Modern Physical Design: Algorithm Technology Methodology (Part IV)

Andrew B. Kahng UCLA

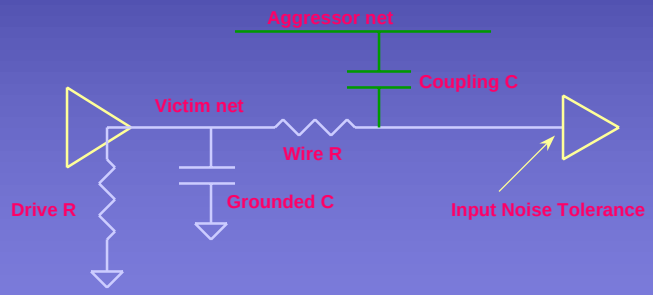
Majid Sarrafzadeh Northwestern

Performance Validation Methodology

- Logic design too early for signal integrity problems
- Placement/ Global routing best place to achieve timing convergence
- Placement/ Global routing best place to achieve noise immunization
- Detail routing is too late to fix all the signal integrity problems

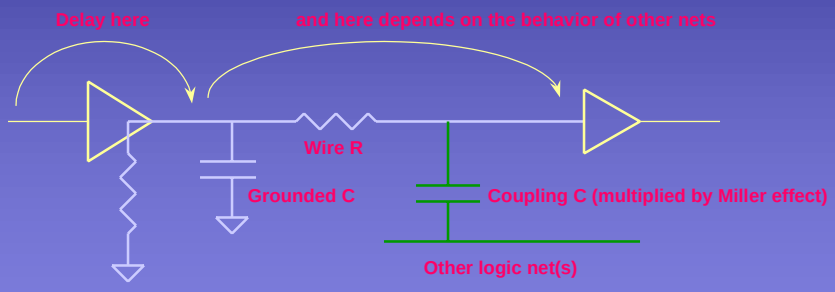
Crosstalk Induced Errors

- Transition on an adjoining signal causes unintended logic transition
- Symptom: chip fails (repeatably) on certain logic operations

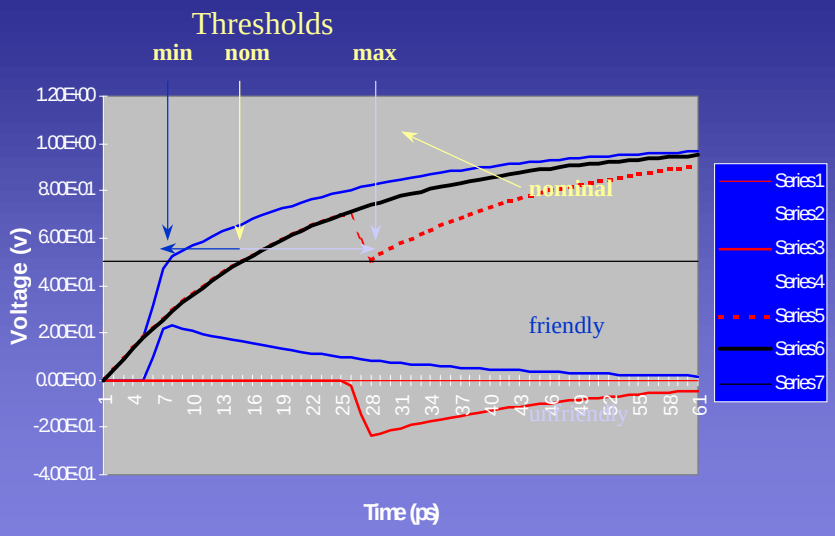


Crosstalk Induced Errors

- Timing dependence on crosstalk
  - timing depends on behavior of adjoining signals
  - symptom: timing predictions inaccurate compared to silicon (effect can be large: 3:1 on individual nets)



