

Efficient passive network description of IC conducted emission models for model reduction

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Abstract. This article addresses the model reduction of IC conducted emission models. A method to efficiently deal with the high number of independent sources in IC conducted emission models, which are a strong limitation for model order reduction, is presented. A network alteration is proposed, which allows for a much higher model reduction than standard approaches. The system of the altered network can be more efficiently reduced with standard model order reduction algorithms in order to speed up frequency-simulations. Synthesising the reduced system into a passive electrical network enables fast time-simulations to be made with circuit simulators. The whole procedure is validated by reducing an example of an IC conducted emission model of an 32 Bit microcontroller.

1 Introduction

With decreasing size of device structures additional effects have to be considered early in the design process (Hellebrandt et al., 2007; John, 2004). Electrical models for IC conducted emission are created to help semiconductor manufacturers to take on-chip EMC effects into account during the design process. The IC conducted emission models typically contain up to many thousands of resistors, inductors, capacitors and independent current sources, which results in a high complexity and leads to long simulation times. A smaller model, which engulfs the main properties and enables faster simulations, can be achieved by applying a model order reduction (MOR) (Antoulas, 1998; Radić et al., 2008).

In this article an efficient network description of the IC conducted emission model, which enables a high order reduction, is introduced.

The IC conducted emission model is introduced in Sect. 2. The description of the model as a system of circuit equations is exhibited in Sect. 3. The standard as well as the proposed network description of the model are shown in Sect. 4. In Sect. 5 the used MOR method is presented. A reduced model is created by synthesising the order reduced system into an electrical network as described in Sect. 6. The validity of the proposed model reduction is shown with an example in Sect. 7 and finally the article is concluded in Sect. 8.

2 IC conducted emission model

IC conducted emission models are used for the modelling of the on-chip EMC behaviour. These models consist of passive elements as well as independent current sources with a prescribed current waveform (Dhia et al., 2006). The passive R, L, C elements model the parasitic electromagnetic effect, while the independent sources represent the internal currents, generated due to the switching of the transistors. The parameters of the model are determined either during the IC design phase or by taking measurements on an existing chip (Dhia et al., 2006; Hesidenz and Steinecke, 2005). Due to the complexity of an IC the conducted emission model consists of hundreds of equal substructures for every block of the IC, e.g. digital, analogue or memory blocks (Hesidenz and Steinecke, 2005), as seen in Fig. 1.

Within every block of the IC the parameters for the passive elements of the substructure are the same, as well as the prescribed waveforms of the independent sources. Since only the behaviour at the pins of the IC is of interest, the electrical values of the internal nodes of the IC conducted emission model, such as e.g. the voltages across the independent current sources, are not observed.



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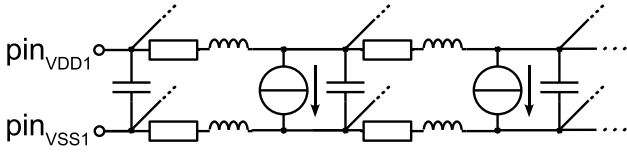


Fig. 1. Section of the IC conducted emission model.

3 Circuit equations

For MOR the electrical network of the IC conducted emission model has to be described with the help of the modified nodal analysis as a system of differential algebraic equations, in the form of

$$(\mathit{s}\mathbf{C} + \mathbf{G})\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{B}\mathbf{u}, \quad \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{L}^T \mathbf{x}. \quad (1)$$

Vectors $\mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{R}^p$ and $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^r$ in Eq. (1) are the input and output respectively, which are connected with the system vector $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^N$ by the system matrices $\mathbf{B} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times p}$ and $\mathbf{L} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times r}$. N is the order of the system, p the number of inputs and r the number of outputs. Typically one electrical value at the port is the input and the dual value is the output, so that $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{L}$ and $r = p$ hold. Symmetric system matrices $\mathbf{C} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$ and $\mathbf{G} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$ contain the stamps for capacitors, resistors and the inductors. The transfer function of the system is

$$\mathbf{H}(s) = \mathbf{L}^T (\mathit{s}\mathbf{C} + \mathbf{G})^{-1} \mathbf{B}. \quad (2)$$

