(54) Title: FRIENDLY METAL LOSS ESTIMATION

FIG. 3

(57) Abstract: A wireless power transfer device can include a coil that couples to a corresponding coil of a counterpart device to facilitate wireless power transfer, a power converter coupled to the coil, and controller and communication circuitry that monitors one or more observable parameters associated with the wireless power transfer to detect a presence of a foreign object that is not the counterpart device and control the power converter responsive to detection of a foreign object. The controller and communication circuitry can perform foreign object detection based on power accounting that includes estimating friendly metal losses associated with the counterpart device. The controller and communication circuitry can receive from the counterpart device friendly metal loss modeling parameters associated with the counterpart device, the modeling parameters including one or more coefficients relating to a wireless power transfer current and one or more coefficients relating to a wireless power transfer voltage.

Declarations under Rule 4.17:
— *as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a*
   patent (Rule 4.17(ii))
— *as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the*
   earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))

Published:
— *with international search report (Art. 21(3))*
— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the*
   claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of
   amendments (Rule 48.2(h))

FRIENDLY METAL LOSS ESTIMATION

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 63/376,228, filed September 19, 2022, entitled "FRIENDLY METAL LOSS ESTIMATION," which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety for all purposes.

BACKGROUND

[0002] Wireless power transfer ("WPT"), such as inductive power transfer ("IPT"), may be used to provide power for charging various battery-powered electronic devices. One application in which WPT has seen increases in use is the consumer electronics space around devices such as mobile phones (*i.e.*, smart phones) and their accessories (*e.g.*, wireless earphones, smart watches, etc.) as well as tablets and other types of portable computers and their accessories (*e.g.*, styluses, etc.). Such WPT systems may employ foreign object detection ("FOD") systems that attempt to identify conductive objects separate from the wireless power transmitter and wireless power receiver, so that the transferred wireless power can be regulated to prevent unnecessarily delivering power to such objects.

SUMMARY

[0003] Some FOD systems employ estimates of "friendly metal" losses, which are losses associated with the conductive components of the WPT devices apart from the WPT system itself. Accurately estimating these friendly metal losses can be complicated by unknown parameters relating to the WPT system in operation, such as the relative positioning of the WPT devices, variation as between different WPT devices, etc. Therefore, it may be desirable to develop improved friendly metal loss estimation techniques for implementation in WPT FOD systems.

[0004] A wireless power transfer device can include a coil that couples to a corresponding coil of a counterpart device to facilitate wireless power transfer, a power converter coupled to the coil, and controller and communication circuitry that monitors one or more observable parameters associated with the wireless power transfer to detect a presence of a foreign object that is not the counterpart device and control the power converter responsive to detection of a foreign object. The controller and communication circuitry can perform foreign object detection based on power

accounting that includes estimating friendly metal losses associated with the counterpart device. The controller and communication circuitry can receive from the counterpart device friendly metal loss modeling parameters associated with the counterpart device, the modeling parameters including one or more coefficients relating to a wireless power transfer current and one or more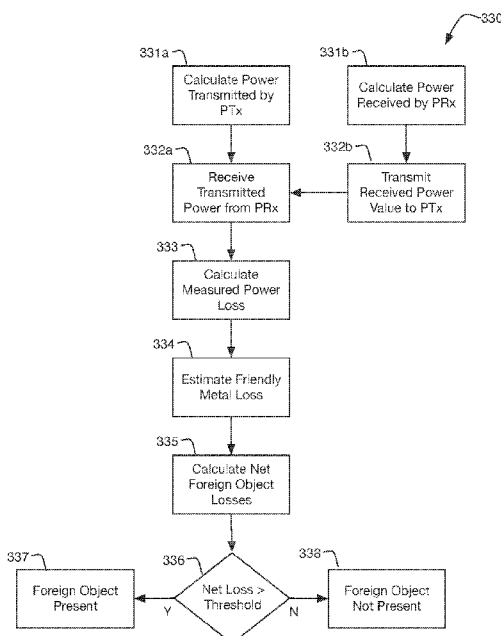 coefficients relating to a wireless power transfer voltage. The modeling parameters can further include one or more coefficients relating to a wireless power transfer current and one or more coefficients relating to a wireless power transfer voltage at a first coupling factor, and one or more coefficients relating to a wireless power transfer current and one or more coefficients relating to a wireless power transfer voltage at a second coupling factor.

[0005] The wireless power transfer device can be a wireless power transmitter. The counterpart device can be a wireless power receiver. The power converter can be an inverter. The control circuitry can control the power converter responsive to detection of a foreign object by at least one of reducing or limiting the amount of power transferred, interrupting power transfer, or providing an alert to a user. The controller and communication circuitry performs foreign object detection based on power accounting by subtracting power received by the wireless power receiver from power transmitted by the wireless power transmitter to obtain a measured power loss, estimating friendly metal losses using the received friendly metal loss modeling parameters, calculating net foreign object losses by subtracting the estimated friendly metal losses from the measured power loss, and determining that a foreign object is present if the net foreign object losses exceed a threshold.

[0006] Estimating friendly metal losses using the received friendly metal loss modeling parameters can further include using a model relating observable circuit parameters to friendly metal losses using the received friendly metal loss modeling parameters. The model can be of the form:

$$P_{FM} = \alpha_{FM}(I_{TX})^2 + \beta_{FM} + \gamma_{FM}V_{in} + \delta_{FM}$$

where P_FM is the estimated friendly metal losses, α_{FM} is a first coefficient related to transmit coil current, β_{FM} is a second coefficient relating to current losses, γ_{FM} is a third coefficient relating to inverter voltage, and δ_{FM} is a fourth coefficient relating to voltage losses. The model can be of the form:

$$P_{FM} = \alpha_{FM}^{[m]}(I_{TX})^2 + \beta_{FM}^{[m]} + \gamma_{FM}^{[m]}V_{in} + \delta_{FM}^{[m]}$$
$$m = \begin{cases} 0 & k < k_{th} \\ 1 & k \geq k_{th} \end{cases}$$

where P$_{FM}$ is the estimated friendly metal losses, α_{FM}^0, β_{FM}^0, γ_{FM}^0, and δ_{FM}^0 are the model coefficients for a low coupling condition, α_{FM}^1, β_{FM}^1, γ_{FM}^1, and δ_{FM}^1 are the model coefficients for a high coupling condition, k is a coupling coefficient, and k$_{th}$ is a threshold coupling coefficient that is the boundary between the low coupling condition and the high coupling condition.

[0007] A method of foreign object detection in a wireless power transfer system including a wireless power transmitter and a wireless power receiver, can be performed by control and communication circuitry of either the wireless power transmitter or the wireless power receiver and can include subtracting power received by the wireless power receiver from power transmitted by the wireless power transmitter to obtain a measured power loss, estimating friendly metal losses including using friendly metal loss modeling parameters received from a counterpart wireless power transfer device, calculating net foreign object losses by subtracting the estimated friendly metal losses from the measured power loss, and determining that a foreign object is present if the net foreign object losses exceed a threshold.

