**Generalized Model of Modular Two Element Compensated IPT Systems with Common DC-Bus**

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**Abstract**

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In this paper, modular IPT systems which have receiver series/parallel compensation with series/parallel common DC-Bus are investigated. For these systems, power sharing between the receiver modules is vulnerable to system components such as the mutual coupling between the transmitter and the receiver coils. It is also observed that the power sharing is affected by the compensation topologies of the receivers and the type of the electrical connection of common DC-Bus. Therefore, in this study, a mathematical model is presented to reveal the power sharing characteristics in terms of operating frequency and mutual inductance differences of the modules. Then the mathematical model is verified for series compensated, series/parallel connected IPT systems with single transmitter-two receivers, and 5% mean error is achieved.

**Keywords** Wireless power transfer ∙ Inductive power transfer ∙ Modular design, Multiple receiver ∙ Common DC Bus.

**List of Abbreviations**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Operation angular frequency |
|  | Resonant angular frequency |
|  | Compensation capacitor capacitance of the Rx module |
|  | AC current flowing across the Rx module |
|  | AC current flowing across the Tx side IPT coil |
|  | IPT coil inductance of the Rx module |
|  | Mutual inductance between the Tx and Rx module IPT coils |
|  | Output power on the load |
|  | Power of the Rx module |
|  | Quality factor of the Rx module |
|  | Equivalent resistance seen by the inputs of the diode rectifier of Rx module |
|  | Equivalent resistance seen by the inputs of diode rectifier |
|  | AC voltage across at the input of the diode rectifier of the Rx module |
|  | Induced voltage on the Rx module IPT coil |
|  | The impedance of the resonant tank of the Rx module |
|  | Number of Rx modules |

**1 Introduction**

Inductive power transfer (IPT) systems have gained popularity due to developments in semiconductor technologies and an increase in the computational power of micro-controllers. Spatial freedom and cordless design make IPT systems highly consumer-friendly. Moreover, galvanic isolation in IPT systems increases the safety. It has many applications with different power levels ranging from phone chargers [1], and biomedical implants [2] to ultra-fast EV chargers [3].

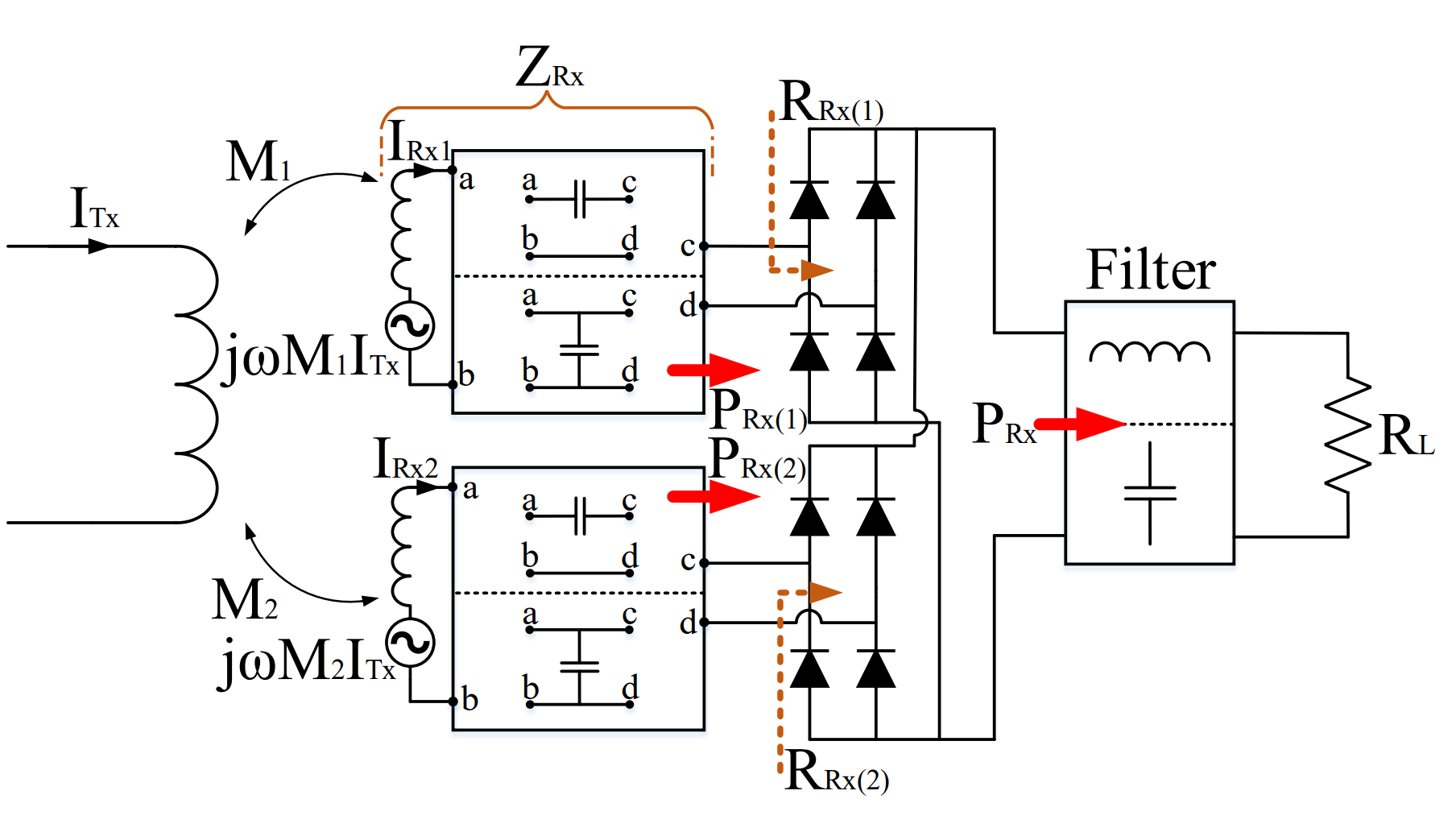
Most conventional IPT systems have DC to AC stage where high-frequency AC current flows from the transmitter (Tx) coil. This varying AC magnetic flux is coupled by the receiver (Rx) coil. Then, the induced voltage is rectified, often employing diode rectifiers. Similar to isolated power converter topologies, the Tx and Rx coils form a magnetic coupling. However, for IPT systems, the windings are loosely coupled making the power factors highly inductive. In order to obtain unity power factor, both Tx and Rx sides should be compensated using either series or parallel connected capacitors. There are four common compensation topologies used in IPT systems named according to the type of connection: series-series (SS), series-parallel (SP), parallel-parallel (PP), parallel-series (PS) [4]. Primary series connection is used with voltage source inputs, whereas the primary parallel connection requires current source input. Similarly, secondary series compensation acts as a voltage source on the output, and secondary parallel compensation provides current source behavior on the output side.

The power rating of an IPT system is determined by the topology and the semiconductor ratings. Series compensation is problematic due to capacitor sizing and voltage rating due to high-frequency AC current [3]. Moreover, as the power rating increases, the operation frequencies usually reduce, which also increases the size of the system. In order to reduce the system size and cost, modular IPT systems are proposed to reduce power ratings of each semiconductor, increase modularity and simplify thermal management. Another advantage of modular systems is selective power transmission where the frequency is varied to control the ratio of power transfer between two different loads [5]. Another advantage of modular Rx coils connected to a common DC-bus is improved misalignment. Ke *et. al* investigate a multi-coil design with a common DC-bus, and propose receiver parallel compensated parallel DC-bus to mitigate misalignment problems [6]. In [7], LCC-LCC compensation is used with parallel connected Rx modules. Multi Tx modules are used to achieve rotational misalignment tolerance. Another LCC-LCC compensation WPT system is proposed in [8]. Two Tx modules and two Rx modules are used for compactness and the outputs of the Rx modules are connected in parallel to achieve high power output. A 10 kW four receiver wireless power transfer system is designed in [9] for dynamic EV charging. Series-series compensation is used in the system and outputs are grouped in pairs, connected in parallel and series which reduces the output fluctuation. In [10], transmitter series, receiver parallel compensation is used with a 7 kW design and the input parallel, output series IPT system is proposed to obtain a high output voltage. In [11], a 6 kW prototype was built using three 2 kW modules, where LCL-T topology is used. The outputs are connected in parallel to achieve redundancy and to increase fault tolerance. A WPT system based on dual transmitters and dual receivers presented in [12] aims to increase the power transfer capability with four transmission paths. Modular design provides lower cost and lower semiconductor ratings and improves the system reliability. Another application combining these two advantages is contactless slip-ring design presented in [13]. 2Tx-4Rx IPT coils are placed around a rotating shaft. The system is series-series compensated, and the outputs of the Rx modules are connected in parallel to a common DC-bus. In [14], a series-series compensated, common DC-bus is used with a middle-stage resonator, to improve the fault tolerance. Although there are many studies about IPT systems with common DC-bus, power-sharing problem of these systems are not much investigated in generalized manner.

