

## Radio Optical Network Simulation Tool (RONST)

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**Abstract:** This paper presents a radio optical network simulation tool (RONST) for modeling optical-wireless systems. For a typical optical and electrical chain environment, performance should be optimized concurrently before system implementation. As a result, simulating such systems turns out to be a multidisciplinary problem. The governing equations are incompatible with co-simulation in the traditional environments of existing software (SW) packages. The ultra-wideband (UWB) technology is an ideal candidate for providing high-speed short-range access for wireless services. The limited wireless reach of this technology is a significant limitation. A feasible solution to the problem of extending UWB signals is to transmit these signals to end-users via optical fibers. This concept implies the need for the establishment of a dependable environment for studying such systems. Therefore, the essential novelty of the proposed SW is that it provides designers, engineers, and researchers with a dependable simulation framework that can accurately and efficiently predict and/or optimize the behavior of such systems in a single optical-electronic simulation package. Furthermore, it is supported by a strong mathematical foundation with integrated algorithms to achieve broad flexibility and low computational cost. To validate the proposed tool, RONST was deployed on an ultra-wideband over fiber (UWBoF) system. The bit error rate (BER) has been calculated over a UWBoF system, and there is good agreement between the experimental and simulated results.

**Keywords:** Optical-wireless systems; mathematical modelling techniques; opto-electronic software tools; ultra-wide band over fiber systems (UWBoF)



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## 1 Introduction

Among the computer-aided design (CAD) tools, software developers, and end-users, it is postulated that no simulation tool can bring a wide range of physically diverse systems onto a single fully comprehensive simulation platform. The optical-wireless system is a real example of such a principle consisting of different carriers' phenomena. Simulink, developed by MathWorks, and COMSOL approach this principle; however, both simulation platforms failed to provide a completely satisfactory solution. The same is true for optical CAD tools, which face a similar issue due to the diversity of optical sciences themselves. They are extremely diverse according to the most straightforward classification of engineering optics that lies under one of the four categories: geometrical optics, wave optics, electromagnetic optics, and quantum optics [1]. For example, CAD tools developed by LINOS Products are devoted to simulating geometrical optical systems, in which the primary concern of photo design is the development of bulk-optics systems.

On the other hand, various SW packages have been developed to simulate radio frequency (RF) and optical systems individually. However, only a few of these design tools are simultaneously concerned with the simulation of both RF and optical systems. It is readily apparent that the developers of RF CAD design tools such as the High-Frequency Structure Simulator (HFSS) and the Applied Computational Sciences tool (ACS) are unconcerned with integrating optical components, devices, and/or systems into their RF libraries. Later, we will explore some critical differentiation in the underlying principles of several of these hybrid design CAD tools. Such a research problem is addressed in the proposed radio optical network simulation tool by introducing a fully SW package for modeling optical-wireless systems over a single and effective platform without any integration process with the other tools. The physical and mathematical background has been processed using a multi-step procedure.

At first, we have started with a semi-analytical approach to identify the key design parameters and establish the mathematical framework from which the theoretical guidelines are naturally derived. A comprehensive simulation study based on existing SW packages was carried out to verify the mathematical modeling techniques. As a result, for the first time, we were able to develop a reliable CAD tool with an adaptive mathematical solver based on different numerical modeling techniques that could be used to serve a wide range of different systems in a more applicable and efficient manner. Finally, a series of verification experiments, depending on the available equipment, have been performed to validate and check the precision of the proposed simulation tool. These experiments have been implemented to be close to realistic scenarios usually encountered in access and in-building networks. Additionally, the developed SW package will be used in conjunction with the proposed module, UWBoF, to evaluate its standalone efficiency from the perspective of an end-user. The RONST layout is developed after accumulating all of the information necessary about the components and including it in the constituting libraries. The modeling and simulation of the components' libraries are conducted via MATLAB, Python, and C++ programming languages.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. A brief description of an UWBoF module is presented in Section II. The characteristics of the presented CAD tool are explained in Section III. The simulation and experimental results are highlighted in Section IV to validate the workability of the presented CAD tool. Finally, a conclusion has been drawn.

