# **Electronic supplementary information**

# **Stabilizing LiCoO<sup>2</sup> at 4.6 V by regulating the anti-oxidative solvents**

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## **Experimental section**

#### **Electrodes and electrolytes preparation**

The commercial LCO cathode is a typical high-voltage LCO, with doping elements of 4000 ppm Al, and 1500 ppm Mg, etc., and with a D50 value of 4.5 μm. The cathode electrodes used in the coin-type (CR2032) half cells were prepared by mixing LCO active material, acetylene black (AB) and polyvinylidene difluoride (PVDF) binder at a weight ratio of 8:1:1. The slurry was then cast onto an Al foil and dried at 100 ℃ overnight to obtain the electrodes. Then electrodes were cut into disks with a diameter of 10 mm. The typical mass loading of active materials on the cathode is 5 mg cm<sup>-2</sup>. The capacity ratio of negative electrode capacity/positive electrode capacity (N/P ratio) for LCO||graphite pouch cells is 1.07: 1, and the mass loadings of the graphite anode and the LCO cathode for pouch cells are 10.2 and 16.2 mg cm−2 , respectively. The EC electrolyte (baseline electrolyte) is composed of 1.0 M LiPF<sub>6</sub> in EC/EMC (3:7, by volume ratio), the EC-DEC electrolyte is composed of 1.0 M LiPF<sub>6</sub> in EC/EMC/DEC (3:4:3), the FEC electrolyte is composed of 1.0 M LiPF<sub>6</sub> in FEC/EMC/DEC (3:4:3), the FEC-DFEC electrolyte is composed of 1.0 M LiPF<sub>6</sub> in FEC/DFEC/EMC/DEC  $(1.5:1.5:4:3)$ , the DFEC electrolyte is composed of 1.0 M LiPF<sub>6</sub> in DFEC/EMC/DEC (3:4:3). The coin-type (CR2032) LCO||Li half-cells were assembled with LCO cathode, lithium metal, Celgard film and 60 μL electrolyte in an Ar-filled glove box. The LCO||graphite pouch cells were assembled in the pouch-cell production line and each pouch cell was filled with 6 g of the electrolyte.

## **Electrochemical Measurement**

The galvanostatic electrochemical measurements were carried out in the NEWARE battery test system at 25 ℃. To analyze the long-term cyclability, the coin cells were charged and discharged at 0.2 C (1  $C = 200$  mA  $g^{-1}$ ) for three cycles, and charged and discharged at the same current for the long-term cycles within the voltage range of 3.0-4.6 V. The linear sweep voltammetry (LSV) and cyclic voltammetry (CV) measurements were performed on the Solartron Analylical 1470E electrochemical workstation at the scanning rate of 0.1 and 0.2 mV s<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. The *in-situlex-situ* electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS) was performed on the Solartron Analylical 1470E electrochemical workstation at the frequency range of 1000 kHz-0.01 Hz. The galvanostatic intermittent titration technique (GITT) was tested in the NEWARE battery test system with the procedure of charging/discharging for 10 min and standing for 30 min.

