Optimal Energy Management for Series-Parallel Hybrid Electric City Bus Based on Improved Genetic Algorithm

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1. Introduction

In recent years, due to the better performance of fuel economy and emission compared with the traditional vehicles, hybrid electric vehicles (HEV) become the most promising vehicle models. HEV have multiple power sources, when the configurations and parameters of HEV have been determined, the performance of HEV will heavily dependent on energy management strategy (EMS) [1-3].

The optimization of energy management strategy for HEV is a highly nonlinear optimization problem [4-5]. The methods divided into two categories: gradient-based algorithm and non-gradient algorithm. Gradient-based search methods require that the objective function be continuous, differentiable, and satisfy the Lipschitz condition [6]. This method has slower convergence speed, lower the probability of the global value. Non-gradient based algorithm could calculate the global optimal solution without the gradient information of the objective function [7-9]. GA has the stronger ability of global searching quickly and parallel computing, so genetic algorithm is suitable for solving the optimization problem of HEV [10-11].

Although genetic algorithm can solve the HEV parameter optimization problems, it still has limitation in the process of evolution [12-13]. During evolution process, the method of fixed value adopted in the crossover probability and mutation probability cannot meet the demand of crossover probability and mutation probability in different stage. In this paper, the calculation formulas of crossover probability and mutation probability with the adaptive changes of fitness and iteration times are proposed, and the elite retention strategy is used to select the next generation, which not only accelerates the convergence rate of genetic algorithm, but also improves the optimization quality.

This paper takes a series-parallel hybrid electric bus (SPHEB) as the research object. First, the energy management strategy is designed. Then, the vehicle simulation model is built based on simulation software CRUISE, and the improvement of the traditional genetic algorithm is proposed which is verified the effectiveness by finding the global minimum through the Ackley function. Finally, the vehicle fuel economy is taken as the optimization objective, and the improved genetic algorithm is used to optimize the relevant parameters of the energy management strategy for different operating conditions. The results show that the fuel economy is markedly improved after optimization.

2. Principle of hybrid power system

2.1. Configurations and models of HEB

In this paper, a series-parallel hybrid electric bus (SPHEB) with dual-motor coaxial structure is studied, the configurations of SPHEB as shown in Fig. 1. The hybrid power system is mainly composed of engine, ISG motor, main motor, electronically controlled clutch, power battery pack and the final drive, etc. Vehicle control unit (VCU) switch the mode between series and parallel modes by controlling the clutch. Communication with engine controller, main motor controller and ISG motor controller is realized through CAN-bus, and torque and speed control of engine, main motor and ISG motor are completed.





Table 1

Basic parameters for SPHEB models

Parameters		Values
Curb weight	<i>m</i> , kg	11900
Full mass	M, kg	15900
Frontal area	A, m^2	6.93
Air drag coefficient	C_D	0.55
Wheel radius	<i>r</i> , m	0.512
Maximum power of engine	P_e, kW	155
Maximum power of main motor	P_m , kW	135
Maximum power of ISG motor	Pi, kW	72
Battery capacity	Q, Ah	50
Final ratio	i_0	6.14

This kind of hybrid structure with double motor coaxial combines the advantages of series and parallel hybrid vehicles, can achieve the best design goal of gas consumption and emission. The basic parameters are shown in Table 1.

2.2. Vehicle modeling

2.2.1. Vehicle dynamic model

Based on the vehicle parameters and the vehicle velocity, the vehicle traction power is obtained as the following Eq. (1):

$$P_{\rm t} = \frac{v}{1000} \left(mgf \cos \alpha + \frac{C_D A}{21.15} v^2 + mg \sin \alpha + ma \right), \qquad (1)$$

where: *m* is the vehicle mass, kg; *v* is the vehicle velocity, m/s; *g* is the gravity acceleration, m/s²; *f* is the rolling resistance coefficient; C_D is the aerodynamic drag coefficient; *A* is front area of the vehicle, m²; α is the road slope angle; *a* is the vehicle acceleration.

2.2.2. ICE model

Fig. 2 shows a typical efficiency map of an *ICE* and indicates the fuel economy characteristics as a function of *ICE* speed and torque. The map represents the maximum *ICE* torque boundary and fuel consumption contours.



