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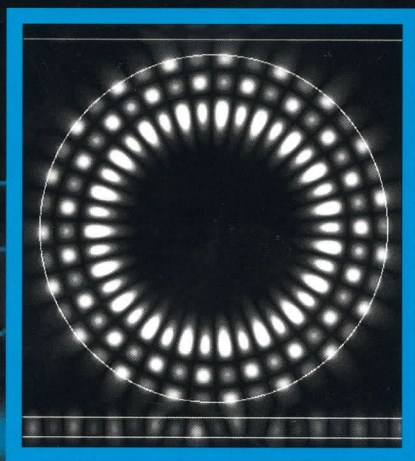
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The Finite-Difference Time-Domain Method



ALLEN TAFLOVE
EDITOR

Contents

Preface

xvii

Chapter 1 A Survey of the Finite-Difference Time-Domain Literature	1
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 Fundamental Issues	2
1.3 Absorbing Boundary Conditions	3
1.3.1 Differential-Equation-Based and Other Nonmaterial ABCs	3
1.3.2 Material ABCs	5
1.4 Gridding	6
1.4.1 Orthogonal Grids	6
1.4.2 Subgridding	7
1.4.3 Subcellular Techniques	8
1.4.4 Conformal Grids	9
1.5 Material Modeling	11
1.5.1 Frequency-Dispersive Material	12
1.5.2 Surface-Impedance Boundary Conditions	13
1.5.3 Thin Material Sheets	14
1.5.4 Anisotropic Material	14
1.5.5 Nonlinear Material	15
1.6 Active and Passive Device Modeling	16
1.7 Transformations	17
1.8 Digital Signal-Processing Techniques	18
1.9 Techniques to Reduce Numerical Dispersion Errors	18
1.10 Radiating Structures	19
1.10.1 Simple Antennas	20
1.10.2 Horn Antennas	20
1.10.3 Antennas for Pulse Radiation	20
1.10.4 Microstrip Antennas	20
1.10.5 Dielectric Resonator Antennas	21
1.10.6 Handheld Antennas	21
1.10.7 Antenna Arrays	21
1.10.8 Other Radiating Structures	22
1.11 Microwave Devices and Guiding Structures	22
1.11.1 Waveguides, Feeds, Junctions, and Resonators	22
1.11.2 Microstrips	23
1.11.3 Vias, Interconnects, and Transmission Lines	24
1.11.4 Algorithm Improvements	25
1.12 Discrete Scatterers	26
1.13 Infinite and Periodic Structures	27
1.14 Ground-Penetrating Radar	28
1.15 Hybrid Techniques	29
1.16 Conclusions	29
References	30
Selected Bibliography: Novel and Emerging FDTD Areas	58

Chapter 2 High-Order Methods	63
2.1 Introduction	63
2.1.1 Lax-Richtmyer Equivalence Theorem	64
2.1.2 Basic Numerical Approaches	65
2.1.3 Accuracy-Definition Considerations	65
2.2 Example of the Concept of Order of Accuracy	67
2.3 Fourth-Order Space Derivatives	69
2.3.1 Explicit Fourth-Order Schemes	70
2.3.2 Implicit Fourth-Order Schemes	70
2.3.3 Nonuniform Mesh	71
2.3.4 Accuracy	72
2.3.5 Boundary Treatment	73
2.4 Time-Stepping Schemes	75
2.4.1 Second-Order-Accurate Leapfrog	76
2.4.2 Fourth-Order Time Stepping, Explicit Space Derivatives	76
2.4.3 Fourth-Order Time Stepping, Implicit Space Derivatives	78
2.4.4 Fourth-Order Time Stepping, Implicit Space Derivatives in Two Dimensions	79
2.4.5 Fourth-Order Time Stepping Using the Runge-Kutta Method	81
2.4.6 Time Step	81
2.5 Combined Discretization	83
2.6 Computational Results	84
2.6.1 Relation Between the Yee, Ty(2,4), and Ty(4,4) Methods	85
2.6.2 Example 1: Sinusoidal Line Source in Free Space	86
2.6.3 Example 2: Parallel-Plate Waveguide	87
2.6.4 Example 3: Obliquely Propagating Wave in Free Space—Parametric Studies of Solution Accuracy	87
2.7 Discontinuous Coefficients	89
2.7.1 Initial Examination	91
2.7.2 Fourth-Order Smooth Approximation	91
2.7.3 Computed Example: Dielectric Slab	92
2.7.4 Computed Example: Dielectric-Coated Conductor	95
2.8 PML Absorbing Boundary	95
2.9 Simultaneous Approximation Term Solid Boundary	96
2.10 Helmholtz Equation	98
2.10.1 Interior Region	98
2.10.2 Boundary Conditions	101
2.10.3 Computed Example	102
2.11 Spectral Methods	102
2.12 Summary and Conclusions	105
References	106
Chapter 3 Time-Domain Analysis Using Multiresolution Expansions	111
3.1 Introduction	111
3.2 Introduction to Wavelet Expansions	113
3.3 The Haar System—A Predecessor to Multiresolution Analysis	116
3.4 The Shannon System—The Second Prototype	119
3.5 Multiresolution Analysis	122
3.6 Properties of Scaling and Wavelet Functions	123

