

# A Design of a High-Speed and High-Efficiency Capsule Endoscopy System

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**Abstract**—This paper presents a high-speed and high-efficiency capsule endoscopy system. Both a transmitter and a receiver were optimized for its application through an analysis of the human body channel. ON-OFF keying modulation is utilized to achieve low power consumption of the in-body transmitter. A low drop output regulator is adopted to prevent performance degradation in the event of a voltage drop in the battery. The receiver adopts superheterodyne structure to obtain high sensitivity, considering the link budget from the previous analysis. The receiver and transmitter were fabricated using the CMOS 0.13- $\mu\text{m}$  process. The output power of the transmitter is  $-1.6\text{ dB}\cdot\text{m}$  and its efficiency is 27.7%. The minimum sensitivity of the receiver is  $-80\text{ dB}\cdot\text{m}$  at a bit error ratio (BER) of  $3 \times 10^{-6}$ . An outer wall loop antenna is adopted for the capsule system to ensure a small size. The integrated system is evaluated using a liquid human phantom and a living pig, resulting in clean captured images.

**Index Terms**—Automatic gain controller (AGC), CMOS radio frequency (RF) integrated circuit, ON-OFF Keying (OOK) modulator/demodulator, wireless body area network.

## I. INTRODUCTION

A N endoscope is an essential device in medical applications for its ability to examine the digestive tract accurately. However, it is inconvenient to use in a conventional wired endoscopy system because wired endoscopy causes considerable discomfort to patients. Also, the conventional instrument is limited in terms of its test coverage due to its finite length. Moreover, in the long and twisted small intestine, it is cannot easily access

all of the digestive organs. These issues are directly related to the quality of the diagnosis. Therefore, many novel endoscopy examination methods, such as ultrasound detection and wireless telemetry, have been developed [1], [2].

Among them, the wireless capsule system that Iddan was the first to describe is suitable for a substitution device of conventional endoscopy [3]. It could be small enough to be swallowed by patients without causing any discomfort. And, the capsule system has the advantage of offering a means of direct examination of the entire digestive tract with no anesthesia or insufflations [4], [5]. Therefore, many systems for radio frequency (RF) capsule endoscopy have been developed in the 433/868/915 bands [6] or 2.4 GHz bands [7].

In a capsule endoscopy system, the system bandwidth is an important issue related to the accuracy of the diagnosis. As the digital communication data rate is proportional to the capsule system bandwidth [8], the bandwidth should be wide enough to handle the transmission of high-resolution image data in real time. In real environments, as the movement of the locomotive capsule is affected by the speed of peristalsis, high-quality image data are advantageous for accurate diagnoses [9], [10].

The existing system has a data rate of about 1–2 Mb/s [11], [12] and it is difficult to render a smooth real-time image, as its frame rate is generally about 5 f/s or less. In the biomedical industry, Zarlink and Toumaz technologies have developed the devices for biomedical sensor that also have low data rate [13], [14].

Recently, a high-speed system capable of 10 Mb/s at 3–5 GHz was introduced [15]. However, this system did not have an adequate frame rate and its capsule size was too large for patients to swallow it. Another solution for a high frame rate was introduced as a compression technique, but this technique increases complexity of the modem and consumes a considerable amount of power [16]. Generally, the data rate is inversely proportional to the efficiency. Therefore, implementation of a high frame rate and a high-efficiency system is not straightforward.

This paper presents the high-speed and high-efficiency capsule endoscopy system by optimizing the system at 500 MHz. Its frequency to minimize propagation loss and the link budget were calculated from an analysis of the human body channel in Section II. The issue about the optimum frequency bands for wireless telemetry in human body was already discussed about the aspect of electromagnetic field in [17]. However, these results cannot directly suggest the link budget for a system design. Using the previous our study discussed in [18], more detailed analyses and explanations are presented for a system design. A transmitter and receiver were implemented in the 0.13- $\mu\text{m}$

