

Design of a Hardware-Efficient SOC and SOH Estimator for Electric Vehicle Batteries

Dr. Vidyasaraswathi H.N*, Kruthika D.S.*, Lakshmi C.R.*, Madhavi C.*

[✉]Bangalore Institute of Technology,
K.R. Road, V.V. Puram, Bengaluru – 560004, India

Abstract: The increasing reliance on lithium-ion batteries in Electric Vehicles (EVs) and energy storage systems demands accurate, real-time estimation of State of Charge (SOC) and State of Health (SOH). Conventional digital estimation methods such as Kalman Filters and machine-learning models provide high accuracy but require complex computation, expensive microcontrollers, and high power consumption. This project presents a hardware-efficient, analog-centric estimation system that performs both SOC and SOH analysis using low-power operational amplifier circuits. A Hybrid Coulomb Counting technique, combined with voltage-based correction, enables drift-free SOC tracking, while a pulse-based internal resistance measurement accurately detects battery degradation for SOH estimation. Cadence Virtuoso simulations validate the design's ability to distinguish healthy and degraded batteries through measurable voltage sag characteristics. The proposed approach significantly reduces system complexity, cost, and computational load, making it suitable for compact, real-time Battery Management Systems (BMS) in low-cost EVs and stationary energy storage applications.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The rapid growth of Electric Vehicles (EVs), renewable-energy storage systems, and portable electronic devices has significantly increased the need for reliable lithium-ion battery monitoring. As batteries operate under dynamic conditions, ensuring safety, performance, and longevity requires accurate estimation of two critical parameters: State of Charge (SOC), which represents the remaining usable energy, and State of Health (SOH), which indicates long-term degradation. The Battery Management System (BMS) is responsible for estimating these parameters in real time, and its accuracy directly influences vehicle range prediction, safety decisions, and battery life-cycle cost.

Traditional SOC/SOH estimation techniques rely heavily on digital computation. Methods such as Extended Kalman Filters (EKF), Dual Fractional-Order EKF, Cubature Kalman Filters, and machine-learning-based models have demonstrated high accuracy but at the cost of increased hardware complexity and computational burden [9]. Deep learning architectures—such as Multi-Branch LSTM and Transformer-based models—further improve prediction capabilities but require significant processing power, large datasets, and energy-intensive inference engines [2], [3]. While accurate, these techniques are unsuitable for low-cost BMS modules deployed in mass-market EVs and stationary battery packs.

Simpler methods, such as Coulomb Counting, offer low computational cost but suffer from drift errors and unreliable long-term performance [6]. Voltage-based methods provide good static accuracy but fail under fluctuating temperature and load conditions [7]. Moreover, SOH estimation typically requires advanced impedance spectroscopy or adaptive filtering, which is difficult to implement in compact, low-power BMS hardware [14]. These challenges highlight the need for a lightweight, hardware-efficient estimation approach that minimizes microcontroller dependency while maintaining accuracy.

To address these limitations, this project proposes a fully analog, hardware-efficient SOC and SOH estimator. The system uses precision operational amplifier blocks for real-time current integration, voltage scaling, pulse-based internal resistance measurement, and analog signal addition. Unlike digital approaches, the analog front-end performs core computations directly, significantly reducing BMS processing requirements and enabling ultra-fast response to changing battery conditions. Cadence Virtuoso simulations validate the effectiveness of the hybrid SOC estimation method and the SOH pulse-load diagnostic, demonstrating accurate differentiation between healthy and degraded batteries.

This analog-centric methodology presents a practical alternative to computation-heavy digital systems, making it suitable for low-cost EVs, lightweight BMS modules, and compact energy storage devices where power efficiency, simplicity, and real-time responsiveness are crucial.

II. RELATED WORK

Accurate estimation of a battery’s State of Charge (SOC) and State of Health (SOH) has been an active research area for more than a decade, with recent advancements accelerating due to the widespread adoption of Electric Vehicles (EVs) and large-scale energy storage. Prior research largely focuses on digital, algorithm-centric estimation techniques, which—while highly accurate—introduce significant computational cost, hardware complexity, and power consumption.

