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ELECTROCHEMICAL CHARACTERIZATION OF SYSTEMS
FOR SECONDARY BATTERY APPLICATION

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ELECTROCHEMICAL CHARACTERIZATION OF SYSTEMS FOR
SECONDARY BATTERY APPLICATION

by

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ABSTRACT

Multisweep cyclic voltammograms have been obtained for an additional one hundred and ninety-three systems comprising silver, copper, nickel, cobalt, as well as the oxides and fluorides of these metals, in acetonitrile, butyrolactone, dimethylformamide, and propylene carbonate solutions of chlorides, perchlorates, and fluorides. Voltammograms are presented for thirty-nine of these systems. Tabular data includes peak current density, sweep index, charge-discharge efficiency, and cathode compatibility.

SUMMARY

The electrochemical characterization of non-aqueous battery systems by multisweep cyclic voltammetry has been continued. Cyclic voltammograms are now available on nearly four hundred systems comprising silver, copper, nickel, cobalt, zinc, cadmium, and molybdenum in chloride and fluoride solutions of acetonitrile, butyrolactone, dimethylformamide, and propylene carbonate. Solutes consist of AlCl_3 , LiCl , MgCl_2 , LiClO_4 , LiF , MgF_2 , LiPF_6 , LiBF_4 , and KPF_6 . The cyclic voltammograms of thirty-nine systems are included in this report.

During this quarter, cyclic voltammetry was initiated on AgF_2 , CuF_2 , NiF_2 , and CoF_3 electrodes. In general, nickel and cobalt fluoride electrodes exhibit low or negligible electrochemical activity in agreement with earlier data on nickel and cobalt metal. The possibility of high resistance due to excessive fluoride thickness cannot be discounted however, since similarly low currents are found for silver difluoride in certain cases, even though silver metal has demonstrated large currents during sweep cycling.

Cyclic voltammograms in general are not recordable in BF_3 and PF_5 solutions due to voltage overload of the instrumentation caused by a combination of appreciably high current and relatively low conductance ($10^{-4} \text{ ohm}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$) for these solutions. Sweep voltammetry of LiBF_4 and LiPF_6 solutions prepared in situ by the interaction of BF_3 and PF_5 with LiF suspensions in the solvents, demonstrate markedly different performance in terms of greater electrochemical activity compared with the commercially available complex fluorides.

Tables are presented listing system parameters derived from the cyclic voltammograms. These tables include data on peak current densities, sweep index, cathode compatibility, anodic to cathodic peak displacement and charge-discharge efficiency.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this program is to conduct a molecular level screening by the cyclic voltammetric method on a large number of electrochemical systems in nonaqueous electrolytes, and to characterize them as to their suitability for use in high energy density secondary batteries.

Since the release and storage of energy in a battery is initiated at the molecular level of the reaction, and therefore dependent on the charge and mass transfer processes, it is essential that screening be conducted at this level, in order to eliminate those systems whose electrode processes are inadequate for secondary battery operation.

I. RESULTS

A. MATERIAL PREPARATION:

During this period, attention was focused on the preparation of materials which were not commonly available in high purity.

The metal fluoride electrodes were prepared by direct fluorination of the metals. No direct measurement of coating thickness was made although measurement of weight gain indicated relatively thin coatings. Analysis of the coatings is in progress.

Since commercially available LiBF_4 and LiPF_6 were of doubtful purity, solutions of these salts were prepared by addition of BF_3 and PF_5 respectively to a suspension of LiF in the appropriate solvent. Formation of the desired material was evidenced by solution of essentially insoluble LiF , change in conductance, and alteration of the sweep curves from those in which only BF_3 and PF_5 were the only solutes present.

The addition of BF_3 or PF_5 in the absence of LiF did not appear to degrade acetonitrile, dimethylformamide or propylene carbonate. However, marked degradation of butyrolactone was observed. In situ preparation of LiPF_6 or LiBF_4 in this solvent was therefore not attempted.

Direct reaction of LiF and PF_5 at an elevated temperature, or by solution of LiF in liquid PF_5 was not successful. Attempted isolation and characterization of the salts prepared in situ is in progress.

Table I lists the conductivities of the solutions screened during this quarter.

TABLE I
ELECTROLYTE CONDUCTIVITIES

<u>Electrolyte</u>	<u>Molality</u> m	<u>Conductivity</u> ohm ⁻¹ cm ⁻¹
<u>Acetonitrile</u>		
PF ₅	0.5	2.2 x 10 ⁻³
LiPF ₆	0.5	1.7 x 10 ⁻²
KPF ₆	0.5(1)	1.5 x 10 ⁻²
LiF+KPF ₆	0.75(2)	3.7 x 10 ⁻²
BF ₃	0.5	1.9 x 10 ⁻⁴
LiBF ₄	0.5	1.6 x 10 ⁻²
Mg(BF ₄) ₂	0.5(s)	9.2 x 10 ⁻⁴
LiClO ₄	0.75	3.0 x 10 ⁻²
MgCL ₂	0.5(s)	6.3 x 10 ⁻⁴
<u>Butyrolactone</u>		
PF ₅	5.6 x 10 ⁻²	8.1 x 10 ⁻⁴
KPF ₆	0.75	7.1 x 10 ⁻³
LiF+KPF ₆	0.5(3)	1.4 x 10 ⁻²
BF ₃	0.5	5.0 x 10 ⁻⁴
LiCl	0.5	7.1 x 10 ⁻⁴
LiClO ₄	0.75	1.1 x 10 ⁻²
LiCl+LiClO ₄	0.5	8.3 x 10 ⁻³

TABLE I - Cont'd

<u>Electrolyte</u>	<u>Molality</u> m	<u>Conductivity</u> ohm ⁻¹ cm ⁻¹
<u>Dimethylformamide</u>		
PF ₅	0.5	3.9 x 10 ⁻⁴
LiPF ₆	0.5	2.7 x 10 ⁻³
KPF ₆	0.75	1.2 x 10 ⁻²
	1.75(1)	1.3 x 10 ⁻²
LiF+KPF ₆	0.75(2)	1.2 x 10 ⁻²
BF ₃	0.5	1.7 x 10 ⁻³
LiBF ₄	0.5	5.7 x 10 ⁻³
Mg(BF ₄) ₂	0.25	2.8 x 10 ⁻³
LiCl	0.75	8.7 x 10 ⁻³
LiCl+AlCl ₃	0.5(s)	1.0 x 10 ⁻²
LiClO ₄	0.5	2.0 x 10 ⁻²
LiCl+LiClO ₄	0.75(1)	1.4 x 10 ⁻²
<u>Propylene Carbonate</u>		
PF ₅	5.6 x 10 ⁻²	7.9 x 10 ⁻⁴
LiPF ₆	0.25	5.9 x 10 ⁻³
KPF ₆	1.0	4.5 x 10 ⁻³
LiF+KPF ₆	0.75(2)	4.4 x 10 ⁻³
BF ₃	0.5	1.1 x 10 ⁻⁴
LiBF ₄	0.5	4.2 x 10 ⁻³
LiCl+AlCl ₃	0.5	8.9 x 10 ⁻³
LiClO ₄	1.0	6.2 x 10 ⁻³

(s) Saturated

(1) No measurable change in conductivity occurred on addition of 1000 or 2000 ppm H₂O

(2) Solution initially 0.75 m in KPF₆ and saturated with LiF. Solution was stirred overnight to equilibrate.

(3) Solution initially 0.5 m in KPF₆ and saturated with LiF. Solution was stirred overnight to equilibrate.

B. ANALYSIS OF CYCLIC VOLTAMMOGRAMS

Tables II and III list the electrochemical systems screened during the second quarter of this program. This represents a total of 193 systems. Curve analysis was accomplished by dividing all systems into two major groups:

1. Systems involving chloride electrolytes
2. Systems involving fluoride electrolytes

Each main group was then subdivided according to the identity of the working electrode. Each of these subgroups was further broken down according to the identity of the solvent portion of the solution. The cyclic voltammograms are then discussed in terms of the total solution. This classification facilitates data analysis, and has permitted a more significant correlation among the electrochemical systems.

Except in those cases where the metal is converted to a cathodic material prior to assembly in the measuring cell, the working electrode is the base metal itself. During the voltage sweep, the metal is oxidized to some species, this anodic product then serving as the cathode which is subsequently reduced during the cathodic portion of the sweep. Each sweep cycle thus corresponds to a charge-discharge cycle. In the absence of complicating factors, it is assumed that chloride cathodes would be formed in chloride electrolytes, and fluoride cathodes in fluoride electrolytes.

Each cyclic voltammogram is identified by a CV number and labelled according to the electrochemical system, sweep rate, temperature, and zero reference, representing the open circuit voltage (ocv) of the working electrode with respect to the indicated reference electrode. The current axis is in units of ma/cm^2 , each unit being of variable scale depending on the X-Y recorder sensitivity setting. A maximum sensitivity of $0.1 \text{ ma/cm}^2/\text{cm}$ division has been established to avoid exaggerating the current background of poor systems. The sweep is always in a clockwise direction, the

TABLE II ELECTROCHEMICAL SYSTEMS SCREENED - CHLORIDE (or PERCHLORATE) ELECTROLYTES

Solute	Solvent	Acetonitrile	Butyrolactone	Dimethylformamide	Propylene carbonate
LiCl	-	-	Co, CoO	Cu, Cu(a), Cu(b) Cu(c), Co, CoO	-
LiCl+AlCl ₃	-	-	-	AgF ₂ , CuF ₂ , NiF ₂ Co, CoF ₃	AgO, CuO, NiO
LiClO ₄	AgF ₂ , CuF ₂ , NiF ₂ Co, CoO, CoF ₃	AgF ₂ , CuF ₂ , NiF ₂ Co, CoO, CoF ₃	AgF ₂ , CuF ₂ , NiF ₂ Co, CoO, CoF ₃	AgF ₂ , Cu(d), Cu(e) Cu(a, e), CuO, CuF ₂ NiF ₂ , Co, CoO, CoF ₃	AgF ₂ , CuF ₂ , NiF ₂ Co, CoO, CoF ₃
LiCl+LiClO ₄	-	-	Co, CoO	Cu(a), Cu(b), Co CoO	-
MgCl ₂	Ag, Cu, Ni	-	-	-	-

- (a) Containing 1000 ppm water
- (b) Containing 2000 ppm water
- (c) Containing 3000 ppm water
- (d) 0.5m
- (e) 0.25m

TABLE III ELECTROCHEMICAL SYSTEMS SCREENED - FLUORIDE ELECTROLYTES

Solvent Solute	Acetonitrile	Butyrolactone	Dimethylformamide	Propylene carbonate
PF ₅	Ag, Cu, Ni, Co	Ag, Cu, Ni, Co	Ag, Cu, Ni, Co	Ag, Cu, Ni, Co
LiPF ₆	Ag, AgO, AgF ₂ , Cu CuO, CuF ₂ , NiF ₂ , Co CoO, CoF ₃ , NiO	-	AgO, AgF ₂ , CuF ₂ Co, CoO, CoF ₃ NiF ₂	AgO, AgF ₂ , CuO CuF ₂ , NiO, NiF ₂ Co, CoO, CoF ₃
KPF ₆	AgF ₂ , CuO(a), CuO(b) CuF ₂ , NiF ₂ , Co, CoO, CoF ₃	AgF ₂ , CuF ₂ NiF ₂ , Co, CoO CoF ₃	AgF ₂ , CuF ₂ , NiF ₂ Co, CoO, CoF ₃ , Zn, Zn(a), Zn(b)	AgF ₂ , CuF ₂ , NiF ₂ Co, CoO, CoF ₃
LiF+KPF ₆	AgF ₂ , CuF ₂ , NiF ₂ Co, CoF ₃	AgF ₂ , CuF ₂ NiF ₂ , Co, CoO CoF ₃	AgO, AgF ₂ , CuO CuF ₂ , NiO, NiF ₂ Co, CoO, CoF ₃	AgO, AgF ₂ , CuO CuF ₂ , NiO, NiF ₂ Co, CoO, CoF ₃
BF ₃	Ag, Cu, Ni, Co	Ag, Cu, Ni, Co	Ag, Cu, Ni, Co	Ag, Cu, Ni, Co
LiBF ₄	Ag, AgF ₂ , CuF ₂ Co, CoF ₃	-	AgF ₂ , CuF ₂ , NiF ₂ Co, CoF ₃	AgF ₂ , CuF ₂ , NiF ₂ Co, CoF ₃
Mg(BF ₄) ₂	Ag, Cu, Ni, Co	-	Ag, Cu, Ni, Co	-

(a) Containing 1000 ppm water

(b) Containing 2000 ppm water

potential becoming more positive to the right. Positive currents represent anodic (charge) reactions, and negative currents represent cathodic (discharge) reactions. The voltage axis units are relative to the ocv so that voltage units are in terms of electrode polarization.

For comparative purposes, current density magnitude is classified according to very high (more than 300 ma/cm^2), high ($100\text{-}300 \text{ ma/cm}^2$), medium high ($50\text{-}100 \text{ ma/cm}^2$), medium low ($10\text{-}50 \text{ ma/cm}^2$), low ($1\text{-}10 \text{ ma/cm}^2$), and very low (less than 1 ma/cm^2).

Analysis is based on the cyclic voltammograms obtained at the lowest sweep rate, 40 mv/sec, except where additional information is required from the higher sweep rate curves to aid in the analysis.

1. Systems Involving Chloride Electrolytes

- a. Silver Electrode

- (1) Acetonitrile solutions

The cyclic voltammogram for silver in acetonitrile- MgCl_2 (Figure 1, CV-1147) exhibits a low anodic peak (3.3 ma/cm^2) and a flat cathodic plateau (1.0 ma/cm^2). Low conductivity indicates low chloride ion availability.

Performance is therefore much poorer than the case for LiCl , which exhibits a well-formed cathodic peak, even though it is broad and of medium low height (Ref. 1, Figure 10).

- b. Silver Oxide Electrode

- (1) Propylene carbonate solutions

Silver oxide in $\text{LiCl}+\text{AlCl}_3$ solution results in current overload, comparing with silver in acetonitrile- $\text{LiCl}+\text{AlCl}_3$ reported earlier (Ref. 1).

c. Silver Difluoride Electrode

These represent the first reported data on silver difluoride electrodes prepared by direct fluorination of silver wire in fluorine gas.

Cyclic voltammetry of silver difluoride electrodes in lithium perchlorate solutions of acetonitrile, butyrolactone, dimethylformamide, and propylene carbonate, as well as in dimethylformamide-LiCl+AlCl₃, indicate excessively low currents in all cases. This may be due to high electrode resistance owing to a relatively deep conversion of metallic silver to the difluoride.

The sweep curve in butyrolactone solution is similar to that for silver oxide in the same solution (Ref. 1, Figure 9) except for having low current densities, 2.0 and 1.2 ma/cm² for the anodic and cathodic peak respectively, compared with 440.0 and 154.0 ma/cm² for the silver oxide electrode. Although a sharp anodic peak is formed in acetonitrile solution, the peak c. d. is less than 1 ma/cm².

The silver difluoride layer is apparently sufficiently stable in these solvents, otherwise typical silver curves would have been obtained (e. g. Ref. 1, Figures 9, 11, 15 and 22).

d. Copper Electrode

(1) Acetonitrile solutions

Copper in acetonitrile-MgCl₂ exhibits voltage overload.

(2) Dimethylformamide solutions

The cyclic voltammogram for copper in dimethylformamide-LiCl was determined earlier (Ref. 1, Figures 25 and 26). During this period, the effect of water on the curve characteristics was determined. Three separate solutions were prepared containing 1000, 2000 and 3000 ppm water respectively. Cyclic

voltammograms are shown in Figures 2-4 (CV's-1116, 1121, 1126). The presence of water has no appreciable effect on the curve shape. The initial anodic peak is slightly sharper, and there is a broadening at the base of the second anodic peak, which may or may not be significant.

The curve for copper in 0.25 m LiClO_4 solution is shown in Figure 5 (CV-1137). A similar curve is obtained for a 0.5 m solution, but the anodic and cathodic peak currents are three - and two-fold larger respectively. The effect of adding 1000 ppm water to 0.25 m LiClO_4 in dimethylformamide is shown in Figure 6 (CV-1142). Currents are greatly decreased, and multiple peaks are introduced. A similar curve, with less peaks but identical current density magnitude, is obtained for copper oxide in anhydrous dimethylformamide- LiClO_4 (Ref. 1, Figure 28). The reduction reaction for copper in this solution may involve a dissolved species. Suspension of product material in the solution, and discoloration of the latter, were observed.

The voltammogram for copper in dimethylformamide- $\text{LiCl}+\text{LiClO}_4$, containing 1000 ppm water, is shown in Figure 7 (CV-1298). The effect of water impurity is to eliminate the well-formed high anodic and cathodic peaks, with a peak-to-peak displacement (ΔV_p) of only 200 mv (Ref. 1, Figure 27). In addition, there is considerable concentration polarization. The deleterious effect of water is again evident. It is apparent that water impurity has a devastating effect on the sweep curves for copper in LiClO_4 solution, whereas the effect in LiCl is rather negligible.

e. Copper Oxide Electrode

(1) Dimethylformamide solutions

Copper oxide in 0.25 m LiClO_4 results in current overload, again accompanied by solution contamination. A 0.75 m solution was run during an earlier

period, but only low currents were obtained (Ref. 1, Figure 28). According to the results described for copper in dimethylformamide-LiClO₄ (Figure 6), the earlier solution must have contained water impurity.

(2) Propylene carbonate solutions

Copper oxide in LiCl+AlCl₃ solution exhibits two definite sharp anodic peaks, with only a single cathodic peak (Figure 8, CV-1111) corresponding to the reduction of the lower oxidation state to metallic copper. The system appears to be dependent on cycling.

f. Copper Fluoride Electrode

These represent the first reported data on copper fluoride electrodes prepared by direct fluorination of copper wire in fluorine gas.

(1) Acetonitrile solutions

The cyclogram for copper fluoride in LiClO₄ solution is shown in Figure 9 (CV-1619). The anodic peak is considerably broader than that for copper oxide in the same solution (Ref. 1, Figure 32). In both cases, the discharge reaction is accompanied by excessive activation polarization. A black reaction product forms on the copper fluoride electrode during voltammetry.

(2) Butyrolactone solutions

Copper fluoride in butyrolactone-LiClO₄ exhibits a cathodic peak indicative of high rate discharge and negligible activation polarization (Figure 10, CV-1639). The charge reaction, however, is not as efficient, and indicates two separate oxidations, although this is not evident at higher sweep rates (80 and 200 mv/sec). A black reaction product at the electrode was accompanied by a yellow discoloration of the solution. The invariance of the anode-cathode peak current ratio indicates a solid state reduction of insoluble cathode material (insoluble within the measurement time period. Refer to Ref. 1, page 11 for further discussion).

(3) Dimethylformamide solutions

The curve for copper fluoride in dimethylformamide-LiCl+AlCl₃ is shown in Figure 11 (CV-1814). A black reaction product was observed at the electrode with a yellow discoloration of the solution. The 40 mv/sec curve has not been reproduced here because of the erratic nature of the anodic portion. A reproducible sharp cathodic peak (305 ma/cm²) was obtained however. CuF₂ in LiClO₄ solution gives a low value broad anodic peak, and a still lower poorly formed cathodic peak as shown in Figure 12 (CV-1560).

(4) Propylene carbonate solutions

The cyclic voltammogram for copper fluoride in propylene carbonate-LiClO₄ solution is shown in Figure 13 (CV-1419). This curve is of interest in that this system is under extensive development elsewhere in conjunction with a lithium negative for primary battery application. The sweep curve indicates that rechargeability should be possible. This curve has been compared with that obtained for copper oxide in the same electrolyte (Ref. 1, Figure 35), the cyclogram of which is comparable except that the second anodic peak is considerably reduced in height with respect to the first anodic peak. This may or may not be significant considering the earlier systems contained no fluoride. Visual examination of the fluorinated copper indicated that the surface had indeed been converted, but the possibility remains that the copper fluoride layer may have been discarded during the initial cycling prior to curve recording, leaving an etched copper metal surface corresponding to the air-oxidized copper measured in the earlier work. Measurements will be run using copper metal and copper fluoride in LiClO₄ containing fluoride (LiF). The resulting curves may be of help in interpreting the present data.

g. Nickel Electrode

Nickel in acetonitrile- MgCl_2 fails to show any anodic (and hence no cathodic) reaction, which is in accordance with earlier data.

h. Nickel Oxide Electrode

Nickel oxide in propylene carbonate- $\text{LiCl}+\text{AlCl}_3$ exhibits a low maximum anodic current with no peak, and negligible cathodic current.

i. Nickel Fluoride Electrode

Cyclic voltammetry of nickel fluoride electrodes, prepared by direct fluorination of nickel wire, was initiated during this period. Negligible anodic current is obtained in LiClO_4 solutions of all solvents. In the case of butyrolactone and propylene carbonate there is virtually zero cathodic current. Acetonitrile and dimethylformamide give very low cathodic currents with no peaks. Dimethylformamide- $\text{LiCl}+\text{AlCl}_3$ solution exhibits a broad anodic peak of low value, but virtually zero cathodic reaction.

j. Cobalt Electrode

(1) Acetonitrile solutions

Cobalt gives a very high anodic current (more than 800 ma/cm^2) in LiClO_4 at +1.0 volt, but virtually no cathodic current. The sweep curve is shown in Figure 14 (CV-1182). A black reaction product forms at the electrode, with a slight red coloration at the cell bottom.

(2) Butyrolactone solutions

Cobalt metal in LiCl solution results in voltage overload. A blue coloration of the solution was observed. LiClO_4 solution results in definite peak formation (Figure 15, CV-1172). Two anodic peaks occur, the second having a

current density of about 100 ma/cm^2 . With increasing sweep rate, the initial oxidation peak moves to more anodic values, while the higher peak remains at a fixed potential. At a sweep rate of 200 mv/sec the initial peak occurs as an inflection on the ascending slope of the higher peak. The discharge reaction is accompanied by excessive activation polarization. A black reaction product forms at the electrode, and a slight red coloration appears at the cell bottom. A mixture of LiCl and LiClO_4 failed to produce appreciable current.

(3) Dimethylformamide solutions

An excessively high anodic current is obtained for cobalt in LiCl solution, causing current overload in the anodic direction only. The anodic product is soluble in the electrolyte, and reduction of a solid state material is indicated, since the cathodic current decreases rapidly with decreasing sweep rate. A blue discoloration was observed. Similarly, cobalt in $\text{LiCl} + \text{AlCl}_3$ solution results in voltage overload (maximum anodic current is 3.2 amps/cm^2) with a blue discoloration of the solution. On the other hand, solutions of LiClO_4 and $\text{LiCl} + \text{LiClO}_4$ result in excessively low currents (less than $0.1 \text{ ma/cm}^2/\text{cm}$ division current axis) indicating no electrooxidation of cobalt metal.

(4) Propylene carbonate solutions

Cobalt metal fails to undergo electrooxidation in propylene carbonate- LiClO_4 .

k. Cobalt Oxide Electrode

(1) Acetonitrile solutions

Entirely unlike cobalt metal, which produces a very high anodic current in acetonitrile- LiClO_4 , pre-oxidation of the metal passivates the surface, decreasing the anodic current density to less than 4 ma/cm^2 . Again, no cathodic current is evident.

(2) Butyrolactone solutions

Cobalt oxide in LiCl solution exhibits a medium high anodic current at +1.0 volt (no peak), and a very low cathodic current, indicating that electrolytic oxidation occurs readily at this high positive potential, but with no significant reduction. Even at much higher sweep rates there is no appreciable cathodic current. Again, a blue discoloration was observed. A very low anodic peak is obtained in LiClO₄ solution, but again no reduction reaction is evident. A similar anodic peak is obtained in LiCl+LiClO₄ solution, as well as a very small cathodic peak.

(3) Dimethylformamide solutions

Results obtained for cobalt oxide in LiCl solution again indicate that pre-oxidation of cobalt metal passivates the surface, e. g. the maximum anodic current density is 0.16 ma/cm² compared with a current density in excess of 500 ma/cm² for the untreated metal. Very low anodic currents are also obtained in LiClO₄ and LiCl+LiClO₄ solutions.

(4) Propylene carbonate solutions

Current densities less than 0.1 ma/cm²/cm division current axis are obtained for cobalt oxide in LiClO₄ solution.

1. Cobalt Fluoride Electrode

The cyclic voltammetric results obtained for fluorinated cobalt metal are presented for the first time. In all cases, cobalt fluoride failed to give a cathodic reaction, and only very small anodic peaks were obtained, except that virtually zero current was obtained for propylene carbonate-LiClO₄. Solutions studied were LiClO₄ in all four solvents, and LiCl+AlCl₃ in dimethylformamide.

2. Systems Involving Fluoride Electrolytes

a. Silver Electrode

Silver in acetonitrile solutions of LiPF_6 and LiBF_4 results in current overloading of the instrumentation, due to excessively high currents accompanied by solution discoloration. Solutions of BF_3 , PF_5 and $\text{Mg}(\text{BF}_4)_2$ give voltage overload with silver electrodes. Silver in butyrolactone, dimethylformamide and propylene carbonate solutions of BF_3 and PF_5 , as well as dimethylformamide- $\text{Mg}(\text{BF}_4)_2$, also result in voltage overload.

When the maximum current does not exceed the amplifier rating, it can be read on a meter. In these cases, maximum anodic and cathodic current densities are obtainable even though curves cannot be recorded. Table IV lists the maximum current densities for a number of overloading systems. (Further details on instrument overloading are presented in the Experimental Section of this report).

Silver was also run in 1.0 m KPF_6 solution to determine the effect of concentration. Excessively high currents (accompanied by black discoloration of the solution) result in overload. This was not the case for 0.75 m KPF_6 (Ref. 1, Figure 38) for which a curve could be obtained. This is the same system which develops two distinct anodic and cathodic peaks as a result of continued cycling (Ref. 1, Figure 39).

b. Silver Oxide Electrode

(1) Acetonitrile solutions

Silver oxide in acetonitrile- LiPF_6 solution registers current overload due to extremely high current densities.

(2) Dimethylformamide solutions

Silver oxide in $\text{LiF}+\text{KPF}_6$ results in current overload accompanied by a black discoloration of the solution owing to reaction product dissolution. This compares with earlier results for pre-oxidized silver in KPF_6 solution alone (Ref. 1) where anodic peaks were obtained in excess of 650 ma/cm^2 . Voltage overload is obtained in LiPF_6 solution.

(3) Propylene carbonate solutions

Silver oxide in $\text{LiF}+\text{KPF}_6$ solution compares with the untreated metal in the same solution (Ref. 1), indicating a two-step reduction reaction with low cathodic current densities. The two anodic reactions occur close together, with the higher oxidation reaction failing to reach a peak before +1.0 v. The solution turns black during the measurement. LiPF_6 solution results in voltage overload.

c. Silver Difluoride Electrode

(1) Acetonitrile solutions

Silver difluoride in acetonitrile solutions of LiPF_6 and LiBF_4 shows no cathodic reaction, and initiation of anodic reaction occurs only at +1.0 volt. Low anodic and cathodic peaks are obtained for the KPF_6+LiF system, and very low peaks for KPF_6 . As indicated above, these low currents may be due to too thick a layer of AgF_2 on the silver substrate.

(2) Butyrolactone solutions

AgF_2 in KPF_6 and $\text{LiF}+\text{KPF}_6$ solutions again shows low currents, but very definite peaks are obtained reminiscent of those obtained by repetitive cycling of silver wire in propylene carbonate- KPF_6 (Ref. 1, Figure 39). The cyclic voltammogram for the KPF_6 solution is shown in Figure 16 (CV-1781).

(3) Dimethylformamide solutions

Prior to recording the voltammogram at 200 mv/sec in LiPF_6 solution, the

AgF_2 layer on the silver substrate went into solution (visual observation) during the first few cycles. During this initial cycling, the anodic and cathodic peaks were both very high, close together, and of equal area. The curve obtained subsequent to ten charge-discharge cycles, exhibits a very large anodic current density (800 ma/cm^2) failing to reach a peak in the scanning range, and a much lower cathodic c. d. (133 ma/cm^2). The cathodic peak current is proportionally much smaller at 40 mv/sec indicating a solid state reduction reaction, and confirming the solubility of AgF_2 in this solution. Anodic voltage overload is obtained in LiBF_4 solution. The cyclic voltammograms for KPF_6 and $\text{KPF}_6 + \text{LiF}$ are quite similar to that obtained in butyrolactone- KPF_6 , except that the initial anodic peak is higher and sharper.

