

## Module-2 RF PCB Design Basics Concepts & Techniques

Rashad.M.Ramzan, Ph.D FAST-NU, Islamabad

## Objective of RF PCB Design Module



- Design of Digital PCB with RF commutation Chips modules on it!!
- Tools
  - Protel or Altium
  - Used together with ADS
- Approach is to use the RF tool like ADS to implement the layout in Altium.
- Advantage: Productivity and accuracy at same time

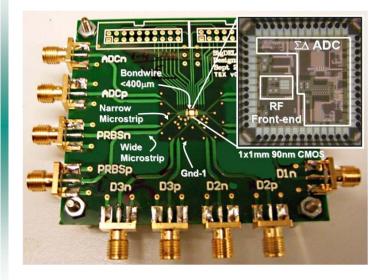
RF PCB Design:Lecture-1

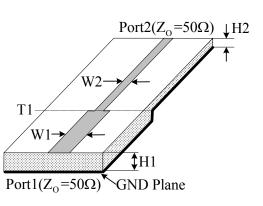
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## Objective of Module-2



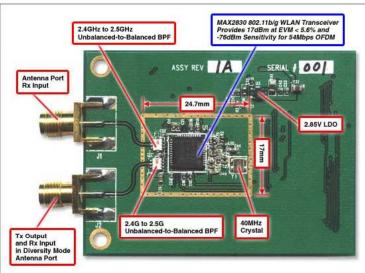


- 90nm Wideband RF Frontend Test Bed (1-6GHz)
  - 90nm Chip and 4-layer FR4 PCB Designed By Rashad
- Protel was used to design the board and ADS to design the transmission lines

RF PCB Design:Lecture-1

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## Objective of RF PCB Design Module



- Complete RF PCB on High Speed Substrates using ADS tool suite
- Need strong theory and background of Electromagnetic
  - Impedance matching, TDR, Smith chart, S-Parameters, Transmission Lines, Transceiver Architecture, LNA, Mixer Design, PLL, DLL, Pas etc

## Outline of Today's Lecture



- Objective of this three day module
  - RF PCB and RF as a part of High Speed Digital PCB
  - Tools for both applications
- Difference in RF and Digital PCB
  - Frequency Range
    - Sine vs. Square (Trapezoidal)
    - Narrow Band vs Wide Band
  - Termination types &  $50\Omega$  matching
  - Impedance Matching Criteria
  - PCB Material, Layer Stack

RF PCB Design:Lecture-1

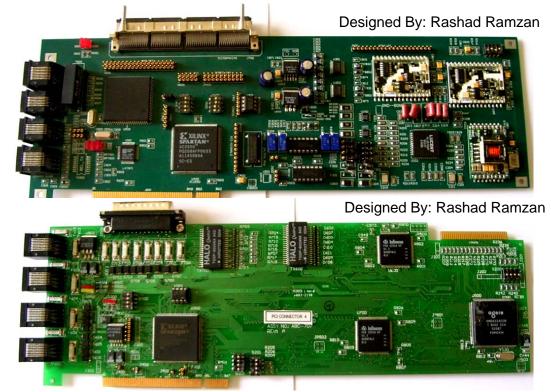
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## Outline of Today's Lecture



- Transmission Lines in RF PCBs and Digital PCBs
  - Basic Transmission Modes in PCB Traces
- Impedance Matching
  - Smith Chart .... A Necessary Tool
- S-Parameters

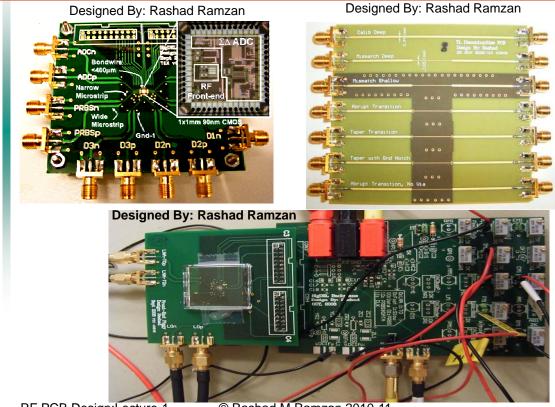
## Module-1: Analog and Digital PCBs



RF PCB Design:Lecture-1

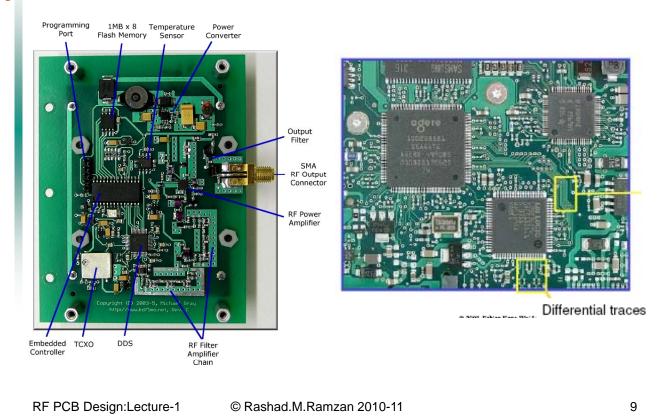
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## Module-2: RF PCBs

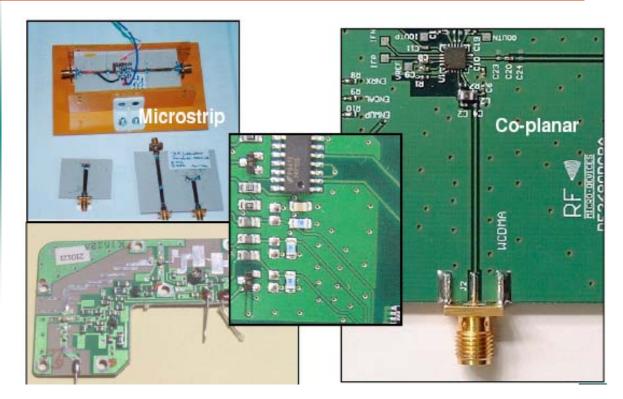


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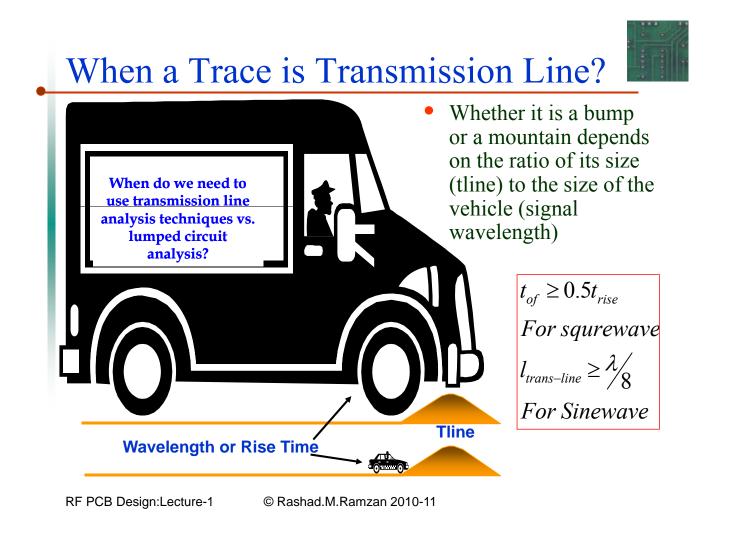
## Digital & RF PCBs: Are they Same?



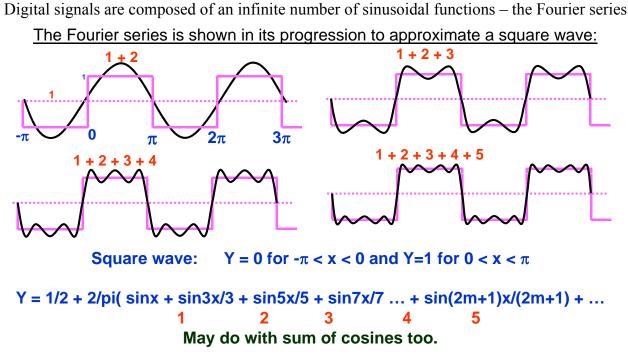
Digital & RF PCBs: Are they Same?



RF PCB Design:Lecture-1



## RF vs. Digital PCB: Sine vs. Square



#### RF vs. Digital PCB: Sine vs. Square

Where does that famous equation  $F = \frac{0.35}{Tr}$  come from?

