Abstract Submitted for the MAR06 Meeting of The American Physical Society

Effects of Pressure and Electric Field on the Relaxational Dielectric Properties of  $K_{0.97}Li_{0.03}O_3$  (KLT-3)<sup>1</sup> GEORGE SAMARA, ROBERT GRUBBS, EUGENE VENTURINI, Sandia Labs, LYNN BOATNER, Oak Ridge — The temperature dependence of the dielectric response of KLT-3 shows no evidence of a thermodynamic phase transition, but reveals two prominent relaxational features associated with the off-center Li<sup>+</sup> ion, one attributed to the hopping of the Li<sup>+</sup> dipole and the other with the reorientation of Li<sup>+</sup> - Li<sup>+</sup> ion pair. Both relaxations are Debye-like and follow Arrhenius kinetics, the energy barriers decreasing with pressure. While pressure favors the relaxational behavior, a biasing *dc* electric field favors long-range order of the dipolar system. The interplay between pressure and field provides additional insight. Pressure suppresses the magnitude of the  $\varepsilon \prime$ (T) response over the whole temperature range The results allow evaluation of the contributions of the soft mode and of the Li<sup>+</sup> dipoles to the measured  $\varepsilon \prime$ (T) response.

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