Numerical Simulation of Electric Powertrain for Examining Real World Performance of EVs at Sub-Zero Temperatures

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Abstract

Electric Vehicles (EVs) are considered to be a worthy alternative to automobiles powered by internal combustion engines to achieve the goal of sustainable transportation. For their many known advantages, Li-ion cells are considered to be the most practical energy storage solution for the purpose of EVs propulsion currently. The capability of Li-ion cells to store energy in extreme cold operating temperatures is significantly lower than that at nominal operating temperatures due to greater power losses at cold temperatures. Therefore, it leads to degradation of performance of EVs in sub-zero temperatures.

The present work proposes a novel approach to use numerical simulation technique to build an EV model based on BMW i3 using GT Suite at sub-zero temperatures. The model is validated against experimental data obtained from Argonne National Laboratory for US06, HWY and UDDS legislative drive cycles. A real-world drive cycle representing real-world driving in Oxford, United Kingdom, was used for evaluating the effect of cold temperatures on the performance of the Electric vehicle. This paper presents the methodology followed for modelling an electric vehicle that represents BMW i3 EV, the scheme used for modelling the battery characteristics to include the effect of temperature and the resulting state of charge, internal resistance, efficiency, terminal current and power, energy consumption and loss characteristics at low ambient temperatures.

Background

Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) vehicles have been the primary propulsion technology for more than 120 years. With the rising number of automobiles on the roads, their emissions in the form of CO₂ and other pollutants along with low working efficiency of our transportation (an average working efficiency of around 40% to 50%), is a concern that needs immediate addressal [1]. In the last century or so, the automotive industry has seen very incremental changes, especially in the powertrain propulsion space. This has led to our unprecedented dependence on fossil fuels which, not only has empowered people with affordable personal transportation solutions, but also posed a few negative consequences.

Policy makers of major economies around the world, prominent environmentalists and engineers have recognized these concerns and are now advocating for a paradigm shift towards more sustainable solutions for our transportation needs. The industry believes that energy in the form of electricity is a viable alternative solution to fuel. Emadi [2] has stated that this shift towards electric mobility has been happening since early 1990s. The rapid improvements to power electronics (electric convertors, circuitry etc.) meant that processing electricity has become much more efficient and less complex thus giving electric mobility a boost.

Upcoming and currently available battery technologies for propulsion in EVs were assessed on the basis of performance and safety and found that Li-ion fulfilled most of the requirements for a sufficient and reliable battery storage solution in both short and long terms [3]. Higher specific energy capacity, longer service life, higher charge/discharge cycles, lower self-discharge and higher efficiency over the current lot of battery technologies propel Li-ion as the most desirable battery technology found in EVs today and in the future.

As EVs are an emerging technology that, in spite of witnessing massive popularity in recent times, are still witnessing major developments. This also means that the legislations and standards that assess EVs are also in their infancy and need major development. At present, SAE J1634 [4] is one of the latest standards for EV performance assessment. It details an approach that specifies the testing of EVs for both range and energy consumption. However, it has been pointed out by many researchers that such testing is not a true representation of real-world conditions, particularly for sub-zero temperatures. Moreover, Reyes et al. [5] points out that the testing strategy adopted in the standard is impractical when subjecting to a wide range of temperatures and operating conditions which normally exists in the real world (especially cold temperatures).

JRC in its technical report "Standards for performance and durability assessments of EV" in 2018 [6] detailed standards present all over the world regarding EV battery performance assessment both on system level (battery pack) as well as component level (cell level) and noted some essential points in the current scheme of things.

The report explicitly mentions that although various standards agree well with each other, the test conditions for charge and discharge rates should be as close to real life scenario as possible to predict a robust estimation of performance which is clearly missing in current standards. The standards for Battery Electric Vehicles (BEVs) are very closely set up with that of Light Electric Vehicles (LEVs) which requires a thorough corroboration that this is the ideal solution. Moreover, current standards have very limited usefulness when

different versions of traction batteries are assessed, for instance, long/short range batteries. Additionally, an essential remark the technical report points out is that, the current standards are inclined more towards battery chemistry rather than system level assessment, which can be an issue when new technologies arrive which is quite possible as electric mobility is a dynamically evolving field.

This system level macroscopic investigation of BEVs in different operating scenarios, as mentioned by the JRC report, is missing in the current BEVs legislations and literature which this study aims to tackle using numerical simulation approach.

In spite of many desirable performance characteristics, Li-ion batteries, like lead acid, are very sensitive to ambient temperatures [7]. Researchers for years now have published work that investigate Li-ion performance degradations in sub-zero temperatures. Study conducted on a battery model built by Chan [8] showed that internal resistance of a battery is directly proportional to variations in ambient temperatures. Keeping this in mind, simulations on an electrothermal EV model, conducted by Jaguemont et al. [9], found that energy delivered by the same Li-ion battery reduced by up to 39.4% at -20°C compared to 25°C, leading to reduced EV range.

Tests conducted on real world test beds involving an actual vehicle also showed a similar trend of reduction in battery performance. Two popular EV models in the market were driven-to-depletion [5] in Winnipeg, Canada which experiences a broad range of temperatures (-26°C to 28°C) throughout the year on particular days at a difference of 10°C. Maximum distance was recorded 162-165 km at 25-28°C while least range was 48-55Km at -15 to -26°C which is a reduction of 30-35%. Usage of cabin HVAC puts additional stress on the ESS of the vehicle in cold temperatures which results in further reduction in range.

EVs shortcomings in diverse conditions, particularly in cold temperatures is quite evident from the literature widely available. An interesting point to note here is that, not only EVs but traditional ICE vehicles also perform poorly in extreme cold weather compared to their ideal conditions [10]. Lower temperatures cause engine oil to become more viscous which makes circulation more difficult, air becomes denser in winters which has adverse effects on the air/fuel ratio [1]. In spite of this, since ICE have been here for a while and thanks to engineering advancements, this form of propulsion has evolved to become more mature and reliable that these perceived problems are not considered as issues anymore because of a few established adaptations and modifications in place. For instance, electric block heaters are a common arrangement in cars in cold weathers to lessen these shortcomings. Eventually, EVs will also come up with their own adaptations, like this battery heating circuit that aids in the charge/discharge performance of batteries at low temperatures [11]. For that to happen, real world performance of EVs in sub-zero temperatures should be understood and critically analyzed first. This will also help, to some extent, set up better and more robust standards for EVs that address the system level macroscopic testing which is also mentioned explicitly by the JRC report [6]. Moreover, as it has been noted that without proper standards in place, potential of EVs and smoothness of its transition will be stunted [12].

