UNIVERSITI TEKNIKAL MALAYSIA MELAKA	UNIVERSITI TEKNIKAL MALAYSIA MELAKA CENTRE FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION MANAGEMENT
	PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

PERHATIAN:

1. Laporan akhir projek hendaklah dihantar ke **CRIM dua (2)** bulan selepas projek tamat.
2. Sila lampirkan dokumen yang berkaitan seperti yang dinyatakan.
3. Senarai semak:

No.	Perkara	Tandakan (√)
1.	Borang RND13 lengkap	☐
2.	Perakuan Pengarah CRIM	☐
3.	Sertakan Template Profile Penyelidikan.	☐
4.	Salinan Softcopy (CD).	☐

A. PROJECT DETAILS

Principal Researcher : Imran Bin Hindustan

Faculty/Centre : Faculty Of Engineering Technology

Project Title : A New Approach of Designing A Self-Tunable Power Converter for Acoustic Approach

Project No.: RAGS/1/2014/TK03/FKEKK/B00062

CoE: CeTRI

RG : ASECs

Project Duration : Starts Date 1/12/2014 Final End Date: 31/05/2017

Budget Approved: RM 57,000 Amount Spent Up to this period: RM 55, 205.39

Project Members : Multidiciplinary [ ] Multifaculty [/]

B. PROJECT ACHIVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

OVERALL	0 – 50%	51 – 75%	76 – 100%
Work completion (please state %)			**100%**
Financial Utilization (please state %)			**97%**
RESEARCH OUTPUT			
I. PUBLICATION (Recorded at UTeM eRepository)	UTeM Press	Index Scopus/ISI	Others
a. No. of Journal Publication (Please attach the first page of publication)		**3**	
b. No. of Conference Proceeding (Please attach the first page of publication)		**2**	
c. No. of Other type of publication eg. monograph, books, chapters in book			

II. PROTOTYPE DEVELOPMENT	National	International
a. No. of Intellectual Property Rights		
b. Attended product exhibition & competition		
c. No. of Industrial Collaboration MoU/NDA/MoA)		

III. HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

Number of Human Capital		On-Going		Graduated	
		Malaysian	Non-M	Malaysian	Non-M
1	PhD Student				
2	Master Student	**1**			
3	Undergraduate Student (SRA)				
Total		**1**			

IV. ASSETS AND INVENTORY PURCHASED (Cost more than RM 3000 per item)

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPAL RESEARCHER

I acknowledged UTeM in providing the fund for this research work. (For University Grant only)

I certify that the information given in this final project report is true to the best of my knowledge.

Principal Researcher Signature :

Official stamp :
Name :
Designation :
Date :

ENDORSEMENT BY DIRECTOR OF CRIM
(Please state /comment on the performance of the project)

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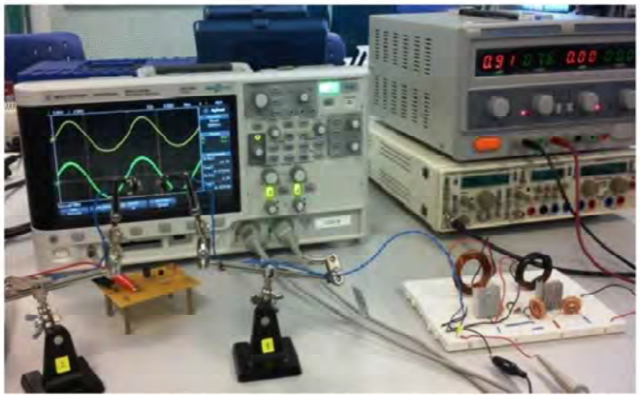
Signature & Official Stamp Date

CRIM Revised date: 9 June 2017

LAMPIRAN A

RESEARCH PROFILE / TECHNICAL REPORT



A New Approach of Designing a Self-Tunable Power Converter for Acoustic Approach

RAGS/1/2014/TK03/FKEKK/B00062

Imran Bin Hindustan
Dr. Kok Swee Leong
Dr Mohd Shakir Bin Md Saat
Dr Khairuddin Bin Osman
Farah Khalidah Binti Abdul Rahman

