# Pseudo-random binary sequence techniques for analysing batteries

Jonathan Davidson Jonathan.Davidson@shef.ac.uk

Supervisor: Dr D A Stone

## Why do we care so much about batteries?

- Batteries are required for the alternative energy future of local green microgeneration.
- Telling how much energy is left in a battery is a real headache.
- Knowing how much is left is very important.

### Illustration



## Impedance and frequency

- Impedance is the property of a battery to oppose electrical current.
- The impedance changes with frequency of electrical current.
- Think of a sponge....





## A laboratory based approach?

- Expensive laboratory equipment can be used to inject a fixed alternating current and precisely measure the impedance.
- This is impedance spectroscopy.
- Each frequency requires its own experiment time. At 1 mHz that's a long wait!

## A cheap and cheerful approach

- Apply all frequencies to the battery at once!
- Use pseudo-random binary sequences like a computer does.

#### The technical bits: PRBS spectrum



#### The technical bits: Battery spectra



#### The technical bits: Battery spectra



#### The outcome





#### The outcome

- A cheap and easy-to-implement method has been proven.
- Batteries have been analysed and match a simple model.

## So what's next?

- Confirm validity of results using established laboratory procedures.
- Address the problem of analysing while in use.
- Use a more complicated (and better) model.
- Link model parameters to capacity and charge of batteries.

## The end

Questions?

Jonathan Davidson