Cutoff Frequencies of Eccentric Waveguides

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Abstract—This paper discusses the uniform cylindrical waveguide formed by placing one conductor inside a conducting tube. Because of the complexity of the guide's cross section, the numerical technique of the point-matching method is adopted to solve the boundary-value problem. The formulations are carried out for the case when each of the conductors has an arbitrary cross section and also for the case when one of the conductors has a circular cross section.

The coaxial waveguide modes, in which the field components have angular variations, split into odd and even modes when the center conductor begins to shift axis to form the uniform eccentric waveguide. However, only even modes in the eccentric guide correspond to the coaxial modes with no angular variations. The dependence of the cutoff frequency on the eccentricity of the guide is determined numerically for even and odd TE and TM modes. Experimental results verify the theoretical calculations for TE modes.

I. INTRODUCTION

A TWO-CONDUCTOR waveguide in which one conductor encloses the other and each has an arbitrary cross section presents an interesting problem for the application of the point-matching technique. A special case of this guide occurs when each of the two conductors has a circular cross section; such a circular eccentric guide has been used as an adjustable quarter-wave transformer for TEM wave modes of propagation [1]. The characteristic impedance of this transmission line decreases as the eccentricity between the inner and the outer conductors increases. When operating at relatively high frequencies, however, it should be realized that high-order modes may be excited.

Recently, the point-matching technique has been utilized to solve eigenvalue problems in many areas of engineering science [2]–[5]. The boundary conditions of a two-dimensional problem are imposed at a finite number of points around the periphery. Under this assumption, the partial differential equation of the problem can be reduced to a system of algebraic equations. This method is convenient especially when a high-speed digital computer is available. In this paper, the cutoff frequencies of circular eccentric waveguides will be calculated by the point-matching method for the lowest and the next higher order TE and TM wave modes, and the results are plotted for several geometrical configurations.

It is observed that each of the degenerate wave modes (with angular-varying field distribution) in the circular coaxial waveguides are split into two modes when the guide becomes eccentric, namely, the even and the odd modes. The even mode is assigned to the mode for which the longitudinal field component is symmetric with respect to the line of eccentricity,[1] while the odd mode is assigned to the mode for which the longitudinal component is anti-symmetric with respect to the line of eccentricity. Each of the modes with no angular-varying field in the coaxial waveguides has only even modes in eccentric waveguides. Cutoff frequencies of both the lowest order even and odd TM wave modes are decreasing with increasing eccentricity. The cutoff frequency of the lowest order even TE mode is increasing with increasing eccentricity. There is, however, very little change in cutoff frequency of the lowest order odd TE mode if the ratio of the radii of the outer and inner conductors is equal to three or larger.

The objective of this paper is twofold: 1) to obtain data of several circular eccentric waveguides of different geometrical configurations, 2) to show that the eigenvalue problem of this type of two-conductor waveguide, in which each conductor is arbitrary in cross-sectional shape, can be solved by the point-matching method.

The measured data for two circular eccentric guides verify the theoretical values.

II. THEORETICAL FORMULATION

Consider a two-conductor waveguide in which one conductor encloses the other. Let the guide be oriented such that the z-axis is enclosed by the inner conductor and let the cross section of the guide be symmetrical with respect to the x-axis as shown in Fig. 1(a). Let a time-harmonic [exp $(j\omega t)$] electromagnetic wave propagate between the two conductors in the positive z-direction. The solutions of the scalar Helmholtz equation, for the even and odd modes may be written in terms of coaxial wave modes as follows [6]:

$$\psi_e = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left[A_{en} J_n(kr) + B_{en} Y_n(kr) \right] \cos n\theta \qquad (1)$$

$$\psi_o = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left[A_{on} J_n(kr) + B_{on} Y_n(kr) \right] \sin n\theta \qquad (2)$$

where the subscripts e and o stand for even and odd, respectively, n is an integer, and r and θ are the polar coordinates. J_n and Y_n are the nth-order Bessel func-

