

## Coils' Current Distortion Due to Variable Series Compensation Capacitance in EV Wireless Charging for a Constant Optimum Load

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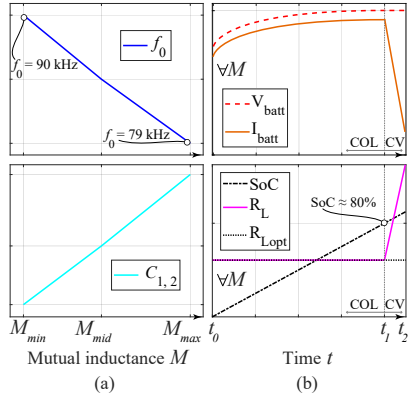


Fig. 2. Concept of the COL charging strategy. (a) Selection of the resonant frequency  $f_0$  and compensation capacitance  $C_{1,2}$  depending on the mutual inductance  $M$ . (b) Output parameters during one battery charging cycle.

network if the equivalent resistive load  $R_L = \frac{V_{out}}{I_{out}}$  matches the value  $R_{L,opt}$  in (1), defined as the equivalent optimum load.

$$R_{L,opt} = \frac{\pi^2}{8} \omega_0 M \sqrt{\frac{R_2}{R_1}} \quad (1)$$

Since (1) is dependent on the mutual inductance  $M$ , the optimum load condition varies with the coils' alignment. In the literature [3], [5], [6], this issue has been resolved by an additional dc-dc converter with the function to regulate the equivalent resistive load seen by the resonant circuit to always match (1) through the control of this circuit output voltage. Conversely, this paper proposes the COL that keeps  $R_{L,opt}$  constant by varying the circuit's resonant frequency  $f_0 = \frac{\omega_0}{2\pi}$  to counteract the changes in  $M$ . Since  $R_{L,opt}$  is kept constant, there is no need for the auxiliary dc-dc converter to provide the resonant circuit output voltage control.

According to SAE J2954 [8], the operating frequency of the IPT systems for EV wireless charging is limited to the range that goes from 79 kHz to 90 kHz. This restricts the range of  $M$  for which  $R_{L,opt}$  can be kept constant. For this reason, the COL strategy is more suitable for static EV wireless charging where the coils' alignment is confined. The proposed COL charging method is shown in Fig. 2(a). The IPT system's resonant frequency  $f_0$  is selected based on the value of  $M$  resulting in the choice of the compensation capacitance.

During one battery charging cycle, the COL mode replaces the traditional constant current (CC) mode to ensure that  $R_L = R_{L,opt}$  while the battery voltage increases. This means that the output current should increase proportionally with the battery voltage. Since in the S-S compensation operates close to a current source with  $I_{batt} \approx \frac{2}{\pi} \frac{V_{in}}{\omega_0 M}$ , the output current can be regulated by controlling  $V_{in}$  as shown in Fig. 1, which can be realized through a boost-like power factor converter (PFC) employed for the grid connection. A qualitative example of the COL is shown in Fig. 2(b) for a battery charging profile which is valid for any value of  $M$  in the permitted range  $[M_{min}, M_{max}]$  from Fig. 2(a).

#### A. Implementation of the variable compensation capacitance

The variable compensation capacitance in Fig. 1 has been realized as SCC. Depending on the number of used semiconductor devices, there are two possible implementations: the

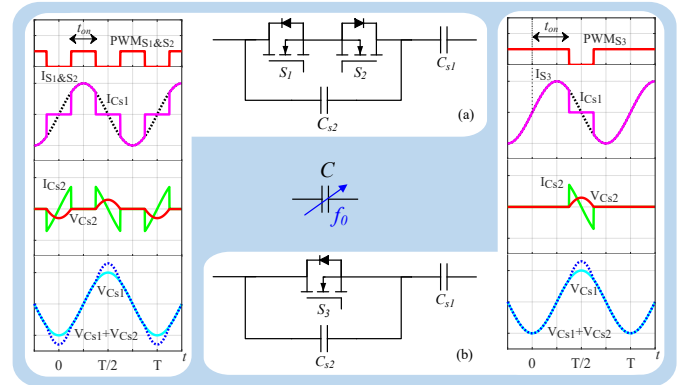


Fig. 3. Implementation of variable capacitors as switch-control capacitor (SCC) with: (a) full-wave and (b) half-wave modulation.

