

**DEVELOPMENT OF INDUCTIVE QUARTER WAVE RADIO FREQUENCY
COAXIAL RESONANT CAVITY FOR A COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS
IGNITION**

By

LIYTH AHMAD NISSIRAT

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia,
in Fulfilment of the Requirement for the Degree of Master of Science**

October 2006

DEDICATION

With appreciation and respect

this thesis is dedicated

to my parents,

to my brothers and sister.

I owe my country a great debt.

Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of University Putra Malaysia in fulfilment
of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science

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Faculty: Engineering

The function of the ignition systems is to inject the required energy into the combustion chamber in order to ignite the air-fuel mixture. The amount of the injected energy depends on many factors such as the kind of combustion gas used, air-fuel ratio, and the combustion pressure. To meet the future fuel economy demands the vehicle engine manufacturers try to design engines that run on lean or ultra lean air-fuel ratios. These lean mixtures require more efficient energy injection mechanism to be ignited.

The conventional ignition systems use spark plugs with a narrow spark gap to ignite the air-fuel mixture. The spark plug ionizes the mixture in the gap volume between the electrodes by means of DC high voltage source which is established from the energy stored in a magnetic coil. The drawback of such systems to meet the lean mixture demands is the need to increase the DC voltage between the gap electrodes in

order to ignite the lean and ultra lean mixtures. The spark is localized around the spark plug volume and the size of the plasma channel is small. Moreover, going to higher DC voltage levels cause shorter life time for the spark plugs.

The use of high energy plasma to ignite the mixture has recently gained interest. Many researches have been carried out on studying the Quarter Wave Radio Frequency Coaxial Cavity (QWRFCC) as a microwave plasma generator. This plasma source has many advantages: the mixture has lower breakdown voltage when using microwave frequencies, the device is working as electric field amplifier, and there is no electrode degradation.

In this work a coaxial cavity is developed to be used as an ignition source. The cavity is intended to work at household microwave frequency range (2.45GHz). The dimensions of the cavity have been calculated along with lumped parameters to be used in the RLC electrical model to analyze the behavior of the cavity under the load variation. From simulation and experimental results, It is noted that the radio frequency cavity is able to initiate plasma kernel larger than the conventional spark plug with less input energy requirements. This cavity is planned to be used as an ignition source in a compressed natural gas engine (CNG engine) where the air-fuel ratio (ϕ) is around 25:1.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan Ijazah Master Sains untuk

**PEMBANGUNAN RONGGA RESONAN INDUKTIF FREKUENSI
RADIO GELOMBANG SEPEREMPAT SEBAGAI CADANGAN
PALAM PENCUCUHAN CNG**

Oleh

LIYTH AHMAD NISSIRAT

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Kegunaan sistem pencucuhan adalah untuk memberi tenaga yang diperlukan kepada kebuk pembakaran supaya membakar campuran udara dan minyak. Jumlah tenaga yang di suntik ditentukan oleh jenis gas pembakaran digunakan, nisbah udara-bahanapi dan tekanan pembakaran. Untuk mencapai keperluan ekonomi minyak masa depan pembuat enjin automobil cuba mereka cipta enjin yang berjalan dengan nisbah udara-bahanapi yang rendah atau amat rendah (ultra lean). Campuran kurang ini memerlukan mekanisma suntikan tenaga yang lebih efisien.

Sistem pencucuhan konvensional menggunakan palam pencucuh dengan sela bunga api yang kecil untuk membakar campuran udara-bahanapi. Palam pencucuh akan terion campuran dengan isipadu antara elektrod yang berpunca dari voltan DC tinggi atau dari tenaga yang tersimpan dalam gegelung magnet. Kekurangan dalam sistem

ini adalah sukar mencapai keperluan campuran rendah yang memerlukan kenaikan voltan DC antara ruang elektrod supaya pembakaran yang rendah dan campuran sangat rendah. Bunga api ditetapkan pada isipadu palam pencucuh dan saiz saluran plasma adalah kecil. Lebih lagi dengan mencapai aras voltan DC tinggi akan menyebabkan jangka hayat yang pendek pada palam pencucuh..

Penggunaan tenaga plasma yang tinggi untuk membakar campuran telah mendapat sambutan yang tinggi. Ramai saintis telah membuat penyelidikan dalam Quarter Wave Radio Frequency Coaxial Cavity (QWRFCC) sebagai penjana plasma gelombang mikro.. Punca plasma ini ada banyak kelebihan: campuran ini ada takat voltan tepu yang rendah bila menggunakan frekuensi gelombang mikro, peralatan ini berfungsi sebagai penguat medan elektrik dan tidak ada penghausan elektrod.