Fig. 2 A typical efficiency map of an ICE

Based on the *ICE* speed and the *ICE* torque lookup table, the *ICE* fuel rate \dot{m}_f is obtained as the following Eq. (2):

$$\dot{m}_f = f\left(T_{ICE}, \omega_{ICE}\right),\tag{2}$$

where: T_{ICE} denotes *ICE* torque (Nm), and ω_{ICE} is the *ICE* speed (rad/s).

2.2.3. Battery model

The input signal of the battery model is the vehicle demanded power while the outputs are the battery *SOC*, current, terminal voltage, and actual power of the battery pack.

The battery *SOC* is one of the most important parameters for the vehicle and battery energy management systems that can potentially provide the information regarding the amount of energy stored in the battery to the controller. The battery *SOC* highly influences the battery life cycle. There are several methods reported for evaluating the battery *SOC* such as the ampere-hour integral, open circuit voltage and neural network methods. In this research, the ampere-hour integral method is employed for estimating the battery *SOC*, which based on the control strategy, determines the vehicle operation mode. The battery *SOC* is evaluated as the following Eq. (3):

$$SOC(t) = SOC_{ini} - \frac{1}{Q} \int_0^t \eta I_{out}(t) dt, \qquad (3)$$

where: SOC_{ini} denotes the initial value of SOC, Q is the battery capacity, and η is the battery columbic efficiency.

The battery current I_{out} can be calculated as the following Eq. (4):

$$I_{out} = \frac{V_{oc} - \sqrt{V_{oc}^2 - 4R_b P_d}}{2R_b},$$
(4)

where: V_{oc} and R_b are the open circuit voltage and internal resistance of the battery, P_d is the battery power demand.

2.2.4. EM model

The input power of the EM model is the battery power during motoring mode of operation or battery charging power during generating mode of operation that is provided by the *ICE* or braking. According to the efficiency map of the EM in motoring mode and generating mode that is modelled by using a lookup table indexed by torque and speed in the Cruise software, the EM power loss is obtained. Therefore, the EM power is calculated by deducting the power loss from the supplied power. Accordingly, the EM output torque T_m is obtained when the EM power is divided by the EM rotational speed ω_m .

3. Energy management strategy

3.1. Operation mode analysis

There are three ways of power transmission in the system including pure electric, series, and parallel mode. When the clutch is separated, the requested driving torque of the vehicle is all provided by the main motor, which realizes the pure electric function. On the basis of pure electric, the engine can charge the power battery pack through ISG motor according to the need of power battery pack charging, so as to realize series driving. When the clutch is engaged, the requested torque is distributed by the engine, ISG motor and main motor according to the current driving cycle, which realizes the parallel function.

According to the above analysis, the operating modes of this hybrid city bus mainly include: pure electric drive mode, series power generation drive mode, engine drive alone mode, driving charging mode, combined drive mode and regenerative braking mode.

3.2. Rule-based energy management strategy design

3.2.1. Pure electric drive mode

When the real-time speed is lower than the minimum speed at which the engine can directly drive the vehicle $(v < v_0)$, state of charge is no less than the lower limit of battery working area $(SOC \ge SOC_L)$, and the demand torque is no less than $O(T_{rea} \ge 0)$, or when the real-time speed is no less than he minimum speed at which the engine can directly drive the vehicle $(v \ge v_0)$, state of charge is no less than the lower limit of battery working area $(SOC \ge SOC_L)$, and the demand torque is higher than 0 and lower than the lower limit of the engine efficient zone $(0 < T_{req} < T_{e_min})$, pure electric drive mode is activated. Where: $T_{e \min}$ denotes the lower limit of the engine efficient zone $T_{e_{min}} = T_{e_{max}} \times \eta_{min}$; SOC_L denotes the lower limit of battery working area; v_0 is the minimum speed at which the engine can directly drive the vehicle, and its value should be greater than the speed corresponding to the engine idle speed.

3.2.2. Series power generation drive mode

When the real-time speed is lower than the minimum speed at which the engine can directly drive the vehicle ($v < v_0$), state of charge is lower than the lower limit of battery working area ($SOC < SOC_L$), and the demand torque is no less than $0(T_{req} \ge 0)$, series power generation drive mode is activated.

