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Introduction to RF Circuit Design and Simulation Software (ADS and EMPro)

Dexter Lee, Solution Engineer 21-Sep 2023

Keysight Offers End-to-End Solutions Across Workflows and Markets

MARKETS





Agenda

- 1. IC Design Workflow with PathWave ADS (MMIC PA Design)
- 2. Rectenna Design with PathWave EMPro and ADS
 - a) Patch Antenna Design with EMPro
 - b) Rectifier Circuit with ADS
 - c) Integration of Patch Antenna and Rectifier Circuit in ADS
- 3. General Introduction of EMI/EMC simulation with EMPro
- 4. Conclusion



IC Design Workflow with PathWave ADS (MMIC PA Design)

Keysight PathWave Advanced Design System (ADS)

Premier RF & Microwave Design Software

- Industry and Technology Leader Serving:
 - RFIC/MMIC
 - Module Design
 - RF Board Design
 - Silicon RFIC Design
 - High Speed Digital Design



Keysight Pathwave MMIC Solutions

From Transistors to MMIC's to Modules



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A Platform for Technology Assembly



Integrated Solution For Pre- And Post-Layout Analysis



Demonstration: MMIC PA/Switch on Laminate Board



Schematic Design – DC Analysis of FET

- DC Analysis is usually performed at the start of amplifier design to understand the transistor performance
- ADS provides template that quickly helps designers to setup the simulation test bench.



IM1.VGS=0.000

IM1.VGS=-0.500

SIM1.VGS=-1.000

SIM1.VGS=-1.500

SIM1.VGS=-2.000

Schematic Design – Optimization of Circuits

- After understanding the transistor performance, designer will start to create the various circuit:
 - 1. Bias Circuit
 - 2. Stability Circuit
 - 3. Impedance Matching Circuit
- ADS Provides tools that helps designer to achieve their goals:
 - 1. Smith Chart Utility Tool for Impedance Matching
 - 2. StabFact component to measure stability quickly
 - 3. Optimization Cockpit







Stability Optimization

- Perform S-Parameter simulation for Stability and Impedance Matching purposes.
- Below schematic perform Optimization for Stability (K-Factor) > 1.05 at all frequencies.
- SmGamma1 and SmGamma2 to measure simultaneous-match input-reflection and output-reflection coefficient.



Stability Optimization

- Optimized K-Factor Results with S-Parameters being measured.
- SmGamma1 and SmGamma2 values are measured for impedance matching (@ 2GHz) for the next step.





Impedance Matching @ 2GHz – Smith Chart Utility Tool

Based on the measured SmGamma1 and SmGamma2, these values can be placed in the Smith Chart Utility Tool to creating matching • network automatically.



Impedance Matching – Smith Chart Utility Tool

• Impedance Matched Results





Using PDK Components

- To bring the results one step closer to the measurement results, Process Design Kits (PDKs) from Foundries or Vendors will be used to replace the ideal components.
- Due to the model creation depending on the Foundries or Vendors, ideal component values may not be exactly replaced with PDK component values especially for inductor models.



Using PDK Components

Comparison of Results



Using PDK Components - Tuning

- Tuning can help to fine tune the performance of the design.
- Tuning updates the results instantly no need to re-run the simulation.



Blue plot shows updated results once components are being tuned.



Using PDK Components - Tuning

- Tuning can help to fine tune the performance of the design.
- Tuning updates the results instantly no need to re-run the simulation.



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Using PDK Components - Tuning

• Tuning can help to fine-tune and improve the results.



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Using PDK Components – Microstrip Line

- To complete the simulation, PDK Microstrip line are used to complete the design.
- If the results shift too much, consider Tuning/Optimization to fine tune the results.



Complete Design: 2 Stage Amplifier Design

• The final demo design is a 2-Stage Amplifier and below are the schematic and results details.



Complete Design: 2 Stage Amplifier Design

• The final demo design is a 2-Stage Amplifier and below are the schematic and results details.



Layout Design – Design Synchronization

From Schematic to Layout

- Design Synchronization allows designs from schematic to be brought over to layout, while maintaining the schematic parameter such as component values, layout parameters (e.g Width, Length, No. of Turns, etc.) in layout.
- Valid for PDK Models/Components that has both schematic and layout components.



Layout Design – Design Synchronization

From Schematic to Layout

• Complete Layout Design for the 2-Stage Amplifier after design synchronization.



Substrate Stack-up are typically already defined by the PDK models. Alternatively, create substrate stack-up using the ADS substrate editor



What we heard over the years



Model=EEFET3M1 R=50 Ohm Ugw= L3 N= L=1.0 nH Temp= R= in C=1.0 pF -)|-C1 C=1.0 pF Ignd C2 EE FET3 C=1.0 pF EE_FET3 Model=EEFET3M1 Udw= C3 C=1.0 pF Temp: R6 > R=50 Ohm C4 C=1.0 pF R2M Large Multi-port R=50 Ohm ° L5 S-parameter File R=50 Ohm) L=1.0 nH R=

Tedious, Time-Consuming and Error Prone!

