# Analyzing Accuracy of a Battery Fuel Gauge System

**BMS – Applications** 

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#### **Outline**

- 1. Defining Accuracy
  - 1. Measurement Accuracy
  - 2. Gauging Accuracy
- 2. Common Terminology
- 3. How to Compute Accuracy
- 4. Test Cases
  - 1. Common Loads
  - 2. Variable Loads
  - 3. Low Temperature
- 5. Questions

## **Defining Accuracy**

**Measurement Accuracy v. Gauging Accuracy** 



#### **Defining Accuracy**

- A fuel gauge algorithm needs to have data from the battery. A gauge gathers data from the battery through various measurements. Gauge measurements include
  - Battery voltage
  - Current flowing into and out of the battery
  - Battery temperature
- Measurement accuracy is dependent upon the gauge's hardware and is independent of gauging accuracy
- Gauging accuracy is dependent upon the robustness of the gauging algorithm and the gauge's measurement accuracy.
  - Poor measurement accuracy can lead to poor gauging accuracy



#### **Gauging Accuracy**

Fuel Gauge w/ Impedance Track **Gauging Accuracy** Coulomb Counting **Voltage Based** 

**Algorithm Robustness** 



#### **Gauging Accuracy**

#### **Cell Voltage Measurement**

- Measures cell voltage
- Advantage: Simple
- Not accurate over load conditions

#### **Coulomb Counting**

- Measures and integrates current over time
- Affected by cell impedance
- Affected by cell self discharge
- Standby current
- Cell Aging
- Must have *full to empty* learning cycles
- Must develop cell models that will vary with cell maker
- Can count the charge leaving the battery, but won't know remaining charge without complex models
- Models will become less accurate with age

#### Impedance Track™

- Directly measures effect of discharge rate, temp, age and other factors by learning cell impedance
- · No host algorithms or calculations



#### **Measurement Accuracy**

#### Voltage

- Accurate voltage measurements are critical for
  - · Initialization of relaxed cell
  - · Updates during self-discharge of cell
  - · Correction for coulomb counting error
- TI fuel gauges use a 15 bit ADC to provide accurate voltage measurements

#### Current

- Accurate coulomb counting is critical to
  - Capture low sleep currents
  - · Capture short load spikes
  - · Capture proper passed charge
- TI fuel gauges have a dedicated 15 bit integrating ADC (i.e. coulomb counting hardware)

#### Temperature

- Accurate temperature measurements are critical for
  - Proper compensation of resistance
  - · Proper compensation of predicted runtime
- TI fuel gauges provide flexible temperature measurement options
  - · External measurements with cell's thermistor or board hotspot
  - Host can write the temperature to the fuel gauge
  - Internal IC temperature measurements



# **Common Terminology**



#### **Common Terminology**

- Chemical Capacity (Qmax)
  - Total chemical capacity of the battery, mAh
- Remaining Capacity (RM)
  - Useable capacity of the battery from current state to empty state, mAh
- Full Charge Capacity (FCC)
  - Amount of charge passed from a fully charged state until termination voltage, mAh
- Relative State of Charge (RSOC): 0% -100%
  - RSOC=RM/FCC
- Depth of Discharge (DOD): 0% 100%
  - 0% is charged to the brim, 100% is completely empty of energy
  - Does not depend on load or temperature or system characteristics
- Passed Charge (dQ or passedQ)
  - Integration of current with respect to time.



#### **Common Terminology-Cont'd**

- Coulomb
  - A unit of electric charge. It is the charge carried by a one ampere current in one second
- Terminate Voltage (EDV)
  - Voltage at which the system can no longer operate; target for 0% SOC
- Reserve Capacity
  - Capacity that is left after reaching 0% SOC



# **How to Compute Accuracy**



#### **Conduct a Test**

Start with a properly configured gauge

- Ensure gauge has been calibrated

For IT gauge, this means a properly created golden

image

Start logging:

Log DataRAM registers

• Open Registers plug-in

Click "Start Log"

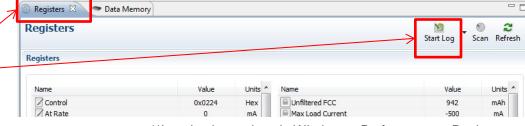
Log interval: 1 to 10 seconds

Export Data Memory (optional)

Open Data Memory plug-in

Click "Auto Export"

Fully charge at room temp.



\*\*Logging interval set in Window -> Preferences -> Registers

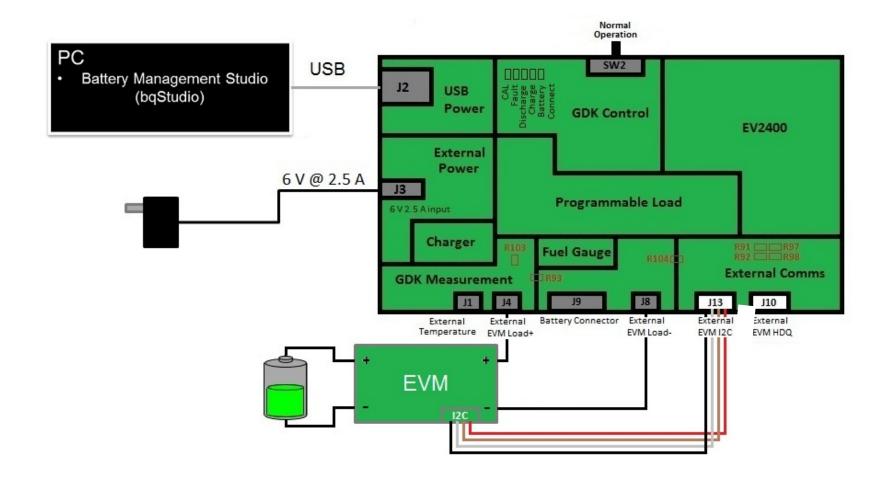


\*\*Export interval set in Window -> Preferences -> Data Memory

Discharge to terminate voltage using desired load.