UTeM / Faculty of Engineering Technology / CeTRI - ASECs

Starts Date 1/12/2014. Final End Date: 31/05/2017

DATE OF REPORT: 30 August 2017

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY / ABSTRACT

This project presents a development of Acoustic energy transfer (AET) system through air medium using push-pull power converter. The push-pull converter may operate under zero voltage switching condition at resonance frequency and capable to minimize switching losses. This paper investigates the performance of AET through the air by using ceramic disc ultrasonic transducer, specifically for low power applications. A multiple input-output transducer is also designed in this paper. The simulation and experimental works are carried out and the obtained results are analysed accordingly. Based on the experimental results, the 1.07mW output power is obtained at 40kHz operating frequency. The multiple transceiver design offers 100% efficiency of energy transmission which is 7.24mW output.

1. INTRODUCTION

Contactless energy transfer (CET) has emerged as an inventive new technology that creates possibilities to supply mobile devices with electrical energy without the connection of wire. Elimination of cables or connectors in most of CET applications has increased its reliability especially to a critical system such as in aerospace, biomedical, multisensors and robotics applications. Recently, various technologies of CET systems are developed and investigated. These technologies include the current technology of inductive power transfer (IPT), capacitive power transfer (CPT), and optical coupling energy transfer [1]. The IPT system is widely used in contactless energy transfer system technologies. It uses coupled of the electromagnetic field coil. The achievement of this IPT system has been proven in many applications such as in electric vehicles, mobile phones, and various types of battery charging system [2]–[4]. However, there is a major drawback of this electromagnetic coupling method, where the transmission distance is relatively limited, causing the efficiency to decrease rapidly with increasing distance. On the other hand, authors in [5] stated that the inductive power transmission in a larger space is very inefficient and not practical due to high conduction losses. Additionally, over a conductive medium, these systems cannot be possible to transfer power effectively.

On the other hand, CPT systems convey energy via high frequency resonant power electronic converter that is connected to two primary metal plates. CPT system has been successfully implemented in some miniature devices [6][7], however, they share the same problem as experienced in IPT, which is low efficiency over a large distance. Meanwhile, optical coupling energy transfer systems operate correspondingly to far-field electromagnetic and microwave energy transfer. The optical power beam and photovoltaic diodes are created by laser diodes and transform it into electrical power and therefore it is able to deliver a large amount of energy [7][8]. However, diffraction losses that occur internally in this approach lead to low efficiency when operating over a long distance.

Recently, acoustic energy transfer (AET) provides a new solution for transferring energy wirelessly which exploits vibration or ultrasound waves. AET is still in its early phases and has seen very little development as compared to its counterparts. Even though the other CET systems was established several years ago, but AET has still some advantages over them; as it propagates through vibration, it can transmit energy through a metal medium where IPT fails to achieve. The metal walls have a shielding effect which limits the coupling of electromagnetic fields and induces eddy currents in the metal resulting in high losses. However, an AET system would not face such difficulties due to the absence of electromagnetic fields. Several developments proved that AET can sustain its competency across a conductive propagation medium and obtain larger distance of transmission and applied in a miniaturized size [11]. Moreover, In biomedical application, presence of electromagnetic fields will cause side effects and it is controlled under medical regulation [10].

There are numbers of publication on AET that have been applied for biomedical applications, through-wall living tissue and metal applications. To the authors' knowledge, there are very few publications that discussed AET through air. In spite of this, authors in [11] proved that AET through air is possible to be achieved. Theoretical calculation of achievable AET through air has been discussed in [12]. This work focuses on the development of AET through the air medium using ceramic disk transducer that is driven by a push-pull power converter.

2. OBJECTIVES OF RESEARCH

1. To propose a new method of designing a self-tunable power converter for AET system to reduce switching losses.
2. To validate and analyze the effectiveness of the proposed method through experimental works.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A typical acoustic energy system consists of primary and secondary unit where both sides comprise of ultrasonic piezoelectric transducer and are separated by a transmission medium, as shown in Fig. 1. The main important elements that we can classify in this system are; power converter, rectifier, transmission medium and transducer. Power converter and rectifier will take part in transmitting and receiving energy using desired ultrasonic transducer. Meanwhile, the transmission medium determines how the wave propagates.

