

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Theoretical prediction and synthesis of a family of atomic laminate metal borides with in-plane chemical ordering

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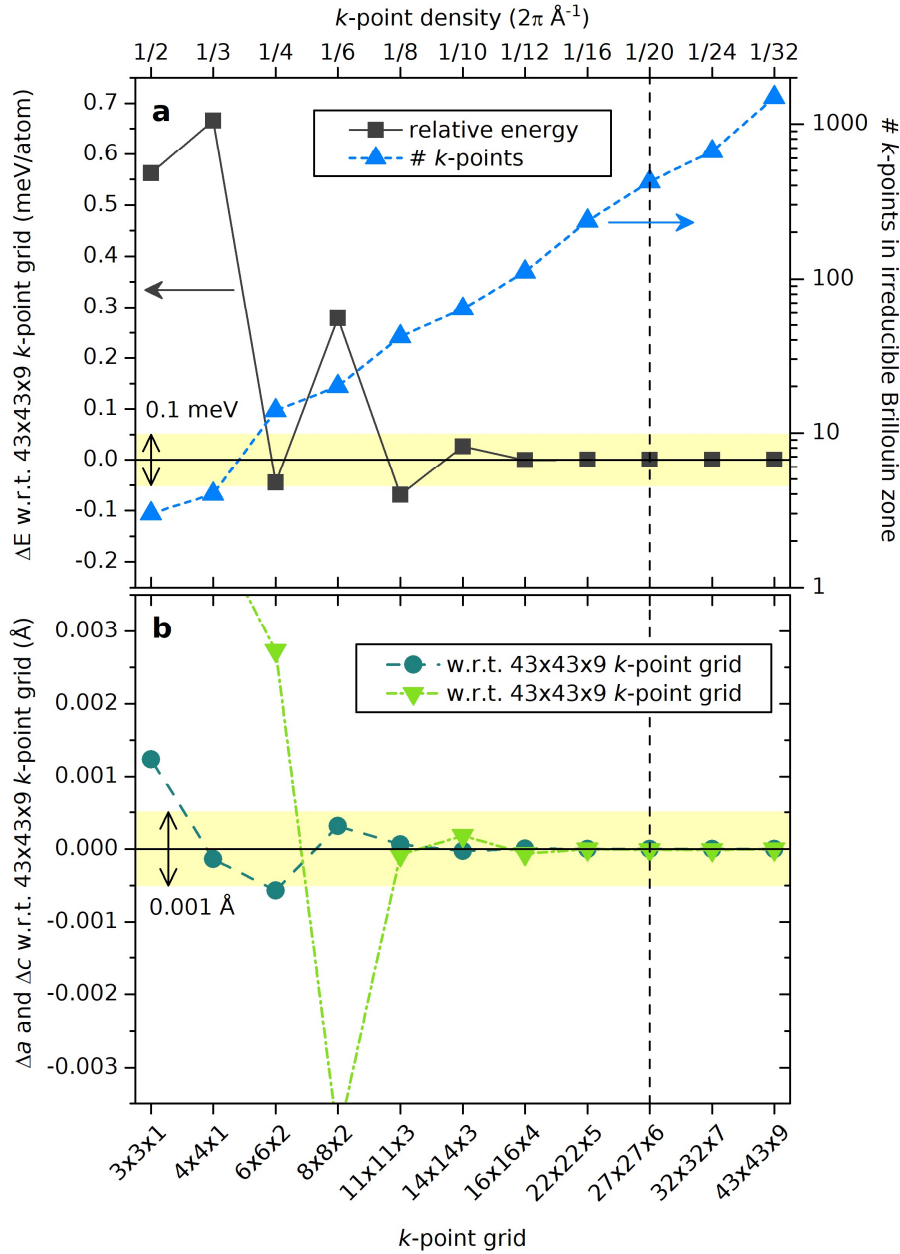


Figure S1. Convergence of relative (a) energy and (b) lattice parameters a and c for $\text{Mo}_{4/3}\text{Y}_{2/3}\text{AlB}_2$ ($R\bar{3}m$) as compared to largest k -point grid (43x43x9) considered as function of k -point grid. Dashed vertical line indicate the k -point density used in this work. Convergence with respect to k -point density used in this work is reached as indicated by the yellow area marked in (a) for an energy interval of 0.1 meV/atom and in (b) for a lattice parameter interval of 0.001 Å.

Table S1. Calculated formation enthalpy ΔH_{cp} for $M_2\text{AlB}_2$ with $Cmmm$ and $P\bar{6}m2$ symmetry (in meV/atom) along with identified equilibrium simplex. Experimentally known $M_2\text{AlB}_2$ phases are marked in bold.

M	$\Delta H_{\text{cp}}[Cmmm]$ (meV/atom)	$\Delta H_{\text{cp}}[P\bar{6}m2]$ (meV/atom)	Equilibrium simplex
Sc	42	88	ScB ₂ , ScAl
Y	59	131	YB ₂ , Y ₂ Al, YAl ₂
Ti	26	14	TiAl, TiB ₂
Zr	73	63	ZrB ₂ , Zr ₂ Al ₃ , Zr ₄ Al ₃
Hf	77	35	HfB ₂ , HfAl ₂ , Hf ₄ Al ₃
V	102	73	V ₅ B ₆ , VAl ₃
Nb	143	56	NbB, Nb ₃ B ₄ , NbAl ₃
Ta	190	75	TaB, Ta ₃ B ₄ , TaAl ₃
Cr	-13	118	CrAlB, Cr ₄ AlB ₄
Mo	18	98	MoAlB, Mo ₄ AlB ₄
W	52	143	WAlB, WB
Mn	-67	82	MnB, MnB ₄ , Mn ₄ Al ₁₁
Fe	-78	4	FeAlB, FeB
Co	55	120	CoB, B, CoAl

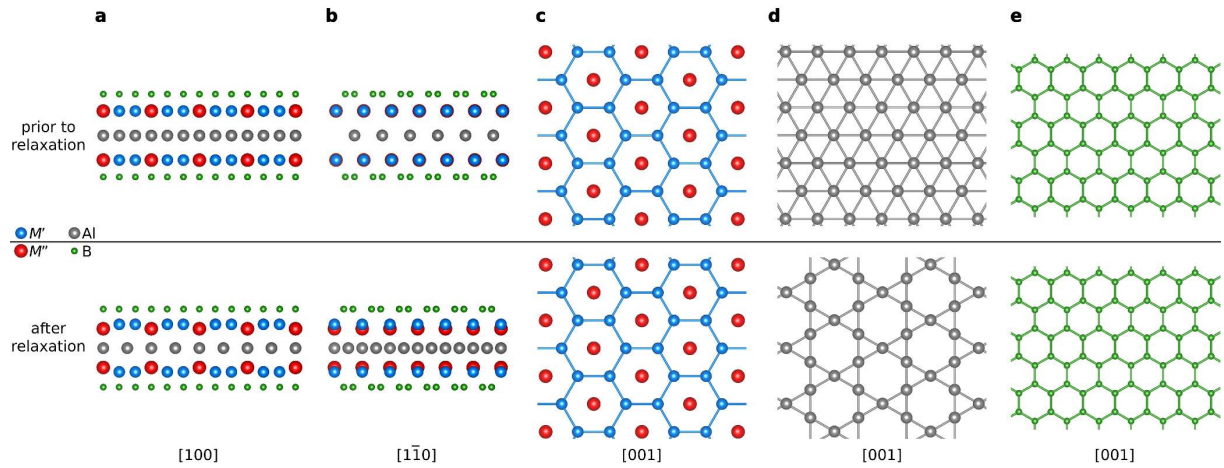


Figure S2. Schematic comparison of the crystal structure of $M'_{4/3}M''_{2/3}\text{AlB}_2$ assuming in-plane ordered $P\bar{6}2m/P\bar{6}2c/R\bar{3}m/C2$ symmetry, prior to (upper part) and after (lower part) relaxation. A B-M-Al-M-B section shown along (a) $[100]$ and (b) $[1\bar{1}0]$ zone axis. Top view of (c) M-layer, (d) Al-layer, and (e) boron layer along $[001]$ zone axis.