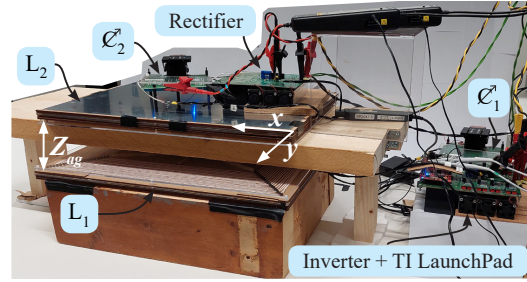


Fig. 4. Prototype of the 3.7 kW EV wireless charging system.

TABLE I  
CIRCUIT PARAMETERS AND DEVICES USED IN THE PROTOTYPE OF FIG. 4.

$V_{out}$ (V)	317...410	Devices	M1...M4	C2M0040120D
$I_{out}$ : CC, COL (A)	7, 7.48		D1...D4	C4D15120D
$V_{in}$ (V)	360...515	C unit	S1...S3	C2M0045170P
$f_0$ (kHz)	79...90		C unit	B32671L
$L_1, L_2$ ( $\mu$ H)	336.9, 224.2	$M_{min}, M_{mid}$	90.1, 95.4	
$C_{s1}, C_{s2}$ (nF)	13.50, 18.57		$M_{max}$ ( $\mu$ H)	
$C_{s21}, C_{s22}$ (nF)	28.03, 52.08	$C_1, C_2$ (nF)		15.14, 18.55

full-wave modulation in Fig. 3(a) and the half-wave modulation in Fig. 3(b). In both cases, the value of the equivalent capacitance ranges from  $\frac{C_{s1}C_{s2}}{C_{s1}+C_{s2}}$  to  $C_{s1}$  depending on the duty cycle  $x = \frac{t_{on}}{T}$  of the SCC, where  $x = [0... \frac{1}{2}]$ . In particular, the variation of capacitance is described in (2) and (3) for the full-wave and the half-wave modulation, respectively.

The main difference between the two SCC implementations is that the full-wave modulation has additional conduction and switching losses since it employs one extra MOSFET than in the half-wave modulation case. On the other hand, for the same  $C_{s1}, C_{s2}$  and current conditions, the MOSFET in the half-wave modulation has to stand double of the blocking voltage.

$$C_{f-w} = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{C_{s1}} + \frac{1}{C_{s2}} \left( \frac{\pi - 2\pi x - \sin 2\pi x}{\pi} \right)} \quad (2)$$

$$C_{h-w} = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{C_{s1}} + \frac{1}{C_{s2}} \left( \frac{2\pi - 4\pi x + \sin 4\pi x}{2\pi} \right)} \quad (3)$$

#### B. Laboratory prototype and measurements

The 3.7 kW EV wireless charging system in Fig. 4 has been implemented to prove the COL charging strategy. The circuit parameters and components used are listed in Table I. The measured circuit waveforms are shown in Fig. 5 for the two SCC modulations at three points of coils' alignment.

