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Modal Analysis of Cylindrical Waveguides with 2D Metamaterial Wall

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Abstract

In this article the Modal Expansion Theory (MET) is developed for 2D metamaterial cylindrical waveguides. A new code based on 2D Finite Element Method (FEM) is implemented to compute conformal surface impedances. The MET using this FEM code is successfully applied to waveguides with different θ -invariant metamaterials. For such cases, computation time is at least 30 times faster than the commercial software HFSS.

1. Introduction

In the space industry, the launch cost of spacecraft is a constraint. In order to lower it, the size and the weight of the used devices are reduced. Metamaterials in waveguides or horn antennas could be used in this purpose [1] - [4]. Thanks to their structuration electromagnetic properties which are not available in natural materials, can be created [5]. With metamaterials, it is possible to obtain a relative permittivity and/or permeability lower than one or less than zero [6] - [8]. In research, metamaterials are mostly defined by characterizing both permittivity and permeability. However another method consists in computing their surface impedances at any given volume height [9].

In [10], metamaterials are characterized with a new method called the Modal Expansion Theory. This method aims at studying waveguides [10] - [12]. With the MET, it is possible to characterize the dispersion properties of rectangular or cylindrical waveguides with constant anisotropic surface impedances. In [13], a 2D FEM code has been added to the MET and allows the characterization of dispersion properties of rectangular waveguides with metamaterial walls. Surface impedances are defined at any given volume height and vary with the frequency and incidence angle of the electromagnetic wave.

In this article, 2D metamaterial waveguides are characterized with the cylindrical MET. Thanks to the θ -invariance of the structure, this new code is using a 2D FEM computation of the surface impedances deduced from the 3D FEM simplification. Conformal surface impedances are computed with this code. As in [13], the surface impedances are dependent on the frequency and incidence angle. The validation of the MET with this new 2D FEM code (for

conformal impedances) is presented. Hence the MET is applied on three different 2D metamaterial waveguides to obtain their dispersion diagrams. Results are compared to the dispersion diagrams obtained with HFSS. By using the MET, the computation time is drastically reduced to obtain equivalent results.

2. Characterization principles

In this article, the MET [10] is proposed to characterize cylindrical waveguide with metamaterial walls. These waveguides are considered invariant along the z -axis, see Fig. 1. So electromagnetic fields have an $e^{-\gamma z}$ dependence, with γ the propagation constant along the z -axis. Furthermore the studied metamaterials are also invariant along the θ -axis.

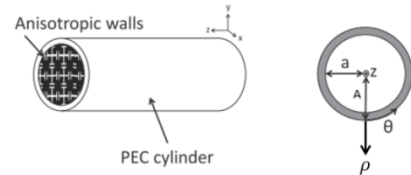


Figure 1: A cylindrical waveguide with anisotropic walls.

The metamaterial periodicity is supposed small compared to wavelength [6]. Therefore metamaterials are assumed to be equivalent to anisotropic surface impedances.

2.1. Modal Expansion Theory for cylindrical waveguides

In the cylindrical coordinate system, the surface impedance Z'_S is defined as follows:

$$\vec{E}_T = Z'_S (\vec{H}_T \times \vec{n}) \quad (1)$$

where \vec{E}_T and \vec{H}_T are the electric and magnetic fields tangent to the cylinder surface, \vec{n} the normal unit vector to the cylinder surface. It leads to two impedance definitions:

$$Z'_T = -\left. \frac{E_\theta}{H_z} \right|_{\rho=a}, \quad Z'_Z = \left. \frac{E_z}{H_\theta} \right|_{\rho=a} \quad (2)$$

The dispersion equation is determined in [11] from Helmholtz's equation and the anisotropic boundary conditions.

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{Z'_Z}{Z_0} (J'_m(u_a))^2 - \frac{Z'_T}{Z_0} \left(\frac{k_c J_m(u_a)}{k_0} \right)^2 \\ & + \left(\frac{Z'_Z Z'_T}{Z_0^2} + 1 \right) \frac{k_c J_m(u_a) J'_m(u_a)}{j k_0} \\ & + \frac{Z'_Z}{Z_0} \left(\left(\frac{k_c}{k_0} \right)^2 - 1 \right) \left(\frac{m J_m(u_a)}{u_a} \right)^2 = 0 \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

where a is the internal radius, $u_a = k_c a$, k_c the cutoff constant, k_0 the free space wavenumber, J_m the Bessel function of order m , J'_m the derivative of the Bessel function J_m and Z_0 the free space characteristic impedance.

