

# Geometrically Parameterized Interconnect Performance Models for Interconnect Synthesis\*

Luca Daniel  
University of California,  
Berkeley

Chin Siong Ong  
Sok Chay Low  
Kwok Hong Lee  
National University of  
Singapore

Jacob White  
Massachusetts Institute of  
Technology

## ABSTRACT

In this paper we describe an approach for generating geometrically-parameterized integrated-circuit interconnect models that are efficient enough for use in interconnect synthesis. The model generation approach presented is automatic, and is based on a multi-parameter model-reduction algorithm. The effectiveness of the technique is tested using a multi-line bus example, where both wire spacing and wire width are considered as geometric parameters. Experimental results demonstrate that the generated models accurately predict both delay and cross-talk effects over a wide range of spacing and width variation.

## 1. CATEGORIES AND SUBJECT DESCRIPTORS

B.7.2 Design Aids, Layout, Placement and routing, Simulation.

## 2. GENERAL TERMS

Algorithms, Design, Performance.

## 3. KEYWORDS

Interconnect synthesis, Parametrized model order reduction.

## 4. INTRODUCTION

Developers of routing tools for mixed signal applications could make productive use of more accurate performance models for interconnect, but the cost of extracting even a modestly accurate model for a candidate route is far beyond the computational budget of the inner loop of a router. If it were possible to extract geometrically parameterized models of interconnect performance, then such models could be used for detailed interconnect synthesis in performance critical digital or analog applications. In this paper we present a scheme for automatically constructing parameterized models for

\*This work was supported by SRC and the Singapore-MIT Alliance.

Permission to make digital or hard copies of all or part of this work for personal or classroom use is granted without fee provided that copies are not made or distributed for profit or commercial advantage and that copies bear this notice and the full citation on the first page. To copy otherwise, to republish, to post on servers or to redistribute to lists, requires prior specific permission and/or a fee.

ISPD'02, April 7-10, 2002, San Diego, California, USA.  
Copyright 2002 ACM 1-58113-460-6/02/0004 ...\$5.00.

interconnect, and demonstrate the scheme's effectiveness using a width and spacing parameterized multi-line bus.

The idea of generating parameterized reduced-order interconnect models is not new, recent approaches have been developed that focus on statistical performance evaluation [1, 2] and clock skew minimization [3]. Our work differs from the cited efforts in two important ways. First, the target application, interconnect synthesis, requires parameterized models valid over a wide geometric range. Second, the technique described below is a multi-parameter extension of the projection-subspace based moment matching methods that have proved so effective in interconnect modeling [12, 13, 10, 9, 8, 7, 11].

In the following section we present the basic background on multi-parameter model-order reduction for a two-parameter case, and then in section three we describe the generalization to an arbitrary number of parameters. In section four, we demonstrate the effectiveness of the method on a wire-spacing parameterized multi-line bus example, and consider both delay and cross-talk effects. In section five we use the generalized multi-parameter model reduction approach to re-examine the multi-line bus example, but now allow both wire width and wire spacing to be parameters. Conclusions are given in section six.

## 5. BACKGROUND

One recently developed technique for generating simple geometrically parameterized models of physical systems is based on first using a very detailed representation, such as a discretized partial differential equation, and then reducing that representation while preserving the variation due to changing parameters [5]. The reduction approach used for handling geometric parameter variation in these physical system closely parallels the techniques for dynamical system model reduction, a situation that follows from considering the Laplace transform description of a dynamical system and then allowing the frequency variable to substitute for a geometric parameter. This close parallelism has allowed for some cross-fertilization, for example a subspace-projection based moment matching method was borrowed from the dynamical system model-reduction context and used to automatically generate spacing-parameterized models of wire capacitances [6].

The observation that geometric parameters and frequency variables are interchangeable, at least in a restricted setting, suggests that the problem of generating geometrically parameterized reduced-order models of interconnect can be formulated as a multi-parameter model-order reduction problem. In addition, it is possible to exploit the recently developed connection between projection subspaces and multi-parameter moment-matching [4] to generate an effective

algorithm. Below, we make this idea more precise.

