

Examination of Wireless Power Transfer Combined with the Function of Distance Detection

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Wireless power transfer using magnetic resonant coupling is expected to be widely used in the charging of an electric vehicle and in the use of home electric appliances. Wireless power transfer requires a high efficiency and power transfer over a long distance. However, the efficiency is reduced by the increase of the transmission distance and the change of the impedance of the receiving load. Therefore, a distance sensor using magnetic resonant coupling is proposed. In this paper, we propose a method of power transfer and distance detection using one couple of coils in real time. We also propose to use different frequencies in the power transfer and the distance detection, which are superposed and separated. Using the proposed approach, we demonstrated that the power transfer and the distance detection can be performed without relying on the change of the transmission distance.

Index Terms— Distance detection, separation, superposition, wireless power transfer.

I. INTRODUCTION

WIRELESS power transfer using magnetic resonant coupling has been more frequently researched recently because it provides the benefits of a long transmission distance and tolerance against position misalignment [1]-[4]. However, the transmission efficiency is reduced as the transmission distance changes and as position misalignment occurs [5]. Implementation of wireless power transfer requires the position information of the receiving coil to realize high efficiency transmission, to determine a range of power transfers, and to transfer power to moving objects.

Distance sensors using magnetic resonant coupling, which detect the distance between the transmitting and receiving coils, have been examined to determine the position information of the receiving coil [6][7]. Such distance sensors have the advantages of simple structure, low cost, resistance against environmental change, and long distance detection.

Therefore, we examined a circuit structure that combines the wireless power transfer capability using magnetic resonant coupling with distance sensing capability.

In this paper, we describe the circuit structure and examine the characteristics of the circuit of the power transfer and the distance detection in real time. This paper covers the following.

- (1) Structure of a wireless power transfer with the function of distance detection
- (2) Distance detection
- (3) Power transfer

II. STRUCTURE OF A WIRELESS POWER TRANSFER CIRCUIT COMBINED WITH THE FUNCTION OF DISTANCE DETECTION

1) Structure of a wireless power transfer circuit combined with the function of distance detection

Fig. 1 shows the structure of wireless power transfer circuit combined with the function of distance detection. In this structure, both the power transfer and the detection of the

distance l between the transmitting and receiving coils are performed simultaneously. To accomplish this simultaneous functionality, a frequency f_d for the distance detection and difference frequency f_p for power transfer are superposed on a pair of coils. The filter circuits 1-4 have the roles of superposition and separation of the different frequencies. The roles of each filter circuit are as follows.

(1) Distance detection

a) Filter circuits 1 and 2: The filter circuits 1 and 2 have the role of increasing the sensitivity of the distance detection. The filter circuit 1 and the transmitting coil resonate at f_d for a given distance between the transmitting coil and the receiving coil. In addition, the filter circuit 2 and the receiving coil resonate at f_d at the distance between transmitting coil and the receiving coil.

b) Filter circuits 3 and 4: The impedance of the filter circuits 3 and 4 are high at f_d so that the current $I(f_d)$ for the distance detection is prevented from flowing into the circuit for power transfer.

(2) Power transfer

a) Filter circuits 1 and 2: The impedance of the filter circuits 1 and 2 are high at f_p so that the current $I(f_p)$ for the power transfer is prevented from flowing into the circuit for distance detection.

b) Filter circuits 3 and 4: The filter circuits 3 and 4 have the role of increasing the sensitivity of the distance detection. The filter circuit 3 and the transmitting coil resonate at f_p . In addition, the filter circuit 4 and the receiving coil resonate at f_p .

The isolation transformer has the role of isolating the source for distance detection.

For the distance detection function, the input impedance Z_{di} of the source used for distance detection changes due to the changes in the magnetic flux crossing the receiving coil for different distances l . The distance detection voltage V_d changes due to the partial pressure of the internal impedance $Z_0 (= 50 \Omega)$ of the source used for distance detection and Z_{di} . In this paper, l is detected on the basis of V_d , and the central axis of transmitting and receiving coils are the same axis.

