

## Supplementary material

### **Coordination *versus* hydrogen bonds in the structures of different tris(pyridin-2-yl)phosphoric triamide derivatives**

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**Table S1** Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (°) for compounds **1** – **3**.

| <b>1</b>                                  |             | <b>1</b>                                    |             | <b>2</b>                                   |             |
|---|-------------|---|-------------|--|-------------|
| Co01–O007 <sup>i</sup>                    | 2.011 (2)   | Co02–O008 <sup>ii</sup>                     | 2.013 (2)   | P001–O002                                  | 1.4783 (14) |
| Co01–N009 <sup>i</sup>                    | 2.210 (3)   | Co02–N00B <sup>ii</sup>                     | 2.231 (3)   | P001–N003                                  | 1.6558 (10) |
| Co01–N00A <sup>i</sup>                    | 2.246 (2)   | Co02–N00C <sup>ii</sup>                     | 2.210 (3)   | P001–N003 <sup>i</sup>                     | 1.6558 (10) |
| P004–O007                                 | 1.498 (2)   | P003–O008                                   | 1.501 (2)   | P001–N003 <sup>ii</sup>                    | 1.6558 (10) |
| P004–N00E                                 | 1.575 (3)   | P003–N00D                                   | 1.571 (3)   | N003–C005                                  | 1.4094 (15) |
| P004–N00F                                 | 1.663 (3)   | P003–N00H                                   | 1.666 (3)   | N004–C005                                  | 1.3403 (15) |
| P004–N00G                                 | 1.661 (3)   | P003–N00I                                   | 1.669 (3)   | N004–C007                                  | 1.3465 (16) |
| O007 <sup>i</sup> –Co01–O007              | 180.00 (9)  | O008–Co02–O008 <sup>ii</sup>                | 180.0       | O002–P001–N003                             | 113.34 (4)  |
| O007–Co01–N009 <sup>i</sup>               | 91.53 (9)   | O008 <sup>ii</sup> –Co02–N00B <sup>ii</sup> | 88.94 (9)   | O002–P001–N003 <sup>i</sup>                | 113.34 (4)  |
| O007–Co01–N009 <sup>ii</sup>              | 88.47 (9)   | O008–Co02–N00B <sup>ii</sup>                | 91.05 (9)   | O002–P001–N003 <sup>ii</sup>               | 113.34 (4)  |
| O007–Co01–N00A                            | 88.95 (9)   | O008–Co02–N00C                              | 89.16 (10)  | N003 <sup>i</sup> –P001–N003 <sup>ii</sup> | 105.34 (4)  |
| O007–Co01–N00A <sup>i</sup>               | 91.05 (9)   | O008 <sup>ii</sup> –Co02–N00C               | 90.85 (10)  | N003 <sup>ii</sup> –P001–N003              | 105.34 (4)  |
| N009 <sup>i</sup> –Co01–N009              | 180.0       | N00B–Co02–N00B <sup>ii</sup>                | 180.00 (9)  | N003–P001–N003 <sup>ii</sup>               | 105.34 (4)  |
| N009 <sup>ii</sup> –Co01–N00A             | 92.74 (9)   | N00C <sup>ii</sup> –Co02–N00B               | 92.76 (9)   |  |             |
| N009 <sup>i</sup> –Co01–N00A <sup>i</sup> | 87.26 (9)   | N00C–Co02–N00B                              | 87.24 (9)   |  |             |
| N00A–Co01–N00A <sup>i</sup>               | 180.00 (11) | N00C–Co02–N00C <sup>i</sup>                 | 180.0       |  |             |
| <b>3</b>                                  |             |   |             |  |             |
| P001–O004                                 | 1.4783 (14) | P002–O003                                   | 1.4805 (8)  |  |             |
| P001–N008                                 | 1.6456 (10) | P002–N009                                   | 1.6451 (10) |  |             |
| P001–N00A                                 | 1.6562 (11) | P002–N00B                                   | 1.6559 (11) |  |             |
| P001–N00C                                 | 1.6494 (11) | P002–N00D                                   | 1.6579 (10) |  |             |
| N008–C00N                                 | 1.4023 (15) | N009–C00M                                   | 1.4004 (15) |  |             |
| N00A–C00I                                 | 1.3969 (15) | N00B–C00K                                   | 1.3952 (14) |  |             |
| N00C–C00J                                 | 1.4007 (14) | N00D–C00H                                   | 1.4013 (14) |  |             |
| O004–P001–N008                            | 114.90 (5)  | O003–P002–N009                              | 113.98 (5)  |  |             |
| O004–P001–N00A                            | 112.88 (5)  | O003–P002–N00B                              | 108.46 (5)  |  |             |
| O004–P001–N00C                            | 109.62 (5)  | O003–P002–N00D                              | 115.50 (5)  |  |             |
| N008–P001–N00A                            | 103.35 (5)  | N009–P002–N00B                              | 110.72 (5)  |  |             |
| N008–P001–N00C                            | 109.69 (5)  | N009–P002–N00D                              | 102.90 (5)  |  |             |
| N00A–P001–N00C                            | 105.90 (5)  | N00B–P002–N00D                              | 104.84 (5)  |  |             |