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[1] The line of eccentricity is defined as the line joining the centers of the two conductors.
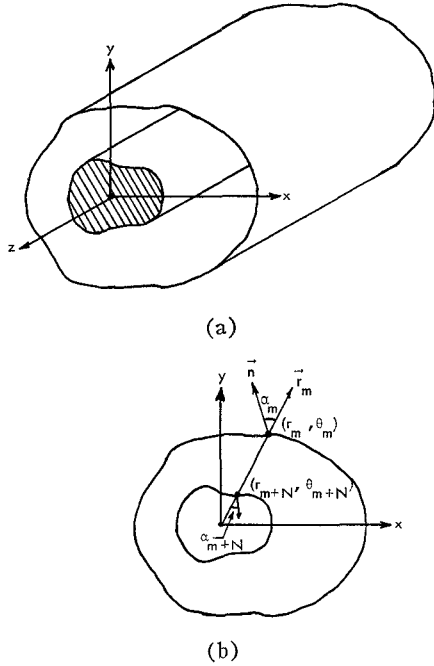
(a)

(b)

Fig. 1.   (a) The geometry of the two-conductor waveguide under consideration. (b) The angle α at the chosen points.

tions of the first and second kinds, respectively. The quantities A_n and B_n are constants to be determined by the boundary conditions. The cutoff wave number k is given by

$$k^2 = \omega^2 \mu_o \epsilon_o - k_z^2$$

where μ_o and ϵ_o are the constitutive parameters of free space, ω is the operating angular frequency, and $k_z = 2\pi/\lambda_g$ is the propagation constant. The wave function $\psi = H_z$ for TE wave modes, and $\psi = E_z$ for TM wave modes. The wave function ψ must satisfy either Dirichlet or Neumann boundary conditions. With the known longitudinal field components H_z or E_z the transverse field components can be computed by

$$\overline{E}_t = (jk_z/k^2)[-\nabla_t E_z + (\omega\mu_o/k_z)\bar{z} \times (\nabla_t H_z)] \quad (3)$$

$$\overline{H}_t = (-jk_z/k^2)[(\omega\epsilon_o/k_z)\bar{z} \times (\nabla_t E_z) + \nabla_t H_z] \quad (4)$$

where $\bar{z}$ is the unit vector in the z-direction and ∇_t is the transverse gradient operator. The cutoff wave number k and the expansion coefficients A_n and B_n for each wave mode are found by requiring that the wave function ψ satisfies the boundary conditions. Thus, by means of (1)–(4) the field inside the waveguide is completely described, and the power transfer, the attenuation constant due to the finite conductivity of the walls, and other information about the guide can be determined by numerical techniques.

Assuming that the series in (1) and (2) converge rapidly and uniformly for the cases under consideration, the wave functions may be approximated by a finite number of terms, i.e.,

$$\psi_e = \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} [A_{en}J_n(kr) + B_{en}Y_n(kr)] \cos n\theta \quad (5)$$

$$\psi_o = \sum_{n=1}^{N} [A_{on}J_n(kr) + B_{on}Y_n(kr)] \sin n\theta. \quad (6)$$

The point-matching technique requires (5) or (6) to satisfy the boundary conditions at a finite number of points, namely, $2N$ points. Let the points (r_1, θ_1), (r_2, θ_2), $\cdots$ (r_N, θ_N) be a set of chosen points around the outer cross-sectional contour, and (r_{N+1}, θ_{N+1}), (r_{N+2}, θ_{N+2}), $\cdots$ (r_{2N}, θ_{2N}) be the corresponding set of chosen points around the inner cross-sectional contour. The boundary conditions at these points for TM modes require

$$\sum_n [A_n J_n(kr_m) + B_n Y_n(kr_m)] \genfrac{}{}{0pt}{}{\cos}{\sin} n\theta_m = 0 \quad (7)$$

and for TE modes require

$$\bar{n}\cdot\nabla_t \sum_n [A_n J_n(kr_m) + B_n Y_n(kr_m)] \genfrac{}{}{0pt}{}{\cos}{\sin} n\theta_m = 0 \quad (8)$$