4 Efficient network description of the IC conducted emission model

For the description of the IC conducted emission model in circuit equations inputs and outputs of the system have to be defined. In standard approaches the nodes of the independent current sources are described as ports (Silva et al., 2007; Silva and Silveira, 2007), where the current is treated as input and the voltage across the current source is the output. Also, each pin of the model has also to be described as a port. For the pins there is a free choice between voltage or current as input or output. For sake of simplicity we use the current as input and the voltage as output, like at the independent current source ports. Therewith the transfer function is a pure impedance transfer function. With this definition of ports a network as shown in Fig. 2 results. The number of ports is the sum of the number of pins and the number of independent sources. With this method, due to the high number of independent current sources in the IC conducted emission model, a network with a high number of ports is generated.

Since the high number of ports is a strong limitation for model order reduction (Silva et al., 2007; Silva and Silveira, 2007; Feldmann, 2004), we present a passive network description of the model with a reduced number of ports. As mentioned in Sect. 2 the prescribed waveforms of the independent sources are equal in every block of the model. A new

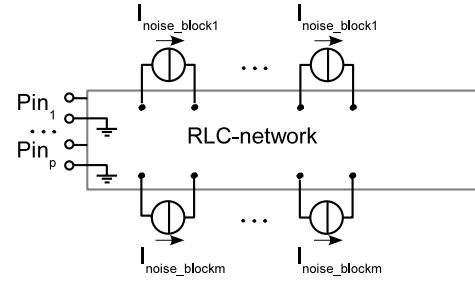


Fig. 2. Standard description: network with separated independent current sources.

network is generated where one independent current source with the prescribed waveform of the block is added. The independent sources of the model can now be replaced by current sources controlled by the current of the new independent current source. This is done for every specific current waveform in the IC conducted emission model. With this method we generate a new network, where all independent sources are replaced with current controlled current sources (CCCS), as shown in Fig. 3. As many independent sources as there are different current waveforms are added. The behaviour at the pins of the model is not influenced by this alteration.

The number of ports in the circuit equations is now the sum of the number of pins and the number of blocks of the IC, which is much less than in the standard network for the IC conducted emission model. With this network alteration, the produced network is stable but not passive in the general case. The connection of stable but non-passive systems can lead to unstable transient simulations, while the connection of passive systems guarantees stability under every condition (Belevitch, 1968). A passive network with replaced current sources, and therefore a reduced number of ports, is preferable. To build a passive network, the conditions for passivity have to be considered. The necessary and sufficient condition for the passivity of the network is, that its impedance transfer function $\mathbf{Z}(s)$ is positive-real (Kuh and Rohrer, 1967). As the matrices of the proposed altered network are still real, we only have to concentrate on the positivity. With the alteration of the network we only influence the system matrices \mathbf{B} and \mathbf{L} , while the system matrices \mathbf{C} and \mathbf{G} are not changed. Hereby, the transfer function of the altered network is positive, if we set the system matrix \mathbf{L} , defining the connection of the outputs with the system, to be equal to \mathbf{B} , defining the connection of the system with its inputs. To realise $\mathbf{L}=\mathbf{B}$ a voltage controlled voltage source (VCVS), controlled by the sum of the voltages across the CCCSs of the related block of the model, has to be connected to each current source port (Fig. 3).

With the proposed network alteration, the number of elements in the network that should be reduced is slightly larger than in the original network, nevertheless the order of the circuit equations of the network is not changed. Only the

matrices \mathbf{B} and \mathbf{L} are now less sparse. In the next step, the circuit equations of the proposed network description will be reduced efficiently.

It should be noted, that the proposed network alteration is not only possible for the current sources of the IC conducted emission model, but also applies to other networks, where independent sources can be grouped with respect to their prescribed waveforms. Furthermore, the waveforms do not have to be equal, but proportional. In this case, the gains of the CCCS are set to the proportional factors instead of to the factor one. The voltage gains at the VCVS also have to be equal to these factors for preservation of passivity. In networks with a large number of voltage sources with proportional prescribed waveforms VCVSs can replace the independent voltage sources. At the input port a CCCS, controlled by the currents flowing through the VCVSs, is used to preserve passivity.

