

Types of Transmission Lines

Any wire, cable, or line that guides energy from one point to another is a transmission line. Whenever we make a circuit on a breadboard, every wire attached forms a transmission line with the ground wire. Whether we see the propagation (transmission line) effects on the line depends on the line length, and the frequency of the signals used. At lower frequencies or short line lengths, we do not see any difference between the signal's phase at the generator and the load, whereas we do at higher frequencies.

Types of transmission lines

- (a) Coaxial Cable, Figure 1
- (b) Microstrip, Figure 2
- (c) Stripline, Figure 3
- (d) Coplanar Waveguide, Figure 4
- (e) Two-wire line, Figure 5
- (f) Parallel Plate Waveguide, Figure 6
- (g) Rectangular Waveguide, Figure 7
- (h) Optical fiber, Figure 8

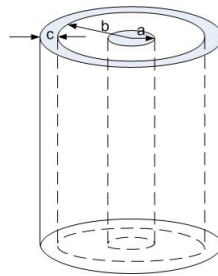


Figure 1: Coaxial Cable

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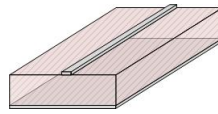


Figure 2: Microstrip

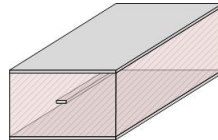


Figure 3: Stripline.

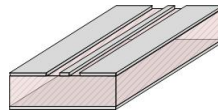


Figure 4: Coplanar Waveguide.

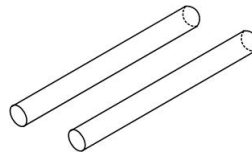


Figure 5: Two-wire line.

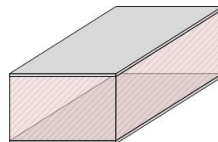


Figure 6: Parallel-Plate Waveguide.

Propagation modes on a transmission line

Coax, two-wire line, transmission line support TEM waves. Waves on microstrip lines can be approximated as TEM up to the 30-40 GHz (unshielded), up to 140 GHz shielded.

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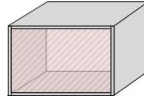


Figure 7: Rectangular Waveguide.



Figure 8: Optical Fiber.

- (a) Transversal Electro-Magnetic Field (TEM). Electric (E), and Magnetic (M) fields are entirely transversal to the direction of propagation
- (b) Transversal Electric field (TE), Transversal Magnetic Field (TM), M or E field is in the direction of propagation

Transmission lines we will discuss in this course carry TEM fields.