# **Testing Made Easy with the Gauge Development Kit**



#### Simple inspection

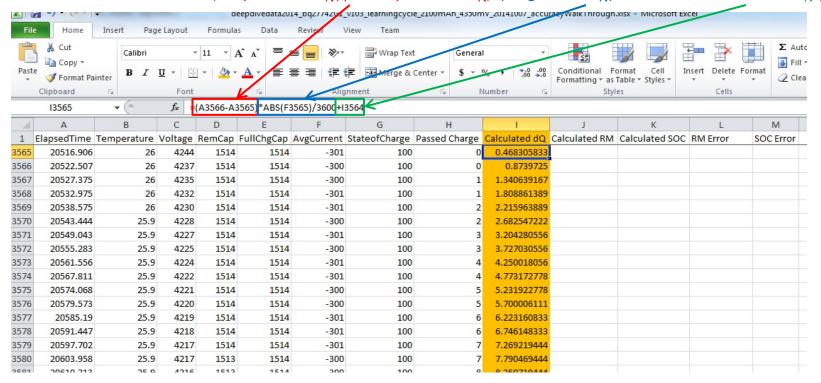
- Log gauge data every 1-10 seconds
- Import to spreadsheet and plot voltage, SOC, current, etc.
- Inspect
  - Does it report 0% at or near your true terminate voltage?
    - If not, by how much capacity and/or run-time was it off?
  - Does it look smooth or have large jumps?
- Very subjective and difficult to gauge relative error magnitude



- Start with gauge log
- Calculate a new column: Calculated dQ = rolling sum of current\_reading\*time\_since\_last\_log\_point
  Start from full condition and go to empty condition (EDV)
- 3. Calculate FCC\_true = Integrated capacity from fully charged state down to termination voltage
  - Simple integration: capacity = constant current \* total discharge time from full to terminate voltage
  - More accurate integration: calculate each log point Current\*Tdelta and keep a rolling sum.
- 4. Calculate a new column: Calculated\_RM = FCC\_true calculated\_dQ
  - True remaining capacity at any point (mAh)
- 5. Calculate a new column: Calculated\_SOC = Calculated\_RM / FCC\_true \* 100
  - True relative state of charge (%)
- 6. Calculate a new column: SOC\_error = (Calculated\_SOC SOC\_gauge)
  - SOC\_gauge is "State of Charge" in IT gauge log files
- 7. Plot voltage, RSOC\_true, RSOC\_gauge, RSOC\_error
- Summarize in table showing
  - 1. % error at the point when termination voltage is reached
  - 2. Max % error

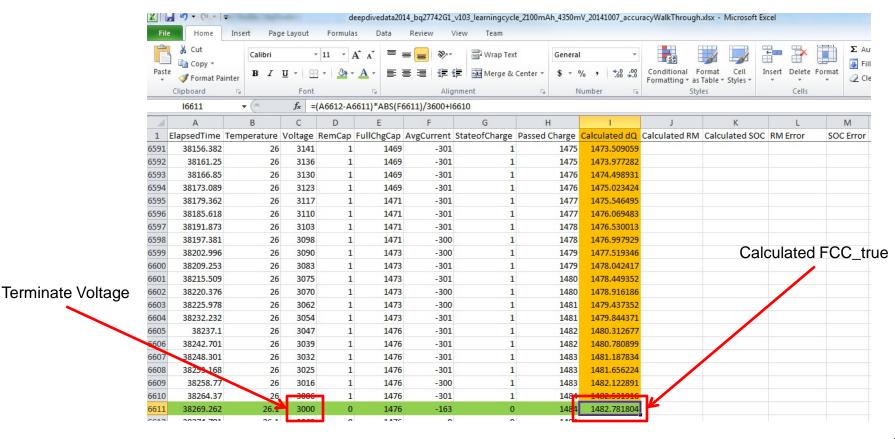


- Start with Gauge log
- Create new column for calculated passed charge (dQ)
  - Calculated\_dQ = rolling sum of current\_reading \* time\_since\_last\_log\_point
    - Start from full and calculate until empty (or discharge stops)
    - Excel formula: (ElapsedTime<sub>N+1</sub> ElapsedTime<sub>N</sub>)\*|AvgCurrent<sub>N</sub>| /3600+ Calculated\_dQ<sub>N-1</sub>





 Calculate FCC\_true = Integrated capacity from fully charged state down to termination voltage



- Calculate a new column: Calculated\_RM = FCC\_true Calculated\_dQ
  - True remaining capacity at any point (mAh)
    - Excel formula: \$FCC\_true Calculated\_dQ<sub>N</sub>

