Position and Load Independent DC to DC Wireless Power Transfer System for Moving Applications

PhD Project: Design of novel antenna systems for energy and data transfer

Alex Pacini

Supervisor: Prof. Alessandra Costanzo

Co-supervisors: Prof. Franco Mastri, Prof. Diego Masotti

DEI - Università di Bologna



Overview

- ▶ Tutorial
 - ► Introduction to Wireless Power Transfer (WPT)
 - ► Inductive Power Transfer (IPT)
 - ► Class E Resonant Inverter
 - ► Advantages of Wide Bandgap Semiconductors (WBG)
- ► Research Contribution
 - Geometry Optimization of Sliding Inductive Links for Position-Independent Wireless Power Transfer
 - Design of a Position-Independent End-to-End Inductive WPT Link for Industrial Dynamic Systems
- ▶ Conclusions

Tutorial

Introduction to Wireless Power Transfer (WPT)

Near Field and Far Field WPT

- Wireless Power Transfer (WPT) includes several technologies to transmit power without connecting wires
- "The transmission of power without wires will very soon create an industrial revolution and such as the world has never seen before," — Tesla in a 1906 letter to George Westinghouse
- ▶ We focus on those based on electromagnetic fields

Near Field

- ▶ Non radiative region $(r << \lambda)$
- ► Short and medium range
- ▶ Good efficiencies
- ► Frequency is low (usually f < 30 MHz)
- ► Quasi-static
- ► Inductive or capacitive coupling

Far Field

- ► Radiative region
- ► Long range
- Efficiency is very low
- ► Very directional antennas
- ► Frequency is high (usually f > 100 MHz)
- ► Light waves are also an option

Tutorial

Inductive Power Transfer (IPT)

Quiz 1!

How to improve the maximum efficiency of two inductively coupled coils with a low coupling coefficient?

- (A) Transmit more power, since the system is non linear
- (B) Make the primary coil resonant
- (C) Make the secondary coil resonant
- (D) It cannot be improved, since it only depends on the geometries

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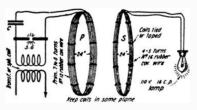


Introduction to Inductive Power Transfer

- ▶ Near-field inductive coupling was reported by Tesla [1] a century ago
- ▶ It relies on the near-field magnetic coupling of conductive loops
- ▶ In 2007, a MIT team lighted up a 60 W lamp using power transferred between two coils separated by 2 meters [2].
- ► The first to create a considerable buzz in the press, but there are also previous efforts, as [3]



Tesla Wardenclyffe Project [2]



Tesla's WPT experiment [4]

^[1] Tesla, 1914.

^[2] Schneider, 2010.

^[3] Joung and Cho, 1996.

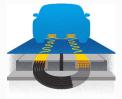
^[4] Hui, Zhong, and Lee, 2014.

Applications of Inductive Power Transfer

- ► Medical implants (~ µW)
- ► Induction heaters
- Wireless charging systems for portable equipment or vehicles
- ► Continuous wireless powering for industrial movers or vehicles
- ► Endless possibilities...







WPT charger (Wikipedia)

Intel's system [2]

Bus in Genoa (60 kW) [2]

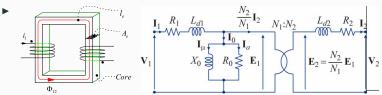
Electric car [5]

^[2] Schneider, 2010.

^[5] Ahn, Suh, and Cho, 2013.

Transformer

► In a regular transformer, the iron core allows almost the entire flux generated by current in one coil flow to the other



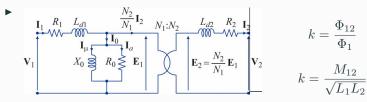
► The coupling coefficient *k* is defined as the fraction of flux from one coil that link with the other coil:

$$k = \frac{\Phi_{12}}{\Phi_1}$$
 $k = \frac{M_{12}}{\sqrt{L_1 L_2}}$

- ▶ In a iron core transformer, k is very high, typically 0.99, and therefore the leakage inductances (L_{d1} and L_{d2}) are small
- ▶ The magnetizing inductance (X_0) tends to be high
- ▶ If copper (R_1, R_2) and hysteresis (R_0) losses are low, the efficiency is very high (99% typical)

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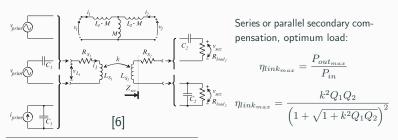
What if we remove the iron core?