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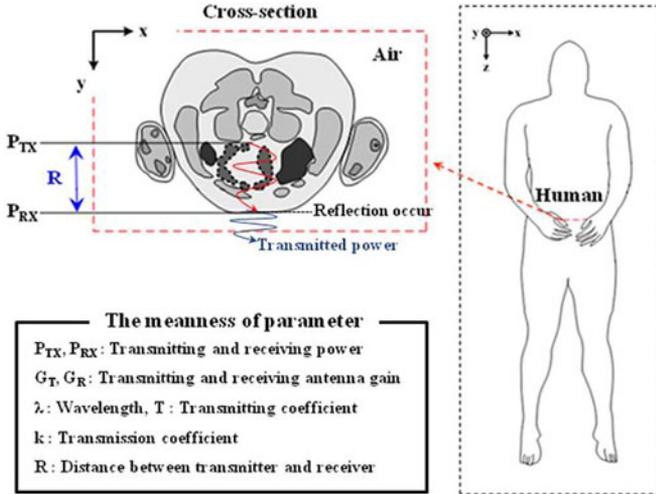


Fig. 1. Conceptual figure in propagation loss calculation.

CMOS process, and each system performance was verified in Section III. Simultaneously, considering the space limitation for transmitting antenna at 500 MHz, the system adopts an outer wall loop antenna that reduces the capsule size and offers better performance than a helical antenna or a planar spiral antenna that have been studied for a capsule systems [19]–[21]. Finally, through an image recovery experiment in a liquid human phantom and in the digestive organs of a live pig, the designed system was tested in Section IV.

## II. FINDING THE OPTIMUM FREQUENCY AND SYSTEM SPECIFICATION

### A. Propagation Loss in the Human Body

The propagation loss analysis is essential for optimizing system specifications for a capsule endoscopy application. It helps to find the optimum frequency to minimize propagation loss. The propagation loss analysis is performed through an established model [22], which operates on the premise that a body consists of a homogeneous material, as described by the Federal Communication Commission.

Given this information, the propagation loss can be calculated through the Friis formula [23], considering the transmission loss in a body, as shown in (1). However, the formula should be used only if  $R$  is larger than  $\lambda$ , which could be validated in human body at hundreds of MHz due to its high permittivity. The Fig. 1 is shown as conceptual figure in propagation loss calculation and the meanness of all parameters as follows:

$$\frac{P_{RX}}{P_{TX}} = G_T G_R T^2 \left( \frac{\lambda}{4\pi \cdot R} \right)^2 e^{-2|\text{Im}[k]|R}. \quad (1)$$

The equation shows the total loss that consists of the antenna gains, the radiation loss as well as the attenuation and reflection. In this analysis,  $G_R$  is assumed as unity gain since the physical dimensions of receiving antenna are not strictly limited at outside body. However,  $G_T$  should be obtained from the following

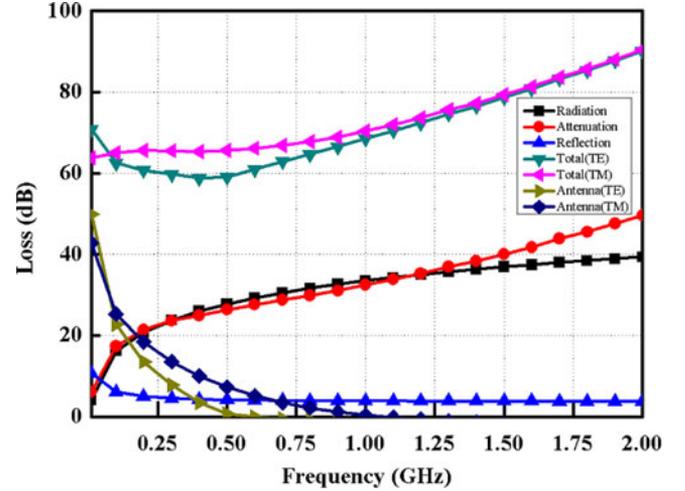


Fig. 2. Total transmitting loss in the human body model.

equation based on an antenna theory [24]

$$G_T = E \cdot D \quad (2)$$

where  $E$  is efficiency and  $D$  is the directivity of transmit antenna. In general, the transmitting antenna for capsule endoscopy size is smaller than the wavelength of operating frequency. Therefore, it is assumed that the directivity of the small antenna is defined 1.5 [19].

