

Modeling 1D Problems with FDTD

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Abstract

This document describes the reduction from a 3-Dimensional Finite Difference set of Equations as derived in “Maxwell Equations” to a 1-Dimensional Form ready for use in numerical modeling algorithms.

REDUCE TO ONE-DIMENSION

We will reduce our Finite-Difference Equations to 1D. This means that we will have material that is uniform in two directions. This uniform material will cause the fields to be uniform as well. The change in material in our case we will define to be in the z-direction therefore the x and y directions will be uniform. This means that the derivatives in this direction will also equal zero.

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial}{\partial y} = 0$$

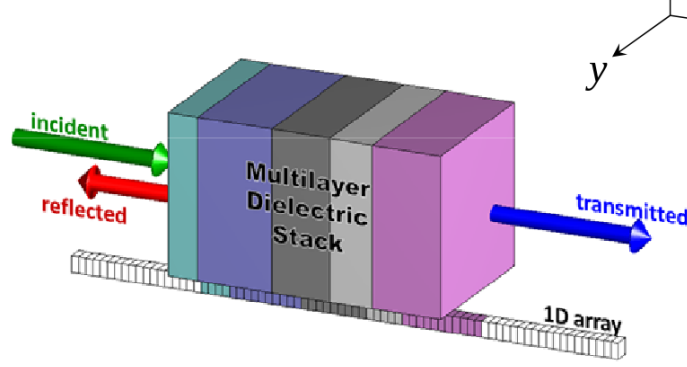


Figure 1: 1D Problem

From our Finite-Difference equations we need to cancel out the x and y derivatives that are zero.

$$\frac{\cancel{\partial E_z}}{\cancel{\partial y}} - \frac{\partial E_y}{\partial z} = -\frac{\mu_{xx}}{c_0} \frac{\partial \tilde{H}_x}{\partial t}$$

$$\frac{\partial E_x}{\partial z} - \frac{\cancel{\partial E_z}}{\cancel{\partial x}} = -\frac{\mu_{yy}}{c_0} \frac{\partial \tilde{H}_y}{\partial t}$$

$$\frac{\cancel{\partial E_y}}{\cancel{\partial x}} - \frac{\cancel{\partial E_x}}{\cancel{\partial y}} = -\frac{\mu_{zz}}{c_0} \frac{\partial \tilde{H}_z}{\partial t}$$

$$\frac{\cancel{\partial \tilde{H}_z}}{\cancel{\partial y}} - \frac{\partial \tilde{H}_y}{\partial z} = \frac{\epsilon_{xx}}{c_0} \frac{\partial E_x}{\partial t}$$

$$\frac{\partial \tilde{H}_x}{\partial z} - \frac{\cancel{\partial \tilde{H}_z}}{\cancel{\partial x}} = \frac{\epsilon_{yy}}{c_0} \frac{\partial E_y}{\partial t}$$

$$\frac{\cancel{\partial \tilde{H}_y}}{\cancel{\partial x}} - \frac{\cancel{\partial \tilde{H}_x}}{\cancel{\partial y}} = \frac{\epsilon_{zz}}{c_0} \frac{\partial E_z}{\partial t}$$

