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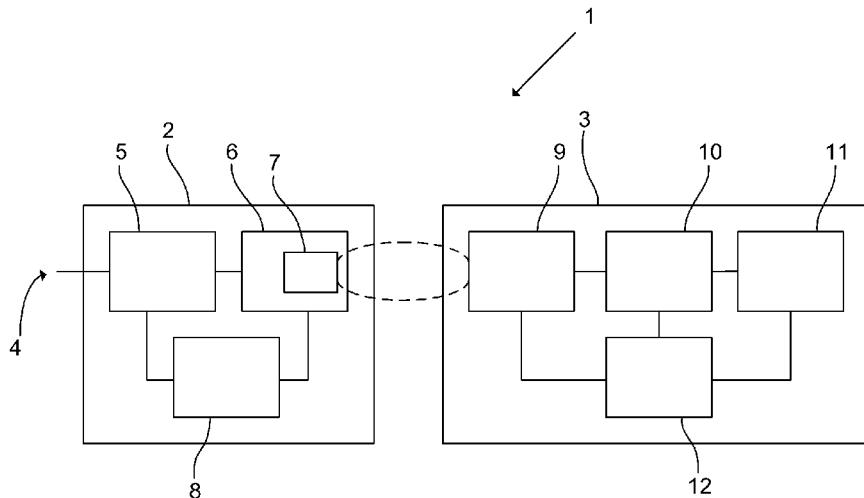


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: An inductive power transmitter comprising a transmission circuit having a coil, the transmission circuit tuned, adapted or optimised at or about a first frequency for inductive power transfer or object detection; an inverter operable to drive the transmission circuit at the first frequency; and a controller arranged to control the inverter to drive the transmission circuit at a second higher frequency, and to modulate a signal at the second higher frequency according to a predetermined handshake signal in order to generate a response from a predetermined non-authorised device proximate the coil.

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## INDUCTIVE POWER TRANSMITTER

### FIELD

5 This invention relates generally to an inductive power transmitter, particularly, but not exclusively, for an inductive power transfer system.

### BACKGROUND

10 IPT systems are a well-known area of established technology (for example, wireless charging of electric toothbrushes) and developing technology (for example, wireless charging of handheld devices on a 'charging mat'). Typically, a power transmitter generates a time-varying magnetic field from a transmitting coil or coils. This magnetic field induces an alternating current in a suitable receiving 15 coil in a power receiver that can then be used to charge a battery, or power a device or other load.

20 Regarding IPT systems for wireless charging of handheld devices in particular it is important that the wireless power is transferred to the receiver device only and not to so-called foreign objects, which can be defined as any object that is positioned on the charging mat (e.g., interface surface), but is not part of a receiver device. Typical examples of such foreign objects are parasitic elements containing metals such as coins, keys, paperclips, etc. For example if a parasitic metal is close 25 to the active IPT area it could heat up during power transfer due to eddy currents that result from the oscillating magnetic field. In order to prevent the temperature of such parasitic metal from rising to unacceptable levels, the power transmitter should be able to discriminate between power receivers and foreign objects and timely abort the power transfer.

A conventional manner of detecting heating of foreign objects on an interface surface uses a power loss method. In this method the received power  $P_{PR}$  is used to indicate the total amount of power that is dissipated within the power receiver contained in the handheld device due to the magnetic field produced by the power transmitter. The received power equals the power that is available from the output of the power receiver plus any power that is lost in producing that output power. The power receiver communicates its  $P_{PR}$  to the power transmitter so that the power transmitter can determine whether the power loss is within acceptable set limits, and if not, the power transmitter determines anomalous behaviour which may indicate presence of a foreign object and aborts power transmission.

However, this power loss accounting method does not in itself provide actual detection of a foreign object, only the occurrence of non-expected behaviour.

International patent publication number WO2014/095722, by contrast, proposes a method of foreign object detection which uses excitation and detection coils within the transmitter, separate from the primary IPT transmitter coil(s). In that case either changes in the output voltage in the detection winding, or changes in the inductance of the detection winding are used to determine possible presence of an object. However this system requires a complex calibration to determine the base inductance. It is also insensitive to metal objects versus ferrous or magnetic objects, and therefore does not provide a means to discriminate between foreign objects and friendly objects, e.g., a receiver device. Any undesirable effects of operation of the primary IPT field on the detection is also not considered or characterised, such that the proposed method may be unreliable.

**SUMMARY**

It is an object of the invention to provide an improved inductive power transmitter or provide the public with a useful choice.

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According to one example embodiment there is provided an inductive power transmitter comprising:

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a transmission circuit having a coil, the transmission circuit tuned, adapted or optimised at or about a first frequency for inductive power transfer or object detection;

an inverter operable to drive the transmission circuit at the first frequency; and

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a controller arranged to control the inverter to drive the transmission circuit at a second higher frequency, and to modulate a signal at the second higher frequency according to a predetermined handshake signal in order to generate a response from a predetermined non-authorised device proximate the coil.

According to a second example embodiment there is provided an inductive power transmitter comprising:

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a transmission circuit having a coil;

an inverter operable to drive the transmission circuit; and

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a controller arranged to control the inverter to drive the transmission circuit at a first handshake frequency, and to modulate a signal at the first handshake frequency according to a predetermined handshake signal in order to generate a response from a predetermined non-authorised devices proximate the coil,

wherein the predetermined non-authorised device has a specified handshake signal having a carrier frequency higher than the first handshake frequency, and

5 wherein the predetermined handshake signal includes a sequential series of polling commands and the specified handshake signal includes a sequential series of polling commands, and the number of cycles of each predetermined handshake signal polling command is the same as the number of cycles of each respective specified handshake signal polling command.

10 According to a third example embodiment there is provided an inductive power receiver comprising:

a receiver circuit having a coil;

an non-authorised resonant device; and

15 a controller arranged to detect a disable signal in the coil sent by an inductive power transmitter, to disable the non-authorised resonant device depending on the disable signal, and to modulate a signal in the coil to instruct the transmitter to begin power transfer.

According to a forth example embodiment there is provided an inductive power transmitter comprising:

20 a transmitter circuit having a coil;

an inverter operable to drive the transmission circuit; and

25 a controller arranged to control the inverter to drive the transmission circuit at a first ping frequency, and to modulate a signal at the first ping frequency according a disable signal to disable a non-authorised resonant device in an authorised receiver, and to detect a start-up signal in the coil to begin power transfer to the authorised receiver.

According to a fifth example embodiment there is provided an inductive power transmitter comprising:

at least one multi purpose coil; and

an object detection system configured to detect objects in or adjacent 5 to the IPT field;

wherein the object detection system energises the multi purpose coil to send a handshake signal configured to generate a response from a predetermined non-authorized object, and detects a non-authorized object based on receiving a valid response.

10 According to a sixth example embodiment there is provided an object detection system for an inductive power transmitter, the object detection system comprising:

memory arranged to store predetermined signatures associated with an authorized inductive power receiver and/or a non-authorized object;

15 the object detection system arranged to indicate a non-authorized objects in response to:

detecting one or more of the predetermined signatures associated with the non-authorized objects;

and/or detecting a signature which does not correspond to the 20 predetermined signatures associated with an authorized receiver.

According to a seventh example embodiment there is provided an inductive power transmitter comprising:

at least one power transmitting coil configured to generate an inductive power transfer (IPT) field; and

25 an object detection system configured to detect objects in or adjacent to the IPT field;

wherein the object detection system is configured to detect a non approved resonant device.

According to a eighth example embodiment there is provided an object detection system for an inductive power transmitter, the object detection system comprising:

5 a coil and circuitry arranged to determine reflected impedances at a plurality of frequencies;

10 memory arranged to store predetermined frequencies associated with an authorized inductive power receiver and/or predetermined frequencies associated with a non-authorized receiver; and

the object detection system arranged to indicate a non-authorized receiver in response to:

15 detecting a predetermined increase or decrease in reflected impedance at the predetermined frequency associated with the non-authorized receiver;

and/or detecting a predetermined increase in reflected impedance at a frequency which is not associated with the authorized inductive power receiver.

According to a ninth example embodiment there is provided a method of operating an object detection system for an inductive power transmitter, the object detection system comprising a coil and circuitry, the method comprising:

20 driving the coil at a first power level and determining a first reflected impedance;

25 driving the coil at a second higher power level and determining a second reflected impedance;

wherein the second power level but not the first power level is sufficient to start operation of a predetermined non-authorised receiver;

detecting a non-authorised receiver in response to determine a predetermined difference between the first and second reflected 5 impedances.

According to a tenth example embodiment there is provided a method of operating an object detection system for an inductive power transmitter, the method comprising:

determining reflected impedances at a plurality of frequencies;

10 indicating a non-authorized receiver in response to:

detecting a predetermined increase or decrease in reflected impedance at a predetermined frequency associated with a non-authorized receiver;

15 and/or detecting a predetermined increase in reflected impedance at a frequency which is not associated with an authorized inductive power receiver.

According to a eleventh example embodiment there is provided a inductive power transmitter comprising:

20 a transmission circuit having a coil, the transmission circuit tuned to a first frequency for inductive power transfer or object detection;

an inverter operable to drive the transmission circuit at the first frequency;

25 a controller arranged to control the inverter to drive the transmission circuit at a second higher frequency, and to modulate the second higher frequency according to a predetermined handshake signal in order to

generate a response from a predetermined non-authorised devices proximate the coil.

According to an twelfth example embodiment there is provided a method of operating an inductive power transmitter comprising a transmission circuit including a coil and tuned to a first frequency, and an inverter operable to drive the transmission circuit at the first frequency; the method comprising:

driving the transmission circuit at a second higher frequency in order to detect any predetermined non-authorised devices proximate the coil;

modulating the second higher frequency according to a predetermined handshake signal recognisable by the non-authorised devices; and

indicating the presence of the non-authorised device in response to detecting a predetermined response.

According to a thirteenth example embodiment there is provided an inductive power transmitter comprising:

a transmission circuit having a coil;

an inverter operable to drive the transmission circuit;

a controller arranged to control the inverter to drive the transmission circuit at a first handshake frequency, and to modulate a signal at the first handshake frequency according to a predetermined handshake signal in order to generate a response from a predetermined non-authorised devices proximate the coil,

wherein the predetermined non-authorised device has a specified handshake signal having a carrier frequency higher than the first handshake frequency, and

wherein the predetermined handshake signal includes a sequential series of modulation states and the specified handshake signal includes a

sequential series of modulation states, and the number of cycles of each predetermined handshake signal series of modulation states is the same as the number of cycles of each respective specified handshake signal series of modulation states.

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It is acknowledged that the terms “comprise”, “comprises” and “comprising” may, under varying jurisdictions, be attributed with either an exclusive or an inclusive meaning. For the purpose of this specification, and unless otherwise noted, these terms are intended to have an inclusive meaning – i.e., they will be taken to mean an inclusion of the listed components which the use directly references, and possibly also of other non-specified components or elements.

Reference to any document in this specification does not constitute an admission that it is prior art or that it forms part of the common general knowledge.

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#### **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

The accompanying drawings which are incorporated in and constitute part of the specification, illustrate embodiments of the invention and, together with the general description of the invention given above, and the detailed description of embodiments given below, serve to explain the principles of the invention.

**Figure 1** is a schematic diagram of an inductive power transfer system;

**Figure 2** is a block diagram of an object detection system;

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**Figure 3** is a schematic diagram of a double OD coil;

**Figure 4** is a schematic diagram of a single OD coil;

**Figure 5** is a schematic diagram of another double OD coil;

**Figure 6** is a schematic diagram of a transmission coil layout;

**Figure 7** is a schematic diagram showing the OD and IPT coils interleaved around the ferrites;

**Figure 8** is a cross section of a PCB based OD coil;

5 **Figure 9** is a simulation of the flux lines generated by the excitation coil using the IPT ferrites;

**Figure 10A** is a flow diagram of the detection algorithm;

**Figure 10B** is a flow diagram of another detection algorithm;

**Figure 11** is a schematic diagram of an excitation coil driver;

10 **Figure 12** is a circuit diagram of the excitation coil driver;

**Figure 13** is a schematic diagram of a detector;

**Figure 14** is a circuit diagram of the multiplexer;

**Figure 15** is a circuit diagram of the mixer;

**Figure 16** is a schematic diagram of a further embodiment;

15 **Figure 17** is a graph of the impedance of various resonant devices;

**Figure 18A&B** are graphs of the real power of various resonant devices;

**Figure 19a** is a flow diagram of a signature method of detecting non authorized resonant devices such as RFID/NFC tags;

**Figure 19b** is a graph of the polling commands at different carrier frequencies;

20 **Figure 20** is a circuit diagram of a transmitter with a polling request at 1MHz;

**Figure 21** is a flow diagram of a method of sending polling commands to detect non authorized resonant devices such as RFID/NFC tags;

**Figure 22** is a circuit diagram of a transmitter with a with a polling request at 13.56MHz;

5 **Figure 23** is a flow diagram of a method of sending signals from a transmitter to disable NFC emulation in a valid receiver; and

**Figure 24** is a flow diagram of a method of receiving signals from a transmitter to disable NFC emulation in a valid receiver.

10 **DETAILED DESCRIPTION**

An inductive power transfer (IPT) system 1 is shown generally in Figure 1. The IPT system includes an inductive power transmitter 2 and an inductive power receiver 3. The inductive power transmitter 2 is connected to an appropriate power supply 4 (such as mains power or a battery). The inductive power transmitter 2 may include transmitter circuitry having one or more of a converter 5, e.g., an AC-DC converter (depending on the type of power supply used) and an inverter 6, e.g., connected to the converter 5 (if present). The inverter 6 supplies a transmitting coil or coils 7 with an AC signal so that the transmitting coil or coils 7 generate an alternating magnetic field. In some configurations, the transmitting coil(s) 7 may also be considered to be separate from the inverter 5. The transmitting coil or coils 7 may be connected to capacitors (not shown) either in parallel or series to create a resonant circuit.

25 A controller 8 may be connected to each part of the inductive power transmitter 2. The controller 8 receives inputs from each part of the inductive power transmitter 2 and produces outputs that control the operation of each part. The

controller 8 may be implemented as a single unit or separate units, configured to control various aspects of the inductive power transmitter 2 depending on its capabilities, including for example: power flow, tuning, selectively energising transmitting coils, inductive power receiver detection and/or communications.

5 The controller 8 may internally include memory for storing measured and calculated data or may be connected to external memory for such purpose.

10 The inductive power receiver 3 includes a receiving coil or coils 9 connected to receiver circuitry which may include power conditioning circuitry 10 that in turn supplies power to a load 11. When the coils of the inductive power transmitter 2 and the inductive power receiver 3 are suitably coupled, the alternating magnetic field generated by the transmitting coil or coils 7 induces an alternating current in the receiving coil or coils 9. The power conditioning circuitry 10 is configured to convert the induced current into a form that is appropriate for the load 11, and 15 may include for example a power rectifier, a power regulation circuit, or a combination of both. The receiving coil or coils 9 may be connected to capacitors (not shown) either in parallel or series to create a resonant circuit. In some inductive power receivers, the receiver may include a controller 12 which may control tuning of the receiving coil or coils 9, operation of the power conditioning 20 circuitry 10 and/or communications.

25 The term “coil” may include an electrically conductive structure where an electrical current generates a magnetic field. For example inductive “coils” may be electrically conductive wire in three dimensional shapes or two dimensional planar shapes, electrically conductive material fabricated using printed circuit board (PCB) techniques into three dimensional shapes over plural PCB ‘layers’, and other coil-like shapes. The use of the term “coil”, in either singular or plural, is not meant to be restrictive in this sense. Other configurations may be used depending on the application.

An example transmitter 2 is shown in Figure 2. The inverter 6 supplies power to the transmitting coil 7 to generate an IPT field. An object detection (OD) circuit 200 includes an excitation coil or coils 202 to generate a detection (OD) field separate from the IPT field and a detection coil or coils 204 used to sense the presence and/or location of objects on or adjacent to the transmitter 2. The controller 8 of the transmitter 2 may either directly or via a separate control circuit be configured to determine the excitation to be provided to the excitation coil 202 and process the output signal from the detection coil 204.

10 This may involve a single excitation coil and an array of detection coils, an array of excitation coils and a single detection coil, an array of excitation coils and an array of detection coils, using a single coil for both excitation and detection, and/or using the IPT coil(s) as the excitation coil(s) (and either using the IPT frequency or modulating an excitation signal onto the IPT field) depending on the requirements  
15 of the application.

20 In an embodiment the detection technique may be considered a form of magnetic vision system, which works by transmission of an excitation signal to a power receiver (or other conducting object in the detection field) which is then scattered back to an array of sensors which are monitored either continuously or periodically. The strength and delay of the backscatter of the excitation signal is measured and may be separately analysed at each location across the array. This can then be used to detect objects (both friendly and foreign) and track the position and/or movement of such objects, such as multiple receivers, in the IPT field or on the transmitter surface. It may also be able to detect foreign objects  
25 which are overlapping with the friendly objects, such as the receiving coil(s) of a power receiver.

The detection array is structured such that its resolution is sufficient for significant foreign objects to be sensed or “seen” and located, with sufficient aperture to be able to identify the presence and location of one or more phones or perhaps a tablet or a portable PC or other portable rechargeable equipment.

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One or more embodiments may rely on directly or indirectly determining the transfer of energy (either to an object or between the excitation coil and the detector coil) rather than a reflection. In other words the coupling coefficient between the excitation coil, the object and/or the detector coil is used to determine the nature and/or location of the object e.g.: foreign (or friendly).

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#### Decoupling from the IPT field

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The OD field is used for detection of objects whereas the IPT field is used to wirelessly transfer meaningful levels of power between electronic devices. Accordingly, the power of the IPT field is several orders of magnitude higher than the OD field, such that in order to effectively operate the object detection apparatus during power transfer it may be desirable to substantially decouple the OD field from the IPT field. A number of ways of achieving such decoupling are now described. In this way, any undesirable effects of operation of the IPT field on the detection are minimised, thereby making the detection method of the present invention more reliable and robust.

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The OD field can be produced so as to have a significantly higher or lower frequency than that used for the IPT field. This may allow frequency isolation from the IPT field as well as increasing the sensitivity of physically small objects, such as coinage, due to the possibility of resonance being set up in the object. For a common application of IPT, where the IPT field has an operating frequency is about 110 kHz to about 205 kHz, a OD field frequency that is higher in the MHz

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region, such as about 1 MHz or that is lower in the kHz region, such as about 5 kHz may be used. Such frequencies may also provide enhanced sensitivity for certain types of foreign objects. In this way the OD field is frequency decoupled from the IPT field.

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Accordingly, in one embodiment the driving of the OD field is configured so that one OD field frequency is used for object detection where this frequency is lower or higher than the IPT field frequency, e.g., about 5 kHz or about 1 MHz. In an alternative embodiment driving of the OD field is configured so that a range of OD field frequencies are used, using so-called frequency “hopping” or “sweeping”. Several different frequencies may be used about the exemplary levels already described at which measurements for object detection are made. For example, for OD field frequencies higher than the IPT field frequency measurements may be taken at each of about 800 kHz, about 1 MHz and about 1.2 MHz, and for OD field frequencies lower than the IPT field frequency measurements may be taken at each of about 1 kHz, about 5 kHz and about 10 kHz. This frequency hopping advantageously provides the ability to increase discrimination between foreign and friendly objects. For example, for power receivers having the receiver coil(s) as part of a resonant circuit and non-resonant objects, e.g., metal or ferrite, may provide similar response to the OD field at a particular OD field frequency. This may occur due to the selected OD field frequency being a harmonic of the IPT field frequency, for example. However, such resonant receivers will provide a different response at different OD field frequencies whilst the response of non-resonant objects is substantially independent of frequency.

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The excitation coil(s) 202 and/or the detection coil(s) 204 (collectively referred to as OD coils) may be arranged to approximately encompass a positive IPT flux and an equivalent negative IPT flux. In this way the OD field is substantially magnetically decoupled from the IPT field. This may be achieved in a number of

ways. For example counter-wound (i.e., clockwise and counter-clockwise) OD coils may be used in symmetrical locations within the or each IPT transmitter coil (i.e., encompassed within the dimensions or ‘footprint’ of one transmitting coil above or below that coil with respect to the horizontal plane of that coil) with equal flux in each counter-wound OD coil. In a further example portions of each OD coil may be inside and outside of the IPT transmitter coil. In a still further example counter-wound OD coils may be used in asymmetrical portions of the IPT field produced by one or more transmitter coils with different numbers of turns (i.e., in a clockwise wound portion vs. a counter clockwise wound portion).