5 Model Order Reduction algorithm

The proposed network description of the IC conducted emission model can now be reduced with standard MOR algorithms. Order reduction of the system descriptions of networks has to preserve their main properties. This is for example achieved by using moment matching with the block Arnoldi algorithm.

The block Arnoldi algorithm based on Krylov subspace is used to generate the orthonormal basis for the transformation matrix \mathbf{T} . Each system matrix is directly reduced as presented in (Odabasioglu et al., 1998). With applying the change of the system vector $\mathbf{x}=\mathbf{T}\tilde{\mathbf{x}}$, $\tilde{\mathbf{x}}\in\mathbb{R}^n$ in Eq. (1), the order of the system is reduced from order N to the order $n\ll N$. The order reduced system matrices are now as follows

$$\tilde{\mathbf{C}} = \mathbf{T}^T \mathbf{C} \mathbf{T}, \quad \tilde{\mathbf{G}} = \mathbf{T}^T \mathbf{G} \mathbf{T}, \quad \tilde{\mathbf{B}} = \mathbf{T}^T \mathbf{B}, \quad \tilde{\mathbf{L}} = \mathbf{T}^T \mathbf{L} \quad (3)$$

with $\tilde{\mathbf{C}}, \tilde{\mathbf{G}}\in\mathbb{R}^{n\times n}$ and $\tilde{\mathbf{B}}, \tilde{\mathbf{L}}\in\mathbb{R}^{n\times p}$. The reduced transfer function is

$$\tilde{\mathbf{Z}}(s) = \tilde{\mathbf{L}}^T (s\tilde{\mathbf{C}} + \tilde{\mathbf{G}})^{-1} \tilde{\mathbf{B}}. \quad (4)$$

With this algorithm, the passivity of the system is preserved (Odabasioglu et al., 1998). It can be shown, that the moments of the reduced transfer function match the moments of the original transfer function to some order. With this algorithm the order of the reduced model is proportional to the number of matched moments multiplied with the number of ports. For systems with a large number of ports, this represents a strong limitation (Silva et al., 2007). Therefore a higher order reduction is expected for the altered network description than for the standard network description.

6 Network synthesis

The order reduced circuit equations have to be synthesised as an electrical network for simulations with electrical cir-

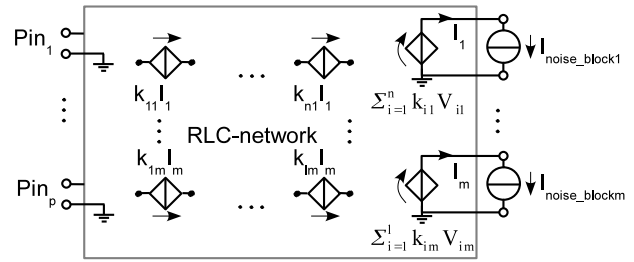


Fig. 3. Proposed description: altered passive network with replaced independent current sources.

cuit simulators. In this section a network synthesis algorithm is presented, which avoids the numerically crucial calculation of poles needed for the methods of filter-synthesis and does not require controlled dynamic sources unlike the direct stamping method (i.e. described in Palenius and Roos (2004)).

For the network synthesis it can be chosen, if the vector $\tilde{\mathbf{x}}$ is interpreted as branch currents or as node voltages. If the elements in $\tilde{\mathbf{x}}$ are considered as node voltages, a network with as many nodes as elements in $\tilde{\mathbf{x}}$ can be generated. By utilising the symmetry of $\tilde{\mathbf{C}}$ and $\tilde{\mathbf{G}}$, which is preserved during the model order reduction method in Sect. 5, a network with capacitors as well as resistors can be generated. The algorithm for the generation of the network is shown in the following

```

1.realize off-diagonal elements of C and G
for i=1:n {
  for j=2:n {
    if(j>i) {
      'Capacitor node_i node_j -C(i,j)'
      'Resistor node_i node_j -1/G(i,j)'
      C(i,i)=C(i,i)+C(i,j)
      C(j,j)=C(j,j)+C(i,j)
      G(i,i)=G(i,i)+G(i,j)
      G(j,j)=G(j,j)+G(i,j)
    }
  }
}
2.realize on-diagonal elements of C and G
for i=1:n {
  'Capacitor node_i 0 C(i,i)'
  'Resistor node_i 0 1/G(i,i)'
}

