

## Smart Wireless Power Transmission System for Autonomous EV Charging

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### ABSTRACT

This paper presents a novel localization method for electric vehicles (EVs) charging through wireless power transmission (WPT). With the proposed technique, the wireless charging system can self determine the most efficient coil to transmit power at the EV's position based on the sensors activated by its wheels. To ensure optimal charging, our approach involves measurement of the transfer efficiency of individual transmission coil to determine the most efficient one to be used. This not only improves the charging performance but also minimizes energy losses by autonomously activating only the coils with the highest transfer efficiencies. The results show that with the proposed system, it is possible to detect the coil with maximum transmitting efficiency without the use of actual power transmission and comparison of the measured efficiency. This paper also proves that with the proposed charger set-up, the position of the receiver coil can be detected almost instantly, which indeed saves energy and boosts the charging time.

**Keywords :** Wireless power transmission, car charging, electrical vehicle, efficiency, charging pad, sensor network, smart charger

### I. INTRODUCTION

However, charging cables are still used to connect the cars Transportation plays a major role in day to day life. Accord- to the charging stations which is not sustainable in the ing to, approximately 70% of the United Kingdom (UK) long-term. One of the obvious advantages of wireless power households own a minimum of one vehicle. In 2016, the UK transmission (WPT) over wired ones is its significantly lower alone had more than 30 millions cars registered and driven on cost of infrastructure maintenance. Since it was first proposed the roads. The vehicle licensing statistics shows that in 2016, by Sultanbek et al., in 2007, WPT has gained popularity

around 3.3 millions cars were registered for the first time due to its simplicity and functionality . Over the past few and 42,000 of the vehicles were ultra low emission vehicles years, it has been implemented in a wide range of applications (ULEVs) . It has also been predicted that by 2030, about from household applications to medical implants . 60% of all new vehicles sales in the UK will be electric In the past few years, researchers have been working towards vehicles (EVs), regarded as one of the most promising implementation of WPT technology in the EVs . alternatives to the fossil fuel vehicles. Statistics indicate that They have been able to develop a method to transmit power in July 2018, 162,000 plug-in EVs (PEVs) were used on the to the EV with

inductive WPT (IWPT) as well as roads. Furthermore, the number of electric cars models and capacitive WPT (CWPT) techniques. IPWT especially brands available in the UK market have also grown rapidly offers many advantages, such as its ability to transfer power during the recent years. Today in the UK, 75 different models both unidirectionally and bidirectionally . Also the of PEVs are available with roughly 20,000 charging points transmission efficiency has significantly improved over the installed around the country. years. Currently, efficiency of the WPT system can reach up to 96% however, it strongly depends on the transmitter and The associate editor coordinating the review of this manuscript and receiver loop alignments approving it for publication was Giambattista Gruosso.

The contribution of this paper resides in proposing a novel approach to location-based car charging. The charger uses a sensor array to detect the car position based on the activated sensors beneath the wheels. When the sensors are activated, the algorithm calculates the size of the vehicle and estimates the transmission loop with highest efficiency around the current EV position. Since the sensors are interconnected to the transmitter, communication between the vehicle and the smart charger is required. If the car changes its position, the network will sense any variations instantly and compensate the transmitting coil accordingly. We demonstrate that the proposed location-based smart charger also reduces the amount of energy required to locate the loop with highest efficiency, thus the array network uses a low power supply. With the proposed sensor network, a car maximizes the actual charging time since the car position is instantly sensed without interrupting the charging process.

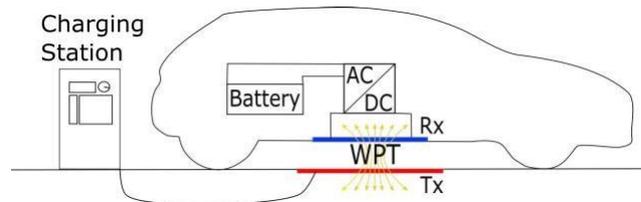


FIGURE 1. EV wireless power transmission charging with the charging pad placed under the vehicle.

