

Density of minerals VI: The effect of structural H₂O

The previous pages in this series on the density of minerals have considered minerals without H₂O in their structure. This page uses the carbonate minerals to show that increasing H₂O content in minerals leads to lesser density. In fact, density of very hydrous minerals like natron approach the density of water itself.

In addition to considering the effect of structural H₂O, the plot shows minerals with and without OH⁻. Comparison shows that presence of OH⁻ has little effect on density, and some OH⁻-bearing minerals are more dense than their OH⁻-less analogues. That's a thought to which we'll return in Part VII of this series.

