



# Broadband Electromagnetic and Stochastic Modelling and Signal Analysis of Multiconductor Interconnections

Electrical & Computer Engineering University of Toronto Distinguished Lecture Series 2017-2018

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- introduction
- RLGC-modelling of multiconductor lines
- variability analysis along the signal propagation direction
- analysis of statistical signals resulting from random variations in geometry, material properties, component values, linear and non-linear drivers and loads
- brief conclusions
- questions & discussion









**PlayStation 3 motherboard** 

### How to model signal integrity?

- full 3D numerical tools
  - → direct access to multiport S-parameters and time-domain data
  - $\rightarrow$  holistic but time-consuming
  - $\rightarrow$  (some times too easily) believed to be accurate

- > divide and conquer
  - $\rightarrow$  multiconductor lines, vias, connectors, packages, chips, ....
  - $\rightarrow\,$  model each of them with a dedicated tool
  - $\rightarrow\,$  derive a circuit model for each part
  - → obtain the S-parameters and time-domain data (eye-diagram, BER, crosstalk) from overall circuit representation
  - $\rightarrow$  gives more insight to the designer (optimisation)
  - $\rightarrow\,$  overall accuracy might be difficult to assess







#### **Multiconductor Transmission Lines**







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**Telegrapher's equations (RLGC)** 

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{i}}{\partial z} = -j\omega \tilde{\mathsf{C}} \mathbf{v} \qquad \tilde{\mathsf{C}} = \mathsf{C} + \mathsf{G}/j\omega$$
$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{v}}{\partial z} = -j\omega \tilde{\mathsf{L}} \mathbf{i} \qquad \tilde{\mathsf{L}} = \mathsf{L} + \mathsf{R}/j\omega$$

N+1 conductors one of which plays the role of reference conductor

- i : Nx1 current vectorv : Nx1 voltage vector
- C : NxN capacitance matrix
- L : NxN inductance matrix
- G : NxN conductance matrix
- R : NxN resistance matrix



#### many possibilities









PEC

on-chip interconnect example:

- 4 differential line pairs
- semi-conducting region
- unusual reference conductor

#### wish list number 1

- broadband results (time-domain)
- many regions (some semi-conducting)
- good conductors (e.g. copper)
- small details
- exact current crowding and skin effect modelling

#### wish list number 2

- variability in cross-section
- variability along propagation direction
- stochastic responses
- prediction of stochastics for overall

interconnects (sources, via's, lines, ..)



The manufacturing process introduces variability in the geometrical and material properties but also along the signal propagation direction



Impurities: permittivity, loss tangent, etc.

Deterministic excitations produce stochastic responses





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C and G can be found by solving a *classical potential problem* in the cross-section:

- sources/unknowns : (equivalent) boundary charges
- preferred method: boundary integral equation
- relation between total charges and voltages Q = C V



L and R could be found by determining the magnetic fields due to equivalent contrast currents  $j_{eq,z} = (\sigma + j\omega(\epsilon - \epsilon_0)) e_z$  placed in free space



Suppose we find a way to replace these currents by equivalent ones on the boundaries:

- sources/unknowns : equivalent boundary currents
- preferred method: EFIE with  $e_z = -j\omega A_z \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z}$  on conductor  $-j\omega A_z j\omega \tilde{L}\mathbf{i}$



- two non-magnetic media "out" & "in"
   (conductor, semi-conductor, dielectric)
- separated by surface S
- fields inside E<sub>1</sub>, H<sub>1</sub>
- fields outside **E**<sub>0</sub>, **H**<sub>0</sub>

- we introduce a fictitious (differential) surface current J<sub>s</sub>
- a single homogeneous medium "out"
- fields inside differ: E, H
- fields outside remain identical: **E**<sub>0</sub>, **H**<sub>0</sub>







# $k_0, \mu_0$ out s $\mathbf{J}_s$ $k_0, \mu_0$ $(\mathbf{E}_0, \mathbf{H}_0)$

#### **Advantages**

- modelling of the volume current crowding /skin-effect is avoided
- less unknowns are needed (volume versus surface)
- homogeneous medium: simplifies Green's function
- valid for all frequences
- Iosses from DC to skin effect + "internal" inductance can all be derived from J<sub>s</sub> and E<sub>tang</sub> on S

