



# SolariaPCB

Dave Rosato  
Harley Thermal LLC

# Importing ECAD Data

- SolariaPCB imports Electrical CAD data through ODB++ files.
- One compressed file is read and automatically expanded into the folder structure.
- Folders with Layers, Drills (defining vias) and components are identified.

**ODB++ Import**

Select the compressed ODB++ file OR the root folder of the uncompressed files

Compressed ODB++ File

Root folder for ODB++ files

6 Layer files, 10 Drill files, 2 Component files

Layer Files

WIR1  
WIR2  
WIR3  
WIR4  
WIR5  
WIR6

Drill Files

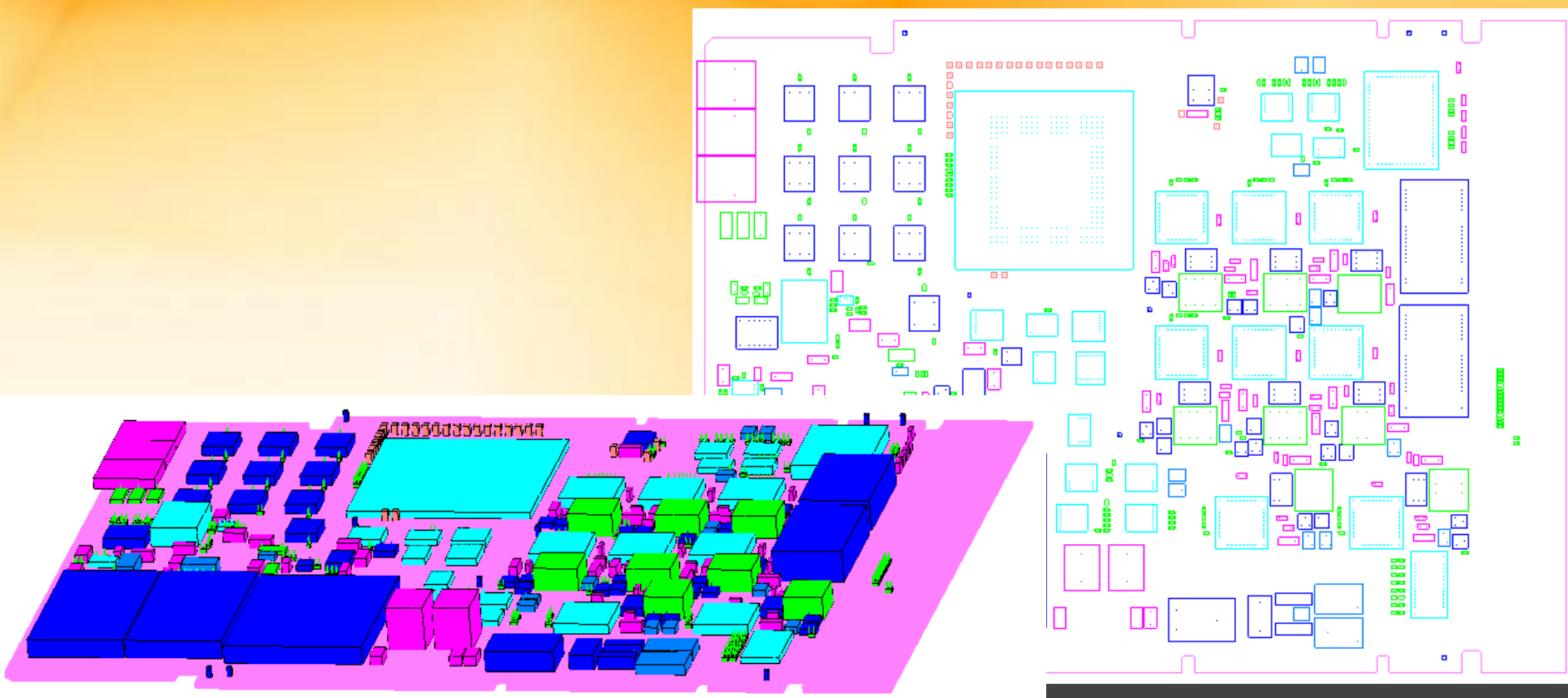
WIR1-WIR3WIR1WIR3  
WIR1-WIR2WIR1WIR2  
WIR3-WIR4WIR3WIR4  
WIR4-WIR5WIR4WIR5  
WIR1-WIR6SYMBOL-ASYMBOL-B  
WIR4-WIR6WIR4WIR6

