

SECOND QUARTERLY REPORT

ELECTROCHEMICAL CHARACTERIZATION OF SYSTEMS
FOR SECONDARY BATTERY APPLICATION

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by

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
ABSTRACT	i
SUMMARY	ii
INTRODUCTION	iv
I. RESULTS	1
A. Material Purification and Characterization	1
1. Solvent Purification and Characterization	1
2. Solute Purification and Characterization	2
3. Electrode Preparation and Characterization	4
B. Analysis of Cyclic Voltammograms	8
Designation of Solid State Reduction	11
1. Systems Involving Chloride Electrolytes	16
2. Systems Involving Fluoride Electrolytes	25
C. Tables of Cyclic Voltammetric Data	91
II. EXPERIMENTAL	104
A. Material Purification and Characterization	104
1. Distillation of Solvents	104
2. Solution Preparation	104
3. Electrode Preparation	105
B. Cyclic Voltammetric Measurements	106
III. REFERENCES	107

CYCLIC VOLTAMMOGRAMS

Figure	<u>Page</u>
1. Ag in Butyrolactone -LiCl	35
2. Ag in Butyrolactone -MgCl ₂	36
3. Ag in Butyrolactone -LiCl+MgCl ₂	37
4. Ag in Butyrolactone -AlCl ₃	38
5. Ag in Butyrolactone -LiCl+LiClO ₄	39
6. Ag in Butyrolactone -AlCl ₃ +LiClO ₄	40
7. Ag oxide in Butyrolactone -LiCl	41
8. Ag oxide in Butyrolactone -LiCl+AlCl ₃	42
9. Ag oxide in Butyrolactone -LiClO ₄	43
10. Ag in Acetonitrile -LiCl	44
11. Ag oxide in Acetonitrile -LiClO ₄	45
12. Ag in Dimethylformamide -LiCl	46
13. Ag in Dimethylformamide -LiCl+MgCl ₂	47
14. Ag in Dimethylformamide -MgCl ₂	48
15. Ag in Dimethylformamide -LiCl+AlCl ₃	49
16. Ag in Dimethylformamide -AlCl ₃	50
17. Ag oxide in Dimethylformamide -LiCl	51
18. Ag oxide in Dimethylformamide -LiCl+AlCl ₃	52
19. Ag oxide in Dimethylformamide -AlCl ₃ +LiClO ₄	53
20. Ag in Propylene carbonate -MgCl ₂	54
21. Ag in Propylene carbonate -MgCl ₂ +LiCl	55
22. Ag in Propylene carbonate -LiClO ₄	56
23. Cu in Butyrolactone -AlCl ₃	57
24. Cu in Butyrolactone -AlCl ₃ +LiClO ₄	58
25. Cu in Dimethylformamide -LiCl	59
26. Cu oxide in Dimethylformamide -LiCl	60
27. Cu in Dimethylformamide -LiCl+LiClO ₄	61
28. Cu oxide in Dimethylformamide -LiClO ₄	62
29. Cu in Dimethylformamide -MgCl ₂	63
30. Cu oxide in Dimethylformamide -LiCl+AlCl ₃	64

Figure	Page
31. Cu in Dimethylformamide- $\text{LiClO}_4 + \text{AlCl}_3$	65
32. Cu oxide in Acetonitrile- LiClO_4	66
33. Cu in Propylene carbonate- MgCl_2	67
34. Cu in Propylene carbonate- $\text{MgCl}_2 + \text{LiCl}$	68
35. Cu oxide in Propylene carbonate- LiClO_4	69
36. Ag in Acetonitrile- KPF_6	70
37. Ag in Dimethylformamide- LiBF_4	71
38. Ag in Propylene carbonate- KPF_6	72
39. Ag in Propylene carbonate- KPF_6	73
40. Ag in Propylene carbonate- $\text{LiF} + \text{KPF}_6$	74
41. Cu oxide in Acetonitrile- KPF_6	75
42. Cu in Acetonitrile- $\text{LiF} + \text{KPF}_6$	76
43. Cu in Butyrolactone- $\text{LiF} + \text{KPF}_6$	77
44. Cu oxide in Butyrolactone- $\text{LiF} + \text{KPF}_6$	78
45. Cu in Dimethylformamide- KPF_6	79
46. Cu in Dimethylformamide- LiBF_4	80
47. Cu in Propylene carbonate- KPF_6	81
48. Ni oxide in Dimethylformamide- LiPF_6	82
49. Zn in Acetonitrile- KPF_6	83
50. Zn in Butyrolactone- KPF_6	84
51. Zn in Butyrolactone- $\text{KPF}_6 + \text{LiF}$	85
52. Zn in Dimethylformamide- KPF_6	86
53. Zn in Propylene carbonate- KPF_6	87
54. Cd in Butyrolactone- KPF_6	88
55. Cd in Dimethylformamide- KPF_6	89
56. Mo in Acetonitrile- KPF_6	90

LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
I. Analysis of Metal Salts	3
II. Analysis of Wire Electrodes	5
III. Electrolyte Conductivities	6
IV. Electrochemical Systems Screened-Chloride Electrolytes	9
V. Electrochemical Systems Screened-Fluoride Electrolytes	10
VI. Anodic Peak Current Density and Sweep Index Chloride Electrolytes	92
VII. Cathodic Peak Current Density and Sweep Index Chloride Electrolytes	93
VIII. Anodic Peak Current Density and Sweep Index Fluoride Electrolytes	94
IX. Cathodic Peak Current Density and Sweep Index Fluoride Electrolytes	95
X. Cathode Reaction Type and Compatibility Silver in Chloride Electrolytes	96
XI. Cathode Reaction Type and Compatibility Silver in Fluoride Electrolytes	97
XII. Cathode Reaction Type and Compatibility Copper in Chloride Electrolytes	98
XIII. Cathode Reaction Type and Compatibility Copper in Fluoride Electrolytes	99
XIV. Cathode Reaction Type and Compatibility Zinc, Cadmium in Fluoride Electrolytes	100
XV. ΔV_p , Charge-Discharge Efficiency and Discharge Capacity - Silver Electrodes	101
XVI. ΔV_p , Charge-Discharge Efficiency and Discharge Capacity - Copper Electrodes	102
XVII. ΔV_p , Charge-Discharge Efficiency and Discharge Capacity - Zinc, Cadmium in Fluoride Electrolytes	103

ELECTROCHEMICAL CHARACTERIZATION OF SYSTEMS FOR SECONDARY BATTERY APPLICATION

by

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ABSTRACT

Multisweep cyclic voltammograms have been obtained for one hundred and fifty-three systems comprising silver, copper, nickel, zinc, cadmium, and molybdenum in acetonitrile, butyrolactone, dimethylformamide, and propylene carbonate solutions of chlorides and fluorides. Voltammograms are presented for fifty-six of these systems. Tabular data includes peak current density, sweep index, charge-discharge efficiency, and discharge capacity.

SUMMARY

The electrochemical characterization of systems by the method of multi-sweep cyclic voltammetry has continued. Cyclic voltammograms are now available on over two hundred systems comprising silver, copper, nickel, zinc, cadmium, and molybdenum in chloride and fluoride solutions of acetonitrile, butyrolactone, dimethylformamide, and propylene carbonate. The solutes consisted of AlCl_3 , LiCl , MgCl_2 , LiClO_4 , LiF , MgF_2 , LiPF_6 , LiBF_4 , and KPF_6 . The cyclic voltammograms of fifty-six systems are included in this report.

A new procedure for data analysis has been adopted, which has greatly facilitated interpretation of the curves, and permits better correlation of the electrochemical systems.

Tables are presented listing system parameters derived from the cyclic voltammograms. These tables present data on peak current densities, sweep index, cathode reaction type and solution compatibility, anodic to cathodic peak displacement, charge-discharge efficiency, and discharge capacity. Nearly all systems demonstrate reduction of a solid state material during discharge, this material being anodically-formed during the voltage sweep. Where exceptions are found, these generally contain perchlorate ion as the sole solute species. In such cases, reduction of a dissolved species is indicated.

The effect of sweep rate on the anodic to cathodic peak ratio gives a relative measure of anodically-formed cathode material stability to electrolyte dissolution. In general, silver chloride is insoluble, copper chloride and silver fluoride are soluble, and copper fluoride systems mostly insoluble.

Some preliminary voltammograms are presented on zinc, cadmium, and molybdenum electrodes. In general, excellent sweep curves were obtained for zinc and cadmium. Molybdenum failed to form an anodic product.

Chemical characterization of LiCl , LiF , MgF_2 , and LiClO_4 , and silver, copper, and nickel wire, has been recorded. Analysis was made by emission spectroscopy.

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 PURIFICATION AND CHARACTERIZATION

During this period, further purification and characterization of materials has been accomplished.

1. Solvent Purification and Characterization

The solvents employed during this period were dimethylformamide, butyrolactone, propylene carbonate, and acetonitrile. With the exception of dimethylformamide, purification of each of these materials was accomplished by distillation under conditions previously described (Ref. 1). Variation in the amount of water found in propylene carbonate necessitated a double distillation with drying over calcium sulfate between the first and second distillation.

Analysis of the solvents was usually carried out by vapor phase chromatography (VPC). The conditions for the VPC analysis have been previously detailed,⁽¹⁾ however two phases of the VPC analysis were investigated further. It has been shown that the use of a polyethylene glycol (PEG) 1540 column allowed resolution of water in butyrolactone. However, a peak appeared in the VPC analysis of a head fraction of butyrolactone which could not be resolved below about 0.05 mole %. Even though this impurity was only apparent in the head fraction, and not in the "as received" material or in the main cuts, resolution of this impurity was attempted on a triscyanoethoxy-propane column (TCEP) and a diethyleneglycol stearate (DEGS) column. Neither of these substrates afforded resolution of the impurity. In order to insure reasonable purity of butyrolactone, a relatively large head cut was taken.

acetonitrile was not possible on a PEG column. Recently, it has been found that VPC analysis using a TCEP column or DEGS column did not afford resolution of water in acetonitrile. Analysis of water by the Karl Fischer method (Ref. 2) showed that acetonitrile distilled under the conditions previously indicated contained 60-80 ppm water. Unless a VPC method becomes available, analysis for water in acetonitrile will be carried out by the Karl Fischer titration.

2. Solute Purification and Characterization

In the initial portion of the program, most of the solutes chosen for screening could be obtained in sufficient purity, with purification limited to drying. Analysis of these materials (Table I) indicated that they were reasonably pure, and that expected impurities would not markedly affect the interpretation of the cyclic voltammograms.

In addition to the common salts shown in Table I, two additional materials were used in the screening program. Potassium hexafluorophosphate (Ozark-Mahoning), 99.6% pure by fluoride analysis, was dried at 120°C for three days. Since this material was not of primary importance in the program, no further characterization was made. However, since the salt may be recrystallized from water, it was not expected that appreciable hydrolysis or dissociation would occur under the drying conditions. The small amount of impurity indicated by the analysis is probably due to the presence of lithium oxide which would not be expected to interfere with the sweep determinations.

Since it was expected that commercially available aluminum chloride was of doubtful purity, purification of this material was accomplished by sublimation at approximately 170°C. Although the material was not analyzed at this time, such treatment should preclude the presence of major impurities.

TABLE I
ANALYSIS OF METAL SALTS*
ppm

<u>Element</u>	<u>LiCl</u>	<u>LiF</u>	<u>MgF₂</u>	<u>MgCl₂</u>	<u>LiClO₄</u>
Fe	60	4.2	170	52	nil
Al	92	1.7	nil	nil	nil
Cu	1.2	2.5	3.3	27	.54
Ni	nil	1.4	nil	nil	nil
Ca	260	16	430	24	20
Si	36	15	510	51	nil
Mg	3.8	1.2	nil	nil	6.1
Na	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
K	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Mn	nil	.48	110	110	nil
B	nil	nil	330	nil	nil
Ti	nil	nil	55	22	nil
Sr	nil	nil	nil	nil	≤ 2

* Analysis by emission spectroscopy (Truesdail Laboratories, Inc., Los Angeles, Calif.) Limits of detection of sodium and potassium by this method approximately 0.02%.

The metal electrodes, copper, silver, and nickel were obtained from laboratory supply houses. Analysis of these materials is given in Table II. Although one may not state with complete assurance that the indicated impurities do not affect the nature of the electrochemical processes involved in the electrochemical measurements, it is not expected that the use of extremely high purity materials would markedly affect the sweep curves, sufficient to justify their cost in a screening program.

Since the electrodes, molybdenum, zinc, and cadmium were only used in preliminary screening, no analysis of these materials was made. However, data furnished from the suppliers indicated 99.9% purity.

Copper oxide and nickel oxide electrodes were prepared by heating the metals in a stream of air for a specified time. Attempted preparation of silver oxide electrodes by this method was not successful, so that these electrodes were prepared by electrolytic oxidation in 30% KOH followed by vacuum drying. Although the specific composition of the oxide electrodes was not investigated, these electrodes gave reproducible results in the voltage sweep measurements.

Solution conductivities are given in Table III. A value of $5 \times 10^{-4} \text{ ohm}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$ had been previously established as a useful limit for systems to be screened, however, a few systems having a lower value were measured in order to ascertain the effect of poor conductivity.

TABLE II
ANALYSIS OF WIRE ELECTRODES*
ppm

<u>Element</u>	<u>Cu</u>	<u>Ag</u>	<u>Ni</u>
Co	nil	nil	1600
Ti	nil	nil	140
Cu	-	91	< 320
Al	nil	nil	30
Fe	9.1	< 10	540
Si	nil	nil	500
Mn	nil	nil	1300
Mg	1.9	2.4	320
B	nil	nil	63
Ag	13	-	nil
Ni	< 10	nil	-
Ca	7.8	< 2	nil
Pb	nil	< 40	nil

* Analysis by emission spectroscopy (Truesdail Laboratories,
Los Angeles, California)

TABLE III
ELECTROLYTE CONDUCTIVITIES

<u>Electrolyte</u>	<u>Molality</u> m	<u>Conductivity</u> $\text{ohm}^{-1} \text{cm}^{-1}$
<u>Acetonitrile</u>		
LiCl	< 0.5(s)	4.1×10^{-4}
AlCl ₃	1.0	4.5×10^{-2}
LiCl + AlCl ₃	0.082(1)	7.6×10^{-3}
LiClO ₄	1.0	4.4×10^{-2}
KPF ₆	0.75	3.3×10^{-2}
KPF ₆ + LiF	0.75	3.5×10^{-2}
<u>Butyrolactone</u>		
LiCl	0.75	1.3×10^{-3}
AlCl ₃	0.5	1.3×10^{-2}
LiCl + AlCl ₃	0.5(1)	8.1×10^{-4}
MgCl ₂	(2)	5.5×10^{-3}
MgCl ₂ + LiCl	0.75(1)	7.3×10^{-3}
LiClO ₄	0.75	1.7×10^{-2}
LiClO ₄ + LiCl	(3)	3.2×10^{-3}
LiClO ₄ + AlCl ₃	0.5(1)	1.7×10^{-2}
MgF ₂	< 0.5(s)	$2.0 \times 10^{-6} *$
MgF ₂ + LiF	< 0.5(s)	4.6×10^{-5}
KPF ₆	0.5	1.2×10^{-2}
KPF ₆ + LiF	(4)	1.57×10^{-2}

* Potentially reported in error

TABLE III - Cont'd

<u>Electrolyte</u>	<u>Molality</u> m	<u>Conductivity</u> $\text{ohm}^{-1} \text{cm}^{-1}$
<u>Dimethylformamide</u>		
LiCl	0.75	1.4×10^{-2}
MgCl ₂	< 0.5(s)	1.7×10^{-2}
MgCl ₂ + LiCl	< 0.5(s)	1.5×10^{-2}
LiClO ₄	0.75	3.4×10^{-2}
LiClO ₄ + LiCl	0.75(1)	2.1×10^{-2}
LiClO ₄ + AlCl ₃	< 0.5(s)	1.8×10^{-2}
MgF ₂	< 0.5(s)	2.2×10^{-6}
KPF ₆	0.75	2.5×10^{-2}
KPF ₆ + LiF	(4)	2.3×10^{-2}
<u>Propylene Carbonate</u>		
MgCl ₂	< 0.5(s)	2.9×10^{-3}
MgCl ₂ + LiCl	< 0.5(s)	5.8×10^{-3}
LiClO ₄	1.0	2.0×10^{-3}
KPF ₆	0.75	9.1×10^{-3}
KPF ₆ + LiF	(4)	1.0×10^{-2}

(s) Saturated

(1) Concentration with respect to each salt

(2) Saturated between 0.75 and 1.0 m

(3) Solution was 0.75 m in LiClO₄ and saturated with LiCl at greater than 0.5 m(4) Solution initially 0.75 m in KPF₆ and saturated with LiF. Solution was stirred overnight to equilibrate.

B. ANALYSIS OF CYCLIC VOLTAMMOGRAMS

Tables IV and V list the electrochemical systems screened during the second quarter of this program. This represents a total of 153 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 has not only facilitated analysis of the data, but more important, has vastly improved interpretation of the data, 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. This assumption is made with no allusion to reaction mechanism, and the curves generally analyzed on this basis.

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

TABLE IV ELECTROCHEMICAL SYSTEMS SCREENED - CHLORIDE ELECTROLYTES*

Solute	Solvent	Acetonitrile	Butyrolactone	Dimethylformamide	Propylene Carbonate
LiCl		Ag	AgO, NiO, CuO	Ag, Ni, Cu, AgO, NiO, CuO	-
AlCl ₃		Ag, Ni, Cu	Ag, Ni, Cu	-	-
LiCl+AlCl ₃		Ag, Ni, Cu, AgO, NiO, CuO	AgO, NiO, CuO	Ag, AgO, NiO, CuO	-
MgCl ₂		-	Ag, Ni, Cu	Ag, Ni, Cu	Ag, Ni, Cu
MgCl ₂ +LiCl		-	Ag, Ni, Cu	Ag, Ni, Cu	Ag, Ni, Cu
LiClO ₄		AgO, NiO, CuO	AgO, NiO, CuO, Mo	Ag, Ni, Cu, AgO, NiO, CuO	Ag, Ni, Cu, Mo, AgO, NiO, CuO
LiClO ₄ +LiCl		-	Ag, Ni, Cu	Ag, Ni, Cu	-
LiClO ₄ +AlCl ₃		-	Ag, Ni, Cu	Ni, Cu, AgO	-

* Oxide formulas not intended to indicate composition.

TABLE V ELECTROCHEMICAL SYSTEMS SCREENED - FLUORIDE ELECTROLYTES**

Solvent Solute	Acetonitrile	Butyrolactone	Dimethylformamide	Propylene Carbonate
MgF ₂	-	Ag, Ni, Cu, Mo	Ag, Ni, Cu	-
MgF ₂ +LiF	-	Ag, Ni, Cu	-	-
KPF ₆	Ag, Ni, Cu, Ag*, AgO, NiO, CuO, Zn, Cd, Mo	Ag, Ni, Cu, AgO, NiO, CuO, Zn, Cd, Mo	Ag, Ni, Cu, AgO, NiO, CuO, Zn, Cd, Mo	Ag, Ni, Cu, AgO, NiO, CuO, Zn, Cd, Mo
KPF ₆ +LiF	Ag, Ni, Cu, AgO, NiO, CuO, Zn, Cd, Mo	Ag, Ni, Cu, AgO, NiO, CuO, Zn, Cd, Mo	Ag, Ni, Cu	Ag, Ni, Cu
LiPF ₆	-	-	NiO	-
LiBF ₄	-	-	Ag, Cu	-

* 1000 ppm water in electrolyte

** Oxide formulas not intended to indicate composition

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 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.

Designation of Solid State or Dissolved Species Reduction Process

In this, and in an earlier report (Ref. 1), tables are given indicating whether a solid state material or a dissolved species is involved during the cathodic portion of the sweep, and whether the product formed during the anodic portion is soluble or insoluble. For purposes of clarification, this is now discussed in detail.

We consider the following reaction



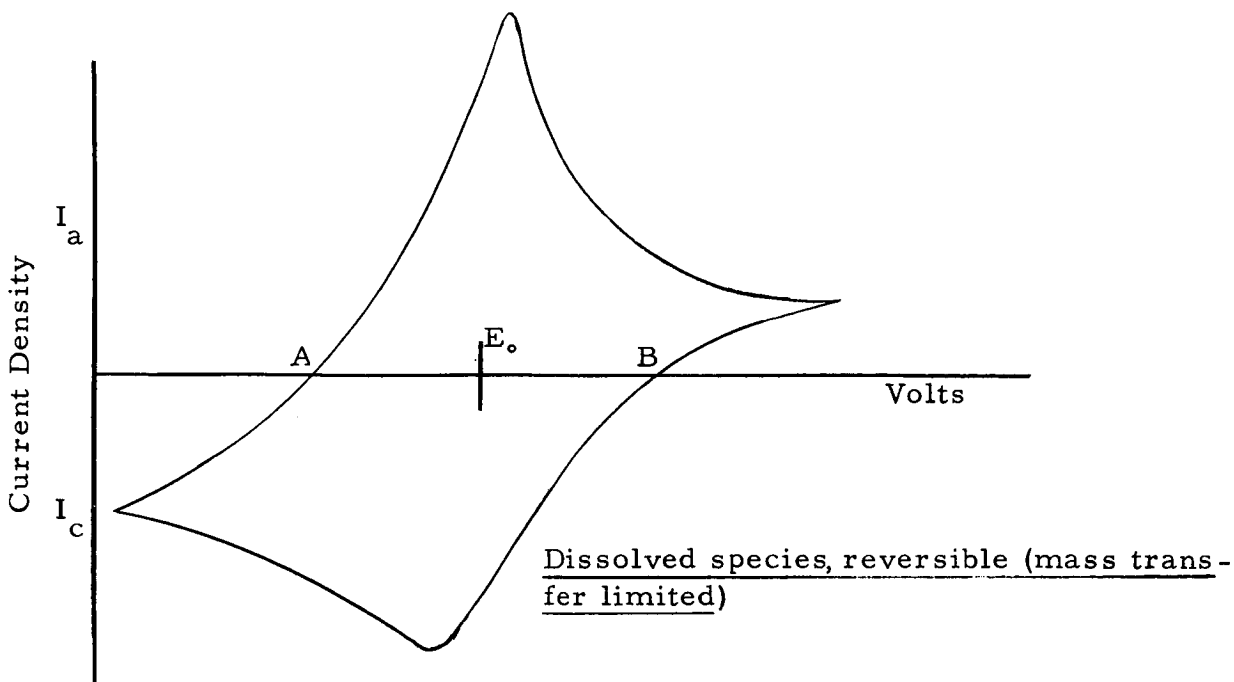
where M is a solid metal electrode, X^- is a soluble anion, and MX is a relatively insoluble solid product. This situation is therefore schematically represented as

M	MX	X^-
Metal	Insoluble Compound	Solution

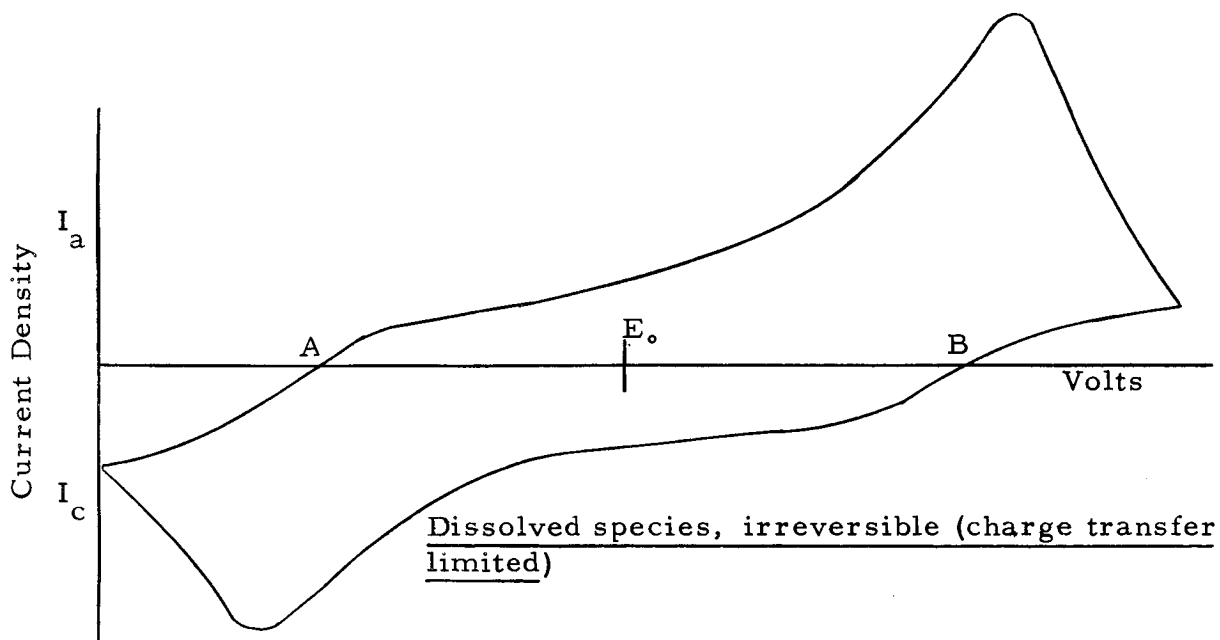
The layer MX is represented as having some finite depth since prior work at Narmco has demonstrated a thickness of at least 5 monolayers existing at solid electrodes. This representation requires that the MX layer also contains some M species. Charge transfer may therefore be possible either at the M-MX or at the MX-solution interfaces. Determination of which occurs involves consideration of the characteristics of the MX layer. Current must be accompanied by transport through the MX phase of M, M^+ , or X^- . It is generally accepted (though not proven) that only M and M^+ are transportable. In metal-excess types, the metal atoms are assumed to migrate interstitially with electron transfer occurring at the MX-solution interface. The electrons must then also cross the MX phase, constituting a semiconductor process. In metal-defect materials, it is assumed that the M^+ ion is the migrating species (via defect lattice sites), and that electron transfer occurs at the M-MX interface. This does not require the electron to be carried across the MX layer. If one assumes that the X^- ion is also mobile, then two additional mechanisms are conceivable analogous to the M and M^+ species. The activation energy losses associated with electron transfer, electron migration across the MX layer, and migration of M or M^+ across the MX layer, must be considered together as one since they cannot be individually measured.

The essential point to be made, is that whenever a solid product is formed at a metal electrode and remains there during the period of the sweep measurement, then a M-MX- X' situation exists, which involves an entirely different electrochemical environment than is to be found in the case of electro-oxidation or reduction of dissolved species at an inert electrode such as mercury, platinum, or pyrolytic graphite. The presence of the MX layer requires that both mass transfer and charge transfer processes within this layer be considered, as well as those normally found at metal-solution interfaces in the case of inert electrodes.

For a reversible dissolved species and an inert electrode, and where the electrode reaction is limited only by mass transfer of ions, the cyclic voltammogram would be typified by the following:

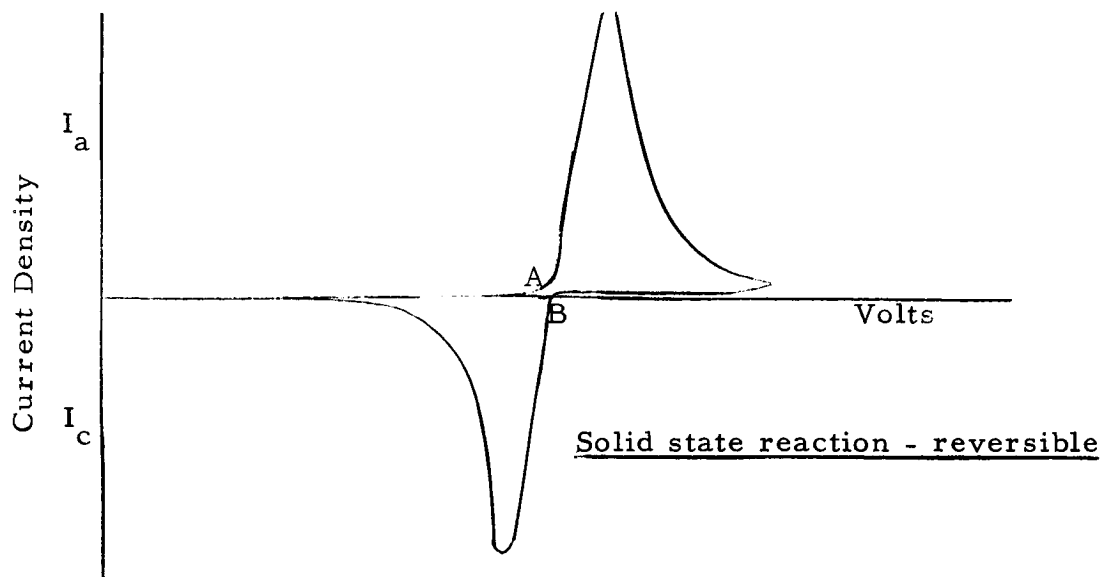


Similarly, an irreversible process would exhibit the following type of curve:

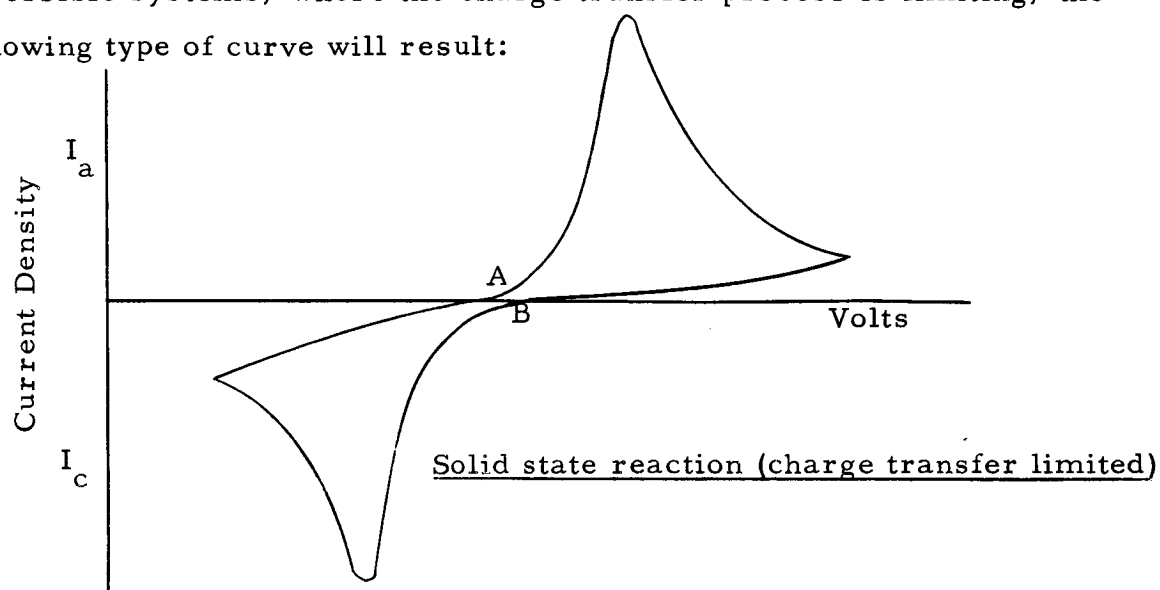


in which the peaks are considerably displaced from the ocv (E_o) value, and from each other. In general, the distance between the two points (A and B) where the curve intersects the zero-current axis, is a relative measure of the concentration polarization.

The presence of a solid product at the metal electrode results in a cyclic voltammogram of the type



for relatively reversible systems (low activation polarization). For irreversible systems, where the charge transfer process is limiting, the following type of curve will result:



The relatively small displacement between points A and B indicates the low degree of concentration polarization. This displacement will become larger with increasing concentration polarization.

Most of the systems screened to date indicate the solid state type of cyclic voltammogram. In addition to this however, the cyclic voltammograms of a large number of systems exhibit a decrease in the cathodic peak current density (with respect to the anodic peak current density) with decreasing sweep rate. These systems also exhibit visual streaming out from the working electrode, as well as solution discoloration. At sufficiently low sweep rates, many systems fail to show any cathodic current. Apparently the product formed during the anodic portion of the sweep is less available, or no longer exists, at the lower sweep rates for subsequent reduction.

If the cathodic reaction involved reduction of a dissolved species in solution no such pronounced effect by sweep rate would be evident, since a sufficient amount would be available for reaction. If, however, the cathodic reaction involved reduction of a solid state product, then at slower sweep rates more of the anodic product has had time to dissolve, resulting in less material available for reduction. At sufficiently slow sweeps, little or none is left at the electrode for the discharge reaction. The effect of sweep rate on the height of the cathodic peak is therefore an indication of relative solubility within the time period of the measurement. Such systems are designated as having a solid state cathodic reaction with the cathode material (product formed during the anodic sweep) being soluble in the electrolyte.

It is of great interest that no reduction of dissolved material occurs (evidenced by the absence of a cathodic current at low sweep rates) even though the solution is heavily contaminated with dissolved oxidized metal species. No explanation is offered at this time, but the answer may lie in the complexation and solvation of these ions preventing their reduction within the voltage range limits, or possibly their complete non-reactivity due to inability to be adsorbed at the electrode surface.

A number of systems have been found in which the anode-cathode peak ratio remains invariant with sweep rate, and the solution remains unchanged during the measurements. In these cases, the cathode is designated as being insoluble, and again the cathodic reaction involves reduction of a solid state material.

In a few number of cases dissolution of electrode material is observed, and yet the cathodic peak height remains invariant (relative to the anodic peak height) with decreasing sweep rate. This is often accompanied by extensive concentration polarization (large displacement between A and B). Since the cathodic current density does not decrease, in spite of electrode

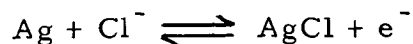
dissolution, it has been assumed that the reduction reaction involves a dissolved species. This is in agreement with the significant concentration polarization. In a limited number of cases, however, cyclic voltammograms typical of solid state reduction reactions, with minimal concentration polarization, have been obtained, and designated as dissolved species reduction, because of the invariance of the cathode peak. Such cases may actually involve a solid state reduction reaction, the solution discoloration being due only to slow dissolution of cathode material. In order to establish this fact, more detailed measurements (electrode rotation, use of a pyrolytic graphite electrode) would have to be performed, which is not conducive to a broad screening program. Designation of a "dissolved species" reduction for any system must therefore still be considered suspect, and may only imply formation of an anodic product which is partially soluble (again, relative to the time period of the measurement).

The inclusion of tabular data designating cathode reaction type (solid state or dissolved species) and cathode compatibility (soluble or insoluble) is continued in this report since it serves as another indication for system recommendation, since obviously the most desirable positive plate for battery application is one which is insoluble in the electrolyte, and which (similar to AgO, AgCl, etc. in aqueous solution) involves an electrochemical conversion via a solid state material MA, where M is the reduced metal, and A is the anion common with the electrolyte species.

1. Systems Involving Chloride Electrolytes

a. Silver Chloride - Anodically Formed During Cyclic Voltammetry

Cyclic voltammograms obtained with metallic silver in chloride solutions are assumed to represent the reaction



This assumption is valid based on the observation that only a single anodic or cathodic peak is generally obtained, except in dimethylformamide solutions, and the cathodic reaction represents reduction of a solid state mater-

ial insoluble in the electrolyte. We now discuss the individual electrochemical systems under the headings of the various solvents.

(1) Butyrolactone solutions

Figure 1 (CV-444) represents the cyclic voltammogram of silver metal in butyrolactone-LiCl electrolyte. No anodic peak was obtained in the voltage range scanned, and only a low cathodic peak was obtained. The substitution of MgCl_2 for LiCl results in a curve exhibiting a typical anodic peak for the oxidation of Ag to AgCl, and a typical cathodic peak for the reduction of AgCl to metallic silver. This is shown in Figure 2 (CV-673). The addition of LiCl to butyrolactone- MgCl_2 decreases the peak current densities from medium high to medium low as shown in Figure 3 (CV-685). The curves shown in Figures 2 and 3 represent a desirable type of cyclic voltammogram (the ideal would be even sharper peaks with still less displacement). The smooth and directly descending portion of the cathodic peaks to the zero-current axis represents a clean non-complicated reaction. Both curves also exhibit a low degree of concentration polarization, indicated by the small displacement in volts where the ascending portions of the anodic and cathodic peaks intersect the zero-current axis. In addition, the initiation of both the anodic and cathodic reactions at close to the same potential indicates a relative low activation polarization.

The substitution of AlCl_3 (Figure 4, CV-782) for either MgCl_2 or LiCl results in a system having high peak current densities, e. g. 260 ma/cm^2 for the cathodic current density compared with 74 and 34 ma/cm^2 for MgCl_2 and $\text{MgCl}_2 + \text{LiCl}$ respectively. AlCl_3 , however, increases the activation polarization (indicated by an increase in ΔV_p) by nearly 0.3 volts. Concentration polarization is negligible.

The effect of adding LiClO_4 to butyrolactone-LiCl is shown in Figure 5 (CV-865) indicating that the perchlorate ion may act separately from the chloride ion in its reaction with silver, its anodic and cathodic reactions occurring at a more positive potential than with chloride. A second

obvious possibility is the existence of a higher oxidation state of silver. Unlike the case for LiCl alone (Figure 1) an anodic peak typical for silver oxidation to AgCl is exhibited at +0.3 volts, and a typical cathodic peak at -0.2 volts. A voltage inflection at about -0.4 volts indicates reduction of some other species.