3.2.3. Engine drive alone mode

When the real-time speed is no less than the minimum speed at which the engine can directly drive the vehicle ($v \ge v_0$), state of charge is no less than the lower limit of battery working area ($SOC < SOC_L$), the demand torque is no less than the lower limit of the engine efficient zone and no greater than the upper bound of the engine efficient zone ($T_{e_min} \le T_{req} \le T_{e_max}$), or when the real-time speed is no less than the minimum speed at which the engine can directly drive the vehicle ($v \ge v_0$), state of charge is lower than the lower limit of battery working area ($SOC < SOC_L$), and the demand torque is greater than the upper bound of the engine efficient zone ($T_{req} > T_{e_max}$), engine drive alone mode is activated.

3.2.4. Driving charging mode

3.2.4.1. Driving charging mode 1

When the real-time speed is no less than the minimum speed at which the engine can directly drive the vehicle ($v \ge v_0$), state of charge is lower than the lower limit of battery working area ($SOC < SOC_L$), the demand torque is greater than 0 and less than the lower limit of the engine efficient zone ($0 < T_{req} < T_{e_min}$), driving charging mode 1 is activated.

3.2.4.2. Driving charging mode 2

When the real-time speed is no less than the minimum speed at which the engine can directly drive the vehicle ($v \ge v_0$), state of charge is less than the lower limit of battery working area ($SOC < SOC_L$), and the demand torque is no less than the lower limit of the engine efficient zone and no greater than the upper bound of the engine efficient zone ($T_{e_min} \le T_{req} \le T_{e_max}$), driving charging mode 2 is activated.

3.2.5. Combined drive mode

When the real-time speed is no less than the minimum speed at which the engine can directly drive the vehicle ($v \ge v_0$), state of charge is no less than the lower limit of battery working area ($SOC < SOC_L$), and the demand torque is greater than the upper bound of the engine efficient zone ($T_{req} > T_{e_max}$), combined drive mode is activated.

3.2.6. ISG starting engine mode

When the engine control signal equals $1(S_e = 1)$ and the state of engine equals $0(State_{eng} = 0)$, ISG starting engine mode is activated. Where: $State_{eng}$ is the state of engine; 0 denotes the state of closure and 1 denotes the state of opening.

3.2.7. Clutch closure control mode

When the state of engine equals 1, the state of clutch equals 1 and the engine control signal equals 0, clutch closure control mode is activated. Where: $State_{cl}$ is the state of clutch; 0 denotes closure state and 1 denotes separation state.

During energy management strategy modelling, in order to prevent frequent switching between the pure electric drive mode and the series power generation drive mode caused by frequent fluctuation of the control quantity near the threshold, the battery *SOC* return difference is adopted in this paper, and the mode judgment process is shown in Fig. 3.



Fig. 3 Switching process between pure electric drive mode and series power generation drive mode

When the vehicle works in the series power generation drive mode, the engine drives the ISG motor to generate electricity. When the battery *SOC* is greater than SOC_L , the vehicle's operating mode does not change. The vehicle does not switch to pure electric drive mode until *SOC* is higher than $SOC_L + X$. Similarly, the judgment process of switching from pure electric drive mode to series drive mode is the same.

3.3. Simulation results

Two consecutive Chinese typical city bus driving cycle (CCBC) is selected as driving scenario. The vehicle carries 65% of the load, and the difference between the target speed and the actual speed is shown in Fig. 4. Except for a few data points, the speed difference of most data points (accounting for 99.15% of the total data points) is within ± 1 km/h, indicating that the speed follows well and the developed energy management strategy is feasible.



Fig. 4 Change of velocity difference of cycle driving

The performance indicators and design objectives obtained by simulation are shown in Table 2.

Table 2

performance indicators	simulation results	design values
Maximum speed /km/h	78.4	≥70
0-50 km/h acceleration time /s	12.3	≤13
Maximum grade ability /%	15	≤15
Gas consumption of cycle condi- tion /kg/100 km	20.68	≤22

Simulation results of the performance indicators

Fig.5 shows the acceleration changes of the above two acceleration processes. The acceleration process with clutch closure control mode is called acceleration process 1, and the one without is called acceleration process 2.



Fig. 5 Acceleration changes of two acceleration processes

Since there is no clutch closure control mode in the acceleration process 2, the clutch is on-off static control, which engages instantaneously. Due to the rotary inertia of the engine and ISG motor, the speed difference between the active end and the driven end of the clutch will produce a large drive or brake torque when the clutch is engaged, resulting in sudden acceleration, as shown in the oval part in Fig. 5. But with the clutch closure control mode, the abrupt acceleration is improved.

