

**Table S1** Compilation of exponents and contraction parameters of the radial deformation function together with multipole charges.

atom	$\zeta(\text{bohr}^{-1})$	$\kappa'$	$Q_{mp}$	atom	$\zeta(\text{bohr}^{-1})$	$\kappa'$	$Q_{mp}$
<b>I</b>				<b>II</b>			
Ca	4.16	1.00	1.3(3)	Li	2.42	1.00	0.66(20)
P	9.80	0.82(2)	0.05(9)	P	9.80	0.76(1)	-0.20(1)
O1	8.44	0.94(6)	-0.18(5)	O1	8.44	1.01(6)	-0.21(5)
O2	8.44	0.73	-0.34(3)	O2	8.44	0.73	-0.32(3)
O3	8.44	0.73	-0.33(3)	O3	8.44	0.73	-0.32(3)
C	5.96	0.87(3)	-0.61(11)	C	5.96	0.84(3)	-0.48(20)
H1	3.78	1.20	0.22(2)	H1	3.78	1.20	0.34(2)
H2	3.78	1.20	0.18(3)	H2	3.78	1.20	0.17(3)
H3	3.78	1.20	0.17(3)	H3	3.78	1.20	0.25(3)
H4	3.78	1.20	0.18(3)	H4	3.78	1.20	0.12(3)

**Table S2** Supplementary topological parameters for **I** and **II**.

	$R_{ij}$	$d_1$	$d_2$	$?_1$	$?_2$	$?_3$
<b>I</b>						
P-O1	1.5794	0.6354	0.944	-8.19	-7.46	30.33
P-O2	1.5124	0.6148	0.8976	-10.45	-9.98	41.02
P-O3	1.5163	0.6178	0.8985	-9.99	-9.55	39.46
O1-H1	1.0106	0.7703	0.2404	-37.75	-36.2	30.21
P-C	1.7896	0.6923	1.0973	-6.13	-5.65	8.1
C-H2	1.0909	0.6526	0.4383	-15.47	-14.99	9.92
C-H3	1.0901	0.6741	0.4161	-15.02	-14.99	11.72
C-H4	1.0901	0.6916	0.3985	-15.68	-15.44	12.36
O2-Ca	2.4044	1.217	1.1874	-0.85	-0.79	5.67
O2-Ca <sup>i</sup>	2.3852	1.2064	1.1788	-0.93	-0.89	5.97
O3-Ca <sup>ii</sup>	2.3749	1.2037	1.1712	-0.92	-0.9	6.02
H1-O3 <sup>ii</sup>	1.6276	0.552	1.0755	-3.93	-3.46	7.43
<b>II</b>						
P-O1	1.58	0.6328	0.9473	-7.86	-7.5	30.37
P-O2	1.507	0.6093	0.8977	-10.42	-9.84	44.79
P-O3	1.5214	0.6128	0.9086	-10.17	-9.65	41.81
O1-H1	1.022	0.7851	0.2369	-34.33	-33.26	26.67
P-C	1.7867	0.682	1.1047	-6.08	-5.78	9.54
C-H2	1.09	0.6995	0.3906	-15.81	-15.62	14.35
C-H3	1.091	0.7313	0.3597	-16.41	-16.14	14.71
C-H4	1.0902	0.6859	0.4043	-16.05	-15.66	13.5
O2-Li	1.9092	1.1827	0.7265	-1.36	-1.3	8.24
O2-Li <sup>iii</sup>	1.929	1.1925	0.7365	-1.18	-1.12	7.57
O3-Li <sup>iv</sup>	2.0421	1.2626	0.7795	-0.71	-0.67	4.97
O3-Li <sup>v</sup>	1.9725	1.2217	0.7508	-1.03	-1	6.46
H1-O3 <sup>vi</sup>	1.6746	0.5665	1.108	-2.2	-1.77	7.73

The symmetry codes are taken from Table 4.

