DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT NFC APPLICATIONS

SESSION 2: ANTENNA DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS FOR NXP NFC READERS

September 2016







SECURE CONNECTIONS FOR A SMARTER WORLD



Agenda

Design and implement NFC applications

Session I, 7th September **Product support package for NXP NFC readers** <u>https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/2329750067403618817</u>

Session II, 28th September Antenna design considerations for NXP NFC reader solutions https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/282682617345186049

Session III, 18th October The NFC Cockpit - the complete design tool for engineers https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/4665515186055692545

Session IV, 31th October NFC Reader Library - SW support for NFC frontend solutions

https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/7151741873899128067





Agenda

Design and implement NFC applications

Session 2, 28th September Antenna design considerations for NXP NFC reader solutions

- NFC antenna design support (e.g. PN5180)
- ► Theoretical fundamentals and antenna principles
- "Asymmetric" versus "symmetric" antenna design
- NFC antenna tuning for a "symmetric" antenna (DPC)



NFC implementation process

		•		NXP support			
Evaluate the functionality	Investigate, which NFC only read cards or writ device etc.)	: functionality you need fo e tags or exchange inform	or your application (e.g. nation with another	 Product selection app Parametric search and product details on nxp.com Z-card with NFC Reader Portfolio NFC Everywhere brochure, pp. X-Y 			
Select IC	Nobody gives you mor given in this brochure, searches.	e options to choose from then go online to get det	. Start with the specs ailed parametric				
Evaluate Features	Explore the possibilitie that same board to sta	es with one of our develop art prototyping.	oment boards, then use	 Full range of development kits for every NFC product, partly coming with precompiled images Compatibility with common single board computers including Raspberry Pi, BeagleBone and Arduino boards NFC Cockpit for NFC frontends 	• Independs		
Prototyping	Hardware PCB design & antenna design			Possibility to re-use designs of NXP development kits			
T	CONNECTED TAGS Write your code for your MCU using the available code example. Connect additional memory over 12C to your controller enabling e.g. firmware update.	Software NFC FRONTENDS & CONTROLLER WITH CUSTOMIZABLE FW Write your code for your MCU using the NFC Library incorporating support for all relevant cards and phones.	NFC CONTROLLER Write your code for your MCU using the available code examples calling the functions already embedded in the FW of the NFC controller	 NFC library NFC cockpit Sample code App notes Online training Tutorials Design files of demokits 	gn Houses certified by NXP		
Test & Debug	Standards-based desig development tools ma and fix bugs.	n and support for the mo ke it easy to fine-tune pe	ost popular rformance, catch errors,				
Get Certified	Our NFC solutions are regional requirements	designed to help you mee , and make it easier to pa	et CE, FCC, and other ss EMVCo certification.	• Development boards for X, Y, Z are pre-certified for EMVCo			





NFC ANTENNA DESIGN SUPPORT (E.G. PN5180)



Where to find NFC antenna tuning support material e.g. PN5180







Where to find NFC antenna tuning support material

OM25180FDK: PN5180 NFC frontend development kit



- Contents

- PNEV5180B board with 65x65mm antenna optimized for EMVCo applications
- 30 mm x 50 mm antenna with matching components optimized for NFC applications
- Three small antenna matching PCBs for custom antenna matching
- NFC sample card (NTAG216)
- 10 PN5180 IC samples (HVQFN package)

Features

- Quick evaluation of PN5180 NFC frontend IC.
- Connect a custom antenna to PNEV5180 board
- Define and optimize the analog settings for any connected antenna
- Develop NFC applications based on the NFC Reader Library

Ordering details

- Orderable part number: OM25180FDK
- 12NC: 935307319699
- URL: <u>http://www.nxp.com/demoboard/om25180fdk.html</u>