#### Disadvantage or Challenge ©

The sought-after  $\mathbf{J}_{S}$  is related to  $\mathbf{E}_{tang}$  through a non-local surface admittance operator

$$\mathbf{J}_{S}(\mathbf{r}) = \int_{S} \mathcal{Y}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') \mathbf{E}_{tan}(\mathbf{r}') dS(\mathbf{r}')$$
 in 3D

How to obtain 
$$\mathcal{Y}$$
 ?

$$j_{s,z}(\mathbf{r}) = \int_{c} \mathcal{Y}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') e_{z}(\mathbf{r}') dc(\mathbf{r}')$$
 in 2D

in 2D

admittance operator similar to  $j_z(\mathbf{r}) = \sigma e_z(\mathbf{r})$  but no longer purely local !

**Differential Admittance** Electromagnetics Group  
**in 2D** 
$$j_{s,z}(\mathbf{r}) = \int_c \mathcal{Y}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') e_z(\mathbf{r}') dc(\mathbf{r}')$$
  
**analytically using the Dirichlet eigenfunctions of S**

numerically for any S using a 2D integral equation (prof. P. Triverio)

in 3D 
$$\mathbf{J}_{S}(\mathbf{r}) = \int_{S} \mathcal{Y}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') \mathbf{E}_{tan}(\mathbf{r}') dS(\mathbf{r}')$$

- analytically using the solenoidal eigenfunctions of the volume V
- see e.g. Huynen et al. AWPL, 2017, p. 1052







#### **Final result:**

The 2-D per unit of length (p.u.l.) transmission line matrices R, L, G, and C, as a function of frequency

(see ref. [5])

#### wish list number 1

- broadband results ③
- many regions (some semi-conducting) <sup>(C)</sup>
- good conductors (e.g. copper) 🙂
- small details ③
- exact skin effect modelling ③



#### **Differential line pair**



$$ε_r = 3.2$$
  
 $σ_{copper} = 5.8 \ 107$   
 $tan\delta = σ/ωε_0ε_r = 0.008$ 

 $\tilde{C}_{11} = \tilde{C}_{22} = (96.16 - j0.64)pF/m \text{ and } \tilde{C}_{12} = \tilde{C}_{21} = (-4.19 + j0.002)pF/m$ 



#### - 10<sup>3</sup> 1.6 L11/L11,PEC 1.4normalized p.u.l. inductances 1.2 p.u.l. resistances in Mm 10<sup>2</sup> 1 L<sub>12</sub>/L<sub>12,PEC</sub> 0.8 0.6 10<sup>1</sup> 0.4 R<sub>11</sub> 0.2 12 0 10<sup>0</sup> -0.2 -0.4 10<sup>5</sup> 10<sup>6</sup> 10<sup>9</sup> 10<sup>10</sup> 10<sup>11</sup> 10<sup>8</sup> 107 10 frequency [Hz]

 $L_{11,PEC} = 281.49nH/m \qquad R_{11,DC} = 7.85\Omega/m \qquad L_{11} = L_{22} \qquad R_{11} = R_{22}$  $L_{12,PEC} = 30.15nH/m \qquad R_{11,DC} = 7.85\Omega/m \qquad L_{12} = L_{21} \qquad R_{12} = R_{21}$ 





#### Metal Insulator Semiconductor (MIS) line @ 1GHz



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### **Coated submicron signal conductor**



copper: 1.7  $\mu\Omega$ cm chromium: 12.9  $\mu\Omega$ cm coating thickness  $\delta$ : 10 nm





#### **Coated submicron signal conductor**





#### Pair of coupled inverted embedded on-chip lines





#### Pair of coupled inverted embedded on-chip lines



#### Discretisation for solving the RLGC-problem





#### Pair of coupled inverted embedded on-chip lines: L and R results





Pair of coupled inverted embedded on-chip lines: G and C results









### 4 differential pairs on chip interconnect





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**Examples** 



# GENT

#### eight quasi-TM modes

#### quasi-odd



#### slow wave factor: mode prop. velocity v = c/SWF

#### quasi-even



the modal voltages  $V = V_0 \exp(-j\phi)$ are displayed ( $V_0 = \square$ ) @ 10GHz

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#### complex capacitance matrix @10GHz





#### complex inductance matrix @10GHz





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# What if the cross-section varies along the propagation direction?