- Medium range IPT systems can not have the iron core for mobility reasons
- ► The leakage inductances become large
 - $ightharpoonup \omega L_{d2}$ is much larger than the useful load at weak couplings and requires higher E_1 , which in turn requires higher primary currents
 - ▶ L_{d1} further reduces \mathbf{E}_1
- lacktriangle The magnetizing inductance falls dramatically, reducing again ${f E}_1$
- ▶ The efficiency is low (impractical for k below 5%)

Poor coupling = Poor efficiency? No!

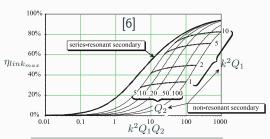
- lacktriangle Without the iron core, the iron losses are zero $(R_0=\infty)$
- ► Can be described by circuit theory for coupled circuits [6]
 - ► Resonance techniques can be employed
 - Secondary resonance sets the maximum efficiency with the optimum load $(\eta_{link_{max}})$
 - ► Primary resonance lowers the required driver output voltage



[6] Schuylenbergh and Puers, 2009.

The kQ product as FoM

- ► The coupling coefficient *k* is not a good Figure of Merit (FoM)
- ► The maximum efficiency depends also on the quality factors of the coils (Q₁, Q₂)
- ▶ A good FoM is the kQ product [7]
 - ► As $Q = |Z_{11}| / ESR \to kQ = |Z_{12}| / ESR$
 - ► ESR, Equivalent Scalar Resistance (for two coils $ESR = \sqrt{R_{11}R_{22}}$)
 - $k^2 Q_1 Q_2 = (\omega M_{12})^2 / (R_{11} R_{22}) = k^2 Q^2$



[7] Ohira, 2017.

[6] Schuylenbergh and Puers, 2009.

Uncompensated, optimum load:

$$\eta_{link_{max}} = \frac{k^2 Q_1 Q_2}{2 + k^2 Q_1 Q_2 + 2\sqrt{1 + Q_2^2 + k^2 Q_1 Q_2}}$$

Series or parallel secondary compensation, optimum load:

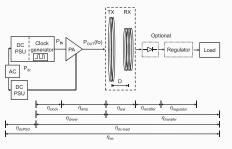
$$\eta_{link_{max}} = \frac{k^2 Q_1 Q_2}{2 + k^2 Q_1 Q_2 + 2\sqrt{1 + k^2 Q_1 Q_2}}$$

Good efficiency is possible with low k and high Q!

Maximizing kQ

- ► The coupling coefficient depends on coil geometry and distance only
 - ► Maximize the radius in the space available
 - Use specially shaped and optimized coils (i.e. Rx conformal to the magnetic field)
 - A bigger receiver coil at a fixed distance can have a lower k but higher kQ because of the increased inductance
- ► What about *Q*?
 - ► Choose an optimal frequency
 - Q is maximized when radiation begins to dominate losses for a certain size, but the coil is affected by parasitics (the reactance is not linear in frequency)
 - It is usually advised to use the highest frequency with a linear reactance
 - ► We are pushed in needing MHz power electronics
- ▶ k and Q are not mutually independent
- ► An EM optimization of the inductive link should be performed

IPT system blocks



$$\eta_{link_{max}} = \frac{k^2 Q_1 Q_2}{\left(1 + \sqrt{1 + k^2 Q_1 Q_2}\right)^2}$$

