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Nonlinearity handling in MPC for Power Congestion management in sub-transmission areas

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Abstract: This paper proposes congestion management solutions based on Model Predictive Control (MPC) principles for transmission network zones. The contribution resides in the use of logical variables for describing the nonlinearities related to the modelling of the physical aspects in power curtailment, or some desired control goals. This allows for the representation of the nonlinear model of a sub-transmission zone with a storage device in a linear Mixed Logical Dynamical (MLD) formulation, then paving the way to the utilisation of linear mixed integer programming for the optimization problem. Moreover, part of the contribution considers supplementary temporal specifications for the energy storage device utilisation. This is modelled using additional temporal and logical variables as part of the system state and control signal. Consequently, the extended model of the power network zone is formulated as a linear MLD system and integrated to the MPC design. The proposed controllers are validated through simulations on an industrial case-study.

1. INTRODUCTION

Due to the need to integrate renewable power, the power congestion management problem for electrical networks is increasing in complexity (Meyer et al. (2020)). Indeed, the raising presence of renewable power multiplies the situations where the power production exceeds the maximum allowed power on the transmission lines. If this excess is not admissible in design specifications, the lines with power congestion problems during the operation may be disconnected from the network, which possibly leads to a cascading lines opening or blackouts (Monforti-Ferrario and Blanco (2021)). One of the innovative approaches employed by Transmission System Operators (TSOs) to manage congestion and reduce their impact on the lines is related to the utilisation of energy storage devices and renewable power curtailment through model-based optimization. As a consequence, approaches based on Model Predictive Control (MPC) can be used to design congestion management algorithms (see Hoang et al. (2021)).

When considering renewable power curtailment, the resulting models are nonlinear. In Iovine et al. (2021), the authors propose a linear approximated model where the variation of the produced power is described as a disturbance pre-estimated based on forecasted available power without the curtailment action. Though the control design using this model efficiently works in a specific scenario as described in Hoang et al. (2021), the exact nonlinearity of the network zone is not taken into account in the MPC prediction mechanism, and is shown to affect the effectiveness of the proposed control system. In the present paper, we target to investigate the use of Mixed Logical Dynamical (MLD) formalism (see Bemporad and Morari (1999)) in order to handle nonlinearities and obtain a not too computational demanding Mixed Integer Linear Programming (MILP).

Moreover, we focus on the problem that the storage energy device is used for multiple tasks and by different users; therefore, a sharing agreement is required. In Straub et al. (2019), the bounds of the battery power and energy are scheduled for a day based on hourly forecasted grid states to avoid the congestion in the zone. In Perez et al. (2016), the sharing policy is formulated such that the economical benefit from batteries is maximized via predefined pricing rules for different services. However, in some situations when the TSO is not the battery owner or the congestion management is not prioritized, the battery availability duration is strictly limited, and thus, supplementary temporal specifications must be considered. For a self-consistent MPC design, additional temporal and logical variables are investigated in our work as part of the state and control signals that determine the battery power limitations. The adopted approach represents the extended system using the MLD formulation which results in a MILP for the MPC optimization problem. To investigate pros and cons

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of the possibility to consider a reduction of the number of binary variables, we avoid the formalism of Signal Temporal Logic (see Raman et al. (2014)), that usually implies the utilisation of tools which automatically generate the needed binary variables and are not customizable.

As contributions, we consider two modelling frameworks. In the first model, the nonlinear dynamics of the renewable power generator with partial curtailment are considered in a linear MLD formulation. In the second model, the nonlinear zone dynamics and supplementary temporal specifications of battery availability for the congestion management are represented using the linear MLD formalism. For the presented models, we propose and solve receding horizon optimal control problems based on MPC via MILP.

Notations: $\mathcal{Z}^N$ is the set of nodes in the considered zone. $\mathcal{Z}^C$ is the set of nodes where the curtailment of the generated power is allowed. $\mathcal{Z}^B$ is the set of nodes with a battery. $\mathcal{Z}^l$ is the set of power lines in the zone. $n^N$, $n^C$, $n^B$, $n^l$ are their cardinalities.

