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Displacement-Tolerant Printed Spiral Resonator With Capacitive Compensated-Plates for Non-Radiative Wireless Energy Transfer

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ABSTRACT A printed spiral resonator without external lumped elements is proposed. Instead of employing surface-mount device capacitors, the series-parallel capacitive plates are designed and etched on the same substrate to achieve simultaneous conjugate matching between a pair of symmetrical near-field coupled resonators. Simulations are conducted with the aid of CST Microwave Studio. The proposed design displayed satisfactory tolerance toward planar displacement at *z*-axis plane, lateral displacement at *x*- and *y*-axis planes, as well as concurrent planar and lateral displacement. Positioned at perfect alignment with a transfer distance of 15 mm, the simulated and measured maximum power transfer efficiency achieved are 79.54% and 74.96%, respectively. The variation ratio for planar displacement acquired is 0.29% when receiving resonator is rotated from -180° till 180° with a step size of 15°. Under rotational angle from 0° till 180°, the measured average variation ratio for lateral displacement at *x*- and *y*-axis up to 15 mm is 20.14%. The feasibility of sustaining power transfer efficiency under various offsets depicts the possibility of integrating the proposed simple design for low power wireless energy transfer applications, such as wireless charging for handheld devices in consumer electronics and implanted biomedical devices.

INDEX TERMS Non-radiative wireless energy transfer, planar displacement, lateral displacement, transfer efficiency.

I. INTRODUCTION

Resonator orientation vulnerability remains as one of the challenges for designers in achieving acceptable power transfer efficiency (PTE) in practical settings of Wireless Energy Transfer (WET) applications especially in the event of the ineluctable alignment positioning imperfection between the source and receiver. Non-ideal alignment renders adverse effects on its performance metrics namely coupling coefficient and transfer efficiency [1], [2]. As such, competency in sustaining performance metrics is often pursued.

Mitigation strategies to overcome misalignments comprises of configuration and architecture of the resonators. Alleviation of mutual inductance variations and degradation of PTE due to lateral displacement are demonstrated with a pair of optimized asymmetrical coils [3], an array of transmitting resonator [4]–[6], multiple antiparallel square resonator [7] and inclusion of metamaterial slab [8]. With a 3-dimensional (3-D) structure proposed in [9], alignment-free WET system is revealed. However, bulkiness and additional space required should be taken into consideration specifically for space-constraint low-power applications such as wireless charging for handheld devices in consumer electronics and implanted biomedical devices. Miniature designs which report on robustness towards lateral misalignment proposed are defected ground structure (DGS) resonator with enhanced quality factor (Q-factor) [10], [11] and multilayer printed spiral resonator [12]. Nevertheless, these designs did not investigate on endurance towards concomitant of planar and lateral displacements.

Misaligned positioning of receiving resonator contributes towards impedances mismatched due to mutual inductance variations. Counteractive measures such as impedance matching and frequency tuning techniques considered include implementation of complex adaptive matching techniques [13], switchable capacitive impedance matching network for multiple receivers [14] and serial-parallelserial (SPS) compensation topology [15]. A simpler approach is proposed in [16] where transfer efficiency is sustainable under lateral displacements by performing *L*-matching technique at misaligned position or specifically at the edge of resonator.

In this paper, a novel printed spiral resonator integrated with capacitive compensated plates is proposed to scrutinize the robustness towards imperfect orientations either caused by planar or lateral displacements as well as simultaneous types of displacement. Planar displacement refers to the angle of rotation, ar when both centers of transmitter and receiver resonators are aligned and set apart by an axial transfer distance, z as illustrated in Fig.1. Rotational angle begins from -180° till 180° with step size of 15° . The distance shift of ax or ay from center of receiving resonator are known as lateral displacement at x-axis and y-axis respectively without changing the axial distance which is fixed specifically at 15 mm. The horizontal and vertical displacements vary from 0 till 15 mm with an incremental size of 3 mm. Inset figures of (iv) and (v) in Fig.1 visualize the top view of concurrent planar and lateral displacements. The receiving resonator is rotated up to 180° with step size of 45° before being subjected



FIGURE 1. Displacement types: (i) Planar (*z*-axis plane); (ii) Lateral (*x*-axis plane); (iii) Lateral (*y*-axis plane); (iv) Planar (*z*-axis plane) & Lateral (*x*-axis plane); (v) Planar (*z*-axis plane) & Lateral (*y*-axis plane).

to the respective lateral displacements of *ax* or *ay*. With the exclusion of additional and space constricting matching circuits, proposed design is fabricated on a single substrate.

