Simbeor Application Note #2010\_04, November 2010 © 2010 Simberian Inc.



# Material Identification With GMS-Parameters of Coupled Lines



Simbeor®: Easy-to-Use, Efficient and Cost-Effective electromagnetic signal integrity software...

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## Overview

- Introduction
- Identification of material parameters with Generalized Modal Sparameters of coupled lines
- Coupled microstrip configuration
- Coupled microstrip configuration with solder mask
- Coupled strip configuration in homogeneous dielectric
- Coupled strip configuration in non-homogeneous dielectric
- **Effect of bends in coupled microstrip lines on GMS-parameters**
- Effect of bends in coupled strip-lines on GMS-parameters
- **Conclusion**



## Introduction

- Broadband dielectric and conductor models are the requisite foundation for performing meaningful electromagnetic verification of multi-gigabit interconnects
- Such model can be effectively identified with Generalized Modal S-parameters (GMSparameters)
  - The method is the simplest possible and is based on fitting computed and measured GMS-parameters as outlined in: Y. Shlepnev, A. Neves, T. Dagostino, S. McMorrow, Practical identification of dispersive dielectric models with generalized modal S-parameters for analysis of interconnects in 6-100 Gb/s applications – DesignCon 2010 – available at http://www.designcon.com/infovault/
- PCB dielectrics are inhomogeneous it is usually a mixture of glass and epoxy
- Space between traces in coupled microstrip lines may be filled with the solder mask dielectrics
- Prepreg and core layers in strip-line configurations may have slightly different dielectric properties
- Space between traces in coupled strip lines may be filled with only epoxy or even with air
- For accurate characterization of such structures we may need to identify and use parameters of at least 2 dielectrics (or one anisotropic dielectric model)
- This app note shows how to use GMS-parameters of coupled lines for identification of material properties
- Sensitivity of the method to bend discontinuities is also investigated
- □ Simbeor 2011 (64bit) released on Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> 2010 is used to generate the results



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### Material parameters identification with GMSparameters

- Measure S-parameters of two test fixtures with different length of line segments S1 and S2
- Transform S1 and S2 to the T-matrices T1 and T2, diagonalize the product of T1 and inversed T2 and compute GMS-parameters of the line difference
- Select material models and guess values of the model parameters
- Compute GMS-parameters of the line difference segment by solving Maxwell's equation for t-line cross-section (only propagation constants are needed)
- Adjust material parameters until computed GMS parameters fit measured GMS-parameters with the computed



## Generalized Modal S-parameters (GMSparameters) for two-conductor line

Attenuation, [Np/m]

10

0.1

0.001

Magnitude(S), [dB]

-0.5

dL)

1. Compute propagation constants for 2 modes



08 Jan 2010, 15:17:24, Simberian In&D View Mode (press <E> to edit).

2. Compute 4x4 GMS of line segment with length dL

$$GMSc = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & \exp(-\Gamma_1 \cdot dL) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \exp(-\Gamma_2 \cdot dL) \\ \exp(-\Gamma_1 \cdot dL) & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \exp(-\Gamma_2 \cdot dL) & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Relatively simple to compute and a lot of zeroes!



11/23/2010

7.5

Project1.DifMicrostrip.Simulation1, Mode[1], Pattern[++] Project1.DifMicrostrip.Simulation1, Mode[2], Pattern[+-]

attenuations

phase constants

0.1

Project1.1 inch 2-cond segment.Simulation1, Sm[In1(M1),In2(M1)]

Project1.1 inch 2-cond segment.Simulation1, Sm[In1(M2),In2(M2)]

10

12.5

15

angles

0.01

12 Jan 2010, 13:37:26, Simberian Inc.

magnitudes

2.5

12 Jan 2010, 13:30:23, Simberian Inc.

Frequency, [GHz]

17.5

PhaseConstant, [rad/m]

10

Frequency, [GHz]

Angle(S), [deg]

