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A Comparative Fuel Analysis of a novel HEV with conventional vehicle

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Abstract—Improvements in fuel economy have always been a dominating driver of vehicle engineering. With some exceptions, benefits attained from hybrid powertrains to transient power delivery has not been the emphasis of research and development efforts. Developing cities around the world would realise significant benefits from improvements to fuel economy, which is outlined in this research by assessing the benefits of a novel HEV architecture. These benefits are compared to a conventional ICE-powered vehicle equivalent, which has an advantage in terms lower upfront costs. The commercial success of HEV implementation, therefore, is determined by its price comparison to conventional vehicles and payback over a number of years of use. This becomes especially important in regions of low-middle income, where the market is much more price-sensitive. The fuel economy of a conventional vehicle and mild hybrid electric vehicle are compared in this paper. This analysis includes vehicle modelling and simulation. Fuel economy is assessed and referenced with standard drive cycles provided by the U.S Environmental Protection Agency. Results demonstrate the benefits of a lower ongoing cost for the HEV architecture.

Keywords—Fuel economy; Gear-shifting control; Manual transmission; Mild hybrid electric vehicle (MHEV); Powertrain; Torque gap filling;

I. INTRODUCTION

Researchers and OEM's all over the world are constantly working on developing novel and complex control methods of multi-modal hybrid powertrain architectures [1] along with repeatable improvements in vehicle efficiency by a thorough review . The dominating global markets of the US, Japan and Europe are primary buyers of ULEV (Ultra-Low Emissions Vehicle), SULEV (Super-ULEV) PZEV (Partial Zero-Emissions Vehicle), AT-PZEV (Advanced Technology PZEV) or ZEV (Zero-Emissions Vehicle) vehicles and see their direct benefit. Many of the 35 member countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) have observed atmospheric pollutant level reductions since 2005 [2]. In saying this, developed regions like these have been able to reduce the respective impact on global air pollution through driving emissions standards and change energy production methods. This research aims to look at the development of a prototype vehicle which would provide the fuel-saving benefits of a hybrid vehicle architecture compared to a comparable baseline conventional vehicle with cost-effective implementation for developing markets [3]. The baseline conventional vehicle chosen for this research is a 1990 year model Mazda MX-5. The vehicle was chosen for its structural simplicity, ubiquitous availability, and similarity to the average passenger vehicle fleet in many developing

regions, which often have high average fleet age, and are heavily skewed toward B- and C-segment (lightweight) vehicles with older engine management systems. The hybrid vehicle architecture will be developed around the conventional MX-5 powertrain, and will include a supervisory controller, output-shaft mounted electric motor, and associated power electronics. We will discuss electric motor size optimisation, with a leaning on improving fuel economy, drive performance and overall efficiency by effective hybridization [4]. The opportunity for improvement in driving comfort, shifting quality, fuel economy, driveability and manufacturing costs are seen in the mild hybrid electric powertrain architecture [5]. A low-power electric motor mounted on the transmission output shaft, coupled to a controlled power source is representative of such an architecture allowing for increased functionality of the powertrain along with a reduction in the torque hole during gear changes. High-quality shift control proves essential to reducing torque hole and vibration of the powertrain, enhancing driving performance.

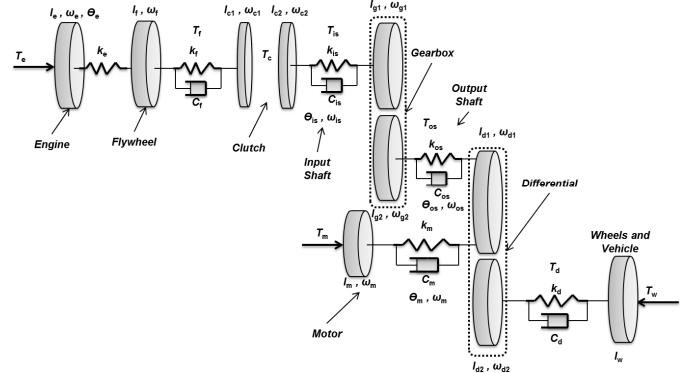


Fig. 1. Overall powertrain structure of the mild HEV model.