Component Files

COMP\_+\_TOP  
COMP\_+\_BOT

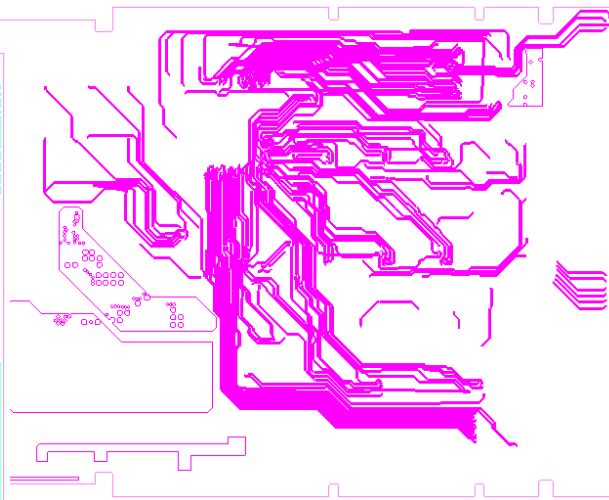
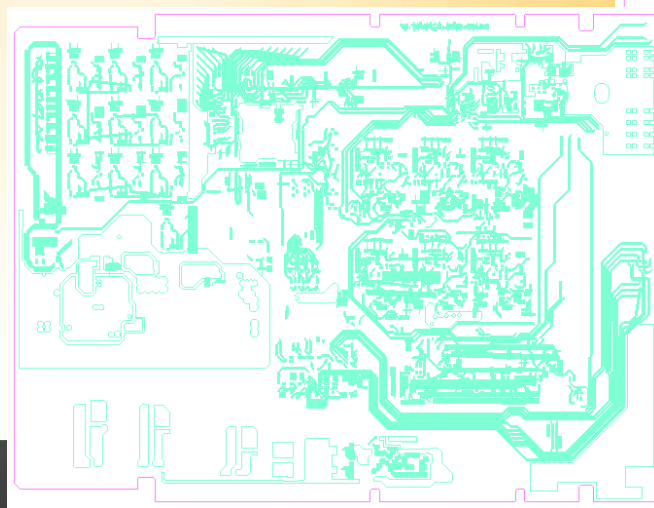
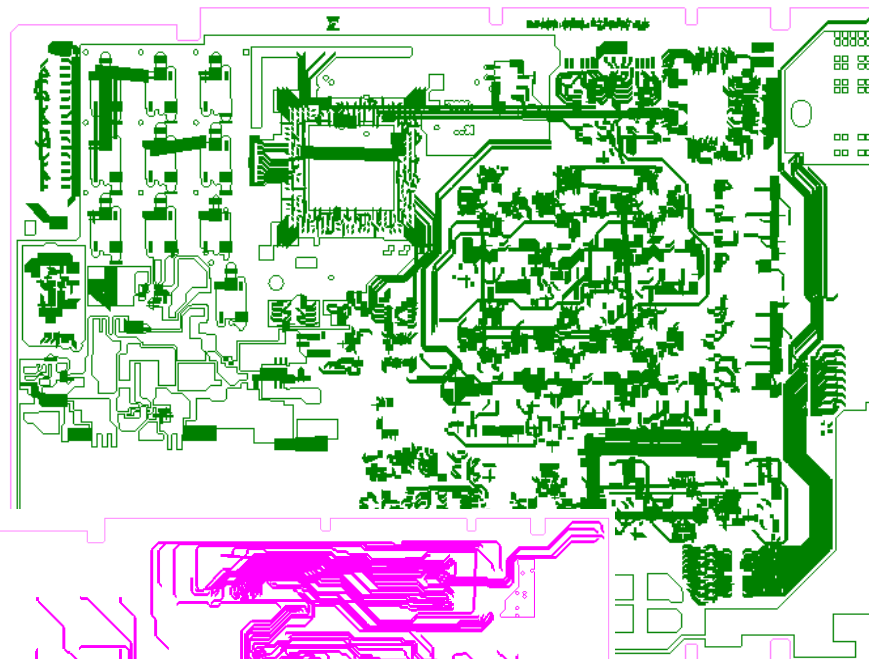
# Importing ECAD Data

- All components on both sides of the board are imported.



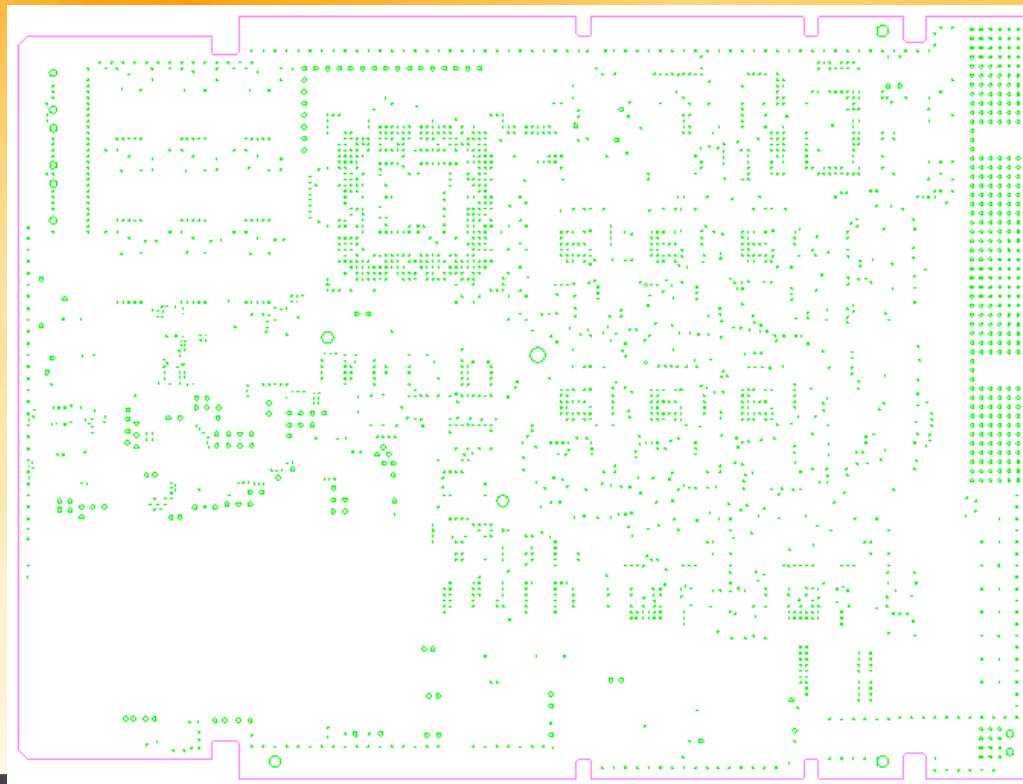
# Importing ECAD Data

- Every trace on every layer is imported.
- Traces and power and ground planes are the primary lateral heat transfer path.



# Importing ECAD Data

- Every via between every layer is imported.
- The diameter of each via is imported.
- Vias provide the major heat transfer path through the board thickness.



# Board Layers

- Every layer and thickness is imported.
- If ECAD data was not imported, the Coverage checkbox can be checked and a Percentage of metal can be defined. A smearing method is then used to represent the metal for this layer.
- Layers can be manually added. This would be like a metal frame.

