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Maxime Montaru, Serge Pelissier. Frequency and Temporal Identification of a Li-ion Polymer Battery Model Using Fractional Impedance. Les Rencontres Scientifiques de l'IFP - Advances in Hybrid Powertrains, Nov 2008, Rueil, France. pp.1-10. hal-00426939

HAL Id: hal-00426939

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Submitted on 28 Oct 2009

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Frequency and Temporal Identification of a Li-ion Polymer Battery Model Using Fractional Impedance

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Abstract — Frequency and Temporal Identification of a Li-Polymer Battery Model Using Fractional Impedance — *The modelling of high power Lithium batteries may work as a powerful tool in the sizing of batteries pack in hybrid vehicles. Moreover, this tool can be used to evaluate accurately the battery characteristics at each level of its lifetime. Until now, the model structure differs according to its end-use due to simulation limitation. Indeed, impedance measurements obtained by electrochemical impedance spectroscopy needs non-integer order impedance in order to correctly model diffusive phenomenon. However, this impedance cannot be simulated easily in software dedicated to hybrid vehicles and needs approximations. Furthermore, impedance measurements are realised with low currents comparing to currents that are forecast in normal uses of high power batteries and can induce errors if the impedance is varying with the current. This paper deals with non linear dynamic models that use band-limited frequency impedance with non-integer order. The parameters are identified partly by impedance measurements for high frequencies and partly by chronopotentiometry measurements for low frequencies. Validation tests are made with staircase of high intensity and current profile simulated on a hybrid vehicle software. The hypothesis of non-linearity is verified.*

Index Terms: *Lithium-ion Polymer, modelling, diffusive impedance, identification, spectroscopy impedance, chronopotentiometry, non linear model.*

INTRODUCTION

The battery is one of the essential parts in a Hybrid Electric Vehicle (HEV) and probably the most critical one with respect to reliability and life expectation. It is a primordial element in the concept of hybridation because it enables to reversibly store energy. The energy stored is picked up during deceleration of the vehicle and used for starting the thermal engine and giving a boost during acceleration. The battery can be used in a sustaining mode, i.e. in a small window of State Of Charge (SOC), or in a depleting mode, i.e. in a large window of SOC. The second case enables a succession of high power discharges which permits the vehicle to reduce much more its consumption or even to stop completely the thermal engine. The power supplied and received by the battery is variable and could be very important depending notably on the sizing of the pack of batteries and its management. In order to optimize its sizing and to maintain a correct lifetime, the knowledge of the model of the electric storage components and their dynamic response is necessary.

The modelling of batteries is not an easy task. The reasons are [1]: (i) batteries are not stationary due to the SOC variation and diffusion phenomenon, (ii) they are systems highly non-linear regarding to the current, temperature, etc... Two families of identification of the model parameters, temporal and frequency, are currently used but not necessarily for the same purpose.

In one hand, it is possible to use the temporal chronopotentiometry. This technique consists of applying a pulse of current and measuring the voltage of the elements. It's the method used by the Partnership of the New Generation of Vehicle [2] who names it High Power Pulse Characterization. The aim is to evaluate the resistance of batteries after a certain time of applied current. It can also be used to identify much more complex model as it was proposed in the study with ADVISOR models [3]. It's also possible to use profile of current to model dynamic behaviour. This profile can be a pseudo random binary sequence [4] or simply represent a profile of current which could be measured on a HEV [5]. In the other hand, a well-known technique for impedance characterization is impedance spectroscopy [6]. This technique can be used to identify relationship between material properties and battery performance if just one interface is studied [7, 8]. It is risky to do the same with a complete cell because it's not possible to dissociate the effect of the cathode from the one of the anode. However, it is possible to associate the impedance measured by spectroscopy to the state of charge, or even state of health ([9, 10]). Moreover, the impedance of a battery cell has been identified with this technique [11]. Currently, in electrochemical studies, the voltage oscillation is imposed around the Open Circuit Voltage (OCV) but in case of commercial cell, it is possible to impose current oscillation and to control state of charge during the operations. The measurement of impedance can be

done with or without current polarization. When the spectrometer can supply sufficient continuous current, it is possible to highlight non linearity of the battery impedance with the current level [1, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14]. Another frequency method to identify battery impedance consists of using Laplace transform of temporal solicitations [15, 16].

The advantage of chrono-potentiometry is to allow discharge and charge of high current level as in normal use. However, the acquisition frequency may be limited by the equipment and prevents from identifying correctly the impedance at high frequencies. On the contrary, impedance spectroscopy gives a precise impedance measurement in a wide band of frequencies but only for low current values. In order to conjugate the advantage of each technique, the method used in this study consists of a partial identification of the model by spectroscopy impedance and the rest by chronopotentiometry. It enables a gain of time due to the less time spent in impedance spectroscopy at low frequencies and a more complete model with the non-linearity of impedance with current. Furthermore the equipment is standard unlike some other works [13, 14].

1 IMPEDANCE-BASED BATTERY MODEL

1.1 Full model for identification

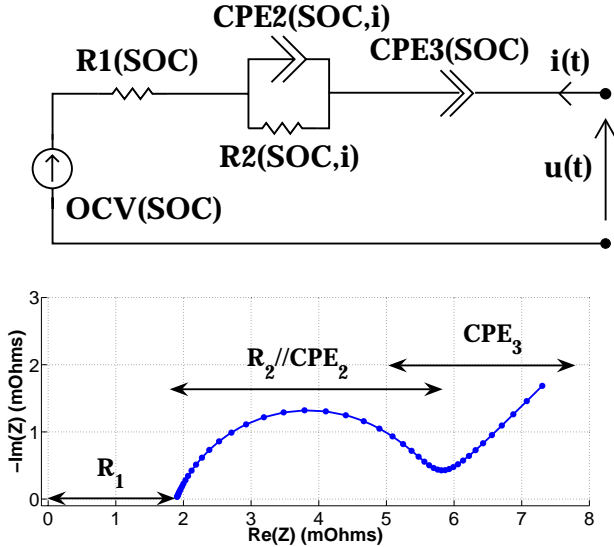


Figure 1. Simplified electric circuit model and its representation in Nyquist plan