where $m = 1, 2, 3, \cdots, 2N$, and $\bar{n}$ is the unit vector normal to the surface. The limits of the summations are the same as those of (5) and (6). The constants A_n and B_n with neither one of the subscripts (e, o) implies either even or odd. Also, the upper and lower functions in (7) and (8) will always designate the even and odd wave modes, respectively. In a more precise form, (8) may be written as

$$\sum_n \{ kr_m[A_n J_n'(kr_m) + B_n Y_n'(kr_m)] \genfrac{}{}{0pt}{}{\cos}{\sin} n\theta_m$$

$$\mp \tan \alpha_m[A_n J_n(kr_m) + B_n Y_n(kr_m)] \genfrac{}{}{0pt}{}{\sin}{\cos} n\theta_m \} = 0 \quad (8a)$$

where $\cos \alpha_m = \bar{n}\cdot\bar{r}_m$ for $m = 1, 2, \cdots, N$; $\cos \alpha_m = -\bar{n}\cdot\bar{r}_m$ for $m = N+1, N+2, \cdots, 2N$; and $\bar{r}_m$ is the unit vector in the r-direction at point (r_m, θ_m) as shown in Fig. 1(b). The above formulations insure the wave functions satisfying the boundary conditions simultaneously at the chosen points on the outer and the inner cross-sectional contours. Each of (7) and (8a) forms a system of $2N$ homogeneous algebraic equations of $2N$ expansion coefficients A_n and B_n with the cutoff wave number k as the parameter. To obtain nontrivial solutions of A_n and B_n, the determinant of these coefficients must be zero. That is,

$$D(k) = \det |d_{ij}| = 0 \quad (9)$$

where

$$d_{ij} = J_i(kr_j) \genfrac{}{}{0pt}{}{\cos}{\sin} i\theta_j \quad (9a)$$

$$d_{ij} = Y_{i-N}(kr_j) \genfrac{}{}{0pt}{}{\cos}{\sin} (i - N)\theta_j \quad (9b)$$

for TM modes; and

$$d_{ij} = kr_j \frac{\cos}{\sin} i\theta_j J_i{}'(kr_j) \mp i \tan \alpha_j \frac{\sin}{\cos} i\theta_j J_i(kr_j) \quad (9c)$$

$$d_{ij} = kr_j \frac{\cos}{\sin} (i - N)\theta_j Y_{i-N}{}'(kr_j)$$

$$\mp (i - N) \tan \alpha_j \frac{\sin}{\cos} (i - N)\theta_j Y_{i-N}(kr_j) \quad (9d)$$

for TE modes; where for (9a) and (9c)

$$i = \begin{cases} 0, 1, 2, \cdots, N-1 \\ 1, 2, 3, \cdots, N \end{cases}$$

and for (9b) and (9d)

$$i = \begin{cases} N, N+1, \cdots, 2N-1 \\ N+1, N+2, \cdots, 2N \end{cases}$$

and

$$j = 1, 2, \cdots, 2N.$$

Equation (9) will be referred to as the point-matching characteristic equation. The roots of (9) are the values of k which are infinite in number, each of which corresponds to a wave mode. Having determined the cutoff wave number for a specific mode, the expansion coefficients A_n and B_n can readily be found from (7) and (8a).

It should be noted that the chosen points around the inner cross-sectional contour (inner points) depend on the outer points and vice versa. The dependence is that, for a polar coordinate θ_m of an outer point, there is an inner point which has the same polar coordinate. That is, $\theta_m = \theta_{N+m}$ where $m = 1, 2, \cdots, N$. Under this condition, (9) yields exact solutions when applied to the circular coaxial guide.

III. One Conductor With Circular Cross Section

If one of the cross-sectional contours is circular, not only is the previous analysis applicable, but (9) can also be reduced from a determinant of order $2N$ to a determinant of order N, with the same accuracy or better. Due to the limited capacity of a digital computer, the evaluation of the smaller determinant is easier and more economical.

