

**ANALYTICAL AND EXPERIMENTAL STUDY OF THE ELECTRIC  
SHIELDING EFFECTIVENESS OF A METALLIC ENCLOSURE FOR  
OFF-CENTRED APERTURES**

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This thesis is especially dedicated to my beloved father Ahmad Po'ad Bin Haji  
Mohd. Said, mother Rokiah Binti Hashim, husband Jusrorizal Fadly Bin Jusoh,  
Nabilah and Anas Akmal



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## ABSTRACT

An electromagnetic shielding is frequently used to protect against external fields and leakage from electronic products to meet the electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) requirement. However, it is a great challenge to design a practical electromagnetic shield because its integrity is often compromised by apertures and slots used to accommodate ventilation or access to interior components. Such openings allow exterior fields to be coupled onto printed circuit boards (PCBs), thus inducing current and voltage on interior conductors. This phenomenon will degrade the shielding effectiveness ( $S_E$ ) of the enclosure. This research is performed to investigate the effects of apertures on the  $S_E$  of a rectangular metallic enclosure for off-centred apertures by using an analytical formulation and experimental study. The theories developed by other researchers have been extended to take into account the contribution of higher order modes and off-centred apertures in the enclosure. The electric shielding effectiveness,  $S_E$  were calculated as a function of frequency, enclosure dimensions, aperture dimensions, aperture locations and various observation points by employing a transmission line equivalent circuit approach. The extended formulation applies only to rectangular enclosures with rectangular apertures, but simple modifications were included to account for square, circular, multiple apertures and the effect of the enclosure contents. Generally, the analytical results of the  $S_E$  are in good agreement with measurement results which were conducted in a Gigahertz Transverse Electromagnetic (GTEM) cell in the range of frequency from 10 MHz to 1 GHz. As an example, the  $S_E$  at 600 MHz using analytical formulation has 92% similarity compared to measurement results. It was also found out that by taking into account five modes above the  $TE_{10}$  will contribute an additional 35 dB to the  $S_E$  at 800 MHz. This indicates the significance of multimode in determining  $S_E$  for enclosure with off-centred aperture. In addition, the results agree with present understanding on the dependence of  $S_E$  on aperture sizes, aperture shapes, aperture locations and effect of electromagnetic losses in the enclosure. The reduction of  $S_E$  by about 9.5 dB due to multiple apertures indicated by  $20 \log n$  where  $n$  is the number of apertures was also successfully endorsed in this work. The findings generated from this research work can be used as design rules by designers of practical shielded enclosures. Future works can be carried out to incorporate enclosures of various shapes and sizes at frequencies greater than 1 GHz.

