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**Non-Destructive Material
Parameter Determination
Based on Microwave
Communication Systems**

Non-Destructive Material Parameter Determination Based on Microwave Communication Systems

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Editorial

The state of many electrochemical systems such as automotive catalysts or diesel particulate filters (DPF) can be inferred from the spatial distribution of electric material parameters. The direct measurement of such distributions, based on the interaction between microwaves and the electrochemical system, has been described quite thoroughly in the literature by now, but these results are based on equipment such as vector network analyzers (VNA) which cannot be used as field devices (e. g., in a vehicle) for cost and size reasons.

The present work investigates whether the method could be implemented on the basis of available communication systems. To this end, the catalyst is placed in the propagation path of a communication link, or rather the propagation path is confined to the interior of the catalyst housing. It is experimentally demonstrated that stochastic communication channel parameters such as the bit and packet error ratios, the signal-to-noise ratio, and the center of gravity of the transmit signal pulse mirror the material parameters in the propagation path.

In the course of the work, a UWB (ultra wideband) system was used by way of an example to investigate the fundamental practicability of the approach and to determine the influence of system parameter settings such as Tx power and data rate on measurement system characteristics such as uncertainty and measurement time. The test objects used in the studies were DPFs with different soot loads and discs of known material composition (PTFE, PE, PC, POM).

The investigations indicate that a proper choice of system settings is crucial for the measurement to produce useful results. Data rates on the order of 100 to 1000 kbit/s and Tx powers neither too small nor too large allow one to measure bit or packet error ratios with a relative uncertainty on the order of 1 % within measurement times on the order of 1 s. Higher data rates enable faster measurements.

The results corroborate the proposition that the monitoring of electrochemical systems in the field can be based on potentially inexpensive microwave communication systems.

Bayreuth, August 2018

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Gerhard Fischerauer, Prof. Dr.-Ing. Ralf Moos

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Contents

	Page
List of Abbreviations	1
List of Symbols	3
List of Figures	5
List of Tables	9
Introduction	11
1 State of the art of catalyst monitoring and non-destructive evaluation of material parameters	13
2 Wireless communications	15
2.1 Basics about radio communications	15
2.2 Frequency bands and UWB communications.....	17
2.3 Near-field and far-field propagation	19
3 Wireless measurement approach – principle and simulation	21
3.1 Principle.....	21
3.2 Hardware implementation	23
3.3 Simulation of the wireless system	25
3.4 Number of transmitted bits and uncertainty.....	29
4 Experimental verification with DPF	31
4.1 Measurement procedure	31
4.2 Validation in the time domain	32
4.3 Validation in the frequency domain	40
4.4 Communication parameters	46
4.5 Measurement time and measurement uncertainty.....	53
5 Verification with material samples	61
6 Transmitter power influence in a wireless signal-based system used to monitor catalyst states	75
6.1 Introduction	75

6.2 Signal processing.....	75
6.3 Discussion	80
Summary	83
Zusammenfassung.....	85
Appendix.....	87
A Relationship Between Transmit Gain and Transmit Power	87
A.1 Transmit Gain Setting vs. power delivered to antenna port (dBm) per Radio configuration	87
A.2 P410 – Transmit Gain Setting vs Transmit Power	88
References.....	89
Own publications	93

List of Abbreviations

ABS	Acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene
AWGN	Additive white Gaussian noise
A-D	Analog-to-digital
BER	Bit error ratio
BPSK	Binary phase shift keying
DPF	Diesel particulate filter
FPGA	Field-programmable gate array
GUM	Guide to the Expression of Uncertainty in Measurement
MTBE	Mean time between bit errors
NDE	Non-destructive evaluation
PAN	Personal area network
PC	Polycarbonate
pdf	Probability density function
PE	Polyethylene
PER	Packet error ratio
POM	Polyoxymethylene
PTFE	Polytetrafluoroethylene
Rx	Receive
SCR	Selective catalytic reduction
TWC	Three-way catalytic converter
Tx	Transmit
UWB	Ultra-wideband
VNA	Vector network analyzer
WLAN	Wireless local area network
1G	1-st generation mobile networks
3D	Three-dimensional

5G 5-th generation mobile networks

List of Symbols

b_{0k}	one realization of the random function "received bit sequence with empty DPF"
B_0	received bit sequence with empty DPF
c	soot content
\bar{c}	estimate of the expected cross-correlation function.
c_{ij}	convolution of the time responses
C_{ij}	convolution of the frequency responses
c_k	normalized cross-correlation
D	biggest antenna dimension
$e(t)$	envelope of the time-domain response
E_b	energy per bit
E_s	energy per symbol
f	frequency
f_c	center frequency
f_c	carrier frequency
g	digital bit stream
g'	restored digital signal on the receiver side
g_{0k}	one realization of the random function "UWB time response with empty DPF"
g_{1k}	one realization of the random function "UWB time response with loaded DPF",
G_0	UWB time response with empty DPF
G_1	UWB time response with loaded DPF
h_{0k}	realization of the random function of frequency "UWB frequency response with empty DPF"
h_{1k}	realization of the random function of frequency "UWB frequency response with loaded DPF"
H_0	UWB frequency response with empty DPF
H_1	UWB frequency response with loaded DPF
l	packet length
$n(t)$	random noise
N_0	noise power spectral density
p	relative frequency of bit errors
P	probability function
P_{Tx}	transmit power

