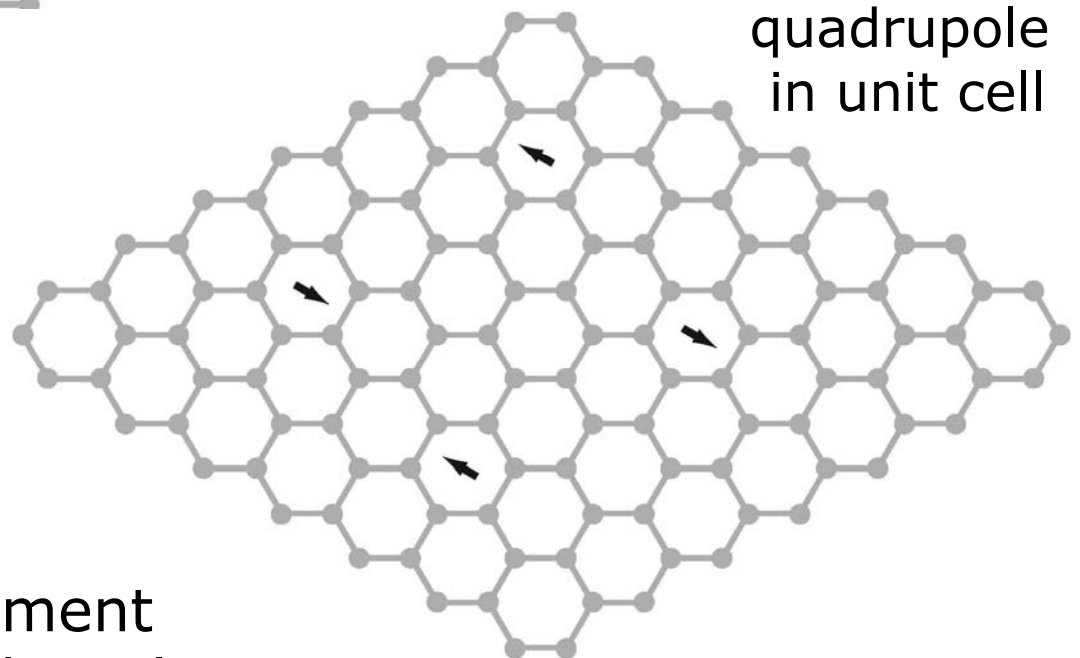
Jeong, B.W. et al., Stability of dislocation defect with two pentagon-heptagon pairs in graphene, *Phys. Rev. B*, **78**, 165403 (2008)

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# Graphene – Dislocation quadrupoles



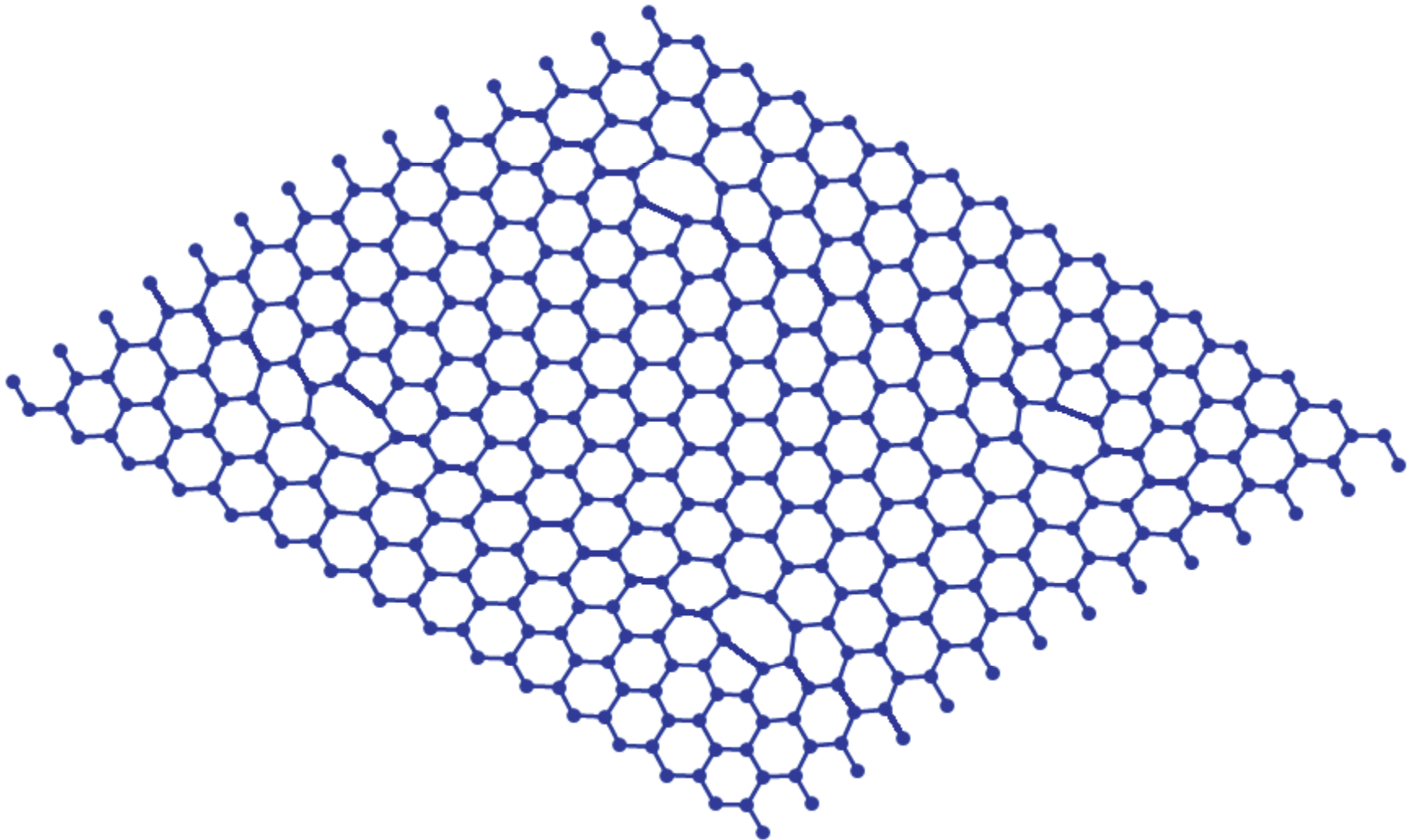
eigendeformations  
defining a quadrupole



