Abstract

Because of the growing need to reduce pollution and save money on fuel, electric and hybrid electric vehicle development is a clear and proven trend for the world's future vehicles. To further stimulate hybrid vehicle growth, intercollegiate competitions, like the Formula Hybrid Competition, challenge engineering students around the country to design and implement a goal-oriented vehicle. This work provides a preliminary body of research on various drivetrain types and components such as electric motors, motor controllers, batteries, generators, and gasoline engines. Using this knowledge, a design methodology is executed to provide the sizing, selection, and implementation of an electric powertrain in a controlled laboratory test stand. Along the way, drivetrain components are sized and chosen using a combination of hand calculations and computer simulations. Once a drivetrain design was fully identified and sourced, the drive system was built on a test stand. Preliminary testing and shakedown were performed to verify the compatibility of the system and to prepare it for future studies. Various computer programs, electronic hardware, and mechanical systems including an eddy current dynamometer were used to help the test stand perform its functions. The powertrain test stand must control and measure the motor performance variables necessary for complete motor characterization such as speed, torque, voltage, and current. The test stand will serve future vehicle design efforts and student educational functions in the engine testing lab at The Cooper Union. The main objective of this project was to provide a safe, flexible, and instructional test stand to serve the anticipated needs of future vehicle design efforts at Cooper Union.