Supporting Information

Germanium Distributions in Zeolites Derived from Neural Network Potentials†

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1 Details of the Computational Models

Table S1 Energy [meV/atom] and force [meV/Å] errors of the trained NNP ensemble calculated for the test set of the training database (in-domain errors).

Table S2 NNP energy [meV/atom] and force [meV/Å] errors calculated for the test set of structures sub-sampled from BHMC runs (out-of-domain errors).

Table S3 The characteristics of the unit cells adopted in simulations.

Table S4 The characteristics of the super-cells adopted to probe the finite-size effects.

Fig. S1 The structure of the zeolites considered in this work highlighting for each topology three types of T-sites present in the frameworks - the T-sites in blue are the D4R sites, the T-sites in violet, directly connected to the D4R, are adjacent sites, and the T-sites in yellow are furthest from D4R, called framework sites. The D4R units in the unit cell are numbered.

Fig. S2 The evaluation of the statistical uncertainty in the values of the Ge-Ge coordination number from 10 independent simulations (in blue, approx. 10K structures considered in each) - the average value (red dashed line) alongside the Mean Absolute Error (MAE) and Root Mean Square Error (RMSE) is provided. The data are for the following models,

UTL zeolite with Si:Ge = 2.8 for both (a) single $(N_{Ge} = 10)$ and (b) supercell $(N_{Ge} = 40)$ calculations.

IWW zeolite with Si:Ge = 1.5 for both (c) single $(N_{Ge} = 44)$ and (d) supercell $(N_{Ge} = 88)$ calculations.

Fig. S3 The evaluation of the statistical uncertainty in the values of the Ge Fraction in D4R T-sites from 10 independent simulations (in blue, approx. 10K structures considered in each) - the average value (red dashed line) alongside the Mean Absolute Error (MAE) and Root Mean Square Error (RMSE) is provided. The data are for the following models,

UTL zeolite with Si:Ge = 2.8 for both (a)single ($N_{\text{Ge}}=10$) and (b) supercell ($N_{\text{Ge}} = 40$) calculations.

IWW zeolite with Si:Ge = 1.5 for both (c)single $(N_{Ge} = 44)$ and (d) supercell $(N_{Ge} = 88)$ calculations.

Fig. S4 Partial Radial Distribution Function (PRDF) of Germanium-Germanium (Ge-Ge) distances for all zeolites (a: UTL, b: BEC, c: CTH, d: UOV, e: IWW) and a selected sub-set of Si/Ge ratios corresponding the germanium loading capable of half- and full-filling of the D4R units in the unit cell (considering around 100k structures for each model). Note, that we used a cut-off of 3.5 Å for evaluation of the Ge-Ge coordination number, at which the value(s) of the Ge-Ge PRDFs are zero.

2 Computational Methodology and Structural Optimization of Zeolites

2.1 DFT Setup and DFT-NNP based optimization

To determine suitable computational parameters for performing benchmarking unit cell optimization at the DFT level with the Vienna ab initio simulation package (VASP) using the projector-augmented wave (PAW) pseudopotential, we considered the model of UTL zeolite with Si:Ge= 4.43, in particular its global structure optimum (GSO) obtained via the BHMC simulation (see Section [2.2](#page-5-0) for the details on the BHMC set-up. We briefly investigated the influence of various computational parameters (exchange-correlation functional, plane-wave cutoffs, k-point sampling density, dispersion correction type) on the structural properties (see [S5\)](#page-5-1). Two functionals of the generalized gradient approximation (GGA) type - Perdew–Burke–Ernzerhof (PBE) 1 1 revised PBE (revPBE) 2 2 - were considered. The empirical D[3](#page-55-3) dispersion correction 3 was considered with two different damping functions - a standard "zero-damping"^{[4](#page-55-4)} model and Becke-Johnson (BJ)^{[5](#page-55-5)} model. For the standard DFT set-up used throughout this work (PBE-D3(BJ) we examined the effect of three plane-wave energy cutoffs (700, 800, and 900 eV). For all (unit cell) optimization tests, we set the wave function convergence to 10−6eV, the force convergence criterion to 0.01 eV \AA^{-1} , and sampled the Brillouin zone with Gamma centred k-point grid.

As shown in Table [S5,](#page-5-1) these tests revealed that all these rather reasonable computational set-up choices have a small (within 3-4 %) but non-negligible effect on the calculated properties of the UTL zeolite. Ultimately, the PBE-D3(BJ) functional at 800 eV was selected as it provided a balance between accuracy and computational efficiency, with the PBE-D3(BJ) functional being used as the reference-level method for generation of the dataset for NNP training (see Section [2.1\)](#page-5-2). This setup was subsequently applied to the DFT-level structure optimization of the GSOs for the remaining zeolites.

Regarding the Neural Network Potential (NNP) based structure optimization, we used our trained potential with the ASE^{[6](#page-55-6)} and SchNetPack^{[7](#page-55-7)} libraries (see Section [2.1\)](#page-5-2). The BFGS algorithm^{[8](#page-55-8)9} drives the optimization process, ensuring convergence by minimizing the maximum atomic forces to 10^{-3} eV \AA^{-1} .

