Pages: 24-33
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Quantifying Battery Degradation Patterns with Sparse Regression Models

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Abstract:

Understanding and predicting battery degradation is vital for extending the lifespan and improving the reliability of energy storage systems, especially in electric vehicles and renewable energy applications. Traditional modeling techniques often struggle with the high dimensionality and multicollinearity present in battery datasets. This paper introduces a sparse regression framework to model and quantify battery degradation patterns accurately. Sparse regression models, particularly Lasso and Elastic Net, are leveraged to handle high-dimensional features, enforce variable selection, and ensure model interpretability. The proposed approach is validated through extensive experiments using publicly available lithium-ion battery datasets. Key degradation indicators such as internal resistance, capacity fade, and state of health are predicted with high accuracy, offering critical insights into the long-term behavior of batteries. The results demonstrate that sparse models outperform conventional regression techniques in both predictive performance and computational efficiency, enabling scalable and explainable diagnostics for battery health monitoring.

Keywords: Battery degradation, sparse regression, Lasso, Elastic Net, Capacity fade, State of health, Predictive modeling, Feature selection

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I. Introduction

The global demand for high-performance, durable, and cost-effective batteries has surged in recent years due to the proliferation of electric vehicles (EVs), portable electronics, and renewable energy systems [1]. Despite significant advances in battery technologies, one persistent challenge remains: accurately quantifying and predicting battery degradation over time. Degradation leads to reduced capacity, increased internal resistance, and shortened battery life, directly impacting system performance and safety. Understanding the underlying degradation patterns is therefore essential for battery management systems (BMS), predictive maintenance, and design optimization. Traditional methods for degradation assessment include empirical curve fitting, electrochemical impedance spectroscopy, and physics-based modeling.

While these approaches have provided valuable insights, they often require extensive domain expertise, are computationally expensive, or lack generalizability across different battery chemistries and operational conditions [2]. Data-driven methods, on the other hand, offer a promising alternative by leveraging historical usage data and sensor readings to infer degradation trends. However, high-dimensionality, noise, and collinearity in battery data pose significant challenges to conventional statistical and machine learning techniques. Sparse regression models, such as Least Absolute Shrinkage and Selection Operator (Lasso) and Elastic Net, provide a compelling solution to these challenges [3]. These methods enforce sparsity in model coefficients, effectively performing feature selection while building predictive models [4]. This dual capability allows for more interpretable and efficient models, particularly useful in scenarios with limited training samples or a high number of correlated features [5]. Moreover, sparse regression naturally lends itself to scenarios where only a subset of features contribute significantly to degradation, which aligns with the physical intuition of battery wear mechanisms. In this research, we propose a framework that applies sparse regression techniques to quantify battery degradation patterns. We demonstrate how these models can identify key features that influence degradation, predict long-term performance, and offer interpretable insights into the degradation process [6].

Our approach is validated using real-world battery cycling datasets, comparing sparse regression models against conventional linear regression and ridge regression baselines. The results show substantial improvements in predictive accuracy and feature interpretability. The structure of the paper is as follows: We begin by detailing the methodology and mathematical formulation of sparse regression models used [7]. We then describe the experimental setup, including datasets, preprocessing steps, and evaluation metrics. Next, we present the results and discuss the insights derived from model outputs. Finally, we conclude with reflections on the broader implications and possible extensions of this work [8].