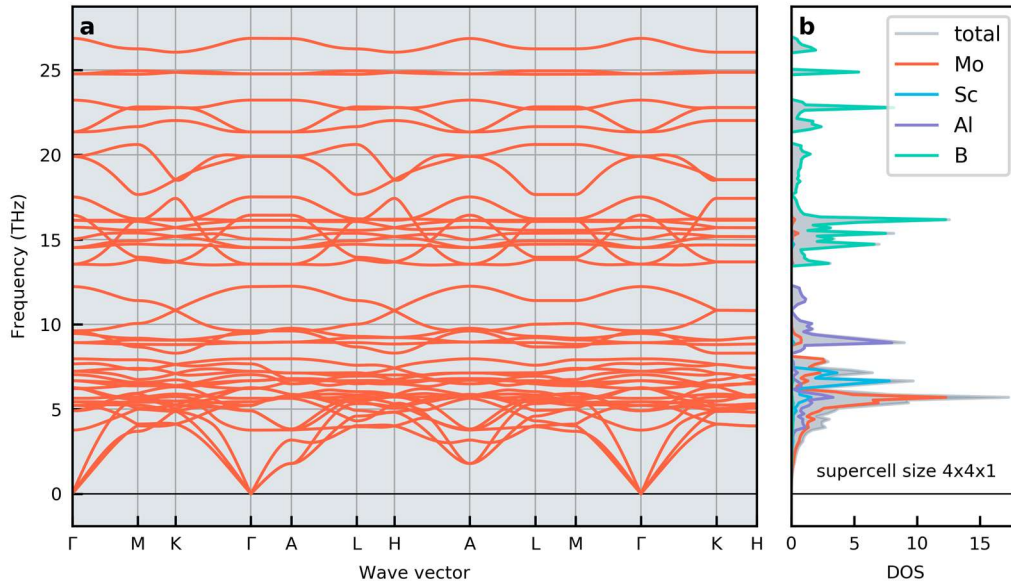


Figure S3. Phonon dispersion and phonon DOS for $\text{Mo}_{4/3}\text{Sc}_{2/3}\text{AlB}_2$ with $P\bar{6}2m$ symmetry (space group 189).

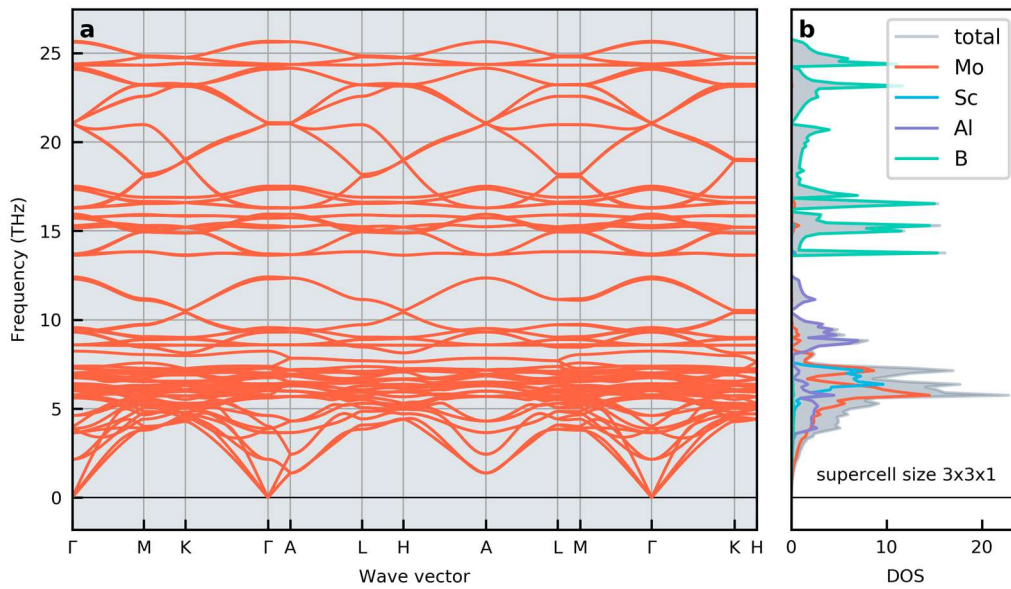


Figure S4. Phonon dispersion and phonon DOS for $\text{Mo}_{4/3}\text{Sc}_{2/3}\text{AlB}_2$ with $P\bar{6}2c$ symmetry (space group 190).

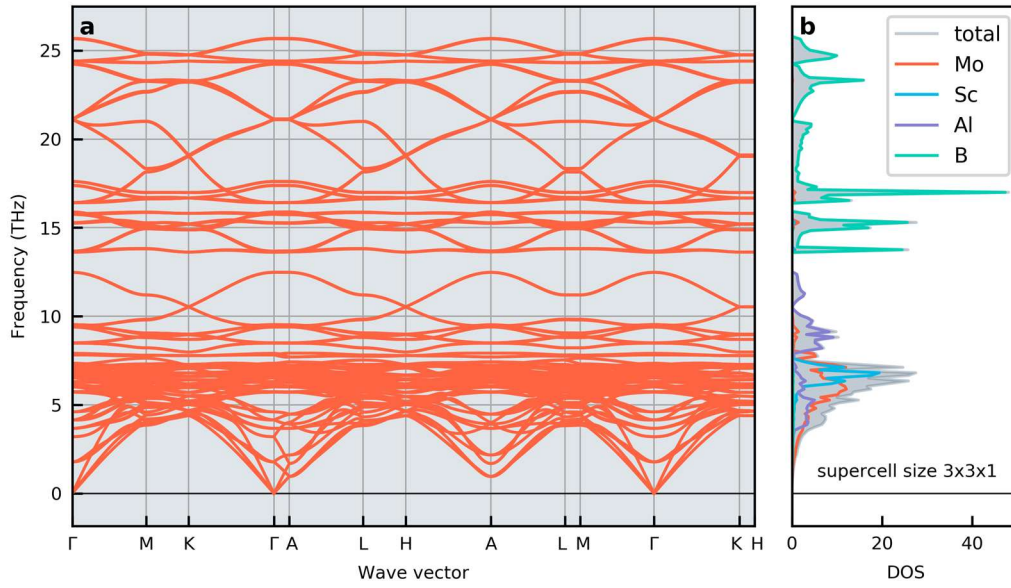


Figure S5. Phonon dispersion and phonon DOS for $\text{Mo}_{4/3}\text{Sc}_{2/3}\text{AlB}_2$ with $R\bar{3}m$ symmetry (space group 166).

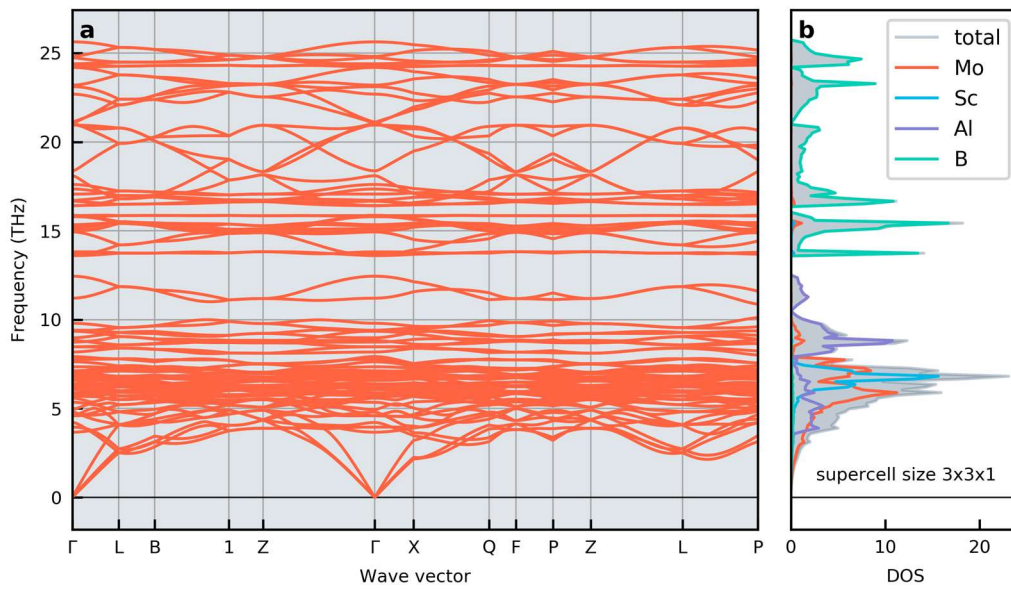


Figure S6. Phonon dispersion and phonon DOS for $\text{Mo}_{4/3}\text{Sc}_{2/3}\text{AlB}_2$ with $C2$ symmetry (space group 5).

