

Electric Vehicle Battery Assemblies with Improved Safety and Less Mass

Track Code: 2015-CHEN-67061

Categories:

- Electrical Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering

Keywords:

- Batteries
- Electric Vehicles & Cars
- Electrical Engineering
- Manufacturing
- Mechanical Engineering

In current state of the art electric vehicles, battery assemblies suffer from increased battery thermal runaway. They also do not provide any additional safety features despite occupying significant volume in the engine assembly; the protection surrounding these batteries increases the mass of the car by adding heavy metal protective plates. These factors combine to reduce the overall distance per charge that current battery assemblies can provide.

Researchers at Purdue University have developed a crushable cooling column in a snake shape for use in electric vehicle battery assemblies. The purpose of this column is to provide thermal management access to each battery cell, locate each battery cell, and provide system rigidity during normal operation. Furthermore, this technology will increase safety by absorbing impact energy during a vehicle crash.

Advantages:

- Reduces thermal runaway
- Improves battery safety without increasing its mass or volume
- Eliminates the need for large protective metal plates

Potential Applications:

- Electric vehicle battery assemblies

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Intellectual Property:

Application Date: March 2, 2018

Type: Utility Patent

Country of Filing: United States

Patent Number: 10,950,834

Issue Date: March 16, 2021

Application Date: March 2, 2017

Type: Provisional-Patent

Country of Filing: United States

Patent Number: (None)

Issue Date: (None)

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