3.7	Popular Wavelet Systems	125
3.7.1	Franklin Wavelet System	126
3.7.2	Battle-Lemarie System	127
3.8	Time-Domain Schemes Based on Multiresolution Analysis	129
3.8.1	The Two-Dimensional MRTD Scheme	130
3.8.2	Numerical Stability	135
3.8.3	Numerical Dispersion	137
3.9	Treatment of Boundary Conditions in MRTD	141
3.9.1	Source Excitation	141
3.9.2	Treatment of Hard Boundaries	142
3.9.3	Application of the PML ABC	143
	Split-Field Formulation	143
	Nonsplit-Field Formulation	145
	Validations	146
3.9.4	Modeling of Dielectric Interfaces	146
3.10	Space- and Time-Adaptive Gridding	150
3.11	Applications of MRTD to Microwave Problems	151
3.11.1	Parallel-Plate Waveguide	151
3.11.2	Open Single and Coupled Striplines	156
3.12	Summary and Conclusions	158
	References	160

Chapter 4	Explicit Time-Domain Solutions of Maxwell's Equations via Generalized Grids	163
4.1	Introduction	163
4.2	Nonorthogonal FDTD Method	165
4.2.1	General Curvilinear Coordinate Concepts	166
4.2.2	Implementation of Maxwell's Equations in a General Curvilinear Coordinate System	168
4.2.3	Projection Strategies for Irregular Grids	170
	Facial-Average Method	170
	Divergence-Free Vertex-Based Projections	172
4.2.4	Boundary Conditions	175
	Perfect Electric Conductors	175
	Perfect Magnetic Conductors	177
4.3	Nonorthogonal FDTD Methods Based on Unstructured Grids	177
4.4	Numerical Stability	182
4.5	Well-Posed Nonorthogonal FDTD Methods	184
4.5.1	The Nature of a Well-Posed FDTD Formulation	184
4.5.2	Well-Posed Nonorthogonal FDTD Algorithm	186
4.5.3	Well-Posed Discrete Surface Integral Algorithm	188
4.5.4	Validations	189
	Homogeneous Cavity Model	189
	Cavity Resonance Problem	192
4.6	Numerical Dispersion	194
4.6.1	Dispersion Analysis Based on a Uniform Skewed Grid	194
4.6.2	Example of Numerical Wave Speed	198
4.6.3	Dispersion Analysis Based on a Uniform Triangular Grid	201

