MODIFICATION OF THE AURORA ELECTROMAGNETIC ENVIRONMENT: EXPERIMENT-ETC(U)

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Modification of the AURORA Electromagnetic Environment: Experiment and Interpretation

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**Abstract:**
In a series of experiments, it was determined that a simple parallel plate transmission line would behave in a predictable manner when subjected to the 13-MeV-thick target bremsstrahlung produced by the AURORA flash x-ray machine. During the experiments, the following parameters were measured: current into the transmission line, current through the matched termination of the transmission line, the electric field at the bottom plate along the...
20. Abstract (Cont'd)

center of the transmission line, and a component of the magnetic field at the center of the transmission line. The experimental results were interpreted with a simple lumped parameter model of the transmission line.
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1. INTRODUCTION

Our major goal in the work reported here was to ascertain whether the electromagnetic field produced by the AURORA thick target bremsstrahlung could be modified in a predictable fashion by using a parallel plate transmission line. If this prediction can be shown, then possibly it might be feasible to suggest this as a method of tailoring the combined electromagnetic and ionizing radiation so that it more closely resembles the characteristics of the radiation environment predicted for a tactical nuclear weapon. This work was not an attempt to design a tactical electromagnetic pulse (EMP) simulator, but rather was directed toward gaining insight and developing tools that would be of value in designing a larger test facility, one that could be used to verify EMP source-region coupling calculations and possibly even test some actual tactical systems. The experimental measurements reported in this paper were carried out in the fall of 1977.

2. REQUIREMENT FOR MODIFICATION

The AURORA Flash X-Ray Facility at the Harry Diamond Laboratories was designed basically to study high intensity transient (nuclear) radiation effects on electronics (TREE). It produces high intensity ionizing radiation over a relatively small volume. The resulting isodose contours produced by the 13-MeV-thick target bremsstrahlung in the metallically shielded AURORA test cell are shown in figure 1.

The components necessary to simulate tactical nuclear EMP are a time varying electric (E-) field, a time varying magnetic (H-) field, a time varying Compton electric current, and time varying air conductivity. Therefore, at first look, the AURORA test cell, which incorporates all these components, might seem to be an ideal candidate for the simulation of a tactical nuclear EMP. But comparisons of measured field data* and the accepted Defense Nuclear Agency threat criteria indicate serious differences in temporal behavior and direction and magnitude of the various components.

We can gain more insight into the problems that arise by considering the possibility of using the unmodified AURORA as a tactical nuclear EMP simulator. Let us simplify matters by considering the wave equations for a spatially and temporally homogeneous conducting isotropic medium. The situation inside the AURORA test cell is actually not homogeneous, and the medium, the ionized air, is time varying. However, the consideration of all the variables would require the use of such a complicated computer code that essential physics would tend to be obscured, and insight into the actual simulation problem would be lost.

*Electric field data discussed later in this section and unpublished magnetic field data were taken by Denis Whittaker of the AURORA staff.
Let us consider the wave equations inside the AURORA test cell.

For the E-field, we have

$$\nabla^2 E - \mu_0 \left( \sigma \frac{\partial E}{\partial t} + \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial^2 E}{\partial t^2} \right) = \mu_0 \frac{\partial \mathbf{J}}{\partial t} + \nabla \rho,$$

(1)

where $\sigma$ is the air conductivity, $\mathbf{J}_C$ is the Compton current, and $\rho$ is the charge density in the test cell ionized air. For the H-field, we have

$$\nabla^2 H - \mu_0 \left( \sigma \frac{\partial H}{\partial t} + \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial t^2} \right) = -\nabla \times \mathbf{J}_C.$$

(2)

If we had no Compton current and resulting air conductivity, the situation would be greatly simplified because the above two complicated

Figure 1. AURORA isodose contours and transmission line in test cell.
wave equations would become the two relatively simple free space wave equations

$$\nabla^2 \mathbf{E} - \mu_0 \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial^2 \mathbf{E}}{\partial t^2} = 0$$  \hspace{1cm} (3a)

and

$$\nabla^2 \mathbf{H} - \mu_0 \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial^2 \mathbf{H}}{\partial t^2} = 0$$  \hspace{1cm} (3b)

and our simulation problem would be similar to the exoatmospheric EMP simulation.

