

Overview on the Evolution of Near Magnetic Field Coupling Prediction Using Equivalent Multipole Spherical Harmonic Sources

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Abstract—In the electromagnetic compatibility behavior of power electronic converters, parasitic magnetic couplings between components are one of the main causes of dysfunctions or poor filtering. These couplings may be either conducted or near-field interferences. To handle interaction problems, full knowledge of these magnetic couplings is essential. This paper is an overview of the work on near magnetic field interference undertaken in the last 15 years by the International Maxwell Laboratory. This paper details a predictive method that accurately and efficiently calculates near magnetic field coupling between two sources. The method uses near-field multipolar expansion in spherical harmonics of electromagnetic sources to determine close magnetic coupling between two sources from their equivalent models. This paper also shows how theoretical developments of large loop antennas have evolved from the van Veen antenna, a model with only two degrees of freedom, to a more complex model in terms of degrees, order, and types of harmonics. In parallel, it describes developments in the measurement method that provides input to the theoretical model. To illustrate how the research has evolved, we discuss

coupling between two complex sources to assess the accuracy of this predictive method.

Index Terms—Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC), near magnetic field coupling, power electronics, spherical harmonics.

I. INTRODUCTION

DEVICES using power electronics are becoming almost ubiquitous. However, power electronics systems are intrinsic sources of electromagnetic interference (EMI). Power density increases as the technology advances, producing more and more sources of electromagnetic disturbance. These sources degrade the performance of other electronic devices in the vicinity, and vice versa. Therefore, characterizing the EMI generated within power electronics systems and the near-field couplings between these sources of disturbance has become an important aspect in the study of electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) system behavior, the aim being to optimize the nominal performance of any electronic device in the presence of other systems. However, EMC behavior is quite often addressed only *after* the prototype has already been developed. The conventional approach is empirical and based on experimental trial and error processes that seek to ensure that the existing prototype complies with EMC standards [1]. This results in additional costs and significant manufacturing delays in the case of dysfunctions due to EMI. It is, therefore, increasingly important to consider EMC behavior in the design process *before* physical prototyping. This is why predictive EMC modeling methods need to be developed.

The electrical signals in complex power electronic systems (converters) are high currents with rapid variations, which means that near magnetic field coupling is the main cause of dysfunctions or poor filtering. The focus here is, therefore, on near magnetic field coupling either between components (*intrasystem* coupling) or between systems (*intersystem* coupling).

The method we have been developing for several years is based on multipole expansions in spherical harmonics of the near-field around sources. Each source is represented by an equivalent point multipole, which allows near-field couplings to be calculated efficiently [2]. During the design stage of a system, virtual knowledge of these couplings enables the relative positions of its components to be optimized to keep electromagnetic interactions to a minimum [3].

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Advances using multipole models have also had an impact on the development of test benches for near-field measurements. The coevolution of “*theoretical* versus *test*” bench approaches will be presented in Section II through a historical overview: the pioneering system based on the van Veen and Bergervöet antenna principle [4] using fixed coils and developed since the early 2000s [6], [34]; the concept of “spatial filtering” and related ideas on building workable test benches and then simplifying the arrangement of coils when identification of a higher degree and order is needed. The link between *near field* and *mutual inductance* assessments will also be discussed [5].

In Section III, current developments with our two measurement test benches (one in São Paulo, Brazil, the other in Lyon, France) will be described, with some examples of results.

II. HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF THE RESEARCH

A. Van Veen and Bergervöet Antenna Prototype

The van Veen and Bergervöet antenna consists of orthogonal arrangements of three loaded loop antennas [4]. The antenna loops are constructed with coaxial cable and their load impedances, which are located at opposite sides of the loops, consist of two impedances connected to the inner and outer conductors of the coaxial cable. In a typical measurement setting, the device under test (DUT) is located in the center of the loops so that the emissions radiated from the DUT induce currents through it by electromagnetic coupling. These currents are measured, and the radiated fields can then be calculated and characterized. The aforementioned pioneering studies on the use of loop antennas to obtain equivalent sources started with the development of a van Veen and Bergervöet antenna prototype as a student project in 1997, on which a paper was presented in 2000 [34]. Initially, this covered the main aspects concerning details of the design and construction of an antenna prototype, and its calibration in accordance with CISPR 15 [17]. An investigative study on the influence of the electromagnetic environment was carried out in the 9-kHz to 30-MHz frequency range. The influence of distance from walls, metallic conductors, etc., in different sites was also investigated [6]. The radiated emissions of a number of lighting system samples were assessed as an application. The simplicity of this antenna setup, its low cost, and the accuracy of the results obtained in these studies drew the attention of the authors to the idea of using the loop antenna configuration as a method for determining equivalent radiated emission source models in NF, suitable for NF-FF evaluation. Thus, magnetic dipoles could be calculated and used as equivalent radiated sources in previous studies [6]. Other similar loop antennas can be used for this purpose, like the one proposed by Kanda *et al.* of papers [35], [36]. When comparing these antennae, different frequency responses can be realized. In particular, the van Veen and Bergervöet antenna produces a flatter response at low frequencies, up to megahertz, to variations in load and geometrical parameters [36]. The need to represent the radiated sources with a higher order of precision has led us to propose new arrangements or configurations of loop sensors and the use of multipolar expansion in spherical harmonics. These are discussed in the following sections.

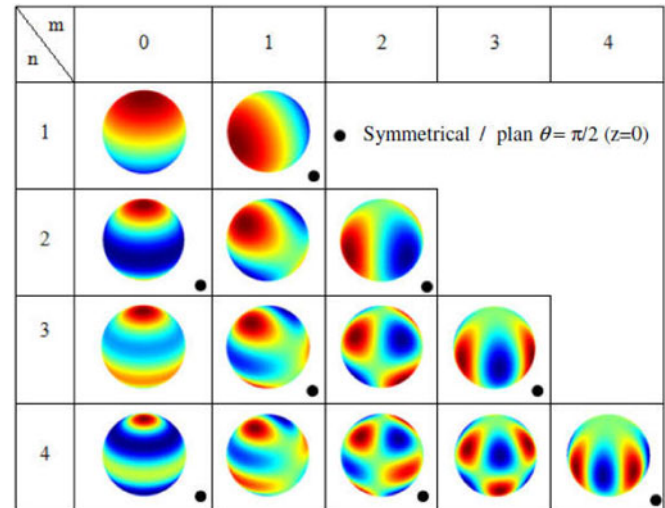


Fig. 1. Spherical harmonic functions $Y_{nm}(\theta, \varphi)$ for n up to 4 and $m \geq 0$ [19].

B. Multipolar Expansion in Spherical Harmonics

Lorange [10] shows that the near field may be obtained using real scalar spherical harmonics. In this study, the frequency range is from 20 kHz to 30 MHz and distances are less than 1 m so that a quasi-static approximation is appropriate

$$\nabla \times B \approx 0 \quad (1)$$

outside a simply connected volume containing the electrical currents (i.e., the source to be characterized). Thus, the magnetic field is (outside this volume) defined by the gradient of the magnetic scalar potential ψ

$$B = -\mu_0 \nabla \psi. \quad (2)$$

B being conservative ($\nabla \cdot B = 0$), ψ is the solution of the Laplace equation

$$\nabla^2 \psi = 0. \quad (3)$$

In spherical coordinates (with the “expansion center” $r = 0$ in the volume containing the source), the potential $\psi(r, \theta, \varphi)$ can be developed in *spherical harmonics* as follows [8], [9], [27]:

$$\psi(r, \theta, \varphi) = \sum_{n=1}^{+\infty} \sum_{m=-n}^{+n} Q_{nm} \cdot \frac{1}{r^{n+1}} \cdot Y_{nm}(\theta, \varphi) \quad (4)$$

where Q_{nm} are the unknown coefficients to be determined. For a given source, these depend on the particular choice of the spherical system (expansion center, direction).

$Y_{nm}(\theta, \varphi)$ are the *spherical harmonic functions* of degree n and order m (see Fig. 1), expressed in terms of Legendre polynomials for θ and m -periodic functions for φ [11]. These Y_{nm} functions are orthogonal:

$$\int Y_{ij}(\theta, \varphi) \cdot Y_{nm}(\theta, \varphi) d\theta d\varphi = 0, \quad \text{if } (i, j) \neq (n, m). \quad (5)$$

The near magnetic field can then also be written as a multipolar expansion, using the same coefficients Q_{nm}

$$B(r, \theta, \varphi) = -\mu_0 \nabla \psi(r, \theta, \varphi) = \sum_{n=1}^{+\infty} \sum_{m=-n}^{+n} B_{nm}(r, \theta, \varphi) \quad (6)$$

with

$$B_{nm} = -\frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \cdot Q_{nm} \cdot \nabla \left(\frac{1}{r^{n+1}} \cdot Y_{nm}(\theta, \varphi) \right). \quad (7)$$

Because of (1), developments (4) and (7) are only valid for $r > r_0$, where r_0 defines the smallest sphere that contains all the electrical currents ("sphere of validity").