- It can be derived from the response of a step function into a filter with time constant tau  $V = V_{input} (1 e^{-t/\tau})$ 
  - Setting V= $0.1V_{input}$  and V= $0.9V_{input}$  allows the calculation of the 10-90% risetime in terms of the time constant

$$t_{10-90\%} = t_{90\%} - t_{10\%} = 2.3\tau - 0.105\tau = 2.195\tau$$

• The frequency response of a 1 pole network is

$$F_{3dB} = \frac{1}{2\pi\tau} \rightarrow \tau = \frac{1}{2\pi F_{3dB}}$$

Substituting into the step response yields

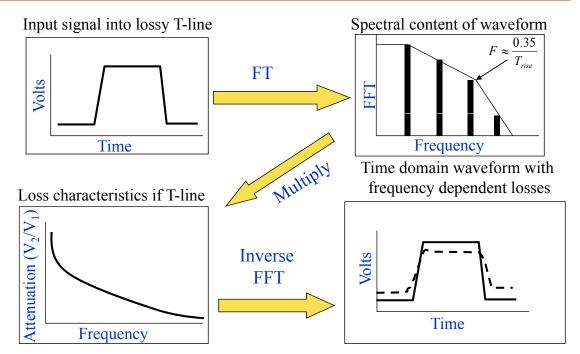
$$t_{10-90\%} = \frac{1.09}{\pi F_{3dB}} = \frac{0.35}{F_{3dB}}$$

RF PCB Design:Lecture-1

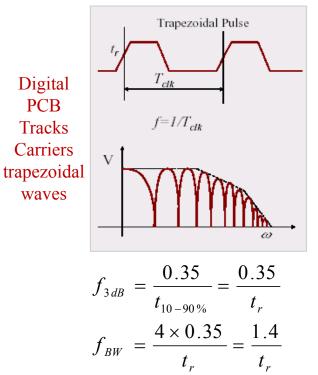
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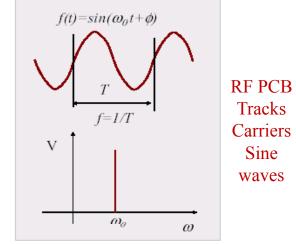
$$t_{10-90\%} = \frac{0.35}{F_{3dB}}$$





## RF vs. Digital PCB: Sine vs. Square





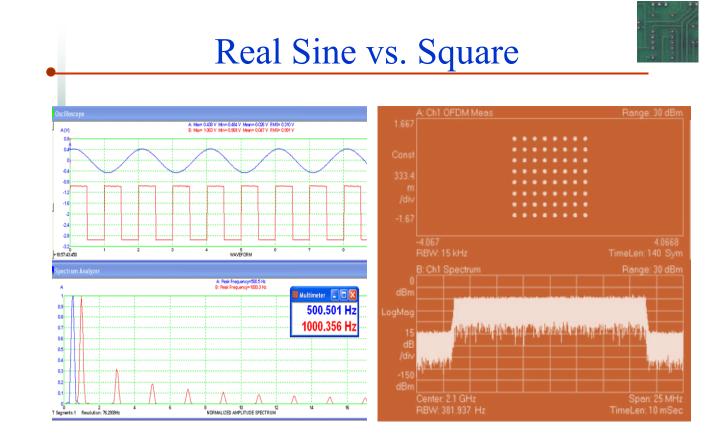
$$f_{BW} = f_{O} + \Delta f \quad or$$
  

$$\omega_{BW} = \omega_{O} + \Delta \omega$$
  

$$\Delta \omega \text{ is BW in case of mutulation}$$

RF PCB Design:Lecture-1

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## PCB Material: Dielectric Constant

- Is measure of how much charge two conductors can hold at a certain fixed voltage. Low Dk hold less charge and high Dk more charge. Its also measure of the ratio of velocity in conductor and free space.
  - High Dk  $\rightarrow$  Small width for same Zo
  - High Dk  $\rightarrow$  Large propagation delay

$$Z_o = \left(\frac{79}{\sqrt{\varepsilon_r + 1.41}}\right) ln \left(\frac{5.98 H}{0.8 W + T}\right) \Omega \quad \text{Valid for 5} < W < 15 \text{ mils}$$

$$C_o = \frac{0.67(\varepsilon_r + 1.41)}{ln \left(\frac{5.98 H}{0.8 W + T}\right)} \quad \text{pf/in.}$$

$$t_{pd} = 1.017 \sqrt{0.475 \varepsilon_r + 0.67} \quad (\text{ns/ft})$$

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#### PCB Material: Loss Tangent

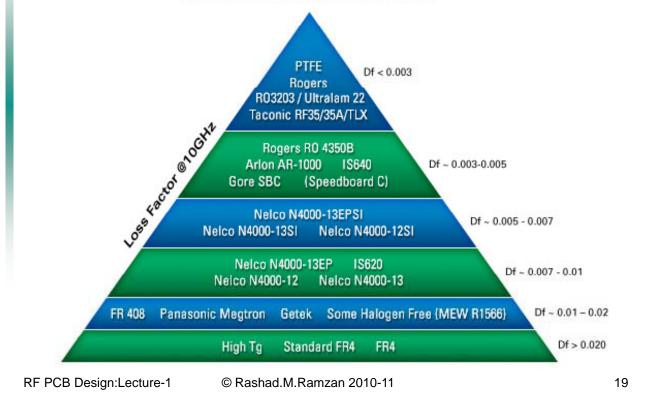
 $\alpha = 2.3 \text{ f } \tan(\delta) \cdot \sqrt{\epsilon \text{ eff}}$ Where :  $\alpha$  - Attenuation in dB / inch. f - Frequency in GHz tan ( $\delta$ ) - Loss tangent of material  $\epsilon \text{ eff}$  - Effective relative Er of material

- Is measure of how much electromagnetic energy is absorbed by dielectric material. Like microwave oven, things that heat up quickly has high loss tangent. Glass and ceramic are low Df materials.
  - Loss is frequency dependent, increases with frequency.
  - Low loss improves signal integrity--- Very Important for RF applications

## RF vs. Digital: PCB Materials







#### RF vs. Digital: PCB Materials

Materials intended for digital applications					
Material	Er (* at 1.0 MHz)	Thickness tolerance	Copper style	Multilayer compatible	Loss tangent
FR4	3.9 - 4.6*	+/- 1-2 mils	ED only	Yes	.0203
FR408	3.4 – 4.1*	+/- 1-2 mils	ED only	Yes	.01015
BT Epoxy	3.9 - 4.6*	+/- 1-2 mils	ED only	Yes	.01502
Cyanate Ester	3.5 - 3.9*	+/- 1-2 mils	ED only	Yes	.009
Polyimide	4.0 - 4.5*	+/- 1-2 mils	ED only	Yes	.01
GETEK	3.5 - 4.2*	+/- 1-2 mils	ED only	Yes	.012
Nelco 4000-13	3.7 (1GHz)	+/- 1 mil	ED only	Yes	.01
Nelco 4000-13SI	3.5 (1GHz)	+/- 1 mil	ED only	Yes	.009
Nelco 6000	3.5 (1GHz)	+/- 1 mil	ED only	Yes	.008
Nelco 6000SI	3.2 (1GHz)	+/- 1 mil	ED only	Yes	.005
Speedboard N	3.0 *	+/- 1 mil	Prepreg	Yes	.02
Speedboard C	2.6 – 2.7*	+/- 1 mil	Prepreg	Yes	.004
Arlon 25 / Rogers 4003	3.4 (10GHz)	+/- 1 mil	ED only	Yes	.0027