**Table S3.** Characteristics of selected natural bond orbitals in hydrogen methylphosphonate. The first item shows the composition, the other – occupation (lp – lone pair).

orbital	MPI	MPCa <sub>3</sub>	MPII	MPLi <sub>4</sub>
$\sigma$ (P-O1)	0.4512P(sp <sup>3.8</sup> )+0.8924O(sp <sup>1.67</sup> ) 1.988	0.4745P(sp <sup>3.51</sup> )+0.8803O(sp <sup>2.11</sup> ) 1.986	0.4588P(sp <sup>3.72</sup> )+0.8885O(sp <sup>2.19</sup> ) 1.986	0.4894P(sp <sup>3.20</sup> )+0.8720O(sp <sup>2.80</sup> ) 1.986
$\sigma$ (P-O2)	0.5064P(sp <sup>2.47</sup> )+0.8623O(sp <sup>2.11</sup> ) 1.987	0.4511P(sp <sup>3.53</sup> )+0.8925O(sp <sup>1.38</sup> ) 1.985	0.5096P(sp <sup>2.51</sup> )+0.8604O(sp <sup>2.19</sup> ) 1.985	0.4799P(sp <sup>3.02</sup> )+0.8773O(sp <sup>1.68</sup> ) 1.988
$\sigma$ (P-O3)	0.5066P(sp <sup>2.52</sup> )+0.8622O(sp <sup>2.12</sup> ) 1.987	0.4919P(sp <sup>2.79</sup> )+0.8707O(sp <sup>1.90</sup> ) 1.984	0.5034P(sp <sup>2.5</sup> )+0.8641O(sp <sup>2.02</sup> ) 1.987	0.4671P(sp <sup>3.21</sup> )+0.8842O(sp <sup>1.46</sup> ) 1.987
$\sigma$ (P-C)	0.5836P(sp <sup>3.16</sup> )+0.8121C(sp <sup>3.07</sup> ) 1.971	0.6571P(sp <sup>2.13</sup> )+0.7538C(sp <sup>3.83</sup> ) 1.963	0.5742P(sp <sup>3.23</sup> )+0.8187C(sp <sup>2.88</sup> ) 1.975	0.6378P(sp <sup>2.34</sup> )+0.7702C(sp <sup>3.48</sup> ) 1.969
lp(O1)	sp <sup>1.59</sup> ; 1.964	sp <sup>1.32</sup> ; 1.949	sp <sup>1.11</sup> ; 1.971	sp <sup>0.89</sup> ; 1.958
lp(O1)	p; 1.934	p; 1.890	p; 1.924	p; 1.894
lp(O2)	sp <sup>0.47</sup> ; 1.976	sp <sup>0.73</sup> ; 1.967	sp <sup>0.46</sup> ; 1.978	sp <sup>0.60</sup> ; 1.973
lp(O2)	p; 1.834	p; 1.901	p; 1.838	p; 1.886
lp(O2)	p; 1.830	p; 1.889	p; 1.830	p; 1.868
lp(O3)	sp <sup>0.47</sup> ; 1.977	sp <sup>0.54</sup> ; 1.968	sp <sup>0.50</sup> ; 1.977	sp <sup>0.69</sup> ; 1.973
lp(O3)	p; 1.846	p; 1.844	p; 1.842	p; 1.898
lp(O3)	p; 1.828	p; 1.840	p; 1.828	p; 1.887
$\sigma^*$ (P-O1)	0.8924P(sp <sup>3.83</sup> )-0.4512O(sp <sup>1.67</sup> ) 0.223	0.8803P(sp <sup>3.51</sup> )-0.4745O(sp <sup>2.11</sup> ) 0.165	0.8885P(sp <sup>3.72</sup> )-0.4588O(sp <sup>2.19</sup> ) 0.216	0.8720P(sp <sup>3.20</sup> )-0.4894O(sp <sup>2.80</sup> ) 0.155
$\sigma^*$ (P-O2)	0.8623P(sp <sup>2.47</sup> )-0.5064O(sp <sup>2.11</sup> ) 0.135	0.8925P(sp <sup>3.53</sup> )-0.4511O(sp <sup>1.38</sup> ) 0.167	0.8604P(sp <sup>2.51</sup> )-0.5096O(sp <sup>2.19</sup> ) 0.131	0.8773P(sp <sup>3.02</sup> )-0.4799O(sp <sup>1.68</sup> ) 0.135
$\sigma^*$ (P-O3)	0.8622P(sp <sup>2.53</sup> )-0.5066O(sp <sup>2.12</sup> ) 0.134	0.8707P(sp <sup>2.79</sup> )-0.4919O(sp <sup>1.90</sup> ) 0.120	0.8641P(sp <sup>2.50</sup> )-0.5034O(sp <sup>2.02</sup> ) 0.133	0.8842P(sp <sup>3.21</sup> )-0.4671O(sp <sup>1.46</sup> ) 0.141
$\sigma^*$ (P-C)	0.8121P(sp <sup>3.16</sup> )-0.5836C(sp <sup>3.07</sup> ) 0.171	0.7538P(sp <sup>2.13</sup> )-0.6571C(sp <sup>3.84</sup> ) 0.109	0.8187P(sp <sup>3.23</sup> )-0.5742C(sp <sup>2.88</sup> ) 0.180	0.7702P(sp <sup>2.34</sup> )-0.6378C(sp <sup>3.48</sup> ) 0.124

