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Developments in Thermal Engineering: A Review on the Strategies of EV Car Battery Thermal Management



Abstract: - In the late 19th century, Electric Vehicles (EVs) first came into existence and were developed and undergone profound changes over recent decades. Since electricity renders a level of silence, comfort, and simple operation that can't be attained by the gasoline engine cars of the time, it is one of the most preferred ideas for motor vehicle propulsion. The vehicles that are powered by electric motors employing energy stored in rechargeable batteries or any other energy-storing device are called EVs. Electricity is utilized by the EV as their primary energy source. Advancement in the transportation sector with the need for a sustainable and eco-friendly environment is signified by electric cars. The major source of modern electronic transportation is EV batteries. EV batteries are developing centered on traditional Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) vehicles for more sustainable transportation and improvement of electric mobility. Thermal Management (TM) ensures that the battery operates within the optimal temperature range, thus improving efficiency and preventing overheating. The cooling system, Phase Change Material (PCM), liquid cooling, and heating system are utilized for effective TM and overall vehicle performance to overcome the abovementioned issues. Thus, this review's objective is to explain the EV Battery Thermal Management (BTM), cooling systems for TM of EV battery, Thermal Runaway (TR) prevention for TM of EV battery, the combination of EV battery thermal system with Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC), and performance evaluation of TM of EV battery.

Keywords: Electric Vehicles, Battery Thermal Management, Cooling Systems, Cooling efficiency and Thermal runaway

I. Introduction

Owing to numerous factors, there has been an improvement in the demand for EVs recently. The most noticeable factor is that the greenhouse gas emissions are reduced by the EV [1]. When analogized to conventional ICE vehicles across Europe as a whole, EVs are accountable for significantly **lower emissions of** greenhouse gas over their lifetime. The EVs' working principle is that the entire load of a conventional ICE is transferred to a battery-powered engine [2]. EVs are noiseless, highly responsive, and have better energy conversion efficacy and no exhaust emissions along with lower overall vehicle emissions when analogized to conventional ICE vehicles [3]. EVs have lower overall vehicle emissions, particularly when deeming the overall lifecycle from production to operation. When analogized with ICE vehicles powered by renewable energy sources, the overall emissions are generally lower while the manufacturing of EV batteries can be resource-intensive [4]. An increasingly crucial role in renewable energy utilization and storage is played by batteries. For instance, the performance of EVs and Hybrid Electric Vehicles (HEVs) is highly contingent on the capacity of the battery. For monitoring and optimizing the batteries' thermal status, Battery Thermal Management Systems (BTMS) are introduced. A crucial factor for battery operating performance is the battery temperature [5]. Enhancing the Lithium (Li)-ion cells' lifetime is the aim of BTMS. Therefore, the temperature level and distribution are regulated by the Battery System (BS). Specifically, when the cells are liable to higher rates of charging (e.g. quick charging) and discharging (e.g. higher-performance vehicles) and the vehicle is processed in higher or lower ambient

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temperatures, BTMS is essential [6]. The simplified example of a battery EV Thermal Management System (TMS) with customer expectations is explained in Figure 1[7].

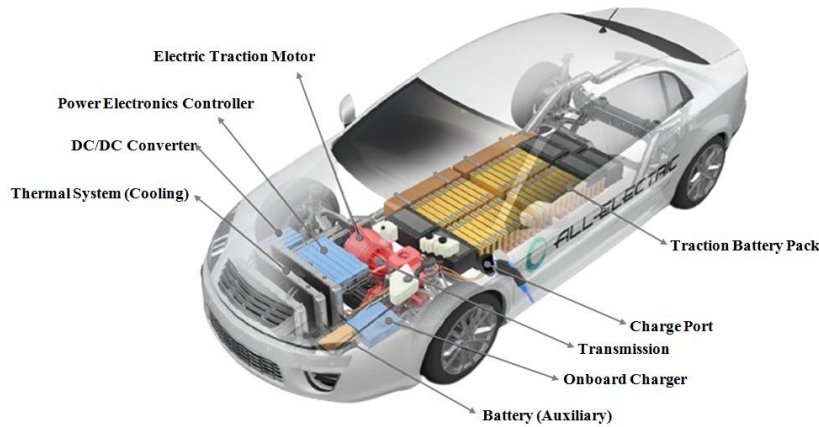


Fig. 1: Simplified example of a battery electric vehicle thermal management system with customer expectations

BTMS for EVs must meet the following conditions: (1) higher cooling performance, (2) superior temperature uniformity, and (3) smaller size as well as the weight of the BTM system. Heat generation from the battery turns out to be a severe issue since the capacity of the battery is being augmented in EV applications for extending the driving range [8,9]. Therefore, explaining and identifying the current strategies and developments in TM systems for EV batteries is the aim of the review. Effective TM can optimize battery performance, safety, longevity, and overall vehicle efficiency [10].