Parameters defined in Table IV and Table V

Previous papers have looked at the dynamics and limitations of modelling mild hybrid electric powertrains [6, 7]. Prior work conducted as part of our programme concluded that the most appropriate electric motor for this application is a low-cost HEV is a Brushless DC Motor (BLDC), with a rated continuous mechanical power output of 10 kW (30 kW peak) [8]. The peak mechanical power figure is a significant consideration as the continuous output in this research, as the intended usage profile involves short pulses of high power for torque-filling. Extensive use of BLDC drive is seen in EV and HEV applications [9]. A 10 kW electric machine proved adequate for torque-fill during a gear change, with enough

power for an observable improvement in vehicle efficiency, both under high demand or low engine efficiency conditions [10]. A simple post-transmission parallel hybrid configuration defines the powertrain. A low-powered four-cylinder engine is coupled to a five-speed manual transmission through a robotically actuated clutch. A motor is connected to the transmission output shaft before the final drive. Comparable architectures are observed in existing research [11, 12]. The scope of this research is modelled around the implementation of hybrid technology in developing markets, with a goal of reducing atmospheric pollutants in a cost effective manner. A schematic representation of the mild powertrain as illustrated in Fig. 1 will be used for comparison with a conventional vehicle equivalent (i.e. same architecture but without the electric motor and associated ancillaries). The size and capacity of each vehicle component will be analysed to meet desired outcomes. These elements include the driver, the battery, EM, vehicle, ICE, and transmission.

This paper will investigate the costs and consumptions associated with the driving usage of the proposed mild hybrid architecture. In Section II the costs associated with petrol and electric power consumption are investigated, and the additional costs associated with the prototype powertrain architecture are detailed. Following this Section III details the simulation strategy for the mild hybrid powertrain and demonstrates qualitatively the consistency of simulation results with other publically available data. In Section IV the impact on energy consumption is evaluated, and finally, in Section V the paper is summarised, and conclusions of the research are drawn.

II. PRODUCTION COST ANALYSIS

Approximately 70% of global petrol consumption is due to transportation, with an expected increase of 50% between 2009 to 2030 [13]. With this in mind, a proof of concept exercise will look at the development of a low-cost electric hybrid drive system for small vehicles. The design of such will be mainly aimed at developing markets with which there is a direct relation to increased environmental pollutant levels [14]. An approach toward improving drive characteristics, specifically shift characteristics, of an automatic vehicle with low-cost hardware, will be taken in the development of a hybrid vehicle. It has been determined by the authors that a 5% cost limit on the net manufacturing cost increase of the base vehicle is representative of a realistic cost that would be deemed satisfactory by end users. As such, this costing has been included as a defining benchmark to cover the total cost of hybridization, including motor, inverter and battery in this paper. It must be noted that the accurate cost of manufacturing is hard to determine without final designs. McKeever [15] Hadley [16] Wu [17] offer ways of estimating these figures by looking at the cost of components determined by physical performance requirements. Utilising their methods, a 2016 figure of \$31.30 was determined per kW of electric power for the cost of a motor and controller. At this value, these two components would add approximately \$375.60 to the cost of the base vehicle. A cost approximation for a 1.2 kWh NiMH battery was determined to be \$60. Further reductions in cost can be affected by usage of a smaller battery pack [18]. The cumulative cost of the motor, controller and battery results in

an overall additional cost of \$435.60. The cost of producing a simple B-segment vehicle varies depending on the specification and production region, however typically falls between \$8000-\$12000. In this case, the overall additional cost fulfils the goal of providing a system with the low-cost implementation of mild hybrid vehicle benefits. Suitability for mass-market vehicles sold in pre-mature stage markets is taken into consideration, with the aim of reducing atmospheric particle pollutants in urban regions [19]. However, more research and focus is required in the reducing costs further to make this goal feasible.

