

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

# *Pulses in transmission lines*

Physics 401, Fall 2019  
Eugene V. Colla



[illinois.edu](http://illinois.edu)

# Transmission lines.

## Agenda.

- **Distributed parameters network**
- **Pulses in transmission line**
- **Wave equation and wave propagation**
- **Reflections. Resistive load**
- **Thévenin's theorem**
- **Reflection. Non resistive load**
- **Appendix. Error propagation**



# **Transmission lines. Main Conceptual Issues:**

- 1. Networks with distributed parameters**
- 2. Propagation of pulses in transmission lines**
- 3. Impedance matching**



# Transmission lines. Distributed parameters network.

- Transmission line is a specialized cable designed to carry alternating current of radio frequency, that is, currents with a frequency high enough that its wave nature must be taken into account.

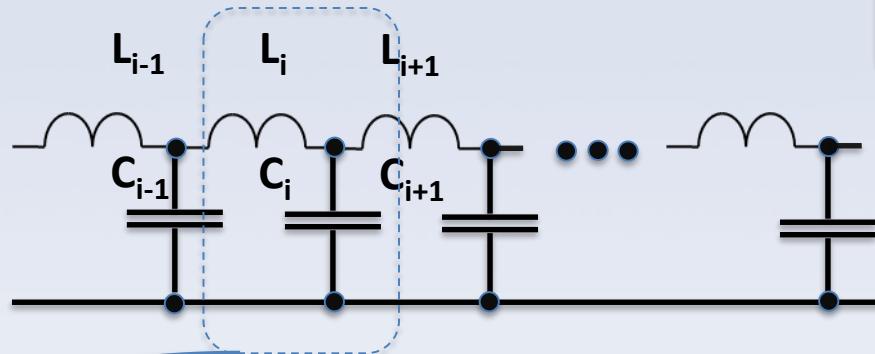
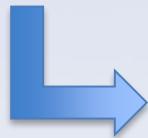


