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Inventor(s)	Kim; Dong-Hyun et al.

Battery rack and energy storage system including the same

Abstract

A battery rack includes a rack case, and a first battery module assembly and a second battery module assembly respectively including a plurality of battery modules stacked along an upper and lower direction of the rack case, and, inside the rack case, the plurality of battery modules of the second battery module assembly are arranged such that upper and lower portions thereof are inverted based on the arrangement of the plurality of battery modules of the first battery module assembly.

Inventors:	Kim; Dong-Hyun (Daejeon, KR), Lee; Kyung-Min (Daejeon, KR), Lee; Seung-Jun (Daejeon, KR), Jung; Goan-Su (Daejeon, KR), Son; Kown (Daejeon, KR), Kim; Hee-Chan (Daejeon, KR), Lee; Jong-Soo (Daejeon, KR)
Applicant:	LG Energy Solution, Ltd. (Seoul, KR)
Family ID:	1000008767719
Assignee:	LG ENERGY SOLUTION, LTD. (Seoul, KR)
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Primary Examiner: Martin; Matthew T

Assistant Examiner: Higgins; Katherine N

Attorney, Agent or Firm: Birch, Stewart, Kolasch & Birch, LLP

Background/Summary

TECHNICAL FIELD

(1) The present disclosure relates to a battery rack and an energy storage system including the battery rack.

(2) The present application claims priority to Korean Patent Application No. 10-2019-0111599 filed on Sep. 9, 2019 in the Republic of Korea, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND ART

(3) Secondary batteries which are highly applicable to various products and exhibit superior electrical properties such as high energy density, etc. are commonly used not only in portable devices but also in electric vehicles (EVs) or hybrid electric vehicles (HEVs) driven by electrical power sources. The secondary battery is drawing attentions as a new energy source for enhancing environment friendliness and energy efficiency in that the use of fossil fuels can be reduced greatly and no byproduct is generated during energy consumption.

(4) Secondary batteries widely used at present include lithium ion batteries, lithium polymer batteries, nickel cadmium batteries, nickel hydrogen batteries, nickel zinc batteries and the like. An operating voltage of the unit secondary battery cell, namely a unit battery cell, is about 2.5V to 4.5V. Therefore, if a higher output voltage is required, a plurality of battery cells may be connected in series to configure a battery pack. In addition, depending on the charge/discharge capacity required for the battery pack, a plurality of battery cells may be connected in parallel to configure a battery pack. Thus, the number of battery cells included in the battery pack may be variously set according to the required output voltage or the demanded charge/discharge capacity.

(5) Meanwhile, when a plurality of battery cells are connected in series or in parallel to configure a battery pack, it is common to configure a battery module including at least one battery cell first, and then configure a battery rack by using at least one battery module and adding other components. Here, according to various voltage and capacity requirements, an energy storage system may be configured to include at least one battery rack that includes at least one battery module.

(6) The conventional battery rack is configured to include a plurality of battery modules and a rack case for accommodating the plurality of battery modules. Here, the plurality of battery modules are generally arranged to be vertically stacked in a line inside the rack case along an upper and lower direction of the rack case, and are electrically connected to each other via a bus bar unit that connects terminals of the battery modules inside the rack case for electrical connection with each other.

(7) Meanwhile, recently, the capacity increase of the battery rack is accelerating according to the request of customers. Accordingly, when the plurality of battery modules are vertically stacked in the rack case, the need for a two-row vertical stacking structure is increasing instead of a one-row structure.

(8) However, in the case of the plurality of battery modules having a two-row vertical stacking structure, it is not easy to connect the terminals of the battery modules. Conventionally, in the two-row vertical stacking structure, for electrical connection between a terminal of one battery module and a terminal of another battery module, a bus bar unit having a very long length and bent multiple times or extended diagonally is needed. Accordingly, due to the bus bar unit, the overall electrical connection of the battery modules has a complicated shape, which is disadvantageous in terms of space utilization. In addition, the bus bar unit causes the increase of manufacturing costs and increases the overall assembly process time.

(9) Therefore, it is needed to find a way for providing a battery rack capable of efficiently connecting terminals of battery modules and reducing manufacturing cost, and an energy storage system including the battery rack.

DISCLOSURE

Technical Problem

(10) The present disclosure is directed to providing a battery rack capable of efficiently connecting terminals of battery modules, and an energy storage system including the battery rack.

(11) In addition, the present disclosure is also directed to providing a battery rack capable of reducing manufacturing costs and improving assembly process efficiency, and an energy storage system including the battery rack.