#### **Materials Characterization**

The powder X-ray diffraction (XRD) and *in-situ* XRD measurement were performed on a Bruker D8 Advance diffractometer with a Cu-Kα radiation source. Morphology and elemental distribution investigation of the samples were conducted using a scanning electron microscope (SEM, Zeiss SUPRA-55). The transmission electron microscope (TEM) was collected on a field-emission transmission electron microscope (FETEM, JEOL-3200FS) operating at an accelerating voltage of 300 kV with a 60 cm camera length, a minimum collection angle of  $-30^{\circ}$  to  $30^{\circ}$ , and a OneView CMOS camera (Gatan Inc.). The focused ion beam (FIB, FEI-Scios) milling were used for the preparation of high-quality thin lamellar samples for TEM studies on the cross-section images of materials. The (cryogenic transmission electron microscopy) cryo-TEM images were collected on JEOL-3200FS microscope, and the observation of the interphase layer for LCO particles after cycles was done in a - 172 °C environment by a cryo transfer tomography holder (model 2550, Fischione), without the FIB milling process. <sup>7</sup>Li nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) were recorded on a Quantum-I Plus 400 MHz NMR spectrometer. FTIR spectra were collected on a Nicolet Avatar 360 spectrophotometer (ATR). The electrolyte Raman spectra were acquired using a miniature laser confocal Raman spectrometer (Horiba LabRAM HR800, France) with a 785 nm wavelength laser at room temperature. The *in-situ* Raman measurements were taken by a Renishaw InVia Raman microscope with a 633 nm wavelength laser, CR2032-type coin cell with a small hole covered by a 2 mm thick sapphire were assembled to ensure the irradiation of the LCO surface though Li metal foil and a glass fiber separator. The *in-situ* ultraviolet-visible (UV-Vis) tests were carried out using a quartz cuvette assembled with LCO cathode, Li mental and 2 mL electrolyte on a UV-Vis spectrometer (Shimadzu UV2600). The content of Co dissolution (dissolved Co in electrolyte and deposited Co on Li anode) in *in-situ* UV-Vis test was analyzed using inductively coupled plasma-optical emission spectroscopy (ICP-OES, Horiba Jobinyvon JY2000-2). The chemical states of the selected elements were investigated by X-ray photoelectron spectrometry (XPS) on a Thermo Scientific Escalab 250Xi spectrometer. Time-of-flight secondary ion mass spectrometry (TOF-SIMS) measurements were carried out on a Nano TOF-2

instrument (ULVAC- PHI, Japan) equipped with a  $Bi^{3+}$  beam (30 kV) cluster primary-ion gun for analysis and an Ar<sup>+</sup> beam (3 keV 100 nA) using a sputtering rate of 0.1 nm s<sup>-1</sup> to obtain the desired depth profile. The area of analysis was  $100 \times 100 \mu m^2$ , whereas the sputtering area was  $400 \times 400$ μm<sup>2</sup> . The soft X-ray absorption spectroscopy (sXAS) experiments were carried out in the TEY mode under ultra-high vacuum at the Catalysis and Surface Science Endstation at the BL11U beamline in the National Synchrotron Radiation Laboratory (NSRL) in Hefei, China. The *in-situ* differential electrochemical mass spectrometry (DEMS) experiments utilized ECC-DEMS cell (EL-CELL) and on-line mass spectrometry (HPR-20 EGA).

## **Theoretical calculations**

All the structures were optimized at B3LYP/6-311+G\*\* level of theory using Gaussian 16 program package.1-3 The implicit solvation model employed in the simulations was the Solvation Model based on Density (SMD) with dimethyl sulfoxide as the solvent.<sup>4</sup> Frequency calculations were performed at the same level to confirm the nature of the stationary structures.



Fig. S1 The schematic diagram of the interfacial side reactions in LiPF<sub>6</sub> and EC/EMC based electrolyte at high voltage initiated at cathode material.



**Fig. S2** Oxidation stability of different electrolytes evaluated by linear sweeping voltammetry (LSV) on a stainless steel at a scanning rate of  $0.1 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$ .



Fig. S3 a) The interaction strength between Li<sup>+</sup> and solvent obtained by first-principles calculations and b) the Calculated the Li<sup>+</sup> ions solvation energy in  $Li^+[FEC]_4$ ,  $Li^+[DFEC]_4$  solvation structure.  $(\Delta E_{solvation\ energy} = E_{solvation\ structure} - E_{Li} - E_{solvents}).$ 



**Fig. S4** a) The FTIR spectra of FEC, FEC-DFEC and DFEC electrolytes. b) The <sup>7</sup>Li-NMR spectra of different electrolytes. A coaxial internal insert that contains a standard NMR solvent (1M LiCl  $D_2O$ ) was inserted into the NMR tube to enable analysis while preserving the pristine microstructure of the electrolyte.



**Fig. S5** Nyquist plots for  $Li_{0.7}CoO_2||Li_{0.7}CoO_2$  symmetric cells at different temperatures (308.15 K to 333.15 K corresponds to 35 to 60 °C) in a) FEC, b) FEC-DFEC and c) DFEC electrolytes. d) Arrhenius behavior of the resistance corresponding to  $Li^+$  desolvation energy ( $E_a$ ) in different electrolytes. (We first assembled LCO||Li cells, charged at 0.2 C for 2 h and disassembled the cells to obtain the  $Li_{0.7}CoO_2$  cathode electrodes, then we used two  $Li_{0.7}CoO_2$  cathode electrodes to assemble Li<sub>0.7</sub>CoO<sub>2</sub>||Li<sub>0.7</sub>CoO<sub>2</sub> symmetric cell).



