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INNOVATION ADVANCEMENT & COMMERCIALIZATION

Improved Charging and Monitoring of Lithium Polymer Batteries

Contact

Brian Wright
Auburn University
Innovation Advancement
& Commercialization
334-844-4977
brian.wright@auburn.edu
<https://iac.auburn.edu/>
Ref: Lithium Polymer Batteries

Inventors



Dr. Song-yul (Ben) Choe
Professor

Xueyan Li
PhD Graduate

Meng Xiao
PhD Graduate

Dept of Mechanical Engineering

Reference

EVS27, Barcelona, 2013 ([Link](#))
(*Fast-Charging Algorithm*)

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Overview

The increasing demands for portable power and renewable energy have contributed to the popularity of rechargeable lithium-ion battery technologies, including lithium-ion polymer batteries. These light, safe and easier to package batteries continue to increase and span several industries, including electric vehicles, medical devices, power tools, portable consumer electronics and energy storage systems. With this popularity, however, comes an increasing need for fast charging and better management of battery states, performance and life. This pair of new algorithms is designed to improve the charging and charge monitoring capabilities of lithium-ion polymer batteries.

Advantages

- Drastically reduced charging times (*Fast-Charging Algorithm*)
- Expected to generally extend the life of batteries (*Fast-Charging Algorithm*)
- Faster and more accurate prediction of state-of-charge and state-of-health of a battery than mathematical models and electric equivalent circuit models (*Reduced-Order Model*)
- Functions over broad range of currents and temperatures (*Reduced-Order Model*)

Description

For the Fast-Charging Algorithm, a charge is applied to the battery using a charging profile, and the terminal voltage of the battery is monitored. A mathematical model (such as the Reduced-Order Model described in the previous section) is used to estimate the desired State-of-Charge (SOC) of the battery and the predicted terminal voltage. The error between the estimated and measured voltage is determined, and that error is then used to calculate the SOC of the battery. Finally, the charging profile is adjusted to guide the battery to the desired SOC. This enables control of the charging current profile, which can reduce charge time while protecting the cell from aging, lithium plating, and capacity losses. As shown by simulation, battery charging times can be reduced to 30–40% of the time required for typical charging methods, which translates to recharging 2–3 times faster than the current standards combined with constant current and constant voltage charging.

The Reduced-Order Model (ROM) can accurately track the dynamic behavior of a battery using the terminal voltage, current, temperature, and concentrations in the electrode and electrolytes. This simpler model consumes less computational power for calculation of battery variables than a full-order model, yet it can be used to predict the state-of-charge (SOC), health, and other state variables of the battery in 1/6th the computational time. This enables accurate and near-real time monitoring of battery performance, SOC, and remaining effective life. The ROM has been validated experimentally over a range of current rates and temperatures.

Status

- Fast-charging algorithm is subject of U.S. Patent [9,197,089](#)
- Both algorithms are proprietary and copyrighted
- ROM has been verified experimentally, demonstrating similar accuracy and an 85% reduction in calculation time compared to full order models
- Fast-charging algorithm has been verified by simulation, demonstrating charging 2-3 times faster than current standards

Licensing Opportunities

- This technology is available for exclusive or non-exclusive licensing
- Joint development opportunities include funded research or a joint venture