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► **To cite this version:**

Lucille Kuhler, Gwenn Le Fur, Luc Duchesne, Nathalie Raveu. Modal Analysis of Cylindrical Waveguides with 2D Metamaterial Wall. META 2018 9th International Conference on Metamaterials, Photonic Crystals and Plasmonics, Jun 2018, Marseille, France. hal-02440149

**HAL Id: hal-02440149**

**<https://enac.hal.science/hal-02440149>**

Submitted on 15 Jan 2020

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# Modal Analysis of Cylindrical Waveguides with 2D Metamaterial Wall

Lucille Kuhler<sup>1,2,3,\*</sup>, Gwenn Le Fur<sup>2</sup>, Luc Duchesne<sup>3</sup>, Nathalie Raveu<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Toulouse, INPT, CNRS, Laplace, 2 rue Charles Camichel, Toulouse, France

<sup>2</sup>CNES, antennas department, 18 avenue Edouard Belin, Toulouse, France

<sup>3</sup>MVG Industries, 17 avenue de Norvege, Villebon Sur Yvette, France

\*corresponding author, E-mail: lucille.kuhler@laplace.univ-tlse.fr

## 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  $\theta$ -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  $\theta$ -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  $\gamma$  the propagation constant along the  $z$ -axis. Furthermore the studied metamaterials are also invariant along the  $\theta$ -axis.

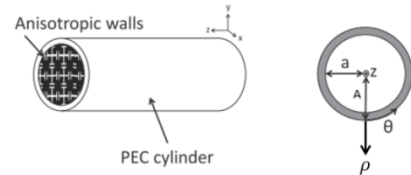


Figure 1: A cylindrical waveguide with anisotropic walls.

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:

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



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  $0^\circ$  to  $180^\circ$ .

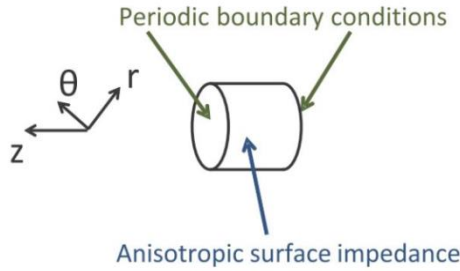


Figure 4: A cylindrical representation of a waveguide with periodic boundary conditions and anisotropic surface simulated in HFSS.

### 3.1. Corrugated cylindrical waveguide

A corrugation invariant in  $\theta$  direction is considered. The studied waveguide is represented Fig. 5.

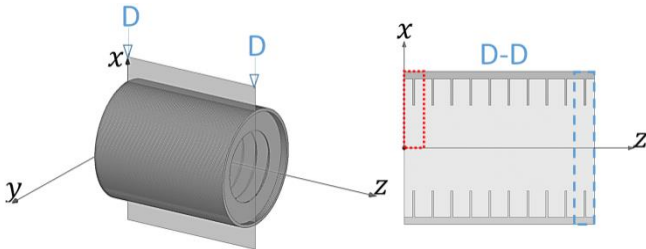


Figure 5: A corrugated waveguide. The blue dashed section is the section used in HFSS and the red dotted one is used in the MET.

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

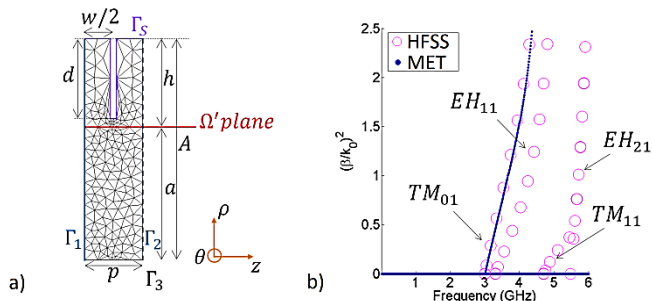


Figure 6: a) Unit cell mesh and dimensions:  $A = 39.3 \text{ mm}$ ,  $a = 23.58 \text{ mm}$ ,  $d = 14.3 \text{ mm}$ ,  $h = 15.72 \text{ mm}$ ,  $p = 10.3 \text{ mm}$ , and  $w = 9.28 \text{ mm}$ . b) Dispersion diagrams of the corrugated cylindrical waveguide obtained with MET (dots) and HFSS (circles).

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  $\Omega'$  plane.

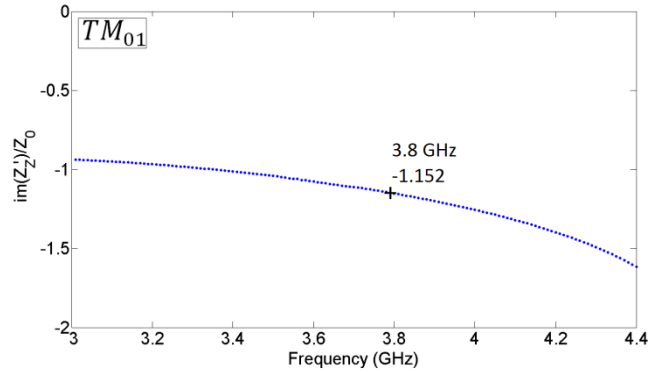


Figure 7: The  $Z'_Z$  surface impedance of the  $TM_{01}$  mode of Fig. 6.b.

While the  $Z_S$  surface impedance ( $Z_T$  and  $Z_Z$ ) in  $\Gamma_S$  is null,  $Z'_Z$  in the  $\Omega'$  plane change with frequencies. This  $Z'_Z$  impedance is computed with the algorithm of Fig. 3 which means that the  $\varphi$  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.

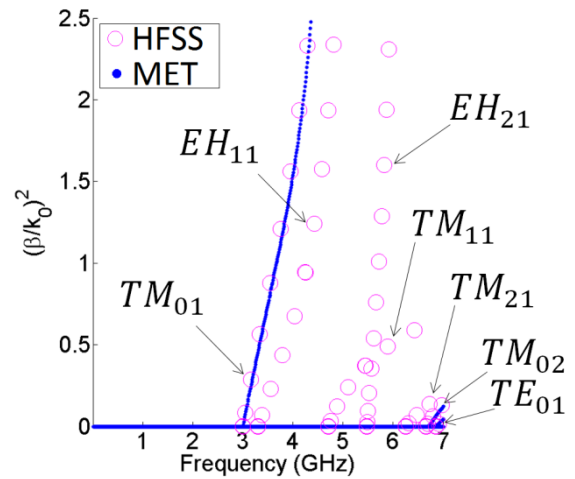


Figure 8: Dispersion diagrams of the corrugated cylindrical waveguide obtained with MET (dots) and HFSS (circles).

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  $\Omega'$  plane for the  $TM_{02}$  mode and figure 10 represents the  $Z'_T$  surface impedance for the  $TE_{01}$  mode.

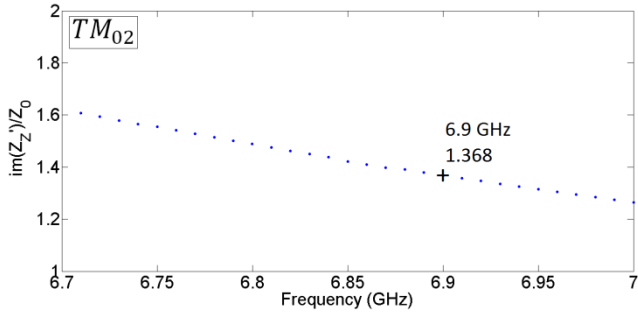


Figure 9: The  $Z'_z$  surface impedance of the  $TM_{02}$  mode of Fig. 8.

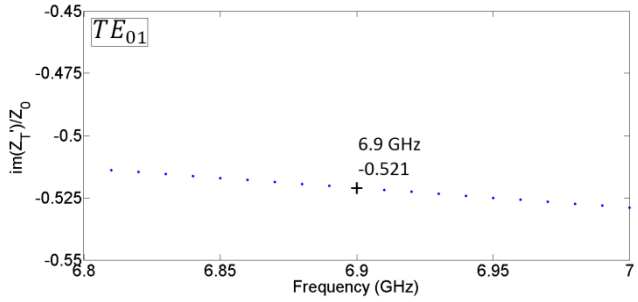


Figure 10: The  $Z'_T$  surface impedance of the  $TE_{01}$  mode of Fig. 8.

Both figures lead to the same conclusion as Fig. 7: the  $Z'_S$  surface impedance ( $Z'_T$  and  $Z'_z$ ) in the  $\Omega'$  plane changes with frequencies, with the  $\varphi$  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  $\theta$ -axis.

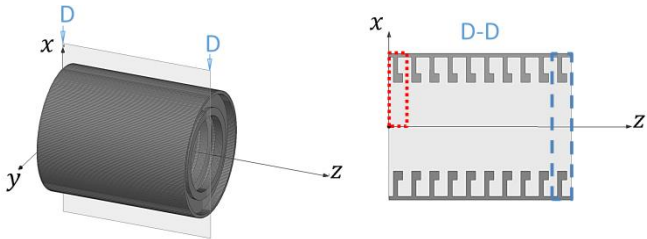


Figure 11: A cylindrical waveguide with a L-shape metamaterial. The blue dashed section is the section used in HFSS and the red dotted one is used in the MET.

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).

