



- (51) **International Patent Classification:**
H02J 17/00 (2006.01)
- (21) **International Application Number:**
PCT/US2013/052532
- (22) **International Filing Date:**
29 July 2013 (29.07.2013)
- (25) **Filing Language:** English
- (26) **Publication Language:** English
- (30) **Priority Data:**
61/676,690 27 July 2012 (27.07.2012) US
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- (81) **Designated States** (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,

AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY,
BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM,
DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT,
HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KN, KP, KR,
KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME,
MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ,
OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SC,
SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN,
TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

- (84) **Designated States** (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH,
GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ,
UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ,
TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK,
EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV,
MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM,
TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW,
KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

- without international search report and to be republished
upon receipt of that report (Rule 48.2(g))



WO 2014/018969 A2

(54) **Title:** RESONANT POWER TRANSFER SYSTEM AND METHOD OF ESTIMATING SYSTEM STATE

(57) **Abstract:** Systems for tuning a wireless power transfer system are provided, which may include any number of features. In one embodiment, a wireless power transfer system can include a transmit controller connected to the transmitter resonator and configured to measure an impedance on the transmitter resonator. The transmit controller can be configured to determine a load resistance of the receiver resonator and a coupling coefficient between the transmitter and receiver resonators based on the measured impedance on the transmitter resonator. The transmit controller can be further configured to adjust a power transmission parameter of the transmitter resonator based on the determined load resistance and the coupling coefficient to achieve a controlled voltage at a load of the receiver. Methods of use are also provided.

RESONANT POWER TRANSFER SYSTEM AND METHOD OF ESTIMATING SYSTEM STATE

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application claims the benefit of US Provisional Patent Application No.
5 61/676,690, filed on July 27, 2012, titled "Resonant Power Transfer System and Method of
Estimating System State".

INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

[0002] All publications and patent applications mentioned in this specification are herein
10 incorporated by reference to the same extent as if each individual publication or patent
application was specifically and individually indicated to be incorporated by reference.

FIELD

[0003] This disclosure relates generally to methods and apparatus for transmitting and
15 receiving power wirelessly, and in various respects, mechanical circulatory support.

BACKGROUND

[0004] Powered devices need to have a mechanism to supply power to the operative parts.
Typically systems use a physical power cable to transfer energy over a distance. There has been
20 a continuing need for systems that can transmit power efficiently over a distance without
physical structures bridging the physical gap.

[0005] Systems and methods that supply power without electrical wiring are sometimes
referred to as wireless energy transmission (WET). Wireless energy transmission greatly
expands the types of applications for electrically powered devices. One such example is the field
25 of implantable medical devices. Implantable medical devices typically require an internal power
source able to supply adequate power for the reasonable lifetime of the device or an electrical
cable that traverses the skin. Typically an internal power source (e.g. battery) is feasible for only
low power devices like sensors. Likewise, a transcutaneous power cable significantly affects
quality of life (QoL), infection risk, and product life, among many drawbacks.

30 [0006] More recently there has been an emphasis on systems that supply power to an
implanted device without using transcutaneous wiring. This is sometimes referred to as a
Transcutaneous Energy Transfer System (TETS). Frequently energy transfer is accomplished
using two magnetically coupled coils set up like a transformer so power is transferred
magnetically across the skin. Conventional systems are relatively insensitive to variations in

position and alignment of the coils. In order to provide constant and adequate power, the two coils need to be physically close together and well aligned.

SUMMARY OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 [0007] A method of tuning and controlling a wireless power system, comprising the steps of measuring an impedance on a transmitter resonator, determining a load resistance of a receiver resonator and a coupling coefficient between the transmitter and receiver resonators based on the measured impedance, and adjusting a power transmission parameter of the transmitter resonator based on the determined load resistance and the coupling coefficient to achieve a controlled
10 voltage at the load of the receiver.

[0008] In some embodiments, the determining step comprises running a mathematical algorithm on a controller of the transmitter resonator to calculate the load resistance.

[0009] In another embodiment, the determining step comprises using a look up table.

[00010] In one embodiment, the step of measuring the impedance on the transmitter resonator
15 comprises measuring the impedance on the transmitter resonator with a controller of the transmitter resonator.

[00011] In some embodiments, the power transmission parameter comprises a power level of the transmitter resonator. In another embodiment, the power transmission parameter comprises a frequency of the transmitter resonator. In another embodiment, the power transmission
20 parameter comprises a voltage of the transmitter resonator. In one embodiment, the power transmission parameter comprises a value of a capacitor in the transmitter resonator circuit. In other embodiments, the power transmission parameter comprises a value of an inductor in the transmitter resonator circuit.

[00012] A wireless power system is also provided, comprising a transmitter resonator
25 configured to transmit wireless power to a receiver resonator, a transmit controller connected to the transmitter resonator and configured to measure an impedance on the transmitter resonator, the transmit controller configured to determine a load resistance of the receiver resonator and a coupling coefficient between the transmitter and receiver resonators based on the measured impedance on the transmitter resonator, the transmit controller being further configured to adjust
30 a power transmission parameter of the transmitter resonator based on the determined load resistance and the coupling coefficient to achieve a controlled voltage at a load of the receiver.

[00013] In some embodiments, the transmit controller runs a mathematical algorithm on to calculate the load resistance.

[00014] In another embodiment, the transmit controller uses a look up table to determine the
35 load resistance.

[00015] In some embodiments, the power transmission parameter comprises a power level of the transmitter resonator. In another embodiment, the power transmission parameter comprises a frequency of the transmitter resonator. In one embodiment, the power transmission parameter comprises a voltage of the transmitter resonator. In some embodiments, the power transmission parameter comprises a value of a capacitor in the transmitter resonator circuit. In one embodiment, the power transmission parameter comprises a value of an inductor in the transmitter resonator circuit.