Consider the linear system

$$[s_1 E_1 + s_2 E_2 - A]x = Bu \quad (1)$$

$$y = Cx \quad (2)$$

where  $s_1$  and  $s_2$  are scalar parameters;  $x$  is a state vector of dimension  $n$ ;  $u$  and  $y$  are  $m$ -dimensional input and output vectors;  $E_1, E_2$  and  $A$  are  $n \times n$  matrices; and  $B$  and  $C$  are  $n \times m$  and  $m \times n$  matrices which define how the inputs and outputs relate to the state vector  $x$ .

If one of the parameters,  $s_1$  or  $s_2$ , are associated with frequency, and the other associated with a geometric variation, then (1) would be a dynamical system and  $E(s_1, s_2) = s_1 E_1 + s_2 E_2 - A$  would be its descriptor matrix.

For many interconnect problems, the number of inputs and outputs,  $m$ , is typically much smaller than  $n$ , the number of states needed to accurately represent the electrical behavior of the interconnect. In order to generate a representation of the input-output behavior given by (1) using many fewer states, one can use a projection approach [7]. In the projection approach, one first constructs an  $n \times q$  projection matrix  $V$  where  $q \ll n$ , and then one generates the reduced model from the matrices of the original system using congruence transformations [10]. Specifically, the reduced system is given by

$$[s_1 V^T E_1 V + s_2 V^T E_2 V - V^T A V] \hat{x} = V^T B u \quad (3)$$

$$y = C V \hat{x} \quad (4)$$

were the reduced state vector  $\hat{x}$  is of dimension  $q$  and is representing the projection of the large original state vector  $x \approx V \hat{x}$ .

The columns of  $V$  are typically chosen in such a way that the final response of the reduced system matches  $q$  terms in the Taylor series expansion in  $s_1$  and  $s_2$  of the original response. For a non-singular  $A$  we can write (1) as

$$[I - (s_1 M_1 + s_2 M_2)]x = B_M u$$

$$y = Cx$$

where

$$M_1 = -A^{-1} E_1$$

$$M_2 = -A^{-1} E_2$$

$$B_M = -A^{-1} B.$$

We can then derive an expression for the state vector  $x$  which we can conveniently expand in Taylor series

$$x = [I - (s_1 M_1 + s_2 M_2)]^{-1} B_M u$$

$$= \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} [s_1 M_1 + s_2 M_2]^m B_M u$$

$$= \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \sum_{k=0}^m F_k^m(M_1, M_2) B_M u s_1^{m-k} s_2^k$$

The coefficients of the series  $F_k^m(M_1, M_2)$  can be calculated using [4]

$$F_k^m(M_1, M_2) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } k \notin \{0, 1, \dots, m\} \\ I & \text{if } m = 0 \\ M_1 F_k^{m-1}(M_1, M_2) + M_2 F_{k-1}^{m-1}(M_1, M_2) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

In [4] it is also shown that for a single input system ( $B_M = b$ ) if the columns of  $V$  are constructed to span the Krylov subspace

$$V = \text{colspan}\{b, M_1 b, M_2 b, M_1^2 b, (M_1 M_2 + M_2 M_1) b, M_2^2 b, \dots\},$$

or equivalently,

$$V = \text{colspan} \left\{ \bigcup_{m=0}^{n_q} \left( \bigcup_{k=0}^m F_k^m(M_1, M_2) b \right) \right\},$$

then the reduced model matches the first  $q = n_q(n_q + 1)/2$  moments of the Taylor series expansion in  $s_1$  and  $s_2$ .

## 6. P-PARAMETERS MODEL ORDER REDUCTION

In this Section we consider the extension of the previous results to a linear system

$$[s_1 E_1 + \dots + s_p E_p - A]x = B u \quad (5)$$

$$y = C x \quad (6)$$

where the descriptor matrix  $E(s_1, \dots, s_p) = s_1 E_1 + \dots + s_p E_p - A$  depends on  $p$  parameters  $s_1, \dots, s_p$ . The reduced model can still be generated using a congruence transformation

$$[s_1 V^T E_1 V + \dots + s_p V^T E_p V - V^T A V] \hat{x} = V^T B u$$

$$y = C V \hat{x}$$

and once again, in order to calculate the column span of the projection matrix  $V$  it is convenient to write the system (5) as

