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A Quasi-Monte Carlo Integration Method Applied to the Computation of the Pollaczek Integral

Xavier Legrand, *Member, IEEE*, Alain Xémard, Gérard Fleury, Philippe Auriol, and Carlo Alberto Nucci, *Fellow, IEEE*

Abstract—This paper presents an effective numeric method to compute Pollaczek integral. This integral is widely used in transmission-line theory when computing the mutual impedance between an overhead conductor and another overhead or underground conductor and the earth-return impedance of an underground cable. At first, we present mutual expressions proposed by Pollaczek and underline the numerical complexities that often lead to the adoption of alternative simplified methods. Then a brief review of the so called “quasi-Monte Carlo” integration method along with its advantages is given. Such an approach is then applied to compute numerically Pollaczek expressions. Comparison between our numerical procedure and an algorithm that has already been published proves both the procedure accuracy, one of its main advantages along with its ease of implementation, and its relatively low time consumption, independent of the input parameters. Finally, as an application example, quasi-Monte Carlo method is used to assess the adequacy, for several study cases, of the simplified formula by Lucca, which is a widely used approximate expression of interest.

Index Terms—Coupled transmission lines, mutual coupling, power cables, power system transients.

I. INTRODUCTION

A CLASSICAL approach to simulate the electrical behavior of underground and overhead lines is the so called “transmission line theory” [1]. The first step when using this method is to calculate all mutual and self impedances among conductors. The particular problem of impedance calculation when underground cables are dealt with was treated by Pollaczek in 1926 [2].

Considering the electric field created by infinite thin buried conductors in which a longitudinal current is flowing, Pollaczek presented a formulation for calculating:

- the mutual impedance between two underground conductors;
- the mutual impedance between an underground conductor and an overhead conductor;
- the self ground return impedance of buried conductors.

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Pollaczek expressions are given in the form of highly oscillatory integrals hard to compute, so approximations are often preferred in practice to evaluate these impedances [3]–[7].

Despite the existence of these formulae, one can be interested in having an efficient algorithm to compute rigorously Pollaczek expressions in order to:

- evaluate errors due to the use of approximations;
- use such an algorithm instead of direct formulae if it is more suitable in terms of accuracy, computational time, and code implementation complexity.

Few works concern the numerical computation of the rigorous Pollaczek formula. Rearranging it, Uribe obtains in [8] and [9] normalized dimensionless expressions and presented an algorithm to solve them numerically. Such a work is based on a truncation of the infinite integrals, a study of irregularities of the function, and a Simpson’s integration method.

In this paper we will follow a different approach. We shall propose a new algorithm to solve numerically the original expressions of the Pollaczek integrals, based on a quasi-Monte Carlo method [10]–[13].

First of all, we will present Pollaczek expressions for their three different cases of application. Then we will give a brief review of the so called “quasi-Monte Carlo” integration method and its advantages before applying it to Pollaczek integrals. A comparative study with results of Uribe’s algorithm [8] will allow us to ensure the validity of our approach. Finally, we will focus on Lucca’s formula, which is an approximate expression of the mutual impedance between overhead and buried conductors, in order to assess its validity limits.

II. POLLACZEK EXPRESSIONS

A. Cases of Interest

Let us consider the three types of impedances that can be computed with Pollaczek’s formula:

- Z_{self} is the ground return impedance of an underground cable (Fig. 1, case 1);
- Z_{M-uu} is the mutual impedance between two underground cables (Fig. 1, case 2);
- Z_{M-ua} is the mutual impedance between an underground cable and an aerial line (Fig. 1, case 3).

B. Assumptions

Pollaczek expressions for Z_{self} , Z_{M-uu} and Z_{M-ua} are based on the following assumptions:

- the displacement current is neglected (quasi-static approximation);

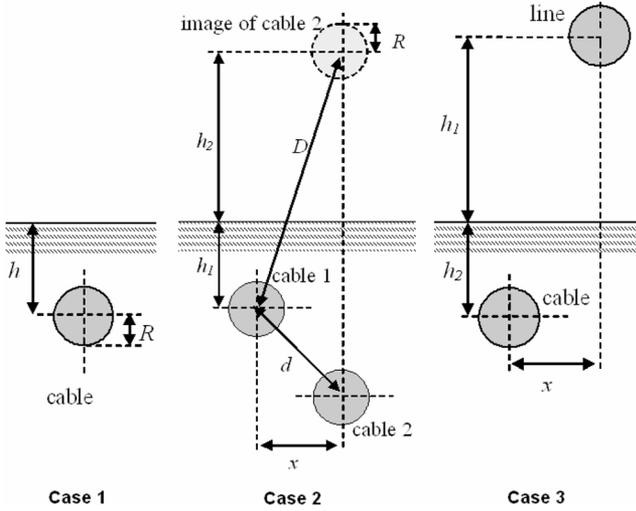


Fig. 1. Cases of interest for the application of the Pollaczek expressions.