Deep learning approaches have recently gained attention for their ability to map complex nonlinear battery behaviors. Guo et al. employed Multi-Branch LSTM and Transformer architectures for SOH prediction with additional anomaly detection layers, demonstrating high accuracy under diverse cycling

conditions [2]. Similarly, Long et al. incorporated multi-dimensional feature extraction with a Transformer framework, using constant-current charge segments and incremental capacity features to improve SOH estimation accuracy [3]. Although these models perform well, they require heavy computational resources, large datasets, and high-performance embedded processors, making them unsuitable for low-cost Battery Management Systems (BMS).

Another direction in literature focuses on model-based estimation, especially for SOC. Vishnu and Saleem introduced an adaptive integral correction mechanism that compensates for Coulomb Counting drift using voltage feedback, improving long-term reliability [6]. Qays et al. provided a detailed comparative review of SOC techniques—direct measurement, book-keeping (Coulomb Counting), and advanced observers—and concluded that simple methods suffer from noise accumulation while advanced filters increase hardware load [7]. Their analysis highlights a fundamental trade-off between complexity, power consumption, and estimation accuracy.

Kalman Filter-based methods remain the dominant approach in industry and academia. Ling and Wei proposed a Dual Fractional-Order Extended Kalman Filter (FO-EKF) that models electrochemical dynamics more accurately using constant phase elements (CPEs) [10]. Imran et al. enhanced traditional EKF methods by integrating a genetic algorithm that adaptively tunes noise covariance parameters, improving estimation robustness under varying operating conditions [14]. Mannarayana et al. further refined SOC estimation by incorporating state-augmented Cubature Kalman Filtering to address colored noise commonly observed in EV environments [13]. These methods show high accuracy but require complex mathematical modeling and high-speed microcontrollers.

For SOH estimation, time-domain and frequency-domain techniques have been widely studied. Rahimi Fard et al. applied an Interacting Multiple Model (IMM) strategy to simultaneously estimate SOC, SOH, and SOP (State of Power), achieving improved robustness but at the cost of increased computational complexity [9]. Shu et al. developed a collaborative estimation strategy for lead-carbon batteries used in grid frequency regulation, addressing hysteresis effects by adaptively updating battery model parameters [4]. While effective, these techniques depend on heavy online computation and multi-variable adaptive models.

Across the literature, a major gap identified is the lack of hardware-efficient and analog-based estimation systems. Most approaches require ADC sampling, filtering, matrix operations, or machine-learning inference, inevitably increasing BMS cost, power consumption, and size. As summarized in the gap analysis, existing digital solutions suffer from high power draw, microcontroller dependency, firmware complexity, and integration challenges.

The present work addresses this gap by proposing a fully analog, low-complexity SOC and SOH estimator, eliminating the need for digital computation. Unlike prior efforts, this system uses integrator-based Coulomb Counting, voltage-based drift correction, and pulse-based internal resistance measurement implemented entirely using operational amplifiers and analog components—offering real-time performance with drastically lower hardware overhead.

III. METHODOLOGY

The methodology for this project centers on designing and validating a hardware-efficient, analog-centric estimation system. Unlike traditional digital approaches, the core mathematical operations for SOC and SOH are performed by specialized analog circuitry, with the embedded system (ESP32) used exclusively for simple output visualization (LEDs/Buzzer). This strategy minimizes computational complexity and maximizes real-time responsiveness.

A. Hardware Requirements

To validate the analog estimation outputs in a real hardware environment, a simplified prototype setup was developed using essential components. An ESP32 development board served as the central interface, responsible for reading the analog voltage signals generated by the SOC and SOH estimation circuits and driving the corresponding visual and audio indicators. Three LED indicators were employed to represent battery conditions—the red LED signaled an “Unhealthy” SOH or “Critical” SOC state,

the green LED indicated a “Healthy” or “Good” condition, and the yellow LED represented intermediate or warning levels. Additionally, an active buzzer was integrated to provide an audible alert during critically low SOC conditions. The setup was powered and programmed using a USB cable connected to the Arduino IDE, while a breadboard and connecting wires were used to prototype and interconnect the analog outputs with the ESP32’s input pins efficiently. This arrangement enabled effective validation of the analog circuit’s behavior and its compatibility with low-cost embedded platforms.