## 2 Ultra-Wide Band Over Fiber System

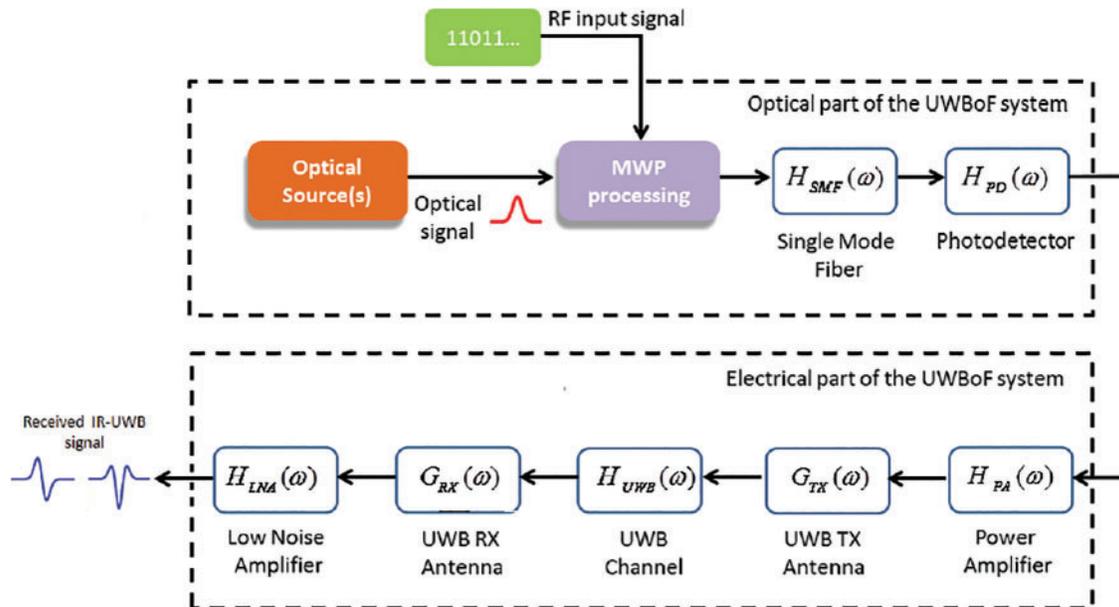
### 2.1 System Description

UWB is a fast-growing successful technology and a suitable candidate for many communications applications due to the numerous advantages offered by this technology, which perfectly suits the needs of high data rate-short-range wireless communication networks [2,3]. UWB signals show high robustness in dense multipath fading environments [4,5]. Moreover, low power consumption and very low levels of spectral emission are some of the advantages of this technology [6]. However, these properties may cause mutual interference problems due to coexistence with other conventional narrowband radio systems. Therefore, the US Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has licensed the use of the spectrum for UWB communications, with a maximum effective isotropic radiated power (EIRP) spectral density (PSD) of  $-41.3$  dBm/MHz to avoid coexistence problems with currently existing narrowband systems [7].

This upper spectral bound can be reached throughout a wide band of 7.5 GHz of the spectrum ranging from 3.1 to 10.6 GHz. According to the FCC report, a UWB signal should occupy at least 500 MHz of the spectrum or equivalently has a minimal fractional bandwidth of 20% [7]. In the design of UWB systems, efficient integration is targeted with the other wireless technologies [8,9]. Moreover, considerable utilization of the acceptable power level and the available bandwidth is one of the key challenges to generate UWB pulses with high spectral and power efficiencies while respecting the FCC spectral constraints.

The band-limited signals that exactly follow the FCC mask within the mentioned useful UWB band possess an EIRP that does not exceed 0.56 mW or equivalently  $-2.5$  dBm. Such extremely low radiation transmission power is further decreased due to the path loss inherent in wireless channels even if multipath propagation is prohibited and free space propagation is hypothesized. This extremely low received power effectively limits the reach of a UWB signal to about 4~10 m preventing geographically remote users from accessing such systems. A feasible solution to this problem is to transmit UWB signals to those users via optical fibers leading to the concept of the UWBoF system [10–14]. Fig. 1 depicts a general block diagram describing the photonic generation, transmission, and detection processes by the optical generation techniques utilized in UWBoF systems. A set of communication processing techniques such as pulse shaping and modulation are applied on a basis function, usually having a Gaussian profile, that drives the system in the optical domain by employing microwave photonic (MWP) techniques [15–19]. Then, the signal can be transmitted over a standard single-mode fiber (SMF) to a remote area and finally detected in the electrical domain through a photodetector (PD).

The detected waveform is then transmitted to the target location, which may be several kilometers away from the original access point, via a UWB transmitting antenna (Tx), where it is picked up by the remote user's UWB receiving antenna (Rx). In the presented module, the UWB signal is derived from an impulse radio (IR) signal, a sequence of modulated impulses like waveforms with a short duration, typically less than 2 ns, that is transmitted over a radio channel. Another important consideration that has a significant impact on the overall performance of a UWBoF system is the careful design of the IR-UWB waveforms used to encode UWB information signals [20–22].



**Figure 1:** Typical block diagram of an UWBoF system with optical and electrical chains

## 2.2 System Background Analysis

In order to identify the design parameters, a mathematical analysis for an UWBoF system has been performed by our research group which is documented in a series of publications [22–26]. It is started with the development of closed-form expressions for the IR-UWB waveforms to maximize the received electrical signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) and ended with the appropriate analysis and design of radiative-efficient UWB antennas. Such analysis has been considered in the source codes of RONST. The source code of each component, in Fig. 1, has been encapsulated in its own transfer function. The multiplication of the cascaded transfer functions of the system components leads to the overall input-output relationship.

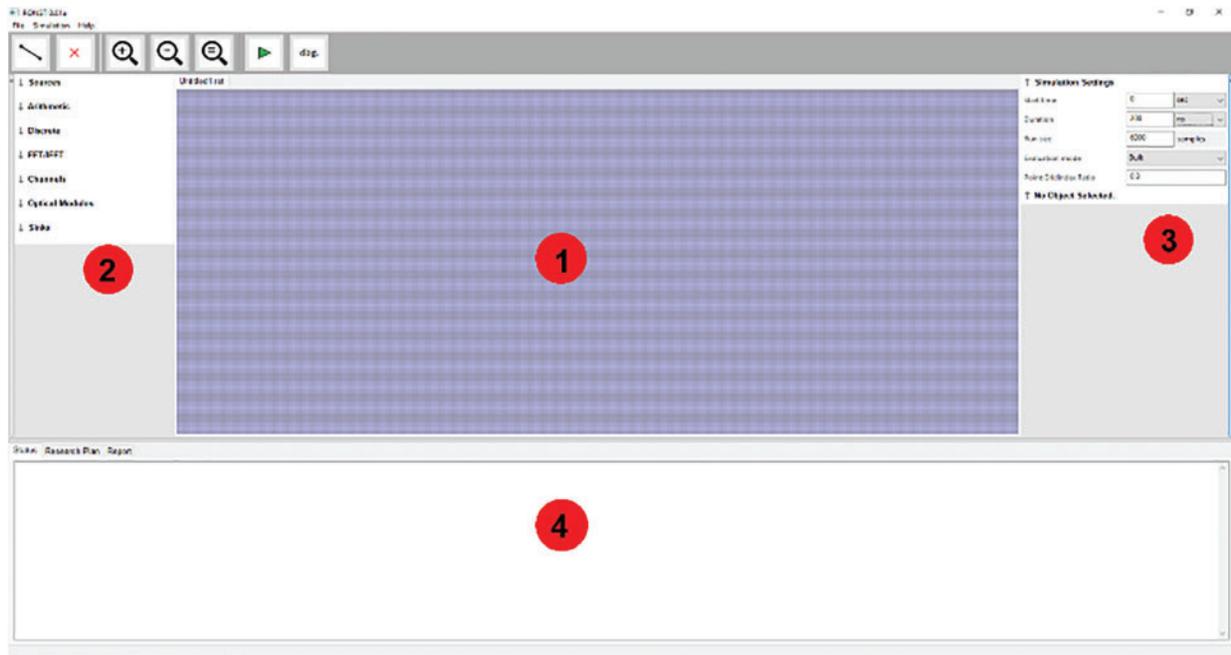
## 3 Radio Optical Network Simulation Tool