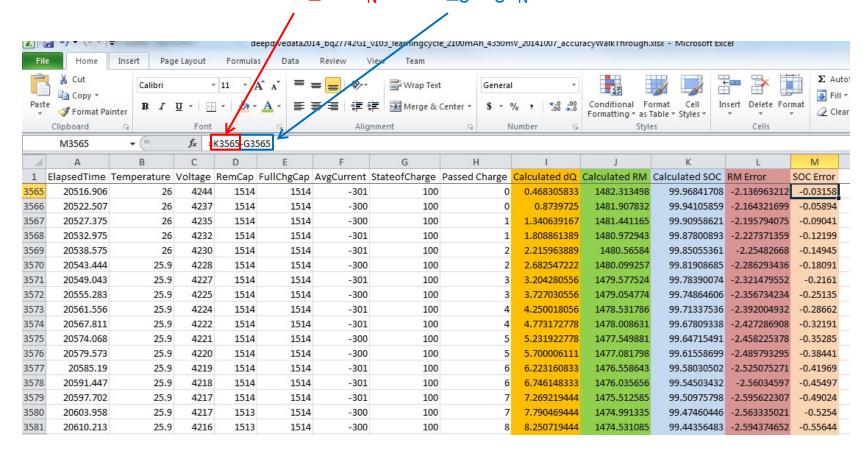
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3568	20532.975	2	4232	1514	1514	-301	100		1	1.808861389	1480.972943				
3569	20538.575	2	4230	1514	1514	-301	100		2	2.215963889	1480.56584				
3570	20543.444	25.	4228	1514	1514	-300	100		2	2.682547222	1480.099257				
3571	20549.043	25.	4227	7 1514	1514	-301	100		3	3.204280556	1479.577524				
3572	20555.283	25.	4225	1514	1514	-300	100		3	3.727030556	1479.054774				
3573	20561.556	25.	4224	1514	1514	-301	100		4	4.250018056	1478.531786				
3574	20567.811	25.	4222	1514	1514	-301	100		4	4.773172778	1478.008631				
3575	20574.068	25.	4221	1514	1514	-300	100		5	5.231922778	1477.549881				
3576	20579.573	25.	4220	1514	1514	-300	100		5	5.700006111	1477.081798				
3577	20585.19	25.	4219	1514	1514	-301	100		6	6.223160833	1476.558643				
3578	20591.447	25.	4218	1514	1514	-301	100		6	6.746148333	1476.035656				
3579	20597.702	25.	4217	7 1514	1514	-301	100		7	7.269219444	1475.512585				
3580	20603.958	25.	4217	7 1513	1514	-300	100		7	7.790469444	1474.991335				
3581	20610.213	25.	4216	1513	1514	-300	100		8	8.250719444	1474.531085				
3582	20615.736	25.	9 4215	1512	1514	-301	100		8	8.719108889	1474.062695				
3583	20621.338	25.	9 4214	1 1512	1514	-300	100		9	9.240358889	1473.541445				
3584	20627.593	2	5 4214	1 1511	1514	-300	100		9	9.761692222	1473.020112				
3585	20633.849	25.	9 4213	1511	1514	-300	100		10	10.16735889	1472.614445				
3586	20638.717	25.	9 4212	1510	1514	-301	100		10	10.63558111	1472.146223				
3587	20644.317	2	5 4212	1510	1514	-300	100		11	11.15683111	1471.624973				
3588	20650.572	2	4211	1509	1514	-301	100		11	11.56393361	1471.217871				



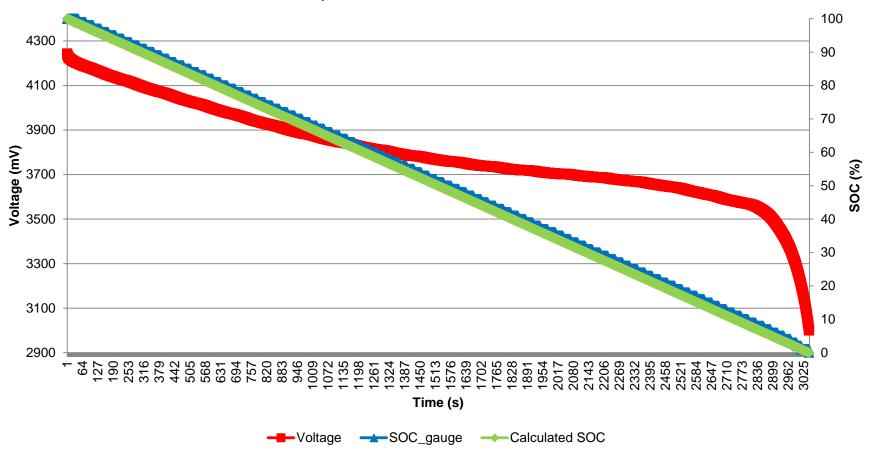
- Calculate a new column: Calculated\_SOC = Calculated\_RM / FCC\_true \* 100
  - True state of charge at any point (%)
    - Excel formula: Calculated\_RM / \$FCC\_true \* 100

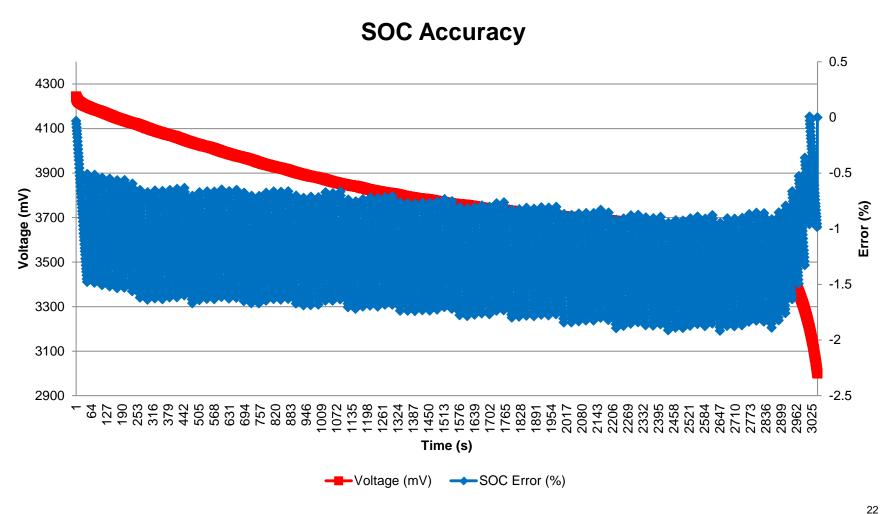
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1	ElapsedTime	Temperature	Voltage	RemCap	FullChgCap	AvgCurrent	StateofCharge	Passed Charge	Calculated dQ	Calculated RM	Calculated SOC	RM Error	SOC Error
3566	20522.507	26	4237	7 1514	1514	-300	100	0	0.8739725	1481.907832	99.94105859		
3567	20527.375	26	4235	1514	1514	-300	100	1	1.340639167	1481.441165	99.90958621		
3568	20532.975	26	4232	1514	1514	-301	100	1	1.808861389	1480.972943	99.87800893	3	
3569	20538.575	26	4230	1514	1514	-301	100	2	2.215963889	1480.56584	99.85055361	L	
3570	20543.444	25.9	4228	1514	1514	-300	100	2	2.682547222	1480.099257	99.81908685	5	
3571	20549.043	25.9	4227	7 1514	1514	-301	100	3	3.204280556	1479.577524	99.78390074	ı	
3572	20555.283	25.9	4225	1514	1514	-300	100	3	3.727030556	1479.054774	99.74864606	5	
3573	20561.556	25.9	4224	1514	1514	-301	100	4	4.250018056	1478.531786	99.71337536	5	
3574	20567.811	25.9	4222	1514	1514	-301	100	4	4.773172778	1478.008631	99.67809338	3	
3575	20574.068	25.9	4221	1514	1514	-300	100	5	5.231922778	1477.549881	99.64715491	L	
3576	20579.573	25.9	4220	1514	1514	-300	100	5	5.700006111	1477.081798	99.61558699	)	
3577	20585.19	25.9	4219	1514	1514	-301	100	6	6.223160833	1476.558643	99.58030502	2	
3578	20591.447	25.9	4218	1514	1514	-301	100	6	6.746148333	1476.035656	99.54503432	2	
3579	20597.702	25.9	4217	7 1514	1514	-301	100	7	7.269219444	1475.512585	99.50975798	3	
3580	20603.958	25.9	4217	7 1513	1514	-300	100	7	7.790469444	1474.991335	99.47460446	5	
3581	20610.213	25.9	4216	1513	1514	-300	100	8	8.250719444	1474.531085	99.44356483	3	
3582	20615.736	25.9	4215	1512	1514	-301	100	8	8.719108889	1474.062695	99.41197627	7	
3583	20621.338	25.9	4214	1512	1514	-300	100	9	9.240358889	1473.541445	99.37682275	5	
3584	20627.593	26	4214	1511	1514	-300	100	9	9.761692222	1473.020112	99.34166361	L	
3585	20633.849	25.9	4213	1511	1514	-300	100	10	10.16735889	1472.614445	99.31430512	2	
3586	20638.717	25.9	4212	1510	1514	-301	100	10	10.63558111	1472.146223	99.28272784	ı	