[00016] In some embodiments, the receiver resonator is adapted to be implanted within a body of a patient, and the transmitter resonator is configured to transmit wireless power into the receiver resonator in the body of the patient.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[00017] The novel features of the invention are set forth with particularity in the claims that follow. A better understanding of the features and advantages of the present invention will be obtained by reference to the following detailed description that sets forth illustrative embodiments, in which the principles of the invention are utilized, and the accompanying drawings of which:

[00018] Fig. 1 illustrates a basic wireless power transfer system.

[00019] Fig. 2 illustrates the flux generated by a pair of coils.

[00020] Figs. 3A-3B illustrate the effect of coil alignment on the coupling coefficient.

[00021] Figs. 4A-4B illustrate look up tables according to one embodiment.

[00022] Fig. 5 illustrates one embodiment of a TET system.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[00023] In the description that follows, like components have been given the same reference numerals, regardless of whether they are shown in different embodiments. To illustrate an embodiment(s) of the present disclosure in a clear and concise manner, the drawings may not necessarily be to scale and certain features may be shown in somewhat schematic form. Features that are described and/or illustrated with respect to one embodiment may be used in the same way or in a similar way in one or more other embodiments and/or in combination with or instead of the features of the other embodiments.

[00024] Various aspects of the invention are similar to those described in International Patent Pub. No. WO2012045050; U.S. Patent Nos. 8,140,168; 7,865,245; 7,774,069; 7,711,433; 7,650,187; 7,571,007; 7,741,734; 7,825,543; 6,591,139; 6,553,263; and 5,350,413; and U.S. Pub.

Nos. 2010/0308939; 2008/027293; and 2010/0102639, the entire contents of which patents and applications are incorporated herein for all purposes.

Wireless Power Transmission System

5 [00025] Power may be transmitted wirelessly by magnetic induction. In various embodiments, the transmitter and receiver are closely coupled.

[00026] In some cases “closely coupled” or “close coupling” refers to a system that requires the coils to be very near each other in order to operate. In some cases “loosely coupled” or “loose coupling” refers to a system configured to operate when the coils have a significant
10 spatial and/or axial separation, and in some cases up to distance equal to or less than the diameter of the larger of the coils. In some cases, “loosely coupled” or “loose coupling” refers a system that is relatively insensitive to changes in physical separation and/or orientation of the receiver and transmitter.

[00027] In various embodiments, the transmitter and receiver are non-resonant coils. For
15 example, a change in current in one coil induces a changing magnetic field. The second coil within the magnetic field picks up the magnetic flux, which in turn induces a current in the second coil. An example of a closely coupled system with non-resonant coils is described in International Pub. No. WO2000/074747, incorporated herein for all purposes by reference. A conventional transformer is another example of a closely coupled, non-resonant system. In
20 various embodiments, the transmitter and receiver are resonant coils. For example, one or both of the coils is connected to a tuning capacitor or other means for controlling the frequency in the respective coil. An example of closely coupled system with resonant coils is described in International Pub. Nos. WO2001/037926; WO2012/087807; WO2012/087811;
WO2012/087816; WO2012/087819; WO2010/030378; and WO2012/056365, and U.S. Pub. No.
25 2003/0171792, incorporated herein for all purposes by reference.

[00028] In various embodiments, the transmitter and receiver are loosely coupled. For
example, the transmitter can resonate to propagate magnetic flux that is picked up by the receiver at relatively great distances. In some cases energy can be transmitted over several meters. In a
loosely coupled system power transfer may not necessarily depend on a critical distance. Rather,
30 the system may be able to accommodate changes to the coupling coefficient between the transmitter and receiver. An example of a loosely coupled system is described in International Pub. No. WO2012/045050, incorporated herein for all purposes by reference.

[00029] Power may be transmitted wirelessly by radiating energy. In various embodiments, the system comprises antennas. The antennas may be resonant or non-resonant. For example,
35 non-resonant antennas may radiate electromagnetic waves to create a field. The field can be near

field or far field. The field can be directional. Generally far field has greater range but a lower power transfer rate. An example of such a system for radiating energy with resonators is described in International Pub. No. WO2010/089354, incorporated herein for all purposes by reference. An example of such a non-resonant system is described in International Pub. No. 5 WO2009/018271, incorporated herein for all purposes by reference. Instead of antenna, the system may comprise a high energy light source such as a laser. The system can be configured so photons carry electromagnetic energy in a spatially restricted, direct, coherent path from a transmission point to a receiving point. An example of such a system is described in International Pub. No. WO2010/089354, incorporated herein for all purposes by reference.

10 **[00030]** Power may also be transmitted by taking advantage of the material or medium through which the energy passes. For example, volume conduction involves transmitting electrical energy through tissue between a transmitting point and a receiving point. An example of such a system is described in International Pub. No. WO2008/066941, incorporated herein for all purposes by reference.

15 **[00031]** Power may also be transferred using a capacitor charging technique. The system can be resonant or non-resonant. Exemplars of capacitor charging for wireless energy transfer are described in International Pub. No. WO2012/056365, incorporated herein for all purposes by reference.

[00032] The system in accordance with various aspects of the invention will now be described 20 in connection with a system for wireless energy transfer by magnetic induction. The exemplary system utilizes resonant power transfer. The system works by transmitting power between the two inductively coupled coils. In contrast to a transformer, however, the exemplary coils are not coupled together closely. A transformer generally requires the coils to be aligned and positioned directly adjacent each other. The exemplary system accommodates looser coupling of the coils.

25 **[00033]** While described in terms of one receiver coil and one transmitter coil, one will appreciate from the description herein that the system may use two or more receiver coils and two or more transmitter coils. For example, the transmitter may be configured with two coils—a first coil to resonate flux and a second coil to excite the first coil. One will further appreciate from the description herein that usage of “resonator” and “coil” may be used somewhat 30 interchangeably. In various respects, “resonator” refers to a coil and a capacitor connected together.

