

CZECH TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY IN PRAGUE,
FACULTY OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

MASTER'S THESIS

Dual Circularly Polarized Waveguide Antenna

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II. Master's thesis details

Master's thesis title in English:

Dual Circularly Polarized Waveguide Antenna

Master's thesis title in Czech:

Duálně kruhově polarizovaná vlnovodová anténa

Guidelines:

Research different polarizers in a metallic waveguide, consider round or square transversal shape of the guide. Inspired by circularly polarized patch antenna with chamfered corners, adapt this technique to the waveguide technology (the frequency should be used to be appropriate for easy fabrication, say around 5 GHz). Perform 2D eigenmode analysis of round and square waveguides with inserted metal triangles, and compare the results with the theory of patch antennas of such shapes. Choose one of the waveguide with the polarizer and optimize it to provide the best bandwidth and radiation properties, also design the transition from coaxial cable, preferably with the ability to excite both RHCP and LHCP patterns. Add a small horn (say 15 dBi) to the waveguide and finally optimise the whole structure. Build and measure the whole structure, compare to simulation results.

Bibliography / sources:

- 1/ Polarizers on sections of square waveguides with inner corner ridges | IEEE Conference Publication | IEEE Xplore
- 2/ Compact reconfigurable waveguide circular polarizer | IEEE Conference Publication | IEEE Xplore
- 3/ Design of Wideband Quad-Ridge Waveguide Polarizer | IEEE Conference Publication | IEEE Xplore
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- 8/ Hexagonal waveguides: New class of waveguides for mm-wave circularly polarized horns | IEEE Conference Publication | IEEE Xplore
- 9/ Hexagonal Waveguide Based Circularly Polarized Horn Antennas for Sub-mm-Wave/Terahertz Band | IEEE Journals & Magazine | IEEE Xplore
- Bow-Tie-Shaped Radiating Element for Single and Dual Circular 10/ Polarization | IEEE Journals & Magazine | IEEE Xplore
- 11/ A Wideband Circularly Polarized Horn Antenna With a Tapered Elliptical Waveguide Polarizer | IEEE Journals & Magazine | IEEE Xplore

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Assignment valid until: **15.02.2026**

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III. Assignment receipt

The student acknowledges that the master's thesis is an individual work. The student must produce his thesis without the assistance of others, with the exception of provided consultations. Within the master's thesis, the author must state the names of consultants and include a list of references.

Date of assignment receipt

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Introduction

Do not write a couple of words on literature survey. Present the difference construction and design choices, compare them both theoretically and by the results presented in gathered papers, but in their respective sections of the design process. Use them a nice foreword for each of the parts, going through existing approaches.

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Throughout the theoretical chapter, I omit using the common *del*, or *nabla*, notation for the vector differential operator ∇ which gives rise to the formally proper differential operators of gradient (∇), divergence ($\nabla \cdot$), curl ($\nabla \times$), and sometimes even the Laplace operator ($\nabla \cdot \nabla$ or ∇^2). Instead, I will use the standard notations of grad, div, curl, and Δ , respectively. While I am aware of the mnemonic merits it brings when working in coordinates, this does not come to fruition as I do not carry out any computations in this text. On the other hand, there are various reasons to avoid it, such as that it promotes a notational ambiguity with the covariant derivative used in differential geometry, or to distinguish the individual operators at first sight better.

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Chapter 1

Electrodynamics of guided waves

This chapter establishes the theoretical foundation for the analysis and design of a waveguide-based antenna system. Beginning with Maxwell's equations and general description of electromagnetic fields in various settings relevant to this work, the wave equations governing guided modes are derived, and their solutions are analysed to elucidate the behaviour of electromagnetic fields within waveguides. This analysis provides a framework for understanding the operation of structures designed in the following chapters. While focusing on the essential elements of waveguide theory, this chapter provides a comprehensive treatment of the subject and establishes the notation used throughout this work.

