



# Closed-loop Battery Aging Management for Electric Vehicles

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**Abstract:** In this work, a closed-loop battery aging management strategy for electric vehicles is proposed. The aging management strategy, following the model predictive control rationale, optimizes aging and vehicle performance online. The proposed formulation is based on a closed-loop term which aims at tracking a user defined aging profile. A thorough simulation study validates the approach and verifies its robustness against model uncertainties and anomalous aging phenomena.

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**Keywords:** battery aging management, electric vehicles, optimization

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The last decade has been characterized by an increasing interest in Electric Vehicles (EV's). However, the cost of the battery pack and uncertainties in its life expectancy still limit the widespread use of EV's. Matching the vehicle lifetime with the one of the battery is fundamental for the spread of electric mobility.

As far as electric mobility is concerned, Li-ion batteries are the preferred technology in terms of energy and power densities (Lu et al., 2013). However, Li-ion batteries are subject to aging (*i.e.*, a capacity loss). Aging phenomena can be divided in two classes: calendar and cycle aging. The former is related to capacity losses caused by the battery storage conditions.

On the other hand, cycle aging is function of the battery usage. Temperature, Depth of Discharge (*DoD*), and C-rate (Barré et al., 2013; Lu et al., 2013; Jaguemont et al., 2016) have been recognized as the stress factors impacting on the battery lifetime. As a matter of fact, operating the battery at high *DoD*, high C-rate, and high temperatures leads to an accelerated aging process.

While aging phenomena are well documented in the literature, strategies that actively employ this information are still underexplored. Hybrid vehicles have received most of the attention. As far as hybrid electric vehicles are concerned, Ebbesen et al. (2012), Serrao et al. (2011), and Pozzato et al. (2019) proposed solutions for the energy management problem based on the minimization of a cost function accounting for battery aging phenomena. The presence of multiple power sources, *e.g.*, the internal combustion engine and the battery, allows one to avoid critical operating conditions, from a battery aging standpoint, without affecting the vehicle performance. In EV's, the aging control becomes more critical because battery degradation is connected to the vehicle performance. For this reason, most of the approaches proposed in literature

focus either on cell balancing (Rehman et al., 2016) or on the usage of static maps for temperature, voltage, and current (Hannan et al., 2017).

In this work, a battery aging management strategy is proposed. First, a powertrain modeling is recalled to quantify the battery capacity degradation over time. Then, the battery aging management problem is formalized as an optimal control problem. In particular, the control actions, *DoD* and  $I_{max}^{cell}$ , are computed minimizing an objective function accounting for both battery life and vehicle performance. Extending a previous work of the authors (Corno and Pozzato, 2019), the aging cost term is rewritten as a tracking problem of a reference aging profile. This reformulation yields a genuine closed-loop term which provides robustness with respect to anomalous aging phenomena and model uncertainties.

The paper is organized as follows. Section 2 recalls the electric vehicle model. Section 3 formalizes the battery aging management problem as an optimal control problem. Section 4 shows the capabilities of the proposed optimization architecture considering different battery aging reference profiles, unexpected aging, and model uncertainties.

## 2. MODELING

Considering different driving conditions, the model aims to quantify the battery aging. The main parameters of the vehicle under investigation are summarized in Table ??.

### 2.1 Electric vehicle modeling

The vehicle and aging processes are modeled according to Sabatini and Corno (2018). The model considers the throttle position as an input. Given the requested power, the power absorbed or supplied by the battery is computed in a backward fashion. Therefore, the driver is modeled as a proportional regulator which aims to follow a desired speed profile  $v_{ref}$ :

$$T_m^{req} = k_p \varepsilon = k_p(v_{ref} - v) \quad (1)$$

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with  $k_p$  a suitable proportional gain,  $v$  the actual vehicle speed, and  $T_m^{ref}$  the traction torque request. Given the motor torque constant  $k_m$ , the current request is computed as follows:

$$i_m^{req} = \frac{T_m^{req}}{k_m}. \quad (2)$$

(2) is saturated to  $I_{max}$ :

$$I_{max} = f(I_{max}^{cell}, \omega_m, \bar{\eta}_m) = \frac{I_{max}^{cell} V_b n_p}{\omega_m k_m} \bar{\eta}_m \quad (3)$$