C. Mutual Inductance Calculation With Spherical Expansion

The final goal is the assessment of inductive coupling between components or systems. In network analysis, this coupling corresponds to mutual inductances. The link between magnetic near field and mutual inductance was brought to light by Rumsey [12] and Richmond [13]. The report by Brock on the translation of the expansion center of spherical harmonics [5] (also partially based on [14]) then provided a practical way of computing the mutual inductance between two systems produced by the development of their spherical harmonics. In addition, the rotations of each system influence coupling and also have to be considered [15].

For quasi-static studies, the near magnetic field of system i can be represented as a function of $Q_{n,m}$; the mutual inductance M_{12} between systems i and j can be determined by [17]:

$$M_{12} \sim \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-n}^n (-1)^m \left(\frac{1Q_{n,-m}}{I_1} \cdot \frac{2Q_{n,m}}{I_2} \right). \quad (8)$$

The accuracy of the mutual inductance computation increases with the maximum degree of expansion used to represent the sources i and j . The complexity (number of coefficients) grows in $(2n + 1)$ with degree n of the model.

For experimental verification, the mutual inductance between coils can be determined with a vector network analyzer (VNA), using the current ratio (I_2/I_1) and direct measurement of the self-inductances

$$M_{21} = L_2 \cdot \frac{I_2}{I_1} = L_1 \cdot \frac{I_1}{I_2}. \quad (9)$$

D. Spatial Filtering

In [18], Kildishev *et al.* present spatial filtering measurements to estimate the dipolar and quadrupolar components of the magnetic field of a spacecraft. The main idea of *spatial filtering* is as follows: for a given distance r (on the surface S of a sphere), the normal induction (see (2) and (4)) is given by

$$\vec{B} \cdot \frac{\vec{r}}{r} = - \sum_{n=1}^{+\infty} \frac{(n+1)}{r^{n+2}} \sum_{m=-n}^{m=n} Q_{nm} \cdot Y_{nm}(\theta, \varphi). \quad (10)$$

Now consider the following quantity ξ_{ij} defined on S :

$$\xi_{ij}(\theta, \varphi, B_n) = Y_{ij}(\theta, \varphi) \cdot B_n \quad (11)$$

which is the normal flux density, weighted by the spherical harmonic function of degree i and order j . As Y_{nm} are orthogonal functions (see (5)), the flux of ξ_{ij} through the surface S depends on just one coefficient, Q_{ij} (the term in brackets does not depend on B):

$$\begin{aligned} \iint_S Y_{ij}(\theta, \varphi) \cdot B_n \cdot ds &= \iint_S \xi_{ij}(\theta, \varphi, B_n) \cdot ds \\ &= -Q_{ij} \cdot \left[\frac{(i+1)}{r^{i+2}} \iint_S Y_{ij}^2(\theta, \varphi) ds \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

This means that this flux produces a direct and exact measurement of the coefficient Q_{ij} . This defines the *ideal weighting*, which can be used in numerical simulations but is not experimentally feasible. The challenge of spatial filtering is to obtain the best experimental approximation of this ideal case, by using linear combinations of flux measurements in judicious arrangements of simple coils, i.e., to approximate the smooth function $Y_{ij}(\theta, \varphi)$ on the sphere with the simplest possible constant piecewise function (an example will be given in Fig. 4). These linear combinations may be made directly by connecting a set of real coils or *a posteriori* by postprocessing when there are no simultaneous measurements (for example, using one moving coil).

1) *First Approach: Degrees $n \leq 2$ (Zero Order $m = 0$):* Vincent *et al.* [19], [20], then Zangui *et al.* [21], [22], proposed a method to identify exactly the eight dipolar and quadrupolar coefficients (three coefficients for $n = 1$ and 5 for $n = 2$), on the assumption that the harmonic expansion of the near magnetic field is limited to the 4 first degrees ($n = 1$ to $n = 4$); if the real field contains any higher degree components ($n \geq 5$), the identification of these eight low-degree coefficients will no longer be exact.

