Article

Equivalent Circuit Model for High-Power Lithium-Ion Batteries under High Current Rates, Wide Temperature Range, and Various State of Charges

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Abstract: The most employed technique to mimic the behavior of lithium-ion cells to monitor and control them is the equivalent circuit model (ECM). This modeling tool should be precise enough to ensure the system’s reliability. Two significant parameters that affect the accuracy of the ECM are the applied current rate and operating temperature. Without a thorough understanding of the influence of these parameters on the ECM, parameter estimation should be carried out manually within the calibration, which is not favorable. In this work, an enhanced ECM was developed for high-power lithium-ion capacitors (LiC) for a wide temperature range from the freezing temperature of $-30^\circ C$ to the hot temperature of $+60^\circ C$ with the applied rates from 10 A to 500 A. In this context, experimental tests were carried out to mimic the behavior of the LiC by modeling an ECM with two RC branches. In these branches, two resistance and capacitance (RC) are required to maintain the precision of the model. The validation results proved that the semi-empirical second-order ECM can estimate the electrical and thermal parameters of the LiC with high accuracy. In this context, when the current rate was less than 150 A, the error of the developed ECM was lower than 3%. Additionally, when the demanded power was high, in current rates above 150 A, the simulation error was lower than 5%.

Keywords: equivalent circuit model (ECM); lithium-ion capacitor (LiC); high power; Thevenin model; electrical model

1. Introduction

Recently, electrical energy storage systems (ESS) are in higher demand due to their clean nature and high capabilities [1]. These ESSs are being more and more employed in electric vehicles (EVs) and hybrid EVs (HEVs) [2,3]. Lithium-ion batteries (LiB) and supercapacitors (SC) are among the best options to be used as the ESSs for EVs and HEVs [4]. On one hand, LiBs have a significant role in next generation ESSs, since they benefit from high specific energy [5], low self-discharge [6], and fast charging capabilities [7]. On the other hand, SCs are used mainly because of higher specific power and a very long lifetime [8]. The main disadvantage of SCs is their low energy density which is a barrier to their usage in EVs [9]. In this regard, combining SCs and LiBs led to a new technology called lithium-ion capacitors (LiCs) [10]. This new technology has the main advantages of both SCs and LiBs, including high energy densities, high power densities, low self-discharge, and fast charging capabilities [11,12].

Nevertheless, when LiCs are used for fast charging applications, excess heat is generated through the battery packs [13]. There are some methods to increase the performance of the batteries such as using metal organic frameworks (MOF) as a cathode [14,15] or using carbonyl-based organic polymers for the electrode materials [16]. However, these methods are not mature and need more investigation to be used in EV battery packs [17]. Therefore, a thermal management strategy is crucial to maintain the pack’s temperature within a safe limit [18,19]. Generally, two cooling methods are used for vehicle applications...
to control the pack temperature [20,21]. These two cooling methods are classified into active [22] and passive methods [23,24]. Active cooling systems include immersion cooling [25], refrigerant cooling [26], air-cooled systems [27], and liquid-cooled systems [28,29]. Passive cooling systems include heat pipes [30,31], heat sinks [32], and phase change materials [33,34]. A combination of these methods led to hybrid cooling systems that can be active–active [35,36], active–passive [37,38], and passive–passive [39,40]. Using all the mentioned cooling methods in EVs and HEVs requires cost and time. Therefore, using computational fluid dynamics (CFD) is a good way of cost reduction before selecting the final system [41,42]. However, before developing a CFD model, understanding the heat generation of batteries is the most vital step [43,44].

