

## Magnesium and Zinc Cation Distributions and Correlation with Curie Temperature in Some LiTaO<sub>3</sub>-Based Ferroelectric Ceramics

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Nonstoichiometric ferroelectric ceramics based on LiTaO<sub>3</sub> have been sintered at relatively low temperature. The corresponding phases belong to the Li<sub>2</sub>O-Ta<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>-MO (*M* = Mg, Zn) systems. A correlation between the calculated electric field gradient seen by Li nuclei and the quadrupole splitting of <sup>7</sup>Li NMR line shape allows the authors to localize the Mg or Zn atoms in either the octahedral or tetrahedral sites of the crystalline network. These results have been correlated to the corresponding Curie temperatures determined in parallel by dielectric measurements. © 1987 Academic Press, Inc.

### Introduction

LiTaO<sub>3</sub> is a widely used material due to its piezoelectric, pyroelectric, and electrooptical properties and with a relatively high Curie temperature (*t<sub>C</sub>* = 680°C) (1). The structure of the ferroelectric LiTaO<sub>3</sub> phase has been investigated by Abrahams and co-workers: the symmetry is trigonal with space group *R3c* (ferroelectric) or *R3̄c* (paraelectric) (Fig. 1) (2, 3). The structure is of the ordered corundum type (*α*-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) (Fig. 2). The Li and Ta atoms occupy two-thirds of the face-sharing octahedral sites in the hexagonal close-packed oxygen sublattice along the *c*-axis.

It has been found that the ferroelectric properties can be modulated by partial cationic substitution in LiTaO<sub>3</sub> (4). The Curie temperature of LiTaO<sub>3</sub>-type solid solutions

increases or decreases generally depending upon the substituting cation localized in either the octahedral or tetrahedral sites of the lattice (Fig. 2) (5-9). Some authors have discussed such types of coordination by <sup>7</sup>Li nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) in LiTaO<sub>3</sub>-type nonstoichiometric phases substituted partially by Ti<sup>4+</sup> or Zr<sup>4+</sup> cations (9, 10). They have also tried to relate the *t<sub>C</sub>* variation to the localization of the substituting cation.

### Crystal Chemistry

Mg- or Zn-substituted solid solutions derived from LiTaO<sub>3</sub> have been prepared by solid state reaction of oxides or carbonates (reagent grade Li<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>, MgCO<sub>3</sub>, ZnO, and Ta<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>). After mixing, the materials were calcined at 800°C for 15 hr or at 900°C for 3 hr to eliminate CO<sub>2</sub> and to improve the sintering properties. The obtained white ceramics were then ground and pelletized as

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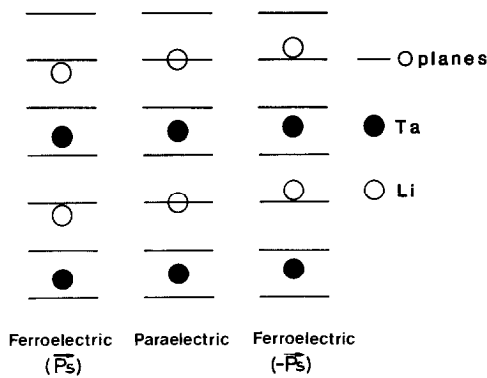


FIG. 1. Cationic shifts along the  $c$ -axis at the ferroelectric ( $R\bar{3}c$ )-paraelectric ( $R\bar{3}c$ )  $t_C$  transition in  $\text{LiTaO}_3$ .

disks 8 or 13 mm in diameter and about 1 mm in thickness, and then sintered 15 hr at  $1200^\circ\text{C}$ .

The phases were identified by X-ray diffraction using Ni-filtered  $\text{CuK}\alpha$  radiation. Pure silicon powder was added as an internal standard. Calculation of the lattice parameters was carried out using a least-squares method.

