

# Large-Scale Differential-Algebraic Equations Arising in VLSI Interconnect Analysis

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# Outline

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- Numerical simulation of electronic circuits
- DAEs arising in VLSI interconnect analysis
- Structure-preserving model order reduction
- Thick restarts and multiple expansion points
- Open problems

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# VLSI circuit simulation

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- Circuit simulation uses computational methods to simulate and analyze the behavior of electronic circuits
- A circuit can be viewed as a **network** of electronic **devices**: transistors, resistors, capacitors, inductors, ...
- Today's VLSI circuits can have  $\mathcal{O}(10^9)$  transistors

# Are we really just solving DAEs?

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- Network topology is described by a graph:
  - Kirchhoff's current laws
  - Kirchhoff's voltage laws
- Equations that characterize the circuit devices:

$$f(i, v) = 0, \quad g\left(i, \frac{d}{dt}v\right) = 0, \quad \dots$$

- All these equations can be summarized as a system of DAEs:

$$\mathbf{F}\left(\mathbf{x}, \frac{d}{dt}\mathbf{x}, t\right) = \mathbf{0}$$

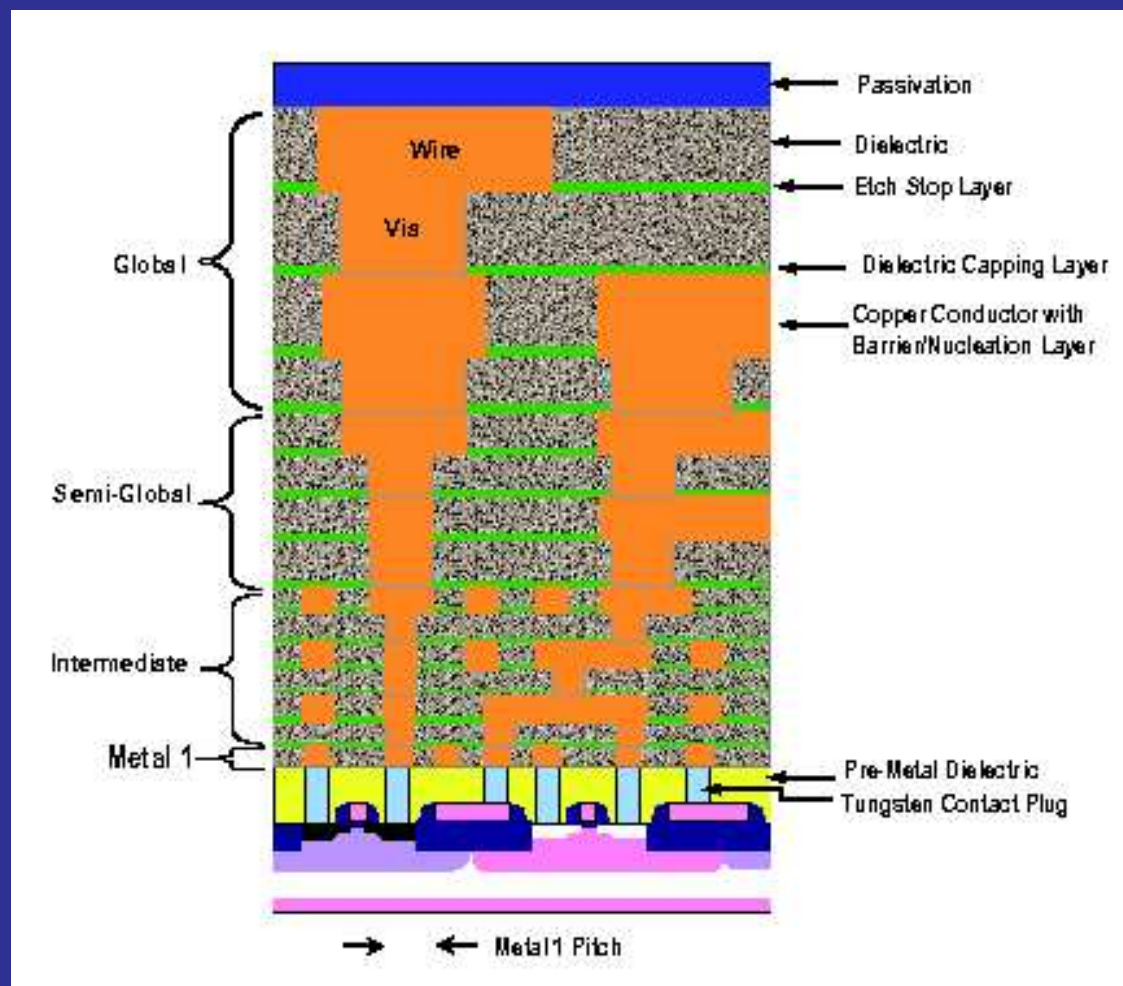
# The catch

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- $\mathbf{F} : \mathbb{R}^N \times \mathbb{R}^N \times \mathbb{R} \mapsto \mathbb{R}^N$  where  $N$  is of the order of the number of devices in the circuit
- For a state-of-the-art circuit:  $N = \mathcal{O}(10^9)$
- No way!
- We are always using today's computers to design tomorrow's largest and more complicated machines



# A small piece of a chip cross section





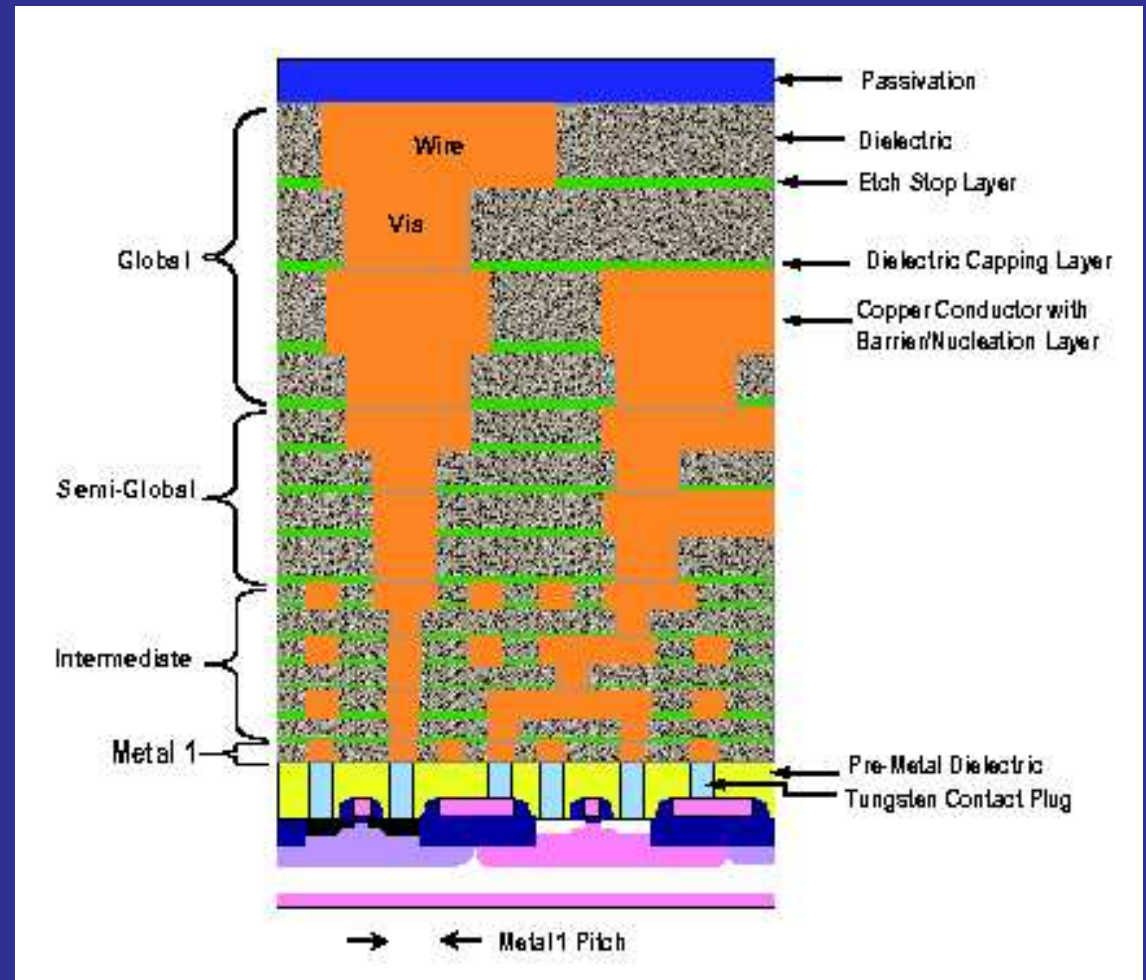
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# State-of-the-art VLSI circuits

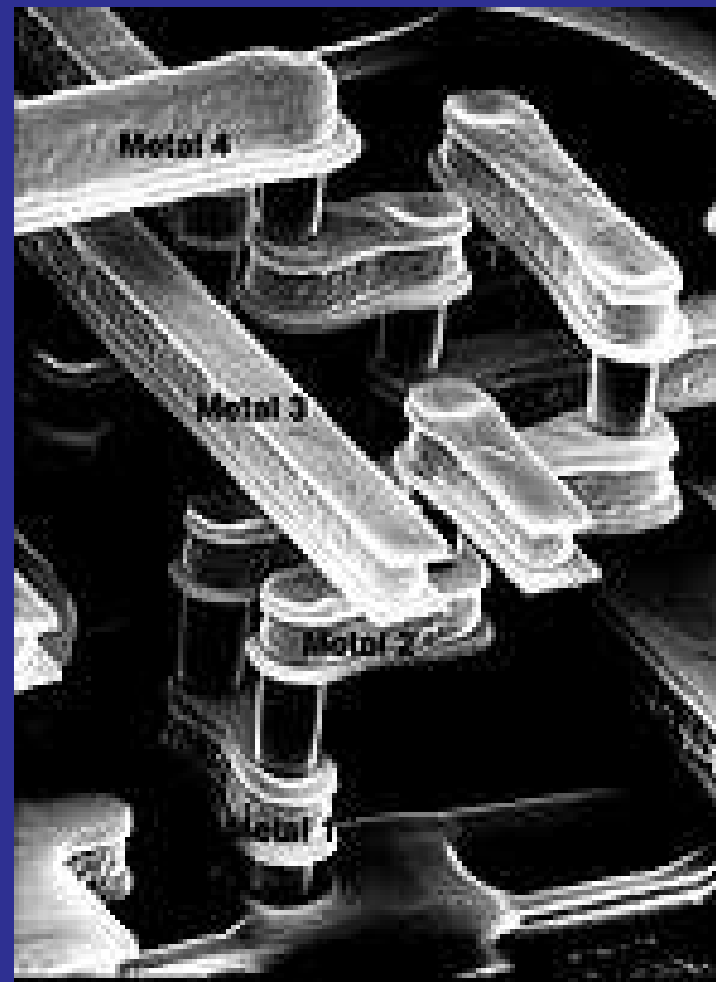
- 45 nm feature size
- $\mathcal{O}(10^9)$  transistors
- $\mathcal{O}(10)$  km of 'wires' (the *interconnect*)
- Up to 15 layers