RFPro Simulation - Introduction



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RFPro Simulation - Introduction

RFPro in ADS Removes EM Setup Complexity



No Cookie cutting

No exporting

No removing active devices and placing pins & ports

No reconnecting schematics to s-parameter files

<u>Solver</u>

No expert setup

Be confident in the setup of the

simulation and accuracy of the results

Better automated defeaturing (via merging/dummy removal/hatched planes...)

Integration

Integrated EM and Circuit Co-Simulation
3D view

- Solution for RF PCB, RFIC, MMIC and RF Modules
- Same user interface for ADS and Cadence Virtuoso

Same environment for FEM and Momentum

RFPro



RFPro Simulation - Setup

• Nets Assignment (Signal, Ground, Power) for automation in Ports Creation.



- Simple Drag-and-Drop for Ports and Component Creation
- Various options for model presentation Lumped, SnP, Model DB, and Library Cell (PDK, SPICE)

Name	Type		
model	Library Cell		
Add	•	Remove	Set Default
Lumped			
SnP			
Model DB	Design Kit:R		



RFPro Simulation – Generated Sub-Circuit

- Quick sub-circuit generation for schematic use.
- Generated sub-circuit automatically connects Ports, Components, and EM simulation results together with Nets connections
- Circuit Components in the sub-circuit can be Tuned/Optimized with EM simulation results for Design Exploration



32

RFPro Simulation – Top Level Hierarchy Simulation

• Generated RFPro Sub-circuit results in comparison with Schematic simulation results.



RFPro Simulation – Top Level Hierarchy Simulation

• Generated RFPro Sub-circuit results in comparison with Schematic simulation results.



Further Validation of Design

Harmonic balance/modulated signals

• Non-linear performance of the LNA is critical

Designers leverage on ADS Harmonic
Balance to analyze the non-linear performance

 Designer may also be interested how the LNA performed under Industry Standard Signals

> Virtual Test Bench (VTBs) provides Industry Standard Signals that designers can use.



Validation: Harmonic Balance Simulation

1-Tone Non-Linear Simulation



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Validation: Harmonic Balance Simulation

1-Tone Non-Linear Simulation


Simulate with industry standard signals



Simulate with industry standard signals



Simulate with industry standard signals

Input Power at -30dBm



Simulate with industry standard signals

Input Power at 0dBm



Smart Mount

Multi-technology simulation

- SmartMount allows designs with different technology to be assembled into a single layout window
- This enables full design EM simulation together with Packages, Laminate, Connectors, etc.



SmartMount Flow

Smart Mount

Mount PA onto Laminate Board



Smart Mount



RF Laminate_Board_plus_2PAs_Switch [Laminate_lib:Laminate_Board_plus_2PAs_Switch:rfpro] (RFPro [A])

Smart Mount: DUT Test Board

Integrate design with DUT Test board



YouTube Videos



1. <u>3 Critical Requirements for RF Design Flow: PathWave ADS Overview</u>

2. Integrated 3D EM/Circuit Co-Simulation for First-Pass Design Win



Rectenna Design with ADS and EMPro

Keysight PathWave EM Design (EMPro)

3D EM Simulation Tool

- Modern, efficient 3D solid modeling environment
- Flexible choice of full wave 3D EM simulation technologies, FDTD and FEM
- Antenna Element and Array Designer for quick design generation
- Parameterize 3D EM components for co-simulation & optimization in ADS
- Transfer ADS Layouts to EMPro for additional 3D-EM simulation
- Full scripting (Python) and parameterization capability
- Windows & Linux



EMPro Application

Microwave and RF (E.g. Antenna, PCB Board, Waveguide)





High Speed Digital (E.g. Connector Models, etc)





Specific Absorption Rate (SAR)



Aerospace and Defence (E.g. Radar Cross Section)





Optional Title of the Presentation

Antenna Design Toolkit

Element Designer

- Quick generation of desired antenna
- Support the following:
 - ✓ Aperture Antennas
 - Bidirectional 16-Slotted Waveguide Antenna
 - ✓ PCB Antennas
 - Circular Pin-Fed Patch Antenna
 - Inverted-F Antenna
 - Rectangular Patch Antenna

✓ Wire Antennas

- End-loaded Dipole Antenna
- Folded Dipole Antenna
- Dipole Antenna



Antenna Design Toolkit

- Quick generation of array from a single antenna element in the active EMPro projec
- Support the following:
 - ✓ Cylindrical Rectangular Antenna Array
 - ✓ Linear Antenna Array
 - ✓ Planar Rectangular Antenna Array
 - ✓ Planar Triangular Antenna Array
- Specify desired Beam Steering Operation
- Enable/Disable antenna element for desired pattern of array



Keysight PathWave EM Design (EMPro)