[0008] The method can further include applying a mitigation if a foreign object is present. The mitigation can include at least one of reducing or limiting the amount of power transferred, interrupting power transfer, or providing an alert to a user. The method can be performed by control and communication circuitry of the wireless power transmitter, and the counterpart wireless power transfer device can be the wireless power receiver. The friendly metal loss modeling parameters can include one or more coefficients relating to a wireless power transfer current and one or more coefficients relating to a wireless power transfer voltage at a first coupling factor and one or more coefficients relating to a wireless power transfer current and one or more coefficients relating to a wireless power transfer voltage at a second coupling factor.

[0009] The friendly metal loss modeling parameters can correspond to a model of the form:

$$P_{FM} = \alpha_{FM}(I_{TX})^2 + \beta_{FM} + \gamma_{FM}V_{in} + \delta_{FM}$$

where P$_{FM}$ is the estimated friendly metal losses, α_{FM} is a first coefficient related to transmit coil current, β_{FM} is a second coefficient relating to current losses, γ_{FM} is a third coefficient relating to

inverter voltage, and δ_{FM} is a fourth coefficient relating to voltage losses. The friendly metal loss modeling parameters can correspond to a model of the form:

$$P_{FM} = \alpha_{FM}^{[m]}(I_{TX})^2 + \beta_{FM}^{[m]} + \gamma_{FM}^{[m]}V_{in} + \delta_{FM}^{[m]}$$
$$m = \begin{cases} 0 & k < k_{th} \\ 1 & k \geq k_{th} \end{cases}$$

where P_{FM} is the estimated friendly metal losses, α_{FM}^0, β_{FM}^0, γ_{FM}^0, and δ_{FM}^0 are the model coefficients for a low coupling condition, α_{FM}^1, β_{FM}^1, γ_{FM}^1, and δ_{FM}^1 are the model coefficients for a high coupling condition, k is a coupling coefficient, and k_{th} is a threshold coupling coefficient that is the boundary between the low coupling condition and the high coupling condition.

[0010] A method of estimating friendly metal losses in a wireless power transfer system including a wireless power transmitter and a wireless power receiver can be performed by control and communication circuitry of either the wireless power transmitter or the wireless power receiver and can include measuring one or more observable parameters of the wireless power transfer system, obtaining friendly metal loss parameters from a corresponding wireless power transfer device, and estimating friendly metal losses using a model that relates friendly metal losses to the measured observable parameters and the received friendly metal loss parameters. The observable parameters can include at least a current of the wireless power transfer system and a voltage of the wireless power transfer system.

[0011] The method can be performed by control and communication circuitry of the wireless power transmitter, and the counterpart wireless power transfer device can be the wireless power receiver. The current of the wireless power transfer system can be a transmit coil current, and the voltage of the wireless power transfer system can be an inverter voltage. The friendly metal loss modeling parameters can include one or more coefficients relating to a wireless power transfer current and one or more coefficients relating to a wireless power transfer voltage at a first coupling factor and one or more coefficients relating to a wireless power transfer current and one or more coefficients relating to a wireless power transfer voltage at a second coupling factor.

[0012] The friendly metal loss modeling parameters can correspond to a model of the form:

$$P_{FM} = \alpha_{FM}(I_{TX})^2 + \beta_{FM} + \gamma_{FM}V_{in} + \delta_{FM}$$

where P$_{FM}$ is the estimated friendly metal losses, α_{FM} is a first coefficient related to transmit coil current, β_{FM} is a second coefficient relating to current losses, γ_{FM} is a third coefficient relating to inverter voltage, and δ_{FM} is a fourth coefficient relating to voltage losses. The friendly metal loss modeling parameters correspond to a model of the form:

$$P_{FM} = \alpha_{FM}^{[m]}(I_{TX})^2 + \beta_{FM}^{[m]} + \gamma_{FM}^{[m]}V_{in} + \delta_{FM}^{[m]}$$
$$m = \begin{cases} 0 & k < k_{th} \\ 1 & k \geq k_{th} \end{cases}$$

where P$_{FM}$ is the estimated friendly metal losses, α_{FM}^0, β_{FM}^0, γ_{FM}^0, and δ_{FM}^0 are the model coefficients for a low coupling condition, α_{FM}^1, β_{FM}^1, γ_{FM}^1, and δ_{FM}^1 are the model coefficients for a high coupling condition, k is a coupling coefficient, and k$_{th}$ is a threshold coupling coefficient that is the boundary between the low coupling condition and the high coupling condition.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0013] Figure 1 illustrates a block diagram of a wireless power transfer system.

[0014] Figures 2A–2C illustrate various configurations of a wireless power transfer system.

[0015] Figure 3 depicts a simplified flow chart of a foreign object detection technique based on power accounting.

[0016] Figure 4 illustrates a flowchart of a friendly metal loss estimation technique.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0017] In the following description, for purposes of explanation, numerous specific details are set forth to provide a thorough understanding of the disclosed concepts. As part of this description, some of this disclosure's drawings represent structures and devices in block diagram form for sake of simplicity. In the interest of clarity, not all features of an actual implementation are described in this disclosure. Moreover, the language used in this disclosure has been selected for readability and instructional purposes, has not been selected to delineate or circumscribe the disclosed subject matter. Rather the appended claims are intended for such purpose.

[0018] Various embodiments of the disclosed concepts are illustrated by way of example and not by way of limitation in the accompanying drawings in which like references indicate similar elements. For simplicity and clarity of illustration, where appropriate, reference numerals have

been repeated among the different figures to indicate corresponding or analogous elements. In addition, numerous specific details are set forth to provide a thorough understanding of the implementations described herein. In other instances, methods, procedures, and components have not been described in detail so as not to obscure the related relevant function being described. References to "an," "one," or "another" embodiment in this disclosure are not necessarily to the same or different embodiment, and they mean at least one. A given figure may be used to illustrate the features of more than one embodiment, or more than one species of the disclosure, and not all elements in the figure may be required for a given embodiment or species. A reference number, when provided in a drawing, refers to the same element throughout the several drawings, though it may not be repeated in every drawing. The drawings are not to scale unless otherwise indicated, and the proportions of certain parts may be exaggerated to better illustrate details and features of the present disclosure.

[0019] Figure 1 illustrates a simplified block diagram of a wireless power transfer system 100. Wireless power transfer system includes a power transmitter (PTx) 110 that transfers power to a power receiver (PRx) 120 wirelessly, such as via inductive coupling 130. Power transmitter 110 may receive input power that is converted to an AC voltage having particular voltage and frequency characteristics by an inverter 114. Inverter 114 may be controlled by a controller/communications module 116 that operates as further described below. In various embodiments, the inverter controller and communications module may be implemented in a common system, such as a system based on a microprocessor, microcontroller, or the like. In other embodiments, the inverter controller may be implemented by a separate controller module and communications module that have a means of communication between them. Inverter 114 may be constructed using any suitable circuit topology (*e.g.*, full bridge, half bridge, etc.) and may be implemented using any suitable semiconductor switching device technology (*e.g.*, MOSFETs, IGBTs, etc. made using silicon, silicon carbide, or gallium nitride devices).