# VLSI interconnect parasitics

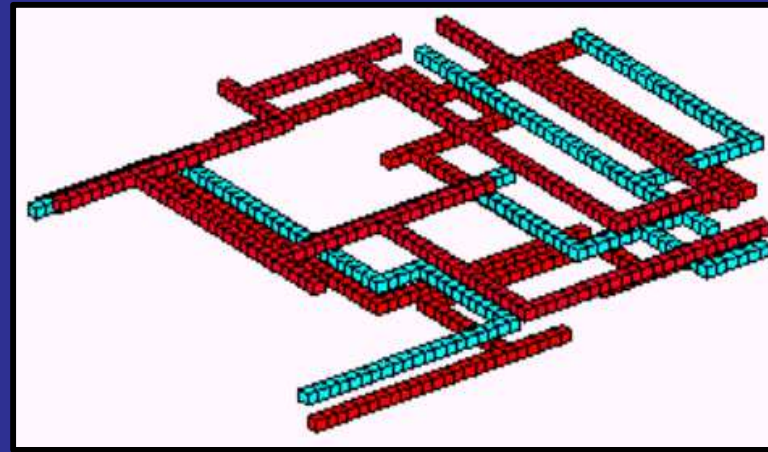
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- Wires are not ideal:
  - Resistance
  - Capacitance
  - Inductance
- Consequences:
  - Timing behavior
  - Noise
  - Energy consumption
  - Power distribution

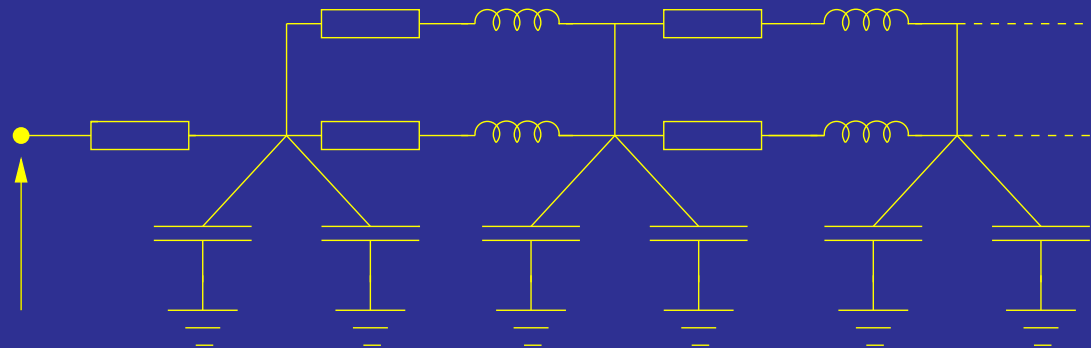


# Interconnect parasitics extraction

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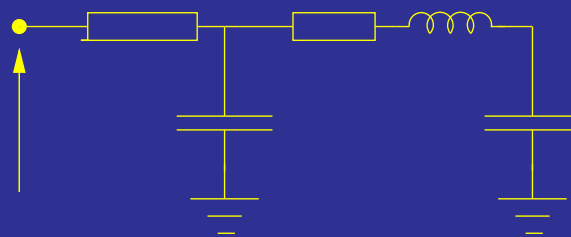
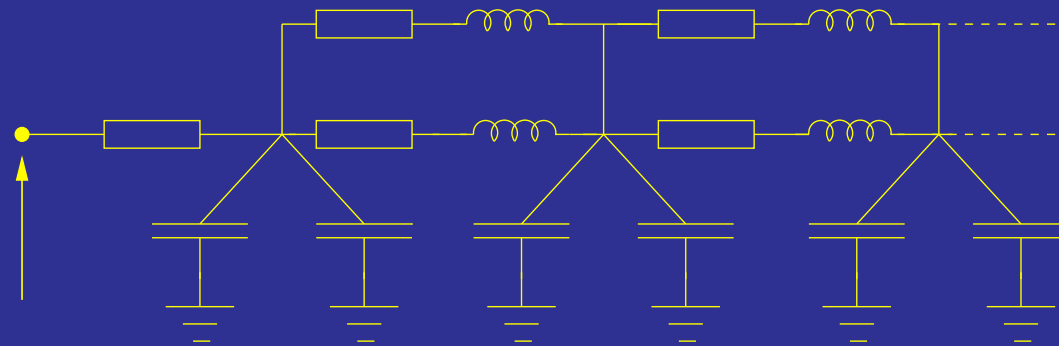


- Replace 'pieces' of the interconnect by RCL networks:



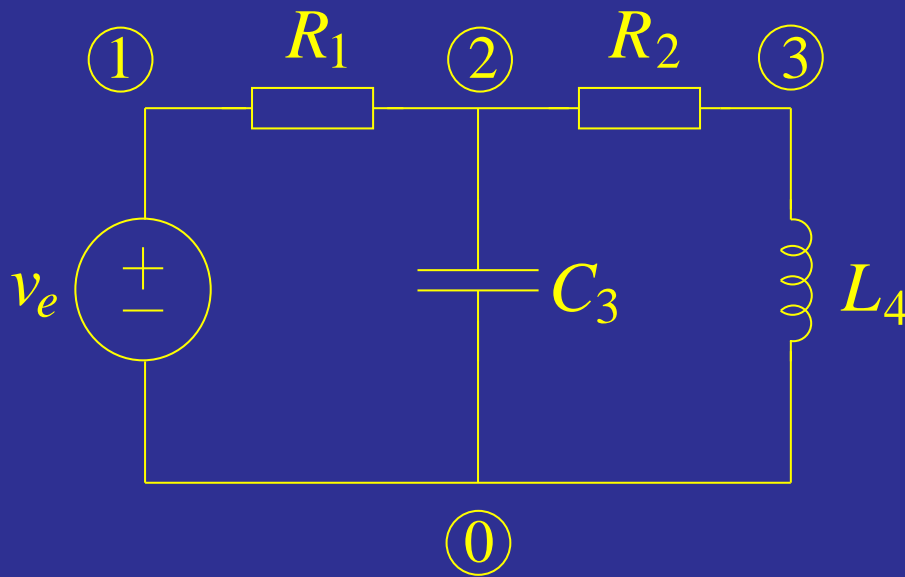
# Need for model order reduction

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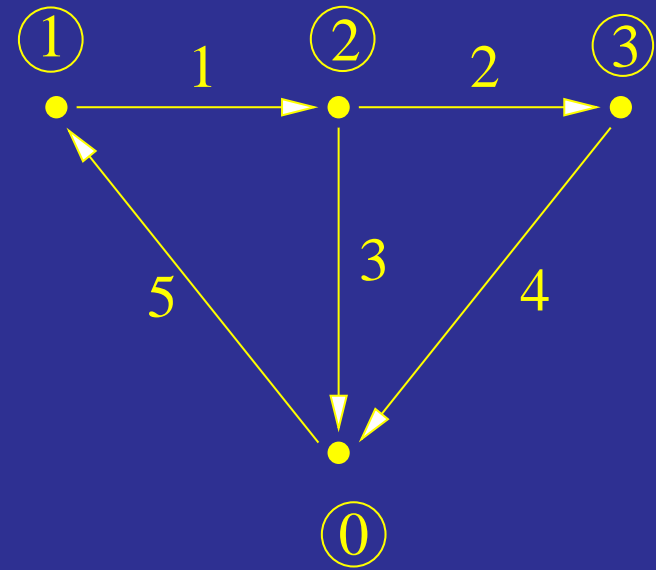


# RCL networks as directed graphs

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RCL network



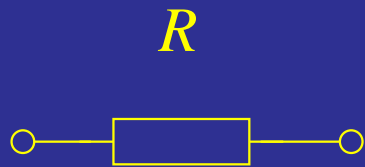
directed graph

- Network topology  $\iff$  Graph incidence matrix  $\mathcal{A}$

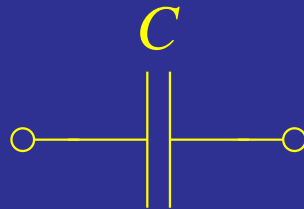
# RCL network equations

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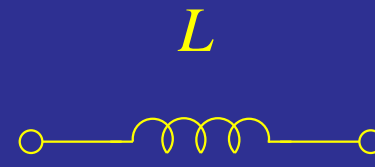
- Kirchhoff's current laws:  $\mathcal{A} i_{\mathcal{E}} = 0$
- Kirchhoff's voltage laws:  $\mathcal{A}^T v = v_{\mathcal{E}}$
- Equations for R's, C's, and L's:



$$v_R = R i_R$$



$$i_C = C \frac{d}{dt} v_C$$



$$v_L = L \frac{d}{dt} i_L$$

# RCL networks as descriptor systems

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- System of linear time-invariant DAEs of the form

$$\mathbf{C} \frac{d}{dt} \mathbf{x}(t) + \mathbf{G} \mathbf{x}(t) = \mathbf{B} \mathbf{u}(t)$$
$$\mathbf{y}(t) = \mathbf{B}^T \mathbf{x}(t)$$

where  $\mathbf{C}, \mathbf{G} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$  and  $\mathbf{B} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times m}$