Technical Solution

- (12) In one aspect of the present disclosure, there is provided a battery rack, comprising:
- (13) a rack case having a predetermined accommodation space;
- (14) a plurality of battery modules including a first plurality of battery modules and a second plurality of battery modules, each of the plurality of battery modules having a positive electrode terminal at a first end and a negative electrode terminal at a second end;
- (15) a first battery module assembly disposed inside the rack case and including the first plurality of battery modules stacked along an upper and lower direction of the rack case, the positive electrode terminal being above the negative electrode terminal; and
- (16) a second battery module assembly disposed to be spaced apart from the first battery module assembly by a predetermined distance and including the second plurality of battery modules stacked along the upper and lower direction of the rack case,
- (17) wherein, inside the rack case, the second plurality of battery modules of the second battery module assembly are inverted based on the arrangement of the first plurality of battery modules of the first battery module assembly to have the negative electrode terminal being above the positive electrode terminal.
- (18) The battery rack may further comprise a bus bar unit configured to electrically connect the first plurality of battery modules of the first battery module assembly and the second plurality of battery modules of the second battery module assembly.
- (19) Each component of the bus bar unit may be provided to have a straight bar shape.
- (20) The bus bar unit may include a plurality of first bus bar members configured to connect the first plurality of battery modules of the first battery module assembly to each other; a plurality of second bus bar members configured to connect the second plurality of battery modules of the second battery module assembly to each other; and a connection bus bar member configured to connect the first battery module assembly and the second battery module assembly to each other.
- (21) The connection bus bar member may be configured to connect a battery module at a bottom end of the first battery module assembly and a battery module at a bottom end of the second battery module assembly to each other.
- (22) The connection bus bar member may be provided to have a straight bar shape and configured to connect the battery module at the bottom end of the first battery module assembly and the battery module at the bottom end of the second battery module assembly to each other in a horizontal direction of the rack case.
- (23) Each of the plurality of battery modules may include at least one battery cell; and a module case configured to accommodate the at least one battery wherein the positive electrode terminal and the negative electrode terminal are provided at one side of the module case and electrically connected to the at least one battery cell.
- (24) The positive electrode terminal and the negative electrode terminal of each of the plurality of battery modules may be arranged in an upper and lower direction at one end of the module case.
- (25) Each of the plurality of battery modules may further include an identifying member provided to the module case and configured to determine whether each of the plurality of battery modules are arranged in a forward direction or a rearward direction based on the upper and lower direction of the rack case.
- (26) In addition, each of the plurality of battery modules may include at least two cell assemblies having a plurality of battery cells; and a battery management system configured to control charging and discharging of the plurality of battery cells.
- (27) Further, the battery rack may include a central control unit configured to receive state information of the plurality of battery modules from the battery management system provided to each of the plurality of battery modules and control charging and discharging of the plurality of battery modules.
- (28) Also, the battery rack may further include:
- (29) a cooling fan provided to each of the plurality of battery modules and configured to put an

external air into each of the plurality of battery modules; and a fan power cable configured to supply power to operate the cooling fan.

(30) Moreover, the fan power cable may include:

(31) a power source electrically connected to the central control unit to supply power to the cooling fan; and

(32) a connector unit configured to branch in left and right directions toward each of the plurality of battery modules and connected to an external power terminal of the cooling fan.

(33) In addition, the connector unit of the fan power cable may include:

(34) a first connector portion configured to branch to each of the first plurality of battery modules of the first battery module assembly; and

(35) a second connector portion configured to branch to each of the second plurality of battery modules of the second battery module assembly.

(36) Further, the battery rack may further comprise a communication cable configured to provide and receive a communication signal between the central control unit and the battery management system provided to each of the plurality of battery modules.

(37) Also, the communication cable may include:

(38) a connection portion configured to extend along the first plurality of battery modules of the first battery module assembly or the second plurality of battery modules of the second battery module assembly and connected to the battery management system provided to each of the plurality of battery modules; and

(39) an extension portion configured to extend to connect the battery management systems respectively provided to the first battery module assembly and the second battery module assembly to each other,

(40) wherein the extension portion may be configured to extend from a battery module at a bottom end of the first battery module assembly to a battery module at a bottom end of the second battery module assembly.

(41) Moreover, the present disclosure also provides an energy storage system, comprising at least one battery rack according to the above embodiments.

Advantageous Effects

(42) According to various embodiments as described above, it is possible to provide a battery rack capable of efficiently connecting terminals of battery modules, and an energy storage system including the battery rack.

(43) In addition, according to various embodiments as described above, it is possible to provide a battery rack capable of reducing manufacturing costs and improving assembly process efficiency, and an energy storage system including the battery rack.

Description

DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

(1) The accompanying drawings illustrate a preferred embodiment of the present disclosure and together with the foregoing disclosure, serve to provide further understanding of the technical features of the present disclosure, and thus, the present disclosure is not construed as being limited to the drawing.

(2) FIG. 1 is a diagram for illustrating a battery rack according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.

(3) FIG. 2 is a diagram for illustrating a battery module of a first battery module assembly, provided to the battery rack of FIG. 1.

(4) FIG. 3 is a diagram for illustrating a battery module of a second battery module assembly, provided to the battery rack of FIG. 1.

- (5) FIGS. **4** to **8** are diagrams for illustrating a process of assembling the battery rack of FIG. **1**.
(6) FIGS. **9** and **10** are diagrams for illustrating a battery rack according to another embodiment of the present disclosure.
(7) FIG. **11** is a front view for illustrating the battery rack according to another embodiment of the present disclosure.
(8) FIG. **12** is a diagram for illustrating an energy storage system according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.