Let the z-axis be collinear with the axis of the circular conducting tube of radius a. The boundary conditions can be satisfied exactly at the boundary of $r = a$ by setting $E_z = 0$ and $E_\theta = 0$ for TM and TE modes, respectively. The boundary conditions on the other conductor with general cross section, where r depends on θ, are imposed point-wise.

Considering the TM modes first, the wave functions (5) and (6) are still valid for this waveguide. The boundary conditions at $r = a$ require that

$$B_n = -A_n J_n(ka)/Y_n(ka). \quad (10)$$

Substituting (10) into (5) and (6), and matching the boundary conditions at a finite number of points only at the general cross-sectional contour yields

$$\sum_n \left\{ [J_n(kr_m) Y_n(ka) - J_n(ka) Y_n(kr_m)] \right.$$
$$\left. \cdot \begin{pmatrix} \cos \\ \sin \end{pmatrix} n\theta_m \middle/ Y_n(ka) \right\} A_n = 0 \quad (11)$$

where $(r_1, \theta_1), (r_2, \theta_2), \cdots, (r_N, \theta_N)$ are N points properly chosen around the general contour. The limits of the summation are between 0 and $(N-1)$ for the even modes and between 1 and N for the odd modes.

Since the factor $1/Y_n(ka)$ is the same for every column of the matrix inside the braces of (11), the determinant of this matrix being equal to zero is equivalent to setting

$$D(k) = \det |d_{mn}| = 0 \quad (12)$$

where

$$d_{mn} = [J_n(kr_m) Y_n(ka) - J_n(ka) Y_n(kr_m)] \frac{\cos}{\sin} n\theta_m$$

and

$$1/Y_n(ka) = 0. \quad (13)$$

Observe that the order of the determinant of the point-matching characteristic equation is N. Evidently, it is easier to evaluate (12) than the equations in (9). The root of (13) is $k = 0$ which is the solution of the TEM mode.

For the TE wave modes, the equation corresponding to (10) is given by

$$B_n = -A_n J_n{}'(ka)/Y_n{}'(ka). \quad (14)$$

Substituting (14) into (5) and (6) and again using the point-matching method on the general cross-sectional contour yields

$$\sum_n \left\{ [J_n{}'(kr_m) Y_n{}'(ka) - J_n{}'(ka) Y_n{}'(kr_m)]kr_m \right.$$
$$\cdot \begin{pmatrix} \cos \\ \sin \end{pmatrix} n\theta_m \middle/ Y_n{}'(ka) \mp \tan \alpha_m [J_n(kr_m) Y_n{}'(ka)$$
$$\left. - J_n{}'(ka) Y_n(kr_m)]n \begin{pmatrix} \sin \\ \cos \end{pmatrix} n\theta_m \middle/ Y_n{}'(ka) \right\} A_n = 0 \quad (15)$$

where $m = 1, 2, 3, \cdots, N$.

The limits of the summation are the same as for TM modes. Equation (15) is similar in form to (11), and by the same reasoning, the matrix inside the braces of (15) leads to the form of (12) with

$$d_{mn} = [J_n{}'(kr_m) Y_n{}'(ka) - J_n{}'(ka) Y_n{}'(kr_m)]kr_m \genfrac{}{}{0pt}{}{\cos}{\sin} n\theta_m$$

$$\mp n \tan \alpha_m [J_n(kr_m) Y_n{}'(ka)$$

$$- J_n{}'(ka) Y_n(kr_m)] \genfrac{}{}{0pt}{}{\sin}{\cos} n\theta_m$$

and

$$1/Y_n{}'(ka) = 0.$$

Again $k = 0$ is the solution for the TEM mode.

With the cutoff wave number determined, the expansion coefficients A_n and B_n can be computed by (10), (11), (14), and (15). It is easy to see that (11) and (15) are reducible to exact solutions when applied to circular coaxial waveguides.