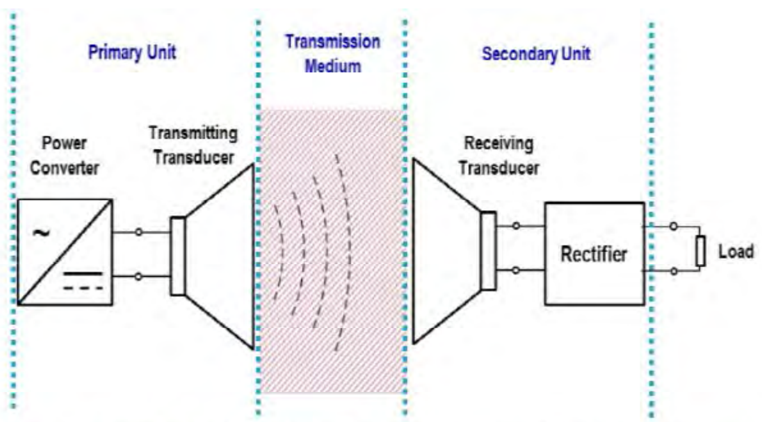


Fig. 1. A typical AET system that consists of 3 parts; primary unit, transmission medium and secondary unit.

AET system is based on sound waves or vibration and it is basically applied using an ultrasonic transducer. At the primary unit, power converter is used to drive the amount of power needed by the primary transducer. The primary transducer will transform electrical energy into pressure or acoustic wave. It generates waves in the form of mechanical energy and propagates through a medium. The primary transducer should be driven at a specific frequency and it is normally represented in a sinusoidal waveform to obtain the best performance that is matched with thepropagation medium. In this woek, a push-pull power converter is used to drive the AC power to the transducer. The secondary transducer is placed at a point along thepath of the sound wave for the inverse process of converting back waves into electricalenergy. It then can be used for powering up an electrical load.Transmission medium is a part where the soundwave is being propagated between the transmitting and receiving transducers. There are some phenomena contribute to loss mechanism that affect the transmission; attenuation, diffraction and reflection of the sound waves [13]. Attenuation is reduction of signal strength during transmission and is measured in decibel. Diffraction refers to various phenomena which occurred when a wave encounters an obstacle. It is described as the apparent bending of waves around small obstacles and the spreading out of waves past small openings. Meanwhile,reflection is a change in direction that a wave experiences when it bounces off of a barrier between two kinds of media. An important idea that needs to be considered in determining the medium for transmission is material acoustic impedance. Acoustic impedance specifies how much sound pressure is generated by the occurrence vibration of the medium at a desired frequency. The medium which the wave propagates through will have itsown acoustic impedance [14]. The characteristicacoustic impedance of a material is the product of its density and the velocity of propagation of sound in the material [15]. Piezoelectric materials could generate electrical energy from the pressure andmechanical energy from an electric field. Authors in [16] agreed that transducer material gives different damping effect.Therefore, the material of the transducer will givesome effect to the system performance. Piezoelectric materials with high efficiency would be advantageous to be used. One of the types of transducer is a ceramic disk transducer.

This type oftransducer employs unique construction featuring. higher sensitivity, wider bandwidth and smaller size as compared to conventional transducer. As shown in Fig. 2, the transducer utilized compound vibrator, which is a conical aluminum resonator with a connector bonded at the center of the piezoelectric elements of the bimorph type, consisting of oppositely polarized material in a sandwich construction.