10

Figure 3 shows an example of a double excitation/detection coil 300. The coil 300 has a clockwise wound portion 302 and a counter clockwise portion 304. The coil 300 is located wholly within one IPT transmitter coil 7 with the clockwise and counter-clockwise portions 302,304 positioned on either side of a line of symmetry 306 through the transmitter coil 7 so that equal amounts of IPT flux passes through each portion 302,304. In this example embodiment, the oppositely-wound portions 302,304 may be formed as separate windings that are coupled to one another in a manner understood by those skilled in the art or as a single winding wound in a (substantially symmetrical) “figure 8” configuration.

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Figure 4 shows an example of a single excitation/detection coil 400. The coil 400 has an outside (first) portion 402 and an inside (second) portion 404, with respect to one IPT transmitter coil 7. That is, coil 400 is arranged to overlap the transmitter coil 7 so that the outside portion 402 is arranged exterior to the IPT transmitter coil 7 whereas the inside portion 404 is arranged interior of the IPT transmitter coil 7, such that with equal amounts of (opposite) IPT flux passes through each portion 402,404.

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Figure 5 shows an example of another double excitation/detection coil 500. The coil 500 has a clockwise wound portion 502 and a counter clockwise portion 504. The coil 500 is located wholly within one IPT transmitter coil 7 with the clockwise and counter-clockwise portions 502,504 positioned on either side of a line of 5 asymmetry 506 through the transmitter coil 7 so that different amounts IPT flux passes through each portion 502,504. In this example, the IPT flux through the oppositely-wound portions 502,504 may be balanced by using an imbalanced number of turns in each portion 502,504 calculated to substantially compensate for the IPT flux imbalance or an imbalanced impedance by configuring the relative size (e.g., thickness, diameter, etc.) or conductivity (e.g., by using different 10 conductive materials) of the coil portion windings 502,504 calculated to substantially compensate for the IPT flux imbalance. Like the example of Figure 3, the oppositely-wound portions 502,504 may be formed as separate windings that are coupled to one another or as a single winding wound in a (substantially 15 asymmetrical or skewed) “figure 8” configuration.

Other forms of decoupling may be used depending on the application. It is noted that in embodiments where one or more excitation coils separate from the transmitter coil(s) are used for generating the detection field, it is the excitation 20 coils that are wound in the flux-cancelling manner described above, whereas in embodiments where one or more transmitter coils are used for generating the detection field, it is the detection coils that are wound in the flux-cancelling manner described above in order to provide decoupling from an IPT field being generated from other transmitter coils in a transmitter coil array, for example.

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#### Layout of excitation and detection coils

In order to increase the sensitivity and/or decrease the manufacturing costs, several features in the OD coils may be provided.

An example of an array of the transmitting coils is shown in Figure 6. Each transmitting or IPT coil 602 is provided around a number of systematically arranged IPT ferrite elements (cores) 604. The IPT coils 602 are arranged in a rectangular array structure and may be linear (2D), overlapping (as in Figure 6) or 5 3 dimensionally (3D) arranged. The coil and array itself may be arranged to have a different geometrical or arbitrary shape. The (array of) ferrite cores are used to enhance the IPT field generated by the IPT coils 602 in a manner understood by those skilled in the art and may be arranged and dimensioned relative to the transmitter coil array as described in US Provisional Patent Application No. 10 62/070,042 entitled System and Method for Power Transfer and filed August 12, 2014, the entire contents of which are expressly incorporated herein by reference, so that the upper surface (relative to the z-axis of the IPT system which is 15 orthogonal to the plane of the transmitter coils; along which the so-called "z-height" is defined as the distance between the transmitting and receiving coils of the IPT system) of each ferrite element protrudes from the IPT coils 602 or may be configured so that the upper surface of the ferrite elements are co-planar with, or beneath, the upmost plane of the transmitting coils surface. The ferrite elements 20 may have a substantially flat or rounded upper surface. As described below, if such ferrite elements are present for the IPT array, they may also be advantageously used for the detection field.

Figure 7 shows the array of IPT coils 602 of Figure 6 interleaved with an array of 25 detection coils 702 in an example configuration. Each IPT coil 602 encompasses four of the ferrite cores 604. Each of the detection coils 702 is arranged above the upper surface of one of the ferrite cores 604 (i.e., in a plane which is parallel to, but elevated from, the plane of the upper surface of the ferrite element) so that the single ferrite core is surrounded by or enclosed within the respective detection coil, as seen in the aspect of Figure 7. By this arrangement, the ferrite material of the core 604 allows the detection coil 702 to be more sensitive through

enhancement of the OD field, similar to the effects in the IPT field. However, since the ferrite cores 604 concentrate the magnetic flux of the IPT field at the positions of the cores, the IPT flux in the spaces between the cores is correspondingly less dense. Accordingly, some areas may form IPT field nulls 704 with low, but non-zero, IPT flux. Similarly the sensitivity of the detection coils 702 also degrades between the ferrite cores 604. Thus the alignment of the IPT field nulls 704 and the lower sensitivity OD field regions may be desirable, as any foreign object present wholly at these points will similarly not be receiving IPT flux thereby reducing the risk of heating.

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The excitation coil 202 may similarly be interleaved with the transmitting coils 7, and the ferrite elements 604 may be used to increase the OD field strength produced by the excitation coil array depending on the application requirements.

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Figure 8 shows the OD coil array constructed as a printed circuit board (PCB). A base layer 802 of a PCB 804 may have the array of transmitting coils and ferrite elements. The PCB 804 may include a substrate layer 806, with two copper trace layers 808 and 801 on either side. The underside trace 808 (facing the base layer 802) may include the excitation coils 202. The upper trace 810 may include the detection coils 204. In this way the size of the OD coil array can be minimised.

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Figure 9 shows an example field distribution 900, for the underside trace 808 in Figure 8 where the excitation coils are arranged to surround each ferrite element 604 (in the manner discussed earlier with respect to the detection coils). The detection and/or excitation coils use the ferrite structure of the IPT transmitter coil array as described above and the field lines concentrate at the poles 902 of each ferrite element 604. In this embodiment, the ferrite elements 604 (and therefore the PCB 804) is provided on a base or substrate (back-plate) 904 also of ferrite. The base plate 904 therefore acts as shield for the undersides (with

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respect to the dimensional planes described earlier) of the IPT and OD coil arrays so that any metal objects underneath the coil arrays are not heated or erroneously detected. In this way, the OD circuit 200 is directional.

5 In this embodiment, the ferrite elements may be separate elements applied to the ferrite back-plate or integral with the back-plate through suitable manufacture. The OD coils may alternatively incorporate separate ferrite elements/cores to increase sensitivity of detection depending on the application, e.g., where the IPT coils array does not employ such elements.

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#### Detection HW and algorithm

15 As mentioned above the controller 8 of the transmitter 2 is directly or indirectly provided with the voltage from each detection coil and extracts the amplitude and phase against each location over time. For this purpose, the controller 8 may include an excitation coil driver and a detector circuit.

20 As discussed earlier, a means to discriminate between foreign objects and friendly objects, e.g., power receivers, is required. One method that may be used to discriminate the kind of object present, is measurement of the coupling factor between the excitation coils and the object above the transmission pad which is influencing the excitation (OD) field. The Applicant found that objects comprising mostly metal tend to suppress the coupling (lower voltage amplitude output) with the OD field, whereas objects having a relatively significant amount of ferrite tend 25 to enhance the coupling (higher voltage amplitude output), and that resonant structures, such as power receivers having resonant pick-up or secondary circuits, tend to induce a phase shift in the backscatter signal. Thus, it is possible to distinguish 'friendly' objects, such as the ferrite shielding of an inductive pickup

coil, from 'foreign' objects, such as coins, if these characteristics in the OD field behaviour are suitably determined.

Figure 10A shows an example algorithm 1000 for detecting objects. The controller 5 determines at step 1002 the voltage magnitude and phase at each location in the OD array. If at any location the phase has changed (step 1004), this location is updated at step 1006 to indicate that a power receiver is present. If the phase has not changed but the magnitude has increased (step 1008), this location is updated at step 1010 to indicate that a magnetic material is present. If the magnitude has 10 not increased but has decreased (step 1012), this location is updated at step 1014 to indicate that a metal material is present. The determination continues (step 1016) for each location in the OD array and is then repeated either continuously, periodically or on the occurrence of a predefined event or events.

15 The algorithm 1000 of Figure 10A illustrates an example where the detection of receivers and foreign objects is relatively simply provided by determining the relative magnitude and phase changes. Whilst these changes are present in many various scenarios, the amount of change may be difficult to distinguish from environmental and/or circuitry electronic noise. The changes may also be 20 indistinguishable in scenarios where both a receiver and a foreign object are present. Figure 10B shows another example algorithm 1050 for additionally facilitating detection of objects in such situations.

25 The algorithm 1050 recognises that there may be some variation in the measurements at ambient (i.e., no objects present) conditions across certain groups of the detection coils 702 and uses these groups to provide a measure of the standard deviation. The Applicant has found that these groups comprise neighbouring detection coils and are generally representative of the general topology of the coil array with the variations being due to manufacturing

processes and tolerances. For example, the array may represent a polygon having more than four edges where sub-polygons having four or less edges defined therein provide the different detection coil groups, e.g., if the array is 'cross-shaped' (12-edged polygon), three four-edged polygons could be defined therein, such that three detection coil groups are defined in which the coils within each group have substantially consistent characteristics with the other coils in that group but may have different characteristics from the coils of the other groups. This grouping of coils allows differences in (magnitude and/or phase) measurements across the coils within those groups to be made with reasonable certainty in the accuracy of the measurements, thereby providing reliable detection of objects.

Accordingly in Figure 10B, the controller 8 determines at step 1052 the standard deviation of the polar magnitude represented by the voltage magnitude and phase within each group of the OD array in a manner understood by those skilled in the art. If the standard deviation is within normal parameters, the controller 8 continues sampling the OD array either continuously, periodically or at defined events, as previously described. However, if within any group the standard deviation is more than a certain threshold amount (e.g., predetermined based on the known manufacturing tolerances) it is determined that one or more objects are in proximity of the charging surface (step 1054). Controller 8 then calculates a ratio of the current (i.e.,  $t(n)$ ) measurement of the polar magnitude and the (immediately) previous (i.e.,  $t(n-1)$ ) measurement of the polar magnitude as in Equation (1) for each detection coil within the group determined to have the object(s) therein or for all detection coils of the OD array. This ratio represents a change on the surface at a set location in Equation (1).

$$\text{Ratio}_{t(n)} = \text{Polar Magnitude}_{t(n)} / \text{Polar Magnitude}_{t(n-1)} \quad (1)$$

The controller 8 then runs a series of checks to detect the type of object(s) present based on the calculated ratios. At step 1056, a check for receiver(s) is performed by determining whether the largest ratio increase within the group (or surface) is greater than a receiver detection threshold, and if 'yes' the location of the largest ratio increase is determined (step 1058) and the location of the receiver at the determined detection coil is reported (step 1060) such that power transfer can be commenced using the IPT array. If the result of step 1056 is 'no' then at step 1062, a check for foreign object(s) is performed by determining whether the largest ratio decrease within the group (or surface) is greater than a foreign object detection threshold, and if 'yes' the location of the largest ratio decrease is determined (step 1064) and the location of the foreign object at the determined detection coil is reported (step 1066) such that power transfer using the IPT array is not enabled. If the result of step 1062 is 'no' then at step 1068, it is determined that an unknown object is present such that power transfer using the IPT array is not enabled. This 'unknown' object may represent a combination of a receiver and foreign object by the suitable selection of the receiver and foreign object thresholds. Such selection may be made through the measurement and modelling of various scenarios in a manner understood by those skilled in the art.

It is understood that the illustrated and described sequence of steps in Figures 10A and 10B are merely exemplary, and the sequences may be altered or replaced with parallel steps as appropriate.

Figure 11 shows an example of an excitation coil driver 1100. An MCU 1102 provides a PWM 1103 at the desired OD field frequency e.g.: 5 kHz/1 MHz (or range of frequencies of 1 kHz to 10 kHz/800 kHz to 1.2 MHz), as well as a 90° phase shifted signal 1105. Both signals are low pass filtered using a filter 1104 to create a sine wave from the PWM square wave by removing the harmonics and the filtered signals are provided to the detector (described later). A power amplifier

1106 scales the signal to the excitation coil 202 by a sufficient amount so that a good signal to noise ratio is provided, while not using excessive power.

Figure 12 shows another example circuit for the excitation coil driver circuit 1200.

5 Two identical signal chains are used – one chain 1202 drives the excitation coil 202 using an operational amplifier (opamp) 1204 with a high drive capability. The other chain 1206 drives the controller (detector). The MCU 1102 can change the phase of the drive signal to the detector chain 1206, relative to the excitation chain 1202. In this way a 0° or 90° reference can be presented to the detector (described 10 later).

Alternatively the actual excitation output is fed to a phase splitter (e.g.: R/C and C/R network) to generate two signals at 90° phase to each other, then an electronic switch is used to select one or the other.

15 Figure 13 shows an example of a detector 1300 which has the detection coil array. Each detection coil 204 is connected to a multiplexer 1302. The multiplexer 1302 is either programmed with the signal 1303 to cycle through all of the detection coils continuously or periodically or may focus on certain detection coils where an 20 object has been detected. The multiplexer output is amplified by amplifier 1304 and the excitation signal (voltage) described above is phase switched using switch 1305 by software in the MCU 1102 as described above. The amplified multiplexer output is mixed by a mixer 1306 (multiplied) with the two different phase switched excitation voltages 1308 from the excitation driver. Alternatively the mixing could 25 be done by a DSP or microprocessor. The output of the mixer is low pass filtered by a filter 1310 and digitally sampled by an ADC 1312. The filter 1310 response determines the rate at which the detection coils can be switched, so the settling time should be selected according to application requirements on resolution of the OD field sampling.

This configuration of mixing and/or multiplexing has the advantage of tracking the frequency of the excitation without requiring variable filters. Further, the phase switching allows the MCU 1102 to extract amplitude and phase information from the digital signal. Because the voltage from the excitation coil(s) is the same frequency as the voltage from the detection coil(s), multiplying the two signals results in one composite signal comprised of one shifted up to double the frequency and one at DC. The low pass filter 1310 filters out the higher frequency signal. Then by phase shifting the excitation reference voltage by 90° and taking a second reading of the DC level, the phase can then be calculated at as the inverse tan of the division of the magnitudes of the two mixer DC outputs, for example using Equation (2):

$$\tan^{-1} \frac{[0\text{deg}]}{[90\text{deg}]} \quad (2)$$

Figures 14 and 15 show an example circuit for the detector. The output of every detector coil 204 is connected to the inputs of one or more multiplexers 1402,1404 connected in series, with the eventual output 1406 amplified by an opamp 1408. The opamp 1408 output is passed to a Gilbert cell mixer 1502. This is followed by an amplifier 1504 providing both gain and DC offset to suit the input range of the ADC 1312.

The excitation/detection coils can be continuously driven so as to provide a continuous OD field, as the power consumption is low (about 10mW). Alternatively, the OD field can be pulsed, which may lower the power consumption even more.

As absolute measurements are taken from the detection field, since it is decoupled from the IPT field, it is possible that if a foreign object is already present on the transmitter 'pad' at start-up this foreign object will not be detected but will merely

be part of the ambient environment. A calibration token which is either physical (e.g., a metal disc) or digital (e.g., a calibration factor) of known properties may be used to calibrate the transmitter prior to use to avoid this, by locating it in set locations and adjusting the algorithm output until the location and object type are

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correctly determined.

Alternatively prior to use, relative phase and amplitude measurements between the primary, excitation and detection coils can be compared to relative expected values to determine anything unusual in the start-up environment. This can either

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generate an alert to manually check the environment or can be used to adjust the algorithm.

In a further alternative a calibration factor could also be determined by injecting a known signal into the system either through the existing coils or through an extra coil(s) at a certain spacing. This may avoid the need for manual calibration and/or

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a calibration object outside the system (e.g., a calibration token).

A further embodiment is described with respect to Figure 16 and which includes some combinations of the forgoing features. Powering multiple receivers from a single transmitter array increases the dynamic range of the problem of detecting

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Foreign Object power dissipation in the presence of PRx (inductive power receiver) power transfer. This is because support for multiple PRx units increases the associated total PTx (inductive power transmitter) power transfer level substantially.

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Spatial measurements (localised to a space approximating one PRx) provide a way to constrain the dynamic range of the problem, as additional Power Receivers are added to the Power Transmitter Product.

Evaluation of the complex impedances or a measurement of the coupling factor at each detector coil or cell in an array of detection coils, distributed spatially across the Interface Area (a transmitter surface for placing receivers), can provide useful indication of:

- 5 - Object Detection when (and where) an object placed on the Interface Surface;
- Whether the object is substantially metal in nature;
- Whether the object contains ferrite;
- Whether the object has a resonant circuit such as an L-C parallel resonant tank.

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The embodiment described here may be used independently or in conjunction with other methods of Foreign Object Detection.

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Referring to Figure 16, the object detection system comprises the following system blocks:

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- a) An FOD Excitation Coil (1605) consisting of a conductor or array of conductors (this may be separate and decoupled from the Primary Coil) placed to cover the Interface Area or Surface such that applied current(s) produce magnetic flux through the plane of the Interface Area. The conductor(s) may be placed in a 'double counter wound loop' configuration so that flux linkages (to counter-wound sections of the same conductor), from the Primary Coil, minimise the net induced voltage;
- b) An FOD Detection Coil Array (1610) consisting of an array of cells spatially distributed across the Interface Surface. Each cell contains a conductor(s) configured such that any magnetic flux generated by the FOD Excitation Coil that links with (i.e. passes through) an object placed near or on the Interface Surface, will also link with the conductor in at least one cell of the FOD Detection Coil Array;

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- c) An Excitation Coil Driver (1615) circuit that applies a continuous or pulsed excitation current to the FOD Excitation Coil;
- d) An Object Detection Unit (1620) that measures and evaluates the complex impedances at each cell of the FOD Detection Coil Array. Typically this would be comprised of a measurement circuit that processes signals from each cell such that they can be evaluated by a numerical computation unit.

10 Also shown are a foreign object (1625) and a valid inductive power receiver (1630). The ferrite shielding for each of the excitation coil (at 1635) and the receiver (at 1630) are also shown, and advantageously employed to detect a valid receiver (1630).

The embodiment may evaluate each cell's output vector magnitude or polar magnitude as a measure of complex impedance is as follows:

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1. Apply excitation current  $I_{FOD\text{-excitation}}$ , by enabling the Excitation Coil Driver. The magnitude and frequency of  $I_{FOD\text{-excitation}}$  (in conjunction with system implementation attributes) are arranged to produce sufficient levels of flux in  $\Phi_{foreign}$ ,  $\Phi_{FOD\text{-Detection-Coil-N}}$  (at each cell),  $\Phi_{PRx\text{-Secondary-Coil}}$  such that the Object Detection System can evaluate complex impedance (by determining a measure of complex impedance) of the two different object groups (foreign object or valid receiver), with sufficient accuracy to distinguish between them. The frequency of  $I_{FOD\text{-excitation}}$  is typically a point close to, but not exactly equal to, the resonant detection frequency  $f_d$  formed by  $L_s, C_s$ , and  $C_d$  in a PRx (1630);

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2. For each cell (1610) in the FOD Detection Coil Array, apply a termination impedance and measure the amplitude and phase of the voltage signal at each  $L_{FOD\text{-Detection-Coil-N}}$  - implemented by the object detection circuit (1620) – a measure of complex impedance.

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3. Amplitude can be evaluated by measuring the components of the cell output signal that are in-phase, and in quadrature with a local reference (such as the Excitation Coil Driver output). The vector or polar magnitude can be evaluated as the root of the sum of the squares of the in-phase and quadrature components that were measured. Similarly the vector phase angle can be evaluated by computing the inverse or arc tangent of the ratio of the in-phase component divided by the quadrature component. However other methods of determining these measurements could alternatively be used.

