

## Supplementary Information

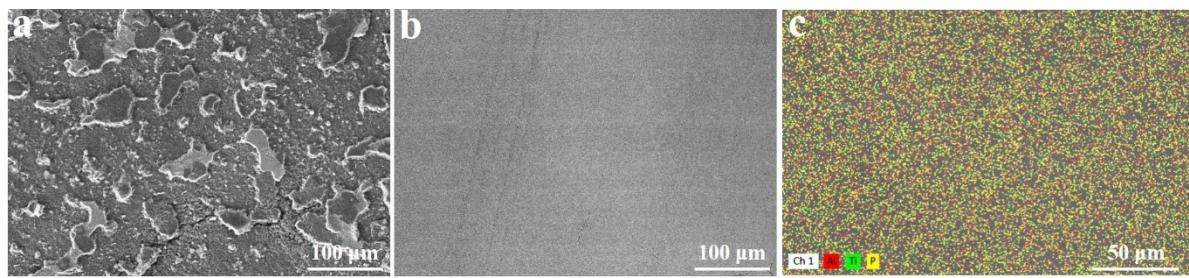
# Construction of 3D Lithium Metal Anode Using Bi-functional Composite Separator: A New Approach for Lithium Battery

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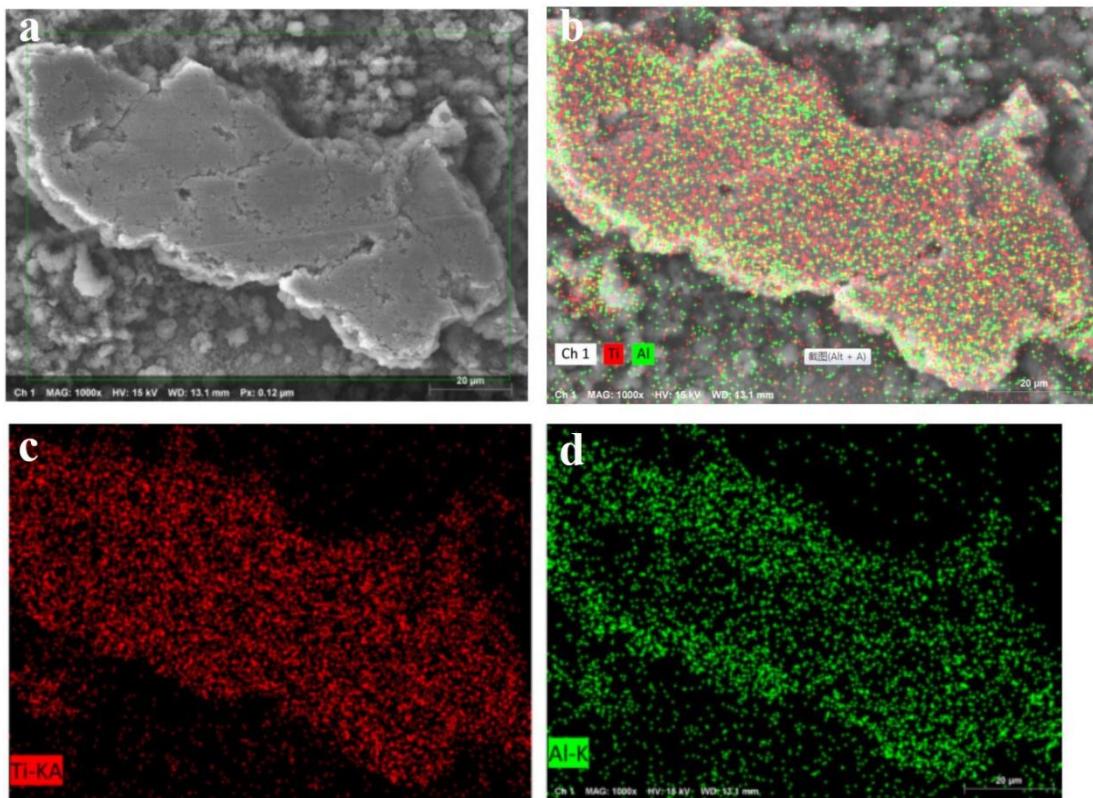
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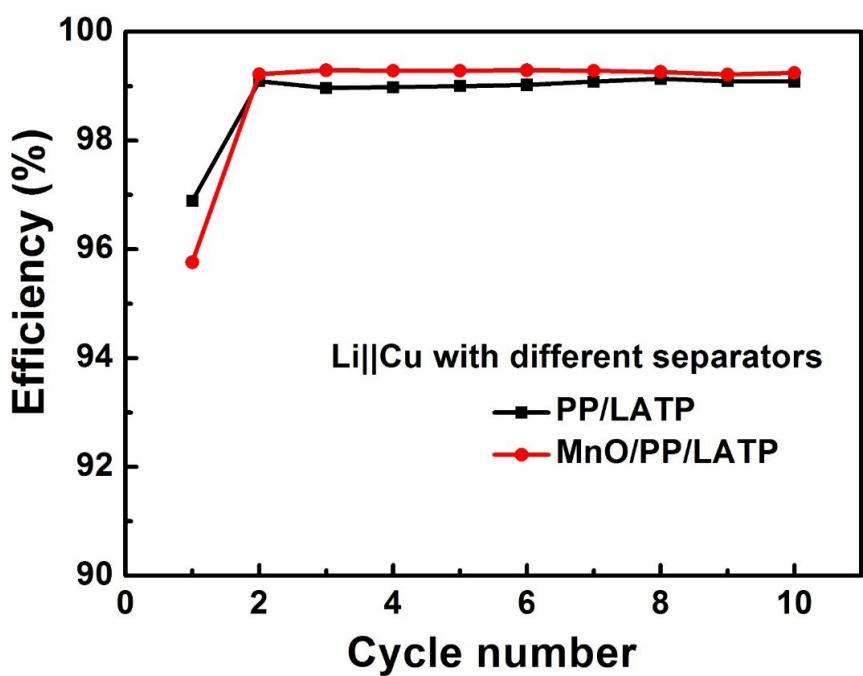