Electrochemical modeling is another method of state estimating, but the high computational cost makes them not applicable for real applications [52]. Thus, ECMs can be used for their accuracy, computational capabilities, and simplicity. A dynamic ECM model was proposed in [53] that identified the electrical parameters employing a model with one RC branch for SOC estimation. A Thevenin ECM was used in [54] for sensor fault detection in the battery management system. A hybrid electrothermal model was proposed in [55] with an ECM to estimate the SOC and SOH [56]. Omar et al. [57] developed a model for LiCs that was extended from the Zubieta model for supercapacitors. Firouz et al. has extended this model and used a parameter identification method to understand the electrical parameters of LiCs [58]. Then, Soltani et al. developed a second-order ECM for LiCs with 5% verification error. In addition, their model did not include the 3D coupled thermal part [59]. An ECM with a Kalman filter (KF) was proposed in [60] for SOC estimation of batteries. Pang et al. have proposed a novel extended KF (EKF) using an enhanced electro-thermal model [61]. They also developed a physics-based ECM to estimate the SOC of LiBs to capture the electrical and chemical behavior of batteries [62]. Precision and complexity are two main factors of a dynamic battery model that can be fulfilled by the ECM. The ECM’s main components include resistance and capacitance (RC). The order of ECMs can be defined by increasing or decreasing the number of these components.

In this article, a second-order ECM was developed with the potential to satisfy the factors of precision and complexity. Since the structure of the LiC cell is asymmetric, two resistance and capacitance (RC) branches were required to maintain the model’s accuracy. The proposed enhanced ECM was developed for LiCs under wide temperature ranges from the freezing temperature of $-30 \, ^\circ C$ to the hot temperature of $+60 \, ^\circ C$ for the applied rates from 10 A to 500 A, which shows the uniqueness of this work. In this context, experimental tests were carried out to mimic the behavior of the LiC by modeling a second-order ECM. In this context, battery parameters will be revealed following the validation against experimental tests. The measured voltage was verified with the voltage obtained from the ECM model. The accuracy of the results was checked to prove the reliability of the developed model. A highly dynamic drive cycle was used for this purpose to test the model in high-power applications. An essential advantage of the proposed ECM is allowing analysis in various SOC and temperature values.

In this article, the second section explains the experimental tests. The ECM development and analysis is described in the third section. Section 4 provides the validation of the second-order ECM and Section 5 presents the concluding remarks.

2. Experimental Procedures

The experimental test bench comprises ten commercial prismatic LiCs. The JSR company has produced the cells under the commercial name of ULTIMO cells. The specifications of the cells used are shown in Table 1. The energy density of the used LiC at the ambient temperature of 25 $^\circ C$ and discharge current of 100 A is 14 Wh/L, with a specific
energy of 8 Wh/kg. The power density of the used LiC at maximum continuous discharge current is 14.7 kW/L, where its specific power is 9 kW/kg. The nominal capacity of the employed LiC at constant current discharge rate of 10 A is 1 Ah. The maximum current rate that can be applied to the cells is 500 A continuous with a 1100 A pulse current.

Table 1. Specifications of the target cells used in the test bench.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specification</th>
<th>Value/Unit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of cells</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacitance</td>
<td>2300 F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Min. cut-off voltage</td>
<td>2.2 V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max. cut-off voltage</td>
<td>3.8 V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight</td>
<td>350 g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Width</td>
<td>150 mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height</td>
<td>93 mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thickness</td>
<td>15.5 mm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Half of the LiCs were used for characterization and for the SOC and temperature analysis regarding the electrical parameters, while the other cells were employed for validation purposes. The nominal capacitance of the LiC is 2300 F. The LiC cells were charged and discharged continuously with high current rates over time to achieve the lowered capacities. The experimental test bench is shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1. The experimental test bench: (a) computer connected to the PEC battery tester, (b) the LiC cell with connected current and voltage cables, (c) PEC battery tester with current and voltage cables connected to the LiC cells, (d) CTS climate chamber to control the ambient temperature for the tests. The temperatures used for the experiments range from −30 °C to +60 °C.