- the soil is considered as a semi-infinite homogeneous medium;
- for mutual impedances expressions, conductors are parallel and thin in comparison with their distance;
- all conductors are parallel, infinite and subject to thin wire approximation.

C. Fundamental Expressions

Pollaczek gave in [2] the following expressions:

$$Z_{\text{self}} = \frac{j\omega\mu_0}{2\pi} \cdot [K_0(R/p) - K_0((2h)/p) + J_{\text{self}}] \quad (1)$$

$$Z_{M-uu} = \frac{j\omega\mu_0}{2\pi} \cdot \left[\begin{array}{c} K_0(d/p) - K_0(D/p) \\ + J_{M-uu} \end{array} \right] \quad (2)$$

$$Z_{M-ua} = \frac{j\omega\mu_0}{2\pi} \times [J_{M-ua}] \quad (3)$$

where so called ‘‘Pollaczek integrals’’ J_{self} , J_{M-uu} and J_{M-ua} are given by

$$J_{\text{self}} = -2 \cdot j \cdot \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{\exp(-2h \times \sqrt{\beta^2 + 1/p^2})}{|\beta| + \sqrt{\beta^2 + 1/p^2}} \cdot \exp(j\beta R) \cdot d\beta \quad (4)$$

$$J_{M-uu} = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{\exp(-(h_1 + h_2) \times \sqrt{\beta^2 + 1/p^2})}{|\beta| + \sqrt{\beta^2 + 1/p^2}} \cdot \exp(j\beta x) \cdot d\beta \quad (5)$$

$$J_{M-ua} = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{\exp(-h_1 \times |\beta|) \cdot \exp(-h_2 \times \sqrt{\beta^2 + 1/p^2})}{|\beta| + \sqrt{\beta^2 + 1/p^2}} \cdot \exp(j\beta x) \cdot d\beta. \quad (6)$$

The definition of geometric and electrical variables is given in Table I.

TABLE I
NOMENCLATURE

$j = \sqrt{-1}$	Complex unit variable;
ω	Angular frequency ;
$\mu_0 = 4\pi \cdot 10^{-7}$	Magnetic permeability of vacuum;
$p = 1/\sqrt{j\omega\mu_0\sigma}$	Complex depth of the skin effect layer;
σ	Soil conductivity;
$K_0(\cdot)$	Modified Bessel function of zero order, second class;
d, D, h, x	Geometric variables defined on Fig. 1.

TABLE II
DIMENSIONLESS VARIABLES

Case 1	Case 2	Case 3
$\xi = (2 \cdot h) / p $	$\xi = (h_1 + h_2) / p $	$\xi = h_2 / p $
$\eta = R / (2 \cdot h)$	$\eta = x / (h_1 + h_2)$	$\eta = x / h_2$
$\zeta = 0$	$\zeta = 0$	$\zeta = h_1 / h_2$

D. Dimensionless Expressions

Pollaczek expressions can be rewritten in term of dimensionless variables ξ , η and ζ [9] defined in Table II.

$$J = -2 \times j \times \int_0^{\infty} [\sqrt{u^2 + j} - u] \times \exp(-\xi \times \sqrt{u^2 + j}) \times \exp(-\xi(\zeta u)) \times \cos(\xi \times \eta \times u) du \quad (7)$$

with dimensionless variables.

Equation (7) corresponds to Pollaczek’s integral. As well known, its numerical integration is difficult because of highly oscillatory terms. In the following sections, we will focus on how to apply a quasi-Monte Carlo method to solve this problem.

III. QUASI-MONTE CARLO METHODS TO COMPUTE POLLACZEK INTEGRALS

A. Quasi-Monte Carlo Method

1) *Monte Carlo Integration Method:* General idea of Monte Carlo integration method, presented by Metropolis and Ulman in 1949, is to change an integration problem into an average calculation [10].

The strong law of large numbers states that if $\{X_1, X_2, \dots\}$ is an infinite sequence of random variables that are pairwise independent and identically distributed with common expected value $E(X_i) = \mu$ as $|\mu| < \infty$, then, denoting $P[X]$ the probability of an event X

$$P \left[\left(\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{1}{n} \cdot (X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_n) \right) \right) = \mu \right] = 1 \quad (8)$$

i.e., the sample average converges surely to μ .