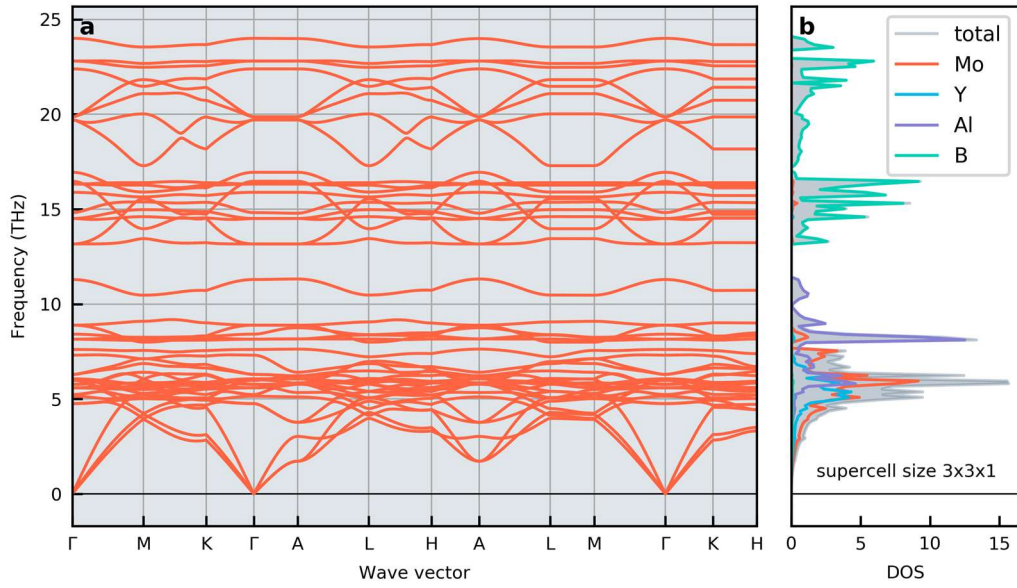


Figure S7. Phonon dispersion and phonon DOS for $\text{Mo}_{4/3}\text{Y}_{2/3}\text{AlB}_2$ with $P\bar{6}2m$ symmetry (space group 189).

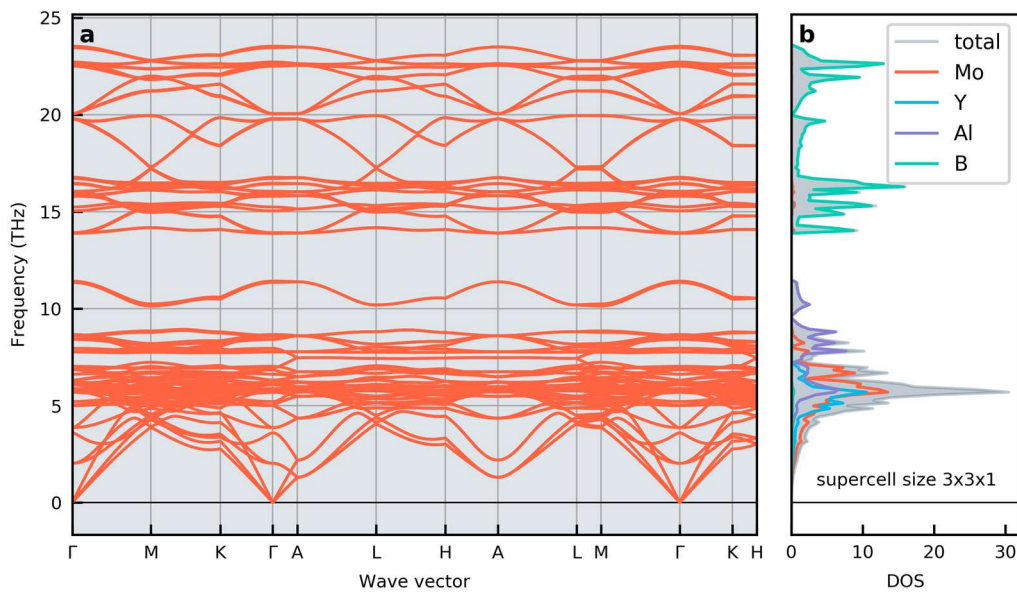


Figure S8. Phonon dispersion and phonon DOS for $\text{Mo}_{4/3}\text{Y}_{2/3}\text{AlB}_2$ with $P\bar{6}2c$ symmetry (space group 190).

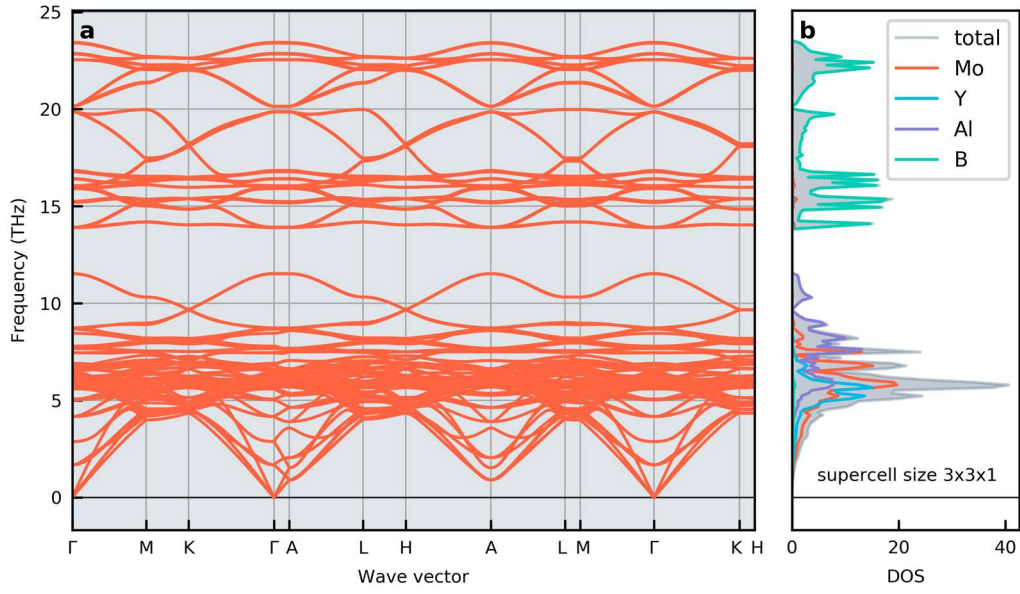


Figure S9. Phonon dispersion and phonon DOS for $\text{Mo}_{4/3}\text{Y}_{2/3}\text{AlB}_2$ with $R\bar{3}m$ symmetry (space group 166).

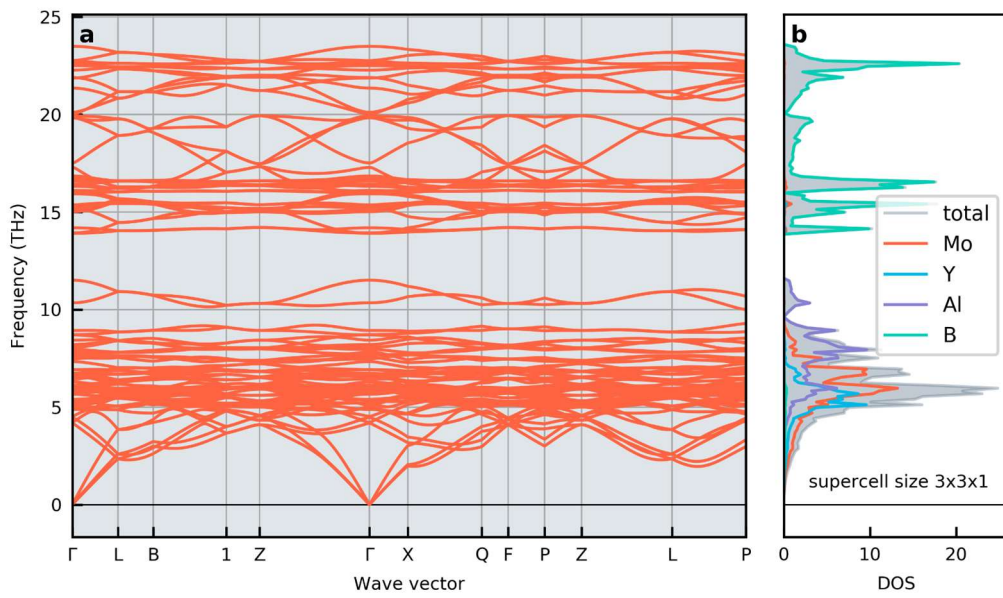


Figure S20. Phonon dispersion and phonon DOS for $\text{Mo}_{4/3}\text{Y}_{2/3}\text{AlB}_2$ with $C2$ symmetry (space group 5).

Table S2. Identified equilibrium simplex for $M':M'':Al:B$ of a 4:2:3:6 composition.