periodic arrangement  
of dislocation quadrupoles

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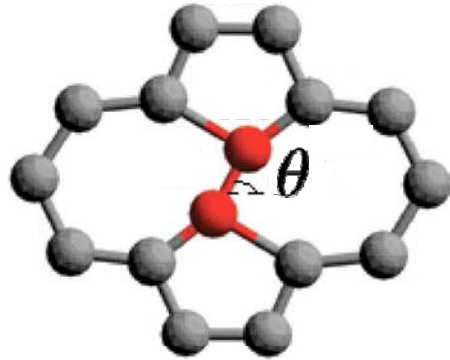
# Graphene – Dislocation quadrupoles



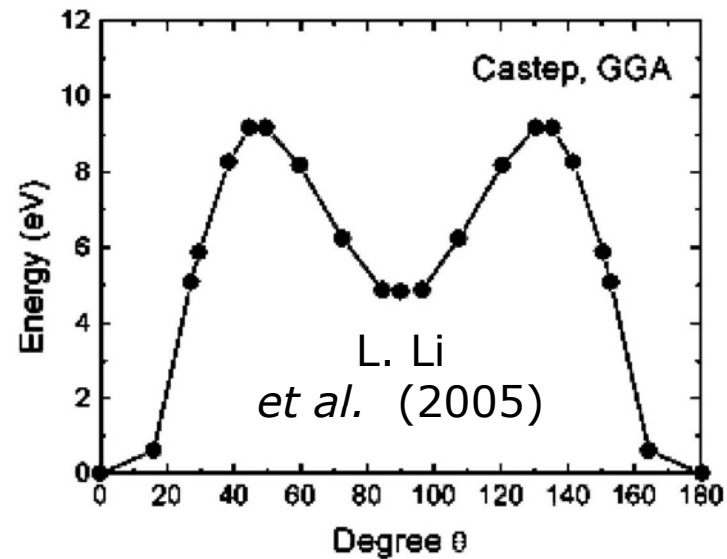
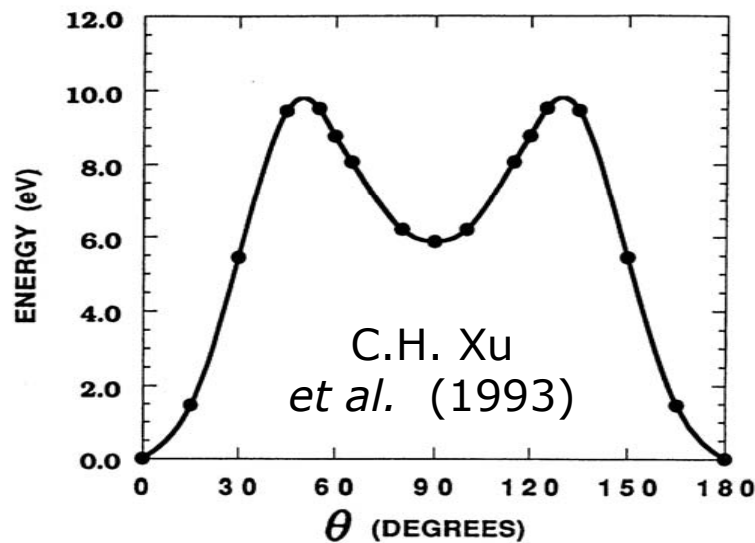
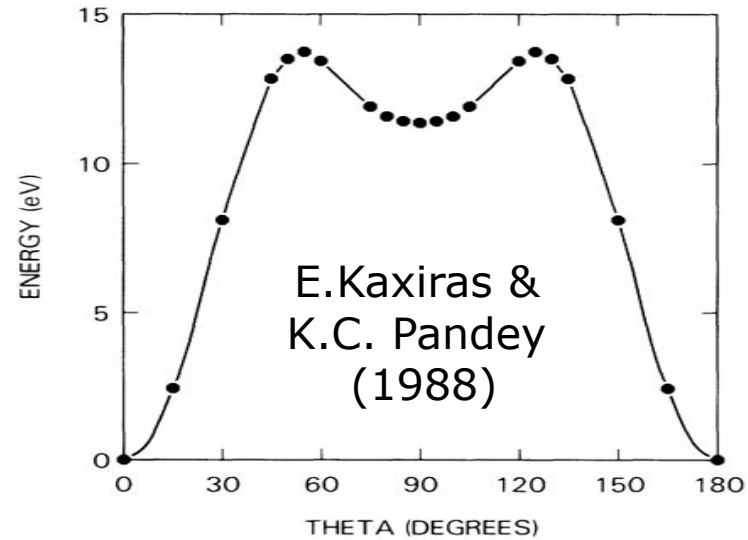
Discrete quadrupole core structure in ASOIO graphene, exhibiting dissociated pentagon-heptagon ring (5-7-7-5)

