# POLYMORPHISM OF THE KAOLIN MINERALS 

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#### Abstract

The polymorphism of the kaolin minerals is analyzed in terms of two factors: 1) direction and amount of interlayer shift, and 2) location of the vacant octahedral site in successive layers. Kaolinite and dickite have the same interlayer shift of $-\frac{1}{3} a_{1}$ when referred to a standard layer orientation. The two structures differ only in regard to the distribution of the vacant cation site in successive octahedral sheets and the consequences of this distribution in terms of symmetry, layer distortion, and Z-axis periodicity. In wellcrystallized kaolinite the vacant site is the same in each layer. The structure is triclinic and may be right-hānded or left-handed, because either of two octahedral positions, related by a mirror plane in an undistorted monoclinic structure, may be vacant. In dickite the vacant site alternates between these two positions in successive layers, creating a two-layer monoclinic superstructure that is a regular alternation of right- and left-handed kaolinite layers. Comparison of the two structures is facilitated by changing the standard orientation of the dickite unit cell to correspond to that of kaolinite. The interlayer shift in nacrite is ${ }_{3}^{\frac{1}{3}} b_{1}$ relative to the same axes as for kaolinite and dickite. The layer sequence is that of a 6 R polytype, but the pattern of vacant sites reduces the symmetry to $C c$ and allows selection of a smaller two-layer unit cell. A modified system of polytype notation is suggested for describing the kaolins and other minerals in which the actual Z-axis periodicity or crystal system differs from that of the ideal trioctahedreal polytype as a result of cation or vacancy ordering.


## Introduction

The descriptions in the literature of the individual kaolin structures do not attempt to analyze the relationship of the sequence of interlayer shifts in one mineral to those in the other two. An understanding of the relative layer sequences is necessary, however, if one is to appreciate fully the structural reasons for the polymorphism of the kaolins.

The polymorphism is most easily analyzed in terms of two factors: 1) the direction and amount of the interlayer shift, and 2) the location of the vacant octahedral site in successive layers. The similarities and differences in the structures of the three minerals caused by these two factors can be summarized by reference to their $x$-ray powder patterns. Kaolinite and dickite have identical interlayer shifts and give powder patterns that are similar with respect to most of the stronger reflections. The differing location of the vacant octahedral site in the two structures governs the symmetry and the Z-axis periodicity of each mineral and accounts for the observed differences in the powder reflections of medium to weak intensity. Nacrite has a sequence of interlayer shifts that is entirely different from that in kaolinite and dickite, and its powder pattern is also markedly different.

Hendricks (1938) first showed the importance of interlayer hydrogen
bonds in governing the permissible positions of successive kaolin layers. Figure 1 illustrates an ideal trioctahedral $7 \AA$ layer in which octahedral hydroxyl ions at the top of the layer are paired with tetrahedral oxygens at the base of the overlying layer. This $\mathrm{OH}-\mathrm{O}$ pairing results in the formation of long hydrogen bonds, approximately $3.0 \AA$ between the anion centers, that hold the neutral layers together. Hydrogen bond arrangements similar to that shown in Fig. 1, although differing in detail, can be formed by several different positions of the layers relative to one an-


Fig. 1. Normal projection onto (001) of an undistorted $7 \AA$ layer of space group $C m$. The three possible octahedral sites, only two of which are occupied in kaolins, are labeled $\mathrm{A}, \mathrm{B}$ and C . The second layer has been shifted by $-\frac{1}{3} a_{1}$, as in kaolinite and dickite, to provide long hydrogen bonds between the paired OH and O atoms at the layer interface.
other. These will be described here in terms of shifts and rotations of the upper layer relative to a fixed initial layer.

If the initial layer is oriented as in the first layer of Fig. 1, making no assumption as to the distribution of the two aluminum cations and one vacancy over the three available octahedral sites, interlayer hydrogen bonds will result from the following three layer sequences.

1) No shift of the succeeding layer. The hexagonal, or ditrigonal, $\mathrm{Si}_{6} \mathrm{O}_{24}$ rings in adjacent layers may be either exactly superimposed or rotated by $\pm n\left(60^{\circ}\right)$ relative to one another.
2) Shift of the second layer by $-\frac{3}{3} a$ along one of the three pseudohexagonal X-axes of the initial layer, with or without a rotation of the second layer by $\pm n\left(60^{\circ}\right)$. A shift along
the positive X direction does not lead to pairing of $\mathrm{OH}-\mathrm{O}$ anions for the orientation defined in Fig. 1.
3) Shift of the second layer by $\pm \frac{1}{3} b$ along one of the three pseudohexagonal Y-axes of the initial layer, with or without a rotation of the second layer by $\pm n\left(60^{\circ}\right)$.