M'	M''	Equilibrium simplex	M'	M''	Equilibrium simplex	M'	M''	Equilibrium simplex
Sc	Y	ScB ₂ , YAl ₂ , Y ₂ Al, Sc ₂ Al	V	Sc	VB, ScAl ₃ , ScB ₂	W	Sc	WB, ScAl ₃ , ScB ₂
Sc	Ti	ScAl, TiB ₂ , ScB ₂	V	Y	YAl ₂ , YB ₂ , V ₃ B ₄ , V ₃ B ₆	W	Y	WB, YAl ₂ , YB ₄
Sc	Zr	ScAl, ZrB ₂ , ScB ₂	V	Ti	VB, TiAl ₃ , TiB ₂	W	Ti	TiB ₂ , W ₂ B, WB, WAl ₅
Sc	Hf	ScAl, HfB ₂ , ScB ₂	V	Zr	VB, ZrAl ₃ , ZrB ₂	W	Zr	ZrB ₂ , W ₂ B, WB, WAl ₅
Sc	V	VB, ScB ₂ , ScAl, ScAl ₂	V	Hf	VB, HfAl ₃ , HfB ₂	W	Hf	HfB ₂ , W ₂ B, WB, WAl ₅
Sc	Nb	NbB, ScB ₂ , ScAl, ScAl ₂	V	Nb	NbAl ₃ , V ₃ B ₆ , VB, Nb ₃ B ₄	W	V	WB, WAl ₅ , V ₃ B ₄ , V ₃ B ₆
Sc	Ta	TaB, ScB ₂ , ScAl, ScAl ₂	V	Ta	TaB, TaAl ₃ , V ₃ B ₄ , V ₃ B ₆	W	Nb	WB, WAlB, NbAl ₃ , Nb ₂ B ₃
Sc	Cr	ScB ₂ , ScAl ₂ , Cr ₂ B	V	Cr	Cr ₂ AlB ₂ , V ₃ B ₆ , VAl ₃	W	Ta	WAlB, TaB, WB
Sc	Mo	ScB ₂ , ScAl ₂ , Mo ₃ Al, Mo ₃ Al ₈	V	Mo	MoAlB, VB, V ₃ B ₆ , Mo ₃ Al ₈	W	Cr	WB, WAlB, Cr ₂ AlB ₂
Sc	W	ScB ₂ , W, ScAl ₃	V	W	WB, VB, WAl ₅ , V ₃ B ₆	W	Mo	WB, MoAlB, WAlB
Sc	Mn	ScB ₂ , ScAl ₂ , Mn ₂ B	V	Mn	V ₃ B ₆ , Mn ₂ AlB ₂ , Mn ₄ Al ₁₁ , V ₃ B ₄	W	Mn	WB, WAlB, Mn ₂ AlB ₂
Sc	Fe	ScB ₂ , FeAl, ScAl	V	Fe	V ₂ B ₃ , V ₃ B ₄ , Fe ₅ Al ₈ , Fe ₂ AlB ₂	W	Fe	WAlB, WB, Fe ₂ AlB ₂
Sc	Co	ScB ₂ , CoAl, ScAl	V	Co	V ₂ B ₃ , CoAl, Co ₂ Al ₅	W	Co	WB ₂ , WB, CoAl, Co ₂ Al ₅
Y	Sc	ScB ₂ , YB ₂ , Y ₂ Al, YAl ₂	Nb	Sc	NbB, ScAl ₃ , ScB ₂	Mn	Sc	MnAl, ScB ₂ , Mn ₂ AlB ₂
Y	Ti	TiB ₂ , YB ₂ , Y ₂ Al, YAl ₂	Nb	Y	YAl ₂ , NbB, Nb ₃ B ₄ , YB ₂	Mn	Y	MnB, YAl ₂ , YB ₄
Y	Zr	ZrB ₂ , YB ₂ , Y ₂ Al, YAl ₂	Nb	Ti	NbB, TiB ₂ , NbAl ₃ , Nb ₂ Al	Mn	Ti	MnAl, TiB ₂ , Mn ₂ AlB ₂
Y	Hf	HfB ₂ , YB ₂ , Y ₂ Al, YAl ₂	Nb	Zr	NbB, ZrB ₂ , ZrAl ₂ , NbAl ₃	Mn	Zr	MnAl, ZrB ₂ , Mn ₂ AlB ₂
Y	V	YB ₂ , VB, YAl ₂ , Y ₂ Al	Nb	Hf	HfB ₂ , NbB, WAl ₅ , V ₃ B ₆	Mn	Hf	MnAl, HfB ₂ , Mn ₂ AlB ₂
Y	Nb	YB ₂ , NbB, YAl ₂ , Y ₂ Al	Nb	V	VB, NbAl ₃ , Nb ₃ B ₄	Mn	V	Mn ₂ AlB ₂ , V ₃ B ₆ , V ₃ B ₄ , Mn ₄ Al ₁₁
Y	Ta	TaB, YB ₂ , YAl ₂ , Y ₂ Al	Nb	Ta	TaB, NbAl ₃ , Nb ₃ B ₄	Mn	Nb	Mn ₂ AlB ₂ , NbB, NbAl ₃ , Nb ₃ B ₄
Y	Cr	YB ₂ , CrB, YAl ₂ , Y ₂ Al	Nb	Cr	CrB, Nb ₃ B ₄ , NbAl ₃	Mn	Ta	Mn ₂ AlB ₂ , TaB, Ta ₃ B ₄ , Mn ₄ Al ₁₁
Y	Mo	MoB, YB ₂ , YAl ₂ , Y ₂ Al	Nb	Mo	Nb ₃ B ₄ , MoB, NbB, Mo ₃ Al ₈	Mn	Cr	Mn ₂ AlB ₂ , Cr ₂ AlB ₂
Y	W	YB ₂ , YAl ₂ , W ₂ B	Nb	W	WB, Nb ₃ B ₄ , NbAl ₃	Mn	Mo	Mn ₂ AlB ₂ , MoAlB, MoB
Y	Mn	YB ₂ , YAl ₂ , Mn ₂ B	Nb	Mn	NbB, Mn ₂ AlB ₂ , NbAl ₃ , Nb ₃ B ₄	Mn	W	Mn ₂ AlB ₂ , WAlB, WB
Y	Fe	YB ₂ , YAl ₂ , Fe ₂ B	Nb	Fe	FeAl, Nb ₂ B ₃ , NbB ₂ , NbAl ₃	Mn	Fe	Mn ₂ AlB ₂ , Fe ₂ AlB ₂
Y	Co	YB ₂ , CoAl, Y ₂ Al, YAl ₂	Nb	Co	Nb ₂ B ₃ , CoAl, Co ₂ Al ₅	Mn	Co	CoAl, MnB, Mn ₂ AlB ₂ , MnB ₄
Ti	Sc	TiB ₂ , ScAl, TiAl	Ta	Sc	TaB, ScB ₂ , ScAl ₃	Fe	Sc	FeAl, ScB ₂ , Fe ₂ AlB ₂
Ti	Y	YAl ₂ , TiB ₂ , Ti ₃ B ₄ , Y ₂ Al	Ta	Y	TaB, YAl ₂ , YB ₄	Fe	Y	Fe ₂ B, FeAl, YB ₄ , YAl ₂
Ti	Zr	TiB ₂ , Ti ₃ B ₄ , Zr ₂ Al ₃	Ta	Ti	TaB, TiB ₂ , TiAl ₃	Fe	Ti	TiB ₂ , Fe ₂ AlB ₂ , Fe ₃ Al, Fe ₅ Al ₈
Ti	Hf	TiB ₂ , TiAl, Hf ₄ Al ₃ , HfAl ₂	Ta	Zr	TaB, ZrB ₂ , ZrAl ₃	Fe	Zr	FeAl, ZrB ₂ , Fe ₂ AlB ₂
Ti	V	TiB ₂ , VB, TiAl, TiAl ₂	Ta	Hf	TaB, HfB ₂ , HfAl ₃	Fe	Hf	FeAl, HfB ₂ , Fe ₂ AlB ₂
Ti	Nb	TiB ₂ , TiAl, Nb ₂ Al, NbAl ₃	Ta	V	TaB, TaAl ₃ , V ₂ B ₃	Fe	V	Fe ₂ AlB ₂ , V ₂ B ₃ , V ₃ B ₄ , Fe ₅ Al ₈
Ti	Ta	TiB ₂ , TaB, TiAl, TiAl ₂	Ta	Nb	TaB, NbAl ₃ , Nb ₂ B ₃ , Ta ₃ B ₄	Fe	Nb	FeAl, NbB ₂ , Fe ₂ AlB ₂
Ti	Cr	TiB ₂ , TiAl ₂ , Cr ₂ Al	Ta	Cr	TaB, Cr ₂ AlB ₂ , Ta ₃ B ₄ , TaAl ₃	Fe	Ta	Fe ₂ AlB ₂ , Ta ₃ B ₄ , TaB ₂ , Fe ₅ Al ₈
Ti	Mo	TiB ₂ , TiAl ₂ , Mo ₃ Al, Mo ₃ Al ₈	Ta	Mo	TaB, MoAlB, Ta ₃ B ₄ , Mo ₃ Al ₈	Fe	Cr	Fe ₂ AlB ₂ , Cr ₂ AlB ₂
Ti	W	TiB ₂ , W, TiAl ₃	Ta	W	TaB, WAlB, WAl ₅ , Ta ₃ B ₄	Fe	Mo	Fe ₂ AlB ₂ , MoAlB, MoB
Ti	Mn	TiB ₂ , MnAl, TiAl ₂ , TiMn ₂	Ta	Mn	TaB, Ta ₃ B ₄ , Mn ₂ AlB ₂ , Mn ₄ Al ₁₁	Fe	W	Fe ₂ AlB ₂ , WAlB, WB
Ti	Fe	TiB ₂ , TiFe ₂ Al, TiAl ₃ , Fe ₅ Al ₈	Ta	Fe	Ta ₃ B ₄ , TaB ₂ , Fe ₅ Al ₈ , Fe ₂ AlB ₂	Fe	Mn	Fe ₂ AlB ₂ , Mn ₂ AlB ₂
Ti	Co	TiB ₂ , CoAl, TiAl ₂ , TiCo ₂ Al	Ta	Co	CoAl, TaB ₂ , Ta ₃ B ₄ , Co ₂ Al ₅	Fe	Co	Fe ₂ AlB ₂ , CoAl, CoB, B
Zr	Sc	ZrB ₂ , ScAl, Zr ₄ Al ₃ , Zr ₂ Al ₃	Cr	Sc	CrB, ScAl ₃ , ScB ₂	Co	Sc	CoAl, ScB ₂ , CoB, ScB ₁₂
Zr	Y	ZrB ₂ , YAl ₂ , Y ₂ Al, Zr ₄ Al ₃	Cr	Y	CrB, YAl ₂ , YB ₄	Co	Y	CoAl, YB ₂ , CoB, YB ₄
Zr	Ti	TiB ₂ , ZrB ₂ , Zr ₄ Al ₃ , Zr ₂ Al ₃	Cr	Ti	TiB ₂ , Cr ₂ AlB ₂ , Cr ₂ Al, TiAl ₃	Co	Ti	CoAl, TiB ₂ , CoB, B
Zr	Hf	HfB ₂ , ZrB ₂ , Zr ₄ Al ₃ , Zr ₂ Al ₃	Cr	Zr	CrB, ZrAl ₃ , ZrB ₂	Co	Zr	CoAl, ZrB ₂ , CoB, B
Zr	V	ZrB ₂ , VB, Zr ₂ Al ₃	Cr	Hf	HfB ₂ , Cr ₂ AlB ₂ , Cr ₂ Al, HfAl ₃	Co	Hf	CoAl, HfB ₂ , CoB, B
Zr	Nb	ZrB ₂ , NbB, Zr ₂ Al ₃	Cr	V	Cr ₂ AlB ₂ , VAl ₃ , V ₃ B ₆	Co	V	CoAl, VB ₂ , VCoB ₃ , B
Zr	Ta	ZrB ₂ , TaB, Zr ₂ Al ₃	Cr	Nb	Cr ₂ AlB ₂ , CrB, Nb ₃ B ₄ , NbAl ₃	Co	Nb	CoAl, NbB ₂ , CoB, B
Zr	Cr	ZrB ₂ , ZrAl ₂ , Cr ₂ B	Cr	Ta	Cr ₂ AlB ₂ , TaB, Ta ₃ B ₄ , TaAl ₃	Co	Ta	CoAl, TaB ₂ , CoB, B
Zr	Mo	ZrB ₂ , ZrAl ₂ , Mo ₃ Al, Mo ₃ Al ₈	Cr	Mo	MoAlB, CrB, Cr ₂ AlB ₂	Co	Cr	CoAl, CrB ₂ , CoB, CrB ₄
Zr	W	ZrB ₂ , W, ZrAl ₃	Cr	W	Cr ₂ AlB ₂ , WB, WAlB	Co	Mo	CoAl, MoB ₂ , CoB, B
Zr	Mn	ZrB ₂ , ZrAl ₂ , Mn ₇ Al ₃ , MnAl	Cr	Mn	Cr ₂ AlB ₂ , Mn ₂ AlB ₂	Co	W	CoAl, CoB, WB ₄
Zr	Fe	ZrB ₂ , ZrAl ₂ , Fe ₃ Al, FeAl	Cr	Fe	Cr ₂ AlB ₂ , Fe ₂ AlB ₂	Co	Mn	CoAl, CoB, MnB, MnB ₄
Zr	Co	ZrB ₂ , CoAl, Zr ₄ Al ₃ , Zr ₂ Al ₃	Cr	Co	CrB ₂ , CrB, CoAl, Co ₂ Al ₅	Co	Fe	CoAl, CoB, B, Fe ₂ AlB ₂
Hf	Sc	HfB ₂ , ScAl, ScAl ₂ , Hf ₄ Al ₃	Mo	Sc	MoB, ScB ₂ , Mo ₃ Al ₈ , Mo ₃ Al			
Hf	Y	HfB ₂ , YAl ₂ , Y ₂ Al, Hf ₄ Al ₃	Mo	Y	MoB, YAl ₂ , YB ₄			
Hf	Ti	TiB ₂ , HfB ₂ , Hf ₄ Al ₃ , HfAl ₂	Mo	Ti	MoB, TiB ₂ , Mo ₃ Al ₈ , Mo ₃ Al			
Hf	Zr	HfB ₂ , Zr ₂ Al ₃ , Zr ₄ Al ₃ , Hf ₄ Al ₃	Mo	Zr	ZrB ₂ , MoB, Mo ₃ Al ₈ , Mo ₃ Al			
Hf	V	VB, HfB ₂ , HfAl ₂ , Hf ₄ Al ₃	Mo	Hf	HfB ₂ , MoB, Mo ₃ Al ₈ , Mo ₃ Al			
Hf	Nb	HfB ₂ , HfAl ₂ , Nb ₂ Al	Mo	V	MoAlB, VB, MoB			
Hf	Ta	TaB, HfB ₂ , HfAl ₂ , Hf ₄ Al ₃	Mo	Nb	MoB, MoAlB, Nb ₃ B ₄ , Mo ₃ Al ₈			
Hf	Cr	HfB ₂ , HfAl ₂ , Cr ₂ Al	Mo	Ta	MoAlB, TaB, Mo ₄ AlB ₄			
Hf	Mo	HfB ₂ , HfAl ₂ , Mo ₃ Al, Mo ₃ Al ₈	Mo	Cr	MoAlB, CrB, MoB			
Hf	W	HfB ₂ , W, HfAl ₃	Mo	W	MoAlB, WB, MoB			
Hf	Mn	HfB ₂ , HfAl ₂ , Mn ₇ Al ₃ , MnAl	Mo	Mn	MoAlB, MoB, Mn ₂ AlB ₂			
Hf	Fe	HfB ₂ , FeAl, Hf ₄ Al ₃ , HfAl ₂	Mo	Fe	MoAlB, MoB, Fe ₂ AlB ₂			
Hf	Co	HfB ₂ , CoAl, Hf ₄ Al ₃ , HfAl ₂	Mo	Co	CoAl, MoB ₂ , MoB, MoAlB			

