

UDC 621.316.11

DEvised TECHNOLOGY FOR WIRELESS POWER TRANSMISSION

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Wireless charging of gadgets is one of the new emerging technologies in the world at the moment. The most common method used at the moment is wireless power transfer by inductive coupling. Wireless power transfer is one of the simplest and inexpensive ways of charging as it eliminates the use of conventional copper cables and current carrying wires. In this paper, a methodology and principle of operation are devised for wireless power transfer through inductive coupling is described, and a feasible design is modeled accordingly. The inductive coupling technique is used since currently, it is the easiest method of wireless power transfer because of high efficiency and the possibility to transfer a large amount of energy. In this paper, results of experiments done to check wireless working are shown. Also, to further show its versatility and range of applications, the transferred power is used to charge a battery with the aid of additional circuitry. We also study the effect of placing hurdles between the transmitter and receiver so as to establish if such method could be an alternative in the medical industry for charging pace makers, etc. This research focuses on the study of wireless power transfer for the purpose of transferring energy at maximum efficiency within a small range or in the near field region.

Keywords: design; wireless power transmission; inductive coupling.

Introduction

If we are using an electronic device, perhaps a mobile phone, and we need to recharge the battery, then we will probably have to get a charger and connect the phone to the wire. But what if we could charge it without having to connect it to the wire? Meaning power will be transferred wirelessly. This is possible through a concept called Wireless Power Transmission (WPT). Research and studies have been done ever since the 19th century, but it is only recently that this concept has begun to be implemented [1, 2].

Currently, engineers are trying to discover how to increase the efficiency of power transmitted wirelessly and also methods that are safe to human beings and the environment and notwithstanding, methods that are cheaper and hence can be commercially viable. Though still in the early stages, several electronic companies are beginning to roll out devices that can wirelessly transmit power [3].

WPT is based on the principle of electromagnetic induction. Electromagnetic induction works on the concept of a primary coil generating a predominantly magnetic field and a secondary coil being within that field so a current is induced within its coils. This causes the relatively short range due to the amount of power required to produce an electromagnetic field [4, 5].

This paper seeks to eliminate the use of wires in the transmission of power from the source to the device to be powered. Although WPT is based on electromagnetic induction, there are various methods that are used. Some are less efficient than others and costly, while others do not allow for a longer range of transmission. In this paper, it is required to design and construct an electronic device that shall transmit power within a small range. The device can then be used to charge batteries for devices like pace makers.

In the paper, a suitable method is used to ensure that enough power is transmitted wirelessly, so that it can then charge batteries. The major challenge is in the coupling circuit, which comprises of the coils where electromagnetic induction occurs.

1 Methods and materials

1.1 General principle of design

The general principle of operation is designed using inductive coupling and ensuring that the power transfer is as efficient as possible, and the transfer happens within the near field. The design also ensures for purposes of versatility and optimization of the battery charging circuit, which is energy efficient and prevents

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losses. The circuit is divided into two sections; transmitter circuit, and receiver circuit.

The transmitter circuit comprises of the power supply, boost converter, Royer oscillator and the copper laminated coils. The receiver side has the receiver coil, rectifier, Liquid Crystal Display (LCD), Atmega 328 microcontroller and the switching circuit that uses the CD4066. The block diagram of the design is shown in Fig. 1.

AC power is supplied from the mains and fed to the power supply. It is stepped down and then rectified to give DC power. The DC voltage is then passed through the voltage regulator (LM7805) so as to give a constant 5 V DC. This DC signal is, however, not enough to create a large electromotive force that causes the induction. The 5 V is then fed to the DC boost converter to raise the voltage to 30 V. The 30 V now becomes the input to the Royer oscillator circuit. The oscillator then converts the received DC voltage to AC power with a high frequency.

The transistor (MOSFET) causes a large current, which is then supplied to the transmitting copper coil. The diagram in Fig. 2 shows the circuit of the transmitter section.