where  $\bar{\eta}_m$  is the average electric motor efficiency,  $n_p$  the number of cells in parallel configuration,  $V_b$  the battery pack voltage, and  $\omega_m$  the motor rotational speed.  $I_{max}^{cell}$  is an output of the battery aging management strategy, which is limiting the battery cell current at the cost of increasing the battery recharge time while reducing the maximum vehicle acceleration. From now on, the capital letter  $I$  will denote quantities expressed in C-rate rather than Ampere. With  $i_m^{sat}$  being the current provided by the motor, the following longitudinal dynamics is introduced:

$$M\dot{v} = i_m^{sat} \frac{k_m r_t}{R_w} - \frac{1}{2} \rho_a v^2 C_x A - F_r \quad (4)$$

with  $v$  and  $M$  the vehicle speed and mass,  $R_w$  the wheel radius,  $r_t$  the gear ratio,  $C_x$  the drag coefficient,  $\rho_a$  the air density,  $A$  the vehicle cross sectional area, and  $F_r$  the rolling resistance. The power provided by the motor for the vehicle motion is computed according to the following equation:

$$P_m = \frac{k_m i_m^{sat} v}{R_w r_t} = k_m i_m^{sat} \omega_m = T_m^{sat} \omega_m \quad (5)$$

with  $T_m^{sat}$  the motor torque. By modeling the electric machine as a static efficiency map  $\eta_m$ , one obtains the following expression for the battery power:

$$P_b = \begin{cases} \frac{P_m}{\eta_m(P_m)}, & \text{if } P_m \geq 0 \text{ (motor)} \\ P_m \eta_m(P_m), & \text{if } P_m < 0 \text{ (generator).} \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

If the battery pack is composed of  $n_{cell}$ , the cell power request is  $P_{cell} = P_b/n_{cell}$ .

**Charging management.** Charging events are generally determined by the state of charge and by charging stations availability, given the extremely long simulation horizon, we neglect the issue of station availability and we assume that every time the battery reaches the lower limit state of charge, the vehicle is decelerated and recharged. To control this behavior, the aging management strategy employs the *DoD* as a control variable. The *DoD* is defined to be symmetric with respect to a *SoC* of 50%.

## 2.2 Battery cell modeling

The reference Battery Management System (BMS) is equipped with a thermal management and balancing unit. Therefore, the battery pack is modeled as a single large cell with its electrical equivalent circuit and the cell current is

$$i_{cell} = \frac{v_{oc} - \sqrt{v_{oc}^2 - 4R_{cell}P_{cell}}}{2R_{cell}} \quad (7)$$

with the *SoC* dynamics given by:

$$\dot{SoC} = -\frac{i_{cell}}{Q} \quad (8)$$

where  $Q$  is the cell capacity, decreasing with the aging. The battery aging model, derived from Suri and Onori (2016), is given by the following set of equations:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{dQ}{dAh} = -\frac{z}{100} \alpha_{SoC} \exp\left(\frac{-E_a + \eta |I_{cell}|}{R_g(273.15+T)}\right) Ah^{z-1} \\ \dot{Ah} = \frac{1}{3600} |I_{cell}| Q_{nom} \end{cases} \quad (9)$$

with  $E_a$  and  $R_g$  the activation energy, equal to 31.5 (kJ/mol), and the universal gas constant, respectively.  $\eta$  and  $z$  are identified from experimental data.  $\alpha_{SoC}$  is a penalizing factor accelerating the aging for low and high *SoC*:

$$\alpha_{SoC} = d \left( 1 + c e^{b(SoC_{min} - SoC)} \right) \left( 1 + c e^{b(SoC - SoC_{max})} \right)$$

with  $b$ ,  $c$ ,  $d$ ,  $SoC_{min}$ , and  $SoC_{max}$  shaping parameters. Major stress factors affecting the battery lifetime modeled as in (9) are: temperature  $T$ , *SoC*, and C-rate  $I_{cell}$ . Eventually, the battery internal resistance variation due to temperature and aging phenomena is modeled as follows:

$$R_{cell} = R_{cell}^1 + \Delta R_{cell}. \quad (10)$$

The first term in (10) describes the resistance variation with respect to temperature (Lin et al., 2014):

$$R_{cell}^1 = R_{cell,0} e^{\left(\frac{T_1}{T-T_2}\right)} \quad (11)$$

with  $R_{cell,0}$  the nominal cell resistance and  $T_1$ ,  $T_2$  identified parameters. The second term provides a linear relationship between a resistance increment  $\Delta R_{cell}$  and a capacity decay  $\Delta Q$ :

$$\Delta R_{cell} = -k_{res} \Delta Q \quad (12)$$

where  $k_{res}$  is derived experimentally (see, e.g., Schuster et al. (2016)).