Let us consider a sequence of n real-valued random variables $X_i (1 \leq i \leq n)$ uniformly distributed on interval $[0,$

1]. Taking $Y_i = f(X_i) \forall i(1 \leq i \leq n)$, with f a real function defined on interval $[0, 1]$, we obtain another sequence of n random real-valued independent variables $\{Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_n\}$ on which we apply the strong law of large numbers

$$P \left[\left(\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{1}{n} \cdot (Y_1 + Y_2 + \dots + Y_n) \right) \right) = E(Y_1) \right] = 1 \tag{9}$$

$$P \left[\left(\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{1}{n} \cdot \left(\sum_{i=1}^n f(X_i) \right) \right) \right) = E(Y_1) \right] = 1. \tag{10}$$

The expectation of $Y_1, E(Y_1)$ can be written

$$E(Y_1) = \int_0^1 f(x) \cdot dx. \tag{11}$$

Considering X_i , (10) and (11) lead to

$$P \left[\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{1}{n} \cdot \sum_{i=1}^n f(X_i) \right) = \int_0^1 f(x) \cdot dx \right] = 1. \tag{12}$$

Taking n large enough, for a particular set $\{x^1, x^2, \dots, x^n\}$ of random variables X_n , the following equality is reasonably verified:

$$\int_0^1 f(x) \cdot dx \approx \frac{1}{N} \cdot \sum_{i=1}^n f(x_i). \tag{13}$$

Then the Monte Carlo method consists in approximating integral (11) by a sum, with expression (13). Finally, a confidence interval for the error in the computation can be evaluated as a function of variance $\text{Var}(X_i)$ of the random variables X_i . However, this interval is probabilistic and gives no absolute upper bound for the error.

2) *Quasi-Monte Carlo Method*: The main issues in Monte Carlo method are

- the generation of independent uniform random variables. Indeed a inappropriate random source leads to wrong results;
- the probabilistic nature of the error bounding: one cannot be drastically sure of the precision of the results.

Quasi-Monte Carlo simulation uses only sequences of trials $\{x^1, x^2, \dots, x^n\}$ having good properties of distribution on the interval $[0, 1]$ instead of random numbers as the traditional Monte Carlo method does. Such sequences of numbers are called quasi-random sequences instead of (pseudo) random ones. The discrepancy $D_n(x)$ of an n terms sequence reflects the propriety of uniform distribution of its subsequences $\{x^1, x^2, \dots, x^i\} (i \in [0, n])$: the more these subsequences are uniformly distributed and the less is the discrepancy. Therefore, a quasi-random sequence is also called low-discrepancy sequence.

3) *Error Bounding*: If function $f(x)$ has, according to Hardy and Krause, a bounded variation $V(f)$ on $[0, 1]$, then for $\{x^1, x^2, \dots, x^n\}$ in $[0, 1]$, the so called Koksma–Hlawka

inequality will provide an upper bound for the error in quasi-Monte Carlo approximation [14]

$$\left| \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n f(x^i) - \int_0^1 f(t) dt \right| \leq V(f) \cdot D_n(x) \tag{14}$$

with $D_N(f)$ the discrepancy of the function f and $V(f)$ its variation.

The total variation of function f on $[0, 1]$ is

$$V(f) = \sup \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} [|f(x^{i+1}) - f(x^i)|]. \tag{15}$$

4) *Van Der Corput Sequence*:

a) *Definition*: The definition of the Van Der Corput sequence was first published in 1935 [15]. It is a low-discrepancy sequence over the unit interval whose terms are obtained as follows: to compute the i th point x^i of the Van Der Corput sequence of base b , the integer number i is at first expanded on base b . Then x^i is obtained by reversing the digits after the “decimal point”. For example, let us derive the 12th ($i = 12$) term of the Van Der Corput sequence of base 2:

- 1) i in base 2 is $i_{b2} = 1100$;
- 2) after permutation, it becomes: 0011;
- 3) then in base 10: $x^n = 0 * 2^{-1} + 0 * 2^{-2} + 1 * 2^{-3} + 1 * 2^{-4} = 0.1875$.

