

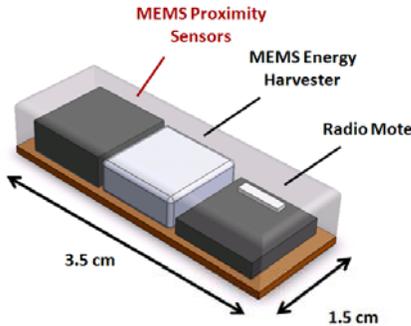


Electric Power Sensing for Demand Response

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Vision

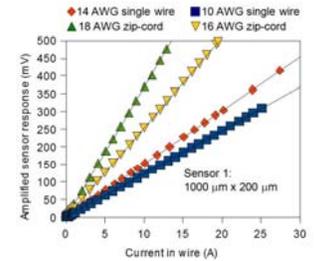
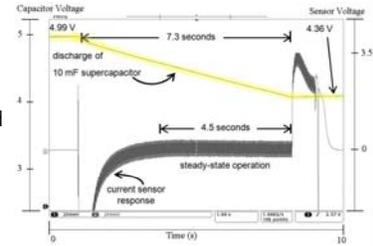
Upcoming Smart Grid initiative necessitates the distribution of thousands of sensors to monitor the operation of the future U.S. power grid. Our group is developing small and inexpensive self-powered sensor modules that can be non-intrusively deployed (simply attached to equipment) throughout the grid (in residential/commercial, distribution and transmission circuits) to wirelessly monitor current, voltage, as well as other operational and diagnostic parameters



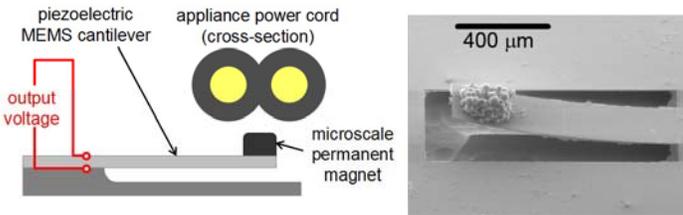
- Parasitic capacitances and other non-idealities prevented expected amplifier gains, but in a quantifiable manner, allowing unamplified voltage and device capacitance to be calculated from results.

- In tests that incorporated energy harvesting and a super-capacitor, it was found that by charging the super-capacitor intermittently to a set voltage large enough to drive a radio chip it was possible to operate at a 16% duty cycle.

- Initial testing of a limited number of sensor devices show a high degree of linearity across a 0-30A range of currents. Substantial additional characterization of a large number (~30) of sensors across a wide range of currents (0-200A, 10-200Hz) are planned



MEMS Current Sensing

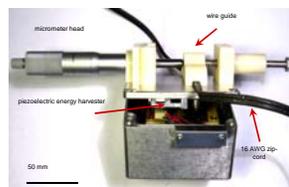
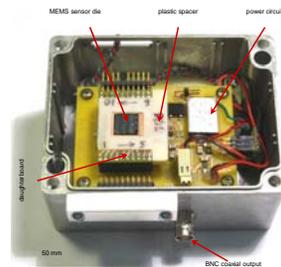


Sensor operation:

- Permanent magnet couples to the magnetic field surrounding an AC current carrier
- Piezoelectric cantilever transduces the force on the permanent magnet to an output voltage

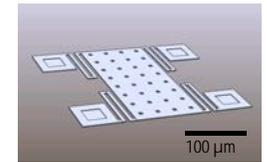
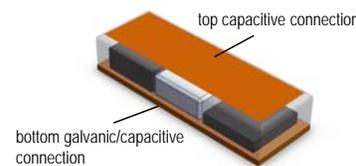
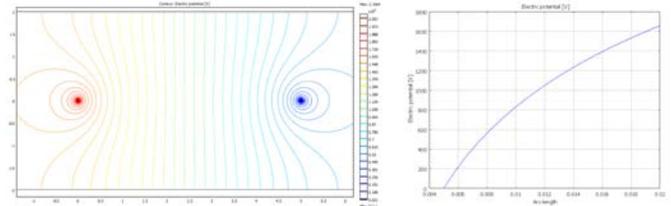
Sensor does not require power supply and does not need to physically encircle conductor

- Apparatus designed to support first-generation MEMS current sensors for in-depth testing of device response and improved duty cycle from initial tests.
- Commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) packaging utilized where possible for testing efficiency; resulting device is large but acceptable for bench top purposes.
- A micrometer head was utilized for precise positioning of wire to be measured.
- Package used off-the-shelf electronics where possible; amplifiers and power-circuitry are low current but not specially optimized. Testing board includes passive filtering but no onboard processing.
- Power supplied by either a 9V battery or a prefabricated piezoelectric energy harvester



MEMS Voltage Sensing

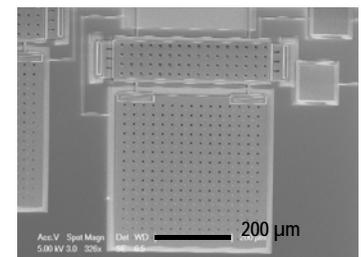
Passive MEMS-based electric field sensors that can be placed e.g. onto power lines to instantaneously measure both line-to-ground, and line-to-line voltage.



(top-left) FEM modeling of electric potential between two overhead transmission line wires (1 cm in diameter, 5 m separation) with a potential difference of 15 KV. Note that the potential changes rapidly in the proximity of the wire (top-right). Capacitive pickup on the surface of the sensor module (bottom-left) channels charges to a MEMS sensor (bottom-right).

MEMS Power Sensing

We have also fabricated a MEMS power sensor, which we are currently testing.



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