Courtesy Wikipedia

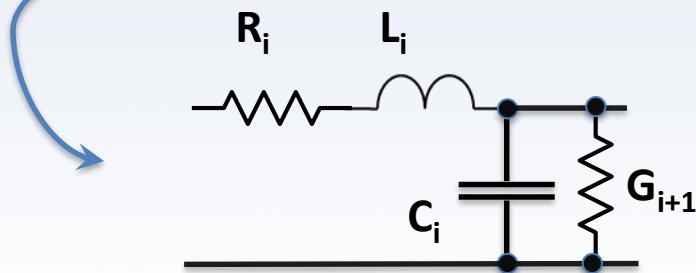


# Transmission lines. Distributed parameters network

Simplified  
equivalent  
circuit



Ideal  
case



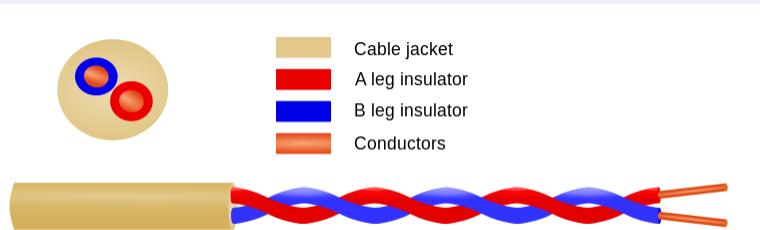
Real  
situation



# Transmission lines. Different types.

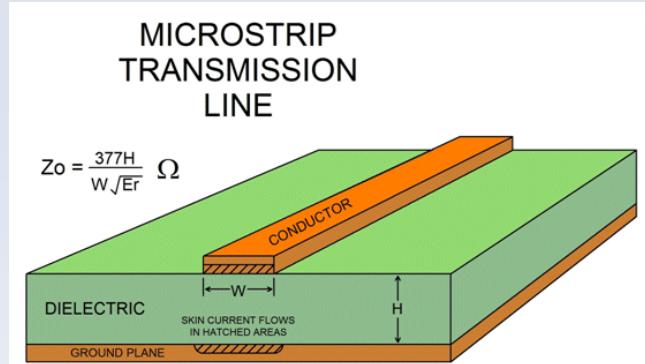


**Coaxial cable**



**Twisted line**

Courtesy Wikipedia



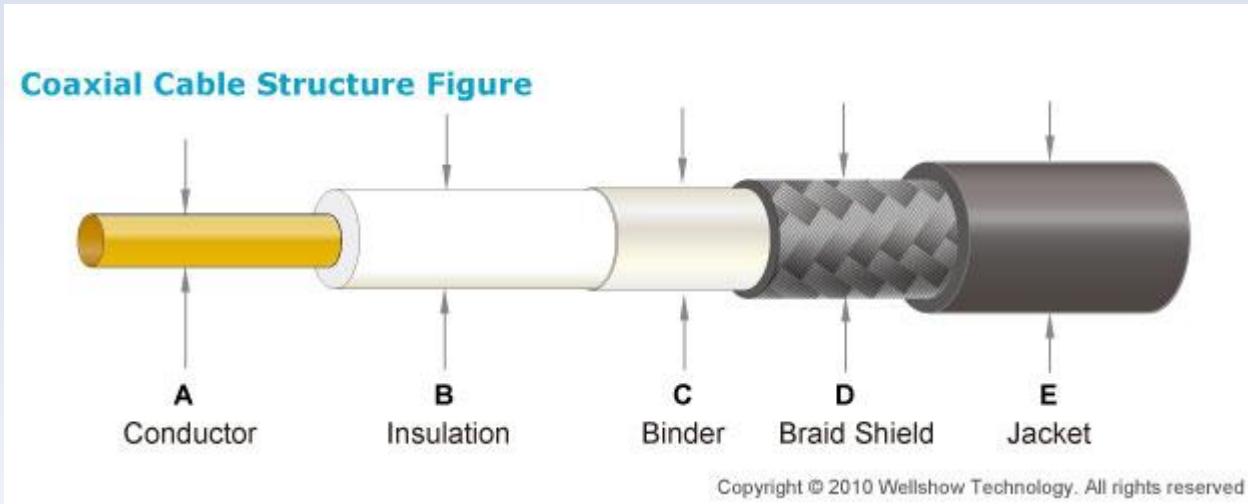
Courtesy *Analog Devices*



**Twin lead**

Courtesy Wikipedia

# Coaxial cable



**Specification:**

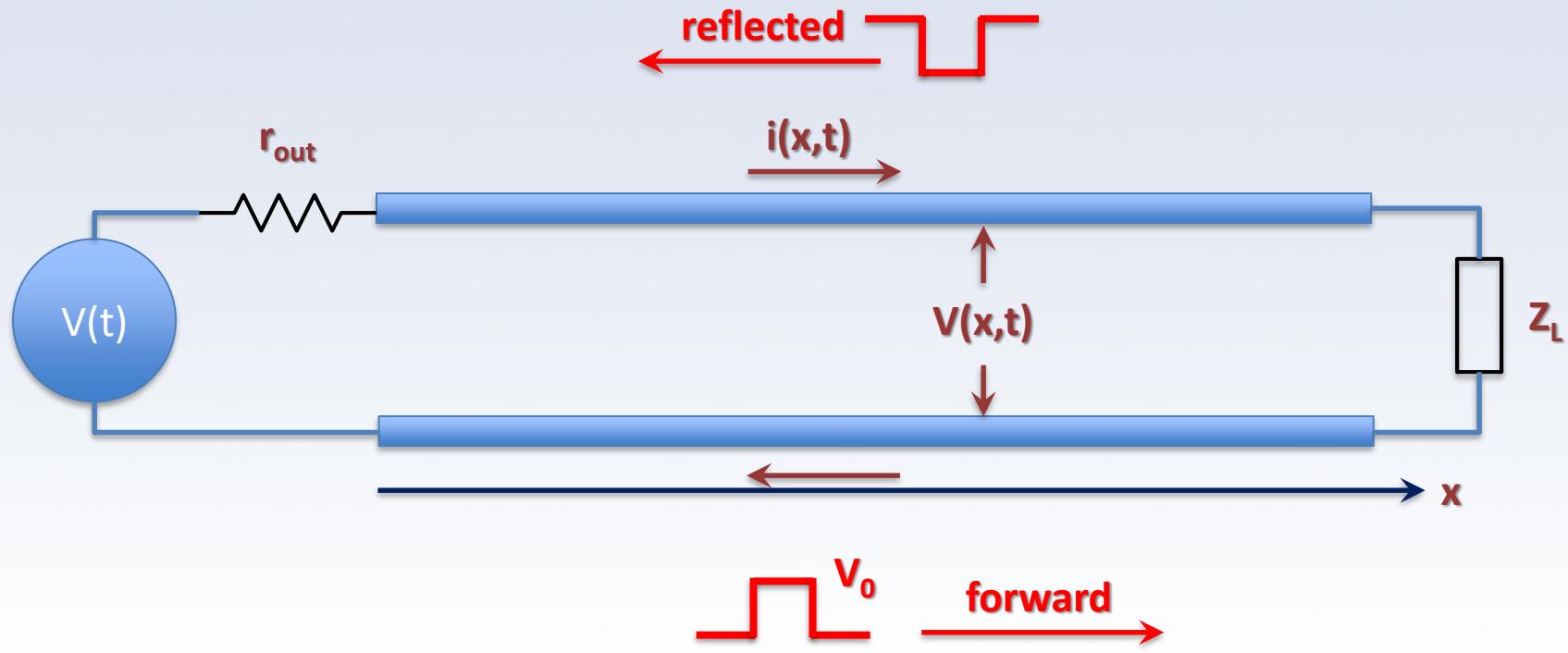
**Impedance:  $53 \Omega$**

**Capacitance:  $83 \text{ pF/m}$**

**Conductor: Bare Copper Wire (1/1.02mm)**

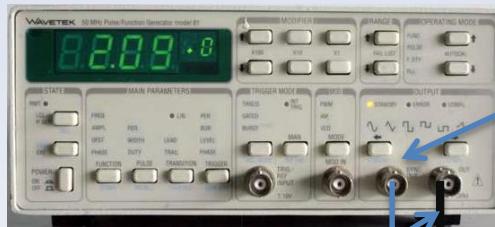


# Pulses in transmission line



# Setup

Wavetek 81



Sync  
output

Signal  
output

Tektronix 3012B



Triggering  
input

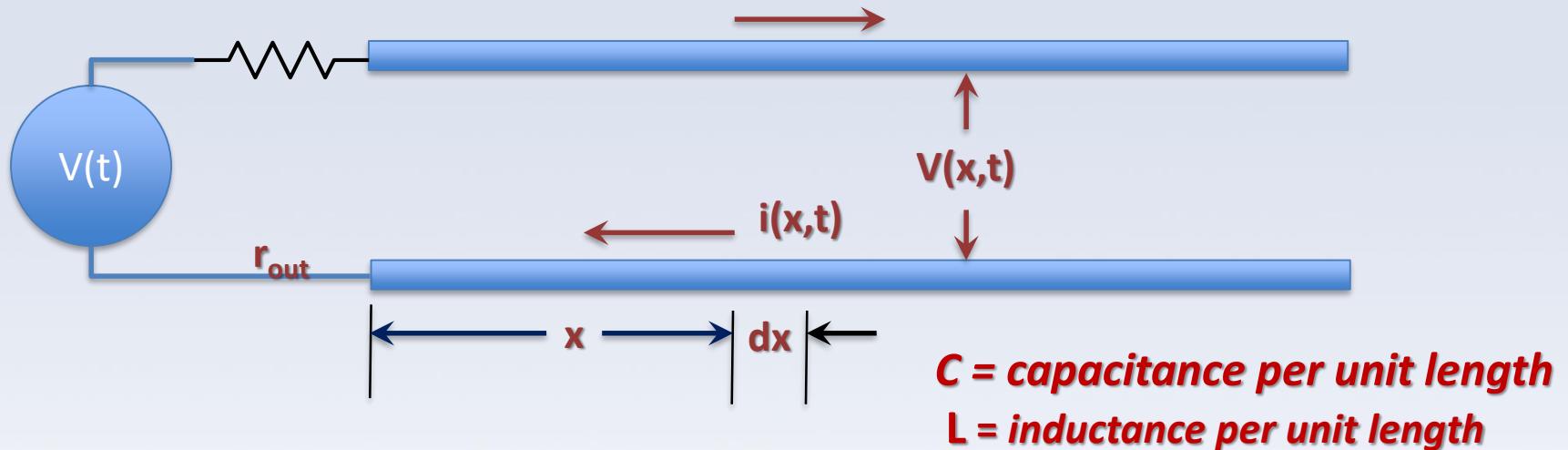
RG8U



Load



# The Wave Equation



$$CdV/dx = -dq;$$

$$C \frac{\partial V}{\partial t} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} = - \frac{\partial q}{\partial t} = i;$$

$$\frac{\partial i}{\partial x} = -C \frac{\partial V}{\partial t}$$

$$dV = -(Ldx) \frac{di}{dt};$$

$$\frac{\partial V}{\partial x} = -L \frac{\partial i}{\partial t}$$



# The Wave Equation

$$\frac{\partial i}{\partial x} = -C \frac{\partial V}{\partial t}$$

$$\downarrow \frac{\partial}{\partial t}$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 i}{\partial t \partial x} = -C \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial t^2} \quad (1)$$

$$\frac{\partial V}{\partial x} = -L \frac{\partial i}{\partial t}$$

$$\downarrow \frac{\partial}{\partial x}$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial x^2} = -L \frac{\partial^2 i}{\partial x \partial t} \quad (2)$$

Combining (1) and (2)

$$\frac{\partial^2 i}{\partial x^2} = LC \frac{\partial^2 i}{\partial t^2}$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial x^2} = LC \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial t^2}$$



# The Wave Equation. Voltage and current waves.

$$\frac{\partial^2 i}{\partial x^2} = LC \frac{\partial^2 i}{\partial t^2} \quad \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial x^2} = LC \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial t^2}$$

Looking for solution

$$V(x,t) = V_0 \sin \omega \left( t - \frac{x}{v} \right)$$
$$i(x,t) = i_0 \sin \omega \left( t - \frac{x}{v} \right)$$

Now substituting  $V(x,t)$  and  $i(x,t)$  in

$$\frac{\partial V}{\partial x} = -L \frac{\partial i}{\partial t} \quad \frac{\partial i}{\partial x} = -C \frac{\partial V}{\partial t}$$

We can find  $V_0 = i_0 \sqrt{\frac{L}{C}}$  or

$$V(x,t) = \sqrt{\frac{L}{C}} i(x,t) = Z_k i(x,t)$$

$$v = \frac{1}{\sqrt{LC}}$$

Speed of wave propagation

$Z_k$  - characteristic Impedance

Equivalent to Ohm's law equation



# Characteristic impedance

$$Z_k = \sqrt{\frac{L}{C}}$$

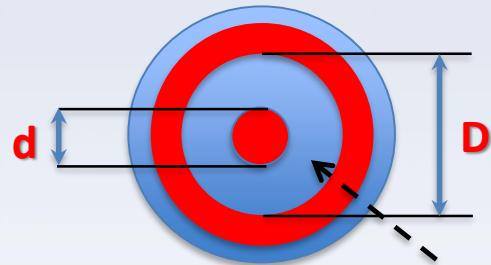
**C = capacitance per unit length**

**L = inductance per unit length**

$$\epsilon_0 = 8.854 \times 10^{-12} \text{ (F/m)}$$

$$\mu_0 = 4\pi \times 10^{-7} \text{ (H/m)}$$

Cross-section of the coaxial cable



$$C = \frac{2\pi\epsilon_0\epsilon_r}{\ln\left(\frac{D}{d}\right)} \text{ (F/m)} \quad L = \frac{\mu_0\mu_r}{2\pi} \ln\left(\frac{D}{d}\right) \text{ (H/m)}$$

$\epsilon_r$  – dielectric permittivity  
 $\mu_r$ -magnetic permeability  $\approx 1$

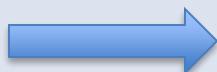
Finally for coaxial cable:  $Z_k = \frac{138}{\sqrt{\epsilon_r}} \log_{10}\left(\frac{D}{d}\right)$  (Ohms)



# Speed of wave propagation, delay.

$$v = \frac{1}{\sqrt{LC}}$$

Speed of wave propagation



$$v = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\mu_0 \mu_r \epsilon_0 \epsilon_r}} = \frac{c}{\sqrt{\mu_r \epsilon_r}} \approx \frac{c}{\sqrt{\epsilon_r}}$$

$\approx 1$

For polyethylene  $\epsilon_r \approx 2.25$  (up to 1GHz)

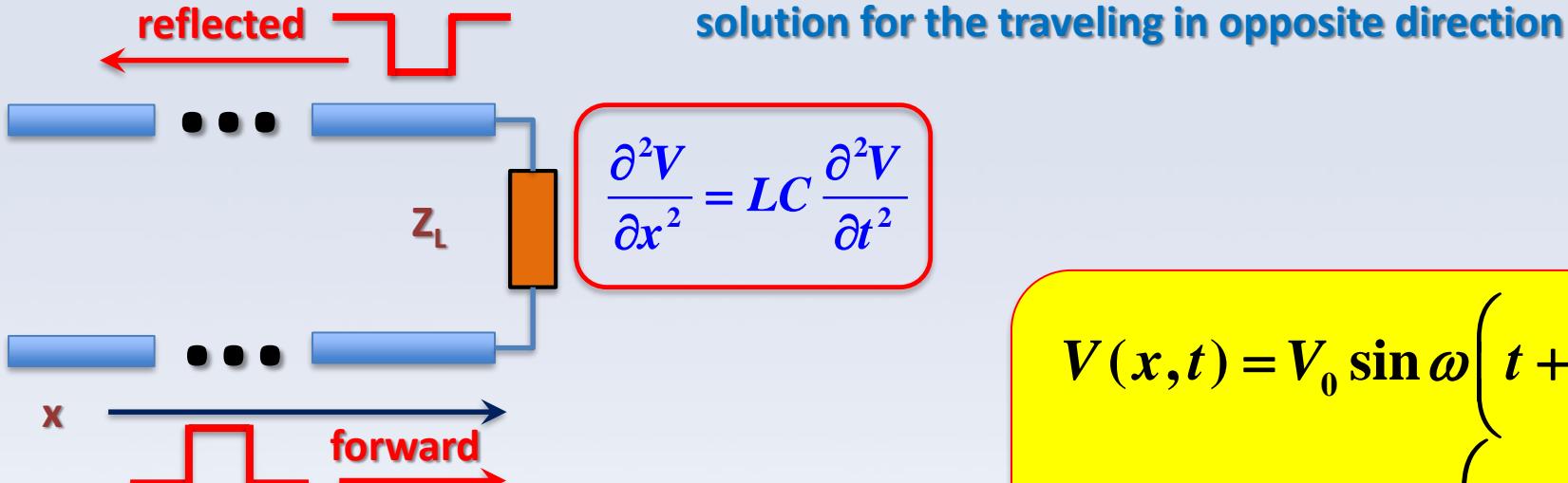
$$\text{Delay time } \tau = \frac{1}{v} (\text{s/m}) \approx 3.336 \cdot 10^{-9} \sqrt{\epsilon_r} (\text{s / m}) = 3.336 \sqrt{\epsilon_r} (\text{ns / m})$$

**RG-8/U,  
RG58U:**

Inner Insulation Materials: Polyethylene  
Nominal Impedance: 52 ohm  
Delay time  $\approx 5 \text{ ns/m}$



