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# Lithium diffusion in LiMnPO<sub>4</sub> detected with $\mu^{\pm}$ SR

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Positive- and negative-muon spin rotation and relaxation ( $\mu^{\pm}$ SR) was first used to investigate fluctuations of nuclear magnetic fields in an olivine-type battery material, LiMnPO<sub>4</sub>, in order to clarify the diffusive species, namely, to distinguish between a  $\mu^+$  hopping among interstitial sites and Li<sup>+</sup> ions diffusing in the LiMnPO<sub>4</sub> lattice. Muon diffusion can only occur in  $\mu^+$ SR, because the implanted  $\mu^-$  forms a stable muonic atom at the lattice site, and therefore any change in linewidth measured with  $\mu^-$ SR must be due to Li<sup>+</sup> diffusion. Since the two measurements exhibit a similar increase in the field fluctuation rate with temperature above 100 K, it is confirmed that Li<sup>+</sup> ions are in fact diffusing. The diffusion coefficient of Li<sup>+</sup> at 300 K and its activation energy were estimated to be  $1.4(3) \times 10^{-10}$  cm<sup>2</sup>/s and 0.19(3) eV, respectively. Such combined  $\mu^{\pm}$ SR measurements are thus shown to be a suitable tool for detecting ion diffusion in solid-state energy materials.

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#### I. INTRODUCTION

The diffusion coefficient of  $\text{Li}^+$  ( $D_{\text{Li}}$ ) is one of the key parameters to determine the charge and discharge rate of any Li-ion battery. While  $D_{\text{Li}}$  is usually determined with lithium nuclear magnetic resonance (Li-NMR) [1], such determination is extremely difficult for materials that contain magnetic ions [1,2] because of the contribution of electron spins to the spin-lattice relaxation rate ( $1/T_1$ ). Electrochemical measurements also face difficulty in estimating  $D_{\text{Li}}$  due to the absence of information on the real surface area of materials in a liquid electrolyte [3,4]. It should be noted that ion diffusion plays a significant role not only in battery materials but also in other energy materials [5,6].

We therefore started a project to measure  $D_{\text{Li}}$  with positive muon spin rotation and relaxation ( $\mu^+\text{SR}$ ) through the observation of fluctuations in the local magnetic fields due to the magnetic moments of Li nuclei diffusing in the lattice [7]. Here, the presence of the  $\mu^+$  state in solids indicates that the positive charge of the implanted  $\mu^+$  is covered by an electron screening cloud [8,9]. Therefore,  $\mu^+\text{SR}$  is expected to detect the intrinsic change in local magnetic environments induced by Li diffusion. In fact, according to the first attempt on Li<sub>x</sub>CoO<sub>2</sub> with x = 0.53 and 0.73 (the most common cathode material in the present Li-ion batteries), values of  $D_{\text{Li}}$ estimated with  $\mu^+$ SR [7] were comparable to those predicted by first principles calculations [10]. Since then, many battery materials have been studied with  $\mu^+$ SR in order to extract their intrinsic  $D_{\text{Li}}$  [4,11–22] and  $D_{\text{Na}}$  [23–26].

However, it is well known that while the implanted  $\mu^+$ is static at its interstitial site at low temperatures, it starts to diffuse in any solid above a certain temperature [9]. This leads to an ambiguity of the  $D_{\text{Li}}$  estimated with  $\mu^+$ SR at high temperatures: Are the dynamics really due to Li<sup>+</sup> diffusion alone, or does  $\mu^+$  hopping also contribute? This requires confirmation with other techniques. Recently,  $\mu^-$ SR (the negative muon counterpart of  $\mu^+$ SR) has been reborn [27] at pulsed muon facilities (J-PARC and ISIS) as a complementary technique for  $\mu^+$ SR. Particularly due to the developments of both the  $\mu^-$  beam and the multidetector counting system [28],  $\mu^-$ SR is now available for detecting internal nuclear magnetic fields in solids [27].