Dalam kerja ini rongga sepaksi dibangunkan untuk digunakan sebagai punca pencucuhan. Rongga yang digunakan adalah diharapkan pada frekuensi gelombang mikro penggunaan dirumah (2.45GHz). Dimensi rongga telah dikira mengikut parameter tergumpal yang digunakan dalam model elektrik RLC supaya dapat menganalisis ciri-ciri rongga pada beban yang berlainan. Dari penyelidikan dan keputusan kerja makmal rongga frekuensi radio boleh membakar kernel plasma lebih besar dari palam bunga api biasa dengan tenaga yang kurang. Rongga ini adalah untuk kegunaan sebagai punca pencucuhan dalam gas asli termampat (CNG engine) dimana nisbah udara-bahanapi (ϕ) adalah dalam sekitar 25:1.

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I certify that an Examination Committee has met on 19th of Oct. 2006 to conduct the final examination of Liyth Ahmad Nissirat on his Master of Science thesis entitled “Quarter Wave RF Coaxial Resonant Cavity (QWRFRC) for CNG Ignition” in accordance with Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Act 1980 and Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Regulations 1981. The Committee recommends that the candidate be awarded the relevant degree. Members of the Examination Committee are as follows:

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the thesis is based on my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously concurrently submitted for any other degree at UPM or other institutions.

LIYTH AHMAD NISSIRAT

Date: 18 DECEMBER 2006

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
DEDICATION	ii
ABSTRACT	iii
ABSTRAK	v
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	vii
APPROVAL	viii
DECLARATION	x
LIST OF TABLES	xiii
LIST OF FIGURES	xiv
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS/SYMBOLS	xviii
CHAPTER	
I INTRODUCTION	1.1
Background	1.1
Problem statement	1.5
The rule of ignition	1.5
Aim and Objective	1.7
Scope of work	1.7
Thesis layout	1.8
II LITERATURE REVIEW	2.1
History of spark plugs	2.1
Recent advances in spark plugs	2.1
Natural Gas spark plug	2.6
Plasma jet igniters	2.9
Railplug igniters	2.25
LASER, RF, and Microwave systems	2.33
Summary	2.43
III METHODOLOGY	3.1
Introduction	3.1
Model Design	3.2
Magnetron	3.2
Wave guide to coaxial transition and the Coaxial cable	3.4
Design of RF Resonant Cavity and Antenna	3.6
MATLAB developed software	3.14
V RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	4.1
MATLAB Simulation Results	4.1
Experimental Results	4.10

Discussion	4.17
VII CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE WORK	5.1
Conclusion	5.1
Recommendations for future work	5.6
REFERENCES/BIBLIOGRAPHY	101
APPENDICES	A.1
BIODATA OF THE AUTHOR	
LIST OF PUBLICATIONS	

LIST OF TABLES

Table		Page
1	The input parameters and the values for this experiment	4.1

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure		Page
1	The spark plug and the added platinum ring points 6 and 5.	2.7
2	The spark plug gap SP1	2.8
3	The spark plug gap modified	2.8
4	Top view of the spark with 3 legs	2.8
5	Top view of the spark with 2 legs	2.8
6	Plasma jet ignition with the associated circuitry	2.10
7	Plasma jet ignition showing the conventional ignition system and the enhanced ignition system	2.11
8	The position of the capacitor	2.12
9	The position of the capacitor to lower the total C	2.12
10	The spark plug with semiconductor oxide and the associated circuit	2.13
11	The metallic oxide layer and the shape of the head of the spark plug	2.14
12	The voltage and current for the conventional spark plug system and the semiconductor oxide layer plasma jet ignition system	2.15
13	Noise electric field intensity	2.15
14	Plasma jet ignition system	2.16
15	Detail circuit block for Figure14	2.17
16	Start detection circuit	2.17
17	Another proposed system showing a connection between the start detecting circuit and the control circuit	2.18

18	Another proposed system showing the addition of relay and capacitor for better controlling	2.19
19	Energy per firing vs. the speed. The curves show different temperature of engine operation	2.19
20	Proposed power supply for the high energy harness circuit	2.20
21	The waveform at points a, b, c, and d as illustrated in Figure 20	2.21
22	Plasma jet plug with rings to reduce the voltage required to ignite	2.22
23	Proposed plasma jet with cooling and plasma media fed to the chamber 22	2.24
24	P&I diagram fro the proposed plug in Figure 23	2.24
25	The miniature railplug engine igniter attached to the engine	2..26
26	Simplified diagram for the miniature railplug	2.27
27	Railplug injector- igniter assembly	2.28
28	Another plug configuration showing the plasma initiation point (66)	2.29
29	Modification of the plug to increase the lifetime of the plug	2.29
30	Another modification proposed by the inventor	2.30
31	Railplug geometry	2.31
32	Another proposed plug	2.32
33	Continuous plasma ignitor and the associated circuitry	2.35
34	Another proposed circuit for the continuous plasma plug	2.35
35	The continuous plasma spark plug 16 and the top view of the plug	2.36
36	Quarter wave RF resonance cavity system	2.37
37	the cavity structure showing the inner conductor, outer conductor, antenna, tip, coaxial cable connecter, closed side of the cavity	2.38

