

Crosstalk Analysis of Multi-conductor Transmission Lines Excited by Long-time Interference Sources Based on Finite-difference Frequency-domain Method

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Abstract – When addressing the crosstalk problems of multi-conductor transmission lines (MTLs) excited by long-time interference sources, time-domain methods suffer from lengthy simulation duration for such scenario, while the conventional finite-difference frequency-domain (FDFD) method encounters efficiency limitations due to its requirement for direct meshing the fine structures of MTLs. Under the circumstance, a new frequency-domain hybrid method based on the FDFD method and the transmission line (TL) equations is proposed. Within this method, the crosstalk model of the MTLs is constructed depending on TL equations firstly. Then, TL equations are solved by the difference scheme of FDFD method, and the FDFD-TL matrix equation applicable for the crosstalk modeling of MTLs are derived and established. Finally, the conjugate gradient method combined with message passing interface (MPI) parallel technique is utilized to solve the FDFD-TL matrix equation and obtain the voltage responses along the MTLs and their terminal loads. Two simulation cases about the crosstalk of multi-conductor TLs excited by lumped pulse sources are calculated and compared with the Method of Moments (MoM) to verify the accuracy and efficiency of the proposed method.

Index Terms – Crosstalk of multi-conductor transmission lines, FDFD-TL matrix equation, long-time interference sources, message passing interface-based conjugate gradient method.

I. INTRODUCTION

With the rapid advancement of wireless communication technology, electronic and electrical devices are becoming increasingly integrated. The compact arrangement of transmission lines (TL) in these devices can lead to crosstalk, primarily due to inductive and capacitive coupling between neighboring lines. Additionally, the interference sources in these devices generated from some circuit modules may be some harmonic or narrow band signals, which have the prominent feature of long duration. Therefore, studying the crosstalk issues arising from multi-conductor transmission lines (MTLs) subjected to long-time interference sources is essential for developing techniques to mitigate interference in electronic and electrical devices.

Limited to the fine structures of MTLs and long duration of interference sources, full-wave algorithms, such as finite-difference time-domain (FDTD) [1] method, finite element method (FEM) [2], Method of Moments (MoM) [3], transmission line matrix (TLM) method [4], and finite-difference frequency-domain (FDFD) method [5], are not efficient for this crosstalk simulation issue because they require many grids and demand relatively long computation time.

Some hybrid methods based on the theory of TL equations have been proposed, offering the advantage of avoiding direct modeling of TL structures. Among these methods, the FDTD and finite-element time-domain (FETD) solutions of TL equations [6–14] are the most

widely used. The core concept of the FDTD solutions of TL equations is to discretize TL equations using different FDTD schemes, such as traditional FDTD [6, 7], alternating direction implicit FDTD [8], Hermite polynomial FDTD [9], and Implicit-Wendroff FDTD [10], then the iteration formulas of the voltages and currents along various TLs are obtained to solve the voltage and current responses of these lines iteratively. Additionally, some researchers have integrated the FDTD solutions of TL equations with machine learning to predict the crosstalk of twisted-wire pairs [11] and random harness cables [12]. Although the FETD-TL method [13, 14] offers advantages over FDTD-TL approaches through its unconditional convergence and freedom from Courant-Friedrich-Levy (CFL) stability constraints, its implementation requires substantial theoretical derivation for establishing the solving equations. Since these methods rely on FDTD and FETD, they often require significant computation time when dealing with interference signals that have longer duration or narrow frequency bands.

The BLT equation [15, 16] and modal analysis method [17] are well-established frequency-domain methods suitable for the crosstalk of the MTLs, which can circumvent the relatively long-time calculations of time domain methods. It is characterized by constructing the relationship equations between the interference source and the voltage or current responses at the terminal loads of the MTLs through the scattering and transmission matrices and then solving the equations to obtain the terminal loads' voltage or current responses via matrix operations. While the BLT equation can only obtain the voltage or current responses of terminal loads, the secondary radiation of the MTLs cannot be carried out.

