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## Supplementary information:

Supplementary Table 1: Starting values for the Ln<sub>3</sub>TaO<sub>7</sub> prototype *Cmmm* (65) structure.

Ln <sub>3</sub> TbO <sub>7</sub>		a (Å)	b (Å)	c (Å)
Cmmm		10.49940	7.42422	3.71211
Atom	Wyckoff Site	X	У	Z
Tal	2a	0	0	0
Ln1	2b	0	0.5	0
Ln2	4f	0.25	0.25	0.5
01	8p	0.37388	0.29953	0
O2	2d	0	0	0.5
O3	4h	0.125	0.5	0.5





**Enlarged version of Figure 2:** (a) Stacked high-energy synchrotron X-ray diffraction patterns for  $A_3TaO_7$  (A = Pr, Dy, Ho) as measured (black circles) and modeled (orange, cyan and red curves). Blue curves represent the difference between measurement and calculated model (space groups *Cmcm* and *Ccmm*). The reliability factor (*Rw*) is reported for every sample. Diffraction patterns are offset by values of 10'000 and 20'000 respectively. (b) Expanded view of the low-Q range of (a) using the same color labeling, along with diffraction data of  $Y_3TaO_7$  (black circles), which serves as reference measurement. Cyan ticks represent diffraction conditions allowed in (top) *Cmcm* and (bottom) *Ccmm* space groups. Asterisks (\*) mark the PrTaO<sub>4</sub> impurity phase reflections for Pr<sub>3</sub>TaO<sub>7</sub>. The red tick mark at ~1.93 Å<sup>-1</sup> indicates the location of the (021) diffraction peak, which serves as space group distinction between *C222*<sub>1</sub> and *Ccmm* (and it is only allowed for *C222*<sub>1</sub>). Diffraction patterns are offset by values of 200, 400 and 800 respectively. Enlarged version of this figure is available in the supplementary section.



**Supplementary Figure 1:** POWGEN' high-resolution neutron diffraction pattern of  $Pr_3TaO_7$  measured at room temperature (black circles) and modeled (red curve) using *Cmcm* space group. The blue curve represents the difference curve between measurement and the model fit, with *Rw1* and *Rw2* being the fit reliability factors. Cyan and Magenta ticks indicate the expected Bragg peak positions according to the crystal structure models of  $Pr_3TaO_7$  and  $PrTaO_4$  impurity phase respectively.



**Supplementary Figure 2:** POWGEN' high-resolution neutron diffraction pattern of  $Ho_3TaO_7$  measured at room temperature (black circles) and modeled (red curve) using *Ccmm* space group. The blue curve represents the difference curve between measurement and the model fit, with *Rw1* and *Rw2* being the fit reliability factors. Cyan ticks indicate the expected Bragg peak positions according to the crystal structure model.



**Supplementary Figure 3:** An expanded view of low-Q region of POWGEN' high-resolution neutron diffraction pattern of  $Ho_3TaO_7$  measured at room temperature (black circles) and modeled (red curve) using *Ccmm* space group. The blue curve represents the difference curve between measurement and the model fit, with *Rw1* and *Rw2* being the fit reliability factors. Cyan ticks indicate the expected Bragg peak positions according to the crystal structure model.



**Supplementary Figure 4:** Low-Q region of POWGEN' high-resolution neutron diffraction pattern of  $Ho_3TaO_7$  measured at 100 K (black circles) and modeled (red curve) using *Ccmm* space group. The blue curve represents the difference curve between measurement and the model fit, with *Rw1* and *Rw2* being the fit reliability factors. Cyan ticks indicate the expected Bragg peak positions according to the crystal structure model.

**Supplementary Table 2:** Structural information for long-range diffraction data refinements. Unit cell parameters, fractional positional coordinates and thermal factors are followed by sigma values. NOMAD and POWGEN denote neutron diffraction data collected at respective neutron total scattering instruments while SXRD denotes synchrotron X-ray diffraction data. Uiso denote isotropic thermal factors. When applicable, harmonic thermal factors (Uij) are shown with first row denoting  $U_{11}$ ,  $U_{22}$  and  $U_{33}$  factors while  $U_{12}$ ,  $U_{13}$  and  $U_{23}$  are shown in the second below.