The transmitter circuit section has two power MOSFETs (IRF540), which are biased using the resistors R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 . There is also a choke made up of inductors L_1 & L_2 . The 8 capacitors C operate as resonating capacitors to ensure the coils are at resonant frequencies. Oscillators have feedback, in the case of the Royer oscillator has negative feedback. The two diodes D_1 & D_2 thus provide the required cross-coupled feedback. The transmitter coil L , which is basically an inductor, is

where the electromagnetic induction occurs. The coil used in this case is gauge 26. When power is given to the oscillator circuit, the DC current starts flowing through the two sides of the coil (L_1 & L_2) and also to the drain terminals of the MOSFET. During the same instant, voltage appears on gate terminal of both transistors and tries to turn ON the transistors. Any one of the transistors will be faster than the other and it will turn ON first.

When Q_1 turns on first, its drain voltage will be clamped to near ground. Meanwhile Q_2 will be in the off state. Once Q_2 is in the conduction state, its drain voltage starts rising steadily to peak and then immediately starts dropping due to the tank circuit formed by the capacitor C and the primary coil of oscillator through one half cycle. The operating frequency of the oscillator is determined by the resonance formula given below

$$F = \frac{1}{2} \pi \sqrt{LC}.$$

On the receiver side, the circuit is as shown in Fig. 3.

When the receiver coil is placed within the near field range from the transmitter coil, the magnetic field in the transmitter coil extends and it induces an AC voltage, which generates a current flow in the receiver coil of the wireless charger. The transmitted AC voltage is then fed to the rectifier, which converts it to DC. A capacitive filter is used to eliminate any ripples. The rectified voltage is fed to the voltage regulator LM7805 to ensure that the voltage is regulated and constant. The output is regulated 5 V DC. This power then goes to power the microcontroller, LCD and the CD4066 switch.

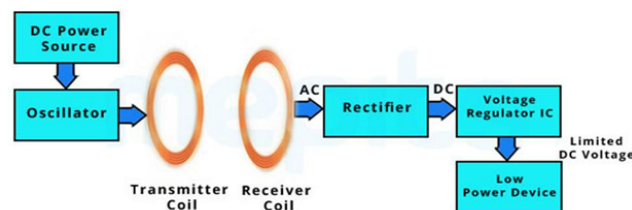


Fig. 1. Block diagram of the design

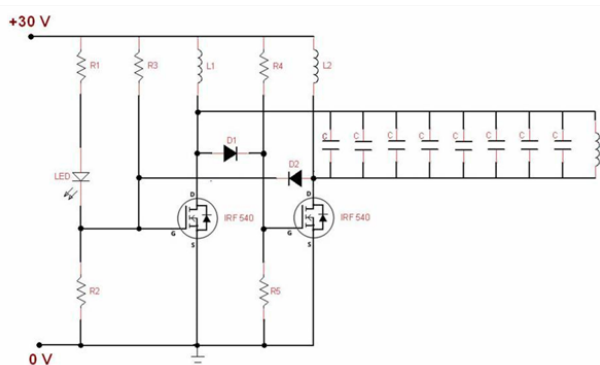


Fig. 2. Transmitter section circuit

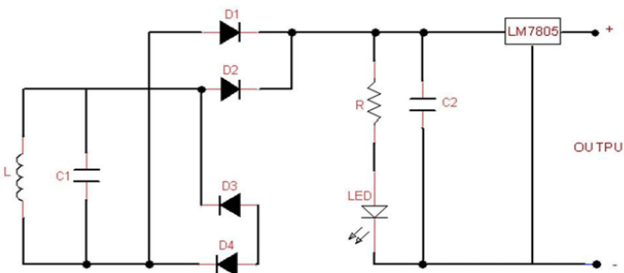


Fig. 3. Receiver circuit

1.2 Hardware and software components

1.2.1 Hardware

1.2.1.1 Power supply

The power supply circuit is shown in Fig. 4.

The oscillator needs 30 V DC supplied. The used power supply unit, however, gives an output of 5 V DC. The power supply contains a transformer that stepped down the 230 V AC supplied from the mains to 9 V AC. A full-wave bridge rectifier then rectified the 9 V AC. Full-wave bridge rectifier is preferred over the half-wave bridge rectifier since, for the half wave rectifier, a large capacitor will be required to hold up the voltage during the gap whereby an AC cycle is skipped.

