



**DESIGN OPTIMIZATION OF MICROWAVE
ABSORBERS USING WASTE MATERIALS FOR
ELECTROMAGNETIC COMPATIBILITY
APPLICATIONS**

By

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
DECLARATION OF THESIS	i
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	ii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	iii
LIST OF FIGURES	viii
LIST OF TABLES	xiii
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xiv
LIST OF SYMBOLS	xvii
ABSTRAK	xix
ABSTRACT	xx
CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION	
1.1 Background	1
1.2 EMC Oriented Study of Absorbers	2
1.3 Problem statement	3
1.4 Objective of the Study	4
1.5 Outline of the Strategy	5
1.6 Limitations of the Study	5
1.7 Thesis Organization	6
CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW	
2.1 Modern EMI Sources and EMC	8
2.1.1 Origin and Coupling of EMI	10

2.1.2	EMC or Control of EMI	11
2.1.3	Control of Conductive Coupling	11
2.1.4	Control of Radiated EMI	12
2.1.5	EMC Test Facilities	13
2.2	Physics of EMC Absorbers	14
2.2.1	Narrow Band EMC Absorbers	15
2.2.2	Broadband EMC Performance	17
2.2.3	Standard Performance of EMC Absorbers	18
2.3	Modeling of the Absorbers	19
2.3.1	Modeling of Single Layer Absorber	19
2.3.2	Modeling of Multilayer Absorber	22
2.3.3	Modeling of Geometrically-Tapered Absorber	25
2.3.4	Modeling of Periodic Array of Absorbers	26
2.3.5	Design Tools	27
2.4	Materials and Design Shapes for EMC Absorbers	27
2.4.1	Magnetic Inclusions	28
2.4.2	Artificial Inclusions	29
2.4.3	Waste as Absorbing Materials	31
2.4.4	Previous Research	33
2.5	Fabrication of Microwave Absorbers	34
2.6	Dielectric Characterization	36
2.7	Evaluation of EMC Absorbers	38
2.7.1	Free-Space or Far Field Methods	38
2.7.2	Near Field Methods	39
2.8	Summary	40

CHAPTER 3 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1	Introduction	41
3.2	Measurement of the Dielectric Properties	42
3.2.1	Materials and Sample Preparation	42
3.2.2	Method for the Dielectric Characterization	44
3.2.3	Calibration Procedure	45
3.3	Design and Simulation	46
3.4	Fabrication Method for the Absorbers	48
3.4.1	Fabrication of Flat Absorbers	49
3.4.2	Fabrication of Hollow Absorbers	50
3.5	Evaluation of EMC Performance	51
3.5.1	Free Space Reflectivity Method	51
3.6	System's Noise Protection	53
3.7	Summary	55

CHAPTER 4 DIELECTRIC PROPERTIES AND WAVE PROPAGATION CHARACTERISTICS

4.1	Introduction	56
4.1	Dielectric Properties	58
4.2	Wave Attenuation Constant and Depth of Penetration	62
4.3	Phase Constant and Effective Wavelength	65
4.4	Characteristic Impedance	67
4.5	Comparison of the Samples	69
4.6	Summary	71

CHAPTER 5 DESIGN OPTIMIZATION OF FLAT MICROWAVE ABSORBERS

5.1	Introduction	72
5.2	Suppression of EM Echoes at Discrete Frequencies	73

5.3	Study of Scrap Rubber (SR) Based Absorbers	74
5.3.1	Null Point as a Function of Thickness	74
5.3.2	Behavior of Null Point Frequency with Thickness	76
5.3.3	Search for other Null Points	77
5.3.4	Suppression of Multiband EM Echoes	78
5.4	Study of Rice Husk Based Absorbers	79
5.4.1	Effect of Thickness on the Null Point	79
5.4.2	Effect of Dispersive Models	80
5.4.3	Multiband Anechoic Performance	82
5.4.4	Effect of Adhesive	84
5.5	Broadband Suppression of EM Echoes	86
5.5.1	Measurement of the Reference	87
5.6	Two-Layer Absorber	88
5.7	Three-Layer Absorber	90
5.7.1	Effect of Perforation	93
5.7.2	Effect of Seams	95
5.8	Summary	97

