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WIRELESS POWER TRANSFER SYSTEM, METHODS OR DEVICES

Abstract

A wireless power transmission system comprising a wireless power transmitting device and a wireless power receiving device. The wireless power receiving device is configured to enter a cloak state when a temporary pause in power transfer is desired. The wireless power receiving device may allow or deny a communication data stream with the wireless power transmitting device during the cloak state. The wireless power receiving device may request a hot start power transfer phase with the wireless power transmitting device after the cloak state. The wireless power transmitting device may or revert (reset) to a default operating state in the event that a control error packet is received during the cloak state.

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Background/Summary

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS [0001] This application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 18/051,616, filed Nov. 1, 2022, which is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 16/836,643, filed Mar. 31, 2020; and claims priority to and benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 62/865,873, filed Jun. 24, 2019, all of which is entitled “WIRELESS POWER TRANSFER SYSTEM, METHODS OR DEVICES,” which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety for all purposes.

FIELD

[0002] This relates to a wireless power transfer system, related methods or devices.

BACKGROUND

[0003] In wireless power transfer systems, a wireless power transmitter wirelessly transmits power to a wireless power receiver. The wireless power receiver receives the wirelessly transmitted power and provides power to an associated load, such as to an internal battery of an associated device for charging the battery.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

[0004] FIG. 1 is a schematic diagram of an illustrative wireless power system in accordance with some embodiments.

[0005] FIG. 2 is a flow chart of a wireless power transfer protocol which may be used by the wireless power transfer system of FIG. 1 in some embodiments.

[0006] FIG. 3 is a flow chart of a further wireless power transfer protocol which may be used by the wireless power transfer system of FIG. 1 in some embodiments.

[0007] FIGS. 4 to 12 are graphs showing a timing of communications in the wireless power transfer system of FIG. 1 according to various embodiments.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0008] A wireless power system has a wireless power transmitting device (which may also be referred to in some instances as a wireless power transmitter or an inductive power transmitter) that transmits power wirelessly to a wireless power receiving device (which may also be referred to in some instances as a wireless power receiver or an inductive power receiver). The wireless power transmitting device is a device such as a wireless charging mat, wireless charging puck, wireless charging stand, wireless charging table, or other wireless power transmitting equipment. The wireless power transmitting device may be a stand-alone device or built into other electronic devices such as a laptop or tablet computer, cellular telephone or other electronic device. The wireless power transmitting device has one or more coils that are used in transmitting wireless power to one or more wireless power receiving coils in the wireless power receiving device. The wireless power receiving device is a device such as a cellular telephone, watch, media player, tablet

computer, pair of earbuds, remote control, laptop computer, electronic pencil or stylus, other portable electronic device, or other wireless power receiving equipment.

[0009] During operation, the wireless power transmitting device supplies alternating-current signals to one or more wireless power transmitting coils. This causes the coils to generate an alternating magnetic field and to transmit alternating-current electromagnetic signals (sometimes referred to as wireless power signals) to one or more corresponding coils in the wireless power receiving device. Rectifier circuitry in the wireless power receiving device converts received wireless power signals into direct-current (DC) power for powering the wireless power receiving device.

[0010] The term “coil” may include an electrically conductive structure where an electrical current generates a magnetic field. For example, inductive “coils” may be electrically conductive wire in three dimensional shapes or two dimensional planar shapes, electrically conductive material fabricated using printed circuit board (PCB) techniques into three dimensional shapes over plural PCB “layers”, and other coil-like shapes. Other configurations may be used depending on the application. The use of the term “coil”, in either singular or plural, is not meant to be restrictive in this sense.

[0011] An illustrative wireless power system is shown in FIG. 1. As shown in FIG. 1, a wireless power system **8** includes a wireless power transmitting device **12** (which may also be referred to in some instances as an inductive power transmitter) and one or more wireless power receiving devices such as wireless power receiving device **10** (which may also be referred to in some instances as an inductive power receiver). Device **12** may be a stand-alone device such as a wireless charging mat, may be built into a laptop or tablet computer, cellular telephone or other electronic device, furniture, or may be other wireless charging equipment. Device **10** is a portable electronic device such as a wristwatch, a cellular telephone, a laptop or tablet computer, an electronic pencil or stylus, or other electronic equipment. Illustrative configurations in which device **12** is a tablet computer or similar electronic device and in which device **10** is an electronic accessory that couples with the tablet computer or similar electronic device during wireless power transfer operations may sometimes be described herein as examples. For example, in one example electronic device **12** is a tablet computer and electronic device **10** is a stylus configured to attach to electronic device **12** (tablet) and be wirelessly (e.g., inductively) charged by electronic device **12** (tablet). Illustrative configurations in which device **12** is a mat or other equipment that forms a wireless charging surface and in which device **10** is a portable electronic device or electronic accessory that rests on the wireless charging surface during wireless power transfer operations may also sometimes be described herein as examples.

