

Electrochemical CO₂ conversion in Ionic Liquid-based electrolytes

Original

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Catalytic Reaction
Engineering for
Sustainable Technologies

io·li·tec
Ionic Liquids Technologies



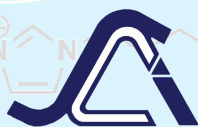
Electrochemical CO₂ conversion in Ionic Liquid-based electrolytes

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Società Chimica Italiana

SCI2021

Talk ID:
Session



1. Introduction and aim of the work



2. State of the Art



3. Materials and Methods



4. Results and Discussion



5. Conclusions and Next Steps



1. Introduction and aim of the work



2. State of the Art



3. Materials and Methods

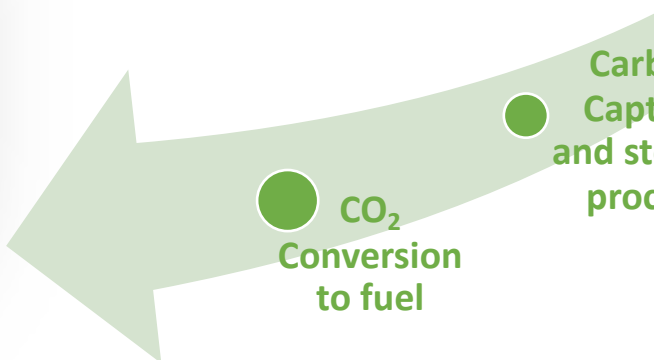
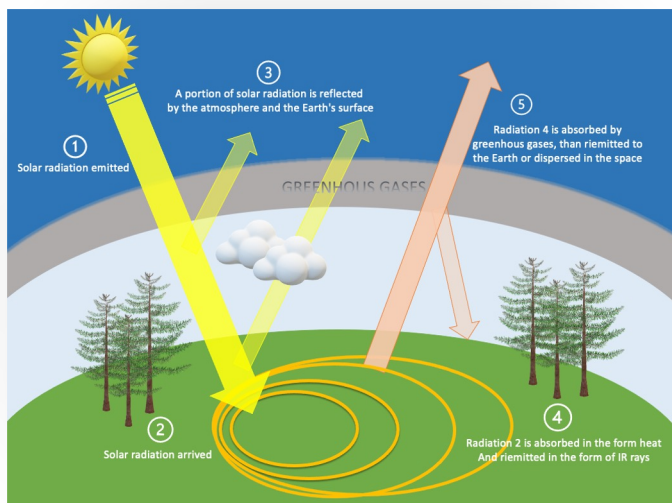
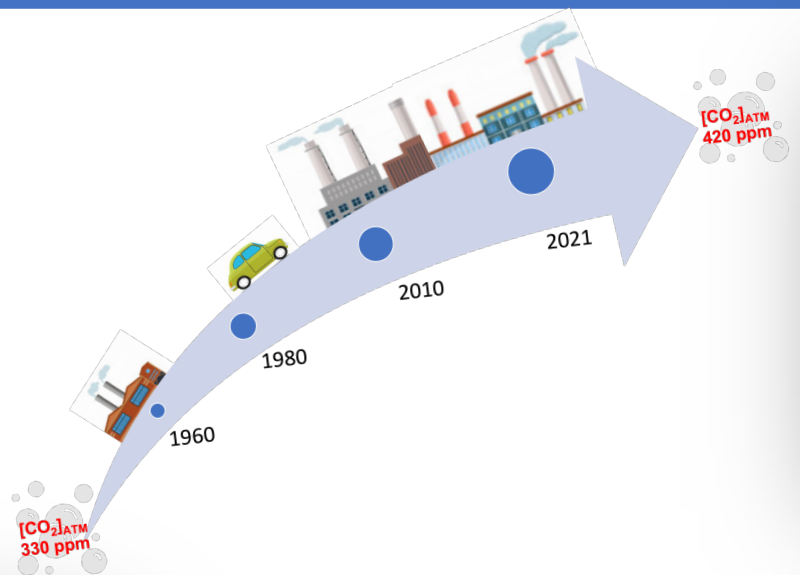


