

Fast Charging Techniques And Material Specifications Requirement For Lithium Ion batteries Used In Electrical Vehicle: A Review

Suyog S Hirve, Dr. Deepak S Bankar, Parag Choudhari

Abstract: In today's world, the mobility of goods and people is at its peak. To make this happen there are numerous vehicles which can deliver this service. In most recent trends, to avoid damage to the environment Electric Vehicles are extensively used. Tremendous amount of research is going on in the field of Electric Vehicle such as Battery Types for improvement in overall performance, inclusion of other factors such as Ultra capacitors for betterment of overall performance, advancement in Brushless DC motors which will be more suitable to use in E- Vehicles. Many of research units have solved the issues related with the above topics. The more focus is to be given on the charging and discharging time for E Vehicles. In this paper, various charging and discharging methods used for Lithium ion batteries are discussed. The methods such as constant current (CC) method, constant voltage (CV) method, constant current constant voltage method(CC-CV), constant temperature constant voltage method(CT-CV). Not only the Fast Charging methods will be sufficient to make real change in the Li-ion Batteries but also the materials that are used in these batteries should have the capacity to handle the fast charging. So, according to material properties and specifications the battery needs to be designed and as per fast charging methods suitable fast charging technique can be implemented to it.

Index Terms: Lithium Ion Batteries, Electric Vehicles, Battery Charging Techniques, constant current (CC) method, constant voltage (CV) method, constant current constant voltage method(CC-CV), constant temperature constant voltage method(CT-CV).

1 INTRODUCTION

A lithium-ion battery or Li-ion battery (LIB) is a rechargeable battery. These batteries were first introduced in the 1970s by British chemist M Stanley Whittingham. Further improvement and modifications in the battery takes place, the reversible intercalation into cathode oxide was discovered during 1976 by J. O. Besenhard at TU Munich. Decade after invention, these batteries made available and commercialized in a broad way throughout the globe. They are now extensively used in mobile phones, laptops and small electrical & electronic devices due to its advantages like long life, high efficiency, better operating performance etc. Now these batteries are extensively used in Electric Vehicle applications. The lithium-ion chemistry encompasses a lithium cobalt oxide cathode and a graphite anode. This cathode cell with an impressive 200Wh/kg of specific energy and good specific power and about 90% charge/discharge efficiency [1]. The Fig.1 shows the

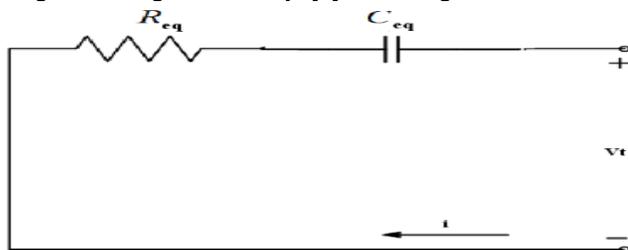


Fig. 1. Equivalent circuit of Li-ion Cell

equivalent circuit model for lithium-ion cell. In this figure, V_t is the terminal voltage of cell, C_{eq} and R_{eq} are the Equivalent Capacitance and Equivalent Resistance of the Cell.

$$V_t = V_{C_{eq}} + V_{R_{eq}} \quad (1)$$

$$V_{C_{eq}} = \frac{1}{C_{eq}} \int_{t_0}^t I(\tau) d\tau + V_s, R_{eq} = I \times R_{eq} \quad (2)$$

$$V_t = V_s + \frac{1}{C_{eq}} \int_{t_0}^t I(\tau) d\tau + V_{eq} \quad (3)$$

The Performance of Electric Vehicle with Lithium ion batteries has improved a lot as compared to other batteries, but still the issue of battery charging time remains unattended for many years. Now vast research is going on in the field of fast recharging techniques used in Electric vehicle charging systems using lithium ion batteries. Some of the widely used battery charging methods like constant current (CC) method, constant voltage (CV) method, constant current constant voltage method(CC-CV), constant temperature constant voltage method (CT-CV) are discussed in this paper. We will see these methods in detail in the preceding sections and also their performance conditions as per the conditions of electric vehicles are used. The materials also play an important role in fast charging the Li-ion Batteries. The Li-ion cell consists of various components. The Li-ion cell consists of Positive Electrode, negative Electrode, Electrolyte, Salts, Solvents, Separators, Additives. To build the most suitable Li-ion cell as per the required applications, crucial selections and combinations of materials are required to form a particular Li-ion Cell. This combination and selection of materials also helps in increasing the specific energy density, power density and reduces charging time of the cell as well [2].