The exposition endeavours to build upon the foundations laid in [1], [2], incorporating personal insights and notational preferences to present a cohesive foundation for further chapters.

1.1 Fundamentals of electrodynamics

The differential form of Maxwell's equations constitutes the cornerstone of classical electromagnetism, providing a complete¹ framework for analysing electromagnetic phenomena at any point in space and time. These equations summarize the relations between *electric field intensity* \mathbf{E} and *magnetic flux density* \mathbf{B} and their sources due to charge densities ρ , current densities \mathbf{J} , or the changing of the fields themselves. To ensure the validity of these expressions, let us assume that the field vectors are well-behaved functions, exhibiting continuity and possessing continuous derivatives. This assumption holds for most electromagnetic systems, with exceptions arising at interfaces between distinct media where abrupt changes in charge and current densities may occur. These discontinuities, often stemming from discrete changes in electrical parameters across the interface, necessitate the introduction of *boundary conditions*.

$$\operatorname{div} \mathbf{E} = \frac{1}{\epsilon_0} \rho_e, \quad (1.1a) \quad \operatorname{div} \mathbf{B} = \mu_0 \rho_m, \quad (1.1c)$$

$$\operatorname{curl} \mathbf{E} = -\mu_0 \mathbf{J}_m - \partial_t \mathbf{B}, \quad (1.1b) \quad \operatorname{curl} \mathbf{B} = \mu_0 \mathbf{J}_e + \mu_0 \epsilon_0 \partial_t \mathbf{E}, \quad (1.1d)$$

There is one oddity about equations (1.1) and that is the inclusion of the magnetic charge density ρ_m and magnetic current density \mathbf{J}_m as part of the 'generalized concept'.

¹For actual completeness (save for some special properties stemming from interactions in matter), the equations must also be supplemented by the Lorentz's force law $\mathbf{F} = q(\mathbf{E} + \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B})$.

Although these quantities, in spite of diligent search, were never physically observed, their introduction establishes a pleasing balance in Maxwell's equations which is theoretically sound as well. This concept is further utilized when solving advanced physical problems in applied physics and engineering. This is facilitated by the introduction of equivalent magnetic charge and current which can be used to conveniently express fields as if generated by these fictitious sources, especially in problems where the exact form of the electromagnetic field would otherwise be complicated to elucidate.

Mathematically, equations (1.1), like any differential equations, form a complete problem only when supplemented with suitable boundary conditions in a more traditional sense, such as behaviour of the vector fields 'in infinity'. These are typically 'obvious' from the problem-solving context, e.g., fields vanishing at large distance from localized charge distribution, etc.

1.1.1 Electromagnetic properties of matter

Although Maxwell's equations in their fundamental form (1.1) provide a complete description of electromagnetic phenomena, an alternative formulation offers a more convenient approach for analysing materials susceptible to electric and magnetic polarization. Within such media, the total electric charge density ρ_e can be expressed as a sum of the *free charge* density ρ_f , which constitutes the *actual source* charge,² and the *bound charge* $\rho_b = -\text{div } \mathbf{P}$, produced by an electric polarization \mathbf{P} of the material. Moreover, changing electric fields also induce changing polarization, producing *polarization current* $\mathbf{J}_p = \partial_t \mathbf{P}$ which add to the *free current* \mathbf{J}_f . Similarly to electric polarization, a magnetic polarization \mathbf{M} results in a bound current $\mathbf{J}_b = \text{curl } \mathbf{M}$. These effects, inherently connected to the susceptibility of materials to be polarized, hence influence the total electromagnetic field in their vicinity. This led to the introduction of convenient field quantities that account for the presence of such media.

