

1 Insights into the crystal chemistry of earth materials rendered by electron density distributions:
2 Pauling's rules revisited

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8 *Only one thing is certain: that nothing is certain. Michael de Montaigne*

9
10 **Abstract**

11 Experimental and calculated electron density distributions determined for oxide and silicate crystals
12 and siloxane molecules provide a new basis for addressing the classic foundation of the crystal
13 chemistry of silicates, including atomic/ionic radii, the radius ratio rule and the nexus between the
14 Pauling bond strength, resonance bond number and bond length. The distributions indicate that the
15 charge density of a bonded oxygen atom is highly distorted with its bonded radius decreasing
16 systematically from ~ 1.50 Å when bonded to highly electropositive atoms like sodium to ~ 0.65 Å
17 when bonded to highly electronegative atoms like nitrogen. Rather than a single radius, the atom has
18 as many bonded radii as it has bonded interactions. Bonded radii determined for the metal atoms
19 match the Shannon effective ionic radii for the more electropositive atoms, but they depart and
20 increase systematically for the more electronegative atoms. Pauling's first rule is considered to be
21 irrelevant given the asphericity and the range of the bonded radii displayed by the O atom.

22 A power law regression expression is formulated between the average M-O bond lengths, $\langle R(\text{M}-$
23 $\text{O}) \rangle$, and the average value of the electron density, $\langle \rho(\mathbf{r}_c) \rangle = r (1.41 / \langle R(\text{M}-\text{O}) \rangle)^{4.76}$, at the bond
24 critical point, \mathbf{r}_c , between pairs of bonded M-O atoms. The expression applies to a host of crystals
25 and molecules comprising atoms for all rows, r , of the periodic table. The $\langle \rho(\mathbf{r}_c) \rangle$ values correlate

26 with bond strength and resonance bond strength for the M-O bonded interactions on a one-to-one
27 basis, demonstrating that bond strength is a direct measure of the electron density involved in a
28 bonded interaction and the accumulation of the electron density between the bonded pair. The
29 widespread applications of the Brown-Shannon bond valence model in the Earth sciences and
30 material science owes much of its success to the direct connection that exists between bond strength
31 and the quantum mechanical observable, the electron density distribution. Compelling evidence is
32 presented that supports the argument that the Si-O bonded interactions within siloxane molecules
33 and silicate crystals are fundamentally the same, and that the local Si-O bonded interactions
34 comprising molecules are, at the very core and equivalent to the Si-O bonded interactions observed
35 in silicate crystals. Bond paths between the O atoms comprising shared polyhedral edges are
36 consistent with Pauling's third rule, the shorter the O-O shared edges, the greater the accumulation
37 of the electron density between the O atoms, the greater the stabilization of the shared edges.

38

Evolution of Atomic Radii

39 Toward the end of the 19th century, geologists' interests had tapered off from goniometric studies of
40 the outer faces of crystals and their interfacial angles focusing instead on the inner arrangements of
41 the atoms within, with the amateur geologist William Barlow (1883; 1898) speculating that the
42 atoms in a cube of rock salt are not only spherical, but they are arranged in a periodic chessboard
43 pattern in 3D-space. Barlow's insightful conjecture that the atoms are arranged in a periodic three-
44 dimensional pattern was verified thirty years later by the famous X-ray diffraction patterns recorded
45 for zinblende crystals (Friedrich et al., 1912). Sir Lawrence Bragg and his father Sir William .H
46 Bragg were quick to recognize the significance of Barlow's conjecture and the X-ray patterns.
47 Primed with the knowledge that the atoms in crystals are arranged in periodic patterns in 3-space,
48 and that the dimensions of the atoms are comparable with the wavelength of an X-ray beam, the

49 younger Bragg (1914) built a single crystal diffractometer and recorded a set of diffraction data for a
50 cube of rock salt that confirmed Barlow's brilliant speculations.

51 But, contrary to Barlow's speculations and Bragg's results, the majority of the chemists and
52 physicists at the time were of the mindset that rock salt is a molecular crystal, composed of discrete
53 diatomic Na-Cl molecules bonded by long-range van der Waals' forces. The famous chemist H. E.
54 Armstrong was so incensed with Bragg's chessboard description of the structure that he wrote,
55 "Professor Bragg asserts that in sodium chloride there appear to be no molecules represented by Na-
56 Cl. The equality in the number of the sodium and chlorine atoms is arrived at by a chessboard
57 pattern of atoms; it is a result of geometry and not a pairing-off of the atoms. This statement is more
58 repugnant to common sense. Chemistry is neither chess nor geometry, whatever the X-ray physics
59 may be." Despite Armstrong's strong rebuke of Bragg's work, the idea that crystals like the alkali
60 halides consist of molecular groups was supplanted shortly thereafter with Bragg's chessboard
61 pattern interpretation of the structures. Indeed, Dalton's idea that all crystals consist of small discrete
62 molecules finally gave way to the realization that the atoms in many crystals are bonded together as
63 giant molecules of visible dimensions rather than ones of microscopic dimensions.

64 Without a doubt, the determination of the structure of rock salt was a fundamental breakthrough in
65 our understanding of the structures of crystals as periodic arrays of bonded atoms in 3-space, a
66 discovery that not only launched the new field of crystal chemistry but also provided a basis for the
67 framing of Pauling's rules. The structure determination of rock salt set Bragg (1913) junior on a
68 whirlwind determination of a number of crystal structures of minerals, and in a very short time he
69 managed to determine the structures of cubic fluorite (CaF_2), pyrite (FeS_2), cuprite (Cu_2O),
70 sphalerite (ZnS_2), and spinel (Mg_2AlO_4) (Bragg, 1937), together with those for other minerals like
71 diamond (Bragg and Bragg, 1913). In addition to determining the atomic arrangements, attention

72 was focused on unearthing and understanding the underlying the bonded interactions that govern the
73 formation of the structures themselves (Bragg, 1920). Despite the general belief at the time that
74 many of the minerals that the Braggs studied consist of electrostatically bonded cations and anions,
75 the direction that the younger Bragg took in his studies indicate that he believed the contrary. Indeed,
76 it is apparent that he believed that the forces in minerals are largely atomic in nature, and that the
77 atoms in these materials behave, to a first approximation, as hard largely neutral spheres such that
78 the sum of the radii for a bonded pair of atoms closely matches the interatomic separation between
79 the pair, and that the additive sum of radii applied to a wide variety of materials regardless of the
80 type of bonded interactions.

81 With his hard sphere atomic consensus and a knowledge of the crystal structures, Bragg (1920)
82 undertook the task of compiling of a set of atomic radii. He made the simple yet reasonable
83 assumption that the radius of the sulfur atom, $r(\text{S}) = 1.02 \text{ \AA}$ is equal to one half the S-S bond length,
84 $R(\text{S-S}) = 2.05 \text{ \AA}$, that he had found in his structural determination of pyrite. He next determined the
85 radius of the zinc atom, $r(\text{Zn}) = 1.33 \text{ \AA}$, by subtracting $r(\text{S})$ from the Zn-S bond length, $R(\text{Zn-S}) =$
86 2.35 \AA , that he had determined in his structural analysis of zincblende. The radius for the oxygen
87 atom, $r(\text{O}) = 0.65 \text{ \AA}$, was found by subtracting $r(\text{Zn})$ from the Zn-O bond length $R(\text{Zn-O}) = 1.97 \text{ \AA}$
88 observed in zincite. He concluded that the radii were internally consistent when he found, for
89 example, that $2 \times r(\text{Zn}) = 2.66 \text{ \AA}$, which matched the average separation, 2.65 \AA , that he had observed
90 between the bonded pairs of Zn atoms in crystals of zinc, and that $2 \times r(\text{O}) = 1.30 \text{ \AA}$, which is
91 comparable with the O-O separation, 1.20 \AA , observed in the O_2 molecule. Continuing in this
92 fashion, he generated a set of atomic radii for more than 40 atoms that reproduced the experimental
93 bond lengths typically within 0.06 \AA , determined for oxides, sulfides, halides and metals. The
94 success of Bragg's radii in the reproduction of the bond lengths for such a wide variety of materials

95 indicated, contrary to the ionic lattice energy calculations of Sherman (1932), that the bonded
96 interactions for the materials that he studied have a substantial component of atomic character. It
97 also convinced Bragg and later workers that the atoms in many crystals behave, to a first
98 approximation, as rigid spheres each with a given radius, and that by simply adding the radii of a
99 bonded pair, a reasonable and simple estimate can be made of the length of a bonded interaction.
100 Nearly half a century after Bragg published his radii, the famous solid state physicist J.C. Slater
101 (1964) used Bragg's consensus that bonded atoms behave as rigid spheres in the compilation of the
102 atomic radii for more than 85 elements and found that the resulting radii reproduce more than 1200
103 bond lengths for a wide range of crystalline and molecular materials, including oxides, nitrides,
104 sulfides, halides, intermetallic compounds and metals, to within 0.12 Å, on average. He also found
105 that the atomic radii correlated with the radii of the outermost valence shell of electrons for the
106 atoms as calculated by relativistic self-consistent field quantum mechanical methods. Slater
107 considered his radii together with Bragg's to be global in their application in that they reproduce
108 bond lengths for all materials reasonably well, particularly considering that the radii, unlike the ones
109 determined later, were not modified to correct for such factors as coordination number, electronic
110 spin, oxidation state, covalency, repulsive forces and polyhedral distortion.

111 **Evolution of ionic radii**

112 In 1926, the Bragg School (Bragg, 1937) undertook the heroic task of solving the crystal structures
113 of the rock-forming silicates. Among other things, Bragg found that the O atoms of forsterite,
114 Mg₂SiO₄, are arranged in a hexagonal close-packed pattern with the Si and Mg atoms tucked away,
115 respectively, in the available tetrahedral and the octahedral voids of the array. On the basis of this
116 observation it was concluded that the oxygen atoms are actually in contact and closest-packed, and
117 that they are substantially larger in size than the Si and Mg atoms. With this finding, he concluded

118 that the diameter of the O atom must equal half of the average O-O distance, between the adjacent O
119 atoms, 2.70 Å, resulting in a radius of 1.35 Å, a value notably different from his previously
120 determined atomic radius of 0.65 Å. Given his incredible objectivity, Bragg rejected his own atomic
121 radii out of hand in favor of an ionic model with large oxide O²⁻ anions and relatively small Si⁴⁺ and
122 Mg²⁺ cations, despite the fact that his earlier determined atomic radii reproduce bond lengths
123 typically within 0.06 Å of their experimentally measured values.

124 Bragg's atomic radii were revised shortly after they were published to conform with the popular
125 ionic model proposed by Wasasjerna (1923), who partitioned experimentally determined bond
126 distances into cationic and anionic parts, based on the molar ionic refractivities of the bonded cations
127 and anions. On the basis of this partitioning, a set of ionic radii was determined that resulted in a
128 radius of 1.32 Å for the oxide anion, which was generally accepted as satisfactory given that it
129 agreed with the average separations between the O atoms observed in a number of oxides, including
130 forsterite. The famous geochemist V.M. Goldschmidt (1954) followed Bragg's strategy where it was
131 assumed that bonded cations and anions behave as rigid spheres, each with a unique radius. By
132 systematically subtracting the radius of the oxide anion (1.32 Å) from the M-O bond lengths
133 determined for a number of oxides, a popular set of ionic radii for oxides, sulfides and selenides was
134 ultimately determined that bore Goldschmidt's name, radii that were used well into the 1960s.
135 Recognizing that anions are substantially more polarizable than cations (Fajans, 1931), Goldschmidt
136 (1954) expressed concern about the extent to which the polarizing power of the bonded cations
137 might impact on the radius of the oxide anion, but because at the time little was known as to how to
138 correct ionic radii for the effects of polarization, he had little or no choice but to discount the effect.
139 As his radii were found to be additive and to reproduce the bond lengths for a wide range of

140 materials, it was assumed that polarization must have some sort of compensating effect that did not
141 impact the bond lengths.