BEST MODE

- (9) The present disclosure will become more apparent by describing in detail the embodiments of the present disclosure with reference to the accompanying drawings. It should be understood that the embodiments disclosed herein are illustrative only for better understanding of the present disclosure, and that the present disclosure may be modified in various ways. In addition, for ease understanding of the present disclosure, the accompanying drawings are not drawn to real scale, but the dimensions of some components may be exaggerated.
- (10) FIG. **1** is a diagram for illustrating a battery rack according to an embodiment of the present disclosure, FIG. **2** is a diagram for illustrating a battery module of a first battery module assembly, provided to the battery rack of FIG. **1**, and FIG. **3** is a diagram for illustrating a battery module of a second battery module assembly, provided to the battery rack of FIG. **1**.
- (11) Referring to FIGS. **1** to **3**, a battery rack **10** may include a rack case **100**, a first battery module assembly **200**, a second battery module assembly **205**, and a bus bar unit **300**.
- (12) The rack case **100** is configured to accommodate the first battery module assembly **200** and the second battery module assembly **205**, explained later, and may have a predetermined accommodation space for this purpose.
- (13) The first battery module assembly **200** is disposed inside the rack case **100**, and may include a plurality of battery modules **250**.
- (14) The plurality of battery modules **250** may be vertically stacked inside the rack case **100** along an upper and lower direction of the rack case **100**. Each of the battery modules **250** may include a battery cell **251**, a module case **253**, a positive electrode terminal **255**, and a negative electrode terminal **257**.
- (15) The battery cell **251** is a secondary battery and may be provided as a pouch-type secondary battery, a rectangular secondary battery, or a cylindrical secondary battery. Hereinafter, in this embodiment, it will be described that the battery cell **251** is a pouch-type secondary battery.
- (16) At least one battery cell **251** or a plurality of battery cells **251** may be provided. Hereinafter, in this embodiment, it will be described that the battery cell **251** is provided in plural.
- (17) The module case **253** may accommodate the at least one battery cell **251** or the plurality of battery cells **251**. To this end, the accommodation space for accommodating the battery cell **251** may be provided in the module case **253**.
- (18) The positive electrode terminal **255** is electrically connected to the at least one battery cell **251** or the plurality of battery cells **251** and may be provided at one side of the module case **253**. Specifically, the positive electrode terminal **255** may be disposed at the front of one end of the module case **253**.
- (19) The negative electrode terminal **257** is electrically connected to the at least one battery cell **251** or the plurality of battery cells **251** and may be provided at one side of the module case **253**. Specifically, the negative electrode terminal **257** may be disposed at the front of one end of the module case **253** and may be arranged in an upper and lower direction with respect to the positive electrode terminal **255** at one end of the module case **253**.
- (20) In this embodiment, in each of the battery modules **250** of the first battery module assembly **200**, in the upper and lower direction of the rack case **100**, the positive electrode terminal **255** may be disposed above the negative electrode terminal **257**.
- (21) The second battery module assembly **205** may be disposed to be spaced apart from the first

battery module assembly **200** by a predetermined distance in a horizontal direction. The second battery module assembly **205** may include a plurality of battery modules **250** vertically stacked along the upper and lower direction of the rack case **100**.

(22) The second battery module assembly **205** and the first battery module assembly **200** may form a two-row vertical stacking structure inside the rack case **100**. Accordingly, the battery rack **10** according to this embodiment may implement a large-capacity battery rack **10** with a higher energy density.

(23) The plurality of battery modules **250** of the second battery module assembly **205** may also include a battery cell **251**, a module case **253**, a positive electrode terminal **255**, and a negative electrode terminal **257**.

(24) In the rack case **100**, the plurality of battery modules **250** of the second battery module assembly **205** are arranged such that upper and lower portions thereof are inverted based on the arrangement of the plurality of battery modules **250** of the first battery module assembly **200**.

(25) Accordingly, in the plurality of battery modules **250** of the second battery module assembly **205**, in the upper and lower direction of the rack case **100**, the positive electrode terminal **255** may be disposed under the negative electrode terminal **257**. Conversely, in the plurality of battery modules **250** of the first battery module assembly **200**, in the upper and lower direction of the rack case **100**, the positive electrode terminal **255** may be disposed above the negative electrode terminal **257**.

(26) That is, the plurality of battery modules **250** of the first battery module assembly **200** may be arranged in a forward direction based on the upper and lower direction of the rack case **100**, and the plurality of battery modules **250** of the second battery module assembly **205** may be arranged in a rearward direction based on the upper and lower direction of the rack case **100**. Here, the forward direction may refer to a direction in which the positive electrode terminal **255** is disposed above the negative electrode terminal **257** based on the upper and lower direction of the rack case **100**, and the rearward direction may refer to a direction in which the positive electrode terminal **255** is disposed below the negative electrode terminal **257** based on the upper and lower direction of the rack case **100**.

(27) According to this arrangement, the positive electrode terminal **255** and the negative electrode terminal **257** of the plurality of battery modules **250** of the second battery module assembly **205** disposed at the right of the first battery module assembly **200** may be disposed at the front of the left end of the module case **253**, and the positive electrode terminal **255** and the negative electrode terminal **257** of the plurality of battery modules **250** of the first battery module assembly **200** may be disposed at the front of the right end of the module case **253**, so that their terminals **255**, **257** are placed closer to each other.

(28) The bus bar unit **300** may electrically connect the plurality of battery modules **250** of the first battery module assembly **200** and the plurality of battery modules **250** of the second battery module assembly **205**.

(29) The bus bar unit **300** may include a first bus bar member **310**, a second bus bar member **330**, and a connection bus bar member **350**.

