
**ELECTROMAGNETIC
WAVES** **PIER 37**

Progress

In

Electromagnetics

Research

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Chief Editor: J. A. Kong

**Polarimetric Microwave
Remote Sensing of
Wind-Driven Ocean
Environment**

Editors: Y. Zhang and T. M. Grzegorzcyk

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POLARIMETRIC MICROWAVE REMOTE SENSING OF WIND-DRIVEN OCEAN ENVIRONMENT

PREFACE

This issue of Progress in Electromagnetics Research (PIER) is a special issue on Polarimetric Microwave Remote Sensing of the Wind-Driven Ocean Environment. This field of research has grown rapidly over the past decade. It has long been known that the sea surface microwave emission and scattering properties are affected by the local winds. Scatterometers have exploited this sensitivity to retrieve the ocean surface wind speed and direction. The SSM/I (Special Sensor Microwave/Imager), a series of space borne radiometers on the Defense Meteorological Satellite Program (DMSP), has provided ocean surface wind speed for the military and civilian users since the late 1980s. Now, we as a community are on the verge of measuring the wind direction with radiometers.

This new capability is the product of polarimetric radiometry, which measures not only the principal polarizations, but also their cross correlation. Studies and field campaigns in the 1980s and 1990s demonstrated that the microwave emission changed not only with wind speed, but also wind direction. Augmenting traditional dual-polarized radiometers with polarimetric channels provided additional information enabling resolution of the wind direction from the microwave measurements. The success of these early efforts and the continuing demand for global ocean surface wind vector gave the U.S. Navy and the National Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System (NPOESS) the confidence to sponsor the Naval Research Laboratory to develop the WindSat system. WindSat is a space borne demonstration of polarimetric microwave radiometry to measure the ocean surface wind vector. It was launched on 6 January 2003 as part of the Space Test Program Coriolis mission. WindSat is also a risk reduction mission for the NPOESS Conical Microwave Imager Sounder, which is required to operationally provide ocean surface wind vector through at least 2020.

With these two satellite missions, it is clear that the work contained in this volume has a clear purpose and a direct application to not only scientists and engineers, but also to everyone who uses satellite weather data. However, it is also clear that this is a field with many open questions. Much work remains for us to fully understand the microwave polarimetric signature of the wind-driven ocean across

a broad range of environmental conditions.

Despite this being a special issue on a single topic, this volume contains a wide array subject matter. There are papers addressing fundamental principles of electromagnetic scattering from anisotropic surfaces. Other papers present polarimetric emission models of the ocean surface. Still other papers analyze the effects of foam and oil slicks on the scattering and emission. Collectively, this volume represents an impressive body of work that will serve as an excellent reference for many years.

All the papers in this collection were peer reviewed. I would like to acknowledge the reviewers for their hard work and recommendations.

I would like to thank the editor of PIER, Jin Kong, and the editors of this special issue, Yan Zhang and Tomasz Grzegorzczuk, for their efforts in producing this issue.

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CONTENTS

Chapter 1. POLARIMETRIC EMISSION MODEL OF THE SEA AT MICROWAVE FREQUENCIES AND COMPARISON WITH MEASUREMENTS

K. St. Germain, G. A. Poe, and P. W. Gaiser

1	Introduction	2
2	Two-Scale Model	4
3	Sea Surface Wave Model	6
	3.1 Model Selection	6
	3.2 Model Parameters	9
4	10.7 GHz Polarimetric Radiometer System and Experiment Description	16
5	Data Processing and Measurement/Model Comparison	18
6	Simplified Polarimetric Model	22
7	Conclusions	27
	Acknowledgment	28
	References	28

Chapter 2. MICROWAVE ANALYTICAL BACKSCATTERING MODELS FROM RANDOMLY ROUGH ANISOTROPIC SEA SURFACE—COMPARISON WITH EXPERIMENTAL DATA IN C AND KU BANDS

C. Bourlier and G. Berginc

1	Introduction	33
2	Backscattering Models	35
	2.1 Incoherent Backscattering Coefficient from Kirchhoff Approximation	35
	2.2 Incoherent Backscattering Coefficient from Scalar Approximation	37
	2.3 Incoherent Backscattering Coefficient from Small Slope Approximation	39
3	Sea Spectrum	41
	3.1 Elfouhaily et al Sea Spectrum	42
	3.2 Surface Height and Slope Variances	45
	3.3 Sea Surface Height Autocorrelation Function	48

