



**ROBERT E. BALL**

## THE FUNDAMENTALS OF AIRCRAFT COMBAT SURVIVABILITY ANALYSIS AND DESIGN, SECOND EDITION



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- Chapter DOI : 10.2514/5.9781563475825.0202.0232
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3.6.2.5 Propagation of radar signals through the atmosphere.

**Learning Objective 3.6.14 Determine the attenuation of a radar signal as it propagates through the atmosphere.**

Radar signals are attenuated by the oxygen and water vapor in the Earth's atmosphere. The attenuation becomes significant at frequencies above 10 GHz. The attenuation over a distance  $R$  can be expressed in the form  $\exp(-R\alpha)$ , where  $\alpha$  is the rate of attenuation per unit distance. Converting the attenuation to a dB/km format, the approximate values of attenuation in terms of dB/km for a particular atmospheric condition are approximately  $-0.006$  dB/km at 3 GHz,  $-0.01$  dB/km at 10 GHz, and  $-0.07$  dB/km at 30 GHz.<sup>42</sup> The corresponding attenuation over a distance of 100 km is  $-0.6$ ,  $-1.0$ , and  $-7$  dB.

Precipitation in the atmosphere in the form of rain, snow, and fog can significantly attenuate radar signals as well as contribute to background clutter. Generally, the higher the radar frequency, the more attenuation. The rate of attenuation for both a moderate rain and a heavy fog is approximately 0.1 dB/km for a 10 GHz radar signal. Consequently, the signal will be attenuated by 10 dB after traveling 100 km in a moderate rain or heavy fog.<sup>43</sup>

**Go to Problems 3.6.43 to 3.6.44.**

3.6.2.6 Surveillance and weapon control radar descriptions. Some of the attributes of effective air defense radars are all-weather capability, early and reliable detection (few false alarms) particularly for low-altitude targets, discrimination (the ability to detect and track a target in the presence of a high clutter environment), accurate target tracking, rapid automatic target acquisition, and countermeasures immunity. Table 3.13 lists estimated values for some of the major parameters of surveillance and weapon control radars. Example 3.8 contains the computations for several of the important radar parameters, and Refs. 44 and 45 contain descriptions of some current radar systems. Data on radar and radar systems is available online at <http://www.aeronautics.ru/radru.htm>, <http://www.fas.org/man/dod-101/sys/ship/weaps/an-sps-49.htm>, [http://www.acronet.net/~target/products/misc/AN\\_SPS-55.html](http://www.acronet.net/~target/products/misc/AN_SPS-55.html), <http://www.periscopeone.com/demo/weapons/sensors/grdradar/index.html>, <http://webhome.idirect.com/~jproc/sari/sarintr0>.

Parameter	Surveillance	Weapon control
Power $P_r$	$\geq 250$ –1000s kW	5–250 kW
Frequency $f$	VHF, UHF, L and S	S, C, X, K <sub>a</sub> , K
Pulse width $\tau$	5–10,000 $\mu$ s	0.1–5 $\mu$ s
Pulse repetition frequency	200–1,000 PPS	1,000–10,000 PPS
Beamwidth	1–10 deg	less than 1 to 2 deg

152,4 x 228,6 mm

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**Example 3.8 Determination of Several Radar Parameters**

An MTI weapon control radar system has a parabolic dish antenna with a 1-m diameter, a uniform feed horn, and an efficiency of 90%. The signal is vertically polarized. Given the following parameters, determine the radar wavelength, the antenna gain, the beamwidth, the maximum unambiguous range, and the target resolution distance:

$$P_r = 200 \text{ kW} \quad f = 9 \text{ GHz (X band)}$$

$$\tau = 0.5 \mu\text{s} \quad \text{PRF} = 2000 \text{ PPS}$$

The wavelength is given by Eq. (3.17):

$$\lambda = c/f = (300 \text{ m}/\mu\text{s})(10^6 \mu\text{s/s})/(9 \cdot 10^9 \text{ Hz}) = 0.0333 \text{ m} = 3.33 \text{ cm}$$

According to Eq. (3.23), the gain of the antenna is

$$G_r = 4\pi\rho A/\lambda^2 = 4\pi \cdot 0.9[\pi \cdot (1 \text{ m})^2/4]/(0.0333 \text{ m})^2 = 8,010 \text{ or } 39.0 \text{ dB}$$

The beamwidth for the parabolic dish antenna is

$$\text{Beamwidth (in degrees)} = b\lambda/D = 50(0.0333 \text{ m})/(1 \text{ m}) = 1.67 \text{ deg}$$

according to Eq. (3.24).