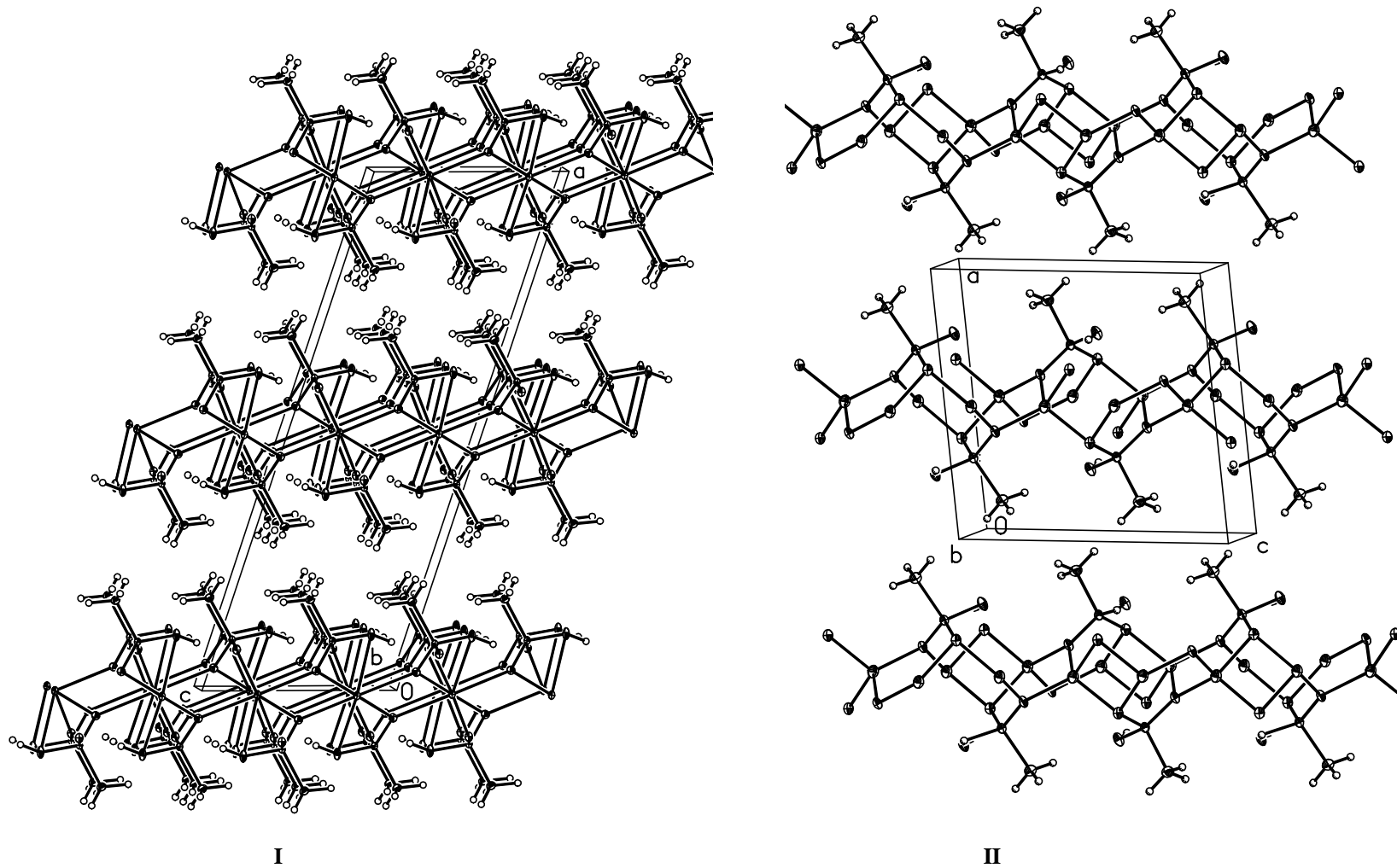


Fig. S1. Packing diagram of calcium bis(hydrogen methylphosphonate) (I) and lithium hydrogen methylphosphonate (II)