→

$$\begin{aligned}
& \frac{\cancel{\frac{E_z^{i,j+1,k} |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}} - E_z^{i,j,k} |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}}}{\Delta y}} - \frac{E_y^{i,j,k+1} |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}} - E_y^{i,j,k} |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}}}{\Delta z}}{\Delta y} = -\frac{\mu_{xx}^{i,j,k}}{c_0} \frac{\tilde{H}_x^{i,j,k} |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}} - \tilde{H}_x^{i,j,k} |_{t-\frac{\Delta t}{2}}}{\Delta t} \\
& \frac{\frac{E_x^{i,j,k+1} |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}} - E_x^{i,j,k} |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}}}{\Delta z} - \cancel{\frac{E_z^{i+1,j,k} |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}} - E_z^{i,j,k} |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}}}{\Delta x}}}{\Delta z} = -\frac{\mu_{yy}^{i,j,k}}{c_0} \frac{\tilde{H}_y^{i,j,k} |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}} - \tilde{H}_y^{i,j,k} |_{t-\frac{\Delta t}{2}}}{\Delta t} \\
& \frac{\cancel{\frac{E_y^{i+1,j,k} |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}} - E_y^{i,j,k} |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}}}{\Delta x}} - \frac{E_x^{i,j+1,k} |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}} - E_x^{i,j,k} |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}}}{\Delta y}}{\Delta y} = -\frac{\mu_{zz}^{i,j,k}}{c_0} \frac{\tilde{H}_z^{i,j,k} |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}} - \tilde{H}_z^{i,j,k} |_{t-\frac{\Delta t}{2}}}{\Delta t} \\
& \frac{\cancel{\frac{\tilde{H}_z^{i,j,k} |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}} - \tilde{H}_z^{i,j-1,k} |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}}}{\Delta y}} - \frac{\tilde{H}_y^{i,j,k} |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}} - \tilde{H}_y^{i,j,k-1} |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}}}{\Delta z}}{\Delta y} = \frac{\epsilon_{xx}^{i,j,k}}{c_0} \frac{E_x^{i,j,k} |_{t+\Delta t} - E_x^{i,j,k} |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}}}{\Delta t} \\
& \frac{\frac{\tilde{H}_x^{i,j,k} |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}} - \tilde{H}_x^{i,j,k-1} |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}}}{\Delta z} - \cancel{\frac{\tilde{H}_z^{i,j,k} |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}} - \tilde{H}_z^{i-1,j,k} |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}}}{\Delta x}}}{\Delta z} = \frac{\epsilon_{yy}^{i,j,k}}{c_0} \frac{E_y^{i,j,k} |_{t+\Delta t} - E_y^{i,j,k} |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}}}{\Delta t} \\
& \frac{\cancel{\frac{\tilde{H}_y^{i,j,k} |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}} - \tilde{H}_y^{i-1,j,k} |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}}}{\Delta x}} - \frac{\tilde{H}_x^{i,j,k} |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}} - \tilde{H}_x^{i,j-1,k} |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}}}{\Delta y}}{\Delta x} = \frac{\epsilon_{zz}^{i,j,k}}{c_0} \frac{E_z^{i,j,k} |_{t+\Delta t} - E_z^{i,j,k} |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}}}{\Delta t}
\end{aligned}$$

With these cross outs we come out with two observations. The first is that the longitudinal field components E_z and H_z are always zero. The second is that the Maxwell's equations have decoupled into two sets of two equations E_x/H_y Mode and E_y/H_x Mode.

$$\begin{aligned}
-\frac{\partial E_y}{\partial z} &= -\frac{\mu_{xx}}{c_0} \frac{\partial \tilde{H}_x}{\partial t} \\
\frac{\partial E_x}{\partial z} &= -\frac{\mu_{yy}}{c_0} \frac{\partial \tilde{H}_y}{\partial t} \\
0 &= -\frac{\mu_{zz}}{c_0} \frac{\partial \tilde{H}_z}{\partial t} \\
-\frac{\partial \tilde{H}_y}{\partial z} &= \frac{\epsilon_{xx}}{c_0} \frac{\partial E_x}{\partial t} \\
\frac{\partial \tilde{H}_x}{\partial z} &= \frac{\epsilon_{yy}}{c_0} \frac{\partial E_y}{\partial t} \\
0 &= \frac{\epsilon_{zz}}{c_0} \frac{\partial E_z}{\partial t} \\
&\longrightarrow \\
-\frac{E_y^{i,j,k+1} |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}} - E_y^{i,j,k} |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}}}{\Delta z} &= -\frac{\mu_{xx}^{i,j,k}}{c_0} \frac{\tilde{H}_x^{i,j,k} |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}} - \tilde{H}_x^{i,j,k} |_{t-\frac{\Delta t}{2}}}{\Delta t}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{E_x^{i,j,k+1} |_{t+\Delta t} - E_x^{i,j,k} |_t}{\Delta z} &= -\frac{\mu_{yy}^{i,j,k}}{c_0} \frac{\tilde{H}_y^{i,j,k} |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}} - \tilde{H}_y^{i,j,k} |_{t-\frac{\Delta t}{2}}}{\Delta t} \\
\tilde{H}_z^{i,j,k} &= 0 \\
-\frac{\tilde{H}_y^{i,j,k} |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}} - \tilde{H}_y^{i,j,k-1} |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}}}{\Delta z} &= \frac{\epsilon_{xx}^{i,j,k}}{c_0} \frac{E_x^{i,j,k} |_{t+\Delta t} - E_x^{i,j,k} |_t}{\Delta t} \\
\frac{\tilde{H}_x^{i,j,k} |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}} - \tilde{H}_x^{i,j,k-1} |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}}}{\Delta z} &= \frac{\epsilon_{yy}^{i,j,k}}{c_0} \frac{E_y^{i,j,k} |_{t+\Delta t} - E_y^{i,j,k} |_t}{\Delta t} \\
E_z^{i,j,k} &= 0
\end{aligned}$$