2.2 Data Acquisition and Analysis

We obtained the GSOs for zeolites with various Si:Ge ratios from the BHMC simulations except for the pure silica and pure germanate forms (for which the germanium distribution is trivial). For each GSO structure, we considered various computational set-ups for unit cell optimisation: i) unit cell optimized using Neural Network Potential (NNP) (denoted as **NNP***GSO*), ii) unit cell optimized using DFT (denoted as PBE-D3(BJ)) method (**DFT***GSO*), iii) unit cell optimized using DFT followed by NNP geometry optimisation with the unit cell fixed (denoted as **DFT/NNP***ReoptGSO*).

These structures were then analysed to procure the data for comparison, i.e., cell parameters, volume, $T - O - T$ ($T =$ Si/Ge) bond angles and *T* −*O* (*T* = Si/Ge) bond lengths (Tables [S6](#page-6-0) to [S15\)](#page-9-0). Also, in the tables for bond angles and bond lengths (Tables [S11](#page-7-0) to [S15\)](#page-9-0), we provide the values for these structural parameters obtained from the BHMC simulation by taking an average across all the BHMC steps, similarly as done in the main text in Section [3.2](#page-0-0) (denoted as **NNP***Sim*−*Avg*). All the GSO structures, including the optimised GSO using various methods, and the scripts used for the evaluation of the data are available here: https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.13357083. Finally, in the Tables [S6](#page-6-0) to [S15](#page-9-0) we provide any reported data from the literature (both experimental and from simulation) for the zeolites considered (denoted as **Reported** or **Experiment**).

Table S6 Comparison of cell parameters and unit cell volumes for STW zeolite with various Si/Ge ratios. Data was obtained for different Global Structure Optima (GSO) at their respective Si/Ge ratios: [1] Unit cell optimized using Neural Network Potential (NNP) as NNP*GSO*, [2] Unit cell optimized using Density Functional Theory [PBE-D3(BJ)] method as DFT*GSO*, [3] The experimental data reported in the literature are denoted as Experiment.

| STW: Si/Ge | | ∞ | 3.0 | | | 0.7 | |
|----------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | NNP_{GSO} | 12.05, 12.05, 30.03 | 12.08, 12.05, 30.01 | 12.09, 12.09, 30.08 | 12.13, 12.13, 30.15 | 12.2, 12.2, 30.41 | 12.57, 12.57, 30.76 |
| a, b, c (Å) | DFT_{GSO} | 12.02, 12.02, 30.06 | 12.08, 12.05, 30.11 | 12.11, 12.07, 30.16 | 12.12. 12.16. 30.15 | 12.2. 12.2. 30.41 | 12.69, 12.62, 30.82 |
| | Experiment | 11.94, 11.94, 29.75 ^{10 11} | 12.05, 12.05, 29.95 10 | 12.09, 12.09, 30.08 ¹⁰ | $12.1, 12.1, 30.08$ ¹⁰ | 12.16, 12.16, 30.25 ¹⁰ | $12.43, 12.43, 30.63$ ¹⁰ |
| | NNP_{GSO} | 3774 | 3787 | 3819 | 3848.44 | 3930 | 4218 |
| Volume (A^3) | DFT_{GSO} | 3763 | 3798 | 3829 | 3848 | 3930 | 4278 |
| | Experiment | $3650^{10}/3670^{11}$ | 3750 ¹⁰ | 3810 10 | 3825 10 | 3878 10 | 4096 10 |

Table S7 Comparison of cell parameters and unit cell volumes for BEC zeolite with various Si/Ge ratios. Data was obtained for different Global Structure Optima (GSO) at their respective Si/Ge ratios: [1] Unit cell optimized using Neural Network Potential (NNP) as NNP*GSO*, [2] Unit cell optimized using Density Functional Theory [PBE-D3(BJ)] method as DFT*GSO*, [3] The experimental data reported in the literature are denoted as Experiment.

| BEC: Si/Ge | | ∞ | | | 3.57 | 1.91 | 1.0 | |
|------------------|-------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| | NNP_{GSO} | 12.56, 12.56, 13.29 | 12.68, 12.62, 13.38 | 12.74, 12.65, 13.37 | 12.78, 12.68, 13.38 | 12.76, 12.61, 13.38 | 12.84, 12.69, 13.44 | 12.82, 12.82, 14.06 |
| a,b,c (A) | DFT_{GSO} | 12.63, 12.63, 13.29 | 12.75, 12.66, 13.36 | 12.82, 12.73, 13.32 | 12.84, 12.78, 13.32 | 12.76, 12.62, 13.38 | 12.84, 12.69, 13.45 | 12.92, 12.92, 14.08 |
| | Experiment | | | | | 12.82, 12.82, 13.35 Exp ¹² | | |
| | NNP_{GSO} | 2096 | 2141 | 2156 | 2170 | 2153 | 2192 | 2311 |
| Volume (\AA^3) | DFT_{GSO} | 2122 | 2157 | 2173 | 2185 | 2153 | 2192 | 2349 |
| | Experiment | | 2145 13 | 2144 13 | 2167 13 | 2194 12 | 2215 13 | |

Table S8 Comparison of cell parameters and unit cell volumes for AST zeolite with various Si/Ge ratios. Data was obtained for different Global Structure Optima (GSO) at their respective Si/Ge ratios: [1] Unit cell optimized using Neural Network Potential (NNP) as NNP*GSO*, [2] Unit cell optimized using Density Functional Theory [PBE-D3(BJ)] method as DFT*GSO*, [3] The experimental data reported in the literature are denoted as Experiment..

