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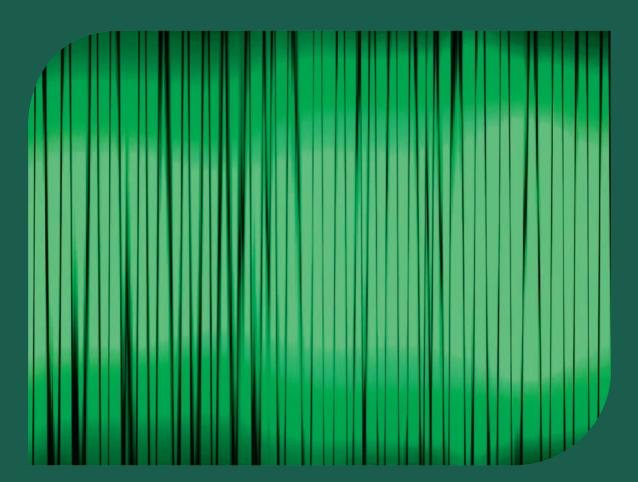
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# The Wiener-Hopf Method in Electromagnetics

Vito G. Daniele and Rodolfo S. Zich

MARIO BOELLA SERIES ON ELECTROMAGNETISM IN INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION

### The Wiener-Hopf Method in Electromagnetics

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### Contents

Preface Foreword			xiii xvii	
PA	RT 1	Ma	thematical Aspects	1
1	Forn	ns of	Wiener-Hopf equations	3
	1.1	The b	basic Wiener-Hopf equation	3
		1.1.1	An electromagnetic example: The half-plane problem	5
	1.2	Modi	fied W-H equations (MWHE)	7
		1.2.1	Longitudinally modified W-H equations	7
		1.2.2	Transversely modified W-H equations	9
		1.2.3	The incomplete Wiener-Hopf equations	10
	1.3	Gene	ralized W-H equations	12
		1.3.1	An electromagnetic example: The PEC wedge problem	12
		1.3.2	An electromagnetic example: The dielectric wedge problem	13
	1.4	The H	14	
	1.5	5 Reduction of W-H equations to the classical form		
		1.5.1	Reduction of the transversely modified W-H equations to CWHE	14
		1.5.2	Reduction of the longitudinally modified W-H equations to CWHE	15
		1.5.3	The Hilbert-Riemann equations	16
		1.5.4	Generalized Wiener-Hopf equations	16
	1.6	.6 From Wiener-Hopf equations to Fredholm integral equations		
	in the spectral domain			
	1.7	Funda	amental literature	19

#### vi Contents

2	The exact solution of Wiener-Hopf equations			21
	2.1	Intro	duction	21
	2.2	Addi	tive decomposition	22
	2.3	Multi	iplicative decomposition or factorization	23
	2.4		ion of the W-H equation	24
		2.4.1	Solution of the nonhomogeneous equation	24
		2.4.2		27
	2.5	Unbo	ounded plus and minus unknowns	29
	2.6	Facto	orized matrices as solutions of the homogeneous	
		Wien	er-Hopf problem	29
	2.7	Nons	tandard factorizations	31
	2.8	Exter	nsion of the W-H technique to the GWHE	34
	2.9	Impo	rtant mappings for dealing with W-H equations	35
		2.9.1	The $\chi = \sqrt{\tau_a^2 - \alpha^2}$ mapping	35
			The $\alpha = -\tau_o \cos w$ mapping	36
3	Fun	ctions	s decomposition and factorization	45
	3.1	Decomposition		
		3.1.1	Example 1	47
		3.1.2	Decomposition of an even function	51
		3.1.3	Numerical decomposition	51
		3.1.4	Example 1 revisited	53
			The case of meromorphic functions	54
		3.1.6		
	3.2	Facto	the function prization	55 57
	5.2		General formula for the scalar case	57
			Example 2	57
			Example 2 Example 3	58
		3.2.4	-	58
		3.2.5	Example 4	60
		3.2.6	Factorization of kernels involving continuous and	
			discrete spectrum	63
	3.3	Deco	mposition equations in the $w$ – plane	66
		3.3.1	Evaluation of the plus functions	66
		3.3.2		69
		3.3.4	1 1	73
		3.3.5	The W-H equation as difference equation	73

