

# Update on Elastic Constants and Grain Boundary Energetics

Stephen Foiles, David Olmsted  
Computational Materials Science and Engineering Department  
Sandia National Laboratories  
Albuquerque, NM

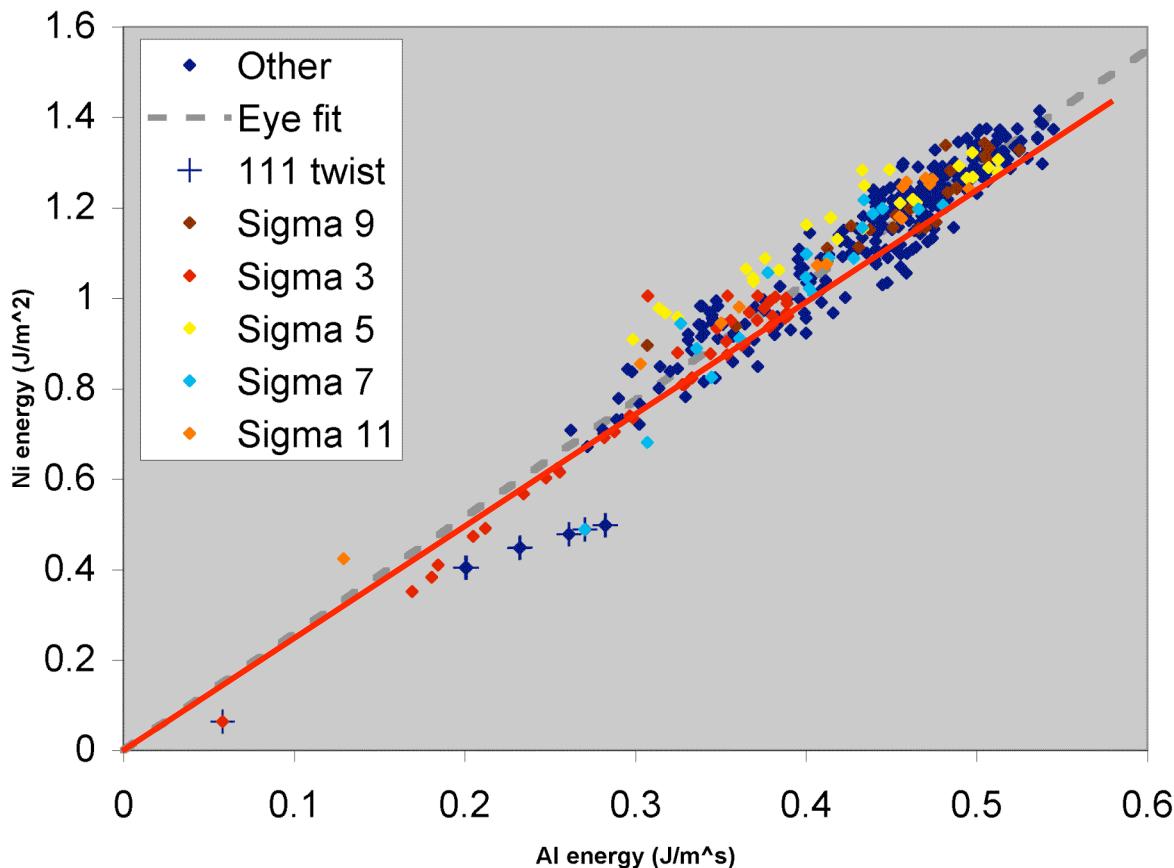
Computational Materials Science Network Coordination Meeting  
Princeton University  
Princeton, NJ  
September 22-23, 2008

Sandia is a multiprogram laboratory operated by Sandia Corporation, a Lockheed Martin Company,  
for the United States Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration under  
contract DE-AC04-94AL85000.



