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## Pulsed Eddy Current Thickness Measurement Using Phase Features Immune to Liftoff Effect

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**Abstract**: Conventionally, peak value and peak time are extracted from pulsed eddy current (PEC) response as features for thickness measurement. However, they suffer from liftoff variations. In this work, the phase of spectral PEC response from a Hall sensor are proposed to serve as robust features for thickness evaluation. The presented novel features are immune to liftoff effect, because phase signals remain nearly constant against liftoff variations. An analytical model was formulated, and simulations were performed to uncover the physics of the characteristics of the phase feature and establish the relationship between the phase feature and sample thickness. Experiments were carried out to validate the proposed phase feature. Eventually, the proposed phase feature was evaluated for accurate thickness measurement and some key factors were discussed.

**Keywords**: Pulsed eddy current; nondestructive testing; liftoff; phase; spectral response; thickness measurement; metallic plate

## **1** Introduction

Eddy current (EC) method has been employed to measure the thickness of a conducting plate in industries to ensure the quality of products or evaluate wall thinning of in-service parts due to corrosion <sup>[1,2]</sup>. M. Fan adopted a model-based method to infer multiple parameters simultaneously including liftoff distance <sup>[3]</sup>. However, model-based method is time-consuming and requires excellent agreement between theoretical and experimental results. The slope of a liftoff curve in the impedance plane which is phase signature in nature is Download English Version:

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