(4) Propylene carbonate solutions

Silver difluoride in LiPF_6 solution exhibits a low and very broad anodic peak at the higher oxidation potential, and a very low cathodic peak. No dissolution of cathode material was observed, nor evidenced by the sweep curves. The curve obtained in KPF_6 solution compares well with that obtained in dimethylformamide solution. The first anodic peak, in the case of $\text{KPF}_6 + \text{LiF}$, is not as sharp as it was in dimethylformamide. Figure 17 (CV-1419) shows the effect of repeated cycling of AgF_2 in LiBF_4 solution, indicating the growth of the anodic and cathodic peaks with increased cycling. Comparison of the cathodic peak height of the earliest recorded cycle at 40 mv/sec with the peak heights at higher sweep rates, indicates a solid state reduction of a soluble cathode.

d. Copper Electrode

(1) Acetonitrile solutions

The cyclogram for copper in LiPF_6 solution is shown in Figure 18, (CV-1386), indicating high and sharp peak current densities for both the charge and discharge reactions, and an exceedingly small ΔV_p (90 mv). The peak height and shape,

indicative of high current density and very low activation polarization for each reaction, is characterized by the high sweep indices, 1414 and 251 for the anodic and cathodic peaks respectively. A black reaction product was evident on the working electrode, with no evidence of dissolution during measurement. This system is recommended for further study.

Copper in PF_5 solution of acetonitrile results in a very high anodic current density exhibiting two ill-defined peaks. No cathodic peaks are evident, the maximum reduction current density being 60 ma/cm^2 (compared to 450 ma/cm^2 for the anodic current density). Copper in BF_3 solution results in voltage overload. Overloading is also obtained in $\text{Mg}(\text{BF}_4)_2$ solution, but with relatively lower current.

(2) Butyrolactone solutions

Copper in BF_3 and PF_5 solutions of butyrolactone result in voltage overload during the anodic portion of the sweep.

(3) Dimethylformamide solutions

The cyclic voltammogram for copper in $\text{Mg}(\text{BF}_4)_2$ solution is shown in Figure 19 (CV-1455). This system is characterized by a small cathodic peak about 400 mv negative to the anodic peak, but with the major reduction occurring at much more negative potentials, indicating a complex reduction reaction. The system is of no interest since the first reduction reaction occurs with low current density, and the secondary reaction occurs at too negative a potential. Voltage overload results in the case of copper in BF_3 and PF_5 solutions of dimethylformamide.

(4) Propylene carbonate solutions

Copper in BF_3 and PF_5 solutions of propylene carbonate result in anodic voltage overload.

e. Copper Oxide Electrode

(1) Acetonitrile solutions

The cyclic voltammogram for copper oxide in acetonitrile- LiPF_6 is shown in Figure 20 (CV-1381). Compared to copper metal (Figure 18), the anodic peak has been greatly reduced in height and made considerably broader. The discharge reaction is correspondingly poor. This effect on peak height and shape by pre-oxidation in air, was unexpected since it was not observed with copper oxide in KPF_6 solution (Ref. 1, Figure 41).

The effect of adding water to acetonitrile- KPF_6 is shown in Figures 21 and 22 (CV-1303, CV-1308). The addition of 1000 ppm water (Figure 21) has no significant effect on the anodic reaction, but the discharge current density is considerably reduced. This is not due to anodic product dissolution since the anode-to-cathode peak ratio remains invariant with sweep rate (indicative of a solid state reduction reaction, with the cathode material being insoluble). The effect of adding 2000 ppm water is shown in Figure 22. There is a pronounced decrease in anodic peak current density (from 300 to 94 ma/cm^2). The cathodic peak c. d. remains relatively unchanged however.

(2) Dimethylformamide solutions

Copper oxide in $\text{LiF} + \text{KPF}_6$ gives a similar type of curve as copper in KPF_6 (Ref. 1, Figure 45), very low anodic and cathodic current with no definite peak formation.

(3) Propylene carbonate solutions

The cyclic voltammogram of copper oxide in $\text{LiF} + \text{KPF}_6$ resembles that obtained for copper in KPF_6 solution (Ref. 1, Figure 47) but with much lower current densities. Copper metal in $\text{LiF} + \text{KPF}_6$ (Ref. 1) had resulted in voltage overload. A black reaction product formed at the electrode may have been responsible for spurious oscillations in the cyclograms at all three sweep rates

(200, 80, and 40 mv/sec), since a higher recorder sensitivity was necessary due to the low current densities. Copper oxide in LiPF_6 also gives poorly formed peaks with spurious oscillations, but the peaks are of medium low range.

f. Copper Fluoride Electrode

(1) Acetonitrile solutions

The cyclic voltammogram for copper fluoride in LiPF_6 solution (Figure 23, CV-1553) is identical in shape and current density to that obtained for copper oxide in the same solution (Figure 20). Comparison of this curve with copper metal in acetonitrile- LiPF_6 (Figure 18) shows the latter with much higher and sharper peaks, and a much smaller peak displacement (90 mv compared with 550 mv). The identical nature of the curves obtained for CuO and CuF_2 may possibly be due to a high electrode resistance absent at the copper metal electrode. The curves for CuF_2 in LiBF_4 , KPF_6 , and $\text{KPF}_6 + \text{LiF}$ are shown in Figures 24-26 (CV's-1468, 1683 and 1704) are comparable, except for the lower currents (approximately half) for $\text{KPF}_6 + \text{LiF}$, and the appearance of a small second anodic peak for LiBF_4 . These curves are also comparable with Cu in $\text{KPF}_6 + \text{LiF}$ (Ref. 1, Figure 42), except for a greater peak displacement in the latter due to a higher IR drop in the older measuring cell.

(2) Butyrolactone solutions

The sweep curve for copper fluoride in KPF_6 solution (Figure 27, CV-1786) shows a very low cathodic current, which is proportionately higher at the higher sweep rate, indicating a soluble cathode. Similar results were obtained for copper fluoride in $\text{KPF}_6 + \text{LiF}$, except that the peak anodic current density was nearly three times larger (140 ma/cm^2). Copper metal in the same electrolyte gave a similar sweep curve, (Ref. 1, Figure 43) but with a still higher anodic peak current density (256 ma/cm^2).

(3) Dimethylformamide solutions

The cyclic voltammogram for CuF_2 in dimethylformamide- LiPF_6 is shown in Figure 28 (CV-1525). The extremely high and sharp cathodic peak gives this system the highest cathodic sweep index obtained to date, $2573 \text{ ohm}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2}$. Also, the peak displacement is the smallest so far obtained (20 mv). This system is peculiar in that the cathodic current density at the lowest sweep is 50% higher than at the highest sweep rate (1.8 amps/cm^2 compared to 1.2 amps/cm^2). The anodic peak current density remains relatively independent of sweep rate. A minimum of 50 charge-discharge cycles at 200 mv/sec were required to stabilize the system prior to recording. This system requires further investigation because of its extremely high discharge current and minimal peak displacement.

Substitution of LiPF_6 by KPF_6 results in a vastly poorer system with greatly decreased currents and increased peak displacement, as shown in Figure 29, (CV-1424). A similar curve is obtained for CuF_2 in $\text{LiF}+\text{KPF}_6$, so that the unusually high currents cannot be explained by the presence of lithium ions, unless the explanation involves the absence of potassium ions. Solution conductivity plays no part, since the LiPF_6 solution has a lower conductivity ($7.61 \times 10^{-3} \text{ ohm}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$) than the KPF_6 or $\text{LiF}+\text{KPF}_6$ solutions ($1.22 \times 10^{-2} \text{ ohm}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$). The probable explanation lies in the method of solution preparation. The KPF_6 and KPF_6+LiF solutions were prepared from commercial salts (Ozark-Mahoning). The LiPF_6 solutions were prepared by adding PF_5 to dimethylformamide- LiF suspension. The conductivity of dimethylformamide- PF_5 is $3.87 \times 10^{-4} \text{ ohm}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$. Although CuF_2 has not yet been run in dimethylformamide- PF_5 , copper metal has, and with resulting voltage overload due to a combination of high current and fairly high resistance. The decrease of electrolytic resistance by the addition of LiF (through PF_6^- formation) was probably just enough to prevent voltage overload, so that the high current cyclic voltammogram of Figure 28 was recordable.

The cyclic voltammogram for copper fluoride in LiBF_4 solution (Figure 30, CV-1481) shows a very high anodic peak, and medium low broad cathodic peak indicating poor discharge properties. The relatively small cathodic current may be due to dissolution of the cathode, which was also the case for copper in the same solution (Ref. 1, Figure 46). Higher sweep rate voltammograms could not be recorded due to anodic voltage overload. The LiBF_4 solutions were prepared by passing BF_3 into a dimethylformamide-LiF suspension. The high current obtained with this solution, compared to the LiBF_4 solution prepared from commercial material (and used in the earlier measurement (Ref. 1, Figure 46) is again indicative of the different results obtained by using different starting materials.

(4) Propylene carbonate solutions

Copper fluoride in LiPF_6 solution (Figure 31, CV-1614) exhibits high current densities and a broad anodic peak. Considerable concentration polarization is indicated. A sharper, but lower, anodic peak is obtained in KPF_6 solution (Figure 32, CV-1699). Solid state reduction of a soluble cathode is indicated. Results are comparable to copper in the same solution (Ref. 1, Figure 47) except that copper exhibits two anodic peaks. Current densities are comparable. Addition of LiF to the KPF_6 does not appreciably affect the sweep curve. Copper fluoride in propylene carbonate- LiBF_4 results in current overload, again confirming the high reaction currents obtainable from complex fluorides prepared directly from BF_3 or PF_5 .

g. Nickel Electrode

(1) Acetonitrile solutions

Nickel in PF_5 solution shows a medium high anodic peak at +0.9 v with virtually zero cathodic current. Anodic voltage overload is obtained in BF_3 solution and a maximum cathodic current density of 40 ma/cm^2 is indicated.

A very high anodic current is recorded for $\text{Mg}(\text{BF}_4)_2$ solution at +0.6 v, with evidence of cathodic reaction occurring at -0.6v.

(2) Butyrolactone solutions

Nickel in BF_3 and PF_5 solution gives current densities considerably less than $0.1 \text{ ma/cm}^2/\text{cm}$ division, indicating no anodic or cathodic reaction.

(3) Dimethylformamide solutions

Nickel forms a black reaction product with BF_3 and PF_5 solutions, accompanied by anodic voltage overload. No cathodic reaction is evident. $\text{Mg}(\text{BF}_4)_2$ shows anodic current at +1.0 v (12 ma/cm^2) but virtually no cathodic reaction.

(4) Propylene carbonate solutions

Nickel in BF_3 shows no appreciable reaction. Nickel in PF_5 exhibits a low range anodic and cathodic current at +1.0 v and -1.0 v respectively. After cycling 30 time at 200 mv/sec, however, voltage overload is obtained in the PF_5 solution, and a light grey reaction product forms on the electrode.

h. Nickel Oxide Electrode

In line with the generally poor performance of nickel, nickel oxide gives current densities less than $0.1 \text{ ma/cm}^2/\text{cm}$ division current axis in dimethylformamide and propylene carbonate solutions of $\text{LiF}+\text{KPF}_6$. Only in the presence of LiPF_6 , which gives very high currents in other systems, does nickel oxide show some appreciable current, and only during the oxidation phase of the cycle. Two anodic peaks of low current density result in acetonitrile- LiPF_6 (Figure 33, CV-1366), but the discharge reaction is very poor. A double anodic peak also occurs in the propylene carbonate solution, but not before +0.9 volts.

i. Nickel Fluoride Electrode

As has been found generally true for nickel and nickel oxide electrodes,

the cyclic voltammograms for nickel fluoride electrodes indicate the absence of electrochemical reactions having any significant current density. In nearly all cases screened, discharge (cathodic reaction) of nickel fluoride electrodes did not occur up to -1.0 volt relative to ocv. The maximum anodic current densities, which occur at highly positive potentials (except for some dimethylformamide solutions), are in the low current density range. Nickel fluoride in dimethylformamide-LiBF₄ gives a peak at +0.45 v, whose base extends the entire anodic range, and having a peak c.d. of 4.0 ma/cm². A poorly formed cathodic peak (1.4 ma/cm²) exists at -0.7 v. LiPF₆ in the same solvent exhibits multiple anodic peaks, the highest having a peak c.d. of 11.2 ma/cm². No cathodic current is evident however.

j. Cobalt Electrode

(1) Acetonitrile solutions

Cobalt in PF₅ solution results in anodic voltage overload due to anodic current densities in excess of 1.0 amp/cm². In spite of such a high anodic current density, there is virtually no cathodic reaction. A black reaction product is formed on the electrode. Cobalt in LiPF₆ solution exhibits an anodic peak of medium high magnitude, but with no evidence of cathodic reaction until -1.0 v (Figure 34, CV-1371). No appreciable anodic currents are obtained for KPF₆ or LiF+KPF₆ solutions. Cobalt in BF₃ solution gives both anodic and cathodic voltage overload. Mg(BF₄)₂ exhibits anodic voltage overload. A very high c.d. anodic peak at +1.0 v is obtained in LiBF₄, but again there is virtually zero cathodic current.

(2) Butyrolactone solutions

Cobalt in BF₃ solution results in voltage overload due to very high anodic current densities. No anodic peak is obtained in PF₅ solution, although a maximum current density of 18 ma/cm² is reached. The cathodic current

density is much lower with no peak formation. Cobalt fails to yield appreciable anodic currents in KPF_6 or $\text{LiF}+\text{KPF}_6$ solutions.

(3) Dimethylformamide solutions

Very high anodic currents are generally indicated for cobalt in dimethylformamide solutions of BF_3 , PF_5 , and $\text{Mg}(\text{BF}_4)_2$, resulting in voltage overload. A well-defined anodic peak is obtained in LiPF_6 solution, but no cathodic reaction is evident until about -0.9 v. The cyclic voltammogram is shown in Figure 35 (CV-1398). Curves obtained at higher sweep rates (80 and 200 mv/sec) also show no cathodic reaction, but multiple anodic peaks are evident indicating three separate anodic reactions. Figure 36 (CV-1395) shows the 200 mv/sec sweep curve. If the three anodic peaks are indicative of the sequential oxidation, $\text{Co} \longrightarrow \text{Co}^{+1} \longrightarrow \text{Co}^{+2} \longrightarrow \text{Co}^{+3}$, then only the first oxidation occurs at the lowest sweep rate (Figure 35) which is nearest in time to steady state conditions. Cobalt in LiBF_4 solution shows virtually no anodic current until +0.95 v where a high range peak is obtained. A medium low cathodic peak is obtained at -0.95 v, representing a peak displacement of nearly 2.0 v. No appreciable anodic currents are obtained in KPF_6 and $\text{LiF}+\text{KPF}_6$ solutions.

(4) Propylene carbonate solutions

Cobalt in KPF_6 and $\text{LiF}+\text{KPF}_6$ solutions results in current densities less than $0.1 \text{ ma/cm}^2/\text{cm}$ division, indicating the inability to be electrooxidized in these solutions. Voltage overload is obtained in BF_3 solution. In PF_5 solution, cobalt exhibits a low anodic current density peaking out broadly at +1.0 volt, and a negligible cathodic current. Cobalt in LiBF_4 solution gives a low anodic peak at +0.75 v and zero cathodic current. LiPF_6 solution shows low anodic and cathodic peaks at +0.9 v and -0.9 v respectively.

k. Cobalt Oxide Electrode

(1) Acetonitrile solutions

Low current peaks are obtained for cobalt oxide in LiPF_6 solution (Figure 37, CV-1376), and medium high peaks in KPF_6 solution (Figure 38, CV-1259). The excessive activation polarization makes these systems undesirable for battery application.

Cobalt oxide undergoes negligible reaction in butyrolactone, propylene carbonate, and dimethylformamide solutions of KPF_6 and $\text{LiF}+\text{KPF}_6$, as well as in propylene carbonate- LiPF_6 solution. In dimethylformamide- LiPF_6 , the cyclic voltammogram is similar to that for cobalt in the same solution (Figure 35) except that the anodic peak is much broader.

l. Cobalt Fluoride Electrode

In all systems studied, cyclic voltammograms of cobalt fluoride exhibit negligible currents.

m. Zinc Electrode

The effect of solute concentration was determined in the case for zinc in dimethylformamide- KPF_6 . A 1.75 m solution gives the cyclic voltammogram shown in Figure 39 (CV-1313). The corresponding curve for 0.75 m was reported earlier (Ref. 1, Figure 52). The higher concentration electrolyte gives a cyclic voltammogram whose peak current densities are half that for the lower concentration. In addition the ΔV_p value is decreased from 320 to 70 mv. These results confirm the high reversibility of the Zn/dimethylformamide- KPF_6 system.

The addition of 1000 ppm water to dimethylformamide- KPF_6 solution results in the very peculiar cyclic voltammogram shown in Figure 40 (CV-1318).

Peaks A and B are the original peaks (in the absence of water) with an additional reaction occurring 0.70 volt negative to this. The secondary cathodic peak C is shifted 0.3 volts more cathodic at the 200 mv sweep rate. Addition of 2000 ppm water results in poorly reproducible curves, but which are consistent in exhibiting two pronounced cathodic peaks of very high current density at about 0.0 and -0.9 volts. Only low spurious anodic peaks are obtained. Obviously, the presence of water impurity is detrimental to this system. The anodic-cathodic reaction occurring at -0.7 v may involve formation and subsequent discharge of zinc oxide. Investigation of zinc fluoride as a cathode material would therefore require rigid exclusion of water.

