Statistical Prediction and Measurement of Induced Voltages on Components Within Complicated Enclosures: A Wave-Chaotic Approach

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Abstract—We consider induced voltages on electronic components housed inside complicated enclosures and subjected to high-frequency radiation. The enclosure is assumed to be large compared to the wavelength in which case there is strong dependence of wave properties (eigenvalues, eigenfunctions, scattering, and impedance matrices, etc.) on small perturbations. The source(s) and sink(s) of radiation are treated as generalized ports and their coupling to the enclosure is quantified by an appropriate nonstatistical radiation impedance matrix. The field fluctuations within the enclosure are described in a statistical sense using random matrix theory. The random matrix theory approach implies that the wave fluctuations have “universal” properties in the sense that the statistical description of these properties depends only upon the value of a single, experimentally accessible, dimensionless loss parameter. We formulate a statistical prediction algorithm for the induced voltages at specific points within complicated enclosures when subjected to short-wavelength electromagnetic (EM) energy from either external or internal sources. The algorithm is tested and verified by measurements on a computer box. The insights gained from this model suggest design guidelines for enclosures to make them more resistant to disruptive effects produced by a short-wavelength EM radiation.

Index Terms—Electromagnetic (EM) compatibility, high-power microwave effects, overmoded cavities, radiation impedance, ray chaos, statistical electromagnetism, wave scattering.

I. INTRODUCTION

Characterizing the nature of short-wavelength electromagnetic (EM) field quantities within large complicated enclosures connected to multiple ports (avenues of ingress or egress of EM energy) poses a unique challenge in the field of EM compatibility and microwave engineering. This problem manifests itself in many situations such as wireless-signal penetration into rooms or buildings [1], spurious EM emissions from personal electronic devices inside aircraft fuselages [2]–[4], or the upset of sensitive electronic systems due to intentional EM interference threats [5], [6]. The abundance of such situations has motivated a significant research effort to identify, quantify, and eventually predict the nature of short-wavelength EM field quantities within large complicated enclosures. Currently, this effort can be broadly classified into two approaches, one that may be described as deterministic and another that may be described as statistical.

The deterministic approach makes use of sophisticated numerical analysis techniques to estimate the value of the EM field quantities at specific locations within the enclosure of interest, such as a room, aircraft fuselage, or computer box. In this approach, the exact geometry of the ports, which “drive” the enclosure as well as the geometry and location of objects or components within the enclosure are typically modeled using a CAD software tool. The numerical analysis software then solves the relevant wave equations subject to appropriate boundary conditions for the desired EM field quantities within the enclosure. This deterministic approach has been facilitated by significant advances in the areas of computer hardware, computational EMs, numerical analysis techniques, and data processing capabilities. In certain laboratory-type scenarios, it is now possible to make deterministic predictions of short-wavelength EM field quantities inside electrically large enclosures, and these predictions agree reasonably well with experimental measurements [7].

In a specific application, it is not always possible to identify or accurately model the geometry of all the driving ports and the location of all the objects within the enclosure. Moreover, when the wavelength of the EM radiation becomes much smaller than the size of the enclosure and/or the EM environment becomes very dense, such as within the avionics bay of an aircraft where several electrical cables lie in close proximity to one another, the computational time and resources required for a deterministic solution to the EM field quantities of interest can be quite prohibitive. In such large complicated enclosures, the nature of the bounded short-wavelength EM field quantities show strong fluctuations that are extremely sensitive to the detailed shape of the enclosure (which behaves as a cavity resonator), the...
orientation of internal objects (which act as scattering features), the frequency of the radiation, and the exact geometry of the ports. Minute changes in the shape of the enclosure, such as contractions or expansions due to ambient thermal fluctuations, mechanical vibrations, or the reorientation of an internal component or cable, can result in significantly different EM environments within the enclosure. Thus, even a deterministic solution to the EM response of the enclosure for one configuration may not provide useful information for predicting that of another nearly identical configuration. Hence, a probabilistic approach is called for which treats the bounded EM field quantities as random variables and the nature of their fluctuations characterized by suitable probability density functions (PDFs). This approach has spawned the field of statistical electromagnetism [8].

Researchers in the field of statistical electromagnetism create probabilistic models for the PDFs of EM field fluctuations within large complicated enclosures making certain assumptions about the nature of the EM wave scattering within the enclosure. For instance, it is assumed that these EM field fluctuations arise purely because of the nature of the short-wavelength plane waves randomly bouncing within the complicated large enclosure (a statistical condition called the “random plane wave hypothesis” [9]). The inclusion of these assumptions into the statistical models has led to several “universal” predictions for the PDF of EM fields at a point, the correlation function of statistical models has led to several “universal” predictions for the statistics of fields within the enclosure [8], [10]–[16]. By “universal” we mean that the shapes and scales of the PDFs are not dependent on the exact shape of the enclosure or the location of the scatterers within the enclosure, but rather are parameterized by a single global quantity that characterizes loss within the enclosure.

Researchers have also been successful in experimentally validating the existence of these universal fluctuations using mode-stirred chambers [17], [18] that inherently possess the necessary wave-scattering properties to produce such universal fluctuations [19], once it is experimentally ensured that the driving ports are perfectly coupled to the enclosure. By “perfect coupling” we mean that a wave incident on the port from outside the enclosure is entirely transmitted into the enclosure experiencing no prompt reflection. Here, we envision such an incident wave to arrive at the port through a connecting external transmission line, where the external transmission line may be an actual physical transmission line or a mathematical construct in which several incident modal waves are represented as arriving at the port via equivalent transmission lines. Thus, in the perfect coupling case, any reflected waves in these transmission lines originate from waves that have entered the enclosure, bounced within it, and returned to the port. Though the condition of “perfect coupling” may be achieved under special circumstances, this is generally not the case. Typically, the presence of mismatched driving ports leads to system-specific artifacts in the measured EM field fluctuations at the ports, thereby leading to deviations from the predicted “universal” fluctuations. Thus, when it comes to the problem of predicting short-wavelength EM field quantities at ports in large complicated enclosures, one should consider a statistical model that utilizes the universal aspects of the statistics of fields within the enclosure, but also accounts for the system-specific aspects introduced by the driving ports.