SUMMARY OF 1D FINITE-DIFFERENCE EQUATIONS

The equations are now broken apart into their respective modes. These modes are physical and propagate independently from each other. In the end though they are numerically the same and will exhibit the same electromagnetic behavior. This allows us to only have to solve one set of two equations. We can also note that since we only changing materials along the z axis we can drop the i and j Array Indices.

Ex/Hy Mode

$$-\frac{\tilde{H}_y^k |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}} - \tilde{H}_y^{k-1} |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}}}{\Delta z} = \frac{\epsilon_{xx}^k}{c_0} \frac{E_x^k |_{t+\Delta t} - E_x^k |_t}{\Delta t} \quad (1)$$

$$\frac{E_x^{k+1} |_{t+\Delta t} - E_x^k |_t}{\Delta z} = -\frac{\mu_{yy}^k}{c_0} \frac{\tilde{H}_y^k |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}} - \tilde{H}_y^k |_{t-\frac{\Delta t}{2}}}{\Delta t} \quad (2)$$

Ey/Hx Mode

$$\frac{\tilde{H}_x^k |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}} - \tilde{H}_x^{k-1} |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}}}{\Delta z} = \frac{\epsilon_{yy}^k}{c_0} \frac{E_y^k |_{t+\Delta t} - E_y^k |_t}{\Delta t} \quad (3)$$

$$\frac{E_y^{k+1} |_{t+\Delta t} - E_y^k |_t}{\Delta z} = \frac{\mu_{xx}^k}{c_0} \frac{\tilde{H}_x^k |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}} - \tilde{H}_x^k |_{t-\frac{\Delta t}{2}}}{\Delta t} \quad (4)$$

UPDATE EQUATIONS

We are now going to derive the update equations used during in FDTD algorithm. We have arbitrarily chosen to use Ey/Hx Mode found in Equations (3) and (4)

Update Equation for Ey

$$\frac{\tilde{H}_x^k |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}} - \tilde{H}_x^{k-1} |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}}}{\Delta z} = \frac{\epsilon_{yy}^k}{c_0} \frac{E_y^k |_{t+\Delta t} - E_y^k |_t}{\Delta t}$$

We want to solve for the E-Field at the future time value.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\epsilon_{yy}^k}{c_0} \frac{E_y^k |_{t+\Delta t} - E_y^k |_t}{\Delta t} &= \frac{\tilde{H}_x^k |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}} - \tilde{H}_x^{k-1} |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}}}{\Delta z} \\ E_y^k |_{t+\Delta t} - E_y^k |_t &= \frac{c_0 \Delta t}{\epsilon_{yy}^k} \left(\frac{\tilde{H}_x^k |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}} - \tilde{H}_x^{k-1} |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}}}{\Delta z} \right) \\ E_y^k |_{t+\Delta t} &= E_y^k |_t + \left(\frac{c_0 \Delta t}{\epsilon_{yy}^k} \right) \left(\frac{\tilde{H}_x^k |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}} - \tilde{H}_x^{k-1} |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}}}{\Delta z} \right) \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

