ECE 5317-6351 Microwave Engineering

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Notes 7

Waveguides Part 4: Rectangular and Circular Waveguide

Rectangular Waveguide

- One of the earliest waveguides.
- Still common for high power and high microwave / millimeter-wave applications.



It is essentially an electromagnetic pipe with a rectangular cross-section.

Single conductor \Rightarrow <u>No</u> TEM mode

For convenience

- $a \ge b$.
- the long dimension lies along x.

TE_z Modes

Recall

$$H_z(x, y, z) = h_z(x, y)e^{\pm jk_z z}$$

where

$$\left(\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} + k_c^2\right) h_z(x, y) = 0$$
$$k_c = \left(k^2 - k_z^2\right)^{1/2}$$



Subject to B.C.'s: $E_x = 0 \implies \frac{\partial H_z}{\partial y} \quad @y = 0, b$ and $E_y = 0 \implies \frac{\partial H_z}{\partial x} \quad @x = 0, a$

$$\left(\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2}\right) h_z(x, y) = -k_c^2 h_z(x, y) \quad \text{(eigenvalue problem)}$$

Using separation of variables, let $h_z(x, y) = X(x)Y(y)$



$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{X} \frac{d^2 X}{dx^2} = -k_x^2 \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{1}{Y} \frac{d^2 Y}{dy^2} = -k_y^2$$

TE_z Modes (cont.)

Hence,

$$h_z(x, y) = (A\cos k_x x + B\sin k_x x)(C\cos k_y y + D\sin k_y y)$$

Boundary Conditions:

$$\frac{\partial h_z}{\partial y} = 0 \qquad (a, y) = 0, b \qquad (A)$$
$$\frac{\partial h_z}{\partial x} = 0 \qquad (a, x) = 0, a \qquad (B)$$

(A)
$$\Rightarrow D=0$$
 and $k_y = \frac{n\pi}{b}$ $n=0,1,2,...$
(B) $\Rightarrow B=0$ and $k_x = \frac{m\pi}{a}$ $m=0,1,2,...$
 $\Rightarrow h_z(x,y) = A_{mn} \cos\left(\frac{m\pi x}{a}\right) \cos\left(\frac{n\pi y}{b}\right)$ and $k_c^2 = \left(\frac{m\pi}{a}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{n\pi}{b}\right)^2$

Therefore,

$$H_{z} = A_{mn} \cos\left(\frac{m\pi}{a}x\right) \cos\left(\frac{n\pi}{b}y\right) e^{\mp jk_{z}z}$$

$$k_{z} = \sqrt{k^{2} - k_{c}^{2}}$$
$$= \sqrt{k^{2} - \left(\frac{m\pi}{a}\right)^{2} - \left(\frac{n\pi}{b}\right)^{2}}$$

From the previous field-representation equations, we can show

$$E_{x} = \frac{j\omega\mu n\pi}{k_{c}^{2}b} A_{mn} \cos\left(\frac{m\pi}{a}x\right) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{b}y\right) e^{\mp jk_{z}z}$$

$$E_{y} = -\frac{j\omega\mu m\pi}{k_{c}^{2}a} A_{mn} \sin\left(\frac{m\pi}{a}x\right) \cos\left(\frac{n\pi}{b}y\right) e^{\mp jk_{z}z}$$

$$H_{x} = \pm \frac{jk_{z}m\pi}{k_{c}^{2}a} A_{mn} \sin\left(\frac{m\pi}{a}x\right) \cos\left(\frac{n\pi}{b}y\right) e^{\mp jk_{z}z}$$

$$H_{y} = \pm \frac{jk_{z}n\pi}{k_{c}^{2}b} A_{mn} \cos\left(\frac{m\pi}{a}x\right) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{b}y\right) e^{\mp jk_{z}z}$$

Note:

$$m = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

 $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$

But m = n = 0is not allowed! (non-physical solution) $\Rightarrow \underline{H} = \hat{\underline{z}} A_{00} e^{\pm jkz}; \nabla \cdot \underline{H} \neq 0$

Lossless Case $(\varepsilon_c = \varepsilon = \varepsilon')$

$$k_z^{mn} = \sqrt{k^2 - \left(k_c^{mn}\right)^2} = \sqrt{k^2 - \left(\frac{m\pi}{a}\right)^2 - \left(\frac{n\pi}{b}\right)^2}$$