4. Results and Discussion



5. Conclusions and Next Steps

Introduction and aim of the work

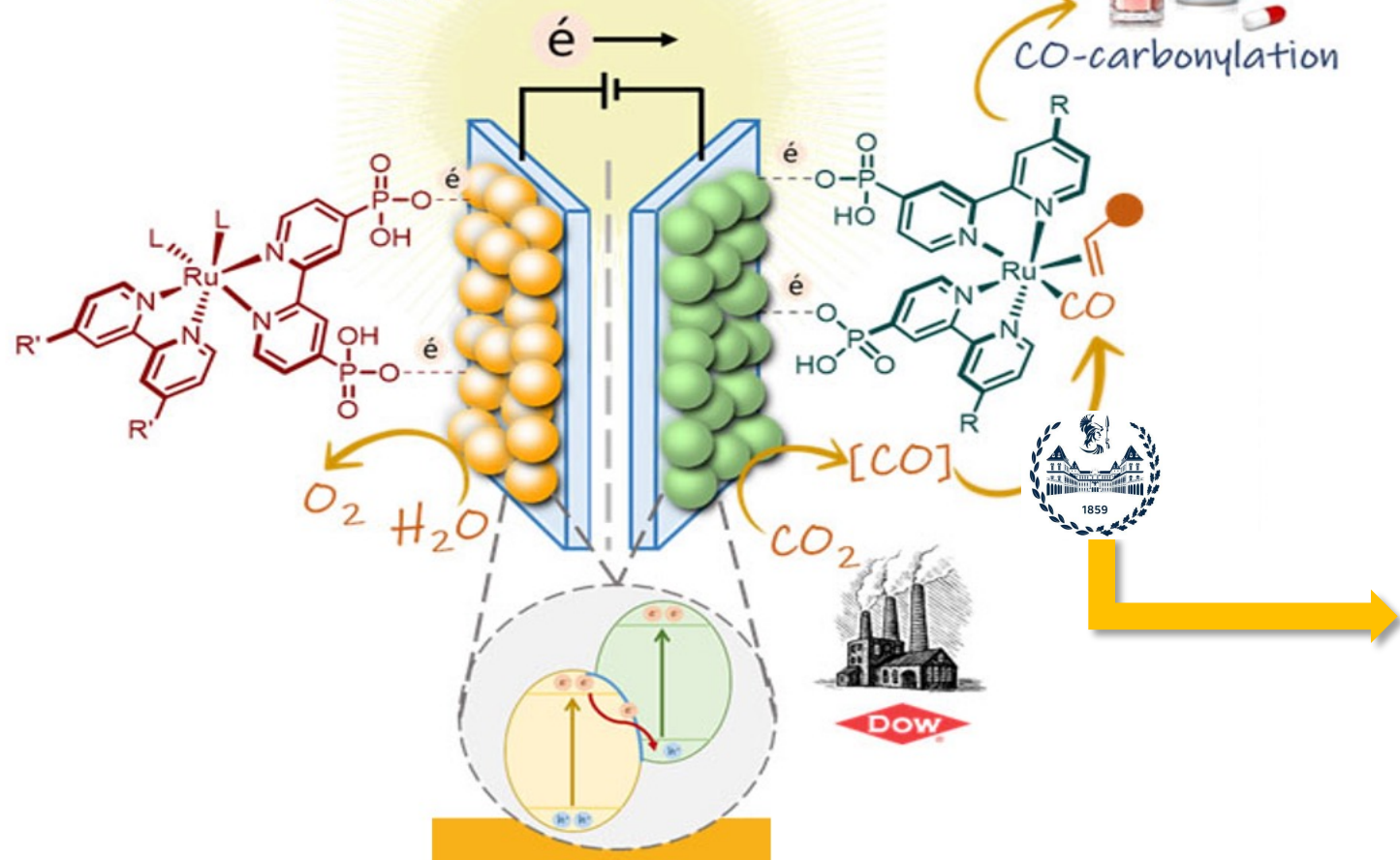


Anthropogenic greenhouse effect Alternatives to address this problem

Introduction and aim of the work

SunCO₂Chem

Photoelectrochemical Reactor



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1. Introduction and aim of the work



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State of the art

Aqueous Media

Ionic Liquid Media

Low Cost

Higher CO₂ solubility

Greener Solvent

Role as co-catalyst

Advantageous physico-chemical properties

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CO₂RR in liquid phase
Advantages of using Ionic Liquids



1. Introduction and aim of the work



2. State of the Art



3. Materials and Methods

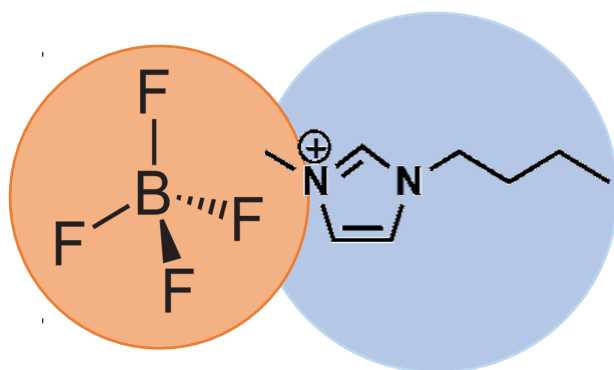


4. Results and Discussion

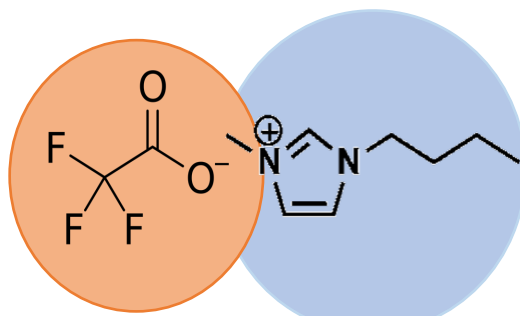


5. Conclusions and Next Steps

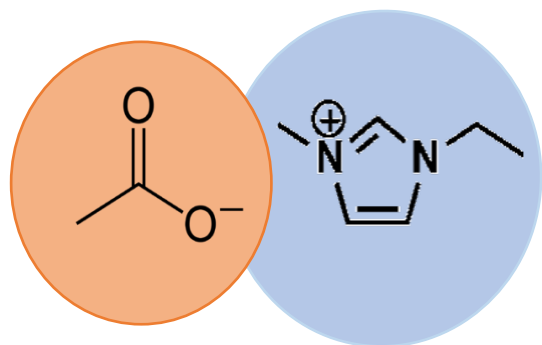
Materials and methods



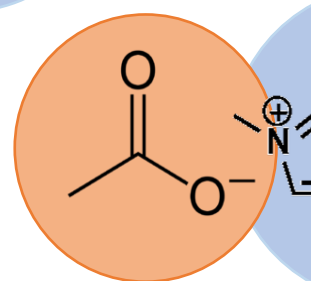
[BMIM][BF₄]



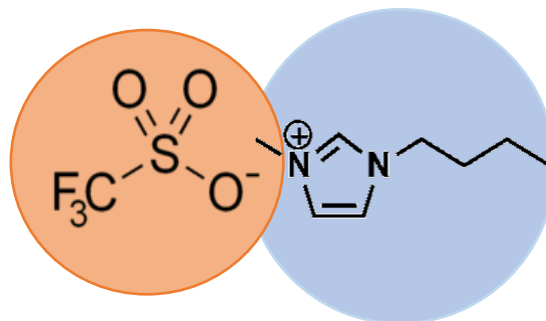
[BMIM][CO₂CF₃]



[EMIM][CO₂CH₃]



[BMIM][CO₂C(CH₃)₃]



[BMIM][SO₃CF₃]