- $\mathbf{x}(t) \in \mathbb{R}^N$  is the unknown vector of state variables
- Large state-space dimension  $N$
- $m$  inputs,  $m$  outputs



# Reduced-order models

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- System of DAEs of the same form:

$$\mathbf{C}_n \frac{d}{dt} \mathbf{z}(t) + \mathbf{G}_n \mathbf{z}(t) = \mathbf{B}_n \mathbf{u}(t)$$
$$\tilde{\mathbf{y}}(t) = \mathbf{B}_n^T \mathbf{z}(t)$$

- But now:

$$\mathbf{C}_n, \mathbf{G}_n \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{B}_n \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$$

where  $n \ll N$

# Transfer functions

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- Original descriptor system:

$$\mathbf{H}(s) = \mathbf{B}^T (s\mathbf{C} + \mathbf{G})^{-1} \mathbf{B}$$

- Reduced-order model:

$$\mathbf{H}_n(s) = \mathbf{B}_n^T (s\mathbf{C}_n + \mathbf{G}_n)^{-1} \mathbf{B}_n$$

- 'Good' reduced-order model

$$\iff \text{'Good' approximation } \mathbf{H}_n \approx \mathbf{H}$$

- Original dimension  $N \approx 10^{4-6}$

$$H(s) = \boxed{B^T} \left( s \boxed{C} + \boxed{G} \right)^{-1} \boxed{B}$$

- Reduced dimension  $n \ll N$  ( $n \approx 10^{0-2}$ )

$$H_n(s) = \boxed{B_n^T} \left( s \boxed{C_n} + \boxed{G_n} \right)^{-1} \boxed{B_n}$$

# Moment matching

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- Choose a suitable expansion point  $s_0 \in \mathbb{C}$  and expand  $\mathbf{H}(s)$  about that point

$$\mathbf{H}(s) = \mathbf{M}_0 + \mathbf{M}_1 (s - s_0) + \cdots + \mathbf{M}_i (s - s_0)^i + \cdots$$

- Determine reduced-order transfer function  $\mathbf{H}_n(s)$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{H}_n(s) &= \mathbf{M}_0 + \mathbf{M}_1 (s - s_0) + \cdots + \mathbf{M}_{q-1} (s - s_0)^{q-1} \\ &\quad + \tilde{\mathbf{M}}_q (s - s_0)^q + \tilde{\mathbf{M}}_{q+1} (s - s_0)^{q+1} + \cdots \\ &= \mathbf{H}(s) + \mathcal{O}((s - s_0)^q) \end{aligned}$$

for some  $q = q(n)$

# Padé and Padé-type approximation

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- **Padé approximation:**  $\mathbf{C}_n, \mathbf{G}_n \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}, \mathbf{B}_n \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$  such that

$$\mathbf{H}_n(s) = \mathbf{H}(s) + \mathcal{O}\left((s - s_0)^{q(n)}\right)$$

and  $q(n)$  is maximal

- $q(n) \geq 2 \left\lfloor \frac{n}{m} \right\rfloor$  with equality in the ‘generic’ case

- **Padé-type approximation:**

$$\mathbf{H}_n(s) = \mathbf{H}(s) + \mathcal{O}\left((s - s_0)^{\tilde{q}(n)}\right)$$

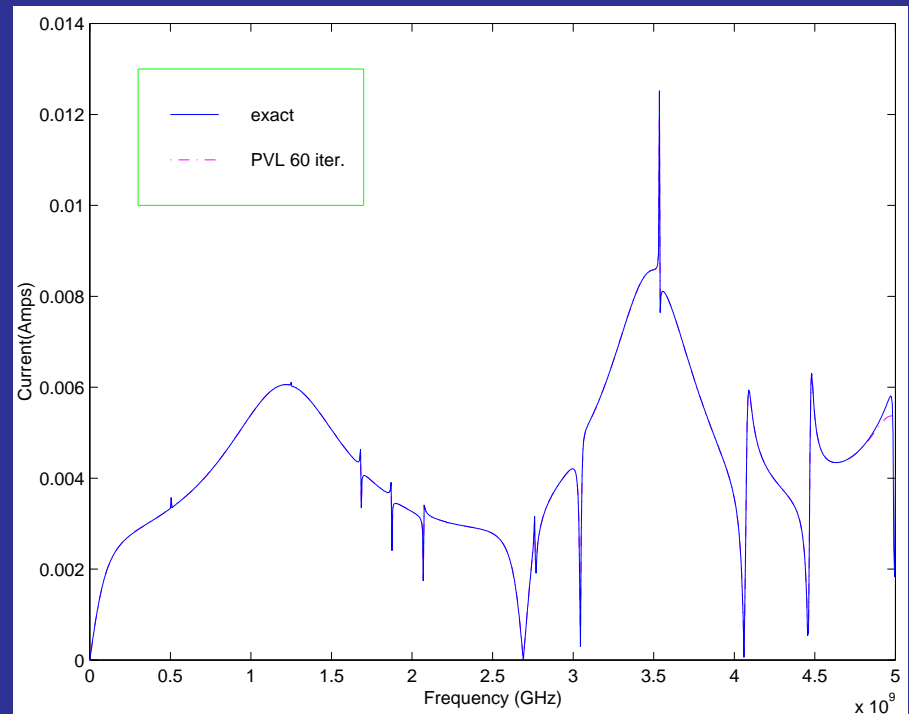
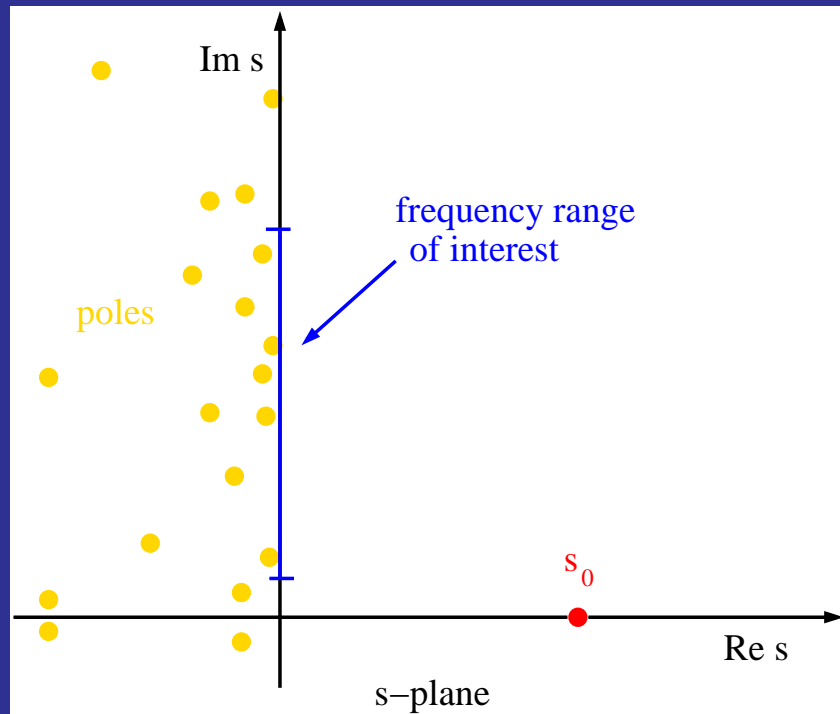
where  $\tilde{q}(n)$  is no longer maximal, e.g.,  $\tilde{q}(n) = \left\lfloor \frac{n}{m} \right\rfloor$

# Some history

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- **AWE** (Pillage and Rohrer, '90):  
Explicit computation and matching of moments
- **PVL, MPVL** (Feldmann and F., '94 and '95):  
Avoids numerical issues of AWE by computing Padé reduced-order models via the Lanczos process
- **Arnoldi-based reduction** (Silveira et al, '96):  
Padé-type reduced-order models via the Arnoldi process

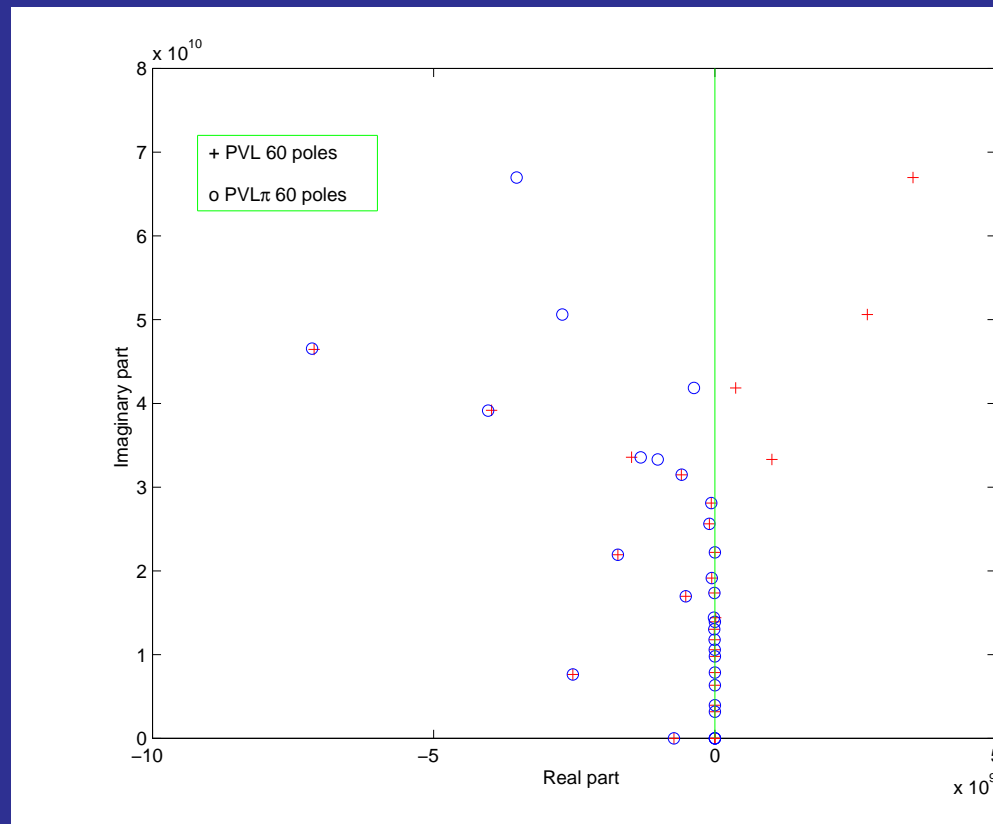
# An RCL network



Exact and Padé model

# Padé may produce unstable poles

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## Some more history

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- **PRIMA** (Odabasioglu, Celik, and Pileggi, '97):  
Passive reduced-order models via explicit projection onto Krylov subspaces
- **SPRIM** (F., '04, '09, and '11)  
Structure-**P**reserving **R**educed **I**nterconnect **M**acromodeling