# Reflection in transmission line

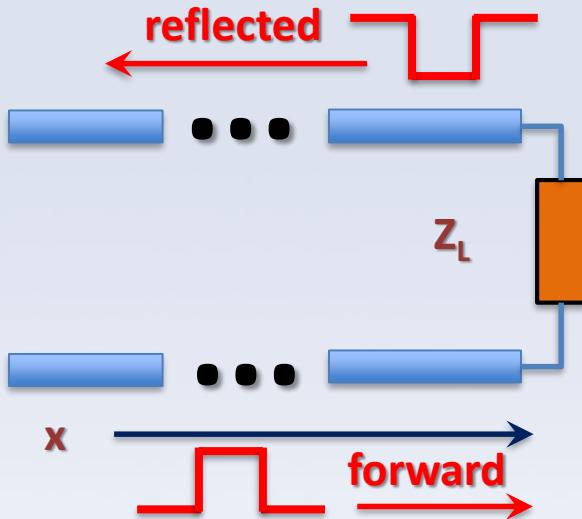


$$V(x,t) = V_0 \sin \omega \left( t + \frac{x}{v} \right)$$
$$i(x,t) = i_0 \sin \omega \left( t + \frac{x}{v} \right)$$

For reflected wave  $V_r = -Z_k i_r$



# Reflection in transmission line



At any point of the transmission line:

$$\frac{V}{i} = R_L$$

$$V = V_r + V_i$$

$$i = i_r + i_i = \frac{V_i}{Z_k} - \frac{V_r}{Z_k}$$

1. Resistive load  $Z_L = R_L$

$$\frac{V_i + V_r}{V_i - V_r} = \frac{R_L}{Z_k} \quad \text{or} \quad V_r = \frac{R_L - Z_k}{R_L + Z_k} V_i$$



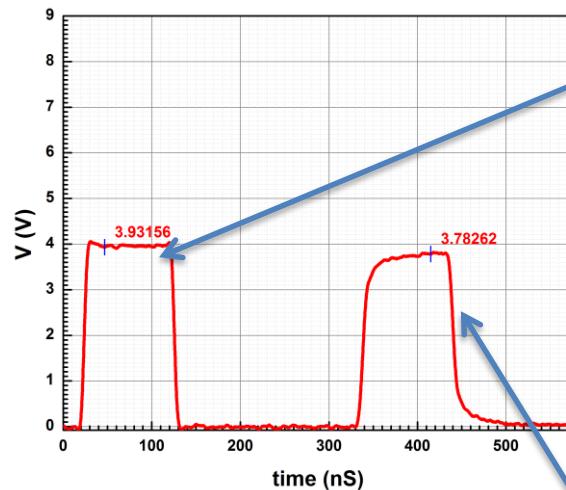
# Reflection in transmission line

Resistive load  $Z_L = R_L$

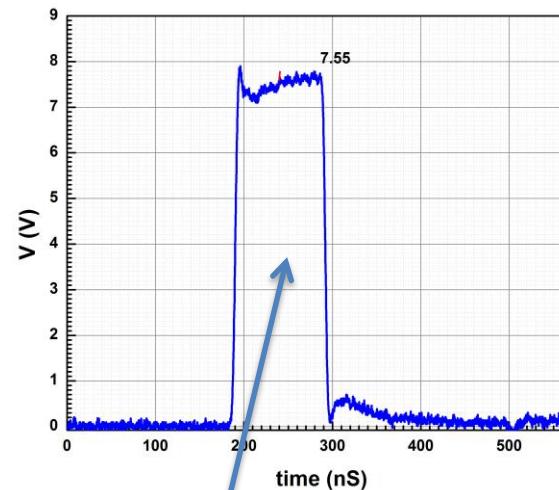
$$\frac{V_i + V_r}{V_i - V_r} = \frac{R_L}{Z_k} \quad \text{or} \quad V_r = \frac{R_L - Z_k}{R_L + Z_k} V_i$$

Open line  $R_L = \infty \rightarrow V_r = V_i$  and  $V_L = V_i + V_r = 2V_i$  (on the load)

Incident pulse



Reflected pulse

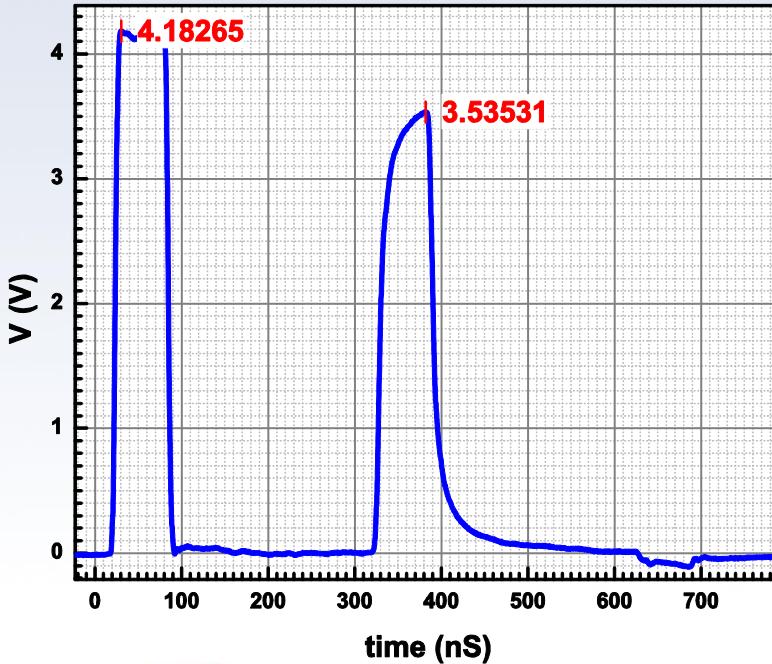


End of the line

# Reflection in transmission line. Loses.

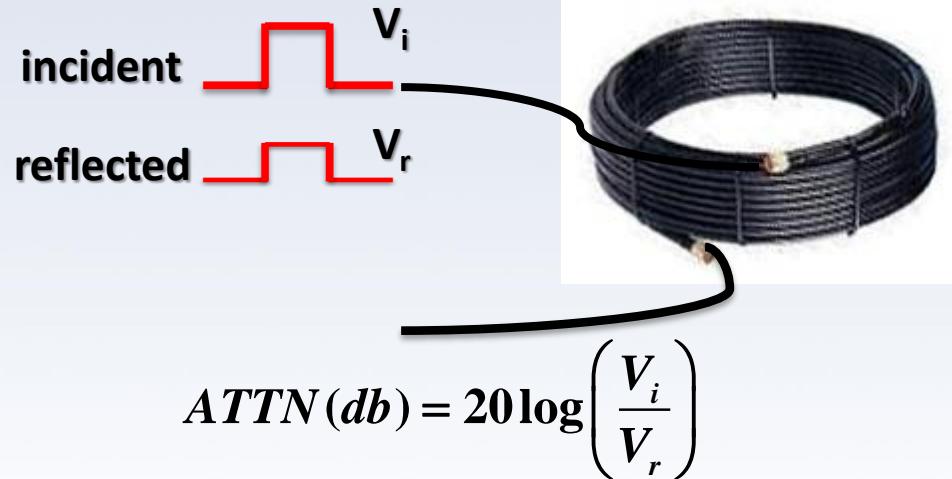
Theory:  $R_L = \infty \rightarrow V_r = V_i$

Experiment RG 58U



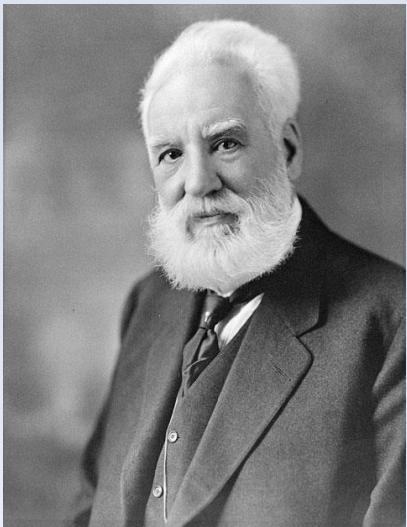
Attenuation (dB per 100 feet)

MHz	30	50	100	146	150
RG-58U	2.5	4.1	5.3	6.1	6.1



Important parameter for cable is attenuation per length

# Reminder: log units of ration.



Alexander Graham Bell  
1847 – 1922)

This unit was named the **bel**, in honor of their founder and telecommunications pioneer **Alexander Graham Bell**

The decibel (dB) is one tenth of the bel (B):  $1B = 10dB$ .

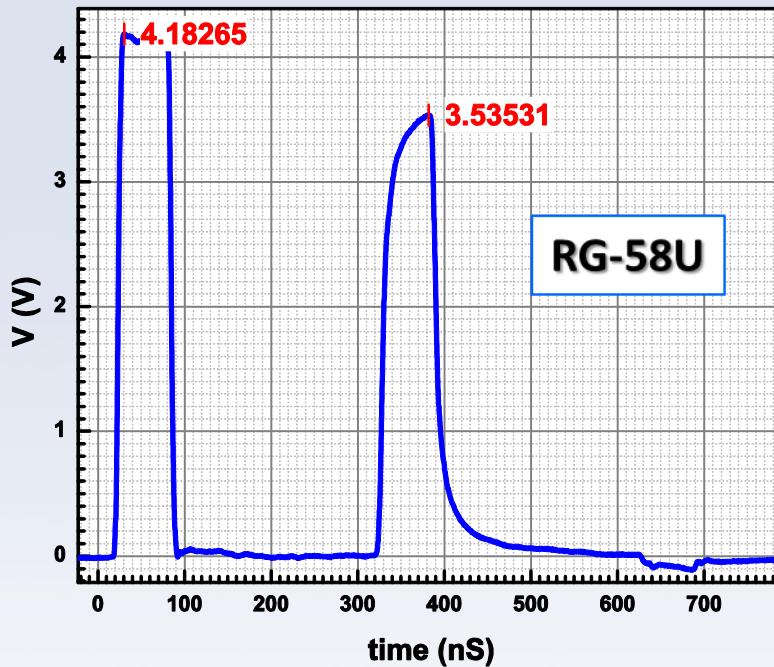
$$L(db) = 10 \log_{10} \left( \frac{P_1}{P_2} \right) \quad \text{power ratio}$$

$$L(db) = 20 \log_{10} \left( \frac{V_1}{V_2} \right) \quad \text{voltage (current, field...) ratio}$$

In case of our transmission line:  $ATTN(db) = 20 \log \left( \frac{V_i}{V_r} \right)$