### 3.1 Software Architecture

The suggested CAD tool is a block diagram SW package with a multi-layered architecture for research or industrial development, such as testing, design, analysis, and simulation. It also works as an optimization platform for long-haul links or the last-mile connection before installing at the end-user. It consists of three layers, as shown in Fig. 2. The first layer is where all the programming tasks take place. Due to the powerful capabilities offered by MATLAB and Python as a programming environment and computing tools, the core programming of RONST relies on a MATLAB-based Python source code, which is responsible for the modeling and the characterization phase. However, in our case, a collaborative simulation using C++ is employed to assess the interfacing for the hardwired modules with the source codes. This high-level programming language is masked by a further attractive and easy-to-use graphical user interface (GUI), as shown in Fig. 3.



**Figure 2:** Multi-layer software architectural design of the proposed CAD tool. Lower layer: high level programming languages. Higher layer: presentation layer viewed to the user via a graphical user interface



**Figure 3:** RONSST GUI; 1) Workspace: includes the system design, 2) Components: optical, electrical and wireless, 3) Configuration settings: for each used component in the system, and 4) Messages and logs: include errors, warnings, reports and the run status

In order to develop a standalone SW package, which usually works under a Windows environment, the operating system interface and the installation shield shall be developed by establishing the necessary dynamic link library (.dll) files and Java scripts. The main role of this layer is to present easy-to-access facilities for the user while masking most of the potential of the programming environment. The GUI workbench layer is where all the tools and component libraries exist, and the user can establish the project workspace. Typically, this layer consists of the toolbars, menus, and component libraries. Further, taskbars can be created according to the individual design of this space. The component libraries are proposed to develop a wealth of components classified under the following categories: 1) Optical components, 2) RF components, 3) Microwave Photonics components, 4) Wireless Transmission, 5) Communications Functions, 6) Digital Signal Processing components, 7) General Purpose components, 8) General Purpose Mathematics, 9) Data Analysis and Visualization, and 10) Optimization Tools.

### 3.2 Numerical Modeling Approach

In general, the analytical solution of the full-vectorial wave equation for a nonlinear optical system with multiple discontinuities does not exist. The wave equation is a second-order partial differential equation (PDE) with four dimensions, three spatial and one temporal. It is represented as follows:

$$\nabla^2 \mathbf{E} - (\mu_0 \varepsilon_0) \frac{\partial^2 \mathbf{E}}{\partial t^2} = \mu_0 \frac{\partial^2 \mathbf{P}}{\partial t^2} \quad (1)$$

where  $\mathbf{E}$  is the electric field,  $\mu_0$  is the permeability of free space,  $\varepsilon$  is the medium permittivity and  $\mathbf{P}$  is the induced electric polarization [27]. Furthermore, the numerical solutions are extremely difficult to be implemented due to the dimensionality problem. Therefore, the integration between numerical modeling techniques is a demanding need to achieve a reliable and flexible environment and to increase the applicability of the proposed SW package. Furthermore, in order to solve a more accurate scalar form of the wave equation, assumptions and approximations based on propagation conditions and experimental results are required.

The finite-difference time-domain (FDTD) is a numerical technique that has proved its efficiency in solving PDEs and characterizing many problems [28–31]. However, in the case of increasing the dimensions or the complexity of the problem domain, the solution will need more computational resources in terms of time and memory. Further, the FDTD is not accurate enough, especially with the existence of the stair-casing problem [32,33]. The finite element method (FEM) is a very accurate numerical technique. It consists of various mesh elements interpolated with different order of shape functions to cover the solution domain in the most efficient and less computational method [34,35]. It is widely used even in other scientific fields due to its reliability and flexibility as a modeling method [36,37]. The FEM is involved in RONST for the modal solution of the wave equation and to get the spatial distribution of the optical fields.