Fig.1. Hardware Requirements

B. System Design Architecture (Analog-Centric Approach)

The system architecture is partitioned into two dedicated Analog Front-End blocks for SOC and SOH, both drawing data from general measurement circuits and outputting simple analog signal.

- Current Sensing: Current flow is measured across a low-value Shunt Resistor. The resulting voltage drop V_{shunt}



Fig.2. Building blocks of Project

is minute and must be amplified. A high-precision Differential Amplifier isolates and amplifies this signal into a clean, usable analog signal proportional to the current I_{comp} , which is critical for the next stage.

- Voltage Sensing: The terminal battery voltage V_{Batt} is monitored. A Voltage Scaler block scales this voltage down from the high battery operating range to a low-level signal V_{ref} , which is safe for the op-amp circuits and serves as a crucial reference input for the SOC calculation.

C. State of Charge (SOC) Estimation Circuit

The SOC circuit is implemented using a Hybrid Coulomb Counting Principle (CCM) executed completely in the analog domain, ensuring both high responsiveness and long-term accuracy.

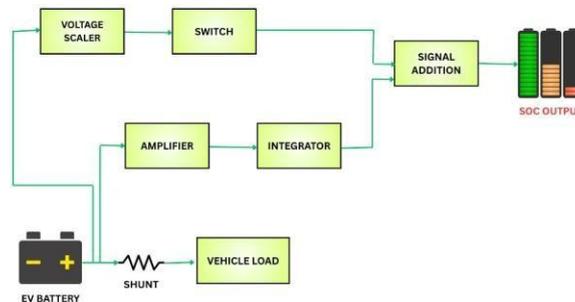


Fig.3. State of Charge (SOC) estimation circuit block diagram

The principle combines the strengths of two fundamental methods to calculate the remaining battery capacity:

- Coulomb Counting Method (CCM): This serves as the primary real-time tracker. It measures the current (I) flowing in or out of the battery and integrates it over time (t). Since charge (Q) is the integral of current ($Q = \int I dt$), this process provides a continuous, highly responsive measure of charge movement. The benefit is high resolution during dynamic loading (driving or charging).
- Voltage-Based Correction Method: This serves as the secondary long-term calibrator. The CCM is susceptible to cumulative drift errors (from sensor noise and efficiency variations). To counter this, the battery’s voltage (which correlates closely with the true SOC in a “relaxed” state) is used to periodically correct the CCM output, preventing the estimated SOC from diverging from the true state over time.

D. Analog Implementation and Working Methodology

The hybrid principle is realized by a sequence of analog blocks that perform the mathematical operations of integration and addition.

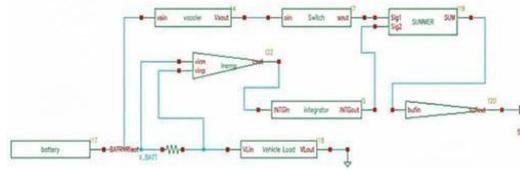


Fig.4. Schematic of SOC estimation circuit

- **Shunt:** This component is placed in series with the battery path. It generates a small voltage drop V_{shunt} precisely proportional to the charging or discharging current I_{Batt} , providing the raw signal for current sensing.
- **Integrator:** This is an op-amp circuit configured with a capacitor in the feedback path. Its output voltage $V_{INTGout}$ is mathematically proportional to the time integral of the input current I_{comp} . This voltage continuously tracks the accumulated charge (Coulomb Count), representing dynamic changes in SOC.
- **Amplifier:** This is a Differential Amplifier that isolates and significantly amplifies the tiny V_{shunt} signal. It produces a clean, usable analog signal I_{comp} that is required by the integrator for accurate current tracking, rejecting common-mode noise.
- **Voltage Scaler:** Takes the high battery voltage V_{Batt} and scales it down to a reference voltage V_{ref} compatible with the low-voltage op-amp circuits. This scaled signal is essential because it is used as the voltage-based SOC reference for calibration.
- **Switch:** An Analog Switch used to enable or disable the path of the scaled voltage signal V_{ref} . In a complete BMS, this switch would be digitally controlled, allowing the system to set the initial SOC based on voltage (closing the switch at startup) or to periodically enable recalibration when the battery is at rest (low current).
- **Signal Additon:** This Analog Summer circuit performs the crucial final function. It adds the dynamic Integrated Charge Signal $V_{INTGout}$ with the stable Scaled Voltage Reference V_{ref} . This combination ensures the continuous, real-time tracking from the integrator is periodically constrained and corrected by the stable voltage reference, producing the final robust SOC OUTPUT signal
- **Output Buffer:** A unity-gain op-amp buffer placed at the output stage. Its purpose is to provide isolation and a low-impedance drive, ensuring the final SOC voltage signal is stable and can be connected to the external indicator system (ESP32 input) without loading or distorting the sensitive estimation circuitry.