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Detection of the presence and type of an object using a measure of complex impedance at the detection coils can be performed as follows:

1. Record “empty board” tare values (E.g. at power-on of the transmitter) by evaluating each cell’s output vector magnitude when there are no objects on the Interface Surface;
2. Periodically compute  $\sigma_{FOD-Detection-Coils}^2$  as the statistical variance (ie standard deviation squared) of cell output vector magnitudes (ie measures of complex impedances) in the array (use net value after subtracting tare values for each cell);
3. If  $\sigma_{FOD-Detection-Coils}^2$  is below a threshold  $k_{array\_change}$ , then remain idle and return to step 2. Threshold  $k_{array\_change}$  may be established by prior experiment with the final system implementation;
4. Evaluate the ratio  $N_{slope\_cell\_N}$  for each cell output vector magnitude divided by the previous measurement for that cell;
5. If  $N_{slope\_cell\_N}$  is above a threshold  $k_{slope\_PRXfound\_min}$ , then a valid PRx has been found. Threshold  $k_{slope\_PRXfound\_min}$  may be established by prior experiment with the final system implementation;
6. If  $N_{slope\_cell\_N}$  is below a threshold  $k_{slope\_PRXfound\_max}$ , then a foreign object (or both a foreign object and a PRx together) has been found. Threshold

$k_{slope\_PRXfound\_max}$  may be established by prior experiment with the final system implementation;

7. This survey can be repeated at alternate frequencies of  $I_{FOD-excitation}$  for improved accuracy.

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In alternative arrangements, the power coil of the transmitter may also be used as the excitation coil of the object detection system. Similarly the excitation coil may not be decoupled from a separate power coil of the transmitter. Whilst an array of detection coils has been employed, a single detection coil may alternatively be used. As a further alternative, the power coils may be employed as the detection coils. Furthermore different measures of complex impedance may be used. Also different types (in addition to receiver and foreign object) may be detected using the measures of complex impedance.

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Whilst the embodiment has been described as detecting a receiver type of object in response to determining an increase in polar magnitude above a receiver detection threshold (ie  $N_{slope\_cell\_N} > k_{slope\_PRXfound\_min}$ ), a more generic relationship to the polar magnitude could be used such as a change within a predetermined range. Similarly, whilst detection of a foreign object type of object has been described as being in response to a decrease in polar magnitude above a foreign object detection threshold (ie  $N_{slope\_cell\_N} < k_{slope\_PRXfound\_max}$ ), a more generic relationship to the polar magnitude could be used such as a change within a second predetermined range.

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The measure of complex impedance may be determined from in-phase and quadrature voltage components of the detection coil(s). This may be determined by a combination of analogue circuit components and digital processing – ie the polar magnitude.

5 The object detection algorithm may only be executed if a “significant” change in measurements is detected in order to improve accuracy in accounting for differences and/or changes in parameters of the coils in practice. This may be configured to occur when a calculated statistic variance of the change from a predetermined measure of complex impedance (eg the “empty board” values) in the detection coils (or a sub-group of these) is above a statistic variance detection threshold (ie  $\sigma_{FOD-Detection-Coils}^2 > k_{array\_change}$ ).

#### Improved detection of foreign objects

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15 While a receiver object may exhibit the expected change in complex impedance within the frequency range expected of IPT receiver objects, there may be other resonant devices that may cause a change in complex impedance at a frequency close to their natural resonant frequency. An example is an RFID tag. In case where a receiver device is present together with an RFID tag, if the main IPT field is enabled, it will burn out the RFID tag. This may be undesirable. Objects such as those may be indistinguishable from either the no-object-condition or potential receiver-found-conditions.

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25 A foreign object (such as an RFID tag) may affect a change in the coupling between excitation and detection coil that is also similar to that produced by a Qi receiver (or no object at all). One or more of the previously described methods of object detection may interpret this as a similar change to the apparent magnitude and/or phase of the detection signal compared to a receiver object, depending on the configuration (e.g. choice of excitation frequency) and level of sensitivity selected.

One or more of the previously described methods of object detection may perform a Digital Ping to further establish if and what type of object has been. However, it is a concern that such execution of a Digital Ping, (e.g. MiFare proximity transport

access card) may cause irreversible damage to certain foreign objects including electronic systems e.g. bus or train proximity ticket cards or NFC credit cards. Additionally, in situations where such a sensitive foreign object (containing an electronic system e.g. RFID) is simultaneously placed with a wirelessly chargeable mobile phone, the object detection system may not successfully detect this foreign object due to the presence of the approved wirelessly chargeable mobile phone. Given that such cards are often provided in proximity to (or co-located with e.g. in a protective sleeve or wallet) a wirelessly chargeable mobile phone, this may be sub optimal.

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The inventor has determined it may be useful to prevent the system from attempting power transfer even momentarily (e.g. RFID tags that may otherwise be detected as a potential receiver, or not-an-object whilst there is also a valid power receiver nearby), by detecting frequency dependent (e.g. resonant) properties of objects within the charging zone.

For example RFID tags are known to resonate at a specific frequency of operation, and would exhibit a significant change in coupling of the excitation to detector coil if the system conducts a scan at this specific frequency.

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In order to detect other resonant devices, one technique is to determine the response at expected frequencies for various non approved devices. In this context non approved device means anything other than IPT receiver devices that are approved for use with the transmitter. Approved devices may include Qi ver 1.1 or above compliant IPT receivers. Non approved devices may include other resonant or non resonant devices. For example RFID tags are known to resonate at for example:

120–150 kHz (LF)

13.56 MHz (HF) ISM band

433 MHz (UHF)  
865-868 MHz (Europe)  
860-960MHz  
902-928 MHz (North America) UHF ISM band  
5 2.4GHz (microwave) ISM band  
5725-5875 MHz (microwave) ISM band  
24.125, 61.25, 122.5, 245 GHz ISM bands

10 If an impedance above or below a threshold is determined at or adjacent to any of these RFID frequencies, the system would determine the existence of a non-approved resonant device and disable IPT. Other non approved devices may be included depending on the application. For example in Figure 17 the system would check for impedance above or below a threshold 1702 at around 13.56MHz. Where the non approved device frequency is close to an approved IPT device 15 resonant frequency, it may require a very narrowly tuned excitation and detection system.

20 Alternatively the system could frequency hop or scan a range of frequencies looking for any anomalous response, other than at expected frequencies for approved receiver devices. For example approved IPT devices might be expected to resonate within the following frequencies (which may be selected according to the requirements of the application):

25 70-150kHz eg: 100kHz or 120kHz  
900kHz – 1.1MHz eg:1MHz (in accordance with the QI 1.1 specification for example)

If an impedance below or above a threshold is determined at any frequency apart from those frequencies, the system would determine the existence of a non-approved resonant device and disable IPT. For example in Figure 17 the system

would check for impedance below or above a threshold 1704 1706 at frequencies other than 120kHz and 1MHz.

5 This may be implemented by measuring the (spectral) frequency-impedance response of the OD system 200, and checking that this spectral response falls within known desirable ranges whereby a problematic foreign object (e.g. RFID tag) must not be present. An example is that there would be a large acceptable area for (relatively) broad peaks in the range 70-150 kHz to allow receivers to be present, but if a narrow spike was found at 120-140 kHz then it may be deemed 10 that a LF RFID tag is present. The width of the resonant response may be used to determine if the object is approved or not. This is equivalent to the "Q" or bandwidth of the response.

15 These anticipated or predetermined reflected impedance responses from RFID tags and other non-authorised devices can be considered predetermined reflected impedance signatures associated with non-authorised devices. These signatures can be associated with specific frequencies and transmitted power levels and stored by the object detection system in order to detect the presence of a non-authorised device. The object detection system may additionally or alternatively 20 stored predetermined reflected impedance signatures associated with authorised devices so that a non-authorised device can be detected when a reflected impedance signature is determined which is not associated with an authorised device. Various reflected impedance signature examples are described in more detail below.

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In a further alternative the system may detect the two step change in impedance associated with an RFID chip once it starts up. This can help to distinguish a non approved device having a resonant frequency close to that of an approved IPT device. As shown in Figure 17 an RFID chip would initially present a high Q

resonance 1708 at around 13.56MHz, when initially scanned at a first power level. At different field strength levels or durations of excitation, the RFID chip may start up /not start up, drawing significantly different amounts of power (i.e. impedance presented) in these cases. The RFID tag will then switch on and present a lower Q 5 resonance 1710. This characteristic two step impedance change or “compression effect” could be detected and disable IPT. This change might also be explained as a reduction in proportionality of observed output responses changing with (increasing) input stimulus. This could be implemented with series impedances in the input stimulus to form a potential divider network, whose gain varies with this 10 change in impedance as the filter capacitance charges up. This gain can then be employed to produce a proportional amplitude voltage signal that can be compared with thresholds to evaluate whether such a non-authorised device is present.

15 For a given power level and a predetermined RFID tag, it is possible to anticipate the duration of time before the chip starts up. In other words a “signature” comprised of a first impedance then after a predetermined time a second impedance at the resonant frequency of the RFID tag can be used to more confidently detect the RFID tag. This method can also be useful two distinguish 20 between an RFID tag and an authorised receiver (such as a QI receiver) having resonant frequencies similar to each other.

25 The use of the two-step impedance change method can be used together with the method of determining impedance changes at expected resonant frequencies. Alternatively the two-step impedance change method can be used without recourse to resonant frequencies of RFID tags or authorised receivers, as discussed in an embodiment below.

In a further alternative the system may detect the two step change in impedance associated with the biasing of rectifier diodes or other semiconductor devices once the characteristic semiconductor junction threshold voltage (e.g. 0.7 V per silicon diode) is exceeded by the application of an excitation field, which may or 5 may not be at the resonant frequency of the foreign object such as an RFID chip.

For example the system may look at non-linear or step-wise changes in magnitude or time response at predetermined frequencies, e.g. to distinguish between a 900 MHz RFID tag and the 1 MHz  $\pm 10\%$  dual resonant circuit of a Qi receiver. The RFID 10 tag may exhibit a response that changes markedly depending on the level of excitation – it may be a narrow response (high Q) at low excitation levels, then exhibit a stepwise change in response when the excitation level is increased to stimulate the RFID active circuit to start drawing more power (broad bandwidth, low Q due to parallel resonant tank with low equivalent impedance in shunt with 15 it).

Additionally an RFID active circuit may appear to be a light load (high impedance) initially (t=0ms), but become a high load (low impedance) upon having had sufficient time (e.g. t=10 ms) to charge up its internal storage capacitances, build 20 up resonance in the resonant receiver circuit, or to bias semiconductor junctions in a connected circuit (e.g. RFID chip).

The change in impedance may be detected by measuring an impedance magnitude at a RFID frequency to an impedance magnitude at a frequency closely spaced from the RFID frequency. For an RFID tag this should initially have a 25 significant difference when it is a higher Q resonance 1708. If it is measured subsequently that the difference 1710 reduces between the impedance magnitude at the RFID frequency and the impedance magnitude at the closely

spaced frequency, this can be used to confirm the presence of an NFC PICC card/tag object.

The signature associated with RFID tags may also be detected using a real power signature. For example as shown in Figure 18A the power initially 1802 may be relatively high while the capacitor is charging. Once charged the power diminished significantly 1804 as the running power for the state machine is minimal. On the other hand in Figure 18B a Qi receiver has an initial level of power 1806 which only increases 1808 after the handshake. The microprocessor in a Qi receiver uses a lot more power than the state machine in a RFID tag.

Figure 19(a) shows a flow diagram relating to the RFID signature method 1900. The transmitter detects 1902 a first impedance or power level related to an object in the IPT field. The transmitter detects 1904 a second impedance or power level related to an object in the IPT field. The transmitter then matches 1906 the first and second measurements to a library of known signatures for non-authorized objects (eg: RFID/NFC devices) and/or authorized IPT receivers. If a non-authorized object is detected IPT is disabled 1908.

The reflected impedance signature may be associated with communications activity from the non-authorised device. For example some RFID tags use backscatter communication, some generate a transmission (active tags, typically the LF 120 kHz or 433, 848 MHz ones). The OD system 200 could “read” the backscatter communications being generated by the RFID chip when it becomes active. It need not employ an RFID chip to trigger this response, it could send a suitable signal that will wake up a RFID tag, and monitor for the known sub carrier modulation that constitutes a valid handshake reply by an RFID tag. The initial signal could be at a much lower frequency than the standard carrier frequency for a RFID reader (eg:13.56MHz as defined in ISO/IEC 14443-2), such as the 1MHz

digital ping frequency of  $Q_i$ . The OD system 200 may conduct a polling process where it transmits a command sequence that the RFID object is designed to wait for (e.g. sequential sending of “REQA”, “WUPA” “REQB”, “WUPB” as specified by ISO/IEC 14443-3) but not necessarily at the frequency specified by the RFID scheme (e.g. NFC), so that the aforementioned modulation clock or subcarrier is generated by the RFID chip. The OD system 200 may be configured to detect a predetermined communications sequence from the RFID tag, for example the first or a truncated part of the normal handshaking messages that would occur between an RFID tag and an RFID reader. It is not necessary to implement any of the full message decoding capability of an RFID reader, just detection of the sub carrier modulation response. For example the OD system 200 may look for a detectable sub carrier amplitude modulation (e.g.  $f_c/128$   $f_c/64$   $f_c/32$   $f_c/16$  where  $f_c$  is 13.56 MHz independent of what frequency the polling request is sent at using Type A (On-Off Keying OOK, Miller coded), Type B (10% ASK Manchester coded), Type F (10% ASK Manchester coded per JIS X 6319-4) or Type V (BPSK NRZ-L), specified by ISO/IEC 14443-2 for Types A, B, JIS X 6319-4 for Type F, ISO/IEC 15693 for Type V) specified in various RFID systems.

If the polling commands sent by the transmitter are sent at a lower frequency, then the commands may require certain adaptions for a standard NFC or RFID tag to recognise them. The polling commands cycle through respective commands for each type of receiver. When the receiver detects a command relating to its type it responds.

Certain types of RFID tags detect the polling command modulation pattern without use of a local (i.e. on-board the card/tag PICC object) precision time-base (i.e. time reference such as a quartz crystal or silicon MEMS oscillator) by disciplining or synchronising a less precise local oscillator (e.g. R-C oscillator on-chip in the card/tag) to the incoming carrier frequency. Such a disciplined local

oscillator can then be used to detect the two modulation states by measuring the duration of time where the carrier is present or found to be in its highest amplitude as a first state (e.g. unmodulated level of 0% ASK), in comparison to the duration of time where the carrier is not present or found to be in its lowest amplitude as a second state (e.g. modulated level of -10% ASK or -100% ASK i.e. Off) in order to detect a valid polling command. Therefore if the carrier frequency being used is lower than the standard value, it may be necessary to increase the period of each modulated bit in the polling command, so that the number of cycles or duration of each bit using a lower than standard carrier frequency matches an identical number of cycles of the carrier as defined at the standard carrier frequency. This is used because cycle counting (or equivalently extracting a clock signal from the carrier to use as a time reference) is a simple mechanism not requiring an auxiliary or independent precision time reference on the PICC card/tag in order to detect expected signals and respond to them. By extracting a clock signal from the carrier however, the PICC card/tag does rely entirely on the implementation of the carrier having set its frequency to the standard value of 13.56 MHz and will not be aware of any deviation from that. Therefore the above approach will still work to stimulate the RFID object to respond with an acknowledgement (ATQ-A/ ATQ-B, ATQ-C etc).

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For example if the polling command includes a series of bits as shown in table 1:

No. Bits	3	3	5	2	1	7	1
State	on	off	on	off	on	off	on

Then the modulation period to get the same number of cycles/bits will be 10 times that for 13MHz as shown in table 2:

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State	on	off	on	off	on	off	on
Period	30T	30T	50T	20T	10T	70T	10T

13MHz	21us	21us	35us	14us	7us	49us	7us
1.3MHz	210us	210us	350us	140us	70us	490us	70us

Figure 19(b) shows the polling command 1910 @13.56MHz compared to the polling command 1912 @1.3MHz. This ensures that the same number of cycles are present to trigger the RFID object response.

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The RFID polling request to stimulate a response from a PICC (NFC card/tag) can be generated by the IPT transmitting coil as 7 as described earlier. The advantage to this is that a separate RFID/NFC reader antenna and circuit is not required. Typically most IPT transmitters will include an ASK backscatter communication module to communicate with the receiver. This typically includes a current transformer and a bandpass filter at 2kHz (which is the frequency the receiver modulates the IPT field at) or an equivalent voltage mode detection may be used. In this case the transmitter 2 includes a communication module 2000 as shown in Figure 20. A modulator 2002 introduces the polling commands 2004 into the coil 7 voltage. The polling commands are received by any NFC or RFID tags in range, and once energised the tag amplitude modulates the IPT signal at a subcarrier frequency. This is detected with the current transformer (or via a voltage measurement), which has one or more bandpass filters. A filter 2008 is centred about the expected PICC (card/tag) sub-carrier frequency that is used to modulate its acknowledgement response onto (i.e. 212,424 or 848kHz) for the response from the RFID/NFC tag 2010 (or a range of bandpass filters about expected RFID/NFC response frequencies). If the valid response is received IPT is disabled. The bandpass filters might have a suitable bandwidth to encompass the typical RFID/NFC responses, for example 106-318, 424-480, 847-848 kHz.

20

If the carrier frequency is lower than 13.56Mhz, the acknowledgement (ATQ-A/ATQ-B, ATQ-C etc) modulation may also be proportionately lower in frequency. If

25

so, then then bandpass filters might have a suitable bandwidth for the expected lower frequency RFID/NFC response. For example if 8 carrier cycles are implied by the sub-carrier modulation specification of 848 kHz for a 13.56 MHz carrier, then equivalently by using a 1.356 MHz carrier, the stimulated card/tag PICC response will be a sub-carrier of 84.8 kHz. A modulation detection filter should accordingly be centred or include this expected range of frequency (84.8 kHz in the example).

To reduce the bandwidth required of a logic portion of such a demodulator implementation, a simple magnitude detector including a parallel (high impedance at notch frequency) or series (low impedance at notch frequency) resonant tank together with a rectifier and capacitor filter to convert the signal to d.c. could be employed to allow a low cost microcontroller to use a comparatively low bandwidth ADC to detect the magnitude and thus presence of a subcarrier.

Once a subcarrier has been detected, a power transmitter would return to an idle or sleep state. Subsequent detection of objects or change in position of the objects, would result in a new search for presence of an NFC object by repeating the above search for a subcarrier.

Figure 21 shows a flow diagram relating to the RFID sub carrier modulation technique 2100. The transmitter sends 2102 polling commands using the IPT coil or the OD coil (as opposed to a separate RFID/NFC reader module). The coil is tuned to a first frequency and modulated at a second higher frequency in order to emulate a predetermined NFC/RFID object polling command. Any RFID/NFC tags in range receive 2104 the command and send a response. The transmitter detects 2106 for any valid RFID/NFC response at a third frequency corresponding to the predetermined response of an NFC/RFID object. If a valid response is received at the third frequency this indicate the presence of an NFC/RFID object and IPT is disabled 2108.

Alternatively the polling commands 2200 may be sent at the expected  $F_c$  frequency eg: 13.56MHz by the inverter 2201 as shown in Figure 22. In this case the IPT coil 7 or the OD coil 202 will be tuned 2202 at a significantly lower frequency. The 5 RFID/NFC tag 2202 replies at 848kHz which is detected with the current transformer 2206, which has one or more bandpass filters. A first filter 2210 is centred about 848kHz for the response from the RFID/NFC tag 2204.

In some cases the transmitter transmission circuit will not be tuned to 100kHz by 10 a tuning capacitor, but will be adapted or optimised to this frequency by the selection of coil inductance and inverter drive voltage. For example a power transfer circuit may have a 10 micro-Henry inductance using say 10 windings for the coil. At 100kHz this results in a reactance of approximately 6 ohm, whereas driving 13MHz through this coil would result in reactance of approximately 800 ohms requiring a much higher voltage to drive a current of a similar magnitude. 15 Accordingly an NFC reader coil will have a much lower inductance with less turns, larger size, in order to enable the inverter to drive at the higher frequency with reasonable operating parameters (eg 5V). Driving an IPT circuit, optimised for say 110kHz, at a much higher frequency in order to stimulate a response from any proximate non-authorised devices, may require that the inverter is driven at a 20 higher voltage, eg: 20V in order to have enough current for an RFID card to detect the resulting field.

