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A New Traction Motor Sizing Strategy for a HEV/EV based on an Overcurrent-tolerant Prediction Model

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Abstract: This paper presents a new Hybrid and Electric Vehicle (HEV/EV) traction motor sizing strategy, an overcurrent-tolerant prediction model is used to estimate the dynamic and thermal characteristics of a motor operating in the overcurrent region. This can be used to determine if a prospective traction motor and powertrain configuration is able to fulfil the HEV/EVs target dynamic objectives. Since the prediction model only requires minimal motor torque-speed characteristics, it can be a useful tool during the early development stages of a HEV/EV when the detailed motor parameters used in analytical models cannot be obtained. Allowing the motor to operate in the overcurrent region could downsize the traction motor used in the final HEV/EV design to one that is smaller, easier to package and likely to run in a higher efficiency region. A case study is explored where this sizing strategy is used to convert an aeroplane pushback vehicle into a series HEV and tasked with following a rigorous duty cycle. The feasibility of two HEV configurations are then analysed further. The final HEV design reduces the fuel consumption and engine emissions by up to 52% from the original internal combustion engine powered vehicle.

1. Introduction

The high impact of vehicle emissions on climate change and public health has motivated research into Hybrid and Electric Vehicles (HEV/EV) in recent years [1] [2] [3] [4]. Internal Combustion Engines (ICE) produce a variety of harmful emissions; Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) and Methane (CH₄) are the largest contributors to global climate change; Nitrous Oxides (NOₓ) have a history of forming smog in densely populated cities; and Particulate Matter (PM) can be carcinogenic [5] [6].

Effective HEV/EV design requires optimising the choice of electrical storage/generation systems and powertrain components to meet the vehicle’s target driving range and dynamic performance [7] [8] [9]. The main powertrain components for a series HEV are shown in Fig. 1. These include a traction motor, a genset, and a battery pack [10] [11] [12]. The development process of a HEV/EV must also compromise between other constraints such as price and legislative requirements [13] [14]. Therefore, numerous vehicle iterations may be deliberated before the final design is confirmed.

The temperature of the traction motor and power electronics must remain within safe working limits to prevent overheating and premature component failure. The rate of change in temperature is proportional to the supply current and thus also proportional to the motor’s output torque. Motor manufacturers usually offer a series of torque-speed curves (continuous region, overcurrent region 1, overcurrent region 2 etc.) and an efficiency map to represent the characteristics of the motor. Any point within the continuous region can be used for the entire time the motor is in service. The supply current corresponding to the maximum torque within the continuous region is limited to ensure the motor does not overheat. The overcurrent region lets a higher supply current to flow to the motor for a short period to temporarily produce a larger output torque. The overcurrent region is represented by one or more torque-speed curves, each curve will be assigned a time limit to show how long the peak overcurrent torque can be used before the motor would begin to overheat. Operating in the overcurrent region can be desirable for HEV/EVs because a smaller, cheaper and more efficient motor operating in its overcurrent region could be used to achieve the same output torque as a larger motor confined to its continuous torque-speed region.

Numerous optimisation methods have been explored to assist in the selection of electrical storage/generation and powertrain components. These consider price and component packaging constraints while optimising energy conservation and regeneration [15] [16] [17]. The overcurrent region of the traction motor is not considered in these optimisation methods, the inclusion of which may produce a vehicle with a superior electrical driving range. The characteristics of a traction motor for HEV/EV simulations can be represented by a series of analytical equations [18] [19] [20] [21]. Numerous temperature estimation methods to monitor the temperature of the motor have been investigated, these remove the need for additional sensors [22] [23] [24] [25] [26]. However, the detailed parameters used to create these models may be difficult to obtain from motor manufacturers and performing a series of experiments to find them is impractical if numerous motors are being considered [27] [28].

This paper aims to estimate the dynamic and thermal characteristics of a motor operating in the overcurrent region using an overcurrent-tolerant prediction model. This control scheme will only use basic motor torque-speed characteristics as they are easily obtained from a motor manufacturer. It would quickly show if a prospective traction motor operating in the overcurrent region and the powertrain configuration would enable the vehicle to achieve its...
required dynamic performance. The rate at which the temperature rises and falls will be modelled based on the position of output torque in relation to the continuous and overcurrent torque-speed curves. A case study is presented where this sizing strategy was used to convert an ICE powered aeroplane pushback vehicle into a series HEV. All vehicle and motor models used in this investigation were created and simulated in MATLAB/Simulink. Power management techniques were explored to ensure the battery pack would not overcharge or under-discharge. The battery pack charging scheme also attempts to prolong the life of the genset using manufacturer recommended start-up and cool-down procedures.