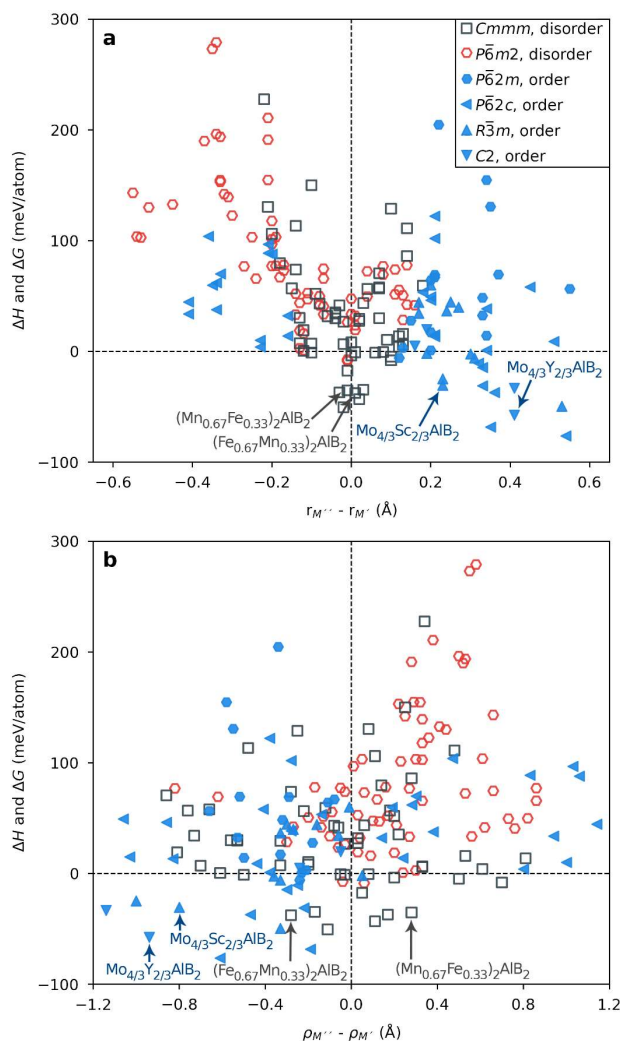


Figure S11. ΔH or ΔG , from Fig. 3b, as function of (a) size and (b) electronegativity difference between M'' and M' . Symbols represent crystal structure and chemical order of lowest energy for a given combination of M' and M'' ; $Cmmm$ with disorder (open squares), $P\bar{6}m2$ with disorder (open hexagon), and in-plane ordered i -MAB phases with $P\bar{6}2m$ (filled hexagon), $P\bar{6}2c$ (filled left triangle), $R\bar{3}m$ (filled up triangle) and $C2$ (filled down triangle) symmetries. Experimentally reported phases are marked in both panels.