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II. BATTERY CHARGING TECHNIQUES

For charging the Lithium-ion batteries, the most common methods are

- A. Trickle Charge Method
- B. Constant Current Method
- C. Constant Voltage Method

A. Trickle Charge Method

Trickle Charging is charging a full charged battery with a rate equal to its self discharge rate. A Li-ion battery are not discharged below its discharging limit. In most of the lithium ion cell are not discharged below 3V and they are treated as dead cell below this value. To avoid this state the cell needs to be charged up to 10% of its maximum value [4]. To bring the cell out of dead state the trickle charging method is quite convincing.

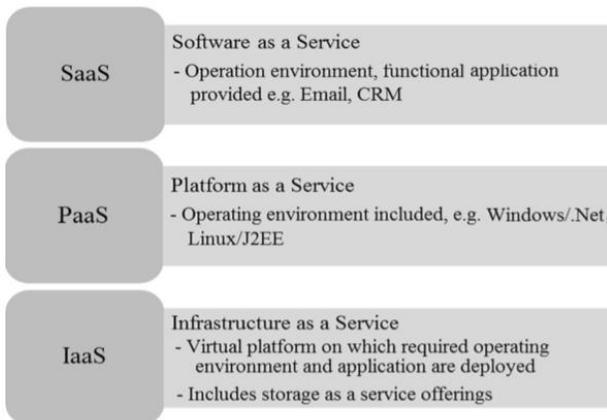


Fig. 2. Charging Curve of Lithium-Ion battery

On the Other hand, if the Lithium Ion cell is not charged up to 3V for 10 minutes or so then, the cell is said to be permanently damaged.

B. Constant Current Method

The simple and most commonly used method of charging. In this method, the current is maintained constant by keeping charging voltage same as that of the battery peak voltage. The capacity of battery is given in 'C' while charging and the charging current is decided by this battery capacity. The battery charges faster upto 0.8C by this method. This method helps battery to be charged till 60-80% and remaining 40-20% can be charged by constant voltage method [5-7]. In the first stage of charging a li-ion battery or cell, the charge current is controlled. Typically this will be between 0.5 and 1.0 C. For example, a 4000 mAh battery the charge rate would be 4000mA for a charge rate of C). During this stage the voltage across the lithium ion cell increases for the constant current charge. The charge time may be around an hour for this stage [6].

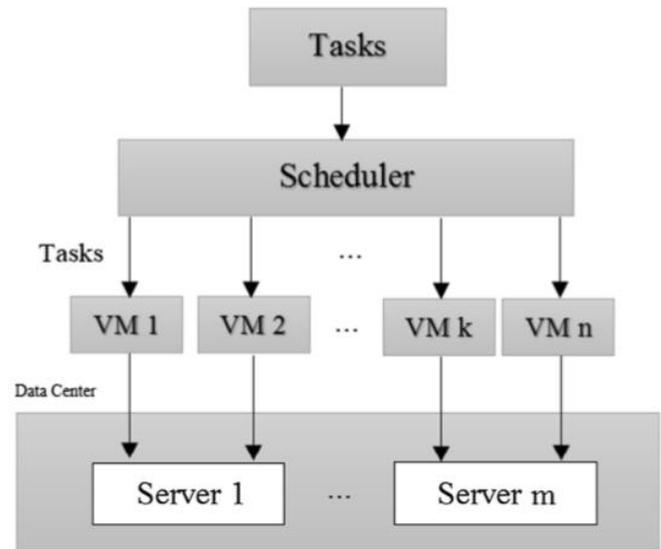


Fig. 3. Constant Current Charging Method

C. Constant Voltage Method

When the battery is charged up to 60-80% of its rated capacity, then the battery needs to be charged with this method of Constant Voltage. In this method the current should be minimized and the constant current method should be terminated. To charge the battery fully, the constant voltage should be equal to the maximum voltage of a battery. Such kind of activity increases the life of a battery. During this method the charging time required to charge the battery increases. More often, this method is not suitable for Lithium ion batteries [8].