Within the framework of Maxwell's equations, *electric flux density* \mathbf{D} (also called the *electric displacement field*) and the *magnetic field intensity* \mathbf{H} offer a more convenient representation, explicitly separating the free and bound sources. This approach allows for expressing Maxwell's equations in a form that directly relates the fields to the free charge and free current, which are sources that can be controlled directly. Using these field quantities, equations (1.1) read

$$\text{div } \mathbf{D} = \rho_f, \quad (1.2a) \quad \text{div } \mathbf{B} = \mu_0 \rho_m, \quad (1.2c)$$

$$\text{curl } \mathbf{E} = -\mathbf{J}_m - \partial_t \mathbf{B}, \quad (1.2b) \quad \text{curl } \mathbf{H} = \mathbf{J}_f + \partial_t \mathbf{D}, \quad (1.2d)$$

While equations (1.2) effectively express electromagnetic laws within media, their hybrid notation, involving both \mathbf{E} and \mathbf{D} , and both \mathbf{B} and \mathbf{H} , necessitates the use of *constitutive relations*. These relations, which establish correspondence between the respective electric and magnetic field quantities, are material-dependent and reflect the specific response of a medium to electric and magnetic fields. In general, these relationships can be expressed as

$$\mathbf{D} = \hat{\epsilon} * \mathbf{E}, \quad (1.3a)$$

$$\mathbf{B} = \hat{\mu} * \mathbf{H}, \quad (1.3b)$$

²It is important to reinforce the idea that the magnetic charge and current are fictitious 'source' quantities. Therefore, they are already, by definition, purely *free* quantities.

where $\hat{\epsilon}$ and $\hat{\mu}$ are the material's *permittivity* and *permeability*, respectively, and the asterisk denotes *convolution*.

Remark 1.1.1. In formulations of akin to equations (1.2), with emphasis on the separation of free and bound sources, some authors prefer to further dissect the free current, too. This current is generally conceptualized as the current ‘not directly tied to the bound charges’ within a material. To name a few commonly recognized, *convection current*, *beam current*, or *conduction current*. It is the conduction current which is, in electrical engineering, especially worth mentioning because it arises from the movement of charges, typically electrons, that can move freely throughout the material. This kinetic energy of charges in conductors is the main cause of losses in waveguides and can be expressed by

$$\mathbf{J}_c = \hat{\sigma} * \mathbf{E}, \quad (1.4)$$

where σ is the material's *conductivity*. Equation (1.4), together with equations (1.3), completes the required set of constitutive relations.

The *constitutive parameters* of permittivity, permeability, and conductivity, generally represented as complex second-rank tensors, establish the relationship between the applied electromagnetic fields and the material's response. The functional dependencies of these tensors provide a classification scheme for material properties:

- *Linearity:* A material is classified as linear if its constitutive parameters are independent of the applied field strength; otherwise, it is considered nonlinear.
- *Homogeneity:* If the constitutive parameters are invariant with respect to position within the material, it is deemed homogeneous; conversely, spatial dependence indicates an inhomogeneous medium.
- *Isotropy:* Materials exhibiting constitutive parameters independent of the applied field's direction are classified as isotropic. Conversely, direction-dependent parameters signify an anisotropic material, with crystals being a prime example.
- *Dispersion:* Materials whose constitutive parameters exhibit frequency dependence are categorized as dispersive. While some materials demonstrate negligible frequency dependence and can be effectively considered nondispersive, all materials encountered in practice exhibit some degree of dispersion.

Example 1.1.2 [Constitutive relations in free space]. In the simplest case of free space, equations (1.3a), (1.3b), and (1.4) become

$$\hat{\epsilon} = \epsilon_0 \approx 8.854 \times 10^{-12} \text{ F m}^{-1}, \quad (1.5a)$$

$$\hat{\mu} = \mu_0 = 4\pi \times 10^{-7} \text{ H m}^{-1}, \quad (1.5b)$$

$$\hat{\sigma} = 0 \text{ S m}^{-1}. \quad (1.5c)$$

1.1.2 Boundary conditions

While the differential forms of Maxwell's equations are powerful tools for analysing electromagnetic fields within continuous media, material boundaries introduce discontinuities that require special treatment. These discontinuities in the fields E , B , D , and H arise at interfaces between media with different electrical properties or at surfaces carrying charge or current densities. To accurately describe the behaviour of

