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Wave Propagation in High Impedance Surfaces MICHAEL PETRAS, Freescale Semiconductor, RAMAMURTHY RAMPRASAD, University of Connecticut — High impedance (hi) surfaces are artificially structured surfaces that form a sub-class of 2-d photonic band gap (pbg) materials. An interesting feature of metallo-dielectric hi surfaces is the presence of a surface Electromagnetic (em) band gap at frequencies where the wavelength is larger than the lattice dimension—a feature absent in all-dielectric pbg materials. Due to this “sub-wavelength” behavior, effective medium theories (emt) can be used to describe their dispersion characteristics. A general emt framework has been developed, and a new mechanism to describe the occurrence of band gaps in hi surfaces is presented. It is shown that the eigenmode of a surface em wave at any frequency can be written as a linear combination of two “pure” modes: a backward mode that propagates below the surface, and a forward mode that resides on the surface. At the band gap frequencies these two modes cancel, resulting in no propagation. It is anticipated that this model will be a powerful tool for understanding and exploring a large class of periodic systems.

Michael Petras
Freescale Semiconductor

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