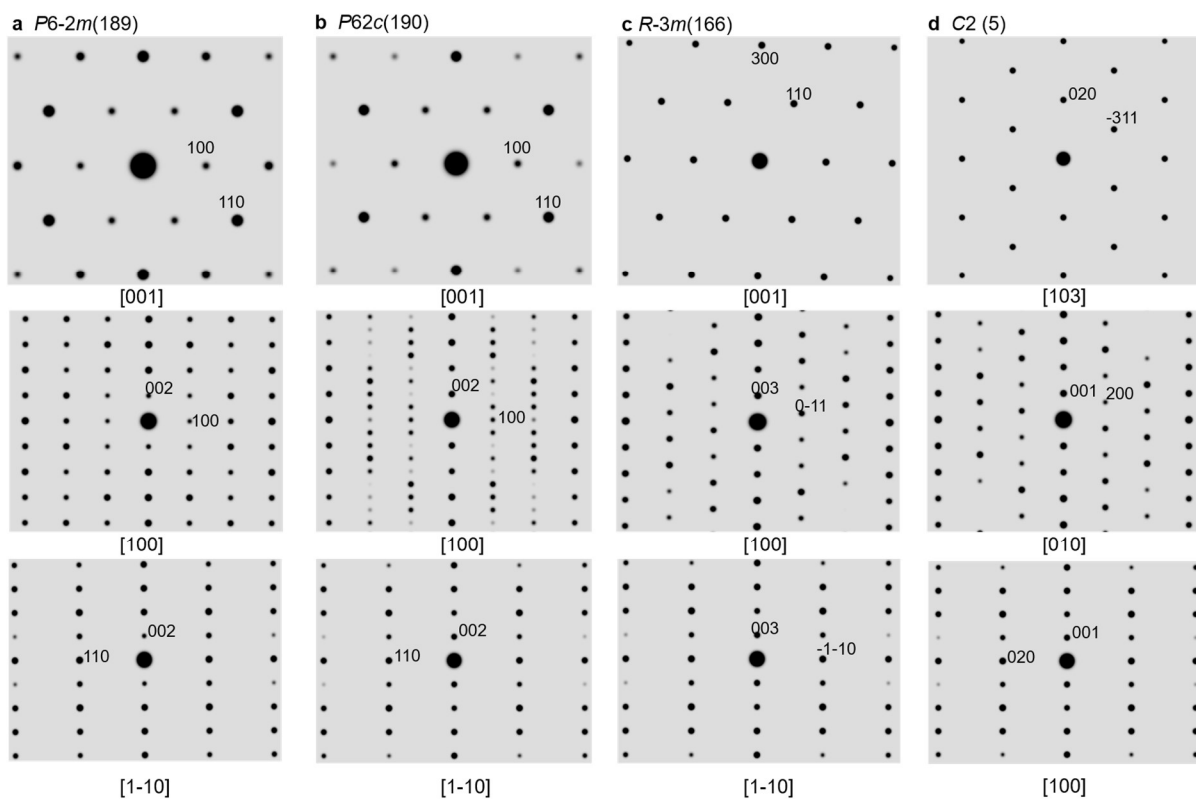


Figure S12. Simulated selective area electron diffraction patterns along $[001]$, $[100]$, and $[1\bar{1}0]$ zone axes for different *i*-MAB polymorphs with (a) $P\bar{6}2m$, (b) $P\bar{6}2c$, (c) $R\bar{3}m$ and (d) $C2$ symmetries.

Table S3. Rietveld refinement of $\text{Mo}_{4/3}\text{Y}_{2/3}\text{AlB}_2$ assuming a hexagonal $R\bar{3}m$ (#166) symmetry. From the Rietveld refinement of the XRD pattern shown in Fig. 4a, the mass fractions of the *i*-MAB phase $\text{Mo}_{4/3}\text{Y}_{2/3}\text{AlB}_2$, MoB and Y_2O_3 were: 80, 15 and 5 wt%, respectively. The total χ^2 value was 3.23.

Formula (unit cell)	$\text{Mo}_{12}\text{Y}_6\text{Al}_9\text{B}_{18}$
Space group	$R\bar{3}m$ (#166)
$a = b$ (Å)	5.44577(9)
c (Å)	22.69048(38)
$\alpha = \beta$ (°)	90
γ (°)	120
Mo	6c (0.00000, 0.00000, 0.56468(15))
Mo	6c (0.00000, 0.00000, 0.77062(14))
Y	6c (0.00000, 0.00000, -0.07931(17))
Al	9e (0.50000, 0.00000, 0.00000)
B	18g (0.32863(59), 0.00000, 0.00000)

Table S4. Calculated crystallographic data for $\text{Mo}_{4/3}\text{Y}_{2/3}\text{AlB}_2$ using the GGA-PBE exchange-correlation functional with Wyckoff positions given for each unique crystallographic site.

Space group	Lattice parameter (Å)	Atomic position
$P\bar{6}2m$ (189)	$a = 5.434$ $c = 7.644$	Mo 4h (0.33333, 0.66667, 0.69125)
		Y 2c (0.00000, 0.00000, 0.23686)
		Al 3f (0.49975, 0.00000, 0.00000)
		B 3g (0.66787, 0.00000, 0.50000)
		B 3g (0.36788, 0.00000, 0.50000)
$P\bar{6}2c$ (190)	$a = 5.464$ $c = 15.183$	Mo 4f (0.33333, 0.66667, 0.40766)
		Mo 4e (0.00000, 0.00000, 0.09514)
		Y 4f (0.33333, 0.66667, 0.63022)
		Al 6h (0.66728, 0.83376, 0.25000)
		B 6g (0.66585, 0.00000, 0.00000)
		B 6g (0.33415, 0.00000, 0.00000)
$R\bar{3}m$ (166)	$a = 5.465$ $c = 22.755$	Mo 6c (0.00000, 0.00000, 0.56355)
		Mo 6c (0.00000, 0.00000, 0.77221)
		Y 6c (0.00000, 0.00000, -0.07973)
		Al 9e (0.50000, 0.00000, 0.00000)
		B 18g (0.33377, 0.00000, 0.50000)
$C2$ (5)	$a = 9.473$ $b = 5.467$ $c = 8.214$ $\beta = 112.564$	Mo 4c (0.27262, 0.33333, 0.81672)
		Mo 4c (-0.06298, 0.33333, 0.80968)
		Y 4c (0.57996, 0.33335, 0.73957)
		Al 2b (0.00000, 0.33346, 0.50000)
		Al 4c (0.75006, 0.08325, 0.50001)
		B 2a (0.00000, -0.00076, 0.00000)
		B 4c (0.66712, 0.00025, 0.00000)
		B 2a (0.00000, 0.66742, 0.00000)
		B 4c (0.16713, 0.16643, 0.00001)

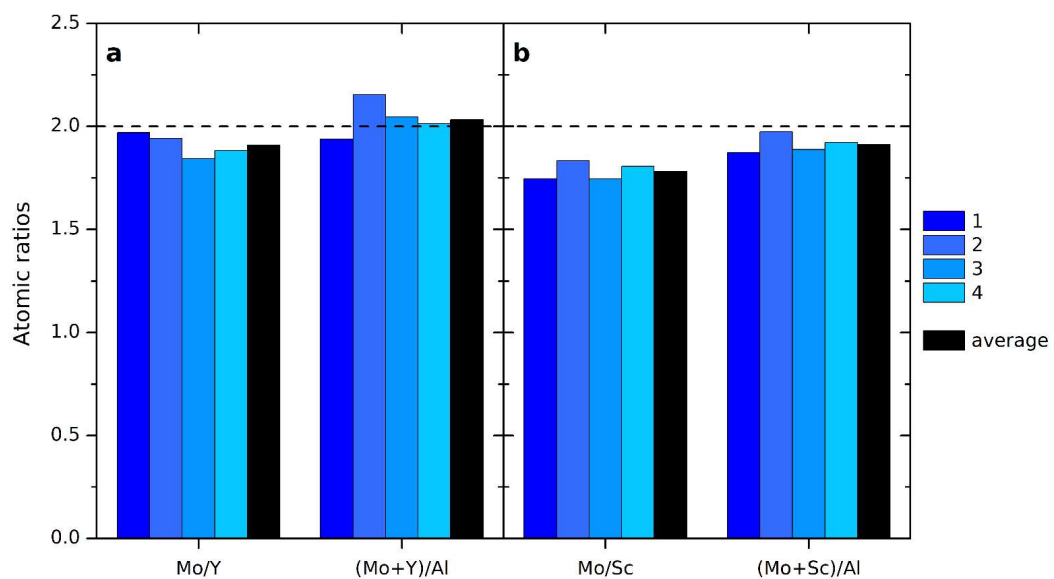


Figure S13. Atomic ratios from four individual powder particles along with average values from EDX for (a) $\text{Mo}_{4/3}\text{Y}_{2/3}\text{AlB}_2$ and (b) $\text{Mo}_{4/3}\text{Sc}_{2/3}\text{AlB}_2$.