Update Equation for Hx

$$\frac{E_y^{k+1} |_t - E_y^k |_t}{\Delta z} = \frac{\mu_{xx}^k}{c_0} \frac{\tilde{H}_x^k |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}} - \tilde{H}_x^k |_{t-\frac{\Delta t}{2}}}{\Delta t}$$

We want to solve for the H-Field at the future time value

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\mu_{xx}^k}{c_0} \frac{\tilde{H}_x^k |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}} - \tilde{H}_x^k |_{t-\frac{\Delta t}{2}}}{\Delta t} &= \frac{E_y^{k+1} |_t - E_y^k |_t}{\Delta z} \\ \tilde{H}_x^k |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}} - \tilde{H}_x^k |_{t-\frac{\Delta t}{2}} &= \frac{c_0 \Delta t}{\mu_{xx}^k} \left(\frac{E_y^{k+1} |_t - E_y^k |_t}{\Delta z} \right) \\ \tilde{H}_x^k |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}} &= \tilde{H}_x^k |_{t-\frac{\Delta t}{2}} + \left(\frac{c_0 \Delta t}{\mu_{xx}^k} \right) \left(\frac{E_y^{k+1} |_t - E_y^k |_t}{\Delta z} \right) \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

UPDATE COEFFICIENTS

Since the update coefficients don't change during the simulation. We can compute them once before our FDTD Algorithm is actually implemented in loop.

$$\tilde{H}_x^k |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}} = \tilde{H}_x^k |_{t-\frac{\Delta t}{2}} + m_{H_x}^k \left(\frac{E_y^{k+1} |_t - E_y^k |_t}{\Delta z} \right) \quad (7)$$

$$E_y^k |_{t+\Delta t} = E_y^k |_t + m_{E_y}^k \left(\frac{\tilde{H}_x^k |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}} - \tilde{H}_x^{k-1} |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}}}{\Delta z} \right) \quad (8)$$

$$m_{E_y}^k = \frac{c_0 \Delta t}{\epsilon_{yy}^k} \quad (9)$$

$$m_{H_x}^k = \frac{c_0 \Delta t}{\mu_{yy}^k} \quad (10)$$

BOUNDARY CONDITIONS

We have two types of boundary conditions that can be incorporated into this 1-Dimensional Simulation. The Dirichlet and Perfectly Absorbing Boundary Conditions are methods that allow us to handle the fields that lie at the boundary of the model. Specifically these points lie at $k = 0$ and $k = N_z + 1$. At these points there is no grid to pull our Electric and Magnetic fields from, therefore to maintain the stability of the Finite Difference Maxwell's Equations we must handle these separately.

Dirichlet Boundary Condition

This boundary condition is the easiest to implement. We simply assume the fields that lie outside the grid are zero. This is the most crude method and will cause reflection back into our model as energy reaches the boundary.

$$\text{For } k < N_z \quad \tilde{H}_x^k |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}} = \tilde{H}_x^k |_{t-\frac{\Delta t}{2}} + m_{H_x}^k \left(\frac{E_y^{k+1} |_t - E_y^k |_t}{\Delta z} \right)$$

$$\text{For } k = N_z \quad \tilde{H}_x^k |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}} = \tilde{H}_x^k |_{t-\frac{\Delta t}{2}} + m_{H_x}^k \left(\frac{0 - E_y^k |_t}{\Delta z} \right)$$

$$\text{For } k > 1 \quad E_y^k |_{t+\Delta t} = E_y^k |_t + m_{E_y}^k \left(\frac{\tilde{H}_x^k |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}} - \tilde{H}_x^{k-1} |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}}}{\Delta z} \right)$$

$$\text{For } k = 1 \quad E_y^k |_{t+\Delta t} = E_y^k |_t + m_{E_y}^k \left(\frac{\tilde{H}_x^k |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}} - 0}{\Delta z} \right)$$

