

# Fields to Circuits

N. Moonen, F. Buesink, F. Leferink  
University of Twente

# Contents

- ▶ Project Background
- ▶ Introduction: Design of PE system
- ▶ Problem: High Freq. behavior prediction
- ▶ Solution: 3D sim. → Circuit sim.
- ▶ Results

# Project Background

## *Multi-frequency, Modular, Multilevel Converter (M3C)*

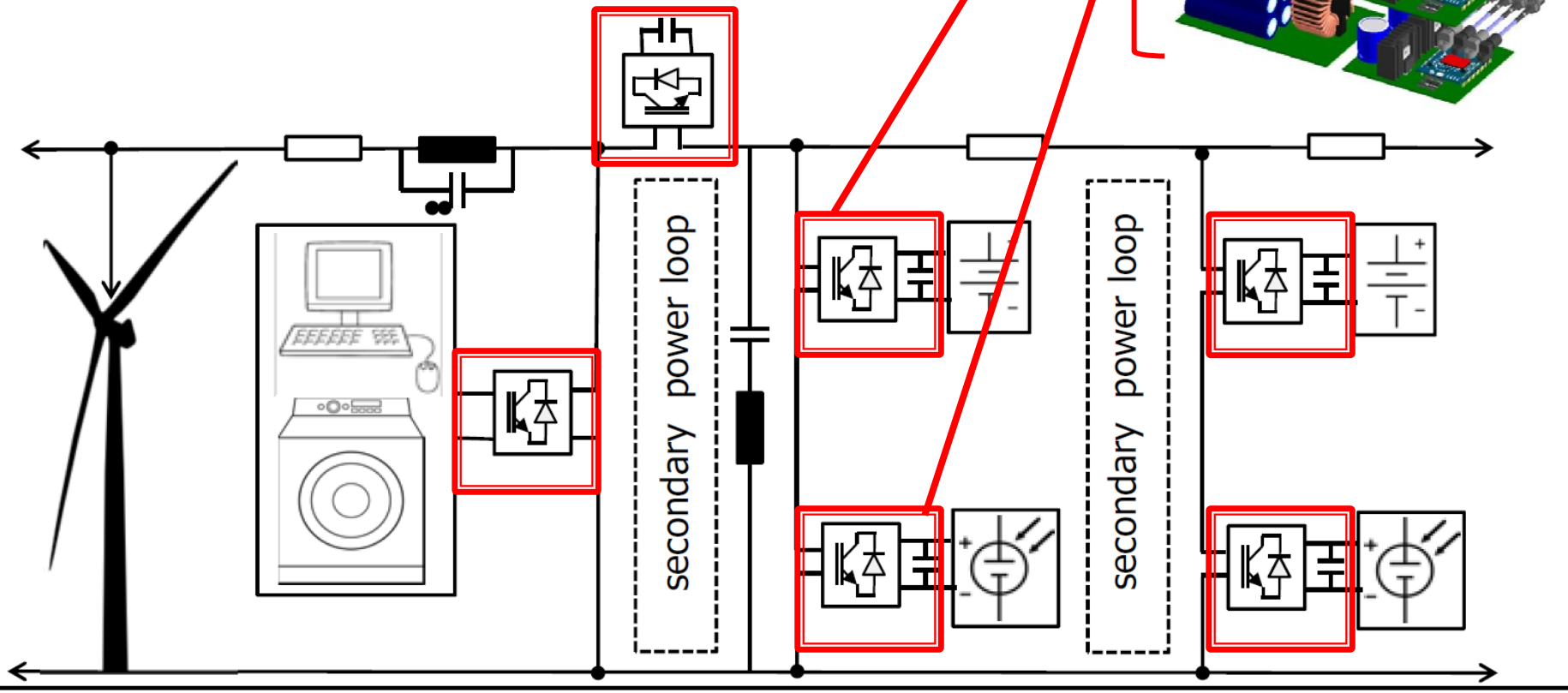
- ▶ TUD: prof. J.A. Ferreira & PhD M. Gagiç
  - ▶ Power Electronics
  - ▶ Architecture and hardware building of M3C
- 
- ▶ Utwente: prof. F. Leferink & PhD N. Moonen
  - ▶ Electro-Magnetic Compatibility
  - ▶ EMI mitigation of fast switching semiconductors as applied in M3C

# Introduction

»» Designing Power Electronic Systems

# Introduction

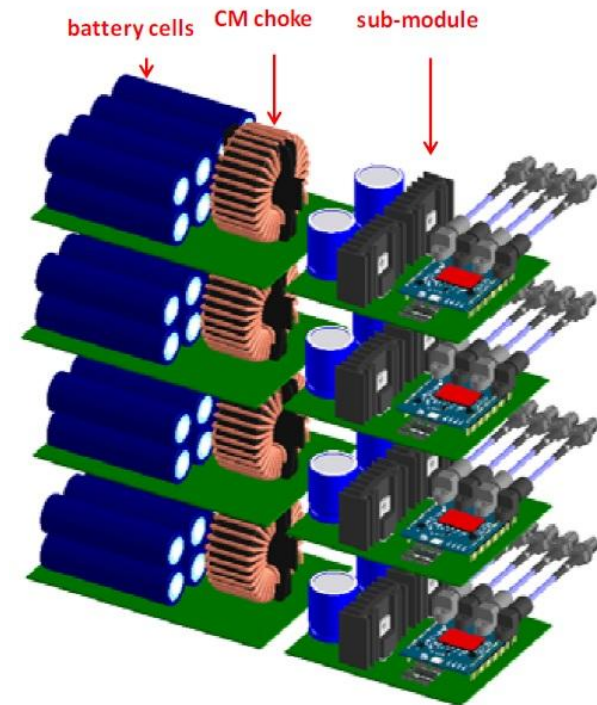
## Example of a Power System



# Introduction

- ▶ Goal: Accurately **predict** circuit/system behavior
- ▶ Power Electronics
  - Switching Modules
    - Conducted EMI, low-frequency (harmonics)
  - Rise and Fall times:
    - $di/dt \rightarrow$  Magnetic Field
    - $dv/dt \rightarrow$  Electric Field

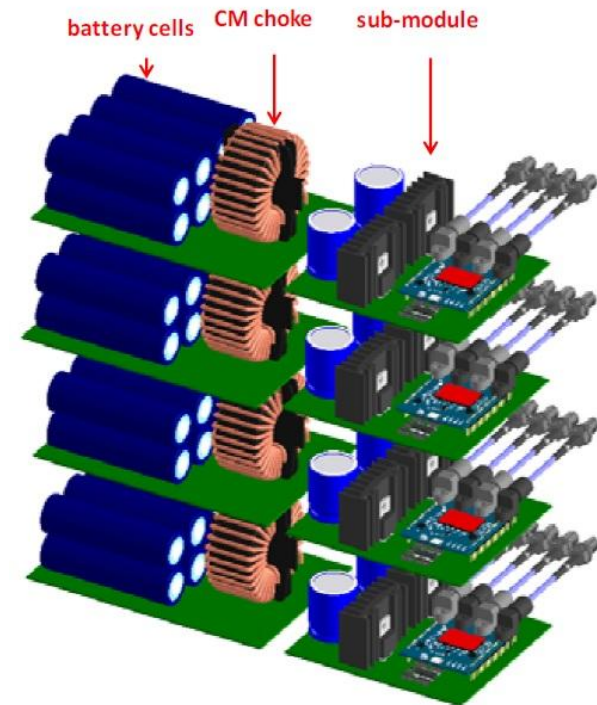
Produces EMI from: Hz to GHz!