Now consider another extreme: suppose the conducting current were much greater than the displacement current. Then

$$\sigma \mathbf{E} \gg \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial \mathbf{E}}{\partial t},$$  \hspace{1cm} (4)

or in the frequency domain

$$\sigma \mathbf{E}(\omega) \gg \epsilon_0 \omega \mathbf{E}(\omega).$$  \hspace{1cm} (5)

The original wave equations (1) and (2) now become diffusion equations,

$$\nabla^2 \mathbf{E} - \mu_0 \sigma \frac{\partial \mathbf{E}}{\partial t} = \mu_0 \frac{\partial \mathbf{c}}{\partial t} + \frac{\nabla \mathbf{P}}{\epsilon_0}$$  \hspace{1cm} (6)

and

$$\nabla^2 \mathbf{H} - \mu_0 \sigma \frac{\partial \mathbf{H}}{\partial t} = -\nabla \times \mathbf{J}_c$$  \hspace{1cm} (7)
Let us assume that the Compton current variation is relatively slow and that the charge gradient is small. Then

\[ \nabla^2 \mathbf{E} - \mu_0 \sigma \frac{\partial \mathbf{E}}{\partial t} = 0 , \quad (8) \]

or in the time domain

\[ \nabla^2 \mathbf{E} = j \omega \mu_0 \sigma \mathbf{E} . \quad (9) \]

Let \( \mathbf{E}_z \) be the \( E \) component along the AURORA test cell wall and \( x \) the distance away from the wall. Then

\[ \frac{d^2 \mathbf{E}_z}{dx^2} = j \omega \mu_0 \sigma \mathbf{E}_z \]

\[ = \tau^2 \mathbf{E}_z , \]

where

\[ \tau^2 = j \omega \mu_0 \sigma , \]

and

\[ \tau = (1 + j) \sqrt{2 \pi \epsilon_0 \mu_0} \]

\[ = (1 + j) \sqrt{\frac{2}{\delta}} , \]
where

\[ \delta = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi f \mu_0 \sigma}} \]  \hspace{1cm} \text{(11)}

and

\[ E_z = C_1 e^{-jx} + C_2 e^{jx} \]

The AURORA test cell wall is a "perfect" conductor; therefore, \( E_z = 0 \) along the test cell wall, \( x = 0 \), and we have

\[ 0 = C_1 + C_2 \]

or

\[ C_1 = -C_2 = \text{(constant)} \]

Finally,

\[ E_z = \text{(constant)} \left( e^{-x/\delta} e^{-jx/\delta} - e^{+x/\delta} e^{+jx/\delta} \right) \]  \hspace{1cm} \text{(12)}

Equation (12), which applies when \( \sigma E \gg \varepsilon_\varepsilon (dE/dt) \), is an expression that can be employed to estimate the region (distance), \( \delta \), away from the conducting AURORA test cell walls in which the skin effect (in the conducting air) short-circuits the E-field parallel to the AURORA test cell walls.

Assume that \( \sigma = 10^{-3} \text{ mho/m} \); then

\[ \delta = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi f 4\pi 10^{-7} 10^{-3}}} \]

\[ = \frac{1.125 \times 10^8}{\sqrt{f}} \]  \hspace{1cm} \text{(13)}

For \( f = 10^8 \text{ Hz} \), \( \delta = 1.1 \text{ m} \); for \( f = 10^9 \text{ Hz} \), \( \delta = 0.36 \text{ m} \).
A rough estimate of the horizontal E-field in the center of the AURORA test cell when $\varepsilon \gg \varepsilon_0 (\partial \varepsilon / \partial t)$ can be obtained by assuming that the E-field builds up until conduction current cancels Compton current; that is,

$$\varepsilon E = -J_c \quad \text{(14)}$$

Actually, there would probably be some vertical field near the AURORA test cell floor, ceiling, and walls because the Compton current from the AURORA hot spot does not just go to the back of the AURORA test cell, but spreads out, and a portion of the Compton current returns to the hot spot via the side walls, the ceiling, and the floor. This return is illustrated in figure 2.

![Figure 2. Sketch of average Compton current trajectories.](image)

### 3. MEASUREMENT OF AURORA VERTICAL ELECTRIC FIELD

When the AURORA fires, some of the Compton electrons produced by the thick target bremsstrahlung impinge on the floor and generate a vertical E-field. To orient ourselves, we need to know the magnitude of the vertical E-field on the test cell floor even though it may not be the major component of the field produced by the AURORA Compton electron drivers.

The values of the vertical E-field and vertical $\partial E / \partial t$ along the AURORA test cell floor, 5 m from the front test cell wall, were measured with an EG&G PMD-1 E-field sensor and with a parallel grid sensor.
suggested by Victor van Lint (Mission Research Corp.). The grid sensor was connected to an emitter follower with a high impedance input so that the air conductivity did not influence the accuracy of the E-field measurement. Even though the EG&G sensor was designed to be used in a vacuum, its values agreed to within 20 percent of those obtained with the van Lint sensor. The measurements were restricted to the test cell floor because, if the sensor were positioned off the ground plane, the cables to the sensors would perturb the field that the sensor was supposed to measure. With the sensors on the test cell floor, the coaxial cables and the emitter follower could be buried under the test cell so that they did not perturb the fields in the test cell. Figure 1 shows the AURORA isodose contours and the position of our first generation vertical E-field enhancing transmission line.