III. SHIFT CONTROL STRATEGY

By developing and validating publicly available legislated drive cycle data in simulation for the chosen vehicle for this study, a simulation strategy can be created to estimate fuel consumption for the alternative powertrain model we propose. This presents an opportunity for meaningful implementation in urban environments, where fuel consumption is up to 50% higher when compared to highway driving [20]. Discussed in this paper is a mild HEV powertrain model built in the Matlab/Simulink environment. More specifically, there is an emphasis on the electric drive mode part in the results. The transient response of the drivetrains is also compared. The different gear ratios of initial and target gear along with the throttle angle during the gear change determines the difference of the speed of the input shaft (in other words, engine speed). A large hole in the output torque coupled with a decrease in speed is seen as a consequence of the gear selection process. Referring to Fig. 2, by making sure that the motor is in contact with the final drive and that the clutch pressure remains applied throughout the shift-control process, a reduction in the torque hole can be achieved.

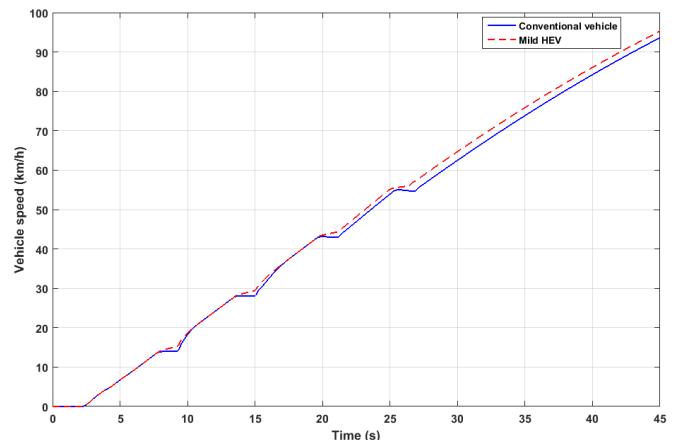


Fig. 2. Wheel Speed as a function of time.

The shift-control strategy utilises a supervisory controller which is master to the engine control module (slave 1) and the motor controller (slave 2). The supervisory controller passes control to slave 1 under most driving conditions, taking control during gear shifting events or during hybrid operation. During the gear shift event, the supervisory controller is responsible for the actuation and detection of clutch and gear position, prediction of torque demand at the end of the gear change event, and synchronizing engine and motor torque to

minimise the torque hole. To execute this function the controller synchronises the load increase of the electric motor with the load decrease of the engine, disengaging the clutch at the optimum time, such that the torque removed by clutch disengagement is immediately compensated by the EM. At the time the clutch is fully disengaged, the mechanical gear selection is accomplished, and the throttle, electric power, and clutch engagement are modulated synchronously so as to minimise the step change in torque. A comparative analysis of conventional and torque-fill drivetrain simulation models was undertaken. [21].

A. Simulation Strategy

As a precursor to prototype development, the design cycle of hybrid vehicles can be made significantly cheaper and faster by utilising computer modelling and simulation. For the comparison, the modelling environment used was ADVISOR [22]. Other options include Autonomie and PSAT, however ADVISOR is readily accessible to the researchers, and has been developed and validated at the American National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL). Utilising a look-up table of fuel rate against engine operating point (defined by engine speed and torque), fuel use can be determined. Table VI in the appendix provides key specifications used by the baseline conventional vehicle. The fuel usage map as a function of operating point is based on a modified version of the map provided by ADVISOR. By taking an analogous method, an ADVISOR model with components similar to conventional model specifications was slightly adapted to match specifications of available power, fuel economy and emissions at the source pipe.

Both the New European Drive Cycle (NEDC), and New York Drive Cycle (NYC) were used for simulations. Drive cycles such as these are a standardised test regimen that allows direct comparison of fuel economy and emissions performance between vehicles. The NEDC and NYCC profiles are shown in Fig. 3 to Fig. 6. These cycles respectively comprise of a duration of 1185 and 598 Secs, a range of 10.8 km and 1.879 km with an average speed of 31 km/h for both [23].

The NEDC was utilised primarily to provide a better comparison with the literature, as it is a widespread and well-understood standard. However, the NYC was also selected owing to its low average speed and frequent stops, which are representative of the typical urban driving conditions that were being replicated for our study. As there is an emphasis on the potential to improve global fuel economy characteristics, no considerations have been made to highway cycles as they do not represent an accurate illustration of global fuel consumption. The result of this can be seen in the observable values of enhanced fuel economy with mild hybrid configuration implementation, with a significantly smaller improvement in highway cycles than city driving. The simulated fuel consumption over the cycles respectively was 7.84 L/100 km and 18.69 L/100 km. These values present a similar value to the documented consumptions of 8 L/100 km and 18.8 L/100 km respectively. As a consequence of these values, it can be safely concluded that the simulation model proves accurate enough for financial analysis further outlined

in this research. This driving pattern is representing the driving condition in a suburb area, which has less idle times and includes high-speed cruising.