## II. RELATED WORKS

A conventional EV WPT charger is shown in Fig. 1 where the transmitter loop is placed under the EV and the receiver loop is fitted on its body. The parking spot is designed to offer the driver sufficient parking space and safe exit. However, the spatial freedom in parking spaces is also a challenge for the WPT transmitter design . According to , the minimum parking space for a car is 4.8m in length with 2.4m width. Therefore, the WPT charger should ideally be able to transfer power with its highest efficiency regardless of the vehicle position.

Different methods of IWPT have been proposed in recent years. For instance, the authors in proposed replacing the circular coil structure of the pad with quadrature coil combined with DD coil design. New DD-DDQ coil design improves a pad's charging zone and therefore reduces the cost of the pad. A tripod was proposed in where the transmitter unit is built with 3 individual charging coils connected to each other in a circular structure. According to the authors, the proposed structure reduced the magnetic flux leakage. The location finder technique using laser can determine the location of the vehicle with a millimeter range accuracy. However, such a system requires computer based processing methods, which increase the power consumption of the whole system.

Distinct methods to improve the spatial freedom of WPT charger were proposed by, where the power transmission is combined with a super capacitor (SC) to form an energy buffer. A multi-coil charger was also investigated to increase the receiver's flexibility based on free positioning of the transmitter. The

proposed multi-loop transmitter contains two or more loops which are embedded in the same transmitter. The loop used to transmit power to the receiver is calculated based on the measured results of the individual transmissions. The advantage of this method is that the power is consistently transmitted with the highest possible efficiency. However, continuous communication between the transmitter and receiver has to be established and numerous measurements have to be conducted such as calibration during the charging period and after, in case the object re-positions.

### III. WIRELESS CHARGING PADS MODEL

A vital aspect of the car charging pad design is to cover multiple positions of a car in a parking facility. To sense the position of the vehicle, the wheels need to be placed within the pre-marked parking spaces. For experimental purposes, the properties of the three prominent EV models used in the UK are presented in Table 1, and the dimensions of a cars are illustrated in Fig. 2. While designing a charging system, the most crucial factors that need to be considered are the distance between the center of the rear and front wheels (wheelbase), marked as D, as well as the distance between the left and right front wheels (track distance), marked as B.

TABLE 1. Dimensions of the three most popular car currently in the U.K. market. [28].

Model	Height	Width	Wheelbase	Length
Renault Zoe	1562mm	2588mm	2637mm	4084mm
Tesla Model S	1445mm	2960mm	2630mm	4979mm
BMW i3	1598mm	1775mm	2570mm	4006mm

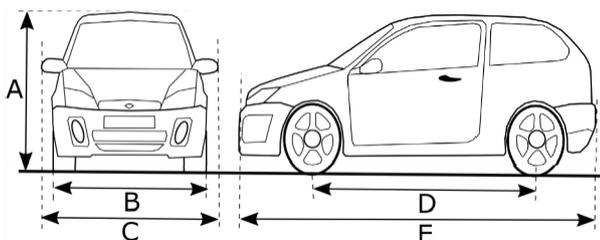


FIGURE 2. A car’s dimensions; height (A), track distance (B), width (C), wheelbase (D), and length (E).

The most common EVs on the UK roads are Renault Zoe, Tesla Model S and BMW i3. With respect to the dimensions of EVs, it is evident that despite the similarities between the length of the Renault Zoe and BMW i3, their widths differ.

Tesla Model S is a considerably larger vehicle. Therefore, depending on the wheelbase and the track distance, it is possible to determine the model of a vehicle based on the activated sensors. Upon successful determination of the EV’s dimension, the system can effectively calculate the optimal transmit coil to be used based on the current parking position.

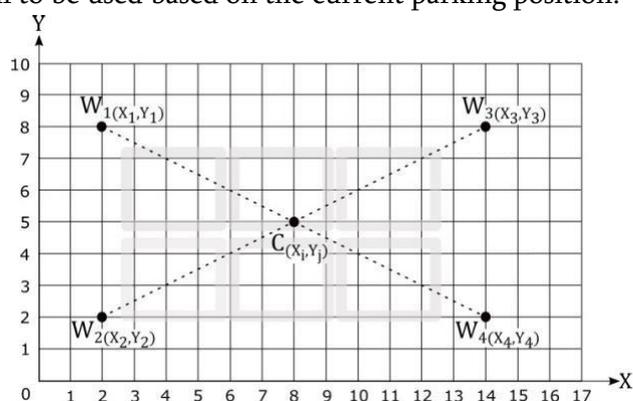


FIGURE 3. Two dimensional network of the parking space which is used to calculate the EV position, size and the WPT coil with highest efficiency of charging.