Unfortunately, there lies a knowledge gap in the available literature and current research is very active in this sphere. This paper aims to address this from a numerical simulation point of view by building, validating, evaluating and critically analyzing a simple electric vehicle model to investigate its real-world performance under

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extreme cold weather temperatures. The following sections will further discuss the effect of cold ambient temperatures on Li-ion cell electro-chemistry and internal resistance.

Effect of cold weather on Li-ion cell electrochemistry

Cold weather has a significant effect on Li-ion cell electrochemical behavior. The work of Shiao et al. [13] demonstrates reduced Li-ion cells chemical and charge transfer activity, which reduces the ionic conductivity of electrolytes. Chemical experiments also show a 2-to-3-fold drop in ionic conductivity of electrolytes at -20°C [14]. This causes a reduction in Li-ion diffusivity which is essential in a cell in order to generate current [13]. Fundamentally, electrolyte viscosity increases in cold weather which hampers li-ion conductivity and their ability to undergo diffusion. This automatically results in an increase in internal resistance because the impedance of li-ions to freely move inside the cell also increases [15].

Another variation in cell electrochemistry in cold temperatures is the increase of charge-transfer resistance. It has been observed that there was a three folds increase in charge-transfer resistance in a LiFePO₄ cathode at -20°C compared to room temperatures [16]. Lithium plating is another source of internal resistance generation in cold temperatures. Over time metallic lithium forms around the anode of li-ion cells during general operation. However, in cold weather when cell temperature drops, anodes undergo polarization due to which their potential will lead more towards graphite or other carbon anodes than to that of lithium metal [17]. This slows down the intercalation of lithium ions into the anodes, which in real-world translates to longer time for the battery to charge. Lithium plating is a general occurrence in every Li-ion cell; however, cold temperature escalates this process reducing the healthy operating life of the battery. Therefore, these variations in cell electrochemistry causes the cell to spend more energy to supply current than it normally would. The cell is less eager to give its power, which might even lead to failure in meeting the application demand.

Internal Resistance of Li-ion cells in Cold Weather

When studying EVs operation in extreme cold temperatures, macroscopic analysis of the system is required rather than cell level. Therefore, different individual variations that cause a hike in internal resistance due to sub-zero temperatures as discussed above, are of limited use, rather macroscopic variations of internal resistance are given more importance. This is also the point mentioned in the JRC report [6] as lacking from the current testing regulations mentioned earlier.

In light of this, Awarke et al. [18] built a combination of a vehicle dynamics model coupled with an electric circuit battery model, and a 3D electro thermal model to study the thermal behavior of battery under various urban and highway drive profiles. It predicted an increase in internal resistance and other electric circuit battery model parameters as a function of temperature and SOC and demonstrated a significant increase in internal resistance as temperatures dropped. Similarly, an electric circuit model based on the Thevenin model was built to conduct characterization tests on a Li-ion battery to measure its performance parameters under the influence of ambient temperatures [19]. The model estimated internal resistance to be around 0.15 ohms when the ambient temperature was 10°C at 0% SOC. While internal resistance was observed to be around 0.01 ohms

at 35°C with a 90% SOC, thus showing how internal resistance varies with respect to SOC and ambient temperatures.

From the above literature it is clearly inferred that in order to estimate the battery characteristics and behavior in certain set of conditions, it is important to build a battery model that can capture battery performance output macroscopically on a system level when it is subjected to extreme temperatures.

Choosing a Modelling Approach

Unlike other areas of battery applications, battery modelling in electric vehicles should be able to combine itself with the full EV model to investigate its performance macroscopically. As Zhu et al. [20] explains, model-based design of complex systems requires one or more components to interact with each other for the purpose of information flow. For most applications, a battery model should be able to predict battery parameters during operation like current and voltage across its terminals etc.

There are a few requirements the models need to fulfil in order to be suitable for EVs use [21]-

- Model should be capable to predict EV range fairly accurately. Hence, the model should be able to estimate SOC for range calculation.
- EV operation is quite transient in nature. Therefore, the battery performance is also dynamically evolving with time and operating conditions. This demands for the model to be capable of real-time computations. Fast models are desirable over extremely accurate and complex models.
- EVs accelerate and decelerate rapidly which involves quick discharging stresses on the battery. A battery model should be able to capture this aspect.
- The models should be flexible to combine with a bigger EV dynamics and thermal model for real world simulations.

Primarily, battery models are divided into three categories based on complexity of the physical representation of electrochemistry-Electrochemical models (White box models), Reduced Order and Equivalent electric circuit models (grey box models) and Empirical and Neural network models (Black box models) [22].

Electrochemical models are a physics-based modelling approach that are very deeply based on the electrochemistry of the Li-ion batteries. Electrochemical models although details lithium cell functioning explicitly, it leads to very high computational loads that is very resource intensive when real-time simulations are required like in EVs [21]. This has been addressed by introducing a modified version called reduced order models that regulate parameters based on the complexity needed. But such models are not diverse and suffer from accuracy loss [22]. Hence, they fail to find the right compromise between complexity and accuracy which has led researchers to turn towards a different modelling approach for Hybrid and EVs that fulfil most of requirements mentioned earlier.

Equivalent Electric Circuit Models (EECM)

EECM are a lumped parameter modelling technique where a combination of electric elements like resistors, capacitors and voltage source represent functioning of a Li-ion battery. For example, a series resistor performs the resistance duties of a separator in a cell. They do not present the electrochemical phenomenon that occurs inside the cell like electrochemical models, but can predict li-ion cell behavior and output in different operating conditions with reasonable compromise between accuracy and computational complexity which is what is essential for macroscopic study of EVs.

In view of this, Rincon-Mora et al. [23] proposed a simple 2nd order EECM to predict runtime current and voltage characteristics of a battery. This model is compatible with not only Li-ion but also NiCd, NiMH, Lead acid and also Li-polymer cells. Given in *figure 1(a)*,

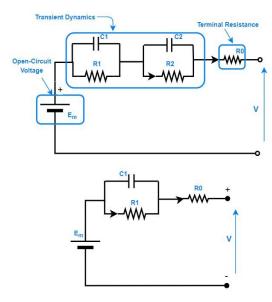


Figure 1. a) 2nd order EECM model and its functions based on [23], b) 1st order EECM model based on [9].

