

Prediction and Analysis of the Shielding Effectiveness and Resonances of a Cascaded Triple Enclosure Based on Electromagnetic Topology

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Abstract – A fast analytical method for predicting the shielding effectiveness (SE) and resonances of a parallelly–serially cascaded triple enclosure was proposed. Under the concept of electromagnetic topology, the observation points and the walls are treated as nodes and the space between them as tubes. An equivalent circuit model of the enclosures is derived in which the apertures on the front and rear walls of the two parallelly cascaded sub-enclosures are considered as a pair of three-port networks. To predict the SE at a particular monitoring point, we introduce the position factor. The results of the proposed method have a good agreement with the numerical methods while it is much faster. The proposed method can help in determining SE for cascaded enclosures. We can also find that the resonance effect affects each subenclosure through the apertures, which must be carefully considered in practice.

Index Terms – Shielding effectiveness, aperture coupling, general Baum–Liu–Tesché equation

I. INTRODUCTION

The development of high-power microwave (HPM), such as radar illuminating and electromagnetic pulses, in recent years has the potential to damage digital systems. Electromagnetic shielding is one of the most commonly used techniques to protect valuable electronics. The shielding performance of an enclosure with apertures is defined by the shielding effectiveness (SE), which is the ratio of the electric field at an observation point without and with the enclosure [1].

There are numerous approaches for calculating SE of the shielding enclosures with apertures, which can generally be divided into numerical methods and analytical formulations.

Numerical methods include finite-difference time-domain method [2], method of moments [3, 4], transmis-

sion line matrix (TLM) method [5]. Numerical methods can handle complicated structures, but they often consume more computational resources.

The analytical formulations are based on circuit models. For instance, Robinson’s method [6, 7] and its developed methods [8–11] are based on transmission line parameters. In this type of method, the rectangular enclosure and the aperture are modeled by a short-circuited rectangular waveguide and a transmission line, respectively. However, the analytical formulations can hardly handle complex enclosure structures.

Electromagnetic topology (EMT) provides a useful tool for studying the coupling problems of complicated electrical systems, which treat the complex interaction problem into smaller and more manageable problems [12, 13]. By applying the EMT concept, the Baum–Liu–Tesché (BLT) equation can be derived to calculate the voltage and current responses at the nodes of a general multiconductor transmission line network. After transforming the enclosure and aperture into nodes, we can use the extended BLT equation to calculate the voltage and current at all nodes [14, 15]. In [16], a method is proposed to use the BLT equation to predict the SE of multiple cascaded enclosures, but the monitoring points are limited to the center axis of each front wall.

In this paper, we propose a fast algorithm based on the EMT to predict the SE for a parallelly–serially cascaded triple enclosure. The SE and resonances at any monitor point can be quickly and effectively predicted over a wide bandwidth range by introducing the aperture position factor.

The structure of this paper is as follows. The electromagnetic topological model and equivalent circuit are given along with the derivation of the extended BLT equation in Section II. Validation of the model is given in Section III, and Section IV summarizes the conclusions of this paper.

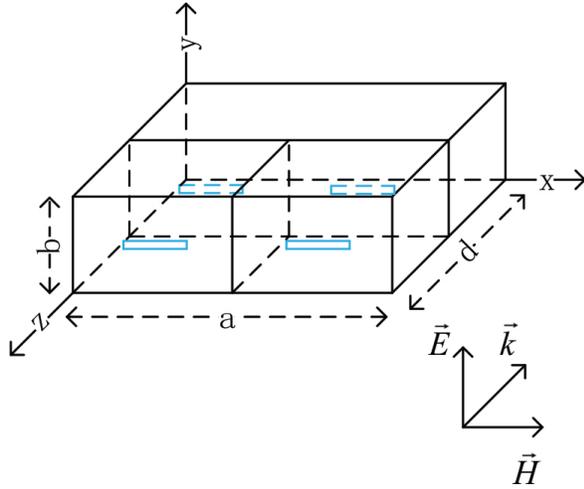


Fig. 1. Rectangular parallely-serially cascaded enclosure and its coordinate system; all apertures are positioned centrally in the walls.

II. ELECTROMAGNETIC TOPOLOGICAL MODEL

In this paper, we focus on a parallely-serially cascaded triple enclosure. The structure of this enclosure is shown in Figure 1. The overall size of the enclosure is $300 \times 100 \times 500$ mm, and the thickness of the enclosure wall is 1 mm.