[00034] In accordance with various embodiments of this disclosure, the system comprises one or more transmitters configured to transmit power wirelessly to one or more receivers. In various embodiments, the system includes a transmitter and more than one receiver in a 35 multiplexed arrangement. A frequency generator may be electrically coupled to the transmitter

to drive the transmitter to transmit power at a particular frequency or range of frequencies. The frequency generator can include a voltage controlled oscillator and one or more switchable arrays of capacitors, a voltage controlled oscillator and one or more varactors, a phase-locked-loop, a direct digital synthesizer, or combinations thereof. The transmitter can be configured to
5 transmit power at multiple frequencies simultaneously. The frequency generator can include two or more phase-locked-loops electrically coupled to a common reference oscillator, two or more independent voltage controlled oscillators, or combinations thereof. The transmitter can be arranged to simultaneously delivery power to multiple receivers at a common frequency.

[00035] In various embodiments, the transmitter is configured to transmit a low power signal
10 at a particular frequency. The transmitter may transmit the low power signal for a particular time and/or interval. In various embodiments, the transmitter is configured to transmit a high power signal wirelessly at a particular frequency. The transmitter may transmit the high power signal for a particular time and/or interval.

[00036] In various embodiments, the receiver includes a frequency selection mechanism
15 electrically coupled to the receiver coil and arranged to allow the resonator to change a frequency or a range of frequencies that the receiver can receive. The frequency selection mechanism can include a switchable array of discrete capacitors, a variable capacitance, one or more inductors electrically coupled to the receiving antenna, additional turns of a coil of the receiving antenna, or combinations thereof.

[00037] In general, most of the flux from the transmitter coil does not reach the receiver coil.
20 The amount of flux generated by the transmitter coil that reaches the receiver coil is described by “k” and referred to as the “coupling coefficient.”

[00038] In various embodiments, the system is configured to maintain a value of k in the
25 range of between about 0.2 to about 0.01. In various embodiments, the system is configured to maintain a value of k of at least 0.01, at least 0.02, at least 0.03, at least 0.04, or at least 0.05.

[00039] In various embodiments, the coils are physically separated. In various embodiments,
the separation is greater than a thickness of the receiver coil. In various embodiments, the separation distance is equal to or less than the diameter of the larger of the receiver and transmitter coil.

[00040] Because most of the flux does not reach the receiver, the transmitter coil must
30 generate a much larger field than what is coupled to the receiver. In various embodiments, this is accomplished by configuring the transmitter with a large number of amp-turns in the coil.

[00041] Since only the flux coupled to the receiver gets coupled to a real load, most of the
35 energy in the field is reactive. The current in the coil can be sustained with a capacitor connected to the coil to create a resonator. The power source thus only needs to supply the

energy absorbed by the receiver. The resonant capacitor maintains the excess flux that is not coupled to the receiver.

[00042] In various embodiments, the impedance of the receiver is matched to the transmitter. This allows efficient transfer of energy out of the receiver. In this case the receiver coil may not
5 need to have a resonant capacitor.

[00043] Turning now to Fig. 1, a simplified circuit for wireless energy transmission is shown. The exemplary system shows a series connection, but the system can be connected as either series or parallel on either the transmitter or receiver side.

[00044] The exemplary transmitter includes a coil L_x connected to a power source V_s by a capacitor C_x . The exemplary receiver includes a coil L_y connected to a load by a capacitor C_y . Capacitor C_x may be configured to make L_x resonate at a desired frequency. Capacitance C_x of the transmitter coil may be defined by its geometry. Inductors L_x and L_y are connected by coupling coefficient k . M_{xy} is the mutual inductance between the two coils. The mutual inductance, M_{xy} , is related to coupling coefficient, k .

[00045]
$$M_{xy} = k\sqrt{L_x \cdot L_y}$$

[00046] In the exemplary system the power source V_s is in series with the transmitter coil L_x so it may have to carry all the reactive current. This puts a larger burden on the current rating of the power source and any resistance in the source will add to losses.

[00047] The exemplary system includes a receiver configured to receive energy wirelessly
20 transmitted by the transmitter. The exemplary receiver is connected to a load. The receiver and load may be connected electrically with a controllable switch.

[00048] In various embodiments, the receiver includes a circuit element configured to be connected or disconnected from the receiver coil by an electronically controllable switch. The electrical coupling can include both a serial and parallel arrangement. The circuit element can
25 include a resistor, capacitor, inductor, lengths of an antenna structure, or combinations thereof. The system can be configured such that power is transmitted by the transmitter and can be received by the receiver in predetermined time increments.

[00049] In various embodiments, the transmitter coil and/or the receiver coil is a substantially two-dimensional structure. In various embodiments, the transmitter coil may be coupled to a
30 transmitter impedance-matching structure. Similarly, the receiver coil may be coupled to a receiver impedance-matching structure. Examples of suitable impedance-matching structures include, but are not limited to, a coil, a loop, a transformer, and/or any impedance-matching network. An impedance-matching network may include inductors or capacitors configured to connect a signal source to the resonator structure.

[00050] In various embodiments, the transmitter is controlled by a controller (not shown) and driving circuit. The controller and/or driving circuit may include a directional coupler, a signal generator, and/or an amplifier. The controller may be configured to adjust the transmitter frequency or amplifier gain to compensate for changes to the coupling between the receiver and transmitter.

[00051] In various embodiments, the transmitter coil is connected to an impedance-matched coil loop. The loop is connected to a power source and is configured to excite the transmitter coil. The first coil loop may have finite output impedance. A signal generator output may be amplified and fed to the transmitter coil. In use power is transferred magnetically between the first coil loop and the main transmitter coil, which in turns transmits flux to the receiver. Energy received by the receiver coil is delivered by Ohmic connection to the load.