# Projection-based order reduction

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- Choose an  $N \times n$  matrix

$$\mathbf{V}_n = \begin{array}{|c} \hline \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \text{with} \quad \text{Rank } \mathbf{V}_n = n$$

and explicitly project the data matrices of

$$\mathbf{C} \frac{d}{dt} \mathbf{x}(t) + \mathbf{G} \mathbf{x}(t) = \mathbf{B} \mathbf{u}(t)$$
$$\mathbf{y}(t) = \mathbf{B}^T \mathbf{x}(t)$$

onto the subspace spanned by the columns of  $\mathbf{V}_n$

# Projection-based order reduction

---

- Resulting reduced-order model:

$$\mathbf{C}_n \frac{d}{dt} \mathbf{z}(t) + \mathbf{G}_n \mathbf{z}(t) = \mathbf{B}_n \mathbf{u}(t)$$
$$\tilde{\mathbf{y}}(t) = \mathbf{B}_n^T \mathbf{z}(t)$$

where

$$\mathbf{C}_n := \mathbf{V}_n^T \mathbf{C} \mathbf{V}_n, \quad \mathbf{G}_n := \mathbf{V}_n^T \mathbf{G} \mathbf{V}_n, \quad \mathbf{B}_n := \mathbf{V}_n^T \mathbf{B}$$

- Preserves **passivity**:

$$\mathbf{C} \succeq \mathbf{0}, \quad \mathbf{G} + \mathbf{G}^T \succeq \mathbf{0} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{C}_n \succeq \mathbf{0}, \quad \mathbf{G}_n + \mathbf{G}_n^T \succeq \mathbf{0}$$

# Choice of projection matrix

---

- Choose expansion point  $s_0 \in \mathbb{C}$  for transfer function and rewrite:

$$\mathbf{H}(s) = \mathbf{B}^T (s\mathbf{C} + \mathbf{G})^{-1} \mathbf{B} = \mathbf{B}^T \left( \mathbf{I} - (s - s_0) \mathbf{A} \right)^{-1} \mathbf{R}$$

where

$$\mathbf{A} := - (s_0 \mathbf{C} + \mathbf{G})^{-1} \mathbf{C} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{R} := (s_0 \mathbf{C} + \mathbf{G})^{-1} \mathbf{B}$$

- $\hat{n}$ -th **block Krylov subspace**:

$$\mathcal{K}_{\hat{n}}(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{R}) := \text{colspan}_{\hat{n}} \left[ \mathbf{R} \quad \mathbf{A}\mathbf{R} \quad \mathbf{A}^2\mathbf{R} \quad \dots \right]$$

# Krylov + Projection = Padé-type

---

- $\hat{n}$ -th block Krylov subspace:

$$\mathcal{K}_{\hat{n}}(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{R}) := \text{colspan}_{\hat{n}} \left[ \mathbf{R} \quad \mathbf{A}\mathbf{R} \quad \mathbf{A}^2\mathbf{R} \quad \dots \right]$$

- Choose the projection matrix  $\mathbf{V}_n$  such that

$$\mathcal{K}_{\hat{n}}(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{R}) \subseteq \text{Range } \mathbf{V}_n$$

- Krylov subspace + Projection = **Padé-type approximant**:

$$\mathbf{H}_n(s) = \mathbf{H}(s) + \mathcal{O}\left((s - s_0)^{\tilde{q}}\right), \quad \text{where } \tilde{q} \geq \lfloor \hat{n}/m \rfloor$$

- PRIMA and SPRIM are methods of this type

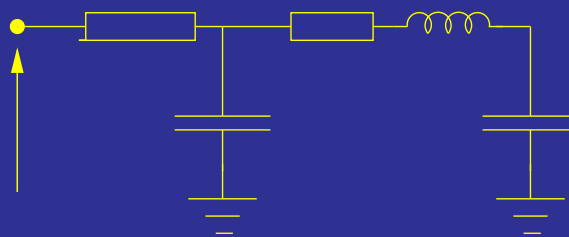
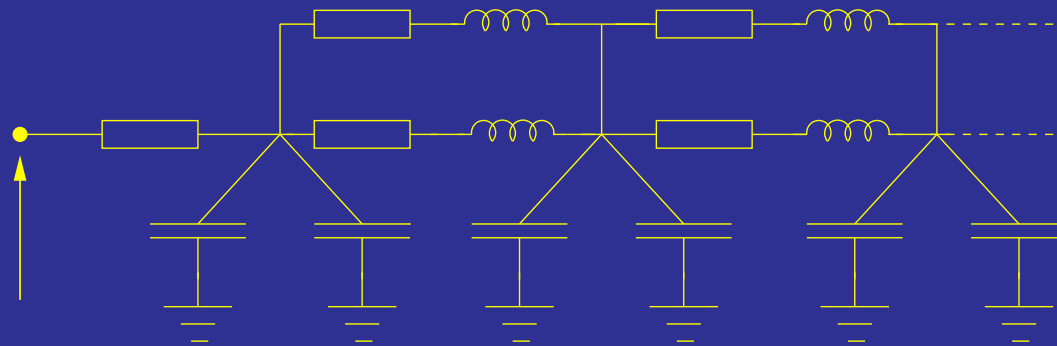
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# Preservation of RCL structure

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# General RCL network equations

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- System of linear time-invariant DAEs of the form

$$\mathbf{C} \frac{d}{dt} \mathbf{x}(t) + \mathbf{G} \mathbf{x}(t) = \mathbf{B} \mathbf{u}(t)$$
$$\mathbf{y}(t) = \mathbf{B}^T \mathbf{x}(t)$$

where

$$\mathbf{C} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{C}_1 & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{C}_2 & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{G} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{G}_1 & \mathbf{G}_2 & \mathbf{G}_3 \\ -\mathbf{G}_2^T & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ -\mathbf{G}_3^T & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{B} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{B}_1 & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{B}_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Passivity:

$$\mathbf{C} \succeq \mathbf{0} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{G} + \mathbf{G}^T \succeq \mathbf{0}$$



# PRIMA does not preserve structure

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- PRIMA = projection onto  $n$ -th block Krylov subspace:

$$\text{Range } V_n = \mathcal{K}_n(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{R})$$

- Block structure of the data matrices:

$$\mathbf{C} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{C}_1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \mathbf{C}_2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{G} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{G}_1 & \mathbf{G}_2 & \mathbf{G}_3 \\ -\mathbf{G}_2^T & 0 & 0 \\ -\mathbf{G}_3^T & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{B} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{B}_1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \mathbf{B}_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

- PRIMA reduced-order matrices:

$$\mathbf{C}_n = \begin{bmatrix} \square \\ \square \\ \square \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{G}_n = \begin{bmatrix} \square \\ \square \\ \square \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{B}_n = \begin{bmatrix} \square \\ \square \end{bmatrix}$$

# SPRIM does preserve block structure

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- Structure of SPRIM reduced-order matrices:

$$\mathbf{C}_n = \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{\mathbf{C}}_1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \tilde{\mathbf{C}}_2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{G}_n = \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{\mathbf{G}}_1 & \tilde{\mathbf{G}}_2 & \tilde{\mathbf{G}}_3 \\ -\tilde{\mathbf{G}}_2^T & 0 & 0 \\ -\tilde{\mathbf{G}}_3^T & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{B}_n = \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{\mathbf{B}}_1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \tilde{\mathbf{B}}_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Projection onto Krylov subspaces guarantees a Padé-type property:

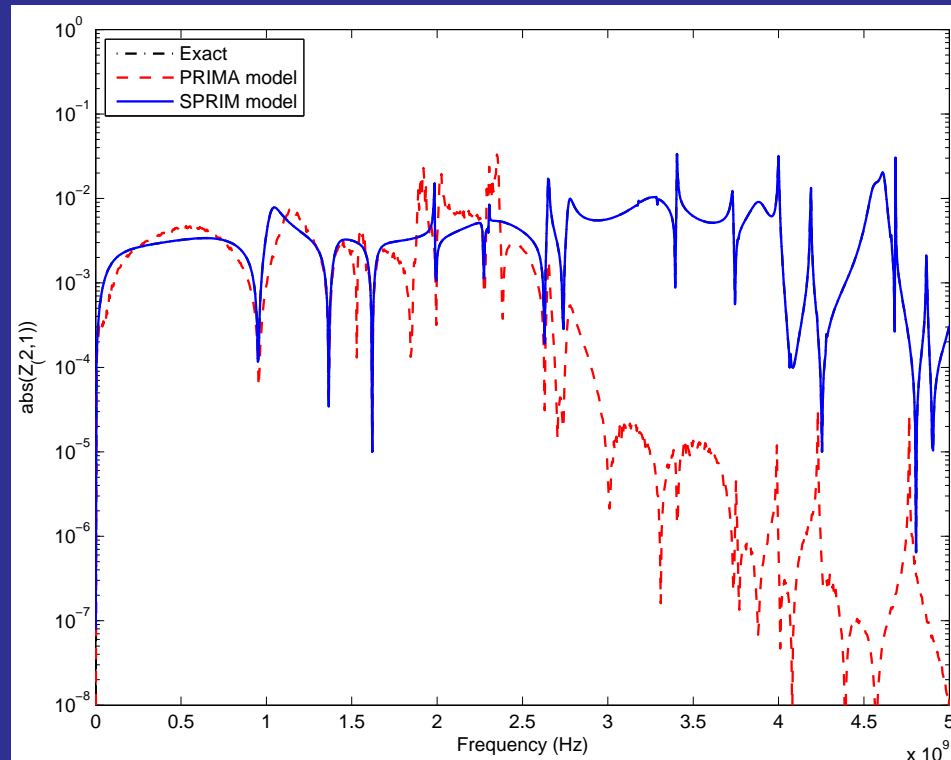
$$\mathbf{H}_n(s) = \mathbf{H}(s) + \mathcal{O}\left((s - s_0)^{\tilde{q}}\right)$$

with  $\tilde{q}$  the same integer as for PRIMA

- For SPRIM, we actually observe higher accuracy

# An RCL network with mostly C's and L's

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Exact and models corresponding to  
block Krylov subspace of dimension  $\hat{n} = 120$