- Calculate a new column: SOC\_error = SOC\_true SOC\_gauge
  - Excel formula: Calculated\_SOC<sub>N</sub> SOC\_gauge<sub>N</sub>







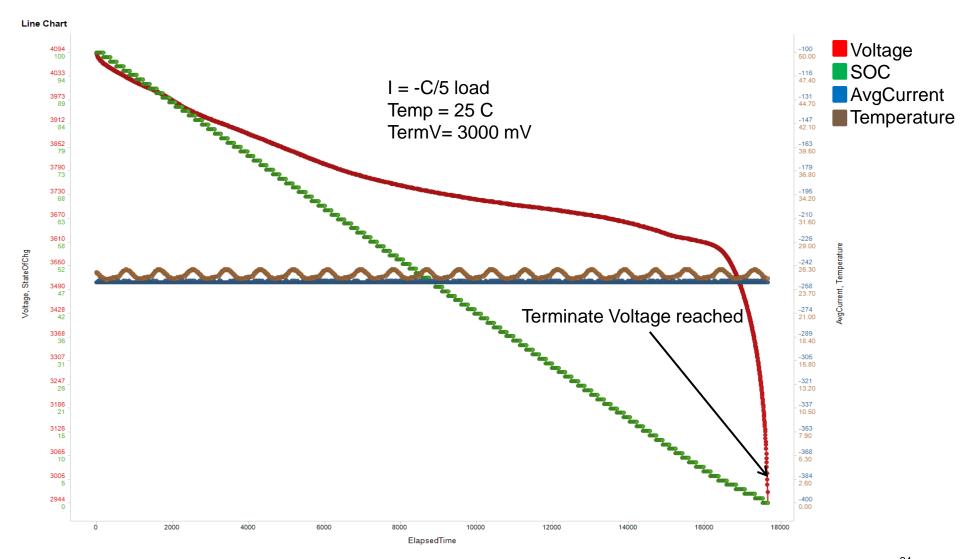




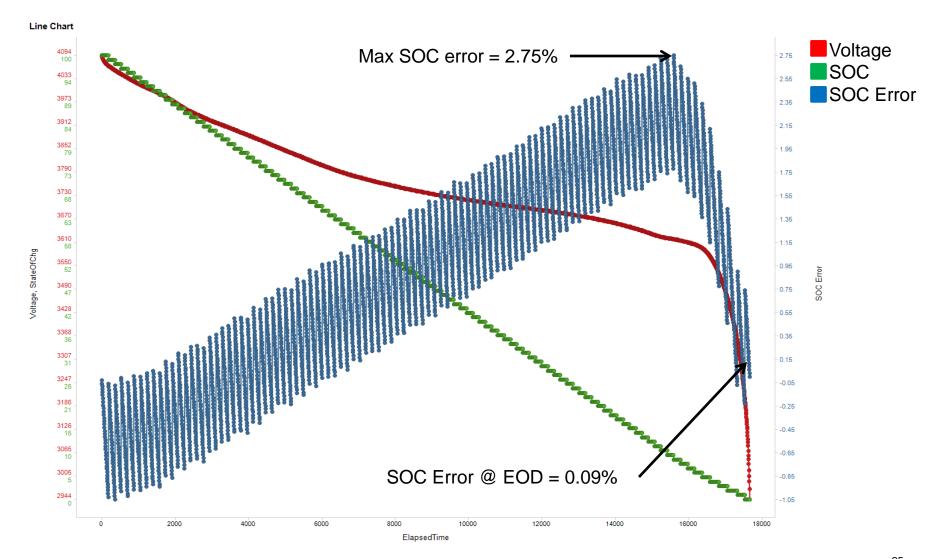
## **Test Cases**



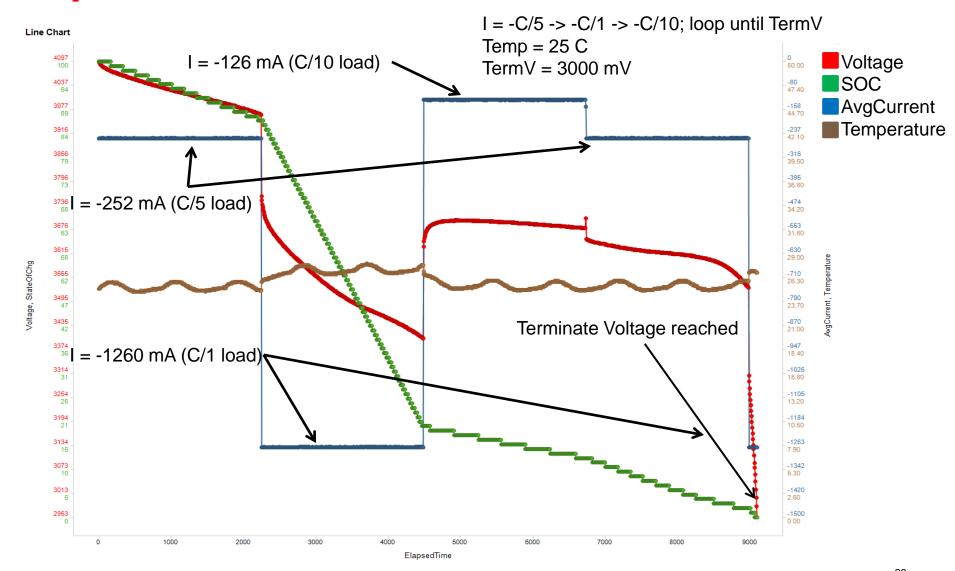