[0020] Inverter 114 may deliver the generated AC voltage to a transmitter coil 112. In addition to a wireless coil allowing magnetic coupling to the receiver, the transmitter coil block 112 illustrated in Fig. 1 may include tuning circuitry, such as additional inductors and capacitors, that facilitate operation of the transmitter in different conditions, such as different degrees of magnetic coupling to the receiver, different operating frequencies, etc. The wireless coil itself may be constructed in a variety of different ways. In some embodiments, the wireless coil may be formed as a winding

of wire around a suitable bobbin. In other embodiments, the wireless coil may be formed as traces on a printed circuit board. Other arrangements are also possible and may be used in conjunction with the various embodiments described herein. The wireless transmitter coil may also include a core of magnetically permeable material (*e.g.*, ferrite) configured to affect the flux pattern of the coil in a way suitable to the particular application. The teachings herein may be applied in conjunction with any of a wide variety of transmitter coil arrangements appropriate to a given application.

[0021] PTx controller/communications module 116 may monitor the transmitter coil and use information derived therefrom to control the inverter 114 as appropriate for a given situation. For example, controller/communications module may be configured to cause inverter 114 to operate at a given frequency or output voltage depending on the particular application. In some embodiments, the controller/communications module may be configured to receive information from the PRx device and control inverter 114 accordingly. This information may be received via the power transmission coils (*i.e.*, in-band communication) or may be received via a separate communications channel (not shown, *i.e.*, out-of-band communication). For in-band communication, controller/communications module 116 may detect and decode signals imposed on the magnetic link (such as voltage, frequency, or load variations) by the PRx to receive information and may instruct the inverter to modulate the delivered power by manipulating various parameters of the generated voltage (such as voltage, frequency, etc.) to send information to the PRx. In some embodiments, controller/communications module may be configured to employ frequency shift keying (FSK) communications, in which the frequency of the inverter signal is modulated, to communicate data to the PRx. Controller/communications module 116 may be configured to detect amplitude shift keying (ASK) communications or load modulation-based communications from the PRx. In either case, the controller/communications module 126 may be configured to vary the current drawn on the receiver side to manipulate the waveform seen on the Tx coil to deliver information to from the PRx to the PTx. For out-of-band communication, additional modules that allow for communication between the PTx and PRx may be provided, for example, WiFi, Bluetooth, or other radio links or any other suitable communications channel.

[0022] As mentioned above, controller/communications module 116 may be a single module, for example, provided on a single integrated circuit, or may be constructed from multiple modules/devices provided on different integrated circuits or a combination of integrated and

discrete circuits having both analog and digital components. The teachings herein are not limited to any particular arrangement of the controller/communications circuitry.

[0023] PTx device 110 may optionally include other systems and components, such as a separate communications ("comms") module 118. In some embodiments, comms module 118 may communicate with a corresponding module tag in the PRx via the power transfer coils. In other embodiments, comms module 118 may communicate with a corresponding module using a separate physical channel 138.

[0024] As noted above, wireless power transfer system also includes a wireless power receiver (PRx) 120. Wireless power receiver can include a receiver coil 122 that may be magnetically coupled 130 to the transmitter coil 112. As with transmitter coil 112 discussed above, receiver coil block 122 illustrated in Fig. 1 may include tuning circuitry, such as additional inductors and capacitors, that facilitate operation of the transmitter in different conditions, such as different degrees of magnetic coupling to the receiver, different operating frequencies, etc. The wireless coil itself may be constructed in a variety of different ways. In some embodiments, the wireless coil may be formed as a winding of wire around a suitable bobbin. In other embodiments, the wireless coil may be formed as traces on a printed circuit board. Other arrangements are also possible and may be used in conjunction with the various embodiments described herein. The wireless receiver coil may also include a core of magnetically permeable material (*e.g.*, ferrite) configured to affect the flux pattern of the coil in a way suitable to the particular application. The teachings herein may be applied in conjunction with any of a wide variety of receiver coil arrangements appropriate to a given application.

[0025] Receiver coil 122 outputs an AC voltage induced therein by magnetic induction via transmitter coil 112. This output AC voltage may be provided to a rectifier 124 that provides a DC output power to one or more loads associated with the PRx device. Rectifier 124 may be controlled by a controller/communications module 126 that operates as further described below. In various embodiments, the rectifier controller and communications module may be implemented in a common system, such as a system based on a microprocessor, microcontroller, or the like. In other embodiments, the rectifier controller may be implemented by a separate controller module and communications module that have a means of communication between them. Rectifier 124 may be constructed using any suitable circuit topology (*e.g.*, full bridge, half bridge, etc.) and may

be implemented using any suitable semiconductor switching device technology (*e.g.*, MOSFETs, IGBTs, etc. made using silicon, silicon carbide, or gallium nitride devices).

[0026] PRx controller/communications module 126 may monitor the receiver coil and use information derived therefrom to control the rectifier 124 as appropriate for a given situation. For example, controller/communications module may be configured to cause rectifier 124 to operate provide a given output voltage depending on the particular application. In some embodiments, the controller/communications module may be configured to send information to the PTx device to effectively control the power delivered to the receiver. This information may be received sent via the power transmission coils (*i.e.*, in-band communication) or may be sent via a separate communications channel (not shown, *i.e.*, out-of-band communication). For in-band communication, controller/communications module 126 may, for example, modulate load current or other electrical parameters of the received power to send information to the PTx. In some embodiments, controller/communications module 126 may be configured to detect and decode signals imposed on the magnetic link (such as voltage, frequency, or load variations) by the PTx to receive information from the PTx. In some embodiments, controller/communications module 126 may be configured to receive frequency shift keying (FSK) communications, in which the frequency of the inverter signal has been modulated to communicate data to the PRx. Controller/communications module 126 may be configured to generate amplitude shift keying (ASK) communications or load modulation-based communications from the PRx. In either case, the controller/communications module 126 may be configured to vary the current drawn on the receiver side to manipulate the waveform seen on the Tx coil to deliver information to from the PRx to the PTx. For out-of-band communication, additional modules that allow for communication between the PTx and PRx may be provided, for example, WiFi, Bluetooth, or other radio links or any other suitable communications channel.

[0027] As mentioned above, controller/communications module 126 may be a single module, for example, provided on a single integrated circuit, or may be constructed from multiple modules/devices provided on different integrated circuits or a combination of integrated and discrete circuits having both analog and digital components. The teachings herein are not limited to any particular arrangement of the controller/communications circuitry.

[0028] PRx device 120 may optionally include other systems and components, such as a communications module 128. In some embodiments, comms module 128 may communicate with a corresponding module in the PTx via the power transfer coils. In other embodiments, comms module 128 may communicate with a corresponding module or tag using a separate physical channel 138.

[0029] Numerous variations and enhancements of the above-described wireless power transmission system 100 are possible, and the following teachings are applicable to any of such variations and enhancements.