# SPRIM

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- Let  $\hat{\mathbf{V}}_{\hat{n}}$  be any matrix such that

$$\text{Range } \hat{\mathbf{V}}_{\hat{n}} = \mathcal{K}_{\hat{n}}(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{R})$$

- Recall:

$$\mathbf{C} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{C}_1 & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{C}_2 & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{G} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{G}_1 & \mathbf{G}_2 & \mathbf{G}_3 \\ -\mathbf{G}_2^T & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ -\mathbf{G}_3^T & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{B} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{B}_1 & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{B}_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

# SPRIM, continued

---

- Partition  $\hat{\mathbf{V}}_{\hat{n}}$  accordingly:

$$\hat{\mathbf{V}}_{\hat{n}} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{V}_{\hat{n}}^{(1)} \\ \mathbf{V}_{\hat{n}}^{(2)} \\ \mathbf{V}_{\hat{n}}^{(3)} \end{bmatrix}$$

- For  $l = 1, 2, 3$ :  
If  $\text{Rank } \mathbf{V}_{\hat{n}}^{(i)} < \hat{n}$ , replace  $\mathbf{V}_{\hat{n}}^{(i)}$  by matrix of full column rank

# SPRIM, continued

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- Set

$$\mathbf{V}_n = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{V}_n^{(1)} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{V}_n^{(2)} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{V}_n^{(3)} \end{bmatrix}$$

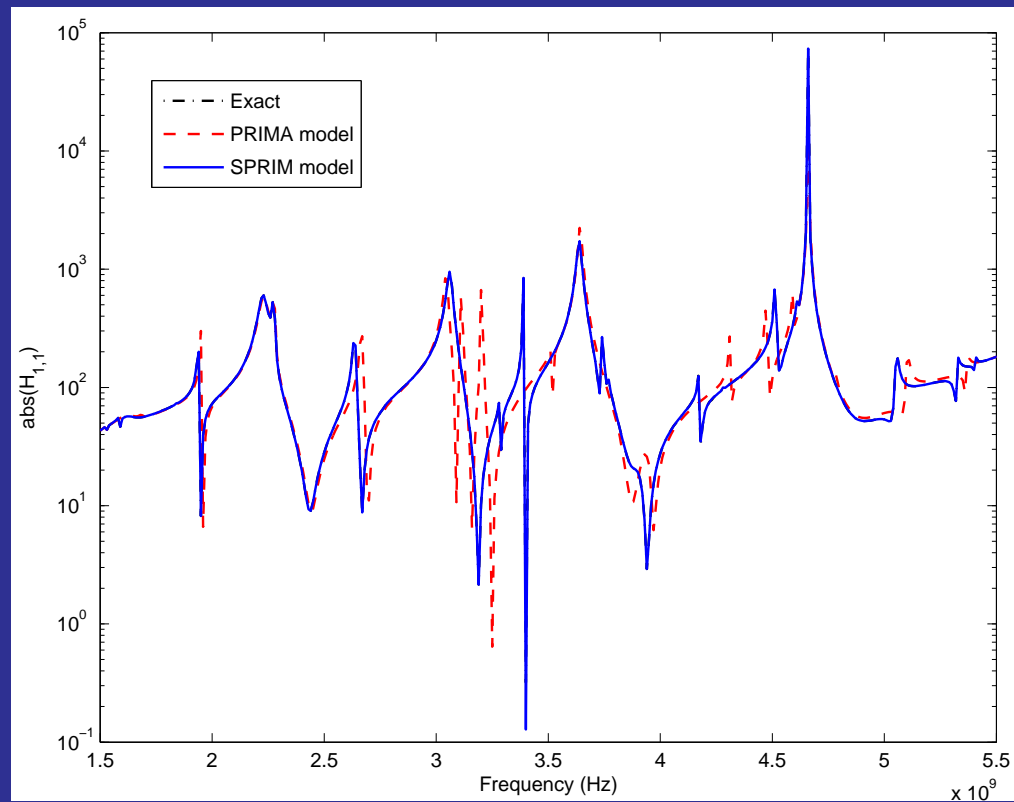
- Block structure is preserved:

$$\mathbf{C}_n = \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{\mathbf{C}}_1 & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \tilde{\mathbf{C}}_2 & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{G}_n = \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{\mathbf{G}}_1 & \tilde{\mathbf{G}}_2 & \tilde{\mathbf{G}}_3 \\ -\tilde{\mathbf{G}}_2^T & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ -\tilde{\mathbf{G}}_3^T & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{B}_n = \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{\mathbf{B}}_1 & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \tilde{\mathbf{B}}_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

- $\mathcal{K}_{\hat{n}}(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{R}) = \text{Range } \mathbf{V}_{\hat{n}} \subseteq \text{Range } \mathbf{V}_n \Rightarrow$  Padé-type property!

# An RCL network with mostly C's and L's

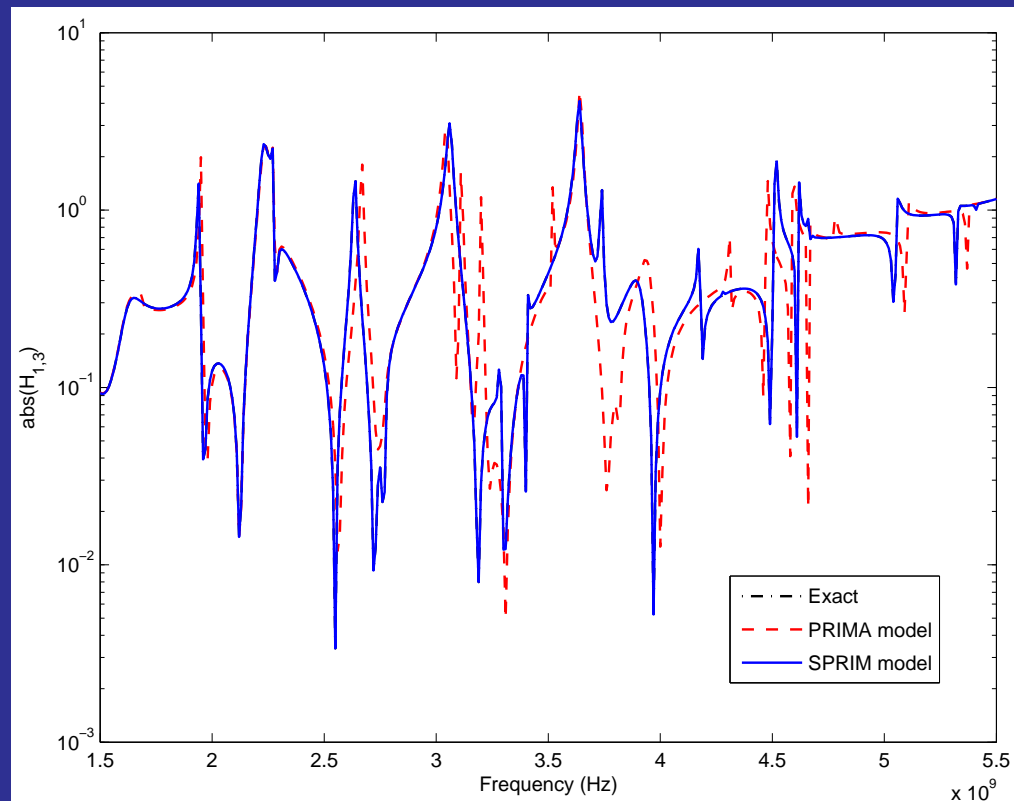
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Exact and models corresponding to  $\hat{n} = 90$

# An RCL network with mostly C's and L's

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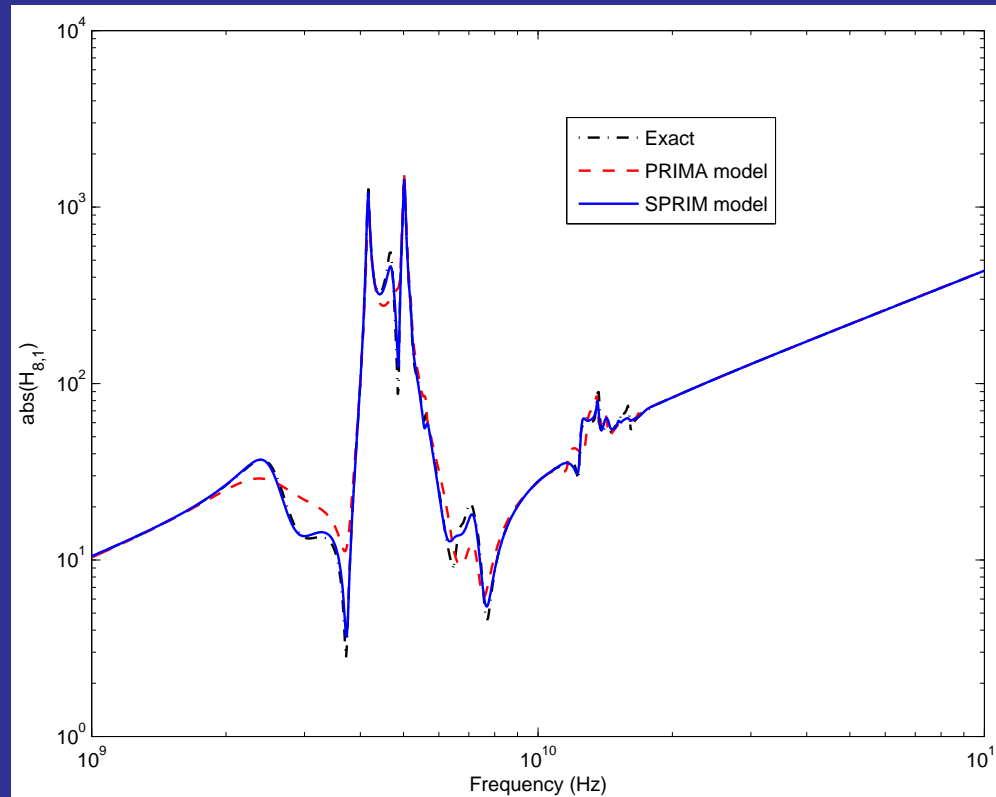