# Introduction

- ▶ Difficulty:
  - High frequency behavior (MHz-GHz)
- ▶ Problem:
  - Coupling effects!
    - Implementation dependent
    - Difficult to model



# Problem

- » Predicting High Frequency behavior



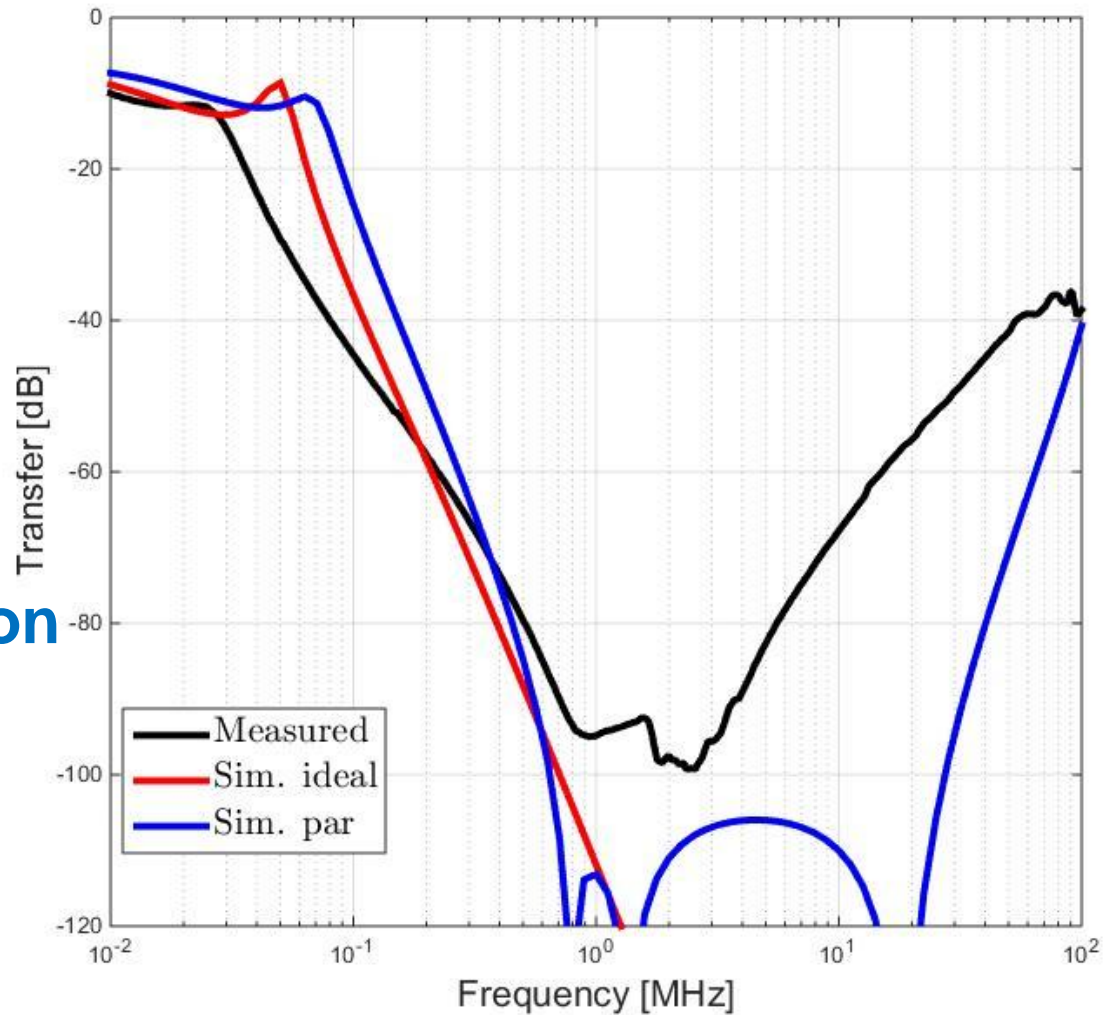
# Problem

- ▶ Circuit simulators

**Ideal Simulation**

**Self-Parasitic Simulation**

**Measurement**



Only **low frequency** prediction

# EM Field and circuit-theory

- ▶ Circuit theory assumes a lot!
  - No Fields
  - Ideal conductors, infinitely short and  $Z=0$
  - Circuits don't create a surface
  - Circuits are small compared to wavelength
- ▶ In Practice: Circuits are **NOT** small compared to wavelength
- ▶ So: Kirchhoff's laws don't apply anymore (or at least are incomplete)

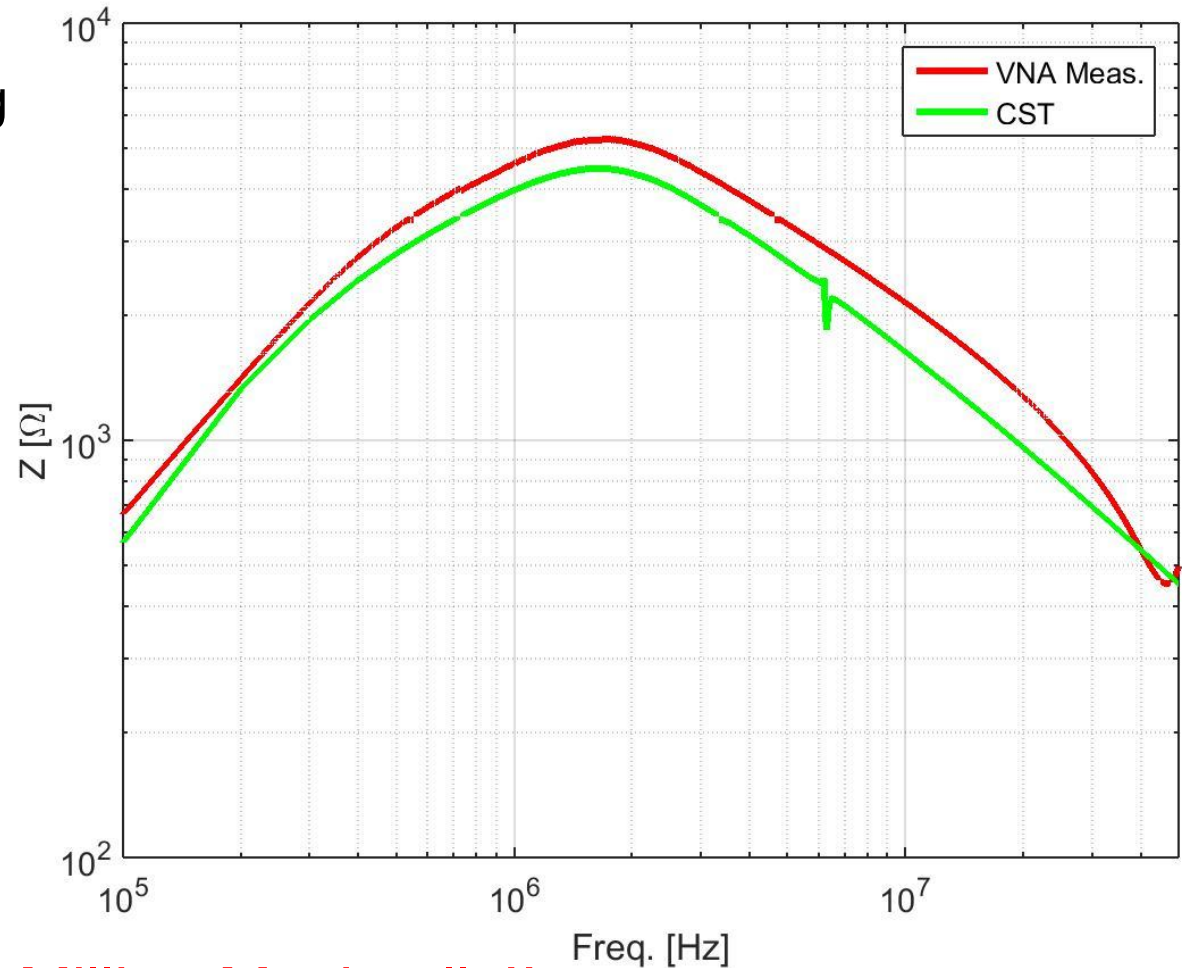
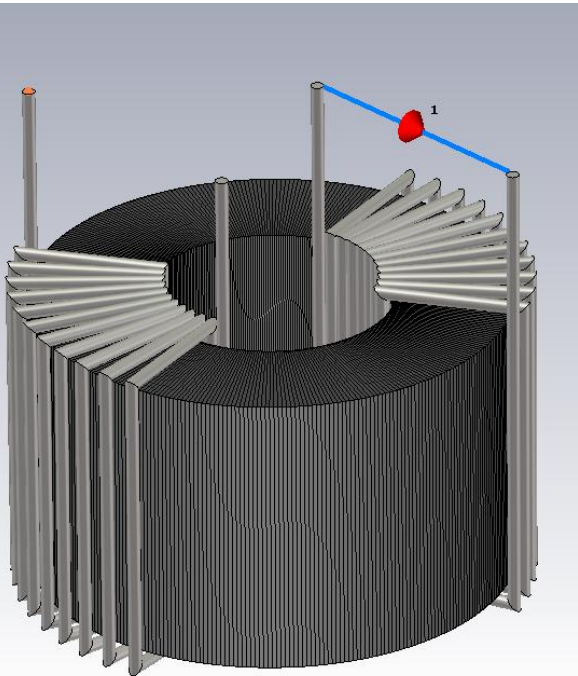
Use Fields!

