Worst-Case Model for Considering Gaskets in Calculation of Shielding Effectiveness of Metallic Enclosures

Dzmitry Tsyanenka¹, Yauheni Arlou¹,², Eugene Sinkevich¹
¹ EMC R&D Laboratory, Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics, Minsk, Belarus, emc@bsuir.by
² Faculty of Radiophysics and Computer Technologies, Belarusian State University, Minsk, Belarus, emc@bsuir.by

Abstract — Wideband worst-case model for estimation of effectiveness of electric and magnetic fields shielding by a metallic enclosure is developed. The model is intended to take into account a contribution of EMI gaskets that are mounted in gaps, joins between metal skin plates, and other apertures presented in a system (e.g., aircraft, ship, vehicle) body. The model is based on the generalization of the analytical model of electromagnetic field shielding by a metallic enclosure with combined walls (containing apertures of various shapes); this provides a high computational efficiency in the wide frequency band. Influence of the gasket structure and geometry on the shielding effectiveness is analyzed for the following high-usage gasket types: stamped or formed solid metal gaskets, gaskets in form of metal spring fingers, and knitted wire mesh. Validation of the developed model is carried out by comparison of results obtained in framework of the model with results of numerical simulations. For the validation, the ratios of the wavelength to the maximum dimension of the aperture with gasket are taken in the range from 1 to 1000.

Keywords—electromagnetic shielding; EMI gaskets, waveguide theory; wave diffraction, Q-factor

I. INTRODUCTION

There are openings of any kinds in aircrafts fuselages, ship hulls, cab bodies, and equipment cases [1] – [3]. An adequate method to provide a required shielding effectiveness when apertures are present in enclosure walls is the use of gaskets made from conducting materials (EMI gaskets) [1] – [4]. The choice of the gasket shape and type, mounting place, and bonding technique is defined by set of requirements described in [1] – [3].

The analysis of the EMI gaskets properties for calculation of the shielding effectiveness of system bodies and equipment cases is necessary for the express analysis of intrasystem EMC of electronic on-board systems [4], [5] as well as for the estimation of immunity to the external electromagnetic disturbance [6], for example, an illumination of the system by Ultra-Wideband (UWB) Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP).

The model of a gasket should satisfy the following requirements: it must be wideband, have worst-case behavior and high computational efficiency, and take into account a wide set of practically-important parameters.

There is a wide variety of techniques to measure the shielding effectiveness of components containing the shielding gaskets including standard methods [7] – [9] and their variations [10] – [12]. The standardized methods, however, cannot always be used because they need well-defined samples that are impossible to make in many cases [1], [3]. In practice, measurements should be carried out in the wide frequency band [8] and takes into account various conditions such as surface finishing, corrosion [13], compression forces [14] etc. Computational electromagnetics methods [15], [16] are weakly productive for the solving of the problems because there are a big number of varying parameters that leads to high computation burden.

The objective of this work is to develop an analytical model for estimation of the gasket influence on the shielding effectiveness of the metallic enclosure with apertures in the walls; the model must satisfy the requirements given above.

II. PHYSICAL MODEL OF SHIELDING BY RECTANGULAR METALLIC ENCLOSURE WITH APERTURE IN WALL IN PRESENCE OF GASKET

A shielding enclosure is defined as a rectangular parallelepiped of dimension $a \times b \times c$ with an aperture in wall (Figure. 1). The aperture has a shape of a slot with the length $l$ and the width $w$. The walls of thickness $h$ are made from a conducting material with conductivity $\sigma$, and relative permeability $\mu$. A system environment is air with relative permittivity $\varepsilon = 1$. The Pointing vector of the incident plane electromagnetic wave is perpendicular to the wall of the shielding enclosure with the aperture. A polarization of the incident wave is defined by the electric field vector, which is perpendicular to the longest side of the slot that provides the worst-case behavior of the model.

The shielding effectiveness for electric and magnetic components $S_{E/H}$ of the electromagnetic field is defined by the ratio of field amplitudes in an observation point when the shield is absent to field amplitudes in this point in the case of shield presence (as a rule, it is expressed in dB) [1], [4]:

$$S_E = 20\log \left( \frac{|E|}{|E_0|} \right) \quad S_H = 20\log \left( \frac{|H|}{|H_0|} \right) \quad (1)$$
where $|E'|$ is the electric field amplitude in the shielded zone; $|E_0|$ is the incident electric field amplitude; $|H'|$ and $|H_0|$ are the corresponding amplitudes of the magnetic fields.