io·li·tec

Ionic Liquids Technologies

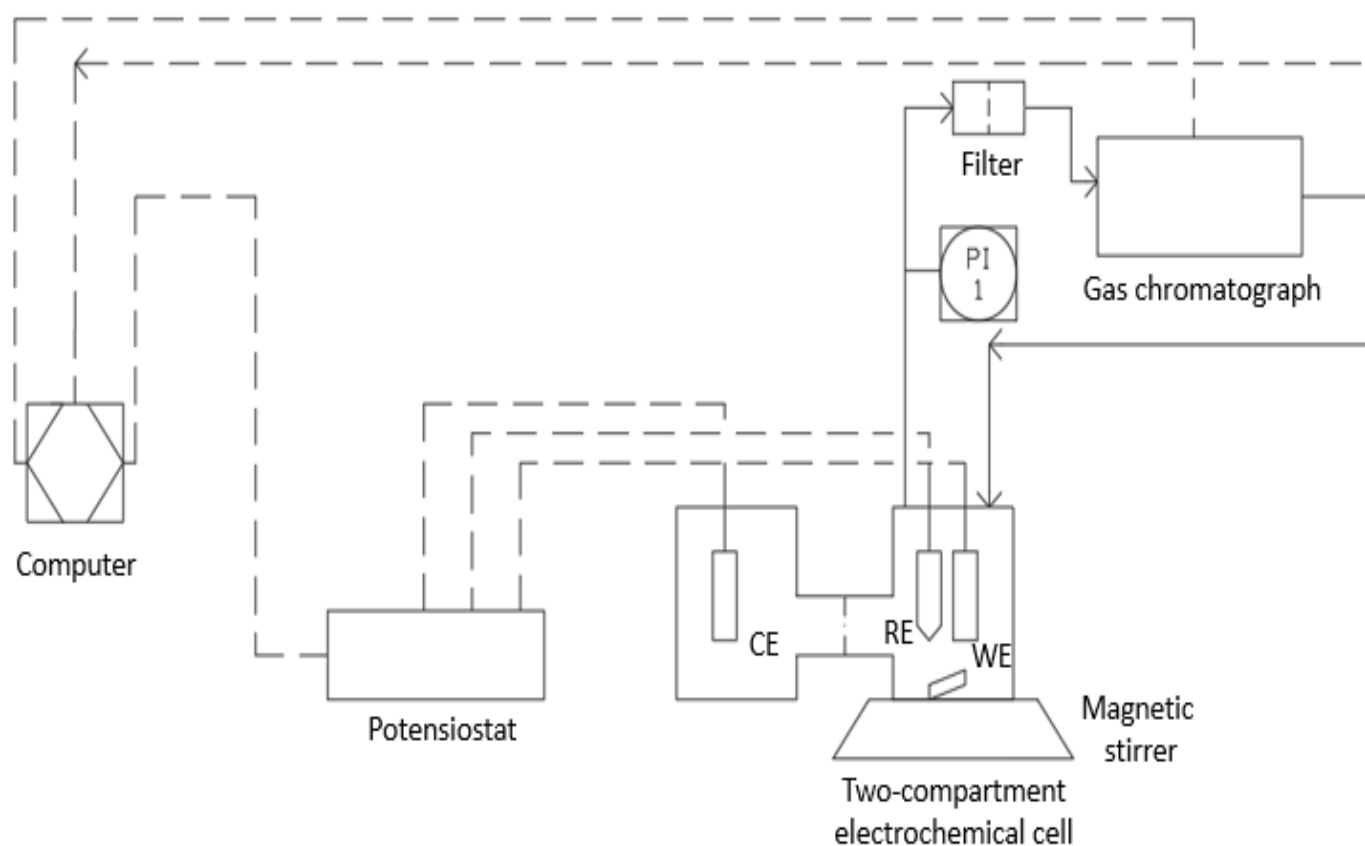


List of ILs studied in this work. They are composed of:

Cationic Part: [BMIM⁺] or [EMIM⁺]

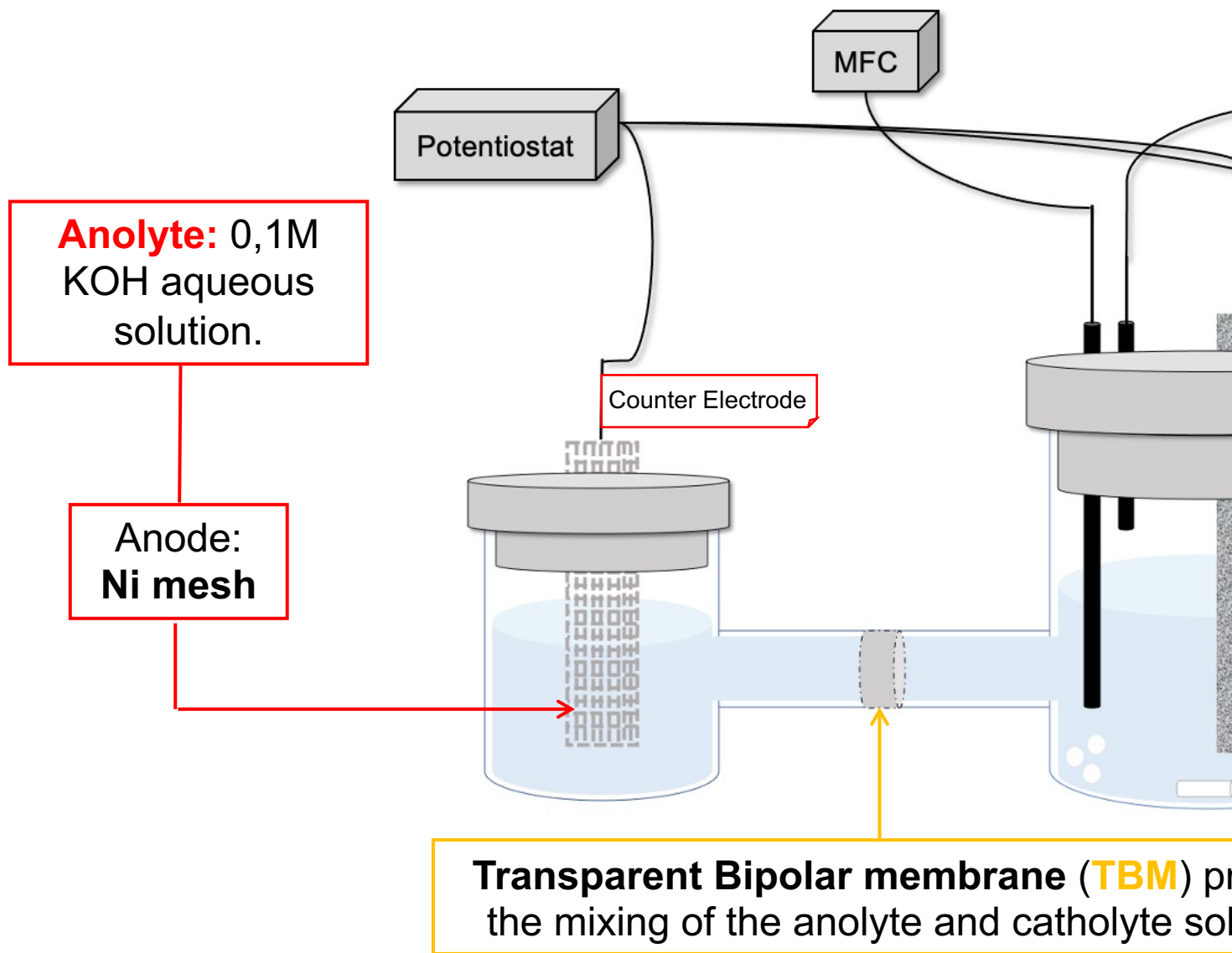
Anionic Part: [BF₄⁻], [CO₂CF₃], [CO₂CH₃], [5FF] or [SO₃CF₃]

Materials and methods



- ✓ **Set-up:** The experimental setup to perform the CO₂ ECR was defined. The electrolytes include a two-compartment cell (H-type) or continuous flow electrochemical application, a two compartments cell (H-type) was chosen.