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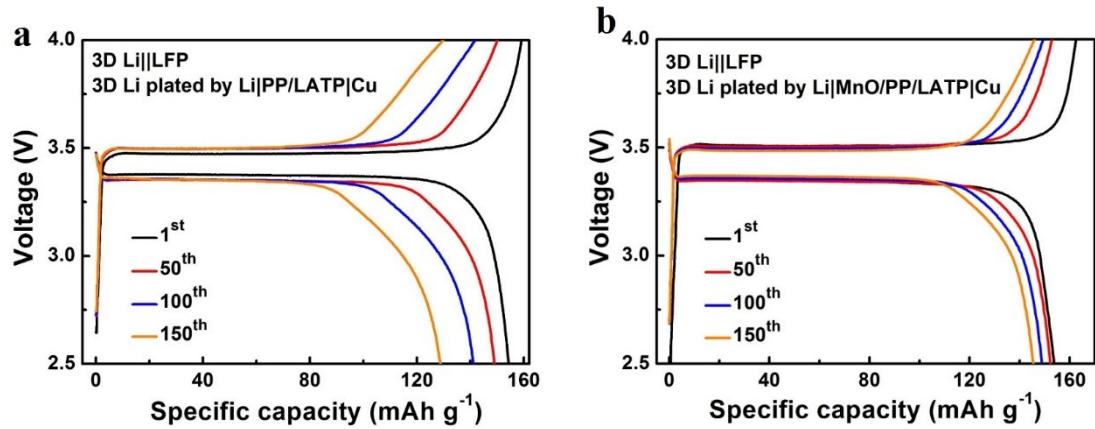
**Fig. S1.** Top view SEM images of covering layer of 3D Li metal anodes obtained by Li||Cu cells with PP/LATP separator using different binders: (a) PVDF and (b) PEO at 0.5 mA cm<sup>-2</sup> for 4.0 m Ah cm<sup>-2</sup> in 1.0 mol L<sup>-1</sup> LiTFSI electrolyte (DOL:DME =1:1, 1 wt% LiNO<sub>3</sub>). (c) The element mapping image of covering layer with PEO as binder.