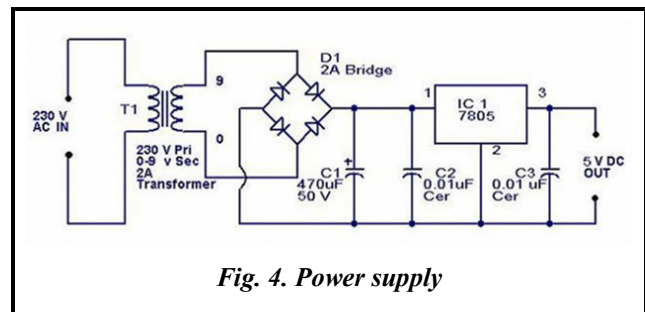


Fig. 4. Power supply

The bridge rectifier has an efficiency of 80%, hence the rectified output is less than the input. The received output is 7.2 V DC. This voltage, however, is still erratic and pulsating, thus a smoothening capacitor is required. The smoothening capacitor supplies charge when the rectifier voltage falls, thus evening out any fluctuations by the signal. The smoothened DC voltage is then fed to the voltage stabilizer LM7805, which ensures a stable output voltage of 5 V.

1.2.1.2 DC - DC boost converter

This is required since the voltage, which is required to be fed into the oscillator, is 30 V, yet only 5 V is being achieved from the power supply unit. To step up to 30 V, we use the switching regulator shown in Fig. 5.

This switching regulator can operate in the continuous or the discontinuous mode, so that the output voltage is higher. It consists of the following components: an inductor, capacitor, switching device, diode, and the input voltage source. The switch is usually controlled by a pulse width modulator. A potentiometer that regulates

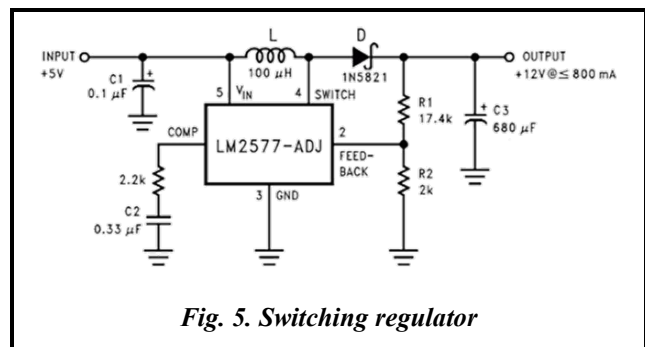


Fig. 5. Switching regulator

the output voltage is also available. In the continuous mode, the switch conducts and thus the current through the inductor is ramped up. When the switch is turned off, the voltage at point 4 in Fig. 5 rises rapidly. This is because the inductor is attempting to maintain the current at a constant. The diode in turn goes on and thus the inductor dumps the current into capacitor C₃, resulting in more energy being generated and thus a higher output voltage than the input voltage.

1.2.1.3 Royer oscillator

Oscillators are systems that consist of both passive and active components of a circuit, which then generate sinusoidal waveforms or repetitive waveforms. Oscillator circuits generate waveforms without the help of external inputs. They convert the DC supply power source to AC power, which is supplied to a load. For this design, we use a Royer oscillator as shown in Fig. 6. This oscillator belongs to the relaxation oscillators classification since its output is non-sinusoidal.

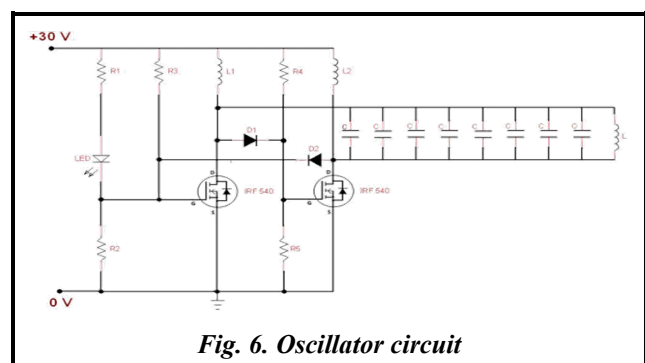


Fig. 6. Oscillator circuit

The capacitors turn the oscillator into a harmonic oscillator that outputs sine waves. This oscillator has two parts. The first part is a relaxation oscillator. It is connected as a stable multi-vibrator, which converts the DC power fed into it. It then converts the received DC power to a high frequency AC power. This part generates square waves, which are the input of the second part, which is the power amplifier. These waves are the input at the gate terminal of the power MOSFET.