4.7	Examples	203
4.7.1	Round-Wire Transmission Line: Parallel and Twisted	203
4.7.2	Microwave Circuit Devices	207
	Microstrip Circular Patch Antenna	207
	Wilkinson Power Divider	209
	Transition from Coplanar Waveguide to Microstrip and Back	210
4.7.3	Radar Cross Section of Three-Dimensional Bodies	211
	Triangular-Shaped Flat Plates with Semicircular Back Ends	211
	Almond-Shaped Target	215
4.8	Introduction to Finite-Volume Time-Domain Methods	215
4.8.1	Background	218
4.8.2	Structured-Grid Solvers	220
4.8.3	Unstructured-Grid Solvers	221
4.9	Conservation Form of Maxwell's Equations and Field Formulations	222
4.9.1	Field Formulations	223
	Total-Field Formulation	223
	Scattered-Field Formulation	224
4.9.2	Treatment of Dispersive Media	225
4.10	Finite-Volume Discretization and Time Integration for Structured Grids	227
4.10.1	Characteristics-Based Lax-Wendroff Upwind Scheme	229
	Predictor Step	231
	Corrector Step	231
	Stability Condition	233
4.10.2	Application to Maxwell's Equations	233
4.10.3	Outer Boundary Treatment	236
4.10.4	Multizoning and Numerical Generation of Body-Fitted Meshes	238
4.11	Finite-Volume Discretization and Time Integration for Unstructured Meshes	239
4.11.1	An Accurate Upwind Taylor Scheme for General Grids	240
4.11.2	Reconstruction for the Upwind Taylor Scheme	242
4.11.3	Singularities and High-Order Boundary Conditions	244
4.11.4	Runge-Kutta Integration Schemes for Maxwell's Equations	244
4.11.5	Mixed and Merged Cells	246
4.12	Numerical Results and Validation	247
4.12.1	Structured-Grid Examples	248
4.12.2	Unstructured-Grid Examples	248
4.13	Performance of the Unstructured Parallel FVTD Code UPRCS	253
4.13.1	Testing Scalability Using Sphere Meshes	253
	Scale-Up Performance	253
	Speed-Up Performance	255
4.13.2	Scaleable Performance for Fighter Aircraft Models	255
	Small Fighter Grid	255
	Large Fighter Grid	255
4.14	Summary and Conclusions	257
	References	257
Chapter 5	The Perfectly Matched Layer Absorbing Medium	263
5.1	Introduction	263
5.2	Berenger's Split-Field Formulation of PML	265
5.2.1	Dispersionless Medium	265
5.2.2	Berenger's PML Medium	267

5.2.3	Corner Region—Matching a PML to a PML	270
5.2.4	Berenger's PML in Three Dimensions	272
5.3	A Stretched-Coordinate Formulation	273
5.4	An Anisotropic PML Absorbing Medium	275
5.4.1	Perfectly Matched Uniaxial Medium	276
5.4.2	Relationship to Berenger's Split-Field PML	278
5.4.3	Corner Regions	279
5.4.4	Matching the UPML to Generalized Media	281
5.5	Theoretical Performance of the PML	283
5.5.1	The Continuous Space	283
5.5.2	The Discrete Space	284
	Spatial Scaling of the PML Material Parameters	284
	Discretization Error	286
5.6	Efficient Implementation of PML in FDTD	288
5.6.1	Derivation of the Finite-Difference Expressions	289
5.6.2	Computer Implementation of the UPML	292
5.6.3	The Complex Frequency-Shifted Tensor	294
5.7	Numerical Experiments with PML	296
5.7.1	Parallel-Plate Waveguide, Pulsed TEM Mode	296
5.7.2	Current Source Radiating in an Unbounded Region	297
5.7.3	Highly Elongated Domains	303
5.7.4	TE Excitation of a Long Thin PEC Strip	306
5.7.5	Printed Microwave Circuits and Antennas	310
5.8	PML Termination for Conductive Media	315
5.8.1	Theory	316
5.8.2	Numerical Example	317
5.9	PML Termination for Dispersive Media	322
5.9.1	Theory	322
5.9.2	Numerical Example: Scattering by a Lorentz Medium	324
5.10	PML in Cylindrical and Spherical Coordinates	325
5.10.1	Stretched-Coordinate Formulation	325
5.10.2	UPML in Cylindrical Coordinates	329
5.10.3	Time-Dependent UPML in Cylindrical Coordinates	332
5.10.4	PML for a Cylindrical Shell	334
5.10.5	PML in Spherical Coordinates	336
5.11	Summary and Conclusions	339
	References	340
Chapter 6	Analysis of Periodic Structures	345
6.1	Introduction	345
6.2	Review of Scattering from Periodic Structures	348
6.3	Direct Field Methods	351
6.3.1	Normal Incidence Case	351
6.3.2	Multiple Unit Cells	353
6.3.3	Sine-Cosine Method	355
6.3.4	Angled-Update Method	356
6.4	Field-Transformation Approach	360
6.4.1	Simple Discretization	365
6.4.2	Dual-Time Technique	367
	Numerical Stability Analysis	367