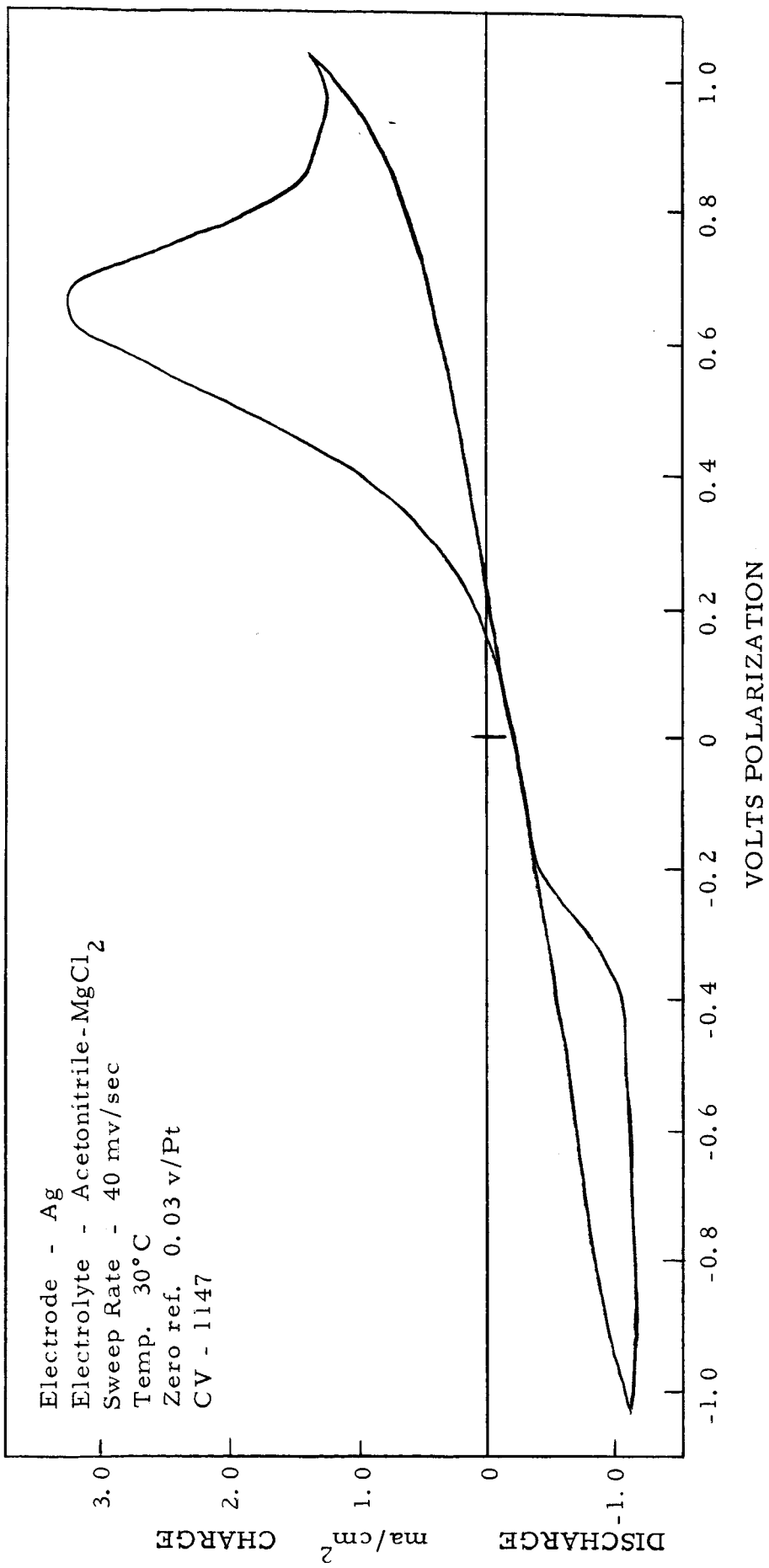


Figure 1

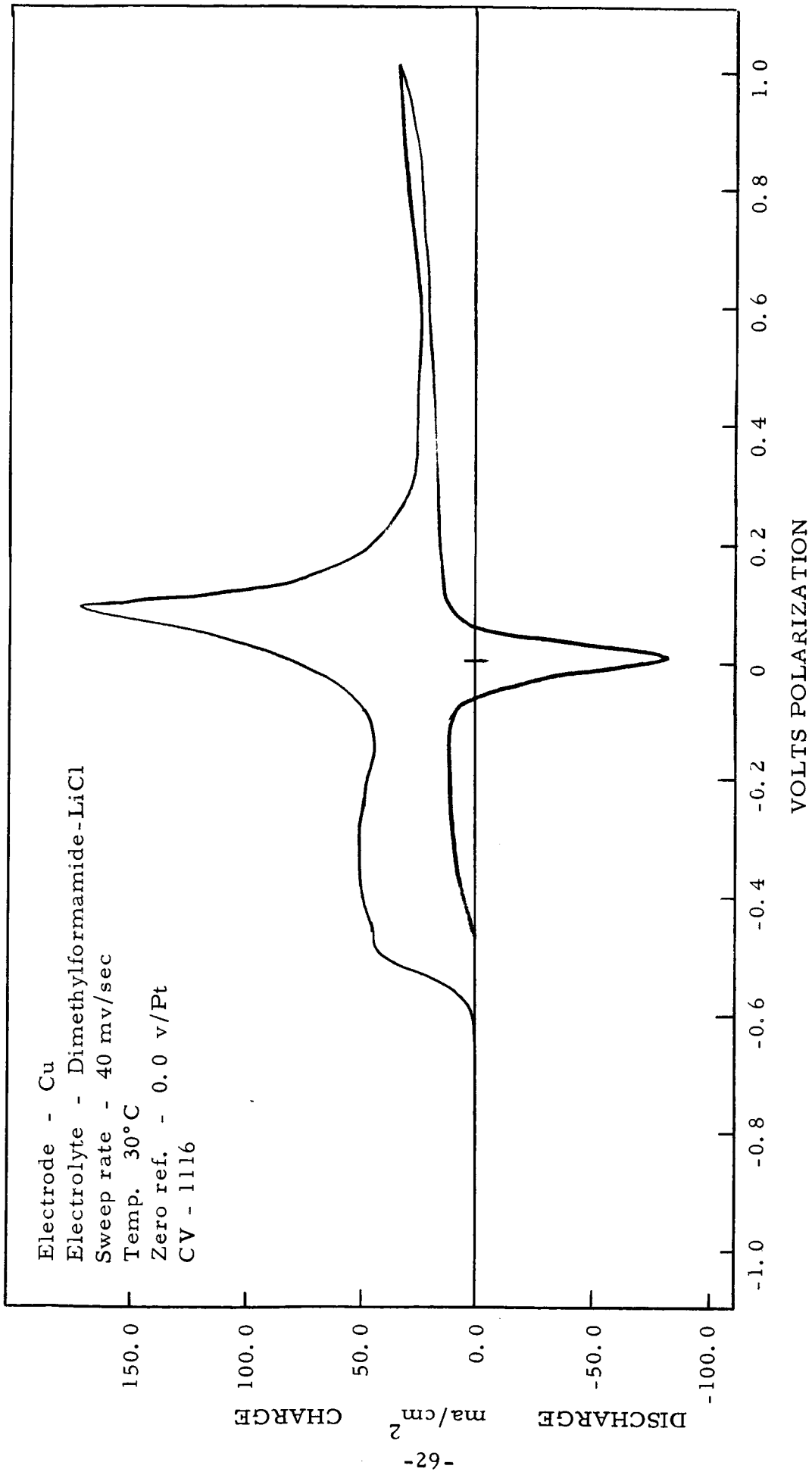


Figure 2

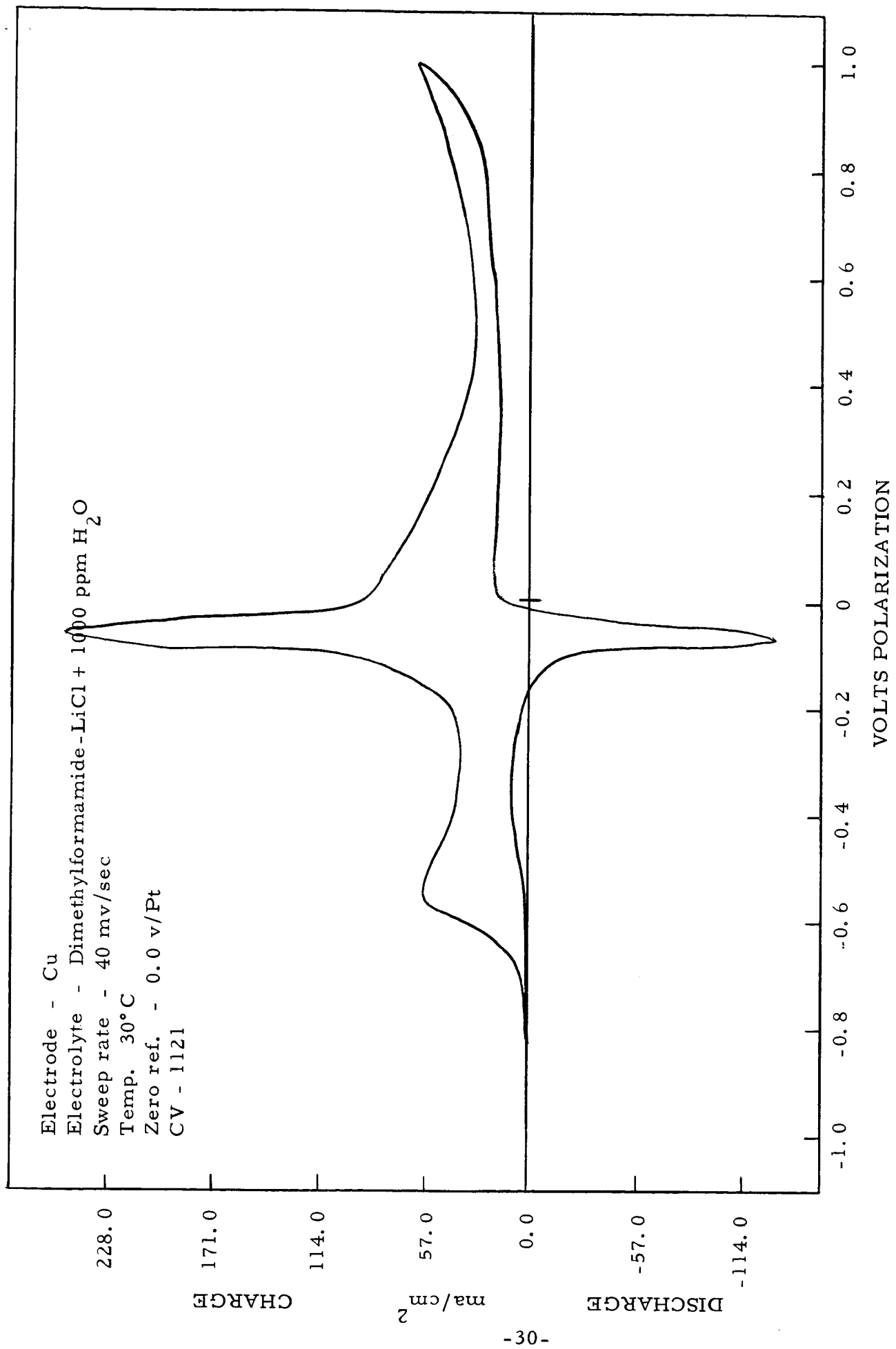


Figure 3

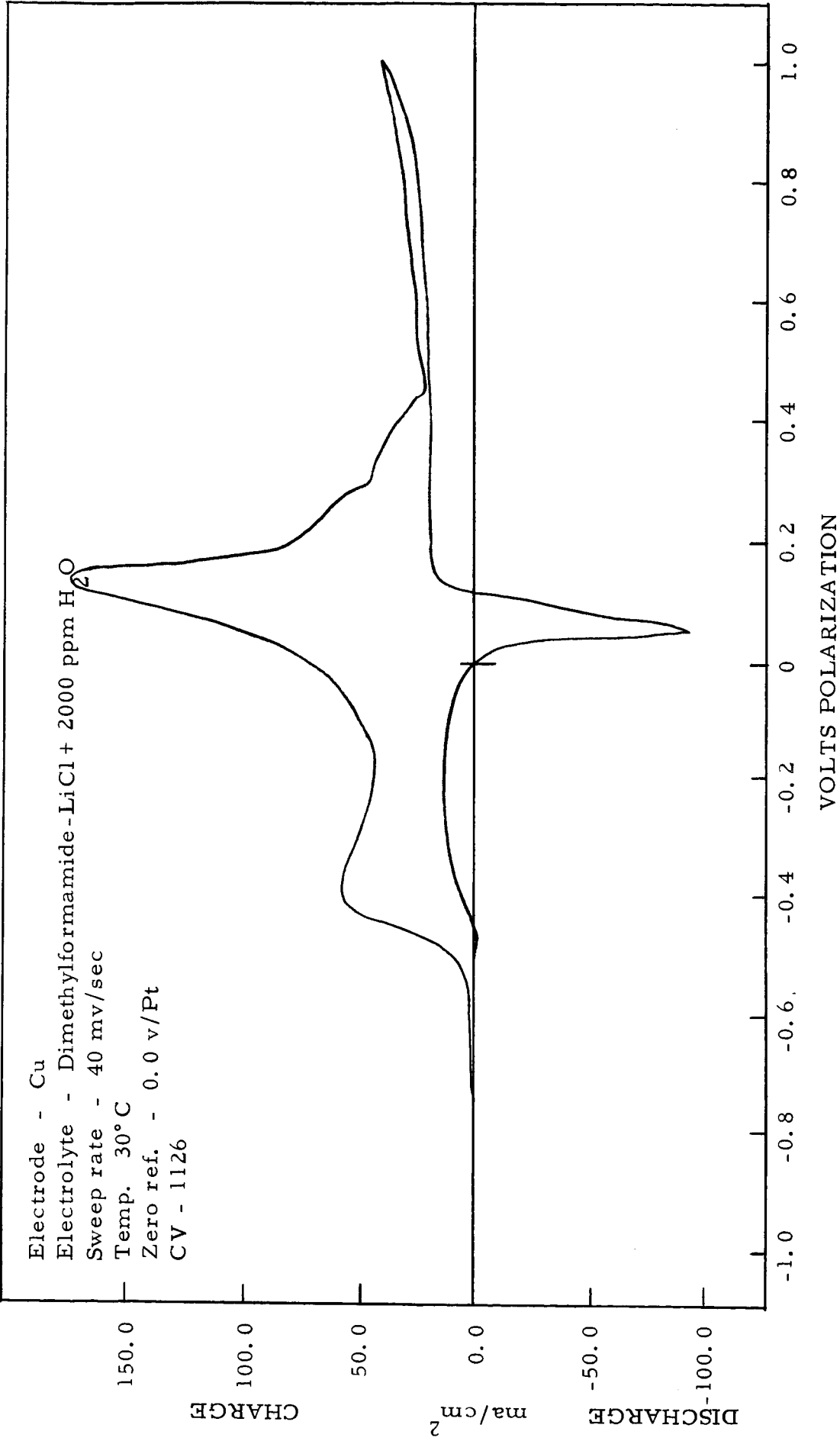


Figure 4

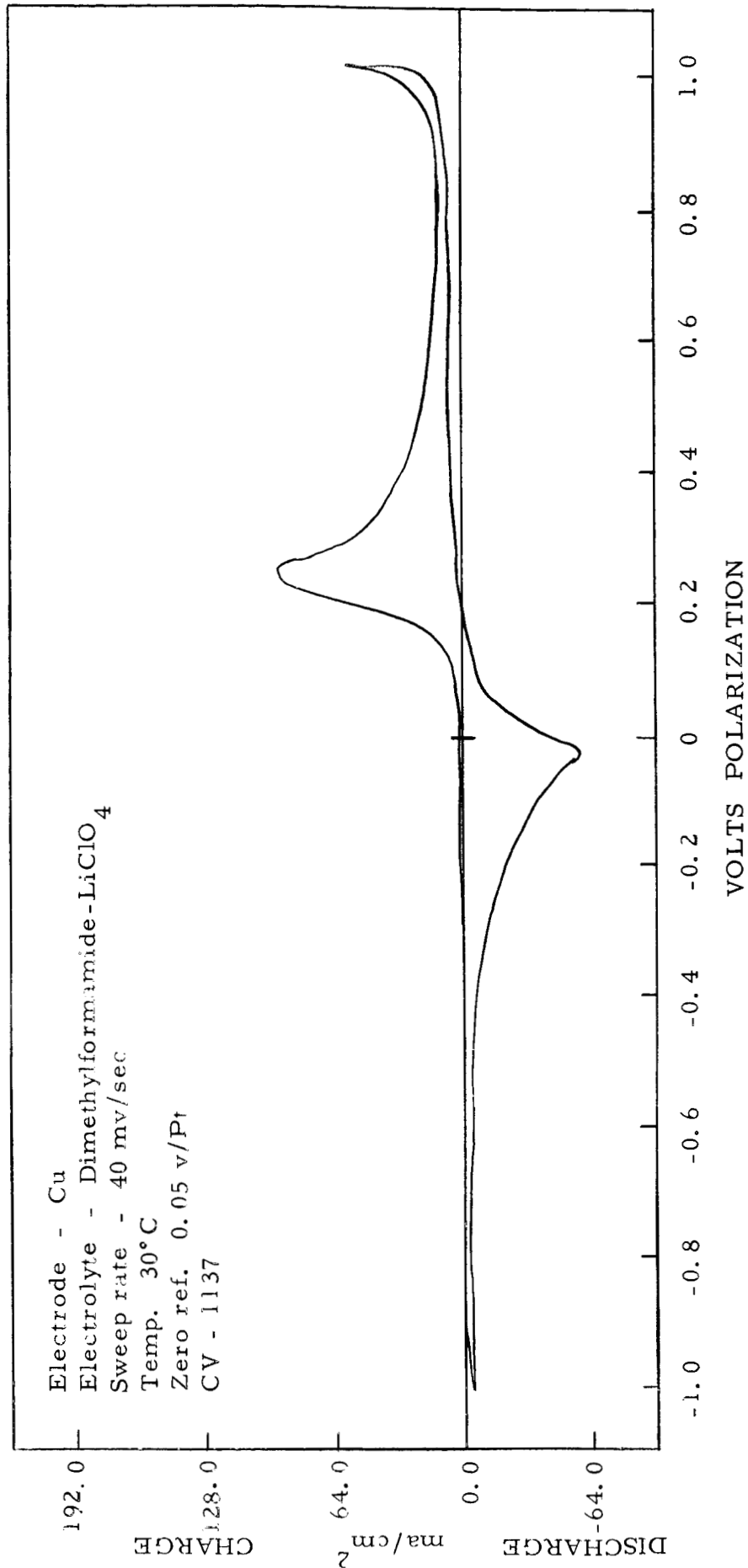


Figure 5

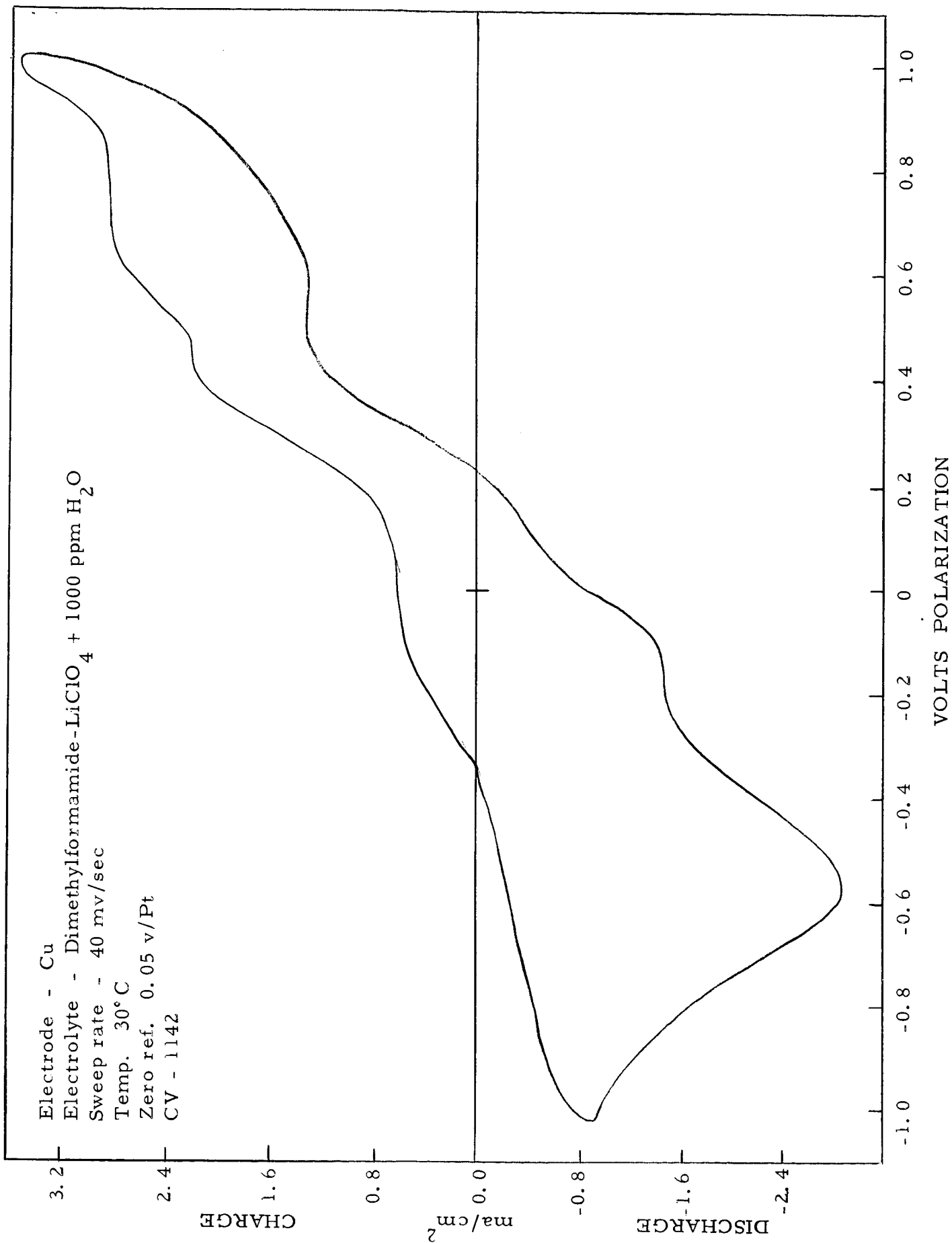


Figure 6

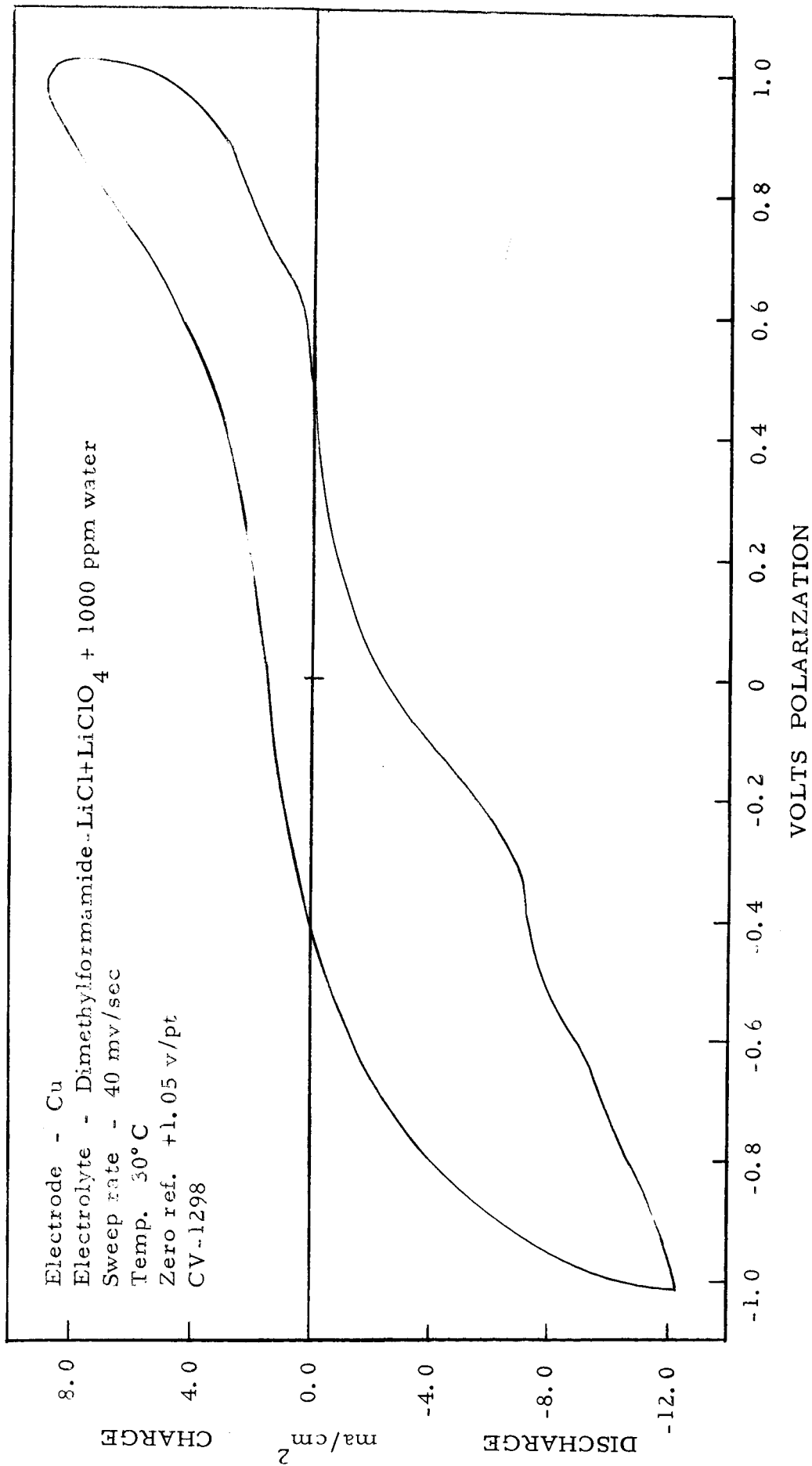


Figure 7

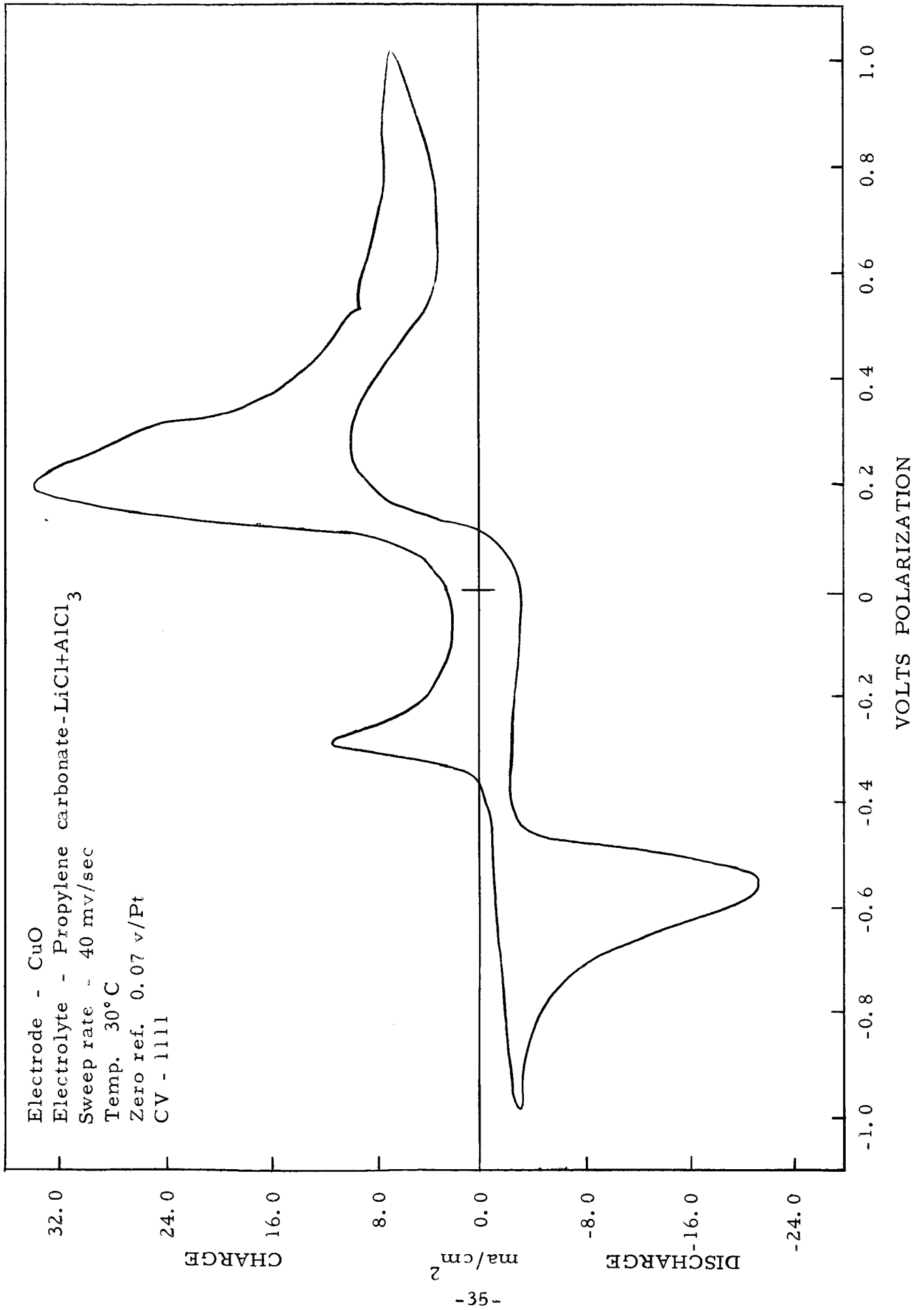


Figure 8

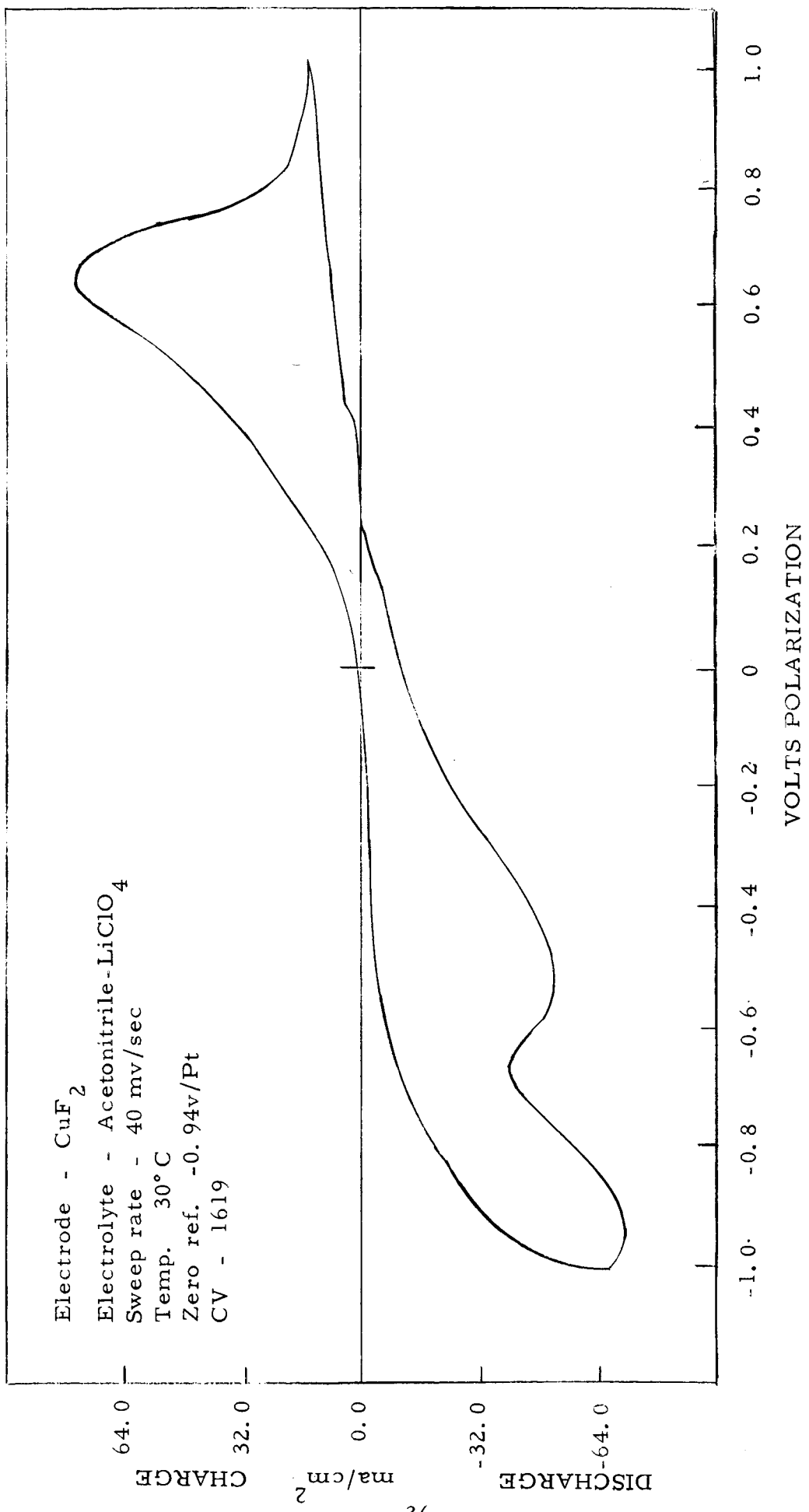