CHAPTER 6 DESIGN OPTIMIZATION OF GEOMETRICALLY TAPERED MICROWAVE ABSORBERS

6.1	Introduction	98
6.2	Geometrically Tapered Hollow Absorbers	99
6.2.1	Design Procedure	100
6.2.2	Numerical Study	101
6.2.3	Description of the Geometrical Details	102
6.2.4	Measured Bi-Static Reflectivity Performance	103
6.2.5	Sample Rotation And Oblique Angle Reflectivity Spectrum	105

6.2.6	Sample Drop Test	108
6.2.7	Effect of Truncated Tips	109
6.2.8	Effect of Temperature	111
6.3	Geometrically Tapered Two-Layer Absorbers	113
6.3.1	Design Concept	115
6.3.2	Impulse Response of the Design	116
6.3.3	Effect of Square Base	117
6.3.4	Measured Reflectivity Performance	118
6.4	Summary	120
CHAPTER 7 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS		
7.1	Conclusions	121
7.2	Contributions of the Study	122
7.3	Future Work	123
REFERENCES		125
APPENDICES		132
APPENDIX-A: Specification of Unsaturated Polyester Resin		132
APPENDIX-B: Specification of MEKP Curative		133
APPENDIX-C: Co-axial sensor and Horn antennas		134
APPENDIX-D: Publications		135

LIST OF FIGURES

NO.		PAGE
2.1	EM shields with the absorbing sheets for the board level EMI shielding (Laird, 2011).	13
2.2	Interaction of electromagnetic wave with a single layer of a dielectric material.	16
2.3	Practical designs schemes. (a) Gradient loss layer design. (b) Physicall or geometrically tapered design.	17
2.4	Interaction of the EM wave with a single section transmission line.	20
2.5	A single layer absorber backed by a metal plate analogous to a single section transmission line terminated in a short circuited load.	22
2.6	Illustration of a two-layer absorber besd on the transmission line theory.	23
2.7	Sketch of a unit cell of the array of pyramids, showing a gradual increase in volume and loss factor along the axis of the wave propagation.	25
2.8	Illustration of the interactions of the incident EM wave with a periodic array of pyramids.	26
2.9	(a) Rubberized pyramids for heavy traffic areas in 125 MHz to 18 GHz (b) ventilated pyramidal for HVAC ducts in 125 MHz to 18 GHz (c) low frequency pyramids with thick base for 30 MHz to 1 GHz (d) special absorbers for doors (e) walkyway steps for 250 MHz to 30 GHz (f) millimetre wave absorbers for 12 to 95 GHz (AEMI, 2011).	30
2.10	(a) CNC based special cutting saw (b) line for spray coating on the microwave absorbers (AEMI, 2011).	35
2.11	Dielectric properties measurement equipment along with the machined samples.(a) waveguide. (b) Air filled transmission line (Agilent, 2006).	37
2.12	Free-space measurement setups (FUJITSU, 2013).(a) Free-space arch method.(b) Free-space insertion loss method (Emerson & Cuming, 2013).	39
2.13	Equipment used in the near field evaluation of the absorbers.(a) Microstrip line. (b) Coupled loop (Emerson & Cuming, 2013).	40
3.1	Flow chart of the research methodology for the optimization of the EMC absorbers.	41