The enclosure consists of three enclosures, and the subenclosure of the left-front one in Figure 1 is labeled as number 1 and has size $c \times b \times d_1$. The one on the right is labeled as number 2 and has the same size as Enclosure 1. And the rear one is labeled as number 3, and the size is $a \times b \times d_2$; it is also the biggest sub-enclosure. The left aperture ap_1 at the front wall of Enclosure 1 has a dimension of $l_1 \times w_1$ and the right aperture ap_2 has a dimension of $l_2 \times w_2$, and another pair of apertures ap_3 and ap_4 with dimensions $l_3 \times w_3$ and $l_4 \times w_4$ are located on the second wall. P_1 , P_2 , and P_3 are observation points located in the center of each subenclosure, respectively.

The equivalent circuit of the cascaded enclosures in Figure 1 is given in Figure 2. The impedance and propagation constants z_g and k_g are given by

$$k_g = k_0 \sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{m\lambda}{2a}\right)^2 - \left(\frac{n\lambda}{2b}\right)^2} \quad (1)$$

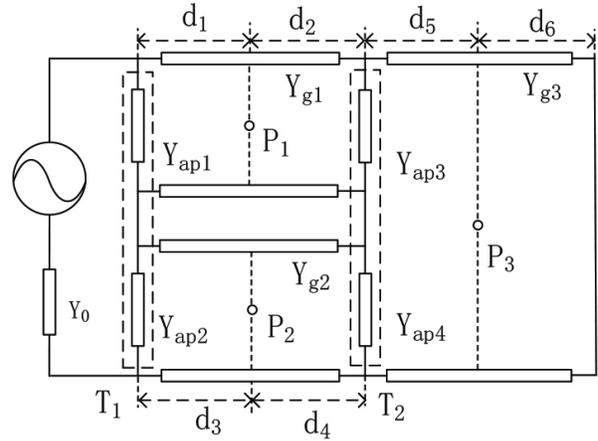


Fig. 2. Equivalent circuit of the parallely-serially cascaded enclosure.

$$Z_g = Z_0 / \sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{m\lambda}{2a}\right)^2 - \left(\frac{n\lambda}{2b}\right)^2}. \quad (2)$$

The radiating source is represented by voltage V_0 and impedance of free space $Z_0 = 377 \Omega$. Aperture is treated as a coplanar strip transmission line which is shorted at each end; its characteristic impedance is given by Gupta *et al* [17]:

$$Z_{ap} = C_a \frac{j l}{2 a} Z_{os} \tan\left(\frac{k_0 l}{2}\right). \quad (3)$$

C_a is the position factor which is defined as [8, 11]

$$C_a = \sin\left(\frac{m\pi}{a} x_a\right) \cos\left(\frac{n\pi}{b} y_a\right). \quad (4)$$

x_a and y_a are the position coordinate, and m and n are mode indices. We can find that when the aperture is located at the center of the wall, TE_{01} , TM_{11} , and TE_{20} modes will not exist.

Since the cascaded enclosures have a thickness, we have effective width w_e

$$w_e = w - \frac{5t}{4\pi} \left[1 + \ln \frac{4\pi w}{t} \right] \quad (5)$$

where t is the thickness of the enclosure's wall and w is the width of the aperture. If the shape of the aperture is close to a slot ($w_e \leq \frac{b}{\sqrt{2}}$), we have

$$Z_{os} = 120\pi^2 \left[\ln \left(2 \frac{1 + \sqrt[4]{1 - (w_e/b)^2}}{1 - \sqrt[4]{1 - (w_e/b)^2}} \right) \right]. \quad (6)$$