The efficiency of transmitting antenna could be obtained from the spherical modes analysis. The spherical modes are divided into two parts, which consist of transverse magnetic (TM) mode and transverse electric (TE) mode. The modes are related to dipole and loop antenna, respectively.

If the antenna is considered as small antenna, its efficiency is determined by each lowest order mode as the (3.17) in [25]. However, the antenna's bandwidth effect is not considered in that equation and it should be included in the analysis. The gain of antenna including its bandwidth is as in (8) in [26]. Therefore, TM and TE mode antenna gain could be obtained. Moreover,  $T^2$ ,  $\lambda$ ,  $k$  can be obtained from electromagnetic theory in a lossy medium [27].

Finally, the total transmitted losses are shown Fig. 2 on the condition of antenna's dimension = 10 mm and minimum antenna's bandwidth = 100 MHz,  $R = 15$  cm. The graph includes the losses of the transmitting antenna's gain, the radiation, the attenuation and the reflection. Its propagation loss is validated only if  $R$  is larger than  $\lambda$ .

In the results, the minimum total losses in the human body are shown to be approximately 59 dB at a frequency of 400–600 MHz when a loop antenna is used. And, the losses are 66 dB at same frequency bands when a dipole type is used.

### B. Link Budget Calculation

Although the loop types are more efficient than the dipole types in the conductive material such as the human body, the loop types have realization issue [25]. Therefore, the TM total loss was chosen for link-budget calculation.

TABLE I  
LINK BUDGET OF OOK SYSTEM FOR A WIRELESS CAPSULE ENDOSCOPE

Frequency band 490MHz~510MHz (OOK, 20Mbps)	Power	
Power of transmitter	- 3 dBm	- 72 dBm
Antenna gain	- 7 - 3 dB	
Propagation + Radiation + Reflection	- 59 dBm	
Link margin	10 dB	
Noise figure of receiver	5 dB	- 82 dBm
SNR(Env. Detection, BER $10^{-5}$ )	14 dB	- 87 dBm
Thermal noise power	- 101 dBm	- 101 dBm

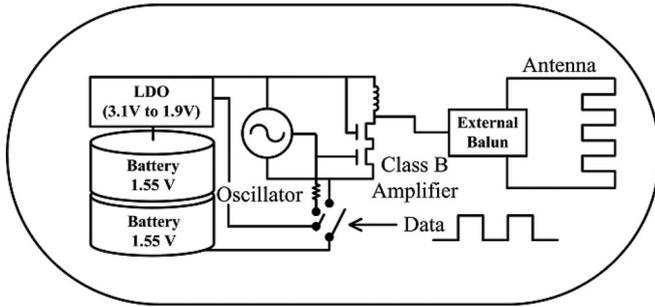


Fig. 3. OOK transmitter for a calusle endoscopy.

From the previously calculated propagation loss analysis, the optimum frequency to minimize the propagation loss is determined to be 500 MHz. The system bandwidth is set to 20 MHz to support a data rate of 20 Mb/s. The output power of the transmitter was set to  $-3$  dB·m, which is the average power. The transmitting antenna gain is set to  $-10$  dB with a 3 dB margin. Table I shows the link budget configuration. The sum of the total loss in the body is  $-69$ dB. Therefore, the expected receiving power is  $-72$  dB considering the transmitting power.

On the other hand, the thermal noise power is calculated as  $-101$  dB·m at 300 K when the data rate is 20 Mb/s. From the noise power, if the envelope detector has a signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) of 14 dB at  $10^{-5}$  bit error ratio (BER) theoretically, the receiver's SNR is  $-82$  dB including the receiver's noise figure (5 dB). This result has an expected receiving power margin of 10 dB. The margin is important in the analysis, as the homogeneous human body model is not quite valid and because personal variations exist. This can make antenna matching or propagation loss problems.

