Parameter Estimation and Capacity Fade Analysis of Lithium-Ion Batteries Using Reformulated Models

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Many researchers have worked to develop methods to analyze and characterize capacity fade in lithium-ion batteries. As a complement to approaches to mathematically model capacity fade that require detailed understanding of each mechanism, capacity fade was accurately and efficiently predicted for future cycles using a discrete approach by extrapolating the change in effective transport and kinetic parameters with cycle number \(N\) for a battery tested under controlled experimental conditions. The effective parameters and their uncertainties are estimated using a mathematical reformulation of a porous electrode model, whose computational efficiency enables the integration of the proposed approach into an inexpensive microprocessor for estimating the remaining lifetime of a battery based on past charge-discharge curves. The approach may also provide some guidance for designers as to which battery components to focus on for redesign to reduce capacity fade.

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Electrochemical power sources appear in applications in automobiles, power storage, military, mobile applications, and space. Lithium-ion chemistry has been identified as a preferred candidate for high-power/high-energy secondary batteries. Significant progress has been made in developing lithium-ion battery models that incorporate transport phenomena, electrochemical kinetics, and thermodynamics.\(^1\)\(^-\)\(^8\) While these models have been used to produce reliable predictions for a small number of cycles, their ability to predict the reduction in capacity during cycling is limited. Different mechanisms causing capacity fade include (i) capacity fade during formation cycles, (ii) overcharging, which results in a decrease in capacity in both positive and negative electrodes and the electrolyte, (iii) decomposition of the electrolyte during the reduction process, (iv) self-discharge depending on the purity of materials used in manufacturing, and (v) formation of a passive film on the electrode that grows in thickness as the cycle number increases.\(^3\)\(^-\)\(^7\) Figure 1 shows the region in which each phenomenon occurs within a battery. Table I lists some of the mechanisms causing capacity fade and the possible parameters that could be affected in a pseudo-2D porous-electrode-based model of a lithium-ion battery.

In some recent work, Safari et al.\(^9\)\(^-\)\(^10\) assessed the possibility of using a mechanical-fatigue life-prognostic method for the life prediction of lithium-ion batteries. This method was successfully demonstrated for predicting the capacity loss but is limited by the choice between the time frame of the aging experiments and the life-prediction accuracy. In addition, the method is an empirical tool, which has its own limitations. Yoshida et al.\(^1\) fabricated a lithium-ion cell with 5-Ah capacity, fitted experimental data on the thickness of the SEI layer growth, and demonstrated that their empirical fit predicted the life under certain conditions. Other recent efforts have developed more efficient simulation techniques for phenomenological models of capacity fade.\(^4\)\(^-\)\(^12\) A complete phenomenological model for capacity fade has not been forthcoming due to (i) incomplete understanding of all of the capacity fade mechanisms, (ii) lack of knowledge for the values of the model parameters in these mechanisms, (iii) difficulties in obtaining these parameter values due to cumulative non-separable effects of individual mechanisms occurring simultaneously, and (iv) numerical inability and lack of efficient numerical solvers to be able to solve the complex models efficiently with proper state detections. Oftentimes in the quest for adding detailed mechanisms, researchers have neglected important electrochemical/transport phenomena typically in porous electrode-based battery models. For example, researchers have employed simpler single-particle models or empirical fits that neglect important electrochemical/transport phenomena to accommodate the increased complexity of capacity fade mechanisms. Today very few phenomenological models include mechanisms for capacity fade in lithium-ion batteries\(^8\)\(^-\)\(^12\) and no models include all of the postulated mechanisms.

This paper proposes an alternative approach to the estimation of the life of a battery, which uses voltage-discharge curves measured during initial cycles to predict voltage-discharge curves during later cycles. A model reformulation\(^4\) is employed to efficiently extract the effective kinetic and transport parameters from experimental data, with uncertainties in parameters and model predictions quantified using established analysis techniques. The next sections describe the lithium-ion battery model used in this study, the numerical algorithms used to implement the discrete approach to capacity fade prediction, the results and discussion, and the conclusions.