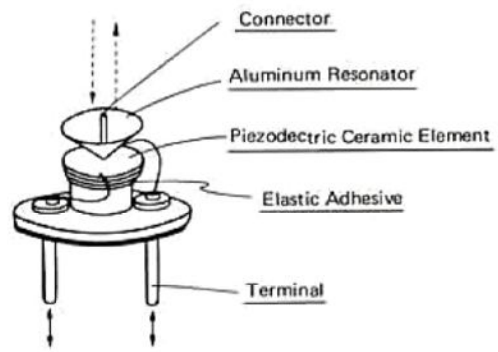


Fig 2: Topology of Ceramic-Film Ultrasonic Transducer

When an ultrasonic signal is applied to the compound vibrator, conical resonator begins to vibrate effectively because of its shape and drive the piezoelectric resonator at its central part according to the frequency of the signal. As a result, the compound resonator generates a high electrical signal from the piezoelectric resonator. Furthermore, formation of standing waves inside the case results in a higher electrical voltage. If the resonant frequency of this compound resonator corresponds to the frequency of the ultrasonic wave being applied, then the electrical voltage generated from the piezoelectric resonator is at a maximum level.

Push-pull power converter is chosen because it is simple and low cost, besides does not need an additional controller to keep sustain in operation. At resonance frequency, the push-pull power converter operates under zero voltage switching (ZVS) condition, thus it reduces the switching losses during the operation. The push - pull converter is designed at the primary unit to deliver power to the transmitting transducer. This current fed converter should capable to deliver power to the transducer before the transducer propagates the energy in a form of waves to the secondary unit. Basically, the push-pull converter consists of a phase-splitting transformer, switches and resonant tank combined in a circuit as shown in Fig 3. The split-phase transformer comprises two inductor windings, La and Lb. The main purpose of this transformer is to split the received current into two parts, and smoothed the input ripple current. Thus, the current will start to oscillate when the force in energy form enters the resonant tank [19].

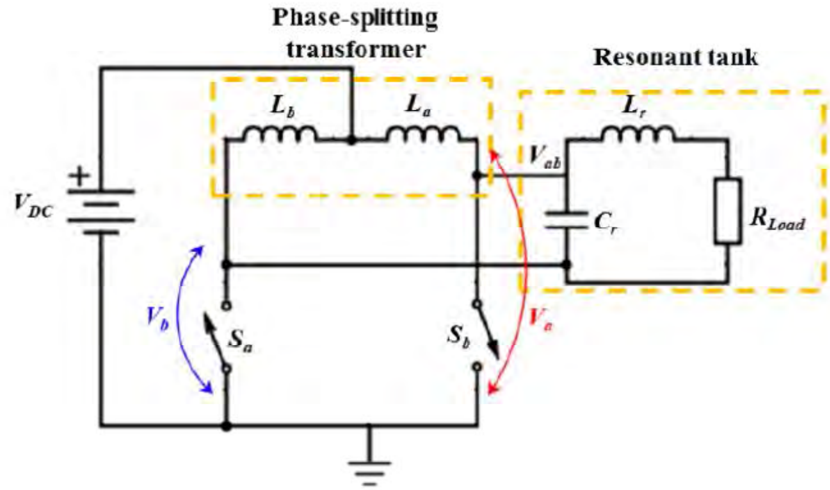


Fig. 3. Basic circuit of push-pull converter.

The two switching devices in the push-pull converter are driven from the voltage on the opposing pin. Normally, a typical switching device consists of a diode, resistor, gate capacitor and a Zener diode for both switches. The advantage of this system is, no external control circuitry is required to drive them. The zero voltage switching condition (ZVS) operation starts when the DC power is supplied to the input and triggered both of the switches. Ideally, the voltage across the switches should be same. ZVS operation ensures that one switch is activated while the other one is totally in off condition. Besides that, it can start up automatically without any control circuit. When the circuit is functioning, the voltage Va across switch Sb will be off. This situation also similarly applies to the voltage Vb across switch SA. Both of this condition resulting to produce a sinusoidal signal of output voltage Vab as shown in Fig. 4.