If the three sorts of stacking sequences above are not intermixed, it can be shown for trioctahedral $7 \AA$ layer silicates that there are twelve possible polytypes having regular Z-axis periodicities between one and six layers, plus four enantiomorphs (Bailey, in preparation). For dioctahedral $7 \AA$ layers there are many more regular polytype possibilities (Zvyagin, 1962), but Newnham (1961) has concluded that certain layer sequences are favored as a result of the effects of cation-cation superimposition and of the distortion of the layer due to the position of the vacant site. The most stable dioctahedral structures turn out to be those of kaolinite, dickite and nacrite. Radoslovich (1963) has reached a similar conclusion based on consideration of the directed nature of the interlayer hydrogen bond for dioctahedral compositions.

## Kaolinite and Dickite

The structure of kaolinite was established originally by powder methods (Brindley and Robinson, 1946; Brindley and Nakahira, 1958) and later refined by single crystal $x$-ray and electron diffraction techniques (Drits and Kashaev, 1960; Zvyagin, 1960). The structure of dickite, for which larger and more perfect crystals can be obtained, has been determined in considerable detail by Newnham and Brindley (1956) and by Newnham (1961).

Analysis of the structures shows that kaolinite and dickite have identical layer sequences in which each layer is shifted by $-\frac{1}{3} a_{1}$, as defined in Fig. 1, relative to the layer below. The two structures differ only in regard to the distribution of the vacant cation site in successive octahedral sheets and the consequences of this distribution in terms of symmetry, layer distortion and Z-axis periodicity. This means that if the two minerals were trioctahedral, rather than dioctahedral, they would be identical. They would have a one-layer monoclinic ( 1 M ) structure with $\beta$ $=104^{\circ}$ and space group $C m$, as in the monoclinic form of $7 \AA$ chamosite described by Brindley (1951).

The kaolinite unit cell is similar in shape to that of its trioctahedral analogue, 1 M chamosite, but is distorted slightly to triclinic geometry. The three possible octahedral sites, only two of which are filled in the kaolin minerals, are labeled in Fig. 1 as A, lying on the mirror plane of the ideal $C m$ structure, and $B$ and $C$, lying on opposite sides of the mirror plane. Brindley and Robinson (1946) chose C as the vacant site in kaolinite, whereas Zvyagin (1960) and Drits and Kashaev (1960) chose site
B. The two structures so defined are mirror images of one another and are not distinguishable by the methods used. Choice of either B or C as the vacant site imposes triclinic symmetry on the structure due to loss of the symmetry planes. The distortion of the unit cell to triclinic geometry is a separate anorthic effect, although also dependent upon the location of the vacant site at $\mathbf{B}$ or $C$.

Figure 2 illustrates the pattern of vacant octahedral sites in successive layers in kaolinite and dickite. In well-crystallized kaolinite each layer is identical and has octahedral site C (or B) vacant. In dickite the vacant


Fig. 2. Normal projection onto (001) of the octahedral portions of three layers (labeled $1,2,3$ ) of the kaolinite and dickite structures, showing distribution of cations and vacancies over the $\mathrm{A}, \mathrm{B}$ and C octahedral sites. In both structures each layer is shifted by $-\frac{1}{3} a_{1}$ relative to the layer below. The projected Z-axis vector is shown as a solid line arrow. For dickite the cation distribution may be interpreted as related by an $n$-glide plane or by a $c$-glide plane, depending on definition of the Z -axis vector. Two sets of octahedral positions, separated by $a_{1}$, are shown in layer 3 to illustrate the two choices for the Z-axis vector in dickite.
site alternates between C and B in successive layers to create a two-layer structure. The alternation of vacant sites in dickite tends to balance the stress distribution in the two layers so that the cell shape remains monoclinic. The pattern of vacant sites also creates $c$ and $n$ glide planes parallel to (010) and changes the space group to $C c$. Thus, dickite can be considered as a regular alternation of right- and left-handed kaolinite layers, in one sense, or as a superstructure of the ideal 1 M polytype due to a particular ordering pattern of octahedral cations and vacancies.