For the standard telecommunication silica fibers where the nonlinear effects are relatively weak, the wave equation has been derived in the frequency domain after ignoring the nonlinear polarization as follows,

$$\nabla^2 \tilde{\mathbf{E}} + n^2 \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \tilde{\mathbf{E}} = 0 \quad (2)$$

where  $\tilde{\mathbf{E}}$  is the Fourier transform of electric field,  $n$  is the material refractive index and  $c$  is the speed of light in vacuum [27]. Because of the cylindrical symmetry of optical fibers, it is useful to express the Laplacian operator in (2) in cylindrical coordinates as follows,

$$\frac{\partial^2 \tilde{\mathbf{E}}}{\partial \rho^2} + \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial \tilde{\mathbf{E}}}{\partial \rho} + \frac{1}{\rho^2} \frac{\partial^2 \tilde{\mathbf{E}}}{\partial \varphi^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \tilde{\mathbf{E}}}{\partial z^2} + k_0^2 n^2 \tilde{\mathbf{E}} = 0 \quad (3)$$

where  $k_0 = \omega/c$  is the free space wave number. The separation of variables method is applied over (3) to get the radial component  $\tilde{E}_\rho$  that represents the solution of the next equation,

$$\frac{\partial^2 \tilde{E}_\rho}{\partial \rho^2} + \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial \tilde{E}_\rho}{\partial \rho} + \left( k_0^2 n^2 - \beta^2 - \frac{m^2}{\rho^2} \right) \tilde{E}_\rho = 0 \quad (4)$$

where  $\beta$  is the propagation constant and  $m$  is the azimuthal number ( $= 0, 1, 2, \dots$ ). A scalar FEM analysis is applied by considering the Galerkin's approach and discretizing the cross section by the proper order of mesh elements. The resulted system of equations is represented as:

$$[K]\{\tilde{E}_\rho\} = \beta^2 [M]\{\tilde{E}_\rho\} \quad (5)$$

in which the matrices for each mesh element are assembled in  $K$ , the characteristic matrix, and  $M$ , the global mass matrix. The FEM solution has been developed based on the weighted-residual technique assumption [34], therefore, the matrices  $[K]$  and  $[M]$  are represented as follows:

$$[K] = \sum_e \int_{\Omega_e} \left( k_0^2 n^2 \{N\} \{N\}^T - \frac{\partial \{N\}}{\partial \rho} \frac{\partial \{N\}^T}{\partial \rho} + \frac{1}{\rho} \{N\} \frac{\partial \{N\}^T}{\partial \rho} \right) d\rho \tag{6}$$

$$[M] = \sum_e \int_{\Omega_e} \{N\} \{N\}^T d\rho \tag{7}$$

where  $\{N\}$  is the vector of the FEM weight functions and the vector transpose  $\{N\}^T$  represents the FEM shape functions.

For the propagation analysis, a non-iterative bidirectional beam propagation method (NI-BiBPM) is adopted. The NI-BiBPM is a numerical technique that proves an excellent efficiency in solving systems with multiple discontinuities. The non-iterative algorithm has achieved accurate results in only one sweep analysis reducing the dimensionality of the problem and the time of calculations [38–40]. The NI-BiBPM represents such problems by transition and propagation operators. The transition operators link between the transmitted and reflected field components around each discontinuity  $i$  in the system. The propagation operators map between the peers of these components over the different discontinuities along the propagation direction, taking into account the effect of the medium in-between [38]. The formulas are summarized and represented in (8), (9), and (10).

$$\tilde{E}_{ref}^i = \frac{\sqrt{[\tilde{K}]_1} - \sqrt{[\tilde{K}]_2}}{\sqrt{[\tilde{K}]_1} + \sqrt{[\tilde{K}]_2}} \tilde{E}_{inc}^i \tag{8}$$

$$\tilde{E}_{trans}^i = \frac{2\sqrt{[\tilde{K}]_1}}{\sqrt{[\tilde{K}]_1} + \sqrt{[\tilde{K}]_2}} \tilde{E}_{inc}^i \tag{9}$$

$$P_g^i = e^{\mp j(z_i - z_{i-1})} \sqrt{[\tilde{K}]_i} \tag{10}$$

where  $\tilde{E}_{ref}^i$ ,  $\tilde{E}_{trans}^i$  are the reflected and transmitted fields at a discontinuity  $i$ , and  $P_g$  represents the propagator formula in which  $z_i$  and  $z_{i-1}$  are two cascaded discontinuities in the propagation direction.  $\sqrt{[\tilde{K}]}$  is the square root operator for the modified characteristic matrix.

In order to avoid the lengthy and complicated process of the modal analysis while running RONS source codes, some techniques have been considered. At first, the lumping rule was adopted to convert the global mass matrix,  $M$ , into a diagonal matrix [41]. Then, the inverse of the resulted matrix is multiplied into  $K$ . The lumped mass matrix and the modified characteristic matrix are represented in (11) and (12), respectively.

$$[\tilde{M}_{ir,ir}] = \sum_{jc} [M_{ir,jc}] \tag{11}$$

$$[\tilde{K}] = [\tilde{M}^{-1}][K] \tag{12}$$

Secondly, the square root operator in the transition and propagation formulas has been calculated using blocked Schur (BS) algorithm [42]. BS has proved a reliable stability vs. the iterative techniques such as Taylor series expansion and Padé approximation [38]. The characteristic matrix is decomposed into an upper triangular matrix representing all the eigenmodes in its diagonal entries as shown in (13),

$$[Q^*][\tilde{K}][Q] = [U] \quad (13)$$

where  $Q$  is a unitary matrix and  $U$  is an upper triangular matrix. As a result, the  $\sqrt{[\tilde{K}]}$  depends on  $\sqrt{[U]}$  and the required square root is represented by another triangular matrix  $L$  where:

$$[U] = [L]^2 \quad (14)$$

The elements of  $[L]^2$  are equated with  $[U]$  leading to the following system of equations:

$$U_{ii} = L_{ii}^2 \quad (15)$$

$$U_{ij} = L_{ii}L_{ij} + L_{ij}L_{jj} + \sum_{p=i+1}^{j-1} L_{ip}L_{pj} \quad (16)$$