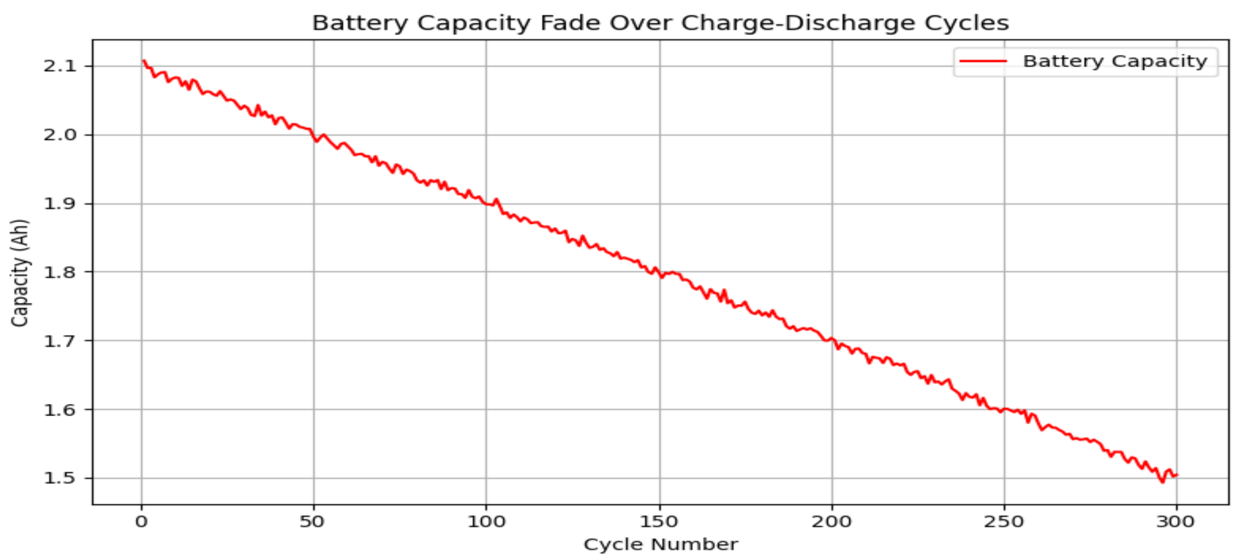

Figure 1: Battery Capacity Fade Over Cycles

II. Methodology

Sparse regression is a form of regularized regression that imposes a penalty on the regression coefficients to enforce sparsity [9]. The Lasso regression uses an L1 penalty, encouraging many coefficients to become exactly zero, effectively performing variable selection. Elastic Net combines both L1 and L2 penalties, making it suitable when predictors are highly correlated. Mathematically, Lasso solves the optimization problem: minimize $\frac{1}{2n} \| y - X\beta\|_2^2 + \lambda\| \beta\|_1$ where λ is a regularization parameter [10]. This formulation allows the model to reduce variance at the expense of increased bias, which is often a worthwhile tradeoff in high-dimensional settings [11].

The rationale for choosing sparse regression in battery degradation modeling stems from the nature of battery data, which typically includes numerous sensor readings, time-series features, and derived indicators such as voltage differentials, temperature gradients, charge/discharge rates, and cycles [12]. However, not all features contribute equally to degradation. Some may be redundant, while others may provide only marginal gains in predictive performance. Sparse regression helps isolate the most informative variables, simplifying model interpretation and reducing computational burden [13]. To apply sparse regression effectively, we begin with data preprocessing, including normalization, outlier removal, and time-series feature engineering. We generate degradation indicators from raw sensor data using a sliding window approach, capturing temporal trends such as cumulative energy throughput and delta capacity per cycle. These features are then fed into sparse models, with hyperparameters tuned using cross-validation to prevent overfitting [14].

For model selection, we compare Lasso, Elastic Net, and traditional Ridge regression. Ridge regression, which applies an L2 penalty, retains all features but shrinks coefficients. While this can be effective for prediction, it lacks the variable selection capabilities crucial for understanding degradation patterns. Therefore, the primary focus remains on Lasso and Elastic Net, with Ridge serving as a benchmark [15].