2. CONGESTION MANAGEMENT VIA MPC

2.1 Linear MLD modelling for zonal power networks

Let the state variables include the power flow $F_j(t)$ of line $j$, the curtailment of the renewable power $P_{C_n}^j(t)$ at node $n$, the battery power output $P_{B_m}^n(t)$ at node $m$, the battery energy $E_{B_m}^n(t)$ at node $m$, the available renewable power $P_{A_n}^j(t)$ at node $n$ and the produced power $P_{PM}^n(t)$ at node $n$. The control inputs are the power variations of $P_{C_n}^j(t)$ and $P_{PM}^n(t)$, i.e., $\Delta P_{C_n}^j(t)$ and $\Delta P_{B_m}^n$. The variation $\Delta P_{C_n}^j(t)$ of the available power represents a disturbance inside of the zone while $\Delta P_{B_m}$ describes the unknown power variation disturbance at node $l$ due to power flow outside of the zone. The nonlinear dynamical equations of the zone model are:

$$F_j(t+1) = F_j(t) + \sum_{n \in \mathcal{Z}^N} b_{ji} P_{B_m}^n(t-d) + \sum_{n \in \mathcal{Z}^C} b_{ji} \Delta P_{C_n}^j(t-d) + \Delta P_{B_m}^n(t-d),$$

$$P_{C_n}^j(t+1) = P_{C_n}^j(t) + \Delta P_{C_n}^j(t),$$

$$P_{B_m}^n(t+1) = P_{B_m}^n(t) + \Delta P_{B_m}^n(t),$$

$$E_{B_m}^n(t+1) = E_{B_m}^n(t) - \tau E_{B_m}^n\left[P_{B_m}^n(t) + \Delta P_{B_m}^n(t-d)\right],$$

$$P_{A_n}^j(t+1) = P_{A_n}^j(t) + \Delta P_{A_n}^j(t),$$

$$P_{PM}^n(t+1) = P_{PM}^n(t) + \Delta P_{PM}^n(t),$$

$$P_{B_m}^n(t+1) = \min\left(P_{B_m}^n(t+1), \bar{P}_{B_m}\right),$$

where $b_{ji}$ are constant parameters based on the concept of Power Transfer Distribution Factor (PTDF) (see Cheng and Overbye (2005)), $\bar{P}_{B_m}$ is constant power reduction factor for the batteries, $\bar{P}_{B_m} > 0$ is the maximum power that can be produced by the renewable generator, $T$ is the sampling time, $d$ and $\tau$ are the operational time delays of the control actions for the battery power output and the generator power curtailment, respectively, with $\tau \geq d \geq 1$. The state and control variables respect the following constraints, $\forall (j, n, m, l) \in \mathcal{Z}^C \times \mathcal{Z}^C \times \mathcal{Z}^B \times \mathcal{Z}^N$:

$$-L_j \leq F_j(t) \leq L_j, \quad 0 \leq P_{C_n}^j(t) \leq \bar{P}_{C_n}^j,$$

$$P_{B_m}^n \leq P_{B_m}^n(t) \leq \bar{P}_{B_m}^n,$$

$$0 \leq \Delta P_{C_n}^j(t) \leq \bar{P}_{C_n}^j,$$

$$\Delta P_{B_m}^n \leq \Delta P_{B_m}^n(t) \leq \bar{P}_{B_m}^n,$$

with the upper and lower bounds $L_j > 0, \bar{P}_{B_m}^n > 0, \bar{P}_{B_m}^n < 0, \tau_{B_m} > 0, \bar{P}_{B_m}^n > 0$, and $\bar{P}_{B_m}^n > 0$.

In (1), the non-linearity resides in the implicit equation describing the produced renewable power evolution $P_{PM}^n(t)$. As the first contribution of the present work, this is represented in a linear MLD form as presented in the following. Let the logical variable $\delta_{\alpha}^n(t) \in \{0, 1\}$ and the real variable $z_{\alpha}^n(t) \in \mathbb{R}_+$, $\forall n \in \mathcal{Z}^C$, be defined as:

$$\delta_{\alpha}^n(t) = 1 \Leftrightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} P_{A_n}^j(t) + \Delta P_{A_n}^j(t) \\ \leq \bar{P}_{C_n}^j(t) - \Delta P_{C_n}^j(t - \tau) \\ \bar{P}_{B_m}^n(t) - P_{B_m}^n(t) - \Delta P_{B_m}^n(t - \tau) \end{array} \right\},$$

