

ECE 145A / 218 C, notes set 1: Transmission Line Properties and Analysis

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Transmission Line Analysis

Geometries

Characteristic Impedances

Time Domain Analysis

Lattice Diagrams

Frequency Domain analysis

Reflection coefficients

Movement of Reference Plane

Impedance vs Position

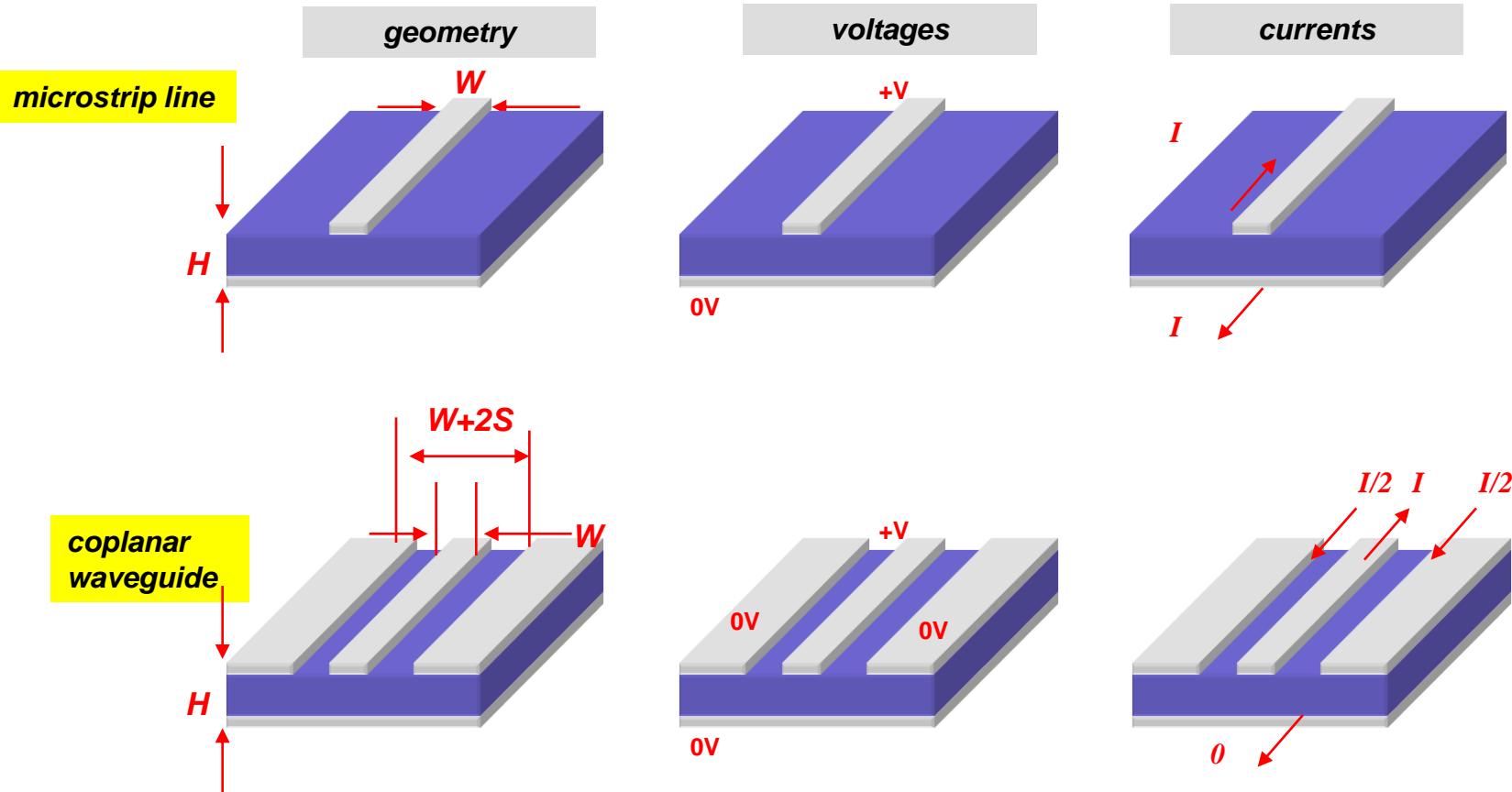
Smith Chart

Standing Waves

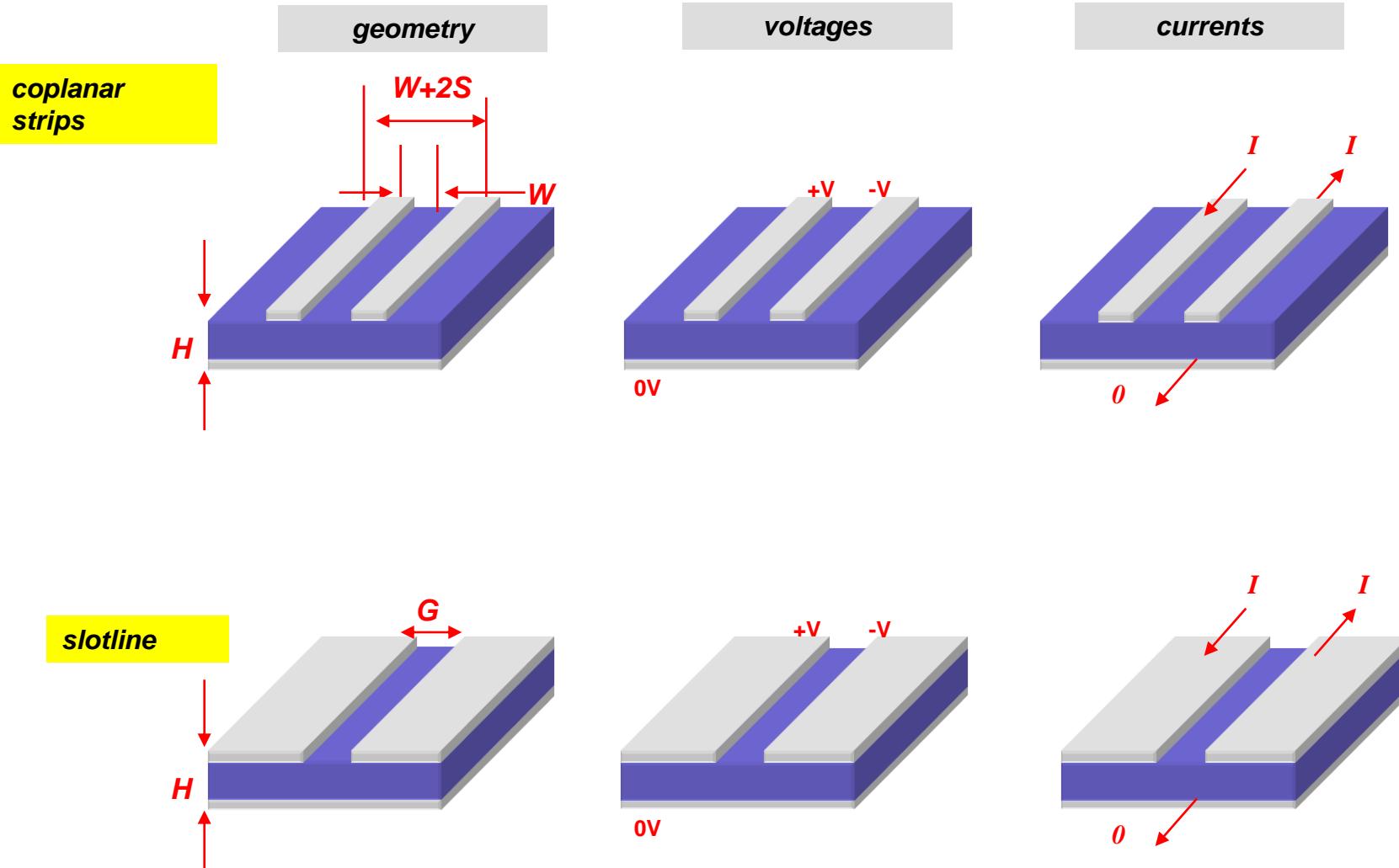
Solving wave equations quickly

types of transmission lines

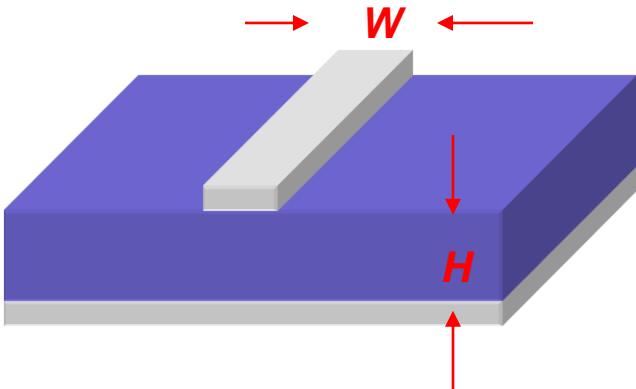
Transmission Lines for On-Wafer Wiring



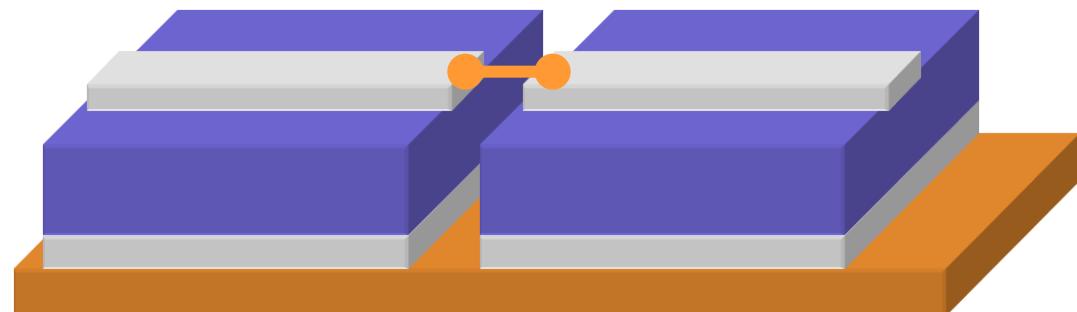
Transmission Lines for On-Wafer Wiring



Substrate Microstrip Line

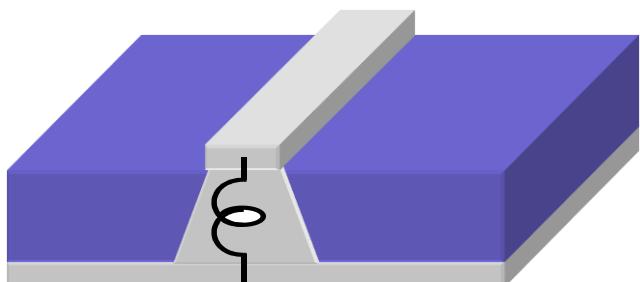


Dominant Transmission medium in III-V microwave & mm-wave ICs



Key advantage: IC interconnects have very low ground-lead inductance

Ground-lead inductance:
-leads to ground-bounce
-is Miller-multiplied by IC gain



Key problems:
through-wafer grounding holes (vias)
coupling to TM modes in substrate

Via inductance forces progressively thinner wafers at higher frequencies.

basic theory

L, C, Zo, velocity, Gamma

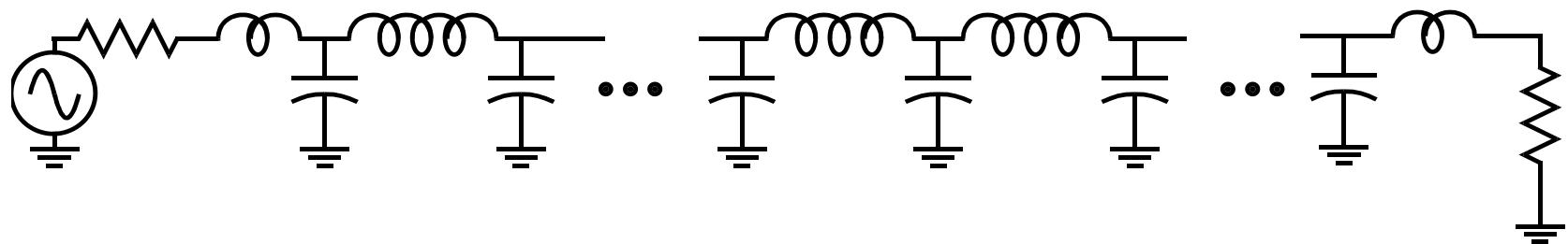
Transmission Lines

A pair of wires with ***regular spacing, dielectric loading*** along the length.

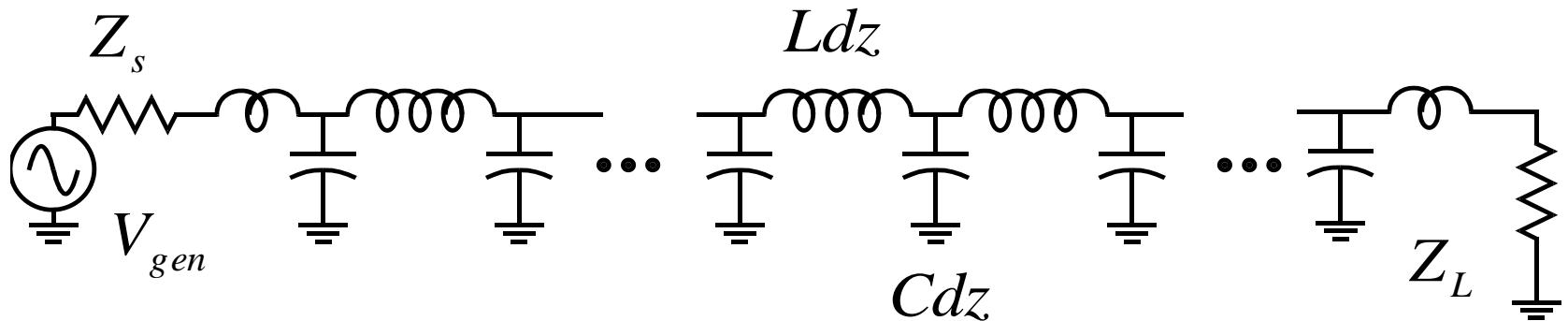
These have inductance per unit length and capacitance per unit length.

Forward and reverse waves propagate.

Reflections will occur if lines are not correctly terminated



Transmission Lines: Basic Theory



From basic nodal analysis of line :

$$(dV / dz) = -L(dI / dt) \quad \text{and}$$

$$(dI / dz) = -C(dV / dt) \quad \text{from which we find}$$

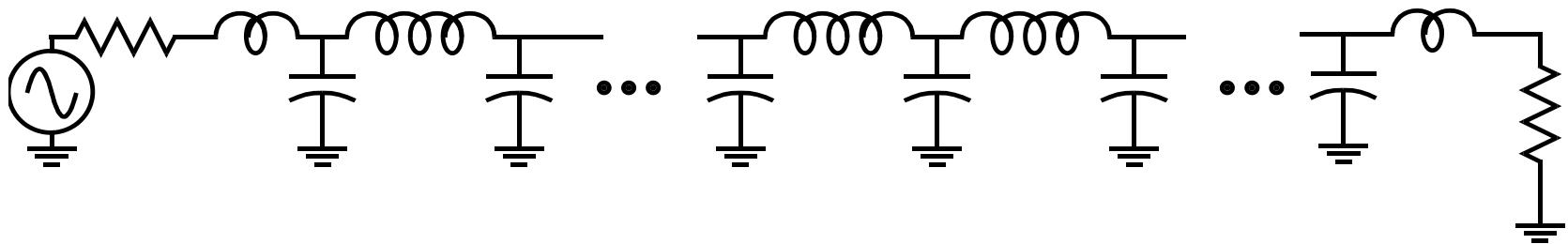
$$V(z, t) = V^+(t - z/v) + V^-(t + z/v)$$

$$I(z, t) = \frac{V^+(t - z/v)}{Z_o} - \frac{V^-(t + z/v)}{Z_o}$$

where

$$Z_o = \sqrt{L/C} \quad \text{and} \quad v = 1/\sqrt{LC}$$

Forward and Reverse Waves



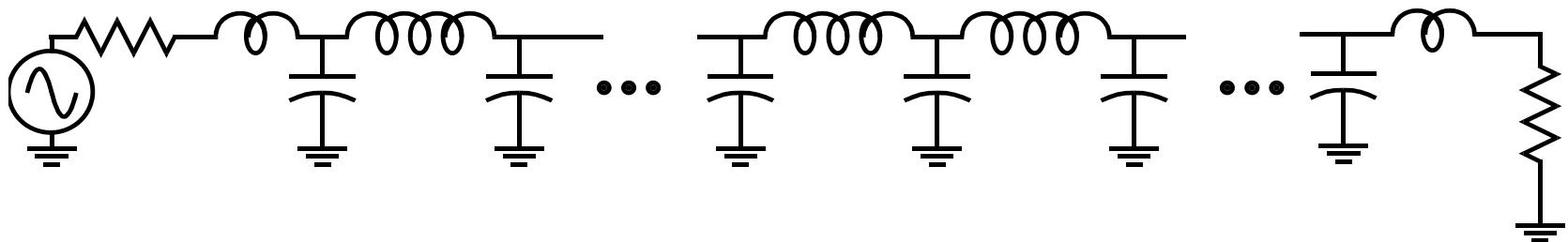
$V^+(t - z/v)$ voltage in forward wave

$+V^-(t + z/v)$ voltage in reverse wave

$\frac{V^+(t - z/v)}{Z_o}$ current in forward wave

$-\frac{V^-(t + z/v)}{Z_o}$ current in reverse wave

Velocity and Characteristic Impedance



$$Z_o = \sqrt{L/C} \quad \text{and} \quad v = 1/\sqrt{LC}$$

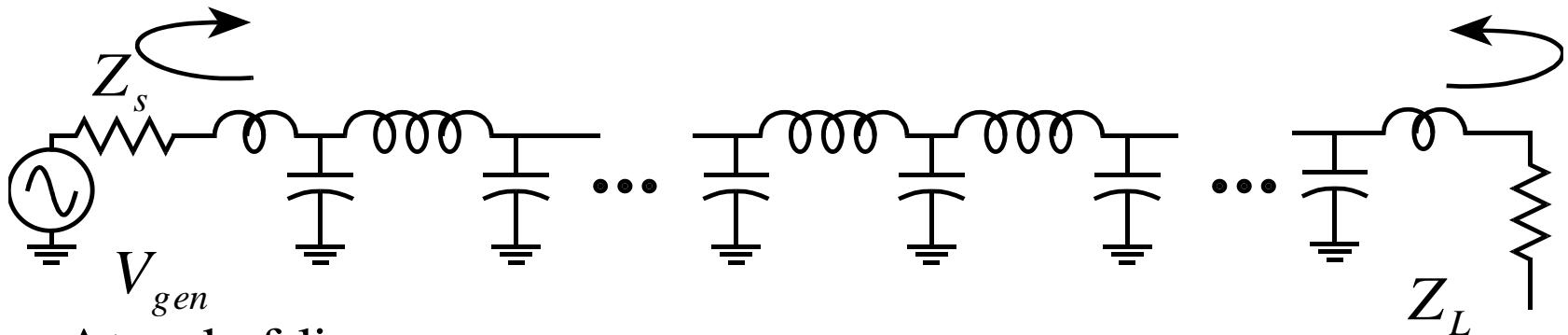
L and C are here quantities per unit length.

$$v = c / \sqrt{\epsilon_{r,eff}}$$

where c is the speed of light and

$\epsilon_{r,eff}$ is the effective dielectric constant of the line

Reflections



At end of line :

$$V^- = \Gamma_l V^+ \text{ where } \Gamma_l = \frac{(Z_l/Z_o) - 1}{(Z_l/Z_o) + 1}$$

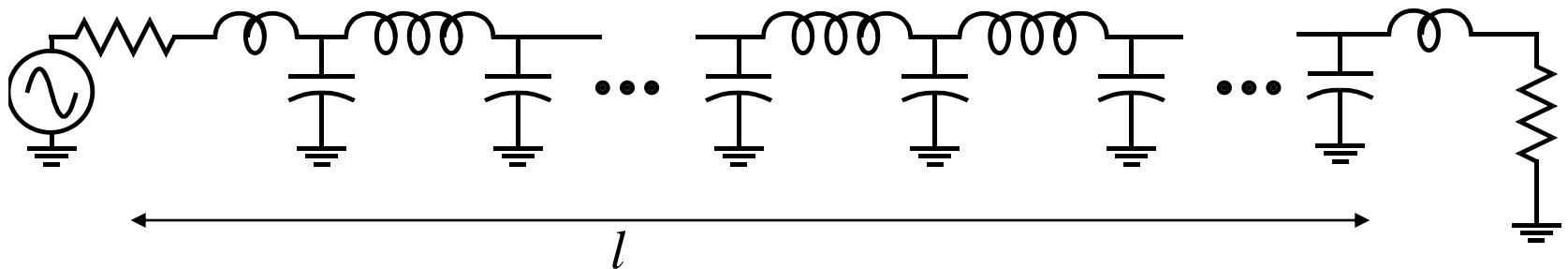
At beginning of line :

$$V^+ = \Gamma_s V^- + T_s V_{gen} \text{ where } \Gamma_s = \frac{(Z_s/Z_o) - 1}{(Z_s/Z_o) + 1}$$

$$\text{and } T_s = \frac{Z_o}{Z_o + Z_s}$$

Need good terminations to prevent line reflections and ringing

Total inductance & capacitance in a length of line



If total line length is l_{length}

Then total capacitance in that length is

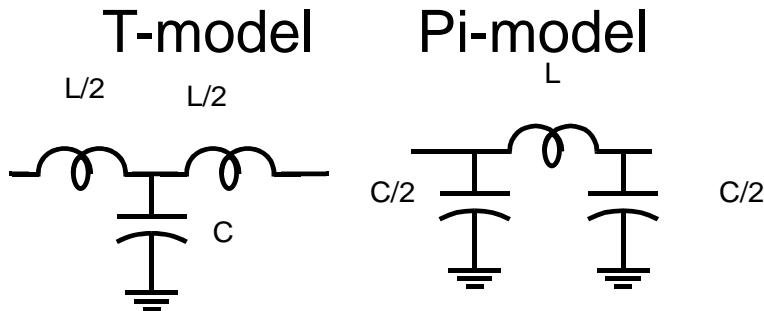
$$C_{length} = \frac{\tau}{Z_o}$$

and total inductance in that length is

$$L_{length} = \tau Z_o$$

where $\tau = l_{length}/v$ = "speed of light delay" on the line

Lumped models of very short transmission lines



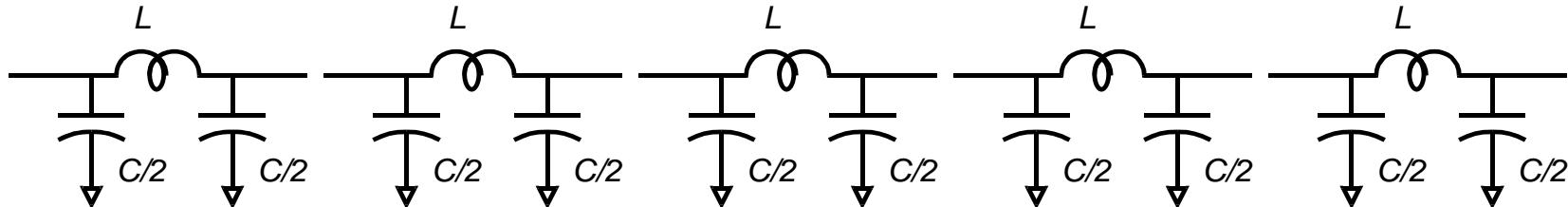
If total line length l_{length} is much less than a wavelength or total line delay $\tau = l_{length}/v$ is much less than $1/f_{signal}$ or total line delay τ is much less than pulse risetime then the line can be approximated as a T or π section

$$C_{length} = \frac{\tau}{Z_o}$$

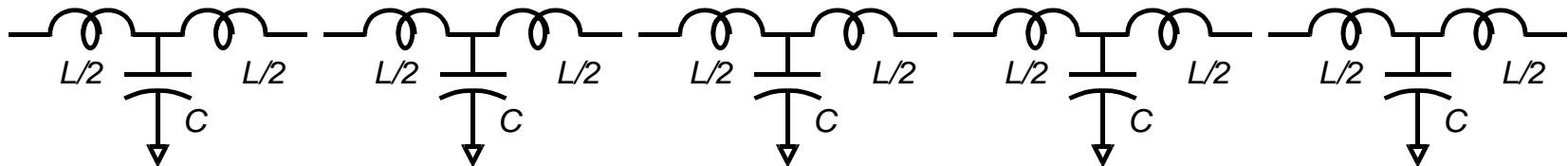
$$L_{length} = \tau Z_o$$

Ladder models of moderately short transmission lines

Pi-model synthesis



T-model synthesis



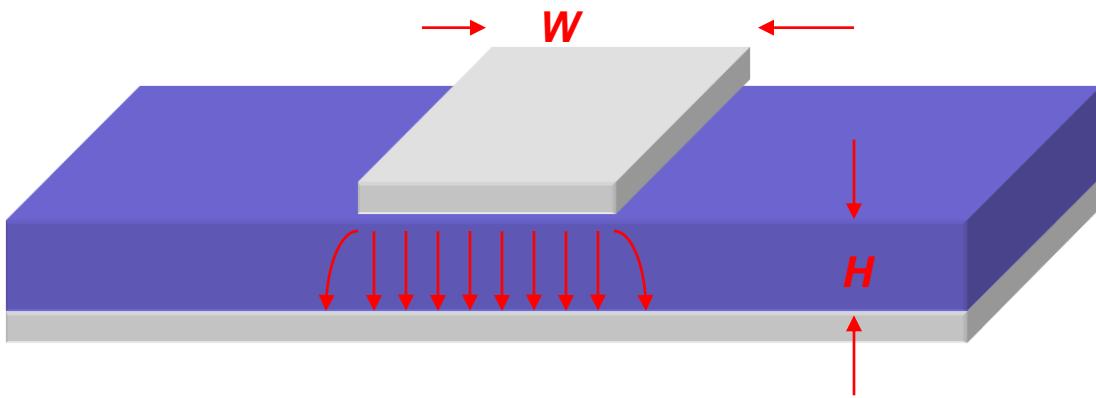
Clearly, we can break a line of any length into sections of length l_{line} such that $\tau_{line} = l_{line} / v$ is much less than a signal period.

In this fashion a transmission - line can be modelled by an LC filter.

This is a frequent substitution in circuit simulations

Microstrip Lines

Microstrip Line: Approximate Properties (1)



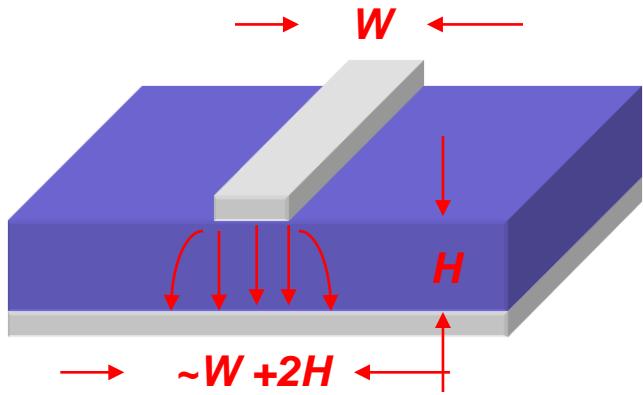
Wide line \rightarrow field mostly in dielectric. This gives :

$$v = c / \epsilon_r^{1/2}, \text{ where } c = 1 / \sqrt{\mu \epsilon} \text{ is the speed of light}$$

$$Z_0 = \eta_0 H / \epsilon_r^{1/2} W, \text{ where } \eta_0 = \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{\epsilon}} \text{ is the free space wave impedance}$$

(note: wide lines have problems)

Microstrip Line: Approximate Properties (2)



If the line is narrower, hand analysis is only approximate
Effective width $\approx W + 2H$

$$Z_0 \approx \eta_0 H / \epsilon_r^{1/2} (W + 2H) \text{ only very approximately}$$

$$v = c / \epsilon_{r,eff}^{1/2}$$

$\epsilon_{r,eff}$ lies somewhere between that of air and of the dielectric,
depending upon what proportion of the field is in air.

Lines in Time Domain

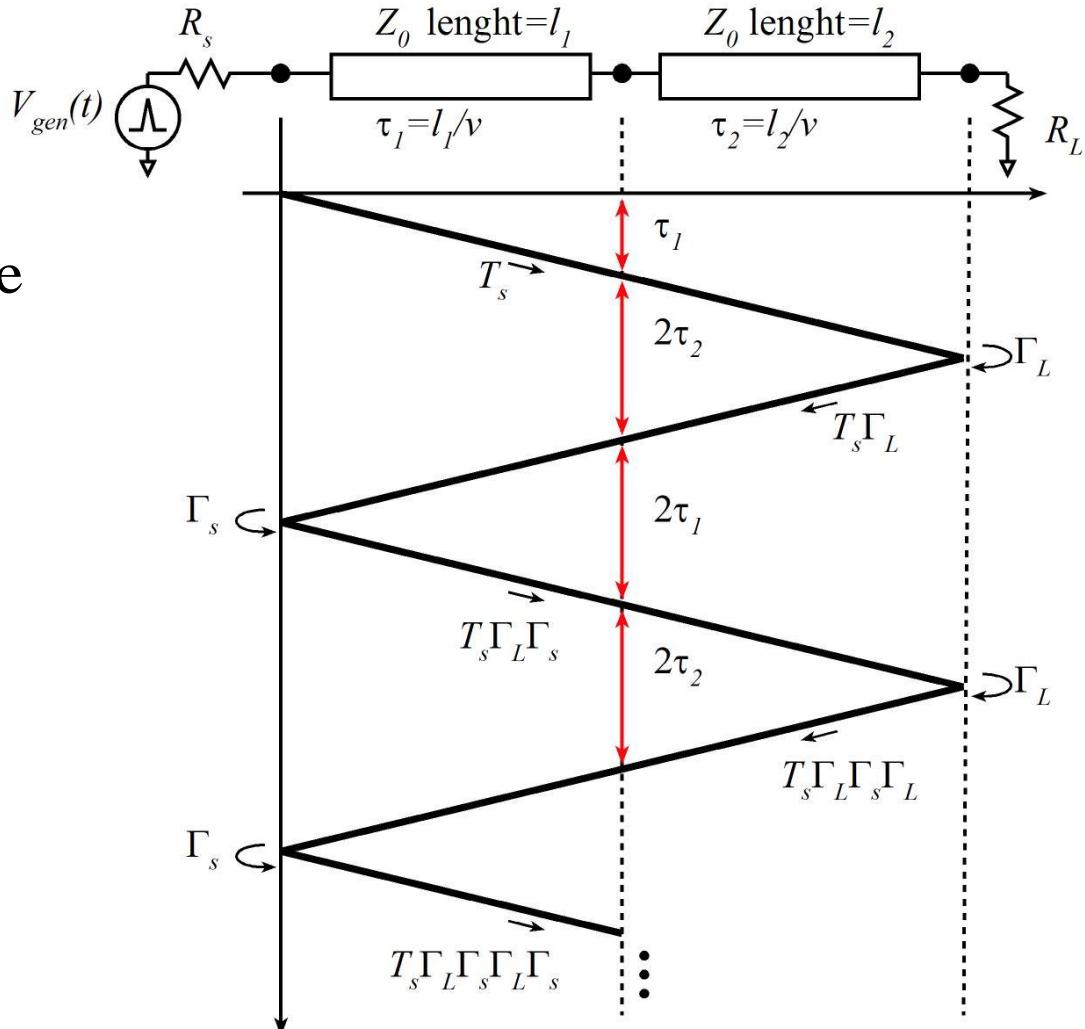
Lattice Diagrams = Echo Diagrams

First :

Analyze for impulse response

Then :

Use convolution to find
general response.



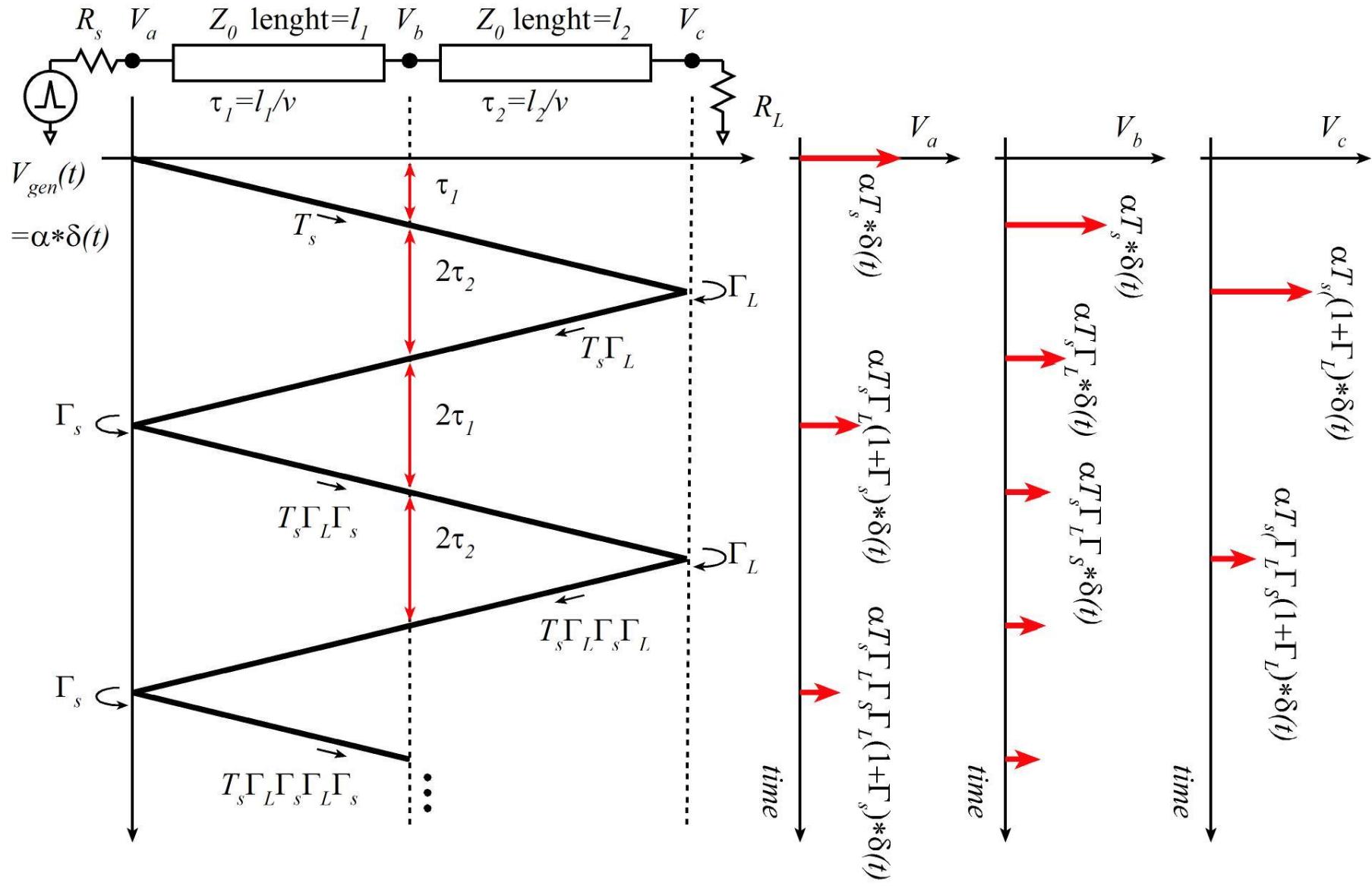
Recall : At end of line :

$$V^- = \Gamma_L V^+ \text{ where } \Gamma_L = \frac{(R_L/Z_o) - 1}{(R_L/Z_o) + 1}$$

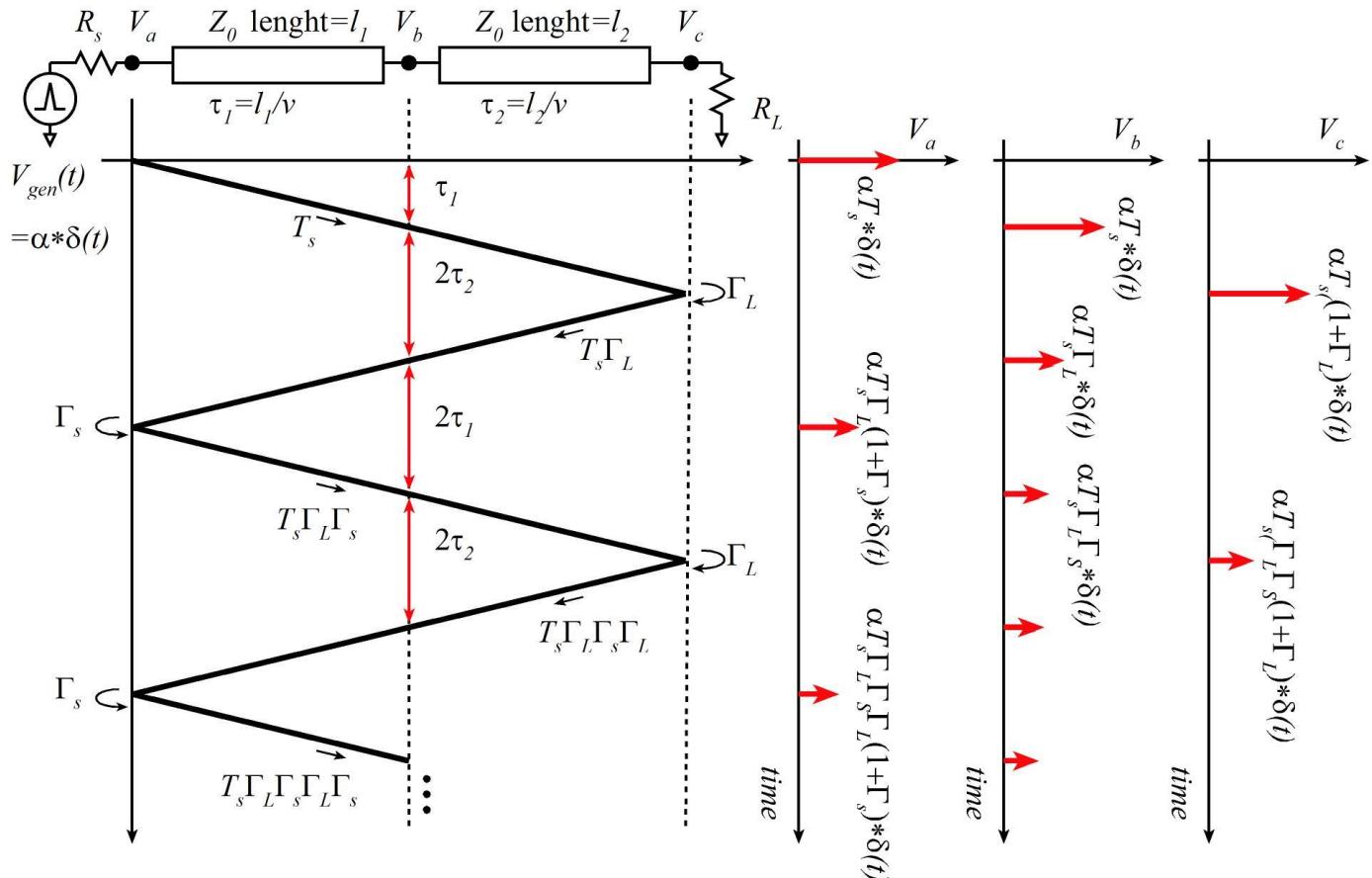
At beginning of line :

$$V^+ = \Gamma_s V^- + T_s V_{gen} \text{ where } \Gamma_s = \frac{(R_s/Z_o) - 1}{(R_s/Z_o) + 1} \text{ and } T_s = \frac{Z_o}{Z_o + R_s}$$

Lattice Diagrams = Echo Diagrams



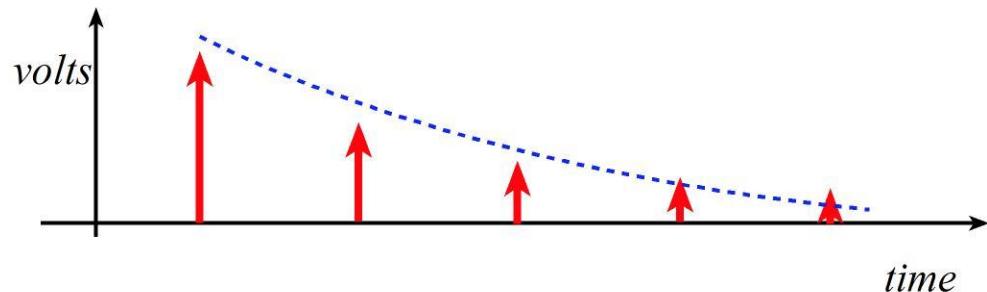
Lattice Diagrams = Echo Diagrams



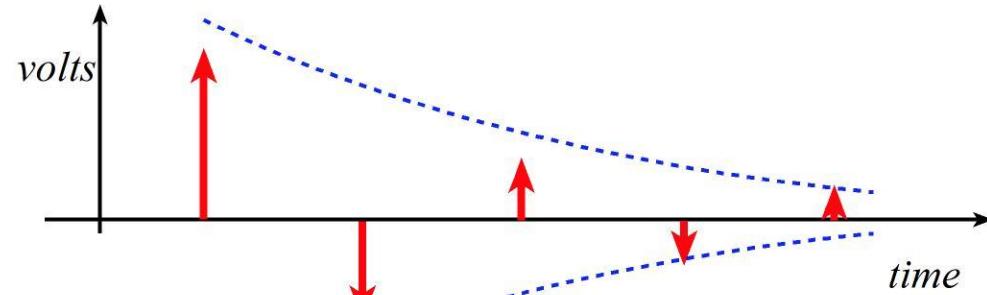
Now please consider how the waveforms would change if the generator were a step-function.

Repeated Reflections → Ringing or Exponential Decay

If $\Gamma_L \Gamma_s$ is positive,
pulse responses decay
geometrically (exponentially)

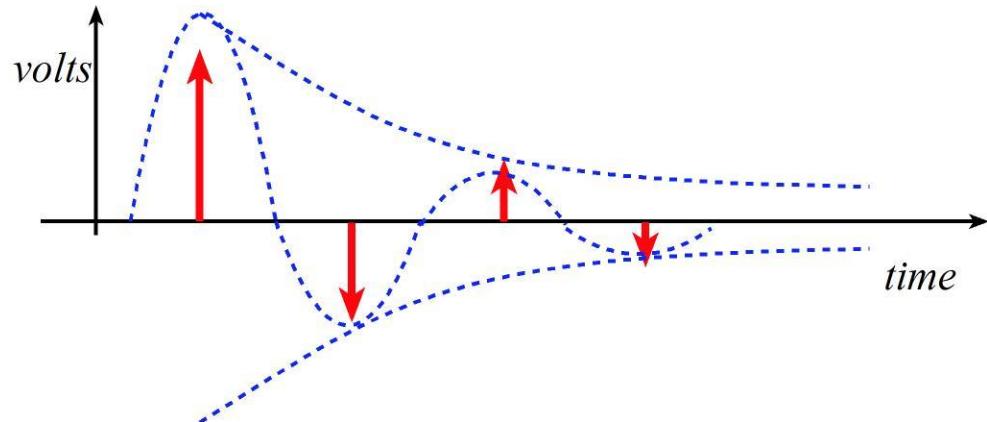


If $\Gamma_L \Gamma_s$ is negative,
pulse responses also
alternate in sign --ringing.

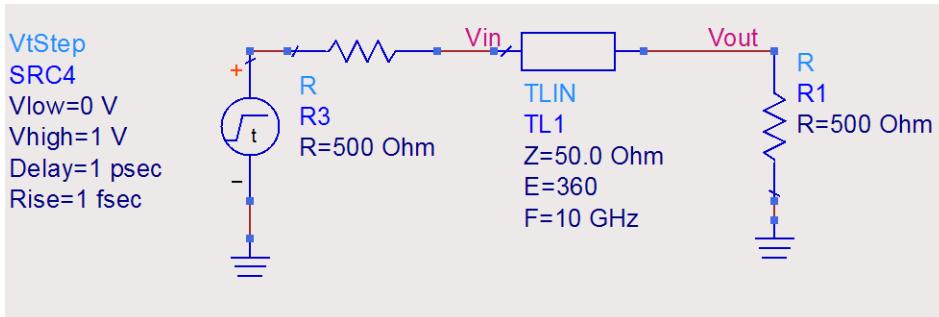


Behavior appears very
close to RLC ringing.

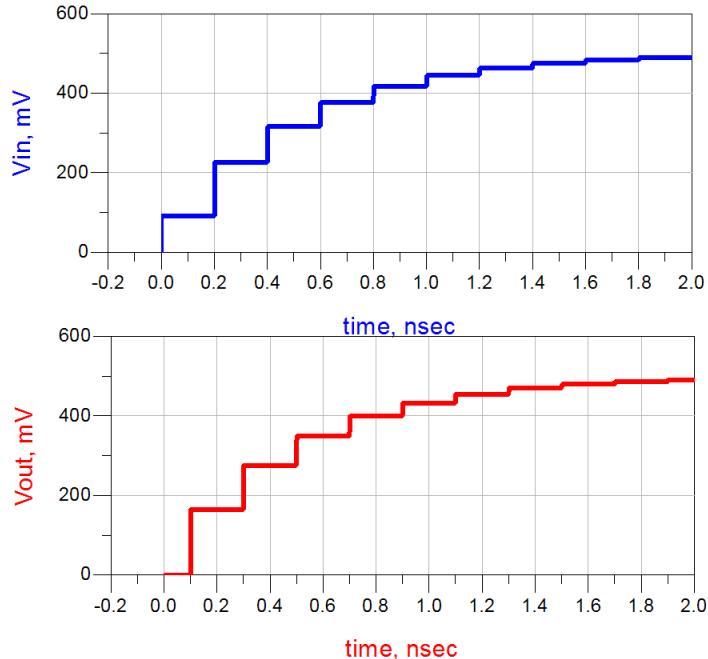
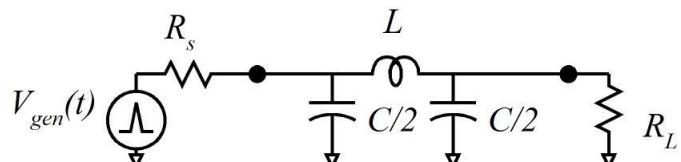
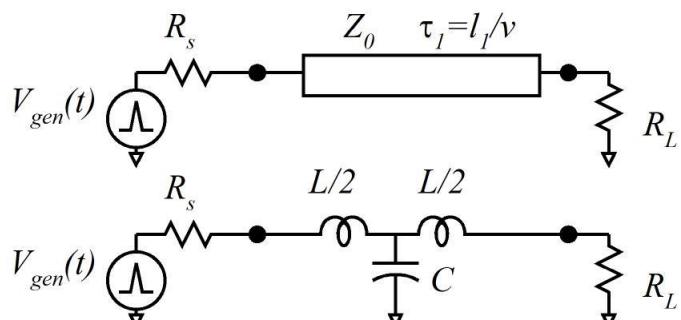
Why ?



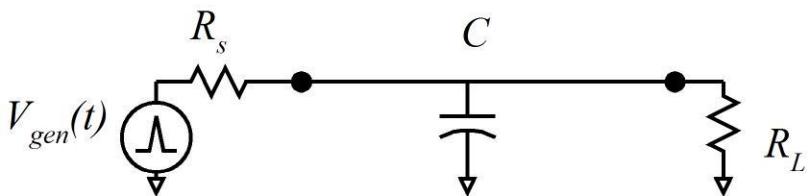
Time-Domain Analysis



$$L = Z_0 \tau, C = \tau / Z_0$$



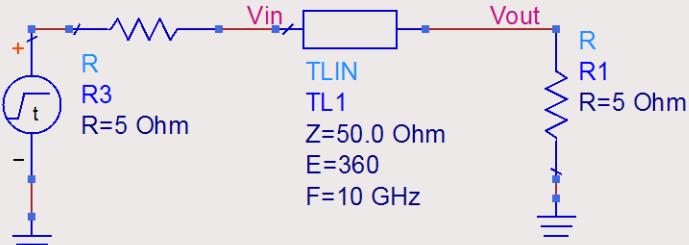
Approximate model



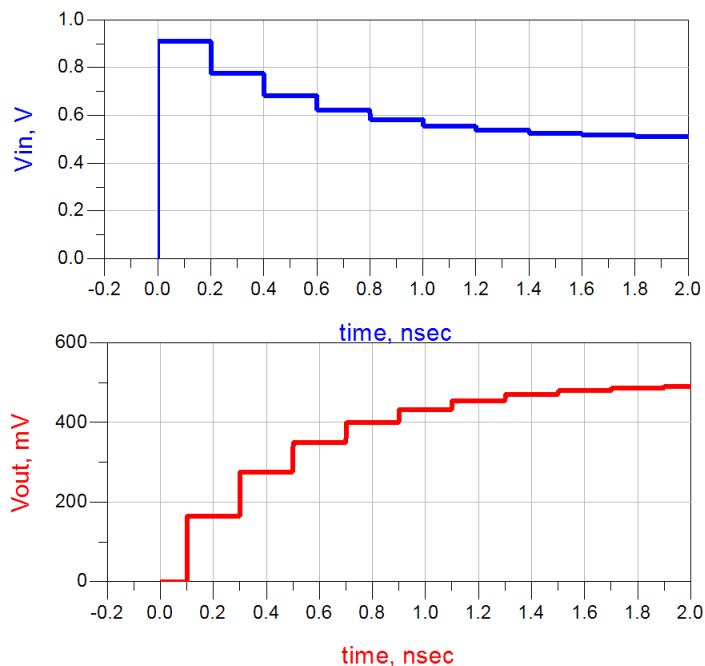
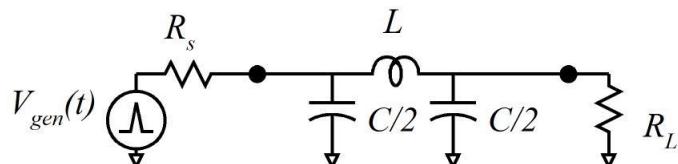
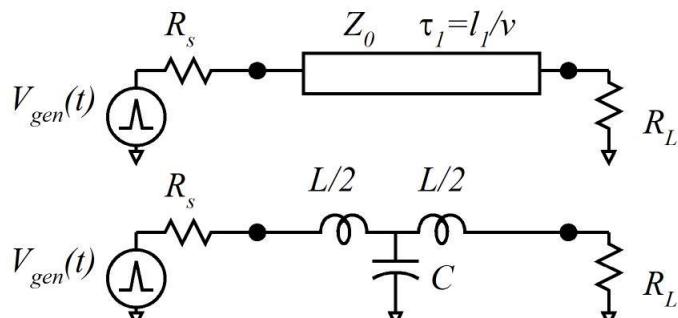
$L/(R_L + R_s) \ll (R_L \parallel R_s)C$
 → neglect inductor
 RC circuit → charging.

Time-Domain Analysis

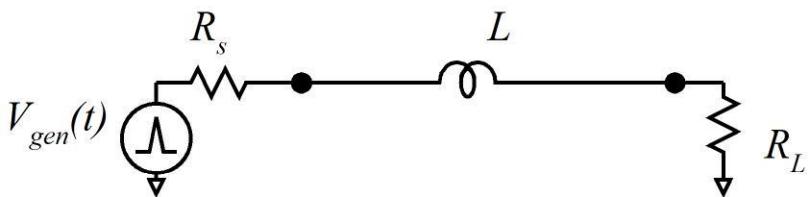
VtStep
SRC4
Vlow=0 V
Vhigh=1 V
Delay=1 psec
Rise=1 fsec



$$L = Z_0 \tau, C = \tau / Z_0$$

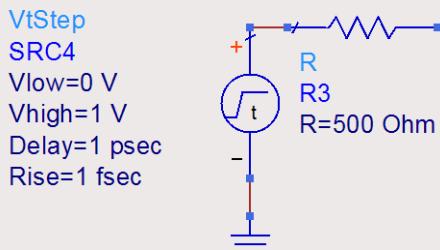


Approximate model

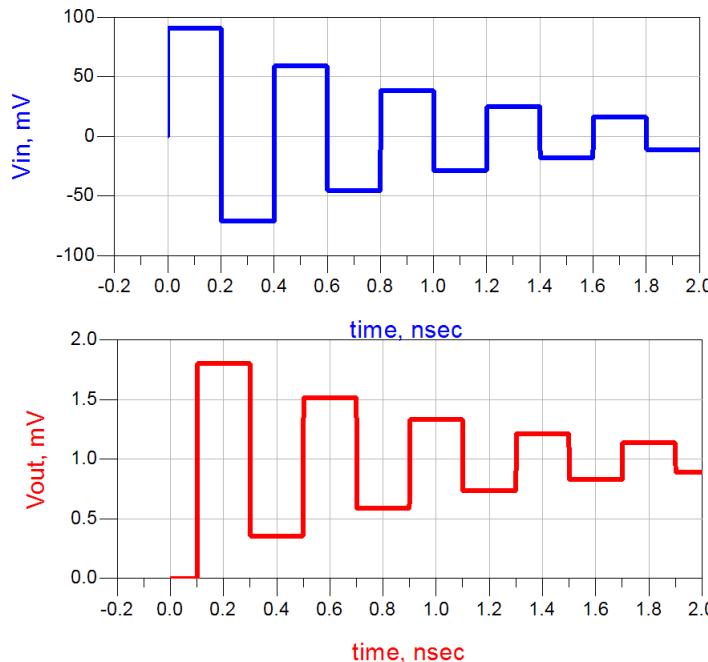
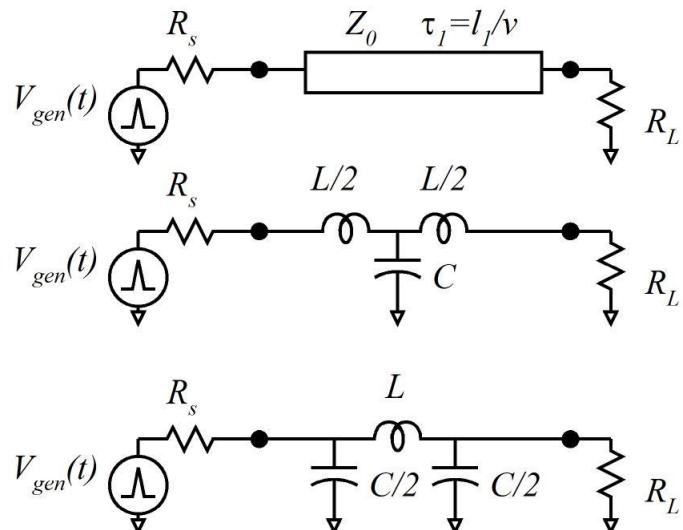


$L/(R_L + R_s) \gg (R_L \parallel R_s)C$
 → neglect capacitor
 RL circuit → charging.

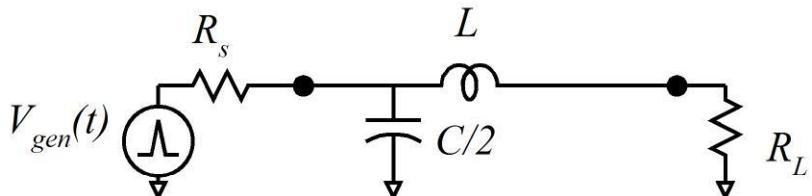
Time-Domain Analysis



$$L = Z_0 \tau, C = \tau / Z_0$$



Approximate model



$$R_L C / 2 \ll R_S C / 2$$

→ neglect 2nd capacitor
RLC circuit → ringing

L and C are Limiting Cases of High- Z_0 , low- Z_0 lines

$$L = Z_0\tau, C = \tau/Z_0$$

High - Z_0 line :

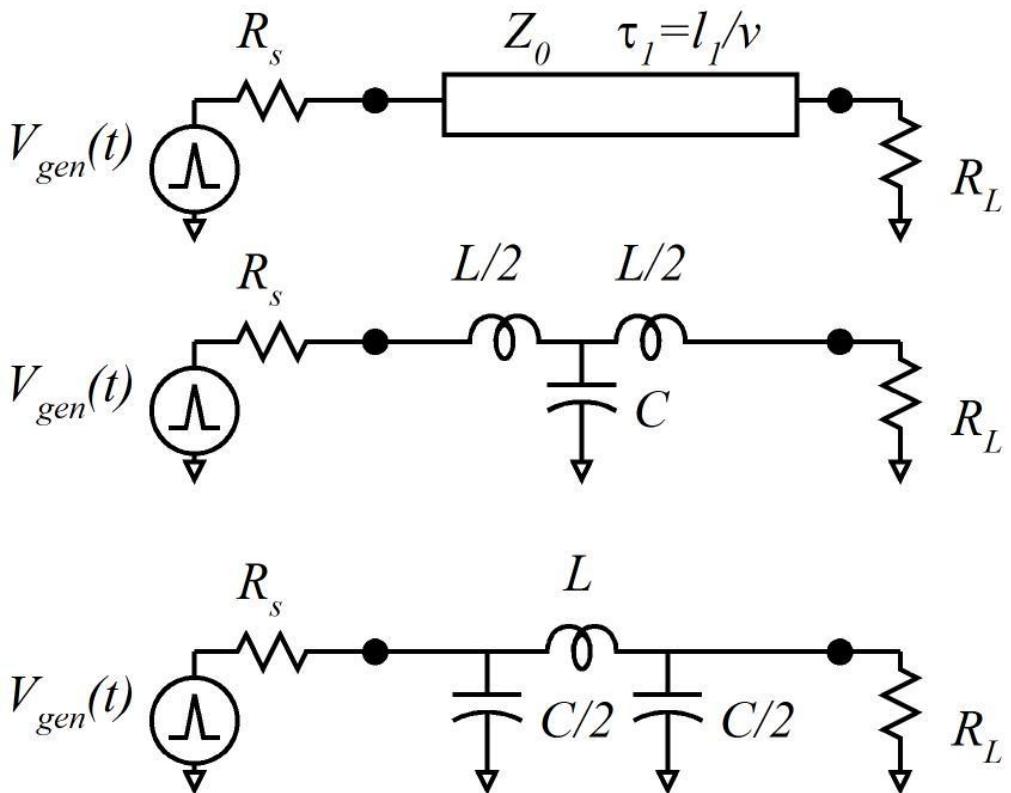
large L , small C .

→ approximately
an inductor

Low - Z_0 line :

large C , small L .

→ approximately
a capacitor.



Lines in Frequency Domain

Line Analysis in Frequency Domain → Smith Chart

Time - domain analysis :

intuititve and clear : pulses bouncing back and forth.

very difficult with reactive (L, C) load or generator impedances

Frequency - domain analysis :

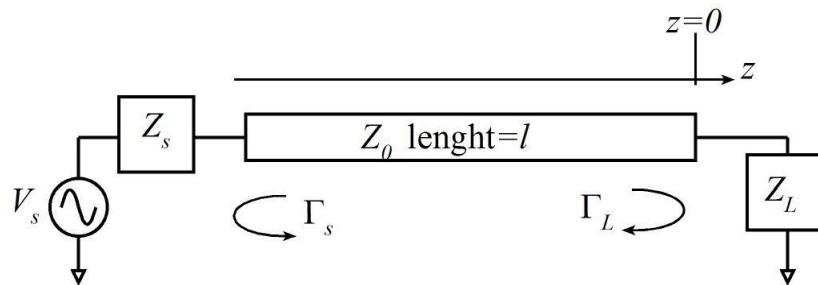
less intuititve.

easy with reactive (L, C) load or generator impedances

→ (1) standing waves

→ (2) Smith chart

Line Analysis in Frequency Domain: Phase Constant β



Phasor notation: $V_s(t) = \text{Re}[V_0 e^{j\omega t}]$, where $V_0 = \|V_o\| e^{j\theta_o}$ is complex.
 $\rightarrow V_s(t) = V_0 \cos(\omega t + \theta_o)$

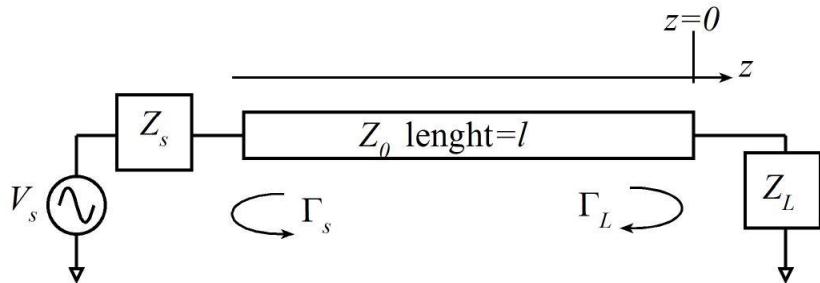
On a transmission line, waves travel as $V^+(t - z/v), V^-(t + z/v)$.

For a cosinusoidal wave traveling at velocity v ,

$$\cos(\omega(t \pm z/v) + \theta) = \cos(\omega t \pm \omega z/v + \theta) = \cos(\omega t \pm \beta z + \theta).$$

$\beta = \omega/v = 2\pi/\lambda$ is the phase propagation constant.

Line Analysis: Exponential Waves



Because $V_0 \cos(\omega t + \theta_o) = \text{Re}[V_0 e^{j\omega t}]$, sinusoidal waves are written implicitly as $V_0 e^{j\omega t}$.

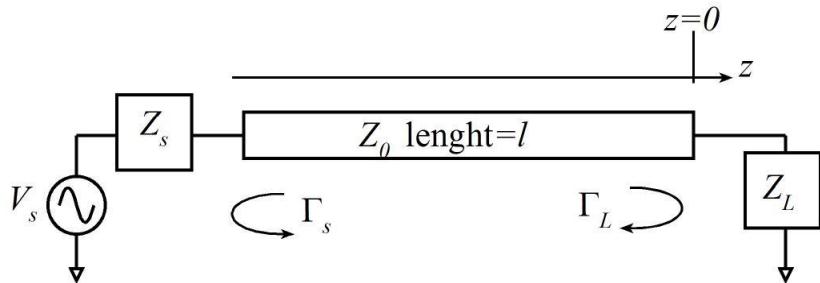
Exponential waves propagating in the positive z - direction :

$$V^+ e^{j\omega(t-z/v)} = V^+ e^{j\omega t - j\omega z/v} = V^+ e^{j\omega t} e^{-j\beta z}$$

Exponential waves propagating in the negative z - direction :

$$V^- e^{j\omega(t+z/v)} = V^- e^{j\omega t + j\omega z/v} = V^- e^{j\omega t} e^{+j\beta z}$$

Voltages on a Transmission Line



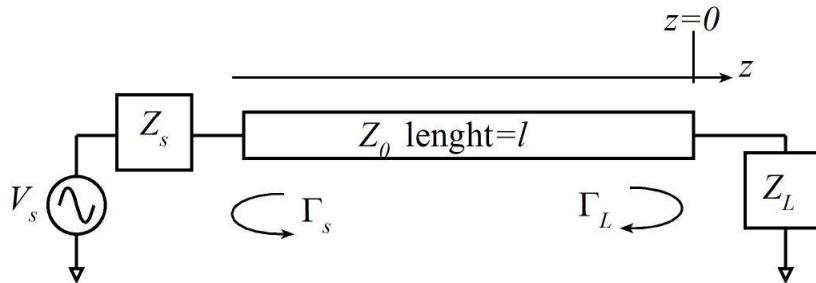
Voltage on line : $V(z, t) = \text{Re}[V(z)e^{j\omega t}]$

Working with the phasor $V(z)$ makes $e^{j\omega t}$ time dependence implicit.

Phasor voltage on the line :

$$\begin{aligned} V(z) &= V^+(z) + V^-(z) \\ &= V^+(0)e^{-j\beta z} + V^-(0)e^{+j\beta z} \end{aligned}$$

Voltages and Currents on a Transmission Line



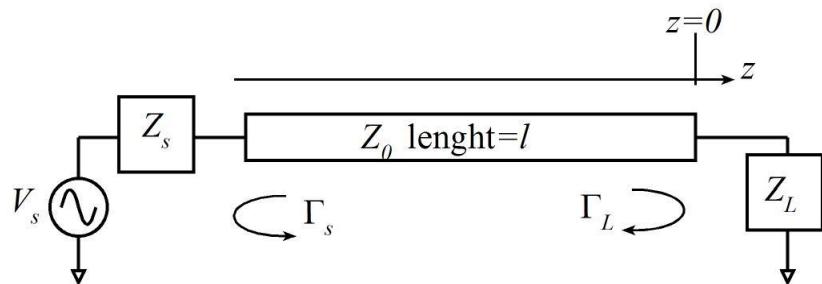
Phasor voltage on the line :

$$V(z) = V^+(z) + V^-(z) = V^+(0)e^{-j\beta z} + V^-(0)e^{+j\beta z}$$

Phasor current on the line :

$$Z_0 I(z) = V^+(z) - V^-(z) = V^+(0)e^{-j\beta z} - V^-(0)e^{+j\beta z}$$

Wave Parameters



Define wave amplitude a such that if $\|a\|=1$, then wave power = 1 Watt.

Voltage in forward wave : $V^+(z)$

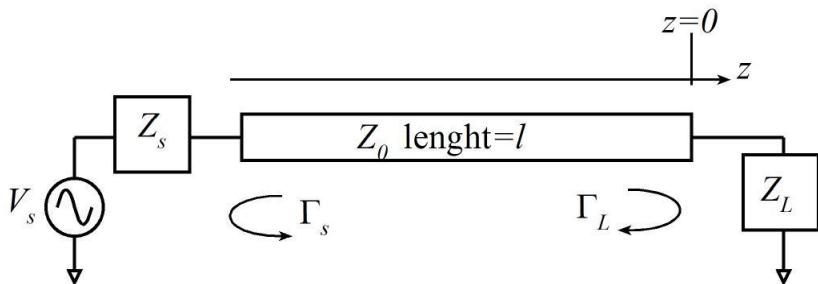
Current in forward wave : $I^+(z) = V^+(z) / Z_0$

Power in forward wave = $V^+(I^+)^* = \|V^+(z)\|^2 / Z_0$

Forward wave amplitude : $a(z) = V^+(z) / \sqrt{Z_0}$

Reverse wave amplitude : $b(z) = V^-(z) / \sqrt{Z_0}$

Wave Parameters and Power

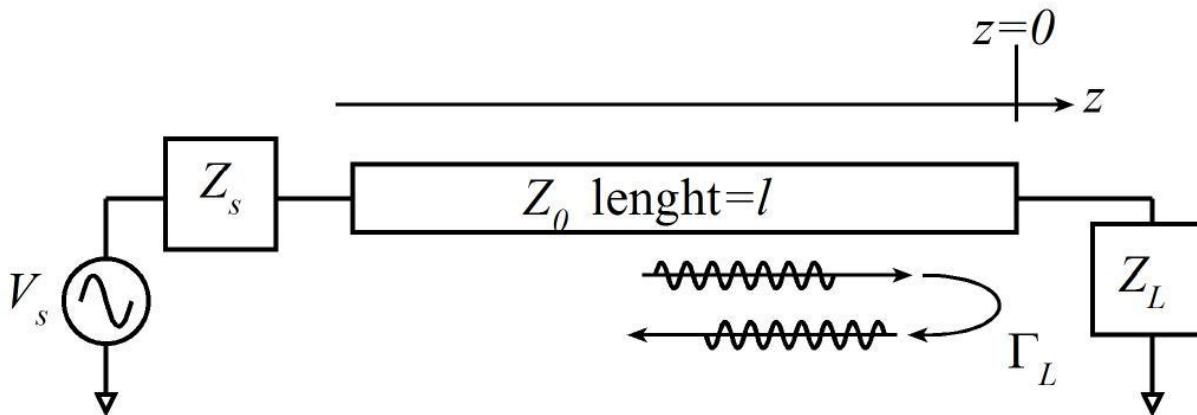


$$\text{Power in forward wave} = V^+ (I^+)^* = \|V^+(z)\|^2 / Z_0 = a(z)a^*(z)$$

$$\text{Power in reverse wave} = V^- (I^-)^* = \|V^-(z)\|^2 / Z_0 = b(z)b^*(z)$$

Throughout the notes, we use R.M.S. quantities.

Reflections from the Load

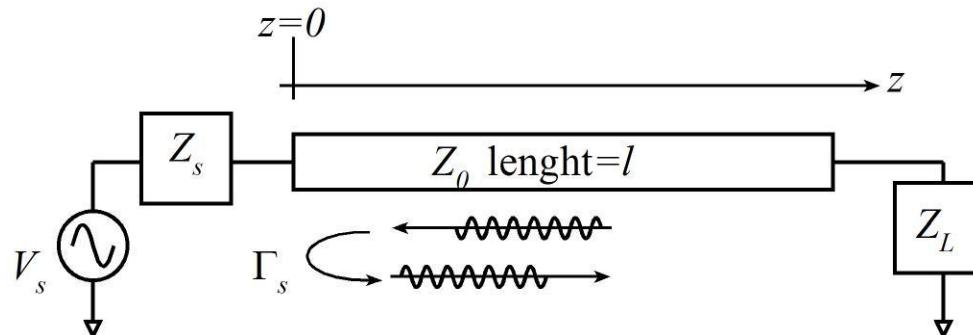


$$V^-(0) = \Gamma_L V^+(0)$$

where $\Gamma_L = \frac{\mathfrak{Z}_L - 1}{\mathfrak{Z}_L + 1}$ is the load reflection coefficient.

and $\mathfrak{Z}_L = \frac{Z_L}{Z_0}$ is the * normalized * load impedance.

Reflections from the Generator



$$V^+(0) = \Gamma_s V^-(0) + T_s V_s$$

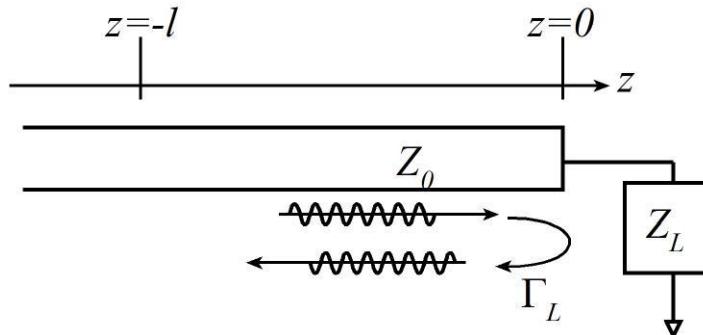
where $T_s = \frac{Z_0}{Z_0 + Z_s}$ is the source transmission coefficient

where $\Gamma_s = \frac{\mathfrak{Z}_s - 1}{\mathfrak{Z}_s + 1}$ is the source reflection coefficient.

and $\mathfrak{Z}_s = \frac{Z_s}{Z_0}$ is the * normalized * source impedance.

Note that the reference plane ($z = 0$) has been moved.

Movement of Reference Plane



$$V(z) = V^+(z) + V^-(z) = V^+(z) \cdot (1 + \Gamma(z))$$

where $\Gamma(z) \equiv \frac{V^-(z)}{V^+(z)}$ is the position-dependent reflection coefficient

$$V(z) = V^+(0)e^{-j\beta z} \cdot (1 + \Gamma(0)e^{+2j\beta z})$$

$$\text{because } \Gamma(z) \equiv \frac{V^-(z)}{V^+(z)} = \frac{V^-(0)e^{+j\beta z}}{V^+(0)e^{-j\beta z}} = \Gamma(0)e^{+2j\beta z}$$

Position-Dependent Reflection Coefficient

Reflection coefficient Γ at a distance l from load.

$$\Gamma(-l) = \Gamma(0)e^{+2j\beta z}$$

The reflection coefficient Γ has gone through a phase shift of

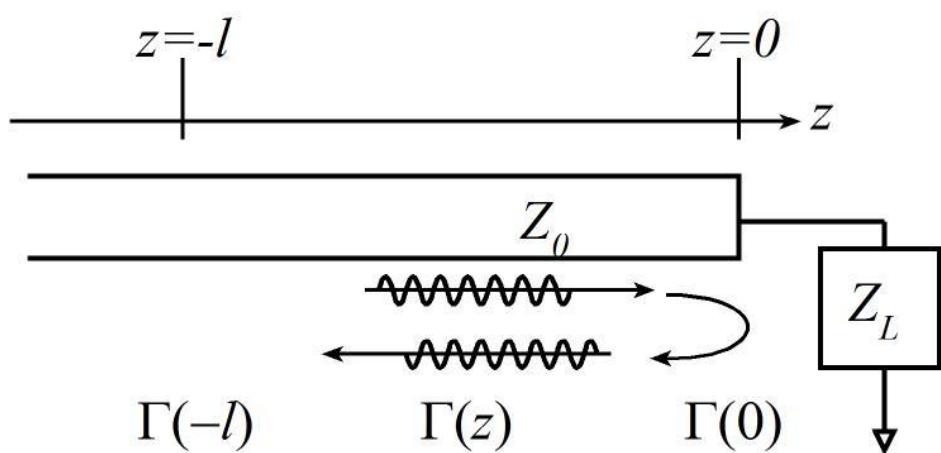
negative $\frac{l}{\lambda} \cdot 2 \cdot 2\pi$ radians.

or

negative $2 \cdot \beta \cdot l$ radians.

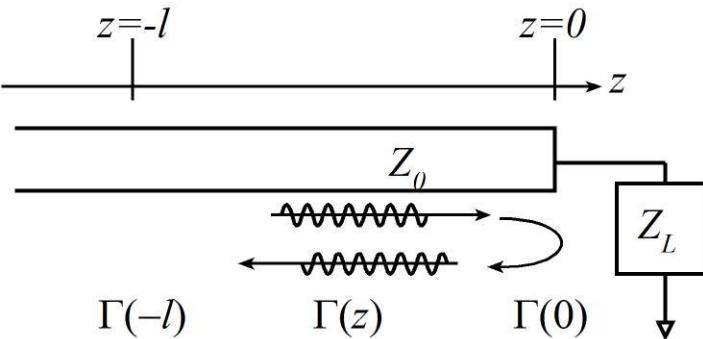
or

negative $\frac{l}{\lambda} \cdot 2 \cdot 360$ degrees.



...simply because V^+ and V^- undergo 360 degree phase shifts every wavelength of distance.

Impedance vs. Position



Impedance at any point

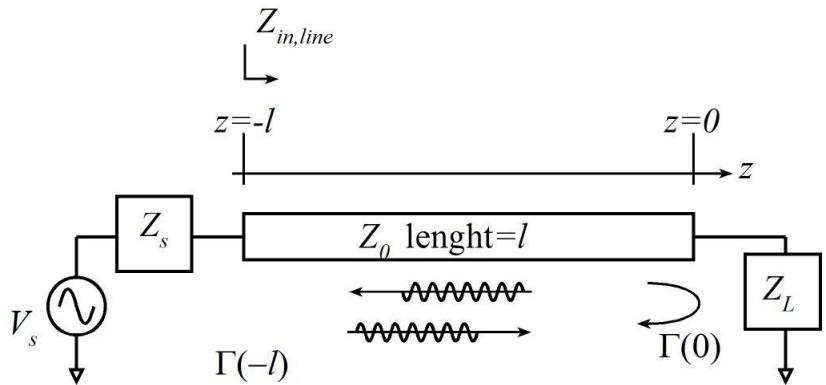
$$\begin{aligned} Z(z) &\equiv V(z)/I(z) = (V^+(z) + V^-(z))/(I^+(z) - I^-(z)) \\ &= Z_0 \cdot (V^+(z) + V^-(z))/(V^+(z) - V^-(z)) \end{aligned}$$

$$Z(z) = Z_0 \cdot \frac{1 + \Gamma(z)}{1 - \Gamma(z)}$$

Normalized impedance at any point

$$\mathfrak{Z}(z) \equiv Z(z)/Z_0 = \frac{1 + \Gamma(z)}{1 - \Gamma(z)}$$

Line Input Impedance

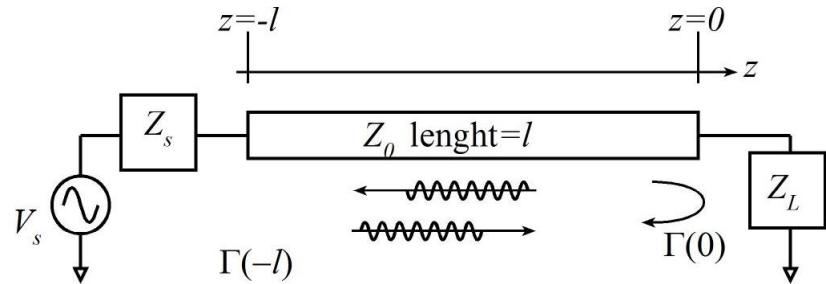


Input impedance at $z = -l$

$$\mathfrak{Z}(-l) = \frac{V(-l)}{I(-l)} = \frac{1 + \Gamma(-l)}{1 - \Gamma(-l)} \text{ normalized.}$$

$$Z(-l) = \frac{V(-l)}{I(-l)} = Z_0 \cdot \frac{1 + \Gamma(-l)}{1 - \Gamma(-l)} \text{ unnormalized.}$$

Impedance and Reflection Coefficient vs Postion



$$\left. \begin{aligned} V(z) &= V^+(z) + V^-(z) = V^+(0)e^{-j\beta z} + V^-(z)e^{+j\beta z} \\ Z_0 I(z) &= V^+(z) - V^-(z) = V^+(0)e^{-j\beta z} - V^-(z)e^{+j\beta z} \end{aligned} \right\} \text{waves}$$

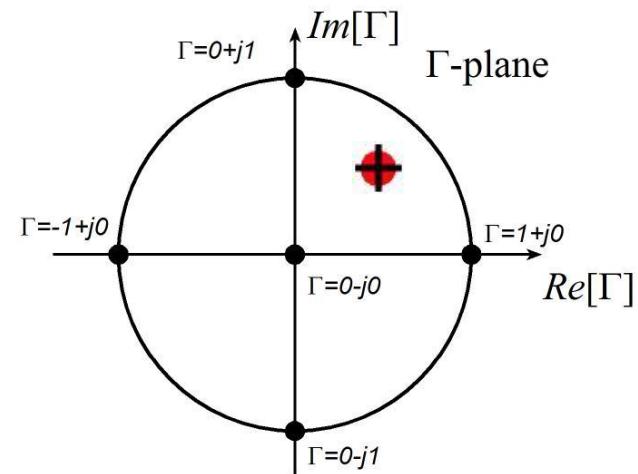
$$\left. \begin{aligned} \Gamma(z) &= V^+(z)/V^-(z) \\ \Gamma(z) &= \Gamma(0) e^{+2j\beta z} \end{aligned} \right\} \text{reflection coefficients}$$

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \mathfrak{Z}(z) &= \frac{1}{Z_0} \frac{V(z)}{I(z)} = \frac{1 + \Gamma(z)}{1 - \Gamma(z)} \end{aligned} \right\} \text{normalized impedance}$$

Conceptually simple, but tedious math. → Work with a graphical tool.

Developing the Smith Chart

The relationship $\mathfrak{Z} = \frac{1 + \Gamma}{1 - \Gamma} \leftrightarrow \Gamma = \frac{\mathfrak{Z} - 1}{\mathfrak{Z} + 1}$ is key.

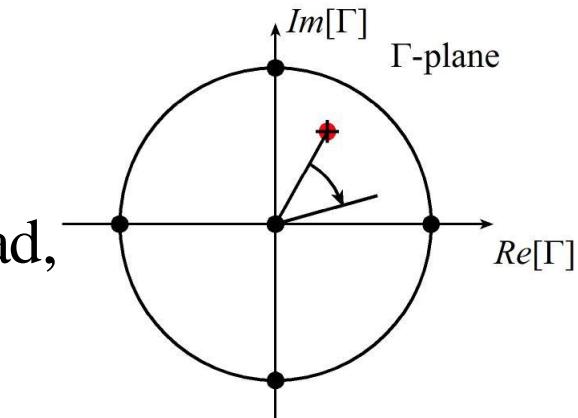


The relationship is a 1 - 1 mapping between the complex #'s \mathfrak{Z} and Γ ; a conformal transformation. This relationship can be graphed.

In the 2 - dimensional plane of Γ - the Γ plane - a reflection coefficient is represented by a point (here, a red dot).

Moving Reference Planes---on the Smith Chart

As we move a distance l away from the load,
the vector Γ rotates by an angle $\Delta\theta$



$$\Delta\theta = -2\beta l$$

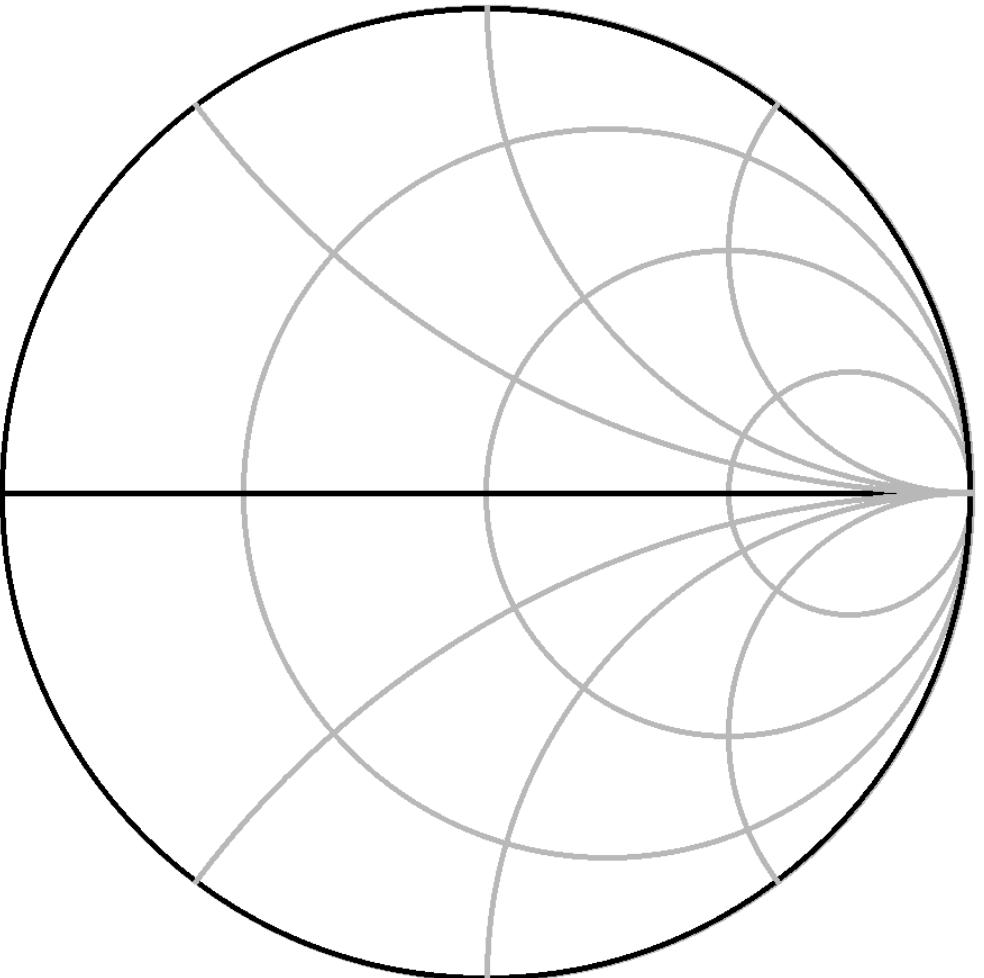
$$= -360^\circ \cdot \frac{l}{\lambda} \cdot 2$$

= one whole rotation in the Γ plane
for each half - wavelength movement
on the transmission line.

Finding Impedances

$$\mathfrak{Z}(z) = \frac{1}{Z_0} \frac{V(z)}{I(z)} = \frac{1 + \Gamma(z)}{1 - \Gamma(z)}$$

This is a 1 : 1 relationship
between reflection coefficient Γ (magnitude and phase)
and normalized impedance \mathfrak{Z} (real and imaginary parts).



Plot the units of \mathfrak{Z} on the Γ plane !

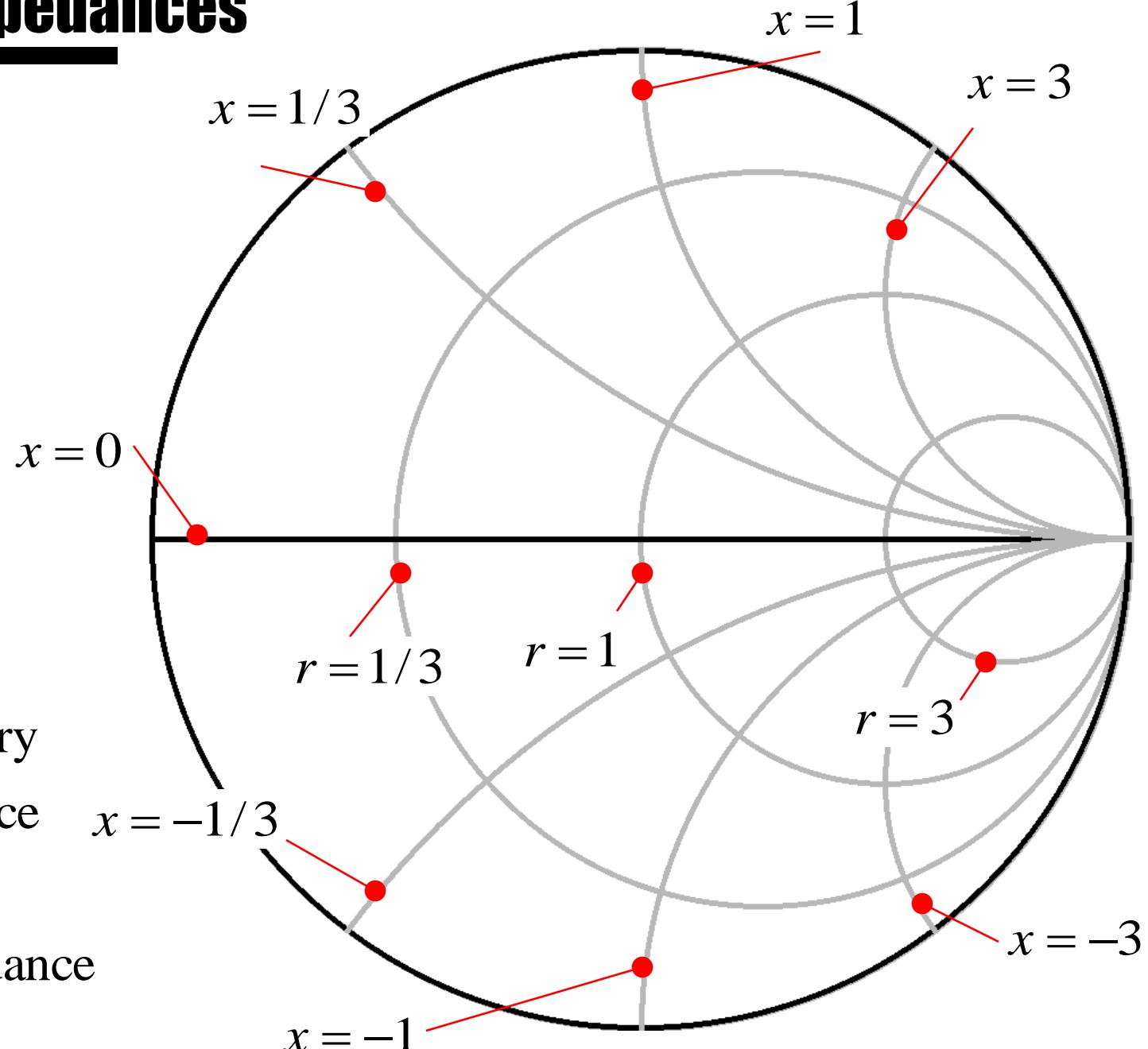
Finding Impedances

$$\mathfrak{Z} = \frac{1 + \Gamma}{1 - \Gamma} = \frac{Z}{Z_0}$$

$$Z = R + jX$$

$$\mathfrak{Z} = r + jx$$

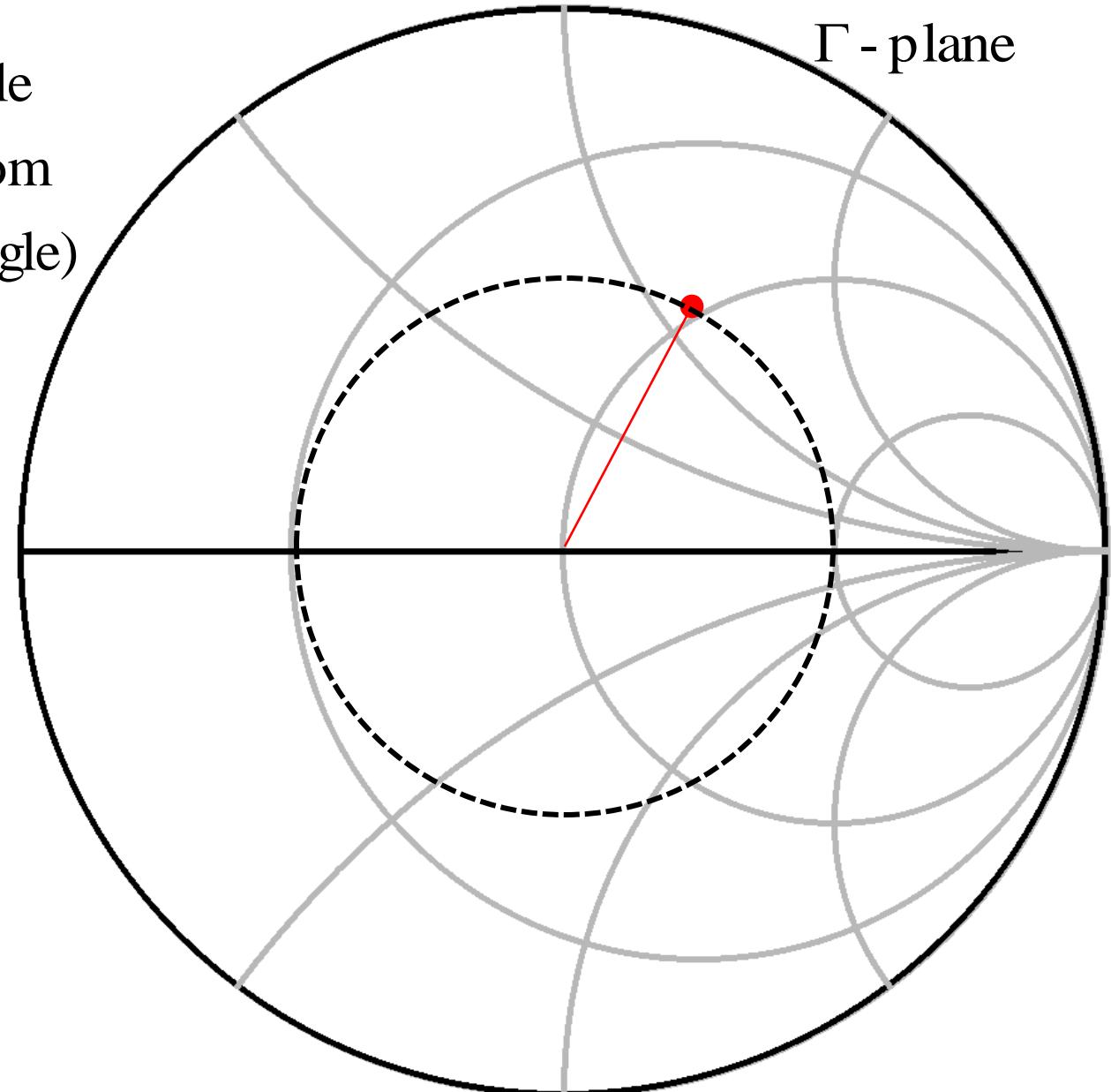
Real and imaginary parts of impedance can be read from the curved impedance axes on the chart.



Finding Reflection Coefficient

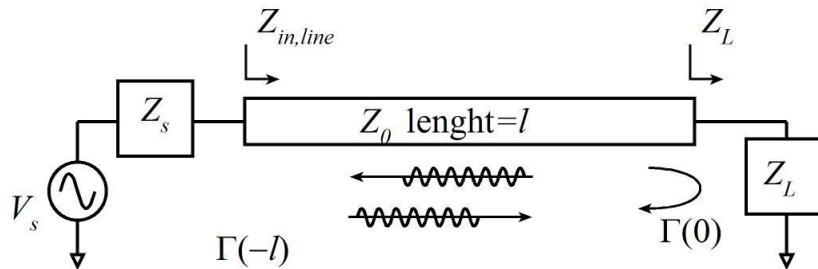
The magnitude and angle of Γ are simply read from the chart (radius and angle)

this measurement can be done using a ruler and a protractor*.



* though today the CAD software does the measurement from a cursor.

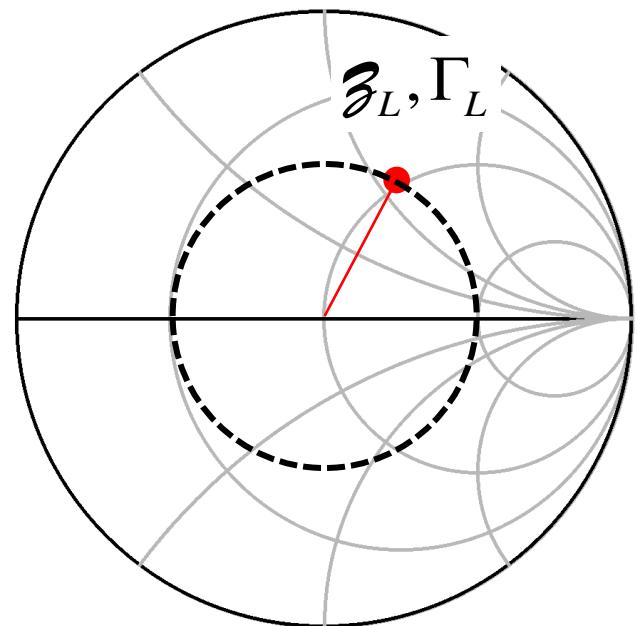
Using the Smith Chart



Starting with the load impedance Z_L ,
we compute $\beta_L = Z_L / Z_0$.

We then find this point on the Smith chart.

This determines the load reflection
coefficient Γ_L .

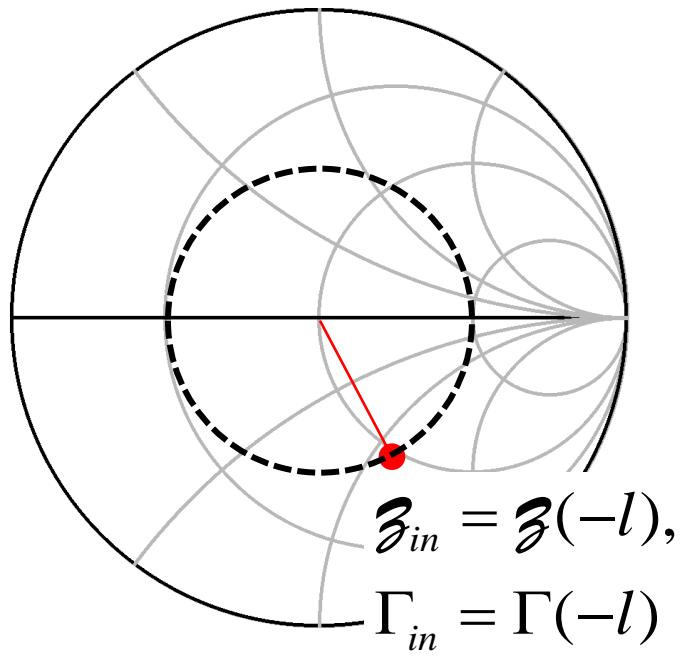
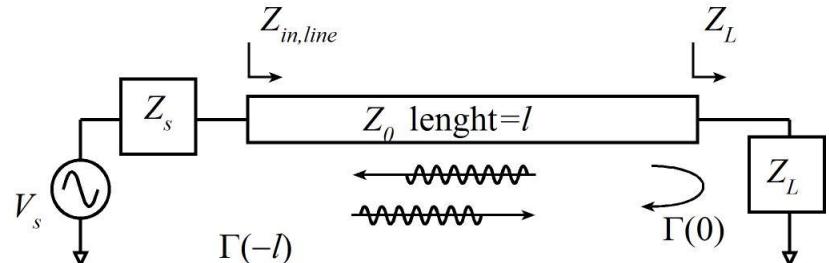