| AST: Si/Ge | | ∞ | 1.2 | 0.67 | 0.33 | 0.17 | |
|------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | NNP_{GSO} | 9.02, 9.02, 13.54 | 8.72, 8.72, 14.37 | 8.87, 8.86, 14.33 | 8.86 8.85, 14.49 | 8.83, 8.78, 14.67 | 8.57, 8.54, 15.07 |
| a, b, c (A) | DFT_{GSO} | 9.04, 9.04, 13.82 | 8.99, 8.99, 14.18 | 9.11, 9.12, 14.15 | 9.16, 9.12, 14.24 | 9.07, 9.14, 14.38 | 8.73, 8.91, 14.83 |
| | Experiment | $9.07, 9.07, 13.44$ ¹⁴ | 9.34, 9.34, 13.75 ¹⁵ | 9.36, 9.36, 13.89 ¹⁵ | 9.37, 9.37, 13.99 ¹⁵ | $9.37, 9.37, 14.04$ ¹⁵ | $9.27, 9.27, 14.35$ ¹⁴ |
| | NNP_{GSO} | 1102 | 1092 | 1127 | 1137 | 1137 | 1103 |
| Volume (\AA^3) | \mathbf{DFT}_{GSO} | 1130 | 1147 | 1175 | 1189 | 1192.21 | 1154 |
| | Experiment | 1105 ¹⁴ | 1200 ¹⁵ | 1217 ¹⁵ | 1229 15 | 1233 15 | 1233^{14} |

Table S9 Comparison of cell parameters and unit cell volumes for ASV zeolite with various Si/Ge ratios. Data was obtained for different Global Structure Optima (GSO) at their respective Si/Ge ratios: [1] Unit cell optimized using Neural Network Potential (NNP) as NNP*GSO*, [2] Unit cell optimized using Density Functional Theory [PBE-D3(BJ)] method as DFT*GSO*, [3] The experimental data reported in the literature are denoted as Experiment.

Table S10 Comparison of cell parameters and unit cell volumes for UTL zeolite with Si/Ge ratio=4.43. Data was obtained for different Global Structure Optima (GSO) at the respective Si/Ge ratio: [1] Unit cell optimized using Neural Network Potential (NNP) as NNP_{GSO}, [2] Unit cell optimized using Density Functional Theory [PBE-D3(BJ)] method as DFT*GSO*, [3] The experimental data reported in the literature are denoted as Experiment.

* The unit cell data is adjusted for primitive cell.

Table S11 Comparison of various *T* −*O*−*T* (*T* = Si/Ge) bond angles and *T* −*O* (*T* = Si/Ge) bond lengths for STW zeolite with different Si/Ge ratios alongside pure germania and silica. Data was obtained using different methods for the average bond angle and lengths: [1] Unit cell optimized using Neural Network Potential (NNP) - NNP*GSO*, [2] Unit cell optimized using Density Functional Theory [PBE-D3(BJ)] method - DFT*GSO*, [3] Unit cell optimized using DFT as before followed by NNP geometry optimisation - DFT/NNP*ReoptGSO*, [4] Average from the BHMC simulation using Neural Network Potential (NNP) - NNP*Sim*−*Avg* [5] The data reported in the literature either from theory or experiment based upon availability.

^a Theoretical Data.

b Experimental Data.

Table S12 Comparison of various *T* −*O*−*T* (*T* = Si/Ge) bond angles and *T* −*O* (*T* = Si/Ge) bond lengths for BEC zeolite with different Si/Ge ratios alongside pure germania and silica. Data was obtained using different methods for the average bond angle and lengths: [1] Unit cell optimized using Neural Network Potential (NNP) - NNP*GSO*, [2] Unit cell optimized using Density Functional Theory [PBE-D3(BJ)] method - DFT*GSO*, [3] Unit cell optimized using DFT as before followed by NNP geometry optimisation - DFT/NNP*ReoptGSO*, [4] Average from the BHMC simulation using Neural Network Potential (NNP) - NNP*Sim*−*Avg* [5] The data reported in the literature either from theory or experiment based upon availability.