3.2	Material and samples for the dielectric characterization. (a) Scrap rubber powder from automobile tires (black color) and rice husk powder (brown color). (b) Rice husk based circular disc sample. (c) Scrap rubber powder based circular disc sample.	43
3.3	Equipment and setup for the measurement of dielectric properties: (a) Cylindrical, open-ended, coaxial probe; (b) Calibration load; (c) Schematic of the experimental setup.	45
3.4	Measured dielectric properties of; a) water and b) air after complete “three standard” calibration of the open ended coaxial probe.	46
3.5	Absorber model and settings of the transient solver. (a) Model after assigning waveguide port (red color) and boundary conditions. (b) Dialogue box showing the details of the electric and magnetic boundary conditions.	47
3.6	Basic settings of the template based post processing for search algorithm; (a) Settings for the 1D results. (b) Settings for the search of the null point and frequency using 0D results.	48
3.7	Flat microwave absorbers fabricated using hand lay-up method.(a) Layer by layer laid-up RH-Glue absorbing sheet.(b) Impedance graded 3-layer absorber enclosed in the mould	49
3.8	Fabrication of hollow pyramidal absorbers.(a) Hollow absorbers during the fabrication process. (b) Dummy pyramids. (c) Fabricated hollow absorbers.	50
3.9	Schematics of the experimental details of the two-antenna, free-space reflectivity measurement method using S_{21} parameter: (a) Measurement of the reflected signal from the metal plate used as a calibration reference; (b) Measurement of the reflected signal from the absorber placed on the reference metal plate.	52
3.10	Inside environment of mini-anechoic chamber.(a) Wall of shielded enclosure. (b) Flat microwave absorber to cover the metallic antenna stand	54
3.11	Noise protection. (a) Power line filters for filtered power supply. (b) Entry- wallet for signal cables equipped with well-terminated coaxial connectors.	54
4.1	An illustration of wave-matter interaction and energy balance.	56
4.2	Frequency spectrum of dielectric properties of samples; (a and b) SR-UPR composites. (c and d) RH-Glue composites.(e and f) RH-UPR composites. (g and h) SR-Glue composites	60
4.3	Behavior of wave attenuation and depth of penetration. (a and b) SR-UPR composites.(c and d) RH-Glue composites. (e and f) RH-UPR composites. (g and h) SR-Glue composites	63
4.4	Calculated values of phase constant and effective wavelength. (a and b) SR-UPR composites.(c and d) RH-UPR composites.(e and f) RH-Glue composites. (g and h) SR-Glue composites.	66

4.5	Behavior of the characteristic impedance. (a) SR-UPR composite. (b) RH-UPR composite. (c) RH-Glue composite.(d) SR-Glue composite.	68
4.6	Measured dielectric properties of the RH-UPR composite as a function of RH filler loading in the frequency range of 2 to 10 GHz. (a) Dielectric constant. (b) Dielectric loss factor.	70
4.7	Crack formation in the RH-UPR 5 mm (on left) and 10 mm (right) composites composed of > 60 % loading of RH.	70
5.1	Effect of thickness of SR-UPR absorbing structure on the null point values for $SR(wt.%) = 50$ and 60 .	75
5.2	Effect of absorbing material thickness on the null point frequency.	76
5.3	Results of the search for other null points as a function of thickness in the frequency range of 2 to 20 GHz. (a) The values of the 2 nd null points. (b) The frequencies at the 2 nd null points.	77
5.4	Multiband reflectivity performance of SR-UPR based absorbers as a function of frequency at different thicknesses. (a) For 50 % SR loading. (b) For 60 % SR loading.	78
5.5	Effect of thickness of RH-Glue based microwave absorbing composites on the null point values for the $RH(wt.%) = 40$ and 50 .	79
5.6	Effect of thickness on the null point frequency of the of the RH-Glue based microwave absorbing composites for $RH(wt.%) = 40$ and 50 .	80
5.7	Fitted dispersion models for the complex permittivity for the RH Glue composite having $RH(wt.%) = 50$.	81
5.8	Reflectivity performance as a function of the thickness of the RH-Glue based composite material at the center frequencies of the S, C, X and K _u bands. (a) 1 st order model. (b) 2 nd order fitted model.	82
5.9	Multiband reflectivity performance of 50 % RH loaded RH-Glue composite absorber. (a) Performance in S and C bands. (b) Performance in 5 GHz WLAN band.	83
5.10	Reflectivity performance of RH-Glue composite absorbers in other bands; (a) S band around 3.28 GHz. (b) C band around 7.65 GHz.	83
5.11	Results of the null point algorithm for 70 % RH loaded RH-UPR composite. (a)Null point values. (b) Null point frequencies as a function of thickness.	85
5.12	Reflectivity performance of the composites composed of RH with two different adhesives. (a) Thickness $t = 24.8$ mm.(b) Thickness $t = 45.8$ mm.	85
5.13	Flat absorbers installed in anechoic chambers to reduce the corner reflections.	87