Figure 6 (CV-1058) shows the curve for butyrolactone- $\text{LiClO}_4 + \text{AlCl}_3$. This curve compares well with that obtained for AlCl_3 alone (Figure 4) except that a slight anodic inflection occurs just prior to the main oxidation peak. Absent however, is the secondary peak attributed to the perchlorate ion.

Voltammetric measurements were also made using silver wire electrodes electrolytically oxidized in aqueous solution. Figure 7 (CV-756) shows the curve obtained in butyrolactone-LiCl solution. Unlike the corresponding case of silver, an anodic peak is now obtained, although somewhat broader, as well as a much higher cathodic peak. In addition, the peak-to-peak separation is much greater for the oxide electrode than for metallic silver (see Figures 2 and 3).

Pre-oxidized silver in $\text{LiCl} + \text{AlCl}_3$ represents an excellent electrochemical system for secondary battery application. The cyclic voltammogram is shown in Figure 8 (CV-1081). The extremely high cathodic peak, very high anodic peak, with a peak-to-peak displacement (ΔV_p) of only 230 mv are desirable voltammetric parameters in terms of potential secondary battery systems. Other requirements are high charge-discharge efficiency and discharge capacity. For the AgO/butyrolactone-LiCl+ AlCl_3 system these are 100% and 4.4 coulombs/cm², respectively, the latter being of the highest measured to date. No results were available for untreated silver in this solution, so it cannot be stated at this time whether pre-oxidation has any influence on the desirable properties of this system. In any case, this system is recommended for further study.

Silver oxide in butyrolactone- LiClO_4 (Figure 9, CV-888) gave comparable results with untreated silver in the same solution, in that the cathodic reaction involved reduction of dissolved species. This implies that at no time was a solid state anodic product formed, but that the oxidation of silver was immediately followed by the reduction of silver ions in solution.

(2) Acetonitrile solutions

Silver in acetonitrile- LiCl (Figure 10, CV-477) exhibits medium low current densities. The anodic reaction, although exhibiting a peak, unlike the butyrolactone case, is accompanied by a conflicting reaction at the higher anodic potentials. The low conductance, $4.7 \times 10^{-4} \text{ ohm}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$ is indicative of a low availability of chloride ions, probably accounting for the medium low currents, and poor charge performance. Addition of AlCl_3 causes voltage overload of the equipment indicative of high currents, (in excess of 1.4 amps/cm^2). The high reaction rate resulted in anodic product becoming detached from the electrode and dropping to the bottom of the cell. High current and resulting overload also existed in acetonitrile solution containing AlCl_3 alone. Pre-oxidized silver wire in acetonitrile- $\text{LiCl}+\text{AlCl}_3$ also caused instrument overloading.

The effect of LiClO_4 is shown in Figure 11 (CV-808) for pre-oxidized silver in acetonitrile- LiClO_4 . The presence of multiple anodic peaks indicates a complex oxidation in perchlorate solution. The absence of a cathodic peak is a result of anodic product dissolution in the electrolyte. A cathodic peak is observed at the higher sweep rates of 80 and 200 mv/sec. This observation complies with the designation of a solid state cathodic reaction, with the cathode material being soluble in the electrolyte.

(3) Dimethylformamide solutions

The cyclic voltammograms for silver in dimethylformamide- LiCl , Figure 12 (CV-731), exhibits multiple cathodic peaks, the primary peak occurring

at about +0.1 volt. An anodic peak occurs at +0.5 volts, followed by the beginning of a second peak at a more positive potential. It is doubtful whether this second peak represents solvent decomposition, due to the occurrence of multiple anodic peaks in other chloride solutions of this solvent, for example, in dimethylformamide-LiCl+MgCl₂, Figure 13 (CV-662). Comparable cathodic peaks are obtained however. MgCl₂ alone, (Figure 14, CV-524), shows only a single cathodic peak corresponding to the main reduction reaction.

Addition of AlCl₃ to dimethylformamide-LiCl gives a very complex curve (Figure 15, CV-501), although the same reduction peak is evident. AlCl₃ alone, shown in Figure 16 (CV-469) shows simpler (but lower) anodic peaks. Again, the primary cathodic peak is predominant. Obviously, the oxidation of silver to the chloride in dimethylformamide represents a complex reaction.

Silver in dimethylformamide-LiClO₄ with or without LiCl results in formation of a soluble anodic product. LiCl-LiClO₄ resulted in instrument overload due to excessive anodic and cathodic currents.

Pre-oxidized silver gave comparable voltammograms, but with some fine differences. Figure 17 (CV-839) is compared with Figure 12 for silver oxide in dimethylformamide-LiCl. The two anodic peaks are both in the voltage range of the sweep, whereas the cathodic peaks are closer together. In the AlCl₃+LiCl solution, (Figure 18, CV-1094) the anodic complexity is eliminated, leaving only the two small initial anodic peaks found for the non-treated silver electrode (Figure 15). The larger current densities may again be due to the increased electrode area caused by surface oxidation.

As before, dimethylformamide-LiClO₄ results in larger currents causing instrument overload. The curve for AlCl₃+LiClO₄ in this solvent, shown in Figure 19 (CV-1071), is somewhat comparable to that obtained for non-treated silver (Figure 15). (The observed dissolution of anodic product

even though the anode-cathode peak ratio remains invariant with decreasing sweep rates, suggests that the cathodic reaction, in the presence of perchlorate ion, may involve a dissolved species.)

(4) Propylene carbonate solutions

Figures 20 and 21 (CV's -700 and -711 respectively) were obtained for silver in propylene carbonate solutions of MgCl_2 and $\text{MgCl}_2 + \text{LiCl}$ respectively. These curves compare well with butyrolactone solutions of the same salts, (Figures 2 and 3 respectively) except that lower peak-to-peak displacements exists for the butyrolactone solutions, indicating that the latter solvent would be more desirable for secondary battery application. For both types of solvents, the cathodic peak current densities are medium low. In both cases, the MgCl_2 electrolyte gave more than double the cathode discharge capacity of the $\text{MgCl}_2 + \text{LiCl}$ mixture, 0.7 coulombs/ cm^2 compared with 0.3 coulombs/ cm^2 .

The sweep curve for silver in propylene carbonate- LiClO_4 , Figure 22 (CV-852) exhibits a very broad anodic peak, barely peaking out at +0.9 volts, representing a much poorer system than the halide. Pre-oxidized silver gave the same performance, but with slightly higher current densities.

b. Copper Chloride - Anodically Formed During Cyclic Voltammetry

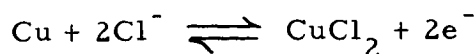
Cyclic voltammograms obtained with metallic copper in chloride solutions should at first approximation represent the reaction



followed by



or by the sum of these,



Because of the possible complex reactions that may be involved, it is not expected that the voltammograms will exhibit single peaks indicative of the above net reactions.

(1) Butyrolactone solutions

Figure 23 (CV-790) represents a typical curve obtained for copper electrodes in chloride solutions of butyrolactone. Copper in butyrolactone- AlCl_3 is shown here. The curve is characterized by a sharp first anodic peak followed by a broad, ill-defined second anodic peak. Only a single low cathodic peak is evident, with a hint of a second reduction beyond -1.0 volt. Addition of LiClO_4 to this solution shows the second cathodic peak (Figure 24, CV-1066). The cathodic peaks, still differing by about 0.9 v, are more evident with butyrolactone- MgCl_2 and butyrolactone- $\text{MgCl}_2 + \text{LiCl}$. The poor discharge properties of copper chloride in butyrolactone solutions make them undesirable systems. Equally poor results were obtained with pre-oxidized copper.

(2) Dimethylformamide solutions

Copper in chloride solutions of dimethylformamide forms soluble, anodic products, with the cathodic reaction being of the solid state type. Figure 25 (CV-739) represents the sweep curve for dimethylformamide- LiCl . The relatively low cathodic peak is due to dissolution of the anodic product, so that less is available for reduction at the low sweep rate of 40 mv/sec. A nearly identical curve is obtained using pre-oxidized copper in the same electrolyte, as shown in Figure 26 (CV-847), but is characterized by sharper and higher peaks. The sharper peaks and smaller peak displacement evident in Figure 26, are due to the fact that this cyclic voltammogram was obtained in the new measuring cell which eliminated IR drop to an absolute minimum (see Experimental). The considerably higher peaks are probably due to the greater surface area due to etching during the pre-oxidation process. Addition of LiClO_4 results in a larger cathodic peak current (Figure 27, CV-883), although LiClO_4 alone gives poor performance (low current, broad peaks), as shown in Figure 28

(CV-834). Dimethylformamide- MgCl_2 , (Figure 29, CV-529), exhibits a sharp, but low, cathodic peak and a flat anodic peak.

Multiple anodic peaks were obtained for dimethylformamide- $\text{LiCl}+\text{AlCl}_3$, as shown in Figure 30 (CV-1102) using a pre-oxidized copper electrode. This is indicative of the complex oxidation reaction of copper in the presence of AlCl_4^- . A very high and sharp cathodic peak is also obtained. Similar high cathodic currents are obtained with $\text{LiClO}_4+\text{AlCl}_3$ (Figure 31, CV-1078). The cathodic reaction in these last examples may possibly involve reduction of a dissolved species.

(3) Acetonitrile solutions

Copper electrodes in acetonitrile- AlCl_3 solution form a soluble anodic product during the sweep measurement, so that only a small cathodic peak is evident at 40 mv (20 ma/cm^2 compared to 490 ma/cm^2 for the anodic peak). This compared with the data for acetonitrile- LiCl . Addition of LiCl results in sufficiently higher currents to give instrument overloading. Pre-oxidation of copper results in much lower current densities for acetonitrile- $\text{LiCl}+\text{AlCl}_3$, as well as a poorly defined anodic peak, suggesting the poor reactivity of copper oxide in this solution. The CV for pre-oxidized copper in acetonitrile- LiClO_4 exhibits a sharp anodic peak, but a poorly-defined cathodic peak (Figure 32, CV-816). Untreated copper wire gives the identical curve.

(4) Propylene carbonate solutions

The CV obtained in propylene carbonate- MgCl_2 as shown in Figure 33 (CV-707), represents an extremely poor system. Apparently the anodic product, which is poorly formed (low anodic currents) is immediately dissolved, since the cathodic peak is proportionately smaller at the higher sweep rate of 200 mv/sec. Addition of LiCl (Figure 34, CV-718), although giving a better defined anodic peak, the anodic product is still excessively soluble.

Pre-oxidized copper in LiClO_4 (Figure 35, CV-972) solution results in a high and sharp cathodic peak. Because the anodic-to-cathodic peak ratio is invariant with sweep rate, and no solution discoloration was observed, the cathodic reaction must involve reduction of an insoluble solid state material. The voltammogram exhibits a larger degree of concentration polarization than is usually observed. Untreated copper in perchlorate solution exhibits a broad anodic and cathodic peak, each extending over the 1.0 volt range. In addition the peak current densities are considerably smaller.

c. Nickel Chloride - Anodically Formed During Cyclic Voltammetry

(1) Acetonitrile solutions

Nickel undergoes anodic reaction in AlCl_3 , reaching a maximum current density (no peak) of 164 ma/cm^2 at +1.0 v. No cathodic reaction is evident. Addition of LiCl results in sufficiently high anodic currents to cause instrument overload, even though the solution conductance is considerably decreased. Pre-oxidized nickel in $\text{LiCl}+\text{AlCl}_3$, however, exhibits much lower anodic currents, reaching a maximum of only 29 ma/cm^2 . Nickel oxide in acetonitrile- LiClO_4 exhibits a definite but very small (0.25 ma/cm^2) anodic and cathodic peak.

(2) Butyrolactone solutions

Low and very low cathodic currents with no peaks were obtained with nickel and pre-oxidized nickel in LiCl , AlCl_3 , $\text{LiCl}+\text{AlCl}_3$, MgCl_2 , LiClO_4 , and $\text{LiClO}_4+\text{LiCl}$ solutions. A medium low anodic and cathodic peak was obtained with $\text{LiClO}_4+\text{LiCl}$. Currents were less than $0.1 \text{ ma/cm}^2/\text{cm}$ division of current axis, for the MgCl_2 and $\text{MgCl}_2+\text{LiCl}$ solutions. AlCl_3 solution gave a high anodic current.

(3) Dimethylformamide solutions

Nickel and pre-oxidized nickel gave very low currents in all solutions measured, with no peaks as the general case.

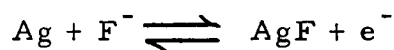
(4) Propylene carbonate solutions

All solutions indicated current densities less than $0.1 \text{ ma/cm}^2/\text{cm}$ division of current axis.

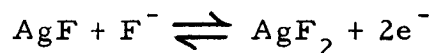
2. Systems Involving Fluoride Electrolytes

a. Silver Fluoride - Anodically Formed During Cyclic Voltammetry

Cyclic voltammograms obtained with metallic silver in fluoride solutions should at first approximation represent the reactions



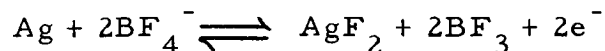
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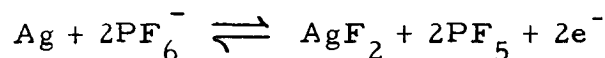
or by the sum of these,



The above reactions can only be assumed to occur if the simple fluoride ion is directly involved. Since the concentration of fluoride ion is apparently quite low based upon solubility product data, in order for the above reactions to occur, fluoride would have to be continually re-stored by dissociation of the complex fluoride (hexafluorophosphate or tetrafluoroborate). Because this dissociation occurs to a relatively small degree, it is not unlikely that the electrode reactions may proceed according to the net reactions



or



in which case the species BF_3 and PF_5 may subsequently be complexed with the solvent molecules.

Since it is the purpose of this program to characterize electrochemical systems as to their suitability for battery application, the cyclic voltammograms of the fluoride systems will be tentatively interpreted on the basis of silver mono- or difluoride formation during the anodic portion of the sweep.

(1) Acetonitrile solutions

The cyclic voltammogram for silver metal in the KPF_6 solution, Figure 36 (CV-580) exhibits very high initial anodic peak, followed by a poorly defined secondary peak. Two high current density cathodic peaks are obtained, with the second anodic peak being better defined at higher sweep rates. Although some dissolution of the anodic product was observed, the anodic-to-cathodic peak ratio was independent of sweep rate. Existence of two cathodic peaks suggests that the anodic product formed is AgF_2 . If so, then charging the monovalent silver to the divalent form represents an inefficient process in this system.

Addition of 1000 ppm water to the above system resulted in a similar type of anodic peak, but with a still higher current density. The cathodic peak was reduced markedly, however, and the effect of sweep rate indicated that a solid state cathodic reaction was involved in which the cathode was soluble. The CV at 200 mv/sec was identical to that obtained for the water-free solution. These facts further substantiate the formation and consequence discharge of AgF_2 , which would not be compatible with water. The addition of LiF to the KPF_6 solution increased the anodic current density still further, and had a pronounced effect on ΔV_p , the peak-to-peak displacement, decreasing it from 0.6 to 0.2 volts, indicating increased reversibility of the reaction.

Pre-oxidized silver in acetonitrile- KPF_6 exhibited only a single poorly defined anodic peak at the higher oxidation potential, and only a single

cathodic peak, although a slight inflection occurred slightly cathodic to the latter peak. Peak current densities were approximately the same as for the untreated silver. Addition of LiF resulted in extremely high currents and consequent instrument overload. This effect is of interest, and will be investigated further.

(2) Butyrolactone solutions

The sweep curves for silver in KPF_6 solution, with or without LiF, are identical in that only a single broad anodic peak is exhibited, and a single broad cathodic peak. In both cases, the cathodic peak becomes proportionately smaller with decreasing sweep rate, indicating a solid state cathodic reaction in which the cathode is soluble. The anodic peak current density is in the high range ($100\text{-}300 \text{ ma/cm}^2$) for the KPF_6 solution, and the very high range (more than 300 ma/cm^2) for the $\text{KPF}_6 + \text{LiF}$ solution. Pre-oxidized silver electrodes gave extremely high currents in KPF_6 solution, with or without LiF, resulting in voltage overload of the equipment. Dissolution of material was evident.

Low anodic currents (less than 10 ma/cm^2) with no peaks, are exhibited in MgF_2 solution, with or without LiF additive, although a low cathodic peak exists. This is to be expected, owing to the low availability of fluoride ion, as indicated by the very low conductance.

(3) Dimethylformamide solutions

The sweep curve for silver in MgF_2 solution exhibits currents less than $0.1 \text{ ma/cm}^2/\text{cm}$ division current axis which is not surprising in view of the extremely low conductance (2.2×10^{-6}) and the consequent low availability of solute species for reaction. On the other hand, very high anodic currents are obtained with KPF_6 solution, with or without LiF, with the existence of two anodic peaks. Two cathodic peaks are also obtained, although these are proportionately smaller at the 40 mv/sec sweep rate, indicating a soluble anodic product undergoing a solid state reduction reaction.

Similar results were obtained with pre-oxidized silver in KPF_6 solution, with anodic currents in excess of 650 ma/cm^2 .

The cyclic voltammogram for silver in dimethylformamide- LiBF_4 is shown in Figure 37 (CV-505) where a second anodic peak begins at +0.9 volts. The peculiar return loop represents a type of voltage delay action. The effect of sweep rate indicated a soluble cathode undergoing a solid state reduction reaction. Gassing was observed at the silver electrode.

(4) Propylene carbonate solutions

Figure 38 (CV-547) represents the sweep curve obtained for silver in propylene carbonate- KPF_6 at 40 mv/sec. This is compared with the family of curves shown in Figure 39 (CV-433), obtained earlier in the program using non-distilled propylene carbonate. This set of curves was obtained by raising the X-Y recorder pen for a few minutes each time, but allowing the system to cycle continuously. Successive curves were recorded over a 30-minute period proceeding in the order 1-6 as labelled. Curve 1 corresponds to that shown in Figure 38 (because of the higher sweep rate for the family of curves, no anodic peak is reached within the 1.0 volt range). Of interest is the absence of a lower oxidation peak and corresponding reduction peak during the early cycles, but with continued cycling, these peaks begin to occur and gain in magnitude, indicating the formation of a double oxidation species of silver. Of further interest, and in confirmation of these data, shown as an inset in Figure 39 is a reproduction of an oscillogram of a cyclic voltammogram obtained with non-distilled propylene carbonate at 800 mv/sec, nineteen months previously during an independent investigation by Whittaker Corporation. Because of the still higher sweep rate, the double peaked curve was immediately evident. The curve shown in Figure 38 was run at a much lower sweep rate so that there was insufficient cycling to bring about the double peaks. Measurements will have to be repeated to determine if the presence of water in the non-distilled propylene carbonate has an influence on the formation of the double peaks.

The addition of LiF to the KPF_6 solution results in much lower currents and the absence of an anodic peak, as shown in Figure 40 (CV-722). Pre-oxidized silver in KPF_6 gives a similar curve to that of silver in KPF_6 , but with a hint of a preliminary anodic peak. Only a single cathodic peak is obtained, however, corresponding to the main anodic peak observed for the untreated metal.

b. Copper Fluoride - Anodically Formed During Cyclic Voltammetry

Using the same approach as before, we could consider that cyclic voltammograms on copper in fluoride solutions should at first approximation indicate the formation and discharge of mono- and di-valent copper fluoride.

(1) Acetonitrile solutions

The cyclic voltammograms for pre-oxidized copper in KPF_6 solution, (Figure 41, CV-910), is characterized by a high, sharp anodic peak, originating immediately at the ocv, followed by a second broad, flat peak which is spread over the remaining anodic scan. On the return sweep, the current remains constant at approximately the peak value until it reaches the ocv, only at which time it drops towards the negative direction. This straight-back current return is a common characteristic for copper in acetonitrile solutions of both chlorides and fluorides. Only a single cathodic peak is evident, which is somewhat broader than the anodic peak. Addition of LiF has no effect on the voltammogram. Copper metal in $\text{KPF}_6 + \text{LiF}$ (Figure 42, CV-618) gives a similar CV but with current densities less than half of the pre-oxidized metal, again confirming the belief that the effect of pre-oxidation is to essentially increase the surface area. (Again, the greater peak displacement is a result of the measurement being made in the older cell.)

(2) Butyrolactone solutions

Very low currents (no peaks) were obtained with copper in MgF_2 solution, with or without LiF, again indicative of low availability of fluoride ions.

Copper in butyrolactone-KPF₆ solution gave two poorly formed anodic peaks, the second in the high current range. The anodic product was slightly soluble, and a solid state cathodic reaction was indicated. Pre-oxidized copper gave a better formed anodic peak, but still very broad. This represents a poor system however, because of the large peak-to-peak displacement (1.3 v). Addition of LiF to the KPF₆ solution results in a curve having a single high and sharp anodic peak (Figure 43, CV-630) for copper. Unfortunately, the formed cathode material is soluble. Pre-oxidized copper forms a similar type of curve (Figure 44, CV-1009) but in this case the anodic product appears to be insoluble. A second anodic peak, absent on the forward sweep, appears on the return sweep, but only a single cathodic peak is evident, although a slight deflection precedes this peak, occurring at about +0.18 volts. This second cathodic peak is evident at higher sweep rates, indicating the solubility of the higher oxidation state cathode material. This system is still undesirable, however, because the cathodic peak is broad and of medium low magnitude (10-50 ma/cm²).

(3) Dimethylformamide solutions

The poor solubility of MgF₂ in this solvent results in low currents because of the deficiency in electrolytic species. The curve for copper in KPF₆ is shown in Figure 45 (CV-565), indicating low currents and a broad anodic peak, which probably involves two peaks close together, since a double cathodic peak is evident. Low currents and poor charge performance characterize this as a poor system. Addition of LiF gives no improvement. Indeed, still lower currents are obtained. Pre-oxidized copper gives the same poor results.

Copper in LiBF₄ solution, shown in Figure 46 (CV-509) exhibits two anodic peaks in the medium high current range (50-100 ma/cm²) differing by 0.6 volts. The reduction reaction is accompanied by excessive activation polarization, and the large peak-to-peak displacement, together with formation of soluble cathode, render this system entirely unsuitable for battery application.

(4) Propylene carbonate solutions

Copper in KPF_6 solution exhibits two distinct anodic peaks, the higher oxidation state being of the medium high current density range, whereas the initial peak is medium low. This is shown in Figure 47 (CV-554). The anodically-formed cathode material, however, is soluble in the electrolyte. Pre-oxidized copper failed to give any peaks, and overall currents were very low. Addition of LiF to the KPF_6 solution resulted in voltage overload in the case of copper metal.

c. Nickel Fluoride - Anodically Formed During Cyclic Voltammetry

Nickel and nickel oxide electrodes failed to produce any current peaks for all systems screened, with one exception, and maximum currents were less than $0.1 \text{ ma/cm}^2/\text{cm}$ division current axis. The one exception (LiPF_6 in dimethylformamide) is shown in Figure 48 (CV-517) where pre-oxidized nickel shows a single low current anodic peak, and two low current cathodic peaks fusing together. The inflection at 0.5 volts shows as a definite peak at higher sweep rates. As before, nickel systems are consistently poor because of inability to form an anodic product.

d. Zinc Fluoride - Anodically Formed During Cyclic Voltammetry

The first data are reported here on zinc electrodes in fluoride electrolytes.

(1) Acetonitrile solutions

The sweep curve for Zn in KPF_6 solution is shown in Figure 49 (CV-918). Although high currents are obtained for the anodic and cathodic reactions, no desirable peaks are obtained. Addition of LiF causes excessively high currents and instrument overload.

(2) Butyrolactone solutions

Zinc in butyrolactone-KPF₆ solution presents a very desirable cyclic voltammogram as shown in Figure 50 (CV-992). The sharp symmetric anodic and cathodic peaks are displaced by only 130 millivolts, the entire pattern representing a very reversible system. The solid state cathodic reaction type, with the cathode being insoluble makes this a desirable system, and one to be recommended even though the current densities are in the medium high range. The effect of adding LiF is shown in Figure 51 (CV-1014), the only result being a 50% decrease in peak currents, and a slightly larger peak-to-peak displacement (240 mv).

(3) Dimethylformamide solutions

The only zinc system screened in this solvent involved KPF₆ as the solute, resulting in the excellent cyclic voltammogram shown in Figure 52 (CV-1048). Very high current densities are obtained, with the discharge reaction showing a higher value than the charge reaction (571 ma/cm² compared with 439 ma/cm²). In addition, the peaks are again close together ($\Delta V_p = 320$ mv). This cyclic voltammogram is a classic example of a solid state reaction type, with negligible activation and concentration polarization both. Comparison is made with zinc in a butyrolactone-KPF₆ (Figure 50) which although exhibiting negligible activation polarization, does have some concentration polarization shown by the width of the sweep curve at the zero current axis. Although the charge-discharge efficiency for the dimethylformamide-KPF₆ electrolyte is not as high as for butyrolactone-KPF₆, the discharge capacity is much higher, 2.4 coulombs/cm² compared with 0.5 coulombs/cm². This again is a recommended system.

(4) Propylene carbonate solutions

The sweep curve for zinc in KPF₆ solution is shown in Figure 53 (CV-959). A desirable type of curve is again obtained, comparing somewhat with butyrolactone-KPF₆+LiF in current density magnitude. The possibility

exists for two reducible species, indicated by the inflection near the apex of the cathodic peak.

e. Cadmium Fluoride - Anodically Formed During Cyclic Voltammetry

During this second quarter, cyclic voltammograms were initiated using cadmium in fluoride electrolytes.

(1) Acetonitrile solutions

Extremely erratic results were obtained with cadmium in KPF_6 solution, particularly with respect to the anodic peaks which were of a multiple nature, and which were repeated on the return scan. Very high currents were obtained accompanied by excessive dissolution of the anodic product in the electrolyte. Addition of LiF resulted in more reproducible voltammograms, but decreased the current considerably, although still in the high range. With or without the LiF, a single cathode peak was obtained, being much broader in the presence of LiF.

(2) Butyrolactone solutions

Cadmium in butyrolactone- KPF_6 gives an excellent cyclic voltammogram shown in Figure 54 (CV-997). The peaks are sharp and well formed with a displacement of 340 mv. Larger currents are obtained on discharge than on charge. This system has a charge-discharge efficiency of 95%, double that of the Zn/dimethylformamide- KPF_6 system, also a very high current density system. There is some indication that continued cycling increased the current densities still further. Addition of LiF resulted in a large decrease of current, but again, evidence indicated that further cycling would bring a considerable increase of current. A second small cathodic peak occurs at -0.35 volts, which was more pronounced in the presence of LiF, but which decreased with increased cycling. This peak would not interfere in the discharge process of an actual cell since it is much smaller than the

primary peak, and is more negative by 0.4 volts. The system is recommended.

(3) Dimethylformamide solutions

Cadmium in KPF_6 solution (Figure 55, CV-1053) again exhibits closely placed peaks of high and very high current densities. The peaks are not as sharp, however, as for the butyrolactone case. This is indicated in comparing the cathodic sweep indices, 107.4 for dimethylformamide and 193.7 for butyrolactone. The cathodic sweep index for zinc in dimethylformamide- KPF_6 is 332.9, which reflects the larger peak current. The Cd/dimethylformamide- KPF_6 is recommended for further study.

(4) Propylene carbonate solutions

The only cadmium system screened was in propylene carbonate- KPF_6 . Extremely high currents were obtained resulting in instrument voltage overload.

f. Cyclic Voltammetry of Molybdenum

During this quarter, cyclic voltammetry was initiated using molybdenum electrodes in fluoride solutions, and in LiClO_4 solution of propylene carbonate and butyrolactone. Figure 56 (CV-911), obtained in acetonitrile- KPF_6 solution, is typical of all sweep curves measured in the LiClO_4 solutions, butyrolactone- MgF_2 , and KPF_6 solutions in butyrolactone, dimethylformamide, and propylene carbonate, as well as $\text{KPF}_6 + \text{LiF}$ in acetonitrile and butyrolactone. Such a curve, with very low current densities, is the result of failure to form an anodic product. Most of the nickel systems also give such voltammograms.

