

# A Partial Variational Approach for Arbitrary Discontinuities in Planar Dielectric Waveguides

SHYH-JONG CHUNG AND CHUN HSIUNG CHEN

**Abstract**—A novel approach for analyzing arbitrary discontinuities in planar dielectric waveguides is proposed that uses the finite-element method along with the frontal solution technique. Based on the partial variational principle (PVP), the fields interior and exterior to the discontinuity finite element region can be treated independently and eventually can be coupled. The interior fields are expanded by the finite element nodal values and the corresponding local bases, while the exterior ones are handled by an approach combining modal expansion and Green's function. In numerical computation, the continuous spectra of the waveguide modes are discretized by the Laguerre expansion method.

To check the correctness of the present analysis, two numerical results are compared with those of other methods. The scattering characteristics of several linearly tapered discontinuities, such as transformers and feed structures, are analyzed and compared with those having step junctions.

## I. INTRODUCTION

PLANAR dielectric waveguides are important in millimeter-wave, submillimeter-wave, and optical systems. Discontinuities are often introduced to create such components as transformers, grating couplers, and feed structures. They also occur as a consequence of the misalignment in component interconnections. Thus, many authors have paid attention to the discontinuity problems associated with planar dielectric waveguides [1]–[17].

Analysis of associated discontinuity problems is difficult owing to the excitation of guided modes and radiation modes which have a continuous spectrum. Several techniques have been proposed to deal with the continuous spectrum in actual numerical computation [3]–[13]. Mahmoud and Beal [5] used the normalized Laguerre polynomials to expand the continuous spectrum, and then applied the mode-matching method to solve a step discontinuity problem. Rozzi [6] instead applied the same polynomials to express the tangential fields at the junction of a step discontinuity and proposed the Ritz–Galerkin variational approach for solution.

These methods are effective only if the discontinuities are of the abrupt step type. But the analysis of arbitrary discontinuities is also necessary from practical considerations. For small, smoothly varying discontinuities,

Marcuse [14] solved a tapered dielectric slab waveguide by regarding the structure as a succession of an infinite number of infinitesimal steps. Miyanaga and Asakura [15] used the perturbation theory to study a linearly tapered grating coupler.

For arbitrarily varying discontinuities, the finite element approach has been adopted to expand the field distribution in the discontinuity region [16], [17]. In this approach, treatment of the fields exterior to the finite element (discontinuity) region poses a considerable challenge. Suzuki and Koshiba [16] put a semi-infinite electric conductor far above the discontinuities and used the Green's functions of the waveguides to obtain a representation of the boundary fields. Recently, Chung and Chen [17] treated the problem of arbitrary irregularities in an otherwise uniform slab waveguide by using the Green's function of the waveguide to express the exterior fields in terms of the fields in the irregularity region. However, this approach seems useless when the two slab guides connected to the discontinuity are different, because of the difficulty in finding the Green's function.

In this investigation, the problem with completely arbitrary discontinuities in different dielectric slab waveguides will be attacked. The fields interior and exterior to the discontinuity finite element region will be properly handled and coupled based on the partial variational principle (PVP) [18] and the finite element method. Several linearly tapered discontinuities will then be investigated in detail with numerical results to show the scattering characteristics of the structures.

## II. FORMULATION OF THE PROBLEM

Consider the planar dielectric waveguide structure with discontinuity shown in Fig. 1(a), which is uniform in the  $y$  direction and symmetric with respect to the  $y$ – $z$  plane. Suppose that symmetric guided TE modes with  $y$ -polarized electric fields are incident from  $z = -\infty$  and  $z = +\infty$ . Basically, we may consider the reduced structure shown in Fig. 1(b), where a discontinuity region  $\Omega$  with refractive index  $n(x, z)$  is enclosed by three artificial boundaries  $\Gamma_1, \Gamma_2, \Gamma_3$ , and a magnetic wall  $\Gamma_0$ , which is introduced due to symmetry. Placed in region I ( $0 \leq x < \infty, z \leq 0$ ) and region II ( $0 \leq x < \infty, z \geq l$ ) are planar dielectric wave-