(30) The first bus bar member **310** is provided to have a straight bar shape elongated in one direction and may be provided in plural. The plurality of first bus bar members **310** may connect the plurality of battery modules **250** of the first battery module assembly **200** to each other.

(31) The second bus bar member **330** is provided to have a straight bar shape elongated in one direction and may be provided in plural, like the first bus bar member **310**. The plurality of second bus bar members **330** may connect the plurality of battery modules **250** of the second battery module assembly **205** to each other.

(32) The connection bus bar member **350** may be provided to have a straight bar shape elongated in one direction, like the first bus bar member **310** and the second bus bar member **330**. That is, in this embodiment, all the first bus bar member **310**, the second bus bar member **330** and the connection

bus bar member **350** may be provided in a straight bar shape. After all, in this embodiment, the bus bar units **300** may be provided to have the same straight bar shape. In other words, the bus bar units may have a simple shape, rather than a complicatedly bent shape.

(33) The connection bus bar member **350** may connect the first battery module assembly **200** and the second battery module assembly **205** to each other. Specifically, the connection bus bar member **350** may connect a battery module **250** at a bottom end of the first battery module assembly **200** and a battery module **250** at a bottom end of the second battery module assembly **205** to each other. More specifically, the connection bus bar member **350** may connect the negative electrode terminal **257** of the battery module **250** at the bottom end of the first battery module assembly **200** and the positive electrode terminal **255** of the battery module **250** at the bottom end of the second battery module assembly **205** to each other in a horizontal direction of the rack case **100**.

(34) At this time, the positive electrode terminal **255** and the negative electrode terminal **257** are formed at the front of the right end of the battery module **250** of the first battery module assembly **200**, and the negative electrode terminal **257** and the positive electrode terminal **255** are formed at the front of the left end of the battery module **250** of the second battery module assembly **205**. Accordingly, the negative electrode terminal **257** of the battery module **250** of the first battery module assembly **200** may be located close to the positive electrode terminal **255** of the battery module **250** of the second battery module assembly **205**.

(35) Therefore, according to this configuration of the present disclosure, since the plurality of battery modules of the second battery module assembly are arranged inside the rack case such that their upper and lower portions are inverted based on the arrangement of the plurality of battery modules of the first battery module assembly, the length of the connection bus bar member **350** for connecting the first battery module assembly **200** and the second battery module assembly **205** to each other may be minimized.

(36) That is, in the prior art, if the first battery module assembly and the first battery module assembly arranged in the left and right direction inside the rack case are arranged in the same pattern, their electrode terminals are formed at one sides of the battery modules and thus far away from each other, so the conventional connection bus bar member needs to be formed as long as the left and right length of the battery module. Moreover, the connection bus bar member of the elongated structure not only increases material cost, but also blocks the front of the battery module after installation, which makes a worker using the battery module uncomfortable. Therefore, the battery rack of the present disclosure may greatly reduce the length of the connection bus bar member, thereby reducing the manufacturing cost of the battery rack and greatly increasing the convenience of use.

(37) Hereinafter, the assembly process of the battery rack **10** according to this embodiment will be described in more detail.

(38) FIGS. **4** to **8** are diagrams for illustrating a process of assembling the battery rack of FIG. **1**.

(39) Referring to FIG. **4**, in the assembly process of the battery rack **10**, a manufacturer or the like may vertically stack the battery modules **250** of the first battery module assembly **200** in the rack case **100**. Here, the battery modules **250** of the first battery module assembly **200** may be arranged in a forward direction based on the upper and lower direction of the rack case **100**.

(40) Referring to FIGS. **5** and **6**, the manufacturer or the like may vertically stack the battery modules **250** of the second battery module assembly **205** in the rack case **100**. Here, before stacking the battery modules **250** of the second battery module assembly **205**, the manufacturer or the like may invert the battery modules **250** into a rearward direction first. That is, the manufacturer or the like may arrange the battery modules **250** of the second battery module assembly **205** in the rearward direction and then vertically stack the battery modules **250** inside the rack case **100**.

(41) As the vertical stacking of the second battery module assembly **205**, the first battery module assembly **200** and the second battery module assembly **205** may be arranged in a two-row vertical stacking structure inside the rack case **100**.

(42) Referring to FIGS. 7 and 8, if the first battery module assembly **200** and the second battery module assembly **205** are completely stacked, the manufacturer or the like may electrically connect the first battery module assembly **200** and the second battery module assembly **205** by means of the bus bar unit **300**.

(43) Specifically, the vertically stacked battery modules **250** of the first battery module assembly **200** may be electrically connected to each other through the plurality of first bus bar members **310**, and the vertically stacked battery modules **250** of the second battery module assembly **205** may be electrically connected to each other through the plurality of second bus bar members **330**.

(44) In addition, through the connection bus bar member **350**, the first battery module assembly **200** and the second battery module assembly **205** may be connected to each other. Specifically, the connection bus bar member **350** may connect the negative electrode terminal **257** of the battery module **250** at the bottom end of the first battery module assembly **200** and the positive electrode terminal **255** of the battery module **250** at the bottom end of the second battery module assembly **205** to each other, in the horizontal direction of the rack case **100**.