III. ADVANCED CHARGING SCHEMES

The above mentioned charging methods are the basic charging schemes. Apart from this, there are other methods which are more reliable and are used extensively as Fast Charging schemes. Some of them are mentioned below:

A. Constant Current-Constant Voltage (CC-CV) Method

This method uses the combination of both the methods i.e. CC and CV in combination. This is the most generalised method of charging the Li-ion batteries. If we consider the Li-ion Cell of Rating 4.2V, then the constant current (CC) charging method is used for charging the Li-ion batteries during the initial stages when the battery voltage is 3.0V till it reaches to a voltage level of 4.1V. After this stage, the Constant Voltage method is activated which provides constant voltage and the charging current reduces till the voltage reaches to 4.2V. To initiate the fast charging process, the battery should be charged more with CC method than CV method.

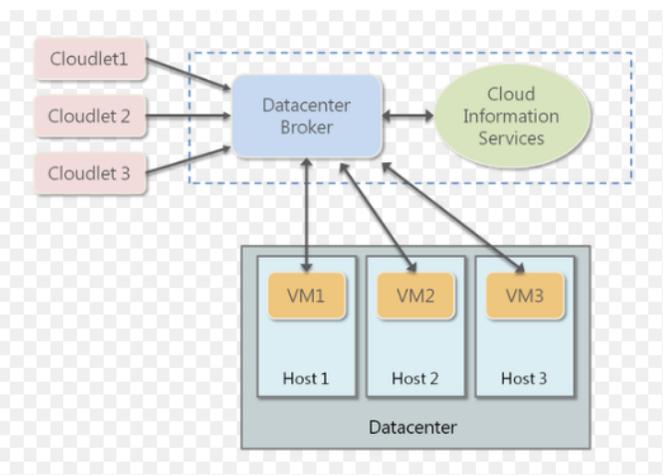


Fig. 4. Constant Current-Constant Voltage Charging Method

B. Five Step Current-Voltage Charging Method

Till now, it is observed that earlier method of charging methods has high charging time and has reduced battery lifecycle. To avoid such issues of battery life and charging time, the battery is charged at 5 different levels of voltage and current. In every Step, the battery is charged with 5 different values of voltage and current. The each step is governed by the threshold voltage level. On every step the voltage is increased till its threshold value and current remains constant for the duration of individual step, but decreases for every preceding step [9].

System Used

Server Id	Server Name	Speed	Request Type
1	System A(1000)	1000 (MSP)	type1
2	System B(1500)	1500 (MSP)	type1
3	System C(1000)	1000 (MSP)	type1
4	System D(2000)	2000 (MSP)	type2
5	System E(3000)	3000 (MSP)	type2

Simulation Result

Algorithm	ThroughPut	Response Time	Execution Time	Energy Consumption
PSO	100	0.1166666666666667	91.17864285714286	8206.077857142856
CSA	100	1.2142857142857142	38.38571428571428	5254.714285714285
CSO	100	2.3333333333333335	54.89999999999999	4941
BAT	100	0	77.6	6984

Fig. 5. Five Step Charging Method

C. Method of Charging using Pulse

In this method, a cascaded voltage and current pulses are applied to the battery. By controlling the rise time, frequency, amplitude and pulse width of a DC pulses, this can be used to any size of battery. With this method, high instantaneous voltage can be used without battery overheating and also increases the battery life cycle. In general, many chargers are used to check the battery's current state. In the beginning, constant current charging is used for fast charging and then Pulse charging technique is used for trickle charging for persevering the charge. Some of the charging uses negative pulse charging. These chargers uses both positive and negative current pulses for charging. Pulse charging method is use for obtaining for equal distribution of ions in the electrolyte. It helps in speeding charging process and lowering the battery polarization. It also helps in improving battery life cycle. Pulse frequency depends on the battery size, capacity and charging time. It is

very much important to find out the best pulse charging frequency for the optimal utilization of this method. The most common method used for this purpose is AC Impedance method [10-14].