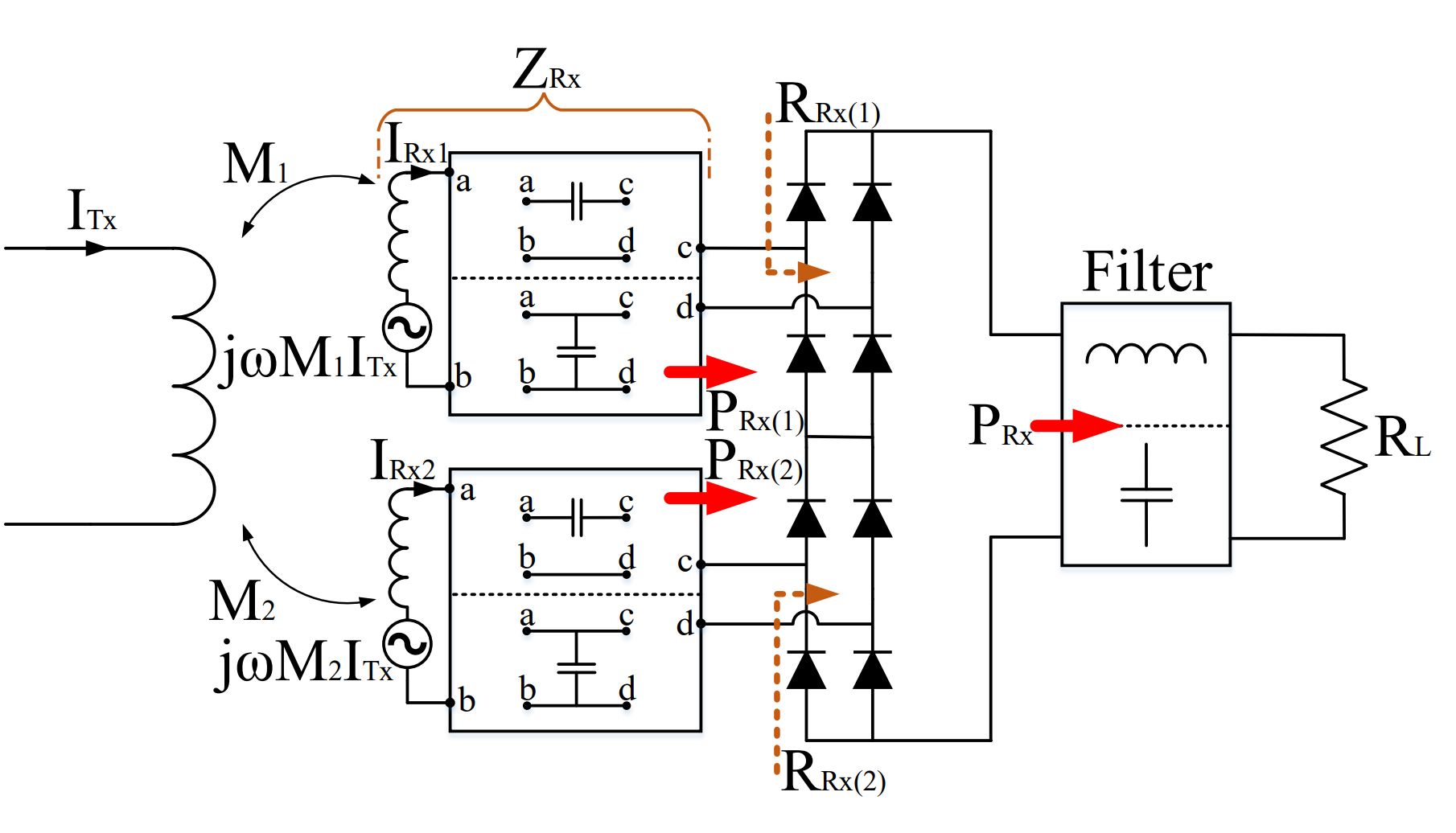
In this paper, common DC-bus systems with series or parallel compensated Rx side modules will be investigated. Firstly, the power-sharing problem will be discussed for series/parallel load-connected common DC-bus systems. Then a generalized analytical model on common DC-bus will be presented. The analytical model, simulations, and experimental results will then be compared.

**2 Common DC-Bus- Compensation Topologies**

The output of the Rx modules can be connected either in series or parallel to form a common DC-Bus on the output side, as presented in Figure 1. Parallel connected modules, as shown in Figure 1a, have the same DC output voltage, and the output current is shared by the modules. This way, less current flows through each Rx module, and the current rating of the semiconductor devices is reduced compared to a single Rx configuration. For series-connected modules as in Figure 1b, DC-Bus voltage is the sum of module output voltages, while the current of each module is the same. Series connection of the modules allows higher voltage levels at the output. Semiconductor voltage ratings are reduced compared to a single Rx system.



**(a)**



**(b)**

**Fig. 1** Common DC-Bus connections: **a** Parallel connection; **b** series connection

In the case of equal magnetic coupling between Tx and each Rx modules, voltage is shared equally for series-connected modules, and current is divided equally for parallel-connected modules. However, when the couplings between Tx and each Rx module are not equal, voltage is not shared equally for series modules, and the current unbalance occurs for parallel modules. Thus, uneven power distribution occurs between Rx modules. Unbalanced power distribution increases the semiconductor stresses and overall system losses which worsens the thermal management.

**3 Mathematical Modelling of Common DC-Bus**

In a multi-Rx system with a common DC-Bus, uneven power distribution stems from unequal reflected module resistances. The reflected resistances of a single-Rx system, having Rx side series and parallel compensation, are given by:

This formulation is derived assuming that the system operates at continuous conduction mode (CCM) [15, 16] and the first harmonic approximation (FHA) is valid.

For the multi-Rx system, if the mutual inductance, resonant circuit elements, and parasitic components of each module are equal to the other, the reflected resistances are distributed as:

However, if the circuit parameters of Rx coils, such as mutual inductance, quality factor, etc., are different, the reflected resistances of modules can differ, which results in the uneven power distribution problem. In this section, the change on the reflected resistances is analytically modeled. Calculations are made considering a system with two modules for ease of analytical derivation, but it can be generalized to a system with N-modules. The IPT coil inductances and compensation capacitances of the modules are assumed to be equal.

The induced voltages of Rx coils depend on the mutual inductance and , and calculated as follows.

According to the electrical connection of Rx's, the current or voltage magnitudes of modules are equal. Therefore, the current of each module is the same for series-connected modules.

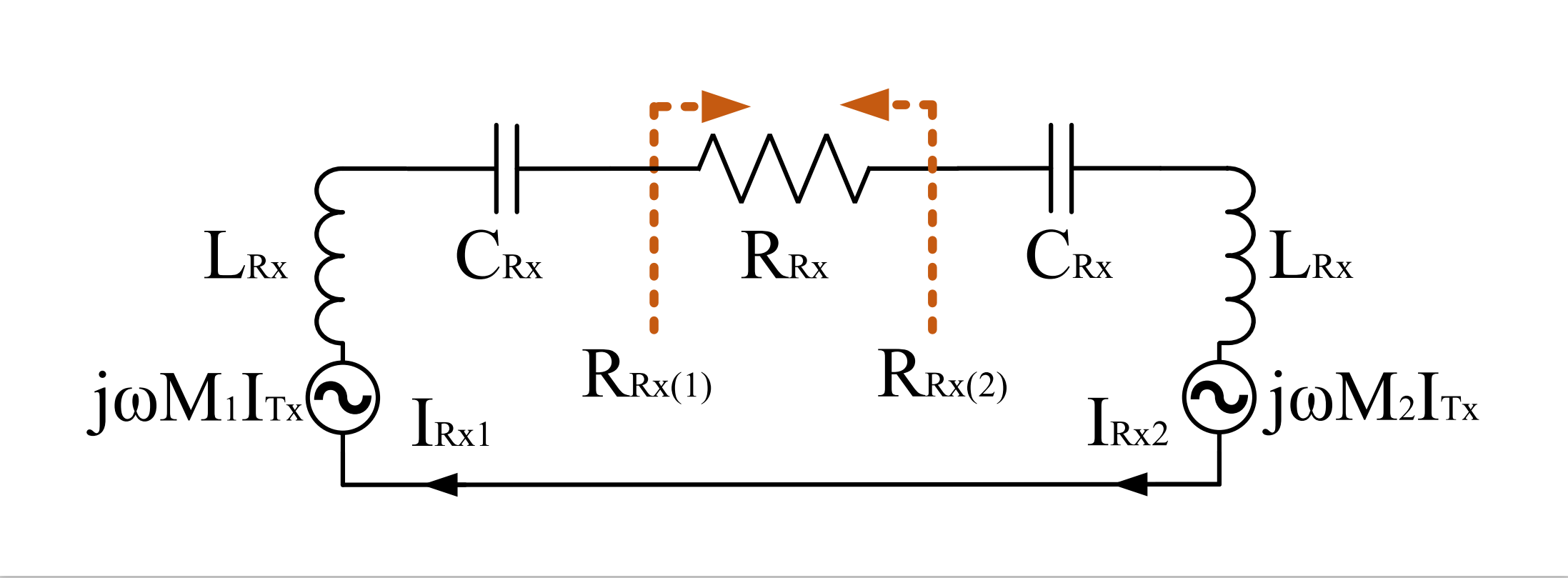
The voltage of each module is the same for parallel-connected modules as presented:

At this point, calculations are presented in four sections, considering the series/parallel compensation with the series/parallel load connection of the modules.

**3.1 Receiver Series (RS) Compensation with Series Modules (SM) Connection**

The frequency-domain lumped circuit of RS-SM is shown in Fig. 2. Assuming that both modules operate simultaneously, the module currents, that are also currents of receiver coils, are equal to each other and given by:

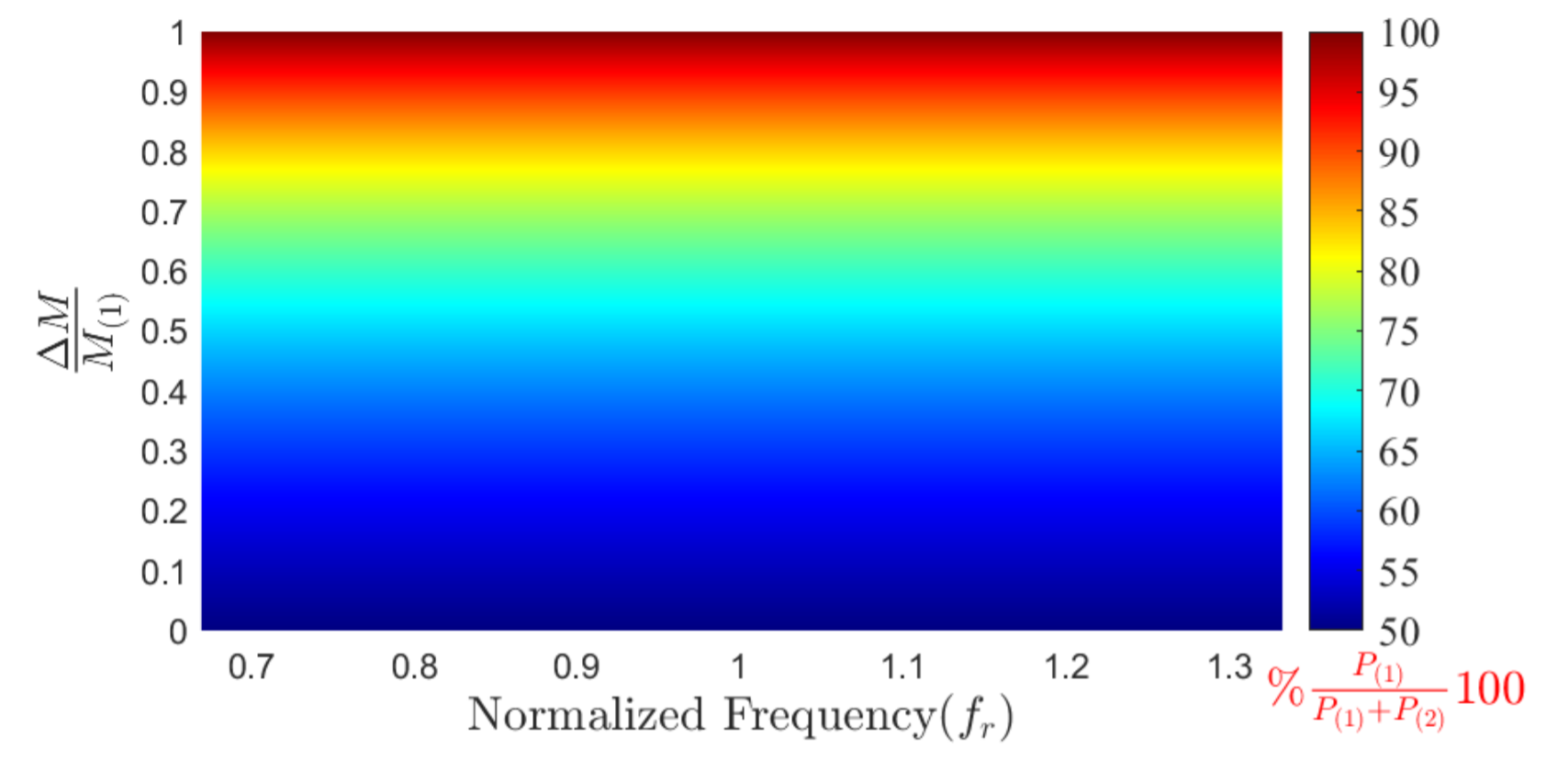
The receiver impedance is defined as:



**Fig. 2** The lumped circuit of series connected modules with receiver series compensation

The reflected resistance for each module is calculated as:

It is observed that the reflected resistances are distributed proportional to the mutual inductance of the modules. Moreover, the power ratio of modules is also proportional to the reflected resistance as the modules share current equally. Therefore, the power distribution of the first module is plotted in Fig. 3 and analytical calculation is given as:



**Fig. 3** The power distribution of one module for series compensated series modules in terms of different frequencies and mutual differences

Although the uneven power distribution stems from the mutual inductance difference, it is also influenced by the operating frequency. Therefore, the power distribution should be given in terms of both mutual inductance difference and operating frequency.