We will now consider the behavior of the spherical harmonics (see Fig. 1) and their symmetries, first for $m = 0$ (the field does not depend on φ). Fig. 3 shows the corresponding spherical coaxial test bench. The central coil is on the plane of the source; it will give a nonzero response for both nonsymmetrical functions Y_{10} and Y_{30} and no response for the symmetrical functions Y_{20} and Y_{40} .

By replacing this coil with system C_{10} comprising two symmetrical coils connected in series (and coiling in the same direction), it becomes possible to cancel the contribution of Y_{30} (by adjusting the distance between the two coils). Similarly, the two symmetrical coils of system C_{20} are connected in series (but coiling in the opposite direction), which gives a zero response for the nonsymmetrical functions Y_{10} and Y_{30} . The effect of Y_{40} can be cancelled by adjusting the distance.

In this way, the pair of coils C_{10} measures Y_{10} with no influence of Y_{30} (Y_{20} and Y_{40} have no effect because of their symmetry). The pair C_{20} (coiling in opposite directions) gives a signal for Y_{20} with no influence of Y_{40} (Y_{10} and Y_{30} have no effect because of their antisymmetry).

The distances between coils in C_{10} and C_{20} are defined by the cancellation of the Y_{30} and Y_{40} fluxes, respectively, giving $\theta_1 = 63.5^\circ$ for C_{10} and $\theta_2 = 41^\circ$ for C_{20} (see Fig. 2).

The computation of near-field coupling by using these multipolar coefficients was then validated by comparison with the numerical results from the Flux3D software [28] for a simple

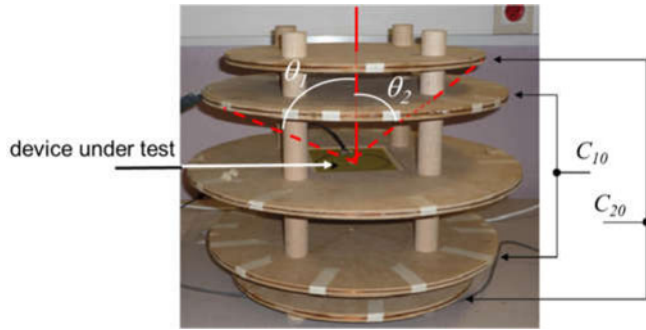


Fig. 2. Measurement prototype developed in [8] to identify the dipolar and quadrupolar coefficients of expansion (order $m = 0$).

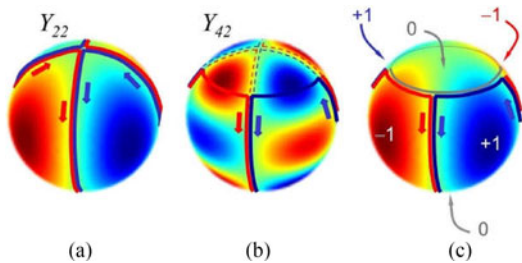


Fig. 3. Steps to define the Y_{22} sensor: (a) Configuration giving the maximum possible flux; (b) modification in order to cancel the effect of Y_{42} ; and (c) corresponding values of the final constant piecewise weight function.

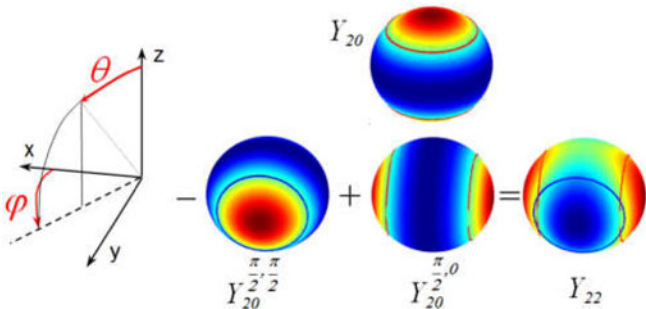


Fig. 4. Construction of Y_{22} from rotations of Y_{20} .

case between two 1-turn coils and measurements with a van Veen and Bergervöet antenna [8].