[0030] Wireless power transfer as described above depends on the degree of electromagnetic coupling between the PTx and the PRx. For example, in inductive charging systems, the transmitter coil 112 and the receiver coil 122 may be thought of as a loosely coupled transformer. As such, the relative position of the PTx and PRx can affect the degree of magnetic coupling between the PTx and PRx, which, in turn, can affect the power transfer capability of the system. Figure 2A illustrates a simplified diagram of a PTx (110)-PRx (120) system. Both devices are illustrated in plan view (upper part of the diagram) and an edge-on section view (lower part of the diagram). PTx device 110 includes transmitter coil 112, and PRx device 120 includes a receiver coil 122. In some embodiments, PTx device 110 may be a wireless charging pad, mat, or stand (or other wireless power transfer device), and PRx device 120 may be a mobile phone, tablet computer, smart watch, (or other wireless power receiver device). Although the respective devices are depicted as generally rectangular in shape with generally circular charging coils, it is to be appreciated that other configurations are also possible.

[0031] Figure 2B illustrates the PTx 110 and PRx 120 in an "optimal" alignment. In Fig. 2B, the devices—and more specifically, their wireless power transfer coils—are horizontally aligned (as depicted in the plan view), vertically aligned, and as close together as possible (as illustrated in the sectional view). In this context, horizontal and vertical are merely used as terms of convenience, and the true orientation of the system may vary, and the following description is applicable to a system in any such orientation, although "horizontal" and "vertical" will continue to be used for contextual clarity. Figure 2C illustrates the devices with a slight misalignment. More specifically, there is a radial displacement "r" that can be appreciated by noting that the centers of coils 112 and 122 are no-longer co-incident in the plan view. Such radial displacement may be caused by

any number of things, for example, a slight misplacement of a phone with respect to a charging pad. Furthermore, there is also a vertical displacement "z" that can be appreciated by noting the separation between PTx device 110 and PRx device 120 in the sectional view. This vertical displacement may also be caused by any number of things, for example, a phone enclosed in a case or cover. The sectional view also illustrates the lateral/radial displacement. It will be appreciated that in some situation, only a radial displacement or only a vertical displacement may be present.

[0032] The offsets described above can reduce the degree of magnetic coupling between the PTx and PRx devices. This reduced magnetic coupling can limit the amount of power that can be delivered from PTx 110 to PRx 120. More specifically, reduced coupling between PTx 110 and PRx 120 reduces the fraction of the power transmitted from PTx 110 that is received by PRx 120. Additionally, a reduced degree of magnetic coupling between PTx 110 and PRx 120 may be at least partially addressed by re-tuning the receiver (or transmitter) circuitry accordingly. For example, one or more tuning capacitors may be included in the PTx circuitry between inverter 114 and transmitter coil 112. Likewise, one or more tuning capacitors may be included in the PRx circuitry between rectifier 124 and receiver coil 122. The function of these respective capacitors is tuning the circuit by adjusting the resonant frequency of the respective circuits, and they may include, for example, series resonant capacitors in series with the respective coils or parallel resonant capacitors in parallel with the respective coils, depending on the particular designed operating modes of the circuit. To that end, multiple selectable capacitors may be provided on either or both of PTx 110 and PRx 120, with the appropriate tuning capacitance being selected by the respective device based on estimates of coupling factor derived from various observable circuit parameters, such as voltages, currents, etc.

[0033] In wireless power transfer systems, it may be desirable to detect the presence of "foreign objects." For example, things like coins, keys, paperclips, etc. that end up in proximity to the wireless power transfer coils can receive a portion of the power that is transmitted by a PTx 110, which both limits the power available to PRx 120 and may lead to induced eddy currents in the foreign objects. Wireless power transfer systems can employ a variety of foreign object detection ("FOD") techniques. One group of FOD techniques is based on power accounting. The basic principle of power accounting is as follows: the power transmitted by PTx 110, less the power received by PRx 120 is "lost" power. This lost power can be thought of as going into one of three places. Some power may be absorbed by so-called "friendly metal" of PTx 110. Some power may

be absorbed by friendly metal of PRx 120. Some power may be absorbed by a foreign object. "Friendly metal" in this context means the metallic or otherwise conductive structures that make up PTx and PRx. These may be frames or case portions, internal circuit elements, magnets, etc. These elements are designated as friendly metal because their presence is known to and accounted for in the design of the wireless power transfer system. Losses that are not associated with the friendly metal may be assumed to be associated with a foreign object.

[0034] Figure 3 depicts a simplified flow chart of a foreign object detection technique 330 based on power accounting. Beginning with block 331a, PTx 110 calculates power transmitted by the PTx. This can be achieved by multiplying the output voltage of inverter 114 by the current through transmit coil 112. Correspondingly, block 331b calculates power received by PRx 120. This can be achieved by multiplying the current through receiver coil 122 by the output voltage of rectifier 124. In some applications, it may be difficult to make these measurements on the PRx side. In such cases, the received power can be calculated as the power out of (rather than in to) PRx 120 plus estimated losses in PRx 120 and its associated coil 122. Additionally or alternatively, PTx side power measurements or estimates could be used for power estimation. These PTx side measurements can be based on the DC input power to the PTx 110 or an AC measurement of the output of inverter 114. To summarize, power transmitted by PTx 110 or received by PRx 120 can be estimated either by directly measuring current flowing through the respective wireless power transfer coil (112/122) or indirectly using the DC current into the transmitter or out of the receiver. The respective voltages and currents may be monitored sensors coupled to the respective controller circuitry located in controller and communications modules 116 (for PTx 110) and 126 (for PRx 120). Implementation of such measurement systems is known to those skilled in the art, and thus is not repeated here.

[0035] In block 332b, PRx 120 can communicate the received power value to PTx 110, which it receives as illustrated in block 332a. This discussion assumes that the foreign object detection is performed by PTx 110, for example by circuitry located in controller/communications module 126. However, in some applications, the foreign object detection process could run on PRx 120, in which case PTx 110 could transmit its measured power value to PRx 120. In either case, this could take place either by in-band communication (involving modulation of the voltage, current, frequency, phase, etc. wireless power transferred) or out-of-band communication using separate communications modules 118/128 and separate communications channel 138, which could be near

field communication (NFC), Bluetooth communication, WiFI communication, etc. as discussed above. Alternatively, rather than transmit calculated power values, the device could transmit the underlying measurements (*e.g.*, voltage and current measurements) that would allow the counterpart device to calculate the respective power.

[0036] In either case, in block 333, the PTx (or PRx, if it is performing foreign object detection) can calculate the measured power loss as the difference between transmitted power and received power. As noted above this measured power loss can include two components: friendly metal losses (associated with either PTx 110 or PRx 120) and foreign object losses. Thus, in block 334, the PTx (or PRx, if it is performing foreign object detection) estimates the friendly metal losses. An exemplary friendly metal loss estimation technique is discussed in greater detail below with respect to Fig. 4. For purposes of this discussion, estimation of the friendly metal losses may be thought of as a computation based on observable circuit parameters (voltages, currents, coupling factors, etc.) and predetermined parameters that relate these observable circuit parameters to the resulting losses. These parameters may be part of a model that can be analytically or empirically derived during the design of a particular wireless power transfer device. These model parameters may be stored in a memory associated with a controller of the respective wireless power transfer device and either used by that device to estimate its friendly metal losses or provided to a counterpart device to allow that device to estimate the friendly metal losses of its counterpart.