#### bq27421 – Standard C/5 Discharge



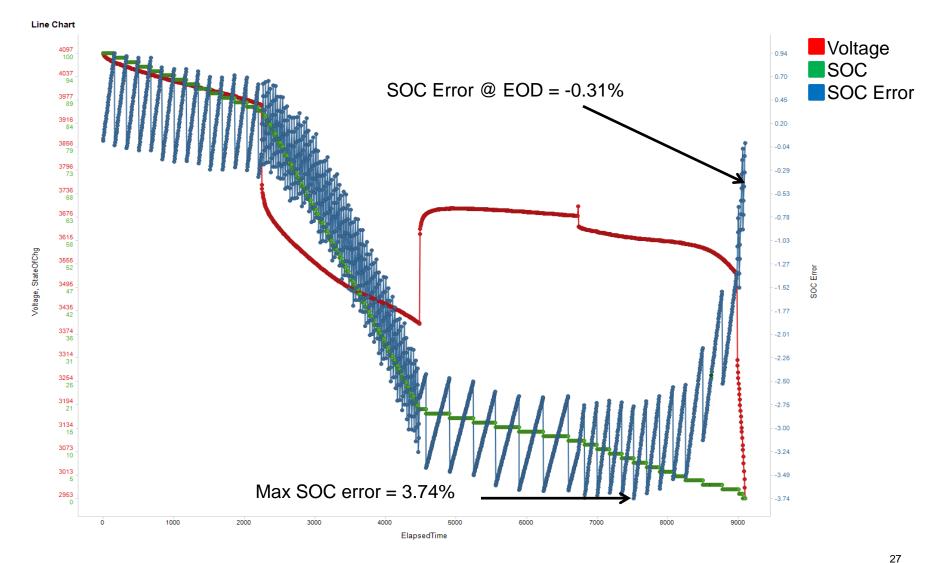
#### bq27421 – Standard C/5 Discharge



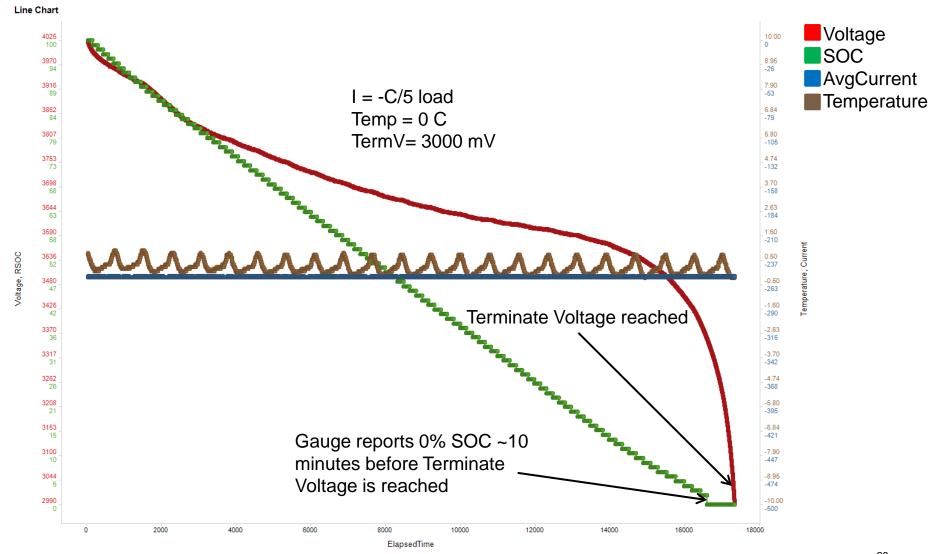
#### bq27421 – Variable Load



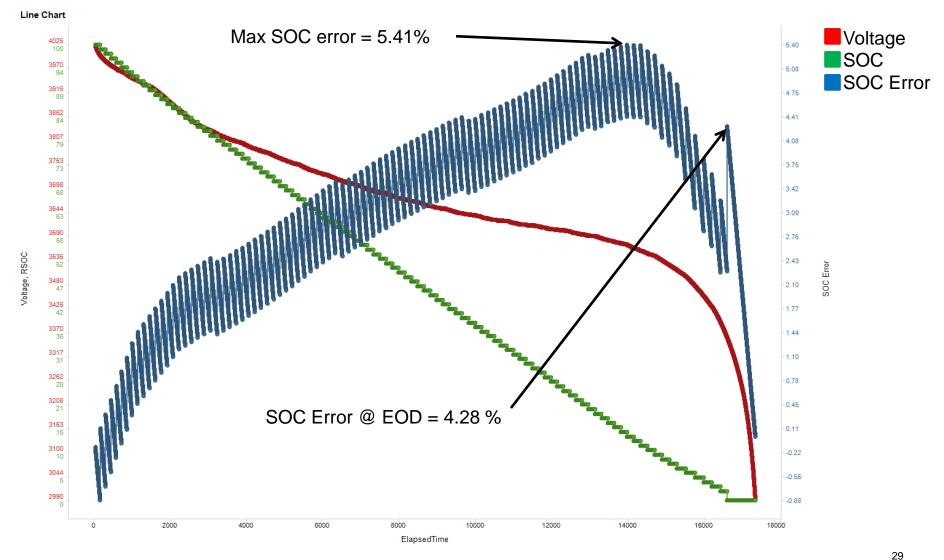