 \Rightarrow TE_{mn} mode is at cutoff when $k = k_c^{mn}$

$$f_c^{mn} = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{\mu\varepsilon}}\sqrt{\left(\frac{m}{a}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{n}{b}\right)^2}$$

Lowest cutoff frequency is for TE_{10} mode (a > b)



At the cutoff frequency of the TE_{10} mode (lossless waveguide):

$$f_c^{10} = \frac{1}{2a\sqrt{\mu\varepsilon}}$$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda = \frac{c_d}{f} = \frac{c_d}{f_c^{10}} = \frac{c_d}{\frac{1}{2a\sqrt{\mu\varepsilon}}} = 2a$$

$$a\Big|_{f=f_c}=\lambda_d/2$$

For a given operating wavelength (corresponding to $f > f_c$), the dimension a must be at least this big in order for the TE₁₀ mode to propagate.

Example: Air-filled waveguide, f = 10 GHz. We have that a > 3.0 cm/2 = 1.5 cm.

TM_z Modes



Thus, following same procedure as before, we have the following result:

$$e_{z}(x,y) = (A\cos k_{x}x + B\sin k_{x}x)(C\cos k_{y}y + D\sin k_{y}y)$$

Boundary Conditions: $e_z = 0$ @y = 0, b (A) (a)x = 0, a (B)

$$\begin{array}{cccc} (A) & \Rightarrow & C = 0 & \text{and} & k_y = \frac{n\pi}{b} & n = 0, 1, 2, \dots \\ (B) & \Rightarrow & A = 0 & \text{and} & k_x = \frac{m\pi}{a} & m = 0, 1, 2, \dots \\ & \Rightarrow & e_x = B_{mx} \sin\left(\frac{m\pi}{x}x\right) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{y}y\right) & \text{and} & k_x^2 = \left(\frac{m\pi}{x}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{m\pi}{x$$

$$\Rightarrow e_z = B_{mn} \sin\left(\frac{m\pi}{a}x\right) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{b}y\right) \text{ and } k_c^2 = \left(\frac{m\pi}{a}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{n\pi}{b}\right)^2$$

Therefore

$$E_z = B_{mn} \sin\left(\frac{m\pi}{a}x\right) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{b}y\right) e^{\mp jk_z z}$$

From the previous field-representation equations, we can show

$$H_{x} = \frac{j\omega\varepsilon_{c}n\pi}{k_{c}^{2}b} B_{mn} \sin\left(\frac{m\pi}{a}x\right) \cos\left(\frac{n\pi}{b}y\right) e^{\mp jk_{z}z}$$

$$H_{y} = -\frac{j\omega\varepsilon_{c}m\pi}{k_{c}^{2}a} B_{mn} \cos\left(\frac{m\pi}{a}x\right) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{b}y\right) e^{\mp jk_{z}z}$$

$$E_{x} = \mp \frac{jk_{z}m\pi}{k_{c}^{2}a} B_{mn} \cos\left(\frac{m\pi}{a}x\right) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{b}y\right) e^{\mp jk_{z}z}$$

$$E_{y} = \pm \frac{jk_{z}n\pi}{k_{c}^{2}b} B_{mn} \sin\left(\frac{m\pi}{a}x\right) \cos\left(\frac{n\pi}{b}y\right) e^{\mp jk_{z}z}$$

$$k_{z} = \sqrt{k^{2} - k_{c}^{2}}$$
$$= \sqrt{k^{2} - \left(\frac{m\pi}{a}\right)^{2} - \left(\frac{n\pi}{b}\right)^{2}}$$

m=1,2,3,...n=1,2,3,...

Note: If either m or n is zero, the field becomes a trivial one in the TM_z case.

