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## Computer simulation studies of spinel LiMn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> and LiNi<sub>x</sub>Mn<sub>2-x</sub>O<sub>4</sub> (0 ≤ x ≤ 2)

Tuesday, 10 July 2012 17:30 (2 hours)

### Abstract content <br> &nbsp; (Max 300 words)

Spinel LiMn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> is a low-cost, environmentally friendly, and highly abundant material and is used as a cathode in Li-ion batteries. Doping in batteries improves the efficiency in maintaining electrochemical capacity over a large number of cycles without sacrificing initial reversible capacity at room temperature. We use computer simulation methods to study properties of spinel LiMn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> and doped LiNi<sub>x</sub>Mn<sub>2-x</sub>O<sub>4</sub> (0≤x≤2). In particular, spin density functional theory employing the pseudo-potential plane-wave calculations within the generalized gradient approximation is used to investigate spinel structural and electronic properties; and pressure dependence. The calculated structural parameters are found to be in good agreement with experimental and literature results. In addition, the structural changes and electronic properties of LiMn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> spinel as a function of nickel content were investigated. The lattice parameters for doped systems are in coherent with the available experimental results. Analysis of electronic properties predicts the nature of bonding for both pure and doped systems.

### Apply to be<br> consider for a student <br> &nbsp; award (Yes / No)?

Yes

### Level for award<br>%nbsp;(Hons, MSc, <br> &nbsp; PhD)?

Hons

### Main supervisor (name and email)<br>and his / her institution

Dr RR Maphanga, University of Limpopo

# Would you like to <br> submit a short paper <br> for the Conference <br> Proceedings (Yes / No)?

No

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