Here, the implanted spin polarized  $\mu^-$  is captured by a nucleus, resulting in the formation of a muonic atom [29]. Such muonic atoms are stable even at high temperatures or above a chemical decomposition temperature. Unfortunately, the initial  $\mu^-$  spin polarization is reduced down to about 1/6 during the cascade of the  $\mu^-$  from the outermost shell orbital to the ground state of a muonic atom, whereas the  $\mu^+$  stops almost 100% spin polarized at the interstitial site in the

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FIG. 1. The crystal structure of LiMnPO<sub>4</sub> in orthorhombic symmetry with space group *Pnma* drawn by VESTA [30]. Large yellow spheres show Li, medium blue spheres in octahedra show Mn, and medium purple spheres in tetrahedra show P, and small red and magenta spheres represent the two  $\mu^+$  sites,  $\mu^+1$  (0.135, 0.75, 0.587) and  $\mu^+2$  (0.195, 0.92, 0.89) predicted by density functional theory (DFT) calculations with VASP. The corners of each polyhedron are occupied by O (not shown).

lattice. As a result,  $\mu^{-}SR$  measurements require very high statistics—at least 36 times higher than for  $\mu^{+}SR$ —to obtain comparably reliable data. This naturally leads to a combined experiment using both  $\mu^{+}SR$  and  $\mu^{-}SR$  for detecting  $D_{\text{Li}}$ . Namely, the diffusing species is determined with  $\mu^{-}SR$ , while the detailed temperature dependence of the diffusion is measured with  $\mu^{+}SR$ .

As a first target material for such  $\mu^{\pm}$ SR measurements, we have selected an olivine-type lithium manganese phosphate, LiMnPO<sub>4</sub> (see Fig. 1) [31–34], which is heavily investigated as a cathode material for the future Li-ion battery due to its higher working voltage than that for LiFePO<sub>4</sub>. Previous  $\mu^+$ SR results reveal that the field fluctuation rate ( $\nu$ ) starts to increase with temperature above  $\approx 200$  K in LiMPO<sub>4</sub> (M = Fe, Co, and Ni) regardless of M [12,13,20]. This is probably caused by structural similarities among these compounds, i.e., a onedimensional diffusion channel along the b axis in LiMPO<sub>4</sub> [35]. However, the question that arises is whether the  $\mu^+$ itself is immobile at temperatures above 200 K in the LiMPO<sub>4</sub> lattice, although the  $\mu^+$  has been shown to be stable, due to the O- $\mu^+$  bonding in most oxides [8,36,37].

## **II. EXPERIMENTAL**

A powder sample of LiMnPO<sub>4</sub> was purchased from Toshima Manufacturing, Ltd. The  $\mu^-SR$  time spectra were measured on the decay muon beam line ARGUS at ISIS of Rutherford Appleton Laboratory in the United Kingdom. An approximately 64-g powder sample was placed in a copper



FIG. 2. The time histogram of the TF- $\mu^-$ SR spectrum in LiMnPO<sub>4</sub> for the (a) forward counter and (b) backward counter, and that of the TF- $\mu^+$ SR spectrum for the (c) forward counter and (d) backward counter. Red open circles represent the experimental data, green solid lines represent the fit result using Eq. (1), and blue solid lines represent the histograms of the five  $\mu^-$  lifetimes. In panels (c) and (d), there is naturally only one lifetime component, that of the  $\mu^+$ .

container with  $4 \times 5 \times 2 \text{ cm}^3$  volume, made of 0.5-mm-thick Cu plate. Two additional Cu plates, each 0.5 mm thick, were attached to the container as a degrader. The copper container was then set onto the bottom of the stick for the He-flow cryostat. The momentum of the  $\mu^-$  beam was adjusted to 68 MeV/c to maximize the number of  $\mu^-$  stopped in the sample. The  $\mu^-SR$  spectrum was measured at 100, 200, and 300 K with up to 50 M events for transverse field (TF)  $\mu^-SR$ and 250 M events for zero field (ZF) and longitudinal field (LF)  $\mu^-SR$  at a counting rate of 25 M events/hr. Here, TF [LF] means the applied magnetic field was perpendicular [parallel] to the initial  $\mu^-$  spin polarization.

The  $\mu^+$ SR time spectra were measured on the surface muon beam line EMU at ISIS. An approximately 2-g powder sample from the same batch as for the  $\mu^-$ SR measurements was packed into an Au O-ring sealed titanium cell. The window of the cell was made of a titanium foil with 20  $\mu$ m thickness. The cell was then mounted onto the Al plate of a closed-cycle refrigerator-type cryofurnace in the temperature range between 50 and 500 K. The counting rate was about 100 M events/hr. The experimental techniques are described in more detail elsewhere [8,9]. The obtained  $\mu^{\pm}$ SR data was analyzed with MUSRFIT [38].

