

# **Solid State**

## **B. Sc. Part II**

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# Lattice Energy

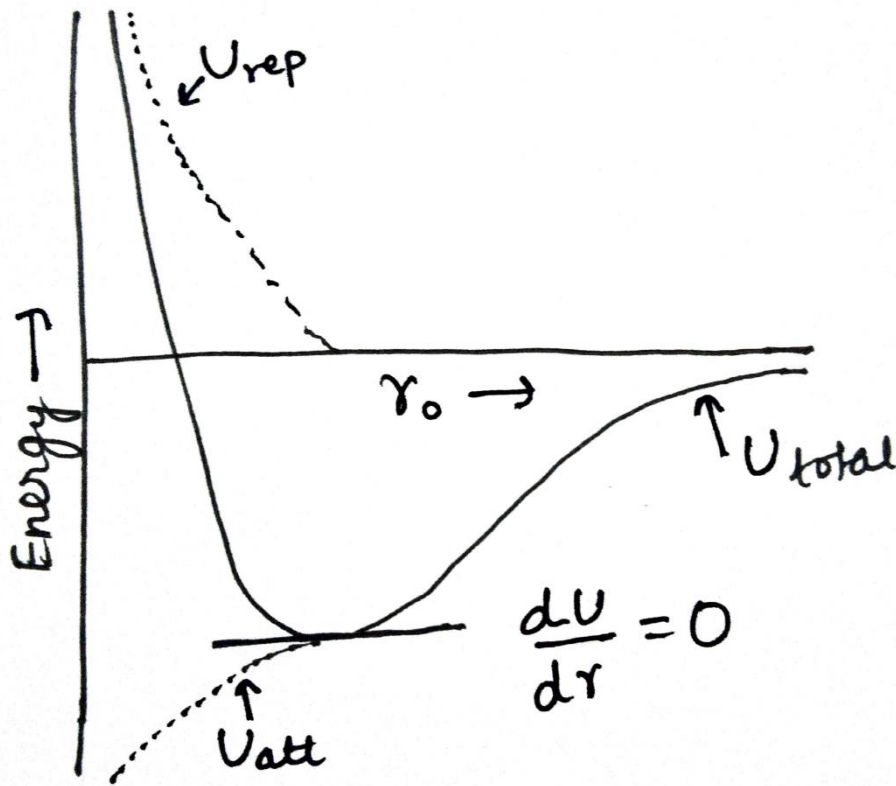
It is defined as the amount of energy released when cation and anions in their gaseous state are brought together from infinite separation to form a crystal.



The theoretical treatment of ionic lattice energy was given by M. Born and A. Lande.

Considering the potential energy of an ion pair  $M^+$ ,  $X^-$  separated by a distance  $r$ , thus the electrostatic force of attraction is given by:

$$U_{att}(r) = \frac{z_+ z_- e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r}$$



- As the interionic distance decreases, the electrostatic energy becomes negative and as  $z^-$  is negative and the electrostatic energy becomes increasingly negative (with respect to energy at infinite separation).
- The interaction between ions is more in crystal lattices as compared to the isolated ion-pair.
- For examples, in NaCl, each sodium atom is attracted by six chlorine atoms and repelled by next 12 sodium atoms.

The summations of all the interactions between the ions is known as *Madelung Constant, M*. The energy of attraction can thus be given as

$$U_{att}(r) = M \frac{z_+ z_- e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r}$$

- The value of Madelung Constant depends only on the geometry of the lattice and is completely independent of ionic radius and charge.
- A stable lattice results from the balance between repulsive energy along with attractive coulombic energy.
- The attractive energy becomes infinite at infinitesimally small distances.
- Ions are not point charge but charge clouds which show repulsion at very close distances.
- The repulsions are very small at large distances but become more when the distance reduces.
- According to the Born, the repulsive energy is given by

$$U_{rep} = B/r^n$$

Where B is constant and the Born exponent  $n$ , is determined from the compressibility data which measures the resistance exhibited by the ions on forcing close to each other.

- For a crystal consisting of Avogadro's number of ions the total energy is given by:

$$U_{total}(r) = U_{att}(r) + U_{rep}(r)$$
$$= \frac{MN_A z_+ z_- e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r} + \frac{N_A B}{r^n}$$

- The graph mentioned earlier shows a solid line for the total energy where the minimum in the curve, corresponds to the equilibrium lattice configuration ( $r = r_0$ ) and hence

$$\left(\frac{dU}{dr}\right)_{r=r_0} = 0 = -\frac{MN_A z_+ z_- e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r} - n \frac{N_A B}{r_0^{n+1}}$$

- In this lattice configuration, the lattice force balances the repulsive forces.

$$B = \frac{MN_A z_+ z_- e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 n} r_0^{n-1}$$

And

$$\begin{aligned} U &= \frac{MN_A z_+ z_- e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r_0} - \frac{MN_A z_+ z_- e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r_0 n} \\ &= \frac{MN_A z_+ z_- e^2}{4\pi r_0 \epsilon_0} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{n} \right) \end{aligned}$$

**Born Landes Equation**