

Analysis of Rectangular Waveguide Discontinuities by the Method of Lines

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Abstract—An efficient analysis of discontinuities in the rectangular waveguide is presented using the method of lines with one-dimensional discretization. As the line numbers in the incoming and outgoing waveguides are automatically correctly chosen in the method of lines, relative convergence is avoided. Scattering parameters for the *E*-plane step discontinuity are determined and an equivalent circuit for the diaphragm, the displacement, and a step with diaphragm is presented.

I. INTRODUCTION

DISCONTINUITIES in rectangular waveguides (Fig. 1) are commonly analyzed by the field expansion method [1], [2]. Another rigorous analysis technique, the method of lines, has been efficiently applied to various planar waveguide structures [3]–[17]. Apart from its numerical efficiency, one of the advantages of the method of lines is its easy formulation.

In this paper we apply the method of lines to rectangular waveguides discontinuities in the *E*-, or *H*-plane. We have to discretize the wave equation in one transverse direction only, since we use the known field behaviour in the other transverse direction. Posts and diaphragms have been already analysed in this way by Schulz [6], [7].

The *E*-plane step discontinuity (Fig. 2) is modelled using plain one-dimensional discretization. First the discretized coordinate is transformed to the spectral domain and an analytical solution is obtained for the longitudinal direction. In order to match the fields at the discontinuity we transform back to spatial domain. Finally the transmission and scattering matrices are computed from the incoming and outgoing waves. As the last two steps, namely the matching and the subsequent matrix analysis, differ from the other applications of the method of lines, these are treated in more detail in this paper. — The analysis of the displacement and the diaphragm is similar, but the fact that none of the waveguide cross sections is completely included in the other needs special consideration.

As examples for the applicability of the approach, the scattering parameters (or the equivalent circuits) for both the *E*-plane step discontinuity (with and without diaphragm) and the displacement (Fig. 1) are presented. In the following only *E*-plane discontinuities are investigated, since a generalisation to *H*-plane discontinuities is straightforward. Non-equidistant discretization can be incorporated easily.

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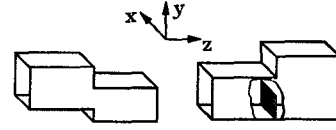


Fig. 1. Discontinuities in rectangular waveguides.

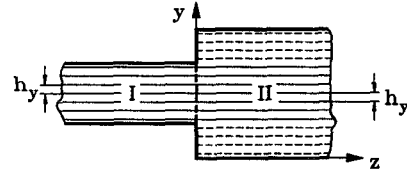


Fig. 2. Discretization of a step discontinuity.

II. FIELD EQUATIONS FOR *E*-PLANE JUNCTIONS

The only modes arising from the junctions of Fig. 1 by excitation with TE_{10} to waves are TE_{1n} to $-X$ modes. The electromagnetic fields are derived from the potential

$$\Pi_h = k_0^{-2} \psi \sin \bar{\lambda}_x \bar{x} \mathbf{a}_x$$

according to

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{E} &= -jk_0 \nabla \times \Pi_h \\ \eta_0 \mathbf{H} &= \nabla \times \nabla \times \Pi_h \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

with a time dependence $\exp(j\omega t)$, the unit vector \mathbf{a}_x and $\bar{\lambda}_x = \pi/\bar{a}$. The waveguide width a is assumed to be constant for the whole structure, and the coordinates and lengths are normalized by $\bar{x} = k_0 x$ etc.

The transverse field components run

$$\begin{aligned} E_x &= 0 & \eta_0 H_x &= (\varepsilon_r - \bar{\lambda}_x^2) \sin \bar{\lambda}_x \bar{x} \cdot \psi \\ E_y - j \sin \bar{\lambda}_x \bar{x} \cdot \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial \bar{z}} & & \eta_0 H_y &= \bar{\lambda}_x \cos \bar{\lambda}_x \bar{x} \cdot \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial \bar{y}} \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

The potential ψ must fulfill the Neumann condition at all metallic boundaries.

III. MODELLING OF A STEP DISCONTINUITY

Using the above field equations the waveguide step shown in Fig. 2 is analyzed. Discretization and transformation of the scalar potential are performed as usual in the method of lines [3], [4].

A. First Step: Discretization of the Wave Equation

Both waveguides (Region I, II) are discretized with the same discretization distance h_y . Different line numbers N_I and N_{II} result, which are approximately proportional to the waveguide heights. As the mode numbers M_i are equal to the

line numbers N_i , the criterion to avoid relative convergence after Mittra *et al.* [8]

$$M_2/M_1 = b_2/b_1 \quad (3)$$

is fulfilled naturally in the MoL.