In this paper, we introduce such a model called the “random coupling model” (RCM) as it applies to enclosures filled with reciprocal media (generalization to enclosures filled with non-reciprocal media is straightforward [20], [21]). The foundation for a RCM treatment of statistical EM field properties is given in several previous publications [20]–[24]. Here, our objective is to develop the RCM into a quantitative prediction tool for the practical problem of calculating and mitigating the effects of EM interference within complicated metallic enclosures. In particular, we will provide an algorithm to predict the PDF of the voltages induced at specific components within an enclosure. We will experimentally validate and illustrate our approach using the example of a computer-box irradiated by continuous-wave (CW), short-wavelength EM energy. The primary requirement for the validity of our approach is that the typical length scale $L$ (cube root of volume) of the enclosure be sufficiently large compared to the wavelength of the radiation $\lambda_{R}$ (we expect the cavity will be sufficiently over moded when $L/\lambda_{R} \gtrsim 3$).

This paper is divided into the following sections. In Section II, we briefly discuss the underlying principles of the RCM and present its salient features. Section III presents the general approach to calculating induced voltages in a system where the port has an arbitrary impedance. Section IV gives a brief overview of ways to determine the radiation impedance or admittance of an arbitrary port. In Section V, we present our experimental setup for the problem of EM coupling inside a computer box. Section VI then reports the experimental validation of the RCM induced voltage algorithm for this computer-box setup. Based on the insights gained, Section VII presents design guidelines for enclosures that make them more resistant to interference from an internal or external short-wavelength EM source. Section VIII then discusses the strengths, limitations, and caveats associated with using the RCM on realistic enclosures. Section IX concludes with a summary of the main points discussed in this paper. In Appendix A, we outline our algorithm to generate the universal impedance fluctuations for a given cavity or enclosure using random matrix theory.

II. RANDOM COUPLING MODEL

The RCM is formulated to address the problem of short-wavelength EM coupling into large, complicated metallic enclosures through multiple ports. This problem falls within a larger class of similar problems previously encountered in the fields of acoustics, quantum mesoscopic transport, and nuclear physics [25]. All these systems have short-wavelength waves (EM, acoustic or quantum mechanical) that are trapped within an irregularly shaped enclosure or potential well, in the case where the characteristic length of the system is substantially larger than the wavelength. In this limit, the waves within an enclosure can be approximated as rays that undergo specular reflections off the walls of the enclosure, much like the trajectory of a Newtonian point-particle elastically bouncing inside a similar-shaped enclosure. The dynamics of the rays within
the enclosure depend on the shape of the enclosing boundaries, and an enclosure is said to be “ray chaotic” if two typical rays launched with very slightly different initial conditions (slightly different initial location, or slightly different angular orientations) yield trajectories whose separation grows exponentially with distance along the ray during the time when this separation is small compared to the system size [26].

Ray chaos is common. Even very simple-shaped enclosures or cavities can produce chaotic ray dynamics [25], [27], [28]. The inherent complexities associated with the boundary shape of practical enclosures can easily create chaotic dynamics for the rays within the enclosure. In Section IV-A, we present a method to quantify the extreme sensitivity of wave properties to small perturbations.

A remarkable aspect of ray-chaotic systems is that despite their apparent complexity, they all possess certain universal statistical properties in their wave-scattering fluctuation characteristics [25], [29], and these statistical fluctuations are observed to be well described by the statistical properties of ensembles of large random matrices [30], [31]. Thus, it is possible to simulate the statistical wave-scattering behavior of ray-chaotic systems by using random matrix Monte Carlo techniques. For a ray-chaotic enclosure coupled to \( N_p \) ports, the RCM characterizes the fluctuations in the impedance and scattering matrices. The scattering matrix \( S \) models the scattering region of interest in terms of a \( N_p \times N_p \) complex-valued matrix. Specifically, it expresses the amplitudes of the \( N_p \) outgoing scattered waves \( b \) in terms of the \( N_p \) incoming waves \( a \) at the location of each port (i.e., \( b = S a \)). The impedance matrix \( Z \) relates the complex voltages \( V \) at the \( N_p \) driving ports to the complex currents \( I \) at the \( N_p \) ports (i.e., \( V = Z I \)). The matrices \( S \) and \( Z \) are related through the bilinear transformation \( S = [Z_o]^{1/2}(Z + Z_o)^{-1}(Z - Z_o)^{-1/2}, \) where \( Z_o \) is a \( N_p \times N_p \) real, diagonal matrix whose elements are the characteristic impedances of the transmission line input channels at the \( N_p \) driving ports.

It is convenient to think of modeling the statistical properties of the measured \( N_p \times N_p \) impedance matrix \( Z^{cav} \) of the ray-chaotic enclosure as consisting of (see Fig. 1)—a “core” universal, detail-independent fluctuating part that we call the “normalized impedance matrix \( \xi_Z \)” and an “outer shell” imposed by the system-specific coupling details of the ports that is quantified by a radiation impedance matrix \( Z^{rad} = I^{rad} + j\text{Im}[Z^{rad}] \) [21], where \( I^{rad} \) is known as the radiation resistance matrix. In terms of these quantities Zheng et al. [21] show that it is appropriate to model the impedance matrix \( Z^{cav} \) as follows:

\[
Z^{cav} = j\text{Im}[Z^{rad}] + [I^{rad}]^{1/2} \xi_Z [I^{rad}]^{-1/2}. \tag{1}
\]

The radiation impedance matrix \( Z^{rad} \) is an experimentally accessible, \( N_p \times N_p \) complex-valued matrix whose elements are nonstatistical, smoothly varying frequency-dependent quantities. The diagonal elements of \( Z^{rad} \) quantify the detail-specific aspects of the coupling between the ports and the enclosure for arbitrary port geometries. The off-diagonal elements represent the cross-talk between the different ports [21]. The radiation impedance matrix \( Z^{rad} \) can be visualized in the following way: if the enclosure whose impedance is represented by (1) is driven by the same ports (having the same coupling geometry) as before, but has the distant side walls of the enclosure and the internal scattering features moved out to infinity (or coated with a material that perfectly absorbs the incident waves), then the ports behave as a collection of free-space radiators. The boundary conditions corresponding to outgoing waves introduces a complex impedance matrix \( Z^{rad} = R^{rad} + j\text{Im}[Z^{rad}] \) at the plane of measurement of the driving ports. This is illustrated schematically in Fig. 2 for an arbitrary enclosure coupled to two ports. The radiation resistance \( R^{rad} \) is a measure of the ability of the port to radiate energy to the far field, whereas \( \text{Im}[Z^{rad}] \) is a measure of the reactive energy stored in the near field of the port [22].