# Last Time: Comparison of Grain Boundary Energies in different metals: Ni vs. Al

Foiles-Hoyt EAM Ni vs. Ercolessi and Adams Al

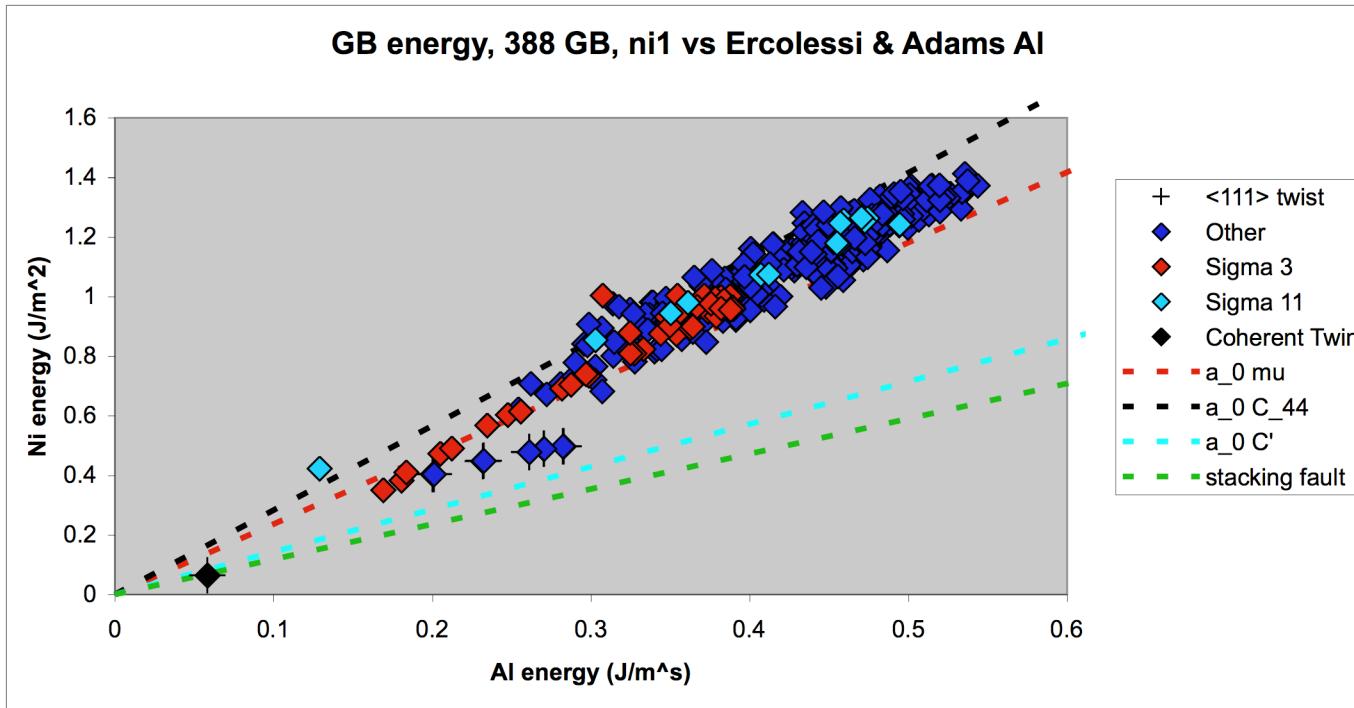


- Most of the variation in boundary energy is structural, not chemical.
- What scales boundary energy?
  - Shear modulus ratio: 2.4

⇒ Supports a dislocation model for grain boundary structure
- $<111>$  twist boundaries are relatively lower energy in Ni.
- The “special”  $\Sigma 11$  boundary is relatively lower energy in Al.