Pr <sub>3</sub> TaO	7 (NOMAD)	a (Å)	b (Å)	<b>c</b> (Å)	
Cmcm (6	53)	10.98712(17)	7.51112(13)	7.67928(16)	
Atom	Wyckoff Site	X	У	Z	Uiso
Pr1	4b	0	0.5	0	0.0086(5)
Pr2	8g	0.22948(16)	0.7943(3)	0.25	0.0016(3)
Tal	4a	0	0	0	0.0008(3)
01	16h	0.37393(11)	0.68544(14)	0.03476(16)	0.0089(3)
02	8g	0.13001(16)	0.5250(2)	0.25	0.0033(3)
O3	4c	0	0.9332(3)	0.25	0.0073(4)

$Tb_{3}TaO_{7}(NOMAD)$		a (Å)	b (Å)	<b>c</b> (Å)	
<i>Ccmm</i> (63	3)	10.5716(2)	7.46997(16)	7.51362(14)	
Atom	Wyckoff Site	X	У	Z	Uiso
Tb1	4b	0.5	0	0	0.0075(3)
Tb2	8g	0.23511(15)	0.2357(2)	0.75	0.0030(2)
Ta1	4a	0	0	0	0.0015(3)
01	16h	0.37637(16)	0.30011(18)	0.9717(2)	0.0149(4)
O2	4c	0.0614(4)	0	0.75	0.0163(7)
O3	4c	0.6283(3)	0	0.75	0.0018(4)
O4	4c	0.3625(4)	0	0.75	0.0086(6)

Ho <sub>3</sub> TaO <sub>2</sub>	(NOMAD)	<b>a</b> (Å)	<b>b</b> (Å)	c (Å)		
<i>Ccmm</i> (6)	3)	10.4933(3)	7.4250(2)	7.4553(2)		
Atom	Wyckoff Site	X	У	Z	Uiso	
Ho1	4b	0.5	0	0	0.0247(8)	
Ho2	8g	0.2404(2)	0.2386(3)	0.75	0.0013(3)	
Ta1	4a	0	0	0	0.0171(6)	
01	16h	0.3766(4)	0.2891(4)	0.9745(5)	0.0294(8)	
O2	4c	0.0622(7)	0	0.75	0.0227(13)	
O3	4c	0.6281(6)	0	0.75	0.0129(9)	
O4	4c	0.3621(7)	0	0.75	0.0218(14)	
Ηο.ΤοΟ.		9 (Å)	h (Å)	c (Å)		
$Em_3m$	(NONAD)	525850(11)	5 25850(11)	5 25850(11)		
A tom	Wyakoff Sita	v	V	7	Occupancy	Uiso
Ho1		<b>x</b> 0	у 0	2 0	0.75	0.0212(5)
П01 То1	4a	0	0	0	0.75	0.0212(5)
181	4a	0 25	0 25	0 25	0.23	0.0212(3)
01	80	0.23	0.25	0.25	0.875	0.0081(8)
Tm <sub>3</sub> TaO	7 (NOMAD)	a (Å)	b (Å)	c (Å)		
<i>Fm-3m</i> (2	225)	5.21362(5)	5.21362(5)	5.21362(5)		
Atom	Wyckoff Site	X	У	Z	Occupancy	Uiso
Tm1	4a	0	0	0	0.75	0.0179(3)
Ta1	4a	0	0	0	0.25	0.0179(3)
01	8c	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.875	0.0595(5)
Yb <sub>2</sub> TaO	(NOMAD)	a (Å)	b (Å)	c (Å)		
<i>Fm-3m</i> (2	225)	5.19453(5)	5.19453(5)	5.19453(5)		
Atom	Wyckoff Site	X	y	Z	Occupancy	Uiso
Ho1	4a	0	0 0	0	0.75	0.0214(3)
Tal	4a	0	0	0	0.25	0.0214(3)
01	8c	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.875	0.0577(5)

Pr <sub>3</sub> TaO <sub>7</sub> (SXRD)		a (Å)	b (Å)	c (Å)	
Cmcm (6	53)	10.98488(18)	7.51246(12)	7.67712(13)	
Atom	Wyckoff Site	X	У	Z	Uiso
Pr1	4b	0	0.5	0	0.0087(5)
Pr2	8g	0.22797(11)	0.79573(15)	0.25000	0.0031(4)
Ta1	4a	0	0	0	0.0014(4)
01	16h	0.3740(9)	0.6822(12)	0.0361(12)	0.002(3)
O2	8g	0.1285(16)	0.528(2)	0.25	0.012(4)
03	4c	0	0.9421(27)	0.25	0.003(6)

$Dy_3TaO_7(SXRD)$		a (Å)	b (Å)	<b>c</b> (Å)	
<i>Ccmm</i> (63	5)	10.52150(19)	7.43849(13)	7.48792(10)	
Atom	Wyckoff Site	X	У	Z	Uiso
Dy1	4b	0.5	0	0	0.0109(6)
Dy2	8g	0.23408(9)	0.23493(13)	0.75	0.0069(3)
Tal	4a	0	0	0	0.0044(5)
01	16h	0.3778(12)	0.3046(15)	0.9685(13)	0.002(3)
O2	4c	0.058(3)	0	0.75	0.018(7)
O3	4c	0.630(3)	0	0.75	0.003(6)
O4	4c	0.357(3)	0	0.75	0.009(7)