**Lithium-Ion Battery Model and Simulation**

Phenomenological battery models typically solve electrolyte concentration, electrolyte potential, solid-state potential, and solid-state concentration in the porous electrodes and electrolyte concentration and electrolyte potential in the separator regions.\(^1\)\(^-\)\(^2\) These models are represented by coupled nonlinear partial differential equations in one, two, or three dimensions, are typically solved numerically, and require a few seconds to minutes to simulate. Simulation of lithium-ion battery models requires simultaneous evaluation of concentration and potential fields, both in the solid and electrolyte phases. The porous nature of the battery electrodes leads to highly nonlinear and heterogeneous electrochemical reaction kinetics. A pseudo-two-dimensional (P2D) model developed by Doyle et al.\(^3\) is considered in this work. The governing equations in the full physics-based P2D model for the five variables \(\Phi_1, \Phi_2, c, e^{\text{int}},\) and \(J_x\) that vary with \(x\) are given in Table II. Usually lithium-ion battery models are numerically simulated by finite-difference discretization of all the variables in the spatial coordinates. The discretization of the cathode, separator, and anode into 50 equally spaced node points would result in 600 Differential Algebraic Equations (DAEs) to be solved in the finite difference model, which is
impractical for real-time simulation. Parameter estimation and optimization of lithium-ion battery, where the life and health of the battery is vital to the operation of the device, requires quick-solving models that can give an accurate account of the battery variables. A model reformulation of the P2D model was developed by exploiting the mathematical structure of the DAEs while conserving mass, charge, and current in each electrode and having much lower memory requirements and computational costs compared to standard finite-difference methods. The details on the reformulation of the P2D model are provided elsewhere.

The accuracy and simplicity of the reformulated model enables an easy computation of parameter sensitivities and even numerical Jacobians are likely to be more accurate and stable compared to the direct finite-difference method applied to the original P2D model. These features of the model reformulation were utilized during the parameter estimation described in Parameter estimation section to extract effective kinetic and transport parameters from experimentally measured voltage-discharge curves. The reformulated model also enabled the application of the Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) method, as described in Uncertainty quantification section, to quantify the magnitude of uncertainties in the model parameters.

### Numerical Algorithms

This section describes the discrete approach to capacity fade prediction and the parameter estimation and uncertainty quantification methods used in the implementation of the discrete approach.

**Discrete approach to capacity fade prediction.**—This paper reports a discrete parameterized approach to predict capacity fade in Li-ion batteries. The variations in effective transport and kinetic parameters are tracked with discharge curves at different cycles as described in Parameter estimation section. The estimated parameters were the effective diffusion coefficient of lithium ion in the solution phase \( D_s \), effective diffusion coefficient of lithium in the solid phase \( D_{sn} \) and \( D_{sp} \) for the negative and positive electrodes \( (D_{sn} \) and \( D_{sp} \)), and the electrochemical reaction rate constants for the negative and positive electrodes \( (k_p, k_e) \).

Note that the effective diffusion coefficient through porous media is a function of a species’ molecular diffusion coefficient and the porosity, tortuosity, and constrictivity of the media, which change as a battery ages, so that the effective diffusion coefficient changes with cycle \#. The electrochemical rate constants are also effective, in that they are a function of the true electrochemical rate constant and the surface area available for electrochemical reaction, which will decrease as alloys are formed on the electrode surface that block or hinder electrochemical reaction. In an application to a U.S. Government battery, Results and Discussion section demonstrates that power-law extrapolation of the change in the effective transport and kinetic parameters predicted the future voltage-discharge curves and the life of the battery.

Uncertainty quantification methods are applied to avoid overfitting of the model parameters to the experimental data. Uncertainties in the effective model parameters are quantified as described in Uncertainty quantification section, and used to reduce the set of estimated model parameters to include only those parameters that can be estimated with sufficient accuracy from the experimental data. Uncertainties in the model predictions are also quantified, with the 95% predictive intervals for future cycles compared with the experimental data in Results and Discussion section.