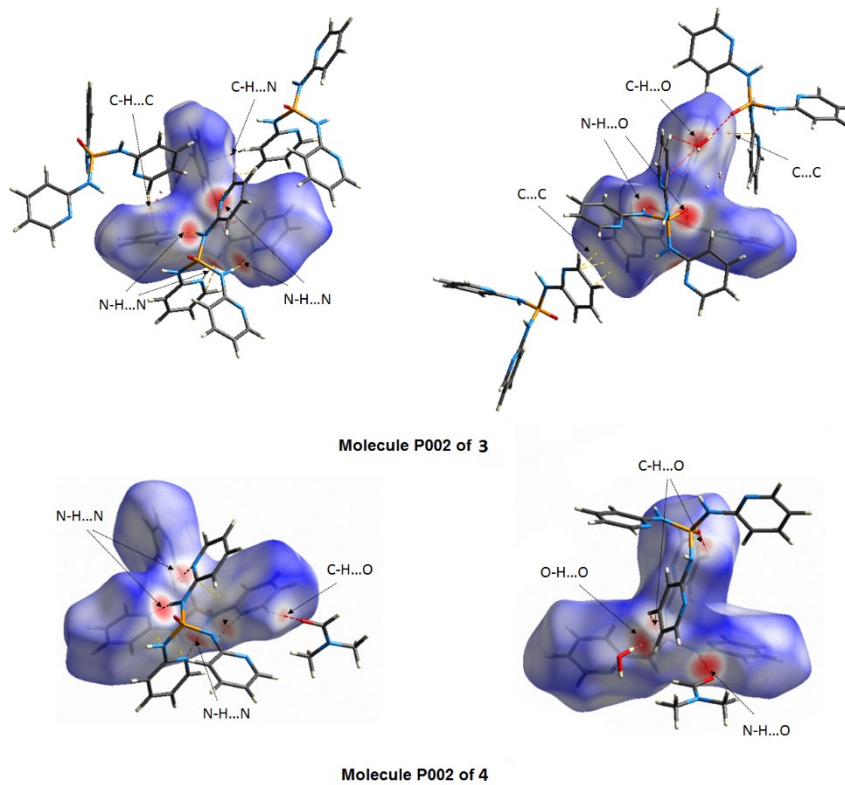
Symmetry codes for **1**: (i)  $-x + 1, -y, -z + 1$ ; (ii)  $-x, -y + 1, -z + 1$ ; for **2**: (i)  $-x + y + 1, -x + 1, z$ ; (ii)  $-y + 1, x - y, z$ .**Table S2** Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (°) for compounds **4** and **5**.