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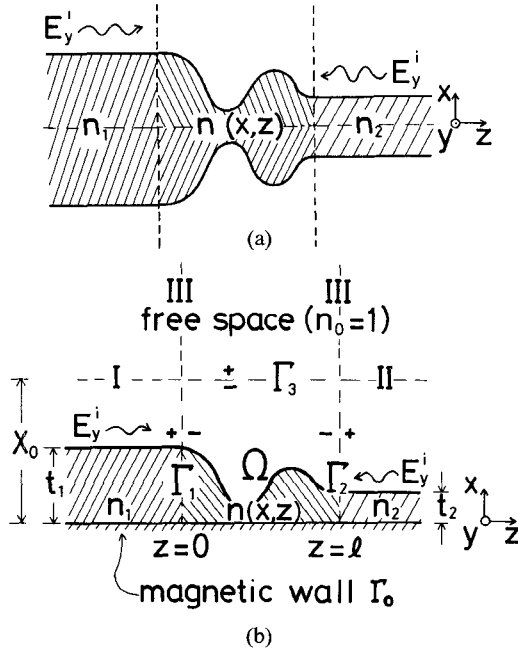


Fig. 1. (a) Original structure with arbitrary discontinuity in planar dielectric waveguide. (b) Reduced structure for solution.

guides I and II, respectively, whose refractive indices are  $n_1$  and  $n_2$ . Region III is free space, which is above the artificial boundary  $x = X_0$ . Note the overlapping of regions I and III as well as II and III.

From the partial variational principle, a variational equation is obtained [18], [17]:

$$\begin{aligned} \delta^a I^a = 0 \\ I^a = \frac{j}{\omega \mu_0} \int_{\Omega} dv \left[ \frac{\partial E_y^a}{\partial x} \frac{\partial E_y}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial E_y^a}{\partial z} \frac{\partial E_y}{\partial z} - k_0^2 n^2 E_y^a E_y \right] \\ + \int_{\Gamma} ds \hat{n} \cdot [\hat{z} H_x^a(\Gamma^-) - \hat{x} H_z^a(\Gamma^+)] \\ \cdot [E_y(\Gamma^-) - E_y(\Gamma^+)] \\ - \int_{\Gamma} ds E_y^a(\Gamma^-) \hat{n} \cdot [\hat{x} H_z(\Gamma^+) - \hat{z} H_x(\Gamma^+)] \quad (1) \end{aligned}$$

where  $\Gamma = \Gamma_1 + \Gamma_2 + \Gamma_3$  and  $\hat{n}$  is its outward normal.  $\Gamma^-$  and  $\Gamma^+$  represent the inner and outer sides of  $\Gamma$ , respectively. As usual,  $k_0^2 = \omega^2 \mu_0 \epsilon_0$  and  $n^2(x, z) = \epsilon(x, z)/\epsilon_0$ , where  $\epsilon(x, z)$  is the permittivity of the discontinuity region  $\Omega$ . ( $E_y, H_x, H_z$ ) are the undetermined trial fields, while ( $E_y^a, H_x^a, H_z^a$ ) are test fields, which may be regarded as a set of weighting functions.

In applying (1), two points must be mentioned. The partial variational operator  $\delta^a$  must operate only on the test fields with superscript  $a$ . The trial fields exterior to boundary  $\Gamma$  must obey the source-free and radiation conditions.

The fields in (1) may be classified into two groups: those interior and those exterior to the boundary  $\Gamma$ . Since the variational equation (1) actually contains the natural continuity boundary condition [18], these two groups of fields can first be treated independently and then be coupled in

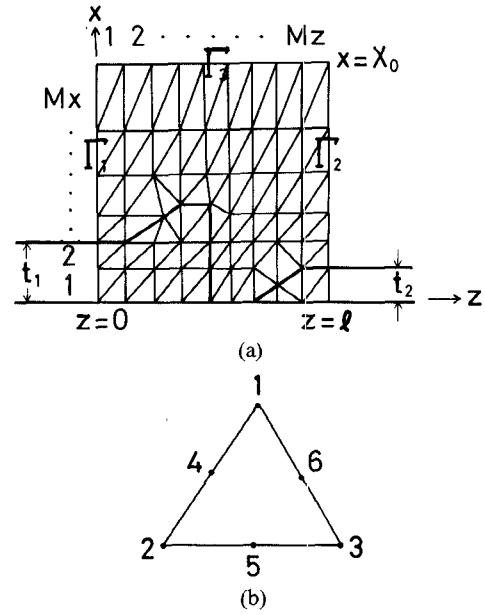


Fig. 2. (a) Typical mesh division for linearly tapered discontinuity in planar dielectric waveguide ( $M_x \times M_z = 6 \times 9$ ). (b) Second-order triangular element.

the process of solving the variational equation (1). The interior fields are tackled by the finite element method, which will be described in the next section. The exterior fields are further divided into two linked types: those in the waveguides and those in free space, which will be depicted in Sections IV and V.