Effects of Crosstalk: Delay Uncertainty



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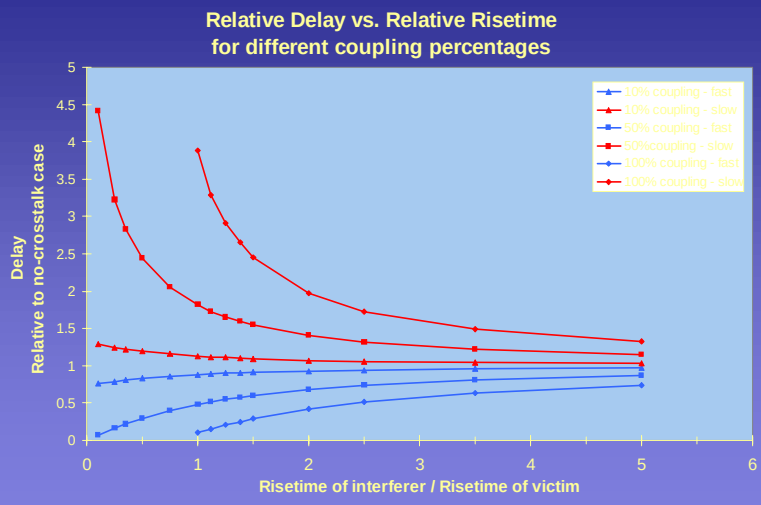


Crosstalk Prevention Strategies

- Placement phase
  - don't know adjacencies, layer assignments, or global routes
  - do know net length, est. wire R/C, driver strength, signal slews
  - establish metrics to tell if net is likely to have problems
  - fixes include driver sizing, buffering
- Global route phase
  - don't know adjacencies, but have idea of congestion
  - do know layer assignments, better R/C estimates
- Can apply timing windows
  - only consider signals that can change at the same time
  - data comes from static timing analysis
- Detailed routing - detailed analysis and routing ECOs
- N.B.: In any case, SI brings potential huge infrastructure changes (e.g., statistical centering design w/distributions)

Pre-Route Pruning

- Victim Pruning
  - sensitivity to coupling effects
  - likelihood of being on a critical path (delay analysis only)
- Aggressor Pruning
  - drive strength and load
- Impact Pruning
  - victim-aggressor pairs
  - physical proximity of net pairs
  - relationship in the time domain

Post-Route Pruning

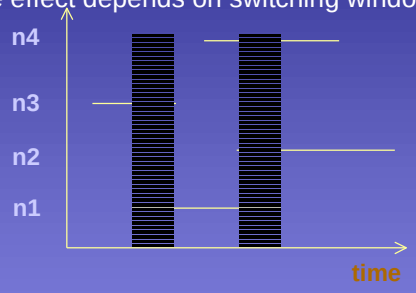
- Geometric/Capacitive coupling
  - depends on magnitude of coupling capacitance as compared to total capacitance of net
  - Typically less than 10% of nets have significant couplings and couplings to only few nets are significant
- Structural Filtering
  - take into consideration the type of gate driving the nets
  - consider direction of signal propagation or location of driver
  - victim net with weak driver is more likely to have glitch
  - aggressor net with strong driver is more likely to cause glitch on victim nets
- Temporal Pruning
  - switching windows between victim and aggressor nets is used
- Functional or Logical Pruning
  - eliminate signals/paths that can never be responsible for noise
- Finally, need detailed analysis after filtering stage

Timing and Logic Dependence for Glitch

- Structured filtering determines the potentially significant couplings
- Need to tie in the timing or switching window information to determine if indeed these are relevant
- Coupled nets switching at non-overlapping intervals
  - coupling capacitance can be converted to a grounded capacitance
- Coupled nets switch simultaneously with overlapped intervals
  - need to analyze both nets with their drivers simultaneously
  - coupling capacitance can be converted to a grounded capacitance with worst-case switch factor

Reducing Conservatism

- Aggressor nets are not uncorrelated
  - timing correlation: some nodes can not switch at the same time
  - noise effect depends on switching windows of nets

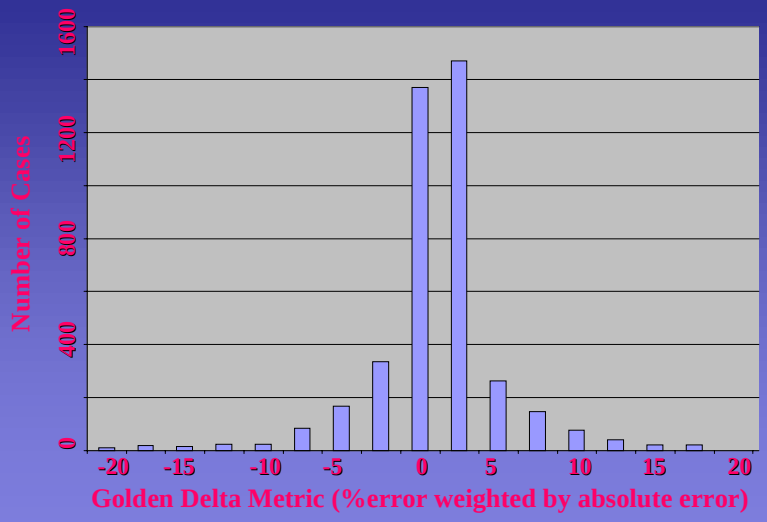


- Logic correlation: some nodes can not switch in opposite direction and some nodes switch monotonically in one direction

