

Spectrum of Corrugated and Periodically Loaded Waveguides from Classical Matrix Eigenvalues

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Abstract—The paper presents a rigorous full-wave analysis of propagation in corrugated and periodically loaded waveguides. The propagation constants are determined from the classical eigenvalues of a canonical matrix eigenvalue problem instead of a determinant. The entries of the matrix are computed only once per frequency point. The entire $k_0 - \beta$ diagram of a corrugated circular waveguide, a circular waveguide periodically loaded with dielectric disks, and a rectangular waveguide periodically loaded with capacitive irises are determined and compared with results of other researchers. Excellent agreement is documented in each case.

Index Terms—Eigenvalues, integral equations, modal analysis, periodic structures.

I. INTRODUCTION

PERIODIC structures have been investigated by many researchers due to their importance in slow-wave structures, backward-wave oscillators, corrugated antennas and antenna feeds, phase shifters, polarizers, and even transmission systems [1]–[18]. The recent discovery of photonic-bandgap materials has created a demand for accurate and efficient methods of analysis and design of periodic structures [19]–[23]. In addition, modern satellite communications often require corrugated antennas and feeds with high symmetry and low cross polarization in the radiation pattern [13], [16]. Accurate prediction of the propagation behavior of periodic structures is an essential step in the successful design of these systems. A variety of numerical techniques have been used to achieve this goal. In broad terms, these belong to one of two groups: 1) methods which determine the propagation constants of the Floquet modes from a nonlinear (determinant) equation, and 2) methods which determine the propagation constants of the Floquet modes from the classical eigenvalues of a matrix.

Among the methods in the first group are those based on expansions in space-harmonics and the surface impedance approach [13]. In these methods, the propagation constants are determined as the roots of a nonlinear determinant equation following an iterative process. Such an approach can be time consuming and suffers the risk of missing degenerate or nearly degenerate roots. In addition, complex modes introduce an additional complexity as they require two-dimensional search algorithms to locate the real and imaginary parts of the propaga-

tion constant. A more efficient method of this group was presented by Esteban and Rebollar [15]. In their approach, which takes into account the finite thickness of the corrugations, the impedance-matrix formulation of the mode-matching technique (MMT) was used to derive a determinant equation from a matrix of reduced size [15]. Furthermore, the determinant is shown to be a polynomial in the propagation constant; this feature is used to further improve the search for the roots [15].

The advantages of methods in the second group are well described by Davies in connection with the finite-element method (FEM) [18, pp. 8–11]. Davies argues that methods that determine the propagation constants from the classical eigenvalues of a matrix are possibly the most efficient methods provided other criteria regarding absence of spurious roots and sparsity of matrices are met [18]. In addition to the FEM, propagation in waveguides periodically loaded with irises of zero-thickness has been analyzed by Collin [3] using modal expansions leading to a classical matrix eigenvalue problem. Similar formulation of the resonant zero-thickness iris in a rectangular waveguide was also presented in [10].

In this paper, we present a formulation that allows the complete spectrum of periodically loaded waveguides to be determined from the classical eigenvalues of a canonical matrix eigenvalue problem. Propagating, evanescent, and complex modes, should the latter be present, are determined accurately and efficiently. The analytic content of the approach makes it more efficient, but not as general as the FEM [18]. The approach is based on the coupled-integral-equation technique (CIET), which has the analytical content of the MMT, in addition to providing a simple mechanism to include *a priori* information such as the edge condition [24], [25].

The approach, which has already been applied to TE modes with no angular dependence in corrugated circular waveguides [26], is here applied to the propagation in a corrugated circular waveguide, a circular waveguide periodically loaded with dielectric disks, as well as a rectangular waveguide periodically loaded with capacitive irises. Numerical results are compared with those of other researchers to demonstrate its accuracy and efficiency.

II. THEORY

Consider a periodically loaded waveguide, as shown in Fig. 1(a). The unit cell of length p comprises two different regions I and II of width t and g , respectively. We assume that the normal modes of the two regions have already been determined using any of the numerous numerical methods [27]. For the corrugated waveguide [see Fig. 1(b) and (d)], these are

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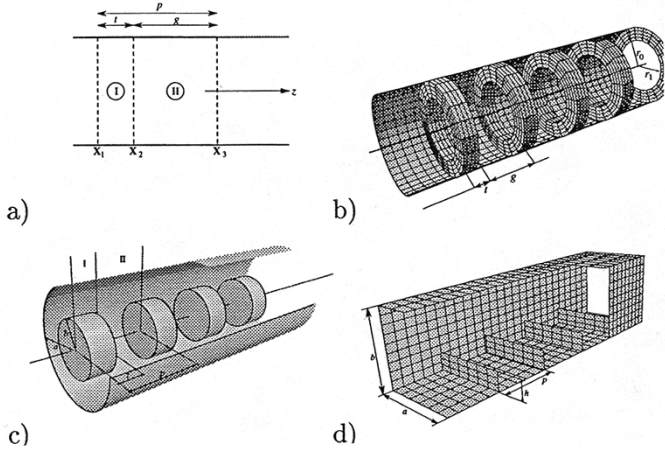