### III. FIELDS IN THE DISCONTINUITY REGION

The fields in the discontinuity region  $\Omega$  are handled by the finite element method [19], [20]. To this end, the discontinuity region is divided into several elements, each with triangular shape, as shown in Fig. 2(a). For each element  $e$ , six nodes are specified (Fig. 2(b)) and the field  $E_y^e$  in that element is expanded by the nodal values  $\phi_i^e$  and their corresponding shape functions  $N_i$ :

$$E_y^e(x, z) = \sum_{i=1}^6 \phi_i^e N_i \quad (2)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} N_1 &= l_1(2l_1 - 1) & N_2 &= l_2(2l_2 - 1) \\ N_3 &= l_3(2l_3 - 1) & N_4 &= 4l_1 l_2 \\ N_5 &= 4l_2 l_3 & N_6 &= 4l_3 l_1 \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

and  $l_1, l_2, l_3$  are the area coordinates [19]. The relation between the area coordinates and the Cartesian coordinates is given by

$$\begin{bmatrix} z \\ x \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} z_1 & z_2 & z_3 \\ x_1 & x_2 & x_3 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} l_1 \\ l_2 \\ l_3 \end{bmatrix} \quad (4)$$

where  $(x_j, z_j)$  are the Cartesian coordinates of the vertex  $j$  ( $j=1, 2, 3$ ) of the triangle.

The fields in the whole discontinuity region are just the sum of those in each element:

$$E_y(\Omega) = \sum_e \sum_{i=1}^6 \phi_i^e N_i \quad (5a)$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \xi} E_y(\Omega) = \sum_e \sum_{i=1}^6 \phi_i^e \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi} N_i, \quad \xi = x, z. \quad (5b)$$

#### IV. FIELDS IN WAVEGUIDE REGIONS

The fields in waveguides I and II are expressed as the combination of the waveguide modes:

$$E_y^\alpha(x, z) = \sum_{p=1}^{N_\alpha} \left[ A_p^\alpha e^{\mp j\beta_p^\alpha(z-z_\alpha)} + a_p^\alpha e^{\pm j\beta_p^\alpha(z-z_\alpha)} \right] u_p^\alpha(x) + \int_0^\infty d\rho d_\rho^\alpha \frac{\omega\mu_0}{\beta_\rho} u_\rho^\alpha(x) e^{\pm j\beta_\rho^\alpha(z-z_\alpha)} \quad (6a)$$

$$\omega\mu_0 H_x^\alpha(x, z) = \mp \sum_{p=1}^{N_\alpha} \beta_p^\alpha \left[ A_p^\alpha e^{\mp j\beta_p^\alpha(z-z_\alpha)} - a_p^\alpha e^{\pm j\beta_p^\alpha(z-z_\alpha)} \right] u_p^\alpha(x) \pm \omega\mu_0 \int_0^\infty d\rho d_\rho^\alpha u_\rho^\alpha(x) e^{\pm j\beta_\rho^\alpha(z-z_\alpha)} \quad (6b)$$

where  $\alpha = \text{I or II}$ . When  $\alpha = \text{I}$ , the upper signs are used; otherwise the lower ones are used.  $A_p$  and  $a_p$  are the coefficients of the incident (known) and scattered (unknown)  $p$ th guided modes, whose modal function and propagation constant are  $u_p(x)$  and  $\beta_p$ . The quantities  $u_\rho(x)$  and  $d_\rho$  are the modal function and the coefficient of the radiation mode, with  $\rho$  and  $\beta_\rho = \sqrt{k_0^2 - \rho^2}$  being the wavenumbers (continuous spectrum) in the  $x$  and  $z$  directions, respectively.  $N_\alpha$  is the total number of guided modes in region  $\alpha$ ; and  $z_\alpha = 0$  or  $l$ , when  $\alpha = \text{I or II}$ , respectively.