 $\eta_{ee} = \eta_{dcPSU} \, \eta_{dc-load}$

 $\eta_{dc-load} = \eta_{driver} \, \eta_{link}$

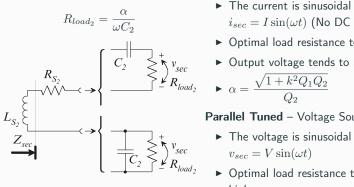
$$\eta_{dc-load} = \frac{P_{load}}{P_{dc}}$$

D [cm]	fo [kHz]	Driver Technology	Coil Technology	Magnetic Material	P_{load} [W]	$\eta_{transfer}$ [%]	$\eta_{dc\text{-}load} \\ [\%]$	η_{ee} [%]	Ref.
0	134	Class-E	Litz wire	No	295	-	-	75.7	[12]
0	240	Class-E	Litz wire	No	3.7	71	-	66	[13]
10	20	H-bridge	Litz wire	Yes	2,000	85	-	-	[6]
10	-	- "	-	Yes	3,300	-	-	90	[14]
15	6,700	HF transceiver	Loop + pancake coil	No	-	93	-	-	[15]
15	-	H-bridge	Litz wire	Yes	2,000	95	-	-	[16]
18	145	-	Litz wire	Yes	300-3,000	_	_	90	[17]-[19]
20	4,000	Class-E	Copper wire coil	No	2	-	50	-	[20]
20	20	H-bridge	Power lines	Yes	60,000	80	_	-	[21]
20	20	H-bridge	Power rail	Yes	27,000	-	-	74	[22]
30	3,700	HF transceiver	Surface spiral	No	220	95	-	-	[10]
30	6,000	Class-E	Copper pipe coils	No	95	_	77	-	[our work]
18-30, 40*	20	H-bridge		Yes	3,000	-	-	> 85	[23], [24]
70	7,650	Signal generator	Loop + pancake coil	No	30	75	_	-	[25]
50	13,560	Class-E	Loop + rectangle coil	No	70	85	70**	-	juj
50	27,000	HF transceiver	Loop + spiral coil	No	40	47	-	-	[8]
100	508.5	Class-D	Litz wire	No	5-35	76	_		[26]
200	9,900	Colpitts oscillator	Litz wire	No	60	50	-	(15)	[9] Kurs 2

[8] Pinuela, Yates, Lucyszyn, and Mitcheson 2013

Receiver resonance choice

Optimum load:



Series Tuned - Current Source

- ► The current is sinusoidal $i_{sec} = I \sin(\omega t)$ (No DC path!)
- ► Optimal load resistance tends to be low
- ► Output voltage tends to be low

Parallel Tuned - Voltage Source

- ► Optimal load resistance tends to be high
- Output voltage tends to be high

$$\qquad \qquad \bullet \quad \alpha = \frac{Q_2}{\sqrt{1 + k^2 Q_1 Q_2}}$$

Tutorial

Class E Resonant Inverter

Quiz 2!

Why is it advantageous to use soft-switching inverters?

- (A) They allow to turn on the switch at zero voltage, avoiding the switching losses
- (B) They allow higher switching frequencies
- **(C)** They allow to turn on the switch at zero voltage derivative, avoiding switching losses
- (D) All of the above

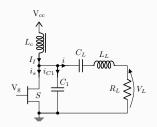
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Inverter and Losses

There are two types of losses in power devices

- Conduction losses, proportional to the square of current
- ► Switching losses, proportional to frequency
 - Can be eliminated using soft-switching techniques and enable high frequencies
- ► The need is to find a suitable soft-switching resonant inverter able to efficiently drive the primary coil

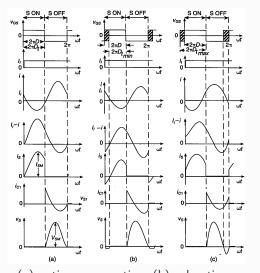


- ► The Class E Zero Voltage Switching (ZVS) inverter [9], [10]
 - ► Soft-switching resonant inverter
 - ► The most efficient inverters known so far

^[9] Sokal and Sokal, 1975.

^[10] Kazimierczuk, 2011.