Finally, the 12th term of the Van Der Corput sequence of base 2 is 0.1875.

b) *Bounding of the Discrepancy*: A useful formula that provides an upper bound to discrepancy $D_N(x)$ for a base 2 Van Der Corput sequence is [14]

$$n \cdot D_n(C_2) \leq \frac{\log_{10}(n)}{3 \times \log_{10}(2)} + 1 \quad \forall n \geq 1. \tag{16}$$

So (14)–(16) give us an upper bound for the error when using Monte Carlo approximation (13).

5) *Advantages of the Quasi-Monte Carlo Method*: The main advantages of quasi-Monte Carlo method in the case of interest are:

- the availability of a deterministic bound for error (with the classic Monte Carlo approach, the bound is only probabilistic);
- a faster convergence rate (the error bound decreases to 0 more quickly than $\log_{10}(n)/n$ instead of about $1/\sqrt{n}$ for classical Monte Carlo);
- the high flexibility (the algorithm does not depend on the function to integrate).

B. Application of Quasi-Monte Carlo Method

1) *The Problem*: We present here the application of quasi-Monte Carlo integration method to the integration of Pollaczek expression (7). At first, let us factorize integral J into two terms J_1 and J_2

$$J = -2 \times j \times [J_1 + J_2] \tag{17}$$

with

$$J_1 = \int_0^1 [\sqrt{u^2 + j} - u] \cdot \exp(-\xi \cdot \sqrt{u^2 + j}) \cdot \exp(-\xi(\zeta u)) du \quad (18)$$

and

$$J_2 = \int_1^\infty [\sqrt{u^2 + j} - u] \cdot \exp(-\xi \cdot \sqrt{u^2 + j}) \cdot \exp(-\xi(\zeta u)) du. \quad (19)$$

We can choose a function $f(u)$ as follows:

$$f(u) = [\sqrt{u^2 + j} - u] \cdot \exp(-\xi \cdot \sqrt{u^2 + j}) \cdot \exp(-\xi(\zeta u)) \quad (20)$$

then

$$J_2 = \int_0^1 f(u) \cdot du. \quad (21)$$

To change integration bounds of J_2 , we use the new variable v defined by

$$v = \frac{1}{u}. \quad (22)$$

Finally, we obtain a second integral on $[0, 1]$

$$J_2 = \int_0^1 f\left(\frac{1}{v}\right) \cdot \left(\frac{1}{v^2}\right) du. \quad (23)$$

Integrals J_1 and J_2 can be calculated by quasi-Monte Carlo method in their form (21) and (23).

2) *Algorithm Proposed (QMC)*: It comes from Monte Carlo approximation (13), for n large enough

$$J_1 \approx \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n [f(x^i)]$$

$$J_2 \approx \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \left[f\left(\frac{1}{x^i}\right) \cdot \left(\frac{1}{x^i}\right)^2 \right]. \quad (24)$$

So the Pollaczek integral (7) will be calculated by computing the simple expression

$$J \approx -2j \cdot \frac{1}{n} \cdot \sum_{i=1}^n \left[f(x^i) + f\left(\frac{1}{x^i}\right) \cdot \left(\frac{1}{x^i}\right)^2 \right] \quad (25)$$

where the sequence $\{x^1, x^2, \dots, x^n\}$ is the base 2 Van Der Corput sequence of size n .

In practice, $f(x_n)$ is computed in the same form as proposed in [9]

$$f(x^i) = [F(x^i) - x^i + j \cdot G(x^i)] \cdot \exp[-\xi \cdot F(x^i)] \times \exp[-j \cdot \xi \cdot G(x^i)] \cdot \cos(\xi \cdot \eta \cdot x^i) \quad (26)$$

with

$$F(x^i) = \frac{\sqrt{x^{i2} + \sqrt{x^{i4} + j}}}{\sqrt{2}}$$

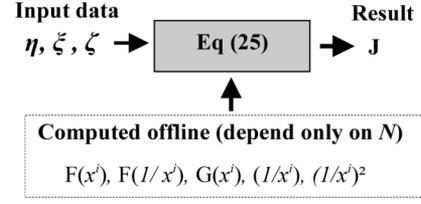


Fig. 2. Quasi-Monte Carlo method applied to the Pollaczek integral calculation.

and

$$G(x^i) = \frac{\sqrt{-x^{i2} + \sqrt{x^{i4} + j}}}{\sqrt{2}}. \quad (27)$$

The terms $F(x^i)$, $G(x^i)$, $F(1/x^i)$, $G(1/x^i)$, and $(1/x^i)^2$ do not depend on geometrical and electrical properties but only on Van Der Corput terms, so they can be computed offline, to reduce calculating time, as shown in Fig. 2.

Finally, (25) is easily computable: its coding is simple and light.

