## **Supplementary Information**

# Detection of trapped molecular O<sub>2</sub> in a charged Li-rich cathode by Neutron PDF

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**p. Fig. 1. Fitted PXRD data following Rietveld refinement** for pristine Li<sub>1.2</sub>Ni<sub>0.13</sub>Co<sub>0.13</sub>Mn<sub>0.54</sub>O<sub>2</sub> prepared by carbonate co-precipitation (upper panel) and sol-gel (lower panel).



**Supp. Fig. 2. EDX images**. Homogeneous mixing of transition metals within and between primary particles for pristine  $Li_{1.2}Ni_{0.13}Co_{0.13}Mn_{0.54}O_2$  prepared by sol-gel and carbonate co-precipitation.



**Supp. Fig. 3. OEMS data.** Evolved  $O_2$  and  $CO_2$  gases detected by mass spec for co-precipitation derived  $Li_{1.2}Ni_{0.13}Co_{0.13}Mn_{0.54}O_2$  charged at a rate of 20 mA g<sup>-1</sup> between 2 and 4.8 V. 0.0041 moles of  $O_2$  and 0.0159 moles of  $CO_2$  were evolved per mole of  $Li_{1.2}Ni_{0.13}Co_{0.13}Mn_{0.54}O_2$  during the first cycle. The electrode active material mass for the experiment was 10.32 mg.

### Sol-gel

#### **Co-precipitation**



**Supp. Fig. 4. SEM images** Primary and secondary particle morphology for pristine  $Li_{1.2}Ni_{0.13}Co_{0.13}Mn_{0.54}O_2$  prepared by sol-gel and carbonate co-precipitation.

**Supp. Tab. 1. X-ray diffraction refinement parameters** for **a** pristine  ${}^{7}Li_{1.2}Ni_{0.13}Co_{0.13}Mn_{0.54}O_{2}$  prepared by co-precipitation for the neutron study and **b**  $Li_{1.2}Ni_{0.13}Co_{0.13}Mn_{0.54}O_{2}$  prepared by sol-gel.

а							
Atom	Wycoff	x	У	Z	Occupancy	U <sub>iso</sub>	
<sup>7</sup> Li	За	0	0	0	1	0.0137(2)	
Li/Ni/Co/Mn	3b	0	0	0.5	0.2/0.13/0.13/0.54	0.0140(4)	
0	6c	0	0	0.2405(1)	.) 1 0.02		
S.G. = R-3m R <sub>w</sub> = 0.0555 G.O.F. = 1.6			a = 2.849(1) c = 14.226(1	) Å .) Å	$\alpha = 90$ $\beta = 90$ $\gamma = 120$		

b

Atom	Wycoff	х	У	Z	Occupancy	U <sub>iso</sub>	
<sup>7</sup> Li	3a	0	0	0	1	0.0135(2)	
Li/Ni/Co/Mn	3b	0	0	0.5	0.2/0.13/0.13/0.54	0.0126(3)	
0	6c	0	0	0.2416(1)	1	0.0201(4)	
S.G. = R-3m				Å	α = 90		
$R_{w} = 0.0516$		a = 2.850(1) A			β = 90		
G.O.F. = 1.5		(	2 = 14.221(1	JA	γ = 120		

Atom	Wycoff	x	У	Z	Occupancy
<sup>7</sup> Li	4h	0	0.3328(7)	0.5	1
<sup>7</sup> Li	2c	0	0	0.5	1
<sup>7</sup> Li/Ni	2b	0	0.5	0	0.6/0.4
Co/Mn	4g	0	0.1617(8)	0	0.2/0.8
0	8j	0.2511(6)	0.3222(2)	0.2231(3)	1
0	4i	0.2184(7)	0	0.2256(5)	1
S.G. = C2/m, R <sub>w</sub> = 0.092, Q <sub>max</sub> = 30 Å, r = 0.5 - 40 Å		a = 4.942(1) Å b = 8.547(2) Å c = 5.031(1) Å		$\alpha = 90$ $\beta = 109.33(2)$ $\gamma = 90$	

Supp. Tab. 2. Neutron PDF refinement parameters for pristine  $^7\text{Li}_{1.2}\text{Ni}_{0.13}\text{Co}_{0.13}\text{Mn}_{0.54}\text{O}_2$ 

Atom	Wycoff	х	у	z	Occupancy	U <sub>iso</sub>		
<sup>7</sup> Li/Ni	4h	0	0.333	0.5	0.1/0.03	0.0094(7)		
<sup>7</sup> Li/Ni	2c	0	0	0.5	0.1/0.03	0.0094(7)		
Ni/Co/Mn	2b	0	0.5	0	0.10/0.13/0.54	0.0094(7)		
Ni/Co/Mn	4g	0	0.167	0	0.10/0.13/0.54	0.0094(7)		
0	8j	0.251(5)	0.335(2)	0.235(6)	1	0.0094(7)		
0	4i	0.235(1)	0	0.246(1)	1	0.0094(7)		
S.G	S.G. = C2/m		a = 4.912(2) Å			α = 90		
R <sub>w</sub> :	= 0.0252		b = 8.493(1)	Å	$\beta = 108.94(1)$			
G.C	).F. = 1.2		c = 4.948(2) Å			γ = 90		