PCB Layers

#	Name	Thickness	Type	Material	Coverage	Percentage	Color
1	TOP	1.3999999	Conducting	Copper	<input type="checkbox"/>	0	
2	Dielectric 1	.0038504	Dielectric	FR-4 EPOXY/GLASS	<input type="checkbox"/>	0	
3	L7	1.3999999	Conducting	Copper	<input type="checkbox"/>	0	
4	Dielectric 3	.004	Dielectric	FR-4 EPOXY/GLASS	<input type="checkbox"/>	0	
5	L6	1.3999999	Conducting	Copper	<input type="checkbox"/>	0	
6	Dielectric 5	.0034803	Dielectric	FR-4 EPOXY/GLASS	<input type="checkbox"/>	0	
7	L5	1.3999999	Conducting	Copper	<input type="checkbox"/>	0	
8	Dielectric 7	.028	Dielectric	FR-4 EPOXY/GLASS	<input type="checkbox"/>	0	
9	L4	1.3999999	Conducting	Copper	<input type="checkbox"/>	0	
10	Dielectric 9	.0035984	Dielectric	FR-4 EPOXY/GLASS	<input type="checkbox"/>	0	
11	L3	1.3999999	Conducting	Copper	<input type="checkbox"/>	0	
12	Dielectric 11	.004	Dielectric	FR-4 EPOXY/GLASS	<input type="checkbox"/>	0	
13	L2	1.3999999	Conducting	Copper	<input type="checkbox"/>	0	
14	Dielectric 13	.0038504	Dielectric	FR-4 EPOXY/GLASS	<input type="checkbox"/>	0	
15	BOTTOM	1.3999999	Conducting	Copper	<input type="checkbox"/>	0	
16	Plate	.005	3D Layer	FR-4 EPOXY/GLASS	<input type="checkbox"/>	100	

Default Layer Material

Type

☒ Conducting

☐ Dielectric

Conducting material

Copper

Conducting thickness

0.0014

Dielectric material

FR-4 EPOXY/GLA

Dielectric thickness

0.005

OK

Cancel

Help

Add Layer

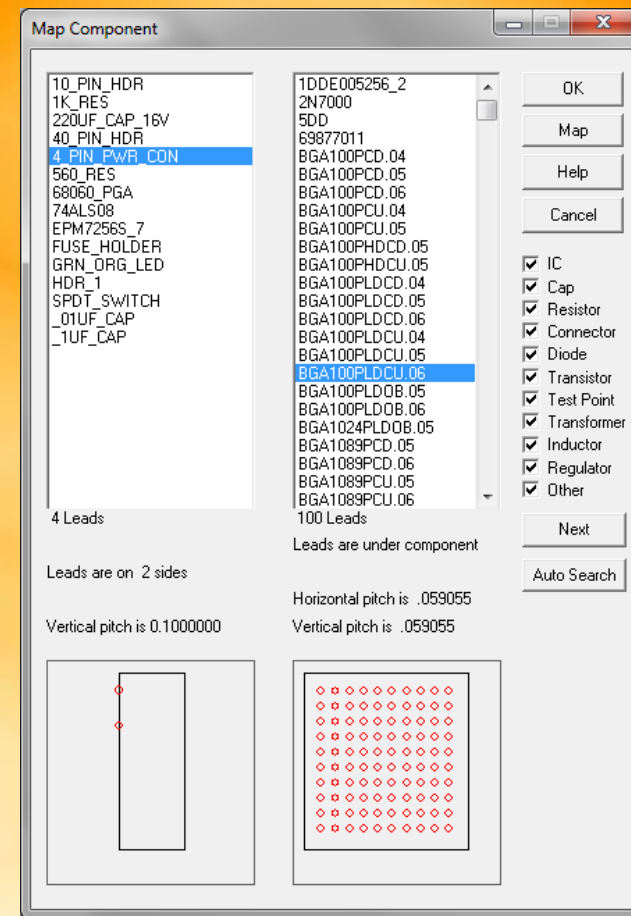
Delete Layer

Insert Layer



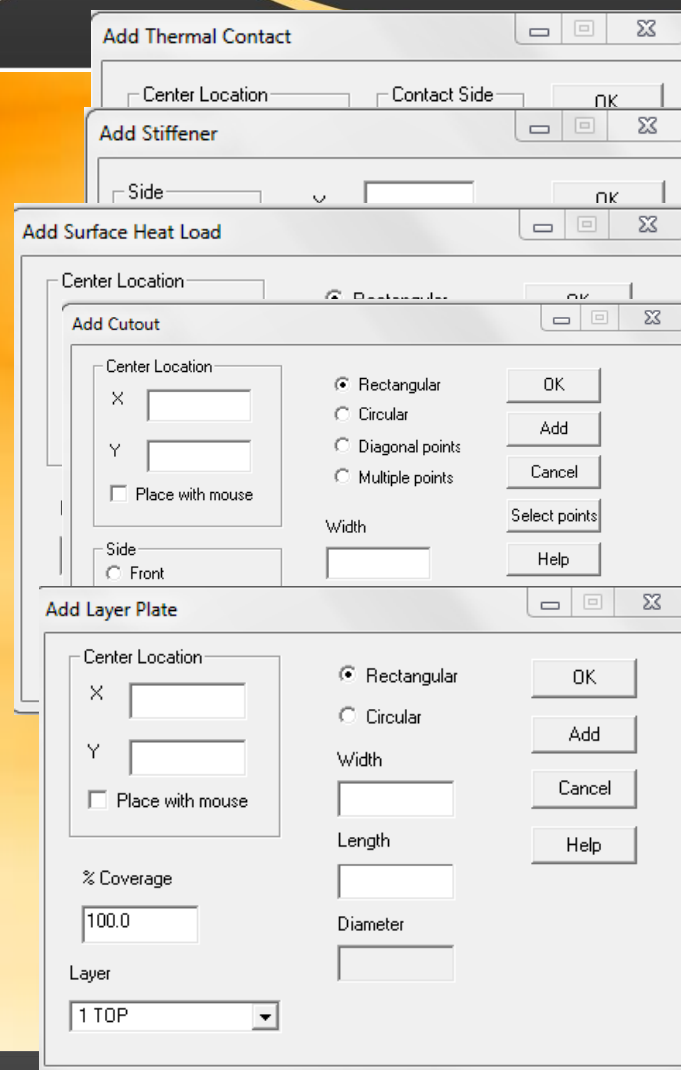
# Mapping Components to the included library

- This is used to map imported components to those in the SolariaPCB library.