| BEC: Si/Ge | | ∞ | 7.0 | 4.3 | 3.57 | 1.91 | 1.0 | $\bf{0}$ |
|--------------|--|------------------------|---------------|--------|--------|--------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| | $\overline{\text{NNP}_{GSO}}$ | | 136 | 133 | 132 | 130 | 130 | 133 |
| $Ge-O-Ge(°)$ | \mathbf{DFT}_{GSO} | | 134 | 131 | 130 | 128 | 128 | 130 |
| | $\mathbf{DFT}/\mathbf{NNP}_{ReoptGSO}$ | | 136 | 133 | 132 | 130 | 130 | 134 |
| | $\mathbf{NNP}_{Sim-Avg}$ | | 133 | 132 | 132 | 131 | 129 | |
| | Reported | | | | | | \blacksquare | $123.2 - 144.8$ ^{19a} |
| | $\overline{\text{NNP}_{GSO}}$ | | 133 | 134 | 135 | 137 | 139 | |
| | \mathbf{DFT}_{GSO} | | 131 | 132 | 134 | 135 | 137 | |
| $Si-O-Ge(°)$ | $\mathbf{DFT}/\mathbf{NNP}_{ReoptGSO}$ | | 134 | 135 | 136 | 137 | 139 | |
| | $\mathbf{NNP}_{Sim-Avg}$ | | 139 | 138 | 138 | 137 | 137 | |
| | Reported | | | | | | | |
| | $\overline{\textbf{N}}\textbf{NP}_{GSO}$ | 146 | 148 | 148 | 149 | 146 | 147 | |
| | \mathbf{DFT}_{GSO} | 148 | 149 | 149 | 149 | 146 | 148 | |
| $Si-O-Si(°)$ | $\mathbf{DFT}/\mathbf{NNP}_{ReoptGSO}$ | 147 | 149 | 149 | 149 | 146 | 146 | |
| | $\mathbf{NNP}_{Sim-Avg}$ | | 147 | 147 | 147 | 146 | 146 | |
| | Reported | 142-162 ^{20a} | $\frac{1}{2}$ | | | | | |
| | NNP_{GSO} | 1.6246 | 1.6243 | 1.6249 | 1.6248 | 1.6269 | 1.6270 | |
| | \mathbf{DFT}_{GSO} | 1.6228 | 1.6231 | 1.6239 | 1.6240 | 1.6261 | 1.6266 | |
| $Si-O(\AA)$ | $\mathbf{DFT}/\mathbf{NNP}_{ReoptGSO}$ | 1.6249 | 1.6243 | 1.6249 | 1.6248 | 1.6269 | 1.6270 | |
| | $\mathbf{NNP}_{Sim-Avg}$ | | 1.6260 | 1.6263 | 1.6264 | 1.6273 | 1.6281 | |
| | Reported | | | | | | | |
| $Ge-O(\AA)$ | NNP_{GSO} | | 1.7549 | 1.7554 | 1.7557 | 1.7567 | 1.7591 | 1.7601 |
| | \mathbf{DFT}_{GSO} | | 1.7789 | 1.7782 | 1.7782 | 1.7803 | 1.7822 | 1.7849 |
| | $\mathbf{DFT}/\mathbf{NNP}_{ReoptGSO}$ | | 1.7554 | 1.7560 | 1.7563 | 1.7567 | 1.7591 | 1.7609 |
| | $\mathbf{NNP}_{Sim-Avg}$ | | 1.7492 | 1.7509 | 1.7515 | 1.7533 | 1.7533 | |
| | Reported | | | | | | | $1.711 - 1.807$ ^{19b} |

a Theoretical Data.

b Experimental Data.

Table S13 Comparison of various *T* −*O*−*T* (*T* = Si/Ge) bond angles and *T* −*O* (*T* = Si/Ge) bond lengths for AST zeolite with different Si/Ge ratios alongside pure germania and silica. Data was obtained using different methods for the average bond angle and lengths: [1] Unit cell optimized using Neural Network Potential (NNP) - NNP*GSO*, [2] Unit cell optimized using Density Functional Theory [PBE-D3(BJ)] method - DFT*GSO*, [3] Unit cell optimized using DFT as before followed by NNP geometry optimisation - DFT/NNP*ReoptGSO*, [4] Average from the BHMC simulation using Neural Network Potential (NNP) - NNP*Sim*−*Avg* [5] The data reported in the literature either from theory or experiment based upon availability.

a Theoretical Data.

b Experimental Data.

Table S14 Comparison of various *T* −*O*−*T* (*T* = Si/Ge) bond angles and *T* −*O* (*T* = Si/Ge) bond lengths for ASV zeolite with different Si/Ge ratios alongside pure germania and silica. Data was obtained using different methods for the average bond angle and lengths: [1] Unit cell optimized using Neural Network Potential (NNP) - NNP*GSO*, [2] Unit cell optimized using Density Functional Theory [PBE-D3(BJ)] method - DFT*GSO*, [3] Unit cell optimized using DFT as before followed by NNP geometry optimisation - DFT/NNP*ReoptGSO*, [4] Average from the BHMC simulation using Neural Network Potential (NNP) - NNP*Sim*−*Avg* [5] The data reported in the literature either from theory or experiment based upon availability.

^a Theoretical Data.

b Experimental Data.

Table S15 Comparison of various *T* −*O*−*T* (*T* = Si/Ge) bond angles and *T* −*O* (*T* = Si/Ge) bond lengths for UTL zeolite with Si/Ge ratio=4.43. Data was obtained using different methods for the average bond angle and lengths: [1] Unit cell optimized using Neural Network Potential (NNP) - NNP_{GSO}, [2] Unit cell optimized using Density Functional Theory [PBE-D3(BJ)] method - DFT*GSO*, [3] Unit cell optimized using DFT as before followed by NNP geometry optimisation - DFT/NNP*ReoptGSO*, [4] Average from the BHMC simulation using Neural Network Potential (NNP) - NNP*Sim*−*Avg* [5] The data reported in the literature either from theory or experiment based upon availability.

