

Using Functional Programming Languages in IBIS-AMI Modeling

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Presentation Outline

- What are functional languages?
- Why functional languages?
- Where/how are/can they be used?
- How do they compare to C?
- Q&A

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What are *functional* languages?

- They are a means of expressing a desired computation, at a higher level of abstraction than is provided by *imperative* languages.
- Consider the generation of the Fibonacci sequence:

```
// Fibonacci numbers, imperative style (C++, 10 lines)
```

```
int fibonacci(int iterations) {  
    int first = 0, second = 1; // seed values  
    for (int i = 0; i < iterations; ++i) {  
        int sum = first + second;  
        first = second;  
        second = sum;  
    }  
    return first;  
}  
std::cout << fibonacci(10) << "\n";
```

```
-- Fibonacci numbers, functional style (Haskell, 3 lines)
```

```
-- describe an infinite list based on the recurrence relation for Fibonacci numbers
```

```
fibRecurrence first second = first : fibRecurrence second (first + second)
```

```
-- describe fibonacci list as fibRecurrence with initial values 0 and 1
```

```
fibonacci = fibRecurrence 0 1
```

```
-- describe action to print the 10th element of the fibonacci list
```

```
main = print (fibonacci !! 10)
```

What are *functional* languages? (cont'd.)

- Consider the following properties of the preceding functional code:
 - It is *succinct*. (3 vs. 10 lines)
 - It expresses the *functional intent* of the computation, as opposed to the (one of many possible) *series of steps* needed to implement the desired computation.
 - It is allowed to define an *infinite* sequence.
 - It does not require the intermediate `sum` variable of the C++ code, nor does it need to explicitly shuttle values between `first`, `second`, and `sum` at each loop iteration. That is, it is free of *intermediate state maintenance*. And it requires no mention of any variables, other than the original inputs to the function.
- Some newer imperative languages have functional constructs. (i.e. – Perl, Python)

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Why functional languages?

■ Succinctness

- Current AML parameter parsing code lengths:
 - C - 800+ lines
 - Haskell - 80 lines

■ Believability

- Strong/static, as opposed to weak/dynamic, typing makes code that compiles easy to believe.

■ Higher abstraction level

- Tend to describe what you want done, rather than how the CPU should do it.
- Makes intent of code easier to understand.
- Leaves compiler free to optimize implementation for different targets.

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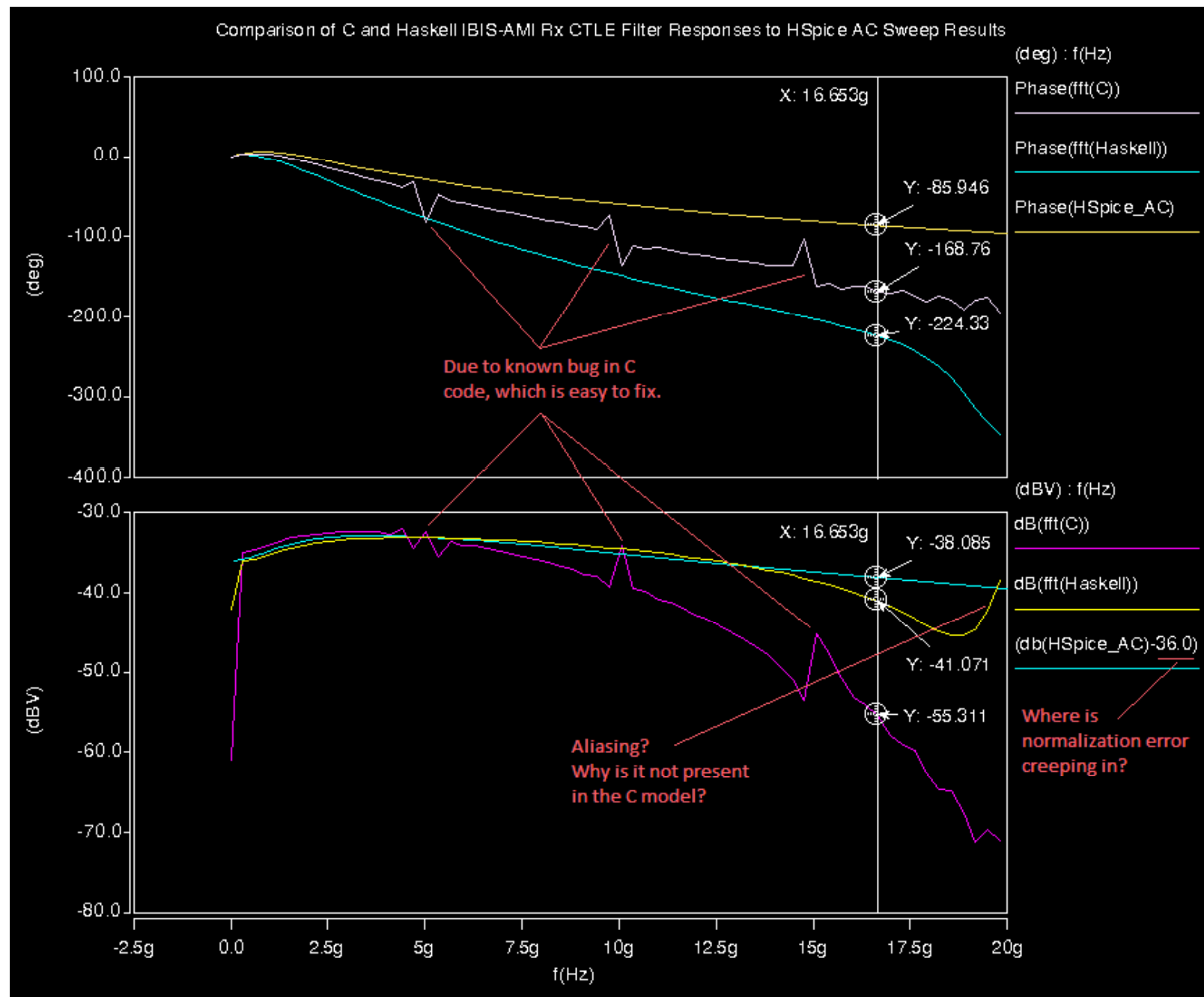
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Where/how are/can they be used?

- NOT (yet) as source of released model.
 - Still too obscure. (support liability to enterprise)
 - Performance tuning is still a black art.
- As executable specification.
 - Higher abstraction level yields something in between natural language and C, in terms of readability.
 - Natural languages can't be used as a verification metric by a scripted/automated process; functional programming languages can.
- As architectural exploration tool.
 - Functional programs tend to be quick to create/modify, due to their succinct and expressive nature.
 - Believability allows high level “what if”s to be explored with confidence.

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Notes on previous graph

- The agreement between the Haskell model and Hspice AC sweep, with regard to spectral magnitude, is excellent, out past 16 GHz.
- The spurs in the C model transfer function at 5, 10, and 15 GHz are due to a well understood bug in the C code, which is easy to fix.
- The flipped up tail near the end of the Haskell model spectral magnitude curve is reminiscent of aliasing, but I'm puzzled as to why the same effect is not present in the C model.
- Finally, it is necessary to offset the HSpice results by -36 dB, in order to match the three models. I don't understand where this normalization error is creeping into the process.

Haskell vs. C Performance Comparison

- (Stay tuned...)

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Thank You

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