(45) In this embodiment, as the battery modules **250** of the first battery module assembly **200** and the battery modules **250** of the second battery module assembly **205** are arranged in opposite directions, the negative electrode terminal **257** of the battery module **250** at the bottom end of the first battery module assembly **200** and the positive electrode terminal **255** of the battery module **250** at the bottom end of the second battery module assembly **205** may be disposed to face each other with the shortest distance.

(46) Accordingly, in this embodiment, the connection bus bar member **350** may have a predetermined straight bar shape, like the first bus bar member **310** and the second bus bar member **330**. Through the connection bus bar member **350**, the first battery module assembly **200** and the second battery module assembly **205** may be connected more conveniently.

(47) That is, in this embodiment, when implementing the two-row vertical stacking structure of the first battery module assembly **200** and the second battery module assembly **205**, since the battery modules **250** of the first battery module assembly **200** and the battery modules **250** of the second battery module assembly **205** are arranged such that their upper and lower portions are inverted, the distance between the terminals **255**, **257** for electrical connection may be realized to be shortest. Accordingly, it is possible to simplify the structure and connection form of the bus bar unit **300** that connects the terminals. That is, the terminals may be conveniently connected through the connection bus bar member **350** having a simple straight bar shape, without extending the connection bus bar member **350** diagonally with a too long length or having a multi-stage bent structure as in the prior art.

(48) Therefore, in this embodiment, when implementing the two-row vertical stacking structure of the first battery module assembly **200** and the second battery module assembly **205**, the terminal connection efficiency of the battery modules **250**, namely the wiring efficiency, may be remarkably increased.

(49) Accordingly, in this embodiment, the overall electrical connection form of the battery modules **250** may be remarkably simplified, and space utilization inside the rack case **100** may be improved.

(50) In addition, in this embodiment, the shape of the bus bar unit **300** may also be simplified and unified uniformly, so it is possible to reduce the manufacturing cost of the bus bar unit **300** and significantly shorten the assembly process time for the bus bar unit **300**.

(51) FIGS. 9 and 10 are diagrams for illustrating a battery rack according to another embodiment of the present disclosure.

(52) Since a battery rack **20** according to this embodiment is similar to the battery rack **10** of the former embodiment, hereinafter, features substantially identical or similar to the former embodiment will not be described again, and features different from the former embodiment will be described in detail.

(53) Referring to FIGS. 9 and 10, the battery rack **20** may include a rack case **100**, a first battery

module assembly **207**, a second battery module assembly **205**, and a bus bar unit **300**.

(54) The rack case **100** is substantially identical or similar to the former embodiment, and thus will not be described again.

(55) Each of the first battery module assembly **207** and the second battery module assembly **208** may include a plurality of battery modules **252**.

(56) Each of the plurality of battery modules **252** may include a battery cell **251**, a module case **253**, a positive electrode terminal **255**, a negative electrode terminal **257**, and an identifying member **259**.

(57) The battery cell **251**, the module case **253**, the positive electrode terminal **255** and the negative electrode terminal **257** are substantially identical or similar to the former embodiment, and thus will not be described again.

(58) The identifying member **259** is provided to the module case **253** and allows to determine whether the arrangement state of the battery module **252** is a forward direction or a rearward direction based on the upper and lower direction of the rack case **100**.

(59) Specifically, the identifying member **259** is provided at a front center of the module case **253** and may be provided in an approximately triangular shape. The identifying member **259** may be arranged in an equilateral triangle shape in the forward direction and in an inverted triangle shape in the rearward direction.

(60) Accordingly, the identifying member **259** may be disposed in an equilateral triangle shape in the plurality of battery modules **252** of the first battery module assembly **207**, and the identifying member **259** may be disposed in an inverted triangle shape in the plurality of battery modules **252** of the second battery module assembly **208**.

(61) Accordingly, the manufacturer or the like may more conveniently distinguish whether the arrangement state of the battery modules **252** is the forward direction or the rearward direction by recognizing the identifying member **259**, and thus it is possible to effectively prevent the risk of mis-assembly during electrical connection through the bus bar unit **300**, explained later.

(62) The bus bar unit **300** may include a first bus bar member **310**, a second bus bar member **330**, and a connection bus bar member **350**.

(63) The first bus bar member **310**, the second bus bar member **330** and the connection bus bar member **350** are substantially identical or similar to the former embodiment, and thus will not be described again.

(64) As described above, in the battery rack **20** according to this embodiment, the risk of assembly failure caused by incorrect assembly may be significantly reduced by means of the identifying member **259** during the assembly process for the battery rack **10**.

(65) FIG. **11** is a front view for illustrating the battery rack according to another embodiment of the present disclosure.

(66) Referring to FIG. **11**, in a battery rack **10A** according to another embodiment, the positive electrode terminal **255** and the negative electrode terminal **257** of the battery module **250** provided in each of the first battery module assembly **203** and the second battery module assembly **204** are arranged at different positions, compared with the battery rack **10** shown in FIG. **7**.

(67) Specifically, in a plurality of battery modules **250A** provided to the first battery module assembly **203**, the positive electrode terminal **255** and the negative electrode terminal **257** may be biased to the left based on the center of the module. In addition, in a plurality of battery modules **250B** provided to the second battery module assembly **204**, the positive electrode terminal **255** and the negative electrode terminal **257** may be biased to the right based on the center of the module.