Materials and methods



H-type cell configuration



1. Introduction and aim of the work



2. State of the Art



3. Materials and Methods

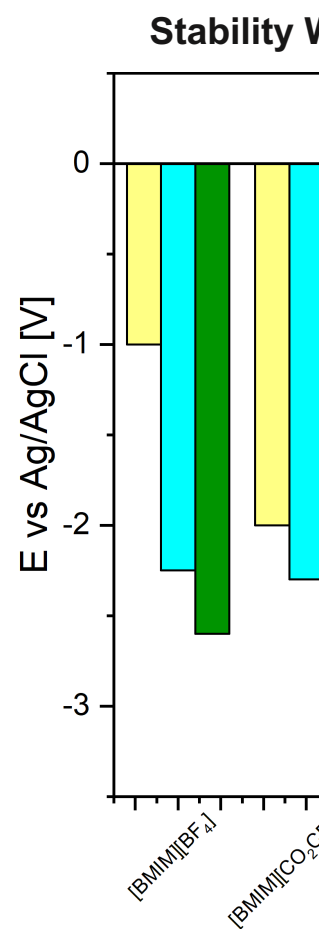
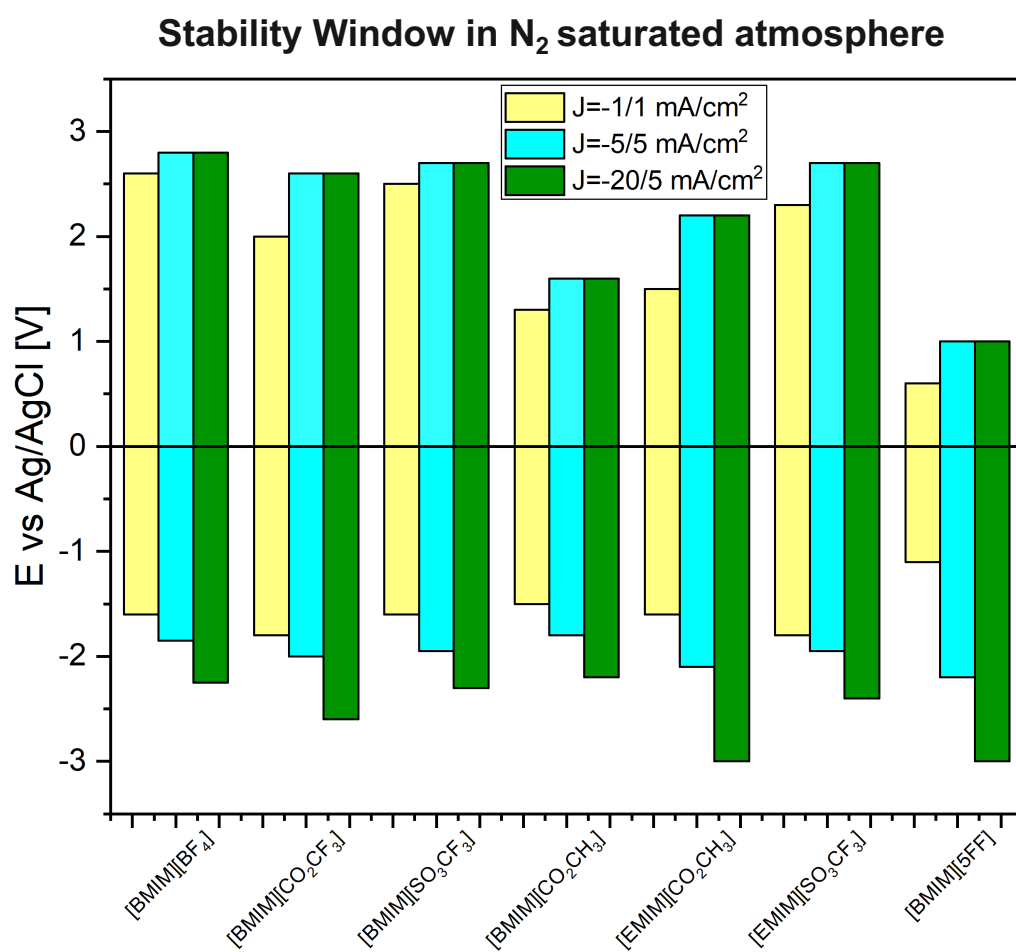


4. Results and Discussion



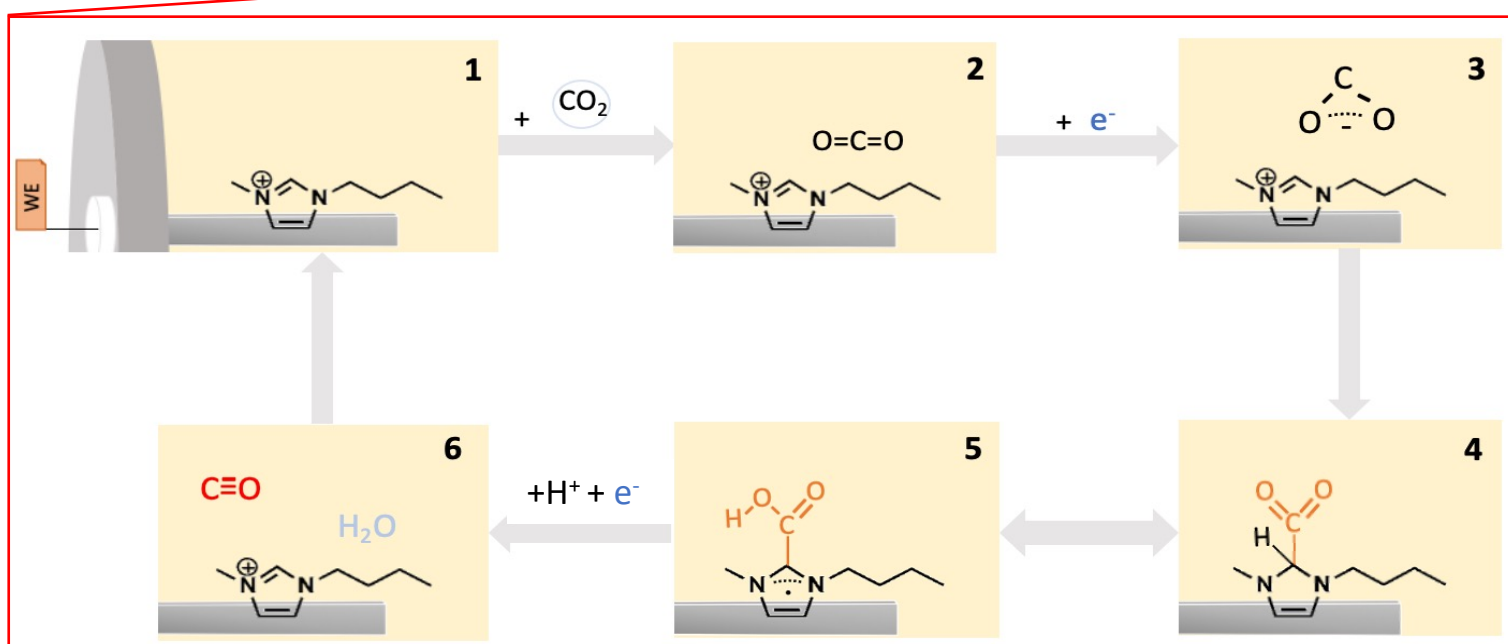
5. Conclusions and Next Steps

Results and discussion



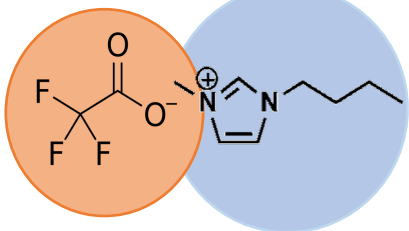
Electrochemical Stability Window
Single compartment cell, WE=Pt, CE=Pt, REF=Ag/AgCl