An X-ray diffraction study characterized  $\text{LiTaO}_3$ -type solid solutions in the  $\text{Li}_2\text{O}$ - $\text{Ta}_2\text{O}_5$ - $\text{MgO}$  or  $\text{Li}_2\text{O}$ - $\text{Ta}_2\text{O}_5$ - $\text{ZnO}$  diagrams. Formulas, solid solution limits, lattice parameters, and  $c/a$  axial ratios are reported in Table I.

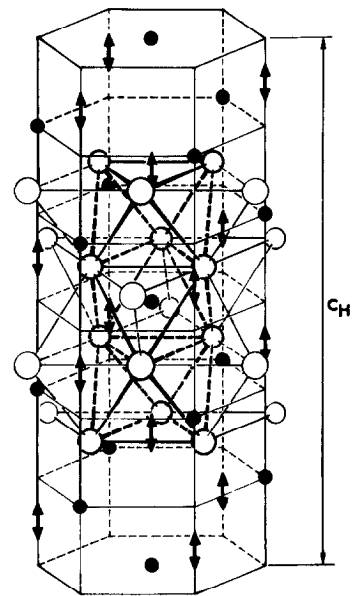


FIG. 2. Schematic view of the  $\text{LiTaO}_3$  structure.

### Dielectric Measurements

Dielectric measurements were performed at 1 kHz from room temperature to  $850^\circ\text{C}$  with an automatic capacitance bridge (Wayne-Kerr, B905) on sintered ceramic disks. Gold electrodes were deposited on circular faces by cathodic sputtering.

For each composition a maximum of the permittivity  $\epsilon_r'$  is associated with a mini-

TABLE I  
FORMULAS, LATTICE PARAMETERS, AND BORDER PHASE CURIE TEMPERATURE OF THE STUDIED  
 $\text{LiTaO}_3$ -TYPE SOLID SOLUTIONS

System	Formula	Number of cations per unit formula	$\gamma$ , stoichiometry deviation for unit formula	Approximately upper limit of $x$	Upper limit of $\gamma$ for $x_{\text{max}}$	Lattice parameters for border phase			$t_C$ for border phase ( $^\circ\text{C}$ )
						$a_H$ ( $\text{\AA}$ )	$c_H$ ( $\text{\AA}$ )	$c/a$	
$\text{Li}_2\text{O}-\text{Ta}_2\text{O}_5-\text{MgO}$	$\text{Li}_{1-x}\text{Mg}_{3x}\text{Ta}_{1-x}\text{O}_3$	$2+x$	$+x$	0.1	0.1	5.1551	13.8138	2.680	700
	$\text{Li}_{1-x}\text{Mg}_{4x/3}\text{Ta}_{1-x/3}\text{O}_3$	2	0	0.2	0	5.1545	13.8044	2.678	730
	$\text{Li}_{1-x}\text{Mg}_{x/2}\text{TaO}_3$	$2-x/2$	$-x/2$	0.3	-0.15	5.1588	13.7977	2.675	710
$\text{Li}_2\text{O}-\text{Ta}_2\text{O}_5-\text{ZnO}$	$\text{Li}_{1-x}\text{Zn}_{3x}\text{Ta}_{1-x}\text{O}_3$	$2+x$	$+x$	0.05	0.05	5.1582	13.7793	2.671	610
	$\text{Li}_{1-x}\text{Zn}_{4x/3}\text{Ta}_{1-x/3}\text{O}_3$	2	0	0.4	0	5.1695	13.8231	2.674	520
	$\text{Li}_{1-x}\text{Zn}_{x/2}\text{TaO}_3$	$2-x/2$	$-x/2$	0.5	-0.25	5.1737	13.7908	2.666	460