$$[I - (s_1 M_1 + \dots + s_p M_p)]x = B_M u$$

$$y = C x$$

where

$$M_i = -A^{-1} E_i \quad \text{for } i = 1, 2, \dots, p$$

$$B_M = -A^{-1} B$$

and expanding in Taylor series

$$x = [I - (s_1 M_1 + \dots + s_p M_p)]^{-1} B_M u$$

$$= \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} [s_1 M_1 + \dots + s_p M_p]^m B_M u$$

$$= \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \sum_{k_2=0}^{m-(k_3+\dots+k_p)} \dots$$

$$\dots \sum_{k_{p-1}=0}^{m-k_p} \sum_{k_p=0}^m [F_{k_2, \dots, k_p}^m(M_1, \dots, M_p) B_M u] s_1^{m-(k_2+\dots+k_p)} s_2^{k_2} \dots s_p^{k_p}$$

The coefficients of the series  $F_{k_2, \dots, k_p}^m(M_1, \dots, M_p)$  can be calculated using:

$$F_{k_2, \dots, k_p}^m(M_1, \dots, M_p) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } k_i \notin \{0, 1, \dots, m\} \quad i = 2, \dots, p \\ 0 & \text{if } k_2 + \dots + k_p \notin \{0, 1, \dots, m\} \\ I & \text{if } m = 0 \end{cases}$$

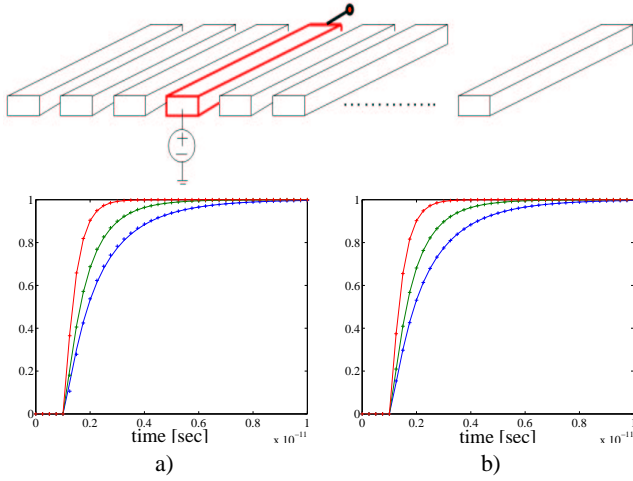
and for all other cases

$$F_{k_2, \dots, k_p}^m(M_1, \dots, M_p) = M_1 F_{k_2, \dots, k_p}^{m-1}(M_1, \dots, M_p) + M_2 F_{k_2-1, \dots, k_p}^{m-1}(M_1, \dots, M_p) + \dots + M_p F_{k_2, \dots, k_p-1}^{m-1}(M_1, \dots, M_p) \quad (7)$$

For a single input system ( $B_M = b$ ) the columns of  $V$  can be constructed to span the Krylov subspace

$$V = \text{colspan}\{b, M_1 b, M_2 b, \dots, M_p b, M_1^2 b, (M_1 M_2 + M_2 M_1) b, \dots, \dots, (M_1 M_p + M_p M_1) b, M_2^2 b, (M_2 M_3 + M_2 M_3) b, \dots\},$$





**Figure 2: Responses at the end of wire 4 when a step is applied at the beginning of the same wire. Continuous lines are the response of the original system (order 336). Small crosses are the response of the reduced model, order 3 on the left, and order 6 on the right. The model was constructed using a nominal wire spacing  $d_0 = 1\mu\text{m}$  and responses are shown here evaluating it at spacings (from the lowest curves to the highest)  $d = d_0 + \Delta d = 0.5\mu\text{m}, 1\mu\text{m}, 10\mu\text{m}$ .**

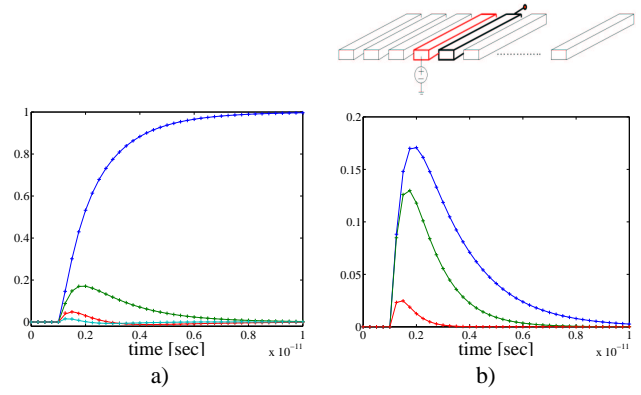
where

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{M}_{1,r} &= V^T M_1 V = V^T A^{-1} E_1 V = -V^T G^{-1} (C_g + C_s \gamma_0) V \\ \hat{M}_{2,r} &= V^T M_2 V = V^T A^{-1} E_2 V = -V^T G^{-1} C_s V \\ \hat{b} &= V^T A^{-1} b \\ \hat{C} &= V C.\end{aligned}$$

The step response at the output at the end of the input wire is shown in Fig 2.a comparing the step responses of the original system (continuous lines) and a reduced model of order three (small crosses) when the spacing distance assumes the values  $d = d_0 + \Delta d = 0.5\mu\text{m}, 1\mu\text{m}, 10\mu\text{m}$ . The model was constructed using a nominal spacing  $d_0 = 1\mu\text{m}$ , hence the error is smallest for  $d \approx d_0 = 1\mu\text{m}$ . Figure 2.b shows the same comparison with a reduced model of order six. One can notice that the reduced model can be easily and accurately used to evaluate the step response and propagation delay for any value of parameter  $d$  by simply calculating

$$\Delta\gamma = \frac{1}{d} - \frac{1}{d_0}$$

and then plugging into the reduced model (10). From the reduced model (10) we have readily available not only step responses on the same wire, but also crosstalk step responses from one wire to all the other wires. Fig. 3.a shows for instance step responses from the input of wire 4 to the output of wires 4, 5, 6 and 7. In this figure we compare again the response of the original system order 336 (continues curves) with the response of a reduced model order 10 (small crosses) constructed at nominal spacing  $d_0 = 1\mu\text{m}$ , but evaluated in this particular figure at spacing  $d = 0.5\mu\text{m}$ . Note that the model produced by our procedure is parametrized in the wire spacing, hence *any* of such crosstalk responses can be evaluated at *any* spacing. For instance we show in Fig. 3.b the response at the output of wire 5 when a step waveform is applied at the input of wire 4 for different spacing values,  $d = d_0 + \Delta d = 0.5\mu\text{m}, 1\mu\text{m}, 10\mu\text{m}$ .



**Figure 3: On the left: responses at the end of wires (from highest to lowest curve) 4, 5, 6 and 7 when a step is applied at the beginning of wire 4. Continuous lines are the response of the original system (order 336). Small crosses are the response of the reduced model (order 10). The model was constructed using a nominal wire spacing  $d_0 = 1\mu\text{m}$  and responses are shown here evaluating it at spacing  $d = 0.5\mu\text{m}$ . On the right: crosstalk responses at the end of wire 5 when a step is applied at the beginning of wire 4, for different values of spacing (from highest to lowest curve)  $d = d_0 + \Delta d = 0.5\mu\text{m}, 1\mu\text{m}, 10\mu\text{m}$ .**

## 7.2 Exploiting the adjoint method for crosstalk from all inputs to one output

It is possible to construct with the same amount of calculation a model that provides the susceptibility of one output to all inputs. In order to do this we can use an adjoint method and start from an original system which swaps positions of  $C$  and  $B$  and transposes all system matrices

$$\left[ I - (s_1 M_1^T + s_2 M_2^T) \right] v' = c^T v'_{in} \quad (12)$$

$$v'_{out} = B_M^T v', \quad (13)$$

In this case the columns of the projection operator  $V$  will span the Krylov subspace

$$V' = \text{colspan} \left\{ c^T, M_1^T c^T, M_2^T c^T, M_1^T M_1^T c^T, (M_1^T M_2^T + M_2^T M_1^T) c^T, M_2^T M_2^T c^T, \dots \right\}$$

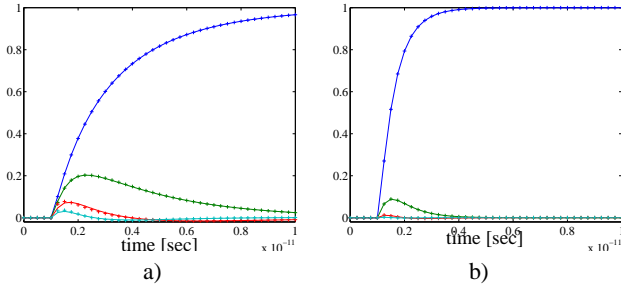
or generally

$$V' = \text{colspan} \left\{ \bigcup_{m=0}^{n_q} \left( \bigcup_{k=0}^m F_k^m (M_1^T, M_2^T) c^T \right) \right\}.$$

In Fig. 4 we show the responses at the end of wire 4 when a step is applied at the beginning of wires 4, 5, 6 and 7. The model was constructed using a nominal wire spacing  $d_0 = 1\mu\text{m}$ . Responses in Fig. 4.a are for  $d = 0.25\mu\text{m}$ . Responses in Fig. 4.b are for  $d = 2\mu\text{m}$ .

## 8. EXAMPLE: BUS MODEL PARAMETRIZED IN BOTH WIRE WIDTH AND SEPARATION

Often when designing an interconnect bus, one would like to quickly evaluate design trade-offs originating not only from different wire spacings, but also for different wire widths. Wider wires have lower resistances but use more area and have higher capacitance. The higher capacitance to ground however helps improving



**Figure 4: Responses at the end of wire 4 when a step is applied at the beginning of wires 4, 5, 6 and 7 (from highest to lowest curve). Continuous lines are the response of the original system (order 336). Small crosses are the response of the reduced model (order 10). The model was constructed using  $d_0 = 1\mu m$ . Responses on the left are for  $d = 0.25\mu m$ , and on the right for  $d = 2\mu m$ .**

crosstalk immunity. We show here a procedure that produces small models that can be easily evaluated with respect to propagation delays and crosstalk performance for different values of the two parameters: wire spacing  $d = 1/\gamma$ , and wire width  $W$ . As in the case of wire spacing, we constructed models for a given nominal wire width  $W_0$ , and then we parametrized in terms of perturbations  $\Delta W$ . Considering the same bus example with  $N$  parallel wires described in Section 7, we can write the equations for the original large parametrized linear system

$$\begin{aligned} s[C'_g(W_0 + \Delta W) + C_s(\gamma_0 + \Delta\gamma)]v + G'(W_0 + \Delta W)v &= Bv_{in} \\ v_{out} &= Cv \end{aligned}$$

where  $C'_g = C_g/W_0$ ,  $G' = G/W_0$ , and  $C_g$  and  $G$  are as described in Section 7. After some algebraic manipulation one can recognize a parametrized linear system as in (5) with  $p = 4$  parameters by defining

$$\begin{aligned} E_1 &= C'_g W_0 + C_s \gamma_0 & s_1 &= s \\ E_2 &= C_s & s_2 &= s \Delta \gamma \\ E_3 &= C'_g & s_3 &= s \Delta W \\ E_4 &= G' & s_4 &= \Delta W \\ A &= -G' W_0. \end{aligned}$$

One can then follow the procedure in Section 6 and construct a projection operator  $V$ . Finally the produced reduced order model is

$$[I - s(\hat{M}_{1,r} + \Delta\gamma\hat{M}_{2,r} + \Delta W\hat{M}_3) - \Delta W\hat{M}_4]\hat{v} = \hat{b}v_{in} \quad (14)$$

$$v_{out} = \hat{C}\hat{v}, \quad (15)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{M}_{1,r} &= V^T M_1 V = V^T A^{-1} E_1 V = -V^T (G' W_0)^{-1} (C'_g W_0 + C_s \gamma_0) V \\ \hat{M}_{2,r} &= V^T M_2 V = V^T A^{-1} E_2 V = -V^T (G' W_0)^{-1} C_s V \\ \hat{M}_{3,r} &= V^T M_3 V = V^T A^{-1} E_3 V = -V^T (G' W_0)^{-1} C'_g V \\ \hat{M}_{4,r} &= V^T M_4 V = V^T A^{-1} E_4 V = -V^T (G' W_0)^{-1} G' V = -\frac{I}{W_0} \\ \hat{b} &= V^T A^{-1} b = -V^T (G' W_0)^{-1} b \\ \hat{C} &= VC \end{aligned}$$

In Fig. 5 we compare the step and crosstalk responses of the original system compared to the reduced and parametrized model obtained using a Krylov subspace of order  $q = 15$  ( $n_q = 2$ ). The model

was constructed using a nominal spacing  $d_0 = 1\mu m$  and nominal wire width  $W_0 = 1\mu m$ . The key point is that this parameterized model can be rapidly evaluated for any value of spacing and wire width, for instance for a fast and accurate trade-off design optimization procedure.

## 9. CONCLUSIONS

In this paper we described an approach for generating geometrically - parameterized integrated-circuit interconnect models that are efficient enough for use in interconnect synthesis. The model generation approach presented is automatic, and is based on a multi-parameter model-reduction algorithm. The effectiveness of the technique was tested using a multi-line bus example, where both wire spacing and wire width are considered as geometric parameters. Experimental results demonstrate that the generated models accurately predict both delay and cross-talk effects over a wide range of spacing and width variation, even when a very low order model is used.

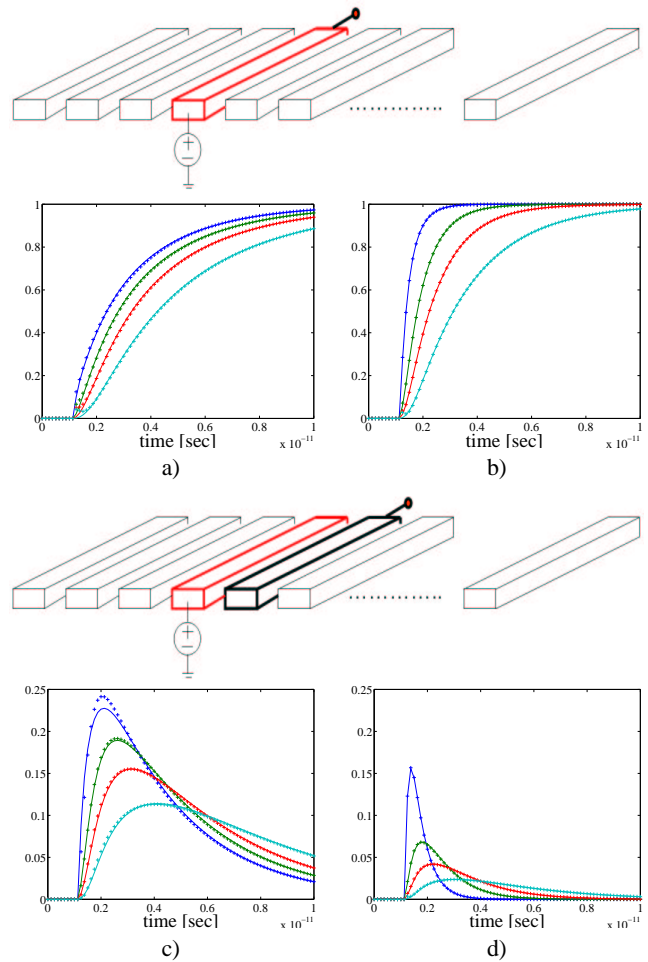
There are many issues still left to address. The multi-parameter method was tested using only resistor-capacitor interconnect models, and accuracy issues may arise when inductance is included. We also did not investigate using multipoint moment-matching, which seems like a natural choice given the range of the parameters is often known a-priori. In addition, the multi-parameter reduction method can become quite expensive when the model has a large number of parameters, so the method would not generate a very efficient model if each wire pair spacing in a 16 wire bus was treated individually. Finally, there are some interesting error bounds in [5], and these results could be applied to automatically select the reduction order.

## 10. REFERENCES

- [1] Ying Liu, Lawrence T. Pileggi, Andrzej J. Strojwas: Model Order-Reduction of RC(L) Interconnect Including Variational Analysis. DAC 1999: 201-206
- [2] Model reduction of variable-geometry interconnects using variational spectrally-weighted balanced truncation, P. Heydari and M. Pedram, Proc. of Int'l Conference on Computer Aided Design, Nov. 2001.
- [3] S. Pullela, N. Menezes and L.T. Pileggi, Moment-Sensitivity-Based Wire Sizing for Skew Reduction in On-Chip Clock Nets, IEEE Transactions on Computer-Aided Design, Vol. 16, No. 2, pp. 210-215, February 1997.
- [4] D. S. Weile, E. Michielssen, Eric Grimme, K. Gallivan, A *Method for Generating Rational Interpolant Reduced Order Models of Two-Parameter Linear Systems*, Applied Mathematics Letters 12 (1999) 93-102.
- [5] C. Prud'homme, D. Rovas, K. Veroy, Y. Maday, A.T. Patera, and G. Turinici. Reliable real-time solution of parametrized partial differential equations: Reduced-basis output bounds methods. Journal of Fluids Engineering, 2002. To appear and <http://augustine.mit.edu/jfe.pdf>
- [6] Generating Geometrically-Parameterized Interconnect Models using Multi-parameter Model Order Reduction, submitted paper.
- [7] Eric Grimme. *Krylov Projection Methods for Model Reduction*. PhD thesis, Coordinated-Science Laboratory, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana-Champaign, IL, 1997.
- [8] L. Miguel Silveira, M. Kamon and J. White, "Efficient Reduced-Order Modeling of Frequency-Dependent Coupling

Inductances associated with 3-D Interconnect Structures”, *Proceedings of the 32nd Design Automation Conference*, pp. 376–380, San Francisco, CA, June, 1995.\*\*

- [9] J. E. Bracken. Passive modeling of linear interconnect networks. *Widely circulated notes*, 1995.
- [10] K. J. Kerns, I. L. Wemple, and A. T. Yang. Stable and efficient reduction of substrate model networks using congruence transforms. In *IEEE/ACM International Conference on Computer Aided Design*, pages 207 – 214, San Jose, CA, November 1995.
- [11] Altan Odabasioglu, Mustafa Celik, and Lawrence Pileggi. Prima: Passive reduced-order interconnect macromodeling algorithm. In *International Conference on Computer Aided-Design*, pages 58–65, San Jose, California, November 1997.
- [12] K. Gallivan, E. Grimme, and P. Van Dooren. Asymptotic Waveform Evaluation via a Lanczos Method. *Applied Mathematics Letters*, 7(5):75–80, 1994.
- [13] P. Feldmann and R. W. Freund. Efficient linear circuit analysis by Padé approximation via the Lanczos process. *IEEE Transactions on Computer-Aided Design of Integrated Circuits and Systems*, 14:639–649, 1995.
- [14] J. R. Phillips, E. Chiprout, and D. D. Ling. Efficient full-wave electromagnetic analysis via model order reduction of fast integral transforms. In *Design Automation Conference*, June 1996.



**Figure 5: Original system (continuous curves) versus 15<sup>th</sup> order reduced model (small crosses) using both spacing and width parameters. The nominal wire spacing was  $d_0 = 1\mu\text{m}$  and the nominal wire width was  $W = 1\mu\text{m}$ . Responses at the end of wire 4 due to a step at the beginning of the same wire are show in a) for different widths (from highest to lowest curve)  $W = .25\mu\text{m}, 2\mu\text{m}, 4\mu\text{m}, 8\mu\text{m}$  and for spacing  $d = .25\mu\text{m}$ . In b) we show the same responses but for spacing  $d = 2\mu\text{m}$ . In c) we show the crosstalk response at the end of wire 5 due to a step at the beginning of wire 4. Curves correspond to widths (from highest curve to lowest)  $W = .25\mu\text{m}, 2\mu\text{m}, 4\mu\text{m}, 8\mu\text{m}$  and spacing is  $d = .25\mu\text{m}$ . In d) we show the same crosstalk responses but for spacing  $d = 2\mu\text{m}$ .**