4	Exa	ct mat	trix factorization	75	
	4.1	1 Introduction			
	4.2	Some possibilities to reduce the order of the kernel matrices			
	4.3	Factorization of triangular matrices			
	4.4	Factorization of rational matrices			
		4.4.1	Introduction	80	
		4.4.2	Matching of the singularities	81	
		4.4.3	The factorization in the framework of the Fredholm equations	85	
	4.5	Tech	niques for solving the factorization problem	86	
		4.5.1	The logarithmic decomposition	86	
	4.6	The f	actorization problem and the functional analysis	92	
		4.6.1	The iterative method	92	
		4.6.2	The Fredholm determinant method	93	
		4.6.3	Factorization of meromorphic matrix kernels with an		
			infinite number of poles	94	
	4.7		ss of matrices amenable to explicit factorization:		
		matri	ces having rational eigenvectors	95	
	4.8	Factorization of a $2 \times 2$ matrix			
		4.8.1	The Hurd method	96	
		4.8.2	The off-diagonal form	98	
		4.8.3	Reduction of matrices commuting with polynomial matrices to the Daniele matrices	99	
		4.8.4	Explicit factorization of Daniele matrices	101	
		4.8.5	The elimination of the offensive behavior for matrices having		
			the Daniele form	104	
		4.8.6		106	
		4.8.7	The $\sqrt{a(\alpha)/b(\alpha)}$ rational function of $\alpha$ case	108 110	
	4.9	C			
		4.9.1	Introduction	110	
			Matrix of order two commuting with polynomial matrices	111	
		4.9.3	Explicit expression of $\psi_i(\alpha)$ in the general case	113	
		4.9.4	Asymptotic behavior of the logarithmic representation of $-l(\alpha)P^{-1}(\alpha) + 1$	117	
		4.9.5	Asymptotic behavior of the decomposed $\psi_{i+}(\alpha)$	118	
		4.9.6	A procedure to eliminate the exponential behavior	120	
		4.9.7	On the reduction of the order of the system	124	
		4.9.8	The nonlinear equations as a Jacobi inversion problem	125	
		4.9.9	Weakly factorization of a matrix commuting with a		
			polynomial matrix	127	

#### viii Contents

5	Арр	proximate solution: The Fredholm factorization	129
	5.1	The integral equations in the $\alpha$ – plane	
		5.1.1 Introduction	129
		5.1.2 Source pole $\alpha_o$ with positive imaginary part	130
		5.1.3 Analytical validation of a particular W-H equation	131
		5.1.4 A property of the integral in the Fredholm equation	132
		5.1.5 Numerical solution of the Fredholm equations	134
		5.1.6 Analytic continuation outside the integration line	141
	5.2	The integral equations in the $w$ – plane	143
	5.3	Additional considerations on the Fredholm equations	146
		5.3.1 Presence of poles of the kernel in the warped region	146
		5.3.2 The Fredholm factorization for particular matrices	147
		5.3.3 The Fredholm equation relevant to a modified kernel	147
6	Арр	proximate solutions: Some particular techniques	149
	6.1	The Jones method for solving modified W-H equations	149
		6.1.1 Introduction	149
		6.1.2 Longitudinal modified W-H equation	149
		6.1.3 Transversal modified W-H equation	152
	6.2	The Fredholm factorization for particular matrices	153
	6.3	Rational approximation of the kernel	161
		6.3.1 Pade approximants	161
		6.3.2 An interpolation approximant method	163
	6.4 Moment method		167
		6.4.1 Introduction	167
		6.4.2 Stationary properties of the solutions with the moment method	169
		6.4.3 An electromagnetic example: the impedance of a wire	170
	<i>с г</i>	antenna in free space	173
	6.5	Comments on the approximate methods for solving W-H equations	175
		w-11 equations	175
PA	RT 2	Applications	177
7	The	half-plane problem	179
	7.1 Wiener-Hopf solution of discontinuity problems in		
	/.1	plane-stratified regions	179
	7.2	Spectral transmission line in homogeneous isotropic regions	180
		7.2.1 Circuital considerations	181

