



# A miniaturized low-power radio frequency identification tag integrated in CMOS for biomedical applications

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- 1 Introduction
- 2 System definition
- 3 System blocks
- 4 Experimental Results
- 5 Remarks and Conclusions



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## Context



Figure: 1950-2050 Population Pyramid [1].

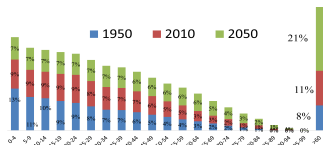


Figure: More old people in the society.



Figure: Hospital High Demand.



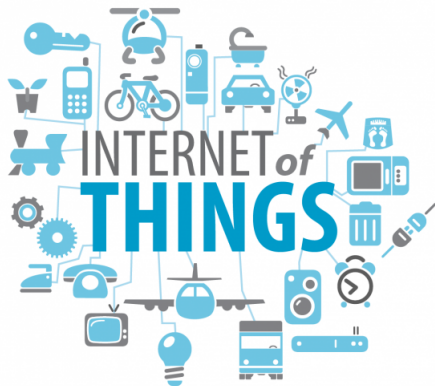
Source: <http://mathisworks.com/>

### Some informations

- Susceptible to chronic diseases.
- 80% of health-care system spending is on chronic condition management. [2]

# Motivation

Figure: Internet of Things.



## Benefits

- Tracking people at hospitals (Better organization).
- Information analyzed by IoT.
- Patient can access its personal health record (know the identification of doctors and professionals that have treated the patient).
- Patient active role in its treatment decision-making.
- Guarantee a patient adequate assistance.



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# Proposed system for monitoring

Figure: Energy and Information exchange via inductive link.

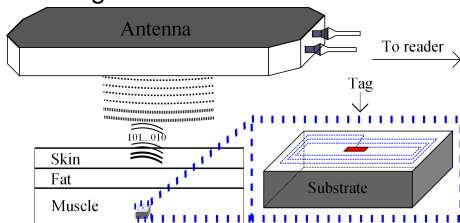
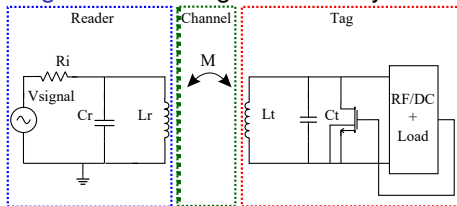


Figure: Block diagram of the system.



## System main components

- Reader.
- Tag.
- Channel.

# Previous works at LRF

## Inductive link characterization

- *Extending the Inductor Operating Frequency for Optimally-coupled Wireless Power Transfer Systems.*[3]
- *Contactless Characterization of a CMOS Integrated LC Resonator for Wireless Power Transferring.* [4]

Figure: Link EM simulation.

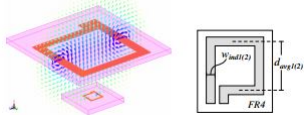


Figure: Link test setup.

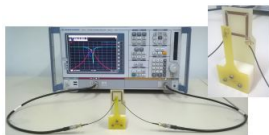
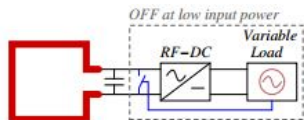


Figure: Variable load for link characterization.



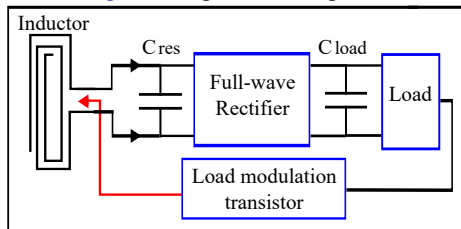


# Proposed Tag

## Characteristics of the Tag

- Miniaturized.
- Low-cost.
- Information extracted wirelessly.
- Low-power for biological compatibility.

Figure: Tag block diagram.



## Tag main components

- Inductor.
- RF/DC Front-End (C<sub>res</sub>, Full-Wave Rectifier and C<sub>load</sub> ).
- Load.
- Load modulation transistor.