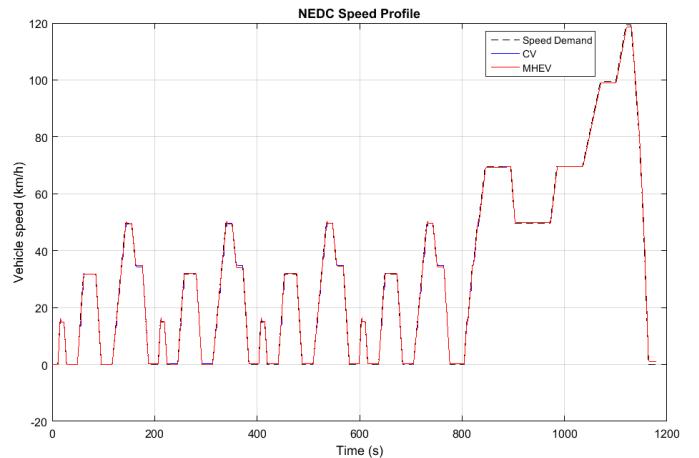


Fig. 3. The speed profile of the NEDC drive cycle.

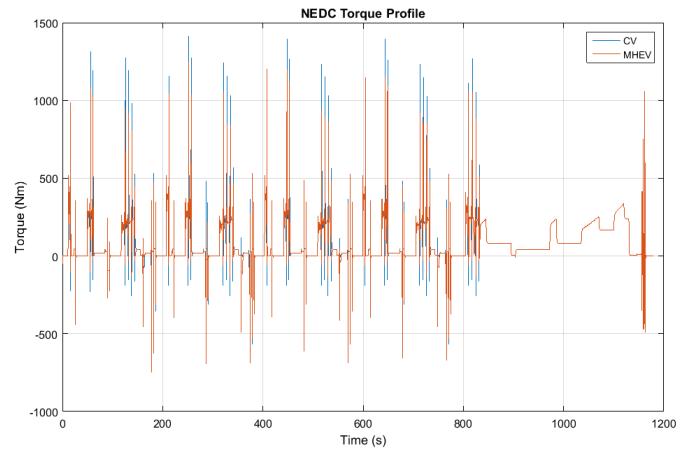


Fig. 4. The torque profile of the NEDC drive cycle.

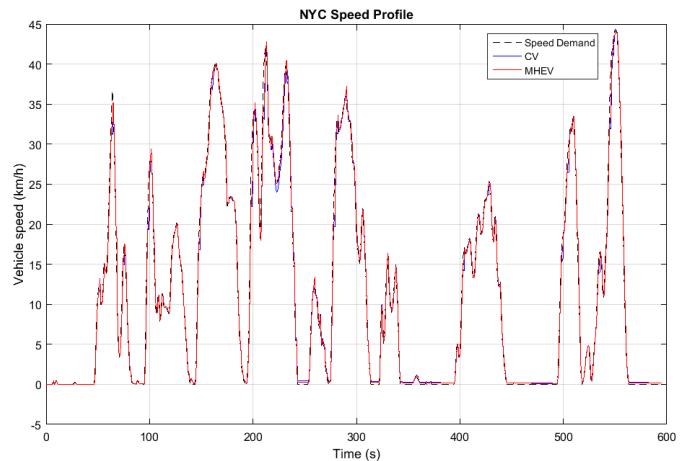


Fig. 5. The speed profile of the NYC drive cycle.

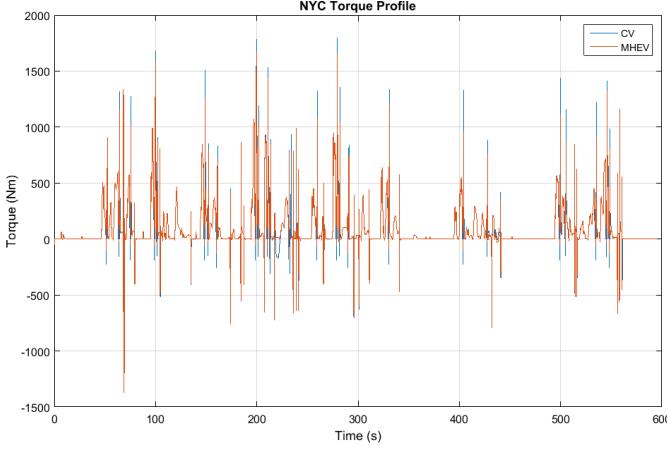


Fig. 6. The torque profile of the NYC drive cycle

B. State of charge

The SOC provides the information of the current, i.e., the amount of energy stored in the battery pack to the energy management controller (EMC), which will determine the drive mode suitable for the present driving conditions. The SOC calculation block calculates the SOC, or the residual capacity in units of ampere-hours, that remains available for discharge from the battery [24]. Note that the columbic efficiency and the maximum capacity are functions of temperature. The SOC can be calculated by (1). The SOC under different driving cycles are shown in Fig. 7. The simulation begins with the initial SOC of 0.9.

$$SOC = \left(1 - \frac{\int_0^{time(s)} Current(A)}{3600 \times Battery\ Maximum\ Capacity(Ah)} \right) \times 100\% \quad (1)$$

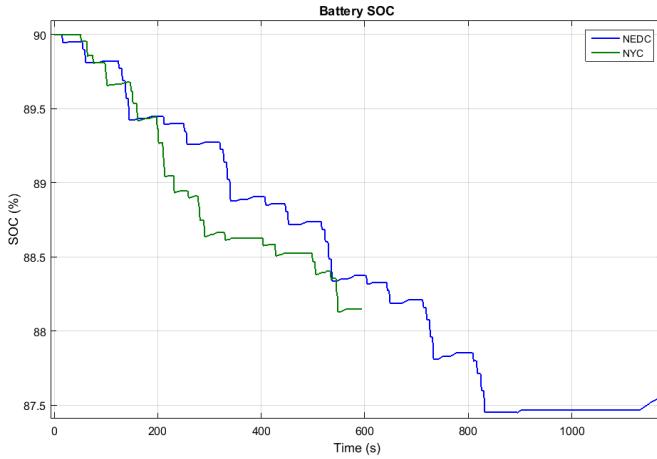


Fig. 7. Battery SOC of the NYC drive cycle.

IV. ANALYSIS OF FUEL ECONOMY AND ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION

The fuel and grid electricity consumption for each vehicle configuration developed are readily observed below. The energy consumption for the urban legislative cycles, NEDC and NYC, have been provided for comparison. The ‘stop-start’ behaviour of traffic flow proved to be a major contributor influencing fuel consumption in urban regions [25], with

resulting values outlined in Table I. The difference in fuel economy improvements between drive cycles is apparent. An improvement of approximately 5% is seen with the use of mild hybrid drivetrains when compared to a conventional drivetrain. This is dependent upon the drive cycle and vehicle shift schedule used. For instance, a more aggressive shift schedule (such as might be typical of driver behaviour in an NYC-like setting) demonstrates comparatively worse results when compared to the same drive cycle against a conservative schedule setting.

Table I. Fuel economics for conventional and Mild HEV.

Drive cycle	Fuel Economy (L/100 km)		Improvement with hybrid (%)	Operating Cost Improvement (\$1.50/L)
	Conventional drivetrain	Mild Hybrid drivetrain		
NEDC	8.3	7.9	4.8	0.6
NYC	19.8	18.8	5.1	1.5

Table II. Comparison chart for all vehicles tested Fuel and electricity consumption of the modelled vehicles.