		7.2.2	Jump of voltage or current in a section where it is present a discontinuity	182	
		7.2.3	Jump of voltage or current in a section where a concentrated	162	
		/1210	source is present	182	
	7.3	Wien	er-Hopf equations in the Laplace domain	183	
	7.4 The PEC half-plane problem				
		7.4.1	E-polarization case	185	
		7.4.2	Far-field contribution	188	
	7.5	Skew	incidence	191	
	7.6	Diffra	action by an impedance half plane	197	
		7.6.1	Deduction of W-H equations in diffraction problems by impenetrable half-planes	197	
		7.6.2	Presence of isotropic impedances $Z_a$ and $Z_b$	200	
	7.7	The g	eneral problem of factorization	203	
		7.7.1	The case of symmetric half-plane	205	
		7.7.2	The case of opposite diagonal impedances $\mathbf{Z}_b = -\mathbf{Z}_a$	206	
	7.8	The j	ump or penetrable half-plane problem	206	
	7.9	Full-p	plane junction at skew incidence	207	
7.10 Diffraction by an half plane immersed in arbitrary linear medium					
		7.10.1	Transverse equation in an indefinite medium	208	
		7.10.2	Field equations in the Fourier domain	210	
		7.10.3	The W-H equation for a PEC or a PMC half-plane	01.6	
	7 1 1	TL 1	immersed in a homogeneous linear arbitrary medium	216	
7.11 The half-plane immersed in an arbitrary planar stratified medium					
		suam		220	
	Plan	ar dis	continuities in stratified media	223	
	8.1	The p	lanar waveguide problem	223	
		8.1.1	The E-polarization case	223	
		8.1.2	Source constituted by plane wave	225	
		8.1.3	Source constituted by an incident mode	227	
		8.1.4	The skew plane wave case	228	
	8.2	The r	eversed half-planes problem	230	
		8.2.1	The E-polarization case	230	
		8.2.2	Qualitative characteristics of the solution	231	
		8.2.3	Numerical evaluation of the electromagnetic field	232	
		8.2.4	Numerical solution of the W-H equations	233	
		8.2.5	Source constituted by a skew plane wave	237	

8

X	Contents

	8.3	The three half-planes problem		
		8.3.1 The E-polarization case (normal incidence case)	244	
		8.3.2 The skew incidence case	247	
	8.4	Arrays of parallel wire antennas in stratified media	248	
		8.4.1 The single antenna case	248	
		8.4.2 The W-H equations of an array of wire antennas	250	
		8.4.3 Spectral theory of transmission lines constituted by bundles of wires	254	
	8.5	Spectral theory of microstrip and coplanar transmission lines	254	
		8.5.1 Coplanar line with two strips	254	
		8.5.2 The shielded microstrip transmission line	260	
	8.6 General W-H formulation of planar discontinuity problems			
		in arbitrary stratified media	261	
		8.6.1 Formal solution with the factorization method	263	
		8.6.2 The method of stationary phase for multiple integrals	267	
		<ul><li>8.6.3 The circular aperture</li><li>8.6.4 The quarter plane problem</li></ul>	268 272	
Q	W/ior	ner-Hopf analysis of waveguide discontinuities	279	
J				
	9.1	Marcuvitz-Schwinger formalism	279	
		9.1.1 Example 1	280	
	9.2	9.1.2 Example 2 Bifurcation in a rectangular waveguide	283 285	
	9.3	,		
	9.4	A general discontinuity problem in a rectangular waveguide		
9.5 Radiation from truncated circular waveguides		Radiation from truncated circular waveguides	292	
	9.6	Discontinuities in circular waveguides	297	
10	Furth	ner applications of the W-H technique	301	
	10.1	The step problem	301	
		10.1.1 Deduction of the transverse modified W-H equations		
		(E-polarization case)	301	
		10.1.2 Solution of the equations	303	
	10.0	The strip problem	202	
	10.2	The strip problem	303	
		10.2.1 Some longitudinally modified W-H geometries	304	
	10.2			
		10.2.1 Some longitudinally modified W-H geometries	304	