This paper is organized as follows. Section II presents the design evolution and configuration of proposed printed spiral resonator with capacitive compensated-plates. Analysis of simulation results and validation of measurements are addressed in Section III. A comparison between proposed design in this work and other published work is presented. Finally, this paper is concluded in Section IV.

II. DESIGN APPROACH

A. PRINTED SPIRAL COIL (PSC)

The design and enhancement steps for printed spiral coil (PSC) commences in the preliminary stage with the aid from a full-wave electromagnetic simulator, CST Microwave Studio as depicted in Fig.2.



FIGURE 2. Three stages of design method for PSC with capacitive compensated-plates.

The relationship between optimal transfer distance, z_{op} and outermost diameter length of loop, ℓ_0 at maximum excited magnetic field derived in [17] and [18] yields

$$z_{op} = 0.3931\ell_o.$$
 (1)

Even though computed optimal transfer distance is 17.69 mm, axial distance, z selected is 15 mm instead of 20 mm. Since the primary objective of this design is not for distance enhancement, the aforementioned axial distance is therefore decided in order to compensate for losses due to capacitive plates as compared to external lumped elements. However, capacitive plates proposed excel in terms of simplicity in fabrication, compactness with thickness limited only by height of substrate and copper as well as zero supplementary cost incurred.

For single-sided square printed spiral loop design, the selfinductance expression is given by [19]

$$L_{ssq} = 0.635 \mu n_t^2 d_a [\ln(2.07\varphi^{-1}) + 0.18\varphi + 0.13\varphi^2].$$
(2)

 μ , n_t and d_a denote conductor permeability, number of turns, average side lengths of loop where $d_a = 0.5(d_o + d_i)$ and the outermost and innermost side lengths are represented

by d_o and d_i respectively. φ is the conductor fill factor which is equivalent to $(d_o - d_i) (d_o + d_i)^{-1}$ [20]. Cumulative sum of self-inductance and mutual inductances between turns specifically $n_t (n_t - 1)$ is equivalent to the total inductance.

Mutual inductance is expressed as [21]

$$M_{ij} = 2\mu(r_i r_j)^{0.5} \beta^{-1} [(1 - 0.5\beta^2) K(\beta) - E(\beta)], \quad (3)$$

$$\beta = 2\mu(r_i r_j)^{n_1} [(r_i + r_j)^2 + z^2]^{n_2}, \qquad (4)$$

$$M = \rho \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} M_{ij}(r_i, r_j, z),$$
(5)

where M_{ij} represents partial mutual inductance between each two turns on a pair of loops with turn radii, r_i and r_j while complete elliptic integrals of the first and second kind are denoted by K and E. ρ is the factor which is reliant on loop profile. The relation between mutual inductance and selfinductances of coupled resonators is defined with coupling coefficient, $k = M(L_1L_2)^{-0.5}$. Under-coupled and overcoupled regimes occur when the transfer distance becomes either too far or vice-versa leading to the decay of transfer efficiency [22]. Similarly, various displacement between a pair of resonators will reduce the transfer efficiency. Transition point between under-coupled regime and over-coupled regime is indicated by critical coupling. Thackston *et. al* [23] reported that maximum power transfer efficiency is attainable at this k_{cp} value given

$$k_{cp} = [1 + (1 + k^2 Q_1 Q_2)^{0.5}](Q_1 Q_2)^{-0.5}$$
(6)

where $Q_1 = \omega L_1 R_1^{-1}$ and $Q_2 = \omega L_2 R_2^{-1}$ are the quality factors of primary and secondary resonators while ω denotes angular resonance frequency. Approximation of PSC resistance is given by [21]

$$R_s = R_{dc} t_c [\delta_{sk} (1 - e^{-t_c/d_{sk}})]^{-1}$$
(7)

where $R_{dc} = \ell_c [\sigma A]^{-1}$ and $\delta_{sk} = (\phi \mu \sigma)^{-0.5}$ are the DC resistance and skin depth. ℓ_c , σ and t_c refer to the total conductor length, conductivity, cross-sectional area and conductor thickness. μ is the product of permeability of free space, μ_0 and conductor's relative permeability, μ_r .

