

**diffusional transition**

A transition that requires the rearrangement of atoms, ions or molecules in a manner that cannot be accomplished by a cooperative atomic displacement; it may require the movement of atoms, ions or molecules over distances significantly larger than a unit cell.

Example: The transition of graphite (hexagonal sheets of three-coordinated carbon atoms) to diamond (infinite three-dimensional framework of four-coordinated carbon atoms) at high temperature and pressure.

1994, 66, 581