the fields across such boundaries, Maxwell's equations in their integral form, which naturally incorporate these discontinuities, are more convenient. This form is obtained by applying integral theorems from vector calculus to equations (1.2) which then take on the form of

$$\oint_S \mathbf{D} \cdot d\mathbf{a} = Q_e, \quad (1.6a)$$

$$\oint_{\partial S} \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{l} = - \int_S \mathbf{J}_m \cdot d\mathbf{a} - \frac{d}{dt} \int_S \mathbf{B} \cdot d\mathbf{a}, \quad (1.6b)$$

$$\oint_S \mathbf{B} \cdot d\mathbf{a} = Q_m, \quad (1.6c)$$

$$\oint_{\partial S} \mathbf{H} \cdot d\mathbf{l} = \int_S \mathbf{J}_e \cdot d\mathbf{a} + \frac{d}{dt} \int_S \mathbf{D} \cdot d\mathbf{a}. \quad (1.6d)$$

where S is any closed surface.

Consider a boundary between two different media. The first medium is characterized by permittivity ϵ_1 and permeability μ_1 , while the second medium is characterized by permittivity ϵ_2 and permeability μ_2 . At this interface, electric and magnetic surface charge densities, denoted by q_f and q_m respectively, may be present. Additionally, electric and magnetic surface current densities, denoted by j_f and j_m respectively, may also exist. The general *boundary conditions* for electrodynamics are then obtained by applying equations (1.6) to arbitrary surfaces encompassing a portion of the interface, yielding

$$\mathbf{e}_n \cdot (\mathbf{D}_1 - \mathbf{D}_2) = q_f, \quad (1.7a) \quad \mathbf{e}_n \cdot (\mathbf{B}_1 - \mathbf{B}_2) = q_m, \quad (1.7c)$$

$$-\mathbf{e}_n \times (\mathbf{E}_1 - \mathbf{E}_2) = \mathbf{j}_m, \quad (1.7b) \quad \mathbf{e}_n \times (\mathbf{H}_1 - \mathbf{H}_2) = \mathbf{j}_f. \quad (1.7d)$$

1.2 Electromagnetic waves

TODO: Add general talk about waves or motivation for them, or skip entirely.

1.2.1 The wave equations

Inside regions with no *free* charge or *free* current, Maxwell's equations (1.2) take the form of

$$\text{div } \mathbf{D} = 0, \quad (1.8a) \quad \text{div } \mathbf{B} = 0, \quad (1.8c)$$

$$\text{curl } \mathbf{E} = -\partial_t \mathbf{B}, \quad (1.8b) \quad \text{curl } \mathbf{H} = \sigma \mathbf{E} + \partial_t \mathbf{D}. \quad (1.8d)$$

Furthermore, if the medium is *linear* and *homogeneous*, equation (1.8d) can be fully expressed in terms of \mathbf{E} . With this simplification, applying the curl to equations (1.8b) and (1.8d) yields

$$\Delta \mathbf{E} = \mu\sigma\partial_t \mathbf{E} + \mu\epsilon\partial_t^2 \mathbf{E}, \quad (1.9a) \quad \Delta \mathbf{B} = \mu\sigma\partial_t \mathbf{B} + \mu\epsilon\partial_t^2 \mathbf{B}. \quad (1.9b)$$

Therefore, electric and magnetic fields in linear homogeneous media both clearly satisfy the wave equation with a linear damping term $\mu\sigma\partial_t$, introduced by conductive

losses. Moreover, in regions of zero conductive current, such as free space or ideal insulators, equations (1.9) simplify even more to

$$\Delta \mathbf{E} = \mu \epsilon \partial_t^2 \mathbf{E}, \quad (1.10a) \quad \Delta \mathbf{B} = \mu \epsilon \partial_t^2 \mathbf{B}, \quad (1.10b)$$

taking on the form of classical wave equations which are ubiquitous in physics. This also immediately gives rise to the formula

$$v = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\epsilon \mu}} = \frac{c}{\sqrt{\epsilon_r \mu_r}} \quad (1.11)$$

for the speed of electromagnetic waves in linear homogeneous media.