The PEC battery cycler was employed for applying the voltage and current rates. A CTS climate chamber was used to control the environment temperature and to set various temperatures for the experiments. The voltage and current cables were connected to the
LiCs in the climate chamber. Before each test, the temperature of the climate chamber was set, and the LiCs rested in that temperature for half an hour to perfectly match the internal temperature of the LiCs with the ambient temperature. A computer with software to control the PEC battery tester was used to collect the current and voltage data. The tests were defined for high-power applications that are expected to generate excess heat from cells [63].

The characterization of the LiCs included the preconditioning test, the captest, the OCV test (open circuit voltage), the HPPC test (hybrid pulse power characterization), and verification [59]. The algorithm used to implement the proposed equivalent circuit is illustrated in Figure 2. The preconditioning of LiCs included constant current constant voltage (CCCV) charging of the cells under 10 C (capacitance) and constant current discharging of cells under 10 C. The CCCV charging and CC discharging in this step was applied in ten cycles followed by 600 s of rest. The captest was used to check the capacity of cells subjected to a CCCV charging and CC discharging with 1 C followed by an 1800 s rest. The OCV test included CCCV charging with 1 C followed by a 3600 s rest. Then, the cells were discharged by 5% SOC to obtain the minimum cut-off voltage. Each discharge was followed by a 3600 s rest, and then, the cells were recharged by 5% CC until they were fully charged.

![Figure 2](image-url)

**Figure 2.** The algorithm used to implement the proposed equivalent circuit.

The HPPC test was performed at various levels of SOC. HPPC means hybrid pulse power characterization, in which the cells are charged under 1C with CCCV followed by a 3600 s rest. After the cells were fully charged, discharging with 5% under 1C followed by a 3600 s rest was applied. A set of 10 A to 500 A charge and discharge pulses were applied until the cells reached the cut-off voltage. The ohmic resistance and polarization resistance can also be calculated by the HPPC. In addition, the power capability considering the battery voltage in charge and discharge was measured by the HPPC by applying 10 s pulses of charge and discharge at different SOC values. These pulses should be applied during the time that SOC is constant. The battery should rest for 1 h, and then should be
fully charged to start the HPPC. Then, the battery should be discharged to the next SOC value, prior to the next profile start. Nevertheless, the 10 s pulses cannot be applied to the LiC cells due to the drastic change in the SOC value because of the limited storage capacity and high currents. In this regard, each pulse should change the SOC value by a maximum of 0.5%. Therefore, 10 s pulses have been replaced by 2 s pulses to keep the SOC change below the 5% limit. The pulse duration should be decreased appropriately for the higher applied current rates. A dynamic driving cycle was selected to verify the robustness of the developed second-order semi-empirical ECM, as is shown in Figure 3. The tested temperature ranges were between the freezing temperature of $-30\,^\circ\text{C}$ to $+60\,^\circ\text{C}$, which is unique.

\begin{figure}[h]
\centering
\includegraphics[width=\textwidth]{figure3.png}
\caption{(Left) Dynamic current profile applied to the LiC cells during 10,000 s from $-250\,\text{A}$ to $+250\,\text{A}$ current rate, (right) zoomed frame of the applied dynamic current from 4000 s to 5000 s that shows the dynamic behavior of the applied current rate.}
\end{figure}

3. Equivalent Circuit Model (ECM) Development and Trend Analysis

3.1. The Second-Order Equivalent Circuit Model (ECM)

The second-order ECM is a semi empirical model that is shown in Figure 4. The model has two RC branches due to its asymmetric structure. By applying a high current to the model, the output should be the cell’s voltage as a response. An ideal voltage source can represent the OCV, that corresponds to the LiC SOC. $R_0$ accounts for the ohmic resistance of the cell. The first parallel RC branch ($R_1$ and $C_1$) and the second RC branch ($R_2$ and $C_2$) show the transient behavior of the LiC. The terminal voltage ($V_i$) is calculated as in [64]:

$$V_i = OCV(\text{SoC}, T) - I_L R_0(\text{SoC}, T, I_L) - V_{CP1}(\text{SoC}, T, I_L) - V_{CP2}(\text{SoC}, T, I_L)$$  \hspace{1cm} (1)