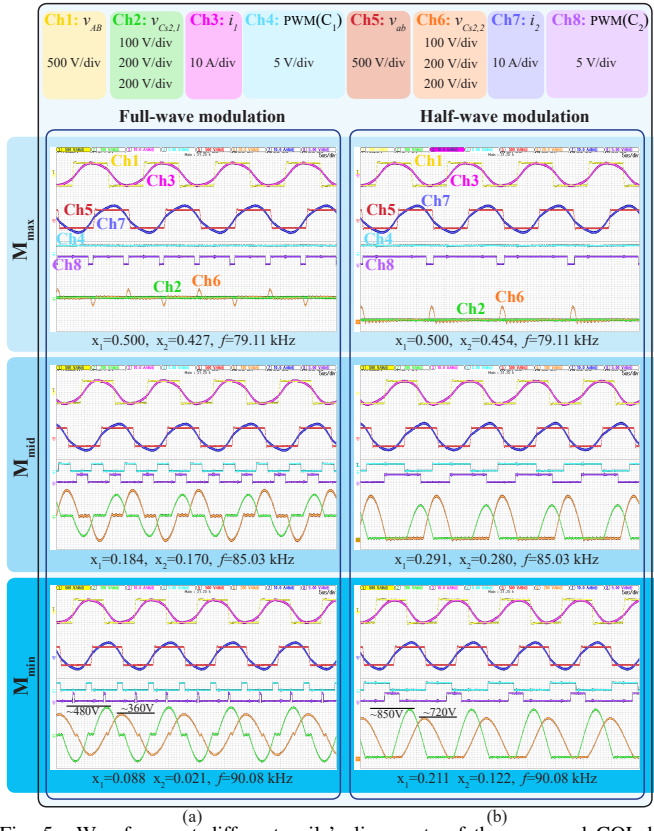


Fig. 5. Waveforms at different coils' alignments of the proposed COL by using the SCCs with (a) full-wave and (b) half-wave modulations. These waveforms have been measured at full power ( $V_{out}=410$  V,  $I_{out}=7.48$  A).

The half-wave modulation results in higher power transfer efficiency because of the lower power losses in the SCCs. However, it is interesting to evaluate how the two SCC implementations impact the current distortion.

### III. MEASURED CURRENTS' DISTORTION

Intuitively, the SCCs connected in series with the coupled coils would introduce some distortion in the coils' current. According to Fig. 5, the full-wave modulation introduces symmetrical distortions while the half-wave modulation introduces asymmetrical distortions due to their nature. Higher frequency current harmonics potentially can radiate a magnetic field which must be within the recommended limit from SAE J2954 in Fig. 6 defined for wireless charging of light-duty EVs. During the preliminary research stage, it is reasonable to conduct a qualitative and comparative analysis on the coils' current distortion rather than considering the radiated magnetic field. This investigation cannot guarantee compliance to the recommended limits, but it can preliminary assess the impact of the proposed method on the currents' higher-order harmonics. All in all, this section qualitatively analyzes and compares the FFT of the measured coils' current that result from the SCC half-wave and full-wave modulations, and the conventional S-S compensation. After that, the FEM analysis of the radiated magnetic field is performed in Section IV.

#### A. Methodology

1) *Current measurement conditions:* When measuring the circuit waveforms at the operating points shown in Fig. 5,

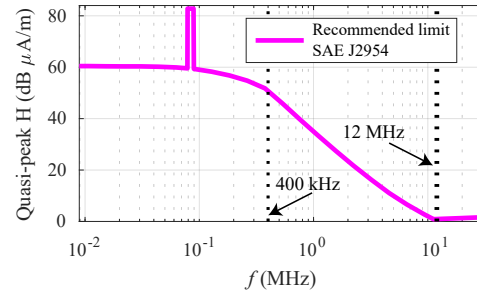


Fig. 6. Recommended limit from SAE J2954 on the quasi-peak radiated magnetic field  $H$  measured at 10 m distance [8].

TABLE II

THD OF THE MEASURED  $I_1$  AND  $I_2$  AT THE RATED OUTPUT POWER FOR DIFFERENT COILS' ALIGNMENT CONDITIONS.

	THD( $I_1$ ) (%)			THD( $I_2$ ) (%)		
	$M_{min}$	$M_{mid}$	$M_{max}$	$M_{min}$	$M_{mid}$	$M_{max}$
SCC: f-w	6.84	7.83	7.28	7.11	8.38	8.14
SCC: h-w	7.89	10.57	7.37	7.36	10.98	8.16
const C	6.16	6.65	7.69	8.16	8.51	9.04