Where to find NFC antenna tuning support material e.g. PN5180

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PRODUCTS APPLICAT NXP > Identification and Security > NFC a OM25180FDK: PN5 Applications ☆ Overview Documentation Down Filter By Show All Application Notes (3) Users Guides (1) Brochures (1) Filter Documentation by Keyword	TONS SUPPORT ABOUT and Reader ICs > NFC Frontend Solutions 5180 NFC Frontend Develo 5180 NFC Frontend Develo and Reader ICs Support Support Support Buy / Specifications Application Notes (3) • Name/Description PN5180 Evaluation board quick start guide (R PDF (1.7 MB) AN11744 [English] PN5180 Antenna design guide (REV 1.0) PDF (1.8 MB) AN11740 [English] How to design an antenna with DPC (REV 1.0) PDF (534.0 kB) AN11741 [English] Users Guides (1) • Name/Description PN5180 SW Quick start guide (REV 1.1) PDF (1.2 MB) UM10954 [English]	pment Kit for POS T		PRODUCTS APP NXP > Identification and Security OM25180FDK: If Applications ☆ Overview Documentation Filter By Show All Software (3) Filter Software & Tools by Keyword	LICATIONS SUPPORT ABOL NFC and Reader ICs>. NFC Frontend Solution PN5180 NFC Frontend I Downloads Buy / Specifications Software (3) Software (3) PNC Reader Libra Software (3) Image: Software (3) Ima	yr s Development Kit for POS rry V4.030.00.001627 for PNEV5180B includir is (REV 1.3) (1000) r/V4.030.00.001627 for PNEV5180B including all software is (REV 1.3) (1000) W3522 (2000) PN5180 NFC Cockpit 2.3 (REV 1.3) (1000) V45180 NFC Cockpit 2.3 (REV 1.1) (1000) V45180 NFC Cockpit 2.3 (REV 1.2) (1000) V3524 valid cosign tools (REV 1.2) (1000) w3545 12/	C ≺ Terminal ugall Download vare v3/2016 Download 17/2015
	Brochures (1) • Name/Description		Modified Date Date	ABOUT NXP	RESOURCES FOLLOW US	NEWS 13 Sep 2016	< >
	PN5180 - The best full NFC frontend on the m	arket (REV 1.0)	26 Nov 2015	Esperando a www.nxp.com		Ditch the headphone jack with	h USB Type-C





THEORETICAL FUNDAMENTALS AND NFC ANTENNA PRINCIPLES



Typical contactless reader architecture







NFC antenna: Transformer principle



- The vast majority of RFID systems operate according to the principle of *inductive coupling*.
 - Typical contactless smartcards contain no internal power supply. They need to get all their required energy from the magnetic field in which they operate
- The PCD transmitter coil generates an electromagnetic field with a frequency of 13,56Mhz.
- A small part of the emitted field penetrates the antenna coil of the transponder, which is some distance away from the reader coil.
- A voltage U_I is generated in the transponder's antenna by inductance. This voltage is rectified and serves as the power supply
 - A transformers-type coupling is created between the reader coil and the transponder coil.
- The PCD energy must be available to the PICC during the entire transaction.





NFC antenna: Transformer principle

Reader & contactless card communication





NFC antenna: Transformer principle

Coupling coefficient



- The coupling coefficient depends on:
 - The geometric dimensions of both conductor loops.
 - The position of the conductor loops in relation to each other
 - The magnetic properties of the medium (μ_0)



0 < k < 1

 $k = 1 \rightarrow \text{total coupling}$ $k = 0 \rightarrow \text{full decoupling}$







Permeability Geometrical constant quantity "Fixed"





Optimum antenna size (radius)



- For every read range *x* of an NFC system, there is an optimal antenna radius *R*.
- A rough approximation is that :







Large antenna vs small antenna



- Card A:
 - PCD r=2 cm \rightarrow x \approx 5.5 cm
 - PCD r=5 cm \rightarrow x \approx 7.2 cm
- Card B:
 - PCD r=2 cm \rightarrow x \approx 2.8 cm
 - PCD r=5 cm \rightarrow x \approx 1.8 cm
- Card C:
 - PCD r=2 cm \rightarrow x \approx 2.2 cm
 - PCD r=5 cm \rightarrow x \approx cm





Metal environment influences

Eddy currents

- Metal surfaces in the immediate vicinity of the reader antenna have several negative effects.
- Our reader antenna's magnetic field generates eddy currents in metallic surfaces.
- These eddy currents produce a magnetic flow opposite to that of the reader device

