Use of Fluorinated Carbonates as Co-Solvents for Lithium-Ion Electrolytes

M. C. Smart, B. V. Ratnakumar, V. S. Ryan, and S. Surampudi
Jet Propulsion Laboratory
California Institute of Technology
4800 Oak Grove Drive, Pasadena, CA

G. K. S. Prakash and J. Hu
Loker Hydrocarbon Research Institute
University of Southern California
University Park, Los Angeles, CA

INTRODUCTION
Recently there has been increasing interest in developing lithium-ion electrolytes which possess enhanced safety characteristics, while still able to provide the desired stability and performance. Halogenated solvents have received some attention with the expectation that they will result in the desired improvements. In support of the concept of utilizing halogenated carbonate derivatives, Shu and coworkers have reported results of using of chloroethylene carbonate as a solvent for lithium-ion electrolytes. 1 The same group also investigated fluoroethylene carbonate electrolytes with graphite anodes. 2 It has also been demonstrated that lithium can be intercalated within graphite in trifluoropropylene carbonate (3-trifluoromethyl-2,5-dioxo-cyclopentan-1-one). 3,4,5 Conductivity and cyclic voltammetric measurements have also been performed on fluoro-carbonate containing electrolyte formulations. 6

In this paper we would like to disclose recent results relating to the development of lithium-ion electrolytes which contain partially fluorinated carbonate solvents. Specifically, we have demonstrated the beneficial effect of electrolytes which contain the following fluorinated carbonate-based solvents: methyl 2,2,2-trifluoroethyl carbonate (MTFEC), 7 ethyl-2,2,2-trifluoroethyl carbonate (ETFEC), 8 propyl 2,2,2-trifluoroethyl carbonate (PTFEC), 9 methyl-2,2,2',2',2',2'-hexafluoro-i-propyl carbonate (MHFPC), 10 ethyl-2,2,2',2',2',2'-hexafluoro-i-propyl carbonate (EHFPC), 11 and di-2,2,2-trifluoroethyl carbonate (DTFEC). 12

EC, DEC, DMC, and EMC and LiPF6 to produce multi-component formulations with the desired properties.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
In order to effectively evaluate the potential of such solvents, electrolyte formulations were investigated in both Li-MCMB carbon and MCMB carbon-LiNiCoO2 experimental cells. As shown in Fig. 1, excellent capacities were observed in Li-MCMB cells with a number of electrolyte formulations being comparable to non-halogenated solutions.

Fig. 1. Fifth lithium de-intercalation of lithium-MCMB cells with different carbonate-based electrolytes.

In addition to studying the charge/discharge characteristics of these cells, a.c. impedance was used to probe the nature of the anode passivating film. It was observed that electrodes in contact with the novel electrolytes displayed low film polarization characteristics as determined from the low R\textsubscript{f} values observed. In addition to EIS measurements, DC micropolarization techniques were also employed to study the charge transfer behavior of the passivating films on the MCMB electrodes at various temperatures. The polarization resistance, which was calculated from the slopes of the linear plots generated under potentiodynamic conditions, was consistently lower for the cells possessing fluorinated carbonate-containing electrolytes compared to the alkyl-carbonate-based systems, being especially dramatic at low temperatures. This implies that the use of fluorinated carbonate-containing electrolytes leads to improved SEI characteristics, with enhanced lithium kinetics. These aspects, in part, explain the excellent low temperature performance observed in some cases.

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