Hence, the system dynamics (1) is rewritten as:

$$F_j(t+1) = F_j(t) + \sum_{m \in \mathcal{Z}^C} b_{ji}^m \Delta P_{B_m}^n(t-d) + \sum_{m \in \mathcal{Z}^C} b_{ji}^m \Delta P_{B_m}^n(t) + \Delta P_{B_m}^n(t-d),$$

$$P_{C_n}^j(t+1) = P_{C_n}^j(t) + \Delta P_{C_n}^j(t),$$

$$P_{B_m}^n(t+1) = P_{B_m}^n(t) + \Delta P_{B_m}^n(t),$$

$$E_{B_m}^n(t+1) = E_{B_m}^n(t) - \tau E_{B_m}^n\left[P_{B_m}^n(t+1) + \Delta P_{B_m}^n(t-d)\right],$$

$$P_{A_n}^j(t+1) = P_{A_n}^j(t) + \Delta P_{A_n}^j(t),$$

$$P_{PM}^n(t+1) = P_{PM}^n(t) + \Delta P_{PM}^n(t),$$

$$P_{B_m}^n(t+1) = \min\left(P_{B_m}^n(t+1), \bar{P}_{B_m}\right).$$

Using big-M formulation, $\delta_{\alpha}^n(t)$ and $z_{\alpha}^n(t)$ defined in (3) are embedded in the solution of the following system of linear inequalities:

$$-M \delta_{\alpha}^n(t) + \gamma \geq P_{A_n}^j(t) + \Delta P_{A_n}^j(t) - \bar{P}_{C_n}^j(t) + \Delta P_{C_n}^j(t),$$

$$z_{\alpha}^n(t) \leq P_{A_n}^j(t) + \Delta P_{A_n}^j(t),$$

$$z_{\alpha}^n(t) \geq P_{A_n}^j(t) + \Delta P_{A_n}^j(t) - M (1 - \delta_{\alpha}^n(t)),$$

$$z_{\alpha}^n(t) \bar{P}_{C_n}^j(t),$$

$$P_{B_m}^n(t) \leq \bar{P}_{B_m}^n,$$
\[ P^p(t) = \text{col}[P^p_n(t)], \quad \Delta P^p(t) = \text{col}[\Delta P^p_n(t)], \quad (6f) \]
\[ \delta^p(t) = \text{col}[\delta^p_n(t)], \quad z^p(t) = \text{col}[z^p_n(t)], \quad (6g) \]
\[ \mathcal{T} = \text{col}[\mathcal{T}_n], \quad \mathcal{P}^p = \text{col}[\mathcal{P}^p_n], \quad \mathcal{P}^p = \text{col}[\mathcal{P}^p_m], \quad (6h) \]

To deal with the known actuator delays, the state disturbance and control vectors are defined as:
\[ x(t) = [F(t) C(t) P^p(t) E^p(t) P^p(t) \Delta P^p] (t - \tau) \ldots \Delta P^p(t - 1) \Delta P^p(t - d) \ldots \Delta P^p(t - 1)]^\top \in \mathbb{R}^{n^x + (3 + \rho)n + 2 + (2 + 3)n\rho}, \]
\[ w(t) = [\Delta P^p(t) \Delta P^p(t)]^\top \in \mathbb{R}^{n^x + nC}, \quad u(t) = [\Delta P^p(t) \Delta P^p(t)]^\top \in \mathbb{R}^{n^x + nC + n\rho}, \]
respectively. Consequently, the resulting not-delayed system dynamics derived from (4)-(5) are:
\[ x(t + 1) = \mathcal{A}_x x(t) + \mathcal{B}_x z^p(t) + \mathcal{D}_x w(t), \quad (7) \]
where the matrices \( \mathcal{A}_x, \mathcal{B}_x, \mathcal{D}_x, \mathcal{C}_x, \mathcal{C}_s, \mathcal{C}_o, \mathcal{C}_w \) and \( \mathcal{A}^p \) are suitable matrices. The system model (7) is used for the control design in the next subsection.