The core idea of the modal analysis method [17] is to decouple multi-conductor TL equations into independent modal voltage and current equations by diagonalizing the per-unit-length impedance and admittance matrices using complex transformation matrices and then establish and solve the compact matrix formulations relating to the end voltages and currents. However, it requires solving eigenvalue equations to determine the transformation matrix elements for each frequency point, which requires a lot of theoretical derivation. Additionally, the cross-sectional line dimensions and surrounding media properties in this method should be invariant along the MTLs.

Therefore, a new solution of TL equations based on the FDFD method is proposed in this paper, which can realize the fast crosstalk simulation of multi-conductor TLs excited by long-time interference sources and obtain the voltage and current responses along the MTLs.

II. FDFD SOLUTION FOR THE CROSSTALK OF MULTI-CONDUCTOR TRANSMISSION LINES

Generally, the MTLs are close to the ground- ing plate, and the material of MTLs is seen as perfect conductor (PEC), on the basis that the electric fields surrounding the MTLs are approximated as quasi-TEM modes. Subsequently, the crosstalk of MTLs can be modeled using frequency-domain TL equations to avoid direct meshing the MTL structures, which can be expressed as

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial l} \mathbf{I}(l, \omega) + (\mathbf{G} + j\omega\mathbf{C})\mathbf{V}(l, \omega) = 0, \quad (1)$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial l} \mathbf{V}(l, \omega) + (\mathbf{R} + j\omega\mathbf{L})\mathbf{I}(l, \omega) = 0, \quad (2)$$

where l stands for the arbitrary direction of the MTLs. $\mathbf{I}(l, \omega)$ and $\mathbf{V}(l, \omega)$ denote the current and voltage vectors on the MTLs, respectively. \mathbf{R} , \mathbf{L} , \mathbf{G} , and \mathbf{C} are the per unit length resistance, inductance, conductance, and capacitance matrices of the MTLs, respectively, which can be calculated by the empirical formulas from [17].

The MTLs are divided into N segments according to the FDFD grid Δl , as shown in Fig. 1, where the voltages and currents on the MTLs are sampled alternately, with voltages located at integer grid nodes and currents at half grid nodes. Crucially, the FDFD method requires grid resolutions satisfying the CFL condition [17], with spatial discretization constrained to below one-tenth wavelength of the interference source for stable computations.

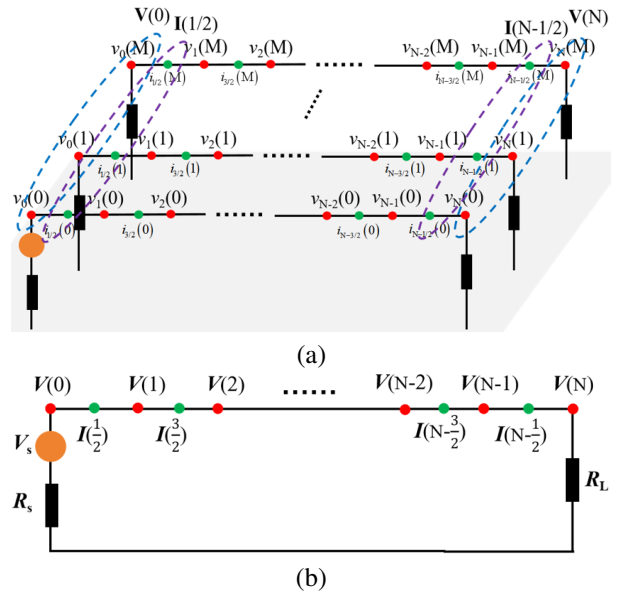


Fig. 1. FDFD difference scheme of multi-conductor transmission lines. (a) 3D view of FDFD grid of MTLs and (b) 2D view of FDFD grid of MTLs.