Fig. 1. (a) Cross section and side view of a periodically loaded waveguide. The unit cell of width p comprises two regions of thickness t and g . (b) Corrugated circular waveguide. (c) Circular waveguide loaded with dielectric disks. (d) Rectangular waveguide loaded with capacitive irises.

known analytically, for the dielectric loaded waveguide, these are determined straightforwardly [28]. For simplicity, we focus attention on the corrugated waveguide shown in Figs. 1(b) and (d) can be handled with minor modifications to deal with the nonhomogeneity of the dielectric loaded region.

Following the CIET, the transverse electric and magnetic fields in regions I and II are expanded in series of the normal modes of the two regions [24]. Let \mathbf{e}_n^i denote the transverse electric field of the n th normal mode of the i th region, k_{nz}^i its propagation constant, and Y_n^i its wave admittance. The transverse magnetic field of this mode is written as $Y_n^i(\mathbf{e}_z \times \mathbf{e}_n^i)$ where \mathbf{e}_z is the unit vector in the z -direction (direction of propagation) [3, p. 174]. We also assume that the transverse functions \mathbf{e}_n^i are normalized according to

$$\iint_{S_i} \mathbf{e}_n^i \cdot \mathbf{e}_m^i ds_i = \delta_{nm} \quad (1)$$

where S_i is the cross section of region i . In the i th region, the transverse electric and magnetic fields are expanded in series of the form

$$\mathbf{E}_t^i = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(a_n^i e^{-jk_{nz}^i z} + b_n^i e^{jk_{nz}^i z} \right) \mathbf{e}_n^i \quad (2)$$

and

$$\mathbf{H}_t^i = - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} Y_n^i \left(a_n^i e^{-jk_{nz}^i z} - b_n^i e^{jk_{nz}^i z} \right) (\mathbf{e}_z \times \mathbf{e}_n^i). \quad (3)$$

Here, $i = \text{I, II}$. Let us furthermore assume that the true distribution of the transverse electric field at $z = 0$, $z = t$, and $z = p = t + g$ are given by three unknown vector functions \mathbf{X}_1 , \mathbf{X}_2 , and \mathbf{X}_3 , respectively.

In a periodic structure of period p , a generic component $F(z)$ of the electromagnetic field satisfies the Floquet condition [3, p. 370]

$$F(z + p) = e^{-\gamma p} F(z) \quad \forall z \quad (4)$$

Here, γ is the propagation constant of the Floquet mode. The functions \mathbf{X}_1 and \mathbf{X}_3 are, therefore, related by

$$\mathbf{X}_3 = e^{-\gamma p} \mathbf{X}_1. \quad (5)$$

When the unit cell exhibits an additional symmetry, such as a glide-reflection symmetry, for example, the two functions \mathbf{X}_1 and \mathbf{X}_2 are also related through this symmetry. In such a case, only one unknown function remains to be determined; this was the subject of a recent paper on a periodically loaded parallel-plate waveguide with glide reflection symmetry [29].

When the functions \mathbf{X}_1 and \mathbf{X}_2 are not related by a symmetry operation, the discussion presented in [29] does not apply; an alternative transformation of the coupled integral equations is presented here to deal with this more general case.

To determine the remaining two functions \mathbf{X}_1 and \mathbf{X}_2 , we first use the boundary conditions of the electric field to eliminate the expansion coefficients a_n^i and b_n^i in favor of \mathbf{X}_1 and \mathbf{X}_2 and then enforce the continuity of the transverse magnetic field at $z = t$ and its Floquet condition at $z = p$. Two coupled vector integral equations in \mathbf{X}_1 and \mathbf{X}_2 result. The details are not included here, but can be found in [24]; we only present the two equations that take the form