Figure 9

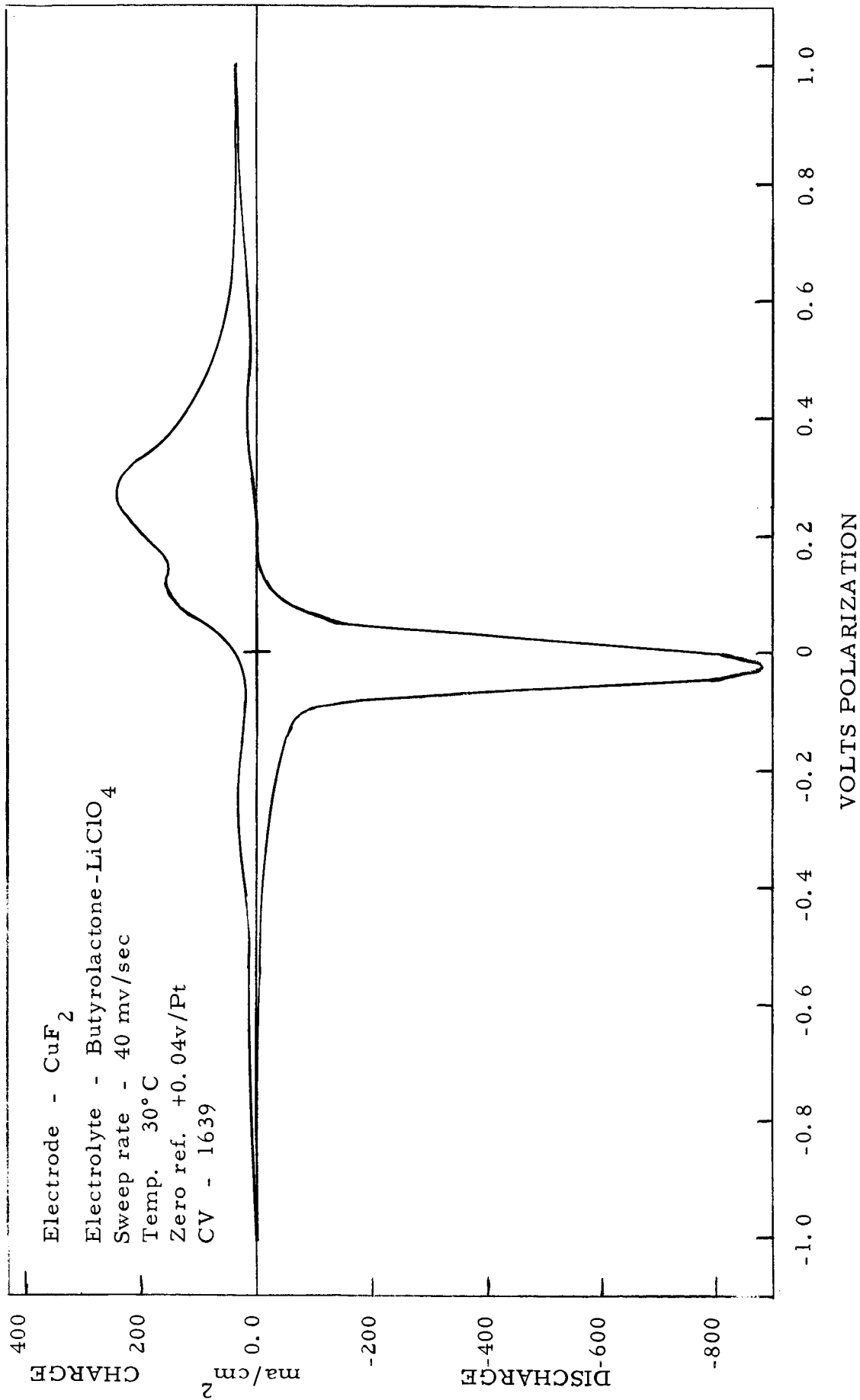


Figure 10

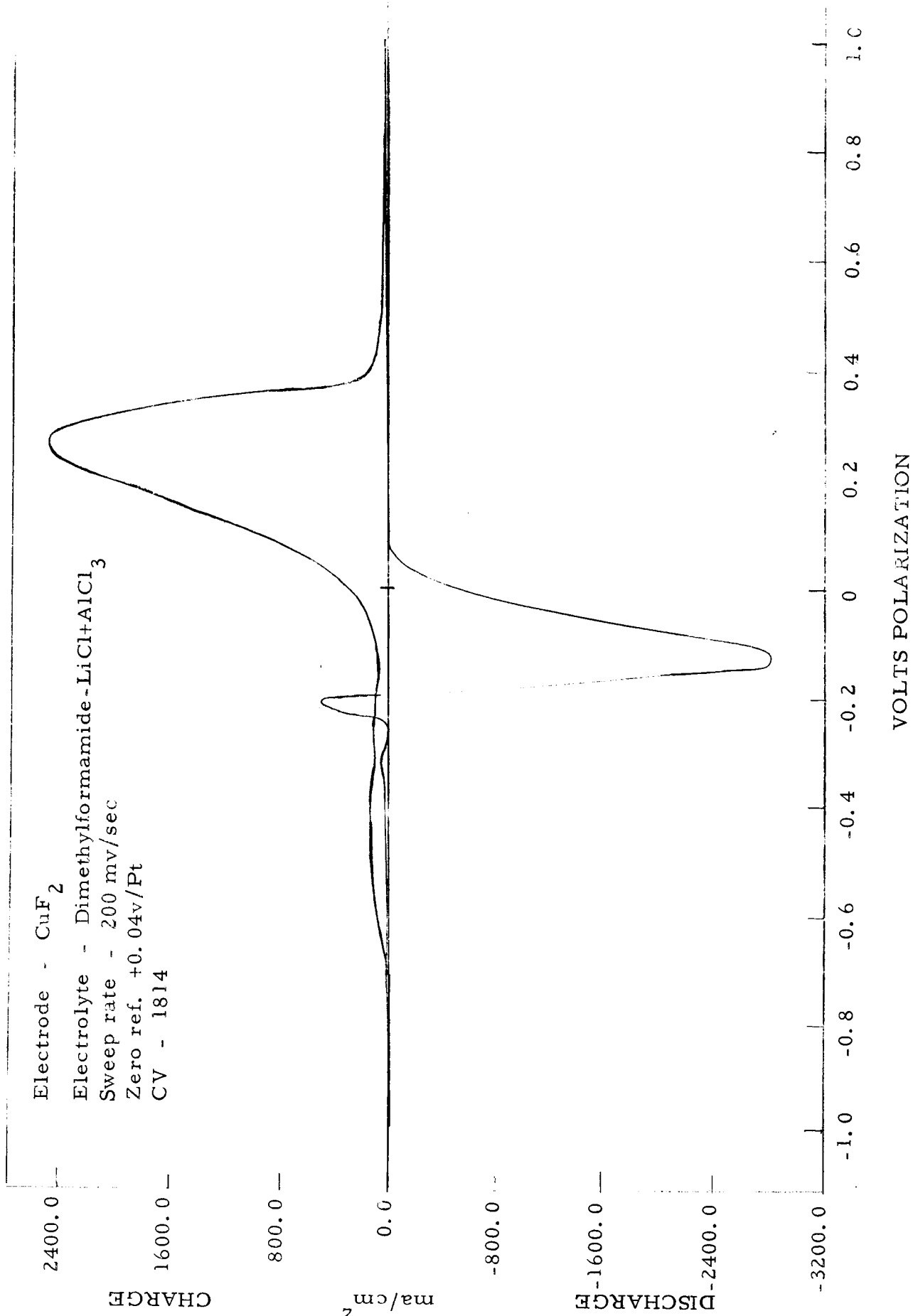


Figure 11

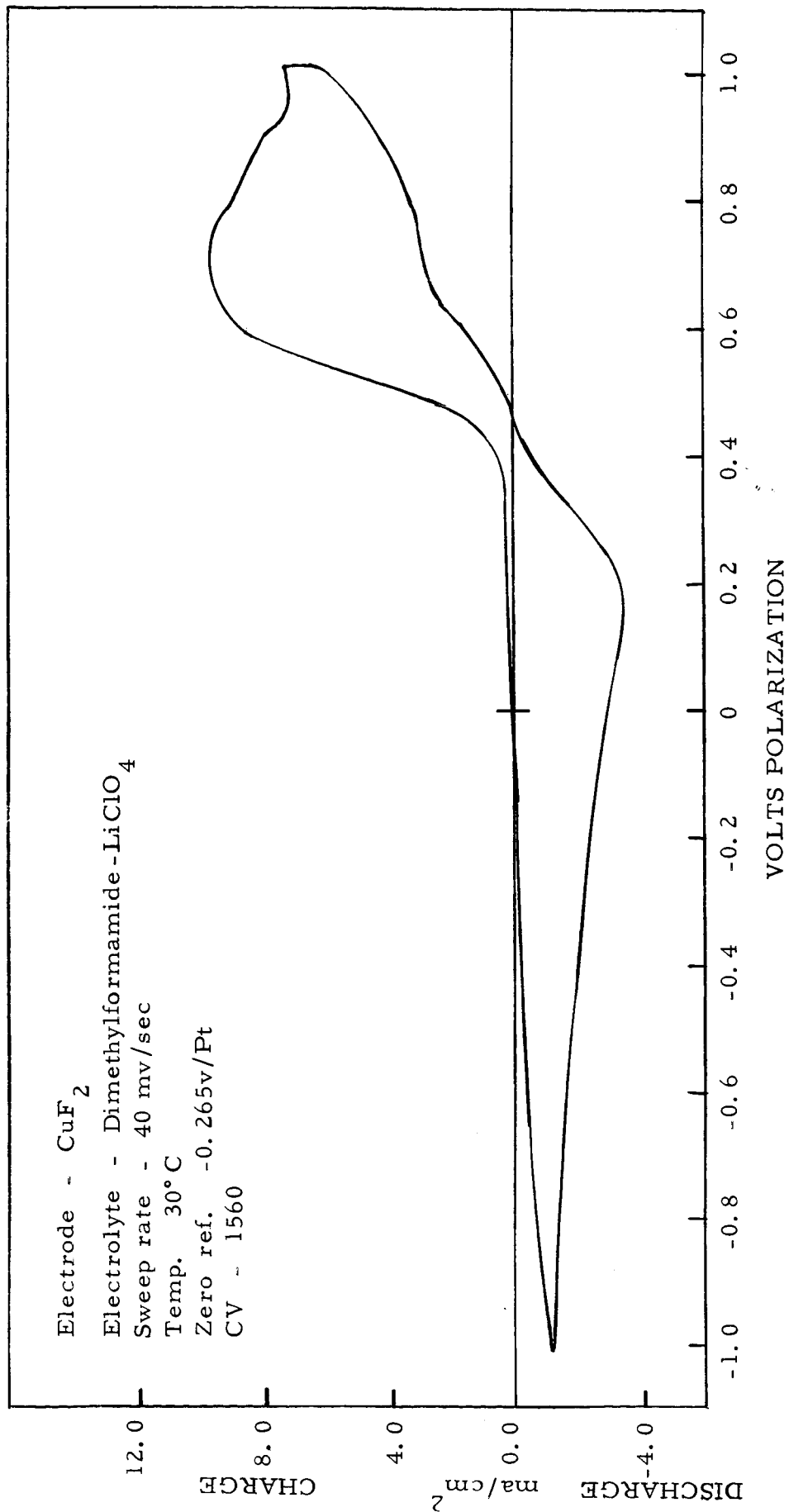


Figure 12

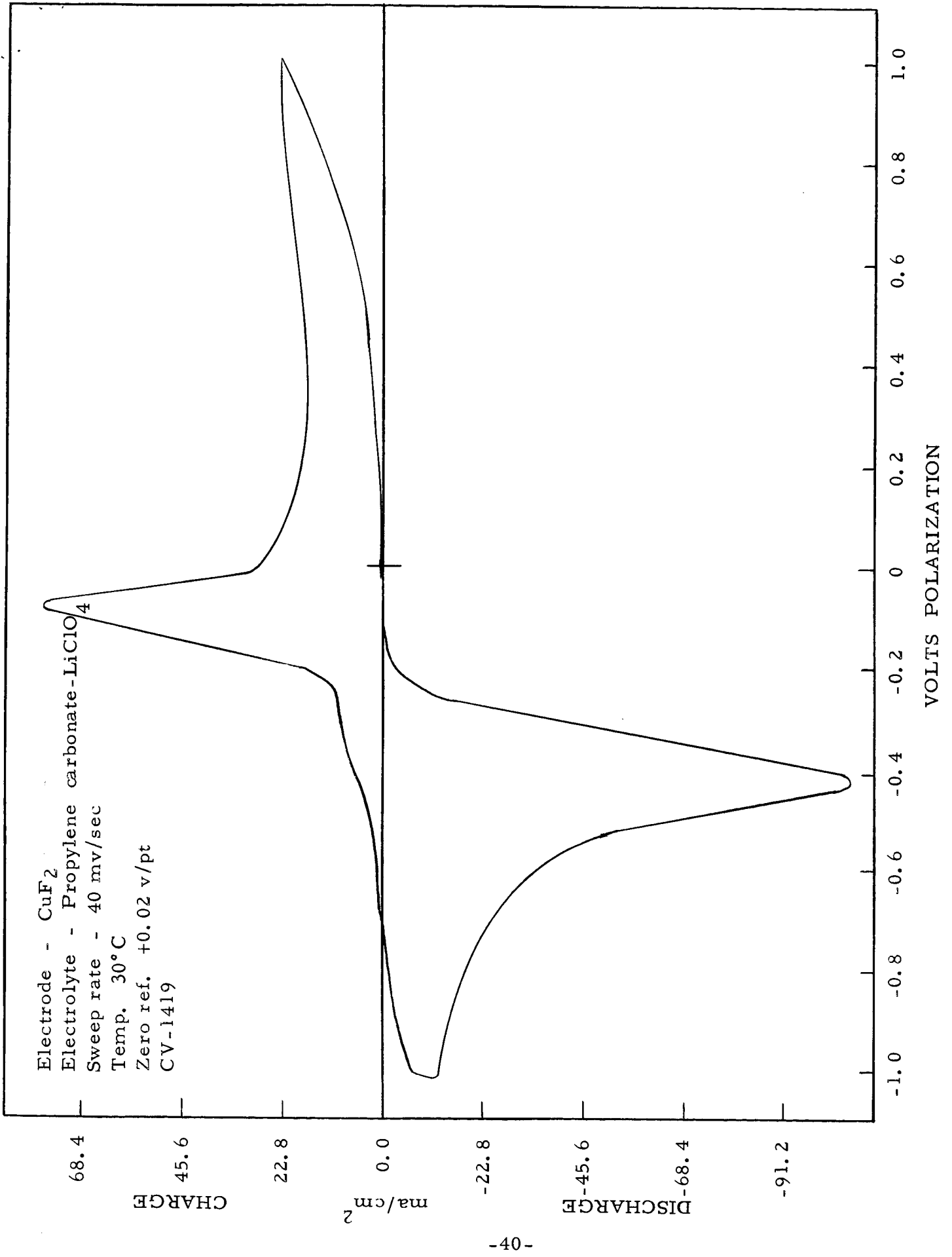


Figure 13

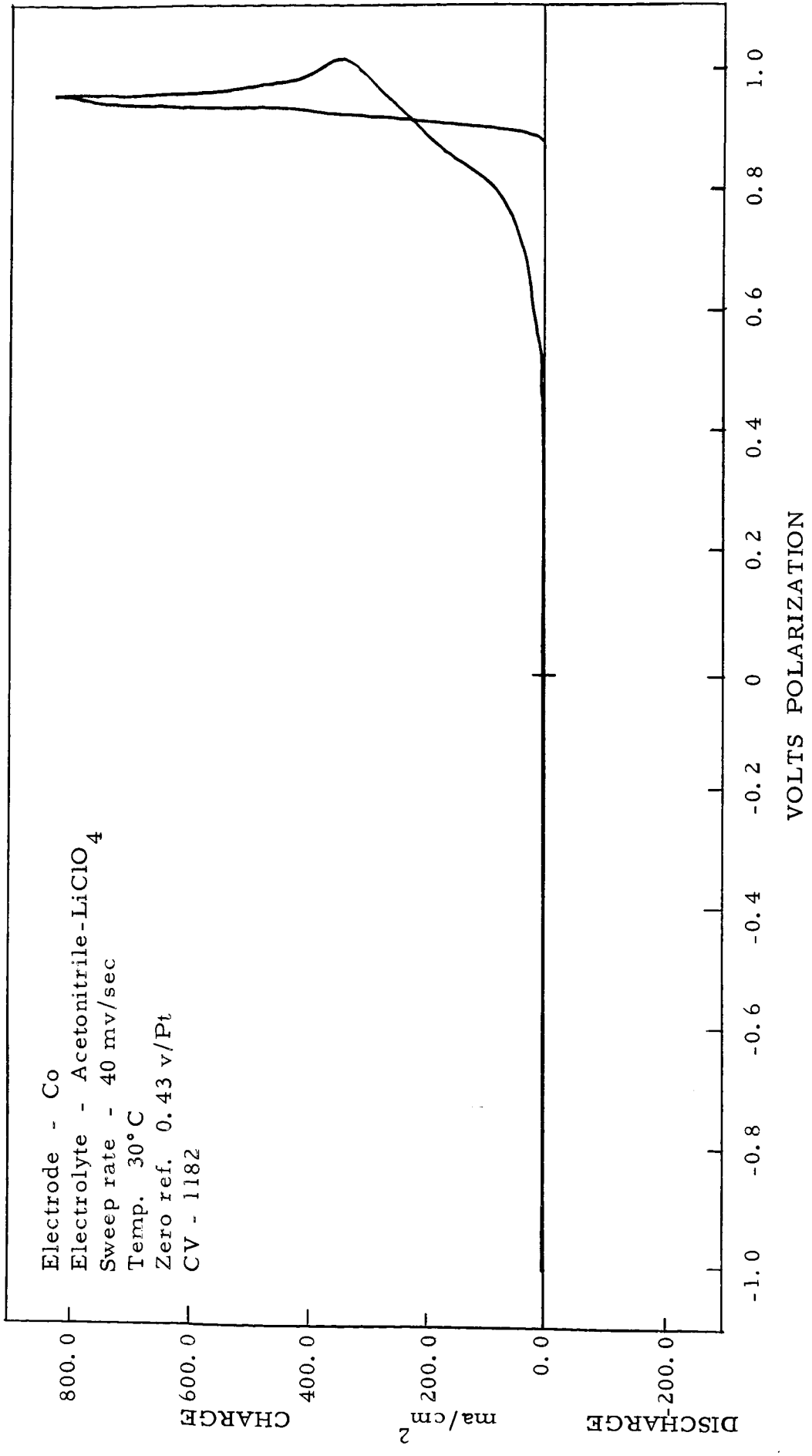


Figure 14

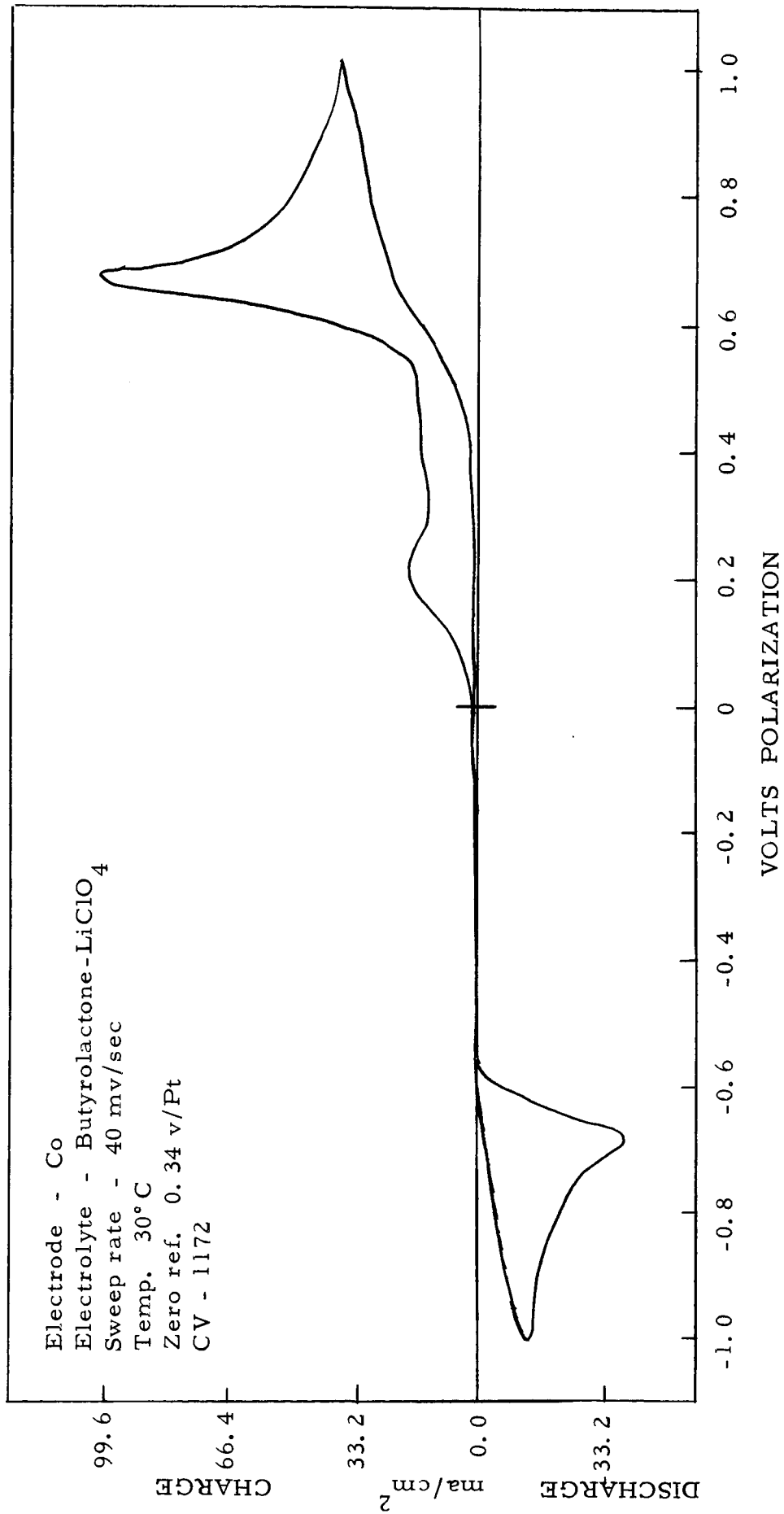


Figure 15

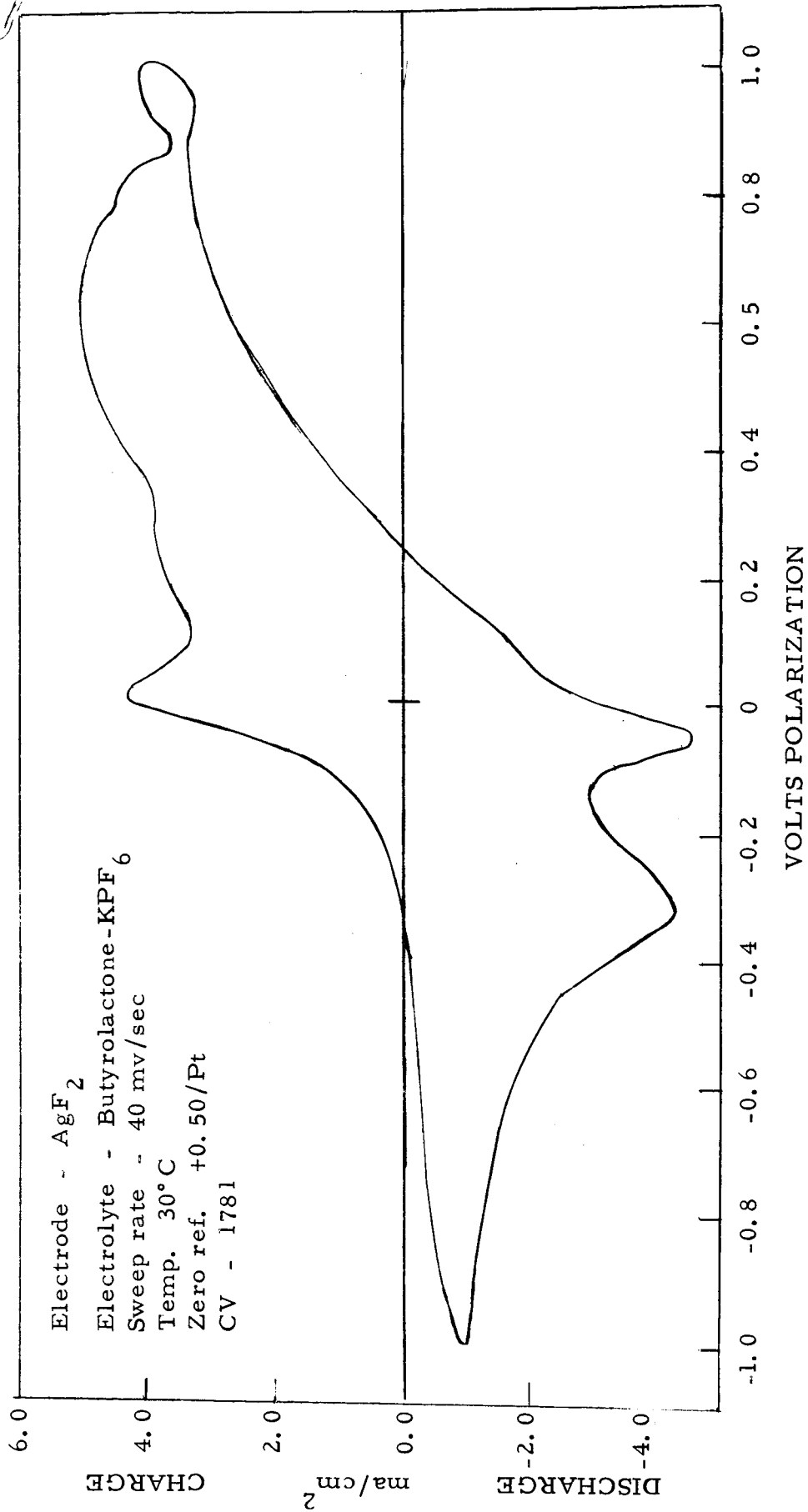


Figure 16

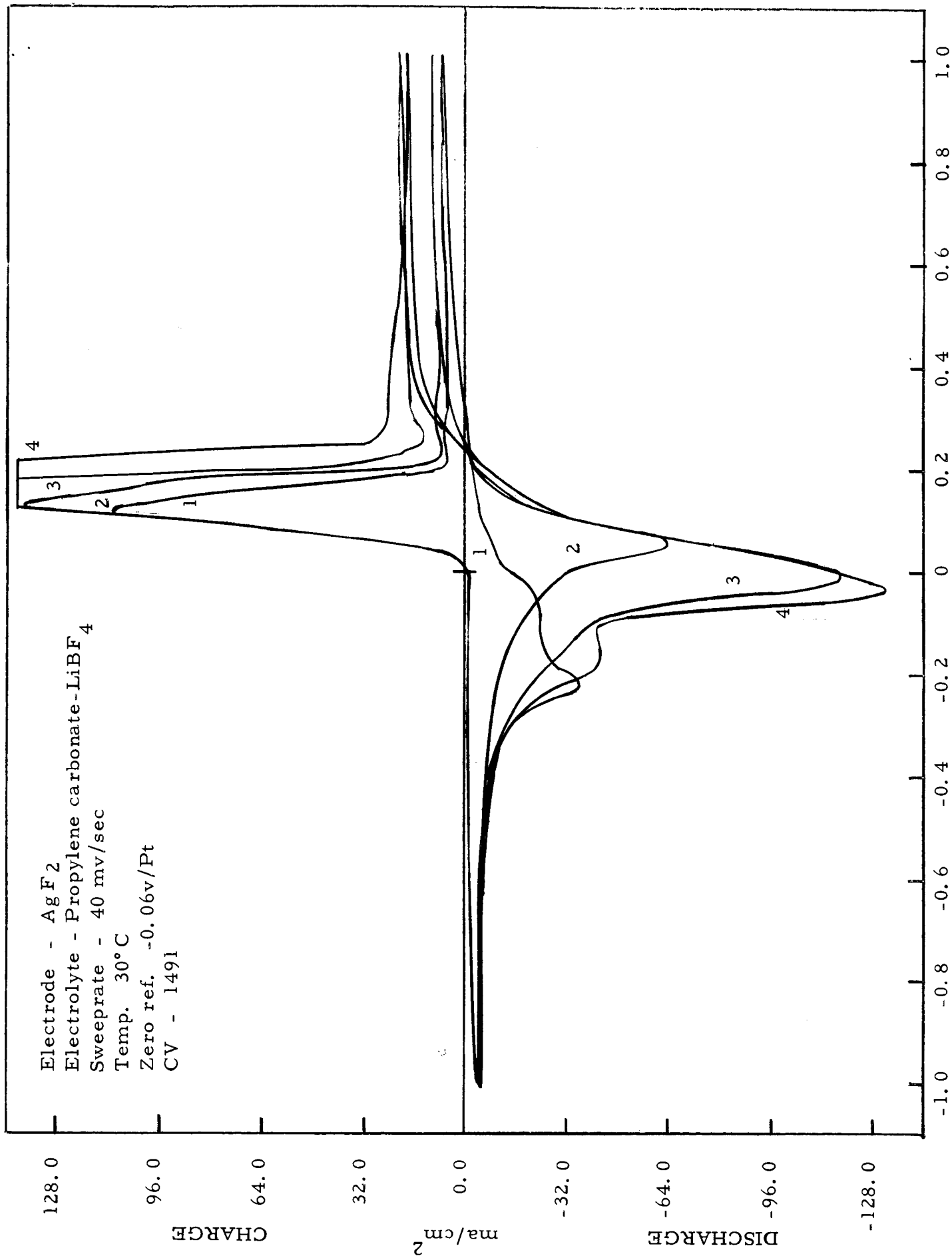


Figure 17

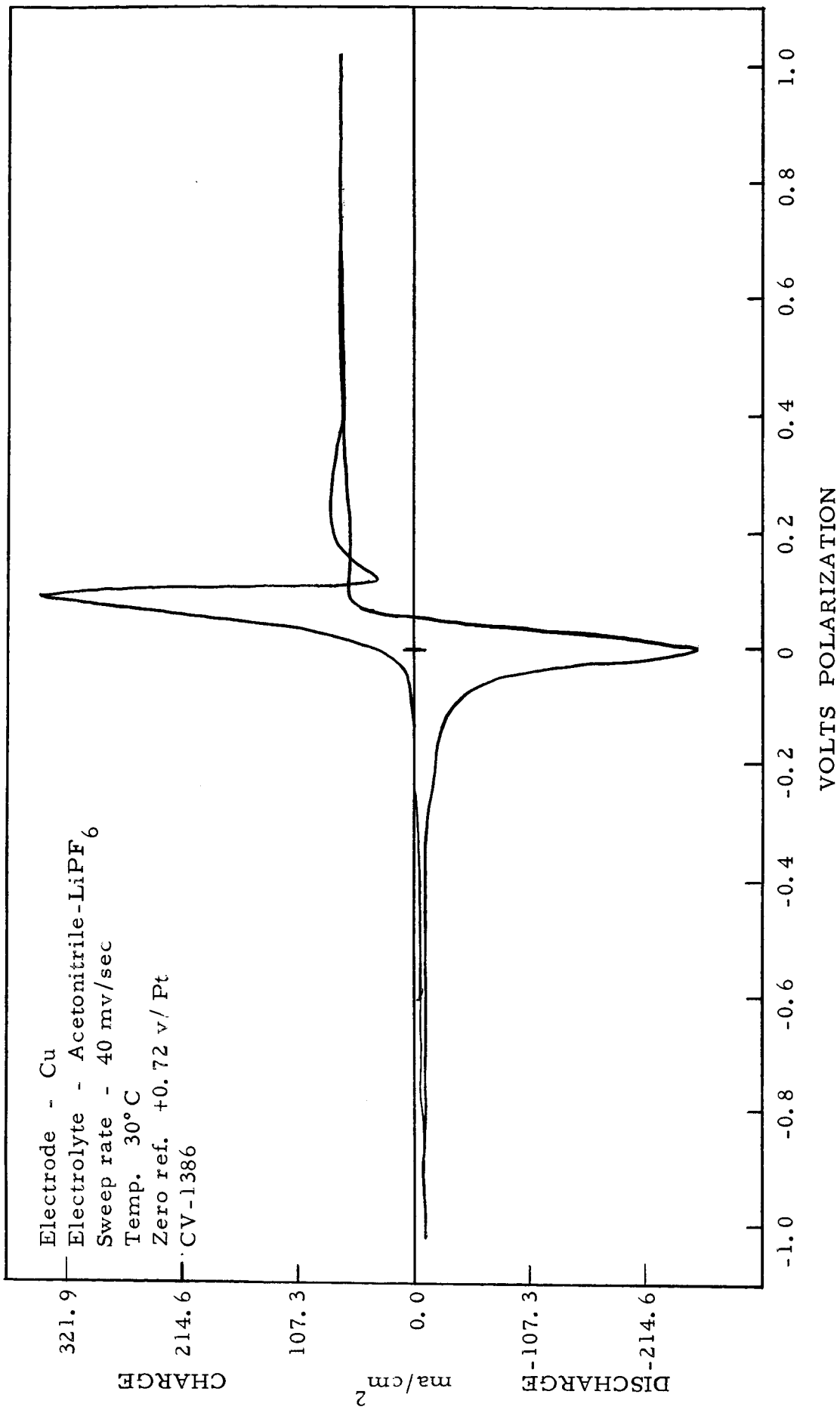