In poorly-crystallized kaolins it is quite conceivable that the vacancy does not always occur in the same octahedral site in each layer, as in kaolinite, or alternate regularly between two sites in successive layers, as in dickite. Newnham (1961) has suggested that the diffraction effects shown by certain fire clays could be interpreted as a random interleaving of right- and left-handed kaolinite crystals, i.e. random choice of C or B as the vacant site in different layers.

The description presented in this paper emphasizing the similarity in the layer sequence and the difference in the vacant site distribution in


Fig. 3. Two alternative 2-layer cells for dickite shown in relation to a group of six kaolinite unit cells in the (010) plane. The values of the $\beta$ angles are only approximate. An orthogonal 3-layer cell, as described for "monoclinic kaolinite," is also shown.
the kaolinite and dickite structures has not appeared elsewhere in the literature, to the writer's knowledge, and does not seem to be generally recognized. One reason may be that the dickite unit cell selected by Newnham and Brindley (1956) and by Newnham (1961) is not easily comparable with that of kaolinite. Figures 2 and 3 show that the Z-axis of dickite is inclined in the opposite direction to that of kaolinite, i.e. along $+\mathrm{X}_{1}$ as defined in Fig. 1, and opposite to the direction of interlayer shift. This gives a $\beta$ angle of approximately $97^{\circ}$, corresponding to a unit cell
slope of $+\frac{1}{6} a_{1}$ per layer in terms of the axes of Fig. 1, but measured in a direction opposite to that of the actual structural shift, which is $-\frac{1}{3} a_{1}$ per layer.

It is proposed here that the standard orientation of the dickite unit cell be changed to correspond to that of kaolinite. This proposal has the advantages that it will facilitate comparison of the two structures and that, by having Z inclined in the direction of interlayer shift, it provides a more realistic relationship between the unit cell and the layer sequence. The $\beta$ angle is then a direct function of the amount of interlayer shift. The writer believes that these advantages outweigh the disadvantages of using a larger $\beta$ value and of deviating from the morphological cell chosen by Miers (in Dick, 1888). Figure 3 compares the kaolinite unit cell with the present and the proposed unit cells for dickite.

The new unit cell would change $\beta$ from $96^{\circ} 44^{\prime}$ (Newnham, 1961) to $103^{\circ} 35^{\prime}$ and $c$ from $14.424 \AA$ to $14.736 \AA$. Figure $2 b$ illustrates the geometric fact that redefinition of the Z -axis direction and repeat distance changes the $n$-glide plane in the present axial orientation to a $c$-glide plane in the proposed orientation. Similarly, the $c$-glide plane changes to an $n$ glide plane. Convention requires that the origin in the new cell be shifted by $\frac{1}{4} b_{1}$ to keep it on a $c$-glide plane, and it is convenient to move the origin in the direction that will place it approximately at the center of a ditrigonal ring, as in Fig. 1 and in the Brindley and Robinson structure of kaolinite.

The matrix for the direct transformation from the old unit cell to the proposed cell for axes and Miller indices is given below (International Tables, Vol. I, p. 15-17).


The matrix of the inverse transformation II is the same as I so that the new atomic coordinates can be obtained by reading matrix $I$ top to bottom as indicated, taking care to subtract $\frac{1}{4}$ from the $y$ coordinate to take into account the origin shift. The new coordinates are listed in Table 1. A powder pattern indexed on the new cell is given in Table 2.

Table 1. Dickite Atomic Coordinates Relative to New Cell ${ }^{1}$

| Atom | $x_{2}$ | $y_{2}$ | $z_{2}$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathrm{Si}_{1}$ | .0288 | .3499 | .0405 |
| $\mathrm{Si}_{2}$ | .5400 | .1768 | .0402 |
| $\mathrm{~A}_{1}$ | .3166 | .4966 | .2320 |
| $\mathrm{~A}_{1}$ | .8116 | .3330 | .2306 |
| $\mathrm{O}_{1}$ | .0385 | .5127 | -.0061 |
| $\mathrm{O}_{2}$ | .7355 | .2776 | -.0058 |
| $\mathrm{O}_{3}$ | .2412 | .2395 | .0058 |
| $\mathrm{O}_{4}$ | .0720 | .3624 | .1523 |
| $\mathrm{O}_{5}$ | .6416 | .1687 | .1526 |
| $(\mathrm{OH})_{1}$ | .5756 | .4742 | .1574 |
| $(\mathrm{OH})_{2}$ | .0509 | .4767 | .2948 |
| $(\mathrm{OH})_{3}$ | .5509 | .3551 | .2981 |
| $(\mathrm{OH})_{4}$ | .9635 | .1668 | .2963 |