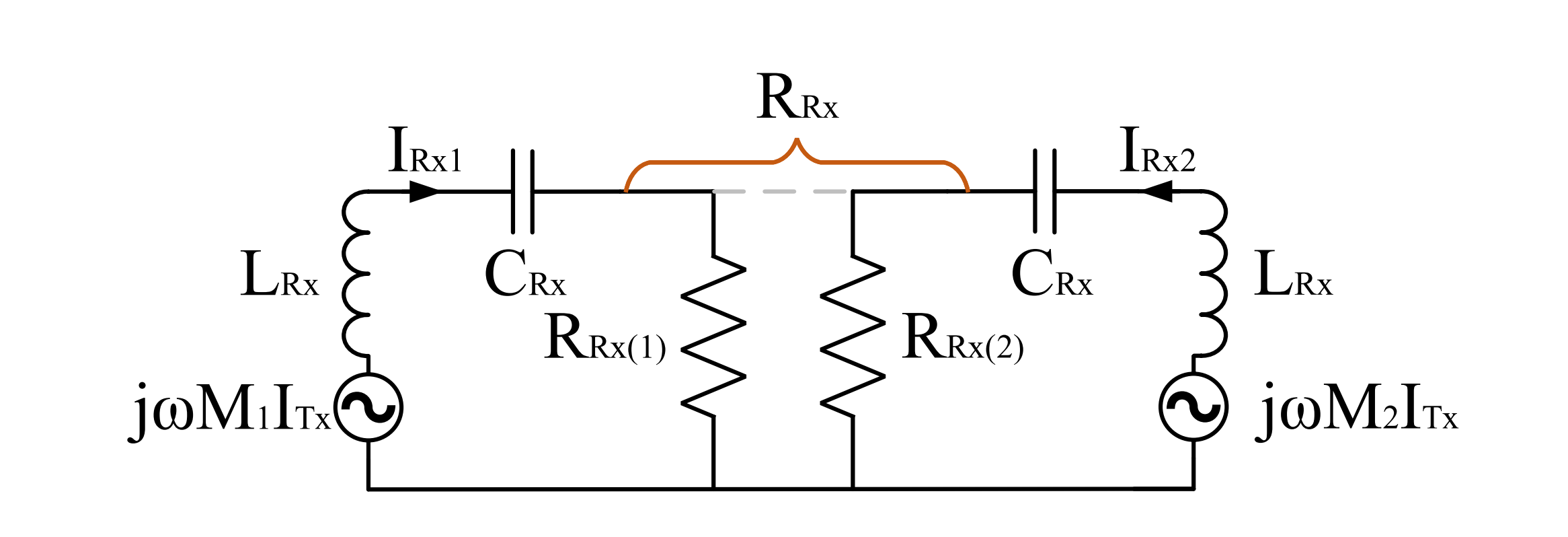
For Fig. 3, the horizontal axis shows the operating frequency normalized by resonant frequency, and the vertical axis shows the normalized mutual inductance difference. The colormap shows the power ratio of one module to the total power. Thus, while 100 percent means that only one module transfers power, 50 percent shows that the modules share the power equally.

**3.2 Receiver Series (RS) Compensation with Parallel Modules (PM) Connection**

In Fig. 4 the lumped circuit of RS-PM is presented. For parallel-connected modules, the sum of the reflected conductance of modules gives the complete reflected conductance as:

The module's voltages are equal for the system, and they are calculated as:

The is the same as RS-SM, as given in (7).



**Fig. 4** The lumped circuit of parallel connected modules with receiver series compensation

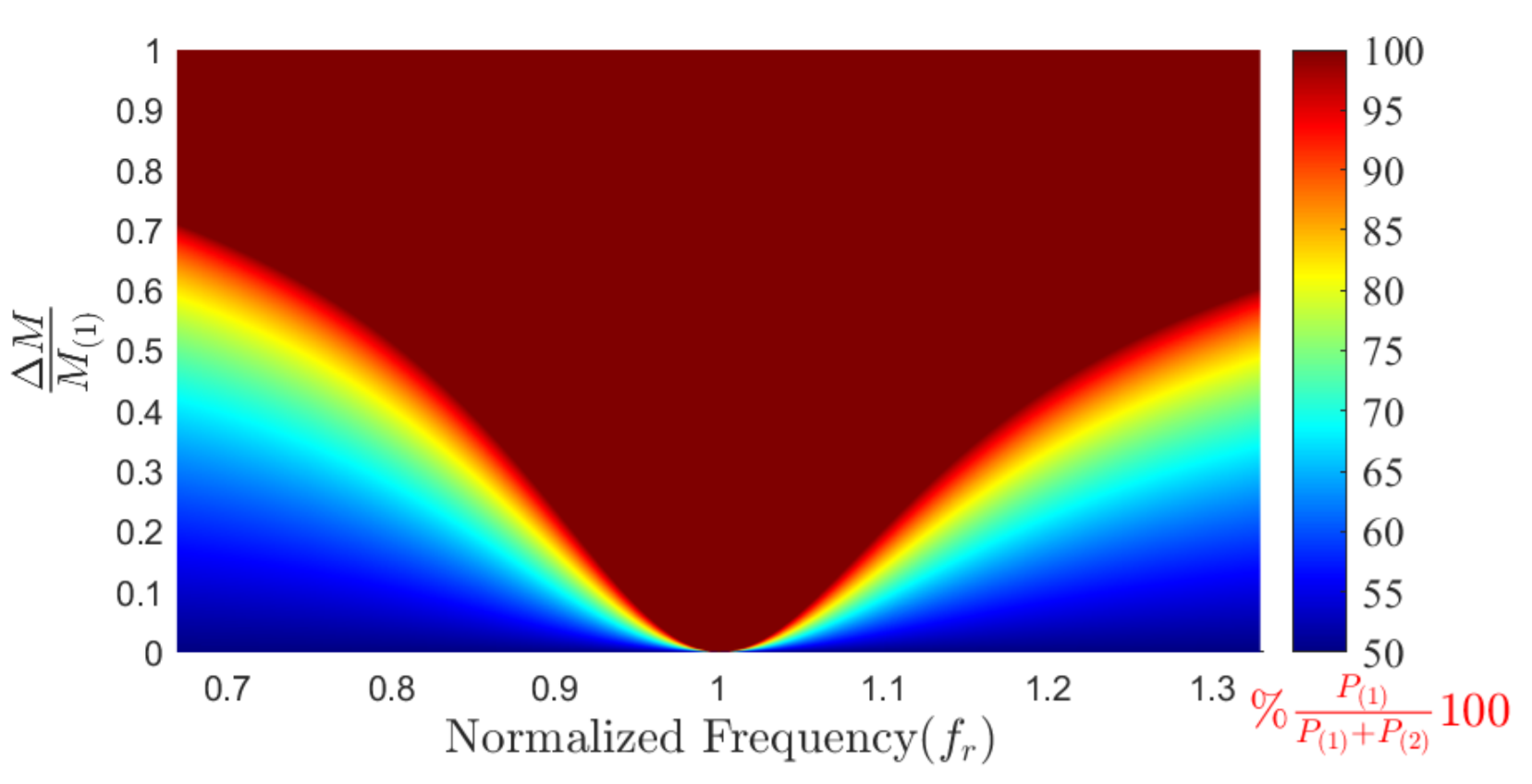
Then, the equality condition of the module's voltages is obtained as:

With is defined as , (12) brought into a closed form as:

The quadratic equation in (13) can be solved, and the reflected resistance of the first module can be calculated as:

The ratio of module powers is presented in general form as a function of the quality factor of the load ,defined as , and given by:

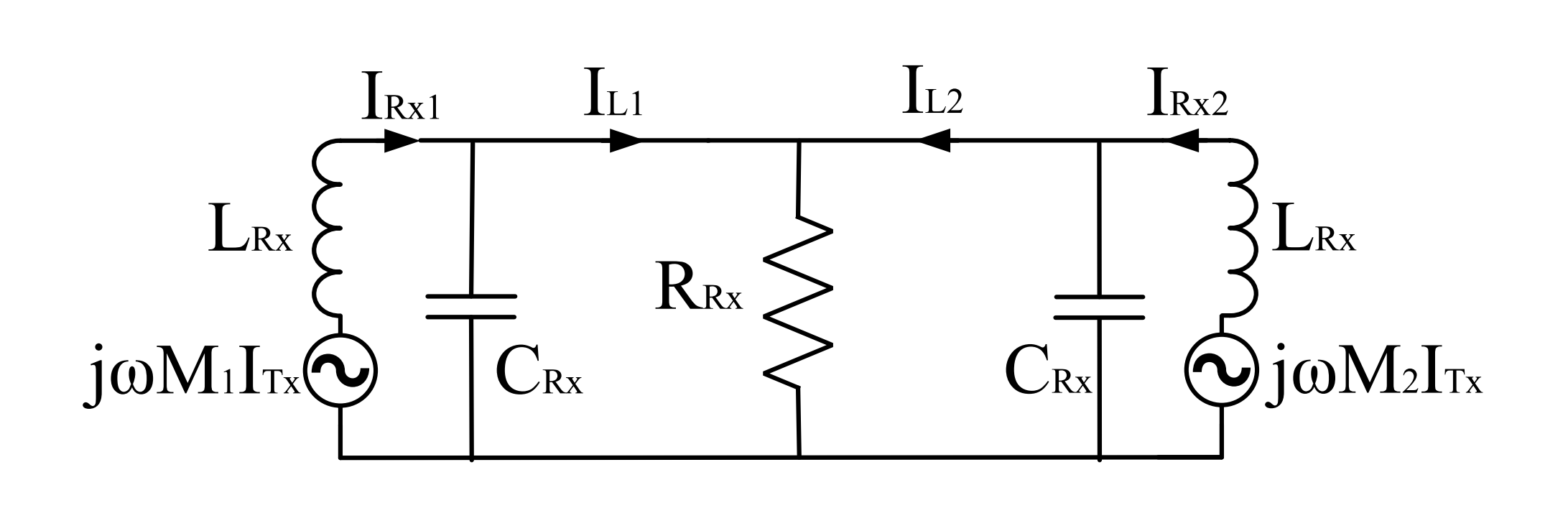
The power distribution of one module is plotted in Fig. 5, as a function of frequency and the normalized mutual inductance difference between the modules. The power distribution at the resonant frequency is susceptible, and the power is transferred by only one module if a slight change in mutual inductance is present. However, the power distribution becomes better as the operation frequency is farther away from the resonant frequency.