In the event an authorised receiver is detected, inverter 2201 send the normal IPT 25 signal to coil 7. The inverter 2201 will also modulate the IPT voltage at 1Mhz to communicate with the receiver 3. A second filter 2208 is centred about 2kHz for the standard ASK backscatter communication response from the IPT receiver 3.

The power transmitting coil may be approximate 12 uH inductance and tuned for approximately 100 kHz. Most RFID implementations use 1-4 uH or less in order to

be tuned at 13.56 MHz. Thus the polling request is sent from a multi purpose coil. That is to say a coil that has a first purpose of either IPT power transfer eg: coil or object detection eg: coil 202. The second purpose is sending polling request to any non authorized objects such as nearby NFC/RFID tags. By way of contrast 5 incorporating a separate NFC/RFID tag reader module would include a reader coil that only had a single purpose.

Alternatively other communications protocols for other non authorised objects may be included and/or signatures for further types on non authorised objects.

10

For example the NFC-F (Sony Felica cards, used for rail transport in Japan) protocol does not appear to generate a subcarrier, but it does modulate the PCD's carrier directly at a net symbol rate of 212 kbit/sec. The corresponding detector for this type of card would be approx. 212 kHz – however the message content would 15 spread the frequency content (i.e. sidebands) significantly around this 212 kHz 'median' symbol rate. Literature suggests that the power spectral density (psd) of Manchester coding is from 0 – 150% of the bit rate, so perhaps specify a detection bandwidth of up to  $212 \times 1.5 = 318$  kHz. The majority of the signal power will lie between 50% and 100% of the bit rate, so perhaps  $212 \times 0.5 = 106$  kHz up to 212 20 kHz.

The OD system 200 may implement detection of reflected impedance signatures associated with non-authorised devices and/or authorised devices using lower power levels than those normally employed to interact with authorised devices so 25 as to avoid destruction of any RFID tags which may be present. Detection of such devices by the OD system will then disable power transfer by the inductive power transmitter. An initial foreign object detection phase implemented using the above embodiments can be carried out prior to and at a lower power level than

the digital ping phase used to detect authorised devices. For example the polling commands may be sent at 50% or 20% of the power of the digital ping.

To prevent a “false positive” result in the case that a product containing an authorized Qi receiver also contains an NFC function in card/tag (PICC) emulation mode, the receiver can first disable its NFC PICC emulation function when it detects a Qi Ping e.g. 1 MHz signal or other impulse stimulus (e.g. 175 kHz burst) known or declared to be used by a transmitter for detection of a potential receiver to charge. Whenever a receiver also has an NFC emulation function, it should temporarily (e.g. 5 sec) disable that function when an impulse is detected in the rectified voltage ( $V_r$ ) of the power transfer circuit, in order that it not produce a false positive when such a transmitter executes a search for RFID objects.

To more reliably eliminate such a false positive during an RFID ping or detection search, a Qi transmitter should emit an agreed upon signal that announces to an authorized Qi receiver that it is about to be probed by a Qi transmitter – such as a tone burst at 1 MHz, 175 kHz, or 110 kHz.

This method of detection of other resonant devices may be combined with any of the previously mentioned approaches for object detection.

The method employed by the transmitter is shown in Figure 23. The transmitter uses an Analog Ping 2302 to monitor for newly placed objects such as valid receivers, foreign objects including RFID. Various methods are employed for Analog Ping and this is not defined by the Qi specification. For example this may be implemented by a short impulse to the IPT transmitter coil and look for any reflected impedance. Alternatively separate object detection coils may be used.

The analogue ping 2302 may be supplemented with a RFID Ping which is a predetermined signal which can be used to signal the receiver to behave differently. This may be more robust than relying on the receiver to detect the Analog Ping. The RFID Ping could be a separate step to the Analog Ping, or the RFID Ping would replace the Analog Ping and be used for detecting any object as well as signalling to the receiver.

The RFID Ping could be implemented by a short low power tone burst in the standard power transfer frequency range – preferably at the higher end as this 10 detunes the power gain into any Qi receiver and gives more consistent induced excitation levels. Thus a signal of 175kHz could be used, which is the same as that used for Digital Ping, however a better frequency might be around 145kHz due to European spectrum regulations. The RFID Ping is distinguished from a Digital Ping as being energy limited to field levels equivalent to 12 ampere-turns for example, 15 and of a duration less than the minimum allowable unsuccessful Qi ping phase time of  $t_{ping} + t_{expire} = 65+90 = 155$  ms used when receiving a Digital Ping. This ensures that the RFID Ping won't cause the Qi receiver to proceed out of Ping phase and cause power transfer to start.

20 The transmitter may then perform a specific RFID detection method 2304 and/or other more general FOD methods. Knowing now that any NFC card/tag emulation function has been disabled in a Qi receivers, the RFID search will now not yield a “false positive” result since the embedded NFC emulation function will not respond the NFC REQA signal etc. Otherwise such a response if returned by an 25 NFC emulation function would prevent the Qi receiver device from ever being charged by a Qi transmitter with such RFID protection.

Assuming no FO/RFID is found, the transmitter then continues to the Qi startup protocol which starts with a Digital Ping 2306, which is a continuous tone at

typically 175kHz and which will typically be at a higher power than the RFID Ping enabling powering up of receivers that do not have on-board batteries. Communication from the receiver to transmitter is then established in the normal way using load modulation of the tone.

5

The method 2400 employed by the receiver is shown in Figure 24. If the receiver is a Smartphone or similar which has NFC emulation functionality (eg to emulate a loyalty card etc), and this function is ON it may confuse certain RFID detection methods and prevent power transfer to the phone. All other objects placed on the transmitter will be unaffected by this protocol.

10

The receiver monitors the coil for a RFID Ping 2402 (which as noted above could be the Analog Ping). The RFID Ping is essentially signalling the receiver to switch OFF its NFC emulation function. If the transmitter is not using RFID Ping and instead uses an existing Analog Ping such as impulse, it may still be possible for the receiver to detect this and declare that the transmitter is signalling to switch OFF its emulation function.

15

The receiver then switches off 2404 its NFC emulation function for a predetermined time (if it is ON). The predetermined time is sufficient to allow the transmitter to run the RFID detection method. 0.5 sec is the minimum required start-up time for a Qi transmitter to start power transfer with a receiver when placed, so would be a suitable period. If it hasn't started up within 0.5 sec, it most likely will not power it up at all (e.g. FOD inhibiting).

20

At the end of the time period, the Rx then follows the specified Qi startup protocol in response to receiving a Digital Ping from the Tx 2406.

Whilst embodiments have been described in which the object detection system uses excitation and receiver coils separate from the transmitter power coil, in alternative arrangements the object detection system may use one or more transmitter power coils, or a combination of power transmitter coils, excitation and receiver coils.

5

While the present invention has been illustrated by the description of the embodiments thereof, and while the embodiments have been described in detail, it is not the intention of the Applicant to restrict or in any way limit the scope of the appended claims to such detail. Additional advantages and modifications will readily appear to those skilled in the art. Therefore, the invention in its broader aspects is not limited to the specific details, representative apparatus and method, and illustrative examples shown and described. Accordingly, departures may be made from such details without departure from the spirit or scope of the Applicant's general inventive concept.

10

15

**CLAIMS:**

1. An inductive power transmitter comprising:
  - a transmission circuit having a coil, the transmission circuit tuned, adapted or optimised at or about a first frequency for inductive power transfer or object detection;
  - an inverter operable to drive the transmission circuit at the first frequency; and
  - a controller arranged to control the inverter to drive the transmission circuit at a second higher frequency, and to modulate a signal at the second higher frequency according to a predetermined handshake signal in order to generate a response from a predetermined non-authorised device proximate the coil.
2. The inductive power transmitter of claim 1 wherein the coil is a power transmitting coil or an object detection coil and not a NFC reader coil or an RFID tag reader coil.
3. The inductive power transmitter of claim 1 further comprising a series tuning capacitor between the inverter and coil in order to tune the transmission circuit to the first frequency.
4. The inductive power transmitter of claim 1 configured for inductive power transfer, wherein the controller is arranged to disable driving the transmission circuit at the first frequency in response to detection of a said response from a predetermined non-authorised device.
5. The inductive power transmitter of claim 1 configured for inductive power transfer, wherein the controller is arranged to disable driving the

transmission circuit at a subsequent higher power level in response to detection of a said response from a predetermined non-authorised device.

6. The inductive power transmitter of claim 1, wherein the first frequency is between 100-200kHz for inductive power transfer or between 600-700kHz for object detection, and the second frequency is between 1-2MHz or between 13-14MHz.
7. The inductive power transmitter of claim 1, wherein the predetermined handshake signal comprises On-Off Keying or ASK Manchester coded modulation of the second higher frequency.
8. The inductive power transmitter of claim 1, further comprising a detection circuit arranged to detect a said response from a predetermined non-authorised device by detecting a predetermined third frequency.
9. The inductive power transmitter of claim 8, wherein the third frequency is substantially between 106-318, 424-480, 847-848kHz.
10. The inductive power transmitter of claim 1, wherein the non-authorised device is an RFID object.
11. The inductive power transmitter of claim 1, wherein the predetermined non-authorised device has a specified handshake signal having a carrier frequency higher than the second frequency.
12. The inductive power transmitter of claim 11, wherein the predetermined handshake signal includes a sequential series of polling commands and the specified handshake signal includes a sequential series of polling commands, and the number of cycles of each predetermined handshake signal polling

command is the same as the number of cycles of each respective specified handshake signal polling command.

13. The inductive power transmitter of claim 1, wherein the controller controls the inverter to drive the transmission circuit at forth frequency prior to the second frequency, and to modulate the forth frequency according to a predetermined signal in order to instruct an authorized receiver, having a non-authorised resonant device, to disable the non-authorised resonant device.

14. An inductive power transmitter comprising:

10 a transmission circuit having a coil;

an inverter operable to drive the transmission circuit; and

15 a controller arranged to control the inverter to drive the transmission circuit at a handshake frequency, and to modulate a signal at the handshake frequency according to a predetermined handshake signal in order to generate a response from a predetermined non-authorised devices proximate the coil,

wherein the predetermined non-authorised device has a specified handshake signal having a carrier frequency higher than the handshake frequency, and

20 wherein the predetermined handshake signal includes a sequential series of polling commands and the specified handshake signal includes a sequential series of polling commands, and the number of cycles of each predetermined handshake signal polling command is the same as the number of cycles of each respective specified handshake signal polling command.

15. The inductive power transmitter of claim 14, wherein the handshake frequency is less than 6.78MHz, and the carrier frequency is between 13-14MHz, and/or wherein the handshake frequency is between 100kHz and 3MHz.
- 5 16. The inductive power transmitter of claim 14, wherein wherein the polling commands of the predetermined handshake signal and the specified handshake signal each comprise a corresponding number of bits, and wherein each bit comprises the same number of cycles of its respective signal frequency.
- 10 17. The inductive power transmitter of claim 14, further comprising a detection circuit arranged to detect the response from a predetermined non-authorised device by detecting a predetermined third frequency.
- 15 18. The inductive power transmitter of claim 17, wherein the specified handshake signal is an NFC Request and the third frequency is a sub-carrier of the handshake frequency.
19. An inductive power receiver comprising:
  - a receiver circuit having a coil;
  - a non-authorised resonant device; and
  - 20 a controller arranged to detect a disable signal in the coil sent by an inductive power transmitter, to disable the non-authorised resonant device depending on the disable signal, and to modulate a signal in the coil to instruct the transmitter to begin power transfer.

20. The inductive power receiver of claim 19, wherein the disable signal is an IPT signal burst of between 100-200kHz with duration less than a predetermined hold-off time.

21. An inductive power transmitter comprising:

5 a transmitter circuit having a coil;  
an inverter operable to drive the transmission circuit; and  
a controller arranged to control the inverter to drive the transmission circuit at a ping frequency, and to modulate a signal at the ping frequency according a disable signal to disable a non-authorised resonant device in an authorised receiver, and to detect a start-up signal in the coil to begin power transfer to the authorised receiver.

10 22. The inductive power transmitter of claim 21, wherein the ping frequency within a predetermined range of frequencies of operation of the start-up signal, and with a predetermined short period.

15 23. An inductive power transmitter comprising:

at least one multi purpose coil;  
an object detection system configured to detect objects in or adjacent to the IPT field;  
20 wherein the object detection system energises the multi purpose coil to send a handshake signal configured to generate a response from a predetermined non-authorized object, and disables inductive power transfer if a non-authorized object is detected based on receiving a valid response.

25 24. The inductive power transmitter of claim 23 wherein the handshake signal is at a significantly lower frequency compared to the expected carrier

frequency of the non-authorized object, and/or the non-authorized object is a RFID or NFC tag.

25. The inductive power transmitter of claim 24 wherein the frequency of the handshake signal is between 500kHz-5MHz.

5 26. The inductive power transmitter of claim 23 wherein the coil is tuned to a significantly different frequency compared to the frequency of the handshake signal.

10 27. The inductive power transmitter of claim 23 wherein the frequency of the handshake signal is approximately 13.56MHz, and the coil is tuned for a frequency between 50kHz and 2MHz.

28. The inductive power transmitter of claim 23 wherein the valid response relates to a Type A, Type B, Type V or Type F protocol response message.

15 29. The inductive power transmitter of claim 23 further comprising a backscatter detection circuit configured to measure the voltage or current in the coil to determine:

a signal sent by an authorized receiver; and

a signal sent by a predetermined non-authorized object.

20 30. The inductive power transmitter of claim 29 wherein the backscatter detection circuit comprises a current transformer and a first bandpass filter for the authorized receiver signal and a second bandpass filter for the predetermined non-authorized object signal.

31. The inductive power transmitter of claim 23 wherein the multi purpose coil is a power transmitting coil or an object detection coil and not a NFC reader coil or an RFID tag reader coil.

32. An object detection system for an inductive power transmitter, the object detection system comprising:

memory arranged to store predetermined signatures associated with an authorized inductive power receiver and/or a non-authorized object;

the object detection system arranged to indicate a non-authorized object in response to:

10 detecting one or more of the predetermined signatures associated with the non-authorized object;

and/or detecting a signature which does not correspond to the one or more of the predetermined signatures associated with the authorized receiver.

15 33. The object detection system of claim 32 further comprising a coil and circuitry arranged to determine reflected impedances in or adjacent to a space into which an IPT field from the transmitter is projected; and wherein the predetermined signatures are predetermined reflected impedance signatures or predetermined real power signatures.

20 34. The object detection system of claim 33 wherein the non-authorized objects include a NFC or RFID tag and the predetermined reflected impedance signatures associated with the non-authorized object are

a magnitude at a RFID frequency being similar to a magnitude at a frequency closely spaced from the RFID frequency at a first time; and

25 a magnitude at the RFID frequency being substantially higher to a magnitude at the closely spaced frequency at a subsequent time.

35. The object detection system of claim 33 wherein the predetermined reflected impedance signature associated with the non-authorized object includes a first high Q impedance and a second subsequent low Q impedance.
- 5 36. The object detection system of claim 33 wherein the predetermined real power signatures associated with the non-authorized object includes a first higher power level and a second subsequent lower power level and predetermined real power signatures associated with the authorized receiver includes a first lower power level and a second subsequent higher power level.
- 10 37. The object detection system of claim 33, further arranged to detect a non-approved object by determining that reflected impedance is above a threshold at frequencies outside the frequencies associated with approved receivers.
- 15 38. The object detection system of claim 33, wherein the predetermined reflected impedance signatures associated with the non-authorized receiver include a two-step change in reflected impedance corresponding to starting an RFID tag.
- 20 39. The object detection system of claim 33, wherein the predetermined reflected impedance signatures associated with the non-authorized receiver correspond to predetermined communications signals from a non-approved device.
- 25 40. The object detection system of claim 33, wherein the predetermined reflected impedance signatures associated with the non-authorized receiver are predetermined amplitude modulated reflected impedance.

41. The object detection system of claim 33, wherein the predetermined reflected impedance signatures associated with the non-authorized receiver are a predetermined communications sequence comprising a first part of a full handshaking communications sequence normally undertaken by an RFID tag and reader.  
5
42. The object detection system of claim 33, wherein detection of non-approved devices is achieved using transmitted power levels lower than those used by the transmitter to detect and transfer power to approved devices.
43. The object detection system of claim 33, wherein the object detection system uses a power transmitting coil of the inductive power transmitter to detect a non-approved device.  
10
44. The object detection system of claim 33, wherein the object detection system further comprises excitation and receiving coils in order to determine the reflected impedances.
45. The object detection system of claim 33, configured to disable power transfer by the inductive power transmitter in response to detecting a non-approved device.  
15
46. An inductive power transmitter comprising:
  - at least one power transmitting coil configured to generate an inductive power transfer (IPT) field;
  - an object detection system configured to detect objects in or adjacent to the IPT field;
  - wherein the object detection system is configured to detect a non-approved device.  
20

47. The transmitter in claim 46, wherein the non approved device include non approved resonant devices.
48. The transmitter in claim 46, wherein the non approved device include RFID tags.
- 5 49. The transmitter in claim 46 wherein the object detection system is configured to determine the reflected impedance at a plurality of predetermined frequencies.
- 10 50. The transmitter in claim 49 wherein the plurality of predetermined frequencies include resonant frequencies for a plurality of approved resonant devices.
51. The transmitter in claim 49 wherein the plurality of predetermined frequencies include resonant frequencies for a plurality of non approved resonant devices.
- 15 52. The transmitter in claim 49 wherein the plurality of predetermined frequencies include scanning a range of frequencies outside of those for approved resonant devices.
53. The transmitter in claim 49 further comprising a swept or multiple switched frequency source to generate excitation across a spectrum of frequency, and a detection system swept or switched to the spectrum of frequency.
- 20 54. The transmitter of claim 46, wherein the object detection system is arranged to detect a non-approved device by determining that reflected impedance is above a threshold at frequencies outside the frequencies associated with approved devices.

55. The transmitter of claim 54, wherein the object detection system is arranged to detect a non-approved device by detecting predetermined changes of reflected impedance measurements.
56. The transmitter of claim 55, wherein the predetermined changes include a two-step change in impedance corresponding to starting an RFID tag.
57. The transmitter of claim 55, wherein the predetermined changes correspond to predetermined communications signals from a non-approved device.
58. The transmitter of claim 55, wherein the predetermined changes are predetermined amplitude modulated reflected impedance.
59. The transmitter of claim 55, wherein the predetermined changes are a predetermined communications sequence comprising a first part of a full handshaking communications sequence normally undertaken by an RFID tag and reader.
- 15 60. The transmitter of claim 46, wherein the object detection system is configured to attempt communication with one or more non-approved devices before attempting power transfer.
61. The transmitter of claim 46, wherein detection of non-approved devices is achieved using Tx power levels lower than those used to interact with approved devices.
- 20 62. The transmitter of claim 46, wherein the object detection system uses the power transmitting coil to detect the non-approved device

63. The transmitter of claim 46, wherein the object detection system uses excitation and receiving coils separate from the power transmitting coil.

64. The transmitter of claim 46 configured to disable power transfer in response to detecting a non-approved device.

5 65. An object detection system for an inductive power transmitter, the object detection system comprising:

a coil and circuitry arranged to determine reflected impedances at a plurality of frequencies;

10 memory arranged to store predetermined frequencies associated with an authorized inductive power receiver and/or predetermined frequencies associated with a non-authorized receiver; and

the object detection system arranged to indicate a non-authorized receiver in response to:

15 detecting a predetermined increase or decrease in reflected impedance at the predetermined frequency associated with the non-authorized receiver;

and/or detecting a predetermined increase in reflected impedance at a frequency which is not associated with the authorized inductive power receiver.

20 66. The system of claim 65, wherein the non-authorized receiver corresponds to an RFID tag.

67. The system of claim 65, wherein the predetermined increase or decrease in reflected impedance is a threshold increase over a predetermined frequency change.

68. The system of claim 65, wherein the object detection system is further arranged to indicate the non-authorized receiver in response to:

detecting a change in the reflected impedance following the initially detected predetermined increase in reflected impedance at the predetermined frequency associated with the non-authorized receiver;

and/or detecting a change in the reflected impedance following the initially detected predetermined increase in reflected impedance at a frequency which is not associated with the authorized inductive power receiver.

