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Microwave and Millimeter Wave Evaluation of Layered Composite Structures

Presented by: Professor Reza Zoughi
Center for Nondestructive Evaluation (CNDE)
Department of Electrical & Computer and Engineering (ECpE)
Iowa State University (ISU)



Microwave and millimeter-wave signals span the frequency ranges of ~300 MHz-30 GHz and 30 GHz-300 GHz, corresponding to wavelength ranges of 1000-10 mm and 10-1 mm, respectively. Signals at these frequencies readily penetrate inside dielectric materials and composites and interact with their inner structures. The intrinsic nature of the interaction of these signals with material media, the relatively small wavelengths and wide bandwidths associated with them enable inspection of a variety of materials with high a degree of sensitivity. Pertinent to this presentation, the efficacy and utility of thickness and dielectric property characterization, using a robust open-ended rectangular waveguide technique, has been studied and substantially improved upon during the past three decades leading to the recent development of a unique engineered waveguide probe. This technique has now fully evolved to give an accurate estimation of complex permittivity distribution and thickness of layers in a stratified composite structure. This technique is capable of evaluating coating (single- or multi-layered) thicknesses and complex permittivity properties on a variety of substrates including conducting and carbon composite substrates. Complex permittivity information can be correlated to other materials properties allowing for the evaluation of critical characteristics such as temporal property changes, cure state monitoring, volumetric porosity estimation, etc. The inherent optimization capabilities offered by this technique allow for maximizing measurement robustness as a function of undesired measurement parameters (i.e., liftoff change, composite surface roughness, etc.). This webinar gives an overview of this microwave nondestructive evaluation technique, the fundamental electromagnetic principles of the forward and the inverse (forward-iterative) calculations and the design foundation of the engineered waveguide probe. Additionally, issues related to layer property calculation accuracy with respect to several critical parameters (i.e., thickness, substrate properties and curvature, etc.) will be discussed along with several illustrative examples (e.g., aircraft radome, coating thickness evaluation on carbon composite substrates).

R. Zoughi is the Kirby Gray (Battelle) Chair in Engineering and a Professor Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECpE) at Iowa State University (ISU). He is also the Director of Center for Nondestructive Evaluation (CNDE) at ISU. He served as the Schlumberger Endowed Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Missouri University of Science and Technology (Missouri S&T) from January 2001 to August 2019. Prior to joining Missouri S&T and since 1987 he was with the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department at Colorado State University (CSU). He is the recipient of the 2007 IEEE Instrumentation and Measurement Society Distinguished Service Award, the 2009 American Society for Nondestructive Testing (ASNT) Research Award for Sustained Excellence, the 2011 IEEE Joseph F. Keithley Award in Instrumentation and Measurement and the 2020 IEEE Instrumentation and Measurement Society Career Excellence Award. In 2013 and 2020 he and his co-authors received the H. A. Wheeler Applications Prize Paper Award from the IEEE Antennas and Propagation Society (APS). He is the author of a textbook entitled "Nondestructive Evaluation: Theory, Techniques, and Applications" Marcel and Dekker, Inc., 2002. He is the co-author of 179+ refereed journal papers, 362+conference proceedings and presentations and 120 technical reports. He has delivered numerous *Invited* and *Keynote* presentations on the subject of microwave and millimeter wave nondestructive testing and imaging. He has twenty issued US patents to his credit (in addition to several issued abroad). He is a *Fellow* of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and a *Fellow* of the American Society for Nondestructive Testing (ASNT).

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