

MACHINE LEARNING FORCE FIELDS FOR LI-ION CATHODES

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ABSTRACT

NMC (Lithium Nickel Manganese Cobalt Oxide) is a common choice cathode in Lithium ion batteries. However, it is susceptible to fracture at low Li content upon discharging, evidenced by a large change in the c lattice constant. We illustrate this collapse through a machine learning force field trained to 1 ps of *ab initio* molecular dynamics (AIMD) for the specific composition NMC-111 that contains equiatomic proportions of nickel, manganese and cobalt. We find the collapse occurs at a Li-content of 0.25% at 298 K in the O3 phase.

BACKGROUND

DELITHIATION OF NMC-111

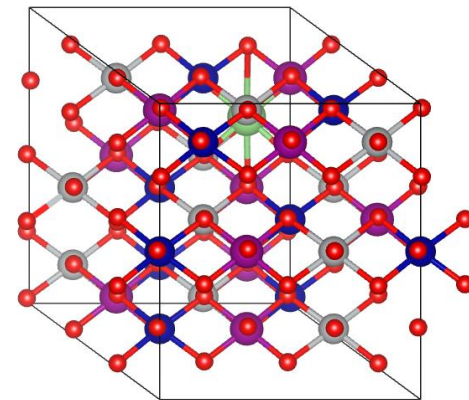
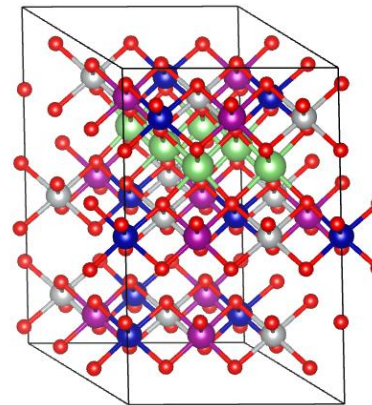
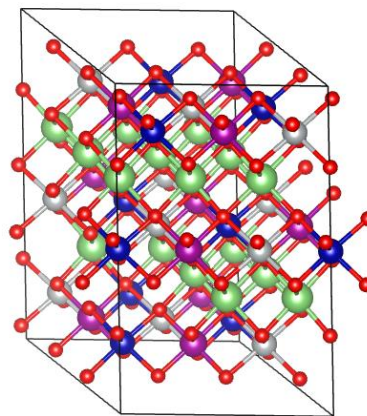
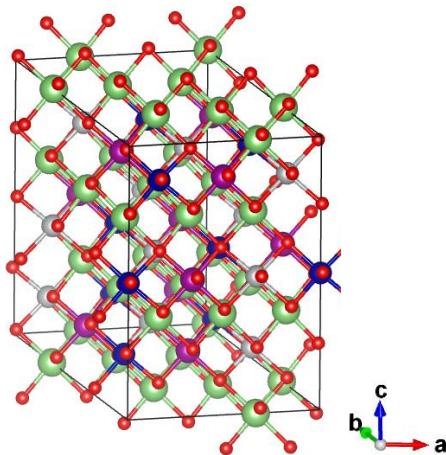
- NMC-111 is a popular cathode that undergoes a well known ‘collapse’ of the interlayer spacing in the $O3$ and $O1$ structure on delithiation
- We develop a force field to simulate this collapse at operating temperatures for application to other cathodes such as NMC-811