[00052] One of the challenges to a practical circuit is how to get energy in and out of the resonators. Simply putting the power source and load in series or parallel with the resonators is difficult because of the voltage and current required. In various embodiments, the system is configured to achieve an approximate energy balance by analyzing the system characteristics, estimating voltages and currents involved, and controlling circuit elements to deliver the power needed by the receiver.

[00053] In an exemplary embodiment, the system load power, P_L , is assumed to be 15 Watts and the operating frequency of the system, f , is 250 kHz. Then, for each cycle the load removes a certain amount of energy from the resonance:

$$[00054] \quad e_L = \frac{P_L}{f} = 60\mu J \quad \text{Energy the load removes from one cycle}$$

$$e_L = \frac{P_L}{f} = 60\mu J \quad \text{Energy the load removes in one cycle}$$

[00055]

[00056] It has been found that the energy in the receiver resonance is typically several times larger than the energy removed by the load for operative, implantable medical devices. In various embodiments, the system assumes a ratio 7:1 for energy at the receiver versus the load removed. Under this assumption, the instantaneous energy in the exemplary receiver resonance is 420 μ J.

[00057] The exemplary circuit was analyzed and the self inductance of the receiver coil was found to be 60 μ H. From the energy and the inductance, the voltage and current in the resonator could be calculated.

$$[00058] \quad e_y = \frac{1}{2} Li^2$$

$$[00059] \quad i_y = \sqrt{\frac{2e_y}{L}} = 3.74A \text{ peak}$$

[00060] $v_y = \omega L_y i_y = 352V \text{ peak}$

[00061] The voltage and current can be traded off against each other. The inductor may couple the same amount of flux regardless of the number of turns. The Amp-turns of the coil needs to stay the same in this example, so more turns means the current is reduced. The coil voltage, however, will need to increase. Likewise, the voltage can be reduced at the expense of a higher current. The transmitter coil needs to have much more flux. The transmitter flux is related to the receiver flux by the coupling coefficient. Accordingly, the energy in the field from the transmitter coil is scaled by k.

[00062] $e_x = \frac{e_y}{k}$

10 [00063] Given that k is 0.05:

[00064] $e_x = \frac{420\mu J}{0.05} = 8.4mJ$

[00065] For the same circuit the self inductance of the transmitter coil was 146uH as mentioned above. This results in:

[00066] $i_x = \sqrt{\frac{2e_x}{L}} = 10.7A \text{ peak}$

15 [00067] $v_x = \omega L_x i_x = 2460V \text{ peak}$

[00068] One can appreciate from this example, the competing factors and how to balance voltage, current, and inductance to suit the circumstance and achieve the desired outcome. Like the receiver, the voltage and current can be traded off against each other. In this example, the voltages and currents in the system are relatively high. One can adjust the tuning to lower the voltage and/or current at the receiver if the load is lower.

Estimation of Coupling Coefficient and Mutual Inductance

[00069] As explained above, the coupling coefficient, k, may be useful for a number of reasons. In one example, the coupling coefficient can be used to understand the arrangement of the coils relative to each other so tuning adjustments can be made to ensure adequate performance. If the receiver coil moves away from the transmitter coil, the mutual inductance will decrease, and ceteris paribus, less power will be transferred. In various embodiments, the system is configured to make tuning adjustments to compensate for the drop in coupling efficiency.

30 [00070] The exemplary system described above often has imperfect information. For various reasons as would be understood by one of skill in the art, the system does not collect data for all parameters. Moreover, because of the physical gap between coils and without an external means of communications between the two resonators, the transmitter may have information that the

receiver does not have and vice versa. These limitations make it difficult to directly measure and derive the coupling coefficient, k , in real time.

[00071] Described below are several principles for estimating the coupling coefficient, k , for two coils of a given geometry. The approaches may make use of techniques such as Biot-Savart calculations or finite element methods. Certain assumptions and generalizations, based on how the coils interact in specific orientations, are made for the sake of simplicity of understanding. From an electric circuit point of view, all the physical geometry permutations can generally lead to the coupling coefficient.

[00072] If two coils are arranged so they are in the same plane, with one coil circumscribing the other, then the coupling coefficient can be estimated to be roughly proportional to the ratio of the area of the two coils. This assumes the flux generated by coil 1 is roughly uniform over the area it encloses as shown in Fig. 2.

[00073] If the coils are out of alignment such that the coils are at a relative angle, the coupling coefficient will decrease. The amount of the decrease is estimated to be about equal to the cosine of the angle as shown in Fig. 3A. If the coils are orthogonal to each other such that theta (θ) is 90 degrees, the flux will not be received by the receiver and the coupling coefficient will be zero.

[00074] If the coils are arranged such that half the flux from one coil is in one direction and the other half is in the other direction, the flux cancels out and the coupling coefficient is zero, as shown in Fig. 3B.

[00075] A final principle relies on symmetry of the coils. The coupling coefficient and mutual inductance from one coil to the other is assumed to be the same regardless of which coil is being energized.

$$[00076] \quad M_{xy} = M_{yx}$$

[00077] As described above, a typical TET system can be subdivided into two parts, the transmitter and the receiver, as shown in Fig. 1. Control and tuning may or may not operate on the two parts independently.

[00078] Operating a TET system requires some continuous, real time control and tuning, either from the transmitter or receiver or both. A problem arises from the range of output voltages at the receiver from variations in the coupling between the transmitter and the receiver coils and variations in the load of the receiver. Tuning should be able to compensate for drifting components values.