Lossless Case $(\varepsilon_c = \varepsilon = \varepsilon')$ $\beta_{mn} = \sqrt{k^2 - \left(k_c^{mn}\right)^2} = \sqrt{k^2 - \left(\frac{m\pi}{a}\right)^2 - \left(\frac{n\pi}{b}\right)^2} \qquad \text{(same as formula for a set of the set o$

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$$f_c^{mn} = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{\mu\varepsilon}}\sqrt{\left(\frac{m}{a}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{n}{b}\right)^2}$$

Lowest cutoff frequency is for the TM₁₁ mode

$$f_c^{11} = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{\mu\varepsilon}} \sqrt{\left(\frac{1}{a}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{1}{b}\right)^2}$$
 Dominant TM mode
(lowest f_c)

Mode Chart



Dominant Mode: TE₁₀ Mode

For this mode we have

$$m=1, n=0, k_c=\frac{\pi}{a}$$

Hence we have

$$H_{z} = A_{10} \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{a}x\right) e^{\mp jk_{z}z}$$
$$H_{x} = \pm j \frac{k_{z}a}{\pi} A_{10} \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{a}x\right) e^{\mp jk_{z}z}$$
$$E_{y} = -\frac{j\omega\mu a}{\frac{\pi}{E_{10}}} A_{10} \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{a}x\right) e^{\mp jk_{z}z}$$

$$E_x = E_z = H_y = 0$$



Dispersion Diagram for TE₁₀ Mode



Field Plots for TE₁₀ Mode



Field Plots for TE₁₀ Mode (cont.)



Power Flow for TE₁₀ Mode

Time-average power flow in the *z* direction:

$$P_{10}^{+} = \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \int_{0}^{a} \int_{0}^{b} \left(\underline{E} \times \underline{H}^{*} \right) \cdot \hat{\underline{z}} \, dy dx \right\}$$
$$= \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \int_{0}^{a} \int_{0}^{b} -E_{y} H_{x}^{*} \, dy dx \right\}$$
$$= \frac{\omega \mu a^{3} \left| A_{10} \right|^{2} b}{4\pi^{2}} \operatorname{Re} \left\{ k_{z} \right\}$$

Note:

$$\int_{0}^{a} \int_{0}^{b} \sin^{2}\left(\frac{\pi x}{a}\right) dy dx = \frac{ab}{2}$$

In terms of amplitude of the field amplitude, we have

$$P_{10}^{+} = \left(\frac{ab}{4\omega\mu}\right) \operatorname{Re}\{k_{z}\} |E_{10}|^{2} \qquad A_{10} = \frac{-\pi}{j\omega\mu a} E_{10}$$

For a given maximum electric field level (e.g., the breakdown field), the power is increased by increasing the cross-sectional area (*ab*).

Attenuation for TE₁₀ Mode

Recall $\alpha_c = \frac{P_l(0)}{2P_0}$ $P_0 = P_{10}^+$ (calculated on previous slide)

$$P_l(0) = \frac{R_s}{2} \int_C \left| \underline{J}_s \right|^2 d\ell$$

 $\underline{J}_{s} = \underline{\hat{n}} \times \underline{H}$ on conductor



$$\Rightarrow J_{sy}^{side} = -A_{10} e^{-jk_z z}$$



$$H_x^+ = j \frac{k_z a}{\pi} A_{10} \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{a}x\right) e^{-jk_z z}$$

Attenuation for TE₁₀ Mode (cont.)

Top and bottom walls

(a) y = 0: $\underline{J}_{s}^{bot} = \underline{\hat{y}} \times \underline{H}\Big|_{y=0}$ (a) y = b: $\underline{J}_{s}^{top} = -\underline{\hat{y}} \times \underline{H}\Big|_{y=b}$

$$\underline{J}_{s}^{top} = -\underline{J}_{s}^{box}$$

(since fields of this mode are independent of *y*)

$$\Rightarrow P_{l}(0) = 2\left(\frac{R_{s}}{2}\int_{0}^{b}\left|\underline{J}_{s}^{side}\right|^{2}\right|dy + \frac{R_{s}}{2}\int_{0}^{a}\left|\underline{J}_{s}^{top}\right|^{2}\left|dx\right)$$
$$= R_{s}\int_{0}^{b}\left|J_{sy}^{side}\right|^{2}\left|dy + R_{s}\int_{0}^{a}\left(\left|J_{sx}^{top}\right|^{2} + \left|J_{sz}^{top}\right|^{2}\right)dx$$
$$= R_{s}\left|A_{10}\right|^{2}\left(b + \left(\frac{\left|k_{z}^{2}\right|a^{3}}{2\pi^{2}} + \frac{a}{2}\right)\right)$$



Attenuation for TE₁₀ Mode (cont.)