IV. APPLICATIONS

A. Presentation

In this section, we will first validate the proposed algorithm by comparing our results with those obtained with the numerical integration method presented in [8] and [9]. Then we will focus on the particular case of the mutual impedance between overhead an underground conductors to present a comparative study with Lucca formula.

We consider here the same minimum and maximum values for electrical and geometrical variables as in [8]

$$4 \text{ m} \leq h_1 \leq 50 \text{ m}$$

$$0.1 \text{ m} \leq h_2 \leq 30 \text{ m}$$

$$1 \text{ Hz} \leq f \leq 1 \text{ MHz}$$

$$10^{-4} \text{ S/m} \leq \sigma \leq 1 \text{ S/m}$$

$$10^{-2} \text{ m} \leq x \leq 10^3 \text{ m}$$

$$10^{-2} \text{ m} \leq R \leq 10 \text{ m}.$$

It leads to bounds for $|p|$ and normalized dimensionless parameters

$$0.36 \text{ m} \leq |p| \leq 3.6 \cdot 10^4 \text{ m}$$

$$10^{-4} \leq \xi \leq 10^2$$

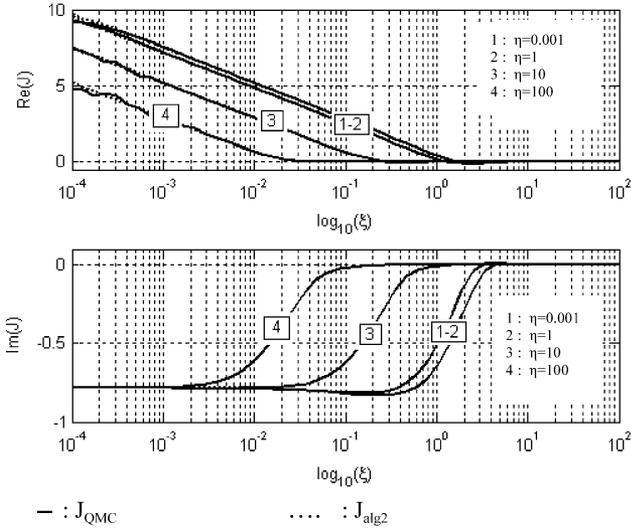
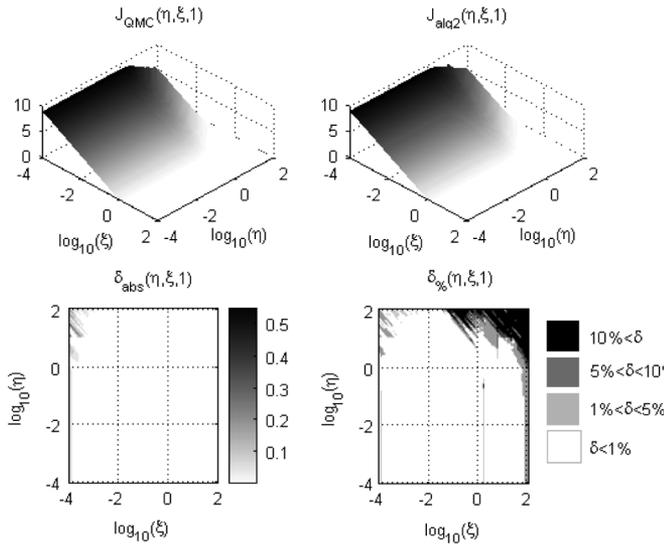
$$10^{-4} \leq \eta \leq 10^2$$

$$\zeta = 0 \text{ or } (10^{-1} \leq \zeta \leq 10^2).$$

Computing times presented here are obtained on an Intel Xéon 2 × 3.4 GHz with 4Go of RAM running Matlab® V6.5.

B. Comparison With Another Numeric Integration Algorithm

1) *Presentation*: In [8] and [9], an algorithm is presented to solve dimensionless (7). It is based, as mentioned in the Introduction, on the truncation of infinite Pollaczek's integral and


 Fig. 3. $J(\eta, \zeta, 0)$ computed with the two numerical methods.

 Fig. 4. $J(\eta, \zeta, 1)$ computed with the two numerical methods, real part.

the study of the integrated function irregularities to adjust a Simpson's method.

2) *Comparison of Results*: Fig. 3 shows different calculated values of Pollaczek's integral (7), using alternatively the quasi-Monte Carlo method presented in this paper (J_{QMC}) and the method presented in [7], [8] (J_{alg2}). For this work, we have fixed:

- $\zeta = 0$, which corresponds to cases 1 and 2 of Fig. 1;
- 10 000 integration terms for J_{QMC} ;
- 256 integration terms for J_{alg2} .