Figure 18

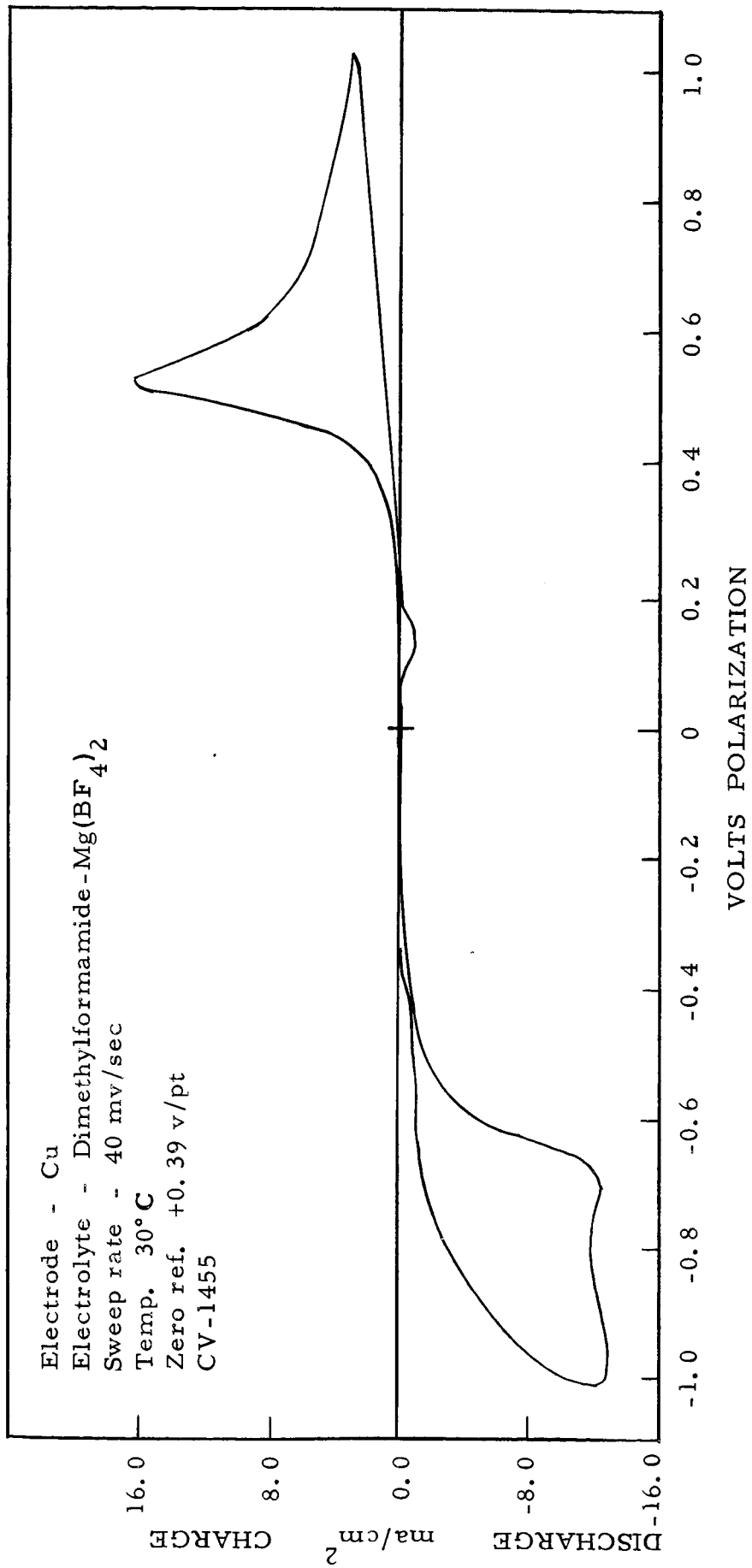


Figure 19

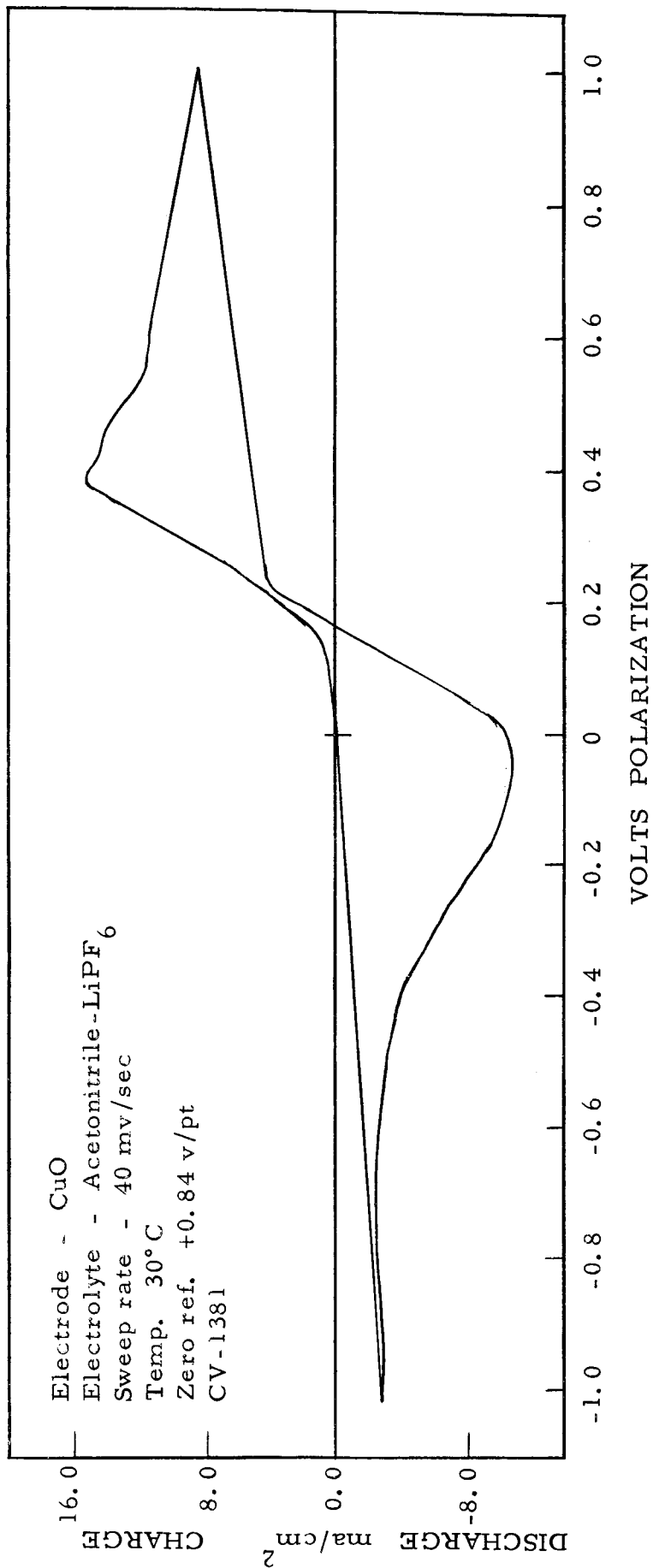


Figure 20

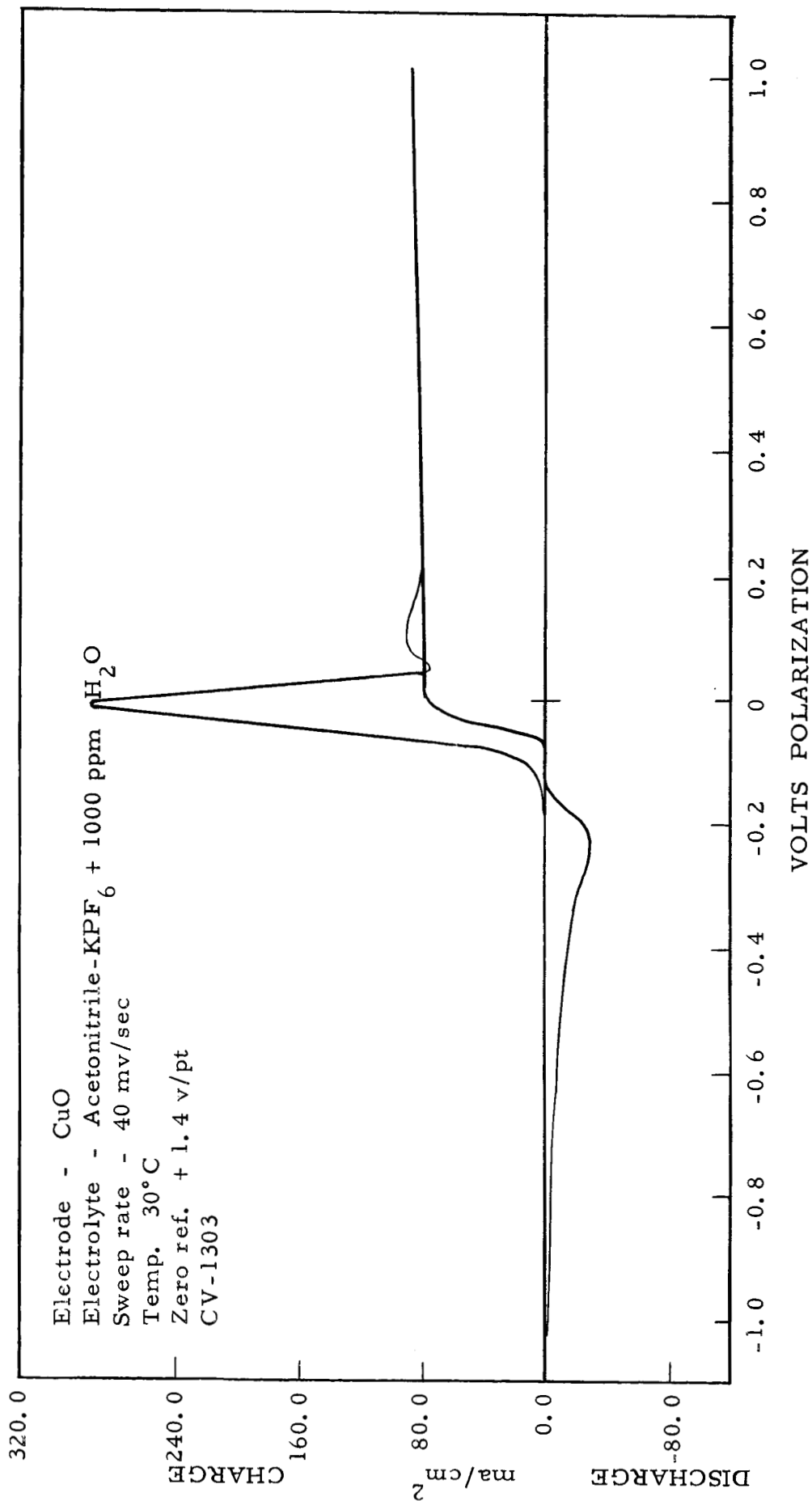


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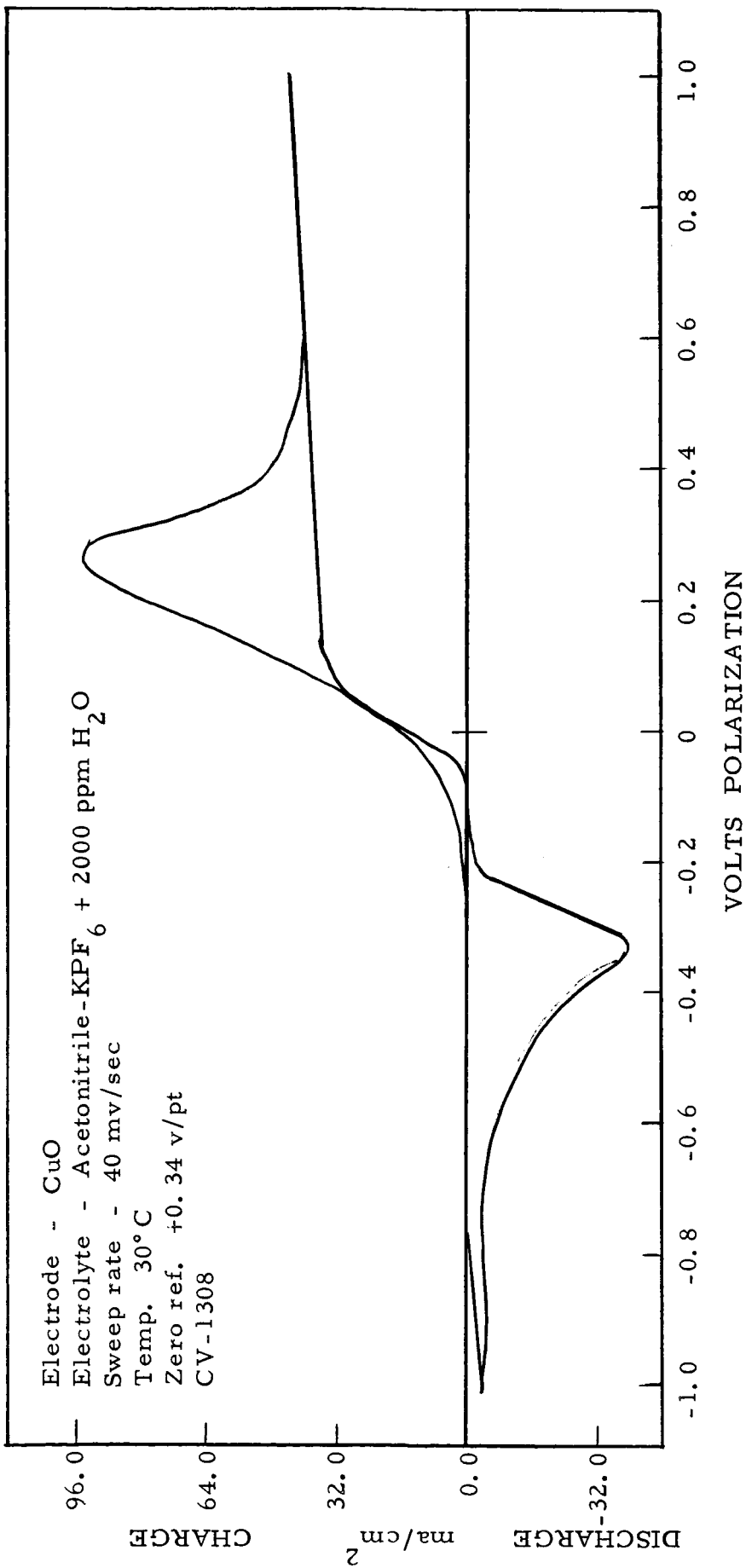


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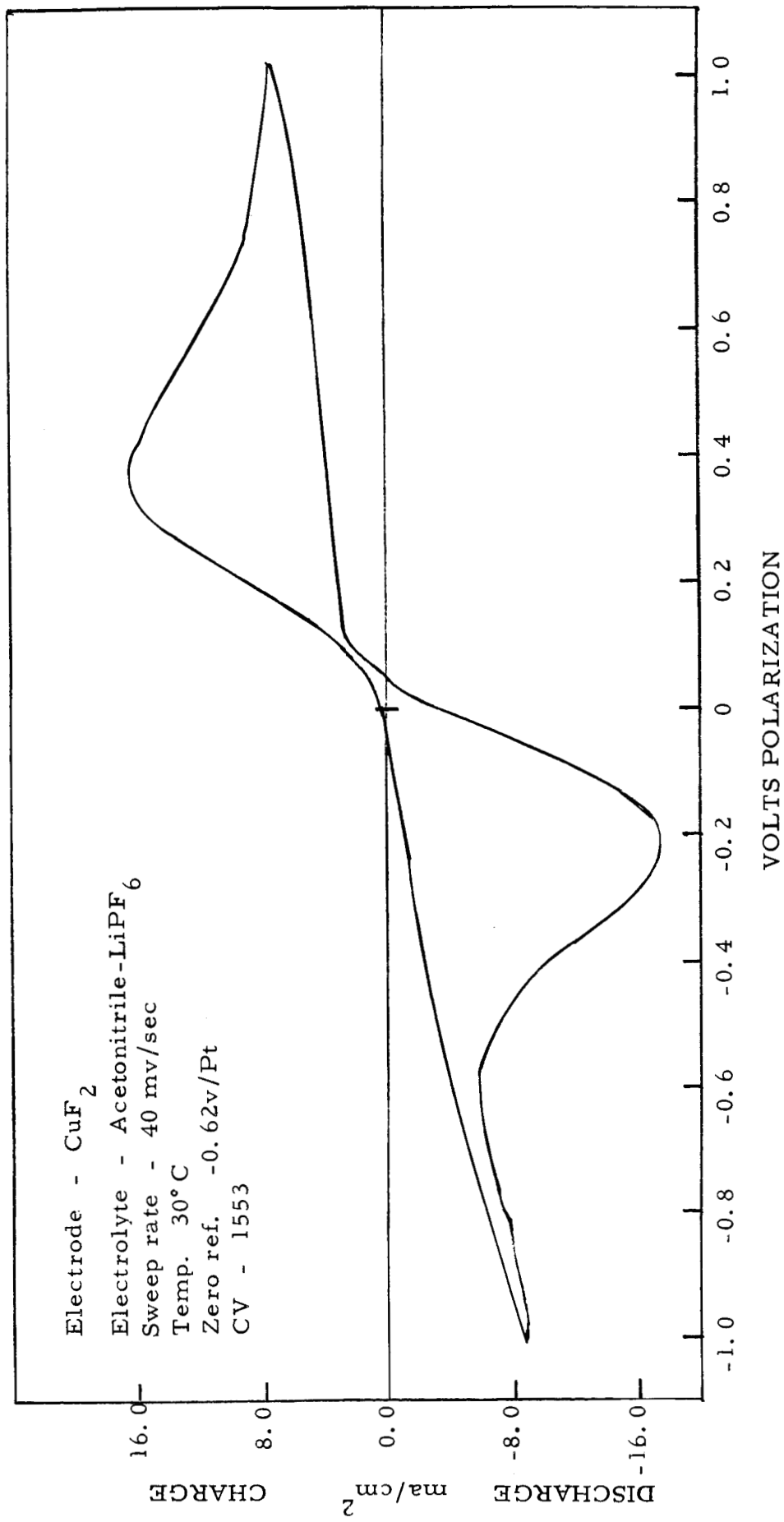


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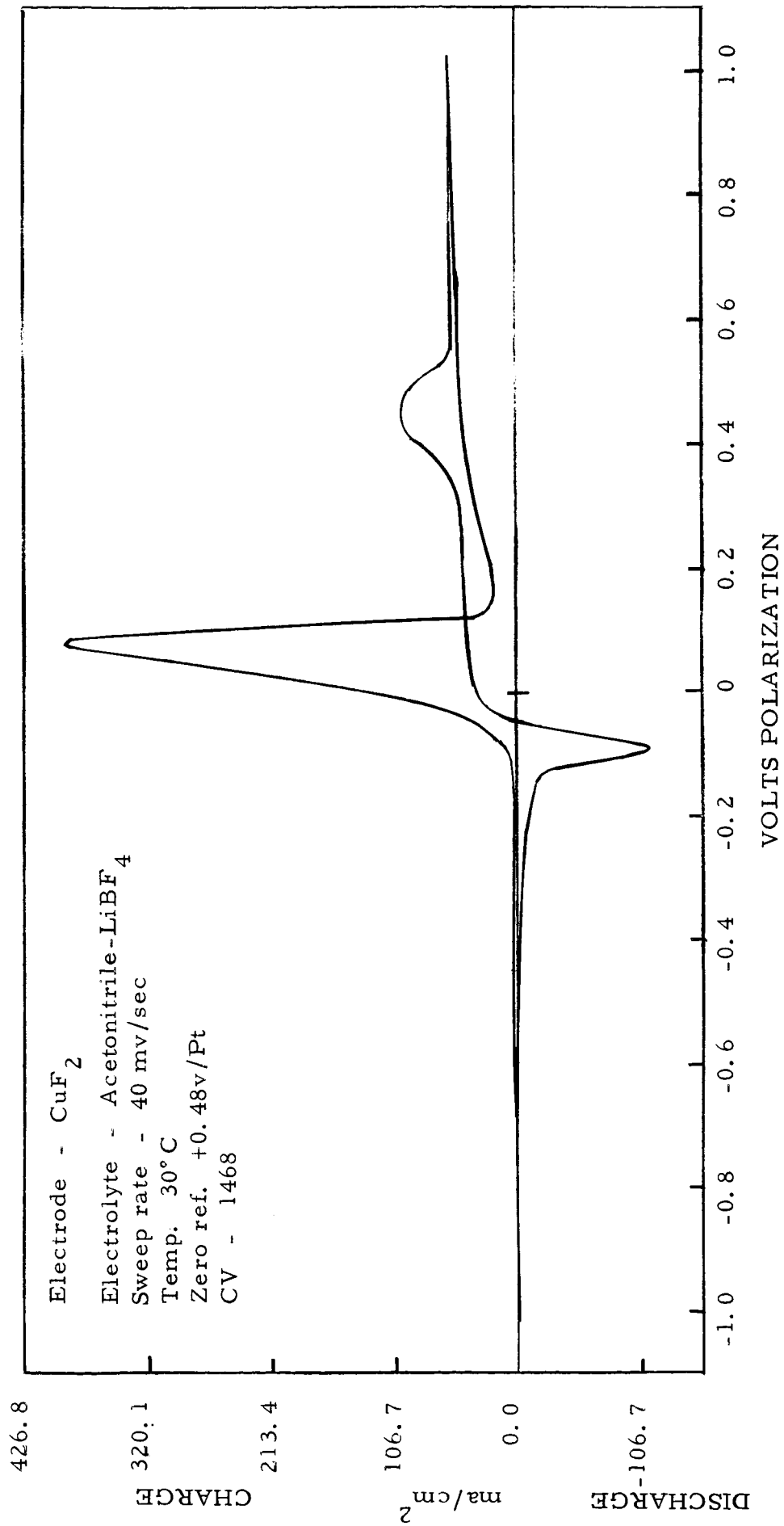