PSC is typically designed with a constant conductor trace width and spacing between adjacent conductor trace. Designing larger constant conductor trace width for all turns and smaller constant spacing will eventuate the amplification of total resistance [24]. In contrast with typical PSC design, progressive width decrement from outermost loop to innermost loop leads to Q-factor's amelioration by hindering losses induced by eddy current [25]. As such, inhomogeneous spatial distribution and width trace is proposed by performing geometrical layout manipulation in full-wave electromagnetic simulator. Proposed PSC is designed with only a single turn on top layer while being enclosed with six turns on the bottom layer. Gradual increment of conductor's trace width is performed from the innermost width of 0.65 mm to outermost width of 1.9 mm. The spacing between conductors is distributed gradually from innermost spacing of 2.5 mm to outermost spacing of 1 mm. Table 1 details other geometrical parameters of proposed design.

TABLE 1. Parameter properties of proposed design.

Symbol	Parameter	Value
J		(mm)
T_s	Substrate thickness	0.4
t_c	Conductor thickness	0.035
dt_i	Inner diameter length of top layer	22.7
db_i	Inner diameter length of bottom layer SR	6.7
db_o	Outer diameter length of bottom layer SR	45
wt _i	Inner conductor's width of top layer SR	0.65
wb_i	Inner conductor's width of bottom layer SR	0.65
ℓC_{sl}	Length of series capacitive plate 1	20
ℓC_{s2}	Length of series capacitive plate 2	56
ℓC_{s3}	Length of series capacitive plate 3	59.39
wC_{sI}	Width of series capacitive plate 1	5.4
wC_{s2}	Width of series capacitive plate 2	5.4
wC_{s3}	Width of series capacitive plate 3	5.1
ℓC_{pI}	Length of parallel capacitive plate 1	20
ℓC_{p2}	Length of parallel capacitive plate 2	50.34
wC_{pI}	Width of parallel capacitive plate 1	5.4
wC_{p2}	Width of parallel capacitive plate 2	5.4

B. MODELLING OF CAPACITOR-PLATES

Compliance with simultaneous conjugate matching is a prerequisite step towards attaining maximum power transfer [26]. *L*-match impedance transformation is employed to achieve convergence at resonance frequency of 13.56 MHz when both reflection coefficients at input and output ports are minimized. As shown in Fig. 3, *L*-match network comprises of a series capacitor, $C_{stx,srx}$ and a parallel capacitor, $C_{ptx,prx}$ connected to a pair of symmetrical transmitting and receiving printed spiral resonator which is represented by $L_{tx,rx}$. These values are determined from inbuilt search algorithm in full-wave electromagnetic solver [18]. Lumped elements of capacitors are used as impedance matching network in the initial design.



FIGURE 3. Equivalent schematic of *L*-match network ($C_{stx,rx}$ and $C_{ptx,rx}$) between a pair of coupled resonators ($L_{tx,rx}$).

Maximum obtainable efficiency is dependent on coupling coefficient and Q-factor and is given by equation (8) [27]. Ohira [28] pointed out that $kQ = k^2Q_1Q_2$ is yet another paramount performance indicator for coupled resonators. kQ can be extracted from impedance matrix components [29] as $|Z_{21}|(ESR)^1$ where $ESR = [(R_{11}R_{22}) - (R_{12}R_{21})]^{0.5}$ is the Equivalent Scalar Resistance of two-port system. Derivation of PTE comes from simulated S-parameters, specifically the magnitude of transmission coefficient, S_{21} in the subsequent equation [30]. The benchmark for acceptable PTE in this design is above 70% without any types of displacement.

$$PTE_{max} = [k^2 Q_1 Q_2][1 + (1 + k^2 Q_1 Q_2)^{0.5}]^{-2}].$$
 (8)

$$PTE = |S_{21}|^2. (9)$$

Initial values for series and parallel capacitors determined in the first stage will be used to compute geometrical capacitive area, A_{cap} required for capacitive plates modelling based on equation (10) [31]. ε_0 , ε_r and T_s denote free space permittivity (8.854 × 10⁻¹⁵ *F/mm*), dielectric constant of substrate and thickness of substrate.

