Journal of Engineering and Technology Management 72 (2024) DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF CHARGING UNIT FOR MARITIME APPLICATIONS

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Abstract— Our research endeavors to tackle the formidable challenges inherent in Underwater Wireless Power Transfer (UWPT), with a primary focus on optimizing charging efficiency and seamlessly adapting to the demanding underwater conditions. Leveraging solar power energy as the primary source, our system seamlessly switches to grid energy when solar energy levels are insufficient. The core objective revolves around designing a WPT system that achieves remarkable efficiency and unity power factor, critical for ensuring seamless power transmission in underwater environments. Through extensive prototyping and testing, our WPT system demonstrates the ability to transmit an output voltage of approximately 9V over an 6cm inside water gap, covering a maximum sliding distance of 8cm. This significant achievement underscores the system's capability to surmount the barriers of underwater power transfer, paving the way for sustainable operations in challenging aquatic environments. Moreover, our approach integrates diverse energy sources, including solar and grid energy, to enhance adaptability and energy generation capabilities, enabling consistent and optimized power generation vital for prolonged and reliable underwater applications. By amalgamating cutting-edge technologies and innovative design paradigms, our research endeavours to properly the advancement of underwater WPT. This integration of diverse energy sources not only ensures adaptability but also lays the groundwork for transformative solutions in underwater power transmission. Our work represents a significant step forward in addressing the challenges of underwater power transfer, offering promising prospects for sustainable and efficient energy transmission in aquatic environments.

Key Words: Underwater Wireless Power Transfer (UWPT), Underwater Charging Systems, Underwater Energy Transfer Efficiency, Environmental Monitoring.

I. INTRODUCTION

In an era where underwater exploration and utilization of aquatic resources are becoming increasingly vital, the efficient transmission of power beneath the waves presents a formidable challenge. Underwater wireless power transfer (UWPT) stands at the forefront of technological innovation, promising to revolutionize operations in aquatic environments. Our research is dedicated to surmounting the obstacles inherent in underwater power transmission, with a primary emphasis on optimizing efficiency and adaptability to the demanding underwater conditions. The core objective of our endeavour is to design and develop a robust WPT system capable of seamlessly adapting to the dynamic challenges of underwater environments. Central to our approach is the utilization of solar power energy as the primary source, harnessing the abundant energy from the sun to power underwater operations. However, recognizing the intermittent nature of solar energy availability, our system seamlessly integrates with grid energy sources, ensuring uninterrupted power supply even in adverse conditions. Efficiency and unity power factor are paramount in ensuring the seamless transmission of power underwater. Our research is dedicated to achieving remarkable efficiency levels, coupled with unity power factor, to optimize power transmission efficiency. Through extensive prototyping and rigorous testing, we aim to validate the efficacy of our system in transmitting power over significant distances underwater, overcoming the inherent challenges of underwater power transfer. One of the key achievements of our research is the demonstration of our WPT system's capability to transmit an output voltage of approximately 9V over an 6cm in water, with a maximum sliding distance of 8cm. This milestone not only underscores the technical prowess of our system but also positions it as a viable solution for powering underwater equipment and operations.

Moreover, the integration of diverse energy sources, including solar and grid energy, enhances the adaptability and reliability of our system, ensuring sustained power generation in challenging aquatic environments. Our research represents a significant leap forward in the field of underwater WPT, laying the groundwork for transformative solutions in underwater power transmission. Bv amalgamating cutting-edge technologies and innovative design paradigms, we aim to propel the advancement of underwater power transmission, enabling sustainable and efficient energy transmission in aquatic environments. Through collaborative efforts and continuous refinement, our research endeavours to unlock new possibilities for underwater exploration and utilization, ushering in a new era of innovation beneath the waves. The exploration of Underwater Wireless Power Transfer (UWPT) represents a frontier in engineering, poised to revolutionize various underwater applications. However, this domain encounters significant obstacles, primarily concerning charging time and power transfer efficiency, particularly when reliant on solar energy sources.