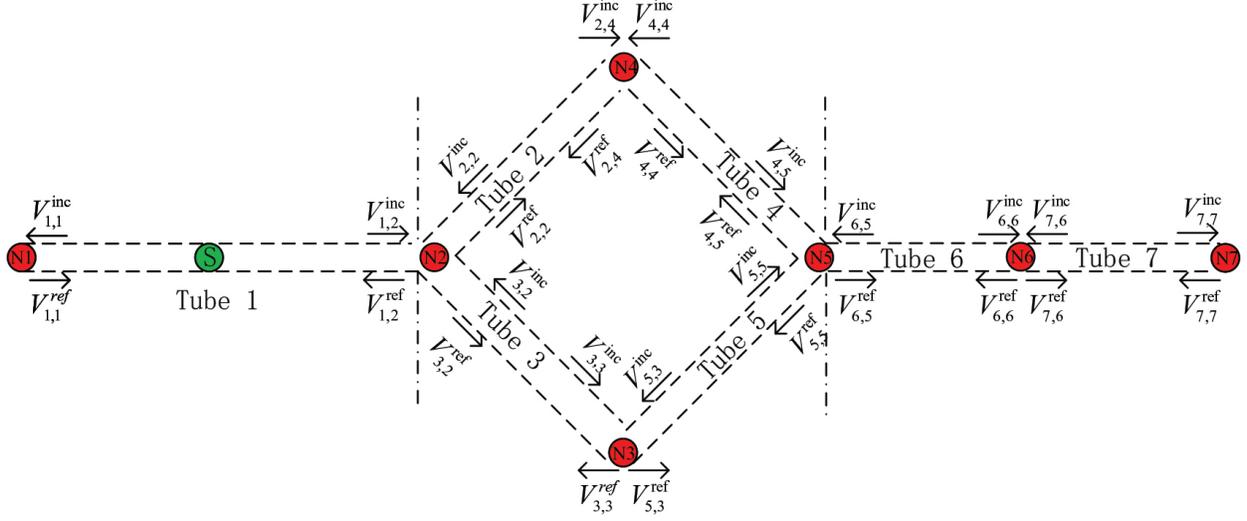


Fig. 3. Signal flow graph of cascaded enclosures.

$$\begin{bmatrix} V_{1,1}^r \\ V_{1,2}^r \\ V_{2,2}^r \\ V_{3,2}^r \\ V_{3,3}^r \\ V_{5,3}^r \\ V_{2,4}^r \\ V_{4,4}^r \\ V_{4,5}^r \\ V_{5,5}^r \\ V_{6,5}^r \\ V_{6,6}^r \\ V_{7,6}^r \\ V_{7,7}^r \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & e^{\gamma_0 l_x} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ e^{\gamma_0 l_x} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & e^{T_1} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & e^{T_3} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & e^{T_3} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & e^{T_4} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & e^{T_1} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & e^{T_2} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & e^{T_2} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & e^{T_4} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & e^{T_5} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & e^{T_5} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & e^{T_6} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & e^{T_6} & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} V_{1,1}^i \\ V_{1,2}^i \\ V_{2,2}^i \\ V_{3,2}^i \\ V_{3,3}^i \\ V_{5,3}^i \\ V_{2,4}^i \\ V_{4,4}^i \\ V_{4,5}^i \\ V_{5,5}^i \\ V_{6,5}^i \\ V_{6,6}^i \\ V_{7,6}^i \\ V_{7,7}^i \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} V_0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (7)$$

Figure 3 gives EMT for the triple enclosures shown in Figure 1. Node N_1 represents the observation point outside the enclosure which is equivalent by one-port network; nodes N_3 , N_4 , and N_6 denote observation points P_1 , P_2 , and P_3 inside the subenclosures respectively, and they are equivalent by two-port networks. The apertures are represented by nodes N_2 and N_5 as three-port network, and the shorted end is represented by N_7 as one-port network. Tube 1 denotes the electromagnetic wave propagation in free space, while Tube 2, Tube 3, Tube 4, Tube 5, and Tube 6 are the wave propagation be-

tween the observation points and the apertures in subenclosures. Tube 7 denotes the wave propagation to the short end of Enclosure 3.

As illustrated by Figure 3, we have a propagation matrix as shown in eqn (7):

l_x is the distance between electromagnetic wave and the apertures; $\gamma_0 = jk_0$ is the phase constant of freespace. T_i represents the phase constant of each subenclosure:

$$T_1 = \gamma_{g1} d_1, T_2 = \gamma_{g1} d_2 \quad (8)$$

$$T_3 = \gamma_{g2} d_3, T_4 = \gamma_{g2} d_4 \quad (9)$$

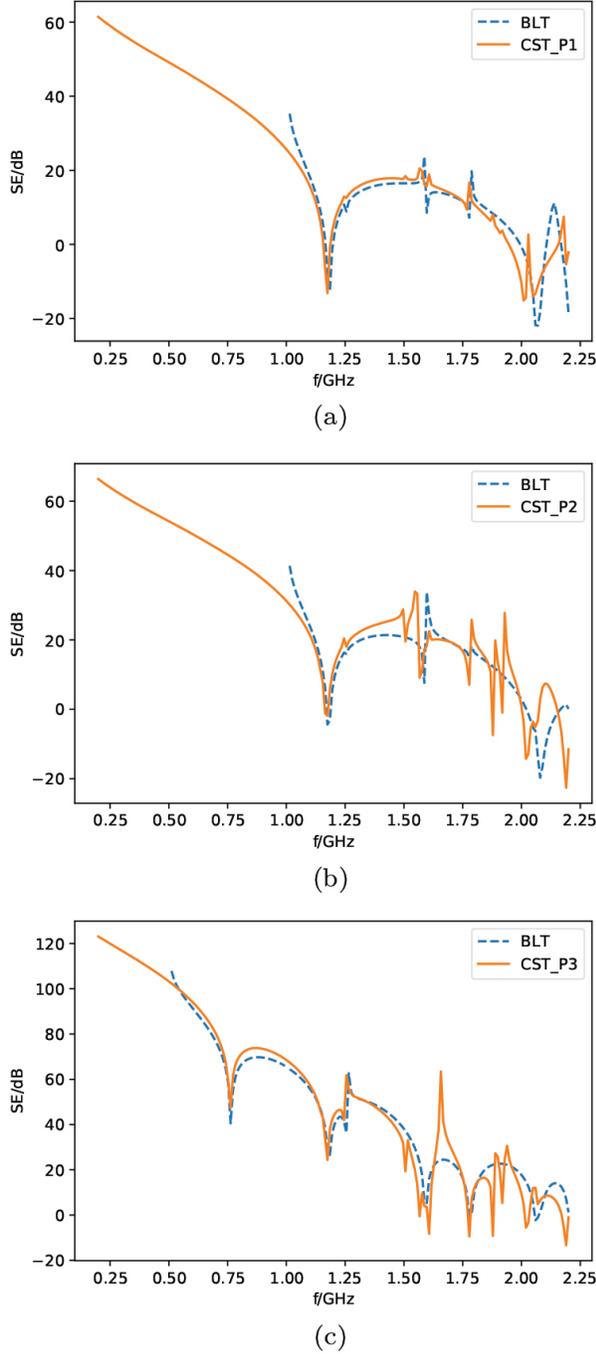


Fig. 4. Comparison between the SE result from the BLT equation with that of CST for observe points 1, 2, and 3, respectively.

A. Results of different enclosures

Figure 4(a) shows SE at P_1 , and this is also the center of Enclosure 1. It can be observed that the result calculated by the proposed method is in good agreement with the simulation result of CST. The minimum SE values due to the resonance effect are just located at the reso-

nance points which can be calculated by eqn (16):

$$f_{mnh} = \frac{C}{2} \sqrt{\left(\frac{m}{a}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{n}{b}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{h}{d}\right)^2} \quad (16)$$

where m , n , and h are determined by the wave modes in the enclosure. In Enclosure 1, the resonant frequency is 1179.24 MHz for the TE_{101} mode and 1600.78 MHz for the TE_{102} mode. 1000 MHz is the cutoff frequency of TE_{10} mode Enclosure 1, and the cutoff frequency of TE_{30} in Enclosure 1 is 3000 MHz; consequently, the higher-order propagation modes are blocked.

Figure 4(b) shows the SE at P_2 , which have a similar SE of P_1 due to the same dimension size. The difference of SE results from the different dimensions of the apertures.

Figure 4(c) shows the SE at P_3 , and compared with SE at the observation point P_1 , the SE at the center of Enclosure 3 improves by 20 dB in most frequency ranges, except at the resonance points. From Figure 4(c), it can be seen that the result of SE with the proposed method is in good agreement with that of CST-MWS. Figure 4(c) shows the resonant frequencies of different transmission modes, such as 763.44 (TE_{101}), 1154.49 (TE_{201}), 1257.52 (TE_{102}), 1607.12 (TE_{301}), 1801.54 (TE_{103}), and 2081.54 MHz (TE_{401}). As we have seen in Section II, ap_3 and ap_4 are not at the center of the front wall of Enclosure 3, so TE_{201} and TE_{401} modes appear in Enclosure 3; Note that the TE_{201} mode is also TE_{101} mode in Enclosure 1 and Enclosure 2, which further weakens the SE in Enclosure 3. We can conclude that the shielding capacity of the inner enclosures is obviously much better than that of the outer enclosure, and the resonant modes of the different enclosures influence each other through the apertures; this must be considered in practice. By observing eqn (16), we can also see that reducing the size of the enclosure will increase the resonant frequency; in other words, separating the outer enclosure into two smaller enclosures helps to improve the SE of the inner enclosure.

B. Results of different positions

By applying the position factor in eqn (4), we obtain voltage distribution at any observation point: $v'_p = v_p C_a$; then an off-center observation point can be considered in this way. We have moved the observation points to new positions, and the new points P'_1 , P'_2 , and P'_3 are located in (30, 50, 380), (225, 80, 380), and (150, 50, 100).