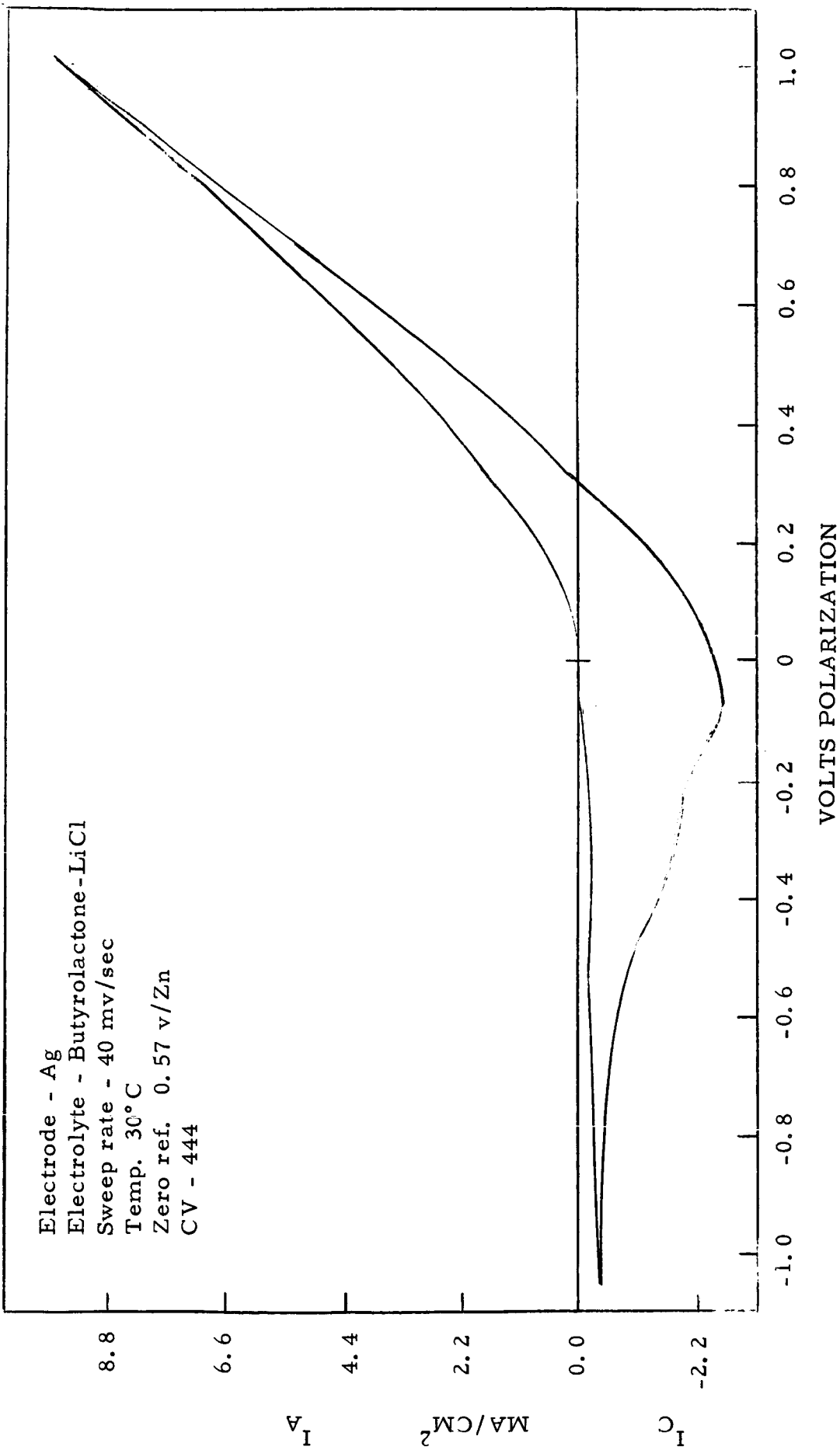


Figure 1

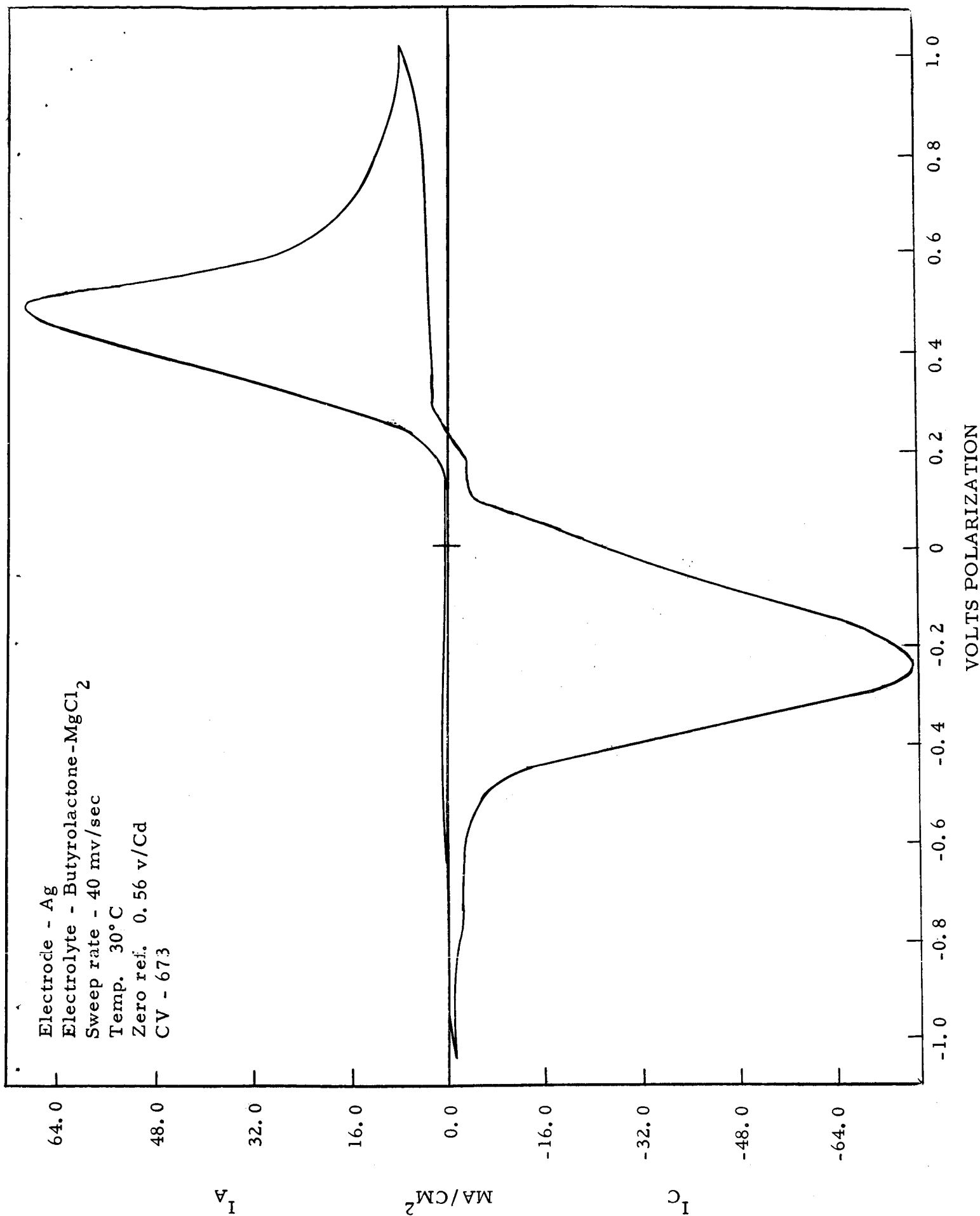


Figure 2

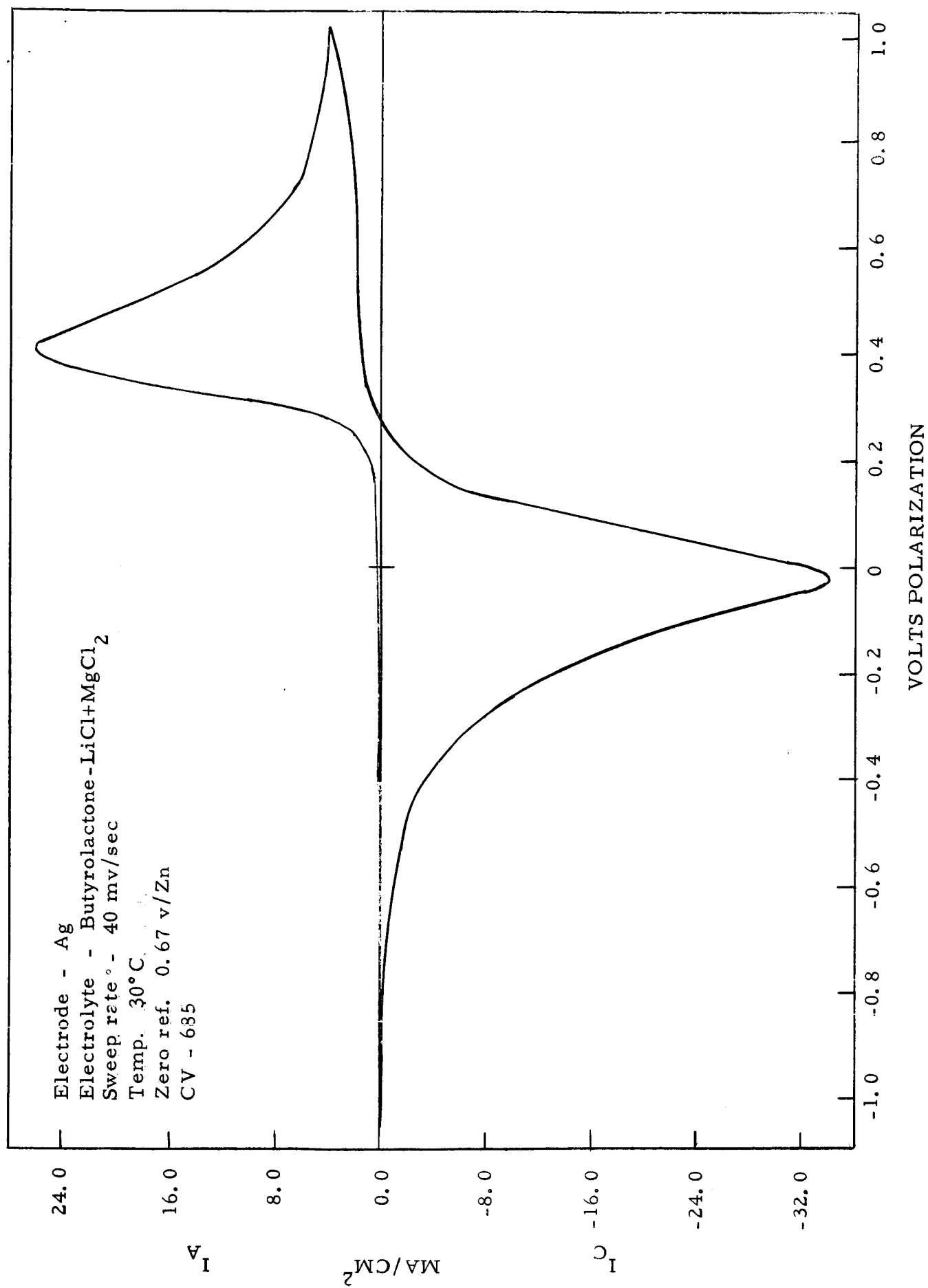


Figure 3

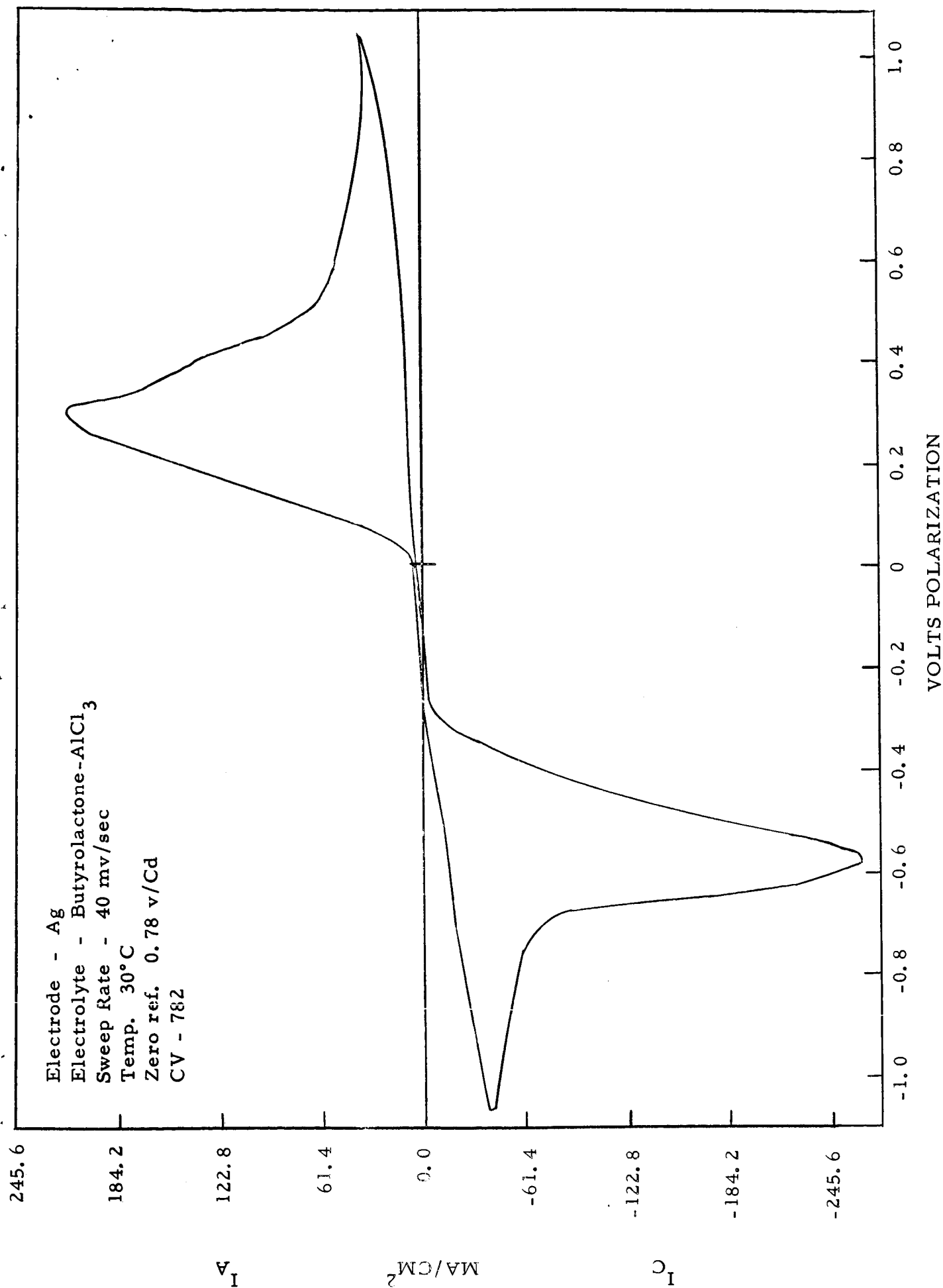


Figure 4

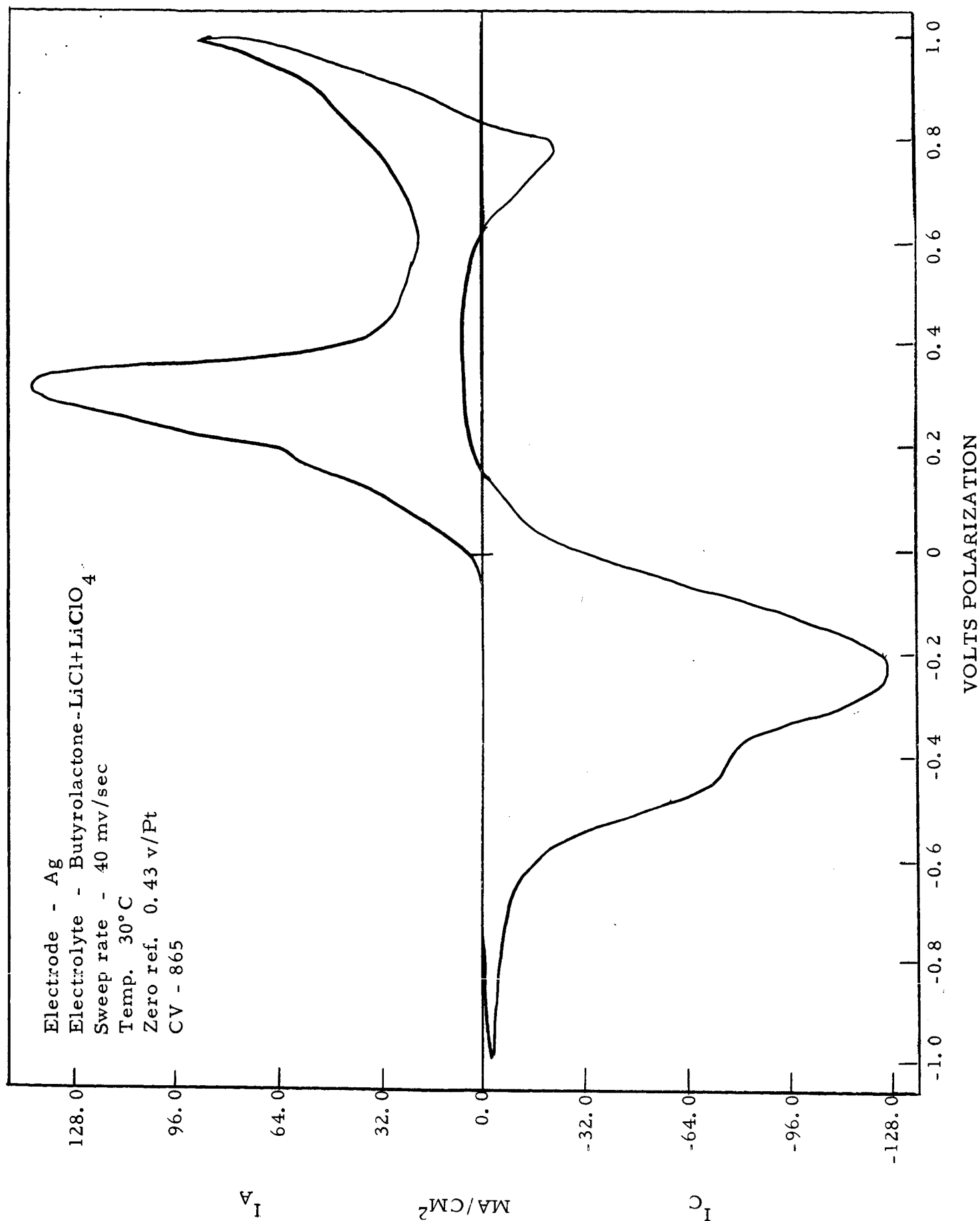


Figure 5

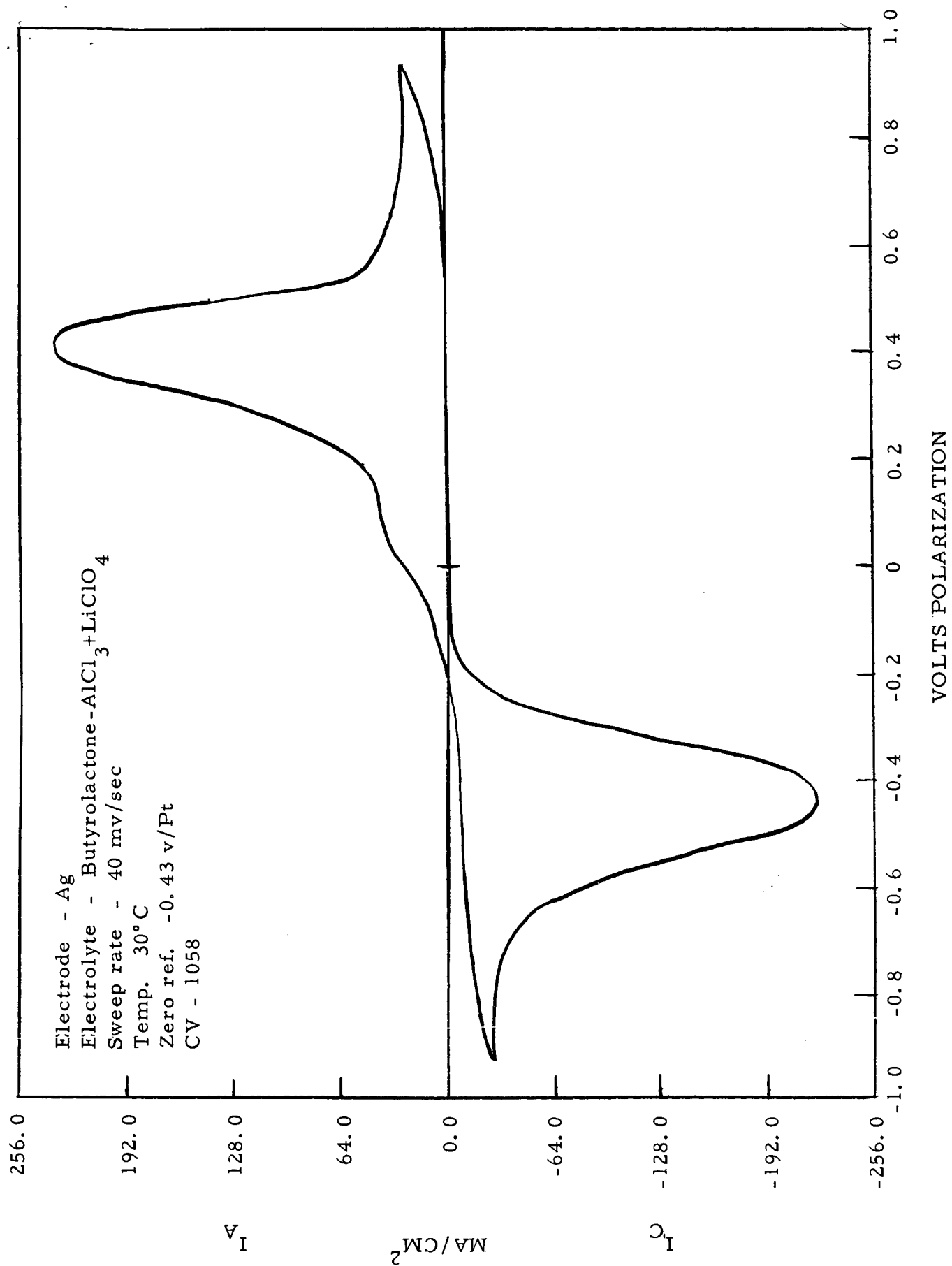


Figure 6

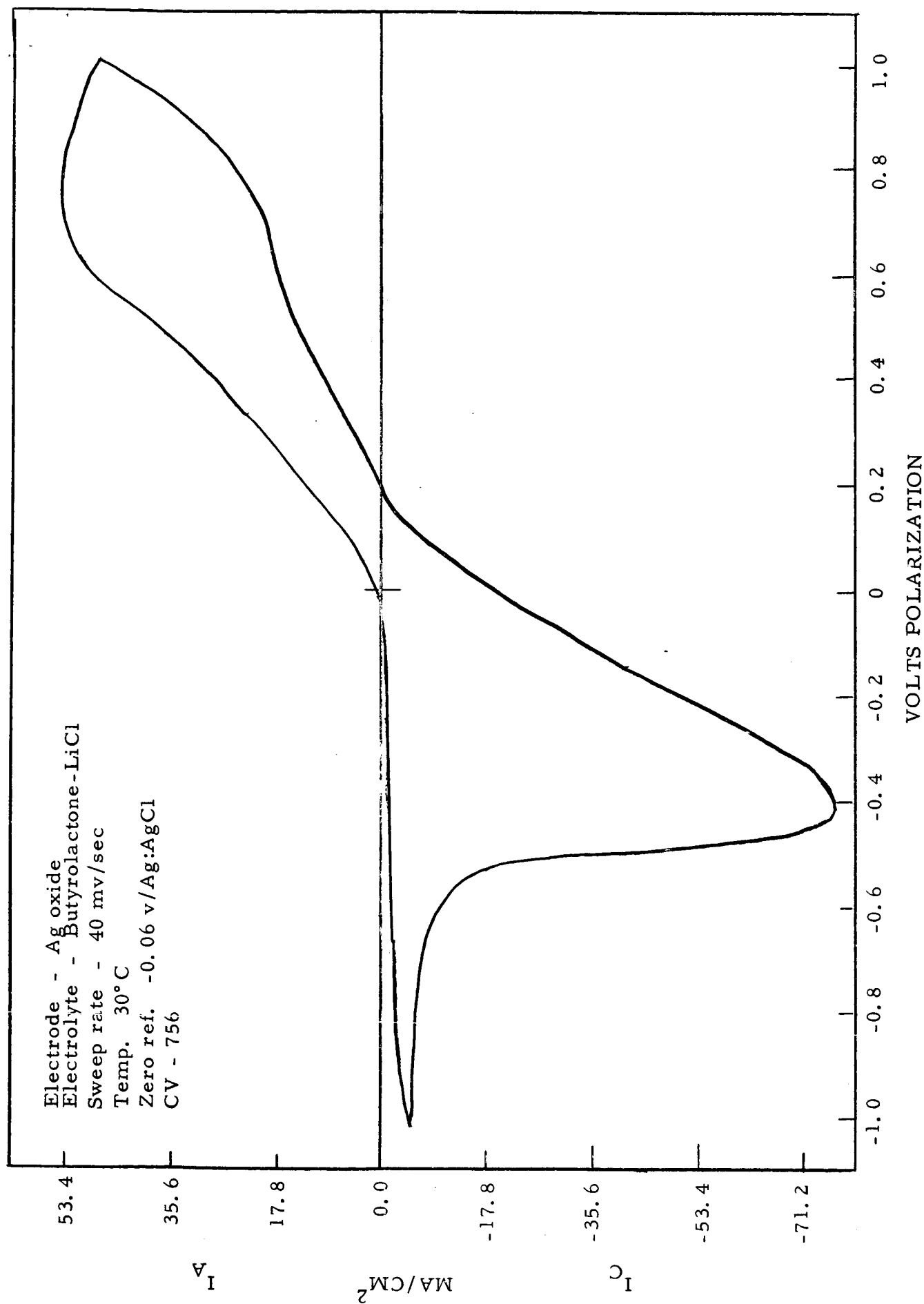


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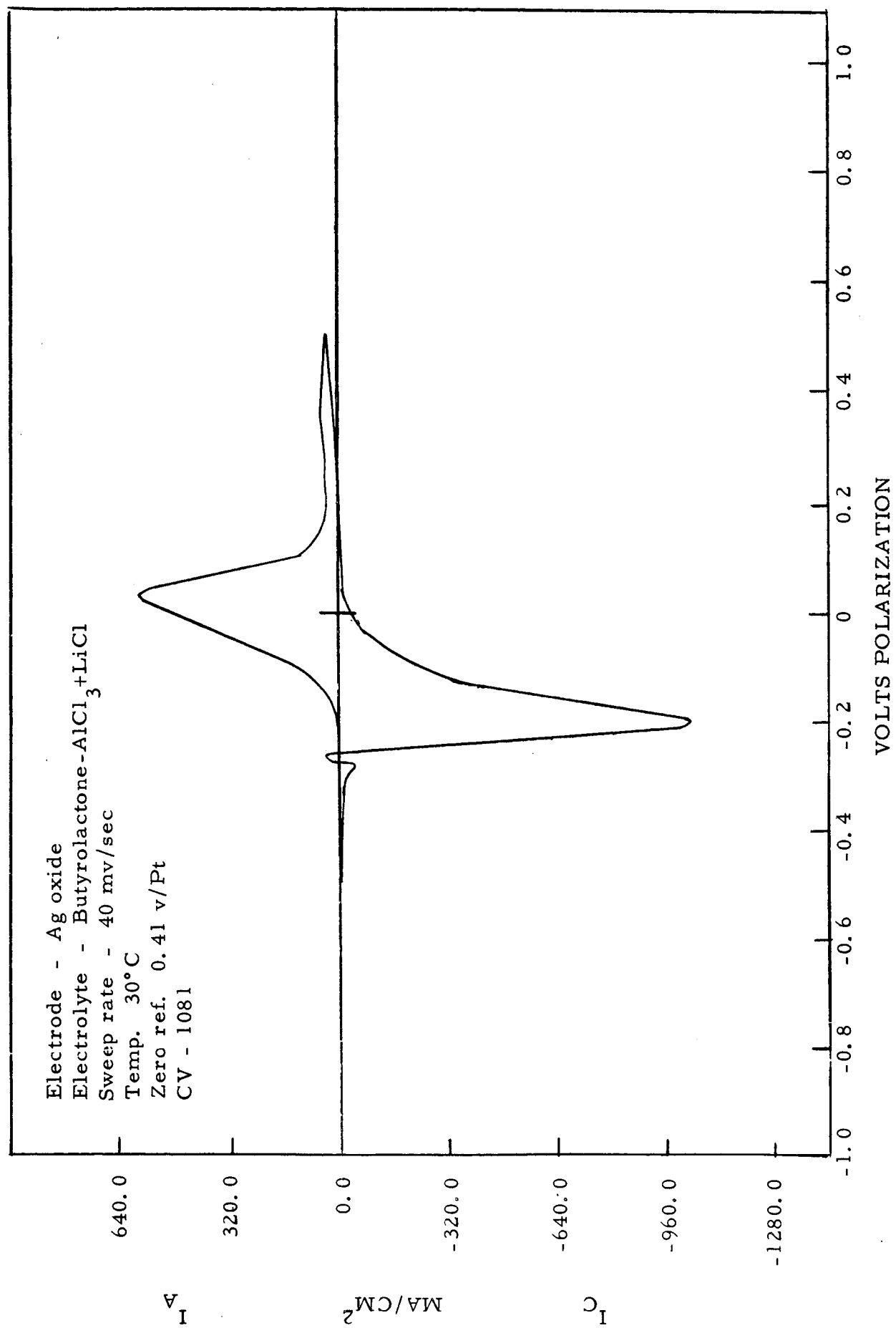


Figure 8

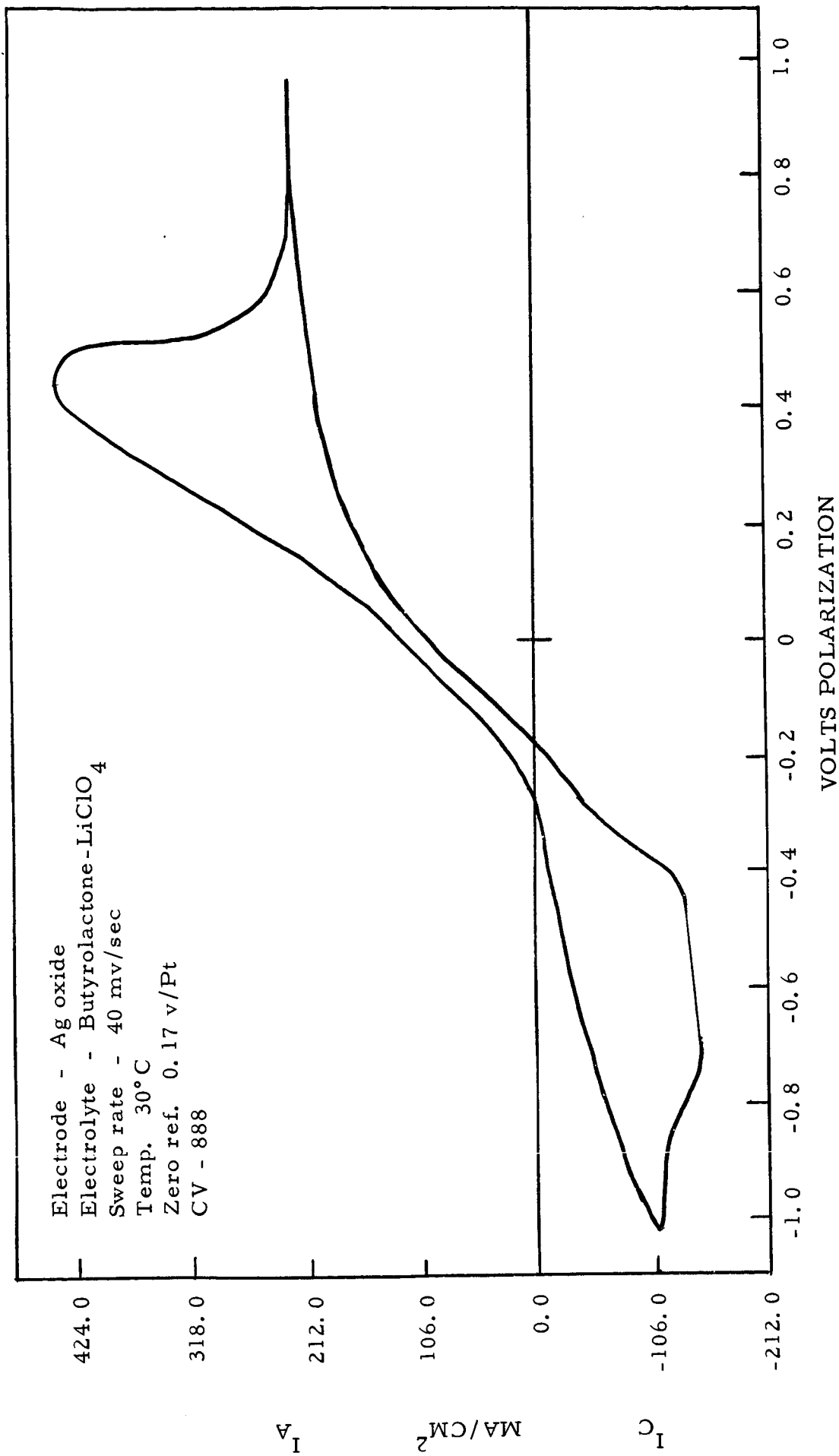


Figure 9

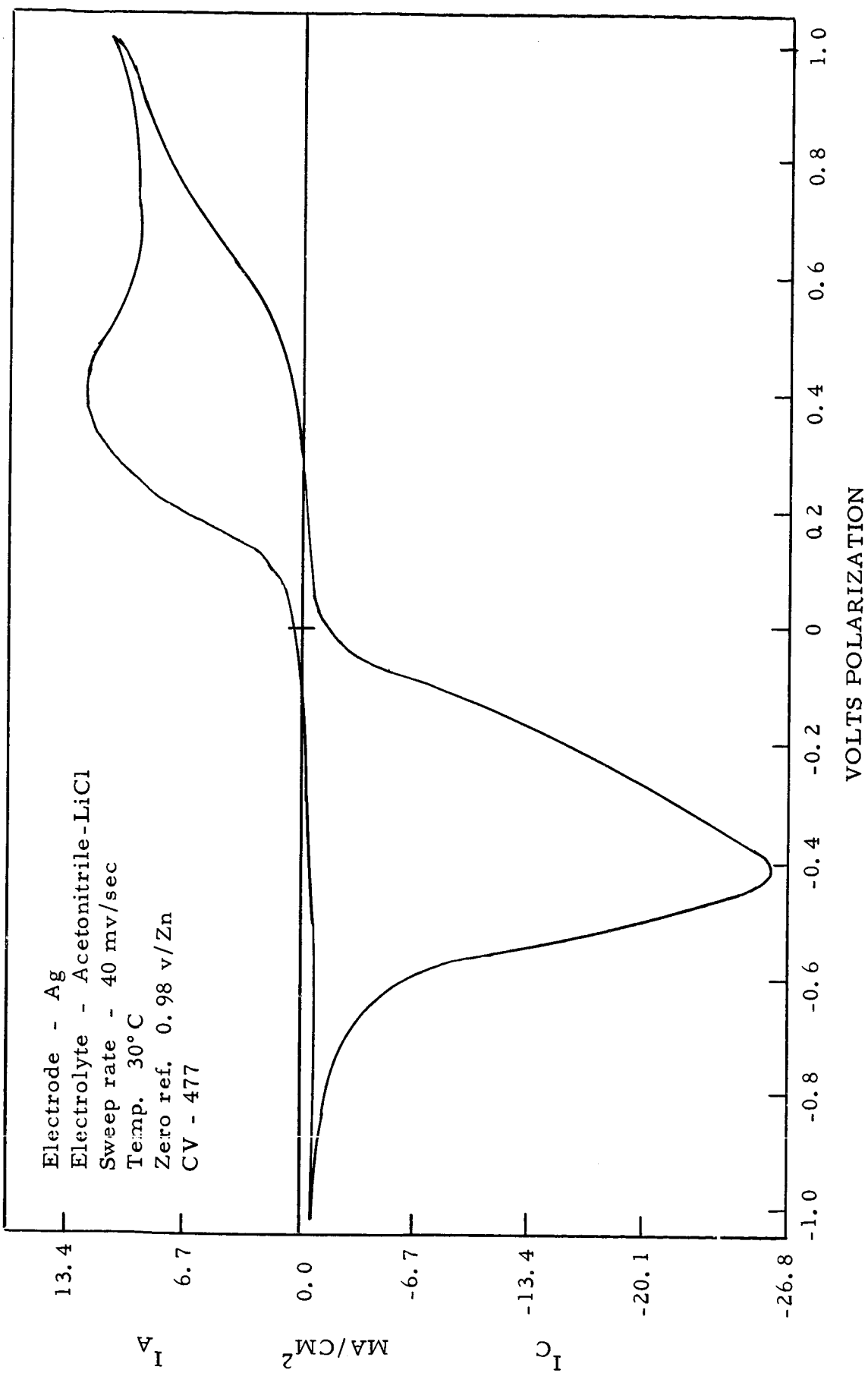


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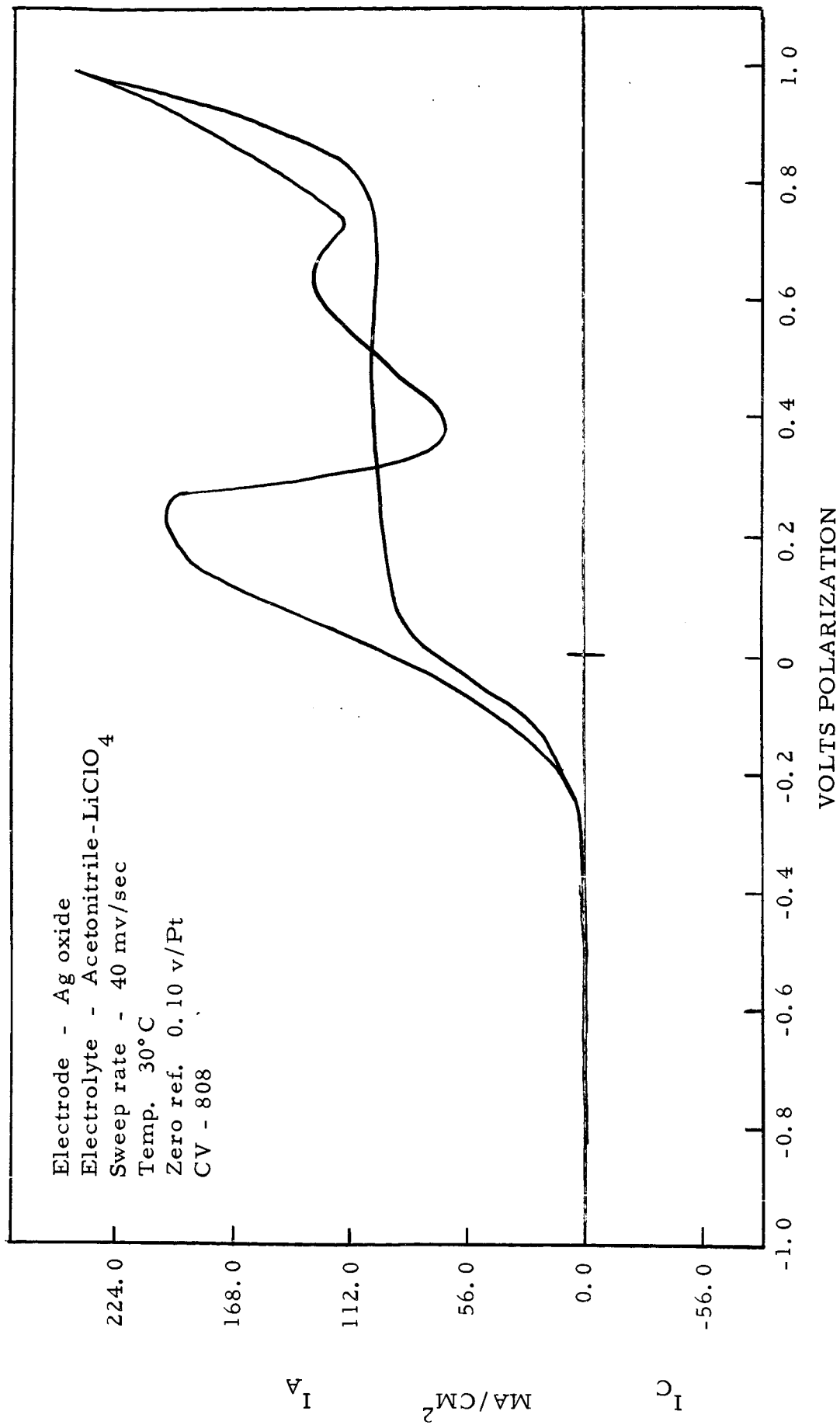