Fig. S6 Calculated HOMO/LUMO energy of various Li<sup>+</sup>[solvents]<sub>4</sub> solvation structure.



**Fig. S7** The XRD diffraction of LCO powders.



**Fig. S8** High-resolution TEM images of the a) surface and b) bulk region of pristine LCO and the corresponding fast Fourier transform (FFT) image.



**Fig. S9** Charge and discharge curves of LCO||Li half cells within a voltage range of 3.0-4.6 V at 0.2 C for the initial three cycles in a) EC, b) EC-DEC, c) FEC and d) FEC-DFEC electrolytes.



**Fig. S10** CV curves of LCO||Li half cells within a voltage range of 3.0-4.6 V at the scanning rate of 0.2 mV s<sup>-1</sup> in a) EC, b) EC-DEC, c) FEC and d) FEC-DFEC electrolytes.(The CV curves in Fig. 2b are the third cycle of Fig. S10)



**Fig. S11** Leakage current at a 4.6 V constant-voltage floating test of LCO||Li cells in different electrolytes at 45℃.



**Fig. S12** Cycling performance of LCO||Li half cells in different electrolytes within a voltage range of 3.0-4.6 V at a) 1 C and b) 2 C.



**Fig. S13** Charge and discharge curves of LCO||Li half cells within a voltage range of 3.0-4.6 V at 1 C in a) EC, b) EC-DEC, c) FEC and d) FEC-DFEC electrolytes.



**Fig. S14** Charge and discharge curves of LCO||Li half cells within a voltage range of 3.0-4.6 V at 2 C in a) EC, b) EC-DEC, c) FEC and d) FEC-DFEC electrolytes.



**Fig. S15** The changing process of the charge and discharge average voltage upon cycling of LCO||Li half cells in different electrolytes within a voltage range of 3.0-4.6 V at a) 1 C and b) 2 C.



**Fig. S16** a) Charge and discharge curves of LCO||Li half cells in DFEC electrolyte within a voltage range of 3.0-4.6 V at 0.2 C for the initial three cycles. b) Leakage current at a 4.6 V constant-voltage floating test of LCO||Li cells in DFEC electrolytes at 45℃. c) Rate performance of LCO||Li half cells in DFEC electrolytes within a voltage range of 3.0-4.6 V. d) Cycling performance of LCO||Li half cells in DFEC electrolyte within a voltage range of 3.0-4.6 V at 1 C, e) the corresponding charge and discharge curves in different cycles, and f) the changing process of the charge and discharge average voltage upon cycling. g) Cycling stability of Li||Li symmetric cells in DFEC electrolyte.



**Fig. S17** Cycling stability of Li||Li symmetric cells in different electrolytes.



**Fig. S18** a) The charge and discharge curves of LCO||graphite pouch cell (0.1 A h) within a voltage range of 3.0-4.5 V at 0.15 C in FEC-DFEC electrolytes at 25 ℃, 0 ℃, -10 ℃ and -20 ℃. b) The corresponding capacity retention of LCO||graphite pouch cell at different temperatures. (0.1 A h pouch cell use the commercial LCO without 4000 ppm Al doping)



**Fig. S19** The CV curves of LCO||Li half cells within a voltage range of 3.0-4.6 V at the scanning rate of 0.1 mV s −1 in a) EC and b) FEC-DFEC electrolytes in the *in situ* Raman characterizations.



**Fig. S20** The Raman spectra of LCO at 3.0 V after first and second cycle during the *in-situ* Raman measurements in a) EC and b) FEC-DFEC electrolytes.



**Fig.S21** a) The cell for *in-situ* UV-Vis tests. b) The relative content of Co dissolution after one cycle in UV-Vis tests within a voltage range of 3.0-4.6 V in EC and FEC-DFEC electrolyte.



**Fig. S22** a,b) The cryo-TEM images of LCO after 10 cycles of LCO||Li cells within a voltage range of 3.0-4.6 V at 1 C in EC electrolyte, c,d) and corresponding enlarged images. e,f) The cryo-TEM images of LCO after 10 cycles of LCO||Li cells within a voltage range of 3.0-4.6 V at 1 C in FEC-DFEC electrolyte, g,h) and corresponding enlarged images.