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} Y_n^{\text{II}} \frac{\tilde{X}_2^{\text{II}}(n) e^{\gamma p} - \tilde{X}_1^{\text{II}}(n) \cos(k_{nz}^{\text{II}} g)}{\sin(k_{nz}^{\text{II}} g)} (\mathbf{e}_z \times \mathbf{e}_n^{\text{II}}) \\ = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} Y_n^{\text{I}} \frac{\tilde{X}_1^{\text{I}}(n) \cos(k_{nz}^{\text{I}} t) - \tilde{X}_2^{\text{I}}(n)}{\sin(k_{nz}^{\text{I}} t)} (\mathbf{e}_z \times \mathbf{e}_n^{\text{I}}) \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} Y_n^{\text{II}} \frac{\tilde{X}_2^{\text{II}}(n) \cos(k_{nz}^{\text{II}} g) - e^{-\gamma p} \tilde{X}_1^{\text{II}}(n)}{\sin(k_{nz}^{\text{II}} g)} (\mathbf{e}_z \times \mathbf{e}_n^{\text{II}}) \\ = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} Y_n^{\text{I}} \frac{\tilde{X}_1^{\text{I}}(n) - \tilde{X}_2^{\text{I}}(n) \cos(k_{nz}^{\text{I}} t)}{\sin(k_{nz}^{\text{I}} t)} (\mathbf{e}_z \times \mathbf{e}_n^{\text{I}}). \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

The transformations $\tilde{X}_j^{\text{I}}(n)$ and $\tilde{X}_j^{\text{II}}(n)$ are given by

$$\tilde{X}_j^i(n) = \iint_{S_1} \mathbf{X}_j \cdot \mathbf{e}_n^i ds_1, \quad j = 1, 2; \quad i = \text{I, II} \quad (8)$$

where S_1 is the cross section of region I. To solve these integral equations, we expand the two functions in a series of appropriate basis functions

$$\mathbf{X}_1 = \sum_{p=1}^M c_p \mathbf{Q}_p \quad (9)$$

and

$$\mathbf{X}_2 = \sum_{p=1}^M d_p \mathbf{Q}_p. \quad (10)$$

The same basis functions were used since the two discontinuities have the same geometry. Substituting these expansions in the integral equations and applying the moment method [30],

we get a set of linear equations in the coefficients c_p and d_p , namely,

$$\begin{bmatrix} A & B \\ B & A \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} c \\ d \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} Ge^{-\gamma p} & 0 \\ 0 & Ge^{\gamma p} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} c \\ d \end{bmatrix} = 0. \quad (11)$$

The entries of the matrices are given by

$$A_{ij} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} Y_n^I \frac{\tilde{Q}_i^I(n)\tilde{Q}_j^I(n)}{\sin(k_{zn}^I t)} \quad (12)$$

$$B_{ij} = -\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} Y_n^I \frac{\tilde{Q}_i^I(n)\tilde{Q}_j^I(n)}{\tan(k_{zn}^I t)} - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} Y_n^{\text{II}} \frac{\tilde{Q}_i^{\text{II}}(n)\tilde{Q}_j^{\text{II}}(n)}{\tan(k_{zn}^{\text{II}} g)} \quad (13)$$

and

$$G_{ij} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} Y_n^{\text{II}} \frac{\tilde{Q}_i^{\text{II}}(n)\tilde{Q}_j^{\text{II}}(n)}{\sin(k_{zn}^{\text{II}} g)}. \quad (14)$$

Note that matrices $[A]$, $[B]$, and $[G]$ are symmetric and real since, for lossless structures, the wave admittance is either proportional or inversely proportional to k_{zn} [3]; the ratio of the wave admittance and trigonometric functions remains real. These features are exploited in reducing the numerical effort and avoiding complex arithmetic.

Equation (11) is not in a convenient form as it contains two different functions of γ , namely $e^{\gamma p}$ and $e^{-\gamma p}$; a direct solution would lead to a nonlinear determinant equation, which we set out to avoid.

We first eliminate the vector $[d]$ from (11) to get a reduced equation in terms of $[c]$ only, or

$$[R][c] + [S][c]e^{\gamma p} + [S]^t[c]e^{-\gamma p} = 0. \quad (15)$$

The matrices in this equation are given by

$$[R] = AB^{-1}A + GB^{-1}G - B \quad (16)$$

and

$$[S] = AB^{-1}G \quad [S]^t = GB^{-1}A. \quad (17)$$

Here, $[S]^t$ is the transpose of $[S]$.

Let $\lambda = e^{\gamma p}$, and note that $e^{-\gamma p} = 1/\lambda$, then (15) takes the form

$$\lambda^2[S][c] + \lambda[R][c] + [S]^t[c] = 0. \quad (18)$$

Let us introduce a vector $[v]$ of the same dimension as $[c]$ such that

$$[v] = \lambda[c]. \quad (19)$$

The eigenvalue equation, i.e., (18), is finally rewritten in the more convenient form [31]

$$\begin{bmatrix} R & S^t \\ -I & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v \\ c \end{bmatrix} + \lambda \begin{bmatrix} S & 0 \\ 0 & I \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v \\ c \end{bmatrix} = 0. \quad (20)$$

Here, I is the identity matrix of order $M \times M$. Equation (20) is in the *classical* canonical form $[A][x] + \lambda[B][x] = 0$; its eigenvalues and, consequently, the propagation constants, can

be straightforwardly and reliably determined using commercially available software packages.