In this article, cylindrical waveguides with 2D metamaterials due to an invariance along the θ -axis are of interest. Consequently only 0 order modes are studied. Metamaterials could be considered as anisotropic surface impedances but their shape should be undertaken. In [13] the MET with a 2D FEM code is successfully applied to rectangular waveguides with 2D metamaterials with invariance along the y -axis. In this article, the FEM is developed to cylindrical waveguides with 2D metamaterials with invariance along the θ -axis.

The equation (3) is simplified for 0 order modes [11] into:

$$\begin{aligned} & [j\omega\mu_0 J'_0(u_a) + Z'_T k_c J_0(u_a)] \\ & \times [Z'_Z j\omega\epsilon_0 J'_0(u_a) + k_c J_0(u_a)] = 0 \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

where μ_0 is the free space permeability, ϵ_0 the free space permittivity and ω angular frequency (by using the convention of electromagnetic fields dependent on $e^{j\omega t}$).

From (4) TE_{0n} and TM_{0n} modes could be characterized separately, whatever n is. As a matter of fact in (4) either the first term is equal to zero or the second term. The first term with Z'_T will define TE_{0n} modes and the second term with Z'_Z will define TM_{0n} modes.

2.2. Characterization of conformal metamaterials

As the waveguide is θ -invariant, the 3D FEM code is simplified into a 2D FEM code. In any P plane of the cylindrical waveguide, a unit cell can be extracted, see Fig. 2.

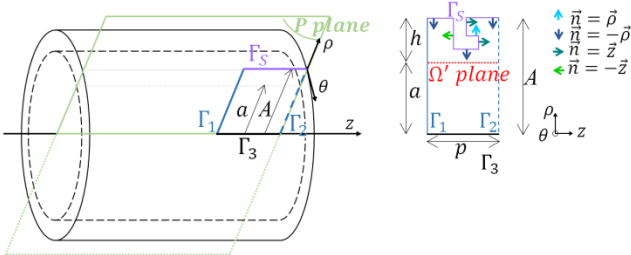


Figure 2: A cylindrical waveguide with an example of 2D metamaterial unit cell.

Γ_1 and Γ_2 are periodic boundaries, Γ_3 is the rotational axis and Γ_5 is a boundary where the Z'_S surface impedance (Z'_T and Z'_Z) is defined. Ω' is the plane where the Z'_S surface impedance (Z'_T and Z'_Z) is computed. A is the radius of the waveguide, h is the height of the metamaterial and p the distance between Γ_1 and Γ_2 .

The Z'_S conformal surface impedance (Z'_T and Z'_Z) is computed with the 2D FEM code in the Ω' plane. Z'_Z defined in (2) is generated by H_θ , that is considered θ invariant; Z'_T defined in (2) is generated by E_θ , and considered θ invariant. This code is inserted in the MET solution of (3).

2.3. Recursive solution of dispersion equation

The Z'_S surface impedance (Z'_T and Z'_Z) depends on the φ incidence angle [13] which is deduced from β , the phase constant along the z -axis. The algorithm of Fig. 3 is implemented to compute the dispersion diagrams.

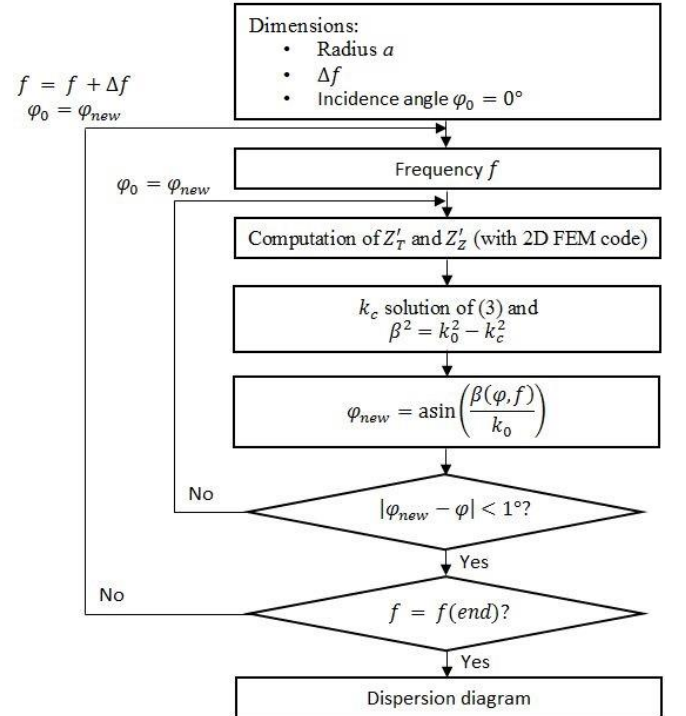


Figure 3: The MET algorithm to obtain β .