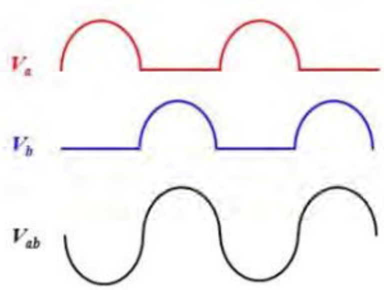


Fig. 4. Output signals of V_a, V_b and V_{ab}

The design of the push-pull power converter should consider several aspects such as frequency, type of waveform, voltage and current. The process is initiated by simulation design and analysis followed by experimental setup. The schematic circuit of this converter is shown in Fig. 5.

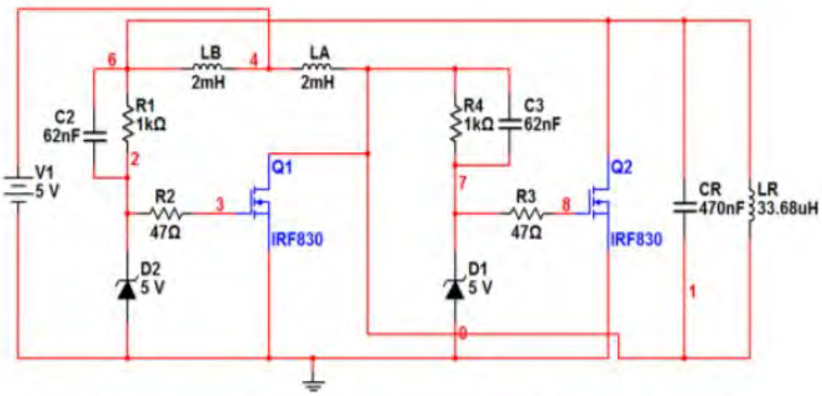


Fig. 5 : Push-pull power converter schematic circuit

Table I shows the parameters of the push-pull converter circuit. In this paper, the operating frequency will be designated at 40 kHz. This is because the ceramic disk ultrasonic transducer that being used in this experiment is optimum at that particular value based on the initial testing of the transducer. The frequency of this power converter is obtained initially from the waveform generated by the simulation software.

TABLE I

Push-pull Converter Circuit Specifications

Parameters	Values
Operating Frequency, f	40 kHz
DC Voltage, V_{DD}	5.0V
Resonance Inductance, L_r	33.68uH
Resonance Capacitance, C_r	0.47uF

4. RESULTS / FINDINGS

The push-pull power converter circuit of Fig. 5 were simulated using Multisim simulation software. The result is shown in Fig. 6.

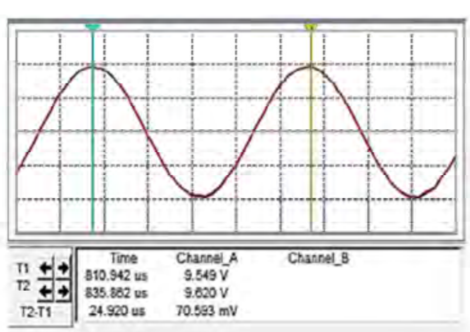


Fig. 6. Output waveform of push-pull converter simulation result

The initial experiment is executed to find the optimum value of the transducer to transmit energy. The chosen ultrasonic transducer is 16mm Matsushita ceramic disk transducer. This transducer is connected to the function generator and oscilloscope. The function generator is used to generate some amount of power and frequency. The frequency value has been varied to see where the optimum value of the transducer based on the signal shown on the oscilloscope. The distance of both transmitting and receiving transducer is set to a constant value, 20.0mm. The results of the optimum frequency are shown in Fig. 7.