### bq27421 – Variable Load



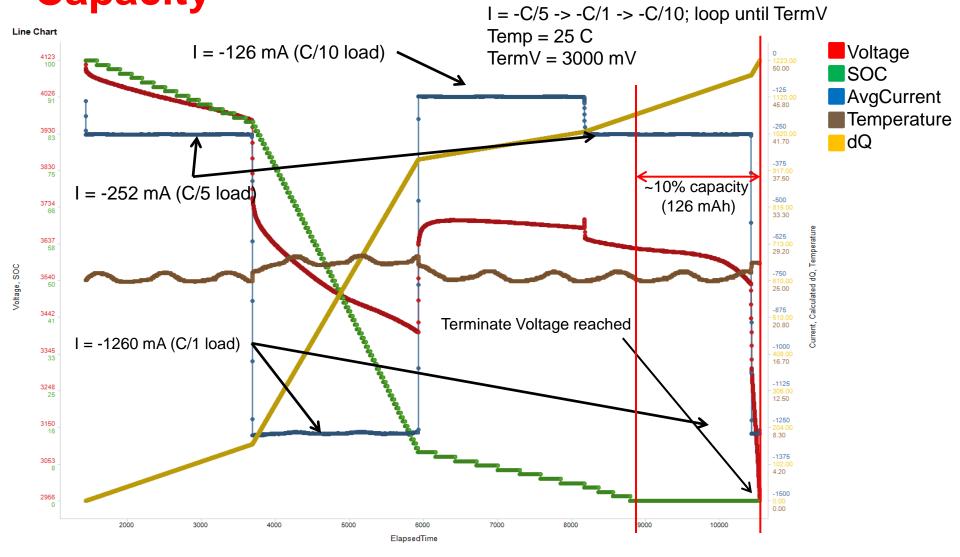
#### bq27421 – C/5 Discharge, Cold Temp



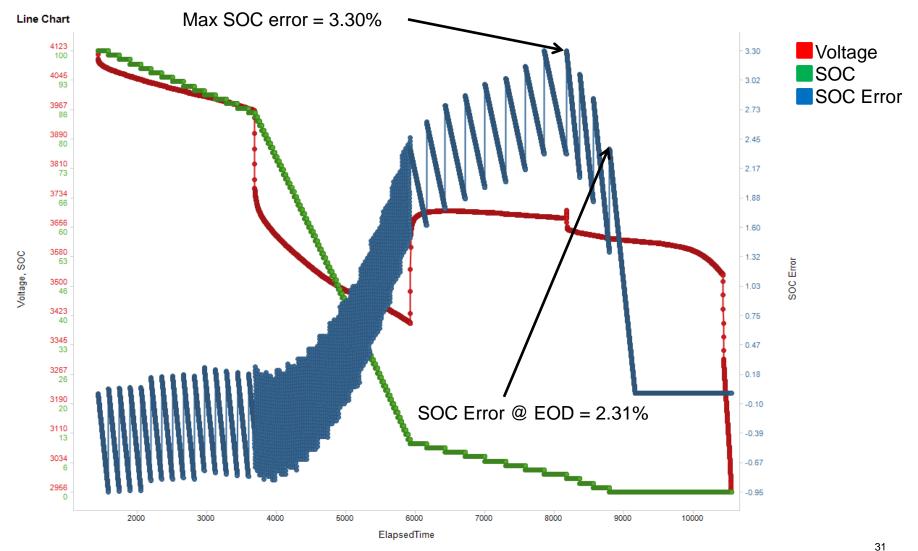
### bq27421 - C/5 Discharge, Cold Temp



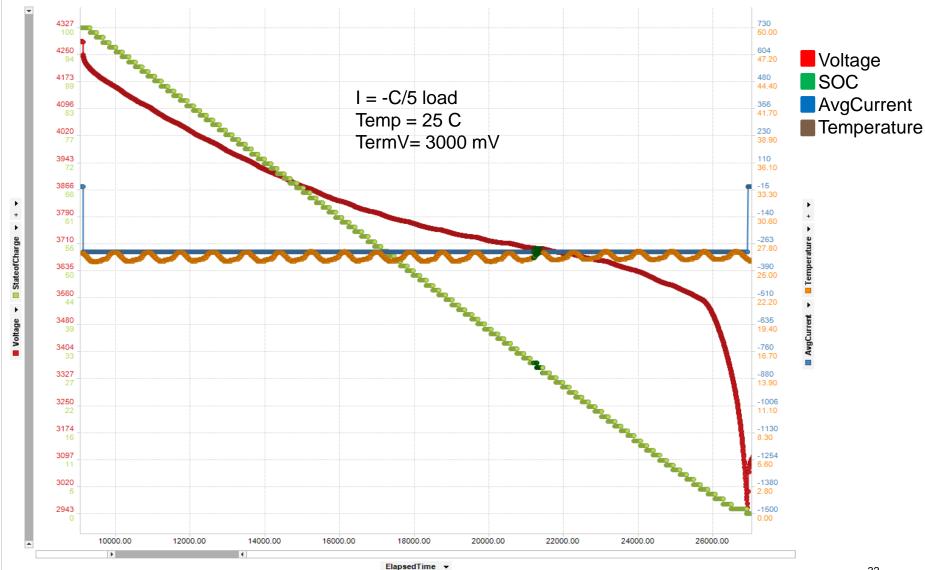
bq27421 – Variable Load with Reserve Capacity