This paper is structured as follows; section 2 introduces the overcurrent-tolerant prediction model, section 3 describes the vehicle model used for the aeroplane pushback vehicle with two possible HEV configurations given in section 4.

2. A New Traction Motor Overcurrent-Tolerant Prediction Model

The prediction model can be implemented during the preliminary design stages of a HEV/EV. It can be used to simulate a prospective traction motor within a vehicle model to determine if it would enable the HEV/EV to achieve its target driving objectives. Once an optimal traction motor has been sized, an investigation into more accurate motor control methods and experimental validations can be conducted.

The torque-speed characteristics of a traction motor in this investigation are represented using 2D look-up tables in MATLAB/Simulink (1). The role of the overcurrent-tolerant prediction model is to decide if the continuous \( C \) or overcurrent \( P \) torque-speed curves should be used in (1).

This will output a torque \( \tau \) for a given motor speed \( \omega_m \) and accelerator pedal activation level \( \alpha \in [0\,1] \). A control flowchart for the overcurrent-tolerant prediction model is shown in Fig. 2.

The choice of torque-speed curve is dependent on the estimated temperature \( T \) (2) of the motor at time \( t \). If the driver of the vehicle model activates the accelerator pedal, the prediction model initially attempts to access the overcurrent torque-speed curve, where \( i = P \) in (1).

If \( \tau_p(\omega_m) > \tau_C(\omega_m) \), i.e. the output motor torque using the overcurrent curve is larger than the peak continuous torque-speed curve at that motor speed, the overcurrent-tolerant prediction model begins increasing the motor’s estimated temperature. The rate of change in temperature is dependent on the position of the output torque \( \delta \in [0\,1] \) using (3) between the peak continuous torque \( \tau_C(\omega_m) \) and the peak overcurrent torque \( \tau_C(\omega_m) \) at the respective motor speed.

The rate of change in temperature is represented by a Temperature Factor \( TF \). The integral of \( TF \) signifies the overall change in temperature since the beginning of the simulation at time \( t_0 \). The temperature increases at a rate according to (4a) in the overcurrent region. For example, if \( \tau_p(\omega_m) \) were to be used from an initial temperature \( T(t_0) = 0 \), then the estimated temperature will reach the upper temperature limit \( T_{\text{High}} \) over a time period \( t_{\text{lim}} \). If the estimated temperature exceeds \( T_{\text{High}} \), the motor will enter a cool-down phase, where \( i = C \) in (1). The maximum output torque is restricted to the peak of the continuous

\[
\tau_i(\omega_m, \alpha) = \alpha \tau_i(\omega_m)
\]

Where \( i = P, C \)

\[
T(t) = T(t_0) + \int_{t_0}^{t} TF \, dt
\]

Where

\[
0 \leq T \leq 100
\]

\[
\delta(\omega_m) = \frac{\tau_p(\omega_m) - \tau_C(\omega_m)}{\tau_C(\omega_m)}
\]

\[
TF = \begin{cases} 
100 \frac{\delta(\omega_m)}{t_{\text{lim}}} & 0 \leq \delta(\omega_m) \leq 1 \\
-100 \frac{\delta(\omega_m)}{t_{\text{wrap}}} & \delta(\omega_m) < 0 
\end{cases}
\]
The time limits $t_{\text{stop}}$ and $t_{\text{lim}}$ accompany the overcurrent torque-speed curves provided by the motor manufacturer. During the cool-down phase, the vehicle’s towing and acceleration ability is limited, this is necessary to prevent overheating and premature component failure.