IV. COMPARISON OF EXPERIMENTAL AND THEORETICAL RESULTS

To verify the correctness of the previous formulations, two circular eccentric waveguides were investigated experimentally. One of the eccentric waveguides (see Fig. 2), under consideration is made of two circular copper tubes with radii $a = 0.475$ cm and $b = 1$ cm, and the distance between the two axes $L = 0.315$ cm. (Let this be designated as number 1 waveguide.) The dimensions of the other waveguide (number 2) are $a = 0.15875$ cm, $b = 1$ cm, and $L = 0.379$ cm. The cutoff frequencies are measured by the resonant-frequency method [7], by which the guide is shorted on both ends, thus forming a resonant cavity. The waveguide cavities of these two examples are 15.48 cm in length. The energy was fed through a rectangular slit.

From the field distributions (see Fig. 3), if the slit is placed radially outward at the largest dimension of the guide as shown in Fig. 4(a), the energy fed into the guide induces the odd TE_{11} (denoted by OTE_{11}). If the slit is displaced by an angle of 90° from the position of the guide's largest dimension as in Fig. 4(b), the even TE_{11} (ETE_{11}) is induced. The normalized cutoff wave numbers ka, are tabulated in Tables I and II for the No. 1 and the No. 2 guides, respectively. The measured data show in most cases better than two-place accuracy. The error is partly due to the physical construction of the eccentric guides; otherwise, the accuracy is expected to be better. This can be seen when $L = 0$ (coaxial guide) in No. 1, for which the theoretical cutoff frequency is 6.5513 Gc/s while the experimental value is 6.5505 Gc/s.

The two waveguide cavities were also examined at frequencies from 4 Gc/s up to cutoff (6.546 and 7.237 Gc/s for OTE_{11} modes for No. 1 and No. 2 guides, respectively), and no resonance was observed.

The theoretical values in Tables I and II are computed by (12) with the z-axis being collinear with the axis of the waveguide's inner circular tube. Eleven points were chosen on the outer cross-sectional contour and were approximately evenly distributed. The calcu-
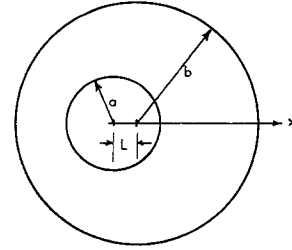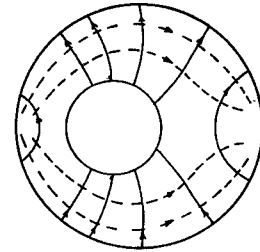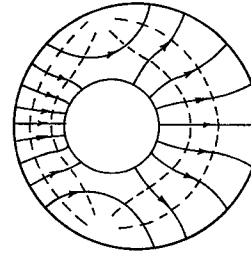

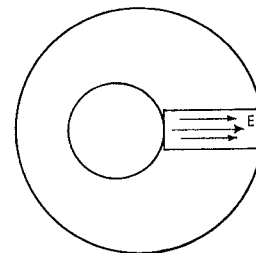Fig. 2.   The cross section of the eccentric waveguide.
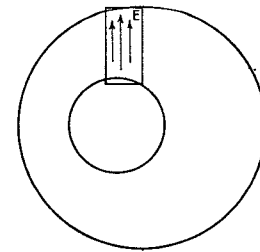

(a)

(b)

Fig. 3.   (a) The field configuration of the ETE_{11} mode.
(b) The field configuration of the OTE_{11} mode.

(a)

(b)

Fig. 4.   (a) The coupling hole for exciting OTE_{11} mode.
(b) The coupling hole for exciting ETE_{11} mode.

TABLE I

COMPARISONS OF CUTOFF WAVE NUMBERS
ka OF No. 1 WAVEGUIDE

	OTE$_{11}$	ETE$_{11}$
Measured	0.6512	0.7205
Calculated	0.6526	0.7200

TABLE II

COMPARISONS OF CUTOFF WAVE NUMBERS
ka OF No. 2 WAVEGUIDE

	OTE$_{11}$	ETE$_{11}$
Measured	0.2779	0.2840
Calculated	0.2791	0.2849

lated values are believed to have three-place accuracy since, for example, the values of ka, 0.65263 and 0.65269 of the OTE$_{11}$ mode for the No. 1 guide are calculated by eleven points and fifteen points, respectively. More evidence will be given later concerning the accuracy of the computation.