Note that the entries of the matrices are calculated only once for each frequency. When regions I and II have homogeneous cross sections, such as Fig. 1(b), it is further advantageous to compute the transforms of the basis functions [see (8)] only once, as they do not depend on frequency, and store them in the computer for later use.

Once the eigenvalues λ have been determined, the real and imaginary parts of the propagation constant $\gamma = \alpha + j\beta$ are given by

$$\alpha p = \ln |\lambda| \quad \beta p = \angle \lambda. \quad (21)$$

Since λ is not changed under an arbitrary shift $\beta p \rightarrow \beta p + 2n\pi$, the dispersion diagram is periodic in βp with period 2π , a well known result for periodic structures. It is, therefore, sufficient to determine the dispersion diagram in the interval $-\pi \leq \beta p \leq \pi$.

In the numerical solution, appropriate basis functions are needed. The simplest choice is to use the modes of region I as basis functions. For such a choice, the entries of the matrices take simple forms due to the orthogonality of the normal modes [3]. If the edge condition is found to be dominant, basis functions that include the edge conditions can be constructed by introducing a proper weighting factor [32] or by locally solving Maxwell's equations [33]. For example, suitable basis functions which include the edge condition at the 90° metallic wedge of Fig. 1(b) are given by

$$\mathbf{Q}_p = \frac{e_p^{\text{I}}}{\left[1 - \left(\frac{\rho}{r_1}\right)^2\right]^{1/3}}. \quad (22)$$

III. RESULTS

The approach presented has been applied to a variety of periodically loaded waveguides, and here we report the results for a few of them.

A. Corrugated Circular Waveguide

We focus attention on hybrid modes with unity angular dependence, as these are the relevant modes for corrugated antennas and antenna feeds [13]. The normal modes of Sections I and II are expressible in terms of Bessel functions and can be found, for example, in [28]. Both basis functions with and without the edge conditions were used and converged to the same result, although a smaller number of basis functions with the edge conditions are required, especially for strongly corrugated waveguides. All numerical results presented in this section were obtained using three basis functions and summing 32 TE and 32 TM modes in computing the entries of the matrices in (12)–(14).

To validate the theory and computer code, we determined the real and imaginary parts of the propagation constant of a structure analyzed by Esteban and Rebollar [15]. Fig. 2 shows the imaginary part of the propagation constant as a function of frequency for a corrugated waveguide when $t = 0.01$ mm, $g = 1$ mm, $r_1 = 10$ mm, and $r_1/r_0 = 0.9$. The circles are from

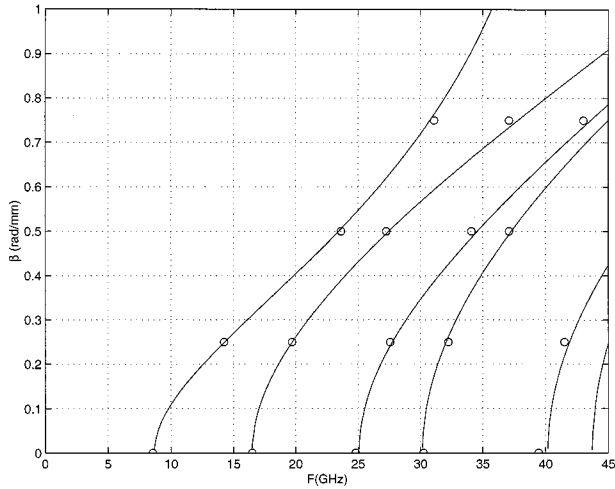


Fig. 2. Dispersion behavior of a circular corrugated waveguide. $r_1 = 10$ mm, $t = 0.01$ mm, $g = 1$ mm, and $r_1/r_0 = 0.9$. The circles are from [15].

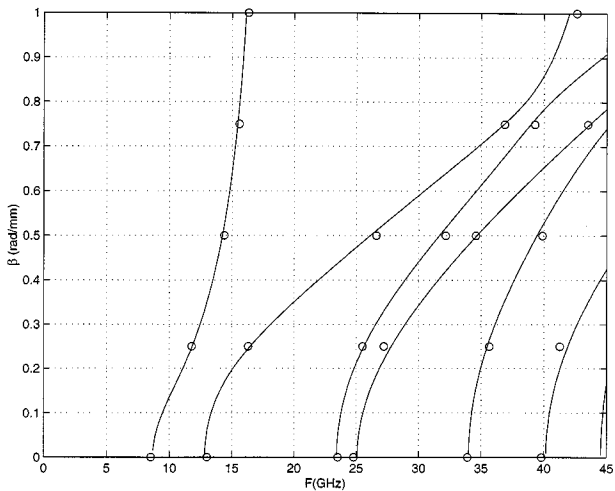


Fig. 3. Dispersion behavior of a circular corrugated waveguide. $r_1 = 10$ mm, $t = 0.01$ mm, $g = 1$ mm, and $r_1/r_0 = 0.7$. The circles are from [15].