A typical vertical E-field measurement at a distance of 5 m from the front of the test cell is shown in figure 3. We need to increase this field if we want our simulator to produce a vertical field greater than 7 kV. This field is the purpose of the transmission line. The magnitude of the vertical E-field is probably a maximum on the AURORA test cell floor. If the vertical E-field were measured off the floor, intuition and symmetry arguments tell us that the field would decrease in magnitude and then change direction as the ceiling were approached. Van Lint is designing an E-field sensor that should be able to measure the E-field at all points in the AURORA test cell.

Figure 3. Typical vertical electric-field measurements with Air Force Weapons Laboratory sensor: (A) AURORA shot 2352, (B) fit with equation (25), and (C) AURORA shot 2351.
4. TRANSMISSION LINE SIMULATOR

The use of a parallel plate transmission line with the ionizing radiation of the AURORA to simulate the electromagnetic environment that is associated with a tactical nuclear device appears to be a basic approach that is also natural. Consider the transmission line equations and Maxwell's equations:

Transmission line equations

\[ \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} = - \left( R + L \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \right) i , \]

\[ \frac{\partial i}{\partial x} = - \left( G + C \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \right) v , \]

Field equations

\[ \nabla \times E = - \mu_0 \frac{\partial H}{\partial t} , \]

\[ \nabla \times H = \left( \sigma + \varepsilon_0 \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \right) E . \]

But \( R \), the resistance of the transmission line plate, is insignificant:

\[ \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} = - L \frac{\partial}{\partial t} i , \]

\[ \frac{\partial i}{\partial x} = - \left( G + C \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \right) v . \]

Therefore, for the transmission line,

\[ \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial x^2} = LC \frac{\partial v}{\partial t} + LC \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial t^2} , \]

and for Maxwell's equations,

\[ \nabla^2 E = \mu_0 \varepsilon_0 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} + \mu_0 \varepsilon_0 \frac{\partial^2 E}{\partial t^2} , \]

which is equation (1) without the driver term. If \( R = 0 \), the transmission line wave equation is analogous to the equation derived from Maxwell's equations.
5. LUMPED PARAMETER MODEL OF TRANSMISSION LINE

The model of the transmission line used in the design and in the calculated predictions for our experiments is a lumped parameter transmission line consisting of 12 sections. Figure 4 shows the basic section that describes the situation in which the transmission line is pulsed, but the AURORA is not.

![Diagram of a pulsed transmission line](image)

Figure 4. Pulsed transmission line.

The value of the capacitance in farads is determined by the expression

\[ C = \varepsilon_0 A/d \]

where \( \varepsilon_0 \) is the permittivity constant, \( A \) is the area of the section, and \( d \) is the separation of the transmission line.

The value of the inductance, \( L \), was determined by employing equation (15) for the impedance of the transmission line in terms of \( L \) and \( C \):

\[ Z_0 = \sqrt{\frac{C}{L}} = 90 \]

(15)

The impedance of the transmission line was determined by the technique of time domain reflectometry. That is to say, the reflection of the transmission line was found to be insignificant when it was terminated with a 90-\( \Omega \) resistor. We could then use equation (15) to obtain the value of the inductance, or \( L = (90)^2 C \). With \( L \) and \( C \) determined, we were in the position to introduce the effect of time varying air conductivity into a lumped parameter section. The transmission line section was modified to incorporate the effect of a time varying resistor in parallel with the capacitor as shown in figure 5.
Figure 5. Modified transmission line.

The time varying resistor, \( R_i \), is assumed to vary as

\[
\sin^{-2}\left(\frac{\pi T}{\tau + 2 \exp(-\ln 2 \tau^a)}\right) \text{ rad (Si)/s}
\]

where

\[
\tau = t/t^* \quad ,
\]

\[
t^* = \text{time of peak} ,
\]

\[
\alpha = 1.77 \left[ A^* t^*/\text{dose} \right]^{1.9} \quad ,
\]

\[
A^* = \text{peak dose rate} \quad .
\]

This curve seems to fit a variety of AURORA pulse shapes quite well. It is a smooth curve and lacks the bumps and occasional early time foot seen in some shots. Digitized shot data would be better, but this fit seems adequate. In a few of the calculations not compared with measured data, the simple dependence \( \cos^{-2} \left[ \pi(T - T_0/2)/T_0 \right] \) (with \( T_0 = 3 \times 10^{-7} \) s) was used.