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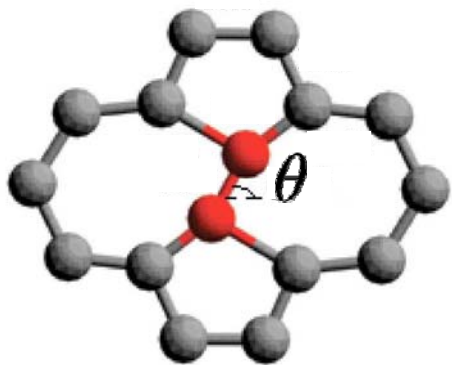
# Graphene – Dislocation cores



bond rotation angle



# Graphene – Dislocation cores



bond rotation angle

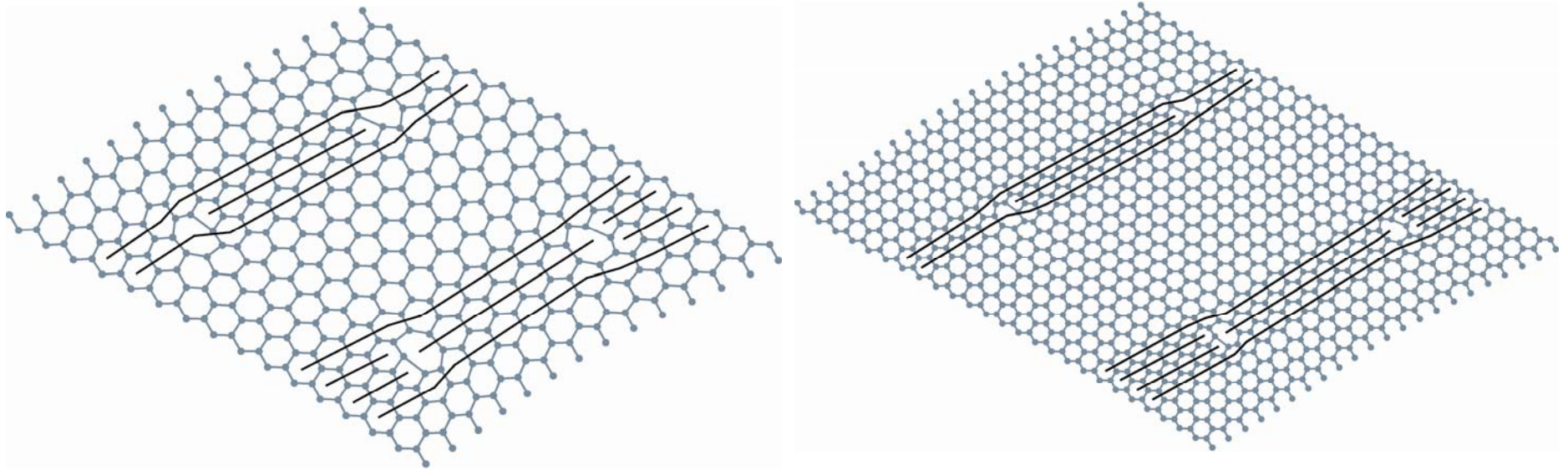
Summary of bond angles and formation energies at transition state computed from first-principles calculations

Study	Formation angle	Formation energy
Ariza & MO	52 degrees	11.92 eV
Li et al. (2005)	45 degrees	9.2 eV
Kaxiras & Pandy (1988)	55 degrees	14.0 eV
Xu et al. (1993)	50 degrees	9.8 eV
Los et al. (2005)	50 degrees	8.0 eV
Meyer et al. (2008)	-	< 15.6 eV