The universally fluctuating quantity \( \xi_Z \) corresponds to the impedance matrix of an enclosure that is “perfectly coupled” (as defined in Section I) to its driving ports. Mathematically, perfect coupling refers to the situation when \( Z^{rad} = Z_o \), where \( Z_o \) is the diagonal matrix of characteristic impedances of transmission lines that connect to the ports. If \( Z^{rad} \) is known, (1) can be solved to determine the universal normalized impedance \( \xi_Z \) in terms of measured impedance matrices \( Z^{cav} \) and \( Z^{rad} \):

\[
\xi_Z = [R^{rad}]^{-1/2}([Z^{cav}] - j\text{Im}[Z^{rad}])[R^{rad}]^{-1/2}. \tag{2}
\]

The normalized impedance matrix \( \xi_Z \) corresponds to a normalized scattering matrix \( \xi_S = (\xi_Z - I)(\xi_Z + I)^{-1} \), and a normalized admittance matrix. Here, \( I \) is the \( N_p \times N_p \) identity matrix, and the superscript \( -1 \) indicates a matrix-inversion operation.

According to the RCM, the only parameter on which the statistical properties of \( \xi_Z, \xi_S, \) or \( \xi_Y \) depends is the dimensionless enclosure loss parameter \( \alpha \). The loss parameter is simply the
For an enclosure, which is filled with a reciprocal medium describing only the fluctuations in the impedance of large complicated one-port enclosures has been presented in [34] and [35]. This model uses the “terminal impedance” (similar in principle to the radiation impedance) of the port to quantify the nonideal port coupling over narrow frequency bands, and derives an expression similar to (1). The RCM, however, incorporates all the predictions of [34] and [35] and goes further to include complicated enclosures coupled to multiple ports over arbitrarily large frequency ranges. This aspect of RCM makes it possible to consider the induced voltage and current statistics inside complicated enclosures driven by multiple ports.

III. RCM INDUCED VOLTAGE CALCULATION

In the case of a computer-box, high-frequency EM radiation can couple into the system through several independent channels (connectors, cooling vents, exposed wires, etc.). Also, internal components such as printed circuit board (PCB) tracks...
and integrated circuits can emit their own EM radiation. All these channels setup complicated standing wave patterns within the metallic enclosure of the computer box. The RCM can be applied to this problem through two levels of abstraction. At the first level, we treat all relevant sources and sinks of radiation as “generalized ports.” By “relevant” we mean those discrete components or features that are actively adding (or taking away) energy to/from the system, which are classified as either source (target) ports, respectively. For instance, in the scenario of an external plane wave incident on a computer box, a relevant source port may be the cooling vent (aperture) that allows the plane-wave energy to couple into the box, while a target-port might be the PCB bus track (microstrip antenna) that carries the coupled energy to a sensitive IC chip. The problem of determining the radiation impedances of the relevant ports can be challenging. In the next section, we briefly summarize methods to determine the radiation impedance of relevant ports based on their physical geometries.

Unlike a regular microwave cavity resonator, where the ports tend to be at the interface between the external environment and the cavity resonator, here a generalized port can lie entirely within the confines of the cavity resonator. The presence of other components (memory cards, wire cables, etc.) within the computer box will be accounted for in the model through the scattering of the waves they produce within the enclosure, as well as modifications to the enclosure volume and quality factor $Q$. Once the relevant generalized ports have been identified, the second level of abstraction treats the computer box as a wave-chaotic enclosure with $N_p$ ports, where $N_p$ corresponds to the sum of all generalized ports. In what follows, we explain the framework of the RCM induced voltage algorithm taking the example of a computer box with two relevant generalized ports ($N_p = 2$) denoted as “port 1” (source) and “port 2” (target). Generalization to an arbitrary number of ports is straightforward. The algorithm essentially requires only three pieces of information in order to make accurate statistical predictions for the induced voltages at the target port for a specified CW excitation at port 1 (see Fig. 4). These three quantities are as follows.

1) The loss parameter $\alpha$ for the enclosure.
2) The $2 \times 2$ radiation-impedance matrix of the source and target ports within the enclosure at the frequencies of interest $Z_{rad}^{cav}(f)$. Since $Z_{rad}^{cav}(f)$ is a nonstatistical quantity, it can either be directly measured (as described in Section V), determined analytically, or determined numerically using conventional EM-solver software.
3) The frequency $f$ dependence of the radiated power at the source port $P_1(f)$.

For a 3-D wave-chaotic enclosure, the loss parameter is $\alpha = k^2 V / (2 \pi^2 Q)$. The value of $\alpha$ in turn dictates the shapes and scales of the normalized impedance matrix $Z_{rad}$ element PDFs (see Fig. 3), which can be numerically generated using random matrix Monte Carlo simulations [33, Appendix A]. The numerically derived ensemble of normalized impedance $Z_{rad}$ matrices can then be combined with the measured/calculated radiation-impedance matrix $Z_{rad}$ and (1), to yield a numerical estimate of the PDF of the system-specific cavity-impedance matrix $Z_{cav} = \begin{bmatrix} Z_{11}^{cav} & Z_{12}^{cav} \\ Z_{21}^{cav} & Z_{22}^{cav} \end{bmatrix}$ (see Fig. 4). Finally, using the $2 \times 2$ impedance matrix for a two-port microwave network [36], it is possible to determine the PDF of the magnitude of the induced voltage at a target port with impedance $Z_L$ ($P_2(|V_2|)$) for the specified frequency dependence of the radiated power $P_1(f)$ at the source port through

$$|V_2| = \sqrt{\frac{2P_1(f)Z_p|Z_{cav}^{rad}|^2}{\text{Re}[Z_{11}^{cav}]}} \quad (4)$$

where $Z_p = \frac{Z_{cav}^{rad}Z_{eq}}{Z_{22}^{cav} + Z_L}$ and $Z_{eq} = Z_{11}^{cav} - \frac{Z_{cav}^{rad}Z_{cav}^{rad}}{Z_{22}^{cav} + Z_L} \quad (5)$.