The underwater environment presents unique challenges, including increased attenuation and limited power transmission capabilities, making the optimization of WPT systems an intricate task. Addressing these challenges is crucial, prompting the development of innovative solutions. This study focuses on integrating the transformer induction concept and adaptive robotic technology to mitigate the limitations encountered in UWPT. By leveraging these concepts, the objective is to create a WPT system capable of not only enhancing charging efficiency but also adapting to the dynamic underwater conditions, thereby improving overall performance. The proposed system's design emphasizes achieving high efficiency and unity power factor, crucial for effective power transfer. A primary goal is to establish a prototype that can successfully transmit an output voltage of approximately 9V over an 6cm water with a maximum sliding distance of 8cm. Additionally, the utilization of both solar and grid energy sources adds a versatile dimension to the system, allowing for optimized power generation, essential for sustained operations in challenging underwater environments. This introduction sets the stage for exploring the novel approach of integrating transformer induction and adaptive robotics in addressing the critical challenges faced in underwater WPT. The subsequent sections develop deeper into the technical aspects and experimental validations of this innovative system, aiming to demonstrate its feasibility and potential for revolutionizing power transfer in underwater settings.

II. WPT METHODS OF UNDERWATER APPLICATIONS



1. Radiative WPT

- Which is commonly referred as far-field WPT, contains WPT techniques based on lasers or Microwaves.
- Radio Microwave face high attenuation at high frequencies in seawater. A few researchers made efforts for underwater wireless power transfer (UWPT) through radio waves but resulted in low efficiency.
- Laser based WPT is not realistic because of its low efficiency and it is also harmful to interface caused by ambient light.

2. Non-Radiative WPT

- The nonradiative WPT systems involve inductive and capacitive power transmission techniques.
- In this power transmission techniques, the power transfer through magnetic and electric fields is restricted to short distances up to tens of centimeters.
- The capacitive wireless power transfer contains submerged electrodes however, CWPT has been neglected due to low coupling capacitance.
- In IWPT, the coil diameter or number of turns should be increased to improve efficiency IWPT system can involve shield materials e.g. ferrite material for better performance.

III. CIRCUIT DIAGRAM

Transmission Section



Fig 2. Transmission Section

Receiving Section



Fig 3. Receiving Section

Solar panels primarily function to convert sunlight into electricity. This generated electricity can then be utilized to power the wireless power transfer system, either directly or by charging a battery for later use. Battery (12 V, 1.5 Ah): The primary function of the battery is to store electrical energy generated from various sources, such as solar panels or a charging station, in the form of chemical energy. This stored energy can then be used to power devices wirelessly when needed, providing a continuous power supply even when the primary power source is unavailable. Step down Transformer (230/12 V): A step-down transformer plays a crucial role in wireless power transfer systems by converting high voltage AC to a lower voltage, providing electrical isolation, potentially matching impedance, and stabilizing the output voltage to ensure safe, efficient, and reliable power transfer. DC - AC Converter: A DC-AC converter, also known as an inverter, is a device that converts direct current (DC) electricity into alternating current (AC) electricity. Its primary function is to enable devices or systems that run on AC power to be powered by a DC power source. Transmitter Coil: The transmitter coil is a critical component of wireless power transfer systems, responsible for generating the magnetic field necessary for transferring energy wirelessly to receiver coils, optimizing efficiency, facilitating proper alignment, and ensuring safety and compliance with regulations.

IV. BLOCK DIAGRAM



Transmission Section

A solar panel installed on the ship's surface captures sunlight and converts it into electrical energy. This energy can be used to power various systems on the ship or stored in a battery for later use. The solar panel can be connected to a battery system. The battery serves as an energy storage device, storing excess energy generated by the solar panel. It ensures a continuous power supply, especially when there's insufficient sunlight or during night-time. An inverter is necessary to convert the direct current (DC) electricity generated by the solar panel and stored in the battery into alternating current (AC) electricity. AC is commonly used for power transmission. The transmitter coil is a crucial part of the UWPT system. It's connected to the inverter and generates an alternating magnetic field. This field carries the electrical energy, which is then transmitted wirelessly through the water to a receiver coil.

Receiver Section

The receiver coil is positioned on the underwater vehicle and is designed to capture the wirelessly transmitted energy from the transmitter coil on the ship. It receives the alternating magnetic field and converts it back into electrical energy. The alternating current received by the receiver coil needs to be converted into direct current (DC) for use by the vehicle's systems. A rectifier circuit is used for this purpose, converting the AC signal into a pulsating DC signal. The pulsating DC signal from the rectifier needs to be regulated to ensure a stable voltage output. A voltage regulator circuit is employed to maintain a constant voltage level required for the vehicle's components. LEDs can serve as indicators to show the status of the received power, providing visual feedback on whether the system is receiving and converting power effectively. Voltage sensors can monitor the voltage level of the battery connected to the receiver system. These sensors provide information about the battery's charge level, ensuring it stays within safe operating limits.