The second part is the power amplifier. The gate of the first MOSFET is driven by the signal generated at the oscillator part. This MOSFET provides the voltage and the current needed to drive the gate of the second MOSFET. When the second MOSFET turns on, it allows a large current from the DC signal to flow to the transmitting coil. The large current generates a large flux, which then induces a high voltage to the receiving coil.

1.2.1.4 Full-wave bridge rectifier

The transmitted current received on the receiver side is AC. However, for purposes of charging the battery, DC is needed, hence the need for rectification. In the design, a full-wave bridge rectifier is used instead of a half-wave rectifier. It is basically a full-wave rectifier, but it uses four diodes instead of two, which then form arms that are the bridge rectifier.

1.2.1.5 Microcontroller unit

A simple definition of the microcontroller is a computer on a chip. The microcontroller enables the work to be a standalone system, which is able to produce varied reactions to various situations according to preset controls. The microcontroller in this paper is the Atmega-328 microcontroller.

The system is required to alert the user if a load is in place, calculate and display the level of charge, start the charging if needed and finally cut the charging when the load is fully charged. To do these actions on its own, the microcontroller needs to be loaded with a program to enable it execute all these actions.

1.2.1.6 LCD screen

In this paper, a display screen is used to show various aspects of the work. Internally, the LCD is made up of a thin layer of liquid crystals sandwiched between two layers of transparent electrode glass sheets. The nature of the glass sheets determines the type of the LCD screen. If both glass sheets are transparent, then the LCD is transmissive; and if one sheet has a reflective coat, then the cell will be reflective. The liquid crystal molecules are able to twist, therefore changing slightly the amount of light penetration resulting in different characters being displayed on the screen. The display unit for this paper is a 16X2 LCD as shown in Fig. 7.

This means that the screen can display a maximum of 16 characters on one line and there are two lines where the characters can be displayed. The used LCD is HITACHI 44780. It is connected to the Atmega-328 microcontroller as shown in Fig. 8. A potentiometer is connected to control the brightness of the LCD. The used LCD model has additional pins 15 and 16 that are used to turn the backlight on.



Fig. 7. 16X2 LCD

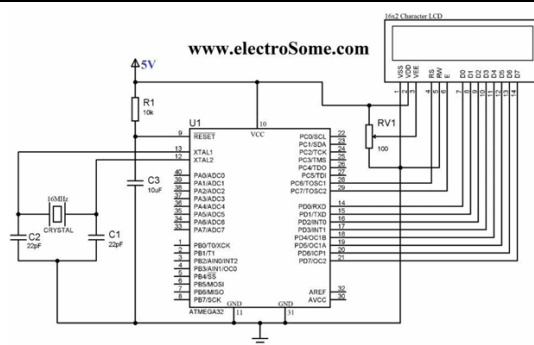


Fig. 8. LCD & Atmega-328 connection

1.2.1.7 Switching circuit

When the charging is complete, it is important to cut supply to the load so that power is conserved. The circuit switching off is achieved by the IC Cd 4066. Conventional switching circuit components such as the relay are not possible in this situation because of the lower power produced after transmission. Had a relay been used in the circuit, there would not have been enough power for the relay to work, and therefore the switch would not work.

The CD 4066 is a low-power multiplexing switch circuit, which is an ideal replacement for mechanical switches. The IC has a bandwidth of around 8 MHz, current consumption of 1 mA but it requires a high-level power supply voltage since the input impedance of the circuit drops with higher voltage levels.

The circuit cuts supply to the load once the batteries are full so that power is not lost unnecessarily. The multiplexer switch diagram is shown in Fig. 9.

1.2.2 Software

1.2.2.1 USBasp

This is a Universal Serial Bus (USB) based programmer for the microcontroller used for burning hex files into AVR microcontroller. In order to program any microcontroller, we need the hex file or the sketch, which is the machine code for the microcontroller. This file is generated by the corresponding assembler software, which converts programming code into machine code. Programming code can be produced by third party cross compiler software, such as Arduino.

To transfer program using it, one end is connected to the computer that has assembler software and code. The other end is then connected to a 6-pin or a 10-pin cable. From this cable, female to female pins can be used, which can then easily be hooked to a breadboard. Regardless of whether the 6-pin cable or 10-pin cable is used, only 6 pins will be in use, which are: Master in Slave Out (MISO), Serial Clock (SCK), Target AVR MCU Reset (RST), Power (VTG), Master Out Slave In (MOSI), and Common Ground (GND) connections.

