#### Applied Energy 120 (2014) 31-40

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

### **Applied Energy**

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/apenergy

### A study aimed at assessing the potential impact of vehicle electrification on grid infrastructure and road-traffic green house emissions



AppliedEnergy

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#### HIGHLIGHTS

• Modular computational structure for extensive analyses of car electrification impact.

• Simplified market model to assess the CO<sub>2</sub> reduction potentialities of PEVs.

• Combining macro- with micro-level analyses of car electrification impact.

• Developing suitable methodologies to support energy planning for transportation.

• Worldwide analysis of electricity mix influence on CO<sub>2</sub> reduction potential of electrified cars.

#### ARTICLE INFO

Article history: Received 14 May 2013 Received in revised form 23 December 2013 Accepted 12 January 2014 Available online 7 February 2014

Keywords: Plug-in hybrid vehicle Car electrification Electric vehicle Grid decarbonization Greenhouse gas emissions

#### ABSTRACT

In the current paper a thorough analysis is conducted to assess, on one hand, the impact of vehicle electrification on electric grids and their related infrastructures, and, on the other, its potential contribution to GHG emission reduction. Such an analysis covers the timeframe 2011–2050, thus allowing to assess if the environment friendliness of both PHEV and BEV will be enough contributing, particularly towards the fulfillment of the objectives recently established both by official agreements among governments and research consortia (e.g. the International Energy Agency) as well. The expected time evolution of both PHEV and BEV private car fleets is modeled through a simplified market penetration model, along with the associated contribution in terms of well to tank and tank to wheel GHG emissions, thus providing the needed input data to the scenario analysis. Particularly, a longitudinal vehicle model is adopted to accurately estimate electric vehicle energy consumptions and related GHG emissions as a function of powertrain configuration, dimensions and mass.

The analysis was run on several countries, thus providing useful outcomes to assess the suitability of given energy mix to fully exploit vehicle electrification. Such indications will therefore be useful to determine to which extent progressive decarbonization of current grids is required to meet the GHG reduction target by 2050.

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#### 1. Introduction

In the last years, several political, social and economic issues have been contributing to strengthen the willingness to achieve a new, more environmentally friendly and sustainable mobility paradigm worldwide, particularly aiming at meeting actual mobility demand without constraining development expectations of future generations [3]. The most pressing arguments toward the finding of new solutions for personal mobility mainly include: Fossil fuels depletion; CO<sub>2</sub>-related greenhouse effects, with dangerous and maybe dramatic impact on global warming and climate changes; worldwide increasing demand for personal mobility, especially in growing countries such as the BRICs. In this context, the electrification of automobile represents today a major research track for both the industry and academia towards a sustainable mobility. The use of electric energy as an energy carrier for passenger cars has the potential to decrease pollutant emissions in urban areas and, according to the adopted generation mix, also to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from transportation. Moreover, new development opportunities are emerging, based on the growing interdependency between the transportation sector and stationary electric power generation, the latter also being increasingly based on renewable sources [4]. Such an aspect is of particular relevance today due to the upcoming introduction of plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) and battery electric vehicles (BEVs), particularly



