Lecture 11 (10/18/2006)

Crystallography Part 4:

Crystal Forms Twinning

Crystal Forms





open form

Pinacoid (111)

Closed form **Habit:** the general external shape of a crystal (e.g., prismatic, cubic, bladed...)

Form: refers to a group of faces which have the same relation to the elements of symmetry.

Crystals with higher degrees of symmetry tend to generate more form faces.

Unique Attributes of Crystal Forms







Faces of particular forms commonly share unique physical or chemical attributes

Form Indexes

- defined by the Miller index (hkl) of the face in the positive quadrant
- enclosed in brackets
 {hkl}
 a {100}, ρ {111}, c {001}



Low Symmetry Forms



Trapezohedron, Scalehedron, Rhombehedron, Disphenoid





(34) Cube (hexahedron)



(35) Octahedron





(37) Tetrahexahedron

(38) Trapezohedron



(39) Trisoctahedron



(36) Dodecahedron

(40) Hexoctahedron



(41) Tetrahedron

Isometric Forms











(44) Hextetrahedron



(45) Gyroid



(46) Pyritohedron



(47) Diploid







Twinning



- Symmetrical intergrowth of two or more crystals related to a symmetry operation (twin element) that is otherwise absent in a single crystal.
- Twin elements includes mirrors, rotation axes (usually 2-fold) and roto-inversion that <u>usually do</u> <u>not</u> align with symmetry elements in the crystal.
- Twin Laws define the twin element and its crystallographic orientation (twin planes are identified by its Miller index (hkl), twin axes are defined by a zone symbol [hkl]).

Twin Types



<u>Contact Twins</u> Composition planes correspond to twin planes (mirrors)

Penetration Twins Composition planes are irregular; formed by rotational twin axis operation

Multiple Twins



Formed from 3 or more twinned crystals

- <u>Polysynthetic</u> <u>twins</u> where composition planes are parallel

- <u>Cyclic twins</u> where composition planes are not parallel

Twin Laws in the Triclinic System



(a)





Albite combined with Pericline Law [010] twin axis results in "tartan twinning" in microcline (K-feldspar)

Albite Law {010} twin plane

Twin Laws in the Monoclinic System





Twin Laws in the Orthorhombic System





Twin Laws in the Tetragonal System



Twin Laws in the Hexagonal System

{0112} is most common
and may produce single
contact or polysynthetic
twins



Twin Laws in the Isometric System



[111]

Fluorite

(d)



Spinel (b)



Penetrative twins with twin axes parallel to rotational axes





Next Lecture

No Lecture Next Week Yeah!!!