Li=1.0 Ni Co Mn O

Li=0.6 Ni Co Mn O

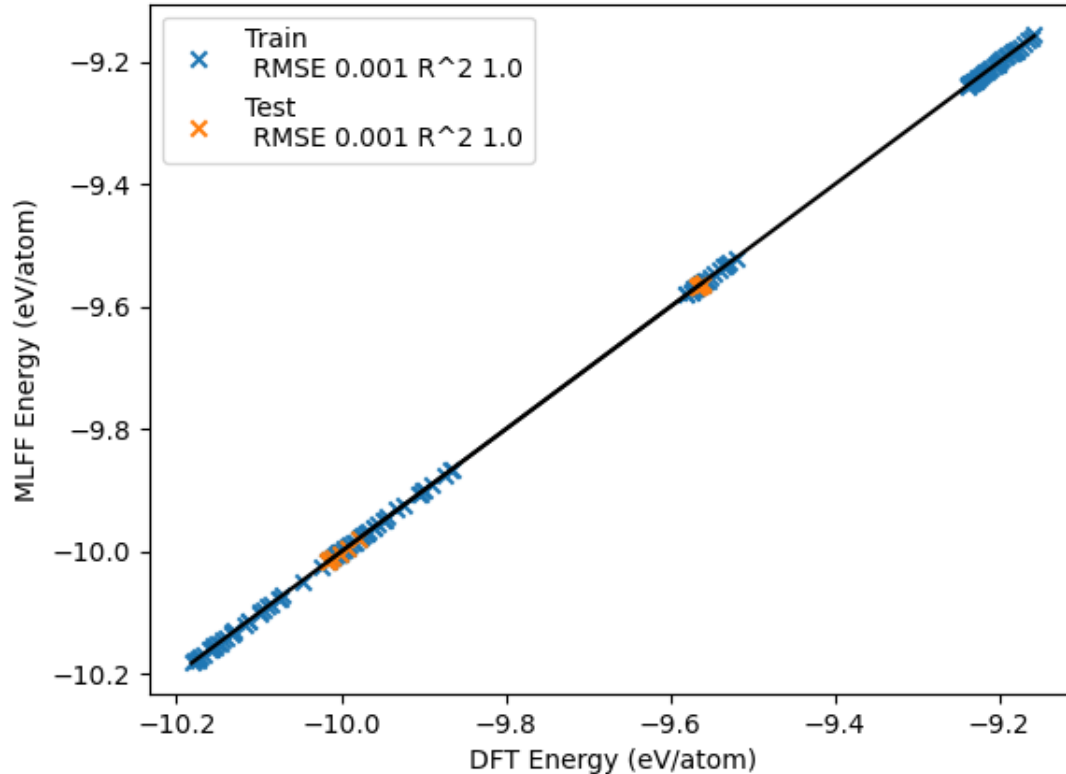
Li=0.25 Ni Co Mn O

Li=0.04 Ni Co Mn O

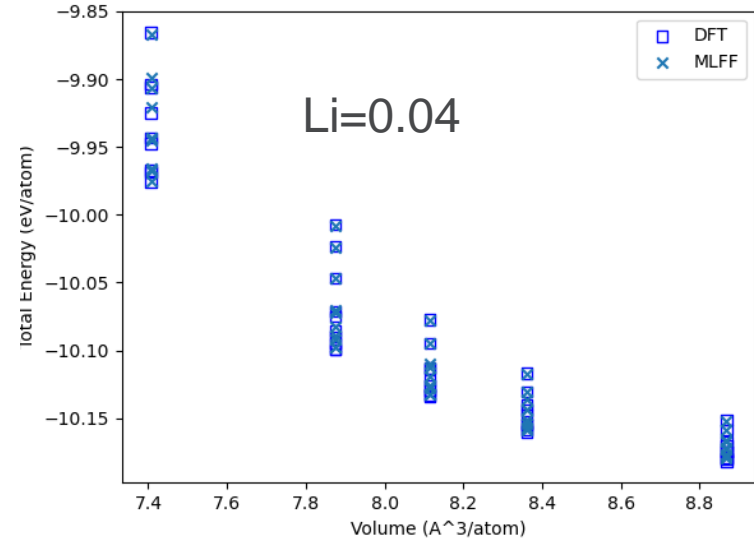
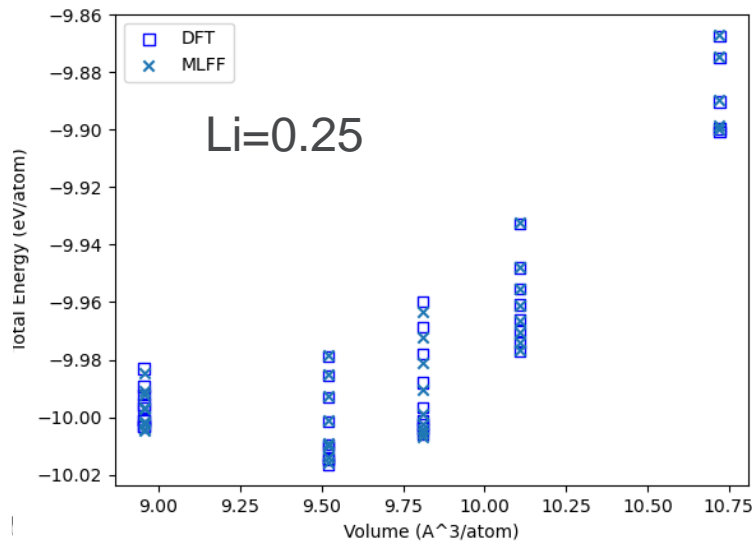
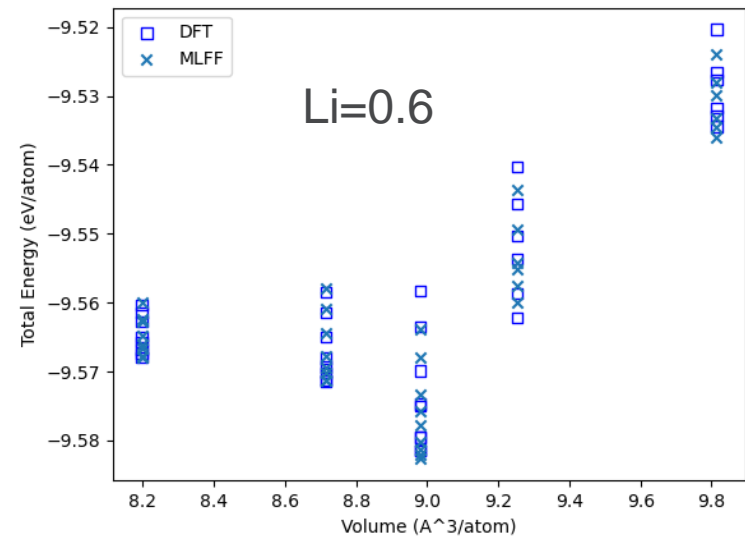
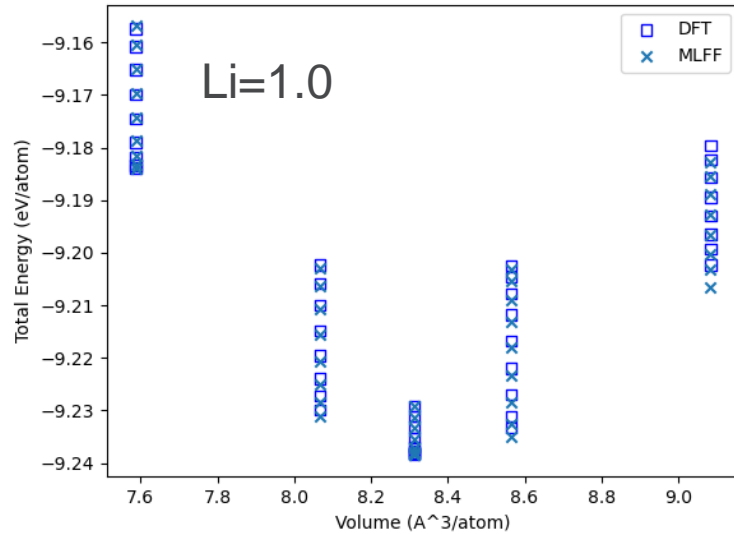