The formulas in (15) and (16) can be solved either a column or a super-diagonal at a time. A standard blocking scheme is applied over  $[L]$  and  $[U]$  that allows more efficient use of cache memory and a fast calculation process [42]. The algorithm has an ability to calculate the square root of non-symmetrical matrices directly and to suppress the small negative and semi-simple zero eigenvalues. Therefore, all the unwanted modes such as evanescent, radiated and even the non-physical modes are treated properly. Moreover, the condition of positive definite matrices is achieved by applying the branch-cut technique in which the negative eigenvalues, representing the evanescent modes, are rotated by an angle  $\alpha$  extends from  $[0^\circ, 180^\circ]$  as represented in (17) [43].

$$\sqrt{[\tilde{K}]} = e^{j\alpha/2} \sqrt{e^{-j\alpha}[\tilde{K}]} \quad (17)$$

The proposed analysis guarantees more stability especially in cases with very high index contrast discontinuities such as in plasmonics structures [43].

Most of assumptions and approximations usually depend on the situation at hands. For example, in the nonlinear photonic crystal fibers, the linear propagation assumption resulting from the weak variations in the envelope approximation may be violated. Therefore, in order to build a generalized and powerful SW package, such phenomena have been considered in RONST. The inclusion of nonlinear effects provides a study of phenomena such as the four-wave mixing and self-phase modulation which exist in practice and are ignored by most current SW packages. Starting with the wave equation in (1), the nonlinear polarization  $\mathbf{P}_{NL}$  is included. Then, we have followed the derivation of the nonlinear Schrödinger equation (NLSE), a PDE that describes the propagation in dispersive and nonlinear mediums [27]. It has been solved numerically before by using the split-step Fourier method (SSFM) [27,44] and this solution is developed and considered in RONST too [45–50]. The SSFM is a numerical technique that behaves much faster when compared to the conventional finite-difference methods [44].

### 3.3 Capabilities and Limitations

The purpose of this section is devoted to exploring and comparing the newly developed features of RONST with the capabilities and limitations of the three top similar and familiar SW packages that

have gained a wide trust among the research community. These SW packages are **VPI Transmission Maker**, developed by VPI Photonics, **INTERCONNECT**, developed by Lumerical, and **Opti-System**, developed by Optiwave. In [Tab. 1](#), the properties of these tools are summarized and compared with the proposed RONST SW package.

**Table 1:** Comparison between RONST and commercial software packages

	Opti-System 	INTER-CONNECT 	VPI Transmission maker 	RONST 
Core programming language	Visual basic	Special language developed by Lumerical, similar to MATLAB	C++	MATLAB and python
Simulation time reduction techniques	None	None	None	Yes
Numerical simulation technique	FDTD	FDTD	FDTD	Adaptive (FEM, BiBPM SSFM, . . . etc.) as necessary
Optimization tools	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Integrating wireless transmission impairments	No	No	Yes However, very elementary and not necessarily realistic	Yes More channel models shall be included such as the COST,SUI, UWB . . . etc.

Moreover, the above simulators do not usually take into account the transmission of realistic signals. Even those which deal with transmission standards like WiFi, WiMax, LTE and LTE-A, do not assume a realistic signal.

### 3.4 Software Reliability

It is important in the development process of any simulation and modeling SW to ensure the reliability of the developed package. Several metrics can be used as a reliable measurement depending on the inspector's performance evaluation viewpoint. In what follows are some of these reliability metrics that are considered in the proposed CAD tool,

1. The accuracy of the results obtained in comparison with those obtained from experimental set-ups representing real world applications

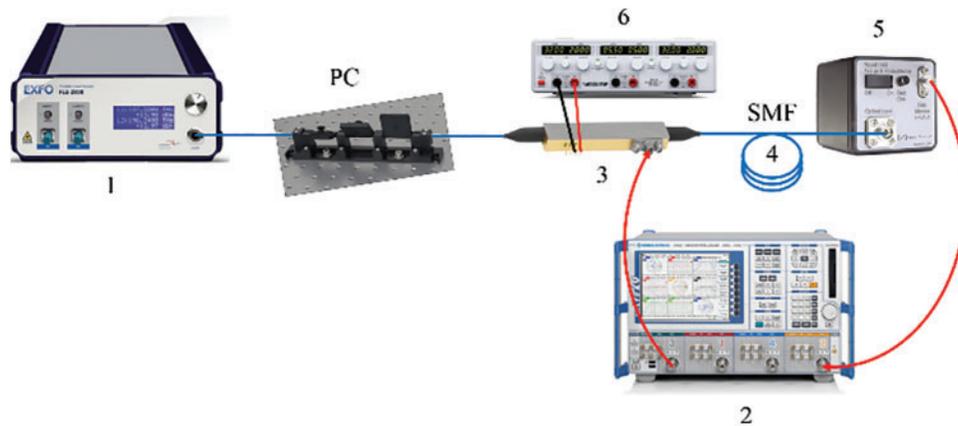
2. The simulation speed of a typical system model of moderate complexity compared to other similar SW simulation tools
3. The diversity of the library components, analysis and visualization tools
4. The integrity with other software packages for the purpose of co-simulation
5. Inter-operability of the developed SW under different operating system environments

#### 4 Simulation Results and Discussion

The experiments have been designed and performed with the aid of the necessary hardware tools and apparatus. These experiments simulated real-life scenarios and were compared with simulation results obtained from RONST to verify the results and adjust any fitting parameters.