2) Degrees $n \leq 2$, Nonzero Orders ($m = 1$ or $m = 2$):

a) *Adapted Coil for Spatial Filtering*: By applying the principle of spatial filtering described above, it is also possible to address nonzero orders. In 2009, Vincent *et al.* showed how to build this kind of complex coil systematically [19]. We give an example below for the function Y_{22} : this function (see Fig. 1) produces four flux lobes around the vertical axis, alternately positive and negative. Using four coils (with a 90° angular width) connected in such a way that the four fluxes are additional (see Fig. 3(a)) will capture the maximum possible value of the flux. Because of the symmetries, this configuration cancels the flux of all Y_{nm} , $n \leq 4$, except for Y_{42} , although the latter flux may be cancelled out by a symmetrical reduction of the height of the four coils (see Fig. 3(b)) to give a vertical angular width of 91.54° . Fig. 3(c) shows the values of the resulting constant piecewise weight function and its high correlation with Y_{22} .

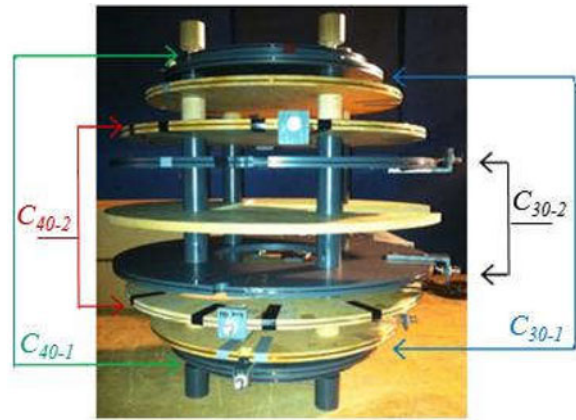


Fig. 5. Completed measurement prototype with 12 coil sensors for identification of the multipolar expansion ($n \leq 4$) [17].

b) *Spatial Filtering Using Moving Circular Coils*: Obviously, the kind of sensor described above is nonplanar and will be difficult to build. This is why (just some months later), we proposed [20] to apply spatial filtering using only simple circular coils attached to the sphere (see Fig. 2) or one coil moving around the sphere; the coil positions are then defined by (θ, φ) rotations. The basic idea comes from the following observation: $Y_{1,-1}$ and Y_{11} are identical to Y_{10} except for one rotation (see Fig. 1); similarly, it is possible to reconstruct Y_{22} using only Y_{20} and two different rotations (see Fig. 4)

$$\sqrt{3}Y_{22} = -Y_{20}^{\frac{\pi}{2}; \frac{\pi}{2}} + Y_{20}^{\frac{\pi}{2}; 0}. \quad (13)$$

Sensor C_{10} in Fig. 2, which was designed for direct measurement of Y_{10} , may then be used (after appropriate rotation) for $Y_{1,-1}$ and for Y_{11} ; sensor C_{20} was designed for Y_{20} and may be reused for Y_{22} and $Y_{2,-2}$ by combining (postprocessing) the two measurements obtained for the two adapted rotations. It is easy to generalize this principle; the device in Fig. 2 associated with a system of two-axis rotations allows the three dipolar and five quadrupolar coefficients of multipolar expansion of the source to be identified.

3) *Extension to Higher Degrees ($n \leq 4$)*: The analysis of the mutual inductance estimation from developments of degree 2 shows that in some cases, the dipolar and quadrupolar degrees are not sufficient; the relative error for M_{21} may be higher than 50% because the distance between the two components being tested is shorter than twice the size of the DUTs [2]. In order to improve accuracy, Hoang *et al.* [17] extended the previous study to degrees 3 and 4, on the assumption that degrees $n \geq 7$ are negligible. The design of the C_{30} and C_{40} coils follows the same principle as for C_{10} and C_{20} (Section II-D1), giving two solutions for each degree; $\theta_{3,1} = 40.09^\circ$ or $\theta_{3,2} = 73.43^\circ$ for C_{30} and $\theta_{4,1} = 33.88^\circ$ or $\theta_{4,1} = 62.04^\circ$ for C_{40} (see Fig. 5).