### III. IMPLEMENT

#### A. Transmitter Design

A simple structure should be implemented in the capsule system for high-speed and low power. Therefore, ON-OFF keying (OOK) modulation is utilized. The structure of the transmitter is shown in Fig. 3. For a high efficiency, all components should be switched ON/OFF by baseband data with a falling and rising time less than 10 ns to guarantee a 20-Mb/s data rate [18].

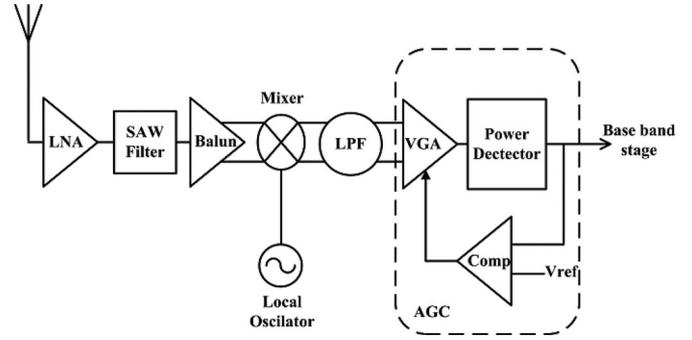


Fig. 4. Gain-sparted receiver for a capsule endoscopy.

The transmitter uses Renata 394 (1.55 [V]) type batteries (two in series), which may cause to critical problems such as variations in the output power and the center frequency in the transmitter during operation. Therefore, the low drop output (LDO) regulator, a dc linear voltage regulator, is adopted to stabilize the supply at 1.9 [V] independent of the battery voltage.

A ring oscillator has faster startup time than an LC oscillator [28]. And, the operation frequency can be controlled without an external passive inductor. Moreover, a ring type has good stability in the human body maintaining a constant temperature. Therefore, a ring-type oscillator was adopted for high-speed system.

For achieving a good efficiency and output power, a class B amplifier was chosen for our system. The class B amplifier has an ON/OFF characteristic depending on input data. Also, the gate bias 500 mV is switched by input data, which could save a leakage power.

#### B. Receiver Design

The receiver could compensate the large attenuation signal through the human body by using a superheterodyne architecture, as shown in Fig. 4. The structure could divide a receiver's gain into RF and intermediate frequency (IF) gains, which reduce the unwanted interaction between the RF and IF stages. Therefore, it can produce a good stability of the receiver despite its high gain.

Using a proposed structure, the RF and local frequency are set to 500 and 400 MHz, respectively. An automatic gain controller was utilized at the IF stage to cover changes in the received signal power according to the location of the capsule endoscopy [29]. Also, the differential signal processing was used for reducing unwanted common mode noise bounds. It was established by adopting a active balun for integration. Every circuits are implemented as conventional structure such like cascode low noise amplifier (LNA), Gilbert-type mixer, Chebyshev-type active low-pass filter. However, a surface acoustic wave (SAW) filter (SA500AP) provided from SAWNICS (<http://www.sawnics.com>) was externally used to remove out-of-band interference signals. Its steep skirt performance could reject unwanted signal and a SAW is generally used in mobile communication.

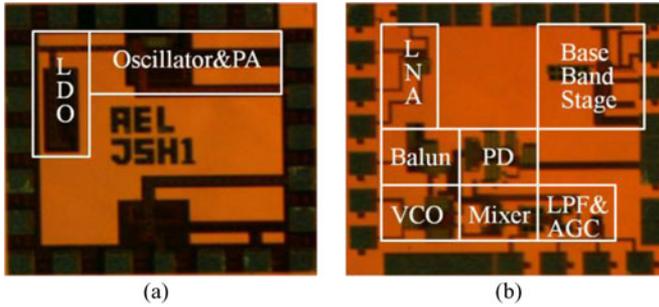


Fig. 5. Microphotograph of designed system: (a) inner transmitter and (b) outer receiver.