Discretizing equations (1) and (2) by the difference scheme of FDFD, respectively, yields

$$\frac{I(i+\frac{1}{2}) - I(i-\frac{1}{2})}{\Delta l} + (G + j\omega C) V(i) = 0, \quad (3)$$

$$\frac{V(i+1) - V(i)}{\Delta l} + (R + j\omega L) I\left(i+\frac{1}{2}\right) = 0. \quad (4)$$

From equation (4), it follows that

$$I\left(i+\frac{1}{2}\right) = -(R + j\omega L)^{-1} \left(\frac{V(i+1) - V(i)}{\Delta l} \right), \quad (5)$$

$$I\left(i-\frac{1}{2}\right) = -(R + j\omega L)^{-1} \left(\frac{V(i) - V(i-1)}{\Delta l} \right). \quad (6)$$

Substituting equations (5) and (6) into equation (3), we get

$$\frac{1}{\Delta l} (R + j\omega L)^{-1} \frac{V(i) - V(i+1)}{\Delta l} - \frac{1}{\Delta l} (R + j\omega L)^{-1} \frac{V(i-1) - V(i)}{\Delta l} + (G + j\omega C) V(i) = 0 \quad (7)$$

Further arranging equation (7) as

$$\left[2 + \Delta l^2 (R + j\omega L) (G + j\omega C) \right] V(i) - V(i+1) - V(i-1) = 0 \quad (8)$$

Due to the ends of TLs being terminated by lumped sources and resistance loads, as shown in Fig. 1, the voltages at both terminal ports of the MTLs do not satisfy the center difference scheme of FDFD. Thus, they should be solved using forward and backward difference schemes [18] to establish the boundaries.

To determine the starting port's voltages, forward difference scheme is applied to discretize equation (1) as

$$\frac{I(1/2) - I_s}{\Delta l/2} + (G + j\omega C) V(0) = 0 \quad (9)$$

According to Ohm's law, the voltages and currents at the starting port satisfy the condition as

$$V(0) = V_s - I_s R_s. \quad (10)$$

Equation (10) can be further arranged to get the expression of the load's current as

$$I_s = R_s^{-1} (V_s - V(0)). \quad (11)$$

According to equation (5), the current term $I(1/2)$ in equation (9) can be written as

$$I(1/2) = -(R + j\omega L)^{-1} \left(\frac{V(1) - V(0)}{\Delta l} \right). \quad (12)$$

Substituting equations (11) and (12) into equation (9), which is further arranged as

$$\frac{2}{\Delta l} \left[(R + j\omega L)^{-1} \left(\frac{V(0) - V(1)}{\Delta l} \right) \right] - \frac{2}{\Delta l} R_s^{-1} (V_s - V(0)) + (G + j\omega C) V(0) = 0 \quad (13)$$

Rewriting equation (13) as

$$\left[\frac{2}{\Delta l^2} (R + j\omega L)^{-1} + \frac{2}{\Delta l} R_s^{-1} + (G + j\omega C) \right] V(0) - \frac{2}{\Delta l^2} (R + j\omega L)^{-1} V(1) = \frac{2}{\Delta l} R_s^{-1} V_s \quad (14)$$

Similarly, the backward difference scheme is used to discretize equation (1) for solving the voltages on the ending port, which is expressed as

$$\frac{I_L - I(N-1/2)}{\Delta l/2} + (G + j\omega C) V(N) = 0. \quad (15)$$

The voltage and current at the ending load also comply with Ohm's law, which can be expressed as

$$I_L = R_L^{-1} V(N). \quad (16)$$

Similarly, the current term $I(N-1/2)$ in equation (15) can be derived using equation (5), which is expressed as

$$I(N-1/2) = (R + j\omega L)^{-1} \left(\frac{V(N-1) - V(N)}{\Delta l} \right). \quad (17)$$

Substituting equations (16) and (17) into equation (15), which is further arranged as

$$\frac{2}{\Delta l} R_L^{-1} V(N) - \frac{2}{\Delta l} (R + j\omega L)^{-1} \left(\frac{V(N-1) - V(N)}{\Delta l} \right) + (G + j\omega C) V(N) = 0 \quad (18)$$

Rewriting equation (18) as

$$\left[\frac{2}{\Delta l^2} (R + j\omega L)^{-1} + \frac{2}{\Delta l} R_L^{-1} + (G + j\omega C) \right] V(N) - \frac{2}{\Delta l^2} (R + j\omega L)^{-1} V(N-1) = 0 \quad (19)$$

To solve the voltages along the MTLs, equations (8), (14) and (19) are combined to construct the FDFD-TL matrix equation, which is expressed as