The location of the vehicle in the parking space can be computed by its coordinates within the cartesian plane, where each of the four vertices of the vehicle has known coordinates as shown in Fig. 3. From these coordinates, properties such as the width and length can be calculated. The coordinates of each wheel are given by  $W_i = W(X_i, Y_i)$ .

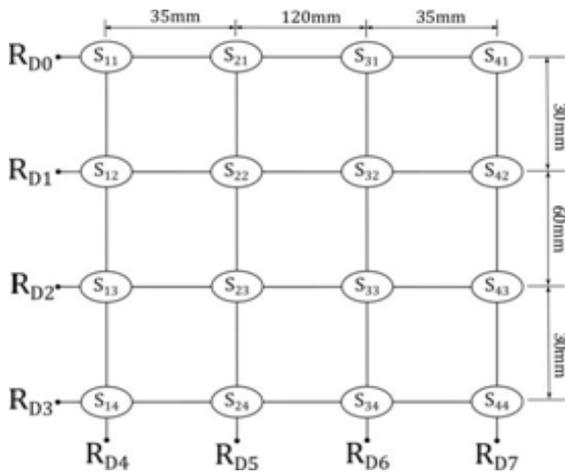


Fig. 5 illustrates a parking space model which consists of an inbuilt array of 16 independent sensors. The proposed sensor array can be described as a 4 × 4 matrix, where each set of four sensors is responsible for determining the position of a wheel. The precision of calculating the car’s position can be

**V. PROPOSED WIRELESS CHARGING PAD**

The smart WPT proposed in this paper is information-centric such that a wireless sensor array is integrated with the charging system to a-priori determine the positions of each optimized by increasing the number of sensors. However, that will simultaneously increase the complexity of the control unit and algorithm. In the end, the cost of implementation will also increase. Alternatively, precision can be enhanced by using existing sensors to measure the position of three or two wheels in diagonal positions. Thus, the algorithms require at least two wheels to be positioned diagonally in order to determine the charger’s position.

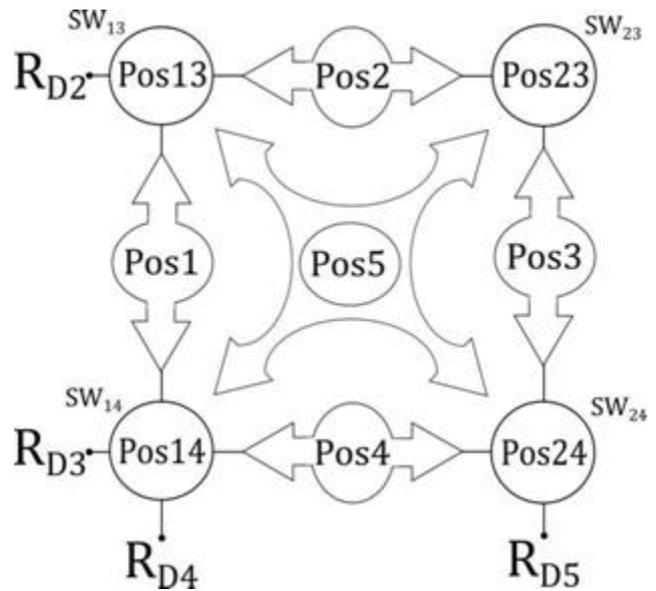


FIGURE 6. Sensor network’s under a single wheel. The network can determine 9 different placements of the wheel. Four positions when the single sensor is activated and additional five position depends on the combination of the activated sensors.