[0012] During operation of system **8**, a user places one or more devices **10** on or near the charging region of device **12**. Power transmitting device **12** is coupled to a source of alternating-current voltage such as alternating-current power source **50** (e.g., a wall outlet that supplies line power or other source of mains electricity), has a battery such as battery **38** for supplying power, and/or is coupled to another source of power. A power converter such as AC-DC power converter **40** can be included to convert power from a mains power source or other alternating current (AC) power source into DC power that is used to power control circuitry **42** and other circuitry in device **12**. During operation, control circuitry **42** uses wireless power transmitting circuitry **34** and one or more coils **36** coupled to circuitry **34** to generate an alternating magnetic field and to transmit alternating-current wireless power signals **48** to device **10** and thereby convey wireless power to wireless power receiving circuitry **46** of device **10**.

[0013] Power transmitting circuitry **34** has switching circuitry (e.g., transistors in an inverter circuit) that are turned on and off based on control signals provided by control circuitry **42** to create A C current signals through one or more coils **36**. As the A C currents pass through a coil **36** that is being driven by the switching circuitry, a time-varying magnetic field (wireless power signals **48**) or “flux” is generated, that is received by one or more corresponding coils **14** electrically connected

to wireless power receiving circuitry **46** in receiving device **10**. If the time-varying magnetic field is magnetically coupled to coil **14**, an AC voltage is induced and a corresponding AC currents flows in coil **14**. Rectifier circuitry in circuitry **46** can convert the induced AC voltage in the one or more coils **14** into a DC voltage signals for powering device **10**. The DC voltages are used in powering components in device **10** such as display **52**, touch sensor components and other sensors **54** (e.g., accelerometers, force sensors, temperature sensors, light sensors, pressure sensors, gas sensors, moisture sensors, magnetic sensors, etc.), wireless communications circuitry **56** for communicating wirelessly with control circuitry **42** of device **12** and/or other equipment, audio components, and other components (e.g., input-output devices **22** and/or control circuitry **20**) and/or are used in charging an internal battery in device **10** such as battery **18**, or to charge subsequent devices, either wired or wirelessly.

[0014] Devices **12** and **10** include control circuitry **42** and **20**. Control circuitry **42** and **20** may include storage and processing circuitry such as analogue circuitry, microprocessors, power management units, baseband processors, digital signal processors, field-programmable gate arrays, microcontrollers, application-specific integrated circuits with processing circuits and/or any combination thereof. Control circuitry **42** and **20** is configured to execute instructions for implementing desired control and communications features in system **8**. For example, control circuitry **42** and/or **20** may be used in selecting a cloaking mode, negotiating a communications data stream during cloaking, initiating a hot start from cloaking, sensing for foreign or other non-receiver objects (e.g.: metallic objects such as coins or RFID tags within electronic devices), determining power transmission levels, processing sensor data, processing user input, processing other information such as information on wireless coupling efficiency from transmitting circuitry **34**, processing information from receiving circuitry **46**, using information from circuitry **34** and/or **46** such as signal measurements on output circuitry in circuitry **34** and other information from circuitry **34** and/or **46** to determine when to start and stop wireless charging operations, adjusting charging parameters such as charging frequencies, coil assignments in a multi-coil array, and wireless power transmission levels, and performing other control functions. Control circuitry **42** and/or **20** may be configured to perform these operations using hardware (e.g., dedicated hardware or circuitry) and/or software (e.g., code that runs on the hardware of system **8**). Software code for performing these operations is stored on non-transitory computer readable storage media (e.g., tangible computer readable storage media). The software code may sometimes be referred to as software, data, program instructions, instructions, or code. The non-transitory computer readable storage media may include non-volatile memory such as non-volatile random-access memory (NVRAM), one or more hard drives (e.g., magnetic drives or solid state drives), one or more removable flash drives or other removable media, other computer readable media, or combinations of these computer readable media or other storage. Such media may sometimes be referred to herein as electronic memory. Software stored on the non-transitory computer readable storage media may be executed on the processing circuitry of control circuitry **42** and/or **20**. The processing circuitry may include application-specific integrated circuits with processing circuitry, one or more microprocessors, or other processing circuitry.

[0015] Device **12** and/or device **10** may communicate wirelessly. Devices **10** and **12** may, for example, have wireless transceiver circuitry in control circuitry **42** and **20** (and/or wireless communications circuitry such as circuitry **56** of FIG. **1**) that allows wireless transmission of signals between devices **10** and **12** (e.g., using antennas that are separate from coils **36** and **14** to transmit and receive unidirectional or bidirectional wireless signals, using coils **36** and **14** to transmit and receive unidirectional or bidirectional wireless signals, etc.). For example, device **12** and/or device **10** may communicate using in-band communications injected or combined into the wireless power signals **48** such as proposed in the Wireless Power Consortium Qi specification 1.2.3, which is incorporated herein by reference. Alternatively, a separate Bluetooth, RFID, NFC, Zigbee, WiFi, RF or other communication system may be employed. A wireless transmission signal

may include a “message” from one device to the other. A wireless communication message can comprise data that can be read by control circuitry **42** or **20** of devices **10** or **12**. Sending and receiving a “message” is to be interpreted as sending and receiving a wireless communication signal comprising the message.

Wireless Power Transfer Process

[0016] Referring to FIG. 2, in some embodiments, transmitting and receiving devices **12** and **10** are configured to operate in accordance with a wireless power transfer protocol **200** for initiating and controlling wireless power transfer. The power transfer protocol **200** comprises an initiation phase **201**, a handshake phase **202** and a wireless power transfer phase **203**. The process may also comprise an optional calibration phase (not shown in FIG. 2), but briefly described below. The phases of the process **200** may be sequential in that a previous phase must be terminated before a current phase is initiated, or in some embodiments, one or more phases may be combined or be allowed to operate simultaneously. One or both of transmitting or receiving devices **12** or **10** may be configured to act as “initiator” of a phase and/or as “terminator” of a phase. Typically the receiving device **10** acts as the “master”.

[0017] During initiation phase **201**, transmitting device **12** establishes wireless communication with a receiving device **10** when receiving device **10** is within communication range of transmitting device **12**. Transmitting device **12** can confirm the presence of receiving device **10** by sending interrogation signal(s) and listening for a response signal from receiving device **10**, for example. Control circuitry **42** of transmitting device **12** can be configured to continuously or periodically generate and send (via wireless power transmitting circuitry **34** or other wireless communications circuitry), interrogation signal(s), or ping signals, during a selection or ping phase of the initiation phase **201**. Control circuitry **20** of receiving device **10** can be configured to listen for interrogation signal(s) from nearby transmitting device(s) **12** and to generate and send, in response, one or more response message(s) (via wireless communications circuitry **56**, for example). The response message(s) may include data indicative of a received signal strength. Receiving device **10** may send further messages including identification data associated with receiving device **10** during an identification & configuration phase of the initiation phase **201**. The message(s) may also include configuration data indicative of a desired or required configuration settings for transmitting device **12**. Control circuitry **42** of transmitting device **12** can be configured to receive the response message(s) from receiving device **10** and determine from the messages(s) an appropriate connection for wireless power transfer. For example, control circuitry **42** may be configured to confirm the suitability of a connection using one or more variables associated with the response message(s), such as signal strength, receiver identification and/or configuration settings. Control circuitry **42** may also update or adjust one or more configuration parameters associated with wireless power transfer using configuration data from the response message(s).

[0018] During or prior to initiation phase **201**, transmitting device **12** may be configured to determine the presence of a foreign object such as bankcards, coins or other metals, in the field of magnetic flux. Control circuitry **42** of transmitting device **12** may only enable progression of process **200** into the handshake phase **202**, or any other succeeding stages, if the absence of a foreign object with adverse effects is first confirmed. Foreign object detection may be carried out using a number of methods according to the application requirements. For example, impedance or Q factor measurements, which may be measured at one or more predetermined frequencies, over one or more ranges of frequencies, power loss accounting, or known characteristics of foreign objects may be monitored for.

[0019] Upon establishing a connection, connected transmitting and receiving devices **12** and **10** can proceed into a handshake or negotiation phase **202**. During handshake phase **202**, transmitting and receiving devices **12** and **10** communicate to establish a power transfer contract, governing one or more conditions of power transfer for the power transfer phase **203**. The power transfer condition(s) of the power transfer contract may comprise, for example, a maximum power transfer

limit, guaranteed power, received power packet (RP) format, FSK polarity and modulation depth. The power transfer condition(s) can be stored in memory associated with control circuitry **42** of transmitting device **12** and used to control wireless power transmitting circuitry **34** during the power transfer phase **203** accordingly. In some embodiments, one or more of the power transfer condition(s) may be pre-established and pre-stored in memory associated with control circuitry **42** of the transmitting device **12**. In some embodiments, one or more of the power transfer condition(s) may be communicated by the receiving device **10** to the transmitting device **12** during handshake phase **202**. In some embodiments, one or more of the power transfer condition(s) may be determined by the transmitting device **12** or receiving device **10** using one or more operational variables of receiving device **10**. For example, a maximum power transfer limit condition may be determined by receiving device **10** using a state of charge of a battery **18** associated with receiving device **10**. The determined maximum power transfer limit condition can be communicated by receiving device **10** to transmitting device **12** during the handshake phase **202**. Control circuitry **42** of transmitting device **12** is configured to drive wireless power transmitting circuitry **34** to transmit wireless power in accordance with the power transfer contract established in phase **202**, during the power transfer phase **203**.

[0020] In some embodiments, transmitting and receiving devices **10** and **12** may be configured to perform a pre-power-transfer calibration (not shown in FIG. 2). In pre-power-transfer calibration, transmitting device **12** can be configured to subject receiving device to multiple varying calibration power levels, and to receive received power message(s) in response indicative of a level of wireless power received by receiving device **10**. Two or more varying calibration power levels may be transmitted to receiving device **10** in this phase. Control circuitry **42** can determine the calibration power levels using one or more operational variables associated with a load. For example, each calibration power level may be determined based on a different percentage of a maximum power consumable by the load, e.g., 10% and 100%. Other calibration load levels within this range may be transmitted in this phase. Control circuitry **42** can use the received power message(s) and associated the calibration power levels to generate a model of expected load behavior. For example, the model may be generated using a linear regression technique. The model can be stored in electronic memory associated with control circuitry **42**. During power transfer phase **203**, control circuitry **42** can use received power message(s) sent by receiving device **10** and the pre-stored model to determine the potential presence of a foreign object. Control circuitry **42** may compare a level of received power against an expected level of received power obtained from the model for a current transmission power level, and determine from the level of deviation a value indicative of the presence of a foreign object. Control circuitry **42** may adjust operation of wireless power transmitting circuitry **34** and/or send message(s) to receiving device **10** upon detection of a foreign object as previously described.

[0021] During power transfer phase **203**, transmitting device **12** transfers wireless power to the receiving device **10** for supply to a load of the receiving device **10**, such as battery **18**. Wireless power transfer is substantially continuous in phase **203**. Received wireless power may also be used by receiving device **10** to power other devices or circuitry in the receiving device **10**, such as wireless power receiving circuitry **46**, input-output devices **22** and control circuitry **20**. In phase **203**, control circuitry **42** can be configured to generate a drive signal for wireless power transmitting circuitry **34** to transfer wireless power from transmitting device **12** to receiving device **10** in accordance with the condition(s) of the power transfer contract established during handshake phase **202**.

[0022] Wireless power is transferred from transmitting device **12** to receiving device **10** according to the power requirements of the receiver's load, such as the charging requirements of a battery **18**. Receiving device **10** can be configured to generate feedback message(s) indicative of a level of deviation between received power and a desired power requirement of the load. The feedback message(s) such as control error (CE) packets may be communicated to transmitting device **12** for

adjusting a level of transferred wireless power accordingly, if necessary. Control circuitry **42** of transmitting device **12** can be configured to receive feedback message(s) and to adjust a driving signal (in amplitude, duty cycle, phase or frequency) for wireless power transmitting circuitry **34** using the feedback message(s) to reduce the level of deviation towards zero. The feedback message(s) may be generated periodically by control circuitry **20** during power transfer phase **203**. [0023] Control circuitry **20** of receiving device **10** is also configured to generate received power message(s) using the receiving circuitry **46**, and to send the received power message(s) to transmitting device **12** using wireless communication circuitry **56**. The received power $P_{sub.PR}$ (RP) message(s) can indicate of a level of power received by coil(s) **14**, including associated power loss. This may be determined empirically using a test setup and may take into account the power $P_{sub.out}$ provided at the receiver output and adding any power $P_{sub.PR}$ loss that is lost inside the receiver device. This power $P_{sub.PR}$ loss may include, for example: the power loss in the rectifier, the power loss in the receiver coil, the power loss in the resonance capacitor, the power loss in the shielding of the receiver assembly, and the power loss in any metal parts of the receiver). The received power message(s) may be sent periodically during calibration or power transfer phase **203**. Control circuitry **42** of transmitting device **12**, can be configured to receive the received power message(s) and to determine, using the received power message(s), the potential presence of a foreign object. For example, control circuitry **42** may compare the level of received power to a predetermined expected level of received power stored in associated memory to determine the presence of an unwanted foreign object. Upon detection of a foreign object, control circuitry **42** may reduce transmitted power to a safe level or terminate wireless power transfer by driving wireless power transmitting circuitry **34** accordingly.

[0024] In some embodiments, transmitting and receiving devices **12** and **10** may be configured to terminate a power transfer phase **203** and to return to a handshake phase **202** to establish a new power transfer contract, if prompted by one of the devices **12** or **10**. In some embodiments, either one of transmitting or receiving device **12** or **10** may be configured to terminate power transfer phase **203** and reinitiate handshake phase **202**. In other embodiments, only one of transmitting or receiving device **12** or **10** may be configured to terminate power transfer phase **203** and reinitiate handshake phase **202**. For example, receiving device **10** may be configured to terminate a power transfer phase **203** and re-initiate a handshake phase **202** when a desired power requirement of an associated load, such as battery **18**, is outside a threshold value or range of a current power transfer contract.

[0025] Referring to FIG. **3** a further example protocol **300** is shown for initiating and controlling power transfer. Initially if an object is detected **301** the transmitter sends a ping **302** using the power transmitting coil. The ping is typically an analogue signal that wakes a receiver if that is the adjacent object. This is followed by a digital ping from the transmitter, and a compatible receiver then replies with a signal strength packet. If the signal strength packet is valid, the power transmitter proceeds to the next phase. The receiver then replies **304** with a configuration packet, and identification packet. The configuration packet includes a number of flag bits for various scenarios. If the “negotiation” bit is false **306**, the transmitter begins power transfer **328** under the basic power profile (BPP) **308**.

[0026] If the “negotiation” bit is true **310**, the transmitter and receiver enter a negotiation phase **312**, with the transmitter responding with a FSK response pattern. If the negotiation is successful **314**, then the transmitter enters a power calibration phase **316**. If the calibration is successful **318**, the transmitter begins power transfer **328** under the extended power profile (EPP) **320**.

[0027] A Boolean true signal can be a signal that represents a binary of “one”, a voltage signal exceeding a threshold, a pattern of specific binary bit values, or other values representative of true depending on the requirements of the application. Conversely a Boolean false signal can be a signal that represents a binary of “zero”, a voltage signal below a threshold, a pattern of specific binary bit values, or other values representative of false depending on the requirements of the application.

[0028] For a power receiver that supports performing the calibration phase **316** it begins sending message packets (RP) containing the received power with a mode such as binary “001” denoting a light load power level until the power transmitter acknowledges that it has finished calibration in this mode with a light load power. Subsequently the power receiver begins sending RP packets containing the received power with a mode such as binary “010” denoting a connected load until the power transmitter acknowledges that it has finished calibration in this mode with a connected load. If the second (e.g. binary “010”) mode is successfully completed and acknowledged to the power receiver by the power transmitter, the power receiver will proceed with power transfer where message packets containing received power with a mode such as “000” are used.

[0029] If the configuration, negotiation, calibration, or power transfer phases return an error condition, then the process resets **330** and begins from the start.

Cloaking During Power Transfer Phase

[0030] Referring to FIG. **4**, in some embodiments, control circuitry **20** of receiving device **10** is configured to temporarily disable power transfer during power transfer phase **203**, to “cloak” the receiver. In this manner, during the cloak state **400**, the receiving device **10** sends an End Power Transfer message **402** (as defined in the table below) to the transmitter device **12**, to start the period where the transmitter device enters a low power or non-transmitting state **404**. This may occur when the wireless power receiving device has reached temperature threshold limit, and it would be desirable for the transmitting device, the receiving device **10**, or both, to appear as if charging is still occurring. After cooling down during the cloak state **400**, wireless power transmission can resume.

[0031] Qi 1.2.3 provides for a number of different end power transfer packet codes. For example currently 0x0C to 0xFF are reserved for future functionality. The receiving device **10** may send a Re-ping after End of Power Transfer (EPT/rep) packet using reserved EPT code 0x0C. This will include a value for a negotiated period $t_{sub.rep}$, that the transmitting device **12** will deactivate, or enter a low power state **404**, before sending a new digital ping **406**. It may be desirable for the amount of heat generated by the transmitting device **12** to be reduced during the low power state **404**. After each digital ping **406** the receiving device **10** waits $t_{sub.wake}$ for the voltage to stabilize, before sending a message. This may be EPT/rep if it wants to stay cloaked, or a number of other message types **408**, as described below, if it wants to exit cloaking **410**.

[0032] Referring to FIG. **5** the transmitting device **12** may wish to initiate a communication channel with the receiving device **10** during the cloaking state. It can be useful for the transmitting and receiving devices to perform some communication even though the receiving device is temporarily not needing wireless power.

[0033] For example, the transmitting and receiving devices may communicate and agree on a coordinated user interface experience. Consider the situation in which both the transmitting and receiving devices are capable of displaying charge-in-progress indicators using an LED and a touchscreen, respectively. If EPT/re-ping packets are being communicated on the order of milliseconds, it would improve the user's experience if the two devices can agree on avoiding repeated updates of the charge-in-progress indicators at the milliseconds frequency, and instead to provide coordinated updates at a more user perceptible rate, (e.g., after seconds repeatedly, to provide a longer duration of cloaking, it may be the cloaking period on the order of milliseconds).

[0034] In a further example, the transmitting device **12** may wish to inform the receiving device **10** that the transmitting device **12** has started a terminal shutdown event, perhaps because of impending loss of input power (e.g. unplugged). In this scenario the receiving device **10** might not deduce this for up to 12.6 sec (when it expects to be re-pinged by the transmitting device **12**), but by being informed early by means of the communication channel, prompt and intuitive change of state can be provided in the user interface on the receiving device **10**. Other events could include detection of a foreign object that will now inhibit continued charging (in which case prompt, intuitive change of state can be provided to the user interface instead of waiting to deduce that the

transmitting device fails to resume on schedule in up to 12.6 sec).

[0035] After t.sub.response from the EPT/rep, the transmitting device **12** sends and acknowledgement (ACK), indicating it wants to initiate a communication channel. If the receiving device **10** is able to proceed with communication, it will send a data stream request (DSR) packet to confirm this. In the case of a basic power profile (BPP) one way ASK comms from device **10** to device **12** is possible. In the case of an extended power profile (EPP) two way amplitude-shift key/frequency-shift key (ASK/FSK) comms between device **10** and device **12** is possible. Once the data stream is established, the transmitting device **12** may request for the receiving device **10** user interface (UI) to inhibit or disable the chime, prevent changing the charging light, or prevent changing any icons on the screen, that would normally occur when power transfer ends.

[0036] If the receiving device **10** wishes to initiate a communication channel with the transmitting device **12** during the cloaking state, it may come out of cloaking to communicate with the transmitting device **12**, by sending a Specific Request (GSR) packet (such as using reserved bit 0x05) which may include a request for the transmitting device **12** UI to inhibit or disable the charging light changing, that would normally occur when power transfer ends.

[0037] If instead, where the transmitting device **12** wishes to initiate a communication channel, the receiving device **10** may deny this as shown in FIG. **6**. This may occur, where the receiving device **10** is in a critical temperature state and cannot permit any further heating at all. After t.sub.response the transmitting device **12** sends ACK, indicating it wants to initiate a communication channel, and the receiving device **10** sends a deny communications end of power transfer packet (EPT/dny) using reserved bit 0x0E to deny the request. The transmitting device **12** will deactivate, or enter a low power state for t.sub.reping, before sending a new digital ping.

[0038] In the event that the initial ACK is not received from the transmitting device **12** within t.sub.terminate and that the digital ping signal is still present (indicating that the transmitting device is still attempting to communicate), the receiving device **10** resends the EPT/rep, as shown in FIG. **7**. If the subsequent ACK is received, the protocol proceeds as per FIG. **6**.

[0039] Similarly if the initial EPT/rep is not received from the receiving device **10**, and as a result not response is received from the transmitting device **12** within t.sub.terminate+t.sub.EPT, and that the digital ping signal is still present (indicating that the transmitting device is still attempting to communicate), the receiving device **10** resends the EPT/rep, as shown in FIG. **8**. If the subsequent ACK is received, the protocol proceeds as per FIG. **6**.

[0040] Referring to FIG. **9** if the receiving device **10** wishes to initiate an immediate resumption of power transfer using the previously agreed power contract with the transmitting device **12**, it may use a hot start protocol. In order to ensure that receiving device **10** or transmitting device **12** have not changed, e.g.: if a new receiving device **10** is introduced or if a receiving device **10** is swapped between transmitting devices **12**, it may be necessary to interchange identity details to verify that neither party has changed. After the digital ping **406**, the receiving device **10** waits t.sub.wake for the voltage to stabilize, before sending a R×ID packet. The ID value may be the pseudo unique Basic Device Identifier from the ID packet. After t.sub.response the transmitting device **12** sends ACK if it is able to proceed with hot start, then the receiving device **10** sends a general request packet requesting the transmitter identity (GRQ/id). After t.sub.response the transmitting device **12** sends a Power Transmitter Identification Packet (T×ID) (0x30) including the “Basic Device Identifier” in bytes B3, . . . , B6; defined in the same way for the power receiver's Identification packet (a 32 bit arbitrary number/string, of which at least 20 bits must be unique to the unit i.e. random serial number). Alternatively a new unit identification (serial) number packet could be defined e.g., new packet type 0x32 “Unit Number” to contain a 32/24/16 bit (4/3/2 byte) serial number. If this is completed successfully the transmitting device **12** will resume power transfer **900** using the previously agreed power contract.

[0041] Similarly as shown in FIG. **10** if the initial R×ID packet is not received by the transmitting device **12**, and the receiving device **10** does not receive a response, the receiving device **10** will

resend the R×ID packet after waiting t.sub.start. In that case, if the subsequent R×ID packet is received by the transmitting device **12**, the protocol proceeds as per FIG. **9**.

[0042] In the event that the initial R×ID packet is not received by the transmitting device **12**, and at least one further (for example two further) R×ID packet is not received by the transmitting device **12**, then after t.sub.cloaktimeout the transmitting device **12** will deactivate as per FIG. **11**.

[0043] As described above, one aspect of the present technology relates to data communications between a wireless power transmitter and a wireless power receiver. In some instances, this data communication can include a Basic Device Identifier and Power Transmitter Identification Packet.

[0044] The use of such device identification data in the present technology can be used to the benefit of users. For example, it can be helpful for a wireless power transmitter to understand whether back-to-back data packets are being sent by the same wireless power receiver device, or if wireless power receiver devices have been swapped. The present disclosure recognizes that the communication of identification information, even if the identification information is not globally unique, may be perceived as the obtaining of personal information data.

[0045] It is thus recommended that entities responsible for the collection, analysis, disclosure, transfer, storage, or other use of such information data comply with well-established privacy policies and/or privacy practices. In particular, such entities should implement and consistently use privacy policies and practices that are generally recognized as meeting or exceeding industry or governmental requirements for maintaining personal information data private and secure. Such policies should be easily accessible by users and should be updated as the collection and/or use of data changes. Personal information from users should be collected for legitimate and reasonable uses of the entity and not shared or sold outside of those legitimate uses. Further, such collection/sharing should occur after receiving the informed consent of the users. Additionally, such entities should consider taking any needed steps for safeguarding and securing access to such personal information data and ensuring that others with access to the personal information data adhere to their privacy policies and procedures. Further, such entities can subject themselves to evaluation by third parties to certify their adherence to widely accepted privacy policies and practices. In addition, policies and practices should be adapted for the particular types of personal information data being collected and/or accessed and adapted to applicable laws and standards, including jurisdiction-specific considerations. For instance, in the US, collection of or access to certain health data may be governed by federal and/or state laws, such as the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA); whereas health data in other countries may be subject to other regulations and policies and should be handled accordingly. Hence different privacy practices should be maintained for different data types in each country.

[0046] Despite the foregoing, the present disclosure also contemplates embodiments in which users selectively block the use of, or access to, information data such as those described above with respect to FIGS. **9** to **11**. That is, the present disclosure contemplates that hardware and/or software elements can be provided to prevent or block access to such personal information data. For example, the present technology can be configured to allow users to select to “opt in” or “opt out” of participation in the collection of personal information data during registration for services or anytime thereafter. In another example, users can select the specific services and functions that personal information data will be used for. In yet another example, users can select to limit the length of time that personal data is stored or used for specific services and functions. In addition to providing “opt in” and “opt out” options, the present disclosure contemplates providing notifications relating to the access or use of personal information. For instance, a user may be notified upon downloading an app that their personal information data will be accessed and then reminded again just before personal information data is accessed by the app.

[0047] Moreover, it is the intent of the present disclosure that identification information data should be managed and handled in a way to minimize risks of unintentional or unauthorized access or use. Risk can be minimized by limiting the collection of data and deleting data once it is no longer

needed. In addition, and when applicable, including in certain health related applications, data de-identification can be used to protect a user's privacy. De-identification may be facilitated, when appropriate, by removing specific identifiers and controlling the amount or specificity of data stored (e.g., removing some bits out of a larger identification string and not using globally unique identification codes), controlling how data is stored (e.g., aggregating data across users), and/or other methods.

[0048] Referring to FIG. 12 if a cloaked receiving device is replaced by an uncloaked receiving device which was in power transfer phase, the transmitting device 12 will deactivate or terminate. For example after t.sub.reping and t.sub.wake, if the expected SSI, R×ID or EPT/rep is not received, and instead a CE, RP or other unexpected packet is received, the transmitting device 12 will deactivate. Similarly if the first CE, RP or other unexpected packet is not received by the transmitting device 12, and if the subsequent CE or RP packet is received by the transmitting device 12, the transmitting device 12 will or revert/reset to a default/first time operating state or initialize as per FIG. 12.

[0049] The foregoing is merely illustrative and various modifications can be made to the described embodiments. The foregoing embodiments may be implemented individually or in any combination, and elements from one embodiment may be combined with others.

Claims

1. A method for wireless power transfer, the method performed by wireless power transfer device having a wireless power transfer coil, wireless power circuitry coupled to the wireless power transfer coil, and control circuitry that controls the wireless power circuitry, the method comprising: initiating a cloaking state during which power transfer to or from the wireless power transfer device is temporarily disabled by sending or receiving one or more messages between a wireless power transmitter and a wireless power receiver to start a period during which the wireless power transmitter enters a non-transmitting state; wherein the one or more messages include a negotiated period for which the wireless power transmitter will remain in the non-power transmitting state.
2. The method of claim 1 further comprising sending or receiving one more messages selected from the group consisting of: one or more messages from the wireless power transmitter to re-initiate communications or power transfer; and one or more messages from the wireless power receiver indicating that the wireless power receiver wants to exit the cloaking state.
3. The method of claim 1 further comprising sending or receiving one or more messages from a wireless power receiver indicating that the wireless power receiver wants to remain in the cloaking state.
4. The method of claim 1 further comprising the wireless power transfer device negotiating with a counterpart device to agree on a coordinated user interface experience.
5. The method of claim 4 wherein the agreed coordinated user interface experience relates to one or more items selected from the group consisting of: coordinated updates of charge in progress indicators; a terminal shutdown event of the wireless power transmitter; and detection of a foreign object.
6. The method of claim 4 wherein the agreed coordinated user interface experience includes one or more of: inhibiting or disabling a chime, preventing changing of a charging light, and preventing changing any icons on a display screen.
7. The method of claim 4 further comprising sending or receiving one or more messages to establish a communication channel with the counterpart device.
8. The method of claim 1 further comprising exiting the cloaking state and resuming power transfer by: sending or receiving a first set of messages to resume power transfer using a previously agreed power contract; or sending or receiving a second set of messages to renegotiate a power contract

and resume power transfer.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the wireless power transfer device is a wireless power transmitter and initiating the cloaking state during which power transfer from the wireless power transmitter is temporarily disabled by sending or receiving one or more messages to start the period during which the wireless power transmitter enters the non-power transmitting state further comprises: causing wireless power transfer to, or interrogation of, a wireless power receiver; and transmitting an acknowledgement responsive to a packet received from the wireless power receiver; foregoing at least one of wireless power transfer to the wireless power receiver or a communications data stream with the wireless power receiver responsive to a packet received from the wireless power receiver after the acknowledgment is transmitted; and causing a communications data stream with the wireless power receiver responsive to a data stream request received from the wireless power receiver after the acknowledgment is transmitted.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the communications data stream includes a request to modify a user interface to minimize or avoid an indication of change in power transfer status.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein the communications data stream includes a notification of change in power transfer status.

12. A wireless power receiver comprising: a wireless power receiving coil; wireless power receiving circuitry coupled to the wireless power receiving coil; wireless communication circuitry that communicates with a wireless power transmitter; and receiver control circuitry that controls the wireless power receiving circuitry and the wireless communication circuitry, wherein the receiver control circuitry is configured to initiate a cloaking state during which power transfer from the wireless power transmitter is temporarily disabled by using the wireless communication circuitry to send a message to the wireless power transmitter to start a period during which the wireless power transmitter enters a non-power transmitting state; wherein the message includes a negotiated period for which the wireless power transmitter will remain in the non-power transmitting state.

13. The wireless power receiver of claim 12 wherein the receiver control circuitry initiates the cloaking state in response to a temperature threshold limit.

14. The wireless power receiver of claim 12 wherein the message includes a value corresponding to a time that the wireless power transmitter will remain in the non-power transmitting state before attempting to re-initiate communications or power transfer.

15. A wireless power transmitter comprising: a wireless power transmitting coil; wireless power transmitting circuitry coupled to a wireless power receiving coil; transmitter control circuitry that controls the wireless power transmitting circuitry, wherein the transmitter control circuitry is configured to initiate a cloaking state during which power transfer from the wireless power transmitter is temporarily disabled responsive to a message from a wireless power receiver to start a period during which the wireless power transmitter enters a non-power transmitting state; wherein the message includes a negotiated period for which the wireless power transmitter will remain in the non-power transmitting state.

16. The wireless power transmitter of claim 15 wherein the message includes a value corresponding to a time that the wireless power transmitter will remain in the non-power transmitting state before attempting to re-initiate communications or power transfer.