##### 4.1 Transfer Function

In this experiment, we have measured the s-parameters as a representation for the transfer function of the whole system implemented in Fig. 4. The instruments' details of this setup are provided in Tab. 2. As shown in Fig. 5, a simulation setup was built by RONST based on the specifications of the listed components. The experimental setup aims to assess the capability of the RONST simulator to give results close to the experimental outputs.

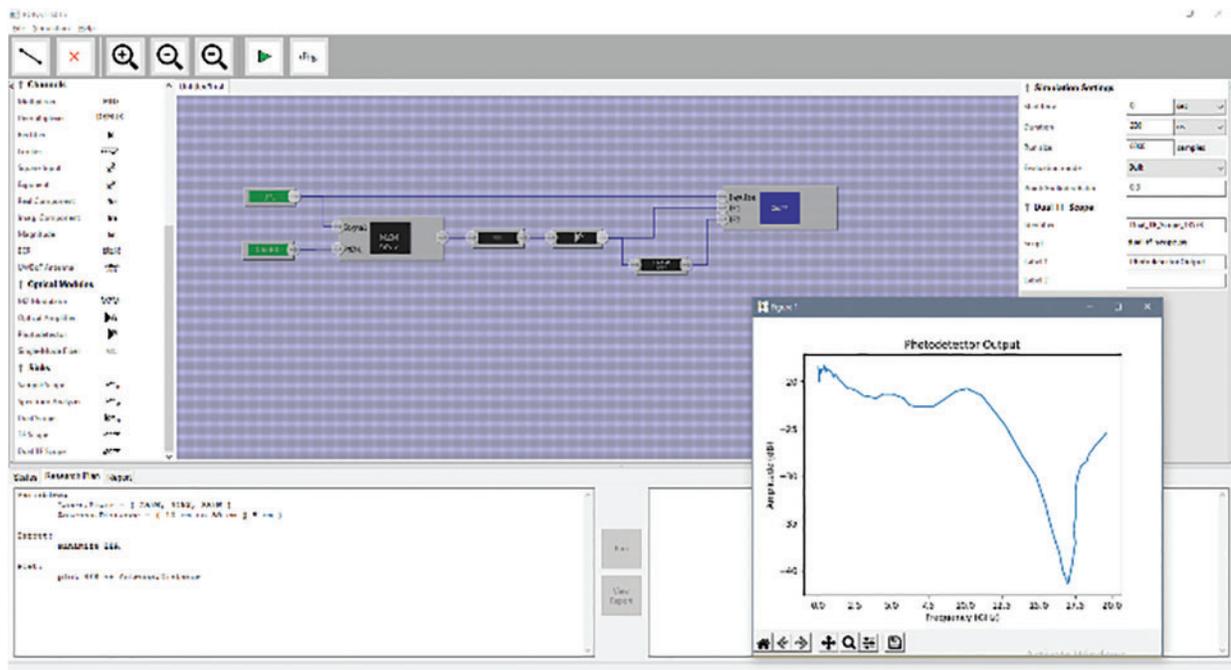


**Figure 4:** Schematic diagram used for measuring the transfer function of the optoelectronic link. PC: polarization controller. It is used to align the laser light polarization with the electro-optical modulator. SMF: single mode fiber

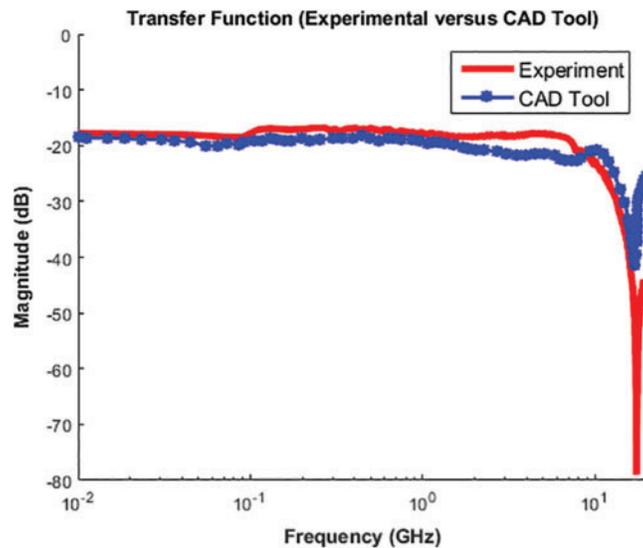
The previous setup was performed using the following scenario. The optical wavelength, 1550 nm, was applied to a single mode optical fiber of with 10 km long. The frequency of the RF signal has been changed from 10 MHz to 20 GHz. High speed photodetector was used to extract the RF signal. The transfer function of the opto-electronic link was measured by using a vector network analyzer (VNA) [51]. Fig. 6 shows quite matched results for the transfer function between the experimental output and RONST simulations that predict the same system behavior. Carrier suppression effect causes a dip in the transfer function of the optoelectronic link at around 17.4 GHz.