[00079] The goal of tuning and control is to control the amount of power transferred from the transmitter to the receiver, to control the voltage at the receiver, and to transfer power as efficiently as possible to the receiver. Conventional approaches largely rely on complex systems to adjust the transmitter in response to information from the receiver. There is a need for more

efficient and effective mechanisms for ensuring adequate power transfer to the receiver without oversupplying power to the load on the receiver.

5 [00080] According to one embodiment, the TET system is set up so that the load voltage on the receiver is directly proportional to the supply voltage of the transmitter. This invention can operate on the principle that, as long as nothing else is changing, it is possible to control the load voltage by varying the transmitter supply voltage. In order for this to work, the transmitter needs some feedback from the receiver to determine how to control the supply voltage. The feedback can be achieved with a communications link, or by observing the conditions at the transmitter resonator and estimating the load voltage at the receiver.

10 [00081] In one embodiment, the load voltage can be calculated using a mathematical function that determines how the load resistance of the receiver and k change during transmission of wireless power between the transmitter and receiver. The system can solve for the mathematical function in real time. In one embodiment, individual look up tables (LUTs) can be generated for specific TET systems and implemented into the system.

15 [00082] Figs. 4A-4B show examples of a LUT that can be implemented in a TET system to estimate the voltage at the load of the receiver. Fig. 4A shows one example of the real-part of the impedance of a transmitter coil and how it changes as a function of the load and the coupling coefficient, k . Fig. 4B shows the imaginary-part of the impedance of the transmitter coil and how it changes as a function of the load and the coupling coefficient, k .

20 [00083] Deriving the lookup tables can be done by calculating the circuit's input impedance for a range of values of k , and load resistance. However solving this the other way, by calculating the k and load resistance based on the impedance is very difficult and for most cases cannot be done with a closed form solution. To solve this, iterative numerical techniques are used. This technique lends itself to being used at runtime to calculate the system state
25 continuously as the load changes, and the coupling coefficient changes with the position of the coils.

[00084] In one embodiment, these functions can be set up as two look up tables, and then an iterative technique such as Gauss-Seidel, or variations of Newton's method can be used to solve for the coupling coefficient and load resistance based on the impedance of the transmitter. Once
30 the coupling coefficient and load resistance are known all the parameters of the system are known, and it is possible to directly calculate all the voltages and currents in the system, including the load voltage. During wireless power transmission, a controller of the transmitter can use the LUT to determine load voltage of the receiver based on the impedance of the transmitter.

[00085] As described above, a mathematical function or an algorithm can also be implemented in a controller that uses a closed form solution. This would include a model for the system that can be solved for coupling and load resistance given the transmitter impedance. In most cases this would involve solving some very complicated equations that can be more effectively dealt with using iterative numerical techniques.

[00086] Referring now to Fig. 5, a TET system 500 can have several components, including a transmitter 502 and a receiver 504. The transmitter can be coupled to a power source, V_s , which could be for example, an RF amplifier (e.g., a Class D amplifier) powered by a battery or a power supply plugged into the wall. Additionally, the receiver can be further coupled to a separate implantable medical device 508, which can include a battery 510 and a load 512. In some embodiments, the separate implantable medical device can be implanted in a portion of the patient's body separate from the receiver 504. The load 512 can be any load presented to the receiver 504 by the separate device. The load can comprise, for example, a motor controller running a Left Ventricular Assist Device (LVAD) pump. In Fig. 5, the transmitter can be configured to wirelessly transfer power from outside the body of a patient to the receiver, which can be implanted inside the body of the patient along with the separate implantable medical device. The TET system 500 can include a controller on the transmitter, on the receiver, or on both, as shown.

[00087] Since the TET system can solve for load voltage on the receiver during power transmission, the transmitter can use the load voltage information to tune the system to improve wireless power transmission efficiency. Thus, according to this embodiment, tuning and control of the system can be achieved by measuring the impedance on the transmitter with a controller connected to the transmitter, solving for k and the load resistance (and hence load voltage), and controlling the transmitter based on the calculated load voltage. As described above, solving for k and/or the load voltage can be done with algorithms or with LUTs by the controller of the transmitter or receiver, such as the LUTs shown in Figs. 4A and 4B, adjusting the transmitter output based on the load resistance and coupling coefficient k in order to achieve the desired voltage at the load.

[00088] In the above example, all the circuit component values are known and the only two unknown parameters are the coupling coefficient and the load resistance. With the techniques described herein, it is possible for the system, at the transmitter, to observe the complex impedance at the resonator coil, and derive the coupling coefficient k and the load resistance. Once these parameters are determined, the transmitter can be tuned based on the determined load resistance to achieve a controlled voltage at the load on the receiver. This allows a simpler circuit at the receiver, since the transmitter is able to control the voltage at the receiver to keep

this voltage in a useful range. The receiver does not need additional mechanisms or circuitry to control its voltage.

[00089] The system described above will be sensitive to the tolerance and drift of component values, and to external objects interfering (e.g. a metal object in the field). If there is some direct communication with the receiver, then the estimation of the system state can be improved.