(68) In addition, the plurality of battery modules **250B** provided to the second battery module assembly **204** may have the same configuration as the plurality of battery modules **250A** provided to the first battery module assembly **203**, except that the plurality of battery modules **250B** are arranged to be inverted in the upper and lower direction. In other words, the components included the plurality of battery modules **250B** provided to the second battery module assembly **204** and the

components included the plurality of battery modules **250A** provided to the first battery module assembly **203** are symmetrically arranged in the left and right direction based on the center between the first battery module assembly **203** and the second battery module assembly **204**.

(69) Further, the first battery module assembly **203** may include a plurality of first bus bar members **310** elongated in the upper and lower direction along the stacking direction of the plurality of battery modules **250A**. That is, the first bus bar member **310** may be configured to connect the negative electrode terminal **257** of one battery module **250A** to the positive electrode terminal **255** of another battery module **250A**.

(70) The second battery module assembly **204** may include a plurality of second bus bar members **330** elongated in the upper and lower direction along the stacking direction of the plurality of battery modules **250B**. That is, the second bus bar member **330** may be configured to connect the positive electrode terminal **255** of one battery module **250B** to the negative electrode terminal **257** of another battery module **250B**.

(71) The battery rack **10A** may include a connection bus bar member **350** configured to connect the positive electrode terminal **255** of the battery module **250B** of the second battery module assembly **204** and the negative electrode terminal **257** of the battery module **250A** of the first battery module assembly **203**.

(72) Meanwhile, referring to FIG. **11** again, each of the plurality of battery modules **250** may include at least two cell assemblies (not shown), and a battery management system **260**.

(73) The cell assembly may include a plurality of battery cells. Here, the cell assembly is described above, and thus will not be described in detail again.

(74) The battery management system **260** may be configured to control charging and discharging of the plurality of battery cells. The battery management system **260** may include electronic components (not shown). For example, the electronic components may be a relay, a current sensor, a temperature sensor, a fuse, and the like. These electronic components may be components for managing charging and discharging of battery cells and securing safety.

(75) In addition, the battery rack **10A** may further include a central control unit **400**. Specifically, the central control unit **400** may be configured to receive state information of the battery module **250** from the battery management system **260** provided to each of the plurality of battery modules **250** and control charging and discharging of the plurality of battery modules **250**. For example, the central control unit **400** may include a communication part (not shown) for sending and receiving a communication signal, an analyzing part (not shown) for analyzing the communication signal, a supplying part **410** for supplying power to an external device or an internal part, and a memory part (not shown) for storing analysis contents of the communication signal.

(76) Moreover, the battery rack **10A** may further include a cooling fan **270** and a fan power cable **275**.

(77) The cooling fan **270** may be provided to each of the battery modules **250A**, **250B**. The cooling fan **270** may be configured to put an external air into the battery module **250**. Here, the cooling fan **270** may be a known cooling fan **270** that is commonly applied to a battery module. That is, the cooling fan **270** may include an electric motor and a blowing fan.

(78) In addition, the fan power cable **275** may include a wire (where a metal wire is embedded) configured to supply power to operate the cooling fan **270**, and an electrically insulating tube covering the wire.

(79) Further, the fan power cable **275** may include a power source **276** and a connector unit **278**.

(80) Specifically, the power source **276** may be electrically connected to the supplying part **410** of the central control unit **400** to supply power to the cooling fan **270**. For example, as shown in FIG. **11**, the fan power cable **275** may have a power source **276** provided at a distal end thereof and electrically connected to the supplying part **410** of the central control unit **400**.

(81) The connector unit **278** may be connected to an external power terminal of the cooling fan **270** provided to each of the first battery module assembly **203** and the second battery module assembly

204. For example, the connector unit **278** may be configured to branch in left and right directions toward the plurality of battery modules **250** provided to each of the first battery module assembly **203** and the second battery module assembly **204**. In addition, the connector unit **278** may be configured to extend in the upper and lower direction between the first battery module assembly **203** and the second battery module assembly **204**.

(82) In addition, the connector unit **278** of the fan power cable **275** may include a first connector portion **278a** and a second connector portion **278b**.

(83) The first connector portion **278a** may have a structure branching to each of the plurality of battery modules **250** of the first battery module assembly **203**.

(84) The second connector portion **278b** may have a structure spaced apart from the first connector portion **278a** in the upper and lower direction and branching to each of the plurality of battery modules **250** of the second battery module assembly **204**.

(85) Therefore, according to this configuration of the present disclosure, since the fan power cable **275** includes a power source **276** electrically connected to the central control unit **400** to supply power to the cooling fan **270** and a connector unit **278** branching in left and right directions toward the plurality of battery modules **250** provided to each of the first battery module assembly **203** and the second battery module assembly **204** and connected to the external power terminal of the cooling fan **270**, the cooling fan **270** provided to each of the first battery module assembly **203** and the second battery module assembly **204** may be more easily connected to the central control unit **400** by means of the fan power cable **275** configured as above.

(86) That is, in this embodiment, when implementing the two-row vertical stacking structure of the first battery module assembly **203** and the second battery module assembly **204**, the battery modules **250A** of the first battery module assembly **203** and the battery modules **250B** of the second battery module assembly **204** are arranged such that their configurations are disposed oppositely in the left and right directions, and thus the connection distance of the fan power cable **275** for electrically connecting the provided cooling fans **270** may be realized in the shortest distance.

