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Kalogeropoulos et al.

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(54) LIFE CYCLE CHARGING FOR BATTERIES

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(52)

Field of Search 320/160, 125, 320/130, 162

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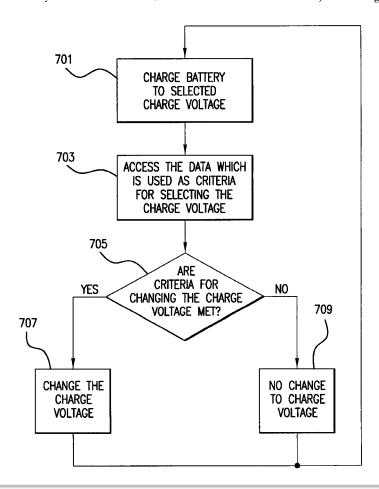
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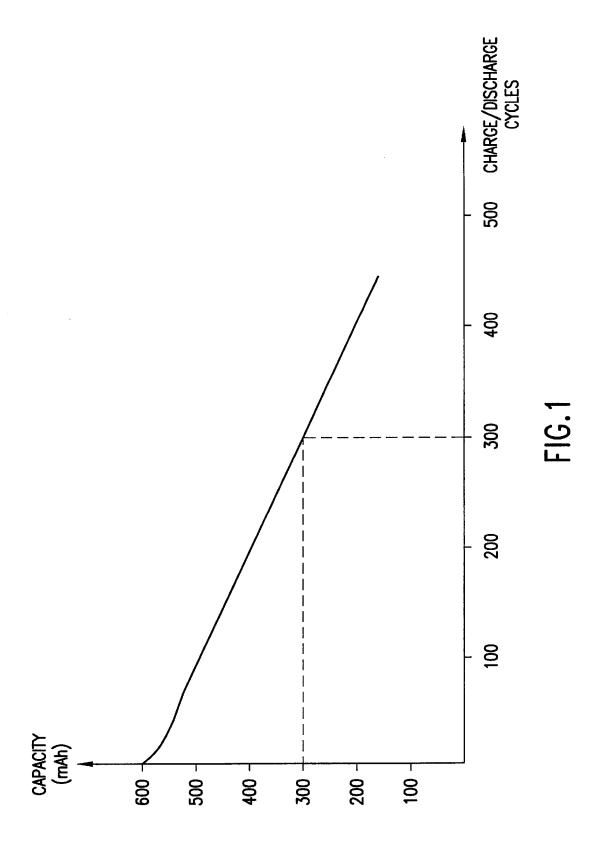
(57)**ABSTRACT**

A method and apparatus for extending the cycle life of a battery by using different charge voltages or different current cut-offs to recharge the battery during the course of the battery's life. The capacity of a battery is gradually depleted as the battery is repeatedly charged and discharged. The rate at which the battery capacity is depleted varies in accordance to the charge voltage, or the current cut-off, used to recharge the battery. For example, higher charge voltages cause the capacity to be more rapidly depleted than lower charge voltages. A battery may be charged using a high charge voltage, e.g., its rated charge voltage, during periods of expected high usage. To extend the battery's cycle life, the battery may be charged using a low charge voltage during periods of expected low usage.