With this algorithm different 2D metamaterials (with a θ invariance) in cylindrical waveguides can be studied. A 3D FEM code is required to deal with 3D metamaterials or mode with angular dependency (m order different from 0).

3. Results

The method and the algorithm are validated in three different cases:

- firstly in a corrugated waveguide,
- subsequently the code is applied to a L-shape metamaterial,
- finally a stair-shape metamaterial is studied.

In all these cases, results are compared to HFSS solutions. To study these waveguides with HFSS, the same method as [11] is used. Dispersion diagrams are obtained from the volume of the section represented in Fig. 5, 11 and 14 with dashed lines and using periodic boundary conditions, see Fig. 4. The propagation constant is computed thanks to the phase delay between two periodic boundary conditions and the distance between them. By using the eigenmode solver in HFSS, the frequency of each solution is given. The complete dispersion diagram is obtained by varying the phase delay between the two periodic boundary conditions from 0° to 180° .

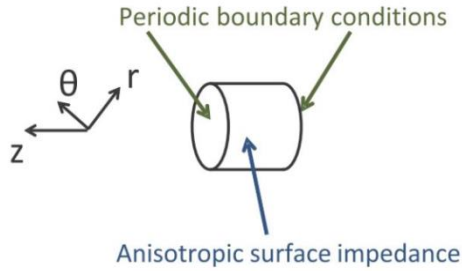


Figure 4: A cylindrical representation of a waveguide with periodic boundary conditions and anisotropic surface simulated in HFSS.

3.1. Corrugated cylindrical waveguide

A corrugation invariant in θ direction is considered. The studied waveguide is represented Fig. 5.

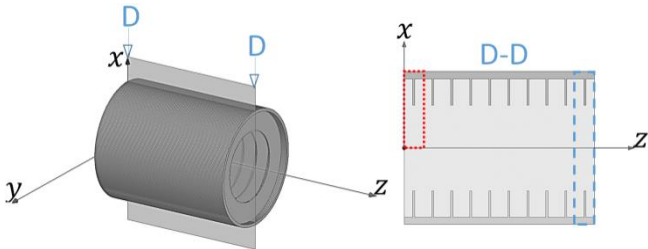


Figure 5: A corrugated waveguide. The blue dashed section is the section used in HFSS and the red dotted one is used in the MET.

For the MET, the unit cell is created with the open source software Gmsh [14] and represented in Fig. 6.a.

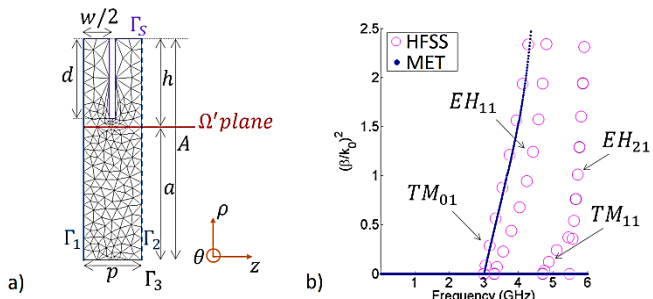


Figure 6: a) Unit cell mesh and dimensions: $A = 39.3 \text{ mm}$, $a = 23.58 \text{ mm}$, $d = 14.3 \text{ mm}$, $h = 15.72 \text{ mm}$, $p = 10.3 \text{ mm}$, and $w = 9.28 \text{ mm}$. b) Dispersion diagrams of the corrugated cylindrical waveguide obtained with MET (dots) and HFSS (circles).

Both simulations are made with the same computer (Intel (R) Xeon (R), 1.8 GHz 2 processors, 64 GB of RAM). The dispersion diagrams are represented Fig. 6.b, they perfectly coincide for 0 order modes. The dispersion diagrams are obtained in 622 minutes with HFSS while it requires only 18 minutes with MET. Consequently the MET code is 34 times faster.