## ABSTRAK

Pelindung elektromagnet digunakan untuk melindungi produk-produk elektronik daripada medan luaran bagi memenuhi keperluan keserasian elektromagnet (EMC). Ia merupakan cabaran yang hebat untuk merekabentuk sebuah pelindung elektromagnet yang praktikal disebabkan oleh ketelusannya seringkali dikompromi oleh bukaan dan lubang-lubang kecil yang digunakan bagi menampung pengudaraan dan laluan masuk kepada komponen-komponen dalaman. Seseengah bukaan membenarkan medan-medan luaran untuk berganding di atas papan litar bercetak (PCBs), seterusnya menghasilkan arus dan voltan pada konduktor dalaman. Fenomena ini akan merendahkan keberkesanan pelindung (SE) bagi sesebuah penutup logam. Kajian ini dilaksanakan bagi mengenalpasti kesan-kesan bukaan terhadap SE dengan menggunakan perumusan analitikal dan kaedah eksperimental. Teori yang telah dibangunkan oleh pengkaji-pengkaji terdahulu telah dilanjutkan dengan mengambil kira mod-mod berkedudukan tinggi (*higher order modes*) dan bukaan pelbagai kedudukan pada penutup logam. SE bagi medan elektrik,  $S_E$  diukur sebagai fungsi kepada frekuensi, dimensi penutup logam dan bukaan serta kedudukan bukaan dan titik pemerhatian pada penutup logam dengan menggunakan pendekatan litar setara bagi talian penghantaran. Perumusan ini hanya benar digunakan bagi penutup logam yang berbentuk segiempat tepat dengan bukaan berbentuk segiempat tepat, segiempat sama, bulatan, bukaan berganda dan mengambil kira kesan terhadap kandungan penutup logam. Keseluruhannya, perumusan analitikal mempunyai hubungan baik dengan eksperimental yang dijalankan di dalam Gigahertz Transverse Electromagnetic (GTEM) cell dari frekuensi 10 MHz hingga 1 GHz. Sebagai contoh,  $S_E$  pada frekuensi 600 MHz bagi kaedah analitikal menunjukkan 92 % persamaan dibandingkan dengan keputusan eksperimental. Dapatan mendapati dengan mengambil kira lima mod di atas  $TE_{10}$  akan menyumbang kepada pertambahan  $S_E$  sebanyak 35 dB pada frekuensi 800 MHz. Ini menunjukkan kepentingan pelbagai mod dalam menentukan  $S_E$  untuk bukaan pelbagai kedudukan. Dapatan bersetuju dengan kajian terdahulu mengenai kebergantungan  $S_E$  terhadap saiz bukaan, bentuk bukaan, kedudukan bukaan dan kesan terhadap kehilangan elektromagnet di dalam penutup logam. Penurunan  $S_E$  sebanyak 9.5 dB disebabkan oleh bukaan berganda dinyatakan oleh  $20 \log n$  di mana  $n$  ialah bilangan bukaan telah dibuktikan di dalam kajian ini. Dapatan kajian ini boleh digunakan sebagai panduan merekabentuk pelindung penutup yang praktikal oleh perekabentuk. Kajian lanjutan boleh dijalankan bagi penutup logam yang terdiri dari pelbagai bentuk dan saiz pada frekuensi melebihi 1 GHz.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER	CONTENTS	PAGE
	THESIS STATUS CONFIRMATION	
	SUPERVISOR'S CONFIRMATION	
	TITLE	i
	TESTIMONY	ii
	DEDICATION	iii
	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	iv
	ABSTRACT	v
	ABSTRAK	vi
	TABLE OF CONTENTS	vii
	LIST OF TABLES	xi
	LIST OF FIGURES	xii
	LIST OF SYMBOLS/ ABBREVIATIONS	xvi
	LIST OF APPENDICES	xviii
<b>CHAPTER 1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	
	1.1 General	1
	1.2 Problem Statement	5
	1.3 Aim of Research	6
	1.4 Objectives of Research	7
	1.5 Scopes of Research	7

1.6	Importance of Research	8
1.7	Organisation of the Thesis	9

## **CHAPTER 2 REVIEW OF THE METHODS OF ANALYSIS**

2.1	Introduction	11
2.2	Concept of Shielding	11
2.3	Shielding Effectiveness	13
	2.3.1 Shielding Effectiveness of Far Field Source	18
2.4	The Effect of Apertures on Shielding Effectiveness	21
	2.4.1 Concept of Field Coupling through an Aperture	21
	2.4.2 Babinet's Principle Related to Apertures in a Shield	24
2.5	Review of Important Research Works on Shielding Effectiveness	27
2.6	Context of the Research	36

## **CHAPTER 3 METHODOLOGY**

3.1	Review of Procedures	38
3.2	Analytical Formulation	41
	3.2.1 Theory	42
	3.2.2 Slot Impedance	43
	3.2.3 Electric and Magnetic Shielding Effectiveness	51
	3.2.4 Effect of Enclosure Contents	58
	3.2.5 Circular Apertures	59
	3.2.6 Multiple Apertures	60
3.3	Experimental Measurements	60
	3.3.1 Electric Shielding Effectiveness Measurement	63

