



#### Introduction

Air coupled antennas like horn antennas have been extensively used for pavement evaluation using Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR). The main reasons for that are :

- Low spatial resolution
- Capable to detect thin layers
- Safely operates in highway speeds because it doesn't need to be close to the ground
- Easy to manufacture



A high frequency 2.6 GHz monostatic horn antenna is modeled using GprMax (Giannopoulos 2005) a free software which solves Maxwell's equations using a second order in both space and time finite difference time domain (FDTD) algorithm. The modeled antenna is numerically tested in a realistic pavement evaluation scenario.

## Waveguide feed





The antenna probing instrumentation is more complex and expensive when the antenna is working with multiple modes. The goal of the suggested antenna is to use a dominant TE10 mode in a frequency range of roughly 0.5 - 6 GHz.

The cutoff frequency of different modes in a rectangular waveguide is given by

$$f_{mn} = \frac{1}{2\pi\sqrt{\mu\epsilon}} \sqrt{\left(\frac{m\pi}{\alpha}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{n\pi}{b}\right)^2}$$

Where m and n are the mode indexes, a and b are the dimensions of the waveguide. We use a rectangular waveguide with dimensions 0.25 m and 0.022 m. The suggested waveguide can act as a single mode TE10 waveguide in the frequency range 0.6 - 6.8 GHz. We use a TE10 mode with central frequency 2.6 GHz to excite the waveguide.

## Field patterns



The field patterns were calculated theoretically from the geometry of the horn. They are valid for only one frequency 2.6 GHz (the central frequency of the antenna). Since the antenna is an air coupled antenna the field patterns correspond to the far field.

# Numerical Modeling of Ground Penetrating Radar Antennas

#### Iraklis Giannakis<sup>1</sup>

1. The University of Edinburgh, School of Engineering, Department of Infrastructure and Environment. 2. Roma Tre University, Applied Electronics Department.



In the theoretically calculated field patterns the back lobes are not taken into account. The curved surfaces at the edges of the horn were used in order to reduce back lobes and also to minimize the reflections at the aperture.

# Absorber



For numerical reasons arising from constrained computational resources the absorber of the proposed antennas is not modeled. Instead of that we extend the waveguide to the perfectly matched layer (PML) in which the back traveling wave is attenuated.

#### **Coaxial cable**



The receiving coaxial cable has a total radius of 0.5 cm. It is consisted of three layers. The first one is the protective plastic, the second one is the perfect conductor and the third one is also plastic. The inner conductor is modeled using only one Yee cell with discretization step equal 1 mm. The coaxial cable is terminated in the PML similar with the waveguide.

In order to test the validity of the modeled coaxial cable we compare the numerically calculated and the real impedance of a coaxial cable filled with air. In order to do that we excite the coaxial cable with a TEM10 mode. The results are in good agreement for the frequency range of interest.

Using a coaxial cable as a receiver in a FDTD numerical modeling, allow us to receive the current flowing in the inner conductor of the coaxial cable or the voltage difference between the inner and the outer conductor.

#### Lara Pajewski<sup>2</sup>

#### Antonios Giannopoulos<sup>1</sup>







From the resulting B-scan (with a linear gain applied) it is evident that the proposed antenna obtains clear reflections from the base layer and that the cracks and the inhomogeneity's play negligible role to the resulting B-scan.

From the above we conclude that the suggested antenna can be used for pavement evaluation but it is not recommended to be used for crack detection.

#### **Ground coupled antennas**



In the same model with th explained previously we use a commercial based bow-tie antenna with 1.6 GHz central frequency modeled by Warren and Giannopoulos 2011. This antenna is ground coupled antenna and it is placed 2 cm above the ground.

A singular value decomposition applied to the data and 2, 3 and 4 dominant values are filtered out. From the resulting B-scans it is evident that ground coupled antennas are more attractive choices for detecting cracks.



#### References

[1] A. Giannopoulos, "Modeling Ground Penetrating Radar by GprMax", Constructions and Buildings Materials, vol.19, pp. 755-762, 2005 [2] http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/information-services/services/ research-support/research-computing/ecdf/,16 April 2014

[3] C. Warren, A. Giannopoulos, "Creating FDTD models of commercial GPR antennas using Taguchis optimisation method, Geophysics, vol. 76, no. 37, 2011.