## Contents

**Acknowledgments** ............................................................. xi

**Preface** ............................................................................. xiii

**Introduction** ........................................................................ xvii

**Part 1. Context** ................................................................. 1

**Introduction to Part 1** ......................................................... 3

**Chapter 1. Recap of the Constraints Governing the Design of Antennas for an NFC Device** ................................................. 5

1.1. Normative constraints ...................................................... 6

1.1.1. Uplink from initiator to targets .................................. 7

1.1.2. Downlink from targets to initiator ............................. 8

1.1.3. “Contactless” standards versus NFC device antennas .... 10

1.1.4. Technologies ......................................................... 12

1.1.5. “NFC Forum Devices” and “NFC Forum Tags” .......... 12

1.1.6. Modes of communication of an NFC Forum Device ...... 14

1.1.7. Role of an NFC Forum Device ................................. 16

1.1.8. Beware of false advertising ................................. 17

1.2. Regulatory constraints ................................................. 17

1.2.1. RF regulations ....................................................... 17

1.3. Constraints on the NFC market .................................... 18

1.4. Typological constraints of NFC ................................. 19

1.4.1. Application consequences and their direct constraints .. 20

1.5. Application constraints on antenna design ................... 21
Chapter 2. Introduction to and Recap of the Principles Employed in NFC

2.1. The physical fundamentals of “contactless” and NFC
2.1.1. Phenomenon of propagation and radiation
2.1.2. Classification of fields and spatial regions
2.1.3. Spatial regions
2.1.4. Far field: \( r >> \lambda/2\pi \) (Fraunhofer zone)
2.1.5. Intermediary field: \( r \approx \lambda \) (Fresnel zone)
2.1.6. Near field: \( r \ll \lambda/2\pi \) (Rayleigh zone) … and by essence, the origin of the “NF – Near Field”, and hence NFC
2.1.7. Remarks on contactless, RFID and NFC application

2.2. The concept of NFC
2.2.1. Biot–Savart law
2.2.2. Field \( H \) at a point on the axis of a circular antenna
2.2.3. Decrease in the field \( H \) as a function of “d”
2.2.4. Field \( H \) at a point on the axis of a rectangular antenna

Part 2. Methods and Designs for NFC Device Antennas

Introduction to Part 2

Chapter 3. “Initiator” Antennas: Detailed Calculations

3.1. Introduction
3.1.1. There are initiators … and there are initiators
3.2. Design of an initiator antenna (without influence from the outside environment)
3.2.1. Operating mode
3.2.2. Instructive recap
3.2.3. Choice of integrated circuit
3.2.4. Legislational constraining aspects and EMC pollution
3.2.5. EMC filtering
3.2.6. Choice of target used and incidence of its \( H \) threshold
3.2.7. Determining the inductance value of the initiator antenna
3.2.8. Simple antenna ........................................... 82
3.2.9. Matching circuit for the impedance
of the antenna .................................................. 88
3.2.10. Calculating the current in the
antenna coil of the initiator ................................... 93
3.2.11. Summary and examples .................................. 96
3.2.12. Simulations .................................................. 98
3.2.13. Value of the field H radiated by the antenna ......... 100
3.2.14. Calculation and value of the working distance ......... 101
3.3. Maximum quality coefficient Q of the initiator antenna ..... 101
3.3.1. Q and cutoff of the field ................................. 103
3.3.2. Decrease in the ISO field ................................ 106
3.3.3. Measuring Q in the application .......................... 108
3.3.4. Measurement of the bandwidth in the application ....... 109
3.4. Brief handbook on the process of
designing an antenna initiator .................................. 110

Chapter 4. Examples of Applications
of Initiator Antennas ............................................. 113