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{A}_{0,0} & \mathbf{A}_{0,1} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \cdots & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{A}_{1,0} & \mathbf{A}_{1,1} & \mathbf{A}_{1,2} & \mathbf{0} & \cdots & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{0} & \cdots & \mathbf{A}_{k,k-1} & \mathbf{A}_{k,k} & \mathbf{A}_{k,k+1} & \cdots & \mathbf{0} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \cdots & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{A}_{N-1,N-2} & \mathbf{A}_{N-1,N-1} & \mathbf{A}_{N-1,N} \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & \mathbf{A}_{N,N-1} & \mathbf{A}_{N,N} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{V}(0) \\ \mathbf{V}(1) \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{V}(k) \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{V}(N-1) \\ \mathbf{V}(N) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{b}(0) \\ \mathbf{b}(1) \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{b}(k) \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{b}(N-1) \\ \mathbf{b}(N) \end{bmatrix}, \quad (20)$$

where the coefficient matrix is represented as \mathbf{A} , and its elements are denoted as

$$\mathbf{A}_{0,0} = \frac{2}{\Delta l^2} (R + j\omega L)^{-1} + \frac{2}{\Delta l} R_s^{-1} + (G + j\omega C) \quad (21a)$$

$$\mathbf{A}_{0,1} = \mathbf{A}_{N,N-1} = -\frac{2}{\Delta l^2} (R + j\omega L)^{-1} \quad (21b)$$

$$\mathbf{A}_{N,N} = \frac{2}{\Delta l^2} (R + j\omega L)^{-1} + \frac{2}{\Delta l} R_L^{-1} + (G + j\omega C) \quad (21c)$$

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{A}_{k,k-1} = \mathbf{A}_{k,k+1} = -1 \\ \mathbf{A}_{k,k} = 2 + \Delta l^2 (R + j\omega L) (G + j\omega C) \end{cases}, k \neq 0, N. \quad (21d)$$

The voltage vector is defined as \mathbf{V} , expressed as $\mathbf{V} = [V(0), V(1), \dots, V(k), \dots, V(N)]^T$, where

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{V}(0) = [v_0(1), v_0(2), \dots, v_0(M)]^T \\ \mathbf{V}(1) = [v_1(1), v_1(2), \dots, v_1(M)]^T \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{V}(k) = [v_k(1), v_k(2), \dots, v_k(M)]^T \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{V}(N) = [v_N(1), v_N(2), \dots, v_N(M)]^T \end{cases}, \quad (22)$$

where M is the line number of MTLs.

The excitation source vector is defined as \mathbf{b} , expressed as $\mathbf{b} = [\mathbf{b}(0), \mathbf{b}(1), \dots, \mathbf{b}(k), \dots, \mathbf{b}(N)]^T$, where

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{b}(0) = \mathbf{R}_S^{-1} \mathbf{V}_S / \Delta x \\ \mathbf{b}(k) = 0, \quad k = 1, \dots, N \end{cases}. \quad (23)$$

The coefficient matrix \mathbf{A} is a complex sparse matrix with many zero elements. To minimize memory usage, an efficient triple storage format of sparse matrix [19] is employed to store the non-zero elements of \mathbf{A} along with their corresponding row and column indices. Considering the non-zero elements in this sparse matrix exhibit no symmetric distribution, the conjugate gradient method [20] is preferred to solve the FDFD-TL matrix equation efficiently. Its detailed procedure is shown in Fig. 2, where n stands for the n -th iteration step and ε is the maximum error value.