[00090] As for additional details pertinent to the present invention, materials and manufacturing techniques may be employed as within the level of those with skill in the relevant art. The same may hold true with respect to method-based aspects of the invention in terms of additional acts commonly or logically employed. Also, it is contemplated that any optional feature of the inventive variations described may be set forth and claimed independently, or in combination with any one or more of the features described herein. Likewise, reference to a singular item, includes the possibility that there are plural of the same items present. More specifically, as used herein and in the appended claims, the singular forms "a," "and," "said," and "the" include plural referents unless the context clearly dictates otherwise. It is further noted that the claims may be drafted to exclude any optional element. As such, this statement is intended to serve as antecedent basis for use of such exclusive terminology as "solely," "only" and the like in connection with the recitation of claim elements, or use of a "negative" limitation. Unless defined otherwise herein, all technical and scientific terms used herein have the same meaning as commonly understood by one of ordinary skill in the art to which this invention belongs. The breadth of the present invention is not to be limited by the subject specification, but rather only by the plain meaning of the claim terms employed.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of tuning and controlling a wireless power system, comprising the steps of:
 - measuring an impedance on a transmitter resonator;
 - determining a load resistance of a receiver resonator and a coupling coefficient between the transmitter and receiver resonators based on the measured impedance; and
 - adjusting a power transmission parameter of the transmitter resonator based on the determined load resistance and the coupling coefficient to achieve a controlled voltage at a load of the receiver.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the determining step comprises running a mathematical algorithm on a controller of the transmitter resonator to calculate the load resistance.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the determining step comprises using a look up table.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of measuring the impedance on the transmitter resonator comprises measuring the impedance on the transmitter resonator with a controller of the transmitter resonator.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein the power transmission parameter comprises a power level of the transmitter resonator.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein the power transmission parameter comprises a frequency of the transmitter resonator.
7. The method of claim 1 wherein the power transmission parameter comprises a voltage of the transmitter resonator.
8. The method of claim 1 wherein the power transmission parameter comprises a value of a capacitor in the transmitter resonator circuit.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the power transmission parameter comprises a value of an inductor in the transmitter resonator circuit.
10. The method of claim 1 further comprising transmitting wireless power from the transmitter resonator to the receiver resonator.
11. The method of claim 10 further comprising transmitting wireless power into the body of a patient.
12. A wireless power system, comprising:
 - a transmitter resonator configured to transmit wireless power to a receiver resonator;
 - a transmit controller connected to the transmitter resonator and configured to measure an impedance on the transmitter resonator, the transmit controller configured to determine a load resistance of the receiver resonator and a coupling coefficient between the transmitter and receiver resonators based on the measured impedance on the transmitter resonator, the transmit controller being further configured to adjust a power transmission parameter of the transmitter resonator based on the determined load resistance and the coupling coefficient to achieve a controlled voltage at a load of the receiver.
13. The system of claim 12, wherein the transmit controller runs a mathematical algorithm on to calculate the load resistance.
14. The system of claim 12, wherein the transmit controller uses a look up table to determine the load resistance.
15. The system of claim 12, wherein the power transmission parameter comprises a power level of the transmitter resonator.
16. The system of claim 12, wherein the power transmission parameter comprises a frequency of the transmitter resonator.
17. The system of claim 12, wherein the power transmission parameter comprises a voltage of the transmitter resonator.

18. The system of claim 12, wherein the power transmission parameter comprises a value of a capacitor in the transmitter resonator circuit.

19. The system of claim 12, wherein the power transmission parameter comprises a value of an inductor in the transmitter resonator circuit.

20. The system of claim 12, wherein the receiver resonator is adapted to be implanted within a body of a patient, and the transmitter resonator is configured to transmit wireless power into the receiver resonator in the body of the patient.

