Parameters Estimations for Storage Unit based on Performance Characteristics

By

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Abstract:
Storage systems are needed to provide electricity during the night or on cloudy days to meet the load requirements. Lead-acid batteries are so important even in grid connected applications storage to improve system reliability. So, this is paper aims to address a new method of Electrical Parameters Estimations for this type of storage devices based on Performance Characteristics with the aid of Artificial Neural Network (ANN). To help designers, researchers and users in pointing the direction for indigenous research in electricity storage technologies. First, the parameters of the battery model are identified depending on curve fitting with the aid of improved Thevenin battery model, and the model is validated with a 12 V, 4Ah lead-acid battery Yuasa NP4-12 Battery. The model parameters and characteristics are well depicted in the form of 3D figures. Second, the ANN technique is used to estimate Thevenin Electric Model' parameters in the form of ANN models with their algebraic equations. The proposed outputs for the models are: Discharging Resistance, Shunt Resistance, Back e.m.f. and Charging Resistance; each one is deduced with Battery Characteristics as inputs for every previous outputs: Charging/Discharging Rate, State of Charge, Time, Voltage, and Current. ANN models are created with suitable numbers of layers and neurons, which trained, simulated, checked and their algebraic equations are concluded accurately with excellent regression constant for all almost 1.

Keywords: Parameters, Lead-acid battery, model, neural network, and estimation.

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1. Introduction:

The Storage systems are needed to provide electricity during the night or on cloudy days to meet the load requirements. This is usually achieved by using diesel generators as back-up to the PV systems or providing storage systems; mainly lead-acid batteries. Moreover, it is so important that even in grid connected applications storage is sometimes provided to improve system reliability. Lead acid batteries were invented in 1859 by Gaston Planté and first demonstrated to the French Academy of Sciences in 1860. About a century and half after its invention it remains a dominant market product and though regarded as a mature technology, it still has extensive research work being undertaken on it to improve performance and reduce size as well as cost. Though the basic chemistry remains the same there has been a number of variations that have been engineered to meet specific needs and solve identified problems [1] – [5]. The electro-active (The species that directly participate in the chemical reaction that generates electricity) materials in lead acid batteries are:

- Lead oxide (PbO2) positive plate (cathode)
- Pure spongy lead (Pb) negative plate (anode)
- Dilute sulphuric acid (H2SO4) electrolyte

In the electrolyte (aqueous solution of sulphuric acid) of a lead–acid battery, three reactions are at work:

\[
\begin{align*}
H_2O & \leftrightarrow H^+ + OH^- \\
H_2SO_4 & \leftrightarrow 2H^+ + SO_4^{2-} \\
H_2SO_4 & \leftrightarrow H^+ + HSO_4^- 
\end{align*}
\]  (1)

At the (lead and lead oxide) electrodes, the reactions are:

Negative electrode: Pb + SO_4^{2-} \leftrightarrow PbSO_4 + 2e^- \\
Positive electrode: PbO_2 + SO_4^{2-} + 4H^+ + 2e^- \leftrightarrow PbSO_4 + 2H_2O  \]  (2)

The overall reaction is Change in Gibb’s free energy \( G \)

\[
PbO_2 + SO_4^{2-} + 4 H^+ + Pb \rightarrow 2 PbSO_4 + 2 H_2 O \]  (3)

The Gibbs free energy (at standard conditions) for the overall cell reaction and this corresponds to the maximum energy that the reaction will release and the computation of \( G \) was obtained from Reid C. E [6]. At both electrodes, lead sulphate is formed, from lead oxide at the positive electrode and from lead itself at the negative electrode [7]. At discharge, lead dioxide in positive plates and spongy lead in negative plates react with sulphuric acid in the electrolyte and gradually transform into lead sulphate, during which the sulphuric acid concentration decreases. Conversely, when the battery is recharged, the positive and negative active materials which had been turned into lead sulphate gradually revert to lead dioxide and spongy lead respectively, releasing the sulphuric acid absorbed in the active materials, during which the sulphuric acid concentration increases [8]. A typical lead acid battery with some details of construction
is shown in Fig. 1.