TABLE II  
FEATURE OF DESIGNED TRANSMITTER FOR A WIRELESS CAPSULE ENDOSCOPE

<b>Data rate</b>	<b>20 Mbps</b>
<b>Average power / Output power of transmitter</b>	<b>0.7 mw / -1.6 dBm</b>
<b>The efficiency of transmitter at 3.1 [V] battery</b>	<b>27.7%</b>
<b>Technology (CMOS)</b>	<b>0.13 um</b>
<b>Carrier frequency</b>	<b>500MHz</b>
<b>Chip Area</b>	<b>1mm<sup>2</sup></b>

C. Performance Measurement Results

The transmitter and receiver were fabricated using 0.13- $\mu$ m CMOS process with each die area of 1 mm  $\times$  1 mm as shown in Fig. 5.

The Fig. 6(a) shows the output spectrum in the frequency domain when a data from CMOS camera is delivered to designed transmitter. The result shows the center frequency and its peak power shown 500 MHz and -3.72 dB-m, respectively. When the transmitter is in an ON/OFF state, the modulation makes the power spread in a certain frequency range. Therefore, the channel power is measured with the 20-MHz channel bandwidth, as shown in Fig. 6(b).

From the measurements, the overall efficiency of the transmitter including the LDO is 27.7% with an output power of -1.6 dB-m at a 3.1 [V] supply. However, the efficiency, a ratio of the output power to the total dissipated power, is 41% at a 2.1 [V] supply when the battery is discharged. Finally, Table II shows features of the transmitter capsule. Its performance satisfies the requirements of the link budget in Section II.

Since every circuit is integrated in single chip at the designed receiver, only a BER test and LNA measurements are performed. The LNA with SAW filter was measured with vector network analyzer as shown in Fig. 7. It presents a good skirt performance and a gain of 18 dB including the SAW filter’s insertion loss.

To measure the sensitivity of designed receiver, a BER test was performed with a PN23 random OOK signal. The receiver showed sensitivity of -80 dB-m with a BER value of  $3 \times 10^{-6}$  at a data rate of 20 Mb/s. The dissipated dc power of the receiver is 22.8 mW at this test condition. Fig. 8 shows the results of the BER test using the E4438C signal generator (Agilent). The sensitivity of the receiver satisfies the link budget calculated in

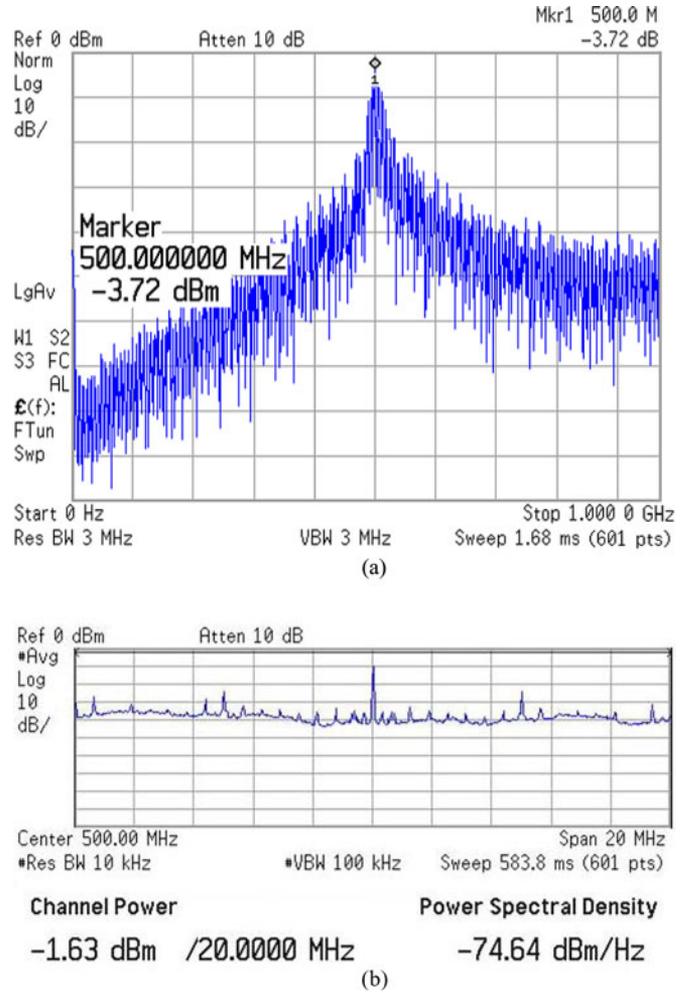


Fig. 6. Transmitter measurement results: (a) Output spectrum. (b) Average channel power in 20 MHz.