**Fig. 5** The power distribution of one module for series compensated parallel modules in terms of different frequencies and mutual differences.

**3.3 Receiver Parallel (RP) Compensation with Parallel Modules (PM) Connection**

The lumped circuit of RP-PM is shown in Fig. 6. Unlike the series compensation, the module current and Rx current are not equal for each module.



**Fig. 6** The lumped circuit of parallel connected modules with receiver series compensation

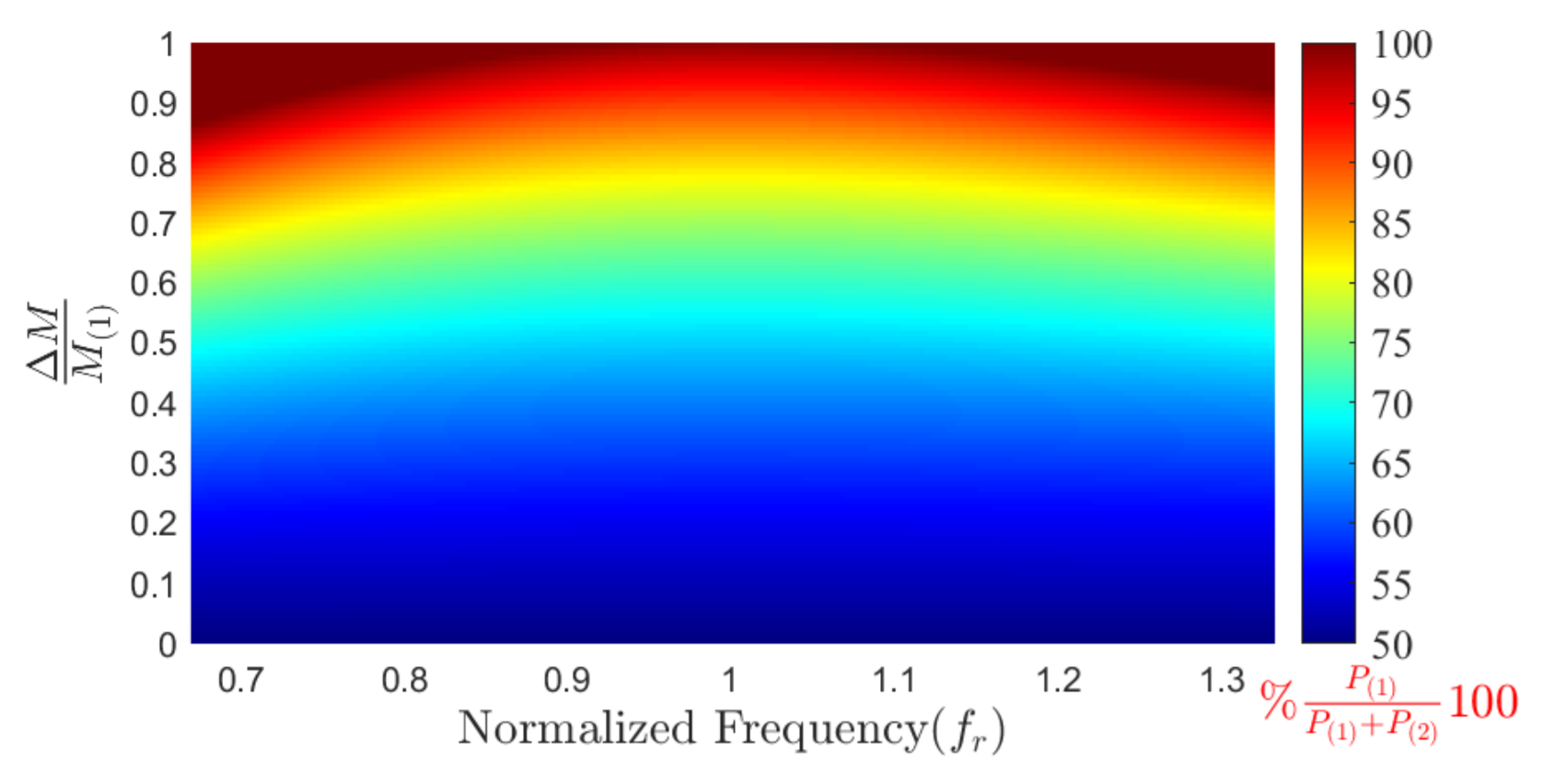
A mesh equation is established to solve the circuit and calculate the reflected resistance of each module. The and matrices are given as:

The module currents can be calculated by:

Then, the reflected resistance is found by the module current, assuming that the voltages of modules are equal and that the sum of conductance of each module give the total conductance as in (10).

The reflected resistance is given as:

Moreover, the power distribution of one module is shown in Fig. 7. and calculated as:

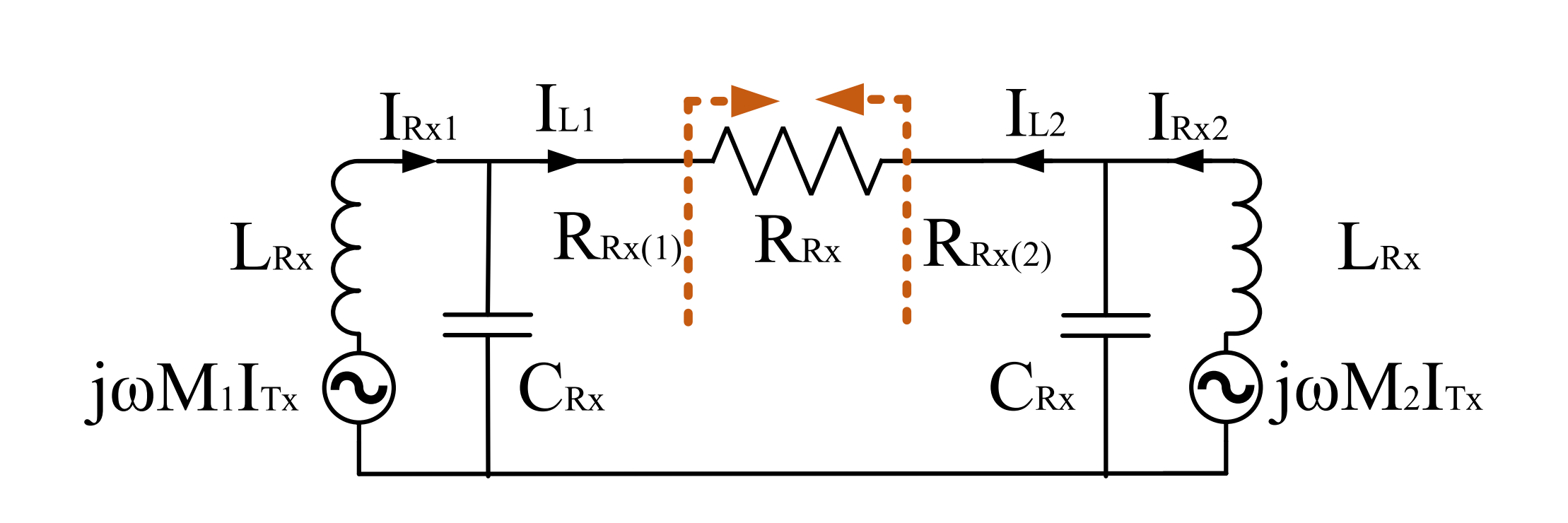


**Fig. 7** The power distribution of one module for parallel compensated parallel modules in terms of different frequencies and mutual differences

The power distribution changes moderately depending on a mutual difference, and the power distribution is better at the operating frequency close to the resonant frequency.

**3.4 Receiver Parallel (RP) Compensation with Series Modules (SM) Connection**

The lumped circuit of RP-PM is shown in Fig. 8.



**Fig. 8** The lumped circuit of parallel connected modules with receiver series compensation

The module currents, which differ from the Rx coil currents, are equal. The total reflected resistance is calculated by modules' reflected resistances as:

The module currents can be found by:

In (23), is the impedance of parallel-connected and , as given by:

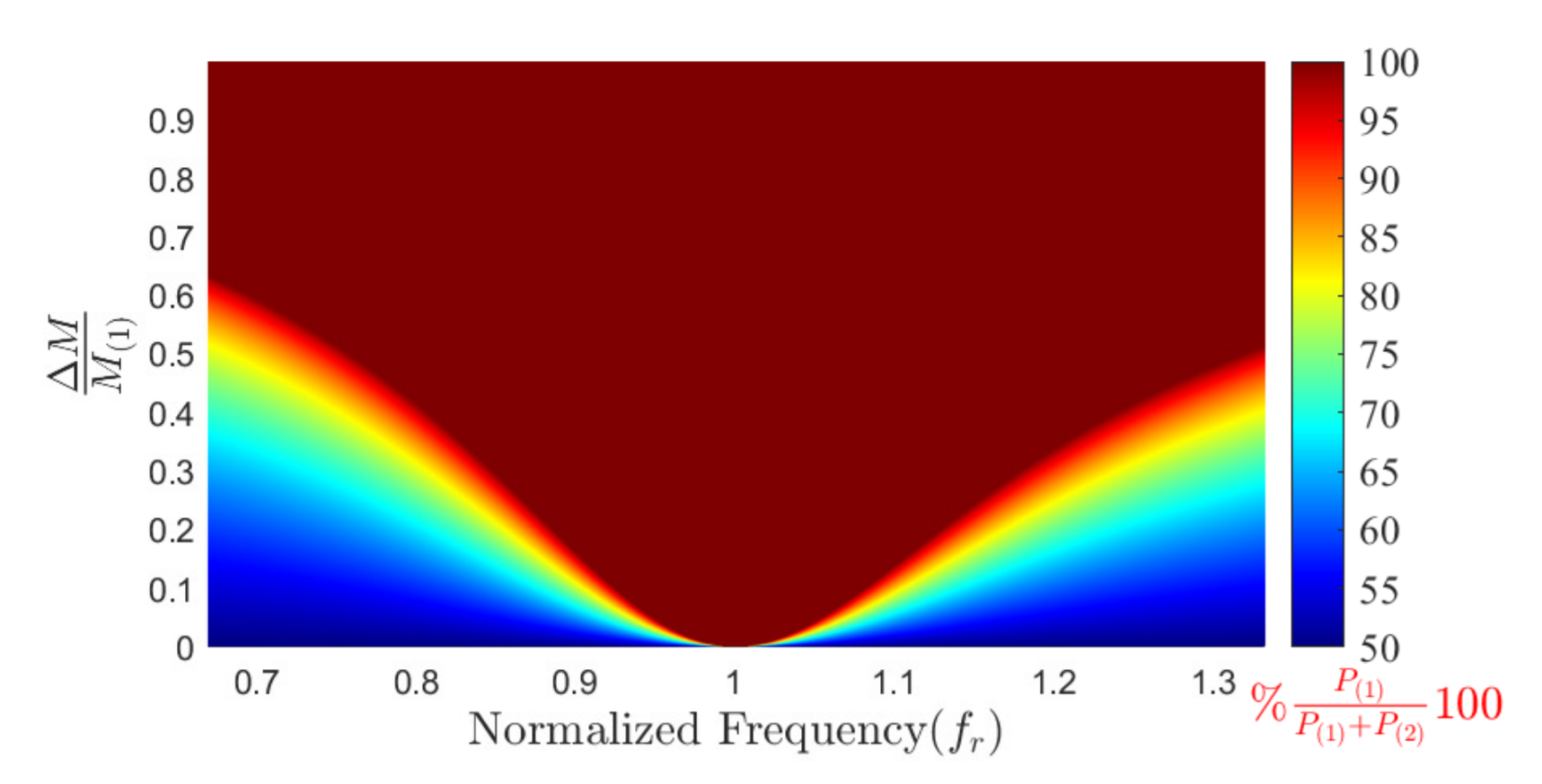
The equality of module currents is obtained as:

With defined as , (25) can be brought in closed form, as given by:

Then, the reflected resistance of the first module is calculated as:

Moreover, the ratio of module power is brought in the general form as a function of the quality factor of the load defined as , and given by:

The power distribution of one module is plotted as a function of frequency and the normalized mutual difference between the modules in Fig. 9.



**Fig. 9** The power distribution of one module for parallel compensated series modules in terms of different frequencies and mutual differences

The power distribution at the resonant frequency is susceptible like RS-PM. However, the power distribution becomes better at operation frequency, far from the resonant frequency.

**4. Simulation Results**

In this section, a series of simulations are made to verify the mathematical models. In mathematical models, the power distribution depends on the quality factor of receivers, the mutual difference between receivers, and the normalized frequency of receivers.

In order to compare each operation point over the range of frequencies and mutual differences, simulation parameters are selected as presented in Table 1.  
**Table 1** The simulation and mathematical model parameters

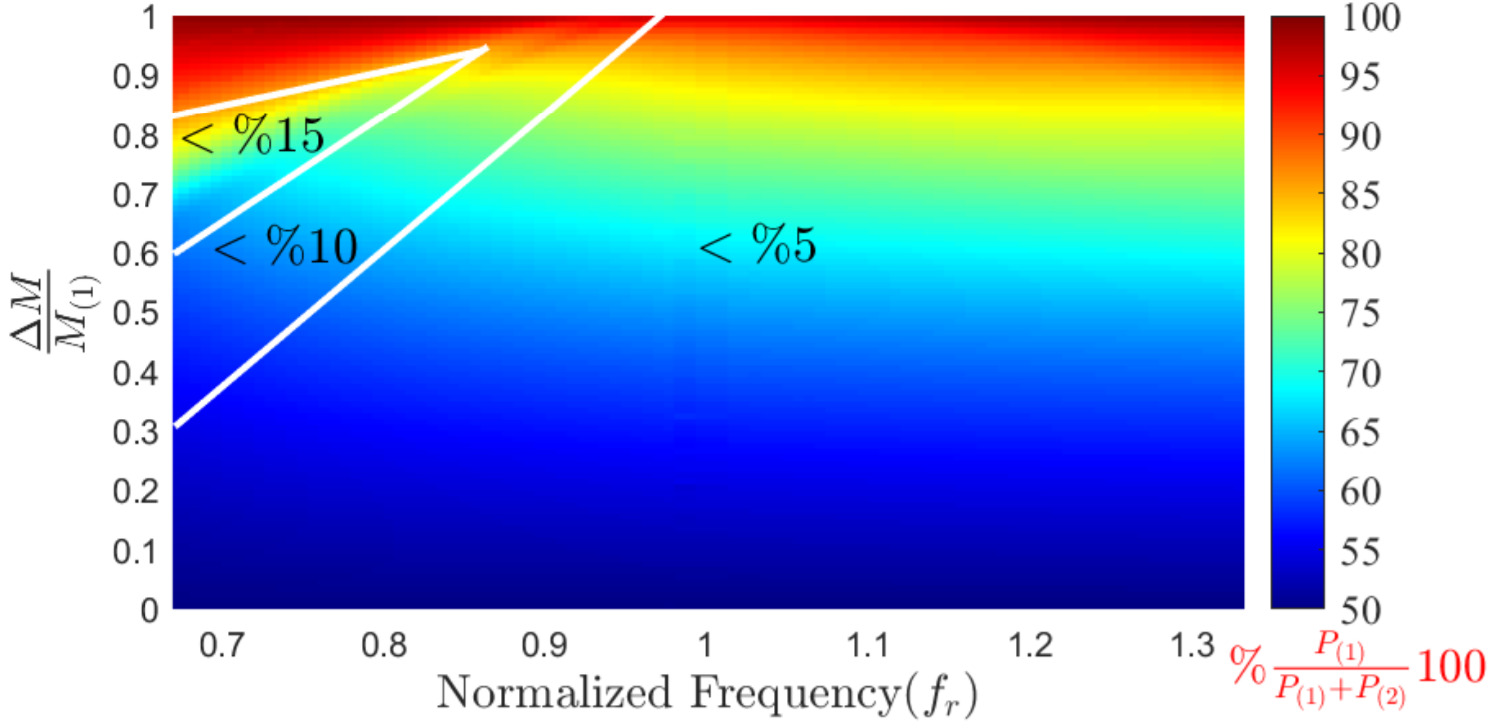
|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Parameter | RS-SM | RS-PM | RP-PM | RP-SM |
|  | 18 | 18 | 6 | 6 |
|  | 62.5 | 62.5 | 187.5 | 187.5 |
|  | 5 | 20 | 5 | 20 |
|  | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
|  | 4 | 4 | 2 | 2 |
|  | 4.2 | 1.05 | 1.1 | 4.4 |

Simulation results as a function of frequency and mutual difference are given in Fig. 10. Both simulation results and mathematical models have good arrangement. However, some deviations for some specific regions are observed. The regions are confined in white lines as shown in Fig. 10.

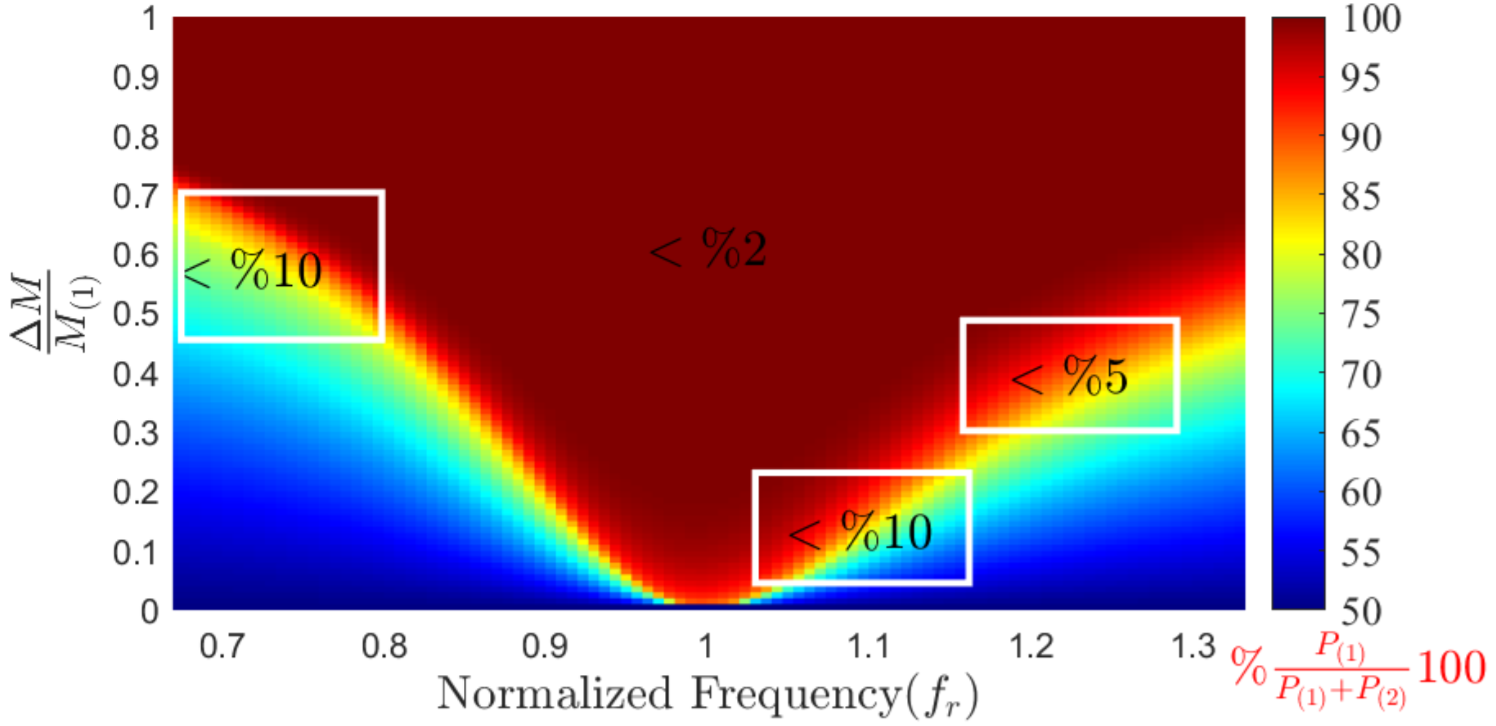
Also, the amount of deviation is given in terms of the error function which is given by:

The mathematical models are established assuming that CCM operation is maintained, and FHA is valid, which means parallel-connected receiver currents have a sinusoidal current shape as well as series-connected receiver voltages are perfect sinusoidal. However, the system operates in DCM for some range of operating frequency and mutual difference due to the non-linearity of rectifier diodes. Hence, FHA is not valid and, the mathematical model deviates from the simulation results

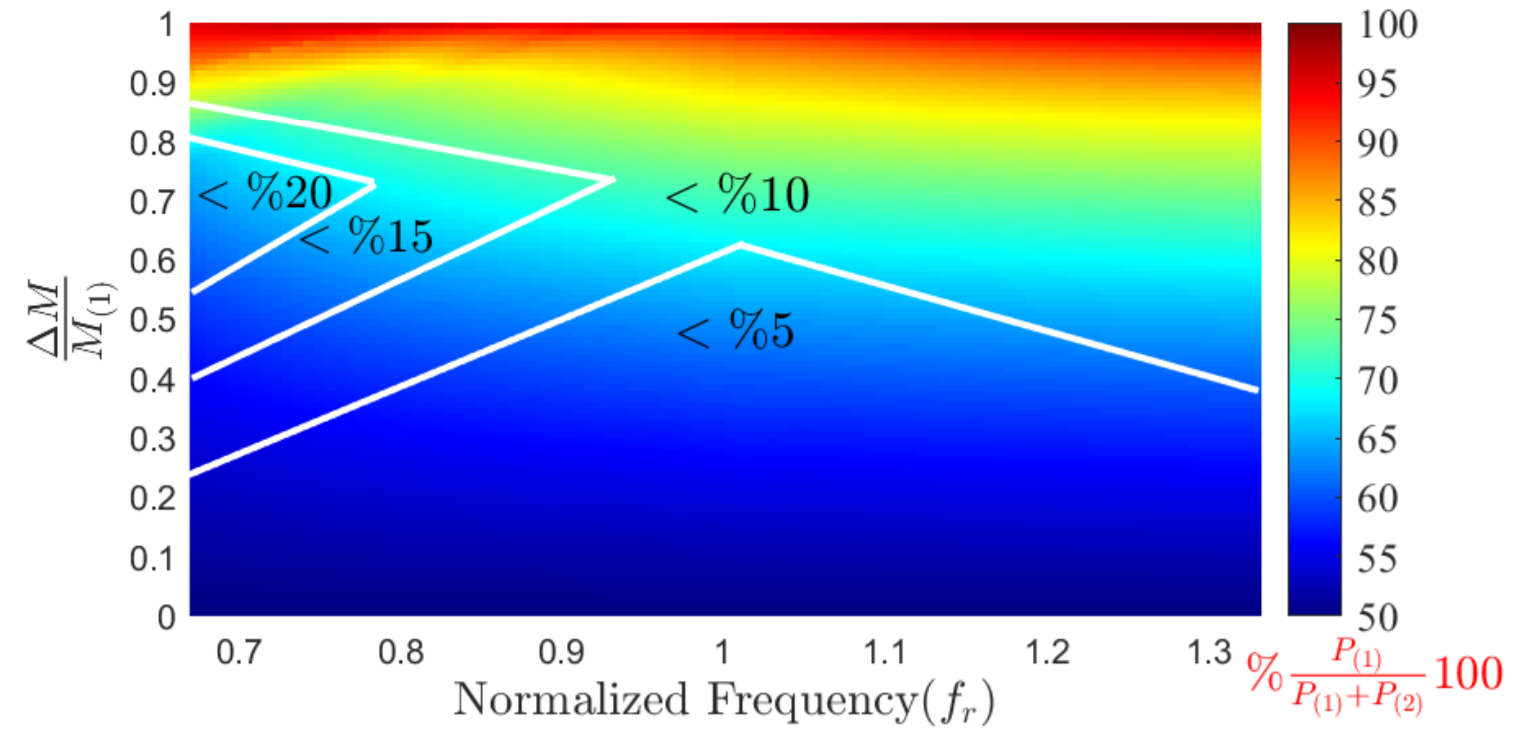
due to DCM operations.



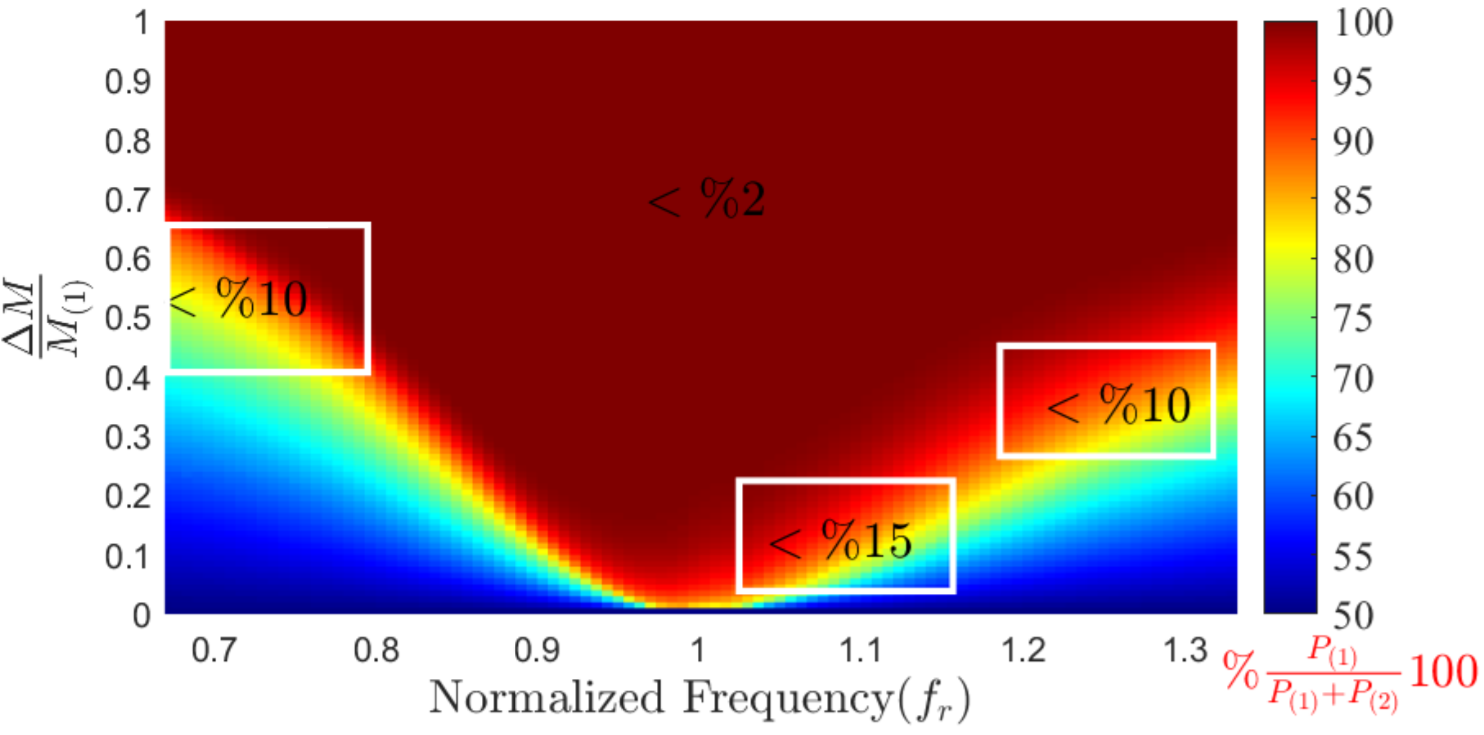
**(a)**



**(b)**



**(c)**

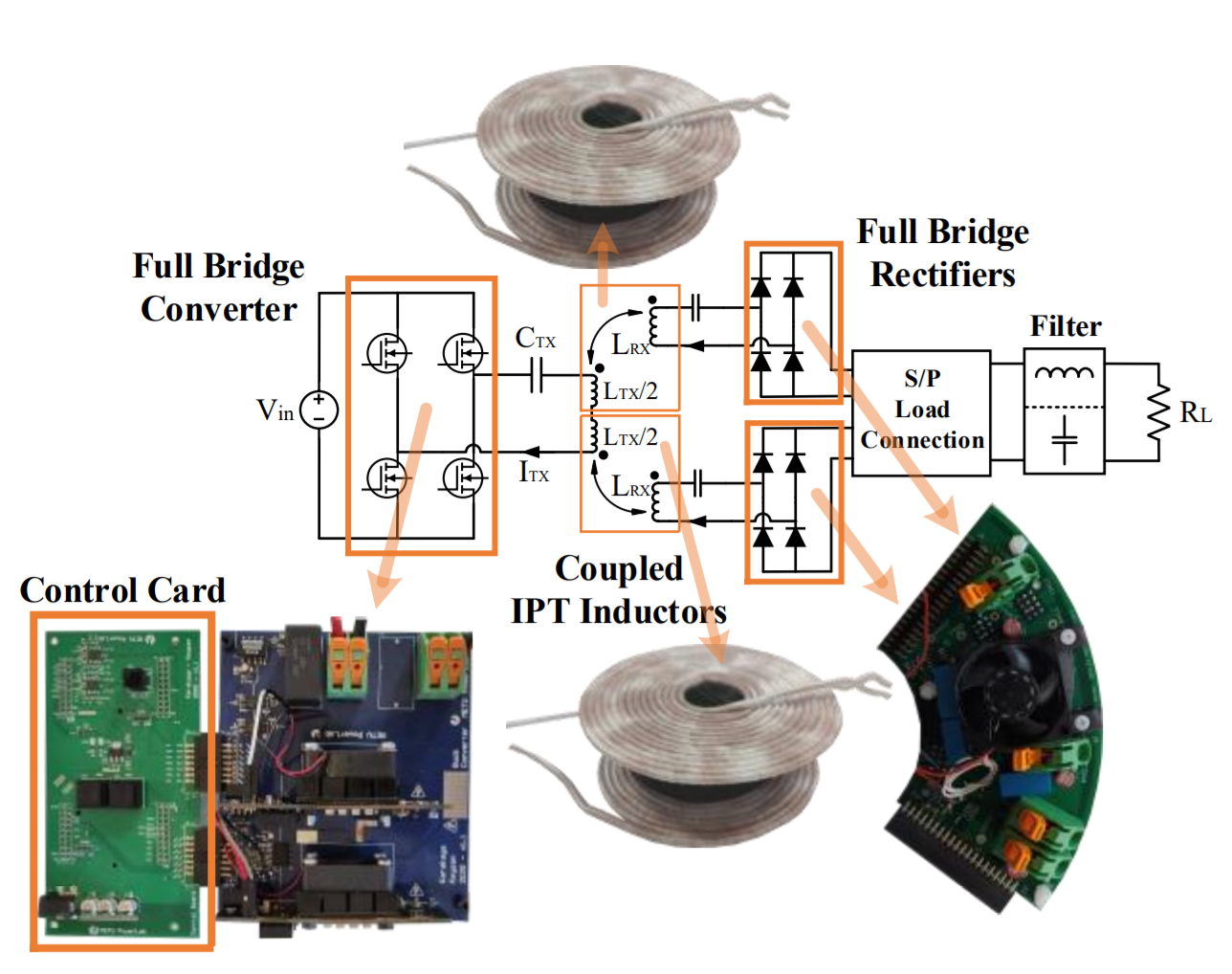


**(d)**

**Fig. 10** The power distribution of one module for different frequency and mutual difference: The percentages on the figures show the errors between mathematical model and simulation results. Values are independent of the power distribution percentage and calculated according to (29): **a** RS-SM; **b** RS-PM; **c** RP-PM; **d** RP-SM