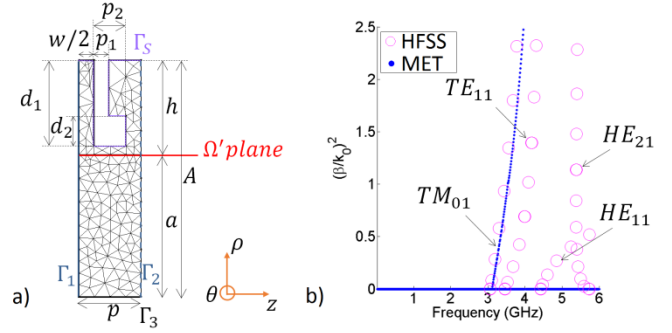


Figure 12: a) Unit cell mesh and dimensions:  $A = 39.3 \text{ mm}$ ,  $a = 23.58 \text{ mm}$ ,  $d_1 = 14.3 \text{ mm}$ ,  $d_2 = 2.5 \text{ mm}$ ,  $h = 15.72 \text{ mm}$ ,  $p = 10.3 \text{ mm}$ ,  $p_1 = 2.5 \text{ mm}$ ,  $p_2 = 5.3 \text{ mm}$ , and  $w = 5 \text{ mm}$ . b) Dispersion diagrams 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  $3.11 \text{ GHz}$ , while it was  $3 \text{ GHz}$  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.

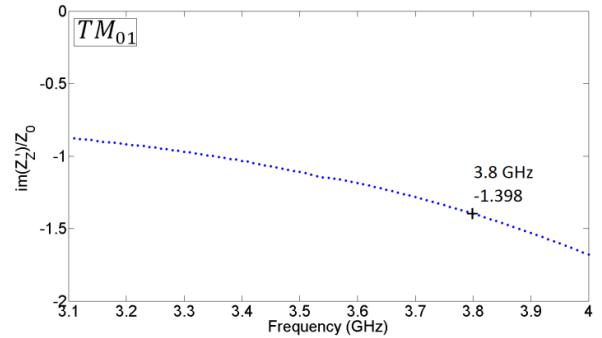


Figure 13: The  $Z'_z$  surface impedance of the  $TM_{01}$  mode of Fig. 12.b.

### 3.3. Cylindrical waveguide with stair-shape metamaterial

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

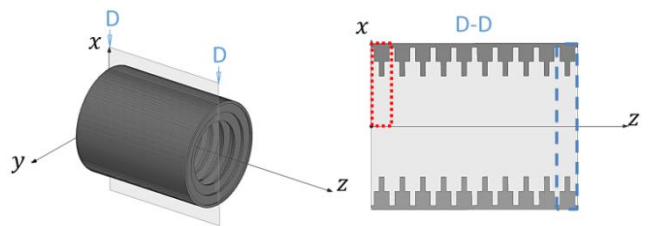


Figure 14: A cylindrical waveguide with a stair-shape metamaterial. The blue dashed section is the section used in HFSS and the red dotted one is used in the MET.

Figures 15 represent the unit cell and the dispersion diagrams.

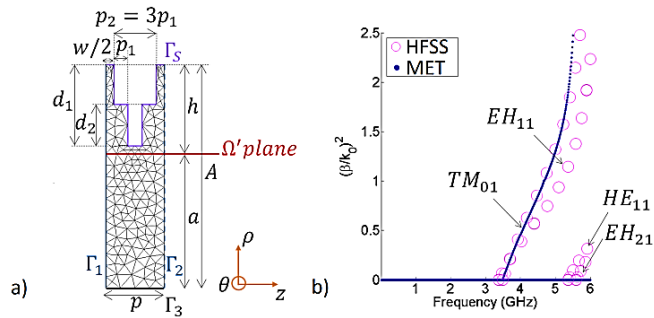


Figure 15: a) Unit cell mesh and dimensions:  $A = 39.3 \text{ mm}$ ,  $a = 23.58 \text{ mm}$ ,  $d_1 = 14.3 \text{ mm}$ ,  $d_2 = 7 \text{ mm}$ ,  $h = 15.72 \text{ mm}$ ,  $p = 10.3 \text{ mm}$ ,  $p_1 = 2.5 \text{ mm}$ ,  $p_2 = 7.5 \text{ mm}$ , and  $w = 5 \text{ mm}$ . b) Dispersion diagrams of 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  $3 \text{ GHz}$  for the corrugated waveguide. Moreover the  $Z'_z$  surface impedance of the  $TM_{01}$  mode is divided by two at  $3.8 \text{ GHz}$  compared to the previous cases, Fig. 16.

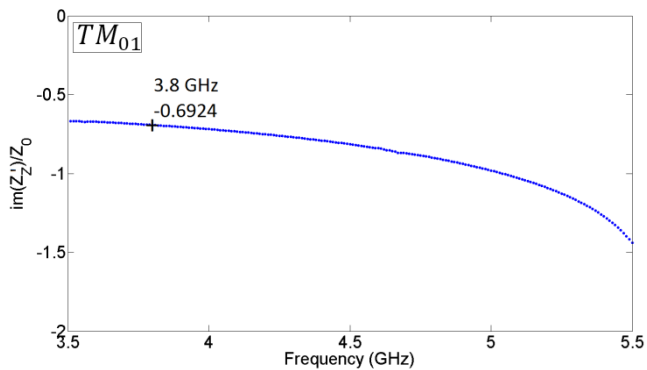


Figure 16: The  $Z'_z$  surface impedance of the  $TM_{01}$  mode of Fig. 15.b.

#### 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  $\theta$ -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  $\varphi$  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  $\theta$ -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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