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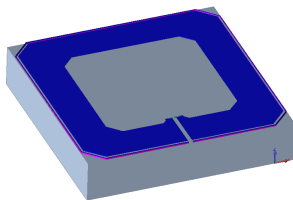
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# 1.04 GHz Inductor

## Full-custom Inductor from a previous work

- *Contactless Characterization of a CMOS Integrated LC Resonator for Wireless Power Transferring.* [4]

Figure: Inductor in EMPro.



## Inductor parameters

$$R_s = 0.593 \Omega$$

$$L_s = 2 \text{ nH}$$

$$Q = 22.09$$

$$C_{\text{auto}} = 88 \text{ fF}$$

# Full-wave voltage rectifier

Figure: Full-wave voltage rectifier cell

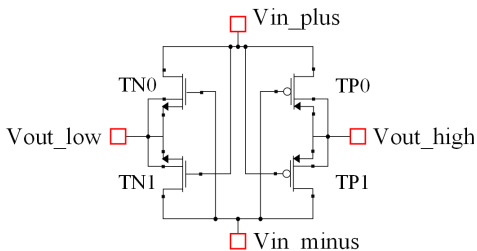
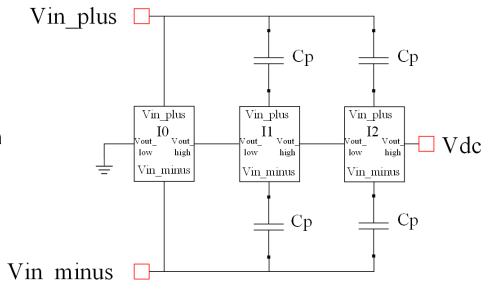


Figure: Full-wave voltage rectifier



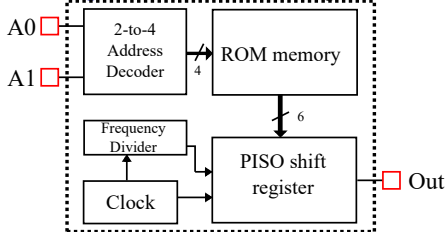
$$V_{dc} = N(2V_{in} - V_{drop}) \quad (1)$$

# Load Block diagram

## Load main components

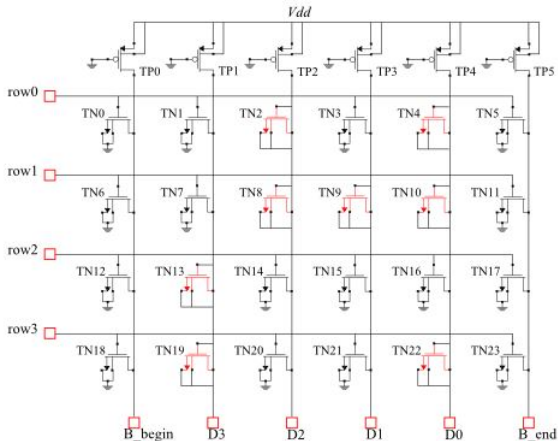
- ROM memory.
- PISO shift register.
- Ring Oscillator.
- Frequency Divider.
- Address Decoder

Figure: Load block diagram.



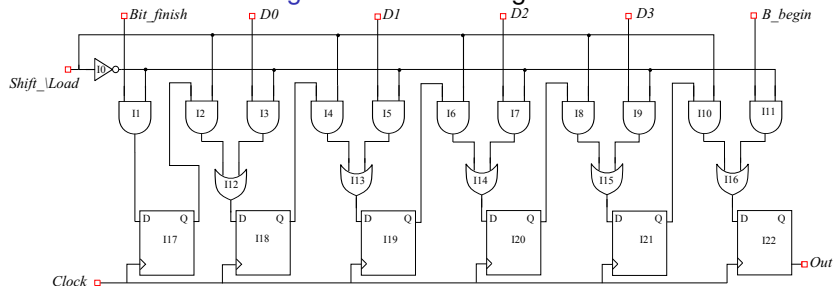
# ROM memory block diagram

Figure: ROM memory



# PISO shift-register block diagram

Figure: PISO Shift-register



# Clock and Frequency divider block diagram

Figure: Clock

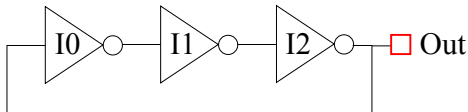
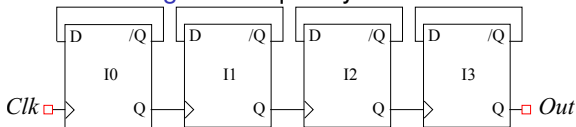


Figure: Frequency divider



$$F_{Out} = \frac{F_{Clk}}{2^N} \quad (2)$$



# Modulation transistor and Tag block diagram

Figure: Modulation transistor

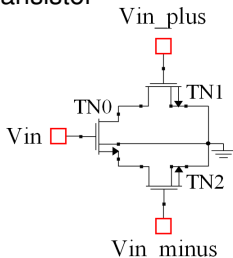
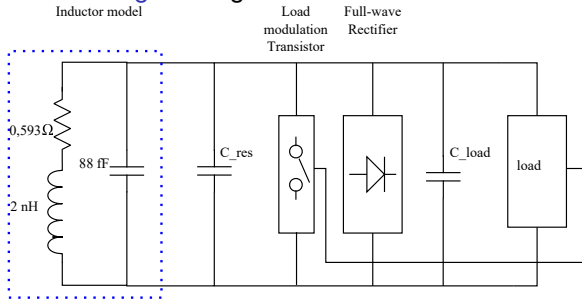


Figure: Tag with inductor model

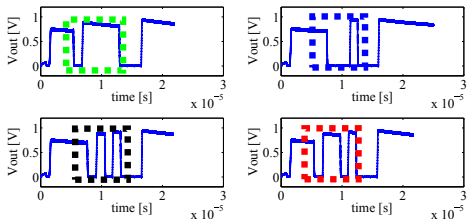


# Simulation results

**Table:** Address Bit words table.

A1 Value	A2 Value	Word Sequence
0 V	0 V	110101
0 V	1 V	110001
1 V	0 V	101111
1 V	1 V	101101

**Figure:** Post-layout transient simulation





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# Tag Layout and Sample

## Tag technology

- 1 GF180nm (Minimum length is 180 nm).
- 2 Available area: 1.5 mm  $\times$  1.5 mm.

Figure: Tag Layout

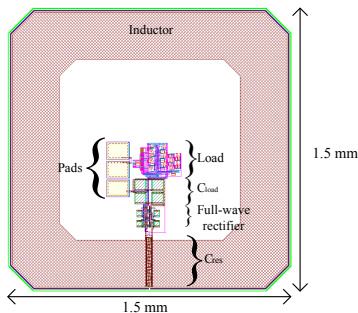
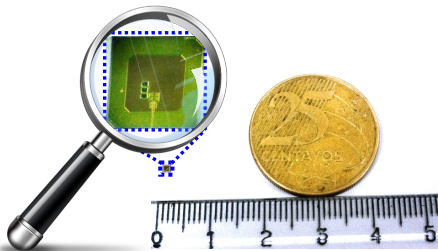


Figure: Die Dimensions.



# Seal Ring post-layout process

Figure: Schematic diagram

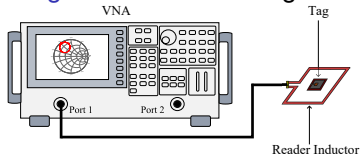
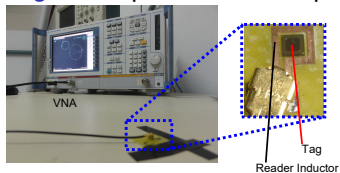
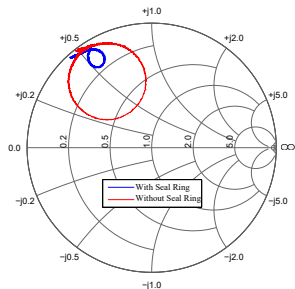


Figure: Experimental setup.