10 69. The system of claim 65, wherein the change in reflected impedance is a predetermined reduction after a predetermined time.

70. The system of claim 65, wherein the system is arranged to drive the coil at different power levels in order to determine reflected impedances at each power level.

15 71. The system of claim 70, wherein the detected change in reflected impedance is determined in response to the coil being driven at a different power level.

72. A method of operating an object detection system for an inductive power transmitter, the object detection system comprising a coil and circuitry, the method comprising:

driving the coil at a first power level and determining a first reflected impedance;

driving the coil at a second higher power level and determining a second reflected impedance;

wherein the second power level but not the first power level is sufficient to start operation of a predetermined non-authorised receiver;

detecting a non-authorised receiver in response to determine a predetermined difference between the first and second reflected 5 impedances.

73. The method of claim 72 wherein the non-authorised device is an RFID tag.

74. A method of operating an object detection system for an inductive power transmitter, the method comprising:

determining reflected impedances at a plurality of frequencies;

10 indicating a non-authorized receiver in response to:

detecting a predetermined increase or decrease in reflected impedance at a predetermined frequency associated with a non-authorized receiver;

15 and/or detecting a predetermined increase in reflected impedance at a frequency which is not associated with an authorized inductive power receiver.

75. A method of operating an inductive power transmitter comprising a transmission circuit including a coil and tuned to a first frequency, and an inverter operable to drive the transmission circuit at the first frequency; the 20 method comprising:

driving the transmission circuit at a second higher frequency in order to detect any predetermined non-authorised devices proximate the coil;

modulating the second higher frequency according to a predetermined handshake signal recognisable by the non-authorised 25 devices; and

indicating the presence of the non-authorised device in response to detecting a predetermined response.

76. The method of claim 75, further comprising disabling power transfer by the inductive power transmitter in response to said indication.

5 77. The method of claim 75, wherein the predetermined response comprises a predetermined third frequency.

78. The method of claim 75, wherein if an authorized receiver includes a non-authorised resonant device and receives the handshake signal, the non-authorised resonant device is disabled.

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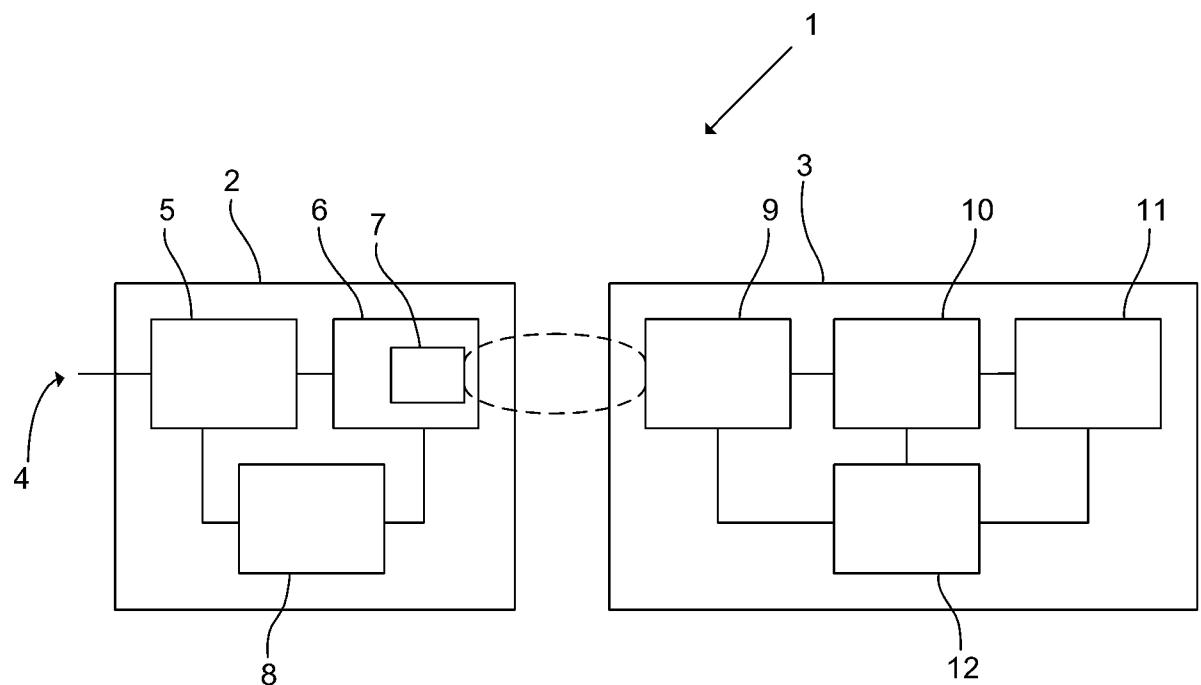


FIG. 1

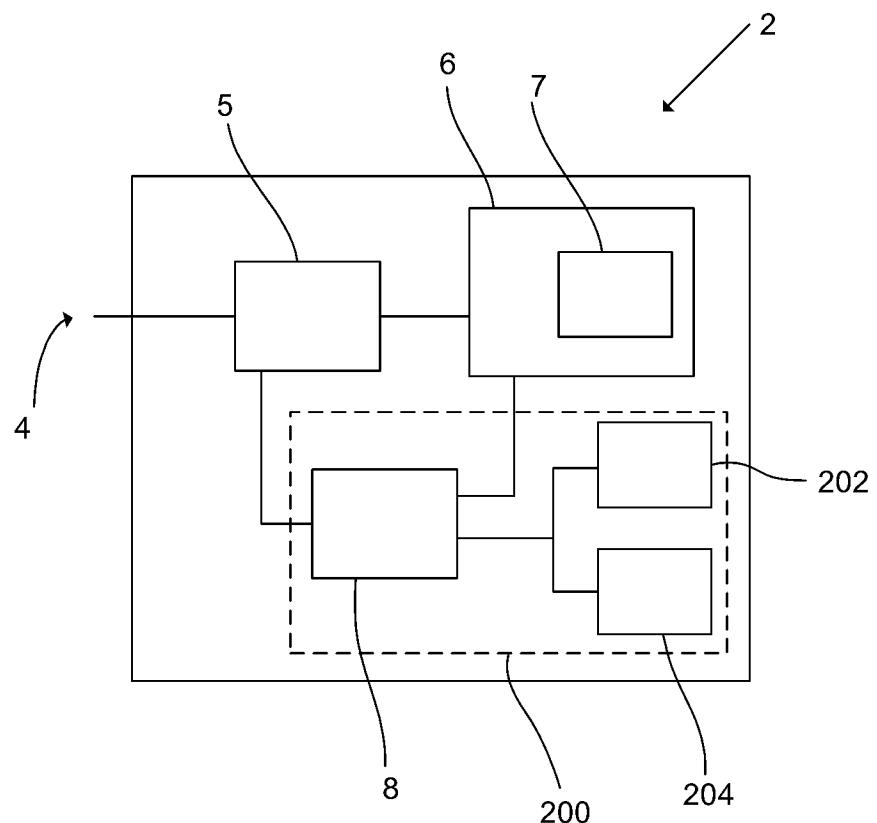


FIG. 2

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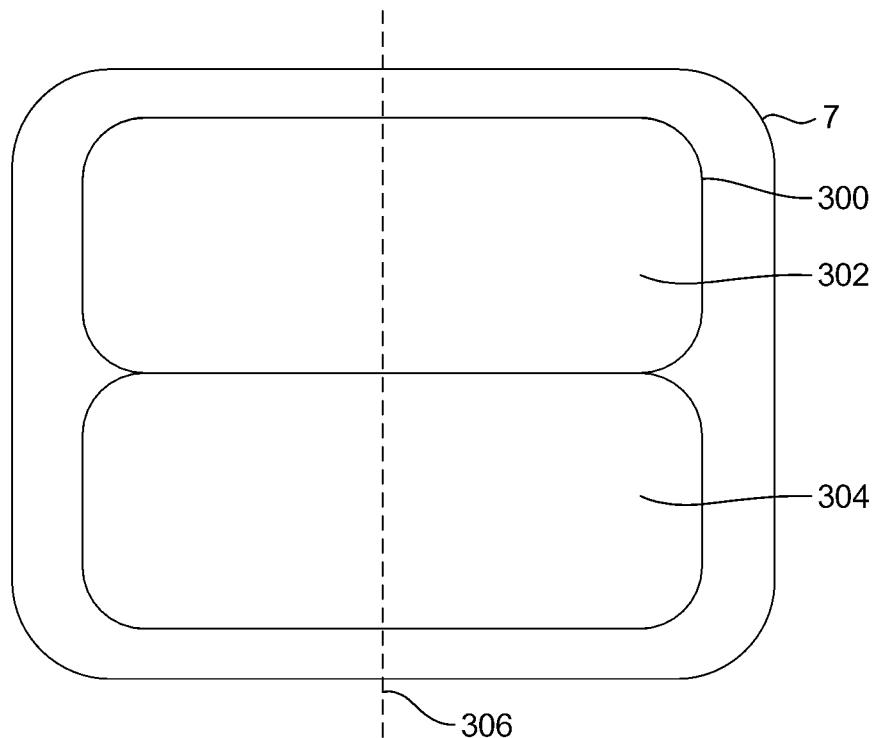


FIG. 3

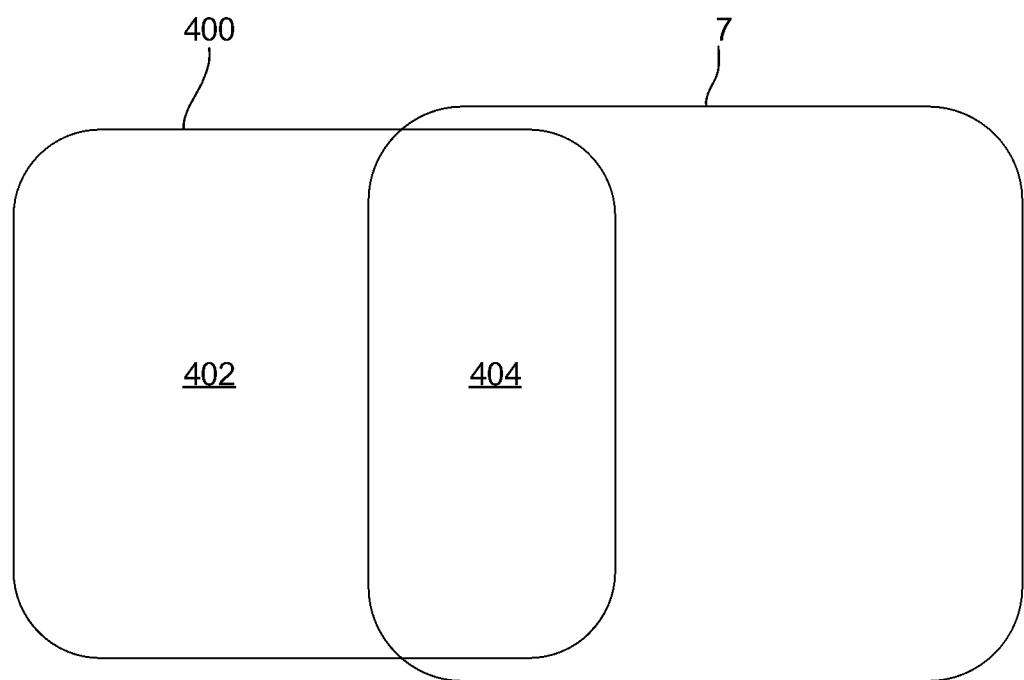


FIG. 4

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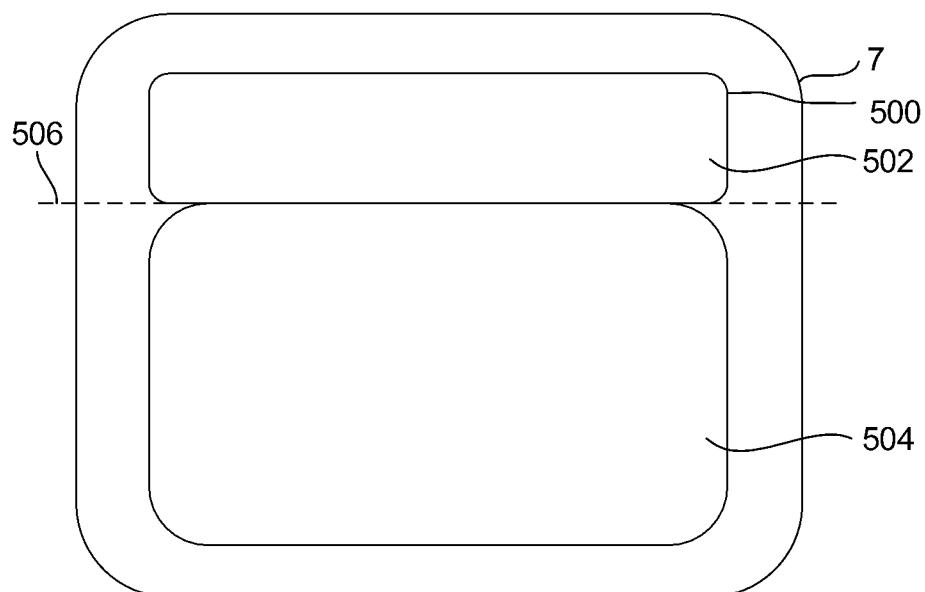


FIG. 5

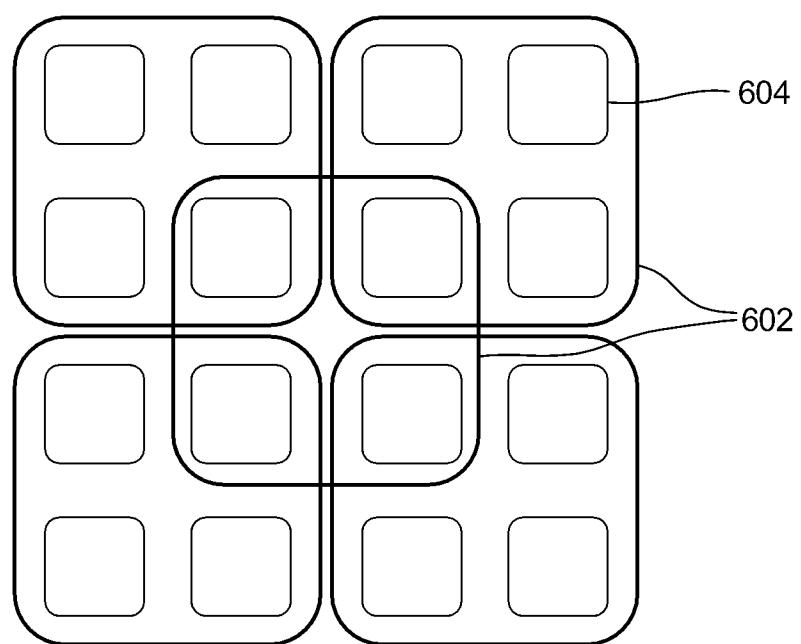


FIG. 6

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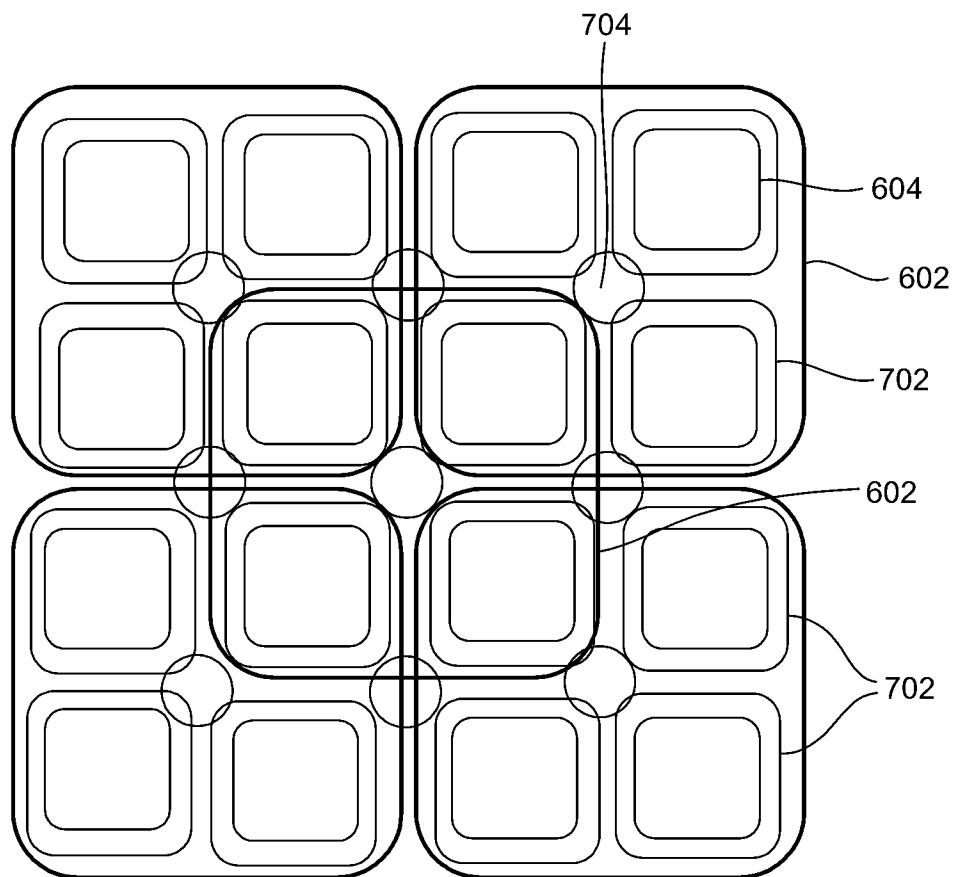


FIG. 7

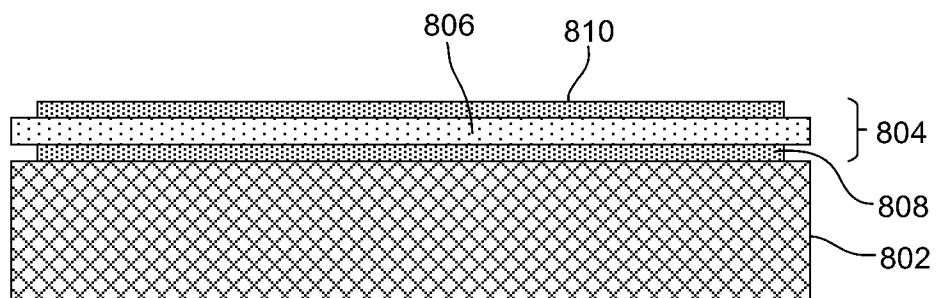


FIG. 8

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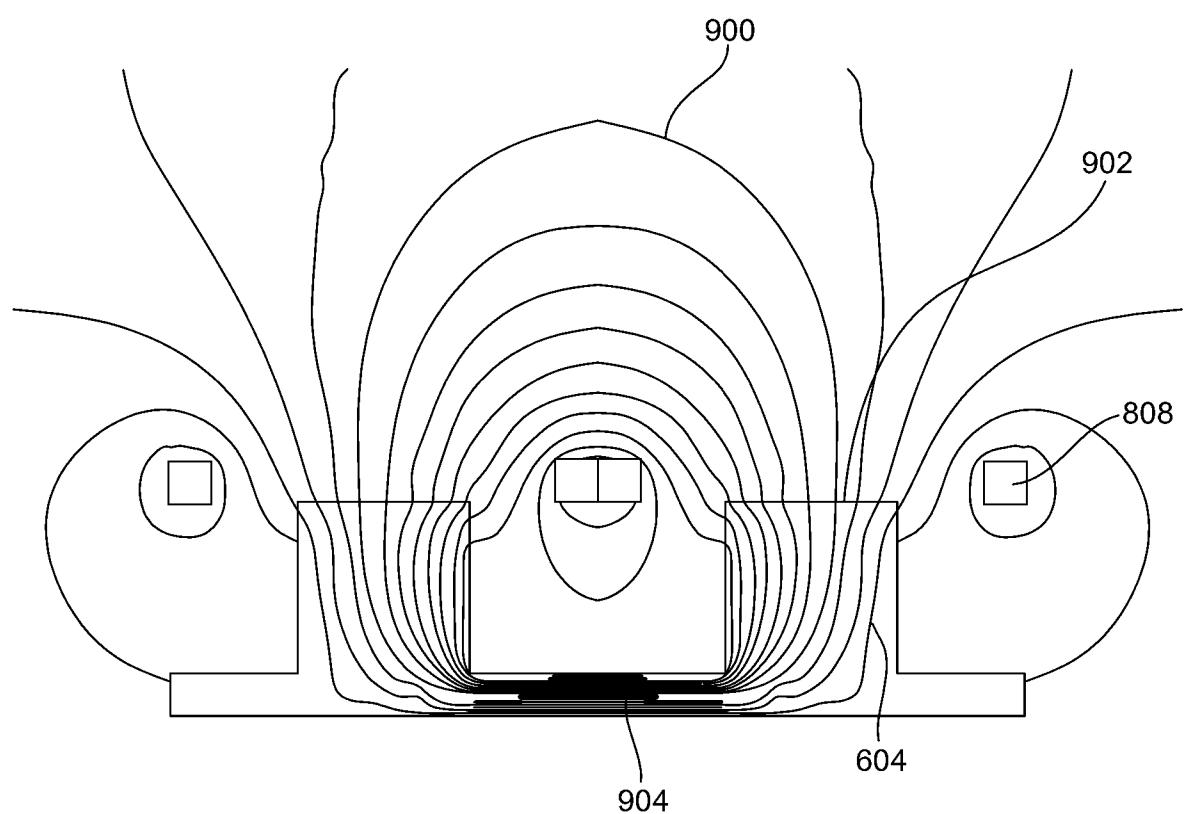