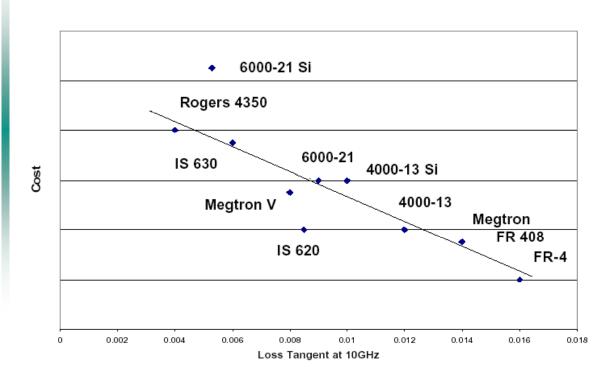
Material	Er (10.0 GHz)	Thickness	Copper	Multilayer	Loss
		tolerance	style	compatible	tangent
Rogers Ultralam 2000	2.4 - 2.6	+/5 mil	ED / rolled	No	.0019
Rogers 5870	2.3	+/5 mil	ED / rolled	No	.0012
Rogers 5880	2.2	+/5 mil	ED / rolled	No	.0009
Rogers 6002	2.94	+/5 mil	ED / rolled	Yes	.0012
Rogers 3003	3.0	+/- 1 mil	ED / rolled	Yes	.0013
Rogers 6006	6.15	+/5 mil	ED / rolled	No	.0019
Rogers 6010	10.2	+/5 mil	ED / rolled	No	.0023
Rogers 3006	6.15	+/- 1 mil	ED / rolled	Yes	.0025
Rogers 3010	10.2	+/- 1 mil	ED / rolled	Yes	.0035

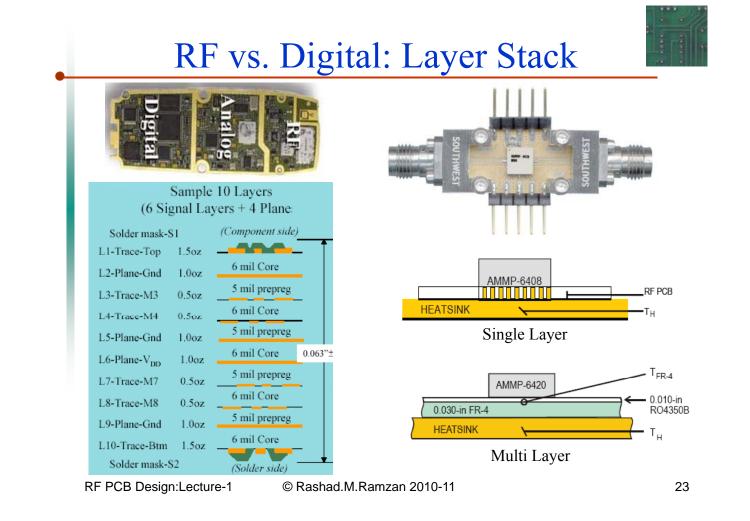
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### RF vs. Digital: PCB Materials





#### RF vs. Digital: $50\Omega$ matching

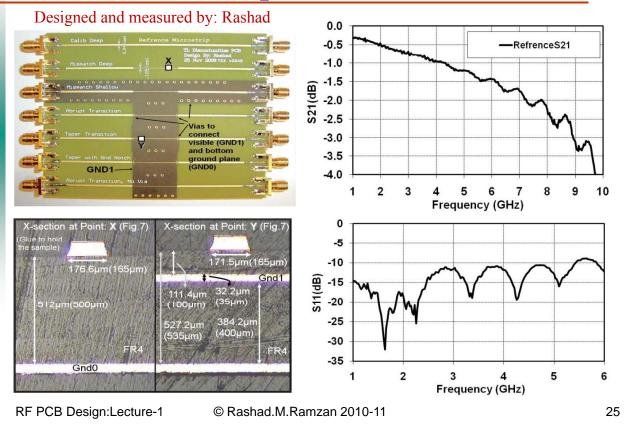
- Digital PCBs
  - Buses and CLK signals are laid out on controlled impedance traces of preferably  $60 \Omega$  and above with no load matching.
    - Reason: although reflections occurs, still we want to use the voltage divider rule and control the reflection by source series terminations
    - We can make the digital IC  $Z_{in} \ge$  (few) K $\Omega$  at frequencies a high as ~800MHz

#### • RF PCBs

- Its always  $50\Omega$  impedance matching
  - We can not make the RF IC  $Z_{in} \ge (few)K\Omega$  at GHz frequencies
  - 3dB (Half RF Power) loss in every connection



#### Microstrips on FR4 PCB

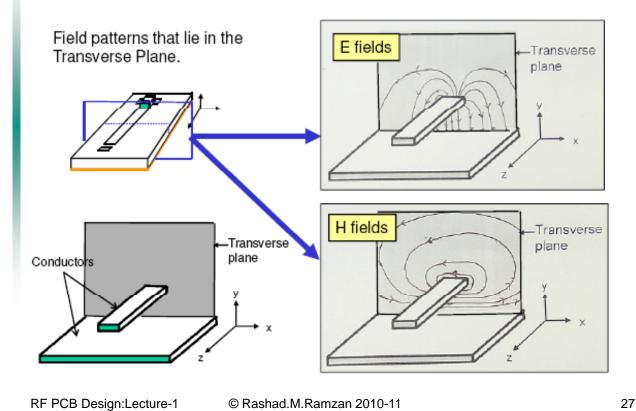




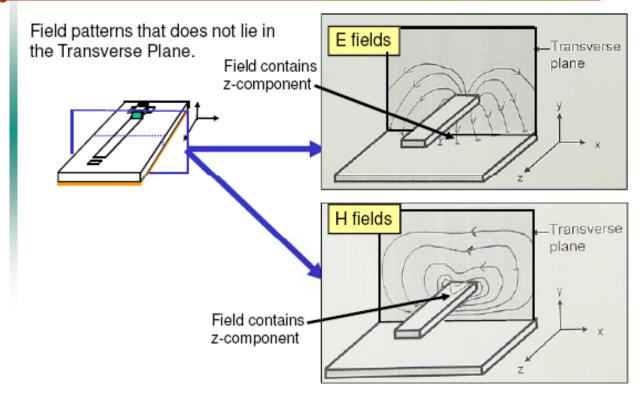
# Propagation in Transmission Lines

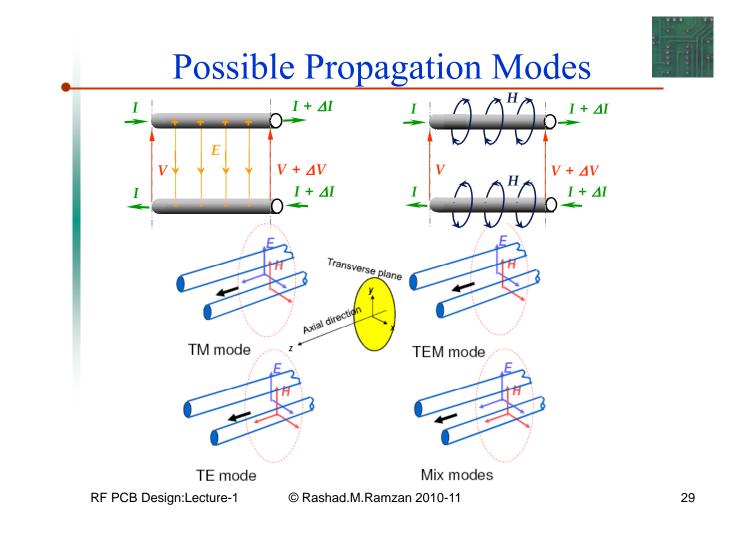
## Transverse E & H Field Pattern





#### Non-transverse E & H Field Pattern





## Why TEM is desirable?

- Cutoff frequency is zero Therefore wideband transmission is possible like co-axial cables
- No dispersion, signals of different frequencies travel at the same speed, no distortion of signals
- <u>Sometime we deliberately want to have a</u> <u>cutoff frequency so that a microwave filter can</u> <u>be designed</u>

## Coaxial Cables -TEM

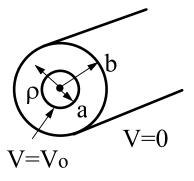


- TEM exists in co-axial cable
- Higher-order modes exist in coaxial line but is usually suppressed
- Dimension of the coaxial line is controlled so that these higher-order modes are cutoff
- Dominate higher-order mode  $TE_{11}$  is mode, the cutoff wavenumber  $(\mathbf{k}_c)$  can only be obtained by solving a transcendental equation, approximate  $\mathbf{k}_c = 2/(a+b)$  is often used in practice

$$H_{y} = \frac{-j}{k_{c}^{2}} \left(\omega \varepsilon \frac{\partial E_{z}}{\partial x} + \beta \frac{\partial H_{z}}{\partial y}\right)$$
$$E_{x} = \frac{-j}{k_{c}^{2}} \left(\beta \frac{\partial E_{z}}{\partial x} + \omega \mu \frac{\partial H_{z}}{\partial y}\right)$$