# Graphene – Dislocation cores

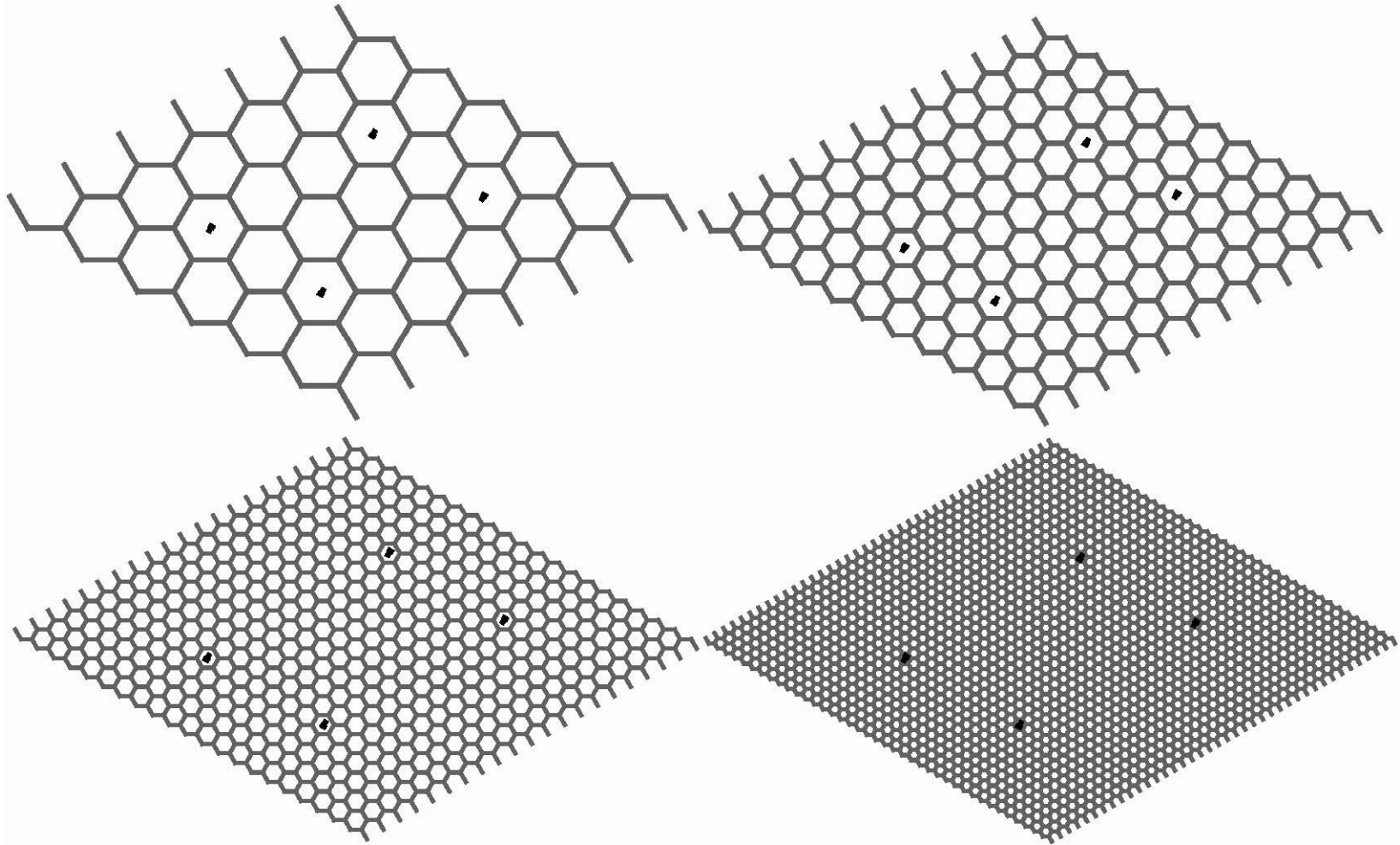


- Discrete-dislocation model predicts 5-7 dislocation core structures, in agreement with observation and first-principles calculations
- Predicted unstable transition configuration and formation energies are in the range of first-principles calculations





# Graphene – Dilute/continuum limits

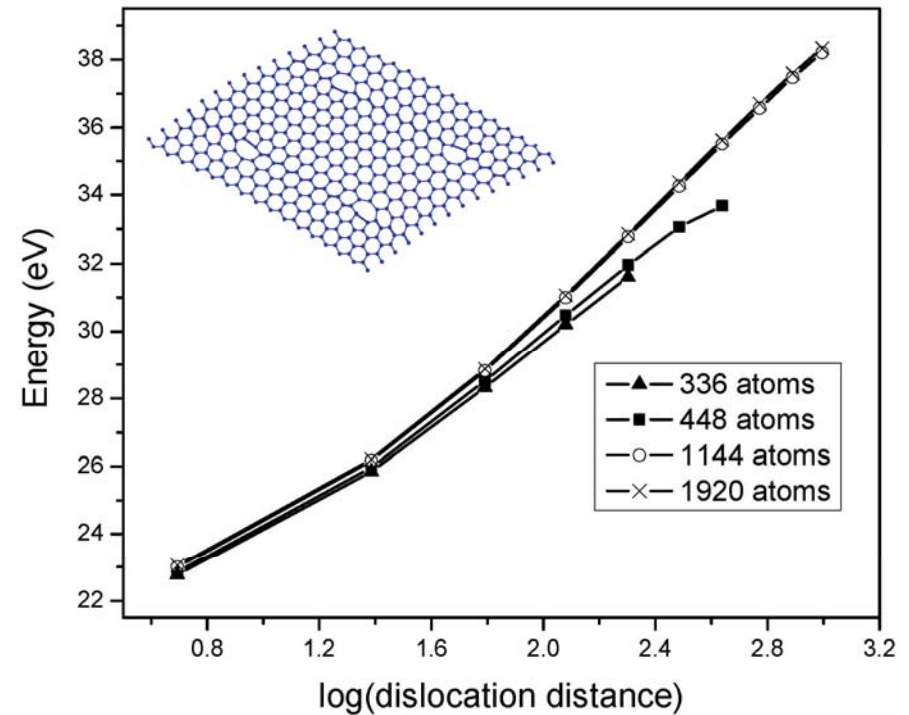
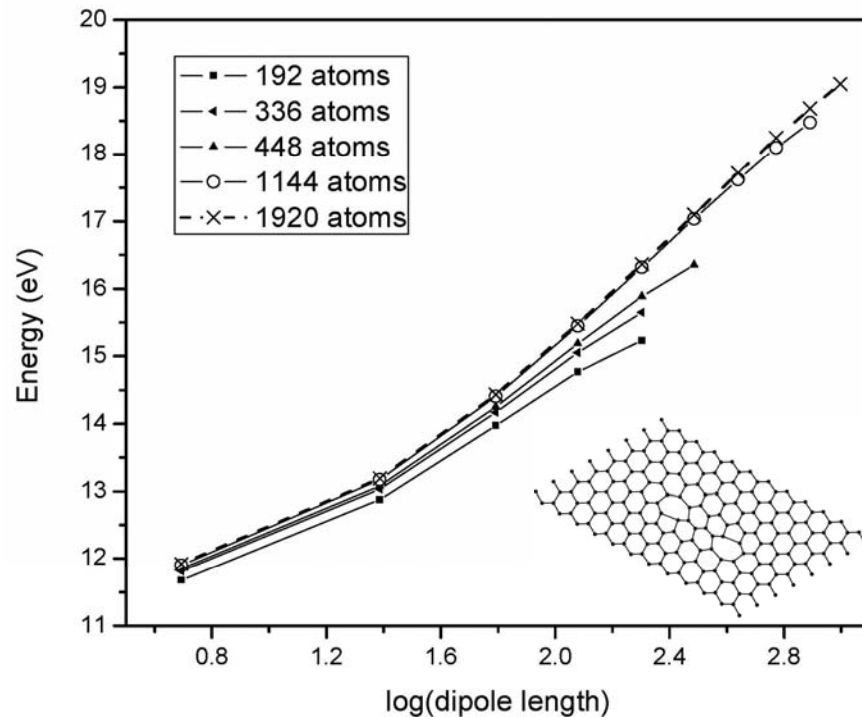


Limit of dilute dislocation densities  
(equivalently, continuum limit)



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# Graphene – Dilute/continuum limits