![Fig. 1. Schematics and Components of a Lead Acid Battery Source [9]](image)

In practice, the electrodes are alloyed with small amounts of antimony to increase mechanical strength of the soft lead. This however also tends to increase the self-discharge rate of the batteries (The self-discharge rate is the rate at which the battery loses stored charge under no-load conditions). Some batteries use calcium to enhance plate resistance to corrosion and reduce self-discharge [10], [11]. Modeling of storage system battery is very important topic in many applications from various aspects like the paper here. New flexible and efficient modeling method for electrochemical systems based on lead-acid batteries taking advantage of analogies with familiar concepts in physics of semiconductors and electrical engineering is presented [12]. Batteries' models and state of charge monitoring procedures are evaluated [13], monitoring procedures are intended for a more effective State Of Charge (SOC) computing. Analytical models have been developed to diminish test procedures for product realization with the aid of advanced simulation tools to become more accurately model battery systems which will reduce the time and cost required for product realization. A Neural network based learning system method has been proposed for estimation of residual capacity of lead acid battery [14]. State of Charge (SOC) of a storage battery gives the capacity remaining in the battery to meet the load demands. SOC of a Lead Acid battery is predicted based on the temperature compensated value of electrolytes' specific gravity (Sp. gr.). Open Circuit Voltage (OCV) is used as the parameter to predict the SOC [15]. To optimize fuel economy, an accurate estimation of the battery state of charge (SOC) during vehicle operation is required. SOC estimation for lead-acid batteries is particularly difficult due to side reactions and losses during charging, particularly at high SOC. To estimate the battery SOC, an equivalent-circuit lead-acid battery model is used to simulate the battery dynamics. This model incorporates losses associated with top charging which can affect the battery SOC estimation. In addition, parameter
estimation techniques are utilized to identify the dynamic model parameters [16].

2. Lead-Acid Battery Model

The various battery models reported in [17]- [18], and [19] are reviewed and the dynamic model of the lead-acid battery proposed by Jantharamin N. and Zhang, L. in [20] is used. The simplest battery model uses a simple resistor connected in series with an ideal voltage source [17], [20], but it is inconvenient and unrealistic. Another model reported in [21] is the Thevenin battery model. This model includes a parallel resistor-capacitor network, in addition to the voltage source (connected in series with a resistor, to model overvoltage effects within the battery. However, again all model parameters are considered constant, and hence this model is inaccurate. A further improvement in the Thevenin battery model is proposed in [18], as shown in Fig. 2. The battery emf is represented by the voltage across the capacitor $C_b$. The shunt resistor $R_{sd}$ models self-discharge losses in the battery. The ohmic voltage drop and overvoltage effect are modeled by separate resistors as shown.

![Fig. 2. Improved Thevenin Battery Model](image)

During charging, the current flows through the ohmic resistance $R_{bc}$ and overvoltage resistance $R_{ovc}$ and when the battery is discharging, the current flows through $R_{bd}$ and $R_{ovd}$. Ideal diodes are connected in their respective paths to allow the current flowing through the desired resistances. All values of the model parameters are a function of the battery emf. However, in practice, the ohmic voltage drop and overvoltage effects can be identified together and polarization resistance can be described by a single equivalent resistance for each operating mode, which makes the battery model compact [18]-[19].

![Fig. 3. Dynamic Model of A Lead-Acid Battery](image)
Fig. 3. shows the dynamic model of lead-acid proposed by Jantharamin N. and Zhang, L. in [20] which is the modified one of the model shown in Fig. 2. The ohmic voltage drop and overvoltage effects are identified together and polarization resistance is described by a single equivalent resistor $R_{ch}$ or $R_{dch}$ for each operating mode [20]. The charge stored in the battery can be given as an integral of battery current $I_b$ [17]. The parameters of the battery model are identified using curve fitting techniques, and the model is validated with a 12 V, 4 Ah Yuasa (NP4-12) battery [20]-[22] for all discharge rates. The discharge characteristics of the battery are studied using the battery model, then Neural Model is adopted for more generality to help any user, designer or researchers and to make benefits from this technique advantages.