- a voltage source on the left represents the open circuit voltage (OCV) of the cell,
- a series resistor on the right, R₀, accounts for terminal voltage drop when load is connected,
- a network of one or more RC branches represents time constant frequency response of the battery. More RC branches result in higher accuracy but at the expense of complex parameter estimation and high computational loads.
- All the elements of the circuit behave non-linearly. Hence, they are represented as a function of SOC, temperature or even current, voltage preferably using lookup tables. This is how such models predict battery behavior when operating in cold weather.

Similarly, a 3rd order EECM (with 3 RC circuits in series) was used with an added SOC estimation circuit that uses coulomb counting technique and includes effect of capacity-rate after long driving profiles [24]. Due to the presence of 3 RC branches, the model was

validated with great accuracy against an exhaustive dynamic EV driving simulator, although at the expense of high computational load.

Clearly, model order selection is a trade-off problem that is tackled based on accuracy needed and application demands. Hanlei et al. [25] conducted analysis of 1st to nth order EECM, found that there was a significant performance improvement until 3rd order models beyond which model performance increments were negligible while complexity of simulation increased exponentially. A comparison of 12 different EECM models based on parameters like performance, accuracy, parameter estimation, computational load and simulation time was conducted [26]. The 1st order EECM model was found to strike the best balance among other parameters considered in the literature. Adding to this, a 1st order EECM was used to carry out macroscopic investigation of EV performance under the influence of hard winter temperatures and found to produce technically acceptable output under extensive validations [9] [27].

Therefore, keeping the above points in mind, an EV model is built using GT-Suite® numerical simulation software that represents the BMW i3 60Ah 2013 model, where the battery model is based on first order EECM. The parameters of the EECM are acquired from established literature. The model is then validated using Argonne National Laboratory's (ANL) dynamometer testing data of BMW i3 for different electric powertrain parameters [28]. Followed by validation, the BMW i3 numerical model is then investigated for performance evaluation using a custom drive cycle to replicate real-world conditions.

GT-Suite Electric Vehicle Modelling

A complete electric vehicle model is built in GT-Suite[©] v2019 numerical simulation software to investigate cold weather performance of BMW i3. The vehicle model consists of vehicle body, axles, tires and brakes along with brake switch that is controlled by regenerative braking control logic, differential, final drive, environment subsystem and road object. This vehicle model is built using BMW i3 60AH 2013 model specifications [29]. Basic specifications are listed in Table 1.

Vehicle Body

The vehicle body model is needed to compute the longitudinal motion of the vehicle along with normal load acting on each axle during operation. Instantaneous longitudinal motion is computed using the resistive forces acting on the vehicle (tire rolling resistance, Aerodynamic drag, inertia components), tractive forces applied on the tires, road grade and wind velocity with direction. Therefore, the torque produced by the propulsion system is given in Eq. (1),

Table 1. BMW i3 EV Specifications [29].

Specification	Value	Units
Vehicle mass	1443	Kg
Wheelbase	2570	mm
Drag Coefficient	0.29	
Frontal Area	2.38	m ²
Final Drive ratio	9.7:1	
Tire Specifications	155/70 R19	
Rolling Resistance factor	0.015	
Differential Efficiency	0.95	fraction
Axles Moment of Inertia	1.25	Kg-m ²

$$T_{R} = \frac{r}{i_{0}i_{\theta}\eta_{t}} \left\{ \left(\frac{1}{2}\rho C_{d}AV^{2} + \left(mg\cos a - \frac{1}{2}\rho C_{L}AV^{2} \right) (f + KV^{2} \right) + mg\sin a \right) + em\frac{dv}{dt} \right\}$$
(1)

Where, r is the radius of the tire, i_0 is the final drive ratio, i_θ is the gear ratio, η_t is transmission efficiency, m is the vehicle mass, V is the vehicle velocity, g is acceleration due to gravity.

Inertia Co-efficient 'e'

The resistance caused due to inertia components have been represented by 'e' in the torque equation. Here, 'e' indicates the combined inertia of rotation due to engine and transmission and losses in the transmission system which is given in Eq. (2),

$$e = 1 + \frac{l_W}{mr^2} + \frac{l_t l_0^2}{mr^2} + \frac{l_e l_0^2 l_\theta^2}{mr^2}$$
 (2)

where, I_w , I_t , and I_e are the moment of inertia of wheel, transmission and engine respectively.

Aerodynamic Drag

The torque equation also includes the losses caused due to aerodynamic friction given in Eq. (3),

$$F_d = \frac{1}{2}\rho C_d A V^2 \tag{3}$$

where, ρ is the density of air, C_d is the drag co-efficient, A is vehicle frontal area.

Tire Rolling Resistance

Resistance caused due to deformation of tires is expressed as a function of load on the tires and rolling co-efficient (Cr) in Eq. (4),

$$F_r = mg\cos a C_r \tag{4}$$

Additionally, lift co-efficient is also included in the model. Therefore, the vertical load on tires can then be represented as in Eq. (5),

$$F_r = (mg\cos a - \frac{1}{2}\rho C_L A V^2)C_r \tag{5}$$

Where, C_r varies with speed of the vehicle (C_r increases as speed increases) and can be expressed as $(f + KV^2)$.

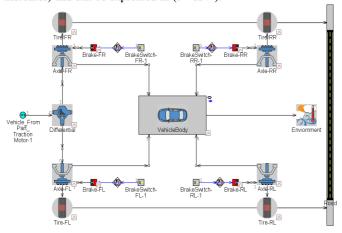


Figure 2. Vehicle Model modelled in GT-Suite.

Electric Powertrain Modelling

The electric powertrain subsystem includes a traction motor, battery pack, battery power limiter, regenerative braking model.

Traction Motor

The traction motor is modelled using 3D map-based traction motor efficiency and maximum/minimum torque curve maps of the BMW i3 60Ah that uses a permanent magnet synchronous motor with generator mode, given in *table 2*, for energy recuperation (regenerative braking). The motor is connected to a 1D mechanical domain (vehicle subsystem) using driveline shaft on one end and an electrical domain (battery pack) along with other auxiliary connections on the other. The control mode of the motor is brake torque controlled. To avoid complexity of simulation, thermal dependancy of the traction motor is ignored.

The torque output of the motor/generator map in the model is based on a 2D torque output map, as shown in *figure 3*, as a function of motor speed acquired from BMW i3 vehicle specifications [29]. Based on the tractive effort demanded by the drive schedule, the motor will produce torque according to this torque profile.

Table 2. EV Traction Motor Specifications [29].