E. State of Health (SOH) Estimation Block

The SOH circuit is designed to measure the dynamic degradation of the battery, primarily through the increase in its Internal Resistance (IR).

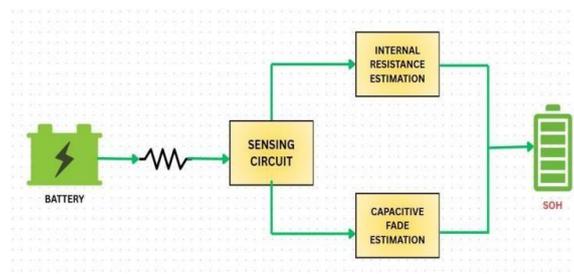


Fig.5. State of Health (SOH) Block Diagram

The core principle is founded on the fact that battery degradation (loss of SOH) is accompanied by an irreversible increase in its total internal resistance. When a sudden, controlled current pulse (I) is applied to the battery, an instantaneous voltage drop (V) occurs across the internal impedance, following Ohm's law ($V=IR \times I$).

- **Diagnosis:** A healthy battery (high SOH) exhibits a small V , while a degraded battery (low SOH) exhibits a

significantly larger V for the same current pulse. The circuit's function is to accurately capture and analyze this V .

- **Capacity Fade:** This IR increase is directly correlated with the reduction in the battery's maximum usable capacity (capacity fade), which is the standard definition of SOH.

F. Schematic of proposed State of Health (SOH) Estimation Circuit

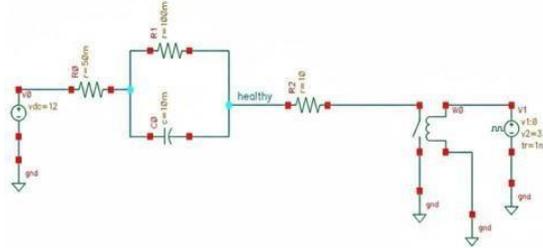


Fig.6.State of Health (SOH) Block Diagram

The SOH circuit is implemented in the Cadence environment using an Equivalent Circuit Model (ECM) to simulate the battery's electrical and dynamic characteristics, along with a mechanism to apply a current pulse. The SOH circuit consists of:

- ADC source models the battery open-circuit voltage.
- R_0 represents internal resistance and indicates SOH degradation.
- R_1 – C_1 models polarization and transient behaviour.
- A pulse source and switch apply a controlled load.
- R_2 sets the discharge current magnitude.

G. Embedded System Implementation

The embedded system component is minimalist, focusing on visualization rather than computation, adhering to the project's goal of hardware efficiency.

- **Platform:** An ESP32 development board, programmed via the Arduino IDE, is used solely for the output interface.
- **Indicator Functionality:** The final analog voltages outputted by the SOC and SOH circuits are reconnected to the ESP32's input pins. The programmed logic performs simple threshold detection (no complex ADC processing) to activate physical indicators: - LEDs: To display the SOC status (e.g., Green LED for Healthy, Red LED for Unhealthy). - Buzzer: To provide an audible warning signal when the SOC analog output voltage drops below a preset 'low charge' level.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. SOC Circuit Transient Simulation Results

The State of Charge (SOC) estimation circuit was analysed under transient conditions using Cadence Virtuoso. The analysis focused on two key aspects: the continuous analog tracking of charge depletion and the validation of the hardware thresholding mechanism used for the low-battery warning system.