142 In addition to determining ionic radii and evaluating the impact of cation substitution on the crystal
143 chemistry of minerals, the Goldschmidt School focused its attention on determining the principles
144 that govern the crystal structures of simpler materials, crystal form, isomorphism and polymorphism,
145 in terms of the ionic model; they were also interested in determining what factors govern the
146 coordination numbers of cations. The Bragg School had similar and complementary aspirations, but
147 with the goal of determining and understanding the more complicated structures adopted by the rock
148 forming silicates such as forsterite, diopside ($\text{CaMgSi}_2\text{O}_6$) (Warren and Bragg, 1928), and tremolite
149 ($\text{Ca}_2\text{Mg}_5(\text{Si}_4\text{O}_{11})_2(\text{OH})_2$) (Warren, 1929). Based on the relative sizes of the ions and the structural
150 details, the structures determined for both diopside, and tremolite were described as close-packed
151 structures built from polyhedra with the smaller Si cations coordinated by four oxide anions disposed
152 at the corners of tetrahedra and comprising chains of indefinite extent, with the larger Mg cations
153 coordinated between the chains of tetrahedra by six anions at the corners of octahedra. The even
154 larger Ca cations were found to be coordinated by eight anions disposed at the corners of larger and
155 more irregular polyhedra at the edges of the chains. The H cation in tremolite was assumed to be
156 bonded to an oxide anion, forming an OH anion, which was incorporated as part of the large close-
157 packed assembly of anions. The anions were considered to be so large that their packing, together
158 with the incorporated cations, was thought to govern the structures adopted by the silicates (Bragg,
159 1937). Goldschmidt and his colleagues were quick to grasp the importance of describing a crystal
160 structure in terms of close-packed large anions disposed in coordination polyhedra, with the smaller
161 cations residing in the voids between the polyhedra and constrained by the local charge balance
162 provided by the anions. On the basis of the ionic radii, the Goldschmidt School concluded that the

163 coordination numbers adopted by the cations are determined in large part by radius ratio
164 considerations of the bonded cations and closest-packed anions, as proposed earlier by Hüttig
165 (1920), who observed that the smaller the ratio, the smaller the expected coordination number of the
166 cation. It was within this context that Goldschmidt showed that his radii serve to predict bond
167 lengths and cation substitutions, thus providing a basis for understanding isomorphism, and that the
168 radius ratio of a cation and anion could be used to predict the coordination numbers adopted by the
169 cation. It was with these ideas and concepts that Pauling (1929) formulated his first rule that defined
170 the nexus between the ionic radii, the bond lengths, the radius ratio and the properties of the
171 coordination polyhedra of anions housing the cations required for the creation of a stable crystal:

172 *'A coordinated polyhedron of anions is formed about each cation, the cation-anion distance being*
173 *determined by the radius sum and the coordination number of the cation by the radius ratio.'*

174 Since the advent of this rule, a variety of evermore comprehensive and precise sets of ionic radii
175 were determined based on various atomic properties, for example, the effective nuclear charge and
176 the implications of the Born-Landé equation (Pauling, 1927), the ionization potential (Ahrens, 1952),
177 experimental isothermal compressibility, thermal expansion data and cohesive energies for the
178 bonded atoms (Tosi, 1964; Tosi and Fumi, 1964). For a comprehensive review of the strategies
179 followed by workers in determining ionic radii, see the excellent account by Shannon and Prewitt
180 (S&P) (1969).

181 As of today, the most precise and comprehensive sets of effective ionic and crystal radii for oxide
182 crystals were compiled by S&P and later revised by Shannon (1976), using more than a 1000
183 experimentally determined accurate M-O bond lengths. In deriving the radii, a preliminary estimate
184 of the effective ionic radius for each cation was first obtained by subtracting an assumed radius (1.40
185 Å) for the oxide anion from the experimental M-O distance which, in turn, was then corrected for the

186 coordination numbers of both the oxide anion and the bonded cations and other factors that were
187 deemed to impact the bonded interactions. A similar strategy was employed in the derivation of a
188 second set of tailor-made radii referred to as crystal radii, derived by assuming a smaller radius for
189 the anion, 1.24 Å. The second set of radii was derived because the assumption of the larger 1.40 Å
190 radius for the anion resulted in unrealistic negative effective ionic radii for several of the more
191 electronegative cations. By dint of the negative radii, workers were urged to use crystal radii when
192 considering the properties of crystals with close-packed anions, and modeling processes such as
193 cation diffusion in minerals and melts (Zhang and Cherniak, 2010). Despite this caveat, both sets of
194 radii have been used with considerable success to date as they reproduce within 0.01 Å the average
195 experimental bond lengths for a wide variety of coordinated oxide polyhedra within crystals and
196 molecules. In addition to the unsatisfactory negative effective ionic radii encountered by S&P (1969),
197 there were a number of cases in which there was disagreement between the experimentally
198 determined coordination numbers adopted by the cations in crystals and those predicted from radius
199 ratio considerations. On the other hand, when the crystal radii were employed the agreement with
200 experimentally determined coordination numbers was more satisfactory, supporting their preferred
201 use.

202 Despite the negative radii and the radius ratio discrepancies, both sets of radii have found
203 widespread use in almost all branches of science, having been cited more than an astounding 30,000
204 times and have thus advanced our understanding and modeling of material properties. In addition to
205 reproducing bond lengths to within ~ 0.01 Å of the experimental values, the radii have proven to be
206 of considerable use in advancing the understanding of crystal chemistry when used, for example, in
207 the construction of ‘stability field’ diagrams that delineate the relative stability of a structure in terms
208 of the radii of the substituent atoms, as done, for example, for the spinels, the olivines, the phencites

209 and related structures (Muller and Roy, 1974) and the silicate garnets (Novak and Gibbs, 1971).
210 They have also found substantial use in the modeling of the conductivity of ions, defects, site
211 preferences, ion diffusion in minerals and melts, chemical zoning, size discrimination and leaching,
212 and modeling of trace elements and distribution coefficients among coexisting phases.
213 In a study of bond type, Fyfe (1954), asserted that too much emphasis has been placed on the actual
214 radii of atoms in terms of their capabilities to reproduce bond lengths. He posited that the radius of
215 an atom is unlikely to be fixed; particularly when one is mindful that radii of atoms in ionic, atomic,
216 metallic and van der Waals materials are typically assigned different values. In addition, prior to
217 Shannon's (1976) publication of his revised radii, Johnson (1973) reported that the radii of anions
218 like O and S atoms are not fixed, but that they are highly dependent on the polarizing power of the
219 bonded M atoms, with the radii of both ions decreasing systematically with decreasing bond length
220 as the polarizing power of the bonded atoms increase. On the contrary, Pyykko (2012 and references
221 therein) recently compiled a precise set of covalent radii for a variety single-, double- and triple-
222 bonded M-S interactions within a large number of sulfide molecules, and reported little or no
223 evidence that the radius of the S atom is impacted by the bonded interactions. Not only do the
224 covalent radii reproduce the bond lengths for molecules, but they also reproduce to within 0.01 Å the
225 bond lengths observed for binary crystals like ZnS, ternary crystals like CuInS₂ and quaternary
226 crystals like Cu₂ZnSnS₄ (see also Cahen, 1988). But, Pyykko's radius for the S atom (1.04 Å) is
227 smaller than the crystal radius (1.70 Å) assumed by Shannon (1981) in the derivation of his crystal
228 radii for sulfide crystals. With these two different sets of radii, one covalent and the other crystal, it
229 is clear that the two different, yet consistent, sets of radii for sulfides can be generated by assuming
230 two different radii for the S atom, both capable of reproducing sulfide bond lengths, bearing out

231 Fyfe's contention that too much stock has been placed on the actual values assumed for the radii of
232 atoms.

233
234

Introduction to bonded radii and evaluation of Pauling first rule

235 In an examination of whether the electron density distribution (ED) of the O atom is largely
236 unaffected by its bonded interactions, such that it retains the distribution of an isolated atom with a
237 fixed radius (Bohórquez and Boyd, 2009) or whether, as reported by Johnson (1973), it is distorted
238 to some degree by the bonded interactions, Gibbs et al., (2013a) undertook a determination of the
239 bonded radii of the atoms comprising a relatively large number silicates and oxides. The goal was to
240 assess the extent to which the ED distribution of a bonded O atom departs, if at all, from the
241 distribution of an isolated atom. It was also of interest to learn how the radii of the metal atoms,
242 estimated from the ED distributions, correspond with the S&P radii, and how they vary with the
243 coordination number and the row number of the atoms. We note that we follow Pauling (1960,
244 section 2-9) and other quantum chemists and consider Li, Be, B..., as first row atoms and Na, Mg,
245 Al,... , as second row atoms and so on.

246 It is mindful that the ED distribution of a material is not only a quantum mechanical observable, but
247 that it is a robust property that contains all the information that that can be measured for a material,
248 including its potential, kinetic and total energies (Parr and Yang, 1989). In a stable crystal free of
249 defects, the distribution, together with the nuclei of the atoms, are distributed in a periodic pattern in
250 3-space such that the total energy of the resulting configuration of the bonded atoms is minimized
251 and the force on each atom is zero (Feynman, 1939).

252 The efforts of the renowned quantum chemist Professor Richard F. W. Bader (1990) and his
253 coworkers has resulted in a basis, founded on the ED distributions, for determining whether or not a

254 pair of atoms is bonded. A pair is considered to be bonded only if there exists a continuous pathway
255 of maximum ED (denoted as the bond path) that connects the nuclei of the pair (Bader, 2009). Along
256 the path there exist one, and only one, point where the ED distribution adopts a local minimum
257 value, denoted as the bond critical point, \mathbf{r}_c , of the bonded interaction. As the position of the point is
258 well-defined, the accumulation of the ED at \mathbf{r}_c is taken as a unique measure of the strength of a
259 bonded interaction: typically, the greater the accumulation and the concentration of ED at \mathbf{r}_c , the
260 shorter the bonded interaction. Furthermore, as the bonded atoms in a structure are connected by
261 bond paths, the total number of bond paths that radiate from a given atom to the other atoms to
262 which it is bonded serves to define uniquely the coordination number of the atom.

263 As asserted by the Nobel prize winning chemical physicist Robert Mulliken, ‘the concept of ‘the
264 chemical bond is not so simple as some people think.’ Indeed, as a chemical bond is not even a
265 quantum mechanical observable, given that there is no known non-arbitrary linear Hermitian
266 operator that contains a complete set of eigenfunctions that can be associated with a chemical bond,
267 Bader (2009) pointed out that a chemical bond cannot be identified by either a bond path or a bonded
268 interaction. More than half a century ago, the famous mathematician-chemist Charles A. Coulson
269 (1955) asserted that "A chemical bond is not a real thing: it does not exist, no one has ever seen it, no
270 one ever can. It is a figment of our imagination." Well aware of this assertion, Bader pointed out that
271 ‘There are no bonds between pairs of atoms, only bonded interactions’ (2009). Hoffmann (1988)
272 went on to say ‘Physicists do not see bonds, they only see bands.’ Given these inconvenient truths,
273 Cremer and Kraka (1984) reiterated that ‘There is no way to measure a bond or a bond property.’
274 They continued by asserting that a bonded interaction can only be defined within the framework of a
275 model like Bader’s topological model of the ED distribution, which provides a unique basis for

276 defining a bonded interaction, bond strength and the bonded radii for atoms in molecules and
277 crystals.