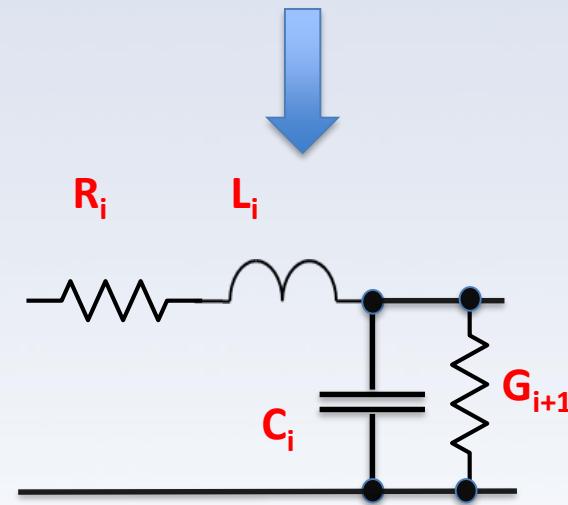


# Reflection in transmission line. Loses.

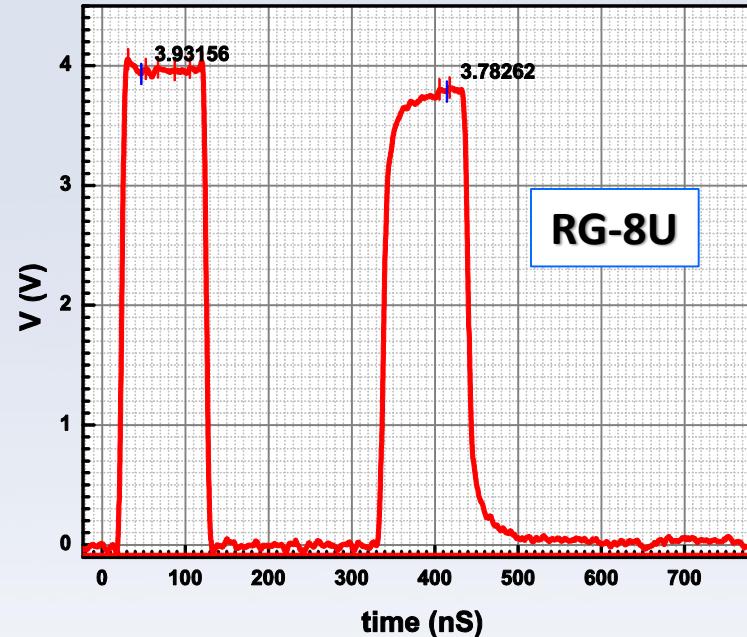
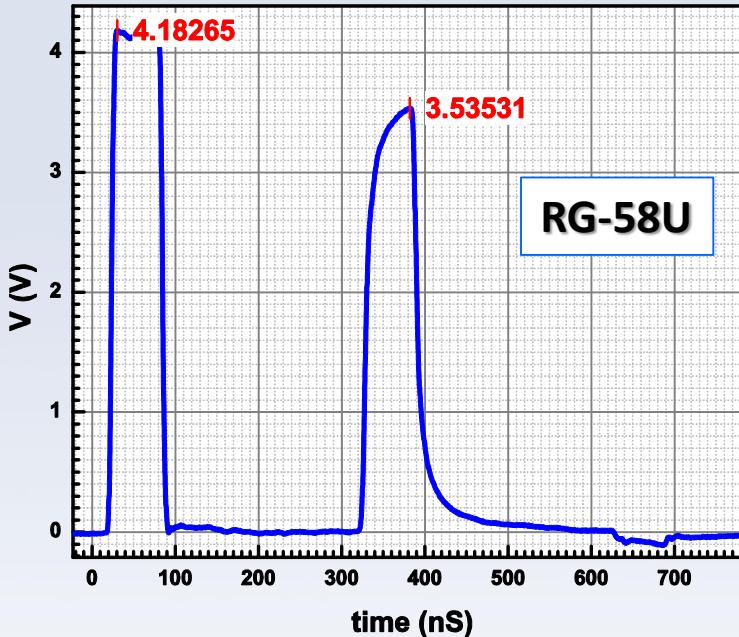


In our case:  $Attn(200\text{ ft}) = 20 \log\left(\frac{4.18}{3.54}\right) \approx 1.46\text{dB}$

Where it is coming from?



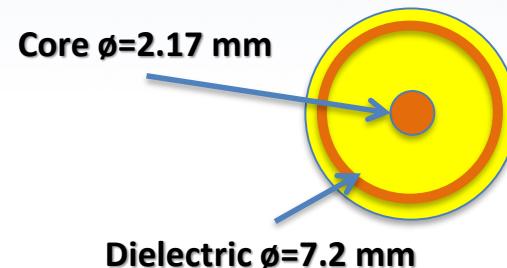
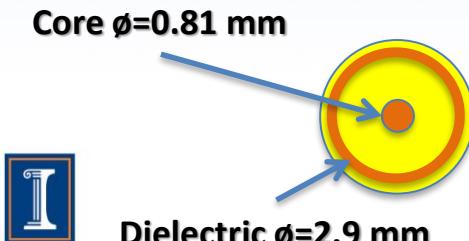
# Different cables loses.



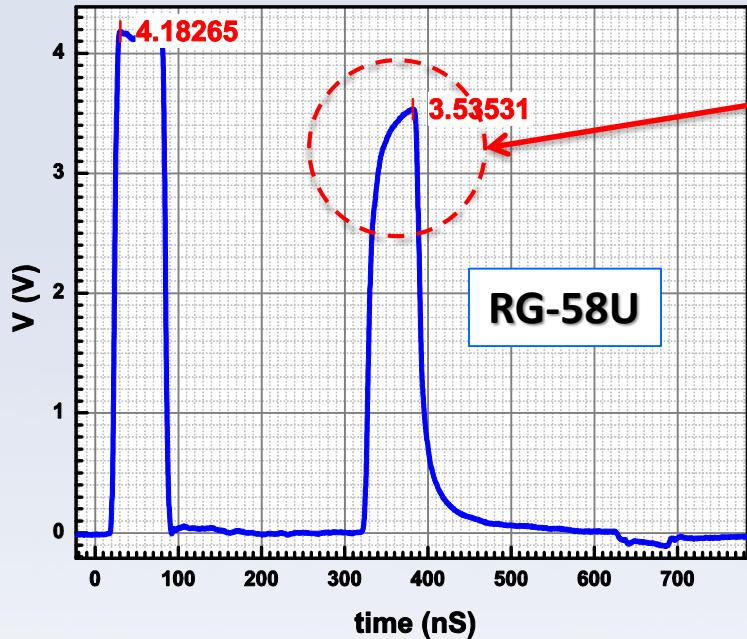
$$Attn(200\text{ ft}) = 20 \log \left( \frac{4.18}{3.54} \right) \approx 1.46dB$$

&gt;

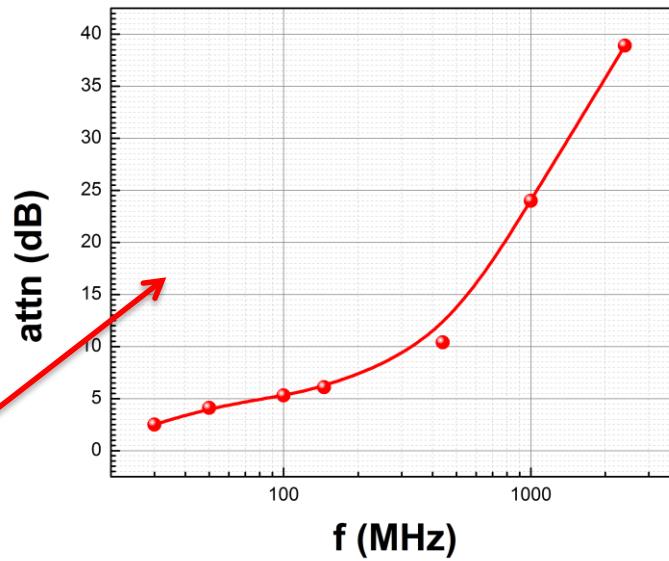
$$Attn(200\text{ ft}) = 20 \log \left( \frac{3.932}{3.78} \right) \approx 0.335dB$$



