

## Appendix

This appendix provides the definition of selected structural parameters mentioned in the body of the text.

### Tetrahedral Rotation angle, $\alpha$ .

Tetrahedral rotation angle ( $\alpha$ ) was defined according to the following formula:

$$\alpha = \frac{\sum_i^6 |120 - \varphi_i|}{12} \quad (1)$$

Where  $\varphi_i$  is a generic internal angle of the hexagon defined by basal O atoms.

### Variance of A-O<sub>basal</sub> distances, $\sigma_{A-O_{basal}}$

This parameter is a measure of the distortion of interlayer coordination and can be computed from:

$$\sigma_{A-O_{basal}} = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_i (A-O_{basal,i} - \langle A-O_{basal} \rangle)^2}{n}} \quad (2)$$

where A-O<sub>basal,i</sub> is an individual interlayer cation (A)-basal O atom distance;  $\langle A-O_{basal,i} \rangle$  (A-O<sub>basal</sub>) is the mean interlayer cation-basal O distance; n is the number of individual interlayer cation-basal O atom distances (e.g., 12).

### Mean interlayer cation (A)-tetrahedral cation (T) distances, projected on (001) plane, $(A-T)_{(001)}$ .

This parameter is the average of individual  $(A-TO_i)_{(001)}$  components, where T<sub>i</sub> is a generic tetrahedral cation and the following relationships apply:

$$(A-TO_i)_{(001)} = (A-TO_i)_{\mathfrak{n}} \quad (3)$$

$$\mathfrak{n} = i \times j \quad (4)$$

$$(A-T_i)_{(001)} = \sqrt{(A-T_i)^2 - (A-T_i)_{(001)}^2} \quad (5)$$

Variance of  $(A-T)_{(001)}$ ,  $\sigma_{(A-T)_{(001)}}$

See the definition of  $\sigma_{A-O_{basal}}$  for the definition of variance, and of  $(A-T)_{(001)}$ .

### Distance between interlayer cation (A) and individual tetrahedral cation T<sub>M1</sub>, as defined in Figure 1, projected on (001), $A-T_{M1,(001)}$

See the definition of  $(A-T)_{(001)}$ .

### Distance between interlayer cation (A) and anionic position (O4), projected on (001), $A-O4_{(001)}$

See the definition of  $(A-T)_{(001)}$ .

### Distance between interlayer cation (A) and octahedral cation M1, projected on (001), $A-M1_{(001)}$

See the definition of  $(A-T)_{(001)}$ .