

Fault-Tolerant Wireless Power Transfer System With a Dual-Coupled LCC-S Topology

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Abstract—A dual-coupled inductor-capacitor-capacitor and series (LCC-S) compensated wireless power transfer (WPT) system with a compact receiver size is proposed in this paper to improve the misalignment performance and achieve fault tolerant operation as well as a stable output power. The compensation coil and the main coil are integrated as two decoupled unipolar coils on the transmitter side, while they are both coupled with the receiver coil. The two mutual inductances among the two decoupled coils and the receiver coil have opposite impacts on the output power when they both increase or decrease. Therefore, the output power can remain stable when the misalignment increases. The short- and open-circuit characteristics are analyzed, which demonstrates that the proposed topology can achieve both short- and open-circuit protection. A prototype was built and the experimental results verified the theoretical analysis and simulations. The system can deliver from 297 W to 321 W when the x-misalignment increases from 0 mm to 90 mm, with a dc-dc efficiency of 92.78% to 93.56%. The proposed WPT system can be used for the wireless charging of e-mobility scooters and autonomous underwater vehicles. The system can provide a stable output and can tolerate both short- and open-circuit faults at the output.

Index Terms—Wireless power transfer, stable output power, fault tolerant, decoupled, LCC-S.

I. INTRODUCTION

WIRELESS power transfer (WPT) is widely used in diverse scenarios [1]–[4], such as electric vehicles (EVs), ranging from heavy buses to light electric bicycles. The research

focus covers the power electronics converters, coil optimization [5], compensation topologies [6]–[8], foreign object detection [9], and safety issues [10]. Among these fields, the compensation topologies are crucial to increase the overall efficiency and minimize the volt-ampere (VA) rating of the power electronics converters by using additional inductors and capacitors to adjust the reactive power. However, the additional components increase the size, weight, and cost of the system. Therefore, the number of additional components should be as few as possible, especially for the receiver side.

The series-series (SS) topology is widely utilized due to its simplicity and constant-current output characteristic, which is good for the charging current control. In addition, the resonant frequency is independent of the coupling coefficient and the load, which is advantageous for wireless charging [11], [12]. However, the output power is inversely proportional to the coupling coefficient between the transmitter and the receiver, which results in primary-side overcurrent under the misaligned case. Also, overcurrent will happen for the SS topology with the open-circuit fault. The double-sided inductor-capacitor-capacitor (LCC-LCC) topology with its tuning method was proposed to achieve zero voltage switching (ZVS) for the switches of the primary inverter [13]. The output power of the LCC-LCC compensation topology is proportional to the coupling coefficient, which will protect the circuit during the misalignments. However, two inductors and four capacitors are introduced into the matching circuit, leading to a high cost and a large size. Moreover, the output power will decrease when the misalignment increases. The LCC-LCC topology is also not tolerant to the open-circuit fault due to its constant-current output characteristic.

In the LCC-compensated WPT systems, the compensation inductors can be integrated with the main coils, achieving a compact magnetic coupler. A method that integrated the unipolar compensation coil into the double-D (DD) main coil was proposed, realizing a compact system size and eliminating the extra coupling [14]. An integrated LCC-LCC topology was also presented to analyze the three operation modes based on the steady-state model [15].

The misalignment issue in a WPT system has been extensively studied. A WPT system with a series transmitter coil was proposed to improve the horizontal misalignment tolerance [16]. A three-phase WPT system was proposed to improve the performance during the rotational misalignment of the automatic underwater vehicle [17]. A hybrid WPT system that

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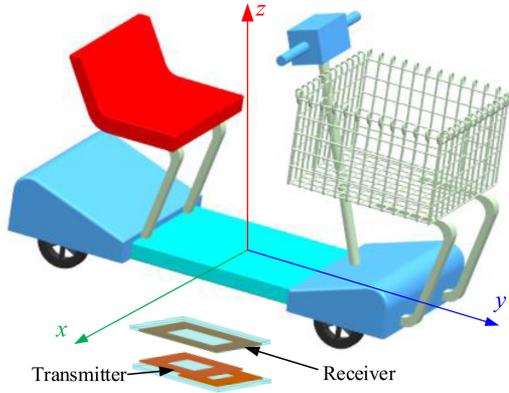


Fig. 1. General overview of the WPT system for mobility scooters.

used a combination of SS and LCC-LCC resonant networks was proposed to realize a constant charging profile over a wide range of pad misalignment [18]. Furthermore, they proposed another series-hybrid WPT system which integrated the SS and LCL networks into polarized magnetic couplers to improve the misalignment tolerance [19]. Moreover, a WPT system with the LCC-LCC compensation topology was proposed with integrated dual-coupled magnetic coupler to improve the misalignment performance [20]. However, too many passive components were introduced into the receiver side, which resulted in a high cost and a large size.