# Loses. Frequency dispersion.



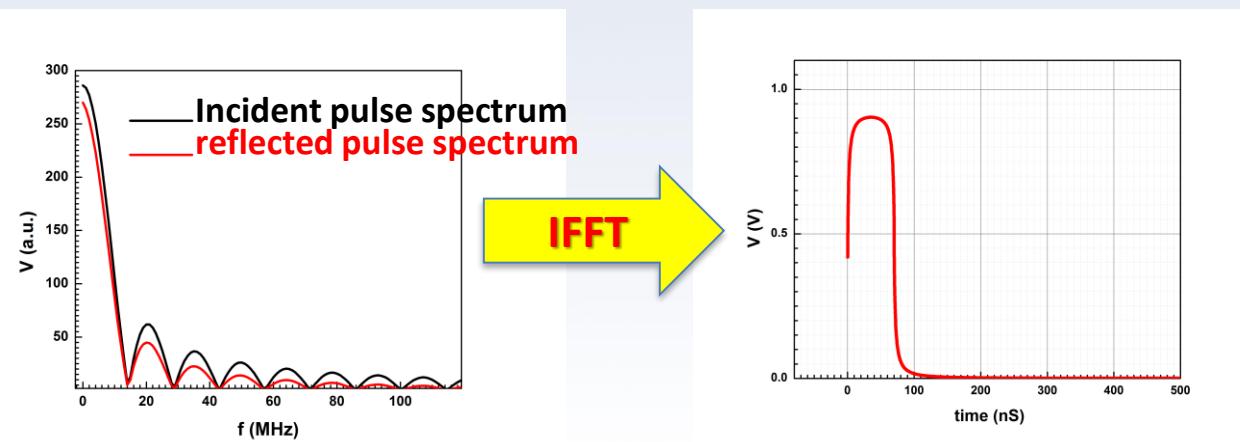
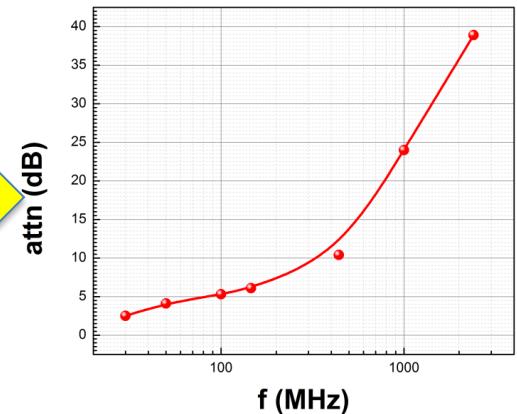
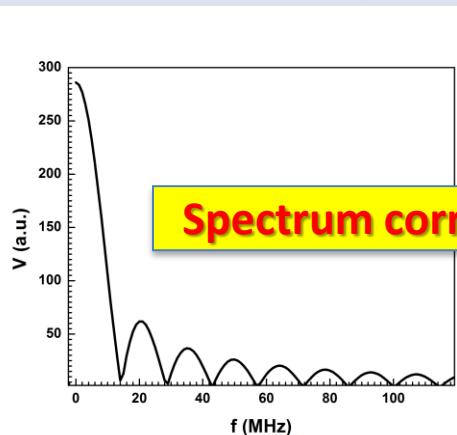
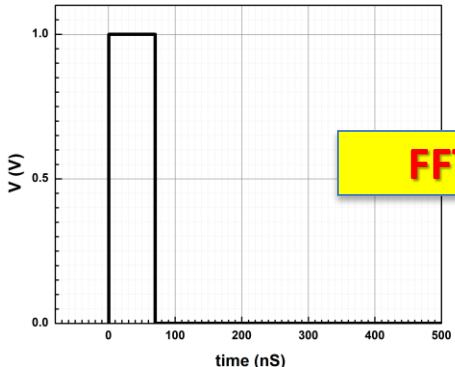
Reflected pulse does not follow  
the shape of the incident pulse



Frequency dependence of the  
attenuation RG-58U cable



# Loses. Frequency dispersion.

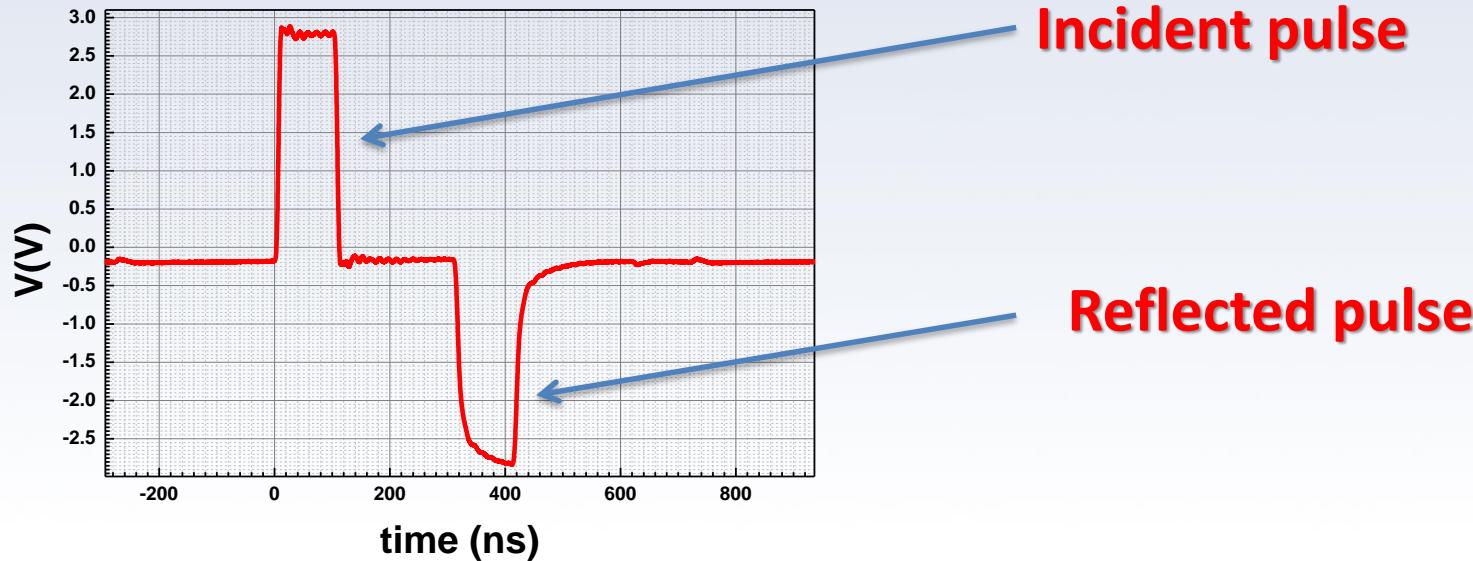


# Reflection in transmission line

Resistive load  $Z_L=R_L$

$$\frac{V_i + V_r}{V_i - V_r} = \frac{R_L}{Z_k} \quad \text{or} \quad V_r = \frac{R_L - Z_k}{R_L + Z_k} V_i$$

Shorted line  $R_L=0 \rightarrow V_r = -V_i$



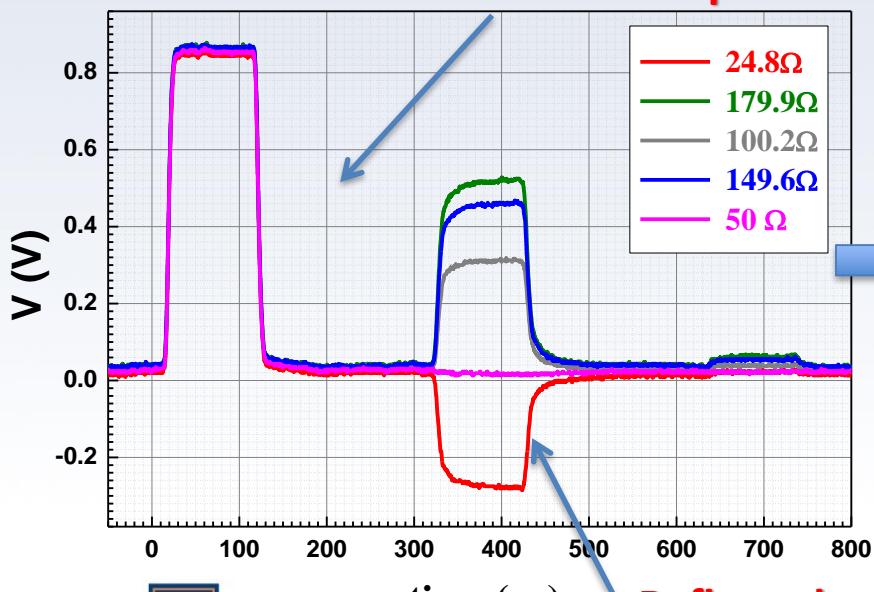
# Reflection in transmission line.

Resistive load  $Z_L = R_L$

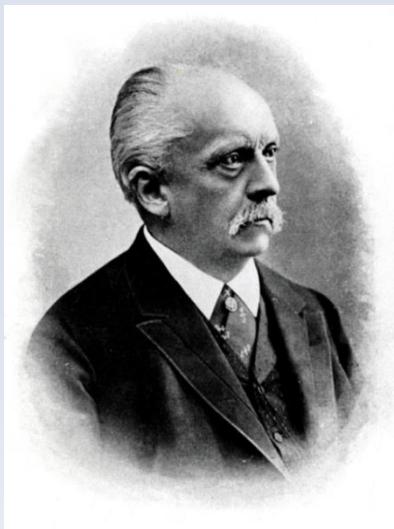
$$\frac{V_i + V_r}{V_i - V_r} = \frac{R_L}{Z_k} \quad \text{or} \quad V_r = \frac{R_L - Z_k}{R_L + Z_k} V_i$$

Matching the load impedance

$R_L \rightarrow Z_k; V_r \rightarrow 0$  Incident pulse



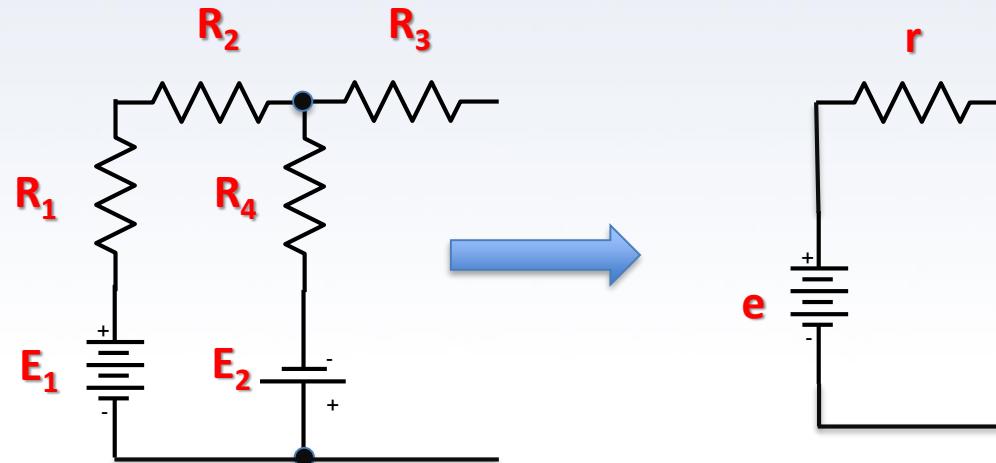
# Thévenin's theorem



Hermann Ludwig  
Ferdinand von Helmholtz  
(1821-1894)



Léon Charles Thévenin  
(1857–1926)