Exact and models corresponding to  $\hat{n} = 90$



# A package example

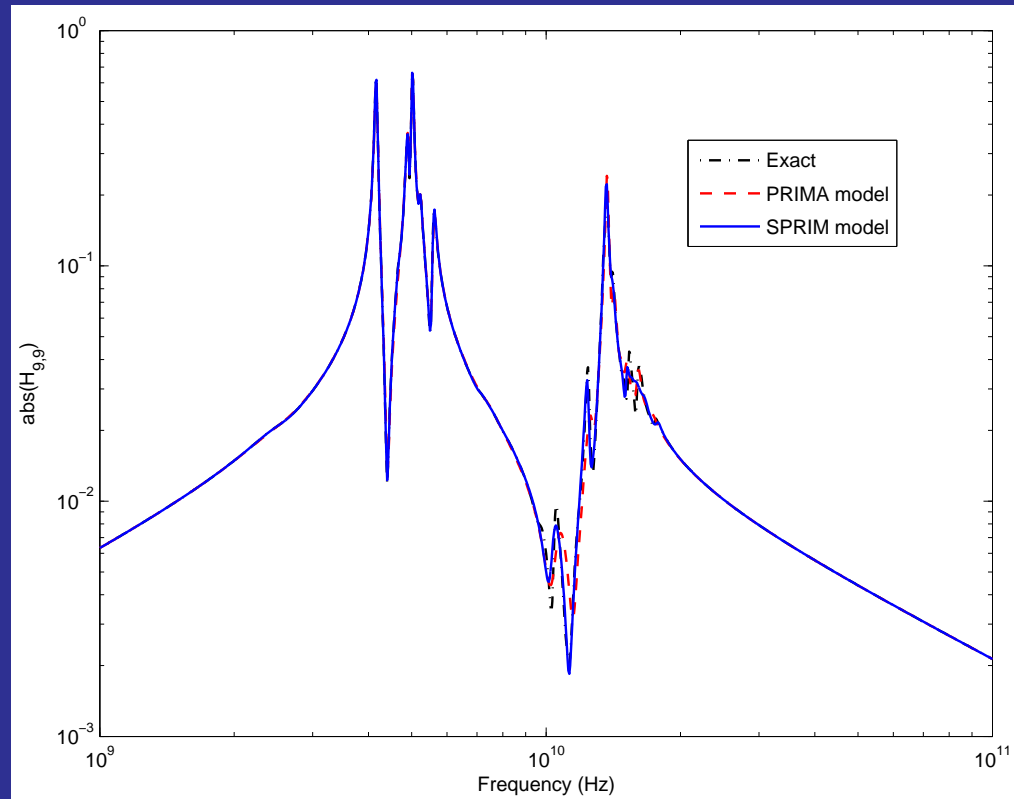
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Exact and models corresponding to  $\hat{n} = 128$

# A package example

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Exact and models corresponding to  $\hat{n} = 128$

# Padé-type property of SPRIM

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- General theory of projection onto block Krylov subspaces: PRIMA and SPRIM produce Padé-type models with

$$\mathbf{H}_n(s) = \mathbf{H}(s) + \mathcal{O}\left((s - s_0)^{\tilde{q}}\right), \quad \text{where } \tilde{q} \geq \lfloor \hat{n}/m \rfloor$$

- **Theorem** (F., '08)

The  $n$ -th SPRIM model satisfies

$$\mathbf{H}_n(s) = \mathbf{H}(s) + \mathcal{O}\left((s - s_0)^{\tilde{q}}\right), \quad \text{where } \tilde{q} \geq 2 \lfloor \hat{n}/m \rfloor$$

- Twice as accurate as PRIMA!
- This is a consequence of structure preservation!

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- DAEs arising in VLSI interconnect analysis
- Structure-preserving model order reduction
- *Thick restarts and multiple expansion points*  
(with Efrem B. Rensi)
- Open problems

# Need for restarts

---

- To obtain a Padé-type property, projection matrix  $\mathbf{V}_n$  with

$$\mathcal{K}_{\hat{n}}(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{R}) \subseteq \text{Range } \mathbf{V}_n$$

- Need to first generate  $\hat{\mathbf{V}}_{\hat{n}}$  such that

$$\mathcal{K}_{\hat{n}}(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{R}) = \text{Range } \hat{\mathbf{V}}_{\hat{n}}$$

- Use suitable (band) variant of the Arnoldi process
- But: prohibitive for large  $\hat{n}$
- Remedy: (thick) restarts

# Using restarts

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- Motivated by recent work by Eiermann et al.
- Restart after each cycle of  $r$  Arnoldi steps
- Extract ‘good’ eigenvector information  $Y$  from the last batch of  $r$  Arnoldi vectors
- Use the columns of  $Y$  as the first vectors in the next cycle
- Repeat
- Project with

$$\mathbf{V}_n = [\mathbf{V}^{(1)} \quad \mathbf{V}^{(2)} \quad \dots \quad \mathbf{V}^{(l)}]$$

# 'Good' eigenvector information

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- Recall:

$$\mathbf{H}(s) = \mathbf{B}^T \left( \mathbf{I} - (s - s_0) \mathbf{A} \right)^{-1} \mathbf{R}$$

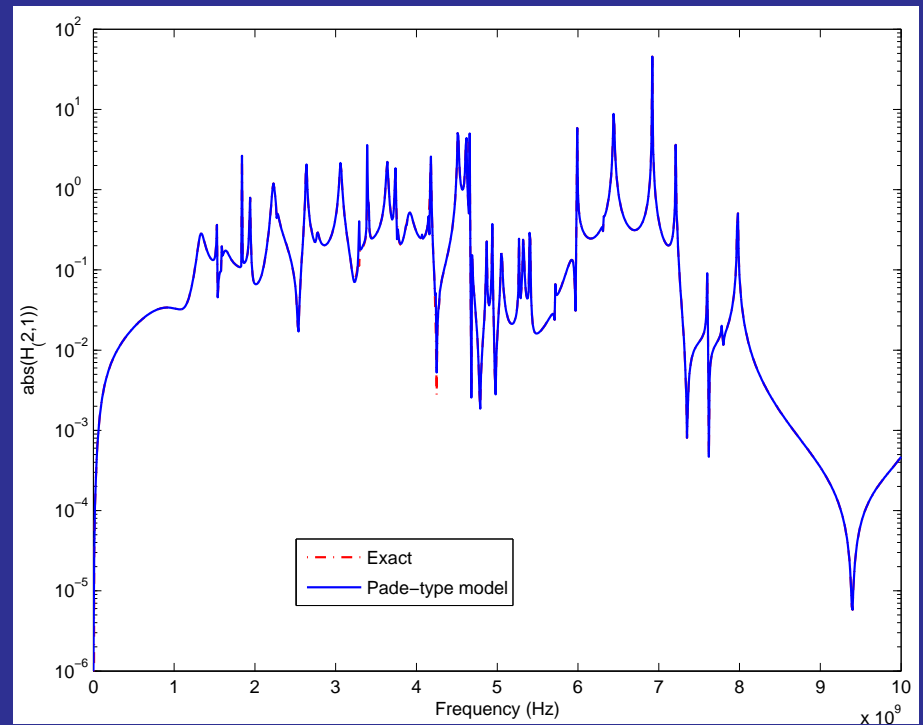
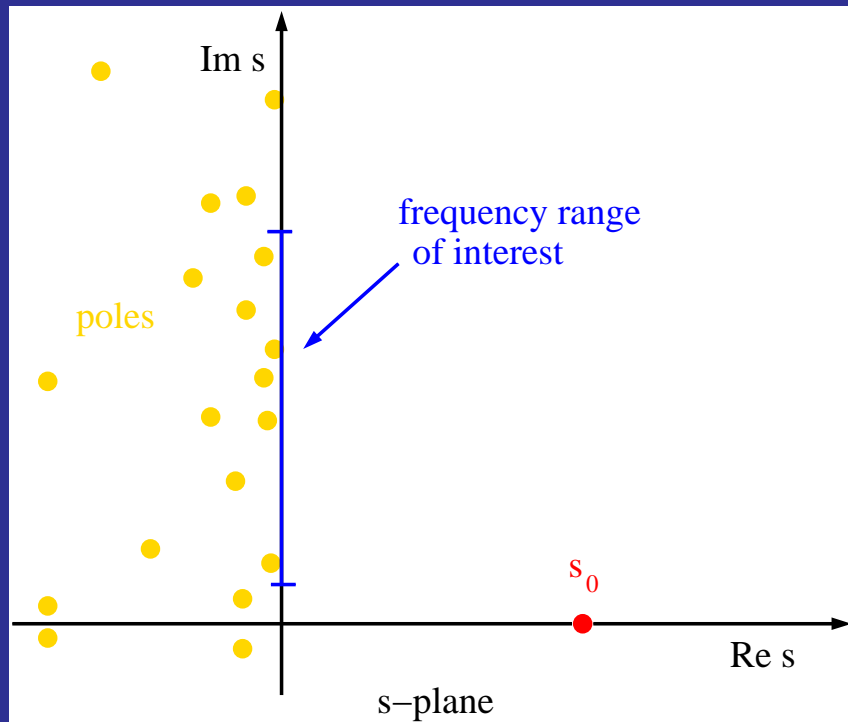
- Poles of  $\mathbf{H}$  are of the form

$$s = s_0 + \frac{1}{\lambda}, \quad \lambda \in \sigma(\mathbf{A})$$

- 'Good' eigenvector information:

Good approximate eigenvectors corresponding to poles close to the frequency range of interest

