

**SIMPLE CROSSTALK MODEL OF THREE WIRES TO PREDICT NEAREND AND FAREND CROSSTALK IN AN EMI/EMC ENVIRONMENT TO FACILITATE EMI/EMC MODELING**

**A. Roy, S. Ghosh, and A. Chakrabarty**

Kalpana Chawla Space Technology Cell  
Department of E&ECE  
Indian Institute of Technology  
Kharagpur-721302, W.B., India

**Abstract**—Electromagnetic coupling to cables has been a major source of EMC and EMI problems. In this paper, the methods of predicting the EM coupling and propagation in multiconductor transmission lines are presented. Crosstalk is an important aspect of the design of an electromagnetically compatible product. This essentially refers to the unintended electromagnetic coupling between wires and PCB lands that are in close proximity. Crosstalk is distinguished from antenna coupling in that it is a near field coupling problem. Crosstalk between wires in cables or between lands on PCBs concerns the intra-system interference performance of the product, that is, the source of the electromagnetic emission and the receptor of this emission are within the same system. With clock speeds and data transfer rates in digital computers steadily increasing, crosstalk between lands on PCBs is becoming a significant mechanism for interference in modern digital systems. To predict the crosstalk we designed a simple model of three conducting wires and took measurements for both nearend and farend crosstalk. Also the same model is being simulated by CST Microwave Studio (3D Electromagnetic Solver).

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

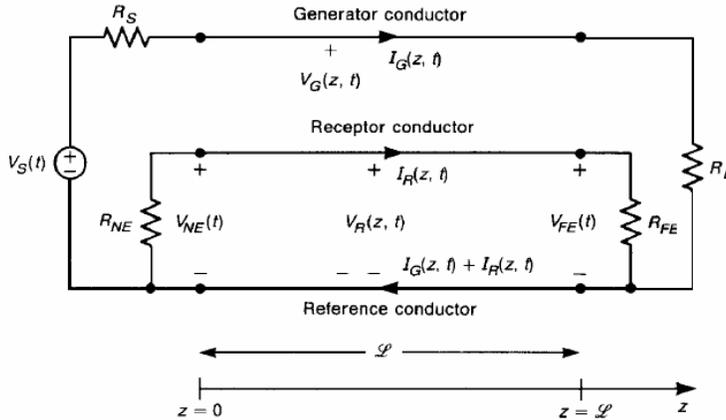
In a practical electrical/electronic system, there are many cables, many of which are multiconductor transmission lines. External Electromagnetic fields can couple to these lines, causing compatibility and interference problems. Also crosstalk between the individual

conductors within a cable are also sources of noises. Voltages and currents on a multiconductor cable can be obtained by solving the matrix set of transmission line equations.

There are also cases where crosstalk can affect the radiated and/or conducted emissions of the product. Crosstalk between the two cables can induce signals on the peripheral cable that may radiate externally to the product, causing the product to be out of compliance with the radiated emission regulatory limits. If this internal coupling occurs to the power cord of the product, these coupled signals may cause it to fail the conducted emission regulatory requirements. Crosstalk can also affect the susceptibility of a product to emissions from another product. For example, emissions from some other product that are coupled to a peripheral cable of this product may couple, internal to the product, to some other cable internal to it where the susceptibility to this signal may be enhanced. For a two-conductor transmission line there is no crosstalk. In order to have crosstalk, we must have three or more conductors [1, 2].