[0037] Once the friendly metal losses have been estimated/determined (block 334), the device performing the foreign object detection can calculate the net foreign object losses (block 335), which can be the difference between the calculated measured power loss (block 333) and the estimated friendly metal losses (block 334). The net foreign object losses can then be compared to a net loss threshold (block 336). If the net foreign object losses are less than the threshold, then it can be inferred that no foreign object is present (block 338) and no mitigation is required. Alternatively, if the net foreign object losses are greater than the threshold (block 336), then it can be inferred that a foreign object is present (block 337) and some mitigation may be employed. Such mitigations can include reducing or limiting the amount of power transferred, interrupting power transfer, providing an alert to the user, such as an audiovisual alert, etc.

[0038] In high performance wireless power transfer systems, even relatively small levels of foreign object loss may be significant, and thus it is desirable to be able to detect such losses at a

level that may be somewhat below the friendly metal losses. Thus, accuracy in the estimated friendly metal losses is desirable. For example, if the estimated friendly metal is higher than the actual friendly metal losses, then there may be undesirable eddy currents induced in a foreign object. Alternatively, if the estimated friendly metal loss is lower than the actual friendly metal losses, the system may unnecessarily apply mitigations, such as those discussed above. However, these mitigations can present undesirable user experiences, such as slower or completely interrupted charging, spurious user interface messages, etc. Moreover, all of these issues may become even more pronounced as typical wireless power levels increase from relatively lower levels (*e.g.*, 5W or so) to relatively higher levels (*e.g.*, 20W or more).

[0039] One way to estimate friendly metal losses is as a function of the current flowing through PTx transmit coil 112. The friendly metal losses can be measured as a linear function of the square of the transmit coil current, namely:

$$P_{FM} = \alpha_{FM}(I_{TX})^2 + \beta_{FM}$$

where P_{FM} is the estimated friendly metal losses, α_{FM} is a first coefficient and β_{FM} is a second coefficient. As noted above, the coefficients may be derived analytically or empirically, *e.g.*, based on a regression model that is linear in I_{TX}^2. Friendly metal loss can also be a function of I_{RX} as well as the relative phase between I_{TX} and I_{RX}; however, these relationships can be combined as a function of ITX. However, this model can be further refined in two ways. First, a more accurate estimation of friendly metal losses may be obtained by modeling the losses as a function of voltage, not just current. Second, the friendly metal loss model may be modified to account for differing coupling factors.

[0040] With respect to the first refinement, in addition to the transmit coil current I_{TX}, the inverter's DC input voltage V_{in} can be included to improve the friendly metal loss model. (As an alternative, the inverter output voltage or any other suitable voltage could also be used. The estimated friendly metal losses can thus be given by:

$$P_{FM} = \alpha_{FM}(I_{TX})^2 + \beta_{FM} + \gamma_{FM}V_{in} + \delta_{FM}$$

where P_{FM} is the estimated friendly metal losses, α_{FM} is a first coefficient related to transmit coil current, β_{FM} is a second coefficient relating to current losses, γ_{FM} is a third coefficient relating to inverter voltage, and δ_{FM} is a fourth coefficient relating to voltage losses. As noted above, the

coefficients may be derived analytically or empirically, *e.g.*, based on a multiple regression model that is linear in two independent variables $I_{TX}{}^2$ (the square of the transmit coil current) and V_{in} the inverter input voltage (or other suitable voltage, if applicable). This refinement can significantly improve the accuracy of friendly metal loss estimation.

[0041] With respect to the second refinement, different model coefficients may be provided for different coupling conditions. For example, a first set of coupling coefficients may be employed for high coupling conditions, in which the coupling factor k between a PTx 110 and PRx 120 is above a threshold, and a second set of coupling coefficients may be employed for low coupling conditions, in which the coupling factor k between a PTx 110 and PRx 120 is below the threshold. Thus, if both the first and second refinements are employed, the estimated friendly metal losses can be given by:

$$P_{FM} = \alpha_{FM}^{[m]}(I_{TX})^2 + \beta_{FM}^{[m]} + \gamma_{FM}^{[m]}V_{in} + \delta_{FM}^{[m]}$$
$$m = \begin{cases} 0 & k < k_{th} \\ 1 & k \geq k_{th} \end{cases}$$

where P_{FM} is the estimated friendly metal losses, α_{FM}^0, β_{FM}^0, γ_{FM}^0, and δ_{FM}^0 are the model coefficients for a low coupling condition, α_{FM}^1, β_{FM}^1, γ_{FM}^1, and δ_{FM}^1 are the model coefficients for a high coupling condition, k is a coupling coefficient, and k_{th} is a threshold coupling coefficient that is the boundary between the low coupling condition and the high coupling condition. In some applications, additional higher order terms (*e.g.*, $V_{in}{}^2$, $V_{in}{}^3$, etc.) or lower order terms (*e.g.*, I_{TX}) could be included in the model with appropriate coefficients. Despite being defined in terms of low and high coupling condition, some implementations may use more than two coupling conditions, with appropriate coefficients, such as a three-level system with low, mid, and high degrees of coupling and associated coefficients, or higher numbers of coupling conditions with corresponding numbers of coefficients.

[0042] Such an arrangement may leverage already existing logic and functionality in the control circuitry of a wireless power transmitter (or receiver). For example, as noted above, some wireless power transfer devices may include controller circuitry that measures certain circuit parameters, (*e.g.*, voltages and currents) and estimates a coupling factor k based on these values. The controller circuitry may then select a tuning capacitor (or capacitors) to provide appropriate tuning for the

circuit for such a coupling factor. This same computation can then be used to select the appropriate coefficients for the friendly metal loss estimation model as well.

[0043] Figure 4 illustrates a flowchart of a friendly metal loss estimation technique 440. Beginning with block 441, the FOD system can measure observable parameters of the wireless power transfer system. These measurements can be performed by PTx 110, if PTx 110 is implementing the FOD system, or by PRx 120, if PRx 120 is implementing the FOD system. These observable parameters can include wireless power transfer voltages, currents, phase shifts, frequencies, impedances, etc., as well as parameters that can be derived therefrom, such as power consumptions, efficiencies, coupling coefficients, etc. The device implementing the FOD system can perform these measurements using appropriate sensors in combination with the control circuitry of the device, as discussed above.

[0044] In block 442b, a FOD system implemented by PTx 110 can receive friendly metal parameters from PRx 120 (block 442a). If the FOD system were implemented by PRx 120, then the reverse could be true. This communication can take place using either in-band or out-of-band communications, as discussed above. The transmitted friendly metal parameters can include model coefficients as described above, including model parameters relating to current, voltage, and coupling factor. In one embodiment, the PRx could send a list of parameters including current and voltage parameters for a first coupling coefficient and current and voltage parameters for a second coupling coefficient. In the case of wireless power transfer systems that can operate at different power transfer frequencies, it may be appropriate to include different parameters for different operating frequencies. In some applications, the communication can take place according to a predetermined industry standard, such as the Qi standard for wireless power transfer/charging that is promulgated by the Wireless Power Consortium organization.

[0045] In block 443, the FOD system can estimate the friendly metal losses from the observables obtained in block 441 and the received parameters from the counterpart device. The FOD system may also have friendly metal loss modeling parameters associated with itself, which may correspond to the different coupling factors and/or operating frequencies of the received friendly metal loss modeling parameters received from the counterpart device. Then, in block 444, the estimated friendly metal losses can be supplied to the FOD system, such as the one described above with respect to Fig. 3, for foreign object detection.