# **bq27421 – Variable Load with Reserve Capacity**

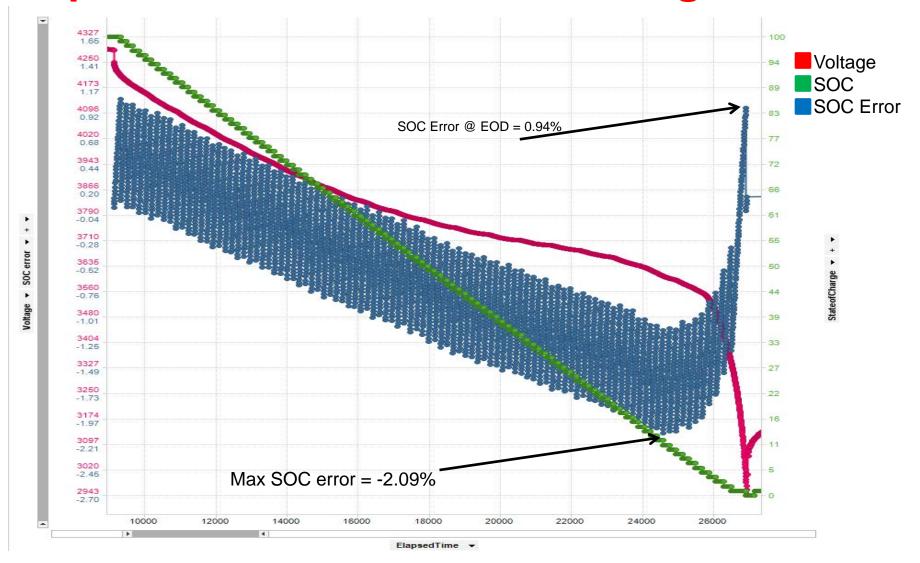


#### bq27742 - Standard C/5 Discharge

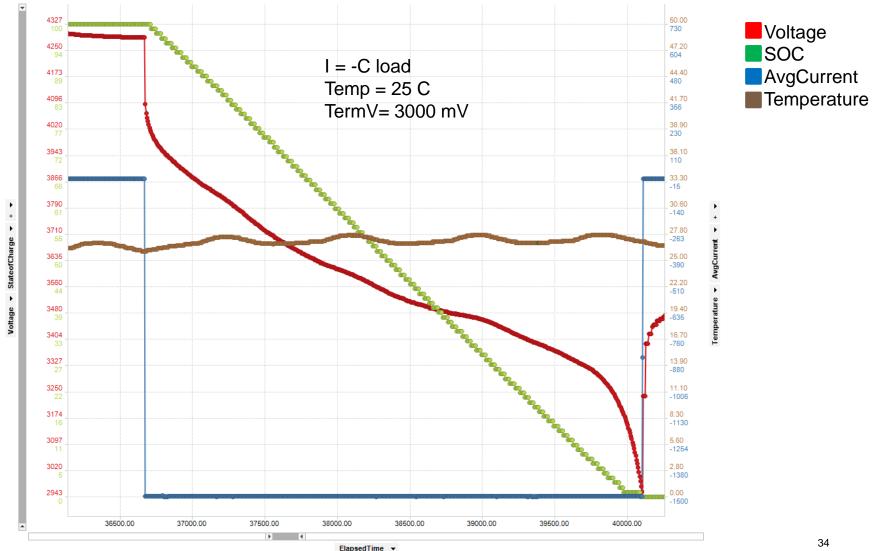




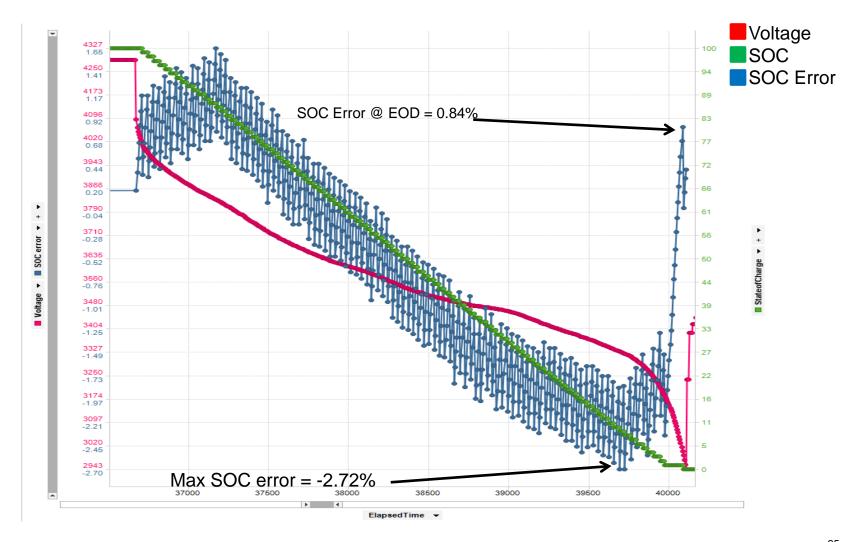
#### bq27742 - Standard C/5 Discharge



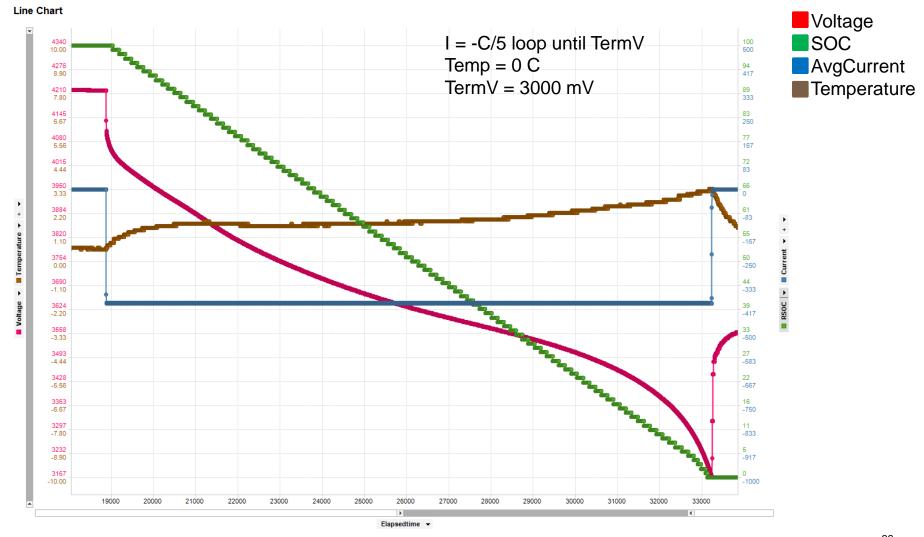
### bq27742 -C Discharge



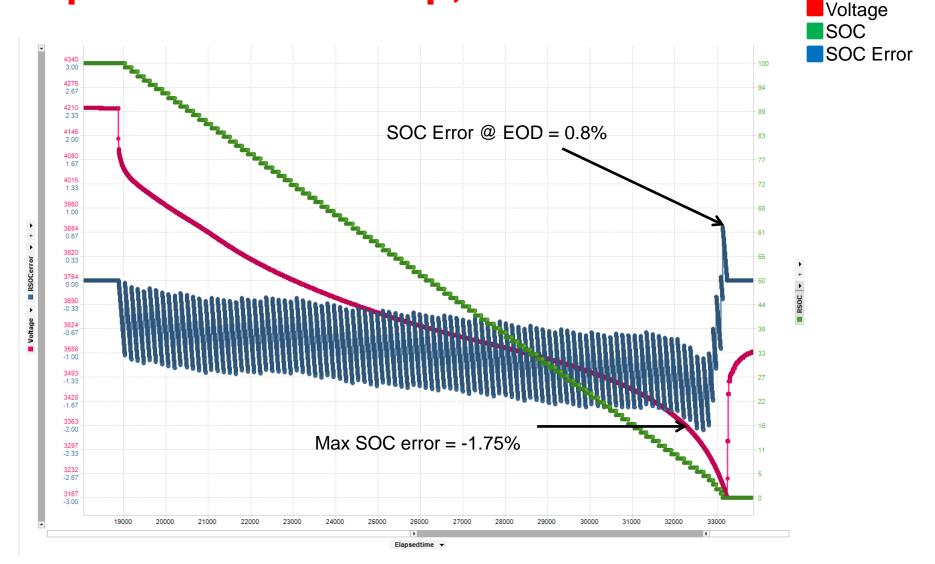
### bq27742 -C Discharge



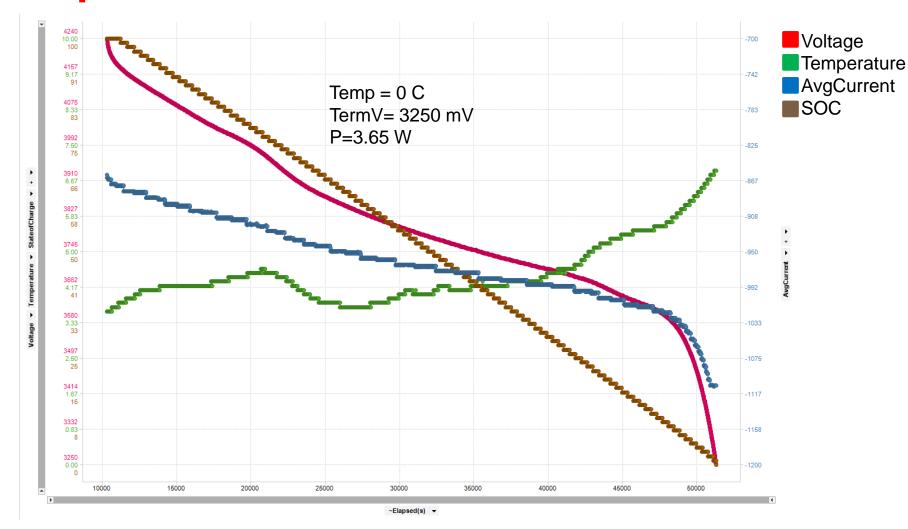
### bq275xx - Cold temp, C/5 Load



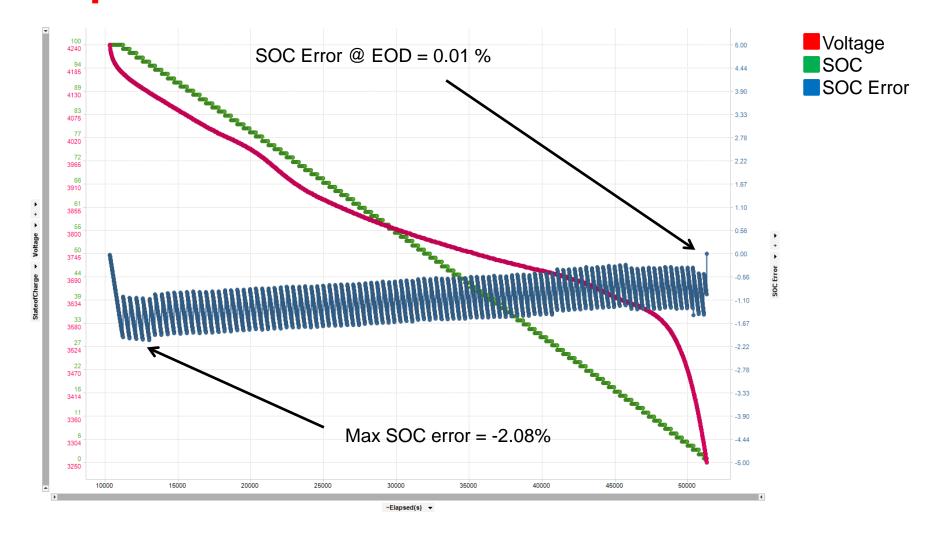
## bq275xx - Cold temp, C/5 Load



# **bq275xx – Constant Power, Cold Temperature**



# **bq275xx – Constant Power, Cold Temperature**



## Conclusions



#### Conclusion

- Gauging accuracy is dependent on the hardware measurement accuracy
- A more robust algorithm provides better accuracy. Impedance Tracking is the industry's most robust algorithm.
- To compute true accuracy, you need to know the actual capacity extracted from the battery for that particular test scenario.
- To compute true accuracy:
  - Integrate current in order to compute actual capacity extracted from the battery (FCC true)
  - Compute true remaining capacity (RM) by subtracting the integrated current from FCC true
  - Compute true SOC by dividing RM by FCC True.
  - Subtract gauge reported SOC from true SOC
- Use Impedance track for best gauging accuracy.



## **Questions??**