#### Parameter estimation.

The model parameter estimates were obtained by the solution of a nonlinear optimization that minimizes the sum-of-squared differences between the model outputs and their experimentally measured values for each cycle

\[
\min_{\theta_i} \sum_{j=1}^{m} \left[ y_i(t_j) - y_{\text{model}}(t_j; \theta_i) \right]^2
\]

where \( y_i(t_j) \) is the measured voltage at time \( t_j \) for cycle \( i \), \( y_{\text{model}}(t_j; \theta_i) \) is the voltage computed from the reformulated model at time \( t_j \) for cycle \( i \) for the vector of model parameters \( \theta_i \) (the five parameters being the effective solid-phase diffusion coefficient

### Table I. List of capacity fade mechanisms and possibly affected parameters in a pseudo-2D model.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mechanism of capacity fade</th>
<th>Possible affected parameters</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Capacity fade during formation cycles</td>
<td>( x_{xp}, x_{xp}, k_p, k_e, D_{sp} )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overcharging that results in decrease in capacity in both positive and negative electrodes</td>
<td>( D_{sp}, \alpha_p, \alpha_n, k_p, k_e )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decomposition of the electrolyte during the reduction process</td>
<td>( D_{sn}, k_p, k_e )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-discharge depending on the purity of materials used in manufacturing</td>
<td>( D_{sp}, D_{sn} )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formation of a passive film on the electrode that grows in thickness as the cycle number increases</td>
<td>( D_{sn}, k_p, k_e )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss of active material during cycling</td>
<td>( k_p, k_e )</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
reaction rate constant in each electrode and solution-phase diffusion coefficient of the electrolyte), and \( n_i \) is the number of time points in cycle \( i \). Solving the optimization [1] is known in the literature as least-squares estimation.\(^8\)\(^\text{-}^\text{16}\) Many numerical algorithms are available for solving the nonlinear optimization [1], such as the steepest descent, Gauss-Newton, and Marquardt methods.\(^14\) In this work, the Gauss-Newton method\(^14\) was applied to estimate parameters using the reformulated model. For the least-squares estimation, this Jacobian-based method is an iterative process that reduces the sum-of-squared differences between the model outputs and the experimental data points until the error is no longer significantly reduced.

**Uncertainty quantification.**—Uncertainties in the model parameter estimates were quantified by three methods: (i) estimation of hyper-ellipsoidal 95% confidence regions by applying Chi-squared statistics to a Taylor series expansion between the model parameters and the model outputs,\(^15\)\(^\text{-}^\text{16}\) (ii) estimation of 95% confidence regions by applying F-statistics to the parameter estimation objective function [1],\(^15\)\(^\text{-}^\text{16}\) and (iii) estimation of probability distributions using the Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) method.\(^17\)\(^,\)\(^18\) The first two methods, which are the most commonly applied in the literature, gave highly inaccurate confidence regions for this application, whereas the MCMC method is a very accurate method for uncertainty quantification for any application. The MCMC method employs a Monte Carlo sampling method to numerically construct the probability distribution for each model parameter and cycle \( i \) from the posterior distribution for the parameter estimates obtained using Bayes’ rule\(^17\)\(^,\)\(^18\).

\[
Pr(\theta|Y_i) = \frac{Pr(Y_i|\theta)Pr(\theta)}{Pr(Y_i)}
\]

where \( Y_i \) was the vector obtained by stacking the voltage measurements \( y_i(t_j) \), \( Pr(\theta) \) is the prior distribution of \( \theta \), which was specified as a uniform distribution with a width of 20% centered at the parameters estimated using the least-squares method [1], \( Pr(Y_i|\theta) \) is the likelihood of obtaining the data \( Y_i \) given parameters \( \theta \), and \( Pr(Y_i) \) is a normalization constant so that the posterior distribution \( Pr(\theta|Y_i) \) integrates to unity. The term \( Pr(Y_i|\theta) \), which is known as the likelihood function, for this application is