Remark 1.2.1. Compared with the original Maxwell's equations (1.2), these equations form two systems of partial differential equations of second order but are now decoupled and provide us with an additional solving method for given boundary-value problems. However, it is important to note that the wave equations (1.9a) and (1.9b) were derived from Maxwell's equations (1.8) by differentiation. This impedes their mathematical equivalence. More specifically (as stated in [2]), whereas every solution to Maxwell's equations is also a solution for the wave equations, the converse is not true.

1.2.2 Monochromatic plane waves

Maxwell's equations along with the constitutive relations and all the theory outlined so far involve the description of general vector fields which vary in space and time. However, as shown in section 1.2, electromagnetic fields in source-free regions exhibit wave behaviour. Nonetheless, they still take on the form of time-varying vector fields which are far too complex for analysis in any practical system. Let us, for a moment, turn our attention to the elementary solution to the wave equation

$$\hat{\psi}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \hat{\Psi}_0 e^{i(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r} - \omega t)}, \quad (1.12)$$

where \mathbf{k} is the *wave vector* giving the direction of wave propagation and ω is the angular frequency of the wave. It is important to note that equation (1.12) is expressed in the form of a *complex wave function*, with the *complex amplitude* $\hat{\Psi}_0 \equiv \Psi_0 e^{i\delta}$, and that a sinusoidal wave representing this solution in physical reality can be extracted from equation (1.12), using the *Euler's formula*, as

$$\psi(\mathbf{r}, t) = \text{Re} \left[\Psi_0 e^{i(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r} - \omega t + \delta)} \right] = \text{Re} \left[\hat{\psi}(\mathbf{r}, t) \right], \quad (1.13)$$

with the *real amplitude* Ψ_0 and *phase shift* δ . It is easy to see that if equation (1.13) is a solution to equations (1.10) and obeys Maxwell's equations, the same holds true for equation (1.12) since the imaginary part differs from the real part only by the replacement of sine by cosine.

Waves described by equation (1.12) are called *monochromatic*, or *time-harmonic*, *plane* waves. Dissecting these terms, monochromaticity refers to the fact that the wave oscillates at a single frequency ω through time, while planarity stands for the condition where the fields are uniform over every plane perpendicular to the direction of propagation. Although the term is not commonly used, plane waves could alternatively be called *space-harmonic*.³ After all, both of these terms refer to the fact that the wave

³Therefore, monochromatic plane waves are something one could call *spacetime-harmonic* or simply *harmonic*.

has a sinusoidal dependence on a given variable. In the case of monochromaticity, the variable is time, oscillating with an angular frequency ω . Similarly, planarity reflects the waveform repetition in the spatial coordinates, projected into the propagation direction, with a well-defined spatial frequency $k = \|\mathbf{k}\|$ also called the *wave number*.

The reason for us to be concerned with this particular solution is the fact that, in practice, any wave we will be dealing with can be expressed as a linear combination of these monochromatic plane waves, i.e.,

$$\hat{\psi}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \hat{\Psi}_0(\mathbf{k}) e^{i(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r} - \omega t)} d\mathbf{k}. \quad (1.14)$$

This superposition principle mathematically reflects the Fourier transform over all plane waves corresponding to the given frequency ω . With this formally sound mathematical description, the existence of a unique linear combination for ‘any wave we will be dealing with’, as vaguely stated above, can be properly reasoned by stating the following theorem.