Fig. 1

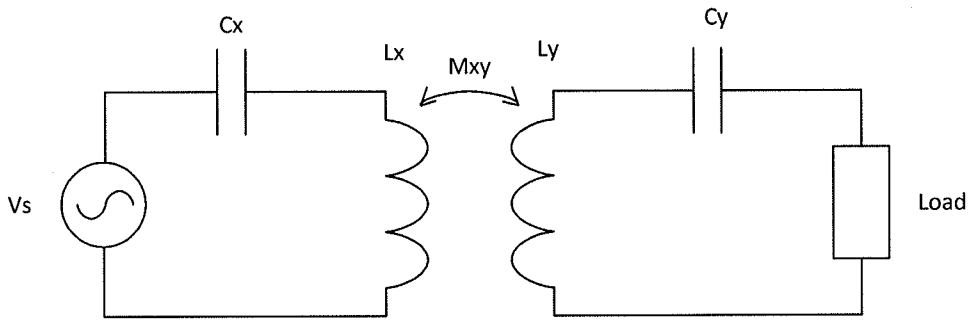


Fig. 2

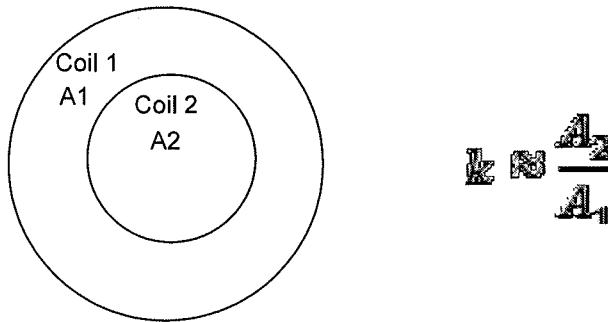


Fig. 3A

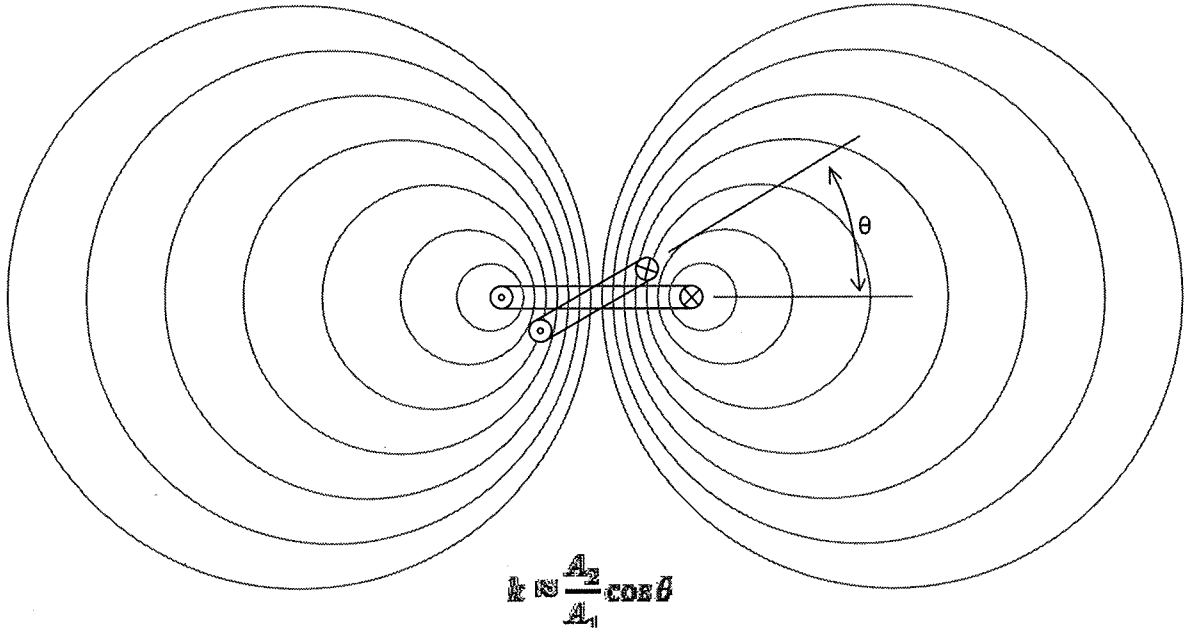
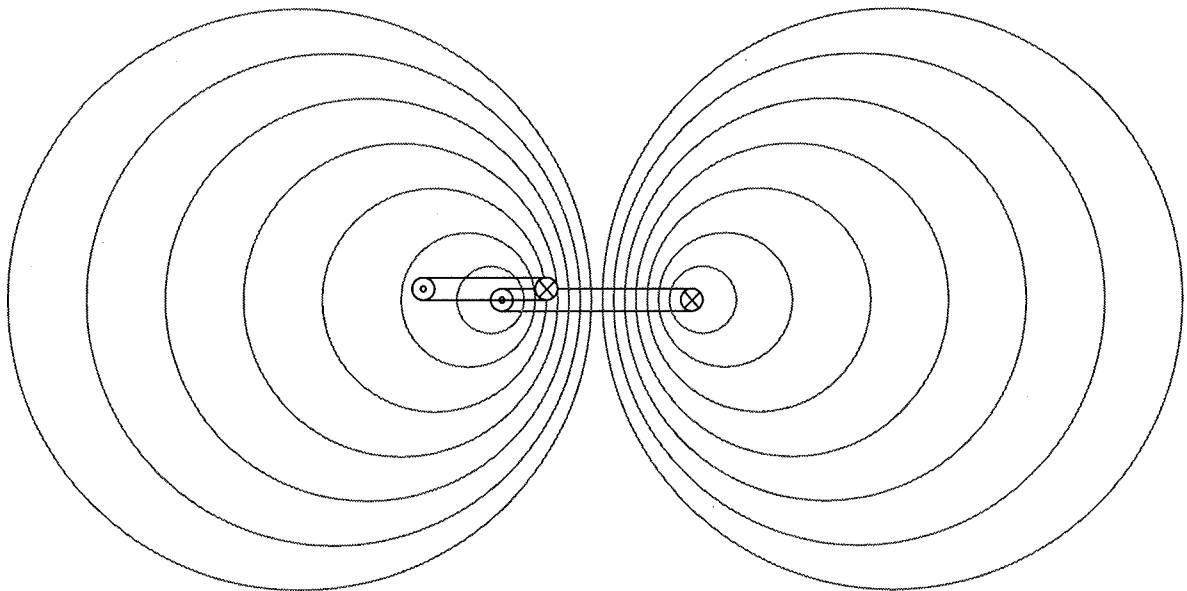