\[
\prod_{j=1}^{n} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_e} \exp\left(\frac{(y_i(t_j) - y_{model}(t_j; \theta))^2}{2\sigma_e^2}\right)
\]

where \( \sigma_e = 0.01V \) was the standard deviation of the voltage measurement noise. The probability distribution for each model parameter is equal to integrals of the posterior distribution [2] over the other model parameters. Unlike the conventional Monte Carlo method for computing integrals,\(^19\) the samples in the MCMC method are correlated; generating what is known as a Markov chain, whose probability distribution approaches the probability distribution for each parameter. More detailed descriptions are provided in the Refs. 17 and 18.

Other advantages of the MCMC method are its explicit consideration of constraints and arbitrary non-Gaussian distributions for

### Table II. Governing equations for a lithium-ion battery (published as Table I of Ref.4).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Eq. #</th>
<th>Governing equations</th>
<th>Boundary conditions</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Positive electrode T1</td>
<td>( \frac{d}{dt}c_{e,w} + 3 \frac{I}{R} = 0 ) &amp; ( \frac{D_{se,w}}{R} (c_{e,w} - c_{e,w}) = - \frac{I}{\sigma_E} )</td>
<td>( -D_{eff} \frac{\partial c_{e,w}}{\partial x} \mid <em>{x=0} = 0 ) &amp; ( -D</em>{eff} \frac{\partial c_{e,w}}{\partial x} \mid <em>{x=L_e} = 0 ) &amp; ( -D</em>{eff} \frac{\partial c_{e,w}}{\partial x} \mid <em>{x=L_e} = 0 ) &amp; ( -D</em>{eff} \frac{\partial c_{e,w}}{\partial x} \mid _{x=L_e} = 0 )</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Separator T5</td>
<td>( \frac{D_{se,w}}{R} (c_{e,w} - c_{e,w}) = - \frac{I}{\sigma_E} )</td>
<td>( -D_{eff} \frac{\partial c_{e,w}}{\partial x} \mid <em>{x=0} = 0 ) &amp; ( -D</em>{eff} \frac{\partial c_{e,w}}{\partial x} \mid <em>{x=L_e} = 0 ) &amp; ( -D</em>{eff} \frac{\partial c_{e,w}}{\partial x} \mid <em>{x=L_e} = 0 ) &amp; ( -D</em>{eff} \frac{\partial c_{e,w}}{\partial x} \mid _{x=L_e} = 0 )</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative electrode T7</td>
<td>( \frac{D_{se,w}}{R} (c_{e,w} - c_{e,w}) = - \frac{I}{\sigma_E} )</td>
<td>( -D_{eff} \frac{\partial c_{e,w}}{\partial x} \mid <em>{x=0} = 0 ) &amp; ( -D</em>{eff} \frac{\partial c_{e,w}}{\partial x} \mid <em>{x=L_e} = 0 ) &amp; ( -D</em>{eff} \frac{\partial c_{e,w}}{\partial x} \mid <em>{x=L_e} = 0 ) &amp; ( -D</em>{eff} \frac{\partial c_{e,w}}{\partial x} \mid _{x=L_e} = 0 )</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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\( D_{eff} \) denotes the effective diffusivity, \( R \) is the gas constant, \( T \) is the temperature, \( c_{e,w} \) is the electrolyte concentration, \( I \) is the current, \( \sigma_E \) is the electrolyte conductivity, and \( L_e \) is the thickness of the electrolyte layer.
The experimental data for the analysis were obtained for U.S. Government BTE cells and chemistry.\textsuperscript{26,27} Five effective transport and kinetic parameters were estimated by applying least-squares estimation to the experimental voltage-discharge data. The standard finite-difference model and the reformulated model, was used as the initial guess. Although the reformulated model was computationally efficient enough for the standard Monte Carlo method to be applied to quantify the accuracy of the model predictions, the computational cost was further reduced by replacing the reformulated model with a polynomial series expansion\textsuperscript{25} during the computation of the prediction intervals. The application of this approach to electrochemical and materials systems is described in great detail in the literature.\textsuperscript{22–25}