V. HARDWARE EXPERIMENT



Fig 5. Hardware Model of Transmission Section

The above Fig 5 shows the hardware model of transmission section

Solar Panel (12 V, 5W): Solar panels primarily function to convert sunlight into electricity. This generated electricity can then be utilized to power the wireless power transfer system, either directly or by charging a battery for later use.

- Battery (12 V, 1.5 Ah): The primary function of the battery is to store electrical energy generated from various sources, such as solar panels or a charging station, in the form of chemical energy. This stored energy can then be used to power devices wirelessly when needed, providing a continuous power supply even when the primary power source is unavailable.
- Step down Transformer (230/12 V): A step-down transformer plays a crucial role in wireless power transfer systems by converting high voltage AC to a lower voltage, providing electrical isolation, potentially matching impedance, and stabilizing the output voltage to ensure safe, efficient, and reliable power transfer.
- DC AC Converter: A DC-AC converter, also known as an inverter, is a device that converts direct current (DC) electricity into alternating current (AC) electricity. Its primary function is to enable devices or systems that run on AC power to be powered by a DC power source.
- Transmitter Coil: The transmitter coil is a critical component of wireless power transfer systems, responsible for generating the magnetic field necessary for transferring energy wirelessly to receiver coils, optimizing efficiency, facilitating proper alignment, and ensuring safety and compliance with regulations.



Fig 6. Hardware Model of Receiving Section

The above Fig 6. Shows the hardware model of receiving section

- Receiver Coil: The receiver coil is a critical component in wireless power transfer systems, responsible for converting the magnetic energy received from the transmitter coil into electrical energy, optimizing power transfer efficiency, ensuring proper alignment, and facilitating safe and effective wireless charging or power transfer.
- Voltage Sensor: A voltage sensor is an electronic device that detects and measures the voltage level in an electrical circuit or system. Its primary function is to provide information about the voltage present in the circuit or system for various purposes.
- AC -DC Converter: AC-DC converters play a crucial role in converting AC power from the mains supply into the DC power required by a wide range of electronic devices and systems, providing voltage conversion, filtering, regulation, efficiency optimization, and protection features
- Arduino UNO: The Arduino Uno can monitor key parameters of the WPT system, such as voltage, current, and temperature, using sensors or feedback mechanisms. This information can be used to adjust system

parameters in real-time, detect faults or abnormalities, and provide feedback to the user.

- LCD Display: An LCD display can indicate the charging status of devices wirelessly charged within the system. It can show information such as the battery level, charging progress, or estimated time remaining until full charge. This feedback allows users to monitor the charging process conveniently.
- L293D Driver Board: The L293D driver board provides an easy-to-use and cost-effective solution for controlling DC motors and stepper motors in various robotics, automation, and DIY projects, offering features such as bidirectional motor control, current amplification, built-in protection, and compatibility with microcontrollers.

VI. EXPERIMENTAL SETUP



Fig 7. Experimental Setup of UWPT for Normal Water

The above Fig 7 shows the experimentl setup of UWPT where transmitter and receiver coil is placed in side the tank filled with normal water of 1.5 ltrs. We determined that the voltage were able to transfer from transmitter to receiver side efficiently.



Fig 8. Experimental Setup of UWPT for Sea Water

The above Fig 8 shows the experimentl setup of UWPT where transmitter and receiver coil is placed in side the tank filled with Sea water of 1.5 ltrs. We determined that the voltage were able to transfer from transmitter to receiver side efficiently.



Fig 9. Experimental Setup of UWPT for Normal Water

The above Fig 9 shows the experimentl setup of UWPT where transmitter and receiver coil is placed in side the tank filled with dust water of 1.5 ltrs. We determined that the voltage were able to transfer from transmitter to receiver side efficiently.