Air chemistry and air conductivity calculations can be complicated. However, the relatively slow rise time of the AURORA pulse (10 shakes) and the relatively fast attachment rate of electrons to the oxygen component of air at sea level (1 shake) allow us to obtain a simple relationship between the AURORA gamma flux and the resulting air conductivity.

In brief, it can be shown that, in sea level air, the ionization rate of a directed gamma flux is roughly \( \dot{\gamma} = 2 \times 10^9 \Psi_f \), where \( \dot{\gamma} \) is the ionization rate in ion pairs/cm\(^3\)s, and \( \Psi_f \) is the directed gamma flux in
roentgens/s. The attachment rate of electrons in sea level air approximately equals $10^{-8}$ s$^{-1}$. Since the AURORA gamma flux varies slowly compared with the electron attachment rate, the electron density, $N_e$, can be estimated by

$$N_e \left( \frac{\text{electrons}}{\text{cm}^3} \right) = \frac{\gamma}{\alpha} = 20F \gamma.$$ (16)

In a collision dominated plasma such as partially ionized air at sea level, the air conductivity, $\sigma$, is given by

$$\sigma = \frac{e^2 N_e}{mV} = eN_e \mu,$$ (17)

where $m$ is the electron mass, $V$ is the collision frequency between free electrons and air molecules, and $\mu$ is the electron mobility. Equations (16) and (17) can be combined to yield*

$$\sigma e \left( \frac{\text{mho}}{m} \right) = 5 \times 10^{-14} N_e$$

$$= 0.5 \times 10^{-12} F \gamma.$$ (18)

The gamma flux can be estimated from the total gamma dose and the AURORA pulse shape. The gamma dose is measured with thermoluminescent dosimeters, and the directed flux or the dose rate is then calculated by using the measured AURORA pulse shape. At a later time, after a number of our experiments involving the effect of humidity on the electron mobility have been digested and analyzed, we will allow the electron mobility to be a function of the E-field and the air humidity. In our present analysis, we use the simple relation given in equation (18). If the conductivity, $\sigma_1(T)$, of a transmission line section is known, we can obtain the resistance, $R_1(T)$. Let the area of the transmission line section be $A$ and the distance between the upper and lower conductors be $d$; then

$$R_1(T) = \frac{d}{\sigma_1(T)A},$$

*The value 0.5 $\times$ $10^{-12}$ F is obtained from Dean May's analysis of our "pie pan" air conductivity measurements. Dean L. May, Electron Mobility and Electron Attachment Rate in an Electromagnetic Pulsed Air Environment, HDL Student Technical Symposium (17-18 August 1977), 87."
and finally

\[
R_i(T) = \frac{d}{\sigma_{\max}} \sin^2 \left( \frac{\pi t}{\tau + 2 \exp (-\ln 2 \tau^\alpha)} \right),
\]

where \( R_i(T) \) is the time varying resistance across transmission line section \( i \). Figure 5 shows the transmission line section with the time varying resistor across the capacitor to approximate the effect of the time varying conductivity.

Another physical effect has to be incorporated in our model: the effect of the AURORA generated vertical E-field must be superimposed on our transmission line section. It can be superimposed by inserting a current source in parallel with the capacitor and the time varying resistor. The modification is shown in figure 6. As seen in figure 6, the current source consists of a conduction current and a displacement current.

![Figure 6. Further modified transmission line.](image)

We previously described our measurement of the values of the vertical E-field and \( \frac{dE}{dt} \) produced in the "empty" AURORA test cell (the AURORA test cell without the transmission line) when the AURORA is fired. The E-field used in our current source is shown in figure 2.

We can now write the series of voltage and current first-order differential equations that describe the transmission line, but first let us consider how the first transmission line section is connected to the pulser: A low inductance 2-UF capacitor is discharged into the
transmission line as shown in figure 7. To be consistent with our Runge-Kutta subroutine, we label the voltages with odd numbers and the currents with even numbers. In other words, the voltage at node \( N \) is designated \( V(2N - 1) \), and the current flowing in the line into node \( N \) is labeled \( I(2N) \). The advantages of this method of notation are clear when we consider the actual node equations to be solved by the Runge-Kutta method.