V. CUTOFF FREQUENCIES OF ECCENTRIC WAVEGUIDES

As shown in the last sections, the experimental data of eccentric waveguides substantiate that the point-matching characteristic equation (12) is applicable for calculating the cutoff frequencies of TE wave modes. The validity of (12) for TM wave modes will be demonstrated in Section VI.

In Figs. 5–10, the normalized cutoff wave numbers ka of eccentric waveguides are plotted vs. the normalized eccentricity L/a with the radius ratio b/a considered as the parameter. For the TE modes, the radius ratios of 1.5, 2.0, 3.0 and 4.0 are shown, while for the TM modes the ratios of 2.0 and 4.0, only, are shown. The eccentricity varies from the minimum value of zero to the maximum value.

The behavior of the cutoff frequencies with varying eccentricity is irregular for all higher-order modes. However, the cutoff frequency decreases with increasing eccentricity for both lowest-order odd and even TM modes, i.e., the OTM$_{11}$ and the ETM$_{10}$. This phenomenon is reversed for the ETE$_{11}$ mode. The eccentricity, however, has little effect on the cutoff characteristics of the OTE$_{11}$ mode except when the two conductors are almost touching. In this case, the cutoff frequency becomes lower than that of the coaxial guide. The pairs OTE$_{mn}$ and ETE$_{mn}$, and OTM$_{pq}$ and ETM$_{pq}$ of the eccentric guides are split from the degenerate TE$_{mn}$ and TM$_{pq}$ modes of the coaxial wave guide with the same radius ratio, respectively. However, the TE$_{mo}$ and TM$_{mo}$ modes of the coaxial guides correspond only to the even modes in the eccentric guides.

The plots in Figs. 5–10 are based on the calculated

values of (12) with three-place accuracy or better. The cutoff wave numbers of OTE$_{11}$ mode for $b/a = 1.5$ are computed by (12) using 11, 13, 15 and 18 points on the boundary and the results are shown in Table III. Those for ETE$_{11}$ mode of the same guide computed by 11 and 18 points are shown in Table IV. The chosen points on the outer contour are approximately evenly distributed.

For TM wave modes, the differences between the values calculated by 11 and 18 points are greatest in the fifth place. It is observed that the convergence of the series solution is more rapid if the ratio of radii b/a and the eccentricity L/a are smaller.

VI. DISCUSSION

The point-matching technique is a convenient method for computing the cutoff wave numbers of eccentric waveguides. The point-matching characteristic equation (12) was verified experimentally for TE wave modes. The validity of (12) for TM wave modes can be verified from the boundary conditions point of view. Substituting the particular wave number of TM mode under consideration [calculated by (12)] into (11), the expansion coefficients A_n can then be determined algebraically. Rewriting (11) with r_c replacing r_m yields,

$$\sum_n [J_n(kr_c) Y_n(ka)$$

$$- J_n(ka) Y_n(kr_c)] \, \begin{matrix} \cos \\ \sin \end{matrix} \, n\theta_m [A_n / Y_n(ka)] = 0 \quad (16)$$

where ka and A_n are known constants. r_c, function of θ, describes the curve where the boundary condition [i.e., $\psi(r_c, \theta) = 0$] is satisfied, besides at $r = a$ imposed previously [see (10)]. It can be seen that the function r_c given by (16), represents a single-valued closed contour. From (5), (6), and (10)–(12) obviously r_c passes the chosen points on the general cross-sectional contour. If the intervals between the chosen points are made sufficiently small (smaller than the cutoff wavelength), the deviation between the actual cross-sectional contour and that described by (16) is expected to be small. The cutoff wave numbers of TM wave modes calculated by (12) will give as good an accuracy as desired.

From the previous analysis, it is seen that (12) is obtained by matching the boundary conditions exactly at the circular cross-sectional contour and approximately at the general cross-sectional contour. The limitations of using (12) on the general contour are the same as those discussed in [5]. Numerical computations show that (12) fails to determine the cutoff frequencies of TE modes for cross sections with re-entrant corners.