# Other features that can be added

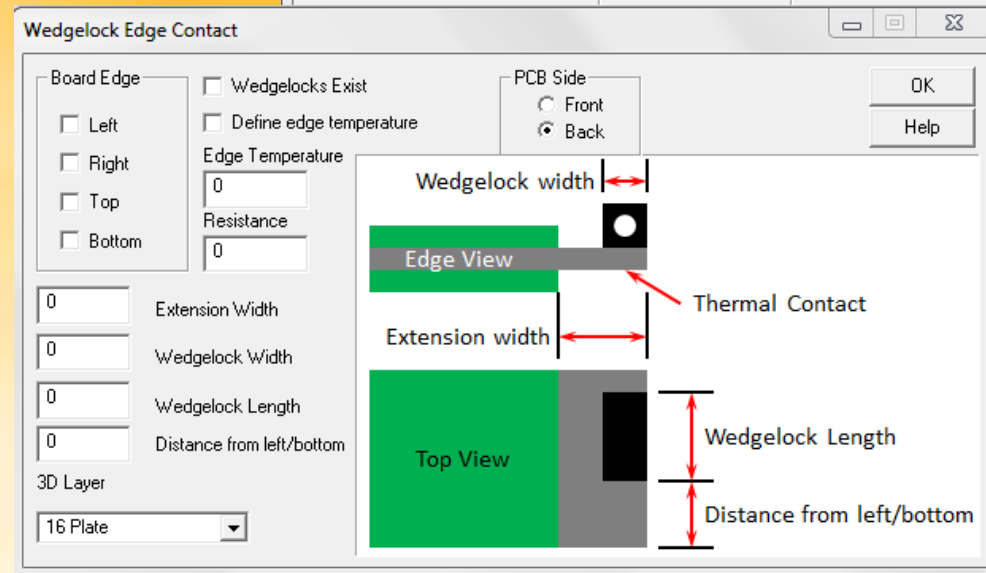
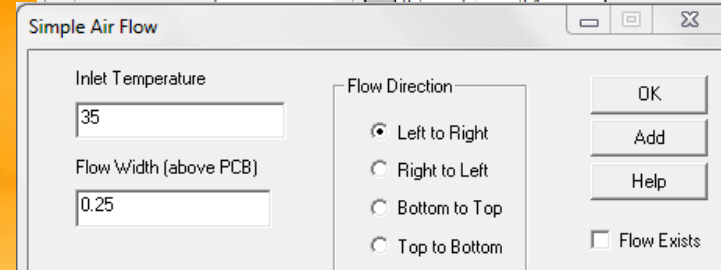
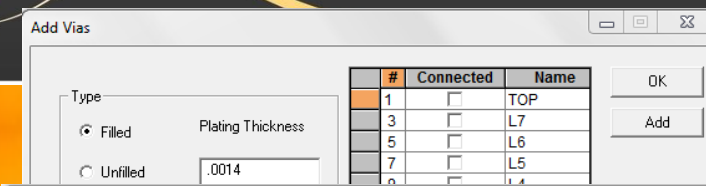
- Thermal Contact – Board attachment to chassis
- Stiffener – Add rigidity to the PCB as well as heat transfer
- Surface Heat – Spread heat over part of the board
- Cutout – Add a hole or a cutout to the board
- Layer Plate – Add metal to the surface or internal to the board to enhance heat transfer



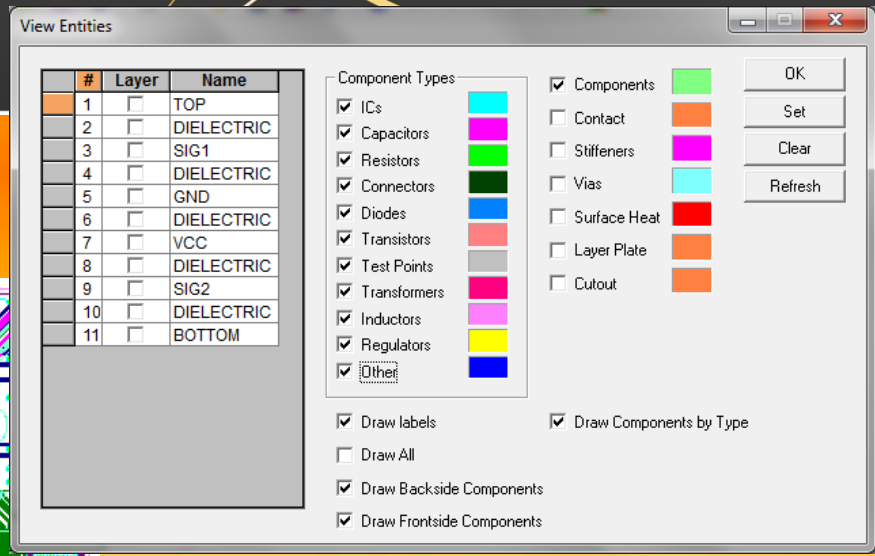


# Other features that can be added

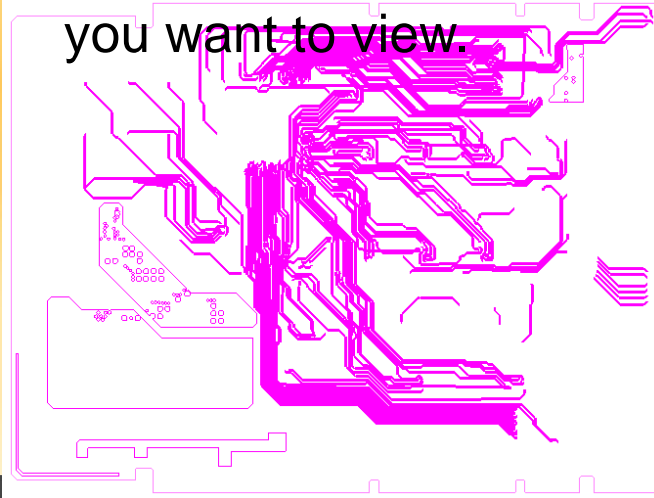
- Vias – In addition to those imported, thermal vias can be added to help heat transfer into the board.
- Air Flow – Cooling air flowing over the board can be simulated.
- Wedgelocks – Provide edge cooling.