Results and discussion

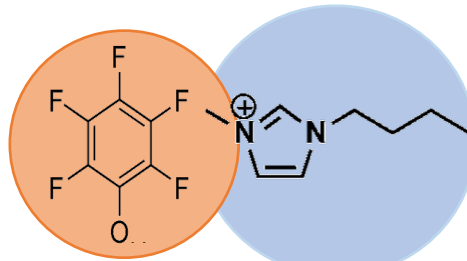


Hypothesis of reaction mechanism
Cation role

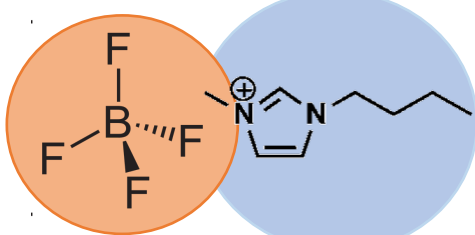
Results and discussion



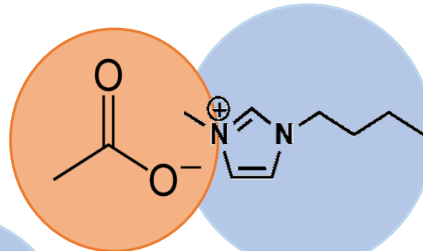
[BMIM][CO₂CF₃]



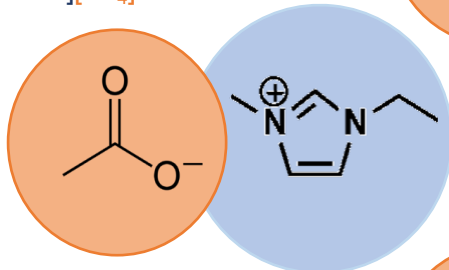
[BMIM][5FF]



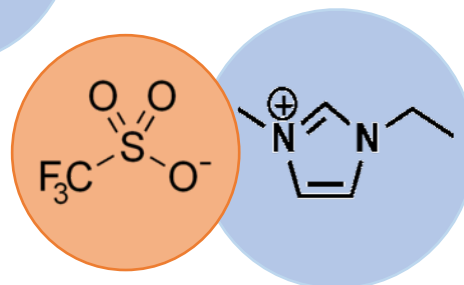
[BMIM][BF₄]



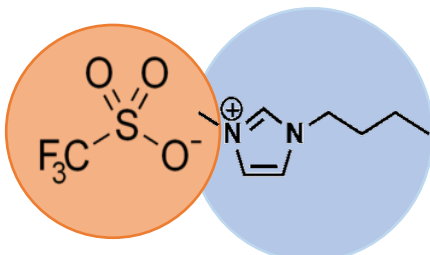
[BMIM][CO₂CH₃]



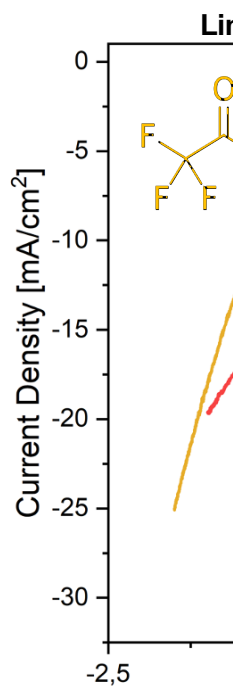
[EMIM][CO₂CH₃]



[EMIM][SO₃CF₃]

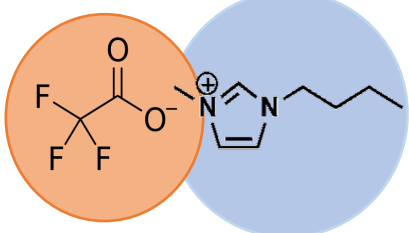


[BMIM][SO₃CF₃]

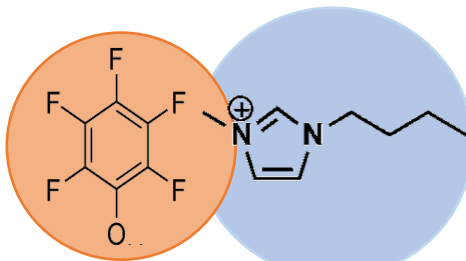


- **CO₂ solubility** s
- A higher fluorinat
- CO₂ solubility an
- It might be relate

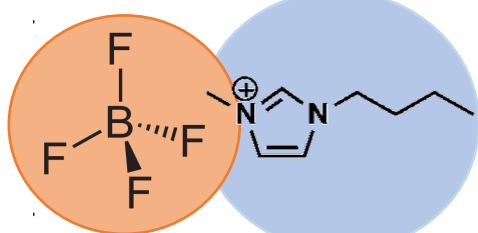
Results and discussion



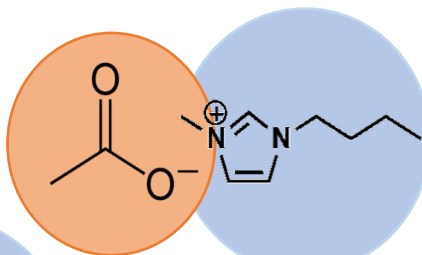
[BMIM][CO₂CF₃]



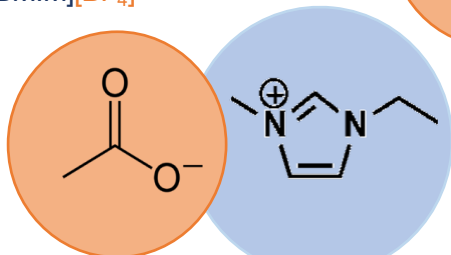
[BMIM][5FF]



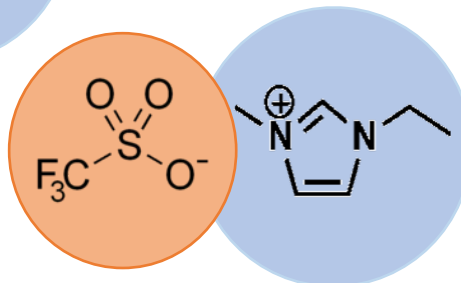
[BMIM][BF₄]



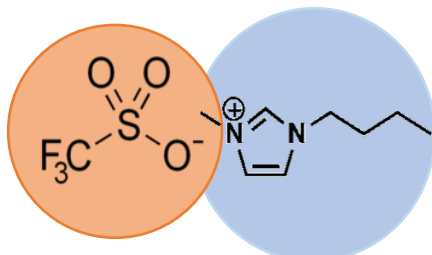
[BMIM][CO₂CH₃]