## 2. THREE CONDUCTOR TRANSMISSION LINE MODEL

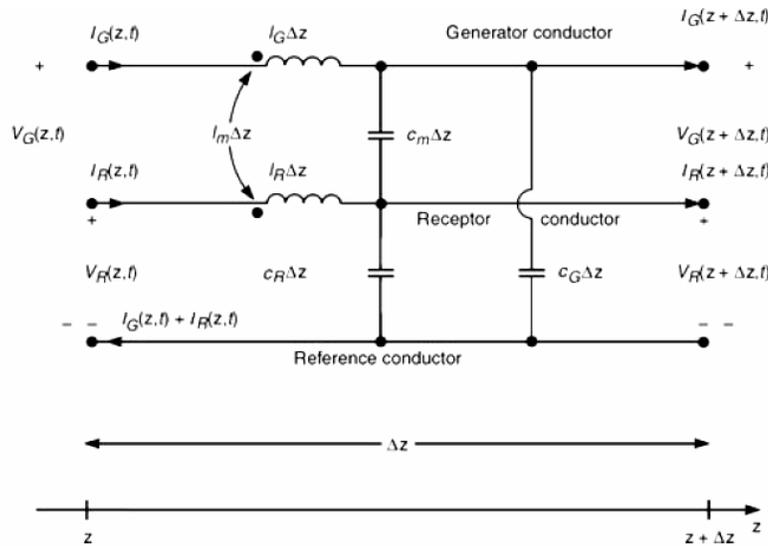
Adding a third conductor to the two-conductor system provides the possibility of generating interference [3–6] between the circuits attached to the ends of the line conductors resulting from crosstalk. In order to illustrate this important phenomenon, consider the three-conductor line shown in Fig. 1.



**Figure 1.** The general three conductor transmission line, illustrating crosstalk.

### 2.1. The Transmission Line Equations for Lossless Lines

In order to predict the crosstalk and understand the basic mechanism as well as the parameters affecting it, we will ignore these losses in formulating the multiconductor transmission-line equations in order to simplify their solution. Ignoring losses gives first-order and reasonably accurate predictions of the crosstalk. To obtain the MTL equations that we must solve in order to  $\Delta z$  section as shown in Fig. 2. The generator and receptor circuits have per-unit-length mutual inductance  $l_m$  between the two circuits. The line current produce magnetic fluxes penetrating each loop formed by the conductor and the reference conductor, and these inductances represent the effect of those fluxes via Faraday's law. The line voltages (between each conductor and the reference conductor) produced charges on the conductors that generate electric fields between each pair of conductors. This effect is represented by capacitances. The per-unit-length self-capacitances between the generator conductor and the reference conductor and between the receptor conductor and the reference conductor are represented by  $c_G$  and  $c_R$ , respectively. The per-unit-length mutual capacitance between the generator and receptor conductors is represented by  $c_m$ . In a  $\Delta z$  section of the line the total inductance or capacitance is the per-unit-length value multiplied by  $\Delta z$ .



**Figure 2.** The per unit length equivalent circuit of a three conductor transmission line.

The MTL equations can again be determined from this per-unit-length equivalent circuit using circuit analysis principles and letting  $\Delta \rightarrow 0$ , giving

$$\frac{\partial V_G(z, t)}{\partial z} = -l_G \frac{\partial I_G(z, t)}{\partial t} - l_m \frac{\partial I_R(z, t)}{\partial t} \quad (1a)$$

$$\frac{\partial V_R(z, t)}{\partial z} = -l_m \frac{\partial I_G(z, t)}{\partial t} - l_R \frac{\partial I_R(z, t)}{\partial t} \quad (1b)$$

and

$$\frac{\partial I_G(z, t)}{\partial z} = -(l_G + c_m) \frac{\partial V_G(z, t)}{\partial t} - c_m \frac{\partial V_R(z, t)}{\partial t} \quad (1c)$$

$$\frac{\partial I_R(z, t)}{\partial z} = -c_m \frac{\partial V_G(z, t)}{\partial t} - (C_R + c_m) \frac{\partial V_R(z, t)}{\partial t} \quad (1d)$$

An important observation can be made that aids greatly in the solution of these equations. Writing these equations in matrix form yields

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial z} V(z, t) = -L \frac{\partial}{\partial t} I(z, t) \quad (2a)$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial z} I(z, t) = -C \frac{\partial}{\partial t} V(z, t) \quad (2b)$$

where

$$V(z, t) = \begin{bmatrix} V_G(z, t) \\ V_R(z, t) \end{bmatrix} \quad (3a)$$

$$I(z, t) = \begin{bmatrix} I_G(z, t) \\ I_R(z, t) \end{bmatrix} \quad (3b)$$

And the per-unit-length parameter matrices are

$$L = \begin{bmatrix} l_G & l_m \\ l_m & l_R \end{bmatrix} \quad (4a)$$

$$C = \begin{bmatrix} (c_G + c_m) & -c_m \\ -c_m & (c_R + c_m) \end{bmatrix} \quad (4b)$$

Observe that the MTL equations in matrix form in (2) have an appearance identical to that of the transmission-line equations for a two-conductor line. Hence their solution should give similar forms of results but in matrix form [7]. This is a very powerful result that provides great insight into their solution and can be easily extended to lines consisting of more than three conductors.