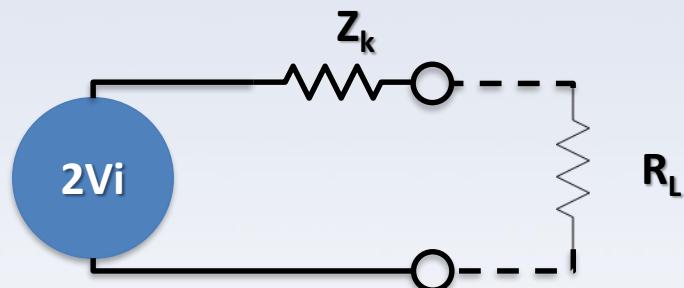


# Thévenin's theorem. Transmission line.

$$V = V_r + V_i = i \bullet R_L$$

$$i = i_r + i_i = \frac{V_i}{Z_k} - \frac{V_r}{Z_k}$$

$$i = \frac{2V_i}{R_L + Z_k}$$



From this equivalent equation we can find the maximum possible power delivered to  $R_L$

$$P = i^2 R_L = \frac{(2V_i)^2}{(R_L + Z)^2} R_L$$

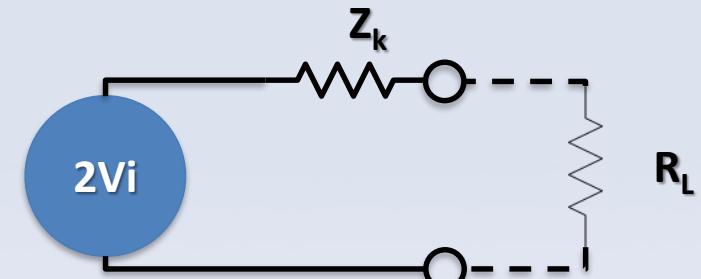
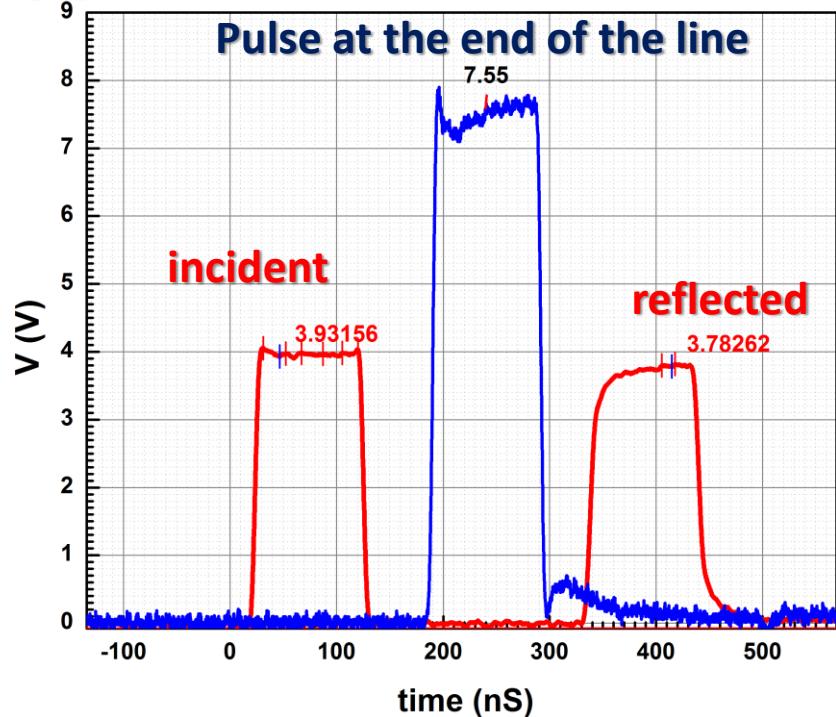


$P=P_{\max}$  if  $R_L=Z_k$  (no reflection)



# Thévenin's theorem. Experiment.

RG 8U



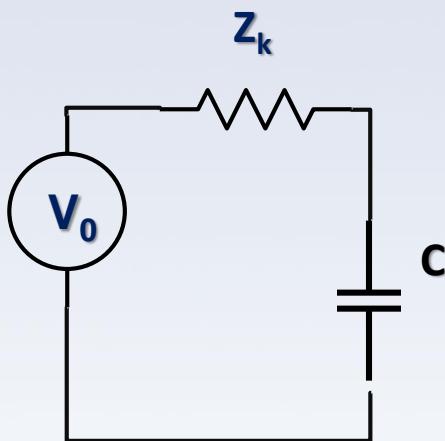
This experiment better to perform on RG 8U cable because of lower attenuation

$R_L = \infty$ , amplitude of the pulse at the end of line is expected to be  $2V_i$ , where  $V_i$  is the amplitude of the incident pulse



# Reflection. Capacitive load. Experiment

$$I = \frac{2V_i}{Z_L + Z_k}$$

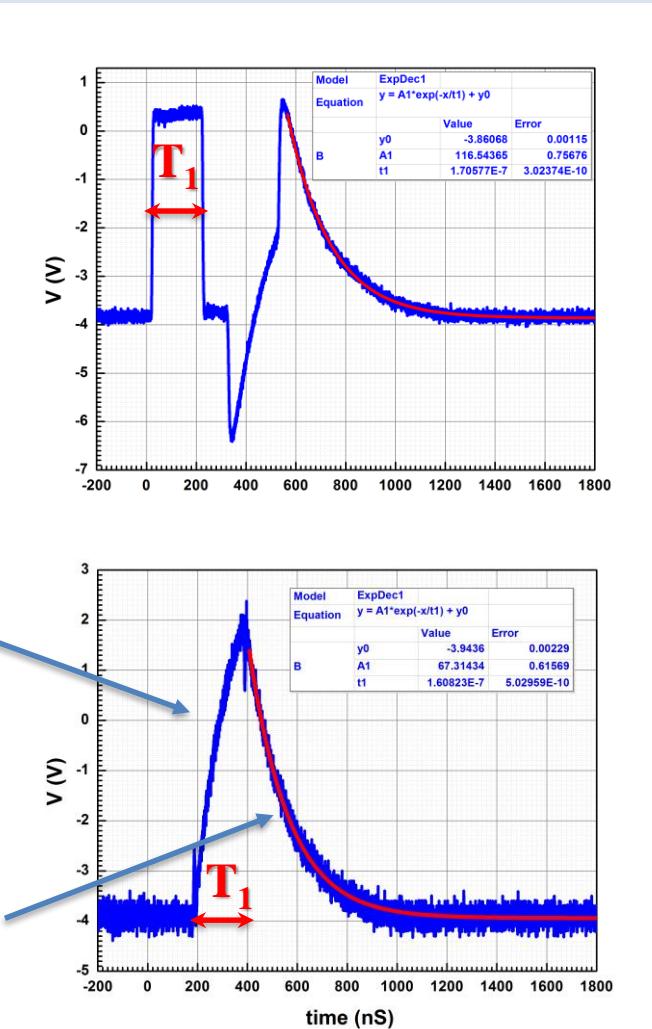


$$\tau = Z_k C$$

$$C = \frac{\tau}{Z_k} \approx 3.2nF$$

$$V_L = \left[ 1 - \exp\left(\frac{-t}{\tau}\right) \right]$$

$$V_L = 2V_i \left[ 1 - \exp\left(\frac{-T_1}{\tau}\right) \right] \left[ \exp\left(\frac{-(t-T_1)}{\tau}\right) \right]$$

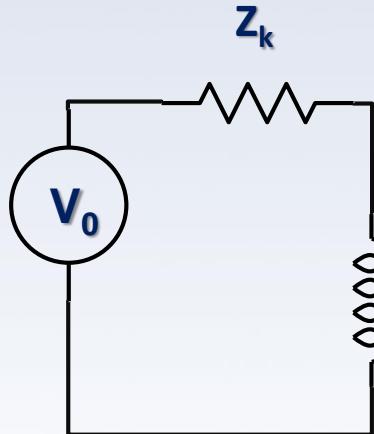


# Reflection. Inductive load. Experiment

$$I = \frac{2V_i}{Z_L + Z_k}$$

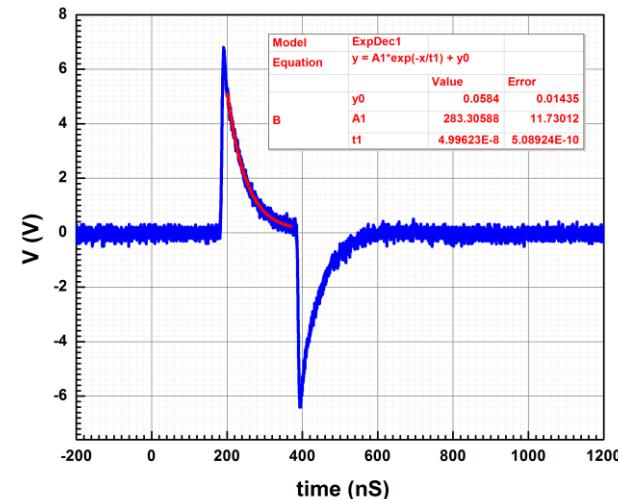
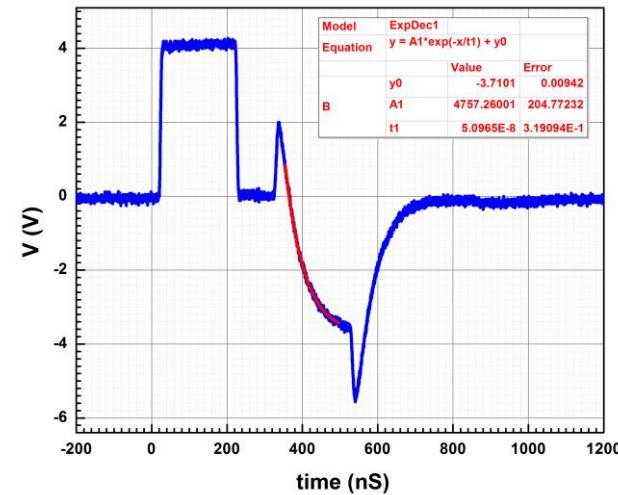
$$2V_i = iZ_k - L \frac{di}{dt};$$