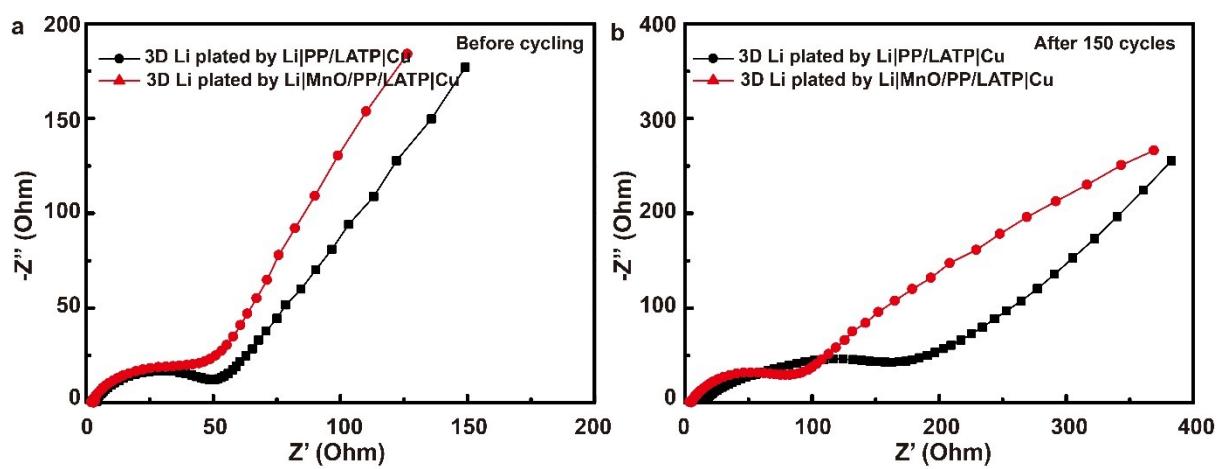
**Fig. S2.** Top view SEM image and its element mapping images of covering layer of 3D Li metal anode obtained by Li||Cu cell with PP/LATP separator using binder of PVDF at 0.5 mA cm<sup>-2</sup> for 4.0 mAh cm<sup>-2</sup> in 1.0 mol L<sup>-1</sup> LiTFSI electrolyte (DOL:DME =1:1, 1 wt% LiNO<sub>3</sub>).



**Fig. S3.** The Coulombic efficiencies of Li||Cu cells with different separators under  $0.5 \text{ mA cm}^{-2}$  for  $4.0 \text{ mAh cm}^{-2}$ , respectively.



**Fig. S4.** Charging/discharging curves of 3D Li||LFP cells with PP separators in 1.0 mol L<sup>-1</sup> LiTFSI (DOL:DME=1:1, 1 wt% LiNO<sub>3</sub>) at 0.5 C. 3D Li was obtained by Li||Cu cells with different separators in 1.0 mol L<sup>-1</sup> LiTFSI (DOL: DME=1:1, 1 wt% LiNO<sub>3</sub>).