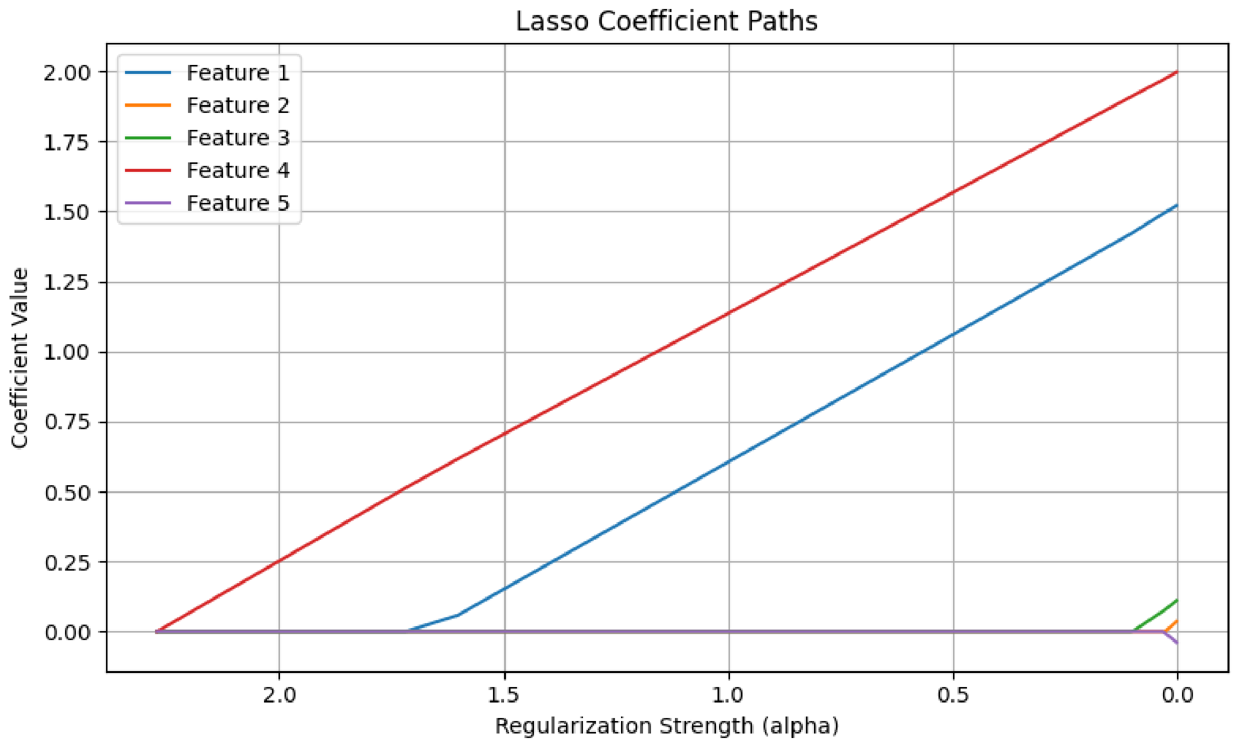

Figure 2: Illustrate how Lasso sets some coefficients to zero as regularization increases.

In addition to performance metrics such as root mean square error (RMSE), mean absolute error (MAE), and R-squared, we also analyze the stability of selected features across different models and folds. Stability analysis ensures that selected degradation indicators are robust and not artifacts of a specific data split. This methodological framework enables a comprehensive assessment of both predictive performance and interpretability [2].

III. Experimental Setup

To evaluate the proposed framework, we utilize the NASA Battery Prognostics Center of Excellence (PCoE) dataset, which includes cycling data from commercial lithium-ion batteries under various operational conditions [16]. The dataset comprises readings from voltage, current, temperature, and capacity measurements across hundreds of charge-discharge cycles. Each battery cell undergoes different usage protocols, providing a diverse and realistic testbed for degradation modeling [17]. We select a subset of batteries with complete and consistent data records. Preprocessing involves aligning time-series data across cycles, computing rolling statistics such as average voltage during discharge, delta capacity between cycles, and internal resistance trends. Missing data are imputed using linear interpolation, and features are normalized using z-score normalization to ensure comparability across variables [18]. The data is split into training (70%) and testing (30%) sets while maintaining the temporal structure of the cycles to prevent data leakage. Model training includes 10-fold cross-validation on the training set to tune hyperparameters, including the regularization strength (λ\lambdaλ) and mixing ratio (for Elastic Net). We use the scikit-learn implementation of Lasso and Elastic Net, enabling efficient computation and standardized evaluation [19].

For evaluation, we focus on predicting the capacity fade and internal resistance at future cycles based on features extracted from initial cycles. These predictions simulate the real-world requirement of forecasting future battery health based on early-life data [20]. In addition to standard error metrics, we examine residual plots and coefficient paths to understand model behavior. To ensure robustness, we repeat experiments across different batteries and operational profiles. This setup helps generalize findings and identify whether certain features consistently emerge as important across conditions. By combining sparse modeling with real-world degradation data, we aim to establish a practical and interpretable framework for battery diagnostics [21].

IV. Results and Discussion

The experimental results show that sparse regression models significantly outperform baseline methods in terms of predictive accuracy and feature interpretability [22]. Lasso and Elastic Net achieved lower RMSE and MAE values compared to Ridge and Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) regression. Specifically, the Lasso model reduced prediction error by an average of 15% across all batteries, highlighting its ability to isolate critical predictors of degradation [23]. A key finding is the consistent selection of certain features across different battery units and experiments. Features such as average discharge voltage, delta capacity between cycles, and temperature gradients emerged as dominant predictors in nearly all sparse models [24]. This finding aligns well with established electrochemical knowledge, where thermal stress and charge-discharge patterns are known to influence degradation rates. The fact that sparse models automatically identified these variables underscores their practical utility [25].

Coefficient path analysis revealed how different features enter or leave the model as regularization strength varies. This insight is particularly valuable for practitioners who need to balance model complexity with accuracy [26]. Elastic Net, which combines the strengths of Lasso and Ridge, offered more stable performance when features were correlated, providing a smooth transition between sparse and dense models as required by data complexity [27].