MLFF TRAINED TO 1 PS OF AIMD PREDICTS ENERGIES TO WITHIN 1 MEV/ATOM

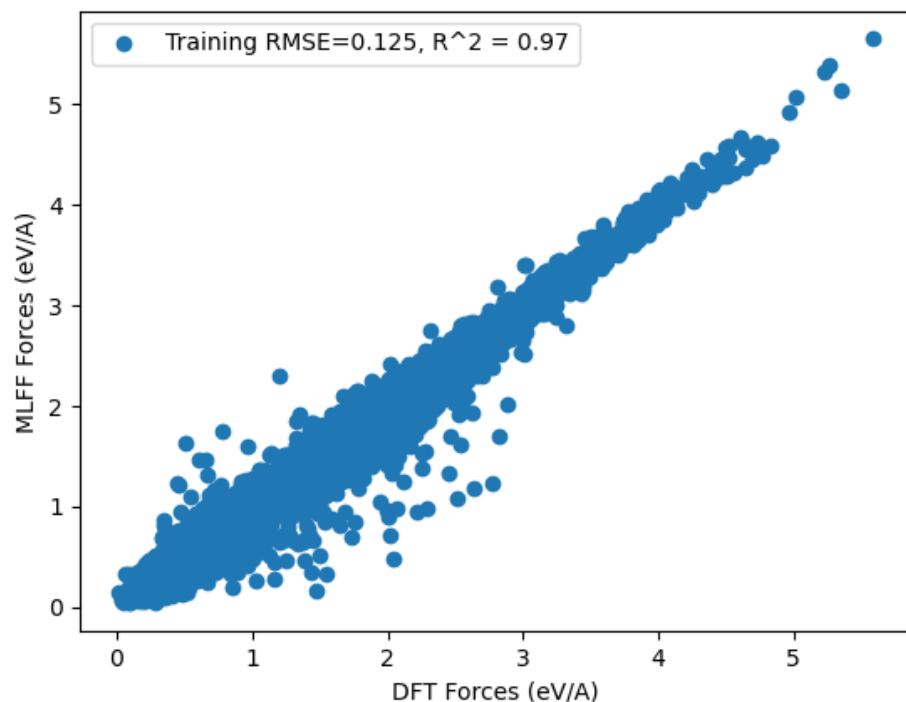
Training over 1 ps AIMD snapshots calculated with DFT level that takes care of van-der Waals interactions and strong correlation in oxides (SCAN+rvv10)



MLFF TRAINED TO 1 PS OF AIMD PREDICTS ENERGIES TO WITHIN 1 MEV/ATOM



FORCE ERRORS AND PREDICTED LATTICE CONSTANTS AT 298 K



Li-content	C-lattice parameter (MD)	C-lattice parameter (Expt. ¹)
1.0	14.51	14.22
0.6	13.94	14.46
0.25	13.79	Experimental transition, mixture of O1 and O3 phase
0.04	10.89 (O3 phase)	4.48 (O1 phase)

DeePMD-kit: A deep learning package for many-body potential energy representation and molecular dynamics, *Comput. Phys. Commun.*, 228, 2018, 178-184, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cpc.2018.03.016>

¹*Chem. Mater.* 2006, 18, 1901-1910

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