It is possible to control f_p and the filter circuits using the information of distance so that the transmission efficiency is

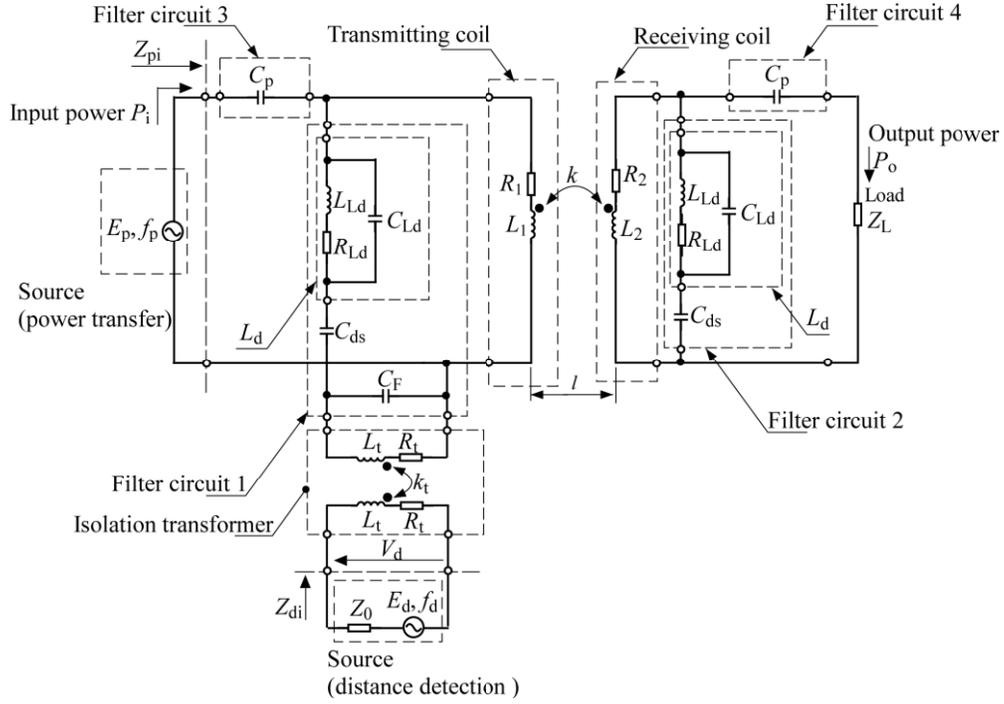


Fig. 1. Equivalent circuit of the wireless power transfer system with the function of distance detection.

optimized.

For the power transfer, the input power of the power transfer is P_i , and the output power of the power transfer is P_o . In addition, a supply voltage E_p used for the power transfer is adjusted as the amount of power transfer is varied from $P_i = 0$ W and 50 W, and the load Z_L is fixed at 100 Ω .

2) Structure of the transmitting and receiving coils and their impedance characteristics

Common types of coils are spiral coil, solenoid coil, opened helical coil, and a coil that the iron core is inserted in each of types of coils [2]-[5]. As an example, the transmitting and receiving coils are spiral coils in this paper. The transmitting and receiving coils are each a spiral coil of the same structure. The outside diameter of the coils is 300 mm, the number of turns is 40 and the winding pitch is 3 mm. In addition, the number of strands of the Litz wire is 500, and each strand is a copper wire with a diameter of 0.07 mm.

Fig. 2 shows the quality factor of the coils vs. the frequency characteristics. In addition, the resistance and the inductance values of the transmitting and receiving coils at $f = 100$ kHz are 0.30 Ω and 260 μH and 0.33 Ω and 275 μH , respectively. The impedance was measured using a Network Analyzer (Agilent, E5061B). In addition, the self-resonant frequency of the transmitting and receiving coils are 2.45 MHz. The individual difference of the impedance of the transmitting and receiving coils are less than 10%. The impedance of the coils became unstable at frequencies of over 300 kHz due to the self-resonant frequency; as a result, the power transfer is measured at a frequency of less than 300 kHz. In addition, the efficiency between the transmitting coil and the receiving coil depends on the quality factor and the coupling coefficient k . Therefore, the power transfer is performed in the frequency f_p range from 100 kHz to 300 kHz to increase the transmission

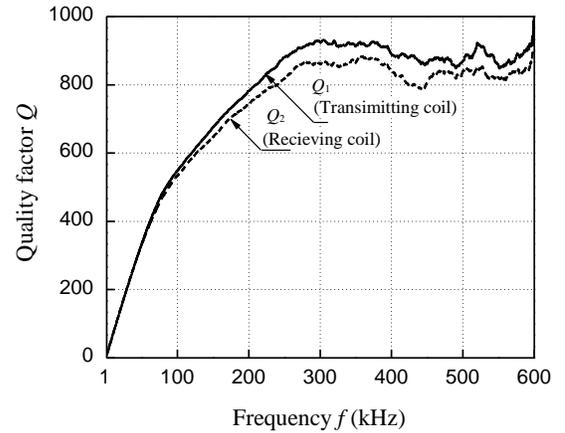


Fig. 2. Quality factor vs. frequency characteristics.