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Quick illustration for a single line (with L & C complex – hence R & G are included)





#### Fibre weave: differential stripline pair on top of woven fiberglass substrate



cross-section of differential stripline pair



#### Fibre weave - discretisation (in CAD tool)



cross-section a



cross-section b



#### **Fibre weave - material properties**



real part of dielectric permittivity  $\epsilon'_r$  and tan $\delta$  as a function of frequency



#### **Propagation characteristics for a 10 inch line**



differential mode transmission



## forward differential to common mode conversion



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  - PART 1: MTL
- brief conclusions
- questions & discussion



- Interconnect designers need to perform statistical simulations for variation-aware verifications
- Virtually all commercial simulators rely on the Monte Carlo method
  - Robust, easy to implement <a>li></a>
  - Time consuming:

slow convergence  $\sim 1/\sqrt{N}$ 











Stochastic Telegrapher's eqns. (single line):

$$\frac{d}{dz}V(z,s,\beta) = -Z(s,\beta) I(z,s,\beta),$$
$$\frac{d}{dz}I(z,s,\beta) = -Y(s,\beta) V(z,s,\beta)$$



single IEM line

• *V* and *I* : unknown voltage and current along the line

> function of position, frequency and of stochastic parameter  $\beta$ 

- $s = j\omega$ ; Z = R + sL and Y = G + sC i.e. known p.u.l. TL parameters
- assume by way of example that  $\beta$  is a Gaussian random variable:





step 1: Hermite "Polynomial Chaos" expansion of Telegrapher's eqns.: 

$$\frac{d}{dz}V(z,s,\beta) = -Z(s,\beta) I(z,s,\beta) = -Z(s,\beta) I(z,s,\beta) = \sum_{k=0}^{K} I_k(z,s)\phi_k(\xi)$$

$$V(z,s,\beta) = \sum_{k=0}^{K} V_k(z,s)\phi_k(\xi) \quad Z(s,\beta) = \sum_{k=0}^{K} Z_k(s)\phi_k(\xi) \quad \& Z_k(s) = \langle Z(s,\beta),\phi_k(\xi) \rangle / k!$$
inner product
inner product
$$< f(\xi), g(\xi) > = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f(\xi) g(\xi) \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}\xi^2} d\xi$$
"judiciously" selected inner product
such that  $< \phi_k(\xi), \phi_m(\xi) > = k! \delta_{km}$ 
Hermite polynomials
$$38$$



expanded TL equations

$$\frac{d}{dz} \sum_{k=0}^{K} V_k(z,s)\phi_k(\xi) = -\sum_{k=0}^{K} \sum_{l=0}^{K} Z_k(s)I_l(z,s)\phi_k(\xi)\phi_l(\xi)$$
$$\frac{d}{dz} \sum_{k=0}^{K} I_k(z,s)\phi_k(\xi) = -\sum_{k=0}^{K} \sum_{l=0}^{K} Y_k(s)V_l(z,s)\phi_k(\xi)\phi_l(\xi)$$

• step 2: Galerkin projection on the Hermite polynomials  $\phi_m(\xi)$ , m = 0, ..., K

$$\forall m = 0, \dots, K,$$

$$\frac{d}{dz} V_m(z, s) = -\sum_{k=0}^K \sum_{l=0}^K \alpha_{klm} Z_k(s) I_l(z, s)$$

$$\frac{d}{dz} I_m(z, s) = -\sum_{k=0}^K \sum_{l=0}^K \alpha_{klm} Y_k(s) V_l(z, s)$$

$$\alpha_{klm} = \langle \phi_k(\xi) \phi_l(\xi), \phi_m(\xi) \rangle / m!$$

"augmented" set of deterministic TL eqns. ( $\beta$  has been eliminated)

- + 🙂 deterministic
- + 🙂 solution yields complete statistics, i.e. mean, standard dev., skew, ..., PDF
- + 😃 again (coupled) TL- equations
- + 🕘 larger set (K times the original)
- + 🙂 still much faster than Monte Carlo



- $\beta$ : Gaussian RV:  $\mu_{\beta}$  = 2 mm and  $\sigma_{\beta}$  = 10%  $\zeta$  : Gaussian RV:  $\mu_{\zeta}$  = 3 mm and  $\sigma_{\zeta}$  = 8%
- transfer function:  $H(s) = V_1(s)/E(s)$ (ii) forward crosstalk  $FX(s) = V_2(s)/E(s)$
- compare with Monte Carlo run (50000 samples)
- efficiency of the Galerkin Polynomial Chaos