#### **III. RESULTS**

# A. Histogram for $\mu^{\pm}SR$

Figure 2 shows the time histograms of the forward and backward counters  $[N^{\rm F}(t) \text{ and } N^{\rm B}(t)]$  recorded in a TF with H = 50 Oe for  $\mu^{-}$ SR and H = 20 Oe for  $\mu^{+}$ SR. Here, forward (backward) means upstream (downstream) of the sample



FIG. 3. The ZF- and LF- $\mu^{\pm}$ SR asymmetry spectra for LiMnPO<sub>4</sub>;  $\mu^{-}$ SR recorded at (a) 100 K and (b) 300 K and  $\mu^{+}$ SR recorded at (c) 100 K and (d) 300 K. The difference of the nonlinear background signal between panels (a) and (b) may be caused by the change in dynamics of  $\mu^{-}$ Li with temperature. In panels (a) and (b), solid lines represent the best fit in the time domain between 0.5 and 3  $\mu$ s using Eq. (4), whereas in panels (c) and (d) they represent the best fit in the time domain between 0.1 and 18  $\mu$ s using Eq. (5).

in the  $\mu^{\pm}$  beam. Since the decay asymmetry is very small and the lifetime of the  $\mu^{-}$  depends upon the nucleus on which it captures, the histogram of  $\mu^{-}SR$  was fitted by a combination of five different lifetimes  $\tau_i$ :

$$N(t) = \sum_{i=1}^{n=5} N_i e^{-t/\tau_i} [1 + A_i e^{-\lambda_i t} \cos(\omega_i t + \phi_i)], \quad (1)$$

where  $N_i$  is a normalization constant at t = 0 for the *i*th muon lifetime  $(\tau_i)$ ,  $A_i$  is the muon decay asymmetry for that process,  $\omega_i$  is the angular frequency of the  $\mu^-$  spin precession caused by the applied TF, and  $\phi_i$  is the initial phase. As a first approximation,  $A_i$  is nonzero only for muonic oxygen (the main component) and negligible for the other elements, all of which have nuclear spins and therefore form hyperfine-coupled states with the  $\mu^-$ , precessing at dramatically

different frequencies. Furthermore, since  $A_i$  is below 1/6 of A for  $\mu^+$ SR (typically 0.24) due to the reduction of spin polarization,  $A_i < 0.04 (= 0.24/6) \ll 1$ . Therefore, it is reasonable to fix  $A_i = 0$  for the other minor elements to estimate each  $N_i$  using Eq. (1).

The fit showed that the first lifetime ( $\tau_0 = 1.7954 \,\mu s$ ) is predominant in the time domain between 0.5 and 10  $\mu s$ , where  $\tau_0$  means  $\tau$  for  $\mu^-$  captured on <sup>16</sup>O [39]. The second, third, and fourth lifetimes represent muons captured on Li with  $\tau_{Li} = 2.188 \,\mu s$ , <sup>31</sup>P with  $\tau_P = 0.6112 \,\mu s$ , and <sup>55</sup>Mn with  $\tau_{Mn} = 0.2325 \,\mu s$  [39]. Since  $\tau_5 [= 29.2(7) \,\mu s]$  is longer than  $\tau$  for a free  $\mu^{\pm}$  (2.19703  $\mu s$ ), the fifth lifetime is caused by other particles, such as  $e^-$ ,  $e^+$  and/or neutrons, or other effects for reasons currently unknown. However, the contribution of the fifth lifetime is negligibly small for  $t \leq 10 \,\mu s$ .

In contrast, the histogram of  $\mu^+$ SR includes only one component, i.e., n = 1 in Eq. (1), resulting in the linear relationship between log(*N*) and time together with the oscillation due to TF [Figs. 2(c) and 2(d)].

