



The interstitial atom that just fits into this interstitial site is shown by the small circle. It is situated in the plane of this (100) face, midway between the two vertical unit cell edges, and one quarter of the distance between the bottom and top cell edges. From the right triangle that is defined by the three arrows we may write

$$\left(\frac{a}{2}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{a}{4}\right)^2 = (R + r)^2$$

However, from Equation 3.3, $a = \frac{4R}{\sqrt{3}}$, and, therefore, making this substitution, the above equation takes the form

$$\left(\frac{4R}{2\sqrt{3}}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{4R}{4\sqrt{3}}\right)^2 = R^2 + 2Rr + r^2$$

After rearrangement the following quadratic equation results:

$$r^2 + 2Rr - 0.667R^2 = 0$$

And upon solving for r :

$$r = \frac{-2R \pm \sqrt{(2R)^2 - (4)(1)(-0.667R^2)}}{2}$$