# Parameter Extraction for 2- Equivalent Circuit Model of RF CMOS Spiral Inductors<sup>\*</sup>

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**Abstract :** A novel parameter extraction method with rational functions is presented for the 2- equivalent circuit model of RF CMOS spiral inductors. The final S-parameters simulated by the circuit model closely match experimental data. The extraction strategy is straightforward and can be easily implemented as a CAD tool to model spiral inductors. The resulting circuit models will be very useful for RF circuit designers.

Key words: 2- ; compact model; parameters extraction; RF CMOS; spiral inductorsEEACC: 2560B; 2570DCLC number : TP211<sup>+</sup>. 51Document code : AArticle ID : 0253-4177 (2006) 04-0667-07

# 1 Introduction

CMOS RFICs are now commonly used in wireless communications because of their low cost and easy integration. As passive components in RF ICs ,spiral inductors<sup>[1]</sup> play a very important role in impedance matching, inductive source degeneration<sup>[2]</sup>, LC-resonant tanks<sup>[3,4]</sup>, and filters and baluns. However, due to the parasitic couplings and loss introduced by the conductive Si-substrate, the modeling of the spiral inductors has become a difficult task.

Compared with electromagnetic (EM) field solvers (e. g. HFSS) and partial-element-equivalent-circuit (PEEC)-based solvers<sup>[5]</sup> (e. g. ASIT-IC<sup>[6]</sup> and Momentum in ADS), a compact circuit model of the spiral inductors using lumped frequency-independent RLC elements would be more desirable for circuit simulations because of its advantage in speed and its inborn compatibility with SPICE.

There are two types of topologies for equivalent circuits of the spiral inductors: (1) the 1model<sup>[7-12]</sup>, which is simple and has been successfully applied to the spiral inductors on an insulating substrate<sup>[8]</sup> but fails to capture the high frequency behavior (especially beyond the self resonant frequency, SRF) ;and (2) the 2- model<sup>[13,14]</sup>, which can model both the high-frequency behavior and the effects of a lossy substrate. The challenge in applying the 2- model lies in the parameter extraction, which determines the final accuracy of the model. In Ref. [14], a comprehensive approach of parameter extraction using rational functions is proposed. However, the method is not straightforward. The scaling relationship () is not well determined and requires some manual manipulation, resulting in some uncertainty and randomness in the extracted parameter values. The method is therefore difficult to be implemented in CAD. In this paper, we propose an improved method that is step-by-step and easily realizable in CAD.

# 2 Rational function and two specific applications

#### 2.1 Rational function

The general form of a rational function is written as

$$R(s) \qquad \frac{N_{m}(s)}{D_{n}(s)} \qquad \frac{a_{0} + a_{1}s + a_{2}s^{2} + \ldots + a_{m}s^{m}}{b_{0} + b_{1}s + b_{2}s^{2} + \ldots + b_{n}s^{n}}$$
(1)

where  $N_m(s)$  and  $D_n(s)$  are m and r order polynomials of variable s. There are m + n + 2 coefficients,  $\{a_0, a_1, a_2, ..., a_m\}$  and  $\{b_0, b_1, b_2, ..., b_n\}$ , for which  $a_m = 0$  and  $b_n = 0$ . Since one of  $\{a_0, b_0, a_m, b_n\}$ 

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can be assumed to be unity, there are only m + n + 1independent coefficients. For example, if  $a_0 = 0$ , one can normalize all the coefficients by dividing by  $a_0$ so that  $a_0$  is normalized to unity. In the following, we assume  $a_0 = 1$ .

Normally, R(s) is expressed as a series of data points {  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$ , ...,  $R_N$  }, measured at {  $s_1$ ,  $s_2$ , ...,  $s_N$  }. Thus Equation (1) can be transformed into N linear equations for as and bs:

$$b_0 R_i + b_1 R_i s_i + b_2 R_i s_i^2 + \ldots + b_n R_i s_i^n$$

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} -s_1 & -s_1^2 & \dots & -s_1^m \\ -s_2 & -s_2^2 & \dots & -s_2^m \\ \dots & \dots & \dots \\ -s_N & -s_N^2 & \dots & -s_N^m \end{bmatrix}$$

A  $R^{N(m+n+1)}$ , and is expressed in Eq. (3).