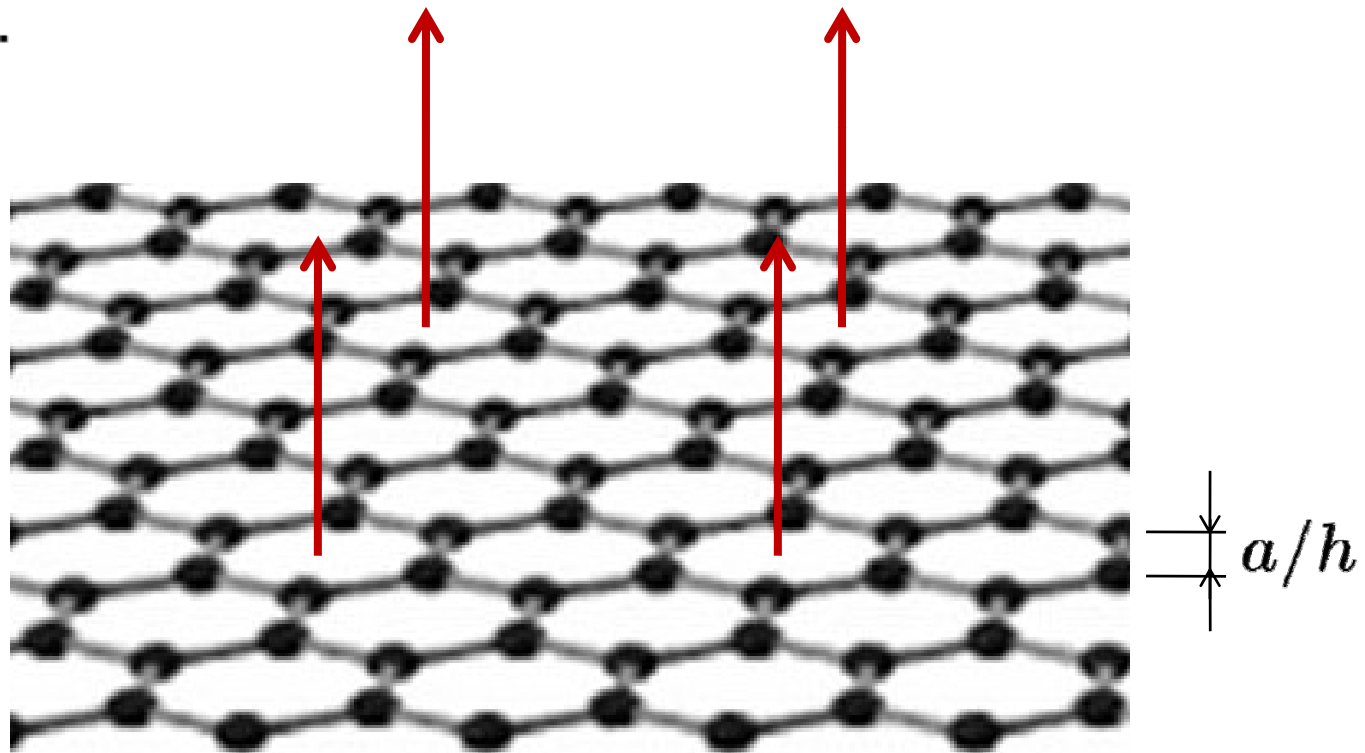
$$E = (23.07255 \text{ eV}) + (6.80 \text{ eV}) \log h$$

Energy of periodic dislocation densities in ASOIO graphene as a function of dislocation separation and unit-cell size.



# Graphene – Dilute/continuum limits

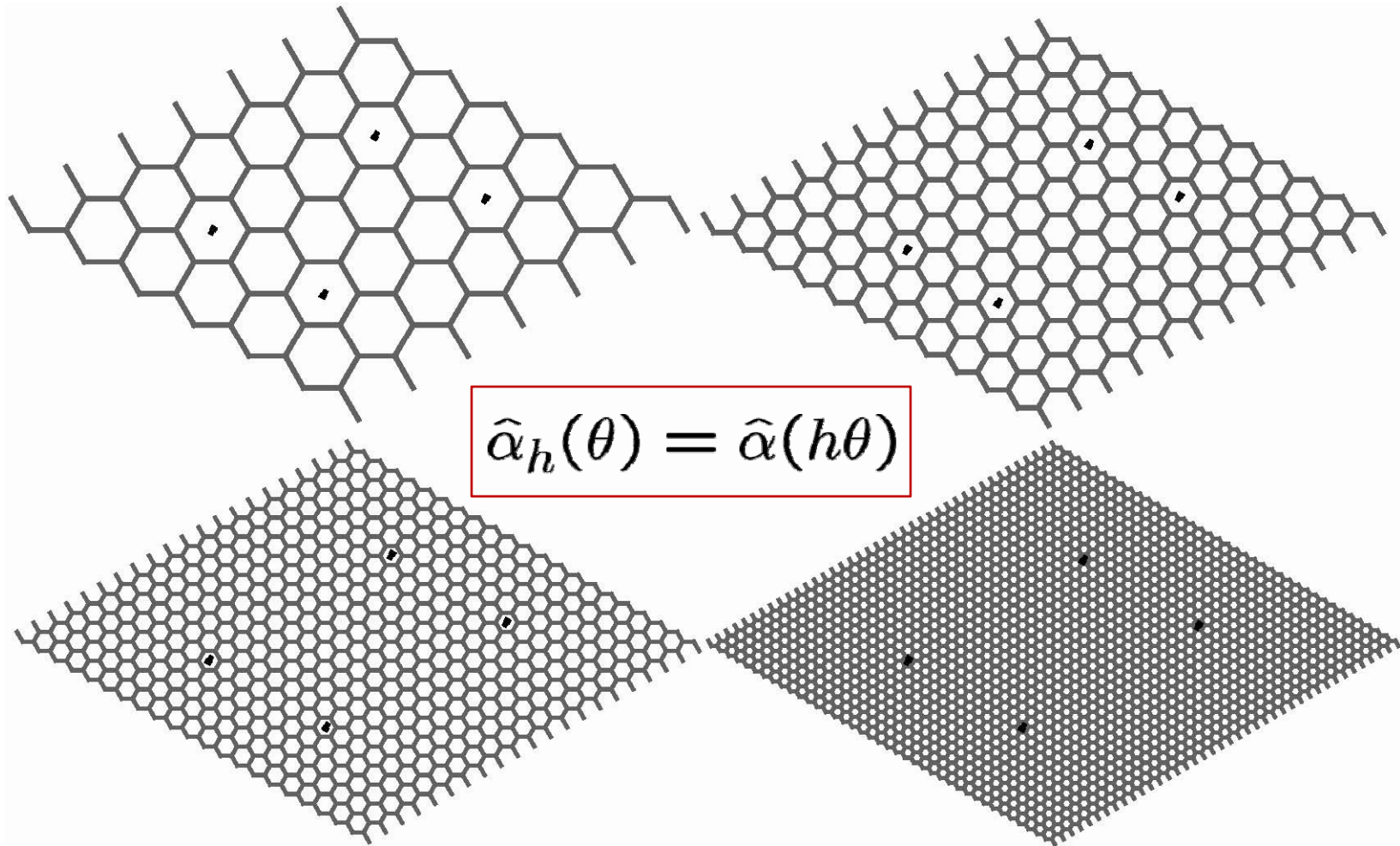
- Identify discrete dislocation densities with measures whose Fourier transform is  $[-h\pi, h\pi]^2$ -periodic for some  $h \in \mathbb{N}_+$ .



