

Binding of atoms to form crystals A crystal is a repeated array of atoms Why do they form? What are characteristic bonding mechanisms? How do particular mechanisms lead to particular types of crystal structures?



















































Binding of crystals

- Primary types of binding (bonding)
- Metals: Close packed structures with many neighbors Al, Cu, Fe, ...
- Van der Waals: Close packed structures for rare gases – He, Ne, ..., complicated structures for low symmetry molecules,
- Ionic: Tend to form high-symmetry structures with large Madelung constants - NaCI, CsCI
- Covalent: Open structures with few neighbors, directional bonds graphite, diamond C, Si
- Hydrogen special ability of a proton to favor overlap of electron densities – H₂O, ...

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