The model used in this study is an equivalent electric circuit with lumped parameters. In such a model, parameters could be tabulated according to SOC, current, temperature, etc... [13, 17]. A representation of our model depending on SOC and current is given in Figure 1. It consists of an open circuit voltage OCV in series with a complex impedance. The tabulation of the OCV according to SOC could be a very difficult task if hysteresis phenomenon occurs as observed with NiMH

batteries [13], but it is not the case in our study since hysteresis is very small in this type of Li-ion battery. The complex impedance is composed of 3 elements in series: a resistance R_1 for modelling the ohmic behaviour, a resistance R_2 in parallel with a Constant Phase Element CPE_2 for modelling the charge transfer and double layer processes and another Constant Phase Element CPE_3 associated to the diffusion behaviour. This impedance model is adapted to fit well with impedance spectrum (cf. Figure 1). In many studies, the diffusive impedance is represented by a Warburg impedance which expression, in frequency domain, is $Z(j\omega) = \frac{1}{Q\sqrt{j\omega}} \tanh(\sqrt{j\tau\omega})$ [14,17]. However, in

our model, we used a simplified expression of the Warburg impedance obtained with a constant phase element CPE_3 . The difference between these two expressions occurs at very low frequencies not reached in this study.

1.2 Modelling the Constant Phase Element CPE_3

A CPE consists of non integer order impedance which is expressed in the frequency domain as:

$$CPE(j\omega) = \frac{1}{Q.(j\omega)^\alpha} \quad (1)$$

With ω the pulsation in rad.s^{-1} , α a real number comprised between 0 and 1 and Q a constant expressed in $F.s^{\alpha-1}$. In the case of $\alpha = 1$, CPE is equivalent to a capacitance. In the case of $\alpha = 0$, CPE is equivalent to a resistance. A CPE is represented as a straight line in Nyquist plan (Fig. 1) and in Bode diagram (Fig. 2). Simulation in temporal mode necessitates finding an equivalent circuit of CPE. Several authors proposed to use a mathematical series of R//C circuits as an equivalent of the diffusive Warburg impedance [14,17]. Based on the same principle, a CPE could be approximated by a fractional impedance in a limited frequency band [4,18]. It consists of several R//C circuits which frequency characteristics are judiciously chosen in order to approximate a straight line only in a limited frequency band $[\omega_{\min}, \omega_{\max}]$ as shown in Figure 2. In this work, we used five R//C as a good compromise between accuracy and duration of computation. The expression of the impedance is given by:

$$Z(j\omega) = \frac{\gamma}{1 + \frac{j\omega}{\omega_1}} \cdot \frac{1 + \frac{j\omega}{\omega'_1}}{1 + \frac{j\omega}{\omega_2}} \cdot \dots \cdot \frac{1 + \frac{j\omega}{\omega'_4}}{1 + \frac{j\omega}{\omega_5}} \quad (2)$$

The pulsations ω_i and ω'_i of each R//C circuits are depending on the others by these relations:

$$\log \beta_1 = \log \omega_{i+1} - \log \omega_i \quad (3)$$

$$\log \beta_2 = \log \omega_{i+1} - \log \omega'_i \quad (4)$$

The slope of the approximated impedance in Bode diagram is given by:

$$p = 1 - \frac{\log \beta_1}{\log \beta_2} \quad (5)$$

Then, as one can see on a Bode diagram (Fig.2), the gain of the approached line is fixed by γ when the pulsation tends to zero, i.e. $Z(\omega \rightarrow 0) = \gamma$.

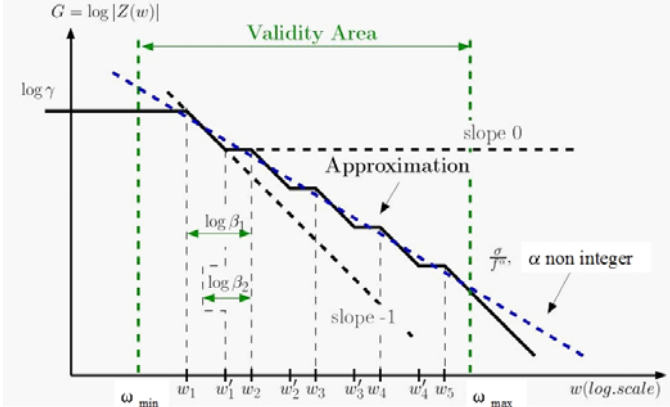


Figure 2. Bode diagram of the approximation of the diffusive impedance by 5 circuits R/C.

In summary, a CPE which is defined by Q and α is approximated in the frequency band $[\omega_{\min}, \omega_{\max}]$ by an impedance defined by four parameters $(\omega_1, \omega_5, \gamma, p)$.

1.3 Modelling $R_2//CPE_2$

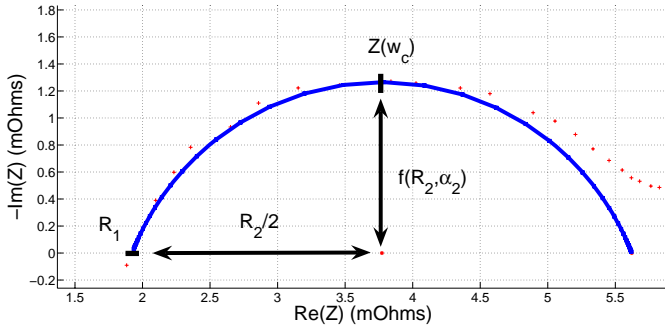


Figure 3. Representation of Z_2 in the Nyquist plan.