Contribution of the gasket to the shielding effectiveness is defined as follows: at first, the initial shielding effectiveness of the enclosure with the slot $S_{E(I)0}$ is calculated, at second, the shielding effectiveness of the enclosure when the gasket is installed in the slot $S_{E(I)G}$ is obtained, and, finally, the difference between $S_{E(I)G}$ and $S_{E(I)0}$ is calculated:

$$S_{E(I)G} = S_{E(I)I} - S_{E(I)0}. \quad (2)$$

In framework of the model, three basic types of conductive gaskets are considered. The first type is a solid-metal gasket, the second type is the model of the gasket in form of a metal spring fingers, and the third type is the model of the gasket in form of knitted wire mesh. Parameters of the gasket models of these types are presented in Figures 2 – 4.

To develop the model, a rectangular waveguide of dimension $a \times c$ is assigned to the cavity inside the shielding enclosure [17]. The waveguide cutoff frequency is $f_c = c / (2 \text{max}(a, c))$ (see Figure 1). Propagation constant $\gamma$ and characteristic impedance $Z_w$ for a lossless waveguide are defined by formulas [18]:

$$\gamma = \frac{2 \pi f}{c} \sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{f_c}{f}\right)^2}, \quad Z_w = Z_0 \sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{f_c}{f}\right)^2}, \quad (3)$$

where $Z_0 = 120 \pi$ is characteristic impedance of free space.

In all of cases, the conductivity of the gasket material is $\sigma_2$, relative permeability is $\mu_2$ and relative permittivity of the dielectric used as filling material is $\varepsilon_2$.

III. WORST-CASE MODEL OF SHIELDING BY MULTILAYER STRUCTURE

To develop the model of the shielding effectiveness of gaskets it is necessary to consider the electromagnetic field propagation through the multilayer structure (Figure 5). Reflection coefficient at the boundary of layers with the characteristic impedances $Z_i$ and $Z_j$ ($i$ and $j = i + 1$ are the layer numbers) is defined by formula [21]:

$$R_{ij} = \left(\frac{Z_i - Z_j}{Z_i + Z_j}\right). \quad (4)$$

Reverberation components arising due to multiple reflections inside the enclosure and Line of Sight (LOS) fields [20] determine the worst-case model when the slot in the illuminated wall is open. In presence of the gasket, the contribution of LOS-fields is negligible small for the frequency band under consideration (from 1 MHz to 3 GHz).

There are no absorbers inside the shielded zone and energy losses are defined by radiation leaving the cavity though the walls only, so an intrinsic Q-factor of the system ($Q_o$) can be defined in terms of the shielding effectiveness of the enclosure walls [19]: $Q_o = 2 \pi \cdot 10^{(S_f / 20)}$, where $S_f$ is the shielding effectiveness of the front (illuminated) wall and $S_b$ is the shielding effectiveness of the back wall.
In accordance with the energy conservation law, the following equation is true for absolute values of the transmission $T_{ij}$ and reflection $R_{ij}$ coefficients:

$$|R_{ij}|^2 + |T_{ij}|^2 = 1. \tag{5}$$

For the given value of $E_0$ in the initial medium (air), one can obtain the value of $E_1$ at the boundary of layers with numbers 0 and 1 inside the layer of number 1: $E_1 = T_{01}E_0$. The amplitude of the electric field vector decreases due to the propagation in the layer of number 1, when the propagation constant $\gamma_1$ has a complex value (the layer of number 1 has certain conductivity or it is below cutoff waveguide). Taking into account the multiple reflections from the first and the second boundaries of the first layer, one can write for the amplitude $E_2$ in the layer of number 2 (at the second boundary) the following formula [19]:

$$E_2 = \frac{\exp(-i\gamma_1 x_1)T_{12}E_0}{1 - R_{01}R_{12}\exp(-2i\gamma_1 x_1)}, \tag{6}$$

where the formula for the sum of decreasing geometric series with the geometric ratio $q = R_{01}R_{12}\exp(-2i\gamma_1 x_1)$ is used.