In the limit where the load impedance approaches infinity (open-circuit on port 2), the induced voltage simplifies to

$$|V_2| = \sqrt{\frac{2P_1(f)|Z_{cav}^{rad}|^2}{\text{Re}[Z_{11}^{cav}]}} \quad (6)$$

For this last expression, we assume port 2 to be open circuited so that the only voltage present on port 2 is induced by the excitation from port 1 and not influenced by any sources (or load impedances) that may be connected to port 2. We will use this limit in the calculated induced voltage distributions presented later.

IV. ESTIMATING THE RADIATION IMPEDANCE AND ADMITTANCE OF TYPICAL COUPLING STRUCTURES

In this section, we briefly review the ways in which the impedance (or admittance) matrix is defined for a port, and then discuss how its values are determined analytically. We then consider alternative methods to estimate the radiation impedance/admittance matrix of complicated ports using computational EM codes, as well as through direct experiments. The
appropriate method to be adopted is in most cases dependent on the complexity of the radiating structure and other logistical factors such as experimental setup time. In the analytical approach, we identify three situations of interest, which we label the terminal case, the closed-aperture case, and the open-aperture case, as shown in Fig. 5. The precise definition of the impedance matrix will vary in these cases, as will the method of calculation of the matrix. However, all three of these cases can still be treated within the RCM.

A. Terminal Case

The terminal case [see Fig. 5(a)] applies to the situation where a port is excited through a single mode transmission line, and the excitation of the port can be prescribed by a single variable: the voltage, or current, or amplitude of the incident wave on the transmission line. Our studies of the excitation of cavities by signals on cables, as described in Section VI, are examples of this case. In addition, a terminal or lead on an integrated circuit can be treated as an example of this case if one considers the input to the circuit as a lumped element and the conductors and dielectric material surrounding the integrated circuit as an antenna. In the terminal case, determination of the radiation impedance becomes equivalent to solving for the fields surrounding an antenna that is driven by a transmission line. It is, thus, important to account for the geometry and dielectric properties of the material surrounding (within several wavelengths) the terminal. Calculation of the port impedance can be quite complicated as it involves the self-consistent determination of the current in all conductors and polarization of all dielectrics near the port. A simple case is that of an antenna that is small compared with a wavelength. In this case, the current distribution in the antenna is fixed. An example of this is that of a coaxial antenna in a 2-D cavity [20], [21]. Further details about calculating the radiation impedance in the terminal case can be found in [37].

B. Aperture Cases

The closed-aperture case [see Fig. 5(b)] applies to situations in which the cavity is excited through an aperture that is connected to a waveguide. In this case, the port is characterized by an impedance (or scattering) matrix that has a dimension equal to the number of modes used to represent the fields in the aperture. The open-aperture case [see Fig. 5(c)] applies when the aperture is illuminated by a plane wave incident with a wave vector \( k^\text{inc} \) and polarization of magnetic field \( H^\text{inc} \) that is perpendicular to \( k^\text{inc} \). These cases are treated in detail by [37].

The analytic approach for estimating the radiation impedance of simple radiating structures has been used to estimate the radiation impedance of monopoles [38], short and long dipole radiators [34], [35], [39], horn antennas [40], and microstrip antennas [41]. However, when the internal geometry of the enclosure surrounding the port becomes more complicated, such as due to the presence of metal side walls or dielectric features in the near-field of the radiating ports, the analytic approximations can become too cumbersome to evaluate. In such cases, finite-element numerical-EM approaches based on time-domain or frequency-domain solvers can be utilized [42]. This numerical approach has proved to be successful for modeling aperture coupling within large enclosures such as automobiles [43] and computer boxes [44], [45]. Commercially available EM solver codes now have the ability to model very complex EM coupling scenarios, such as estimating the coupling between the pins of an IC chip [46], [47]. By using a combination of these numerical solver codes and the RCM, it is possible to come up with statistical descriptions for induced voltages on the pins of ICs for given excitation stimulus on an aperture-type cooling vent.

C. Experimental Determination of Radiation Impedance Matrix

Though powerful and reliable, numerical EM solver codes can sometimes be very expensive both in computational time and required hardware resources in order to obtain a sufficient degree of accuracy for the port radiation impedance quantities. A third approach to determining radiation impedance is based on direct experimental measurements and can, in some cases, be faster to set up and measure as compared to the numerical techniques. As reported in our experimental studies in Section VI, the experimental radiation impedance measurement consists of simulating an outward radiation boundary condition for the source and target ports by coating all the inner side walls and internal components in the far field of the ports with microwave/radar absorber. In some cases, where it might not be possible to experimentally create such an outward radiation boundary condition, an indirect experimental method may be adopted [48]. The accuracy of the experimentally measured radiation impedance is dictated by the frequency-dependent absorptive properties of the microwave/radar absorber used. Moreover, for short-wavelengths the coupling properties of the port are very sensitive to small changes in the port orientation. These factors can affect the repeatability and reliability of the experimentally measured radiation impedances.

As shown in Section VI of this paper, one can experimentally determine an approximate radiation impedance by taking an
ensemble average of cavity impedances. This requires that the ensemble includes enough distinct realizations of the system to destroy the contributions of short orbits [49]–[51].

V. EXPERIMENTAL SETUP

We have performed experiments to validate the RCM induced-voltage algorithm as described in Section III. The 3-D enclosure under study is a typical computer box of physical outer dimensions 38 cm × 21 cm × 23 cm see Fig. 6(a), which contains all the internal electronics—motherboard, memory chips, network card, etc. [see Fig. 6(b)]. The floppy drive, CDROM-drive, and SMPS power-supply unit were removed to increase the internal volume of the enclosure and also to decrease the inherent enclosure loss. The enclosure was excited by means of two ports, labeled port 1 and port 2 in Fig. 6(c), located on the top and bottom walls of the box. We consider the frequency range of 4–20 GHz. The free-space wavelength at 4 GHz corresponds to about 7.5 cm that is about three times smaller than the smallest enclosure dimension. The ports are sections of coaxial transmission lines that act as dipole radiators with the exposed inner conductor of diameter 1.27 mm, extending 0.87 cm (for port 1) and 1.3 cm (for port 2) into the volume of the enclosure from the side walls.