In this paper, we aim to charge mobility scooters, as shown in Fig. 1. The rated charging voltage is 48 V, and the ground clearance is around 80 mm. It is convenient to move the mobility scooters in y direction while it is difficult to shift in x direction. Therefore, we focus on solving the issue of x -misalignment. The dual-coupled inductor-capacitor-capacitor and series (LCC-S) compensated WPT system is proposed to make the receiver side more compact while maintaining a constant output profile when the misalignment increases. In addition, the dual-coupled LCC-S-compensated WPT system can achieve freedom from short- and open-circuit faults. The analytical model is established to analyze the system characteristics. A prototype was built to verify the analysis. Moreover, with proper coil design, the dual-coupled LCC-S-compensated WPT system can also be applied to autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs).

II. THEORETICAL ANALYSIS

A. Modeling and Derivations

The circuit topology of the proposed WPT system is depicted in Fig. 2, where the dual-coupled LCC-S topology is proposed to keep the output power constant and be free from open- and short-circuit faults. L_1 (L_2) is the transmitter (receiver) inductance, C_1 (C_2) is the series compensation capacitance, C_f is the parallel compensation capacitance, L_f is the compensation inductance, U_{bus} (U_{bat}) is the inverter dc (battery) voltage, U_1 (U_2) is the inverter (rectifier) ac voltage, I_f is the inverter ac current, I_1 (I_2) is the transmitter (receiver) current, and M_{f2} (M_{12}) is the mutual inductance between L_f (L_1) and L_2 .

L_1 and L_f are designed to be decoupled and the mutual inductance between them is zero. L_f and L_2 are under different dotted

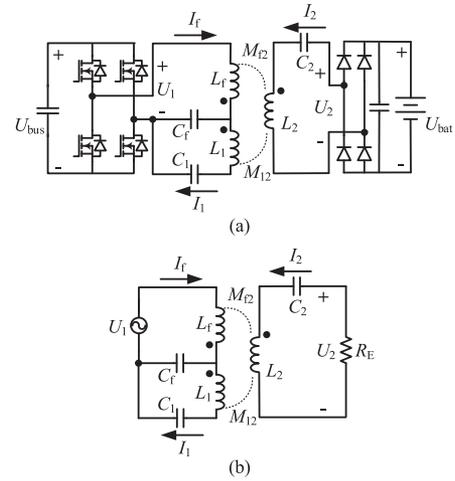


Fig. 2. The dual-coupled LCC-S-compensated WPT system. (a) Topology. (b) Equivalent circuit.

terminals and L_1 and L_2 are under the same dotted terminals. Based on the Kirchhoff's law, the equations of the equivalent circuit can be expressed as

$$\begin{bmatrix} j\omega L_f + \frac{1}{j\omega C_f} & -\frac{1}{j\omega C_f} & -j\omega M_{f2} \\ -\frac{1}{j\omega C_f} & j\omega L_1 + \frac{1}{j\omega C_1} + \frac{1}{j\omega C_f} & j\omega M_{12} \\ -j\omega M_{f2} & j\omega M_{12} & j\omega L_2 + \frac{1}{j\omega C_2} + R_E \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} I_f \\ I_1 \\ I_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} U_1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (1)$$

where ω is the operating frequency and R_E denotes the equivalent resistance seen before the rectifier. According to [21], R_E is defined as

$$R_E = \frac{\pi^2}{8} R_L \quad (2)$$

where R_L is the equivalent resistance of the battery. The input impedance Z_{in} is calculated as

$$Z_{\text{in}} = \frac{U_1}{I_f} \quad (3)$$

With the given parameters of $U_{\text{bus}} = 150$ V, $L_1 = 120.1$ μH , $L_f = 63.0$ μH , $L_2 = 88.4$ μH , $C_f = 55.9$ nF, $C_1 = 62.1$ nF, $C_2 = 40.1$ nF, $M_{f2} = 15.7$ μH , $M_{12} = 38.8$ μH , the calculated input impedance angle varying with the operating frequency under different load conditions is shown in Fig. 3. It can be seen that the input impedance angle is positive when the operating frequency is from 80 kHz to 88 kHz, which indicates that ZVS is achieved in this frequency range under different loads.