To verify the formulation of Section II, the cutoff wave numbers ka of ETE$_{11}$ modes for circular eccentric waveguides are calculated by (9) and compared with those obtained by (12) as shown in Table V. The calcu-
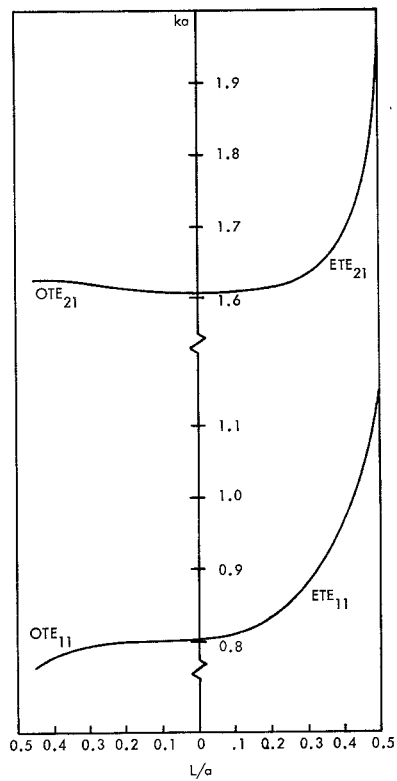
Fig. 5.   Cutoff wave numbers of eccentric guide
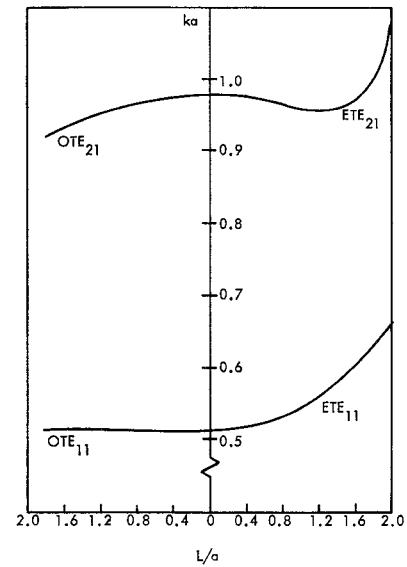with $b/a = 1.5$ for TE modes.

Fig. 7.   Cutoff wave numbers of eccentric guide
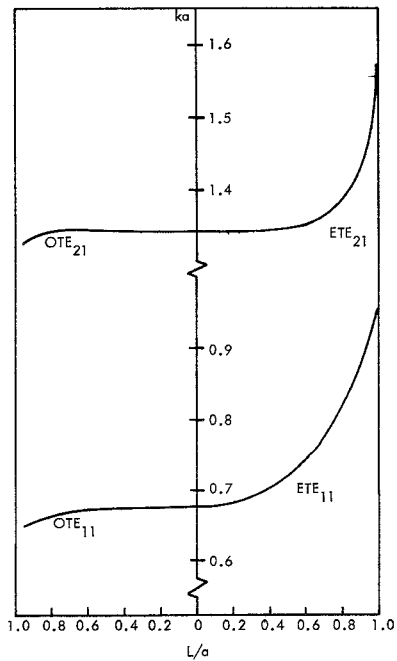with $b/a = 3.0$ for TE modes.

Fig. 6.   Cutoff wave numbers of eccentric guide
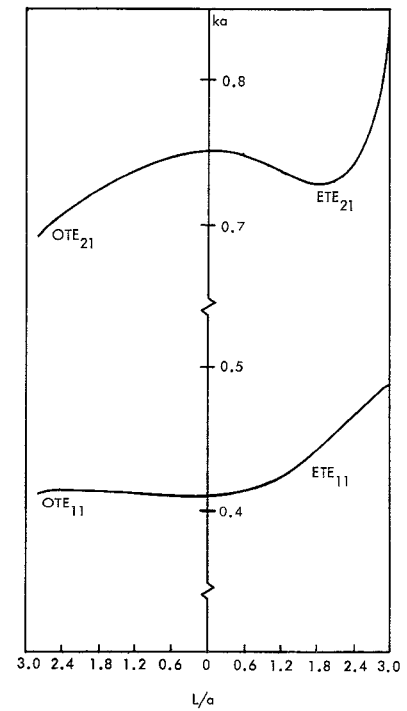with $b/a = 2.0$ for TE modes.