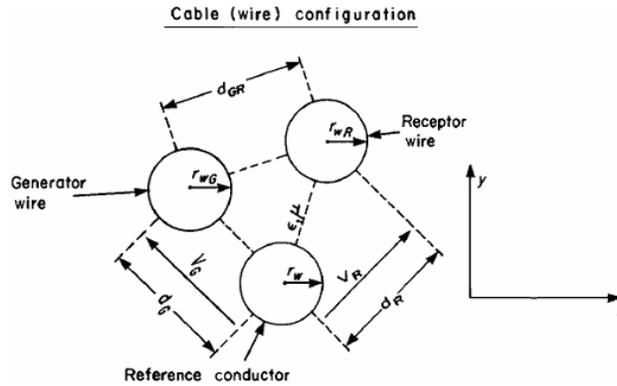
The MTL equations in (1) are in the time domain. For single-frequency, sinusoidal steady-state excitation (phasor form) we simply replace time derivatives with  $j\omega$ , where  $\omega = 2\pi f$  is the radian frequency of the source and  $f$  is its cyclic frequency. This method is

$$\frac{d}{dz}\hat{V}(z) = -j\omega L\hat{I}(z) \tag{5a}$$

$$\frac{d}{dz}\hat{I}(z) = -j\omega C\hat{V}(z) \tag{5b}$$

### 3. THE PER-UNIT-LENGTH PARAMETERS

The configurations in Fig. 3 are considered to be lines immersed in a homogeneous medium [8]. The surrounding medium for the cases of three wires in Fig. 3 is logically considered to be free space with parameters  $\epsilon_0$  and  $\mu$ ; that is, the wires are considered to be bare. Dielectric insulations severely complicate the determination of the per-unit-length capacitances for wires, but do not affect the per-unit-length inductances since dielectrics have  $\mu = \mu_0$ . For the lines in Fig. 3 we will ignore the presence of dielectric insulations and consider the wires to be bare.



**Figure 3.** Wire type line cross sections whose reference conductors is a another wire.

If the surrounding medium is homogeneous, as for the lines in Fig. 3, the per-unit-length parameter matrices given in (4) have important, special relationships that parallel those found for two-conductor lines. In particular these relationships are

$$LC = CL = \mu\epsilon 1_2 \tag{6}$$

where the surrounding homogeneous medium is characterized by  $\mu$ , and  $\varepsilon$ , and  $1_2$  is the  $2 \times 2$  identity matrix:

$$1_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (7)$$

Therefore we only need to determine one of the parameter matrices, since the other can be found from (6) as

$$\begin{aligned} C &= \mu\varepsilon L^{-1} \\ &= \frac{1}{v^2} L^{-1} \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

where  $v = 1/\sqrt{\mu\varepsilon}$  is the usual phase velocity for uniform plane waves, and is also the velocity of waves on the line for example, for the three-conductor line in a homogeneous medium we obtain from (8)

$$\begin{bmatrix} c_G + c_m & -c_m \\ -c_m & c_R + c_m \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{v^2(l_G l_R - l_m^2)} \begin{bmatrix} l_R & -l_m \\ -l_m & l_G \end{bmatrix} \quad (9)$$

