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ADMITTANCE OF ANNULAR SLOT ANTENNAS RADIATING INTO A PLASMA LAYER

SCIENTIFIC REPORT NO. 3

CONTRACT NO. AF19(628)-2410

AUGUST 1963

AIR FORCE CAMBRIDGE RESEARCH LABORATORIES
OFFICE OF AEROSPACE RESEARCH
LAURENCE G. HANSCOM FIELD
BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

APPLIED RESEARCH LABORATORY

SYLVANIA ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS
Government Systems Management
for GENERAL TELEPHONE & ELECTRONICS
ADMITTANCE OF ANNULAR SLOT ANTENNAS RADIATING INTO A PLASMA LAYER

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August 1963

Contract No. AF19(628)-2410
Project No. 4642
Task No. 464202

SCIENTIFIC REPORT NO. 3

Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratories
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ABSTRACT

(Security classification of title, body of abstract and indexing annotation must be entered when the overall report is classified)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. ORIGINATING ACTIVITY</th>
<th>Applied Research Laboratory</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sylvania Electronic Systems, A Division of Sylvania Electric Products Inc., 40 Sylvan Road, Waltham 54, Massachusetts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2a. REPORT SECURITY CLASSIFICATION</td>
<td>Unclassified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2b. GROUP (For ASTIA use only)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. REPORT TITLE

Admittance of Annular Slot Antennas Radiating into a Plasma Layer

4. DESCRIPTIVE NOTES (Type of report and inclusive dates)

Scientific Report No.3

5. AUTHOR(S) (Last name, first name, initial)

Galejs, Janis

6. PUBLICATION DATE

August 1963

7. TOTAL NO. OF PAGES

22

8. ORIGINATOR'S REPORT NO(S)

S-3040-3

9a. CONTRACT OR GRANT NO

AF19(628)-2410

9b. PROJECT NO

4642

9c. TASK NO

464202

10. OTHER REPORT NO(S) (Any other numbers that may be assigned this report)

AFCRL-63-395

11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES (For ASTIA use only)

12. RELEASE STATEMENTS (For ASTIA use only)

13. AUTHORS' KEY TERMS - UNCLASSIFIED ONLY

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<td>12.</td>
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</table>

14. ASTIA DESCRIPTORS (For ASTIA use only)

15. IDENTIFIERS - UNCLASSIFIED ONLY (e.g., Model numbers, weapon system, project, chemical compound and trade names)

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<th>15. IDENTIFIERS - UNCLASSIFIED ONLY (e.g., Model numbers, weapon system, project, chemical compound and trade names)</th>
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The admittance is obtained for an annular slot antenna, covered by variable thickness plasma layers, radiating into a large circular waveguide.
I. INTRODUCTION

The admittance of annular slots which are backed by coaxial lines or cavities and which radiate into free space have been discussed by Levine and Papas [1951], Wait [1958], Cohn and Flesher [1958] and Galejs and Thompson [1962]. The same formulation applies also to slots radiating into a half space filled with a homogeneous dielectric or plasma. There are difficulties in treating the inhomogeneous half space or dielectric and plasma layers of finite thicknesses, although such an analysis has been carried out by Galejs [1963a] for a rectangular slot covered by finite plasma layers. The calculations of the slot admittances are greatly simplified if the slot is assumed to radiate into a wide waveguide instead of an inhomogeneous half space, [Galejs 1963b]. A waveguide of a finite diameter is characterized by discrete modes which can be readily treated in machine calculations.

Radiation from a coaxial line into a waveguide of infinite diameter has been discussed by Cohn and Flesher [1958]. Their results agree with an analytical formulation not employing such artificial boundaries [Levine and Papas, 1951]. In the present note a waveguide of finite diameter will be used and it will be shown that the admittance of this waveguide approximates the admittance for an inhomogeneous half space. This was also the case for rectangular slots provided the guide diameter exceeded 5 to 10λ [Galejs, 1963b]. A similar behavior can be also expected for annular slots radiating into a circular guide because the fields in the vicinity of the slot should not be affected by the presence of the waveguide walls if the distance between the walls is large enough. Hence, this geometry will yield realistic susceptances and also realistic estimates of losses in the plasma layer. However, the radiation fields of the slot will be modified by the waveguide walls. The radiation patterns of the slot cannot be determined in this model and the effects of guide diameter on the radiation conductance must be also examined in detail.
The analytical formulation of the admittance for a cavity-backed slot can be considered as straightforward, and only the principal steps of the development are summarized in Section II. Convergence considerations and the numerical results will be discussed in Section III.