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#### Nomenclature

BEV	battery electric vehicle	Μ	mass (kg)
BRIC	Brazil, Russia, India, China	$M_{ m body}$	vehicle body mass (kg)
CC	conventional car	$M_c$	mass of a single battery cell (kg)
CD	charge depleting	$m_{\rm EG}$	EG unit mass, equal to 0.83 (kg/kW) [1]
CS	charge sustaining	$m_{\rm EM}$	EM+Inverter unit mass, equal to 1 (kg/kW) [1]
EG	electric generator	$m_{\rm gear}$	gearbox unit mass, equal to 0.48 (kg/kW) [2]
EM	electric motor	m <sub>ICE</sub>	internal combustion engine unit mass, assumed equal to
GHG	green house gas		2 (kg/kW), on average, for SI engines [2]
HEV	hybrid electric vehicle	$N_B$	number of battery cells
Ι	inverter	Ncar	private car fleet population (mln)
ICE	internal combustion engine	Р	power (W)
IEA	International Energy Agency	t	time (s)
Mln	million	$T_{\rm ch,BEV}$	BEV charging time (h)
NA	not available	T <sub>ch,PHEV</sub>	PHEV charging time (h)
NEDC	new European driving cycle	UF	utility factor
NPI	non plug-in vehicles (i.e. CC + HEV)	ν	vehicle speed (m/s)
PEV	plug-in hybrid-electric & pure-electric vehicle (i.e. PHEV		
	& BEV)	Greek symbols	
PHEV	plug-in hybrid electric vehicle	α	road grade (rad)
SOC	state of charge	п	efficiency
SOC <sub>up</sub>	maximum SOC in charge sustaining operation	ρ	ambient air density $(kg/m^3)$
SOC <sub>lo</sub>	minimum SOC in charge sustaining operation	$\rho_{\rm PtW}$	power to weight ratio
UNISA	university of Salerno	,	
		Subscript	
Symbol	3	В	battery
Α	frontal area (m <sup>2</sup> )	f	final
$CO_{2,grid}$	$CO_2$ emissions yielded by electrical grid (g/W h)	r	road
C <sub>r</sub>	rolling resistance	Т	transmission
$C_x$	wind resistance		
Dyear	annual distance (km)	Superscript	
EĊ	electricity consumption (W h/km)	* nominal value	
FE	fuel economy (km/l)		nommar value

with the prospective diffusion of vehicle-to-grid (V2G) technologies [5,6].

Therefore, the urgent need to transform policy statements into concrete action has prompted the International Energy Agency (IEA) to develop a series of roadmaps, for some of the most important technologies, aimed at outlining the correct developmental paths to be followed to achieve a substantial reduction of energy-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions [7]. These roadmaps also include special focuses on developing technologies in emerging economies, thus enhancing international collaboration with the final aim of strengthening the efforts toward the targeted global reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

The target set by the IEA "blue-map" scenario [7] corresponds to an overall reduction of 50% of global energy-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2050, as compared to current levels. In this context, the transport sector is requested to contribute by guaranteeing 2050 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions be 30% lower than current value. On the other hand, the roadmaps traced for plug-in vehicles (PEVs) market are functional to effectively achieving blue-map objectives. Achieving such results requires that battery electric vehicles (BEV) and plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV) technologies for passenger cars evolve rapidly over time, with very aggressive rates of market penetration. Particularly, the PEV rate of penetration is influenced by several factors: technology supplier, vehicle offers, charging infrastructure features and costs, increase in maximum grid power (i.e. to ensure PEV, and especially BEV, be charged when needed) and customers demand. Since government policies strongly influence these factors, their role will be crucial to guarantee rapid electrification of the fleet [8,9]. Therefore the next decade will be a key "make or break" period for BEVs and PHEVs: governments, the automotive industry, electric utilities and other stakeholders must work together to implement the vehicles and infrastructure in a coordinated manner and, furthermore, to ensure that the car customers will be ready to buy. The hope is that the IEA roadmaps will add further attention and urgency to the international debate on the importance of PEV propulsion as a viable technical solution to well-known environmental and energy saving issues.

The current worldwide road transport scenario is largely based on vehicles powered by internal combustion engines, which rely almost exclusively on petroleum-based fuels and are responsible for over 74% of the overall GHG amount emitted by the entire transport sector [10]. The use of electric energy as a fuel for passenger cars has the potential, on one hand, to contribute toward the reduction of corresponding GHG emissions and, on the other, to create new development opportunities based on the growing interdependency between transport sector and stationary electric power generation [11,12]. Such an aspect is particularly relevant today due to the expected fast increase of PHEVs [13,14] and BEVs [15] into the market.

Abundant literature is now available on the potential benefits associated to vehicles' electrification on worldwide mobility. Many researchers concentrated their efforts on verifying technical and economical feasibility in the short to long term scenarios, mainly focusing on analyzing [16–19] and eventually improving [11,20,21] the vehicle–grid interaction. Others focused on the social [9,22] and environmental [23] impact of car electrification, as well as on the psychological barriers [8] to be overcome to make electric vehicles deployment really and effectively take place in the near

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