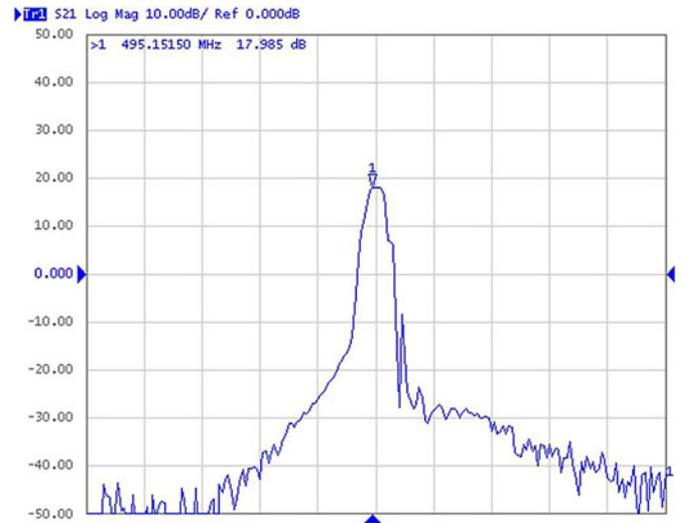


Fig. 7. Small signal gain of LNA with SAW filter at vector network analyzer.



Fig. 8. Bit-Error-Rate test results at Agilent E4438C.

TABLE III

FEATURE OF DESIGNED RECEIVER OF A WIRELESS CAPSULE ENDOSCOPE

Data rate/BER	20 Mbps / $< 10^{-5}$
Average DC power	22.8 mw
Sensitivity	-80dBm
Radio frequency/Intermediate frequency	500/100 MHz
Input dynamic range	-50 to -80dBm
Supply voltage	1.2[V]
Technology (CMOS)	0.13 $\mu$ m
Chip Area	1mm <sup>2</sup>

previous section. Table III shows the features of the designed receiver for a capsule endoscopy system.

#### IV. IMAGE RECOVERY EXPERIMENT

##### A. Capsule Integration

The integrated capsule consists of several parts. It includes a CMOS camera and a transmitter, the antenna, and the batteries. Fig. 9 shows the integrated capsule transmitter and the components. All of the components are covered with a plastic capsule shell with a diameter of 12.5 mm and a length of 30 mm. The CMOS camera is provided by a company from I3SYSTEM (<http://www.i3system.com>). An outer wall loop antenna that is dipole type is adopted to reduce the capsule size and to ensure a high gain. A conventional balun (B0322J5050A00) provided from Anaren (<http://www.anaren.com/>) is used for the connection between the antenna and the transmitter as shown Fig. 3, because the differential type of antenna used here. To connect the balun to the antenna, two holes were made with a drill on the shell, and both devices were soldered with two thin metal wires through each hole as shown Fig. 10.

##### B. In the Liquid Human Phantom

A liquid human phantom presents an environment similar to that of a human or a pig. It is a mixture of several materials, and its electrical properties are same as the average values of characteristics of human organs such as the conductivity or permittivity. Therefore, an experiment using a liquid human phantom presents a good reference for the animal test.



Fig. 9. Photo of the integrated capsule endoscopy with outer antenna.

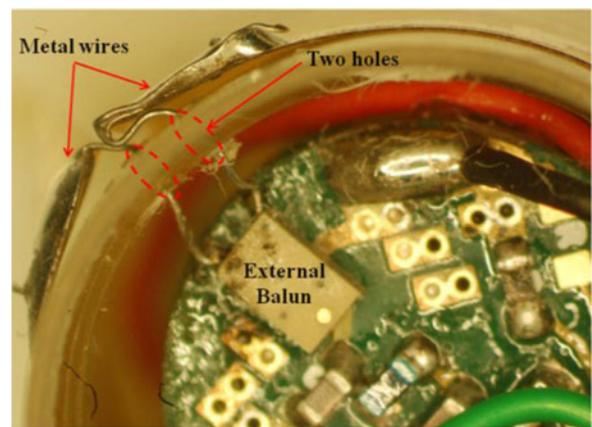


Fig. 10. Connection between balun and antenna.