Electric Motor	Units	Value 125 (170) 75 (102)/4800 250/0 Up to 50	
Peak Power output	kW (HP)		
Permanent power output	kW (HP)/rpm		
Torque	Nm/rpm		
Energy Recuperation	kW		

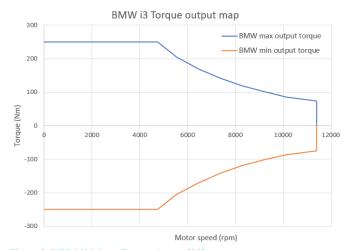


Figure 3. BWM i3 Motor Torque Curves [29].

Regenerative Braking Model

Energy recuperation is modelled using a simple control logic that works on the basis of different operating conditions of the model. An "IfThenElse" control object is used to define this control logic which accepts various real-time parameters of the vehicle and outputs the desired action based on the control logic. The main decision making in this model is whether friction brakes should assist in braking or deceleration be carried out by the traction motor generator's energy recuperation completely. Based on this decision making, brake switches are attached to each brake in vehicle model that operate friction brakes if needed, as shown in *figure 2*.

Regenerative Braking Control Logic

Inputs to the regenerative model are- 1) Actual Vehicle speed (*VehSpeed*) acquired from the vehicle model. 2) Torque Demand from Driver (*TorqueDemand*), based on drive cycle input. 3) Minimum Motor Torque (*MinMotorTorque*) maximum energy recuperation torque from traction motor map.

Given in Table 3, the first condition when vehicle is stationary, brake pedal is imposed to 100%. In second condition, when maximum regen torque of motor is 10Nm (safety limit) more than torque demanded by driver, friction brakes are imposed based on brake torque vs pedal position 2D map. In rest all other cases of vehicle speed, third condition is activated where friction brakes are not used.

Table 3. Regenerative braking model control logic.

State	A c t i o n	Condition	Brake Mode	Imposed Brake Pedal Position	Brake Torque Reques t
Vehicle stopped	I F	VehSpeed<0 and TorqueDemand<0	Impose brake Pedal	100%	0
Friction Brake Assist	T H E N	TorqueDemand<0 and MinMotorTorque>Tor queDemand+10	Impose brake Pedal to supple ment Regen braking	Brake Torque request based on Pedal Position 2D Map	Torque Demand - MinMot orTorqu e
No Friction Brakes	E L S E	Rest all other conditions of VehSpeed	Impose brake Pedal	0%	0

Battery Power Limiter

In order to control the battery charging and discharging power limits of EECM battery model, a battery power limiter is used. It acts like a basic battery management system that suffices the needs of matching the battery output of model with the EV to a certain extent while ensuring safe current and voltage limits of battery defined by the RC branches.

A combination of feedforward and feedback controls dictate the power limits. For power calculations, the battery controller senses information such as OCV and internal resistance (R_{int}) of EECM battery automatically and computes power using the equation below.

Feed forward controller, Power = $(I \ OCV) - (I^2 \ R_{int})$,

Where, OCV is open circuit voltage and $I = \frac{ocv - v}{Rint}$ where V is obtained from voltage limit calculations. Voltage and current range are set by user. A PI controller modelled in the limiter then corrects the computed power to the voltage and current limits so as to remain within the range given by user.

Battery Pack Modelling

BMW i3 60Ah has a stated 18.8 KWh Li-ion battery pack (18.2KWh usable). The pack consists of 96 cells arranged in 8 modules with 12 cells in each module. The cells in each module and all 8 modules are connected in series [29]. Specifications of battery pack are given in *table 4*.

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The battery pack has been modelled as a first order EECM which has 1 RC branch given in *figure 1(b)*. The circuit parameters of EECM are modelled as a function of SOC, temperature and current in a lookup table acquired from established literature. Li-ion battery pack has been modelled as a lumped mass system, which means it has been modelled as a battery pack and not as group of modules or individual cells because the study is based on macroscopic variations and not on discrete effects on each module or cell.

Table 4. BMW i3 60Ah Battery Pack Specifications [29].

Battery Pack	Units	Value
Total cells	-	96
Cells in Series/Parallel	-/-	96/1
Cell Capacity	Ah	60
Cell Nominal voltage	V	3.7
Pack Capacity	Ah	60
Pack nominal voltage	V	355.2
Pack Power Gross/Useable	kWh	18.8/18.2

Battery Pack Scaling

The single cell parameter of BMW i3 entered as inputs to the model is scaled up to form the battery pack using the equations below.

Battery pack Capacity, $Cap_{pack} = N_P Cap_{cell}$

Open Circuit voltage, $V_{OC,pack} = N_s V_{OC,cell}$

Pack Resistance, $R_{pack} = \frac{Ns}{Np} R_{cell}$

RC time constants, $t_{pack} = t_{cell}$

RC Capacitances, $C_{pack} = \frac{Np}{Ns} C_{cell}$

Where, N_p and N_s are number of parallel and series cells respectively, Cap_{cell} is capacity of cell, $V_{OC,cell}$ is Output Circuit Voltage (OCV) of cell, R_{cell} internal resistance of single cell, C_{cell} is capacitance of cell.

SOC Modelling

A conventional SOC modelling is used where instantaneous current (Ioc) through OCV is integrated over time to estimate change in capacity over time. Change in capacity is subtracted from the initial capacity (Cap_{init}) to calculate the instantaneous capacity.

Change in capacity,
$$Cap(t) = Cap_{init} - \int_0^t I_{OC} dt$$

Where, Initial capacity,
$$Cap_{init} = SOC_{init} Cap_{max}$$

State of Charge,
$$SOC = \frac{Cap(t)}{Cap(max)}$$

Circuit Parameters

The circuit parameters for the first order RC EECM were acquired from the work of Jaguemont et al. [9]. In the paper, a battery was discharged at various temperatures in a climatic chamber to simulate cold temperatures and pulse characterization tests were performed. The cell is submitted to a partial discharge-rest cycles for a fixed amount of time. This process is repeated several times at different temperatures and at the end of each phase, circuit parameters OCV, R_0 , R_1 and C_1 are acquired as a function of temperature and SOC using data acquisition systems and software tools mentioned in detail in their paper. The functions of each component in EECM are:

- OCV is captured by the rest phases between each pulse discharge that is modelled by the source voltage component (Em) in EECM.
- The instantaneous response is the instant drop in voltage to a pulse, modelled by the Ohmic resistor component (R₀) in EECM
- Delayed response is stabilization of voltage after the pulse which is modelled by RC branch time constant (R₁ x C₁) in EECM.