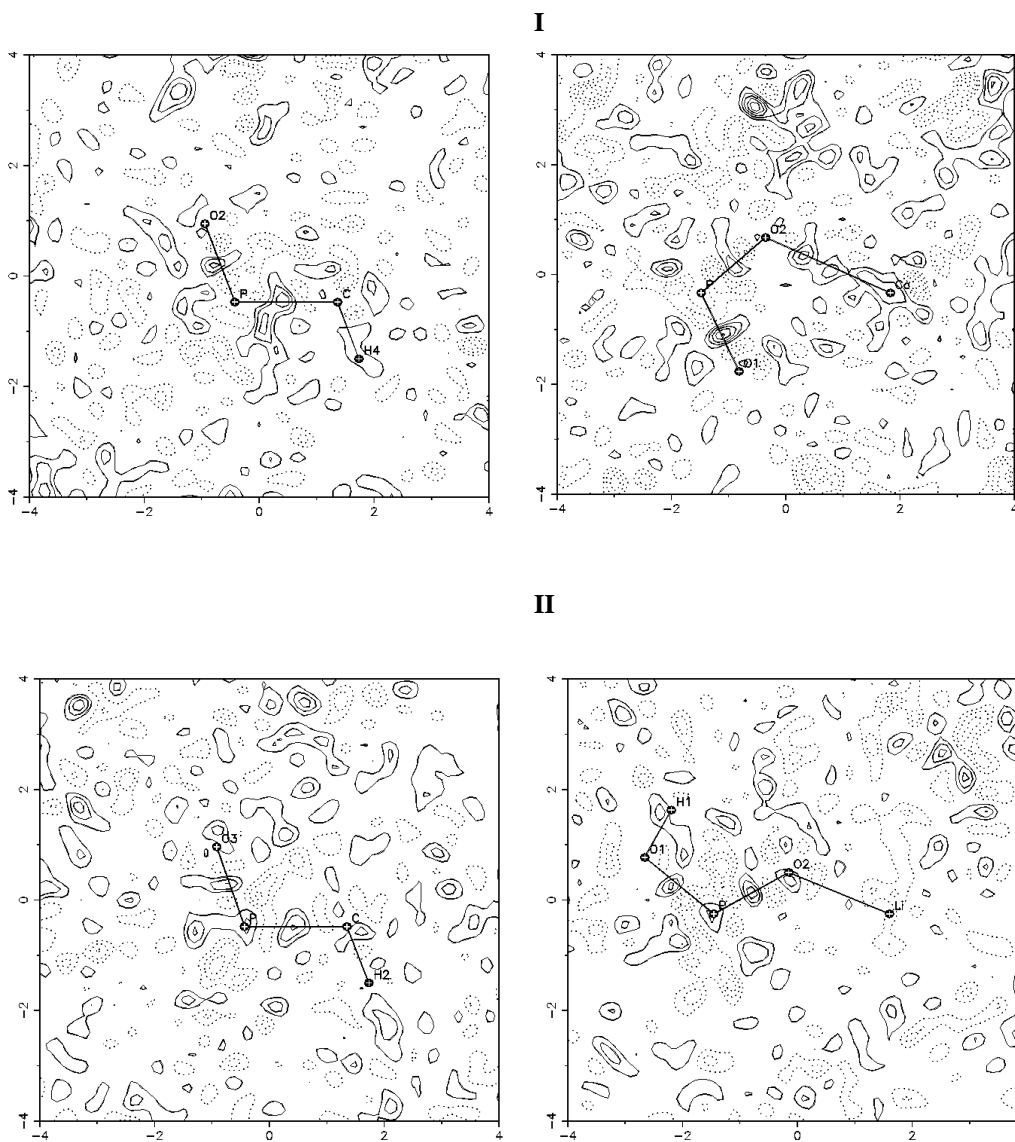


Fig. S2. Residual density maps for multipole refinements of **I** and **II**. The contour intervals are drawn at  $0.05 \text{ e}/\text{\AA}^3$ ; the positive contours are solid, the negative – dotted, the zero contours have been omitted. The scale is shown in  $\text{\AA}$  and the sections are through the (P, M, O2) and (P, C, O3) planes, where M = Ca for **I** and Li for **II**.