### 2.2 Control design

Fig. 1 illustrates the control strategy, that is composed by Estimation and MPC blocks. In the sequel of the paper, the prediction horizon is \( N \). Moreover, the predicted or estimated value of \( g() \) at the sampling \( t + k \) given the available information at the sampling time \( t \) denoted as \( g(k|t) \).

The Estimation block predicts the variation of the available generator power \( \Delta P^A(k|t) \) and the external interaction \( \Delta P^F(k|t) \) over the prediction horizon gathered in the disturbance \( w(k|t) \). For robustness, the profile of \( \Delta P^A(k|t) \) is considered to be constant \( \forall k \in [0, \ldots, N - 1] \). In the same vein, there are multiple approaches for the prediction of \( \Delta P^T(k|t) \). These choices can be integrated easily in the present control design. The performance of the disturbance estimation is not in the scope of the present work, and thus we will consider the simple one such as \( \Delta P^F(k|t) = 0 \).

The MPC block determines the control signals \( u(t) \) using the predicted disturbance sequences \( w(k|t) \) and the state feedback \( x(t) \). Different from Hoang et al. (2021), this work directly takes into account the estimation of \( \Delta P^A(k|t) \) in the MPC formalism via \( w(k|t) \) without a supplementary prediction of \( \Delta P^T(k|t) \) thanks to the consideration of the nonlinear model (1). To ensure the control problem feasibility, soft constraints are imposed to the flow on the power lines \( F(k|t) \) for \( k \in [d + 1, \tau] \) using the softening slack variables \( \varepsilon(k|t) \in \mathbb{R}^d \) such as \( \varepsilon(k|t) > 0, \forall k \in [d + 1, \tau] \), and \( \varepsilon(k|t) = 0 \), otherwise. Therefore, from (2) and (6), the constraints for the state \( x(t) \) and for the control signal \( u(t) \) are rewritten as:
\[ x_{\min}(k|t) \leq C x(k|t) \leq x_{\max}(k|t), \quad \forall k \in [d + 1, N], \quad (8a) \]
\[ u_{\min} \leq u(k|t) \leq u_{\max}, \quad \forall k \in [0, N - 1], \quad (8b) \]
where \( C = \begin{bmatrix} I_{n^L + n^C + 2n^\rho} & 0 \end{bmatrix} \), and
\[ x_{\min}(k|t) = [-\mathcal{T} - \varepsilon(k|t) \quad \mathcal{P}^p - \mathcal{E} B^T]^\top, \quad (9a) \]
\[ x_{\max}(k|t) = [\mathcal{T} - \varepsilon(k|t) \quad \mathcal{P}^p - \mathcal{E} B^T]^\top, \quad (9b) \]
\[ u_{\min} = [\mathcal{P}^p - \mathcal{P}^p]^\top, \quad (9c) \]
\[ u_{\max} = [\mathcal{P}^p - \mathcal{P}^p]^\top. \quad (9d) \]

A cost function considering actuator delays is defined as:
\[ J(t) = \sum_{k=1}^{N} \left[ \| x(k|t) - x_r \|^2_Q + \| u(k - 1|t) \|^2_R \right. \]
\[ + \| \varepsilon(k|t) \|^2_B \], \quad (10) \]
where \( Q \) and \( R \) are positive semi-definite matrices; \( \beta \) is a positive scalar; \( x_r \) is the state reference. Thus, the MPC optimization problem is defined as:
\[ \mathcal{O}_1 = \min_{\{u(0|0), \ldots, u(N - 1|t)\}} J(t) \]
\[ \text{s.t. (7)} \quad \forall k \in [0, N - 1], \quad (8a) \forall k \in [d + 1, N], \quad (8b) \forall k \in [0, N - 1], \quad (9). \]

The structure of this receding horizon optimization builds on the minimization of a convex cost, while the constraints are related to the dynamics and the input-state limitations, adequately enforced according to the delay in the actuation. Moreover, the implementation of the optimization problem (11) includes \( (n^L + (4 + \rho)n^C + (3 + 3)n^\rho)N + n^C N \) real and \( n^C N \) binary variables. Then, the first control actions \( \Delta P^C(0|t) \) and \( \Delta P^B(0|t) \) will be applied to the power networks at the instants \( t + \tau \) and \( t + d \), respectively.