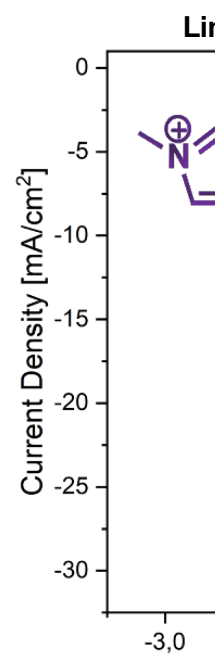
[EMIM][CO₂CH₃]



[EMIM][SO₃CF₃]



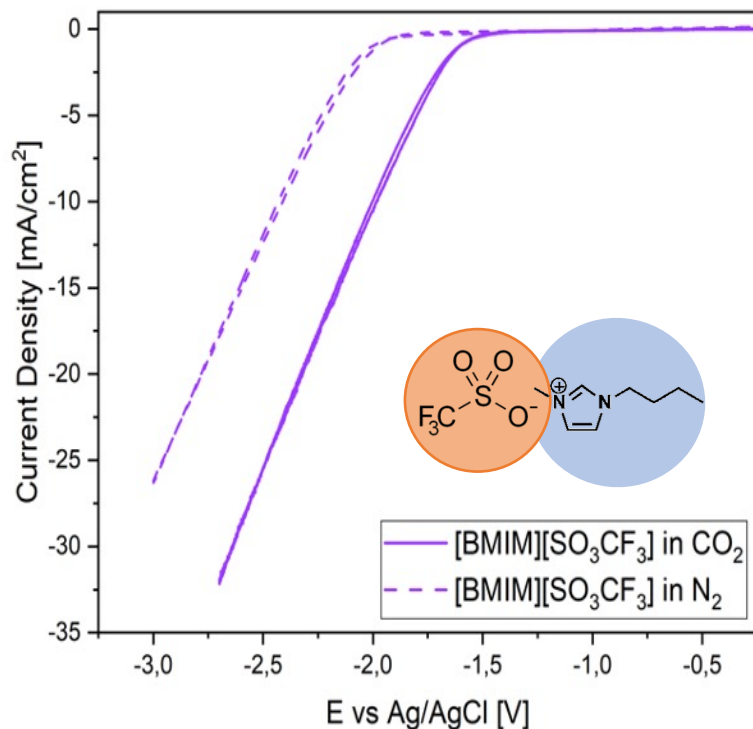
[BMIM][SO₃CF₃]



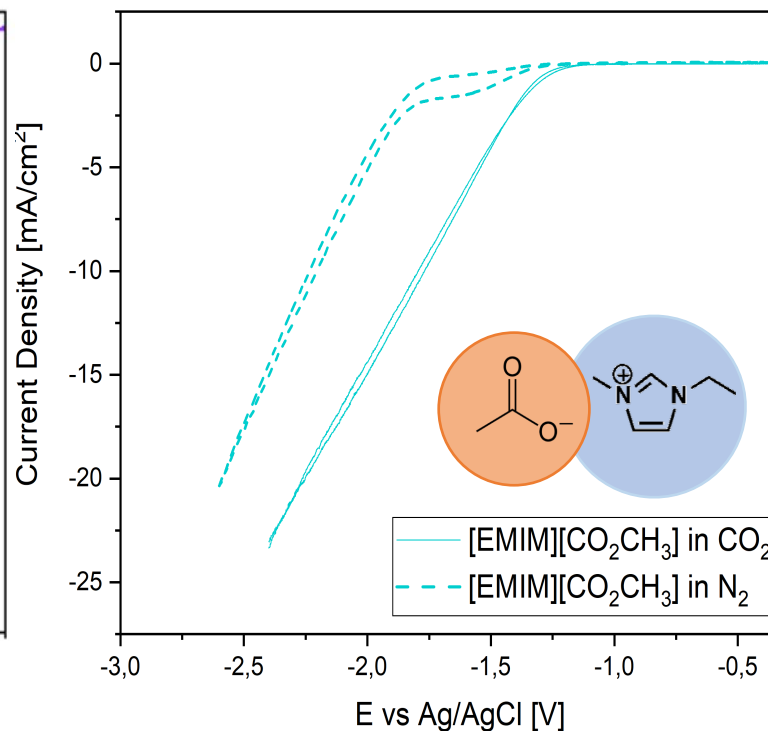
- The alkyl chain o
- When the **alky** ring finds a **mor** to reduce and dioxide molecule negative onset p

Results and discussion

Cyclic Voltammetry (CV)



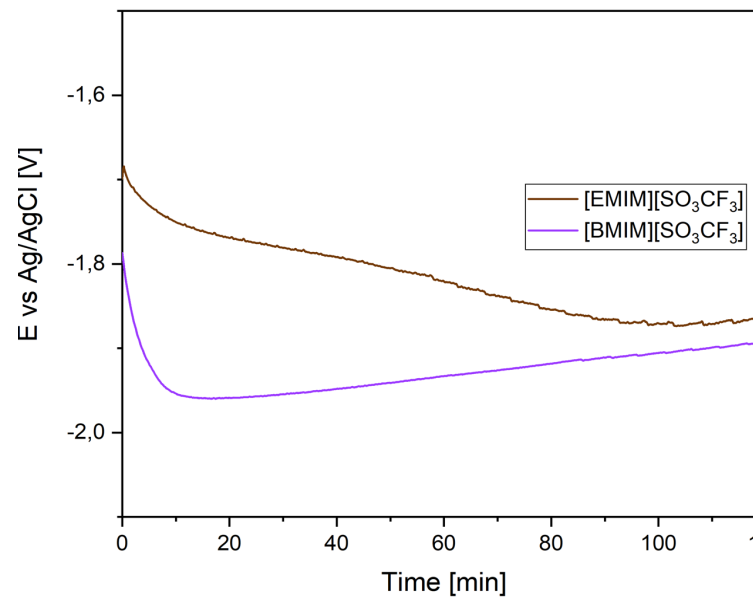
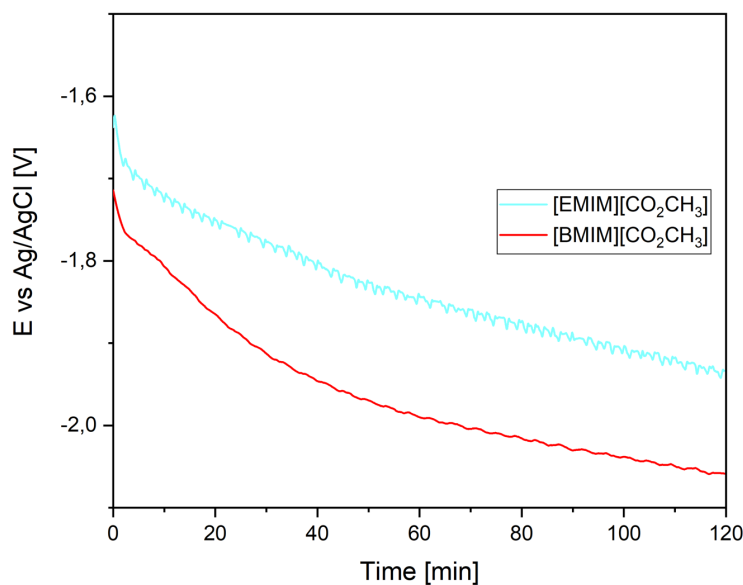
Cyclic Voltammetry (CV)



✓ **CVs' highlights:** Onset potential of all the ILs is shifted to less negative potentials with CO₂.

