

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".

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