[0046] The foregoing describes exemplary embodiments of wireless power transfer systems that are able to transmit certain information amongst the PTx and PRx in the system. The present disclosure contemplates this passage of information improves the devices' ability to provide wireless power signals to each other in an efficient manner to facilitate battery charging, such as by sharing of the devices' power handling capabilities with one another. Entities implementing the present technology should take care to ensure that, to the extent any sensitive information is used in particular implementations, that well-established privacy policies and/or privacy practices are complied with. In particular, such entities would be expected to implement and consistently apply privacy practices that are generally recognized as meeting or exceeding industry or governmental requirements for maintaining the privacy of users. Implementers should inform users where personally identifiable information is expected to be transmitted in a wireless power transfer system, and allow users to "opt in" or "opt out" of participation. For instance, such information may be presented to the user when they place a device onto a power transmitter, if the power transmitter is configured to poll for sensitive information from the power receiver.

[0047] Risk can be minimized by limiting the collection of data and deleting data once it is no longer needed. In addition, and when applicable, data de-identification can be used to protect a user's privacy. For example, a device identifier may be partially masked to convey the power characteristics of the device without uniquely identifying the device. De-identification may be facilitated, when appropriate, by removing identifiers, controlling the amount or specificity of data stored (e.g., collecting location data at city level rather than at an address level), controlling how data is stored (e.g., aggregating data across users), and/or other methods such as differential privacy. Robust encryption may also be utilized to reduce the likelihood that communication between inductively coupled devices are spoofed.

CLAIMS

1.   A wireless power transfer device comprising:

        a wireless power transfer coil that couples to a corresponding coil of a counterpart wireless power transfer device to facilitate wireless power transfer;

        a power converter coupled to the wireless power transfer coil; and

        controller and communication circuitry that monitors one or more observable parameters associated with the wireless power transfer to detect a presence of a foreign object that is not the counterpart wireless power transfer device and controls the power converter responsive to detection of the foreign object; wherein:

                the controller and communication circuitry performs foreign object detection based on power accounting that includes estimating friendly metal losses associated with the counterpart wireless power transfer device; and

                the controller and communication circuitry receives, from the counterpart wireless power transfer device, friendly metal loss modeling parameters associated with the counterpart wireless power transfer device, the modeling parameters including one or more coefficients relating to a wireless power transfer current and one or more coefficients relating to a wireless power transfer voltage.

2.   The wireless power transfer device of claim 1 wherein the modeling parameters include one or more coefficients relating to a wireless power transfer current and one or more coefficients relating to a wireless power transfer voltage at a first coupling factor and one or more coefficients relating to a wireless power transfer current and one or more coefficients relating to a wireless power transfer voltage at a second coupling factor.

3.   The wireless power transfer device of claim 1 wherein the wireless power transfer device is a wireless power transmitter, the counterpart wireless power transfer device is a wireless power receiver, the power converter is an inverter, and the controller and communication circuitry controls the power converter responsive to detection of the foreign object by at

least one of reducing or limiting an amount of power transferred, interrupting power transfer, or providing an alert to a user.

4. The wireless power transfer device of claim 3 wherein the controller and communication circuitry performs foreign object detection based on power accounting by:

subtracting power received by the wireless power receiver from power transmitted by the wireless power transmitter to obtain a measured power loss;

estimating friendly metal losses using the received friendly metal loss modeling parameters;

calculating net foreign object losses by subtracting the estimated friendly metal losses from the measured power loss; and

determining that the foreign object is present if the net foreign object losses exceed a threshold.

5. The wireless power transfer device of claim 4 wherein estimating friendly metal losses using the received friendly metal loss modeling parameters further comprises using a model relating observable circuit parameters to friendly metal losses using the received friendly metal loss modeling parameters.

6. The wireless power transfer device of claim 5 wherein the model is of a form:

$$P_{FM} = \alpha_{FM}(I_{TX})^2 + \beta_{FM} + \gamma_{FM}V_{in} + \delta_{FM}$$

where P_{FM} is the estimated friendly metal losses, α_{FM} is a first coefficient related to transmit coil current, β_{FM} is a second coefficient relating to current losses, γ_{FM} is a third coefficient relating to inverter voltage, and δ_{FM} is a fourth coefficient relating to voltage losses.

7. The wireless power transfer device of claim 5 wherein the model is of a form:

$$P_{FM} = \alpha_{FM}^{[m]}(I_{TX})^2 + \beta_{FM}^{[m]} + \gamma_{FM}^{[m]}V_{in} + \delta_{FM}^{[m]}$$
$$m = \begin{cases} 0 & k < k_{th} \\ 1 & k \geq k_{th} \end{cases}$$

where P_{FM} is the estimated friendly metal losses, α_{FM}^0, β_{FM}^0, γ_{FM}^0, and δ_{FM}^0 are the model coefficients for a low coupling condition, α_{FM}^1, β_{FM}^1, γ_{FM}^1, and δ_{FM}^1 are the model coefficients for a high coupling condition, k is a coupling coefficient, and k_{th} is a threshold coupling coefficient that is the boundary between the low coupling condition and the high coupling condition.

8.   A method of foreign object detection in a wireless power transfer system including a wireless power transmitter and a wireless power receiver, the method being performed by control and communication circuitry of either the wireless power transmitter or the wireless power receiver, the method comprising:

   subtracting power received by the wireless power receiver from power transmitted by the wireless power transmitter to obtain a measured power loss;

   estimating friendly metal losses including using friendly metal loss modeling parameters received from a counterpart wireless power transfer device;

   calculating net foreign object losses by subtracting the estimated friendly metal losses from the measured power loss; and

   determining that a foreign object is present if the net foreign object losses exceed a threshold.

9.   The method of claim 8 further comprising applying a mitigation if the foreign object is present.

10.   The method of claim 9 wherein the mitigation includes at least one of reducing or limiting an amount of power transferred, interrupting power transfer, or providing an alert to a user.

11.   The method of claim 8 wherein the method is performed by control and communication circuitry of the wireless power transmitter and the counterpart wireless power transfer device is the wireless power receiver.

12.   The method of claim 8 wherein the friendly metal loss modeling parameters include one or more coefficients relating to a wireless power transfer current and one or more coefficients relating to a wireless power transfer voltage at a first coupling factor and one or more

coefficients relating to a wireless power transfer current and one or more coefficients relating to a wireless power transfer voltage at a second coupling factor.

13.   The method of claim 11 wherein the friendly metal loss modeling parameters correspond to a model of a form:

$$P_{FM} = \alpha_{FM}(I_{TX})^2 + \beta_{FM} + \gamma_{FM}V_{in} + \delta_{FM}$$

where P$_{FM}$ is the estimated friendly metal losses, α_{FM} is a first coefficient related to transmit coil current, β_{FM} is a second coefficient relating to current losses, γ_{FM} is a third coefficient relating to inverter voltage, and δ_{FM} is a fourth coefficient relating to voltage losses.