## **B.** Asymmetry spectrum for $\mu^{\pm}$ SR

Figures 3(a) and 3(b) show the ZF- and LF- $\mu^-$ SR asymmetry spectra recorded at 100 and 300 K. Since the difference between ZF and LF spectra at 300 K is smaller than that at 100 K, we conclude that the internal magnetic field becomes dynamic with temperature. This is because LF = 50 Oe is enough large to decouple the nuclear magnetic field, which ranges typically below 10 Oe in solids. As a result, the LF spectrum shows an almost "nuclear-magnetic-field-free" behavior, particularly when the nuclear magnetic field is static. However, when the nuclear magnetic field becomes dynamic, such decoupling effect with LF is weakened depending on the fluctuation rate. Therefore, one can estimate the fluctuation rate from the ZF and LF spectra [40].

In the analysis of the  $\mu$ -SR asymmetry spectra, we disregard the small and short-lived contributions from  $\mu$ -P and  $\mu$ -Mn; the longer lived (but still small) contribution from  $\mu$ -Li, whose two hyperfine states [41] are both expected to be nonrelaxing, because muonic lithium acts like helium and diffuses freely through the Li metal lattice at room temperature, is included as a small nonrelaxing component.

As a result, each histogram is given by

$$N^{\rm F}(t) = N_{\rm O}^{\rm F} \exp(-t/\tau_{\rm O})[1 - A_{\rm O}G^{\rm DGKT}(t, \Delta^-, \nu^-, H_{\rm LF})\exp(-\lambda_{\rm O}^- t)] + N_{\rm Li}^{\rm F} \exp(-t/\tau_{\rm Li})(1 - A_{\rm Li}),$$
(2)

$$N^{\rm B}(t) = N_{\rm O}^{\rm B} \exp(-t/\tau_{\rm O})[1 + A_{\rm O}G^{\rm DGKT}(t, \Delta^-, \nu^-, H_{\rm LF})\exp(-\lambda_{\rm O}^- t)] + N_{\rm Li}^{\rm B} \exp(-t/\tau_{\rm Li})(1 + A_{\rm Li}).$$
(3)

Considering the fact that  $N_O \gg N_{Li}$  and introducing the following three parameters, i.e.,  $\alpha_O \equiv N_O^B/N_O^F$ ,  $\beta^F \equiv N_{Li}^F/N_O^F$ , and  $\beta^B \equiv N_{Li}^B/N_O^B$ , the asymmetry spectrum is represented by

$$A_{0}P(t) \sim \frac{N^{\mathrm{B}} - \alpha_{\mathrm{O}}N^{\mathrm{F}}}{N^{\mathrm{B}} + \alpha_{\mathrm{O}}N^{\mathrm{F}}} = \frac{A_{\mathrm{O}}G^{\mathrm{DGKT}}(t, \Delta^{-}, \nu^{-}, H_{\mathrm{LF}})\exp(-\lambda_{\mathrm{O}}^{-}t) + \left[\frac{\beta^{\mathrm{B}} - \beta^{\mathrm{F}}}{2} + \frac{\beta^{\mathrm{B}} + \beta^{\mathrm{F}}}{2}A_{\mathrm{Li}}\right]\exp\left(-\frac{t}{\tau_{\mathrm{Li}}} + \frac{t}{\tau_{\mathrm{O}}}\right)}{1 + \left[\frac{\beta^{\mathrm{B}} + \beta^{\mathrm{F}}}{2} + \frac{\beta^{\mathrm{B}} - \beta^{\mathrm{F}}}{2}A_{\mathrm{Li}}\right]\exp\left(-\frac{t}{\tau_{\mathrm{Li}}} + \frac{t}{\tau_{\mathrm{O}}}\right)},\tag{4}$$

where  $A_0$  is the initial (t = 0) asymmetry, P(t) is the muon spin polarization function,  $A_0$  and  $A_{Li}$  are the asymmetries associated with the signals from the  $\mu^-$  captured on O and Li, respectively,  $G^{\text{DGKT}}$  is a *dynamic* Gaussian Kubo-Toyabe function,  $\Delta^-$  is the static width of the nuclear field distribution at the  $\mu^-$  sites,  $\nu^-$  is the fluctuation rate of the nuclear