3.3.2	Magnetic Shielding Effectiveness Measurement	65
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## CHAPTER 4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.1	General	66
4.2	Numerical investigation	68
4.3	Multimode Analysis	71
4.3.1	Electric Shielding Effectiveness, $S_E$	71
	4.3.1.1 Centred Aperture ( $X=a/2$ )	72
	4.3.1.2 Off-Centred Aperture ( $X=3a/4$ )	78
4.3.2	Magnetic Shielding Effectiveness, $S_M$	84
4.4	Experimental Measurements	85
4.4.1	Electric Shielding Effectiveness, $S_E$	85
4.4.2	Magnetic Shielding Effectiveness, $S_M$	95
4.5	Effect of Aperture Sizes	96
4.5.1	Analytical Results	97
4.5.2	Measurement Results	98
4.6	Effect of Aperture Shapes	102
4.6.1	Multiple Apertures	102
	4.6.1.1 Effect of Increasing the Number Of Apertures	103
	4.6.1.1.1 Analytical Results	103
	4.6.1.1.2 Measurement Results	104
	4.6.1.2 Effect of Dividing the Apertures	106
4.6.2	Circular and Square Apertures	108
4.7	Effect of Enclosure Sizes	112
4.8	Effect of Electromagnetic Losses	114



## **CHAPTER 5      CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE WORK**

5.1	Conclusions	118
5.2	Suggestions for Future Work	120

<b>REFERENCES</b>	121
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<b>APPENDICES</b>	124
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PERPUSTAKAAN TUNKU TUN AMINAH

## LIST OF TABLES

TABLE	TITLE	PAGE
3.1	Enclosure used for shielding measurements	63
4.1	Characteristics of the metallic enclosure with apertures.	68
4.2	TE <sub>m0</sub> modes resonant frequencies of the rectangular enclosure with apertures based on Equation 4.1.	70
4.3	Reduction in $S_E$ due to number of apertures relative to single aperture.	106
4.4	Increase in $S_E$ and $S_M$ due to dividing slot relative to single aperture.	108
4.5	Relative $S_E$ and $S_M$ of various hole diameters.	110
B-1	Material properties (relative to copper)	131

## LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE	TITLE	PAGE
1.1	Aspect of electromagnetic compatibility	3
1.2	Electromagnetic compatibility design pyramid	3
2.1	Illustration of a use of shielded enclosure	12
2.2	Examples of shielded enclosures used in practical design	13
2.3	Representation of shielding phenomenon for plane waves	14
2.4	Illustration of losses within a shield	16
2.5	The absorption loss in a screen	17
2.6	Electric field coupling through an aperture	22
2.7	Magnetic field coupling through an aperture	22
2.8	Effects of slots on induced currents on shields	23
2.9	Use of the waveguide below cut-off principle to provide ventilation of an enclosure and minimize the electromagnetic field penetrations	24
2.10	Illustration of Babinet's principle	25
3.1	Flowchart of the research work	40
3.2	Rectangular box with aperture and its equivalent circuit	43
3.3	CPS transmission line representation	44
3.4	Parameters of the rectangular enclosure with aperture	49
3.5	Simplified equivalent circuit for rectangular enclosure with aperture	51
3.6	Circuit transformation	52
3.7	Schematic diagram of an experimental setup in GTEM cell	61
3.8	The actual enclosure with an off-centred aperture	62