Comparing the two sides, we obtain the per-unit-length capacitance parameters in terms of the per-unit-length inductance parameters as

$$c_m = \frac{l_m}{v^2(l_G l_R - l_m^2)} \quad (10a)$$

$$c_G + c_m = \frac{l_R}{v^2(l_G l_R - l_m^2)} \quad (10b)$$

$$c_R + c_m = \frac{l_G}{v^2(l_G l_R - l_m^2)} \quad (10c)$$

#### 4. THE INDUCTIVE-CAPACITIVE COUPLING APPROXIMATE MODEL

Solution of the coupled MTL equations in (3) is, in general, a difficult task. The typical method of solution is to decouple them with a matrix transformation. The exact solution in literal form (symbols instead of numbers) can be obtained for three-conductor, lossless lines in homogenous media. However this does not apply for PCB configurations [9] rarely can be obtained in literal form. However, it is possible to obtain a literal solution if we make the assumption that the lines are weakly coupled. The condition of weak coupling [10] is described as follows. The current and voltage of the generator circuit will induce voltages and currents in the receptor circuit through the

mutual inductance  $l_m$  and mutual capacitance  $c_m$ . In turn, these induced currents and voltages in the receptor circuit will, as a second-order effect, induce currents and voltages back into the generator circuit. By assuming weak coupling, we mean that these voltages and currents induced in the generator circuit due to the currents and voltages that were induced in the receptor circuit may be ignored, that is, the induction of currents and voltages from one circuit to another is a one-way effect from the generator circuit to the receptor circuit. From the standpoint of the MTL equations in (1), the condition of weak coupling means that the equation for the generator circuit are approximated, by neglecting the mutual term as

$$\frac{\partial V_G(z, t)}{\partial z} + l_G \frac{\partial I_G(z, t)}{\partial t} = 0 \quad (11a)$$

$$\frac{\partial I_G(z, t)}{\partial z} + (c_G + c_m) \frac{\partial V_G(z, t)}{\partial t} = 0 \quad (11b)$$

and the equations for the receptor circuit are unchanged

$$\frac{\partial V_g(z, t)}{\partial z} + l_g \frac{\partial I_g(z, t)}{\partial t} = -l_m \frac{\partial I_G(z, t)}{\partial t} \quad (12a)$$

$$\frac{\partial I_g(z, t)}{\partial z} + (c_R + c_m) \frac{\partial V_R(z, t)}{\partial t} = C_m \frac{\partial V_G(z, t)}{\partial t} \quad (12b)$$

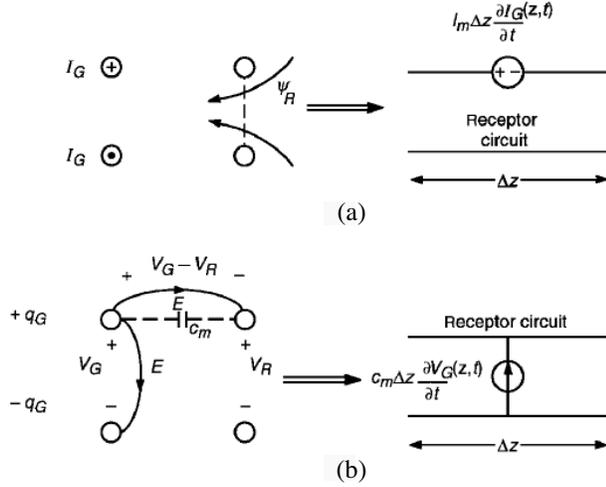
The equations have also been rewritten by moving the self terms to the left-hand side in order to present them in the form of those for isolated two-conductor lines. Observe in the equations governing the current and voltage of the generator circuit (the circuit being driven by the source) in (11) we have omitted the mutual coupling terms  $l_m \frac{\partial I_R(z, t)}{\partial t}$  and  $c_m \frac{\partial V_R(z, t)}{\partial t}$ , which cause the back interaction of inducing voltages and currents in the generator circuit due to currents and voltages and currents in the generator circuit due to currents and voltages in the receptor circuit. Thus we can solve for the voltage and current in the generator circuit,  $V_G(z, t)$  and  $I_G(z, t)$ , as though it were an isolated, two-conductor transmission line [11].

Once the voltage and current of this (isolated) generator circuit are obtained, we place induced sources due to these via the mutual inductance and mutual capacitance into the receptor circuit. The sources induced in the receptor circuit are represented by the terms on the right-hand-sides of the equations in (12).

$$-l_m \frac{\partial I_G(z, t)}{\partial t} \quad (13a)$$

$$c_m \frac{\partial V_G(z, t)}{\partial t} \quad (13b)$$

These sources induced in the receptor circuit are visualized as shown in Fig. 4.



