#### Supplementary Information

for

# Synergetic pyrolysis of lithium-ion battery cathodes with polyethylene terephthalate for efficient metal recovery and battery regeneration

Zhe Meng<sup>a,b,#</sup>, Jinchuan Dai<sup>a,#</sup>, Xiao-Ying Lu<sup>c</sup>, Kehua Wu<sup>c</sup>, Yonghong Deng<sup>d</sup>, Jun Wang<sup>d</sup>, Kaimin Shih<sup>b</sup>, Yuanyuan Tang<sup>a,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Guangdong Provincial Key Laboratory of Soil and Groundwater Pollution Control, School of Environmental Science and Engineering, Southern University of Science and Technology, Shenzhen 518055, China

<sup>b</sup> Department of Civil Engineering, The University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong SAR, P. R. China

<sup>c</sup> Faculty of Science and Technology, Technological and Higher Education Institute of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China.

<sup>d</sup> Department of Materials Science and Engineering, Southern University of Science and Technology, No.1088 Xueyuan Blvd, Nanshan District, Shenzhen, 518055, China

<sup>#</sup> Two authors contributed equally to this work.

\*Corresponding author: Yuanyuan Tang

Email address:

tangyy@sustech.edu.cn

### Table S1 Loss of ignition (LOI) of the PET+ LiNi<sub>1/3</sub>Co<sub>1/3</sub>Mn<sub>1/3</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (NCM) mixture

NCM:PET	Time (min)	Temperature (°C)	LOI* (%)
1:1	120	400	17.09
1:1	120	500	31.63
1:1	120	550	35.34
1:1	120	600	37.32
1:1	120	700	40.74
1:1	120	800	46.79
1:1	120	900	55.70
1:1	120	1000	61.06
1:0.3	15	600	12.32
1:0.3	30	600	17.74
1:0.3	60	600	17.88
1:0.3	90	600	17.68
1:0.3	120	600	17.90
1:0.1	120	600	8.00
1:0.2	120	600	11.99
1:0.3	120	600	17.89
1:0.4	120	600	24.04
1:0.5	120	600	26.31
1:1	120	600	37.32

during synergetic pyrolysis.

\*The mass of the feedstock before pyrolyzation and the products after pyrolyzation was recorded, and the loss of ignition (LOI) was calculated by dividing the mass difference between feedstock and products by the mass of feedstock.

\*\* PET is polyethylene terephthalate.

Technology	Conditions	Products	Published year	Ref
Carbothermal reduction roasting	Graphite, 650℃, 60min	Li <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> , (NiO) <sub>m</sub> (MnO) <sub>n</sub> , Co, Ni	2020	1
Carbothermal reduction roasting	Graphite, 900℃, 90min	Li <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> , MnO, Ni, Co	2021	2
Carbothermal reduction roasting	Graphite, 600℃, 180min	CoO, MnO, NiO, Li <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	2020	3
Sulfation roasting	(NH <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> , 650°C, 150min	Li <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> , NiO, Co <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> , LiMn <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	2020	4
Sulfation roasting	NiSO <sub>4</sub> , 550°C, 60min	Li <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> , Ni-Co-Mn-O	2022	5
Chlorination roasting	CaCl <sub>2</sub> , 800°C, 60min	LiCl, NiO, CoO, MnO <sub>2</sub>	2021	6
Chlorination roasting	Cl₂, 900°C, 90min	LiCl, MnCl <sub>2</sub> , CoCl <sub>2</sub> , NiCl <sub>2</sub>	2022	7
Vacuum pyrolysis	Macadamia shell, 500℃+750℃,25min, Microwave roasting(2450MHZ)	Li <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> , MnO, Ni-Co	2020	8

## Table S2 Comparison of the parameters of the thermal treatment of $LiNi_{1/3}Co_{1/3}Mn_{1/3}O_2$



Figure S1 XRD patterns of the pyrolyzed  $LiNi_{1/3}Co_{1/3}Mn_{1/3}O_2$  (NCM) without any additives under 600°C for 120 min.



**Figure S2** Structural diagrams of (a) NCM; (b) PET; (c) top view of NCM (001) slab; and front views of NCM (001) slab with (d) lithium, (e) transition metals, and (f) oxygen terminations. NCM is  $LiNi_{1/3}Co_{1/3}Mn_{1/3}O_2$  and PET is polyethylene terephthalate.



