New Nonflammable Perfluoropolyether-based Electrolytes for Rechargeable Lithium-Ion Batteries

Dominica H. C. Wong¹, Jacob Thelen², Yanbao Fu³, Didier Devaux³, Ashish A. Pandya¹, Vince Battaglia³, Nitash P. Balsara^{2,4}, Joseph M. DeSimone^{1,5}

³ Environmental Energy Technologies Division, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley

357 Caudil Labs, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 27599

The flammability of conventional alkyl carbonate electolytes hinders the prominence of lithium (Li) ion batteries in vehicles and aircrafts. Herein, we will describe new classes of nonflammable liquid electrolytes composed of low molecular weight fluorinated polyethers. These materials exhibit high lithium salt loading, high thermal stability, and operable conductivity at wide temperature ranges. Preliminary measurements of the transference number also suggest a large contribution from the lithium ion to the overall conductivity relative to the anion. (Figure 1). Full electrochemical cells built with these electrolytes show good performance in galvanostatic cycling, indicating its potential for rechargeable batteries.

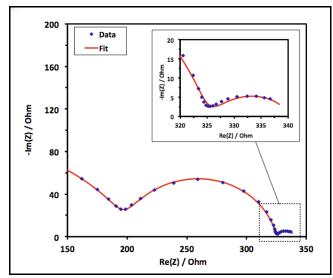


Figure 1. Nyquist plot obtained from symmetrical cells built with fluorinated polyether-based electrolyte.

¹ Department of Chemistry, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, ² Department of Chemical Engineering, University of California, Berkeley,

⁴ Materials Science Division, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley, ⁵ Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, Raleigh