The impedance of the circuit $R_2//CPE_2$, also named ZARC [6], is expressed by:

$$Z_2(j\omega) = \frac{R_2}{1 + \tau_2(j\omega)^{\alpha_2}} \quad \text{with } \tau_2 = R_2 Q_2 \quad (6)$$

It is possible to extract the value of these parameters from an impedance spectrum (cf. Figure 3). Firstly, the intersection of the impedance spectrum with the abscissa line enables to detect R_1 . Secondly, the spot at top of the semi-circle is characterized by its real part, its imaginary part and its pulsation $\omega_{c,2}$. Their values can be obtained by measurement. The real part is equal to

$R_1 + 0.5.R_2$ and enables to evaluate R_2 . The characteristic pulsation $\omega_{c,2}$ is linked to the other parameters [6]:

$$\omega_{c,2} = \frac{1}{\tau_2^{1/\alpha_2}} \quad (7)$$

α_2 is obtained from the following expression of the imaginary part of the top of the semi-circle deduced from eq.6 and eq.7:

$$\Im_m(Z_2(\omega_{c,2})) = R_2 \frac{\sin\left(\alpha_2 \cdot \frac{\pi}{2}\right)}{2\left(1 + \cos\left(\alpha_2 \cdot \frac{\pi}{2}\right)\right)} \quad (8)$$

Then, the parameter τ_2 , and consequently Q_2 , is deduced from the eq.(6) of the pulsation of the top of the semi-circle.

1.4 Non-linearity of R_2

The phenomenon of non-linearity is taken into account for the resistance R_2 . The formalism of Butler-Volmer is considered for this purpose [13]:

$$i = \frac{A}{2}(e^{aB\eta} - e^{-(1-a)B\eta}) \quad \text{with } \eta = u - \text{OCV}. \quad (9)$$

A hypothesis of symmetry is made concerning the non-linearity between the charge and the discharge ($a = 0.5$). So,

$$i = A \sinh(B\eta) \quad (10)$$

It is possible to deduce an expression of the equivalent resistance:

$$\frac{1}{R_2} = \frac{di}{d\eta} = AB \cosh(B\eta) \quad (11)$$

Then, an expression of $R_2(i)$ can be derived:

$$R_2(i) = \frac{1}{AB \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{i}{A}\right)^2}} + C \quad (12)$$

For the need of fitting, it appears that it is necessary to add a constant C to R_2 . The representation of this function is given at Figure 4.

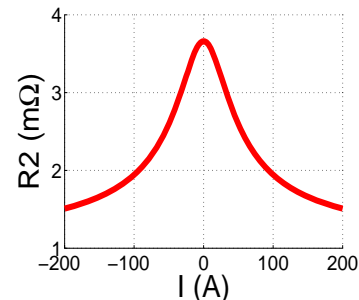


Figure 4. Representation of the fitting function of R_2 .

1.5 Simplified model

It appears when identifications of these parameters are made that τ_2 is comprised between 20 and 30 ms. Considering that this time constant is very small compared to acquisition period of the solicitation profile (100 ms), the model Z_2 can be simplified. A pure resistance R_2 replaces the $R_2//CPE_2$ which results on a simplified model (cf. Figure 5) to be used for simulation.

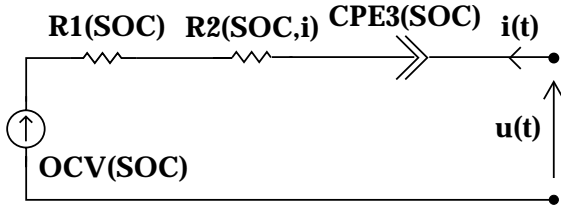


Figure 5. Simplified model of Li-ion battery used in temporal simulation

To conclude, at each SOC, the battery model used in temporal simulation is defined by:

- the OCV,
- the resistance R_1 ,
- the parameters of the non linear model of R_2 : A, B,C,
- the parameters of the diffusive impedance CPE_3 : $\omega_1, \omega_5, \gamma, p$.

So, 9 parameters are needed to be identified in order to simulate correctly the model. Moreover, the evaluation of each of them could give great information on battery behaviour according to state of charge, temperature and state of health.

2 METHODS & EXPERIMENTAL SETUP

The experimental data of this study concern a Li-ion Polymer battery (KOKAM SLPB 702051300P - 12Ah) tested at 20°C.

2.1 Existing methods for identification of the model of battery

As previously said, the two main possibilities to obtain experimental data for identification of the model of a battery are impedance spectroscopy and chronopotentiometry.

- Impedance spectroscopy is based on the measurement of complex impedance of the battery at various frequencies $Z(f) = \Re_e(f) + i\Im_m(f)$. The advantage of this method is the full signature obtained for the battery. Difficulties exist to measure impedance at very low frequencies (below 1mHz) because of the duration of the operation, which could last several hours in this case, and the eventual consequently no-stability of the result. Another limitation of this method is the difficulty for measurement of impedance when a DC current is superposed on the AC measurement signal in

order to characterize the impedance of the battery during charge or discharge phases. With high values of current, the SOC of the battery could be largely modified during the measurements; in this case the impedance is not constant all along the test and compensation drift procedures must be applied [1, 19].

- Chronopotentiometry is based on the voltage response of the battery when a current profile is imposed. The impedance is obtained with the $u(t)/i(t)$ ratio. By using different levels of signals, it could be easy to determine the impedance of the battery for any value of charge or discharge currents. The main limitation of this method is the need for a high sampling rate if one wants to measure the impedance at high frequencies. In practice, two sorts of equipments can be used: either a battery tester with high power capabilities but usually with a limited synchronous sampling period (for example 100 ms) or an impedance analyser with high frequencies capability but usually with a limited current (for example 20A). A compromise must be found between frequency and power, with a large incidence on the price of the equipment.

