

1.85: Polytypism

An element or compound is **polytypic** if it occurs in several structural modifications, each of which can be regarded as built up by stacking layers of (nearly) identical structure and composition, and if the modifications differ only in their stacking sequence. Polytypism is a special case of polymorphism: the two-dimensional translations within the layers are essentially preserved.

The complete definition is given in the Report of the International Union of Crystallography Ad-Hoc Committee on the Nomenclature of Disordered, Modulated and Polytype Structures: *Acta Cryst. A***40**, 399-404(1984), "Nomenclature of Polytype Structures".

This page titled [1.85: Polytypism](#) is shared under a [CC BY 4.0](#) license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by [Online Dictionary of Crystallography](#) via [source content](#) that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.