# Field Solvers

» 3D simulation

# Common Mode Choke

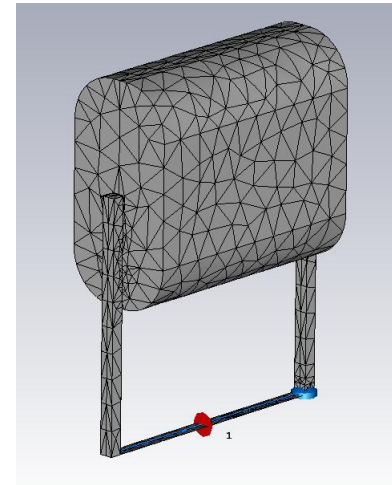
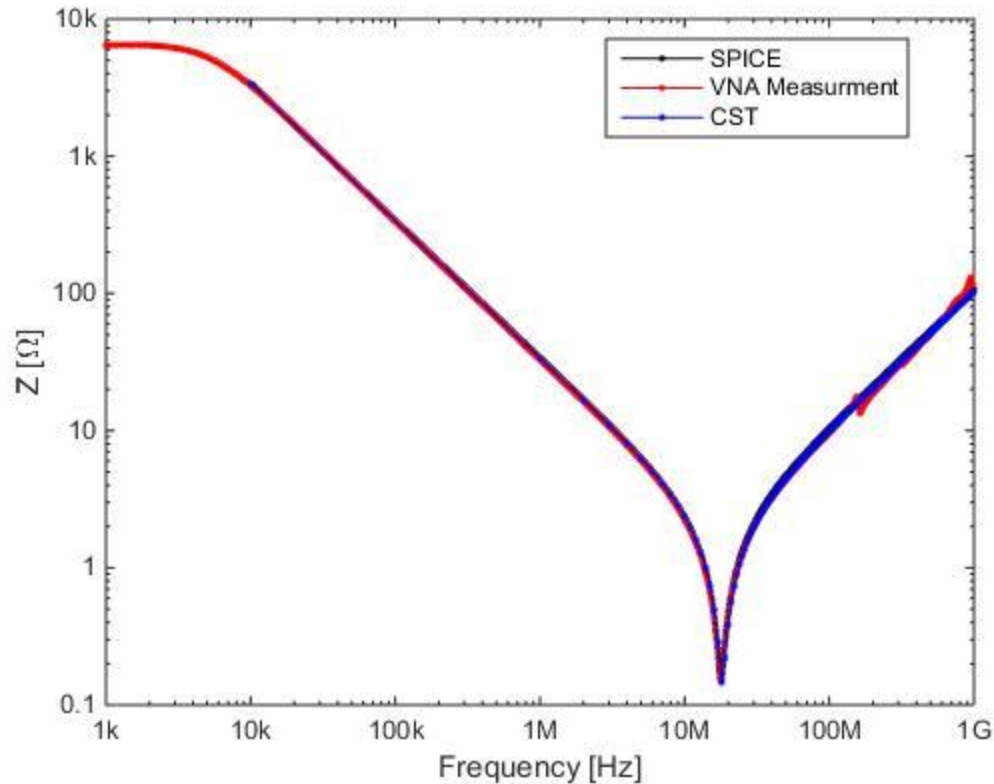
- ▶ Complex full Model
  - Visual Basic - scripting



3 Million Meshcells!!  
3 days simulation time

# Capacitors

- ▶ Simplified Models: C + ESL + ESR

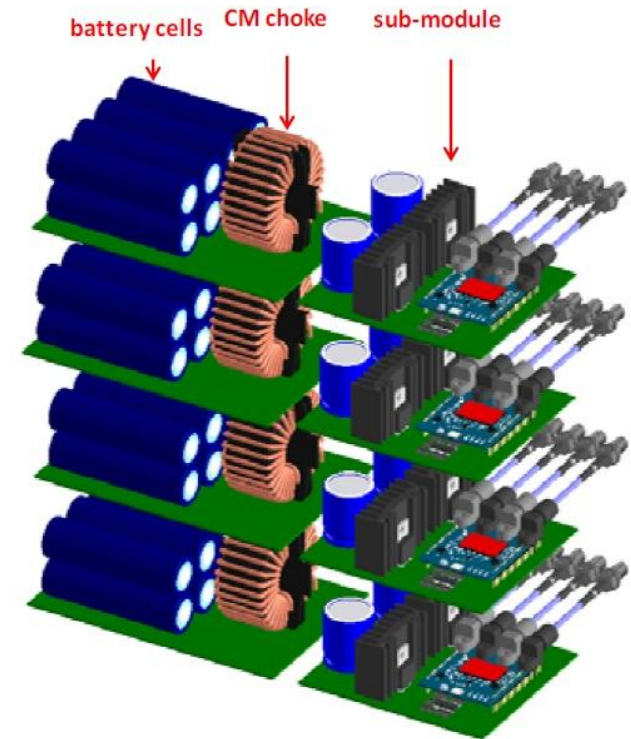
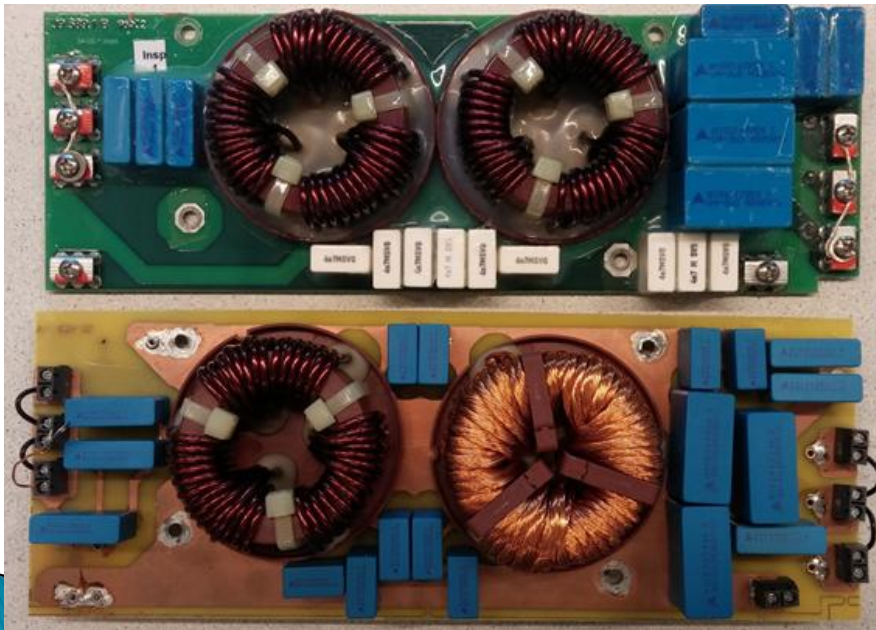


8.000 Meshcells  
Sim time: 69 sec



# Problem

- ▶ Complex 3D simulation of full system/device
  - Time consuming
  - Computational expensive
  - Difficult to model properly ← Needs Expertise and Experience!
  - Many components!