The battery emf, $E_b$, is modeled by a dependent voltage source as shown in Fig. 3. The battery emf is a linear function of the SOC (state of charge) of the battery. In lead-acid batteries, there exist a difference between the battery emf $E_b$, and terminal voltage of the battery $V_{bt}$, known as polarization effect. This polarization effect, caused due to the ohmic voltage drop and overvoltage effects, in the lead-acid battery is modeled by a resistor-capacitor network, as shown in Fig. 3. The polarization resistance is represented by a single equivalent resistor $R_{ch}$ or $R_{dch}$ for each operating mode [20]. During the charging process, the current flows through the ohmic resistor $R_{ch}$, while, during discharging process, the current flows through ohmic resistor $R_{dch}$. Ideal diodes are connected in their respective paths to allow the current flowing through the desired resistances. The self-discharge losses in the battery are modeled by the resistor $R_{sd}$. The battery current is denoted by $I_b$.

The terminal voltage of the battery during the charging mode and discharging mode can be given by (4) and (5), respectively [20]:

\[
V_{bt,\text{charging}} = E_b + I_b \ R_{ch} \ (1 - \exp (- t / (R_{ch} \ C_{ov})))
\]

\[
V_{bt,\text{discharging}} = E_b - I_b \ R_{dch} \ (1 - \exp (- t / (R_{dch} \ C_{ov})))
\]

During the charge and discharge cycles, the dynamic characteristics of the battery depend on the battery SOC, the charge/discharge rate, and the electrolyte temperature [20]. The model parameters are identified to determine the battery terminal voltage during charging and discharging process, the parameter identification process proposed by Jantharamin N. and Zhang, L. in [20] is implemented in this paper. The model parameters are determined using curve-fitting technique, and using the manufacturer’s datasheet for the Yuasa (NP4-12) battery, rated 4 Ah, 12V [20]-[22]. Based on the Yuasa (NP4-12) battery manufacturer’s datasheet for, the relationship between the battery open circuit voltage and remaining battery capacity is approximately linear, as shown in Fig. 4 [22]. Using the linear approximation technique, a function between $E_b$ and SOC is deduced as [20]:

\[
E_b = 0.01375 \ (SOC) + 11.5
\]
The information on the remaining battery capacity against the storage time in the manufacturer’s datasheet for the Yuasa (NP4-12) battery is used to model the self-discharge resistance [22]. The values of $R_{sd}$ are plotted against the SOC, [20] as shown in Fig. 5, and using curve-fitting method, to get a quadratic polynomial function as in (7), to simulate the variation of self-discharge resistance $R_{sd}$ of a battery as a function of the battery SOC in kΩ.

$$R_{sd} = -0.039 \times (SOC)^2 + 4.27 \times (SOC) - 19.23$$  \hspace{1cm} (7)

The resistance $R_{dch}$ (Discharge Polarization Resistance) can be divided into two components as [20]:

$$R_{dch} = R_{bdi} + R_{bd}$$  \hspace{1cm} (8)

The resistance $R_{bdi}$, models the change in the terminal voltage from the battery emf during transient interval, and hence, depends on the discharge current. The resistance $R_{bd}$, models the variation of $R_{dch}$, with the battery SOC as the discharge proceeds [20]. The mathematical expression in a form of two exponential functions represent $R_{bdi}$ and given as [20]:

$$R_{bdi} = 1.01 \exp (-2.21 I_b) + 0.24 \exp (-0.06 I_b)$$  \hspace{1cm} (9)
After transients die away, the resistance $R_{bd}$ for specific discharge rate can be derived as a mathematical function using the curve fitting technique [20] and established for $R_{bd}$ as:

$$R_{bd} = 2.926 \exp (-0.042 \text{SOC})$$

(10)

From the discharge characteristics of the Yuasa NP4-12 battery, it can be seen that the lower discharge rate curves have longer transient interval [20]-[22]. So, the capacitance is estimated according to the lowest discharge rate given in the data sheet. As a result, for this battery, the overvoltage capacitance $C_{ov}$ is obtained to be 40 F [20]. Resistance $R_{ch}$ during the charging process can be divided into two components as [20]:

$$R_{ch} = R_{bci} + R_{bc}$$

(11)

