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978-1-107-02600-1 - Transmission Lines: Equivalent Circuits, Electromagnetic Theory, and Photons

Richard Collier

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Transmission lines

This rigorous treatment of transmission lines presents all the essential concepts in a clear and straightforward manner. Key principles are demonstrated by numerous practical worked examples and illustrations, and complex mathematics is avoided throughout.

Early chapters cover pulse propagation, sinusoidal waves and coupled lines, all set within the context of a simple loss-less equivalent circuit. Later chapters then develop this basic model by demonstrating the derivation of circuit parameters, and the use of Maxwell's equations to extend this theory to major transmission lines. Finally, a discussion of photonic concepts and properties provides valuable insights into the fundamental physics underpinning transmission lines.

Covering DC to optical frequencies, this accessible text is an invaluable resource for students, researchers, and professionals in electrical, RF, and microwave engineering.

Richard Collier is a former Director of the Electronic Engineering Laboratory of the University of Kent, and a former Senior Research Associate and Affiliated Lecturer at the Cavendish Laboratory, University of Cambridge. He is a Chartered Engineer, and a Fellow of the IET.

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University of Cambridge



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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town,
Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi, Mexico City

Cambridge University Press
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by
Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107026001

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First published 2013

Printed and bound in the United Kingdom by the MPG Books Group

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data

Collier, R. J. (Richard J.)
Transmission lines : equivalent circuits, electromagnetic theory, and photons / Richard Collier,
University of Cambridge.
pages cm. – (Cambridge RF and microwave engineering series)
Includes bibliographical references.
ISBN 978-1-107-02600-1 (Hardback)
1. Telecommunication lines – Textbooks. 2. Photons – Textbooks. I. Title.
TK5103.15.C65 2013
621.382–dc23

2012032044

ISBN 978-1-107-02600-1 Hardback

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**A man that looks on glass
On it may stay his eye;
Or if he pleaseth, through it pass,
And then the heaven espy.**

George Herbert 1593–1633

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“This book presents a new and refreshing look at the subject of electromagnetic transmission lines. The clarity of the explanations given in the book indicate Dr. Collier’s many years of teaching this subject to both undergraduate and graduate level university students. It is an ideal reference book for this subject, and should be read by both scientists and electronic/electrical engineers needing to use and understand transmission lines.”

Nick Ridler, IET Fellow

Contents

Preface page xi

Part 1 Transmission lines using a distributed equivalent circuit

1	Pulses on transmission lines	3
	1.1 Velocity and characteristic impedance	5
	1.2 Reflection coefficient	6
	1.3 Step waves incident on resistive terminations	8
	1.4 Pulses incident on resistive terminations	15
	1.5 Step waves incident on a capacitor	19
	1.6 A pulse incident on a resistor and a capacitor in parallel	22
	1.7 Multiple reflections from a capacitor	24
	1.8 Step waves incident on inductors	30
	1.9 Conclusions on the use of circuit theory and transmission line theory	32
	1.10 Further reading	33
2	Sine waves and networks	35
	2.1 Sine waves	35
	2.2 Reflections from impedances	36
	2.3 Power in waves	37
	2.4 Voltage standing wave ratio	37
	2.5 The input impedance of a length of line	39
	2.6 The Smith chart	40
	2.7 The transmission coefficient	52
	2.8 Scattering parameters	56
	2.9 Transmission parameters	57
	2.10 Sine waves in the time domain	67
	2.11 Modulation of sinusoidal waves	73
	2.12 Further reading	74

3	Coupled transmission lines and circuits	76
3.1	Basic theory	76
3.2	Coupled transmission line circuits in the frequency domain	86
3.3	Conclusion	106
3.4	Further reading	107
 Part 2 Transmission lines using electromagnetic theory		
4	Transmission lines and electromagnetism	111
4.1	The capacitance of transmission lines with one dielectric	111
4.2	The inductance of transmission lines with one dielectric	131
4.3	The link between distributed capacitance and inductance for transmission lines with a uniform dielectric	136
4.4	Transmission lines with more than one dielectric – including stripline, microstrip and coplanar waveguide	142
4.5	Conclusions	147
4.6	Further reading	148
5	Guided electromagnetic waves	150
5.1	Introduction to electromagnetic waves and Maxwell’s equations	150
5.2	Three groups of electromagnetic waves: TEM, TE and TM and hybrid waves	153
5.3	Poynting’s vector for the average power flow	156
5.4	TE and TM waves within metallic rectangular boundaries	158
5.5	Waves within metallic circular boundaries	169
5.6	Higher order modes in coaxial cable	174
5.7	Ridged waveguide	176
5.8	Waves in dielectric waveguides	177
5.9	Conclusion	205
5.10	Further reading	205
6	Attenuation in transmission lines	208
6.1	Attenuation in two conductor transmission lines	208
6.2	The characteristic impedance of transmission lines with losses	214
6.3	The input impedance of a length of lossy line	216
6.4	The conductance, G	219
6.5	The resistance R and the skin effect	221
6.6	Overall attenuation	231
6.7	Attenuation in waveguides	231
6.8	The Q factor of a length of line	238
6.9	Phase and group velocity	242
6.10	Pulse broadening and distortion	244