The resonant relationship is expressed as

$$\begin{aligned} j\omega_0 L_f + \frac{1}{j\omega_0 C_f} &= 0, & j\omega_0 L_1 + \frac{1}{j\omega_0 C_1} + \frac{1}{j\omega_0 C_f} &= 0, \\ j\omega_0 L_2 + \frac{1}{j\omega_0 C_2} &= 0 \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

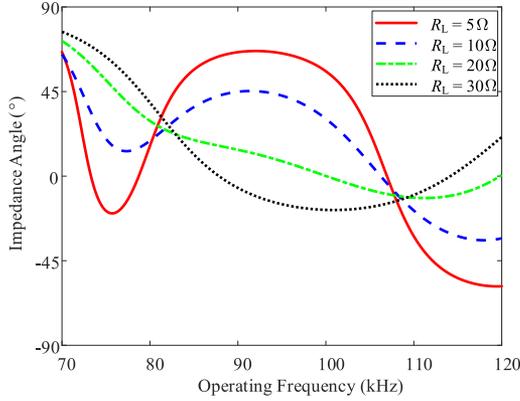


Fig. 3. The input impedance angle varying with operating frequency under different loads.

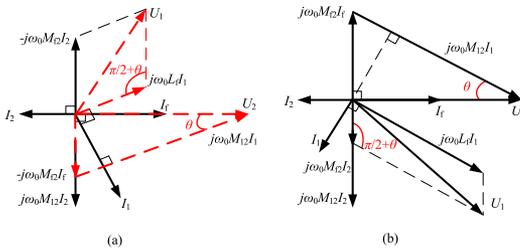


Fig. 4. Phasor diagram. (a) Different dotted terminals of L_f and L_2 used in this paper for achieving ZVS. (b) The same dotted terminals of L_f and L_2 for achieving ZCS.

where ω_0 is the resonant angular frequency. By substituting (4) into (1), it can be simplified as

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & j\omega_0 L_f & -j\omega_0 M_{f2} \\ j\omega_0 L_f & 0 & j\omega_0 M_{12} \\ -j\omega_0 M_{f2} & j\omega_0 M_{12} & 0 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} I_f \\ I_1 \\ I_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} U_1 \\ 0 \\ U_2 \end{bmatrix} \quad (5)$$

Therefore, the relationship of I_f and I_2 can be expressed as

$$I_f = -\frac{M_{12}}{L_f} I_2 \quad (6)$$

The phase differences of the currents and voltages are unknown. Based on the defined directions in Fig. 2, the phasor diagram of all the ac currents and voltages is plotted in Fig. 4(a). It can be seen that U_1 leads I_f , which indicates that ZVS is achieved inherently. θ is a defined angle in the right triangle in Fig. 4(a). Zero current switching (ZCS) can also be realized easily by inversely connecting L_f and L_1 , as shown in Fig. 4(b).

Based on the Pythagorean theorem and law of cosines in the triangles in Fig. 4(a), the following equations can be obtained.

$$I_1^2 = \frac{U_2^2 + (\omega_0 M_{12} I_f)^2}{(\omega_0 M_{12})^2} \quad (7)$$

$$U_1^2 = (\omega_0 M_{f2} I_2)^2 + (\omega_0 L_f I_1)^2 - 2(\omega_0 M_{f2} I_2)(\omega_0 L_f I_1) \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{2} + \theta\right) \quad (8)$$

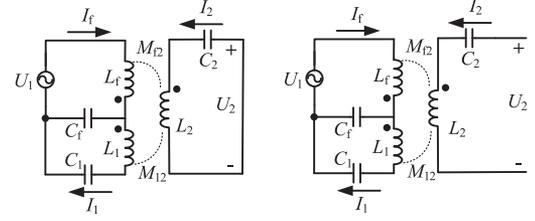


Fig. 5. Equivalent circuit. (a) Short-circuit condition. (b) Open-circuit condition.

Based on (6)–(8), I_f , I_1 , and I_2 can be calculated as

$$\begin{cases} I_f = \frac{1}{2\omega_0 M_{f2}} \sqrt{\frac{M_{f2}^2}{L_f^2} U_1^2 - U_2^2} \\ I_1 = \frac{1}{2\omega_0 M_{12}} \sqrt{\frac{M_{f2}^2}{L_f^2} U_1^2 + 3U_2^2} \\ I_2 = \frac{1}{2\omega_0 M_{f2}} \sqrt{U_1^2 - \frac{L_f^2}{M_{f2}^2} U_2^2} \end{cases} \quad (9)$$

With the Fourier Decomposition, U_1 and U_2 can be obtained as

$$U_1 = \frac{2\sqrt{2}}{\pi} U_{\text{bus}}, U_2 = \frac{2\sqrt{2}}{\pi} U_{\text{bat}} \quad (10)$$

The output power can be calculated as

$$P_{\text{out}} = U_2 I_2 = \frac{4U_{\text{bat}}}{\pi^2 \omega_0 M_{f2}} \sqrt{U_{\text{bus}}^2 - \frac{L_f^2}{M_{f2}^2} U_{\text{bat}}^2} \quad (11)$$

It can be seen that M_{f2} and M_{12} have opposite impacts on P_{out} when M_{f2} and M_{12} both increase or decrease. Therefore, the output power can remain stable when the misalignment occurs.