### 3. BATTERY MANAGEMENT VIA MPC

The previously described control design supposes that the battery is completely dedicated to the congestion management operated by the TSO. However, in many situations, the battery exploitation is supposed to be used for a different task, mainly related to energy market participation, and TSOs are allowed to request to adapt the power output to grid’s necessity only in few cases, as for example pro tempore congestion management. In the subsequent developments, we consider the above mentioned case, and therefore suppose that in normal conditions the battery power output will track a reference value \( P^B_{Br}, \forall m \in \mathcal{Z}^B \), and that the TSO is allowed to take control over the battery power output only if needed, and to impose a different power output only for a short period of time. As a consequence, two following operation modes are defined for the battery power output:

- **Unavailability mode**: it must track the reference value \( P^B_{Br} \) for at least a given duration \( T^B_{of} \);
- **Availability mode**: it is allowed to track a different value for a given duration \( T^B_{on} \), which covers the delay period \( \tau \) of renewable power curtailment, i.e., \( \tau \leq T^B_{on} \).

In this section, a MLD model describing the previous specifications is introduced, thus allowing to consider
realistic time constraints on the possibility for the TSO to use the battery for power congestion management. The modelling is composed by two temporal variables as part of the system state and one logical variable as control signal. For a linear and explicit model formulation, four supplementary auxiliary variables are considered. These variables are then integrated in the MPC design.

3.1 Battery power specifications

For the battery at the bus \( m \)th, the logical variable \( \delta_m(t) \in \{0,1\} \) is defined such that \( \delta_m(t) = 1 \) if the battery is available, and \( \delta_m(t) = 0 \) otherwise. Hence, the constraints (2b) of battery power are reformulated as:

\[
\begin{align*}
P_m^{B(t+1)} &\leq P_{Br} + (P_m^{B} - P_m^{Br}) \delta_m(t), \\
P_m^{B(t+1)} &\geq P_{Br} + (P_m^{B} - P_m^{Br}) \delta_m(t).
\end{align*}
\]

To represents the durations of Availability and Unavailability modes, we define the temporal variables \( t_m^{on}(t), t_m^{off}(t) \in \mathbb{N} \) as such:

\[
\begin{align*}
t_m^{on}(t+1) &= \left[ t_m^{on}(t) + 1 \right] \delta_m(t), \\
t_m^{off}(t+1) &= \left[ t_m^{off}(t) + 1 \right] (1 - \delta_m(t)) ,
\end{align*}
\]

where \( t_m^{on}(0) = 0 \) and \( t_m^{off}(0) = 0 \). The additional control signal \( \delta_m(t) \) respect the following implications:

\[
\begin{align*}
1 \leq t_m^{on}(t) \leq T_m - 1 \Rightarrow \delta_m(t) = 1, \\
t_m^{on}(t) \geq T_m \Rightarrow \delta_m(t) = 0, \\
1 \leq t_m^{off}(t) \leq T_m - 1 \Rightarrow \delta_m(t) = 0. 
\end{align*}
\]

Let the real variable \( z_m^{on}(t), z_m^{off}(t) \in \mathbb{R}_+ \) and the logical variables \( \delta_m^{on}(t), \delta_m^{off}(t) \in \{0,1\} \) be defined as:

\[
\begin{align*}
z_m^{on}(t) &= \left[ t_m^{on}(t) + 1 \right] \delta_m^{on}(t), \\
z_m^{off}(t) &= \left[ t_m^{off}(t) + 1 \right] (1 - \delta_m^{off}(t)), \\
\delta_m^{on/\text{off}}(t) &= 1 \Leftrightarrow \left[ t_m^{on/\text{off}}(t) \geq 1 \right].
\end{align*}
\]

Equation (15) implies that the unique values of \( z_m^{on/\text{off}} \) and \( \delta_m^{on/\text{off}} \) are determined from given values of state \( t_m^{on/\text{off}} \) and control signal \( \delta_m^{on} \). Using big-M formulation, we replace the nonlinear relations in (15) by the linear constraints on the mode durations described by \( t_m^{on/\text{off}} \). Thanks to big-M formulation, the battery specifications (14) are equivalent to:

\[
\begin{align*}
t_m^{on}(t) &\geq 1 - (M_2 + 1 - \delta_m^{on}(t)), \\
t_m^{off}(t) &\geq 1 - (M_2 + 1 - \delta_m^{off}(t)).
\end{align*}
\]