| <b>4</b>       |             | <b>4</b>       |             | <b>5</b>                                  |            |
|----------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|---|------------|
| P001–O003      | 1.4839 (8)  | P002–O005      | 1.4774 (8)  | Cu01–O002                                 | 2.004 (4)  |
| P001–N008      | 1.6522 (9)  | P002–N007      | 1.6459 (10) | Cu01–O002 <sup>i</sup>                    | 2.004 (4)  |
| P001–N00A      | 1.6444 (10) | P002–N009      | 1.6563 (10) | Cu01–O004 <sup>i</sup>                    | 1.994 (3)  |
| P001–N00C      | 1.6508 (9)  | P002–N00G      | 1.6522 (10) | Cu01–O004                                 | 1.994 (3)  |
| N008–C00N      | 1.3991 (13) | N007–C00P      | 1.4005 (13) | O002–C008                                 | 1.256 (5)  |
| N00A–C00R      | 1.3986 (13) | N009–C00M      | 1.3988 (13) | O003–C006                                 | 1.232 (6)  |
| N00C–C00O      | 1.3967 (13) | N00G–C00Q      | 1.3927 (13) | N005–C007 <sup>ii</sup>                   | 1.464 (6)  |
| O003–P001–N008 | 115.34 (5)  | O005–P002–N007 | 113.87 (5)  | O002–Cu01–O002 <sup>i</sup>               | 180.0      |
| O003–P001–N00A | 112.60 (5)  | O005–P002–N009 | 114.69 (5)  | O004 <sup>i</sup> –Cu01–O002              | 88.38 (13) |
| O003–P001–N00C | 108.76 (5)  | O005–P002–N00G | 108.41 (5)  | O004–Cu01–O002 <sup>i</sup>               | 88.38 (13) |
| N008–P001–N00A | 103.63 (5)  | N007–P002–N009 | 103.18 (5)  | O004–Cu01–O002                            | 91.62 (13) |
| N008–P001–N00C | 104.53 (5)  | N007–P002–N00G | 110.39 (5)  | O004 <sup>i</sup> –Cu01–O002 <sup>i</sup> | 91.62 (13) |
| N00A–P001–N00C | 111.68 (5)  | N009–P002–N00G | 105.96 (5)  | O004 <sup>i</sup> –Cu01–O004              | 180.0 (2)  |

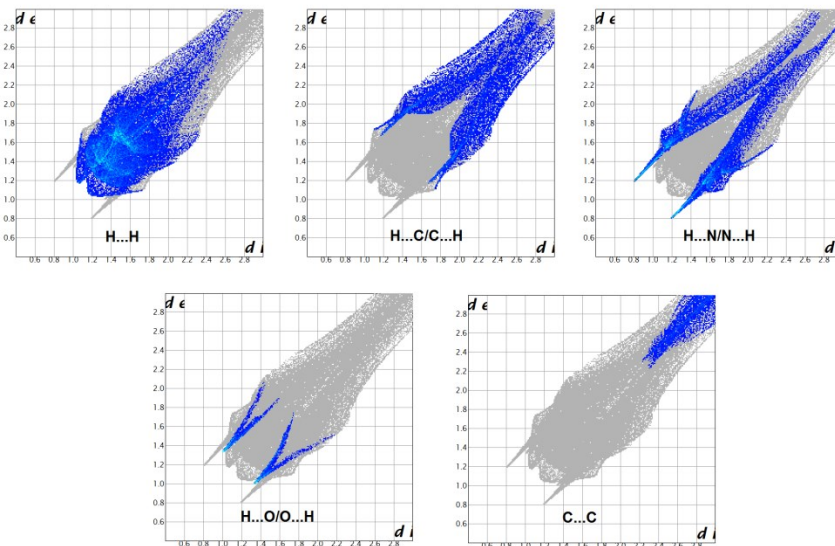
Symmetry codes for **5**: (i)  $-x + 1, -y + 1, -z + 2$ ; (ii)  $-x + \frac{1}{2}, y, -z + 1$ .

**Table S3** Summary of the percentage contributions of interactions, surface contacts ( $S_x$ ), random contacts ( $R_{xx}/R_{xy}$ ) and enrichment ratios ( $E_{xx}/E_{xy}$ ) for **5** and MACUFR.