The transfer efficiency η can be expressed as

$$\eta = \frac{P_{\text{out}}}{P_{\text{out}} + I_f^2 R_1 + I_2^2 R_2 + I_f^2 R_{L_f}} \quad (12)$$

where R_1 , and R_2 denote the equivalent resistances of the transmitter and receiver and R_{L_f} represents the equivalent resistance of the compensation coil.

B. Short- and Open-Circuit Analysis

For the proposed dual-coupled LCC-S topology, it can be seen from (9) that I_2 and U_2 are coupled with each other, both dependent on U_1 , which indicates that it is neither a constant-current nor a constant-voltage output. For the short-circuit fault shown in Fig. 5(a), at the steady state, $U_{2_SC} = 0$ V. Substituting $U_{2_SC} = 0$ V into (9) gives the short-circuit currents.

$$I_{f_SC} = \frac{M_{12} U_1}{2\omega_0 L_f M_{f2}}, I_{1_SC} = \frac{U_1}{2\omega_0 L_f}, I_{2_SC} = \frac{U_1}{2\omega_0 M_{f2}} \quad (13)$$

The subscript SC stands for short-circuit. It can be noted that the short-circuit currents are within endurable values, which indicates that the WPT system is free from the short-circuit fault.

For the open-circuit fault shown in Fig. 5(b), I_{2_OC} equals zero and L_1 , C_1 , and C_f form a parallel resonant circuit, which

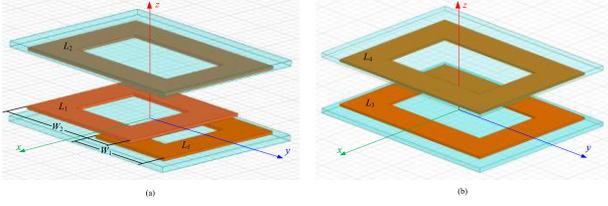


Fig. 6. (a) Proposed coil structure for dual-coupled LCC-S structure. (b) Coil structure for single-coupled LCC-S, SS, and LCC-LCC topologies.

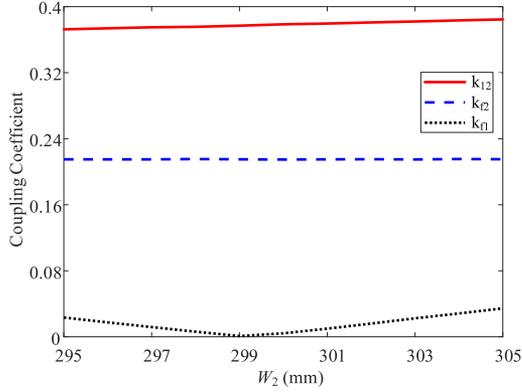


Fig. 7. Coupling coefficient versus W_2 .

means I_{f_OC} is very small in this condition. Meanwhile, L_f resonates with C_f , so I_{1_OC} can be calculated as

$$I_{1_OC} = \frac{U_1}{\omega_0 L_f} \quad (14)$$

U_{2_OC} equals the induced voltage on the receiver coil, which can be expressed as

$$U_{2_OC} = \frac{M_{12} U_1}{L_f} \quad (15)$$

The subscript OC represents open-circuit. It can be seen that there is neither overcurrent nor overvoltage with the short- and open-circuit faults for the proposed WPT system. Therefore, the proposed dual-coupled LCC-S topology can achieve both short-circuit and open-circuit protection with no complex control method, which is helpful in the practical applications.

III. TOPOLOGY COMPARISON

A. Coil Design

The proposed coil structure for the dual-coupled LCC-S topology is shown in Fig. 6(a), where two decoupled unipolar coils are adopted in the transmitter side, one is L_f and the other is L_1 . W_1 stands for the width of L_f and W_2 denotes the width of L_1 . We fix W_1 at 200 mm and adjust W_2 to find the decoupled point. In the practical application of charging mobility scooters, it is convenient to move in y direction while it is difficult to shift in x direction. Therefore, we focus on solving the issue of the x -misalignment. Fig. 7 shows the coupling coefficient

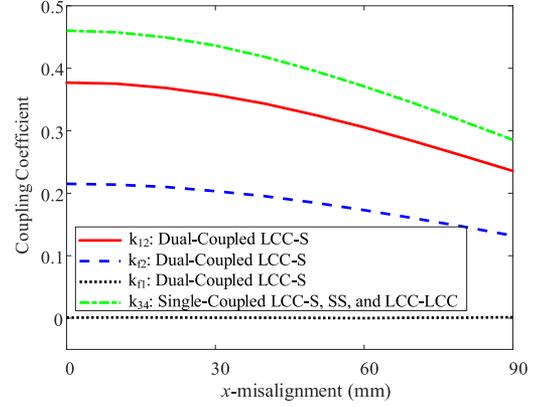


Fig. 8. Coupling coefficients varying with the x -misalignment.