Fig. 3 shows that the two methods give similar results for $\zeta = 0$. Before concluding, we can extend this study for other values of variable ζ . Further, Figs. 4 and 5 present $J(\eta, \xi, \zeta)$ computed with the two methods for $\zeta = 1$. Here, we define absolute and relative differences between the results as follows:

$$\delta_{\text{abs}}(\eta, \xi, \zeta) = |J_{\text{QMC}}(\eta, \xi, \zeta) - J_{\text{alg2}}(\eta, \xi, \zeta)|; \quad (27)$$

$$\delta_{\%}(\eta, \xi, \zeta) = 100 \cdot \delta_{\text{abs}}(\eta, \xi, \zeta) / J_{\text{QMC}}(\eta, \xi, \zeta). \quad (28)$$

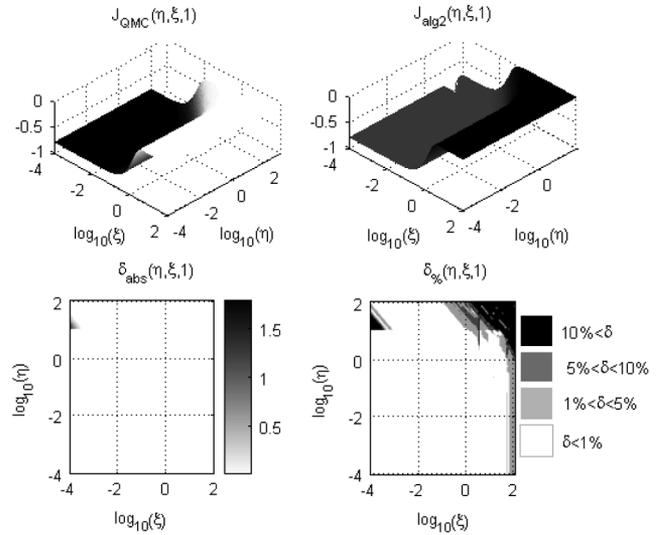

 Fig. 5. $J(\eta, \zeta, 1)$ computed with the two numerical methods, imaginary part.

 TABLE III
 CASES OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO METHODS

Dimensionless variables	Physical variables (cf. Table I)		
	Case 1	Case 2	Case 3
$\eta > 50$ & $\xi < 2 \cdot 10^{-4}$	$h < R/100$ & $h < 10^{-4} \cdot p $	$x > 50 \cdot (h_1 + h_2)$ & $(h_1 + h_2) < 2 \cdot 10^{-4} \cdot p $	$x > 50 \cdot h_2$ & $h_2 < 2 \cdot 10^{-4} \cdot p $

These figures can be used to validate our integration algorithm. To this end, it is important to consider the relative difference map ($\delta_{\%}$) but also to take into account the absolute difference. Indeed for some input data ($\xi > 1$), J tends toward zero and a great value of $\delta_{\%}$ is observed although the difference is insignificant in absolute value (δ_{abs}).

These plots have been completed by others to consider the entire variation domain of dimensionless variables. This work has brought us to the conclusion that both algorithms give results in a good agreement for the great majority of cases. Only a little difference appeared for ($\eta > 50$ & $\xi < 2 \cdot 10^{-4}$), which remains on, for each case, to Table III:

For case 1, $\eta > 50$ leads to the impossible inequality $R > h$ and considering the values of $|p|$, $\xi < 2 \cdot 10^{-4}$ is in practice not likely to be verified for cases 2 and 3; we can thus observe a good agreement between the two algorithms results.

Finally, to illustrate the convergence rate of quasi-Monte Carlo method, we have plotted on Fig. 6, for a practical case and for several values of terms n in (25), J_{QMC} , the upper bound for the error computed with (14) and $\delta_{\text{abs}} = ||J_{\text{QMC}}| - |J_{\text{alg2}}||$.

We consider $h_1 = h_2 = 3$ m, $f = 100$ kHz, $\sigma = 10^{-2}$ S/m, and $x = 1$ m. It leads to $|p| = 11.254$ m, $\xi = 0.266$, $\zeta = 1$, and $\eta = 1/3$.