${ }^{1}$ Data from Newnham (1961) transformed to $x_{2}=-x_{1}+z_{1} ; y_{2}=-y_{1}-1 / 4 ; z_{2}=z_{1}$. New cell has $a=5.150 \AA, b=8.940 \AA, c=14.736 \AA$, and $\beta=103^{\circ} 35^{\prime}$.

## Monoclinic Kaolinite

A one-layer structure analogous to kaolinite but with octahedral site A vacant would belong to the monoclinic space group $C m$, as noted by Gruner (1932), and it is tempting to speculate that this may be the structure of the "monoclinic kaolinite" from Yugoslavia described by Krstanovic and Radoševic (1961). Although originally described relative to a large orthogonal cell with $c=21.5 \AA$ and $\beta \cong 90^{\circ}$, this is probably not the smallest cell possible. The only two permissable monoclinic space groups for $7 \AA$ layer silicates are $C m$ and $C c$, and the smallest unit cells for these two space groups contain one and two layers respectively. It should be possible, therefore, to select a smaller monoclinic-shaped cell with $c \cong 7.37 \AA$ and $\beta \cong 104^{\circ}$ for the Yugoslavia material, as in Fig. 3, if the proposed structure is correct. Approximate structure amplitudes, dvalues, and powder intensities to be expected for this structure are given in Table 3. A layer distorted to a degree intermediate between that reported for dickite ( $7.3^{\circ}$ tetrahedral rotations) by Newnham (1961) and that found for kaolinite ( $11.1^{\circ}$ rotations) by Drits and Kashaev (1960) has been used as a model for the intensity calculations. Unfortunately, no published data are available for comparison purposes. An alternative would be an average structure in which the vacant site is distributed at random over the three possible octahedral positions.

## Nacrite

The structure of nacrite that is presently accepted was determined by Hendricks (1938). It is described as a six-layer structure with $\beta$ close to

Table 2. Dickite Powder Pattern Indexed on New Cell


Specimen from Geneva mine, Michigan. Iobs measured visually from 114.6 mm film, $\mathrm{CuK} \alpha$ radiation. $\mathrm{I}_{\mathrm{cal}}=\mathrm{mLpF}^{2}$ computed from parameters of Table 1 and adjusted to relative scale.

Table 3. Theoretical X-Ray Pattern of "Monoclinic Kaolinite"