another set of measurements of  $I_1$  and  $I_2$  has been performed with 50 MHz N2782B Keysight current probes such that the signals are acquired with the maximum vertical resolution. The horizontal scale of 2 ms/div is chosen that makes the measurement duration  $D=20$  ms. A whole number of periods of the measured signals has been considered to compute the currents' FFT. These scope settings resulted in a length of the signal  $L=12.5 \cdot 10^6$ . Therefore, for each measured signal, the sampling period and the sampling frequency are  $h_{res}=\frac{D}{L}=1.6$  ns and  $F_s=\frac{1}{h_{res}}=625$  MHz, respectively. According to the Nyquist-Shannon sampling theorem, the FFT bandwidth  $f_n=\frac{F_s}{2}=312.5$  MHz is large enough for the upper frequency limit (30 MHz) in Fig. 6. Additionally, the FFT frequency resolution is  $df=\frac{F_s}{L}=50$  Hz which is reasonably small compared to the current's fundamental frequency ( $\sim 85$  kHz).

2) *Chosen operating condition:* For each implementation, the total harmonic distortion (THD) of both  $I_1$  and  $I_2$  has been computed, which are listed in Table II for all the considered coils' alignments. However, it is more significant to discuss the amplitude of individual harmonics rather than the THD since those determine the compliance to the limits in Fig. 6. It is worth mentioning that this limit drops exponentially from 400 kHz to 12 MHz where the minimum value is reached, and it is roughly maintained constant until 30 MHz. The peak amplitude of the harmonic components has been considered since it coincides with the quasi-peak value in continuous wave signals. Nevertheless, the quasi-peak is always equal or lower than the relative peak and, for this reason, the peak normally gives an extra safety margin.

In the following analysis, the middle-point coil's alignment  $M=M_{mid}$  is considered since it leads to the highest distortion due to the SCCs switching at relatively high currents as shown in Fig. 5. Only  $I_1$  is discussed in detail since, according to Fig. 7, larger distortions have been found at the primary circuit due to the band-pass filter characteristic of the resonant network as explained in [9]. Fig. 8 shows the FTT  $I_1$  resulting from the SCC half-wave and full-wave modulations measured at



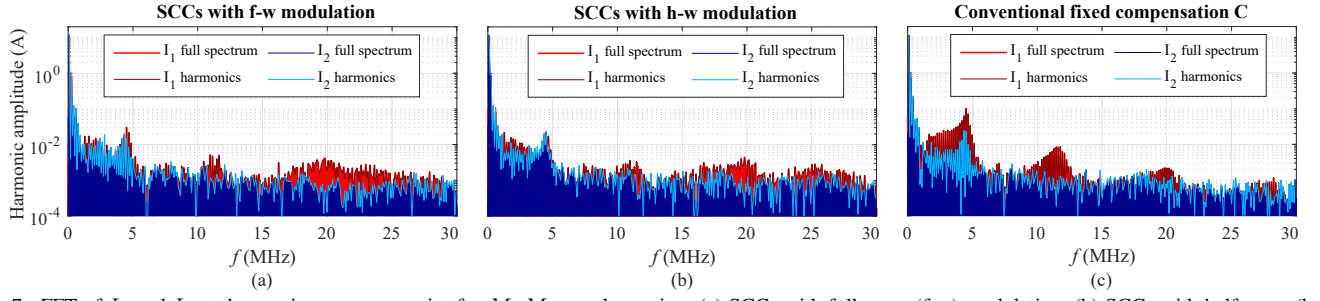


Fig. 7. FFT of  $I_1$  and  $I_2$  at the maximum power point for  $M=M_{mid}$  when using: (a) SCCs with full-wave (f-w) modulation, (b) SCCs with half-wave (h-w) modulation, and (c) fixed S-S compensation (const C). The FFT is plotted for the entire frequency spectrum and also for only the harmonic components.

