



STANFORD

*Supplementary Lecture 4B*

# Waveguide Channels

**JOHN M. CIOFFI**

Hitachi Professor Emeritus (recalled) of Engineering

Instructor EE379A – Winter 2026

# Announcements & Agenda

- Goals
  - Familiarize, or reacquaint, interested students/researchers to obtain an  $H(f)$  for a waveguide
  - Permit construction of real or complex baseband-equivalent channels for analysis.

This is second of 3 short lectures online

S4A: Transmission Line

**S4B: Waveguide**

S4C: Wireless (with antennas)

- Topics
  - Filtered AWGN
  - Waveguide cutoff frequency and model
  - Transfer function
  - Non-coherent special case
  - Coax as 2-port

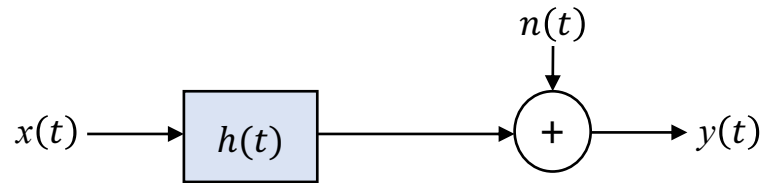


# Finding $H(f)$

## Section 1.3.8

# Computation of $H(f)$

- **Channel filter**  $h(t) \leftrightarrow H(f)$  from electromagnetic modelling.

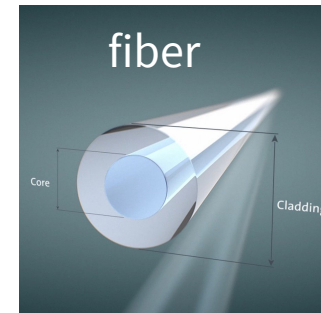
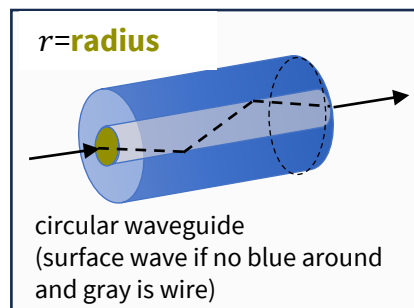
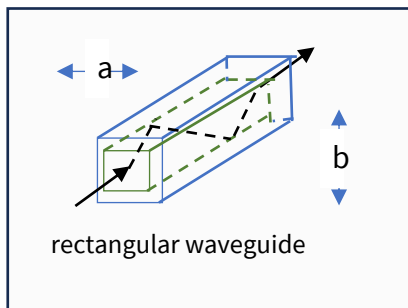


- **Noise:** AWGN often specifies a PSD, like -174 dBm/Hz
  - This is room temperature noise  $k \cdot T$  (Boltzman constant x Kelvin temperature).
  - Often ADC quantization and/or background noises lifts this to numbers like -150 dBm/Hz , or “noise figure” in dB increases this level
  - Unrelated radio noises can “color” the noise (must measure  $S_{noise}(f)$ ) and then can model with noise-whitening receiver that changes  $H(f) \leftrightarrow S_{noise}^{-1/2}(f) \cdot H(f)$



# Waveguides (metallic & fiber)

- Waveguides are intermediate to wireline and wireless.
  - There is a single "wire" (which is not necessarily metal, e.g. fiber).



- Cutoff-frequency (wavelength small enough to fit), so high/band-pass!

$$\omega_{c,rect} = \pi \cdot c \cdot \sqrt{\left(\frac{m}{a}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{n}{b}\right)^2} \text{ and}$$

$$\omega_{c,circ} = \frac{c}{r} \cdot \chi'_{m,n} \text{ for TE}_{m,n}$$

$$= \frac{c}{r} \cdot \chi_{m,n} \text{ for TM}_{m,n} ,$$

$m$	$n$	$\mathcal{J}_m(\chi_{m,n}) = 0$	$\mathcal{J}'_m(\chi'_{m,n}) = 0$
0	1	2.405	3.832
0	2	5.520	7.016
0	2	8.654	10.173
1	1	3.832	1.841
1	2	7.016	5.331
2	1	5.136	3.054
2	2	8.417	6.706
3	1	6.380	4.201

$\chi_{m,n}$  is  $n^{\text{th}}$  root/zero of  $\mathcal{J}_m$ , the  $m^{\text{th}}$  Bessel function;  
 $\chi'_{m,n}$  is derivative's  $n^{\text{th}}$  root/zero.



# Waveguide Transfer Function (Coherent passband)

$$H(\omega) = e^{-\underbrace{(\alpha + \beta(\omega))}_{\gamma} \cdot l}$$

$$\gamma = \alpha + \beta(\omega)$$

- Length is  $l$ ,  $\gamma$  works same as transmission line formulas, so can sometimes reuse trans-line 2 ports.
- $\alpha$  is attenuation (tabulated for waveguides, like 0.05 dB/m, usually a constant over passband in use (min at 1.55  $\mu m$  for fiber)).
- $\beta$  is wave number and is a function of frequency, group distortion (min at 1.3  $\mu m$  for fiber).