Criteria for Immunizing Against Crosstalk

- Need models for noise estimation and delay uncertainty computation with tight upper bounds
- Need timing windows and logical transition between coupled nets
- Need physical information
  - accurate estimation of RCs, congestion, density, pin location, and layer information in pre-routing stages
- Fidelity of models is important

Delays with Coupling vs Nominal Delays



Issues for Delay Uncertainty

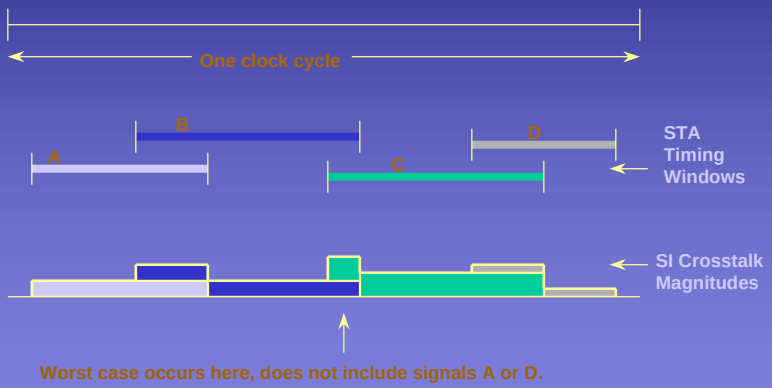
- Parameters that effect victim net's gate and interconnect delays
  - aggressor net(s) coupling capacitance
  - fast slew time at aggressor nets and large aggressor net drivers
  - slow slew time on victim net and small victim net drivers
  - proximity of aggressor driver to victim net's driver (same direction vs opposite direction signal propagation)
  - power bounce in victim driver/receiver gates
- Impact the following delay components
  - victim net driver gate delay
  - victim net delay
  - victim net receiver gate delay

Impact of Coupling on Delay

- Coupling adds delay ambiguity/uncertainty
  - amount of coupling depends on the temporal relationship between waveforms; coupling varies between nodes of distributed coupled RC networks
- Current timing tools employ a technique which convert coupling caps. to grounded caps by multiplying with a **switch factor** depending upon switching conditions
  - reduces coupled RC networks to just uncoupled RC networks
  - allows efficient interconnect delay analysis
  - introduces error in delay computation
  - can it be applicable for worst-case analysis?

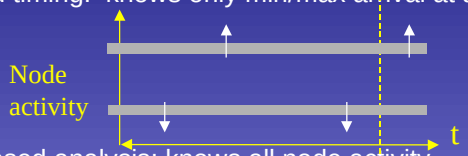
Timing Windows for Crosstalk

- Only consider signals that can change at the same time
- Data comes from static timing analysis

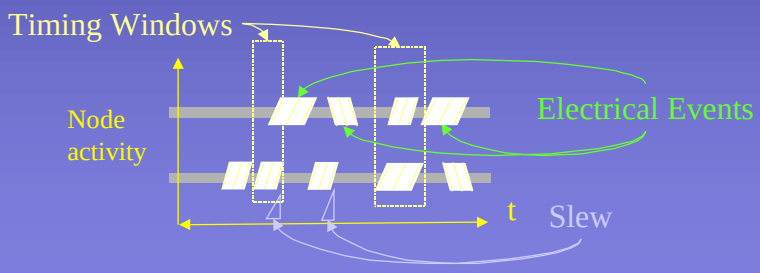


Electrical Analysis

- Standard timing: knows only min/max arrival at any node



- Event-based analysis: knows all node activity

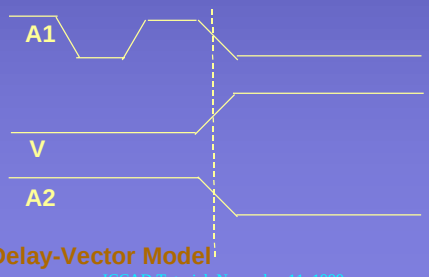


Crosstalk Analysis Approaches

- Simple worst case model
  - assume all aggressor nets are switching simultaneously in opposite direction to victim net
  - functional and timing information not considered
  - yields pessimistic results
- Static Analysis Model
  - timing information is used but function information is ignored
  - yields accurate results but might flag too many nets as problematic