4.1. Large antennas ............................................... 113
4.1.1. Communication with a mono-NFC device
in “card emulation – battery-assisted” mode ............... 114
4.1.2. Communication multi-NFC devices
in “tag batteryless” mode ...................................... 114
4.2. Large antenna in mono-device ............................. 115
4.2.1. Mechanical formats of the NFC device targets ....... 115
4.2.2. “Form factors” and sizes of antennas of the targets .... 115
4.2.3. Application distances required for operation .......... 116
4.2.4. Estimation of the “loading effects” of
the distance or working range ................................. 117
4.2.5. Environment (copper, ferrite, battery, etc.) .......... 117
4.2.6. Several measures for illustrating our proposal ......... 117
4.2.7. H_d field necessary for the NFC device target ....... 119
4.2.8. H_0 necessary to create at the antenna
level of the initiator ............................................. 120
4.2.9. Power P (in watts) ......................................... 120
4.2.10. Field H which must be produced by the
initiator for a specific ......................................... 120
4.2.11. Definition of the initiator antenna:
format of the “landing area” of the reader (where
one puts the target) ............................................. 121
4.2.12. “System” considerations of the application .......... 121
4.2.13. Market integrated circuits for direct attack of the antenna ...................................... 122
4.2.14. Booster amplifiers ........................................ 124
4.2.15. Problem of the retro-modulation value ................. 128
4.3. Large antennas in multi-antennas .............................. 130
4.3.1. In simultaneous mode (temporarily non-multiplexed) .......................... 130
4.3.2. In multiplexed mode temporarily .......................... 133
4.4. Large antennas in multi-devices ............................... 135
4.4.1. Conclusions .................................................. 137
4.5. Other examples of initiator antennas .......................... 138

Chapter 5. Antennas for Targets and Tags: Detailed Calculations ........................................ 141
5.1. Introduction: … there is a target and target ................. 141
5.2. NFC Forum Tags .................................................. 141
5.2.1. “Technology Subset” ........................................... 142
5.3. Introduction to problems of antenna targets/tags .............. 146
5.3.1. Tuning of the targets/tags ..................................... 146
5.3.2. The inductance L ............................................... 146
5.4. State-of-the-art of the antenna sizes ............................ 154
5.4.1. Sizes of the target antennas .................................... 155
5.4.2. Examples of applications of targets with antennas in ISO classes ................. 157
5.5. Technological aspect of the NFC targets and tags ............ 165
5.5.1. Data specific to integrated circuits for usage by NFC targets ....................... 165
5.5.2. Data specific to the additional capacities ..................... 165
5.5.3. Industrial data specific to antenna technology ............... 165
5.5.4. Technology at stake .......................................... 166
5.5.5. Estimation of the minimum number of antenna coils of the target to guarantee its remote power supply ......... 171

Chapter 6. Detailed Examples of Designs of Target Antennas ......................................... 173
6.1. Case of small antennas ........................................... 173
6.1.1. Examples in classes 4, 5, 6… or close by ..................... 174
6.1.2. Example of design in class 5 ..................................... 175
6.1.3. Example ....................................................... 180
6.1.4. Example of design in class 6 ................................... 182
6.2. Case of very small antennas ..................................... 189
6.2.1. Example of design in classes 11, 12, 13 ....................... 190
6.3. Case of the large NFC target/tag antennas: format A4 ........... 203
   6.3.1. NFC bib number antennas for marathon and triathlon runners .............................................. 203
   6.3.2. Technical properties required by the NFC target/tag ......................................................... 204
6.4. Case of very large antennas targets: format A3 .................. 205
   6.4.1. Context and technical frame of the large antennas .............................................................. 205
   6.4.2. Retained concept .................................................. 206
   6.4.3. Example of network with four antennas .................................................................................. 213
   6.4.4. Simplification of the equation .......................................................... 216

Chapter 7. The Initiator–Target Couple and Its Couplings ............ 233
   7.1. Circuits and their couplings ........................................... 234
       7.1.1. Mutual induction and mutual inductance ................ 235
       7.1.2. Perfect mutual .............................................. 237
       7.1.3. Non-perfect mutual ......................................... 238
       7.1.4. Coupling coefficient “k” .................................. 242
   7.2. Tuned circuits coupled by mutual induction ................. 244
       7.2.1. Why “almost”? ............................................. 245
       7.2.2. Coupling index “n” ......................................... 246
       7.2.3. In conclusion, an important point .................... 247
   7.3. Identical coupled circuits, tuned to the same frequency .......... 248
       7.3.1. Transfer function, A(ω) = V2/V1, in terms of the voltage of the secondary .................. 250
       7.3.2. Transmission coefficient “Kt” ................................ 251
       7.3.3. In summary .................................................. 252
       7.3.4. Operation in the vicinity of the resonance frequency f0 .................................................. 255

Chapter 8. The Initiator–Target Couple and the Loading Effect ...... 271
   8.1. Loading effect by coupling ........................................ 271
   8.2. Coupled tuned antennas in terms of the primary current .... 272
       8.2.1. Primary (initiator) non-loaded (no target within the field) ................................................. 273
       8.2.2. Primary (initiator) with a load (presence of target(s) in the field) ................................... 274
       8.2.3. Value of R2 in view of the environment ................ 277
   8.3. Some food for thought ............................................. 278
   8.4. Loading effect ...................................................... 281