Supp. Tab. 3. X-ray refinement parameters for 4.8V charged  $^7\text{Li}_{0.1}\text{Ni}_{0.13}\text{Co}_{0.13}\text{Mn}_{0.54}\text{O}_2$ 

Atom	Wycoff	х	У	Z	Occupancy
<sup>7</sup> Li	4h	0	0.333	0.5	0.1
<sup>7</sup> Li	2c	0	0	0.5	0.1
Ni/Co/Mn	2b	0	0.5	0	0.13/0.13/0.54
Ni/Co/Mn	4g	0	0.167	0	0.13/0.13/0.54
0	8j	0.246(2)	0.337(1)	0.227(1)	1
0	4i	0.237(1)	0	0.200(2)	1
S.G. = C2/m, R <sub>w</sub> = 0.193, Q <sub>max</sub> = 26 Å, r = 0.5 – 40 Å		a = 4.919(4) Å b = 8.486(8) Å c = 4.975(3) Å		α β = 1 γ	= 90 09.97(6) = 90

Supp. Tab. 4. Neutron PDF refinement parameters for 4.8V charged  $^7\text{Li}_{0.1}\text{Ni}_{0.13}\text{Co}_{0.13}\text{Mn}_{0.54}\text{O}_2$ 

Atom	Wycoff	x	У	Z	Occupancy
<sup>7</sup> Li	4h	0	0.333	0.5	0.1
<sup>7</sup> Li	2c	0	0	0.5	0.1
Ni/Co/Mn	2b	0	0.5	0	0.13/0.13/0.54
Ni/Co/Mn	4g	0	0.167	0	0.13/0.13/0.54
0	8j	0.250(2)	0.330(3)	0.214(5)	1
0	4i	0.256(3)	0	0.201(9)	1
S.G. = C2/m R <sub>w</sub> = 0.193, Q <sub>max</sub> = 26 Å r = 0.5 – 4 Å		a = 5.02(3) Å b = 8.28 (4) Å c = 5.04(3) Å		$\alpha = 90$ $\beta = 111.9(4)$ $\gamma = 90$	

Supp. Tab. 5. Neutron PDF refinement parameters for 4.8V charged  $^{7}Li_{0.1}Ni_{0.13}Co_{0.13}Mn_{0.54}O_{2}$  a without and **b** with Ni migration.

#### b

а

Atom	Wycoff	x	У	Z	Occupancy
<sup>7</sup> Li/Ni	4h	0	0.333	0.5	0.1/0.031(7)
<sup>7</sup> Li/Ni	2c	0	0	0.5	0.1/0.031(7)
Ni/Co/Mn	2b	0	0.5	0	0.099(7)/0.13/0.54
Ni/Co/Mn	4g	0	0.167	0	0.099(7)/0.13/0.54
0	8j	0.250(2)	0.329(2)	0.214(4)	1
0	4i	0.256(3)	0	0.200(8)	1
S.G. = C R <sub>w</sub> = 0. Q <sub>max</sub> = 1 r = 0.5 -	S.G. = C2/ma = 5.01(5) Å $R_w = 0.166$ ,b = 8.28 (7) Å $Q_{max} = 26 Å$ c = 5.04(3) Å		01(5) Å 28 (7) Å 04(3) Å		α = 90 β = 111.7(5) γ = 90

Supp. Tab. 6. Neutron PDF refinement parameters for 4.8V charged  $^{7}Li_{0.1}Ni_{0.13}Co_{0.13}Mn_{0.54}O_{2}$  with Ni migration and solid beta- $O_{2}$  phase.

Atom	Wycoff	х	У	Z	Occupancy	
<sup>7</sup> Li/Ni	4h	0	0.333	0.5	0.1/0.031	
<sup>7</sup> Li/Ni	2c	0	0	0.5	0.1/0.031	
Ni/Co/Mn	2b	0	0.5	0	0.099/0.13/0.54	
Ni/Co/Mn	4g	0	0.167	0	0.099/0.13/0.54	
0	8j	0.250	0.329	0.214	1	
0	4i	0.256	0	0.200	1	
S.G. = 0 R <sub>w</sub> = 0. Q <sub>max</sub> = r = 0.5	S.G. = C2/m $R_w = 0.138,$ $Q_{max} = 26 \text{ Å}$ r = 0.5 - 4  Å		a = 5.01 Å b = 8.28 Å c = 5.04 Å		α = 90 β = 111.7 γ = 90	

 $^{7}Li_{0.1}Ni_{0.13}Co_{0.13}Mn_{0.54}O_{2}$  phase fraction = 0.34

Beta-O<sub>2</sub> phase fraction = 0.66

Atom	Wycoff	x	у	Z	Occupancy
0	6c	0	0	0.0536	1
S.G. = R <sub>w</sub> = 0 Q <sub>max</sub> = r = 0.5	S.G. = R-3m $R_w = 0.138$ , $a = 0.138$ , $b = 0.138$ , $c = 0.5 - 4 \text{ Å}$		3.307 Å 3.307 Å 11.26 Å		α = 90 β = 90 γ = 120

Spherical particle diameter (spdiameter = 3.6(8) Å) was also refined to reduce the contribution of intermolecular correlations to the PDF.