| UTL: Si/Ge | 4.43 | |
|--------------|---|------------------------------|
| | \textbf{NNP}_{GSO} | 132 |
| | DFT_{GSO} | 131 |
| $Ge-O-Ge(°)$ | $\text{DFT}/\text{NNP}_{\text{ReoptGSO}}$ | 133 |
| | $\mathbf{NNP}_{Sim-Avg}$ | 130 |
| | Reported | $128 - 135^{21a}$ |
| | NNP_{GSO} | 130 |
| | DFT_{GSO} | 129 |
| $Si-O-Ge(°)$ | $\text{DFT}/\text{NNP}_{\text{ReoptGSO}}$ | 131 |
| | $\mathbf{NNP}_{Sim-Avg}$ | 133 |
| | Reported | $135 - 155^{21a}$ |
| | $\overline{\text{NNP}}_{GSO}$ | 149 |
| | DFT_{GSO} | 150 |
| $Si-O-Si(°)$ | $\text{DFT}/\text{NNP}_{\text{ReoptGSO}}$ | 150 |
| | $\mathbf{NNP}_{Sim-Avg}$ | 147 |
| | Reported | 145-162 ^{21a} |
| | NNP_{GSO} | 1.6238 |
| | DFT_{GSO} | 1.6228 |
| $Si-O(\AA)$ | $\text{DFT}/\text{NNP}_{\text{ReoptGSO}}$ | 1.6329 |
| | $\mathbf{NNP}_{Sim-Avg}$ | 1.6326 |
| | Reported | $1.61 - 1.64$ ^{21a} |
| | $\overline{\text{NNP}}_{GSO}$ | 1.7583 |
| | DFT_{GSO} | 1.7819 |
| Ge-O(Å) | $\text{DFT}/\text{NNP}_{\text{ReoptGSO}}$ | 1.7598 |
| | $\mathbf{NNP}_{Sim-Avg}$ | 1.7504 |
| | Reported | $1.77 - 1.80$ ^{21a} |

^a Theoretical Data.

b Experimental Data.

The data doesn't correspond to the particular Si/Ge ratio. [21](#page-55-21)

3 Results: Metrics Characterizing Germanium Distributions

(a) Coordination number in D4R T-sites (for Ge-Ge) [CNGe−Ge] across zeolites at various Si/Ge ratios

(b) Excess coordination number in D4R T-sites (for Ge-Ge) $\text{[CN}^{\text{ex}}_{\text{Ge}-\text{Ge}}\text{]}$ across zeolites at various Si/Ge ratios

Fig. S5 Quantification of the clustering tendency of germanium (irrespective of the T site type) across a range of Si/Ge ratios and all zeolite topologies considered focused only on the clustering in D4R T-sites only (See SI Figure [S1\)](#page-2-0), namely: (a) CN(Ge-Ge) [CN_{Ge-Ge}]: Ge-Ge coordination number, and (b) Excess CN(Ge-Ge) [CN $_{\rm Ge-Ge}^{\rm ex}$]: the excess Ge-Ge coordination number, measuring the "over"-clustering of germanium compared to the degree of germanium clustering for a uniform germanium distribution. The CNs are evaluated only for the D4R T-sites considering only the nearest neighbours located in the D4R unit (i.e., not in the adjacent T sites) - this limits the maximum Ge-Ge CN to three only. (See Section [2.3](#page-0-0) in the main text)

Si/Ge Ratio (a) Coordination-Number in D4R T-sites (for Ge-Ge) [CN_{Ge-Ge}] across zeolites at various Si/Ge ratios

(b) Excess coordination number in D4R T-sites (for Ge-Ge) $\text{[CN}^{\text{ex}}_{\text{Ge}-\text{Ge}}\text{]}$ across zeolites at various Si/Ge ratios

Fig. S6 Quantification of the clustering tendency of germanium (irrespective of the T site) across a range of Si/Ge ratios and all zeolite topologies considered focused only on the clustering in D4R T-sites, namely: (a) CN(Ge-Ge) [CN_{Ge-Ge}]: Ge-Ge coordination number, and (b) Excess CN(Ge-Ge) [CN $_{\rm Ge-Ge}^{\rm ex}$]: the excess Ge-Ge coordination number, measuring the "over"-clustering of germanium compared to the degree of germanium clustering for a uniform germanium distribution. The CNs are evaluated only for the D4R T-sites, but now considering all the nearest neighbours including those in the adjacent T sites (See SI Figure [S1\)](#page-2-0) - the maximum Ge-Ge CN can be then four. (See Section [2.3](#page-0-0) in the main text)

(a) Coordination number (for Ge-Ge) [CNGe−Ge] in adjacent and framework T-sites across zeolites at various Si/Ge ratios

(b) Excess coordination number in adjacent and framework T-sites (for Ge-Ge) $[\mathrm{CN^{ex}_{Ge-Ge}}]$ across zeolites at various Si/Ge ratios

Fig. S7 Quantification of the clustering tendency of germanium (irrespective of the T site) across a range of Si/Ge ratios and all zeolite topologies considered focused only on the clustering in adjacent and framework sites (See SI Figure [S1\)](#page-2-0), namely: (a) CN(Ge-Ge) [CN_{Ge-Ge}]: Ge-Ge coordination number, and (b) Excess CN(Ge-Ge) [CN $_{\rm Ge-Ge}^{\rm ex}$]: the excess Ge-Ge coordination number, measuring the "over"-clustering of germanium compared to the degree of germanium clustering for a uniform germanium distribution. (See Section [2.3](#page-0-0) in the main text)

Fig. S8 The correlation between the unique Ge-O-Ge count in a structure and a potential energy of the structure (in eV) for the zeolite topologies (single or unit cells) considered across a range of Si/Ge ratios. The Pearson's correlation coefficients $(R)^{22}$ $(R)^{22}$ $(R)^{22}$ are provided in the legend descriptions.