The circuit parameters for the battery in the current study were loaded in the numerical model as 3D maps. Open circuit voltage (OCV) is represented as a function of SOC, it drops linearly until 20% SOC and falls sharply after. Terminal resistance component R_0 , is detailed as a 3D map based on temperature and SOC, where it is highest at -20°C at SOC less than 20% and lowest when temperature is 25°C at SOC more than 10%. Similarly, transient dynamics components, C_1 and R_1 are also represented as a function of temperature and SOC and follows a similar pattern.

An EECM captures the Li-ion battery behavior through its components. Therefore, even though a different battery is used in the literature, it captures the general cell behavior that is later scaled to represent BMW i3 battery pack. Therefore, when actual battery cell experimental data is not available, such as in this case, experimental data from established literature can also be used to conduct work.

Driver Model

This part models a vehicle driver which is intended to control the accelerator and brake pedal position. This part is used when dynamic drive cycle analysis is needed where the speed of the vehicle is controlled according to a 2D time vs vehicle speed driving schedule

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which is called a drive cycle. For such simulations, driver mode is set to speed targeting in which the accelerator and brake pedals are controlled to match the vehicle speed with drive cycle.

The model consists of a feed forward controller which computes the traction motor braking torque that is needed to achieve the target vehicle speed. The driver part automatically senses information from the electric powertrain sub-system to perform computations. A PID controller then makes corrections to minimize error between vehicle speed and drive cycle.

The numerical model schematic is given in Appendix Figure A1.

Model Validation

The model prepared in GT-Suite[®] is now validated to establish the level of fidelity the model is able to achieve compared to actual BMW i3 60Ah car for performance in different ambient temperatures. This is done by validating the model simulation results with that of the experimental results acquired by Argonne National Laboratory (ANL). ANL has conducted dynamometer vehicle testing of BMW i3 60Ah model in a temperature chamber to simulate ambient temperatures for various legislative drive cycles [28].

Some prerequisite points regarding model validation are-

- Model validation is conducted for -20°C and 25°C using ANL test data conducted at those temperatures.
- In the ANL test of -20°C, HVAC system of BMW i3 car was switched ON. This would consume additional battery energy in the test other than the drive cycle load. Moreover, battery thermal management system of BMW i3 will also be functional at this temperature by default which consumes additional energy.
- In the ANL test of 25°C, HVAC system was switched OFF. Therefore, there is no additional energy consumption from climate control system of vehicle. Other auxiliary systems, however, will continue to consume energy as normal, irrespective of ambient temperature.
- Tests are conducted for US06, UDDS and HWY driving schedules which have diverse characteristics. The diverse nature of these driving schedules is a contributing factor to the robustness of validation of the current model.

Some of the assumptions made in the current model are-

- To avoid complexity of modelling and parameter estimation, auxiliary systems like pumps or battery thermal management/cooling system are not included in the scope of this study.
- Due to the absence of auxiliary systems, the battery pack temperature in the model is considered to be same as that of the ambient temperature.
- Due to the absence of a Battery Thermal Management System (BTMS), the battery pack temperature is kept constant (-20°C and 25°C) throughout each simulation.

Legislative Drive Cycles

UDDS, HWY and US06 drive cycles represent diverse characteristics [30]. In figure 4, UDDS is a transient drive cycle with continuously varying acceleration and speeds throughout the range. However, it is not aggressive as the average acceleration and average speed are just 0.47 m/s² and 31.5 Km/h respectively. UDDS is approximately 11.98 Km long and lasts 1369 seconds and is suitable for simulating city or urban conditions [30]. HWY is a high-speed drive cycle simulating a typical expressway behavior of vehicles as shown in figure 4. Its average speed is 78 km/h and average acceleration is a low 0.18 m/s². It is 16.5 Km and 765 seconds long [30]. Such a drive cycle is used to test the steady cruising behavior of automobiles on high-speed expressways. US06 is the most aggressive driving profile among the three shown in figure 4. It is also a high-speed profile with massive variations in acceleration. Its average speed is 79.62 Km/h and average acceleration is a high 0.541 m/s² [30]. It is, however, not as transient as UDDS, neither as steady state as HWY and is approximately 12.89 km and 600 seconds long. Such an aggressive profile adds additional load on the powertrain.

These driving profiles will test the transient, steady cruising as well as aggressive response of the current model against the experimental data of ANL for different temperatures.

Validation of the Numerical Model

Validation for speed profile- To ensure the electric powertrain of the model is capable to propel the EV according to the drive schedule, simulation data of the model speed is compared to the drive cycles.

From *figure 4* the model can be seen to follow the speed profile with less than 2% error. The driver model, regenerative braking system, traction motor and battery pack are able to maintain the load of drive cycle without any time delays even on aggressive drive cycle like US06 and transient one like UDDS.

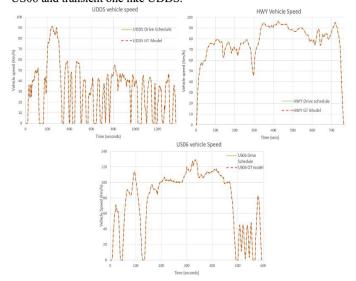
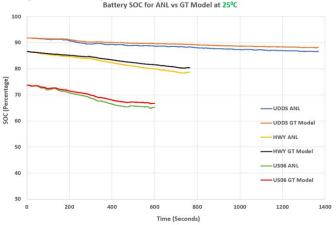


Figure 4. UDDS, HWY and US06 Drive cycles vs numerical model vehicle speed validation.

Validation for electric powertrain

SOC- Validation for battery SOC at 25°C of the model shows a good agreement with ANL experimental data in *figure 5(a)*. In spite of a fairly simple Coulomb counting technique for SOC estimation, the accuracy of the model is more than 95% on average for the three drive cycles at positive temperatures. The model follows the trend of SOC curve really well which substantiates the robustness of the SOC estimation model included in the battery model. The model predicts higher SOC value at the end of every cycle towards the end. This is due to the additional energy consumption by the actual BMW i3's auxiliary system in ANL testing compared to the current model.

Figure 5(b) shows the real time error between ANL and the current model SOC datapoints in terms of percentage for the length of the drive cycle. A higher order polynomial curve is fitted to the error datapoints to see the limits. It can be seen that the maximum error for the aggressive US06 cycle is around 2.5%, while maximum error of HWY and UDDS is less than 2.5% and 2% from ANL data respectively. The average error computed for SOC between ANL and the numerical model for the length of the three drive profiles is 1.06%, 1.21% and 1.51% for UDDS, HWY and US06 respectively. Overall, the current Model varies from ANL test data by an overall average of 1.21% at positive temperatures.