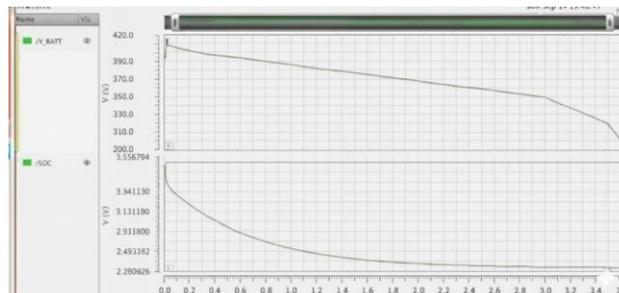


Fig.7.SOC transient analysis

The simulation results display the correlation between the battery terminal voltage and the estimated SOC output over a discharge cycle ($t=0$ s to 3.6 Ks).

- **Battery Voltage (V_{Batt}):** Represents the gradual decline of the battery terminal voltage from approximately 420V down to 310 V, simulating a standard discharge event under load.
- **SOC Output (SOC):** Represents the analog output voltage generated by the integration and

summing circuits. This voltage exhibits a smooth, monotonic decline that mirrors the discharge profile of the battery.

The final analog voltage outputs from the SOC and SOH circuits are directly interfaced with the ESP32 input pins, where simple threshold detection logic is implemented without complex ADC processing. Based on predefined voltage levels, the ESP32 activates physical indicators to

TABLE I
SOH COMPARISON BETWEEN HEALTHY AND UNHEALTHY BATTERY

Parameter	Healthy Battery	Unhealthy Battery
Initial Voltage Drop (1ms)	12V → 11.945V	12V → 11.477V
Drop Magnitude	55mV	523mV
Discharge Curve Range	11.945V → 11.878V	11.477V → 11.1142V
Discharge Curve Magnitude	67mV	362.8mV
Recovery Jump Voltage	11.878V → 11.9327V	11.1142V → 11.624V
Recovery Jump Magnitude	54.7mV	510mV
Recovery Voltage (3ms)	11.975V	11.797V
OCV Voltage	12V	12V
Voltage Loss from OCV	0.025V	0.203V
Overall Interpretation	Minimal internal resistance, fast kinetics, optimal SOH	High internal resistance, slow kinetics, severe SOH degradation

represent battery status. LEDs are used to visually display the SOC condition, such as a green LED for healthy operation and a red LED for unhealthy or low-charge states. Additionally, when the SOC analog voltage falls below a preset low-charge threshold, an audible buzzer is triggered to provide an immediate warning, ensuring timely user awareness of critical battery conditions.

B. SOH Circuit Simulation Results

The State of Health (SOH) estimation circuit was validated by performing Transient Analysis in Cadence Virtuoso. The simulation focused on the circuit's ability to differentiate between a "Healthy" and an "Unhealthy" battery by monitoring the instantaneous voltage response to a controlled discharge pulse. Furthermore, a parametric analysis was conducted to observe the effect of temperature on the estimation accuracy.

- **Healthy Battery Response**
- **Waveform Description:** The green trace illustrates the voltage response of a battery with low internal resistance (simulating a new/healthy cell).
- **Observation:** Upon application of the load pulse (at approx. 1.8 ms), the voltage drops from the nominal 12V.
- **Key Value:** The terminal voltage settles at approximately 11.876 V during the discharge event.
- **Interpretation:** The relatively small voltage drop indicates a low internal resistance, characteristic of a healthy battery. The recovery after the pulse is sharp and rapid.
- **Unhealthy Battery Response**
- **Waveform Description:** The red trace illustrates the response of a battery where the internal resistance parameter (R_0) was increased to simulate aging/degradation.
- **Observation:** Under the exact same load pulse conditions, the voltage experiences a significantly deeper sag.
- **Key Value:** The terminal voltage drops to 11.412V.
- **Interpretation:** The significantly larger voltage drop (compared to the healthy state) confirms the presence of higher internal impedance. This measurable difference (ΔV) is the analog signal used to identify the "Unhealthy" state.