Using the Smith Chart

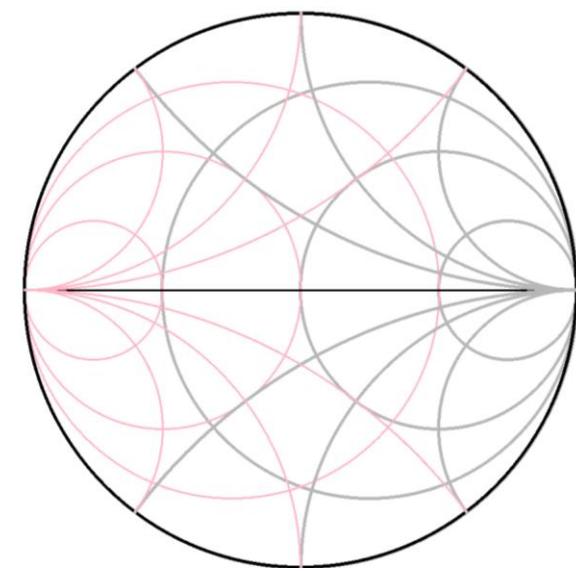
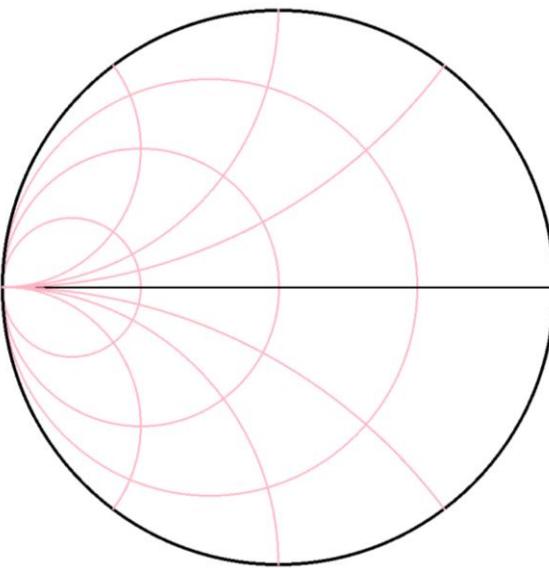
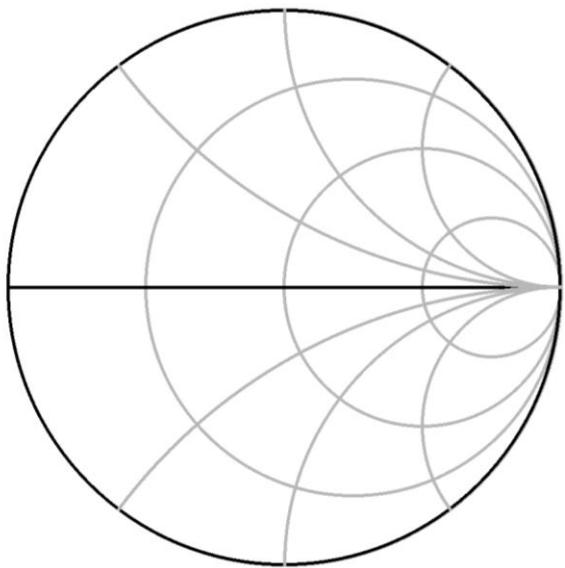
We then rotate the vector Γ through an angle $360^\circ \cdot (2l / \lambda)$.

This locates the input reflection coefficient.

We can now read off the input impedance.



Impedance-Admittance Chart



Impedance $Z = R + jX$

Normalized impedance $\mathfrak{Z} = Z / Z_o = r + jx$

Admittance $Y = 1/Z = G + jB$

Normalized admittance $\mathfrak{Y} = YZ_o = Y / Y_o = g + jb$

Smith charts can have axes for \mathfrak{Z} , \mathfrak{Y} , or both.

Solving Wave Equations Quickly

Waves and Fourier Transforms (1)

Maxwell's equations give us a wave equation :

$$\nabla^2 \vec{E} = \mu\epsilon \cdot \frac{\partial^2 \vec{E}}{\partial t^2} + \mu \frac{\partial \vec{J}}{\partial t} + \epsilon^{-1} \vec{\nabla} \rho \text{ if } \mu \text{ and } \epsilon \text{ are uniform}$$

Assume nonzero conductivity, $\vec{J} = \sigma \vec{E}$, assume charge neutrality $\rho = 0$.

$$\nabla^2 \vec{E} = \mu\epsilon \cdot \frac{\partial^2 \vec{E}}{\partial t^2} + \mu\sigma \frac{\partial \vec{E}}{\partial t}$$

To solve this easily, assume

$$E_x(x, y, z, t) = E_x e^{j\omega t} e^{-jk_x x} e^{-jk_y y} e^{-jk_z z} \text{ (and the same for } E_y, E_z)$$

Sometimes, the k 's are complex : writing $\gamma = jk = \alpha + j\beta$

$$E_x(x, y, z, t) = E_x e^{j\omega t} e^{-\gamma_x x} e^{-\gamma_y y} e^{-\gamma_z z}$$

Waves and Fourier Transforms (2)

So we have:

$$\frac{\partial^2 E_x}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 E_x}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 E_x}{\partial z^2} = \mu\varepsilon \cdot \frac{\partial^2 E_x}{\partial t^2} + \mu\sigma \frac{\partial E_x}{\partial t} \quad (\text{and the same for } E_y, E_z)$$

Given

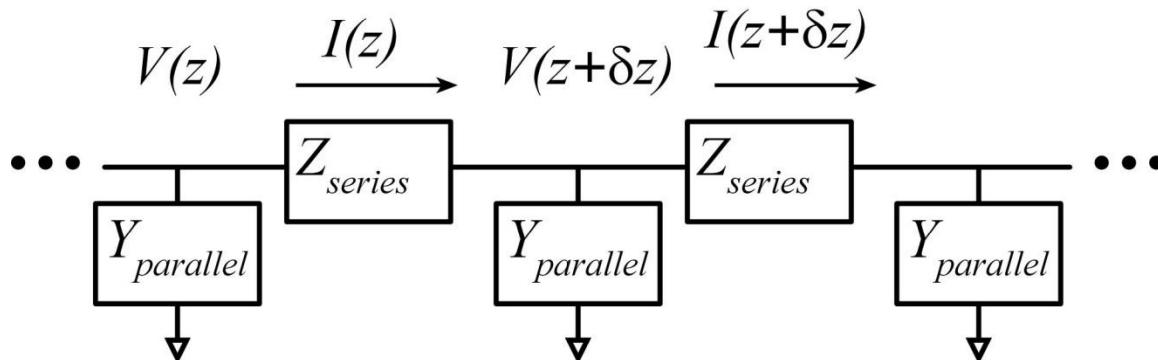
$$E_x(x, y, z, t) = E_x e^{j\omega t} e^{-jk_x x} e^{-jk_y y} e^{-jk_z z} \quad (\text{and the same for } E_y, E_z),$$

This becomes simply

$$k_x^2 + k_y^2 + k_z^2 = k^2 \text{ where } k^2 = (j\omega\mu)(j\omega\varepsilon + \sigma)$$

This is the wave equation in the sinusoidal steady state

Waves and Fourier Transforms (3)



Now consider a 1-dimensional system(transmission - line)

$$\frac{\partial V}{\partial z} = -Z_{series} I \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{\partial I}{\partial z} = -Y_{parallel} V$$

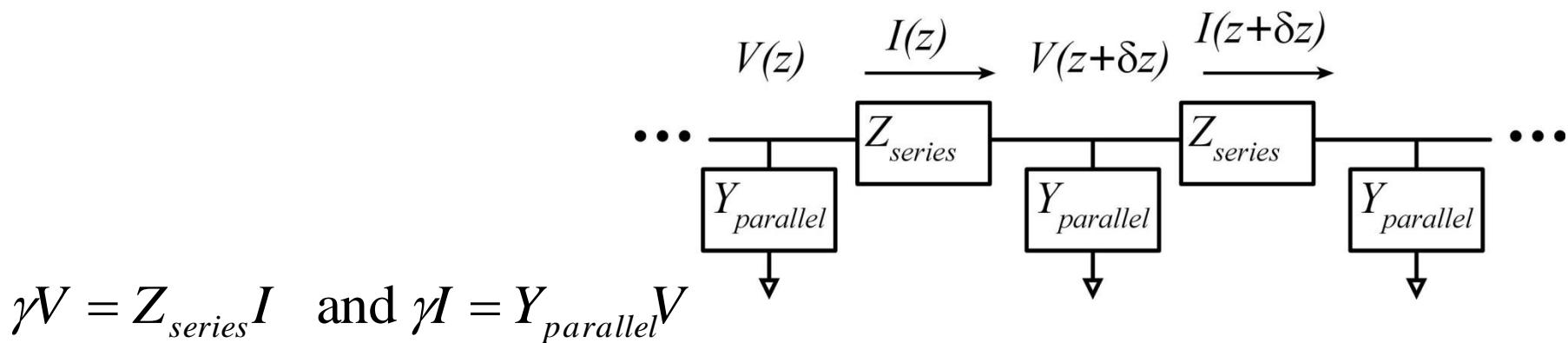
To solve this easily, assume

$$V^{+/-}(z, t) = V^{+/-} e^{j\omega t} e^{-\gamma z} \quad \text{and} \quad I^{+/-}(z, t) = I^{+/-} e^{j\omega t} e^{\gamma z}$$

Then

$$\gamma V = Z_{series} I \quad \text{and} \quad \gamma I = Y_{parallel} V$$

Waves and Fourier Transforms (4)



Multiply these:

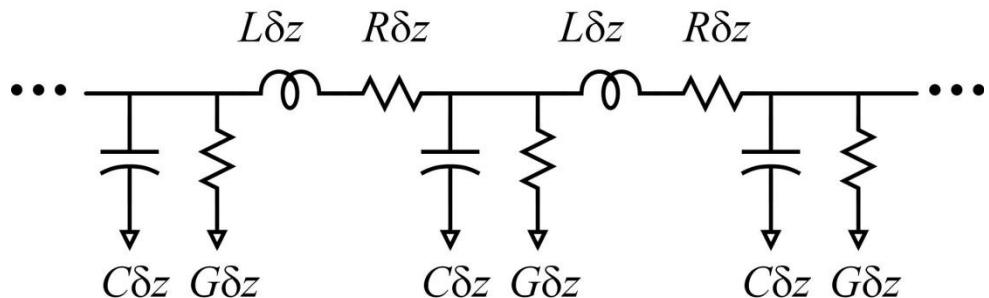
$$\gamma^2 VI = Z_{series} Y_{parallel} VI \rightarrow \boxed{\gamma = \pm \sqrt{Z_{series} Y_{parallel}}}$$

Divide these:

$$V^\pm / I^\pm = Z_{series} I^\pm / Y_{parallel} V^\pm \rightarrow \boxed{Z_0 \equiv (V^\pm / I^\pm) = \pm \sqrt{Z_{series} / Y_{parallel}}}$$

The \pm before the root indicates that the forward current has the same sign as the forward voltage, while the reverse current has sign opposite that of the reverse voltage.

Waves and Fourier Transforms (5)



Line has series inductance L and series R resistance per unit length.

Line has parallel capacitance C and parallel conductance G per unit length.

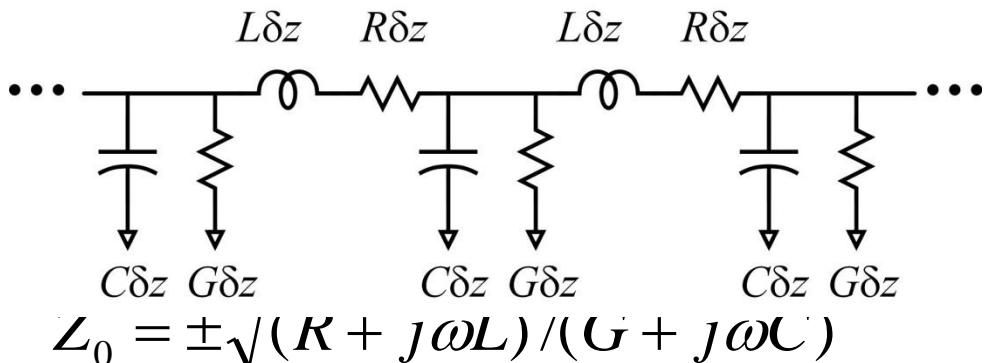
Then

$$Z_{series} = R + j\omega L \quad Y_{parallel} = G + j\omega C$$

So :

$$\gamma = \pm \sqrt{(R + j\omega L)(G + j\omega C)} \quad Z_0 = \pm \sqrt{(R + j\omega L)/(G + j\omega C)}$$

Waves and Fourier Transforms (6)



Suppose $R \ll \omega L$ and $G \ll j\omega C$. Use $(1 + \varepsilon)^N = 1 + N\varepsilon + O(\varepsilon^2)$

$$Z_0 = \pm \sqrt{j\omega L / j\omega C} \sqrt{(1 + R / j\omega L) / (1 + G / j\omega C)}$$

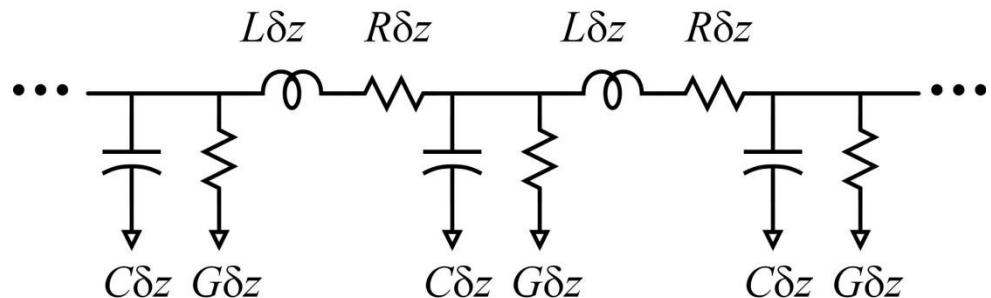
$$Z_0 \approx \pm \left[\sqrt{\frac{L}{C}} \cdot \frac{1 + R / j2\omega L}{1 + G / j2\omega C} \right]$$

Note that Z_0 becomes slightly complex.

Important sometimes in S - parameter calibration

Waves and Fourier Transforms (7)

$$\gamma = \pm \sqrt{(R + j\omega L)(G + j\omega C)}$$



Suppose $R \ll \omega L$ and $G \ll j\omega C$. Use $(1 + \varepsilon)^N = 1 + N\varepsilon + O(\varepsilon^2)$

$$\gamma = \pm \sqrt{(j\omega L)(j\omega C)} \sqrt{1 + R / j\omega L} \sqrt{1 + G / j\omega C}$$

$$\cong \pm j\omega \sqrt{LC} \cdot (1 + R / j2\omega L)(1 + G / j2\omega C)$$

$$\gamma \cong \pm \left[\frac{R}{2\sqrt{L/C}} + \frac{G\sqrt{L/C}}{2} + j\omega\sqrt{LC} \right]$$

$$\boxed{\gamma \cong \pm \left[\frac{R}{2Z_0} + \frac{GZ_0}{2} + j\omega\sqrt{LC} \right] = \pm [\alpha + j\beta]}$$