Following the introduction section, the research questions and article selection strategy are demonstrated in “Section 2”; the literature review on the strategies of EV car TM is defined in “Section 3”; “Section 4” explains the study’s summary; “Section 5” details the conclusion with future recommendations.

II. RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND ARTICLE SELECTION STRATEGY

A Research Question (RQ) is a perfect and short one that concentrates the research for a paper, project, or literature review. The scope of the research is defined by RQ, which also determines the specific problem or issue the study aims to address. A well-formulated RQ aids researchers stay concentrated on their objectives and renders a framework to collect and analyze data. Moreover, a systematic approach to identifying, examining, and selecting relevant articles and sources for inclusion in a literature review or research study is an article selection strategy.

A. List of RQs

The developed RQ helps the researcher to form an applied idea that can be tested. RQ facilitates the production of an investigation of a problem or issue instead of a simple description of it. The RQs are described in Figure 2.

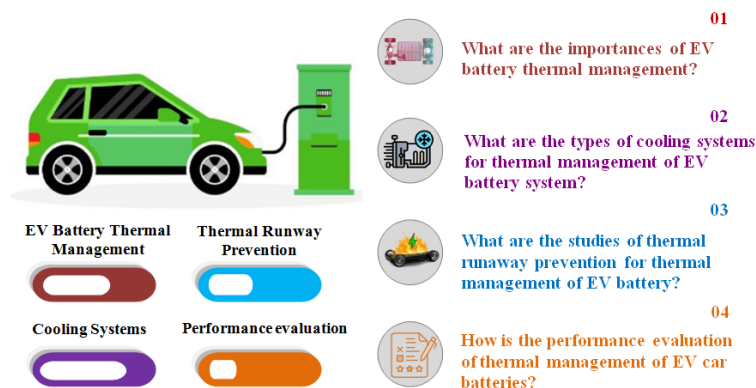


Fig. 2: Research questions

B. Article selection strategy

To safeguard a comprehensive and related analysis of the topic, choosing the right articles for a review or research involves a planned approach. The article selection process is important to identify related studies concerning objectives. By utilizing related keywords, relevant studies are identified to attain answers to the questions. Especially, the usage of associated keywords is significant in the research process during the article selection phase.

Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

Research studies written only in the English language have been included in the analysis since the English language is found to be unique and understandable to all kinds of people. In the study, the research studies published between 2015 and 2023 are concentrated. The inclusion criteria and exclusion criteria of a study are described in Table 1.

Table 1: Inclusion criteria and Exclusion criteria

Inclusion criteria	Exclusion criteria
Papers associated with EV BTMS were included	Papers that only concentrated on the domain of EV were excluded
Research studies describing the cooling strategies of EV BTMS were included	Research studies that only describe the challenges related to EV BTMS were excluded
In this review-based study, the research studies published between 2015 to 2024 were included	Research studies published before 2015 were excluded

Resources of search and selection strategy

The resources that are used for the literature search and evaluation procedure have been explained in this section.

Resources: To extract data related to the matching objective based on initial research, academic search engines like IEEE Xplore, Xplore, Springer, Elsevier, and Google Scholar are utilized.

Database Selection: Some of the important databases, where the articles were recognized and chosen for the literature review, are Scopus, Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE), and Web of Science (WOS).