The resistance $R_{bci}$ models the change in the terminal voltage from the battery emf during the transient interval, and hence, depends on the charging rate. The resistance $R_{bc}$ models the variation of the internal resistance with the battery SOC. The resistance $R_{bci}$ can be estimated as in [20] with approximation to the value of 5 $\Omega$. After transients die way, the resistance $R_{bc}$ can be expressed as in [20], using the curve fitting technique to describe this variation with the battery SOC is given as [20]:

$$R_{bc} = 9.32 \times 10^{-5} (\text{SOC})^2 + 0.01 (\text{SOC}) + 0.028$$

(12)
The battery model is validated by simulating it for all discharge rates: 0.05, 0.1, 0.2, 0.4, 0.6, 1, 2 and 3 CA. The terminal voltage $V_{bt}$ of the model is obtained in each case. This terminal voltage $V_{bt}$ of the battery model is then compared with the discharge characteristics given in the manufacturing data sheet of the 12 V, 4 Ah Yuasa battery [22] as shown in Fig. 9. The validation results are shown in Fig. 10. Comparison shows a nearly close match between them with little difference.
3. Artificial Neural Network Modeling

Using the Artificial Neural Network (ANN), with back-probagation technique which used, described and verified before in the field of renewable energy and power like in [23-32] for the author, in implementing ANN models to estimate Thevenin Electric Model' parameters with their algebraic equations. These ANN models' outputs are: Discharging Resistance $R_{dch}$, Shunt Resistance $R_{sd}$, Back e.m.f. $E_b$ and Charging Resistance $R_{ch}$; each one is deduced with Battery Characteristics as inputs for every previous outputs: Charging/Discharging Rate, State of Charge, Time, Voltage, and Current. ANN models are created with suitable numbers of layers and neurons, which trained, simulated, checked and their algebraic equations are concluded accurately with excellent regression constant for all almost 1. This is done to make benefits from the ability of neural network of interpolation between points and also curves. Finally, the algebraic equations are deduced to use it without training the neural unit in each time. These models have a suitable number of layers and neurons in each layer as shown in the following to suit their job with precise manner and distinguished regression constant. Moreover, ANN models have the ability to deal with all curves (data) as surface or mapping face as shown in the coming figures. The training data for various characteristics is well depicted in the following 3D figures for all inputs and targets (outputs).

![Fig. 11. 3D relation for SOC, CA with time](image1)

![Fig. 12. 3D relation for $V_{bch}$, CA with time](image2)
Fig. 13. 3D relation for $E_b$, CA with time

Fig. 14. 3D relation for $I_b$, CA with time

Fig. 15. 3D relation for $R_{ch}$, CA with time

Fig. 16. 3D relation for $R_{sd}$, CA with time
Fig. 17. 3D relation for $V_{\text{bidch}}$, CA with time

Fig. 18. 3D relation for $V_{\text{bidch}}$, $E_b$, with CA

Fig. 19. 3D relation for $R_{\text{dch}}$, CA with time

Fig. 20. 3D relation for $R_{\text{sd}}$, CA with $E_b$
3.1. Discharging Resistance $R_{dch}$ Model

The first model output is: Discharging Resistance $R_{dch}$ range, with ranges of Battery Characteristics as inputs: Capacity Rate $CA$, State of Charge $SOC$, Time, Voltage $V_{bt\_discharging}$, and Current $I_b$. The model here implemented with two layers, one hidden with log-sig function and 2 neurons; second layer is with pure-line function with 1 neuron. Comparisons between the output and target, Performance, Training state, and Regression for 1st Model are presented to show the validity of the model.

Fig. 21. Output VS Target for 1st Model

![Output VS Target for 1st Model](image1)

Fig. 22. Performance for 1st Model

![Performance for 1st Model](image2)

Fig. 23. Training state for 1st Model

![Training state for 1st Model](image3)
The model algebraic equation is deduced as the following:

\[ \text{CA}_n = (\text{CA} - 0.9188)/(0.9890) \]  \hspace{1cm} (13)
\[ \text{Time}_n = (\text{Time} - 137.6875)/(237.6148) \]  \hspace{1cm} (14)
\[ \text{SOC}_n = (\text{SOC} - 50.0000)/(29.0205) \]  \hspace{1cm} (15)
\[ \text{V}_{\text{btdchn}} = (\text{V}_{\text{btdch}} - 11.5007)/(1.0980) \]  \hspace{1cm} (16)
\[ \text{I}_{\text{bn}} = (I_b - 1.8375)/(2.5233) \]  \hspace{1cm} (17)

The previous Equations present the normalized inputs (subscript n denotes normalized variable) for the ANN model and the following equations lead to the required derived output equation.