II. SLOT ADMITTANCE

The waveguide and slot geometry is shown in Fig. 1. The same basic geometry has been considered by Galejs and Thompson [1962], and the configuration of Fig. 1 may be treated by a suitable modification of this work. For an \( \exp(j\omega t) \) time variation of the \( \phi \) symmetrical fields the magnetic field components \( H_\phi(\rho,z) \) are given by

\[
H_\phi = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} A_m R_m(\rho) \left( e^{-\gamma_m z} + B_m e^{\gamma_m z} \right)
\]

(1)

\[
H_{\phi j} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_{nj} R_n(\rho) \left( e^{-\gamma_n j z} + B_{nj} e^{\gamma_n j z} \right)
\]

(2)

where \( j = 0, 1 \) or 2 and where \( B_n = 0 \). The orthonormal radial functions \( R_p(\rho) \) are defined as

\[
R_p(\rho) = N_p J_1(\lambda_p \rho) n_2
\]

(3)

where \( p = m \) or \( n \) and

\[
J_o(\lambda_m b) = J_o(\lambda_n c) = 0
\]

(4)

\[
N_m^{-1} = \frac{b}{\sqrt{2}} J_1(\lambda_m b)
\]

(5)

\[
N_n^{-1} = \frac{c}{\sqrt{2}} J_1(\lambda_n c)
\]

(6)
Figure 1. Slot Geometry
The propagation constants $\gamma_m$ and $\gamma_{nj}$ are defined in the first quadrant of the complex plane by

$$
\gamma_m = \sqrt{\lambda_m^2 - k_1^2}
$$

$$
\gamma_{nj} = \sqrt{\lambda_n^2 - k_j^2}
$$

where

$$
k_j^2 = \omega^2 \epsilon_j - j \omega \sigma_j
$$

with a corresponding expression for $k_{1}^2$. The radial electric field component $E_\rho$ is computed from (1) or (2) as

$$
(\sigma_j + j \omega \epsilon_j) E_{\rho j}(\rho, z) = -\frac{\partial}{\partial t} H_j(\rho, z)
$$

where $j = 0, 1, 2, \text{ or } 3$. The amplitudes $A_q$ ($q = m \text{ or } n2$) are related to the excitation field of the cavity $E_{\rho}(\rho, 0) = \mathcal{E}(\rho)$. Multiplying $E_{\rho}(\rho, 0)$ as computed from (10) with $R_{\rho}(\rho) \rho d\rho$ and integrating over the $z = 0$ plane gives

$$
A_q = \frac{(\sigma_j + j \omega \epsilon_j)}{(1 - B \rho) \gamma_q} \int_0^{\rho_2} \mathcal{E}(\rho) R_{\rho}(\rho) \rho d\rho
$$

with $j = 1 \text{ or } 2$. The tangential magnetic fields $H_{\phi 1}(\rho, 0)$ and $H_{\phi 2}(\rho, 0)$ differ by the linear source current density $J_s(\rho)$ across the slot, where $J_s(\rho)$ is assumed to be of the form

$$
J_s(\rho) = \frac{1}{2\pi \rho}
$$

After substituting (11) in (1) and (2) one obtains an integral equation
in the unknown field distribution $\mathcal{E}(\rho)$. A variational principle for determining $\mathcal{E}(\rho)$ is constructed by multiplying (13) with $\rho \mathcal{E}(\rho)$ and then integrating from $\rho = \rho_1$ to $\rho_2$. After defining the voltage across the slot $V$ as

$$V = -\int_{\rho_1}^{\rho_2} \mathcal{E}(\rho) \, d\rho$$

(14)

it follows that

$$\frac{IV}{2\pi} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sigma_2 + j\omega \epsilon_2}{\gamma n^2} \left[ \int_{\rho_1}^{\rho_2} \mathcal{E}(\rho) \, R_n(\rho) \rho \, d\rho \right]^2$$

$$- \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sigma_1 + j\omega \epsilon_1}{\gamma m^2} \left[ \int_{\rho_1}^{\rho_2} \mathcal{E}(\rho) \, R_m(\rho) \rho \, d\rho \right]^2$$