Zero Voltage Switching (ZVS)

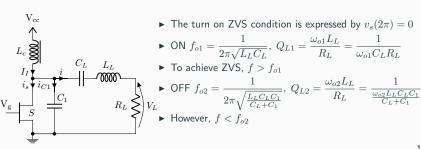


- ► The current and voltage waveform of the switch are designed for high efficiency operation by turning on the switch at zero voltage
- Switch current and voltage waveforms do not overlap during the switching time intervals
- Switching losses are virtually zero, yielding high efficiency

(a) optimum operation, (b) suboptimum operation with $dv_s(\omega t)/d(\omega t) < 0$, (c) $dv_s(\omega t)/d(\omega t) > 0$, at $\omega t = 2\pi$

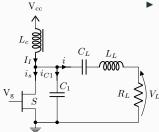
Class E Inverter 1/2

- lacktriangle The choke inductance L_C is assumed to be high enough to force a dc current I_I
- lacktriangle Switch is ON, the resonant circuit consists of L_L , C_L and R_L
- ▶ The series L_L - C_L has a slightly inductive reactance
- ▶ Switch is OFF, the resonant circuit consists of L_L , C_1 , C_L and R_L connected in series
- The load network is characterized by two resonant frequencies and two loaded quality factors



Class E Inverter 2/2

- lacktriangle If the loaded quality factor Q is high, i is approximately sinusoidal
- ▶ When the switch is ON, the current $I_I i$ flows through the switch
- ▶ When the switch is OFF, the current $I_I i$ flows through capacitor C_1
- $ightharpoonup C_1$ shapes the voltage across the switch
- ▶ A second condition is the zero-derivative switching (ZDS) $\left. \frac{dv_s(\omega t)}{d(\omega t)} \right|_{\omega t = 2\pi} = 0$
- ▶ With ZDS, Miller's effect is zero
 - ▶ The instantaneous voltage gain is zero, $C_{iss} = C_{gs} + C_{gd}$
 - ► The gate driver is less critical and ground referenced



- ▶ Optimum operation can be achieved only at the optimum load resistance $R_L = R_{L_{opt}}$
 - ▶ If $R_L > R_{Lopt}$, i is not sufficient to discharge C_1 and $v_s > 0$ at turn-on
 - \blacktriangleright If $R_L < R_{L_{opt}}$, $v_s < 0$ at turn-on
 - ► The energy in C_1 is dissipated in the transistor at turn-on

Tutorial

Advantages of Wide Bandgap (WBG) semiconductors

Quiz 3!

Why is it advantageous to use Wide Bandgap (WBG) semiconductors?

- (A) They are less expensive than silicon
- (B) They reduces the ON resistance of power switches
- (C) They are more rugged and better support over-currents
- (D) None of the above

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The power switch

The ideal power switch should

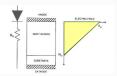
- be able to block high voltages without any leakage current when in the off state
- ▶ have zero resistance in the on state
- have an instantaneous switch on and switch off, without any charge storage

In real switches

- Switching losses can be eliminated using soft-switching techniques, i.e.
 Class E
- ▶ To reduce the conduction losses and increase the efficiency, the ON resistance of the switch (R_{on}) must be reduced
 - ▶ by using new device's structures (Super Junction, V-MOS, HEMT, ...)
 - ▶ by using WBG Semiconductors (GaN, SiC, Diamond, AIN, ...)

Reducing R_{on} : New device's structures

▶ 1D Abrupt Junction

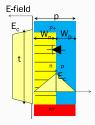


$$E(x) = \frac{-qN_D}{\varepsilon} \left(W_D - x \right)$$

$$V_{bd} = \frac{qN_DW_D^2}{2\varepsilon}$$
 $E_C = \frac{qN_DW_D}{\varepsilon}$

$$R_{on} = \frac{W_D^2}{\mu_n \varepsilon E_C} = \frac{4V_{bd}^2}{\mu_n \varepsilon E_C^3}$$