**Figure S3** Adsorption configurations of PET on NCM (001) slab with lithium terminations. Front views of (a) Configuration 1, (b) Configuration 2, (c) Configuration 3, (d) Configuration 4 and (e) Configuration 5. NCM is  $LiNi_{1/3}Co_{1/3}Mn_{1/3}O_2$  and PET is polyethylene terephthalate.



**Figure S4** Adsorption configurations of PET on NCM (001) slab with transition metal terminations. Front views of (a) Configuration 6, (b) Configuration 7, (c) Configuration 8, (d) Configuration 9 and (e) Configuration 10. NCM is  $LiNi_{1/3}Co_{1/3}Mn_{1/3}O_2$  and PET is polyethylene terephthalate.



Figure S5 Adsorption configuration of PET on NCM (001) slab with oxygen terminations. (a) front view of Configuration 11. NCM is  $LiNi_{1/3}Co_{1/3}Mn_{1/3}O_2$  and PET is polyethylene terephthalate.



**Figure S6** FT-IR spectra at different pyrolysis temperatures. (a) 400°C, (b) 500°C, (c) 600°C, (d) 700°C, (e) 800°C, (f) 900°C, (g) 1000°C.



Figure S7 Typical XRD patterns of the plastic + NCM ( $LiNi_{1/3}Co_{1/3}Mn_{1/3}O_2$ ) synergetic pyrolysis products at 550°C for 60 min with a mass ratio of NCM/plastic of 1.0:0.5.



Figure S8 (a) Cycle performance at 1C and (b) rate performance of Sample R-NCM, where R-NCM is regenerated  $LiNi_{1/3}Co_{1/3}Mn_{1/3}O_2$ .

#### **Supplementary References**

- Zhang, Y., Wang, W. & Fang, Q. Improved recovery of valuable metals from spent lithium-ion batteries by efficient reduction roasting and facile acid leaching. *Waste Management* 102, 847-855, (2020).
- Ma, Y., Tang, J., Wanaldi, R., Zhou, X., Wang, J., Zhou, C.& Yang, J. A promising selective recovery process of valuable metals from spent lithium ion batteries via reduction roasting and ammonia leaching. *Journal of Hazardous Material* 402, 123491 (2021).
- Pindar, S. & Dhawan, N. Evaluation of carbothermic processing for mixed discarded lithiumion batteries. *Metallurgical Research & Technology* 117(3), 302 (2020).
- Yang, C., Zhang, J., Cao, Z., Jing, Q., Chen, C.& Wang, C. Sustainable and facile process for lithium recovery from spent LiNi<sub>x</sub>Co<sub>y</sub>Mn<sub>z</sub>O<sub>2</sub> cathode materials via selective sulfation with ammonium sulfate. ACS Sustainable Chemistry & Engineering 8, 15732–15739 (2020).
- Lin, J., Cui, C., Zhang, X., Fan, E., Chen, R., Wu, F.& Li, L. Closed-loop selective recycling process of spent LiNi<sub>x</sub>Co<sub>y</sub>Mn<sub>1-x-y</sub>O<sub>2</sub> batteries by thermal-driven conversion. *Journal of Hazardous Material* 424, 127757 (2022).
- Huang, Y., Shao, P., Yang, L., Zheng, Y., Sun, Z., Fang, L., Lv, W., Yao, Z., Wang, L.& Luo, X. Thermochemically driven crystal phase transfer via chlorination roasting toward the selective extraction of lithium from spent LiNi<sub>1/3</sub>Co<sub>1/3</sub>Mn<sub>1/3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>. *Resources Conservation and Recycling* 174, 105757 (2021).
- 7. Xiao, J., Niu, B.& Xu, Z. Highly efficient selective recovery of lithium from spent lithium-ion batteries by thermal reduction with cheap ammonia reagent. *Journal of Hazardous Material*

, 126319 (2021).

8. Zhao, Y., Liu, B.& Zhang, L. Microwave pyrolysis of macadamia shells for efficiently recycling lithium from spent lithium-ion batteries. *Journal of Hazardous Material* **396**, 122740 (2021).