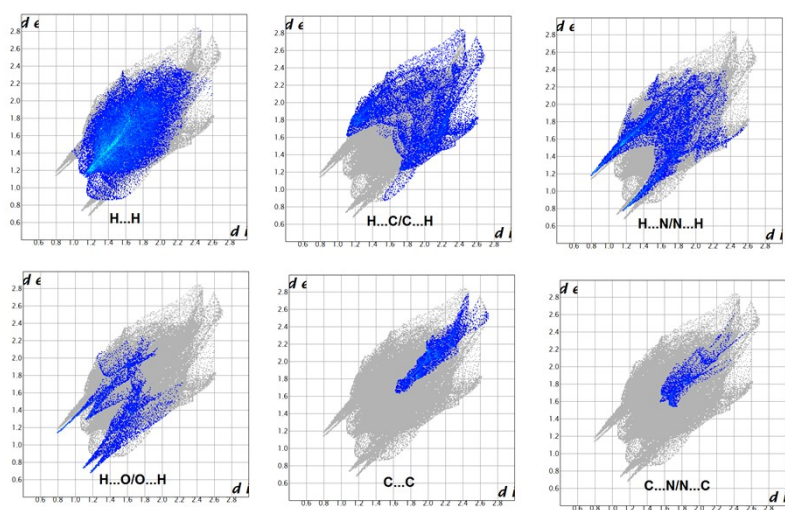
| Contacts      | <b>5</b>        | MACUFR | $S_x$    | H     | C    | O     | Cu   |
|---------------|-----------------|--------|----------|-------|------|-------|------|
| H...H         | 23.7            | 19.3   | <b>5</b> | 53.95 | 3.70 | 36.40 | 5.65 |
| H...C/C...H   | 7.4             | 7.3    | MACUFR   | 51.6  | 3.65 | 38.7  | 5.55 |
| H...O/O...H   | 53.1            | 57.3   |          |       |      |       |      |
| Cu...O/O...Cu | 11.3            | 11.1   |          |       |      |       |      |
| O...O         | 4.2             | 4.5    |          |       |      |       |      |
| Atoms         |                 |        |          | H     | C    | O     | Cu   |
| <b>5</b>      | $R_{xx}/R_{xy}$ |        |          |       |      |       |      |
| H             |                 | 29.11  | 3.99     | 39.27 | —    |       |      |
| C             |                 | 3.99   | —        | —     | —    |       |      |
| O             |                 | 39.27  | —        | 13.25 | 4.11 |       |      |
| Cu            |                 | —      | —        | 4.11  | —    |       |      |
| <b>5</b>      | $E_{xx}/E_{xy}$ |        |          |       |      |       |      |
| H             |                 | 0.81   | 1.85     | 1.35  | —    |       |      |
| C             |                 | 1.85   | —        | —     | —    |       |      |
| O             |                 | 1.35   | —        | 0.32  | 2.75 |       |      |
| Cu            |                 | —      | —        | 2.75  | —    |       |      |
| Atoms         |                 |        |          | H     | C    | O     | Cu   |
| MACUFR        | $R_{xx}/R_{xy}$ |        |          |       |      |       |      |
| H             |                 | 26.63  | 3.77     | 39.94 | —    |       |      |
| C             |                 | 3.77   | —        | —     | —    |       |      |
| O             |                 | 39.94  | —        | 14.98 | 4.29 |       |      |
| Cu            |                 | —      | —        | 4.29  | —    |       |      |
| MACUFR        | $E_{xx}/E_{xy}$ |        |          |       |      |       |      |
| H             |                 | 0.72   | 1.94     | 1.43  | —    |       |      |
| C             |                 | 1.94   | —        | —     | —    |       |      |
| O             |                 | 1.43   | —        | 0.30  | 2.59 |       |      |
| Cu            |                 | —      | —        | 2.59  | —    |       |      |



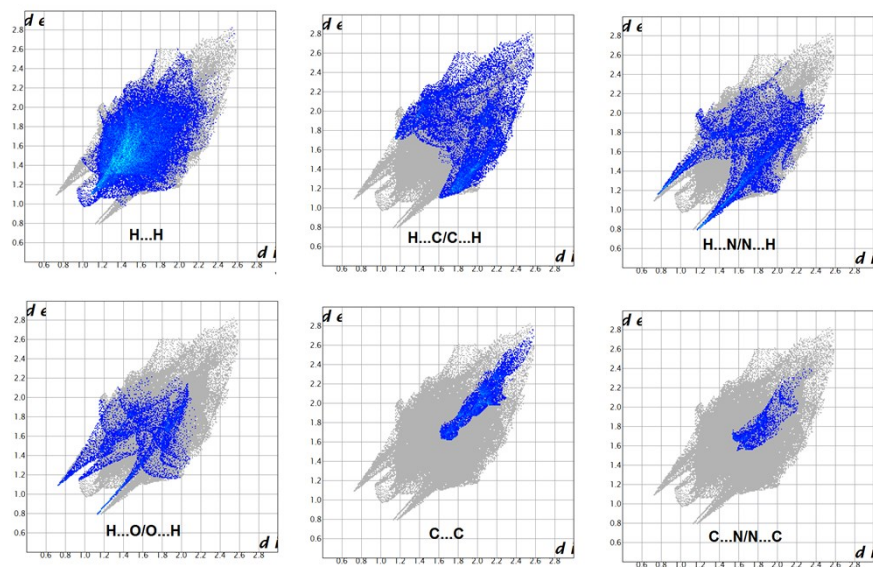
**Fig. S1** Views of  $d_{\text{norm}}$  Hirshfeld surfaces plotted on the molecules P002 of 3 and 4, in two orientations, surrounded by neighboring molecules associated with close contacts introduced in figure.