3.9	Multiple observation points on the lid	63
3.11	Method of measuring $S_E$	64
3.12	Method of measuring $S_M$	65
4.1	The $S_E$ at point $P$ of a 300 mm x 120 mm x 300 mm enclosure with 50 mm x 5 mm off-centred aperture obtained by analytical formulation and equation 4.1	70
4.2	Calculated $S_E$ for one, three, five and fifteen modes at point $P$ of 300 mm x 120 mm x 300 mm enclosure with 50 mm x 5 mm centred aperture ( $X=a/2$ )	73
4.3	Calculated $S_E$ for one, three, five and fifteen modes at point 1 of 300 mm x 120 mm x 300 mm enclosure with 50 mm x 5 mm centred aperture ( $X=a/2$ )	74
4.4	Calculated $S_E$ for one, three, five and fifteen modes at point 2 of 300 mm x 120 mm x 300 mm enclosure with 50 mm x 5 mm centred aperture ( $X=a/2$ )	75
4.5	Calculated $S_E$ for one, three, five and fifteen modes at point 3 of 300 mm x 120 mm x 300 mm enclosure with 50 mm x 5 mm centred aperture ( $X=a/2$ )	76
4.6	Calculated $S_E$ for one, three, five and fifteen modes at point 4 of 300 mm x 120 mm x 300 mm enclosure with 50 mm x 5 mm centred aperture ( $X=a/2$ )	77
4.7	Calculated $S_E$ for one, three, five and fifteen modes at point $P$ of 300 mm x 120 mm x 300 mm enclosure with 50 mm x 5 mm off-centred aperture ( $X=3a/4$ )	79
4.8	Calculated $S_E$ for one, three, five and fifteen modes at point 1 of 300 mm x 120 mm x 300 mm enclosure with 50 mm x 5 mm off-centred aperture ( $X=3a/4$ )	80
4.9	Calculated $S_E$ for one, three, five and fifteen modes at point 2 of 300 mm x 120 mm x 300 mm enclosure with 50 mm x 5 mm off-centred aperture ( $X=3a/4$ )	81
4.10	Calculated $S_E$ for one, three, five and fifteen modes at point 3 of 300 mm x 120 mm x 300 mm enclosure with 50 mm x 5 mm off-centred aperture ( $X=3a/4$ )	82
4.11	Calculated $S_E$ for one, three, five and fifteen modes at point 4	

	of 300 mm x 120 mm x 300 mm enclosure with 50 mm x 5 mm off-centred aperture ( $X=3a/4$ )	83
4.12	Calculated $S_M$ for one, three, five and fifteen modes at point $P$ of 300 mm x 120 mm x 300 mm enclosure with 120 mm x 4 mm centred aperture ( $X=a/2$ )	84
4.13	Calculated and measured $S_E$ at point $P$ of 300 mm x 120 mm x 300 mm enclosure with 50 mm x 5 mm centred aperture ( $X=a/2$ )	87
4.14	Calculated and measured $S_E$ at point $P$ of 300 mm x 120 mm x 300 mm enclosure with 50 mm x 5 mm off-centred aperture ( $X=3a/4$ )	87
4.15	Calculated and measured $S_E$ at point 1 of 300 mm x 120 mm x 300 mm enclosure with 50 mm x 5 mm centred aperture ( $X=a/2$ )	88
4.16	Calculated and measured $S_E$ at point 1 of 300 mm x 120 mm x 300 mm enclosure with 50 mm x 5 mm off-centred aperture ( $X=3a/4$ )	89
4.17	Calculated and measured $S_E$ at point 2 of 300 mm x 120 mm x 300 mm enclosure with 50 mm x 5 mm centred aperture ( $X=a/2$ )	90
4.18	Calculated and measured $S_E$ at point 2 of 300 mm x 120 mm x 300 mm enclosure with 50 mm x 5 mm off-centred aperture ( $X=3a/4$ )	91
4.19	Calculated and measured $S_E$ at point 3 of 300 mm x 120 mm x 300 mm enclosure with 50 mm x 5 mm centred aperture ( $X=a/2$ )	92
4.20	Calculated and measured $S_E$ at point 3 of 300 mm x 120 mm x 300 mm enclosure with 50 mm x 5 mm off-centred aperture ( $X=3a/4$ )	93
4.21	Calculated and measured $S_E$ at point 4 of 300 mm x 120 mm x 300 mm enclosure with 50 mm x 5 mm centred aperture ( $X=a/2$ )	94
4.22	Calculated and measured $S_E$ at point 4 of 300 mm x 120 mm x 300 mm enclosure with 50 mm x 5 mm off-centred aperture ( $X=3a/4$ )	94
4.23	Calculated and measured $S_M$ at point $P$ of 300 mm x 120 mm x 300 mm enclosure with 120 mm x 4 mm centred aperture ( $X=a/2$ )	96
4.24	Comparison between large (150 mm x 50 mm) and small (50 mm x 5 mm) centred aperture ( $X=a/2$ ) at point $P$ of 300 mm x 120 mm x 300 mm enclosure	97
4.25	Calculated and measured $S_E$ at point $P$ of 300 mm x 120 mm x 300 mm enclosure with 150 mm x 50 mm centred aperture ( $X=a/2$ )	98
4.26	Calculated and measured $S_E$ at point $P$ of 300 mm x 120 mm x 300 mm enclosure with 50 mm x 5 mm centred aperture ( $X=a/2$ )	99