- 40 samples.
- Break the seal ring (scribe line remainder).
- Methodology in [4] to extract Q factor.
- Mean Q factor obtained: 19.13

Figure: S11 results.



# Frequency Response

Figure: Schematic diagram

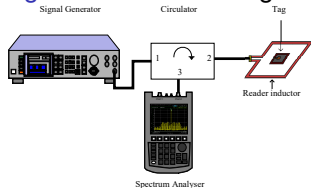


Figure: Experimental setup.

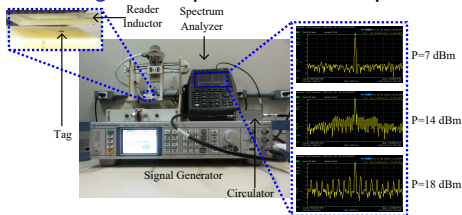
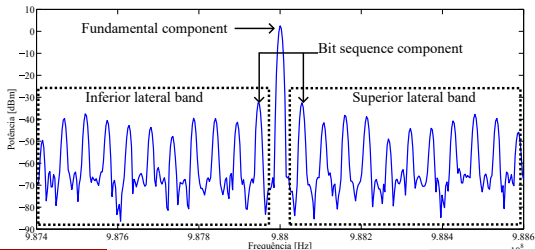
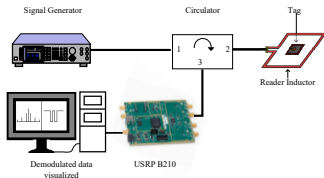


Figure: Frequency response

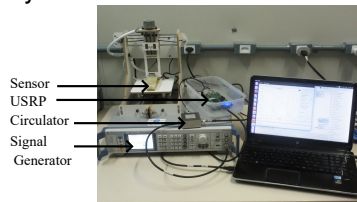


# Data acquisition and processing

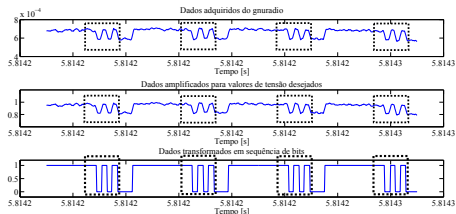
**Figure:** Experimental setup with SDR platform.



**Figure:** Data acquisition, amplification and recovery.



**Figure:** Data acquisition, amplification and conversion to digital bit sequences.



# Characteristics of the tag



**Table:** Tag and system characteristics

Characteristic	Desired Value
Load Bias Voltage	1 V
Simulated Static Power (@ 27° C)	1 $\mu$ W
RF Signal Frequency	1.04 GHz
Backscattering Bit Signal Frequency	1 MHz
Simulated post-layout available power at the Tag input	-4 dBm
RF power delivered by the reader generator (0 mm)	12 dBm





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# Remarks and Conclusions

- A miniaturized on-chip antenna RFID sensor that operates at 1.04 GHz, powered via inductive link with an embedded ROM reading circuit for IoT applications was designed and tested.
- The sensor was fully developed in a  $2.18 \text{ mm}^2$  area.
- The corresponding integration of the ROM-reading circuit and the inductor was attained and validated with simulations and experimental results.



# Bibliography

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-  E. Jovanov and A. Milenkovic, “Body area networks for ubiquitous healthcare applications: opportunities and challenges,” *Journal of medical systems*, 2011.
-  F. Cabrera and F. Sousa, “Extending the inductor operating frequency for optimally-coupled wireless power transfer systems,” *International Microwave and Optical Conference*, 2015.
-  —, “Contactless characterization of a cmos integrated lc resonator for wireless power transferring,” *Microwave and Wireless Components Letters, IEEE* , vol.PP, no.99.



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