**Table 2:** Components and instruments of experiment set-up in Fig. 4

Component label	Component name	Component Serial-Number
1	Laser source	FLS-2800
2	20 GHz Vector network analyzer	ZVB 20
3	10 GHz Lithium-Niobate intensity modulator	LN81S-FC
4	single-mode optical fiber	SMF28E
5	InGaAs Photo-detector	New focus 1444
6	Triple power supply	HM7042-5



**Figure 5:** An UWBoF module implemented by RONST, inset: the transfer function variation of the photodetector output over the frequency of the input RF signal



**Figure 6:** The magnitude of the link transfer function at the output of photodetector vs. the frequency of RF signal

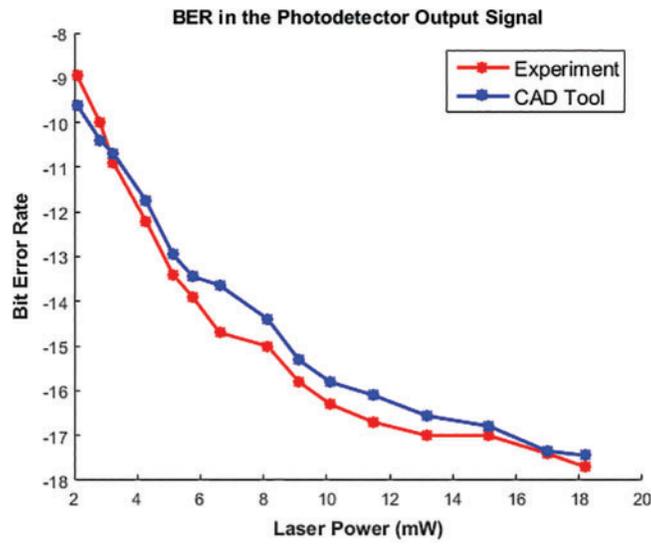
#### 4.2 Bit Error Rate vs. Input Power

The variation in the input power of a laser source at 1550 nm, has been controlled by adding attenuators with different values at the input of an optical fiber, 1 km long. The frequency of an RF signal was settled at 10 Gbps. The bit error rate (BER) was measured for the output signal using a SONET/SDH CMA5000a device (XTA module). A RONST simulation has been performed using the same parameters to calculate the BER that was validated with the experimental results as shown in Fig. 7. The expected inverse proportionality between the BER and laser power has been noted in the system output results, experimental and simulation. In addition, there is a good agreement between the two sets of results, which indicates the reliability of the presented tool for modeling such systems.

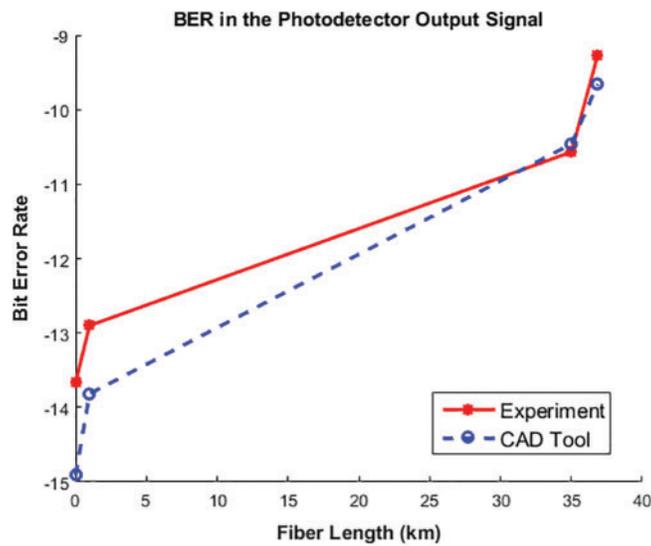
#### 4.3 Bit Error Rate vs. Fiber Length

The effect of the optical fiber length over the BER measurements has been studied. The single-mode fiber length was changed for four distances, 3 m, 1 km, 35 km and 36.850 km and the BER has been calculated for each fiber length. The increase in fiber length leads to a degradation in the received power at the photodetector end, thus an increase in the BER will be recognized. The same fiber length values have been considered in the RONST module and the resulting BER was compared with the experiment output in Fig. 8. The proposed CAD tool continues to demonstrate accurate results along with the efficient computations benefit.

We have designed and implemented an efficient Tx and Rx antennas over three separation distances, 10 cm, 20 cm and 30 cm as we reported in [25]. The representative transfer functions of these antennas were involved in RONST and we choose the first two separations to represent them in Fig. 9. The transfer function has been recalculated again for the whole system after considering the Tx and Rx antennas. The results are represented in Fig. 10 over two separation distances, 10 cm and 20 cm.