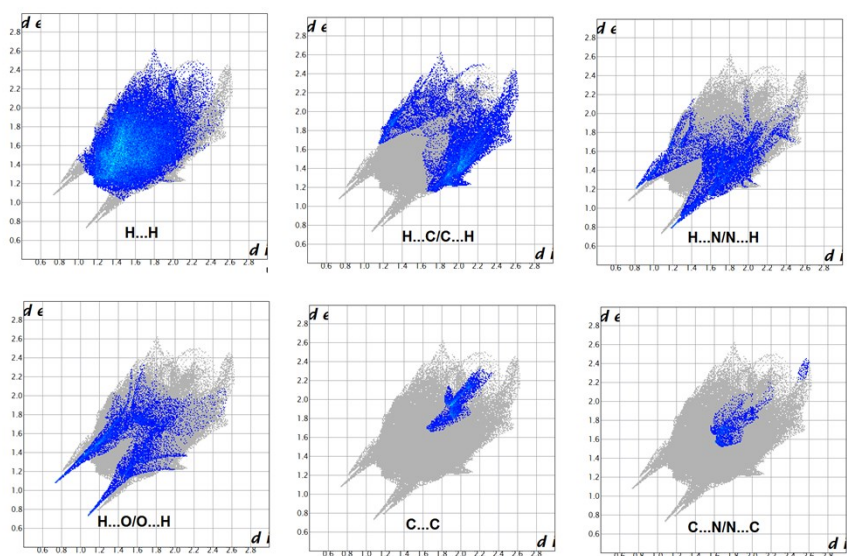
**Fig. S2** Decomposed FPs of various intermolecular contacts H...H, H...C/C...H, H...N/N...H, H...O/O...H and C...C for compound 2.



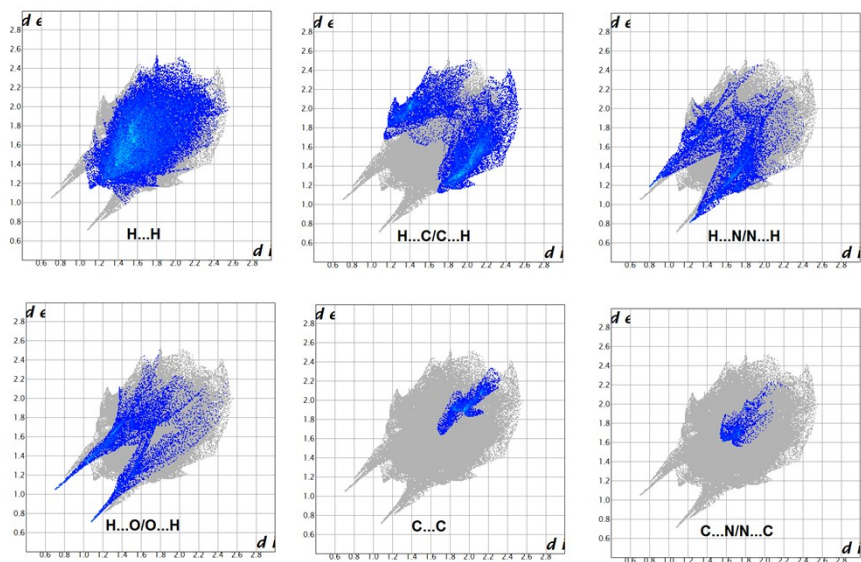
**Fig. S3** Decomposed FPs of various intermolecular contacts H...H, H...C/C...H, H...N/N...H, H...O/O...H, C...C and C...N/N...C for the molecule P001 of 3.