VII. ACHIEVED RESULTS

Table 1:-	Voltage parameter of UWPT for Different Medium
	(Normal Water)

Transmitted Voltage = 12 V					
Sl No	Distance in	Received Voltage in volts for Different Mediums			
	cm	Air	Wood	Plastic	Cardboard
1	2	11.4	6.50	8.62	7.82
2	4	10.1	4.96	7.3	6.8
3	6	8.5	3.9	6.5	5.3
4	8	6	3.49	5.21	4.5
5	10	4.6	1.91	4.9	3.9
6	12	3.8	1.88	3.03	1.9



Fig 10 Graphical Representation for UWPT for Different Mediums (Normal Warter)

The experiment comparing multiple materials, including cardboard, wood, plastic, and air, was effectively carried out. The result was reported in Table 1 above under normal water circumstances. We recorded the receiving voltage by adjusting the distance from 2 to 12 cm while maintaining the transmission voltage of 12 V. From the above, the Received voltage (v/s) Distance is shown in Fig. 10. In comparison to other media, distance from the graph indicates that air facilitates voltage transfer more effectively. Using wood and cardboard as a medium, the voltage cannot be transferred effectively because wood functions as a dielectric substance, which means that it can store electric energy. This characteristic is not appropriate for voltage transmission.

Table 2:- Voltage parameter of UWPT for Different Medium (Sea Water)

Transmitted Voltage = 12 V					
Sl No	Distance in	Received Voltage in volts for Different Mediums			
	cm	Air	Wood	Plastic	Cardboard
1	2	9.5	7.2	9.75	7.8
2	4	8.6	6.43	8.53	6.8
3	6	7.2	5.01	7.65	5.52
4	8	5.20	3.9	5.65	4.7
5	10	4.3	2.87	4.9	3.8
6	12	3.9	1.65	3.02	1.9



Fig 11: Graphical Representation for UWPT for Different Mediums (Sea Water)

The experiment comparing multiple materials, including cardboard, wood, plastic, and air, was effectively carried out. The result was reported in Table 2 above under sea water circumstances. We recorded the receiving voltage by adjusting the distance from 2 to 12 cm while maintaining the transmission voltage of 12 V. From the above, the Received voltage (v/s) Distance is shown in Fig. 11. In comparison to other media, distance from the graph indicates that air facilitates voltage transfer more effectively.

Table 3:-	Voltage parameter of UWPT for Different Medium
	(Dust Water)

Transmitted Voltage = 12 V						
Sl No	Distance in	Received Voltage in volts for Different Mediums				
	cm	Air	Wood	Plastic	Cardboard	
1	2	10.95	6.8	8.7	7.6	
2	4	8.1	4.7	7.2	6.6	
3	6	6.38	3.8	6.3	5.1	
4	8	4.2	3.1	4.34	4.1	
5	10	3.18	1.9	3.5	3.7	
6	12	2.19	1.2	2.02	1.6	



Figure 12: Graphical Representation for UWPT for Different Mediums (Dust Water)

The experiment comparing multiple materials, including cardboard, wood, plastic, and air, was effectively carried out. The result was reported in Table 3 above under sea water circumstances. We recorded the receiving voltage by adjusting the distance from 2 to 12 cm while maintaining the transmission voltage of 12 V. From the above, the Received voltage (v/s) Distance is shown in Fig. 12. In comparison to other media, distance from the graph indicates that air facilitates voltage transfer more effectively.

VIII. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, underwater wireless power transfer technology holds significant promise for enabling numerous applications in the exploration, monitoring, and utilization of the ocean's resources. Despite the challenges posed by the harsh underwater environment, advancements in this field have showcased the feasibility and potential for efficient and sustainable power delivery beneath the waves. As research and development efforts continue to improve the efficiency, range, and reliability of underwater wireless power transfer systems, we can expect to see expanded capabilities and innovation that will drive advancements in marine science, industry, and environmental monitoring. Ultimately, underwater wireless power transfer has the capacity to revolutionize how we power and communicate with underwater devices, paving the way for a more connected and sustainable ocean ecosystem.

- The UWPT experiment was successfully completed, using different material and typical normal water conditions to wirelessly transfer power from the transmitter coil to the receiver coil. In comparison to other media, we can conclude that air transfers voltage effectively. The voltage of the receiver was 11.4 V at a distance of 2 cm.
- The UWPT experiment was successfully completed, using different material and typical sea water conditions to wirelessly transfer power from the transmitter coil to the receiver coil. In comparison to other media, we can conclude that air transfers voltage effectively. The voltage of the receiver was 9.5 V at a distance of 2 cm.
- The UWPT experiment was successfully completed, using different material and typical dust water conditions to wirelessly transfer power from the transmitter coil to the receiver coil. In comparison to other media, we can conclude that air transfers voltage effectively. The voltage of the receiver was 10.95 V at a distance of 2 cm.

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