Assume $f > f_c$ $k_z \approx \beta$

(The wavenumber is taken as that of a guide with perfect walls.)

$$P_{l}(0) = R_{s} \left| A_{10} \right|^{2} \left(b + \left(\frac{\beta^{2} a^{3}}{2\pi^{2}} + \frac{a}{2} \right) \right)$$

$$b = \begin{bmatrix} y \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} z \\ z \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} z$$

$$P_{10}^{+} = \left(\frac{ab}{4\omega\mu}\right)\beta|E_{10}|^{2}$$

$$E_{10} = -\frac{j\omega\mu aA_{10}}{\pi}$$
Simplify, using $\beta^{2} = k^{2} - k_{c}^{2}$ $k_{c}^{10} = \frac{\pi}{a}$
Final result:
$$\alpha_{c} = \frac{R_{c}}{a^{3}b\beta(k\eta)}\left(2b\pi^{2} + a^{3}k^{2}\right) \text{ [np/m]}$$

Attenuation in dB/m

Let z = distance down the guide in meters.

$$\alpha_{c} \left[dB/m \right] = -20 \log_{10} \left(e^{-\alpha_{c} z} \right) / z$$

$$= \left(\alpha_{c} z \right) 20 \log_{10} (e) / z$$

$$= 8.686 \alpha_{c}$$
enuation



Attenuatio [dB/m]

Hence

$$dB/m = 8.686 [np/m]$$

Attenuation for TE₁₀ Mode (cont.)

Brass X-band air-filled waveguide $(\sigma \approx 2.6 \times 10^7 \text{ [S/m]})$

X band: $\approx 8-12$ [GHz]

(See the table on the next slide.)





Attenuation for TE₁₀ Mode (cont.)

Microwave Frequency Bands				
Letter Designation	Frequency range			
<u>L band</u>	1 to 2 GHz			
<u>S band</u>	2 to 4 GHz			
<u>C band</u>	4 to 8 GHz			
<u>X band</u>	8 to 12 GHz			
<u>K_u band</u>	12 to 18 GHz			
<u>K band</u>	18 to 26.5 GHz			
<u>K_a band</u>	26.5 to 40 GHz			
<u>Q band</u>	33 to 50 GHz			
<u>U band</u>	40 to 60 GHz			
<u>V band</u>	50 to 75 GHz			
<u>E band</u>	60 to 90 GHz			
<u>W band</u>	75 to 110 GHz			
<u>F band</u>	90 to 140 GHz			
<u>D band</u>	110 to 170 GHz			

(from Wikipedia)

Modes in an X-Band Waveguide

 $a = 2.29 \operatorname{cm} (0.90")$ $b = 1.02 \operatorname{cm} (0.40")$

Standard X-band waveguide (WR90)

Mode	f_c [GHz]			
TE_{10}	6.55			
TE_{20}	13.10			
TE_{01}	14.71			
TE_{11}	16.10			
TM_{11}	16.10			
TE_{30}	19.65			
TE_{21}	19.69			
TM_{21}	19.69			

X band: $\approx 8-12$ [GHz]



Example: X-Band Waveguide

Determine β and λ_g at 10 GHz and 6 GHz for the TE₁₀ mode in an air-filled waveguide.

$$\underbrace{a = 2.29 \text{cm}}_{\mathcal{E}_0, \mu_0} \quad f = 1.02 \text{cm}$$

@ 10 GHz

$$\beta = \sqrt{\omega^2 \mu \varepsilon} - \left(\frac{\pi}{a}\right)^2 = \sqrt{\left(\frac{2\pi 10^{10}}{3 \times 10^8}\right)^2 - \left(\frac{\pi}{0.0229}\right)^2}$$

 $\beta = 158.25 \,[rad/m]$

$$\lambda_g = \frac{2\pi}{\beta} = \frac{2\pi}{158.25} = 0.0397$$

 $\lambda_g = 3.97 \text{ [cm]}$

Example: X-Band Waveguide (cont.)