**Figure 4.** Explanation of the two components of crosstalk: (a) magnetic field or inductive coupling, (b) electric field or capacitive coupling.

Faraday's law provides that a per-unit-length voltage will be induced in the receptor circuit that is due to the time rate of change of the magnetic flux penetrating the loop formed by the conductors of the receptor circuit. Hence two per-unit-length sources will be induced in the receptor circuit:

$$V_{s1} = l_R \frac{\partial I_R}{\partial t} \quad (14a)$$

and

$$V_{s2} = l_m \frac{\partial I_G}{\partial t} \quad (14b)$$

Source  $V_{S1}$  is produced by the self-inductance of the receptor circuit. Source  $V_{S2}$  is produced by the mutual inductance between the two circuits and the current of the generator circuit. As a first-order model we will ignore the effect of  $V_{S1}$ . Hence we may represent the receptor circuit with one source,  $V_{S2}$ , as illustrated in Fig. 4(a). because this

source is due to magnetic field coupling, it is referred to as inductive coupling. The total for a  $\Delta z$  section length will be the per-unit-length source multiplied by  $\Delta z$ .

Current is the time rate-of-change of charge and hence per-unit-length current sources will be induced between the two conductors of the receptor circuit of

$$I_{S1} = (c_R + c_m) \frac{\partial V_R}{\partial t} \quad (15a)$$

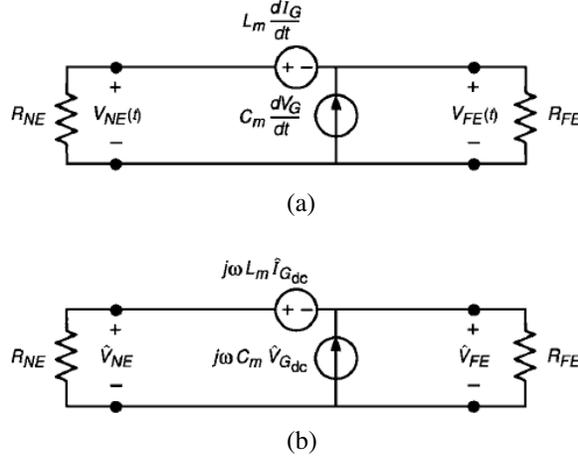
$$I_{S2} = -c_m \frac{\partial V_G}{\partial t} \quad (15b)$$

The first current source,  $I_{S1}$ , in (16a) is simply the current source induced by the receptor circuit self-capacitance. Source  $I_{S2}$  is produced by the mutual capacitance between the two circuits. Again, as a first-order model we will ignore the effect of  $I_{S1}$ . Hence we will represent the receptor circuit with one source,  $I_{S2}$ , as illustrated in Fig. 4(b). Because this source is due to electric field coupling, it is referred to as capacitive coupling. Hence we will represent the receptor circuit by combining the two sources in (14b) and (15b) and lumping them together to represent the entire line with total mutual inductance and total mutual capacitance of  $L_m = l_m l$  and  $C_m = c_m l$ , respectively, where  $l$  is the total line length [12].

This is referred to as the inductive-capacitive coupling model. The crosstalk takes place via two distinct coupling mechanisms [13, 14], magnetic field coupling due to mutual inductance between the two circuits and electric field coupling due to mutual capacitance between the two circuits. There are two key assumptions in this model: (1) we assume weak coupling between the generator and receptor circuits, that is, the coupling is a one-way effect from the generator circuit to the receptor circuit; and (2) the line is assumed to be electrically short at the frequency of the driving source in the generator circuit,  $V_s$  that is,  $l \ll \lambda = v/f$ .