**Thermal management.** Cooling circuits are commonly adopted in order to control the battery pack temperature to a desired value. The introduction of such a thermal management system leads to an increment of the cell power request of  $P_{cool}$ , i.e., the cooling power:

$$P_{cell}^{tot} = P_{cell} + P_{cool}. \quad (13)$$

## 3. BATTERY AGING MANAGEMENT

This section addresses the battery aging management issue considering as control variables  $I_{max}^{cell}$  and *DoD*. The goal is to control the battery aging while guaranteeing acceptable driving performance in terms of charging time, range, and drivability. We define an optimal control problem, over a traveled distance  $\mathcal{N}$ , as:

$$\begin{aligned} \underset{\mathbf{u}}{\text{minimize}} \quad & \alpha_l J_{life} + \alpha_s J_{speed} + \alpha_c J_{charge} - \alpha_r J_{range} \\ \text{subject to} \end{aligned}$$

(4), (8), (9)

$$i_m^{req} = k_p(v_{ref} - v)/k_m$$

$$I_{max} = f(I_{max}^{cell}, \omega_m, \bar{\eta}_m)$$

$$i_m^{sat} = \begin{cases} i_m^{req}, & |i_m^{req}| \leq I_{max} Q_{nom} \\ I_{max} Q_{nom}, & i_m^{req} > I_{max} Q_{nom} \\ -I_{max} Q_{nom}, & i_m^{req} < -I_{max} Q_{nom} \end{cases}$$

$$P_{cell} = P_b(i_m^{sat}, \omega_m)/n_{cell}$$

$$i_{cell} = \frac{v_{oc} - \sqrt{v_{oc}^2 - 4R_{cell}P_{cell}}}{2R_{cell}}$$

$$I_{cell} = i_{cell}/Q_{nom}$$

$$\frac{1 - DoD}{2} \leq SoC \leq 1 - \frac{1 - DoD}{2} \quad (14)$$

where  $\mathbf{u} = [DoD, I_{max}^{cell}]^T$  is the vector of control variables (with  $DoD \in [20, 100]\%$  and  $I_{max}^{cell} \in [1, 5]$  (C-rate)) and  $P_b(i_m^{sat}, \omega_m)$  highlights that the battery power is computed from (5) and (6).  $\alpha_l$ ,  $\alpha_s$ ,  $\alpha_c$ , and  $\alpha_r$  are weighting factors which will be detailed in what follows. The minus in front of  $J_{range}$  stands for maximization.

$J_{life}$  accounts for the tracking error with respect to a desired aging profile  $Q_{ref}$  (Figure 1):

$$J_{life} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{t(\mathcal{N})} \int_0^{t(\mathcal{N})} (Q_{ref}(\tau) - Q(\tau))^2 d\tau} \quad (15)$$

with  $t(\mathcal{N})$  the time horizon, i.e., the time to travel  $\mathcal{N}$  kilometers. In the program formulated by Corno and Pozzato (2019), the aging cost term is minimizing the capacity drop over  $\mathcal{N}$ , i.e.,  $\frac{Q(0)-Q(\mathcal{N})}{\mathcal{N}}$ . This formulation yields the control variables which guarantee the optimal battery aging in ideal conditions, i.e., assuming the model (9) to be a perfect description of the real-world battery and that none of the cells are faulty. Therefore, coping with anomalous aging scenarios is not possible. Conversely, the closed-loop architecture brought by (15) enhances the robustness of the proposed aging management strategy (as will be analyzed in Section 4).  $J_{speed}$  accounts for the mismatch between the driver's desired speed  $v_{ref}$  and the actual vehicle speed  $v$ :

$$J_{speed} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{t(\mathcal{N})} \int_0^{t(\mathcal{N})} (v_{ref}(\tau) - v(\tau))^2 d\tau}. \quad (16)$$

