

Internet of Things

Developing an optimal wireless power transfer system for a real-world low power LED wristband application

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Abstract

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1 Introduction

Although wireless power transfer systems are already widely applied in stationary household equipment, current research offers a tremendous amount of possibilities that can change our perception of energy usage. In an ideal world we would no longer have to concern about wires and depleting batteries. A collection of wireless power transmitters would be able to charge all our products wirelessly, enabling a completely mobile and energy independent workspace or living environment. This report will introduce a reusable mobile real-world low power application that utilizes a wireless power transfer system to eliminate the need for changing batteries. Introducing wireless power transfer techniques into the world of reusable high quality products will greatly reduce the environmental risks of the product and thus increase product value.

In this report we will briefly discuss our chosen paper [1] and present a working product that extends the basic ideas discussed in the paper. As the paper itself did not discuss any *Internet of Things* aspects to their idea, we present a scenario where both techniques could be fully utilized. The concurring product to match this scenario is based on the *Drome Surround light* [8]. The drome is a LED wristband powered by a battery to be worn at concerts that enriches the involvement of the audience by including them into a lightshow and can run for 5 hours after it is switched on. The dromes can be reused after each show by replacing the batteries and this report will focus on eliminating this need. First we will focus on the chosen paper in Section 2 and some prior knowledge in Section 3. Section 4 will discuss our start-up based idea in a scenario, initial wireless transfer system, a state analysis and the concurring protocols. Section 5 will go deeper into the system design by analyzing our electronic model, model the battery life, charging profile and the charge to discharge ratio. In Section 6 the proposed final system design and the internet of things will be discussed. We will conclude our results in Section 7 and present the conclusion and future works in Section 8 and 9.

2 Related work

The assigned paper [1] presents an "*Architectural analysis for wirelessly powered computing platforms*". As we already discussed the downfalls of the paper thoroughly in class we will need go into too much details, but we will just present in what ways we extended the proposed idea in the paper. The authors of the paper provide a model for a single kind of wireless powered system. However, the system only

assumes power requirements that includes constant voltage levels and do not include anything about constant current or power. Furthermore each wireless power packet is assumed to carry constant power and is received periodically while the period is known in advance.

In our wireless powered system, the system components immensely differ from the system proposed in the related work. The system in the related work does not include any storage device apart from the small rectifying capacitor, which makes the system useless in the absence of wireless power. For this reason we included a supercapacitor and a battery and two main big storage components which can keep the system operational even in the absence of wireless power. Also, the related work made some unrealistic assumptions of the periodic reception of constant powered wireless energy packets which led us to make a completely different analytical model as discussed in Section 5. Consequently the related work only provides an initial guideline for wireless powered system, for more practical systems a completely new analytical model is required.

3 Prior knowledge

Because of technological advancements in materials, the gap between *supercapacitors* and the conventional *batteries* for large charge storage is reducing. Supercapacitors can charge really fast and have a much longer cycle life compared to batteries. Hence supercapacitors are increasing in importance and are slowly becoming a competitor to batteries. However, supercapacitors can hold about 10 times less energy than a Li-ion battery of the same size. The table below gives an overview of the important aspects of the supercapacitor and the battery we took into account during this project. As performance is always a trade-off we ended up combining a supercapacitor with a battery as will be discussed more into detail in Section 5.

Characteristic	Supercapacitor	Li-ion Battery
Charge time	110 seconds	1060 minutes
Cycle life	1 million or 30,000h	500 and higher
Cell voltage	2.3 to 2.75 Volts	3.6 to 3.7 Volts
Cost per Wh	Cost per Wh	0.50–1.00 (large system)

Table 1. Comparison between a supercapacitor and a battery [9]

4 Description of the idea

The idea for our project was to utilize a wireless power transfer system to eliminate the need for changing batteries. However as the scenario depicted in Section 4.1 will display, the charging should happen in a quick and intuitive manner. In this section we will discuss different scenarios, use state diagrams to visually design and discover internal logic of the system and we will introduce some protocols that can handle the system logic.

4.1 Scenario

To create a thorough understanding of our system we developed some scenarios in UML in which the product will be used. These scenarios helped us develop state diagrams to understand the internal states of the product so that we could determine protocols to in turn develop an efficient charge-discharge protocol. The actors in the system are the user wearing the wristband, other users that the user can interact with and the system will be portrayed by the energy bars, energy checkpoints and an online server. The scenarios are portrayed from the perspective of a central user. The perspectives of the energy bar and checkpoint are considerably less complex and follow the perspective of the central user intuitively. The main scenario in terms of natural language is a user at a festival wearing a wristband. The regular function of the wristband is to interact in a light show. However the battery of the system can deplete. If this happens, users can visit certain checkpoints at the festival terrain as will be discussed in Section 6.1, go to the bar that functions as a wireless power transmitter or ask other users (friends or strangers) that have a wireless power transceiver for their energy to share. The use case diagram in figure 1 displays the interaction of a user, its friends and other users with the system. The internet of

things in our system is displayed by a check in mechanism that sends data to a server. The server can then determine some recommendations for the user and his friends and can notify both. This will be discussed more into detail in Section 6.1.