# The user can define what they want to see

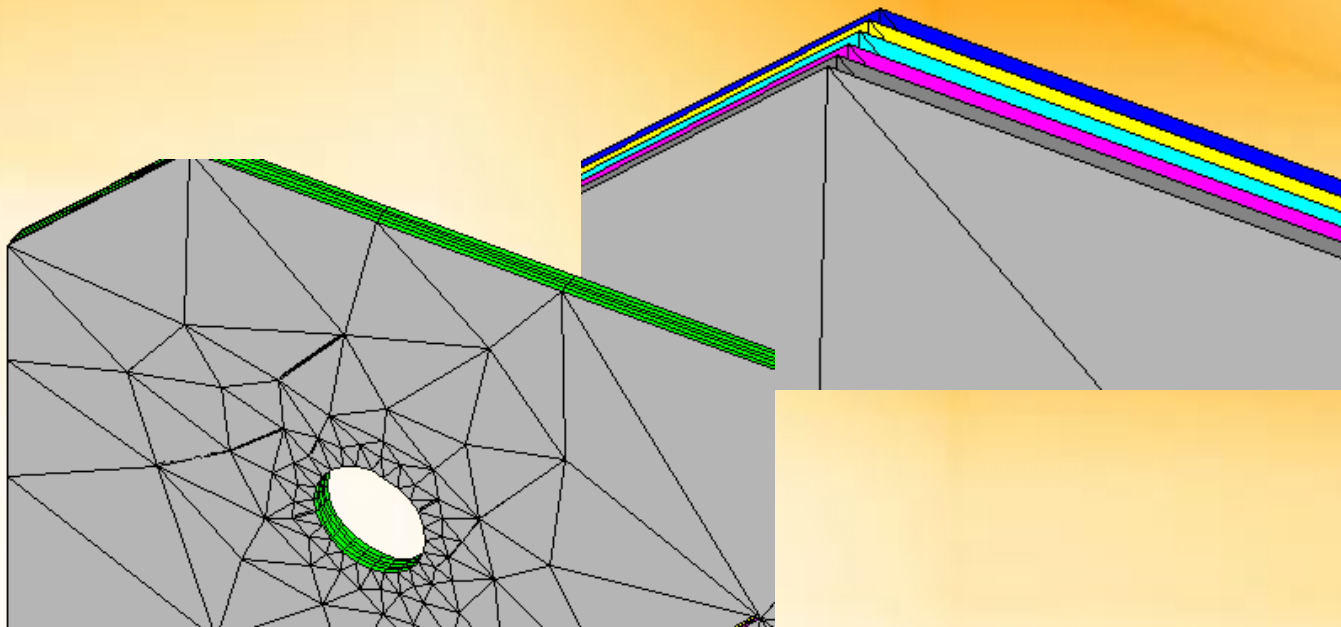


You can define what layer  
you want to view.



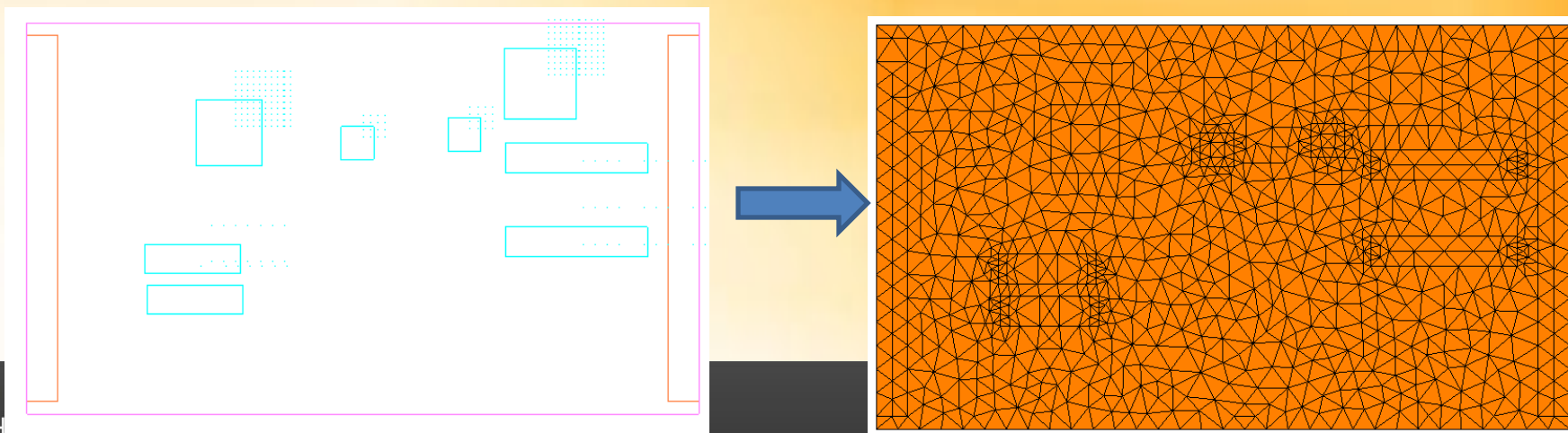
# PCB Automatic Model Generation

- A full 3D model of the PCB is automatically generated.
- The dielectric layers are 3D solid elements
- 2D Plate elements represent metal layers IF ECAD data is NOT imported.