**Fig. S5.** Nyquist plots of the 3D Li||LFP cells with PP separators before and after 150 cycles.

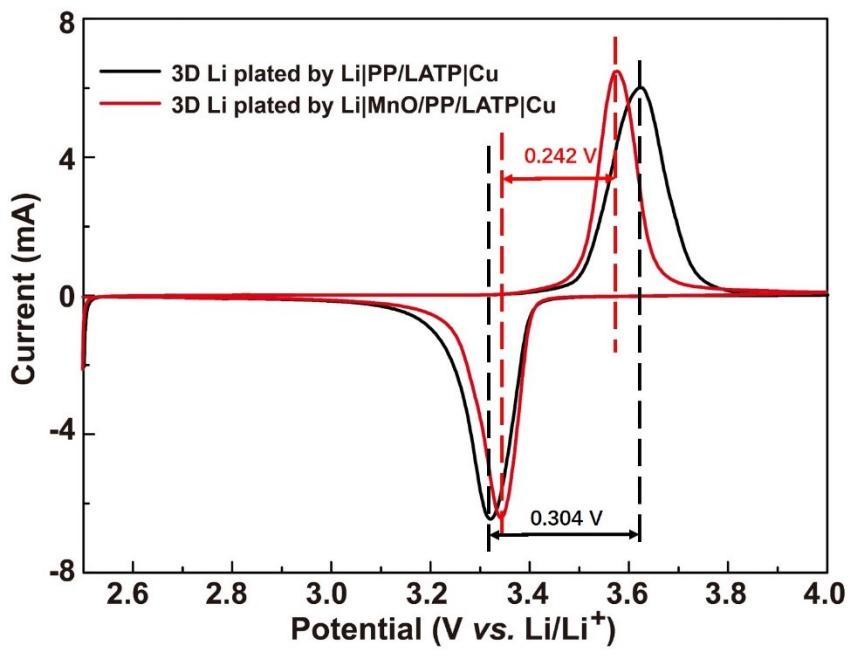
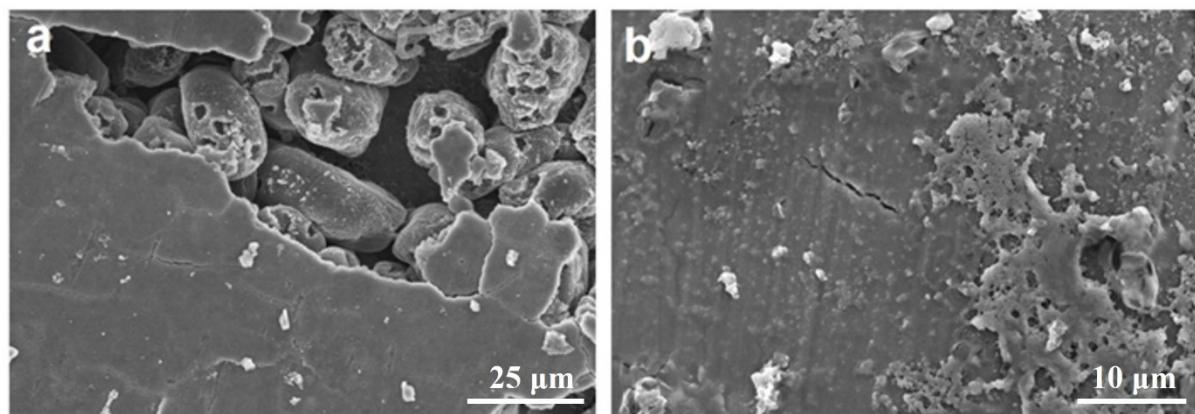
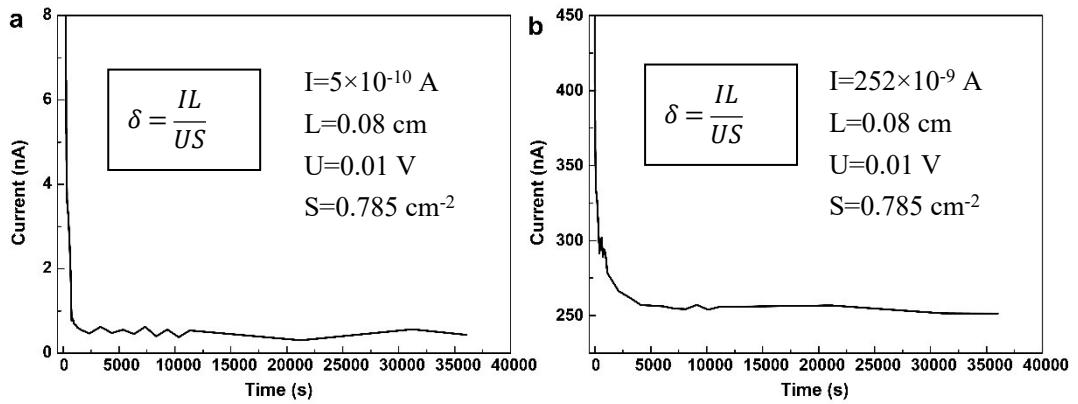


Fig. S6. CV curves of 3D Li||LFP cells at the scan rate of  $0.1 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$ .