#### 2.2 Application for skin and proximity effects

Figure 1 (a) is used to model the skin and proximity effects<sup>[15]</sup>. Assuming s = j, the impedance of the branch is

$$Z(s) = sL_s + R_s + \frac{sL_{sk} R_{sk}}{sL_{sk} + R_{sk}}$$
(4)

For =0, Z(0) 
$$R_{DC} = R_{s}$$
. Then  

$$\frac{Z(s) - Z(0)}{s} = L_{s} + \frac{L_{sk} R_{sk}}{sL_{sk} + R_{sk}}$$

$$= \frac{1 + \frac{L_{s} L_{sk}}{R_{sk} (L_{s} + L_{sk})} s}{\frac{1}{L_{s} + L_{sk}} + \frac{L_{sk}}{R_{sk} (L_{s} + L_{sk})} s}$$
(5)

By evaluating the quantity [Z(s) - Z(0)]/s at different frequencies (1, 2, ..., N) and fitting the results using the following rational function

$$\frac{1 + a_1 s}{b_0 + b_1 s}$$
(6)

and then by comparing Eqs. (5) and (6) with the extracted values of  $a_1$ ,  $b_0$ , and  $b_1$ , the values of  $L_s$ ,  $L_{sk}$ , and  $R_{sk}$  can be uniquely determined.

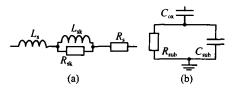


Fig. 1 (a) Skin effect model; (b) Oxide-substrate 3-element model

$$= 1 + a_1 s_i + a_2 s_i^2 + \ldots + a_m s_i^m,$$
  
 $i = 1, 2, \ldots, N$  (2)

where  $R_i = R(s_i)$ . Usually N > m + n + 1, so the above equations turn into an over-determined problem and can be solved as a standard linear least-square problem :min(v = Ax - b), where  $x = (a_1, ..., a_m, b_0, b_1, ..., b_n)^T = R^{m+n+1}$  is a column vector for unknown coefficients and  $b = (1, 1, ..., 1)^T$ 

 $\mathbb{R}^{N}$  is a unity column vector. Thus,

## 2.3 Application for the 3-element model of substrate loss

The 3-element model is commonly used to model the substrate loss as shown in Fig. 1 (b). If the impedance for that branch is measured ,then

$$Z(s) = \frac{1}{sC_{ox}} + \frac{R_{sub}}{1 + sC_{sub} R_{sub}}$$
$$= \frac{1 + s(C_{ox} + C_{sub}) R_{sub}}{sC_{ox} + s^2 C_{ox} C_{sub} R_{sub}}$$
(7)

We fit the rational function

$$\frac{1 + a_1 s}{b_1 s + b_2 s^2}$$
(8)

to obtain  $a_1$ ,  $b_1$ , and  $b_2$ , and thus the three elements  $C_{\text{ox}}$ ,  $R_{\text{sub}}$ , and  $C_{\text{sub}}$  can be determined by comparing Eqs. (7) and (8).

# 3 Compact circuit model of spiral inductors

#### 3.1 On-chip spiral inductors and the 1- model

The on-chip spiral inductor and its basic 9-element 1- circuit model are shown in Fig. 2. It is a 2-port device characterized by 2-port S-parameters (or other small signal parameters such as Y-parameters). For a linear passive network,  $S_{12} = S_{21}$  (or  $Y_{12} = Y_{21}$ ) due to its reciprocal nature. Hence there are only three independent complex parameters that characterize the device. The Y-parameters, for example, can be transformed into the following six real quantities (Note: The average of  $Y_{12}$  and  $Y_{21}$  is used because there are inevitable measurement errors between them) :