(15)

The integrations can be carried out for a general power series representation of $\mathcal{E}(\rho)$ and it is formally possible to determine all the coefficients in this power series. [Levine and Papas, 1951; Galejs and Thompson, 1962]. However, the subsequent numerical work appears to be tractable only for the simplest form of the trial function

$$\mathcal{E}(\rho) = \frac{a_0}{\rho}$$

(16)

The integrations are straightforward for this form of $\mathcal{E}(\rho)$ and the slot admittance $Y = I/V$ follows as
\[ Y = \frac{4\pi}{(\log \frac{\rho_2}{\rho_1})^2} \left\{ \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sigma_2 + j\omega \varepsilon_2}{\gamma_n^2} \frac{1 + B_n}{1 - B_n^2} \left[ \frac{J_o(\lambda_n \rho_1) - J_o(\lambda_n \rho_2)}{\lambda_n c \cdot J_1(\lambda_n c)} \right]^2 \right\} \]

\[ = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sigma_1 + j\omega \varepsilon_1}{\gamma_m^2} \frac{1 + B_m}{1 - B_m^2} \left[ \frac{J_o(\lambda_m \rho_1) - J_o(\lambda_m \rho_2)}{\lambda_m b \cdot J_1(\lambda_m b)} \right]^2 \] \quad (17)

The reflection coefficient \( B_m \) is determined from the requirement that \( E_\rho(p, z_o) = 0 \). This gives

\[ B_m = e^{-2\gamma_m z_1} \] \quad (18)

The reflection coefficient \( B_{nj} \) are determined after matching the \( E_\rho \) and \( H_\rho \) components across the dielectric interfaces at \( z = z_1 \) and \( z_2 \). A computation results in

\[ B_{nj} = e^{-2\gamma_n z_j} \quad \frac{S_{nj} - D_{nj}}{S_{nj} + D_{nj}} \] \quad (19)

where

\[ S_{nj} = \left( \frac{k_{j-1}}{k_j} \right)^2 \left[ e^{-2\gamma_n(j-1) z_j} + B_n(j-1) \right] \] \quad (20)

\[ D_{nj} = \frac{\gamma_n(j-1)}{\gamma_{nj}} \left[ e^{-2\gamma_n(j-1) z_j} - B_n(j-1) \right] \] \quad (21)

and where \( j = 1 \) or 2. The computation starts by determining \( B_{n1} \) with \( B_{n0} = 0 \) (there are only outgoing waves for \( z > z_1 \)). This value of \( B_{n1} \) is then used for computing \( B_{n2} \), which completes the determination of the slot admittance.
As long as $\sigma_1, \sigma_2 \neq 0$ the real part of $Y$ will differ from the radiation conductance $G_r$. However, $G_r$ may be determined after computing the power flow for $z > z_1$. The radiated power is given by

$$P_r = G_r V^2$$

$$= \text{Re} \left\{ \int_{\rho} E \times H^* \rho \ d\rho \ d\phi \right\}$$

$$= 2\pi \text{Re} \left\{ \sum_n \frac{1}{\gamma_n} \left| e^{\gamma_n z} A_{no} \right|^2 \right\}$$

(22)

The only values of $n$ which contribute to $P_r$ are those with imaginary $\gamma_n$. Hence $e^{\gamma_n z} = 1$ and

$$G_r = 2\pi \text{Re} \left\{ \sum_n \frac{\gamma_n}{\omega} \left| \frac{A_{no}}{V} \right|^2 \right\}$$

(23)

$A_{no}$ is related to $A_{n2}$ by matching either $H_\rho$ or $E_\rho$ across the dielectric boundaries at $z = z_1$ and $z_2$. It follows that

$$\frac{A_{n2}}{A_{n1}} = \frac{e^{\gamma_n z_1} + B_n e^{\gamma_n z_2}}{e^{\gamma_n z_1}} \frac{e^{\gamma_{n2} z_2} + B_{n2} e^{\gamma_{n2} z_2}}{e^{\gamma_{n2} z_2} + B_{n1} e^{\gamma_{n1} z_2}}$$