For a linear and explicit model formulation, four supplementary auxiliary variables are considered. These variables are then integrated in the MPC design.

\[
\begin{align*}
\begin{cases}
P_m^{B(t+1)} \leq P_{Br} + (P_m^{B} - P_m^{Br}) \delta_m(t), \\
P_m^{B(t+1)} \geq P_{Br} + (P_m^{B} - P_m^{Br}) \delta_m(t).
\end{cases}
\end{align*}
\]

3.2 Modification of the MPC

Fig. 2 describes the modified control design with respect to (11), where the additions of the variables \( \delta^B(t) \) and \( t^B(t) \) are highlighted in red. From (8)-(9) and (12), the constraints for the state \( \hat{x}(t) \), and for the control signal \( \hat{u}(t) \) are rewritten as:

\[
\begin{align*}
\begin{cases}
-\gamma &\leq \sum_{i} \hat{x}_i(k) \leq \gamma, \quad \forall k \in [d+1,N], \\
0 &\leq \hat{x}_i(k) \leq \bar{x}_i, \quad \forall k \in [r+1,N], \\
\sum_{i} \hat{u}_i(k-1) &\leq \bar{u}_i, \quad \forall k \in [1,N], \\
\sum_{i} \hat{u}_i(k-1) &\leq \bar{u}_i, \quad \forall k \in [d+1,N],
\end{cases}
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
\begin{cases}
\begin{cases}
-\gamma &\leq \sum_{i} \hat{x}_i(k) \leq \gamma, \quad \forall k \in [d+1,N], \\
0 &\leq \hat{x}_i(k) \leq \bar{x}_i, \quad \forall k \in [r+1,N], \\
\sum_{i} \hat{u}_i(k-1) &\leq \bar{u}_i, \quad \forall k \in [1,N], \\
\sum_{i} \hat{u}_i(k-1) &\leq \bar{u}_i, \quad \forall k \in [d+1,N],
\end{cases}
\end{cases}
\end{align*}
\]
In Scenario 2, the control designs in Section 2.2 with the constraints and cost function in the MPC optimization problem are similar to $O_1$. The obtained simulation results are named linear and represented by violet dotted curves.

- In Scenario 2, the control designs in Section 2.2 with the optimization problem $O_2$ in (11) is employed. The obtained results are named nonlinear and represented by blue solid curves.

- In Scenario 3, the control designs in Section 3.2 with the modified optimization problem $O_3$ in (24) is employed. The obtained results are named battery spec and represented by black dash-dotted curves.

The maximal durations of solving the MPC optimization problem in these scenarios are 117 ms, 117 ms and 131 ms, respectively.

Fig. 3 and 4 illustrate the curtailment power and its variation, respectively, in Scenario 1 and 2. We can see that the curtailment power action takes place earlier and is greater in magnitude when considering the linear model, with respect to the nonlinear model. Hence, more energy is curtailed in the case of linear model, 1456 [MW], while only 1414 [MW] when using the nonlinear model. Even with $n^B N = 40$ additional binary variables, the maximal solving time of the optimization problem in Scenario 2 is still approximate to the one in Scenario 1. Related to the line power flow limit (22a) in scenario 2, the constraint violation is predicted at 27% of simulation iterations with the maximal value of 1.6 MW.

**Fig. 3. Allowed produced power in Scenario 1 and 2.**
5. CONCLUSIONS

The present paper proposed two controllers for the congestion management of transmission power networks via MPC when considering nonlinearities in the modelling of produced renewable power and supplementary temporal specifications of battery availability. The nonlinear model related to the minimum operator is described as a linear Mixed Logical Dynamical (MLD) system thanks to additional logical and real variables. Hence, the integration of this linear modelling in MPC design allowed an exact consideration of the system dynamics in the optimization problem. On the other hand, to describe the battery specifications in a linear formulation, temporal and logical variables were added as system state and control signals, thus leading to an extended linear MLD model for the global system. The proposed MLD models are used in a receding horizon control approach via MPC and MILP, and have been validated through simulations on an industrial case-study of interest. The short term future work focuses on the signal temporal logic formulation for modelling the overload tolerance and battery specifications.

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