Fig. S9 The Excess Occupation of germanium in D4R [in %], measuring the excess occupation of D4R units by germanium compared to the case of uniform germanium distribution (yellow dashed line) across all the T sites. (See Section [2.3](#page-0-0) in the main text)

Fig. S10 The Ge Fraction in different D4R sites (See Section [2.3](#page-0-0) in the main text) as a function of Si/Ge ratio for the zeolite topologies with more than one D4R unit per unit cell (i.e., except UTL); the numbering of D4R units follows the SI Figure [S1,](#page-2-0) with each of the D4R units being composed of the following crystallographically inequivalent T sites (based on the IZA nomenclature^{[23](#page-55-23)}): (a) BEC: D4R1/2-[T1], (b) CTH: D4R1/2-[T2], (c) UOV: D4R1-[T3-T6] , D4R2-[T3-T6] , D4R3-[T17-19], (d) IWW: D4R1/2/3/4- [T1-T4].

Fig. S11 The frequency distribution of the Ge counts in D4R unit of the UTL zeolite (single-cell model), for approx. 100k structures sampled for each of Si/Ge ratio considered (or alternatively expressed via N_{Ge}/unit-cell). The histogram (bars) shows the frequency of occurrences (primary y-axis) for each Ge count from 0 to 8 (x-axis) in a D4R, while the line plot (purple) represents the percentage of structures (D4Rs) with the corresponding Ge count in the D4R (secondary y-axis) amongst all the structures (D4Rs).

Fig. S12 The frequency distribution of the Ge counts in D4R unit of the BEC zeolite (single-cell model), for approx. 100k structures sampled for each of Si/Ge ratio considered (or alternatively expressed via N_{Ge}/unit-cell). The histogram (bars) shows the frequency of occurrences (primary y-axis) for each Ge count from 0 to 8 (x-axis) in a D4R, while the line plot (purple) represents the percentage of D4Rs with the corresponding Ge count (secondary y-axis) amongst all the structures (D4Rs).

Fig. S13 The frequency distribution of the Ge counts in D4R unit of the CTH(-A) zeolite (single-cell model), for approx. 100k structures sampled for each of Si/Ge ratio considered (or alternatively expressed via N_{Ge}/unit-cell). The histogram (bars) shows the frequency of occurrences (primary y-axis) for each Ge count from 0 to 8 (x-axis) in a D4R, while the line plot (purple) represents the percentage of D4Rs with the corresponding Ge count (secondary y-axis) amongst all the structures (D4Rs).

Fig. S14 The frequency distribution of the Ge counts in D4R unit of the UOV zeolite (single-cell model), for approx. 100k structures sampled for each of Si/Ge ratio considered (or alternatively expressed via N_{Ge}/unit-cell). The histogram (bars) shows the frequency of occurrences (primary y-axis) for each Ge count from 0 to 8 (x-axis) in a D4R, while the line plot (purple) represents the percentage of D4Rs with the corresponding Ge count (secondary y-axis) amongst all the structures (D4Rs).

Fig. S15 The frequency distribution of the Ge counts in D4R unit of the IWW zeolite (single-cell model), for approx. 100k structures sampled for each of Si/Ge ratio considered (or alternatively expressed via N_{Ge}/unit-cell). The histogram (bars) shows the frequency of occurrences (primary y-axis) for each Ge count from 0 to 8 (x-axis) in a D4R, while the line plot (purple) represents the percentage of D4Rs with the corresponding Ge count (secondary y-axis) amongst all the structures (D4Rs).

Fig. S16 The Ge fraction in different types of T-sites (D4R, adjacent, framework) in BEC zeolite (single-cell model) at various germanium loadings per unit cell, showing the relative preference of germanium for these T-sites. Solid lines represent our data, while dashed lines indicate reported data from the literature 13 for comparison

Fig. S17 Germanium occupation of different T-sites (T1-T5) in STW zeolite as a function of germanium content (Ge/(Si + Ge)) in the zeolite. Solid lines with filled markers represent data obtained from our NNP-based BHMC simulation[s2.2,](#page-5-0) while scattered empty marker points correspond to experimental data reported in the literature 10 10 10 for comparison.

4 Results: Global Structure Optima (GSO) for all zeolites and Si/Ge ratios

Fig. S18 The global structure optima for UTL zeolite (single-cell model) at all Si/Ge ratios considered in this work, where N_{Ge} , No. of Ge/Unit Cell. The zeolite structure is viewed along the c-axis, onto the a-b plane. In this orientation, the a-axis is horizontal, and the b-axis is vertical.

Fig. S19 The global structure optima for BEC zeolite (single-cell model) at all Si/Ge ratios considered in this work, where N_{Ge}, No. of Ge/Unit Cell. The zeolite structure is viewed along the c-axis, onto the a-b plane. In this orientation, the a-axis is horizontal, and the b-axis is vertical.

Fig. S20 The global structure optima for CTH(-A) zeolite (single-cell model) at all Si/Ge ratios considered in this work, where N_{Ge}, No. of Ge/Unit Cell. The zeolite structure is viewed along the a-axis, onto the b-c plane. In this orientation, the c-axis is horizontal, and the b-axis is vertical.

Fig. S21 The global structure optima for UOV zeolite (single-cell model) at all Si/Ge ratios considered in this work, where N_{Ge}, No. of Ge/Unit Cell. The zeolite structure is viewed along the a-axis, onto the b-c plane. In this orientation, the c-axis is horizontal, and the b-axis is vertical.

