# CAPACITY LOSS ESTIMATION FOR LI-ION BATTERIES BASED ON A SEMI-EMPIRICAL MODEL

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# Keywords

SEM (Semi-Empirical Model), LIBs (Li-ion batteries),  $C_{loss}$  (Capacity Loss), Cycling Aging, Calendar Aging.

# ABSTRACT

Understanding battery capacity degradation is instrumental for designing modern electric vehicles. In this paper, a Semi-Empirical Model for predicting the Capacity Loss of Lithium-ion batteries during Cycling and Calendar Aging is developed. In order to predict the Capacity Loss with a high accuracy, battery operation data from different test conditions and different Lithium-ion batteries chemistries were obtained from literature for parameter optimization (fitting). The obtained models were then compared to experimental data for validation. Our results show that the average error between the estimated Capacity Loss and measured Capacity Loss is less than 1.5% during Cycling Aging, and less than 2% during Calendar Aging. An electric mining dumper, with simulated duty cycle data, is considered as an application example.

# **INTRODUCTION**

The transport sector is one of the largest global emitters of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), accounting for about 22% of the total emission (Kluschke et al., 2019). Electric cars have proven to be an efficient way of reducing these emissions in passenger transport, but electrification of heavy-duty vehicles (e.g. trucks, forest harvesters and mining dumpers) is more challenging, mainly due to limitations in battery technology. Among others, Liimatainen et al. (2019) concluded that battery electric trucks have not been a viable option to replace traditional diesel-powered ones because of the high energy requirements and low energy density of batteries. Furthermore, the absence of charging facilities in offroad conditions may render electrification of forest harvesters impractical. On the other hand, heavy-duty vehicles are typically tailored for a specific application niche, and their production batches are much smaller than those for passenger cars, which means that application-specific Mohammad-Hashem Haghbayan Department of Future Technologies University of Turku (UTU) 20500 Turku, Finland

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design optimization is both necessary and can also have a significant effect on the vehicle performance — and thus on business profitability. At the heart of this design optimization is an understanding of the performance of lithium-ion (Li-ion) batteries.

One major difference between internal combustion engine vehicles (ICEV) and battery electric vehicles (BEV) is that the energy system in the latter degrades during use. While the performance of a diesel engine remains largely unaffected by repeated refuels and use, this is not the case for Li-ion batteries (LIBs): The capacity of LIBs decreases in both repeated cycling and storage. Moreover, the LIB degradation process depends on the battery chemistry and the way (or path) of usage. Dubarry and Devie (2018) concluded that the LIB cell temperature history had the strongest impact on degradation followed by the C-rate (i.e. charge/discharge current) and the state of charge (SoC). Also, they found that LIBs lose capacity faster at low SoCs during calendar aging and under small SoC swings while under cycling.

It is obvious from the above discussion that design optimization for heavy-duty battery electric vehicles (HDBEV) must address battery degradation. The upshot is that, in contrast to passenger cars, since a HDBEV is designed for a specific application, the typical usage conditions — including temperature, SoC and C-rate — can often be estimated with more accuracy during design. Battery system design optimization for HDBEVs thus requires parametric mathematical models of battery aging, estimated from real-world cycling and storage tests. The purpose of this article is to address this concern.

In this article, a Semi-Empirical Model (SEM) is proposed for estimating the capacity loss ( $C_{loss}$ ) for different LIB chemistries during cycling and calendar aging. The model is developed based on the effect of four different parameters, namely temperature, time, depth of discharge, and C-rate current. The model is able to estimate the  $C_{loss}$  of LIBs with a high accuracy and low computation complexity compared to the other models. This model can be used for optimizing LIB systems for different chemistries throughout their lifetime



Figure 1: Capacity Loss Estimation methods.

in realistic operation conditions. The contribution of this article is elaborated in the next section.

## **RELATED WORK**

LIB degradation is usually measured by  $C_{loss}$ . It reflects the ability of the LIB to store and to supply energy relative to its initial conditions, considering the energy and power requirements of the application (Berecibar et al., 2016). Many different methods for the  $C_{loss}$  estimation were presented in recent years and in general they can be divided into three approaches, which are shown in Figure 1.