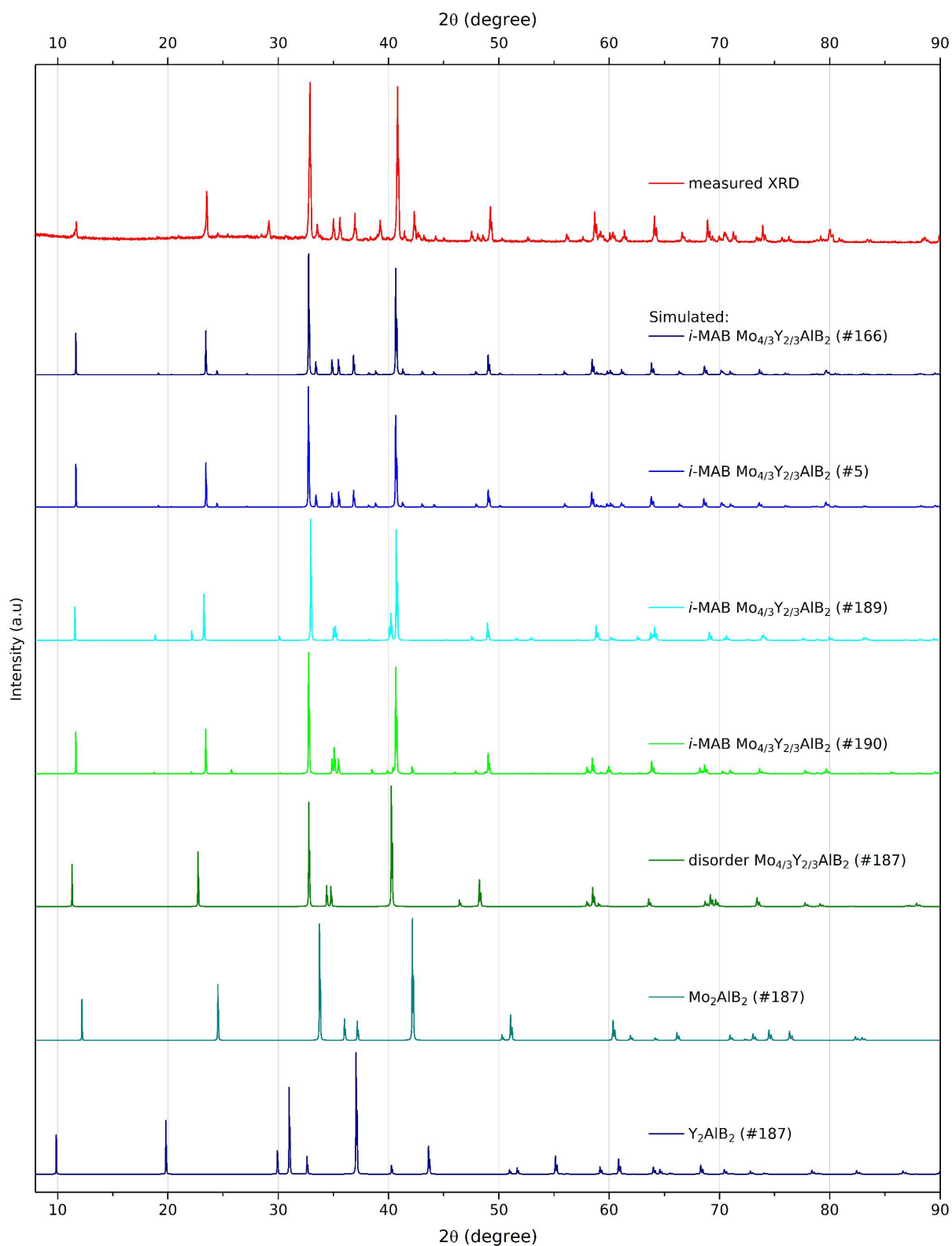


Figure S14. Measured XRD of the $\text{Mo}_{4/3}\text{Y}_{2/3}\text{AlB}_2$ sample along with simulated diffractograms for four *i*-MAB and one disordered $\text{Mo}_{4/3}\text{Y}_{2/3}\text{AlB}_2$. In addition, simulated diffractograms for Mo_2AlB_2 and Y_2AlB_2 with $P\bar{6}m2$ symmetry is shown.

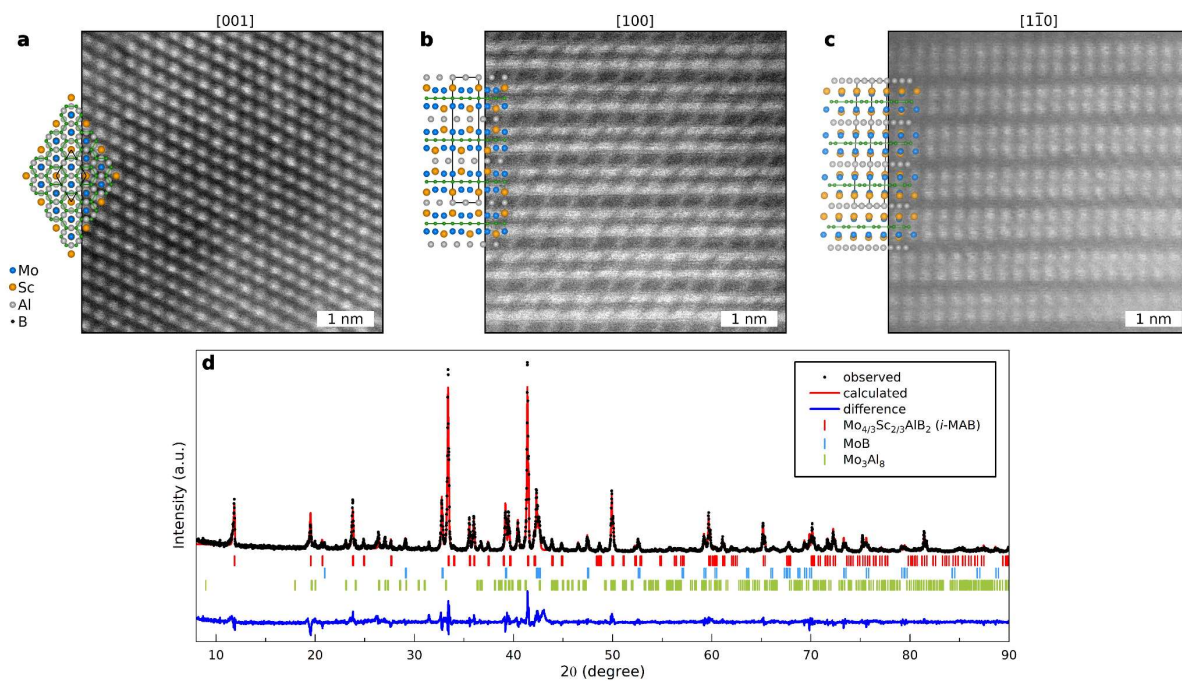


Figure S15. Experimental characterization of synthesized $\text{Mo}_{4/3}\text{Sc}_{2/3}\text{AlB}_2$ i -MAB phase. (a-c) In-plane chemical ordering of the i -MAB phase is evident from STEM images along the [001], [100] and $[1\bar{1}0]$ zone axis, respectively. Schematics to the left of each image represent the corresponding atomic arrangements considering the hexagonal $R\bar{3}m$ (#166) structure. (d) Rietveld refinement of XRD of sample assuming space group $R\bar{3}m$ (#166).

Table S5. Rietveld refinement of $\text{Mo}_{4/3}\text{Sc}_{2/3}\text{AlB}_2$ assuming a hexagonal $R\bar{3}m$ (#166) symmetry. From the Rietveld refinement of the XRD pattern shown in Fig. 5a, the mass fractions of the *i*-MAB phase $\text{Mo}_{4/3}\text{Sc}_{2/3}\text{AlB}_2$, MoB and Mo_3Al_8 were: 62, 20 and 18 wt%, respectively. The total χ^2 value was 3.76.