Database Insights: Scopus performed better than the other databases. In addition, since it indicates a comprehensive abstract and citation database of peer-reviewed literature, it is found to be distinct. In the Scopus database, scientific journals and conference proceedings are included, thereby making it an appreciated resource for researchers. To clearly report the process of performing a review-based study, PRISMA is designed by the systematic reviewers. PRISMA guidelines help to ensure that the work is reported in a way to meets the highest standards of clarity. Hence, Figure 3 exhibits the Prisma framework,

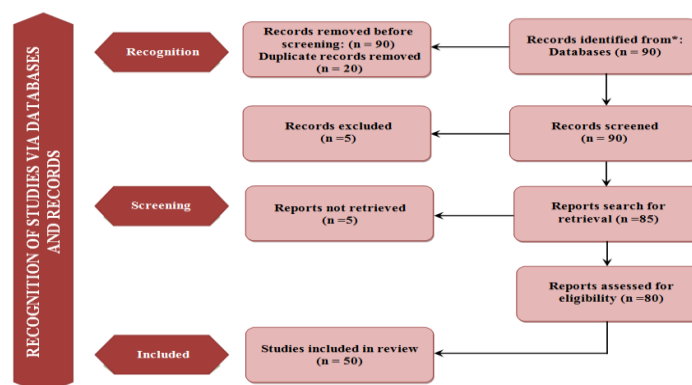
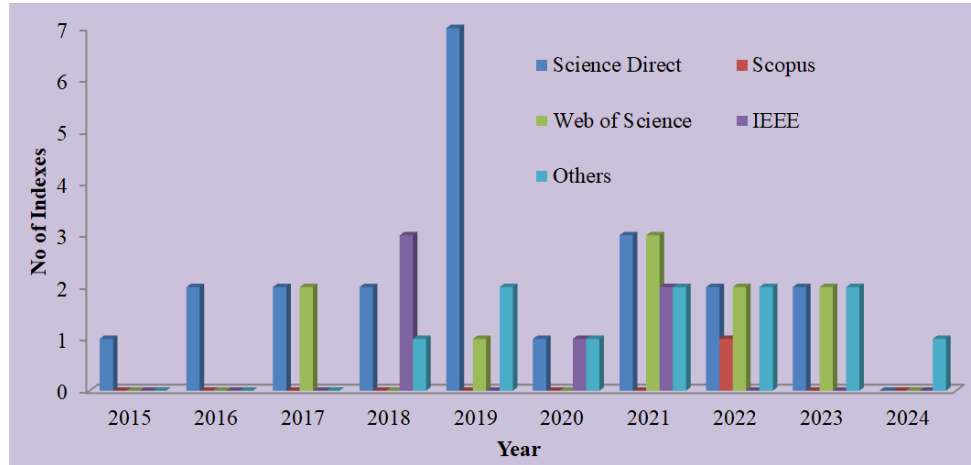


Fig. 3: Prisma Framework*Paper Selection*

A total of 50 papers were chosen for the review-based study after analyzing the accurate count of journals that are associated with the primary keywords. The papers were chosen grounded on predefined criteria. Figure 4 presents the graphical representation of the search results of this review-based study.

**Fig.4:** Search results of the article

III. OVERVIEW OF EV BATTERY THERMAL MANAGEMENT

While ensuring passenger comfort in the cabin, the TMS is accountable for keeping the electric motor, the power electronics, and the battery at the correct temperature [11]. A significant aspect of EVs to ensure optimal performance, safety, efficiency, and longevity of the battery is BTM [12]. An EV's battery temperature is regulated by the BTMS [13], which ensures that the battery functions within the desired temperature range [14].

Joshua, et al [15] explained the BTMS for EV utilizing heat pipes. For the heat pipe portion, the entire system's modeling was performed centered on a 2-stage analysis, and for the cold plate portion, a single-phase analysis was done. As per the outcomes, the applied system had the potential to disintegrate 50W heat load effectively as of every cell at a temperature lower than the provided 55°C limit.

Zhen, et al [16] examined the combination of a TMS with battery cooling and motor waste heat recovery for EVs. Some of the parameters analyzed were environmental temperature, waste heat load, and compressor speed. Analysis signified that the State of Charge (SOC) was diminished by up to 10.60% with battery cooling.

Chong, et al [17] defined the real-time BTM approach for Connected and Automated HEVs (CAHEVs) grounded on Iterative dynamic programming. The outcomes illustrated the feasibility as well as the effectiveness of the applied BTM strategy, thus causing considerable BTM energy reduction.

Choon, et al [18] optimized the TMS in EV battery packs for sustainable transportation. For attaining the maximal and average temperature along with fluid flow velocity, analyses like Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) were performed. It was found from the outcomes that the 3 parallel as well as 8 series (3p8s) battery pack design with a cell arrangement angle ($\theta = \pi/3$) was the most feasible. It also could operate consistently in TM.