10.6	5 Presence of dielectrics				
10.7	A probl	em involving a dielectric slab	310		
10.8					
	10.8.1	Semi-infinite dielectric guides	314		
	10.8.2	The junction of two semi-infinite dielectric slab guides	314		
	10.8.3	Some problems solved in the literature	314		
10.9	Some p	roblems involving periodic structures	315		
	10.9.1	Diffraction by an infinite array of equally spaced half-planes immersed in free space	315		
	10.9.2	Other problems solved in the literature	317		
10.10	Diffract	ion by infinite strips	318		
	10.10.1	Solution of the key problem	319		
	10.10.2	Boundary conditions	321		
	10.10.3	Solution of the W-H equation	321		
10.11	Presenc	e of an inductive iris in rectangular waveguides	323		
10.12	Presenc	e of a capacitive iris in rectangular waveguides	324		
10.13	Problem	ns involving semi-infinite periodic structures	324		
10.14	Problem	ns involving impedance surfaces	325		
10.15 Some problems involving cones			326		
10.16 Diffraction by a PEC wedge by an incident plane wave at skew incidence			330		
10.17	Diffract	ion by a right PEC wedge immersed in a			
	stratified medium				
10.18	Diffract	ion by a right isorefractive wedge	337		
	10.18.1	Solution of the W-H equations	342		
	10.18.2	Matrix factorization of $g_e(\alpha)$	345		
	10.18.3	Near field behavior	347		
10.19	Diffract	ion by an arbitrary dielectric wedge	349		
Reference	es		351		

### Index

361

### Preface

In 1931, Wiener and Hopf (1931) invented a powerful technique for solving an integral equation of a special type. By introducing the Laplace transform of the unknown, the integral equation was rephrased in terms of a functional equation in a suitably defined complex space. The solution method of the latter is very ingenious indeed. It is based on a sophisticated procedure exploiting some properties of the analytic functions and it stands as one of the most important mathematical inventions for obtaining analytical solutions of very difficult problems.

In electromagnetic geometries, a fundamental approach due to Jones (1952a) applies the Laplace transforms directly to the partial differential equations, and the complex variable functional equations are obtained directly without having to formulate an integral equation. Jones's approach has been adopted systematically by Noble (1988) in his book on the Wiener-Hopf technique. Noble's work presents many applications of the Wiener-Hopf technique in a systematic way and is fundamental for readers interested in this powerful method. Unfortunately, this book was written many years ago (the first edition was in 1958); in the meantime, many scientists have devoted efforts to studying the Wiener-Hopf technique and have achieved important developments.

The main purpose of this book is to provide students and scientists of diffraction phenomena with a comprehensive treatment of the Wiener-Hopf technique, including its latest developments. In particular, these developments illustrate the wide range of possible applications of this method. In practice, it is now possible to solve all canonical diffraction problems involving geometrical discontinuities using the Wiener-Hopf technique, which has definitively established it as the most general and powerful analytical method for this purpose.

A great number of problems can be effectively approached using the W-H technique (Fig. 1). Shown in the figure are geometrical structures that can be considered equivalent to a (uniform or nonuniform) waveguide in which semi-infinite geometrical discontinuities have been introduced. These discontinuities may be also modified in the transversal or long-itudinal direction of the waveguide, thus augmenting considerably the number of possible problems that can be effectively studied by this technique. It must be observed that most of these problems are very important and that often there are no alternative approaches available for solving them efficiently, even numerically. Some general remarks about the W-H techniques are necessary before delving into specific problems in detail.

First of all, no W-H problem is simple to study. For instance, for a given electromagnetic problem that perhaps may be formulated in terms of W-H equations, it could be