To make a statistical analysis of the EM response of the computer-box enclosure, the first step involves measuring a large ensemble of the full 2 × 2 enclosure scattering matrix $S_{\text{cav}} = \begin{bmatrix} S_{11}^{\text{cav}} & S_{12}^{\text{cav}} \\ S_{21}^{\text{cav}} & S_{22}^{\text{cav}} \end{bmatrix}$ using an Agilent E8364B vector network analyzer. This is referred to as the “enclosure case.” To realize this large ensemble, a mode stirrer is introduced into the volume of the enclosure. The mode stirrer [shown in schematic in Fig. 6(c)] consists of a central metallic shaft (shown as the black line) of diameter 5 mm with two paddle-wheel-type blades (gray-colored rectangles) measuring approximately 10 cm × 5 cm and placed 7 cm apart. The two blades are made of cardboard paper coated with aluminum foil [see Fig. 6(d)] and are oriented perpendicular to each other on the shaft. Each orientation of the blades within the cavity results in a different internal field configuration. For each configuration, $S_{\text{cav}}$ is measured as a function of frequency from 4 to 20 GHz in 16 000 equally spaced steps. By rotating the shaft through 20 different positions, an ensemble of 320 000 computer-box enclosure scattering matrices is, thus, collected. From the $S_{\text{cav}}$($\omega$) measurements, it is inferred that the typical loaded-Q of the computer-box enclosure ranges from about 45 at 4 GHz to about 250 at 20 GHz.

The port radiation-impedance measurement involves simulating an outward radiation condition for the two driving ports, but retaining the coupling structure as in the “enclosure case.” To achieve this condition, the mode stirrer is removed and all internal electronics and inner surfaces of the cavity side-walls are coated with microwave absorber—Eccosorb HR-25 and ARCTech DD10017D, respectively, which provides about 25 dB of reflection loss over the frequency range of the experiment (see Fig. 7). This is intended to minimize reflections within the computer-box enclosure. A circular area of about 8-cm radius is left uncoated around each of the ports so as to retain the near-field structure of the radiating ports. The “radiation case” now involves measuring the resultant $2 \times 2$ radiation-scattering matrix, $S_{\text{rad}} = \begin{bmatrix} S_{11}^{\text{rad}} & S_{12}^{\text{rad}} \\ S_{21}^{\text{rad}} & S_{22}^{\text{rad}} \end{bmatrix}$, from 4 to 20 GHz with the same 16 000 frequency steps as in the “enclosure case.” This is a single realization, deterministic (nonstatistical) measurement.

VI. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

The objective of the current section is to experimentally show the applicability of the “RCM induced voltage algorithm” to address the practical problem of predicting induced voltage PDFs at specific target-ports within complicated enclosures, such as a computer box. To achieve this objective, we first need to establish three aspects of the EM wave scattering within the enclosure. First, we need to experimentally prove the existence of wave-chaotic scattering (see Section VI-A). Second, the applicability of the port radiation impedance (scattering) matrix to account for the frequency-dependent coupling in a 3-D
enclosure, where polarization of the waves and the effects of field variations associated with the presence of side walls has to be established experimentally (see Section VI-B). Third, the existence of universal fluctuations in the normalized impedance matrix for the computer-box enclosure has to be established and shown to be in agreement with corresponding predictions from RCM (see Section VI-C). Finally, in Section VI-D, we provide experimental results that validate the “RCM induced voltage algorithm” for the experimental setup discussed in Section V.

A. Establishing the Existence of “Wave-Chaos” Inside the Computer-Box Enclosure

In an enclosure, wave chaos manifests itself as extreme sensitivity of the internal field quantities to small changes in the wave frequency and in the enclosure’s internal configuration. For the computer-box enclosure, this can be inferred by estimating the ratio of the maximum transmitted power to the minimum transmitted power at each frequency for the 20 different positions of the mode stirrer. This power ratio, denoted as $\Lambda = \frac{\text{max}(S_{21}^{\text{cav}}(f))^2}{\text{min}(S_{21}^{\text{cav}}(f))^2}$ (shown on a log scale in Fig. 8), has a distribution that is fairly wide with a mean of 17.3 dB and a standard deviation of 6.2 dB [see Fig. 8(a)]. The dynamic range of $\Lambda$ is nearly 55 dB over the frequency range of 4–20 GHz [shown as the circles in Fig. 8(b)]. This indicates that there are significantly large field fluctuations within the computer-box enclosure as the mode stirrer is rotated, characteristic of wave-chaotic systems.

B. Characterizing the Nonideal Port Coupling Through the Measured Radiation Scattering Matrix

In Fig. 9, the average measured scattering matrix elements and the measured scattering matrix elements in the radiation case are shown as a function of frequency. The circles, triangles, and pentagons represent the magnitude of the ensemble-averaged computer-box “enclosure case” $|\langle S_{11}^{\text{cav}} \rangle|$, $|\langle S_{22}^{\text{cav}} \rangle|$, and $|\langle S_{21}^{\text{cav}} \rangle|$, respectively. The magnitude of the ensemble averaged scattering matrix elements is indicative of the degree of nonideal coupling between the ports and the cavity [52], [53].

A frequency range where the coupling between port $i$ and the cavity is good results in small values of $|\langle S_{ii}^{\text{cav}} \rangle|$ ($i = 1, 2$). As can be seen in the figure, the two ports have rather different frequency-dependent coupling characteristics (indicated by the circles and triangles for port 1 and port 2, respectively). The dashed black line, solid gray line, and solid black lines represent the magnitude of the measured radiation-scattering elements $|S_{11}^{\text{rad}}|$, $|S_{22}^{\text{rad}}|$, and $|S_{21}^{\text{rad}}|$, respectively, which closely follow the general trend of the respective ensemble averaged scattering elements over the entire frequency range. This indicates that the radiation scattering matrix (or equivalently the radiation impedance) elements accurately quantify the nonideal coupling between the ports and the computer-box enclosure at all frequencies. The slight oscillatory nature of the radiation-scattering matrix elements is attributed to imperfections in the absorber properties, allowing a small amount of wave energy to travel from a port to either itself or another port by following a path that reflects from the absorber [24], [49]–[51], [54], [55].