-100

-200

-300

100



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11/23/2010

# Extract Generalized Modal T-parameters (GMT) and then GMS-Parameters



## Identifying dielectrics by fitting GMSparameters



- Measured GMS-parameters of the segment can be directly fitted with the calculated GMS-parameters for material parameters identification
- **Two functions can be used to identify 2 dielectrics!**

# The GMS-parameters technique is the simplest possible

- Needs un-calibrated measurements for 2 t-lines with any geometry of cross-section and transitions
  - No extraction of propagation constants (Gamma) from measured data (difficult, error-prone)
  - No de-embedding of connectors and launches (difficult, errorprone)
- Needs the simplest numerical model
  - Requires computation of only propagation constants
  - No 3D electromagnetic models of the transitions
- Minimal number of smooth complex functions to match
  - One parameter for single and two parameters for differential
  - All reflection and modal transformation parameters are exactly zeros



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### Coupled microstrip configuration

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## Numerical identification experiment

### Microstrip configuration – no solder mask





## 2-conductor microstrip line parameters

### 10 mil strips 7 mil apart



Modes have different attenuation and propagation constant and high-frequency dispersion



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## Single-ended parameters of test fixtures



Elements of one row of S-matrix are plotted Reflection is mostly due to the reflection at the launches Not very convenient for the material identification!



## Differential parameters of test fixtures



Reflection is mostly due to the reflection at the launches Still not convenient for the material identification – oscillations and too many parameters to match!



## **Conversion into GMS-parameters**

From S-parameters of 2 fixtures we compute GMS-parameters with just 2 unique nonzero elements: Common and differential GM transmission parameters



Very convenient for the material parameters identification!



## Identification with two modes (IL&GD)

GM transmission of 2-inch segment (brown and green stars) match GM transmission extracted from S-parameters of 2 test fixtures (red and blue circles)



The results are independent of cross-section and launch construction as long as the widths and launches are identical in the test fixtures!



## Identification with two modes (IL&PD)

GM transmission of 2-inch segment (blue and green stars) match GM transmission extracted from S-parameters of 2 test fixtures (red and blue circles)



The results are independent of cross-section and launch construction as long as the widths and launches are identical in the test fixtures!



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# What if real structure has solder mask layer made of dielectric with different properties?

### Numerical experiment with microstrip line and 2 dielectrics



## Solder Mask (SM) has smaller DK and larger LT

From simulated S-parameters of 2 structures with SM we extract GMSparameters of 2-inch coupled line segment and compare it with the GMS-parameters of 2-inch segment computed directly without SM





# Effect of solder mask on modal parameters of 2-conductor t-line



# Attempt to fit extracted GMS-parameters with computed without solder mask



perfectly due to difference in dispersion

## The even (common) mode IL and GD cannot be simultaneously matched (right graph)!



# Attempt to fit extracted GMS-parameters with computed without solder mask



## Fitting with solder mask



The identification may be not unique – additional experiment might be needed!



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## Numerical identification experiment

### Strip-line configuration – uniform dielectric



09 Nov 2010, 09:29:31, Simberian Inc.

From simulated S-parameters of 2 structures we extract GMSparameters of 2-inch coupled line segment and compare it with the GMS-parameters of 2-inch segment computed directly

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🔺 6 inch

8 inch

XXX

XXX



Editor Mode (press <E> for Network View).

## 2-conductor strip-line parameters

### 6.5 mil strips 10.5 mil apart



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Modes have very close propagation constants and attenuation due to homogeneity of dielectric



## Single-ended parameters of test fixtures



Elements of one row of S-matrix are plotted Reflection is mostly due to the reflection at the launches Not very convenient for the material identification!



## Differential parameters of test fixtures



Reflection is mostly due to the reflection at the launches Still not convenient for the material identification – oscillations and too many parameters to match!



## **Conversion into GMS-parameters**

From S-parameters of 2 fixtures we compute GMS-parameters with just 2 non-zero elements: Common and differential GM transmission parameters



Very convenient for the material parameters identification! IL and GD are almost identical for both modes – non-identity can be used as the metric of dielectric non-homogeneity



## Identification with two modes (IL&GD)

GM transmission of 2-inch segment (black pluses) match GM transmission extracted from S-parameters of 2 test fixtures (lines)



The results are independent of cross-section and launch construction as long as the widths and launches are identical in the test fixtures!