# Trace representation in SolariaPCB

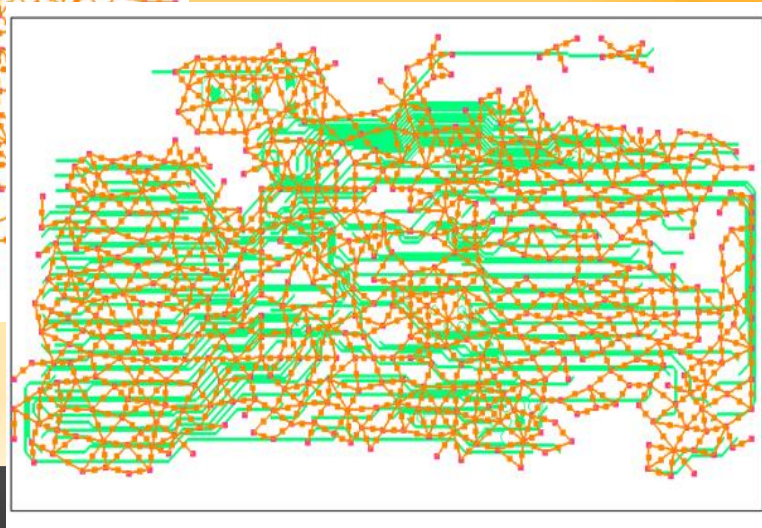
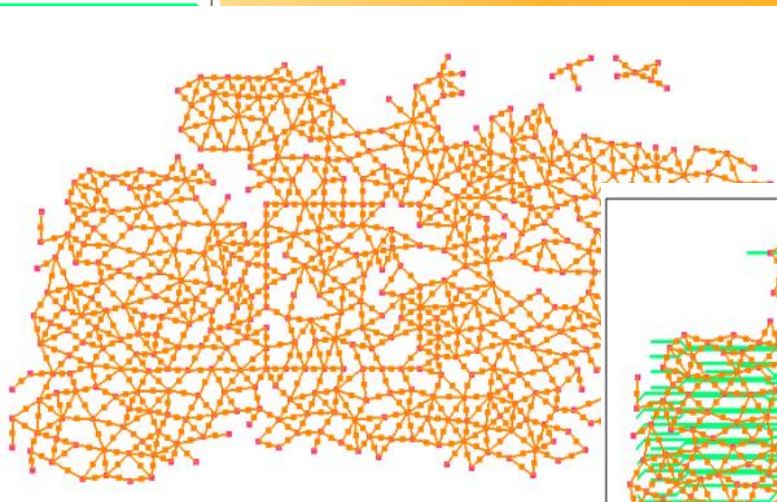
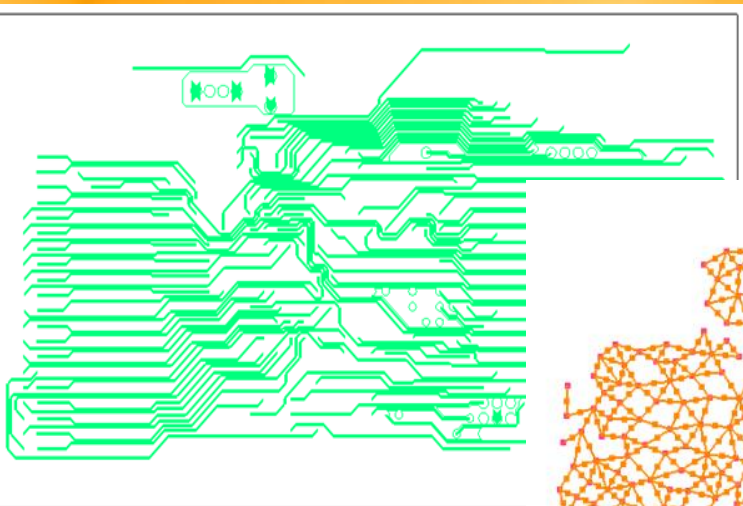
- The board is first meshed exactly representing the PCB outline, components, stiffeners, thermal contact areas, surface heat loads and other geometry. Traces and vias do not influence the mesh. The user can define a general mesh size constraint.
- After the board is meshed, for each metal layer, the traces crossing each triangle in the mesh is thermally represented by three resistors. The metal layer thickness, material and the width of every trace is used in the calculations. This methodology gives an accurate trace representation yet solution times are in minutes.





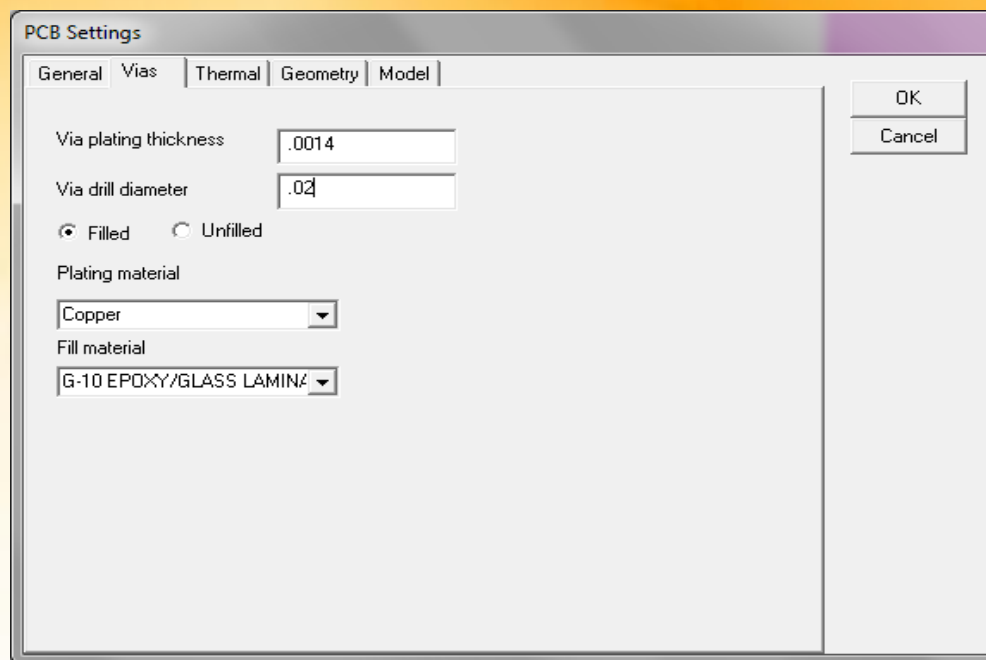
# Trace representation in SolariaPCB

The left picture below shows traces. The middle picture shows the thermal resistors that represent them. The right picture shows them overlaid.



# Via representation in SolariaPCB

- The location and diameter of every via is imported. The via plating thickness and material and whether the via is filled or not is defined by the user.



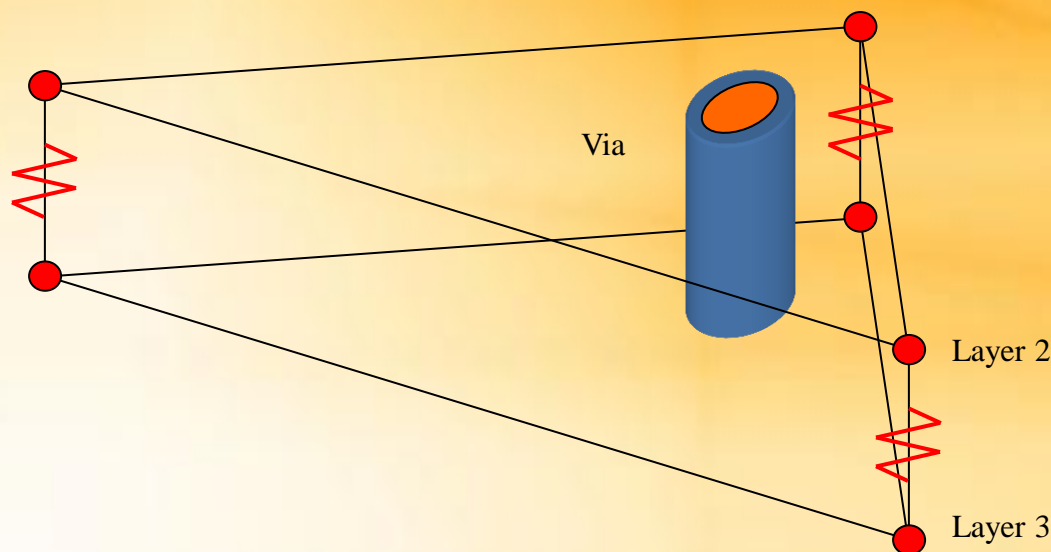
The screenshot shows the 'PCB Settings' dialog box with the 'Vias' tab selected. The dialog has five tabs: General, Vias, Thermal, Geometry, and Model. The 'Vias' tab contains the following settings:

- Via plating thickness: .0014
- Via drill diameter: .02
- Plating material: Copper (selected from a dropdown menu)
- Fill material: G-10 EPOXY/GLASS LAMINATE (selected from a dropdown menu)
- Buttons: OK and Cancel



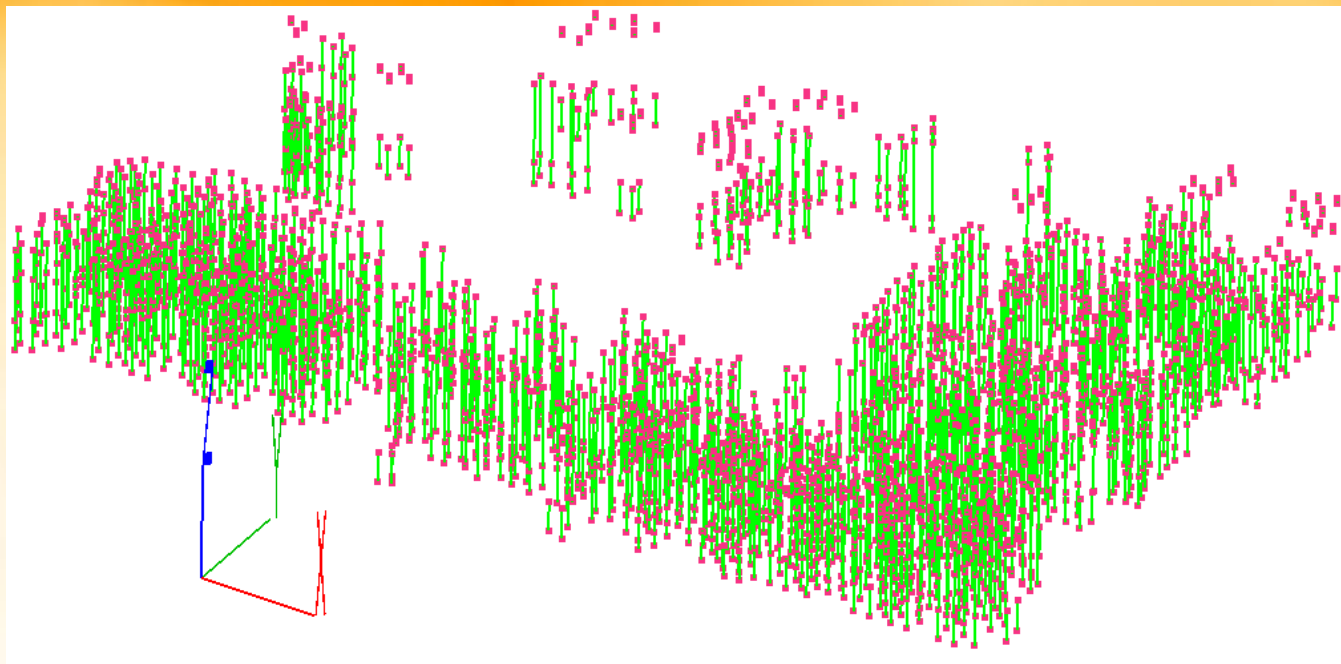
# Via representation in SolariaPCB

- For each via, the software determines which meshed triangle it lies within. From the ECAD file, the layers the via is electrically connected to is known. Using this information, thermal resistors connecting the nodes on the connected layers are generated.