# Which shear modulus is really the best?

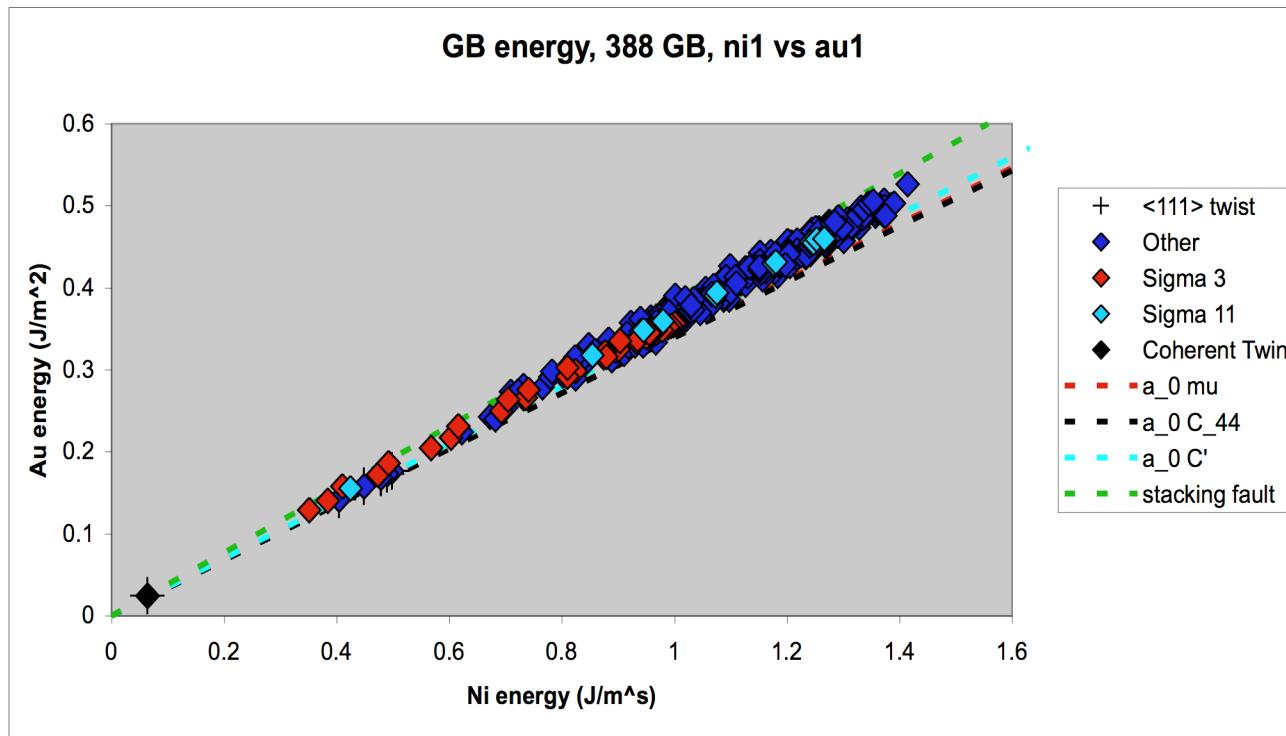
---



- Actually Voight average shear ( $\mu$ ) and  $C_{44}$  are about equally good when comparing Ni and Al