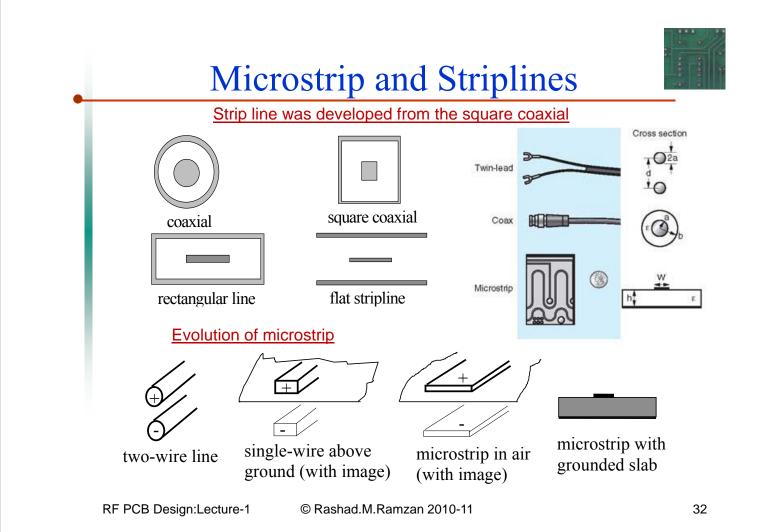
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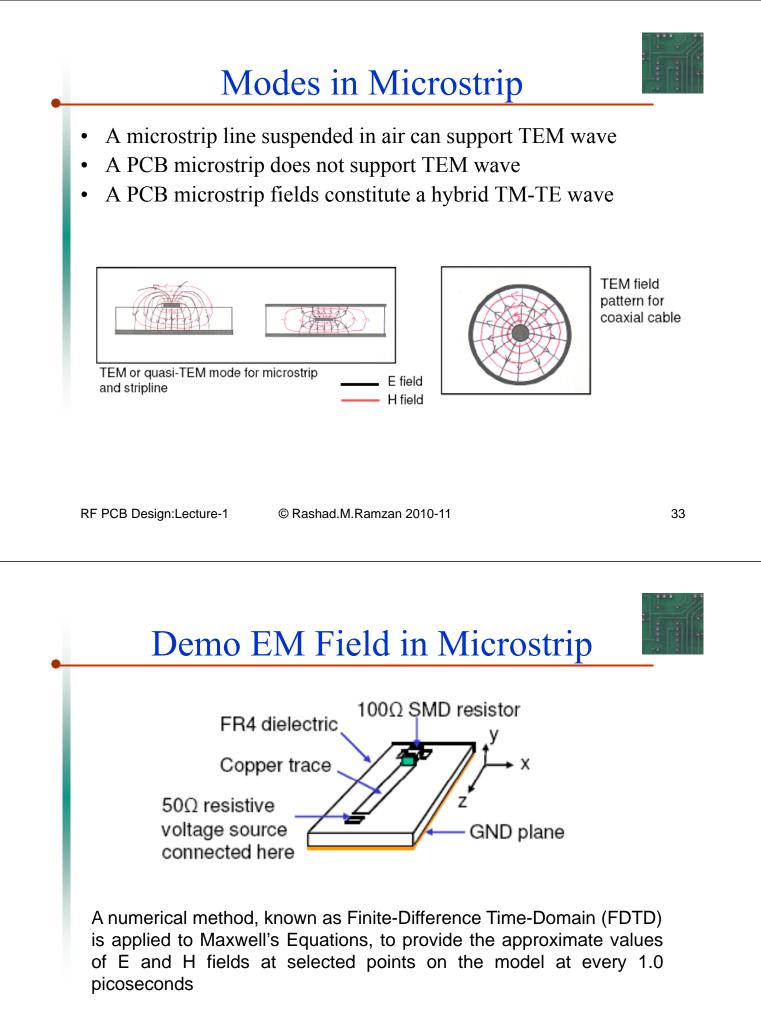
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$$\mathbf{Z}_{TEM} = \frac{\mathbf{E}_{\mathbf{X}}}{\mathbf{H}_{\mathbf{y}}} = \frac{\boldsymbol{\omega}\boldsymbol{\mu}}{\boldsymbol{\beta}} = \sqrt{\frac{\boldsymbol{\mu}}{\boldsymbol{\epsilon}}} = \boldsymbol{\eta}$$

$$\mathbf{Z}_{0} = \frac{\mathbf{V}_{0}}{\mathbf{I}_{a}} = \frac{\eta \ln(b / a)}{2\pi}$$

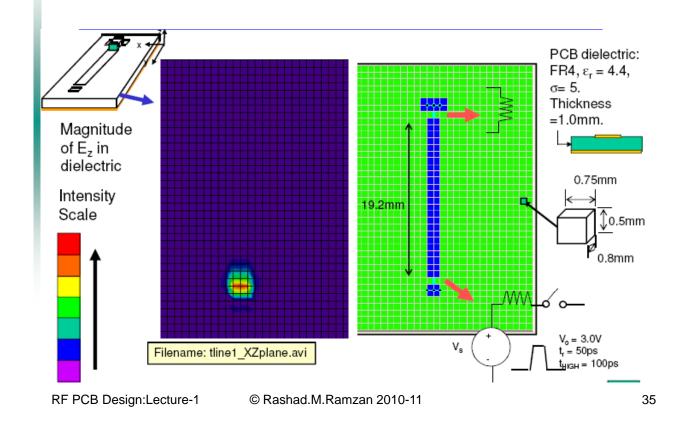




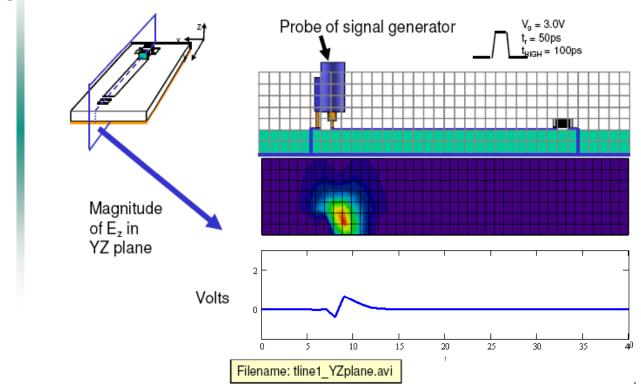
Ref: http://pesona.mmu.edu.my/~wlkung/Phd/phdthesis.htm)



## Magnitude of E<sub>z</sub> in Dielectric



## Magnitude of $E_z$ in YZ Plane



## Comparison: PCB Transmission Lines

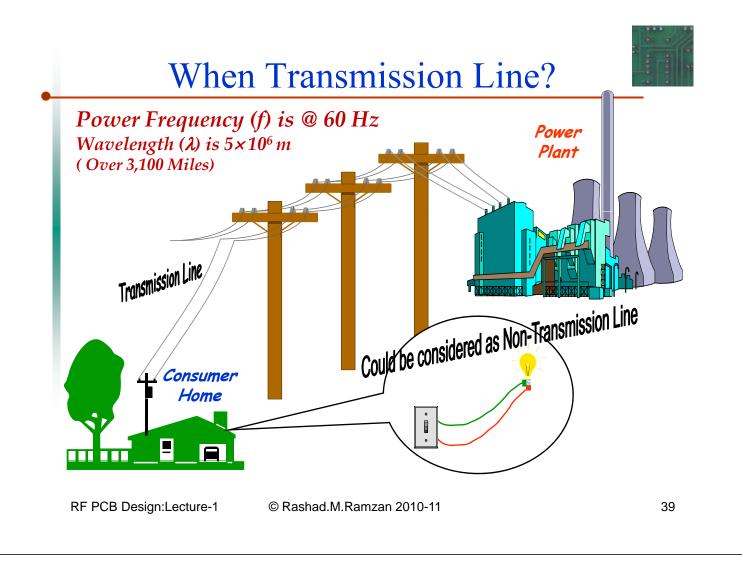
Microstrip line	Stripline	Co-planar line
Suffers from dispersion and non-TEM modes	Pure TEM mode	Suffers from dispersion and non-TEM modes
Easy to fabricate	Difficult to fabricate	Fairly difficult to fabricate
High density trace	Mid density trace	Low density trace
Fair for coupled line structures	Good for coupled line structures	Not suitable for coupled line structures
Need through holes to connect to ground	Need through holes to connect to ground	No through hole required to connect to ground