	Numerical Dispersion Analysis	369
	Global Stability Analysis	371
6.4.3	Multiple-Spatial-Grid Approach	372
	Numerical Stability Analysis	373
	Numerical Dispersion Analysis	374
	Lossy Materials	376
	Lossy Screen Example	378
6.4.4	Split-Field Approach	379
	Numerical Stability Analysis	381
	Numerical Dispersion Analysis	383
	Lossy Materials	384
	Lossy Screen Example	385
6.4.5	Three-Dimensional Split-Field Technique	386
	Numerical Stability Analysis	390
	PML ABC	393
6.5	Application of the Periodic FDTD Techniques	396
6.5.1	Photonic Bandgap Structures	396
6.5.2	Frequency-Selective Surfaces	398
6.5.3	Antenna Arrays	400
6.6	Summary and Conclusions	404
Acknowledgments		405
References		405

Chapter 7 Modeling of Antennas 409

7.1	Introduction	409
7.2	Formulation of the Antenna Problem	410
7.2.1	Transmitting Antenna	410
7.2.2	Receiving Antenna	412
7.2.3	Symmetry	412
7.2.4	Excitation	414
7.3	Antenna Feed Models	416
7.3.1	Detailed Modeling of the Feed	416
7.3.2	Simple Gap Feed Model for a Monopole Antenna	418
	Transmitting Antenna	419
	Receiving Antenna	420
7.3.3	Improved Simple Feed Model	421
7.4	Near-Field to Far-Field Transformations	426
7.4.1	Time-Domain Near-Field to Far-Field Transformation	427
7.4.2	Frequency-Domain Near-Field to Far-Field Transformation	432
7.5	Plane-Wave Injector	434
7.5.1	Effect of an Incremental Displacement of the Surface Currents	434
7.5.2	Effect of an Incremental Time Shift	436
7.5.3	Field Component Update Equations	437
7.6	Case Study	442
7.7	Selected Recent Applications	448
7.7.1	Use of Photonic Bandgap Materials	448
7.7.2	Ground-Penetrating Radar	451
7.7.3	Antenna-Radome Interaction	453
7.7.4	Effects of the Human Body on Personal Communications Devices	456

7.7.5	Antennas for Biomedical Applications	457
7.8	Summary and Conclusions	457
	References	458

Chapter 8 High-Speed Electronic Circuits with Active and Nonlinear Components 461

8.1	Introduction	461
8.2	Basic FDTD Algorithm	463
8.3	Inclusion of a Lumped-Circuit Element	465
8.4	Norton Equivalent Circuit "Looking Into" the FDTD Space Lattice	466
8.4.1	Theory	466
8.4.2	Illustration for a Resistor	468
8.4.3	Equivalence to an Alternate Explicit Representation	473
8.5	Thevenin Equivalent Circuit "Looking Into" the FDTD Space Lattice	474
8.6	State-Variable Representation of the Terminal Characteristics of a Lumped-Circuit Element	476
8.6.1	Discrete-State-Variable Technique	479
8.6.2	Application to a Passive, Linear, Single-Port Device	479
8.6.3	Application to a Passive, Linear, Two-Port Device	480
8.7	Modeling a Nonlinear Two-Terminal Element: The Schottky Diode	482
8.8	Modeling a Nonlinear Three-Terminal Element: The MESFET Transistor	485
8.8.1	Large-Signal Model	485
8.8.2	Simulation Results	489
	Analysis of the Circuit Without the Packaging Structure	491
	Analysis of the Circuit With the Packaging Structure	491
8.9	Introduction to Modeling in High-Speed Digital Design	493
8.10	Inductance of Complex Power-Distribution Systems	496
8.10.1	Method Description	496
8.10.2	Example: Multiplane Meshed Printed-Circuit Board	498
8.11	Clock-Distribution Network Within a 2.5-GHz Multichip Module	502
8.11.1	Background	502
8.11.2	MCM Model and Clock Requirements	502
8.11.3	Simulation Approach and Clock-Distribution Models	504
8.11.4	Simulation Results	506
8.11.5	Systems Perspective	508
8.12	Summary and Conclusions	509
	Acknowledgments	509
	References	510

Chapter 9 Physics-Based Modeling of Millimeter-Wave Devices 513

9.1	Introduction	513
9.2	Special Considerations for High-Frequency Device Simulations	514
9.3	The Active Transmission Line Model	516
9.4	Effects of the AC Fields on the Device Response	516
9.5	FET Simulations Based on Electromagnetic and Electron-Transport Models	517
9.5.1	Active Device Model	518
9.5.2	Electromagnetic Model	519
9.5.3	Coupling the Two Models	519
	Initializations	520
	Time-Domain Solution	520