As presented in Fig. 6, the sensor array underneath each wheel can be considered as an independent system. Each of the four sets of sensors can determine 9 different positions of each wheel, depending on which combination of sensors are activated. For instance, if only the sensor S13 is activated, the control unit determines that the wheel is positioned on Pos13, whereas in the event that the sensors S13 and S14 are activated, the unit will recognize that the wheel is placed in between the two sensors in Pos1. If all four sensors are activated, the wheel is considered to be in Pos5.

**A. THE CONTROL UNIT**

All feasible combinations of the four sensors under each wheel are presented in Fig. 7, which further explains the logic in Fig. 6. In the proposed system, logic “1” indicates that the sensor is activated, while “0” indicates otherwise. It is also possible to reverse the system logic such that logic “0” indicates that the sensor is active.

Upon activation of these sensors beneath each wheel, the control unit triggers the corresponding switch to connect

the charger to the relevant coil. The proposed coil system consists of six rectangular coils as shown in Fig. 8. Rather than a single large coil, we adopted six smaller coils to cover the area of interest and at the same time optimize the energy

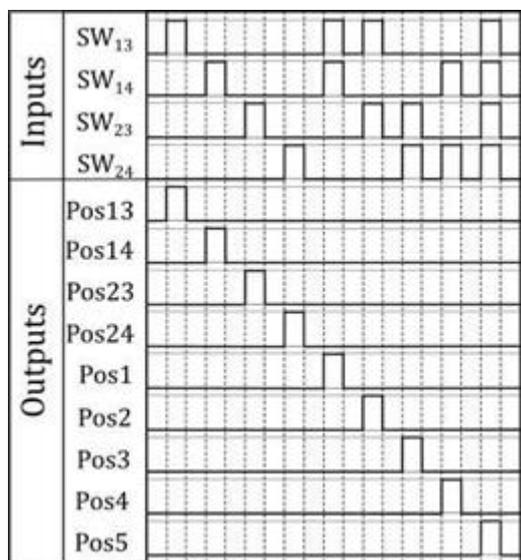


FIGURE 7. All possible combinations of a single wheel position. The positions Pos<sub>12</sub>, Pos<sub>14</sub>, Pos<sub>23</sub>, and Pos<sub>34</sub> are sensed directly on the input of the micro-controller, while the positions Pos<sub>1</sub> to Pos<sub>5</sub> are determined depending on the combination of the switches S<sub>xy</sub> activated simultaneously.

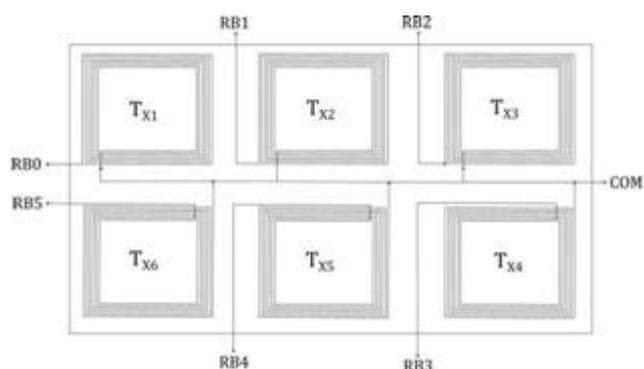


FIGURE 8. Connection of the transmitter coils in the charging pad.

consumed by the system. The open ends of each coil is linked to the connector COM, which is permanently connected to the inverter. In contrast, the opposite end of the coils are connected to

independent switches. Therefore, connection RB<sub>0</sub> is linked to switch SW<sub>0</sub> on the switching board, RB<sub>1</sub> to SW<sub>1</sub> and soon. Once the related switches triggered according to the calculations, the coil with highest efficiency is activated to transmit power to the EV.