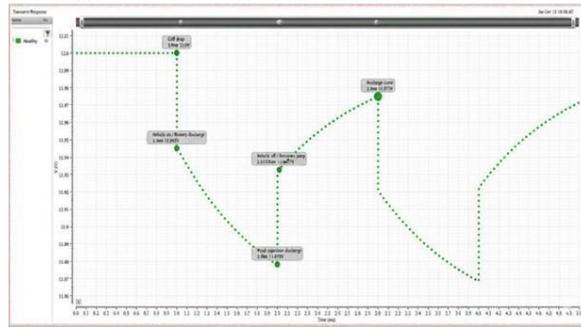


Fig.8.SOHsimulationofahealthybattery

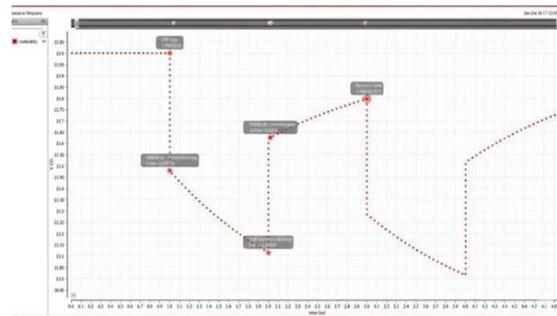


Fig.9.SOHsimulationofanunhealthybattery

C. Parametric Temperature Analysis

Since internal resistance is highly dependent on temperature, a parametric sweep was performed to simulate the circuit's response under Cold, Normal, and Hot conditions

- **Waveform Description:** The plot displays three distinct voltage curves for the same unhealthy battery model under varying temperatures:
 - **Green Curve (Cold):** Shows the deepest voltage drop (lowest trough at 10.972 V).
 - **Yellow Curve (Normal):** Shows a moderate voltage drop (trough at 11.243 V).

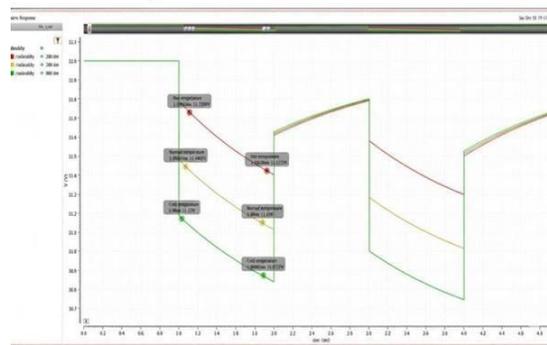


Fig.10.ParametricanalysisofSOHcircuit

- **Red Curve (Hot):** Shows the least voltage drop (trough at 11.422 V).
- **Interpretation:** The results confirm the electrochemical principle that lower temperatures increase internal resistance. The circuit correctly captures this behaviour, showing that a cold battery mimics a more degraded state (larger voltage drop) than a hot battery.

V. CONCLUSION

This project successfully developed and validated a hardware-efficient, analog-centric solution for real-time State of Charge (SOC) and State of Health (SOH) estimation, significantly reducing the computational burden typical of conventional BMS architectures. By implementing a Hybrid Coulomb Counting method via precision operational amplifiers, the system achieved accurate, continuous tracking of charge depletion with simultaneous voltage-based drift correction. Furthermore, the SOH was effectively diagnosed using a Resistive Pulse Load technique that differentiated between healthy and unhealthy states based on instantaneous voltage

drops (V) proportional to internal resistance. Comprehensive simulations in Cadence Virtuoso confirmed the design's robustness, proving that the generated analog signals possessed a sufficient Signal-to-Noise Ratio to reliably drive simple hardware threshold indicators on an ESP32 without the need for complex digital signal processing.

To evolve this prototype into a commercial-grade solution, several key enhancements are proposed. First, temperature compensation can be implemented by integrating analog thermistor circuits, allowing the system to automatically adjust SOH voltage thresholds and avoid false alarms in cold environments. Additionally, transitioning from the current simulation and breadboard setup to a custom Printed Circuit Board (PCB) would significantly reduce noise, enhance stability, and minimize parasitic effects. The system can also be expanded with IoT capabilities by utilizing the ESP32's built-in Wi-Fi module to transmit real-time SOC and SOH data to a cloud-based dashboard for remote monitoring and analytics. Furthermore, incorporating lightweight adaptive algorithms into the microcontroller would enable dynamic adjustment of analog thresholds over time, ensuring long-term accuracy as the battery undergoes natural aging.

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