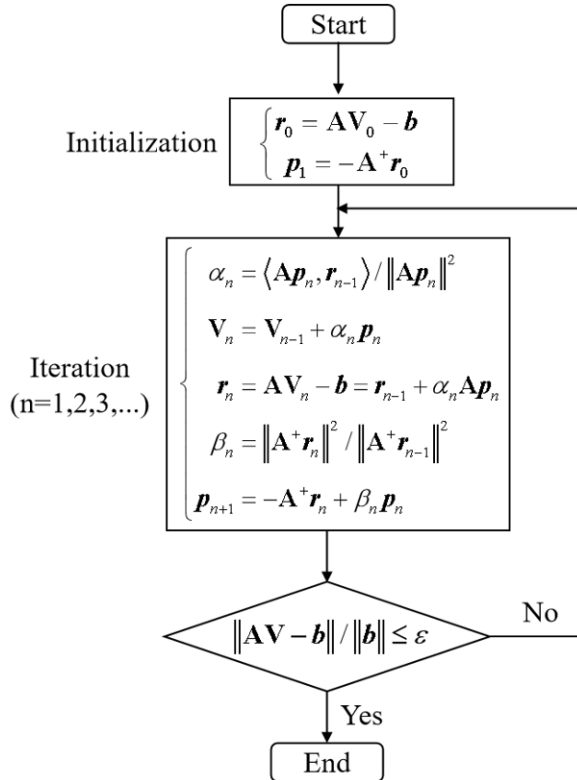


Fig. 2. Flow chart of conjugate gradient method.

Additionally, when the MTL lengths are sufficiently long, a large number of FDFD grids will be required. This can significantly increase the size of the coefficient matrix, reducing the iteration efficiency of the conjugate gradient method. To address this issue, the message passing interface (MPI) parallel technique [21] is introduced to facilitate the parallel computation of the FDFD-TL matrix equation via multiple threads. The MPI parallel strategy is to distribute the matrix operation tasks by the main process to multiple sub-processes. The partial solutions from each sub-process are then aggregated to the main process to obtain the voltages at all nodes of the MTLs. This enhancement can notably improve the crosstalk simulation efficiency of MTLs.

Currently, the responses along the MTLs can be calculated using equation (5), once the voltages on the MTLs are obtained.

III. NUMERICAL SIMULATION

To assess the accuracy and efficiency of the proposed method, two typical simulation cases about the crosstalk of MTLs on perfect conductor (PEC) plane excited by lumped voltage pulse sources are employed to be solved by the proposed method and full-wave MoM and then comparing their results in terms of precision and computation time.

Figure 3 illustrates the crosstalk model of two TLs on the PEC plane, where the length, radius, height, and distance of the lines are 1 m, 1 mm, 1 cm, and 1 cm, respectively. The starting port of TL #1 is excited by a Gaussian pulse voltage source, denoted as U , and expressed as $A_0 \exp[-4\pi(t-t_0)^2/\tau^2]$, where amplitude $A_0 = 1$ V, pulse width $\tau = 2$ ns, and time delay $t_0 = 1.6$ ns. This voltage source has an inner impedance of $Z_0 = 50\Omega$. The other terminals of both lines are connected to resistance loads, also of 50Ω . The model parameters are listed in Table 1.

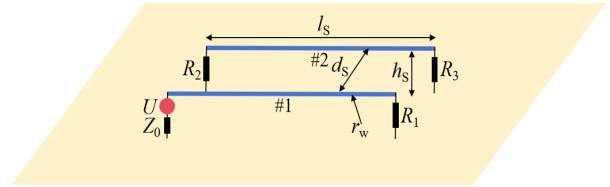


Fig. 3. Crosstalk model of two parallel transmission lines on the PEC plane.

The proposed method was implemented on a computing node equipped with an Intel Xeon 2.4 GHz, 32-core processor and 64 GB RAM, utilizing MPI 3.2 with 8-thread parallelization for execution. The discrete grid size selected by the FDFD is $\Delta l = \lambda/30 = 1$ cm, where λ stands for the minimum wavelength of Gaussian pulse.

Table 1: Model parameters of first case

Parameter	Value
Length l_s	1 m
Radius r_w	1 mm
Height h_s	1 cm
Distance d_s	1 cm
Voltage source U	$A_0 = 1$ V, $\tau = 2$ ns, $t_0 = 1.6$ ns
Inner impedance Z_0	50Ω
Loads $R_1 \sim R_3$	50Ω

Within the MoM, the lines are divided into line segments according to the same grid size of FDFD, requiring a total of 200 segments. Meanwhile, the PEC plane is represented by half space Green's function. Additionally, the sampling frequency number of the proposed method and MoM are both 200 with interval of 5 MHz.

The real and imaginary parts of the voltage responses on loads R_1 and R_3 obtained using the proposed method and MoM, are shown in Figs. 4 and 5. It can be seen that the results of the two methods are in good agreement.