14.   The method of claim 11 wherein the friendly metal loss modeling parameters correspond to a model of a form:

$$P_{FM} = \alpha_{FM}^{[m]}(I_{TX})^2 + \beta_{FM}^{[m]} + \gamma_{FM}^{[m]}V_{in} + \delta_{FM}^{[m]}$$
$$m = \begin{cases} 0 & k < k_{th} \\ 1 & k \geq k_{th} \end{cases}$$

where P$_{FM}$ is the estimated friendly metal losses, α_{FM}^0, β_{FM}^0, γ_{FM}^0, and δ_{FM}^0 are the model coefficients for a low coupling condition, α_{FM}^1, β_{FM}^1, γ_{FM}^1, and δ_{FM}^1 are the model coefficients for a high coupling condition, k is a coupling coefficient, and k$_{th}$ is a threshold coupling coefficient that is the boundary between the low coupling condition and the high coupling condition.

15.   A method of estimating friendly metal losses in a wireless power transfer system including a wireless power transmitter and a wireless power receiver, the method being performed by control and communication circuitry of either the wireless power transmitter or the wireless power receiver, the method comprising:

    measuring one or more observable parameters of the wireless power transfer system;

    obtaining friendly metal loss parameters from a corresponding wireless power transfer device;

    estimating friendly metal losses using a model that relates friendly metal losses to the measured observable parameters and the received friendly metal loss parameters.

16.   The method of claim 15 wherein the observable parameters include at least a current of the wireless power transfer system and a voltage of the wireless power transfer system.

17.   The method of claim 16 wherein the friendly metal loss modeling parameters include one or more coefficients relating to a wireless power transfer current and one or more coefficients relating to a wireless power transfer voltage at a first coupling factor and one or more coefficients relating to a wireless power transfer current and one or more coefficients relating to a wireless power transfer voltage at a second coupling factor.

18.   The method of claim 16 wherein the friendly metal loss modeling parameters correspond to a model of a form:

$$P_{FM} = \alpha_{FM}(I_{TX})^2 + \beta_{FM} + \gamma_{FM}V_{in} + \delta_{FM}$$

where P_{FM} is the estimated friendly metal losses, α_{FM} is a first coefficient related to transmit coil current, β_{FM} is a second coefficient relating to current losses, γ_{FM} is a third coefficient relating to inverter voltage, and δ_{FM} is a fourth coefficient relating to voltage losses.

19.   The method of claim 16 wherein the friendly metal loss modeling parameters correspond to a model of a form:

$$P_{FM} = \alpha_{FM}^{[m]}(I_{TX})^2 + \beta_{FM}^{[m]} + \gamma_{FM}^{[m]}V_{in} + \delta_{FM}^{[m]}$$
$$m = \begin{cases} 0 & k < k_{th} \\ 1 & k \geq k_{th} \end{cases}$$