## 5. FREQUENCY DOMAIN INDUCTIVE CAPACITIVE COUPLING MODEL

Our first main interest is for driving sources in the generator circuit,  $V_s(t)$  in Fig. 1, that are single-frequency sinusoids; that is, we first determine the frequency-domain response. To do this we form the phasor circuit by replacing time derivatives with  $j\omega$ , where  $\omega = 2\pi f$  and  $f$  is the frequency of the driving source. The resulting equivalent circuit for the receptor circuit is given in Fig. 5(b). In that circuit we show the current and voltage of the generator circuit as being



**Figure 5.** The simplified inductive-capacitive coupling crosstalk model: (a) time domain model, (b) frequency-domain model.

effectively the same as being effectively the same as though the driving source was  $dc$ :

$$\hat{I}_{Gdc} \cong \frac{1}{R_s + R_L} \hat{V}_S \quad (16a)$$

$$\hat{V}_{Gdc} \cong \frac{R_L}{R_s + R_L} \hat{V}_S \quad (16b)$$

This is because we assume that the line is electrically short at the frequency of the driving source, i.e.,  $l \ll \lambda$ , where  $\lambda = v/f$  is a wavelength at the frequency  $f$  of the driving sinusoidal source, and hence the voltage and current do not vary appreciably in magnitude along the generator line. Hence they are virtually the same as those produced by a  $dc$  source. From this equivalent circuit we may determine the near-end and far-end phasor crosstalk voltages using superposition as [1]

$$\hat{V}_{NE} = \underbrace{\frac{R_{NE}}{R_{NE} + R_{FE}} j\omega L_m \hat{I}_{Gdc}}_{\text{inductive coupling}} + \underbrace{\frac{R_{NE} R_{FE}}{R_{NE} + R_{FE}} j\omega C_m \hat{V}_{Gdc}}_{\text{capacitive coupling}} \quad (17a)$$

$$\hat{V}_{FE} = - \underbrace{\frac{R_{FE}}{R_{NE} + R_{FE}} j\omega L_m \hat{I}_{Gdc}}_{\text{inductive coupling}} + \underbrace{\frac{R_{NE} R_{FE}}{R_{NE} + R_{FE}} j\omega C_m \hat{V}_{Gdc}}_{\text{inductive coupling}} \quad (17b)$$

and  $L_m = l_m l$  and  $C_m = c_m l$  are the total mutual inductance and mutual capacitance of the line, respectively.

$$\hat{V}_{NE} = \underbrace{\frac{R_{NE}}{R_{NE}+R_{FE}} j\omega L_m \frac{1}{R_s+R_L}}_{\text{inductive coupling}} \hat{V}_s + \underbrace{\frac{R_{NE}R_{FE}}{R_{NE}+R_{FE}} j\omega C_m \frac{R_L}{R_s+R_L}}_{\text{capacitive coupling}} \hat{V}_s \quad (18a)$$

$$\hat{V}_{FE} = \underbrace{\frac{R_{FE}}{R_{NE}+R_{FE}} j\omega L_m \frac{1}{R_s+R_L}}_{\text{inductive coupling}} \hat{V}_s + \underbrace{\frac{R_{NE}R_{FE}}{R_{NE}+R_{FE}} j\omega C_m \frac{R_L}{R_s+R_L}}_{\text{capacitive coupling}} \hat{V}_s \quad (18b)$$

The crosstalk can be viewed as a transfer function between the input  $\hat{V}_s$  and the outputs  $\hat{V}_{NE}$  and  $\hat{V}_{FE}$ . These transfer functions can be obtained by factoring out  $\hat{V}_s$  and  $j\omega$  to give

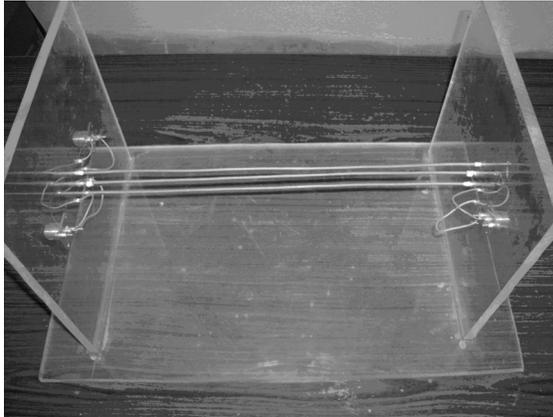
$$\frac{\hat{V}_{NE}}{\hat{V}_s} = j\omega \left( \frac{R_{NE}}{R_{NE}+R_{FE}} \frac{L_m}{R_s+R_L} \right) + \left( \frac{R_{NE}R_{FE}}{R_{NE}+R_{FE}} \frac{R_L C_m}{R_s+R_L} \right) \quad (19a)$$

$$\frac{\hat{V}_{FE}}{\hat{V}_s} = j\omega \left( -\frac{R_{FE}}{R_{NE}+R_{FE}} \frac{L_m}{R_s+R_L} \right) + \left( \frac{R_{NE}R_{FE}}{R_{NE}+R_{FE}} \frac{R_L C_m}{R_s+R_L} \right) \quad (19b)$$