D. Constant Temperature - Constant Voltage (CT-CV) Method

Temperature is the crucial factor in deciding the electro-chemical and mechanical degradation of Li-ion battery. The temperature variation is to be considered for the charging /discharging cycles of Li-ion batteries. The increased temperature has the prolonged effect on the battery capacity and slow and steady increase in the battery impedance. To avoid such situation, the new charging technique of Constant Temperature- Constant Voltage is developed which maintains the same temperature rise as that of conventional charging methods but provides faster charging. This method helps in reducing charging time and that is too with no loss in the battery life. To some extent this method allows to charge Li-ion battery more than 1C rate while maintaining the battery temperature. This method basically uses PID controller to keep watch on temperature rise and accordingly controls the charging current. As compared to others, this method of charging is Close loop method [15-17].

System Used

Server Id	Server Name	Speed	Request Type
1	System A(1000)	1000 (MSP)	type1
2	System B(1500)	1500 (MSP)	type1
3	System C(1000)	1000 (MSP)	type1
4	System D(2000)	2000 (MSP)	type2
5	System E(3000)	3000 (MSP)	type2
6	System F(1500)	1500 (MSP)	type1

Simulation Result

Algorithm	ThroughPut	Response Time	Execution Time	Energy Consumption
PSO	100	0.1166666666666667	121.5198095238095	10936.782857142856
CSA	100	0.8571428571428571	120.59999999999998	10854
CSO	100	2.1904761904761907	66.1652380952381	5954.871428571429
BAT	100	0	83.20038095238094	7488.034285714284

Fig. 6. Constant Temperature - Constant Voltage (CT-CV) Method of charging

E. Maximum-Minimum Optimal Problem Based Technique

The another most efficient technique used for fast charging. In this, the maximum-minimum optimization problem is de-fined which is modelled on nonlinear characteristics of Li-ion battery and adding it with the practical aspects like charging /discharging current, cut-off voltages and working temperature etc. The nonlinear equations are solved by using Aronsson operator. In this method, the nonlinear continuous model of the Lithium-ion battery is converted to the discrete model to simplify the further steps. The Main aspect of irreversible heat produced in the battery is considered, which decreases the battery life drastically. So, to reduced this irreversible heat is the main objective of this method which further helps in increasing the charging time [18-19]. The conventional charging methods are time consuming and takes almost 8-10 hours of charging depending upon the battery capacity. On the other hand Advance charging methods takes very less time 2-3 hours depending on the battery capacity and type of charging method. In some of the cases the case the charging time has dropped down by 20% as compared to the conventional charging method.

Moreover, the conventional methods are open loop, this means they doesn't care about the battery parameters like battery current, battery voltage and battery temperature. These methods will keep on injecting the charging current and voltage irrespective of battery conditions. This will affect the battery life and battery cycle. To avoid this, Advanced charging method takes care of this factors and they are close loop systems [20]. Further the charging time can be more improved by using combinations of these advanced methods together to get the better results. The CT-CV method can be combined with the Sinusoidal Ripple Current (SRC) method or CT-CV method in combination with Multi-stage Constant Current (MCC) method. These hybrid combination of fast charging techniques can drastically improve the charging time and also battery life.

IV. MATERIALS SPECIFICATION REQUIRED FOR FAST CHARGING

This section focuses on the material selection and design specifications required for the different parts of Li-ion batteries which will be best suited for the various applications.

A. Material for Positive and Negative Electrode

In general, the Li-ion batteries consist of number of Li-ion cells with inter-calation elements as positive and negative materials. As the Li-ion batteries are rechargeable lithium ions are exchanged between these positive and negative electrodes. The positive electrode is made from lithium cobalt oxide (LiCoO₂), lithium manganese oxide (LiMn₂O₄) or lithium nickel cobalt oxide (LiNi_{1-x-y}Co_xO₂) in the form of layered structure with the Aluminium current collector. The negative electrode material is of Graphite carbon with layered structure and with copper current collector. The characteristics required for the positive electrode materials are like, it should have highly diffusive towards lithium, good electrical conductivity, easy reversible operation with out change in the lithium structure, incorporation of large amount of lithium and prepared from low cost reagents. The selection of negative electrode plays a vital role in the li-ion cell. The material required for negative electrode is made from graphite carbon. There are various types of graphite carbon like, Synthetic graphite (KS6, 15, 44), Graphite sphere (MCMB 25-28, MCMB 10-28), Graphitized Carbon Black, Petroleum coke, Needle coke, Hard carbon and Carbon Fibre. From above materials, the Graphite Sphere provides good capacity in between 290-305 mAh/g, and low irreversible capacity in between 19-30 mAh/g. The property of irreversible is very much important, this property decides the lithium mobility during charging and discharging and it should be as low as possible so that lithium mobility will be high. Practically, a particle size less than 30 micro-meter is required for rate capability to the C rate [2].