2.2 Proposed method for identification of power batteries

We propose a two step identification process based on two frequency domains. The identification of R_1, R_2 and CPE_2 is performed at "high frequencies", in the 1kHz – 500mHz band, using an impedance analyser. The identification of the elements of the diffusive impedance is obtained by chronopotentiometry with low frequency pulses supplied by a battery test equipment.

- First step: characterization of R_1, R_2 and CPE_2 .

The aim is to measure the values of these elements for different values of the SOC of the battery and different values of the charging/discharging current. This current is imposed during a pulse of 20s. An impedance spectroscopy in the 1kHz – 500mHz band with 12 s duration, is performed 5 s after the beginning of the pulse. A charging pulse is followed by a discharging pulse to keep SOC constant. This couple of pulse is repeated with several levels of current (0, 6, 12 and 18 A). Measurements are made at different value of SOC (80, 60, 40 and 20 %). The duration of the pulse is shorter enough to consider no variation in the value of SOC (18 Ax20 s = 0.1 Ah is less than 1% of the capacity of the battery). The equipment used for this measurement is a VSP Biologic with a 20 A amplifier kit. An example of the Nyquist graph of impedance for one SOC value and one level of current is shown on the Figure 6. The values of R_1, R_2, Q_2 and α_2 are determined with the methods explained in the previous part. As shown on this figure, one needs to interpolate the point which intercepts the abscissa and the one which has the maximum imaginary part. The Figure 7 gives the spectroscopy results for different levels of

current. One can see that R_1 is constant and that R_2 decreases when the current increases. These experimental data are used

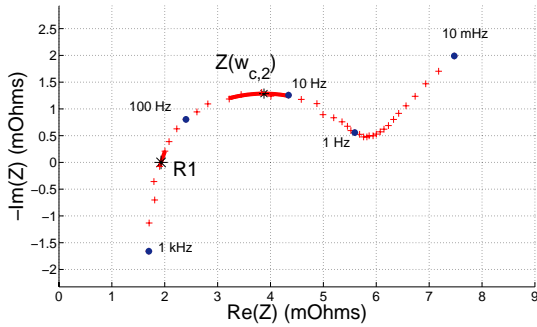


Figure 6. Techniques for identification of R_1 and R_2/CPE_2 .

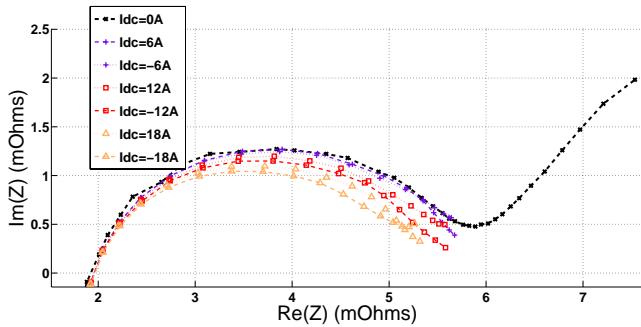


Figure 7. Impedance spectra measured on a Lithium battery for different polarization current levels at SOC=80%.

to identify the parameters of the theoretical relation $R_2(i)$ (cf. Eq. 12). As the maximum value of the experimental current is 18 A, it is necessary to obtain at least one data point for higher current in order to have better fitting. This could be achieved by a complementary measurement of chronopotentiometric response to a high intensity pulse. We used a battery tester composed of a DC source (Delta SM30200 30 V - 200 A)

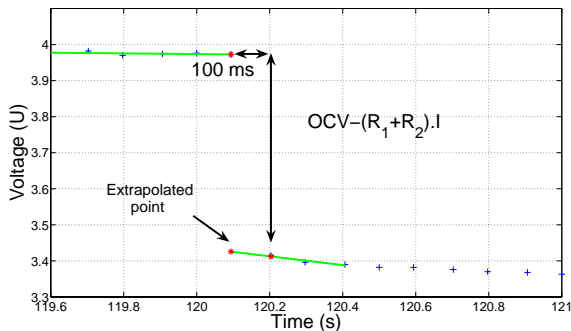


Figure 8. Measured voltage of a lithium battery on the battery tester during a discharge at 150 A for SOC of 80%.

associated with an electronic load (H&H ZS4206 – 60 V – 450 A) to generate short pulses with an amplitude between 50 A and 200 A in discharge and between 50 A and 100 A in charge. The charging pulse duration is 2 s. One must calculate the duration of the discharging pulse to balance the SOC. An example of the battery voltage

during pulse is given by the Figure 8. We propose to estimate the value of the resistance from the voltage drop. The sampling frequency (10 Hz) is not high enough to have numerous data points during the front voltage and a linear extrapolation must be done.

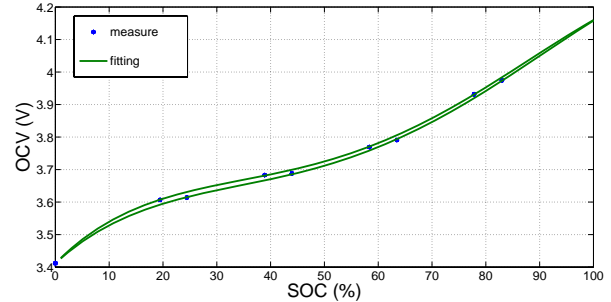


Figure 9. Measured open circuit voltage with verification of hysteresis

• Second step: characterization of the parameters of the CPE_3 by chronopotentiometry.

The aim is to measure the values of these parameters for different SOC and with pulse profile capable of giving information in the 1 Hz – 1 mHz band. We have chosen to use two 5 min – 1C charging and discharging pulses preceded and followed by a 1 hour rest. All these operations are made at different values of SOC (80, 60, 40 and 20 %). The equipment used for this measurement is the same battery tester previously cited. A preliminary test is necessary to determine the evolution of the OCV of the battery versus its SOC. The curve is given by Figure 9. A small hysteresis of 20 mV is observed. We decided to neglect this phenomenon in this work. An average value of this curve is used to compensate the variation of the OCV during a 5 min pulse. An example of the measured and compensated signals is shown on Figure 10. A Matlab-Simulink program optimizes the diffusive impedance parameters to fit the simulated response with the experimental data by minimising a least square criterion. In order to not limit the influence on the optimization of the long time response, the experimental data used for this optimization is selected at instants with a logarithmic distribution after each change in the current. The selected experimental data instants are also shown in Figure 10.