The terms  $J_{charge}$  and  $J_{range}$  take into account the charging time and the driving range, respectively:

$$\begin{aligned} J_{charge} &= \sqrt{\frac{1}{\mathcal{E}(\mathcal{N})} \sum_{i=1}^{\mathcal{E}(\mathcal{N})} t_c(i)^2} \\ J_{range} &= \sqrt{\frac{1}{\mathcal{E}(\mathcal{N})} \sum_{i=1}^{\mathcal{E}(\mathcal{N})} d_r(i)^2} \quad (17) \end{aligned}$$

where  $\mathcal{E}(\mathcal{N})$  is the total number of charging events over  $\mathcal{N}$ ,  $t_c$  the charging time for each event, and  $d_r$  the traveled distance between two charging events.

The solution of the aging management problem is carried out relying on a Model Predictive Control (MPC)

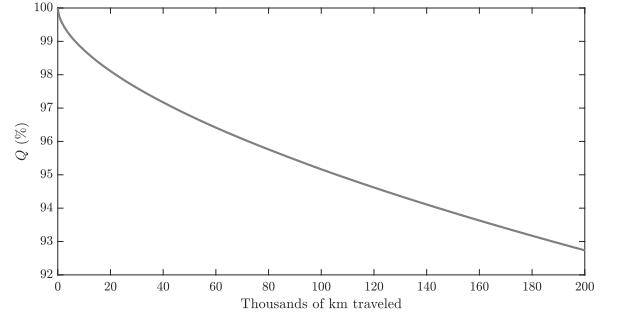


Fig. 1: Nominal battery aging reference signal. This profile is retrieved from Corno and Pozzato (2019), considering the solution for the Artemis Rural driving cycle.

procedure based on Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO). Therefore, a prediction horizon  $\mathcal{N}_p$  and a control discretization step  $\mathcal{N}_u$  are introduced (such that  $\mathcal{N}_u \leq \mathcal{N}_p$ ). At each MPC index  $k$ , the next  $k_p = \mathcal{N}_p/\mathcal{N}_u$  control moves are selected minimizing a reformulation of the objective function in (14):

$$\begin{aligned} J_k = \alpha_l \sqrt{\frac{1}{t(k+k_p) - t(k)} \int_{t(k)}^{t(k+k_p)} (Q_{ref}(\tau) - Q(\tau))^2 d\tau} + \\ \alpha_s \sqrt{\frac{1}{t(k+k_p) - t(k)} \int_{t(k)}^{t(k+k_p)} (v_{ref}(\tau) - v(\tau))^2 d\tau} + \\ \alpha_c \sqrt{\frac{1}{\mathcal{E}(k+k_p) - \mathcal{E}(k)} \sum_{i=\mathcal{E}(k)}^{\mathcal{E}(k+k_p)} t_c(i)^2} - \\ \alpha_r \sqrt{\frac{1}{\mathcal{E}(k+k_p) - \mathcal{E}(k)} \sum_{i=\mathcal{E}(k)}^{\mathcal{E}(k+k_p)} d_r(i)^2} \quad (18) \end{aligned}$$

where  $t(k+k_p) - t(k)$  is the time to travel  $\mathcal{N}_p$  kilometers and  $\mathcal{E}(k+k_p) - \mathcal{E}(k)$  the number of charging events between  $k$  and  $k+k_p$ . Then, the receding horizon principle is applied and only the first pair of control actions is applied from  $k$  to  $k+1$ . Eventually, the procedure is repeated at each  $k$  till a traveled distance  $\mathcal{N}$  is reached.

In the next section, solutions of the battery aging management problem are obtained considering  $\mathcal{N} = 200000$  (km),  $\mathcal{N}_p = 8000$  (km), and  $\mathcal{N}_u = 2000$  (km)<sup>1</sup>. An effective choice to solve the optimal control problem in a reasonable time, i.e., 30 (min/step). Given the system state  $[Q(k), SoC(k), Ah(k)]^T$  as input, prediction over  $\mathcal{N}_p$  is obtained assuming perfect knowledge of the desired vehicle speed  $v_{ref}$  (Figure 3). The block diagram of the proposed online optimization strategy is summarized by Figure 2.