\hat{p}	estimate of the bit error ratio
$r(t)$	received analog signal
R	distance from an antenna
$s(t)$	analog signal
$s_b(t)$	signal baseband representation
$s_p(t)$	bandpass waveform of a BPSK signal
S_{ij}	scattering matrix parameters
S_{11}	reflection coefficient
S_{12}	transmission coefficient
t	time
T_s	symbol duration
$u(t)$	signal time response
$\hat{u}(t)$	Hilbert transform of the signal time response
W	bandwidth
X	random variable
ϵ_r	relative permittivity
λ	wavelength
Δt	sampling interval
Φ_{ij}	cross-correlation
Φ_{ii}	autocorrelation

List of Figures

Fig. 2-1. Simplified data communications model [22, p. 19].	15
Fig. 2-2. Data rate and range for different networks [24].	17
Fig. 2-3. Relationship between a bandpass spectrum and the baseband representation [25].	19
Fig. 2-4. Near and far field regions of an antenna [48].	20
Fig. 3-1. Basic structure of the proposed measurement system [33].	22
Fig. 3-2. Functional diagram of the proposed measurement system [33].	23
Fig. 3-3. Exemplary hardware implementation of the proposed measurement system [33].	24
Fig. 3-4. Time Domain PulsON P410 module.	25
Fig. 3-5. Block diagram of the simulated digital communication system [45, 46, 47].	27
Fig. 3-6. AWGN channel [47].	28
Fig. 3-7. Simulated BER of the wireless channel for different E_b/N_0 values [47, pp. 269–273].	28
Fig. 3-8. Simulated estimate of BER as a function of the number of transmitted bits.	30
Fig. 3-9. Standard deviation of the BER estimate vs. number of bits transmitted.	30
Fig. 4-1. Realized measurement procedures.	31
Fig. 4-2. UWB waveform for the empty DPF (no soot load) [33].	33
Fig. 4-3. UWB waveform for the DPF loaded with 4.6 g of soot [33].	34
Fig. 4-4. UWB waveform for the DPF loaded with 13.6 g of soot [33].	34
Fig. 4-5. Envelopes of the time-domain responses from Fig. 4-2 [33].	35
Fig. 4-6. Convolution of the envelopes of the time-domain responses (Fig. 4-5) [33].	36
Fig. 4-7. Autocorrelation functions of the envelopes shown in Fig. 4-5 [33].	37
Fig. 4-8. Cross-correlation functions of the envelopes shown in Fig. 4-5 [33].	38
Fig. 4-9. Smoothed envelopes of the time-domain responses from Fig. 4-2.	39
Fig. 4-10. Time coordinate of the center of gravity of the area bounded by the smoothed envelopes and the time axis in Fig. 4-9 [33].	39
Fig. 4-11. Maximum and average values of the smoothed envelopes (Fig. 4-9) [33].	40
Fig. 4-12. UWB magnitude spectrum for three different DPF loading states corresponding to the time-domain signals in Fig. 4-2 [33].	41
Fig. 4-13. Convolution of the UWB magnitude spectra from Fig. 4-12 [33].	42
Fig. 4-14. Autocorrelation functions of the UWB magnitude spectra in Fig. 4-12 [33].	43
Fig. 4-15. Cross-correlation functions of the UWB magnitude spectra in Fig. 4-12 [33].	43
Fig. 4-16. Histogram of the UWB magnitude spectrum for different loading states (bars) and best fits by exponential distributions $p(x) = \beta^{-1}e^{-x/\beta}$ (lines) [33].	44