$$C_{stx,srx,ptx,prx} = \varepsilon_0 \varepsilon_r A_{cap} (T_s)^{-1}$$
(10)

In order to minimized the footprint required for capacitive plates, the series and parallel capacitive areas are subdivided into three and two rectangular conductor strips respectively as shown in Fig. 4. Both C-shaped and mirrored L-shaped capacitive plates are modelled on top and bottom layer of the substrate. Initial and optimized values of capacitive compensation and capacitive area are tabulated in Table 2.



FIGURE 4. Geometry of the proposed design: Top Layer (Left); Bottom Layer (Right).

 TABLE 2. Initial and optimized capacitive compensation without displacement.

Capacitive Compensation	C_s	C_p
Initial L-match (pF)	78.61	40.11
Initial Capacitive Area (mm ²)	775.72	385.53
Optimized L-match (pF)	73.97	39.51
Optimized Capacitive Area (mm ²)	711.06 3	379.82

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. SIMULATED RESULTS

Table 3 details the extracted parameters from simulations between initial design using capacitors as lumped elements and proposed design integrated with capacitor-plates at perfect alignment.

Comparisons in terms of coupling coefficient and mutual inductance are made between initial and proposed designs under various types of displacement as shown in Fig. 5 till Fig. 7. Even though stability of k and M are observed when receiving resonator is subjected to planar and vertical

TABLE 3. Extracted parameters of initial and proposed design.

Parameter	Initial Design	Proposed Design	
Ls (µH)	1.17	3.49	
Μ (μΗ)	0.6211	0.6843	
Rs (Ω)	1.5596	6.864	
Q	64	43	
k	0.5287	0.1961	
k_{cp}	0.5435	0.2193	
kQ	35.81	8.94	
PTE (%)	94.57	79.54	



FIGURE 5. Simulated coupling coefficient and mutual inductance under planar displacement.

displacements, there are rapid fluctuations of k and M under vertical displacement as compared to the proposed design. List of displacement-tolerant performance comparison is shown in Table 4. Minimal variation ratios of k and kQindicate link stability with a decreased susceptibility towards coupling variations caused by imperfect alignment between a paired resonators. Variation ratios are computed as $VR_k =$ $(k_{max}-k_{min}) (k_{max})^{-1}$ and $VR_{kQ} = (kQ_{max}-kQ_{min}) (kQ_{max})^{-1}$ respectively. Improvement of the proposed design in comparison with initial design can be distinguished from the amount of variation ratio reduction percentages, ΔVR .

B. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

Proposed design is fabricated on a double-sided FR-4 substrate with dielectric constant of 4.7 as illustrated in Fig. 8. The overall dimension is 66 mm \times 70 mm. At ideal orientation in which rotational angle, *ar*, lateral offset at *x*-axis, *ax* and lateral offset at *y*-axis, *ay* are equivalent to zero, the simulated and measured maximum power transfer efficiency achieved are 79.54% and 74.96% respectively. Both simulated and measured reflection and transmission coefficient plots are depicted in Fig. 9. Slight resonance frequency shift is observed from measured results owing to fabrication imperfections.

The experimental setup to assist planar displacement is performed with two acrylic sheets with dimensions of 15 mm by 15 mm by 2 mm and a smaller acrylic sheet with dimensions of 10 mm by 10 mm by 2 mm. The first and second dissimilar acrylic sheets is separated by nylon PCB standoffs



FIGURE 6. Simulated coupling coefficient and mutual inductance under lateral displacement (*x*-axis).



FIGURE 7. Simulated coupling coefficient and mutual inductance under lateral displacement (*y*-axis).

at 15 mm as shown in the inset of Fig. 10. The receiving resonator positioned on top of the first acrylic sheet is manually rotated based on a protractor placed on the third acrylic sheet. Measurement tool used is Keysight Vector Network Analyzer (VNA) E5071C applicable for designs with frequency ranging from 9 kHz till 6.5 GHz. Measurement results display sustainable PTE which validates the simulated results when receiving resonator is rotated from -180° to 180° with step size of 15° . Average PTE for simulated and measured results are 79.48% and 74.83% respectively.