| hk] | $\mathrm{F}_{\text {cale }}$ | $\mathrm{d}_{\text {calc }}$ | $\mathrm{I}_{\text {cale }{ }^{\text {a }} \text { }}$ | hkl | $\mathrm{F}_{\text {cate }}$ | $\mathrm{d}_{\text {calc }}$ | $\mathrm{I}_{\text {ealc }}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 001 | 46 | 7.151 | 100 | 242 | 32 | 1.609 | $4) 6$ |
| 020 | 57 | 4.455 | 59 | 151 | 22 | 1.605 \} | $20^{0}$ |
| 110 | 49 | 4.352 | 84 | 152 | 39 | 1.569 | $6)$ |
| 111 | 19 | 4.124 | 11 | 241 | 29 | 1.564 | 3 |
| 021 | 27 | 2.781 | 19 | 134 | 50 | 1.558 | 10 |
| 002 | 82 | 3.576 | 78 | 224 | 34 | 1.551 ( | $5{ }^{31}$ |
| 111 | 41 | 3.412 | 36 | 203 | 61 | 1.546 | 7 |
| 112 | 44 | 3.103 | 33 | 114 | 1 | 1.543 ] | - |
| 022 | 29 | 2.789 | 12 | 313 | 34 | 1.528 | 4 |
| 201 | 47 | 2.555 | $13)^{28}$ | 311 | 35 | 1.517 | 4 |
| 130 | 36 | 2.552\} | $15 \int^{28}$ | 060 | 83 | 1.485 \} | $12) 34$ |
| 112 | 18 | 2.515 | + | 331 | 78 | 1.484) | 22) 34 |
| 131 | 56 | 2.503 | 39 | $24 \overline{3}$ | 2 | 1.479 | - |
| 200 | 53 | 2.494 | 15 | 152 | 11 | 1.474 | - |
| 003 | 41 | 2.384 | 9 | 223 | 29 | $1.461)$ | $3)$ |
| 202 | 91 | 2.326 | 39 | 332 | 36 | 1.456 | 4 |
| 131 | 67 | 2.314 | 43 | 061 | 27 | 1.454 \} | 2 ) 13 |
| $11 \overline{3}$ | 20 | 2.306 | 4 | 113 | 22 | 1.453 | 2 |
| 040 | 5 | 2.228 | - | 330 | 23 | 1.451 |  |
| 221 | 8 | 2.216 | 1) | 005 | 34 | 1.430 | $2)$ |
| 132 | 29 | 2.210 \} | 73 | 153 | 21 | $1.428\}$ | 14 |
| 201 | 43 | 2.195 | 8 | 242 | 18 | 1.422 | 1. |
| 220 | 10 | 2.176 | 1 | 205 | 35 | 1.395 |  |
| 041 | 33 | 2.127 | 8 | 044 | 14 | 1.394 \} | $1{ }^{3}$ |
| 023 | 21 | 2.102 | 3 | 134 | 27 | 1.386 | 2 |
| $22 \overline{2}$ | 22 | 2.062 | 4 | 314 | 18 | 1.381 |  |
| 203 | 54 | 1.979 | 10 | $33 \overline{3}$ | 16 | 1.375 | 1 |
| 221 | 31 | $1.969\}$ | 6) 30 | 062 | 40 | $1.371\}$ | 517 |
| 132 | 59 | 1.965 \} | $24)^{30}$ | 312 | 11 | 1.368 | - |
| 113 | 28 | 1.926 | 5 | 331 | 49 | 1.367 | 7 |
| 042 | 17 | 1.891 | 2 | 025 | 23 | 1.362 | 1. |
| 133 | 44 | 1.861 | 11 | 225 | 39 | 1.331 | 4 |
| 202 | 28 | 1.846 | 2 | 244 | 30 | 1.328 |  |
| $22 \overline{3}$ | 25 | 1.808 | 3 | 153 | 18 | 1.322 \} | $1{ }^{26}$ |
| 114 | 19 | 1.792 ) | $\left.{ }_{2}\right)_{8}$ | 135 | 83 | 1.319 | 19) |
| 004 | 47 | 1.788 f | $6)^{8}$ | 204 | 78 | 1.311 | 8 |
| 222 | 30 | 1.706 | 4 | 261 | 37 | $1.284)$ | $3)$ |
| 311 | 44 | 1.682 | $9)$ | 401 | 54 | 1.282 | 4 |
| $24 \overline{1}$ | 5 | 1.679 \} | - 19 | 115 | 19 | 1.281 |  |
| 150 | 47 | 1.678 | 10. | $40 \overline{2}$ | 38 | 1.277 / | $2{ }^{17}$ |
| 151 | 24 | 1.664 | $3)$ | 260 | 38 | 1.276 | 4 |
| 240 | 27 | 1.661 | 317 | 154 | 32 | 1.276 | $3)$ |
| 024 | 11 | 1.659 | $1{ }^{17}$ | 243 | 16 | 1.270 | 1. |
| 204 | 66 | 1.655 | 10 | 334 | 25 | 1.265 | 2 |
| 133 | 73 | 1.643 | $24{ }_{25}$ | 063 | 23 | 1.260 | 1 |
| 312 | 16 | 1.641\} | $1{ }^{25}$ | 224 | 37 | 1.257 \} | 318 |
| 310 | 11 | 1.634 \} |  | 332 | 16 | 1.255 | 1 |
| 043 | 45 | 1.628) | $9\}^{10}$ | 262 | 63 | 1.252 | 9 |
|  |  |  |  | 400 | 31 | $1.247)$ | 1) |