Fig. S22 The global structure optima for IWW zeolite (single-cell model) at all Si/Ge ratios considered in this work, where N_{Ge}, No. of Ge/Unit Cell. The zeolite structure is viewed along the a-axis, onto the b-c plane. In this orientation, the b-axis is horizontal, and the c-axis is vertical.

5 Results: Representative low-energy structures for all zeolites and Si/Ge ratios

Fig. S23 Low energy structures (with relative energy *E*rel < 10kJ/mol) for UOV and IWW zeolites (a single-cell model, where *N*Ge, No. of Ge/Unit Cell) highlighting (numbered) the Single-Four-Membered Rings (S4Rs) occupied heavily with germanium atoms (cyan).

Fig. S24 Representative low-energy structures (with relative energy *E*rel < 10kJ/mol) for UTL zeolite (single-cell model) where *N*Ge, No. of Ge/Unit Cell is equal to half-filling of all D4R unit T-sites. The zeolite structure is viewed along the c-axis, onto the a-b plane. In this orientation, the a-axis is horizontal, and the b-axis is vertical.

Fig. S25 Representative low-energy structures (with relative energy *E*rel < 10kJ/mol) for UTL zeolite (single-cell model) where *N*Ge, No. of Ge/Unit Cell is equal to full-filling of all D4R unit T-sites. The zeolite structure is viewed along the c-axis, onto the a-b plane. In this orientation, the a-axis is horizontal, and the b-axis is vertical.

Fig. S26 Representative low-energy structures (with relative energy *E*rel < 10kJ/mol) for UTL zeolite (single-cell model) where *N*Ge, No. of Ge/Unit Cell is maximum in our simulation. The zeolite structure is viewed along the c-axis, onto the a-b plane. In this orientation, the a-axis is horizontal, and the b-axis is vertical.

Fig. S27 Representative low-energy structures (with relative energy *E*rel < 10kJ/mol) for BEC zeolite (single-cell model) where *N*Ge, No. of Ge/Unit Cell is equal to half-filling of all D4R unit T-sites. The zeolite structure is viewed along the c-axis, onto the a-b plane. In this orientation, the a-axis is horizontal, and the b-axis is vertical.

Fig. S28 Representative low-energy structures (with relative energy *E*rel < 10kJ/mol) for BEC zeolite (single-cell model) where *N*Ge, No. of Ge/Unit Cell is equal to full-filling of all D4R unit T-sites, in this case it is also the maximum germanium loading considered in our simulation. The zeolite structure is viewed along the c-axis, onto the a-b plane. In this orientation, the a-axis is horizontal, and the b-axis is vertical.

Fig. S29 Representative low-energy structures (with relative energy *E*rel < 10kJ/mol) for CTH(-A) zeolite (single-cell model) where *N*Ge, No. of Ge/Unit Cell is equal to half-filling of all D4R unit T-sites. The zeolite structure is viewed along the a-axis, onto the b-c plane. In this orientation, the c-axis is horizontal, and the b-axis is vertical.

Fig. S30 Representative low-energy structures (with relative energy *E*rel < 10kJ/mol) for CTH(-A) zeolite (single-cell model) where *N*Ge, No. of Ge/Unit Cell is equal to full-filling of all D4R unit T-sites. The zeolite structure is viewed along the a-axis, onto the b-c plane. In this orientation, the c-axis is horizontal, and the b-axis is vertical.

Fig. S31 Representative low-energy structures (with relative energy *E*rel < 10kJ/mol) for CTH(-A) zeolite (single-cell model) where *N*Ge, No. of Ge/Unit Cell is equal to the maximum germanium considered in our simulation. The zeolite structure is viewed along the a-axis, onto the b-c plane. In this orientation, the c-axis is horizontal, and the b-axis is vertical.

Fig. S32 Representative low-energy structures (with relative energy *E*rel < 10kJ/mol) for UOV zeolite (single-cell model) where *N*Ge, No. of Ge/Unit Cell is equal to half-filling of all D4R unit T-sites. The zeolite structure is viewed along the a-axis, onto the b-c plane. In this orientation, the c-axis is horizontal, and the b-axis is vertical.

Fig. S33 Representative low-energy structures (with relative energy *E*rel < 10kJ/mol) for UOV zeolite (single-cell model) where *N*Ge, No. of Ge/Unit Cell is equal to full-filling of all D4R unit T-sites. The zeolite structure is viewed along the a-axis, onto the b-c plane. In this orientation, the c-axis is horizontal, and the b-axis is vertical.

Fig. S34 Representative low-energy structures (with relative energy *E*rel < 10kJ/mol) for UOV zeolite (single-cell model) where *N*Ge, No. of Ge/Unit Cell is equal to the maximum germanium considered in our simulation. The zeolite structure is viewed along the a-axis, onto the b-c plane. In this orientation, the c-axis is horizontal, and the b-axis is vertical.

Fig. S35 Representative low-energy structures (with relative energy *E*rel < 10kJ/mol) for IWW zeolite (single-cell model) where *N*Ge, No. of Ge/Unit Cell is equal to half-filling of all D4R unit T-sites. The zeolite structure is viewed along the a-axis, onto the b-c plane. In this orientation, the b-axis is horizontal, and the c-axis is vertical.

Fig. S36 Representative low-energy structures (with relative energy *E*rel < 10kJ/mol) for IWW zeolite (single-cell model) where *N*Ge, No. of Ge/Unit Cell is equal to full-filling of all D4R unit T-sites. The zeolite structure is viewed along the a-axis, onto the b-c plane. In this orientation, the b-axis is horizontal, and the c-axis is vertical.