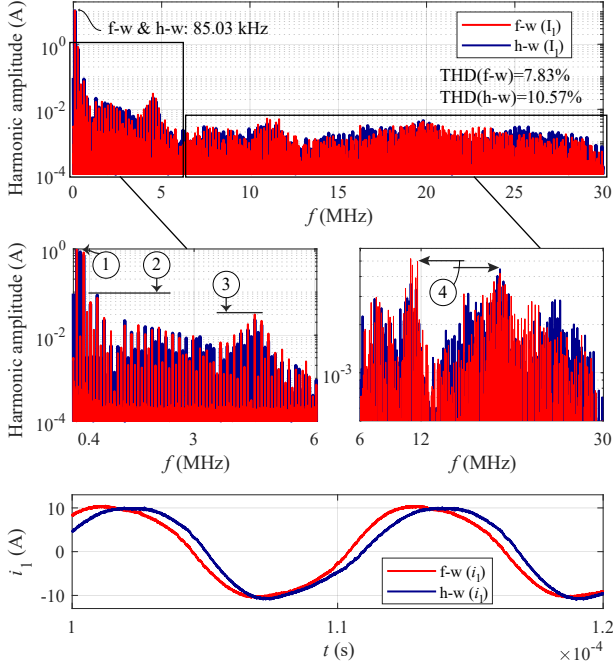


Fig. 8. FFT of  $I_1$  at full power for  $M=M_{mid}$  when using SCCs with full-wave (f-w) and half-wave (h-w) modulations.

$M=M_{mid}$ . The FFT of the respective  $I_2$  is shown in Fig. 9. On the other hand, Fig. 10 shows the FFT of  $I_1$  resulting from the SCC half-wave modulation and the compensation with fixed capacitors both measured at  $M=M_{mid}$ . The FFT of the respective  $I_2$  is shown in Fig. 11.

#### B. SCCs using the half-wave and the full-wave modulations

From the lower-frequencies zoom of Fig. 8, the half-wave modulation has more significant even-order harmonic components than the full-wave modulation due to its asymmetrical nature. This can be seen especially in the 2<sup>nd</sup>-order harmonic highlighted by ①. This 2<sup>nd</sup>-order harmonic might not be particularly worrying because it would not be likely the only one compromising the compliance since its amplitude is similar to the 3<sup>rd</sup>-harmonic from the full-wave modulation. Similarly, the half-wave modulation's 7<sup>th</sup>-order harmonic (595 kHz) pointed out from ② is about 2.8 times higher than the full-wave modulation's 53<sup>th</sup>-order harmonic (4.5 MHz) marked by ③. Nevertheless, according to Fig. 6, the limit at 595 kHz is about 25 times larger than the one at 4.5 MHz.

Considering the zoom on the highest frequencies of Fig. 8, it is clear from ④ that the full-wave modulation has the most compromising harmonic amplitude in the range of 12-30 MHz.

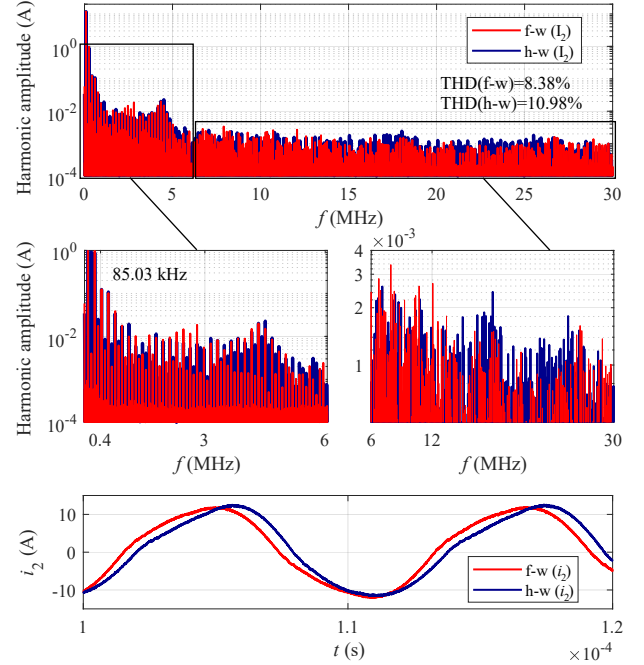


Fig. 9. FFT of  $I_2$  at full power for  $M=M_{mid}$  when using SCCs with full-wave (f-w) and half-wave (h-w) modulations.

From this analysis, it can be concluded that the half-wave modulation leads to more total-lumped distortion in  $I_1$  which is confirmed by the THD. However, since the harmonic components have comparable amplitude, it cannot be stated that one specific modulation strategy would be compromising the recommended limits more than the other. Similar considerations are also valid for the harmonic distortion of the respective measured  $I_2$  shown in Fig. 9.