[15]. Except for the mode starting at 44 GHz, and which was not reported in [15], the agreement between the two results is excellent.

Fig. 3 shows the same diagram when $r_1/r_0 = 0.7$. The circles are again from [15]. Except for the higher mode, the agreement between the two calculations is excellent.

A further test of the approach was carried out by computing both the real and imaginary parts of the propagation constant for propagating, evanescent and complex modes. In fact, all these modes are computed simultaneously from the eigenvalues of the canonical matrix [see (20)]. Fig. 4 shows a plot of β and α versus normalized frequency when $t = 0.01$ mm, $g = 1$ mm, $r_1 = 10$ mm, and $r_1/r_0 = 0.4$. The dashed lines represent complex modes where both α and β are nonzero. The stars are from [15]. The agreement between the two results is good, including the presence of complex modes.

The speed of the present method allows us to determine the entire dispersion diagram of the structure with minimum numerical effort. Fig. 5 shows a $k_0 - \beta$ diagram when $t = 4$ mm, $g = 5$ mm, $r_1 = 10$ mm, and $r_1/r_0 = 0.4$. The presence of

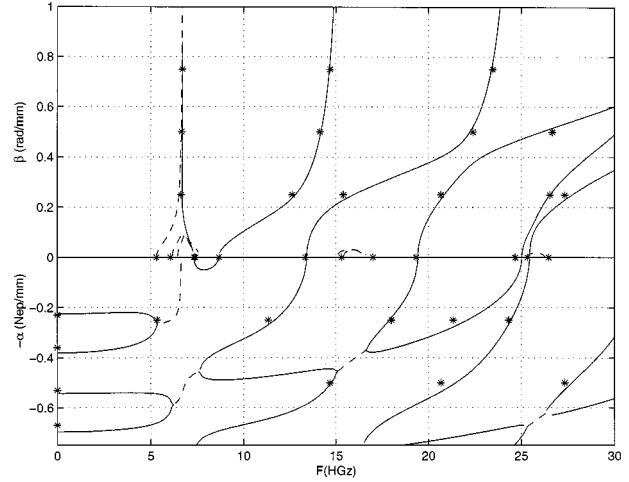


Fig. 4. Real α and imaginary β parts of γ versus normalized frequency for a circular corrugated waveguide when $r_1/r_0 = 0.4$, $r_1 = 10$ mm, $t = 0.01$ mm, and $g = 1$ mm. The stars are from [15].

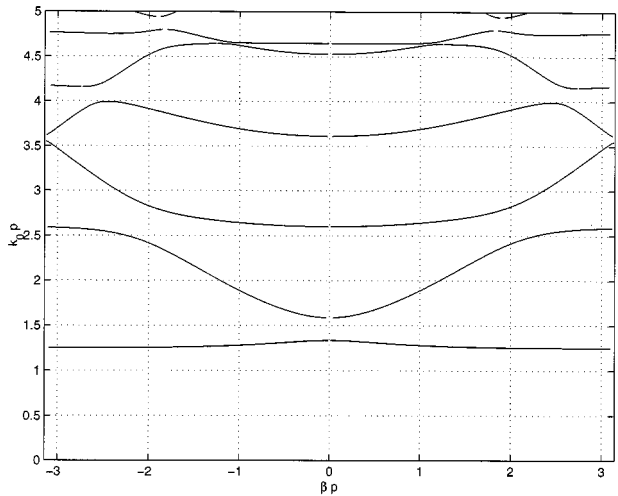


Fig. 5. $k_0 - \beta$ diagram of a corrugated circular waveguide when $r_1/r_0 = 0.4$, $r_1 = 10$ mm, $t = 4$ mm, and $g = 5$ mm. Note the presence of the bandgaps in the diagram.

the bandgaps, separated by passbands, is clearly visible. Note also that the group velocity of the lowest mode is negative at $\beta = 0$. It turns out that the group velocity of the lowest mode is very sensitive to the depth of the corrugations, a point extensively illustrated by Clarricoats and coworkers and confirmed by our calculations [13]. Fig. 6 shows the first branch in the dispersion diagram (with unity angular dependence) for four different values of the ratio r_1/r_0 . The change in sign of the group velocity at $\beta = 0$ as the depth of the corrugation increases is well demonstrated. The first branch supports backward waves for strongly corrugated waveguides.

