

### **work of cohesion per unit area**

Of a single pure liquid or solid phase  $\alpha$ ,  $w_C^\alpha$  is the work done on the system when a column  $\alpha$  of unit area is split, reversibly, normal to the axis of the column to form two new surfaces each of unit area in contact with the equilibrium gas phase.

$$w_C^\alpha = 2\gamma^\alpha$$

where  $\gamma^\alpha$  is the *surface tension* between phase  $\alpha$  and its equilibrium vapour or a dilute gas phase.

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