**5. Experimental Results**

Although a high agreement was observed with the analytical model and simulation results, an experimental verification is still necessary. From Fig. 10. the power distribution characteristics of RS-PM and RP-SM is similar. The same is also true for RS-SM and RP-PM. Therefore, the experimental verification is only performed for RS-SM/PM. The experimental setup is presented in Fig. 11. To be able to adjust the mutual inductance difference, the Tx side coil has two series-connected coils. Each Tx coil is coupled with a single Rx coil, and the distances between the coupled inductors are adjusted such that no cross-coupling is present. The Tx side GaN-based full-bridge converter and Rx side full bridge diode rectifiers are presented in [17] and [18] respectively. The details of the experimental setup are given in Table 2.



**Fig. 11** Experimental setup for RS-SM/PM system

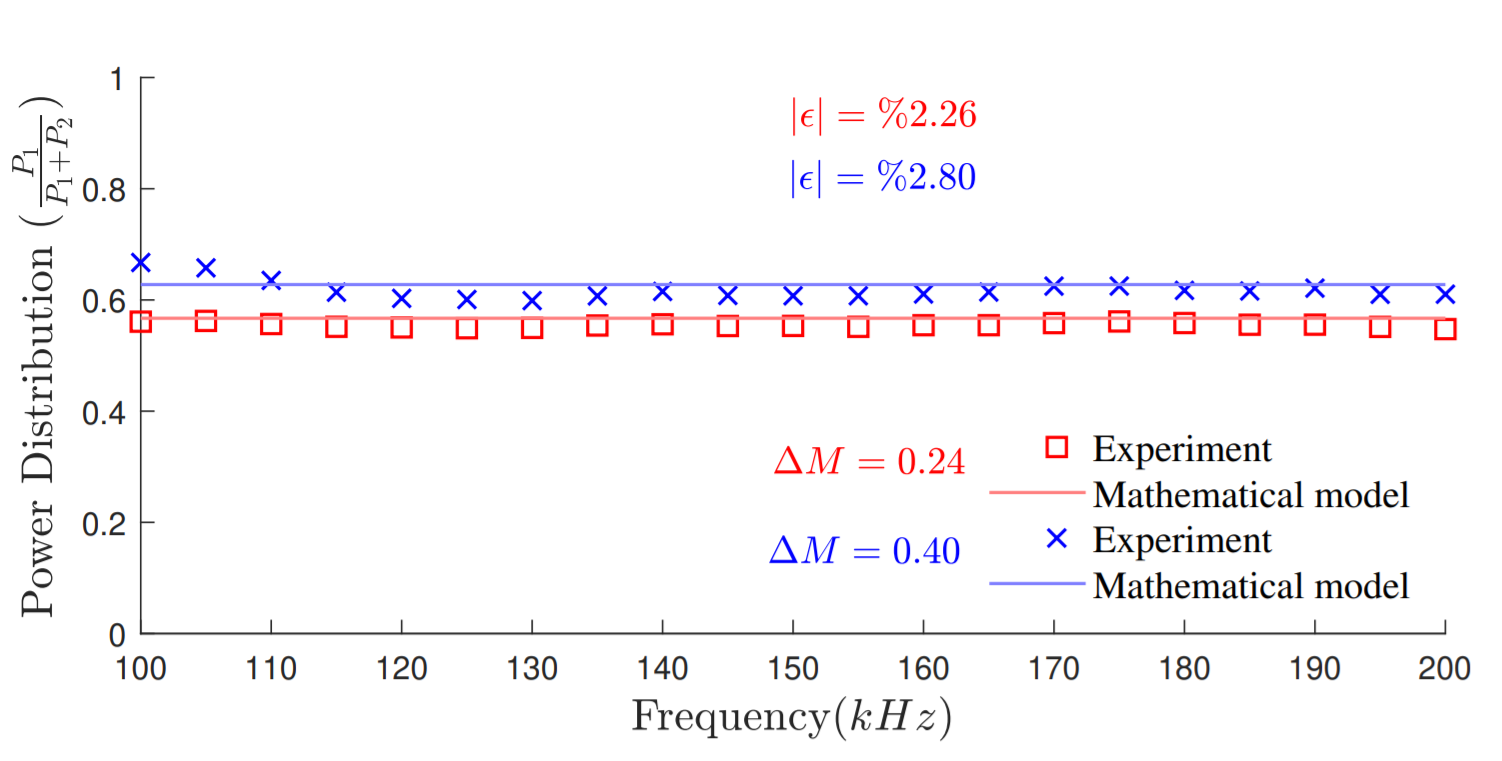
The experimental results are obtained for and for RS-SM and RS-PM configurations. The inductance matrix for the mutual differences is presented as follows.

The experimental results are shown for RS-SM in Fig. 12a, where the results are highly consistent with mathematical model. The results are obtained between 100kHz and 200kHz operating frequencies for the mutual differences of and .

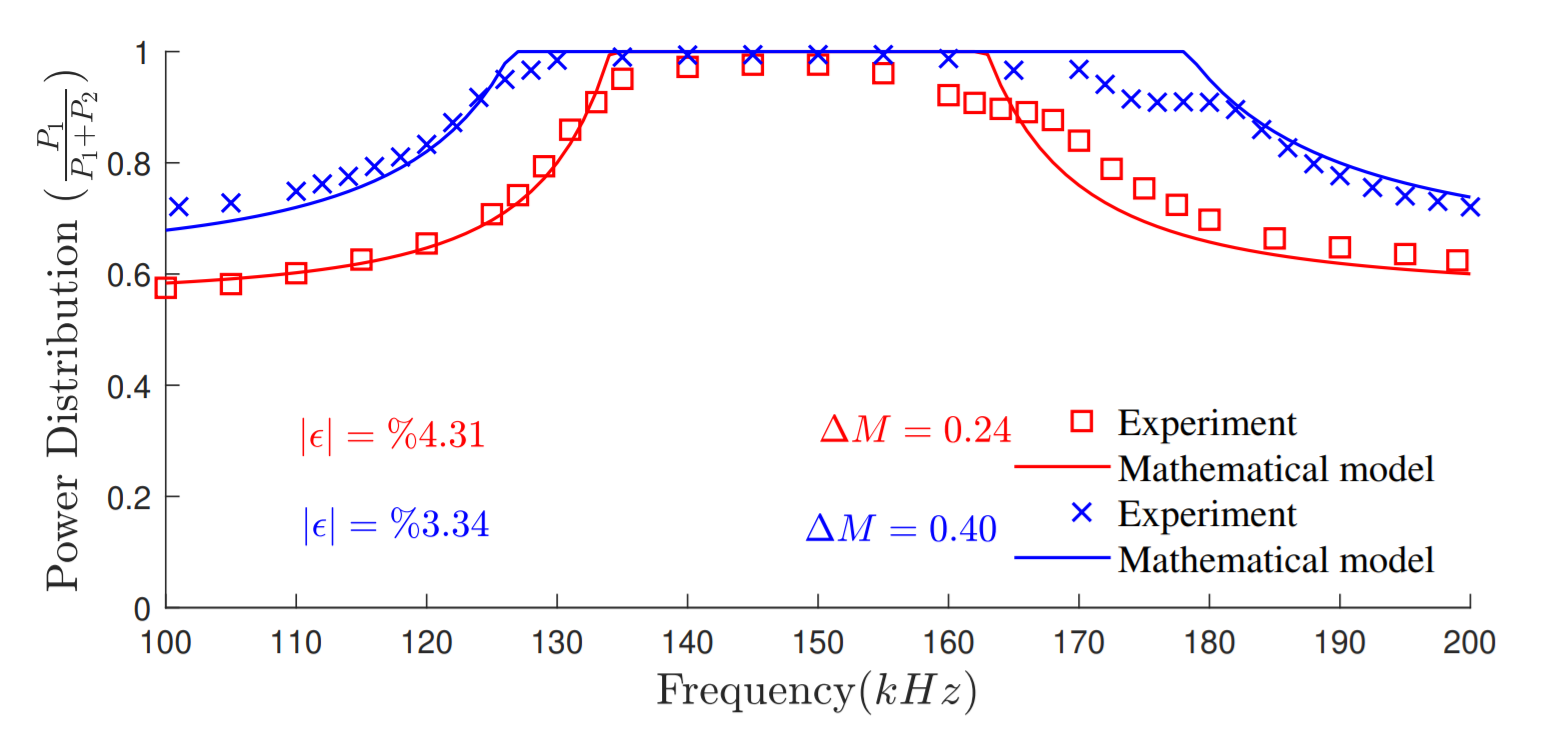
**Table 2** Experimental setup parameters

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Parameters | Values |
| Rx side Recrifier Diodes | C3D10060G |
| Litz Wire | 400x0.08mm (2 mm2) |
| Tx coil Din and Dout (mm) | 10-62 |
| Tx coil # of turns | 13 each |
| Rx coil Din and Dout (mm) | 10-74 |
| Rx coil # of turns | 16 each |
| CTx (nF) | 47.5 |
| CRx (nF) | 62.5 |
| Airgap (mm) | 20 |
| f0 (kHz) | 150 |
| Ferrite shield | I20x2 N48 (70x80mm total) |

The mean errors, which are defined as the average of differences between the measured data and mathematical calculations, are found as 2.26% and 2.86% for ΔM=0.24 and ΔM=0.4 respectively. In lower operating frequencies ( <120kHz) the system enters into DCM for higher .