▶ 2D Resurf Junction



 E_C is sum of two contributes

$$E_C = \frac{qN_nW_n}{\varepsilon} + \frac{qN_pW_p}{\varepsilon}$$

$$R_{on} = \frac{2pV_{bd}}{E_C^2 \varepsilon \mu_n}$$

The Resurf increases the breakdown voltage by shaping the electric field

► High Electron Mobility Transistor (HEMT)

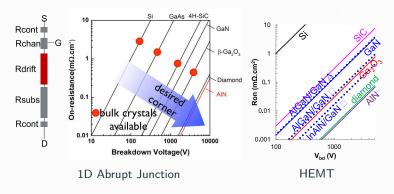


- ▶ 2DEG channel instead of a doped region
- 2DEG originates from an heterojunction between polar crystals with different electro-negativity (as GaN and AlGaN)
- lacktriangle Low C_{oss} , no junctions to be depleted
- ► High speed, majority carrier device
- ► High breakdown voltage, semiconductor is undoped and behaves as dielectric
- ► Low Ron, due to high 2DEG density

$$R_{on} = \frac{4}{qN_s\mu_N} \frac{V_{bd}^2}{E_C^2}$$

Reducing R_{on} : WBG Semiconductors

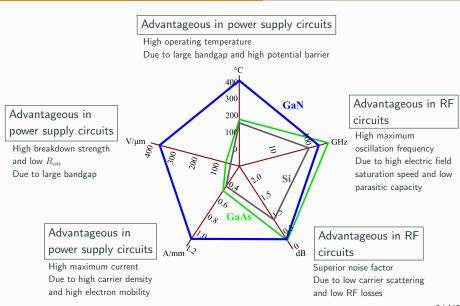
- ▶ R_{on} is reduced with an higher critical field E_C , which is obtained with high bandgap (3.4 eV for GaN)
- ► HEMT devices needs polar crystals (GaN and AlGaN)
- ► The market is currently governed by two materials, the Gallium Nitride (GaN) and the Silicon Carbide (SiC)
 - ► SiC is quite mature, especially for Schottky diodes (600 V to few kV)
 - ► GaN is less mature, uses HEMT transistors (100 V to 600 V)



The modified Baliga's FoM with \$

	Si SJ	SiC TrenchMOS	GaN V-MOS	Ga ₂ O ₃	HEMT	
Rcont	Very low	low	<5%	<5%	~10%	
Rsubs	<3mΩ . cm	20mΩ.cm	$10m\Omega.cm$	6mΩ.cm	NA	
Rdrift	$Ron = \frac{2.V_{bd}}{E_C^2.\varepsilon.\mu_N}$	$Ron = \frac{4.V_{bd}^2}{E_C^3 \cdot \varepsilon \cdot \mu_N}$	$Ron = \frac{4.V_{bd}^2}{E_C^3.\varepsilon.\mu_N}$	$Ron = \frac{4.V_{bd}^2}{E_C^3 \cdot \varepsilon \cdot \mu_N}$	$Ron = \frac{1}{q.n_s.\mu_N} \cdot \frac{V_{bd}^2}{E_c^2}$	
Rchannel	low	high	Medium	?	Very low	
Wafer (mm)	200-300	100-150	75-100	50-100	150-200	
Cost/wfr (\$)	low	high	Very high	medium	low	
	P N P	Source Gate	Course Co	Anode (CulturNi), eVIO µm HO ₂ (50) 10 = 25 W _{max} = 4.8 µm W _{max} = 1.2 µm Ga ₂ O ₃ film, 8 × 00 ¹⁰ cm ² , ym Ga ₂ O ₃ film, 8 × 00 ¹⁰ cm ² , 350 µm Cathode (TiPA ₂)		

So, why do we need WBG semiconductors?