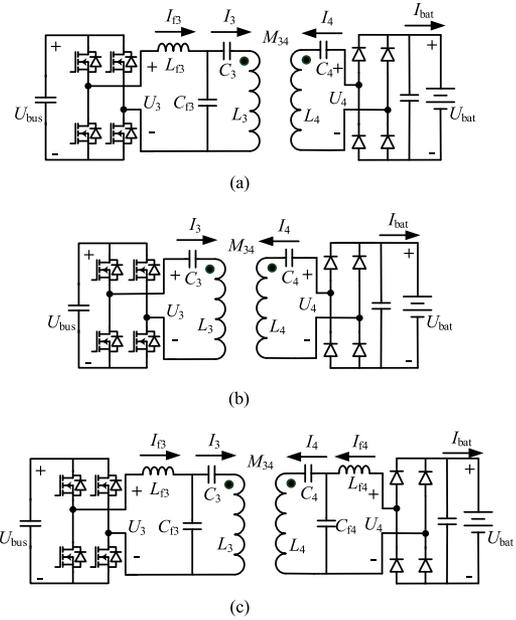


Fig. 9. Three topologies. (a) Single-coupled LCC-S. (b) SS. (c) LCC-LCC.

varying with the increasing W_2 . It can be seen that L_f and L_1 are decoupled when W_2 equals 299 mm.

Fig. 6(b) shows the coil structure for single-coupled LCC-S, SS, and LCC-LCC topologies, where the transmitter and receiver coils are the same as the receiver coil of the proposed coil structure. L_3 (L_4) is the self-inductance of the transmitter (receiver). W_2 is fixed at 299 mm to achieve decoupled L_f and L_1 . The coupling coefficients of the two structures are shown in Fig. 8. It indicates that the coupling coefficients between the transmitter side and the receiver side of the two structures both have a 38% decrease. For the proposed dual-coupled structure, the coupling coefficient between L_f and L_1 is small enough to be neglected.

B. Output Power

The single-coupled LCC-S, SS, and LCC-LCC topologies are shown in Fig. 9. C_3 (C_4) is the series compensation capacitance,

C_{f3} is the parallel compensation capacitance, L_{f3} (L_{f4}) is the compensation inductance, U_3 (U_4) is the inverter (rectifier) ac voltage, I_{f3} (I_{f4}) is the inverter (rectifier) ac current, I_3 (I_4) is the transmitter (receiver) current, I_{bat} is the battery current, and M_{34} is the mutual inductance between L_3 and L_4 .

For the single-coupled LCC-S topology shown in Fig. 9(a), U_4 at resonance can be calculated as

$$U_4 = \frac{M_{34}U_3}{L_{f3}} \quad (16)$$

It can be seen that the single-coupled LCC-S topology has a constant-voltage output. When the battery current is I_{bat} , the output power is

$$P_{out_LCC-S} = \frac{8M_{34}U_{bus}I_{bat}}{\pi^2 L_{f3}} \quad (17)$$

The output power is proportional to the coupling and it will have a power decrease when the misalignment occurs.

For the SS topology shown in Fig. 9(b), the rectifier ac current at resonance is

$$I_4 = \frac{U_3}{\omega_0 M_{34}} \quad (18)$$

The SS topology has a constant-current output. The output power can be expressed as

$$P_{out_SS} = \frac{8U_{bus}U_{bat}}{\pi^2 \omega_0 M_{34}} \quad (19)$$

It can be seen that the output power of the SS topology is inversely proportional to the coupling.

For the LCC-LCC topology shown in Fig. 9(c), the rectifier ac current at resonance is

$$I_{f4} = \frac{M_{34}U_3}{\omega_0 L_{f3} L_{f4}} \quad (20)$$

The LCC-LCC topology also has a constant-current output. The output power at resonance is

$$P_{out_LCC-LCC} = \frac{8M_{34}U_{bus}U_{bat}}{\pi^2 \omega_0 L_{f3} L_{f4}} \quad (21)$$

It can be noted that the output power of the LCC-LCC topology is proportional to the coupling.

The normalized output power of the proposed dual-coupled LCC-S, single-coupled LCC-S, SS, and LCC-LCC topologies varying with the x -misalignment is shown in Fig. 10. It can be seen that when the x -misalignment increases from 0 mm to 90 mm, the output power of the SS topology increases by 61%. The output power of the LCC-LCC topology and the single-coupled LCC-S has the same trend and both decreases by 38%. In comparison, the output power of the proposed dual-coupled LCC-S topology remains stable, which is superior to the other three topologies.

