

Regular  
dodecahedron

Crystal structure of rare earth iron garnets. (a) Cubic unit cell. (b) Local polyhedra environment experienced by Fe and R ions from their neighboring oxygen ions. Ref.: [Phys. Rev. B 95, 024434 \(2017\)](#)

Optical image of rare earth iron garnet  $\text{Y}_3(\text{Fe,Al})_5\text{O}_{12}$  mineral. The most common crystal shape is the cube-based rhombic dodecahedron, a twelve-sided crystal with diamond shaped faces.

Rare earth iron garnets are **ferrimagnetic insulators** with the chemical formula  $\text{R}_3\text{Fe}_5\text{O}_{12}$  (where R is rare-earth elements) and **useful magneto-optical properties**.

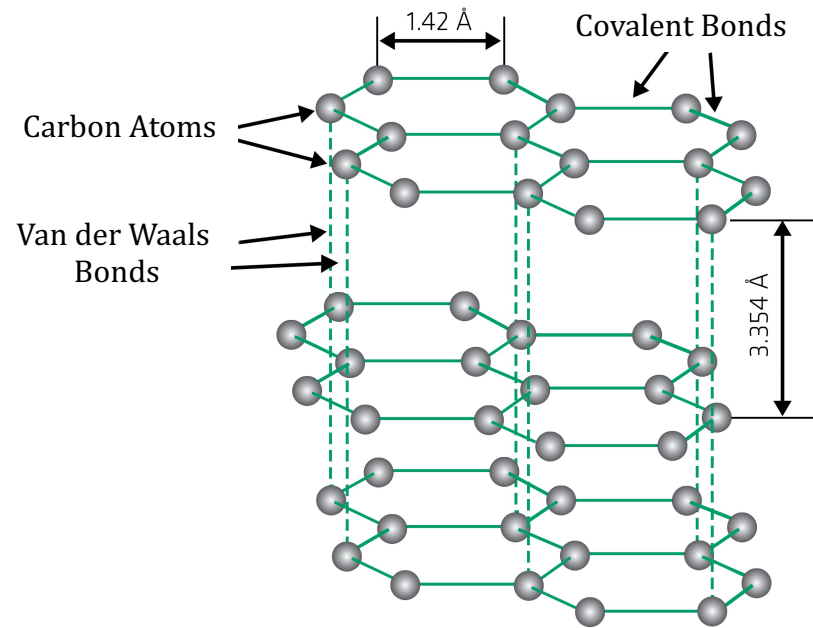
# Graphite

Graphite is a mineral consisting of carbon

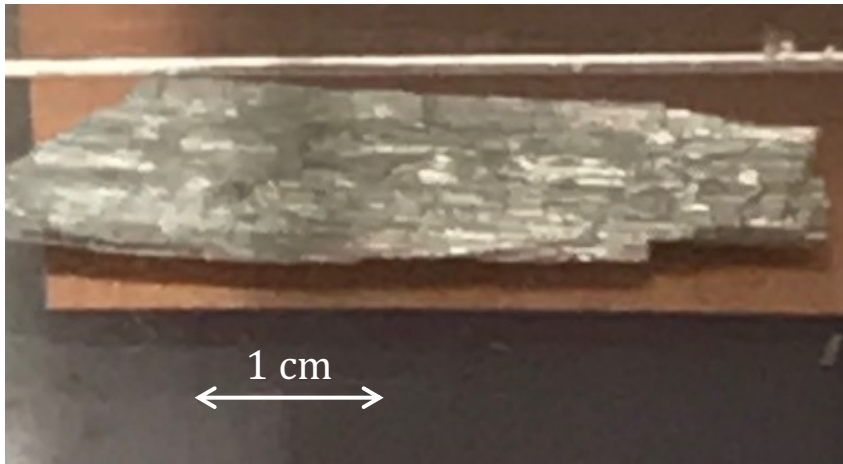


Graphite specimen

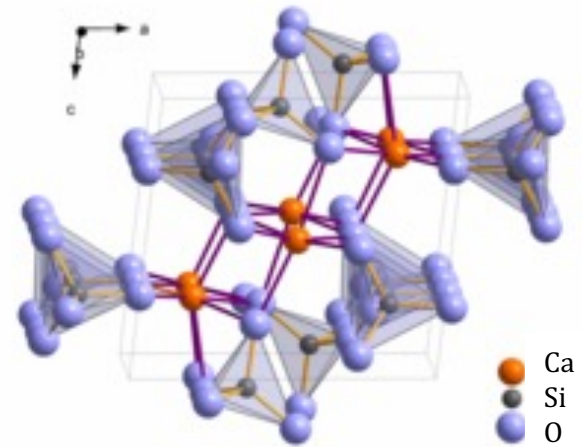
It is one of the softest minerals and it exhibits perfect basal cleavage.



Graphite is a crystalline form of the element carbon. It is composed of **overlaid graphene layers** interacting through Van der Waals forces.



Optical image of Wollastonite – calcium silicate mineral CaSiO<sub>3</sub>.



The unit cell of triclinic CaSiO<sub>3</sub>. This formula may also be written as Ca(Si<sub>3</sub>O<sub>9</sub>)<sub>0.33</sub> or as Ca<sub>3</sub>(Si<sub>3</sub>O<sub>9</sub>).

Canadian Wollastonite is a little-known a relatively **rarely-occurring mineral** with a pearly luster on **cleavage surfaces** and a granular texture. Ref.: [Wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wollastonite)