- Ferrites are basically poor electrical conductors but are very good at propagating magnetic flux (mostly of iron oxide Fe2O3)
- The ferrite material "shields" the metal behind it.
- It significantly reduces the generated eddy currents







Shielding and environment impact

- The figures show three different field strength characteristics over reading distance x, for the same antenna coil:
 - Free air coil (7.5 cm)
 - Coil surrounded by a metal plate (5 cm)
 - Coil surrounded by a metal plate shielded by a ferrite plate (7.5 cm)
- We can achieve almost original operating distance using ferrite shielding. However, the ferrite detunes the antenna and produces:
 - Increased inductance
 - Increased Q-factor
 - Changed magnetic field distribution

Conclusion: The antenna must be suited to its environment





"ASYMMETRIC" VS "SYMMETRIC" ANTENNA TUNING



NFC antenna tuning naming convention

"Asymmetric" and "symmetric" antenna tuning

"Asymmetric" antenna design (e.g. CLRC663)

Automatically limits the current and field strength under loading/detuning Not optimum transfer function



"Symmetric" antenna design (new for e.g. PN5180) Provides more power transfer and better transfer function Requires current / field strength limiter







Typical load detuning effect in "asymmetrical" antenna tuning



Fig. Loading with Reference PICC

The load increases $\rightarrow I_{TVDD}$ and field strength is reduced



Fig. Loading with smartphone (metal)

The load decreases, but I_{TVDD} does **not** exceed the limit





Typical load detuning effect in "symmetrical" antenna tuning



Fig. Loading with Reference PICC

The load decreases \rightarrow Increases power and I_{TVDD} I_{TVDD} & field strength may exceed the limit !!!



Fig. Loading with smartphone (metal)



Solution: Dynamic Power Control





"Asymmetrical" vs "symmetrical" small antenna tuning w.o. DPC



Behavior at short distance



Behavior at long distance

2

2

Asymmetric antenna does not deliver enough field strength at large distance

Symmetric antenna at long operating distance (= low coupling) the improved transfer function

- allows a higher Q-factor in the antenna coil circuit.
- improves the Tx shaping (options).
- improves the power transfer (RF field).
- improves the Rx filtering, i.e. the "Rx sensitivity".





"Asymmetrical" vs "symmetrical" small antenna tuning with DPC



Behavior at long distance

Symmetric antenna at long operating distance (= low coupling) the improved transfer function

- allows a higher Q-factor in the antenna coil circuit.
- improves the Tx shaping (options).
- improves the power transfer (RF field).
- improves the Rx filtering, i.e. the "Rx sensitivity".

Behavior at short distance

2

Symmetric antenna at close distance (= strong coupling) with DPC delivers enough field strength but not too much due to the DPC regulation

- controls (and limits) the ITVDD.
 - controls (and limits) the field strength.
- protects the reader IC.
- ensures to keep the ISO and EMVCo limits.







NFC ANTENNA TUNING PROCEDURE (E.G. SYMMETRIC ANTENNA FOR DPC)

NFC antenna tuning procedure



Define target impedance and Q factor To optimize RF output power or battery life



EMC filter design Filtering of unwanted harmonics



Measure antenna coil Determine LCR values of the antenna coil Calculate matching components



5

- Calculate matching components Using provided excel sheet
- Assembly and measurement *Physically test the impedance calculated*



7

- Adapt simulation Correct antenna coil measure
- Correction and re-assembly Solder new matching circuit and test



Receiver circuit *Tune reader sensitivity*



Procedure is exactly the same for "asymmetric and "symmetric" antenna tuning





Antenna tuning with PNEV5180B board

Breaking antenna section

• NFC antenna section can be easily separated from the main board



Antenna tuning with PNEV5180B board

Material used

STEP 1: DEFINE TARGET IMPEDANCE AND Q-FACTOR

Define target impedance

- We need to adjust the target impedance the NFC reader IC "sees" according to the performance we want to achieve.
 - Maximum output power
 - Minimum current consumption (battery life)
- The target impedance is chosen so that the highest possible output power does not exceed the maximum driver current (datasheet).