The scattering coefficients can be represented as a function of the magnetic fields at  $z = z_\alpha$ . Multiplying (6b) in turn by  $u_p^\alpha$  and  $u_\rho^\alpha$ , integrating over  $x$  at  $z = z_\alpha$ , and using mode orthogonality property, one obtains

$$a_p^\alpha = A_p^\alpha \pm \frac{1}{\beta_p^\alpha} \int_0^\infty dx u_p^\alpha(x) \omega\mu_0 H_x^\alpha(x, z_\alpha) \quad (7a)$$

$$d_\rho^\alpha = \pm \frac{1}{\omega\mu_0} \int_0^\infty dx u_\rho^\alpha(x) \omega\mu_0 H_x^\alpha(x, z_\alpha). \quad (7b)$$

Introduce a complete set in  $0 \leq x < \infty$  [6]:

$$\mathcal{L}_q(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{S_0}} \exp(-x/2S_0) L_{q-1}\left(\frac{x}{S_0}\right), \quad q = 1, 2, \dots \quad (8)$$

where  $L$  denotes the Laguerre polynomial. Deciding on the scale factor  $S_0$  is quite complicated. Roughly speaking, it is chosen such that (9a) can essentially be satisfied for a given  $M$  [6]. (Actually, there exists a large range of  $S_0$

which may satisfy the above requirement.) Besides, the sequence of (8) should be independent in  $0 \leq x \leq X_0$  and should be able to represent the field behavior in  $0 \leq x \leq X_0$ . To be independent,  $S_0$  may be chosen as small as possible. But when  $S_0$  is too small, the Laguerre polynomials will vary quickly near  $x = 0$  and will be almost zero about  $x = X_0$ , which makes it difficult for the sequence of (8) to express the actual field behavior in the vicinity of  $x = X_0$ .

In terms of these normalized Laguerre polynomials, the modal functions of the waveguides can be expressed as

$$u_p^\alpha(x) = \sum_{q=1}^M Q_{pq}^\alpha \mathcal{L}_q(x) \quad (9a)$$

$$u_\rho^\alpha(x) = \sum_{q=1}^M P_{\rho q}^\alpha \mathcal{L}_q(x) \quad (9b)$$

$$Q_{pq}^\alpha = \int_0^\infty dx u_p^\alpha(x) \mathcal{L}_q(x) \quad (10a)$$

$$P_{\rho q}^\alpha = \int_0^\infty dx u_\rho^\alpha(x) \mathcal{L}_q(x) \quad (10b)$$

and  $M$  is a finite number in actual numerical computation.

Now let us expand the magnetic fields  $\omega\mu_0 H_x$  as a sum of the incident fields and the combination of the normalized Laguerre polynomials:

$$\omega\mu_0 H_x(\Gamma_\alpha^+) = \omega\mu_0 H_x^\alpha(x, z_\alpha) = \mp \sum_{p=1}^{N_\alpha} \beta_p^\alpha A_p^\alpha u_p^\alpha(x) + \sum_{q=1}^M h_q^\alpha \mathcal{L}_q(x) \quad (11)$$

where the  $h_q$ 's are to be determined.

With (11), (9a), and (9b), the scattering coefficients of (7a) and (7b) may be rewritten as

$$a_p^\alpha = \pm \sum_{q=1}^M h_q^\alpha \left( \frac{Q_{pq}^\alpha}{\beta_p^\alpha} \right) \quad (12a)$$

$$d_\rho^\alpha = \pm \sum_{q=1}^M h_q^\alpha \left( \frac{P_{\rho q}^\alpha}{\omega\mu_0} \right). \quad (12b)$$

Substituting (12a), (12b), (9a), and (9b) into (6a), one gets

$$E_y(\Gamma_\alpha^+) = E_y^\alpha(x, z_\alpha) = \sum_{p=1}^{N_\alpha} A_p^\alpha u_p^\alpha(x) \pm \sum_{q=1}^M h_q^\alpha \left[ \sum_{i=1}^M Z_{qi}^\alpha \mathcal{L}_i(x) \right] \quad (13)$$

where

$$Z_{qi}^\alpha = \sum_{p=1}^{N_\alpha} \frac{1}{\beta_p^\alpha} Q_{pq}^\alpha Q_{pi}^\alpha + \int_0^\infty d\rho \frac{P_{\rho q}^\alpha P_{\rho i}^\alpha}{\beta_\rho}. \quad (14)$$

Equations (11) and (13) then give the tangential fields over the boundaries  $\Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$ .