Since only TM_{01} mode appears in this dispersion diagram, only Z'_Z is of interest. The figure 7 represents the Z'_Z surface impedance computed in the Ω' plane.

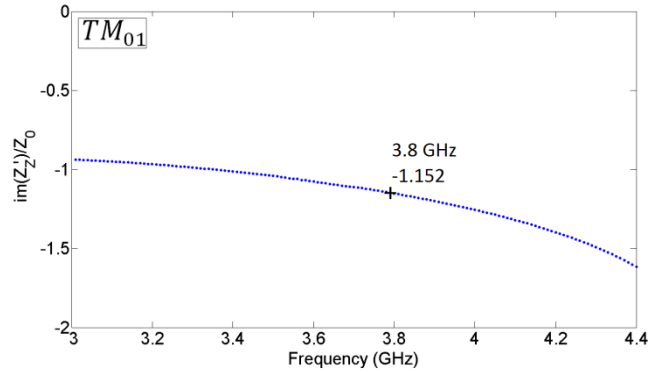


Figure 7: The Z'_Z surface impedance of the TM_{01} mode of Fig. 6.b.

While the Z_S surface impedance (Z_T and Z_Z) in Γ_S is null, Z'_Z in the Ω' plane change with frequencies. This Z'_Z impedance is computed with the algorithm of Fig. 3 which means that the φ incidence angle is different from one frequency to another.

In order to observe a TE_{0n} mode, the dispersion diagram of Fig. 6.b is studied up to 7 GHz and represented in the Fig. 8.

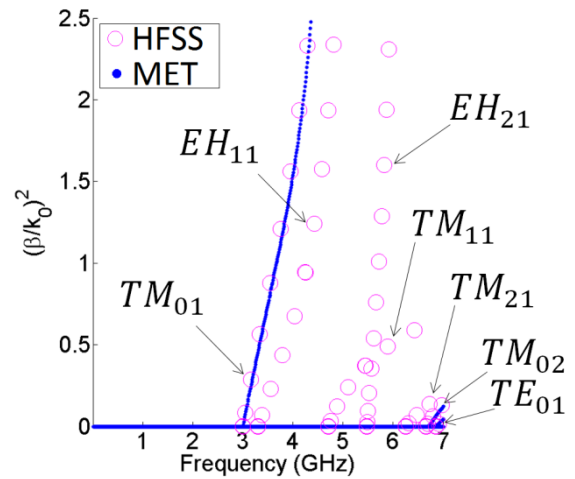


Figure 8: Dispersion diagrams of the corrugated cylindrical waveguide obtained with MET (dots) and HFSS (circles).

In this new dispersion diagram, two new 0 order modes are identified: the TM_{02} and the TE_{01} modes. Consequently Z'_Z is of interest for the TM_{02} mode and Z'_T is of interest for the TE_{01} mode as explained in (4). Figure 9 represents the Z'_Z surface impedance computed in the Ω' plane for the TM_{02} mode and figure 10 represents the Z'_T surface impedance for the TE_{01} mode.

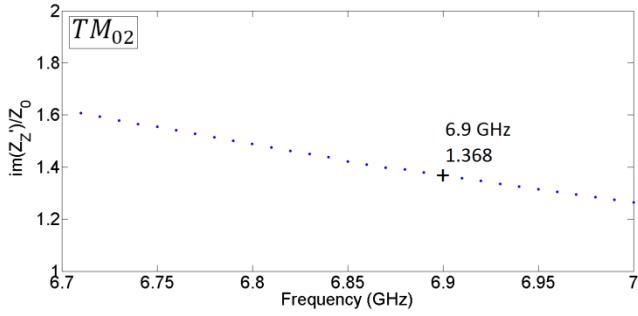


Figure 9: The Z'_z surface impedance of the TM_{02} mode of Fig. 8.

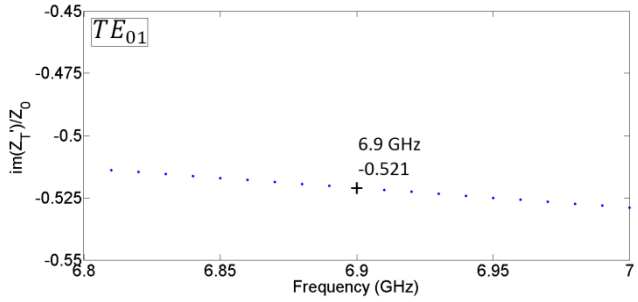


Figure 10: The Z'_T surface impedance of the TE_{01} mode of Fig. 8.