$Ho_3TaO_7(SXRD)$		a (Å)	b (Å)	<b>c</b> (Å)	
<i>Ccmm</i> (63	3)	10.4852(3)	7.4241(2)	7.45141(17)	
Atom	Wyckoff Site	X	У	Z	Uiso
Ho1	4b	0.5	0	0	0.0131(9)
Ho2	8g	0.23721(14)	0.23741(19)	0.75	0.0111(4)
Ta1	4a	0	0	0	0.0074(8)
01	16h	0.377(2)	0.298(3)	0.971(2)	0.007(6)
O2	4c	0.060(4)	0	0.75	0.018(11)
O3	4c	0.631(5)	0	0.75	0.027(13)
O4	4c	0.358(5)	0	0.75	0.026(14)

Pr <sub>3</sub> Ta (POW)	0 <sub>7</sub> GEN, RT)	a (Å)	b (Å)	c (Å)			
Стст	(63)	10.98883(4)	7.51223(3)	7.68015(3)			
Atom	Wyckoff Site	X	у	Z	$\frac{U_{11}}{U_{12}}$	$\frac{U_{22}}{U_{13}}$	$\frac{U_{33}}{U_{23}}$
Pr1	4b	0	0.5	0	0.0062(5)	0.0249(8)	0.0027(5)
					0	0	-0.0022(10)
Pr2	8g	0.22838(8)	0.79583(12)	0.25	0.0056(4)	0.0083(5)	0.0037(3)
					-0.0007(6)	0	0
Tal	4a	0	0	0	0.0017(3)	0.0062(4)	0.0009(3)
					0	0	0.0000(5)
01	16h	0.37429(5)	0.68615(9)	0.03461(7)	0.0116(3)	0.0239(3)	0.0056(2)
					0.0126(5)	-0.0009(4)	-0.0035(4)
O2	8g	0.13092(7)	0.52372(11)	0.25	0.0053(3)	0.0086(4)	0.0065(3)
					-0.0003(6)	0	0
O3	4c	0	0.93200(15)	0.25	0.0125(5)	0.0110(5)	0.0006(4)
					0	0	0

Ho <sub>3</sub> Ta (POW)	<b>O</b> 7 GEN, RT)	a (Å)	b (Å)	<b>c</b> (Å)			
Ccmm	(63)	10.48914(18)	7.42688(14)	7.45209(13)			
Atom	Wyckoff Site	X	у	Z	$\frac{U_{11}}{U_{12}}$	$\frac{U_{22}}{U_{13}}$	$\frac{U_{33}}{U_{23}}$
Ho1	4b	0.5	0	0	0.0055(13)	0.0122(14)	0.0077(12)
					0	-0.0031(17)	0
Ho2	8g	0.23578(15)	0.2354(2)	0.75	0.0053(7)	0.0036(7)	0.0039(8)
					0.0016(11)	0	0
Tal	4a	0	0	0	0.0006(12)	0.0031(13)	0.0026(11)
					0	0.0032(18)	0
01	16h	0.3761(2)	0.2999(3)	0.9711 (3)	0.0116(9)	0.0191(9)	0.0171(10)
					-0.0057(15)	0.0035(15)	-0.0063(13)
O2	4c	0.0675(4)	0	0.75	0.0180(18)	0.0106(19)	0.0058(16)
					0	0	0
03	4c	0.6306(4)	0	0.75	0.0015(15)	0.0033(14)	0.0069(15)
					0	0	0
O4	4c	0.3620(4)	0	0.75	0.0047(17)	0.0089(17)	0.0111(16)
					0	0	0

Pr <sub>3</sub> Ta (PDF, 1	O <sub>7</sub> RT)	a (Å)	b (Å)	<b>c</b> (Å)			
Cmcm	(63)	10.995(4)	7.523(3)	7.6858(18)			
Atom	Wyckoff Site	X	У	Z	$\frac{U_{11}}{U_{12}}$	$\frac{U_{22}}{U_{13}}$	$\frac{U_{33}}{U_{23}}$
Pr1	4b	0	0.5	0	0.0094(18)	0.044(4)	0.001(1)
Pr2	8g	0.2290(3)	0.2041(5)	0.25	0.0061(9)	0.008(1)	-0.003(2) 0.0072(9)
Tal	4a	0	0	0	-0.0018(6) 0.0019(6)	0 0.0071(11)	0 0.0055(8)
01	16h	0.37592(18)	0.3116(4)	0.0367(3)	0 0.0119(9)	0 0.0279(17)	-0.0005(6) 0.0066(5)
02	8o	0.1306(3)	0.4767(5)	0.25	-0.013(1) 0.0074(8)	-0.0025(5) 0.0061(8)	0.0043(7) 0.0080(7)
02	~5	0		0.25	0.0004(8)	0	0
03	4c	0	0.0646(5)	0.25	0.0157(14)	0.003(1)	0.0042(7)