fields, and  $\lambda_{O}^{-}$  is the exponential relaxation rate caused by localized 3*d* moments of Mn<sup>2+</sup> (3*d*<sup>5</sup>).  $\Delta$  [ $\nu$ ] corresponds to a spin-spin relaxation rate (1/*T*<sub>2</sub>) [a spin-lattice relaxation rate (1/*T*<sub>1</sub>)] [8,9]. For  $\nu = 0$  and  $H_{LF} = 0$  (i.e., ZF),  $G^{\text{DGKT}}(t, \Delta, \nu, H_{LF})$  becomes a *static* Gaussian Kubo-Toyabe function [42],  $G_{zz}^{\text{KT}}(t, \Delta) = \frac{1}{3} + \frac{2}{3}(1 - \Delta^2 t^2) \exp(-\frac{1}{2}\Delta^2 t^2)$ , which represents the internal magnetic field formed by randomly oriented static nuclear dipoles with Gaussian distribution.

The three parameters,  $\alpha_0$ ,  $\beta^F$ , and  $\beta^B$ , are determined from the histogram fit with Eq. (1), and  $\tau_0$  and  $\tau_{Li}$  are already reported as mentioned above. Furthermore, since  $A_{Li} \approx 0.003$  based on the past  $\mu^-SR$  work on Li [41] and  $\beta^F \sim \beta^B < 0.1$ , we disregard the second term in Eq. (4). As a first step, the ZF- and LF- $\mu^-SR$  spectra recorded at 100 K were fitted using common  $\Delta^-$ ,  $\nu^-$ , and  $\lambda_0^-$  in the time domain between 0.5 and 3  $\mu$ s. Such simultaneous fit provided that  $\Delta^- = 0.49(4) \,\mu s^{-1}$  [corresponding to 5.7(4) Oe],  $\nu^- =$  $0.0(5) \,\mu s^{-1}$ , and  $\lambda_0^- = 0.42(5) \,\mu s^{-1}$  at 100 K. Since dipole field calculations with DIPELEC [43] predicts that  $\Delta_{calc}^- =$  $0.320 \,\mu s^{-1}(3.76 \,\text{Oe})$  at the O sites in LiMnPO<sub>4</sub>, the present experimental result is comparable to the predicted value. Therefore, the nuclear magnetic field is effectively static at 100 K.

As a second step, the ZF- and LF- $\mu^-$ SR spectra recorded at 100, 200, and 300 K were "global-fitted" using Eq. (4) with common  $A_0$ [= 0.0091(2)],  $\Delta^-$ (= 0.49  $\mu$ s<sup>-1</sup>), and  $\lambda_0^-$ (= 0.42  $\mu$ s<sup>-1</sup>). Additionally, a time-independent background signal has been added to Eq. (4) in order to fit the nonlinear background signal from the  $\tau_5$  component contributing to the early time domain. Figure 4(a) shows the temperature dependences of  $\Delta^-$  and  $\nu^-$  for LiMnPO<sub>4</sub> determined with  $\mu^-$ SR measurements. Although the error is rather large due to a small asymmetry,  $\nu^-$  starts to increase with temperature monotonically above 100 K. This clearly demonstrates Li diffusion in LiMnPO<sub>4</sub> above 100 K. If we fix  $\Delta^-$  at  $\Delta^-_{calc}$ , the estimated  $\nu^-$ , i.e.,  $\nu_{fix}^-$ , increases with temperature more remarkably than the case that  $\Delta^-$  is a free parameter.

Now we move on the  $\mu^+$ SR results. Figures 3(c) and 3(d) show the ZF- and two LF- $\mu^+$ SR asymmetry spectra for LiMnPO<sub>4</sub> recorded at 100 and 300 K. As in the case for LiFePO<sub>4</sub> [12,13], the  $\mu^+$ SR spectrum exhibits a highly damped Kubo-Toyabe behavior even in a paramagnetic state due to the effects of localized 3*d* moments of Mn<sup>2+</sup> ions at the interstitial  $\mu^+$  sites. The ZF and LF spectra were therefore fitted by a combination of an exponentially relaxing  $G^{\text{DGKT}}$  [44], an exponential relaxation function, and a time-independent background signal from the  $\mu^+$ s stopped in the sample holder [12,13]:

$$A_0 P(t) = A_{\rm KT} G^{\rm DGKT}(t, \Delta^+, \nu^+, H_{\rm LF}) \exp(-\lambda_{\rm KT}^+ t)$$
$$+ A_{\rm F} \exp(-\lambda_{\rm F}^+ t) + A_{\rm BG}, \qquad (5)$$