```

Since the matrices $\tilde{\mathbf{C}}$ and $\tilde{\mathbf{G}}$ typically have only nonzero elements, by applying this algorithm, a fully connected network with as many nodes as the order of the reduced system is generated. A resistor and a capacitor between every node including the ground node is generated, which results in n^2 resistors and capacitors.

The matrix $\tilde{\mathbf{B}}$ of the impedance transfer function is synthesised similarly to the direct stamping method

```

3.realize elements of B
for i=1:n {
  'CCCS node_i 0 sum(j=1:p)[B(i,j)*I(port_j)]'
}

```

as well as the matrix $\tilde{\mathbf{L}}$

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4.realize elements of L
for j=1:p {
  'VCVS port_j 0 sum(i=1:n)[L(i,j)*V(node_i)]'
}

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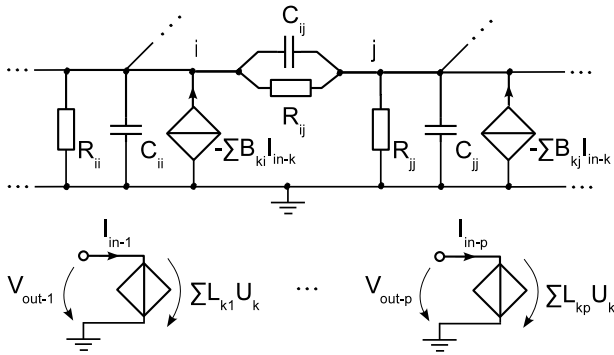


Fig. 4. Section of the synthesised network.

Table 1. Comparison of model reduction results for standard and proposed method.

	standard (Fig. 2)	proposed (Fig. 3)
Elements of network	102	115
Order of equations N	75	75
Ports in circuit equations p	14	3
Order of reduced equations n	28	6
Matlab speed-up factor	4	20
SPICE speed-up factor	no savings	30%
SPICE memory savings	no savings	50%

which results in n CCCS and p VCVS. A section of the network generated from the reduced transfer function is shown in Fig. 4.

The generated network is exported as a SPICE netlist and examined with a circuit simulator.

7 Results

A part of an IC conducted emission model, as described in Sect. 2, is used to show the validity of the proposed method. The model represents the on-chip electromagnetic behaviour as well as the resistive substrate-coupling of an 32 Bit microcontroller. For practical reasons only a part of the whole model is used as example, but the proposed network alteration can likewise be employed for the full model. The used part of the model is generated with the Tool EXPO (Hesidenz and Steinecke, 2005) and contains two pins, over 100 passive elements and twelve independent current sources with an equal piece-wise-linear waveform.

The order of the circuit equations for the example model is 75. The two pins result in two ports in the circuit equations. With the twelve independent current sources, the standard description of the network consists of 14 ports. As all independent current sources have the same waveform, a network with replaced current sources as described in Sect. 4 can be generated, which results in a three port network. Port 1 represents the supply voltage pin, port 2 the source voltage pin

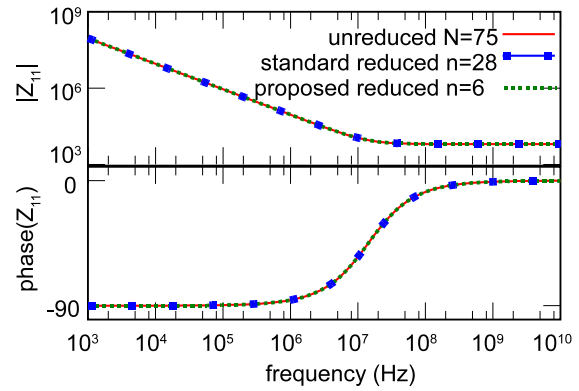


Fig. 5. Magnitude and phase of $Z_{11}=U_{port1}/I_{port1}$ transfer function.