We can also use numerical methods to determine the radiation impedance matrix in this case. Fig. 10(a) shows a model of an aluminum box of dimensions 38 cm × 21 cm × 23 cm with the two side walls parallel to the XZ plane removed. The ports are modeled as sections of 50-Ω coaxial transmission lines with dimensions identical to that utilized in the experiment, i.e., dipole radiators with the exposed inner conductor of diameter 1.27 mm, extending 0.87 cm (for port 1) and 1.3 cm (for port 2) into the volume of the enclosure from the side walls. The relative spacing between the ports is also the same as in the experiment. The dashed black line, solid gray line, and solid black lines in Fig. 10(b) represent the magnitude of the numerically determined radiation-scattering elements $|S_{11}^{\text{rad}}|$, $|S_{22}^{\text{rad}}|$, and $|S_{21}^{\text{rad}}|$, respectively, using CST Microwave Studio 2011. Note the similarity of the numerically determined radiation scattering elements to the corresponding experimentally measured quantities (see Fig. 9). In Fig. 10(c), all the side walls of the aluminum box model are removed, except for a region 8-cm square around
et al. \(\sim\) respectively using \(\xi_P\) is a real diagonal matrix whose elements \(Z\) matrices that lie within the arbitrarily chosen 

of experimental PDFs and imaginary Im \(\sigma\) using (2).

S = [\ldots \times \ldots \sigma \ldots \xi \ldots 45 \ldots \alpha \ldots \text{measurements, the typical \(S\) at the same frequency to obtain the 

\(\text{for the computer-box enclosure. The \(Z\) for this dataset to be 

and by using (3), we estimate a value of the cavity loss pa-

parts of the eigenvalues of \(Z\) for the computer-box enclosure. 

of the experiment. Each \(X_{\text{num}}\) matrices in the ensemble, there are \(2X_{\text{num}}\) eigenvalues in the measured ensemble, which are placed 

together into a list. We have observed that using both eigenval-

These numerical results suggest a new experimental method 

to determine the radiation impedance matrix. One can create 

a port configuration like that shown in Fig. 10(c) in an anechoic 

chamber, and measurement of \(S_{\text{rad}}\) is straightforward. This method has been successfully employed for a 1 m
c

C. Establishing the Existence of Universal Impedance PDFs for the Computer-Box Enclosure

Having measured the ensemble of computer-box enclosure 

scattering matrices \(S_{\text{rad}}\), and the corresponding radiation-scattering elements \(S_{11}^{\text{rad}}, S_{22}^{\text{rad}}, \text{and } S_{21}^{\text{rad}}\), respectively. Note that the oscillatory nature of the radiation-

scattering matrix elements arising from the reflections off the 

side walls is now eliminated.

These numerical results suggest a new experimental method 

to determine the radiation impedance matrix. One can create 

a port configuration like that shown in Fig. 10(c) in an anechoic 

chamber, and measurement of \(S_{\text{rad}}\) is straightforward. This method has been successfully employed for a 1 m
c

D. Validity of the RCM Induced Voltage Algorithm for the Computer-Box Enclosure

To test the validity of the RCM induced voltage algorithm 

for the computer-box enclosure, we first chose an arbitrary 

frequency range of 4.5–5.5 GHz and assume that the losses 
do not change significantly in this range (i.e., \(\alpha\) is approxi-
mately constant). From the \(S_{21}^{\text{rad}}(\omega)\) measurements, the typical \(Q\) for the computer-box cavity over this frequency range is 
estimated to be about 45 (i.e., \(Q \approx 45\)). An estimate of the

We consider the experimentally determined normalized 

impedance \(\xi_Z\) matrices that lie within the arbitrarily chosen frequency range of 17–18 GHz (where the loss parameter is roughly constant), which is defined as a “dataset.” Each \(\xi_Z\) 

matrix in our measured ensemble yields two complex eigenval-

ues. Thus, if there are \(X_{\text{num}}\) matrices in the ensemble, there are \(2X_{\text{num}}\) eigenvalues in the measured ensemble, which are placed 

together into a list. We have observed that using both eigenval-

ues in the list, as opposed to randomly considering one of 

the two eigenvalues, does not alter the statistical results that fol-

low. Histogram approximations to the PDFs of the real Re\((\lambda_{\xi_Z})\) and imaginary Im\((\lambda_{\xi_Z})\) parts of the eigenvalues of \(\xi_Z\) appearing 

on the list are shown in Fig. 11(a) and (b), respectively, by the 

star symbols. The variances \(\sigma^2\) of experimental PDFs in 

Fig. 11(a) and (b) are nearly identical in magnitude, i.e., 

\((\sigma^2_{\text{num}}) \approx \sigma^2_{\text{Z}} = 1.35 \times 10^{-3}\). From the variance of the PDFs of 

the real Re\((\lambda_{\xi_Z})\) and imaginary Im\((\lambda_{\xi_Z})\) parts of the eigenvalues 

of \(\xi_Z\) and by using (3), we estimate a value of the cavity loss pa-

rameter \(\alpha\) for this dataset to be \(\alpha \approx 236\). Using the value of \(\alpha = 236\), a random matrix Monte Carlo simulation [Appendix A] 
yields the black curves shown in Fig. 11(a) and (b) for the real 

and imaginary parts of \(\xi_Z\) PDFs i.e., \(P_{\text{Re}}(\lambda_{\xi_Z})\) and \(P_{\text{Im}}(\lambda_{\xi_Z})\), respectively. Good agreement is observed between the experi-

mentally derived PDFs and those generated numerically from 

random matrix Monte Carlo simulations. This agreement also 
extends to the other 30 constant-\(\alpha\) “datasets” examined over the 

frequency range of 4–20 GHz, and supports the existence of 
universal fluctuations in \(\xi_Z\) for the computer-box enclosure.

Fig. 11. Marginal PDFs for the (a) real and (b) imaginary parts of the grouped 
eigenvalues of the normalized computer-box enclosure impedance \(\xi_Z\) (stars) 
in the frequency range of 17–18 GHz. Also shown are the single parameter, 
simultaneous fits for both the real and imaginary normalized impedance PDFs 
(solids lines), where the loss parameter \(\alpha (\alpha = 236)\) is obtained from the variance of 
the data represented by the stars in (a) and (b).
The measured radiation impedance matrix \( Z_{\text{rad}} \) of the computer-box enclosure is sufficiently lossy \((\alpha \gg 1)\), the statistics of the normalized impedance are relatively insensitive to small changes in \( \alpha \). This mitigates the effect of errors in the estimate of the enclosure volume.