For this case, $J \approx 335.55 \cdot 10^{-3} - 332.45 \cdot 10^{-3} \cdot j$. If $n > 5 \cdot 10^5$, δ_{abs} is greater than the upper bound for the error on abs (J_{QMC}), which means that J_{QMC} is then more accurate than J_{alg2} . Note that this conclusion could be different for other

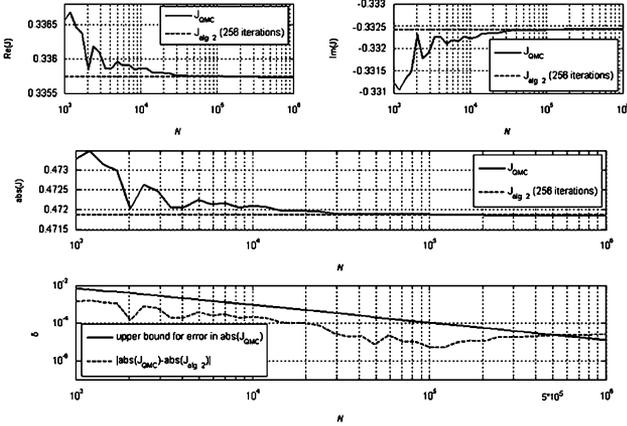
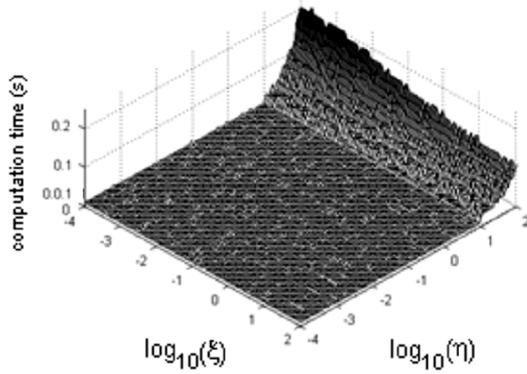


Fig. 6. Particular case of study.

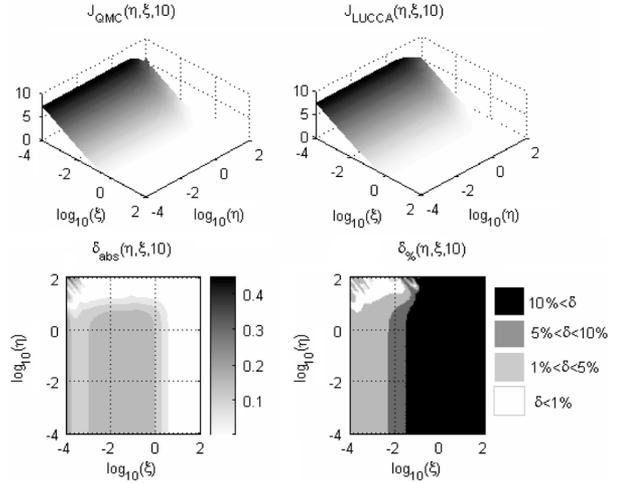
Fig. 7. Computation time for $J_{alg2}(\eta, \zeta, 0)$.

cases, because δ_{abs} depends strongly on ξ, η and ζ as has been seen in Figs. 4 and 5.

3) *Comparison of Computation Time*: Talking about computation time, contrary to the other method, resources needed by the quasi-Monte Carlo algorithm do not depend on the input data. This shows the main advantage of quasi-Monte Carlo method: time consumption does not depend on the behavior of the function to integrate. In our study, to compute an integral value, our algorithm took (with $n = 10000$), about 16 ms (this time does not take into account the part “computed offline” shown in Fig. 2).

Considering the algorithm based on a classical Simpson’s approach (J_{alg2}), we have plotted in Fig. 7 the computation time for $\zeta = 0$ and different values of η and ξ (same computer and 256 integration steps). Although the minimum time is less than the 16ms value obtained with quasi-Monte Carlo, the algorithm needs more than 200 ms for some input data.

4) *Comparison of Algorithms Complexity*: Because of the very simple shape of (25), quasi-Monte Carlo method leads to an algorithm that is much simpler than the other one considered in which the function to integrate is studied before being computed.

Fig. 8. $J(\eta, \zeta, 10)$ computed with the quasi-Monte Carlo method and Lucca’s formula, real part.