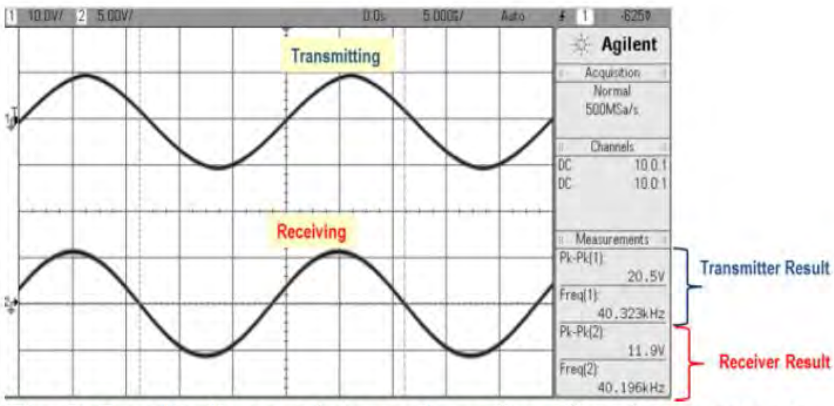


Fig. 7: Result of transmitting voltage from function generator

The results in Fig. 7 shows the waveform of the transmitting voltage where the maximum voltage is produced at a frequency of 40.32 kHz. The overall result of the variable frequency vs transfer voltage amplitude can be seen in Fig. 8.

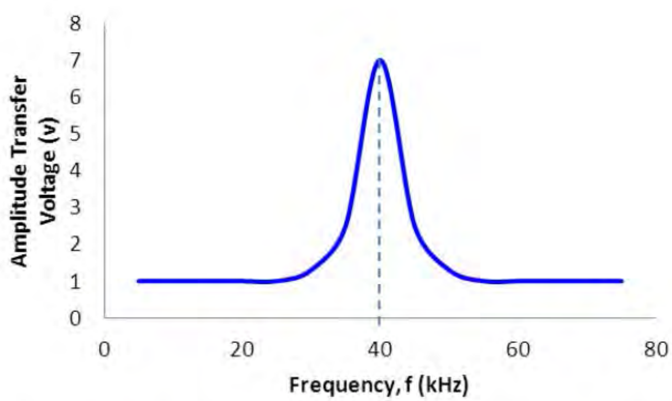


Fig. 8: Amplitude vs Frequency of the AET initial experiment

The result shows that, at this ≈40 kHz value, the energy can be transferred at maximum level. The changes made for even ±1 kHz of frequency would rapidly decrease the transferred voltage and affect the performance of the system. This experiment validated the theoretical explanation that the resonance frequency of the system should match with the transducer itself to obtain high efficiency of energy transfer.

The experimental setup of the AET system is shown in Fig. 9. The DC input voltage that is supplied to the push-pull converter circuit is 5V and connected to the ultrasonic transducer as a transmitter. The secondary transducer is placed in opposite and perpendicular to the transmitting transducer with air gap of 2.0 cm. A simple bridge rectifier is used in the secondary unit to convert the received AC voltage to DC voltage. The arrangement of the power converter, transducers and rectifier is shown in Fig. 9. The transducer that has been used in this experiment is Multicomp ceramic disk ultrasonic transducer and the center frequency of this component is 40 kHz. Fig. 10 shows the experimental works of AET system.

Fig. 9: AET basic system using push-pull power converter transmits energy through the air medium.

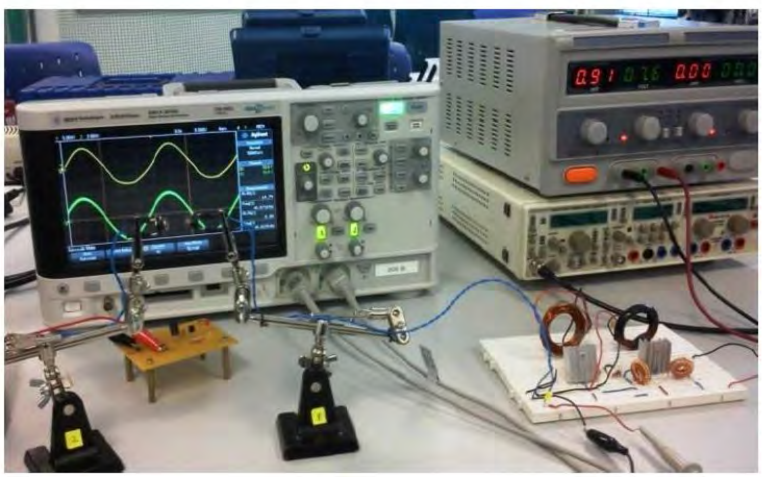


Fig. 10 : AET with push-pull converter work station

Based on the equation in (9), the frequency can be obtained by varying the value of the capacitor and inductor. In the experiment, there will be slight error where the value will be a bit different due to the external factors. It can be observed from Fig. 8 that the result is approximately similar to the simulation result shown in Fig. 11.