# Via representation in SolariaPCB

- Via representation, 1041 vias

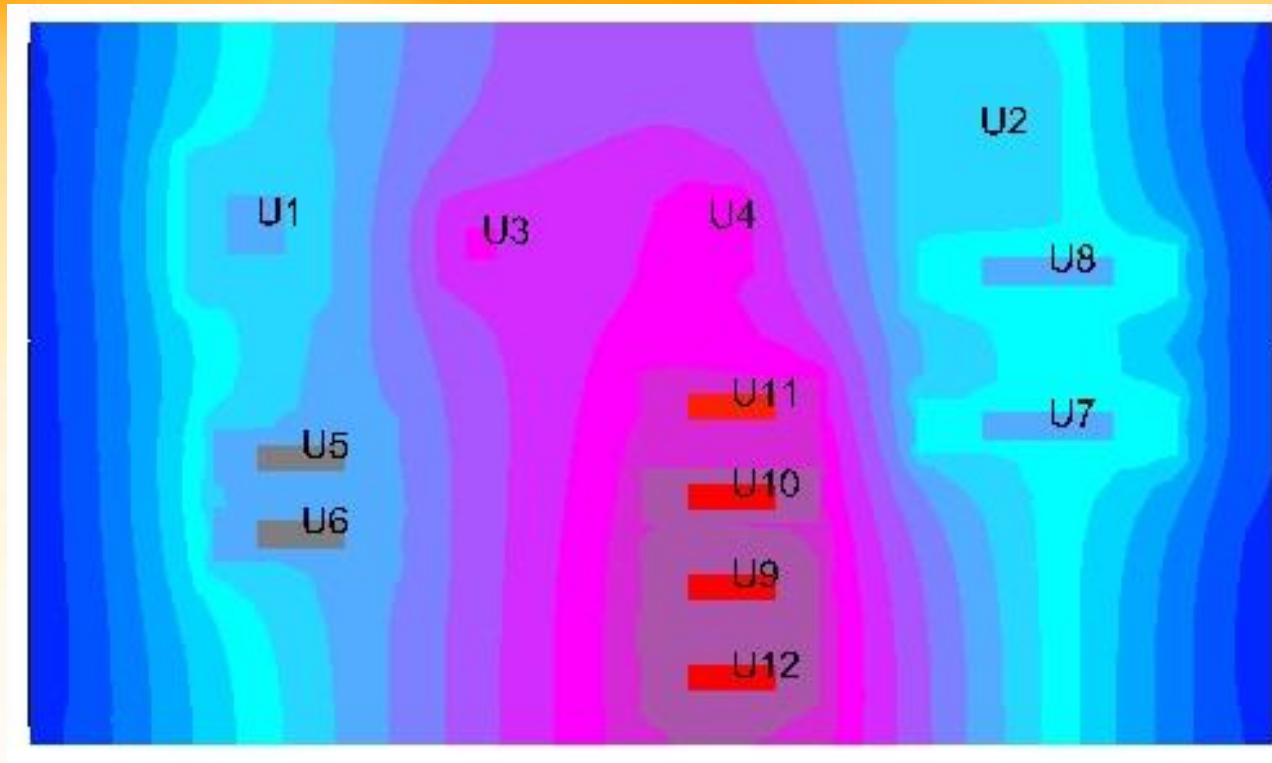


Red dots are nodes, green lines are resistors

View has been stretched in the Z direction to better show the resistors.

# Post processing Needed

- View component Junction temperatures



# Post processing Needed

Tabular summary of component temperatures

Results.txt - Notepad

File Edit Format View Help

Board name= PCB2

RefDes	Name	Dissipation	Junction	Case	Board	Air	Case to Board Resistance
U1	BGA100PCD.05	2	103.36	98.76	98.62	0	.02
U2	BGA100PLDCD.05	1	92.85	90.85	90.92	0	.02
U3	BGA16PCD.06	2	113.98	111.58	111.01	0	.13
U4	BGA16PCD.06	2	107.38	104.98	104.59	0	.13
U5	DIP16P.3W	1	145.88	90.87	91.16	0	.9
U6	DIP16P.3W	1	144.67	89.67	89.8	0	.9
U7	DIP24PSB.3W	.5	89.01	78.01	76.82	0	.6
U8	DIP24PSB.3W	.5	94.61	83.61	81.89	0	.6

Board name= PCB3

RefDes	Name	Dissipation	Junction	Case	Board	Air	Case to Board Resistance
U1	BGA100PCD.05	2.1	115.34	110.51	110.27	0	.02
U2	BGA100PLDCD.05	1	110.84	108.84	108.9	0	.02
U3	BGA16PCD.06	2	143.64	141.24	140.54	0	.13
U4	BGA16PCD.06	2	148.19	145.79	145.51	0	.13
U5	DIP16P.3W	1	170.45	115.45	116.77	0	.9
U6	DIP16P.3W	1	169.77	114.77	115.75	0	.9
U7	DIP24PSB.3W	.5	114.08	103.08	100.04	0	.6
U8	DIP24PSB.3W	.5	112.63	101.63	98.88	0	.6
U9	DIP16P.3W	2.3	284.55	158.05	155.43	0	.9
U10	DIP16P.3W	2.3	281.8	155.3	152.25	0	.9
U11	DIP16P.3W	2.3	276.94	150.44	146.96	0	.9
U12	DIP16P.3W	2.3	284.85	158.35	156.11	0	.9

Board name= Board1

RefDes	Name	Dissipation	Junction	Case	Board	Air	Case to Board Resistance
U2	EPW7256S_7	5.6	258.89	246.01	246.01	0	0
U3	74AL508	1.2	232.08	226.68	226.66	0	.1
C2	_1UF_CAP	0	0	0	243.99	0	0
C3	_1UF_CAP	0	0	0	242.98	0	0
C4	_1UF_CAP	0	0	0	217.39	0	0
C5	_1UF_CAP	0	0	0	246	0	0
C7	_01UF_CAP	0	0	0	244.88	0	0
C8	_01UF_CAP	0	0	0	237.56	0	0
C9	_01UF_CAP	0	0	0	209.13	0	0
C1	220UF_CAP_16V	0	0	0	0	0	0
C10	_01UF_CAP	0	0	0	240.23	0	0
R1	1K_RES	0	0	0	176.14	0	0
JTAG	10_PIN_HDR	0	0	0	242.45	0	0
J4	4_PIN_PWR_CON	0	0	0	204.62	0	0
F1	FUSE_HOLDER	0	0	0	238.25	0	0
D1	GRN_ORG_LED	0	0	0	120.59	0	0
S1	SPDT_SWITCH	0	0	0	88.57	0	0
J5	HDR_1	0	0	0	154.61	0	0
J6	HDR_1	0	0	0	242.23	0	0
J7	HDR_1	0	0	0	242.51	0	0
R0	560_RES	0	0	0	184.7	0	0
R2	560_RES	0	0	0	179.66	0	0

Board name= PCB2

RefDes	Name	Dissipation	Junction	Case	Board	Air	Case to Board Resistance
U1	BGA100PCD.05	2	154.36	149.76	149.62	0	.02
U2	BGA100PLDCD.05	1	143.85	141.85	141.85	141.92	.02

SolariaPCB Results Summary

RefDes	Name	Pdiss	Junction	Case	Board	Air	C-B Res
U1	BGA100PCD.05	2	103.36	98.76	98.62	0	.02
U2	BGA100PLDCD.05	1	92.85	90.85	90.92	0	.02
U3	BGA16PCD.06	2	113.98	111.58	111.01	0	.13
U4	BGA16PCD.06	2	107.38	104.98	104.59	0	.13
U5	DIP16P.3W	1	145.88	90.87	91.16	0	.9
U6	DIP16P.3W	1	144.67	89.67	89.8	0	.9
U7	DIP24PSB.3W	.5	89.01	78.01	76.82	0	.6
U8	DIP24PSB.3W	.5	94.61	83.61	81.89	0	.6

Cancel Help

1 PCB2  
2 PCB3  
3 Board1  
4 PCB2  
5 PCB3  
6 Board1

# Summary

- The ODB++ interface is seamless, simple and fast.
- Every trace, via, component and layer is imported.
- The board mesh is not influenced by the traces or vias but every trace and every via is thermally represented at the meshed triangle level.
- Traces and vias may add tens of thousands of thermal resistors to the model but they are in parallel to those representing the dielectric so the thermal model in the solution is no larger.
- The resulting thermal model is 3D yet solves in minutes.



# Summary

- This model has five boards that were generated by SolariaPCB and air flow along the side walls.
- It solved in 12 seconds using the Solaria GCG solver.