To verify the system operation, image tests were performed in the liquid human phantom [8]. Fig. 11(a) shows the measurement setup applied during the image recover test. The receiving antenna adopted a buffer layered type for low reflection loss [30]. I3SYSTEM company provides the modem and the PC software to decode the transmitted data. Fig. 11(b) shows the actual object (left) and image captured (right), respectively.

The recovered image suggests that an each system described in Section III could operate well together in the environment that is similar to the human body.

##### C. In a Pig's Stomach and Large Intestine

The image recovery was also performed by using alive pig to verify the system operation in more practical case. The measurement setup is almost same in [8]. The capsule camera transmits images having a  $340 \times 340$  pixel resolution at 10.5 f/s without using a compression technique. Fig. 12 shows the resulting images in the pig's stomach and large intestine.

In the pig's stomach and large intestine, the high frame images were recovered through the designed system. This result can ensure the validation of our system for wireless capsule endoscopy with high data rate and low power consumption.

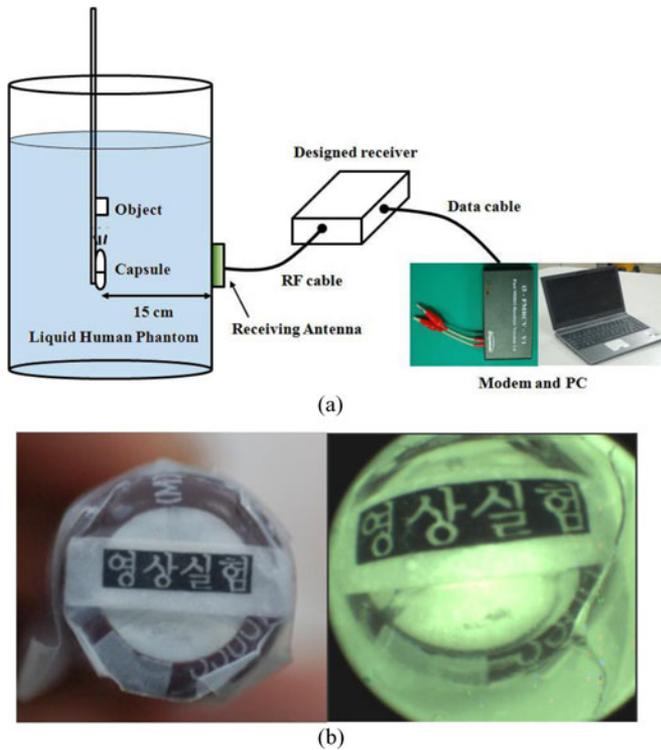


Fig. 11. Image recovery test in the liquid human phantom: (a) Measurement setup. (b) Actual object (left) and captured image (right).

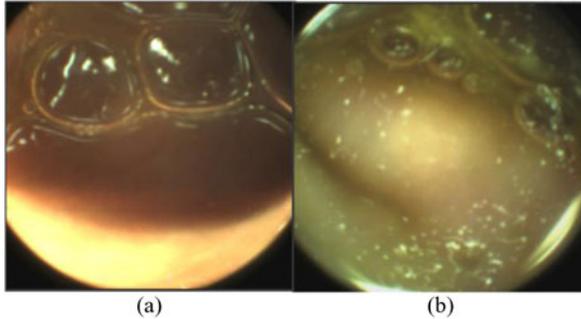


Fig. 12. Recovered images in the living pig: (a) Stomach wall. (b) Large intestine wall.

## V. CONCLUSION

An optimized system for a capsule endoscope is presented through the human body channel analysis and link budget calculation in this paper. The system is implemented in a 0.13- $\mu\text{m}$  CMOS process and verified through measurement. Also, an outer loop antenna was used for the small capsule design. The designed system has been successfully operated in liquid human phantom and in alive pig. Therefore, the designed low power system is well suited for high-speed capsule endoscope system.

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