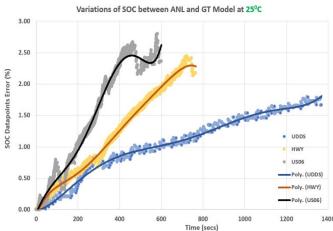
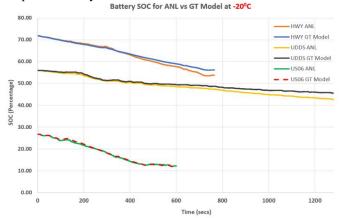


Figure 5. a) ANL vs numerical model SOC at 25C for different drive profiles, b) Variations in % of SOC data ANL vs numerical model at 25C.

At -20° C, the difference for UDDS cycle is larger than the other two cycles in *figure* 6(a). An interesting point to note here is that, the model performs well for high-speed HWY cycle. The accuracy is further improved for high speed aggressive US06 drive cycle.

When the drive schedule is high speed and aggressive (HWY, US06), the additional load on the battery compensates for the lack of HVAC system in the current model and results in a good agreement achieved at sub-zero temperatures. This is evident in *figure* 6(b), US06 model has the least variation in SOC datapoints compared to ANL at an average 1.48% for the full cycle, while average variation for HWY and UDDS is 1.41% and 2.9% respectively. Overall, for the three cycles, the numerical model varies from ANL data by 1.93% only at -20°C. In summary, average error for ANL vs GT model SOC estimation is kept under 2% at -20°C and 25°C proving that the numerical model predicts SOC very well which is sufficient for the scope of this study.



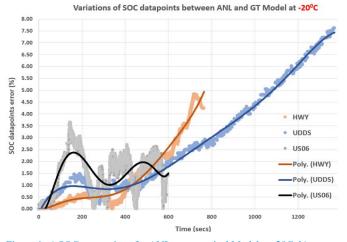


Figure 6. a) SOC comparison for ANL vs numerical Model at -20C, b) Percentage error in SOC datapoints of model vs ANL.

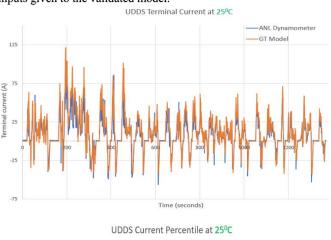
Terminal Current- Validation of current output requires the comparison of numerical model terminal current and ANL test data. For the purpose of validation, the major plots that capture a diverse set of conditions are included here.

Figure 7(a) shows the terminal current output for the UDDS cycle at 25°C. For extremely transient applications, it can be seen that the model matches the current profile very well with the ANL test data.

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There are certain instances where ANL data has additional peaks of current. This is because of persistent current supply to the auxiliary systems in ANL testing. In *figure* 7(b) the current data points of both datasets are expressed as percentile for better understanding. It can be seen that at negative current (during energy recuperation) the current data points of model and ANL are exactly similar, which demonstrates the soundness of the simple energy recuperation control logic described in above section. The trend of the percentile points throughout the range of current is quite similar to the actual car tested on dynamometer. Current data points agree well until the 65th percentile mark.

There are a few discrepancies visible towards the upper set of around eight current data points (upwards of 65th percentile) where the numerical model overpredicts current output. However, this discrepancy is computed to be less than 7% variation compared to ANL, when differences of those eight points were averaged. Such a match is acceptable at positive temperature considering the limited inputs given to the validated model.



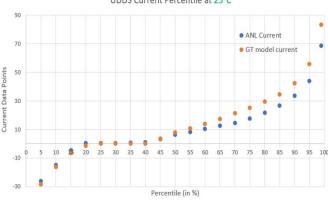


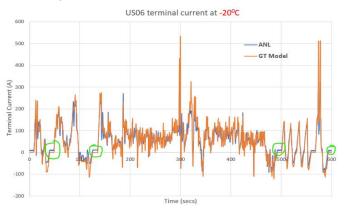
Figure 7. a) UDDS ANL vs numerical Model Current at 25C, b) UDDS Current Data points expressed in Percentile at 25C.

In Figure 8(a), at negative temperature of -20°C as well, the model shows good agreement with the ANL terminal current data. The validation shown here is for the aggressive US06 cycle. In Figure 8(b), current datapoints are represented in percentiles. It can be seen that the current output of ANL and validated model match quite well throughout the entire current range. Even the negative current datapoints (energy recuperation) match well which demonstrates the regenerative braking model performance at negative temperature as

well. The data points are extremely accurate for 90 percentiles of the points, which is very good considering the high current demands for the US06 cycle.

Slight discrepancies occur towards the upper end, as can be seen in *figure* $\delta(b)$. Maximum occurs at the 99th percentile where the error is less than 10%. Discrepancy is slightly higher than at positive temperatures which is because the HVAC system in the ANL vehicle is in operation at -20°C that consumes current, which gets amplified when higher currents are demanded.

US06 is extremely transient with aggressive acceleration/deceleration in a span of less than few seconds after the 500th second mark. Even in such aggressive and transient conditions, the numerical model matches ANL data with more than 88% accuracy of datapoints as shown in *figure 9*. An interesting point to note in *figure 8(a)*, at certain instances when the vehicle is in rest, current of numerical model is zero while the ANL car has persistent current input. Such spots are marked with green circles. This is because the HVAC system is operational in -20°C in ANL testing that consumes current continuously.



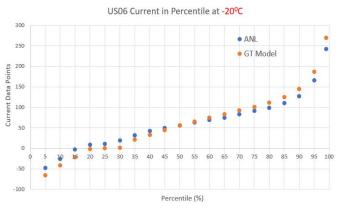


Figure 8. a) US06 Current output for ANL vs numerical model at -20 $^{\circ}$ C, b) Current Output datapoints expressed in percentile at -20 $^{\circ}$ C.

In conclusion, the numerical model predicts SOC with an error of less than 2% at both positive and negative temperatures compared to ANL test data. Current output of the numerical model also matches ANL data with an accuracy of 92%. This output is comparable with the experiment data obtained from ANL [28]. The ANL experimental data showed negligible test to test variation at nominal ambient temperature of around 23°C and higher. However, at sub-zero Page 10 of 16

temperatures, the test-to-test variation is found to be around 10% [28]. The level of validation done is sufficient for the scope of this study and the numerical simulation model is now assessed for real world performance.