where P_{FM} is the estimated friendly metal losses, α_{FM}^0, β_{FM}^0, γ_{FM}^0, and δ_{FM}^0 are the model coefficients for a low coupling condition, α_{FM}^1, β_{FM}^1, γ_{FM}^1, and δ_{FM}^1 are the model coefficients for a high coupling condition, k is a coupling coefficient, and k_{th} is a threshold coupling coefficient that is the boundary between the low coupling condition and the high coupling condition.
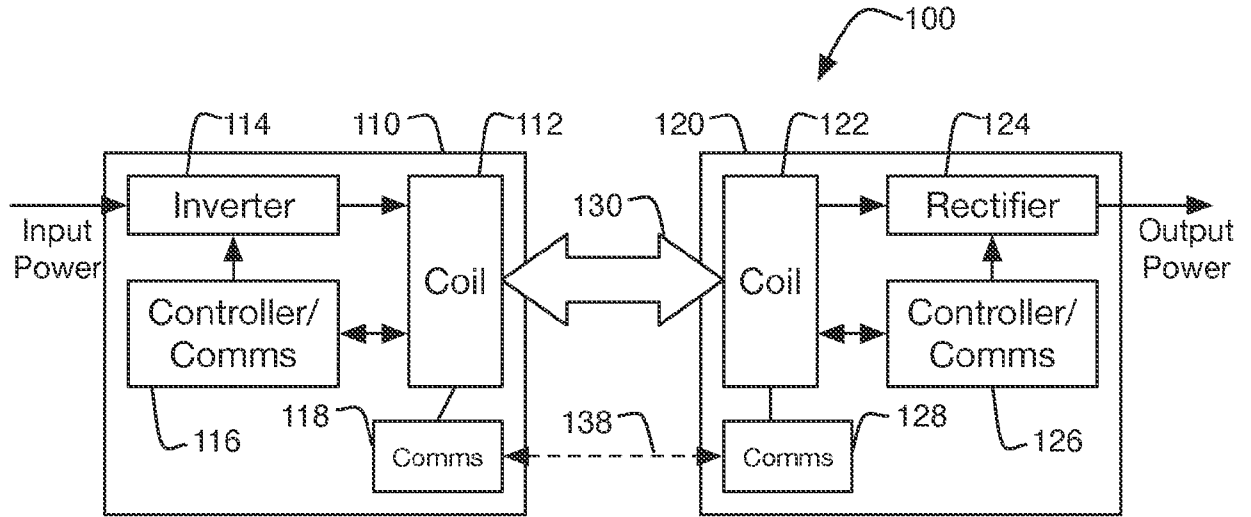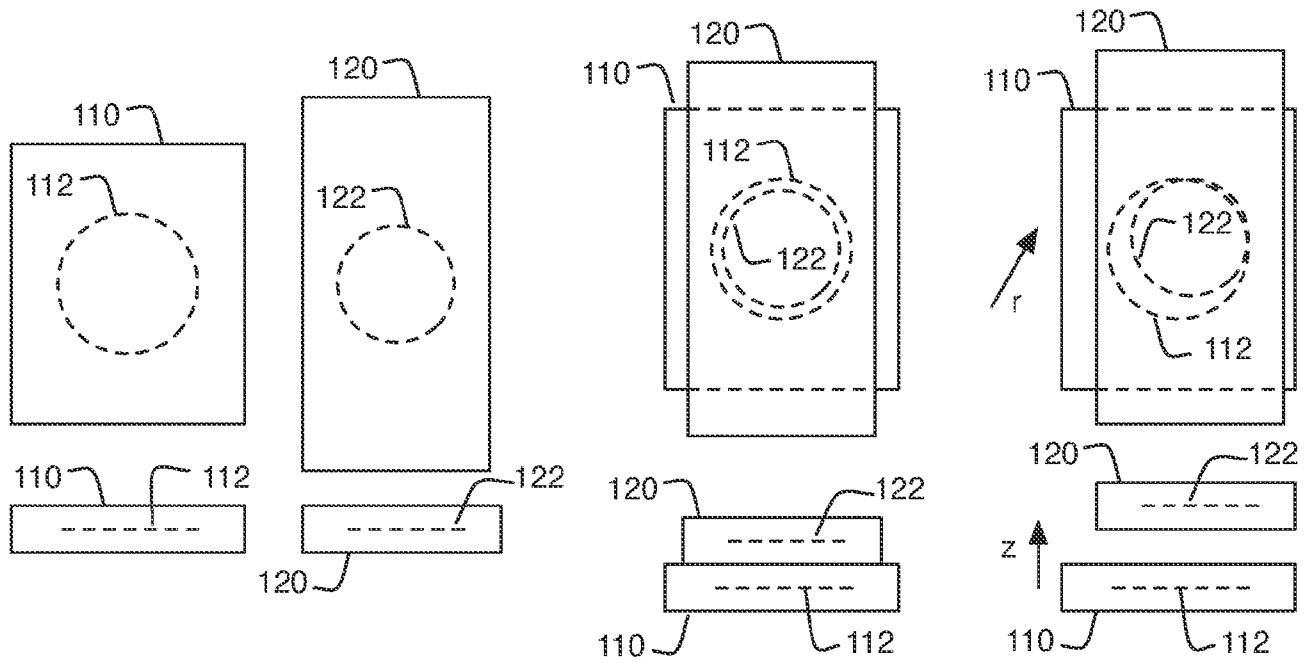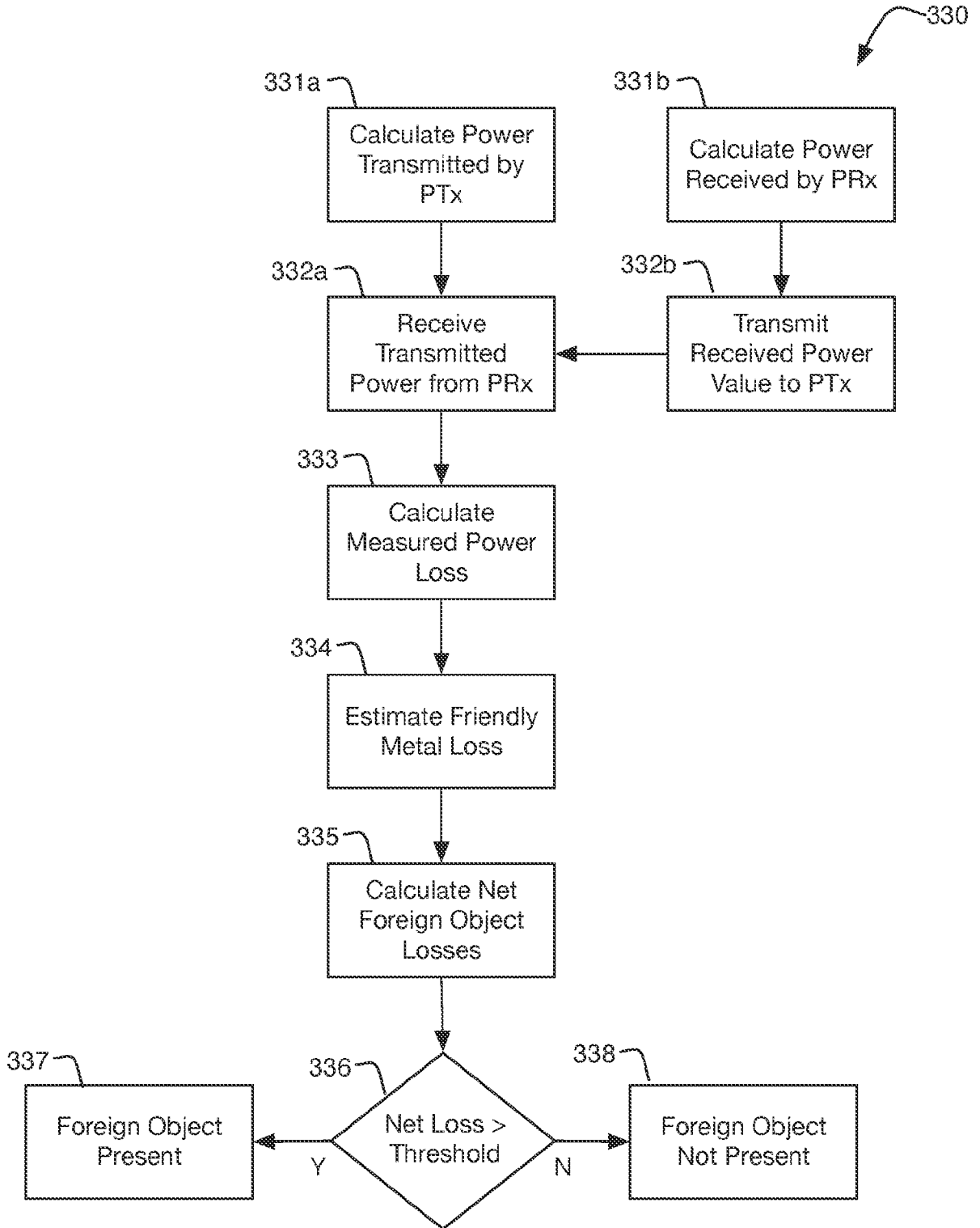
1/3

FIG. 1

FIG. 2A   **FIG. 2B**   **FIG. 2C**

2/3

FIG. 3

441 — Measure Observable Parameters

442b — Receive FM Parameters from PRx

442a — Transmit FM Parameters to PTx

443 — Estimate FM Losses from Observables & Parameters

444 — Provide Estimated FM Losses to FOD System

440

FIG. 4

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. H02J50/12   H02J50/60   H02J50/80
ADD.

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

H02J

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2019/068001 A1 (LOVAS IVAN [SK] ET AL) 28 February 2019 (2019-02-28) abstract; claims; figures 1,2,3,4 paragraphs [0003], [0010], [0011], [0013] - [0016], [0019] - [0021], [0026], [0027] - [0030], [0043] - [0046], [0050] -----	1-19
A	US 2022/247230 A1 (KIM KYUNGHWAN [KR] ET AL) 4 August 2022 (2022-08-04) abstract; claim 1; figures 1,2,4 paragraphs [0091] - [0095], [0106], [0119] - [0120], [0152] -----	1-19
A	US 2019/349028 A1 (LOUIS JEFFREY DOUGLAS [NZ]) 14 November 2019 (2019-11-14) abstract; claims; figures paragraph [0145] - paragraph [0157] -----	1-19

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.   ☒ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance;; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance;; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
3 January 2024	22/01/2024

Name and mailing address of the ISA/	Authorized officer
European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Rother, Stefan

1

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
US 2019068001	A1	28-02-2019	CN	109428404 A	05-03-2019
			EP	3451491 A1	06-03-2019
			US	2019068001 A1	28-02-2019
US 2022247230	A1	04-08-2022	US	2022247230 A1	04-08-2022
			WO	2021020833 A1	04-02-2021
US 2019349028	A1	14-11-2019	AU	2017248083 A1	11-10-2018
			AU	2020202550 A1	07-05-2020
			AU	2021200565 A1	04-03-2021
			CN	109496380 A	19-03-2019
			DE	112017001839 T5	27-12-2018
			JP	6700470 B2	27-05-2020
			JP	2019520028 A	11-07-2019
			JP	2020129961 A	27-08-2020
			KR	20180124103 A	20-11-2018
			KR	20200063268 A	04-06-2020
			US	2019028148 A1	24-01-2019
			US	2019349028 A1	14-11-2019
			WO	2017176128 A1	12-10-2017