Technique	CPU time [s]			Speed-up factor
	setup	solve	total	
Novel approach	0.23	8.09	8.31	228
Monte Carlo			1895.72	



#### Transfer function $H(s,\beta,\zeta)$

#### Forward crosstalk $FX(s,\beta,\zeta)$



full-lines: mean values  $\mu$  using SGM circles: mean values  $\mu$  using MC

dashed lines:  $\pm 3\sigma$ -variations using SGM squares:  $\pm 3\sigma$ -variations using MC



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• **Oracle variability analysis of (on-chip) interconnects** 

(and passive multiports) outperforming Monte Carlo analysis

- relies on Matlab implementations of the presented techniques
- • only relatively small passive circuits with few random variables

#### Next:

- extension of techniques to include nonlinear and active devices
- extension to many randomly varying parameters
- Integration into SPICE-like design environments
  - □ perform transient analyses
  - simulate complex circuit topologies including connectors, via's, packages, drivers, receivers



**Premember** – slide 35 - PC projection and testing results in:

"augmented" set of deterministic TL eqns.  $\rightarrow$  can be directly imported in SPICE





 $i(t,\xi) = C \frac{d}{dt} v(t,\xi) \rightarrow \text{random variable } \xi$ 

$$i_0\varphi_0 + i_1\varphi_1 + \dots = C\left(\frac{d}{dt}v_0\varphi_0 + \frac{d}{dt}v_1\varphi_1 + \dots\right) \to \text{PC}$$
 expansion

 $i_m(t) = C \frac{d}{dt} v_m(t) \longrightarrow de$ 

 $\rightarrow$  decoupled equations after projection









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#### 16-bit digital transmission channel



#### random power rail resistance and package parasitics

Monte Carlo (1k runs)~ 2.3 days
Polyn. chaos (Galerkin-based)~ 9 h
Polyn. chaos (stochastic testing-based) ~ 1 h
Overall speed-up 47 x







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#### 25 random variables using a point-matching technique:

- parasitic R's, L's and C's of BJT (10%)
- forward current gain (10%)
- ∀ lumped components in LNA schematic (10%)
- widths of 4 transmission lines (5%)

for the same accuracy 10<sup>5</sup> Monte Carlo single circuit simulations are needed versus only 351 for the new technique speed-up factor: 285







- broad classes of coupled multiconductor transmission lines (MTLs) can be handled;
- efficient and accurate RLGC modelling of MTLs from DC to skin-effect regime is possible thanks to the differential surface current concept;
- MTL variations along the signal propagation direction can be efficiently dealt with thanks to a 2-step perturbation technique;
- all frequency and time-domain statistical signal data can be efficiently collected for *many* random variations both in MTL characteristics and in linear and non-linear drivers, loads, amplifiers, ... thanks to advanced Polynomial Chaos approaches – by far outperforming Monte Carlo methods;
- for very many random variables the curse of dimensionality remains cfr.
   roughness analysis or scattering problems → ongoing research;
- initial statistics can be very hard to get e.g. a multipins connector
  - $\rightarrow$  ongoing research.







Thanks to all PhD students and colleagues of the EM group I have been working with on these topics over very many years:

- Niels Faché (now with Keysight Technologies USA)
- Jan Van Hese (now with Keysight Technologies Belgium)
- F. Olyslager (full professor at INTEC, UGent deceased)
- Thomas Demeester (post-doc at INTEC, UGent)
- Luc Knockaert (assistant professor at INTEC, UGent)
- Tom Dhaene (full professor at INTEC, UGent)
- Dries Vande Ginste (full professor at INTEC, UGent)
- Hendrik Rogier (full professor at INTEC, UGent)
- Paolo Manfredi (post-doc at INTEC; assistant professor Politecnico di Torino)

Close collaboration on statistical topics with

Prof. Flavio Canavero (EMC Group, Dipartimento di Elettronica,

Politecnico di Torino (POLITO), Italy)



## Thank you for your attention!!

□ additional reading material: see included list *restricted* to our own work





□ additional questions: right now or at <u>daniel.dezutter@ugent.be</u>





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