Results and discussion

Chronopotentiometry (CP) in CO₂, t=120 min, -20 mA



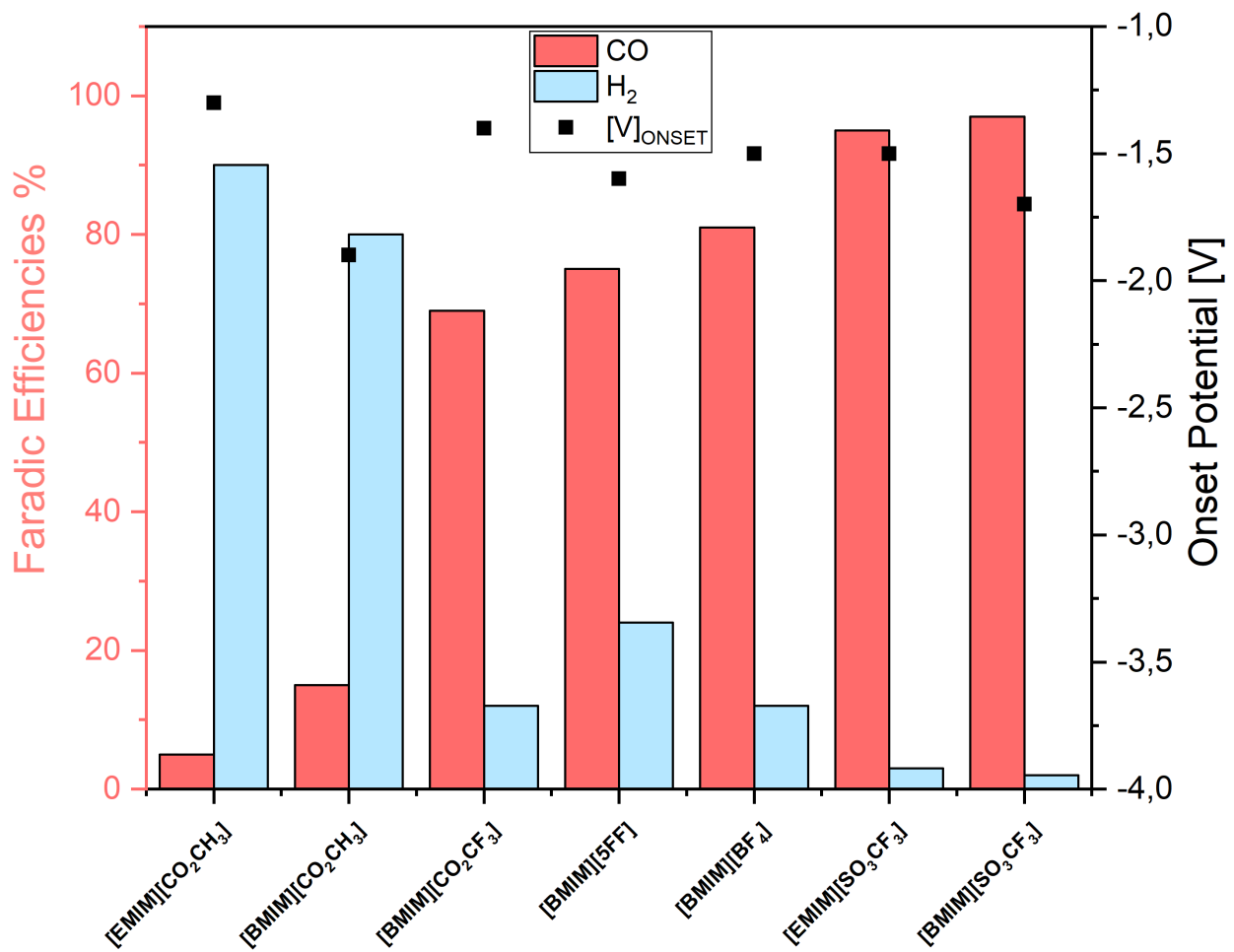
✓ **CP's highlights:** comparing the CP's curves, for the same anion with EMIM and BMIM. Probably this trend is due to two aspects:

- 1- A more convenient orientation reached by a shorter cation alkyl chain on the electrode surface.
- 2- It can be linked to the conductivity of the catholyte. Catholyte conductivity of

[EMIM][SO₃CF₃] solutions are higher than **[BMIM][CO₂CH₃]** and **[BMIM][SO₃CF₃]**.

Results and discussion

Chronopotentiometry (CP) in CO₂, t=120 min, -20 mA



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1. Introduction and aim of the work



2. State of the Art



3. Materials and Methods

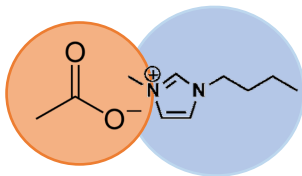


4. Results and Discussion

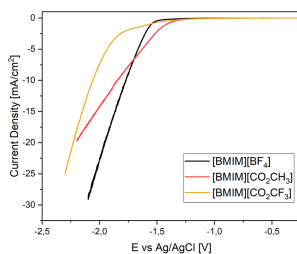


5. Conclusions and Next Steps

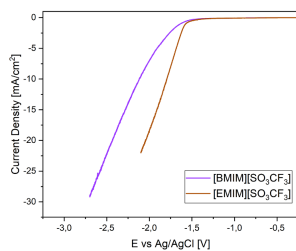
Conclusions



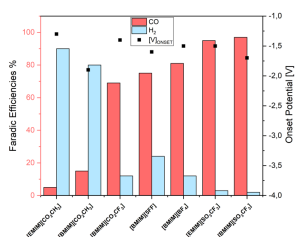
- ❖ Seven imidazolium salts were tested for the electroreduction of CO_2 .



- ❖ CO_2 solubility depends on the anion of the imidazolium salt, being higher for fluorinated anions.



- ❖ The cation has a steric effect and an orientation effect. As the steric bulkiness of the cation increases, the imidazolium ring finds a more crowded surface.