## V. FIELDS IN FREE SPACE

The fields above the boundary  $x = X_0$  may be represented by those over the boundary, using the Green's function in free space (see the Appendix):

$$E_y(x, z) = - \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dz' G(x - X_0, z - z') \frac{\partial}{\partial x'} E_y(X_0, z'), \quad (x, z) \in \text{III} \quad (15a)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \omega\mu_0 H_z(x, z) &= - \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dz' G(x - X_0, z - z') \frac{\partial}{\partial x'} \omega\mu_0 H_z(X_0, z') \\ &= - j \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dz' G(x - X_0, z - z') \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x'^2} E_y(X_0, z'), \quad (x, z) \in \text{III} \quad (15b) \end{aligned}$$

where the Green's function  $G$  takes the form

$$G(x - x', z - z') = - \frac{j}{2} H_0^{(2)} \left( k_0 \sqrt{(x - x')^2 + (z - z')^2} \right). \quad (16)$$

The integrations in (15a) and (15b) can be divided into three parts, that is,  $-\infty < z' \leq 0$ ,  $l \leq z' < \infty$ , and  $0 \leq z' \leq l$ . The fields in first two parts are calculated by partially differentiating (6a) with respect to  $x$ , and thus are functions of  $A_p^\alpha$  and  $h_q^\alpha$  as a result of (12a) and (12b). For the last part, i.e., the integration along  $0 \leq z' \leq l$ , the field in (5b) is substituted into (15a). To avoid double differentiation with respect to the local second-order bases  $N_i$ , the source term in (15b) need special treatment. From the Helmholtz equation, one has

$$\frac{\partial^2 E_y}{\partial x'^2} = -k_0^2 E_y - \frac{\partial^2 E_y}{\partial z'^2}. \quad (17)$$

By using (17) and integration by parts, the integral (15b) in  $0 \leq z' \leq l$ , denoted by  $\omega\mu_0 H_{z3}$ , becomes

$$\begin{aligned} \omega\mu_0 H_{z3}(x, z) &= - j \int_0^l dz' G(x - X_0, z - z') \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x'^2} E_y(X_0, z') \\ &= j k_0^2 \int_0^l dz' G(x - X_0, z - z') E_y(X_0, z') \\ &\quad + j G(x - X_0, z - z') \frac{\partial}{\partial z'} E_y(X_0, z') \Big|_{z'=0}^l \\ &\quad - j \int_0^l dz' \frac{\partial}{\partial z'} G(x - X_0, z - z') \frac{\partial}{\partial z'} E_y(X_0, z'). \quad (18) \end{aligned}$$

Note that we have reduced the order of differentiation to just one.

From the preceding derivation, it is concluded that the fields in region III, (15a) and (15b), are now functions of  $A_p^\alpha$ ,  $h_p^\alpha$ , and the nodal values  $\phi_i$  of the elements adjacent

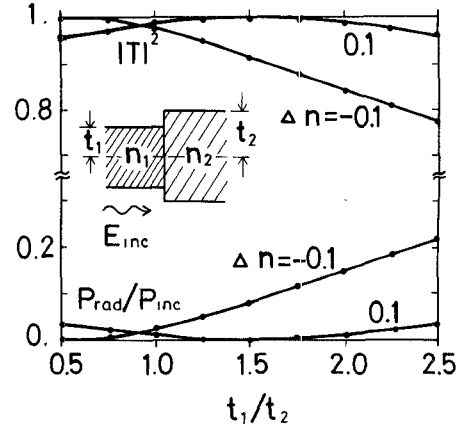


Fig. 3. Normalized transmitted power  $|T|^2$  and radiation loss  $P_{\text{rad}}/P_{\text{inc}}$  of step discontinuity.  $k_0 t_1 = 0.55$ ,  $n_1 = 1.6$ ,  $n_2 = n_1(1 + \Delta n)$ . — present analysis ( $M = 7$ ); ···· Hosono *et al.* [9].

to  $\Gamma_3$ :

$$E_y(\Gamma_3^+) = \sum_{\alpha} \left[ \sum_p E_p^\alpha A_p^\alpha + \sum_q E_q^\alpha h_q^\alpha \right] + \sum_i E_i \phi_i \quad (19a)$$

$$\omega\mu_0 H_z(\Gamma_3^+) = \sum_{\alpha} \left[ \sum_p H_p^\alpha A_p^\alpha + \sum_q H_q^\alpha h_q^\alpha \right] + \sum_i H_i \phi_i \quad (19b)$$

where the  $E$ 's and  $H$ 's are known functions of  $X_0$  and  $z$ .