Tolerance towards displacement caused by both planar and lateral offsets are investigated by deliberately rotating receiving resonator at a specific *ar* before being moved across *x*- and *y*-axis at various *ax* and *ay* in order to emulate practical applications of non-ideal orientations. *ar* ranges from 0° to 180° while lateral displacement quotient ranging from

TABLE 4.	Comparison of simulated	displacement-tolerant	performance.

Displacement		Initial Design	Proposed Design	Reduction (%)
$ax=ay=0, ar \ge 0^{\circ}$	VR_k	0.013	0.007	-47.5
	VR_{kQ}	0.025	0.007	-72.1
$ar=0^{\circ}, ay=0, ax \ge 0$	VR_k	0.883	0.361	-59.1
	VR_{kQ}	0.882	0.345	-60.9
$ar=45^{\circ}$, $ay=0$, $ax \ge 0$	VR_k	0.869	0.352	-59.5
	VR_{kQ}	0.868	0.336	-61.3
$ar=90^\circ$, $ay=0$, $ax \ge 0$	VR_k	0.883	0.363	-58.9
	VR_{kQ}	0.881	0.347	-60.7
<i>ar</i> = 135°, <i>ay</i> =0, <i>ax</i> ≥0	VR_k	0.869	0.350	-59.7
	VR_{kQ}	0.858	0.334	-61.0
$ar=180^\circ$, $ay=0$, $ax \ge 0$	VR_k	0.882	0.358	-59.4
	VR_{kQ}	0.881	0.342	-61.2
$ar=0^\circ, ax=0, ay \ge 0$	VR_k	0.366	0.358	-2.1
	VR_{kQ}	0.367	0.342	-6.8
$ar=45^\circ$, $ax=0$, $ay \ge 0$	VR_k	0.356	0.352	-1.2
	VR_{kQ}	0.354	0.337	-4.8
$ar=90^\circ$, $ax=0$, $ay \ge 0$	VR_k	0.373	0.367	-1.7
	VR_{kO}	0.373	0.350	-6.0
$ar=135^\circ$, $ax=0$, $ay \ge 0$	VR_k	0.360	0.356	-1.1
	VR_{kQ}	0.358	0.341	-4.8
$ar=180^\circ$, $ax=0$, $ay \ge 0$	VR_k	0.373	0.368	-1.4
	VR_{kQ}	0.373	0.352	-5.6



FIGURE 8. Fabricated printed spiral resonator with capacitive plates: Top (Left); Bottom (Right).

0 till 1 refers to the ratio of lateral shift *ax* or *ay* to the axial distance. The corresponding simulated and measurement results as well as measurement setups are depicted in Fig. 11 and Fig. 12. Reasonable agreement between simulated and measured results are observed for both plots. Table 5 summarizes displacement-tolerant performance of proposed design. Variation ratio, ΔVR is used to assess the extent of PTE sustainability and computed as [32]:

$$\Delta VR(\%) = 100 * (PTE_{peak_{max}} - PTE_{peak_{min}}) * (PTE_{peak_{max}})^{-1}. \quad (11)$$

Under planar displacement, variation ratio of measured PTE obtained is 0.29% in which PTE is above 70% for all rotational angles from -180° till 180° . Average measured variation ratio for both planar and lateral displacement at *x*- and *y*- axis are 20.14%. For all rotational angles, lateral offsets of *x*- and *y*- axis, measured PTE obtained is above 55%.

TABLE 5. Comparison of simulated displacement-tolerant performance.