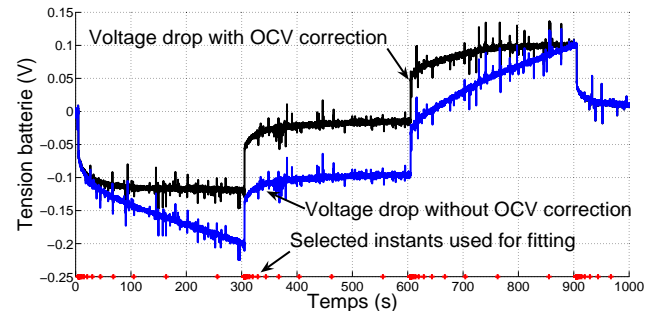


Figure 10. Voltage drop response measured on battery with and without OCV correction.

2.3 Validation of the model

In order to validate the model of the battery, the voltage response of the model to a "validation profile" is compared to the real response of the battery. This "validation profile" is composed of a suite of charging/discharging pulses defined from experimental measurement on a real hybrid vehicle adapted to the capabilities of the tested battery.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Identification of R_1 and $R_2//CPE_2$

As explained above, the resistance R_1 and the parameters of $R_2//CPE_2$ are determined from impedancemetry data for different SOC. The results are represented in Figure 11 where each parameter is represented for different levels of current. The values obtained at different SOC

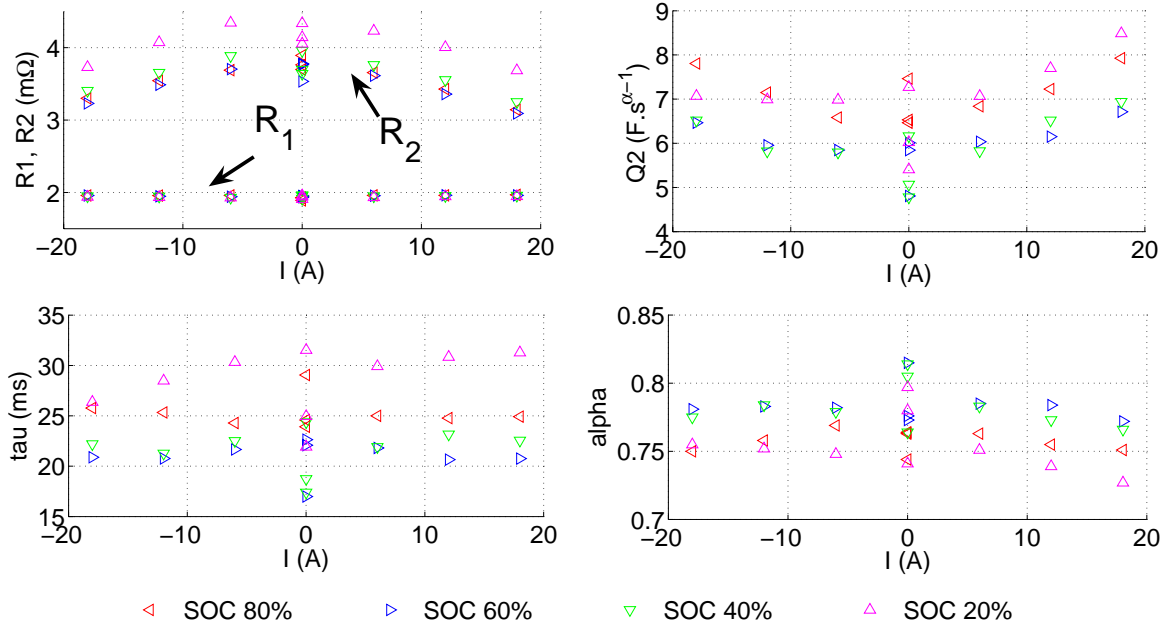


Figure 11. Values of R_1 , R_2 , Q_2 , CPE_2 , τ_2 and α_2 as function of the current level for different SOC.