If only a single overcurrent torque-speed curve is given from the motor manufacturer, $\delta$ will be a linear function. If numerous overcurrent curves and time limits are provided, $\delta$ can be a quadratic function and offer a better view of the motor’s thermal characteristics. The overcurrent-tolerant prediction model observes the motor’s temperature $T$ as a percentage between $T_{\text{High}}$ and $T_{\text{Low}}$. These limits can also be represented as a percentage, for example $T_{\text{High}}$ and $T_{\text{Low}}$ are 100% and 50% of the maximum temperature limit respectively. If $\delta$ is linear and $\delta = 1$, the motor will output $T(\omega_m)$ and increase the motor’s estimated temperature at a rate where $T$ will reach 100% over the time period $t_{\text{lim}}$. If $\delta = 0.5$, i.e. the output torque is half way between $T(\omega_m)$ and $T(\omega_m)$, the rate of change in temperature will be half that of when $\delta = 1$, the motor can now operate in this region for twice as long. Ideally, the overcurrent region will only be used for a short time period to accelerate the vehicle to a cruising speed where a lower motor torque would be required to maintain a constant steady-state velocity.

3. Traction Motor Sizing for an Aircraft Pushback Vehicle: A Case Study

3.1 Duty Cycle of the Aircraft Pushback vehicle

An aeroplane pushback vehicle is required to move aeroplanes away from airport terminals and occasionally tow them across an airfield for routine maintenance. Therefore, the pushback vehicle must be able to generate a large towing force, but also be able to tow lightly loaded aeroplanes without overstressing the components. From the data collected, a rigorous duty cycle was fitted by using pre-existing ICE data from the same vehicle manufacturer. The pushback vehicle must be able to generate a large towing force, be capable of moving aeroplanes across a runway for routine maintenance, and have a relatively high top speed to travel quickly between pushback operations (~30 kph unloaded).

Airport regulations require all pushback vehicles to have the capability to generate a theoretical minimumtractive force for each aeroplane weight class that the vehicle is registered to move. A HEV aeroplane pushback vehicle must also comply with these regulations. Conventional pushback vehicles use high capacity ICEs as their prime mover with a number of transmission ratios. Between pushback operations, the vehicle might rest for long periods until it is needed again. To avoid any technical difficulties when turning the ICE on (particularly during cold weather), the ICE will remain idling whenever the vehicle is resting. These long idle times significantly increase the total fuel consumption and output emissions over the working day. One major advantage of a HEV pushback vehicle would be that the genset can be turned off during the rest periods as long as there is enough energy stored in the battery pack. Ideally, a series HEV will operate in fully electric mode for a substantial portion of the duty cycle to minimise fuel costs and output emissions.

Duty cycle data was recorded from the pre-existing ICE powered pushback vehicle using a datalogger connected via CAN bus. The datalogger recorded the vehicle’s engine speed, output torque, output power, gear selection and longitudinal velocity over several days of normal working operation. From the data collected, a rigorous duty cycle was created and is used to assess the performance of the HEV.

The pushback vehicle’s duty cycle can be broken down into four major areas as shown in Table 1: low velocity pushback

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operation</th>
<th>No. of operations</th>
<th>$M_{\text{Aero}}$ (Tonnes)</th>
<th>Target Speed (kph)</th>
<th>Time (s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Solo</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tow</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>385</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standby</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fig. 2 Overcurrent-tolerant prediction model torque control flowchart

Table 1 Pushback operation descriptions for the typical ICE vehicle and the HEV equivalent

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operations of heavy aircraft, medium velocity towing operations of medium weight aircraft, high velocity unloaded solo runs, and stationary resting periods. The HEV must have comparable dynamic performance to the ICE counterpart to be a viable product for customers.

The pushback HEV would not be held to conventional passenger vehicle development criteria, i.e. fast 0–60mph acceleration times or to be able to reach motorway cruising speeds. This is because aeroplane manufacturers impose low acceleration limits for towing operations to prevent damage to the landing gear and there are speed limits enforced on working airfields for ground support vehicles.

Suitable powertrain components that would enable the vehicle to achieve the desired duty cycle is investigated first, including: the traction motor torque-speed characteristics, final drive ratio and transmission ratios. The electrical storage and generation components of the HEV can then be explored. The vehicle must have the capacity to complete a full duty cycle using only the energy that can be stored or generated internally. The electrical system requires specifying the minimum capacity and peak output power of the battery pack, as well as the output power of the genset.

3.2 Modelling of the Aeroplane Pushback Vehicle

The torque-speed curve for the 185kW ICE used in the conventional pushback vehicle is given in Appendix 1 in section 8. Fuel consumption and output emissions maps were used to predict the total fuel consumed and emissions produced by the ICE over the duty cycle. Further chassis and powertrain information for the former ICE powered vehicle can be found in Table 2, the same chassis information (vehicle mass, wheel radius etc.) will be used for the HEV. A fuzzy logic speed controller was used to control the vehicle’s speed which attempts to follow the target duty cycle by generating appropriate accelerator (∈ [0 1]) and brake pedal β ∈ [0 1] activation levels [18] [29]. The torque generated by an ICE ( ∈ [0 1]) can be found using an equivalent throttle map or (1). A vehicle model was created in MATLAB/Simulink [7] [30] [31].