9.6	Implementation	521
9.6.1	The Simulated Structure	523
9.6.2	Solution of the Hydrodynamic Equations	523
9.6.3	Solution of Maxwell's Equations	525
9.6.4	Parallel-Processing Implementation	525
9.7	Results for a Millimeter-Wave MESFET	526
9.7.1	DC Steady-State Results	526
9.7.2	Electromagnetic Wave Results	528
9.7.3	Frequency-Domain Characteristics	533
9.8	Discontinuities in Semiconductor Structures and Devices	533
9.8.1	Discontinuities and Equivalent Circuits	536
9.8.2	Transistor Model	536
9.8.3	Evaluation of S Parameters	537
9.8.4	Calculated Results and Discussion	537
9.9	Results of the Physics-Based Model Versus Quasi-Static and Circuit Models	539
9.10	Modeling Device-Circuit Interactions: A Global Approach	541
9.11	Global Modeling of a Millimeter-Wave Amplifier	543
9.11.1	Computational Linkage of the Matching Networks to the MESFET	543
9.11.2	Amplifier Optimization Procedure	547
9.11.3	Validation of the Convolutional Description of the Matching Networks	547
9.11.4	Impulsive Electric Field Propagation Within the MESFET	549
9.11.5	Small-Signal Gain for the Complete Amplifier, Initial Transistor Design	551
9.11.6	Amplifier Characteristics for the Optimized Transistor Design	551
9.12	Summary and Conclusions	555
	Acknowledgment	555
	References	555
Chapter 10	Microcavity Resonators	561
10.1	Introduction	561
10.2	Issues Related to FDTD Modeling of Optical Phenomena	562
10.2.1	Optical Waveguides	562
10.2.2	Material Dispersion and Nonlinearities	566
10.3	Vertical-Cavity Surface-Emitting Lasers	566
10.3.1	FDTD Modeling of Optical Gain Media	567
10.3.2	Validation Studies	570
10.3.3	Application to Vertical-Cavity Surface-Emitting Lasers	574
	Passive Studies	576
	Active Studies	579
10.4	Microcavities Based on Photonic Bandgap Structures	581
10.5	Microcavity Ring and Disk Resonators	586
10.5.1	FDTD Modeling Considerations	587
10.5.2	Microcavity Ring Resonators Coupled to Straight Waveguides	589
10.5.3	Microcavity Ring Resonator Coupled to Curved Waveguides	592
10.5.4	Elongated-Ring Designs	593
10.5.5	Microcavity Ring Resonances	595
	Impact of Sidewall Roughness	598
	Rejection Ratio	598
	Extinction Ratio	598
	Effective Diameter	599
	Overall Assessment	599

10.5.6 Microcavity Disk Resonances	600
10.5.7 Suppression of Higher-Order Radial Whispering-Galley Modes	603
Etching Out the Center of the Disk	605
Choosing the Width of the Adjacent Waveguide	605
10.5.8 Additional FDTD Modeling Studies	609
10.6 Summary and Conclusions	609
References	609
 Chapter 11 FDTD in Bioelectromagnetics: Safety Assessment and Medical Applications	 613
11.1 Introduction	613
11.2 FDTD With Uniform and Expanding Grid	614
11.3 Frequency-Dependent FDTD Method	615
11.4 Validations for Near-Field Bioelectromagnetic Simulations	617
11.4.1 Dipole Antenna Near a Layered Bone-Brain Half-Space	618
11.4.2 Dipole Antenna Near an Acrylic Box Containing Brain-Equivalent Phantom Material	619
11.4.3 Infinitesimal Dipole Near a Brain-Equivalent Sphere	621
11.4.4 Half-Wavelength Dipole Near a Brain-Equivalent Sphere	622
11.5 Anatomically Based Models	623
11.5.1 Analytical Models	624
11.5.2 Early Moment-Method Block Models	624
11.5.3 Initial Human Body Cross-Section Models	625
11.5.4 Today's Capabilities	625
11.6 Millimeter-Resolution Models Based on MRI Scans of the Human Body	626
11.7 Currents Induced in the Human Body by Fields of Power Transmission Lines	627
11.7.1 Quasi-Static FDTD Model	627
11.7.2 Calculated Results	628
11.8 Induced Currents / SARs for Plane-Wave Exposure: Conditions for Whole-Body and Head Resonance	630
11.9 Coupling of Ultrawideband Pulses to the Human Body	633
11.9.1 Modeling of the Tissue Properties With the Debye Equation	633
11.9.2 Induced Current and Specific Absorption	634
11.9.3 Computed Example	634
11.10 SAR Distributions and Radiation Patterns for Personal Wireless Communications Devices	636
11.10.1 Specific Absorption Rate	636
MRI-Based Anatomical Model, Generic Wireless Telephone	636
Comparison With Measurements	641
11.10.2 Far-Field Radiation Pattern	642
11.11 Biomedical Applications	642
11.11.1 Design of Annular Phased Arrays for Hyperthermia	642
11.11.2 SAR Distributions Due to RF Magnetic Fields of Magnetic Resonance Imaging	642
11.12 Some In-Progress and Likely Future Applications	644
11.12.1 The Parallelized FDTD Code	644
11.12.2 Use of CAD Files for Accurate Modeling of Sources	644
11.12.3 Optimized Design of Medical Devices	645
11.13 Summary and Conclusions	645
References	646