Both figures lead to the same conclusion as Fig. 7: the Z'_S surface impedance (Z'_T and Z'_z) in the Ω' plane changes with frequencies, with the φ incidence angle and also are dependent on the mode.

3.2. Cylindrical waveguide with L-shape metamaterial

The studied waveguide is presented in Fig. 11. The L-shape metamaterial is also invariant along the θ -axis.

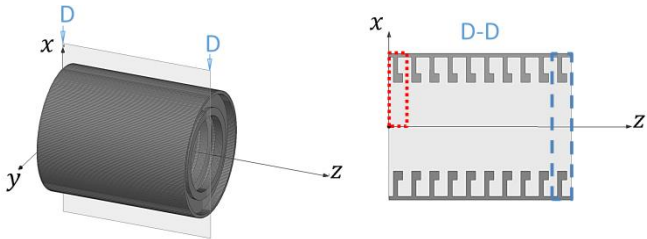


Figure 11: A cylindrical waveguide with a L-shape metamaterial. The blue dashed section is the section used in HFSS and the red dotted one is used in the MET.

As in the previous case, the unit cell is created with Gmsh from the red dotted section of Fig. 11. Figures 12 represent the unit cell mesh used and the dispersion diagrams obtained with the MET (dots) and with HFSS (circles).

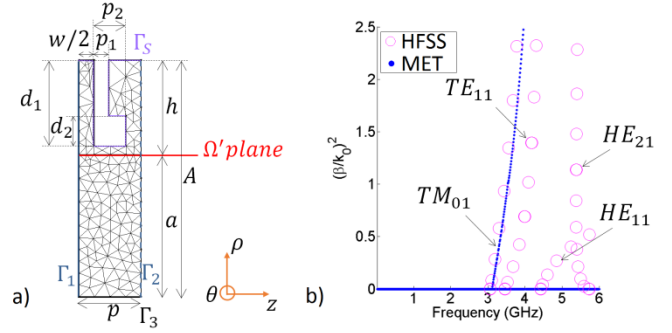


Figure 12: a) Unit cell mesh and dimensions: $A = 39.3 \text{ mm}$, $a = 23.58 \text{ mm}$, $d_1 = 14.3 \text{ mm}$, $d_2 = 2.5 \text{ mm}$, $h = 15.72 \text{ mm}$, $p = 10.3 \text{ mm}$, $p_1 = 2.5 \text{ mm}$, $p_2 = 5.3 \text{ mm}$, and $w = 5 \text{ mm}$. b) Dispersion diagrams of the corrugated cylindrical waveguide obtained with MET (dots) and HFSS (circles).

Both dispersion diagrams in Fig. 12.b perfectly coincide. Concerning the computation time with HFSS, the simulation lasts around 1032 minutes while this process takes only 20 minutes with the MET. Hence the time is divided by 51. The L-shape metamaterial changes the propagation properties of the waveguide (different modes and different orders). Indeed the cutoff frequency of the TM_{01} mode is now 3.11 GHz , while it was 3 GHz for the corrugated waveguide. Moreover the Z'_z surface impedance for the TM_{01} mode is slightly different from the corrugation case see Fig. 13.

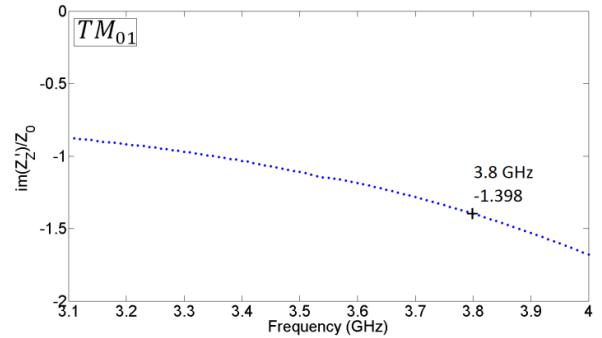


Figure 13: The Z'_z surface impedance of the TM_{01} mode of Fig. 12.b.

3.3. Cylindrical waveguide with stair-shape metamaterial

The last waveguide studied is a waveguide with a stair-shape metamaterial θ -invariant, see Fig. 14.