**Fig. S7.** SEM images of 3D Li anode from 3D Li||NCM622 cells after 80 cycles.



**Fig. S8.** Curves of direct current with time of pure LATP and reduced LATP.

**Table S1.** Properties of the separators

| Thickness,<br>μm | Gurly<br>Value,<br>s/100cc | Porosity<br>,% | Puncture<br>Strength,<br>gf | Tensile<br>strength, MPa |       | Shrinkage, %<br>(120 °C, 1 h) |     |
|------------------|----------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-------|-------------------------------|-----|
|                  | MD                         | TD             | MD                          | TD                       |       |                               |     |
| PP               | 19.6                       | 257            | 40.2                        | 378                      | 143.5 | 15.3                          | 4.5 |
| MnO/PP/LATP      | 27.3                       | 315            | 39.6                        | 332                      | 136.4 | 14.2                          | 1.7 |

**Table S2.** The summary of performance of Li||LFP cells with lithium-free or ultra-thin lithium-metal anodes in the literatures.

| Method                           | Material                                 | Full cells cycling performance     |                          |  |                |                             |      | Ref. |
|----------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|----------------|-----------------------------|------|------|
|                                  |  | Cathode and areal capacity         | Areal capacity of anode  | Charge/discharge rate                            | Cycling number | Capacity retention rate (%) |      |      |
| Modifying separator              | MnCO <sub>3</sub>                        | LFP<br>3.8 mg cm <sup>-2</sup>     | 2.0 mAh cm <sup>-2</sup> | 0.5C/0.5C  | 110            | 95.3                        | [9]  |      |
| Highly concentrated electrolytes | 4.0 M LiFSI-DME                          | LFP<br>1.6 mAh cm <sup>-2</sup>    | Anode-free               | 0.2 mA cm <sup>-2</sup> /2.0 mA cm <sup>-2</sup> | 100            | 54                          | [10] |      |
| Coating on Cu current collector  | PDMS                                     | LFP                                | 1.0 mAh cm <sup>-2</sup> | 0.5C/0.5C  | 100            | ~ 93                        | [17] |      |
| Modifying separator              | MnO                                      | LFP<br>6.0 mg cm <sup>-2</sup>     | 2.0 mAh cm <sup>-2</sup> | 0.5C/0.5C  | 120            | 98.4                        | [23] |      |
| Modifying Cu current collector   | Lithium-copper-lithium arrays            | LiCoO <sub>2</sub>                 | Li: 70 μm<br>Cu: 25 μm   | 0.2C/0.2C  | 200            | 92                          | [28] |      |
| Modifying Cu current collector   | CuO nanosheets                           | LFP<br>1.3 mg cm <sup>-2</sup>     | 1.5 mAh cm <sup>-2</sup> | 0.5C/0.5C  | 300            | 81.3                        | [29] |      |
| Dual-salt carbonate electrolyte  | 2.0 M LiDFOB and 1.4 M LiBF <sub>4</sub> | NMC532<br>3.1 mAh cm <sup>-2</sup> | Anode-free               | 0.2C/0.5C  | 200            | 80                          | [30] |      |

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|   |                            |                                  |                          |   |     |      |           |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|---|-----|------|-----------|
| Epitaxial induced plating current-collector | Liquid metal coating layer | NCM811<br>25 mg cm <sup>-2</sup> | Anode-free               | 1 <sup>st</sup> : 0.05C/<br>0.2C;<br>2 <sup>th</sup> -50 <sup>th</sup> :<br>0.1C/0.2C | 50  | 84   | [31]      |
| Modifying separator                         | MnO and LATP               | LFP<br>9.6 mg cm <sup>-2</sup>   | 4.0 mAh cm <sup>-2</sup> | 0.5C/0.5C   | 150 | 94.5 | This work |

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