# Solution

## COMBINE!

- ▶ **Circuit simulators**
    - **Fast**
    - **Easy/intuitive modelling.**
  - ▶ **3D EM field simulators**
    - **Slow**
    - **Difficult/complex modelling**
- ▶ **Represent Fields into equivalent circuit components**

# EM Field and circuit-theory

- ▶ Fields: **Maxwell equations** ← Difficult
- ▶ Solution: circuit-theory
- ▶ Circuit-theory
  - L: Stores magnetic field energy
  - C: Stores electric field energy
- ▶ Advantage of Circuit-theory:
  - Kirchhoff's laws,
  - Causality is clear
- ▶ Availability of powerful tools:
  - analysis
  - optimization
  - synthesis

# Field2Circuit

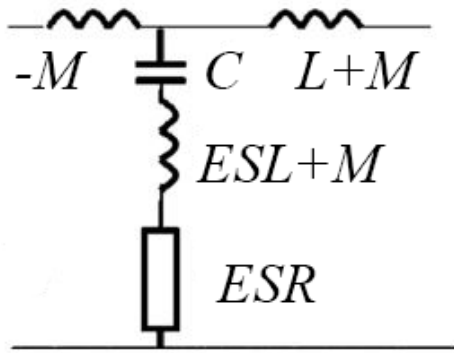
»» From Fullwave to circuit models

# Outline of Process

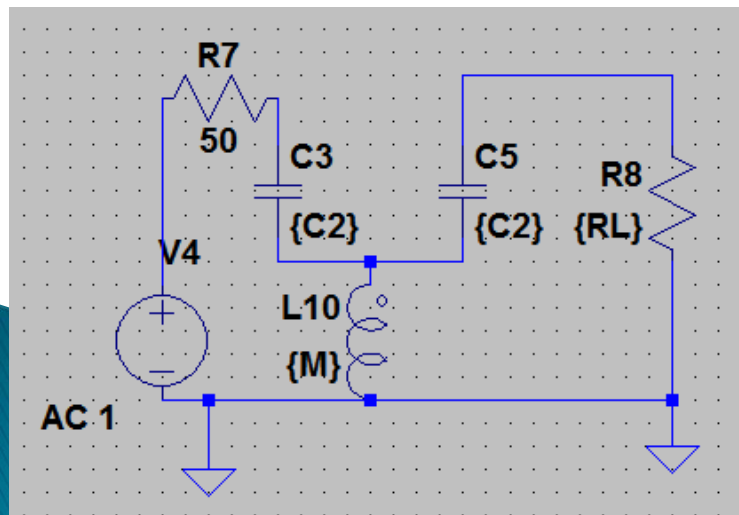
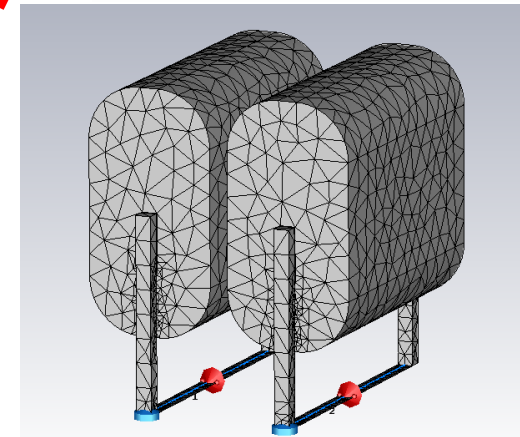
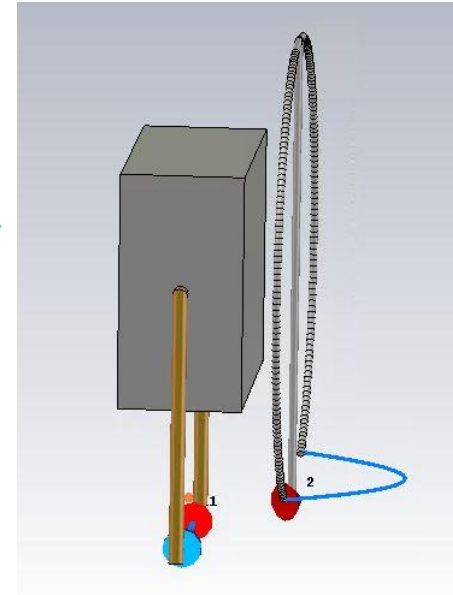
- ▶ Determine Coupling magnitude (1x)
  - Via 3D simulation with simplified model
- ▶ Explore impact of different configurations in **Circuit Simulator**
- ▶ Build “optimized” system/circuit accordingly

# Fullwave to Circuit models

- ▶ Predicting influence of component placement by integrating fields into an equivalent circuit simulator.



$$M = \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \text{---}$$



# Mutual Coupling Effects

- ▶ Mutual inductive coupling between passive components:
  - Inductors
  - Capacitors
    - Presented at APEMC 2016, Shenzhen  
*“Enhanced Circuit Simulation using Mutual Coupling Parameters obtained via 3D Field Extraction”*
  - Inductor and Capacitor
    - Presented at EMC Europe 2016, Wroclaw  
*“Optimizing Capacitor Placement in EMI-Filter”*
- ▶ Active
  - Transistors → passive components