278 As the bond critical point between a pair of bonded atoms is uniquely defined, the properties of the
279 ED at \mathbf{r}_c have been used by a large number of workers to characterize bonded atom pairs (cf. Gatti,
280 2005). The bonded radii for a bonded pair of M and O atoms, denoted $r_b(M)$ and $r_b(O)$, are defined as
281 the distances between the nuclei of the pair and \mathbf{r}_c , respectively (Bader, 1990). As observed above,
282 the accumulation of the ED at \mathbf{r}_c , $\rho(\mathbf{r}_c)$, is taken as a measure of the relative strength of a bonded
283 interaction, as observed above, typically the larger the value of $\rho(\mathbf{r}_c)$ the stronger the bonded
284 interaction and shorter bond length. The negative curvatures of the ED at \mathbf{r}_c along two mutually
285 perpendicular directions that lay perpendicular to the bond path, denoted as λ_1 and λ_2 , measure the
286 extent to which $\rho(\mathbf{r})$ is locally concentrated at \mathbf{r}_c , perpendicular to the bond path. The positive
287 curvature of $\rho(\mathbf{r})$ parallel to the bond path at \mathbf{r}_c , denoted λ_3 , serves as a measure of the extent to
288 which the ED is locally concentrated parallel to the bond path at \mathbf{r}_c in the directions of the bonded
289 atoms, in effect, serving to shield the nuclei of the bonded pair. The Laplacian of $\rho(\mathbf{r})$ at \mathbf{r}_c , denoted
290 $\nabla^2\rho(\mathbf{r}_c)$, not only serves to measure the extent to which the ED is locally concentrated at \mathbf{r}_c , but it has
291 also been used to assess the character of a bonded interaction in an assessment of whether it is shared
292 a covalent, polar covalent, or closed shell ionic bonded interactions (Bader and Essen, 1984; Bader,
293 1990).

294 The bond critical point (bcp) properties for the Si-O bonded interactions, calculated for more than
295 50 silicate crystals and siloxane molecules, are displayed in Figure 1 in terms of their experimental
296 Si-O bond lengths, $R(\text{Si-O})$ (Gibbs et al., 2001). In the calculations, the Gaussian basis wave
297 functions and the energies for the crystals were calculated within the density functional theory
298 framework with the software *CRYSTAL98* (Saunders et al., 1998). The local energy density

299 properties together with the other bcp properties for the bonded interactions were calculated with
300 *TOPOND* (Gatti, 1997). The geometry optimized structures for the molecules were calculated with
301 *Gaussian 90*, and the bcp properties were calculated with software *EXTREME*, which was kindly
302 supplied by Professor Bader. As evinced by Figure 1a, as $\rho(\mathbf{r}_c)$ increases in value, the experimental
303 Si-O bond lengths decrease systematically, with the shorter bond lengths tending to involve larger
304 values of $\rho(\mathbf{r}_c)$. The two negative curvatures, λ_1 and λ_2 , of $\rho(\mathbf{r}_c)$ for the bonded interactions were
305 averaged and the averaged magnitudes for the pair, $\lambda_{1,2} = \frac{1}{2} |(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)|$, are plotted in Figure 2b in
306 terms of R(Si-O). As $\lambda_{1,2}$ increases, R(Si-O) decreases in tandem, demonstrating that $\rho(\mathbf{r})$ is
307 progressively concentrated in the internuclear region as a result of the progressive contractions of the
308 ED toward the bond path (Bader, 1990). For all of the Si-O bonded interactions used to prepare
309 Figure 1, λ_1 and λ_2 are virtually identical in value, an observation that shows that the ED distributions
310 perpendicular to the bond path at \mathbf{r}_c of the Si-O bonded interactions are largely circular in cross
311 section, as observed for diatomic molecules. As noted above, the curvature of the ED at \mathbf{r}_c ,
312 determined parallel to the bond path (denoted λ_3), measures the extent to which the ED is locally
313 concentrated toward the Si and O atoms, with an increase in λ_3 , resulting in a greater shielding of the
314 Si and O atoms with decreasing bond length. As indicated by Figures 1b and 1c, the contraction of
315 ED away from the bcp along the Si-O bond path is greater than the contraction perpendicular to the
316 bond path. As $\nabla^2\rho(\mathbf{r}_c) = \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \lambda_3$ (Bader, 1990) and as $\lambda_3 > 2\lambda_{1,2}$, $\nabla^2\rho(\mathbf{r}_c)$ is necessarily positive.
317 The magnitude of $\nabla^2\rho(\mathbf{r}_c)$ indicates that the shared polar covalent character of the Si-O bond
318 increases as the Si-O bond length decreases for reasons associated with the connection between the
319 Laplacian and the local kinetic and potential energies of the Si-O bonded interactions, as discussed
320 elsewhere (Gibbs et al., 2012).

321 The bcp properties determined experimentally for the Si-O bonded interactions for the two silica
322 polymorphs, coesite (Gibbs et al., 2003) and stishovite (Kirfel et al., 2001), are added to Figure 1 for
323 sake of comparison with values calculated for the silicate crystals and siloxane molecules (Gibbs et
324 al., 2004). The agreement between the two is generally good, with the experimental values following
325 the general trend of calculated data, demonstrating that the precision of the calculated bcp properties
326 is comparable with experimental properties determined for both coesite and stishovite. This bodes
327 well for the future employment of calculated bcp properties for modeling the properties and bonded
328 interactions of crystals and giving a faithful representation of the properties.

329 Figure 1e shows that the calculated and experimental bonded radii for the O atoms, $r_b(O)$, bonded to
330 Si atoms are not fixed, but that they decreases linearly from $\sim 1.1 \text{ \AA}$ to $\sim 0.9 \text{ \AA}$ as $R(\text{Si-O})$ decreases
331 by a comparable amount from $\sim 1.8 \text{ \AA}$ to $\sim 1.6 \text{ \AA}$. This result demonstrates the impact that the
332 polarizing power of the bonded Si atoms has on the radius and charge distribution of the O atom,
333 similar to a finding made by Johnson (1973). His study revealed that the radius of the O atom is not
334 fixed but decreases systematically from $\sim 1.40 \text{ \AA}$ when bonded to K (with an effective polarizing
335 power of 0.87) to $\sim 1.0 \text{ \AA}$ when bonded to Be (with an effective polarizing power of 1.44). Shannon
336 and Prewitt (1969) anticipated the potential polarizing impact of the bonded cations on the ED
337 distribution and radius of the oxide anion, but had no satisfactory way of reckoning with the
338 problem. But, as their radii are additive and to reproduce the bond lengths for a wide range of
339 materials, it is likely that they assumed, as done earlier by Goldschmidt, that the impact of the
340 polarization must have had some sort of compensating effect that had little or no affect on the bond
341 lengths.

342 The distribution of the individual bonded radii for the O atom and the associated experimental bond
343 lengths for the M-O bonded interactions, comprising the silicates and oxide crystals, is displayed in

344 Figure 2 (Gibbs et al., 2001). Consistent with the linear trend displayed in Figure 1e, well-developed
345 trends are observed between the bond lengths and the bonded radii of the O atom, with $r_b(\text{O})$
346 decreasing linearly along parallel trends for the bulk of the bonded interaction with decreasing bond
347 length, $R(\text{M-O})$. In contradiction with the assumption that the radius of the oxide anion is largely
348 fixed, $r_b(\text{O})$ displays a wide range of values from $\sim 1.50 \text{ \AA}$ when bonded to the electropositive Na
349 atom to 0.65 \AA when bonded to the electronegative N atom. The smaller value is identical with
350 Bragg's (1920) atomic radius for the O atom, while the larger is comparable to Pauling's (1927)
351 ionic radius of 1.40 \AA . It is also evident that the greater the electronegativity of a bonded M atom
352 (for a given row of the periodic table), the shorter the M-O bond length and the smaller the bonded
353 radius of the O atom. The bonded radius of the O atom associated with the Be-O bonded
354 interactions, for example, ranges between 1.01 and 1.10 \AA with an average value of 1.07 \AA , in
355 agreement with the value of 1.0 \AA reported by Johnson (1973). In the case of the Mg-O bonded
356 interactions, the value of $r_b(\text{O})$ displays an even wider range of values, and changes from 1.07 \AA to
357 1.31 \AA as $R(\text{Mg-O})$ increases from 1.91 \AA to 2.27 \AA , with an average radius of 1.2 \AA , a value that
358 again is in agreement with the value found by Johnson (1973).

359 The average radii for the O atoms, $\langle r_b(\text{O}) \rangle$, together with the average bonded radii for the first,
360 second and third row metal atoms, $\langle r_b(\text{M}) \rangle$, determined for a large number of different M-O bonded
361 interactions, including silicate and oxide crystals and molecules, are given in Table 1, along with
362 the corresponding Shannon (1976) crystal, $r_c(\text{M})$ and effective ionic, $r_i(\text{M})$, radii for the bonded M
363 cations. The systematic increase of $R(\text{Mg-O})$ with increasing $r_b(\text{O})$ (Table 1, Figure 2) is ascribed to
364 a systematic increase in *both* $r_b(\text{Mg})$ and $r_b(\text{O})$, with $R(\text{Mg-O})$ increasing systematically with
365 increasing coordination number for the Mg atom as $\langle r_b(\text{O}) \rangle$ increases likewise. Surprisingly, the
366 increase in the bonded radius of the O atom is almost twice that of the increase in the Mg radius as

367 the coordination number of Mg increases from 4 to 8. In effect, the increase in $R(\text{Mg-O})$ is due more
368 to the increase in $\langle r_b(\text{O}) \rangle$ than to the increase in $\langle r_b(\text{Mg}) \rangle$, contrary to the assumption that the
369 increase in coordination number results only in the increase of the Mg atom radius. The bonded radii
370 in Table 1 show that the increase in the M-O bond lengths with increasing coordination number for
371 the M atoms is generally due to a greater increase in $\langle r_b(\text{O}) \rangle$ than $\langle r_b(\text{M}) \rangle$. Rather than being
372 dependent entirely on the increase $r_b(\text{M})$ with increasing coordination number, the increase in the
373 bond lengths (Figure 2) can be ascribed to a combined increase of both $\langle r_b(\text{O}) \rangle$ and $\langle r_b(\text{M}) \rangle$, with
374 the bulk of the increase due to the increase in $\langle r_b(\text{O}) \rangle$.

375 Associated with the progressive increase in $\langle r_b(\text{O}) \rangle$ with increasing bond length, the bonded radii
376 for the M atoms (Table 1) are typically larger than the S&P effective ionic radii, $r_i(\text{M})$, particularly
377 for the more electronegative M atoms (Table 1). It is clear that if a smaller radius had been assumed
378 for the oxide anion, negative cation radii (e.g. H, $^{\text{III}}\text{C}$ and $^{\text{III}}\text{N}$) would never have been realized. For
379 example, when S&P assumed a radius of 1.24 Å for the oxide anion, only the hydrogen cation has
380 negative crystal radius.

381 The averaged bonded radii for the metal atoms, $\langle r_b(\text{M}) \rangle$, are plotted in Figure 3 in terms of their
382 averaged bond lengths, $\langle R(\text{M-O}) \rangle$. As the bond lengths decrease, the radii for row 1, 2 and 3 M
383 atoms scatter along three distinct and roughly parallel trends, a feature that is most apparent for the
384 row 2 and 3 atoms (Gibbs et al., 2013a). The trends are also comparable with that found when the
385 radii of the maximum radial charge density distributions of the outermost shells for the M atoms and
386 Slater's empirical radii are plotted relative to the atomic number of the atoms (Slater, 1965). These
387 trends in rows are consistent with $\langle R(\text{M-O}) \rangle$ and $\rho(r_c)$ trends reported for silicate and oxide crystals
388 (Gibbs et al., 2013a).