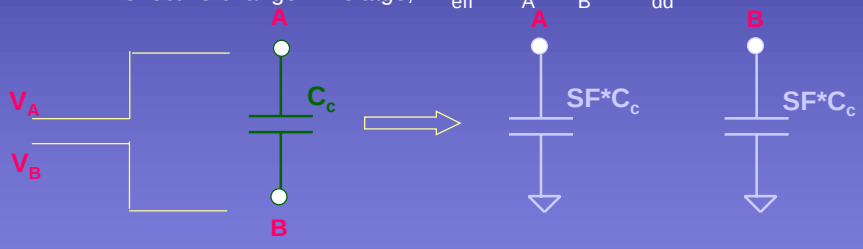
Crosstalk Analysis Approaches

- Zero-Delay Model
  - temporal information is ignored
  - search functional space to find input vectors causing maximum noise
  - if both aggressor and victim nets switch in the same cycle then assumes conservatively that transitions are correlated
- Delay-Vector Model
  - consider both timing and functional information completely
  - not always possible to obtain exact vectors causing maximum noise



Switch Factor Methodology

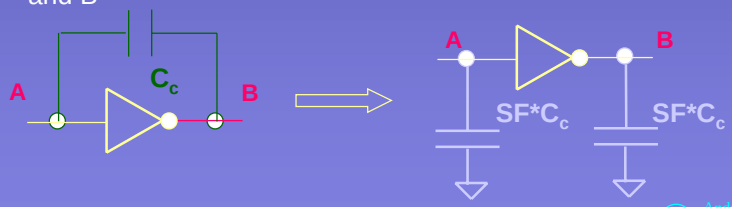
- Switch factor for coupling cap. between pair of nets:
  - 0 for nets switching in same direction (in phase)
  - 1 when aggressor net is quiet and only victim net is switching
  - 2 for nets switching in opposite direction (out of phase)
    - effective change in voltage, $\Delta V_{eff} = V_A - V_B = 2V_{dd}$



- Switch factor depends on slew times, relative offset of waveforms at both nodes
  - need accurate models; iterative methods for accurate SF

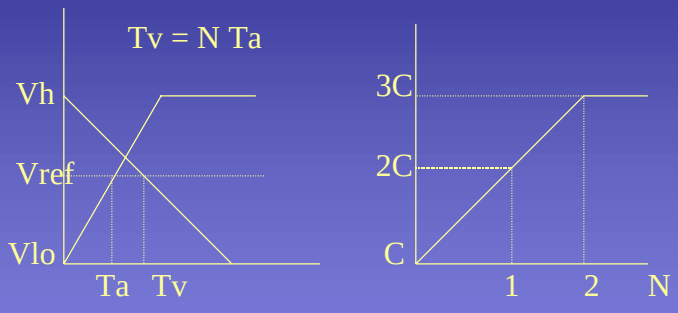
Standard Practice

- Use SF=2.0 for most coupling nets
  - coupled nets nets which are part of same logical bus
  - coupled clock nets and regular nets coupling to clock nets
  - pessimistic for some nets and could be optimistic?
  - due to disparity between rise/fall slew times switch factor could be more than 2!
- Switch factor or Miller coefficient (M) for feedback capacitance between gate input and output
  - effective impedance, $Z_{eff} = V_A / s\, C_c*(V_A - V_B) \sim 1 / SF*sC_c$
  - SF is a function of transition times and relative delay of signals at A and B



Effect of Slew Times on Switch Factor

- SF is in the range (0, 3)