The measurement based methods by themselves cannot be used for the estimation of the  $C_{loss}$  during design of the battery system as these methods requires the analysis of the measured data during operation of the LIB.

The data-driven approach includes methods, where the previously collected information about operation of the LIB is used to find the dependency between the collected information and  $C_{loss}$ . Different algorithms such as Support Vector Regression algorithm (Liu et al., 2020), Fuzzy logic (Yang et al., 2020) and Neural Networks (Naha et al., 2020) were investigated for  $C_{loss}$ estimation. These methods allows to estimate the  $C_{loss}$ with good accuracy in case of the availability of a sufficient amount of previously collected data. However, these methods are computationally intensive and are sensitive to the size and quality of the experimental dataset applied during the training, which are not always available.

The model-based approach (Cacciato et al., 2016) may yield better results for the  $\mathcal{C}_{loss}$  estimation in case of the low amount of the experimental data. It can be done by applying a model, which should describe the processes occurring in the LIBs. Such models can be used offline and they directly provide the required information on the  $C_{loss}$  — or the required information can be obtained during comparison of the calculated and measured data in real time. If a very high accuracy for the  $C_{loss}$  estimate is needed, the second type of the battery model, so called adaptive model (Cen & Kubiak, 2020), is often recommended in the literature. The adjustment of the adaptive model parameters and  $C_{loss}$  estimation after comparison with measured data can be done by using such algorithms as Kalman Filter, Particle filter, Sliding mode observer etc. As it was reported by (Andre et al., 2013), the use of the adaptive models allows to estimate  $C_{loss}$  and State of Charge (SoC) simultaneously with estimation error under 1%. Despite the high accuracy of the  $C_{loss}$  estimation, a high computational complexity may limit the applicability of the adaptive models during battery system design where high accuracy is not always necessary. In this case, offline models such as SEM (Singh et al., 2019) may be more useful as they may estimate the  $C_{loss}$ with acceptable uncertainty in case of the lack of the experimental data and they have low computation complexity. In the SEM approach, one attempts to identify a (simple) parametric function that describes the capacity reduction, through parametric optimization.

The applicability of the SEM approach for the  $C_{loss}$  estimation during storage (Grolleau et al., 2014) and cycling (Bocca et al., 2015) were widely shown for different LIBs. However, the presented models were usually verified for the same LIBs, from which the SEMs were created and the use of the presented algorithms for the creation of the SEMs for other type of the LIBs is not well discussed. Therefore, the research work described in the present article focused on the analysis of the applicability of the commonly used approach for the creation of the SEMs of different LIBs at different operation conditions.

## SEM SPECIFICATIONS

In this article the most commonly used models, which can estimate the capacity loss  $C_{loss}$  of the LIBs during Calendar Aging  $C_{loss}^{cal}$  and Cycling Aging  $C_{loss}^{cyc}$  are analysed. These semi-empirical models were previously used for the modeling of the  $C_{loss}$  in LFP cells (Wang et al., 2011), NMC cells (Schmalstieg, Käbitz, Ecker, & Sauer, 2014), NCA cells (Petit, Prada, & Sauvant-Moynot, 2016) and they are briefly described below.

## Calendar Aging

The two main factors that affects the Calendar Aging are the T and SoC. The general equation for the Calendar Aging estimation can be presented as:

$$C_{loss}^{cal} = B(SoC) \cdot e^{-\frac{E}{R(T-T_{ref})}} \cdot t^{z}, \qquad (1)$$

where B is the pre-exponential factor that depends on SoC, T is the temperature expressed in K,  $T_{ref}$  is the reference temperature also expressed in K and is equal to 298.15, R is the gas constant, E is the activation energy of a reaction, expressed in J/mol, t is the time in days, and z is a constant. The pre-exponential factor B can be presented as:

$$B = a_1 \cdot SoC + a_2 \tag{2}$$

Where  $a_1$  and  $a_2$  are fitting constants. Equation 1 can be used to estimate the  $C_{loss}$  of the LIB during long period storage.