$$\frac{dV_{CP1}}{dt} = -\frac{1}{R_{Pi} C_{Pi}} V_{CP1} + \frac{1}{C_{Pi}} I_L$$  \hspace{1cm} (2)

$$\tau_i = R_{Pi} C_{Pi}$$  \hspace{1cm} (3)

where $I_L$ represents the cell current, $C_P$ denotes the polarization capacitance, $R_P$ is the polarization resistance, and $\tau_i$ is the model’s time constant. Indices 1 and 2 indicate the first and second RC branches. $V_{CP1}$ and $V_{CP2}$ are the voltage in the first and second polarization capacitance branches, respectively.

The ECM consists of two look-up tables (LUTs) for OCV (one for charge and one for discharge), two LUTs for the charge/discharge ohmic resistance, two LUTs for the first parametrization resistance (charge/discharge), two LUTs for the second parametrization resistance (charge/discharge), two LUTs for the first time constant (charge/discharge), and two LUTs for the second time constant (charge/discharge). Moreover, one LUT for the
charge capacity and one LUT for the discharge capacity have been employed for the SOC calculation. These LUTs are responsible for storing the identified parameters.

Figure 4. Schematic of the second-order semi-empirical equivalent circuit model.

3.2. The LiC Cell Characterization Results and Trend Analysis

The relation between OCV and SOC can be achieved by slowly charging and discharging LiCs and measuring the voltage during the charge and discharge process [65]. The OCV–SOC curve shown in Figure 5 is at the beginning of the LiC’s life. However, this curve should not be changed that much when the cells are aged. The experiment was carried out at various temperature ranging from −30 °C to +60 °C, and the LUTs were built.

Figure 5. The experimental curve for the OCV–SOC of the LiC cell.

The electrical parameters of the developed model, such as ohmic and polarization resistances and polarization capacitance are functions of temperature and SOC. Developing the second-order model can estimate these parameters. In the MATLAB model, we first tested the cells. The inputs were set, such as the initial state of charge, initial temperature, initial capacity, initial internal resistance, and initial number of cycles. This way, we can calculate the electrical parameters for ohmic resistance, polarization resistance, and time constant as a function of SOC, current rate, and temperature. Then, these values were used in the LUTs to make the developed model. These initial parameters and the LUTs were responsible for calculating the voltage and the heat generation of the cell based on the equations. That is why we call it a semi-empirical model.
Table 2 shows the ECM’s estimated electrical parameters at 25 °C. It is worth mentioning that all these parameters have been generated for the other temperatures such as −10 °C, 0 °C, 10 °C, 40 °C, 50 °C, and 60 °C. The table includes the applied current of 10 A, 20 A, 50 A, 70 A, 100 A, 150 A, 200 A, 300 A, 400 A, and 500 A. Three SOC values have been considered in the table, including 25% SOC, 50% SOC, and 100% SOC to compare how the electrical parameters differ at different SOC values. $R_{o\text{-dis}}$ denotes the ohmic resistance, $R_{p1\text{-dis}}$ denotes the polarization resistance for the first RC branch, $R_{p2\text{-dis}}$ denotes the polarization resistance for the second RC branch, $\tau_1$ (s) denotes the time constant for the first RC branch, and $\tau_2$ (s) denotes the time constant for the second RC branch. The time constant can be calculated by Equation (3).

![Table 2. The ECM’s estimated electrical parameters at 25 °C.](image)

The electrical parameters that were estimated were used in the LUTs inside the model to mimic the voltage behavior of the LiC cell. Then, the simulated voltage was verified against the experimentally measured voltage to check the accuracy of the developed second-order ECM. The evaluation was based on 0% SOC to 100%, with a step of 5%, which means we evaluated 21 SOC values: 0%, 5%, 10%, 15%, 20%, 25%, 30%, 35%, 40%, 45%, 50%, 55%, 60%, 65%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, and 100%. In Table 2, we only listed three values among the tested SOC values (25%, 50%, 100%).