5.14	Comparison of the reflection loss as a function of frequency of the incident wave for three different metals.	88
5.15	Arrangement of layers in two-layer absorber. (a) High loss front layer. (b) Low loss front layer.	89
5.16	Reflectivity performance of two-layer absorber with different arrangements of absorbing layers. (a) Simulation results. (b) Measured results.	89
5.17	The arrangement of the three layers in a three-layer, graded-impedance microwave absorbers composed of RH lossy filler.	90
5.18	Measured reflectivity performance of 27 mm thick multilayer absorber composed of RH-UPR at normal and off normal incidence angles.	91
5.19	Measured reflectivity performance of 39 mm thickness absorber composed of RH-UPR. (a) TE polarization case. (b) TM polarization case.	92
5.20	(a) Electric field distribution for a single slot, multiple circular and square holes. (b) A circularly holed structure and its parameters.	93
5.21	(a) Reflectivity performance of the circularly holed-absorber for normal and off-normal incident angles. (b) A circularly holed impedance graded absorbers.	94
5.22	Effect of seams on the reflectivity of the impedance graded microwave absorber composed of RH. (b) Illustration of the absorber and seam of $w = 10\text{ mm}$, 20 mm , $l = 300\text{ mm}$ and $t = 40\text{ mm}$.	95
5.23	Numerical results of the reflectivity of the impedance graded absorber. (a) Frequency response of reflectivity (above 6 GHz) with different seams. (b) Variation in the reflectivity as a function of seam size.	96
6.1	Wave interaction with geometrically-tapered absorbers. (a) Solid absorbers. (b) Hollow absorbers.	99
6.2	Results of the numerical study of the RH-UPR based geometrically tapered absorbers.	102
6.3	Geometrical details of a unit cell in a 3×3 array of hollow, pyramidal, microwave absorbers fabricated by using rice husks: (a) Pyramid height and angle; (b) base length and width.	103
6.4	Bi-static, normal reflectivity performance of a 6 mm thick walled hollow pyramidal absorber with reference to a metal plate.	104
6.5	Measured normal reflectivity performance of the 10 mm thick walled hollow pyramidal absorbers with the ratio of thickness to quarter wavelength.	105

6.6	The oblique angle reflectivity performance of the rice husk-based, hollow structures in TM polarization at 20° and 45° incident angles: (Effect of rice-husk base is also shown).	106
6.7	Oblique angle reflectivity performance of a 5 mm thick rice husk-based, hollow structures in TE polarization at incident angles of 20° and 45°.	107
6.8	Oblique angle performance of 10 mm thick walled hollow pyramidal absorbers at 45° angle of incidence.	108
6.9	Physical damage after the sample drop test. (a) Effect of resin contents greater than RH filler. (b) Thin walled (6 mm) absorber composed of high contents (greater than 70 %). (c) Thick walled (10 mm) absorber composed of high contents (greater than 70 %).	109
6.10	Complete impulse response of the wave-absorber interaction.	110
6.11	Impulse response of the tips of the hollow pyramidal absorbers.	110
6.12	Effect of temperature on the tips of the 10 mm thick walled (on left) and 5 mm thin walled (right) hollow absorbers. A square and circle in red color are drawn to highlight the crack and damaged tip due to temperature.	112
6.13	Effect of temperature on the reflectivity performance of the hollow pyramidal absorbers.	112
6.14	Characteristics of the two waste materials as a function of frequency based on the measured dielectric properties: (a) Attenuation constant; (b) Depth of penetration.	113
6.15	(a) Magnitude of normalized characteristic impedance and reflected power from the RHC and RTC composites. (b) Attenuated power for different thicknesses of RHC (red and blue color) and RTC (black color).	114
6.16	Illustration of the clad, pyramidal microwave absorber and wave interaction at the interfaces.	115
6.17	Impulse response of RHC clad and SRC clad absorbers showing a brief input signal and reflections from the tips, base, and metal back PEC.	116
6.18	Effect of the thickness of wall and base part: (a) Without base part with different clad thicknesses; (b) With different thicknesses of the base part at an RHC clad thickness of 12 mm.	118
6.19	Reflectivity performance of geometrically tapered two-layer RHC-clad, pyramidal absorber in an array of 3×3 for normal incidence: (a) Without base part; (b) With a 20-mm base part.	118