${ }^{1}$ Powder pattern intensity $\mathrm{I}=\mathrm{mLpF}$, adjusted to relative scale, where $m$ is multiplicity and $L p$ is the Lorentz-polarization factor.
$90^{\circ}$. The space group is $C c$, although there are only a few deviations from a pseudo-space group of $R 3 c$. Relative to the orientation of Fig. 1, each layer is shifted by $\frac{1}{3} b_{1}$ and alternate layers are also rotated by $180^{\circ}$. This is an entirely different layer sequence from that in kaolinite and dickite. Another significant difference is the interchange of the conventional Xand Y -axes of layer silicates. The glide planes of space group $C c$ in this case are found to be normal to the $5.1 \AA$ axis, which is normally $X$ but now must be labeled Y. Hendricks accounted for the similarity to the pseudospace group $R 3 c$ by fixing the coordinates of all atoms except the octahedral Al according to $R 3 c$ requirements. The Al atoms were positioned according to requirements of space group $C c$. This amounts to a partial filling of the general position of space group $R 3 c$, as $C c$ is a subgroup of R3c.

Several years ago the writer made a single crystal study of nacrite in connection with the discovery of the mineral in iron ore at the Tracy mine in upper Michigan (Bailey and Tyler, 1960). It was determined that the space group is $C c$ and that the conventional X - and Y -axes are interchanged, in agreement with Hendricks' findings. However, the smallest unit cell is of monoclinic shape and contains only two kaolin layers. Two alternative two-layer unit cells exist, exactly as in the case of dickite, with $\beta$ values of approximately $100^{\circ}$ and $114^{\circ}$. The $Z$-axis is inclined in the direction of structural interlayer shift in the unit cell with $\beta \cong 114^{\circ}$ and is inclined in the opposite direction in the cell with $\beta \cong 100^{\circ}$. The former unit cell is preferred, therefore, and has been used for indexing the powder pattern listed in Table 4. This pattern supersedes that given by Bailey and Tyler (1960), in which small amounts of dickite impurity were later detected.

Discovery of the two-layer nature of nacrite does not mean that Hendricks' six-layer structure is incorrect, only that it can be described on the basis of a smaller unit cell, a fact also recognized by Newnham (1961). The calculated powder intensities given in Table 4, computed on the basis of layers distorted in the same manner as in dickite but stacked in the sequence postulated by Hendricks, agree closely with the observed intensities. This means that the layer sequence is that of a true six-layer structure, which would have rhombohedral symmetry $R 3 c$ if trioctahedral ( 6 R ). The pattern of vacant octahedral sites causes the loss of the three-fold axes, reducing the symmetry to $C c$, and allows selection of an alternate Z -axis that has true two-layer periodicity. Another interesting feature of the structure is that $\beta$ deviates from the relation $\cos ^{-1}[-2 a / 3 c]$ by $1 \frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$, so that the interlayer shift is slightly, but significantly, greater than $\frac{1}{3} a$ per layer (where $a \cong 8.9 \AA$ ). Dickite, on the other hand, has an interlayer shift almost exactly $\frac{1}{3} a$ per layer (where $a \cong 5.1 \AA$ ).

Table 4. Nacrite Powder Pattern Indexed on 2-Layer Cell


[^0]Table 4-(continued)


At the present time a three-dimensional refinement of the nacrite structure is being carried out in collaboration with I. M. Threadgold. Further comment on nacrite is reserved until completion of this refinement.

## Polytype Symbols

Smith and Yoder (1956) have used structural symbols, such as 1M, $2 \mathrm{M}_{1}$, and 3 T , to designate the Z-axis periodicities and the crystal systems of mica polytypes having different stacking sequences of $10 \AA$ layers. Their polytypes were derived for trioctahedral compositions, but have proved valid for the dioctahedral micas as well. No example is yet known of a mica for which the layer periodicity or the space group is changed from that of the ideal polytype as a result either of location of the vacant octahedral site, if dioctahedral, or of cation ordering. In the kaolin minerals, however, the location of the vacant octahedral site has caused a reduction of the ideal symmetry in all three minerals and a change in the layer periodicity in two of the three.

The writer believes that a modification of the standard polytype notation is desirable for describing structures in which the actual Z-axis periodicity or crystal system differs from that of the ideal trioctahedral polytype as a result of cation or vacancy ordering. A considerable gain
in clarity and in structural detail can be obtained in such cases by a notation that relates the actual structure to that of the ideal polytype. The symbol of the ideal polytype has special structural significance because it refers to the specific sequence of interlayer shifts used in the derivation of the polytype, thus defining the positions of all atoms in the structure to a first approximation. Cation or vacancy ordering taking place within the structural framework provided by a given layer sequence is a secondary structural effect, although it may have a very drastic effect on the resulting size, shape and symmetry of the unit cell.