In the same study, this 12-coil test bench was used to test the accuracy of the mutual inductance estimation between a dipole and a quadrupole, and between a dipole and an octupole according to the maximum degree (2 or 4) of expansion. Some complex sources, such as transformers and toroidal inductors,

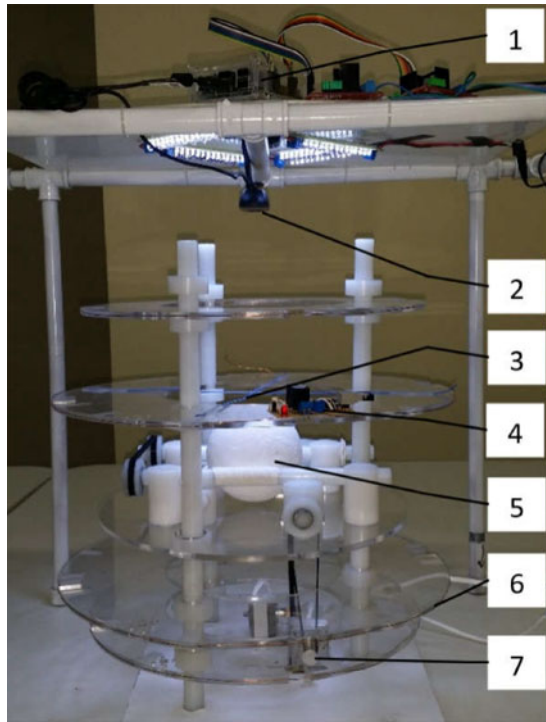


Fig. 6. Details of the automated measurement system: 1) Raspberry pi; 2) visual feedback camera; 3) fixed markers; 4) current probe; 5) sphere containing the dut; 6) loop sensor; and 7) stepper motors.

were also characterized up to degree $n = 4$. In this case, $n(n + 2) = 24$ components have to be identified, using 120 flux measurements and 25 different orientations of the test bench.

Therefore, this method cannot be implemented efficiently without advanced automation of the entire process.

III. AUTOMATIC NEAR-FIELD MEASUREMENT SYSTEM

A. Spheroidal Automated System Developed at LMAG (SP)

In the previous section, we discussed developments in radiated near-field measuring systems and their importance, including the near-field loop antenna systems developed by the authors. One of the characteristics to be mentioned is the need to reposition either the DUT or the sensors, for each of the measurements. Although this is time consuming, it is necessary to ensure that the components accurately characterize the radiated sources.

In order to minimize the aforementioned constraints, a prototype of an automated measurement antenna system was built and calibrated for the 9-kHz to 30-MHz frequency band. Basically, the system consists of a set of loop antennas, placed in fixed positions around a moving sphere that is used to house the DUT. The whole can be moved with three degrees of freedom: Stepper motors connected to a pulley and clutch system are available for this purpose, while cameras provide machine vision feedback which is applied to achieve the desired precision in positioning (see Fig. 6).

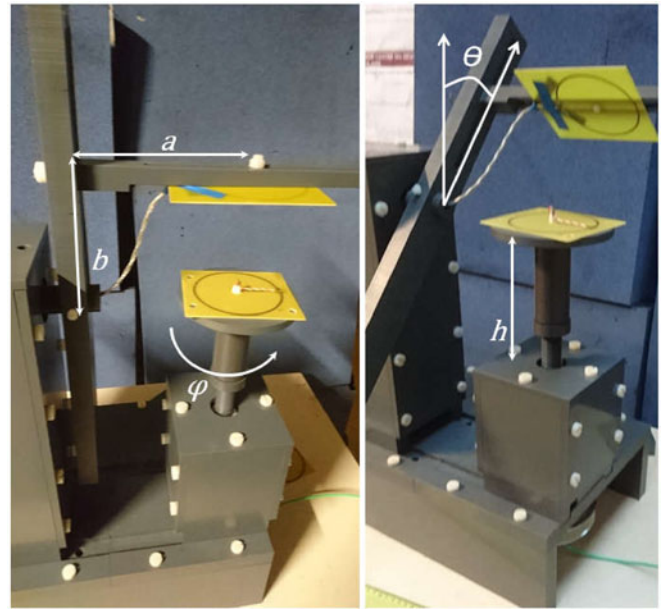


Fig. 7. Automated test bench including (θ, φ) rotations. $8 < a < 30$ cm; $10 < b < 30$ cm, $-5 < h < 5$ cm; $-120 < \theta < 120^\circ$; $0 < \varphi < 360^\circ$.