To quantitatively evaluate the proposed method, the relative errors (REs) of the results obtained by the two methods are calculated, with the maximum RE being only 3.8%. Here, RE is defined as

$$RE = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^{FN} (|V^E(i)| - |V^B(i)|)^2}{\sum_{i=1}^{FN} (|V^B(i)|)^2}}, \quad (24)$$

where i stands for the i -th sampling frequency, FN is the sampling frequency number. $V^E(i)$ and $V^B(i)$ are the real parts or imaginary parts of the voltage responses at i -th sampling frequency obtained by the proposed method and MoM, respectively.

Furthermore, the computation times required by the proposed method and MoM are 1.2 s and 21.8 s, respectively, demonstrating the high computational efficiency of this method.

To establish a rigorous validation framework, the proposed method is benchmarked against MoM and FDTD-TL method through crosstalk simulation of MTLs excited by prolonged LEMP waveforms.

Figure 6 is the crosstalk model of four TLs on the PEC plane excited by a LEMP voltage source with inner impedance of 50Ω , where the length, radius, and height of the four lines are 100 m, 1 mm, and 10 cm, respectively. Distance between adjacent lines is 5 cm. Terminal loads of the MTLs are also 50Ω . The starting port of TL #2 is excited by the LEMP voltage source, expressed as $A_0[\exp(-\alpha t) - \exp(-\beta t)]$, where $A_0 = 51946$ V, $\alpha = 1.1 \times 10^5$ s $^{-1}$, $\beta = 1.1 \times 10^5$ s $^{-1}$ [22]. The model parameters are all listed in Table 2.

The grid size selected by the proposed method is 1 m, which is also determined by the CFL condition. Simi-

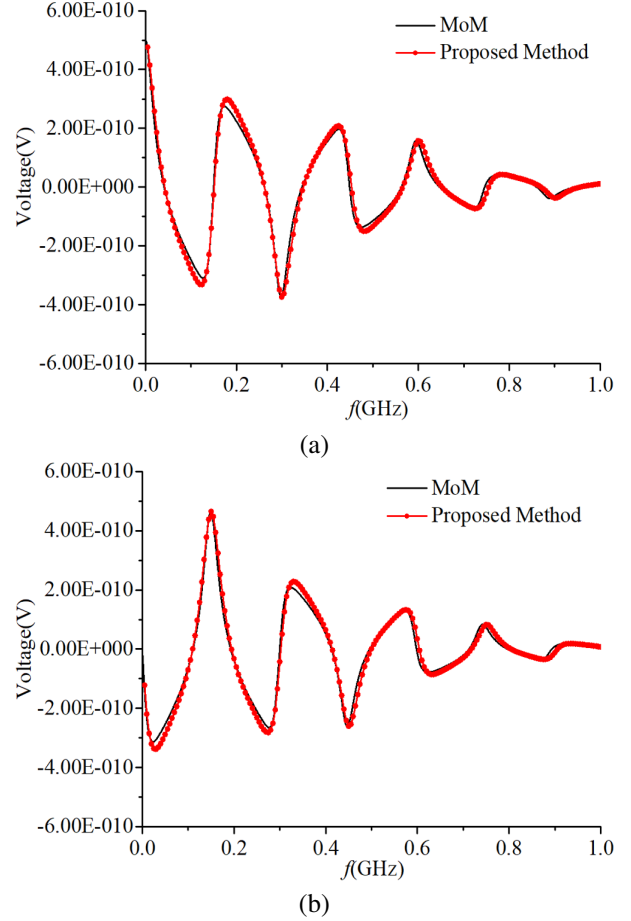


Fig. 4. Voltage responses on the load R_1 obtained by the two methods for the first case. (a) real parts of the voltages and (b) imaginary parts of the voltages.