$$i = I_0 \left( 1 - \exp\left(\frac{-t}{\tau}\right) \right);$$



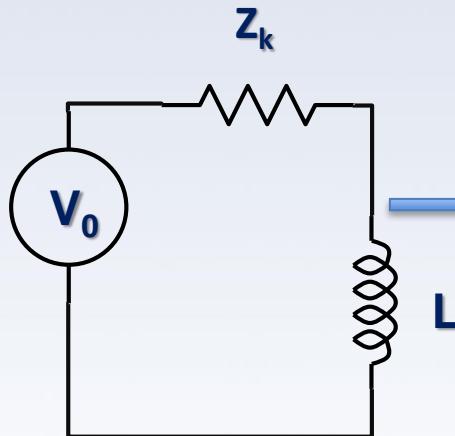
$$\tau = \frac{L}{Z_k}$$

$$\tau \cong 50\text{ns}, \\ L = \tau Z_k \sim 2.5 \mu\text{H}$$



# Reflection. Inductive load.

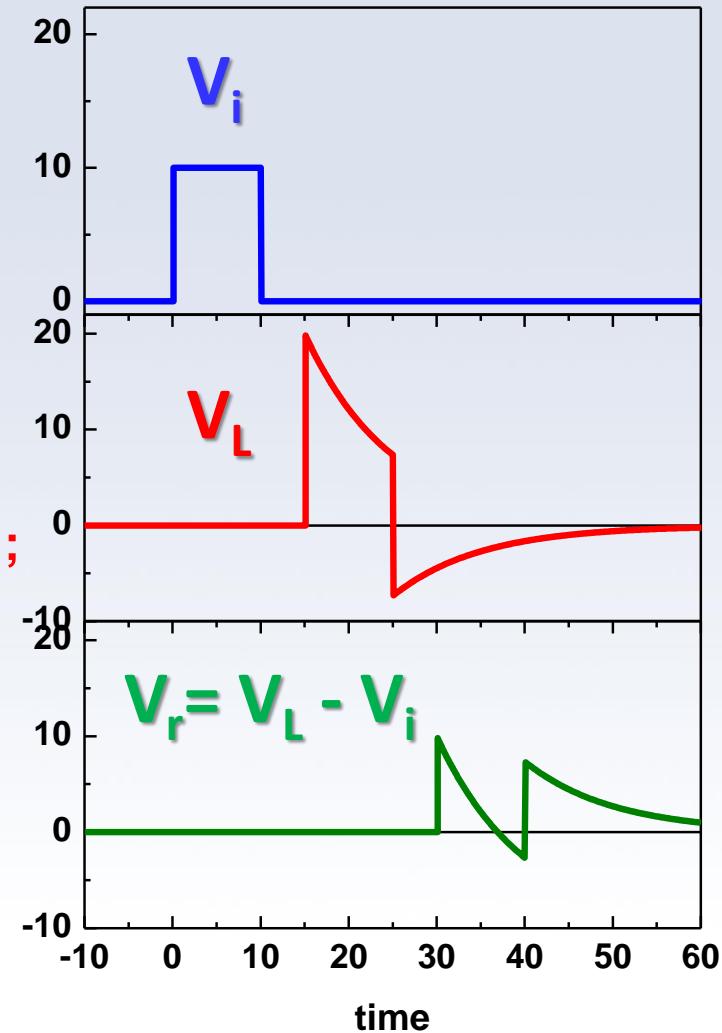
$$i = \frac{2V_i}{Z_L + Z_k}$$



$$2V_i = iZ_k - L \frac{di}{dt};$$

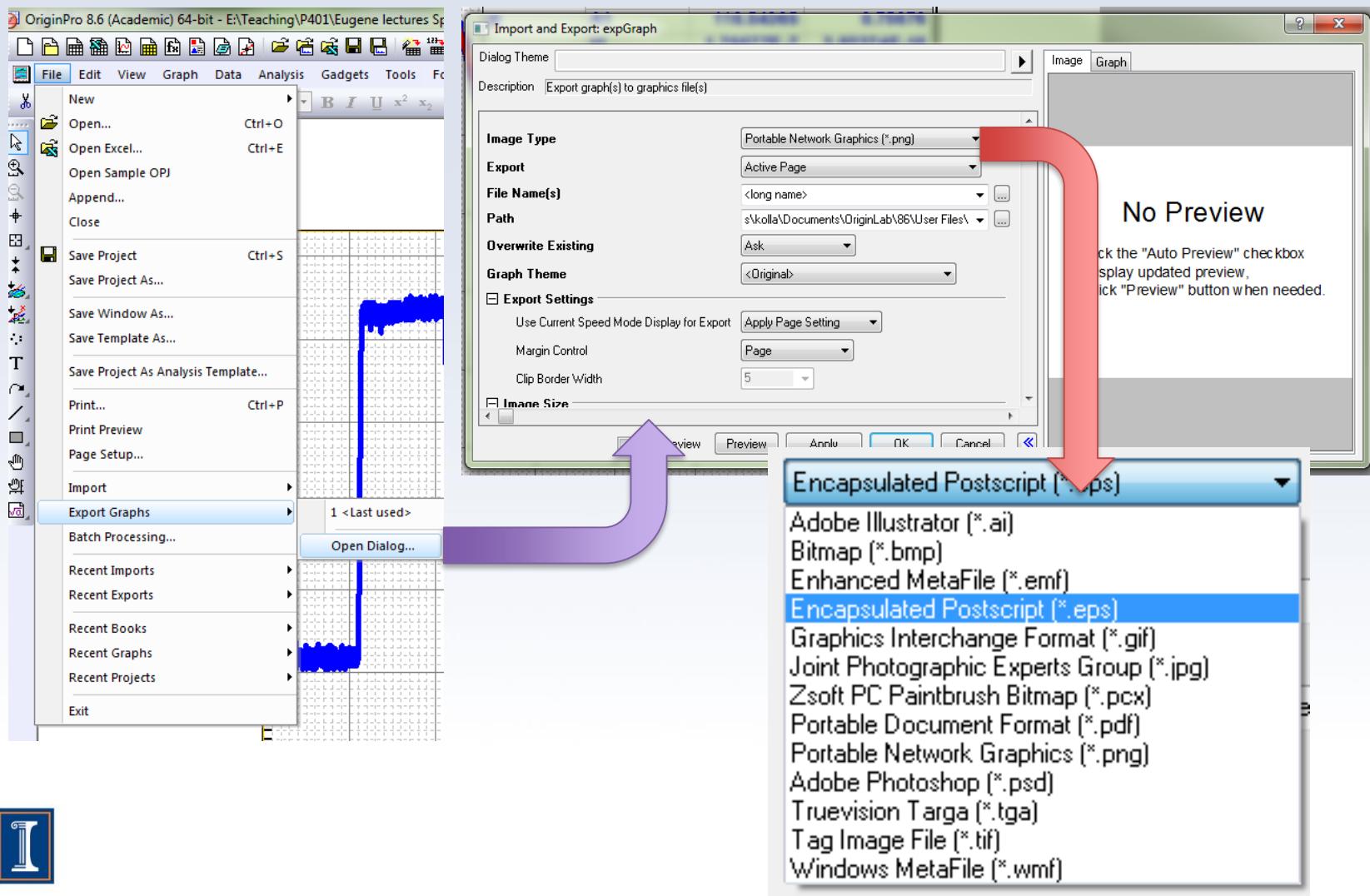
$$i = i_0 \left( 1 - \exp\left(-\frac{t}{\tau}\right) \right);$$

$$\tau = \frac{L}{Z_k}$$



# Appendix #1.

# Export graphs from Origin



## Appendix #2.

## Reminders

1. The reports should be uploaded to the **proper** folder and **only** to the proper folder

For example folder ***Frequency domain analys\_L1*** should used by students from L1 section only

I would recommend the file name style as:

**L1\_lab3\_student1**

**Lab section**

**Lab number**

**Your name**

You do not need to submit two copies in pdf and in MsWord formats

2. Origin template for this week Lab:

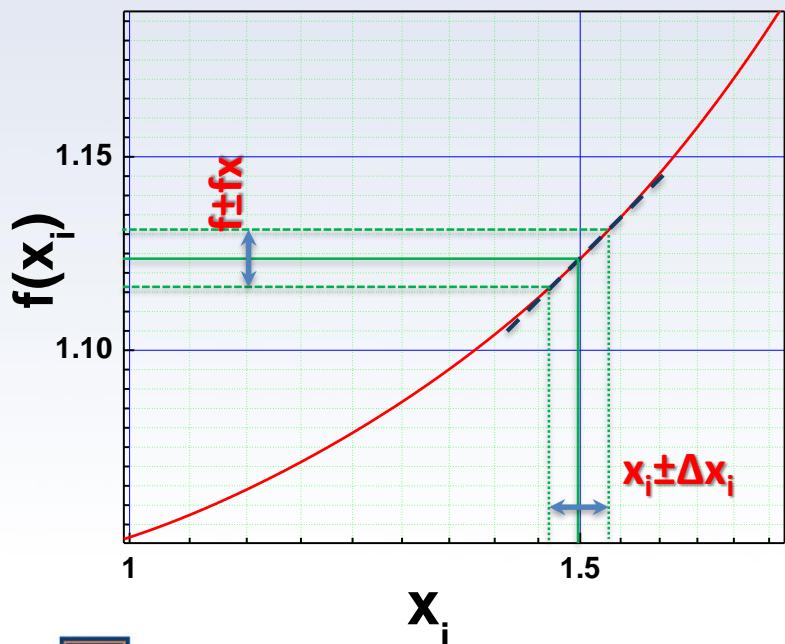
<\\engr-file-03\phyinst\APL Courses\PHYCS401\Common\Origin templates\Transmission line\Time trace.otp>



# Appendix #3.

# Error propagation.

$$y = f(x_1, x_2 \dots x_n)$$



$$\Delta f(x_i, \Delta x_i) = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n \left[ \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i} \right]^2 \cdot \Delta x_i^2}$$



# Error propagation. Example.

Derive resonance frequency  $f$   
from measured inductance  
 $L \pm \Delta L$  and capacitance  $C \pm \Delta C$

$$f_0(L, C) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \sqrt{\frac{1}{LC}}$$

$$L_1 = 10 \pm 1 \text{mH}, \quad C_1 = 10 \pm 2 \mu\text{F}$$

$$\Delta f(L, C, \Delta L, \Delta C) = \sqrt{\left[ \frac{\partial f}{\partial L} \right]^2 \cdot \Delta L^2 + \left[ \frac{\partial f}{\partial C} \right]^2 \Delta C^2}$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial L} = \frac{-1}{4\pi} C^{-\frac{1}{2}} L^{-\frac{3}{2}};$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial C} = \frac{-1}{4\pi} L^{-\frac{1}{2}} C^{-\frac{3}{2}}$$

Results:

$$f(L_1, C_1) = 503.29212104487 \text{Hz}$$

$$\Delta f = 56.26977 \text{Hz}$$

$$f(L_1, C_1) = 503 \pm 56 \text{Hz}$$



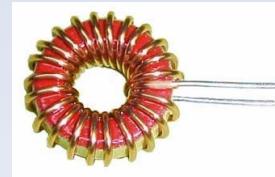
# Error propagation. Example.