@ 6 GHz

$$k_{z} = \sqrt{\omega^{2} \mu \varepsilon} - \left(\frac{\pi}{a}\right)^{2} = \sqrt{\left(\frac{2\pi 6 \times 10^{9}}{3 \times 10^{8}}\right)^{2} - \left(\frac{\pi}{0.0229}\right)^{2}}$$
$$= -j 55.04 \ [1/m]$$
$$\alpha = 55.04 \ [np/m]$$
$$= 478.08 \ [dB/m]$$
$$\lambda_{g} = \frac{2\pi}{\beta}$$

Evanescent mode: $\beta = 0$; λ_g is not defined!

Circular Waveguide



 TM_z mode:

$$\nabla^{2} E_{z0}(\rho, \phi) + k_{c}^{2} E_{z0}(\rho, \phi) = 0$$
$$k_{z}^{2} = k^{2} - k_{c}^{2}$$

The solution in cylindrical coordinates is:

$$E_{z0}(\rho,\phi) = \begin{cases} J_n(k_c\rho) \\ Y_n(k_c\rho) \end{cases} \begin{cases} \sin(n\phi) \\ \cos(n\phi) \end{cases}$$

Note: The value *n* must be an integer to have unique fields.

Plot of Bessel Functions



 ${\mathcal X}$

$$J_n(x) \sim \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi x}} \cos\left(x - \frac{n\pi}{2} - \frac{\pi}{4}\right), \quad x \to \infty \qquad \qquad J_n(x) \sim x^n \left(\frac{1}{2^n n!}\right) \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots, \quad x \to 0$$

Plot of Bessel Functions (cont.)



Circular Waveguide (cont.)

Choose (somewhat arbitrarily) $\cos(n\phi)$

$$E_{z}(\rho,\phi,z) = \begin{cases} J_{n}(k_{c}\rho) \\ Y_{n}(k_{c}\rho) \end{cases} \cos(n\phi) \ e^{\pm jk_{z}z} \end{cases}$$

The field should be finite on the *z* axis

$$\implies$$
 $Y_n(k_c \rho)$ is not allowed

$$E_{z}(\rho,\phi,z) = \cos(n\phi) J_{n}(k_{c}\rho) e^{\pm jk_{z}z}$$

Circular Waveguide (cont.)

B.C.'s:
$$E_z(a, \phi, z) = 0$$
 Hence $J_n(k_c a) = 0$



Note: The value $x_{n0} = 0$ is not included since this would yield a trivial solution:

 $J_n\left(x_{n0}\frac{\rho}{a}\right) = J_n\left(0\right) = 0$

This is true unless n = 0, in which case we cannot have p = 0.

Circular Waveguide (cont.)

TM_{*np*} mode:

$$E_{z}(\rho,\phi,z) = \cos(n\phi) J_{n}\left(x_{np}\frac{\rho}{a}\right) e^{\mp jk_{z}z} \quad n = 0,1,2...$$

$$k_z = \sqrt{k^2 - \left(\frac{x_{np}}{a}\right)^2}$$
 $p = 1, 2, 3, \dots$

Cutoff Frequency: TM_z

$$k_z^2 = k^2 - k_c^2$$

At $f = f_c$:
 $k_z = 0$ \longrightarrow $k = k_c = \frac{x_{np}}{a}$

$$2\pi f_c \sqrt{\mu\varepsilon} = \frac{x_{np}}{a}$$

$$f_c^{TM} = \left(\frac{c_d}{2\pi a}\right) x_{np} \qquad c_d = \frac{c}{\sqrt{\varepsilon_r}}$$

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Cutoff Frequency: TM_z (cont.)

x_{np} values								
$p \setminus n$	0	1	2	3	4	5		
1	2.405	3.832	5.136	6.380	7.588	8.771		
2	5.520	7.016	8.417	9.761	11.065	12.339		
3	8.654	10.173	11.620	13.015	14.372			
4	11.792	13.324	14.796					
3	8.654 11.792	10.173 13.324	11.620 14.796	13.015	14.372			