Vehicle	NEDC			NYC		
	Fuel Economy (L/100 km)	Fuel Consumption. L	Ah	Fuel Economy (L/100 km)	Fuel Consum. L	Ah
CV	8.3	0.849	-	19.8	2.283	-
Mild HEV	7.9	0.810	0.9	18.8	1.879	0.7

The torque-fill system is not predominantly responsible for a fuel-economy benefit. However, by reducing the time taken to achieve cruising speed, enhanced fuel economy is a resulting consequence. The analysis of such an improvement was achieved by comparing the torque-fill drivetrain with the conventional ICE-only powertrain (shown in Fig. 2.). Quantitative values for the respective improvements in fuel economy are represented in Table III. When using the torque-fill drivetrain, a slight improvement of approximately 4.16% in fuel economy over the conventional powertrain is observed. The velocity of the vehicle during an acceleration event 0-100 km/h is visible in Fig. 2. The acceleration time is reduced by approximately 2.5 seconds. The use of torque-fill drivetrain reduces acceleration time by about 2.5 seconds, with a significant decrease in deceleration at each gear shift.

Table III. Comparison chart for all vehicles tested through the acceleration event 0-100 km/h.

Vehicle Model	Distance Travelled km/L	Fuel Economy L/100 km
Conventional	12.98	7.702
Mild HEV	13.54	7.381

From the simulation output, it can be concluded that the mild HEV powertrain plays a noteworthy role in enhancing fuel economy. Finally, with the results in Table I and the estimated cost of additional electronics, it is possible to estimate the driving distance required before payback is achieved. The operating cost is based on a weighted average of 40% NEDC

and 60% NYC cycles. A cost of \$1.50 per litre of petrol is used for this analysis [26]. If the additional component cost is divided by the net cost of fuel consumption for the vehicle, the estimated driving distance for payback to be achieved is determined as 65,338 km. This represents payback in approximately 4.3 years on a 15000 km annual distance travelled.

V. CONCLUSION

The research presented aims to improve driveability and comfort by the reduction of torque holes during shifts. This can be implemented by the use of a mild hybrid powertrain for a manual transmission vehicle. Both automated and traditional manual gearboxes see the successful implementation of the torque-fill drivetrain. The cost and size of other system components such as batteries and converters are constrained by both the motor power and duty cycle. Operation exceeding the rated continuous output of the components is possible due to the intermittent operation of the components, providing an improved observable result.

Values attained for both NEDC and NYC drive cycles fall within a predicted systemic pattern of behaviour. A realistic approach is taken to the size of the components of the vehicle subsystems, with the resultant performance output given by the desired capability goals. By taking into consideration earlier discussions and the resulting output based on discussed implementations, the use of MHEV as proposed is feasible and shows great potential. There is an observable improvement in fuel economy for the drive cycles, shown in the values yielded. By using one EM to reduce overall weight and cost, MHEV achieves desired performance with a more simplified structure. Therefore, implementation of the MHEV configuration is seen to be of great benefit. Future research at the University of Technology Sydney will further develop, implement, validate and report on these control strategies in experimental facilities.

APPENDIX

TABLE IV. MODEL PARAMETERS

Name	Symbol	Units
Torque	T	Nm
Equivalent Inertia	I	Kg m ²
Speed	ω	rad/s
Displacement	θ	rad
Torsional stiffness	K	Nm/rad
Friction Coefficient	C	Nms/rad

TABLE V. ABBREVIATIONS

Component	Symbol
Engine	e
Flywheel	F
Clutch drum	$C1$
Clutch hub	$C2$
Input Shaft	is
Gearbox	g
Output shaft	os

TABLE VI. VEHICLE GLOBAL SPECIFICATIONS

Component	Parameter	SI Units
Vehicle	Mass as hybrid	1200 kg
	Frontal area	3 m ²
	Drag coefficient	0.4
	Distance from CG to front axle	1.4 m
	Distance from CG to rear axle	1.6 m
	CG height	0.5 m
	Tire rolling radius	0.312 m
Engine	Type	Spark-Ignition
	Maximum power	70 kW
	Speed at maximum power	5500 rpm
	Maximum speed	7000 rpm
	Idling speed	800 rpm
	Cylinders	4
Gear ratio	First	3.581
	Second	2.022
	Third	1.4
	Fourth	1.03
	Fifth	0.94
	Final drive ratio	4.06
Motor	Voltage	96 V
	Maximum power output	10 kW
	Maximum torque	54 Nm
Battery	Type	NiMH
	Capacity	1.2 kWh / 12.5 Ah
	Discharge/Charge rate	15C / 10C

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