Let us consider the partial circuit shown in figure 7. Three of the first current and voltage equations are

\[
C_0 \frac{dv(1)}{dt} = -I(2), \quad (20)
\]

\[
L_1 \frac{di(2)}{dt} = V(1) - V(3) - R_0 \times I(2), \quad (21)
\]

\[
C_1 \frac{dv(3)}{dt} = -\frac{V(3)}{R_1(T)} + I(2) - I(4) + \frac{ABC}{R_1(T)} + (DABC), \quad (22)
\]

where

\[
ABC = Ed, \quad (23)
\]

\[
DABC = \epsilon_0 \frac{de}{dt} A \quad (24)
\]

Figure 7. Discharge into transmission line.
The values of E and dE/dT in equations (23) and (24) are given by equations (25) (multiexponential field) and (26), respectively. The values of the constants in equations (25) and (26) were obtained by the curve fit shown in figure 3. In our first application of the code, we assume that E and dE/dT are constant along the transmission line. We do, however, allow the value of \( \sigma_{i}(T) \) or \( R_{i}(T) \) to be determined by the radiation dose along the transmission line.

\[
E(T) = \left( A_1 - A_2 \right) (1 + nT)e^{-\eta T} + \left( A_2 + A_3 \right) (1 + \beta T)e^{-\beta T}
\]

\[
- A_1 (1 + \alpha T)e^{-\alpha T} - A_3 (1 + \gamma T)e^{-\gamma T}
\]

\[
+ A_4 U(T - T') \left[ (1 + \beta'(T - T'))e^{-\beta'(T - T')} \right]
\]

\[
- [1 + \alpha'(T - T')]e^{-\alpha'(T - T')}
\]

\[
\frac{dE(T)}{dT} = A_1 \alpha^2 T e^{-\alpha T} + A_3 \gamma^2 T e^{-\gamma T}
\]

\[
- \left( A_1 - A_2 \right) \eta^2 T e^{-\eta T} - \left( A_2 + A_3 \right) \beta^2 T e^{-\beta T}
\]

\[
- A_4 U(T - T') \left[ (\beta')^2 (T - T')e^{-\beta'(T - T')} \right]
\]

\[
- (\alpha')^2 (T - T')e^{-\alpha'(T - T')}
\]

(25)

Figure 8 shows the circuit for the termination end of the transmission line.
The current sources $I_i = E \cdot d/R_i + \varepsilon_0 A (dE/dT)$ vary as a function of position along the transmission line because $R_i$ varies as a function of radiation dose. In a more accurate calculation, $E$ and $dE/dT$ would most likely vary. Also, $R_i$ would be a function of dose and E-field because mobility varies as a function of $E$. The effect of the variation of $A$ in the tapered sections of the transmission line would affect also the value of the displacement current, $\varepsilon_0 A (dE/dT)$.

The 24 differential equations that describe the lumped parameter model of the transmission line are given in table I (p. 22). The table is actually a portion of the Runge-Kutta FORTRAN subroutine.

6. TRANSMISSION LINE EXPERIMENTS

6.1 Physical Description of Transmission Line

The transmission line was fired with three different pulser configurations (fig. 9 to 11).

Figure 12 shows a schematic view of the transmission line, and an alteration of the transmission line configuration was to shield the tapered ends of the transmission line with a lead brick wall. The purpose of the lead shield was to cut down the ionization of the air in the tapered sections of the line and to deliver as much E-field and energy to the nontapered sections of the transmission line as possible. Various configurations of the transmission line with and without lead shields are shown in figure 13.
TABLE I. EQUATIONS TO SOLVE TRANSMISSION LINE TERMINATED IN 90-° RESISTANCE

\[
\begin{align*}
F(1) &= -Y(2)/C_0 \\
F(2) &= Y(1)/L_1 - Y(3)/L_1 - (R_0/L_1)Y(2) \\
F(3) &= -Y(3)/(R_1\cdot C_1) + Y(2)/C_1 - Y(4)/C_1 + ABC/(R_1\cdot C_1) + DABC \\
F(4) &= Y(3)/L_2 - Y(5)/L_2 \\
F(5) &= -Y(5)/(C_2\cdot R_2) + Y(4)/C_2 - Y(6)/C_2 + ABC/(C_2\cdot R_2) + DABC \\
F(6) &= Y(5)/L_3 - Y(7)/L_3 \\
F(7) &= -Y(7)/(C_3\cdot R_3) + Y(6)/C_3 - Y(8)/C_3 + ABC/(C_3\cdot R_3) + DABC \\
F(8) &= Y(7)/L_4 - Y(9)/L_4 \\
F(9) &= -Y(9)/(C_4\cdot R_4) + Y(8)/C_4 - Y(10)/C_4 + ABC/(C_4\cdot R_4) + DABC \\
F(10) &= Y(9)/L_5 - Y(11)/L_5 \\
F(11) &= -Y(11)/(C_5\cdot R_5) + Y(10)/C_5 - Y(12)/C_5 + ABC/(C_5\cdot R_5) + DABC \\
F(12) &= Y(11)/L_6 - Y(13)/L_6 \\
F(13) &= -Y(13)/(C_6\cdot R_6) + Y(12)/C_6 - Y(14)/C_6 + ABC/(C_6\cdot R_6) + DABC \\
F(14) &= Y(13)/L_7 - Y(15)/L_7 \\
F(15) &= -Y(15)/(C_7\cdot R_7) + Y(14)/C_7 - Y(16)/C_7 + ABC/(C_7\cdot R_7) \\
F(16) &= Y(15)/L_8 - Y(17)/L_8 \\
F(17) &= -Y(17)/(C_8\cdot R_8) + Y(16)/C_8 - Y(18)/C_8 + ABC/(C_8\cdot R_8) \\
F(18) &= Y(17)/L_9 - Y(19)/L_9 \\
F(19) &= -Y(19)/(C_9\cdot R_9) + Y(18)/C_9 - Y(20)/C_9 + ABC/(C_9\cdot R_9) \\
F(20) &= Y(19)/L_10 - Y(21)/L_10 \\
F(21) &= -Y(21)/(C_{10}\cdot R_{10}) + Y(20)/C_{10} - Y(22)/C_{10} + ABC/(R_{10}\cdot C_{10}) \\
F(22) &= Y(21)/L_{11} - Y(23)/L_{11} \\
F(23) &= -Y(23)/(C_{11}\cdot R_{11}) + Y(22)/C_{11} - Y(24)/C_{11} + ABC/(C_{11}\cdot R_{11}) \\
F(24) &= Y(23)/L_{12} - Y(24)/C_{12} + DABC \quad \square \quad \square \quad \square \\
\end{align*}
\]