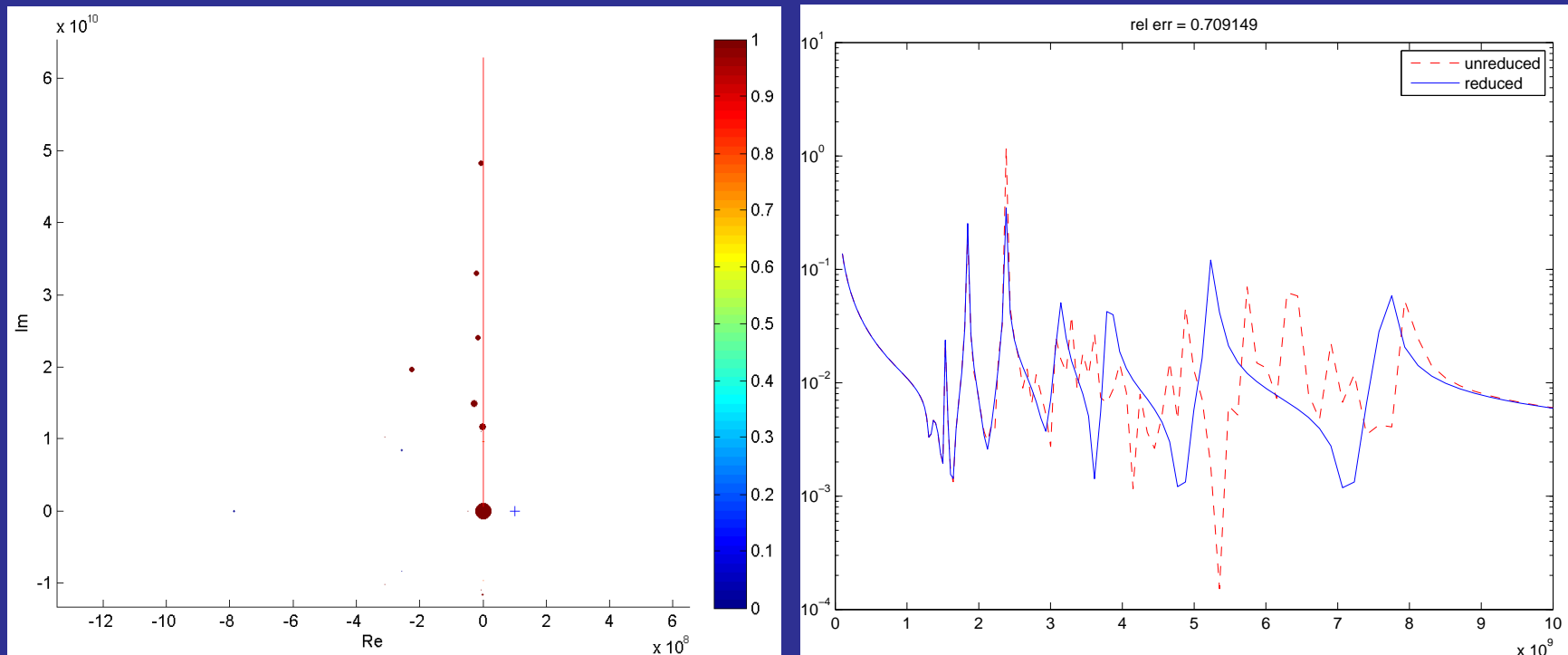
# Without restarts



Uniform convergence throughout frequency range

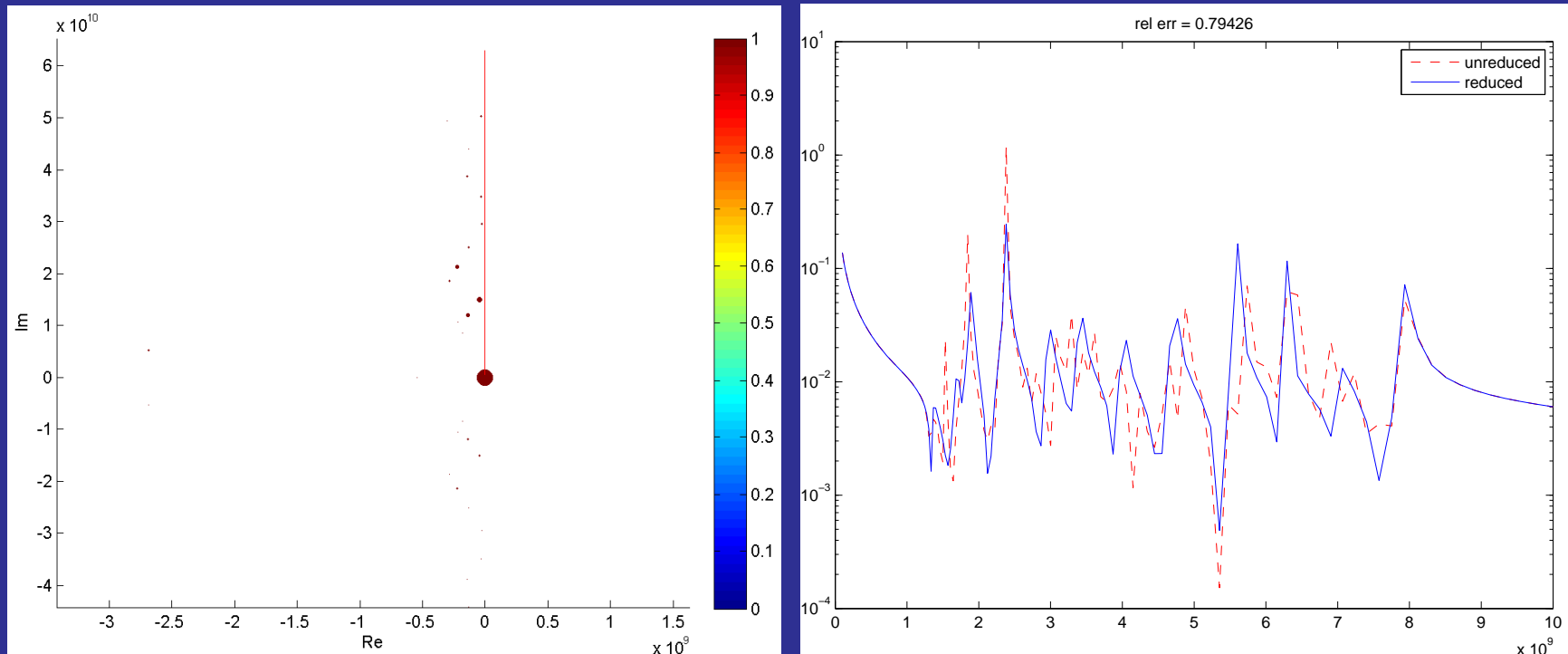


# Obtaining 'good' eigenvector information



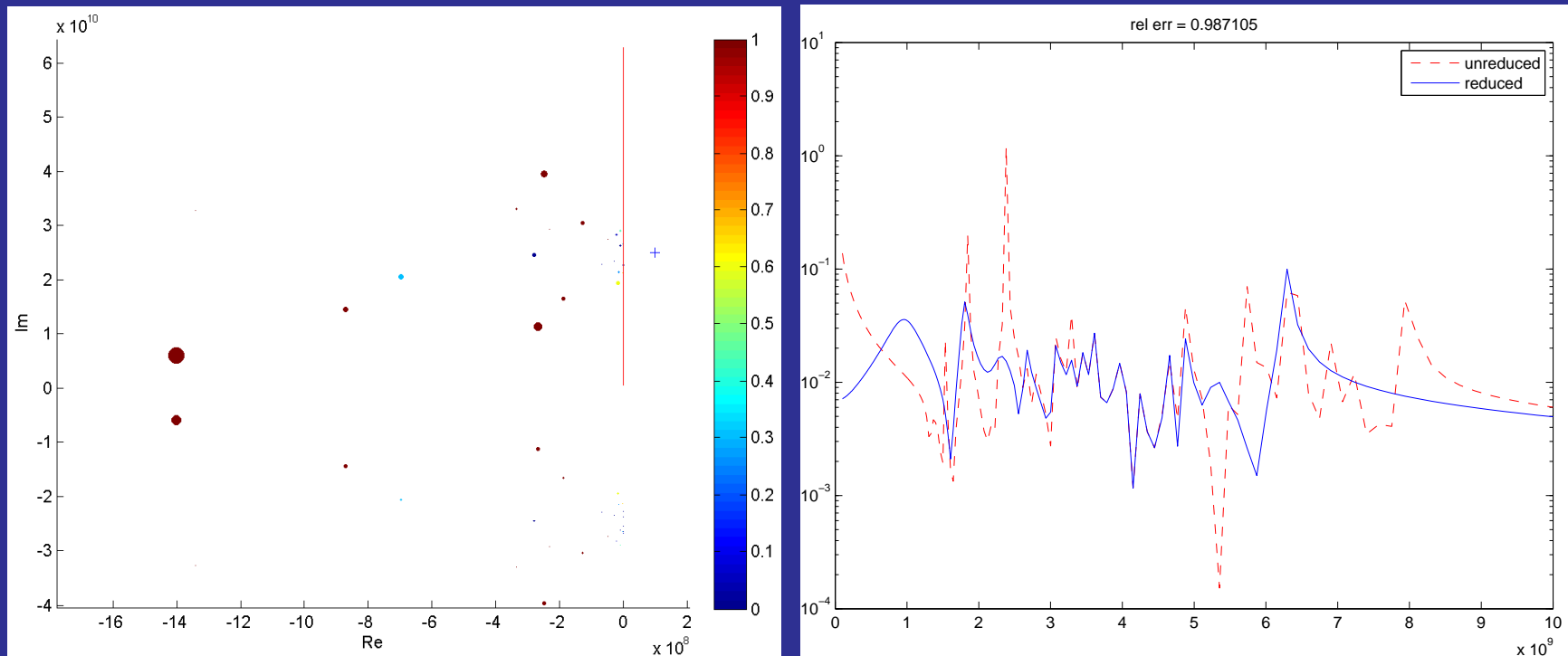
Single point  $s_0 = 1 \times 10^8$

# Obtaining 'good' eigenvector information



Single point  $s_0 = 250 \times 10^8$

# Obtaining 'good' eigenvector information



Single point  $s_0 = (1 + 250i) \times 10^8$

# Changing expansion points

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- Extract 'good' eigenvector information  $Y$  from the last batch of  $r$  Arnoldi vectors
- At each restart allow for changing expansion point:

$$\mathbf{A}(s_0) = -(s_0 \mathbf{C} + \mathbf{G})^{-1} \mathbf{C} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{A}(\tilde{s}_0) = -(\tilde{s}_0 \mathbf{C} + \mathbf{G})^{-1} \mathbf{C}$$

