

High-accuracy electric vehicle battery monitoring with diamond quantum sensors for driving range extension

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Towards High Accuracy Battery Current Monitoring in Electric Vehicles

Accurate battery current prediction in electric vehicles (EVs) is necessary to estimate their remaining driving range

However, ordinary sensors can only provide estimates with a 10% ambiguity owing to their limited accuracy

High-sensitivity battery current monitoring using a diamond quantum sensor

Diamond sensor
Fiber

Diamond sensor
Busbar
Microwave generator
Lock-in amplifier
Photodiode

- ✓ Dual sensor-based differential detection of busbar current
- ✓ Magnetic resonance microwave frequency tracing with mixed analog-digital control

High dynamic range (± 1000 A)

10 mA current detected in a noisy environment \rightarrow improved accuracy (within 1%)

Wide operating temperature range (-40°C – 85°C)

The new diamond quantum sensor-based current monitoring of EVs could enable improved battery usage efficiency in EVs

High-precision robust monitoring of charge/discharge current over a wide dynamic range for electric vehicle batteries using diamond quantum sensors
 Hatano et al. (2022) | Scientific Reports | 10.1038/s41598-022-18106-x

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Credit: Tokyo Tech

The popularity of electric vehicles (EVs) as an environmentally friendly alternative to conventional gasoline vehicles has been on the rise. This has led to research efforts directed toward developing high-efficiency EV batteries. But, a major inefficiency in EVs results from inaccurate estimations of the battery charge. The charge state of an EV battery is measured based on the current output of the battery. This provides an estimate of the remaining driving range of the vehicles.

Typically, the [battery](#) currents in EVs can reach hundreds of amperes. However, commercial sensors that can detect such currents cannot measure small changes in the [current](#) at milliamperes levels. This leads to an ambiguity of around 10% in the battery charge estimation. What this means is that the driving range of EVs could be extended by 10%. This, in turn, would reduce inefficient battery usage.

Now, a team of researchers from Japan, led by Professor Mutsuko Hatano from Tokyo Institute of Technology (Tokyo Tech), has now come up with a solution. In their study published in *Scientific Reports*, the team has reported a diamond quantum sensor-based detection technique that can estimate the battery charge within 1% accuracy while measuring high currents typical of EVs.

"We developed diamond sensors that are sensitive to milliamperes currents and compact enough to be implemented in automobiles. Furthermore, we measured currents in a wide range as well as detected milliamperes-level currents in a noisy environment," explains Prof. Hatano.

In their work, the team made a prototype sensor using two diamond quantum sensors that were placed on either side of the busbar (electrical junction for incoming and outgoing currents) in the car. They then used a technique called "differential detection" to eliminate the common noise detected by both the sensors and retain only the actual signal. This, in turn, enabled them to detect a small current of 10 mA amid background environmental noise.

Next, the team used a mixed analog-digital control of the frequencies generated by two microwave generators to trace the magnetic resonance frequencies of the quantum sensor over a bandwidth of 1 gigahertz. This allowed for a large dynamic range (ratio of largest to smallest current detected) of ± 1000 A. Moreover, a wide operating temperature range of -40 to $+85$ °C was confirmed to cover general vehicular applications.

Finally, the team tested this prototype for Worldwide Harmonized Light Vehicles Test Cycle (WLTC) driving, a standard test for [energy consumption](#) in EVs. The sensor accurately traced the charge/discharge current from -50 A to 130 A and demonstrated the battery charge estimation accuracy within 1%.

What are the implications of these findings? Prof. Hatano says, "Increasing battery usage efficiency by 10% would reduce battery weight by 10%, which will reduce 3.5% running energy and 5% production energy of 20 million new EVs in 2030 WW. This, in turn, corresponds to a 0.2% reduction in CO₂ emissions in 2030 WW transportation field."

More information: High-Precision robust monitoring of charge/discharge current over a wide dynamic range for electric vehicle batteries using diamond quantum sensors, *Scientific Reports* (2022). [DOI: 10.1038/s41598-022-18106-x](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-022-18106-x)

Provided by Tokyo Institute of Technology

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