Chapter 12 Imaging and Inverse Problems in Electromagnetics	653
12.1 Introduction	653
12.2 Inverse Scattering	654
12.3 Linear Inverse Problems	657
12.3.1 Back-Projection Tomography	658
12.3.2 Radon Transform	660
Two Dimensions	661
Three Dimensions	662
12.3.3 Diffraction Tomography	663
12.4 Nonlinear Inverse-Scattering Methods	666
12.4.1 Born Iterative Method	667
12.4.2 Distorted Born Iterative Method	668
12.4.3 Fréchet Derivative	670
12.4.4 Relationship to Distorted Born Approximation	671
12.5 Numerical Solution to the Inverse Problem	671
12.5.1 Discretization of the Integral Equation	672
12.5.2 Minimization of a Cost Functional	673
12.5.3 Back-Propagation and Correlation	675
12.5.4 FDTD Implementation of the Inversion Algorithm	677
12.5.5 The Conjugate Gradient Minimization Method	679
12.6 Novel Inverse-Scattering Methods	679
12.6.1 The Local-Shape-Function T-Matrix Method	679
12.6.2 Frequency-Hopping Approach	681
12.7 Observation of Superresolution	681
12.8 Work With Experimental Data	683
12.9 Three-Dimensional Reconstruction	685
12.10 Fast Forward Solvers	685
12.11 Summary and Conclusions	691
References	692
Appendix 12A: The Born and Rytov Approximations	696
12A.1 Derivation of the Volume Integral Equation	697
12A.2 Born Approximation	698
12A.3 Rytov Approximation	699
 List of Acronyms	 703
 About the Chapter Authors	 707
 Subject Index	 717

Preface

The predecessor of this book, *Computational Electrodynamics: The Finite Difference Time Domain Method*, appeared in summer, 1995. I am gratified with its high level of use by both the university and industrial research communities. It is frequently cited in refereed journal papers as the primary background reference for FDTD methods and applications.

Since the publication of the 1995 book, there has been much progress in this field. When the publisher contacted me regarding a possible updating and expansion of the original work, I responded with a proposal for an entirely new book that would instead complement the original tutorial material. The basic ideas behind this book are:

- Provide a convenient single-source reference on the state of the FDTD art for university graduate students and faculty and professional engineers and scientists involved in electromagnetics technology;
- Build upon the strong base in FDTD theory presented in the 1995 book, while minimizing the duplication of content;
- Select the most important advances made in FDTD theory and applications since 1995;
- Present the absolute latest research results possible, organized into major themes that are mutually reinforcing;
- Engage experts in each topic area to write invited chapters that provide in-depth coverage;
- Encourage the chapter authors to provide ample and well-explained tutorial material in sufficient depth to permit the readers to replicate their results;
- Conduct a very active editorial role so that the final chapter manuscripts have a uniform style, read with a common “voice,” and have common symbols and notation. That is, the book should read like a *book*, and not a disjointed collection of material cobbled together.

Chapter 1 is intended to provide an annotated FDTD literature review that is so comprehensive that it alone merits constant usage of the book. In this chapter, Dr. Shlager and Prof. Schneider substantially expand and update the review that they recently published in *IEEE Antennas and Propagation Magazine*. While their new review lays out the literature background for all of the material in the chapters that follow, it is noteworthy that these authors had no knowledge of the identities of the other contributors to this book. This was a strategy that Shlager and Schneider proposed to ensure complete impartiality in their review.

