Meade, SA., & Railton, CJ. (1993). Efficient implementation of the spectral domain method including pre-calculated corner basis functions (microstrip circuits). 991 - 994. DOI: 10.1109/MWSYM.1993.276899

Peer reviewed version

Link to published version (if available): 10.1109/MWSYM.1993.276899

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Efficient Implementation of The Spectral Domain Method Including Pre-calculated Corner Basis Functions

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Abstract

A general implementation of the spectral domain method, formulated for planar microstrip circuits of arbitrary metallisation pattern is presented. The inclusion of a priori knowledge of the edge and corner singularities in the set of basis functions results in a large decrease in the order of the problem to be solved. Libraries of basis functions allow the rapid rigorous analysis of realistically complex circuits. Calculated S-parameters are given for three microstrip lowpass filters and compared to results from both measured and other techniques.

Equations to be solved

As in [4] a Method of Moments solution, formulated in the spectral domain, applied to a planar structure leads to the following set of equations:

\[ \sum_z a_z Z_{st} = V_i \]  \hspace{1cm} (1)

where the elements of the impedance matrix are

\[ Z_{st} = \sum_{n,m} \hat{w}_i(n,m)(\hat{G}(n,m,w) - \hat{G}^\infty(n,m)\hat{I}_s(n,m)) + \hat{G}_1^\infty \hat{Z}_st^\infty \]  \hspace{1cm} (2)

and

- \( J_s(x,y) \) is the set of current basis functions
- \( w_i(x,y) \) is the set of weighting functions
- \( G(w) \) is the dyadic Green's function
- \( - \) indicates the Fourier transform
- \( \infty \) indicates the asymptotic part
- \( V_i \) is the excitation vector

A Fast Fourier Transform algorithm is used to efficiently calculate the asymptotic part of the impedance matrix (\( Z_{st}^\infty \) in equation 2) as described in [4].
Pre-computed basis functions

Railton et al. [4] introduce the concept of pre-computed basis functions for the modes of microstrip resonators. This is now expanded to allow a set of arbitrary basis functions to be defined:

\[ J(r) = \sum_{p=1}^{P} b_p \psi_p(r) \]  

(3)

where \( \psi_p(r) \) the current distribution of the \( p^{th} \) basis function is

\[ \psi_p(r) = \sum_{q=1}^{Q} a_{pq} R_q(r) \]  

(4)

Thus an algorithm has been defined which allows current basis functions \( (\psi_p) \) to be expressed as a linear combination of rooftop functions \( (R_q) \). It is now proposed that such a set of basis functions can be derived which fully describe the response of relatively complex metallisation patterns.

Simple Lowpass Filter

In order to illustrate the manner in which the basis functions are derived, the application to a simple lowpass filter [2], shown in Figure 1, will be described. The analysis involves dividing the metallisation into regions. In each region we define a set of basis functions which we will call region basis functions. With reference to Figure 1 the highlighted region 1 is modelled by the set of basis functions shown in Figure 2.

Two corners are present in region 1 (Figure 1). The functions Figure 2(a)-(c) are derived assuming a simple straight line model (i.e. no corners). It is proposed that only two extra region basis functions are required to describe the perturbation of the current distribution from a simple straight line to region 1. Such a region basis function is illustrated in Figure 2(d), note the inclusion of the corner singularity.

![Figure 1: Lowpass Filter Layout](image)

![Figure 2: Set of Pre-computed Basis Functions](image)

Thus a function has been derived which fully describes the perturbation of the current due to a corner over the full frequency band of interest. Moreover the function depends only on the geometry of the corner itself, not on the surrounding circuitry. Thus reduces the necessity to define new functions for new circuits. Similarly functions are derived for the other regions of the filter metallisation.

Results using this method are compared to measured S-parameters [2]. A fully shielded structure is assumed in this implementation therefore comparison
to the open measured data [2] is affected by the proximity of the shield walls. For example, Figures 3 and 4 show results for the identical models of the filter except the latter is housed in a box twice the length of the former. Comparison clearly indicates convergence to measured open response, for the larger box. Note, this is limited by the introduction of box modes into the frequency band of interest.

Multi-element Lowpass Filters

To illustrate the efficiency of the region basis functions the analysis of the multi-element lowpass filter in Figure 5 is outlined.

The technique assumes a fully shielded structure; shielded measured S-parameters are available for the lowpass filters of the form shown in Figure 5. The structures are such that use of the basic rooftop technique is limited by the size of the matrix created by the large number of rooftops required. With reference to Figure 5 and Table 1 the relative dimensions of the feedlines to the input lines and stubs results in a fine grid on the latter. A possible solution is to use different size rooftops for the feedlines and the stubs/input; but it is proposed that a more efficient use of region basis functions allows the full definition of the fine grid to be utilised, resulting in improved modeling of current singularities; with fewer functions than the former.

Both models only required $P=44$ (equation 3) basis functions in total. An equivalent basic rooftop model requires $P=305$ rooftop basis functions. This results in a large decrease in CPU time as this is approximately proportional to $N^3$. The run-time on a HP9000series720 workstation, using non-optimised code, was 3 seconds to calculate S-parameters at each spot frequency. The corresponding time for a basic rooftop algorithm was 400 seconds per spot frequency. Moreover a fine grid of rooftops could be defined with

A set of region basis functions is used to model two different versions of the lowpass filter in Figure 5. Only $P=77$ (equation 3) basis functions are needed resulting in a run-time on a HP9000series720 of 12 seconds per spot frequency to calculate S-parameters.

The S-parameters for the two filters are compared to the measured response in Figures 6 and 7 respectively. A close match to the measured data is evident. $S_{11}$ for the filters is modeled accurately both in the passband as well as the stop band. The difference between $S_{21}$ predicted and measured in the passband is

993
due to the lossless nature of the present model. An anomaly in the measured response is evident in $S_{21}$ at approximately 12GHz to 16GHz for the second filter. Figure 7, which is believed to be an inaccuracy in the measurements (note: $S_{21}$ approx. -30dB). This assumption is justified by the model accurately predicting the prominent feature at 18GHz. Further comparison with an FDTD[3] model is currently being undertaken.

![Figure 6: Plot of S-parameters magnitude for Multielement lowpass filter 1: Box a=3.2mm, b=12.8mm, h=6mm](image)

![Figure 7: Plot of S-parameters magnitude for Multielement lowpass filter 2: Box a=3.2mm, b=25.6mm, h=6mm](image)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>filter</th>
<th>Dimensions (mm)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>L1 L2 L3 L4 L5 W1 W2 W3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.6 1.0 1.2 1.0 1.6 0.05 0.8 0.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>6.4 1.3 1.3 2.0 3.2 0.05 0.8 0.35</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Table 1: Dimension of lowpass filters

**Conclusion**

A general implementation of the SDM has been presented which efficiently characterizes planar microstrip circuits of arbitrary metallisation pattern. We have shown that sets of pre-computed current basis functions can be defined which include a priori knowledge of the edge and corner singularities. Thus a significant reduction in the order of the problem to be solved has been achieved. A library of such functions allows the rapid rigorous analysis of realistically complex circuits.

**Acknowledgement**

The authors wish to thank Prof. J P McGeehan for provision of facilities, SERC UK and Eletronica (UK) Ltd. for financial support and are grateful to Eletronica (UK) Ltd. for supplying the measured response of the multi-element filters.

**References**