**Fig. S23** The *in-situ* EIS measurements of LCO||Li half cells after 10 cycles within a voltage range of 3.0-4.6 V at 1 C in a) EC and b) FEC-DFEC electrolytes. The corresponding fitting results of c) *Rsf* and d) *Rct* by equivalent circuit.



**Fig. S24** The cryo-TEM images of LCO CEI layer after 100 cycles of LCO||Li half cells within a voltage range of 3.0-4.6 V at 1 C in a) EC and b) FEC-DFEC electrolytes.



**Fig. S25** a) The cryo-TEM images of different LCO particle after 100 cycles of LCO||Li cells within a voltage range of 3.0-4.6 V at 1 C in EC electrolyte, b) and corresponding enlarged images. c) The cryo-TEM images of different LCO particle after 100 cycles of LCO||Li cells within a voltage range of 3.0-4.6 V at 1 C in FEC-DFEC electrolyte, d) and corresponding enlarged images.



**Fig. S26** The C 1s, O 1s, F 1s, P 2p and Li 1s XPS spectra of the LCO cathode electrode with different etching time after 100 cycles of LCO||Li half cells within a voltage range of 3.0-4.6 V at 1 C in a) EC and b) FEC-DFEC electrolytes.

In Fig. S26, the analyses of C 1s, O 1s, F1s, P 2p, and Li 1s XPS peaks are as follows,<sup>5</sup> First, the C 1s peaks can be divided into several peaks, including the C-O, C=O, O-C=O, and  $Li<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>$ , locating at the binding energies of 286.2 eV, 287.6 eV, 288.9 eV and 290.3 eV, respectively, which is closely related to the decomposition of solvents. An additional peak, locating at the binding energy of 283.5 eV, can be clearly observed in FEC-DFEC electrolyte, which can be indexed to the C-O-Li organic species from FEC/DFEC decomposition. Second, the O 1s peaks can be separated into three main peaks, including the lattice O, C-O and C=O, locating at 529.8 eV, 532.0 eV and 533.5 eV, respectively. In FEC-DFEC electrolyte, the intensity of lattice O peak is obviously lower than that in EC based electrolyte, mainly due to the homogeneous and thick CEI. Third, for F 1s spectra, the formation of LiF and  $Li_xPO_yF_z$ , locating binding energy of 685.0 and 686.7 eV, respectively, are mainly attributed to the decomposition of the LiPF<sub>6</sub>. In FEC-DFEC electrolyte, due to more PF<sub>6</sub> ions participating in the solvation structure, the intensity of LiF peak is much higher than in EC base electrolyte. Fourth, for P 2p peaks, the peaks representing the phosphate species (i.e.  $Li_3PO_4$ ,  $OP(OR)_{3}$ ) and  $Li_xPO_yF_z + OPF_x(OR)_y$ , locating at binding energies of 134.0 and 135.7 eV, respectively, can further reflect the reaction product of  $LiPF_6$ , indicating that more phosphate species can be produced in the FEC-DFEC electrolyte. Fifth, for Li 1s peaks, it is noted that, more LiF and  $ROCO<sub>2</sub>Li$ ,  $Li<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>$ species exist in the FEC-DFEC electrolyte, locating at binding energies of 56.0 and 55.4 eV, respectively.



**Fig. S27** The C 1s, O 1s, F 1s, P 2p and Li 1s XPS spectra of the Li metal surface after 100 cycles of LCO||Li half cells within a voltage range of 3.0-4.6 V at 1 C in a) EC and b) FEC-DFEC electrolytes.



**Fig. S28** a) Digital photograph of Li metal after 100 cycles of LCO||Li half cells within a voltage range of 3.0-4.6 V at 1 C in a) EC and b) FEC-DFEC electrolytes. Comparison of Co dissolution situation of b) EC and c) FEC-DFEC electrolytes after 100 cycles by XPS measurements.



