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DESCRIPTION

TITLE OF THE INVENTION

Resonance Type Non-Contact Charging Device

5 TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to a resonance type non-contact charging device.

BACKGROUND ART

Patent Document 1, for example, discloses a power transmission system of the resonance scheme transmitting electric power wirelessly from a primary side resonant coil at the power transmission side towards a secondary side resonant coil at the power reception side arranged apart from the primary side resonant coil. Specifically, according to the power transmission system, development of an AC electric field by the primary side resonant coil through the AC voltage from a high frequency power source causes development of an oscillating magnetic field in the proximity of the primary side resonant coil. Electric power is transferred from the primary side resonant coil to the secondary side resonant coil by a resonance phenomenon.

PRIOR ART DOCUMENT

PATENT DOCUMENT

Patent Document 1: WO/2007/008646

20 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

PROBLEMS TO BE SOLVED BY THE INVENTION

When the power transmission system is applied to a resonance type non-contact charging device, a high frequency power source and a primary side resonant coil must be provided at the power transmission side, whereas a secondary side resonant coil and a charger must be provided at the power reception side. Since the power transmission system is of the high frequency transmission scheme, stopping the charger before stopping the high frequency power source will cause a portion of or all of the power transmitted from the primary side resonant coil to the secondary side resonant coil to be

reflected towards the high frequency power source, leading to the possibility of the high frequency power source being damaged. Moreover, stopping the charger before stopping the high frequency power source will cause sudden increase in the input voltage to the charger (output voltage of the resonance system), leading to the possibility of the charger being damaged.

An object of the present invention is to provide a resonance type non-contact charging device that can prevent incurring damage when charging is stopped.

MEANS FOR SOLVING THE PROBLEMS

To achieve the aforementioned object, a resonance type non-contact charging device according to the present invention includes a high frequency power source, a primary side resonant coil, a secondary side resonant coil, a charger, a secondary battery, and a stop control unit. The primary side resonant coil receives supply of high frequency electric power from the high frequency power source. The secondary side resonant coil is arranged apart from the primary side resonant coil in a non-contact manner. The secondary side resonant coil receives electric power from the primary side resonant coil through the magnetic field resonance between the primary side resonant coil and secondary side resonant coil. The charger receives supply of high frequency electric power from the secondary side resonant coil. The secondary battery is connected to the charger. The stop control unit stops the high frequency power source before stopping the charger when charging is to be stopped.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a schematic diagram of a configuration of an automobile to which the resonance type non-contact charging device according to an embodiment of the present invention is applied.

Fig. 2 is a circuit configuration diagram representing the electrical configuration of the resonance type non-contact charging device of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a timing chart to describe the function of the resonance type non-contact charging device of Fig. 1.

MODES FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

A resonance type non-contact charging device according to an embodiment of the present invention will be described hereinafter according to Figs. 1-3.

5 The resonance type non-contact charging device of the present embodiment is applied to a charging system for a battery (secondary battery) mounted on a hybrid vehicle, i.e. a charging device to charge a vehicle-mounted battery. As shown in Fig. 1, a secondary side resonant coil 21 is attached at the front side of the car body, inside the front bumper, for example, in a vehicle 1. Secondary side resonant coil 21 is constituted of a copper wire wound in helical form. Secondary side resonant coil 21 is
10 arranged in the front bumper such that the axis line (central axis of helix) of secondary side resonant coil 21 is consistent with the vertical direction of the vehicle.

A ground side apparatus 10 is embedded in the floor of a charging station where charging of battery 25 of automobile 1 is to be carried out. Ground side apparatus 10 includes a primary side resonant coil 11. Primary side resonant coil 11 is constituted of
15 a copper wire wound in helical form. Primary side resonant coil 11 is arranged such that the axis line (central axis of helix) of primary side resonant coil 11 is orthogonal to the ground. When battery 25 of automobile 1 is to be charged at a charging station, automobile 1 is situated at the charging station such that the axis line (central axis of helix) of primary side resonant coil 11 is consistent with or adjacent the axis line (central
20 axis of helix) of secondary side resonant coil 21.

Fig. 2 represents an entire configuration of a resonance type non-contact charging device. Ground side apparatus 10 includes a primary side resonant coil 11, a primary coil 12, a high frequency power source (AC source) 13, and a power source
side controller 14 as a primary side control unit. An in-vehicle side apparatus 20 is
25 mounted on the vehicle. In-vehicle side apparatus 20 includes a secondary side resonant coil 21, a secondary coil 22, a rectifier 23, a charger 24, a battery 25 that is a secondary battery, a charging ECU 26 as a secondary side control unit, and a vehicle side controller 27 as a secondary side control unit.