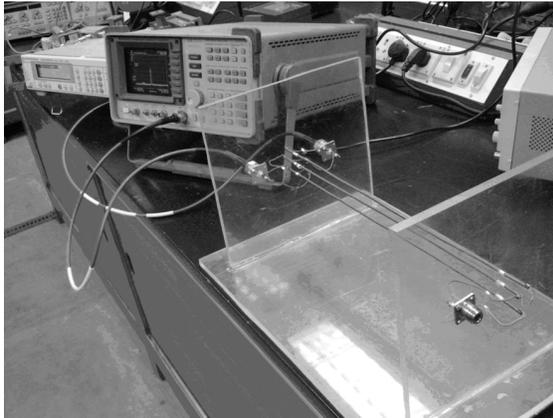
## 6. EXPERIMENTAL SETUP

The three wire crosstalk model is shown in Fig. 6. The experiment setup for the measurements are shown in Fig. 7 and Fig. 8 respectively. In this setup the generator conductor and the reference conductor is terminated by 50 ohms at the far end side. Here the power received by the spectrum analyzer due to excitation voltage from the signal generator is studied over a wide frequency range from 100 MHz to 2 GHz.

In the whole experimental setup, we are exciting the model by a signal generator at the input side. Mainly we are interested in estimation of the farend and the nearend crosstalk in an EM environment. For this, we performed the experiment in two steps. For measuring the nearend crosstalk we are exciting the model using signal generator and measuring the nearend crosstalk voltage across the receptor conductor and generator conductor due to the presence of the third wire that is the reference conductor using a spectrum analyzer,



**Figure 6.** Simple crosstalk model (Top view).

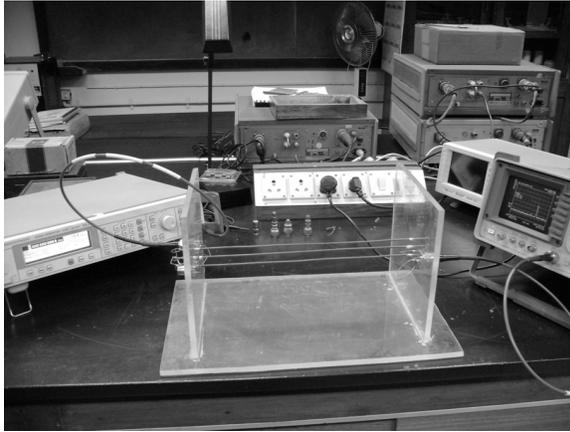


**Figure 7.** Experimental setup (Measuring near-end crosstalk).

at the input side or nearend side. Similarly for the measurement of the farend crosstalk voltage across the receptor conductor and generator conductor due to the presence of the third wire that is the reference conductor, we are using the same spectrum analyzer at the output side or farend side.

We are providing 10 dBm power from the signal generator to excite the crosstalk model. At the receiving side we are using the spectrum analyzer for practical measurement.

The specifications of the experimental setup are given below:



**Figure 8.** Experimental setup (Measuring far-end crosstalk).

$L = 20$  cm (Length of the wire),  $S = 1.3$  cm (Distance between two adjacent wires) and Diameter of the wire = 3.5 mm

For simulating the whole model using CST (Computer Simulation Technology), we excited the three wire crosstalk model using discrete port [15]. For the measurement of the nearend and farend crosstalk voltage using CST, we are using 50 ohms lumped element, across which we are getting the nearend and farend voltage.

## 7. RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

Figure 9 and Fig. 10 shows the simulated and measured results of nearend crosstalk voltage between the receptor wire and reference wire respectively when placed in an EM environment. Similarly Fig. 11 and Fig. 12 shows the simulated and measured results of farend crosstalk voltage between the receptor wire and reference wire respectively. The results show that both simulated and measured results are following the same pattern. The only small difference that we are getting is because of the whole experiment is performed in Microwave measurement laboratory, IIT Kharagpur where the environment is very much crowded. If the same experiment would have been performed in an anechoic chamber or an OAT site the results would have been quite better.