4.27	Calculated and measured $S_E$ at point 1 of 300 mm x 120 mm x 300 mm enclosure with 50 mm x 5 mm centred aperture ( $X=a/2$ )	100
4.28	Calculated and measured $S_E$ at point 2 of 300 mm x 120 mm x 300 mm enclosure with 50 mm x 5 mm centred aperture ( $X=a/2$ )	100
4.29	Calculated and measured $S_E$ at point 3 of 300 mm x 120 mm x 300 mm enclosure with 50 mm x 5 mm centred aperture ( $X=a/2$ )	101
4.30	Calculated and measured $S_E$ at point 4 of 300 mm x 120 mm x 300 mm enclosure with 50 mm x 5 mm centred aperture ( $X=a/2$ )	101
4.31	Calculated $S_E$ at point $P$ of 300 mm x 120 mm x 300 mm enclosure with a single 120 mm x 4 mm aperture and three 120 mm x 4 mm apertures	104
4.32	Calculated and measured $S_E$ at point $P$ of 300 mm x 120 mm x 300 mm enclosure with a single 120 mm x 4 mm aperture	105
4.33	Calculated and measured $S_E$ at point $P$ of 300 mm x 120 mm x 300 mm enclosure with three 120 mm x 4 mm apertures	105
4.34	Calculated $S_E$ and $S_M$ at point $P$ of 300 mm x 120 mm x 300 mm enclosure with one, two and four apertures	107
4.35	Calculated $S_E$ at point $P$ of 300 mm x 120 mm x 300 mm enclosure with 30 mm, 60 mm and 90 mm diameter circular apertures	109
4.36	Calculated $S_E$ at point $P$ of 300 mm x 120 mm x 300 mm enclosure with 88 mm diameter circular aperture and 77 mm side square aperture	110
4.37	Calculated $S_E$ at point $P$ of 300 mm x 120 mm x 300 mm enclosure with two designs of ventilation plate	112
4.38	Comparison between larger and smaller enclosures at point $P$ with 50 mm x 5 mm off-centred aperture	114
4.39	Calculated $S_E$ and $S_M$ at point $P$ of 300 mm x 120 mm x 300 mm enclosure with 150 mm x 50 mm centred aperture for various values of $\zeta$	116
B-1	Shielding effectiveness of 20 mil copper	132

## LIST OF SYMBOLS/ ABBREVIATIONS

$E$	-	Electric Field Intensity ( $V/m$ )
$H$	-	Magnetic Field Intensity ( $A/m$ )
$f$	-	Frequency ( $Hz$ )
$\alpha$	-	Attenuation Constant ( $Np/m$ )
$\beta$	-	Phase Constant ( $rad/m$ )
$\gamma$	-	Propagation Constant ( $m^{-1}$ )
$\delta$	-	Skin Depth ( $m$ )
$\epsilon$	-	Relative Permittivity ( $F/m$ )
$\epsilon_0$	-	Relative Permittivity of Free-Space ( $\epsilon_0 = 8.854 \times 10^{-12} F/m$ )
$\epsilon_r$	-	Relative Permittivity of Material (dimensionless)
$\mu$	-	Relative Permeability ( $H/m$ )
$\mu_0$	-	Relative Permeability of Free-Space ( $\mu_0 = 4\pi \times 10^{-7} H/m$ )
$\mu_r$	-	Relative Permeability of Material (dimensionless)
$\sigma$	-	Conductivity of Material ( $S/m$ )
$\sigma_r$	-	Relative Conductivity (dimensionless)
$\eta$	-	Intrinsic Impedance ( $\Omega$ )
$\eta_0$	-	Impedance of Free-Space ( $\eta_0 = 377\Omega$ )
$\lambda$	-	Wavelength ( $m$ )
$v$	-	Velocity ( $m/s$ )
$\omega$	-	Angular Frequency ( $rad/s$ )
$c$	-	Velocity of light in free-space ( $2.998 \times 10^8 m/s$ )
$k$	-	Wavenumber ( $rad/m$ )
$h$	-	Cutoff Wavenumber ( $rad/m$ )