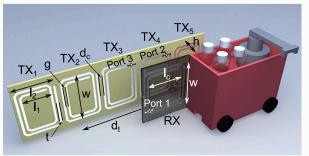


Research Contribution

Design of a Position-Independent End-to-End Inductive WPT Link for Industrial Dynamic Systems

Sliding carts in industrial plants

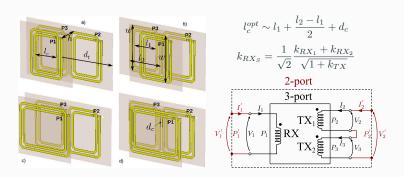
GOAL: to maintain a constant output voltage independently from position and load



Dimensions (cm): $l_c = 17.2, \ l_1 = 12$ $l_2 = 18, \ d_c = 2$ $w = 24, \ g = 1,$ $t = 1, \ h = 6$

EM-based RX coil layout optimization: Series connection

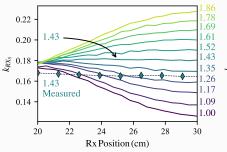
- ▶ RX slides from a) to b) at a distance of 6 cm
- ► EM based optimization of the three-port network [11], [12]: P1 (RX), P2 (TX1), P3 (TX2)



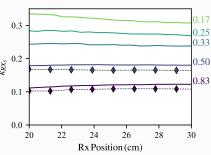
^[11] Pacini, Mastri, Trevisan, Costanzo, and Masotti, 2016.

^[12] Pacini, Mastri, Trevisan, Masotti, and Costanzo, 2016.

AC-AC link: two series connected TX and optimized RX

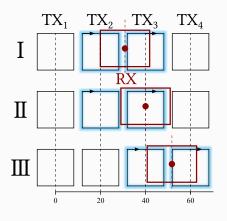


Predicted and measured coupling coefficient for the RX layout with different l_c (normalized to l_1)



Predicted and measured coupling coefficient for variable RX-TX distances h (normalized to l_1) with the optimum $l_c=1.43$

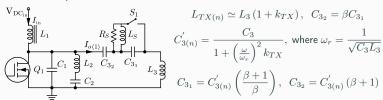
Sliding Positions



- ► The powered coils are highlighted
- ► The RX slides along the whole path (zero is RX/TX₁ centres aligned)
- When the RX aligns with a new TX coil, the previous is turned off while the next is turned on
- ► The behaviour is thus periodic and can be unlimited

Distributed Current Sources along the TX coils

- ► The series connection of two coils can be obtained *virtually* by forcing the same current
- ► A stand-alone Class EF Inverter [13] provides a constant current source with a dc-RF efficiency over 90% at 6.78 MHz
- \blacktriangleright The load can vary but must be resistive and $0 < R_L < R_{L_{\rm MAX}}$
- ▶ The inverter topology is modified to account for closely located coils when the RX is moving [14], [15] (the residual inductance must be the same)

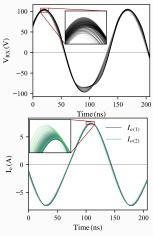


^[13] Aldhaher, Mitcheson, and Yates, 2016.

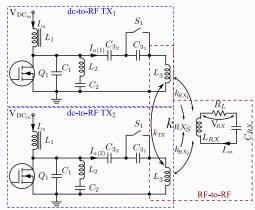
^[14] Pacini, Costanzo, Aldhaher, and Mitcheson, 2017.

^[15] Pacini, Costanzo, Aldhaher, and Mitcheson, In Press.

Same RF current for all RX positions!

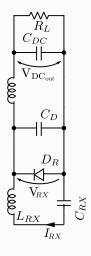


20 different Rx positions (over 10 cm) 30 different Rx loads $10\,\Omega < R_L < 1\,\mathrm{k}\Omega$



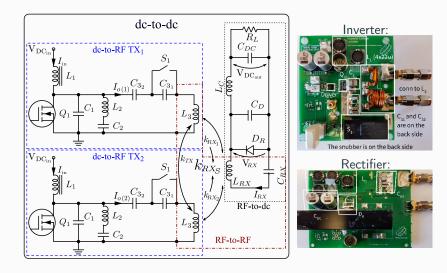
- ▶ One inverter for each TX coil
- ► Fully modular design
- ► Each line is a different load/position (600 in total)