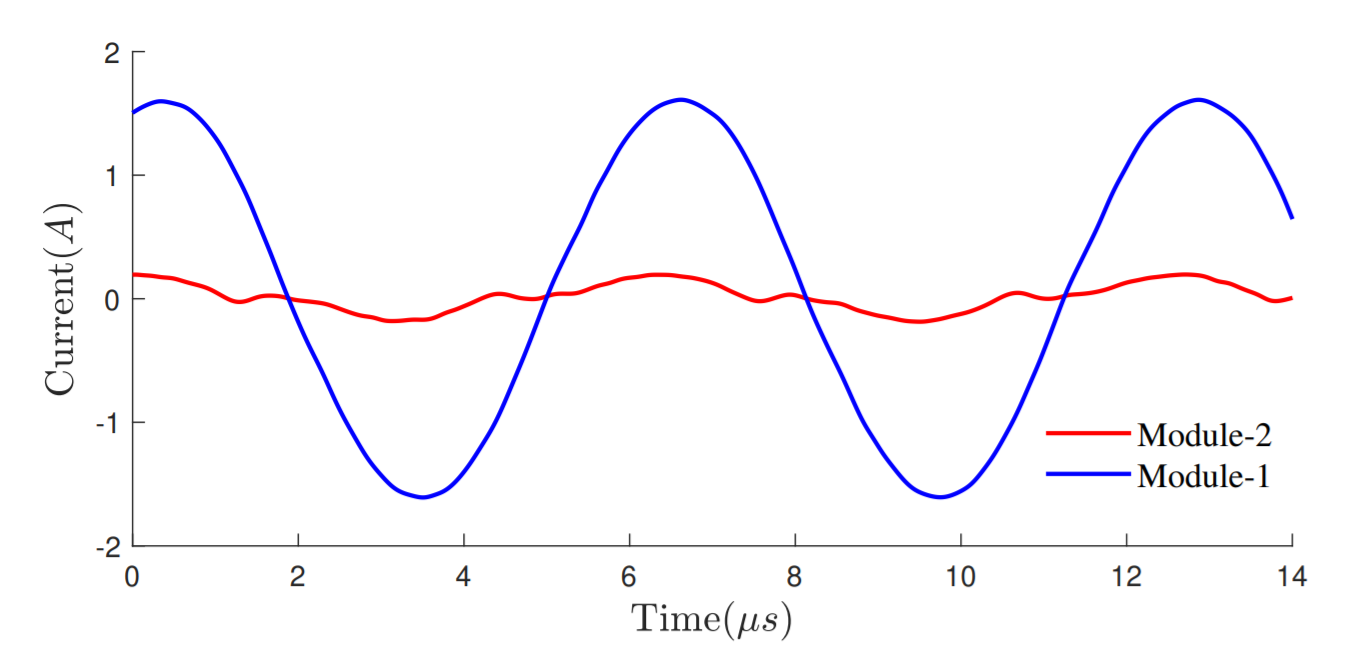
**(a)**



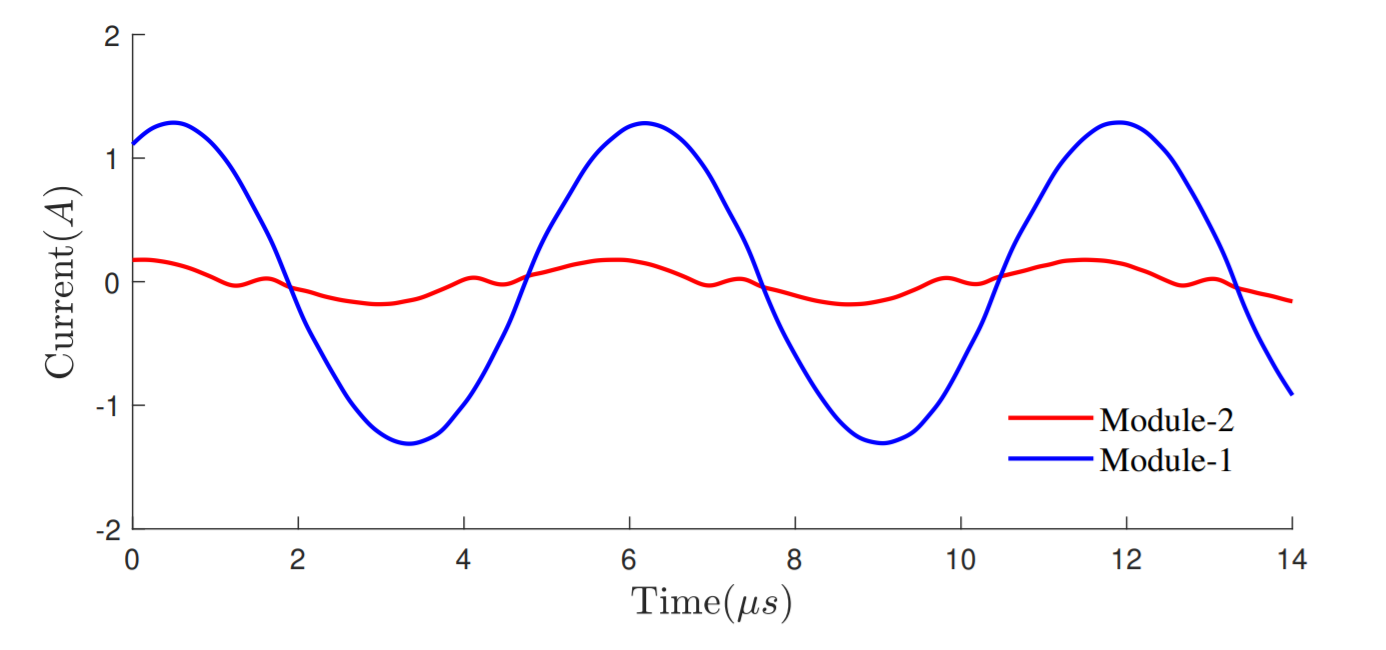
**(b)**

**Fig. 12** The power distribution of one module for two different ∆M: **a** series modules; **b** parallel modules

So, the mathematical model results deviate from the experimental results, as shown in the simulation results. Therefore, the mean error between the mathematical model and experimental results increases by increasing for RS-SM. Moreover, the experimental results are shown in Fig. 12b for RS-PM with the same parameters. Results are generally matching with the mathematical model. The mean errors are calculated as 4.31% and 3.34% for and respectively.



**(a)**



**(b)**

**Fig. 13** DCM operation of RS-PM. The selected frequencies are taken at high error locations as presented in Fig. 10. (The resonant frequency of the Rx side compensation is 150 kHz): **a** ∆M = 0.24 @160kHz; **b** ∆M = 0.40 @170kHz

The mathematical model deviates from the experimental results for RS-PM in the inductive region as observed in the simulation results. The frequency, which the deviation begins, increases with mutual inductance difference. Current waveforms of an example of deviated frequency for two mutual inductance differences are shown in Fig. 13 to confirm the DCM operation.

**5. Discussion**

Until this point, the power-sharing problem for common DC-bus is analytically modeled and verified using simulation and experimental results. At this point, a comparison will be presented with respect to different parameters. Multi-Rx configurations can be applied to achieve a modular and fault-tolerant system with lower semiconductor stress. However, in section 2, it was shown that the multi-Rx systems do not have these desired advantages due to an uneven power distribution problem. Still, the problem can be mitigated with the proper selection of compensation method and electrical connection type.

In this section, the four systems are compared in terms of their sensitivity to coupling differences, one-module operation, semiconductor stress, efficiency, output filter type, and resonant capacitor sizing.

Table 3 presents the comparison of the four systems. Although the power distribution of RS-SM and RP-PM are less sensitive to the coupling differences, the power distribution of RS-PM and RP-SM are highly affected. Therefore, the RS-PM and RP-SM are unsuitable for dynamic applications, such as eV chargers, consumer electronics, etc., as they are susceptible to coupling differences. On the contrary, RS-PM and RP-SM can operate with a lower sensitivity of coupling difference at a frequency far from the resonance frequency, but the efficiency decreases in this operating condition.

The second issue is one-module operation due to a short or open circuit faults of a module. In this situation, the power decreases to a quarter for RS-SM and RP-PM while considering the reflected resistance to the Tx side. Besides, the power reduces to half for RS-PM and RP-SM topologies.

Another issue is the semiconductor stress. For the transmitter side, the Tx current and voltages are the same for all systems. However, series-connected receiver modules share the voltage, and parallel-connected receiver modules share the current. Hence, while the stress of Tx side semiconductors remains the same, the stress of the Rx side semiconductors decreases. In other aspects of sharing the voltages or currents, the systems' efficiency differs from each other. Most of the losses stem from the conduction losses of the diodes and the coil resistance, so the series-connected modules have higher losses than parallel-connected modules.

Then, output filter requirements of each system can be argued. For series-compensated systems, a capacitive output filter is suitable not to distort the Rx coil current. However, an inductive filter is more appropriate for parallel-compensated systems not to distort the Rx capacitor voltage.

The final concern is the size of the resonant capacitor. The size of the resonant capacitor of the series-compensated system is smaller than the parallel-connected system. Additionally, the resonant capacitor of the series-compensated system decreases if modules are connected series, and the opposite is valid for parallel-compensated systems.

**6. Conclusion**

In this paper, multi-Rx systems with common DC-Bus have been investigated. In these systems, uneven power distribution occurs due to mutual inductance differences between the modules. However, it was observed that receiver compensation types influence the power distribution. Although the effect of compensation type on the power distribution is explained as a voltage or current source with internal impedances, which represent the induced emf from mutual inductance and compensation circuit, there is no generalized mathematical modeling of the power distribution in the literature. In this paper, a generalized mathematical model for receiver series and parallel compensations was proposed. Hence, the compensation method for a multi-Rx common-DC bus can be selected using the mathematical model.

**Table 3** The comparison of four systems

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Parameters | RS-SM | RS-PM | RP-PM | RP-SM |
| The sensitivity to coupling differences | Moderate | Bad | Moderate | Bad |
| One module fault condition | 0.25 p.u | 0.5 p.u | 0.25 p.u | 0.5 p.u |
| Diode voltage stress | 0.5 p.u | 1 p.u | 1 p.u | 0.5 p.u |
| Diode current stress | 1 p.u | 0.5 p.u | 0.5 p.u | 1 p.u |
| Efficiency | Moderate | Higher | Moderate | Hihher |
| Output filter type | Capacitive | Capacitive | Inductive | Inductive |
| Resonant capacitor sizing | Higher | The same | Higher | The same |

On the one hand, the mathematical model has shown us that in systems operating at the resonant frequency, RS-SM and RP-PM are quite insensitive to mutual inductance differences. On the other hand, RS-PM and RP-SM are drastically affected by mutual inductance differences, which can even result to losing modularity and transferring the power with single module. However, if the operating frequency moves away from the resonant frequency, the power distribution of RS-PM and RP-SM gets better. While RS-SM and RP-PM are advantageous in providing well power distribution regardless of the frequency, other systems can also be used considering fault-tolerance, modularity, and efficiency.

In order to verify the mathematical model, an experimental setup of RS-SM and RS-PM is established, and experimental results verified the mathematical model with lower than 5% error. Furthermore, the results were also verified RP-PM and RP-SM since they are dual of RS-SM and RS-PM.

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