3.4	Shadowing Function	52
4	Numerical Results	54
4.1	Perfectly-Conducting Surface with an Isotropic Sea Spectrum	55
4.2	Dielectric Surface with an Isotropic Sea Spectrum	59
4.3	Dielectric Surface with an Anisotropic Sea Spectrum ...	61
5	Conclusion and Discussion	69
Appendix A. Normal Radar Cross Section of SSA by Approximating $\{ \Xi_{V,H} ^2\}$ by the First Term of Its Taylor Series		72
Appendix B. Angular Integrations for a Two-Dimensional Sea Surface		74
References		75

Chapter 3. HIGHER ORDER EMISSION MODEL STUDY OF BI-SINUSOIDAL SURFACE BRIGHTNESS TEMPERATURES

J. T. Johnson

1	Introduction	80
2	Problem Definition	81
3	Emission Theories	84
3.1	Higher Order SSA	84
3.2	Multiple Scattering PO	85
3.3	Extended Boundary Condition Method	87
4	Results	88
5	Conclusions	94
Acknowledgment		96
References		96

Chapter 4. MODELIZATION OF THE SCATTERING OF ELECTROMAGNETIC WAVES FROM THE OCEAN SURFACE

G. Soriano and M. Saillard

1	Introduction	102
2	Rigorous Bistatic Model	104
2.1	Surface Integral Representation	105
2.2	Curved Surface Impedance	106

2.3	Method of Moments	107
2.4	Scattering Amplitude	111
2.5	Beam Decomposition and Parallel Computations	113
3	Testing Approximate Methods	115
3.1	Description of the Surface	115
3.2	Perfectly Conducting Ocean Surface	118
3.3	SSA for the Dielectric Ocean Surface	120
4	An Improved Bistatic Two-Scale Model	121
5	Conclusion	124
	References	125

**Chapter 5. MATHEMATICAL MODELING OF
ELECTROMAGNETIC WAVE SCATTERING BY
WAVY PERIODIC BOUNDARY BETWEEN TWO
MEDIA**

*J. Chandezon, A. Ye. Poyedinchuk, Yu. A. Tuchkin, and
N. P. Yashina*

1	Introduction	130
2	Direct Problem	130
3	Spectral Problem of C-Method	133
4	The Solution to the Diffraction Problem. Regulariz- ing Algorithm	134
5	Inverse Problem	136
6	Numerical Experiments	138
7	Conclusion and Perspective	140
	References	140

**Chapter 6. A COMPOSITE MODEL FOR ESTIMATION
OF POLARIMETRIC THERMAL EMISSION FROM
FOAM-COVERED WIND-DRIVEN OCEAN SURFACE**

Y. Zhang, Y. E. Yang, and J. A. Kong

1	Introduction	144
2	Formulations for Foam Emission	145
2.1	RT Equations for Foam Layer	145
2.2	Solution of the RT Equation	148
2.3	Foam Coverage	151
3	Thermal Emission from Plain Ocean Surface	152

3.1	Stokes Vector of Reflected Wave	153
3.2	Reflection of Atmospheric Thermal Emission	157
3.3	Power Spectrum of Rough Ocean Surface	158
4	Radiative Transfer Equations for Atmosphere.....	160
4.1	The Millimeter-Wave Propagation Model	162
4.2	Attenuation and Emission of Atmosphere	163
4.3	Equivalent Polar Angle of Spherical Atmosphere.....	168
5	Two-Scale Model of Ocean Surface	169
6	Numerical Results	173
7	Conclusions.....	178
Appendix A. Phase Matrix for Water Bubbles.....		179
Appendix B. Parameters in the Millimeter-Wave Propagation Model		185
References		188

**Chapter 7. A SEMI-EMPIRICAL ALGORITHM OF
WATER TRANSPARENCY AT THE GREEN
WAVELENGTH BAND OF OPTICAL REMOTE
SENSING**

Y. Zhang, J. Pulliainen, S. Koponen, and M. Hallikainen

1	Introduction	192
2	Study Area and in Situ Data	193
3	Landsat TM and Simulated SeaWiFS Data	193
3.1	Landsat TM Data	193
3.2	Simulated SeaWiFS Data	194
4	A Semi-Empirical Algorithm.....	194
5	Results and Discussion	196
6	Conclusions.....	199
Acknowledgment		200
References		200