High frequency power source 13 outputs high frequency electric power of approximately several MHz, for example. Primary coil 12 is connected to high frequency power source 13. When high frequency power source 13 supplies electric power of high frequency to primary coil 12, primary side resonant coil 11 is coupled
5 with primary coil 12 by electromagnetic induction. As a result, electric power is transmitted from primary coil 12 to primary side resonant coil 11. Thus, primary side resonant coil 11 receives supply of high frequency electric power from high frequency power source 13 via primary coil 12. In other words, high frequency electric power is supplied from high frequency power source 13 to primary side resonant coil 11 through
10 primary coil 12. A capacitor C is connected to primary side resonant coil 11.

Power source side controller 14 is connected to high frequency power source 13. Power source side controller 14 transmits a power on/off signal to high frequency power source 13 to turn on or off high frequency power source 13. Power source side controller 14 receives a charging start/stop signal. The charging start/stop signal is
15 associated with a switching operation by an individual at the ground side to start/stop charging.

Secondary side resonant coil 21 is arranged apart from primary side resonant coil 11 in a non-contact manner. Secondary side resonant coil 21 receives high frequency electric power from primary side resonant coil 11 through the magnetic field resonance
20 between primary and secondary side resonant coils 11 and 21. Secondary coil 22 is coupled with secondary side resonant coil 21 through electromagnetic induction. As a result, electric power is transmitted from secondary side resonant coil 21 to secondary coil 22. Rectifier 23 is connected to secondary coil 22. Rectifier 23 rectifies electric power received at secondary coil 22. A capacitor C is connected to secondary side
25 resonant coil 21.

A charger 24 is connected to rectifier 23. Charger 24 boosts the electric power rectified at rectifier 23, for example. Charger 24 includes a switching element. By the on/off control of the switching element, the output voltage and output current from

charger 24 is adjusted. Battery 25 is connected to charger 24. Battery 25 is charged with the output electric power from charger 24.

Charging ECU 26 is connected to charger 24. In a charging mode of battery 25, charging ECU 26 controls the switching element of charger 24 while monitoring the output current and output voltage from charger 24. A charging on/off signal is sent from charging ECU 26 to charger 24, which causes charger 24 to be turned on/off. Charging ECU 26 senses battery voltage V_b . Vehicle side controller 27 is connected to charging ECU 26. A charging complete signal is transmitted from charging ECU 26 to vehicle side controller 27. Vehicle side controller 27 receives an ignition signal and a charging start/stop signal. The ignition signal is directed to operating the ignition switch of the vehicle. The charging start/stop signal is associated with a switching operation made by a passenger on the vehicle to start/stop charging.

Power source side controller 14 of ground side apparatus 10 and vehicle side controller 27 of in-vehicle side apparatus 20 can communicate with each other wirelessly.

An operation of the resonance type non-contact charging device configured as set forth above will be described based on the timing chart of Fig. 3.

Referring to Fig. 3, a person on ground or a passenger on the vehicle turns on the charging start switch at a timing indicated by t_1 . In response, a charging start signal is sent to power source side controller 14 or vehicle side controller 27. Power source side controller 14 and vehicle side controller 27 share the on-operation information of the charging start switch through wireless communication. Power source side controller 14 outputs a power on/off signal of an H level to high frequency power source 13. Specifically, power source side controller 14 outputs a power source ON command to high frequency power source 13. Vehicle side controller 27 outputs a charging start command to charging ECU 26. In response, charging ECU 26 outputs a charging on/off signal of an H level to charger 24. In other words, charging ECU 26 outputs a charging ON command to charger 24.

In response, charger 24 initiates charging, whereby battery voltage V_b is boosted.

When battery voltage V_b arrives at a preset threshold value (the timing indicated by t_2 in Fig. 3), charging ECU 26 initiates a time count operation. At an elapse of a predetermined charging time T_c (the timing indicated by t_3 in Fig. 3) from the time of exceeding the threshold value, charging ECU 26 determines that the charging of battery
5 25 is completed, and outputs a charging complete signal to vehicle side controller 27.

Upon receiving a charging complete signal from charging ECU 26, vehicle side controller 27 notifies power source side controller 14 that charging has been completed through wireless communication. In response, power source side controller 14 immediately outputs a power on/off signal of an L level to high frequency power source
10 13. In other words, power source side controller 14 outputs a power source off command to high frequency power source 13. Accordingly, high frequency power source 13 is stopped.

At an elapse of a predetermined delay time T_d (the timing indicated by t_4 in Fig. 3) from the elapse of predetermined charging time T_c (the timing indicated by t_3 in Fig. 3), charging ECU 26 outputs a charging on/off signal of an L level to charger 24. In
15 other words, charging ECU 26 outputs a charging off command to charger 24. Accordingly, charger 24 is stopped.

Thus, power source side controller 14, vehicle side controller 27 and charging ECU 26 cooperate with each other such that charger 24 that is a device at the secondary
20 side is stopped after high frequency power source 13 that is a device at the primary side is stopped when charging is to be stopped. In other words, when charging ECU 26 determines that charging is completed, first high frequency power source 13 is stopped, and then charger 24 is stopped.