**Supplementary Table 3:** Structural information for room temperature (RT) short-range PDF data refinements. Unit cell parameters, fractional positional coordinates and thermal factors are followed by sigma values.

Tb <sub>3</sub> Ta (PDF, 1	O <sub>7</sub> RT)	a (Å)	b (Å)	c (Å)			
Ccmm	(63)	10.529(6)	7.492(3)	7.514(3)			
Atom	Wyckoff Site	X	У	Z	$\frac{U_{11}}{U_{12}}$	$\frac{U_{22}}{U_{13}}$	$\frac{U_{33}}{U_{23}}$
Tb1	4b	0.5	0	0	0.0073(19)	0.049(4) 0.0068(9)	0.0083(14) 0
Tb2	8g	0.2324(2)	0.2378(5)	0.75	0.0086(6) 0.0022(5)	0.0045(6)	0.0094(7) 0
Tal	4a	0	0	0	0.0152(19)	0.005(1) 0.0044(11)	0.0108(15) 0
01	16h	0.3766(3)	0.3029(5)	0.9680(5)	0.0178(12) - $0.020(1)$	0.0358(15) 0.0067(7)	0.0108(8) -0.0072(9)
02	4c	0.0641(6)	0	0.75	0.0132(18)	0.0066(14)	0.0102(15)
03	4c	0.6308(5)	0	0.75	0.0020(9) 0	0.0120(14)	0.0107(16) 0
O4	4c	0.3641(5)	0	0.75	0.0071(11)	0.0081(13)	0.0028(9)
					0	0	0
Ho <sub>3</sub> Ta (PDF, 1	O7 RT)	a (Å)	b (Å)	c (Å)			
Ccmm	(63)	10.458(7)	7.440(4)	7.457(4)			
Atom	Wyckoff Site	X	У	Z	$\frac{U_{11}}{U_{12}}$	$\frac{U_{22}}{U_{13}}$	$\frac{U_{33}}{U_{23}}$
Ho1	4b	0.5	0	0	0.0056(17)	0.083(7) -0.0054(14)	0.0045(12)
Ho2	8g	0.2313(4)	0.2412(6)	0.75	0.0109(9) 0.0030(8)	0.0041(6)	0.01476(13)
Tal	4a	0	0	0	0.014(2)	0.0054(16) 0.0065(15)	0.010(3)
01	16h	0.3778(3)	0.2965(7)	0.9709(8)	0.0139(14)	0.028(2) 0.0015(13)	0.0137(13) 0.0002(18)
02	4c	0.0619(9)	0	0.75	0.017(3)	0.009(3)	0.009(3)
O3	4c	0.6276(9)	0	0.75	0.009(3) 0	0.0078(15) 0	0.011(3) 0

1	40	e 0.3624(	(8) 0	0.	.75 0.0	002(1) 0.01	2(3) 0.0077(19)
						0 0	0
	Ho <sub>3</sub> TaO <sub>3</sub> Fm-3m (2	7 (PDF) 225)	<b>a (Å)</b> 5.2708(6)	<b>b (Å)</b> 5.2708(6)	<b>c (Å)</b> 5.2708(6)		
	Atom	Wyckoff Site	X	У	Z	Occupancy	Uiso
	Ho1	4a	0	0	0	0.75	0.0201(3)
	Tal	4a	0	0	0	0.25	0.0201(3)
	01	8c	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.875	0.0590(5)
	$Tm_3TaO_7$ (PDF) $Em_3m$ (225)		<b>a (Å)</b> 5.2267(5)	<b>b (Å)</b> 5.2267(5)	<b>c (Å)</b> 5.2267(5	)	
	Atom	Wyckoff Site	X	v	Z		Uiso
	Tm1	4a	0	0	0	0.75	0.0215(3)
	Tal	4a	0	0	0	0.25	0.0215(3)
	01	8c	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.875	0.0627(5)
	<b>Yb<sub>3</sub>TaO</b> <sub>7</sub> (PDF) <i>Fm-3m</i> (225)		a (Å)	b (Å)	c (Å)		
			5.2093(3)	5.2093(3)	5.2093(3	)	
	Atom	Wyckoff Site	X	У	Z	Occupancy	Uiso
	Yb1	4a	0	0	0	0.75	0.0234(3)
	Tal	4a	0	0	0	0.25	0.0234(3)
	01	8c	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.875	0.0623(3)