#### C. Half-wave modulation SCC and the fixed S-S capacitors

In the lower-frequencies zoom of Fig. 10, it is possible to notice that the half-wave modulation has larger even-order harmonic components due to its asymmetrical nature. However, similarly to the previous analysis, the 2<sup>nd</sup>-order harmonic highlighted from ① might not be particularly worrying. After this, it is interesting to notice that the largest amplitudes in the interval from 400 kHz to 12 MHz are generated by the compensation with fixed capacitors, marked by ② and ③.

Considering the zoom on the highest frequencies of Fig. 10, it is clear at ④ that the fixed capacitors lead to compromising harmonic amplitudes also in the range 12-30 MHz. This high-frequency ringing visible in the measured signal is due to the parasitic capacitance of the coil. This ringing might be less

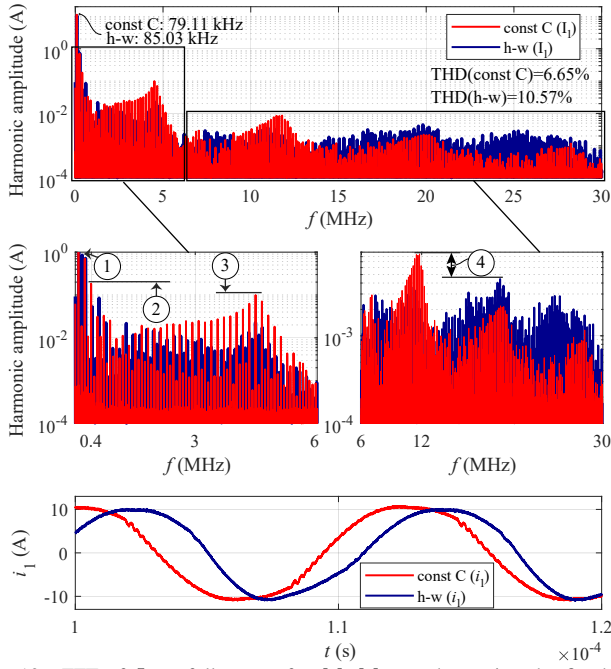


Fig. 10. FFT of  $I_1$  at full power for  $M=M_{mid}$  when using the fixed S-S compensation (const C), and the SSC half-wave (h-w) modulation.

attenuated when using fixed capacitors because the resistance of the resonant circuit is lower than in the implementations with SCCs. This reduces the conduction losses but it worsens the dumping of the high-frequency oscillations.

The half-wave modulation leads to higher total-lumped distortion in  $I_1$ . However, considering that the compensation with fixed capacitors leads to larger amplitudes of the harmonic components at the most stringent limits, it can be deduced that if the latter complies with the recommended limits also the implementation with SCCs using half-wave modulation would. Similar considerations are also valid for the harmonic distortion of the respective measured  $I_2$  shown in Fig. 11.

#### IV. FEM SIMULATION OF THE RADIATED MAGNETIC FIELD

After the analysis of the current distortion, it is interesting to evaluate whether the radiated magnetic field generated by these currents is below the EMC limits in Fig. 6. For that purpose, the coils in Fig. 4 have been modelled in Comsol Multiphysics for the alignment condition corresponding to  $M_{mid}$  where the assigned  $I_1$  and  $I_2$  have harmonic components equal to the measured ones in amplitude and phase. According to Fig. 7, it is reasonable to consider only the higher-order harmonic components instead of the full spectrum since the peaks occur in correspondence of those. The radiated magnetic field has been evaluated through the FEM analysis for each configuration in Fig. 7. To ensure accuracy of the solutions at 10 m, the infinite element domain is applied to the external layer of the air domain shown in Fig. 12 [10]. All evaluations points are shown in Fig. 13 of which height is  $z = \frac{Z_{ag}}{2}$ . This is a conservative analysis since the receiver coil is not provided of a large aluminum shield resembling the EV chassis.