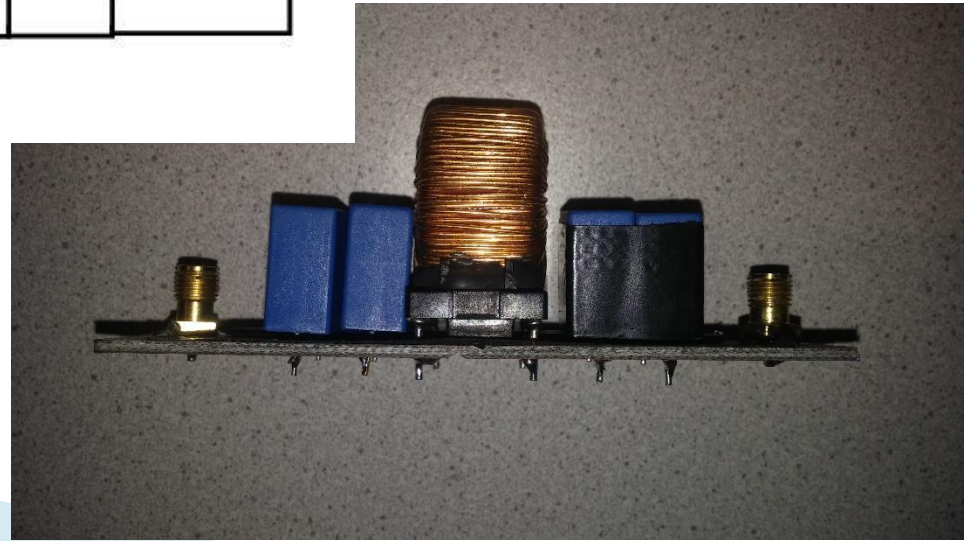
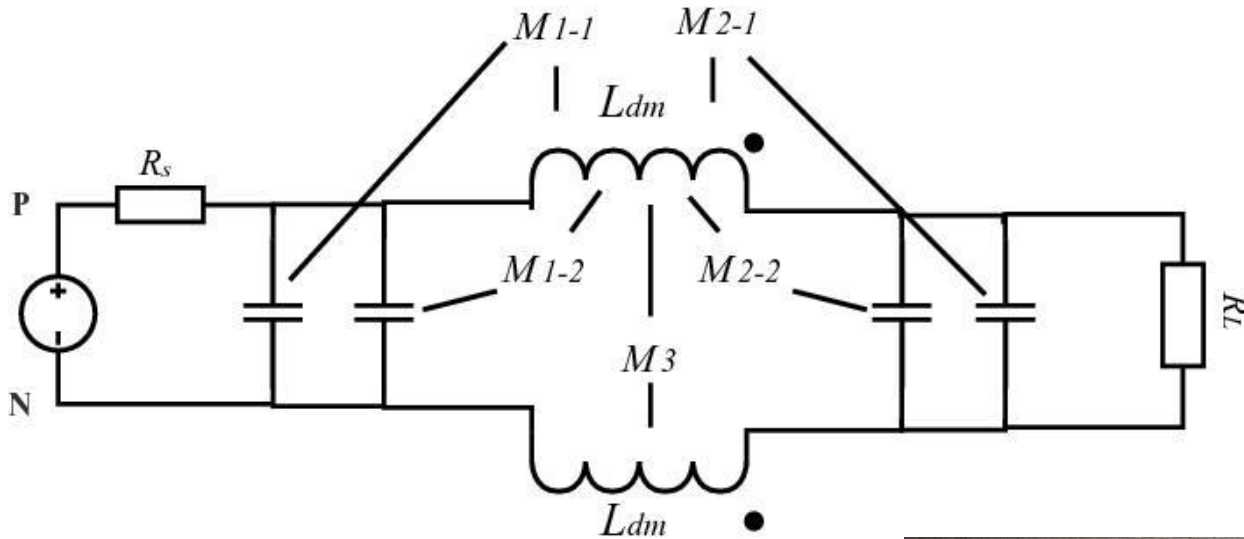


# Mutual Coupling Effects

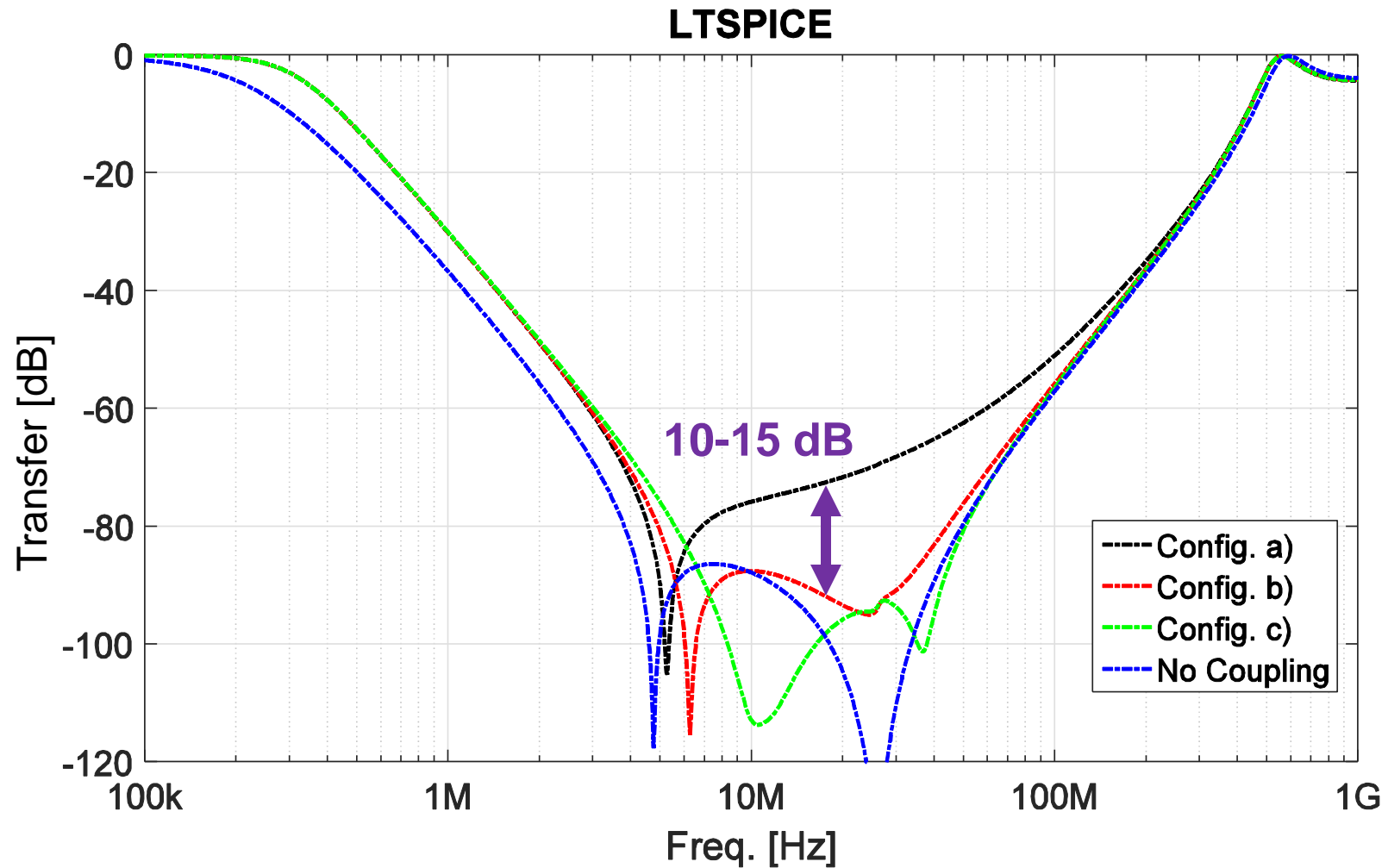
- ▶ Mutual inductive coupling between passive components:
  - Inductors
  - Capacitors
    - Presented at APEMC 2016, Shenzhen  
*“Enhanced Circuit Simulation using Mutual Coupling Parameters obtained via 3D Field Extraction”*
  - Inductor and Capacitor
    - Presented at EMC Europe 2016, Wroclaw  
*“Optimizing Capacitor Placement in EMI-Filter”*
- ▶ Active
  - Transistors → passive components