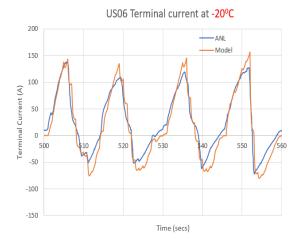


Figure 9. US06 terminal current after 500th sec at -20°C.

Real World Performance

Real-World Drive Cycle

The urban drive cycle used for this study represents typical driving pattern in Oxford UK. The drive cycle used here is largely based on city driving conditions with transient and aggressive characteristics at moderate speeds. This cycle is 23.23 km long and lasts for 2338 secs as shown in *figure 10*. Average speed and acceleration are 36 km/h and 0.51 m/s² respectively. This drive cycle is suitable for the level of validation done at positive and negative temperatures in the previous section to produce results with good accuracy.

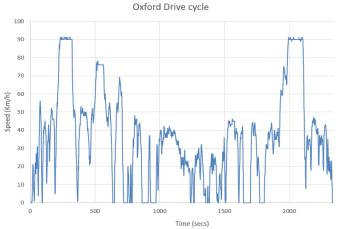


Figure 10. Oxford Drive Cycle.

Real-World Investigation

Numerical Simulation of the Validated model is conducted for -20°C, 0°C and 25°C temperatures for the Oxford drive profile and results of the battery parameters are analyzed.

State of Charge (SOC)

SOC depletion curve for oxford drive cycle is given in *figure 11*. For comparison purposes, initial SOC is set to 70% for every test. The SOC at the end of drive profile for 25° C and 0° C is 62% and 61.5% respectively. However, at -20°C, SOC drops to 49% at the end of the cycle. The difference in the final SOC value is 13% for positive vs negative temperature which is a reduction of 21% when the vehicle operates in sub-zero temperature. While there is a reduction of 20.3% when comparing SOC at 0° C and -20° C.

Reduction of 21% in SOC is substantial, considering that HVAC or other auxiliary systems are not included in the numerical model. Also, the difference between 0^{0} C and 25^{0} C will be bigger if effect of HVAC is added as it is a necessity at 0^{0} C and -20^{0} C.

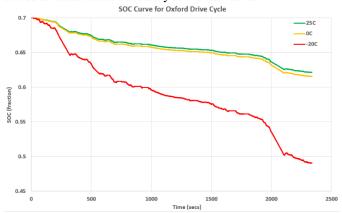


Figure 11. SOC depletion curve for oxford drive cycle.

Efficiency

Instantaneous efficiency for the real-world drive cycle with respect to time, represented in kW-h of energy consumed per 100 km is given in *figure 12(a)*. Vehicle overcomes static friction when it begins to move from rest which explains the spike in energy consumption at the beginning. Later, the model constantly consumes more energy throughout the cycle at -20 $^{\circ}$ C. *Figure 12(b)* shows the real-time instantaneous difference of efficiency in percentage for 0° C, -20 $^{\circ}$ C with 25 $^{\circ}$ C.

After the initial spike, the model at 0°C consumes a constant of around 6.5% or 1.5 kW-h more instantaneous energy per 100 km than at 25°C and the peak difference is 10.1%. At -20°C, model consumes 24.2% or 4.1 kW-h more instantaneous energy per 100 km than when it is operated at 25°C. Maximum difference is 38.6 % in this case. Overall, there is a 17.7% variation in energy consumption between 25°C, -20°C and 0°C, 25°C which translates to substantial difference in range the model is able to achieve at different temperatures. Such variation in efficiency is not suitable in real-world

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operation as it hampers the versatility of EVs in diverse operating conditions.

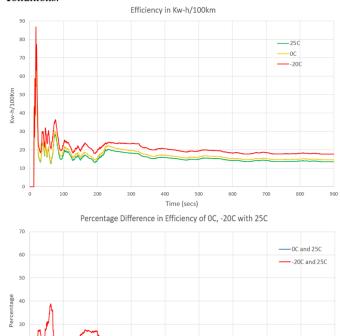


Figure 12. a) Efficiency in kW-h per 100Km, b) Percentage difference in energy consumed between 0C and -20C with 25C.

Energy Consumption and Losses

The model consumes an additional 0.95 KWh more energy at -20^{0} C than at 25 0 C which is a 31.9% increase in overall energy consumption for the Oxford drive cycle. Whereas at 0^{0} C, it is 0.21 KWh which is 7% more than at 25 0 C as shown in *table 5*.

The model estimates battery losses based on energy lost to overcome internal resistant loads due to temperature effects, which is quite high at -20°C. Energy losses due Internal resistance increased by 5545 KJ, which is around 1.54 kWh, when temperature was -20°C compared to 25°C, which is almost 37.8% of the total losses in the entire vehicle compared to 8.3% and 3.9% total losses at 0°C and 25°C respectively.

Comparison of the model energy consumption (Wh/km) for real-world and legislative drive cycles is given in *table 6*. Energy consumption is highest for US06 as it is an aggressive profile, while it is the least for UDDS at every temperature as it is the least aggressive and is also transient. Second highest energy consumption is seen for HWY cycle which simulates expressway behavior of steady, high speeds.

Table 5. Energy Consumption and losses for Oxford Drive Cycle.

Parameters	25°C	0°C	-20°C
Overall Energy Consumption (KJ)	10726	11476	14151
Overall Energy Consumption (kWh)	2.98	3.2	3.9
Battery Losses (KJ)	422	952	5967
% Of all losses	3.9	8.3	37.8
Electric Machine losses (KJ)	1461	1473	1484
% Of all losses	13.6	12.7	9.4

Table 6. Energy consumption (Wh/Km) of Model for different drive cycles.

	1	/		•
Energy Consumption (Wh/Km)	UDDS	HWY	US06	Oxford Drive Cycle
25°C	116	144	205	128
0°C	121	149	227	137
-20°C	167	206	233	169

Internal Resistance

The internal resistance for the oxford drive cycle is given in *figure 13*. The average of the internal resistance dataset at 25° C is 0.24 ohms, while at 0° C and -20° C, it is 0.47 ohms and 1.76 ohms respectively. At 0° C, internal resistance increases by around 0.23 ohms on an average compared to positive temperature, which is a 96% rise throughout the real-world drive cycle.