The theme of Chapters 2 and 3 involves new techniques aimed at reducing numerical dispersion and computer resources in FDTD approaches. In Chapter 2, Prof. Turkel reports recent progress in compact fourth-order spatial-differencing methods. The Ty(2,4) and Ty(4,4) algorithms investigated in this chapter permit 8:1 reductions in gridding density in each Cartesian direction relative to the classic Yee algorithm for comparable solution accuracy. Ty(2,4) is especially intriguing since it can be directly and easily overlaid on existing Yee grids, and uses Yee's leapfrog time stepping. Prof. Turkel further demonstrates how abrupt material boundaries can be treated in a manner that preserves the fourth-order accuracy of the basic numerical method. This approach has significant promise for incorporation in many existing FDTD codes.

In Chapter 3, Prof. Katehi, Dr. Harvey, and Prof. Tentzeris review their recent pioneering work in applying wavelet technology to FDTD methods. Their multiresolution time-domain technique permits an unprecedented control of the distance and time scales of the electromagnetic phenomena to be modeled, and yields significant reductions in numerical dispersion and computer burdens. Unique to this method is its ability to automatically adapt to changing needs for local space-time resolution as the various wave species being modeled propagate through the mesh.

The theme of Chapters 4, 5, and 6 involves recent advances in fundamental aspects of grid-based time-domain Maxwell's equations algorithms: (1) generalized meshes; (2) perfectly matched layer absorbing boundary conditions; and (3) periodic structures. In Chapter 4, a multi-disciplinary group of authors having university, national laboratory, and aerospace industry backgrounds (Prof. Gedney, Dr. Roden, Dr. Madsen, Dr. Mohammadian, Dr. Hall, and Dr. Shankar, and Mr. Rowell) combine forces to provide a comprehensive discussion of finite-difference and finite-volume time-domain techniques implemented on generalized meshes, including those that are unstructured. Their discussion extends over 100 pages and is intended to be both broad and deep. The authors' careful and detailed exposition of the theory is supported by computed examples for electromagnetic wave interactions with a variety of three-dimensional structures.

In Chapter 5, Prof. Gedney thoroughly discusses recent advances in PML absorbing boundary conditions, including means to terminate lossy and dispersive media. He details the most recent understanding of the nature and mutual relationships of the Berenger, stretched-coordinate, and uniaxial PML formulations. Comprehensive parametric studies are reported to allow the reader to optimally choose the PML parameters for best efficiency under a variety of practical modeling circumstances.

In Chapter 6, Dr. Maloney and Dr. Kesler review in detail their promising new work in modeling periodic structures within the confines of finite-sized FDTD space lattices. Several potential approaches are examined with regard to numerical stability, dispersion, accuracy, and efficiency. Practical examples involving a microwave photonic bandgap structure, a frequency selective surface, and an antenna array are discussed. This work opens new possibilities for FDTD modeling of an entire class of structures that previously could be investigated only by applying frequency-domain mode-matching or moment-method techniques.

The theme of Chapters 7 through 11 involves recent progress in FDTD modeling of specific, high-interest engineering applications in microwaves, millimeter waves, and optics technology. In Chapter 7, Dr. Maloney and Prof. Smith provide a detailed tutorial discussion of the key aspects of FDTD modeling of antennas. They then report a detailed benchmark FDTD study of a standard-gain microwave horn antenna used for transmitting and receiving, and demonstrate that superb correspondence can be obtained with high-quality measurements when the FDTD modeling is done with care and proper attention to details. The chapter concludes with examples of emerging FDTD modeling applications involving microwave photonic bandgap structures, ground-penetrating radar, and antenna-radome interaction.

In Chapter 8, Dr. Houshmand, Prof. Itoh, and Prof. Piket-May show how FDTD methods can be efficiently and systematically applied to model high-speed electronic circuits of all types, whether microwave amplifiers or digital circuits. On the microwave side, a key theoretical advance involves the development of simple (yet robust) Norton's and Thevenin's equivalent circuits "looking into" the FDTD space lattice. These equivalent-circuit connections into the FDTD solver permits its direct interfacing with the popular SPICE circuit-analysis software or with special-purpose state-variable circuit algorithms. On the digital-circuit side, specific FDTD techniques are presented to calculate the effective inductance of complicated, multiplane, power-distribution systems for multichip modules. In addition, an engineering case history is reviewed involving the use of FDTD in designing an ultrahigh-speed, 2.5-GHz clock-distribution scheme for a multichip module employing low-impedance Josephson-junction logic. Design trades-off are discussed.