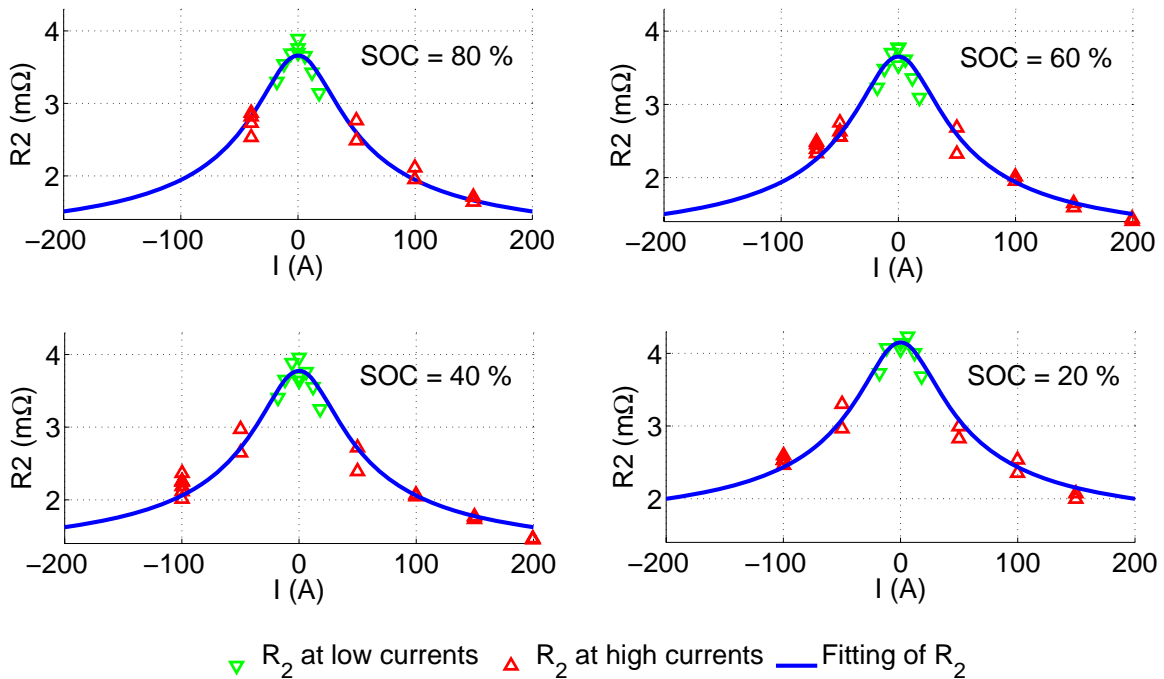


Figure 12. R_2 measured and fitted as function of the current level for different SOC.

are superposed on the same graph. We can see that R_1 is relatively constant and will be set to $1,95 \text{ m}\Omega$. Concerning the parameters of $R_2//CPE_2$, we can say that R_2 and Q_2 depend on the current level and SOC. R_2 tends to decrease when the current increases. As Q_2 tends to have opposite variation, the time constant τ_2 is expected to be rather constant, which is effectively observed. The limited variation of α_2 can be supposed of low impact on the value of the impedance. For these reasons, we will keep α_2 and τ_2 equal to a value which will depend only on SOC. The behaviour of R_2 as a function of the current level is modelling by eq.(12). The data obtained for different SOC can be fitted with the same parameter value of A and B. There is only C which depends on SOC. The fitting are represented with experimental data for different SOC in Figure 12.

The optimized values for the parameters are $A = 35.87 \text{ A}$, $B = 10.73 \text{ V}^{-1}$. Figure 13 shows the variation of C which precise values are: $C(80) = 1.05 \text{ m}\Omega$, $C(60) = 1.06 \text{ m}\Omega$, $C(40) = 1.18 \text{ m}\Omega$, $C(20) = 1.57 \text{ m}\Omega$.

The results obtained with impedance spectroscopy at low currents and the data obtained from the high current pulses are in a good agreement (Cf. Figure 12).

3.2 Identification of CPE_3

Now, the parameters of the diffusive impedance CPE_3 (ω_1 , ω_5 , γ and p) have to be evaluated from temporal data. In order to assure convergent results from optimization,

we fixed the values of ω_1 and ω_5 ($f_1 = \frac{\omega_1}{2\pi} = 1 \text{ mHz}$ and

$f_5 = \frac{\omega_5}{2\pi} = 5 \text{ Hz}$). Moreover, for this first study, we also

imposed the value p of the slope at 0.5. Consequently, only the value of γ is adjusted depending on the value of SOC. The values of γ and C obtained at different SOC are represented in Figure 13.

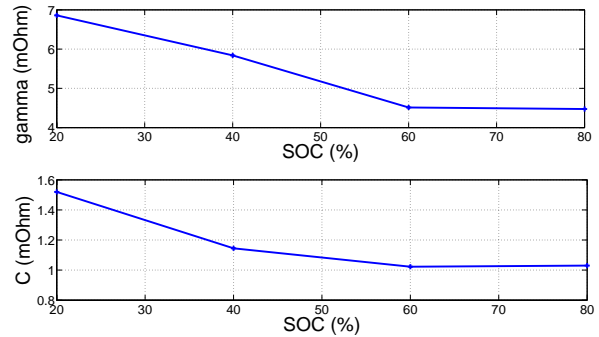


Figure 13. Variations of the values of C and γ as function of SOC

The result of the optimization can be seen on the voltage chronograms represented for the different SOC in Figure 14. The good agreement is attested by a relative error about +/- 1%. As the model is identified in two parts, it is essential to verify the coherence between the results. The Figure 15 shows the impedance spectra measured with the impedance analyser and the spectra of the diffusive impedance simulated after identification of CPE_3 .