Different load detuning effect depending on "symmetric" or "asymmetric" antenna tuning

Our example: Z = 20

Define Q-factor

 A high Q factor leads to high current in the antenna coil and thus improves the power transmission to the transponder

 $B = \frac{f}{Q}$

- In contrast, the transmission bandwidth of the antenna is inversely proportional to the Q factor.
 - A low bandwidth, caused by an excessively high Q factor, can therefore significantly reduce the modulation sideband received from the transponder.

Q < 30

- The quality factor of the antenna is calculated with: $Q_a = \frac{\omega \cdot La}{R_a}$
- If the calculated Q_a is higher than the target value, an external damping resistor (R_a) has to be added.
- The value of (each side of the antenna) is calculated by: $(\omega \cdot La)$

$$R_Q = 0.5 \left(\frac{\omega \cdot La}{Q}\right)$$

STEP 2: MEASURE ANTENNA COIL

Step 2: Antenna coil characterization

* This circuit only covers the TX part

How to measure antenna coil

• The antenna loop has to be connected to an impedance or network analyzer at 13.56 MHz to measure the series equivalent components

Fig. Antenna series equivalent circuit

Inductance (L): mainly defined by the number of turns of the antenna

Resistance (R): mainly defined by the diameter and length of the antenna wires

Capacitance (C): mainly defined by the distance of antenna wires from each other and number of turns

High-end network analyzer (i.e. Rohde & Schwarz ZVL)

· Powerful, accurate and easy to use

Low-end network analyzer (i.e. miniVNA PRO)

· Cheap, accurate enough and easy to use

Measuring antenna coil with miniVNA Pro - Calibration (Open)

Measuring antenna coil with miniVNA Pro - Calibration (Short)

Measuring antenna coil with miniVNA Pro - Calibration (Load – 500hms)

Measuring antenna coil with miniVNA Pro

Setup









Measuring antenna coil with miniVNA Pro - Results









STEP 3: EMC FILTER DESIGN



Step 3: EMC filter design



* This circuit only covers the TX part





EMC filter design for "asymmetric" antenna tuning

• The EMC is a low pass filter reducing 2nd and higher harmonics and performs impedance transformation



• A convenient cutoff frequency (*fc*) is between:

 $f_c = 14.5 \ MHz \ \dots \ 22 \ MHz$

 We begin specifying , this range of values has proven to be very useful in practice:

 $L_0 = 330 \ nH \ ... \ 560 \ nH$

• With *fc* and *L*0, we can easily calculate *C*0:

$$w_c = \frac{1}{\sqrt{C_0 \cdot L_0}} \quad \Longrightarrow \quad C_0 = \frac{1}{(2 \cdot \pi \cdot fc)^2 \cdot L_0}$$

• Example: fc = 21 MHz and L0 = 470 nH:

$$C_0 = 122.2 \ pF \implies C_{01} = 68 \ pF$$

 $C_{02} = 56 \ pF$





EMC filter design for "symmetric" antenna tuning

• The EMC is a low pass filter reducing 2nd and higher harmonics and performs impedance transformation



• A convenient cutoff frequency (fc) is lower:

 $f_c = 14.5 MHz \dots 14.7 MHz$

• We begin specifying *L*0 , the value should be lower than measured La. Better performance as closer to this value.

$$L_0 \leq \frac{L_a}{2} \qquad \qquad L_0 \sim \frac{L_a}{2}$$

• With *fc* and *L*0, we can easily calculate *C*0:

$$w_c = \frac{1}{\sqrt{C_0 \cdot L_0}} \quad \Longrightarrow \quad C_0 = \frac{1}{(2 \cdot \pi \cdot fc)^2 \cdot L_0}$$

• Example: *fc* = 14,6 MHz and *L*0 = 470 nH:

$$C_0 = 252,8 \ pF$$
 \longrightarrow $C_{01} = 220 \ pF$
 $C_{02} = 30 \ pF$

DPC calibration and correlation test required





EMC filter design for "symmetric" antenna tuning PNEV5180B board EMC filter



- Default PCB EMC values:
 - $L_0 = 470 \text{ nH}; C_0 = 220 \text{ pF}; f_{\text{cut-off}} = 15.65 \text{ MHz}$
- Symmetrical impedance rules: - $L_0 < \frac{L_a}{2} \Rightarrow 470 \, nH < 608 \, nH / 2$
 - $f \sim 14,6MHz$ ⇒ $C_0 = 252.8 \, pF$
- Changes required
 - Add a 33pF in paralel to the EMC filter

To fulfil requirements a 33pF capacitor is needed!