In Chapter 9, Prof. El-Ghazaly reviews his pioneering work in combining FDTD electromagnetic wave modeling with the physics of charge transport within millimeter-wave MESFETs. Such a first-principles model is especially useful at frequencies in the many tens or even hundreds of gigahertz, where the lumped-circuit transistor models used in Chapter 8 (to link with Norton's or Thevenin's equivalent circuits of the FDTD grid) may lose accuracy. In this elevated-frequency regime, the simultaneous motion of semiconductor charges and electromagnetic fields across the transistor leads to mutual charge-field interactions that require a self-consistent model. After discussing the algorithmic aspects of the combined charge and electromagnetic wave simulator, the author goes into considerable detail regarding examples of full-physics MESFET design. A global design process is detailed wherein the MESFET physics is modeled while accounting for the input and output matching networks using a convolutional approach.

In Chapter 10, Prof. Hagness discusses recent applications of FDTD modeling to micron-scale optical resonators useful for low-threshold, high-speed lasers and practical optical signal processors. A variety of such structures are reviewed, including vertical-cavity surface-emitting lasers, photonic-bandgap structures, and strongly confined, waveguide-coupled, microrings and microdisks. The microrings and microdisks are particularly challenging for FDTD simulations since: the waveguide coupling is via the evanescent field (causing the sensitivity to gap dimensions to be high); resonator Q factors range up to 10,000; multimoding in the disk occurs due to various radial whispering-gallery modes; and resonance splitting can occur due to nuances of surface roughness. The key aspects of these modeling challenges are thoroughly discussed, and engineering tradeoff studies of important design parameters are conducted.

In Chapter 11, Prof. Gandhi reviews his pioneering work in using FDTD to evaluate the dosimetry and engineering aspects of human exposure to a wide variety of electromagnetic fields including those generated by 60 Hz power lines, VHF plane waves, ultrawideband electromagnetic pulses, and handheld wireless personal communications devices. Rigorous analytical, numerical, and experimental validations of the FDTD modeling approach are provided for canonical antennas adjacent to brain-equivalent phantoms. Experimental validations are also provided for FDTD predictions of far-field radiation patterns and near-field absorption within skull and brain tissues when actual cellular telephones are positioned adjacent to the human head. Here, highly detailed anatomical models derived from MRI scans are used in the FDTD investigations.

The twelfth and final chapter (by Prof. Chew) has its own theme: to provide an excellent, highly detailed tutorial discussion of imaging and inverse problems in electromagnetics. In addition to the widely used frequency-domain forward-scattering techniques used for this purpose, this chapter shows how FDTD modeling can be advantageously applied. Numerous examples of two- and three-dimensional reconstructions are provided to indicate both the potential and limitations of existing inverse-scattering methods and algorithms.

In assembling this book, I gratefully acknowledge the chapter contributors. Each one devoted considerable time wrenched from their busy schedules to create detailed and expert scholarly works, always under deadline pressure. Their biographical sketches appear at the end of the book. Also acknowledged are the helpful contributions of my graduate students, especially Milica Popovic, who assisted mightily in dealing with a variety of electronic downloads. I bid a fond farewell to Susan Hagness who now goes on to have graduate students of her own as a professor.

Finally, I acknowledge my wife, Sylvia, and younger son, Nate, now completing his sophomore year at New Trier High School. Quoting in part from the preface of the 1995 book, they "somehow were able to keep their composure while sharing a home with a very driven person..." In this case, it meant having to deal with a husband/dad who slaved on the computer for months on end until the wee hours every night, and generally wasn't much fun at all. (My older son, Mike, missed his Dad's isolation and grumpiness. He has been away from home as a freshman at the University of Iowa during most of the editing of this book. Lucky!)

The FDTD story is continuing. As indicated by the scope of the experts' contributions in this book, the electromagnetics engineering community is indeed rapidly moving "to develop detailed FDTD models of microchips, microlasers, and microcells, and bring the power of Maxwell's equations to bear upon society's needs in ultrahigh-speed communications technology." More so than ever before, I believe that electromagnetics engineers have a special responsibility to utilize their technical knowledge to enable people to freely communicate. We can best understand each other when we talk to each other. This is what our human society is all about.

Allen Taflove
Wilmette, Illinois
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