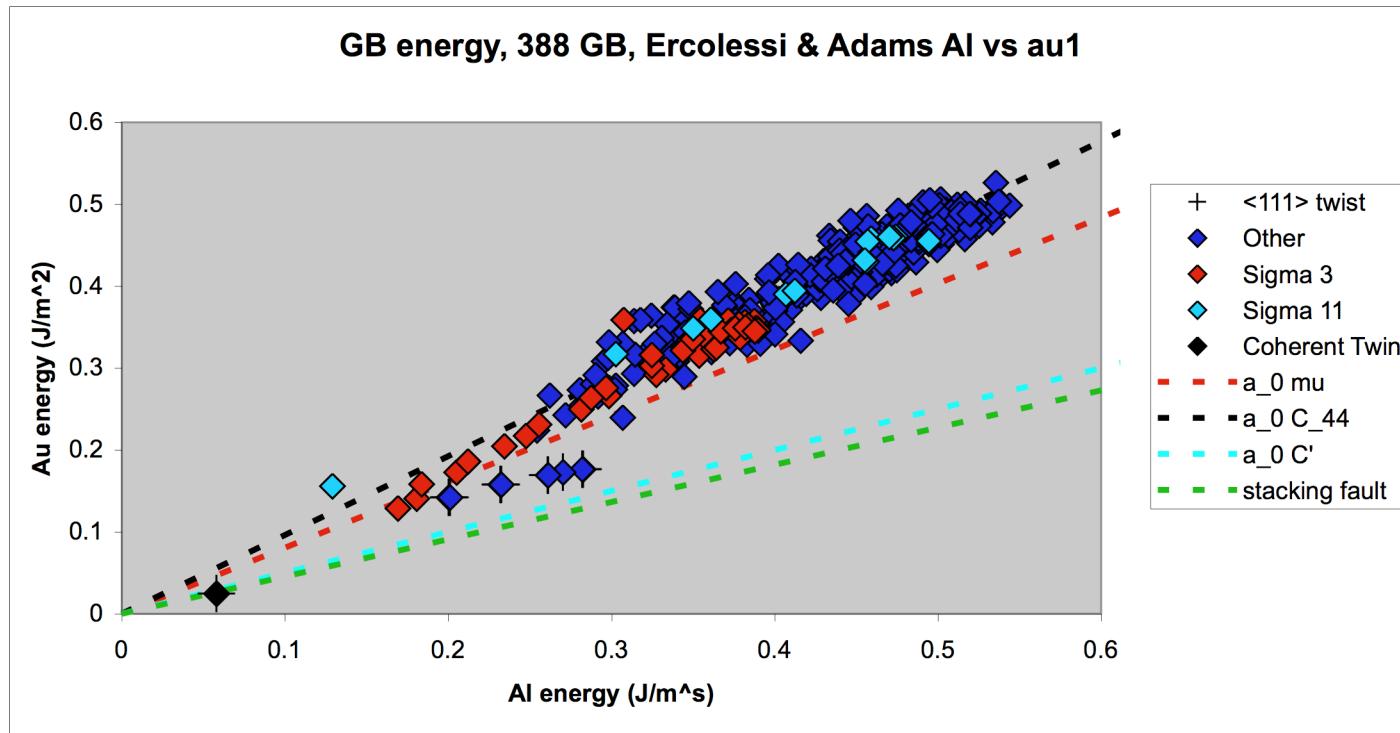
# Let's compare Ni and Au

---



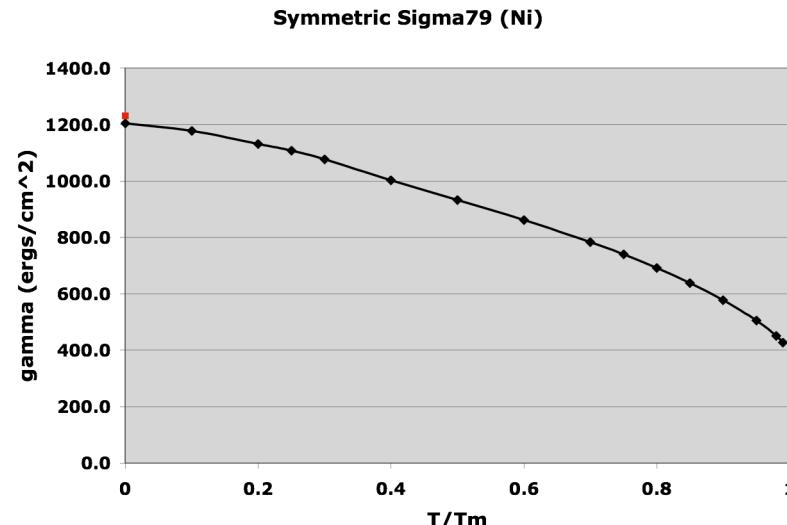
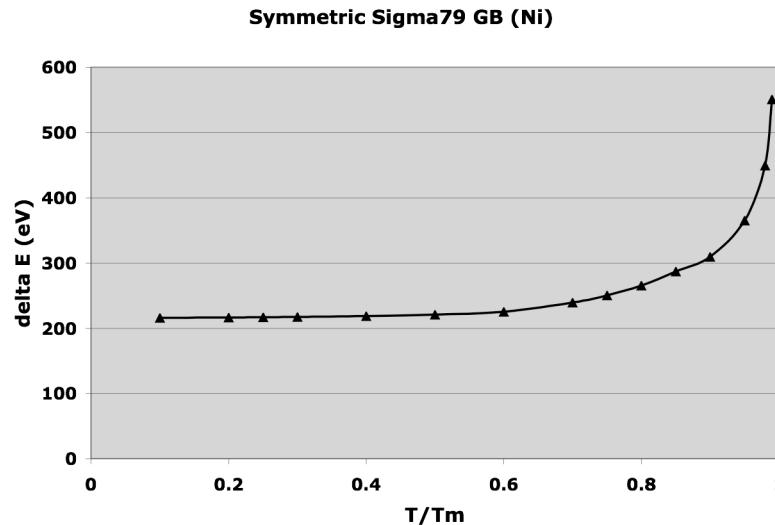
- Hmmgh! Just about anything works in this case!
- Note that there is much less scatter comparing the results for Ni and Au
  - Both potentials use similar functional forms

# Comparison of Au and Al suggests a winner



- $C_{44}$  appears the best modulus to use when comparing energies of different materials
  - David Seidman was right
    - D. Udler and D.N. Seidman, Phys. Rev. B54, 134 (1996)

## Last Time: Calculation of Temperature Dependence of $\gamma$ $\Sigma 79 [111]$ symmetric tilt boundary



- If know free energy at some T, can integrate to desired T
  - Need  $\Delta E(T)$  and  $\sigma(T)$  to perform integration
  - Both of these obtainable from MD simulation
- Use quasi-harmonic calculations to compute  $\gamma$  for  $T \leq 0.25 T_M$
- There is a significant drop in interface free energy with temperature
  - Question from last time: How does this compare with softening of elastic constants for the same interatomic potential?