The internal resistance at -20°C increases by 1.52 ohms on an average compared to the model operating at 25°C. This results in a six-fold increase at negative temperatures which translates to considerable degradation of performance of the EV at negative temperatures. Such substantial rise in internal resistance at -20°C is the reason for the increase in energy consumption compared to 25°C explained in the previous section.

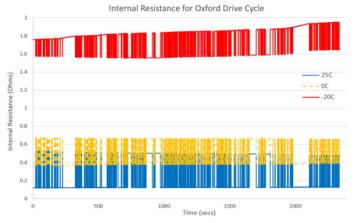
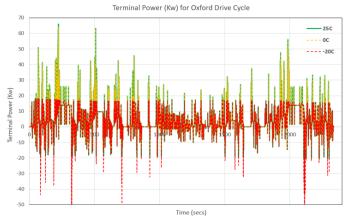


Figure 13. Internal Resistance for Oxford Drive cycle at three temperatures.

Terminal Power

Terminal power output (kW) of the model is compared at three temperatures and real time simulation graph is given in *figure 14(a)* for the Oxford cycle. It is clearly visible that the output at 0°C and 25°C has the highest spikes at every instant of the cycle. In comparison, the -20°C graph is limited to a maximum average of around 15-18 kW. Reduction in temperature in cold weather results in reduced power output, which is evident from this analysis.



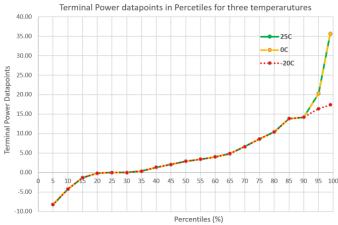


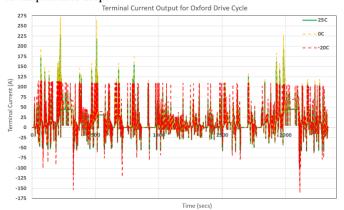
Figure 14. a) Terminal Power Output for Oxford Drive Cycle, b) Power datapoints represented in terms of percentile.

Another point to be noted here is that, the differences between 0^{0} C and 25^{0} C terminal power output is not significant as much as it is for sub-zero temperature.

To analyze the output data better, the datapoints at each temperature are categorized in percentiles, given in *figure 14(b)*. There is no significant difference between 0^{0} C and 25^{0} C for the entire hundred percentile of points, as evident from the first graph. This is similar for -20^{0} C as well until the 90^{th} percentile. It is in the last 10% of terminal power data points, the model at -20^{0} C manages a maximum of 17 kW, while at 0^{0} C and 25^{0} C, the average maximum power output datapoints are around 36 kW. This translates to roughly 47% reduction in the model's peak power output capability at -20^{0} C. Therefore, at negative temperatures, up to 90% of the power capabilities are retained, however, the remaining 10% of peak power of the battery pack is stunted.

Terminal Current

Real time terminal current output of the numerical model at different temperatures for the Oxford drive profile is given in *figure 15(a)*. It is clearly visible that the model at -20°C is unable to supply higher peak current like it does at 0°C and 25°C due to the rise of resistive loads as temperatures drop.



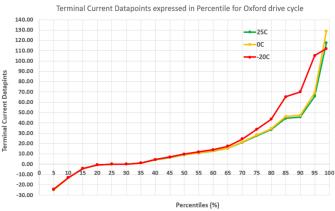


Figure 15. a) Terminal Current Output for Oxford Drive Cycle, b) Terminal Current Datapoints represented in percentile.

Figure 15(b) shows the current datapoints in percentiles. It can be seen that the current datapoints match up to 65% percentile points or 20 amps for all three temperatures. After this, -20°C curve rises

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higher than others which indicates that the model at -20°C demands more current comparatively to follow the drive profile as it has to overcome higher resistive loads due to increase in internal resistance at cold temperatures. This results in higher energy consumption and drop in SOC which is evident from the earlier results. Upwards of 95th percentile, the model at 0°C and 25°C is also able to supply higher peak currents than at -20°C.

Addition of auxiliary systems like Battery Thermal Management System (BTMS), pumps and other power electronics in the numerical model are out of scope of this study. Hence, the additional energy that these systems consume is compensated by increasing the battery pack capacity in the model. Originally, BMW i3 has all its 96 60Ah cells stacked in series. However, in the current Model, the 96 cells are arranged in 2 parallel stacks to increase the pack capacity.

Conclusions

Equivalent Electric Circuit Models (EECM) was found to be the most suitable for evaluating the performance of the Li-ion battery powered EV in sub-zero temperatures because of their simplicity and their suitability of integration with a vehicle model.

A numerical model based on BMW i3 integrated with a first order EECM parameters are capable of achieving an accuracy of current output more than 92% while the model predicted SOC with less than 2% error compared to the ANL data.

For a real-world drive cycle at -20° C, the internal resistance of the battery was found to be one of the major causes for higher energy consumption of the battery, lower efficiency, stunted power and current outputs and substantial battery losses at extreme sub-zero temperatures.

The study shows a novel approach to conduct investigations for performance of EVs in real-world conditions using numerical simulations with very limited inputs based on a typical electric vehicle acquired from available established literature.

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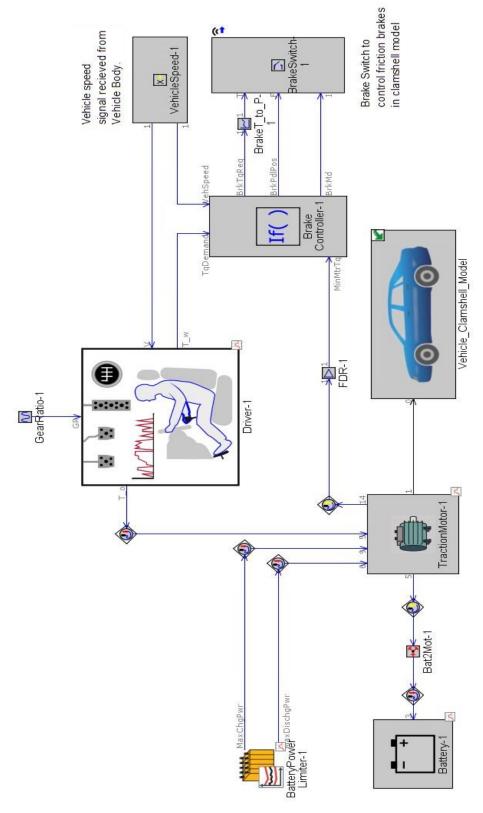


Figure A1 Schematic of Numerical model