C. Short- and Open-Circuit Analysis

The single-coupled LCC-S topology has a constant-voltage output. For the short-circuit fault, U_4 will remain stable, resulting in overcurrent in the secondary circuit, which requires very large I_{f3} to supply power. Therefore, the inverter and the rectifier

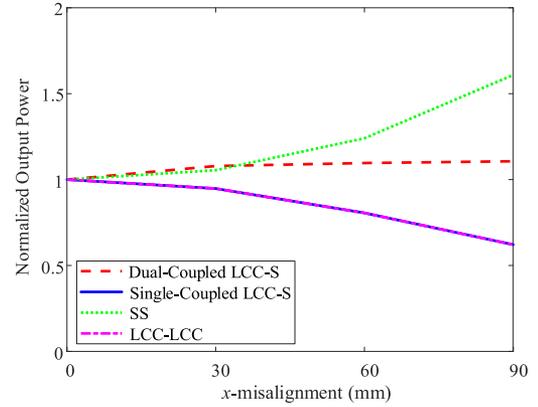


Fig. 10. Normalized output power versus the x -misalignment of the four topologies.

TABLE I
COMPARISON OF DIFFERENT TOPOLOGIES

Topology	Dual-coupled LCC-S	Single-coupled LCC-S	SS	LCC-LCC
Constant Power	✓			
Open-circuit protection	✓	✓		
Short-circuit protection	✓		✓	✓
Number of components	✓	✓	✓✓	

will be damaged. While for the open-circuit fault, the I_4 and I_{f3} are zero, and I_3 remains constant, and the circuit can be protected in this condition.

The SS topology has a constant-current output. For the short-circuit fault, I_4 will not change for the constant-current output characteristic, while I_3 will be very small considering the equivalent resistances of the coils, which can protect the circuit from overcurrent. However, for the open-circuit fault, I_4 is zero, resulting in overcurrent in the primary circuit.

The LCC-LCC topology also has a constant-current output. For the short-circuit fault, I_{f3} and I_4 will be zero, while the I_3 and I_{f4} remain stable due to the constant-current characteristic, which are advantageous for the circuit. However, for the open-circuit fault, I_{f4} is zero, and I_{f3} and I_4 will be very large, leading to a large voltage on C_{f4} , which will cause overvoltage in the rectifier [15].

The comparison of the dual-coupled LCC-S, single-coupled LCC-S, SS, and LCC-LCC topologies is listed in Table I. It can be seen that the proposed dual-coupled LCC-S topology can remain the constant output power during the misalignment; moreover, there is neither overcurrent nor overvoltage under the open- and short-circuit faults. Therefore, the proposed dual-coupled LCC-S topology can achieve both short-circuit and open-circuit protection with no complex control method, which is helpful in the practical applications.

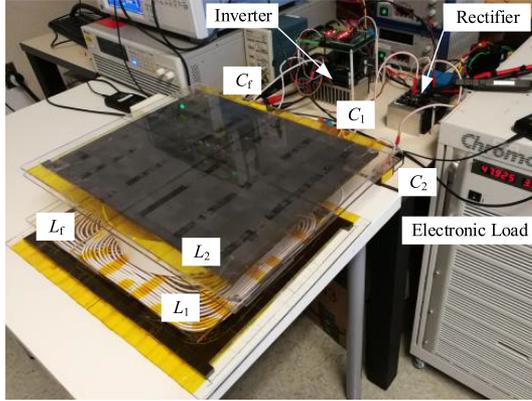


Fig. 11. Experimental prototype.

 TABLE II
 SYSTEM SPECIFICATIONS AND CIRCUIT PARAMETERS

U_{bus}	U_{bat}	L_f	L_1	L_2	M_{11}
150V	48V	63.0 μ H	120.1 μ H	88.4 μ H	0.5 μ H
M_{12}	M_{12}	C_f	C_1	C_2	f_0
15.7 μ H	38.8 μ H	55.9nF	62.1nF	40.1nF	84.6kHz