## Cycling Aging

For Cycling Aging, the  $C_{loss}$  is mainly affected by current *I*, *T* and number of cycles *N*. Furthermore, other parameters do have a margin effect depending on the temperature of the LIB, e.g. depth of discharge *DoD*, and the rated capacity. The general equation used to estimate the  $C_{loss}^{cyc}$  is as follow:

$$C_{loss}^{cyc} = B_{cyc}(I) \cdot e^{-\frac{E+\alpha \cdot |I|}{R(T-T_{ref})}} \cdot A_h^{z_{cyc}}$$
(3)

Where  $B_{cyc}$  is a pre-exponential factor which depends on cycling current I,  $\alpha$  and  $z_{cyc}$  are the fitting coefficients, and  $A_h$  is the full used capacity that can be obtained using the following equation:

$$A_h = FCE \cdot C_r = N \cdot DoD \cdot C_r \tag{4}$$

Where FCE is the full cycle equivalent,  $C_r$  is the rated capacity.

## MODEL IDENTIFICATION

The process of model identification is divided into two parts; (a) Data Selection and Fitting, and (b) Model Validation. These two parts are illustrated in Figure 2.



Figure 2: SEM flowchart process; (a) Data Selection and Fitting process, (b) Model Validation process.

#### Data Selection and Fitting

Figure 2 (a) shows the Flow Chart of the data selection and fitting process. As shown in this Figure, measured data from different references, specifically the  $C_{loss}^{cal}$ ,  $C_{loss}^{cyc}$ , FCE and Time are obtained. Afterwards the fitting process is applied to estimate the value of the fitting parameters. The algorithm used for obtaining the fitting parameters is shown in Algorithm 1. In this algorithm,  $Mes_{loss}^{cyc}$  and  $Mes_{loss}^{cal}$  are

#### Algorithm 1 Data Selection and Fitting process

	<b>Input:</b> $Mes\_C_{loss}^{cyc}$ , $Mes\_C_{loss}^{cal}$ <b>Output:</b> $Est\_C_{loss}^{cyc}$ , $Est\_C_{loss}^{cal}$ , $R,a_1,a_2,z,\alpha,z_{cyc},B_c$	cyc
Bo	ly:	
1:	$\mathbf{measured} \leftarrow \{\mathbf{Mes\_C_{loss}^{cyc}}, \mathbf{Mes\_C_{loss}^{cal}}\}$	
2:	$\textbf{estimated} \leftarrow \{\textbf{Est\_C_{loss}^{cyc}}, \textbf{Est\_C_{loss}^{cal}}\}$	
3:	for $\mathbf{i} \leftarrow 1$ to 1000 do	
	$estimated \leftarrow fitting(measured)$	
	if $estimated == localminimum$ then	
	Stop	

 $\begin{array}{|} & \operatorname{end} \\ & \operatorname{end} \\ 4: & \operatorname{error} \leftarrow avg.(\underbrace{\operatorname{estimated-measured}}_{\text{measured}}) \\ 5: & \operatorname{if error} < 0.05 & \operatorname{then} \\ & | & \{ \mathbf{E}, \mathbf{R}, \mathbf{a_1}, \mathbf{a_2}, \mathbf{z}, \alpha, \mathbf{z_{cyc}}, \mathbf{B_{cyc}} \} \leftarrow fitpar(\operatorname{estimated}) \\ & \operatorname{end} \end{array}$ 

the measured  $C_{loss}$  data needed for fitting the model, while  $Est\_C_{loss}^{cyc}$  and  $Est\_C_{loss}^{cal}$  are the estimated  $C_{loss}$ output. In this process, the fitting function is using the fminsearch from MATLAB which uses a simplex search method (Lagarias et al., 1998) to obtain the estimated data output. In order to decrease the overall error between the measured and the estimated output, the fitting function is proceed in different scenarios, e.g. during a fixed temperature, fixed DoD = 1 - SoC, etc., for 1000 iteration in each. For this, several fitting parameters are calculated according to each situation. Once the estimated output reaches the local minimum, the average error is calculated between the estimated output and the measured data. In this case, it's assumed that 5% is when the model does fit the data well. Afterwards, function fitpar which uses the polyfit from MATLAB is used to generate the fitting parameters based on least square regression. Once these values are calculated, the model validation process is started as shown in Figure 2 (b).