(87) Accordingly, by simplifying the connection structure of the fan power cable **275**, it is possible to reduce the manufacturing cost and installation time of components. In other words, the present disclosure may eliminate the inevitable disadvantages of the prior art where two fan power cables are respectively used for battery module assemblies vertically stacked in two rows since the distance is too to connect the fan power cables in parallel connection to supply power to the cooling fans of the battery module assemblies vertically stacked in two rows.

(88) Meanwhile, referring to FIG. **11** again, the battery rack **10A** may further include a communication cable **280**. The communication cable **280** may be configured to transmit and receive a communication signal between the central control unit **400** and the battery management system **260** provided to each of the plurality of battery modules **250**. For example, the communication cable **280** may be configured to transmit information such as temperature, current and voltage of the battery module **250**.

(89) The communication cable **280** may use a known communication cable commonly applied to a battery rack. Accordingly, the communication cable **280** will not be described in detail here.

(90) The communication cable **280** may include a connection portion **282** and an extension portion **284**.

(91) The connection portion **282** may extend along the plurality of stacked battery modules **250** of the first battery module assembly **203** or the second battery module assembly **204**. The connection portion **282** may be connected to the battery management system **260** provided to each of the plurality of battery modules **250**.

(92) The extension portion **284** may extend to connect the battery management systems **260** provided to the first battery module assembly **203** and the second battery module assembly **204** with each other.

(93) For example, the extension portion **284** may have a structure extending from the battery module **250A** at the bottom end of the first battery module assembly **203** to the battery module **250B** at the bottom end of the second battery module assembly **204**.

(94) Therefore, according to this configuration of the present disclosure, since the extension portion **284** of the communication cable **280** extends to be connected from the battery module **250A** at the bottom end of the first battery module assembly **203** to the battery module **250B** at the bottom end of the second battery module assembly **204**, it is possible to more conveniently connect the central control unit **400** to the battery management system **260** provided to each of the first battery module assembly **203** and the second battery module assembly **204** through the communication cable **280** configured as above.

(95) That is, in this embodiment, when implementing the two-row vertical stacking structure of the first battery module assembly **203** and the second battery module assembly **204**, the battery modules **250A** of the first battery module assembly **203** and the battery modules **250B** of the second battery module assembly **204** are arranged such that their configurations are disposed oppositely in the left and right directions, and thus the connection distance of the communication cable **280** for communication between the central control unit **400** and the battery management system **260** may be realized in the shortest distance.

(96) Accordingly, by simplifying the connection structure of the communication cable **280**, it is possible to reduce the manufacturing cost and installation time of components. That is, in the prior art, in order to connect the communication cables of battery module assemblies vertically stacked in two rows, it is inevitable to connect the battery module at the bottom end of the battery module assembly disposed at the right to the battery module at the top of the battery module assembly disposed at the left. For this reason, the length of the communication cable increases greatly, which increases the material cost and causes inconvenience to the user after the battery rack is installed.

(97) Therefore, the present disclosure effectively solves the problem of the prior art by minimizing the connection length of the communication cable **280**.

(98) FIG. **12** is a diagram for illustrating an energy storage system according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.

(99) Referring to FIG. **12**, an energy storage system **1** is an energy source and may be used for home or industrial use. The energy storage system **1** may include at least one battery rack **10**, **20** of the former embodiment, or a plurality of battery racks **10**, **20** in this embodiment, and a rack container **50** for accommodating the plurality of battery racks **10**, **20**.

(100) Since the energy storage system **1** according to this embodiment includes the battery rack **10**, **20** of the former embodiment, it is possible to provide an energy storage system **1** that includes all the advantages of the battery rack **10**, **20** of the former embodiment.

(101) Moreover, the battery rack **10**, **20** of the former embodiment may also be provided to vehicles such as electric vehicles, or other facilities such as other devices or appliances having a secondary battery as an energy source, in addition to the energy storage system **1**.

(102) According to various embodiments as described above, it is possible to provide a battery rack **10**, **20** capable of efficiently connecting terminals of battery modules **250**, **252**, and an energy storage system **1** including the battery rack **10**, **20**.

(103) In addition, according to various embodiments as described above, it is possible to provide a battery rack **10**, **20** capable of reducing manufacturing costs and improving assembly process efficiency, and an energy storage system **1** including the battery rack **10**, **20**.

(104) Meanwhile, even though the terms indicating directions such as upper, lower, left, right, front and rear directions are used in the specification, it is obvious to those skilled in the art that these merely represent relative locations for convenience in explanation and may vary based on a location of an observer or an object.

(105) The present disclosure has been described in detail. However, it should be understood that the detailed description and specific examples, while indicating preferred embodiments of the

disclosure, are given by way of illustration only, since various changes and modifications within the scope of the disclosure will become apparent to those skilled in the art from this detailed description.