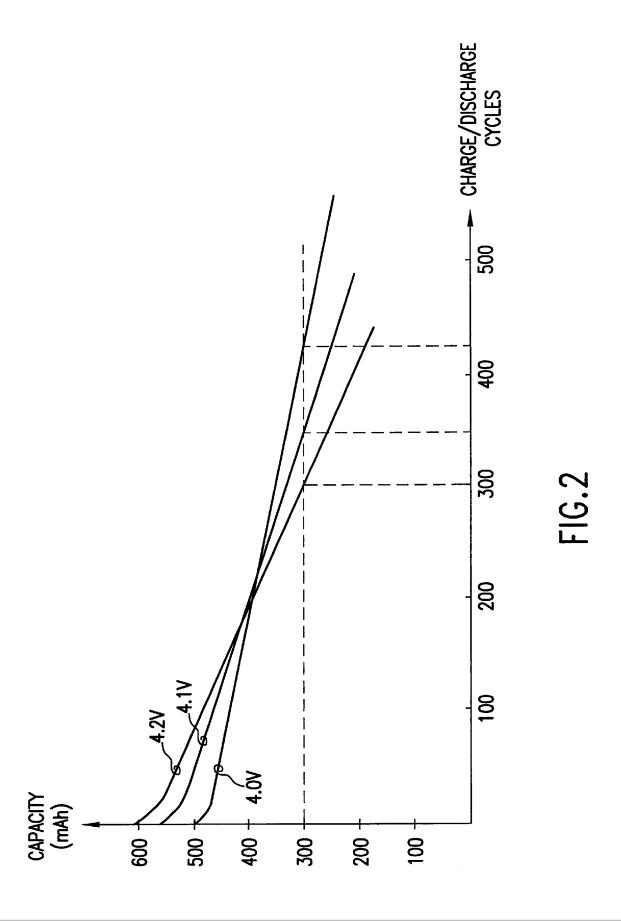
31 Claims, 9 Drawing Sheets



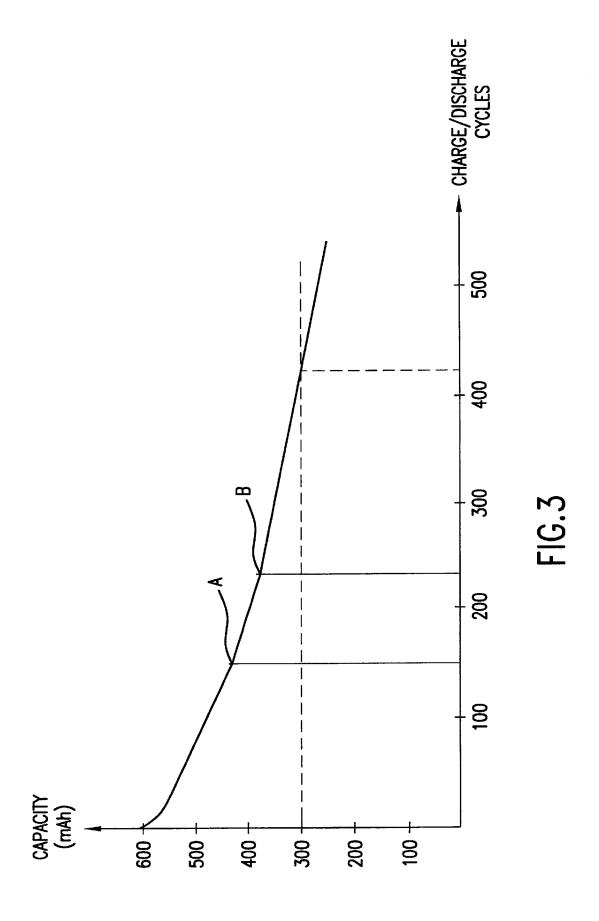




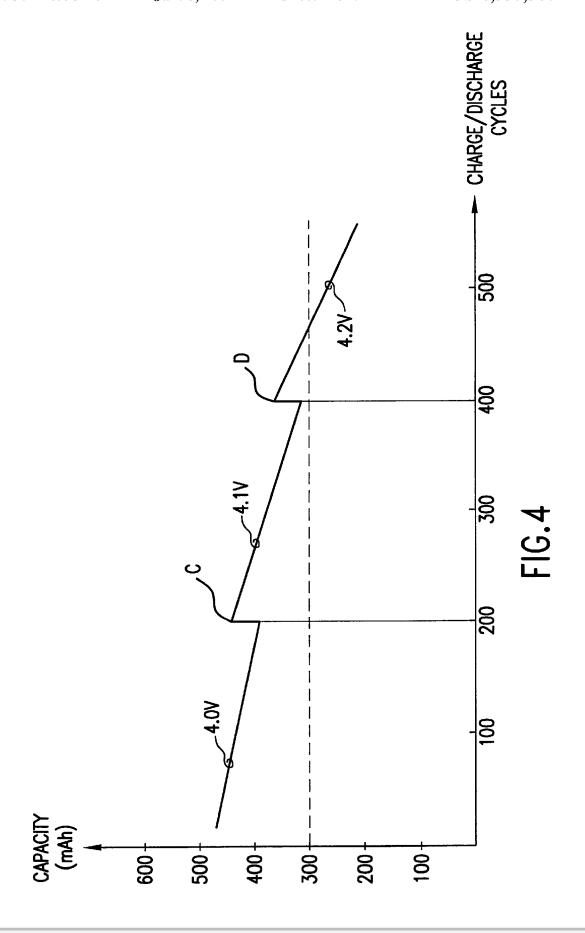












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