Ice

Crystal Data: Hexagonal. Point Group: 6/m 2/m 2/m. Crystals hexagonal, prismatic, to 0.5 m; as “snow” crystals, stellate, skeletal, flattened on [0001]; as “hail”, rounded and concentrically zoned; stalactitic, compact, massive; as “frost”, columnar, arborescent, feathery. Twinning: On {0001}; glides on {0001}.

D(meas.) = 0.9167 D(calc.) = [0.93] A liquid above 0 °C; diamagnetic.


Cell Data: Space Group: P63/mmc. a = 4.498 c = 7.338 Z = 4
X-ray Powder Pattern: Synthetic.
3.90 (100), 3.66 (100), 2.25 (90), 3.4 (80), 2.07 (60), 1.92 (50), 2.67 (35)

Chemistry: H2O of varying degrees of purity.

Occurrence: Formed at low temperatures by sublimation in the atmosphere and in layers over open bodies of water; in glacial flows and thick masses of near-continental dimensions.

Association: None.

Distribution: Worldwide; especially in polar icecaps and glaciers.

Name: From Middle English is, iis, in turn from Old English is.