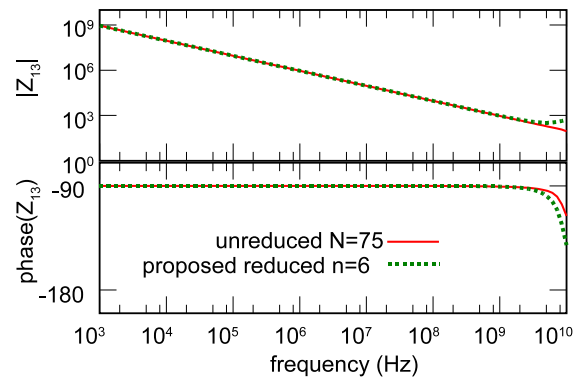


Fig. 6. Magnitude and phase of $Z_{13}=U_{port1}/I_{noise_block1}$ transfer function.

and port 3 the port for the additional current source, which controls all current sources in the model.

For comparison, both the standard network as well as the proposed altered network are reduced with the same parameters for MOR. The results of the model reduction are shown in Table 1.

The altered network with a lower number of ports enables a much higher order reduction. While the standard network can only be reduced to an order of 28, the altered network can be reduced to an order of six. This results in a speed-up of Matlab simulations by the factor four for the standard description and by the factor twenty for the proposed network description. Both reduced transfer functions show a close agreement in the frequency domain with the unreduced model. For example the high congruence of the transfer function of the current and voltage at port one, representing the supply voltage pin, is shown in Fig. 5. As a further example an other transfer function, from the current at the additional port to the voltage at port 1 for the supply voltage pin, is depicted in Fig. 6. In the second figure the results for the reduced standard network is not shown, since no additional port exists in the standard network description.

With the synthesis method presented in Sect. 6 a network of the reduced circuit equations is generated. No memory or simulation time savings in SPICE simulations with the reduced model of the standard network description are achieved. For the reduced equations of the proposed altered network savings up to 50% for memory and simulation time are achieved. Only very few differences between electrical signals of the reduced model and the original IC conducted emission model exist. The close agreement of a voltage fluctuation at the supply voltage pin during the injection of the time-variant current at the additional pin can be seen in Fig. 7.

8 Conclusions

In this article, an efficient network description of IC conducted emission models is presented, which allows for a higher order reduction than the standard description. The proposed description generates a passive network with a smaller number of ports. With standard model order reduction algorithms, such as the block Arnoldi algorithm based on Krylov subspaces, the circuit equations of the network can be reduced. Due to the decreased number of ports a higher order reduction of the proposed network is achieved in comparison to the standard network. The order reduced equations enable a faster simulation of the frequency-domain behaviour of the model. With the proposed network synthesis an RC-network including controlled sources of the order reduced equations can be generated. The synthesised network can further be examined with electrical circuit simulators in time-domain simulations.

The validity of the proposed method is shown with an IC conducted emission model of a 32 Bit microcontroller. A higher order reduction is achieved with the proposed network description as opposed to the standard description. Hereby a higher speed-up factor is achieved, both in the frequency and the time-domain, if the proposed network description is utilised.

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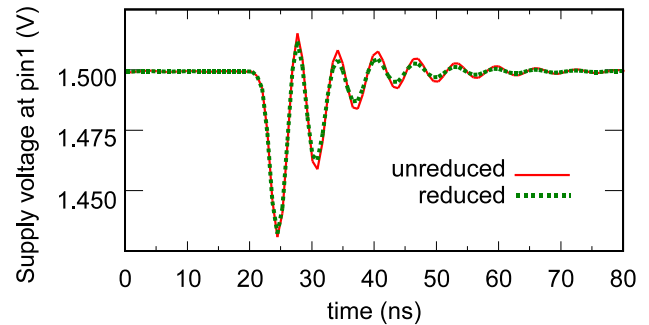


Fig. 7. Voltage at pin1 disturbed by switching currents.

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