We discretize the Helmholtz equation

$$\frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial \bar{z}^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial \bar{y}^2} - \bar{\lambda}_x^2 \psi + \varepsilon_r \psi = 0 \quad (4)$$

using the following finite difference expression for the second derivative

$$\frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial \bar{y}^2} \Big|_i \approx \frac{\psi_{i+1} - 2\psi_i + \psi_{i-1}}{\bar{h}_y^2} \longrightarrow (\bar{h}_y)^{-2} \mathbf{D}_{yy} \psi \quad (5)$$

to obtain

$$\frac{d^2 \psi}{d\bar{z}^2} - (\bar{\lambda}_x^2 \mathbf{I} - (\bar{h}_y)^{-2} \mathbf{D}_{yy} - \varepsilon_r \mathbf{I}) \psi = 0 \quad (6)$$

The difference operator \mathbf{D}_{yy} has different sizes N_I and N_{II} in the two regions. As \mathbf{D}_{yy} is a tridiagonal matrix, the discretized wave equation (6) is a system of **coupled ordinary equations** for the discretized potential ψ .

B. Second Step: Transformation of the Potentials

We transform to diagonal form by

$$(\bar{h}_y)^{-2} \mathbf{T}^t \mathbf{D}_{yy} \mathbf{T} = -\bar{\lambda}_y^2 \quad (7)$$

where t denotes transpose. The transformation matrices $\mathbf{T}_{I,II}$ and the eigenvalue matrices $\bar{\lambda}_y^{I,II}$ are different for the two waveguides. The difference operators \mathbf{D}_{yy} and the transformation matrices \mathbf{T} are calculated according to the Neumann boundary conditions on both side walls [4].

We transform the discretized wave (6) and obtain a system of **uncoupled ordinary differential equations**

$$\frac{d^2 \bar{\psi}}{d\bar{z}^2} - \underbrace{(\bar{\lambda}_x^2 \mathbf{I} + \bar{\lambda}_y^2 - \varepsilon_r \mathbf{I})}_{\Gamma^2} \bar{\psi} = 0 \quad (8)$$

for the transformed potential $\bar{\psi} = \mathbf{T}^t \psi$ with the propagation constants Γ , which are diagonal matrices.

The transformed potentials result as the **solutions of the wave equation** (8):

Waveguide I

Waveguide II

$$\bar{\psi}^I = e^{-\Gamma_I \bar{z}} \mathbf{A}^I + e^{\Gamma_I \bar{z}} \mathbf{B}^I \quad \bar{\psi}^{II} = e^{\Gamma_{II} \bar{z}} \mathbf{A}^{II} + e^{-\Gamma_{II} \bar{z}} \mathbf{B}^{II}$$

C. Third Step: Field Matching at the Step $z = 0$

The transverse field components E_y and H_x , that means ψ and $\partial \psi / \partial \bar{z}$ must be matched. If ψ is matched on all the discretization lines, $\partial \psi / \partial \bar{y}$ and thus H_y is also matched. In the transform domain we obtain at $z = 0$

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\psi}^I &= \mathbf{A}^I + \mathbf{B}^I & \bar{\psi}^{II} &= \mathbf{A}^{II} + \mathbf{B}^{II} \\ \frac{\partial \bar{\psi}^I}{\partial \bar{z}} &= -\Gamma_I (\mathbf{A}^I - \mathbf{B}^I) & \frac{\partial \bar{\psi}^{II}}{\partial \bar{z}} &= \Gamma_{II} (\mathbf{A}^{II} - \mathbf{B}^{II}) \end{aligned}$$

In the vectors \mathbf{A}^I and \mathbf{A}^{II} only the first element is non-zero for excitation with the fundamental mode.

The matching has to be achieved in *spatial domain* after the inverse transformation. To this end we partition the transformation matrix \mathbf{T}_{II} into two submatrices

$$\mathbf{T}_{II} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{T}_{II}^r \\ \mathbf{T}_{II}^c \end{bmatrix} \quad (9)$$

\mathbf{T}_{II}^r corresponds to the aperture part of waveguide II opposite waveguide I (full lines in Fig. 2) and hence has the same number of rows $N_{II}^r = N_I$ as \mathbf{T}_I . \mathbf{T}_{II}^c corresponds to the front plate (broken lines in Fig. 2) with $N_{II}^c = N_{II} - N_I$