RF PCB Design:Lecture-1

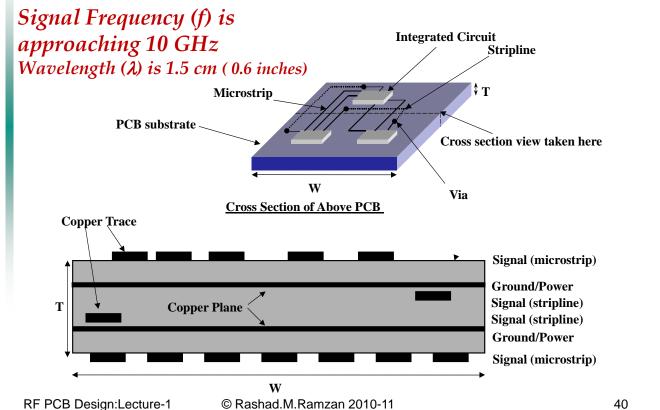
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## Impedance Matching



#### **PCB** Transmission Lines?



## When Transmission Lines in RF PCB

$$t_{of} > 0.5t_{rise} \quad For \; squrewave \quad (Digital \; PCBs)$$

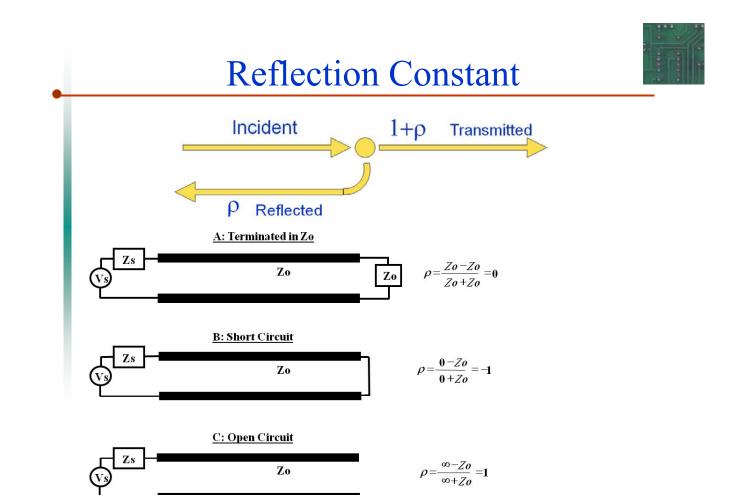
$$where \; t_{of} = \frac{length}{Phase \; Velocity}, called \; time \; of \; flight$$

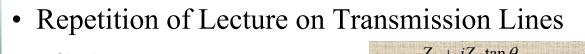
$$l_{trans-line} > \frac{\lambda}{10} \; (For \; Sine \; in \; Digital \; PCBs)$$

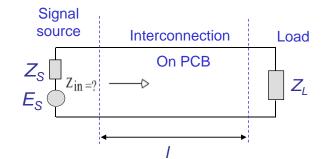
$$l_{trans-line} > \frac{\lambda}{20} \; (For \; RF \; PCBs)$$

- In Digital PCBs we treat the signal in voltage & use voltage divisor rules
- In RF we deal with RF power, not the voltage & current, then the reflection becomes important

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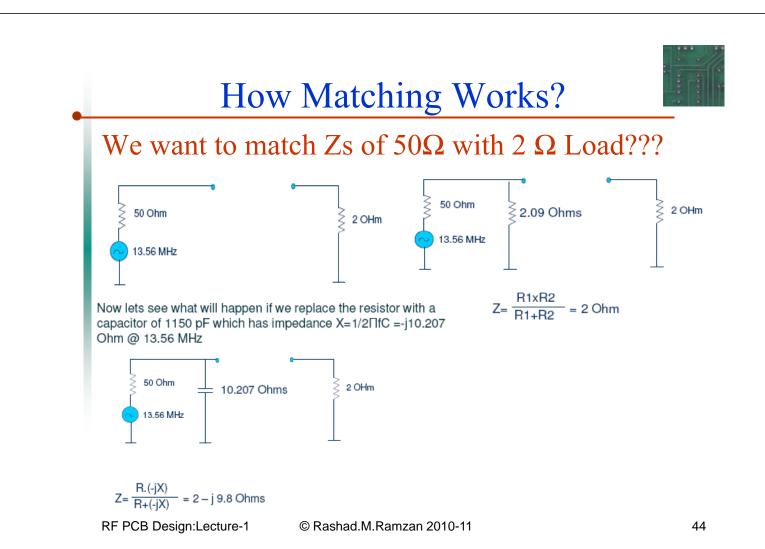


• When matched  $Z_0 = Z_L$  then  $Z_{in}$  is not dependent upon length of line.

Z	$Z = Z_0 \frac{Z_L}{Z_0}$	$+ jZ_0 \tan \theta$ + $jZ_1 \tan \theta$	(1)
ZL	l/x	0	
4	1/6	60 °	-28.87j
0	1/6	60 °	86-6 j
$\propto$	1/4	90 .	0
0	1/4	90.	$\sim$
œ	1/2	180°	$\propto$
0	1/2	180*	6
$\propto$	1/3	120°	2.8·87j°
0	1/3	120'	-86.60 j°

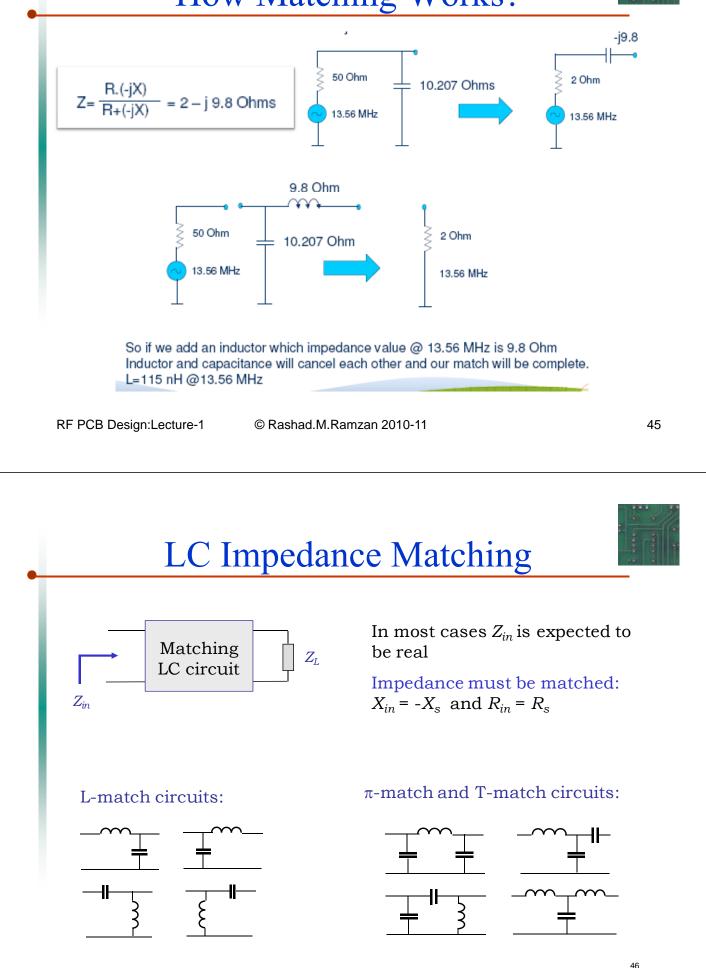
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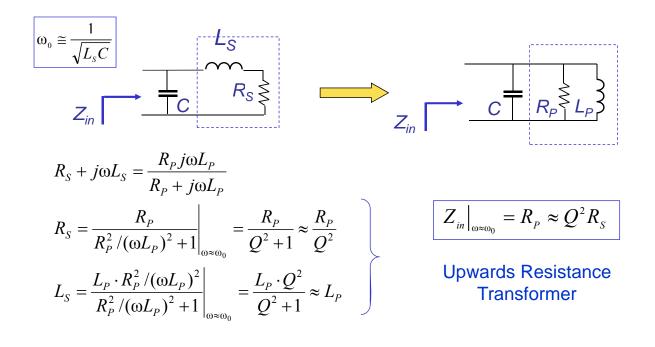