TABLE I
CIRCUIT CONSTANTS

Item	Symbol	Value	(Unit)
Filter circuit 1, 2	Resistance	R_{Ld}	7.8 (Ω)
	Inductor	L_{Ld}	7.8 (mH)
	Capacitor	C_{ds}	34
	Capacitor	C_{Ld}	0.106 (nF)
Filter circuit 3, 4	Capacitor	C_F	1000
	Capacitor	C_p	3.3 (nF)
Isolation transformer	Resistance	R_t	4.6 (Ω)
	Inductor	L_t	3.4 (mH)
	Coupling coefficient	k_t	0.998
Load	Z_L	100	(Ω)

efficiency. In addition, f_d is approximately 10 kHz, which is less than $1/10$ of f_p to enable the easy separation of the current for distance detection and the current for power transfer.

The resistances of the transmitting and receiving coils are R_1 and R_2 , respectively, and inductances of the transmitting and receiving coils are L_1 and L_2 , respectively, and the transmitting and receiving coils are magnetically coupled with a factor of k . The filter circuit 1 is comprised of capacitors C_{ds} and C_F and inductor L_d . The equivalent circuit of the inductor is expressed by the resistance R_{Ld} , the inductance L_{Ld} and the capacitance C_{Ld} . The filter circuit 2 is comprised of capacitor C_{ds} and inductor L_d . In addition, the filter circuits 3 and 4 are comprised of capacitance C_p . The equivalent circuit of the isolation transformer is comprised of resistance R_t , inductance L_t and coupling coefficient k_t , with a load of Z_L .

Table 1 presents the circuit constants at $f = 10$ kHz. C_{ds} and L_d are determined to be 34 nF and 7.8 mH, respectively. In addition, R_{Ld} is 7.8Ω , and the self-resonant frequency f_0 of L_d is 175 kHz. f_0 and C_{Ld} were calculated using the following equations.

$$f_0 = \frac{1}{2\pi} \sqrt{\frac{L_{Ld} - C_{Ld} R_{Ld}^2}{L_{Ld}^2 C_{Ld}}} \quad (1)$$

$$C_{Ld} = \frac{L_{Ld}}{(2\pi f_0 L_{Ld})^2 + R_{Ld}} \quad (2)$$

In addition, the impedances of the filter circuits 1 and 2 are the highest at 175 kHz. Therefore, C_F for the filter circuit 1 is 1000 nF, and the low impedance at f_p is required to prevent the current for the power transfer from flowing into the circuit for distance detection. In addition, C_p is 3.3 nF. The isolation transformer is PT4 (OEP), and the load is 100Ω .

III. DISTANCE DETECTION

Impedance characteristics of the circuit were measured using a Network Analyzer (Agilent, E5061B). The power transfer and distance detection were simultaneously performed using the circuit shown Fig. 1. Because the variation of Z_{di} is the largest at the frequency of 9.8 kHz in the distance range from 10 mm to 200 mm, f_d was set to 9.8 kHz. Additionally, the supply voltage E_d for distance detection was fixed to 1 V. Then, f_p was the frequency for which the power factor was the closest to 1 according to l .