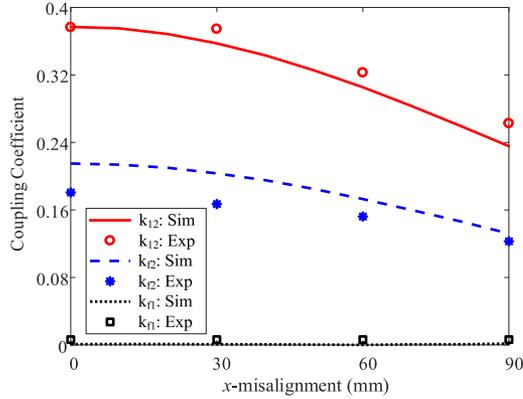
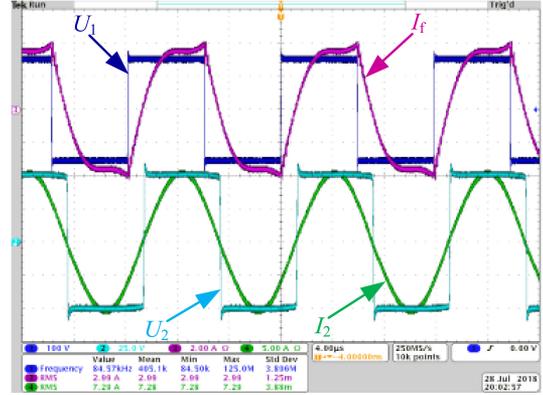
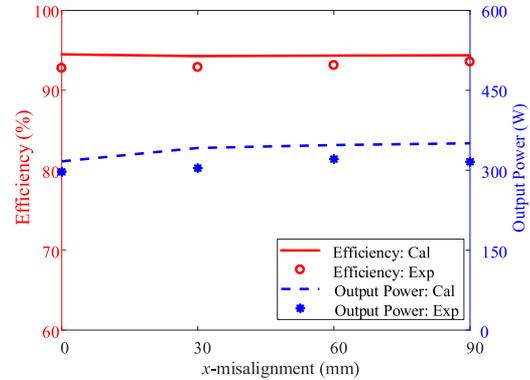


Fig. 12. Simulated and measured coupling coefficients.

IV. EXPERIMENTAL VERIFICATION

A prototype based on the proposed dual-coupled LCC-S topology is implemented, shown in Fig. 11. The system specifications and the circuit parameters with no misalignment are listed in Table II. The total outer dimension of L_f and L_1 is the same as L_2 . The coils are all composed of American Wire Gauge (AWG) 38 Litz wires with 3.9 mm diameter. L_f has 12 turns, L_1 has 14 turns, and L_2 has 10 turns. The gap between the transmitter and the receiver is 80 mm. In the experiments, the x -misalignment is adjusted from 0 mm to 90 mm.

Fig. 12 shows the simulated and measured coupling coefficients varying with the x -misalignment. The coupling becomes


 Fig. 13. Voltage and current waveforms when $U_{bus} = 150$ V and $U_{bat} = 48$ V.

 Fig. 14. DC-DC efficiency and output power versus the x -misalignment.

weaker with the increasing misalignments. The measured coupling coefficients match the simulated ones well. The discrepancies between the measurements and the simulations may be caused by the parameter inaccuracy.

The experimental voltage and current waveforms are shown in Fig. 13. It can be seen that ZVS is achieved, which verifies the analysis in Section II-A, Fig. 4(a). The dc-dc efficiency and the output power varying with the x -misalignment are shown in Fig. 14. The efficiency and the output power remain relatively stable with the increasing x -misalignment. The experimental results are slightly lower than the calculated ones. It is because the switching loss of the inverter and the resistances of the compensation capacitors are not considered in the calculation. The system can deliver 297 W to 321 W when the x -misalignment increases from 0 mm to 90 mm, with a dc-dc efficiency of 92.78% to 93.56%. The experimental results agree with the calculated ones.

The short- and open-circuit characteristics of the dual-coupled LCC-S topology are shown in Fig. 15. In the short-circuit situation shown in Fig. 15(a), (b), and (c), I_f and I_2 have a small increase and I_1 decreases slightly compared to the rated output, which indicates that the circuit can be protected at the short-circuit condition. In open-circuit situation shown in Fig. 15(d), I_1 has a slight increase compared to the rated output and U_2 remains a reasonable value. The experimental