B. Waveguide Loaded with Dielectric Rings

The second structure investigated consists of a circular waveguide periodically loaded with dielectric disks [see Fig. 1(c)]. In this case, the modes of the dielectric loaded region are determined numerically following the presentation of Harrington [28]. We also limit the analysis to TE modes with no angular

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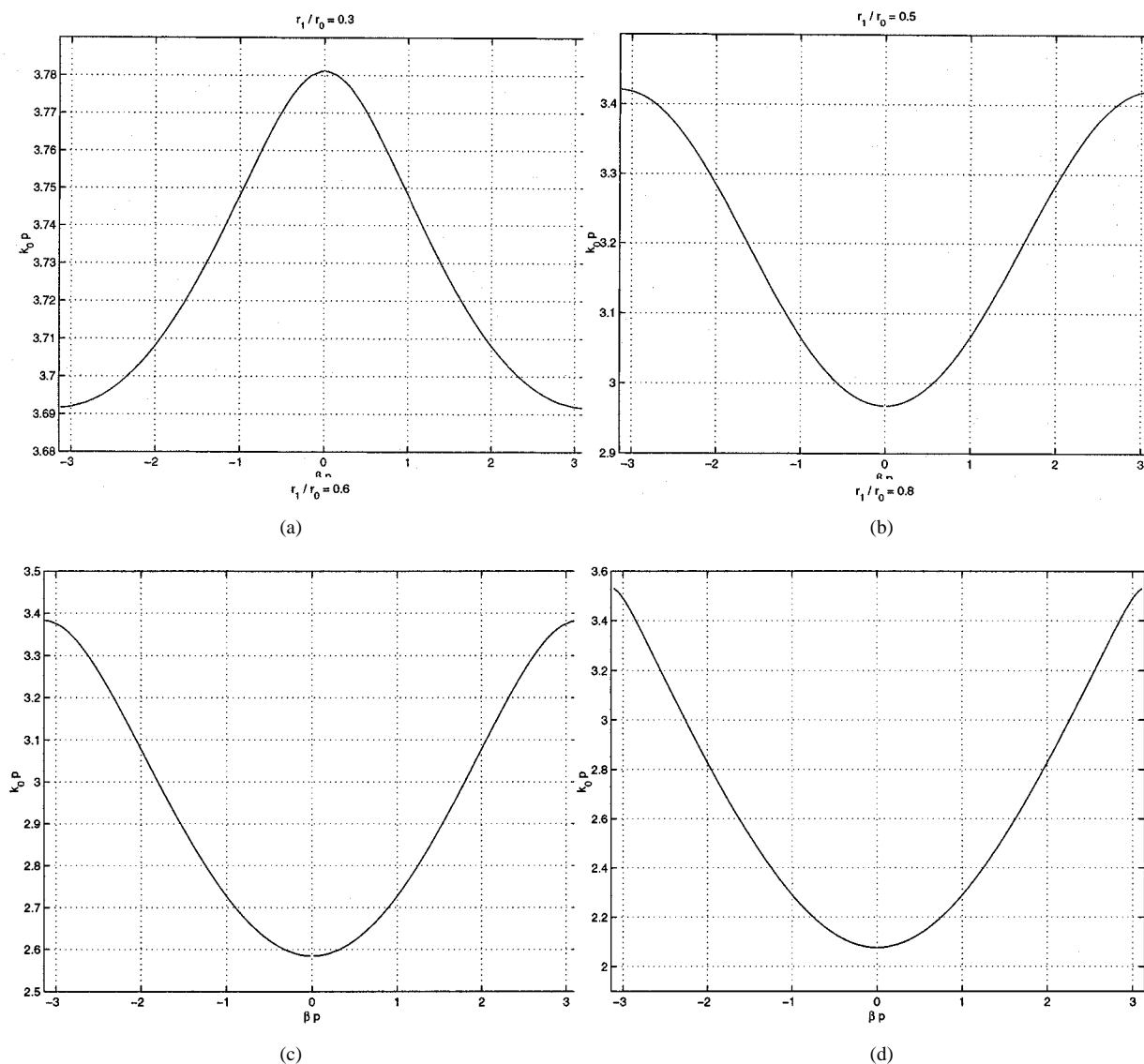


Fig. 6. First branch in $k_0 - \beta$ diagram of a circular waveguide for four values of the ratio r_1/r_0 . $p = r_0$, $t = r_0/5$. Note the change in sign in the group velocity of deep corrugations ($r_1/r_0 = 0.3$).

dependence given the importance of these modes in $TE_{01\delta}$ dielectric resonator filters.

To establish the validity of the approach, we determine the dispersion diagram of a structure where the dielectric constant of the disks approaches unity and compare with the analytical results of an empty circular waveguide. Fig. 7 shows both numerical and analytical results with $\epsilon_r = 1$. The agreement between the two is excellent. These results were obtained from three basis functions and 30 terms were summed in computing the entries of the matrices. Note that both diagrams are plotted using the reduced Brillouin zone [1].