Fig. 8.   Cutoff wave numbers of eccentric guide
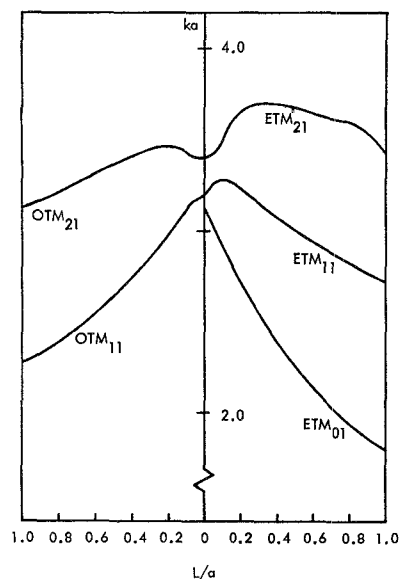with $b/a = 4$ for TE modes.

Fig. 9. Cutoff wave numbers of eccentric guide with $b/a = 2.0$ for TM modes.
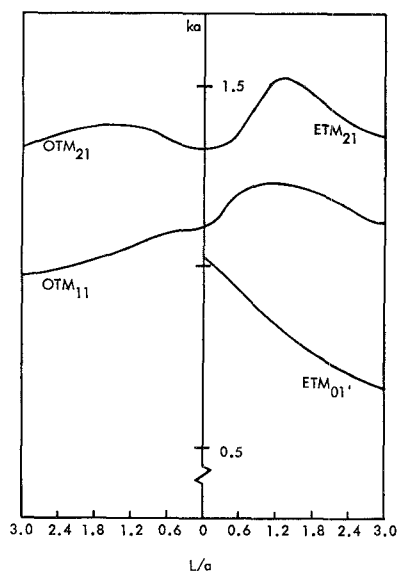

Fig. 10. Cutoff wave numbers of eccentric guide with $b/a = 4$ for TM modes.

lations are using the same set of chosen points as discussed in Section II. Observe that (9) is valid but the accuracy is not as good as that obtained by using (12) especially when the eccentricity is large.

In the analysis in Sections II and III are formulas for the computation of waveguides with cross sections more complex than that of the eccentric guides. Cutoff frequencies computed in Sections IV and V serve as an example of the applications of the point-matching tech-

TABLE III

COMPARISON OF CUTOFF WAVE NUMBERS ka OF OTE_{11} MODE WITH $b/a = 1.5$, CALCULATED BY 11, 13, 15, AND 18 POINTS

No. of Points \ L/a	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.45
11	0.80415	0.80102	0.79446	0.77616	—
13	0.80415	0.80102	0.79450	0.78068	0.76631
15	0.80415	0.80102	0.79450	0.78067	0.76581
18	0.80415	0.80102	0.79450	0.78069	0.76634

TABLE IV

COMPARISON OF CUTOFF WAVE NUMBER ka OF ETE_{11} MODE WITH $b/a = 1.5$, CALCULATED BY 11 AND 18 POINTS

No. of Points \ L/a	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5
11	0.81224	0.83544	0.88145	0.96824	1.1459
18	0.81224	0.83545	0.88147	0.96906	1.1459

TABLE V

COMPARISON OF ka OF ETE_{11} CALCULATED BY (9) AND (12)

Eq. \ L/a	$b/a = 1.5$			$b/a = 3$	
	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.8
(9)	0.81222	0.83140	0.86601	0.51833	0.53204
(12)	0.81224	0.83544	0.88145	0.51827	0.53304

nique. With the expansion coefficients found as outlined, the attenuation constant due to the finite conductivity of the conductors may be estimated [8].

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