Fig. 3B



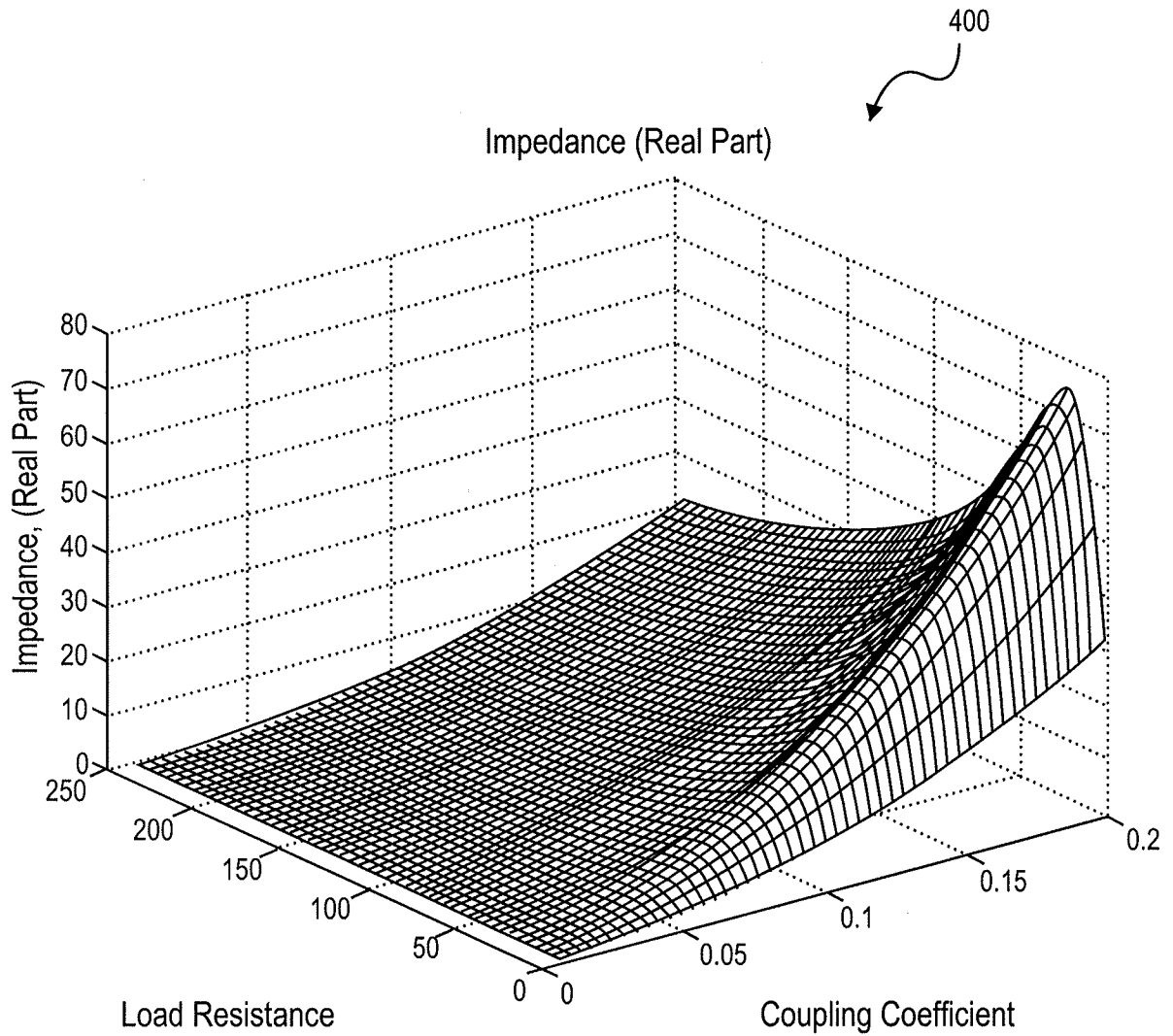


FIG. 4A

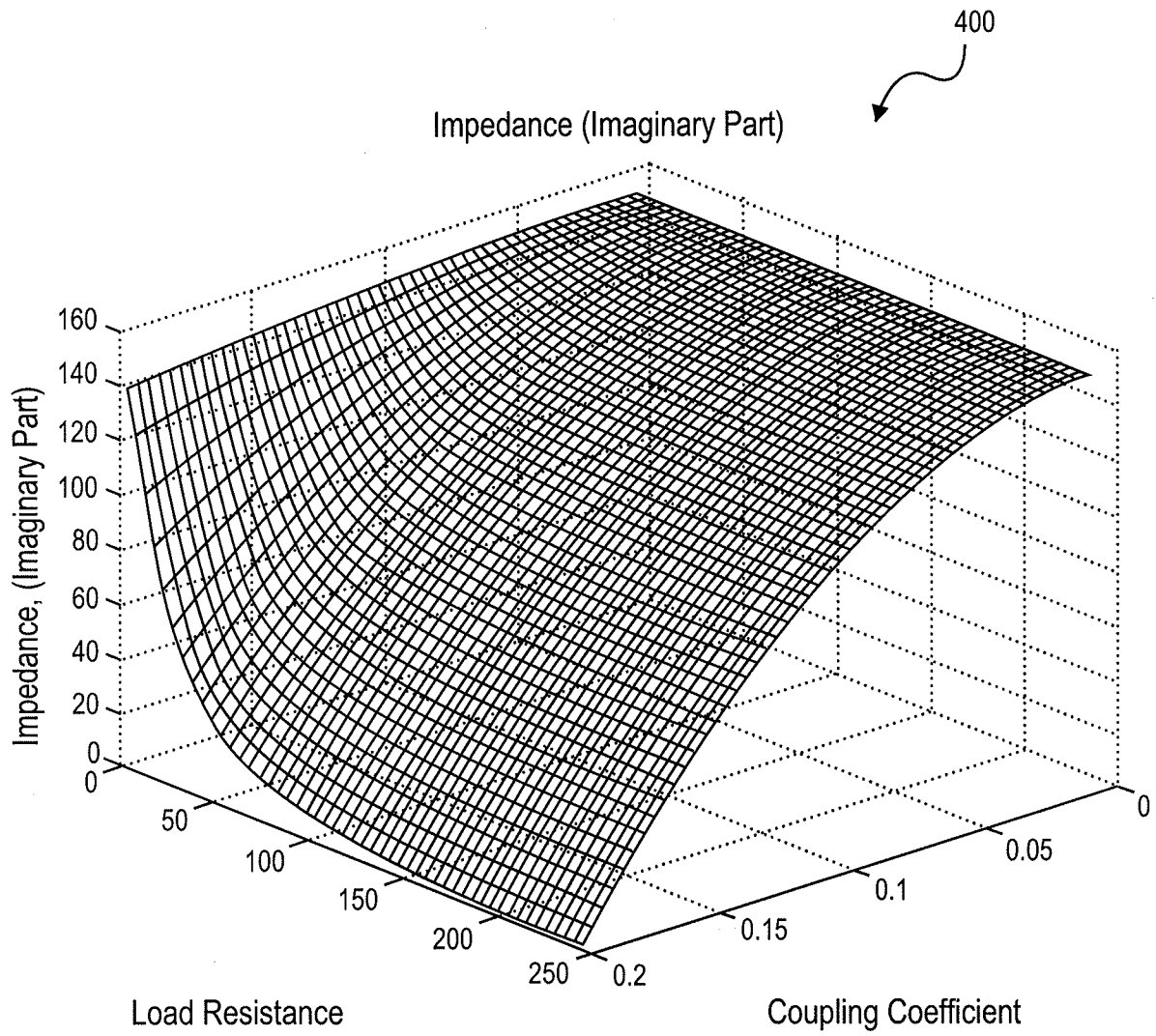


FIG. 4B

Fig. 5