Figure 11

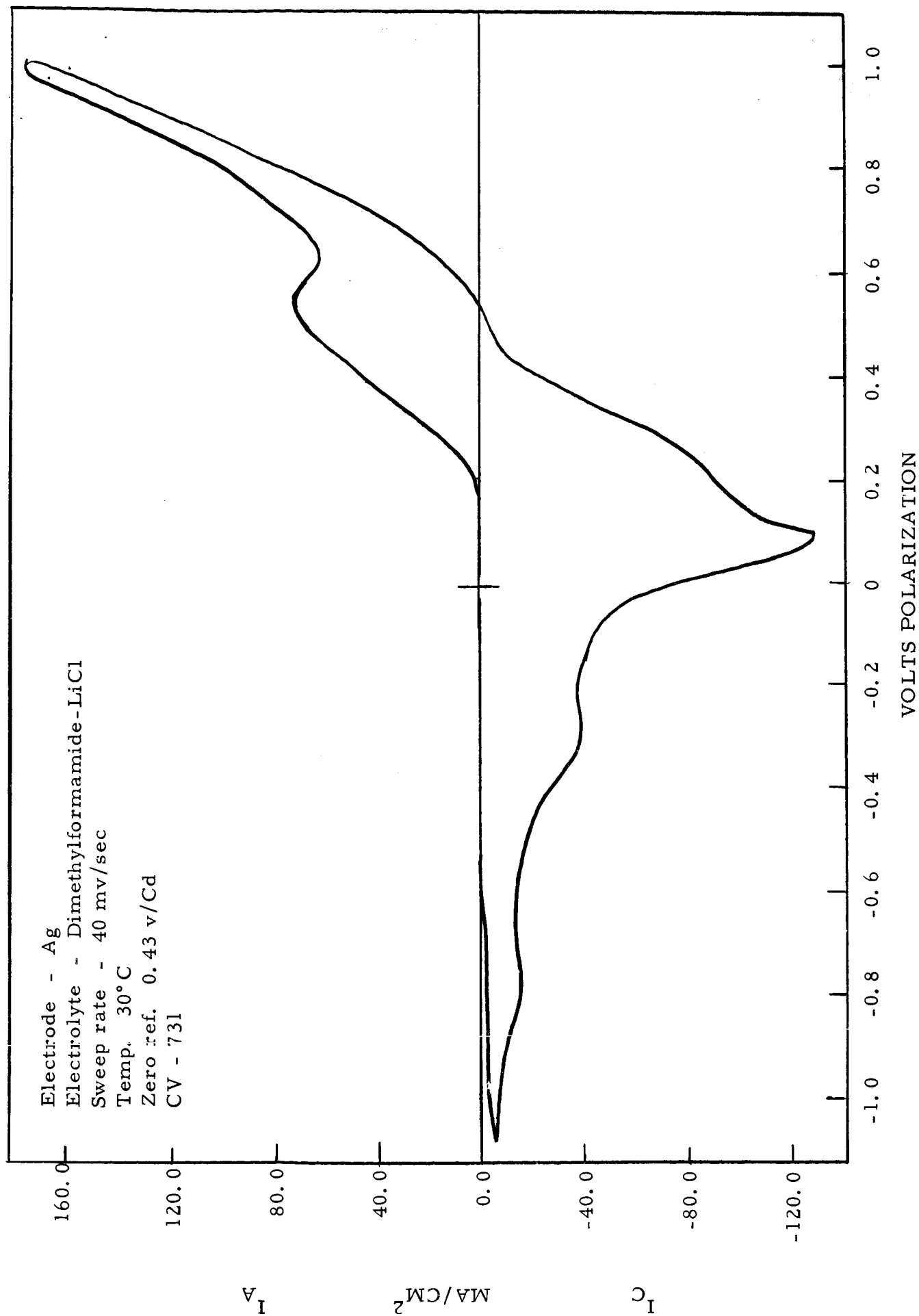


Figure 12

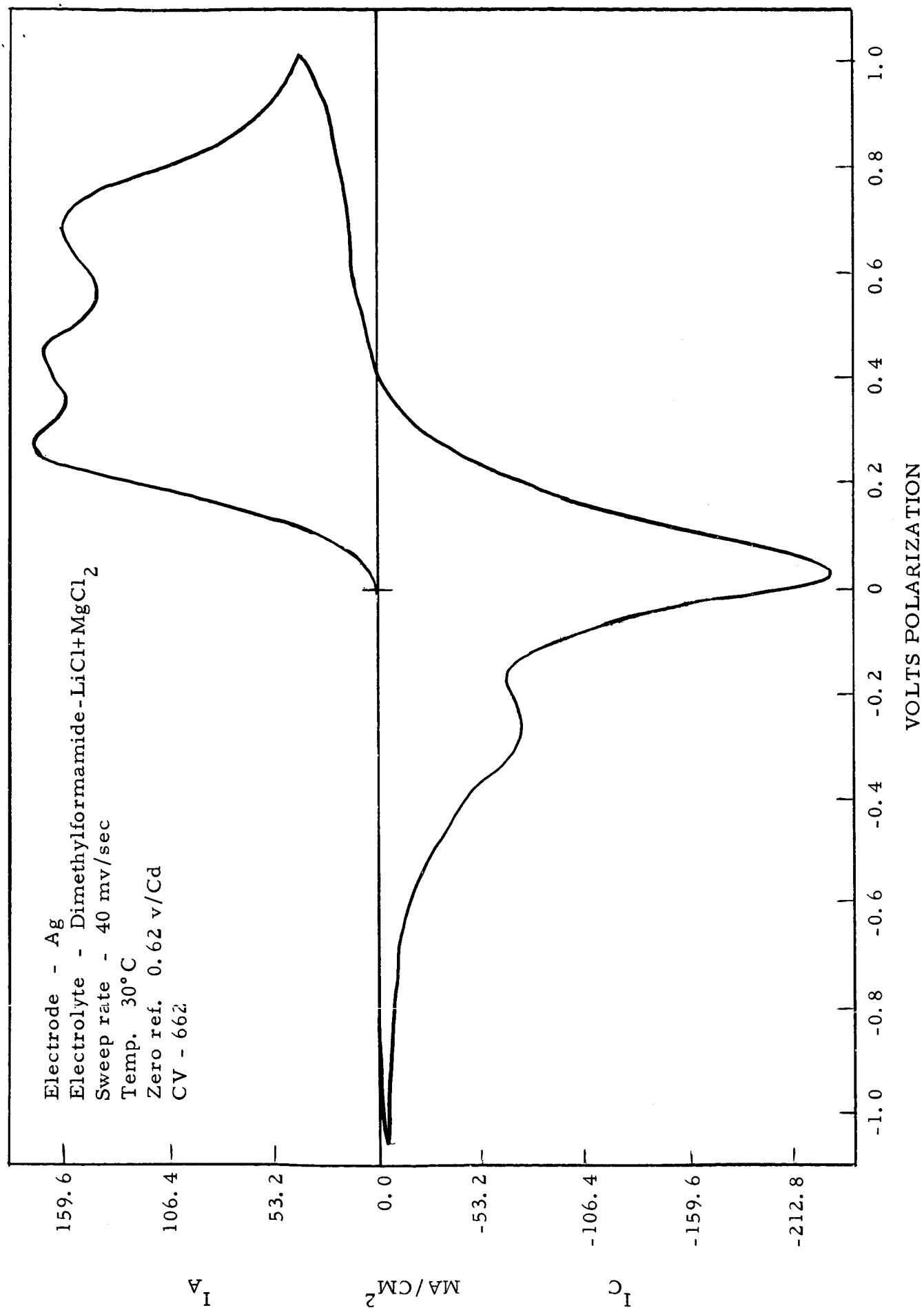


Figure 13

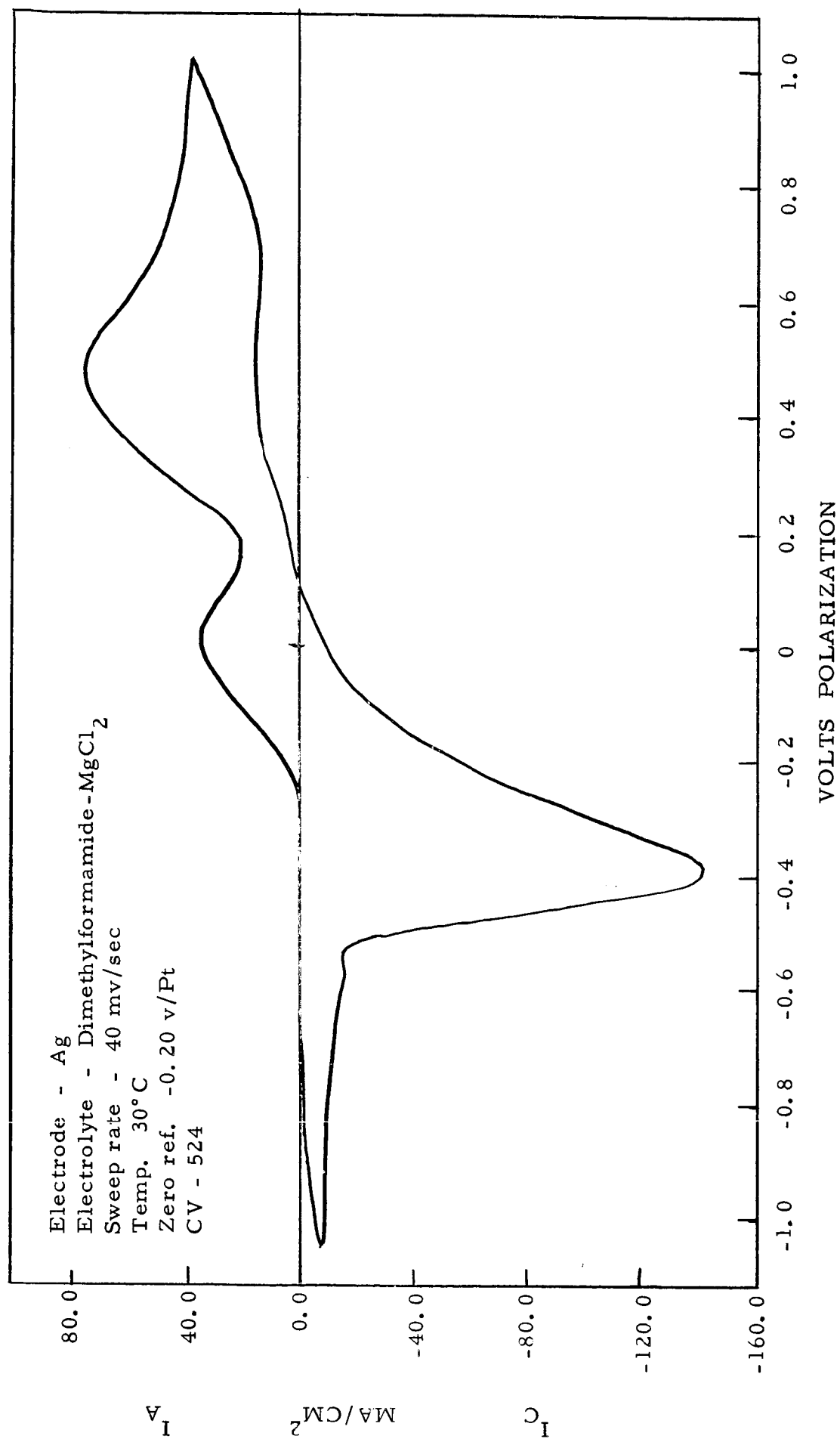


Figure 14

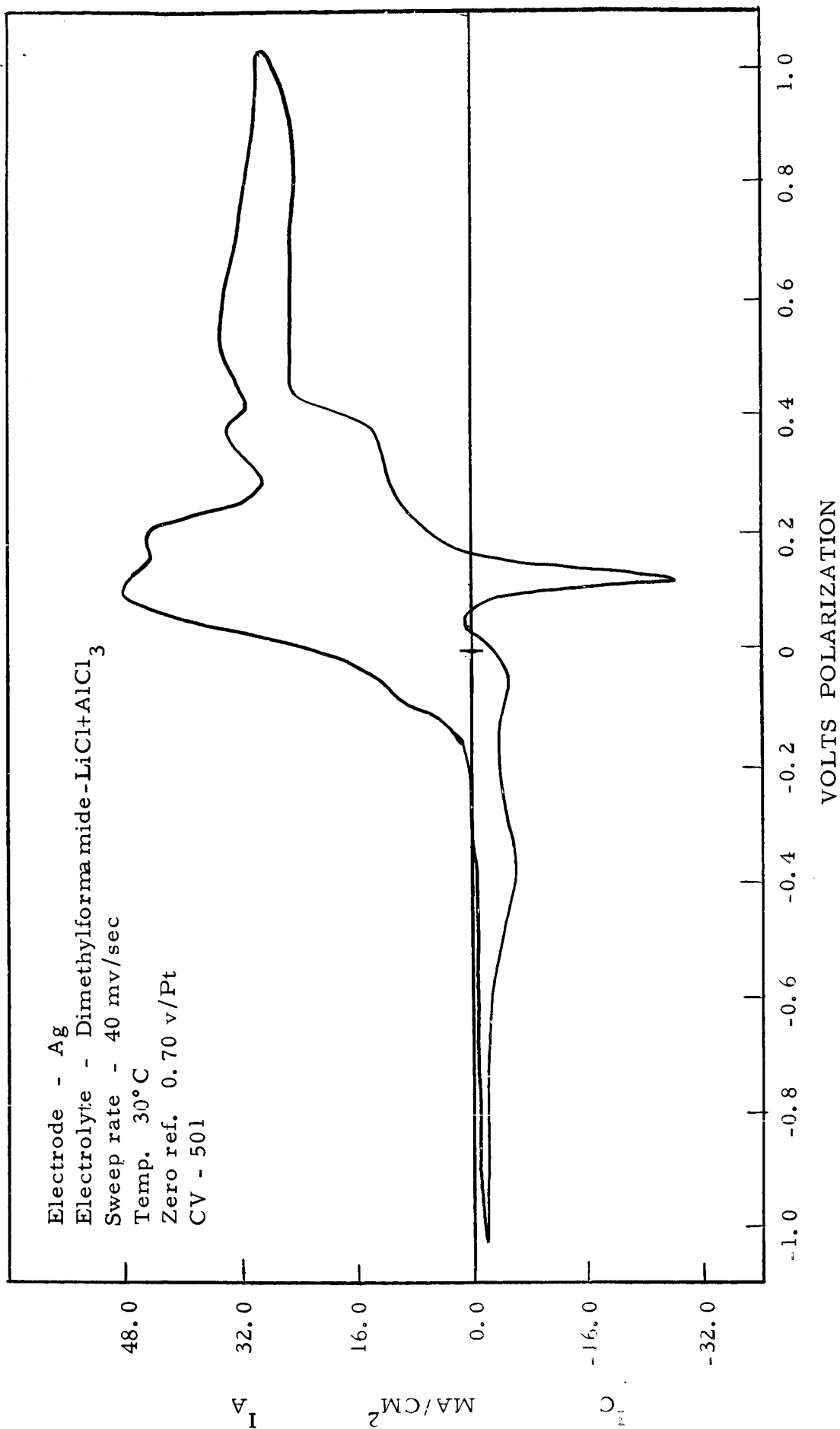


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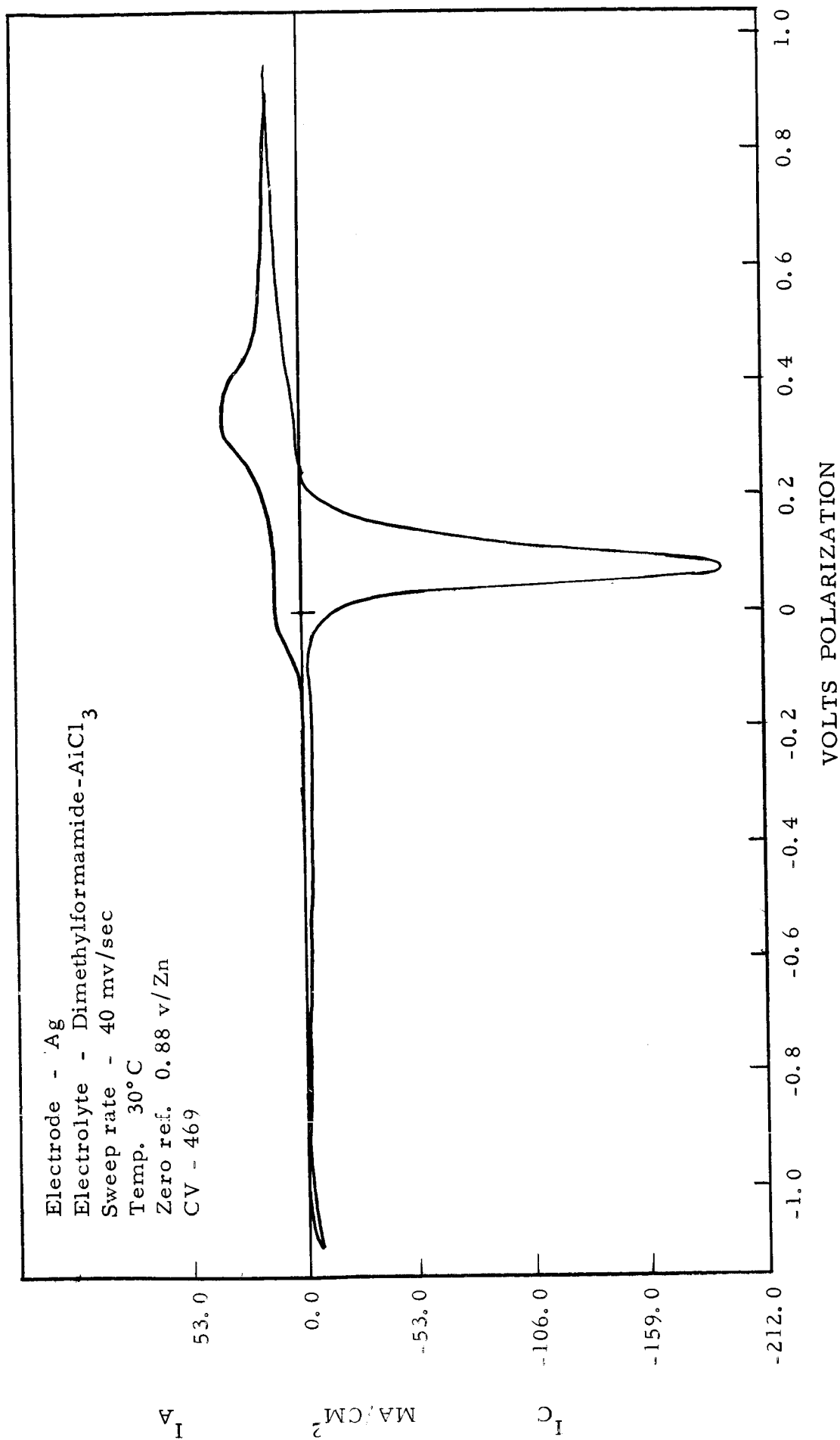


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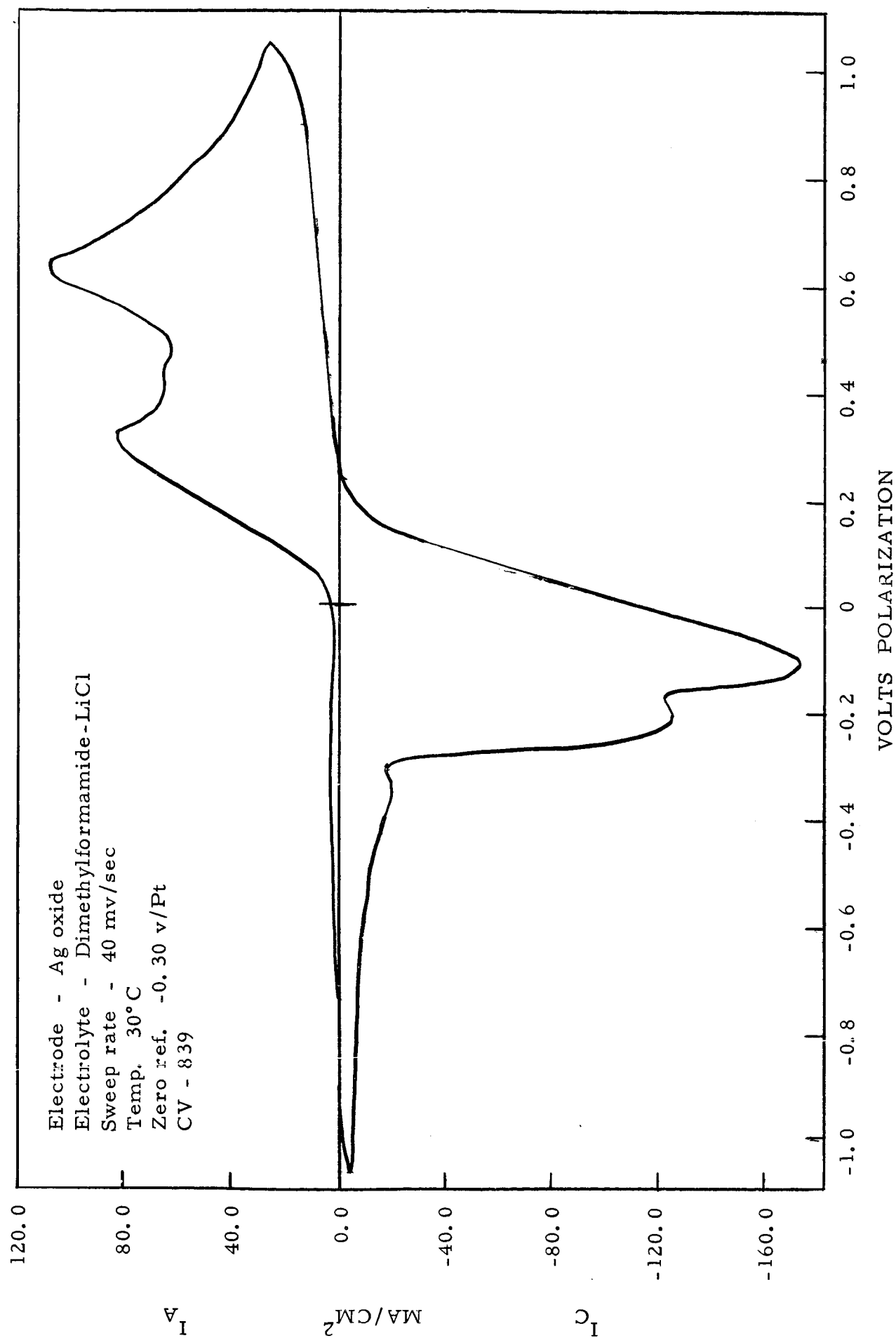


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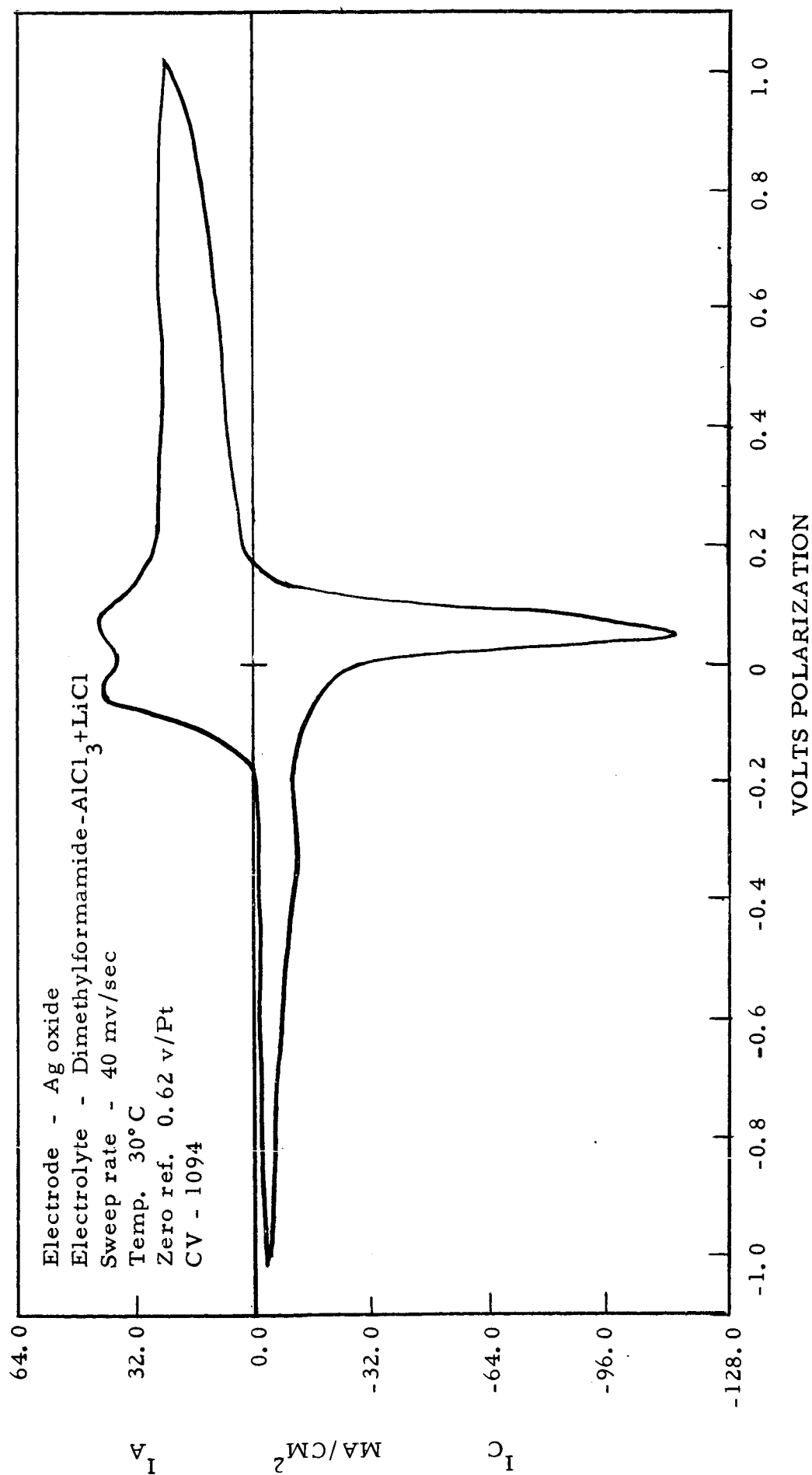


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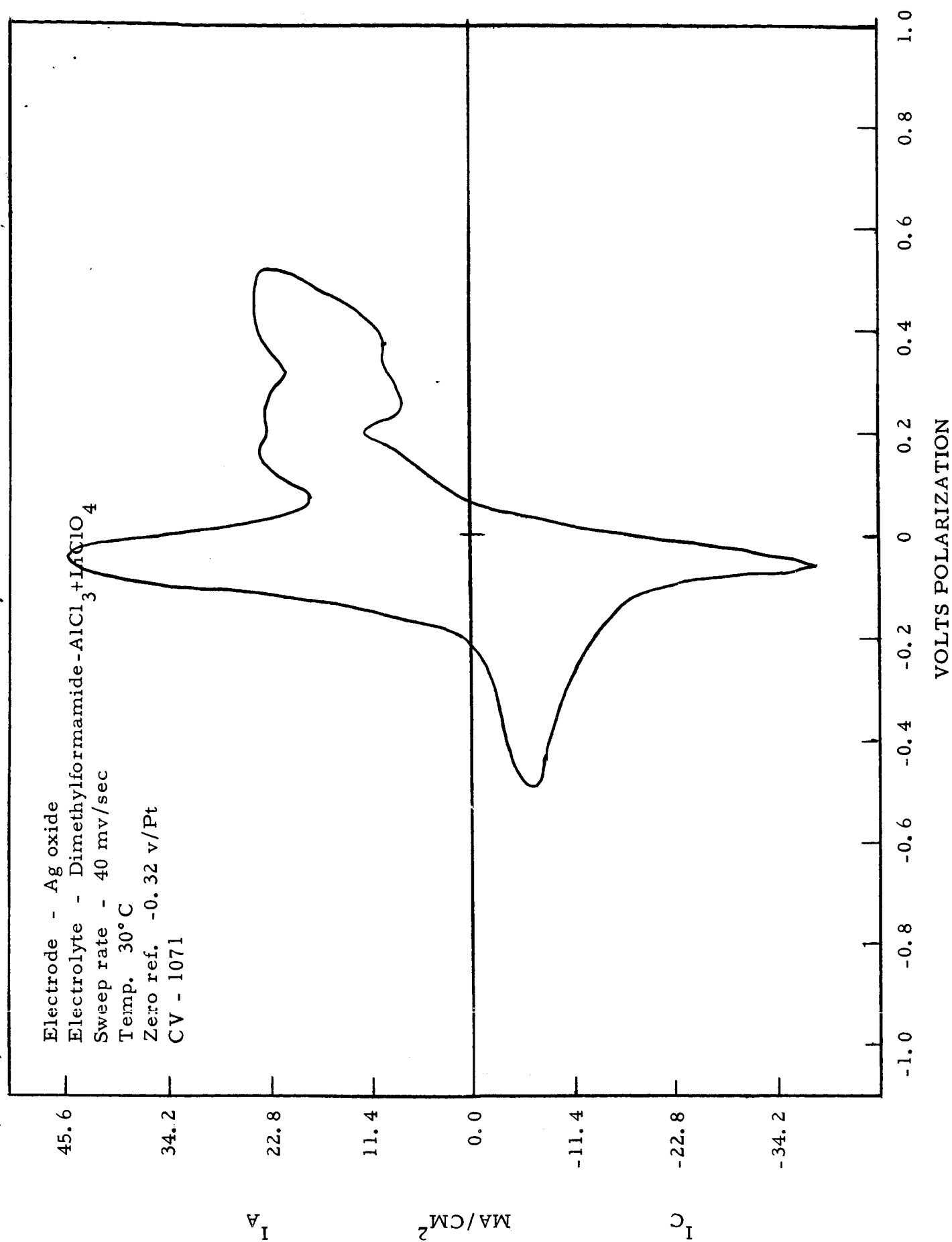


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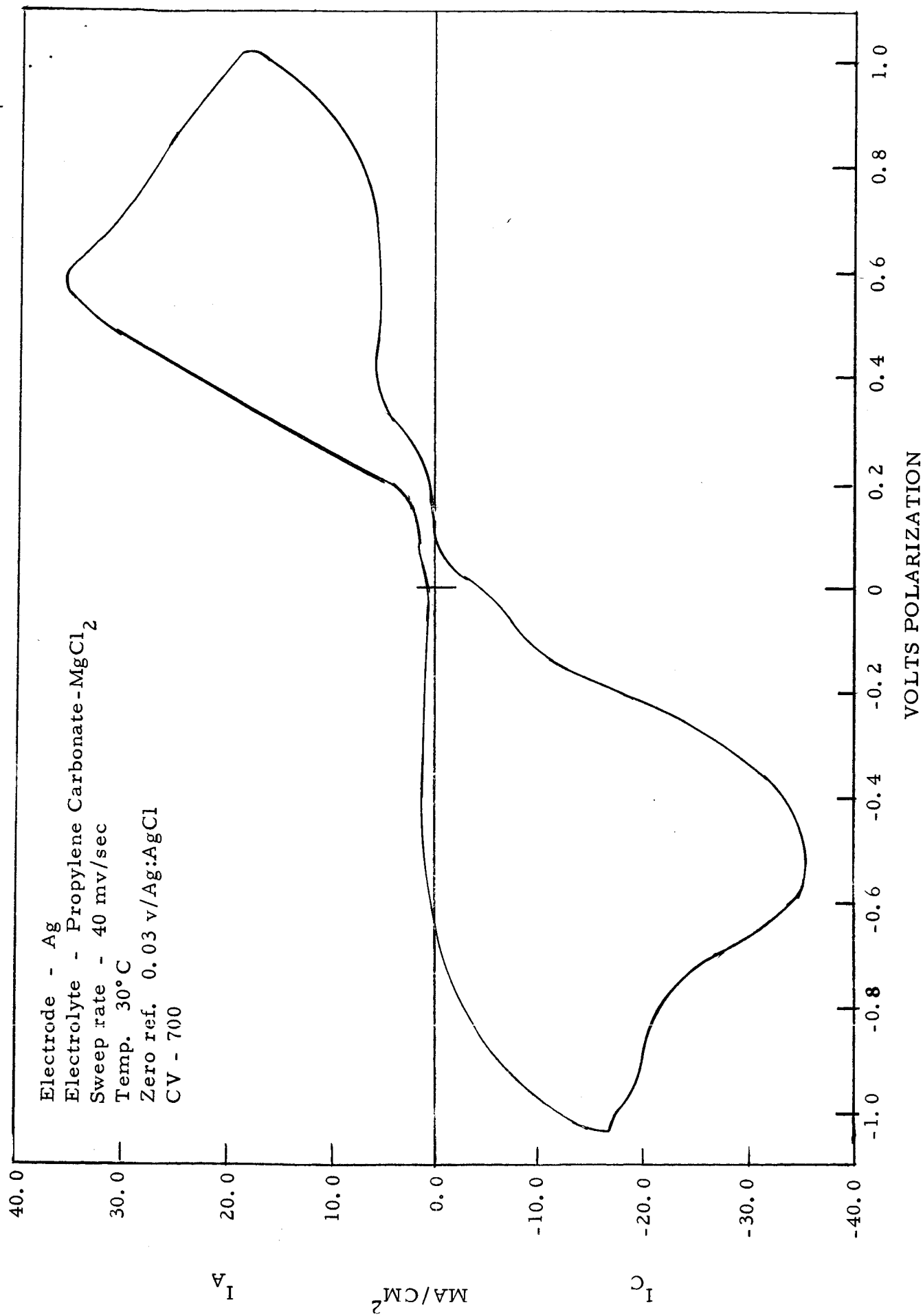


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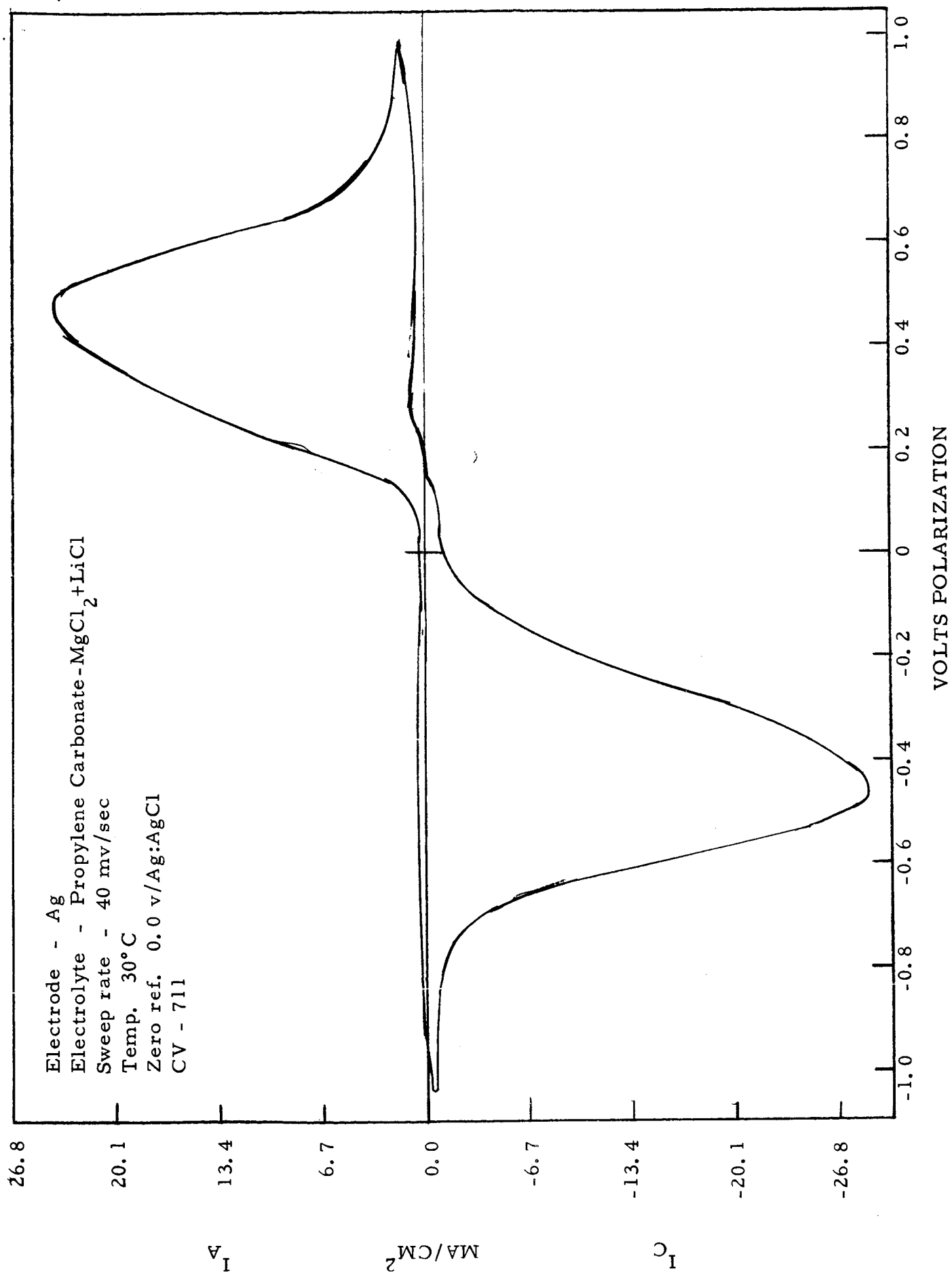


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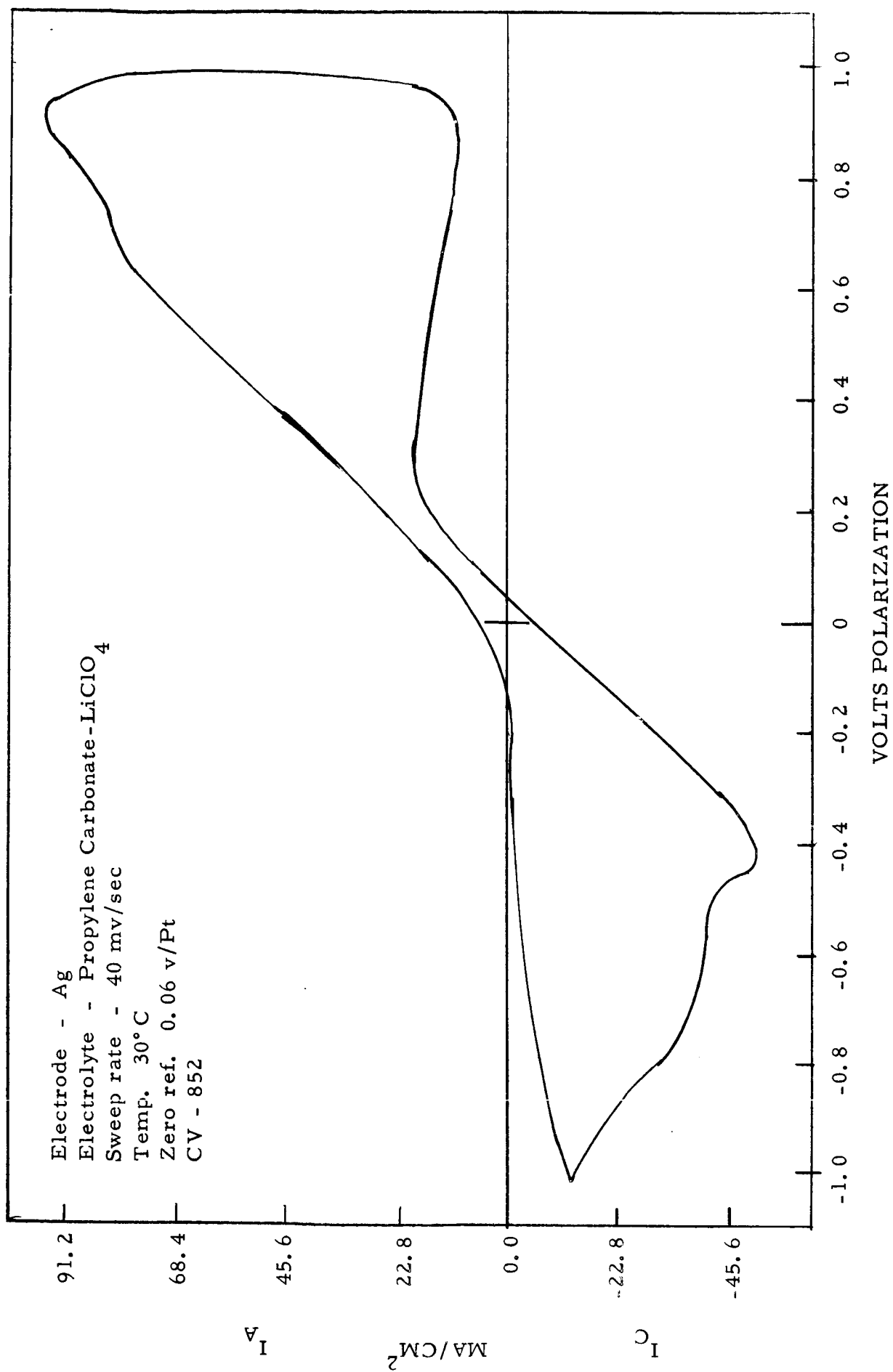