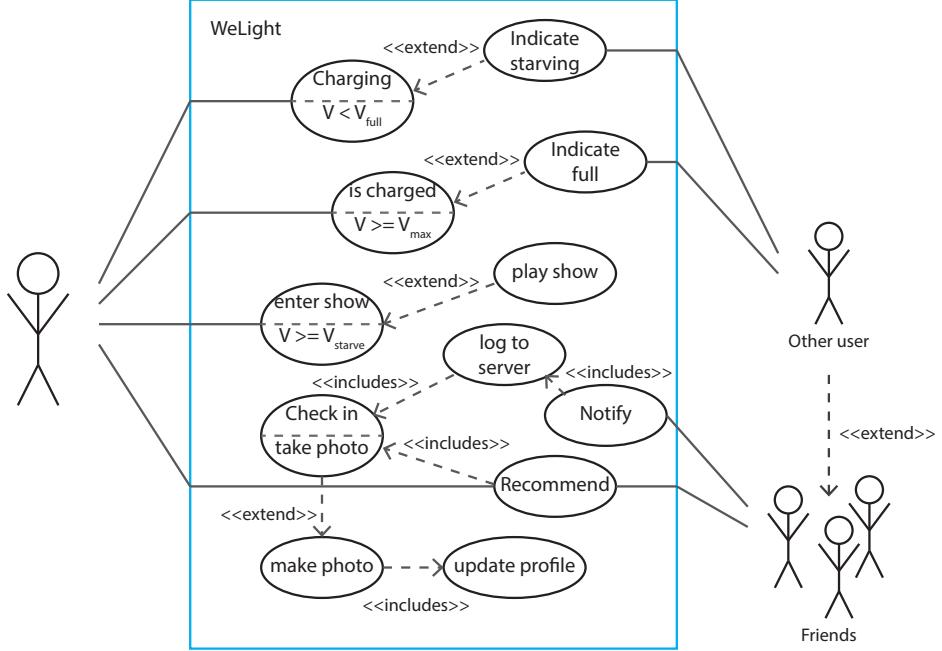


Figure 1: UML: Use case diagram of the system

The sequence diagrams display the different use cases. Figure 2 displays regular use of the system in its original design. A show object can detect user IDs by means of RFID tags and then send the instructions via RF signals to the wristbands. These will update their state and loop as long as the battery has a higher energy level than V_{full} as determined in Section 5.2.

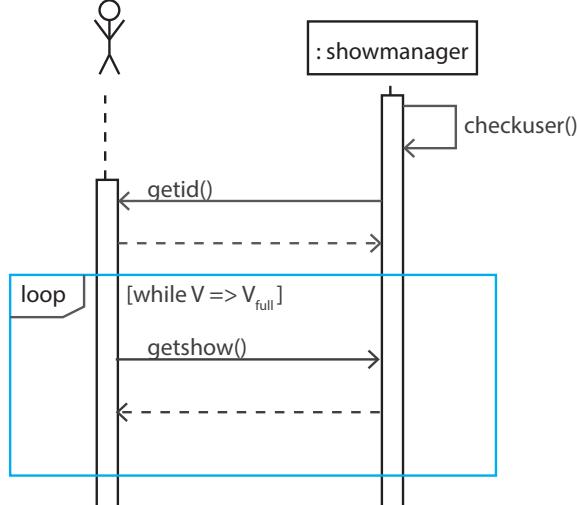


Figure 2: UML: Sequence diagram of the regular use of the product

Figure 3 follows this sequence and is initiated whenever the energy level of the battery falls below

V_{full} . It will indicate towards the environment and other users that the battery is starving. The user can then ask another user for energy or visit an energy bar until V_{full} is exceeded again. When V_{max} is reached the indication light will turn green as further charging will have no effect. These states are further discussed in Section ??.

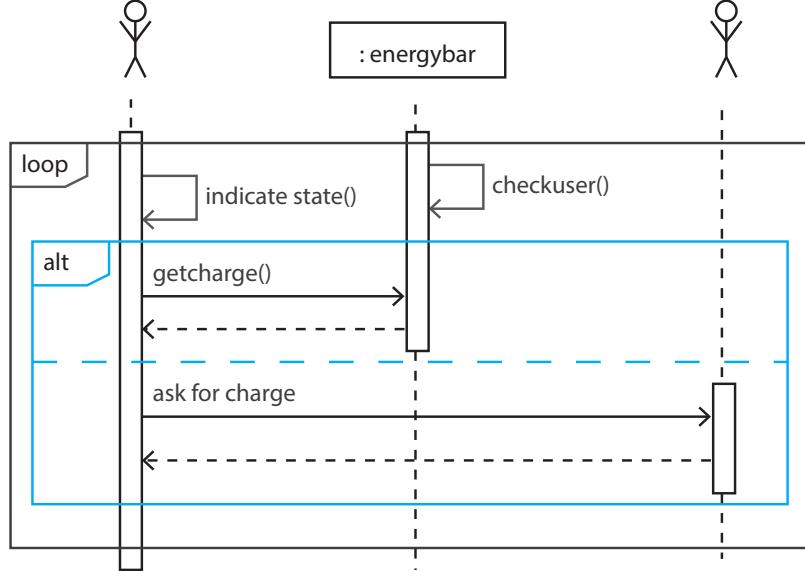


Figure 3: UML: Sequence diagram of the charging the system

Figure 4 shows the sequence diagram whenever a user connects to a checkpoint at the festival. Information about the time of the log, the position of the checkpoint and thus the concurrent nearest festival podium and the user ID is collected and send to the server. The database compares the information with the users personal profile online and the current festival schedule and returns a recommendation. The user can select to inform his/her friends available on the personal profile. They might even add a personal message in order to agree on a meetingpoint.