**B. V. SYSTEM DESIGN AND PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION** An implementation of the proposed system is presented in Fig. 9. The charging system comprises a power supply unit with a LM7805 voltage regulator that provides stable voltage to both the micro controller and WPT charger. In the control circuit, we used microcontroller PIC18F452 to coordinate the operation of the charging pad. Four of the PIC's pins; RD<sub>0</sub> to RD<sub>3</sub> are used as outputs. These outputs constantly change their values from logic "0" to logic "1", of which only one of the outputs can be on logic "1" at any time. These changes are constantly monitored by the micro controller's inputs, RD<sub>4</sub> to

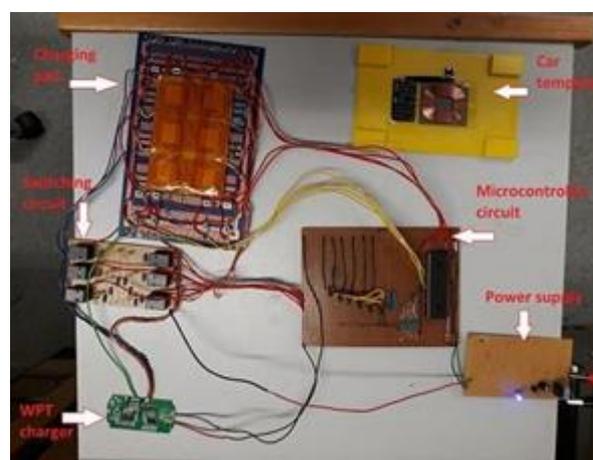


FIGURE 9. Practical implementation of the proposed system with a charging pad and a car.

RD<sub>7</sub> respectively. Furthermore, we developed an algorithm such that the microelectronic converts the input signal by setting one or more outputs on gates RB<sub>0</sub> to RB<sub>5</sub> to logic "1" to control the switching board.

As the micro controller has internal resistance, to pull up logic "1", +5V is not enough to drive the relay directly from the micro controller. The typical

current that is required through the coils to switch the relay is between 25mA and 70mA, therefore an external driving circuit is required. The NPN transistor BC547 was used to control the current through the relay coil. When logic “1” appears on the micro controller output pin, the transistor opens and is closed by logic “0” on the micro controller’s output. To drive the transistor into saturation, the external pull up resistor R3 (4k7) is used. This provides the transistor with sufficient current to ensure a gain (hfe) of 100. In addition, the diode D1 (1N2007) is used as a free wheel diode to protect the transistor against the electromagnetic field that is induced on the coil of the relay when the transistor turns off. The diode ensures that the energy induced on the coil dissipates on the internal resistance of the coil while LED D2 is used as an indicator when the relay is switched on.

As shown in Fig. 10, the designed system consists of a charging pad which includes a set of six charging coils. Each coil is connected to a separate relay, mounted on the switching board.

The relays, controlled by a micro controller, connect the charging coil to the WPT charger. The power provided by the WPT charger is redirected through the relays to a specific coil. A car template is created to simulate the position of the car on the charging pad. In a single coil application, the Tx and Rx coils have to be bigger in order to maximize the transmission efficiency. With a multi-coil transmitter design, the coils can be smaller, since only the coil with maximum efficiency is used to charge the car. This benefit helps to reduce the cars weight.

When the car is placed on top of the charging pad, the wheels of the car trigger the sensors in the network. The micro controller determines the car’s position and activates the appropriate coil, as shown in Fig. 11. Once the coil

is activated, the EV charging begins. An LED indicator on the switching circuit indicates which

relay is activated. If the car position changes, the change is detected immediately by the sensor network, and the charging coil changes if necessary. The WPT charger used in this experiment was based on a H-bridge inverter circuit to ensure that a full square wave voltage is applied to the transmitter coil. The switching frequency of the switches was set to 200kHz in order to operate within the Qi standards. The circuit diagram of the charger can be seen in Fig. 11.

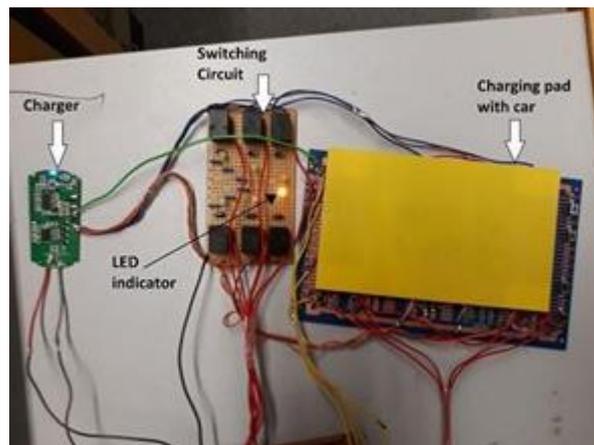


FIGURE 10. The charging system with the car parked on the parking space. The LED indicate which coil is active at a certain parking position.

