RF Energy Harvesting for INTERNET OF THINGS

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• **Vision Statement:** Excellence in Theoretical and Experimental Research in Communications, Signal Processing, Microelectronics and RF/Photonics.

• **Faculty:**  24; Fellows of IEEE: 4; Fellows of INAE: 8

• Active in Publications: Books, Book Chapters, Journal & Conference Papers; Patents; Standardization etc

• Collaborative research

**People**
Masters Students
[ME, MSc → Mtech, Mtech(Res)]
PhD Students
Project Staff
**ECE: Microwave Engineering**

- **Low-Actuation Voltage Capacitive RF MEMS Switch (<10V)**
  - Low-complexity fabrication process to enhance process yield
  - High reliability: no failure even up to 10 million cycles of operation tested

- **Meso-scale Electrostatic Phase Shifter on microwave Laminate (MEPL)**
  - Utilizes modern printed circuit board fabrication technology.
  - X-band monolithic antenna array system on the microwave laminate board demonstrated.

- **Wideband group delay engineering in RF circuits for radar, medical imaging, and spectrum sensing.**
  - Demonstration uses two stage All – Pass Networks; can be extended over multiple stages to obtain a higher bandwidth and/or higher group delay slope.

- **RF energy harvesting circuits**
  - Integrated with RF transmitters and sensors for practical IoT nodes
  - High efficiency RF-DC converter which can operate at input power of -20dBm (10µW) at 2.4GHz using UMC 130nm process MOSFETs.

- **FEM based algorithms for Electromagnetic circuits & components (periodic structures such as metamaterials)**
  - Fast computation of electromagnetic propagation characteristics
  - Especially suited for evaluation of processes uncertainties
Setting the stage....

• **Introduction**
  – Wireless Power Transfer
    • Energy Harvesting
  – Internet of Things

• **Highlights of Recent Development (Hardware)**
  – Powering wireless terminals
  – RFID with integrated sensors

Ongoing Research Challenges
Wireless Power Transfer (WPT)

• Indicates transfer of electric energy remotely

• WPT has a long history!!
  – Tesla demonstrated it in 1899 by wirelessly powering fluorescent lamps 40 kms away from the power source.
  – Had multiple patents in early 1900s.

• In 1960s W.C. Brown coined the term Rectenna, which he used to directly converts incoming microwaves to DC.
  – He demonstrated its ability to power a helicopter solely through microwaves for 10 hours continuously.

• These demonstrations involved dedicated sources with large power to transmit over long distances.

Space Solar Power Satellites

WPT is widely investigated for putting solar power generating satellites into space and transmitting power to Earth stations. (Mainly in Japan)

http://www.jspacesystems.or.jp/en_project_sspss/
Near field Wireless Power Transfer

• Recent demonstration by MIT to transfer high RF power (Watts) transferred across meters.

• Resonant coils are used

• Typically at 100 kHz to 10’s of MHz

• Many new applications emerged

Typical inductive power system

AC to DC

Drivers

Rectification

Voltage Conditioning

Load

Controller

V/I Sense

Communication

Controller

Transmitter

Receiver

Source: Texas Instruments Qi Development kit
Far $\rightarrow$ Near in WPT

- Free space loss factor is a major bottleneck for power transfer at large distances

- Short distance/ Near field options
  - MIT demonstration (2007)
  - Qi Standard
  - Phone charging solutions
  - Vehicles running on wireless power

- Two extremes in WPT
  - mW $\leftrightarrow$ MW
  - mm $\leftrightarrow$ 1000s km
  - 100kHz $\leftrightarrow$ 2.4/5.8GHz
  - 10cm x 10cm $\leftrightarrow$ km x km
  - Commercial vs bluesky
Far Field Transfer of RF Energy

• Focus of this talk

• Applications: RFID tags, Wireless Sensor Network nodes, biomedical equipment, home automation and structural monitoring can benefit from RF energy harvesting.

• Block diagram and a design example:
A New Paradigm: Internet of Things (IoT)

- IoT refers to uniquely identifiable objects and their virtual representations in an Internet-like structure.
- IoT is a scheme for connecting things: sensors, actuators, and other smart technologies, thus enabling person-to-object and object-to-object communications.
- Continuous availability of power is crucial for their deployment.
IoT Applications

Transportation and logistics
- Logistics
- Assisted driving
- Mobile ticketing
- Environment monitoring
- Augmented maps

Healthcare
- Tracking
- Identification, authentication
- Data collection
- Sensing

Smart environments
- Comfortable homes/offices
- Industrial plants
- Smart museum and gym

Personal and social
- Social networking
- Historical queries
- Losses
- Thefts

Futuristic
- Robot taxi
- City information model
- Enhanced game room

Comparison of different wireless protocols

Today, a lot can be done at low power!!

Characteristics of key 2.4GHz ISM Band Radios studied:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>BLE</th>
<th>ANT</th>
<th>Zigbee</th>
<th>WLAN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Modulation</td>
<td>GFSK</td>
<td>GFSK</td>
<td>OQPSK</td>
<td>DSSS (802.11b)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max data rate</td>
<td>1Mbps</td>
<td>12.8-60 Kbps</td>
<td>250Kbs (@2.4Ghz)</td>
<td>1-11Mbps (802.11b)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Throughput</td>
<td>305 kbps</td>
<td>20Kbps</td>
<td>100Kbps</td>
<td>6Mbps (802.11b)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Range (in m)</td>
<td>10-100(0-10dBm)</td>
<td>30 (@ 0dBm)</td>
<td>10-100 (0-20dBm)</td>
<td>100+(20dBm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max nodes in piconet</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>65533</td>
<td>Star-65536</td>
<td>32-64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Battery life</td>
<td>1-2 years (coin cell)</td>
<td>1-2years (coin cell)</td>
<td>100-1000 days</td>
<td>0.5-5days</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Key Aspects:

**BLE** is robust and has lowest power consumption but cannot natively form mesh networks,

**Zigbee** can support large mesh networks, power consumption is higher than BLE and throughput is lower: It is suitable for low data rate, low power, large size networks.

**WLAN** is primarily suitable for transferring bulk data at high speeds, Not suitable for low power applications.
## Power Requirements in Common WSN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Radio standard</th>
<th>Crossbow MICAz</th>
<th>Intel IMote2</th>
<th>Jennic JN5139</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Typical range</td>
<td>100m (outdoor), 30m (indoor)</td>
<td>30m</td>
<td>1 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data rate (kbps)</td>
<td>250 kbps</td>
<td>250 kbps</td>
<td>250 kbps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sleep mode (deep sleep)</td>
<td>15 μA</td>
<td>390 μA</td>
<td>2.8 μA (1.6 μA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Processor only</td>
<td>8mA active mode</td>
<td>31–53mA*</td>
<td>2.7+0.325mA/MHz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RX</td>
<td>19.7mA</td>
<td>44mA</td>
<td>34mA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TX</td>
<td>17.4mA (+0dBm)</td>
<td>44mA</td>
<td>34mA (+3 dBm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supply voltage (minimum)</td>
<td>2.7V</td>
<td>3.2V</td>
<td>2.7V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average</td>
<td>2.8mW</td>
<td>12mW</td>
<td>3mW</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Jennic JN5148</th>
<th>TI- CC430</th>
<th>BLE</th>
<th>Zarlink ZL70250</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Active mode current at 16MHz [mA]</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deep sleep current [nA]</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transmission current [mA]@Tx-power [dBm]</td>
<td>15@2.5</td>
<td>18@0</td>
<td>36@2</td>
<td>2@-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transmit frequency</td>
<td>2.4 GHz</td>
<td>2.4 GHz</td>
<td>2.4 GHz</td>
<td>868 MHz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wakeup time [ms]</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>0.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy consumption for a transmission cycle of 2ms [μJ]</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power supply voltage [V]</td>
<td>2.2 – 3.6</td>
<td>1.8 -3.6</td>
<td>2-3.6</td>
<td>1.2 – 1.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In perspective

• Energy requirements in different devices/systems
  • 6 orders of magnitude variation!!

• Energy requirements in WSN
  – Depends on the complexity/standard/range
  – e.g. 90 μW to power a pulse oxymeter sensor, to process data and to transmit them at intervals of 15 s

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Device type</th>
<th>Power consumption</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Smartphone</td>
<td>1W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MP3 decoder chip</td>
<td>58 mW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hearing aid</td>
<td>1 mW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wireless sensor node</td>
<td>100 μW*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RF receiver chip</td>
<td>24 mW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPS receiver chip</td>
<td>15 mW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6D motion sensor</td>
<td>14.4 mW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cell phone (standby)</td>
<td>8.1 mW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPG sensor</td>
<td>1.473 mW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humidity</td>
<td>1 mW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pressure</td>
<td>0.5 mW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3D accelerometer</td>
<td>0.324 mW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temperature</td>
<td>27 μW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiac pacemaker</td>
<td>50 μW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wristwatch</td>
<td>7 μW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memory R/W</td>
<td>2.17 μW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-D conversion</td>
<td>1 μW</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


## Power Density from Various Harvesters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Power Density</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ambient RF</td>
<td>&lt; 1 μW/cm²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ambient light</td>
<td>100 mW/cm² (directed toward bright sun)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>100 μW/cm² (illuminated office)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thermoelectric</td>
<td>60 μW/cm²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vibrational</td>
<td>4 μW/cm³ (human motion ~Hz)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>microgenerators</td>
<td>800 μW/cm³ (machines ~kHz)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ambient airflow</td>
<td>1 mW/cm²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Push buttons</td>
<td>50 μJ/N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hand generators</td>
<td>30 W/kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heel strike</td>
<td>Up tp 7 W for 1 cm deflection</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Power requirements in conventional sensor network nodes may not be met by harvesting alone!

---

PV is a good source of energy. Recall, however, it is not always available.

- At night
- Specific scenarios: in a closed chamber, or mine.

RF is an alternative

- Unlike others, RF sources may be ambient or intentional.
- Ambient sources such as base stations or broadcast stations
- Special sources: RF ID reader, Phone charger, special beacons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ambient light</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>100 μW/cm² (illuminated office)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Demand and Supply

- The peak currents needed during transmit and receive operation is not achievable using the harvester alone.

- Buffering is also needed to ensure continuous operation during times without power generation.

- The combination of an energy harvester with a small-sized storage is the best approach to enable energy autonomy of the network over the entire lifetime.
  - Rechargeable battery
  - Thin film batteries
    - can be integrated directly in Integrated Circuit (IC) packages in any shape or size,
    - Flexible when fabricated on thin plastics
    - Thin film batteries have high impedance;
    - Low discharge efficiency compared to Li-ion batteries
  - super capacitor
    - Leakage in super capacitors depends on the voltage. Low at low voltage
Embedding short-range mobile transceivers into a wide array of gadgets and everyday items, enabling new forms of communication between people and things, and between things themselves.

RFID + Sensor + Smart Tech + Nano Tech = IoT

When shopping in the market, the goods will introduce themselves.

When entering the doors, scanners will identify the tags on clothing.

When paying for the goods, the microchip of the credit card will communicate with checkout reader.

When moving the goods, the reader will tell the staff to put a new one.
Introduction to RFID

- The reader converts incident field and returns useful data.
- In passive RFID systems, the reader transmits EM energy that "wakes up" the tag and provides power for the tag to respond to the reader.
Backscatter Communication

- **Backscatter** is the reflection of signals back towards their source.
  
  - In this scheme, two devices communicate using incident (or ambient) RF as the source of power.
  
  - Backscattering is achieved by changing the impedance of a receiver in the presence of an incident signal.
  
  - When waves encounter a new media that have different impedances, a part of the wave is reflected.
  
  - The reflection depends on the difference in the impedances.

- By modulating the impedance at the receiver port, one can control the scattered RF energy, hence enabling information transmission.
RFID ➔ IoT

• RFID
  – Uses radio waves for identifying or tracking the object.
  – Proven to be a simple and cost effective system
  – Tags are very cheap and is possible to be attached to everyday objects.

• RFID is considered a prerequisite of Internet of Things.

• Example: RFID tags can be integrated with sensors
  – When a reader reads a tag, the sensor information will be sent to the reader along with the identity of the object.
Some Examples

- Discrete Element Based
  WISP (Wireless Identification Sensing Platform)

- Multi-Chip Based S-tag

- Chips with I2C / SPI
  SPARTACUS / RAMSES (Self-Powered Augmented RFID Tag for Autonomous Computing and Ubiquitous Sensing / RFID Augmented Module for Smart Environmental Sensing)

- Single IC Based Sensing Tags

- Printed Chipless RFID Tag
WISP

• Wireless Identification Sensor Platform (2009)
  – WISPs are a wireless, battery-free sensing and computation platform, powered by harvested energy from off-the-shelf UHF RFID readers.
  – To a RFID reader, a WISP is a EPC gen1 or gen2 tag; but inside the WISP, the harvested energy is operating a 16-bit general purpose microcontroller.
  – The microcontroller can perform computing tasks, including sampling sensors, and communicate to the RFID reader.
  – WISPs have been built with various sensors, WISPs can write to flash and perform cryptographic computations.

A collaboration between Intel Research Seattle and the University of Washington.

http://wisp.wikispaces.com/Wisp+4.1+DL
RFID Sensors (Products)

- ID operation is passive; yet most sensors require power sources

- Powercast has a wireless sensor that is battery-less. Uses RF energy harvesting.

- Harvesting schemes works at power as low as -12dBm. (RF-DC conversion efficiency above 40% only above -8dBm)

- Harvested power >0.4mW for RF in of >-1dBm.

- Multiple custom ICs and discretes

- Other suppliers include
  - Phase IV
  - RFID sensor systems
  - etc

Battery-less Wireless Terminals

• Most of our work in this direction was towards battery-less terminals

• Long life terminals without wiring

• These are useful when
  – Terminals are embedded within structures (or body)
  – Devices to be deployed in hostile environments
  – Use of battery is not allowed (potential cause for explosion)

• Other factors
  – Cost, weight, etc.

• Primary focus: use of radio frequencies (ambient/intentional)
Ambient RF Sources

• Several sources:
  – WiFi Access points (mW) [2.4/.6GHz]
  – Cellular Tower (W) [900/1800 MHz]
  – TV Broadcast (MW) [150-450MHz]
  – FM broadcast (kW) [90-108MHz]
  – AM Radio broadcast (kW) [<1MHz]

• In general
  – Lower frequencies help non-line-of-sight propagation
  – Power availability from ambient sources is limited and varies from place to place.

• Note
  – Unlike other sources, most practical RF harvesters (eg in RF ID) depend on intentionally generated energy.
  – This is called **wireless power transfer (WPT)** in the conventional RF/Microwave parlance.
Wireless Communication System

- Power transfer scheme is no different!!
This is the ratio of the radiation intensity in a given direction to the radiation intensity averaged over all directions.

Average radiation intensity, \[ U_0 = \frac{P_{\text{rad}}}{4\pi} \]

Directivity, \[ D(\theta, \phi) = \frac{U(\theta, \phi)}{U_0} = \frac{4\pi U(\theta, \phi)}{P_{\text{rad}}} \]

—if direction is not specified, it implies the direction of maximum radiation intensity

\[ D_{\text{max}} = \frac{4\pi U_{\text{max}}}{P_{\text{rad}}} \]

\[ D_{dB} = 10 \log D \]
Maximum directivity and Maximum effective area

The radiated power density by a transmitter at a distance $R$

$$W_t = \frac{P_t D_t}{4\pi R^2}$$

Power received

$$P_r = W_t \cdot A_r = \frac{P_t D_t A_r}{4\pi R^2}$$

or, $D_t A_r = \frac{P_r}{P_t} \cdot 4\pi R^2$

By reversing the transmission direction

$$D_r A_t = \frac{P_r}{P_t} \cdot 4\pi R^2$$

$$\therefore \frac{D_t}{A_t} = \frac{D_r}{A_r}$$

this can be generalized by

$$\frac{D_1}{A_1} = \frac{D_2}{A_2} = k = \frac{4\pi}{\lambda^2}$$

if, $D_0 = \text{max. directivity}$

$A_{em} = \text{max. effective area}$

$$D = \frac{4\pi A_{em}}{\lambda^2}$$
Frii’s Transmission Equation

- The radiation intensity for an isotropic radiator is \( W_0 = \frac{P_t}{4\pi R^2} \)

- For an antenna of gain \( G_t \) (or directivity \( D_t \))
  \[
  W_t = \frac{P_t G_t(\theta_t, \phi_t)}{4\pi R^2} = e_t \frac{P_t D_t(\theta_t, \phi_t)}{4\pi R^2}
  \]

- The effective aperture of a receiving antenna is given by
  \[
  A_r = e_r D_r(\theta_r, \phi_r) \frac{\lambda^2}{4\pi}
  \]

- Therefore,
  \[
  P_r = e_r D_r(\theta_r, \phi_r) \frac{\lambda^2}{4\pi} W_t = e_t e_r D_t(\theta_t, \phi_t) D_r(\theta_r, \phi_r) \frac{\lambda^2}{(4\pi R)^2} |\mathbf{\hat{p}}_t \cdot \mathbf{\hat{p}}_r|^2
  \]

  \[
  \frac{P_r}{P_t} = e_t e_r D_t(\theta_t, \phi_t) D_r(\theta_r, \phi_r) \frac{\lambda^2}{(4\pi R)^2} |\mathbf{\hat{p}}_t \cdot \mathbf{\hat{p}}_r|^2
  \]

  \[
  \frac{P_r}{P_t} = e_c d_t e_c d_r (1 - |\Gamma_t|^2)(1 - |\Gamma_r|^2) D_t(\theta_t, \phi_t) D_r(\theta_r, \phi_r) \frac{\lambda^2}{(4\pi R)^2} |\mathbf{\hat{p}}_t \cdot \mathbf{\hat{p}}_r|^2
  \]

- When the antennas are pointing towards each others’ peak radiation direction,
  \[
  \frac{P_r}{P_t} = G_{0t} G_{0r} \left( \frac{\lambda}{4\pi R} \right)^2
  \]

Note that includes a loss factor (usually called **Free space Loss factor**)
Does not include dissipation/attenuation in medium; caused by spreading
Some numbers on Radiative form of WPT...

• Practical systems will have
  – Operational frequencies in ISM bands.
  – Most terminals are compact.
  – Antenna efficiency is compromised.
  – Nearly isotropic radiations expected.

• Main bottleneck is the physical limits in transmission.
  \[ P_r = P_t \times G_t \times G_r \times (\frac{\lambda}{4\pi r})^2 \]
  – At 1 GHz (\(\lambda=30\text{cm}\)) \(r=1\text{m}\); Antenna gain \(\text{@0dBm}\), free space loss factor is about 0.06%.
  – Even with a moderate gain transmitter antenna (6dBi) power received \(\text{@1m}\) for 1W transmission, is just 2mW.
    • Drops to 23\(\mu\)W at 10m !!
    • The voltage of the signal is low!!

• In radiative power transfer, Distance from transmitter is a major concern.
Some questions addressed in our work

• **Harvesting of ambient radiations or Radiative transfer of energy addressed**
  – Is it possible to harvest the RF energy from base stations
  – Are there other viable sources of RF energy

• **Can low power communication systems be designed to operate entirely from harvested energy**
  – Integrate sensors, control, etc

• **Can we use RF EH/ WPT to increase the range of backscatter communication (RFID scenario)**
Design of Rectifiers

Required for converting incoming RF into DC power.

The challenge lies in maximizing the power conversion efficiency for low input power and minimizing the dimensions.

- RF to DC conversion by rectification of the incident RF signal by a **Schottky diode**
  - Most diodes have a finite cut-in voltage
  - Diode is a non-linear device (performance depends on current or load)
  - Impedance matching required between antenna and diode
  - In most cases, the input voltage needs to be boosted

Conceptual diode based Rectenna

Voltage doubler
Voltage magnification in Matching circuit

- Matching circuit is required to provide impedance match between antennas (50Ω typical) to diode terminated with high impedance load (capacitor and/or high R in parallel).
  - LC matching networks provide voltage magnification.
  - This helps the diode conduct a good fraction of half cycle.

- The higher the voltage across the diodes, the more efficient the rectifier gets.
  - In practice Q is limited
  - Applications requiring higher voltages, a voltage multiplier configuration is used.

![Matching Circuit Diagram]

\[
V_C = V_{in} \times \frac{1}{R + j\omega L + \frac{1}{j\omega C}}
\]

At resonance,

\[
V_C = V_{in} \times \frac{1}{j\omega_0 CR} = -jQV_{in}
\]
A tuned rectifier implemented using discrete components

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$P_{in}$</th>
<th>-10dBm</th>
<th>-13dBm</th>
<th>-16dBm</th>
<th>-20dBm</th>
<th>-25dBm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Freq.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>930MHz</td>
<td>917mV</td>
<td>664mV</td>
<td>469mV</td>
<td>281mV</td>
<td>131mV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>945MHz</td>
<td>1016mV</td>
<td>736mV</td>
<td>515mV</td>
<td>300mV</td>
<td>132mV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>955MHz</td>
<td>1038mV</td>
<td>747mV</td>
<td>513mV</td>
<td>289mV</td>
<td>122mV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>960MHz</td>
<td>1032mV</td>
<td>736mV</td>
<td>499mV</td>
<td>276mV</td>
<td>114mV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peak efficiency</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Typical Performance of Rectifier

RF-DC Conversion efficiency depends on various conditions.
Rectifier Circuit using 4 diodes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Power level (dBm)</th>
<th>Charging time (ms)</th>
<th>Efficiency (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>64.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-2</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>63.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-3</td>
<td>67.5</td>
<td>63.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-5</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-7</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>59.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-10</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>56.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-12</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>53.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-15</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-18</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>20.56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Aditya Mitra, Chaithanya (2011-12)

Gaurav Singh, Rahul P (2010-11)
Gaurav Singh, Rahul P (2010-11)
Characterization in Lab

- Using various antennas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distance from Transmitter [m]</th>
<th>1.5</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>2.5</th>
<th>3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Power received by dipole antenna [dBm]</td>
<td>-20.5</td>
<td>-22.1</td>
<td>-23.9</td>
<td>-25.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calculated power density [uW/cm²]</td>
<td>0.078</td>
<td>0.055</td>
<td>0.035</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power received by patch antenna [dBm]</td>
<td>-15.1</td>
<td>-16.1</td>
<td>-17.6</td>
<td>-19.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transmit interval [mm:ss]</td>
<td>07:26</td>
<td>12:13</td>
<td>25:00</td>
<td>never</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power received by biquad antenna [dBm]</td>
<td>-11.8</td>
<td>-13.2</td>
<td>-14.9</td>
<td>-15.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transmit interval [mm:ss]</td>
<td>02:20</td>
<td>03:25</td>
<td>7:10</td>
<td>10:33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Gaurav Singh, Rahul P (2010-11)
2. Universal Energy Harvesting Platform

Only a small thin film battery is used
### UEHP: Performance with different sources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Solar</th>
<th>RF</th>
<th>TEG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Light Intensity (Lux)</td>
<td>Duty Cycle of operation (s)</td>
<td>Power Level (dBm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1000</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>300</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

An incident RF power of -7dBm (~0.2mW) performs similarly as at low light PV.

An appropriately oriented 20mW source with a high gain antenna (~10dB) can reach this RF power at a low gain rectenna (eg using PIFA) at 1 m distance.

Power levels within emission guidelines...


Aditya Mitra, Chaithanya (2011-12)
Other Possibilities using Wireless Power Transfer

• Power transfer by radiation is not efficient

• Waveguiding systems can ensure better transmission of power
  – Loss in waveguide is a small fraction of a dB/m (~0.2dB/m)
  – Metal ducts may carry higher order modes with higher losses
  – Extended to conducting ducts, Tunnels, mine shafts etc with some compromise

• Other possibilities
  – Surface wave
  – Focusing of fields

• Empty enclosures with metallic walls
  – Containers, tanks, airplane cabin, trains, etc
  – Other objects in the path may reduce the efficiency!
3: Antenna for RFID sensors

- Work involved design of antenna for RF harvesting sensors
  - These fuel level sensors to be deployed in a fuel tank of aircraft.
  - Optimization of design should focus on efficiency
  - High gain or directivity is not required.

- EH platform to be used with RFID sensors deployed inside fuel tank

- Requirements/Assumptions:
  - Incident energy is of random polarity and direction.
  - Operating frequency is 902MHz-928MHz.
  - Antenna must operate in air (relative permittivity = 1) and fluid (relative permittivity = 2.1)
  - Dimensions of planar antenna board:
    - Target dimensions: 3 in. x 2 in.
    - Maximum dimensions: 6 in. x 4 in.
Antenna Design dimensions

Ground Plane
Coaxial Feed

Ground plane
Shorting Strip
Patch

Ground plane
Feed
Patch

Vivekanand M, Harikiran M
Resolutions of fluid height measurement to within 0.25".
1W maximum transmit power.
Uses a modified reader protocol.

4. RFID Integrated with Sensor

- Harvesting Antenna (PIFA / Monopole)
- Tag Antenna and MONZA-X2K (Meander Line)

**RF-DC**
- Lumped Element Based Matching Circuit
- Two Stage Dickson Voltage Multiplier

**Power regulation and supervisory**
- DC-DC Converter (BQ 25504)
- Power Gating MOSFET
- LDO

**Digital Section**
- Microcontroller (PIC 16F1823)
- Sensors (Light, Temperature, Accelerometer)
- I2C bus network and pullup resistors
Parts of Fabricated System

Sandeep Rana 2014-15

## Characterization of Performance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Power</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RFID Reader</td>
<td>30 dbm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circularly polarized antenna</td>
<td>8 dbi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polarization loss</td>
<td>3 dbi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monopole Antenna</td>
<td>5 dbi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIFA antenna</td>
<td>1 dbi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meander Antenna</td>
<td>0.4 dbi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tag Antenna</th>
<th>EIRP (dbm) + Gr</th>
<th>Rg Expected (-10 dbm) and 50 % overall efficiency</th>
<th>Range Achieved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monopole</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>7.5 mtr</td>
<td>7 mtr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIFA</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>5 mtr</td>
<td>5.5 mtr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meander Line</td>
<td>35.4</td>
<td>4.5 mtr</td>
<td>4.5 mtr</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\[
\lambda = 34.5 \, cm \\
Prx = EIRP \times Gr \times \left(\frac{\lambda}{4\pi f}\right)^2
\]

Efficiency worked out for -10 dbm
RF-DC efficiency – 20 % and DC-DC efficiency – 80%
Overall efficiency – 16%

Sandeep Rana 2014-15
5. Harvesting at 2.4GHz

![Image of harvesting equipment]

**Output voltage vs Input power**

- Output voltage (V): 0.153, 0.213, 0.293, 0.396, 0.528, 0.695, 0.906, 1.171, 1.327
- Input power (dbm): -20, -18, -16, -14, -12, -10, -8, -6, -5

**Return loss (S11)**

- Frequency (GHz): 2.2, 2.4, 2.6, 2.8, 3
- S11 dB: -20, -18, -16, -14, -12, -10, -8, -6, -5

Sanjeev K. 2014-15
## Comparison of Efficiencies

### Schottky diode

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>-15dbm</th>
<th>-20dbm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>900MHz</td>
<td>Efficiency=47%</td>
<td>Efficiency=31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2400MHz</td>
<td>Efficiency =17%</td>
<td>Efficiency=5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Output voltage=0.29V</td>
<td>Output voltage=0.15V</td>
<td>Output voltage=0.15V (0.153V unloaded)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Load resistor=6K</td>
<td>Load resistor=6K</td>
<td>Load resistor=6K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Efficiency</td>
<td>Efficiency</td>
<td>Output voltage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Output voltage</td>
<td>Output voltage</td>
<td>Load resistor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.29V</td>
<td>0.15V</td>
<td>6K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Load resistor</td>
<td>Load resistor</td>
<td>Efficiency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6K</td>
<td>6K</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Used HSMS 2852