EMPro Standalone 3DEM integration with ADS

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Common Database





ADS Schematic



- EMPro projects now saved as ADS libraries
- 3D models now directly available in ADS as schematic and layout views
- Changes made in EMPro dynamically update in ADS
- Parameters created in EMPro available in ADS for EM sweep/optimization

antennas



Demo: Rectenna Design

Antenna Design in EMPro, Rectifier PCB Design in ADS



Rectenna_FULL EM EXTRACTION_Ckt_Rectenna_Full_EM_Complete_Modifie

schem atic X1

Demo: Rectenna Design

Antenna Design in EMPro







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EMPro



915MHz RF Energy Harvesting Variable Pitch Angle Helix Antenna Design

Integrating 3D Antenna and PCB Circuit Design

- Demonstration of Integrating 3D Antenna Design with PCB Circuit Design
- Antenna imported from 3rd party tool into EMPro, followed by into ADS
- RFPro simulation done with Antenna mounted on PCB Board
- Impedance matching with Modelithics component was done together with Antenna and PCB Board



Tutorial 7: 915MHz RF Energy Harvesting Variable Pitch Angle Helix Antenna Design



Practical RF Design with Keysight ADS: 7

915MHz RF Energy Harvesting Variable Pitch Angle Helix Antenna Design

DR. PRAGASH SANGARAN

Another use case of EMPro and ADS Integration

Reference – RF PCB - HD TV Tuner with Embedded CPU



RF PCB - HD TV Tuner with embedded CPU Application Notes https://edadocs.software.keysight.com/eesofapps/rf-pcb-hd-tv-tuner-with-embedded-cpu-577603432.html



General Introduction to EMI/EMC simulation with EMPro

Plane Wave Excitation on Rackmount Chassis



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Geometry

Plane Wave Excitation on Rackmount Chassis

Transient E-Field Plot using Plane Wave Excitation



EMI Emission





EMI Emission





EMI Emission (with Slot added)

Slot added under the differential pair to simulate the effects of discontinuities in the PCB Ground Plane (See Green arrows)



Geometry

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EMI Emission (with Slot added)



Slot has increased emission levels



PEPro – Conducted and Radiated EMI for Power Electronics (DC-DC Converter, etc...)



PEPro – Conducted and Radiated EMI for Power Electronics (DC-DC Converter, etc...)

- For this controller, the RiseTime and FallTime in Transient PE are from PEPro SMPS frequency plan.
- The Data Display shows the peak spectrum (total, differential / common mode noise) of SMPS noise calculated from the Linear Impedance Stabilization Network (LISN) output according to the CISPR-25 requirements of the frequency range and spectrum resolution RBW.







The EM analysis result of the board and the mounted parts are automatically placed as a sub circuit.

PEPro – Conducted and Radiated EMI for Power Electronics (DC-DC Converter,

- You need to check Enable Far Field in the Field Storage tab of Frequency Plans in Options and select Momentum Microwave or FEM in Preset of Simulator.
- The built-in far-field solver in PEPro can help user obtain far-field radiation patterns under specific excitation. The far-field data, including electric field strength and radiation power, can be examined directly in PEPro.





PIPro – Conducted EMI and Radiated EMI for High-Speed Digital Boards



PIPro – Conducted EMI and Radiated EMI for High-Speed Digital Boards

CEMI Export to ADS Test Bench Schematic



Data Display Results



PIPro – Conducted EMI and Radiated EMI for High-Speed Digital Boards

Radiated Emission (cemi analysis) (G:\ads_pi\CEMI_Examples\2023_ADS_PIPro_CEMI_D 2\000003\emds dsn\design\circuit\design2.ckt.d File Window Result Selector SI PI Polarization File View Marker EMI 💼 🖬 🖱 😪 🖃 🖊 🖓 🕂 🔶 🗢 Graph X Vertical X Horizontal Title: Frequ Min: 1 MHz × Auto Title: Min: 0 dB(uV/m) Auto Max: 60 dB(uV/m) Auto Max: 1000 MH; Auto Font Size 14 Font Size 14 🗘 Radiation Contributors Magnitude v. Frequency PCB and Cable Orientatio Benchtop Alignm LISN-Cable-PCB PCB Orientatio **Topside Towards Ant** PCB Rotatic 45 0 Degrees View From Antenn PCB 2.0 Simulation Datase Default CEMI Datase 15 Default CEMI Dataset X Browse 1e+03 Frequency (MHz)

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Radiated Spectrum Vertical and Horizontal



Orientation and Setup Options

8 ×

Radiation Contrib	outors	
PCB and Cable		
Orientation		
Benchtop Alig	nment:	
LISN-Cable-PCE	1	-
PCB Orientatio	n:	
Topside Toward	ls Antenna	-
PCB Rotation:		
0 Degrees		-
View From Anten	na	
View From Anten	na	РСВ
View From Anten	cable	PCB
View From Anten	cable	PCB
View From Anten	na cable	PCB
View From Anten	na cable et	PCB



Conclusion

Conclusion

✓ADS provides efficient and accurate EM-Circuit simulation workflow for design covering ICs, Modules and PCB Designs

✓ EMPro provides great insights for 3D Modeling EM simulation

✓ Integrate PCB and 3D component design with both ADS and EMPro