389 Unlike the bulk of the metal atoms, the bonded radius of first row ^{III}N atom actually increases with
390 decreasing bond length. The radius of the ^{III}C atom also departs from the first row trend but, unlike
391 ^{III}N, its radius is much less dependent on the bond length. These observations are ascribed to the
392 relatively large contraction of ED distribution of the O atom by the highly polarizing impact of ^{III}C
393 and particularly ^{III}N. The end result is a substantial contraction of the ED distribution of the O atom
394 along the N-O bond path, an increase in the value of $\rho(\mathbf{r}_c)$, together with a displacement of the bcp
395 toward the O atom, a substantial increase in the bonded radius of the N atom, and a decrease in the
396 bonded radius of the O atom. In effect, the displacement results in a decrease in bonded radius of the
397 O atom with a concomitant increase in the bonded radius of ^{III}N. The ^{III}C-O bonded interaction
398 displays a hint of the same trend with the $r_b(\text{C})$ and C-O bond length, with the radius of the
399 electronegative C atom tending to follow the same trend displayed by the ^{III}N atom. Given that the O
400 atom is much more polarizable than the nitrogen atom (Johnson et al., 1983; Shannon and
401 Fischer, 2006), the substantial increase in the bonded radius of the N atom and the substantial
402 decrease in the radius of the O atom may be expected.

403 As the electronegativities of the M atoms bonded to the O atoms decrease and the M-O bond lengths
404 increase, the average bonded radius of the O increases systematically: 0.65 Å when bonded to ^{III}N,
405 0.83 Å when bonded to ^{III}C, 0.89 Å when bonded to ^{IV}S, 0.95 Å when bonded to ^{IV}Si, 1.00 Å when
406 bonded to ^{IV}Al, 1.20 Å when bonded to ^{VI}Mg, 1.35 Å when bonded to ^{VI}Na, and 1.43 Å when
407 bonded to ^{VI}K. It is apparent that the highly electropositive potassium atom has little or no impact on
408 the ED distribution of the O atom as its bonded radius closely matches Pauling's 'unpolarized radius'
409 for the oxide anion, 1.40 Å.

410 Concomitant with the decrease in $\langle r_b(\text{O}) \rangle$ and M-O bond length with increasing electronegativity of
411 the bonded M atom, the effective ionic radii, $r_i(\text{M})$, of the M cations decrease in tandem with

412 $\langle r_b(M) \rangle$, but at a faster rate as the bond lengths decrease, resulting in unrealistic negative effective
413 ionic radii for ^{III}C , ^{III}N and H. The crystal radii also decrease with decreasing bond length, but as
414 they were derived assuming a small radius for the oxide anion, only the H cation has a negative
415 crystal radius. Unlike the ionic and crystal radii, the bonded radii for the metal atoms necessarily
416 remain positive, and become progressively larger than the ionic radii with decreasing bond length,
417 with the bonded radii exceeding the ionic radii by as much 0.70 Å in the case of the nitrogen atom.

418 Given the assorted field strengths of the metal atoms and the different M-O bond lengths, the ED of
419 the O atom is rarely, if ever, spherical as traditionally assumed, but as observed above, it often
420 displays several different radii when bonded to different M atoms. Such differences in the radius of
421 the O atom are particularly noticeable when it is bonded to metal atoms with substantially different
422 electronegativities (O'Keeffe and Hyde, 1981). As a case in point, the O_{Al} oxygen atom of the
423 tetrahedral framework of the alkali feldspar maximum microcline, $KAlSi_3O_8$, is bonded to a ^{IV}Si
424 atom (Si-O bond length = 1.61 Å), an ^{IV}Al atom (Al-O bond length = 1.76 Å), and two ^{VI}K atoms
425 (average K-O bond lengths = 2.85 Å). The bonded radius of the O atom along the bond vectors for
426 these four bonded interactions decreases systematically from 1.43 Å along each of the two K-O bond
427 vectors, to 1.01 Å along the Al-O bond vector, to 0.95 Å along the Si-O bond vector. As expected,
428 the electronegativities for the three atoms increase from 2.42 eV for K, to 3.23 eV for Al, and to 4.77
429 eV for Si (Table F.1, Parr and Yang, 1989) as the associated bond lengths and bonded radii decrease.

430 With the different electronegativities and bond lengths of the bonded interactions, the resulting ED
431 distribution of the O atom is highly aspherical with its dimensions being undefined in all other
432 directions, except along the ^{VI}K -O, ^{IV}Al -O and ^{IV}Si -O bond vectors. Given the relatively large range
433 in the bonded radii and the asphericity of the ED distribution of the O atom, it is questionable
434 whether the word 'radius' has meaning in this context, as pointed out by O'Keeffe and Hyde (1981).

435 Not only is the radius undefined in this context, but the radius of O_{A1} and the radius ratio of the
436 bonded atoms are undefined as well, primarily because of the different bonded radii observed along
437 the bond vectors of the bonded atoms.

438 As observed above, the coordination number of an atom can be found, regardless of whether or not
439 the radii of the atoms are known, simply by counting the number of bond paths that radiate from the
440 atom. In the case of microcline, there are nine nearest neighbor O atoms that encroach upon the K
441 atom at distances ranging from 2.75 Å to 3.13 Å (Downs et al., 1996). Given that the effective ionic
442 radii for K^+ and O^{2-} are practically the same, one may conclude from radius ratio considerations that
443 the coordination number of the K cation is either eight or possibly twelve. But an evaluation of the
444 bcp properties for the feldspar shows that there are only six bond paths that radiate from the K atom
445 to six of the nearest O atoms. Accordingly, on the basis of the ED distribution, the coordination
446 number of the potassium is six, much smaller than twelve as specified by the radius ratio.

447 Given the asphericity and the range in the bonded radii displayed by the O_{A1} atom, one questions
448 ‘Whether Pauling's first rule is useful and applicable or whether it should it be completely
449 abandoned with no alternative?’ Coupled with the observation that the bonded radius of the O atom
450 highly is dependent on its bonded interactions, we believe that these contradictions are sufficient to
451 abandon the rule.

452 With these contradictions, we question ‘Why have crystal and effective ionic radii been so successful
453 in modeling such properties as chemical zoning, ion conductivity, defects, size discrimination,
454 among other things, predicting coordination numbers when the bonded radius of the O atom varies
455 substantially from 0.64 Å when bonded to ^{III}N and 1.43 Å when bonded to ^{VI}K , values that depart
456 substantially from the values of $r_i(O)$ and $r_c(O)$?’ The main reason for the successful use of the radii
457 is that they are highly correlated, on a one to one basis, with the average experimental M-O bond

458 lengths used in their determination so that any property that correlates with and depends on the
459 cation radius will necessarily correlate with and depend on the bond length involving the cation and
460 *vice versa*. After all, it is the bond lengths that were determined experimentally and that depend on
461 the energetics of the bonded interaction, not the ionic radii (Gibbs et al., 2008b). It is important to
462 note that no matter what choice is made for the radius of the O atom (within reason) used in the
463 determination of a set of radii from a set of average experimental bond lengths, a set of metal radii
464 will necessarily result which when added to that of the O atom will necessarily reproduce the bond
465 lengths. As a case in point, S&P assumed a radius of 1.40 Å for the oxide anion in the derivation of
466 their ionic radii and a radius of 1.24 Å in the derivation of their crystal radii. As expected, despite the
467 assumption of different radii for the oxide anion, the resulting sets of radii resulted in sets of
468 calculated bond lengths that match the experimental bond lengths to within 0.01 Å, on average.

469 **Pauling's second rule**

470 Pauling's second rule was obtained in part from a comprehensive knowledge of the crystal structures
471 of minerals and other materials known prior 1929, from Born's early work on crystal energy, and
472 likely from Pauling's knowledge of resonance theory for the bonded interactions in molecules. It is
473 important to realize that the rule was considered to be neither rigorous nor global in its application,
474 but as pointed out by Pauling (1939), it has been successfully used to verify crystal structures. As
475 asserted by Bragg (1937), the rule seems to be manifest in the condition of a system of low potential
476 energy and, accordingly, high stability. He also observed that although the rule appears to be simple,
477 it imposes rigorous constraints on the topology of the bonded interactions within a structure. Pauling
478 (1960) was well aware that his rules may well have significance for molecules, for which he
479 associated the bonded interactions with resonating bond numbers as representing the strengths of the
480 bonded interactions. As minerals and related materials were considered by many at the time to

481 consist of spherical ions bonded together by long range electrostatic isotropic bonded interactions, he
482 defined the strength of each bonded interaction to be $s = z/v$ where z is the number of electrons
483 involved in the bonded interaction, ze is the electrical charge of the cation, and v its coordination
484 number. With these definitions, he postulated that:

485 *In a stable ionic structure the valence of each anion, with changed sign, is exactly or nearly equal to*
486 *the sum of the strengths of the electrostatic bonds reaching it from adjacent cations where $-\zeta e$ is the*
487 *electric charge of the anion and the summation is taken over the cations at the centers of all the*
488 *polyhedra of which the anion forms a corner; that is*

489
$$\zeta = \sum_i s_i = \sum_i \frac{z_i}{v_i}$$

490 *the summation being taken over the bonded cations at the centers of all the polyhedra of which the*
491 *anion forms a corner.*

492 Despite its simplicity, the rule has been used extensively in the rationalization of the bonded
493 interactions in crystals in terms of the nexus between the bond strength and bond length.
494 Furthermore, the definition of bond strength closely resembles Pauling's definition of resonance
495 bond number used to rank the resonating C-C bonded interactions in molecules and crystals; the
496 larger the resonating bond number the greater the strength and the shorter the C-C bonded
497 interaction (Pauling, 1960). In a related study, resonance bond numbers, n , were generated for the
498 M-O experimental bonded interactions comprising ten silicates, assumed to consist of charge neutral
499 atoms. The resulting bond numbers serve to rank the experimental bond length in terms of the power
500 law regression expression

501
$$R(\text{M-O}) = 1.39(n/r)^{-0.22} \quad \text{Eq. (1)}$$

502 where r is the row number of the M atom (Boisen et al., 1988). This expression is comparable with
503 an exponential expression used to rank the lengths of the C-C, C=C and C≡C bonded interactions
504 within hydrocarbon molecules in terms of their resonance bond numbers and the number of electrons
505 used in the bonded interactions.

506

507 **A search for a nexus between the Pauling bond strength and the electron density between**
508 **bonded pairs of atoms**

509 With the perfection of the single crystal diffractometer, starting in the 1950's, together with the
510 advent of the high speed computer and the coding of software for the recording of precise single
511 crystal diffraction data for solving and refining crystal structures, it became apparent that
512 connections exist between the bond lengths in a structure and the bond strengths and the bond
513 strength sums, ζ , reaching the oxide anions for the associated bonded interactions. The world
514 renowned mineralogist J.V. Smith (1953) was one of the first to discover that a connection exists
515 between the ζ -values for the oxide anions in the mineral melilite and the lengths of the Si-O bonded
516 interactions involving these anions. The experimental Si-O bond lengths, $R(\text{Si-O})$, in melilite were
517 observed to increase progressively from 1.59 Å to 1.65 Å as the sum of the bond strengths, ζ ,
518 reaching the O atoms increases from 1.45 v.u. to 2.9 v.u. Shortly thereafter, Baur (1956) reported a
519 similar correlation between ζ and bond lengths for a variety of different M-O bonded interactions,
520 and established linear plots and expressions, based on $\Delta\zeta$ values and individual mean bond lengths,
521 that he used to reproduce the bond lengths for a number of bonded interactions for a variety of
522 oxides. Zachariasen (1963; 1954) followed by Zachariasen and Plettinger (1959) found comparable
523 trends between $R(\text{B}^{3+}\text{-O})$ and $R(\text{U}^{6+}\text{-O})$ bond lengths and bond strength sums. In a crystal chemical
524 study of eight clinopyroxenes, Clark et al. (1969) showed that the $R(\text{B-O})$ values determined by
525 Zachariasen (1963) decrease linearly with increasing bond strength, s , of the bonded interactions,

526 while the R(Si-O) values observed for pyroxenes were found to decrease quadratically with
527 increasing s .