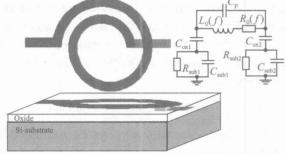


Fig. 2 On-chip spiral inductor and 1- model

 $L_{11}$ ,  $L_{22}$ ,  $Q_{11}$ , and  $Q_{22}$  are the equivalent inductances and quality factors seen from Port1 and Port2 with the other port ac-shorted.  $L_{\text{eff}}$  and  $R_{\text{eff}}$  are the effective series inductance and resistance of the main path<sub>c</sub> (- $Y_{21}$ ). The DC values are :

$$\begin{array}{rcl}
 R_{DC} &=& R_{eff} \mid & 0 \\
 L_{DC} &=& (L_{eff}, L_{11}, \text{or } L_{22}) \mid & 0 \\
\end{array} (10)$$

where  $R_{DC}$  is the DC resistance, and  $L_{DC}$  is the inductance when 0. The six quantities in Eq. (9) are mathematically equivalent to S- or Y-parameters, but they are more physically insightful and much easier to manage because they are all real numbers.

There are two sets of data for each quantity in Eq. (9) ,which represent the measured and simulated values , respectively. They are explicitly designated by a subscript "m" or "s"; for example  $,L_{11,m}$  or  $L_{11,s}$ , and  $Q_{11,m}$  or  $Q_{11,s}$ . The modeling goal is to let simulated values ("s") of all the six quantities be as close to the measured values ("m") as possible.

## 3. 2 From the 1- model to the 18-element 2model

The simple 1- topology shown in Fig. 3 (a) has serious deficiencies for a lossy substrate, as in CMOS RFICs. In Eq. (9), the quantity  $R_{\text{eff}}$  needs to

be treated carefully. The measurements show that it equals to the DC resistance at first and then rises with frequency due to the skin and proximity effects. But after it reaches a maximum at  $f_{skin,max}$ (Fig. 5) ,it begins to drop until reaching a negative value on the order  $10^{-2} \sim 10^{-3}$  when the frequency is sufficiently high. This phenomenon is due to distributed substrate parasitics which override the skin and proximity effects, and can only be explained by a 2- topology.

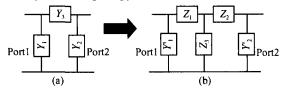


Fig. 3 Topology of 1- (a) and 2- (b) models

Figure 3 (b) is a block diagram for the 2model ,without the shunt capacitor  $C_p$ . Figure 4 is our 18-element 2- model , refined from Ref. [13] with redundant elements removed. According to

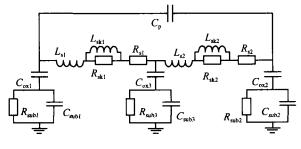


Fig. 4 18-element 2- circuit model

Fig. 3(b), with a third grounded branch  $Z_3$  added, the distributed effects of the substrate parasitics can be compensated by:

 $\begin{aligned} R_{eff} &= Re(Z_1 + Z_2 + Z_1 Z_2 / Z_3) \quad (11) \\ Assuming Z_1 & R_{s1} + j L_{s1}, Z_2 & R_{s2} + j L_{s2} \text{ and } Z_3 \\ R_{sub3} + 1/j C_{ox3} \text{ , then} \end{aligned}$ 

$$\begin{array}{rcl} R_{eff} & Re[(R_{s1} + j \ L_{s1}) + (R_{s2} + j \ L_{s2}) + \\ & \frac{(R_{s1} + j \ L_{s1})(R_{s2} + j \ L_{s2})}{R_{sub3} + 1/i \ C_{ox3}} \end{array}$$
(12)

At high frequencies, we assume roughly that  $R_{s1} \ll L_{s1}$ ,  $R_{s2} \ll L_{s2}$ , and  $R_{sub3} \gg 1/(C_{ox3})$ , so

$$R_{eff} = R_{s1} + R_{s2} - {}^{2} L_{s1} L_{s2} / R_{sub3}$$
(13)

Thus  $R_{\text{eff}}$  can become negative at high enough frequencies due to the negative term that is <sup>2</sup>. (Note : negative  $R_{\text{eff}}$  does not imply that the passivity of the model has been violated ,because it is only an effective quantity with the unit of and not a real resistance as defined from -  $Y_{21}$ .) On the contrary ,the 1- model only provides a positive value of  $R_{\text{eff}}$  regardless of frequency because the " $Y_3$ " box in Fig. 3(a) must be passive.