## VI. NUMERICAL RESULTS

By using the Ritz-Galerkin approach [19], the variational equation (1) is solved by the finite element method and the frontal solution technique [20], using the exterior fields (11), (13), (19a), and (19b). After the assembly and elimination processes of the frontal solution technique, we finally get a matrix equation of the form

$$\bar{\bar{A}} \cdot \bar{\bar{\varphi}} = \bar{s} \quad (20)$$

where  $\bar{\bar{A}}$  is a known matrix, while  $\bar{\bar{\varphi}}$  and  $\bar{s}$  are vectors associated with the unknown coefficients and the source terms due to the incident fields, respectively. Specifically  $\bar{\bar{\varphi}} = [\phi_i, h_q^I, h_q^{II}]^T$ , where  $\phi_i$  are the nodal values along the boundaries  $\Gamma_1$ ,  $\Gamma_2$ , and those of the elements adjacent to  $\Gamma_3$ . After the unknowns  $h_q^\alpha$ 's are solved, (12a) and (12b) can then be used to obtain the scattering coefficients of the waveguide modes.

For an accuracy check, two well-known examples are again studied and compared with those solved by other methods. Here the reflection coefficient  $R$  and the transmission coefficient  $T$  are, respectively, equal to  $a_1^I$  and  $a_1^{II}$  of (6a) with  $A_p^{II}$  equal to 0, and the normalized radiated power  $P_{\text{rad}}/P_{\text{inc}} = 1 - |R|^2 - |T|^2$ . Fig. 3 shows the normalized transmitted power ( $= |T|^2$ ) and radiated power of a step discontinuity, with the ratio  $t_1/t_2$  of the waveguide widths a variable and the normalized difference  $\Delta n$  of the refractive indices a parameter. Our results show excellent agreement with those of Hosono *et al.* [9]. Fig. 4 also shows good agreement between the present results and those of Chung and Chen [17] for the discontinuity shown in the figure. The length of the discontinuity is fixed, while its height  $h$  is changed. The special case  $h/D = -1$  corresponds to one of an air gap.

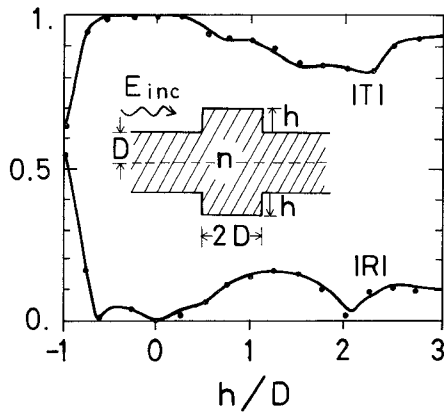


Fig. 4. Reflection and transmission coefficients of rectangular discontinuity.  $K_0 D = 1$ ,  $n = 2.236$ . — present analysis ( $M_x \times M_z = 8 \times 5$ ,  $X_0/D = 6$ ,  $M = 7$ ); ···· Chung and Chen [17].

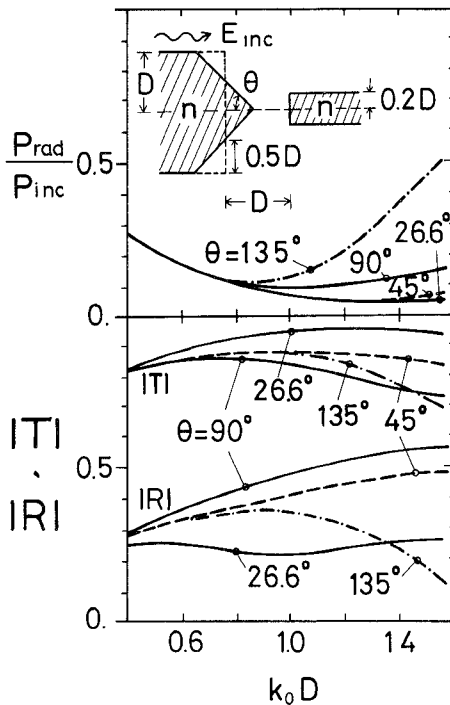


Fig. 5. Reflection coefficients, transmission coefficients, and radiation losses of feed structure.  $n = 2.236$ ,  $M = 7$ .

