### Supplementary Information

# Electronic signatures of Lorentzian dynamics and charge fluctuations in lithiated graphite structures

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#### **Supplementary Methods**

Supplementary Methods 1: Lorentzian fitting of XAS spectra

The two main XAS peaks at the  $\pi^*$  and  $\sigma^*$  resonances were fitted to Lorentzian functions, centered around a maxima:

$$L(x) = A \frac{w}{(x-x_0)^2 + w^2}$$

where A is the amplitude,  $x_0$  is the center and w is the width. The resulting Lorentzian fits were then used to find the area under the curve and the peak ratio, in Supplementary Table 1 below.

#### **Supplementary Tables**

	σ	*	π*			
	Amplitude <sup>a</sup>	Width (eV)	Amplitude	Width (eV)		
Experiment						
Stage I	0.69	0.67	3.26	3.16		
Stage II	0.79	0.52	3.16	3.13		
Stage III	0.87	0.49	3.03	2.94		
Graphite	1.00	0.55	2.64	2.54		
Theory – Crystal Structure						
Stage I	<u>0.45</u>	<u>0.39</u>	<u>2.72</u>	<u>3.54</u>		
<u>Stage II</u>	<u>0.60</u>	<u>0.43</u>	<u>1.44</u>	<u>2.23</u>		
Stage III	<u>0.80</u>	<u>0.48</u>	<u>3.17</u>	<u>2.23</u>		
<u>Graphite</u>	<u>1.00</u>	<u>0.40</u>	<u>3.42</u>	<u>1.51</u>		
Theory – MD structures						
Stage I	0.62	0.48	3.75	2.02		
Stage II	0.82	0.52	3.27	1.23		
Stage III	0.89	0.55	2.85	1.54		
Graphite	1.00	0.46	2.97	2.11		

Supplementary Table 1: Lorentzian fitting parameters.

<sup>a</sup>All amplitudes are scaled, assuming a value of 1 for Graphite

**Supplementary Table 2**: Distribution analysis of in-plane and out-of-plane Li atom displacement with staging

Li-GIC	Me	ean	Standard deviation		standard deviation Skewness		Kurtosis	
	In-plane	Out of	In-plane	Out of	In-plane	Out of	In-plane	Out of
		plane		plane		plane		plane
Stage I	0.000	0.000	0.119	0.049	-0.009	0.005	2.922	2.971
Stage II	-0.000	-0.000	0.182	0.090	-0.012	-0.135	2.786	5.216
Stage III	0.002	-0.001	0.132	0.080	0.069	0.009	3.241	3.632

Supplementary Table 3: Distribution analysis of C atom charge fluctuations with staging

Li-GIC	Mean	Standard deviation	Skewness	Kurtosis
Stage I	-0.144	0.036	0.119	2.755
Stage II	-0.072	0.040	0.218	2.801
Stage III	-0.029	0.083	-0.222	3.019
Graphite	-0.000	0.100	-0.081	2.680

**Supplementary Table 4**: Lattice parameters of graphite and LI-GICs supercell employed in the simulation.

Li-GIC	a (Å)	c (Å)	Volume of supercell (Å <sup>3</sup> )
Stage I	12.948	10.772	1564.070
Stage II	12.840	13.485	1910.011
Stage III	12.820	9.770	1418.535
Graphite	7.3680	20.088	944.427

#### **Supplementary Figures**



**Supplementary Figure 1**: Example of Lorentzian fitting to the LiC<sub>18</sub> simulated spectra.



**Supplementary Figure 2**: Comparison between experimental and simulated XAS of graphite and Li-GICs at the Carbon K-edge, comparing the simulated spectrum based on the pristine crystal structure and MD structure. A dilation factor of 1.05 is used on the  $LiC_6$  and  $LiC_{12}$  to match the second peak at sigma excitation.



**Supplementary Figure 3**: Simulated XAS of graphite Carbon K-edge comparison between AA and AB stacked graphite.



**Supplementary Figure 4** Simulated XAS of graphite at the Carbon K-edge as a function of sheet-sheet interlayer distance.



Supplementary Figure 5: XAS of AB stacked graphite as a function of in-place lattice constant





Supplementary Figure 7: Angle distribution of carbon hexagons and Li atom in Li-GICs



Supplementary Figure 8: Bader charge analysis comparison between coarse and fine k-point grid in LiC<sub>6</sub>.



**Supplementary Figure 9**: XAS convergence as a function of supercell size in LiC<sub>6</sub>. Only by expanding the supercell to 3x3x3 of the primitive cell that the cell lattices become larger than 10 Å that the self-interaction due to artificial periodicity is minimized. Note that at primitive cell, the peak position and intensity significantly deviated from expected behavior. The 3x3x3 and 4x4x4 have comparable spectra at the cost of approximate 16.5 times more computational cost.



**Supplementary Figure 10**: XAS convergence as a function of the empty bands factor in LiC<sub>6</sub>. Here, the factor represents the number of empty bands added to the NSCF calculation as a multiple of occupied bands.



**Supplementary Figure 11**: Statistical averaged XAS Carbon K-edge spectra of graphite and Li-GICs. The shaded area represents the uncertainty from the standard deviation.