**Chapter 8. TWO-SCALE POLARIMETRIC EMISSIVITY
MODEL: EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS AND
COMPARISONS WITH DATA**

D. R. Lyzenga and J. F. Vesecky

1	Introduction	206
2	The Two-Scale Model	207

3	Analytical Evaluation of Slope Integral	209
4	Hydrodynamic Modulation Effects	210
5	Comparison of Numerical and Analytical Results ...	211
6	Comparisons with Experimental Data	213
7	Conclusions	216
	Acknowledgment	216
	Appendix A. Analytical Expressions for Fourier Har- monics	216
	References	218

**Chapter 9. STUDY ON THE TWO-FREQUENCY
SCATTERING CROSS SECTION AND PULSE
BROADENING OF THE ONE-DIMENSIONAL
FRACTAL SEA SURFACE AT MILLIMETER WAVE
FREQUENCY**

L. Guo and C. Kim

1	Introduction	222
2	Formulation of the Two-Frequency Scattering Cross Section and Scattering Power from the Rough Surface	222
3	Numerical Result for the Fractal Sea Surface	225
4	Conclusions and Discussions	232
	References	233

**Chapter 10. SCATTERING OF A PLANE WAVE BY
ROUGH SURFACES: A NEW CURVILINEAR
COORDINATE SYSTEM BASED APPROACH**

G. Granet, K. Edee, and D. Felbacq

1	Introduction	236
2	Definition of the Problem	236
	2.1 Notation	236
	2.2 Plane Wave Decomposition	237
	2.3 Translation Coordinates	238
	2.4 Maxwell's Equations in the New Coordinate System ...	238
3	Numerical Solution	240
	3.1 Plane Waves in the New Coordinate System	243
	3.2 Application to Scattering from Aperiodic Surfaces	244
4	Results	246

5 Conclusion	249
References	249

**Chapter 11. SMALL-SLOPE APPROXIMATION
METHOD: A FURTHER STUDY OF VECTOR WAVE
SCATTERING FROM TWO-DIMENSIONAL
SURFACES AND COMPARISON WITH
EXPERIMENTAL DATA**

G. Berginc

1 Introduction	252
2 Small-Slope Approximation: Vector case for Local Interactions	254
2.1 Expression of the Small-Slope Approximation	254
2.2 Scattered Fields and Scattering Cross-Sections	258
3 Numerical Examples and Comparison with Experimental Data	263
3.1 Conducting Isotropic Gaussian Surfaces: Numerical Calculations and Comparison with Experimental Data .	263
3.2 Dielectric Isotropic Gaussian Surfaces: Numerical Calculations and Comparison with Experimental Data .	264
3.3 Conducting Non Isotropic Surfaces with Non-Gaussian Correlation Function: Numerical Calculations	276
4 Conclusion	284
References	285

**Chapter 12. SCATTERING OF A PLANE WAVE BY
1-DIMENSIONAL DIELECTRIC ROUGH SURFACES
STUDY OF THE FIELD IN A NONORTHOGONAL
COORDINATE SYSTEM**

R. Dusséaux and C. Baudier

1 Introduction	290
2 Presentation of the Problem	291
3 Fourier-Rayleigh Integral	293
3.1 Asymptotic Expression	293
3.2 Power Conservation — Scattering Pattern	294
4 Analysis in the Spectral Domain	295
4.1 Components of Fields and Eigenvalue Systems	296
4.2 Elementary Wave Functions	297

4.3	Scattering Amplitudes and Boundary Conditions	299
4.4	Normalized Power Density	301
5	Results	302
5.1	Convergence of the Method	302
5.2	Study of Finite Gratings Having a Small Number of Grooves	302
5.3	Influence of the Deformation Depth	306
5.4	Distance Associated with the Radiation Zone	308
6	Conclusion	314
Appendix A. Power Balance for a Lossless Dielectric Interface		314
References		317

**Chapter 13. MODEL OF ELECTROMAGNETIC WAVE
SCATTERING FROM SEA SURFACE WITH AND
WITHOUT OIL SLICKS**

A. I. Timchenko, A. E. Serebryannikov, and K. F. Schuenemann

1	Introduction	320
2	Theoretical Background	323
3	Numerical Results	326
4	Discussion and Conclusions	339
References		341