We then use random matrix Monte Carlo simulations [Appendix A] to generate an ensemble of 100,000 normalized impedance matrices with the measured radiation impedance matrix \( Z_{\text{rad}} \) matrices that correspond to a value of \( \alpha = 24 \). Combining \( Z_{\text{rad}} \) this ensemble of \( Z_{\text{rad}} \) matrices with the measured 2 \times 2 radiation impedance matrix \( Z_{\text{rad}} \) over the frequency range of 4.5–5.5 GHz using (1), an estimate for the ensemble of the computer-box enclosure impedances in the “enclosure case” is obtained. In order to determine the nature of the induced voltage PDFs at port 2, two scenarios are simulated by assuming two different functional forms for the frequency dependence of the radiated power at port 1.

1) A “flat-top” \((\hat{P}_1(f) = 1)\) Watt functional form for the port 1 power, radiated uniformly over the frequency range from 4.5 to 5.5 GHz [see inset of Fig. 12(a)].

2) A Gaussian-shaped \((\hat{P}_1(f) = e^{-(f-f_0)^2/2\sigma^2})\) Watt functional form for the port-1 radiated power defined over the frequency range from 4.5 to 5.5 GHz, which is centered at \( \mu = 5 \) GHz and \( \sigma = \sqrt{0.025} \) GHz [see inset of Fig. 12(b)].

Note: In scenarios (1) and (2), we have assumed that the frequency-dependent port-1 radiated power is a purely real, scalar quantity. This assumption neglects any phase correlations between the frequency components of the radiated signal from port 1. We shall also assume that port 2 presents an open-circuit boundary condition \( Z_L = \infty \) in (4).

The predicted PDF of the magnitude of the induced voltage at port 2 is shown as the black curve in Fig. 12(a) for the “flat-top” port-1 radiated power of scenario (1). The black curve in Fig. 12(b) represents the predicted PDF of the magnitude of the induced voltage at port 2 for the Gaussian-shaped port-1 radiated power of scenario (2). Note that the induced voltage PDFs in the two scenarios are rather different.

The stars in Fig. 12(a) represent the PDF of the induced voltage at port 2 for the “flat-top” port-1 radiated power of scenario (1) shown in inset and (6), where the terms \( Z_{11}^{\text{av}} \) and \( Z_{21}^{\text{av}} \) in (6) correspond to the experimentally measured enclosure-case impedances of the computer box. Similarly, the circles in Fig. 12(b) represent the PDF of the induced voltage at port 2 for the Gaussian-shaped port-1 radiated power of scenario (2) shown in inset and (6), where the terms \( Z_{11}^{\text{av}} \) and \( Z_{21}^{\text{av}} \) in (6) correspond to experimentally measured enclosure-case impedances of the computer box. Good agreement is found between the induced voltage PDFs that were determined numerically (black curves) using only the measured radiation impedance matrix and random matrix Monte Carlo simulations based upon a calculated value of \( \alpha \); and those induced voltage PDFs (symbols) that were generated using the experimentally measured enclosure-case impedance matrix ensemble. Similar agreement was seen in other frequency windows in the 4–20 GHz that we examined. This confirms the validity of the RCM voltage algorithm as an accurate and computationally fast method to predict the statistical nature of induced voltages at a given target port for a specified excitation at a source port.

VII. DESIGN GUIDELINES FOR UPSET-RESISTANT GENERIC ENCLOSURES

Based on the RCM, we can now make suggestions for design of systems that reduce the susceptibility to EM upset. Some simple design guidelines for generic complicated enclosures that can be useful in considerations of resilience to upset by an external (or internal) short-wavelength EM source are as follows.

1) Increasing the value of the enclosure loss parameter \( \alpha \): For a 3-D enclosure, \( \alpha = k^3 V/(2\pi^2 Q) \). Increasing the value of \( \alpha \) (e.g., by decreasing the quality factor \( Q \) by resistive loading such as the use of carbon-based microwave absorbers) decreases the fluctuations in the enclosure impedance values [14], [55]. The narrowing of the distributions with increasing \( \alpha \) in Fig. 3 is a manifestation of this effect. This in turn reduces the probability for large internal field fluctuations, or equivalently large induced voltage fluctuations, on the components housed within the enclosure.

2) Radiation impedance engineering: As discussed in Section IV, perfect coupling implies \( Z_{\text{rad}} = Z_{\text{cav}} \). Thus, creating a large impedance mismatch between the radiation impedance of the port and the characteristic
impedance of the transmission lines connected to that port will result in very poor transfer of the incoming EM energy into the interior of the cavity enclosure through the port. Apertures, cables, antennas, etc., can be engineered to have a large radiation impedance mismatch at the frequencies of concern. Section IV outlines how the radiation impedance can be calculated in general, and the RCM gives a quantitative description of the effectiveness of port mismatch on modifying the induced-voltage distribution. A detailed discussion of how to calculate the port radiation impedance for a large variety of ports is presented in [37].

3) Use of nonreciprocal media: The use of nonreciprocal media such as magnetized ferrites placed within a cavity enclosure can significantly decrease the amplitude of field intensities [20], [21], [57]. In addition to being inherently lossy (thereby increasing the $\alpha$-value of the cavity enclosure), nonreciprocal media restrict instances of constructive interference between the rays bouncing within the cavity enclosure. This in turn reduces the formation of “hot spots” (regions of high EM field intensities) [57] within the cavity enclosure.

VIII. ASSUMPTIONS, CAVEATS, AND FUTURE WORK

The applicability of RCM is based on certain fundamental assumptions. First, the enclosure has to be substantially large compared to the wavelength of the EM radiation. This assumption translates into the enclosure supporting many EM modes below the lowest frequency of interest. Second, the enclosure has to display chaotic ray trajectories. Though this is generally a valid assumption, given the complexity of the internal details in most real-world enclosures such as computer boxes or aircraft fuselages, we note that some enclosures may show a mixture of chaotic and nonchaotic ray dynamics [25]. Such mixed dynamics are common in complicated enclosures that have several flat metallic surfaces facing each other. Under such conditions, the predictions of RCM may only be partially correct. The presence of flat surfaces within enclosures may also result in “scars” [58]–[60], which are modal patterns that exhibit large field intensities near closed ray trajectories. The presence of scars violates the random plane wave hypothesis within the enclosure, and is currently not treated by the RCM.