A suggested procedure is to list two symbols, first the symbol appropriate to the actual structure and then, in brackets, the symbol of the ideal trioctahedral polytype with a subscript attached, such as $\left[1 \mathrm{M}_{0}\right]$ or [ $\left.2 \mathrm{M}_{1 \text {-ord }}\right]$, to indicate that it is ordered. Only one symbol is necessary if the ordered structure retains the periodicity and symmetry of the ideal polytype. The notation for the three kaolin minerals under this procedure would be:

| kaolinite | $1 \mathrm{Tc}\left[1 \mathrm{M}_{0}\right]$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| dickite | $2 \mathrm{M}\left[1 \mathrm{M}_{0}\right]$ |
| nacrite | $2 \mathrm{M}\left[6 \mathrm{R}_{0}\right]$ |

Zvyagin (1962) has made a systematic study showing that it is possible to derive a total of 52 regular dioctahedral $7 \AA$ polytypes with Z-axis periodicities between one and six layers. Zvyagin's system of notation is inconvenient because it gives the same symbol to all unit cells of the same size, shape and symmetry without regard to their different structures. The system of notation suggested in this paper takes the differing structures into account by incorporating the symbol of the ideal polytype, as illustrated below for Zvyagin's eight two-layer monoclinic polytypes of space group Cc.

Zvyagin

| Number | Symbol | Suggested Symbol |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| I, 3 | $2 \mathrm{M}_{1}$ | $2 \mathrm{M}_{1}$ |  |
| I,4 | $2 \mathrm{M}_{1}$ | 2 M | [1 $\mathrm{M}_{0}$ ] |
| IV,3 | $2 \mathrm{M}_{1}{ }^{\prime}$ | 2 M | [2T ${ }_{0}$ ] |
| IX,1 | $2 \mathrm{M}^{\prime}{ }^{\prime}$ | 2M | [1T ${ }_{0}$ ] |
| V,4 | $2 \mathrm{M}_{2}$ | $2 \mathrm{M}_{2}$ |  |
| II,2 | $2 \mathrm{M}_{2}$ | 2 M | [6R ${ }_{0}$ ] |
| III,1 | $2 \mathrm{M}_{2}{ }^{\prime}$ | 2M | [2 $\mathrm{H}_{1-\text { ord }}$ ] |
| V,1 | $2 \mathrm{M}_{2}{ }^{\prime}$ | 2M | [200] |

The suggested notation restricts the use of number subscripts to symbols of the ideal polytypes. This keeps subscripts at a minimum and, in particular, reserves the symbols $2 \mathrm{M}_{1}$ and $2 \mathrm{M}_{2}$ for the theoretical $2 \mathrm{M}_{1}$ and $2 \mathrm{M}_{2} 7 \AA$ polytypes, whose interlayer shifts are analogous to the
shifts within the octahedral sheet in the mica polytypes of the same designation.

It is essential in the suggested notation that the symbols of the ideal $7 \AA$ polytypes, some of which are used above, be defined relative to a sequence of interlayer shifts. A systematic derivation and the proposed nomenclature will be given in a separate paper (Bailey, in preparation).

## Acknowledgments

Acknowledgment is made to the donors of The Petroleum Research Fund, administered by the American Chemical Society, for support of this research. The calculations were performed on a CDC 1604 computer, made available by support of the National Science Foundation and of the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation through the University Research Committee. E. W. Radoslovich kindly furnished a copy of his paper prior to publication.

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Manuscript received, A pril 24, 1963; accepted for publication, August 5, 1963.


[^0]:    Specimen from Tracy mine, Michigan. $I_{\text {obs }}$ measured visually from 114.6 mm film, CuK $\alpha$ radiation. $\mathrm{I}_{\mathrm{ca} \mathrm{c}}=\mathrm{mLpF} \mathrm{F}^{2}$ computed for dickite-tpye layer in unit cell with $a=8.909 \AA, b=5.146 \AA, c=15.697 \AA$, and $\beta=113^{\circ} 42^{\prime}$.