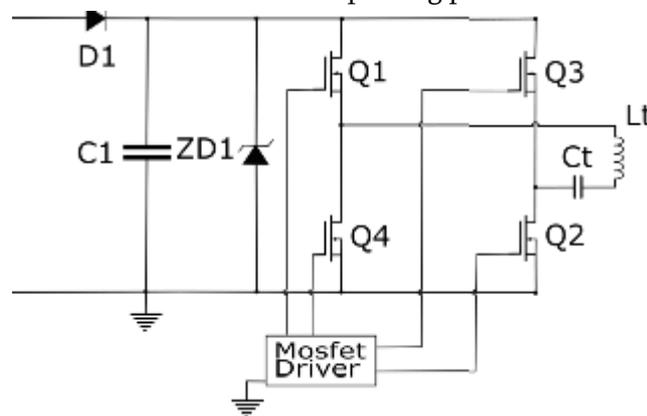


FIGURE 11. Circuit diagram of an H-bridge inverter.

## VI. RESULTS

To evaluate the proposed system, the experimental results are presented in this section. As mentioned, the H-bridge inverts the DC voltage provided by the power supply. The inverted square wave voltage is then applied to the transmitter coil. Following this the output of the inverter was measured and

compared with the received voltage on the receiver coil on a time scale as presented in Fig. 12. In the figure, the output voltage of the inverter, presented in blue line is not square shape. This is due to inductance of the transmitter coil. The peak of the output voltage is just below 10V. This drop from the 12V supplied to the inverter represents a significant loss. Nevertheless, a drop in the semiconductor components is expected. Furthermore, the voltage on the receiver side is illustrated as dotted black line in the same figure. The received voltage is measured when the transmitter and receiver are fully aligned. At its peak, the received voltage reached 13.5V.

The transmitter and receiver loops were designed to have maximum of 50% misalignment between the closest coils. Therefore, the coverage between the transmitter and receiver can be between 100 % and 25%. In Fig. 13, the measured results of the voltage on the receiver coil for 100, 80, 60 and

30% coverage are presented and compared. The results show that transmission efficiency drops with increased misalignment between the coils. For instance when the coverage drops to 80%, the voltage measured on the receiver loop drops by 1.5V. The drop is even more evident when the coverage drops to 30%, the measured voltage on the receiver reduces to 7.6V.

According to the results, efficiency of the charging pad depends on the car's position. Fig. 14 compares the measured and calculated value of efficiency drop with respect to misplacement. The results shows that efficiency drops according to the level of the misplacement between currently transmitting coil and receiver coil. If the coils are perfectly aligned, the power transfer is maximized. When the misplacement between the two coils increase, the efficiency of the transmission also decreases. At minimum alignment of the coils at 25 %, the efficiency drop in the transmission is 40%. The efficiency can be increased

by introducing more coils into the transmitter, which will increase the coverage.

Based on the efficiency drop caused by the misalignment between the transmitter and receiver, the corresponding efficiency of a charging pad is presented in Fig. 15. As shown in the figure, the charging pad achieves highest efficiency of 87% when the charging coil is aligned with the receiver coil. On the other hand, the charging efficiency drops when the center of the receiver coil is in between the four charging coils. In that case, the efficiency of the charging system drops to 52%.

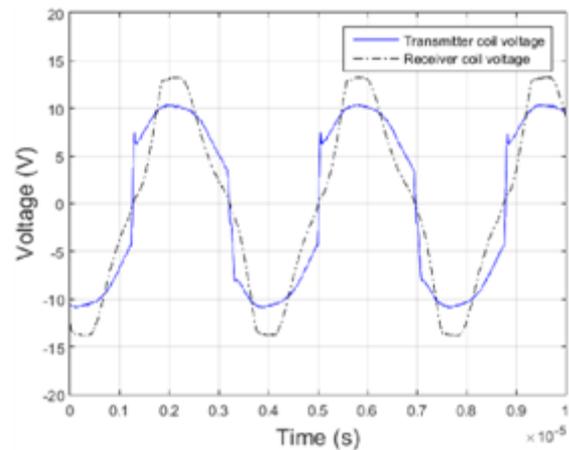


FIGURE 12. Comparison between the output voltage on the transmitter side and the voltage received by the receiver.