In the limit $t \rightarrow p$, the dispersion diagram of the periodic structure should approach that of a circular waveguide loaded with a dielectric rod of dielectric constant ϵ_r . The numerical results obtained when $t = 0.99p$ indeed satisfy this

observation [8]. A more practical situation corresponding to a disk with dielectric constant $\epsilon_r = 10$ was also analyzed; its $k_0 - \beta$ diagram is shown in Fig. 8. The presence of stopbands separated by passbands is clearly visible. There is no propagation in the range of frequencies $2.144 \leq k_0 p \leq 3.124$ and $3.436 \leq k_0 p \leq 3.767$ although other modes with different angular dependence might be propagating in this frequency range. The effect of the dielectric loading on the dispersion diagram is also visible when compared with the empty waveguide of Fig. 7. The addition of the dielectric disks lowers the cutoff frequency and flattens the branches of the dispersion diagram resulting in slowly changing group velocities. Although the first branch exhibits a positive group velocity, other higher branches support waves with negative group velocities, which are essential to devices such as backward-wave oscillators.

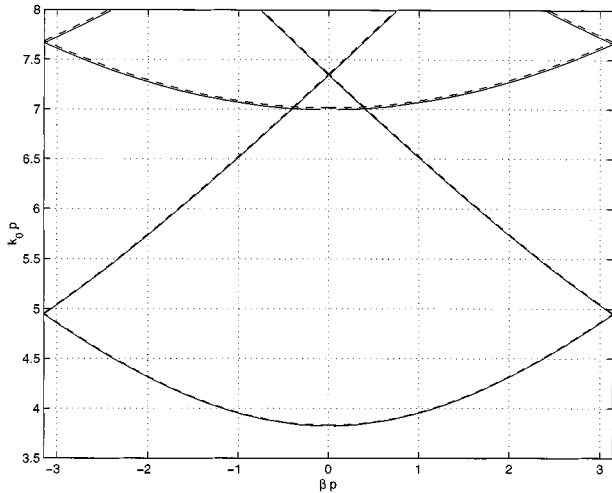


Fig. 7. $k_0 - \beta$ diagram (solid line) of the structure in Fig. 1 when $\epsilon = 1.01$, $b = 0.5a$, $p = 0.5$, and $t = 0.5p$. Also shown is the analytical $k_0 - \beta$ diagram (dashed line) of an empty circular waveguide of the same dimensions.

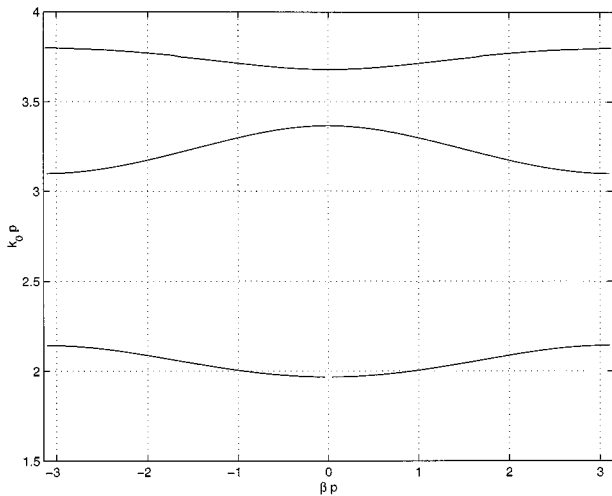


Fig. 8. $k_0 - \beta$ diagram when $\epsilon = 10$, $r_1 = 0.5r_0$, $p = r_0$, and $t = 0.5p$.

C. Capacitive Irises in Rectangular Waveguide

As a third example, we consider a rectangular waveguide periodically loaded with capacitive irises [see Fig. 1(d)]. We focus on modes whose x -dependence is that of the fundamental mode of a rectangular waveguide, i.e., $\sin(\pi(x/a))$. For this structure, the normal modes of the two regions in the unit cell are taken as the longitudinal-section electric (LSE) modes instead of TE and TM modes [3].

Single irises and multiple irises in the same plane have been extensively investigated by Lewin using an integral-equation formulation [34]. Here, we are concerned with the interaction between multiple discontinuities of a periodic structure along the axis of the waveguide.