Figure 24

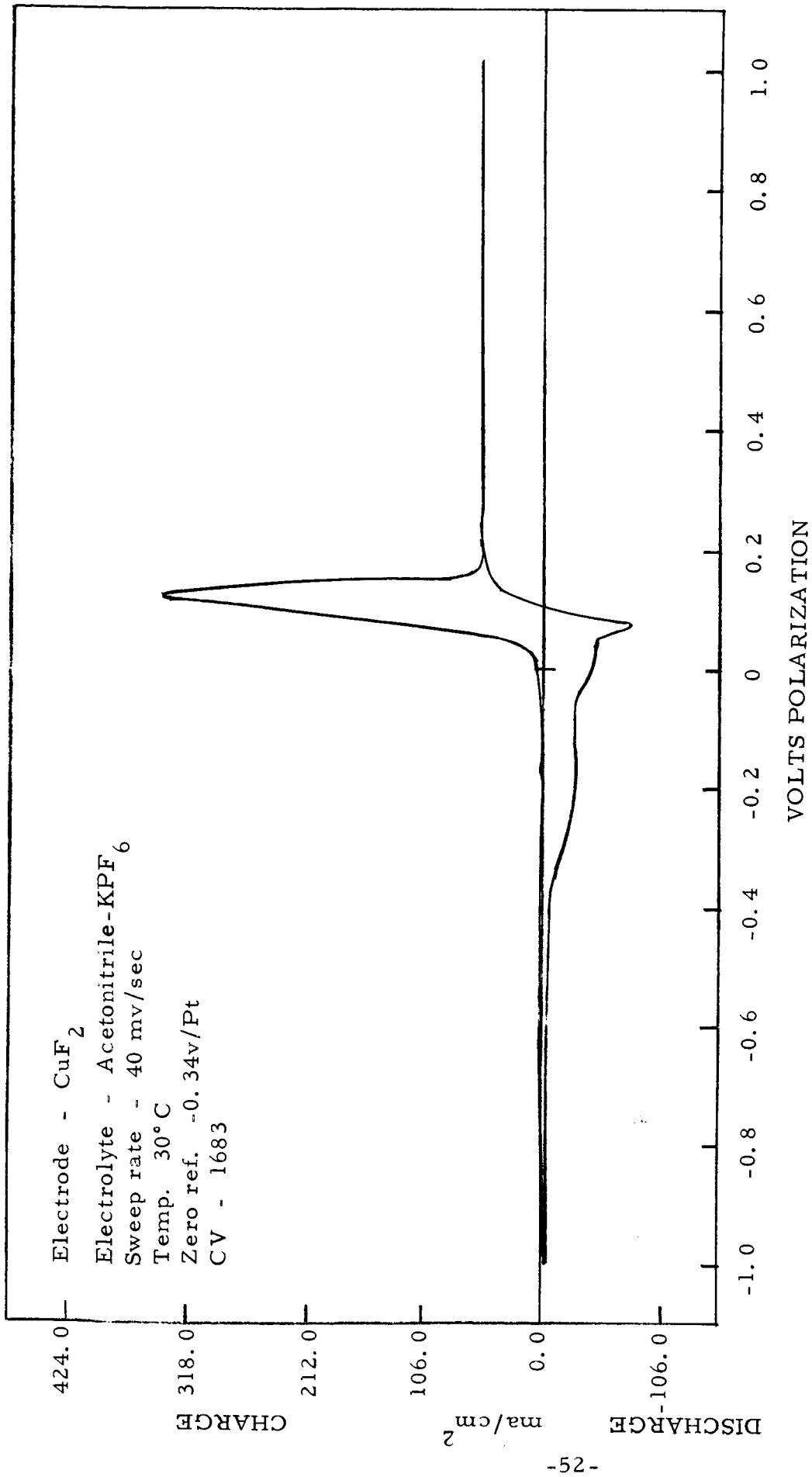


Figure 25

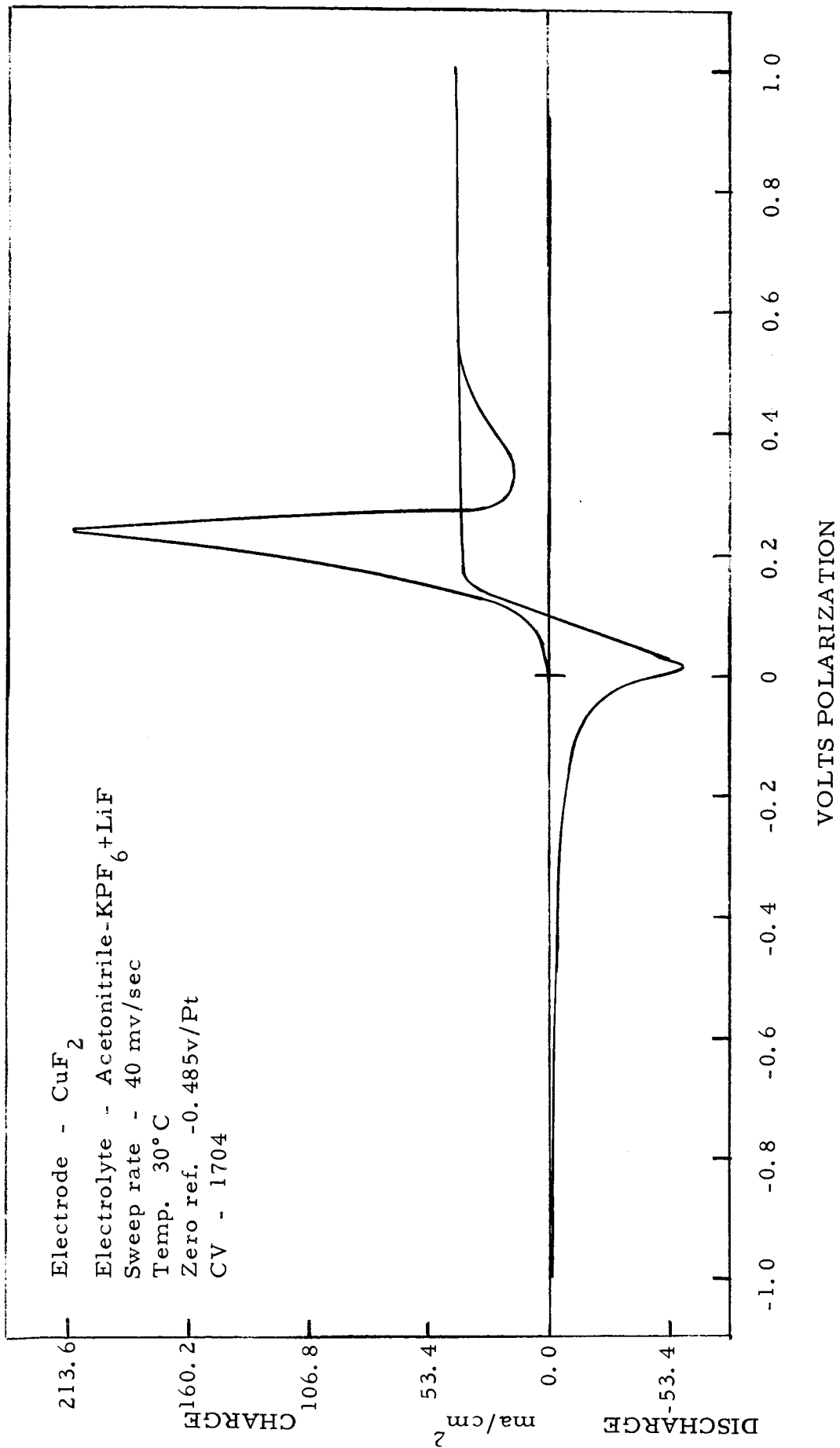


Figure 26

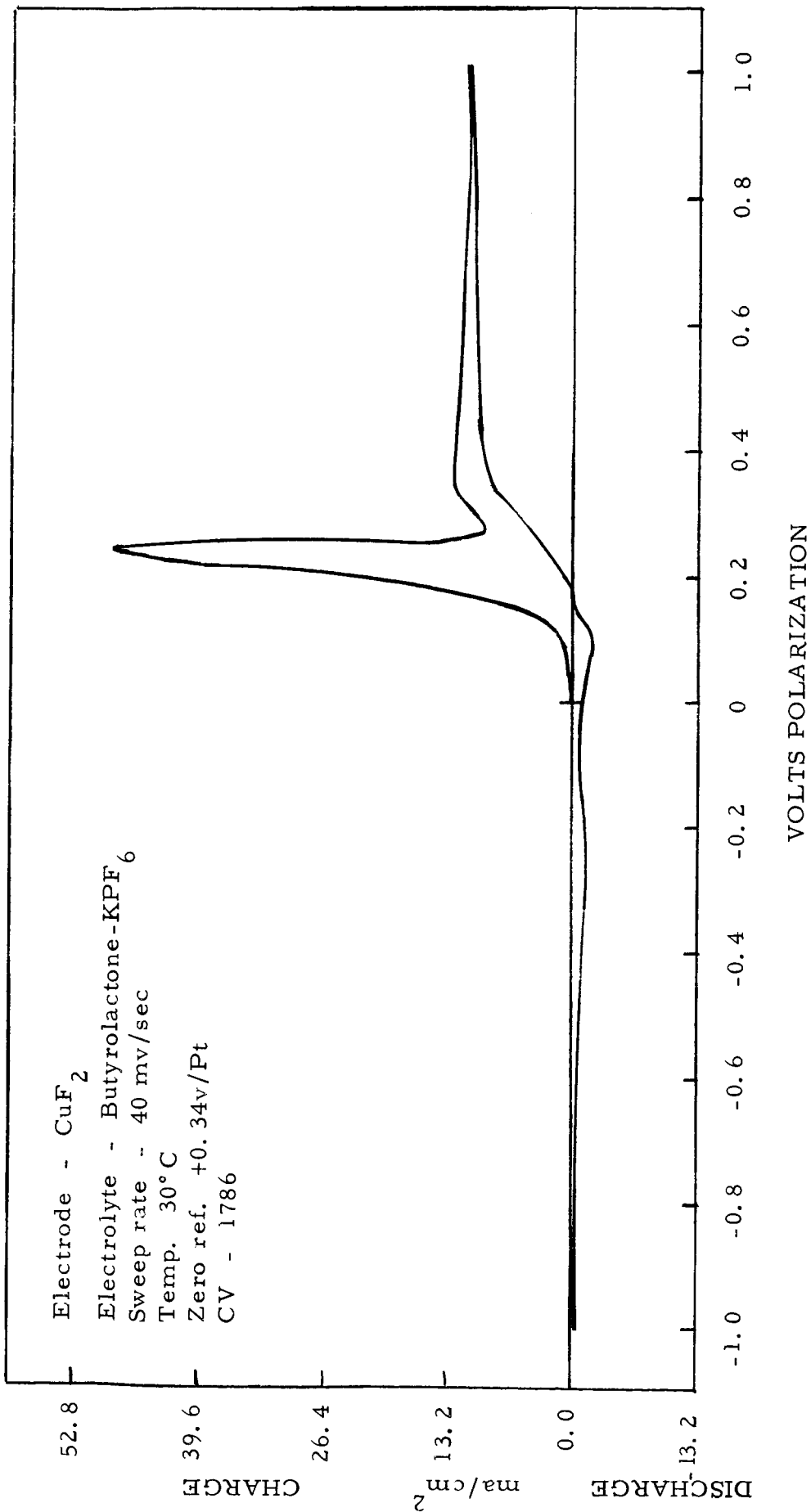


Figure 27

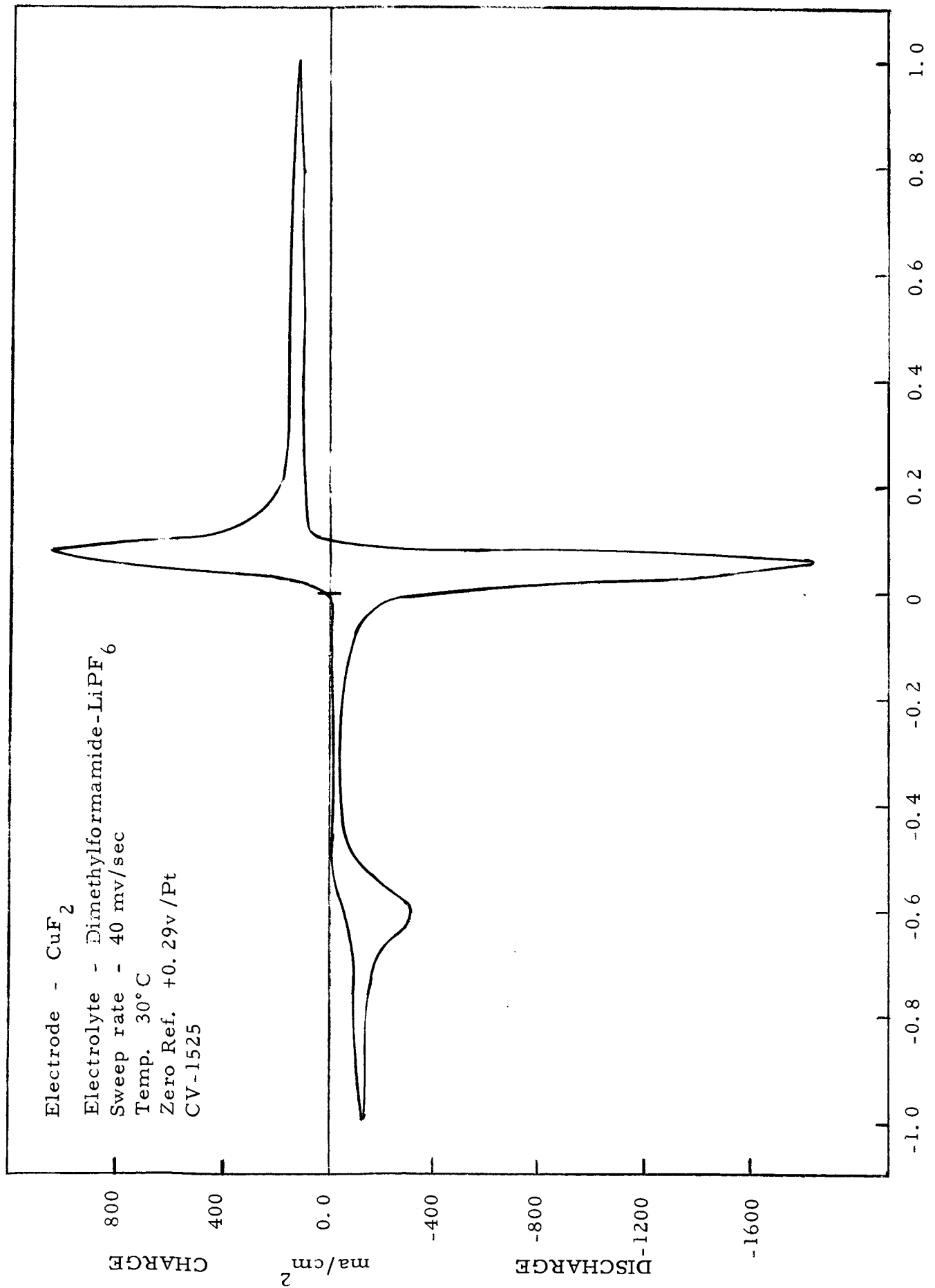


Figure 28

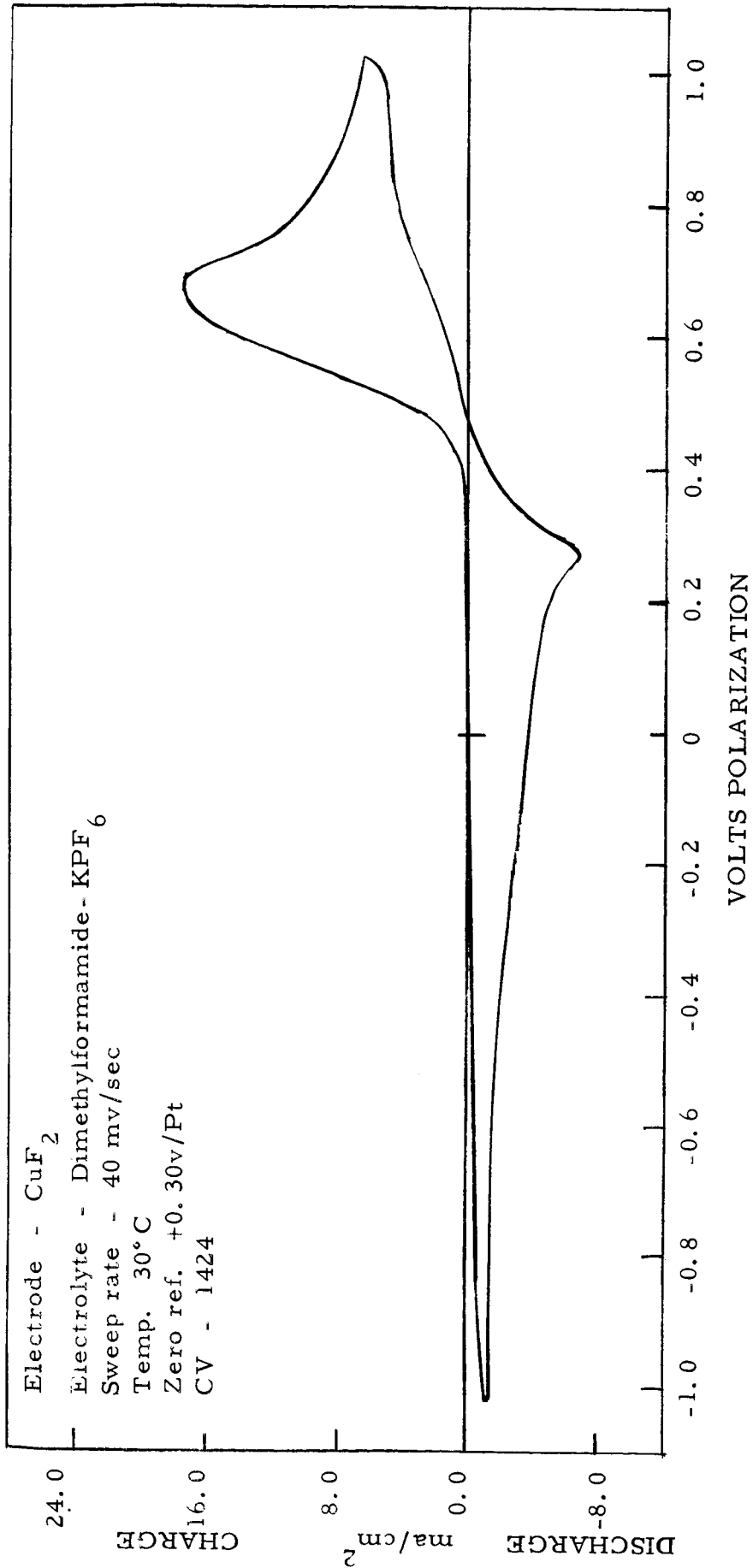


Figure 29

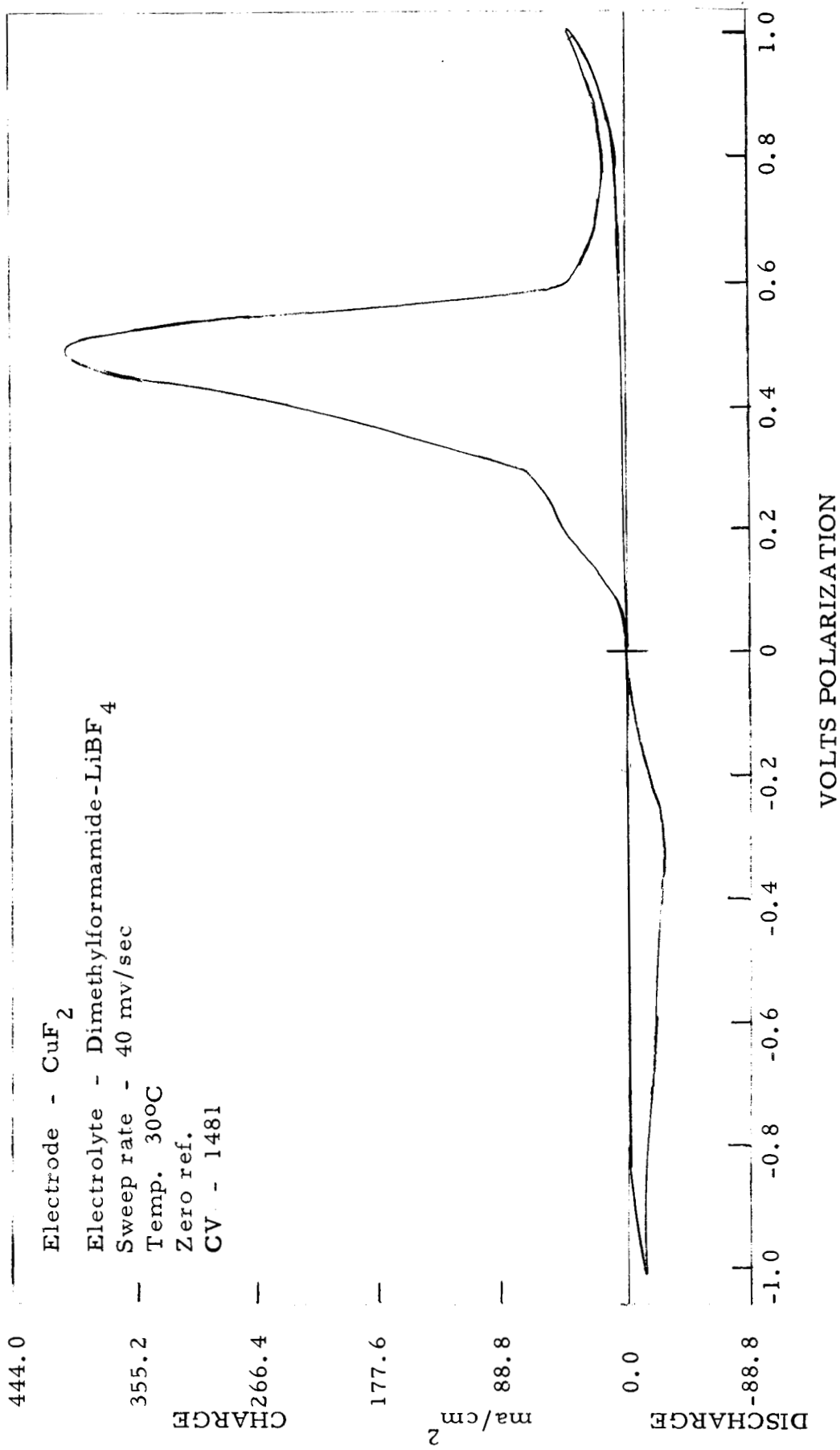


Figure 30

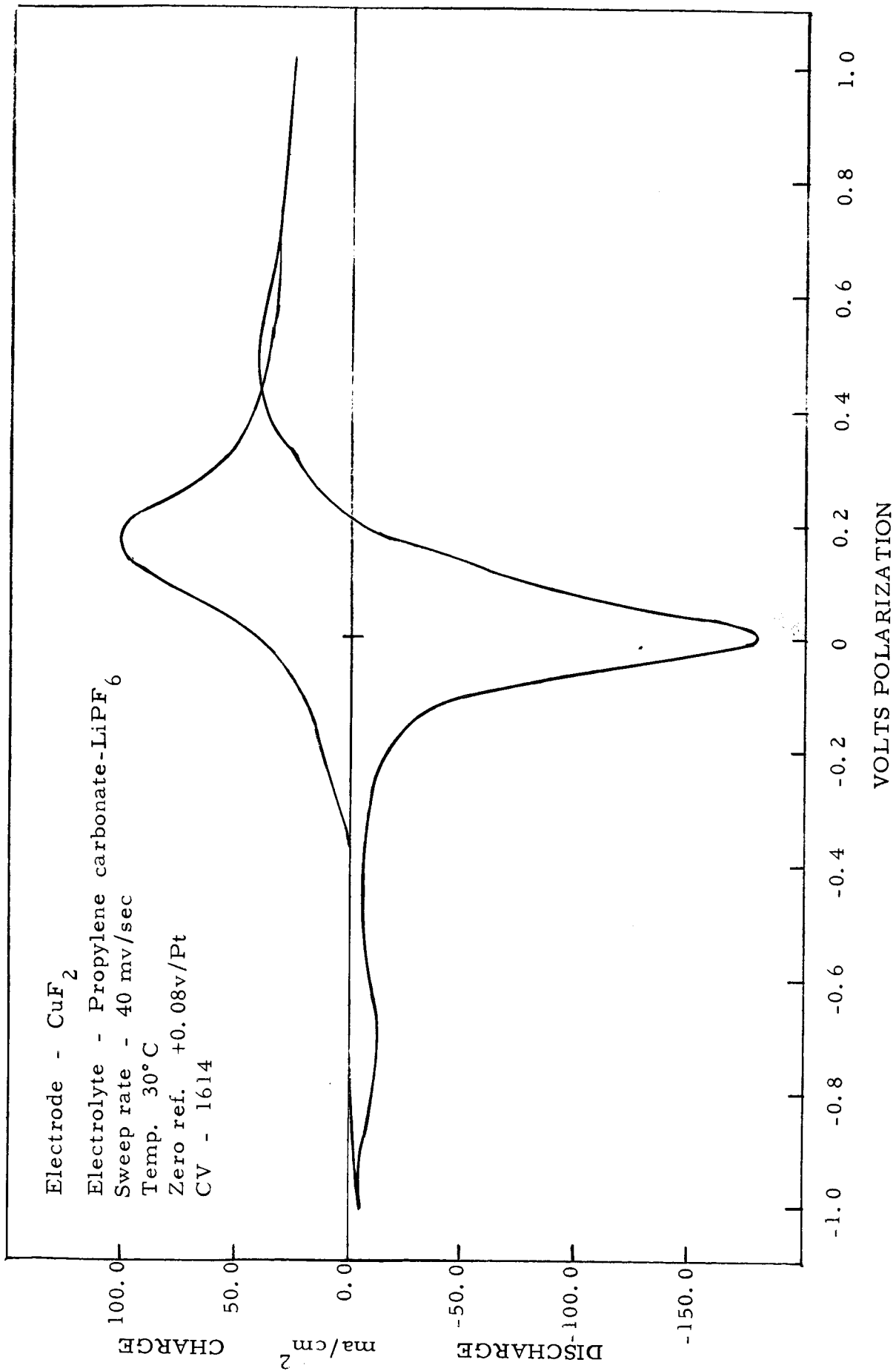


Figure 31

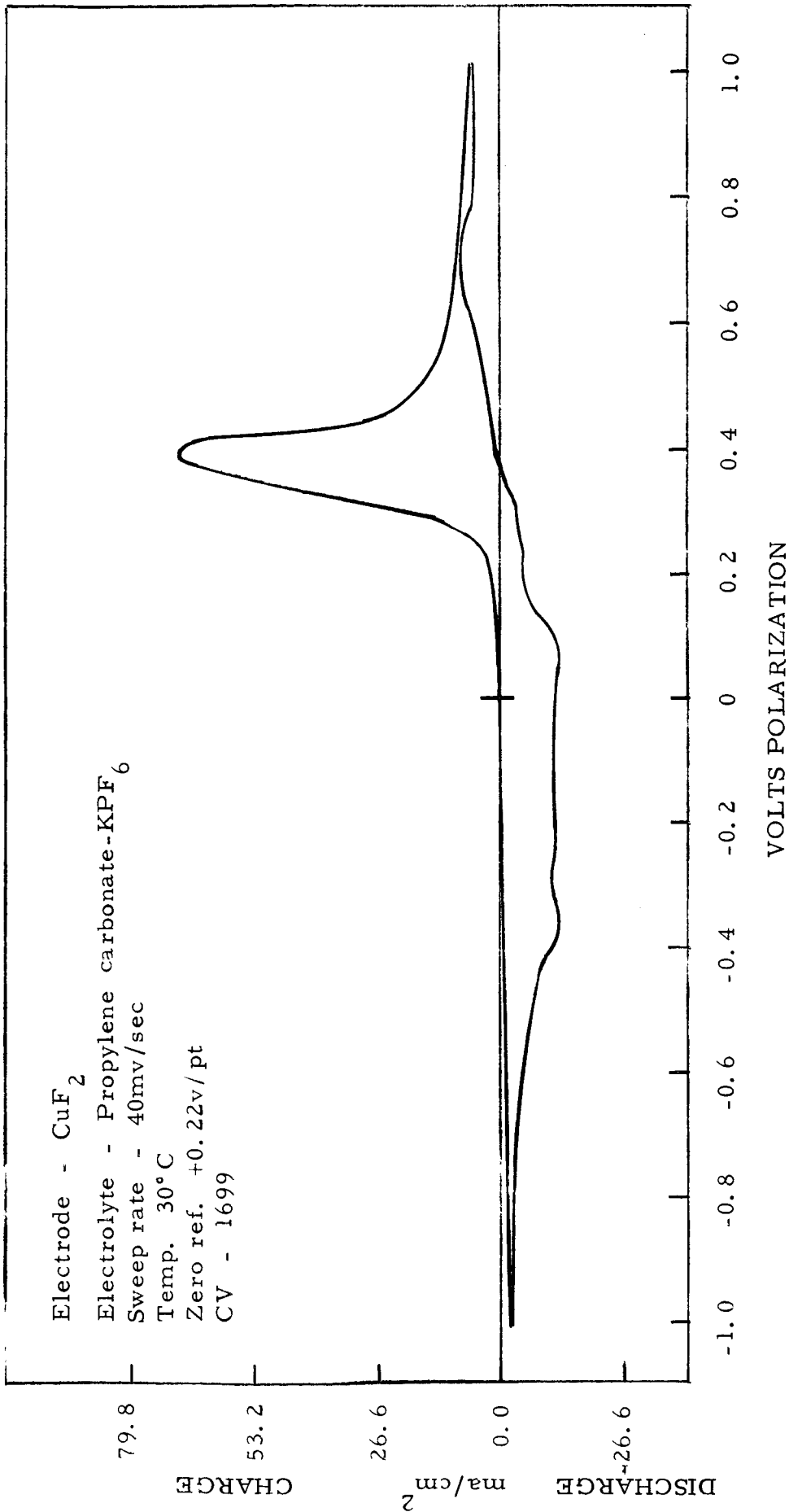


Figure 32

Electrode - NiO
Electrolyte - Acetonitrile-LiPF₆
Sweep rate - 40 mv/sec
Temp. 30°C
Zero ref. +0.49 v/pt
CV-1366

CHARGE
ma/cm²
6.4
3.2
0.0
DISCHARGE
-3.2

VOLTS POLARIZATION
-1.0 -0.8 -0.6 -0.4 -0.2 0 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 1.0