Table 2: Model parameters of second case

Parameter	Value
Length l_s	100 m
Radius r_w	1 mm
Height h_s	10 cm
Distance d_s	5 cm
Voltage source U	$A_0 = 51946$ V, $\alpha = 1.1 \times 10^5$ s $^{-1}$, $\beta = 1.1 \times 10^5$ s $^{-1}$
Inner impedance Z_0	50Ω
Loads $R_1 \sim R_7$	50Ω

larly, each line of the MTLs in MoM is meshed by FDFD grid, yielding 400 line segments. The ground plane is also model by half space Green's function. Additionally, the sampling frequency number of the proposed method and MoM are both 400 with interval of 10 kHz. Within the FDTD-TL method, the time domain TL equations transforming from equations (1) and (2) are discretized

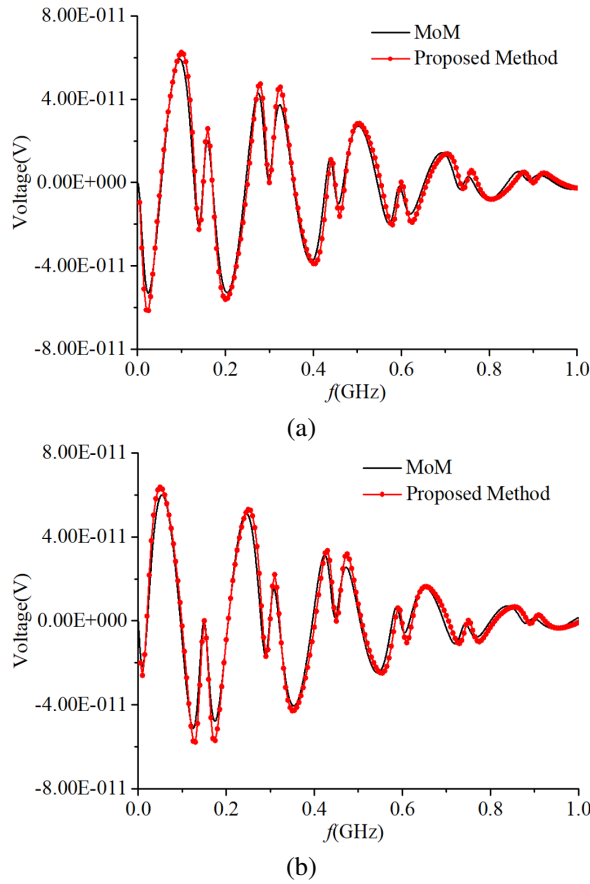


Fig. 5. Voltage responses on the load R_3 obtained by the two methods for the first case. (a) real parts of the voltages and (b) imaginary parts of the voltages.

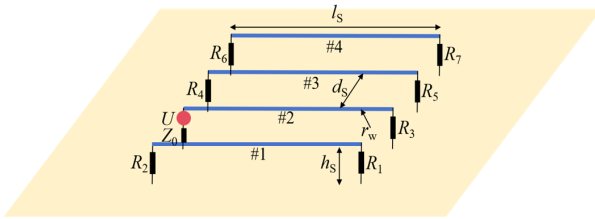


Fig. 6. Crosstalk model of four parallel transmission lines excited by LEMP voltage source.

by the space step of 1 m and time step of 1.667 ns to iteratively calculate the current and voltage responses along the MTLs. To ensure the spectral accuracy in the Fourier transform analysis of MTL voltages or currents, the FDTD-TL simulation requires a total duration spanning multiple LEMP cycles. Considering the waveform persistence of LEMP reaching $100\text{ }\mu\text{s}$, 120,000 time steps are used for this method.

The voltage responses on the loads R_5 and R_6 are calculated by the three methods and the results are compared in Figs. 7 and 8. The results of these methods align