# MD calculation of the *temperature dependent* elastic constants

---

- Generalize to EAM potentials the method of T. Cagin and J.R. Ray, Phys. Rev. B37, 699 (1988).
  - Fluctuation formulas are for microcanonical (NVE) ensemble
  - EAM generalization follows M.S. Daw and M.I. Baskes, Phys. Rev. B29, 6443 (1984)

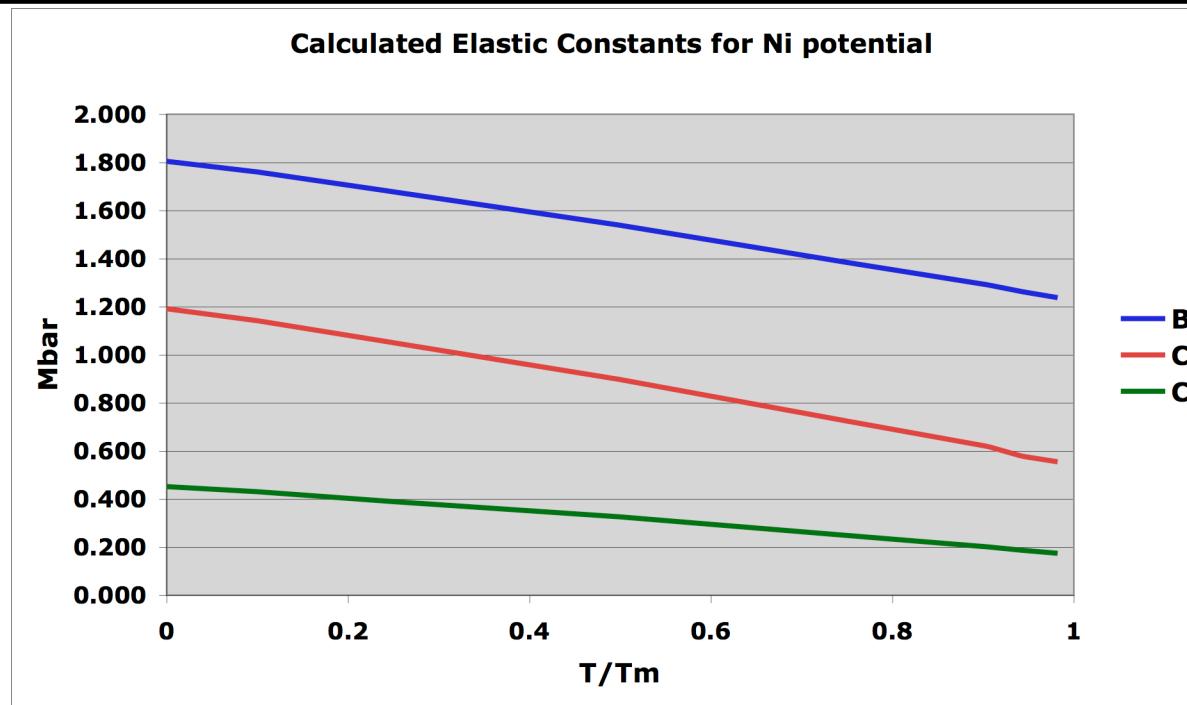
$$\Omega C_{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta} = 2NT(\delta_{\alpha\gamma}\delta_{\beta\delta} + \delta_{\alpha\delta}\delta_{\beta\gamma}) + \left(\frac{\Omega^2}{T}\right) \left( \left\langle P_{\alpha\beta} \right\rangle \left\langle P_{\gamma\delta} \right\rangle - \left\langle P_{\alpha\beta} P_{\gamma\delta} \right\rangle \right) + \left\langle P_{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta} \right\rangle$$

$$N\Omega P_{\alpha\beta} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{ij} \left( \phi'_{ij} \frac{r_{\alpha}^{ij} r_{\beta}^{ij}}{r^{ij}} + (F'(\rho_i) + F'(\rho_j)) \rho'_{ij} \frac{r_{\alpha}^{ij} r_{\beta}^{ij}}{r^{ij}} \right) - \sum_i m_i v_{\alpha}^i v_{\beta}^i$$