Periodic Boundary Condition

This boundary condition assumes that the device being modeled is periodic along a particular direction. In our case the periodicity is along the z-axis.

$$\text{For } k < N_z \quad \tilde{H}_x^k |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}} = \tilde{H}_x^k |_{t-\frac{\Delta t}{2}} + m_{H_x}^k \left(\frac{E_y^{k+1} |_t - E_y^k |_t}{\Delta z} \right)$$

$$\text{For } k = N_z \quad \tilde{H}_x^k |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}} = \tilde{H}_x^k |_{t-\frac{\Delta t}{2}} + m_{H_x}^k \left(\frac{E_y^1 |_t - E_y^{N_z} |_t}{\Delta z} \right)$$

$$\text{For } k > 1 \quad E_y^k |_{t+\Delta t} = E_y^k |_t + m_{E_y}^k \left(\frac{\tilde{H}_x^k |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}} - \tilde{H}_x^{k-1} |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}}}{\Delta z} \right)$$

$$\text{For } k = 1 \quad E_y^k |_{t+\Delta t} = E_y^k |_t + m_{E_y}^k \left(\frac{\tilde{H}_x^1 |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}} - \tilde{H}_x^{N_z} |_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}}}{\Delta z} \right)$$

Perfectly Absorbing Boundary Condition

The Perfectly Absorbing Boundary Condition provides a method to absorb almost all of the energy out of the model. There is approximately 10 orders of magnitude less energy reflected back into the problem space. This is very minor and should not affect our results. There are three conditions though that must be met in order to use this boundary condition.

- Waves at the boundaries are only traveling outward.
- Materials at the boundaries are linear, homogeneous, isotropic and non-dispersive.
- Time step is chosen so physical waves travel 1 cell in two time steps $\Delta t = \frac{\Delta z}{2c_0}$

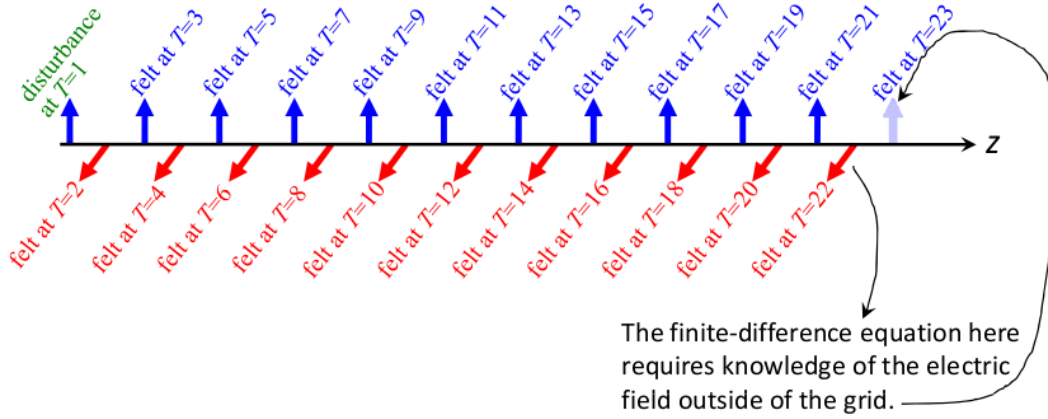


Figure 2: Perfect Boundary Time Steps

As can be seen in 5.3 the last time step is magically off the grid. In order to implement the perfect boundary condition we must use a field that would have propagated past our last grid cell $2\Delta t$ time steps ago. In equations (11) and (12) the field value that exists outside our cells needs to be used when the wave reaches it at the $2\Delta t$ time frame

$$\tilde{H}_x^k|_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}} = \tilde{H}_x^k|_{t-\frac{\Delta t}{2}} + m_{H_x}^k \left(\frac{E_y^{N_z+1}|_t - E_y^{N_z}|_t}{\Delta z} \right) \quad (11)$$

$$E_y^k|_{t+\Delta t} = E_y^k|_t + m_{E_y}^k \left(\frac{\tilde{H}_x^1|_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}} - \tilde{H}_x^0|_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}}}{\Delta z} \right) \quad (12)$$