4.2 The wireless transfer system

Our major goal is to provide an efficient solution that best meets the challenges in battery charging systems using wireless power transfer. Those challenges include:

1. *Charging the battery as fast as possible.* Batteries can store a large amount of charge. Unfortunately there is a limit to how fast a battery can be charged, which gets smaller with the size of the battery. Exceeding the charging current limit will deteriorate the battery's life and is more likely to happen when using smaller batteries as they have a lower charging current limit. To overcome this difficulty we propose adding a supercapacitor parallelly with a battery. The supercapacitor will function as a small buffer for charging the battery as it can hold a smaller amount of charge compared to the same size battery. Using a powerful combination of a battery in parallel with a supercapacitor will offer a much faster charging cycle as supercapacitors are known to charge fast and will provide a robust system for they have a longer cycle life [9], [6].
2. *Ensuring a long battery life by creating a large charge to discharge ratio.* In our scenario we don't want the user to be waiting for a longer time than 15 minutes for the wristband to charge. This introduces the need to store as much charging current in short intervals as possible. Batteries have a relatively low cycle life, making them unfit to be frequently charged and discharged. By positioning a supercapacitor in parallel with the battery, it acts as a buffer to store a large amount of charging current. Sequentially the same supercapacitor can use this current to charge the battery with a slow pace. This ensures a longer battery life in terms of a large charge to discharge ratio.

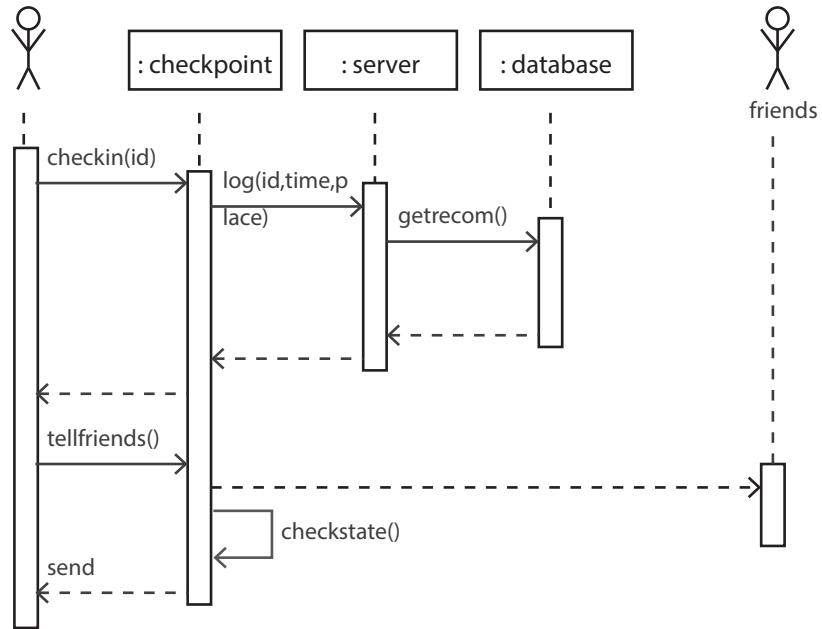


Figure 4: Sequence diagram of the internet of things

3. *Developing an efficient protocol for sharing the available charge.* We don't want to develop a wastefull system in terms of energy. For this reason we want to propose an efficient protocol that enures the available energy is efficiently used. By using UML state and sequence diagram we will display the efficient flows of energy. Based on these diagram we will develop the protocols on an arduino to demonstrate our working fully functional system.

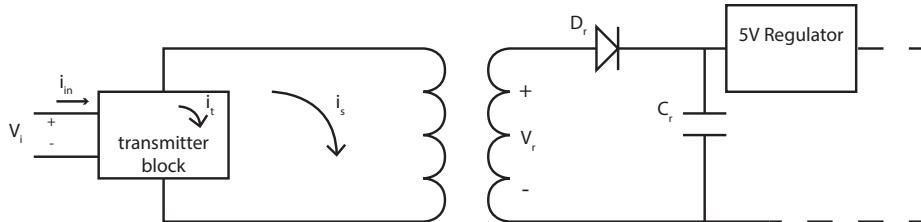


Figure 5: Design of the system

Figure 5 represents the general framework of a wireless power transfer system as proposed in the assigned paper [1]. In order to propose a system design applicable to the subject of wireless power transfer we will use this framework and come up with our own parameters and design for the application. The application that the wireless power system will supply for needs a regulated voltage of 5V and a maximum current of 300mA. Based on these specifications we found a wireless power transfer set online [2] and purchased this set as seen in figure 6 to build our system with. The specifications of this set are mentioned on [2], but will be discussed more detailed in Section ??.

4.3 A real-world application

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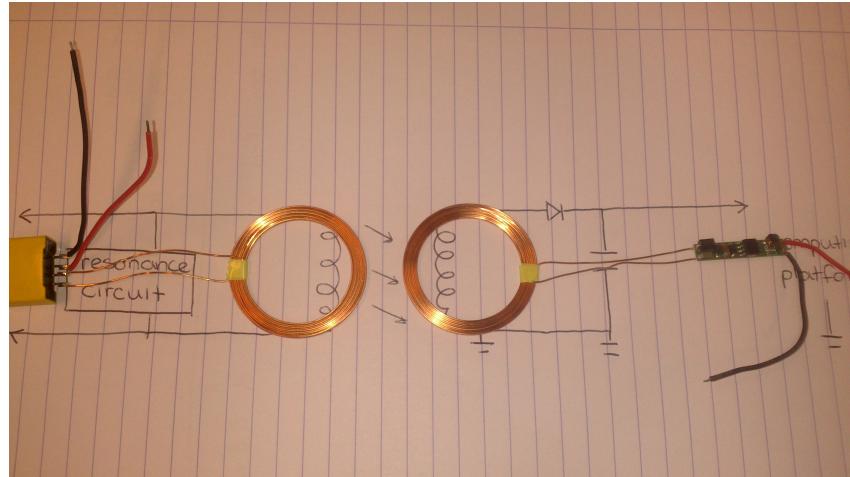


Figure 6: Engineeringshock Electronics Wireless power transfer set

4.3.1 State analysis

The major goal of this report is to develop a real-world application. In order to do this, all real-world implications need to be taken into consideration. There are certain states in which the system can reside depending on its own battery state, the battery state of neighbour nodes and the availability of a energy bar or energy checkpoint. These states and their transmissions are displayed in figure 7. The battery can either be sufficiently full V_{full} , in starving state V_{starve} or in a depleted state V_{dead} . These parameters are further specified in section 6. With help of the state diagram we can write protocols to accomodate the state changes. The figure displays a composed state called capable. This state encapsulates the behavior of the product whenever it is capable of doing something functional such as charging and running a show.

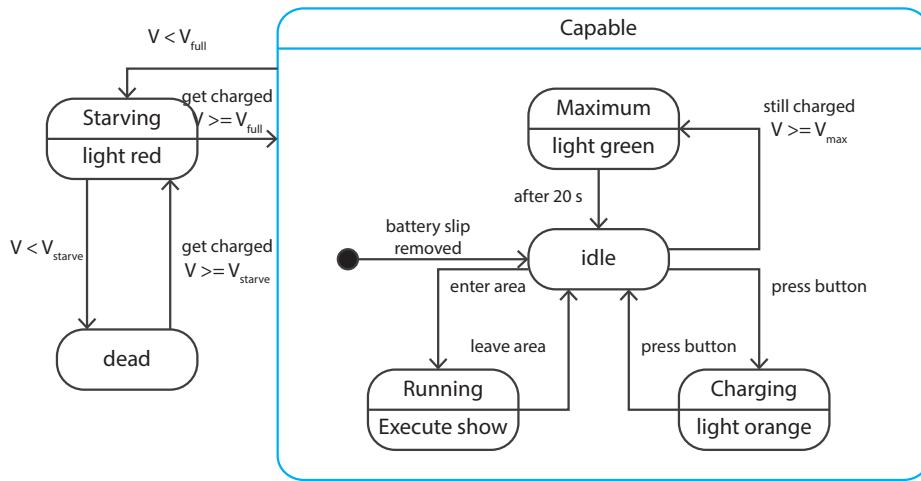


Figure 7: State diagram of a transceiving wireless power transfer system

Whilst creating this state diagram we created several insights that introduced new features into the system:

- The need for a charge actuator. A button is added for the user to determine when to charge another user as we don't want to constantly send energy.
- An indication of V_{max} . The user needs to know when charging does not have any effect anymore. We will use a red light to indicate V_{max} is being reached.

- Indicate the charging. To give the user a complete insight in the working principles of the system a blinked orange indicator is added whenever a wristband is receiving charge to indicate the wireless transfer is working properly.

4.3.2 Protocols

A charging protocol has to be designed to account for these combinations. We considered three possibilities: an infinite network like design, a hop-to-hop spread of energy or an interactive behavior to selectively share energy. To stimulate interaction through this application we choose to apply a scenario where a user can choose to act upon energy requests and share with friends, or strangers.

To handle these protocols, an IC has to be added. This way whenever the battery reached V_{starve} it will send out a request for energy visually by lighting a red LED embedded in the wristband. Neighbouring nodes can then choose to react on this or save their own energy. Whenever the battery dies, the user either has to verbally ask for energy or visit an energy bar.

4.3.3 Initial design of the product

show initial design of the product

mention that there has to be some sort of thing that the user can initiate to start the show red light to indicate low battery has to be mentioned indicate that RF might not work, we don't focus on that

5 Analysis of the system design

In this Section we will discuss the specifics of the system we propose and introduce our validated model of the system. With this model we were able to display the charging profile in Section 5.2 and optimized for a charge to discharge ratio in section 5.3.

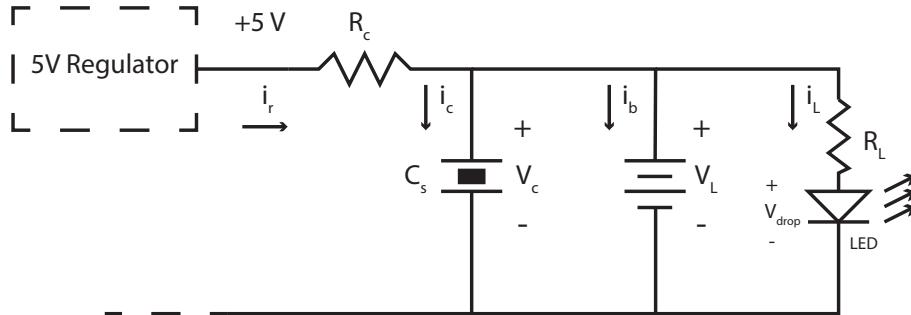


Figure 8: Design of the Receiver of the wireless power transmitting system

Figure 8 shows a low level schematic of the receiver and charging circuit which will be the main focus of our project. The induction current i_r induced by the transmitter through magnetic coupling will be the main source of charging current. The current i_c charges the super capacitor C_s up to the capacity of V_c , in our case $V_c \leq 5$ Volts as this is the maximum voltage rating of our supercapacitor, i_b charges the battery and i_L is consumed by the current limiting resistor R_L and a light source LED . Where $i_r = i_c + i_b + i_L$. Now in analysis lets first consider the efficiency η of the circuit. If P_o is the power consumed by the receiver and P_i is the power provided by the transmitter, ignoring small power drops across D_r and C_r then:

$$\eta = \frac{P_o}{P_i} \quad (1)$$

where $P_o = V_{reg} \times i_r$ and $P_i = V_i \times i_s$. The receiving battery can provide $V_i = 3$ Volts when fully charged. For a 3 Volts lithium-ion battery the output voltage normally drops by 0.2 Volts when the battery is at 40% of its capacity and can go to 2.6 Volts when it is almost drained [6]. Therefor a slight dim in LED

brightness can be observed as battery drains with time. To ensure a normal brightness of our *LED* with a forward voltage drop of $V_{drop} = 1.7$ Volts we choose need a current of $i_L = 20$ mA. To determine the required resistance we used equation 2 and found $R_L = 65\Omega$

$$R_L = \frac{V_l - V_{drop}}{i_L} \quad (2)$$

Using $P_L = i_L^2 \times R_L$ we can determine the power rating of R_L that gives us $P_L = 400\mu$ Watts. This is the power dissipated at R_L and can be avoided if we use a LED that has exactly the same forward voltage drop V_{drop} as the battery output V_l and thus remove the need for R_L . However, a LED is very sensitive to even small change in the applied voltage. A voltage change of 0.1 Volt can cause the LED current i_L to shot up beyond the limits hence a more careful consideration is required if one chooses to omit the current limiting resistor R_L .

5.1 Battery Life

The battery that we are using has a capacity of 50 mAh, which means if current I_B of 50 mA is continuously drawn from the battery then it can last for one hour. To find out total battery life for our circuit we need to consider the total power consumed P_c , for our case $P_c = i_L \times V_l$ from which we can calculate total life of fully charged battery.

$$\text{TotalBatteryLife} = \frac{\text{BatteryCapacity}}{\text{PowerConsumed}} = \frac{I_B \times V_l \times 1\text{hour}}{i_L \times V_l} = \frac{50\text{mA} \times 3\text{V} \times 1\text{hour}}{20\text{mA} \times 3\text{V}} = 2.5\text{hours}$$

5.2 Charging Profile

Now lets consider how the charging and discharging of the receiver circuit works. According to manufacturer specification $i_r \leq 400$ mA , which enforces the limit for the system to function properly. In figure the super capacitor C_s has very low series resistance of 0.07Ω compared to $R_L = 65\Omega$ hence during charging we can say that $i_c \approx i_r$ and if the $i_r(t)$ is not constant and depends on time then the capacitor charging is governed by the following equation

$$V_c = V_{reg} \left(1 - e^{\frac{-t}{R_c C}} \right) \quad (3)$$

where R_c is the series limiting resistance of receiver circuit whose value depends on the maximum value of i_r and C is the total capacitance of super capacitor which in our case $C_s = 5$ Farads R_c can be chosen using $R_c = \frac{V_{reg}}{i_r}$ for maximum allowed $i_r = 400$ mA which gives us $R_c = 12.5\Omega$

Figure 9 shows charging, discharging and idle profile of the super capacitor during the system operation. In initial charging cycle t_{ci} , C_s is charged using $i_r(t)$ following equation 3 and during discharge cycle t_d , the $i_r(t) = 0$ and discharge current is supplied in the form of i_b and i_L . Finally during the equilibrium cycle t_{eq} the voltage is reduced to equal the battery voltage ($V_l = 3$ V) such that no current flows between the battery and super capacitor and $i_b = 0$, at this stage only battery's charge is used to power the LED. At last during the second charge cycle t_{c2} , the capacitor's charging starts from equilibrium voltage instead of 0 and is charged to V_{reg} un till the discharge cycle starts again.

5.3 Charge to discharge ratio

If current i_r is provided for a time period t then how long the system will keep running with this provided current is defined by the charge to discharge ratio C_r and is given as

$$C_r(t) = \frac{i_r(t)}{i_L} \quad (4)$$

where $i_r(t) = \frac{5 - V_c(t)}{R_c}$ is the current provided for charging at time t and is given by

$$i_r(t) = \frac{5 - V_c(t)}{R_c} \quad (5)$$

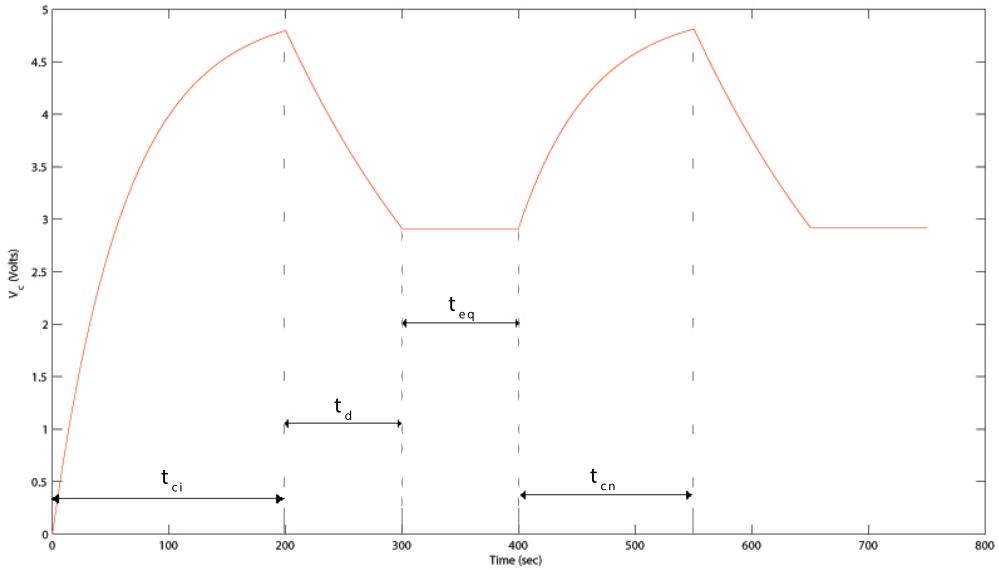


Figure 9: Charging profile of the super capacitor

As $C_r(t)$ is only meaningful during the time when $i_r(t) \neq 0$ which corresponds to time intervals t_i and t_n in the figure 9. Hence we can plot $C_r(t)$ for these intervals as shown in figure 10 (a) and 10 (b). From figures we can observe that $C_r(t)$ decreases with time till the value of 2. This is because of the capacitor's charging nature, as C_s starts to charge up, $V_c(t)$ starts increasing which decreases the value of $i_r(t)$ [eq:5] and eventually $C_r(t)$. To make more meaningful analysis of charge to discharge ratio one can find the average value of $C_r(t)$ using

$$C_{avg} = \frac{1}{T} \int_t C_r(t) dt. \quad (6)$$

In figures 10 (a) and (b) for t_i and t_n we can see the value of C_{avg} to be 6 and 3.14 respectively. The value 3.14 for t_n is of more importance as this value represents the rest of the charging cycles through out the system operation. $i_r(t)$ is responsible for the decrease in $C_r(t)$ which means that the receiving energy is not fully exploited. C_{avg} can be further improved if we can somehow exploit the $i_r(t)$ to its maximum value for all times t . This can be achieved by using a component that can provide constant current regardless of the change at its output voltage. Such components have internal DC to DC convertor and are referred as constant current capacitor/battery chargers. If such a component is added to charge the super capacitor than it is possible to get $i_r(t)$ as constant maximum allowed value for all times t .

For constant i_r , $C_r(t)$ profile is shown in figure 11, we can observe that $C_r(t)$ value has been improved to 20 and it stays constant for all values of t .

6 The proposed system design

The Figure 5 shows the proposed design of the system. The system includes a transmitter and a receiver with transmission and receiving coil respectively. The wireless power transmission works on the principle of magnetic induction [6]. The transmitter is powered up by a voltage source V_i of 12 Volts capable of delivering 400 milli-Amps of i_{in} current. i_c is the constant current that is consumed by the transmitter circuitry and i_s is the induction current which flows through the transmitter coil such that $i_{in} = i_c + i_s$. i_c is constant and depends on the transmitter inner circuitry power consumption, in our case $i_c = 100\text{milli - Amps}$. i_s depends on the distance between the two magnetically coupled coils, greater the distance smaller the i_s will be. Another factor that i_s could depend is on adding an iron

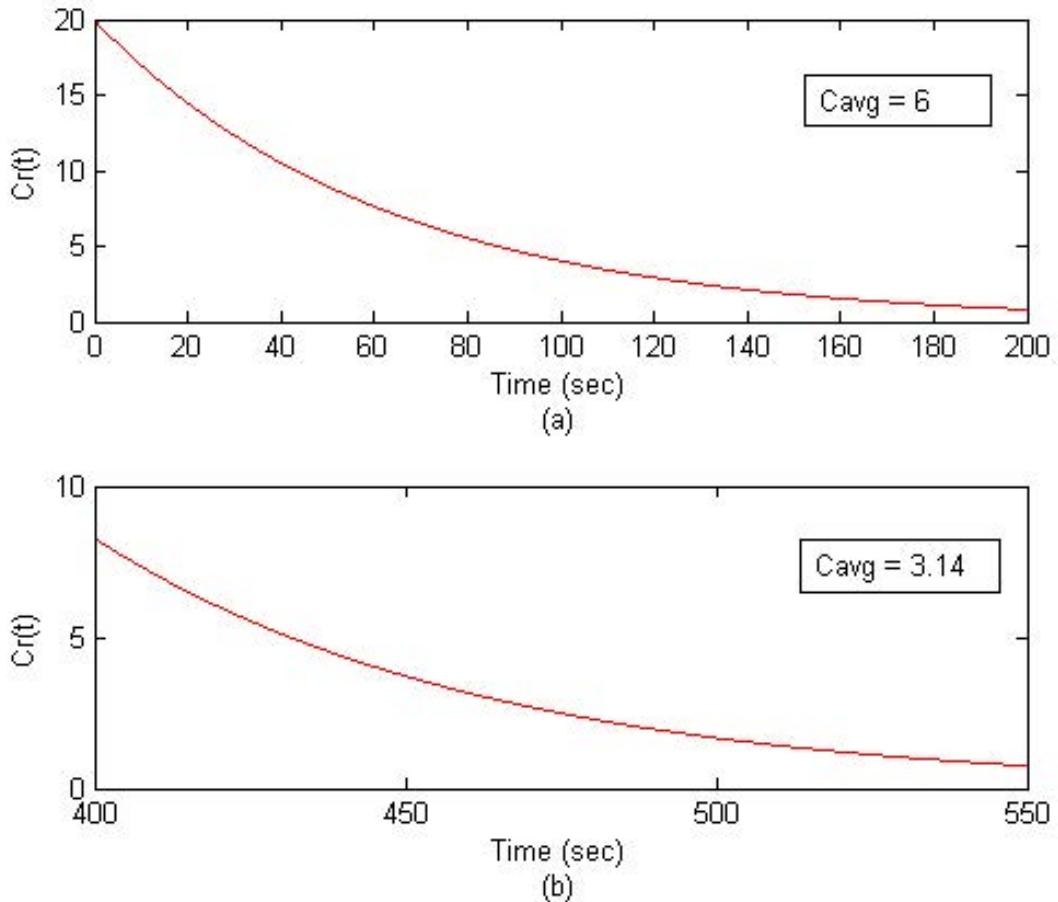


Figure 10: (a) Charge to discharge ratio for t_i cycle. (b) Charge to discharge ratio for t_n cycle

core between the two coils, adding a core makes the magnetic coupling stronger and increases the i_s which enhances an overall efficiency of the system. The receiver circuit receives an induction voltage V_r , rectifies it through a rectifier containing a shotkey diode D_r and a capacitor C_r . A shotkey diode is used in order to have a good frequency response at the range of $300 - 400\text{Khz}$ the transmitter working frequency also shotkey has lower forward voltage drop. The rectified voltage is then fed to the voltage regulator that produces constant voltage $V_{reg} = 5\text{Volts}$.

determine V_{starve} , V_{dead} , V_{full}

6.1 The internet of things

The assignment of this report conveyed criticizing and accessing system-level Internet of Things components in scientific literature. Because the assigned paper [1] did not include anything IoT related, we will present our own idea. In this section we will provide a short introduction to the Internet of Things and its key features, we will also present our idea and focus on the practicality and entrepreneurial aspect of the idea.

The Internet of Things refers to uniquely identifiable objects, or things, and their virtual representations in an Internet-like structure. [7]. The intelligent application is the key feature here. Important aspects to be taken into consideration when designing such systems are security, privacy and scalability.

The anatomy of Internet of Things is initiated by a certain event, that is detected and logged by devices that include self-properties [7]. This data is then uploaded by a ubiquitous and interoperable network. The unique feature of the internet of things is that this system is smart and can generate

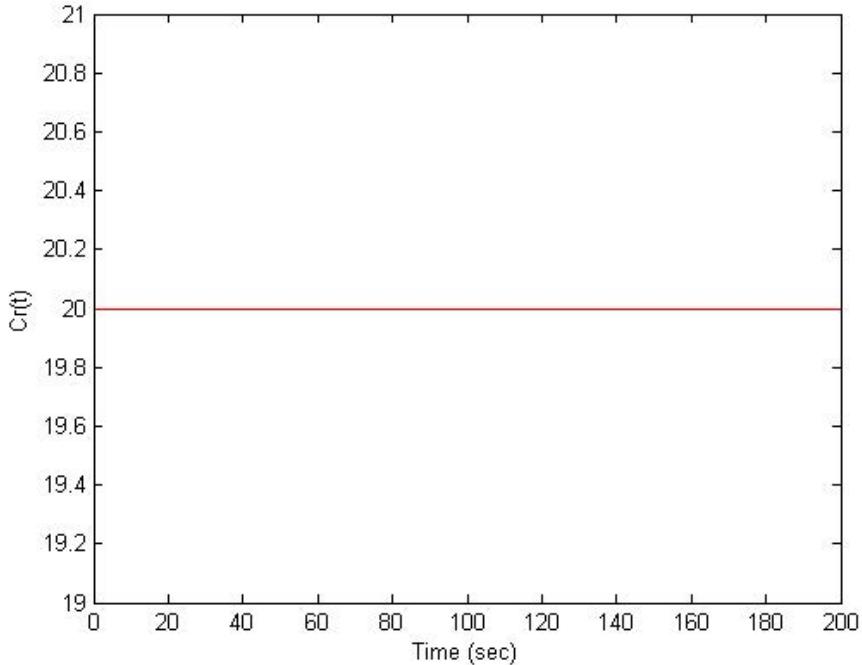


Figure 11: Charge to discharge ratio with constant charging current i_r

knowledge and by analyzing this data and understands the system. Certain events are then triggered and reported as response. The intelligence of these systems lie in the adapting mechanisms that analyse and understand the environment in order to deal with the complex dynamics of a real-world environment.

Internet of Things has already been employed at multiple festivals and initially used as a ticketing solution in 2004 at the SXSW festival in Austin. It emerged in the form of wristbands and cut down significantly on gate crashing and lost tickets [10]. SXSW announced that each tag contained a unique ID code, correlated with personal information available by SXSW [5]. It has further been introduced at Coachella and Bonnaroo. [4] [3] RFID now even support cashless payments and integration with social networks, allowing people to upload pictures to facebook via the so-called "Live Click Stations" [10]. We can conclude that it's safe to say that the Internet of Things hasn't reached its peak yet concerning festival and concerts.

Because our scenario already portrays users wearing a wristband throughout the festival containing the discussed electronics, we can add some small features to play into current trends concerning Internet of Things and music festivals. By adding a RFID tag into each wristband, users are assigned unique IDs. These tags can be applied fairly easily and can obviously contain functionality such as a unique entrance ID or even cashless payments. In this report however, we want to focus on the fun factor of connecting with friends and strangers. Users can prior to arriving at the festival use their unique ID and optionally link it to all the accounts of their friends on the accompanying social media. When the users enter the festival site and receive their wristbands, these are connected to their unique id priorly received. Whenever they charge their wristband, either at the bar or at check-in points near every site of interest, their friends that are not near them will receive a message containing their location and if made, an image at the check-in location. Based on certain check-in's at time in the schedule of the festival, the system can recognize their interests (if not already mentioned in their id page online) and even give them recommendations to go next to. The sequence of this Internet of things can be seen in figure 12.

Our system goes beyond simply assigning a unique id to a user, it also adds functionality and connects ids to exchange information. In this manner, it mines the data when users check in at charging points where they can even choose to make a picture. These check-ins are logged and sent to a server, where the user's ID is processed and connected IDs of friends are notified. The system can then analyze the data and generate knowledge by searching for common factors of interest. Based on this intelligence,

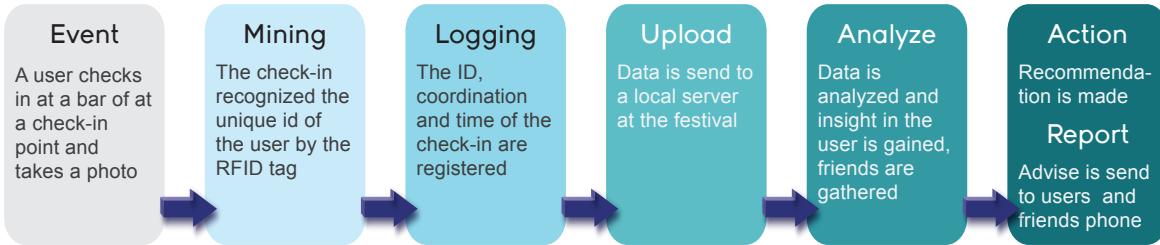


Figure 12: Internet of things chain of actions

the system can in turn return some recommendations back to the user. This doesn't just improve the experience of the user, but it gives the organization a better insight into the behavior of their visitors.

6.2 The WeLight

product design

7 Results

results

8 Conclusion

conclusion

9 Future works

Say something about future work

might need to find out if the radio frequency communication does not interfere with the charging and vice versa

maybe they can introduce some kind of pattern recognition in where people are at the festival by checking the RFID tags.

The major technical challenge is to achieve large value for charge to discharge ratio, which means that during the charging cycle one has to provide large amount of wireless power. This can be achieved by using high power IC's that can withstand high currents without any failure. Other challenges involve making the system compact enough so that it can fit in one wrist-band and increasing the distance between the wireless transceiver and receiver. Increasing the distance without losing significant efficiency would require a completely new technique in wireless power transmission which is still a hot topic of research. However, making the system compact can be achieved by taking extra care in selecting the components which may require exploring many different vendors.

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