$\hat{\alpha}(\theta)$  is  $[-h\pi, h\pi]^2$ -periodic!



# Graphene – Dilute/continuum limits



Sequence of scaled dislocation densities



# Graphene – Dilute/continuum limits

- Define the sequence of energies:

$$E_h(\alpha) = \begin{cases} E(\alpha_h), & \text{if } \hat{\alpha} \text{ is } [-h\pi, h\pi]^2 - \text{periodic,} \\ +\infty, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

- Pointwise limit:  $F(\alpha) \equiv \lim_{h \rightarrow \infty} \frac{E_h(\alpha)}{\log h} =$

$$\begin{cases} \langle K\alpha, \alpha \rangle_{l^2(\mathbb{Z}^2)}, & \text{if } \hat{\alpha} \text{ is } [-k\pi, k\pi]^2 - \text{periodic,} \\ +\infty, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

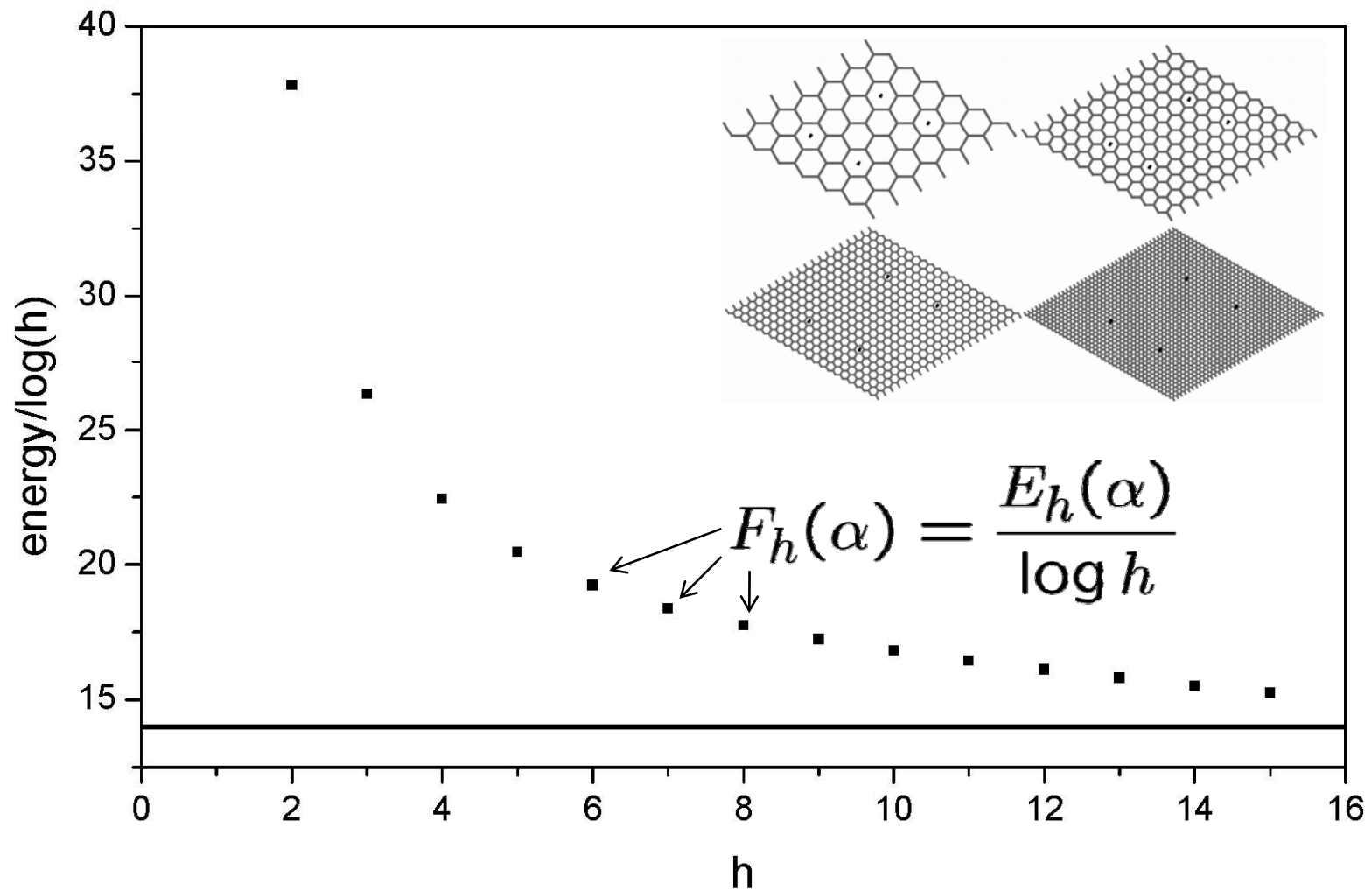
where  $K \equiv$  LE prelogarithmic energy factor

- Pointwise limit: Sum of dislocation core energies!
- $\Gamma$ -limit of the sequence?