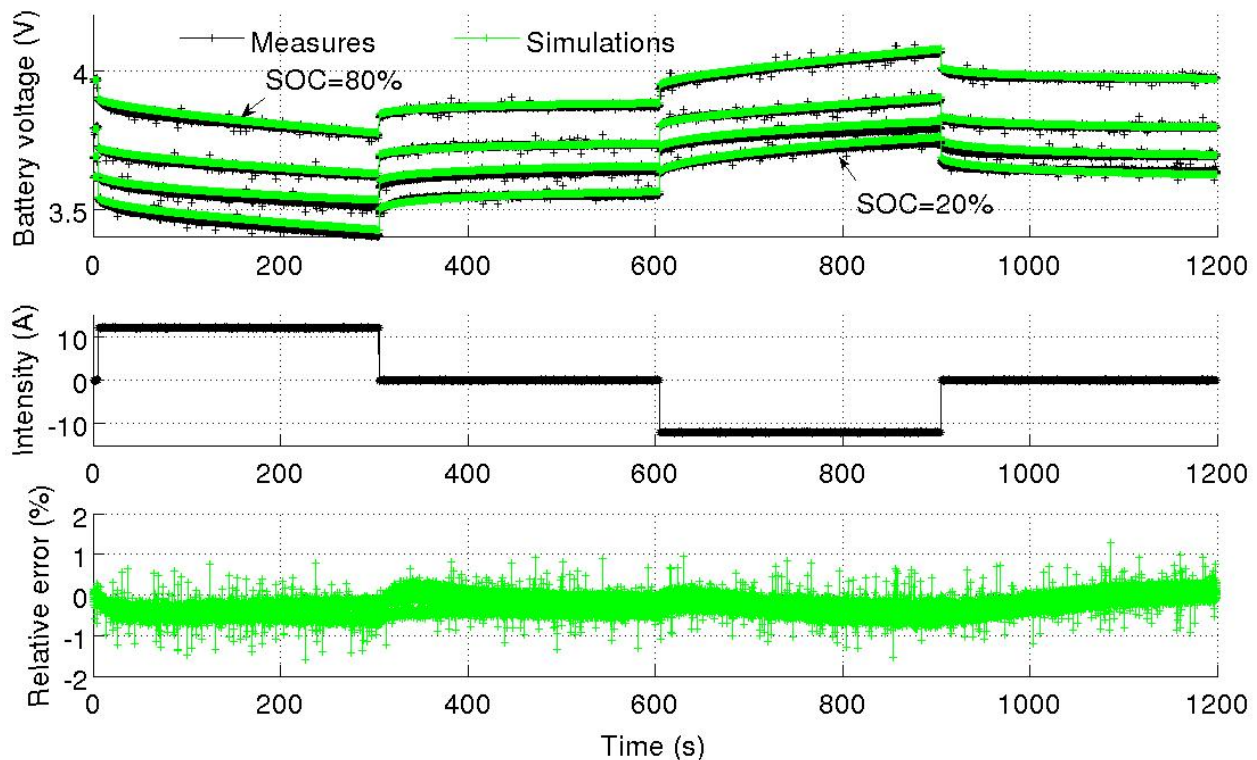


Figure 14. Simulated and measured voltages after the optimisation on the 5 min pulse at 1C for different SOC.

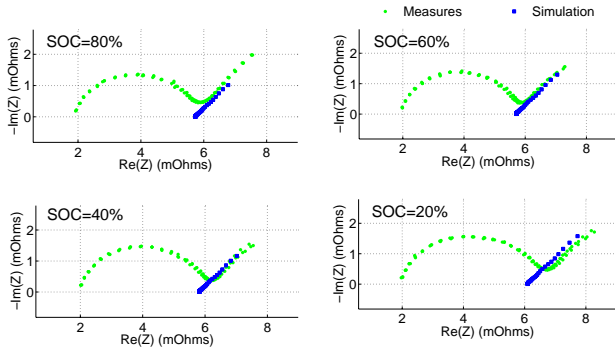


Figure 15. Simulated and measured impedance spectra after the optimisation on the 5 min pulse at 1C.

3.3 Validation on current profile

The validation is realised at SOC=40% with $\Delta SOC=0$. The measured and simulated voltages are represented in Figure 16. As in Figure 14, the quality of the result is attested by a relative error smaller than +/- 2%.

4 DISCUSSION

The main advantage of this work is the possibility of rapidly identifying a battery model which varies with the value of current. The use of impedance spectroscopy at "high frequencies" for different values of current is a good alternative to the chronopotentiometry on pulses. Indeed, the determination of resistance from voltage profiles could be disturbed, as it was already underlined, by the rate of data acquisition, but also by the difficulty to separate the "fast" voltage response of the $R_2//CPE_2$ from the "slow" one of the CPE_3 . Even with a very fast data acquisition system, the choice of the right value for the voltage used in the resistance calculus needs to have an idea of the time constant of the $R_2//CPE_2$. Otherwise, bad estimations are expected.