Although *spherical* harmonics have been used up to now in the electromagnetic algorithm, the proposed system is also suitable for implementing the equivalent *cylindrical* harmonics [11], [17]. Higher levels of precision can, thus, be achieved once higher orders and degrees or components of multipolar expansion can be obtained with the system. Fig. 6 presents details of the automated near-field measurement prototype, which is suitable for evaluations of components up to $n = 4$ (dipoles and quadrupoles).

1) *Automation and Measurement Process*: All the movement control, image gathering and data processing functions are provided by a widely available raspberry pi computer system programmed with Python and related Simple CV libraries, which include colorDistance, Binarize, and Findlines [29]. The automation system accepts a list of preassigned relative DUT and loop sensor positions which, when they are set accordingly, enable the parts of the system to reach the desired positions.

When positioning is complete, the data acquisition system is activated and begins the measurement and postprocessing cycles. To avoid contributions from the inner equipment and accessories, such as motors, these are configured to be shut down, while the measurements are being made. Furthermore, the system layout was carefully designed on the basis of the experimental approach to minimize field couplings to the loops.

2) *System Robustness and Positioning Precision*: Due to the positioning method adopted, the maximum positioning precision of the system depends only on the resolution of the camera and on its distance from the radiated source. An iterative process is applied while the measuring and repositioning steps are carried out, until the desired position is reached [30].

If a failure should occur during this process, the system will randomly reposition the DUT and restart the iteration process, allowing it to run without continuous oversight. Moreover, the

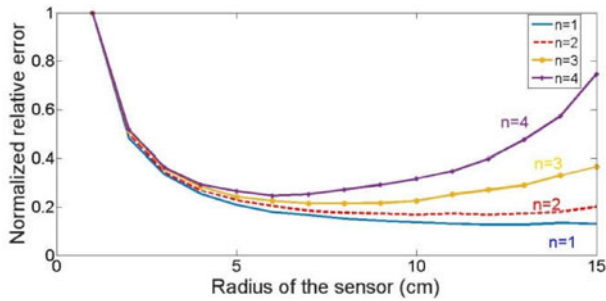


Fig. 8. Normalized uncertainties according to sensor radius for a distance of 20 cm.

maximum positioning error may be set by the user to shorten the repositioning cycles.

For the current system prototype, a camera with 640×480 -px resolution is used, resulting in 0.35 mm/px accuracy on the top of the surface of the sphere, which corresponds to a 1° arc for a maximum error of 1 px in the 12-cm sphere.

This bench is currently being developed at LMAG, Escola Politécnica of Sao Paulo, Brazil.

B. Single Coil Automatic Test Bench Developed in Lyon

1) *Description and Optimization:* Another automatic test bench for near-field measurements is currently being developed and tested at the Ampère Lab in Lyon, France. This test bench (see Fig. 7) comprises a rotating support (angle φ) for the DUT and a rotating arm (angle θ) holding a single sensor coil. Rotation is activated by a remote motor. The DUT and the sensor coil are connected to a VNA via BNC connectors. The motors and the VNA are controlled by a JAVA program. The VNA provides measurements of the *voltage* (direct) or *current* (using current probes) ratios between source and sensor. Due to the limitations of the current probe, the dynamic is 10 to 30 times better for voltage measurements.

When using this test bench, we abandoned the idea of direct coefficient extraction by spatial filtering. The principle will now be to accumulate a large number of measurements m and to identify the source of degree n using postprocessing tools, including the least square method to reduce the full $m \times n$ matrix to a square system with only $n(n+2)$ unknowns.

The size of the coil sensor is selected to optimize identification while taking uncertainties in the bench parameters into account: sensor position ($\pm 0.1^\circ$), source position (± 1 mm), source orientation ($\pm 0.5^\circ$), arm length (± 1 mm), and noise ($1E-10$ Wb). This optimization is based on the Bayesian approach and the MIPSE software developed in Grenoble [31]. This software includes the GOT-it optimization algorithms [32] and the propagation of uncertainties [33].

Finally, a radius of 6 cm for the coil sensor proved to be the best compromise for an expansion of degree 4 and measurements on a sphere of radius 20 cm (see Fig. 8).