Since the field values did exist $2\Delta t$ ago in our boundary cell in the problem space. We can then infer the value is the same as the energy leaves the grid.

$$E_y^{N_z+2}|_t = E_y^{N_z}|_{t-2\Delta t}$$

$$\tilde{H}_x^0|_t = \tilde{H}_x^1|_{t-2\Delta t}$$

To implement the boundary condition we keep track of previous history in variables. At the z-low boundary we only modify the E-Field update equations. At the z-high boundary we only modify the H-Field update equations.

$$h_3 = h_2 \quad h_2 = h_1 \quad h_1 = \tilde{H}_x^1$$

$$E_y^k|_{t+\Delta t} = E_y^1|_t + m_{E_y}^1 \left(\frac{\tilde{H}_x^1|_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}} - h_3}{\Delta z} \right)$$

$$e_3 = e_2 \quad e_2 = e_1 \quad e_1 = E_y^{N_z}$$

$$\tilde{H}_x^{N_z}|_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}} = \tilde{H}_x^{N_z}|_{t-\frac{\Delta t}{2}} + m_{H_x}^{N_z} \left(\frac{e_3 - E_y^{N_z}|_t}{\Delta z} \right)$$

SOURCES

There are two ways to incorporate a source into our models, Hard Source and Soft Source. The hard source is the simplest to implement. After we have performed our update equations over the entire grid we overwrite some fields with our source. This injects the source energy into our model. This does cause a problem because the point where the source was inject behaves like a perfect electric or magnetic conductor to scattered fields.

$$\tilde{H}_x^k|_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}} = g_H|_k \quad E_y^k|_{t+\Delta t} = g_E|_k$$

The soft source on the otherhand is the best way to inject energy into our model. After performing the update equations across the entire grid, the source is added to the current value of our source injection points. This injects energy into the model, but allows scattered waves to pass through the source region like it was transparent.

$$\tilde{H}_x^k|_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}} = \tilde{H}_x^k|_{t+\frac{\Delta t}{2}} + g_H|_k \quad E_y^k|_{t+\Delta t} = E_y^k|_{t+\Delta t} + g_E|_k$$

MODEL PARAMETERS

Grid Resolution

There are multiple considerations that need to be addressed in order to properly calculate the grid resolution.

Wavelength

The grid resolution must be sufficient to resolve the shortest wavelength. First we must determine the smallest wavelength then we must divide this by a value that can be found in the chart. These values are used as a guideline depending on the material with the highest refractive index.

$$\lambda_{min} = \frac{c_0}{f_{max}\eta_{max}}$$

$$\Delta_\lambda \approx \frac{\lambda_{min}}{N_\lambda} \quad N_\lambda \geq 10$$

| Approximate N_λ Values | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| N_λ | Refractive Index | Comment |
| 10 to 20 | $\eta = 1 - 10$ | Low contrast dielectrics |
| 10 to 30 | $\eta = 10 - 30$ | High contrast dielectrics |
| 40 to 60 | $\eta = 40 - 60$ | Most metallic structures |
| 100 to 200 | $\eta \geq 60$ | Plasmonic devices |

Mechanical Features

the grid resolution must be sufficient to resolve the smallest physical feature of the device. First, we must determine the smallest feature d_{min} . then we must divide this by 1 to 4 to accurately manage the width of our smallest feature.