Figure 5 shows both the measured ("m") and simulated ("s") values using our 2- model for  $R_{eff}$ and  $L_{eff}$  of a 4. 5-turn spiral inductor fabricated in the TSMC 0. 25µm process. The simulated results using the 1- model provided by the foundry are also plotted and identified by the suffix "TSMC – 1-

". This shows that the 1- model gives inaccurate values for both  $R_{\text{eff}}$  and  $L_{\text{eff}}$  at high frequencies compared to the measured data. It predicts a high-Q parallel-tank resonating at about 13 GHz and the sign of  $R_{\text{eff}}$  is always positive. On the contrary, the simulated results of the 2- model are accurate at least up to the resonant frequency (about 15 GHz as shown in Fig. 5).

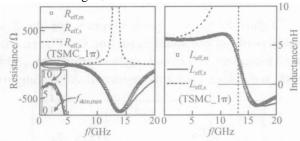


Fig. 5  $R_{\rm eff}$  and  $L_{\rm eff}$  fabricated in a 4.5-turn inductor fabricated in TSMC 0. 25µm process

## 3.3 Skin and proximity effects in the 2- model

In order to model the skin and proximity effects, the single inductor  $L_0$  (f) and resistor  $R_0(f)$  in Fig. 2 must be frequency-dependent and not compatible with SPICE. Therefore two branches ( $L_{sk}$  and  $R_{sk}$ ) are added in Fig. 4. Assuming the two halves of the main path are identical :  $Z_1$  $Z_2$ , the number of the independent elements of the circuit can be reduced to 14.

The effect of eddy-currents in the substrate is not included in this paper because the current RF CMOS process normally uses a lightly-doped Sisubstrate ( $_{si}$  1 ~ 10 · cm), in which eddy current effect is negligible.

#### 3.4 Limitations of the 2- model

The 2- model has its own limitations at high frequencies: it is valid up to the self resonant-frequency (SRF). Beyond SRF, the spiral presents capacitive properties and cannot be used as an inductor any more. Thus the above upper limitation of the model is still acceptable for most circuit applications since SRF sets the applicable limit of spiral inductors. Moreover, the six quantities in Eq. (9) lose their physical meaning beyond SRF; and thus fitting error will be larger beyond SRF.

Seen from the two ports, SRF is defined as

$$\begin{array}{c|cccc} SRF_{11} & /2 & | & L_{11} = 0 \\ SRF_{22} & /2 & | & L_{22} = 0 \end{array}$$
(14)

# 4 Parameter extraction in the 2model

When the measured S-parameters at various frequencies are available, the values of the 18 elements in Fig. 4 can be extracted. The goal is to obtain an optimum fit between simulated S- or Y-parameters or the six quantities in Eq. (9) with the measured data.

#### 4.1 Extraction of the shunt capacitance C<sub>p</sub>

The shunt capacitor  $C_p$  can be extracted at high frequencies as

$$C_{p} = \frac{Im(-Y_{21.m})}{(15)}$$

The term "high frequency" is not well defined, and the measured data do not show an asymptotic constant, even when the frequency is kept increasing. Nevertheless, in order to perform the following extraction,  $C_p$  must be assigned a value. We evaluate Eq. (15) at the maximum measuring frequency and then determine  $C_p$ . Thus we can define

$$Z_{eff,m} = \frac{1}{-Y_{21,m} - j C_p}$$
 (16)

#### 4.2 Extraction of elements in Z<sub>1</sub> and Z<sub>2</sub>

Since  $Z_1 = Z_2$  as shown in Fig. 3(b), each impedance is

 $Z_{1,\,m} \ = \ Z_{1,\,m} \qquad Z_{eff,\,m} / \ 2 \ , \qquad f \ < \ f_{skin,\,max} \ (17)$ 