Note: Let \( N \) refer to node \( N \),
\[
\begin{align*}
\frac{dV(N)}{dT} &= F(2N-1), \\
V(N) &= Y(2N-1) \\
\frac{dI(N)}{dT} &= F(2N), \\
I(N) &= Y(2N),
\end{align*}
\]
where \( I(N) \) is the current flowing into node \( N \).
Figure 9. Pulser configuration I.

Figure 10. Pulser configuration II.

Figure 11. Pulser configuration III.
Figure 12. Transmission line configuration (central 2-m-long section is 0.4 m high; resistors correspond to configuration II).

Figure 13. Top view of ionizing radiation shielding configurations: (a) no shielding, (b) tapered section shielded near pulser, and (c) both tapered sections shielded.
6.2 Experimental Measuring Techniques

A number of parameters were measured during each AURORA shot involving the transmission line. Two E-field sensors were placed in the parallel section of the transmission line. One sensor was the Air Force Weapons Laboratory (AFWL) EG&G PMD-1 sensor designed by Carl Baum; the other was a parallel plate sensor that fed into a high impedance input emitter follower to increase the sensor time constant. Its general design was suggested by van Lint. At the center of the transmission line, a Moebius loop was installed to measure the H-field. Current into the transmission line and current at the matched termination were measured with ionizing radiation insensitive Adelco current probes.

7. COMPARISON OF EXPERIMENT AND CALCULATION

Four electromagnetic parameters were measured with each simultaneous firing of the AURORA for the transmission line. These experimental parameters were the E-field at the center of the transmission line, the H-field at the center of the transmission line, the current at the termination of the transmission line, and the current at the input of the transmission line. We measured also the total ionizing radiation dose at various points along the transmission line. For this report, we only digitized our data and corrected them with a measured transfer function. We did not apply all possible corrections and refinements to our theory. Air conductivity refinements such as humidity and radiation dose variations from shot to shot were left for later consideration. Also, a few systematic errors needed to be resolved.

7.1 Measured Electric Field and Calculated Transmission Line Voltage

7.1.1 Configuration I

The E-field in the transmission line was measured with the AFRL EG&G E-field sensor and with an E-field sensor designed by van Lint. Since the parallel transmission line separation was 0.4 m, the transmission line voltage is given by \( V = 0.4E \). Figure 14 compares the calculated and measured E-fields across the untapered portion of the transmission line for impedance matching configuration I when the transmission line pulser was not pulsed; the voltage across the transmission line section was caused only by the AURORA generated electromagnetic field in the AURORA test cell.

Figure 15 compares the calculated and measured E-fields for experimental configuration I when the pulser capacitor was charged to 6000 V and discharged a few microseconds before the AURORA was fired.
Figure 14. Electric field, transmission line pulser not pulsed, configuration I.

Figure 15. Electric field, transmission line pulser pulsed, configuration I.
7.1.2 Configuration II

Figure 16 shows the calculated and measured E-field across the untapered portion of the transmission line for impedance matching configuration II. The transmission line pulser was not pulsed so that the voltage appearing across the transmission line was caused only by the AURORA generated electromagnetic field in the AURORA test cell.

Figure 16. Electric field, transmission line pulser not pulsed, configuration II.

Figure 17 compares the calculated and measured E-fields for experimental configuration II, except that the transmission line capacitor was charged to 4000 V and discharged a few microseconds before the AURORA was fired.