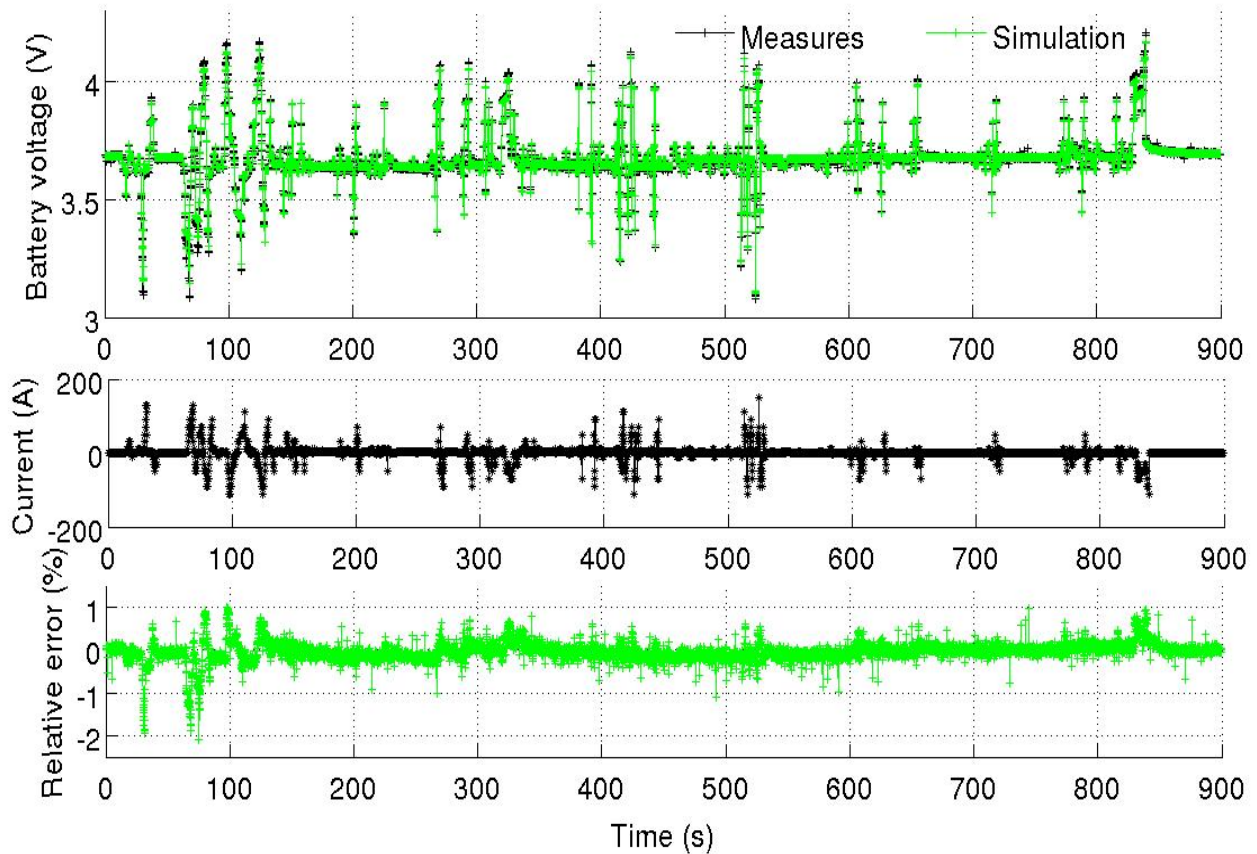


Figure 16. Validation of the battery model on a profile of current

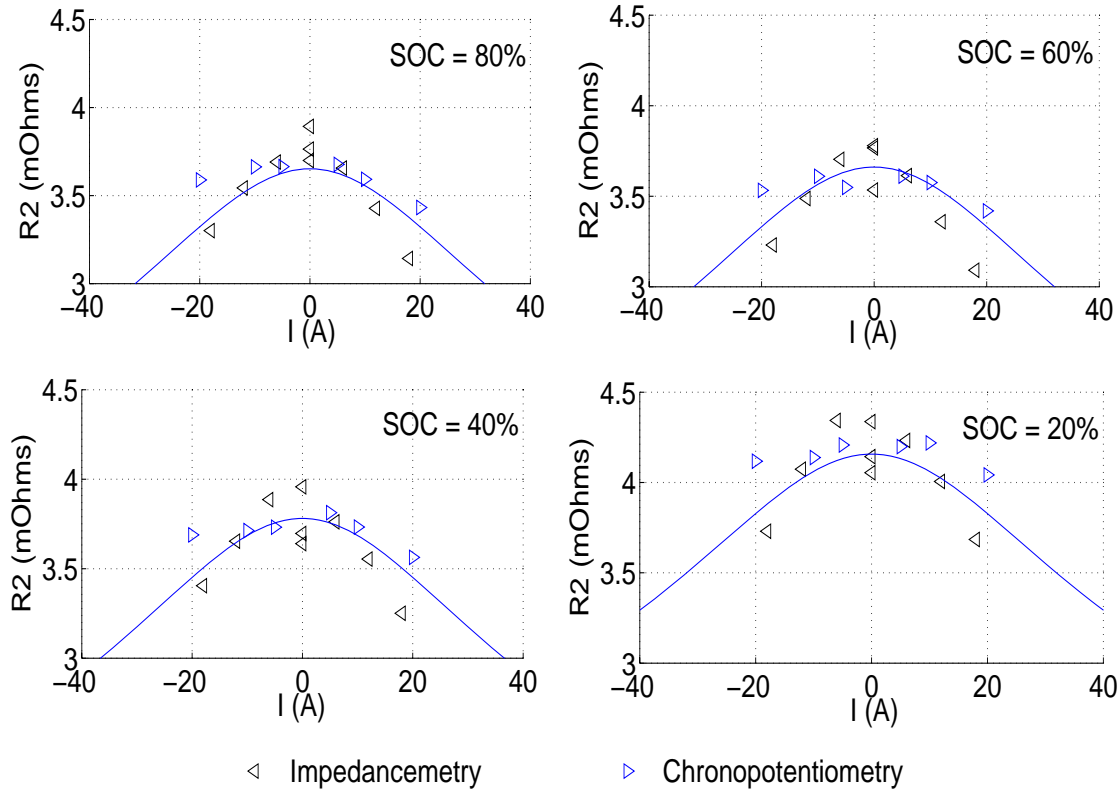


Figure 17. Superposition of R_2 measured by impedancemetry and R_2 measured by chronopotentiometry.

In this work, we had opportunity to check that the voltage measured on the front of a pulse after a time equals to $5 \cdot \tau_2$ gives values for the resistance in agreement with the values obtained by spectroscopy (Cf. Figure 17). By this way, the voltage variation caused by $R_2 // CPE_2$ is finished and the one caused by CPE_3 is minimum. In the present method only one or two measurements on high current pulses are required to complete the medium current measurements by spectroscopy. If one has a powerful analyser (with a 100 A amplifier for instance), the spectroscopic measurements could be sufficient to completely identify $R_2(i)$.

Some eventual improvements of the method must be studied. The present work does not take into account the experimental uncertainties in measurements and their influence on the final result. The hysteresis had been neglected. The results (Cf. Figure 9) show a 20 mV gap in OCV curve (for a voltage element of 3.7V) which is far less than hysteresis in NiMH battery for instance (about 60mV for a 1.3 V element). This result is deduced from measurements of the voltage at different values of SOC. Each measurement occurs after one hour of rest which is supposed to be long enough to reach thermodynamic equilibrium. New experiments with longer rest time will enable to verify if this apparent hysteresis is a real one. Furthermore, the influence of the temperature will be a part of a future work.

The good agreement between measured and simulated voltage in the Figure 16 tends to prove the validity of the method, but it would be a good idea to go deeper into the question of coherence between the spectrum measured and the one simulated (Cf. Figure 15). Are the differences due to inappropriate measurement conditions (low data acquisition rate during the pulse for example) or to physical reasons (like influence of the level of current on the diffusive impedance)?

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors want to thank ADEME (Agence pour le Développement et la maîtrise de l'Energie) which financed a PhD grant. Thanks are also due to JP DIARD from INPG (Institut National Polytechnique de Grenoble) and F BADIN from IFP (Institut Français du Pétrole) who gave some useful advice. We also want to thank J SCORDIA from LMS-Imagine for his help. Discussions with other partners of the program SIMSTOCK were helpful too.

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