FIG. 9

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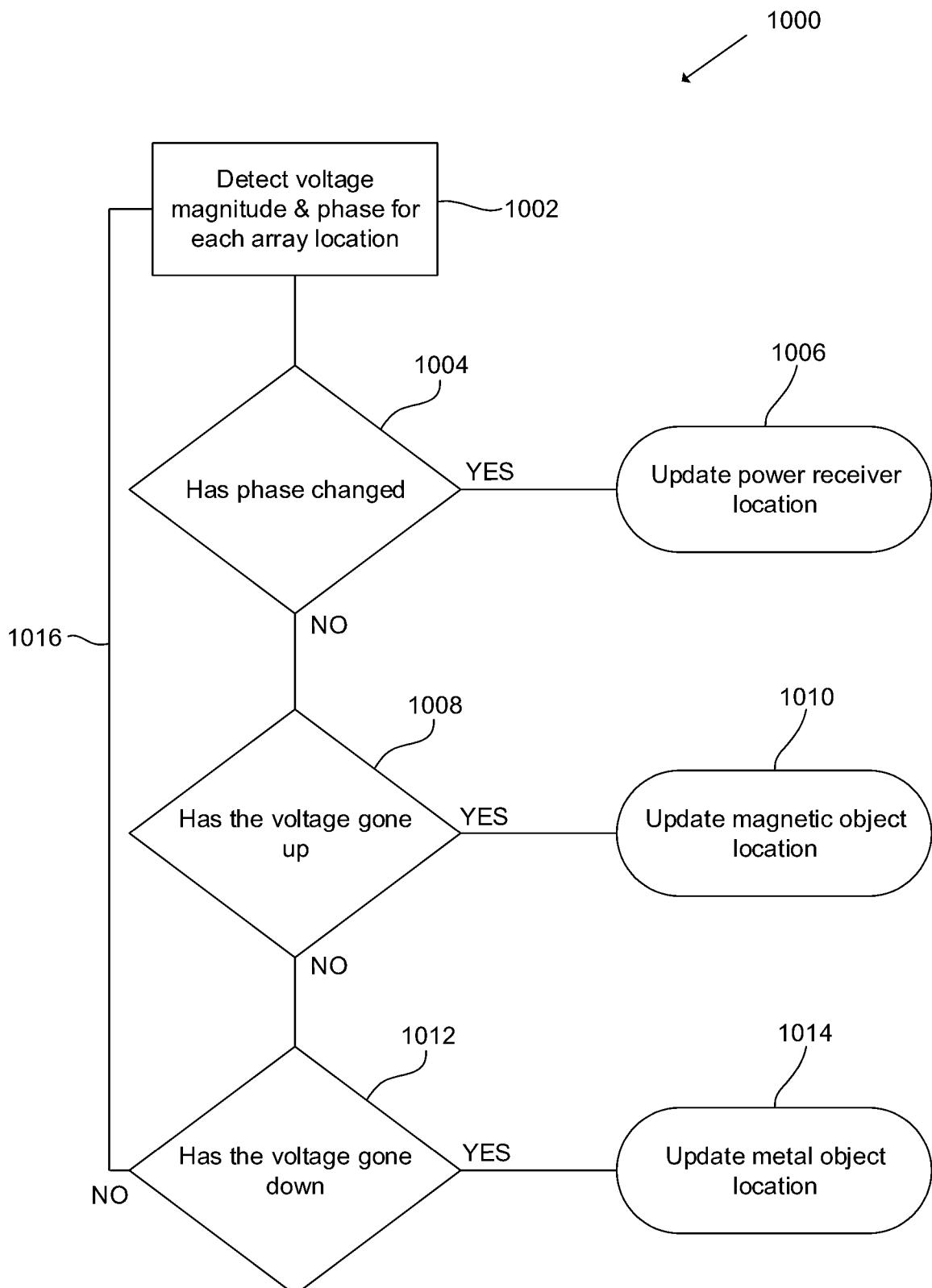


FIG. 10A

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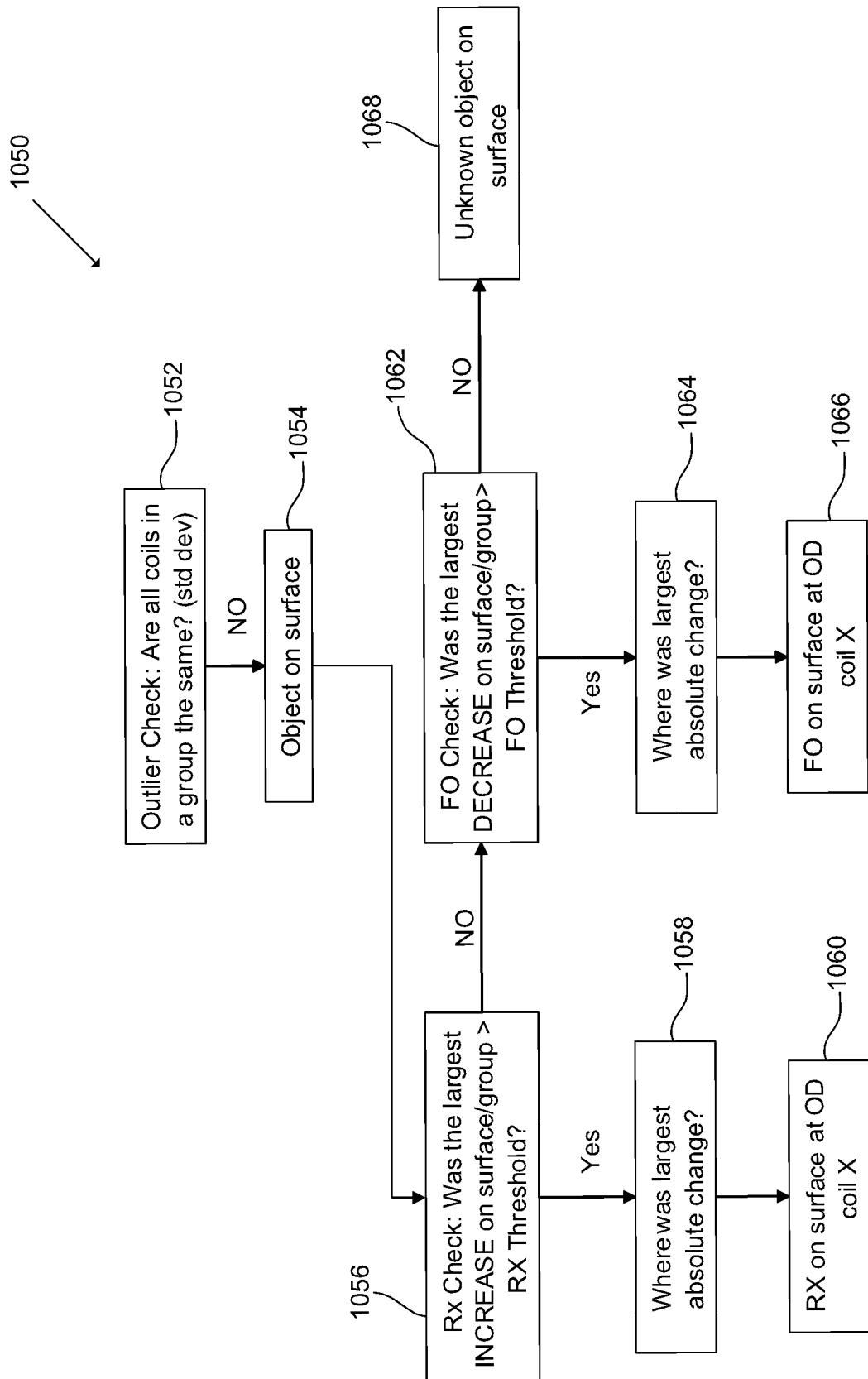


FIG. 10B

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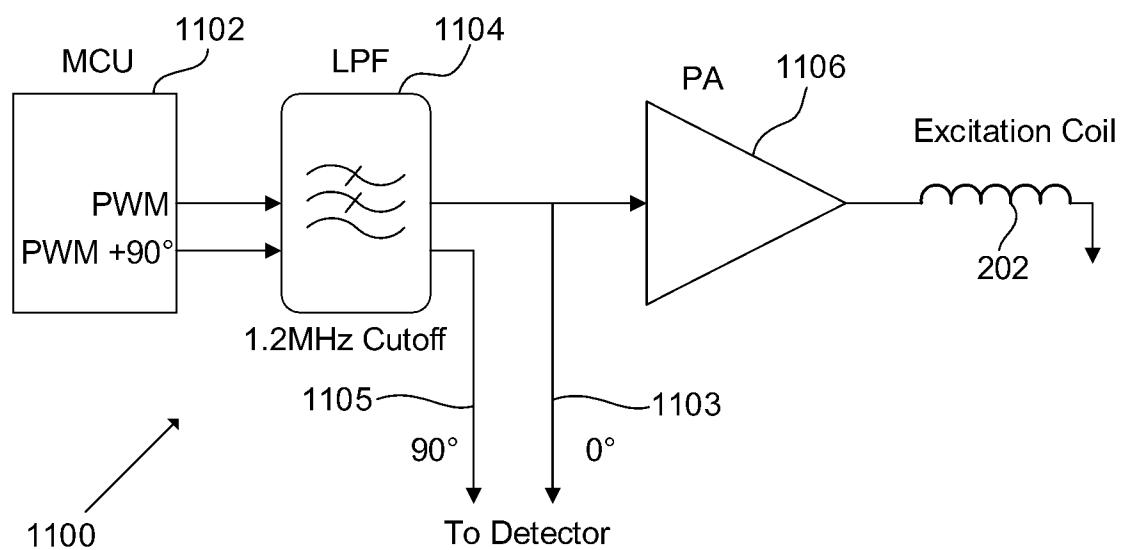


FIG. 11

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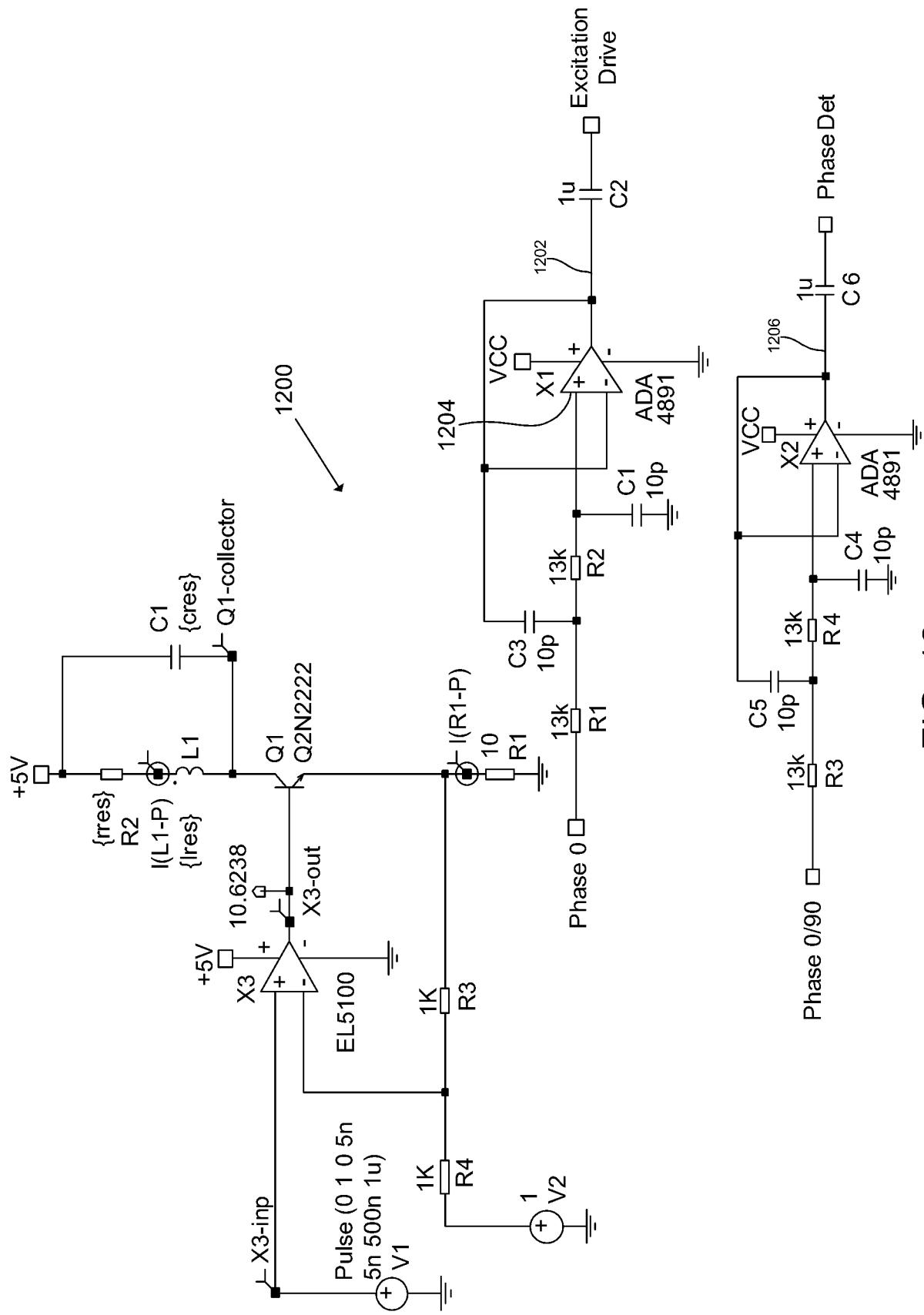


FIG. 12

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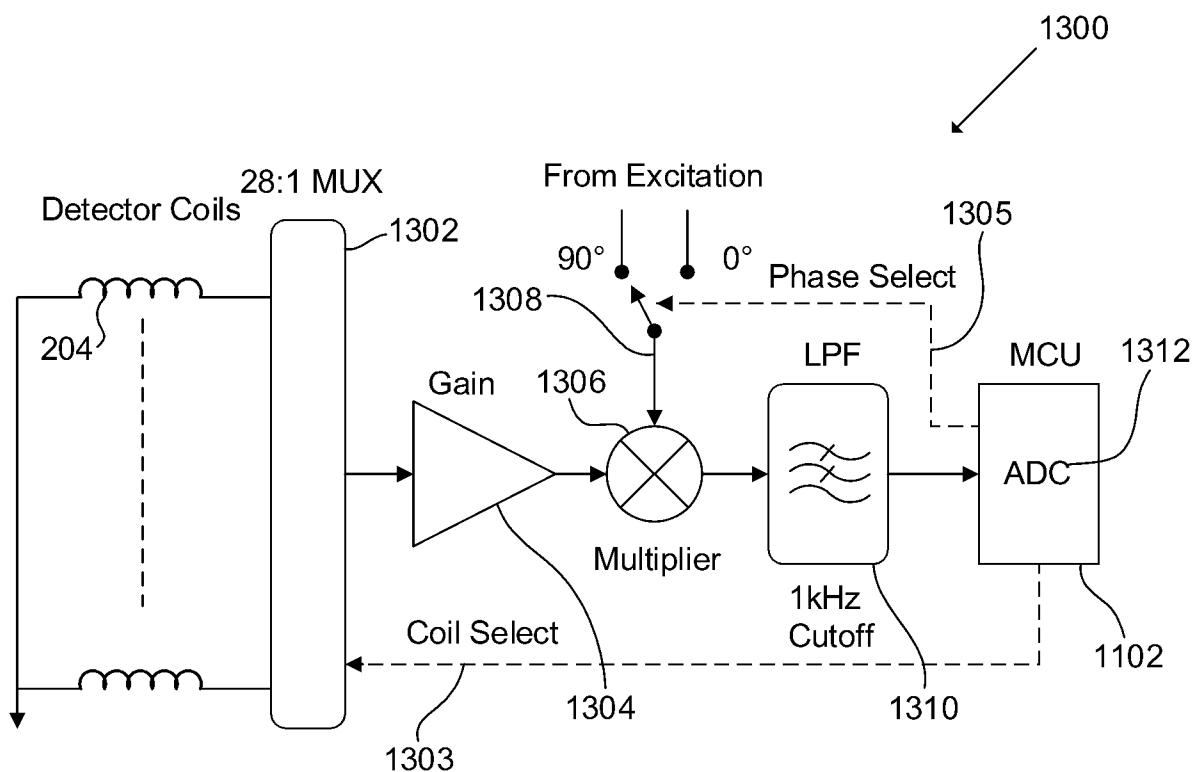


FIG. 13

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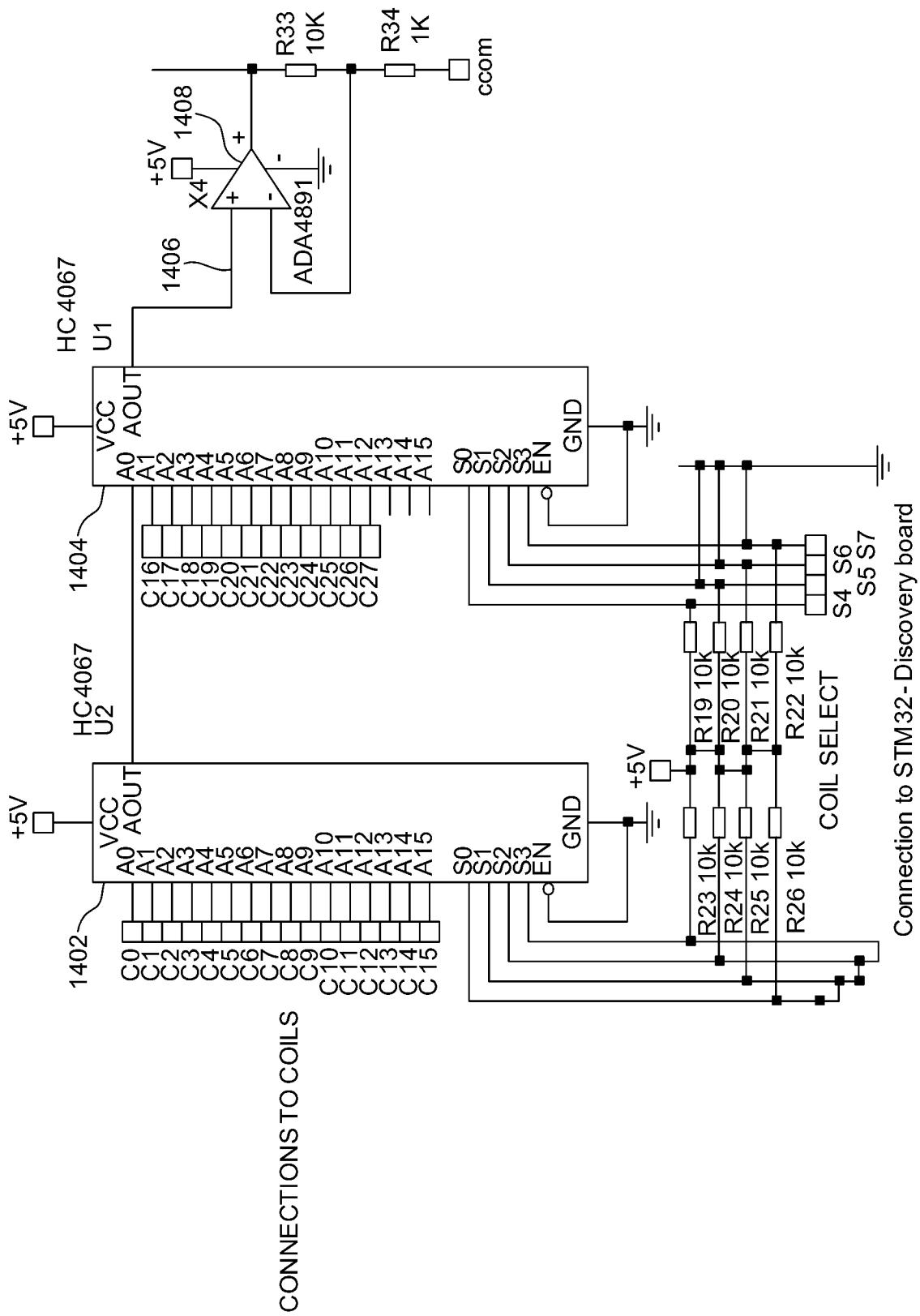