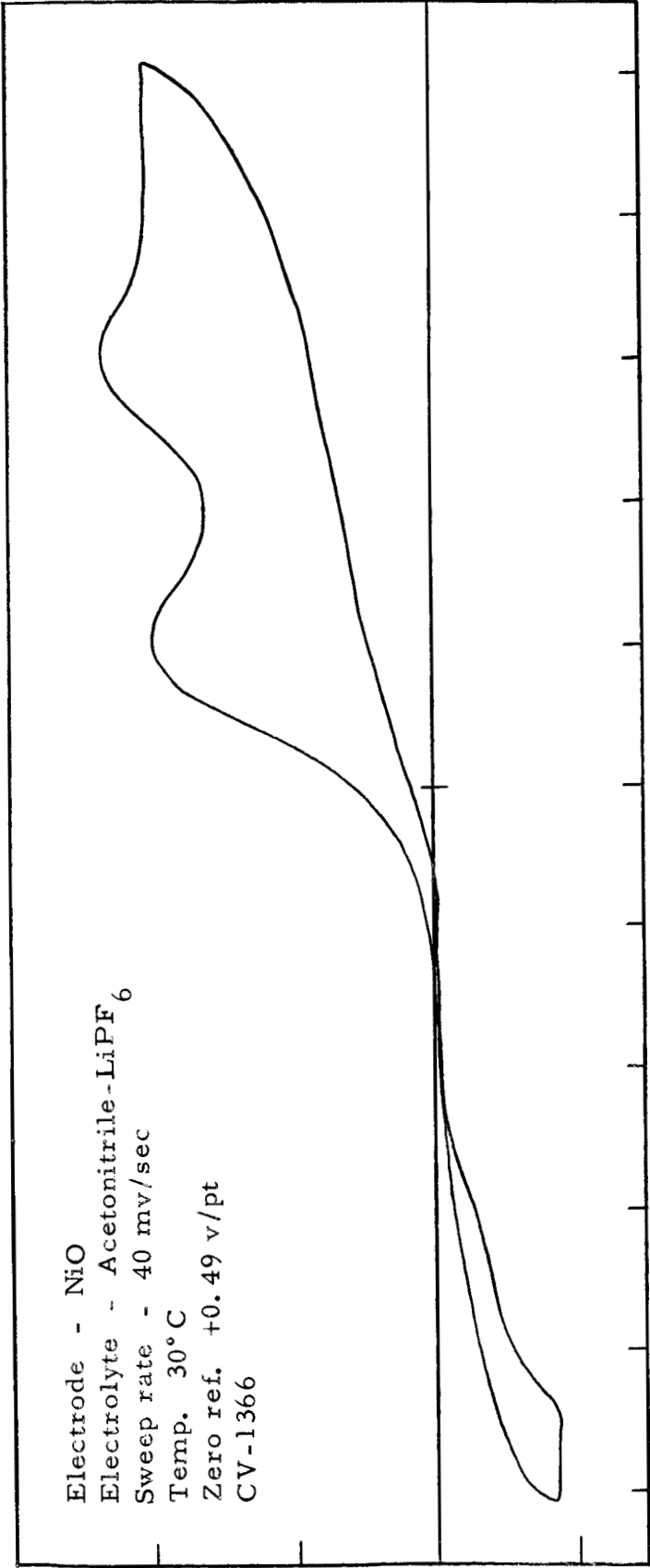


Figure 33

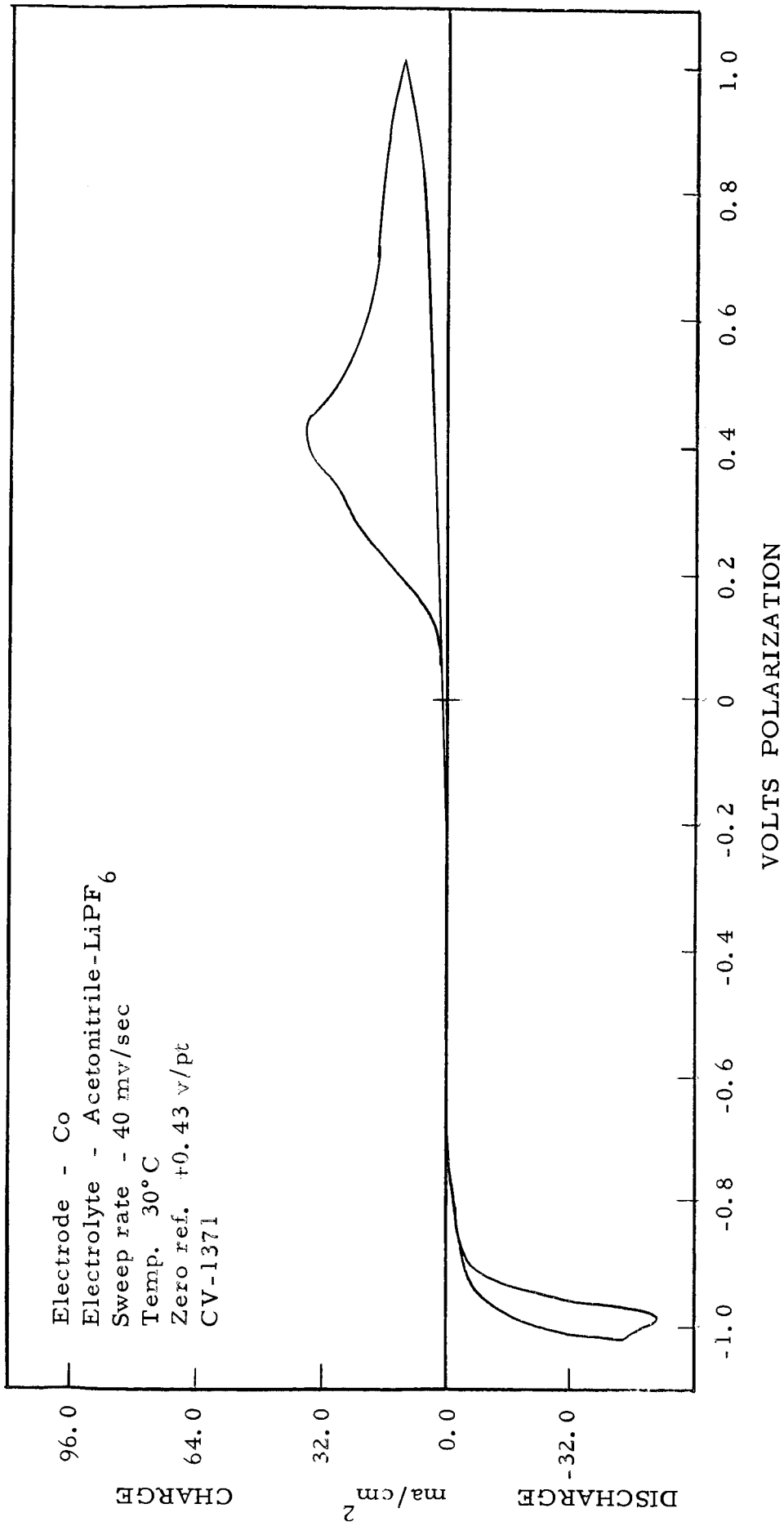


Figure 34

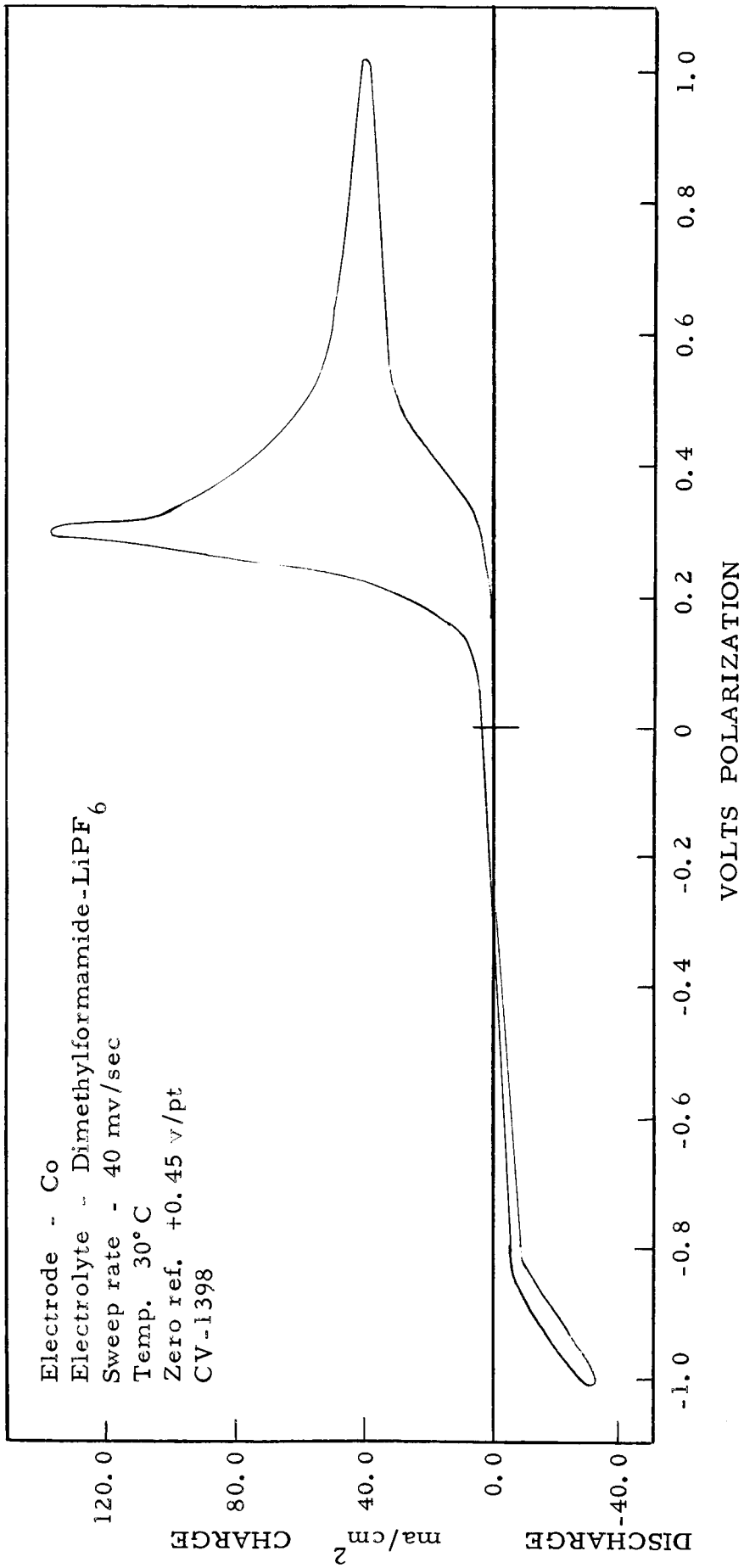


Figure 35

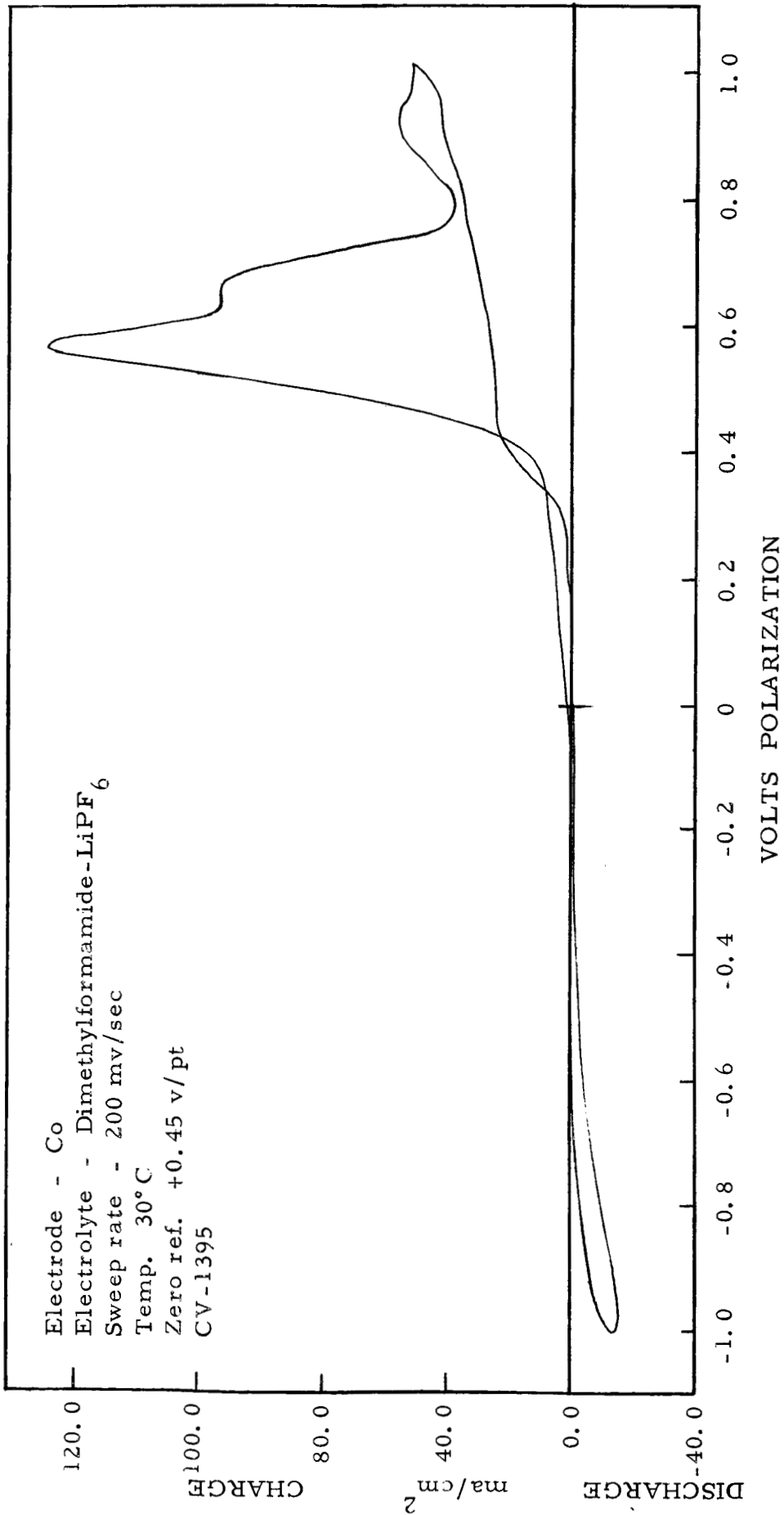


Figure 36

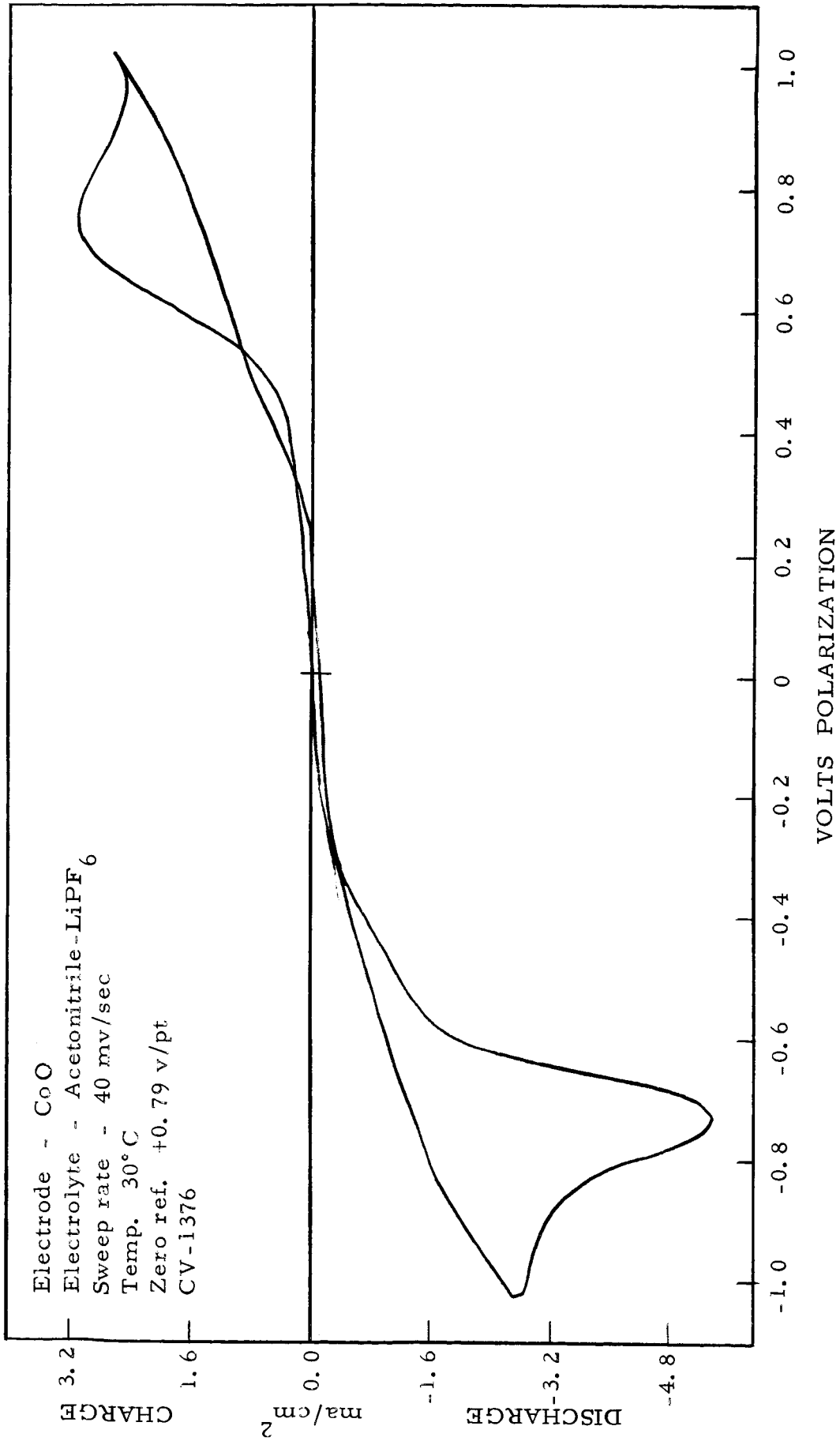


Figure 37

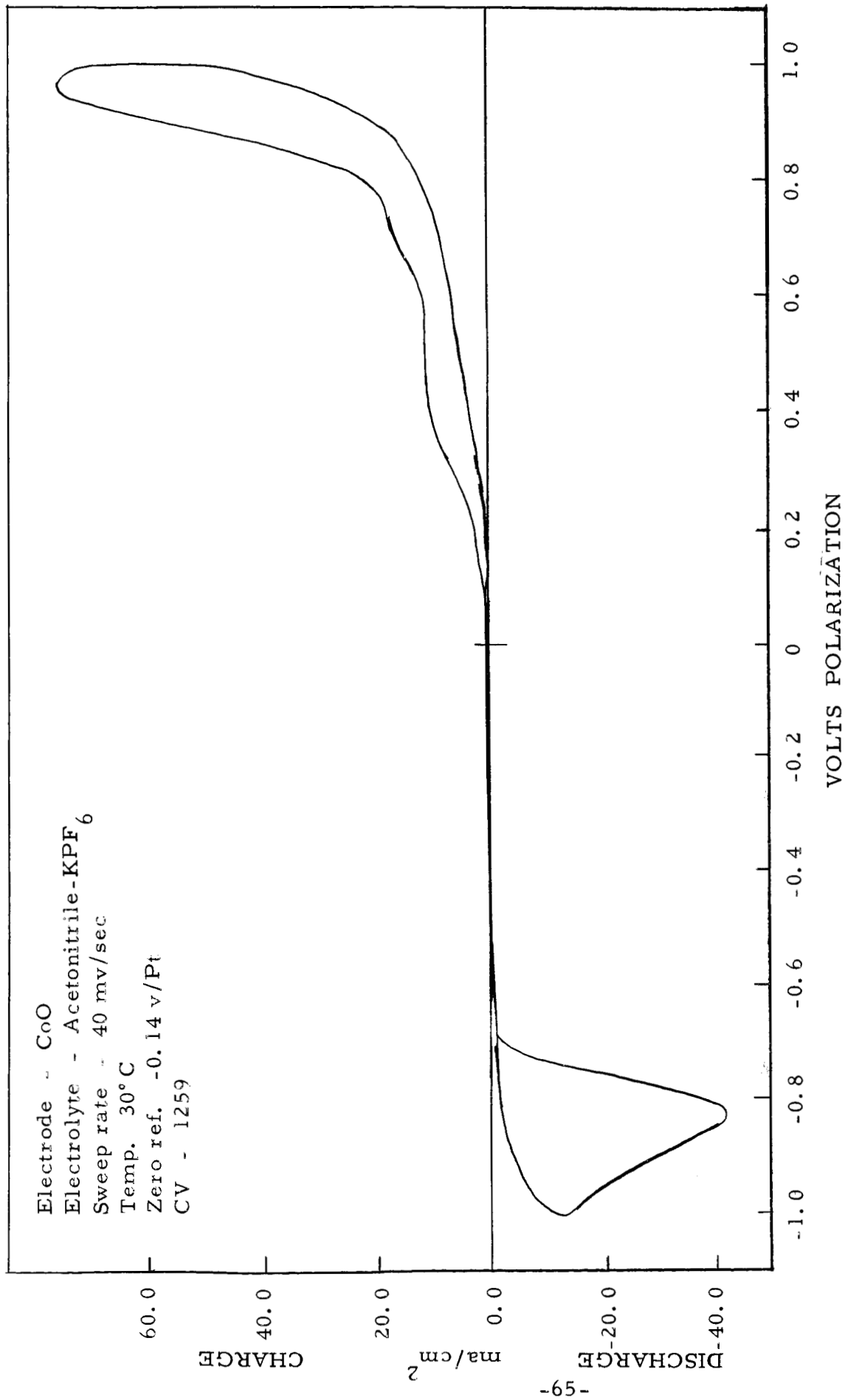


Figure 38

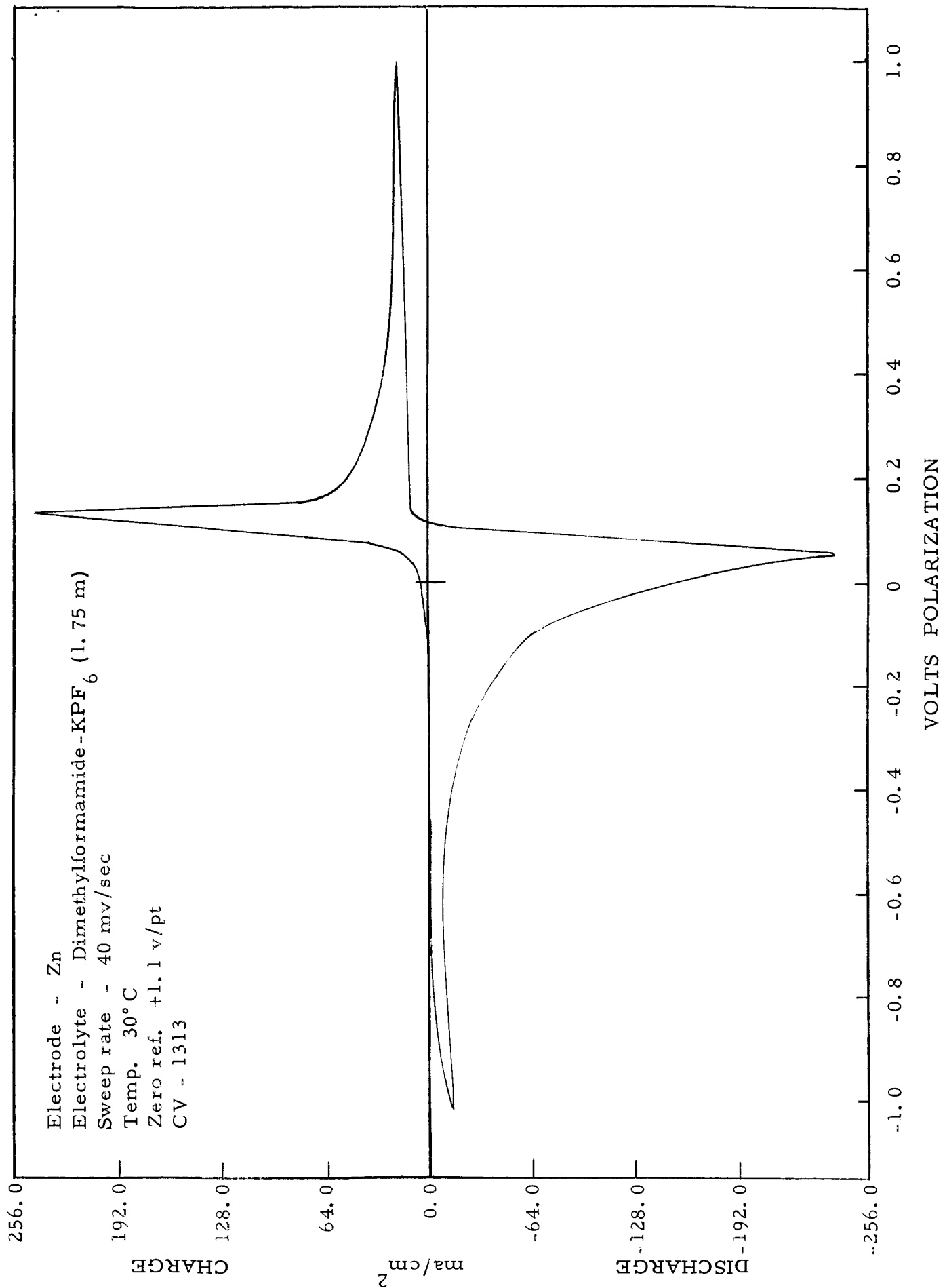


Figure 39

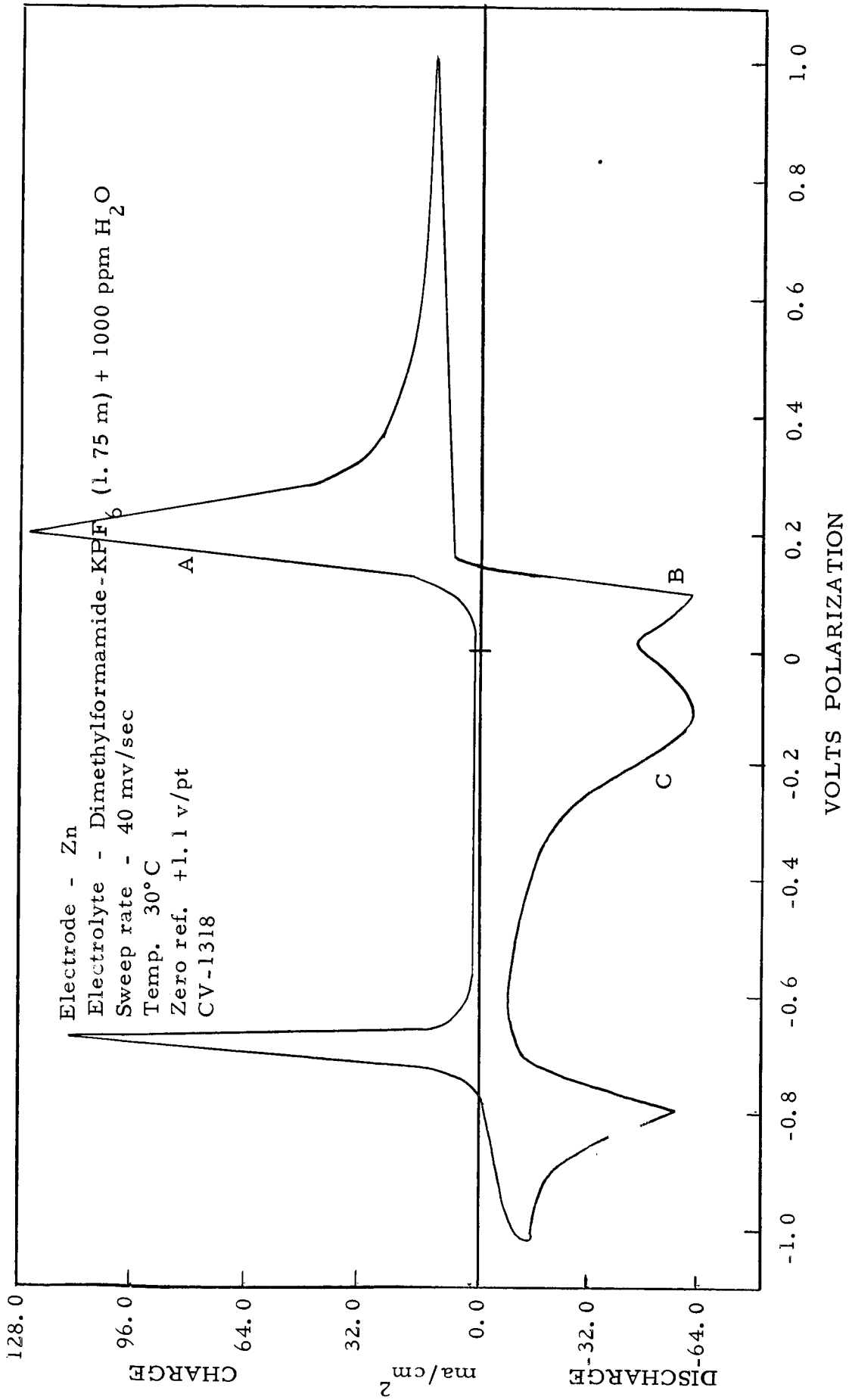


Figure 40

C. TABLES OF CYCLIC VOLTAMMETRIC DATA

Included in this section are tables listing parameters derived from the cyclic voltammograms. These parameters are as follows:

1. Sweep index

This is a relative figure of merit taking into account peak height, sweep rate, and discharge capacity. This parameter is described in more detail in an earlier report (Ref. 2, p. 80).

2. Peak current density range

Relative magnitude of peak currents classified according to page 7.

3. Cathode compatibility with electrolyte

A measure of degree of solubility of the cathode material relative to the cycling time, and hence the sweep rate.

4. Charge-discharge efficiency

Ratio of discharge coulombs to charge coulombs.

5. ΔV_p

Peak-to-peak displacement in volts of charge and discharge reactions giving a measure of overall electrode reversibility, or in more practical terms, a measure of suitability of the electrochemical system for secondary battery application.

Also included is Table IV listing the maximum current range of systems causing voltage overload of the instrumentation so that cyclic voltammograms could not be recorded.