$L_1 = 10 \pm 1\text{mH}$ ,  $C_1 = 10 \pm 1\mu\text{F}$  Where these numbers are coming from?

1. Using commercial resistors, capacitors, inductances...



$C=500\text{pF}\pm5\%$



$L=35\text{mH}\pm10\%$

2. Measuring the parameters using standard equipment

SENCORE "Z" meter model LC53

Capacitance measuring accuracy  $\pm 5\%$

Inductance measuring accuracy  $\pm 2\%$



Agilent E4980A Precision LCR Meter

Basic accuracy  $\pm 0.05\%$



# Appendix #4. Nonlinear fitting. Main idea

Origin uses the **Levenberg–Marquardt** algorithm for nonlinear fitting

From experiment you have the array  $(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{y}_i)$  of independent and dependent variables:  $\mathbf{x}_i$  (e.g. f- frequency) and  $\mathbf{y}_i$  (e.g. magnitude of the signal) and you have optimize the vector of fitting parameters  $\beta$  of your model function  $f(\mathbf{x}, \beta)$  in order to minimize the sum of squares of deviations:

$$S(\beta) = \sum_{i=1}^m [y_i - f(x_i, \beta)]^2$$

Important point is the choice of fitting parameters. In some cases the algorithm will work with  $\beta=(1,1\dots 1)$  , but in many situations the choice of more realistic parameters will lead to solution

For details go to:

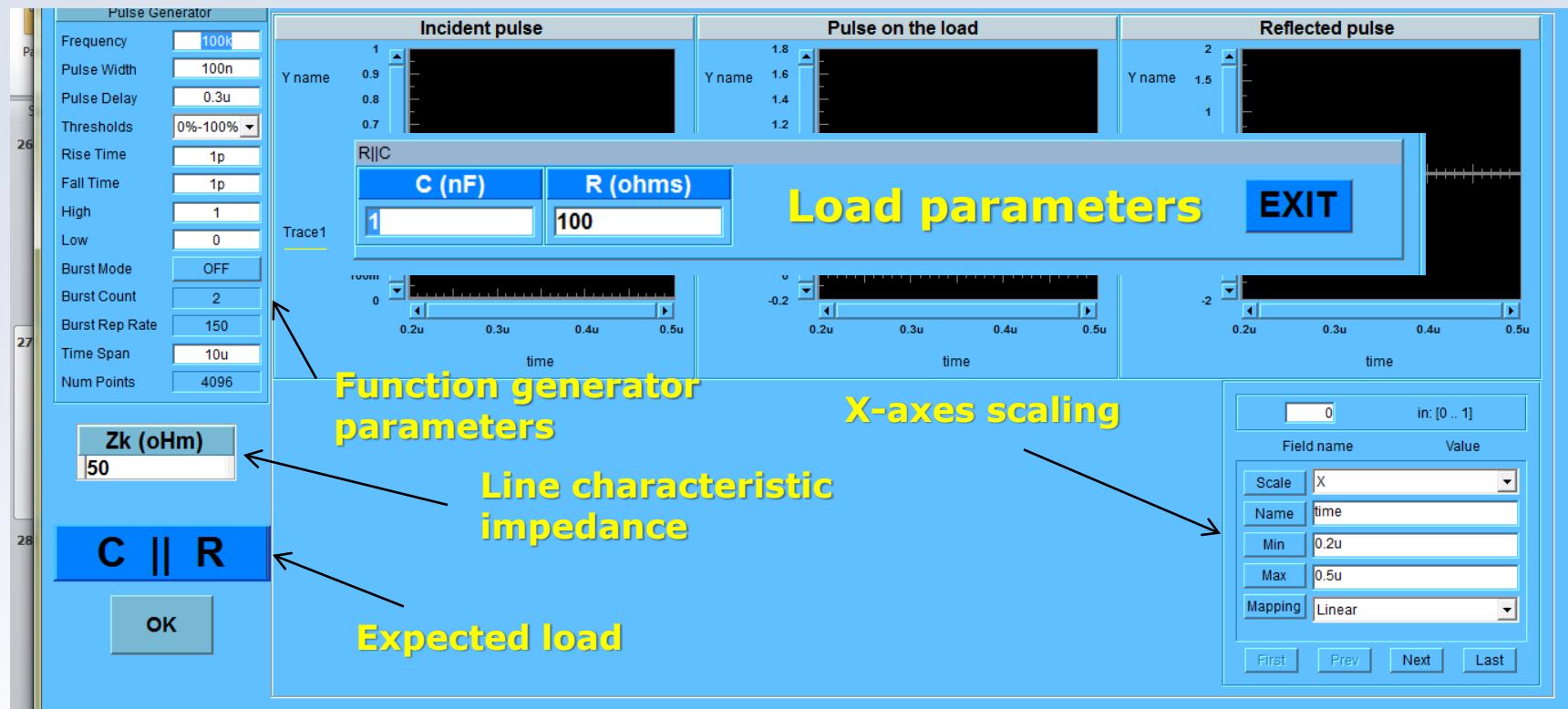
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Levenberg%E2%80%93Marquardt\\_algorithm](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Levenberg%E2%80%93Marquardt_algorithm)

K. Levenberg. "A Method for the Solution of Certain Non-Linear Problems in Least Squares".*The Quarterly of Applied Mathematics, 2: 164-168 (1944).*



# Appendix #5. Unknown Load Simulation

- Transmission line. Unknown load simulation

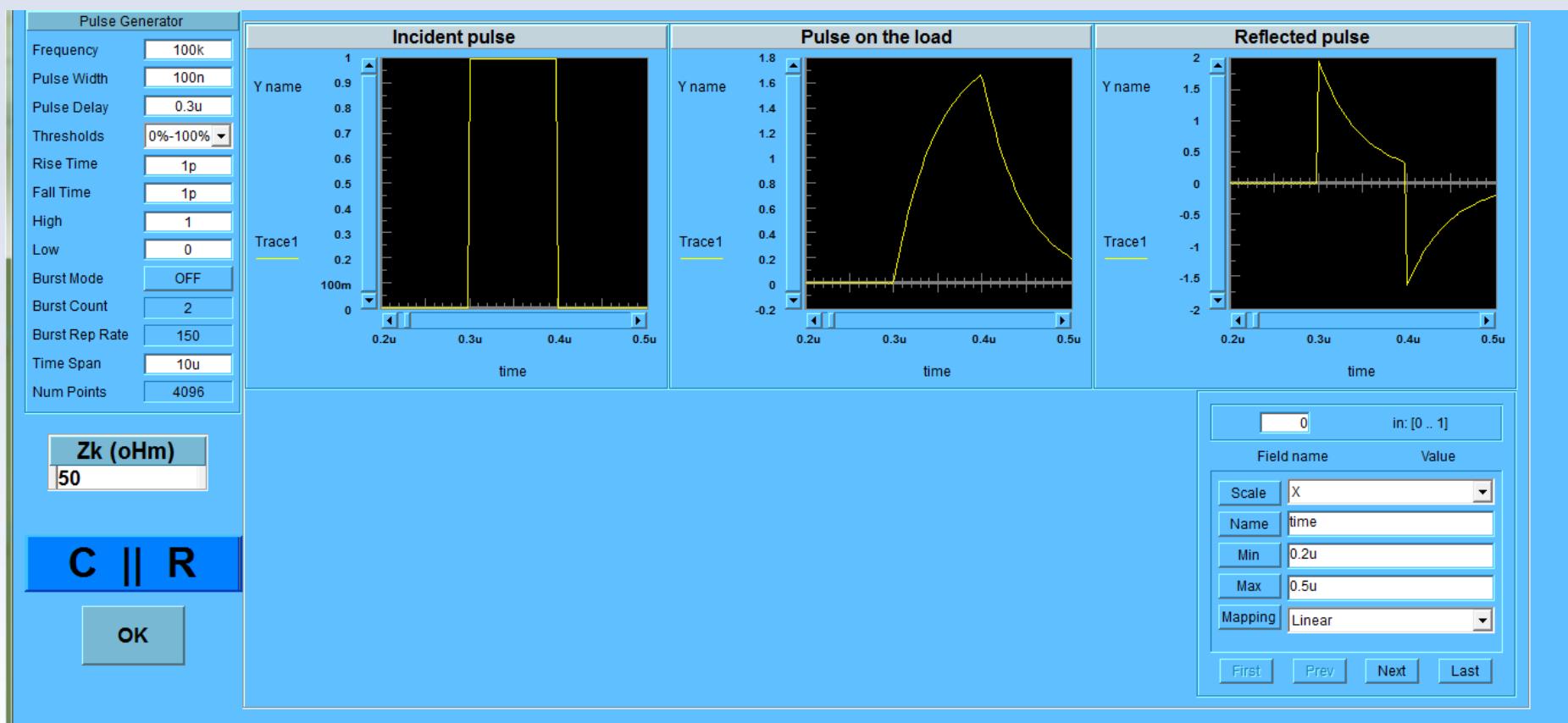


**Location:**

\enr-file-03\PHYINST\APL Courses\PHYCS401\Lab Software And Manuals\LabSoftware\Transmission lines



- **Transmission line. Unknown load simulation**



**Location:**

<\\engr-file-03\PHYINST\APL Courses\PHYCS401\Lab Software And Manuals\LabSoftware\Transmission lines>