# Filters

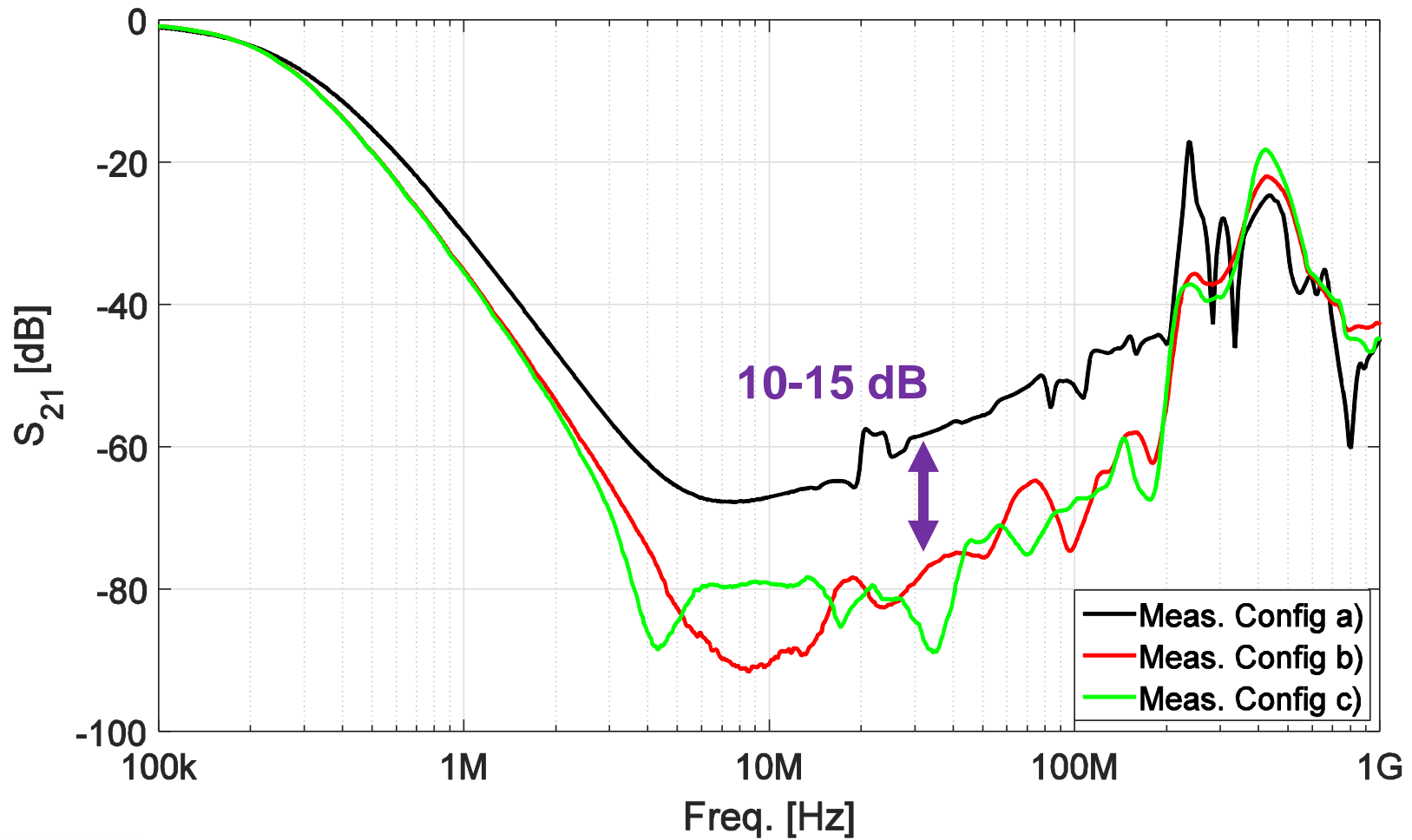
- ▶ Multiple configurations were Simulated with LTSPICE
  - 1. Induced currents are in phase
  - 2. induced current are out of phase (opposite, thus cancel)



# LTSPICE - Prediction



# Result



# Conclusion

- ▶ Including Mutual coupling in **circuit simulator** can predict optimized placement of components
- ▶ **One step closer to easier design of Complex Systems over a broader frequency band!**

# The End

»» Questions?



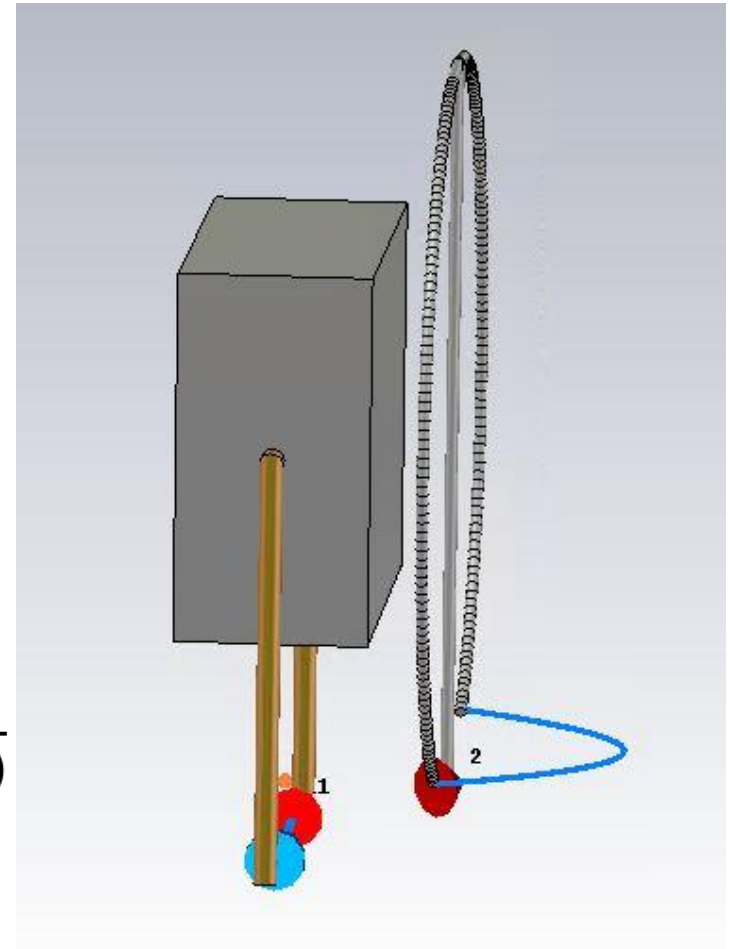
# Inductor to Capacitor

- » Mutual coupling between an inductor and parallel capacitors

# Inductor to Capacitor

- ▶ Simplified Capacitor
  - PEC
  - Lumped Element
  - ESL determined by dimensions
  - Discrete port
- ▶ Simplified Inductor
  - PEC
  - Discrete port

$$M = \left| \frac{2 \cdot Z_0 \cdot S_{21}}{(1 - S_{22} + S_{22}S_{11} - S_{11} - S_{21}^2)} \right| \cdot \frac{1}{(2 \cdot \pi \cdot f)}$$