Fig. 3 shows the distance detection voltage vs. distance characteristics for different values of the parameter of P_i . According to Fig. 3, l was varied from 10 mm to 300 mm, and $V_d(P_i = 0 \text{ W})$ was varied from 310 mV to 468 mV, at $P_i = 0 \text{ W}$. The voltage applied to the circuit increases because Z_{di} , which depends on l , increases. Additionally, the values of $V_d(P_i = 0 \text{ W})$ and $V_d(P_i = 50 \text{ W})$ were 457.3 mV and 455.7 mV at $l = 100$ mm, respectively; thus, the difference of the voltage for the different input power values was 1.6 mV. The difference between $V_d(P_i = 0 \text{ W})$ and $V_d(P_i = 50 \text{ W})$ was the largest at $l = 200$ mm. The values of $V_d(P_i = 0 \text{ W})$ and $V_d(P_i = 50 \text{ W})$ were

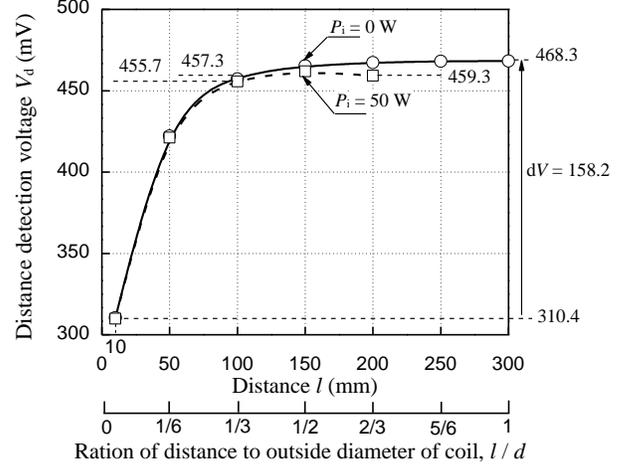


Fig. 3. Distance detection voltage vs. distance characteristics for different values of the parameter of P_i ($E_d = 1 \text{ V}$, $f_d = 9.8 \text{ kHz}$).

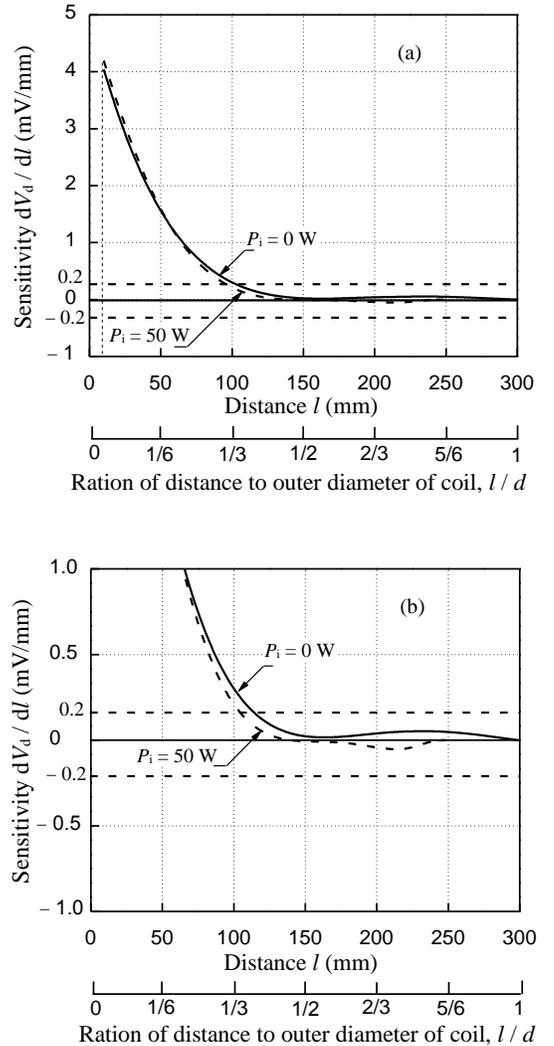


Fig. 4. (a) Sensitivity vs. distance characteristics for different values of the parameter of P_i ($E_d = 1 \text{ V}$, $f_d = 9.8 \text{ kHz}$). (b) Zoom in the data shown in (a) from -1.0 mV/mm to 1.0 mV/mm .

467.3 mV and 459.3 mV at $l = 200$ mm, respectively; thus, the difference was 8.0 mV. The factor that causes the difference between $V_d(P_i = 0 \text{ W})$ and $V_d(P_i = 50 \text{ W})$ to be the largest was impedance change due to the exothermic nature of the circuit elements. As a result, V_d changes as Z_{di} changes.

Fig. 4 shows the sensitivity vs. distance characteristics as a function of the parameter of P_i . Figure 4 was calculated by differentiating a sixth-order polynomial that approximately describes the result in Fig. 3. Given a threshold voltage of 0.2 mV per 1 mm, the circuit is able to determine the distance in the range from 10 mm to 100 mm at both $P_i = 0 \text{ W}$ and 50 W. Additionally, the distance detection error at $P_i = 0 \text{ W}$ and 50 W was less than 8 mm.