# Graphene – Dilute/continuum limits



Energy sequence is decreasing!

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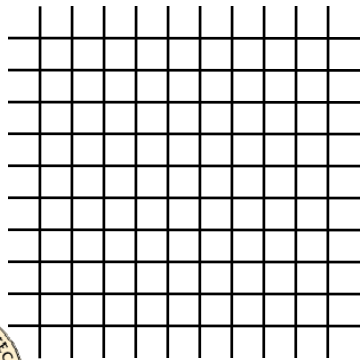


# Graphene – Dilute/continuum limits

**Proposition** [Dal Maso (1993), Prop. 5.7] *If  $F_h$  is a decreasing sequence converging to  $F$  pointwise, then  $F_h$   $\Gamma$ -converges to the relaxation  $sc^- F$  of  $F$ .*

**Question:** What is the relaxation of the pointwise limit?

M. Ponsiglione: Square lattice, screw (scalar) dislocations, energy proportional to total mass of dislocation.



$$sc^- F(\alpha) = C|\alpha|$$

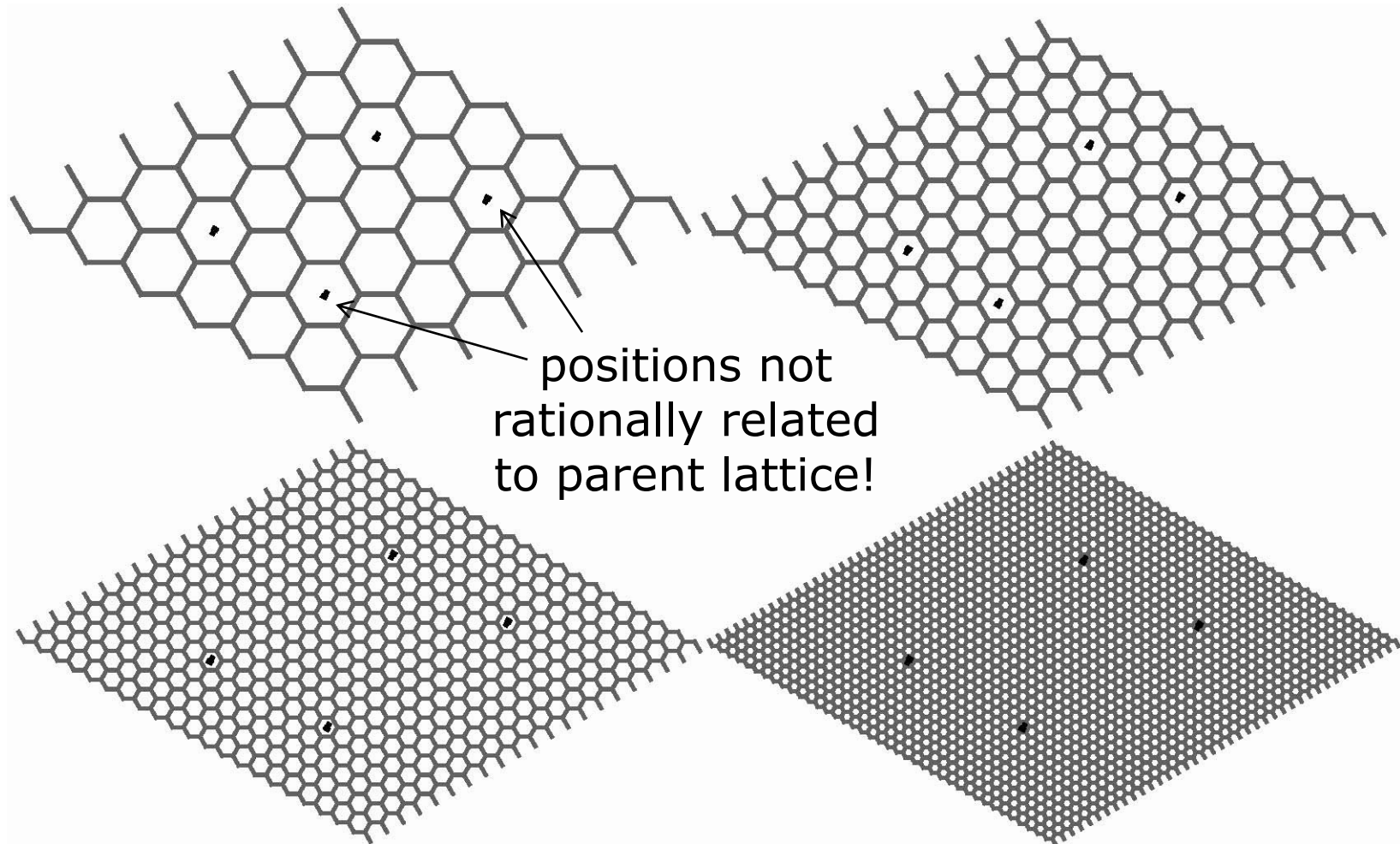


total dislocation mass!