528 An empirical bond length, R(M-O), bond valence, s_0 , power-law regression relationship,

529
$$R(\text{M-O}) = (s/s_0)^{-1/N} \quad \text{Eq. (2)}$$

530 was subsequently proposed by Brown and Shannon (1973), closely following the pioneering work of
531 Donnay (1969) and Donnay and Allmann (1970). Starting with the experimental M-O bond lengths
532 and bond strengths provided by the S&P (1969) tables, the parameters s_0 and N were determined for
533 more than 25 M-O individual bonded interactions where the ζ -value was constrained, by regression
534 methods, in each case to match the valences of the cations., The sum of the resulting bond valences
535 (bond strengths) for each of the M-O bonded interactions was found to match, on average within 5%,
536 the formal values of the cations, attesting to the goodness of fit of the data.

537 Upon undertaking a molecular orbital theory interpretation of the second rule, the Pauling bond
538 strengths for bonded interactions were found to be highly correlated with the Mulliken bond overlap
539 populations, $n(\text{M-O})$, calculated for a number of geometry optimized M-O bonded interactions. The
540 greater the bond strength, the greater the Mulliken population of the charge density associated with
541 the bonded atoms, and the shorter the M-O bond lengths (Burdett and McLarnan, 1984; Gibbs,
542 1982). On the basis of this connection, Gibbs equated the Pauling bond strength with the bond
543 number, and considered the Donnay and Allmann (1970) and Brown and Shannon (1973) bond
544 length-bond valence curves to have the same meaning and significance as the well-known C-C bond
545 length bond-number curves determined for hydrocarbon molecules (Pauling, 1960).

546 Following Pauling's (1960) assertion that his rules may be expected to hold for molecules, Gibbs et
547 al. (1987) undertook a geometry optimization of the M-O bond lengths for more than 30 hydroxy

548 acid molecules. The averaged geometry optimized bond lengths, $\langle R(M-O) \rangle$, were examined in
549 terms of the averaged Pauling bond strengths, $\langle s \rangle$, of the bonded interactions divided by the row
550 numbers, r , of the M atoms (Gibbs et al., 1987). The bond lengths were found to scatter along a
551 single trend when plotted in terms of the normalized bond strength, $\langle s \rangle / r$, defined by the power law
552 regression expression

$$553 \quad \langle R(M-O) \rangle = 1.39(\langle s \rangle / r)^{-0.22} \quad \text{Eq. (3)}$$

554 an expression that is identical in form with Eq. 1 that was found for the resonating bond number
555 strengths for the experimental M-O bonded interactions in silicate crystals. The correspondence
556 between s and n is consistent with Pauling's assertion that a rule equivalent to his electrostatic
557 valence rule but involving resonance bond numbers instead of bond strengths would express the
558 satisfaction of the valences for the nonmetal atoms for the silicates. Rewriting Eqs 1 and 3 in terms
559 of n and $\langle s \rangle$, respectively, $n = r(1.39/R(M-O))^{4.54}$ and $\langle s \rangle = r(1.39/R(M-O))^{4.54}$, we see that n and
560 $\langle s \rangle$ are numerically equal for a given bond length despite their different bases. If the ionic
561 electrostatic bond strength, s , of a bonded interaction is defined as the electrostatic charge of a
562 bonded cation divided by its coordination number, and if the resonance bond number strength, n , is
563 defined as the number of valence electrons of a charge neutral metal atom involved in a bonded
564 interaction, both divided by the coordination number, then s and n are exactly equal for a given bond
565 length. Pauling (1939) was well aware of the connection between bond strength and resonance bond
566 number when he wrote “ If the bonds resonate among alternate positions, the valence of a metal
567 atom will tend to be divided equally among the bonds to the coordinating atoms, and a rule
568 equivalent to the electrostatic valence rule would express the satisfaction of the valences of the
569 nonmetal atoms.’

570 Extending the molecular orbital approach to the bonded interactions in crystals, Gibbs et al. (1987)
571 found that the average experimental M-O bond lengths and bond strengths provided by the S&P
572 (1969) tables for a large number of oxide crystals can be modeled with a comparable expression

573
$$\langle R(\text{M-O}) \rangle = 1.43(\langle s \rangle / r)^{-0.21} \quad \text{Eq.(4)}$$

574 for the M atoms for six rows of the periodic table. The similarity between this equation and Eq. 3 is
575 compelling evidence that a close connection exists between bond lengths and bond strengths for both
576 molecules and crystals, a result that is consistent with Pauling's assertion that his rules for crystals
577 have significance for molecules. Further, in contrast with Eq. (2), which involves different sets of s_o
578 and N parameters for each of the individual M-O bonded interaction, Eqs (3) and (4) are global in
579 their application and hold for the bulk of M atoms in the periodic table when bonded to oxygen
580 atoms. Brown (1981) carefully derived more than 150 different sets of parameters, a pair of
581 parameters for each bonded pair, rather than a single parameter pair that would suffice globally for
582 all bonded interactions. Despite the restricted application of the model, Bickmore et al. (2013)
583 recently found that the model provides a fairly representative picture of the spatial distribution of the
584 bonded interactions about an atom. On the basis of this representation, Brown (2013) was quick to
585 point out that this advance may ultimately result in a basis for not only predicting bond angles but
586 ultimately predicting crystal structures.

587 As reported above, the power law relationships between $\langle R(\text{M-O}) \rangle$ and $\langle s \rangle / r$ and n/r , respectively,
588 suggest that $\langle s \rangle$ is a direct measure of the average electron density between a pair of M-O bonded
589 interactions: the greater the value of $\langle s \rangle$, the greater the value of n , the greater the value of $\langle \rho(\mathbf{r}_c) \rangle$,
590 and the shorter the M-O bond lengths for both molecules and crystals alike. In a preliminary study of
591 this possibility, a regression analysis of the power law connection between $\langle R(\text{M-O}) \rangle$ and $\langle \rho(\mathbf{r}_c) \rangle$

592 for a limited data set comprising an assortment of molecules and crystals (Gibbs et al., 2001),
593 resulted in the expression

594
$$\langle R(\text{M-O}) \rangle = 1.47(\langle \rho(\mathbf{r}_c) \rangle / r)^{-0.18} \quad \text{Eq. (5)}$$

595 Although Eq. (5) is not identical to Eq. (4), it is similar in form. With the goal of establishing a more
596 accurate expression based on a more accurate and comprehensive set of values, $\rho(\mathbf{r}_c)$ -values were
597 calculated for a large number of individual bonded interactions for three perovskite crystals,
598 LaAlO_3 , CaSnO_3 and YAlO_3 . The structures of these perovskites were geometry optimized within
599 the framework of density functional theory over a wide range of pressures: from ambient conditions
600 to 20 GPa for the first two perovskites, and up to 80 GPa for the third (Gibbs et al., 2012). A power
601 law regression analysis of the combined geometry optimized Al-O, Ca-O, Sn-O, Y-O and La-O bond
602 lengths and the $\rho(\mathbf{r}_c)/r$ values, resulted in the power law equation

603
$$R(\text{M-O}) = 1.41(\rho(\mathbf{r}_c)/r)^{-0.21} \quad \text{Eq. (6)}$$

604 an expression that is strikingly similar in form to Eq. (3). The similarity between the two expressions
605 is further evidence for the existence of a one-to-one correspondence between the Pauling strength for
606 a bonded interaction and the electron density at the bond critical points for bonded pairs of atoms in
607 both molecules and crystals. Moreover, this correspondence applies for bonded interactions in
608 crystals at both high pressures and under ambient conditions. Rewriting Eq. 3 in terms of $\langle s \rangle$ and
609 Eq. 6 in terms of $\rho(\mathbf{r}_c)$, we find that $\langle s \rangle = r(1.39/R(\text{M-O}))^{4.54}$ and $\rho(\mathbf{r}_c) = r(1.41/R(\text{M-O}))^{4.76}$, a result
610 that shows that $\langle s \rangle$ and $\rho(\mathbf{r}_c)$ display similar values, which typically agree to within $\sim 5\%$, for a
611 given bond length and r value. The widespread use of the Brown-Shannon bond valence model in
612 mineralogy and material science owes much of its success to the direct connection that exists
613 between bond strength and the quantum mechanical observable, the electron density distribution.

614 As observed above, the values of the electron density, $\rho(\mathbf{r}_c)$, at r_c between the bonded pairs of M and
615 O atoms and the associated bcp properties were calculated (Gibbs et al., 2001; Gibbs et al., 2008c;
616 Kirfel et al., 2005) for a large number of bonded interactions measured for more than 55 oxide and
617 silicate crystals containing non-transition and transition metal atoms from the first three rows of the
618 periodic table. For each of the bonded interaction types, the experimental bond lengths were found to
619 be highly correlated with $\rho(\mathbf{r}_c)$: the larger the accumulation of ED at \mathbf{r}_c , the greater the strength of
620 the bonded interaction and, typically, the shorter the M-O bond length. To obtain representative
621 estimates, consistent with the central limiting theorem of the value of the ED between the bonded
622 atoms, the individual values of $\rho(\mathbf{r}_c)/r$ and the associated experimental bond lengths for each the
623 bonded interactions were averaged in the same way that the experimental bond lengths were
624 averaged by S&P (1969) when determining their effective ionic and crystal radii. The resulting
625 averaged $\langle R(\text{M-O}) \rangle$ and $\langle \rho(\mathbf{r}_c)/r \rangle$ values, together with the individual $R(\text{M-O})$ and $\rho(\mathbf{r}_c)/r$ values
626 determined for the perovskites studied, are plotted in Figure 4. A regression analysis for the
627 combined data sets resulted in the same power law regression equation determined above for the
628 perovskites (Gibbs et al., 2012)

629
$$\langle R(\text{M-O}) \rangle = 1.41(\langle \rho(\mathbf{r}_c)/r \rangle)^{-0.21} \quad \text{Eq. (7)}$$

630 The data points in Figure 4 for bond lengths between 1.4 Å and 3.0 Å follow the trend defined by
631 Eq. 7 for the M atoms from all five rows of the periodic table. However, for the shorter ^{IV}B-O, ^{III}B-
632 O, ^{III}C-O and ^{III}N-O bond lengths that involve the more electronegative first row atoms and are more
633 shared covalent in nature, the $\langle \rho(\mathbf{r}_c)/r \rangle$ values fall systematically above the curve, revealing that
634 their experimental bond lengths are systematically longer than the ones determined by Eq. 7.

