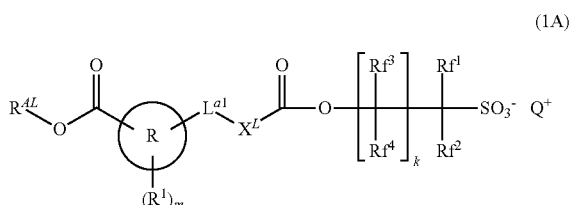
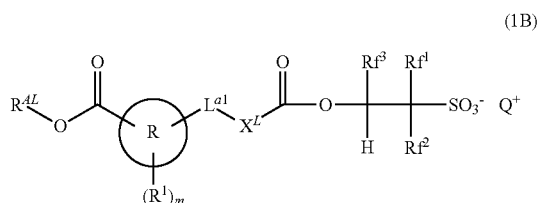


[0103] Of the onium salts having formula (1), onium salts having the formula (1A) are preferred.



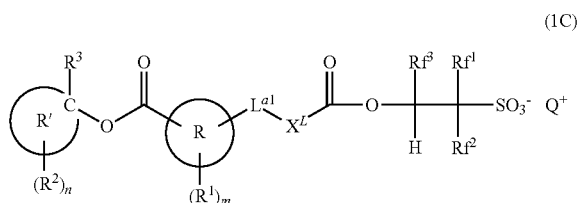
[0104] Herein Z , R^1 to R^4 , L^{a1} , X^L , R^1 , R^{4L} , k , m , and Q^+ are as defined above.

[0105] Of the onium salts having formula (1A), onium salts having the formula (1B) are more preferred.



[0106] Herein R , R^1 to R^3 , L^{a1} , X^L , R^1 , R^{4L} , m , and Q^+ are as defined above.

[0107] Of the onium salts having formula (1B), onium salts having the formula (1C) are especially preferred.



[0108] In formula (1C), R , R^1 to R^3 , L^{a1} , X^L , R^1 , m , and Q^+ are as defined above. R' is a C_3 - C_{20} alicyclic hydrocarbon group in which any carbon on the ring may be replaced by a heteroatom-containing moiety. R^2 is a C_1 - C_{20} monovalent hydrocarbon group which may contain a heteroatom, n is an integer of 0 to 20, in case of $n \geq 2$, two or more R^2 may be identical or different and two or more R^2 may bond together to form a ring structure. R^3 is a C_1 - C_{20} monovalent hydrocarbon group which may contain a heteroatom.

[0109] Preferred examples of the alicyclic hydrocarbon group R' include cyclopentane, cyclohexane, and adamantane rings.

[0110] In formulae (1B) and (1C), preferably both R^1 and R^2 are fluorine. Also preferably, R^3 is hydrogen or trifluoromethyl, especially trifluoromethyl from the standpoints of the strength of generated acid and solvent solubility.

[0111] Examples of the anion in the onium salt having formula (1) are given below, but not limited thereto. Herein R^3 is as defined above.