The two matching steps are

- 1) Matching of H_x , that means of ψ , as the factor $(\varepsilon_r - \bar{\lambda}_x^2) \sin \bar{\lambda}_x \bar{x}$ (see (2)) is the same for both waveguides and for all components of H_x . This yields

$$\mathbf{T}_I (\mathbf{A}^I + \mathbf{B}^I) = \mathbf{T}_{II}^r (\mathbf{A}^{II} + \mathbf{B}^{II}) \quad (10)$$

- 2) Matching of E_y , that means of $\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial \bar{z}}$ (see (2)), yields

in the aperture I-II

$$-\mathbf{T}_I \Gamma_I (\mathbf{A}^I - \mathbf{B}^I) = \mathbf{T}_{II}^r \Gamma_{II} (\mathbf{A}^{II} - \mathbf{B}^{II}) \quad (11)$$

on the front plate II

$$0 = \mathbf{T}_{II}^c \Gamma_{II} (\mathbf{A}^{II} - \mathbf{B}^{II}) \quad (12)$$

D. Transmission Matrix and Scattering Matrix

For the calculation of the **transmission matrix** we combine the matching equations (10), (11) to the following system

$$\mathbf{A}^I + \mathbf{B}^I = \mathbf{T} (\mathbf{B}^{II} + \mathbf{A}^{II}) \quad (13)$$

$$\mathbf{A}^I - \mathbf{B}^I = \Gamma_I^{-1} \mathbf{T} \Gamma_{II} (\mathbf{B}^{II} - \mathbf{A}^{II}) \quad (14)$$

with the abbreviation $\mathbf{T} = \mathbf{T}_I^t \mathbf{T}_{II}^r$ (see App.). We solve this system of equations for the wave coefficients in the smaller waveguide I. With (12) we obtain the transmission matrix equation

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{A}^I \\ \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{B}^I \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{\mathbf{T}}_+ & \tilde{\mathbf{T}}_- \\ \mathbf{T}_{II}^c \Gamma_{II} & -\mathbf{T}_{II}^c \Gamma_{II} \\ \tilde{\mathbf{T}}_- & \tilde{\mathbf{T}}_+ \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{B}^{II} \\ \mathbf{A}^{II} \end{bmatrix} \quad (15)$$

with the submatrices

$$\tilde{\mathbf{T}}_{\pm} = \frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{T} \pm \Gamma_I^{-1} \mathbf{T} \Gamma_{II}) \quad (16)$$

Using (15) the incoming and outgoing waves at the smaller waveguide I are computed from the incoming and outgoing waves at the larger waveguide II. To compute the waves reversely, namely from the smaller waveguide I to the larger II, is only possible with $N_{II} - N_I$ additional equations. An alternative way is to use the scattering matrix.

For the calculation of the **scattering matrix** we solve the transmission matrix (15) for \mathbf{B}^I and \mathbf{B}^{II} . For the amplitudes of the outgoing waves we obtain

$$\mathbf{B}^{II} = \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{\mathbf{T}}_+ \\ \mathbf{T}_{II}^c \Gamma_{II} \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{I} & -\tilde{\mathbf{T}}_- \\ 0 & +\mathbf{T}_{II}^c \Gamma_{II} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{A}^I \\ \mathbf{A}^{II} \end{bmatrix} \quad (17)$$

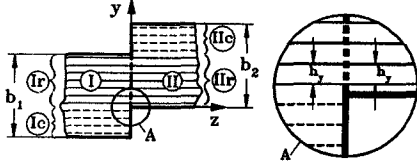


Fig. 3. Discretization of a displacement.

B^I is computed from the last line of (15).

For the calculation of the **scattering matrix for the fundamental modes**, which is defined according to

$$\begin{bmatrix} B_1^I \\ B_1^{II} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} S_{11} & S_{12} \\ S_{21} & S_{22} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} A_1^I \\ A_1^{II} \end{bmatrix} \quad (18)$$

we set the excitations A_1^I and A_1^{II} to zero individually.

IV. MODIFICATIONS FOR DISPLACEMENT AND DIAPHRAGM

In the case of a diaphragm or a displacement, (Fig. 3) none of the two waveguides is completely included in the other one. This is the only difference to the step discontinuity, hence the analysis runs as above with the following modifications. We have to distinguish an aperture region (full lines) and an additional front plate (broken lines) also for the waveguide I in contrast to the step discontinuity (Fig. 2).

Hence we have to partition the transformation matrix T_I as well:

$$T_I = \begin{bmatrix} T_I^r \\ T_I^c \end{bmatrix} \quad (19)$$

with T_I^r for the aperture and T_I^c for the front plate. This results in two changes in the analysis. First we replace T_I by T_I^r in matching equations (10) to (12) and second we obtain the additional equation

$$\text{on the front plate I} \quad T_I^c \Gamma_I (A^I - B^I) = 0 \quad (20)$$

Equation (14) is still valid, if T is replaced by $T' = T_I^{rt} T_{II}^r$. But the equation corresponding to (10) cannot be converted into the form of (13) any more, as T_I^r itself is not invertible. The number of equations for A^I and B^I is no longer sufficient to calculate the transmission matrix.

