Supplementary Information (SI) for Journal of Materials Chemistry A. This journal is © The Royal Society of Chemistry 2024

## **Supporting Information**

## **Topotactic Phase Transformation of Lithiated Spinel to Layered**

## LiMn<sub>0.5</sub>Ni<sub>0.5</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: The Interaction of 3-D and 2-D Li-ion Diffusion

Boyu Shi<sup>1</sup>, Jihyeon Gim<sup>1</sup>, Tianyi Li<sup>2</sup>, Krishna Koirala<sup>3</sup>, Chongmin Wang<sup>4</sup>, Dewen Hou<sup>5,6</sup>, Yuzi Liu<sup>5</sup>, Jacob Jorne<sup>7</sup>, Jason R. Croy<sup>1</sup>, Michael M. Thackeray<sup>1</sup>, and Eungje Lee<sup>1,\*</sup>

- <sup>1</sup> Electrochemical Energy Storage Department, Chemical Sciences and Engineering Division, Argonne National Laboratory, Lemont, IL 60439, USA
- <sup>2</sup> X-ray Science Division, Advanced Photon Source, Argonne National Laboratory, Lemont, IL 60439, USA
- <sup>3</sup> Physical and Computational Sciences Directorate, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Richland, WA 99354, USA
- <sup>4</sup> Environmental Molecular Sciences Laboratory, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Richland, WA 99354, USA
- <sup>5</sup> Nanoscience and Technology Division, Argonne National Laboratory, Lemont, IL 60439, USA
- <sup>6</sup> Micron School of Materials Science and Engineering, Boise State University, Boise, Idaho 83725, USA
- <sup>7</sup> Department of Chemical Engineering, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY 14627, USA

**Table S1.** The 1<sup>st</sup> cycle charge/discharge specific capacity and the initial Coulombic efficiency of Li/LMNO400-900 cells (V = 2.5-5.0 V vs. Li, i = 15 mA/g, 30 °C).

Sample	1 <sup>st</sup> cycle charge capacity (mAh/g)	1 <sup>st</sup> cycle 1 <sup>st</sup> discharge capacity (mAh/g)	Initial Coulombic efficiency
LMNO400	268.4	223.0	83.0%
LMNO500	238.7	196.2	82.2%
LMNO600	211.4	179.7	85.0%
LMNO700	201.6	174.7	86.7%
LMNO800	207.6	187.4	90.3%
LMNO900	224.4	188.9	84.2%



**Figure S1.** Calculated XRD patterns for a cubic (Fd-3m) lithiated spinel LiMO<sub>2</sub> (Li<sub>2</sub>M<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>) structure and a trigonal (R-3m) layered LiMO<sub>2</sub> structure such as LiCoO<sub>2</sub> (Li<sub>2</sub>Co<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>) that are identical, as described in [E. Rossen, J. N. Reimers, and J. R. Dahn, Synthesis and Electrochemistry of Spinel LT-LiCoO<sub>2</sub>. *Solid State Ionics*, 1993, **62**, 53-60].





**Figure S2.** XRD Rietveld refinement data of (a-f) LMNO400-900 with *R*-3*m* symmetry and (g) LMNO400 sample with *Fd*-3*m* symmetry.



**Figure S3.** HR-TEM images and FFTs (inset) of (a) LMNO400, (b) LMNO500, (c) LMNO600, (d) LMNO700, (e) LMNO800, and (d) LMNO900.



Figure S4. SEM images of (a) LMNO400, (b) LMNO500, (c) LMNO600, (d) LMNO700, (e) LMNO800, and (f) LMNO900 samples.



**Figure S5.** (a) The 1<sup>st</sup> charge-discharge voltage profiles and (b) dQ/dV plots of Li/LMNO400-900 cells (V = 2.5-5.0 V vs. Li, i = 15 mA/g, 30 °C).



**Figure S6.** (a) LMNO400-900 electrodes' percentage of retained capacity at 200 mA/g with respect to 15 mA/g and (b) rate performance for the LMNO400-900 electrodes (V = 2.5-5.0 V vs. Li, 30 °C).



**Figure S7.** Representative voltage profiles of the (a)-(f) LMNO400-900 electrodes under different current densities.



**Figure S8.** The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle charge-discharge voltage profiles of Li/LMNO400-900 cells tested at 50 °C (V = 2.5-5.0 V vs. Li, i = 15 mA/g).



**Figure S9.** Schematic illustration of the effect of LMNO local structures on Li-ion diffusion channels; (a) ordered layered (b) frustrated structure and (c) LxS.