Figure 5(a) shows the SE at P'_1 , and we can see that the SE at P'_1 is about 5 dB higher than at P_1 , indicating that the off-center point has a better SE.

Figure 5(b) shows the SE at P'_2 . Unlike the case of P'_1 , the SE of P'_2 is very close to P_2 . Since TE_{10} is the main mode in Enclosure 2, it leads to a consistent voltage distribution in the y-axis direction.

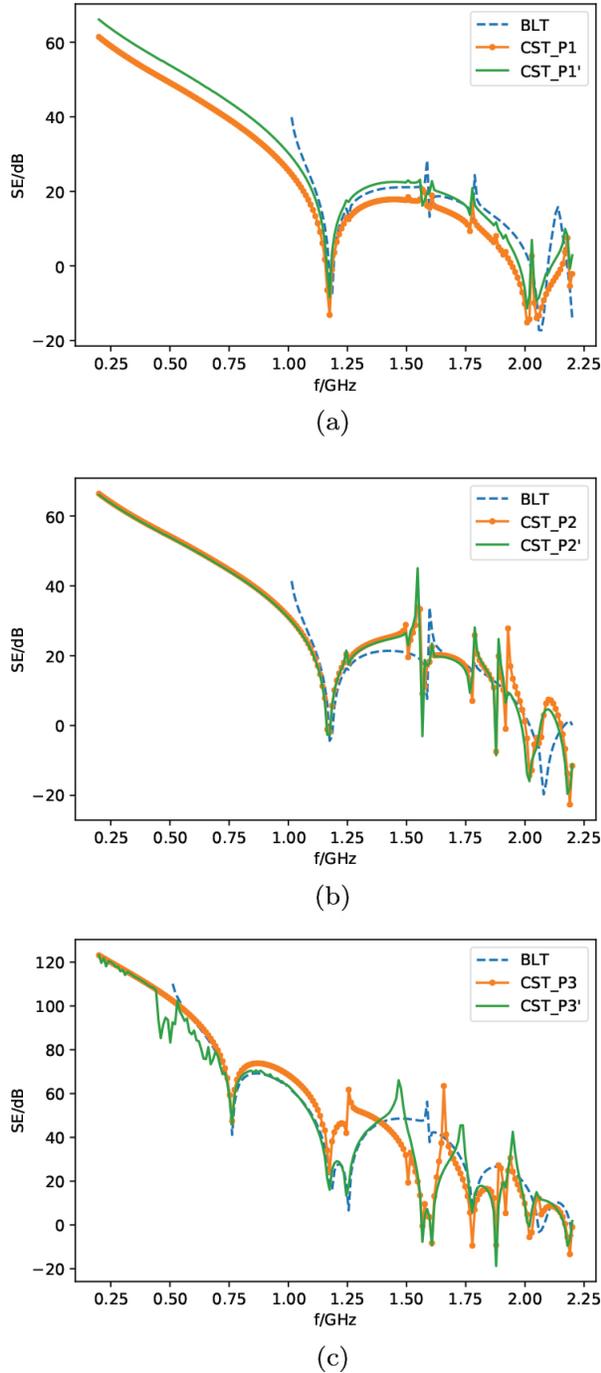


Fig. 5. Comparison between the SE results from P_1' , P_2' , and P_3' with the same position and the original position P_1 , P_2 , and P_3 of CST.

Figure 5(c) shows the SE at P_3' . We vary the z coordinate by changing d in the propagation matrix. It can be observed that the results of SE for the same enclosure differ greatly between two different monitor points.

All cases were calculated on the same computer running a 2.2-GHz Intel i7-8750 CPU. The CST takes 25–30 minutes for a simulation with 200 frequency points, while the fast algorithm takes no more than 0.2 seconds for the same case, indicating the high computational efficiency of the fast algorithm compared to the CST simulation.

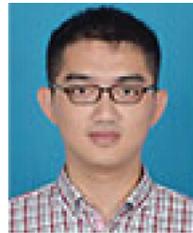
IV. CONCLUSION

In this paper, we propose a fast algorithm based on EMT theory and the BLT equation to analyze the shielding performance of an apertured triple enclosure illuminated by an external plane wave. We derive a double three-port scattering matrix to describe the coupling relationship of the triple enclosure. By introducing the position factor c_a , the SE and resonances at any observation point can be easily predicted. Several observation points are presented to demonstrate the validity and accuracy of the algorithm. The proposed method has a good agreement with numerical method over a wide frequency range, while it can significantly improve the computation speed. This algorithm also proves that the BLT equation can handle complex enclosures by changing the EMT relationship.

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