We are still able to determine the **scattering matrix**, however, in an analogous way as above. With

$$\hat{T}' = \Gamma_I^{-1} T' \Gamma_{II}$$

and the following substitution

$$\tilde{T}_{\pm} \longrightarrow \tilde{T}'_{\pm} = \frac{1}{2} (T_{II}^r \pm T_I^r \Gamma_I^{-1} T' \Gamma_{II})$$

which considers T_I^r as an additional factor, we obtain by reordering of (14) and from the first line of (15):

$$\begin{bmatrix} I & \hat{T}' \\ 0 & \tilde{T}'_+ \\ 0 & T_{II}^c \Gamma_{II} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} B^I \\ B^{II} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} I & \hat{T}' \\ T_I^r & -\tilde{T}'_- \\ 0 & +T_{II}^c \Gamma_{II} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} A^I \\ A^{II} \end{bmatrix} \quad (21)$$

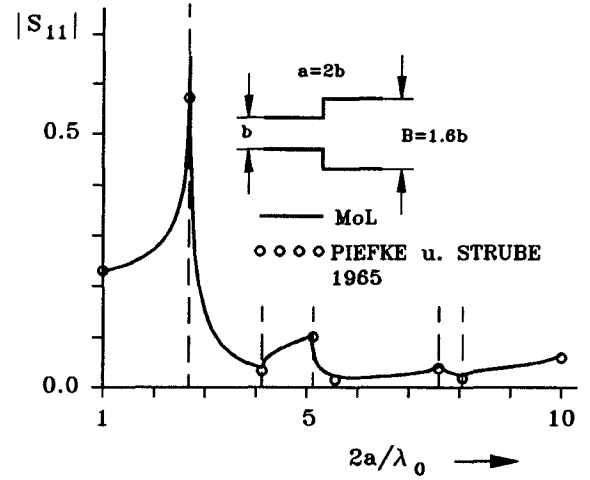


Fig. 4. Symmetric *E*-plane step discontinuity. Magnitude of the reflection coefficient as a function of normalized frequency. Cut-off frequencies are marked. With free space wavelength λ_0 . o o o MMT [1].

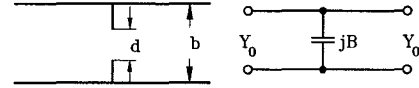


Fig. 5. Side view and equivalent circuit of a diaphragm.

Thus the amplitudes of the outgoing waves are given by:

$$B^{II} = \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{T}'_+ \\ T_{II}^c \Gamma_{II} \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} T_I^r & -\tilde{T}'_- \\ 0 & +T_{II}^c \Gamma_{II} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} A^I \\ A^{II} \end{bmatrix} \quad (22)$$

B^I is computed from the first line of (21) and the scattering matrix of the fundamental modes is determined by relation (18) again.

V. RESULTS

The scattering parameters or the resulting equivalent circuit parameters for various discontinuities are presented and compared with results from literature. For the symmetric *E*-plane step discontinuity the magnitude of the reflection coefficient is given in Fig. 4 as a function of normalized frequency. The agreement with the mode matching technique (MMT) [1] is good, even for the marked values of the cut-off frequencies.

The next three structures are analyzed with the approach of Section IV. For the step discontinuity with diaphragm in a parallel plate waveguide (Fig. 7) the junction susceptance B normalized with respect to the TEM admittance Y_1^0 of the first waveguide is given by

$$j\bar{B} = j \frac{B}{Y_1^0} = \frac{1 + S_{11}}{1 - S_{11}} - \frac{Y_2^0 b_1}{Y_1^0 b_2}$$

This formula is also valid for the diaphragm alone (Fig. 5). The results in Fig. 6 are in very good agreement with Marcuvitz [8].