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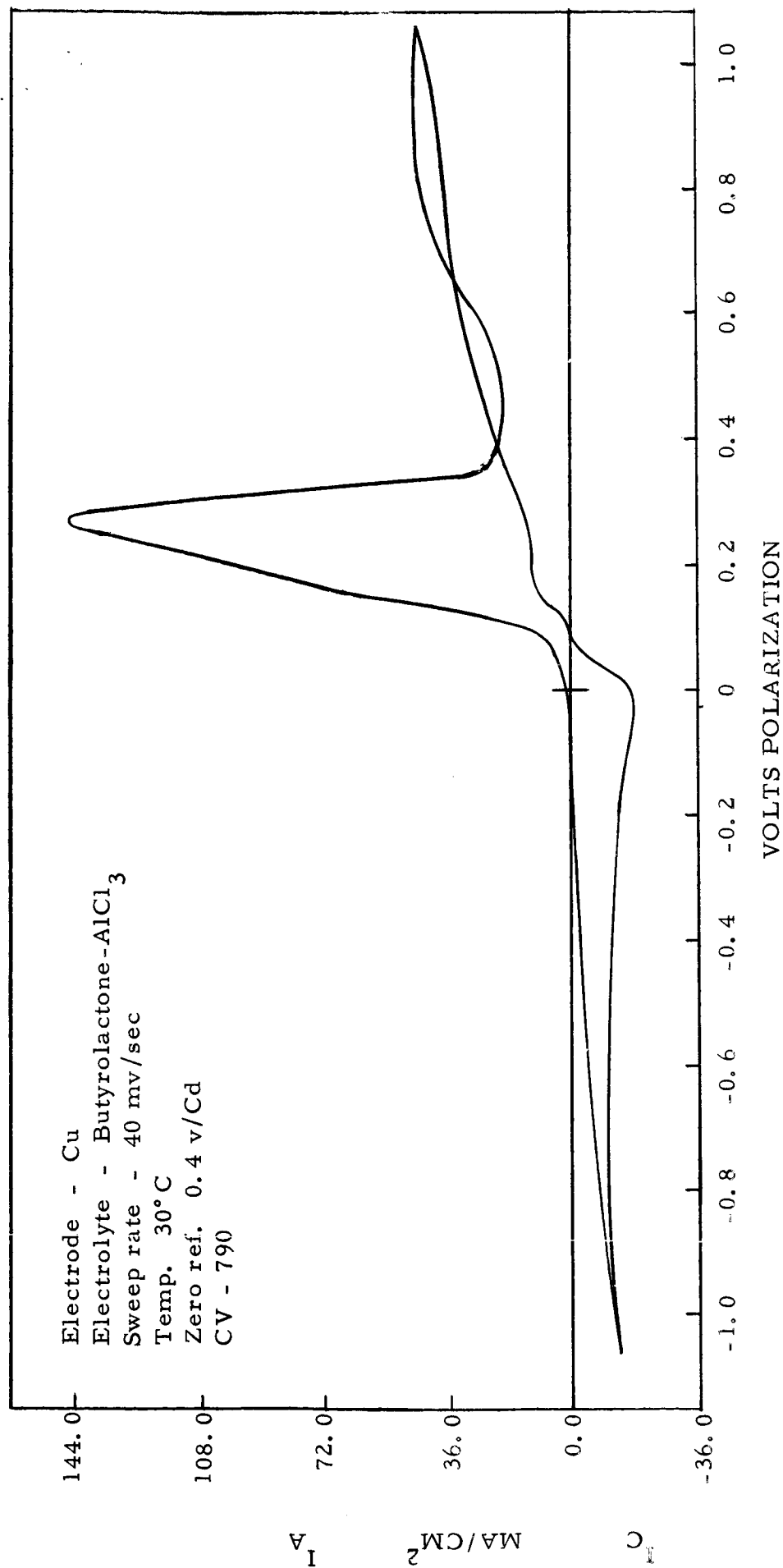


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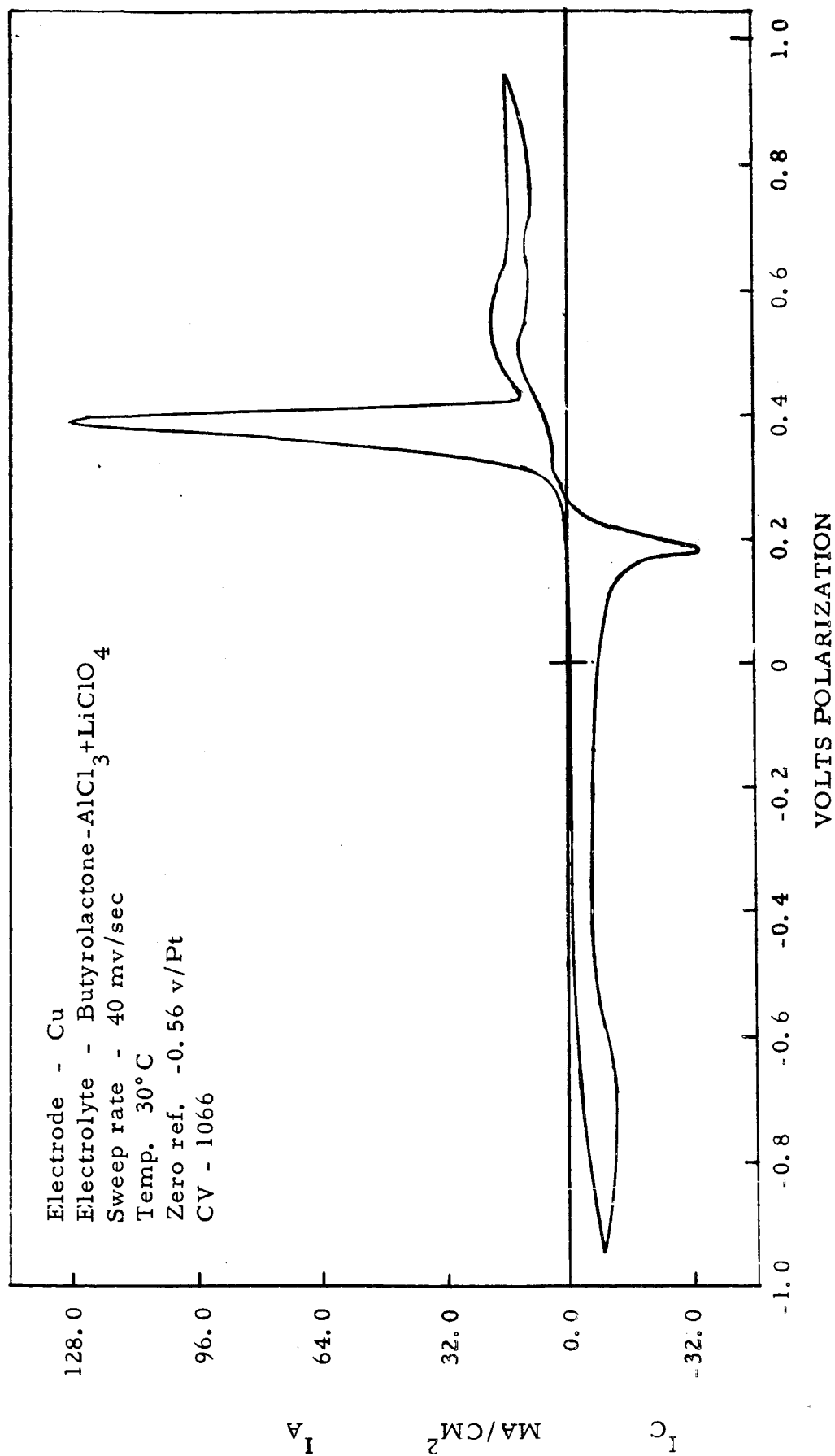


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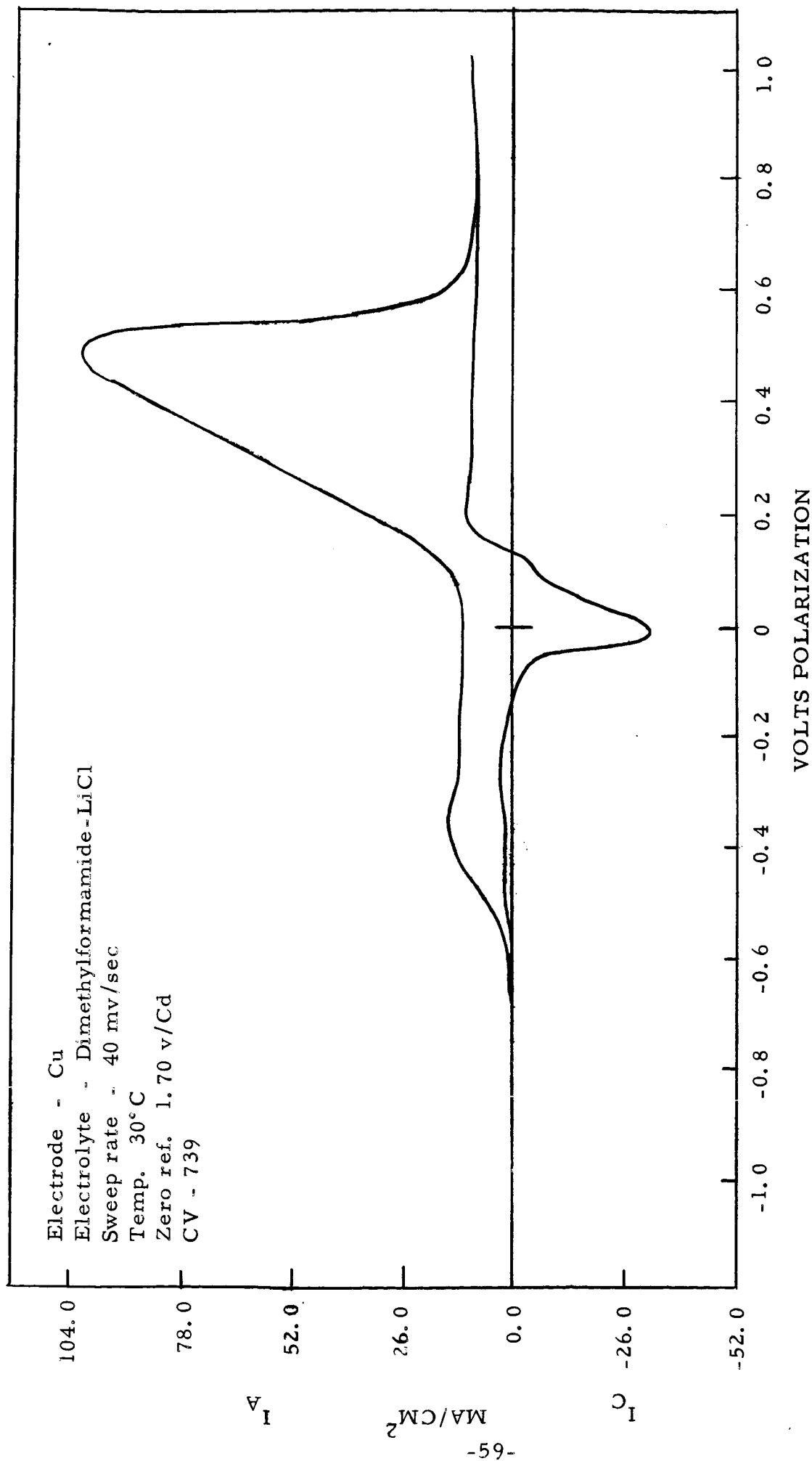


Figure 25

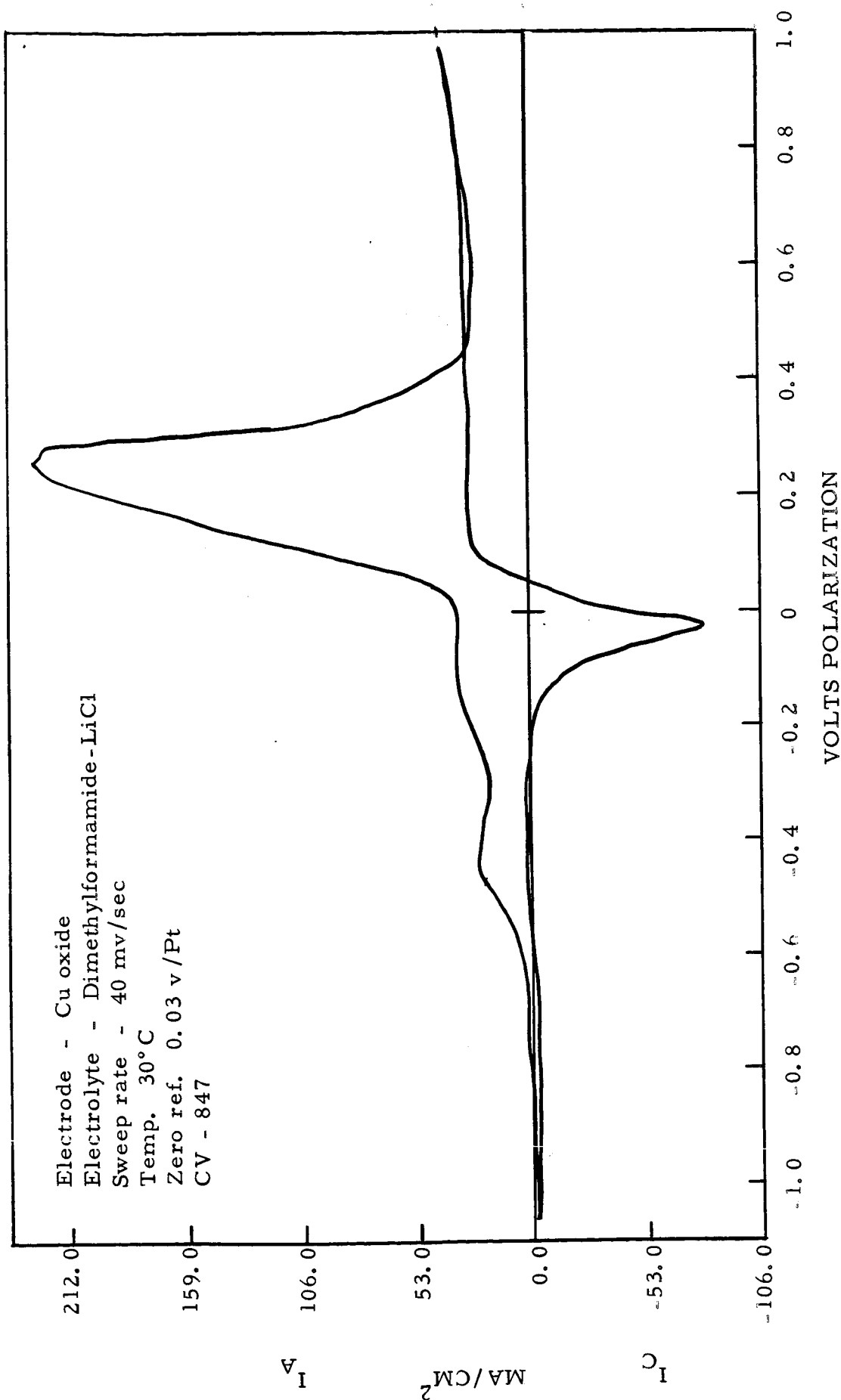


Figure 26

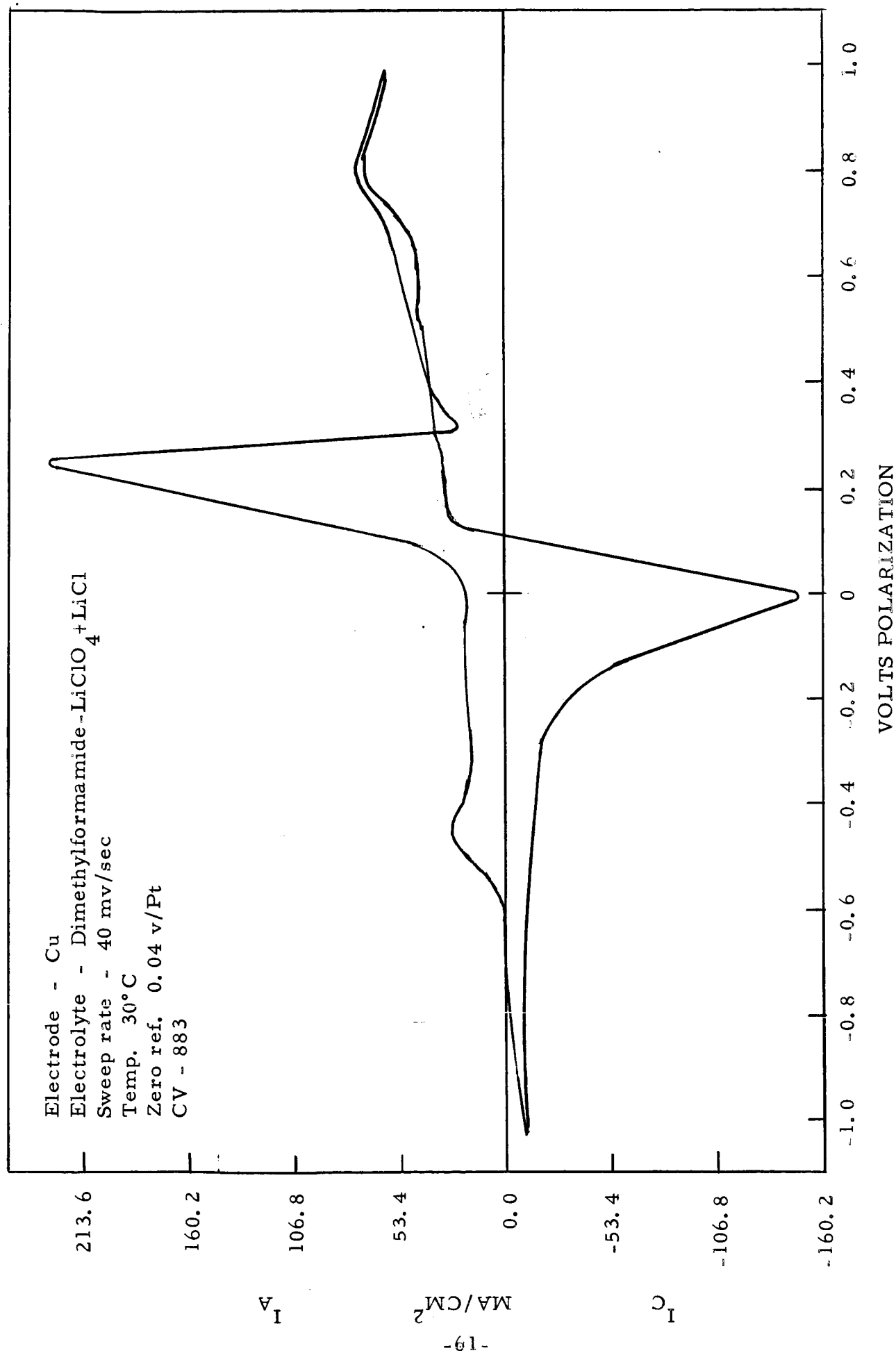


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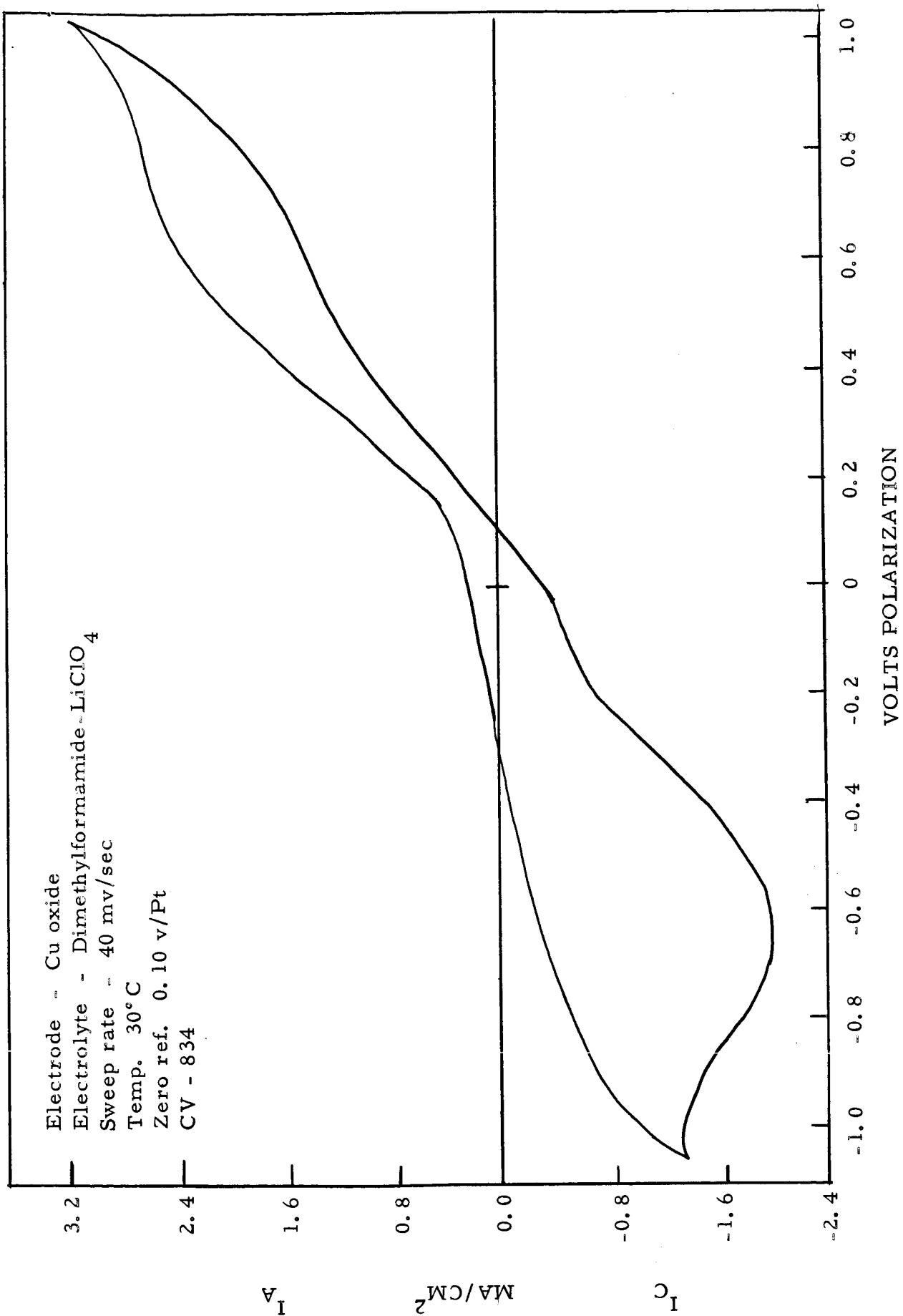


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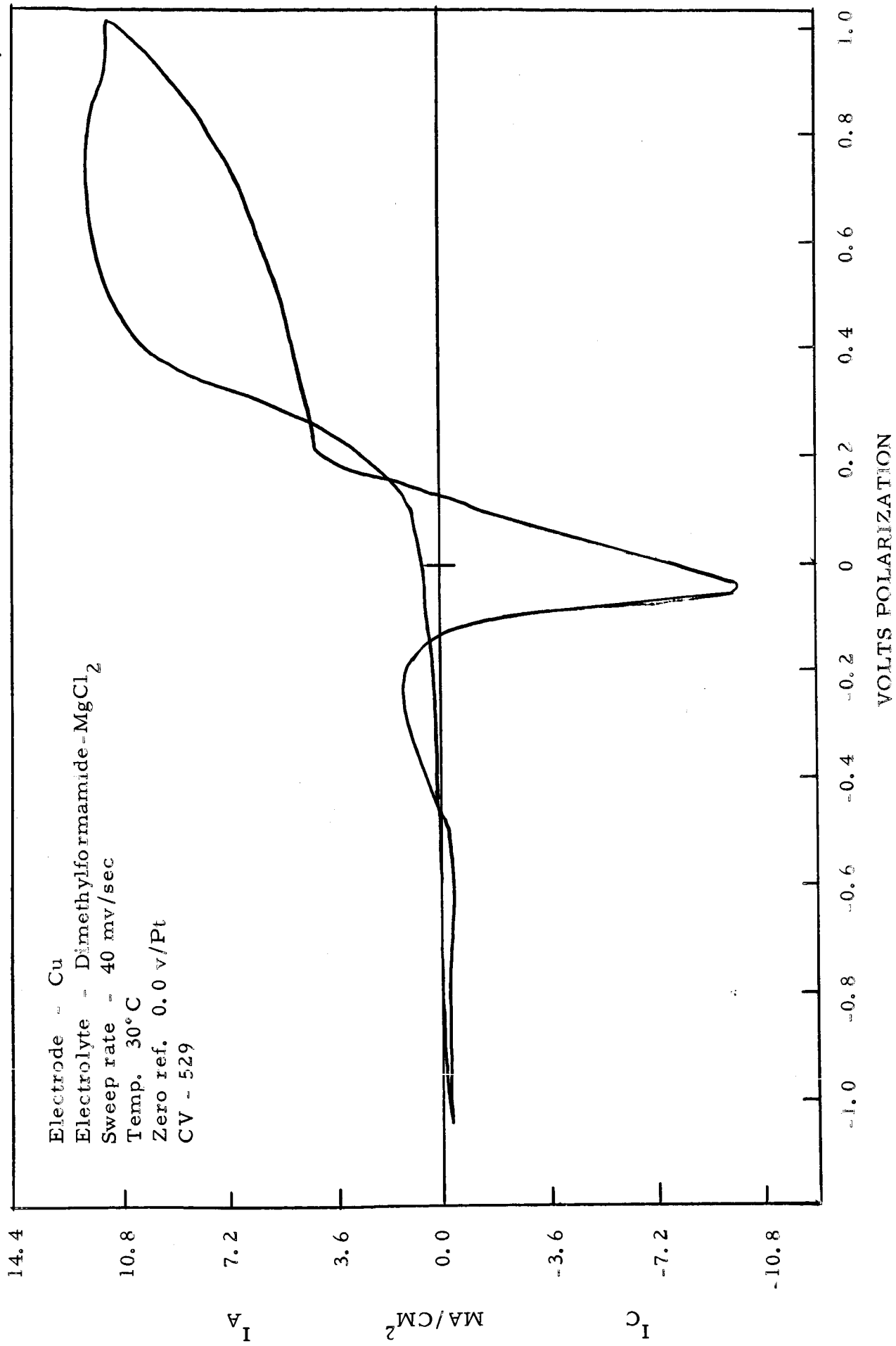


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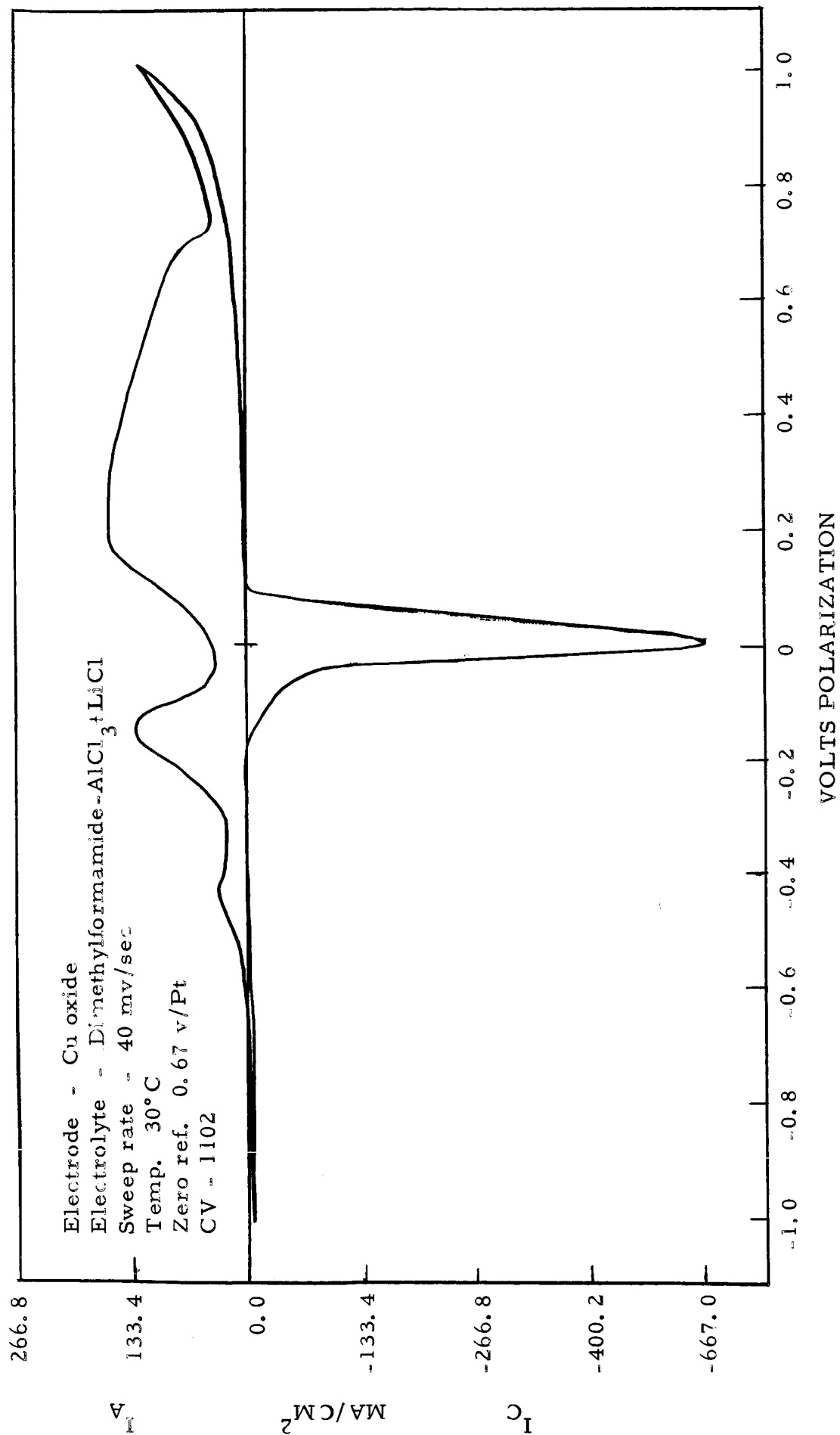


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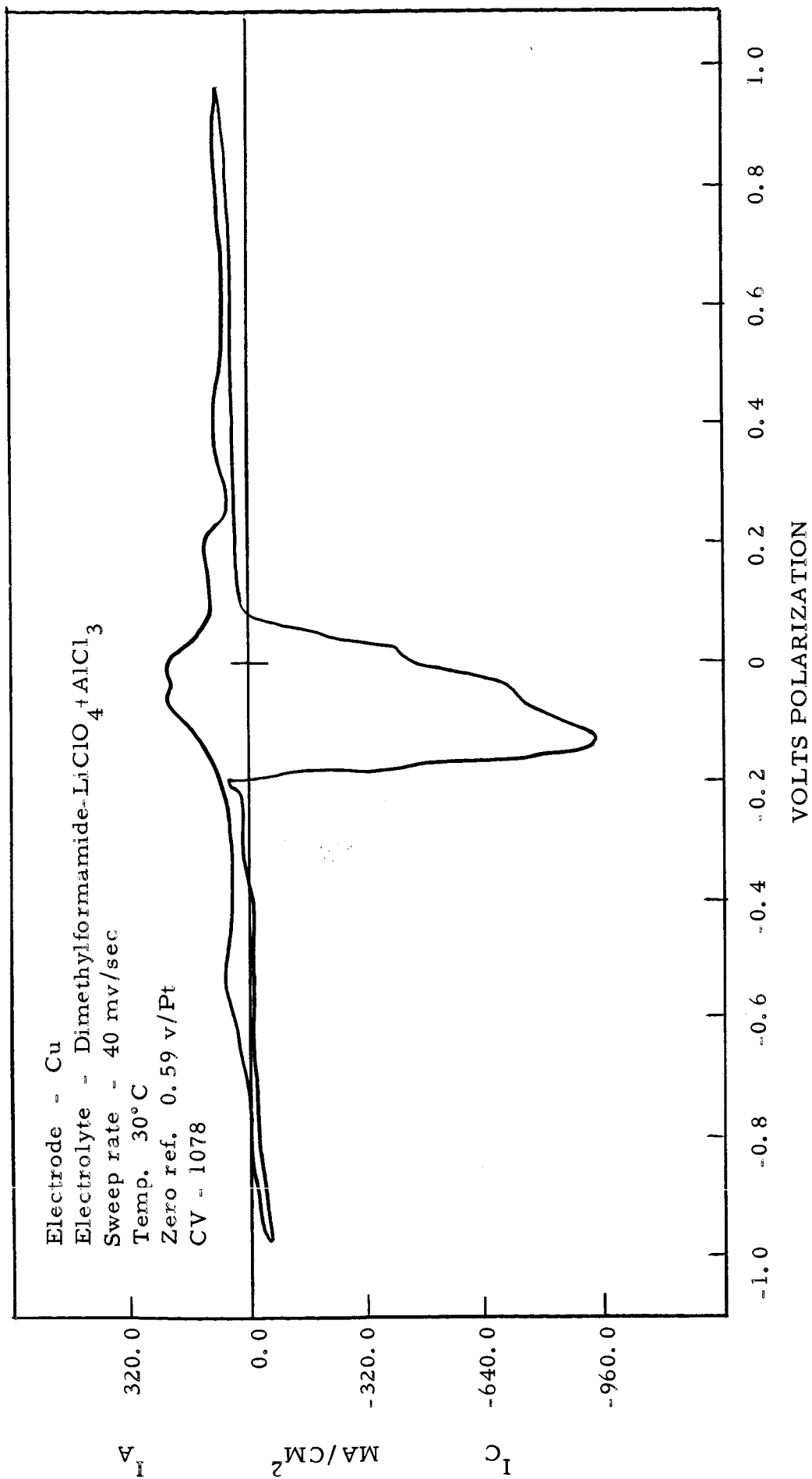


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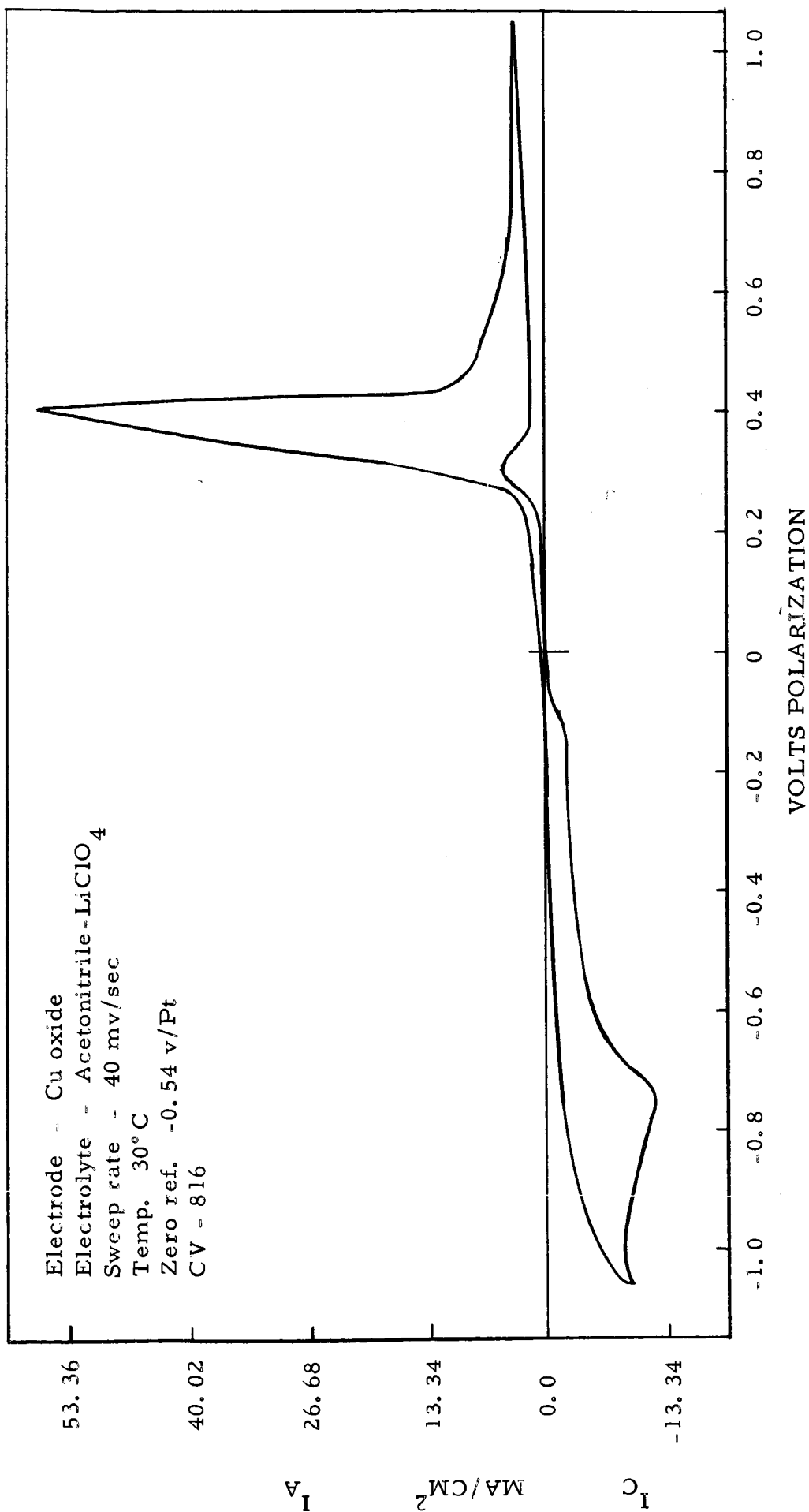