## 4. RESULTS

First, relying on a Pareto analysis, a selection of the parameter  $\alpha_l$  is performed. Then, the proposed strategy is tested considering different aging reference signals, unexpected aging, and model uncertainties.

<sup>1</sup> The swarm size, a fundamental parameter for the PSO algorithm setup, is equal to 80.

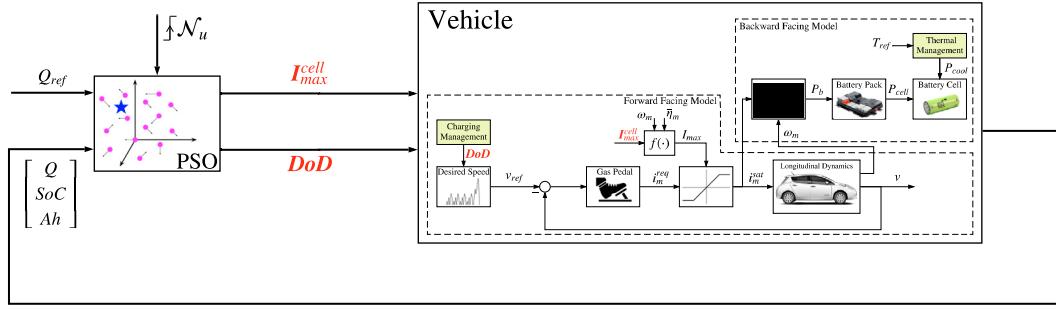


Fig. 2: Online optimization architecture. The online optimization is triggered at each control discretization step  $\mathcal{N}_u$ .

#### 4.1 Pareto analysis

The objective function is a composition of four different cost terms. These components must be properly weighted in order to reach the desired performance while optimizing the system. To this end, the weighting factors for  $J_{speed}$ ,  $J_{charge}$ , and  $J_{range}$  are assumed to be constant and equal to:

$$\alpha_s = 100 \text{ (s/m)}, \alpha_c = 1 \text{ (1/min)}, \alpha_r = 1 \text{ (1/km)}. \quad (19)$$

Selection of parameters (19) is performed with the goal of making the magnitude of the associated cost components comparable. Therefore, a Pareto front (see Figure 4) is constructed in order to analyze the behavior of the different cost terms while varying the parameter  $\alpha_l$  in the range  $[1 \times 10^4, 1 \times 10^5]$  (1/Ah). The higher the  $\alpha_l$  the better the tracking of the battery aging reference profile. This is achieved at the cost of reducing both the  $I_{max}^{cell}$  and the  $DoD$ , which leads to an increased charging time and to a decreased range. Since our main goal is to track an aging profile, even in anomalous scenarios (*i.e.*, model uncertainties or unexpected aging), a value of  $\alpha_l$  equal to  $9.25 \times 10^4$  (1/Ah) is selected.

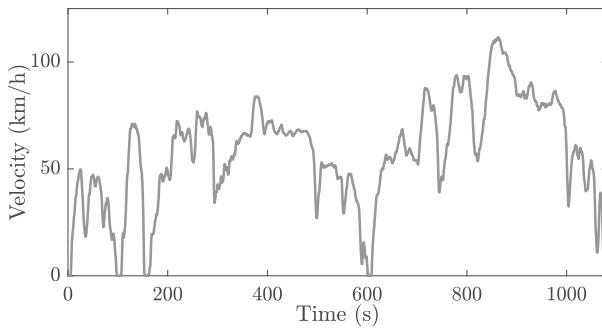


Fig. 3: The desired vehicle speed  $v_{ref}$  is modeled as an Artemis Rural driving cycle.

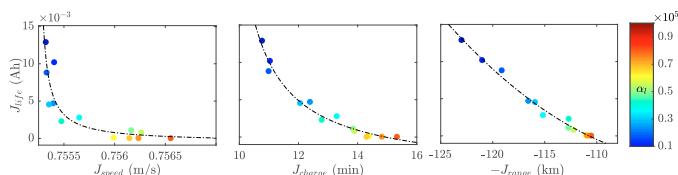


Fig. 4: Pareto analysis for  $\alpha_l$  varying between  $1 \times 10^4$  and  $1 \times 10^5$  (1/Ah). The weights for  $J_{speed}$ ,  $J_{charge}$ , and  $J_{range}$  are kept constant over the analysis.