C. Comparison With the Simplified Formula by Lucca

1) *Presentation*: Lucca presented in [3] a closed-form solution for calculating mutual impedances between overhead and buried lines

$$Z_{M-Lucca} = \frac{j \cdot \omega \cdot \mu_0}{2\pi} \left\{ \log \left(\frac{\bar{R}_{12}}{R_{12}} \right) - \frac{2\bar{y}}{2\gamma^3} \cdot \left[\frac{\bar{y}^2 - 3x^2}{\bar{R}_{12}^6} \right] \right\} \quad (30)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} R_{12} &= \sqrt{x^2 + (h_1 - h_2)^2} \\ k_e^2 &= -j \cdot \omega \mu_0 \sigma \\ \bar{R}_{12} &= \sqrt{\bar{y} + x^2} \\ \gamma &= j \cdot k_e \text{ and } \bar{y} = h_1 - h_2 + \frac{2}{\gamma}. \end{aligned}$$

The geometrical parameters h_1, h_2 and x are defined in Fig. 1 (case 3).

2) *Parametric Study*: Figs. 8 and 9 show Pollaczek integral values calculated with our algorithm (J_{QMC}) and with Lucca’s formula (J_{LUCCA}) for $\zeta = 10$. We present also the absolute and the relative differences between them (respectively, δ_{abs} and $\delta_{\%}$).

This study has been carried out for several values of ζ . Maximum errors occur when

$$-1.5 < \log_{10}(\xi) < 1.5 \leftrightarrow 0.03 < \log_{10}(\xi) < 30$$

which can be expressed

$$0.03|p| < h_2 < 30|p|.$$

Following this approach, one will be able to validate or not the use of Lucca’s formula, depending on the accuracy required.

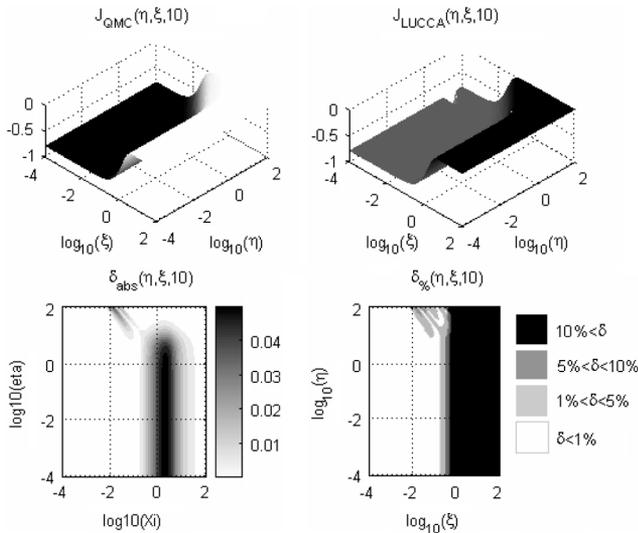


Fig. 9. $J(\eta, \zeta, 10)$ computed with the quasi-Monte Carlo method and Lucca's formula, imaginary part.

TABLE IV
CALCULATION METHODS COMPARISON

	QMC	Uribe	Lucca
Accuracy	+++	+++	+
Speed	highest speed	+	++
	stability	++	+
Algorithm complexity	++	+	+++

legend :
 +++ \rightarrow 3/3 (best)
 ++ \rightarrow 2/3
 + \rightarrow 1/3 (worst)

V. CONCLUSION

As Pollaczek expressions are given in the form of highly oscillatory integrals, hard to compute, approximations are often preferred in practice.

Therefore the availability of an efficient algorithm based on rigorous Pollaczek expressions to check the accuracy of such simplified formulas for the various cases of interest—and to replace them if needed—is of importance.

This paper has proposed and tested a new algorithm in this respect. This algorithm is based on quasi-Monte Carlo integration method with Van Der Corput series. The method that we have proposed has several advantages: it presents a fast convergence rate, an expression to bound the error has been provided, and its computing time is independent on the complexity of the function to integrate. To validate our algorithm, a comparative study with another algorithm has been carried out. This second algorithm, proposed by Uribe in [7], [8] is based on the truncation of the infinite integral, a study of function irregularities and a Simpson's integration method. In general, a good agreement between the results has been obtained. Although the reference algorithm can be faster for some input values, its time consumption—opposite to our method—depends on input data. Furthermore, our algorithm is much simpler to implement.

As an application example, we have focused on the approximate expression of the mutual impedance between overhead and buried conductors provided by Lucca in [3]. Comparing values

given by this formula and our approach on the whole electrical and geometrical domain, has allowed us to point out the cases that result in the largest error.

Table IV sum up advantages and drawbacks of the three methods used to calculate the mutual impedance between overhead and buried conductors.

As a last note, we feel worth mentioning that the quasi-Monte Carlo method deserves more attention. For example, it can be relevant to Sommerfeld's integrals computation [12] as well.

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