Fig. 4-17. Maximum and average magnitudes of the signal spectrum at the receiver as functions of the soot load (from Fig. 4-12) [33].	45
Fig. 4-18. Catalysts under test – empty (left) and soot loaded (right). The catalysts are the same as those described in [26].	46
Fig. 4-19. Measured bit error ratio during one of the experiments with two DPFs [49].	48
Fig. 4-20. Measured packet error ratio for the same two DPFs as in Fig. 4-18 [49].	49
Fig. 4-21. Measured E_b/N_0 vs. Tx power for the same two DPFs as in Fig. 4-18 [49].	49
Fig. 4-22. Measured effective receive data rate vs. transmit power for the same two DPFs as in Fig. 4-18 [49].	50
Fig. 4-23. Measured bit error ratio vs. DPF soot load at a transmit power of -70 dBm [49].	52
Fig. 4-24. Measured packet error ratio vs. DPF soot load at two transmit powers [49].	52
Fig. 4-25. Measured packet error ratio vs. soot load and transmit power [49].	53
Fig. 4-26. Effect of the measurement time on the uncertainty of the measured PER with a DPF-loaded cavity.	54
Fig. 4-27. Individual PER values measured depending on the measurement time.	55
Fig. 4-28. Individual measured PER values measured for different P_{Tx} and soot loads.	56
Fig. 4-29. Measurement result of PER at a confidence level of 95 % at a data rate of 600 kbit/s with DPF.	57
Fig. 4-30. Individual measured PER values measured depending on the measurement time at a data rate of 600 kbit/s.	58
Fig. 4-31. Complete measurement result of PER at a confidence level of 95 % with the data rate 290 kbit/s.	59
Fig. 4-32. Measurement time needed to obtain the absolute uncertainty of 6 % for different data rates.	59
Fig. 4-33. Measured frequency responses on the receiver side of the communication system (PulsON P410 devices).	60
Fig. 5-1. Measured frequency spectrum of the UWB modules used [51].	62
Fig. 5-2. Time-domain receive signal of a UWB pulse transmitted via an empty metallic cavity resonator [50, 51].	63
Fig. 5-3. Envelope of the UWB signal shown in Fig. 5-2 [50, 51].	63
Fig. 5-4. Schematic drawing of the test system. 1: Cavity resonator. 2: Sample of material under test. 3: Short-stub couplers. 4: $50\text{-}\Omega$ coaxial cables. 5: Communication transceiver modules [51].	64
Fig. 5-5. Inside view of the cavity resonator with stub couplers and rubber rings [51].	64
Fig. 5-6. Representation of the effect of the rubber ring on the resonant behavior of the cavity: reflection coefficient S_{11} .	65

Fig. 5-7. Representation of the effect of the rubber ring on the resonant behavior of the cavity: transmission coefficient S_{12}	66
Fig. 5-8. Measured PER in a UWB system communicating via a disc-loaded cavity resonator as a function of the transmitter power and the sample material. In all instances, the time window to determine PER was 300 s [51].....	68
Fig. 5-9. Measured PER as a function of the sample permittivity with the transmit power as parameter (circles). The solid lines are fit curves of the form $PER/\% = 100 - a \cdot \exp(-b \cdot \epsilon_r)$ with a, b according to Table 5-3 [50, 51].	69
Fig. 5-10. Measurement result for PER with an empty cavity resonator as transmission channel as a function of the measurement time (confidence level of 95 %) [50].	71
Fig. 5-11. Autocorrelation functions of measured receive-signal envelopes for different materials in the communication channel (= cavity resonator) [51].	71
Fig. 5-12. Fig. 5-8 repeated and supplemented with the curve produced with an ABS sample [51].	72
Fig. 5-13. Fig. 5-11 repeated (and zoomed) and supplemented with the curve produced using ABS [51].	73
Fig. 6-1. Estimated expected normalized cross-correlation functions $\bar{c}(f; P_{Tx, i})$ between the measured received UWB spectra with respectively an empty and a 4.6-g-loaded DPF in the radio channel, with the Tx power as parameter ($i = 1, \dots, 9$) [52].	77
Fig. 6-2. Maximum values of the curves in Fig. 6-1 plotted against the Tx power [52].	78
Fig. 6-3. Peak magnitudes of the 40 empirical cross-correlation functions $c_k(f; P_{Tx, i})$ the average of which is shown in Fig. 6-1, with the Tx power as parameter ($i = 1, \dots, 9$; $k = 1, \dots, 40$) [52].	79
Fig. 6-4. Standard deviation of the curves in Fig. 6-3 plotted against the Tx power [52].	79
Fig. 6-5. Average peak magnitude in the cross-correlation function and the values of 40 of its realizations, with the Tx power as independent variable [52].	80
Fig. 6-6. Multipath effects inside a catalyst housing [52].	81
Fig. 6-7. Measured time response of a UWB link with a 4.6-g-loaded DPF ($P_{Tx} = -15$ dBm) [52].	82
Fig. 6-8. Measured time response of a UWB link with a 4.6-g-loaded DPF ($P_{Tx} = -28$ dBm) [52].	82

List of Tables

Table 3-1. Suitable protocols for state observation in automotive aftertreatment systems.	26
Table 4-1. Soot load of the measured DPFs [26].	32
Table 4-2. Bit error occurrence for different Tx power (4.6 g soot) [49].	51
Table 5-1. Listing of materials investigated [50, 51].	66
Table 5-2. Measured relative permittivities [50, 51].	67
Table 5-3. Coefficients of the fit curves in Fig. 5-9 [51].	69
Table 5-4. Dielectric constant of the ABS sample measured at different transmit powers (based on the fit curves from Fig. 5-9) [51].	73