#### 4.2 Aging reference profile

To show the capabilities of the proposed approach, the battery aging management problem is solved considering different aging profiles. Starting from the nominal reference shown in Figure 1, *increased* and *decreased* aging scenarios are analyzed. As shown by Table 1, if a higher aging is allowed, both the  $DoD$  and the  $I_{max}^{cell}$  are increased, *i.e.*, an extended range (116.76 (km)) and a faster charging (12.73 (min)) are achieved. In case a lower aging is allowed, the control variables  $DoD$  and  $I_{max}^{cell}$  are reduced, leading to a range of 106.00 (km) and to a charging time of 17.88 (min). Figure 5(a) shows the tracking performance with respect to the analyzed reference profiles. Moreover, the corresponding control actions are depicted in Figure 5(b). Eventually, as shown by Table 1, the tracking performance is satisfactory and a  $J_{life}$  below  $1 \times 10^{-4}$  (Ah) is always guaranteed.

#### 4.3 Robustness to unexpected aging and model uncertainties

The previous results are obtained in ideal conditions, *i.e.*, in case the battery ages according to the model (9). However, in a real-world scenario, unexpected aging phenomena, along with modeling uncertainties, may be present. Therefore, it is of paramount importance to assess the robustness of the proposed methodology even in non-ideal aging conditions.

As far as unexpected aging is concerned, a battery capacity sudden decay is introduced. This anomalous phenomenon models a fault in the battery which leads to an aging drop of 0.25% in correspondence of a traveled distance of 20000 (km). The closed-loop properties of (18) counteract this anomaly. To assess the performance of the proposed architecture, a comparison is carried out considering an open-loop scenario in which the control variables, obtained

	Nominal	Increased aging	Decreased aging
$Q$ (%)	<b>92.73</b>	<b>92.31</b>	<b>92.90</b>
$J$ (-)	-12.53	-24.30	47.86
$J_{life}$ (Ah)	$1.3 \times 10^{-4}$	$9.1 \times 10^{-5}$	$6.4 \times 10^{-4}$
$J_{speed}$ (m/s)	0.76	0.74	0.77
$J_{charge}$ (min)	14.39	12.73	17.88
$J_{range}$ (km)	111.08	116.76	106.00

Table 1: Online solution for different aging reference profiles. Once the online optimization is concluded, the cost terms are computed over the entire horizon  $\mathcal{N}$  as per (14).

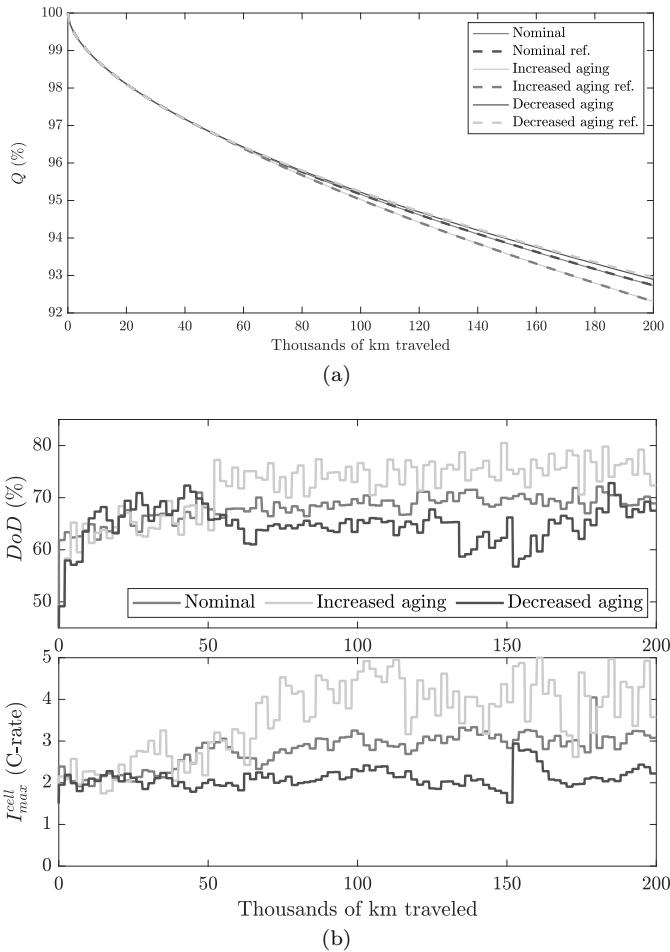


Fig. 5: Solution for different aging reference signals (a) and corresponding control actions (b). The proposed approach is effective for tracking a desired aging reference profile.