REFERENCE SIGNS

(106) TABLE-US-00001 1: energy storage system 10: battery rack 20: battery rack 50: rack container 100: rack case 200, 203, 207: first battery module assembly 204, 205, 208: second battery module assembly 250, 252: battery module 251: battery cell 253: module case 255: positive electrode terminal 257: negative electrode terminal 259: identifying member 300: bus bar unit 310: first bus bar member 330: second bus bar member 350: connection bus bar member 260: battery management system 400: central control unit 270: cooling fan 275: fan power cable 276, 278: power source, connector unit 280: communication cable 282, 284: connection portion, extension portion

INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

(107) The present disclosure relates to a battery rack. In addition, the present disclosure may be used in industries related to a large-scale energy storage system including the battery rack.

Claims

1. A battery rack, comprising: a rack case having a predetermined accommodation space; a plurality of battery modules including a first plurality of battery modules and a second plurality of battery modules, each of the plurality of battery modules having a positive electrode terminal and a negative electrode terminal on a first end of the battery modules, the first end facing a first direction; a first battery module assembly disposed inside the rack case and including the first plurality of battery modules stacked along an upper and lower direction of the rack case, the positive electrode terminal being above the negative electrode terminal; and a second battery module assembly disposed to be spaced apart from the first battery module assembly by a predetermined distance and including the second plurality of battery modules stacked along the upper and lower direction of the rack case, wherein, inside the rack case, the second plurality of battery modules of the second battery module assembly are inverted based on the arrangement of the first plurality of battery modules of the first battery module assembly to have the negative electrode terminal being above the positive electrode terminal, and wherein each of the plurality of battery modules further includes an identifying member provided to a module case and spaced from the negative electrode terminal and positive electrode terminal and configured to indicate an orientation of each of the plurality of battery modules, wherein the identifying member has a first orientation and a second orientation which is inverted to the first orientation, wherein the identifying member has a different visual appearance in the first orientation and the second orientation, and wherein the identifying member of each of the first plurality of battery modules is in the first orientation and the identifying member of each of the second plurality of battery modules is in the second orientation.

2. The battery rack according to claim 1, further comprising: a bus bar configured to electrically connect the first plurality of battery modules of the first battery module assembly and the second plurality of battery modules of the second battery module assembly.

3. The battery rack according to claim 2, wherein each component of the bus bar is provided to have a straight bar shape.

4. The battery rack according to claim 2, wherein the bus bar includes: a plurality of first bus bar members configured to connect the first plurality of battery modules of the first battery module assembly to each other; a plurality of second bus bar members configured to connect the second plurality of battery modules of the second battery module assembly to each other; and a connection bus bar member configured to connect the first battery module assembly and the second battery module assembly to each other.

5. The battery rack according to claim 4, wherein the connection bus bar member is configured to connect a battery module at a bottom end of the first battery module assembly and a battery module at a bottom end of the second battery module assembly to each other.
 6. The battery rack according to claim 5, wherein the connection bus bar member is provided to have a straight bar shape and configured to connect the battery module at the bottom end of the first battery module assembly and the battery module at the bottom end of the second battery module assembly to each other in a horizontal direction of the rack case.
 7. The battery rack according to claim 2, wherein each of the plurality of battery modules includes: at least one battery cell; and a module case configured to accommodate the at least one battery cell, wherein the positive electrode terminal and the negative electrode terminal are provided at one side of the module case and electrically connected to the at least one battery cell.
 8. The battery rack according to claim 7, wherein the positive electrode terminal and the negative electrode terminal of each of the plurality of battery modules are arranged in an upper and lower direction at one end of the module case.
 9. The battery rack according to claim 7, wherein each of the plurality of battery modules further includes at least two cell assemblies having a plurality of battery cells; and a battery management system configured to control charging and discharging of the plurality of battery cells; and a central controller configured to receive state information of the plurality of battery modules from the battery management system provided to each of the plurality of battery modules and control charging and discharging of the plurality of battery modules.
 10. The battery rack according to claim 9, further comprising: a cooling fan provided to each of the plurality of battery modules and configured to put an external air into each of the plurality of battery modules; and a fan power cable configured to supply power to operate the cooling fan.
 11. The battery rack according to claim 10, wherein the fan power cable includes: a power source electrically connected to the central controller to supply power to the cooling fan; and a connector configured to branch in left and right directions toward each of the plurality of battery modules and connected to an external power terminal of the cooling fan.
 12. The battery rack according to claim 11, wherein the connector of the fan power cable includes: a first connector portion configured to branch to each of the first plurality of battery modules of the first battery module assembly; and a second connector portion configured to branch to each of the second plurality of battery modules of the second battery module assembly.
 13. The battery rack according to claim 9, further comprising: a communication cable configured to provide and receive a communication signal between the central controller and the battery management system provided to each of the plurality of battery modules, wherein the communication cable includes: a connection portion configured to extend along the first plurality of battery modules of the first battery module assembly or the second plurality of battery modules of the second battery module assembly and connected to the battery management system provided to each of the plurality of battery modules; and an extension portion configured to extend to connect the battery management systems respectively provided to the first battery module assembly and the second battery module assembly to each other, wherein the extension portion is configured to extend from a battery module at a bottom end of the first battery module assembly to a battery module at a bottom end of the second battery module assembly.
 14. An energy storage system, comprising at least one battery rack according to claim 1.
 15. The battery rack according to claim 1, further comprising a cooling fan and a communication cable on the first side of each of the plurality of battery modules.
 16. The battery rack according to claim 1, wherein a side of the rack case facing the first end of the plurality of battery modules is open.
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