4.3: Isostructural Crystals

Two crystals are said to be *isostructural* if they have the same structure, but not necessarily the same cell dimensions nor the same chemical composition, and with a 'comparable' variability in the atomic coordinates to that of the cell dimensions and chemical composition. For instance, calcite $CaCO_3$, sodium nitrate $NaNO_3$ and iron borate $FeBO_3$ are isostructural. One also speaks of *isostructural series*, or of *isostructural polymorphs* or *isostructural phase transitions*.

The term **isotypic** is synonymous with isostructural.