\[ E_1 = 0.0948 \text{CA}_n + 0.0014 \text{Time}_n + 1.2282 \text{SOC}_n - 0.0046 \text{V}_{\text{btdchn}} - 0.0525 \text{I}_{\text{bn}} + 6.6795 \]
\[ F_1 = 1/(1 + \exp (-E_1)) \]  \hspace{1cm} (18)

\[ E_2 = 0.0027 \text{CA}_n + 0.0018 \text{Time}_n - 0.0074 \text{SOC}_n + 0.0317 \text{V}_{\text{btdchn}} - 5.4241 \text{I}_{\text{bn}} - 14.4143 \]
\[ F_2 = 1/(1 + \exp (-E_2)) \]  \hspace{1cm} (19)

\[ \text{R}_{\text{disCHn}} = 1.0e+004 (-0.0386 F_1 + 4.9496 F_2) + 384.2665 \]  \hspace{1cm} (20)

The un-normalized output \( \text{R}_{\text{disCH}} \) is:

\[ \text{R}_{\text{disCH}} = 0.7085 \text{R}_{\text{disCHn}} + 1.2383 \]  \hspace{1cm} (21)

### 3.2. Shunt Resistance \( R_{sd} \) Model

The second model output is: Shunt Resistance \( R_{sd} \) range, with ranges of Battery Characteristics as inputs: Capacity Rate CA, State of Charge SOC, Time, Voltage \( V_{bt\_discharging} \), and Current \( I_b \). The model here implemented with two layers, one hidden with log-sig function and 2 neurons; second layer is with pure-line function with 1 neuron. Comparisons between the output and target, Performance, Training state, and Regression for 2nd Model are presented to show the validity of the model.
Fig. 25. Output VS Target for 2nd Model

Fig. 26. Performance for 2nd Model

Fig. 27. Training state for 2nd Model
The model algebraic equation is deduced as the following:

\[ E_1 = -0.0003 \, C_A + 0.00004 \, \text{Time}_n - 0.8645 \, \text{SOC}_n + 0.0001 \, V_{\text{btdchn}} + 0.0002 \, I_{\text{bn}} - 2.4236 \]
\[ F_1 = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-E_1)} \]  \hspace{1cm} (22)

\[ E_2 = 0.00004 \, C_A + 0.0002 \, \text{Time}_n + 0.9388 \, \text{SOC}_n - 0.0012 \, V_{\text{btdchn}} + 0.0001 \, I_{\text{bn}} - 2.5500 \]
\[ F_2 = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-E_2)} \]  \hspace{1cm} (23)

\[ R_{\text{sdn}} = -23.8845 \, F_1 - 19.0662 \, F_2 + 4.3730 \]  \hspace{1cm} (24)

The un-normalized output

\[ R_{\text{sd}} = 31.2690 \, R_{\text{sdn}} + 63.9450 \]  \hspace{1cm} (25)

### 3.3. Back e.m.f. \(E_b\) Model

The third model output is: Back e.m.f. \(E_b\) range, with ranges of Battery Characteristics as inputs: Capacity Rate \(C_A\), State of Charge \(\text{SOC}\), Time, Voltage \(V_{\text{bt\_discharging}}\), and Current \(I_b\). The model here implemented with two layers, one hidden with log-sig function and 3 neurons; second layer is with pure-line function with 1 neuron. Comparisons between the output and target, Performance, Training state, and Regression for 3rd Model are presented to show the validity of the model.
The model algebraic equation is deduced as the following:

\[ E_1 = -0.2258 \cdot C_{A_n} + 0.0597 \cdot T_{ime_n} + 0.9686 \cdot S_{OC_n} - 0.3687 \cdot V_{btdchn} + 1.2562 \cdot I_{bn} + 0.9972 \]
\[ F_1 = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-E_1)} \]  
(26)

\[ E_2 = -0.0009 \cdot C_{A_n} + 0.0002 \cdot T_{ime_n} + 0.0792 \cdot S_{OC_n} - 0.0013 \cdot V_{btdchn} + 0.0065 \cdot I_{bn} - 0.1205 \]
\[ F_2 = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-E_2)} \]  
(27)

\[ E_3 = -0.0629 \cdot C_{A_n} + 0.0183 \cdot T_{ime_n} + 0.4427 \cdot S_{OC_n} - 0.1598 \cdot V_{btdchn} + 0.5258 \cdot I_{bn} - 1.4344 \]
F3 = 1/(1 + exp (- E3)) \quad (28)

