



# Minerals

## Oligoclase

**(Na,Ca) Al (Al,Si) Si<sub>2</sub>O<sub>8</sub> (An<sub>10-30</sub>)** (Feldspar Group) (see also Plagioclase)

### Crystallography:

Triclinic;  $\bar{1}$ . Crystals usually tabular parallel to {010}; twinning frequent as in albite. Commonly as irregular grains and cleavable masses.

### Physical Properties:

**Cleavage:** {001} perfect, {010} good. Fracture uneven to conchoidal; brittle.

**Hardness:** 6.0.

**Specific Gravity:** 2.65.

**Luster:** Vitreous to pearly.

**Color:** Colorless, white, gray; sometimes greenish, bluish, yellowish, or reddish. Often iridescent with play of colors. Transparent to subtranslucent.

**Streak:** White.

### Composition/Features:

Oligoclase, an aluminosilicate of the plagioclase feldspar group, forms as an intermediate member of a solid solution series - from albite (Na-rich) to anorthite (Ca-rich). It is characterized by twinning striations on basal cleavages and relative hardness. Accurate identification only with chemical, X-ray, or optical tests.

### Occurrence/Use:

Oligoclase is a common rock-forming mineral characteristic of granodiorites and monzonites. A reddish variety known as "sunstone" displays a sparkling "schiller" effect and is used as a gemstone.