38	Jet microwave ignition system	2.40
39	Microwave ignition system inside the jet engine	2.41
40	Slit iris orifice coupler	2.43
41	Flange type coupler	2.43
42	The magnetron structure showing the Filament leads, Resonant Cavities, Anode, Cathode, and Pickup loop	3.3
43	The rotating charge wheel (left) and the Electrical Field (right) inside the magnetron	3.4
44	The electron path inside the magnetron under the effect of the magnetic field	3.4
45	The waveguide to coaxial cavity attached to the magnetron	3.5
46	The cavity structure showing the antenna and the dimensions of the cavity	3.7
47	The RLC model of the cavity showing the L_{cav} , C_{cav} , and R	3.9
48	The system block diagram	3.14
49	The input user interface showing the panels input, output, and control keys	3.16
50	The input dialog for the cavity simulation	3.18
51	Optimizing the triangulation of the cavity	3.19
52	Z characteristic vs. outer conductor radius over inner conductor radius (b/a).	4.3
53	The main user interface with the input and the results of the calculations	4.5
54	2D simulation of the cavity.	4.6
55	The current and voltage waveforms of the system	4.7
56	The frequency response of the current in the cavity	4.8

57	The cavity body and ring	4.9
58	The cavity assembly drawing	4.9
59	The designed cavity and the ring with the cable attached	4.10
60	The ring and the antenna fabrication inside the ring	4.11
61	Photo of the cavity assembly	4.11
62	The complete microwave setup	4.12
63	Infrared image of the cavity with 1.5cm by 0.2cm antenna	4.13
64	Infrared image of the cavity with 1.5cm by 0.2cm antenna	4.15
65	Infrared Image of the cavity with circular loop antenna	4.16
66	Cavity Image showing the glow (gray scale).	4.19
67	Cavity Image showing the flame inside a compressed chamber.	4.20
68	Conventional spark plugs cathode and anode geometries.	5.6
69	The proposed cavity to produce propelled plasma	5.7

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS/SYMBOLS

List Of Abbreviations

ICE	Internal Combustion Engine
AFV	Alternative Fuel Vehicle
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
GHG	Greenhouse Gases
CARB	California Air Resources Board
TLEV	Transitional Low Emission Vehicle
LEV	Low Emission Vehicle
ULEV	Ultra Low Emission Vehicle
ZEV	Zero Emission Vehicle
CNG	Compressed Natural Gas
LPG	Liquefied Petroleum Gas
LNG	Liquefied Natural Gas
QWRFCC	Quarter Wave Radio Frequency Coaxial Cavity
CVCC	Compound Vortex Controlled Combustion
AAC	Avalanche Activation of Combustion
EGR	Exhaust Gas Recirculation
ATAC	Active Thermo-Atmosphere combustion
ARC	Active Radial Combustion

P&I	Piping and Instrumentation
LASER	Light Absorption by Stimulated Emission of Radiation
VCO	Voltage Controlled Oscillator
TWT	Traveling Wave Tube
TEM	Transverse ElectroMagnetic mode
FDTD	Finite Difference Time Domain
FEM	Finite Element Method
ICE	Internal Combustion Engine
AFV	Alternative Fuel Vehicle
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Chang
GHG	Greenhouse Gases
CARB	California Air Resources Board
TLEV	Transitional Low Emission Vehicle
LEV	Low Emission Vehicle
ULEV	Ultra Low Emission Vehicle
ZEV	Zero Emission Vehicle
CNG	Compressed Natural Gas
LPG	Liquefied Petroleum Gas
LNG	Liquefied Natural Gas
QWR FCC	Quarter Wave Radio Frequency Coaxial Cavity

CVCC	Compound Vortex Controlled Combustion
AAC	Avalanche Activation of Combustion
EGR	Exhaust Gas Recirculation
ATAC	Active Thermo-Atmosphere combustion
ARC	Active Radial Combustion
P&I	Piping and Instrumentation
LASER	Light Absorption by Stimulated Emission of Radiation
VCO	Voltage Controlled Oscillator
TWT	Traveling Wave Tube
TEM	Transverse ElectroMagnetic mode
FDTD	Finite Difference Time Domain
FEM	Finite Element Method

List of Symbols

Symbol	Description	Unit
B	Outer Conductor Radius	m
A	Inner Conductor Radius	m
H	Antenna Width	m
W	Antenna Length	m
L	Cavity Length	m
λ	Microwave signal Wavelength	m
C	Speed of Light in Vacuum	(3×10^8) m/sec
f_{opr}	Operating Frequency	Hz
μ	Magnetic permeability	N/m ²
ϵ	Dielectric Constant	F/m
Z_{chr}	Characteristic Impedance	Ω
L_{cav}	Cavity Inductance	H
C_{cav}	Cavity Capacitance	F
ω	Operating Frequency	rad/sec
R	Cavity Resistance	Ω
R_{skin}	Cavity Skin Resistance	Ω
R_{shunt}	Shunt Resistance (filling material resistance)	Ω
σ	Conductor Conductivity	S/m
E	Electric Field	V/m

J	Current Density	A/m^2
2r	Antenna wire Diameter	m
Q	Quality Factor	Dimensionless
VSWR	Voltage Standing Wave Ratio	Dimensionless