The maximum unambiguous range is given by Eq. (3.18b). Using the fact  $\text{PRI} = 1/\text{PRF}$  results in

$$R_u = c(\text{PRI})/2 = c/(2\text{PRF}) = (3 \cdot 10^8 \text{ m/s})/(2 \cdot 2000 \text{ PPS}) = 75 \text{ km}$$

The range resolution of this radar is given by Eq. (3.19),

$$\Delta R = c\tau/2 = (300 \text{ m}/\mu\text{s})(0.5 \mu\text{s})/2 = 75 \text{ m}$$

Suppose an aircraft approaches this radar at 200 m/s. What is the Doppler shift  $f_d$ ?

Rearranging Eq. (3.21c) to solve for  $f_d$  leads to

$$f_d = 2V_r/\lambda = 2(200 \text{ m/s})/(0.0333 \text{ m}) = 12.0 \text{ KHz}$$

Will the velocity be ambiguous, and what are the blind speeds?

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According to Eq. (3.22),

$$(f_d)_{\text{max}} \leq 1/\text{PRI} = \text{PRF} = 2 \text{ KHz}$$

Hence,  $f_d \geq (f_d)_{\text{max}}$ , so the velocity is ambiguous. According to Eq. (3.21c), with  $f_d = n\text{PRF}$  the blind speeds are

$$\text{Blind speeds} = V_r = \lambda(n\text{PRF})/2 = (0.0333 \text{ m})(2,000 \text{ PPS})/2 = 33.3, 66.6, \dots, 200, \text{ etc. m/s}$$

Because the design target velocity is equal to one of the blind speeds, the use of staggered PRFs is recommended.

**3.6.3 Infrared**

**Learning Objective 3.6.15 Describe the IR portion of the EM spectrum.**

Infrared radiation, like radar, is a band of the electromagnetic spectrum. The IR band lies within the optical band and encompasses wavelengths from 0.7 to 1000  $\mu\text{m}$ . Radiation in this band is referred to as heat or thermal radiation. The IR band has been subdivided into many different subbands by various authors and organizations, and there is no standard. Here, the IR band is subdivided into the shortwave (SWIR) or near (1 to 3  $\mu\text{m}$ ) band, the midwave (MWIR) or middle (3 to 5  $\mu\text{m}$ ) band, the longwave (LWIR) (8 to 16  $\mu\text{m}$ ) band, and the far or extreme (16 to 1000  $\mu\text{m}$ ) band.<sup>46</sup> The locations of these IR subbands within the optical band are shown in Fig. 3.62 (Note 73).

Infrared radiation is used by air defense thermal imaging (TI) systems, by infrared search and track (IRST) systems, and by missile guidance systems. The thermal or infrared imaging systems, such as the IR camera, produce a two-dimensional picture or image of the radiation from a scene viewed by an optical device. The radiation sensed is usually in either the MWIR band or the LWIR band. (<http://www.x20.org/thermal/>) The IRST is used by the air defense forces to search, detect, and track aircraft or missiles based upon their IR signature, typically in the LWIR band. The IRST can be surface-based or carried by enemy aircraft. (<http://www.optronics.co.uk/irst.htm>)

Infrared systems can be used in the guidance of missiles that employ command guidance, beam rider guidance, or passive homing. Missiles with command guidance can carry an IR beacon in the tail. The beacon is passively tracked by an IR sensor in the target tracking device while an operator attempts to track the aircraft, usually with the aid of either direct-view optics or electro-optics. The tracking system notes the difference in the target and missile positions and generates the

152,4 x 228,6 mm

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