LIST OF TABLES

NO.		PAGE
3.1	Detail of the chemicals and the lossy fillers for the fabrication of 15 mm thick composite samples with 50 mm diameters.	43
4.1	Comparison of the depth of penetration and characteristic impedance at maximum and minimum loadings of SR and RH in 2-6 GHz.	69
6.1	A comparison of the two composite based on the RH-UPR and SR-UPR.	101

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

2-D	Two Dimensional
A-1	Arrangement 1
A-2	Arrangement 2
BL	Back Layer
CNC	Computer Numerically Controlled
CNT	Carbon Nanotubes
DUT	Devide Under Test
EM	Electromagnetic
EMC	Electromagnetic compatibility
EMI	Electromagnetic Interferenc
EMP	Electromagnetic Pulse
ESD	Electrostatic Discharge
EU	European Union
EW	Electronic Warfare
FCC	Federal Communications Commission
FD	Frequency Domain
FEM	Finite Elemnt Method
FF	Far Field
FIT	Finite Integration Technique
FL	Front Layer
FSA	Free Space Arch
FSS	Frequency Selective Surfaces
GHz	Giga Hertz

GI	Galvanized Iron
GT	Geometrically Tapered
HARP	Halpern Anti Radar Paint
HFSS	High Frequency Structure Solver
HIS	High Impedance Surfaces
IFF	Identification of Friend or Foe
IL	Insertion Loss
MEKP	Methyl Ethyl Ketone Peroxide
MIL-STD	Military Standard
MS	Mild Steel
MUT	Material Under Test
NEMP	Nuclear Electromagnetic Pulse
NP	Null Point
NPF	Null Point Frequency
NPF	Null Point Frequency
OA	One Antenna
OATS	Open Area Test Sites
PCB	Printed Circuit Board
PEC	Perfect Electric Conductor
PVA	Poly Vinyl Acetate
RADAR	Ranging and Detection
RCS	Radar Cross Section
RH	Rice Husks
RHC	Rice Husk clad
SOLT	Short Open Load Thru
SR	Scrap Rubber
SRC	Scrap Rubber composite

TE	Transverse Electric
TM	Transverse Magnetic
TRL	Thru Reflect Load
UPR	Unsaturated Polyester Resin
UWB	Ultra Wideband
VNA	Vector Network Analyzer
WG	White Glue
WLAN	Wireless Local Area Network

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LIST OF SYMBOLS

ϵ_r'	Real Part of Complex Permittivity
ϵ_r''	Imaginary Part of Complex Permittivity
γ	Wave propagation constant
α	Attenuation constant
β	Phase constant
t	Thickness
Z_{in}	Input impedance
f	Frequency
dB	Decibel
Γ	Reflection coefficient
T	Transmission coefficient
Γ_1	Reflection coefficient at first interface
λ	Wavelength
l	Length of single layer absorber
θ_i	Angle of incidence
θ_r	Angle of reflection
θ_t	Angle of transmission
μ_r	Relative permeability
ϵ_r	Relative permittivity
n_1	Refractive index of medium one
n_2	Refractive index of second medium
Z_L	Load impedance
η	Characteristic impedance
η_0	Characteristic impedance of air
η_d	Characteristic impedance of dielectric medium

ω	Angular frequency
σ_{eff}	Effective conductivity
S_{21}	Transmission S-parameter

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Reka Bentuk Pengoptimuman Hentak Ketuhar Gelombang Mikro Yang Menggunakan Bahan-Bahan Buangan Untuk Aplikasi Keserasian Electromagnetic