## How Matching Works?





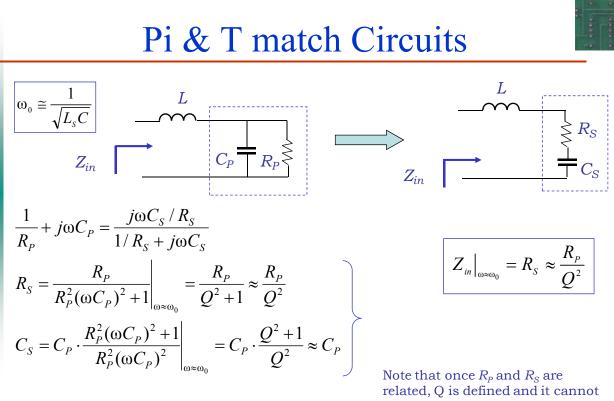
#### Narrow Band Transformation



**RF PCB Design:Lecture-1** 

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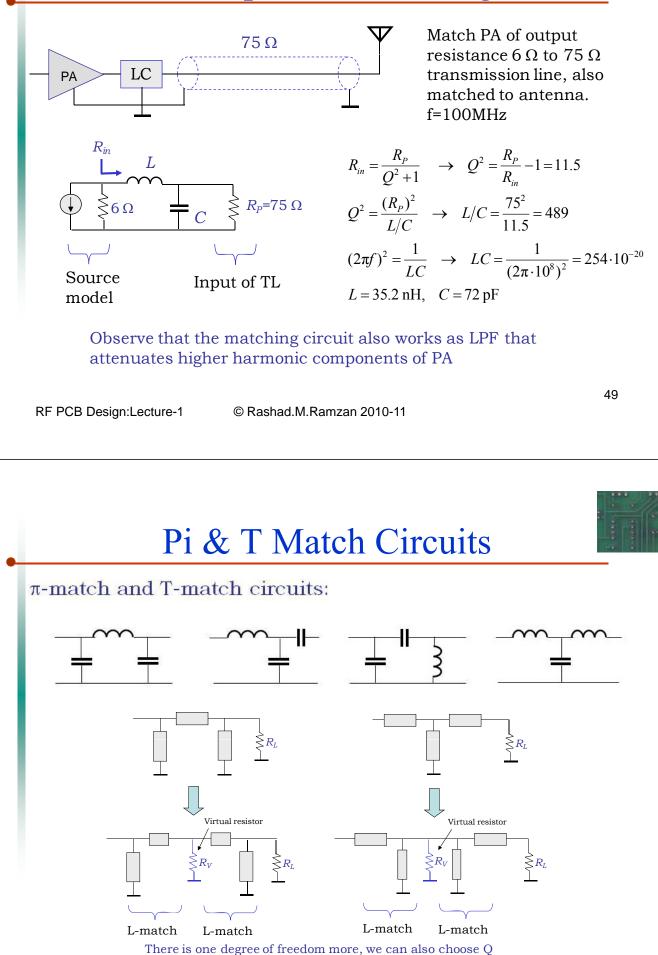
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As  $C_{\rm S} \approx C$  the equivalent circuit has also a resonance at  $\omega_0$ 

be improved by those simple Lmatch circuits

### Example LC Matching

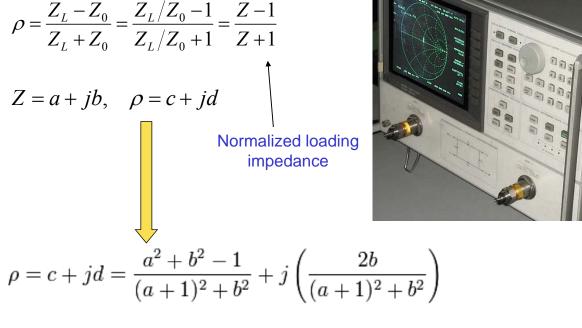


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#### Smith charts revisited

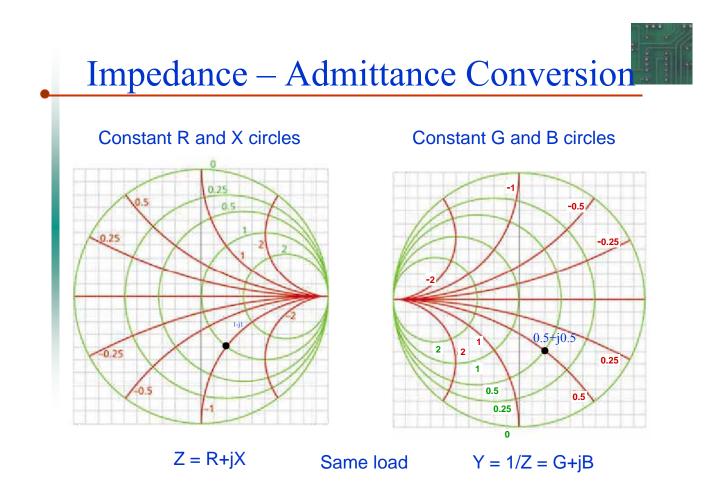




RF PCB Design:Lecture-1

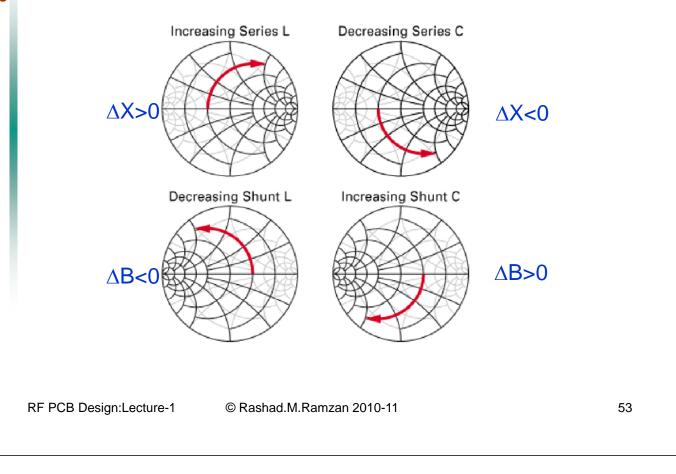
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## Modifying Admittance or Impedance



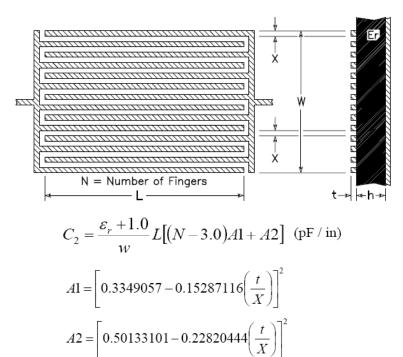
## Impedance Matching: Smith Chart

- Show the Simulation of the Impedance matching.....You can also see these simulation at....
- http://www.amanogawa.com/archive/transmissionA.html



## µ-wave Components



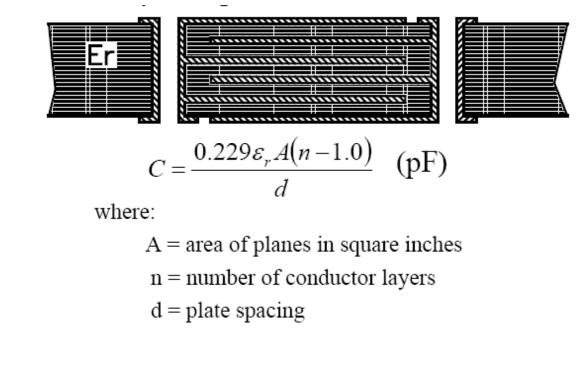


(Equation valid for h>w/N)

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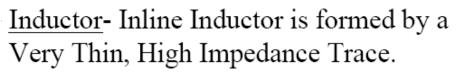
57

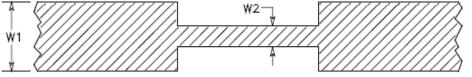


RF PCB Design:Lecture-1

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#### μ-wave Inductor





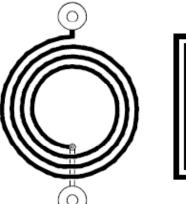
◇Length Must be Shorter than Critical Length to Prevent Reflections. <u>Can Remove Plane(s)</u> <u>to Boost Inductance.</u>

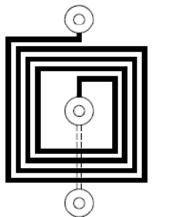
◇L = Zo<sup>2</sup> x C or Tpd x Zo (Many Equations available. This is Extremely Accurate.)