Table 2 Vehicle parameters of the typical ICE powered pushback vehicle to be converted into a HEV

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ICE only</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transmission ratios [1,2,3]</td>
<td>𝑁_𝑻𝒓𝒂𝒄</td>
<td>[5.8, 5.0, 9.8]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transmission inertia (kg m²)</td>
<td>𝐼_𝑻 │ [0.14, 0.1]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final drive ratio</td>
<td>𝑁_𝑻FontSize 7_짫</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final drive inertia (kg m²)</td>
<td>𝐼_𝑻FontSize 7_짫</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Driveshaft inertia (kg m²)</td>
<td>𝐼_𝑇FontSize 7_짫</td>
<td>0.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICE inertia (kg m²)</td>
<td>𝐼_𝒕</td>
<td>0.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle Mass (kg)</td>
<td>𝑀_{veh}</td>
<td>16000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coefficient of Drag</td>
<td>𝐶_ Eduardo</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frontal Area (m²)</td>
<td>𝐴</td>
<td>6.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheel Radius (m)</td>
<td>𝑟_𝑤</td>
<td>0.575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coefficient of rolling resistance (%)</td>
<td>𝑓_𝑟</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max Brake Force (N)</td>
<td>𝐹_{b-max}</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air density (kg m⁻³)</td>
<td>𝜌</td>
<td>1.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheel Inertia (kg m²)</td>
<td>𝐼_{wheel}</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The tractive force \( F_{\text{Traction}} \) (5) requires the gear ratio of the final drive \( N_{\text{fd}} \), transmission ratio \( N_T \), their combined efficiency \( \eta_{\text{fd}} \), and the wheel’s rolling radius \( r_w \). This uses the torque generated either by an ICE (where \( k = \text{ICE} \) in (5)), or from the traction motor as determined by the overcurrent-tolerant prediction model (where \( k = \text{C, P} \)). The rolling resistance \( F_{\text{Rolling}} \) (6) from the tyres is dependent on the acceleration of gravity \( g \), the coefficient of rolling resistance \( f_r \) and the mass of the pushback vehicle \( M_{\text{veh}} \). The mass of the aeroplane \( M_{\text{aeroplane}} \) was incorporated into (6) to account for the additional rolling resistance generated by aeroplane. The aerodynamic drag \( F_{\text{Aerodynamic}} \) (7) only requires density of air \( \rho \), the coefficient of aerodynamic drag \( C_d \), frontal area \( A \) of the pushback vehicle and the longitudinal velocity \( U \). The brake force \( F_{\text{Brake}} \) (8) is linearly proportional to the brake pedal activation level and the maximum brake force available on the driving surface \( F_{b-max} \).

The effective towing mass of the vehicle \( M_r \) (9) due to the rotational inertias of the wheels \( I_{\text{wheel}} \) plus the prime mover \( I_T \), final drive \( I_{\text{fd}} \) and transmission \( I_T \) can then be used to calculate the vehicle’s longitudinal acceleration \( a_{\text{L}} \) (10). The rotational speed of the prime mover \( \omega_m \) can then be calculated using (11).

Motor manufacturers often publish an efficiency map \( \eta_{\text{motor}}(\omega_m,\tau_i) \) for the traction motor, this can be used to find the motor’s electrical power consumption \( P_m \) (12).

The overcurrent-tolerant prediction model can also be used for the development of HEV/EV passenger vehicles by removing the tow mass of the aeroplane.

\[
F_{\text{Traction}} = \frac{r_w N_T N_{\text{fd}} \eta_{\text{fd}}}{r_w}
\]

