



Minerals

Anorthoclase

(Na, K) $AlSi_3O_8$ (Feldspar Group)

Crystallography:

Triclinic; $\bar{1}$. Twinning common.

Physical Properties:

Cleavage: Principle cleavage at right angles or very close to 90° .

Fracture uneven; brittle.

Hardness: 6.0.

Specific Gravity: 2.56-2.65.

Luster: Vitreous.

Color: Commonly light gray to bluish-gray.

Streak: White.

Composition/Features:

Anorthoclase is a sodium-rich feldspar that forms at the high temperature end of a solid solution series between sanidine and high albite. Difficult to characterize without optical or X-ray techniques. Exhibits a more disordered distribution of Al and Si in the tetrahedral framework than orthoclase.

Occurrence/Use:

May be found as phenocrysts in extrusive igneous rocks, or often as groundmass constituents of slightly alkalic lavas.