mum of the dielectric losses  $\tan \delta$  at the ferroelectric Curie temperature. Figure 3 shows, as an example, the thermal dependence of  $\epsilon_r'$  and  $\tan \delta$  for  $\text{Li}_{0.900}\text{Zn}_{0.133}\text{Ta}_{0.967}\text{O}_3$  composition. The values of the Curie temperature  $t_C$  for the border phase of each solid solution are given in Table I. Figure 4 shows the  $t_C$  variation of each solid solution with increasing  $x$ . The Curie temperature, compared with that of  $\text{LiTaO}_3$ , increases for Mg-containing solid solutions and decreases for Zn-containing ones. The border composition  $\text{Li}_{0.50}\text{Zn}_{0.25}\text{TaO}_3$  which is cation deficient, has the lowest Curie temperature ( $t_C = 460^\circ\text{C}$ ). Such behavior had previously been observed for the  $\text{LiTaO}_3$ - $\text{MTiO}_3$  ( $M = \text{Mg}, \text{Zn}$ ) systems (11).

### NMR Investigation

NMR measurements on  $^7\text{Li}$  nuclei were performed for ceramic samples at 14 MHz (8.47 kG) for the temperature range between  $-60$  and  $180^\circ\text{C}$ . No thermal variation was observed for any spectrum over this temperature interval. The continuous-wave spectrometer was coupled to a magnet giving a magnetic field homogeneity of  $\Delta H/H \leq 10^{-5}$  over the sample. Two modulating fields ( $H_m = 0.72$  and  $2.4$  G) were used suc-

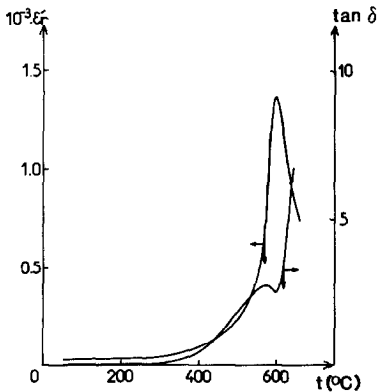


FIG. 3. Thermal dependence of  $\epsilon_r'$  and  $\tan \delta$  for a ceramic with composition  $\text{Li}_{0.900}\text{Zn}_{0.133}\text{Ta}_{0.967}\text{O}_3$  (at 1 kHz).

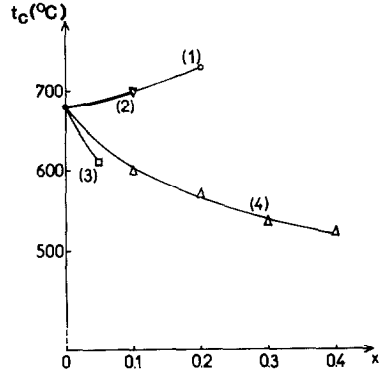


FIG. 4. Variation of Curie temperature with  $x$  for ceramic compositions: (1)  $\text{Li}_{1-x}\text{Mg}_{3x}\text{Ta}_{1-x}\text{O}_3$ ; (2)  $\text{Li}_{1-x}\text{Mg}_{4x/3}\text{Ta}_{1-x/3}\text{O}_3$ ; (3)  $\text{Li}_{1-x}\text{Zn}_{3x}\text{Ta}_{1-x}\text{O}_3$ ; (4)  $\text{Li}_{1-x}\text{Zn}_{4x/3}\text{Ta}_{1-x/3}\text{O}_3$ .

cessively to evaluate the influence of the detection technique on the shape and width of the resonance lines.

Lithium has a nuclear spin  $I = \frac{3}{2}$  and a quadrupole moment. Its resonance spectrum can split into three lines corresponding to the  $-\frac{3}{2} \rightarrow -\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $-\frac{1}{2} \rightarrow +\frac{1}{2}$  and  $+\frac{1}{2} \rightarrow +\frac{3}{2}$  transitions. The signal to noise ratio may decrease, requiring a relatively strong modulation field in order to detect the satellites. The corrected second moment  $M_{2\text{corr}}$  can then be expressed as following (12)

$$M_{2\text{corr}} = M_{2\text{exp}} - \frac{H_m^2}{4},$$

where  $M_{2\text{exp}}$  ( $G^2$ ) is the value deduced from experimental spectrum and  $H_m$  ( $G$ ) that of the modulation field. A computer program allows us to determine  $M_{2\text{exp}}$  from the central line on hand of the relationship:

$$M_{2\text{exp}} = \frac{\frac{1}{3} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} h^3(h) dh}{\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} h(h) dh},$$

where  $h$  is the algebraic deviation ( $G$ ) calculated from the resonance field  $H_0$  and  $f(h)$  is the derived absorption signal recorded with the synchronous detection system.

A theoretical second moment ( $G^2$ ) has been calculated with an expression derived

from that of Van Vleck (13):

$$M_{2_{th}} = \frac{3}{5} \gamma_i^2 \hbar^2 I(I+1) N^{-1} \alpha_i^{-1} \sum_{i,j=1}^N \alpha_i \alpha_j r_{ij}^{-6} \\ + \frac{4}{15} \hbar^2 N^{-1} \alpha_i^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^N \gamma_s^2 S(S+1) \sum_{i,k=1}^N \alpha_i \alpha_k r_{ik}^{-6}.$$

All terms have their usual meaning, but the parameters  $\alpha_i$ ,  $\alpha_j$ , and  $\alpha_k$  (i.e., the occupation rates of the  $i$ ,  $j$ , and  $k$  sites) are added to take into account the distribution in the cationic sites. The Abragam (14) correction for quadrupole splitting is applied for the central peak, corresponding to the nuclear transition  $-\frac{1}{2} \rightarrow +\frac{1}{2}$ . The ratio of the second moments in presence and in absence of the quadrupole effect ( $M_{2Q}/M_{2D}$ ) is equal to 0.9 for Li atoms in normal sites (in the case of  $\text{LiTaO}_3$ ) and to 0.8 for Li atoms in different sites (i.e., for simultaneous occupation of octahedral and tetrahedral sites by the Li atoms).

All resonance spectra were characterized by a first-order quadrupole effect of  ${}^7\text{Li}$ ,  $\nu_Q = e^2 qQ/2h$ , varying from 38 to 44 kHz. An illustration is given for the compositions  $\text{LiTaO}_3$ ,  $\text{Li}_{0.95}\text{Zn}_{0.15}\text{Ta}_{0.95}\text{O}_3$  and  $\text{Li}_{0.50}\text{Zn}_{0.25}\text{TaO}_3$  (Fig. 5). Two types of information have been collected and analyzed:

The experimental second moment ( $M_{2_{exp}}$ ) obtained from the central line and corrected by the modulation factor.

The strength of the quadrupole splitting and the width of the satellites, which can be both connected to the cation distribution.

Two hypotheses relative to occupation of the vacant sites by Mg or Zn atoms have been tested:

Hypothesis 1 (H1): simultaneous statistical occupation by Mg (or Zn) atoms of vacant lithium or tantalum sites and of octahedral vacancies of the  $\text{LiTaO}_3$  structure.

Hypothesis 2 (H2): similar to H1 but Mg (or Zn) atoms, as far as they do not substi-

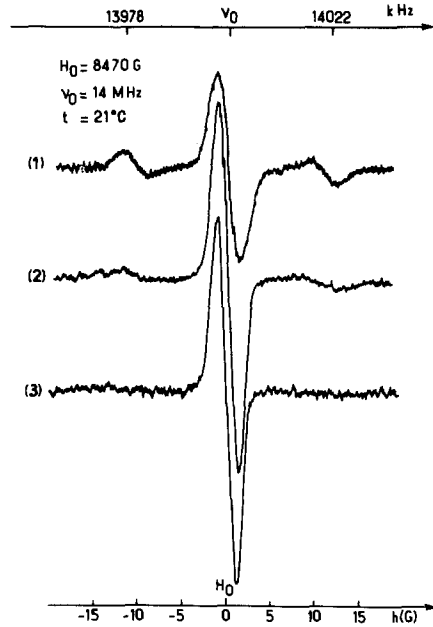


FIG. 5.  ${}^7\text{Li}$  quadrupole splitting for three compositions: (1)  $\text{LiTaO}_3$ ; (2)  $\text{Li}_{0.95}\text{Zn}_{0.15}\text{Ta}_{0.95}\text{O}_3$ ; (3)  $\text{Li}_{0.50}\text{Zn}_{0.25}\text{TaO}_3$ .

tute for Li and Ta, now occupy tetrahedral vacancies.

There are six oxygen layers along the  $c$ -axis in a  $\text{LiTaO}_3$  unit cell. An octahedral site is surrounded by six tetrahedral sites in each layer (Fig. 2) and a tetrahedral one by three octahedral sites. The Mg (or Zn) atoms are supposed to be located at the center of their sites when they occupy the vacant octahedral or tetrahedral sites. The positions of the various atoms are reported for both hypotheses in Table II (3, 15).

The variation of the quadrupole splitting illustrated by Fig. 5 shows that the distribution of Li is mainly responsible for widening and vanishing of the satellites. Table III collects the experimental and calculated second moments for the various compositions investigated. The composition  $\text{Li}_{0.70}\text{Mg}_{0.15}\text{TaO}_3$  fits H1 and composition  $\text{Li}_{0.50}\text{Zn}_{0.25}\text{TaO}_3$  rather than H2, but it was impossible to formulate a preference for  $\text{Li}_{0.95}$

TABLE II  
POSITION OF EACH ATOM IN H1 AND H2

Atom	H1			H2		
	x	y	z	x	y	z
Li <sup>a</sup>	0	0	0.2783	0	0	0.2783
Ta <sup>a</sup>	0	0	0	0	0	0
O <sup>a</sup>	0.0498	0.3436	0.0688	0.0498	0.3436	0.0688
$\frac{1}{3}$ Mg (or Zn)	0	0	0.2783	0	0	0.2783
$\frac{2}{3}$ Mg (or Zn)	0	0	0	0	0	0
$\frac{1}{3}$ Mg (or Zn)	0 <sup>b</sup>	0 <sup>b</sup>	0.1521 <sup>b</sup>	0.0498 <sup>b</sup>	0.3436 <sup>b</sup>	0.1799 <sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Refs. (3, 15).

<sup>b</sup> Octahedral vacancies.

Mg<sub>0.15</sub>Ta<sub>0.95</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and Li<sub>0.95</sub>Zn<sub>0.15</sub>Ta<sub>0.95</sub>O<sub>3</sub>. For these two compositions we have thus calculated the electric field gradient in the Li sites for the two hypotheses and compared its value with the experimental one.

### Electric Field Gradient Calculation

The <sup>7</sup>Li satellites are observed for the three compositions LiTaO<sub>3</sub>, Li<sub>0.95</sub>Mg<sub>0.15</sub>Ta<sub>0.95</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, and Li<sub>0.95</sub>Zn<sub>0.15</sub>Ta<sub>0.95</sub>O<sub>3</sub>. Their respective experimental quadrupole splittings  $\nu_{Q\text{exp}}$  are given in Table IV. These values can be connected to the structural results by calculating the electric field gradient (EFG) tensor at the lithium site for each hypothesis (16):

For <sup>7</sup>Li ( $I = \frac{3}{2}$ ) the strength of the quadrupole interaction (17) can be measured as

$$\nu_Q = 3eV_{zz}Q/2I(I-1)h, \quad (1)$$

where  $Q$  is the <sup>7</sup>Li nuclear quadrupole moment and  $V_{zz}$  is the main component of the EFG tensor. The powder spectrum only allows to measurement of the product  $\nu_m = \nu_Q(1 - \eta)$ , where  $\eta$  is the asymmetry parameters defined as

$$\eta = (V_{xx} - V_{yy})/V_{zz}$$

with  $0 \leq \eta \leq 1$  according to the usual definition

$$|V_{zz}| \geq |V_{yy}| \geq |V_{xx}|.$$

An axial symmetry of the Li sites (like in LiTaO<sub>3</sub>) implies  $\eta = 0$ .

In ionic crystals the main contribution to the field gradient results from the lattice, i.e., from the arrangement of the ionic charges around a given site. The nine (five independent) components of the EFG tensor can be calculated from the relation

$$V_{ij} = \sum_k q_k \sum_i \sum_j (3r_{ik}r_{jk} - \delta_{ij}r_k^3)/r_k^3,$$

where  $i, j = x, y, z$ .  $\delta_{ij} = 1$  if  $i = j$  and 0 in all other cases.  $r_{xk}$ ,  $r_{yk}$ , and  $r_{zk}$  are the coordinates in an arbitrary orthogonal system of the  $k$ th atom with charge  $q_k$  situated at a distance  $r_k$  from the reference site. The calculations have been performed with a computer program established by Pannetier and co-workers (16).

TABLE III

COMPARISON OF THE EXPERIMENTAL AND CALCULATED SECOND MOMENTS

Formula	$M_{2\text{exp}}(G^2)$	$M_{2\text{calc}}(G^2)$		Retained hypothesis
		H1	H2	
LiTaO <sub>3</sub>	1.25 (2)	—	—	—
Li <sub>0.95</sub> Mg <sub>0.15</sub> Ta <sub>0.95</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	1.19 (1)	1.20	1.20	—
Li <sub>0.70</sub> Mg <sub>0.15</sub> TaO <sub>3</sub>	1.00 (1)	0.99	1.06	H1
Li <sub>0.95</sub> Zn <sub>0.15</sub> Ta <sub>0.95</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	1.20 (1)	1.19	1.19	—
Li <sub>0.50</sub> Zn <sub>0.25</sub> TaO <sub>3</sub>	0.84 (1)	0.82	0.83	H2

TABLE IV  
COMPOSITION, EXPERIMENTAL QUADRUPOLE SPLITTING ( $\nu_{Q_{\text{exp}}}$ ), CATIONIC LOCALIZATION, IONIC NET CHARGES, HYPOTHESIS, ASYMMETRY FACTOR ( $\eta$ ), ELECTRIC FIELD GRADIENT COMPONENT  $V_{zz}$ , AND THEORETICAL EXPERIMENTAL RATIO  $R$  (SEE TEXT)

Compositions	$\nu_{Q_{\text{exp}}}$ (kHz)	Hypo-thesis	Net charges						$R_{\text{th}}$	$R_{\text{exp}}$	Retained, hypothesis
			Li	Ta	Mg, Zn	O	$\eta$	$V_{zz}$			
LiTaO <sub>3</sub>	40.5 ± 0.2	—	1	1.21	—	-0.74	0	0.0697	1	1	—
Li <sub>0.95</sub> Mg <sub>0.15</sub> Ta <sub>0.95</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	43.4 ± 0.6	H1	1	1.21	0.3	-0.715	0	0.0724	0.963	0.93 ± 0.2	H1
			<b>1</b>	<b>1.21</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>-0.72</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0744</b>	<b>0.931</b>		
			1	1.21	0.5	-0.725	0	0.0764	0.912		
		H2	1	1.21	0.3	-0.71	0	0.0675	1.032		
			1	1.21	0.4	-0.72	0	0.0679	1.026		
			1	1.21	1.4	-0.77	0	0.0721	0.966		
			1	1.21	1.6	-0.78	0	0.0729	0.955		
			1	1.21	1.8	-0.79	0	0.0738	0.944		
			1	1.21	2.0	-0.80	0	0.0746	0.934		
Li <sub>0.95</sub> Zn <sub>0.15</sub> Ta <sub>0.95</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	38.8 ± 0.4	H1	1	1.21	0.4	-0.72	0	0.0744	0.937	1.04 ± 0.01	H2
			<b>1</b>	<b>1.21</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>-0.71</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0671</b>	<b>1.038</b>		
		H2	1	1.21	0.1	-0.705	0	0.0667	1.045		
			<b>1</b>	<b>1.21</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>-0.715</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0675</b>	<b>1.032</b>		
			1	1.21	0.4	-0.72	0	0.0679	1.026		
			1	1.21	0.5	-0.725	0	0.0683	1.020		

Note. The values for each retained hypothesis are boldface.

The phases are considered ionic crystals. The hypothesis of onefold positively charge lithium is reasonable and supported by previous investigations on crystals of LiNbO<sub>3</sub> and LiTaO<sub>3</sub> (15). The values determined by these authors have been used for the field gradient calculations. The charge distribution in LiTaO<sub>3</sub> between Ta and O is illustrated by Fig. 6. The strong covalent bond between tantalum and oxygen leads to net charges 1.21 for tantalum and -0.74 for oxygen.

Magnesium and zinc charges have not really been fixed but several authors assume also an appreciable covalency between magnesium (or zinc) and oxygen (stronger indeed for zinc than for magnesium). Values of electronic density have been determined for the metal-oxygen bond by X-ray Fourier analysis and molecular orbital calculations (18). A connection

between metal-oxygen distance and valence bond (19) allowed us to propose an approximate net charge 0.4 for magnesium and zinc. Nevertheless the EFG calculations have been performed for values in the range 0.3-2.0 for magnesium and 0.1-0.5 for zinc in order to fit on the experimental values.

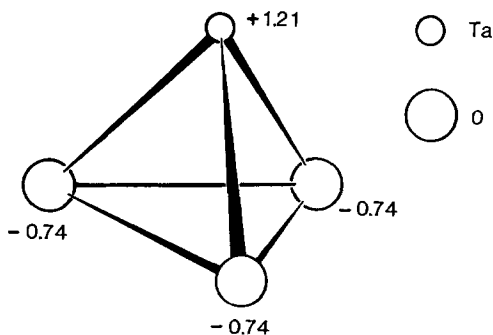


FIG. 6. Charge distribution for LiTaO<sub>3</sub> as determined from the field gradient calculations (Ref. (15)).

To eliminate the <sup>7</sup>Li quadrupole moment  $Q$  for which no accurate value is available, the  $R_{\text{exp}} = \nu_Q(\text{LiTaO}_3)/\nu_Q(\text{S.S.})$  ratio has been determined.  $\nu_Q(\text{LiTaO}_3)$  is linked to the <sup>7</sup>Li quadrupole splitting in pure LiTaO<sub>3</sub> and  $\nu_Q(\text{S.S.})$  to the investigated solid solution composition. Theoretical calculations of  $R_{\text{th}} = V_{zz}(\text{LiTaO}_3)/V_{zz}(\text{S.S.})$  have been performed for both hypotheses and for various net charges, they have been compared to  $R_{\text{exp}} = V_{zz}(\text{LiTaO}_3)/V_{zz}(\text{S.S.})$  obtained from Eq. (1) type measurements.

Figures 7 and 8 represent variations of  $R_{\text{th}}$  with the net charges on magnesium and zinc. A good agreement is observed with experimental value of  $R_{\text{exp}}$  for a net charge of 0.4 for magnesium in octahedral sites and of about 0.3 for zinc in tetrahedral sites (Table IV). On the contrary H2 for magnesium (Mg in tetrahedral sites), which agrees with a net charge 2+ on magnesium, is unrealistic.

### Conclusion

<sup>7</sup>Li NMR (quadrupole spectrum evolution) confirmed clearly the strong influence of the cation distribution on the ferroelectric properties of LiTaO<sub>3</sub>-related phases. A comparison between the experimental and

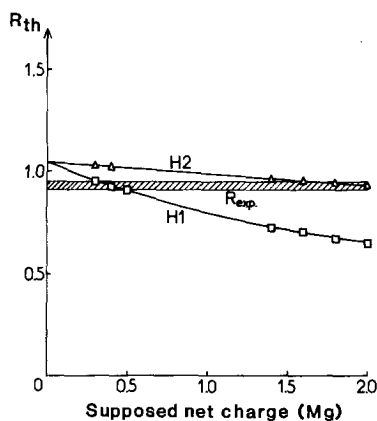


FIG. 7. Variation of  $R_{\text{th}}$  with the net charge on magnesium for the composition  $\text{Li}_{0.95}\text{Zn}_{0.15}\text{Ta}_{0.95}\text{O}_3$ .

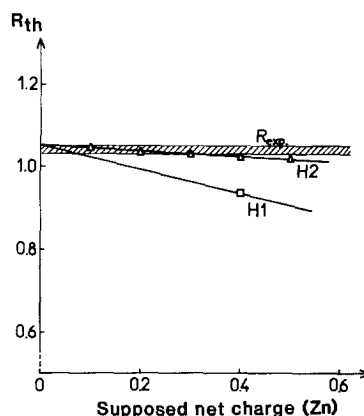


FIG. 8. Variation of  $R_{\text{th}}$  with the net charge on zinc for the composition  $\text{Li}_{0.95}\text{Zn}_{0.15}\text{Ta}_{0.95}\text{O}_3$ .

theoretical second moments of  $\text{Li}_{0.70}\text{Mg}_{0.15}\text{TaO}_3$  allowed us to localize Mg in octahedral sites (substituting Li or Ta or occupying octahedral vacancies). In  $\text{Li}_{0.50}\text{Zn}_{0.25}\text{TaO}_3$  zinc partially substitutes for Li and Ta in their octahedral sites, while the remaining part seems to occupy statistically tetrahedral vacancies.

EFG calculations allowed analogous distributions for  $\text{Li}_{0.95}\text{Mg}_{0.15}\text{Ta}_{0.95}\text{O}_3$  and  $\text{Li}_{0.95}\text{Zn}_{0.15}\text{Ta}_{0.95}\text{O}_3$  to be proposed: Mg occupies only octahedral sites and vacancies while a part of zinc appears to be localized in tetrahedral vacancies.

It is not easy to correlate the  $t_C$  evolution to the substitution mechanism. Let us compare various solid solutions where vacant octahedral sites are occupied by the substituting atoms: Li in  $\text{Li}_{1+x}\text{Ta}_{1-x/5}\text{O}_3$  (10), Mg in  $\text{Li}_{1-x}\text{Mg}_{3x}\text{Ta}_{1-x}\text{O}_3$ , Ti in  $\text{Li}_{1-x}\text{Ti}_x\text{Ta}_{1-x}\text{O}_3$  ( $x \leq 0.075$ ) (10), Zr in  $\text{Li}_{1+x}\text{Zr}_x\text{Ta}_{1-x}\text{O}_3$  (20).

One observes an increase of  $t_C$ , i.e., a stronger value of the polarization vector  $\mathbf{P}_s$ , for Li and Mg, the electropositivity of which exceeds that of Ta. On the contrary a  $t_C$  decrease is detected when the electropositivity becomes weaker (Ti, Zr).

As far as tetrahedral vacancies are partially occupied by substituting atoms (Li in  $\text{Li}_{1+x}\text{Ti}_x\text{Ta}_{1-x}\text{O}_3$  ( $x > 0.075$ ), Zn in  $\text{Li}_{1-x}\text{Zn}_{3x}\text{Ta}_{1-x}\text{O}_3$ ), the corresponding effect

seems to be competition against the influence of electropositivity in octahedral sites. In the case of zinc it results in a clear  $t_C$  decrease.

Our next goal will be now to improve the calculation of spontaneous polarization and Curie temperature, taking into account all atomic positions.

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