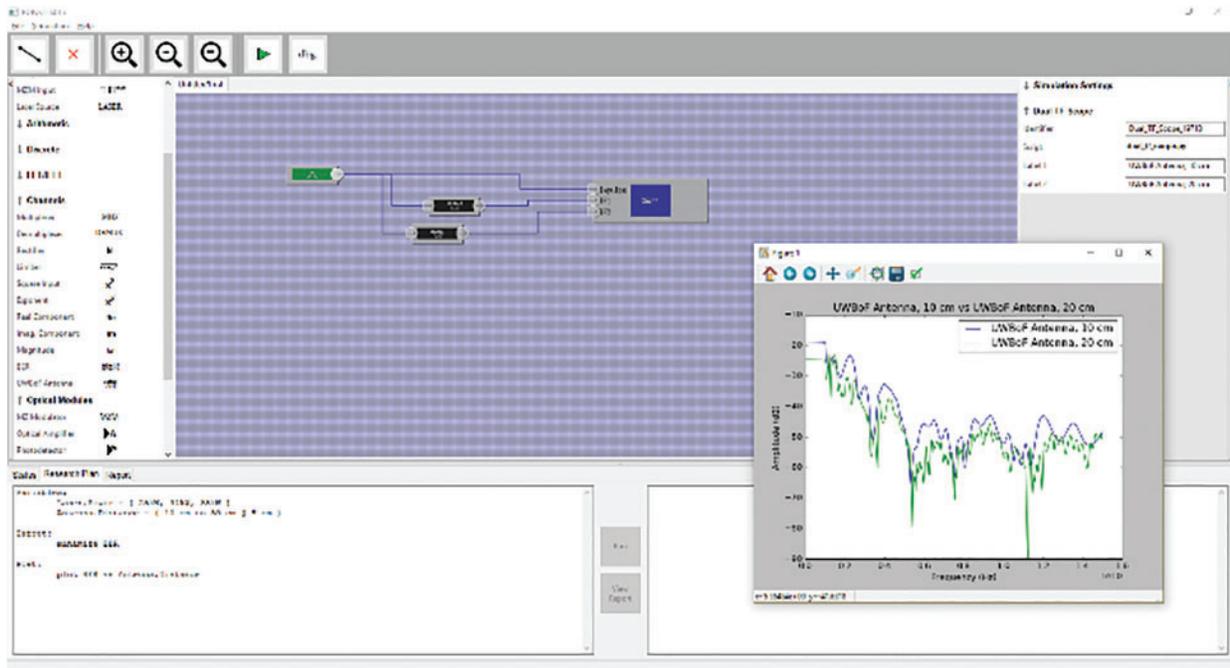


**Figure 7:** The BER at the photodetector output signal vs. the input power of a laser source

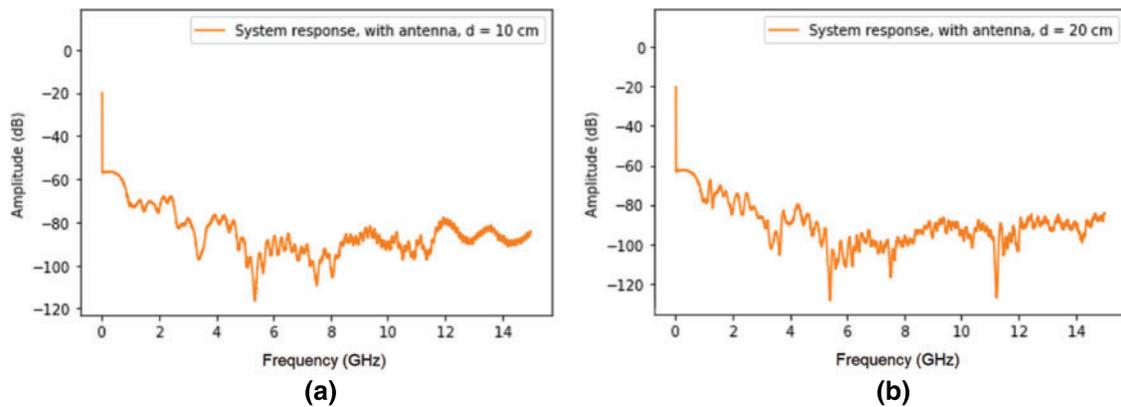


**Figure 8:** The bit error rate in the photodetector output signal vs. the optical fiber length

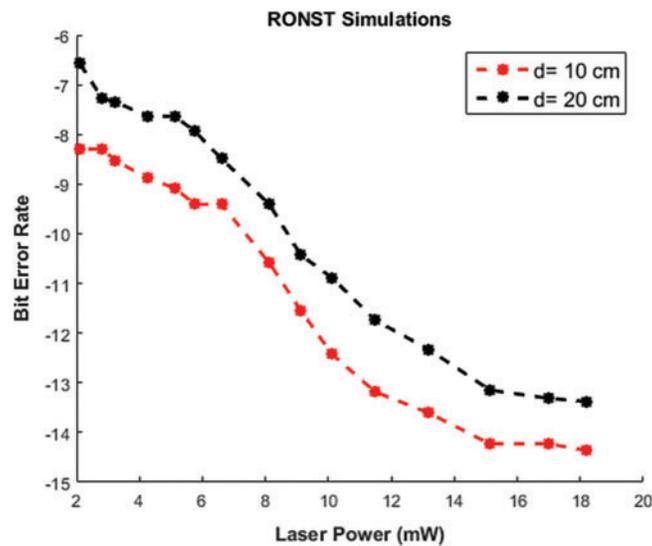
In addition, [Fig. 11](#) shows the updated results for the BER vs. input power of the laser after considering the previous setup of antennas. It can be seen that RONST is able to depict the increase in the bit error rate arising from the increase in the channel length between the Tx and Rx antennas.



**Figure 9:** RONSIM interface shows the response of Tx and Rx antennas at separation distances of 10 cm and 20 cm



**Figure 10:** The simulation results for the system transfer function over the input frequency of RF signal after considering Tx-Rx antennas with a separation distance. (a) 10 cm and (b) 20 cm



**Figure 11:** The bit error rate vs. the input power of a laser source after considering Tx-Rx antennas at distances, 10 cm and 20 cm

## 5 Conclusion

RONST is a proposed CAD tool that strongly influences various aspects of the public research community and the telecommunications sector. On the research community level, RONST will provide a low-cost alternative to the various and incompatible simulators in the fields of optical and RF engineering. Therefore, the unique features offered by RONST will encourage the research community to engage in the newly emerging field of microwave photonics. On the telecommunications service provider's level, RONST offers better services to millions of end-users through the optimal design of their last hop connections using the developed software package and its associated modules. This leads to consumers' satisfaction and thus; increases revenues and reduces users' complaints. This paper introduces a brief description of RONST numerical techniques, besides the background mathematical analysis. Several approaches have been integrated to cover the physical phenomena of such optical-wireless systems. For the first time, the FEM-based NI-BiBPM approach is developed to reduce the dimensionality of the solution and hence, the computational resources. Mathematical techniques, such as BSA and the lumping method have been adopted to speed up the computation process. The RONST simulations have been validated by the experimental results of an UWBoF system achieving a very good agreement and reliable expectations of the behavior of such systems.

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