The following notations are introduced:

$$T_i = \frac{\exp(-i\gamma_i x_i)T_{i+1}T_{i-1}}{1 - R_{i-1}R_{i+1}\exp(-2i\gamma_i x_i)}, \quad R_i = \pm\sqrt{1 - T_i^2}, \tag{7}$$

where $T_i$ and $R_i$ are the effective transmission and effective reflection coefficients corresponding to the layer of number 1.

By the use of notation (7), value of $E_3$ can be written in the form:

$$E_3 = \frac{\exp(-i\gamma_3 x_3)\exp(-i\gamma_2 x_3)T_{03}T_{23}E_0}{(1 - R_{01}R_{12}\exp(-2i\gamma_1 x_1))(1 - R_{12}R_{23}\exp(-2i\gamma_2 x_2))}, \tag{8}$$

or $E_3 = T_1T_2E_0$ where $T_2 = \frac{\exp(-i\gamma_2 x_2)T_{23}}{1 - R_{12}R_{23}\exp(-2i\gamma_2 x_2)}$.

By iteration of the described steps, the following result for multilayer structure consisting of $n$ layers is obtained:

$$E_{n+1} = E_0\prod_{i=1}^{n}T_i, \quad T_i = \frac{\exp(-i\gamma_i x_i)T_{i+1}T_{i-1}}{1 - R_{i-1}R_{i+1}\exp(-2i\gamma_i x_i)}, \quad R_{i-1} = \pm\sqrt{1 - \left(\prod_{k=0}^{i-1}T_k\right)^2}, i > 1. \tag{9}$$

The result analogous to (9) can be written for the magnetic field component $H$ of the electromagnetic wave when the incident plane wave in the initial medium is considered [22]. Proposed iterative method for the shielding effectiveness calculation of the multilayer structure based on formulas (9), formulas for the magnetic field component, and formulas (1) takes into account the contribution of all multiple reflected waves from all of boundaries between the layers. For cases, which are important in practice, each layer provides a sufficient attenuation of wave amplitude by the propagation. So, formulas (9) can be simplified since the contribution of the multiple reflected waves arising only in the nearest layer is considered for the field amplitude calculation at the boundary. The simplified formula for the shielding effectiveness of the multilayer structure takes the form:

$$S_{ml} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} S_i, \tag{10}$$

where $S_i$ is the shielding effectiveness of the layer with number $i$ calculated by the use of (7) with substitution of values $T_{i-1}, R_{i-1}, T_{i+1}, R_{i+1}$, and $R_{i-1}$ that are defined by (4) and (5) for the front and back boundaries of the layer.

**IV. WORST-CASE ESTIMATION OF SHIELDING EFFECTIVENESS OF GASKETS**

**A. Model of Solid Metal Gasket**

The choice of the worst-case model of the solid metal gasket in the form presented in Figure 2 is based on the following features of its application and mounting. Firstly, as for the size and surface finishing of the solid metal gasket, they must satisfy to the high quality class. The shape of the solid metal gasket must precisely correspond to the shape of placement location. In practice, to provide the tight joint of the enclosures, the additional gasket must be used. Secondly, when the solid metal gasket is operated in corrosive environment, the insulating oxide film arises at its surface. Therefore, two narrow slots instead of the one wide slot are considered in framework of solid metal gasket model.

Method of combined wall [19] is used to calculate the shielding effectiveness in the framework of the developed model. This method is based on the calculation of electromagnetic wave energy penetrating inside the enclosure through the non-uniform wall consisting of regions. For the
estimation of the shielding effectiveness of the illuminated wall, the following formula is used [19]:

\[ S_{f(E,H)} = -10 \log \left( \sum_{i=1}^{N} 10^{-S_{i(E,H)}/10} A_i / A_0 \right), \]  

where \( S_{i(E,H)} \) is the shielding effectiveness of the region with the number \( i \) of the area \( A_i \), \( A_0 = A_1 + A_2 + \ldots + A_n \) is the total area of the combined wall.

When the slot in the illuminated wall does not contain the gasket (initial case), only two regions are considered: the slot of the length \( l \) and the width \( w \) and the enclosure wall with the thickness \( h \), conductivity \( \sigma_1 \) and permeability \( \mu_1 \).

When the model of the solid metal gasket is considered, the combined illuminated wall consists of the following regions: two narrow slots of the length \( l \) and the width \( \Delta w \) filled by dielectric of permittivity \( \varepsilon_2 \); the solid gasket of the thickness \( h \) made from the metal of conductivity \( \sigma_2 \) and permeability \( \mu_2 \); the remaining area of the illuminated wall is the enclosure wall with parameters given above.