solving the aging management problem for the nominal aging reference profile (Figure 5(b)), are directly applied to control the system. Clearly, the open-loop approach can not recover from anomalous aging. Conversely, solving the online optimization guarantees robustness and the capability of recovering from unexpected aging limiting the performance of the vehicle, *i.e.*, reducing both the  $DoD$  and the  $I_{max}^{cell}$  (see Figure 6). Extrapolating the results to a battery end of life of 80%, the gain in terms of vehicle life extension is 14000 (km). Even though the gain is marginal, it must be noticed that the proposed methodology, for an effective choice of  $N_p$  and  $N_u$ , guarantees robustness with respect to different kind (*e.g.*, harsher sudden decays) of anomalous aging scenarios. The optimization results are summarized by Table 2.

Concerning modeling uncertainties, the idea is to test the proposed online optimization architecture assuming the battery aging model used for prediction to be different with respect to the actual battery aging behavior. In practice, this is obtained modifying the parameter  $z$  in equation (9)<sup>2</sup>. Thus, values equal to 0.56 and 0.57 are used for the actual battery behavior and for prediction, respectively. The performance of the proposed architecture

<sup>2</sup> The parameter  $z$  strongly affects the battery aging behavior. However, uncertainty can be also present in the battery thermal model or in other parameters characterizing the aging dynamics (9).

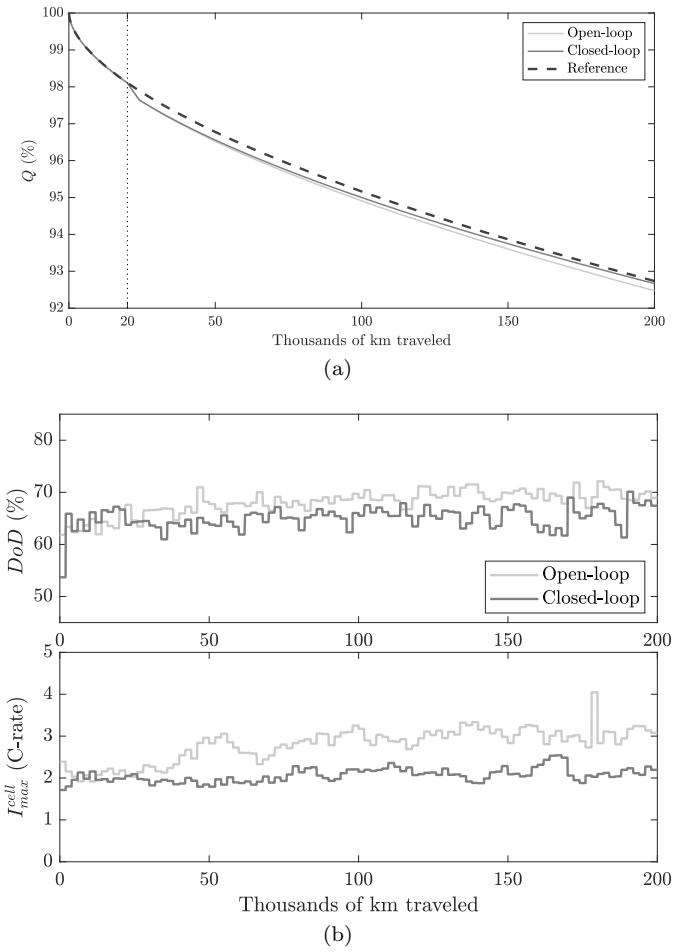


Fig. 6: Solution for the unexpected aging scenario. To assess the robustness of the proposed closed-loop strategy, the comparison is carried out with respect to an open-loop solution. (a) shows the battery aging profiles and (b) the corresponding control actions.

is compared to an open-loop solution, *i.e.*, the control variables obtained solving the aging management problem for the nominal aging reference profile (Figure 5(b)) are applied to control the system. Clearly, the open-loop solution can not cope with modeling uncertainties and the battery aging does not follow the user defined reference (Figure 7(a)). Conversely, the closed-loop optimization counteracts modeling uncertainties. In particular, to follow the desired aging reference and given the actual battery aging behavior, both the  $DoD$  and the  $I_{max}^{cell}$  are increased (see Figure 7(b)). Note that in this case, the change in the aging parameter leads to a longer battery life; the longer battery life comes at the cost of an underperforming vehicle. Therefore, the closed-loop solution better exploits the real capabilities of the battery pack. Optimization results are summarized by Table 3.