The expected monotonic reduction in capacity with cycle \( n \) is shown in the voltage-discharge curves obtained by fitting the five model parameters to experimental data (see Fig. 1). The mechanisms of capacity fade and its overall reduction in battery performance (see Fig. 1) suggest that all five effective model parameters should decrease monotonically with cycle #. The effective negative-electrode solid-phase diffusion coefficient and reaction rate constant \( D_{sn} \) and \( k_n \) decrease monotonically with cycle #, whereas the other three parameters did not follow any particular trend (see Fig. 3a).

This suggested that the voltage-discharge curves may not contain sufficient information to accurately estimate the effective values of \( D_1 \), \( D_{yp} \), and \( k_p \), and that the change in the voltage-discharge curves with cycle # could be captured by estimation of only the effective solid-phase diffusion coefficient \( D_{sn} \) and reaction rate constant \( k_n \) for the negative electrode. The voltage-discharge curves could be fit using just the two model parameters \( D_{sn} \) and \( k_n \) which had to significantly change their values to be able to fit the voltage-discharge curves at higher cycle number (see Fig. 3b).

An initially surprising observation was that, when only two model parameters were fit, the effective reaction rate constant \( k_n \) was not monotonically decreasing with cycle # between cycle 0 and cycle 25 (see Fig. 3b). This observation motivated a more detailed analysis by application of sensitivity analysis and the MCMC method. The voltage-discharge curves were very sensitive to the value of the effective solid-phase diffusion coefficient \( D_{sn} \) but weakly sensitive to deviations in the model parameters \( D_1 \), \( D_{yp} \), \( k_p \), and \( k_n \) from their nominal values, resulting in large uncertainties in their values when fit to

![Figure 2](image1.png)

**Figure 2.** (Color online) Comparison of voltage-discharge curves from the battery models with the experimental data, with five model parameters obtained from least-squares estimation applied to the experimental data for cycle 25. The voltage-discharge curve for cycle 0, which was the same for the finite-difference model and reformulated model, was used as the initial guess.

![Figure 3](image2.png)

**Figure 3.** (Color online) Voltage-discharge curves for the U.S. Government BTE cells with model parameters obtained from least-squares estimation applied to the experimental data for (a) five parameters, (b) two parameters. The voltage-discharge curves for the models fall on top of the experimental data so only one set of curves are plotted. The curves shift towards the left monotonically as the cycle # increases.

### Table III. Estimated uncertainty ranges for the four least-sensitive battery model parameters.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cycle #</th>
<th>( D_{yp} )</th>
<th>( D_1 )</th>
<th>( k_p )</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>[–60%, +20%]</td>
<td>[–60%, +20%]</td>
<td>[–10%, +10%]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>[–60%, +20%]</td>
<td>[–60%, +20%]</td>
<td>[–10%, +10%]</td>
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<tr>
<td>200</td>
<td>[–60%, +30%]</td>
<td>[–60%, +20%]</td>
<td>[–10%, +10%]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>300</td>
<td>[–30%, +60%]</td>
<td>[–60%, +20%]</td>
<td>[–10%, +10%]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500</td>
<td>[–60%, +60%]</td>
<td>[–60%, +10%]</td>
<td>[–10%, +10%]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600</td>
<td>[–60%, +30%]</td>
<td>[–20%, +20%]</td>
<td>[–5%, +5%]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1000</td>
<td>[–20%, +60%]</td>
<td>[–20%, +60%]</td>
<td>[–10%, +10%]</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
experimental voltage-discharge curves (see Table III). The nominal estimate of the effective solid-phase diffusion coefficient $D_{sn}$ monotonically decreases with increased cycle number (see Fig. 3b), with the nominal estimates being highly accurate according to the probability density function (pdf) computed by the MCMC method (see Fig. 4). The pdfs for $D_{sn}$ at different cycle numbers have minimal overlap, providing very high confidence that the monotonic reduction of the effective solid-phase diffusion coefficient with increase cycle number is statistically significant. That the voltage-discharge curves were much sensitive to a negative-electrode parameter ($D_{sn}$) suggests that mechanisms for capacity fade in the negative electrode, rather than the electrolyte or positive electrode, were the most important for this battery under these operating conditions. The pdfs of the other model parameters are sufficiently broad (see Table III) that an observed increase in a model parameter from one cycle to the next, as seen in Fig. 3b, may not be statistically significant.