##### A. Comparison with the EMC limits

Fig. 14 shows the comparison between the radiated magnetic field and the recommended limits from SAE J2954 in

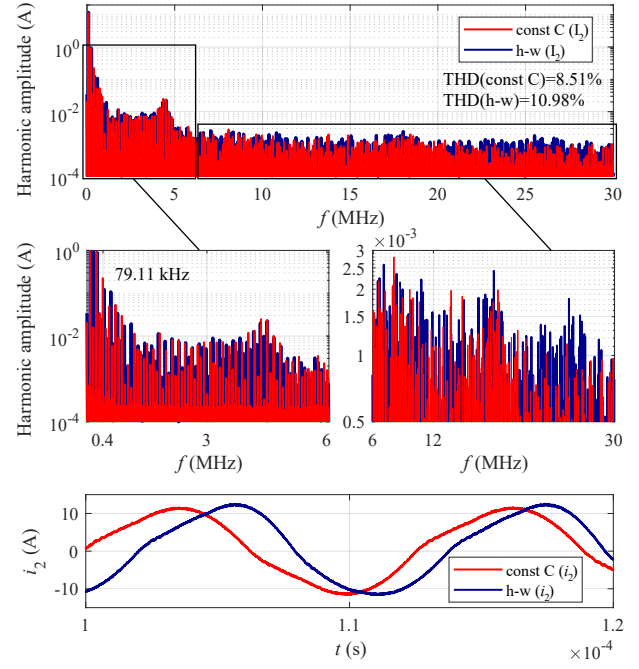


Fig. 11. FFT of  $I_2$  at full power for  $M=M_{mid}$  when using the fixed S-S compensation (const C), and the SSC half-wave (h-w) modulation.

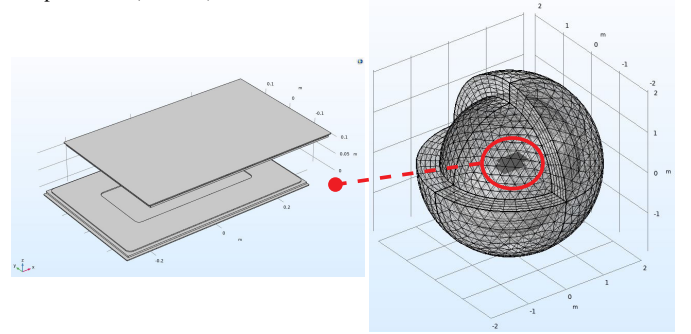


Fig. 12. Model of the coupled coils to evaluate the radiated magnetic field.

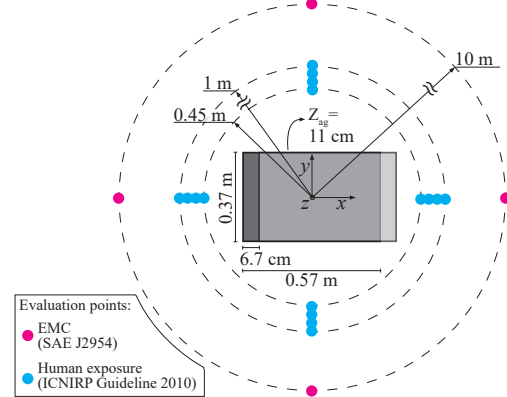


Fig. 13. Locations of the evaluated radiated magnetic field for lateral misalignment of the receiver coil in the  $x$  direction corresponding to  $M_{mid}$ .

the four 10 m-distant points illustrated in Fig. 13. The resulting  $B_{peak}$  has been converted by using (4).

$$\underbrace{(dB_{\mu A/m})}_{H_{peak}} = 20 \cdot \log_{10} \left[ \underbrace{\left( \frac{B_{peak}}{\mu_0} \right)^{(T)}}_{\cdot 10^6} \right] \quad (4)$$