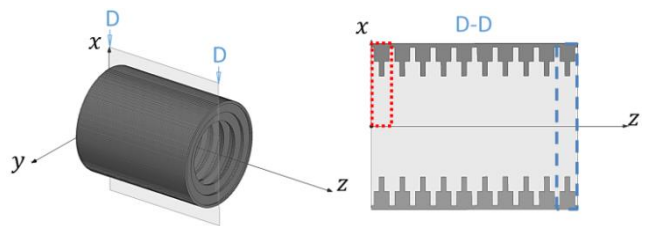


Figure 14: A cylindrical waveguide with a stair-shape metamaterial. The blue dashed section is the section used in HFSS and the red dotted one is used in the MET.

Figures 15 represent the unit cell and the dispersion diagrams.

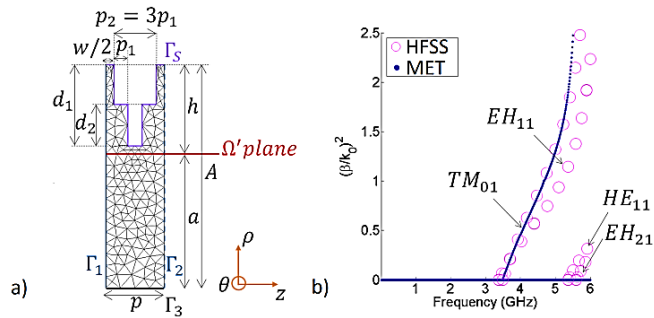


Figure 15: a) Unit cell mesh and dimensions: $A = 39.3 \text{ mm}$, $a = 23.58 \text{ mm}$, $d_1 = 14.3 \text{ mm}$, $d_2 = 7 \text{ mm}$, $h = 15.72 \text{ mm}$, $p = 10.3 \text{ mm}$, $p_1 = 2.5 \text{ mm}$, $p_2 = 7.5 \text{ mm}$, and $w = 5 \text{ mm}$. b) Dispersion diagrams of the corrugated cylindrical waveguide obtained with MET (dots) and HFSS (circles).

The dispersion diagrams are obtained with HFSS (circles in Fig. 15.b) in 1256 minutes and with the MET (dots in Fig. 15.b) it requires an eleven-minute computation times. The reduction time is around 114.

With this metamaterial the first mode is not the TM_{01} but the EH_{11} mode. Consequently the propagating modes and their cutoff frequencies change again with the shape of the metamaterial. In this case, the TM_{01} cutoff frequency is now $f_c = 3.49 \text{ GHz}$, while it was 3 GHz for the corrugated waveguide. Moreover the Z'_z surface impedance of the TM_{01} mode is divided by two at 3.8 GHz compared to the previous cases, Fig. 16.

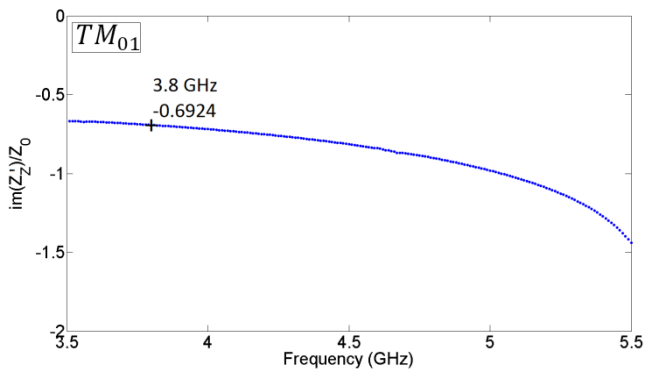


Figure 16: The Z'_z surface impedance of the TM_{01} mode of Fig. 15.b.

4. Conclusion

The MET has been successfully applied to cylindrical waveguides with 2D metamaterial walls, for 0 order modes. The proposed method appears accurate and extremely faster than HFSS solution, at least 30 times faster. This method allows a comparison between the propagation characteristics of all kinds of θ -invariant metamaterials. In this article three different waveguides have been studied. It has been proved that the shape of the metamaterial can modify the propagation properties in the waveguide. Furthermore all metamaterials can be defined by using their surface

impedance at any given volume height. In these three examples the surface impedances are computed at the same volume height h and are different. They depend on the frequencies, on the φ incidence angle, on the propagating mode and on the metamaterial shape.

An extension of the method to 3D metamaterials is now under process. As metamaterials could be θ -dependent, the 3D FEM code could no longer be reduced to a 2D FEM code. With this extension all kinds of metamaterial but also all the mode orders can be dealt with.

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