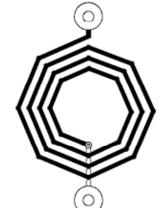
#### µ-wave Inductors



<u>Spiral Inductors</u> -



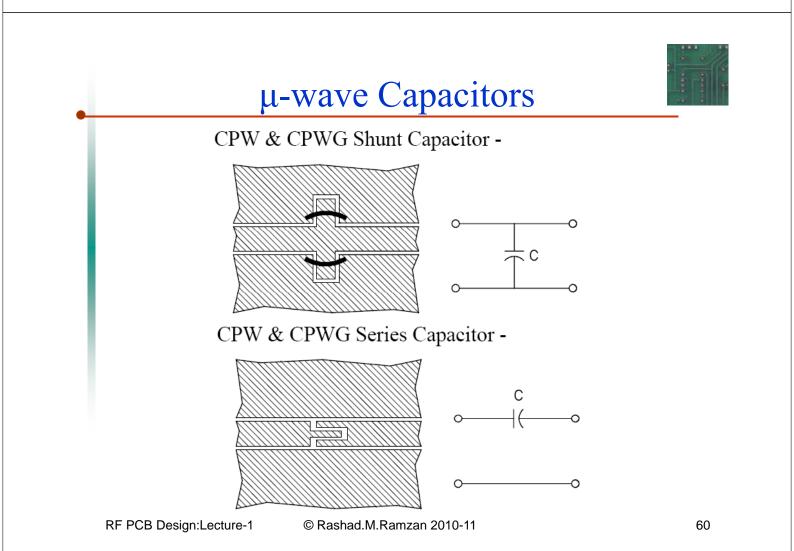


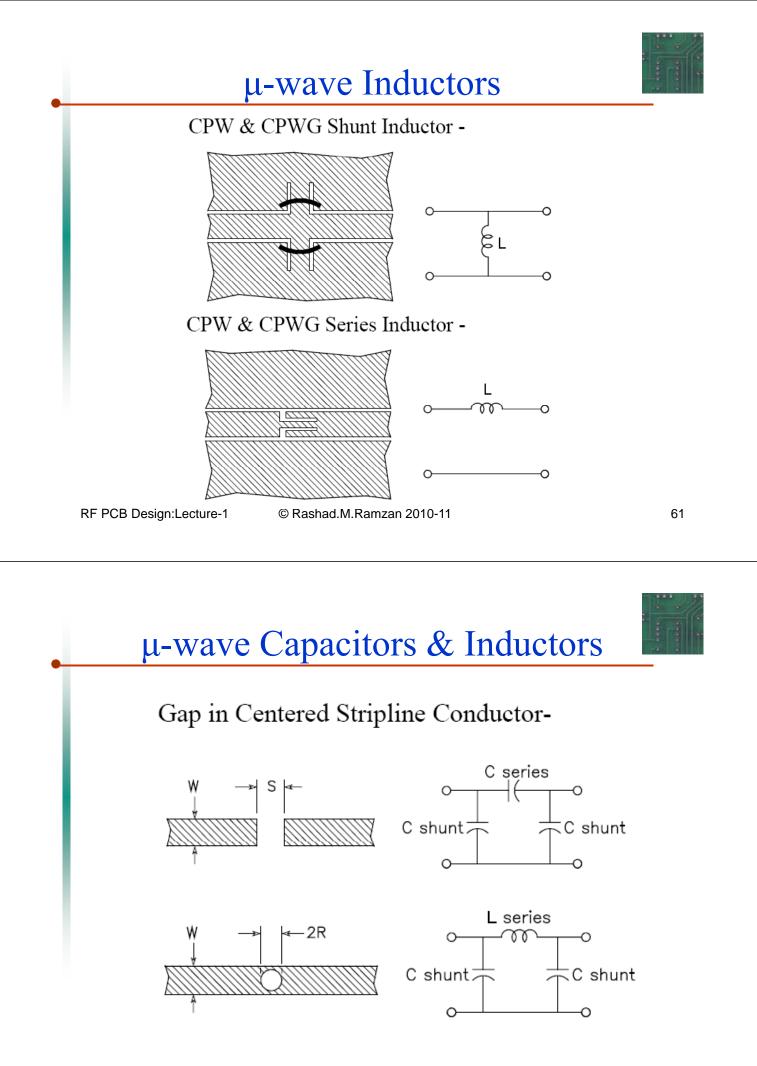


(Equations in Wadell- Pages 392-406)

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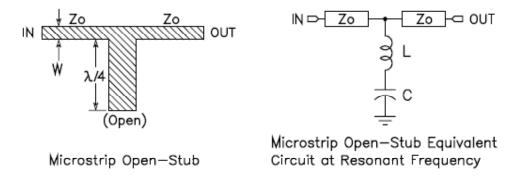
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### μ-wave Capacitors & Inductors

- +  $\lambda/4$  Stub is Series Resonant Circuit at Frequency.
- Circuit Shorts to Ground at  $\lambda/4$ ,  $3/4\lambda$ , etc.
- Open Circuit at DC,  $\lambda/2$ ,  $\lambda$ , etc.



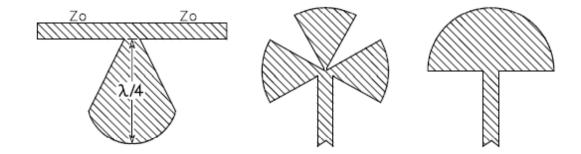
◆ 2W Wide for High Q and to Prevent Reflections.

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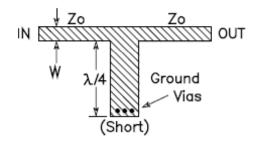
#### μ-wave Capacitors & Inductors

- Open Stubs (one just shown) have Narrow Frequency Over which they Short to Ground.
- ✦ Flaring the Stub Increases Frequency Response.

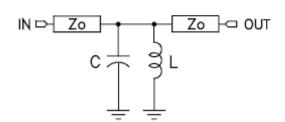


#### μ-wave Capacitors & Inductors

- λ/4 Stub, Shorted to Ground, is Parallel Resonant Filter at Frequency of Interest.
- Circuit Shorts to Ground at DC, λ/2, λ, etc.
- Open Circuit at  $\lambda/4$ ,  $3/4 \lambda$ , etc.



Microstrip Shorted-Stub



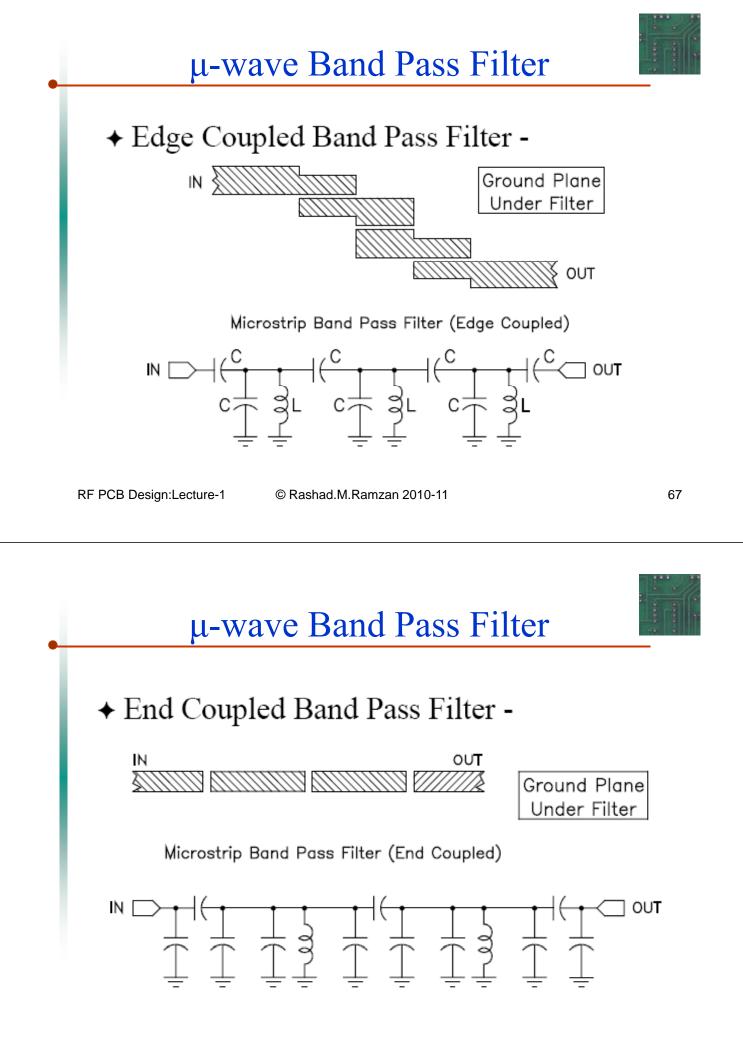
Microstrip Shorted—Stub Equivalent Circuit at Resonant Frequency