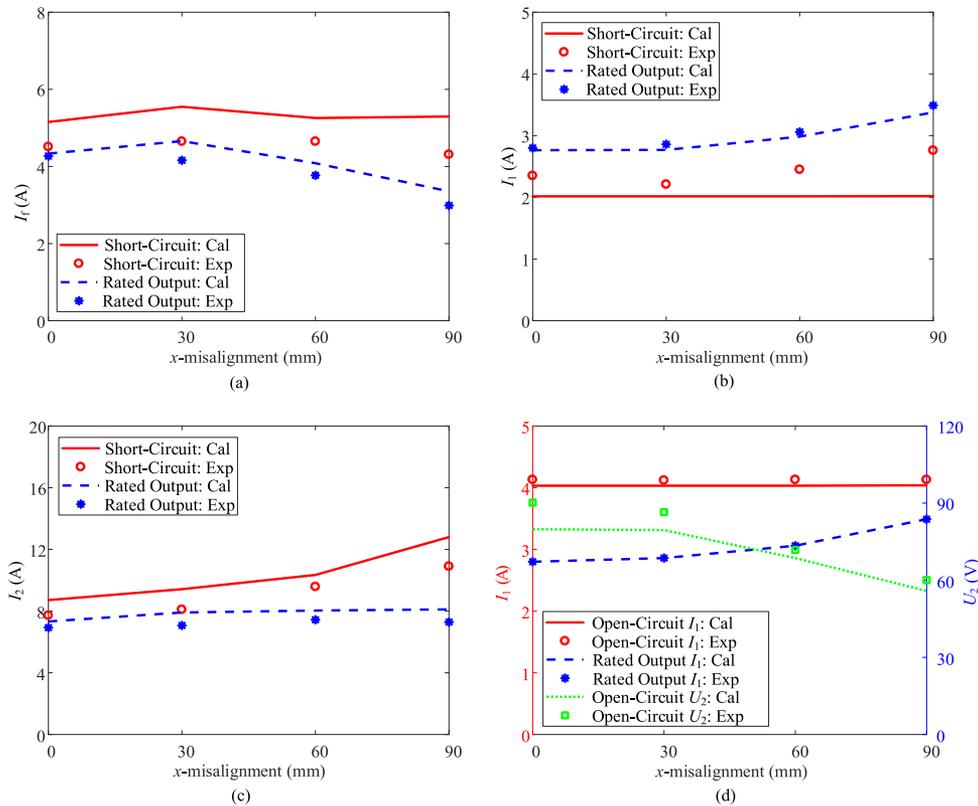


Fig. 15. RMS currents and voltages of different modes. (a) I_f . (b) I_1 . (c) I_2 . (d) I_1 and U_2 .

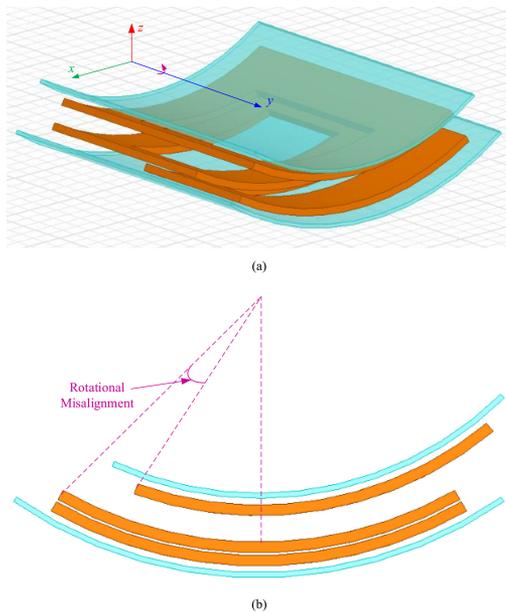


Fig. 16. (a) Proposed coil structure for dual-coupled LCC-S structure. (b) Front view of the coil structure.

results agree with the calculated ones. Therefore, the proposed dual-coupled LCC-S topology can achieve both short-circuit and open-circuit protection with no complex control method, which is helpful in the practical applications.

With proper coil design, the dual-coupled LCC-S-compensated WPT system can also be applied to AUVs, as

shown in Fig. 16(a). The rotational misalignment will appear when the AUV rotates along the y axis caused by the ocean current impact, as shown in Fig. 16(b). Based on the former analysis of the dual-coupled LCC-S-compensated WPT system, the influence caused by the rotational misalignment will be significantly decreased. Therefore, this will help to better design the underwater WPT system for AUVs.

V. CONCLUSION

A dual-coupled LCC-S-compensated WPT system for charging the mobility scooters was proposed. The LCC compensation is adopted in the transmitter side. The compensation coil and the main coil are integrated as two decoupled unipolar coils, while they are both coupled with the receiver coil. The series compensation is used in the receiver side to achieve a compact receiver. The two mutual inductances among the two decoupled coils on the transmitter side and the receiver coil have opposite impacts on the output power when they both increase or decrease. Therefore, the output power can remain stable when the misalignment increases. The short- and open-circuit characteristics have been analyzed, which demonstrates that the proposed topology can achieve both short- and open-circuit protection. A prototype was built and the experimental results verified the theoretical analysis and simulations. The system can deliver 297 W to 321 W when the x -misalignment increases from 0 mm to 90 mm, with a dc-dc efficiency of 92.78% to 93.56%. With proper coil design, the dual-coupled LCC-S-compensated WPT system can also be applied to AUVs.

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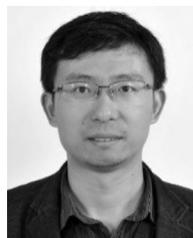
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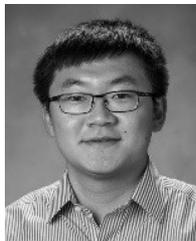
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