Figure 18 shows a purely calculated result. The transmission line was assumed to be in impedance matching configuration II, and the electromagnetic field in the AURORA test cell was assumed to be zero, but the ionizing radiation was assumed to be present. The transmission line capacitor was assumed to be charged to 4000 V, and the pulser was assumed to be discharged about 100 ns before the AURORA was fired.
Figure 17. Electric field, transmission line pulser pulsed, configuration II.

Figure 18. Calculated electric field, transmission line pulser discharged, configuration II.
7.1.3 Configuration III

When the transmission line tapered sections were not shielded with lead, the unreliability of both the trigger circuit and the accompanying trigatron interfered with measurements for impedance matching configuration III. To not exceed the dynamic range of the E-field measuring electronics, the transmission line capacitor was not charged beyond 2000 V. Unfortunately, the triggering circuit and the trigatron could not reliably operate at such a low voltage. However, two interesting calculational results correspond to configuration III.

Figure 19 shows the calculated behavior of the transmission line when the measured E-field in the AURORA test cell is taken into consideration. The large late time spike occurs whenever the impedance matching network does not limit the current that can flow into the transmission line. A possible explanation for the spike is that the ionizing radiation short-circuits the transmission line, and the resulting large current produces a large H-field and an accompanying large magnetic energy in the line. When the ionizing radiation disappears, some of the magnetic energy is converted into electrical energy, and a large voltage is produced across the transmission line.

The results shown in figure 20 are similar to the results shown in figure 19, except that the E-field produced by the AURORA in the test cell is not included in the figure 20 calculation.

Figure 19. Calculated electric field of transmission line, configuration III.
Figure 20. Calculated electric field, transmission line, configuration III (AURORA electric field not included).

7.2 Experimental Measurements with Lead Shielding in Place

Figure 21 compares the calculated and measured E-fields for impedance matching configuration I; the transmission line was pulsed with 6000 V, and the tapered section of the transmission line near the pulser was shielded with lead. Figure 22 compares the calculated and measured E-fields for a configuration II impedance match; the transmission line was pulsed 4000 V, and the tapered section near the pulser was shielded with lead. Figure 17 shows the equivalent unshielded result. Figure 23 compares the calculated and measured E-fields for a configuration II impedance match. The AURORA and the transmission line pulser were fired at approximately the same time. For this measurement, the tapered transmission line transition sections both near the pulser and next to the termination were shielded with 2-in. (5.08-cm) lead shield walls.
Figure 21. Calculated and measured electric fields, transmission line, configuration I.

Figure 22. Calculated and measured electric fields, transmission line, configuration II.
Figure 23. Calculated and measured electric fields, transmission line, configuration II (AURORA and pulser fired at approximately same time).

7.3 Measured and Calculated Input Currents

The lumped parameter code also can be used to calculate the current into the transmission line at the points indicated in figures 10 and 11.

Figure 24 compares the calculated and measured input currents to the transmission line for input impedance matching configuration II. Figure 25 compares the input current and the calculated current for input configuration III. Figure 24 corresponds to the unshielded shot, and figure 25 corresponds to the shot in which both tapered ends of the transmission line are shielded with lead. The model predicts the input current to within 50 percent.

7.4 Measured and Calculated Termination Currents

Figure 26 compares the calculated and measured termination currents for transmission line pulser impedance matching configuration I with the transmission line pulser capacitor charged to 6 kV. Figure 27 compares the calculated and measured termination currents for impedance matching termination configuration I, but with the transmission line pulser capacitor charged to 0 V.
Figure 24. Calculated and measured input currents, transmission line, configuration II.

Figure 25. Calculated and measured input currents, transmission line, configuration III.
Figure 26. Calculated and measured termination currents, transmission line, configuration I (capacitor 6 kV).

Figure 27. Calculated and measured termination currents, transmission line, configuration I (capacitor 0 V).
Figure 28 shows the calculated and measured termination currents for pulser impedance matching configuration II with the transmission line pulser capacitor charged to 4 kV. Figure 29 shows the calculated and measured termination currents for impedance matching configuration II with the capacitor charged to 0 V.

Figure 30 compares the calculated and measured termination currents for pulser impedance matching configuration III. Figure 30 corresponds to an experimental setup with the tapered section of the transmission line near the pulser shielded with a 5.08-cm lead wall. The reason that we were able to obtain these results is that the pulser was charged to 3 MV. This high voltage saturated the E-field sensor, but allowed us to synchronize the transmission line pulse with the AURORA pulse. The pattern emerging from figures 26 to 30 is that our lumped parameter model of the transmission line is a qualitative and even semiquantitative prediction of the actual measured termination current.

Figure 28. Calculated and measured termination currents, transmission line, configuration II (capacitor 4 kV).
Figure 29. Calculated and measured termination currents, transmission line, configuration II (capacitor 0 V).