- ❖ Imidazolium salts of acetate are more selective for CO_2 reduction. [BMIM][SO₃CF₃] promotes the reduction of CO_2 to CO. The most selective salt used is [BMIM][BF₄].



Next Steps

- i. Test **other Ionic Liquids** with different anionic and cationic part, and their properties. We are also evaluating a mixture of different ionic liquids.
- ii. Test **other solvents** (for example: Propylene carbonate).
- iii. **Optimize analytical methods** for other liquid and gaseous products in different media.
- iv. We plan to **deepen the reaction mechanisms** of ionic liquids and investigate the reactions that regulate the CO₂ reduction thanks to the ionic liquid on the surface of the catalyst.



Acknowledgements

The research leading to these results has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Action programme under the SunCoCo project (Grant Agreement No 862100010000000000)



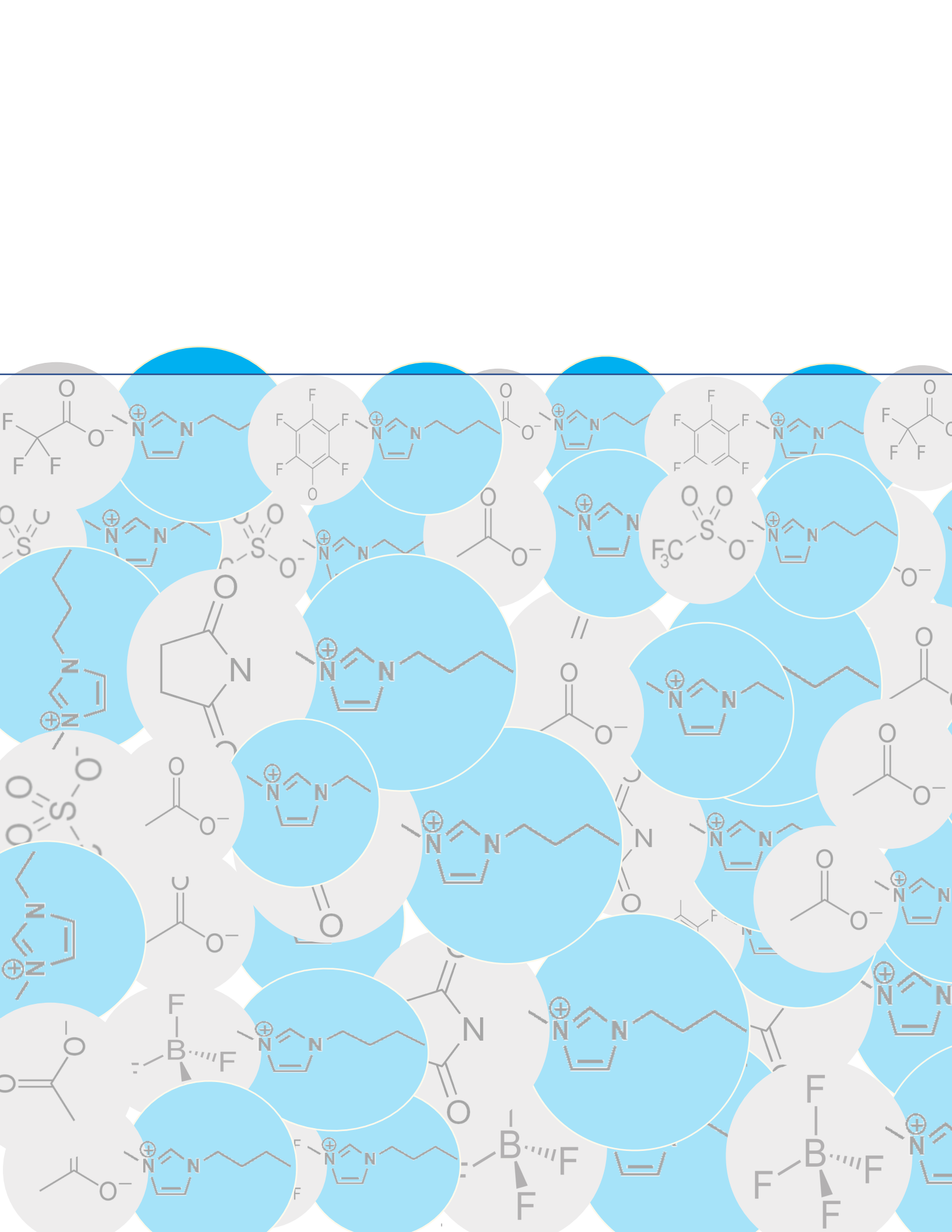
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Ionic Liquids Technologies





Materials and methods

Anolyte: 0,1M
KOH aqueous
solution.

Anode:
Ni mesh

Anolyte: 0,1 M KOH

- Very conductive aqueous solution
- Helps an effective passage of current
- The use of a **1M KOH** , a high concentration of potassium ions incentivizes the transfer of current to the cathodic compartment, and an increase in **hydrogen formation** was observed.

Transparent Bipolar membrane (**TBM**) prevents the mixing of the anolyte and catholyte solutions.

H-type cell configuration

Materials and methods



Catholyte: 0,3 M IL in CH₃CN

- ILs cannot be used pure for high viscosity
- MeCN is able to solve all ILs studied in this
- MeCN has a lower molecular weight than most solvents
- Guarantees high conductivity
- Low viscosity of the final solution

Anolyte: 0,1M
KOH aqueous
solution.

Anode:
Ni mesh

Transparent Bipolar membrane (TBM) prevents the mixing of the anolyte and catholyte solutions

H-type cell configuration

Materials and methods

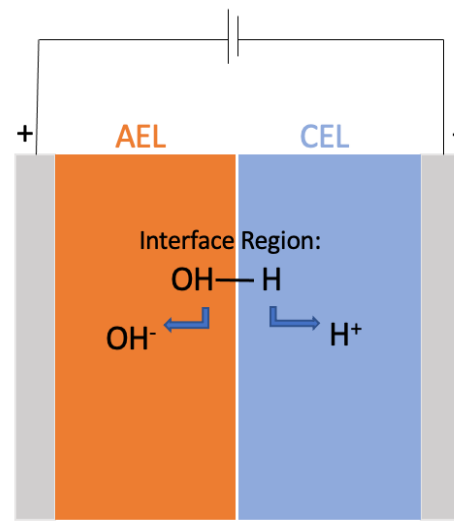
Anolyte: 0,1M
KOH aqueous
solution.

Anode:
Ni mesh

AEL: Anion exchange layer
CEL: Cation exchange layer



ANODE: OER
 $4\text{OH}^- \rightarrow \text{O}_2 + 2\text{H}_2\text{O} + 4\text{e}^-$



CATHODE:
 $\text{CO}_2 + 2\text{H}^+ + 2\text{e}^- \rightarrow \text{H}_2\text{CO}_3$

Transparent Bipolar membrane (TBM) prevents the mixing of the anolyte and catholyte solutions.

H-type cell configuration