where  $A_{\rm KT}$ ,  $A_{\rm F}$ , and  $A_{\rm BG}$  are the asymmetries associated with the three signals. As is the case for  $\mu^-SR$ , the ZFand LF- $\mu^+SR$  spectra were fitted using common  $\Delta^+$  and  $\nu^+$  at each temperature. However, we used temperatureindependent  $A_{\rm KT}[=0.0378(4)]$ ,  $A_{\rm F}[=0.0173(4)]$ ,  $A_{\rm BG}[=$ 0.0250(3)],  $\lambda_{\rm F}^+[=1.59(6)\,\mu {\rm s}^{-1}]$ , and  $\lambda_{\rm KT}^+[=0.203(5)\,\mu {\rm s}^{-1}]$ in the whole temperature range measured. Such simultaneous



FIG. 4. The temperature dependences of  $\Delta$  and  $\nu$  for LiMnPO<sub>4</sub> determined with (a)  $\mu^-$ SR and (b)  $\mu^+$ SR. The data were obtained by fitting the ZF- and LF- $\mu^{\pm}$ SR spectra with Eqs. (4) and (5). In panel (a),  $\nu_{fix}^-$  represents  $\nu^-$ , when  $\Delta^- = \Delta_{calc}^-$ . The  $\mu^+$  sites predicted by DFT calculations with VASP were (0.135, 0.75, 0.587) and (0.195, 0.92, 0.89). A horizontal broken line shows the predicted  $\Delta^{\pm}$  with dipole field calculations with DIPELEC [43].

fit for ZF- and LF- $\mu^+$ SR spectra in the time domain between 0.1 and 18  $\mu$ s provided the temperature dependences of these parameters [Fig. 4(b)]. Both  $\lambda_F^+$  and  $\lambda_{KT}^+$  naturally come from the fluctuation of the localized Mn 3*d* moments [44]. According to the previous magnetization and  $\mu^+$ SR measurements on Li*M*PO<sub>4</sub> with M = Fe, Co, and Ni [13],  $\lambda_F^+$ and  $\lambda_{KT}^+$  are independent of temperature, while the magnetic susceptibility versus temperature curve exhibits a Curie-Weiss behavior above  $T_N$  (53, 25, and 23 K for M = Fe, Co, and Ni,



FIG. 5. The relationship between  $v^{\pm}$  ( $D_{\text{Li}}$ ) and inverse temperature.  $v^{\pm}$  ( $D_{\text{Li}}$ ) are estimated from the  $\mu^{\pm}$ SR results.  $v^{-}$  for  $\mu^{-}$ SR is  $v_{\text{fix}}^{-}$  in Fig. 4(a). Solid line represents the fit using a thermal activation process:  $v = v_0 \exp(-E_a/k_{\text{B}}T)$  in the temperature range between 200 and 325 K, where  $E_a$  is the activation energy and  $k_{\text{B}}$  is Boltzmann's constant.

respectively). This leads to the scenario in which the coupling constant between 3*d* moments and  $\mu^+$  spin in LiMPO<sub>4</sub> is rather small compared with temperature [13]. Therefore, we have applied a similar scenario to LiMnPO<sub>4</sub>. This scenario was also used for the estimation of  $\lambda_{\rm O}^-$ . Note that  $\lambda_{\rm KT}^+$  is comparable to  $\lambda_{\rm O}^-$  from  $\mu^-$ SR [0.42(5)  $\mu$ s<sup>-1</sup>], because the distance between  $\mu^+$  and Mn (2.24 and 2.26 Å) is close to that between  $\mu^-$ , i.e., O and Mn (2.13–2.30 Å).

By comparing Figs. 4(a) and 4(b), we can see that the temperature dependence of  $\nu^-$  estimated with  $\mu^-$ SR is very similar to that of  $\nu^+$  estimated with  $\mu^+$ SR. Therefore, the fluctuations naturally originated from the same dynamic process. Since  $\mu^-$  is immobile, the mobility of  $\mu^+$  itself must be irrelevant to the dynamic behavior. The dynamic process measured in both experiments is hence assigned as Li diffusion. Consequently, Li diffusion data can be obtained with  $\mu^+$ SR, which is easier and provides better data than  $\mu^-$ SR. The decrease in  $\nu^+$  above 325 K in Fig. 4(b) is most likely caused by the difficulty in the fit for the data with  $\nu^+ \gg \Delta^+$ . This is because the ZF- and LF- $\mu^+$ SR spectra under such condition exhibit an exponential relaxation behavior [see Fig. 3(d)], and, as a result, Eq. (5) is no longer suitable for analyzing the  $\mu^+$ SR spectrum.