ABSTRAK

Penggunaan bahan-bahan yang dibuang dalam produk-produk tambah nilai sejak Amalan kebiasaan lama. Terbaru, dua sisa telah belajar untuk kegunaan mereka berpotensi dalam ketuhar gelombang mikro yang menyerap aplikasi. Salah satu daripada sisa-sisa nasi hampas (RH) dari sawah padi dan sumber semulajadi karbon, manakala satu lagi adalah getah sekerap (SR) dari tayar kereta dibuang (sumber sintetik karbon hitam). RH yang mempunyai ketumpatan pukal yang rendah ($70-110 \text{ kg/m}^3$), dan dengan itu memerlukan jumlah yang besar untuk menyimpan. Begitu juga, proses kitar semula yang sangat mahal dan kompleks diperlukan untuk guna semula SR sintetik. Pembakaran sisa-sisa, melepaskan sejumlah besar toksik karbon oksida mono (CO) dan gas karbon dioksida (CO₂) di udara. Tambahan pula, buih dielectric yang tersedia secara komersil hentak Khas menurun dalam penyelesaian karbon (grafit penggantung) sebelum, mereka boleh digunakan dalam Dewan-Dewan anechoic. Walau bagaimanapun, kedua-duanya daripada sisa-sisa mempunyai kandungan karbon yang sudah lossy, yang telah menjadikan mereka menarik bahan-bahan mentah untuk pembuatan hentak microwave kos rendah. Dalam tesis ini keserasian elektromagnet (EMC) berorientasikan kajian ketuhar gelombang mikro hentak terdiri daripada sisa-sisa dua dalam satah dan geometri tirus bentuk rongga (GT) dibentangkan. Inovatif penggunaan sisa ini dua, di hentak EMC boleh membuat sumbangan penting dalam usaha untuk menangani masalah-masalah yang berkaitan dengan pencemaran alam sekitar dan pelupusan sisa. Sebagai langkah pertama dalam kajian ini, sampel telah dicipta dalam Borang Komposit oleh mencampurkan berbeza tambahan (wt. %) daripada sisa-sisa dua, dengan kedua-dua jenis pelekat iaitu, resin poliester tak tepu (UPR) dan gam bukan toksik yang tersedia secara komersil. Sampel yang telah disediakan pada skala makmal pada suhu bilik dengan menggunakan salah satu kaedah pembuatan komposit yang paling mudah iaitu, kaedah bengkalai tangan. Dalam langkah kedua, sifat-sifat dielectric sampel diukur menggunakan sensor himpunan jalur lebar yang mudah ke atas dalam julat 2 hingga 20 GHz frekuensi. Sifat-sifat ini maka, digunakan untuk mengkaji dan menentukan ciri-ciri galangan, gelombang pelemahan hidrologi malar, fasa malar, dan kedalaman penembusan gelombang kejadian sisa lossy. Hentak microwave satah yang terdiri daripada lapisan tunggal, galangan-diberi gred dua dan reka bentuk tiga lapisan telah belajar berangka dan digunakan bagi melaksanakan eksperimen keberkesannya dalam menumpaskan kekerapan diskret (jalur sempit) dan jalur lebar elektromagnet menekankan. Nilai-nilai pembalik yang didapati berada di bawah -20 dB pada frekuensi-frekuensi yang diskret dengan prestasi sempit jalur, dalam kes hentak lapisan tunggal. Prestasi jalur lebar di bawah dB -15 telah dicapai dengan menggunakan Reka bentuk impedans-kecerunan. Hentak hollow GT telah belajar untuk menyelesaikan isu-isu yang berkaitan dengan pemasangan hentak pepejal yang sangat besar. Hentak ini direkabentuk berdasarkan gelombang pelemahan Hidrologi dan kulit kedalaman data dan prestasi EMC mereka dinilai dari segi prestasi pembalik bi-statik. Keputusan membuktikan bahawa, walaupun, hentak ini mempunyai berat badan 58% kurang dan 15% kurang ketinggian daripada penyerap pepejal, mereka disediakan standard prestasi, iaitu $< -20 \text{ dB}$. Nilai optimum dalam pecahan RH untuk hentak hollow berat badan didapati berada dalam lingkungan 35 hingga 60%, komposit keseluruhan, yang mana kerosakan struktur yang kurang diperhatikan. Prestasi penyerap yang dijumpai di bawah dB-10 walaupun pada $100 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ di dalam jalur frekuensi X. Dua lapisan Papirus Reka bentuk yang berasaskan konsep pelapisan juga dikaji bagi meningkatkan prestasi EMC frekuensi rendah hentak pepejal yang terdiri daripada getah sekerap dari tayar kereta.