Sowmya, et al [19] described the BTMS for EVs. The trade-offs analyzed for the BTMS systems were cost, performance, size, dependability, Energy Consumption (EC), weight, and safety. In the software MATLAB/SIMULINK, these systems' model was built. As per the outcomes, when analogized with the different driving cycles in cold weather, the BTMS feature was strongly affected by diverse driving cycles in hot weather. The most crucial factor for the BTMS was the ambient temperature.

Ming, et al [20] explained the system simulation on refrigerant-centric BTM technology for EVs. Some of the parameters analyzed grounded on the vehicle system approach were thermal response, system's irreversibility, and Energy Efficiency (EE). As per the outcomes, a negative effect on both the energetic and the exergetic Coefficient of Performance (COP) was created by the intensification of stated driving conditions.

A. Cooling systems for thermal management of EV battery system

A crucial role in ensuring the efficient and safe operation of EV batteries is played by the BTMS [21]. For cooling the battery pack, air is utilized in this method. The air carries away the heat generated during operation while air flows over the battery surface. This is termed as air cooling system [22]. One of the other most popular methods for EV BTM is liquid cooling [23]. When compared with air cooling, liquid cooling offers better performance. However, it is slightly more expensive and necessitates additional components [24]. The studies of both air and liquid cooling for TM of EV BSs with their aim, findings, and limitations are explained in Table 2.

Table 2: Studies of both air and liquid cooling for thermal management of EV battery system with its aim, findings, and limitations

Author	Cooling system	Aim	Findings	Limitations
Mohsen Akbarzadeh et al. [25]	Liquid Cooling Plate (LCP) embedded with PCM	To develop an innovative hybrid cooling system for Li-ion batteries' TM in EVs	The pump's energy was effectively reduced by the hybrid LCP's usage.	The effect of the thermophysical properties of PCM was not explored to optimize the cooling system.
Thomas Imre Cyrille Buidin and Florin Mariasiu [26]	Air-Based BTMS	Aimed to investigate the accuracy of data that was acquired through temperature's numerical analysis inside battery packs	The presented model provided a more accurate calculation with a direct impact on optimizing design as well as construction.	However, the model was only adapted to liquid cooling analysis, while the other sorts of TM were not investigated.
Yoong Chung et al. [27]	BTMS	Intended to explore thermal analysis for EVs using pack-level design of BTM	As per the findings, the battery pack design significantly develops the BTMS's performance.	The maximum temperature differences indicated poor results under high C-rate conditions.
Gang Zhao et al.[28]	Trapezoid Air-Cooling BTMS	Investigating the performance development of EVs using a Trapezoid Air-Cooling BS	At the 60 L/s inlet air flow rate, the trapezoid design provided superior cooling performances with a maximal temperature diminution of 1.17 °C.	Nevertheless, the study didn't fully cover the trapezoid battery pack module's full-scale numerical simulation.
Ankit Singh Bisht et	Vortex Generator Li-	Investigate the	The vortex	But, the

al.[29]	Ion Batteries	vortex generators' performance for effectual cooling of Li-Ion Batteries in Hybrid EVs	generators outperformed at the 30° attack angle than at the 45° and 60° attack angles. Along with that, the vortex generator outperformed regarding thermohydraulic performance than the delta winglet vortex generator.	protruded BTMS's weight was very low.
Olanrewaju M. Oyewola et al.[30]	Air-cooled Li-ion BTMS	To examine design optimization of air-cooled Li-ion battery for EVs utilizing step-like divergence plenum	As per the outcome, the 4-step case methodology with a 45 m step length rendered a decrease in maximal temperature and maximal temperature difference than the Z-type model.	Nevertheless, decreasing the step length to 28, 25, and 20 mm didn't provide any enhancement.

Muhammad Muddasar [31] detected the air-cooled BTMS for EVs and also investigated numerous optimizations. For examining air-flow channel optimization, cell arrangement with battery packs, and air inlet/outlet position variations, numerous optimization techniques were employed in this study. Lastly, the study found that when compared with air-cooled BTMS, the active air-cooled BTMS was more effective for long-distance vehicles. Nevertheless, a lot of power was required by the active air-cooled BTMS for effective performance.