Where \( k = \text{ICE, C or P} \)

\[
F_{\text{Rolling}} = (M_{\text{veh}} + M_{\text{aeroplane}}) f_r
\]

\[
F_{\text{Aerodynamic}} = \frac{1}{2} C_d \rho A U^2
\]

\[
F_{\text{Brake}} = \beta F_{b-max}
\]

\[
M_r = (I_{\text{wheel}} + I_T + I_{\text{fd}} N_T + I_T) \frac{1}{r_w}
\]

\[
F_{\text{Traction}} = F_{\text{Brake}} - F_{\text{Aerodynamic}} - F_{\text{Rolling}} = (M_{\text{veh}} + M_{\text{aeroplane}} + M_r) a_{\text{L}}
\]

\[
\omega_m = \frac{r_T N_T}{r_w}
\]

\[
P_m = \frac{r_T \omega_m}{\eta_{\text{motor}}(\omega_m,\tau_i)}
\]

3.3 Battery Pack State of Energy and Genset Control

As well as having to power the traction motors, the pushback vehicle must also power its own heating/air-conditioning unit, external warning lights and various other systems on the aeroplane. On the conventional ICE vehicle, these systems are either electrically or hydraulically powered, they will be replaced with fully electrical systems on the HEV. The auxiliary power systems are simplified into a constant load \( P_{aux} \) that will run throughout the duty cycle.

The price of the battery pack grows as its energy storage capacity and peak output power increase. During pushback
and towing operations, the peak power demand from the traction motor is substantially large. A battery pack capable of solely supplying the necessary power for these towing operations would therefore be large and expensive. To reduce the total price of the HEV, a battery pack with a smaller peak output power could be used, but supplement additional power from the genset $P_{\text{Gen}}$ to the DC-Link during towing operations. The integral of the power flow to and from the battery pack can be used to estimate the energy remaining within the battery pack $J_{\text{Bat}}$ at time $t$. This can then be used to find the battery pack’s State of Energy (SOE),

$$J_{\text{Bat}}(t) = J_{\text{Bat}}(t_0) + \int_{t_0}^{t} \left[ - (P_{\text{In}} + P_{\text{Aux}}) + P_{\text{Gen}} \right] dt \quad (13)$$

Both the traction motor and auxiliary power systems have priority over the DC-Link power before the battery pack gets charged. The genset is turned on-off to keep the battery pack’s SOE within safe upper and lower working limits.

The genset can provide power to the DC-Link in one of 3 ways; full power mode, idle mode, and off. A flowchart for the genset control is shown in Fig. 3. During full power mode, the genset will provide full power to the DC-Link and consume fuel at its full rate. During idle mode, the genset will provide no power to the DC-Link, but will consume fuel a fraction of the rated value. For this case study, a value of 10% of the rated fuel is consumed during idle mode. The manufacturer of the genset used in this case study recommended that idle mode should be used for 60 seconds before and after full power mode, this is required to prolong the lifetime of the genset. If the SOE of the battery pack reaches the lower limit during this idling period, the genset will switch to full power mode. This overruling control could adversely affect the genset’s lifetime if it occurred frequently, but the more expensive battery pack’s sensitivity to under-discharging is a higher priority.

When the genset is off, no power is provided to the DC-Link and no fuel is consumed, the HEV would be operating in full EV mode.

For the HEV to be truly comparable to the ICE counterpart, the SOE of the battery pack should be full at the end of the duty cycle. This would be similar to the ICE vehicle having its fuel tank filled at the end of a working day. Once the final pushback operation has been completed, the genset will enter full power mode (with the necessary start-up phase) and begin charging the battery pack while the HEV returns to the overnight storage area. The genset will then turn off once the SOE of the battery pack has reached its upper limit.

4. Feasibility and Efficiency Analysis

The feasible of two powertrain configurations are considered for the final HEV prototype to the continuous region for both are given in Table 3. Configuration 1 uses two relatively low torque - high speed in-wheel traction motors with a single gear ratio $N_{t-fd}$. Configuration 2 uses a single relatively high torque - low speed traction motor with 2 transmission ratios and a final drive.

Table 3 HEV parameters for configuration 1 and configuration 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Config 1</th>
<th>Config 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Continuous power (kW)</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuous torque (Nm)</td>
<td>290</td>
<td>2200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overcurrent power 60 sec (kW)</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overcurrent torque 60 sec (Nm)</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>2700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum motor speed (rpm)</td>
<td>8000</td>
<td>3252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$N_{t-fd1}$</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$N_{t-fd2}$</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.1 Torque Characteristics for Configuration 1

Configuration 1 was developed to only exploit the traction motors’ overcurrent region. A single gear ratio $N_{t-fd1}$ was chosen that enabled the HEV to tow aeroplanes to their target speed for the required time, while also allowing the vehicle to reach its maximum unloaded solo speed.

