
Contents

INTRODUCTION	ix
CHAPTER 1. DESIGN AND PERFORMANCES OF UHF TAG INTEGRATED CIRCUITS	
1.1. Introduction	1
1.2. Integrated circuit architecture	2
1.3. RF to DC conversion: modeling the system	3
1.3.1. Determination of the ideal DC output voltage	3
1.3.2. Determination of the “real” DC voltage	6
1.3.3. Effects of parasitics and capacitances on the output voltage	8
1.3.4. Matching considerations	14
1.3.5. Results obtained	19
1.4. RF to DC conversion: proposed circuits and performances	21
1.4.1. Threshold-voltage cancellation circuit	21
1.4.2. Cross-coupled differential drive with automatic bridge structure cancellation circuit	23
1.4.3. Cross-coupled differential drive with controlled tuning voltages	24
1.4.4. Results	25
1.5. Voltage limiter and regulator	26
1.6. Demodulator	27
1.7. Oscillator	29
1.8. Modulator	30
1.9. Digital blocks	31
1.9.1. Memory	32
1.10. Technology, performances and trends	32
1.10.1. Technology choice	33
1.10.2. Design optimization	34

1.10.3. Circuit performances	35
1.11. Bibliography	36
CHAPTER 2. DESIGN OF UHF RFID TAGS	41
2.1. Tag antenna design	41
2.1.1. Fundamental circuit parameters of the dipole antenna	41
2.1.2. Fat antennas and tip loading	49
2.1.3. Meandered dipoles	52
2.1.4. Influence of dielectric and metallic materials – losses and detuning.	58
2.1.5. Near-field/far-field behavior of UHF RFID tags	64
2.2. Matching between the antenna impedance and the microchip impedance.	65
2.2.1. Matching conditions	65
2.2.2. L-matching basics	67
2.2.3. Equivalent electrical circuits	68
2.2.4. Double-tuned matching	69
2.2.5. Synthesis of a double-tuned tag and a naïve tag	71
2.2.6. Alternative implementation of the optimum double-tuned match	75
2.2.7. Example of a double-tuned match tag and use in variable environments	76
2.3. RFID tag antennas using an inductively coupled feed	79
2.3.1. Analytical model	80
2.3.2. Antenna design and results	82
2.4. Combined RFID tag antenna for recipients containing liquids.	83
2.4.1. Module description	84
2.4.2. Inductive coupling and antenna matching	84
2.4.3. Antenna design	85
2.4.4. Measurements of the initial tag	86
2.4.5. Measurements with an empty and filled plastic recipient	86
2.4.6. Combined antenna	87
2.4.7. Discussion relative to the respect of the matching conditions	88
2.5. Tag on metal	89
2.5.1. Radiation efficiency of low-profile patch antennas	90
2.5.2. Ultra-thin metal tags	92
2.5.3. Thick metal tags	99
2.5.4. Improved dipole designs on metallic surfaces	103
2.6. Bibliography	106

CHAPTER 3. THE BACKSCATTERING TECHNIQUE AND ITS APPLICATION	111
3.1. Backscattering principle of communication by between-base station and tag	112
3.1.1. The forward link: communication from the base station to the tag	112
3.1.2. The return link: communication from the tag to the base station	113
3.2. The merit factor of a tag, $\Delta\sigma_{es}$ or ΔRCS	116
3.2.1. Definition of the variation of the radar cross section, σ_{es} or ΔRCS	116
3.2.2. Estimation of $\Delta\sigma_{es}$ as a function of $\Delta\Gamma$	117
3.2.3. The variation $\Delta\sigma_{es} = f(\Delta\Gamma, \Gamma_1)$	119
3.3. Variations of $\Delta\sigma_{es} = f(a)$	128
3.4. After the theory, RFID at UHF and SHF realities	128
3.5. Measuring ΔRCS	138
3.5.1. Example of a method for measuring ΔRCS	138
3.6. The “Radar” equation	144
3.7. Appendix: summary of the principal formulas	145
CHAPTER 4. RFID MARKETS	149
4.1. Introduction	149
4.2. Market inflection point: users	149
4.3. RFID: what for?	150
4.4. Open- and closed-loop applications	152
4.4.1. Closed-loop applications	152
4.4.2. Open-loop applications	152
4.5. RFID return on investment	153
4.5.1. Introduction	153
4.5.2. Cost reduction	155
4.5.3. Sales increase	156
4.6. Many RFID technologies	156
4.7. Examples	157
4.8. Next RFID: product-embedded and seamless infrastructure	160
4.8.1. Introduction	160
4.8.2. RFID: “Slap and Ship”	160
4.8.3. Next RFID: from cradle to grave	161
4.8.4. Embedded RFID	161
4.8.5. Seamless and ubiquitous infrastructure	166
4.8.6. Software for business decisions	167
INDEX	169