Theorem 1.2.2 [Dirichlet-Jordan test]. *Let f be a function in $L^1(-\infty, \infty)$ and of bounded variation in a neighbourhood of the point x . Then*

$$\frac{1}{\pi} \lim_{M \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^M du \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(t) \cos(u(x - t)) dt = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x + \epsilon) + f(x - \epsilon)}{2}. \quad (1.15)$$

If f is continuous in an open interval, then the integral on the left-hand side converges uniformly in the interval, and the limit on the right-hand side is $f(x)$.

More details on this mathematical theory can be found in [3]. A version of theorem 1.2.2, retaining the original form due to Dirichlet, is often used in signal processing. More details on that formulation can be found, e.g., in [4].

Since any signal that can be physically produced in a laboratory not only satisfies these conditions but also is square-integrable and has compact support,⁴ let us confine the attention of this text to monochromatic plane waves. Therefore, the fields take on the form of

$$\hat{\mathbf{E}}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \hat{\mathbf{E}}_0 e^{i(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r} - \omega t)}, \quad (1.16a) \quad \hat{\mathbf{B}}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \hat{\mathbf{B}}_0 e^{i(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r} - \omega t)}, \quad (1.16b)$$

where $\hat{\mathbf{E}}_0$ and $\hat{\mathbf{B}}_0$ are complex amplitudes. As discussed in remark 1.2.1, the fact that equations (1.16a) and (1.16b) are solutions to the wave equations is not a sufficient condition for them to be solutions to Maxwell’s equations, too.

Example 1.2.3 [Monochromatic plane waves in free space]. In free space, from equations (1.8a) and (1.8c) it follows that

$$\hat{\mathbf{E}}_0 \cdot \mathbf{e}_z = \hat{\mathbf{B}}_0 \cdot \mathbf{e}_z = 0, \quad (1.17)$$

i.e., the electromagnetic fields are *transverse*. Furthermore, either of equations (1.8b) and (1.8d) yields

$$\hat{\mathbf{B}}_0 = \frac{k}{\omega} (\mathbf{e}_z \times \hat{\mathbf{E}}_0) = \frac{1}{c} (\mathbf{e}_z \times \hat{\mathbf{E}}_0). \quad (1.18)$$

⁴In the field of signal processing, these signal properties are often described as the having finite energy and duration, respectively.

Drawing a conclusion, in free space, \mathbf{E} and \mathbf{B} are *in phase* and *mutually perpendicular*. Moreover, defining the *polarization vector* as a unit vector in the direction of electric field oscillations, i.e.,

$$\mathbf{e}_n \cdot \mathbf{E} = E \quad \|\mathbf{e}_n\| = 1, \quad (1.19)$$

the actual solution to Maxwell's equations in free space takes the form of

$$\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}, t) = E_0 \cos(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r} - \omega t + \delta) \mathbf{e}_n, \quad (1.20)$$

$$\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \frac{1}{c} E_0 \cos(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r} - \omega t + \delta) (\mathbf{k} \times \mathbf{e}_n). \quad (1.21)$$

As will soon become evident, monochromatic plane waves confined in waveguides are generally not transverse. This is caused by the fact that the solution to equations (1.8) will be subject to boundary conditions which will enforce the existence of longitudinal components in order to fit them.

Conclusion

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Glossary of Symbols

curl	curl
Δ	Laplace operator
div	divergence
ϵ	permittivity
grad	gradient
μ	permeability
$\partial\Omega$	boundary of set Ω
∂_ξ	partial derivative w.r.t. variable ξ
ρ_e	electric charge density
ρ_m	magnetic charge density
σ	conductivity
\boldsymbol{B}	magnetic flux density
\boldsymbol{D}	electric flux density
\boldsymbol{E}	electric field intensity
\boldsymbol{e}_ξ	unit vector in the ξ -coordinate axis
\boldsymbol{H}	magnetic field intensity
\boldsymbol{J}_e	source electric current density
\boldsymbol{J}_m	magnetic current density
\boldsymbol{k}	wave vector

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