$$\beta_{m,n}(\omega) = \sqrt{\left(\frac{\omega}{c}\right)^2 - \left(\frac{m\pi}{a}\right)^2 - \left(\frac{n\pi}{b}\right)^2}$$

rectangular waveguide

$$\beta_{m,n}(\omega) = \frac{\omega}{c} \cdot \sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{\omega_{cut}(m,n)}{\omega}\right)^2}$$

circular waveguide

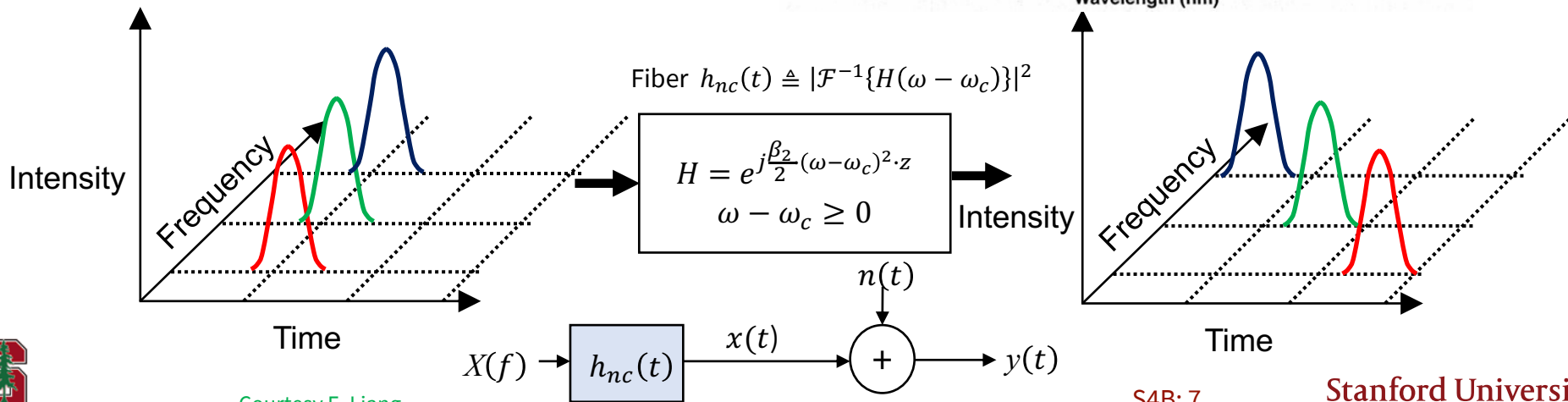
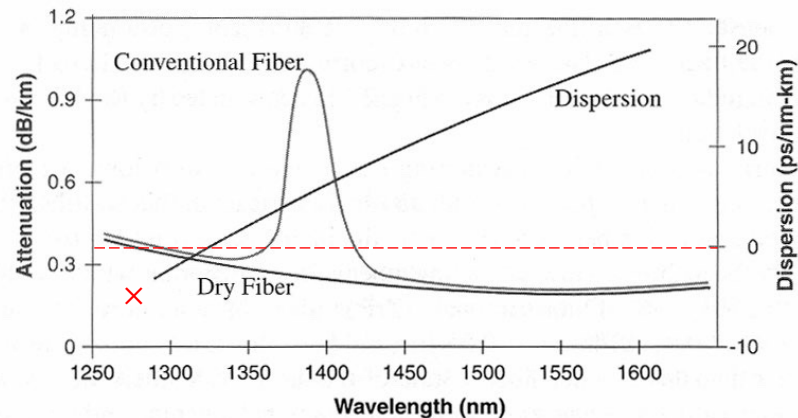
$$v_g = c \cdot \sqrt{1 - (\omega_c/\omega)^2}$$



# Multimode Fiber Channel – noncoherent/baseband

## Fiber Chromatic Dispersion

- Group Delay:
  - $T_g(\omega) \approx L\beta_1 + L\beta_2(\omega - \omega_c) + \dots$
  - $\beta_1, \beta_2$ : power series coefficients of  $\beta(\omega)$
- Focus is primarily on  $\lambda = 1270$  nm:
  - $D(1270 \text{ nm}) \approx -4 \text{ ps}/(\text{nm} \cdot \text{km})$
  - $D = -\frac{2\pi c}{\lambda^2} \cdot \beta_2$
  - Negative Dispersion  $\rightarrow$  Positive  $\beta_2$
- With no amplifier, AWGN
  - With optical amplifier, the AWGN gets squared too.



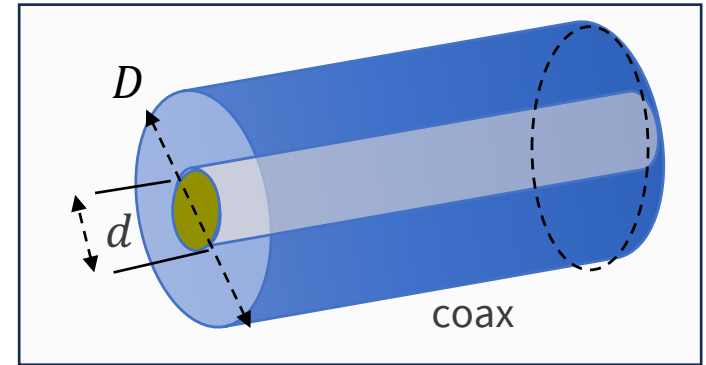
Courtesy E. Liang

S4B: 7

Stanford University

# Coax as 2-port transmission line

- Use  $\gamma = \alpha + j \cdot \beta(\omega)$
- $Z_0 = \frac{1}{2\pi} \cdot \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{\epsilon}} \cdot \ln\left(\frac{D}{d}\right) = \frac{60\Omega}{\sqrt{\epsilon_r}} \cdot \ln\left(\frac{D}{d}\right)$



$$\Phi_i = \begin{bmatrix} \cosh(\gamma_i \cdot l_i) & Z_{0i} \cdot \sinh(\gamma_i \cdot l_i) \\ Z_{0i}^{-1} \cdot \sinh(\gamma_i \cdot l_i) & \cosh(\gamma_i \cdot l_i) \end{bmatrix}$$

- For fiber, not this easy – model includes optical-electrical conversion.







# End Supplementary Lecture 4B