Figure 30. Calculated and measured termination currents, transmission line, configuration III.
7.5 Magnetic Field Measurement

The Moebius loop H-field sensor was oriented so that it would measure the H-field produced by the current flowing along the transmission line. Unfortunately, only one Moebius loop was positioned in the transmission line, and it was at one half the distance between the transmission line pulser and the transmission line termination. Although it probably would have been more informative if we had had many H-field sensors distributed along the transmission line, the number of data channels and oscilloscopes limited their placement.

According to our lumped parameter model, the shape of the voltage pulse does not vary appreciably from node to node; however, the shape of the current pulse does vary appreciably from the transmission line pulser to the termination. The explanation may be found in terms of the general transmission line equation:

\[
\frac{\partial v}{\partial x} = - \left( R + L \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \right) i ,
\]

\[
\frac{\partial i}{\partial x} = - \left( G + C \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \right) v ,
\]

where R, L, C, and G are shown in figure 31. Usually, R and G are very small, and the transmission line equation for a coaxial line then reduces to the familiar form

\[
\frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial x^2} = LC \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial t^2} ,
\]

\[
\frac{\partial^2 i}{\partial x^2} = LC \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial t^2} .
\]

In our experiment, G is a current sink that drains off current as we progress along the line. We have not only a current sink, but also a current source in parallel with the sink (sect. 5).
Another more succinct drawing of a section of a lumped parameter transmission line is shown in figure 32. In this line,

\[ Z = R + L \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \text{ (ohm/m) } \]

and

\[ Y = G + C \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \text{ (mho/m) } \]

Figure 32 depicts an approximate model. There are ways of obtaining an exact model for a section of line at a single frequency, but we are working in the time domain.
A model with the above approximate sections is a reasonably good representation of a transmission line, provided that the voltage drop between points 1 and 2 is small compared with the voltage across the line at either end of the section and that the loss in current through the shunt admittance is small compared with the total current flowing in the line. That is,

\[ V_2 - V_1 << V_1 \]

and

\[ I_2 - I_1 << I_1 \]

The first voltage inequality was met in our calculations and measurements. However, the current inequality was met only marginally. Our H-field measurements were intrinsically related to the current in the line. From a theoretical point of view, we most probably can improve our model by increasing the number of sections in the lumped parameter model. Ultimately, as the number of sections is increased, both inequalities will be met. This matter can be investigated by computer experiments in which the number of sections is increased.

Consider the transmission line in the case of a pulser impedance match of type I with the pulser capacitor charged to 6 kV. Figures 33 and 34 show the voltage and the current at node 2, and figures 35 and 36 show the voltage and the current at termination node 12. The voltage pulses at nodes 2 and 12 are quite similar, but the current pulses are quite different. Figure 37 plots the current maximum or minimum during the AURORA pulse as a function of node number or position along the line. Figure 37 emphasizes the variation of current pulse shape as a function of position along the line.

Figure 38 compares the variation of the current inferred from the Moebius loop and the calculated current flowing into node 7. In general, we can say that figure 38 shows fairly good agreement between calculation and measurement. However, a more definitive comparison with H-fields along the transmission line and our lumped parameter theory would require a number of Moebius loops spaced along the transmission line rather than just one loop halfway between the pulser and the termination.

Figures 39 and 40 are calculated currents for nodes 6 and 7 for the capacitor charged to 0 V and the pulser matching circuit of configuration II. The current changes sign near the center of the line for this configuration and capacitor voltage; thus, it is a poor position for our single Moebius loop.
Figure 33. Voltage at node 2.

Figure 34. Current at node 2.
Figure 35. Voltage at termination node 12.

Figure 36. Current at termination node 12.
Figure 37. Current during AURORA pulse.

Figure 38. Calculated and measured current into node 7.
Figure 39. Calculated current into node 6.

Figure 40. Calculated current into node 7.
8. CONCLUSIONS

This report describes a series of experiments in which a parallel plate transmission line was used to augment the electromagnetic field in the AURORA test cell during an AURORA shot. A simple lumped parameter model of the transmission line was modified with time varying resistors and with parallel current sources. This model is a good tool to use to understand the many aspects of the behavior of the line when subjected to the time varying ionizing radiation produced by the AURORA firing. A more sophisticated calculation is being developed for the time varying resistances across the transmission line during an AURORA shot. When results obtained from that experiment are compared with the finally analyzed measurements, the agreement may very well become closer. We are confident that our transmission line theory gives a qualitative, even semiquantitative description of the superposition of a vertical E-field upon the conducting ionized air by the transmission line. The next task is to use this simple transmission line model to determine whether or not to modify the AURORA test cell environment so that it more closely resembles that associated with the actual tactical source region.
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