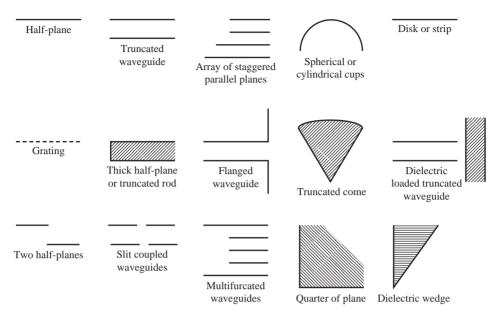


Fig. 1: A few examples of W-H geometries

quite difficult to obtain these equations. In the literature, many problems are formulated in terms of functional equations that, even though equivalent to Wiener-Hopf equations, do not present the so-called standard forms considered in this book. We emphasize that it is important to formulate the problems in terms of standard W-H equations because it provides a uniform methodology to obtain exact or approximate solutions in a systematic way. The key function containing all the information in the standard Wiener-Hopf equations is the W-H kernel. It is generally a matrix **G** function of a complex variable  $\alpha$ . It follows that the first step of the W-H technique is to find  $\mathbf{G}(\alpha)$  for a specific geometry. Sometimes this is a difficult task requiring a profound knowledge both of the formulation of electromagnetic problems and of the underlying physical concepts.

The central problem in solving the standard W-H equations is conceptually very simple: the factorization of the matrix  $G(\alpha)$ . This problem constitutes a very beautiful mathematical problem that in the past has become a cult activity for many students. However, even though this problem has been extensively studied in the past, up to now a method to factorize a general  $n \times n$  matrix (chapter 4) was not known. Fortunately, several approximate factorization techniques have recently been developed. In particular, the reduction of the factorization problem to the solution of Fredholm integral equations of the second kind constitutes a powerful tool that provides efficiently the approximate factorized matrices of  $G(\alpha)$ .

Once the factorization of  $G(\alpha)$  is achieved, new efforts are necessary to extract solutions. In fact, even if formal solutions may be obtained, a long and difficult elaboration is always required to make them effective from the physics and engineering points of view.

The W-H technique involves complex and cumbersome algebraic manipulations. Nowadays these manipulations do not constitute a serious impediment because powerful algebraic manipulator codes are readily available. In particular, all the results in this book were obtained by intensive use of the computing software MATHEMATICA. Concerning the overall philosophy of the subject presentation, this book has been written for readers primarily interested in the fundamental concepts and possible applications of the presented method. For this reason, the considered arguments are often only delineated and not discussed in great mathematical depth. The W-H technique requires the knowledge and use of many advanced topics of complex analysis, whose exposition might discourage readers who are interested primarily in application aspects. Of course, the best way to render the mathematical tools appealing is to present them only in as much detail as is required for the specific applications. We tried to follow this principle, but it was sometimes impossible. Therefore, we divided the book into two parts. The first part (chapters 1–6) is devoted to the mathematical aspects of the W-H technique, whereas the second part (chapters 7–10) presents applications that we hope illustrate the beauty, aims, and power of the theory. In particular, in the applications we often emphasized only the first and more difficult step of the W-H technique: the deduction of the matrix kernel  $G(\alpha)$  of the problem. In fact, this is the step that in some sense lacks of a general methodology. It is the intensive presentation of the deduction of  $G(\alpha)$  in different problems that provides the useful tools and the practice needed for solving new problems.

The Wiener-Hopf equations studied in this book are substantially one dimensional. It is possible to introduce multidimensional W-H equations (Meister & Speck, 1979) and generalize the concept of factorization that constitutes the fundamental tool that distinguishes the W-H equations from other integral equations. In particular, two works by Radlow (1961, 1964) attempted to solve two fundamental diffraction problems<sup>1</sup> by factorizing kernels defined in two-dimensional space. In these cases, the factorization method needs function-theoretic tools employing analytical functions with two complex variables. The involved analytical difficulties may easily lead to errors, and as a consequence unfortunately Radlow's solutions are incorrect. To date, the only way to solve multidimensional W-H equations appears to be the use of the moment method. Even though approximate, this kind of solution is very powerful; some examples will be considered in chapter 8.

In this book we consider only time harmonic fields with a time dependence specified by the factor  $e^{j\omega t}$  (electrical engineering notations), which is omitted throughout, and where the imaginary unit is indicated with *j*. Conversely, in applied mathematics the factor  $e^{j\omega t}$  is usually replaced by  $e^{-i\omega t}$ . This means that in the natural domain the change  $j \Rightarrow -i$  transforms the engineering notation into applied mathematics notation (and vice versa). However, in the spectral domain, usually the same notations are used in both engineering and applied mathematics. In fact, regarding for example the Fourier transforms, the following definitions are the most frequently used in the literature:

$$F_e(\alpha) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_e(x)e^{j\alpha x} dx, \quad F_a(\alpha) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_a(x)e^{i\alpha x} dx$$

where the subscript e means engineering and the subscript a means applied mathematics. Consequently, in the spectral domain on the real axis we have

$$F_a(\alpha) = F_e(-\alpha)$$

and j is replaced by -i (and vice versa).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The diffraction problems studied by Radlow are the diffraction by a quarter-plane and the diffraction by a rightangle dielectric wedge.