The measured and simulated results show the same pattern over the frequency band of interest, though a difference is noticed (Fig. 9–Fig. 12). The possible reasons for this deviation in measured and

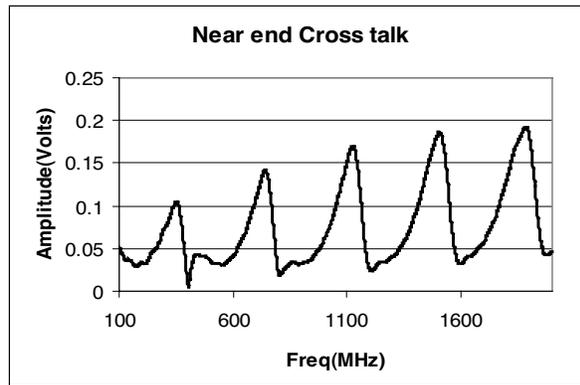


Figure 9. Near-end crosstalk (CST simulated result).

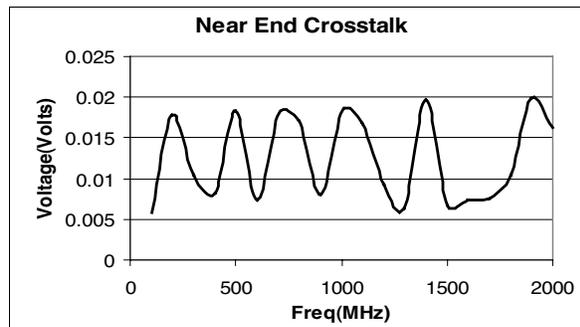


Figure 10. Near-end crosstalk (Measured result).

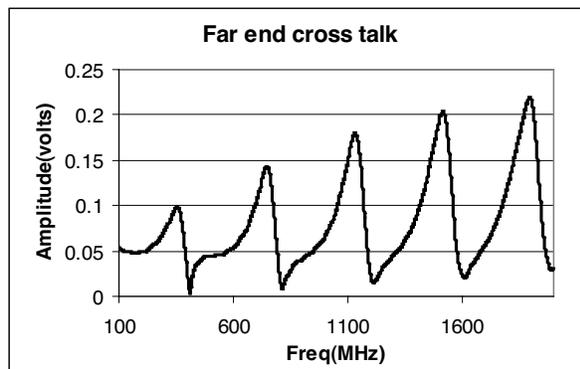
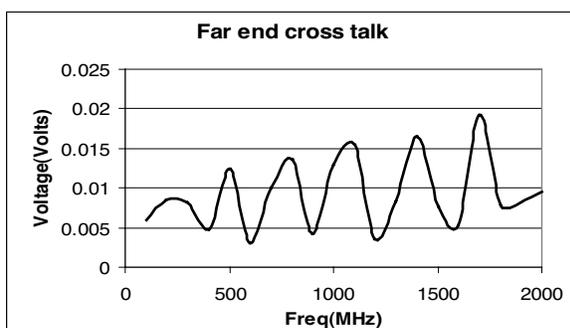


Figure 11. Far-end crosstalk (CST simulated result).



**Figure 12.** Far-end crosstalk (Measured result).

simulated results are summarized as follows:

- The mismatch produced by the cables on transmit and receive side will contribute to the measurement error significantly.
- Though the scattering by other reflecting bodies in the vicinity are tried to minimize, can not be removed totally.

## 8. CONCLUSIONS

This paper presents the initial investigation of a simple crosstalk model by predicting the nearend and farend crosstalk voltage. in an EMI/EMC environment. The results from EMI/EMC stand point of view are very important for system design where implementation of multiconductor is necessary in any electronic system. Also the study can be extended for two wires with PEC as the reference conductor. The measurement of the nearend and farend crosstalk is an important part of the certification process needed before a device or system can be marked. This process has to be undertaken for all levels of devices from personal electronic devices up to large aircraft.

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