In Fig. 5 we consider a possible feed structure which has a discontinuity governed by the half angle of the tip  $\theta$ . Shown here are the reflection coefficient  $|R|$ , the transmission coefficient  $|T|$ , and the normalized radiated power  $P_{\text{rad}}/P_{\text{inc}}$  as a function of the normalized frequency  $k_0 D$ . For  $\theta = 90^\circ$ , the feed end is a step one, and for  $\theta$  greater or smaller than  $90^\circ$ , the end is concave or convex, respectively. When  $\theta = 26.6^\circ$ , the tip of the feed end just touches the right waveguide. The three sets of curves are independent of  $\theta$  when  $k_0 D$  approaches 0, due to the smallness of the discontinuity region. When  $k_0 D \geq 1$ , the radiation losses for the concave case ( $\theta = 135^\circ$ ) are relatively large compared with those of other cases. It is seen that although the radiation losses for  $\theta = 26.6^\circ$  and  $45^\circ$  are nearly the same for all  $k_0 D$ , the former has higher trans-

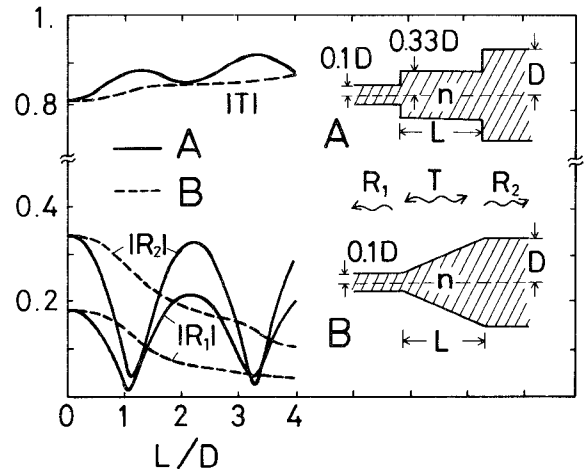


Fig. 6. Reflection and transmission coefficients of two ten-to-one transformers.  $k_0 D = 1$ ,  $n = 2.236$ ,  $M_x = 14$ ,  $M = 7$ ,  $X_0/D = 6$ .

mission as well as lower reflection coefficients, which means that a better feed condition can be reached.

The characteristics of two ten-to-one transformers, one with abrupt steps (structure A) and the other with a linear taper (structure B), are compared in Fig. 6. For the given values of the parameters, both left and right waveguides are monomode. For structure A, the width of the midsection is chosen so that the impedance-matching conditions are satisfied. The fields scattered by the step junctions (structure A) interfere with each other; thus two dips in the curves of the reflection coefficients are observed. Without strong reflection in structure B, the corresponding curves for the tapered structure behave more smoothly than those in the step one. The CPU time is quite different when the normalized length  $L/D$  of the taper is changed. For example, about 2 minutes are required for calculating the scattering coefficients of structure A for  $L/D = 0$ , with the division  $M_x \times M_z = 14 \times 2$  (Fig. 2(a)), while 5 minutes are required for  $L/D = 2$  ( $M_x \times M_z = 14 \times 7$ ), both with a DEC VAX 11/780.

To discuss the frequency response of the ten-to-one transformers, we study the adjustable tapered transformer structure shown in the insert of Fig. 7. The length of the transformer is constant ( $= 1.1 D$ ) with respect to the widths of the waveguides. When the tilt angle  $\theta$  equals  $0^\circ$ , the width of the midsection is  $0.33 D$ , like that of structure A (Fig. 6). When  $\theta$  is different from  $0^\circ$ , the structure is so determined that the two step ratios, namely the ratio of the waveguide widths immediately adjacent to the junction, are approximately the same. Specifically the structure with  $\theta = 39.3^\circ$  corresponds to structure B of Fig. 6, where the step ratios are equal to 1. It is noticed that the length of the midsection is chosen to correspond to the first dip of  $|R_1|$  in Fig. 6 (where  $k_0 D = 1$ ). The subscript 1 (2) in  $R$  and  $P_{\text{rad}}$  denotes the ones with wave incident from waveguide I (II). By reciprocity,  $T_1 = T_2 = T$ . From the reflection curves, it is seen that the bandwidth of  $\theta = -20^\circ$  is nearly equal to that of  $\theta = 0^\circ$ , but with the minimum shifting toward the lower frequency. Here the bandwidth means the width of the normalized frequency for a given