635 The ED distributions for the bonded interactions used to prepare Figure 4 resemble the procrystal
636 representations of the ED distributions, denoted $\rho(\mathbf{r}_c)^{\text{pro}}$, calculated for row 1 and 2 M atoms (Downs

637 et al., 2002). A procystal distribution consists of the superposition of the ED distributions for non-
638 interacting, neutral ground state atoms with spherically averaged ED distributions, clamped at the
639 experimental positions that they occupy in the crystal (Gibbs et al., 1992). This connection was
640 explored by Gibbs et al., (2013a) and the $\rho(\mathbf{r}_c)^{\text{pro}}/r$ values for the row 1-2 M-O bonded interactions,
641 plotted as open bullets in terms of $\langle R(\text{M-O}) \rangle$ in Figure 4. As displayed in the figure, the $\langle \rho(\mathbf{r}_c) \rangle^{\text{pro}}/r$
642 values follow the general trend defined by the $\langle \rho(\mathbf{r}_c) \rangle/r$ and $\langle R(\text{M-O}) \rangle$ data sets, but as expected
643 the $\langle \rho(\mathbf{r}_c) \rangle/r$ values are significantly larger than the $\langle \rho(\mathbf{r}_c) \rangle^{\text{pro}}/r$ values, particularly for the more
644 shared covalent ^{III}N-O, ^{III}C-O and ^{III}B-O bonded interactions. For the more electropositive atoms, the
645 two trends typically agree to within $\sim 0.05 \text{ e}/\text{\AA}^3$ with the $\langle \rho(\mathbf{r}_c) \rangle^{\text{pro}}/r$ values tending to be less than
646 the $\langle \rho(\mathbf{r}_c) \rangle/r$ values for the Si-O, P-O and S-O bonded interactions. For the longer Ca-O, Sn-O, K-O,
647 Y-O and La-O bonded interactions, $\langle \rho(\mathbf{r}_c) \rangle/r \sim \langle \rho(\mathbf{r}_c) \rangle^{\text{pro}}/r$. In cases where $\langle \rho(\mathbf{r}_c) \rangle/r$ and
648 $\langle \rho(\mathbf{r}_c) \rangle^{\text{pro}}/r$ are in close agreement, as in the case of the Si-O bond, the ED between the bonded
649 atoms is consistent with Pauling's (1948) claim that the atoms in crystals are largely devoid of
650 charge, in effect being largely neutral and atomic. He pointed out, for example, that it has been
651 customary to describe a cubic crystal like BaO as a checkerboard pattern of Ba^{2+} cations and O^{2-}
652 anions bonded together by electrostatic bonded interactions. But, according to his *postulate of*
653 *electrostatic neutrality*, a description of the structure as consisting of an arrangement of electrostatic
654 bonded highly charged Ba^{2+} and O^{2-} ions would be a poorer description than one consisting of
655 neutral Ba and O atoms, resulting in an ED distribution that would be classified as largely atomic.
656 As this seems to be the case for the bonded interactions for oxides, then the electrostatic bond
657 strength of a M-O bonded interaction serves as a direct measure of the resonance bond number as
658 noted above. Accordingly, the greater the number of shared electrons in lieu of M cation charge, the

659 greater the value of the resonance number, the greater the bond strength, and the shorter the bond
660 length (cf. Figure 4 in Brown and Shannon, 1973).

661 Given the nexus between resonance bond number and the number of shared electrons, the question
662 that comes to mind is "How similar are the $\langle\rho(\mathbf{r}_c)\rangle$ values defined by Eq. 7 and the Pauling
663 empirical bond strengths, $s = z/v$, for M-O bonded interactions of given lengths in the coordination
664 polyhedron in a crystal?" Recasting Eq. 7 in terms of $\langle\rho(\mathbf{r}_c)\rangle$, we obtain

$$665 \quad \langle\rho(\mathbf{r}_c)\rangle = r(1.41/\langle R(\text{M-O})\rangle)^{4.76}. \quad \text{Eq. (8)}$$

666 A calculation of $\langle\rho(\mathbf{r}_c)\rangle$ for the average Si-O bonded length, $\langle R(\text{Si-O})\rangle = 1.623 \text{ \AA}$, observed for the
667 tetrahedral SiO_4 oxyanions in silicates (Baur, 1981), results in $\langle\rho(\mathbf{r}_c)\rangle = 1.02 \text{ e/\AA}^3$, which is
668 comparable with the Pauling bond strength of 1.0 v.u. The average $^{\text{VI}}\text{Si-O}$ bond length, 1.774 \AA ,
669 observed in stishovite results in a $\langle\rho(\mathbf{r}_c)\rangle$ value of 0.67 e/\AA^3 , which concurs with $s = 0.67$ v.u.
670 (Kirfel et al., 2001). The agreement between $\langle\rho(\mathbf{r}_c)\rangle$ and s for these two Si-O bonded interactions
671 may not be surprising, particularly given that the calculated bond lengths and $\rho(\mathbf{r}_c)$ values were used
672 in the derivation of Eq. 8. The agreement in these two cases is satisfactory, but the agreement is
673 much less satisfactory for bonded interactions involving the much more electronegative first row
674 atoms $^{\text{III}}\text{N}$, $^{\text{III}}\text{C}$ and $^{\text{III}}\text{B}$ where the values of $\langle\rho(\mathbf{r}_c)\rangle$ are as much as 15 % larger than s .

675 In an examination of the extent to which the $\langle\rho(\mathbf{r}_c)\rangle$ values generated with Eq. 8 agree with the
676 individual s values for other bonded interactions, a set of reliable bond lengths is required.
677 Convenient for this purposes is the set of reliable bond lengths that are obtained by simply adding
678 Shannon's oxide anion crystal radius (1.24 \AA) to the 'reliable radii' for the M cations given in
679 Shannon's (1976) Table 1. For example, in the case of the $^{\text{VIII}}\text{U}^{+6}$ - O bonded interaction, $R(^{\text{VIII}}\text{U}^{+6}$ -
680 O) was estimated by adding 1.24 \AA to 1.14 \AA , where 1.14 \AA is the reliable radius for the eight-
681 coordinate U^{+4} cation i.e. $\langle R(^{\text{VIII}}\text{U}^{+4}\text{- O})\rangle = 1.14 \text{ \AA} + 1.24 \text{ \AA} = 2.38 \text{ \AA}$. According to Eq. 8, $\langle\rho(\mathbf{r}_c)\rangle$

682 $= 6(1.41/2.38)^{4.76} = 0.50 \text{ e}/\text{\AA}^3$, which is comparable to the Pauling bond strength of $s = 0.50 \text{ v.u.}$. The
683 $\langle s \rangle$ -value calculated with the same bond length and Eq. 3 is 0.52, which is also in satisfactory
684 agreement with s . The agreement between $\langle \rho(\mathbf{r}_c) \rangle$ and s is likewise satisfactory for the $^{\text{IV}}\text{P-O}$
685 bonded interaction where $\langle R(^{\text{IV}}\text{P-O}) \rangle = 1.55 \text{ \AA}$, $\langle \rho(\mathbf{r}_c) \rangle = 1.27 \text{ e}/\text{\AA}^3$ and $s = 1.25 \text{ v.u.}$, and for $^{\text{IV}}\text{S-}$
686 O where $\langle R(^{\text{IV}}\text{S-O}) \rangle = 1.50 \text{ \AA}$, $\langle \rho(\mathbf{r}_c) \rangle = 1.49 \text{ e}/\text{\AA}^3$ and $s = 1.50 \text{ v.u.}$. These values and those
687 calculated with the reliable bond lengths generated with the remaining reliable radii in the Shannon
688 Table, are compared in Figure 5 in terms of the individual Pauling bond strengths, s , for the M-O
689 bonded interactions. Despite the relatively wide scatter of the resulting data set about the 45° line, a
690 regression analysis of the data set reveals that more than $\sim 95 \%$ of the variation in $\langle \rho(\mathbf{r}_c) \rangle$ can be
691 explained in terms of a linear dependence on the Pauling bond strength for the M-O bonded
692 interactions (Gibbs et al., 2013a). As implausible as it may seem, the regression line is statistically
693 identical with a one-to-one relationship between value of the ED at the bcp, $\langle \rho(\mathbf{r}_c) \rangle$, and the classic
694 individual Pauling bond strengths for the M-O bonded interactions in molecules and crystals.
695 Furthermore, rewriting Eq. 4 in terms of s , $s = r(1.43/R(\text{M-O}))^{4.76}$, we see that $s \approx \rho(\mathbf{r}_c) =$
696 $r(1.41/R(\text{M-O}))^{4.76}$. This again demonstrates the remarkable relationship that exists between the
697 Pauling bond strength, the experimental bond lengths and the electron density distribution between
698 the bonded atoms. This is testament to Pauling's genius in choosing a simple parameter like bond
699 strength as a measure of the strength of a bonded interaction.

700

Implications

701 We have shown that the experimental and calculated ED distributions for siloxane molecules and
702 silicate crystals have yielded important information about the sizes of atoms along bond vectors,
703 results that show that the bonded radius of the O atom is strongly impacted by its bonded atoms. In
704 particular, the greater the electronegativity of the bonded atom, the greater the impact on the

705 distribution along the bond vectors. We also found that the bcp properties of these two groups are
706 virtually indistinguishable, implying that the local bonded interactions for the molecules are virtually
707 same as those observed for silicates. The accumulation of the electron density between bonded pairs
708 of M-O bonded interactions, $\rho(\mathbf{r}_c) = r(1.41/R(\text{M-O}))^{4.76}$, correlates with the Pauling bond strengths of
709 the individual bonded interactions on a one to one basis, implying that the bond strength is a direct
710 measure of the accumulation of the ED between a bonded pair. The nexuses established between the
711 bond lengths and $\langle s \rangle / r$ values for nitride, fluoride and sulfide molecules and crystals (Bartelmehs et
712 al., 1989; Buterakos et al., 1992; Nicoll et al., 1994; Pyykko, 2012) implies that a nexus may also
713 hold for $\langle \rho(\mathbf{r}_c) \rangle$.

714 Further, a comprehensive study of the bonded interactions undertaken for thioarsenides and
715 arsenates, cases involving long-range Lewis acid-base directed van der Waals bonded interactions
716 (Gibbs et al., 2009; Gibbs et al., 2011), indicates that the molecules are bonded into molecular
717 crystals by bond paths of ED that link and align the Lewis base-acid regions in a key-lock fashion.
718 As such, the bonded interactions between the molecules classifying as long range Lewis acid-base
719 directed van der Waals intermolecular interactions. The ED distribution comprising the bond paths
720 is asserted to be fundamental to the understanding of the self-assembly of the molecules in the
721 formation of the crystals. A self assembly mechanism is proposed for the molecular crystals
722 condensed from aqueous species that maximizes the number of Lewis acid-base bonded interactions,
723 with the resulting directed bond paths structuralizing the molecules as molecular crystals (Gibbs et
724 al., 2011). With *ab initio* quantum computational methods capable of describing both short-range
725 intramolecular and long range London dispersion interactions arising from electron correlation,
726 analyses of the dimers of As_4S_4 and As_4O_6 molecules cut from the structures of realgar and
727 arsenolite, respectively, reveal that the molecules adopt a configuration that is virtually identical

728 with that observed in the crystals. Decomposition of the interaction energies, using symmetry
729 adapted perturbation theory, reveals that both model dimers feature significant stabilization from
730 electrostatics forces as anticipated by the Lewis acid/Lewis base picture of the interactions.

731 In an assessment of the role played by intermolecular forces in the self assembly of nanoparticle
732 entities into large structures and materials, (Bishop et al., 2009) concluded that “The formation of
733 most assemblies can be modeled and justified only *a posteriori*, and there are few examples in which
734 the course of nanoscale self-assembly was predicted *a priori* from a knowledge of the individual
735 interactions. In the study of the self-assembly of the arsenate and realgar molecules, a model was
736 proposed based on directed, long ranged intermolecular interactions associated with the formation of
737 Lewis acid-Lewis base complexes that not only serve as an *a priori* basis for understanding how
738 molecules self-assemble in the formation of molecular crystals but also serves as a model for
739 predicting the self assembly of nanoparticles in the formation of oxide and sulfide Lewis acid-base
740 complexes.

741 The foregoing studies show promise of the things that will likely be rendered in the future about the
742 properties of a material that are inherent in the ED distribution. As more and more such studies are
743 undertaken and completed, our understanding of the properties and the bonded interactions is
744 destined to enrich our understanding of the crystal chemistry of minerals. It is exciting to anticipate
745 the new insights that will surely be forthcoming as the electron density distribution of minerals and
746 related materials is explored in greater detail, such as the discovery of bond paths between the O
747 atoms comprising the shared polyhedral edges of a crystal, the shorter the shared edges, the greater
748 the values of $\rho(\mathbf{r}_c)$ and the greater the stabilization of the shared O-O edges as embodied in
749 Pauling’s third rule (Gibbs et al., 2008a).