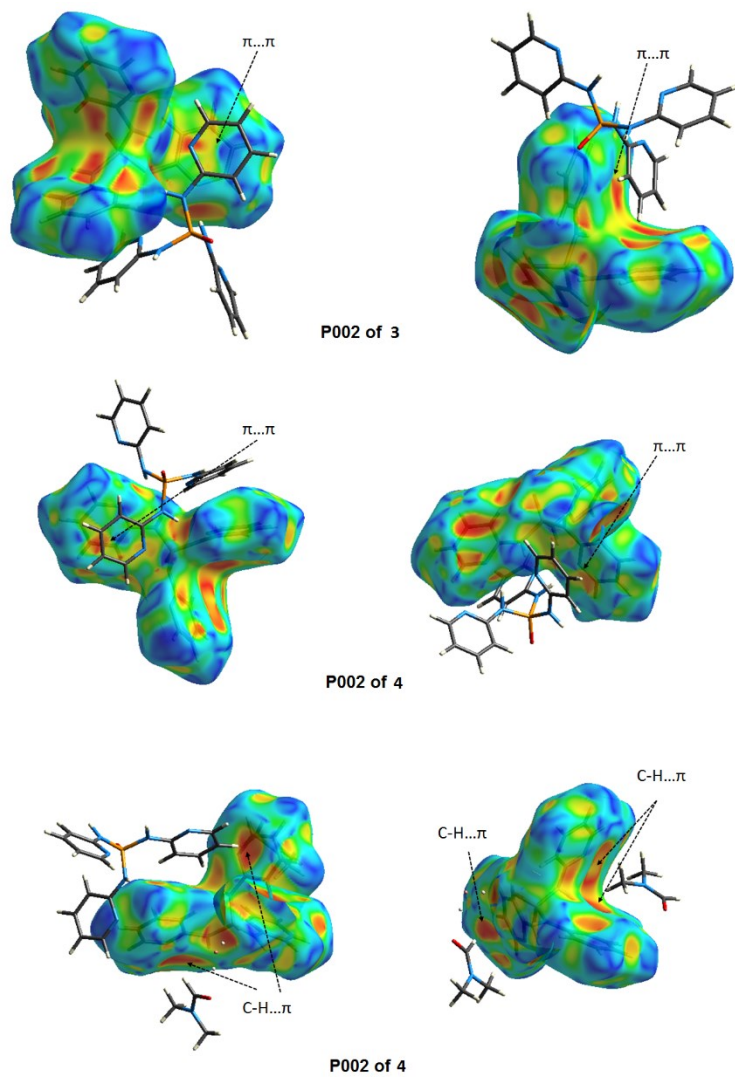
**Fig. S4** Decomposed FPs of various intermolecular contacts H...H, H...C/C...H, H...N/N...H, H...O/O...H, C...C and C...N/N...C for the molecule P002 of 3.



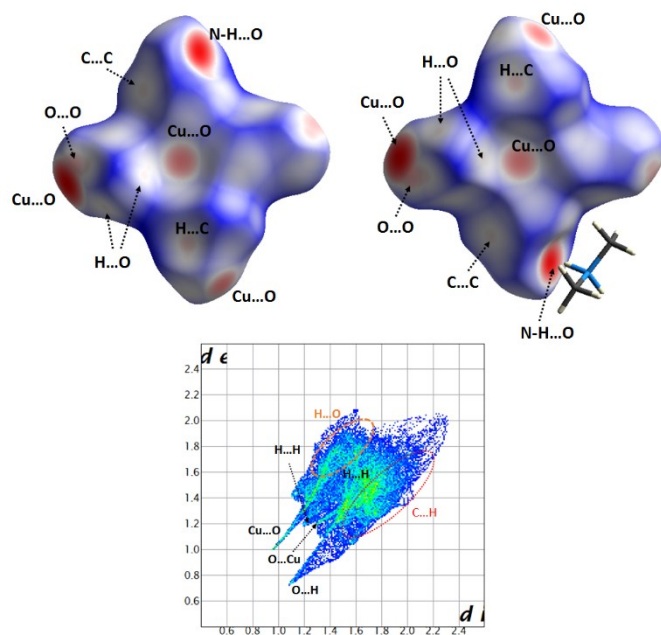
**Fig. S5** Decomposed FPs of various intermolecular contacts H...H, H...C/C...H, H...N/N...H, H...O/O...H, C...C and C...N/N...C for the molecule P001 of 4.



**Fig. S6** Decomposed FPs of various intermolecular contacts H...H, H...C/C...H, H...N/N...H, H...O/O...H, C...C and C...N/N...C for the molecule P002 of 4.



**Fig. S7** Hirshfeld surfaces mapped with the shape index for the molecules P002 of 3 and 4, surrounded by neighboring molecules associated with close contacts.



**Fig. S8** Up: View of  $d_{\text{norm}}$  Hirshfeld surface plotted on the reported structure MACUFR, in two orientations, with marked close contacts; Down: Full 2D fingerprint plot highlighting the main close contacts for MACUFR has been shown.