The model of below cutoff waveguide is used for description of the slots shielding effectiveness \( S_{a(E,H)} \) (index \( m \) corresponds to the regions compared to the slots). The shielding effectiveness of the slot is calculated by the use of formulas (1) and (7) when the initial medium is air, and the final environment is the waveguide compared to the cavity inside the enclosure with propagation constant and characteristic impedance defined by (3). Propagation constant \( \gamma \), and characteristic impedance \( Z_\gamma \) of the below cutoff waveguide associated to the slots are calculated by formula (3) by substitution the slot dimensions \( (l \text{ and } w \text{ (or } \Delta w)) \) and velocity \( v = c/\sqrt{\varepsilon_2} \). The shielding effectiveness of the solid wall is calculated according to the model developed in [23].

The shielding effectiveness of the enclosure with the gasket in aperture is estimated on the basis of the deterministic and the worst-case models of the shielding effectiveness [19] for the observation points inside the enclosure. The worst-case model of the reverberation components AFC in the high-frequency band is defined by the line connecting amplitudes at resonance frequencies obtained in framework of the deterministic model. The intrinsic Q-factor of the enclosure is defined by the shielding effectiveness \( S_{f(E,H)} \) and \( S_{b(E,H)} \) of the front and back walls respectively.

The contribution of solid metal gasket to the shielding effectiveness is defined by formula (2). The comparison of results obtained in framework of developed model and results of numerical simulation by FDTD and MOM methods is presented in Figure 6. Parameters of modeling are: \( a = b = 0.3 \text{ m; } c = 0.12 \text{ m; } l = 0.1 \text{ m}, \) \( h = w = 16 \text{ mm; } \Delta w = 1 \text{ mm. Enclosure wall material is aluminum. The material of the gasket is brass. Dielectric inside the slot is air.}\)

As it is shown in the Figure 6, the use of the gasket in the form of solid metal does not decrease the field level at the frequencies corresponding to the cavity resonances. Since the enclosure intrinsic Q-factor depends on the shielding effectiveness of its walls, the more the shielding effectiveness the less energy flow penetrates through the walls and the more energy is accumulated inside the cavity. Therefore, the values of the field amplitude at resonances in the case of gasket presence can exceed the values in the case of the gasket absence when the enclosure has high Q-factor.

The influence of compression forces to the shielding effectiveness is negligible small for this type of gasket [14].

B. Model of Gasket in Form of Metal Spring Fingers

The model presented in Figure 3 contains a two-dimension periodic structure. For calculation the shielding effectiveness of such structure one can obtain the special form of formula (11). Let’s consider a system consisting of two regions with the shielding effectiveness \( S_1 \) and \( S_2 \) of areas \( A_i \) and \( A_2 \) respectively. The whole area of combined wall is \( A_0 \) and the incident flux density is \( p_0 \). The energy penetrating through the two regions of combined wall \( p_1 A_1 + p_2 A_2 \) defines the shielding effectiveness that calculated by formula:

\[ S_{1(E,H)} = -10 \log \left( \frac{p_1 A_1 + p_2 A_2}{A_0} \right), \]  

When the combined wall consists of \( N \) identical elements of area \( A_i \) (for example, \( N \) identical apertures that are below cutoff waveguide), the formula of shielding effectiveness takes the form:

\[ S_{N(E,H)} = -10 \log \left( \frac{N p_1 A_1 + p_2 (A_0 - N A_1)}{p_0 A_0} \right), \]
Therefore, the correction used for accounting the number of apertures is as follows:

\[
S_N(E,H) = -10 \lg N - 10 \lg \left( \frac{1 + K_{12}(A_b/(N A_b) - 1)}{1 + K_{12}(A_b/A_b - 1)} \right),
\]  

(14)

where \( K_{12} = p_2 / p_1 = 10^{0.1(S_1 - S_2)} \).

The structure under consideration (Figure 3) consists of the solid metallic wall and the periodical structure. The first region of periodic structure is the rectangular aperture (described by below cutoff waveguide) and the second region is multilayer, which consist of two thick metallic walls (front and back) and cylindrical waveguide (cutoff frequency is \( f_{sw} = c \eta_1 / (2\pi \cdot r \sqrt{\epsilon_2}), \eta_1 = 1.8412 \)).