E_{bn} = - 0.1227 F1 + 53.8343 F2 - 0.6730 F3 - 25.0794 \quad (29)

The un-normalized output

\[ E_b = 0.3990 E_{bn} + 12.1875 \quad (30) \]

### 3.4. Charging Resistance \( R_{ch} \) Model

The forth model output is: Charging Resistance \( R_{ch} \) range, with ranges of Battery Characteristics as inputs: Capacity Rate \( C_A \), State of Charge \( SOC \), Time, Voltage \( V_{bt \_charging} \), and Current \( I_b \). The model here implemented with two layers, one hidden with log-sig function and 3 neurons; second layer is with pure-line function with 1 neuron. Comparisons between the output and target, Performance, Training state, and Regression for 4th Model are presented to show the validity of the model.

![Fig. 33. Output VS Target for 4th Model](image1)

![Fig. 34. Performance for 4th Model](image2)
Eq. (31) presents normalized charging voltage to be used with the other normalized inputs used before for the rest of ANN models. The model algebraic equation is deduced as the following:

\[ E_1 = 12.3025 \, C_{An} + 2.4585 \, T_{In} - 2.3909 \, S_{OCn} + 23.6540 \, V_{bchn} - 26.6415 I_{bn} + 3.2817 \]

\[ F_1 = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-E_1)} \] (32)

\[ E_2 = -0.0005 \, C_{An} - 0.00004 \, T_{In} - 0.6134 \, S_{OCn} - 0.0001 \, V_{bchn} + 0.0002 I_{bn} + 1.9592 \]

\[ F_2 = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-E_2)} \] (33)

\[ E_3 = 0.0002 \, C_{An} + 0.0002 \, T_{In} - 0.8451 \, S_{OCn} + 0.0004 \, V_{bchn} + 0.0015 I_{bn} - 0.3703 \]

\[ F_3 = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-E_3)} \] (34)

\[ R_{CHRGE_n} = -0.0003 \, F_1 - 10.4831 \, F_2 - 1.4530 \, F_3 + 9.6429 \] (35)

The un-normalized output

\[ R_{CHARGE} = 0.5651 \, R_{CHRGE_n} + 2.3394 \] (36)

4. Conclusion

Due to the importance of Lead-acid battery as storage unit in many applications especially for green energy, this paper is proposed. New flexible and efficient modeling method is introduced. First, a 12 V, 4 Ah lead-acid battery is modeled. All the parameters of the battery model are identified as functions of State Of Charge (SOC) of
the battery mainly, using curve fitting technique, and the NP4-12 YUASA battery manufacturer's data sheet for all capacity rates and verified to get good matching with the real characteristics. Second, a neural network based learning system method with back-probagation technique has been proposed for parameters estimation as efficient facility with the aid of MATLAB toolbox. These Models help any user, designer or researchers to easily identify parameters and characteristics for this battery type with capacity ranges 0.05, 0.1, 0.2, 0.4, 0.6, 1, 2 and 3 CA. The model parameters and characteristics are well depicted in the form of 3D figures. The ANN technique is used to estimate Thevenin Electric Model' parameters in the form of ANN models with their algebraic equations. The proposed outputs for the models are: Discharging Resistance, Shunt Resistance, Back e.m.f. and Charging Resistance; each one is deduced with Battery Characteristics as inputs for every previous outputs: Capacity Rate, State of Charge, Time, Voltage, and Current. ANN models are created with suitable numbers of layers and neurons, which trained, simulated, checked and their algebraic equations are concluded accurately with excellent regression constant for all almost 1. The neural models have the ability to predict values in – between learning values, also make interpolation between learning curves data at various characteristics. Finally, deduction of algebraic nonlinear function which, connects between inputs and outputs for neural networks are presented, to can aid any designer without the need of training the neural network each time. The validity of this algebraic function is achieved from comparison between target and output moreover, the excellent regression factors achieved.

5. References
22. NP valve regulated lead acid battery manual, Yuasa Battery Sale (UK) Ltd., 1991