The radiated field is well below the limits as expected since

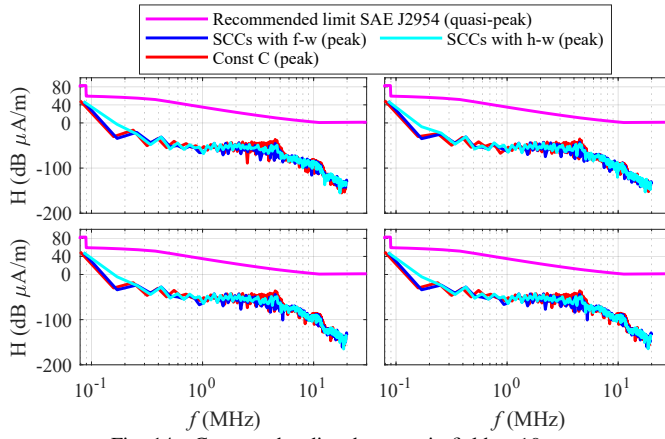


Fig. 14. Computed radiated magnetic field at 10 m.

the considered power level of 3.7 kW is the lowest regulated by SAE J2954. A radiated  $B_{peak}$  up to 43 times larger than the maximum resulting one of 50 dB would still satisfy the limit in the nominal operating frequency range 79-90 kHz. Thereby, SAE J2954 also suggests reducing the limit by 15 dB if sensitive equipment is present within 10 m. In that case, the radiated  $B_{peak}$  can be up to 7 times larger.

#### B. Comparison with the human exposure limits

Besides the compliance to the EMC limits, the magnetic field radiated by the coupled coils must be safe for the living beings in the surrounding of the EV wireless charging system. The ICNIRP Guideline 2010 defines reference levels for the general public exposure being  $B_{rms}=27\mu T$ , while the limit  $B_{rms}=15\mu T$  holds for implanted medical devices (IMDs) and pacemakers [11]. These limits are valid for all the areas around the IPT system accessible to people.

Fig. 15 shows the evaluated radiated magnetic field in the four directions specified in Fig. 13. It can be deduced that, in this case, a minimum distance of 25 cm from the outer sides of the coupled coils guarantees a radiated  $B_{rms} \leq 15\mu T$ . When considering the wireless charging system mounted on the EV, the EV chassis can provide easily this safety distance.

#### V. CONCLUSION

This paper analyzes the current distortion introduced by using switched controlled capacitors or SCCs as series compensation. This is important to preliminary assess the radiated magnetic field in the higher frequency domain. The SCCs are employed to change the circuit's resonant frequency such that the optimum load condition is kept constant over different coils' alignments. The coils' current has been measured in a 3.7kW EV wireless charging system for three implementations: SCCs with half-wave modulation, SCCs with full-wave modulation, and conventional fixed capacitance. By computing the current's FFT up to 30MHz, the SCCs using the half-wave modulation introduce the highest total lumped distortion because of their asymmetrical nature. However, in correspondence with the critical frequencies of the limits set by SAE J2954, the amplitude of the single harmonic components are comparable or lower than in the other implementations.

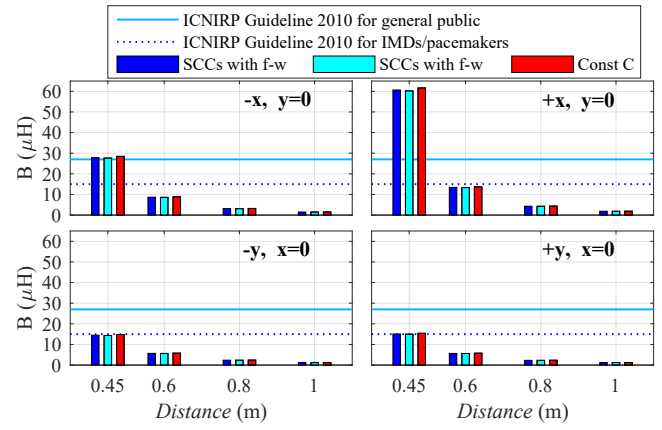


Fig. 15. Computed radiated magnetic field within 1 m.

After that, the radiated magnetic field from each configuration was evaluated through FEM analysis. The results at 10 m distance are all far below the EMC limits from SAE J2954 up to 30 MHz. When considering the human exposure limits set by ICNIRP, a minimum distance of 25 cm from the outer sides of the coupled coils ensures a safe magnetic field level for both the general public and implanted medical devices.

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