(24)

where $B_{n1}$ and $B_{n2}$ are obtained from (19) to (21). The amplitude $A_{n2}$ is related to $V$ from (11), (14) and (16) as

$$\frac{A_{n2}}{V} = -\sqrt{\frac{2}{\log \frac{\bar{\rho}_1}{\bar{\rho}_2}}} \left[ J_0 (\gamma \rho_1) - J_0 (\gamma \rho_2) \right]$$

$$\left( \frac{\log \frac{\bar{\rho}_2}{\bar{\rho}_1}}{\bar{\rho}_1} \right) (1 - B_{n2}) \gamma_{n2} \lambda n c J_1 (\lambda n c)$$

(25)

The substitution of (24) and (25) in (23) completes the specification of $G_r$. 

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S-3040-3
III. DISCUSSION

The slot admittance is examined first for radiation into a homogeneous large guide of increasing radius \(c\). The plot of the slot conductance in Fig. 2 is discontinuous with discontinuities occurring at those points where an additional mode starts propagating in the large guide. The slot admittance for the radiation into a homogeneous half space is shown dashed in Fig. 2. The conductance curves for the waveguide cross periodically the half-space conductance curve. The changes of the waveguide admittance tend to become less for increasing guide radius \(c\), and a randomly selected guide radius will give a fair approximation to the correct admittance if \(c\) is of the order of 15 to 30\(\lambda\). However, the relatively slow convergence of the sum representing the slot susceptance restricts the choice of \(c\) to smaller values. For smaller guides the radius may be always selected such that the waveguide admittance is equal to the slot admittance for a homogeneous half space. The susceptance calculations are illustrated in Fig. 3 for two values of slot radius \(\rho_1\). For small guide radii the series converges slowly, and a larger number of terms will be required in the summation. Similarly, a larger number of terms is required for guides of large radii \(c\), as is evident from Fig. 4.

Admittance calculations for plasma layers of various thicknesses \(h\) are illustrated in Figs. 5 and 6. The slot conductance \(G\) and the radiation conductance \(G_r\) decrease with increasing layer thicknesses \(h\), while the slot susceptance is almost constant for \(h/\lambda > 0.1\). For plasma layers of \(h/\lambda > 0.3\) the conductance depends on the guide radius \(c\). The computed conductance is more accurate for the larger \(c\) values when it approaches \(G\) of the homogeneous half space* for \(h/\lambda > 1\).

\*For \(k_0 \rho_1 \ll 1\) and \(\rho_2/\rho_1 \approx 1\) and for a lossless dielectric half space

\[
G_o = \sqrt{\frac{\varepsilon}{\varepsilon_0}} \frac{(k_0)^4}{360} \left[ 1 - \frac{(k_0)^2}{5} + \frac{(k_0)^4}{56} + \ldots \right]
\]

where \(\rho = (\rho_1 + \rho_2)/2\). For a lossy dielectric half space

\[
G_{\xi} = G_o + B \tan \delta
\]
Figure 2. Conductance of the Annular Slot
Figure 3. Susceptance of the Annular Slot
Figure 4. Susceptance of the Annular Slot

\[ \frac{c}{\lambda} = 2.53 \]

\[ 5.04 \]

\[ 13.52 \]

\[ p_2 = 1.15 p_1 \]

\[ k p_1 = 0.73 \]

\[ b = p_2 \]
Figure 5. Slot Admittance for Lossless Plasma Layers

$$b = \rho_2 = 1.15 \rho_1$$
$$k \rho_1 = 0.73$$
Figure 6. Slot Admittance for Lossy Plasma Layers
A similar effect of increasing waveguide size was also observed for rectangular plasma covered slots [Galejs, 1963b]. For slots covered by thin plasma layers the admittance is principally determined by the nearby air-to-plasma interface, and is hardly affected by the relatively distant guide walls. The guide walls have an effect for large plasma thicknesses, particularly in cases where $\frac{\varepsilon_p}{\varepsilon_0}$ is near unity, or where the electrical discontinuity at the air-to-plasma interface is small.

Only the admittance reflected into the slot plane by the outside space ($z > 0$) has been indicated in Figs. 5 and 6. The admittance reflected by the cavity or $Y_1$ has been discussed earlier by Galejs and Thompson [1962], and is not included in the above admittance figures.