The above approximate equality holds only be fore  $R_{\text{eff},\text{m}}$  reaches its maximum:  $f < f_{\text{skin},\text{max}}$  as depicted in Fig. 5, when the shunt effect of  $Z_3$  can be neglected. After  $f_{\text{skin},\text{max}}$ , the skin and proximity effects on  $R_{\text{eff},\text{m}}$  (also  $L_{\text{eff},\text{m}}$ ) will be overridden by the capacitive substrate parasitics of  $Z_3$  as explained in Section 3. 2. We define:

 $f_{skin,max}$  /2 /  $R_{eff,m} = max(R_{eff,m})$  (18) Thus the method described in Section 2. 2 can be performed with the impedance of the L HS term of Eq. (4) already known ,and the values of  $L_{sl,2}$ ,  $R_{s1,2}$ ,  $L_{sk1,2}$ , and  $R_{sk1,2}$  can be determined.

### 4.3 Extraction of elements in Z<sub>3</sub>

When the elements in  $Z_1$  and  $Z_2$  are extracted, the impedance of  $Z_3$  shown in Fig. 3(b) can be calculated as

$$Z_{1,s} = Z_{2,s} = R_{s1} + j L_{s1} + \frac{R_{sk1} j L_{sk1}}{R_{sk1} + j L_{sk1}}$$

$$Z_{3,m} = \frac{(Z_{1,s})^2}{Z_{eff,m} - 2 Z_{1,s}}$$
(19)

where the simulated impedances  $Z_{1,s}$  and  $Z_{2,s}$  are evaluated at the measuring frequencies { 1, 2, ..., N}. Thus, with the impedance of the L HS term of Eq. (7) known, the method of Section 2.3 can be performed to determine  $C_{ox3}$ ,  $R_{sub3}$ , and  $C_{sub3}$ .

#### 4.4 Extraction of elements in Y<sub>1</sub> and Y<sub>2</sub>

After the elements in  $Z_1$ ,  $Z_2$ , and  $Z_3$  are extracted, we can calculate  $Y_1$  and  $Y_2$  as shown in Fig. 3(b). Let

$$\begin{cases} Z_{3,s} = \frac{1}{j C_{ox3}} + \frac{R_{sub3}}{1 + j C_{sub3} R_{sub3}} \\ Y_{1,m} = Y_{11,m} - \left\{ \frac{Z_{1,s} Z_{3,s}}{Z_{1,s} + Z_{3,s}} + Z_{1,s} \right\}^{-1} - j C_{p} \\ Y_{2,m} = Y_{22,m} - \left\{ \frac{Z_{2,s} Z_{3,s}}{Z_{2,s} + Z_{3,s}} + Z_{2,s} \right\}^{-1} - j C_{p} \end{cases}$$

$$(20)$$

Thus the impedances  $1/Y_{1,m}$  and  $1/Y_{2,m}$  can be calculated, and the method described in Section 2. 3 can be applied again to determine the values of  $\{C_{0x1}, R_{sub1}, C_{sub1}\}$  and  $\{C_{0x2}, R_{sub2}, C_{sub2}\}$ , respectively.

Now the values of all 18 elements in Fig. 4 have been extracted.

## 5 Experimental validation

The measured data correspond to three inductors fabricated in Chartered Semiconductor 's 0. 18µm RF CMOS Cu-top 6-metal process. The layout parameters are shown in Table 1, covering turns n = 1, 5, 7 and the DC inductance  $L_{DC} = 0.5,$ 3. 8,11. 3nH. The extracted values of circuit elements are also shown in the table. Figures  $6 \sim 9$ show the six quantities defined in Eq. (9). The *S*parameters of only one inductor (D2) are plotted in Fig. 10 in order not to crowd the figure. The figure shows that the circuit model is very accurate up to the inductor 's SRF (with max error less than 1 %) provided that the parameters are properly extracted using our method. Beyond SRF, the circuit model presents more errors, but the trends are still correct.