750 Finally, the close connection between the bonded interactions in siloxane molecules and silicate
751 crystals is consistent with the recent use of small molecular clusters in the study of mineral surfaces,
752 studies that have provided new and important insights into the cleavage of bonded interactions, and
753 the reactivity and hydrolytic reactions of surfaces at the atomic level (Casey and Rustad, 2007;
754 Casey et al., 2009; Rosso, 2001; Rustad, 2001). Silica cluster calculations lend important insights
755 into the hydrolysis of the Si-O-Si bonded linkages in the silica polymorph cristobalite
756 (Pelmenschikov et al., 2001), the dissolution of silicate glass and mineral surfaces (Criscenti et al.,
757 2006; Tamada et al., 2012) and providing evidence for the role played by aqua ions in the hydrolysis
758 of Si-O bonded interactions (Wallace et al., 2010). The close connection established between the
759 bonded interactions for sulfide crystals and molecules (Bartelmehs et al., 1989), also implies that the
760 crystal-molecule nexus will be useful in the study of sulfide reactions. Indeed, recent advances in the
761 development of theoretical tools to study sulfide surfaces, crystal growth, metal sulfide complexes,
762 molecular clusters like oxides, have been used, not only to provided new insights into dissolution
763 and surface reactions, but also to provide insights into crystal growth and the rapid self-assembly
764 reactions at the atomic level that are involved in the formation of nanoparticles (cf. Rickard and
765 Luther, 2006; Rosso and Vaughan, 2006a; Rosso and Vaughan, 2006b).

766 In short, the strikingly similarity in the structures and electron density distributions displayed by
767 siloxane molecules and silicate crystals has provided an important basis for understanding the Si-O
768 bonded interactions and the crystal chemistry of silicates at the atomic level. Likewise, the
769 employment of small representative molecular clusters and related complexes has provided
770 important insights into the reactions at mineral surfaces, the cleavage of bonded interactions at the
771 atomic level, and crystal growth processes. The advances and insights provided by these studies
772 together with their implications bring to mind the statement made by the brilliant crystal chemists

773 Michael O'Keefe and Bruce Hyde (1981): 'The divorce of crystal chemistry (solid-state chemistry)
774 from molecular chemistry was a great mistake and has left both parties all the poorer.'

775

776

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790

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1021 **Table 1.** Comparison of Bonded, r_b , Crystal, r_c , and Ionic Radii, r_i .

^{CN}M	$\langle r_b(M) \rangle$	$r_c(M)$	$r_i(M)$	$\langle r_b(O) \rangle$	^{CN}M	$\langle r_b(M) \rangle$	$r_c(M)$	$r_i(M)$	$\langle r_b(O) \rangle$
^{IV}Al	0.74	0.53	0.39	1.00	^{VI}K	1.44	1.52	1.38	1.43
^{V}Al	0.78	0.62	0.48	1.08	^{I}H	0.19	-0.24	-0.38	0.79
^{VI}Al	0.80	0.68	0.54	1.12	^{VI}Li	0.82	0.90	0.76	1.39
$^{III}As^{3+}$	0.87			0.92	^{IV}Mg	0.84	0.71	0.57	1.07
^{III}B	0.46	0.15	0.10	0.91	^{V}Mg	0.90	0.80	0.66	1.17
^{IV}B	0.49	0.25	0.11	0.99	^{VI}Mg	0.94	0.86	0.72	1.20
^{IV}Be	0.58	0.41	0.27	1.07	^{VIII}Mg	0.96	1.03	0.89	1.31
^{III}C	0.46	0.06	-0.08	0.83	$^{VI}Mn^{2+}$	1.10	0.97	0.83	1.12
^{VI}Ca	1.18	1.14	1.00	1.18	$^{VIII}Mn^{2+}$	1.15	1.10	0.96	1.18
^{VII}Ca	1.22	1.20	1.06	1.23	^{III}N	0.60	0.04	-0.10	0.64
^{VIII}Ca	1.25	1.26	1.12	1.27	^{V}Na	1.08	1.14	1.00	1.36
^{IX}Ca	1.25	1.32	1.18	1.26	^{VI}Na	1.09	1.16	1.02	1.35
$^{VI}Co^{2+}$	1.05	0.72	0.58	1.08	^{VII}Na	1.12	1.26	1.12	1.40
$^{IV}Fe^{2+}$	0.98	0.77	0.63	0.99	^{IV}P	0.63	0.31	0.17	0.91
$^{VI}Fe^{2+}$	1.08	0.92	0.78	1.10	^{IV}S	0.58	0.26	0.12	0.89
$^{VIII}Fe^{2+}$	1.13	1.06	0.92	1.17	^{IV}Si	0.67	0.40	0.26	0.95
^{IV}Ge	0.83	0.53	0.39	0.91	^{VI}Si	0.72	0.54	0.40	1.06

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FIGURE LEGENDS

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1027 **Figure 1:** Scatter diagrams of the experimental Si-O bond lengths, $R(\text{Si-O}) \text{ \AA}$, for a large number of
1028 silicate and oxide crystal structures plotted as open diamonds in terms (a) the accumulation of the
1029 electron density, ED, calculated at the bond critical point, \mathbf{r}_c , (b) $\lambda_{1,2}$, the magnitude of the average
1030 concentration of the ED calculated perpendicular to \mathbf{r}_c , (c) λ_3 , the concentration of the ED at \mathbf{r}_c
1031 calculated along bond path toward Si and O, (d) $\nabla^2\rho(\mathbf{r}_c)$, the Laplacian of the ED calculated at \mathbf{r}_c
1032 and (f) the bonded radius of the O atom, $r_b(\text{O})$ bonded to Si. Superimposed on the figure are the bond
1033 critical properties for the Si-O bonded interactions observed for coesite and stishovite, plotted as
1034 solid triangles and squares, respectively (reproduced from Gibbs et al., 2004).

1035

1036 **Figure 2:** Experimental M-O bond lengths, $R(\text{M-O}) \text{ \AA}$, plotted in terms of the bond radii, $r_b(\text{O})$, of
1037 the O atoms bonded to first row (Li, Be, B, ...) and second row (Na, Mg, Al, ...) atoms for the silicate
1038 and oxide structures (reproduced from Gibbs et al., 2001).

1039

1040 **Figure 3:** Averaged experimental M-O bond lengths, $\langle R(\text{M-O}) \rangle \text{ \AA}$, plotted in terms of the averaged
1041 bonded radii, $r_b(\text{M})$, for the M atoms bonded to O for first, second and third row M atoms.

1042

1043 **Figure 4:** Averaged experimental M-O bond lengths, $\langle R(\text{M-O}) \rangle \text{ \AA}$, plotted in terms of the averaged
1044 value of electron density, $\langle \rho(\mathbf{r}_c) \rangle / r$, accumulated at the bond critical point, \mathbf{r}_c , between bonded pairs
1045 of M and O atoms for M atoms for five row of the periodic table. The open circle data are procrystal
1046 data calculated for first and second row bonded interactions (Downs et al., 2002). The regression

1047 equation, $\langle R(M-O) \rangle = 1.41(\langle \rho(\mathbf{r}_c) \rangle / r)^{-0.21}$, fit to all of the data with the exception of the procrystal
1048 data, is graphed as a solid curve on the figure. (Reproduced from Gibbs et al., 2013b)

1049

1050 **Figure 5:** Equation 7, $\langle \rho(\mathbf{r}_c) \rangle = (1.41/\langle R(M-O) \rangle)^{4.76}$, plotted in terms of the average Pauling
1051 strength, s , for the M-O bonded interactions comprising M-atom containing coordination
1052 polyhedron where the bond lengths $\langle R(M-O) \rangle$ were set equal to the sum of Shannon's (1976) most
1053 reliable crystal radius for a given M cation and the radius of the four-coordinated oxide anion, 1.24
1054 Å.

