Experimentally, the Murnaghan parameters B_{O} and B_{O} ' can be determined accurately from ultrasonic measurements made either on single-crystals or on pore-free polycrystalline aggregates [5, 6]. It is expected theoretically that, for solids of isotropic and cubic symmetries, the Murnaghan parameters determined on single-crystals are exactly the same as that measured on the corresponding pore-free polycrystalline aggregates. However, for solids of lower symmetry, the bulk modulus calculated from the single-crystal secondorder elastic constants differs from the corresponding modulus measured on pore-free polycrystalline aggregates; the difference between the two values is proportional to the elastic anisotropy of the crystal. The question thus arises as to the relation between the Murnaghan parameters determined on polycrystalline materials and those obtained from singlecrystals. Our purpose in this communication is to suggest the appropriate Murnaghan parameters for anisotropic noncubic solids and to examine the extent to which the usual application of linear elasticity theory is still useful for predicting the pressure-volume relation of strongly anisotropic crystals.

3