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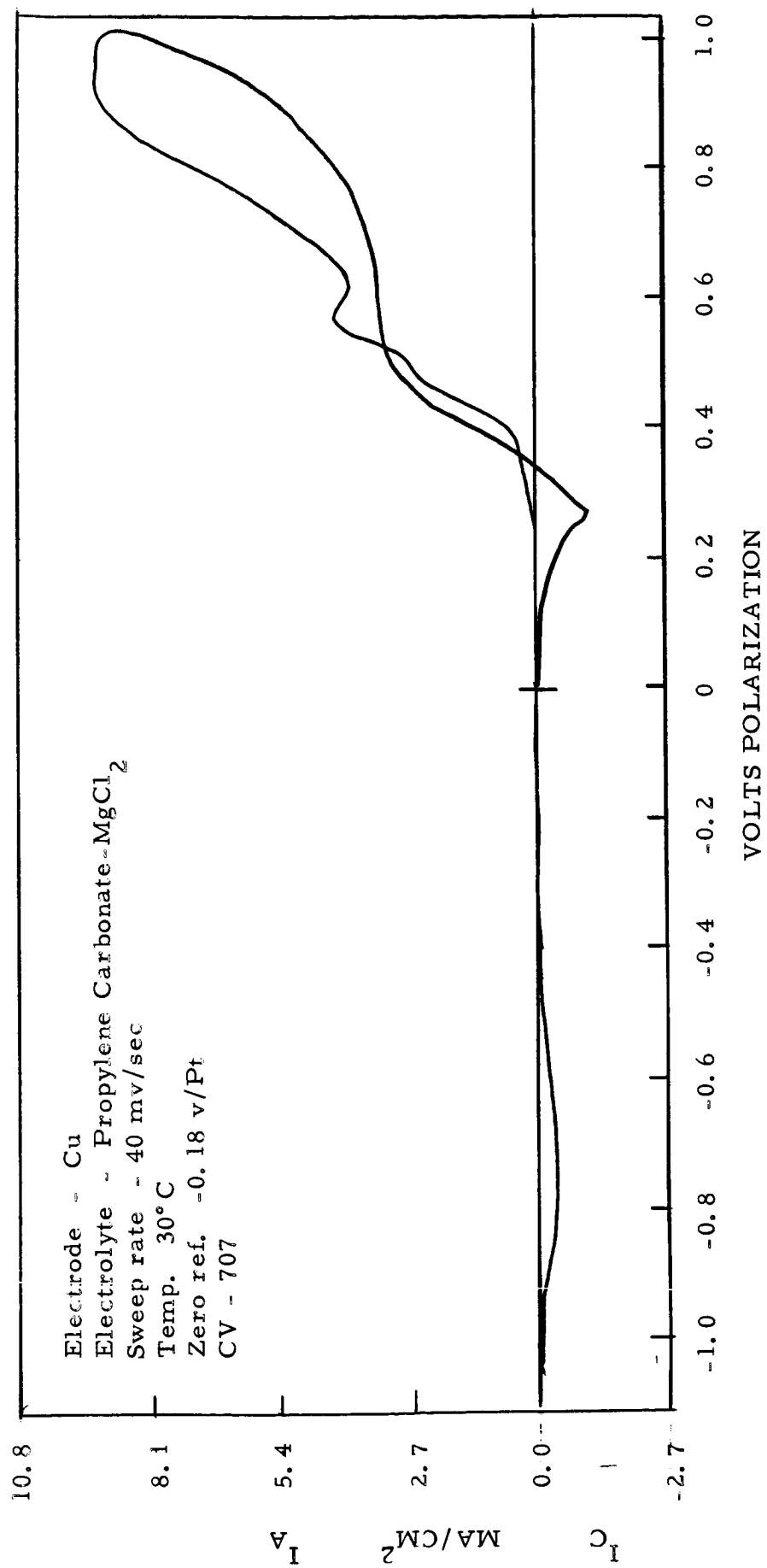


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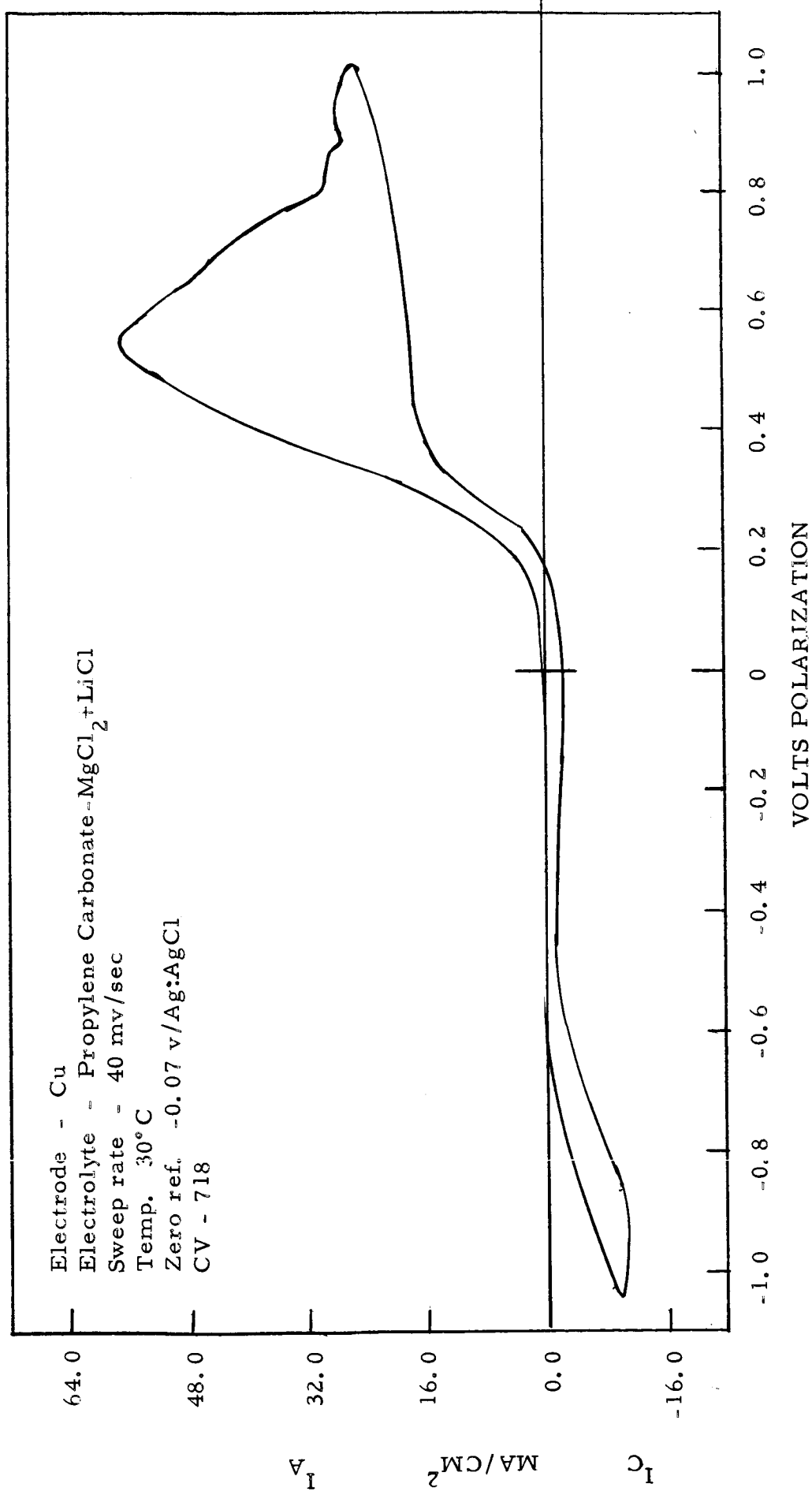


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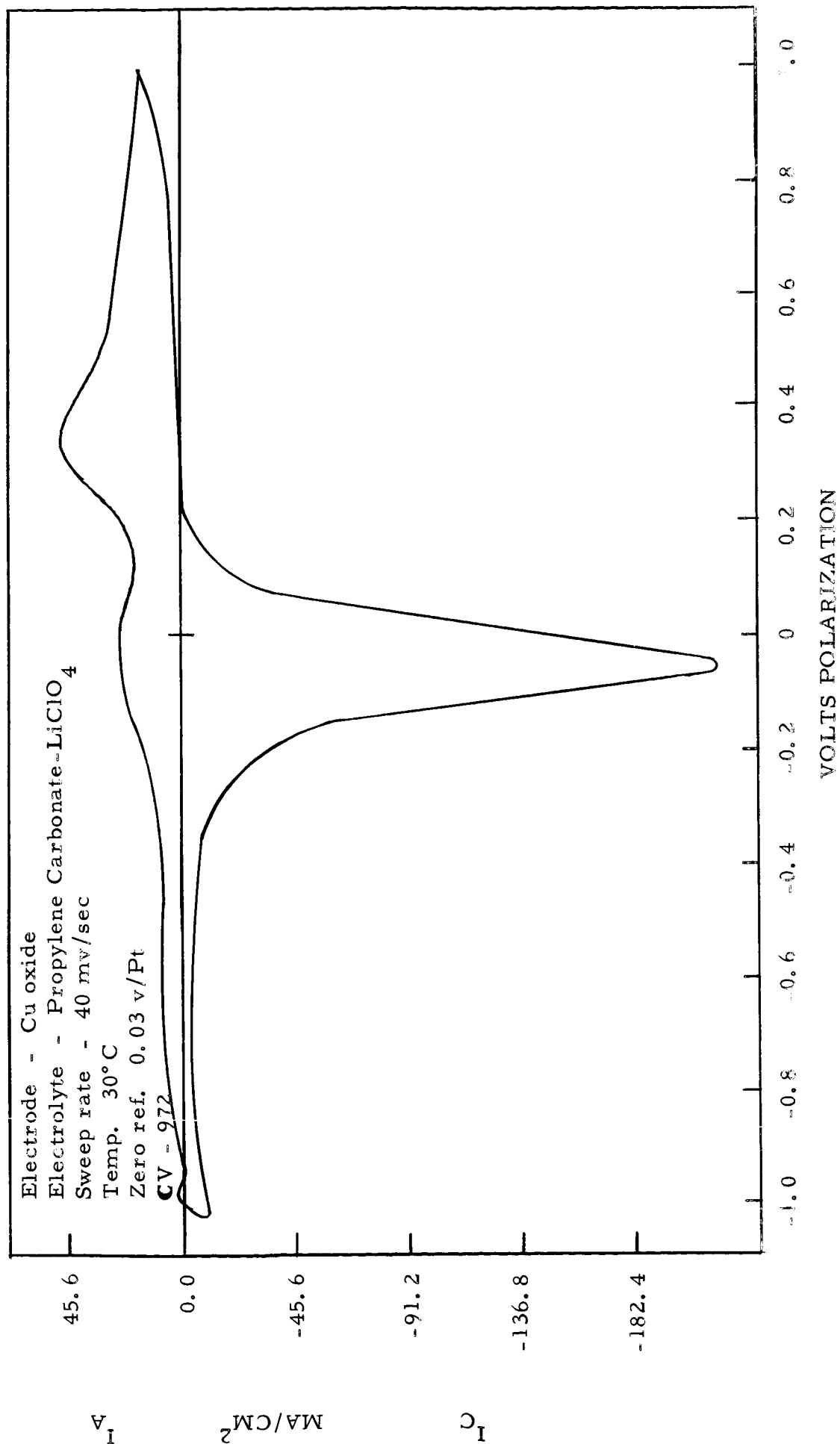


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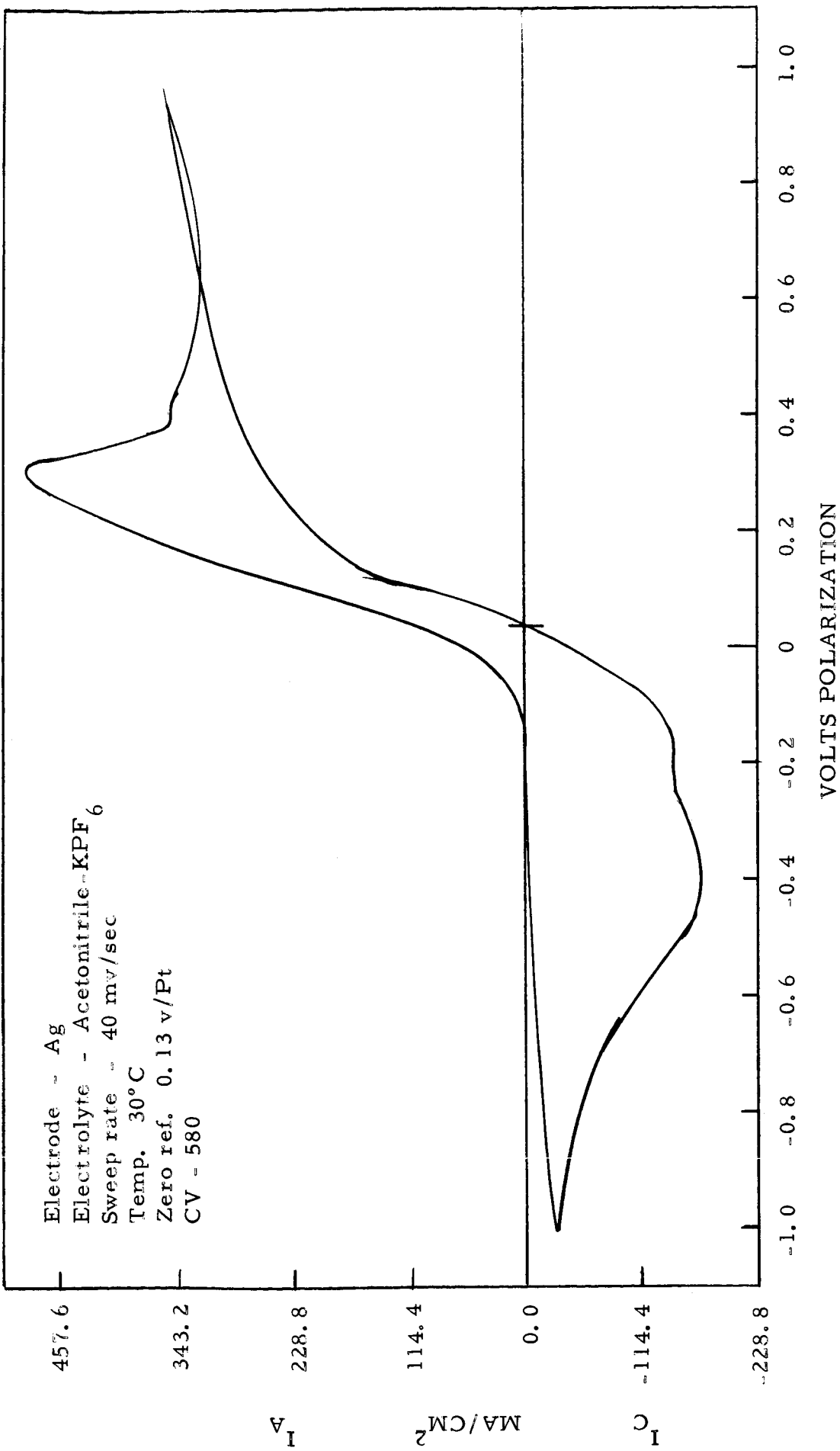


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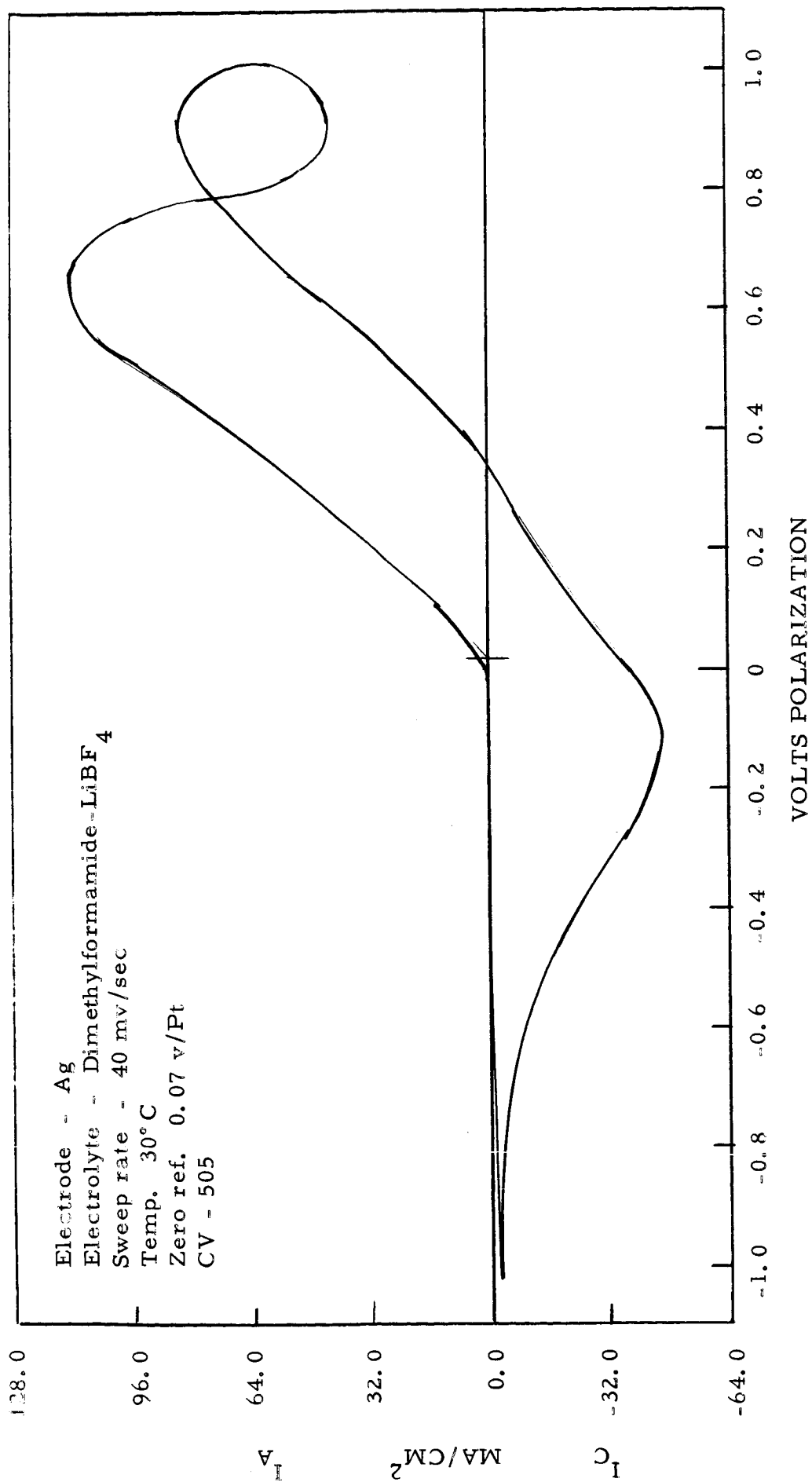


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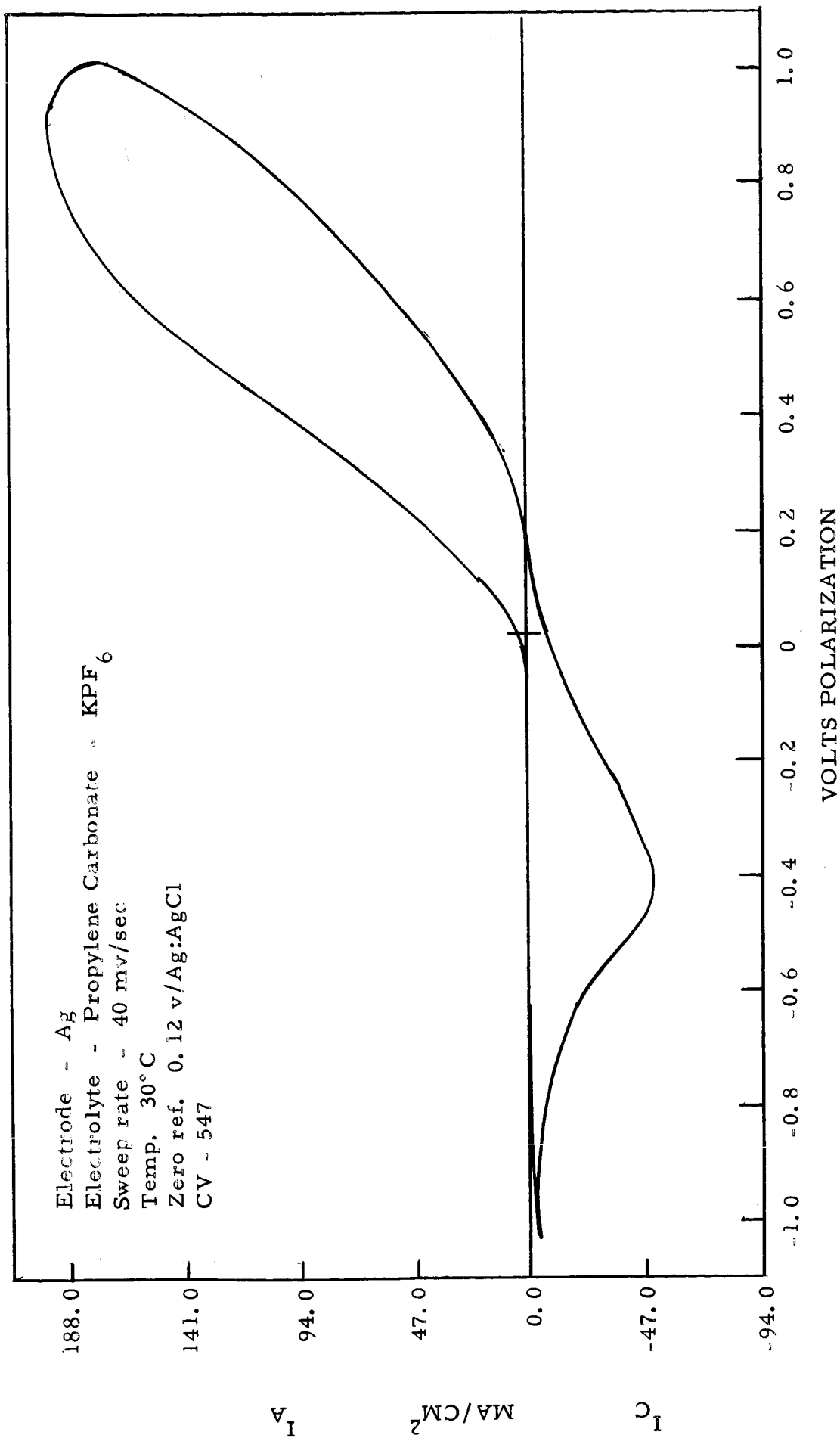


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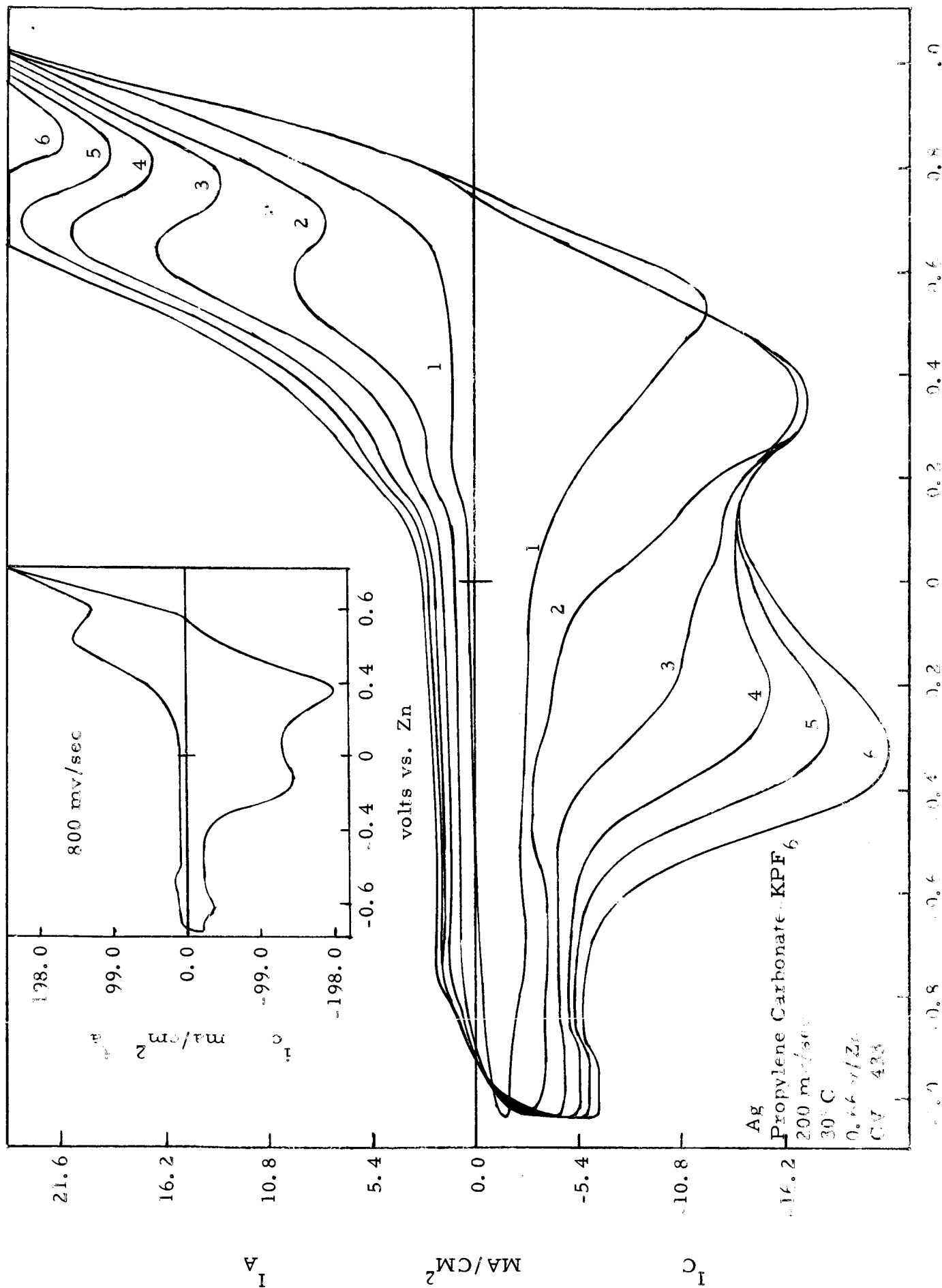


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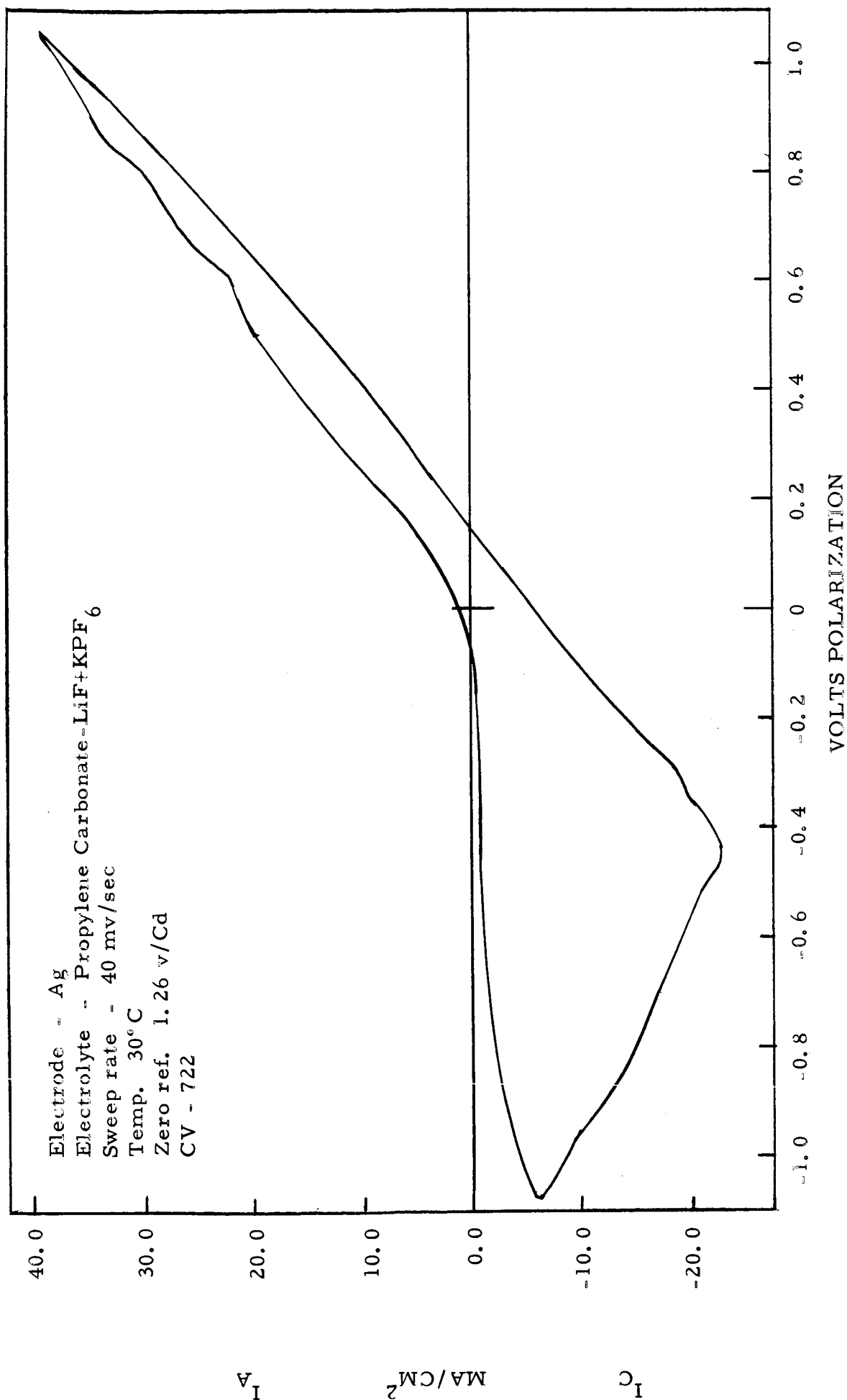


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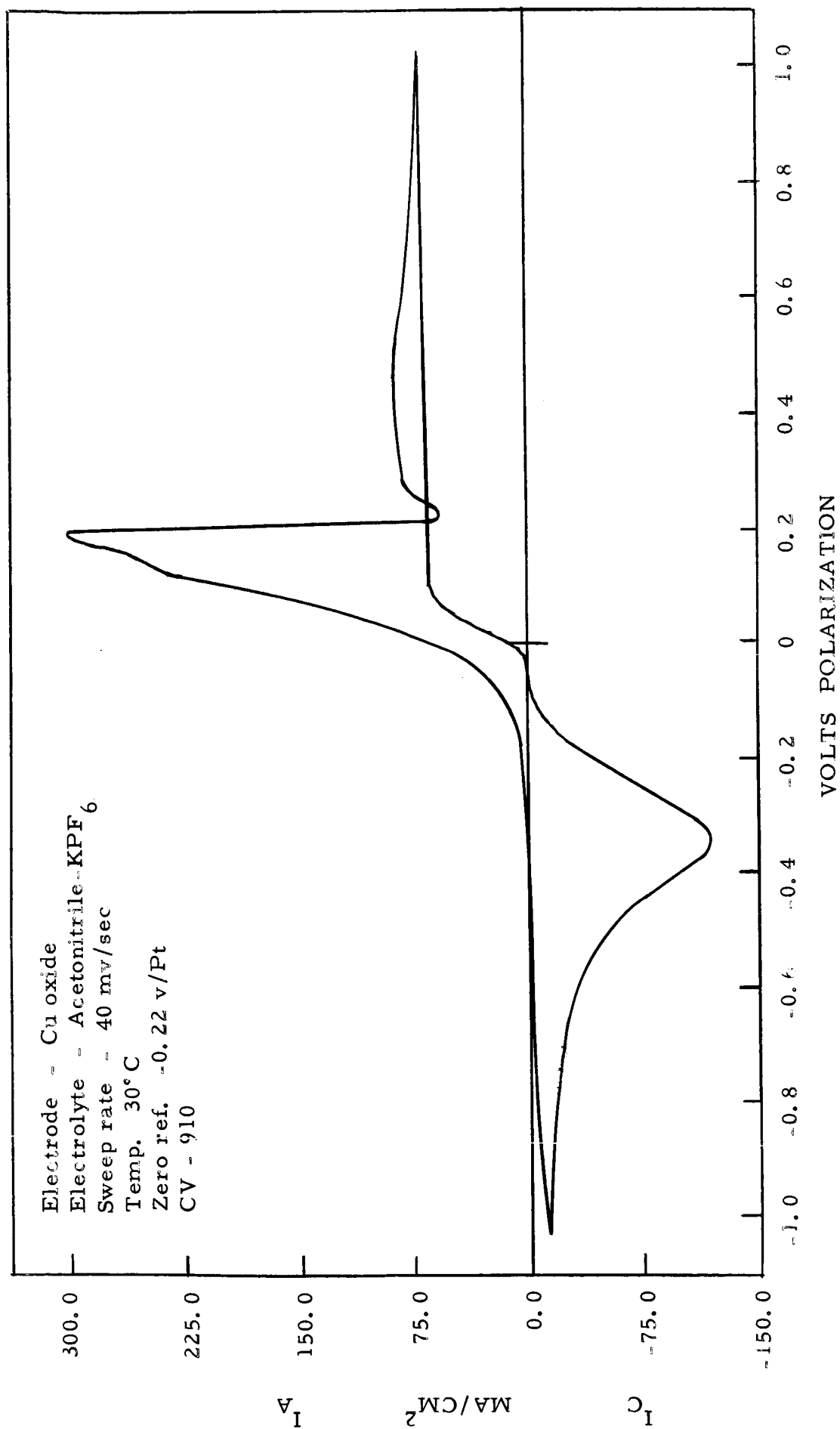


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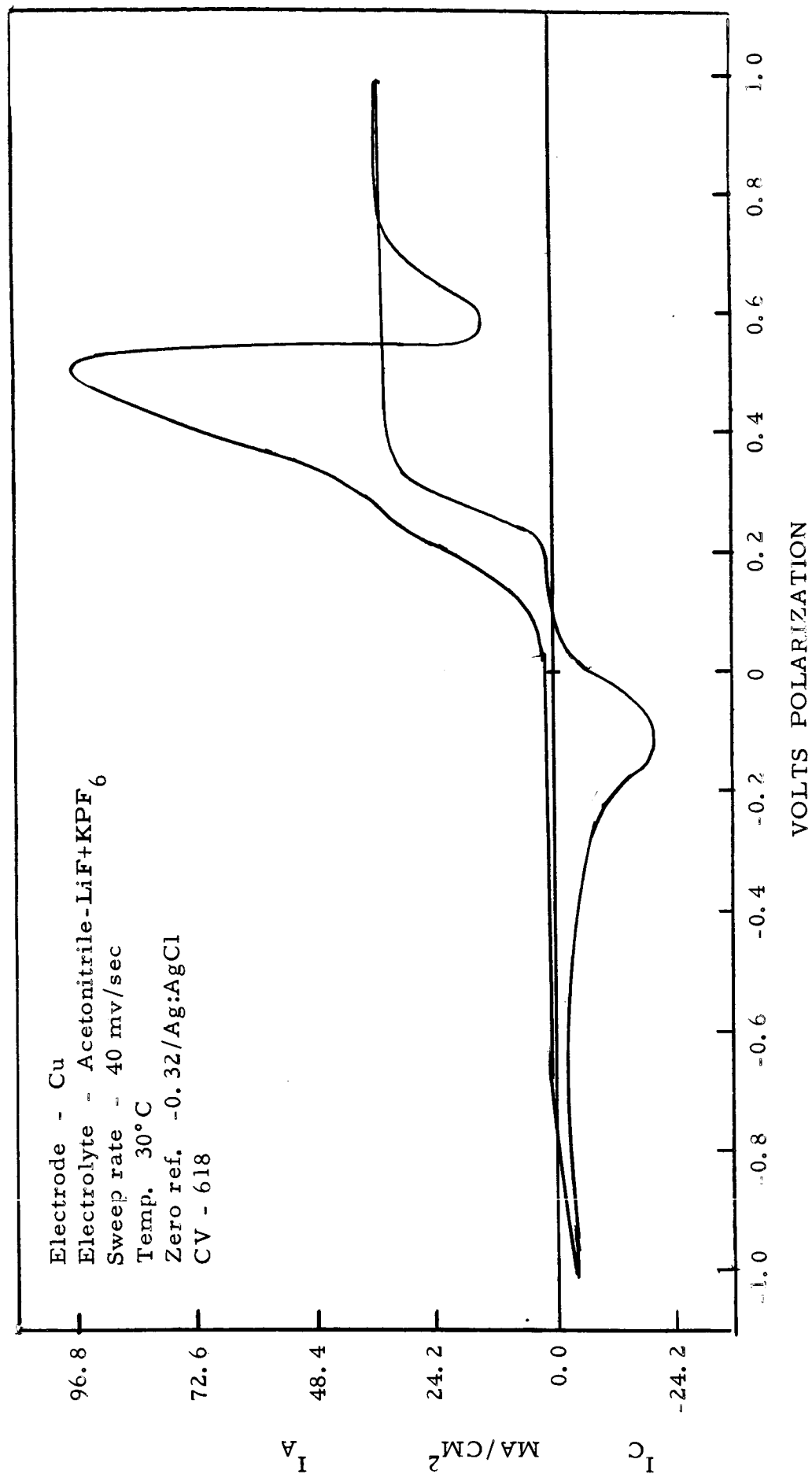