4. Optimization algorithm

4.1. Genetic algorithm improvement

The traditional genetic algorithm adopts fixed crossover probability and mutation probability in the process of evolution, which may lead to reducing the rate of convergence of the algorithm and even converging to the local optimal solution. The crossover probability and mutation probability formulas with adaptive changes of fitness and iteration times are introduced, which can accelerate the convergence of genetic algorithm and improve its optimization ability.

The specific ideas to improve the algorithm are as follows:

1) In the early stage of evolution, larger crossover probability and mutation probability should be adopted to generate more new individuals, so that the search region can spread rapidly within the whole definition domain. Else, the global convergence of the algorithm and overcome precocity should be improved.

2) In the later stage of evolution, the crossover probability and mutation probability should be reduced to prevent the loss of some excellent genes in the parent generation, and the algorithm efficiency and local search ability should be improved to accelerate the convergence.

3) When the average fitness of the population is poor, the probability of variation should be increased to improve the possibility of producing excellent individuals, while when the average value of fitness of the population is close to the optimal solution, the probability of mutation should be reduced.

From what has been discussed above, the proposed crossover probability and mutation probability formulas with adaptive changes of evolutionary generation and fitness value are shown in Eq. (5):

$$\begin{cases} P_{\rm c} = P_{c0} \sqrt{1 - \left(t / t_{max}\right)^2} \\ P_{\rm m} = P_{m0} \left(1 - t / t_{max}\right) + P_{m1} \left(1 - f_{av} / f_{max}\right), \end{cases}$$
(5)

where: P_{c0} denotes initial crossover probability; *t* denotes current evolutionary generation; t_{max} denotes the total evolutionary generation; P_{m0} denotes initial mutation probability; P_{m1} denotes the minimum allowed by mutation probability; f_{av} denotes the average fitness value of the current population, and f_{max} denotes the maximum fitness value in population.

4.2. The verification of the improved algorithm

The improved genetic algorithm is tested by the typical minimized Ackley function. Ackley function is a type of continuous experimental function which is got by the superposition of exponential function moderate amplification of cosine function. The function expression takes the following Eq. (6) mathematical form:

$$F(x) = 20 + exp(1) - 20 exp\left[-0.2\sqrt{\frac{1}{n}}\sum_{i=1}^{n}x_{i}^{2}\right] - exp\left[\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n}cos(2\pi x_{i})\right],$$
(6)

where: $-10 \le x_i \le 10$ (*i*=1...*n*), *n*=2, the three-dimensional diagram is shown in Fig. 6. The Ackley function takes the only global minimum of 0 at (0, 0).



Fig. 6 The three-dimensional diagram of Ackley function

Since the initial population is generated randomly, it has a certain impact on the results. In order to reduce the impact caused by this randomness, the parameter settings are shown in Table 3. Each algorithm is calculated 10 times and takes the average value. The comparison of results is shown in Fig. 7.

Parameters	Traditional genetic algo- rithm	The improved genetic algo- rithm
Evolutionary generations	100	100
Population size	20	20
Crossover probability	0.5	
Mutation probability	0.1	—
Initial crossover prob- ability	—	1.0
Initial mutation prob- ability		1.0
Minimum mutation probability		0.01

Parameter settings

After comparison, you can see that both of the search results are relatively close to the global minimum value 0. However, by contrast with the traditional genetic algorithm, convergence speed and optimization quality of the improved genetic algorithm are better. To some extent,



Fig. 7 Comparison between traditional genetic algorithm and improved genetic algorithm

5. Parameter optimization based on improved genetic algorithm

5.1. Optimization objective

In this paper, the control strategy parameters are optimized on the premise that the vehicle power components are determined. Accordingly, the optimization objective of this paper is to reduce the fuel consumption of the vehicle as much as possible. Therefore, the optimization objective function f(x) is obtained as the following Eq. (7):

$$f(x) = \min[fuel(X)], X \in \Omega,$$
(7)

where: *fuel*(*x*) denotes fuel consumption per hundred kilometres and its unit is L/100 km; *X* denotes vector which includes some relevant parameters of control strategy; Ω is the possible solution space and it defines the upper and lower bounds of optimization parameters.