 TM_{01} , TM_{11} , TM_{21} , TM_{02} ,

TE_z Modes

Proceeding as before, we now have that

$$H_{z}(\rho,\phi,z) = \cos(n\phi) J_{n}(k_{c}\rho) e^{\mp jk_{z}z}$$

Set
$$E_{\phi}(a,\phi,z) = 0$$

$$E_{\phi} = \frac{j\omega\mu}{k_c^2} \frac{\partial H_z}{\partial \rho} \qquad \text{(From Ampere's law)}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial H_z}{\partial \rho} = 0 \bigg|_{\rho=a}$$

Hence
$$J'_n(k_c a) = 0$$

 $J_n'(k_c a) = 0$

$$H_z(\rho,\phi,z) = \cos(n\phi) J_n\left(x'_{np}\frac{\rho}{a}\right) e^{\pm jk_z z} \qquad p = 1, 2, \dots$$

Note: If
$$p = 0$$
 $x'_{np} = 0$

We then have, for p = 0: $n \neq 0$ $J_n\left(x'_{np}\frac{\rho}{a}\right) = J_n\left(0\right) = 0$ (trivial solution) n = 0 $J_0\left(x'_{np}\frac{\rho}{a}\right) = J_0\left(0\right) = 1$

$$\longrightarrow \underline{H} = \underline{\hat{z}} e^{\pm jk_z z} = \underline{\hat{z}} e^{\pm jkz} \quad \text{(nonphysical solution)}$$

(The TE_{00} mode is not physical.)

Cutoff Frequency: TE_z

$$k_z^2 = k^2 - k_c^2$$

$$k_z = 0 \qquad \Longrightarrow \qquad k_c = k = \frac{x'_{np}}{a}$$

$$2\pi f_c \sqrt{\mu\varepsilon} = \frac{x'_{np}}{a}$$

Hence

$$f_c^{TE} = \left(\frac{c_d}{2\pi a}\right) x'_{np} \qquad c_d = \frac{c}{\sqrt{\varepsilon_r}}$$

Cutoff Frequency: TE_z

 x'_{np} values 3 5 0 2 $p \setminus n$ 1 4 1.841 3.054 4.201 5.317 3.832 1 5.416 2 7.016 5.331 6.706 8.015 9.282 10.520 3 10.173 8.536 9.969 11.346 12.682 13.987 13.324 11.706 13.170 4

 $TE_{11}, TE_{21}, TE_{01}, TE_{31}, \dots$

The dominant mode of circular waveguide is the TE_{11} mode.

The mode can be thought of as an evolution of the TE_{10} mode of rectangular waveguide as the boundary changes shape.

TE₀₁ Mode

The TE_{01} mode has the unusual property that the conductor attenuation decreases with frequency. (With most waveguide modes, the conductor attenuation increases with frequency.)

The TE_{01} mode was studied extensively as a candidate for longrange communications – but eventually fiber-optic cables became available with even lower loss. It is still useful for some high-power applications.

Practical Note:

The TE₀₁ mode has only an azimuthal (ϕ -directed) surface current on the wall of the waveguide. Therefore, it can be supported by a set of conducting rings, while the lower modes (TE₁₁,TM₀₁, TE₂₁, TM₁₁) will not propagate on such a structure.

(A helical spring will also work fine.)

From the beginning, the most obvious application of waveguides had been as a communications medium. It had been determined by both Schelkunoff and Mead, independently, in July 1933, that an axially symmetric electric wave (TE_{01}) in circular waveguide would have an attenuation factor that decreased with increasing frequency [44]. This unique characteristic was believed to offer a great potential for wide-band, multichannel systems, and for many years to come the development of such a system was a major focus of work within the waveguide group at BTL. It is important to note, however, that the use of waveguide as a long transmission line never did prove to be practical, and Southworth eventually began to realize that the role of waveguide would be somewhat different than originally expected. In a memorandum dated October 23, 1939, he concluded that microwave radio with highly directive antennas was to be preferred to long transmission lines. "Thus," he wrote, "we come to the conclusion that the hollow, cylindrical conductor is to be valued primarily as a new circuit element, but not yet as a new type of toll cable" [45]. It was as a circuit element in military radar that waveguide technology was to find its first major application and to receive an enormous stimulus to both practical and theoretical advance.

K. S. Packard, "The Origins of Waveguide: A Case of Multiple Rediscovery," IEEE Trans. MTT, pp. 961-969, Sept. 1984.