System Used			
Server Id	Server Name	Speed	Request Type
1	System A(1000)	1000 (MSP)	type1
2	System B(1500)	1500 (MSP)	type1
3	System C(1000)	1000 (MSP)	type1
4	System D(2000)	2000 (MSP)	type2
5	System E(3000)	3000 (MSP)	type2
6	System E(1500)	1500 (MSP)	type1
7	System E(2500)	2500 (MSP)	type2

Simulation Result				
Algorithm	ThroughPut	Response Time	Execution Time	Energy Consumption
PSO	100	0.11666666666666667	218.60680000000002	19674.612
CSA	100	0	79.74242424242424	7176.818181818181
CSO	100	2.3333333333333335	76.83353454545454	6915.018109090908
BAT	100	0	136.1742424242424	12255.681818181818

Fig. 7. Li-ion Cell Reaction

B. Material for Electrolyte

In lithium ion batteries normally, four types of electrolytes are used such as liquid electrolyte, gel electrolyte, polymer electrolyte and ceramic electrolyte. Liquid electrolytes are generally the solution combinations of different salts and organic solvents mainly carbonates. The Polymer type electrolytes are liquid based and are solvent free and in them the conduction is formed by the addition of salts. In case of gel electrolytes, salts, solvents are mixed with polymer. Now a days most commonly used technique is using gel electrolyte as they have long life and are free from any kind of maintenance. In electrolyte, there are various types of salts which are used in this electrolyte such as Lithium hexa-fluorophosphate (LiPF₆), Lithium tetra-fluoroborate (LiBF₄), Lithium Perchlorate (LiClO₄), Lithium hexa-fluoroarsenate (LiAsF₆), Lithium triflate (LiSO₃CF₃), Lithium bisperfluoroethane-sulfonimide (LiN(SO₂C₂F₅)₂). From these, Lithium bisperfluoroethane-sulfonimide has the highest molecular weight i.e. of 327g/mol. But, as per the conductivity is concern and the electrolyte which is mostly used for electric vehicle application is Lithium hexa-fluorophosphate (LiPF₆), which has a conductivity of about 10⁻³ S/cm. Most Recently, Lithium bisperfluoroethane-sulfonimide (LiN(SO₂C₂F₅)₂) is widely used in almost all electrolytes available in the market today. In Gel electrolyte are made from these salts and with some carbonate solvents like Ethylene Carbonate (EC), Dimethyl Carbonate (DMC), Ethyl Methyl Carbonate (EMC), Methyl Acetate (MA) and Diethyl Carbonate (DEC). These are mostly used solvents. Electrolyte formulations in present Li-ion cells typically 2-4 solvents are used in combinations to get the better operating conditions and for the better performance of the cell. It also helps in higher conductivity and a wide temperature range which is not possible only with single solvent. Out of these solvents, MA, DMC and EC are suitable as per the Indian environmental conditions. These solvents are having temperature range from -40°C to 80°C. Ethylene Carbonate (EC) is most widely used solvent and it is mixed with each and every solvent for obtaining the better performance. The most suitable combination of solvent as per the Indian situation is combination of EC:DMC (in the concentration of 0.75 to 1.50M) where M = siemens/meter. Also, with this EC:MA (0.25:3.0M) is suitable as per the Indian scenario. The combinations such as EC:PC:DMC (20:20:60) and EC:PC:EA (15:25:60) which are suitable for the temperature range from -40°C to 80°C.