Formula (unit cell)	$\text{Mo}_{12}\text{Sc}_6\text{Al}_9\text{B}_{18}$
Space group	$R\bar{3}m$ (#166)
$a = b$ (Å)	5.36261(8)
c (Å)	22.44267(42)
$\alpha = \beta$ (°)	90
γ (°)	120
Mo	6c (0.00000, 0.00000, 0.66543(15))
Mo	6c (0.00000, 0.00000, 0.76785(15))
Y	6c (0.00000, 0.00000, -0.08884(34))
Al	9e (0.50000, 0.00000, 0.00000)
B	18g (0.37120(400), 0.00000, 0.00000)

Table S6. Calculated crystallographic data for $\text{Mo}_{4/3}\text{Sc}_{2/3}\text{AlB}_2$ using the GGA-PBE exchange-correlation functional with Wyckoff positions given for each unique crystallographic site.

Space group	Lattice parameter (Å)	Atomic position
$P\bar{6}2m$ (189)	$a = 5.35158$ $c = 7.51226$	Mo 4h (0.33333, 0.66667, 0.69540)
		Sc 2c (0.00000, 0.00000, 0.24794)
		Al 3f (0.49978, 0.00000, 0.00000)
		B 3g (0.67029, 0.00000, 0.50000)
		B 3g (0.32972, 0.00000, 0.50000)
$P\bar{6}2c$ (190)	$a = 5.37974$ $c = 14.92960$	Mo 4f (0.33333, 0.66667, 0.40521)
		Mo 4e (0.00000, 0.00000, 0.09690)
		Sc 4f (0.33333, 0.66667, 0.62474)
		Al 6h (0.66692, 0.83284, 0.25000)
		B 6g (0.66487, 0.00000, 0.00000)
		B 6g (0.33513, 0.00000, 0.00000)
$R\bar{3}m$ (166)	$a = 5.38270$ $c = 22.38392$	Mo 6c (0.00000, 0.00000, 0.56457)
		Mo 6c (0.00000, 0.00000, 0.77050)
		Sc 6c (0.00000, 0.00000, -0.08331)
		Al 9e (0.50000, 0.00000, 0.00000)
		B 18g (0.33514, 0.00000, 0.50000)
$C2$ (5)	$a = 9.32832$ $b = 5.38336$ $c = 8.08154$ $\beta = 112.58693$	Mo 4c (0.27090, 0.33334, 0.81182)
		Mo 4c (-0.06397, 0.33334, 0.80649)
		Sc 4c (0.58345, 0.33336, 0.75038)
		Al 2b (0.00000, 0.33549, 0.50000)
		Al 4c (0.75111, 0.08219, 0.50000)
		B 2a (0.00000, -0.00175, 0.00000)
		B 4c (0.66763, 0.00073, 0.00003)
		B 2a (0.00000, 0.66847, 0.00000)
		B 4c (0.16765, 0.16593, 0.00003)

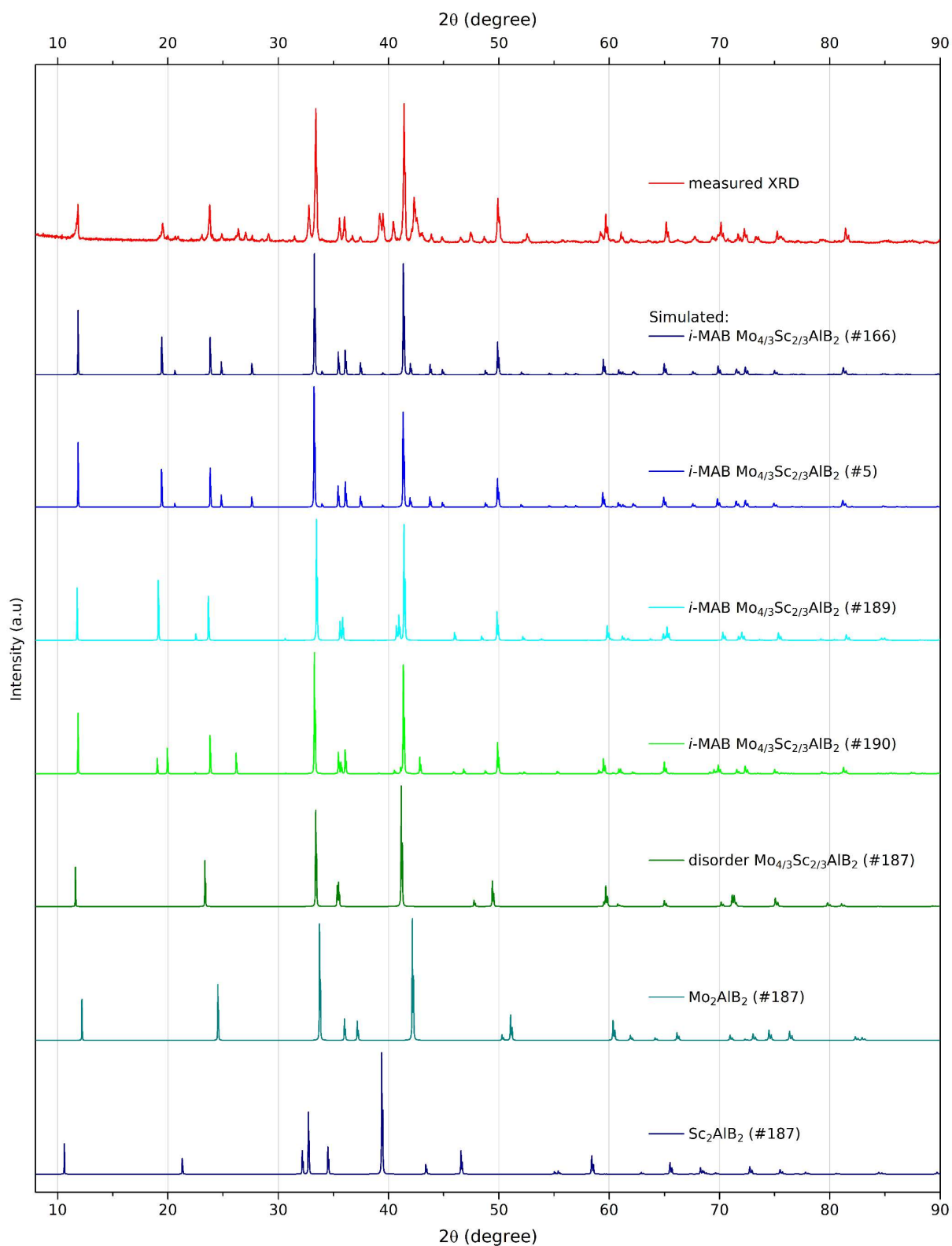


Figure S16. Measured XRD of the $\text{Mo}_{4/3}\text{Sc}_{2/3}\text{AlB}_2$ sample along with simulated diffractograms for four i -MAB and one disordered $\text{Mo}_{4/3}\text{Sc}_{2/3}\text{AlB}_2$. In addition, simulated diffractograms for Mo_2AlB_2 and Sc_2AlB_2 with $P\bar{6}m2$ symmetry is shown.

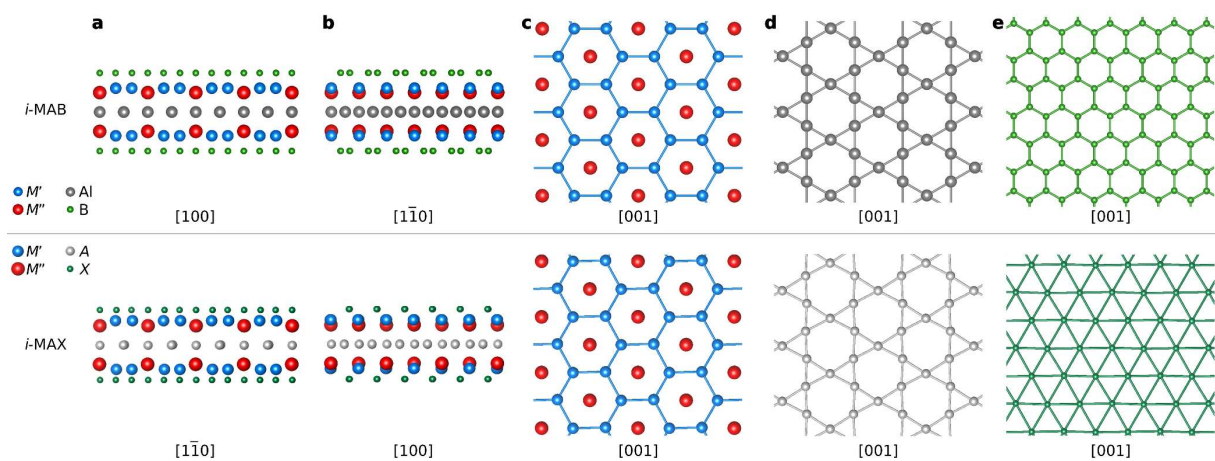


Figure S17. Schematic illustration and comparison of *i*-MAB and *i*-MAX phases locally along (a) $[100]$ and (b) $[1\bar{1}0]$ zone axes and for (c) *M*-layer, (d) Al- and *A*-layer, and (e) B and *X*-layer along $[001]$ zone axes.