Chapter 2
Charging Ahead:
Breakthroughs in Electric Vehicle Battery Enhancement

Priyanka Gupta
Bharati Vidyapeeth's College of Engineering, New Delhi, India

Shikha Shikha
Bharati Vidyapeeth's College of Engineering, New Delhi, India

Monica Bhutani
https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1924-3056
Bharati Vidyapeeth's College of Engineering, New Delhi, India

Jyoti Gupta
Bharati Vidyapeeth's College of Engineering, New Delhi, India

Monica Gupta
https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6756-4191
Bharati Vidyapeeth's College of Engineering, New Delhi, India

ABSTRACT

The shift towards electric vehicles (EV) signifies a monumental advancement in automotive technology, presenting a sustainable remedy to the environmental dilemmas posed by traditional internal combustion engines. At the heart of this transition lies the evolution of electric vehicle battery technology. This chapter showcases the recent breakthrough in enhancing EV batteries, targeting pivotal issues such as range anxiety, charging duration, cost-effectiveness, and environmental implications. Different remarkable steps in boosting the energy density of lithium-ion batteries, effectively elongating the driving range of EVs while curbing the necessity for frequent recharges. Innovations in electrode materials, electrolyte compositions, and

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manufacturing methodologies have propelled significant enhancements in battery performance, thus paving the way for a broader acceptance of electric vehicles.

INTRODUCTION

In recent years, the global conversation surrounding sustainability and the environment has reached a critical juncture. With mounting concerns over climate change and the depletion of finite resources, there is an increasing urgency to transition towards more sustainable modes of transportation and energy consumption.

The journey begins with the early development of rechargeable batteries in the late 19th century, such as lead-acid batteries, which were initially used in electric vehicles due to their reliability and affordability. Throughout the 20th century, advancements in battery chemistry and materials science, including the introduction of nickel-metal hydride (NiMH) and lithium-ion (Li-ion) batteries, marked significant milestones in improving energy density, lifespan, and safety for EV applications. The commercialization of Li-ion batteries in the 1990s, which revolutionized the consumer electronics industry and paved the way for their adaptation in EVs. This breakthrough spurred intensive research into enhancing battery performance, reducing costs, and addressing challenges like range anxiety and charging infrastructure. Concurrently, interdisciplinary collaborations between materials scientists, chemists, engineers, and automotive manufacturers have accelerated innovation, leading to novel battery chemistries (e.g., solid-state batteries), advanced manufacturing techniques, and predictive modelling for battery performance optimization.

In this introductory chapter, we embark on a comprehensive exploration of the transformative potential of electric vehicles (EVs) in addressing two interconnected global challenges: environmental degradation and our overreliance on fossil fuels.

The Environmental Imperative: The looming threat of climate change poses one of the most pressing challenges of our time. As carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions from transportation continue to rise, the need for sustainable transportation solutions has become increasingly urgent. Traditional internal combustion engine vehicles are major contributors to greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution, exacerbating climate change and compromising air quality. Electric vehicles offer a promising alternative, significantly reducing emissions of CO2, nitrogen oxides (NOx), and particulate matter. Studies have shown that widespread adoption of EVs could lead to substantial reductions in greenhouse gas emissions (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2018), thereby mitigating the impacts of climate change and safeguarding the health of our planet.

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