Separator material of about 10 to 30m micro porous filmsto isolate the positive and negative electrodes are used. Mostcommonly, Polyolefin material is used which is made from the layers of polythylene and polypropylene laminations, having a pore size of about 0.03µm to 0.1µm are used. Further, to improve the battery performance, electrolyte additives have been developed like hexa methylsilazane (HMDS) is most commonly used.

V. IMPORTANT INGREDIENTS FOR FAST CHARGING

Along with the material selection, there are five important parameters which are to be consider for determining fast charging technique required for lithium ion batteries [19]. These includes the following:

A. Diffusion Process of Li-ion and Electrons

This is nothing but a process path for li-ion and electron throughout lithium ion battery. This helps in achieving the high performance. This process includes 1) Solid state diffusion, in which the li-ion and electrons dissociate with anode and moves towards cathode. 2) li-ion moves through electrolyte and gets diffused in it. 3) The electrons interfaces with the current collector instead of passing through electrolyte and travels through the external power circuit. 4) The electrons and li-ion enters into the cathode material simultaneously with the help of solid state diffusion.

B. Thermodynamics and Kinetics of Electrochemical

The electrochemical reaction is the product of reversible cell voltage and charge electrons, which is given as

$$\Delta G_r = -eFV, \quad (4)$$

where, ΔG_r = Gibbs energy change; e = number of electron transfer; F = Faraday's Constant.

In general, battery charging is determined by C-rate, i.e. 1C means that the charging current will charge the battery to its capacity in 1 hour. With increase in C rating, the charging and discharging time reduces. Due to the result of Kinetic limitations, the open circuit battery voltage is more than the operating voltage. Kinetic Limitation mainly caused due to redox reaction, ohmic polarization and concentration polarization.

C. Li-ion Diffusivity in Electrode Material

The li-ion diffusivity is a characteristics with which the li-ion materials moves easily in the electrode material. Normally, the diffusivity dependency on temperature in solids is more than in liquids. The kinetic diffusion process normally follows Arrhenius expression:

$$D_i = D_0 \exp - \left(\frac{\Delta E}{k_B T} \right) \quad (5)$$

where, ΔE is energy barrier; k_B is Boltzmann Constant; D_0 is prefactor. Even though, the increase in the working temperature will improve the diffusivity, but it will hamper the battery safety.

D. Improving the Electrolyte li-ion Conductivity

The objective of electrolytes is to form connection between anode and cathode and to isolate the electrons. The electrolytes with high li-ion conductivity and low electronic conductivity helps in facilitating the ionic transport and inhibiting electron passage. The most efficient electrolytes used in the making of li-ion batteries are already mentioned in the above sections. In many cases, combinations of two or more electrolytes are used to achieve the desired conductivity as the applications required. In order to achieve higher conductivity from the electrolyte, the increase in li-ion solubility and decrease in the viscosity are the important parameters needs to be looked for.

E. Improvement of Electronic Conduction in Electrodes

Electronic conductivity helps in solid state diffusion process. Electrically high conductivity is achieved by electron transport. The electronic conductivity is expressed as:

$$\sigma_e = n_i e \mu_e + p_i e \mu_h \quad (6)$$

where, n_i and p_i are the holes and electron concentration; μ_e and μ_h represents the mobility of electrons and holes [21]. The selection of materials for the high performance of the lithium ion batteries plays a very important role. All the necessary considerations has been taken into account for achieving high performance lithium ion batteries.

VI. CONCLUSION AND OUTLOOK

As the Electric Vehicles will be the prominent players in the upcoming era. There are various issues which are being handled by the experts. This paper specifically deals with the fast charging techniques and specifications of materials required by the lithium ion battery for the development of electric vehicles. There are various fast charging techniques available in the market and all the techniques are having certain advantages and disadvantages over each other. Currently, the charging time has come down drastically from 8 hours to 1-2 hours and in the upcoming years this time is further going to reduce. The most widely used battery for electric vehicle application is lithium - ion battery due to its overall high performance as compared to other batteries. But the use of any lithium-ion battery for the electric vehicle will not serve the purpose. There are many parameters that needs to be studied before implementing it. Material selection with right specification plays a vital role in developing lithium-ion battery for electric vehicle applications. These materials are selected in such away that, fast charging techniques can also be applied to it. This will not only improve the charging time but longer battery life can be achieved.

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