TABLE IV
SYSTEMS CAUSING VOLTAGE OVERLOAD
OF INSTRUMENTATION

<u>System</u>	<u>CV</u>	<u>Maximum Anodic Current Density</u> ma/cm ²	<u>Maximum Cathodic Current Density</u> ma/cm ²
Ag/AN-PF ₅	1328	nr*	nr
Ag/AN-BF ₃	1399	80	40
Ag/AN-Mg(BF ₄) ₂	1436	440	400
Ag/BL-PF ₅	1340	nr	nr
Ag/BL-BF ₃	1430	360	200
Ag/DMF-PF ₅	1324	nr	nr
Ag/DMF-BF ₃	1403	600	200
Ag/DMF-Mg(BF ₄) ₂	1444	800	800
Ag/PC-PF ₅	1350	nr	nr
Ag/PC-BF ₃	1409	nr	nr
AgO/DMF-LiPF ₆	1387	1200	800
AgO/PC-LiPF ₆	1571	1000	920
AgF ₂ /DMF-LiBF ₄	1486	1600	400
Cu/AN-MgCl ₂	1151	nr	nr
Cu/AN-BF ₃	1402	nr	nr
Cu/AN-Mg(BF ₄) ₂	1443	nr	nr
Cu/BL-PF ₅	1349	nr	nr
Cu/BL-BF ₃	1435	nr	nr
Cu/DMF-PF ₅	1327	nr	nr

AN - Acetonitrile
BL - Butyrolactone
DMF - Dimethylformamide
PC - Propylene carbonate

* nr - not recorded

TABLE IV (Cont'd)
SYSTEMS CAUSING VOLTAGE OVERLOAD
OF INSTRUMENTATION

<u>System</u>	<u>CV</u>	<u>Maximum Anodic Current Density</u> ma/cm ²	<u>Maximum Cathodic Current Density</u> ma/cm ²
Cu/DMF-BF ₃	1408	720	640
Cu/PC-PF ₅	1360	nr*	nr
Cu/PC-BF ₃	1414	nr	nr
CuO/DMF-LiClO ₄	1133	nr	nr
Ni/AN-BF ₃	1400	200	40
Ni/AN-Mg(BF ₄) ₂	1441	nr	nr
Ni/DMF-PF ₅	1325	nr	nr
Ni/PC-PF ₅	1354	nr	nr
Co/AN-PF ₅	1334	nr	nr
Co/AN-BF ₃	1401	400	80
Co/AN-Mg(BF ₄) ₂	1442	nr	nr
Co/BL-LiCl	1152	nr	nr
Co/BL-BF ₃	1434	320	40
Co/DMF-LiCl+AlCl ₃	1823	3200	nr
Co/DMF-PF ₅	1326	nr	nr
Co/DMF-BF ₃	1407	700	0
Co/DMF-Mg(BF ₄) ₂	1450	600	200
Co/PC-BF ₃	1413	nr	nr

AN - Acetonitrile
 BL - Butyrolactone
 DMF - Dimethylformamide
 PC - Propylene carbonate
 * nr - not recorded

TABLE V

PEAK CURRENT DENSITY RANGE
CHLORIDE AND PERCHLORATE ELECTROLYTES

<u>System</u>	<u>CV</u>	<u>Anodic</u>	<u>Cathodic</u>
Ag/AN-MgCl ₂	1147	low	low
AgF ₂ /AN-LiClO ₄	1634	very low	very low
AgF ₂ /BL-LiClO ₄	1644	low	low
AgF ₂ /PC-LiClO ₄	1659	very low	very low
Cu/DMF-LiCl	1116	high	med. high
CuO/PC-LiCl+AlCl ₃	1111	med. low	med. low
CuF ₂ /AN-LiClO ₄	1619	med. high	med. high
CuF ₂ /BL-LiClO ₄	1639	high	very high
CuF ₂ /DMF-LiCl+AlCl ₃	1817	very high	very high
CuF ₂ /DMF-LiClO ₄	1560	low	low
CuF ₂ /PC-LiClO ₄	1419	med. high	high
Co/BL-LiClO ₄	1172	med. high	med. low
Co/BL-LiCl+LiClO ₄	1208	low	low
CoO/BL-LiCl	1152	high	low
CoO/BL-LiCl+LiClO ₄	1213	very low	very low
CoO/DMF-LiCl	1167	very low	very low

AN - Acetonitrile
 BL - Butyrolactone
 DMF - Dimethylformamide
 PC - Propylene carbonate

TABLE VI

PEAK CURRENT DENSITY RANGE
FLUORIDE ELECTROLYTES

<u>System</u>	<u>CV</u>	<u>Anodic</u>	<u>Cathodic</u>
AgO/PC-LiF+KPF ₆	1286	med. high	med. low
AgF ₂ /AN-KPF ₆	1678	low	very low
AgF ₂ /AN-LiF+KPF ₆	1719	low	low
AgF ₂ /BL-KPF ₆	1781	low	low
AgF ₂ /BL-LiF+KPF ₆	1807	low	low
AgF ₂ /DMF-KPF ₆	1737	med. low	low
AgF ₂ /DMF-LiF+KPF ₆	1745	med. low	med. low
AgF ₂ /PC-LiPF ₆	1609	low	very low
AgF ₂ /PC-KPF ₆	1694	low	low
AgF ₂ /PC-LiF+KPF ₆	1763	low	low
AgF ₂ /PC-LiBF ₄	1491	high	high
Cu/AN-LiPF ₆	1386	very high	high
Cu/DMF-Mg(BF ₄) ₂	1455	med. low	med. low
CuO/AN-LiPF ₆	1381	med. low	med. low
CuO/PC-LiPF ₆	1570	med. low	med. low
CuO/PC-LiF+KPF ₆	1281	med. low	low
CuF ₂ /AN-LiPF ₆	1553	med. low	med. low
CuF ₂ /AN-KPF ₆	1683	very high	med. high
CuF ₂ /AN-LiF+KPF ₆	1704	high	med. high
CuF ₂ /AN-LiBF ₄	1468	very high	high

AN - Acetonitrile
 BL - Butyrolactone
 DMF - Dimethylformamide
 PC - Propylene carbonate

TABLE VI (Cont'd)

PEAK CURRENT DENSITY RANGE
FLUORIDE ELECTROLYTES

<u>System</u>	<u>CV</u>	<u>Anodic</u>	<u>Cathodic</u>
CuF ₂ /BL-KPF ₆	1786	med. high	low
CuF ₂ /BL-LiF+KPF ₆	1812	high	med. low
CuF ₂ /DMF-LiPF ₆	1525	very high	very high
CuF ₂ /DMF-KPF ₆	1424	med. low	low
CuF ₂ /DMF-LiF+KPF ₆	1429	low	low
CuF ₂ /DMF-LiBF ₄	1481	very high	med. low
CuF ₂ /PC-LiPF ₆	1614	high	high
CuF ₂ /PC-KPF ₆	1699	med. high	med. low
CuF ₂ /PC-LiF+KPF ₆	1768	med. high	med. low
NiO/AN-LiPF ₆	1366	low	low
NiF ₂ /DMF-LiBF ₄	1510	low	low
Co/AN-LiPF ₆	1371	med. low	med. low
Co/AN-LiBF ₄	1460	very high	med. low
Co/BL-KPF ₆	1228	low	low
Co/DMF-KPF ₆	1242	low	very low
Co/DMF-LiBF ₄	1477	high	med. low
Co/PC-LiPF ₆	1596	low	low
CoO/AN-LiPF ₆	1376	low	low
CoO/AN-KPF ₆	1259	med. high	med. low
Zn/DMF-KPF ₆	1313	high	high

AN - Acetonitrile
 BL - Butyrolactone
 DMF - Dimethylformamide
 PC - Propylene carbonate

TABLE VII
SWEEP INDEX *

<u>System</u>	<u>CV</u>	<u>Anodic</u> ohm ⁻¹ cm ⁻²	<u>Cathodic</u> ohm ⁻¹ cm ⁻²
AgF ₂ /DMF-LiF+KPF ₆	1745	11.2	7.3
Cu/AN-LiPF ₆	1386	141	251
CuO/AN-LiPF ₆	1381	3.0	2.0
CuF ₂ /AN-LiPF ₆	1553	2.0	2.0
CuF ₂ /AN-LiF+KPF ₆	1704	55.3	37.0
CuF ₂ /AN-LiBF ₄	1468	192.0	25.0
CuF ₂ /BL-LiF+KPF ₆	1812	35.8	3.2
CuF ₂ /DMF-LiPF ₆	1525	364	2570
CuF ₂ /DMF-KPF ₆	1424	5.0	8.0
CuF ₂ /PC-LiPF ₆	1614	13.0	80.0
CuF ₂ /PC-LiF+KPF ₆	1768	12.4	2.0
Zn/DMF-KPF ₆	1313	125	134
Cu/DMF-LiCl	1116	31.6	158
CuF ₂ /BL-LiClO ₄	1639	-	1290
CuF ₂ /DMF-LiCl+AlCl ₃	1817	-	652
CuF ₂ /DMF-LiClO ₄	1560	1.0	0.3
CuF ₂ /PC-LiClO ₄	1419	14.0	46.0

AN - Acetonitrile
BL - Butyrolactone
DMF - Dimethylformamide
PC - Propylene carbonate

$$* \frac{(\text{peak c.d.})^2 \times 100}{\text{sweep rate} \times \text{coul/cm}^2}$$

TABLE VIII
CATHODE COMPATIBILITY IN CHLORIDE ELECTROLYTES

<u>System</u>	<u>CV</u>	<u>Cathode Stability</u>
Ag/AN-MgCl ₂	1147	Insoluble
AgF ₂ /AN-LiClO ₄	1634	Insoluble
AgF ₂ /BL-LiClO ₄	1644	Insoluble
AgF ₂ /PC-LiClO ₄	1659	Insoluble
Cu/DMF-LiCl	1116	Soluble
CuO/PC-LiCl+AlCl ₃	1111	Soluble
CuF ₂ /AN-LiClO ₄	1619	Insoluble
CuF ₂ /BL-LiClO ₄	1639	Insoluble
CuF ₂ /DMF-LiCl+AlCl ₃	1817	Soluble
CuF ₂ /DMF-LiClO ₄	1560	Soluble
CuF ₂ /PC-LiClO ₄	1419	Insoluble
Co/BL-LiClO ₄	1172	Soluble
Co/BL-LiCl+LiClO ₄	1208	Insoluble
CoO/BL-LiCl	1152	Insoluble
CoO/BL-LiCl+LiClO ₄	1213	Insoluble
CoO/DMF-LiCl	1167	Insoluble

AN - Acetonitrile
 BL - Butyrolactone
 DMF - Dimethylformamide
 PC - Propylene carbonate

TABLE IX

CATHODE COMPATIBILITY IN FLUORIDE ELECTROLYTES

<u>System</u>	<u>CV</u>	<u>Cathode Stability</u>
AgO/PC-LiF+KPF ₆	1286	Soluble
AgF ₂ /AN-KPF ₆	1678	Insoluble
AgF ₂ /AN-LiF+KPF ₆	1719	Insoluble
AgF ₂ /BL-KPF ₆	1781	Insoluble
AgF ₂ /BL-LiF+KPF ₆	1807	Insoluble
AgF ₂ /DMF-KPF ₆	1737	Soluble
AgF ₂ /DMF-LiF+KPF ₆	1745	Soluble
AgF ₂ /PC-LiPF ₆	1609	Insoluble
AgF ₂ /PC-KPF ₆	1694	Insoluble
AgF ₂ /PC-LiF+KPF ₆	1763	Insoluble
AgF ₂ /PC-LiBF ₄	1491	Soluble
Cu/AN-LiPF ₆	1386	Insoluble
Cu/DMF-Mg(BF ₄) ₂	1455	Insoluble
CuO/AN-LiPF ₆	1381	Insoluble
CuO/PC-LiPF ₆	1570	Insoluble
CuO/PC-LiF+KPF ₆	1281	Insoluble
CuF ₂ /AN-LiPF ₆	1553	Insoluble
CuF ₂ /AN-KPF ₆	1683	Insoluble
CuF ₂ /AN-LiF+KPF ₆	1704	Soluble
CuF ₂ /AN-LiBF ₄	1468	Insoluble

AN - Acetonitrile
 BL - Butyrolactone
 DMF - Dimethylformamide
 PC - Propylene carbonate

TABLE IX (Cont'd)

CATHODE COMPATIBILITY IN FLUORIDE ELECTROLYTES

<u>System</u>	<u>CV</u>	<u>Cathode Stability</u>
CuF ₂ /BL-KPF ₆	1786	Soluble
CuF ₂ /BL-LiF+KPF ₆	1812	Insoluble
CuF ₂ /DMF-LiPF ₆	1525	Insoluble
CuF ₂ /DMF-KPF ₆	1424	Insoluble
CuF ₂ /DMF-LiF+KPF ₆	1429	Insoluble
CuF ₂ /DMF-LiBF ₄	1481	Insoluble
CuF ₂ /PC-LiPF ₆	1614	Insoluble
CuF ₂ /PC-KPF ₆	1699	Soluble
CuF ₂ /PC-LiF+KPF ₆	1768	Soluble
NiO/AN-LiPF ₆	1366	Insoluble
NiF ₂ /DMF-LiBF ₄	1510	Insoluble
Co/AN-LiPF ₆	1371	Insoluble
Co/AN-LiBF ₄	1460	Soluble
Co/BL-KPF ₆	1228	Insoluble
Co/DMF-KPF ₆	1242	Insoluble
Co/DMF-LiBF ₄	1477	Soluble
Co/PC-LiPF ₆	1596	Insoluble
CoO/AN-LiPF ₆	1376	Insoluble
CoO/AN-KPF ₆	1259	Insoluble
Zn/DMF-KPF ₆	1313	Insoluble

AN - Acetonitrile
 BL - Butyrolactone
 DMF - Dimethylformamide
 PC - Propylene carbonate

TABLE X

 ΔV_p AND CHARGE-DISCHARGE EFFICIENCY
 CHLORIDE ELECTROLYTES

<u>System</u>	<u>CV</u>	$\frac{\Delta V}{p}^*$	<u>Charge-Discharge Efficiency %</u>
Ag/AN-MgCl ₂	1147	1.05	-
AgF ₂ /AN-LiClO ₄	1634	0.35	-
AgF ₂ /BL-LiClO ₄	1644	1.10	-
AgF ₂ /PC-LiClO ₄	1659	0.95	-
Cu/DMF-LiCl	1116	0.08	4.3
CuF ₂ /AN-LiClO ₄	1619	1.10	-
CuF ₂ /BL-LiClO ₄	1639	0.25	67
CuF ₂ /DMF-LiCl+AlCl ₃	1817	0.10	-
CuF ₂ /DMF-LiClO ₄	1560	0.50	56
CuF ₂ /PC-LiClO ₄	1419	0.33	58
Co/BL-LiClO ₄	1172	0.89	23
Co/BL-LiCl+LiClO ₄	1208	1.55	-
CoO/BL-LiCl+LiClO ₄	1213	1.02	-

* - Voltage separating anodic and cathodic peaks.

AN - Acetonitrile
 BL - Butyrolactone
 DMF - Dimethylformamide
 PC - Propylene carbonate

TABLE XI

 ΔV_p AND CHARGE-DISCHARGE EFFICIENCY
 FLUORIDE ELECTROLYTES

<u>System</u>	<u>CV</u>	$\frac{\Delta V_p}{p}$ *	<u>Charge-Discharge Efficiency</u> %
AgO/PC-LiF+KPF ₆	1286	0.65	-
AgF ₂ /AN-KPF ₆	1678	0.88	-
AgF ₂ /AN-LiF+KPF ₆	1719	0.94	-
AgF ₂ /BL-LiF+KPF ₆	1807	0.45	-
AgF ₂ /DMF-LiF+KPF ₆	1745	0.65	64
AgF ₂ /PC-LiPF ₆	1609	1.20	-
AgF ₂ /PC-LiBF ₄	1491	0.20	-
Cu/AN-LiPF ₆	1386	0.09	33
CuO/AN-LiPF ₆	1381	0.41	66
CuO/PC-LiPF ₆	1570	0.25	-
CuF ₂ /AN-LiPF ₆	1553	0.56	94
CuF ₂ /AN-KPF ₆	1683	0.04	15
CuF ₂ /AN-LiF+KPF ₆	1704	0.23	11
CuF ₂ /AN-LiBF ₄	1468	0.20	13

* - Voltage separating anodic and cathodic peaks.

AN - Acetonitrile
 BL - Butyrolactone
 DMF - Dimethylformamide
 PC - Propylene carbonate

TABLE XI (Cont'd)

 ΔV_p AND CHARGE-DISCHARGE EFFICIENCY
 FLUORIDE ELECTROLYTES

<u>System</u>	<u>CV</u>	$\frac{\Delta V_p^*}{\text{P}}$	<u>Charge-Discharge Efficiency %</u>
CuF ₂ /BL-KPF ₆	1786	0.15	-
CuF ₂ /DMF-LiPF ₆	1525	0.02	43
CuF ₂ /DMF-KPF ₆	1424	0.41	71
CuF ₂ /DMF-LiF+KPF ₆	1429	0.64	-
CuF ₂ /DMF-LiBF ₄	1481	0.77	-
CuF ₂ /PC-LiPF ₆	1614	0.17	51
CuF ₂ /PC-LiF+KPF ₆	1768	0.97	48
NiF ₂ /DMF-LiBF ₄	1510	1.18	-
Co/AN-LiPF ₆	1371	1.40	-
Co/AN-LiBF ₄	1460	1.50	-
Co/BL-KPF ₆	1228	1.10	-
Co/DMF-KPF ₆	1242	1.20	-
Co/DMF-LiBF ₄	1477	1.80	-
Co/PC-LiPF ₆	1596	1.80	-
CoO/AN-LiPF ₆	1376	1.46	-
Zn/DMF-KPF ₆	1313	0.07	98

* - Voltage separating anodic and cathodic peaks.

AN - Acetonitrile
 BL - Butyrolactone
 DMF - Dimethylformamide
 PC - Propylene carbonate

II. EXPERIMENTAL

A. MATERIAL PURIFICATION AND CHARACTERIZATION

As previously reported, all materials handling, unless otherwise indicated, was accomplished under nitrogen in an atmosphere chamber maintained at $30 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ by a recirculating gas heating system. Characterization and preparation of solutions of such materials as LiCl , AlCl_3 and KPF_6 have been previously detailed.

1. Distillation of Solvents

Minor modifications have been made in the distillation procedure. Solvents were distilled at the indicated temperature and pressure in the same apparatus. Usually 1500 ml portions were distilled, with about 100 ml comprising the main cut, the remainder being divided between the head fraction and pot residue. The distillation apparatus consisted of 1 inch by 3 feet vacuum jacketed (and silvered) column packed with 3/8" beryl saddles, and equipped with a total reflux return head. The head was connected to a revolving type multiple distillation receiver through a stopcock which was used to adjust the take-off rate. Connection was also made to the usual vacuum manifold consisting of rough and fine manometers connected in series with a Cartesian manostat, dry ice-trap and vacuum pump. After distillation start-up and removal of low boiling impurities, the column was purposely flooded to insure proper wetting. It was then allowed to equilibrate over a 1-2 hours period and fractionation commenced. The main fractions were usually taken over a 48-hour period at a reflux ratios of 20-25/1. Use of higher reflux ratios did not improve the fractionation characteristics.

Propylene carbonate was distilled at $108-110^\circ/10$ mm. Following the initial distillation, the main cut was dried over calcium sulfate and redistilled under

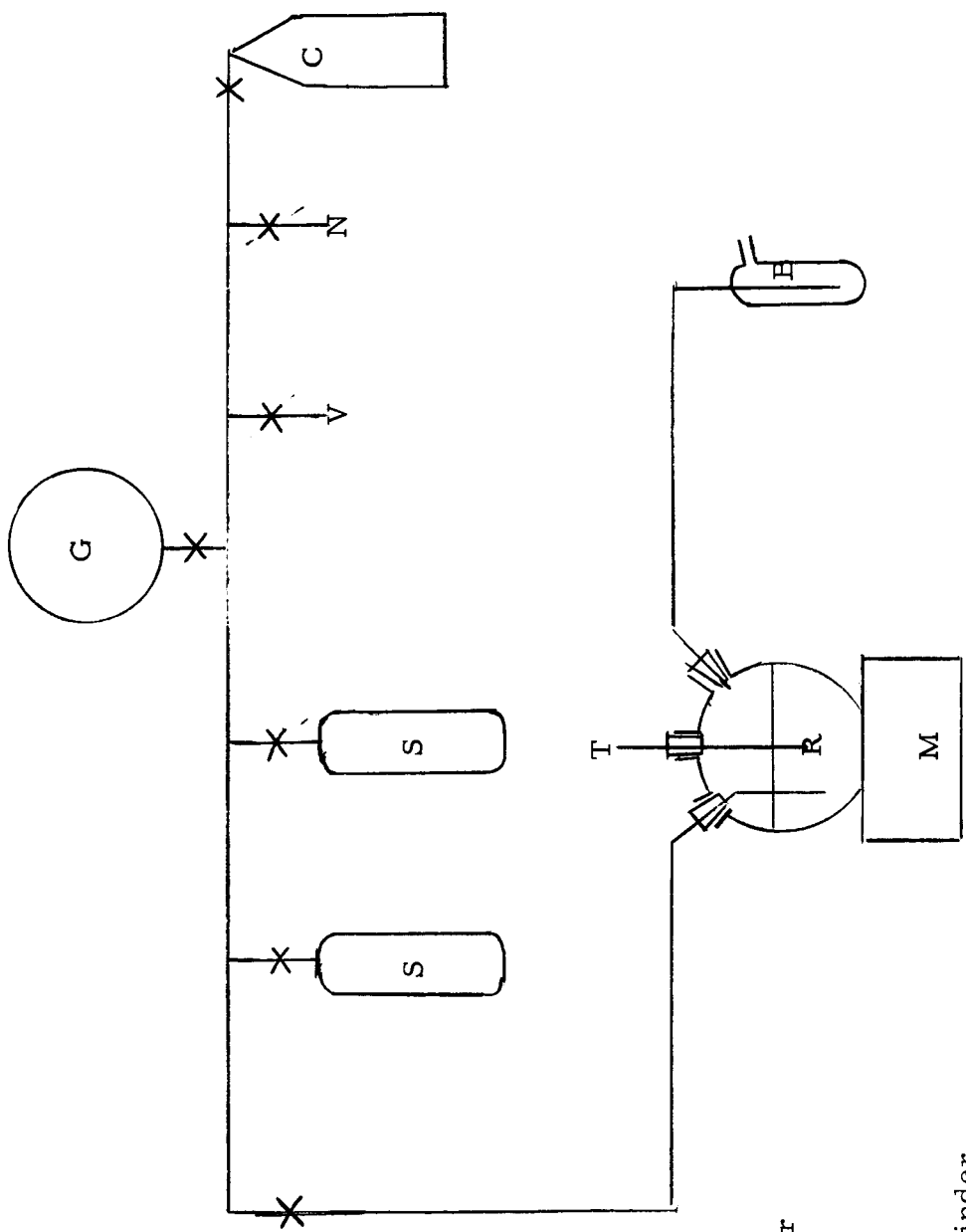
the same conditions. Butyrolactone was distilled at 91-93°/17 mm. A somewhat larger head fraction (300-400 ml) was usually taken in order to avoid possible trace contamination of a high boiling impurity previously revealed by VPC analysis. Acetonitrile was distilled at 80-82°C. Dimethylformamide was not redistilled since previous work had indicated less than 100 ppm of water in the "as received" material (MCB, Spectroquality grade).

2. Solution Preparation

a. PF₅ solutions

The stainless steel gas manifold used for the preparation of PF₅ solutions is shown in Figure 41. The manifold was conditioned by evacuating for several hours at 0.05 mm, refilling with PF₅ to 15 psig, and re-evacuation to remove any gaseous reaction products.

After filling the three-neck flask with about 240 ml of solvent in the inert atmosphere chamber, the pyrex gas inlet tube of the flask was connected to the manifold by means of a short Tygon connector. The entire system was then flushed with nitrogen. After removal of nitrogen by evacuation, the gas bulbs were filled to 60 psig with PF₅. The latter was then slowly introduced to the solvent at a rate allowing complete absorption of the gas. The amount of gas being absorbed was monitored by the oil-filled bubbler on the gas exit tube. Following solution preparation, the gas exit tube was replaced by a special dip tube which allowed direct transfer of the solution to the CV measuring cell by means of nitrogen pressurization. For electrochemical measurements involving either PF₅ or BF₃ solutions, the cell was not placed in the inert atmosphere chamber in order to avoid possible contamination of the chamber with these gases.



- G - gauge
- B - bubbler
- M - magnetic stirrer
- R - reaction flask
- S - storage bulb
- V - vacuum
- N - nitrogen
- C - PF₅ or BF₃ cylinder
- T - thermometer

Figure 41 Schematic of apparatus for preparing fluoride electrolytes

All solutions were prepared at room temperature. In the case of dimethylformamide, propylene carbonate, and acetonitrile, there was evidence of deposition of a solid complex on the walls of the gas addition tube. (The complex was apparently soluble in the solvent). Solutions of PF_5 in dimethylformamide and propylene carbonate were colorless and did not discolor after several hours. The PF_5 -acetonitrile solutions were yellow. This color persisted for several hours but could be removed by the addition of LiF . The addition of PF_5 to butyrolactone caused immediate discoloration of the solution which intensified on longer standing.

b. BF_3 solutions

Solutions of BF_3 were prepared in the same manner as for PF_5 except for the fact that the solvent temperature was usually maintained at 8-10°C in order to increase the apparent rate of solution. After BF_3 addition was completed, the solution was allowed to warm to room temperature before transferring to the conductance or CV measuring cell. As in the case of PF_5 , addition of BF_3 to butyrolactone caused extensive discoloration.

c. LiPF_6 and LiBF_4 solutions

Solutions of LiPF_6 and LiBF_4 were prepared in a manner similar to that described above except that a known quantity of LiF was suspended in the solvent before addition of the PF_5 or BF_3 respectively. Essentially all of the LiF dissolved on addition of equimolar quantities of the gases, indicating relatively complete formation of the complex fluoride salts. Additions were carried out at 8-10°C.

Since PF_5 appeared to react in a deleterious manner with butyrolactone, the preparation of LiPF_6 in situ was not deemed advisable so that direct reaction of LiF with PF_5 was attempted without success. A 5.0g sample of LiF was placed in a nickel tube connected to the gas manifold. The tube was

evacuated and filled with PF_5 to 25 psig. This quantity of PF_5 was insufficient to react with all of the LiF. Even after slowly heating to 290°C , no pressure drop was observed, indicating little or no formation of LiPF_6 under these conditions. An alternate procedure, involving solution of LiF in liquid PF_5 at -88.5°C afforded no product.

d. $\text{Mg}(\text{BF}_4)_2$ solutions

Preparation of $\text{Mg}(\text{BF}_4)_2$ by addition of BF_3 to LiF suspension of solvent was attempted. From the amount of material remaining after the addition of 2 moles of BF_3 per mole of MgF_2 , incomplete reaction was indicated. However, it is not known at this time whether the residual solid is unreacted MgF_2 or precipitated $\text{Mg}(\text{BF}_4)_2$.

3. Electrode Preparation

Fluoride electrodes were prepared by exposing short lengths of wire of the desired metal to pure fluorine in a nickel reactor at 30 psia (20°C) under the conditions given in Table XII. Evidence of reaction was indicated by a 1-2% weight gain and a change in visual appearance. (A typical weight gain was 15 mg for a 3-inch length of Cu wire).

TABLE XII
FLUORINATION CONDITIONS

<u>Metal</u>	<u>Exposure Time (hours)</u>	<u>Temperature $^\circ\text{C}$</u>
Ag	5	100
Co	7	480
Cu	4	480
Ni	14	600

B. CYCLIC VOLTAMMETRIC MEASUREMENTS

A detailed description of the instrumentation, measuring cell, and measurement procedure, is thoroughly described in an earlier report (Ref. 2). Minor modification including use of a newly designed cell is described in a later report (Ref. 1).

1. Instrument Overloading

The instrumentation which has been employed in the cyclic voltammetric measurements is based upon operational amplifier modules. Since the modular instrumentation is limited to ± 20 ma, a Harrison 6823A amplifier is used to extend the working range. This amplifier is rated at 20 v and ± 500 ma. In the past, a number of electrochemical systems have resulted in currents in excess of this value, causing current overload of the amplifier. This in turn drives the voltage to an overload condition. During this reporting period many of the BF_3 and PF_5 solutions have resulted in voltage overload, but without the accompanying current overload. This is due to the relatively low electrolyte conductance accompanied by an appreciable current so that the 20 v limit of the instrument is exceeded. Voltage overload did not occur in the earlier reporting periods on MgF_2 systems for instance, even though the solution resistance was 10 to 100 times greater, since the currents were exceedingly low, owing to poor availability of electroactive species (very low solute solubility). In the case of the PF_5 and BF_3 solutions, however, there is sufficient anodic or cathodic activity to produce current densities from the medium low to very high range, but still less than 500 ma total current, which with the relatively high solution resistance will cause voltage overload.

In both cases (currents less and greater than 500 ma) the amplifier suffers a voltage overload. For purposes of recording however, and to distinguish

systems having currents greater than 500 ma (irrespective of the solution conductivity) from those in which the currents are sufficiently high (but less than 500 ma) but which possess a relatively low conductance, the term current overload will be reserved for the former, and voltage overload for the latter. The approximate maximum current (both anodic and cathodic) for the latter systems is indicated on the amplifier meter, and in a number of cases was noted and recorded. Because of the large frequency of occurrence of such systems, recording of the magnitude and direction of this current will be standard procedure for continuing measurements.

A maximum current of 500 ma corresponds to a current density of 2.0 amps/cm² for a 1/4 inch length electrode. Prior to the availability of the Harrison amplifier, the Wenking potentiostat was used as a current amplifier. With this instrument the maximum permissible current was 500 ma anodic, and 300 ma cathodic. A new Harrison amplifier will shortly be available which will extend the current capability to 1.0 amp and the voltage limit to 50 v.

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