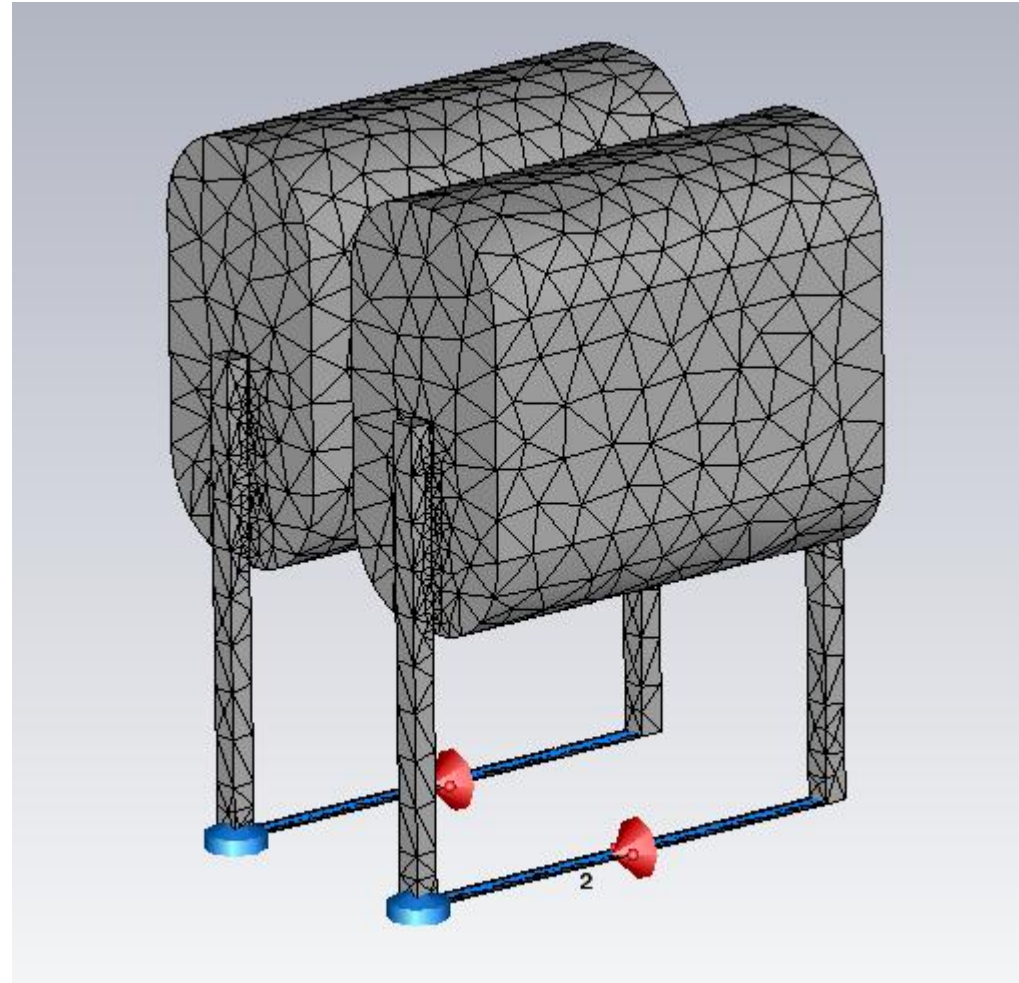
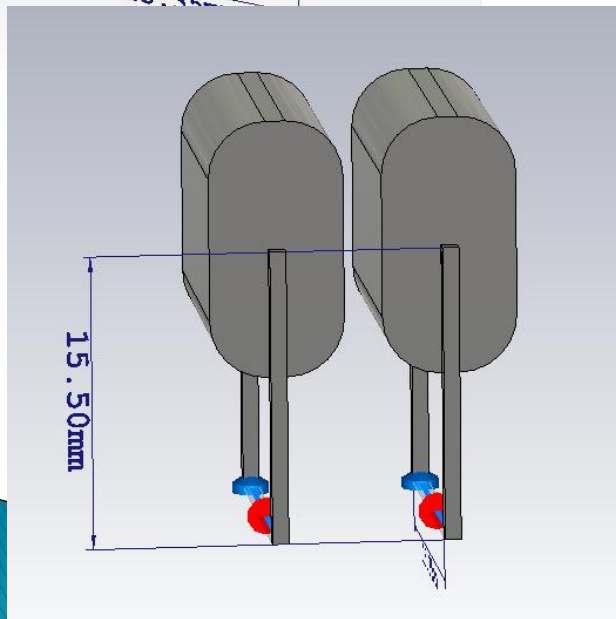
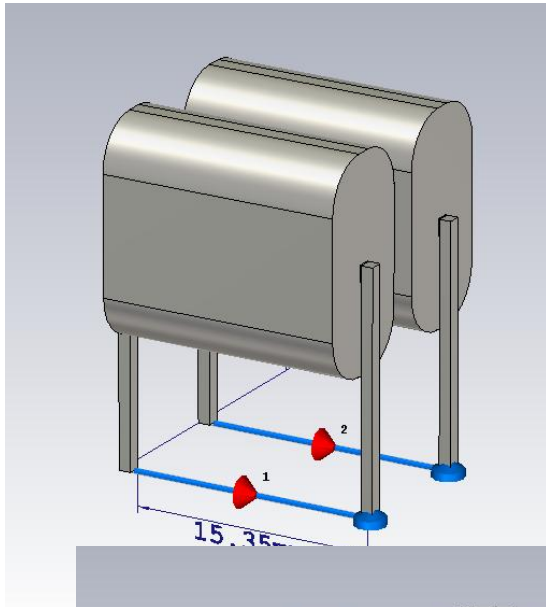


