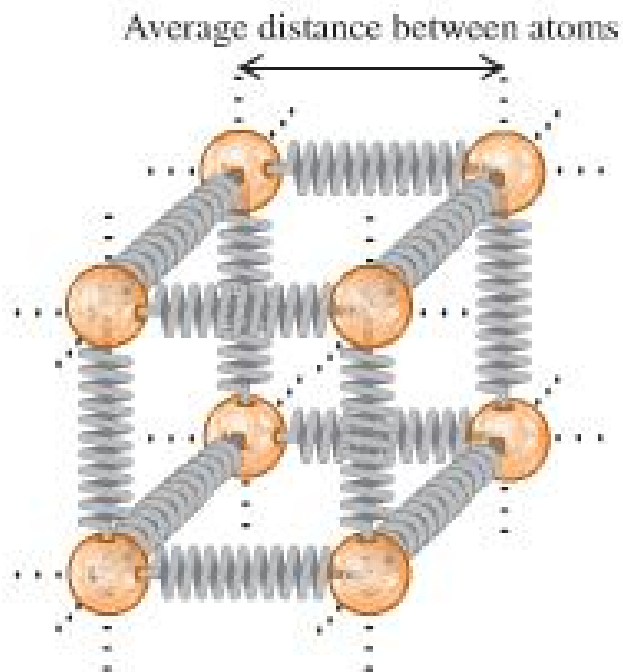


Brainstorming

A spring model between atoms can be postulated to account for thermal expansion of metals. However, it is by no means a panacea. You are encouraged to build your own models or explanation for “thermal contraction” like water and rubber?

(a) A model of the forces between neighboring atoms in a solid



(b) A graph of the "spring" potential energy $U(x)$