5.2. Optimization parameters

Table 3

Only the relevant parameters that have a great impact on vehicle fuel economy can be selected for optimization, which is in line with the actual situation. The following six parameters are selected as optimization parameters in this paper: lower limit coefficient of engine efficiency area η_{min} , the minimum speed V_0 with which engine can directly drive the vehicles charging factor K_1 of driving charging mode 1. Charging factor K_2 of driving charging mode 2, *SOC* target equilibrium upper limit *SOC*_H and the factor of *SOC* workspace ΔSOC .

The lower limit coefficient of engine efficiency area η_{min} determines the lower limit of engine efficiency working area, which affects the operating range and economy. The minimum speed V_0 that engine can directly drive the vehicle affects the minimum speed when the engine directly drives the vehicle, and the rotate speed has a great influence on the economy and emission of the engine, especially in the condition of low rotate speed. The charging factor K_1 and K_2 are related to the working point of the engine under the driving charging mode. The target lower limit SOC_L of battery SOC is determined by downward fluctuation ΔSOC of the target upper limit SOC_H . The optimization parameters and their value ranges are shown in Table 4.

In consideration of the actual situation, the parameters in Table 4 are set for precision. η_{min} is set to two decimal places. V_0 , K_1 and K_2 are set to one decimal place. SOC_H and ΔSOC are set to three decimal places.

Table 4

Optimization parameters and their value ranges

Parameters	Parameter specification	Value range
$\eta_{_{min}}$	The lower limit coefficient of engine efficiency area	0.3,0.4
V_0	The minimum speed that en- gine can directly drive the ve- hicle	25,33
K_1	Charging factor of driving charging mode 1	10,30
K_2	Charging factor of driving charging mode 2	10,30
SOC _H	SOC target equilibrium upper limit	0.3,0.5
∆SOC	The factor of SOC workspace	0.03,0.05

5.3. Optimization model

In this paper, the improved genetic algorithm is combined with Matlab/Simulink, and the simulation model of control strategy parameter optimization of hybrid electric city bus is established by using the model in the loop. As is shown in Fig. 8 to achieve parameter optimization.



Fig. 8 The flow diagram of parameters optimization of energy management strategy based on genetic algorithm

The specific optimization process is as follows:

1) N individuals are randomly generated within the feasible region of the optimization variable X as the initial population.

2) According to the adaptive crossover probability formula, calculating the crossover probability and performing the crossover operation.

3) According to the adaptive mutation probability formula, calculating the mutation probability and carrying

out the mutation operation.

4) The parent generation and the offspring obtained through crossover and mutation are compounded into a population with 2N individuals, and the optimal parameters in the control strategy model are assigned successively. By running the simulation model, the comprehensive consumption of natural gas of 100 kilometres is achieved.

5) The values of fitness function are calculated based on the returned performance indicators and sorted in the order of the values of fitness from large to small.

6) The selection operations are carried out and the first N of the 2N sorted individuals are selected as the next generation population.

7) Using the evolutionary generation as the termination criterion. If the evolutionary generation is less than the set value, then return to step 2). If satisfied, terminate the program and return the individual with the maximum fitness value obtained during evolution as the optimal solution.

5.4. Analysis of optimization results

This paper uses different testing cycles to optimize and compares the solutions obtained by different optimization methods. The first one takes the single working condition of 8 repeated typical bus driving scenarios in Chinese cities as the testing cycles, which is called optimization method 1. The second method selects the comprehensive driving scenarios successively arranged and jointed by CCBC scenario, UDC scenario, Manhattan scenario and Ja1015 scenario as the testing cycles, which is called optimization method 2.

The initial *SOC* of both optimization methods are set to 0.6, the population size is set to 20, and the evolutionary generation is set to 80. The changing curve of the comprehensive gas consumption of the optimal individual in the population of optimization method 1 is shown in Fig. 9.



Fig. 9 The changing curve of the comprehensive gas consumption of the optimal individual in the population of optimization method 1

The changing curve of the comprehensive gas consumption of the optimal individual in the population of optimization method 2 is shown in Fig. 10.