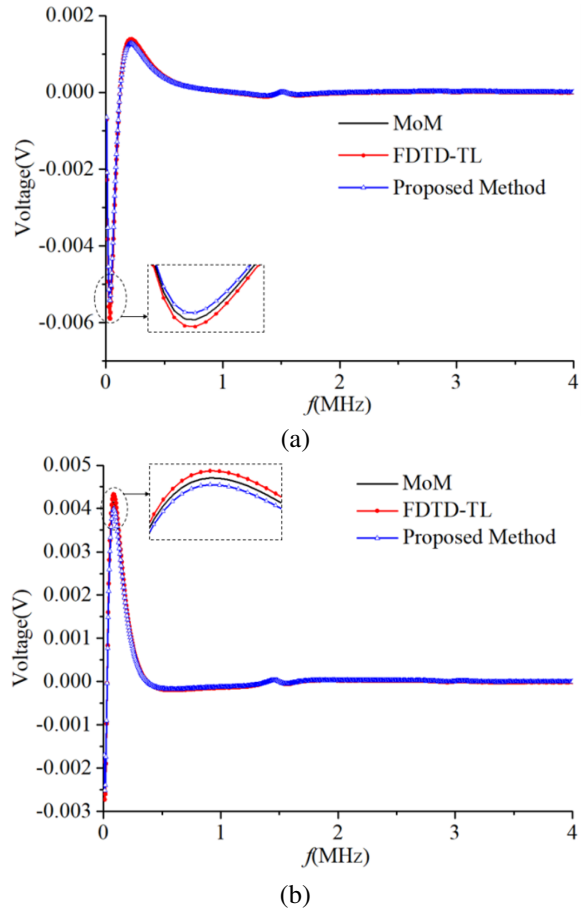


Fig. 7. Voltage responses on the load R_5 obtained by the two methods for the second case: (a) real parts of the voltages and (b) imaginary parts of the voltages.

closely and the maximum RE values of our method and FDTD-TL method with MoM are approximately 4.0% and 4.6%, respectively. Additionally, the computation

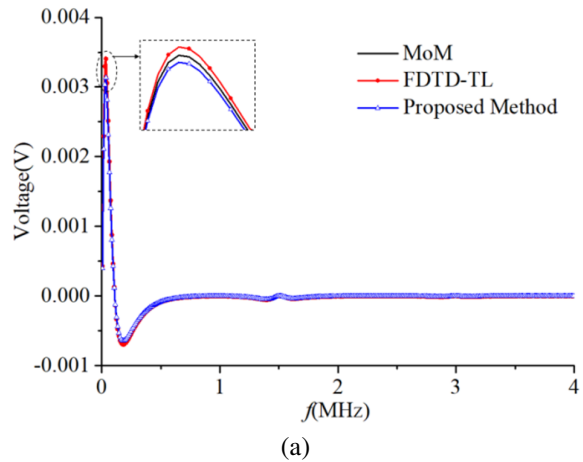


Fig. 8. (Continued.)

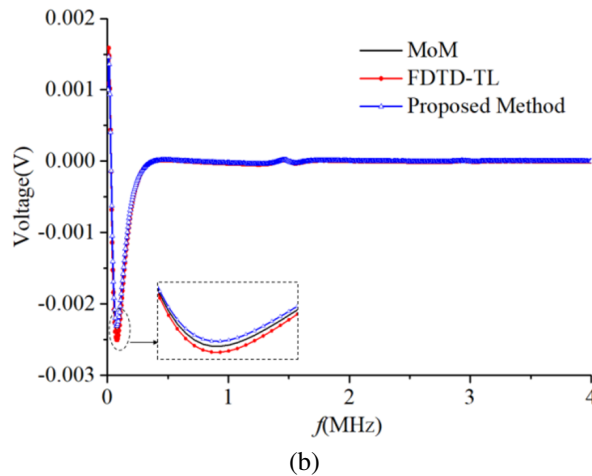


Fig. 8. Voltage responses on the load R_6 obtained by the two methods for the second case: (a) real parts of the voltages and (b) imaginary parts of the voltages.

time for MoM is 49.8 s, the FDTD-TL method requires 96 s, while the proposed method needs 4.4 s.

IV. CONCLUSION

To enhance the efficiency of crosstalk simulations for multi-conductor transmission lines (MTLs) affected by long-duration interference sources, we propose a new frequency-domain hybrid method that combines the finite-difference frequency-domain (FDFD) method with TL equations. The innovative aspect of this approach is the derivation and establishment of the FDFD-TL matrix equation, which is specifically designed for the crosstalk modeling of MTLs excited by long-time interference sources. Meanwhile, the voltage responses along the MTLs are efficiently solved using the MPI-based conjugate gradient method. Crosstalk simulations of MTLs containing two lines or four lines are completed by the proposed method and MoM, and the accuracy and efficiency of this method have been validated through comparisons of their results concerning precision and time consumption. Currently, the proposed method does not account for the frequency-dependent properties of MTLs and assumes the MTLs in straight configuration. Future research will focus on addressing these limitations to improve the method's applicability.

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