Displacement	Simulated			Measured		
	PTE _{peakmax} (%)	$PTE_{peakmin} \ (\%)$	Δ VR (%)	PTE _{peakmax} (%)	PTE _{peakmin} (%)	Δ VR (%)
$ax=ay=0, ar \ge 0^{\circ}$	79.54	79.44	0.13	74.96	74.74	0.29
$ar=0^\circ, ay=0, ax \ge 0$	79.53	62.25	21.73	74.96	60.73	18.98
$ar=0^\circ, ax=0, ay \ge 0$	79.54	62.50	21.42	74.96	61.51	17.94
$ar=45^\circ$, $ay=0$, $ax \ge 0$	79.42	62.58	21.20	74.85	56.73	24.20
$ar=45^\circ$, $ax=0$, $ay \ge 0$	79.42	62.54	21.25	74.96	61.58	17.85
$ar=90^\circ, ay=0, ax \ge 0$	79.53	62.10	21.92	74.91	57.87	22.75
$ar=90^\circ, ax=0, ay \ge 0$	79.53	61.76	22.34	74.91	58.53	21.87
$ar=135^\circ, ay=0, ax \ge 0$	79.42	62.72	21.03	74.83	59.27	20.79
$ar=135^\circ$, $ax=0$, $ay \ge 0$	79.43	62.19	21.70	74.83	60.77	18.79
$ar=180^\circ, ay=0, ax \ge 0$	79.53	62.54	21.36	74.88	58.76	21.53
$ar=180^\circ$, $ax=0$, $ay\ge 0$	79.53	61.62	22.52	74.88	62.37	16.71



FIGURE 9. Measurement setup for planar displacement: Top View (Left); Perspective (Right).



FIGURE 10. Comparison of the simulated and measured PTE under planar displacement.

Table 6 shows comparison between the proposed design in this work with other published works related to planar and lateral displacement designs. Most of the published works emphasized on either lateral or planar misalignment



FIGURE 11. Comparison of the simulated and measured peak PTE under planar and lateral displacement (*x*-axis).



FIGURE 12. Comparison of the simulated and measured peak PTE under planar and lateral displacement (*y*-axis).

insensitive designs. However, robustness towards planar and lateral offsets at the same instance is not being investigated. As such, proposed design in this work appears to excel by demonstrating satisfactory planar and concurrent planar with lateral offsets aside from simplicity and hassle-free design.

Reference	[10]	[9]	[16]	[12]	This work
fc (MHz)	300	80.2	13.56	13.56	13.56
Resonator type	DGS	3-D SCMR	PSC	PSC	PSC
	(semi H)	(circular)	(circular)	(triple layer)	(double-sided)
do_{txy} (mm)	21	100	84.82	23	45
Link architecture	Symmetrical	Symmetrical	Asymmetrical	Symmetrical	Symmetrical
Assembly Complexity	Moderate	High	Moderate	Moderate	Simple
Capacitor type	SMD	Through-hole	SMD	N/A	Capacitive plates
PTE	≥50%	>30%	No	No	>70%
(Planar shift)	(<i>z</i> -axis: ±50°)	(z-axis: +360°),			(z-axis: ±180°)
		$(x-axis: +272^{\circ})$			
РТЕ	>50%	>30%	>60%	>60%	>60%
(Lateral shift)	(x-axis: +4mm, y-axis: +11mm)	(+102 mm)	(±45.4 mm)	(+20 mm)	(+15 mm)
PTE	No	No	No	No	>55%
(Planar & Lateral shift)					(z-axis: +180°,
					x-axis: $+15 \text{ mm}$,
					y-axis: $+15 \text{ mm}$)
<i>z</i> (mm)	25	120	30	10	15
	$(1.19 \ do_{tx})$	$(1.2 do_{tx})$	$(0.35 \ do_{tx})$	$(0.43 \ do_{tx})$	$(0.33 \ do_{tx})$

TABLE 6. Comparison with published works.

IV. CONCLUSION

A novel printed spiral resonator with series-parallel capacitive compensated plates on a single printed circuit board is presented. Without any displacement where ar, ax and ay are equivalent to zero, maximum simulated and measured transfer efficiency of 79.54% and 74.96% are achieved. Assessment on the endurance towards planar displacement at z-axis, lateral displacement at x- and y-axis as well as concurrent lateral and planar displacement are performed. Variation ratio of transfer efficiency is computed at 0.29% for planar displacement. Measurement results are substantiated with the capability of robustness towards displacement when the average variation ratio for concurrent types of offsets is found to be 20.14%. With a minimized and flattened footprint of 66 mm \times 70 mm \times 0.4 mm, sustainable power transfer efficiency featuring tolerable displacement restraints in addition to straightforward assembly and cost-conscious design is demonstrated for non-radiative low-power wireless energy transfer application.

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