

Deformed thoughts on tetrahedral carbonates

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As a crystallographer working at high pressures, I have become accustomed to the stress this puts on the mind. You begin to wonder if you really know what familiar chemical moieties look like. As the pressures increase, and the number of data decrease, every refinement step becomes more fraught with uncertainty, and not only in the atomic positions. Are carbonates really planar? Are they always symmetric? This is a short story about how I stopped worrying (as much) and made my peace with some tetrahedral carbonates.