### Diode connected MOS with high Q matching

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>-14dbm</th>
<th>-20dbm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>900MHz</td>
<td>Efficiency=6.2%</td>
<td>Efficiency=1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2400MHz</td>
<td>Efficiency=2%</td>
<td>Efficiency=0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Output voltage=1.1V</td>
<td>Output voltage=0.3V</td>
<td>Output voltage=0.118V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Load resistor=500K</td>
<td>Load resistor=500K</td>
<td>Load resistor=500K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Efficiency</td>
<td>Efficiency</td>
<td>Output voltage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Output voltage</td>
<td>Output voltage</td>
<td>Load resistor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1V</td>
<td>0.3V</td>
<td>500K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Load resistor</td>
<td>Load resistor</td>
<td>Efficiency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500K</td>
<td>500K</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Zero V<sub>TH</sub> CMOS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>-15dbm</th>
<th>-25dbm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>900MHz</td>
<td>Efficiency=4.6%</td>
<td>Efficiency=2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2400MHz</td>
<td>Efficiency=3.79%</td>
<td>Efficiency=1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Output voltage=0.86V</td>
<td>Output voltage=0.198V</td>
<td>Output voltage=0.198V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Load resistor=500K</td>
<td>Load resistor=500K</td>
<td>Load resistor=500K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Efficiency</td>
<td>Efficiency</td>
<td>Output voltage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.6%</td>
<td>3.79%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Output voltage</td>
<td>Output voltage</td>
<td>Load resistor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.86V</td>
<td>0.198V</td>
<td>500K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Load resistor</td>
<td>Load resistor</td>
<td>Efficiency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500K</td>
<td>500K</td>
<td>3.79%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cross-coupled Rectifiers for Low Power

- CMoS integration requires diodes using MoSFETs.
- Simple diode connected configurations are not effective at low power/voltage levels
- In Cross Coupled Rectifiers
  - Biasing of MOSFETs by charge stored in capacitors. This is a way of threshold compensation.
  - Low ON resistance due to high overdrive voltage.
  - In both cycles of input, output capacitor is charged. Although DCP uses both cycles, only alternate cycles charges the output capacitor and the other cycle charges the input capacitor.
DC-DC converter

- Low loss switched capacitor DC-DC converter:
Full system block diagram

1. Output capacitor of RF-DC supplies DC-DC
2. Enable generator logic constructed using back to back inverters
3. 5 MOSFETs added to limit supply voltage to ring oscillator

Full system simulations

- Output capacitor of RF-DC loaded heavily when clocks transition, so ripples exist in RF-DC output.
- Below 0.5V at clock transitions, above 0.5V between clock transitions
- Time step is 8ps for RF-DC simulation and DC-DC has to run for hundreds of µs or few ms, so simulations times are large.

Output voltage=2V across a load of 1.6MΩ, which gives

\[ \text{Efficiency} = \frac{2^2}{1.6 \times 10^6} = 25\% \]
Summary with IC Design

- Low Vth NMOS based DCP gives 42.3% efficiency.
- FGCCR gives 55% efficiency.
- The overall system efficiency is 25%.
- Higher than efficiency reported in literature for RF-DC converter operating at -20dBm, 2.4GHz in 130nm technology.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>This work</th>
<th>[5]</th>
<th>[7]</th>
<th>[6]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Power level</td>
<td>-20dBm</td>
<td>-25.7dBm</td>
<td>-22.6dB</td>
<td>-20dBm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequency</td>
<td>2.4GHz</td>
<td>2.45GHz</td>
<td>906MHz</td>
<td>2.4GHz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Efficiency</td>
<td>55%(simulated)</td>
<td>37%(measured)</td>
<td>10%(measured)</td>
<td>36%(simulated)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rectifier</td>
<td>FGCCR in UMC 130nm CMOS</td>
<td>DCP in 0.5µm Silicon on Sapphire</td>
<td>DCP with floating gate transistors in 0.25µm CMOS</td>
<td>FGCCR in 130nm CMOS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6. ASIC Design for IOT

• Working on a 3-chip architecture
  – Our chip to enable sensing, and control functions
  – Communication using an external Monza chip

• Fabricated chip using commercial services!!
Battery-less Sensor node for BLE

Bharat Hegde & Syed Younis 2015-16
Summary

• Most low power wireless terminals operate intermittently

• These require anywhere 50uW to about 10mW for their operation.
  – Batteries limited: cost, size, stored energy
  – Solar: not dependable through

• WPT and RF EH can enable wide use of IoT
  – Main challenges in the design is the low incident energy/power/voltage
  – High Quality factor components may help

• Several fabricated examples discussed here: All can transmit data to an aggregator wirelessly
  – Different standards implemented.
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