Since the resonance type non-contact charging device is of the high frequency transmission scheme, stopping charger 24 before stopping high frequency power source
25 13 will cause a portion of or all of the electric power transmitted from the primary side resonant coil to the secondary side resonant coil to be reflected towards the high frequency power source, leading to the possibility of high frequency power source 13

being damaged. Specifically, the electric power reflected towards high frequency power source 13 is converted into heat, whereby high frequency power source 13 is overheated. Moreover, if charger 24 is stopped before high frequency power source 13 is stopped, the voltage at the input terminal of charger 24 will be boosted to damage
5 charger 24. In the present embodiment, high frequency power source 13 that is a device at the primary side is stopped before charger 24 that is a device at the secondary side is stopped. Therefore, damage to high frequency power source 13 by reflected electric power can be prevented and the voltage at the input terminal of charger 24 will not be boosted.

10 The present embodiment has the following advantages.

(1) The resonance type non-contact charging device includes high frequency power source 13, primary side resonant coil 11, secondary side resonant coil 21, and charger 24, as well as stop control unit (power source side controller 14, vehicle side controller 27, and charging ECU 26). The stop control unit causes high frequency
15 power source 13 to be stopped before charger 24 is stopped in a charging stop mode. Accordingly, when charging is to be stopped, high frequency power source 13 can be prevented from being damaged by reflected electric power, and charger 24 can be prevented from being damaged.

(2) The installation of high frequency power source 13 and primary side
20 resonant coil 11 at the ground side and the installation of secondary side resonant coil 21, charger 24 and battery 25 in the vehicle are preferable from the standpoint of practical usage.

The present invention is not limited to the above-described embodiment, and may be embodied as set forth below.

25 When an error occurs at the charging system including charger 24 or at a vehicle system other than the charging system, similar procedures can be taken, i.e. stopping high frequency power source 13 first, and then stopping charger 24. Specifically, when a vehicle error signal or the like is applied to vehicle side controller 27 of Fig. 2, i.e.

when a system error occurs, vehicle side controller 27 stops high frequency power source 13 previous to stopping charger 24. A vehicle error signal is output when there is an error such as a breakdown, for example, when the battery is overheated, or when vehicle side controller 27 or otherwise vehicle-mounted controller is overheated.

5 Likewise, when an ignition switch, a charging stop switch, or the like is operated, similar procedures can be taken, i.e. stopping high frequency power source 13 first, and then stopping charger 24.

 Although the resonance type non-contact charging device is applied to a hybrid vehicle, the resonance type non-contact charging device may be applied to a vehicle
10 other than a hybrid vehicle, as well as to a charging device used other than for a vehicle.

 Primary side resonant coil 11 and secondary side resonant coil 21 are not restricted to the form of an electric wire wound helically, and may be wound in flat spiral. In this case, the length of the coil in the axial direction is reduced, allowing a smaller depth for the hole to be formed in the ground.

15 The profile of primary side resonant coil 11, primary coil 12, secondary side resonant coil 21 and secondary coil 22 is not limited to a circle, and may take, for example, a polygonal shape such as a rectangle, hexagon, triangle, or an ellipse.

 Capacitor C connected to each of primary side resonant coil 11 and secondary side resonant coil 21 is dispensable. However, a configuration with both capacitors C
20 connected can reduce the resonant frequency, as compared to the case where capacitors C are absent. Primary side resonant coil 11 and secondary side resonant coil 21 can also be reduced in size, as compared to the case where capacitors C are absent, based on the same resonant frequency.

CLAIMS

1. A resonance type non-contact charging device comprising:
 - a high frequency power source,
 - 5 a primary side resonant coil receiving supply of high frequency electric power from said high frequency power source,
 - a secondary side resonant coil arranged apart from said primary side resonant coil in a non-contact manner, receiving electric power from the primary side resonant coil through magnetic field resonance between said primary side resonant coil and
 - 10 secondary side resonant coil,
 - a charger receiving supply of high frequency electric power from said secondary side resonant coil,
 - a secondary battery connected to said charger, and
 - a stop control unit stopping said high frequency power source before said
 - 15 charger is stopped when charging is to be stopped.
2. The device according to claim 1, wherein
 - said high frequency power source and said primary side resonant coil are installed at a ground side, and
 - 20 said secondary side resonant coil, said charger, and said secondary battery are mounted on said vehicle.
3. The device according to claim 1 or 2, wherein
 - said stop control unit includes a primary side control unit activating and stopping
 - 25 said high frequency power source, and a secondary side control unit activating and stopping said charger,
 - said primary side control unit and said secondary side control unit cooperate with each other to stop said high frequency power source before said charger is stopped.

4. The device according to claim 3, wherein
when charging is to be stopped,
said secondary side control unit notifies said primary side control unit that
charging is to be stopped, and stops said charger at an elapse of a predetermined delay
5 time,

said primary side control unit stops said high frequency power source when
receiving notification of stopping charging from said secondary side control unit.

5. The device according to claim 3 or 4, wherein said primary side control unit
10 and said secondary side control unit are capable of communication with each other
wirelessly.