Table 1 Parameter extraction results of three inductors fabricated in 0. 18µm RF CMOS process

Device		D1	D2	D3
Layout parameter1)	n	1	5	7
	r/µm	50	34.5	50
	$w/\mu m$	12	6	12
	s/µm	1.8	1.8	1.8
DC value	R <sub>DC</sub> /	0.7	3.1	3.4
	L <sub>DC</sub> / nH	0.5	3.8	11.3
	$C_p/fF$	2.2	13.0	38.2
	Ls1,2/ nH	0.246/0.246	1.81/1.81	5.25/5.25
	$L_{sk1,2}/nH$	0.104/0.104	0.091/0.091	0.305/0.305
Circuit	R <sub>s1,2</sub> /	0.375/0.375	1.55/1.55	1.68/1.68
element	R <sub>sk1,2</sub> /	0.408/0.408	1.69/1.69	1.82/1.82
	Cox1,2,3/fF	69.8/50.6/23.9	48.0/40.3/86.7	128/93.5/367
	C <sub>sub1,2,3</sub> /fF	13.7/12.5/1.27	31.7/16.8/2.31	64.7/26.5/45.6
	R <sub>sub1,2,3</sub> /	563/714/496	250/ 367/ 415	75.4/214/152

1) n:turn, r:inner radius, w:metal width, s:metal spacing.

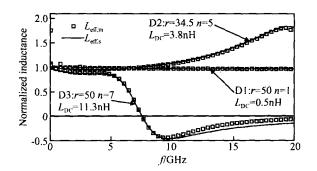


Fig. 6 Measured and simulated effective series inductances  $L_{eff}$  of three inductors normalized to their DC inductances

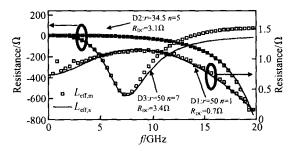


Fig. 7 Measured and simulated effective series resistances  $R_{eff}$  of three inductors

## 6 Conclusion

The 1- equivalent circuit model<sup>[7,12]</sup> is not adequate for RF CMOS spiral inductors, but the 2topology is good for most applications<sup>[13,14]</sup>. The

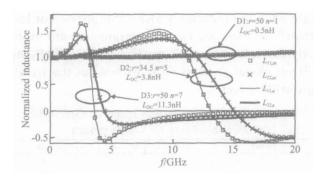


Fig. 8 Measured and simulated equivalent inductance  $L_{11}$  and  $L_{22}$  of three inductors normalized to their DC inductances

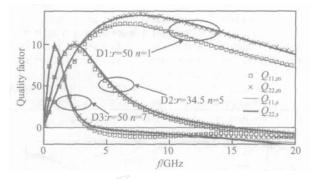


Fig. 9 Measured and simulated quality factors  $Q_{11}$  and  $Q_{22}$ 

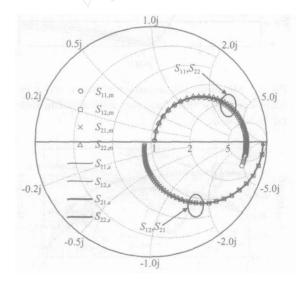


Fig. 10 Measured and simulated S-parameters of a 5turn inductor (D2)

compact circuit model used in this paper is a refined version of the 2- topology from Ref. [13] with redundant elements removed. The values of all 18 elements in our circuit model can be extracted step-by-step. The methodology of parameter extraction described in this paper is more straightforward and much more easily implemented as a CAD tool compared to the heuristic work<sup>[14]</sup>.

The accuracy of the proposed parameter extraction method for the 2- model of Fig. 4 is very good and has been verified by comparison to several industrial samples. The resulting circuit model is very useful for RF circuit designers.

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# 射频 CMOS 平面螺旋电感 2- 等效电路模型参数的提取\*

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摘要:从有理分式拟合方法出发,提出了用于射频 CMOS 平面螺旋电感 2- 等效电路模型参数提取的新方法.通 过比较提参后等效电路给出的 S 参数和实验测量的 S 参数,证明该方法的精度很高.此外,提参的策略非常直接, 因此容易在 CAD 里面编程实现.提参得到的等效电路模型对于射频电路设计者来说也是非常有用的.

关键词: 2-; 等效电路模型; 参数提取; 射频 CMOS 电路; 平面螺旋电感 EEACC: 2560B; 2570D 中图分类号: TP211<sup>+</sup>.51 文献标识码: A 文章编号: 0253-4177(2006)04-0667-07

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