- 'Converged' eigenvectors  $\mathbf{v}$  do not change:

$$\mathbf{A}(s_0) \mathbf{v} = \lambda \mathbf{v} \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \mathbf{A}(\tilde{s}_0) \mathbf{v} = \tilde{\lambda} \mathbf{v}$$

where

$$\frac{1}{\lambda} - \frac{1}{\tilde{\lambda}} = \tilde{s}_0 - s_0$$

# Multiple expansion points

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- Due to changing expansion points

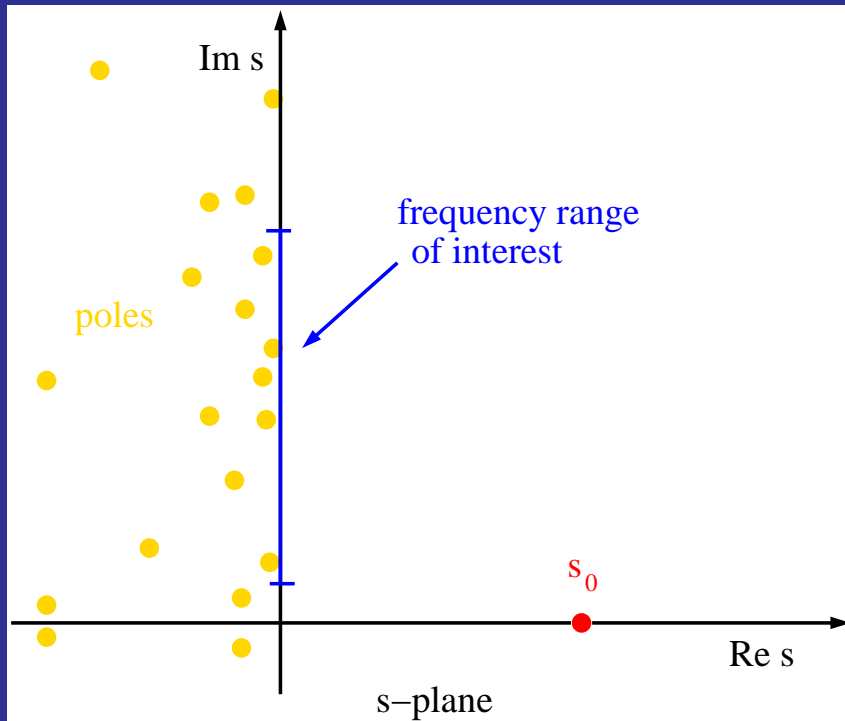
$$s_0^{(1)}, s_0^{(2)}, \dots, s_0^{(l)},$$

the resulting reduced-order model is characterized by a **multi-point Padé-type property**:

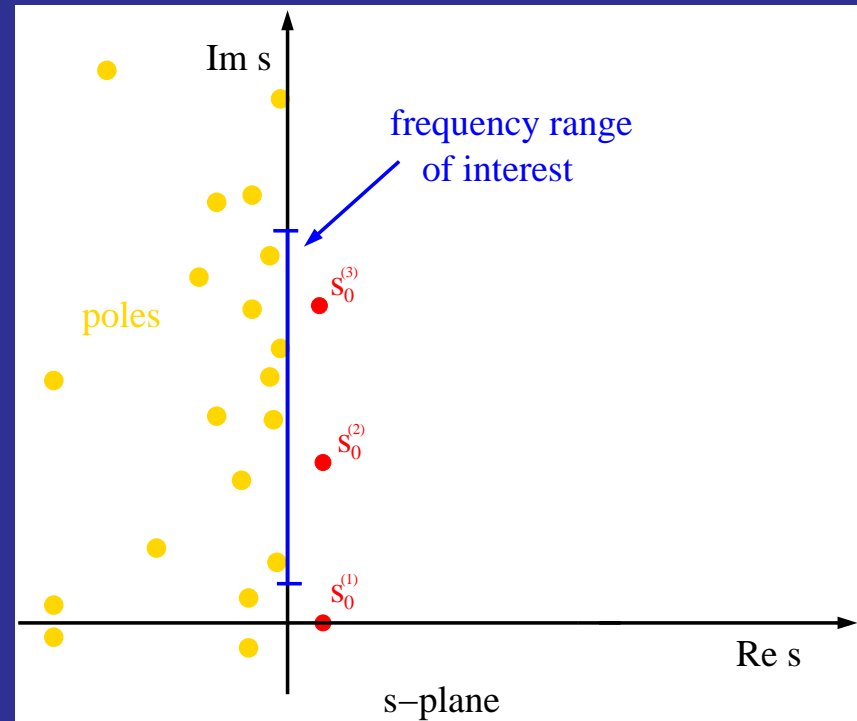
$$\mathbf{H}_n(s) = \mathbf{H}(s) + \mathcal{O}\left(\left(s - s_0^{(j)}\right)^{q_j}\right), \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, l$$

- Except for  $s_0^{(1)}$ , the other expansion points are complex

# Single vs. multiple expansion points

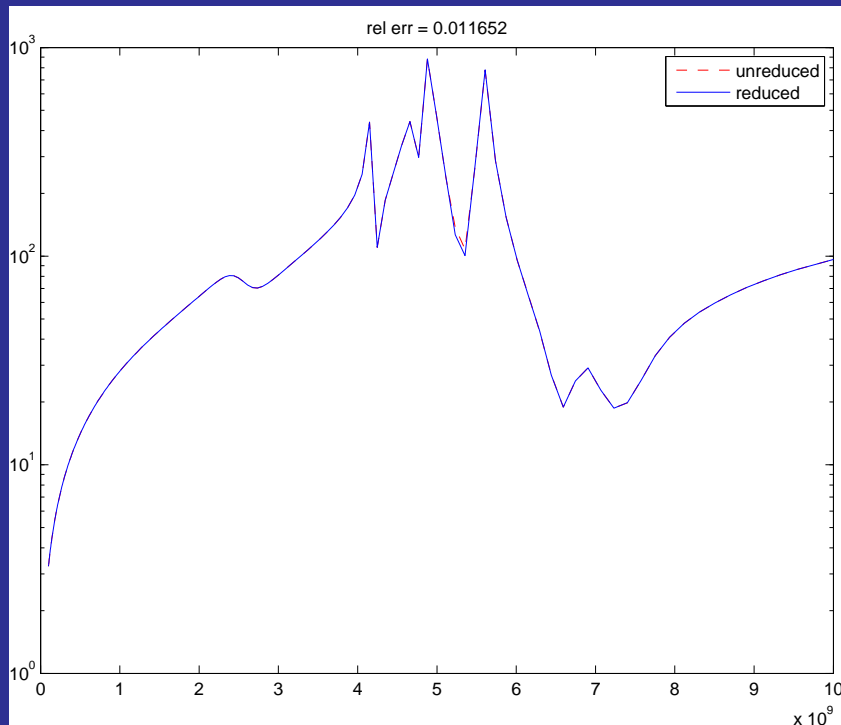


Single point — no restarts



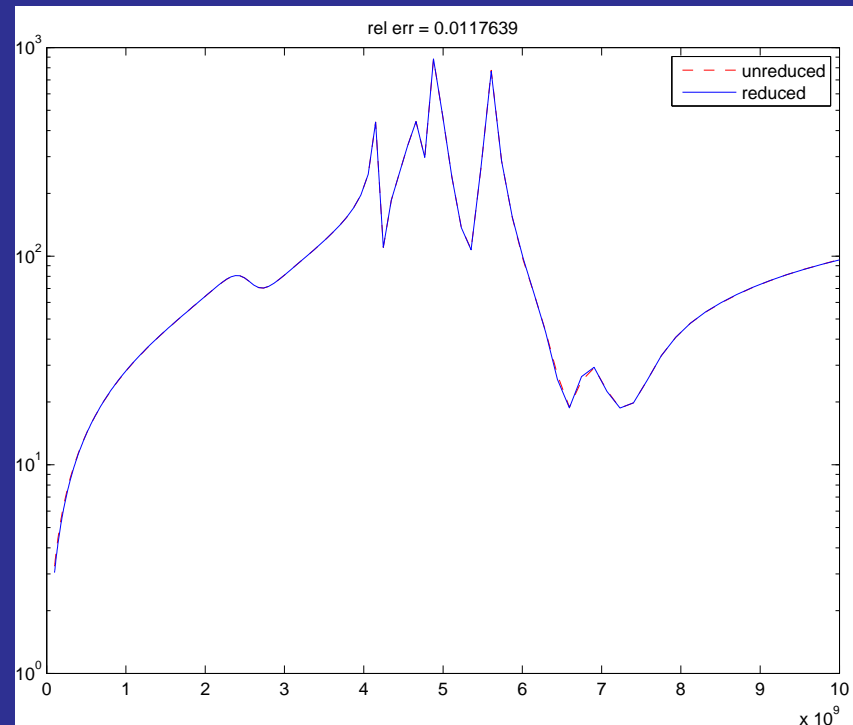
Three points — thick restarts

# Single vs. multiple expansion points



Single point — no restarts

$$n = 80$$



Three points — thick restarts

$$n = 42$$

# Outline

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- Numerical simulation of electronic circuits
- DAEs arising in VLSI interconnect analysis
- Structure-preserving model order reduction
- Thick restarts and multiple expansion points
- *Open problems*



# Open problems

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- SPRIM preserves the block structures of RCL networks
- Preservation of the fine structure of the blocks?
- Optimal structure-preserving Padé-type reduction?
- Automated selection of changing expansion points to make thick restarts practical?
- We still cannot handle RCL descriptor systems as large as we would need to
- Meaningful reduced-order models for very inaccurate system data?