Design Optimization of Microwave Absorbers Using Waste Materials for Electromagnetic Compatibility Applications

ABSTRACT

Use of discarded material in value-added products has been a common practice since long. Recently, two wastes have been studied for their potential use in microwave absorber applications. One of these wastes is rice husk (RH) from the paddy fields and is a natural source of carbon, while another is scrap rubber (SR) from discarded automobile tires (a synthetic source of carbon black). The RH has a low bulk density (70-110 kg/m³), and thus requires large volumes for storage. Likewise, a very expensive and complex recycling process is required to reuse the synthetic SR. Burning of these wastes, releases a large amount of toxic carbon mono oxide (CO) and carbon dioxide (CO₂) gases in the air. Furthermore, commercially available dielectric foam absorbers are specially dipped in a carbon solution (graphite suspension) before, they can be used in anechoic chambers. However, both of the wastes have already lossy carbon contents, which has made them attractive raw materials for the fabrication of the low cost microwave absorbers. In this thesis electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) oriented study of the microwave absorbers composed of these two wastes in planar and geometrically-tapered (GT) hollow shapes is presented. Innovative use of these two wastes, in EMC absorbers can make significant contributions in our efforts to cope with the waste disposal and the problems associated with the environmental pollution. As a first step of the study, the samples were fabricated in composite form by mixing different loadings (wt. %) of these two wastes, with the two types of adhesives i.e., unsaturated polyester resin (UPR) and a commercially available non-toxic glue. The samples were prepared on laboratory scale at room temperature by using one of the easiest composite fabrication methods i.e., hand-lay-up method. In the second step, dielectric properties of the samples were measured using an easy to use broadband co-axial sensor over the frequency range of 2 to 20 GHz. These properties were then used, to study and determine the characteristic impedance, wave attenuation constant, phase constant, and depth of penetration of the incident wave in the lossy wastes. Planar microwave absorbers composed of a single layer, impedance-graded two and three-layer designs were studied numerically and experimentally for their effectiveness in suppressing the discrete frequency (narrowband) and broadband electromagnetic echoes. The values of the reflectivity were found to be well below the -20 dB at discrete frequencies with narrowband performance, in case of single layer absorbers. Broadband performance below -15 dB was achieved by using impedance-gradient design. The GT hollow absorbers were studied to solve the issues related to the installation of the bulky solid absorbers. These absorbers were designed on the basis of the wave attenuation and depth of penetration data and their EMC performance was evaluated in terms of bi-static reflectivity performance. The results proved that, while, these absorbers had 58% less weight and 15% less height than the solid absorbers, they provided standard performance, i.e., < -20 dB. The optimum value of the weight fraction of the RH for hollow absorbers was found to be in the range of 35 to 60 %, of the overall composite, for which less structural damage was observed. The performance of the absorbers was found to be below -10 dB even at 100 °C in the X band of frequencies. A two-layer pyramidal design based on the cladding concept was also studied to improve the low frequency EMC performance of the solid absorbers composed of scrap rubber from automobile tires.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

With the dawn of state-of-the-art microelectronics based modern era, various types of man-made electromagnetic interference (EMI) sources in the environment have emerged (Al-Ghamdi & El-Tantawy, 2010; Kim, Kim, & Choi, 2007). Rapid advances in microprocessor-based technology, which is the backbone of today's military and civil communication systems have brought a variety of serious un-intentional EMI concerns. EMI is the unwanted coupling of electromagnetic (EM) energy which takes place among the unprotected sensitive electronic circuits and systems. The least effect experienced by the receptor circuit or system, as a consequence of this intersystem coupling, might be the performance degradation. However, the worst effects may include the temporarily malfunction or permanent damage of a sensitive component which can lead to the failure of the mission critical systems. Irrespective of the adverse EMI effects, its origin is believed to be the time varying currents and voltages which can be found in the diverse nature and closely packed electronic circuits within any active electronic device or system.