Fig. 4 shows the traction motor’s usage over the torque-speed curves. It can be seen that the overcurrent and constant power regions are fully exploited during the duty cycle. The theoretical temperature profile of the motors in Fig. 5 increases at a greater rate while the HEV is accelerating during a towing operation than when the vehicle reaches its cruising speed. During the maintenance operation, the command torque also enter the overcurrent region to accelerate the vehicle to its target velocity. However, the rate of change in temperature is smaller than the pushback operations and only stays in this region for a short time, the command torque quickly returns to the continuous region to maintain the cruising speed. During solo operations, the command torque remains within the boundaries of the continuous torque region and the motor’s temperature does not increase over time.
4.2 Torque Characteristics for Configuration 2

Configuration 2 was developed to meet the minimum tractive force requirements imposed by the airport regulations for the aeroplane weight classes within this duty cycle. A high gear ratio \(N_{T-fa2}\) will be used during towing and maintenance operations as it achieves the minimum tractive force requirement. A low gear ratio \(N_{T-fa1}\) was chosen for unloaded solo runs that allows the vehicle to reach its top speed. Fig. 6 shows that the motor usage throughout the duty cycle is within the boundaries of the continuous torque-speed curve. The large headroom between the torque usage and the continuous torque-speed curve shows that the traction motor is oversized for this application. The traction motor would also operate in an inefficient region for a large percentage of the duty cycle. Oversized components also increase the price of the HEV where smaller and cheaper components (Configuration 1) would be sufficient.

4.3 Performance Characteristics for Configurations 1 and 2

Because both HEV configurations accurately follow the target duty cycle, the peak power requirement for both vehicles are similar enough that they can use the same battery pack and genset with parameters given in Table 4. Fig. 7-Fig. 8 show the SOE of the battery pack, vehicle velocity and the genset operation for Configuration 1 and Configuration 2 respectively over the duty cycle. The mass of the aeroplanes being towed throughout the duty cycle can be found by comparing the HEV velocity in Fig. 7-Fig. 8 against the duty cycle operations in Table 1. The two vehicle configurations are able to follow the target duty cycle with minimal velocity error. Therefore, both powertrain configurations could be used for the final HEV. The blue shaded areas of Fig. 7-Fig. 8 show that the genset is providing full power to the DC-Link during towing operations. The yellow shaded regions in Fig. 7-Fig. 8 show that the genset is providing full power to the DC-Link and the battery pack is being charged. Since the SOE of the battery packs do not exceed the upper or lower limits, the SOE profiles are deemed acceptable for this duty cycle. A comparison between the electrical energy required and the fuel consumed for both HEV configurations against the original ICE powered vehicle is shown in Table 5.

**Table 4:** Battery pack parameters used in the pushback HEV for both configuration 1 and configuration 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Per cell</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rated current capacity (Ah)</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rated power capacity (kWh)</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nominal voltage (V)</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuous power output (kW)</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peak power output (kW)</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pack configuration and parameters</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cells in series per string</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strings of series in parallel</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper SOE limit (%)</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower SOE limit (%)</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Battery pack capacity (kWh)</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genset parameters</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genset power (kW)</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genset fuel consumption (L/h)</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Configuration 2 requires 6.97% more energy and consumes 5.7% more fuel than configuration 1. This is because the dual hub traction motors operate in the higher efficiency overcurrent region for large portions of the duty cycle. However, since configuration 1 does not meet the minimum tractive force regulations, configuration 2 will be used as the final design for the HEV pushback vehicle. Table 5 shows that configuration 2 reduced fuel consumption by 52% from the original ICE powered pushback vehicle over the duty cycle. Without knowing the output emission maps of the genset, it was assumed that there would be a similar reduction in output emissions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Powertrain Configuration</th>
<th>Energy required (kWh)</th>
<th>Fuel consumed (L)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ICE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEV Configuration 1</td>
<td>244</td>
<td>86.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEV Configuration 2</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>91.22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The results of this simulation-based sizing strategy have been used in the development of a HEV/EV aeroplane pushback vehicle. A prototype of which is under construction and a future experimental validation of the prediction model is pending, the results of which will be presented in a future publication.