In Fig. 7 the normalized susceptance of a step with a diaphragm is compared with results from the conservation of

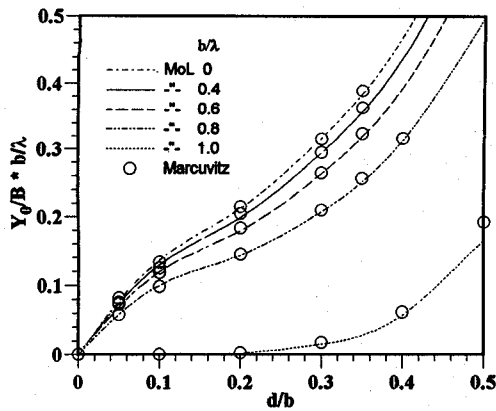
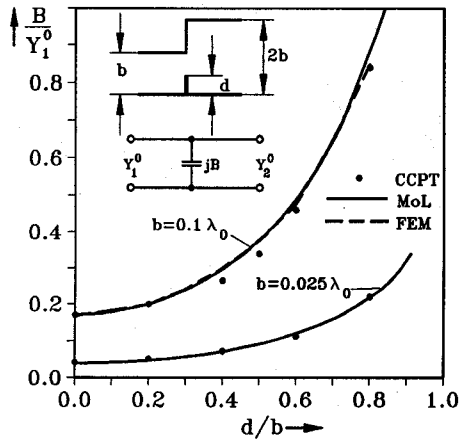


Fig. 6. Susceptance of a diaphragm in a rectangular waveguide. + + + [9].

Fig. 7. Step with a diaphragm in a parallel plate waveguide. Normalized susceptance \bar{B} versus diaphragm height. • [10] — [11].

complex power technique (CCPT) [10] and the finite element method (FEM) [11]. The deviation of two data points from the CCPT is probably due to a distortion in the diagram in [10].

In Table I excellent agreement (better than 0.04%) is found with the MMT [2] for the shunt reactance of a displacement (Fig. 8). These results were obtained for an average line number $n' = 50$ in the discontinuity corresponding to [2]. Thus the convergence of the method of lines is very good.

VI. CONCLUSION

The principles of the E -plane junction analysis by the MoL, are demonstrated. The modelling of a step discontinuity leads to simple matrix equations, which are extended to displacements and diaphragms in a straightforward manner. As the line numbers in different waveguides are always chosen correctly in the MoL, relative convergence is automatically avoided. The equivalent circuit parameters of the above mentioned discontinuities, and of the combination of step discontinuity and diaphragm, agree very well with literature.

APPENDIX TRANSFORMATION MATRICES AND CHARACTERISTIC VALUES FOR THE WAVEGUIDE STEP

The product of the transformation matrices \mathbf{T}_I^t and \mathbf{T}_{II}^r yields:

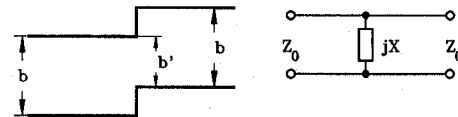


Fig. 8. Side view and equivalent circuit of a displacement.

TABLE I
NORMALIZED SHUNT REACTANCE $X/Z_0 \cdot b/\lambda_g$ OF
AN E -PLANE OFFSET IN TERMS OF NORMALIZED
FREQUENCY $2b/\lambda_g$ AND FRACTIONAL DISPLACEMENT b'/b
UPPER VALUES: MoL; LOWER VALUES: MMT [2]

$-\frac{X}{Z_0} \cdot \frac{b}{\lambda_g}$	b'/b	$2b/\lambda_g$			
		0.2	0.4	0.6	0.8
0.1	0.1	0.063422	0.061026	0.056362	0.047273
		0.063407	0.061017	0.056353	0.047260
0.3	0.3	0.14057	0.13272	0.11799	0.091598
		0.14058	0.13270	0.11795	0.091599
0.5	0.5	0.29767	0.27957	0.24607	0.18768
		0.29769	0.27961	0.24608	0.18772
0.7	0.7	0.79752	0.75734	0.67323	0.52797
		0.79744	0.75423	0.67308	0.52786
0.9	0.9	5.8077	5.5943	5.1707	4.3350
		5.8069	5.5926	5.1699	4.3343

$$\mathbf{T}_{ik} = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\frac{(2 - \delta_{i0})(2 - \delta_{k0})}{N_I N_{II}}} \times \sum_{l=0}^{N_I-1} (\cos(\alpha_{il} + \beta_{kl}) - \cos(\alpha_{il} - \beta_{kl})) \quad (23)$$

with

$$\alpha_{il} = \left(l + \frac{1}{2}\right) \frac{i\pi}{N_I} \quad (i = 0 \dots N_I - 1)$$

$$\beta_{kl} = \left(l + \frac{1}{2} + N_s\right) \frac{k\pi}{N_{II}} \quad (k = 0 \dots N_{II} - 1)$$

The characteristic values run for NN boundaries

$$\bar{\lambda}_{yi} = \bar{h}_y^{-1} \sin \frac{i\pi}{2N} \quad (24)$$

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