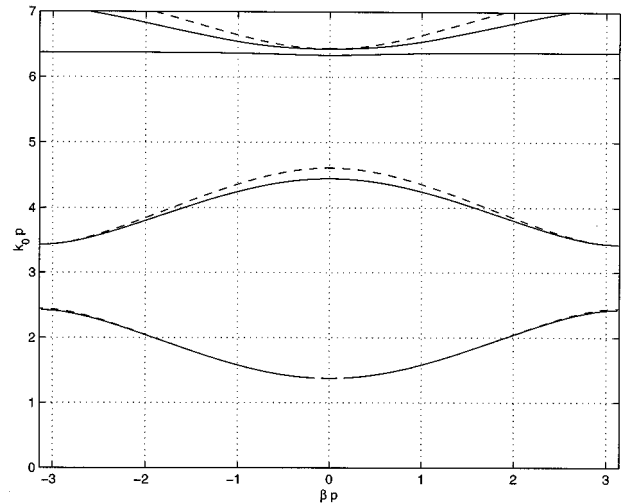


Fig. 9. $k_0 - \beta$ of a rectangular waveguide loaded with capacitive irises. $t = 0$ in, $a = 0.9$ in, $b = 0.2$ in, $h = 0.15$ in, and $p = 1$ cm. This study (solid line). From [3] (dashed line).

We examine the case of an infinitely thin iris to show that even this simple periodic structure can support complex modes. Fig. 9 shows the $k_0 - \beta$ diagram when $t = 0$, $b = 0.2$ in, $a = 0.9$ in, $p = 1$ cm, and $h = 0.15$ in. The dashed lines are from the work of Collin [3, 387] and the solid lines are from this study. The agreement between the first two branches of the dispersion diagram is good, but noticeable deviations are present for higher branches. In fact, Collin states that: "For $k_0(p) > 6.19$, the first higher-order mode begins to propagate, and consequently, the curves for $\beta_c l(p)$ have little significance for $k_0(p)$ greater than about 5," [3, p. 387]. It is indeed in this region that our results differ from his.

Fig. 10 shows the real and imaginary parts of the propagation constant as a function of frequency for the same dimensions as Fig. 9. The stars indicate complex modes. Complex modes in dielectric loaded waveguides have been extensively investigated by Omar and Schünemann [35], their existence in corrugated waveguides seems to have been first suggested by Cooper [36].

An interesting feature of the spectrum of this last structure is the existence of complex modes, with constant imaginary part of the propagation constant (see Fig. 10, dashed lines). In fact, these modes were also described by Collin for a capacitively loaded coaxial line where the eigenvalue equation for the propagation constant is easily shown to take the form

$$\cosh(\gamma p) = \cos(\theta) - \frac{B}{2} \sin(\theta). \quad (23)$$

Here, θ is the electric length of one period and B is the normalized shunt susceptance ([37, p. 367]). When the right-hand side of this equation is negative and smaller than -1 , the possible solutions take the form [37, p. 367, eq. (8.10c)]

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{Re}[\gamma p] &= \cosh^{-1}(-A) \\ \operatorname{Im}[\gamma p] &= \pi \\ A &= \cos(\theta) - \frac{B}{2} \sin(\theta) < -1. \end{aligned} \quad (24)$$

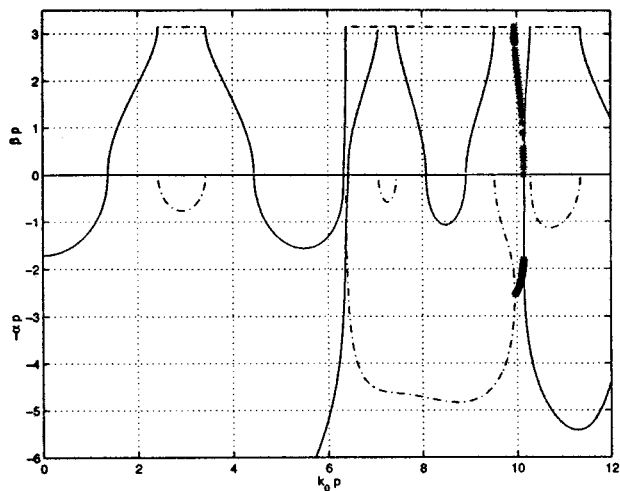


Fig. 10. γ versus frequency for a rectangular waveguide loaded with capacitive irises. $t = 0$ in, $a = 0.9$ in, $b = 0.2$ in, $h = 0.15$ in, and $p = 1$ cm. The stars show the complex modes in this structure.

In other words, the propagation constant is complex. The straight lines in the imaginary part of the propagation constant in Fig. 10 represent these solutions and provide an additional validation of the present formulation.

IV. CONCLUSION

The propagation properties of corrugated and periodically loaded waveguides has been investigated using a formulation leading to a *classical* canonical matrix eigenvalue problem for the propagation constants. Complex, evanescent, and propagating modes were accurately determined for corrugated circular and rectangular waveguides, as well as a circular waveguide loaded with dielectric disks. Excellent agreement between the results of this study and previously published results was documented. The speed of the approach allows the determination of the entire dispersion diagram of corrugated waveguides with minimum numerical effort.

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