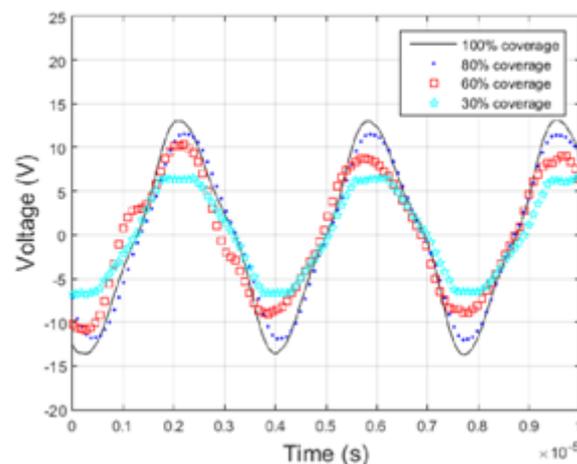


FIGURE 13. Voltage measured on the receiver after a change in misalignment between the coils.

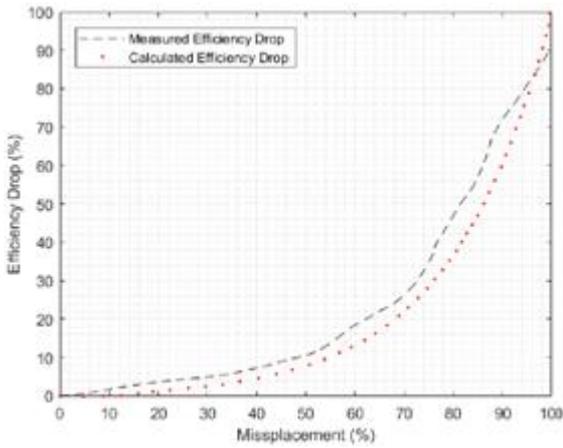


FIGURE 14. Efficiency drop caused by the misplacement between the transmitter and receiver coils.

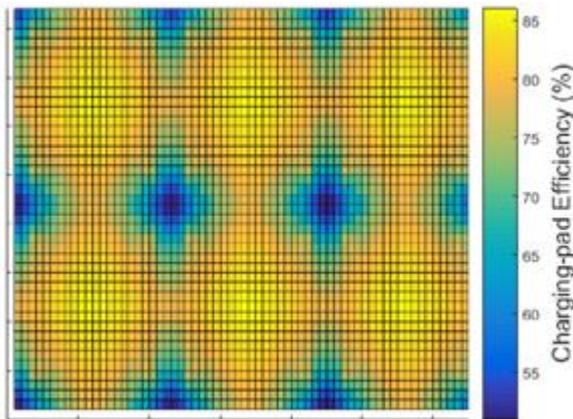


FIGURE 15. The efficiency of a charging pad for a whole working surface.

One of the main advantages of the proposed smart charger is that it offers a reduced response time in comparison to existing multi-coil charger. The reaction time needed to respond to the introduction of the receiver coil or a change in position of the existing receiver coil is compared between the proposed and existing chargers. It was estimated that the chargers

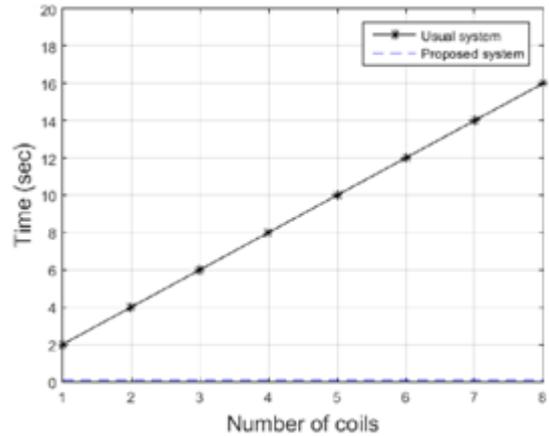


FIGURE 16. Comparison of the time needed for the charger to find the coil with maximum efficiency between proposed charger and conventional localization method.