EMC filter design for "symmetric" antenna tuning Capacitors assembly



Add 2 capacitors $C_0 = 33 \, pF$



STEP 4: CALCULATE MATCHING COMPONENTS



Step 4: Calculate matching components



* This circuit only covers the TX part





Calculate matching components

Excel sheet









Simulate with RFSIM99



RFSim99: simple freeware simulation tool http://www.electroschematics.com/835/rfsim99-download/

NP



Simulate with RFSIM99



Z = 19.92 Ohm





STEP 5: ASSEMBLY AND MEASUREMENT



Matching components assembly









Matching components assembly

Antenna tuning measurement with miniVNA Pro







Antenna tuning measurement Measured vs simulation



Simulated: $Z = 19.92 - j0.03\Omega$



Measured: $Z = 21.9 + j1.5\Omega$





STEP 6: ADAPT SIMULATION



Adapt simulation

- Measured / estimated L_a , R_a and C_a antenna parameters are imprecise.
- Tune R_a and C_a parameters until the simulation looks like the reality.





Fine tune matching components and simulate again

- Update C_a , L_a , R_a
- Fine tune C_1 , C_2 , R_s to achieve target impedance again. Use available values.







STEP 7: CORRECTION AND RE-ASSEMBLY





Final antenna tuning measurement results



First matching: $Z = 21.9 + j1.5\Omega$



Fine tuned: $Z = 20.6 + j1.5\Omega$





STEP 8: RECEIVER CIRCUIT



Receiver circuit

Standard values







Receiver circuit

Standard values



- Goal: the voltage level at RX_n and RX_p pins must be high enough to achieve a good sensitivity, but must not exceed the given limit.
- Recommended circuit has a resistor and a capacitor in series. Typically the serial resistor R_{rx} is in the range of $1...10k\Omega$.

• Start with 4.7k value and adjust sensitivity reading/writing AGC_VALUE register.





Receiver circuit

Standard values



Excel file	PCB matching board	PCB demo board
Rrx	R006 R015	
Crx		C306 C321





DETUNING EFFECT UNDER LOADING CONDITIONS



Antenna loading & detuning

Metal (smartphone)



 $Z = 4.2 + j0 \Omega$

Due to symmetric matching, Z decreases => I_{TVDD} increases

Without properly calibrated DPC the PN5180 might be killed!

Webinar session **18/10/2016**





Antenna loading & detuning

Reference PICC



 $Z = 4.8 + j2.2\Omega$

Due to symmetric matching, Z decreases => I_{TVDD} increases



Webinar session **18/10/2016**





WRAP UP



Summary of NFC antenna design steps

Matching Steps:

- 1. Target impedance and Q-factor= $20...80 \Omega$ (PN5180), Q<30
- 2. Design EMC Filter (L₀ and C₀) -> $f_{EMC} \approx 14.6 MHz$
- 3. Measure antenna coil (L_a , R_a and C_a)
- 4. Calculate start values (C₁, C₂, R_S using Excelsheet)
- 5. Assemble & measure
- 6. Adapt RFSIM99 simulation to meet reality (R_a and C_a)
- 7. Correct matching in simulation (C₁ and C₂)
- 8. Assemble & measure
- 9. Assemble R_X standard values

Done.







Coming sessions

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Software development in Android and iOS Embedded software for MCUs JCOP, Java Card operating Systems Hardware design and development Digital, analog, sensor acquisition, power management Wireless communications WiFi, ZigBee, Bluetooth, BLE Contactless antenna RF design, evaluation and testing MIFARE applications End-to-end systems, readers and card-related designs EMVco applications Readers, cards, design for test compliancy (including PCI) Secure Element management GlobalPlatform compliant backend solutions Secure services provisioning OTA, TSM services



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Design and implement NFC applications Session 2: Antenna design considerations for NXP NFC reader solutions

Jordi Jofre (Speaker) Angela Gemio (Host)

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