$$NP_{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{ij} \left[ B_{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta}^{ij} + (F'(\rho_i) + F'(\rho_j)) W_{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta}^{ij} + (F''(\rho_i) + F''(\rho_j)) V_{\alpha\beta}^{ij} V_{\gamma\delta}^{ij} \right]$$

$$B_{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta}^{ij} = \left( \phi''_{ij} - \frac{\phi'_{ij}}{r^{ij}} \right) \frac{r_{\alpha}^{ij} r_{\beta}^{ij} r_{\gamma}^{ij} r_{\delta}^{ij}}{(r^{ij})^2} \quad W_{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta}^{ij} = \left( \rho''_{ij} - \frac{\rho'_{ij}}{r^{ij}} \right) \frac{r_{\alpha}^{ij} r_{\beta}^{ij} r_{\gamma}^{ij} r_{\delta}^{ij}}{(r^{ij})^2} \quad V_{\alpha\beta}^{ij} = \rho'_{ij} \frac{r_{\alpha}^{ij} r_{\beta}^{ij}}{r^{ij}}$$

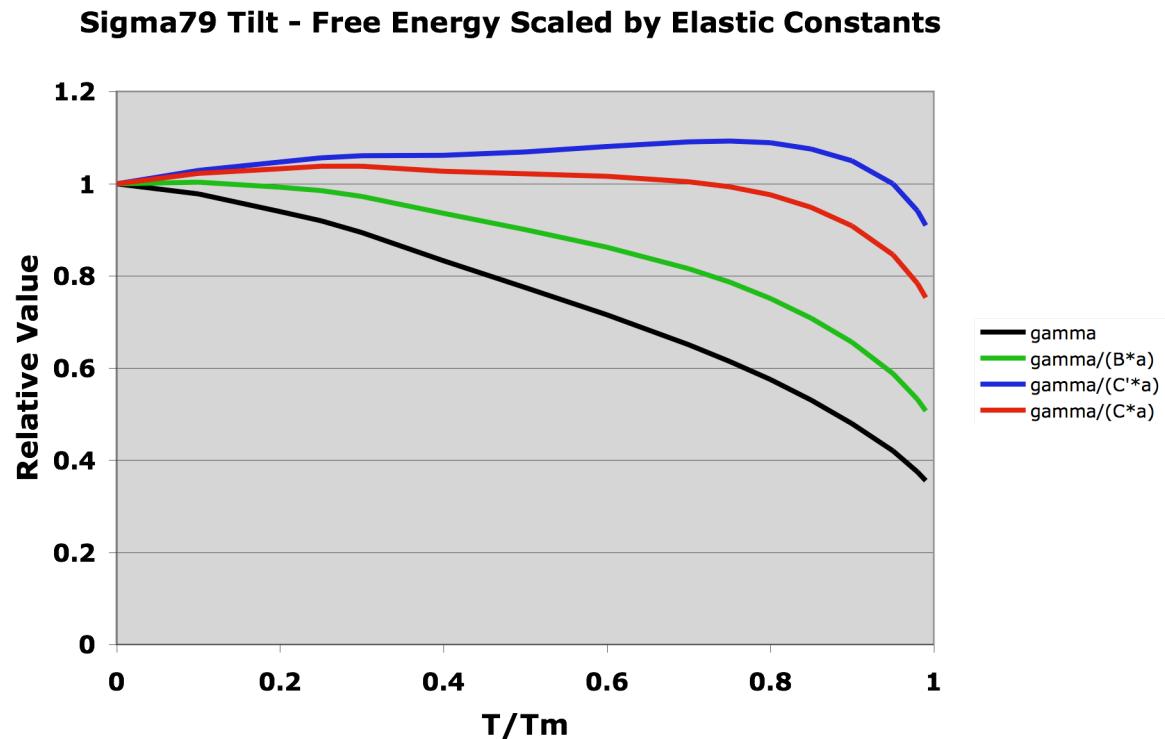
# Computed temperature dependence for the Ni potential similar to experimental data for metals



- Have not found experimental data for Ni
- For Al where experimental data exists up to  $T_M$ 
  - $B(T_M)/B(T=0) = 0.78$
  - $C(T_M)/C(T=0) = 0.57$
  - $C'(T_M)/C'(T=0) = 0.45$

# Grain Boundary Free Energy scales with $C_{44}$ reasonably well up to $T \sim 0.75T_M$

---



- Results suggest that for moderate temperatures the variation of grain boundary free energy is dominated by elastic softening
- For high temperatures other mechanisms contribute