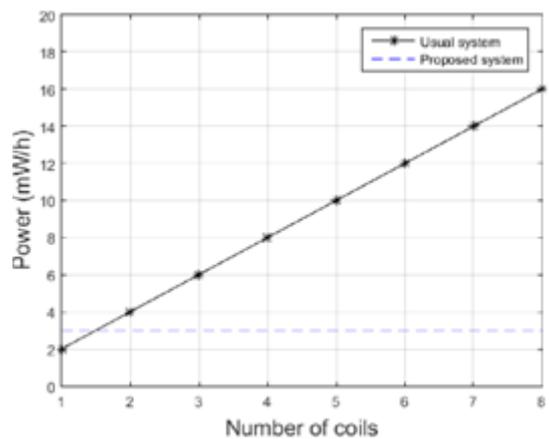


FIGURE 17. Comparison between the estimated power loss of proposed charger and the charger with the measuring method of finding the coil with maximum efficiency.

spends 2 seconds per coil in its bid to determine the coil with highest transfer efficiency. The time spent to estimate efficiency was measured for the existing phone charger systems. During that time, the charger send maximum power to the receiver, measure the efficiency and receive a response from the receiver. However, our proposed charging system can determine the EV's position and start the charging of the vehicle within 15ms, which is the time of single program

cycle. The comparison in the reaction time of the charger compared to the conventional chargers is presented in Fig.

16. It is also important to note that in the proposed system, the power transmitter is decoupled from the sensor network of the charging system, though they are integrated. Therefore, the smart charger can constantly monitor the position of the vehicle without interrupting the charging.

Another important factor to consider in EV charging is the energy dissipated during the process of searching and selecting the optimal transmitting coil. It is also estimated that the power loss, from the charger with similar power to the proposed is 2mWh per coil. This estimation is based on the assumption that full power has to be transmitted from the transmitter to the receiver for at least 1s in order to measure the efficiency of the transmission. Thus, the energy loss can be calculated as  $P * (tw/t)$ , where P represents power of the charger, tw represents the time to estimate or detect the position of the car and t represents the total time. Therefore, as shown in Fig. 17, for a system with 6 charging coils, the lost energy in each position is calculated to be around 12mWh. In contrast, our proposed charging solution does not require any power transmission before selecting the coil with maximum efficiency. In this regard, Fig. 17 also shows that power consumption of proposed system is higher for a single coil system however, with higher number of transmitting coils, the power consumption stays the same. In contrast, conventional systems power consumption increases proportionally with the number of coils.

## VII. CONCLUSION

In this paper we investigated a smart charging system for EVs. The proposed system can autonomously determine the position of the receiver, which allows the charging pad to utilize only the coil with the highest transfer efficiency for charging the EV. This technique optimizes the operations of the charging

pad as the optimal coil can be determined almost immediately after the EV is located on the parking spot. Furthermore, the proposed design improves the efficiency of the charging system as the transmitter is not required to carry out measurements on each coil in order to determine the one with highest efficiency for each location. Thus, our solution eliminates the energy losses in the optimal coil selection process which can be significant in energy-intensive systems such as car charging. Finally, the proposed method of charging is more reliable since the car position is detected instantly and recalibration of the charger is not required if the car slips out of position.

## VIII. ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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- [28]. C. Lilly. (2018). Electric Car Market Statistics. Accessed: Jun. 14, 2018. Online]. Available: <https://www.nextgreencar.com/electric-cars/statistics/> MATJAZ ROZMAN received the Diploma degree in electrical engineering from the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, in 2010, and the M.Sc. degree in electronic engineering from the University of Manchester Metropolitan (MMU), in 2015, where he is currently pursuing the Ph.D. degree in wireless power transmission for electrical vehicle. He joined WeEn Semiconductors, Manchester, in 2017, as an Application Engineer. His current research interests include wireless power transfer, power line communications, wide band gap Silicon Carbide (SiC), triac, SCRs, and insulated-gate bipolar transistor (IGBT) applications.