

How to read the current flow of the battery cabinet





Overview

To measure the current flowing through a battery, you should connect your meter from the battery's positive terminal to the negative terminal (eg. when measuring current in the wire between 'ground' and the battery negative, the meter's positive lead would be connected to 'ground' and the negative lead to the battery negative). How does a battery monitor work?

The battery monitor continuously measures the current flow in and out of the battery. Integration of this current over time, if it was a fixed current, boils down to multiplying current and time and gives the net amount of Ah added or removed. For example, a discharge current of 10A for 2 hours will take $10 \times 2 = 20\text{Ah}$ from the battery.

Can charge flow out of a battery?

No charge can flow out of a battery unless there is a conducting material connected between its terminals. A flow of charge can cause a small light bulb to glow. In this unit, you are going to explore how charge originating in a battery flows in wires and bulbs.

What does a positive current mean on a battery monitor?

This is the current needed for DC loads. A positive current means that current is going into the battery. This is current coming from charge sources. Keep in mind that the battery monitor will always indicate the total battery current, being the current traveling into the battery minus the current traveling out of the battery.

How does a battery meter work?

Figure 3-17: Meters connected to measure the current through the battery and the current through bulb D and the voltage of the battery when the switch is opened and closed. (a) Collect data while closing and opening the switch as before. Measure the currents through the battery and through bulb D.



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...



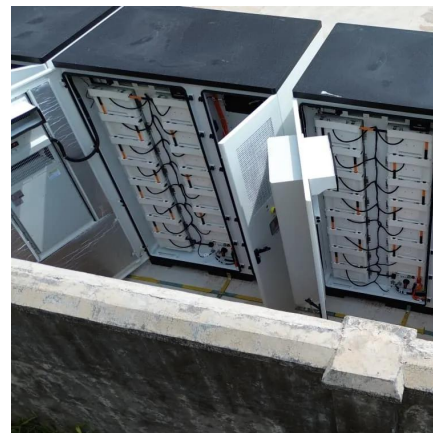
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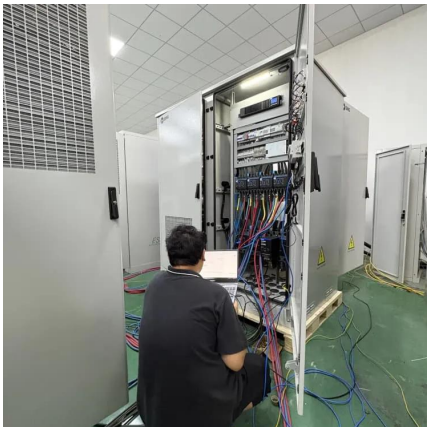


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