Figure 6 demonstrates that decreasing the temperature increased the ohmic resistance ($R_{o\text{-dis}}$ (Ω)) sharply, regardless of the health status of the cell. Moreover, when the LiC ages, the ohmic resistance increased. When the ohmic resistance is increased by 200%, the cell is called a dead cell (end-of-life degradation). This behavior is even sharper when
the operating temperature is too cold, meaning that the ohmic resistance increased faster. Additionally, the behavior of ohmic resistance at different SOC values is seen in the figure.

Figure 6. The behavior of ohmic resistance at different SOC and current rates: (a) −10 °C, (b) 0 °C, (c) 10 °C, (d) 25 °C, (e) 40 °C, (f) 50 °C, (g) 60 °C.
Figure 6a shows the ohmic resistance change in various SOCs and currents at $-10^\circ$C. Figure 6b shows the ohmic resistance change in various SOCs and currents at $0^\circ$C. Figure 6c shows the ohmic resistance change in various SOCs and currents at $10^\circ$C. Figure 6d shows the ohmic resistance change in various SOCs and currents at $25^\circ$C. Figure 6e shows the ohmic resistance change in various SOCs and currents at $40^\circ$C. Figure 6f shows the ohmic resistance change in various SOCs and currents at $50^\circ$C. Figure 6g shows the ohmic resistance change in various SOCs and currents at $60^\circ$C.

This trend is the same for the polarization resistances for both RC branches, meaning they increase by decreasing the temperature. However, polarization resistance changed sharply with SOC variation. However, the polarization capacitances for both RC branches rose with temperature. All in all, the electrical parameters of ohmic resistance, polarization capacitance, and polarization resistance changed significantly at different current rates, temperatures, and SOC values. Therefore, it can be concluded that these electrical parameters are functions of the current rate, temperature, and SOC.

The sensitivity analysis is of high importance for each experimental test. Therefore, by using the error of data measurement and accuracy of each facility that was used in the experimental test bench, the uncertainty analysis was performed. The method of Cole has been employed in this context for our test bench. Therefore, the uncertainty error is calculated as follows [66]:

$$U_R = \left[ \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left( \frac{\partial R}{\partial V_i} U_{VI} \right)^2 \right]^{1/2} \tag{4}$$

In this equation, each factor’s error is denoted by $U_{VI}$. In addition, the total number of errors is shown by $U_R$. After calculation of the error regarding Table 3, the maximum uncertainty of the experimental tests can be calculated as 1.17%.

Table 3. Specifications of each channel of the battery testers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Precision</th>
<th>Resolution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current</td>
<td>0–50 (A)</td>
<td>±0.03%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voltage</td>
<td>0–5 (V)</td>
<td>±0.03%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temperature</td>
<td>−40–200 ($^\circ$C)</td>
<td>±0.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This work uses a semi-empirical ECM to represent the relation between various electrical parameters as functions of the current rate, temperature, and SOC. The range of SOC employed in this work was from 10% to 100%, meaning that the depth of discharge is 90%. Such a SOC range is quite normal for real driving cycles and applications. Within this SOC range, the results proved that the relation between ohmic resistance, polarization resistance, and polarization capacitance with the current rate, temperature, and SOC is somehow monotonic functions. This trend proves the claim that the developed model is second order, and the RC branches increase the detail and precision of the proposed ECM. Thus, the suitability for real applications like battery management system can be enhanced.

The electrical parameters of the second-order ECM at 25 $^\circ$C can be seen in Figure 7. Figure 7a shows the polarization resistance for the first RC branch, and Figure 7b depicts the polarization resistance for the second RC branch. Additionally, Figure 7c illustrates the time constant for the first RC branch, and Figure 7d demonstrates the time constant for the second RC branch. A comparison can be made for these electrical parameters with Figure 6, where the ohmic resistance has been illustrated.
Figure 7. The electrical parameters of the second-order ECM at 25 °C: (a) the polarization resistance for the first RC branch, (b) the polarization resistance for the second RC branch, (c) the time constant for the first RC branch, (d) the time constant for the second RC branch.