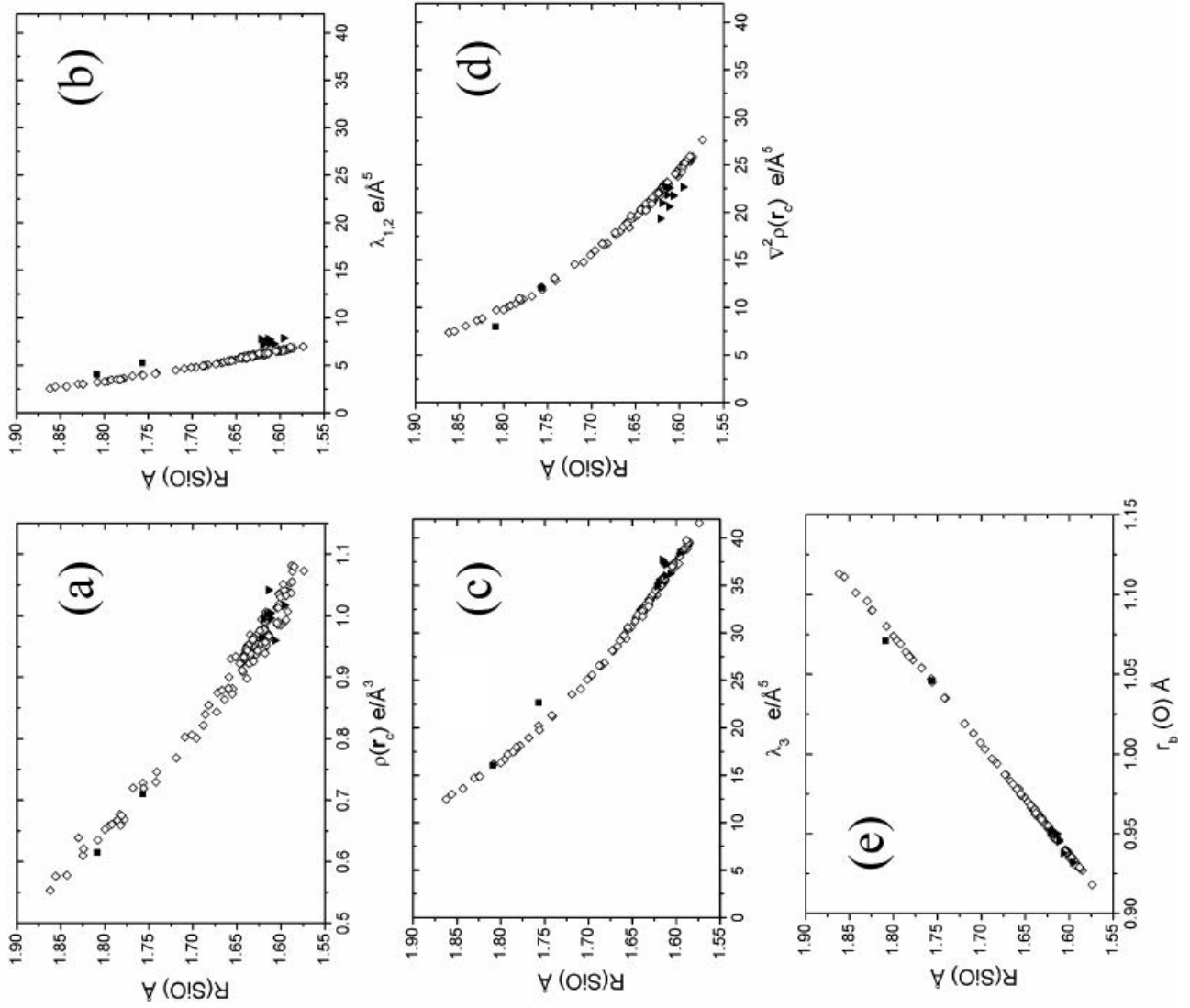


Figure 1

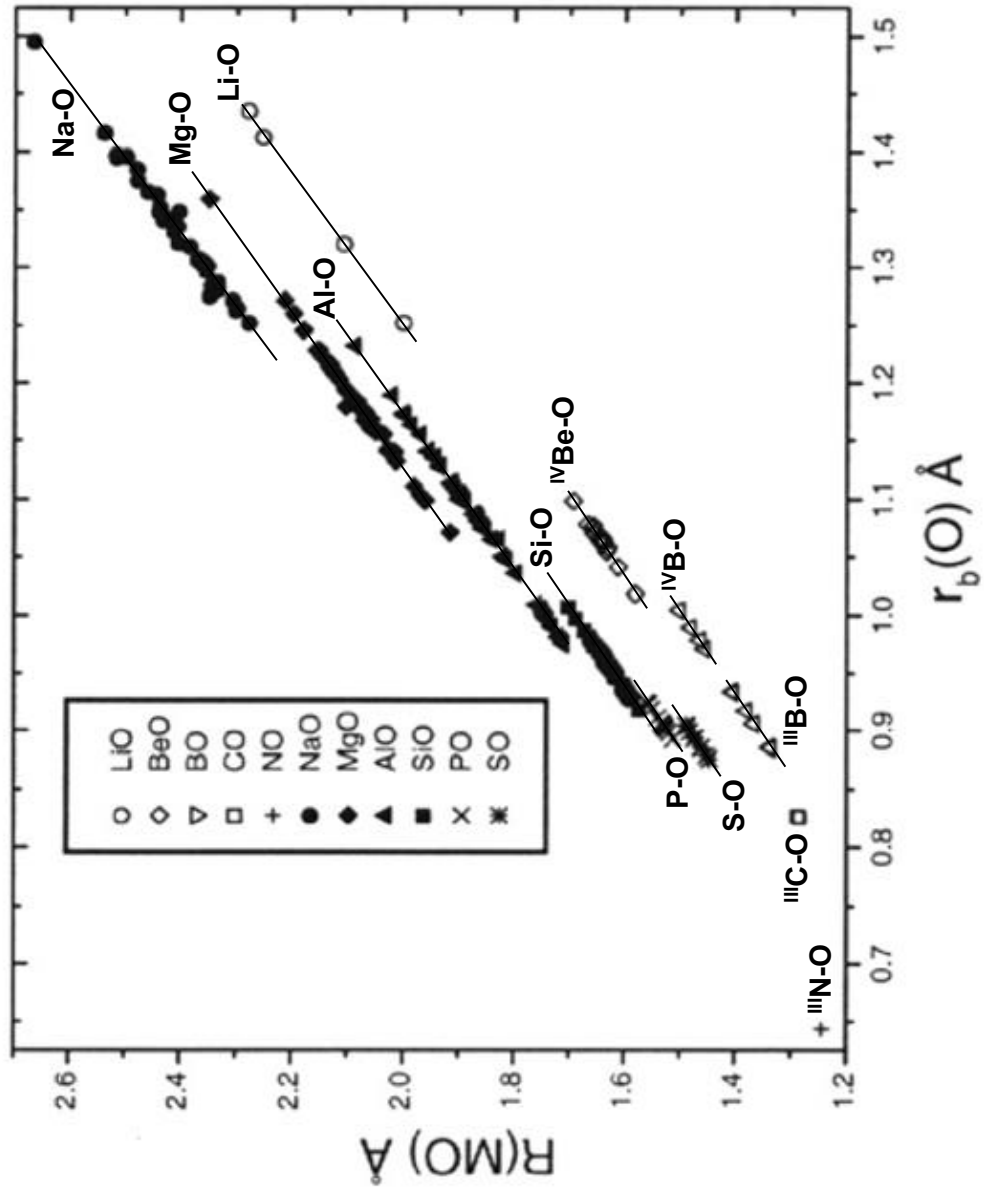


Figure 2

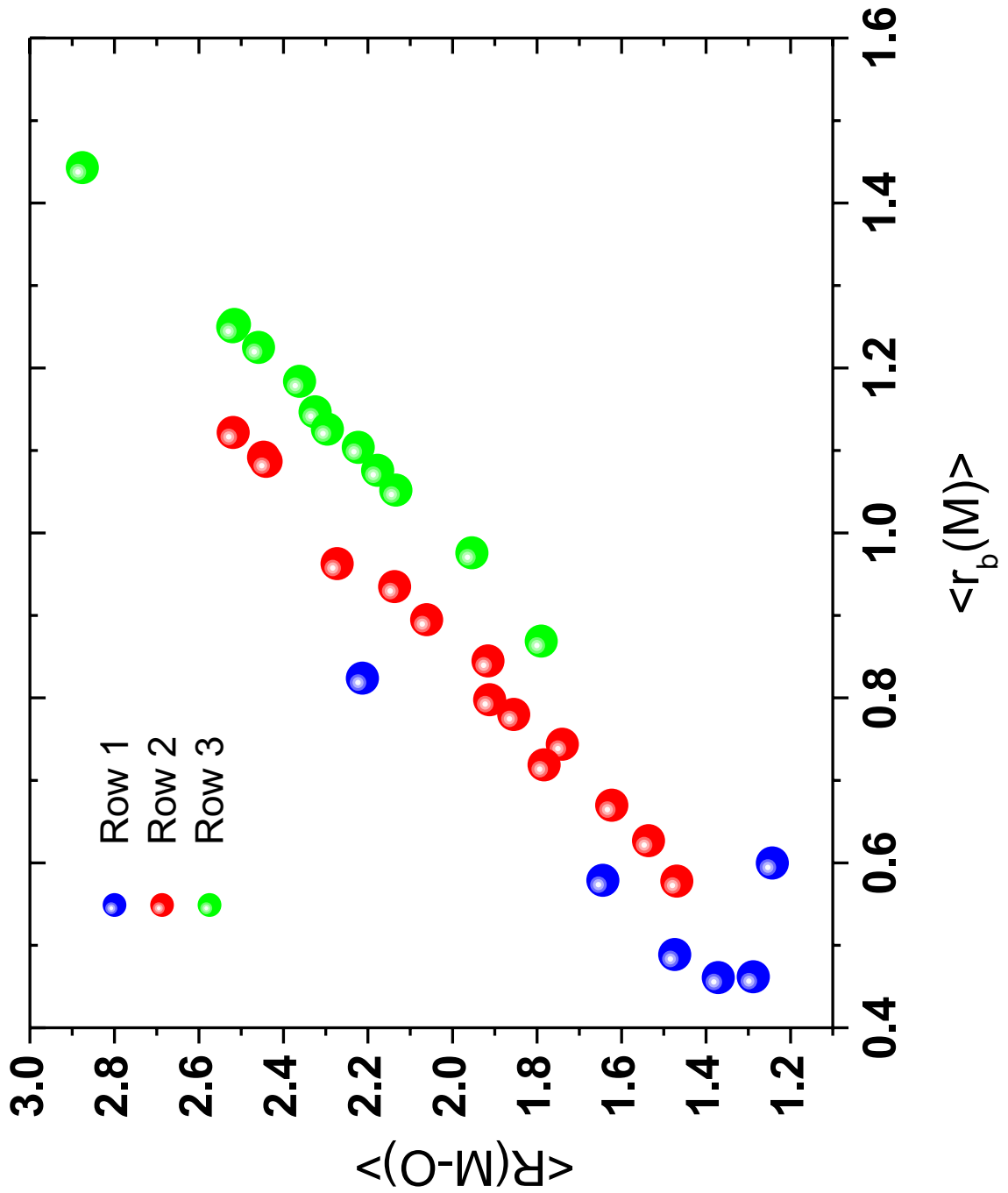


Figure 3

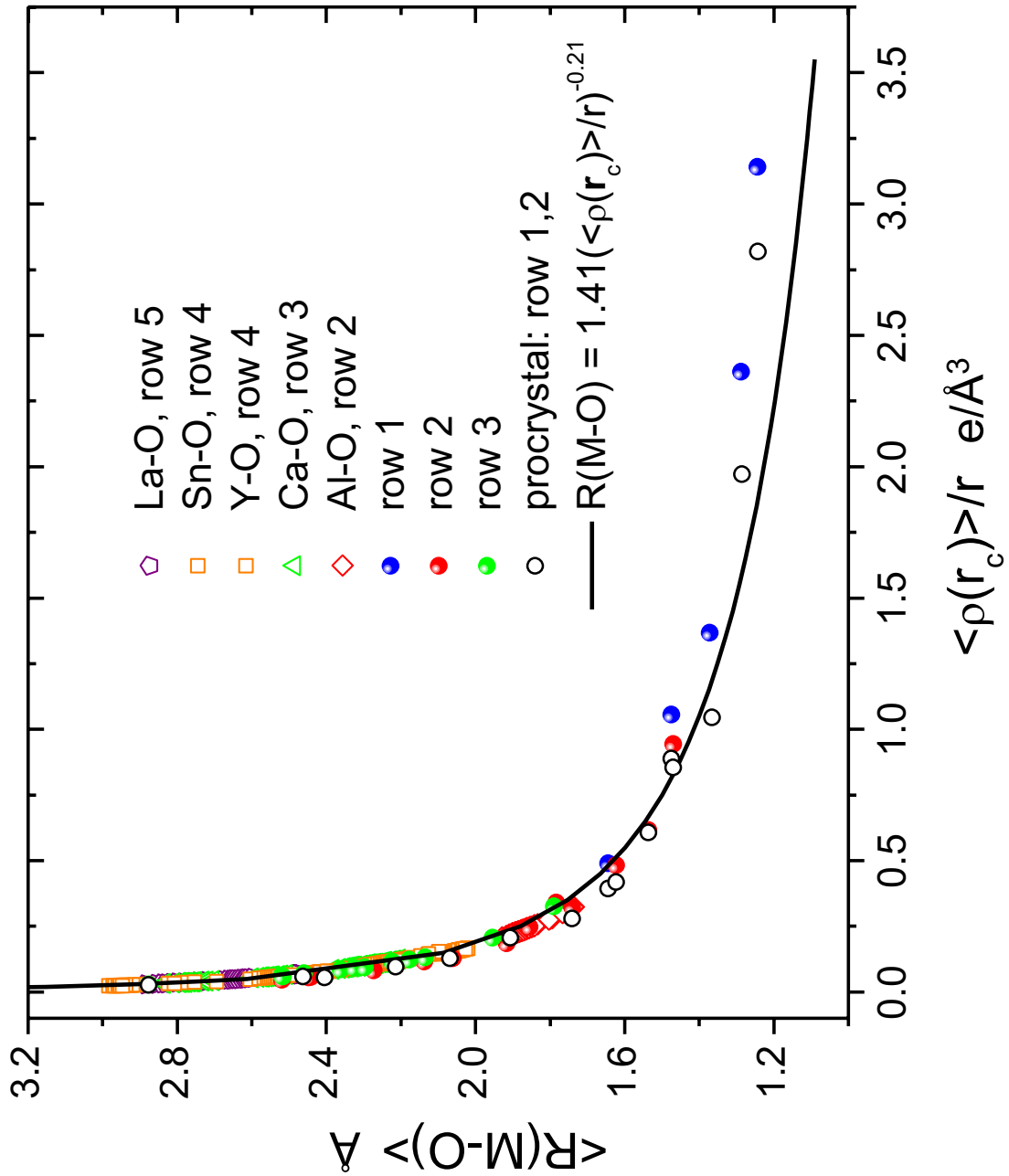


Figure 4

Figure 5