Gang Zhao et al.[32] assessed the air-cooling BTMS in EVs utilizing a higher-performance Vortex adjustment design. In this, to enhance the heat transfer coefficient in EC, the modified aerodynamic patterns together with thermodynamic properties were utilized. The study exhibited that at both lower and higher airflow rates, Design 1's cooling performance was enhanced. The T_{max} and ΔT of Design 1 were lower than the conventional design at a relatively higher flow rate (47.52 L/s).

B. *Thermal runaway prevention for thermal management of EV battery*

A critical aspect of BTM in EVs is TR prevention. It is necessary to ensure that proper TM begins during the battery design phase [33]. A combination of design considerations, specialized materials, monitoring systems, and protective measures are involved in TR prevention. It is crucial to monitor battery cells for signs of TR. Abnormal temperature increases or other warning signs can be detected by advanced sensors and monitoring systems [34].

Mark, et al [35] described the TR prevention of Li-ion batteries by the TMS. Owing to the mentioned Li-ion batteries' higher voltage, energy density, and negligible memory impacts, they were found to be more fit in numerous applications. Analysis revealed that for both enhanced pack performance and inhibition of TR or propagation, the TM of Li-ion battery packs utilizing Latent Heat Systems (LHS®) had proven to be highly efficient.

Jichao, et al [36] explained the big-data-centric TR prognosis of BSs for EVs. For TR, a thermal security management strategy was established under the Z-score framework. The outcomes signified that both the time as well as the location of the temperature fault were accurately forecasted by the applied methodology within battery limits. Regardless of the data types along with application fields, the applied method was flexible in the entire disorder systems with irregular variations.

Da, et al [37] examined the DBSCAN-centric TR diagnosis of BSs for EVs. Grounded on battery voltage, 2-dimensional fault characteristics were extracted, and for diagnosing the Potential Thermal Runaway Cells (PTRC), DBSCAN clustering was utilized. As per the outcomes, the applied methodology accurately predicted the PTRC's location in the battery pack a few days prior to the occurrence of TR.

Jichao, et al [38] elucidated the TR prognosis of BSs utilizing the improved multi-scale entropy in real-world EVs. A real-scenario-centric TR prognosis on a Li (NiCoMn)O₂ ternary battery in an electric bus was presented. The outcomes exhibited that an abnormal cell was detected one week prior to the accident. By removing the redundant scales, prognosis sensitivity was optimized.

C. *Integration of battery EV with HVAC systems*

An important aspect of optimizing energy utilization, confirming battery safety, and enhancing vehicle lifespan is the combination of battery EVs with HVAC systems [39]. For power storage, battery EVs rely on Li-ion batteries. For maintaining these batteries' performance and prolonging their lifespan, efficient TM is crucial [40]. The combination of battery EVs with HVAC systems encompasses careful design and coordination for ensuring optimal performance, EE, and passenger comfort.

Tianshi, et al [41] described the status as well as the development of EV-integrated TM from BTM to HVAC. The status of EV TM globally and the fundamental proposal for further development in the sector were presented. The applied method was an effective way to advance the temperature limitation, promote the broad application of EVs in many more weathers as well as regions, and realize lower EC by utilizing numerous thermal sources and recycling wasted heat in EVs.

Shuofeng, et al [42] investigated the 2-layer real-time optimization control approach for Integrated BTM and HVAC systems in connected as well as automated HEVs. When analogized to those with accurate previews, HVAC and BTM consumption, total consumption, and battery consumption were enhanced by 3.40%, 0.52%, and 0.70%, respectively. The simulation outcomes regarding the benefits of the applied strategy were confirmed by the real-time experimental outcomes.

Taek, et al [43] explained the experimental investigation on heating performances of integrated batteries as well as HVAC systems with series as well as parallel circuits for EVs. For accurately predicting the heating performances of integrated systems with serial as well as parallel circuits for battery and HVAC, a network model was applied. Integrated systems with serial circuits exhibited higher HVAC heating capacity (5726.33 W) compared to integrated systems with parallel circuits (3869.15 W).

D. *Performance of thermal management of EV car batteries*

EV performance, safety, efficiency, and lifespan are influenced by BTM processes significantly [44]. Some of the significant parameters used for analyzing the performance of TM of EV car batteries are cooling efficiency, EC, cost-effectiveness, and safety features [45].