1.2.2.2 Programming language

A programming language is a constructed language designed to deliver instructions to a machine. Such languages are used to create programs that control how a machine functions in different circumstances. The work in this paper is done in assembler language. This is a low-level programming language for a microcontroller or other programmable device. The assembler language has a very strong association with the architecture of the microcontroller, hence a good understanding of the microprocessor architecture is required when programming using assembler.

During the programming process, the flowchart in Fig. 10 is used so that the code could be developed in segments and then combined to function as one.

2 Results and discussions

2.1 Results

The main objective of the paper is to develop a device for wireless power transfer. The device has to be an electronic circuit. The achievement of this objective is further broken down into specific objectives, which altogether aided the development of the device. The other objectives are as follows:

1. Design and assemble of a power supply unit. The power supply is used to step down 230 V AC supplied by the mains to 12 V AC high frequency. The 12 V AC is then to be rectified to give 5 V DC.
2. Step up the DC supply. Using a boost converter, the DC voltage is raised to 30 V DC.
3. Design and assemble an appropriate oscillator. For this paper, a Royer oscillator is found to be the most suitable.

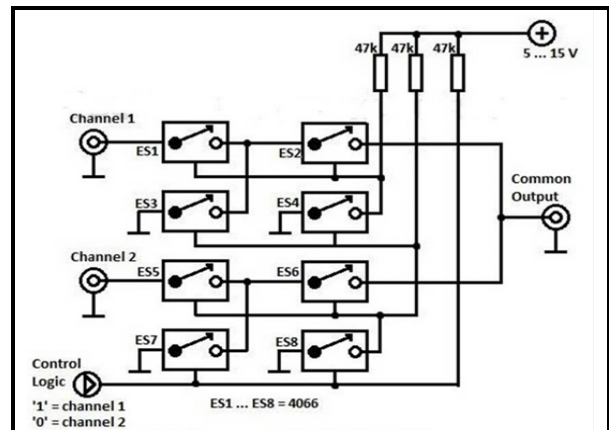


Fig. 9. Multiplexer switch

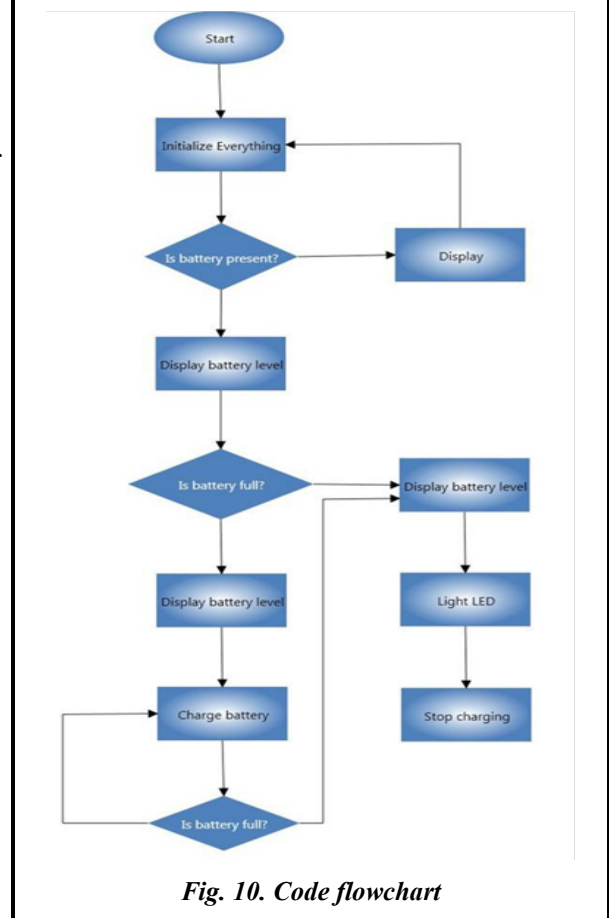


Fig. 10. Code flowchart

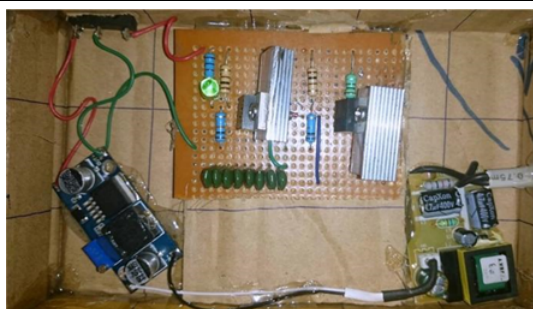


Fig. 11. Components on the Veroboard



Fig. 12. Imbedded coils

After assembling and fabricating the components on the Veroboard, the above three objectives formed the transmitter module. When assembled and fabricated, it is as depicted in Fig. 11.

4. Develop transmitter and receiver coils. Electromagnetic induction occurs between these two coils and an electromotive force generated on the TX coil that induces a current on the RX coil. The coils are embedded on the fabricated casing of the modules. However, they are as in Fig. 12.

5. Design the receiver module and rectify the AC voltage received on the receiver coil. The rectifier is needed to output DC power, which is used to power other components.