Parameters Affecting Switch Factor

- All possible combinations of switch factors

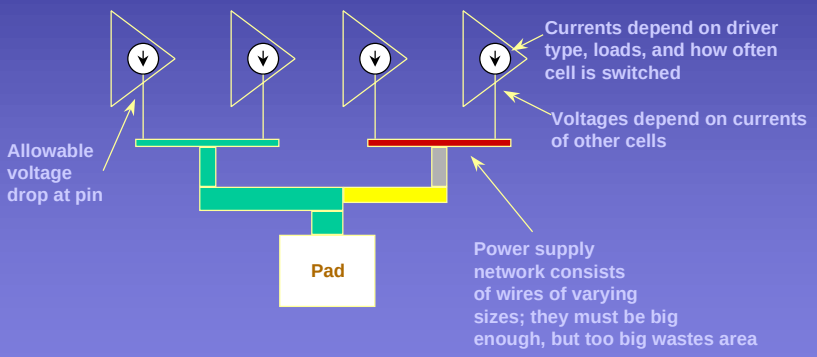
  $SF_{ij} = f(A_j, V_i, T_{ij}, X_{ij})$

  - A_j represents event times for aggressor nets
  - V_j represents event times for victim net
  - $T_{jj\ is}$ ratio of aggressor and victim slew times
  - X_{ij} is cross-coupling capacitances between aggressor and victim nets
- SF's depend on events and transition times and vice-versa
  - Hence, requires iterative solution to find accurate SF's

Courtesy Hormoz/Muddu, ASIC99

IR Drop

- Voltage drop in supply lines from currents drawn by cells
- Symptom: chip malfunctions on certain vectors
- Biggest problem: what's the worst-case vector?

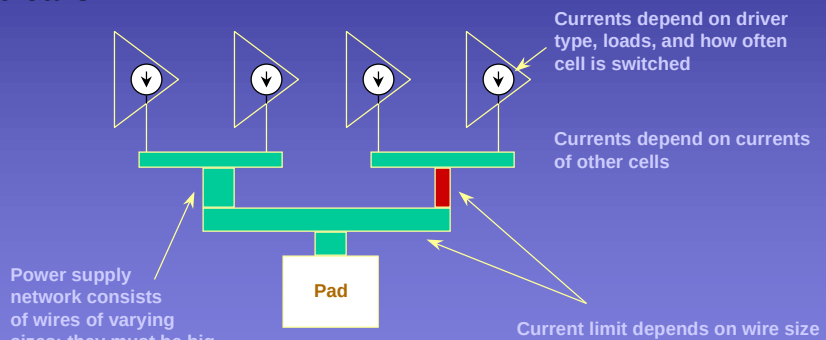


IR Drop

- Analysis
  - model I/O P/G supply; C extraction must distinguish decoupling cap between P/G and coupling cap between signals, P/G
- Prevention (good design)
  - P/G lines on same layer, close to each other; large decoupling on chip; process solutions (e.g., DEC Alpha)

Electromigration

- Power supply lines fail due to excessive current
- Symptom: chip eventually fails in the field when wire breaks

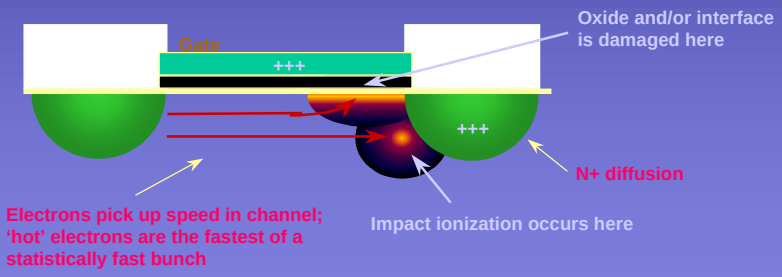


Electromigration

- Prevention: wire cross-section to current rules
- Maximum current density for particular material (via, layer)
- Modified Black's equation; waveform models
- Higher limits for short, thin wires due to grain effects
- Copper: 100x resistance to EM → not a problem any more?

Hot Electron Effects

- Also called short-channel effect
- Caused by extremely high electric fields in the channel
  - occurs when voltages are not scaled as fast as dimensions
- Effect becomes worse as devices are turned on harder
- Symptom: thresholds shift over time until chip fails



Hot Electron Prevention Strategies

- Allowable region for input slew and output load
- Fluence per transition is function of input slew, output load
- Set maximum allowed degradation over life of device

  (estimate of total number of transitions) ≡ fluence limit
- Size device as needed
- Output load vs. driver sizes

Wire Self-Heat

- May also be called signal wire electromigration
- Wire heats above oxide temperature as pulses go through
- Symptom: chip eventually fails when wire breaks
- Depends on metal composition, signal frequency, wire sizes, slew rates, and amount of capacitance driven
- Requires different data/formulas from power supply EM