RF PCB Design:Lecture-1

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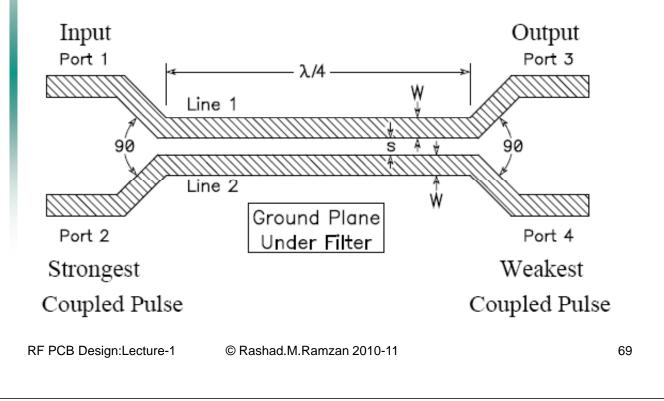
+ Low Pass Filter -  

$$\sqrt{20}$$
  $\sqrt{20}$   $\sqrt{20}$ 





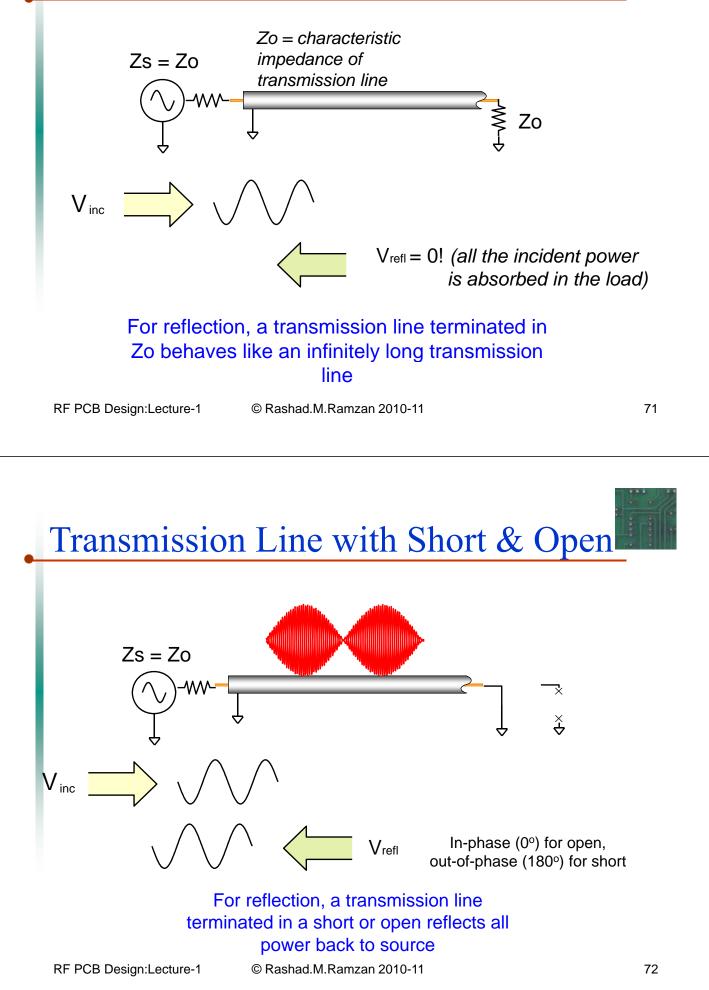
#### + Directional Coupler -

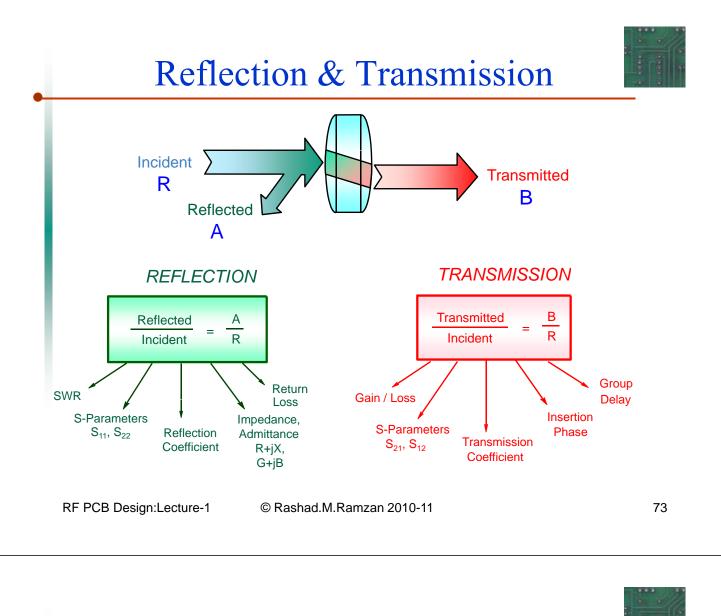




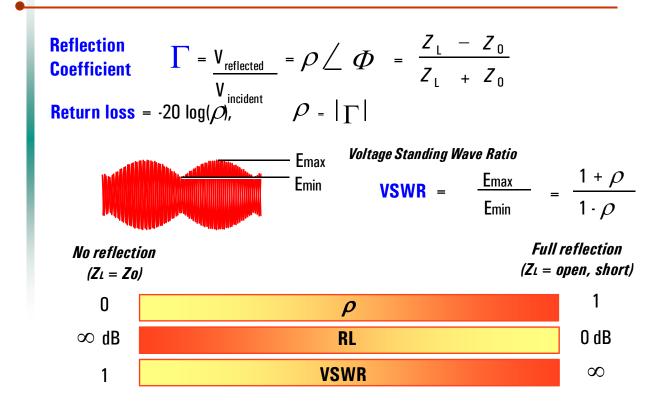
## **S-Parameters**

## Transmission Line Terminated with Zo





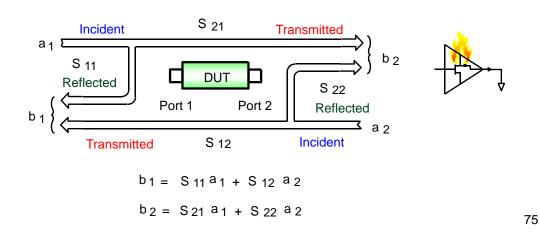




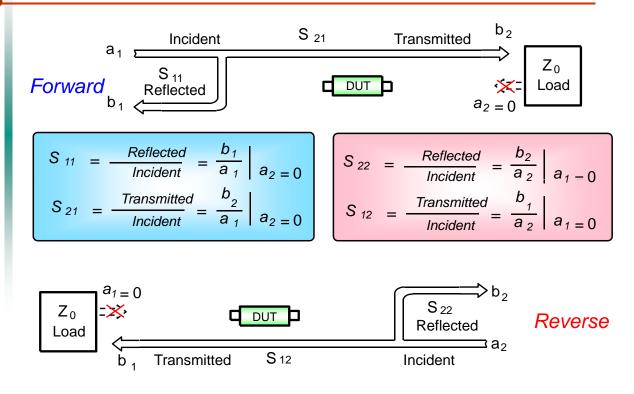
## Why S-Parameters?



- Relatively easy to obtain at high frequencies
  - Measure voltage traveling waves with a vector network analyzer
  - Don't need shorts/opens which can cause active devices to oscillate or self-destruct
- Relate to familiar measurements (gain, loss, reflection coefficient ...)
- Can cascade S-parameters of multiple devices to predict system
   performance
- Can compute H, Y, or Z parameters from S-parameters if desired



#### Measuring S-Parameters?





- Objective of Module-2
- Basic of Transmission Line
- Smith Chart
- Matching
- S-Parameters

RF PCB Design:Lecture-1

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