6. Design a battery charging circuit. The transmitted power is to be used to charge a battery so as to further demonstrate the application of wireless power transmission in the modern world. Fig. 13 illustrates the fabrication of the device.

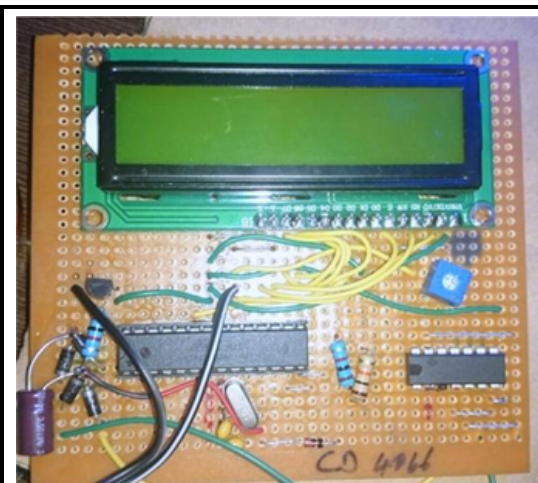


Fig. 13. Fabrication

2.2 Analysis and discussion

2.2.1 Coils

To test if power is transmitted, we first solder an LED to the receiver coil. The test is successful with only 5 V DC powering of the oscillator. However, the power is too little to energize the battery charging circuit that comprised of an LCD and microprocessor. The voltage is stepped up using a boost converter to 30 V DC. Two receiving coils are used and each has an LED lamp. They both lit brightly. We then add a set of LEDs, the results are as in Fig. 14 and Fig. 15.

In the above figure, the receiving coils are not separated from the transmitter coil. However, as the distance of separation increases, the brightness reduces. This proves that indeed the distance of separation determines the current induced in the receiver coil. As distance increases, less current is induced from the change of flux. The test LED bulbs lit brightest up to a separation distance of 5 cm between the two coils after which their brightness reduced significantly.

Also, different gauges of the coil are used to determine which one is more effective. Currently, in the market the most common are gauge 26 and gauge 16. It is noted that for the coils of gauge 16, the distance of separation between the coils has to be shorter and also the brightness of the bulb is less than for the gauge 26.

Various objects are placed between the receiver and the transmitter coil to test if the shielding would have an effect on the power being transmitted. It is observed that this did not have any significant effect on the power that is transmitted. However, when a magnetic material is placed in between the coils, it had an effect.

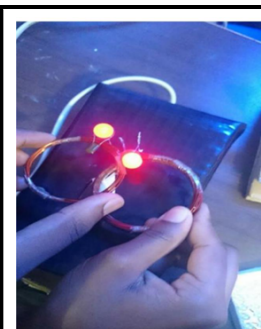


Fig. 14. LED 1



Fig. 15. LED 2

2.2.2 Oscillator

The Royer oscillator is chosen because of its simple, yet powerful design. It is capable of generating very high oscillating current, which is necessary to increase the strength of the magnetic field. This is achieved by the used semi-conductor. In this case, the IR 540 power MOSFETs are used. However due to the large current, heating occurred in the MOSFETs, thus heat sinks are attached to them.