Class E Rectifier design

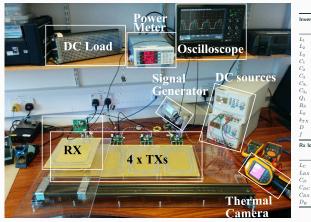


- ► Challenging RF-to-dc resonant rectifier specs
 - ► Efficient
 - Must provide a quasi-zero input reactance for any dc-load of interest, since the inverter requires a resistive load
 - ▶ To act as dc voltage source (constant $V_{DC_{out}}$)
- ► Non-ordinary class E design
 - ► The input reactance of the usual class E depends on the duty cycle which depends on the dc load
 - ► The rectifier must be optimised attached to the whole dc-to-RF link to account all the mutual effects
 - lacktriangle Optimization variables: C_D , C_{RX}
 - Optimization goals: constant V_{DCout}, maximize dc-to-dc efficiency of the entire link
 - ► HB reduces simulation time by three orders

Overall DC-to-DC system design



Measurement setup



Inverter:	Standalone [13]	Coupled [14], [15]	
	Simulated	Simulated	Prototype
L_1	88 µH	88 µH	88 µH
L_2	270 nH	270 nH	283 nH
L_3	1.42 µH	1.42 µH	1.42 µH
C_1	830 pF	830 pF	660 pF
C_2	718 pF	718 pF	696 pF
C_3	480 pF	_	_
C_{3_1}	_	530 pF	526 pF
C_{3_2}	_	4.7 nF	4.7 nF
Q_1	$50 \mathrm{m}\Omega (R_{\mathrm{on}})$	$50 \mathrm{m}\Omega \; (R_{\mathrm{on}})$	GS66504B
R_S	_	10 kΩ	10 kΩ
L_S	_	250 nH	250 nH
k_{TX}	_	-0.0595	-0.0595
D	0.32	0.32	0.32
f	6.78 MHz	6.78 MHz	6.81 MHz
Rx load:	Resistive	Rectifier	
	Simulated	Simulated	Prototype
L_C	88 µH	88 µH	88 µH
Y	1.7	1.7	1.7.44

324 pF

33 pF

20 uF

498 pF

2 x C3D1P7060Q C3D02060

30 pF

20 uF

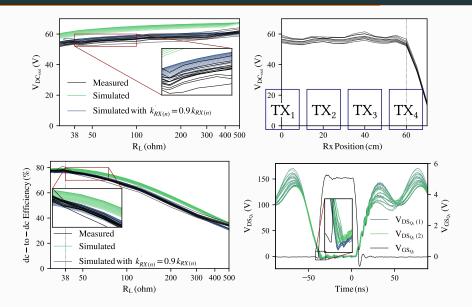
498 pF

^[13] Aldhaher, Mitcheson, and Yates, 2016.

^[14] Pacini, Costanzo, Aldhaher, and Mitcheson, 2017.

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Measurements



Conclusions

In these two years

- ► We developed a system capable of maintaining a constant output voltage, independent of the position and load
- ► The soft switching efficient operation is also maintained, independent of the position and load

In the next year, I plan to

- ▶ include the ability to transfer data with high data rates
- design a system with a different topology and lower frequency for transferring more power to industrial systems

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Publications in journals i

- A. Pacini, A. Costanzo, S. Aldhaher, and P. D. Mitcheson, "Load- and Position- Independent Moving MHz WPT System Based on GaN Distributed Current Sources," *IEEE Transactions on Microwave Theory and Techniques*, In Press
- ► A. Pacini, A. Costanzo, and D. Masotti, "A theoretical and numerical approach for selecting miniaturized antenna topologies on magneto-dielectric substrates," *Int. J. Microw. Wireless Technol.*, vol. 7, no. 3-4, pp. 369–377, 2015

Publications at conferences i

- A. Pacini, A. Costanzo, S. Aldhaher, and P. D. Mitcheson, "Design of a Position-Independent End-to-End Inductive WPT Link for Industrial Dynamic Systems," in 2017 IEEE MTT-S International Microwave Symposium (IMS), 2017, pp. 1053–1056
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Thanks for your attention! Any questions?