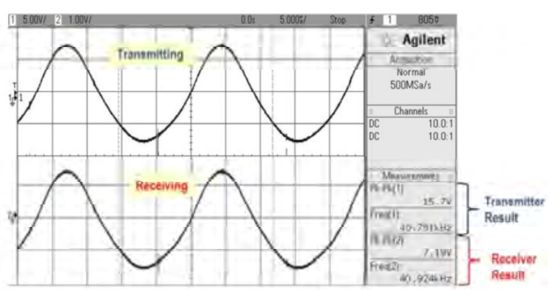


Fig. 11: Result of Push-pull power converter on AET

From the result in Fig. 11, the frequency obtained at the transmitter is 40.75 kHz, which is good condition to transfer power. The receiving signals also show that the transmitter and receiver can transfer energy even though only 45% of the Vpp voltage were received. The received voltage has been converted to the DC voltage using rectifier at different value of load and measured using a digital multimeter. The result is shown in Fig. 12.

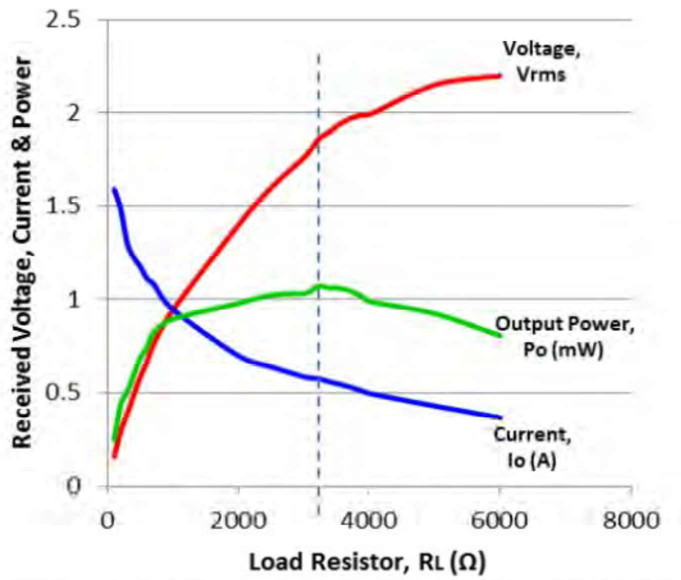


Fig. 12: The optimal power transfer ratio obtained by the varying the load resistance value. The most optimum value is at 3.3kΩ load resistances where 1.071mW power.

5. CONTRIBUTIONS OF RESEARCH

a. The acoustic power transfer for low power applications has been established in this work
b. The push-pull and Class E converter have been designed for acoustic power transfer.

6. ACHIEVEMENT

Title of publications:

(i) Capacitive Power Transfer with Impedance Matching Network
(ii) Simulation of Class D resonance inverter for Acoustics Energy Transfer applications
(iii) Analysis of Class-E LC Capacitive Power Transfer System
(iv) Design and Analysis of Capacitive Power Transfer System with and without the Impedance Matching Circuit
(v) Implementation of a MIMO System for Wireless Power Transfer Using Acoustic Approach

Human Capital Development:

1. Farah Khalidah Abdul Rahman - MSc

7. CONCLUSION

This work has presented a development of the AET system through the air medium using a push - pull converter. The performance of the system has been analyzed where there are some factors that affect the efficiency. To conclude this part, an AET system needs a focus beam with a constant alignment that operate with optimum frequency to optimize the energy transfer capabilities. The single transceiver AET system is able to transfer 1.07mW power. However, the efficiency of the system was increased, when multiple transceiver is used. The output power of this multiple transceiver is 7.24mW. The future direction of the research is to implement the multiple transceiver to a better power converter circuit thus increase the input transmit power.

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