Supporting Information

High-valence Ni³⁺ construction and stability by electrochemical de-lithiation boosting oxygen evolution

Shujing Li^{1,2#}, Xiaoming Zhu^{3#}, Xiaohan Wang¹, Wenshu Luo², Xu Yu², Qiuyun Guo¹, Kunming Song¹, Han Tian^{2*}, Xiangzhi Cui^{1,2*}, Jianlin Shi²
¹School of Chemistry and Materials Science, Hangzhou Institute for Advanced Study, University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Hangzhou 310024, P.R. China
²Shanghai Institute of Ceramics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Shanghai 200050, P.R. China
³College of Mechanical and Vehicle Engineering, Hunan University, Changsha 410082, P.R. China

* Correspondence to: cuixz@mail.sic.ac.cn; tianhan@mail.sic.ac.cn

Supplementary Figures



Fig. S1 Charging and discharging cycle curve of NCM94.



Fig. S2 LSV curves of de-NCM94 after different electrochemical de-lithiation voltages.



Fig. S3 XRD patterns of de-NCM94 after different electrochemical de-lithiation voltages.



Fig. S4 i-t curves of de-NCM94 de-lithiated at 1 V for different times (30 min, 60 min, 90 min and 120 min).



Fig. S5 Rietveld refinement results of NCM94-initial.



Fig. S6 Rietveld refinement results of NCM94-1V-30min.



Fig. S7 Rietveld refinement results of NCM94-1V-60min.



Fig. S8 Rietveld refinement results of NCM94-1V-90min.



Fig. S9 SEM images of de-NCM94 at different magnifications after varied electrochemical de-lithiation time.



Fig. S10 TEM image of initial NCM94.



Fig. S11 HRTEM image of initial NCM94.



Fig. S12 SAED image of initial NCM94.



Fig. S13 Li 1s XPS spectra of de-NCM94 after varied electrochemical de-lithiation time.



Fig. S14 Co 2p XPS spectra of de-NCM94 after varied electrochemical de-lithiation time.



Fig. S15 Mn 2p XPS spectra of de-NCM94 after varied electrochemical de-lithiation time.



Fig. S16 LSV curves of $LiCoO_2$ and $LiNiO_2$ before and after electrochemical delithiation.



Fig. S17 LSV curves of NCM94-1V-90min and commercial IrO₂.



Fig. S18 CV curves of de-NCM94 after varied electrochemical de-lithiation times.



Fig. S19 LSV curves of NCM94-1V-90min before and after stability testing of 300 h.



Fig. S20 SEM images of NCM94-1V-90min after stability testing.

Supplementary Tables

samples	a=b (Å)	c (Å)
Initial	2.8800(4)	14.1994(0)
1V-30min	2.8774(5)	14.2201(3)
1V-60min	2.8753(7)	14.2285(1)
1V-90min	2.8740(8)	14.2311(0)
1V-120min	-	-

Table 1. Rietveld refinement results of de-NCM after varied de-lithiation time.

	Li	Ni	Co	Mn	de-lithiation degree	
concentration	2.31	24.15	0.18	< 0.1	38%	
	µg/mL	ng/mL	ng/mL	ng/mL		

Table 2. ICP-MS result of electrolyte after 90 min of electrochemical de-lithiationunder 1 V.

spent lithium-ion battery materials	OER catalysts	recycling method	overpotential (at 10 mA cm ⁻²)	reference
LiNi _{0.94} Co _{0.05} Mn _{0.01} O ₂	de-NCM94	electrochemical de-lithium	270 mV	This work
LiNi _{0.5} Co _{0.2} Mn _{0.3} O ₂	NiCoMnB	boriding process	271 mV	1
$LiNi_{0.8}Co_{0.1}Mn_{0.1}O_2$	NiCoMnB	boriding process	263 mV	1
LiFePO ₄	Ni-LiFePO ₄	electrochemical transformation	285 mV	2
Spent LIBs	MnCo ₂ O ₄	chemical leaching, calcination	400 mV	3
LiNi _{0.5} Mn _{0.3} Co _{0.2} O ₂	NiMnCo-AC	thermal radiation	340 mV	4
LiCoO ₂	CP4(LiCoO ₂)	calcination	550 mV	5
LiNi _{0.5} Mn _{0.3} Co _{0.2} O ₂	Ni _{0.5} Mn _{0.3} Co _{0.2} (OH) ₂	mechanochemical activation process	280 mV	6
LiCoO ₂	CoN-graphene	calcination, hydrothermal	280 mV	7

Table 3. Comparison of overpotential of recycling spent LIBs cathode materials forOER electrocatalysts at 10 mA cm⁻².

References

- Z. Chen, W. Zou, R. Zheng, W. Wei, W. Wei, B. J. Ni and H. Chen, Synergistic recycling and conversion of spent Li-ion battery leachate into highly efficient oxygen evolution catalysts, *Green Chem.*, 2021, 23, 6538-6547.
- 2. Y. Shen, Recycling cathode materials of spent lithium-ion batteries for advanced catalysts production, *J. Power Sources*, 2022, **528**, 231220.
- S. Natarajan, S. Anantharaj, R. J. Tayade, H. C. Bajaj and S. Kundu, Recovered spinel MnCo₂O₄ from spent lithium-ion batteries for enhanced electrocatalytic oxygen evolution in alkaline medium, *Dalton Trans.*, 2017, 46, 14382-14392.
- M. Jiao, Q. Zhang, C. Ye, Z. Liu, X. Zhong, J. Wang, C. Li, L. Dai, G. Zhou and H. M. Cheng, Recycling spent LiNi_{1-x-y}Mn_xCo_yO₂ cathodes to bifunctional NiMnCo catalysts for zinc-air batteries, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U S A*, 2022, **119**, 2202202119.
- A. Arif, M. Xu, J. Rashid, C. S. Saraj, W. Li, B. Akram and B. Hu, Efficient Recovery of Lithium Cobaltate from Spent Lithium-Ion Batteries for Oxygen Evolution Reaction, *Nanomaterials (Basel)*, 2021, 11, 3343.
- Y. Yang, H. Yang, H. Cao, Z. Wang, C. Liu, Y. Sun, H. Zhao, Y. Zhang and Z. Sun, Direct preparation of efficient catalyst for oxygen evolution reaction and high-purity Li₂CO₃ from spent LiNi_{0.5}Mn_{0.3}Co_{0.2}O₂ batteries, *J. Clean. Prod.*, 2019, **236**, 117576.
- Z. Lu, G. Chen, Y. Li, H. Wang, J. Xie, L. Liao, C. Liu, Y. Liu, T. Wu, Y. Li, A. C. Luntz, M. Bajdich and Y. Cui, Identifying the Active Surfaces of Electrochemically Tuned LiCoO₂ for Oxygen Evolution Reaction, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2017, **139**, 6270-6276.