IV. POWER TRANSFER

Fig. 5 shows the transmission efficiency vs. distance characteristics at $P_i = 1 \text{ W}$. The efficiencies with the distance detection circuit and without the circuit were both greater than 80% in the distance range from 10 mm to 200 mm. However, the loss increased with the significant decrease of the transmission efficiency in the distance range that l is larger than 200 mm. Therefore, the power transfer of 50 W was measured up to $l = 200$ mm.

Fig. 6 shows the transmission efficiency vs. distance characteristics at $P_i = 50 \text{ W}$. The efficiencies with the distance detection circuit and without the circuit were 86.8% and 84.1% at $l = 200$ mm, respectively; the largest difference between the cases with and without distance detection was 2.7%. Therefore, the decrease of the transmission efficiency by inserting the distance detection circuit can be ignored. In addition, as shown in Fig. 5 and Fig. 6, the decrease of the transmission efficiency for different input powers was 0.3% at most, and the cause of this decrease was the exothermic nature of the circuit elements.

V. CONCLUSIONS

In this paper, we proposed a wireless power transfer system combined with the function of distance detection, and the following aspects of the system were discussed.

1) Distance detection

A wireless power transfer system combined with the function of distance detection was proposed, which enabled the simultaneously performance of power transfer and distance detection. Given a threshold voltage of 0.2 mV per 1 mm, the system was found to be able to detect the distance in the range from 10 mm to 100 mm at $P_i = 0 \text{ W}$ and 50 W. In addition, the distance detection error at both $P_i = 0 \text{ W}$ and 50 W was less than 8 mm.

2) Power transfer

The power transfer was performed in the distance range from 10 mm to 200 mm at $P_i = 50 \text{ W}$. The transmission efficiency was greater than 80% in the distance range from 10 mm to 200 mm. The decrease of the transmission efficiency by inserting the distance detection circuit was up to 2.7%. Therefore, we argued that the reduction of the efficiency by

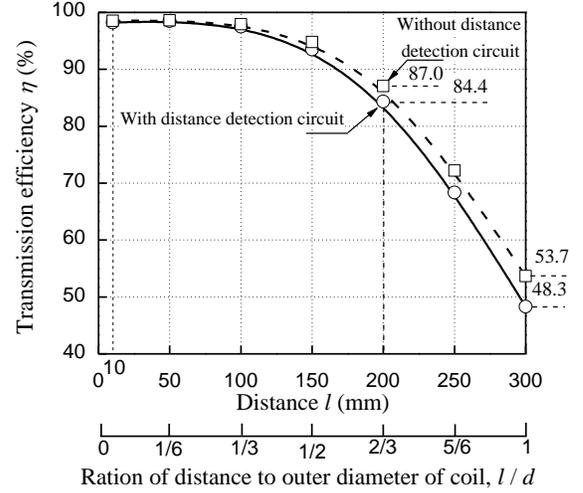


Fig. 5. Transmission efficiency vs. distance characteristics at $P_i = 1 \text{ W}$.

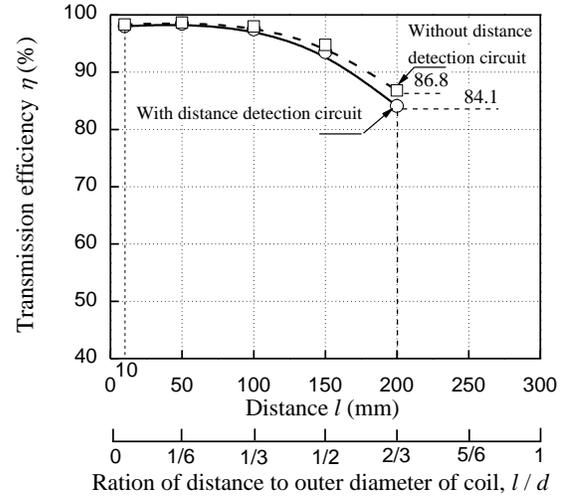


Fig. 6. Transmission efficiency vs. distance characteristics at $P_i = 50 \text{ W}$.

inserting the distance detection circuit was minimal.

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