## Identification with two modes (IL&PD)

GM transmission of 2-inch segment (black pluses) match GM transmission extracted from S-parameters of 2 test fixtures (lines)

### Odd (differential) Modes: Even (common) Modes: L2 Strip.2-inch Segment.Simulation1, Sm[In1(M1),In2(M1)] L2 Strip.2-inch Segment.Simulation1, Sm[In1(M2),In2(M2)] L2 Strip.Diff Difference.Simulation1, Sm[In1(M1),In2(M1)] L2 Strip.Diff Difference.Simulation1.Sm[In1(M2).In2(M2)] Magnitude(S), [dB] Angle(S), [deg] Magnitude(S), [dB] Angle(S), [deg] -50 -0.5-0.5-50 1± -100 -100-1.5-150 -150-1.5-200 -200 -250 -250 -2.5 -25--300 -300 -3 350 350 -3.5 -3.5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 50 20 25 30 35 40 45 n 5 10 15 45 50 19 Nov 2010, 14:50:31, Simberian Inc. Frequency, [GHz] 19 Nov 2010, 14:48:04, Simberian Inc. Frequency, [GHz]

The results are independent of cross-section and launch construction as long as the widths and launches are identical in the test fixtures!



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## What if one layer has slightly different dielectric properties?

### Strip-line with inhomogeneous dielectric



### Materials & Stackup



# Effect of dielectric difference on modal parameters of 2-conductor t-line



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2 different dielectrics have mostly effect on the propagation constant (Eps Effective)



# Effect of dielectric difference on SE S-parameters of test fixtures



More reflection due to mismatch at the transition and more FEXT due to dielectric non-homogeneity



# Effect of dielectric difference on GMS-parameters



There is difference in group delay of two modes in structure with inhomogeneous dielectrics that can be interpreted as anisotropy of dielectric



# What if there is a gap between dielectric layers filled with air?

### Strip-line with inhomogeneous dielectric





## Effect of air gap on modal parameters of 2conductor t-line





# Effect of air gap on SE S-parameters of test fixtures



More reflection due to impedance mismatch A lot more FEXT due to dielectric non-homogeneity



# Effect of dielectric difference on GMS-parameters



There is difference in group delay of two modes in structure with the air gap that can be interpreted as anisotropy of dielectric



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# What if microstrip lines in test fixtures are not straight?

### Numerical experiment to investigate effect of bends

Materials & Stackup



Instead of straight line let's try to use lines with multiple arched bends



From simulated S-parameters of 2 structures with or without bends we extract GMS-parameters of 2-inch segment and compare it with the GMS-parameters of 2-inch segment computed directly



## S-parameters of microstrip bend

- Relatively small differential reflection below -20 dB up to 30 GHz
- Large differential to common mode conversion

Bends in 10-mil microstrip lines 7 mil apart, 30 mil radius along the center (47.12 mil of additional length)



The mode conversion in microstrip line cannot be compensated by matching number of left and right turns – see App Notes 2009\_01 and 2009\_02



## Test fixtures for the extraction



Lengths of structures with bends are adjusted to have 6 and 8 inches along the central lines



# Effect of bends on SE S-parameters of test fixtures



Visible distortion all SE parameters (similar for 6-inch fixture)





More ripples in reflection, small near-end and very large far-end differential to common mode conversion due to bends





Larger noise in GM insertion loss above 20 GHz and practically not usable group delay





Still large noise in GM insertion loss and practically not usable group delay above 18 GHz



# Effect of bends on phases of extracted GMS-parameters

2-inch segment - black pluses; Extracted from 2 test fixtures – dash lines

### Odd (differential) mode



### Even (common) mode



Phase is less sensitive but still not usable above about 18 GHz!



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# What if strip lines in test fixtures are not straight?