**Supplementary Figure 5:** Overlayed C222<sub>1</sub> ( $\Gamma_1$ -) and C2/m ( $\Gamma_3$ +) Ho<sub>3</sub>TaO<sub>7</sub> structural models from short-range PDF refinement performed at 100 K. Solid black lines indicate the respective unit cell while shaded brown regions represent TaO<sub>6</sub> octahedra. Ta and Ho cations in respective atomic sites in the C222<sub>1</sub> structure are indicated as solid dark brown and blue ellipsoids, while Ta and Ho cations in respective atomic sites in the C2/m structure are indicated as solid yellow and pink ellipsoids. The ellipsoids represent the extent of anisotropic thermal vibrations, U<sub>11</sub>, U<sub>22</sub> and U<sub>33</sub>.

Pr <sub>3</sub> TaO <sub>7</sub> (PDF, 100K)		a (Å)	b (Å)	<b>c</b> (Å)	
<i>C2cm</i> (40)		10.988(4)	7.490(3)	7.681(3)	
Atom	Wyckoff Site	X	У	Z	Uiso
Pr1	4a	0.5042(14)	0	0	0.0109(9)
Pr2	4b	0.2300(7)	0.2015(11)	0.25	0.0042(8)
Pr3	4b	0.2758(7)	0.705(1)	0.25	0.0034(6)
Tal	4a	0.0054(7)	0	0	0.0047(3)
01	8c	0.8709(5)	0.8254(7)	0.037(1)	0.0090(6)
O2	8c	0.625	0.3059(6)	0.4632(8)	0.0053(4)
03	4b	0.1337(7)	0.4686(9)	0.25	0.0057(6)
O4	4b	0.3751(6)	0.9833(8)	0.25	0.0046(6)
05	4b	0.9982(8)	0.0716(6)	0.25	0.0049(5)

**Supplementary Table 4:** Structural information for localized 100 K temperature short-range PDF data refinements. Unit cell parameters, fractional positional coordinates and thermal factors are followed by sigma values.

Ho <sub>3</sub> TaO <sub>7</sub> (PDF, 100K) <i>C222</i> <sub>1</sub> (20)		<b>a (Å)</b> 10.486(5)	<b>b (Å)</b> 7.419(3)	<b>c (Å)</b> 7.445(2)	
Atom	Wyckoff Site	X	У	Z	Uiso
Ho1	4a	0	0.4810(7)	0	0.0080(5)
Ho2	8c	0.2349(3)	0.2362(4)	0.7451(7)	0.0062(3)
Tal	4a	0	0.9960(7)		0.0029(4)
01	8c	0.3726(5)	0.3122(7)	0.9639(8)	0.0098(7)
O2	8c	0.3775(4)	0.2899(5)	0.5230(7)	0.0060(6)
O3	4b	0.0667(5)	0	0.75	0.0073(5)
O4	4b	0.6281(8)	0	0.75	0.0076(5)
05	4b	0.3628(7)	0	0.75	0.0084(8)

<b>Ybr<sub>3</sub>TaO</b> <sub>7</sub> (PDF, 100K) <i>C2mm</i> (38)		<b>a (Å)</b> 10.558(4)	<b>b (Å)</b> 7.171(3)	<b>c (Å)</b> 7.443(3)	
Atom	Wyckoff Site	X	У	Z	Uiso
Yb1	4c	0.4799(5)	0	0.7210(4)	0.0104(4)
Yb2	4d	0.2166(5)	0.7499(8)	0	0.0124(5)
Yb3	4e	0.2289(5)	0.2508(6)	0.5	0.0077(5)
Tal	4c	0.9996(6)	0	0.7328(6)	0.0037(4)
01	8f	0.5929(6)	0.2684(4)	0.2656(5)	0.0072(5)
02	8f	0.875000	0.7589(8)	0.1839(5)	0.0116(6)
O3	2a	0.0379(11)	0	0	0.012(2)
O4	2b	0.9520(8)	0	0.5	0.007(1)
05	2a	0.6156(13)	0	0	0.019(1)
06	2b	0.3598(13)	0	0.5	0.019(1)
07	2a	0.3755(18)	0	0	0.019(1)
08	2b	0.6089(16)	0	0.5	0.019(1)