The RCM uses the radiation impedance matrix to quantify the nonideal and frequency-dependent coupling between the ports and the enclosure. It has been observed that in the limit where the number of statistically independent matrices in the ensemble for the enclosure impedance $Z^{\text{cav}}$ is infinitely large, the mean value of $Z^{\text{cav}}$ approaches $Z^{\text{rad}}$, i.e., $\langle Z^{\text{cav}} \rangle = Z^{\text{rad}}$ (or equivalently, $\langle S^{\text{cav}} \rangle = S^{\text{rad}}$) [33], [55], [56], [61]. This observation is of great practical significance in realistic situations where it may not always be possible to accurately determine $Z^{\text{rad}}$ either numerically or through experimental measurement.

The RCM has shown that besides the radiation impedance matrix of the relevant ports, the quantity that determines the shapes and scales of the fluctuations within the enclosure is the loss parameter $\alpha = k^2V/(2\pi^2Q)$. We note that in over-moded enclosures, the $Q$ of the enclosure is frequency dependent and varies from mode to mode due to the slight differences in the modal patterns near the dissipative structures. However, this variation in $Q$ from mode to mode is small (about 10%) [16] for suitably irregular complicated enclosures. Moreover, most realistic enclosures such as computer boxes, aircraft fuselages, or missile casings tend to be of relatively low $Q$ (tens to hundreds). In such cases, the predicted PDFs of the enclosure impedance and scattering quantities are not very sensitive to the loss parameter $\alpha$. Thus, a reasonable estimate of the average $Q$ of the modes around the frequency of interest would suffice in most cases. One possible extension to RCM would be to include the variation of the loss parameter as a function of frequency. This would be useful when considering complicated enclosures irradiated by wide-band short-wavelength EM radiation.

Some other caveats about the RCM deserve mention. The RCM is a statistical frequency-domain model and should not be used to predict the outcome of a specific measurement for a specific situation. One should not use the RCM when the enclosure $Q \approx 1$, or less. In this case there is no reverberation, and the basic assumptions of the model are not satisfied.

Treatment of time-varying and nonlinear loads attached to ports is presently beyond the capabilities of the frequency-domain RCM induced voltage algorithm and deserves further investigation. Other extensions of the RCM include treatment of transient input waveforms, and treatment of the phases of a broadband signal. Extending the RCM to include nonreciprocal wave propagation is straightforward and has already been outlined [20], [21]. It is also of interest to examine how the RCM breaks down in the limit of low frequency as the wavelength becomes comparable to the characteristic dimension of the enclosure.

The RCM can also be extended to explicitly include short orbits involving the ports. Short orbits are classical ray trajectories that start from a given port, bounce a small number of times, and then return to the same port, or go on to another port. Effects of these orbits are seen as systematic (nonstatistical) variations of the impedance matrix elements as a function of frequency. The RCM has recently been extended to include such orbits [49]–[51], [56].

The RCM can be generalized to a network of many interconnected complicated enclosures. The PDF of induced voltages on a port in a particular enclosure stimulated by a port in another enclosure can be estimated in the limit of weak coupling between the enclosures [62]. Using random matrix theory (RMT) and the random plane wave hypothesis, one can also calculate the statistical properties of loss in enclosures that are coupled by means of tunneling (e.g., coupling through an aperture beyond cutoff) [63].

IX. CONCLUSION

The results discussed in this paper provide experimental evidence in support of the utility of the RCM for statistically modeling short-wavelength EM wave scattering within 3-D complicated enclosures, coupled to multiple ports. The experimental results have shown that the radiation impedance matrix is extremely robust in quantifying the nonideal port coupling, even
when polarization of the waves and field fluctuations due to the presence of side walls in the near-field proximity of the driving ports plays a role. We have shown that a minimal amount of information (frequency, volume of the enclosure, typical Q of the enclosure, radiation impedance of the relevant ports, and an estimate of the frequency dependence of the radiated power at the source port) is needed to accurately predict the shape and scales of the induced voltages at specific target ports within large complicated enclosures. Based on the RCM, we have also suggested design guidelines to make a generic 3-D complicated enclosure (such as a computer box or aircraft fuselage) more resistant to upset from an external short-wavelength EM source.

APPENDIX A

For a wave-chaotic cavity enclosure filled with reciprocal media and coupled to $N$ single-moded driving ports ($N \geq 1$), the $N \times N$ normalized impedance matrix $\Xi_Z$ can be written as

$$\Xi_Z = -\frac{j}{\pi} W \frac{1}{\lambda_j - j \alpha I} W^T$$  \hspace{1cm} (A.1)$$

where the matrix $W$ is an $N \times M$ coupling matrix with each element $W_{nm}$ representing the coupling between the $n$th driving port ($1 \leq n \leq N$) and the $m$th eigenmode of the closed cavity ($1 \leq m \leq M$ and $M \gg N \geq 1$). Each $W_{nm}$ is assumed to be an independent Gaussian-distributed random number of zero mean and unit variance. The matrix $W^T$ corresponds to the transpose of matrix $W$, and $I$ is a $M \times M$ identity matrix. The scalar quantity $\alpha$ corresponds to the enclosure loss parameter and $j = \sqrt{-1}$.

In order to obtain the matrix $\lambda_j$, which is an $M \times M$ diagonal matrix with a set of $M$-values the following procedure is adopted. A real symmetric matrix $\tilde{H}$ of size $5M \times 5M$ is generated whose elements are independent identically distributed with zero-mean and unit-variance, and the off-diagonal elements chosen from a Gaussian distribution. The procedure outlined previous results in a single instance of the normalized impedance matrix $\Xi_Z$. By repeating this procedure 100,000 times, a sufficiently large ensemble of $\Xi_Z$ is generated from which its statistical descriptions (PDFs and its moments) are determined.

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REFERENCES


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