The overall trend in the variation of model parameters is more reliably assessed by plotting nominal estimates over many cycles. A discrete approach was adopted for the prediction of capacity fade by tracking the change in effective transport and kinetic parameters with cycle number ($N$). Figure 5 shows the variation with cycle number of the effective diffusion coefficient $D_{sn}$ and electrochemical reaction rate constant $k_n$ for the negative electrode. Power laws are commonly used to fit the decay of a property, which motivated the estimation of the model parameters and computation of the voltage-discharge curve at cycle 600 by extrapolation of power-law fits for the variations in each model parameter as a function of cycle number for 25, 50, 100, and 200. The mathematical model produces accurate predictions of the voltage-discharge curve at cycles 500 and 600 (see Figs. 5 and 6).

The model parameters $D_{sn}$ and $k_n$ fit to the experimental data for cycles 50, 100, 200, 300, 400, and 500 were used to predict the remaining battery life based on voltage-discharge curves measured in past cycles. To characterize the degradation in the model parameters, a power law was fit to the estimated parameter values from cycles 25–500 similar to what was done for least-squares estimation. Implicitly assuming that the changes in the parameter values are the result of the same mechanism in later cycles, the parameter values for the subsequent cycles were predicted using the power-law expressions. The voltage-discharge curve predicted by this model was in very good agreement with the experimental data for cycle 600.
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Acknowledgments

Conclusions

The effective solid-phase diffusion coefficients and electrochemical reaction rate constants in positive and negative electrodes and the effective electrolyte diffusion coefficient were estimated and tracked as a function of cycle #. The mathematical analysis indicated that (i) nearly all of the variation in voltage-discharge curves could be explained by changes in only the two model parameters associated with transport and electrochemical kinetics in the negative electrode (Fig. 3b), and (ii) the monotonic reduction in the estimated effective solid-phase diffusion coefficient in the negative electrode due to capacity fade was due to actual changes in the model parameter rather than uncertainties in the parameter estimation resulting from limited parameter identifiability and limited data (Fig. 4). After characterizing uncertainties in the parameters (Table III), the effects of the parameter uncertainties on the voltage-discharge curve were quantified (Fig. 6). Small prediction intervals, as well as comparisons of model predictions with experimental data (Figs. 5–7), provided confidence in the ability of the model to predict capacity fade. Tracking cycle-dependent variations in the effective values for transport and electrochemical kinetics is valid only for a particular protocol of galvanostatic charge and discharge, and is not appropriate for use in the design of lithium-ion batteries with reduced capacity fade.

The proposed approach is appropriate for estimating the lifetime of a lithium-ion battery from past measured voltage-discharge curves. This study considers a battery operating for a consistent set of conditions; it would be useful to assess whether the approach is useful for time-varying discharge conditions (within an allowable window of operations). The proposed approach is computationally efficient enough that it could be integrated into an inexpensive microprocessor for estimating the remaining battery lifetime, based on minimum requirements on the voltage-discharge curve for the battery to be useful in its application. The proposed approach can also provide guidance as to which battery components are likely the primary causes for capacity fade for a battery operating within a specified window of operating conditions. For example, in this study the voltage-discharge curves were sensitive to the negative-electrode parameters which suggested that the capacity fade mechanisms in the negative electrode have a more pronounced effect on the voltage-discharge curves. A designer working to improve the battery designed for this operating condition would focus on modification of the negative-electrode parameters (e.g., geometries, porosity) to reduce the capacity fade.

List of Symbols

References

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