$$\Delta_d \approx \frac{d_{min}}{N_d} \quad N_d \geq 1$$

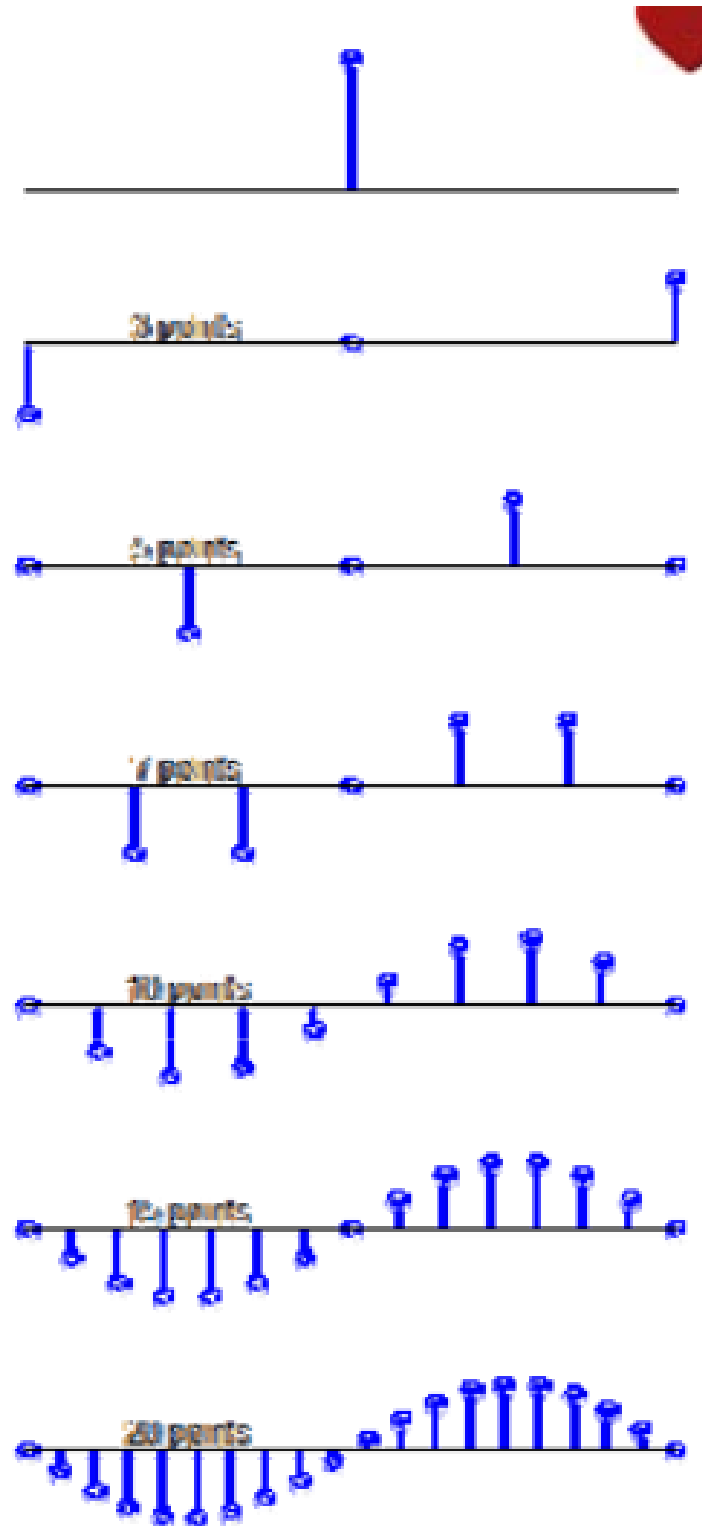


Figure 3: Building up wavelength resolution

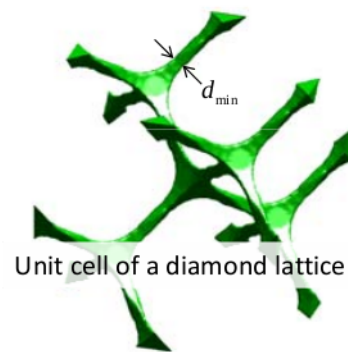


Figure 4:

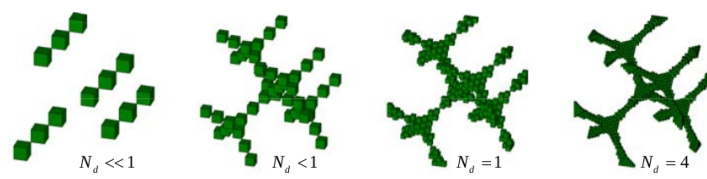


Figure 5: