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## DESCRIPTION OF THE NCA CATHODE MATERIAL CONFIGURATIONAL SPACE AND ELUCIDATION OF THE DOPANTS ROLE IN A STRUCTURAL STABILIZATION

The modification of existing solid electrolyte and cathode materials is a topic of interest for theoreticians and experimentalists and is often related to understanding of the influence of dopants on the performance of the studying materials. For the reason of high complexity of disordered systems configurational space, an application of the computer modeling approaches is hindered. Previously, the Co, Al-doped LiNiO<sub>2</sub> cathode configurational space (~22000 entries) obtained within the topological approach as implemented in the ToposPro package was found to fit structural behavior of the cathode during the charging as observed in the neutron diffraction experiment. In the scope of current contribution, in order to provide a precise and self-consistent description of this configurational space we have proposed and evaluated several groups of structural descriptors.

A set of optimized NCA structures corresponding to different Li contents and all independent positions of two Co and one Al dopants in the Ni sublattice was analyzed in terms of the following descriptors 1) Li distribution within the structure, 2) dopants positions in the Ni sublattice, 3) mutual arrangement of the dopants and 4) mutual arrangement of Li and dopants. We observed that the configurations with greater amount of close Al-Li contacts are favorable from the energy viewpoint. Moreover, the effect of Al-Li contacts presence is more pronounced in comparison to Co-Li. Further, the configurations with LiO<sub>6</sub> and AlO<sub>6</sub> octahedra sharing a common oxygen atom (Li-O-Al) are lower in energy in comparison to those with LiO<sub>6</sub> and AlO<sub>6</sub> octahedra sharing a common edge (Li-O-O-Al).

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