In Situ Tuning of Magnetization via Topotactic Lithium Insertion in Ordered Mesoporous Lithium Ferrite Thin Films

Christian Reitz,^{a,+} Christian Suchomski,^{b,+,*} Di Wang^{a,c}, Horst Hahn^{a,d} and Torsten Brezesinski^{a,*}

^{a.} Institute of Nanotechnology, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Hermann-von-Helmholtz-Platz 1, 76344 Eggenstein-Leopoldshafen, Germany.

- ^{b.} Institute of Physical Chemistry, Justus-Liebig-University Giessen, Heinrich-Buff-Ring 17, 35392 Giessen, Germany.
- ^{c.} Institute of Nanotechnology, Karlsruhe Nano Micro Facility, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Hermann-von-Helmholtz-Platz 1, 76344 Eggenstein-Leopoldshafen, Germany.

^{d.} KIT-TUD Joint Research Laboratory Nanomaterials, Institute of Material Science, Technical University of Darmstadt, Jovanka-Bontschits-Str. 2, 64287 Darmstadt, Germany.

*Email: torsten.brezesinski@kit.edu,

*Email: christian.suchomski@phys.chemie.uni-giessen.de

⁺These authors contributed equally.



Figure S1. Electron microscopy of mesoporous LFO thin films heated to 630 °C. (a) Top view and (b) crosssectional SEM images showing that the sol-gel derived material is free of cracks on the micrometer level and the cubic pore structure persists throughout the bulk. HRTEM images collected (c) before cycling and (d) after 20 cycles in a lithiated state. The material remains crystalline and the microstructure does not change when cycled in the potential range from 3.2 to 1.4 V with respect to Li⁺/Li.

	α -LiFe ₅ O ₈	β-LiFe₅O ₈	α -LiFe ₅ O ₈
	single crystal at 300 K	single crystal at 300 K	porous film at 298 K
1	127 A ₁ (1)		125
2	132 E (1)		-
3	176 E (2)		(173)
4	190 F ₂ (1)		(188)
5	203 F ₂ (2)	201 F _{2g} (1)	199
6	221 F ₂ (3)		-
7	236 E (3)		236
8	260 F ₂ (4)		264
9	262 E (4)		261
10	270 A1 (2)		-
11	286 F ₂ (5)		-
12	300 E (5)		298
13	318 E (6)		-
14	334 F ₂ (6)		-
15	359 E (7)	360 E _g (1)	355
16	382 E (8)		378
17	401 A1 (3)		396
18	410 F ₂ (7)		-
19	441 F ₂ (8)		436
19	447 A ₁ (4)		445
20	471 F ₂ (9)		(466)
21	494 F ₂ (10)	494 F _{2g} (2)	489
22	519 E (9)		*

Table S1. Peak frequencies (cm⁻¹) and Raman band assignment.¹

23	555 F ₂ (11)		(550)
24	611 F ₂ (12)	609 F _{2g} (3)	606
25	616 A1 (5)		-
25	684 F ₂ (13)		680
26	714 A ₁ (6)	712 A _{1g} (1)	710

* superimposed, () weak



Figure S2. XPS analysis of mesoporous LFO thin films on Si(001) substrate heated to 630 °C. (a) Survey spectrum showing (apart from weak C 1s and Si 2p peaks) only Fe, Li and O levels. (b) Fe 2p spectrum. The presence of satellites around 8 eV higher in binding energy than the main peaks at (710.50 \pm 0.1) eV and (724.10 \pm 0.1) eV for the 2p_{3/2} and 2p_{1/2} levels, respectively, is characteristic of the Fe(III) oxidation state. (c) O 1s spectrum indicating two different bonding states. The main peak at (529.80 \pm 0.1) eV corresponds to oxygen in LFO and the shoulder peak at (531.4 \pm 0.1) eV can be attributed to hydroxyl oxygen.



Figure S3. Magnetic properties of mesoporous LFO thin films. Hysteresis curves measured at (a) 5 K and (b) 300 K with the magnetic field oriented parallel as well as perpendicular to the substrate plane. (c) Inplane hysteresis curve indicating superparamagnetic behavior at 350 K.



Figure S4. 2D CAD drawing of the home-built cell for in situ magnetization tuning. The wiring was done using 0.1 mm diameter Au wires. The Li electrode was chosen to be slightly larger than the LiFe₅O₈ electrode in order to ensure homogeneous current distribution. The cell assembling was performed inside an argon-filled glovebox. The magnetic field direction was set to be parallel to the film surface.



Figure S5. (a) Voltammetry sweeps (8 cycles) at 1 mV/s. (b) Relative change in magnetization measured at room temperature and in an applied field of 100 Oe. (c) Potential and current versus the time.

1. M. N. Iliev, V. G. Ivanov, N. D. Todorov, V. Marinova, M. V Abrashev, R. Petrova, Y. Q. Wang, and A. P. Litvinchuk, *Phys. Rev. B*, 2011, **83**, 174111.