Slot admittance calculations will be also made for the parameters of a typical reentry plasma. An example of the electron density $N_e$ and collision frequency $\nu$ profiles near a hypersonic reentry vehicle is given in Fig. 19 of Rotman and Meltz [1961]. These data have been replotted in Fig. 7 along with the two-layer approximation that is suited for the present calculation. The calculated slot admittance is shown in Fig. 8 for various operating frequencies while the slot and the waveguide dimension remain constant in relation to the operating wavelength. For frequencies above the plasma frequency ($f > f_p$) the radiation conductance is nearly the same as the total slot conductance. For frequencies below the plasma frequency the slot susceptance $B$ is inductive and there are high losses and a low radiation conductance. The radiation conductance exhibits dips near the plasma frequencies of the two layers, which are at $f_p = 3.22 \times 10^3$ and $1.06 \times 10^9$ cps. Obviously, this example does not cover all the plasma and slot parameters of interest in re-entry problems. However, the above calculations are straightforward and further examples will not be considered at present.

The present model is also suited for determining the slot admittance in presence of lossy dielectric layers. In an example the layer near the slot is assumed to be of low losses ($\tan \delta_2 = 0.01$), while
Figure 7. Profile of Electron Density and Collision Frequency and the Two Layer Approximation. Velocity of 17.5 K FPS and Altitude of 200 K Ft
Figure 8. Slot Admittance for a Two Layer Approximation of a Re-entry Plasma Profile
the outer layer is highly lossy \((1 \leq \tan \delta_1 \leq 100)\). The calculated slot admittance is shown in Figs. 9 to 11, for various distances \(z_2\) between the slot and the lossy layer. For a given thickness \((z_1 - z_2)\) of the lossy layer the losses and \(G\) are highest for \(z_2\) small, but the radiation conductance \(G_r\) is essentially constant over a range of \(z_2\) and \((z_1 - z_2)\) values. For very thin, lossy layers the capacitive susceptance \(B\) approaches the free space value \(B\) of Fig. 4 for \(z_2\) small. For thick, highly lossy layers \((\tan \delta = 100)\) \(B\) is highest for \(z_2\) small.

The above waveguide model provided convenient means for analyzing slot and plasma or dielectric configurations that would appear untractable in more exact geometries. The susceptance and loss computations can be justified either by reasoning that distant guide walls do not perturb near fields of the slot or by comparing the admittance in the limit of very thick or thin plasma layers with known results for a homogeneous half space or free space. The dimensions of the large guide may be also selected in such a way that the calculated radiation conductance agrees in the same limiting cases with known results. There are no other solutions for the intermediate range of layer thicknesses for the annular slot. However, for rectangular slots there are comparable solutions for waveguides and for inhomogeneous half space [Galejs, 1963a,b].

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

Appreciation is expressed to Mr. D.A. Breault of Sylvania's Applied Research Laboratory for computer programming. This research was sponsored by the Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratories, Office of Aerospace Research, under Contract No. AF19(628)-2410.
Figure 9. Admittance of a Slot Covered by Lossy Dielectric at a Distance $Z_2 = 3 \times 10^{-4} \lambda$
Figure 10. Admittance of a Slot Covered by Lossy Dielectric at a Distance $Z_2 = 3 \times 10^{-3} \lambda$

- $b = p_2 = 0.136 \lambda$
- $c = 2.52 \lambda$
- $p_2 = 1.15 p_1$
- $\epsilon_2 = 2.8 \epsilon_0$, TAN $\delta_2 = 0.01$
- $\epsilon_1 = 5 \epsilon_0$

**Conductance** $G$ or **Susceptance** $B$ -- mhos

**Conductance** $G_r$
Figure 11. Admittance of a Slot Covered by Lossy Dielectric at a Distance $Z_2 = 3 \times 10^{-2} \lambda$.

- $b = p_2 = 0.136 \lambda$
- $c = 2.52 \lambda$
- $p_2 = 1.15 p_1$
- $\varepsilon_2 = 2.8 \varepsilon_0$, $\tan \delta_2 = 0.01$
- $\varepsilon_1 = 5 \varepsilon_0$
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