	Contents	ix
6.11	Pulse distortion on transmission lines caused by the skin effect	245
6.12	Conclusion	250
6.13	Further reading	250
Part 3 Transmission lines and photons		
7	Transmission lines and photons	255
7.1	Properties of photons – energy and rectilinear propagation	255
7.2	Detecting photons	256
7.3	Plane wave analysis of transmission lines	257
7.4	Oblique incidence of plane waves on a dielectric interface	265
7.5	Oblique incidence of plane waves on a conductor	272
7.6	Plane waves and thin resistive films	279
7.7	Polarisation of electromagnetic waves	290
7.8	Conclusions	293
7.9	Further reading	293
8	Further discussion of photons and other topics	294
8.1	The velocity of photons and electrons	295
8.2	The momentum of photons	298
8.3	Photon momentum and radiation pressure	300
8.4	The extent of photons	301
8.5	Photon absorption and reflection from a capacitor	305
8.6	The anomalous skin effect	309
8.7	Complex modes	310
8.8	Metamaterials	311
8.9	Photonic bandgap materials	312
8.10	Conclusion	313
8.11	Further reading	313
	<i>Index</i>	315

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Preface

The use of transmission lines has increased considerably since the author began his lectures on them at the University of Kent at Canterbury in October 1968. Now the mighty internet involves huge lengths of optical fibres, estimated at over 750 million miles, and similar lengths of copper cables. The ubiquitous mobile phones and personal computers contain circuits using microstrip, coplanar waveguide and stripline. However, despite all these widespread modern applications of transmission lines, the basic principles have remained the same. So much so, that the many classic textbooks on this subject have been essential reading for nearly a hundred years. It is not the purpose of this book to repeat the content of these standard works but to present the material in a form which students may find more digestible. Also this is an age where mathematical calculations are relatively simple to perform on modern personal computers and so there is less need for much of the advanced mathematics of earlier years. The aim of this book is to introduce the reader to a wide range of transmission line topics using a straightforward mathematical treatment which is linked to a large number of graphs illustrating the text. Although the professional worker in this field would use a computer program to solve most transmission line problems, the value of this book is that it provides exact solutions to many simple problems which can be used to verify the more sophisticated computer solutions. The treatment of the material will also encourage ‘back-of-envelope’ calculations which may save hours of computer usage. The author is aware of the hundreds of books published on every aspect of transmission lines and the myriads of scientific publications which appear in an ever increasing number of journals. To help the reader get started on exploring any topic in greater depth, this book contains comments on many of these specialist books at the end of each chapter. Following this will be the reader’s daunting task to search through the scientific literature for even more information. It is the author’s hope that this book will establish some of the basic principles of this extensive subject which make the use of some of these scientific papers more profitable.

Initially, transmission lines are described in this book in terms of an equivalent circuit containing two distributed elements. The first three chapters use this circuit to illustrate many of the features of transmission lines. Chapter 1 consists mainly of the author’s lectures to first year undergraduate computer science students at the University of Kent. For this reason it is all about step waves and pulses on

transmission lines and avoids the use of Laplace transforms. This book introduces digital signals at several stages as they are by far the majority of the traffic on modern lines. The second chapter, on mainly sinusoidal waves, was given to electronic engineering students at the same university. This chapter covers the Smith chart and scattering matrices and their use in circuit analysis. Finally, the third chapter introduces the reader to coupling between transmission lines, including some unique circuits which use coupled waves.

Although these first three chapters are sufficient for many transmission line problems, there are some basic principles which this treatment omits. The most obvious ones are the values of both the velocity of propagation and the characteristic impedance which are just stated in the early chapters. Less obvious are the higher order modes of propagation which can exist on all transmission lines. So Chapter 4 covers the derivation of the capacitances and inductances needed to calculate the velocities of propagation and the characteristic impedances of many transmission lines. The method mainly uses just two line integrals from electromagnetism to derive the static fields required for the analysis. Chapter 5 uses Maxwell's equations to derive the electromagnetic wave picture of the lines. In particular it shows that the lines have multiple modes of propagation and it introduces metallic and dielectric waveguides which cannot be adequately described using a simple equivalent circuit. The treatment of Maxwell's equations is somewhat brief, as fuller descriptions are readily available elsewhere. However, the analysis of the various problems will illustrate how these important equations are used. The topic of attenuation was intentionally omitted up to this point, as it complicates the material in the earlier chapters. Chapter 6 is entirely devoted to this topic and includes both the skin effect and dispersion and the way they modify pulse shapes.

This is the point where most textbooks end, but with the rise of electrodynamics and quantum electrodynamics, the interest in the photon has greatly increased in recent years. This elusive fundamental particle or packet of energy is the basic component of all electromagnetic waves. So this book has included some thoughts on photons which bring out a few of the basic processes going on when a wave propagates. Chapter 7 concentrates on the two properties of photons: that they travel in straight lines and at the velocity of light. Many of the transmission lines are revisited to show that complex solutions of Maxwell's equations can be broken down into the propagation of plane waves. This is further developed by considering plane waves passing through dielectric and resistive films. This topic was studied by the author whilst he was working in the Microelectronics Research Laboratory in the Cavendish Laboratory at the University of Cambridge. Finally, the book ends in Chapter 8 with a close look at how photons interact with the guiding structures of transmission lines. Some of the comments in this part will prove interesting to anyone involved in photon propagation. There are various small sections at the end of this chapter on current hot-topics which could prove useful as a starting point for those interested in such areas.

The author wishes to thank the Cambridge University Press for publishing this book and in particular Julie Lancashire for commissioning the work and Elizabeth

Horne for sorting out the text. He would also like to thank the many colleagues and students at the University of Kent who made helpful comments about some of the content of the first six chapters. In particular, from the University of Cambridge, he would like to thank Professor Richard Philips and Dr David Hasko from the Cavendish Laboratory, as well as Chris Nickerby and Nilpesh Patel from Corpus Christi College for their help with the last two chapters. He would also like to acknowledge many helpful comments from Dr Nick Ridler of the National Physical Laboratory and Dr David Williams of Hitachi Cambridge.

Finally, I should like to acknowledge the loving support of my wife Ruth, who has helped to keep me going during the years needed to produce this book.