# Capacitors

- » Mutual coupling between two parallel capacitors

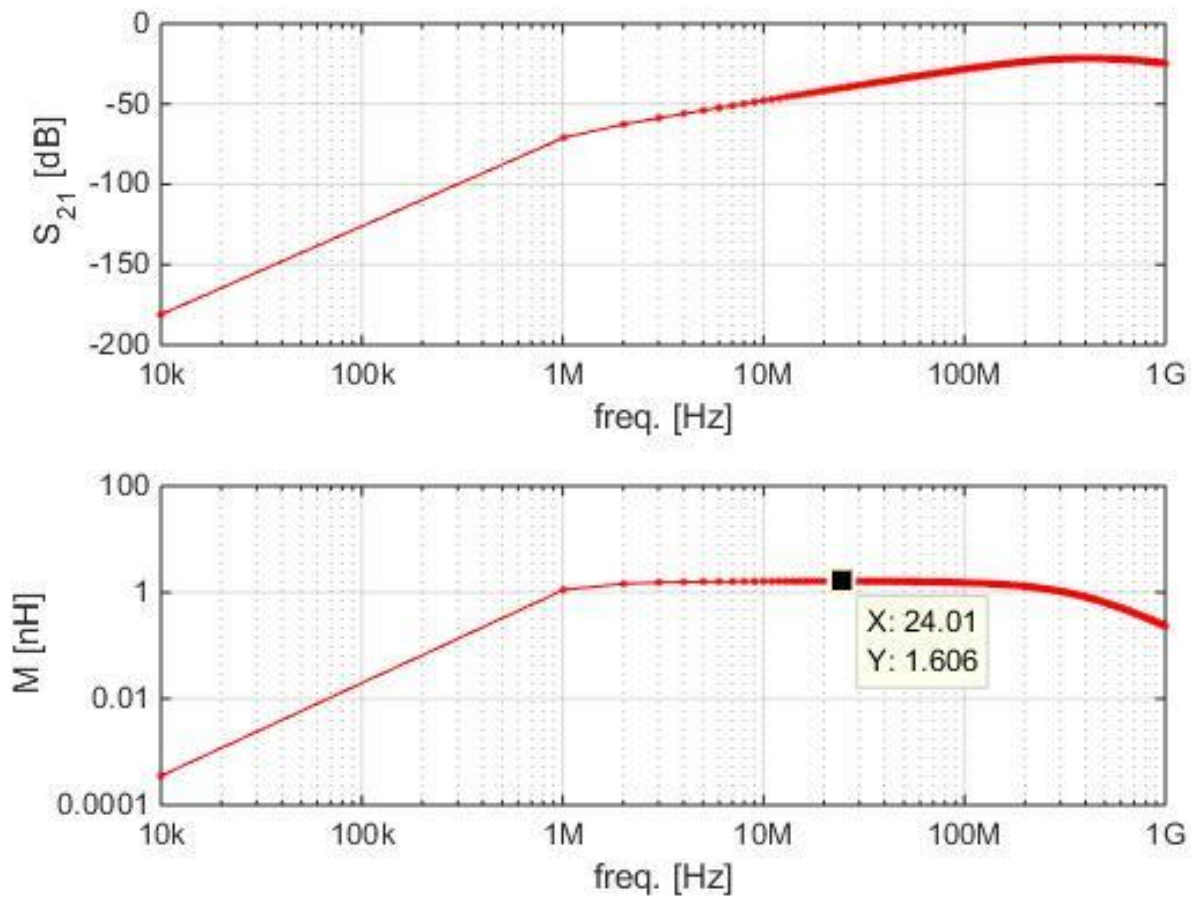
# Capacitors

$$M = 25 \cdot \frac{|S_{21}|}{2\pi f}$$



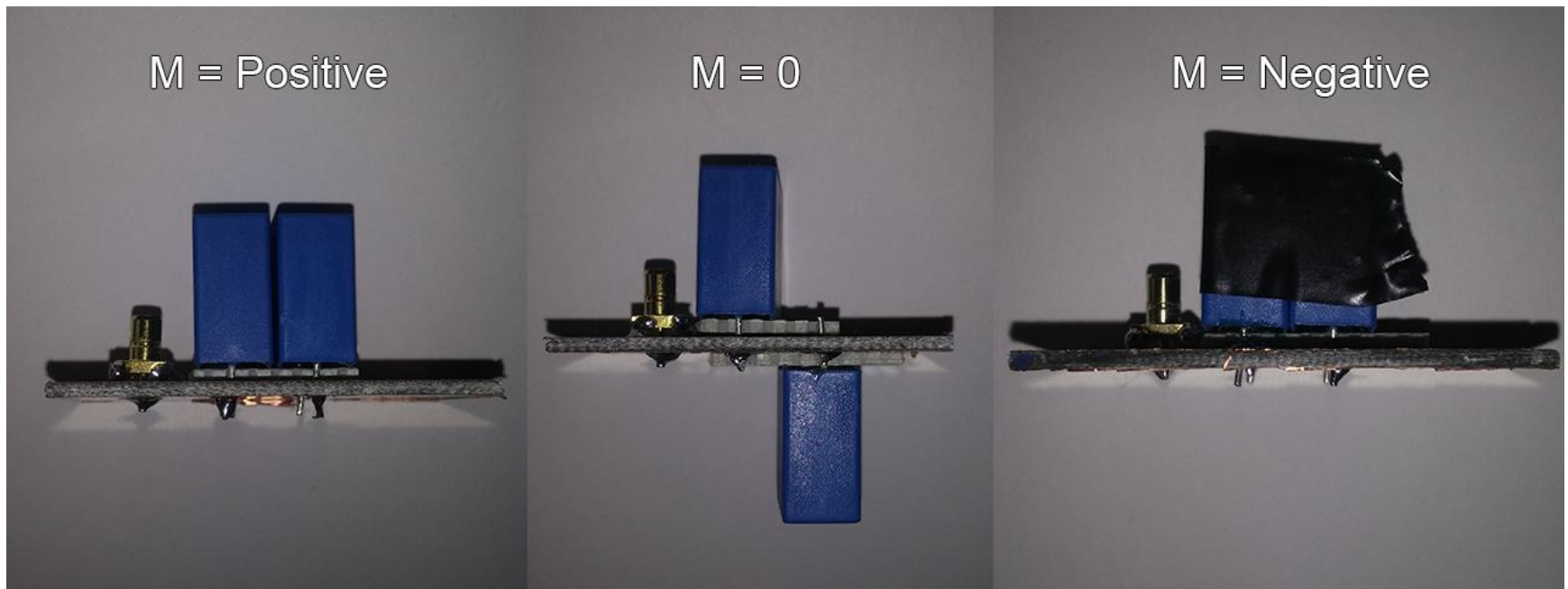
# Capacitors

$$M = 25 \cdot \frac{|S_{21}|}{2\pi f} \approx 1.6 \text{ nH}$$



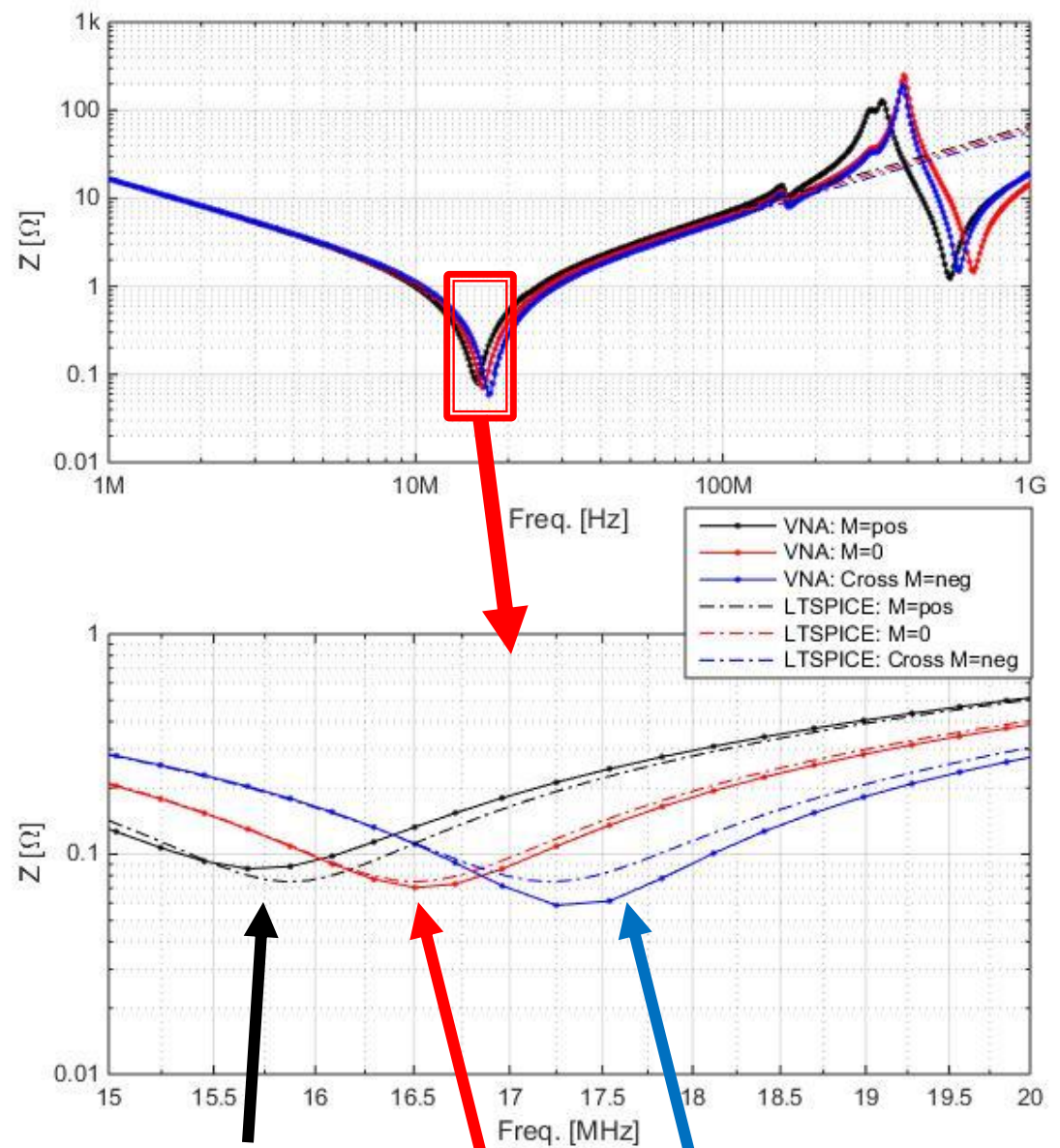
# Measurement: Setup

Multiple configurations were Simulated with LTSPICE





# Results



Shift in resonance peak  
approx. 1 MHz