The additional to (14) correction factor is introduced for the periodic structure calculation. This factor is described by the summand \( K_3 = 20 \lg(tanh(P / 8.69)), P = \exp(-\gamma h) \) [24], where \( P \) characterizes the attenuation by propagation in aperture considered as below cutoff waveguide.

Calculation of the shielding effectiveness is performed by the use of formulas (9), (14) and (11) for the given set of the gasket parameters: \( n = \Delta n = 5 \) mm, \( r = 7.5 \) mm, \( t = 0.5 \) mm, (gasket is made from brass). Initial parameters of the enclosure and the slot are the same as in previous case (see subsection IV.A). Comparison of the results obtained in framework of the developed model with results of simulation by FDTD and MOM [25] methods is presented in Figure 7.

The effect of the shielding effectiveness increasing near the resonant frequency \( f_{cw} = 11.72 \) GHz of the cylindrical waveguide compared to rings noted in [26] is not analyzed because the maximum modeling frequency is 3 GHz.

The shielding effectiveness of the gasket in form of metal spring fingers increases with the increase of the compression forces because the slot width and ring radius are decreased.

\[ S_{N(E,H)} = -10 \lg N + 10 \lg(1 + K_{12}(N - 1)), \]  

(15)

C. Model of Gasket in Form of Wire Mesh

The model of the shielding effectiveness of the gasket in the form of wire mesh (see Figure 4) is based on the consideration of the multilayer structure (section III) and the model of combined wall. The shielding effectiveness is calculated in accordance with the technique proposed in [24] for each layer in the form of the wire mesh. It should be noted that the use of this technique provides the same results as the use of model based on formula (14) with the additional correction factor \( K_3 \). In the case of wire mesh, when the width of metallic partitions between apertures is small relative to the aperture dimension \((A_b/(N A_b) - 1 = 0)\), formula (14) takes the form:

The first shielding layer (Figure 4) is a wire mesh and the next layer is the waveguide compared to the slot in the illuminated wall. This three-dimensional periodical structure is repeated along \( Oy \) axis (see Figure 1). Since the layer in the form of the wire mesh has the sufficient shielding effectiveness, simplified formula (10) can be used for calculation of the multilayer structure shielding effectiveness. The initial medium is free space and the final environment is a waveguide compared to the cavity inside the enclosure.

Validation of the model for this gasket type is carried out for the following set of parameters. The wire mesh is made from the brass, the wire depth \( d = 0.4 \) mm; the mesh cell (length of the aperture) \( \Delta d = 0.36 \) mm; the number of layers in form of the mesh is \( 5 \); the distance between layers \( \Delta h = 0.36 \) mm. Parameters of enclosure with the slot are the same as in previous cases. Comparison of results obtained in framework of the model with results on numerical simulation by FDTD and MOM [25] methods is presented in Figure 8.

The presence of the compression forces leads the increasing of the shielding effectiveness for this gasket type.

Fig. 7. AFC of the contribution (2) of gasket in the form of metall spring fingers to the shielding effectiveness. Coordinates of the observation point are \((0, 150, 100) \) mm

Fig. 8. AFC of the contribution (2) of gasket in the form of the wire mesh to the shielding effectiveness. Coordinates of the observation point are \((0, 150, 100) \) mm
V. CONCLUSION

In this paper, the wideband computationally-effective worst-case model of electromagnetic field shielding by a metallic enclosure is developed for the cases when apertures in the enclosure walls are covered by gaskets. The model can be applied for estimation of intensity of the electric and magnetic components of the field inside a vehicle or ship compartment which can be approximated by rectangular waveguide and has the high Q-factor.

Models for three types of EMI gaskets are considered. Gaskets in form of stamped or formed metal plates are used when stationary joint between system body elements must be provided. Gaskets in the form of metal spring fingers and knitted wire mesh can be used as for stationary mounting as well as for sealing of slots subjected to dynamic forces, for example, slots around the edges of doors and hatches.

Comparison of the results obtained in the framework of the developed model with the results of numerical simulation shows the sufficient accuracy (about 10 dB in low-frequency band) of the model for cases of the solid metal gasket and the gasket in form of metal spring fingers.

Further development of the model can be associated with consideration of the energy absorption inside the compartments in order to introduce realistic value of Q-factor. The analysis of other gasket types, including gaskets that provide the increase in the shielding effectiveness by energy absorption, is an actual problem, too.

References