When the voltage is stepped up to 30 V DC, upon doing the initial test, the transmitter circuit did not oscillate, yet the first MOSFET is rapidly heating up. It is discovered that due to voltage being fed rising too slowly on power up, a short circuit occurs. To solve this issue, a reset switch is introduced between the power supply and the oscillator circuit. The switch also enabled the circuit to be reset once the MOSFETs heated up.

It is also observed that as much as the voltage to the oscillator had been stepped up, the power being received on the load coil is not enough to power the battery charging circuit. This is attributed to the receiver coil being slightly out of resonance, thus it is not able to receive the power well. To solve this, we ensure that the coils have the same number of turns and the used capacitors are identical, so that both the transmitter and receiver circuits have the same resonant frequency.

2.2.3 Battery charging circuit

The battery charging circuit consists of the rectifier, which converts the AC power to DC, an Atmega-328 microcontroller, a 16X2 LCD and a CD4066 switch. This part is largely controlled by the microcontroller. Initially a relay is used as the switch once the battery is full. However, it is drawing more current and thus acts as load. The CD4066 become a better alternative as it consumes less current and also is less bulky as compared to the single channel relay.

One of the challenges with modern chargers is that once charging is complete; there is no notification to the user to stop the charging. To solve this, a buzzer is used so that once the charging is complete it produces a sound. However, this means the input signal has to be driven at the same frequency as that of the buzzer and also it consumes more power. A Red-Green-Blue (RGB) LED is instead used. Its operation is coded and loaded to the microcontroller.

It is observed that, once the battery starts charging, it heavily loaded the rectifier voltage and caused it to drop significantly. The battery internal resistance is suspected to be the major cause of this.

Conclusion

The objectives of the paper were met. An electronic device that wirelessly transmits power and then charges batteries was developed. We were able to design discrete components such as the Royer oscillator, coils and a full bridge voltage rectifier for the system design process. Conclusions that were drawn from the paper are as follows:

1. Based on the theory of wireless charging via inductive coupling, which was the method used in the paper, it was seen that various aspects i.e. distance, resonant frequency, quality factor, coil turns ratio determine the efficiency of WPT. In addition, there is an exponential decay for power versus the distance of separation.
2. From the analysis, it was seen that at 0cm separation distance, the power transfer was most efficient as seen by the brightness of the test lamps.
3. From the paper, WPT for short range or near field occurred up to a distance of 5cm after which the transferred power began to significantly drop.
4. It can also be concluded that WPT can be used in other applications. In the paper, we were able to charge a 9V battery from power that was transmitted wirelessly.
5. Lastly, we can conclude that WPT is not affected by non-magnetic materials shielding the two coils. This therefore means that it can be effectively used in the medical field to charge pacemakers and other devices.

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Received 25 January 2025

Accepted 13 February 2025

Розробка технології бездротової передачі електроенергії

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На даний момент бездротова зарядка гаджетів є однією з нових технологій, що розвиваються в світі. Найпоширенішим серед використовуваних на цей час методом є бездротова передача електроенергії за допомогою індуктивного зв'язку. Бездротова передача електроенергії є одним із найпростіших і недорогих способів зарядки, оскільки виключає використання звичайних мідних кабелів і струмопровідних проводів. У цій статті описано методологію та принцип роботи бездротової передачі енергії за допомогою індуктивного зв'язку, а також змодельовано можливу конструкцію. Техніка індуктивного зв'язку використовується, оскільки в даний час це найпростіший спосіб бездротової передачі енергії, що зумовлено високою ефективністю і можливістю передачі великої кількості енергії. У цій статті наведено результати експериментів, проведених для перевірки бездротової роботи. Крім того, щоб краще продемонструвати її універсальність і діапазон застосувань, передана електроенергія використовується для заряджання батареї за допомогою додаткової схеми. Нами також вивчається вплив встановлення перемикачів між передавачем і приймачем з метою визначення, чи може даний метод бути альтернативою в медичній промисловості і використовуватися для зарядки кардіостимуляторів, тощо. Це дослідження зосереджено на вивченні бездротової передачі електроенергії задля її передачі з максимальною ефективністю в межах невеликої відстані або в області ближнього поля.

Ключові слова: конструкція; бездротова передача електроенергії; індуктивний зв'язок.

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