FIG. 14

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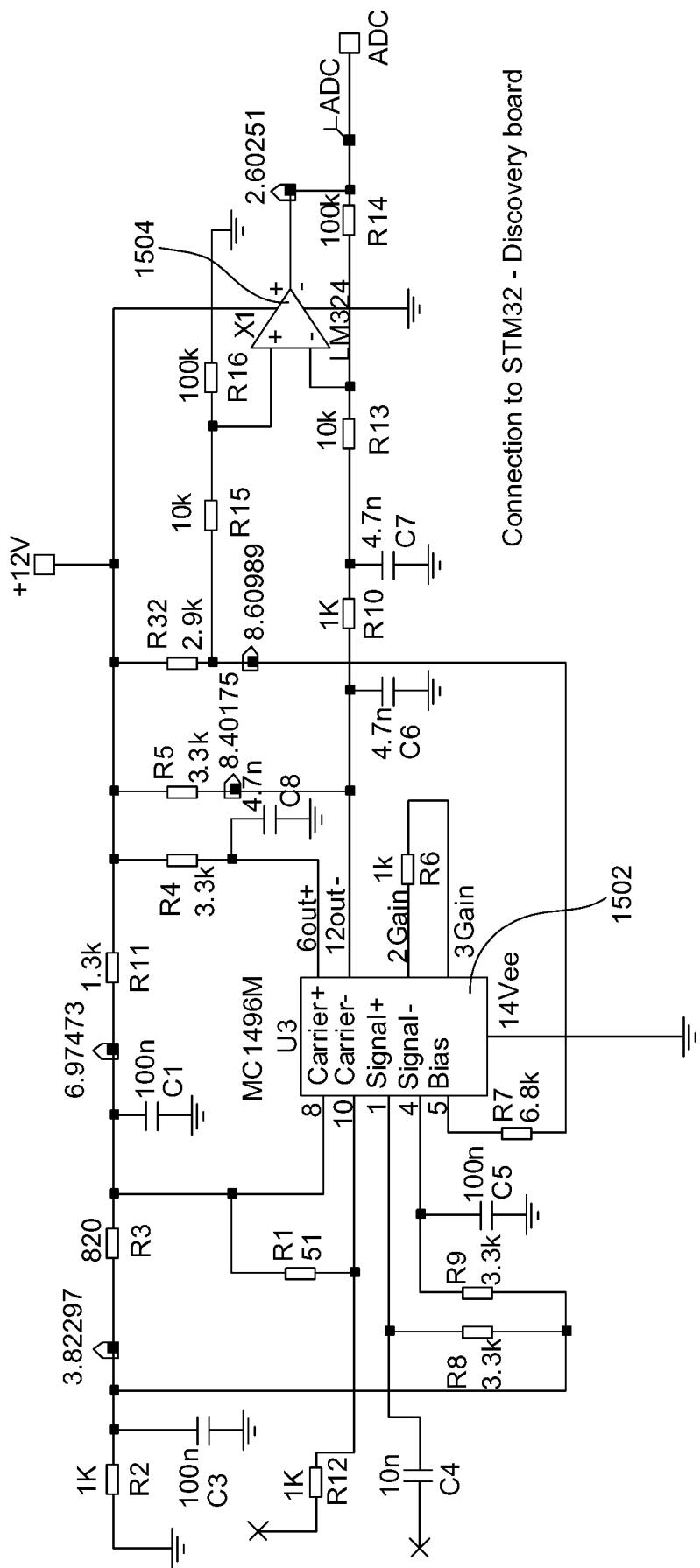


FIG. 15

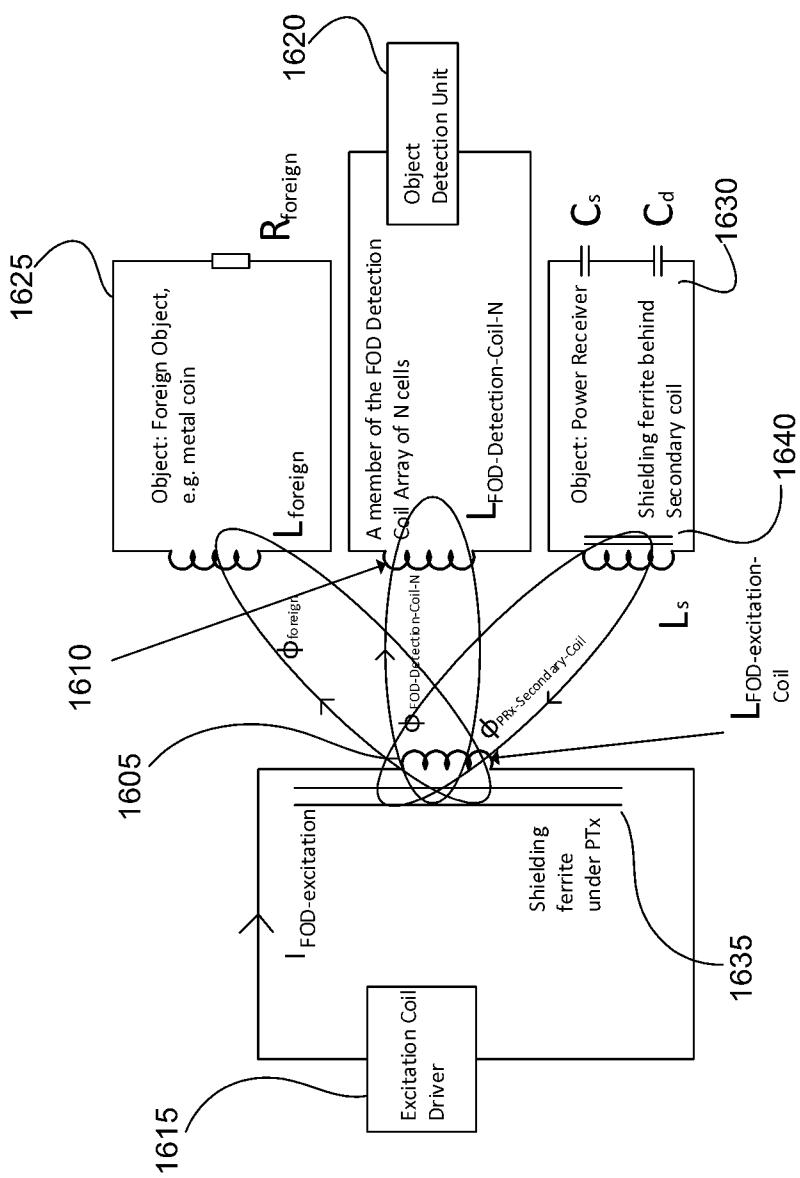


FIG. 16

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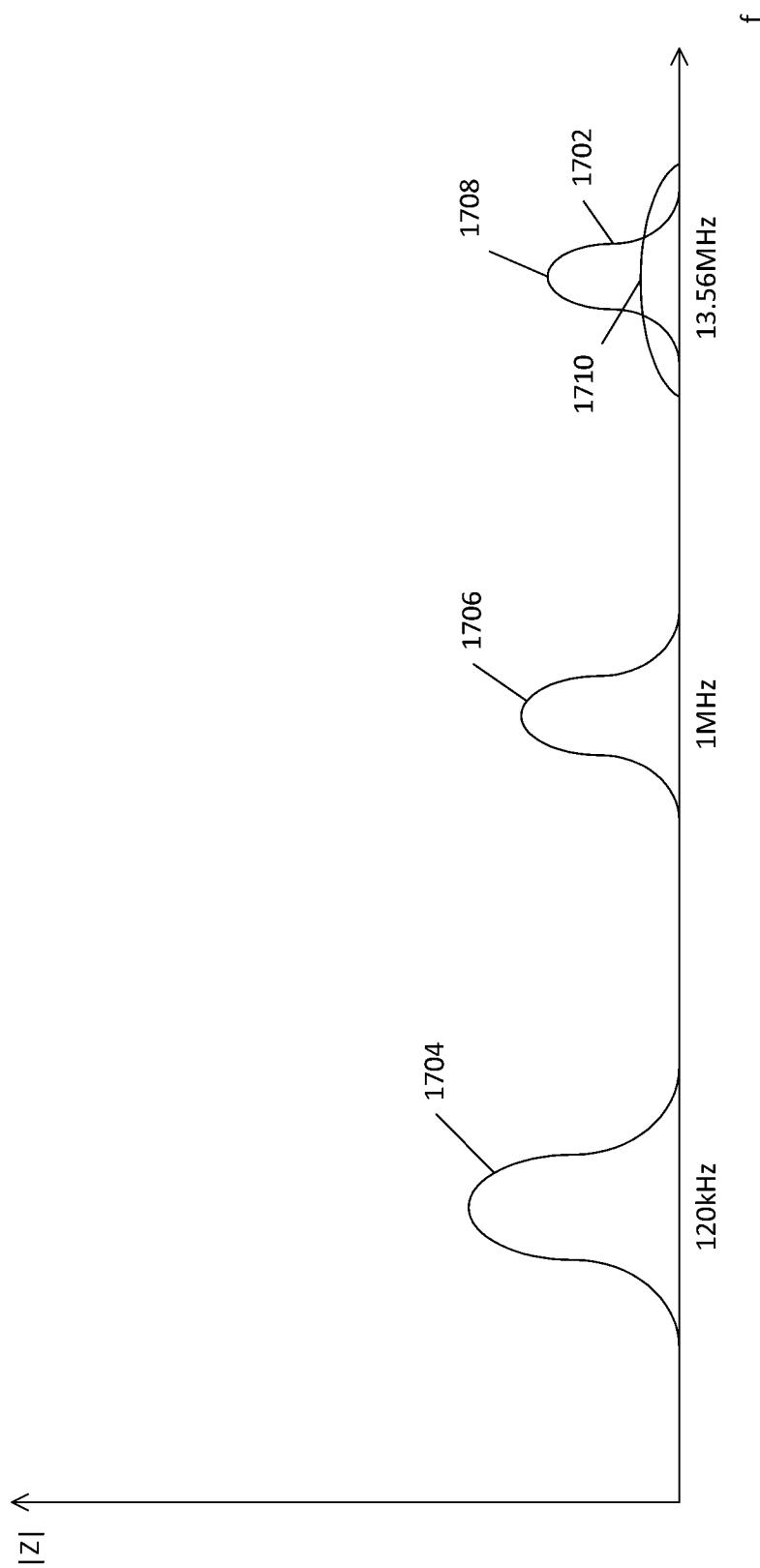


FIG. 17

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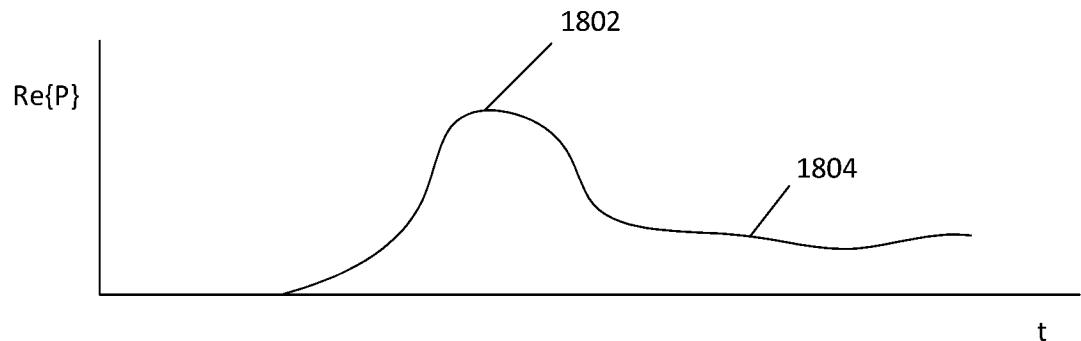


FIG. 18(a)

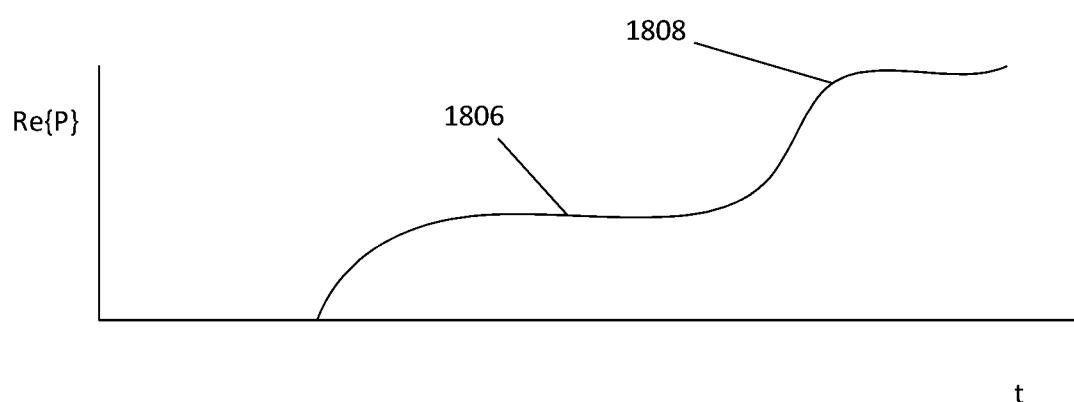


FIG. 18(b)

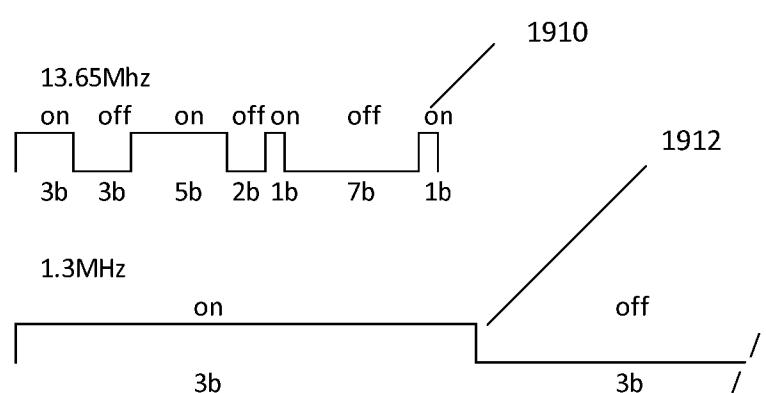


FIG. 19(b)

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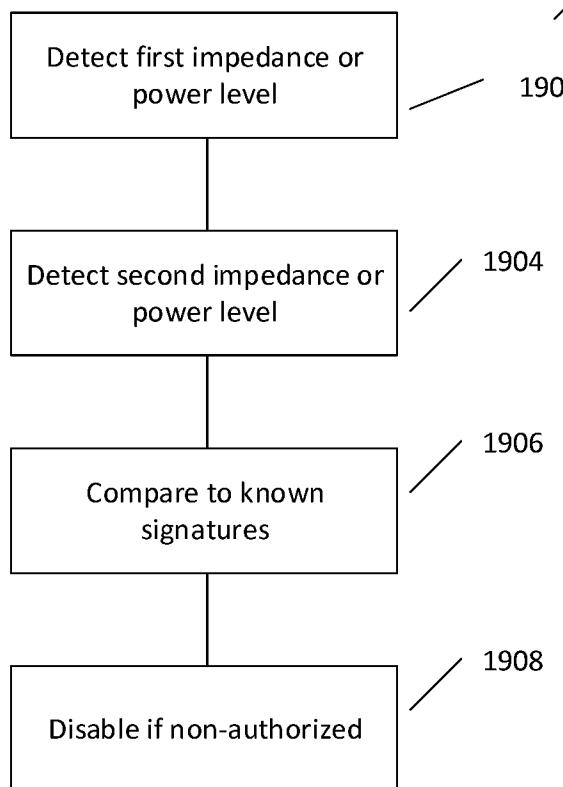


FIG. 19(a)

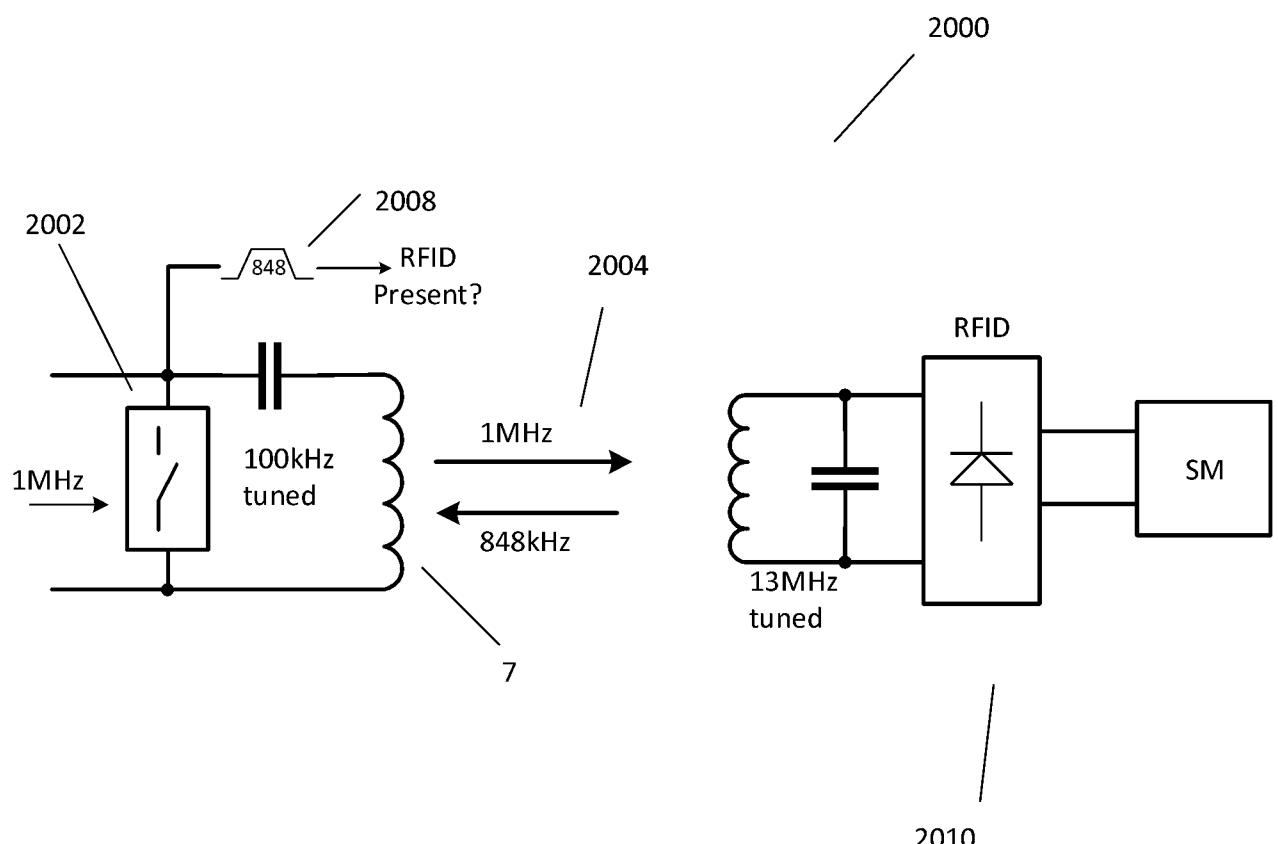


FIG. 20

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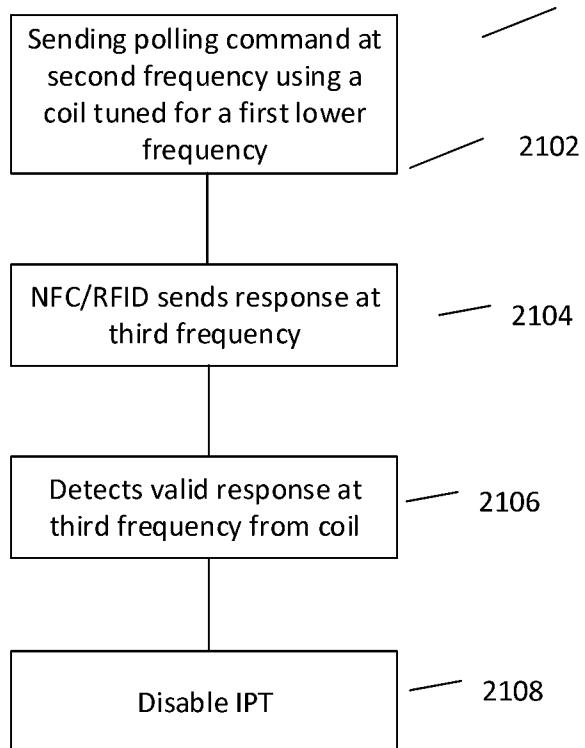