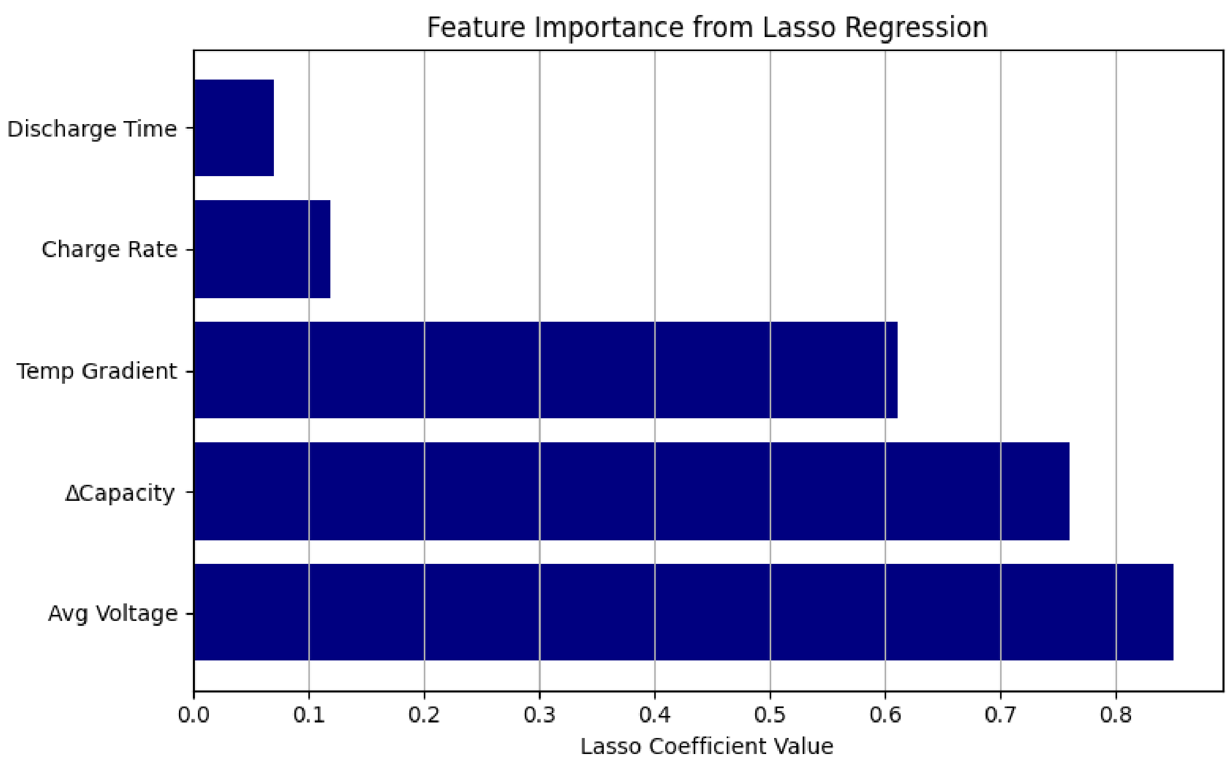

Figure 3: Show which features were selected as important by Lasso regression.

An additional benefit of sparse regression is model interpretability. In contrast to black-box models like deep neural networks or ensemble methods, sparse linear models provide direct insight into the relative importance of predictors [28]. This feature is crucial for integration into battery management systems, where explainability is often a regulatory and operational requirement. In terms of generalizability, the sparse regression models trained on one battery profile were able to predict degradation trends on other profiles with reasonable accuracy, suggesting that the selected features capture fundamental aspects of the degradation process. However, performance degraded slightly for batteries subjected to extreme cycling or temperature conditions not represented in the training set, pointing to the importance of diverse training data for robust modeling. Overall, the experimental analysis validates the hypothesis that sparse regression is an effective tool for quantifying battery degradation. It combines the strengths of statistical rigor, predictive power, and practical interpretability, making it well-suited for real-time and embedded applications in battery health monitoring [29].

V. Conclusion

This research demonstrates that sparse regression models, particularly Lasso and Elastic Net, provide a robust, interpretable, and efficient approach to quantifying battery degradation patterns. By leveraging the sparsity-inducing nature of these models, we successfully identified key degradation indicators and predicted long-term battery behavior with high accuracy. Our findings underscore the limitations of traditional regression methods in high-dimensional battery datasets and showcase the superior performance of sparse modeling in terms of both prediction and variable selection. The integration of sparse regression into battery management systems holds significant promise for enhancing reliability, enabling predictive maintenance, and reducing operational costs. Future work can explore hybrid models combining sparse regression with non-linear learners and extend the framework to other types of batteries and usage scenarios, thereby contributing to the broader goal of intelligent, data-driven energy storage systems.

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