## Model Validation

In this process, the estimated fitting parameters values are input into Equations (1)-(4), to calculate the  $C_{loss}$  during Cycling/Calendar aging, and the output is compared to a known reference, where the error is calculated between the known  $C_{loss}$  and the estimated one. If the error is low (here defined as below 5%), this shows that the model is validated and can be used to estimate the  $C_{loss}$  of an experimental LIB.

The method used for calculating the  $C_{loss}$  is shown in Algorithm 2. The information about state of charge SoC, temperature T, current I, rated capacity  $C_r$  and time between operation cycles is necessary for the  $C_{loss}$ calculation t. The loss of the capacity during cycling is calculated from information about N, cycle start time ch1 and end time ch2, average values of cyc.DoD and cyc.SoC that are calculated from SoC curve by using Rainflow algorithm in MATLAB (ASTM E1049-85, 2005). Afterwards, average values of temperature cyc.Tand current cyc.I are calculated during a cycle to be used in Equation 3. The calendar  $C_{loss}$  is calculated by considering the average state of charge cal.SoC and average temperature cal.T of each long enough period of time when LIBs are not used where there is no current usage during this period.

## RESULTS

To test the feasibility of the proposed model, several LIB chemistries should be evaluated. In this work, two different chemistries of LIBs have been chosen; Lithium Iron Phosphate (LFP) and Lithium-Titanate Oxide (LTO). These chemistries are among the primary candidates for modern HDBEV systems.

#### Lithium-titanate battery (LTO)

#### Data Selection and Fitting

The measured data that is used for the fitting process is acquired from (Dubarry & Devie, 2018). In his work, he studied the effect of temperature 'T', SoC swing range ' $\Delta SoC$ ', and C-rate 'C' on the battery cells to measure its  $C_{loss}$  during 1400 (1C rate) to 4200 (3C rate) full cycle equivalent as demonstrated in Figure 3(a). Likewise, he studied the effect of 'T' and SoC through 61 weeks of Calendar Aging as illustrated in Figure 3(b).

Once the measured data from Figure 6 is extracted, the fitting process is started. The fitting function for the Cycling Aging is proceed in four different scenarios: during a fixed DoD(40%), fixed temperature (25°C), and fixed C-rate. Figure 4 shows the estimated  $C_{loss}$  (dashed line) compared to the measured one (solid line). The average error between the estimated  $C_{loss}$  and measured  $C_{loss}$  is found to be 0.63% at 50% of FCE and 0.54 at 100% of FCE, except for one point that shows an error of 0.72% during the 4200 FCE that can be found in Figure 4(d) (45/0.7/3).

In the Calendar Aging fitting process, the model has an average error of 0.8% between the estimated  $C_{loss}$ (dashed line) and the measured one (solid line), except for the condition  $T = (55^{\circ}\text{C})$ , SoC = 5%, as the model does have an average error of 1.4% during this condition.

The results from the literature shows that during Calendar Aging, the LTO tends to degrade faster while the SoC is low compared to higher SoC, in addition to the effect of T. For Cycling Aging, the increase in T and

C-rate has significant effect on the LTO chemistry, and the degradation rate is faster when smaller SoC swings  $\triangle SoC$  is applied.

#### Model Validation

In order to test the performance of the proposed model, it needs to be validated and compared to another known measured  $C_{loss}$  during cycling and Calendar Aging. For the Cycling Aging, the input data needed for the  $C_{loss}$  algorithm is extracted from (Baure & Dubarry, 2020), and the output is compared to the  $C_{loss}$  from the same reference. Table 1 and Table 2 first columns show a summary of the extracted data that is required for the Cycling Aging  $C_{loss}$ . Furthermore, both tables show the measured  $C_{loss}$  in 25/35°C, estimated  $C_{loss}$  and the error during 2500 equivalent cycles.

As shown in Table 1, the model does have an average error of 0.46% during Cycling Aging in  $25^{\circ}$ C, while it does have an average error of 1.39% in  $35^{\circ}$ C as shown in Table 2.