FIG. 21

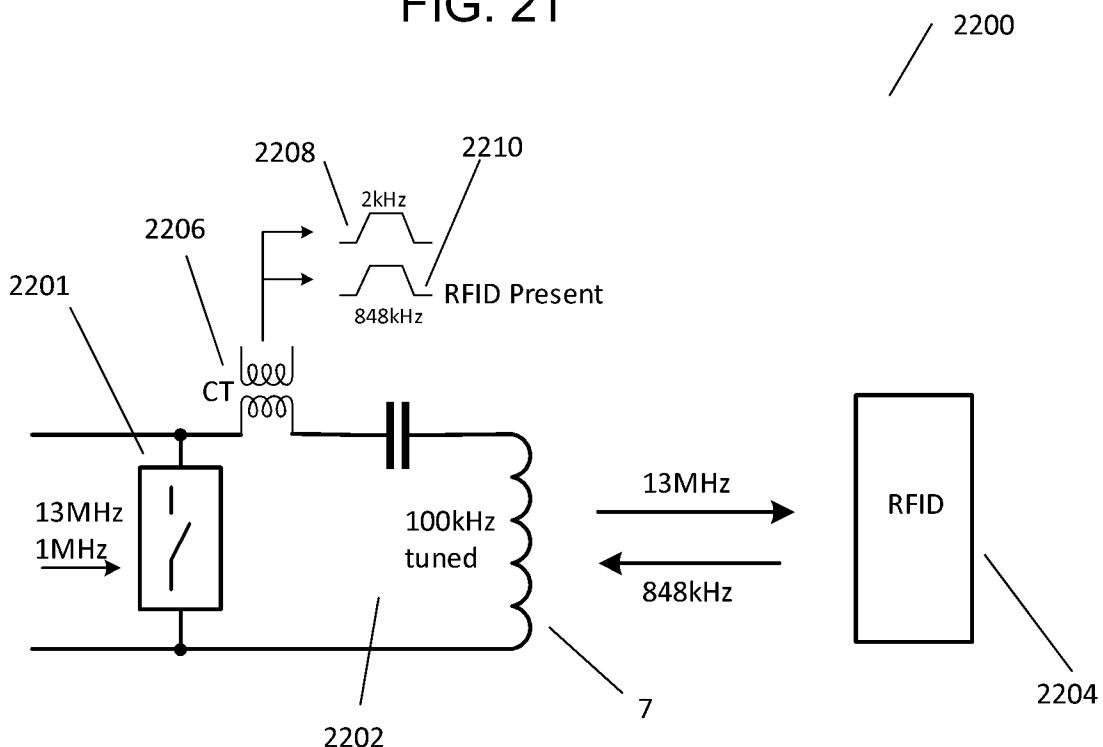


FIG. 22

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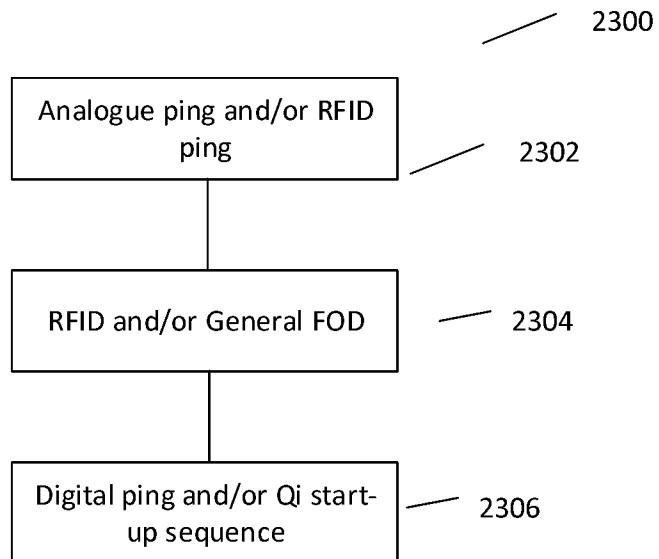


FIG. 23

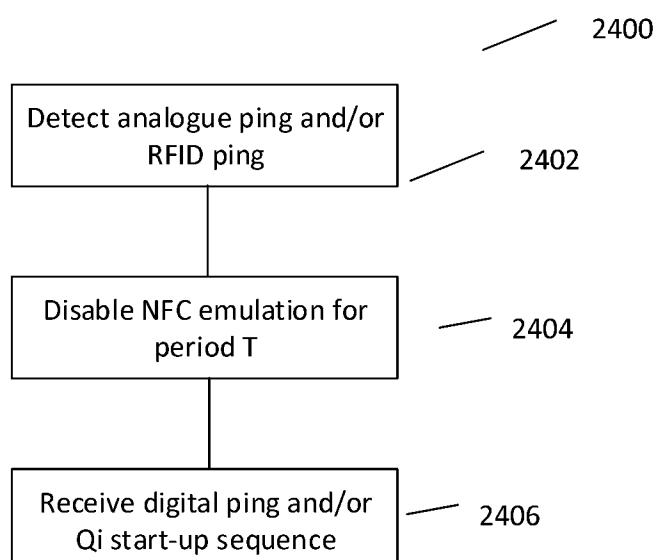


FIG. 24

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/NZ2017/050038

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

**H02J 5/00 (2016.01)**   **H02J 7/02 (2016.01)**   **H04B 5/00 (2006.01)**   **H02J 50/00 (2016.01)**   **H02J 50/10 (2016.01)**  
**H02J 50/60 (2016.01)**

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

Databases: EPODOC, WPIAP, FULL TEXT, GOOGLE, GOOGLE PATENTS and ESPACENET

IPC/CPC marks: H02J5/00; H02J7/02; H04B5/00; H02J50/00; H02J50/10; H02J50/60; H02J2007/0001, H02J7/025, H02J, H04B

Keywords: Inductive power transfer, coil, tuned, object, detection, authorised, tag, multiple frequency, handshake, poll, ping, RFID, NFC, memory, disable, reflected impedance, multiple power level, increase, decrease and similar terms.

Espacenet, AUSPAT and IP Australia internal databases: Applicant/Inventor name search

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
	Documents are listed in the continuation of Box C	

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C       See patent family annex

* "A"	Special categories of cited documents: document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"E"	earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date	"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"L"	document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"O"	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&"	document member of the same patent family
"P"	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

Date of the actual completion of the international search 28 July 2017	Date of mailing of the international search report 28 July 2017
<b>Name and mailing address of the ISA/AU</b>  AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA Email address: pct@ipaaustralia.gov.au	<b>Authorised officer</b>  Vinod Menon AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE (ISO 9001 Quality Certified Service) Telephone No. +61262832763

**Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)**

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1.  Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:  
the subject matter listed in Rule 39 on which, under Article 17(2)(a)(i), an international search is not required to be carried out, including
2.  Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3.  Claims Nos:  
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a)

**Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)**

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

**See Supplemental Box for Details**

1.  As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2.  As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.
3.  As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4.  No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

**Remark on Protest**

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		International application No. <b>PCT/NZ2017/050038</b>
Category*		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 2015/119458 A1 (LG ELECTRONICS INC.) 13 August 2015 Abstract; paragraphs [90]-[91], [94]-[98], [174]-[175], [203]-[208], [210]-[219], [221]-[223], [243]-[280], [282]-[362], [348]-[355] ; fig 1, 6-7, 9, 11-12, 13-14	1-32, 46-48, 60, 62-64 and 75-78
Y	Abstract, paragraphs [91]-[92], [94]-[98], [174]-[175], [221]-[223], [243]-[264], [282]-[362]; figs 1, 6, 11-13	33-45, 49-59
X	US 2015/0270719 A1 (WITRICITY CORPORATION) 24 September 2015 Paragraphs [0110]-[0174], [0476], [0504], [0508]-[0511]; fig 44-47;	33-45, 49-59, 61, 65-74
Y	Paragraph [0110]-[0174], [0476], [0503]-[0504], [0508]-[0511] ; fig 43	33-45, 49-59

**Supplemental Box****Continuation of: Box III**

The specification does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention (Rules 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3) because it does not relate to one invention or to a group of inventions so linked as to form a single general inventive concept.

While all the claims are directed towards the same problem, each group of claims identified below is proposing a different solution. Therefore, this authority has found different inventions based on the following features that separate the claims into distinct groups:

The inventions defined in **claims 1 – 32, 46 – 48, 60, 62 – 64 and 75 - 78** are directed to an inductive power transmitter for object detection. The feature *of detecting a foreign object based upon a handshake signal*, is specific to this group of claims.

The invention defined in **claims 33 – 45, 49 – 59, 61, 65 – 73 and 74** is directed to an object detection system for an inductive power transmitter. The feature *of detecting a foreign object based upon determining variation in reflected impedance or power levels at two different frequencies*, is specific to this group of claims. **Claim 33** is dependent upon claim **32**. However, because it adds the special technical feature common to the second group of claims, it has been intentionally grouped with the second invention.

Unity of invention is only fulfilled when there is at least one “special technical feature” present in the claims that both:

- provides a technical relationship among all the claims; and,
- makes a contribution over the prior art.

When there is no special technical feature common to all the claimed inventions there is no unity of invention.

In the above groups of claims, the only features that are common to all the claims is:

*an inductive power transmitter capable of detecting a non-authorized device*

However, this feature is extremely well known in the art of inductive power transfer as evidenced by US 2014/019175 A1 (WECHLIN et al.) and US 2009/0322158 A1 (STEVENS et al.). Please see title and abstract of both the documents. Therefore there is no special technical feature common to all the claimed inventions and the requirements for unity of invention are consequently not satisfied a posteriori.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT Information on patent family members		International application No. <b>PCT/NZ2017/050038</b>	
This Annex lists known patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.			
Patent Document/s Cited in Search Report		Patent Family Member/s	
Publication Number	Publication Date	Publication Number	Publication Date
WO 2015/119458 A1	13 August 2015	WO 2015119458 A1	13 Aug 2015
		CN 105981256 A	28 Sep 2016
		CN 106165250 A	23 Nov 2016
		EP 3131180 A1	15 Feb 2017
		JP 2017511111 A	13 Apr 2017
		KR 20150093588 A	18 Aug 2015
		KR 101708312 B1	20 Feb 2017
		KR 20150093589 A	18 Aug 2015
		KR 20160145554 A	20 Dec 2016
		US 2016308397 A1	20 Oct 2016
		US 2016329755 A1	10 Nov 2016
		US 2017047786 A1	16 Feb 2017
		WO 2015119456 A1	13 Aug 2015
		WO 2015156628 A1	15 Oct 2015
US 2015/0270719 A1	24 September 2015	US 2015270719 A1	24 Sep 2015
		US 9515494 B2	06 Dec 2016
		AU 2009296413 A1	01 Apr 2010
		AU 2010213557 A1	01 Sep 2011
		AU 2011224345 A1	01 Nov 2012
		AU 2011302083 A1	04 Apr 2013
		AU 2011302083 B2	31 Mar 2016
		AU 2011312376 A1	02 May 2013
		AU 2011312376 B2	03 Mar 2016
		AU 2012268613 A1	09 Jan 2014
		AU 2012268613 B2	26 Nov 2015
		AU 2012326113 A1	29 May 2014
		AU 2012326113 A2	02 Oct 2014
		AU 2016231618 A1	20 Oct 2016
		CA 2738654 A1	01 Apr 2010
		CA 2752573 A1	19 Aug 2010
		CA 2792256 A1	15 Sep 2011
		CA 2812092 A1	22 Mar 2012
		CA 2813678 A1	12 Apr 2012
		CA 2837877 A1	13 Dec 2012
		CA 2852924 A1	25 Apr 2013

Due to data integration issues this family listing may not include 10 digit Australian applications filed since May 2001.

Form PCT/ISA/210 (Family Annex)(July 2009)

<b>INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT</b> Information on patent family members		International application No. <b>PCT/NZ2017/050038</b>
This Annex lists known patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.		
Patent Document/s Cited in Search Report	Publication Number	Patent Family Member/s
Publication Date	Publication Number	Publication Date
	CN 102239633 A	09 Nov 2011
	CN 102239633 B	18 Jan 2017
	CN 102307756 A	04 Jan 2012
	CN 102307756 B	18 Jun 2014
	CN 102439669 A	02 May 2012
	CN 102439669 B	25 Nov 2015
	CN 102870338 A	09 Jan 2013
	CN 102870338 B	15 Feb 2017
	CN 103210562 A	17 Jul 2013
	CN 103329397 A	25 Sep 2013
	CN 103329397 B	12 Oct 2016
	CN 103733477 A	16 Apr 2014
	CN 103733477 B	16 Nov 2016
	CN 103950415 A	30 Jul 2014
	CN 104011970 A	27 Aug 2014
	CN 104737414 A	24 Jun 2015
	CN 105210264 A	30 Dec 2015
	EP 2340611 A1	06 Jul 2011
	EP 2385910 A1	16 Nov 2011
	EP 2385910 B1	23 Dec 2015
	EP 2396796 A1	21 Dec 2011
	EP 2545654 A1	16 Jan 2013
	EP 2617120 A1	24 Jul 2013
	EP 2617120 B1	18 Jan 2017
	EP 2625765 A1	14 Aug 2013
	EP 2719057 A2	16 Apr 2014
	EP 2769455 A1	27 Aug 2014
	EP 2867978 A1	06 May 2015
	EP 2984733 A1	17 Feb 2016
	EP 3059875 A2	24 Aug 2016
	EP 3116139 A1	11 Jan 2017
	EP 3179640 A1	14 Jun 2017
	EP 3185432 A1	28 Jun 2017
	HK 1200604 A1	07 Aug 2015
	JP 2013543719 A	05 Dec 2013
	JP 5893631 B2	23 Mar 2016

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<b>Patent Document/s Cited in Search Report</b>		<b>Patent Family Member/s</b>	
Publication Number	Publication Date	Publication Number	Publication Date
		JP 2013543718 A	05 Dec 2013
		JP 6094762 B2	15 Mar 2017
		JP 2014522218 A	28 Aug 2014
		JP 6124882 B2	10 May 2017
		JP 2012504387 A	16 Feb 2012
		JP 2012514560 A	28 Jun 2012
		JP 2012518382 A	09 Aug 2012
		JP 2013523066 A	13 Jun 2013
		JP 2015181334 A	15 Oct 2015
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		JP 2015528273 A	24 Sep 2015
		JP 2016182030 A	13 Oct 2016
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		KR 20150130542 A	23 Nov 2015
		KR 20150131403 A	24 Nov 2015
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		US 7868762 B2	11 Jan 2011
		US 2010314456 A1	16 Dec 2010
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		US 2010109445 A1	06 May 2010
		US 8035255 B2	11 Oct 2011
		US 2010181843 A1	22 Jul 2010
		US 8106539 B2	31 Jan 2012
		US 2011043047 A1	24 Feb 2011
		US 8304935 B2	06 Nov 2012
		US 2010164298 A1	01 Jul 2010
		US 8324759 B2	04 Dec 2012

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<b>INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT</b> Information on patent family members		International application No. <b>PCT/NZ2017/050038</b>
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Patent Document/s Cited in Search Report	Publication Number	Patent Family Member/s
Publication Date	Publication Number	Publication Date
	US 2012153732 A1	21 Jun 2012
	US 8400017 B2	19 Mar 2013
	US 2012280765 A1	08 Nov 2012
	US 8410636 B2	02 Apr 2013
	US 2012242225 A1	27 Sep 2012
	US 8441154 B2	14 May 2013
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	US 8461719 B2	11 Jun 2013
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	US 8461720 B2	11 Jun 2013
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	US 8461721 B2	11 Jun 2013
	US 2012153734 A1	21 Jun 2012
	US 8461722 B2	11 Jun 2013
	US 2012235567 A1	20 Sep 2012
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	US 2012153737 A1	21 Jun 2012
	US 8471410 B2	25 Jun 2013
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	US 2010201203 A1	12 Aug 2010
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	US 8587153 B2	19 Nov 2013
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	US 8587155 B2	19 Nov 2013
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	US 8598743 B2	03 Dec 2013

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<b>INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT</b> Information on patent family members		International application No. <b>PCT/NZ2017/050038</b>
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Patent Document/s Cited in Search Report	Publication Number	Patent Family Member/s
Publication Date	Publication Number	Publication Date
	US 2013154389 A1	20 Jun 2013
	US 8618696 B2	31 Dec 2013
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	US 8723366 B2	13 May 2014
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	US 2012112531 A1	10 May 2012
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	US 8922066 B2	30 Dec 2014

Due to data integration issues this family listing may not include 10 digit Australian applications filed since May 2001.

Form PCT/ISA/210 (Family Annex)(July 2009)

<b>INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT</b> Information on patent family members		International application No. <b>PCT/NZ2017/050038</b>	
This Annex lists known patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.			
<b>Patent Document/s Cited in Search Report</b>		<b>Patent Family Member/s</b>	
Publication Number	Publication Date	Publication Number	Publication Date
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		US 8928276 B2	06 Jan 2015
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		US 2010219694 A1	02 Sep 2010
		US 9184595 B2	10 Nov 2015
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		US 9246336 B2	26 Jan 2016
		US 2013099587 A1	25 Apr 2013
		US 9318257 B2	19 Apr 2016
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		US 9318922 B2	19 Apr 2016
		US 2014226289 A1	14 Aug 2014
		US 9340166 B2	17 May 2016

Due to data integration issues this family listing may not include 10 digit Australian applications filed since May 2001.

Form PCT/ISA/210 (Family Annex)(July 2009)

<b>INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT</b> Information on patent family members		International application No. <b>PCT/NZ2017/050038</b>	
This Annex lists known patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.			
Patent Document/s Cited in Search Report	Publication Number	Publication Date	
Publication Number	Publication Date	Publication Number	
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		US 9343922 B2	17 May 2016
		US 2013278074 A1	24 Oct 2013
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		US 2014225449 A1	14 Aug 2014
		US 9396867 B2	19 Jul 2016
		US 2013307349 A1	21 Nov 2013
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		US 2013278073 A1	24 Oct 2013
		US 9596005 B2	14 Mar 2017
		US 2011095618 A1	28 Apr 2011
		US 9601261 B2	21 Mar 2017
		US 2014049118 A1	20 Feb 2014
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		US 9601270 B2	21 Mar 2017
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		US 2015088129 A1	26 Mar 2015
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		US 9698607 B2	04 Jul 2017
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Due to data integration issues this family listing may not include 10 digit Australian applications filed since May 2001.

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This Annex lists known patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.		
Patent Document/s Cited in Search Report	Publication Number	Patent Family Member/s
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This Annex lists known patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.			
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