### Numerical experiment to investigate effect of bends



Instead of straight line let's try to use lines with multiple arched bends



From simulated S-parameters of 2 structures with or without bends we extract GMS-parameters of 2-inch segment and compare it with the GMS-parameters of 2-inch segment computed directly



## S-parameters of strip-line bend

- Very small differential reflection below -25 dB up to 40 GHz
- Large differential to common mode conversion

Bend in 6.5-mil strip lines 10.5 mil apart, 30 mil radius along the center (47.12 mil of additional length)



The mode conversion in strip line can be effectively compensated by matching number of left and right turns – see App Notes 2009\_01 and 2009\_02



## Test fixtures for the extraction



Lengths of structures with bends are adjusted to have 6 and 8 inches along the central lines



# Effect of bends on SE S-parameters of test fixtures



A little more reflection and FEXT (similar for 6-inch fixture)





A little more ripples in reflection and almost negligible differential to common mode conversion due to bends





Some noise in GM insertion loss and a lot of noise in modal group delay above 20 GHz





Small noise in GM insertion loss and a lot of noise in modal group delay



# Effect of bends on phases of extracted GMS-parameters

2-inch segment - black pluses; Extracted from 2 test fixtures – dash lines

### Odd (differential) mode



### Even (common) mode



Phase is less sensitive and may be preferable for the identification with bends!



## Conclusion

- Overview of material parameters identification by fitting measured and computed GMS-parameters for coupled lines is provided
- GMS-parameters of coupled lines have 2 unique parameters may be used to identify or confirm the identification for 2 materials
- Two dielectric in micro-strip configuration cannot be identified as one analysis of common mode is not accurate if differential mode is used and vise versa
- Simultaneous identification of 2 dielectrics may be not unique fixing properties of one dielectric with additional experiment may be necessary (microstrip without solder mask for instance)
- In case of weakly coupled strip-lines non-homogeneous dielectric can be identified as homogeneous for practical purpose
- Layout of test fixtures with bends may produce noisy results especially in microstrip configurations due to irreversible conversion of modes
- Differences in connectors, launches and cross-sections of differential lines may also produce identification errors, extraction fixtures must be prequalified – see App Note #2010\_03
- Setting up all simulations and model building with Simbeor took about 4 hours



## Solutions and contact

Simbeor solution files are in the database <u>http://kb.simberian.com/SimbeorExamples.php</u> (keyword 2010\_04) It contains all electromagnetic models and linear circuit analysis both in frequency and time domains

### Send questions and comments to

- General: info@simberian.com
- Sales: <u>sales@simberian.com</u>
- Support: <u>support@simberian.com</u>
- □ Web site <u>www.simberian.com</u>



## **S-matrices and T-matrices**

Same number of ports on the left and right side of multiport



 $T_{1,2} = S_{11} \cdot S_{21}^{-1}$ 

 $T_{22} = S_{21}^{-1}$ 

 $T_{2,1} = -S_{2,1}^{-1} \cdot S_{2,2}$ 

 $T_{1.1} = S_{2.1} - S_{1.1} \cdot S_{2.1}^{-1} \cdot S_{2.2}$ 

$$\begin{vmatrix} \overline{b}_1 \\ \overline{a}_1 \end{vmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} T_{1,1} & T_{1,2} \\ T_{2,1} & T_{2,2} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{vmatrix} \overline{a}_2 \\ \overline{b}_2 \end{vmatrix}$$

 $S_{1,1} = T_{1,2} \cdot T_{2,2}^{-1}$  $S_{1,2} = T_{1,1} - T_{1,2} \cdot T_{2,2}^{-1} \cdot T_{2,1}$ 

 $S_{2,1} = T_{2,2}^{-1}$ 

 $S_{22} = -T_{22}^{-1} \cdot T_{21}$ 

Cascading of 2 multiports described with Sparameters require solving a linear system

Cascading of 2 multiports described with Tparameters is simple product of two T-matrices

All elements are scalars in case of 2-ports (single-ended lines) or matrices in case of multi-conductor lines (differential)

See more in Carlin, Giordano, Network Theory, An Introduction to Reciprocal and Non-Reciprocal Circuits, 1964 Conversion can be generalized for arbitrary number of ports on the left and right