4. Validation of the Second-Order ECM

Figure 8 depicts the results of the developed second-order ECM regarding the voltage validation. Figure 8a gives information about the experimental and simulation analysis curves for voltage in 10,000 s in the high dynamic driving cycle. Figure 8b shows the error of analysis for the measured voltage vs. simulated voltage during 10,000 s. The error was calculated based on the experimental and simulation voltage error. In this context, the voltage from the beginning to the end of the experiment was measured.

On the other hand, the model calculated the simulated ECM’s voltage from the beginning to the end of the simulation time. The error was measured in each time step by subtracting the simulation and experimental voltage values. Therefore, the curve in Figure 8b is the voltage error for each step time.

As is evident, the developed model can mimic the behavior of voltage in the real world, showing the model’s performance and precision in such a high dynamic driving cycle. In addition, where the current rate was less than 150 A, the error of ECM was lower than 3%, which is perfect. However, when the demanded power was high, in current rates above 150 A, the simulation error was lower than 5%. This trend proves that using a second-order semi-empirical model led to the development of a high-precision model for hybrid LiC cells. Such a model can also be linked to the thermal model to generate the system’s heat loss, which is vital for heat transfer modeling and computational fluid dynamics analysis [67]. It is worth mentioning that these 3% and 5% calculated errors are the maximum percentage that has been calculated, not an average. Therefore, the maximum error of voltage that can be achieved by comparing the simulation and experimental results was 5% for the highest
or current rate. Moreover, the maximum error of voltage that can be achieved by comparing the simulation and experimental results for the current rates below 150 A was 3%.

![Figure 8. Validation of the second-order ECM: (a) verification of the simulation and experimental results of voltage, (b) error of validation.](image)

5. Conclusions

In this work, an enhanced ECM was developed for high-power lithium-ion capacitors (LiC) for a wide range of temperatures from the freezing temperature of \(-30^\circ C\) to the hot temperature of \(+60^\circ C\), under high current rates from 10 A to 500 A, which is unique. In this context, experimental tests were carried out to mimic the behavior of the LiC by modeling a semi-empirical second-order ECM. The precision of the ECM could be increased by adding the order, but the complexity would also be increased, resulting in higher computational costs. Since the structure of the LiC cell is asymmetric, two resistance and capacitance (RC) branches were required to maintain the accuracy of the model. The following remarks can be highlighted:

- The electrical parameters were generated at other temperatures such as \(-10^\circ C\), \(0^\circ C\), \(10^\circ C\), \(40^\circ C\), \(50^\circ C\), and \(60^\circ C\). The table includes the applied current of 10 A, 20 A, 50 A, 70 A, 100 A, 150 A, 200 A, 300 A, 400 A, and 500 A.
- The SOC range was from 0% to 100%, but in this paper, three SOC values have been listed in the table, including 25% SOC, 50% SOC, and 100% SOC, to compare how the electrical parameters differ at different SOC values.
- The results proved that decreasing the temperature increases the ohmic resistance sharply, regardless of the health status of the cell. Moreover, when the LiC was aged,
the ohmic resistance was increased. When the ohmic resistance was increased by 200%,
the cell is called a dead cell (end-of-life degradation).

- This behavior was even sharper when the operating temperature was too cold, meaning
that the ohmic resistance increased faster. This trend was the same for the polarization
resistances for both RC branches, which was increased by decreasing the temperature.
However, polarization resistance was changed sharply with SOC variation.

- The validation results exhibit that, where the current rate was less than 150 A, the error
of the developed ECM was lower than 3%. When the demanded power was high, in
current rates above 150 A, the error of the developed model was lower than 5%.

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