**Fig. S29** Top view of TOF-SIMS data for diverse kinds of secondary-ion fragments for the LCO cathode electrolyte interface after 100 cycles in a) EC and b) FEC-DFEC electrolytes.



alkyl carbonates ( $ROCO<sub>2</sub>Li$ ), lithium alkoxide (ROLi) and  $Li<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>$  products.<sup>6, 7</sup>



**Fig. S31** Charge and discharge curves of a) LTO||Li half cells within a voltage range of 1.0-2.5 V at 1 C, and b) LCO||LTO full cells within a voltage range of 1.5-3.1 V at 1 C in FEC-DFEC electrolyte. c) Cycling performance of LCO||LTO coin cells within a voltage range of 1.5-3.1 V at 1 C, and LCO||graphite coin cells within a voltage range of 3.0-4.55 V at 1 C.



**Fig.S32** The C 1s, F 1s, and P 2p XPS spectra of the LCO cathode electrode with different etching time after 50 cycles of LCO||LTO cells within a voltage range of 1.5-3.1 V at 1 C in FEC-DFEC electrolytes.



**Fig.S33** a,b,c) The cryo-TEM images of LCO after 50 cycles of LCO||LTO cells within a voltage range of 1.5-3.1 V at 1 C in FEC-DFEC electrolyte, d,e,f) and corresponding enlarged images and FFT.



**Fig. S34** The high-resolution TEM images of LCO at 4.6 V charged state in the first cycle in a) EC electrolyte and b) FEC-DFEC electrolyte, with the charge current of 0.2 C, and c,d) the corresponding enlarged images with FFT results.



**Fig. S35** The comparison of XRD diffraction for pristine LCO electrode, LCO electrode in EC electrolyte and LCO electrode in FEC-DFEC electrolyte of LCO||Li cells after 100 cycles.



**Fig. S36** The GITT measurements curves of LCO||Li half cells within a voltage range of 3.0-4.6 V in EC and FEC-DFEC electrolytes. a) after 2 cycles at 0.2 C and b) after 100 cycles at 1 C. The calculated Li<sup>+</sup> diffusion coefficient of LCO in EC and FEC-DFEC electrolytes c) after 2 cycles at 0.2 C and d) after 100 cycles at 1 C.



**Fig. S37** a) The EIS measurements of LCO||Li half cells within a voltage range of 3.0-4.6 V in EC and FEC-DFEC electrolytes. The corresponding fitting results of b)  $R_{sf}$  and c)  $R_{ct}$  by equivalent circuit. d) The distribution of relaxation time (DRT) curve extracted by Fourier transform of above EIS results after different cycles.



**Fig. S38** SEM images of LCO cathode electrode after 100 cycles of LCO||Li half cells within a voltage range of 3.0-4.6 V at 1 C in a) EC and b) FEC-DFEC electrolytes.



**Fig. S39** Cross-section SEM images of LCO cathode electrode after 500 cycles of LCO||graphite pouch full cells within a voltage range of 3.0-4.55 V at 1 C in a) EC and b) FEC-DFEC electrolytes.



**Fig. S40** The F 1s and P 2p XPS spectra of the LCO surface with different etching time after 500 cycles of LCO||graphite pouch full cells within a voltage range of 3.0-4.55 V at 1 C in a) EC and b) FEC-DFEC electrolytes.



**Fig. S41** The Co 2p, F 1s and P 2p XPS spectra of the graphite surface after 500 cycles of LCO||graphite pouch full cells within a voltage range of 3.0-4.55 V at 1 C in a) EC and b) FEC-DFEC electrolytes.



**Fig. S42** The price trend of FEC in recent 4 years.

Electrolyte	<b>Composition</b>
EC	1.0 M LiPF <sub>6</sub> in EC/EMC (3:7)
EC-DEC	1.0 M LiPF <sub>6</sub> in EC/EMC/DEC $(3:4:3)$
<b>FEC</b>	1.0 M LiPF <sub>6</sub> in FEC/EMC/DEC $(3:4:3)$
<b>FEC-DFEC</b>	1.0 M LiPF <sub>6</sub> in DFEC/FEC/EMC/DEC $(1.5:1.5:4:3)$
<b>DFEC</b>	1.0 M LiPF <sub>6</sub> in DFEC/EMC/DEC $(3:4:3)$

**Table S1** Five kinds of electrolytes solvents composition (by volume ratio).

**Table S2** Electrochemical performance comparison of recently reported electrolyte regulation for LCO cathode at room temperature.





**Table S3** A brief summary of the synthesis technology of FEC/DFEC.





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