Comparison of comprehensive gas consumption per hundred kilometres before and after optimization based on optimization method 1 and optimization method 2 are shown in Table 5, where A denotes The comprehensive gas consumption before optimization, B denotes The comprehensive gas consumption of the optimized value obtained by optimization method 1, C denotes The comprehensive gas consumption of the optimized value obtained by optimization method 2.



Fig. 10 The changing curve of the comprehensive gas consumption of the optimal individual in the population of optimization method 2

Table 5

Table 6

Comparison of comprehensive gas consumption before and after optimization

Scenarios and Gas consump- tion	$\begin{array}{c} \text{CCBC} \\ \times 8 \end{array}$	Comprehen- sive scenario	$UDC \times 10$	Ja1015 ×10
A (kg/100km)	20.68	27.21	27.60	22.31
B (kg/100km)	19.47	26.64	26.11	21.82
C (kg/100km)	20.16	25.85	25.48	21.60

It can be seen from Table 5 that the optimized value obtained by optimizing a certain testing cycle is the optimal one for the corresponding comprehensive gas consumption per hundred kilometres. Optimization method 1 improves the initial comprehensive gas consumption by 5.85% under CCBC cycle condition. Compared with before optimization, Optimization method 2 improves the comprehensive gas consumption by 4.89% under the comprehensive scenario. Under the UDC scenario and Ja1015 scenario, the fuel economy optimized by the two optimization methods has been improved in different degree, but in the degree of improvement, the optimization method based on the comprehensive scenario is better than the optimization method based on the single cycle. Else, Ftp72 and Modified_IDC_PC_LDV_ _BSII_man scenario in Cruise software working condition library were selected as the testing cycles.

The economic simulation results are shown in Table 6:

The economic simulation results

Scenarios and Gas consumption	Ftp72 scenario	Modified_IDC_PC_LDV_ _BSII_man scenario
A (kg/100km)	32.87	27.21
B (kg/100km)	30.41	27.66
C (kg/100km)	29.47	23.57

It can be seen from Table 6 that under Ftp72 scenario, the economy of the optimized value obtained by the two optimization methods is better than the initial value. But under Modified_IDC_PC_LDV_BSII_man scenario, the economy of the optimized value obtained by optimization method 1 is not as good as the initial value, which indicates that the optimized parameters based on specific working conditions may not have better economic performance under any working condition. At the same time, it shows that the optimized value based on the comprehensive scenario has better economy than the optimized value based on the single cycle under many scenarios, which indicates that the optimization method based on the comprehensive scenario is better than the optimization method based on the single cycle in terms of the adaptability of working condition.

6. Conclusions

Aiming at the deficiency of traditional genetic algorithm, the crossover probability and mutation probability of adaptive change with evolutionary generation and population fitness were introduced, and the improved genetic algorithm was tested by using Ackley function. The results show that compared with the traditional genetic algorithm, the improved genetic algorithm has better convergence speed and optimization quality. The improved genetic algorithm is applied to the parameters optimization of energy management strategy of series-parallel hybrid electric city bus. After optimization, both the economy of CCBC and the comprehensive scenario have been improved to a certain extent. Moreover, compared with the optimized value based on the single cycle, the optimized value based on the comprehensive scenario has better economy under various working conditions, which indicates that the optimization method based on the comprehensive scenario is better than the optimization method based on the single cycle in terms of the adaptability of working condition.

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OPTIMAL ENERGY MANAGEMENT FOR SERIES-PARALLEL HYBRID ELECTRIC CITY BUS

Summary

This paper aims at proposing an efficient energy management strategy of the series-parallel hybrid electric bus (SPHEB) by using improved genetic algorithm. Firstly, the energy management strategy based on the logical threshold value is developed. The simulation model considering the vehicle dynamic performance is established by the combination of Matlab and Cruise software. Then, an improved genetic algorithm based on adaptive crossover probability and mutation probability is proposed to solve local convergence and premature convergence. Eventually, Chinese typical city bus driving cycle and the composite driving cycle are considered to show the effectiveness of the proposed energy management strategy in terms of the fuel economy. The results indicate that the fuel consumption is improved by 5.85% and 5.01% respectively, and the parameters obtained by optimizing for the composite driving cycle are more adaptable to the driving conditions and have better economic performance in all driving scenarios.

Keyword: series-parallel hybrid electric city bus, optimize, energy management strategy, genetic algorithm.

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