Garroni & Leoni: Related 2D result



# Graphene – Dilute/continuum limits

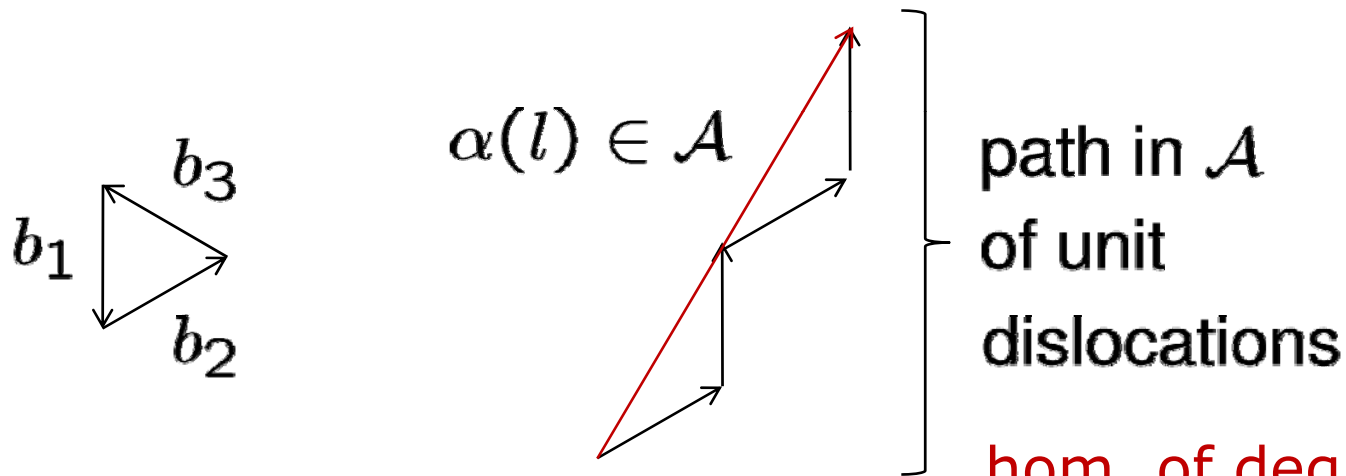


Extend limit to  $\hat{\alpha}(\theta) [-a\pi, b\pi]^2$ -periodic by density



# Graphene – Dilute/continuum limits

- Recall:  $\alpha(l) \in b_1\mathbb{Z} + b_2\mathbb{Z} + b_3\mathbb{Z} \equiv \mathcal{A}$
- Decompose dislocations locally:



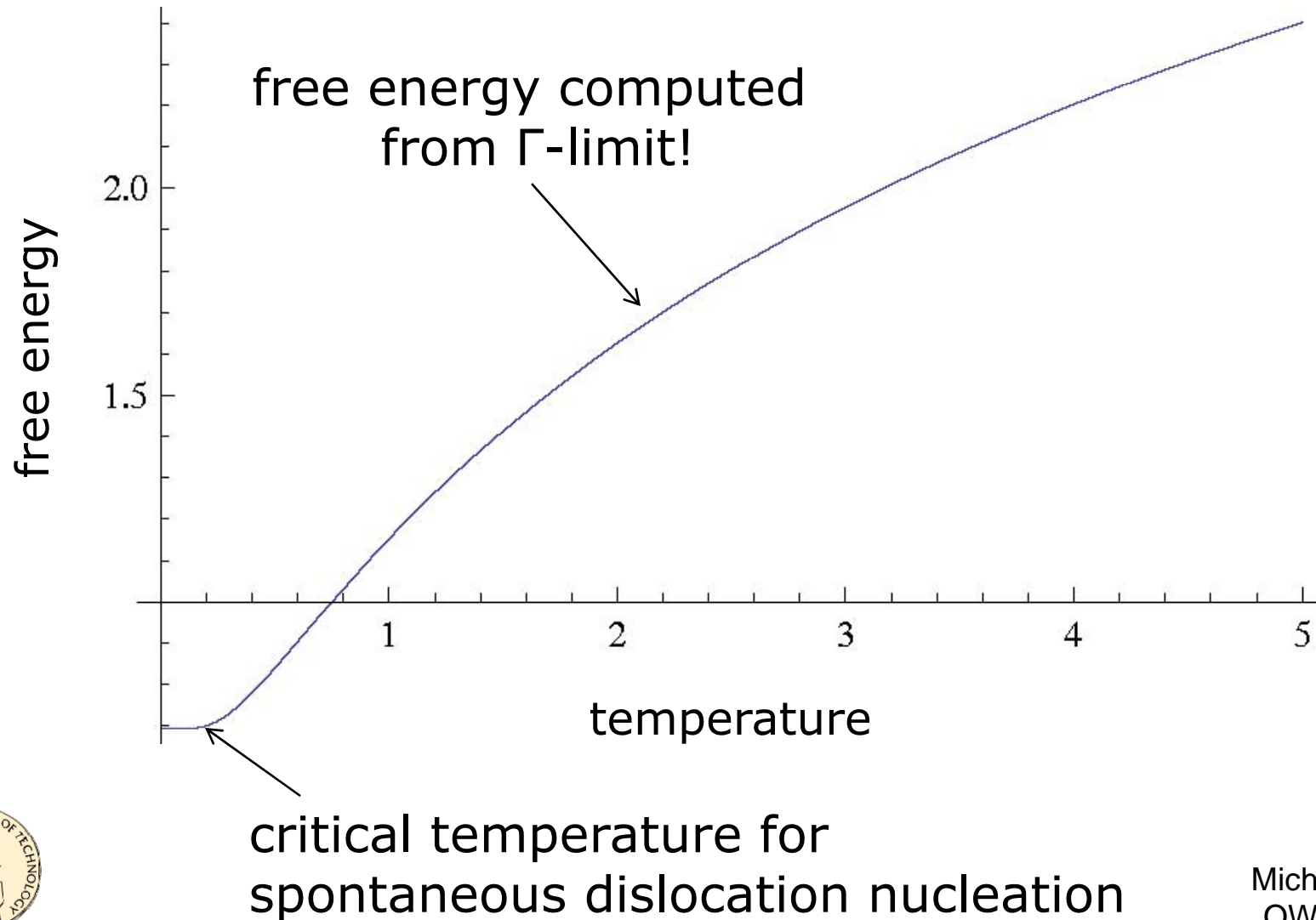
- Optimize decomposition:

$$sc^-F \sim \sum_{l \in \mathbb{Z}^2} \left[ \min_{\text{paths to } \alpha(l)} \left( \sum_{b \in \text{path to } \alpha(l)} \frac{1}{2} \langle Kb, b \rangle \right) \right]$$

hom. of degree 1:  
line tension!



# Graphene – Free energy of defects







Dislocations in graphene

Thank you!