5. Conclusion

This paper has presented a new traction motor sizing strategy for HEV/EVs based on an overcurrent-tolerant prediction model. This model was able to estimate the dynamic and thermal characteristics of a motor operating in the overcurrent region. The intended application of this sizing strategy is during the initial development stages of a HEV/EV to assess the feasibility of prospective traction motors and powertrain configurations. This strategy is applicable to the development of any passenger or heavy duty off-road HEV/EV. A case study was explored where an aeroplane pushback vehicle was converted into a series HEV using this sizing strategy. Two possible HEV configurations using different traction motors and powertrain configurations were then analysed. The advantages of operating in the overcurrent region and its effect on the HEV/EV’s driving range, fuel consumption and emissions was revealed. The traction motors operating in the overcurrent region showed to reduce the total energy required and fuel consumed over a rigorous duty cycle. The final HEV design showed a reduction in fuel consumption and engine emissions of 52% from the conventional ICE powered vehicle.

6. Acknowledgements

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7. References


8. Appendix 1

Table 6 ICE Speed-Torque characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Speed (rpm)</th>
<th>Torque (Nm)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>600</td>
<td>595</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>700</td>
<td>630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>800</td>
<td>741</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>900</td>
<td>864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1000</td>
<td>987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1100</td>
<td>990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1200</td>
<td>932</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1300</td>
<td>915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1400</td>
<td>830</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. Appendix 2

Nomenclature

- $g$: Acceleration of gravity (m.s$^{-2}$)
- $\rho$: Air density (kg.m$^{-3}$)
- $J_{Batt}$: Battery pack energy (J)
- $F_{Aero}$: Force - Aerodynamic drag (Nm)
- $F_{Brake}$: Force - Brake (Nm)
- $F_{\text{Brake-max}}$: Force - Brake maximum (Nm)
- $F_{\text{Rolling}}$: Force - Rolling resistance (Nm)
- $F_{\text{Traction}}$: Force - Traction (Nm)
- $\omega_{b}$: Motor - Base speed (rad.s$^{-1}$)
- $\eta_e$: Motor - Electrical efficiency
- $P_m$: Motor - Electrical power (kW)
- $\omega_m$: Motor - Rotor speed (rad.s$^{-1}$)
- $\alpha$: Pedal activation - Accelerator (%)
- $\beta$: Pedal activation - Brake (%)
- $P_{aux}$: Power - Auxiliary (kW)
- $P_{\text{Gen}}$: Power - Genset output (kW)
- $P_m$: Power - Motor (kW)
- $I_{fd}$: Rotational inertia - Final drive (kg.m$^2$)
- $I_{\text{ICE}}$: Rotational inertia - Internal combustion engine (kg.m$^2$)
- $I_m$: Rotational inertia - Traction motor (kg.m$^2$)
- $I_T$: Rotational inertia - Transmission (kg.m$^2$)
- $I_{\text{Wheel}}$: Rotational inertia - Wheel (kg.m$^2$)
- $\tau_c$: Torque output - Continuous (Nm)
- $\tau_{ICE}$: Torque output - Internal combustion engine (Nm)
- $\tau_p$: Torque output - Overcurrent (Nm)
- $\delta$: Torque position
- $T$: Temperature - Estimated (%)
- $T_{\text{High}}$: Temperature limit - High (%)
- $T_{\text{Low}}$: Temperature limit - Low (%)
- $TF$: Temperature Factor (%)
- $t$: Time (s)
- $t_{\text{Stop}}$: Time - Cool-down (s)
- $t_{\text{Lim}}$: Time - Overcurrent limit (s)
- $a_x$: Vehicle - Acceleration (m.s$^{-2}$)
- $C_D$: Vehicle - Coefficient of aerodynamic drag
- $f_r$: Vehicle - Coefficient of rolling resistance
- $M_v$: Vehicle - Effective vehicle mass (kg)
- $\eta_{fa}$: Vehicle - Final drive efficiency
- $N_{\text{F-d}}$: Vehicle - Final drive and transmission ratio combined
- $N_{fa}$: Vehicle - Final drive ratio
- $A$: Vehicle - Frontal area (m$^2$)
- $M_{\text{veh}}$: Vehicle - Mass (kg)
- $N_f$: Vehicle - Transmission ratio
- $U$: Vehicle - Velocity (m.s$^{-1}$)
- $r_w$: Vehicle - Wheel rolling radius (m)
- EV: Electric Vehicle
- HEV: Hybrid Electric Vehicle
- ICE: Internal Combustion Engine
- SOE: State of Energy

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