## 5. CONCLUSIONS

This paper introduces a battery aging management strategy with enhanced closed-loop properties. To this end, the aging cost term  $J_{life}$  is written as a tracking problem of  $Q_{ref}$ . Then, the optimal battery aging management is obtained minimizing an objective function composed of four terms accounting for both battery life and vehicle performance. This approach allows to track a desired ref-

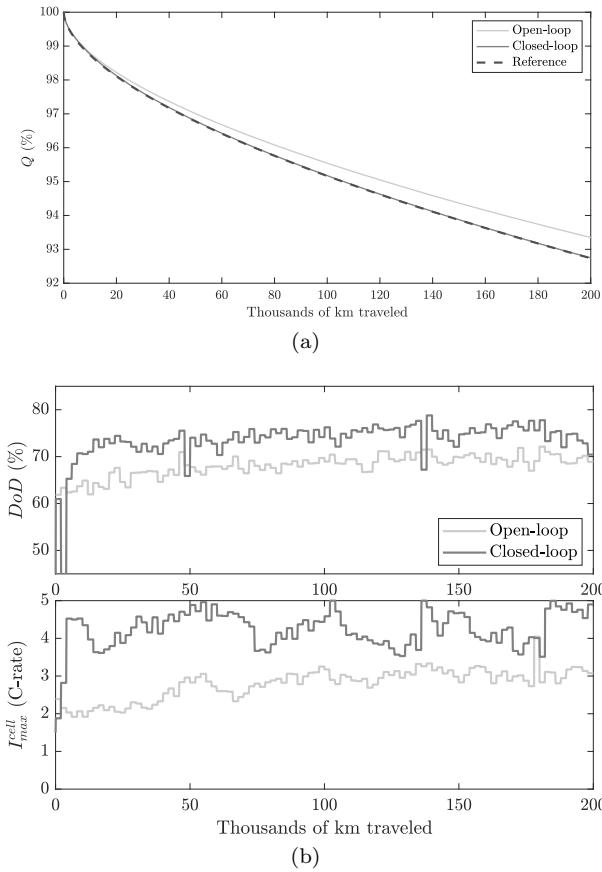


Fig. 7: Solution in case of modeling uncertainties. To assess the robustness of the proposed closed-loop strategy, the comparison is carried out with respect to an open-loop solution. (a) shows the battery aging profiles and (b) the corresponding control actions.

	Open-loop	Closed-loop
$Q$ (%)	<b>92.48</b>	<b>92.67</b>
$J$ (-)	539.61	348.60
$J_{life}$ (Ah)	$6.1 \times 10^{-3}$	$3.9 \times 10^{-3}$
$J_{speed}$ (m/s)	0.74	0.75
$J_{charge}$ (min)	14.35	18.17
$J_{range}$ (km)	110.37	105.86

Table 2: Online solution of the battery aging management problem for the unexpected aging scenario. Once the online optimization is concluded, the cost terms are computed over the entire horizon  $\mathcal{N}$  as per (14).

erence  $Q_{ref}$  while guaranteeing a satisfactory driving experience. The proposed methodology provides robustness with respect to anomalous aging phenomena and model uncertainties.

## REFERENCES

- |                    | Open-loop    | Closed-loop          |
|--------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| $Q$ (%)            | <b>93.35</b> | <b>92.75</b>         |
| $J$ (-)            | 885.73       | -5.32                |
| $J_{life}$ (Ah)    | 0.01         | $3.1 \times 10^{-4}$ |
| $J_{speed}$ (m/s)  | 0.74         | 0.76                 |
| $J_{charge}$ (min) | 14.44        | 10.19                |
| $J_{range}$ (km)   | 111.16       | 120.04               |
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