FIGURE 42

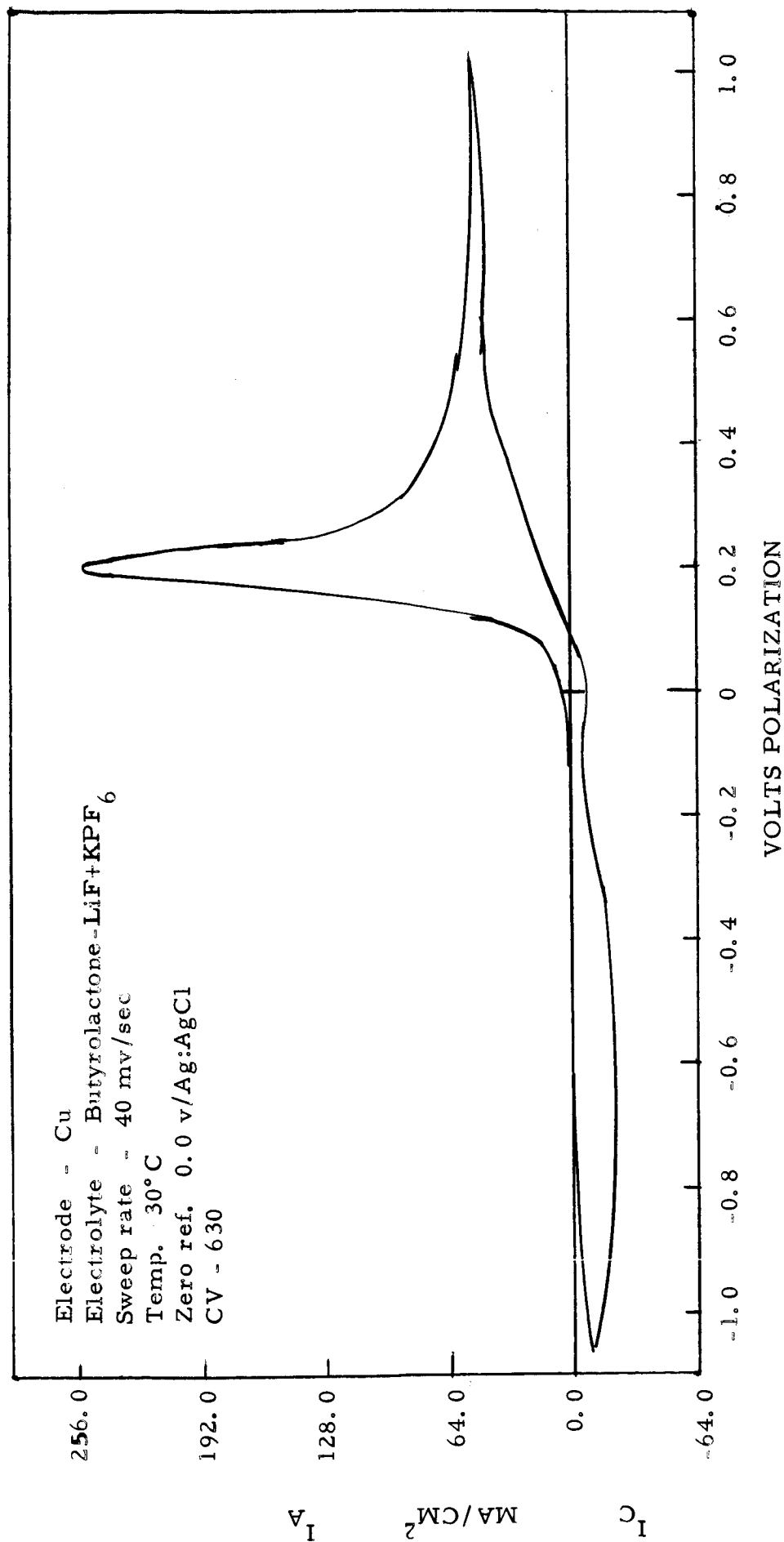


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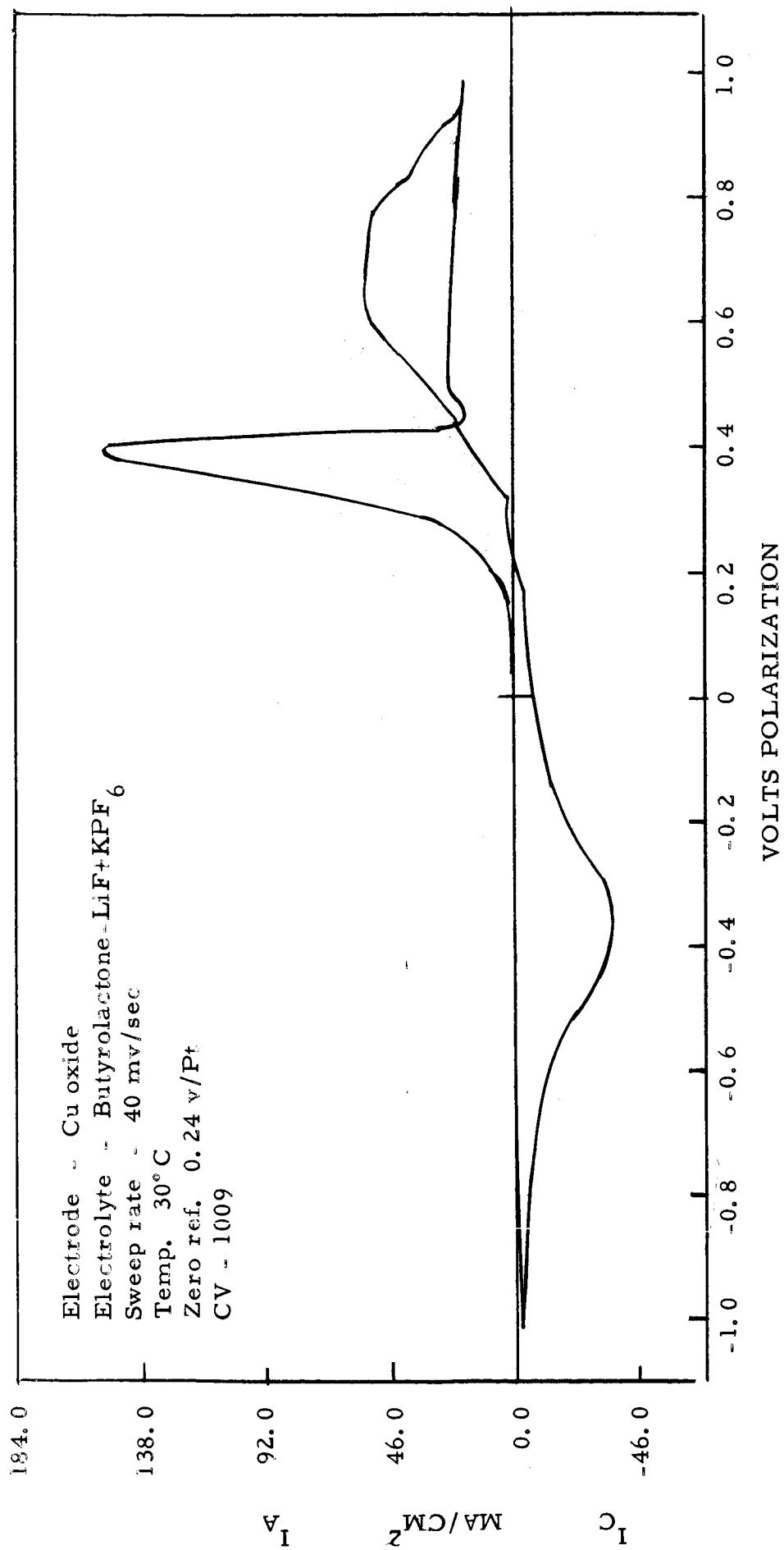


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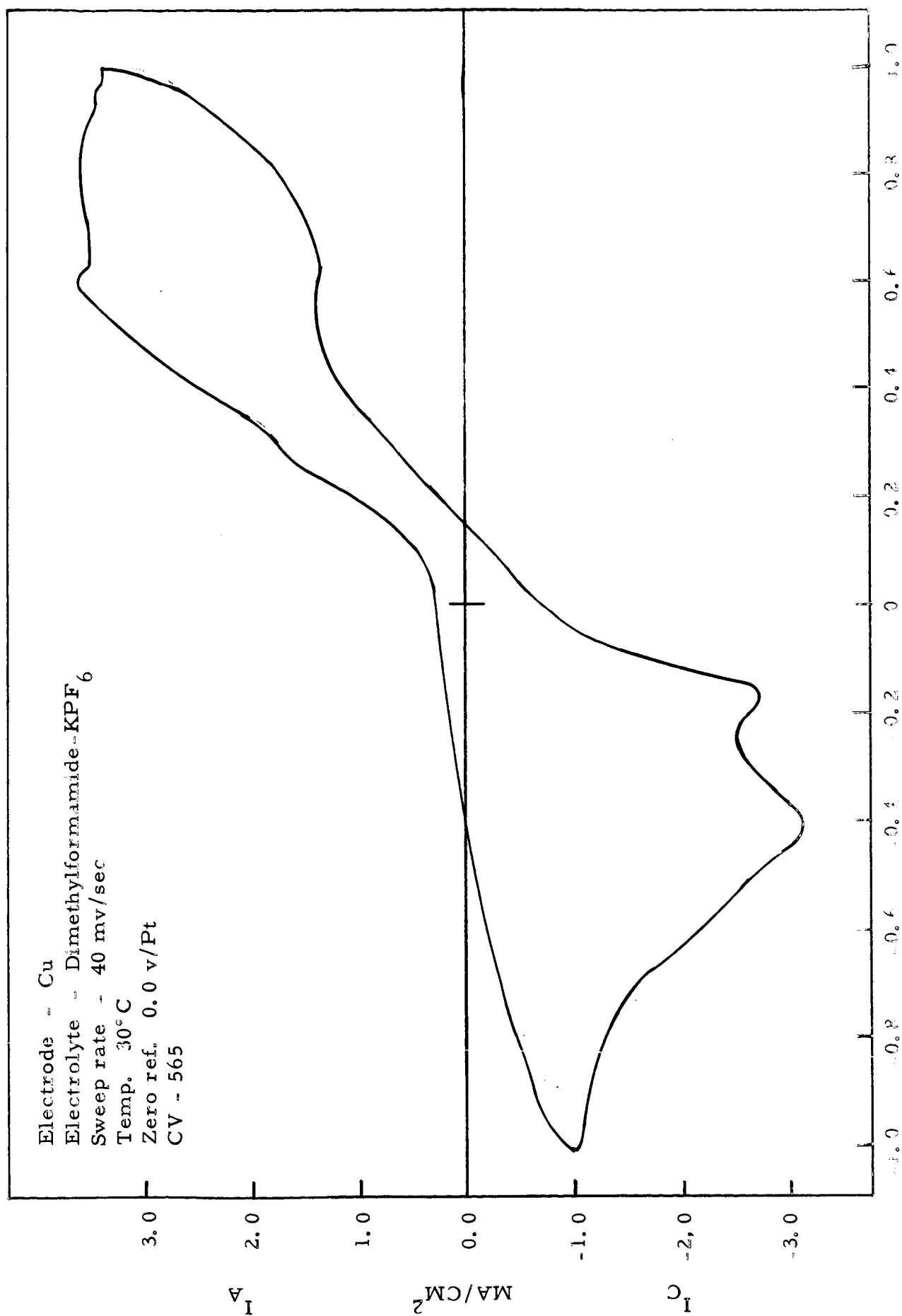


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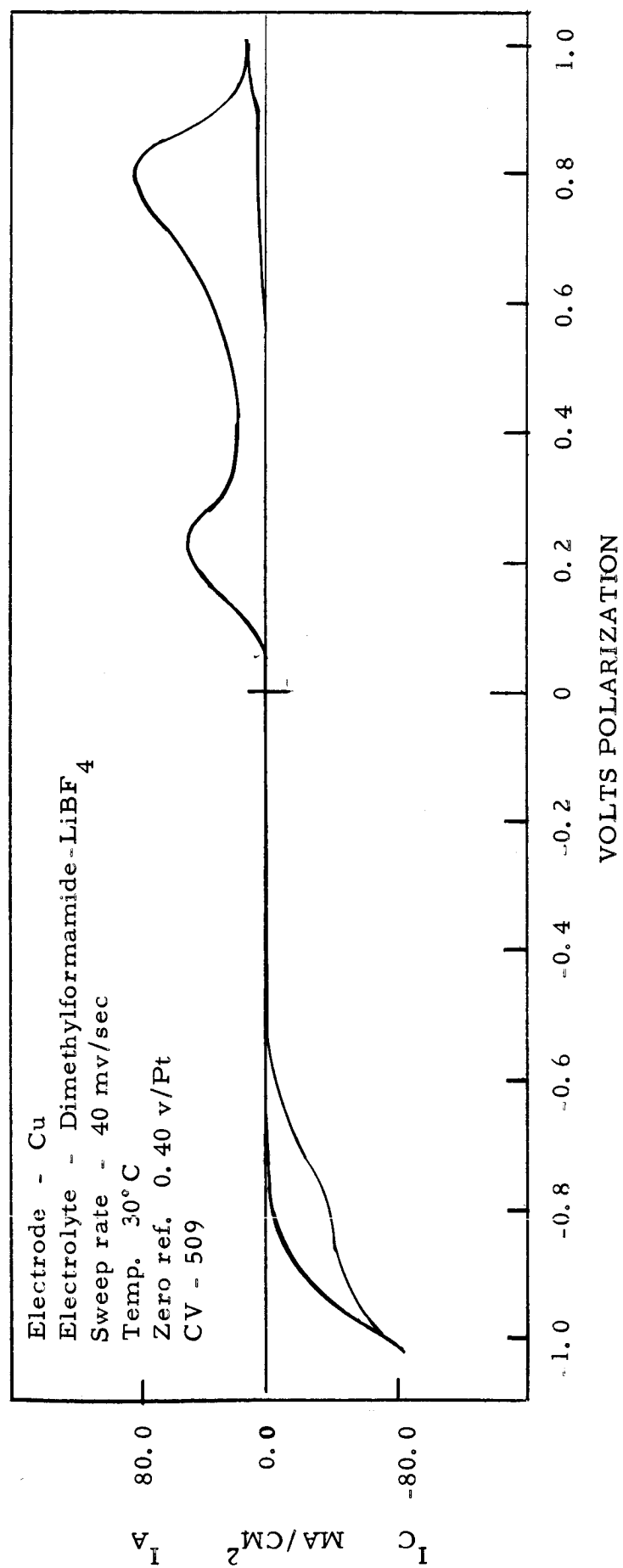


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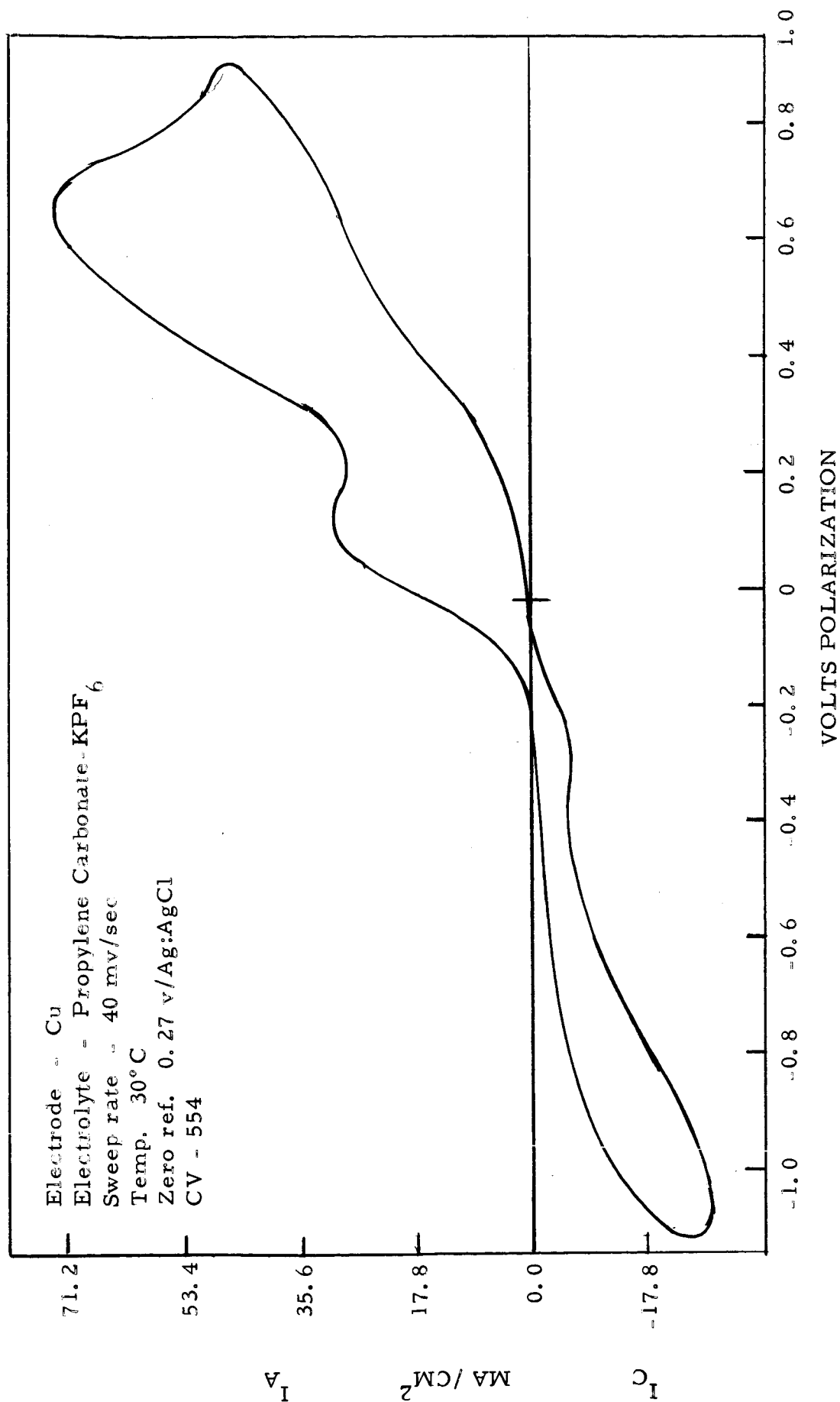


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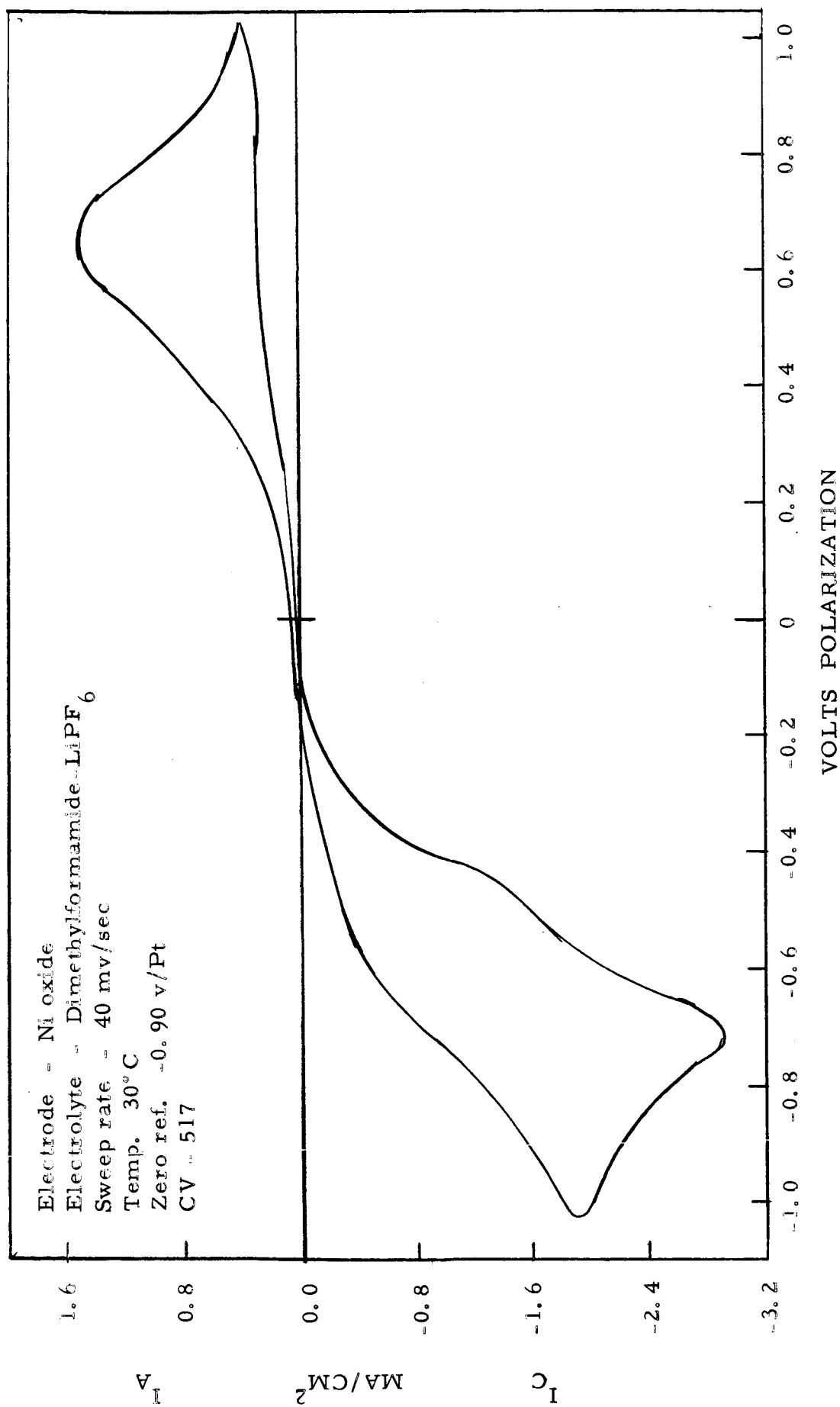


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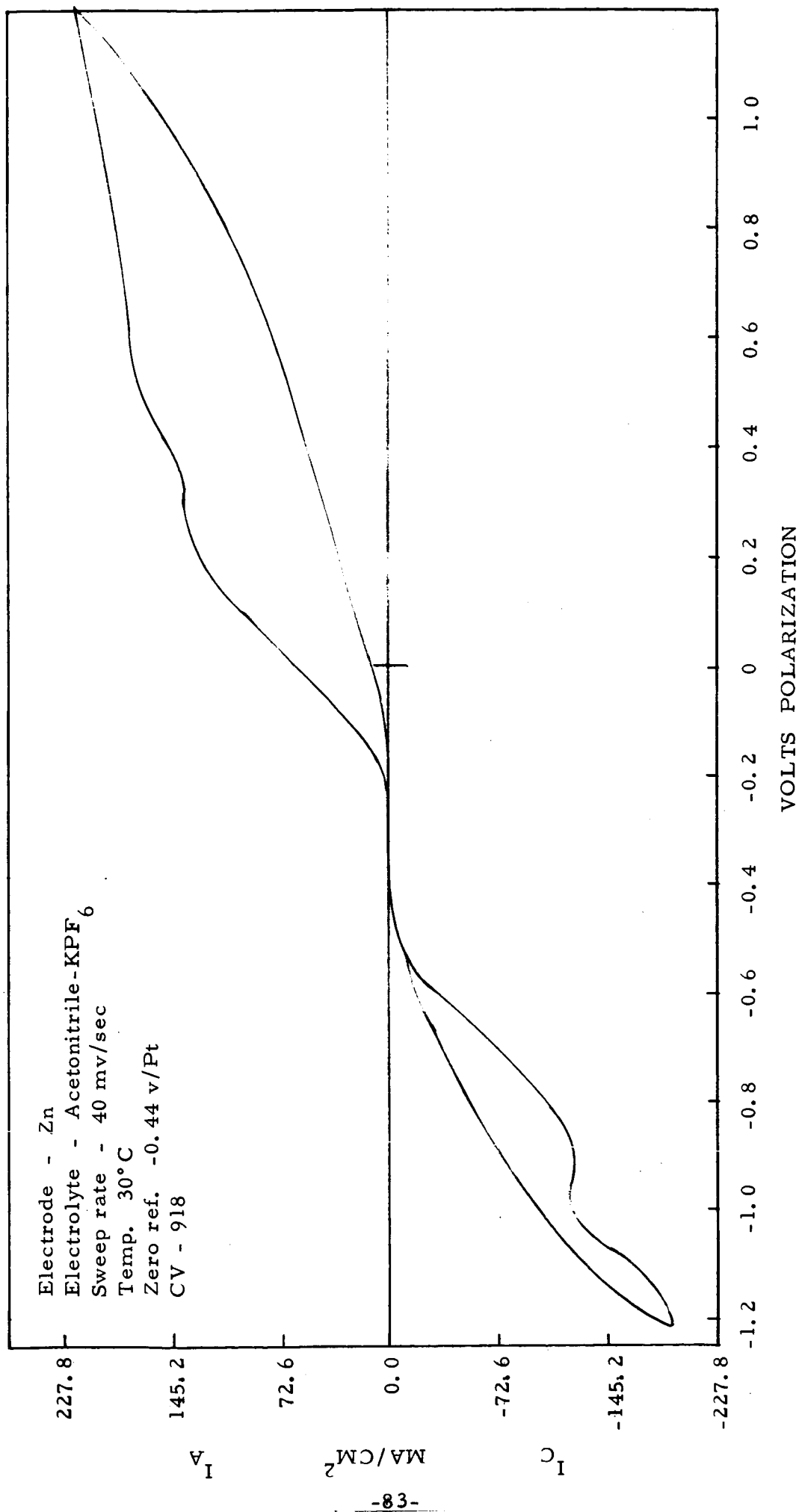


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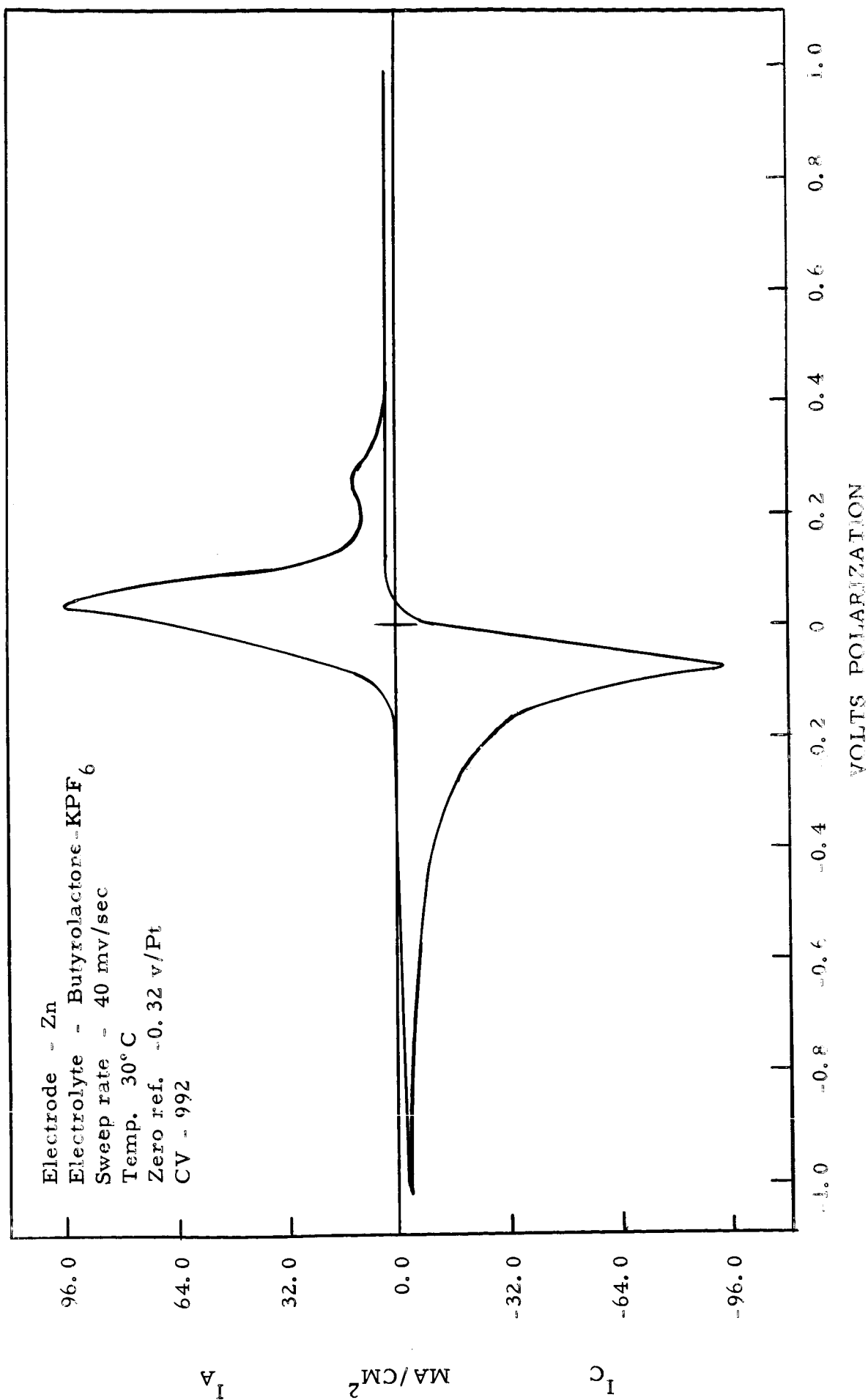