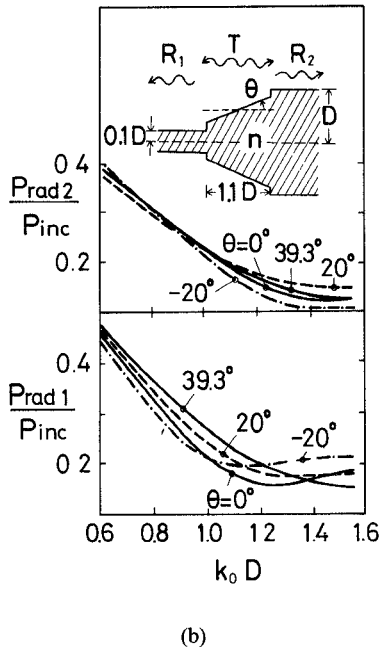
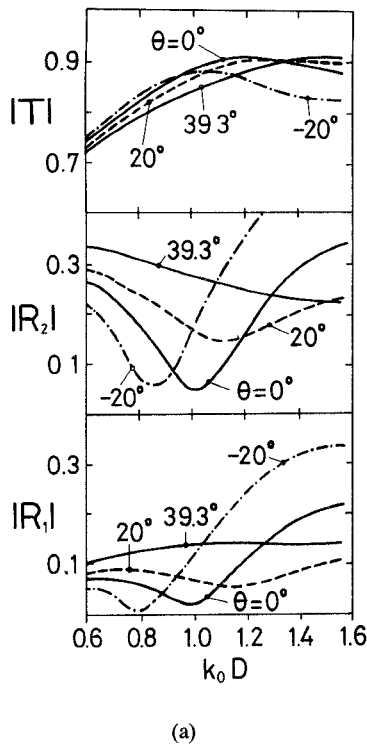


Fig. 7. (a) Reflection and transmission coefficients. (b) Normalized radiation losses of a ten-to-one adjustable tapered transformer.  $n = 2.236$ ,  $M = 7$ .

level of reflection coefficient. As  $\theta$  increases, the bandwidth broadens and the minimum becomes larger and shifts toward the higher frequency. Note that as  $k_0 D \ll 1$ , the radiation losses increase as  $k_0 D$  decreases, which means that the radiation loss at the minimum of  $\theta = -20^\circ$  is larger than that of  $\theta = 0^\circ$ , although their reflection minima are approximately the same.

## VII. CONCLUSIONS

Based on the partial variational principle and the finite element method, we have proposed a method for analyzing the slab discontinuity problems that do not fall into the abrupt step category. Two types of exterior fields have been linked to represent the whole exterior fields. By comparing the numerical results for step discontinuities with those from other methods, we have checked the accuracy of the present approach. In this investigation, several components having tapered structures have been examined. In general, the tapered structure may reduce the radiation loss and/or increase the bandwidth of the components. With this method, more complicated discontinuity problems with TE- or TM-mode incidence can also be solved.

## APPENDIX

### FIELD REPRESENTATION IN (15A) AND (15B)

Let  $G$  be the two-dimensional Green's function in free space and  $\phi$  the scalar wave function ( $\phi = E_y$  or  $\omega\mu_0 H_z$ ) such that

$$\nabla_t^2 G + k_0^2 G = -\delta(x - x', z - z') \quad (\text{A1})$$

and

$$\nabla_t^2 \phi + k_0^2 \phi = 0 \quad (\text{A2})$$

where  $\nabla_t^2$  denotes the two-dimensional Laplacian operator. Multiplying (A1) by  $\phi$  and (A2) by  $G$ , subtracting the result of the former from that of the latter, and then integrating over the half space  $x \geq X_0$ ,  $-\infty < x < \infty$ , one obtains

$$\begin{aligned} \phi(x', z') &= \int_{x \geq X_0} dx dz (G \nabla_t^2 \phi - \phi \nabla_t^2 G) \\ &= - \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dz \left( G \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} - \phi \frac{\partial G}{\partial x} \right) \Big|_{x=X_0} \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A3})$$

Here the two-dimensional Green's theorem and the radiation condition have been used.

Choose  $G$  as

$$G(x, z; x', z') = -\frac{j}{4} [H_0^{(2)}(k_0 r) + H_0^{(2)}(k_0 r_1)] \quad (\text{A4})$$

where  $H_0^{(2)}$  is the zero-order Hankel function of the second kind, and

$$\begin{aligned} r &= \sqrt{(x' - x)^2 + (z' - z)^2} \\ r_1 &= \sqrt{(2X_0 - x' - x)^2 + (z' - z)^2} \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A5})$$

This choice makes  $\frac{\partial G}{\partial x} \Big|_{x=X_0}$  vanish; therefore (A3) becomes

$$\phi(x, z) = - \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dz' G(x - X_0, z - z') \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x'} \Big|_{x'=X_0} \quad (\text{A6})$$

where  $G(x - X_0, z - z')$  is defined by (16).

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