ANTENNA AND WAVE PROPAGATION

OBJECTIVES

The student will be able to

- understand the applications of the electromagnetic waves in free space.
- introduce the working principles of various types of antennas
- discuss the major applications of antennas with an emphasis on how antennas are employed to meet electronic system requirements.
- understand the concepts of radio wave propagation in the atmosphere.

UNIT I

ANTENNA FUNDAMENTALS: Introduction, Radiation Mechanism – single wire, 2 wire, dipoles, Current Distribution on a thin wire antenna. Antenna Parameters - Radiation Patterns, Patterns in Principal Planes, Main Lobe and Side Lobes, Beamwidths, Polarization, Beam Area, Radiation Intensity, Beam Efficiency, Directivity, Gain and Resolution, Antenna Apertures, Aperture Efficiency, Effective Height, illustrated Problems.

UNIT II

THIN LINEAR WIRE ANTENNAS: Retarded Potentials, Radiation from Small Electric Dipole, Quarter wave Monopole and Half wave Dipole – Current Distributions, Evaluation of Field Components, Power Radiated, Radiation Resistance, Beamwidths, Directivity, Effective Area and Effective Height. Natural current distributions, fields and patterns of Thin Linear Center-fed Antennas of different lengths, Radiation Resistance at a point which is not current maximum. Antenna Theorems – Applicability and Proofs for equivalence of directional characteristics, Loop Antennas: Small Loops - Field Components, Comparison of far fields of small loop and short dipole, Concept of short magnetic dipole, D and R_r relations for small loops.

UNIT III

ANTENNA ARRAYS: 2 element arrays – different cases, Principle of Pattern Multiplication, N element Uniform Linear Arrays – Broadside, End-fire Arrays, EFA with Increased Directivity, Derivation of their characteristics and comparison; Concept of Scanning Arrays. Directivity Relations (no derivations). Related Problems. Binomial Arrays, Effects of Uniform and Non-uniform Amplitude Distributions, Design Relations. Arrays with Parasitic Elements, Yagi-Uda Arrays, Folded Dipoles and their characteristics.

UNIT IV

NON-RESONANT RADIATORS : Introduction, Traveling wave radiators – basic concepts, Long wire antennas – field strength calculations and patterns, Microstrip Antennas-Introduction, Features, Advantages and Limitations, Rectangular Patch Antennas –Geometry and Parameters, Impact of different parameters on characteristics. Broadband Antennas: Helical Antennas – Significance, Geometry, basic properties; Design considerations for monofilar helical antennas in Axial Mode and Normal Modes (Qualitative Treatment).

UNIT V

VHF, UHF AND MICROWAVE ANTENNAS: Reflector Antennas: Flat Sheet and Corner Reflectors. Paraboloidal Reflectors – Geometry, characteristics, types of feeds, F/D Ratio, Spill Over, Back Lobes, Aperture Blocking, Off-set Feeds, Cassegrain Feeds.

Horn Antennas – Types, Optimum Horns, Design Characteristics of Pyramidal Horns; Lens Antennas – Geometry, Features, Dielectric Lenses and Zoning, Applications, Antenna Measurements – Patterns Required, Set Up, Distance Criterion, Directivity and Gain Measurements (Comparison, Absolute and 3-Antenna Methods).

UNIT VI

WAVE PROPAGATION: Concepts of Propagation – frequency ranges and types of propagations. Ground Wave Propagation–Characteristics, Parameters, Wave Tilt, Flat and Spherical Earth Considerations. Sky Wave Propagation – Formation of Ionospheric Layers and their Characteristics, Mechanism of Reflection and Refraction, Critical Frequency, MUF and Skip Distance – Calculations for flat and spherical earth cases, Optimum Frequency, LUHF, Virtual Height, Ionospheric Abnormalities, Ionospheric Absorption.

Fundamental Equation for Free-Space Propagation, Basic Transmission Loss Calculations. Space Wave Propagation – Mechanism, LOS and Radio Horizon. Tropospheric Wave Propagation – Radius of Curvature of path, Effective Earth's Radius, Effect of Earth's Curvature, Field Strength Calculations, M-curves and Duct Propagation, Tropospheric Scattering.

TEXT BOOKS

- 1. Antennas for All Applications John D. Kraus and Ronald J. Marhefka, 3rd Edition, TMH, 2003.
- 2. Electromagnetic Waves and Radiating Systems E.C. Jordan and K.G. Balmain, PHI, 2nd Edition, 2000.

REFERENCES

- 1. Antenna Theory C.A. Balanis, John Wiley and Sons, 2nd Edition, 2001.
- 2. Antennas and Wave Propagation K.D. Prasad, Satya Prakashan, Tech India Publications, New Delhi, 2001.
- 3. Transmission and Propagation E.V.D. Glazier and H.R.L. Lamont, The Services Text Book of Radio, vol. 5, Standard Publishers Distributors, Delhi.
- 4. Electronic and Radio Engineering F.E. Terman, McGraw-Hill, 4th Edition, 1955.
- 5. Antennas John D. Kraus, McGraw-Hill, 2nd Edition, 1988.

OUTCOMES

After going through this course the student will be able to

- Identify basic antenna parameters.
- Design and analyze wire antennas, loop antennas, reflector antennas, lens antennas, horn antennas and microstrip antennas
- Quantify the fields radiated by various types of antennas
- Design and analyze antenna arrays
- Analyze antenna measurements to assess antenna's performance
- Identify the characteristics of radio wave propagation