Fig. S37 Representative low-energy structures (with relative energy *E*rel < 10kJ/mol) for IWW zeolite (single-cell model) where *N*Ge, No. of Ge/Unit Cell is equal to the maximum germanium considered in our simulation. The zeolite structure is viewed along the a-axis, onto the b-c plane. In this orientation, the b-axis is horizontal, and the c-axis is vertical.

Fig. S38 Quantification of the D4R occupation and the clustering tendency (irrespective of the T-site type) of germanium as a function of the simulation cell size for UTL, BEC, CTH and IWW zeolite topologies for a few selected values of Si/Ge ratio, using the metrics defined in Section [2.3,](#page-0-0) namely: (a) Ge Fraction[%] in D4R and Ge Count/D4R in primary and secondary y-axis, respectively and (b) Total CN(Ge-Ge): Ge-Ge coordination number

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Fig. S39 Quantification of the finite size effects on one of the characteristics of the germanium distribution, the occupation frequency [in %] (see Section [2.3](#page-0-0) for definition) of germanium atoms in different types of T sites - (a) D4R, (b) adjacent, (c) framework (see also Figure SI [S1\)](#page-2-0)

Fig. S40 The GSO structures for UTL zeolite (super-cell model) at various Si/Ge where N_{Ge}, No. of Ge/Unit Cell. The zeolite structure: viewed along the c-axis, onto the a-b plane. In this orientation, the a-axis is horizontal, and the b-axis is vertical.

Fig. S41 Representative low-energy structures (with relative energy *E*rel < 10kJ/mol) for UTL zeolite (super-cell model) where *N*Ge, No. of Ge/Unit Cell is equal to the full-filling of all D4R unit T-sites. The zeolite structure is viewed along the c-axis, onto the a-b plane. In this orientation, the a-axis is horizontal, and the b-axis is vertical.

Fig. S42 Representative low-energy structures (with relative energy *E*rel < 10kJ/mol) for UTL zeolite (super-cell model) where *N*Ge, No. of Ge/Unit Cell is equal to maximum germanium considered in our simulation. The zeolite structure is viewed along the c-axis, onto the a-b plane. In this orientation, the a-axis is horizontal, and the b-axis is vertical.

Fig. S43 The GSO structures for BEC zeolite (super-cell model) at various Si/Ge where N_{Ge}, No. of Ge/Unit Cell. The zeolite structure is viewed along the c-axis, onto the a-b plane. In this orientation, the a-axis is horizontal, and the b-axis is vertical.

Fig. S44 Representative low-energy structures (with relative energy *E*rel < 10kJ/mol) for BEC zeolite (super-cell model) where *N*Ge, No. of Ge/Unit Cell is equal to the full-filling of all D4R unit T-sites, which is also the maximum germanium loading considered in our simulation. The zeolite structure is viewed along the c-axis, onto the a-b plane. In this orientation, the a-axis is horizontal, and the b-axis is vertical.

Fig. S45 The GSO structures for CTH(-A) zeolite (super-cell model) at various Si/Ge where *N*Ge, No. of Ge/Unit Cell. The zeolite structure is viewed along the a-axis, onto the b-c plane. In this orientation, the c-axis is horizontal, and the b-axis is vertical.

Fig. S46 Representative low-energy structures (with relative energy *E*rel < 10kJ/mol) for CTH(-A) zeolite (super-cell model) where *N*Ge, No. of Ge/Unit Cell is equal to the full-filling of all D4R unit T-sites. The zeolite structure is viewed along the a-axis, onto the b-c plane. In this orientation, the c-axis is horizontal, and the b-axis is vertical.

Fig. S47 Representative low-energy structures (with relative energy *E*rel < 10kJ/mol) for CTH(-A) zeolite (super-cell model) where *N*Ge, No. of Ge/Unit Cell is equal to maximum germanium considered in our simulation. The zeolite structure is viewed along the a-axis, onto the b-c plane. In this orientation, the c-axis is horizontal, and the b-axis is vertical.

Fig. S48 The GSO structures for IWW zeolite (super-cell model) at various Si/Ge where N_{Ge}, No. of Ge/Unit Cell. The zeolite structure is viewed along the a-axis, onto the b-c plane. In this orientation, the b-axis is horizontal, and the c-axis is vertical.

Fig. S49 Representative low-energy structures (with relative energy *E*rel < 10kJ/mol) for IWW zeolite (super-cell model) where *N*Ge, No. of Ge/Unit Cell is almost equal to the full-filling of all D4R unit T-sites. The zeolite structure is viewed along the a-axis, onto the b-c plane. In this orientation, the b-axis is horizontal, and the c-axis is vertical.

Fig. S50 Representative low-energy structures (with relative energy *E*rel < 10kJ/mol) for IWW zeolite (super-cell model) where *N*Ge, No. of Ge/Unit Cell is equal to maximum germanium considered in our simulation. The zeolite structure is viewed along the a-axis, onto the b-c plane. In this orientation, the b-axis is horizontal, and the c-axis is vertical.

Fig. S51 The correlation between the unique Ge-O-Ge count in a structure and a potential energy of the structure (in eV) for the zeolite topologies (supercells) considered across a range of Si/Ge ratios. The Pearson's correlation coefficients $(R)^{22}$ $(R)^{22}$ $(R)^{22}$ are provided in the legend description.

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