

DESIGN AND OPTIMIZATION OF PASSIVE UHF RFID SYSTEMS

Jari-Pascal Curty, Michel Declercq
Catherine Dehollain, Norbert Joehl
École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland



Contents

Preface	ix
1 Introduction	1
1.1 Objective of this work	2
1.2 Organization of this book	2
2 Wireless Power Transmission	3
2.1 History of Wireless Power Transmission	3
2.2 The rectenna	4
2.3 Rectifier building blocks	6
2.3.1 Clamping circuit	6
2.3.2 Rectifier circuit	7
2.3.3 The voltage doubler	7
2.3.4 Full-wave rectifier	8
2.3.5 Full-wave Greinacher rectifier	8
2.4 Antenna	9
2.4.1 Loss resistance	10
2.4.2 Radiation resistance	11
2.4.3 Antenna-Rectifier interface	11
2.4.4 Numerical example	12
2.4.5 WPT today and possible future applications	13
2.5 Conclusion	15
3 Analysis of the Modified-Greinacher Rectifier	17
3.1 Matching strategy	17
3.2 Rectifier equivalent circuit	19
3.3 Analysis strategy	20
3.4 Ideal case	21
3.4.1 Steady-state solution of the ideal rectifier	21
3.4.2 Determination of R_i	23
3.5 Real case	24
3.5.1 Steady-state solution	24
3.5.2 Determination of C_i	26

3.5.3	Determination of R_i	27
3.5.4	Determination of R_{out}	29
3.5.5	Rectifier efficiency	30
3.6	Results and comparisons	30
3.7	Design	33
3.7.1	Trade-offs	33
3.7.2	Capacitor design	33
3.7.3	Antenna and matching issues	34
3.8	Conclusion	35
4	Introduction to RFID	37
4.1	Introduction	37
4.2	Transponder types	38
4.3	Low frequency systems	38
4.4	High frequency systems	40
4.5	Standards	40
4.5.1	The EPC standard	41
4.5.2	The ISO standard	41
4.6	Regulations	42
4.6.1	Power regulations	42
4.7	Radar Cross Section (RCS)	42
4.8	Backscattering modulation technique	43
4.9	Link budget	44
4.10	Environmental impacts	46
4.11	Data integrity	46
4.11.1	Transponder-driven procedure	46
4.11.2	Interrogator-driven procedure	47
4.12	Conclusion	48
5	Backscattering architecture and choice of modulation type	49
5.1	Modulation types	49
5.2	Modulator architectures	50
5.3	ASK modulator	50
5.4	PSK modulator	52
5.5	Analysis strategy	53
5.6	ASK series-parallel case	54
5.6.1	Voltage considerations	54
5.6.2	Power considerations	55
5.6.3	Communication considerations	59
5.7	PSK series-series case	61
5.7.1	Voltage considerations	63
5.7.2	Power considerations	64
5.7.3	Communication considerations	66
5.8	ASK and PSK comparison	66
5.9	PSK based on ASK or pseudo-PSK	67

5.10 Pseudo-PSK	69
5.10.1 Communication considerations	69
5.11 Wireless power transmission and communication optimization	71
5.12 Conclusion	72
6 Backscattering modulation analysis	75
6.1 Introduction	75
6.2 Theoretical analysis	76
6.3 Experimental characterization	78
6.3.1 Practical procedure	78
6.3.2 Results	79
6.4 Impact on RFID Systems	79
6.5 Graphical Interpretation	82
6.6 Impact on Wireless Power Transmission	87
6.7 Conclusion	88
7 RFID Tag design	89
7.1 UHF and μ wave RFID circuit state-of-the-art	89
7.2 Tag specifications	91
7.3 Technological issues	95
7.4 Operational principle	97
7.4.1 Communication protocol	97
7.5 Transponder architecture	100
7.6 Transponder building blocks	101
7.6.1 Rectifier and limiter	101
7.6.2 Power-on-reset	103
7.6.3 Detector, Data slicer and Decoder	104
7.6.4 Shift register and logic	106
7.6.5 IF Oscillator	108
7.6.6 Modulator	109
7.6.7 Current reference	111
7.7 Antenna	112
7.7.1 Transponder input impedance	112
7.7.2 Choice of antenna	113
7.8 Experimental results	113
7.9 Conclusion	115
8 High frequency interrogator architecture and analysis	117
8.1 Introduction	117
8.2 Communication protocol	117
8.3 Interrogator architecture description	118
8.4 Direct coupling	119
8.4.1 System input IP3	120
8.4.2 Direct coupling compensation	121
8.4.3 DC component suppression	122

8.5	Phase noise	124
8.5.1	Effect on down-conversion	124
8.5.2	Reciprocal mixing	126
8.6	Antenna noise temperature	127
8.7	Receiver design	128
8.8	IF modulation frequency	129
8.9	IF processing	129
8.10	Conclusion	131
9	Conclusion	133
A	Appendix	135
A.1	Probability functions	135
	References	137
	Index	147