Waveguide

A waveguide is not considered to strictly be a transmission line, as it is **not** constructed with **two** separate conductors. As such, it can **not** support a TEM wave!

Instead, a waveguide will propagate "higher-order" **modes**, which are classified as either transverse magnetic (**TM**) or transverse electric (**TE**).

There are two problems with propagating higher-order modes!

1. TE and TM modes have a limited bandwidth. In fact, none of these modes can propagate at frequencies below a minimum frequency known as the cutoff frequency.

2. TE and TM modes are **dispersive**. That is, the phase velocity is dependent on frequency—for some modes highly dependent!

Q: Yikes! So why would we ever use a waveguide?

A: A waveguide likewise has two important advantages!

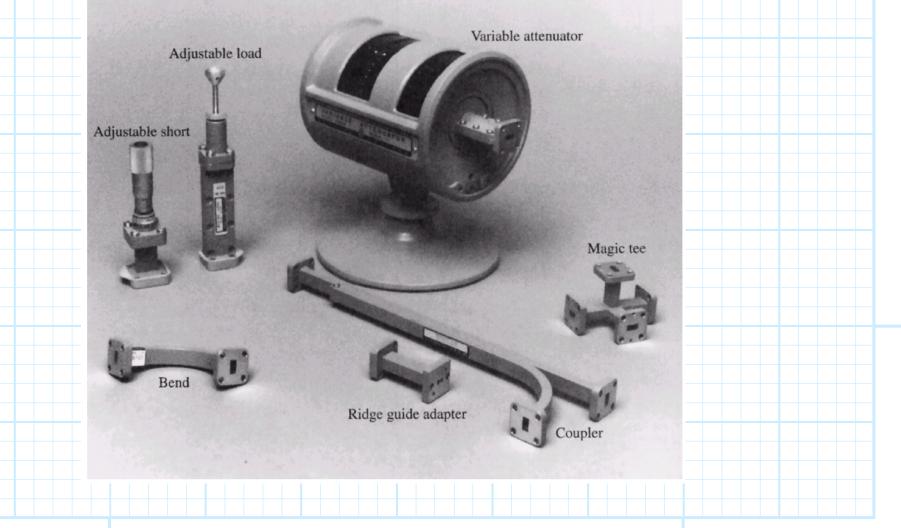
1. It can typically handle very large power (e.g., kilowatts).

2. It can have very **low loss** (low value of α).

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Thus, waveguide is typically used for **high-power** applications, such as high-power microwave **transmitters**.

Waveguide appears at first to simply be a **pipe** (either circular or rectangular), and effectively it is—an **electromagnetic** pipe!



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