Maan Al-Zareer et al [46] employed 3D modeling for comparing a compact refrigerant-based system with a larger-spaced model. The compact design maintained battery temperatures below 35°C with a variation of 4°C, and variations were kept within 2°C and a maximal temperature of 31.5°C in the Artemis motorway cycle, presenting negligible performance impact from battery spacing.

Joshua Smith et al. [47] assessed cooling plate designs with production-optimized plates that offered adequate thermal performance and mechanical integration. While achieving high EE, the U-flow layout diminished average module temperature and temperature differences. Specifically, owing to the long channel length, cooling plate 2 had a higher EC.

Seho Park and ChangsunAhn [48] introduced a Stochastic Model Predictive Control (SMPC) for battery cooling. While maintaining reliable temperature control, the SMPC reduced EC by 91% compared to regular models. The performance ranged between 55-85% of the globally optimal level, with potential for enhancement via better disturbance forecasting and control algorithms.

AbubakarGambo, et al [49] evaluated hybrid TM for EV batteries centered on Li-ion tech. For superior thermal control, PCM-based systems integrated with air/liquid/heat pipes were applied. For Li-ion modules, passive management was developed that analyzed finite element-based thermal performance under abuse conditions. At various PCM shrink levels, the open medium configuration diminished the maximum temperature by 1.172 to 1.860 °C.

Mao Li et al. [50] optimized an air-centered BTMS for a battery module with 36 Li-ion cells. The maximal temperature difference of cooling air in passages and battery cells was diminished from 23.9 K to 2.1 K (91.2%) and from 25.7 K to 6.4 K (75.1%) by adjusting passage spacing, thus enhancing temperature uniformity as well as thermal performance.

IV. SUMMARY OF THE STUDY

To store energy for propulsion, EVs rely on high-capacity Li-ion batteries. These batteries' efficient TM is vital for their performance, safety, and longevity. Owing to internal resistance and chemical reactions, heat is formed by Li-ion batteries during charging as well as discharging. High temperatures can reduce capacity and degrade battery materials. In EVs, numerous TM cooling systems are employed, including liquid and air cooling methods. Proper TM has an important impact on battery safety, longevity, and performance. It improves EE, mitigates thermal hazard risks, and extends the EV batteries' lifespan by minimizing degradation. It is clear from Figure 2 that the framed RQ is centered on diverse research concepts, such as EV BTM, cooling systems, and performance metrics. RQ has been categorized into 5 types: RQ1, RQ2, RQ3, RQ4, and RQ5.

- Significance of EV battery thermal management [1]: This RQ's main aim is to describe deeply the importance of EV BTM, and it is explained in section 3.1.
- Types of cooling systems for thermal management of EV battery system [2]: RQ2 exemplifies the types of cooling systems for TM of EV BSs and has been described in table 2 of section 3.2.
- Studies of thermal runaway prevention for thermal management of EV battery [3]: This RQ's main aim is to explain the studies of TR prevention for TM of EV battery, which is described in section 3.4.
- Performance evaluation of thermal management of EV car batteries: This RQ intended to explain the performance evaluation of TM of EV car batteries and is shown in section 3.5.

Thus, significant advantages like augmenting the efficacy of hybrid, plug-in hybrid, and EVs are rendered by TM. Indeed, still, the majority of the energy losses are associated with thermal generation, and superior performances of vehicle subsystems and superior occupant comfort could be led by governing such thermal fluxes correctly.

V. CONCLUSION

A significant aspect of confirming the safety, reliability, along with performance of EVs is the TM of EV car batteries. The effective TM's impact on battery performance, safety, and longevity cannot be improved. By minimizing degradation, proper thermal regulation augments EE, diminishes the risk of thermal hazards, and extends the lifespan of EV batteries. The usage of advanced materials, integrated cooling systems, and smart TM algorithms are included in the emerging trends for further optimizing battery temperature control and augmenting overall EV performance. The limitation is that additional maintenance and servicing over the lifespan of the vehicle might also be required by complex TM systems. This could cause higher maintenance costs for EV owners and potential downtime if cooling system components necessitate repairs or replacements. Future researchers should take into account this limitation and find the optimum solution for diminishing the maintenance costs effectively. Overall, an essential aspect of EV technology is the TM of EV car batteries. Manufacturers can enhance battery reliability, ensure vehicle safety, and accelerate the transition toward sustainable and efficient electric mobility by employing robust TM strategies.

Conflicts of interest: The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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