#### xvi Preface

For example, let us consider in the natural domain the propagation factor that is defined in electrical engineering notation by

$$f_e(x) = e^{-jkx}$$

with the propagation constant k defined by

$$k = \beta - ja, \quad a \ge 0$$

The same propagation factor in applied mathematics notation is written

$$f_a(x) = e^{ik_a x}$$

with  $k_a = \beta + ia$ .

In the Laplace domain, on the real axis, we have

$$F_e(\alpha) = \int_0^\infty f_e(x) e^{-jkx} e^{j\alpha x} dx = \frac{j}{\alpha - k}$$

which in applied mathematics notations is written

$$F_e(\alpha) = rac{j}{lpha - k} \Rightarrow F_a(\alpha) = rac{-i}{-\alpha - k_a} = rac{i}{lpha + k_a}$$

Analytic continuations define the previous functions in the whole complex plane  $\alpha$ . This means that the Laplace Transforms are defined for every value of  $\alpha$  by

$$F_e(\alpha) = \frac{j}{\alpha - k}, \quad F_a(\alpha) = \frac{i}{\alpha + k_a}$$

In the following we will define plus  $F_+(\alpha)$  and minus  $F_-(\alpha)$  (section 1.1). Notice that a plus (or minus) function in the electrical engineering notation is also a plus (or minus) function in the applied mathematics notation. The only difference between the two is given by the location of the singularities. For example,  $F_e(\alpha)$  and  $F_a(\alpha)$  are plus functions both with engineering and applied mathematics notation. However,  $F_e(\alpha) = \frac{j}{\alpha-k}$  has a singularity at  $\alpha = k = \beta - j\alpha$ , whereas  $F_a(\alpha) = \frac{i}{\alpha+k_a}$  has it at  $\alpha = -k_a = -\beta - i\alpha$ . The notation and definitions presented in this preface will be used throughout the book.

In the 80 years since the seminal 1931 paper by Wiener and Hopf, an enormous amount of work has been performed using their powerful function-theoretic method and its further extensions. It would not be possible to reproduce all that work in detail within a single volume. Therefore, we simply report many results without proof, referring the interested reader to the bibliographical sources for additional details. Similarly, we list many applications of the method to electromagnetic boundary-value problems, often just providing the results without the detailed derivations that readers may find in the original publications.

### Foreword

The Mario Boella series offers textbooks and monographs in all areas of radio science, with a special emphasis on the applications of electromagnetism to information and communication technologies. The series is scientifically and financially sponsored by the Istituto Superiore Mario Boella affiliated with the Politecnico di Torino, Italy, and is scientifically cosponsored by the International Union of Radio Science (URSI). It is named to honor the memory of Professor Mario Boella of the Politecnico di Torino, who was a pioneer in the development of electronics and telecommunications in Italy for half a century and was vice president of URSI from 1966 to 1969.

This advanced research monograph is devoted to the Wiener-Hopf technique, a function-theoretic method that has found applications in a variety of fields, most notably in analytical studies of diffraction and scattering of waves. It contains a compendium of the research work of Professor Vito G. Daniele of the Politecnico di Torino, who is a foremost international authority on the Wiener-Hopf method. Professor Daniele has teamed with his colleague and coauthor, Professor Rodolfo S. Zich, past rector of the Politecnico di Torino and current president of the Istituto Superiore Mario Boella, in writing this monograph.

It is hoped that this work will be well received by scientists, engineers, and applied mathematicians and will serve as a benchmark reference in the field of theoretical electromagnetism for the foreseeable future.

> Piergiorgio L. E. Uslenghi Series Editor Chicago, January 2014