2) *Preliminary Results:* With this new test bench, initial results were obtained for the coupling between two printed circular coils with radii of 5 and 3 cm, respectively. The near field of each dipole was characterized by uniformly distributed

TABLE I
COEFFICIENTS FOR TWO CIRCULAR COILS: COMPARISON OF THE REFERENCE ANALYTICAL SOLUTION [37] WITH THE RESULTS OF DEGREE 2 AND DEGREE 4 IDENTIFICATIONS

Radius	Model	Q_{10}	Q_{20}	Q_{30}	Q_{40}
5 cm	analytic	7.85E-3	0	-1.47E-5	0
	2 coeff.	8.54E-3	-1.13E-4		
	4 coeff.	7.99E-3	-3.80E-5	-1.93E-5	-2.61E-7
3 cm	analytic	2.82E-3	0	-1.91E-6	0
	2 coeff.	3.03E-3	-2.06E-5		
	4 coeff.	2.95E-3	4.86E-6	-3.05E-6	-2.62E-8

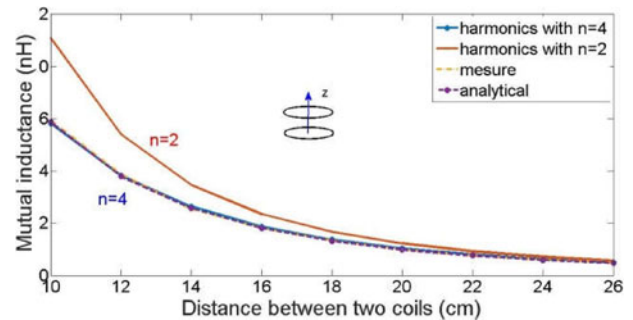


Fig. 9. Mutual inductance between 2 coaxial horizontal coils according to the distance following the z -axis, at a frequency of 300 kHz.

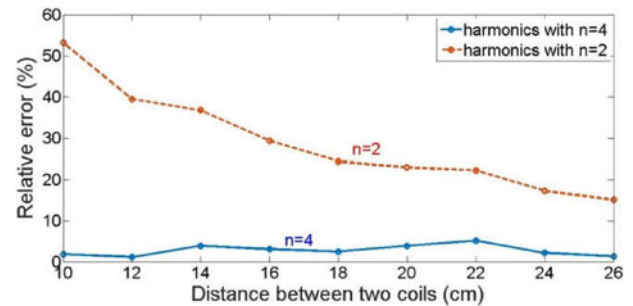


Fig. 10. Relative error in the mutual inductance estimation according to the distance, along the z -axis, between measurements and spherical harmonics with $n = 2$ and $n = 4$, at a frequency of 300 kHz.

measurements in the range of $-120 < \theta < 120^\circ$ using a coil sensor of radius 5 cm at a distance of 10 cm from the DUT. To reduce the noise, the measurements were made at an intermediate frequency filter bandwidth of 3 Hz, taking an average every 10 runs. This took 20 min for five frequencies. A least square method was then applied to build the equivalent models, the first incorporating only dipolar and quadrupolar components and the second incorporating the first four degrees. For these z -oriented dipoles, it should be noted that only zero-order functions are likely to contribute to expansion.

The results for these two coils are summarized in Table I. Based on these coefficients and 8, the mutual inductance can be computed according to the distance (z -direction) between the two coils and compared with the measurements made (see Fig. 9). The relative error (see Fig. 10) between the measurements and the analytical model is lower than 1%.

When the distance between the coils is short, the results for identification of degree 2 are poor (50% relative error for 10 cm). In contrast, the maximum relative error for degree 4 is 5%, which is lower than our previous results [2], [17].

IV. CONCLUSION

Since 2004, a part of the research by LIA Maxwell has focused on modeling near-field couplings of electronic devices. This study on near-field measurements started with the van Veen Antenna and moved on to spatial filtering. The model developed was based on spherical harmonics with multipolar expansion, from two degrees at the start, expanding to four degrees and then generalized to N degrees. With the addition of the Bayesian approach, the latest measurement test bench proved to be more accurate than the previous versions. The automation of the measurements and the most recent approach (described in Section III-B) reduces the time needed to characterize the near field emitted by a DUT by a factor of 16 for modeling up to the fourth degree. The initial results show a high level of agreement between the measurements and the analytical model and also for the spherical model with a minimum of four degrees.

In future studies, both test benches will be used to characterize more complex sources and to compare their performance in terms of precision and the time required for full characterization. They will be also used for further developments on different types of harmonics. The authors are applying and suggesting the use of the proposed sensor arrangement to characterization and control the on-board system radiated emission, and as a noninvasive failure detection approach, based on the resulting magnetic signature assessment.

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