In real life, the systems have to work within the shared EM environment and need to be compatible with each other without causing or suffering from EMI (Tong, 2009). The control of EMI at source level or minimization of its adverse effects on the receptor or victim enhances the electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) and results in better performance of the integrated electronic systems and sub-systems in mission critical military and civil equipment. It should be noted that the biological systems can also be the victims of EMI and this area is dealt under the name of bio-EMC. The effects of the EM radiations emitted from

the mobile phones on the human body are investigated in this area. Intersystem radiated EMI can be controlled by confining the sources or receptors within specially designed EM shields which in most of the cases are fabricated using metallic sheets. These shields act as external barriers and enhance the intersystem EMC; however, intra system or self-EMC of a system degrades due to the presence of these shields. These metallic shields reflect back any EM signals that impinge on them internally and augment the internal echoes resulting in a noisy environment.

In order to evaluate the compatibility of the electronic equipment, indoor EMC test facilities are used as an alternate of the open area test sites (OATS) (Williams, 2001). The radiated and conducted EMC testing is performed on the military and civil electronic and electrical systems for the levels of their emission and susceptibility or immunity against the EM ambient radiations. These facilities are specially equipped with the microwave absorbers working in a broad frequency range of 30 MHz to 18 GHz (Trautnitz F. W., 2007).

1.2 EMC Oriented Study of Absorbers

There are two types of tests which are performed within the EMC test facilities for the compatibility of the electronic equipment and these are known as conducted and radiated EMC tests. These tests are performed in accordance with the internationally well known standards in military and civil domains such as MIL-STD-461 and CISPR series standards (Holloway et al., 1997). Active electronic components and devices in electrical, electronics and communications systems can be evaluated for their levels of emissions and susceptibilities. However, microwave absorbers are passive components and are used to enhance the EMC of the electronic systems along with the other techniques such as filtering of common mode and differential mode conducted EMI, grounding and shielding of radiated EMI. To date, no standard is available for the EMC testing of the absorbers but there are certain performance requirements which are considered to have fulfilled before the absorbers

can be used in EMC test facilities. These performance requirements will be discussed in detail in the next chapter.

The EMC performance of a device, system or even anechoic chamber strongly depends on the performance of the microwave absorbers (Chung & Chuah, 2003). Whereas, the performance of the microwave absorbers depends on many factors, including frequency, angle of incidence, the geometry of the absorber. Therefore the EMC-oriented study of the microwave absorbers involves the investigations of all those factors that can affect its ability to control radiated EMI. The knowledge of the complete response of the absorbing material exposed to high frequency EM radiations is very crucial at different weight fractions of the lossy filler.

1.3 Problem statement

Recently rice husks (RH) and powder of scrap rubber (SR) from discarded automobile tires have been identified as microwave anechoic wastes. These were studied for their reflection loss performance in 7 to 13 GHz (Malek et al., 2011; Nornikman et al., 2011). However, there were two important issues related to their practical applications. One of the issues was related to the installation of these absorbers due to their bulkiness. In order to solve this issue, a hollow pyramidal design is presented and evaluated.

The other issue was related to the design, shape i.e., pyramidal, which was investigated, but is impractical to be used in the general purpose EMC applications which includes the suppression of electromagnetic echoes from the flat reflecting surfaces other than chamber walls. To date, no study has been conducted to investigate the effectiveness of the RH and SR based microwave absorbers in planar geometries which are more robust design shapes and have wide EMC applications. An impedance-graded technique has been used in this thesis to design the flat absorber for the 4-8 GHz band. The thickness of the