It should be noted that, in the above fitting procedure, the number of the temperature-dependent free parameters is reduced as small as possible and finally there is only one for  $\mu^{-}$ SR and two for  $\mu^{+}$ SR, namely,  $\nu^{-}$  in Eq. (4) and  $\Delta^{+}$  and  $\nu^{+}$  in Eq. (5) to avoid ambiguity of fitting.

#### **IV. DISCUSSION**

#### A. $\mu^-$ captured on O

In the  $\mu^-$ SR experiment, we have focused on the signal from the  $\mu^-$  captured on O. The resulting muonic oxygen ( $\mu^-$ O) behaves as a nitrogen-like atom in the lattice, although the effect of  $\mu^-$ O on Li diffusion is still not clarified. In the LiMnPO<sub>4</sub> lattice (Fig. 1), each oxygen is bound to both P<sup>5+</sup> and Mn<sup>2+</sup>. Therefore, the displacement of  $\mu^-$ O from the regular O position is restricted by two different cations. In fact, the estimated  $\Delta^-$  is comparable to  $\Delta^-_{calc}$  predicted for the regular O site [Fig. 4(a)], suggesting that the local distortion around  $\mu^-$ O is unlikely drastic.

The local charge distribution around  $\mu^-O$  is also altered by an additional negative charge brought by  $\mu^-$ . This could suppress Li diffusion, while the experimental result shows that  $\nu^- \sim \nu^+$  in the whole temperature range measured (Fig. 4). This is probably because Li diffusion is a thermally activated process over the whole lattice. As a result,  $\mu^-O$  detects the average fluctuation rate of the nuclear dipole field, even when the diffusive motion of the nearest neighboring Li is affected by  $\mu^-O$ .

#### B. Diffusion coefficient of Li<sup>+</sup>

Finally, we attempt to evaluate a self-diffusion coefficient of Li<sup>+</sup> ions ( $D_{Li}$ ) using the present  $\mu^{\pm}SR$  result. Since the regular Li site is fully occupied by Li, the observed  $\nu$  naturally corresponds to Li jump from a regular site to interstitial sites. Then,  $D_{Li}$  is given by [45]

$$D_{\rm Li} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{1}{N_i} Z_{\nu,i} s_i^2 \nu, \tag{6}$$

where  $N_i$  is the number of Li sites in the *i*th path,  $Z_{v,i}$  is the vacancy fraction, and  $s_i$  is the jump distance. Based on a similar discussion for LiFePO<sub>4</sub> [12,13,20,21], n = 2,  $N_1 = 2$ , and  $Z_1 = 1$ ,  $N_2 = 2$ , and  $Z_2 = 1$ ,  $s_1 = 1.74$  Å and  $s_2 = 1.69$  Å. Figure 5 shows the relationship between  $v^{\pm}$  ( $D_{\text{Li}}$ ) and inverse temperature. The magnitude of  $D_{\text{Li}}$  at 300 K and the activation energy for Li diffusion are estimated  $1.4(3) \times 10^{-10}$  cm<sup>2</sup>/s and 0.19(3) eV, respectively, and they are comparable to those for LiMPO<sub>4</sub> with M = Fe, Co, and Ni [13].

# V. SUMMARY

In summary, we have observed a diffusive behavior in the battery material LiMnPO<sub>4</sub> by both  $\mu^+$ SR and  $\mu^-$ SR. This demonstrated that Li is more mobile than  $\mu^+$  in the olivine lattice, and, as a result,  $\mu^{\pm}$ SR provides essential information on Li diffusion in olivine-type compounds, even when they include magnetic ions.  $\mu^{\pm}$ SR is also available for other types of energy materials, in which ion diffusion plays a significant role for their function, such as, Na- and K-ion battery materials, fuel cell materials, hydrogen storage materials, photovoltaic materials, and so on.

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