Table	1:	Data	validation	dı	ıring	Cycling	Aging
			measured	in	25°C		

Data cycling measured in 25 °C	Measured Capacity Loss %	Estimated Capacity Loss %	Error %
	0.37	0.69	0.32
	0.33	0.69	0.36
	0.33	0.69	0.36
	0.42	1.07	0.65
	0.40	1.07	0.67
	0.48	1.07	0.59
	0.41	0.71	0.30

Table 2: Data validation during Cycling Aging measured in 35°C

Data cycling measured in 35 °C	Measured Capacity Loss %	Estimated Capacity Loss %	Error %
	0.54	1.60	1.06
	0.58	1.60	1.02
	0.54	1.60	1.06
	0.62	2.48	1.86
	0.59	2.48	1.89
	0.70	2.48	1.78
	0.58	1.62	1.04

For the Calendar Aging, the required data is extracted and compared to the measured  $C_{loss}$  in (Dubarry et al., 2018). Table 3 shows a summary of the extracted data from this reference. To estimate the  $C_{loss}$  per 1 month,



Figure 3: LTO measured Capacity Loss during Cycling and Calendar Aging (Dubarry & Devie, 2018).



(c) Capacity Loss estimated output during a fixed C - rate(2C) (d) Capacity Loss estimated output during a fixed C - rate(3C)





Figure 5: LTO estimated Capacity Loss during Calendar Aging.

fitlm from MATLAB is used to fit a linear regression model to obtain this value. Afterwards, the number of days is calculated and used as an input to the developed model. Table 3, 4th column shows the error between the estimated  $C_{loss}$  and the measured one. The model does have an average error of 1.98% in Calendar Aging.

Table 3: Data validation during Calendar Aging

Temperature °C	SoC %	Capacity Loss (%/month)	Error %
-27	5	0.28	2.03
-27	99	0.28	1.95
25	50	0.05	0.67
25	100	0.05	0.68
45	20	0.76	2.74
45	70	0.24	1.76
55	5	3.97	3.37
55	81.5	0.73	2.67

## Lithium iron phosphate battery (LFP)

## Data Selection and Fitting

The measured data required for the fitting process during Cycling Aging is obtained from (Wang et al.,







Figure 7: LFP Estimated Capacity Loss during Cycling Aging.



Figure 8: LFP Estimated Capacity Loss during Calendar Aging.

2011). In his work, he measured the  $C_{loss}$  during Cycling Aging in the following conditions; five different temperatures (0, 15, 25, 45, 60 °C), four levels of DOD (90%, 80%, 50%, and 10%), and four discharges rates (C/2, 2C, 6C and 10C). During discharge rate of

C/2, the authors results showed that at such low rate, only temperature and FCE does have an effect on the  $C_{loss}$ , while DoD has a negligible effect on it. For the Calendar Aging  $C_{loss}$ , measured data was acquired from (Naumann et al., 2018), where the researchers studied the effect of different storage temperatures at the storage SoC = 0%,50%, and 100%.

Afterwards, the fitting process for the Cycling Aging is carried on. Similar to the LTO chemistry, the fitting process is proceed in four different scenarios; During a fixed DoD(50%), fixed temperature (60°C), and Fixed C-rate (0.5C and 10C). Figure 7 shows the estimated  $C_{loss}$  (dashed line) compared to the measured one (solid line). The average error is found to be 0.43% at half the FCE for each point, and 0.54% at the total FCE.

During the Calendar Aging process, the model has an average error of 0.45% at 450 days between the estimated  $C_{loss}$  (dashed line) and the measured one (solid line), and 0.67% at 900 days.

From the literature, it can be concluded that during Calendar Aging, the LFP chemistry degradation rate remains constant with SoC at given T, which means the  $C_{loss}$  is affected more by T and for the Cycling Aging, the  $C_{loss}$  is strongly affect by T and t on the LFP chemistry, while the DoD has almost a negligible effect especially at low C-rate (0.5C). In contrast,

## Model Validation

In this section, the model is validated by comparing the estimated  $C_{loss}$  output to other known measured  $C_{loss}$ . For Cycling Aging, data needed to estimate the  $C_{loss}$  and compare it to a measured one is obtained from (Marongiu et al., 2015). Table 4, first column shows a summary of the data that used to estimate the Cycling Aging  $C_{loss}$ . The value of the battery temperature is kept at 30°C, and FCE is ranged from 1700 up to 5000.