Fig. 6

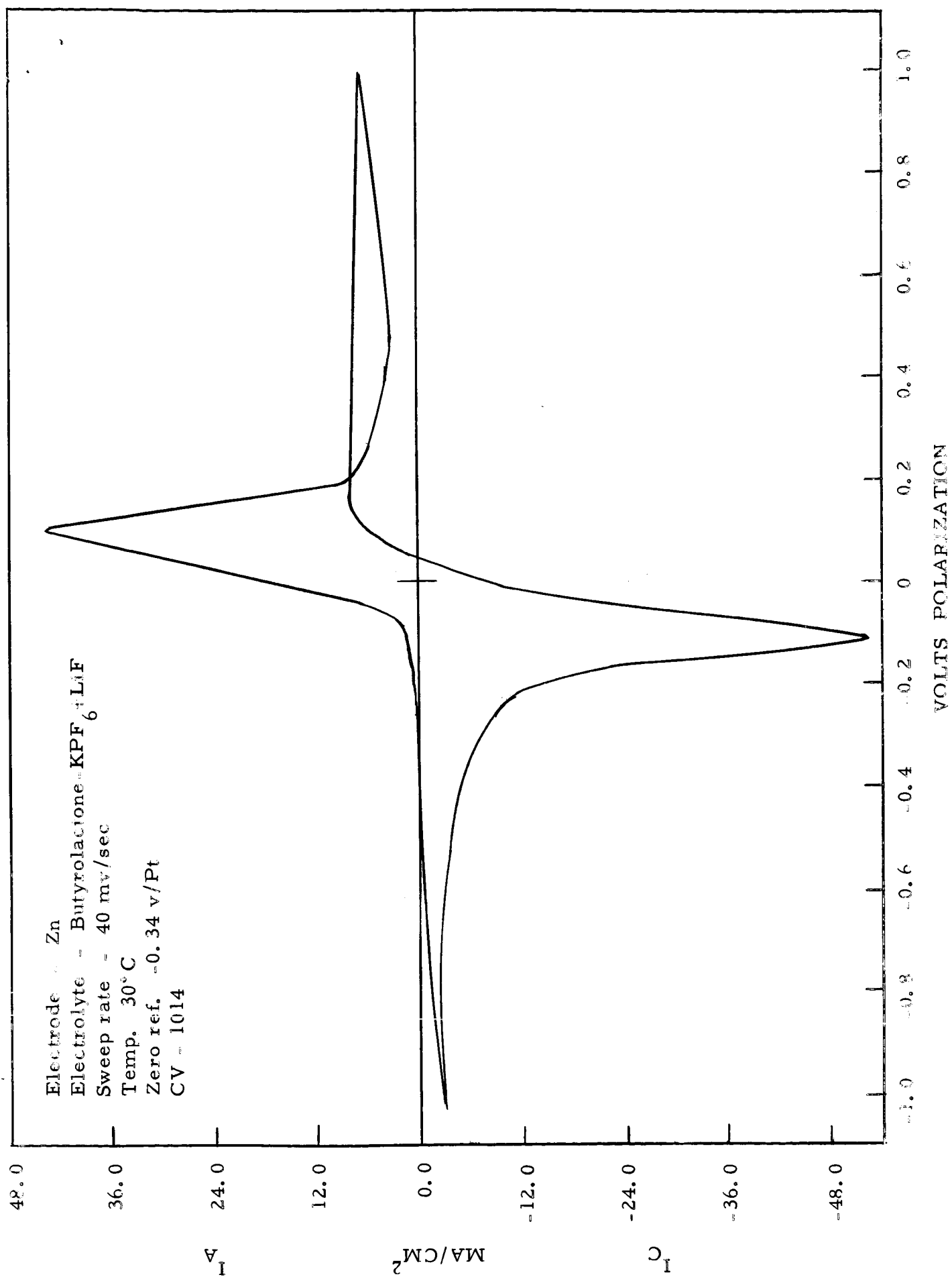


Figure 5

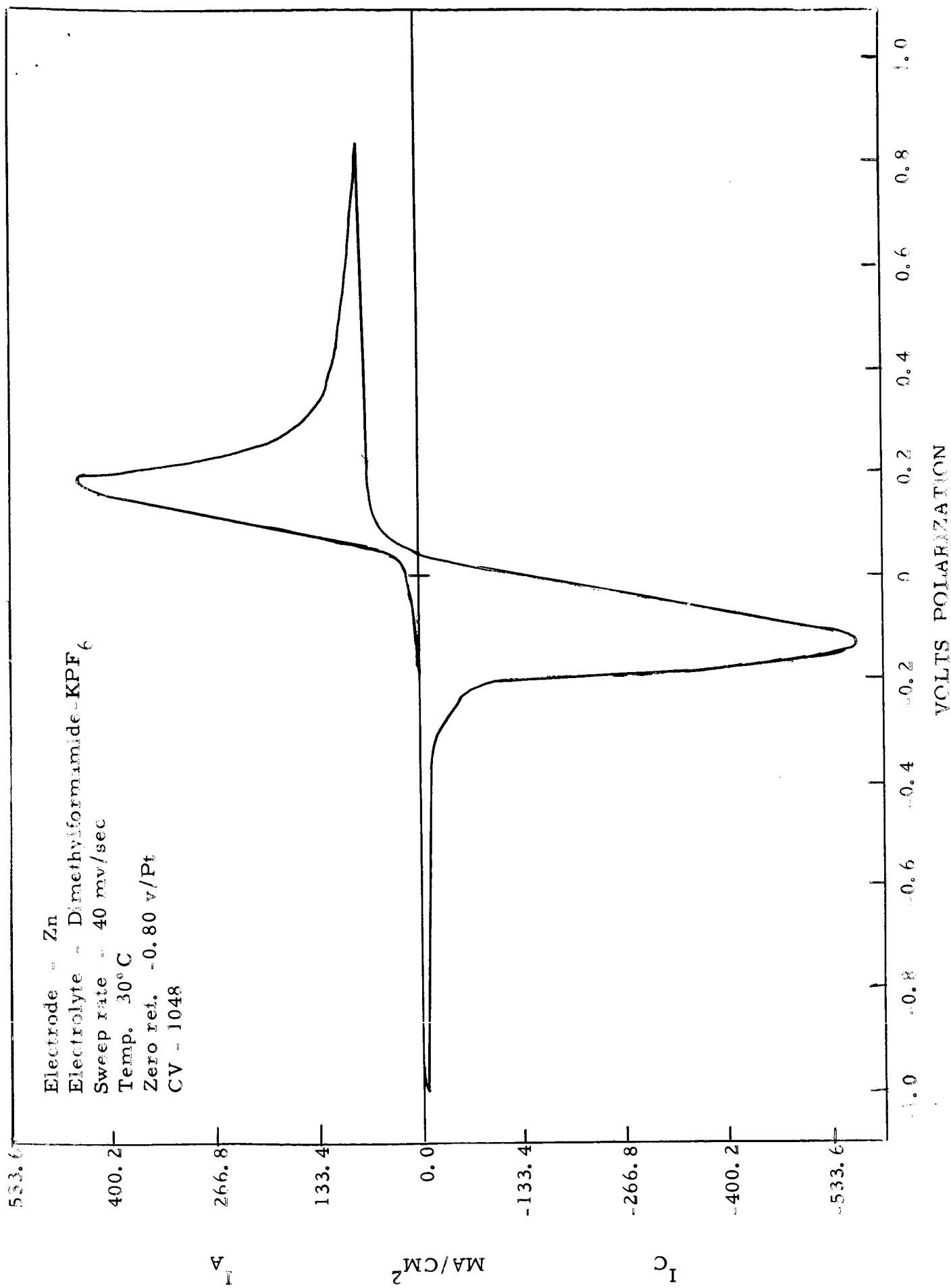


Figure 52

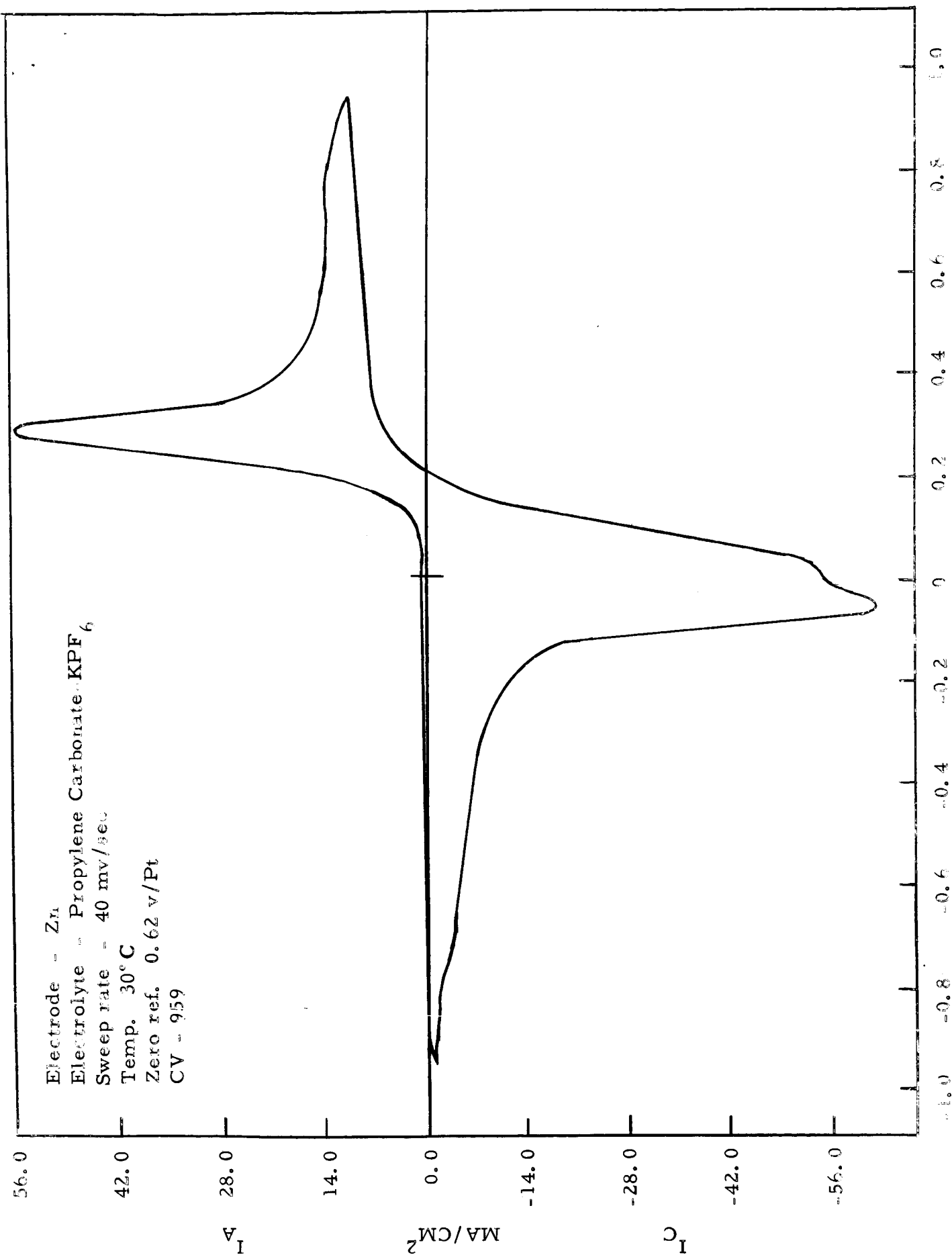


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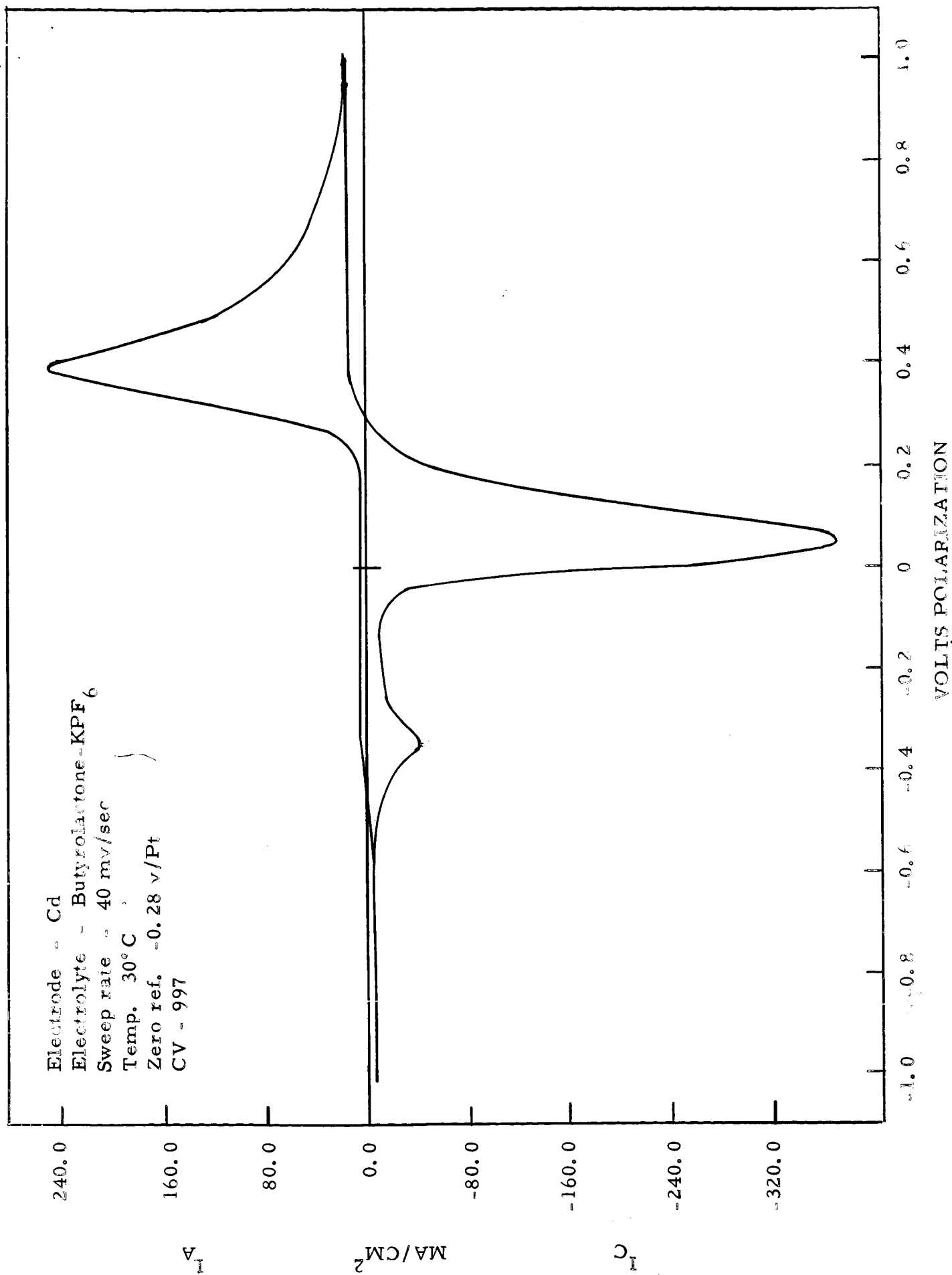


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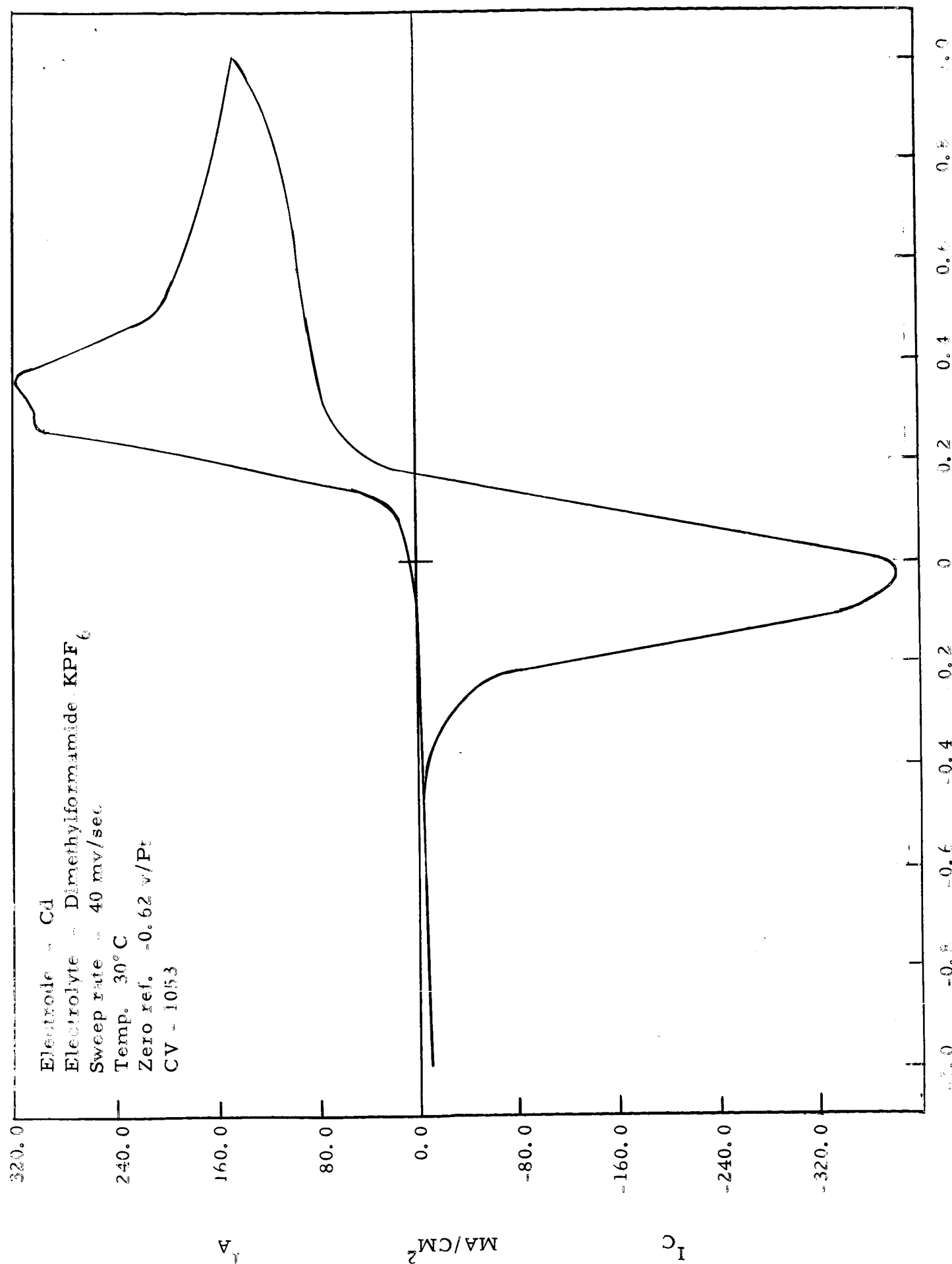


Figure 55

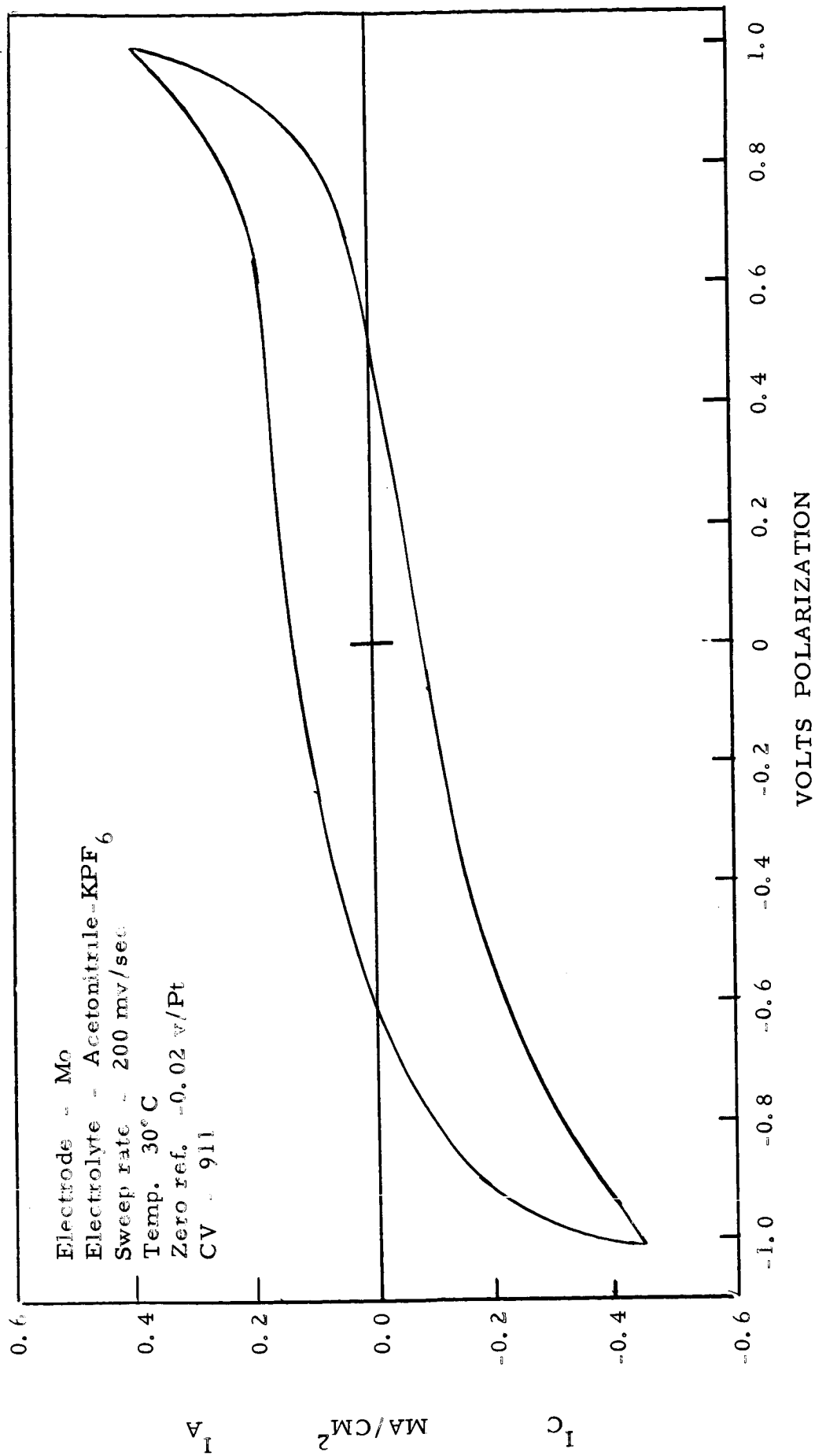


Figure 56

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. The magnitude of the sweep index is a sensitive function of activation polarization. This parameter is described in more detail in an earlier report (Ref. 1, p. 80).

2. Current density magnitude

3. Cathode reaction type

Described as to whether the reduction reaction involves a dissolved species, or a solid state material formed during the anodic portion of the sweep.

4. Cathode stability

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

5. Discharge capacity

Amount of cathode material converted per unit area of electrode.

6. Charge-discharge efficiency

Ratio of discharge coulombs to charge coulombs.

7. ΔV_p

Distance between anodic and cathodic peaks in volts, giving a measure of overall electrode reversibility, or in more practical terms, a measure of suitability of the electrochemical system for secondary battery application.

TABLE VI
ANODIC PEAK CURRENT DENSITY AND SWEEP INDEX
CHLORIDE ELECTROLYTES

<u>Systems</u>	<u>Peak Current Density Magnitude</u>	<u>Sweep Index</u> $\text{ohm}^{-1} \text{cm}^{-2}$
Ag/Acetonitrile-LiCl	Medium Low	3.2
Ag/Butyrolactone-AlCl ₃	High	48.2
Ag/Butyrolactone-MgCl ₂	Medium High	19.0
Ag/Butyrolactone-MgCl ₂ +LiCl	Medium Low	7.1
Ag/Butyrolactone-LiClO ₄ +LiCl	High	-
AgO/Butyrolactone-LiCl+AlCl ₃	Very High	82.4
AgO/Butyrolactone-LiClO ₄	Very High	40.2
AgO/Dimethylformamide-LiCl+AlCl ₃	Medium Low	18.8
Ag/Propylene Carbonate-MgCl ₂	Medium Low	4.7
Ag/Propylene Carbonate-MgCl ₂ +LiCl	Medium Low	5.5
Ag/Propylene Carbonate-LiClO ₄	Medium High	-
CuO/Butyrolactone-LiClO ₄	High	37.6
Cu/Butyrolactone-LiClO ₄ +AlCl ₃	High	75.3
Cu/Dimethylformamide-LiCl	High	23.2
CuO/Dimethylformamide-LiCl	High	49.6
CuO/Dimethylformamide-LiCl+AlCl ₃	High	-
Cu/Dimethylformamide-LiClO ₄ +LiCl	High	41.0
Ni/Butyrolactone-LiClO ₄ +LiCl	Medium Low	3.6
Ni/Dimethylformamide-MgCl ₂ +LiCl	Medium Low	6.4

* Relative figure of merit defined as $\frac{(\text{peak c. d.})^2 \times 100}{\text{sweep rate} \times \text{coulombs/cm}^2}$

TABLE VII
CATHODIC PEAK CURRENT DENSITY AND SWEEP INDEX
CHLORIDE ELECTROLYTES

<u>Systems</u>	<u>Peak Current Density Magnitude</u>	<u>Sweep Index</u> * $\text{ohm}^{-1} \text{cm}^{-2}$
Ag/Acetonitrile-LiCl	Medium Low	8.0
Ag/Butyrolactone-AlCl ₃	High	76.8
Ag/Butyrolactone-MgCl ₂	Medium High	21.5
Ag/Butyrolactone-MgCl ₂ +LiCl	Medium Low	9.6
Ag/Butyrolactone-LiClO ₄ +LiCl	High	79.0
AgO/Butyrolactone-LiCl+AlCl ₃	Very High	594.0
AgO/Butyrolactone-LiClO ₄	Very High	40.2
AgO/Dimethylformamide-LiCl+AlCl ₃	High	119.6
Ag/Propylene Carbonate-MgCl ₂	Medium Low	4.9
Ag/Propylene Carbonate-MgCl ₂ +LiCl	Medium Low	11.2
Ag/Propylene Carbonate-LiClO ₄	High	-
CuO/Butyrolactone-LiClO ₄	High	27.0
Cu/Butyrolactone-LiClO ₄ +AlCl ₃	Medium Low	11.4
Cu/Dimethylformamide-LiCl	Medium Low	3.0
CuO/Dimethylformamide-LiCl	Medium High	102.0
CuO/Dimethylformamide-LiCl+AlCl ₃	Very High	735.2
Cu/Dimethylformamide-LiClO ₄ +LiCl	High	56.9
Ni/Butyrolactone-LiClO ₄ +LiCl	Medium Low	6.8

* See Table VI

TABLE VIII
ANODIC PEAK CURRENT DENSITY AND SWEEP INDEX
FLUORIDE ELECTROLYTES

<u>Systems</u>	<u>Peak Current Density Magnitude</u>	<u>Sweep Index *</u> $\text{ohm}^{-1} \text{cm}^{-2}$
AgO/Acetonitrile-KPF ₆	Very High	30.3
AgO/Acetonitrile-KPF ₆ +LiF	Very High	151.5
Ag/Dimethylformamide-LiBF ₄	Low	86.6
AgO/Propylene Carbonate-KPF ₆	High	22.8
CuO/Acetonitrile-KPF ₆	High	51.6
CuO/Acetonitrile-KPF ₆ +LiF	High	61.5
Cu/Butyrolactone-MgF ₂	High	-
CuO/Butyrolactone-KPF ₆	High	22.0
CuO/Butyrolactone-KPF ₆ +LiF	High	46.2
NiO/Dimethylformamide-LiPF ₆	Low	0.2
Zn/Butyrolactone-KPF ₆	Medium High	47.7
Zn/Butyrolactone-KPF ₆ +LiF	Medium Low	15.7
Zn/Dimethylformamide-KPF ₆	Very High	95.8
Zn/Propylene Carbonate-KPF ₆	Medium High	14.1
Cd/Butyrolactone-KPF ₆	High	84.2
Cd/Butyrolactone-KPF ₆ +LiF	Medium High	19.1
Cd/Dimethylformamide-KPF ₆	High	26.1

* See Table VI

TABLE IX
CATHODIC PEAK CURRENT DENSITY AND SWEEP INDEX
FLUORIDE ELECTROLYTES

<u>Systems</u>	<u>Peak Current Density Magnitude</u>	<u>Sweep Index</u> * ohm ⁻¹ cm ⁻²
AgO/Acetonitrile-KPF ₆	High	24.3
AgO/Acetonitrile-KPF ₆ +LiF	Very High	175.8
Ag/Dimethylformamide-LiBF ₄	Medium Low	42.1
AgO/Propylene Carbonate-KPF ₆	High	40.7
CuO/Acetonitrile-KPF ₆	High	36.2
CuO/Acetonitrile-KPF ₆ +LiF	Medium High	13.0
Cu/Butyrolactone-MgF ₂	Medium Low	
CuO/Butyrolactone-KPF ₆	Medium High	16.3
CuO/Butyrolactone-KPF ₆ +LiF	Medium Low	8.7
NiO/Dimethylformamide-LiPF ₆	Low	0.4
Zn/Butyrolactone-KPF ₆	Medium High	42.0
Zn/Butyrolactone-KPF ₆ +LiF	Medium High	22.6
Zn/Dimethylformamide-KPF ₆	Very High	332.9
Zn/Propylene Carbonate-KPF ₆	Medium High	22.4
Cd/Butyrolactone-KPF ₆	Very High	193.7
Cd/Butyrolactone-KPF ₆ +LiF	Medium High	29.4
Cd/Dimethylformamide-KPF ₆	Very High	107.4

* See Table VI

TABLE X
CATHODE REACTION TYPE AND COMPATIBILITY
SILVER IN CHLORIDE ELECTROLYTES

<u>System</u>	<u>Cathodic Reaction</u>	<u>Cathode Stability</u>
Ag/Acetonitrile-LiCl	Solid State	Insoluble
Ag/Butyrolactone-AlCl ₃	Solid State	Insoluble
Ag/Butyrolactone-MgCl ₂	Solid State	Insoluble
Ag/Butyrolactone-MgCl ₂ +LiCl	Solid State	Insoluble
Ag/Butyrolactone-LiClO ₄ +LiCl	Solid State	Insoluble
Ag/Butyrolactone-LiClO ₄ +AlCl ₃	Solid State	Insoluble
Ag/Dimethylformamide-LiCl	Solid State	Insoluble
Ag/Dimethylformamide-LiCl+AlCl ₃	Solid State	Insoluble
Ag/Dimethylformamide-MgCl ₂	Solid State	Insoluble
Ag/Dimethylformamide-MgCl ₂ +LiCl	Solid State	Insoluble
Ag/Dimethylformamide-LiClO ₄	Solid State	Soluble
Ag/Propylene Carbonate-MgCl ₂	Solid State	Insoluble
Ag/Propylene Carbonate-MgCl ₂ +LiCl	Solid State	Insoluble
AgO/Acetonitrile-LiClO ₄	Solid State	Soluble
AgO/Butyrolactone-LiCl	Solid State	Insoluble
AgO/Butyrolactone-LiCl+AlCl ₃	Solid State	Insoluble
AgO/Butyrolactone-LiClO ₄	Dissolved Species	Soluble
AgO/Dimethylformamide-LiCl+AlCl ₃	Solid State	Insoluble
AgO/Dimethylformamide-LiClO ₄ +AlCl ₃	Dissolved Species	Soluble
AgO/Propylene Carbonate-LiClO ₄	Solid State	Insoluble

TABLE XI
CATHODE REACTION TYPE AND COMPATIBILITY
SILVER IN FLUORIDE ELECTROLYTES

<u>System</u>	<u>Cathodic Reaction</u>	<u>Cathode Stability</u>
Ag/Acetonitrile-KPF ₆	Solid State	Insoluble
Ag/Acetonitrile-KPF ₆ + 1000 ppm H ₂ O	Solid State	Soluble
AgO/Acetonitrile-KPF ₆	Solid State	Soluble
Ag/Acetonitrile-KPF ₆ +LiF	Solid State	Insoluble
AgO/Acetonitrile-KPF ₆ +LiF	Solid State	Soluble
Ag/Butyrolactone-MgF ₂	Solid State	Insoluble
Ag/Butyrolactone-MgF ₂ +LiF	Solid State	Insoluble
Ag/Butyrolactone-KPF ₆	Solid State	Soluble
AgO/Butyrolactone-KPF ₆	--	Soluble
Ag/Butyrolactone-KPF ₆ +LiF	Solid State	Soluble
AgO/Butyrolactone-KPF ₆ +LiF	--	Soluble
Ag/Dimethylformamide-KPF ₆	Solid State	Soluble
AgO/Dimethylformamide-KPF ₆	Solid State	Soluble
Ag/Dimethylformamide-KPF ₆ +LiF	Solid State	Soluble
Ag/Dimethylformamide-LiBF ₄	Solid State	Soluble
Ag/Propylene Carbonate-KPF ₆	Solid State	Soluble
AgO/Propylene Carbonate-KPF ₆	--	Soluble

TABLE XII
CATHODE REACTION TYPE AND COMPATIBILITY
COPPER IN CHLORIDE ELECTROLYTES

<u>System</u>	<u>Cathodic Reaction</u>	<u>Cathode Stability</u>
Cu/Acetonitrile-AlCl ₃	Solid State	Soluble
CuO/Acetonitrile-LiClO ₄	Solid State	Insoluble
Cu/Butyrolactone-AlCl ₃	Solid State	Soluble
CuO/Butyrolactone-LiCl+AlCl ₃	Solid State	Insoluble
Cu/Butyrolactone-MgCl ₂	Solid State	Insoluble
Cu/Butyrolactone-MgCl ₂ +LiCl	Solid State	Soluble
Cu/Butyrolactone-LiClO ₄ +AlCl ₃	Solid State	Soluble
Cu/Dimethylformamide-LiCl	Solid State	Soluble
CuO/Dimethylformamide-LiCl	Solid State	Soluble
CuO/Dimethylformamide-LiCl+AlCl ₃	Dissolved Species	Soluble
Cu/Dimethylformamide-MgCl ₂	Solid State	Soluble
Cu/Dimethylformamide-MgCl ₂ +LiCl	Solid State	Soluble
Cu/Dimethylformamide-LiClO ₄	Dissolved Species	Soluble
CuO/Dimethylformamide-LiClO ₄	Dissolved Species	Soluble
Cu/Dimethylformamide-LiClO ₄ +LiCl	Dissolved Species	Soluble
Cu/Dimethylformamide-LiClO ₄ +AlCl ₃	Solid State	Soluble
Cu/Propylene Carbonate-MgCl ₂ +LiCl	Solid State	Soluble
Cu/Propylene Carbonate-LiClO ₄	Solid State	Insoluble
CuO/Propylene Carbonate-LiClO ₄	Solid State	Insoluble

TABLE XIII
CATHODE REACTION TYPE AND COMPATIBILITY
COPPER IN FLUORIDE ELECTROLYTES

<u>System</u>	<u>Cathodic Reaction</u>	<u>Cathode Stability</u>
Cu/Acetonitrile-KPF ₆	Solid State	Insoluble
CuO/Acetonitrile-KPF ₆	Solid State	Insoluble
Cu/Acetonitrile-KPF ₆ +LiF	Solid State	Insoluble
CuO/Acetonitrile-KPF ₆ +LiF	Solid State	Insoluble
Cu/Butyrolactone-MgF ₂	Solid State	Soluble
Cu/Butyrolactone-MgF ₂ +LiF	Solid State	Insoluble
Cu/Butyrolactone-KPF ₆	Solid State	Soluble
CuO/Butyrolactone-KPF ₆	Solid State	Insoluble
Cu/Butyrolactone-KPF ₆ +LiF	Solid State	Soluble
CuO/Butyrolactone-KPF ₆ +LiF	Solid State	Insoluble
Cu/Dimethylformamide-KPF ₆	Solid State	Insoluble
Cu/Dimethylformamide-LiBF ₄	Solid State	Soluble
Cu/Propylene Carbonate-KPF ₆	Solid State	Soluble

TABLE XIV
CATHODE REACTION TYPE AND COMPATIBILITY
ZINC, CADMIUM IN FLUORIDE ELECTROLYTES

<u>System</u>	<u>Cathodic Reaction</u>	<u>Cathode Stability</u>
Zn/Acetonitrile-KPF ₆	Solid State	Insoluble
Zn/Butyrolactone-KPF ₆	Solid State	Insoluble
Zn/Butyrolactone-KPF ₆ +LiF	Solid State	Insoluble
Zn/Dimethylformamide-KPF ₆	Solid State	Insoluble
Zn/Propylene Carbonate-KPF ₆	Solid State	Insoluble
Cd/Butyrolactone-KPF ₆	Solid State	Insoluble
Cd/Butyrolactone-KPF ₆ +LiF	Solid State	Insoluble
Cd/Dimethylformamide-KPF ₆	Solid State	Insoluble
Cd/Propylene Carbonate-KPF ₆	--	Soluble

TABLE XV

ΔV_p^* , CHARGE-DISCHARGE EFFICIENCY AND DISCHARGE CAPACITY
SILVER ELECTRODES

<u>System</u>	<u>ΔV_p^* Volt</u>	<u>Charge-Discharge Efficiency %</u>	<u>Discharge Capacity Coulomb/cm²</u>
Ag/Acetonitrile-LiCl	0.80	90.0	0.3
AgO/Acetonitrile-KPF ₆	0.54	23.0	1.0
AgO/Butyrolactone-LiCl	1.10	67.0	0.8
AgO/Butyrolactone-LiCl+AlCl ₃	0.23	100.0	4.4
Ag/Butyrolactone-MgCl ₂	0.70	100.0	0.7
Ag/Butyrolactone-MgCl ₂ +LiCl	0.40	100.0	3.0
AgO/Butyrolactone-LiClO ₄	0.98	34.4	4.1
Ag/Butyrolactone-AlCl ₃	0.87	96.0	2.2
Ag/Butyrolactone-LiClO ₄ +LiCl	0.55	--	-
Ag/Butyrolactone-LiClO ₄ +AlCl ₃	0.85	79.6	1.5
AgO/Dimethylformamide-LiCl+AlCl ₃	0.02	42.6	0.3
Ag/Dimethylformamide-LiClO ₄	0.72	--	-
AgO/Dimethylformamide-LiClO ₄ +AlCl ₃	0.02	40.0	0.2
Ag/Propylene Carbonate-MgCl ₂	1.10	100.0	0.7
Ag/Propylene Carbonate-MgCl ₂ +LiCl	0.93	74.0	0.3
Ag/Propylene Carbonate-LiClO ₄	1.40	--	-
AgO/Propylene Carbonate-LiClO ₄	--	62.8	0.1

* Voltage separating anodic and cathodic peaks.

TABLE XVI
 ΔV_p^* , CHARGE-DISCHARGE EFFICIENCY AND DISCHARGE CAPACITY
 COPPER ELECTRODES

<u>System</u>	<u>ΔV_p^* Volt</u>	<u>Charge-Discharge Efficiency %</u>	<u>Discharge Capacity Coulomb/cm²</u>
CuO/Acetonitrile-LiClO ₄	1.14	--	-
CuO/Acetonitrile-KPF ₆ +LiF	0.70	49.7	1.1
Cu/Butyrolactone-MgF ₂	0.22	--	-
CuO/Butyrolactone-KPF ₆	1.28	26.2	1.2
CuO/Butyrolactone-KPF ₆ +LiF	0.75	34.2	0.4
Cu/Butyrolactone-AlCl ₃	0.33	--	-
Cu/Butyrolactone-MgCl ₂	--	10.5	-
CuO/Butyrolactone-LiClO ₄	1.27	46.5	1.9
CuO/Butyrolactone-LiCl+AlCl ₃	0.30	31.1	0.4
Cu/Butyrolactone-LiClO ₄ +AlCl ₃	0.20	46.7	0.3
Cu/Dimethylformamide-LiCl	0.50	6.9	0.1
CuO/Dimethylformamide-LiCl	0.30	6.7	-
CuO/Dimethylformamide-LiCl+AlCl ₃	0.17	--	-
CuO/Dimethylformamide-LiClO ₄ +LiCl	0.25	28.4	0.9
Cu/Dimethylformamide-LiClO ₄ +AlCl ₃	0.23	8.2	4.2
Cu/Propylene Carbonate-LiClO ₄	1.30	--	-
CuO/Propylene Carbonate-LiClO ₄	0.39	100.0	0.6

* Voltage separating anodic and cathodic peaks.

TABLE XVII
 ΔV_p^* , CHARGE-DISCHARGE EFFICIENCY AND DISCHARGE CAPACITY
 ZINC, CADMIUM IN FLUORIDE ELECTROLYTES

<u>System</u>	ΔV_p^* <u>Volt</u>	<u>Charge-Discharge Efficiency %</u>	<u>Discharge Capacity Coulomb/cm²</u>
Zn/Acetonitrile-KPF ₆	1.20	--	--
Zn/Butyrolactone-KPF ₆	0.13	100.0	0.5
Zn/Butyrolactone-KPF ₆ +LiF	0.24	--	--
Zn/Dimethylformamide-KPF ₆	0.32	48.3	2.4
Zn/Propylene Carbonate-KPF ₆	0.34	74.1	0.4
Cd/Butyrolactone-KPF ₆	0.34	94.7	1.7
Cd/Butyrolactone-KPF ₆ +LiF	0.27	--	--
Cd/Dimethylformamide-KPF ₆	0.40	49.9	2.8
Cd/Propylene Carbonate-KPF ₆	0.70	--	--

* Voltage separating anodic and cathodic peaks.

II. EXPERIMENTAL

A. MATERIAL PURIFICATION AND CHARACTERIZATION

1. Distillation of Solvents

With the exception of propylene carbonate, the solvents were distilled as previously described. Although initially a single distillation had sufficed for the purification of propylene carbonate, this method did not suffice for the purification of later quantities. It was found that water apparently reached a constant level in all fractions obtained in the distillation. Since it was known that the distillation procedure was capable of removing water originally present, it was suspected that an impurity was present in the propylene carbonate which slowly decomposed under the distillation conditions, yielding water as one of the products. Therefore, following the first distillation, the main cuts of propylene carbonate were dried over calcium sulfate, filtered, and carefully redistilled. This procedure afforded propylene carbonate of reproducible purity.

2. Solution Preparation

All materials were stored after drying in closed containers in a glove bag under nitrogen. All manipulation of solvents and solutes was accomplished in a controlled atmosphere chamber under nitrogen. Where necessary, cooling was furnished by a cold-finger which was flame-dried and positioned in the exterior wall of the controlled atmosphere chamber. The flask containing the solvent was positioned around the cold-finger while coolant was added externally. Usually, the rate of addition of solute was controlled so as to maintain the temperature in the solution flask at -5° to 10°C .

In order to facilitate repetitive preparation of solutions for the screening of various electrodes, the method of solution preparation was altered. (Ref. 1)

The procedure used during this period involved the initial mixing of solvent and solute in a proportion so as to yield a 0.5 m solution. If the solute was insufficiently soluble, the solution was allowed to stand overnight, filtered, and the conductivity determined. If the solute was soluble, an increment of solute (sufficient to bring the solution to 0.75 m) was added and the conductivity redetermined. If the conductivity had not changed by $0.5 \times 10^{-n} \text{ ohm}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$ (n being the same order as that in the initial conductivity measurements) the solution was filtered and used at this concentration for the cyclic voltammetry procedure. If the conductance changed by more than $0.5 \times 10^{-n} \text{ ohm}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$, the incremental addition procedure was repeated until the change in conductivity was less than $0.5 \times 10^{-n} \text{ ohm}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$.

Conductance measurements during this period were not thermostatted. Ambient temperature in the controlled atmosphere chamber varied between 22 to 28°C. A recirculating gas heating system capable of maintaining the temperature at $30 \pm 1^\circ \text{C}$ has been recently installed in the controlled atmosphere chamber.

3. Electrode Preparation

Copper oxide electrodes were prepared by heating copper wire in a vycor tube at 200°C for 20 minutes. Following this, the materials were allowed to cool and then stored under nitrogen. In the case of nickel, it was necessary to heat for 60 minutes at 300°C in order to prepare the oxide.

Silver oxide was prepared at room temperature by electrolytic oxidation at 2.0 ma/cm^2 in a 30% potassium hydroxide solution. After the reaction was completed, the oxidized electrode was washed with water, air dried, and finally dried under vacuum at ambient temperature.

B. CYCLIC VOLTAMMETRIC MEASUREMENTS

A detailed description of the instrumentation, measuring cell, and measurement procedure, is thoroughly described in the First Quarterly Report (Ref. 1). During the present quarter some changes were made in the measurement procedure. Cyclic voltammograms are now obtained at 200, 80, and 40 mv/sec. As before, triplicate measurements are made using a fresh electrode and fresh sample of solution each time. Measurements were made as before in a thermostatted bath at 30° C.

The primary modification during this period was the change to an improved measuring cell. The chief modification was the introduction of a notched luggin capillary, for the purpose of reproducible positioning of the working electrode. The new cell is also equipped with a ground glass ball-joint connection for the working electrode compartment of the cell. The ball-joint facilitates the positioning of the electrode into the luggin capillary notch, and the joint clamp holds the electrode rigidly in place during the measurements.

The reproducibility of cyclic voltammograms obtained using the new cell has been significantly improved. This has been brought about by decreasing the working electrode - reference electrode distance to an absolute minimum, and by reproducing this distance for every determination. Any lack of reproducibility in the curves can now be safely attributed to the changing electrode surface of the more soluble electrode materials, this being more pronounced at the lowest sweep rate.

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