As can been seen in Table 4, the model estimated  $C_{loss}$  error ranges from 1.2% to 1.8%, with an average error of 1.15%.

To validate the model in Calendar Aging, the same method for obtaining the required data as been used with LTO is used, and data is extracted from (Dubarry et al., 2018) . Table 5 shows a summary of the extracted data from this reference and the calculated error between the estimated  $C_{loss}$  during Calendar Aging and the measured one. The model does have an average error of 1.83% in Calendar Aging.

Table 4: Data validation during Cycling Aging measured in 30°C

Data cycling measured in 30°C	Measured Capacity Loss %	Estimated Capacity Loss %	Error %
SoC=90%, 1C	19.7	18.5	1.2
SoC=50%, 1C	17.3	18.5	1.2
SoC=20%, 1C	6.2	7.6	1.4
SoC=90%, 3C	36.6	34.9	1.7
SoC=50%, 3C	27.9	26.6	1.3
SoC=20%, 3C	56.3	54.5	1.8
SoC=90%, 6C	15.1	13.8	1.3
SoC=50%, 6C	68.1	66.7	1.4
SoC=20%, 6C	38.6	37.1	1.5

Table 5: Data validation during C	Calendar A	Aging
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Temperature°C	SoC %	Capacity Loss (%/month)	Error %
0	50	0.40	0.5
10	50	0.52	0.6
20	100	1.37	1.1
25	40	1.30	1.4
30	65	0.97	2.1
40	30	1.79	1.5
45	100	3.72	2.3
50	20	3.19	4.1
60	0	1.78	2.9

## Application example

After presenting, identifying and validating the battery capacity degradation model using two different types of LIBs, an attempt to predict the capacity degradation using simulated duty cycle data for a *Mining* 



Figure 9: Simulated battery duty cycle data of a Mining Dumper.

*Dumper* based on (Immonen, 2003) work, is carried out. In this example, both LTO and LFP batteries are assumed to follow the same duty cycle, given in Figure 9 for Cycling Aging estimation, followed by 2 hours rest time during which the battery is cooled to the initial temperature (linear temperature decay) for the Calendar Aging estimation.

The battery system was simulated for 1000 repeated duty and rest cycles (described above) for both LTO and LFP chemistries. The required data for predicting the capacity loss, found in Figure 9, was then fed to the proposed SEM. The results show that, for the LFP chemistry,  $C_{loss}^{cyc} = 3.1\%$ , and  $C_{loss}^{cal} = 8.31\%$ . On the other hand, for the LTO chemistry,  $C_{loss}^{cyc} = 5.2\%$  and  $C_{loss}^{cal} = 2.22\%$ , indicating a clear difference in the aging profiles of the two battery chemistries.

## CONCLUSIONS

In this work, a SEM for estimating the  $C_{loss}$  of different LIBs during Cycling Calendar Aging for different operation condition has been developed. For modeling, different LIB measurement data is required for obtaining the models' fitting parameters. Afterwards, the model is validated by comparing the estimated  $C_{loss}$  to a known one. Results show that the proposed model is able to estimate the  $C_{loss}$  during Cycling and Calendar Aging of two different LIBs (namely LTO and LFP chemistries) with a high accuracy with a brief explanation of the effect of different parameters on the two LIBs. Furthermore, a simulated battery duty cycle of a Mining Dumper has been used to estimate the  $C_{loss}$  during Cycling and Calendar Aging of a Mining Dumper.

The proposed model can be used in case of the lack of the experimental data, where it can give out an acceptable accuracy while having low computation complexity and is simpler to implement in comparison to other model-based approaches. For instance, the developed SEM has an average error of 2% between the measured  $C_{loss}$  and the estimated  $C_{loss}$ , while the adaptive-models do usually have an average error less than 1%.

In the future, the proposed SEM framework should be validated by studying different battery chemistries. Another important topic left for future work is design optimization — optimal cell chemistry selection in particular — for HDBEVs, based on the proposed battery degradation models.

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