$l$	-	length ( $m$ )
$Z$	-	Impedance ( $\Omega$ )
$\zeta$	-	Loss Term (dimensionless)
CPS	-	Coplanar Strip
EMC	-	Electromagnetic Compatibility
EME	-	Electromagnetic Emission
EMI	-	Electromagnetic Interference
EMS	-	Electromagnetic Susceptibility
EUT	-	Equipment Under Test
FCC	-	Federal Communications Commission's
FDTD	-	Finite Difference Time Domain
GTEM	-	Gigahertz Transverse Electromagnetic
IEC	-	International Electrotechnical Commission
MoM	-	Method of Moment
PCB	-	Printed Circuit Board
PEC	-	Perfect Electric Conductor
RAM	-	Radio Absorbing Material
SE	-	Shielding Effectiveness
$S_E$	-	Electric Shielding Effectiveness
$S_M$	-	Magnetic Shielding Effectiveness
TE	-	Transverse Electric
TLM	-	Transmission Line Matrix
TM	-	Transverse Magnetic



**LIST OF APPENDICES**

<b>APPENDIX</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
A	Derivation and Mathematical Equation for Shielding Effectiveness	126
B	Material Properties	131
C	GTEM cell Characteristic	133
D	List of Published Papers	135



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## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 General

The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) has defined Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) as [1]:

*“Electromagnetic Compatibility, EMC is the ability of device, equipment, or system to function satisfactorily in its environment without introducing intolerable electromagnetic disturbance to anything in that environment.”*

The definition of EMC implies that it is important for all electrical and electronic equipment to take into consideration of complying with the relevant EMC standards from the early stage of designing until production. In the context of Malaysian manufacturers, EMC plays a significant role in order to penetrate international markets especially the United States of America, European Union and Japan. A design engineer must understand the various techniques that can be employed to ensure compliance to EMC standards especially related to electromagnetic emission (EME) and electromagnetic susceptibility (EMS). Some

important approaches that can be implemented are by reducing the loop area, filtering, grounding, bonding and shielding. Not all these measures can be implemented due to the space and circuit operation constraint but shielding can be considered as a last resort to reduce excessive emission and provide sufficient immunity to electromagnetic wave.

A system is electromagnetically compatible if it satisfies three criteria which are:

- i. It does not cause interference with other systems.
- ii. It is not susceptible to emission from other systems.
- iii. It does not cause interference with itself.

EMC can be divided into two aspects, namely EME and EMS. EME is defined as *'the phenomenon by which electromagnetic energy emanates from a source'* [1], while EMS is defined as *'the ability of a device, equipment or system to perform without degradation in the presence of an electromagnetic disturbance'* [1]. Figure 1.1 shows the relationship between these two main aspects, where emission can have consequence both inside and outside the system containing the source of the disturbance [2]. A similar conclusion can be made for susceptibility, where a situation without any electromagnetic interference (EMI) problem inside the system is said to be intrasystem compatible. It is intersystem compatible when there are no EMI problems between systems. In order to achieve this situation, it is necessary to reduce the EME from sources that are controllable or to increase the EMS of equipment that may be affected, or to do both. The degradation of the performance of a device, transmission channel, or system caused by an electromagnetic disturbance might be occurred without EMC consciousness. However, to eliminate all possibilities of EMI by decreasing emissions and increasing susceptibility using various ways such as reducing the loop area of the circuit or use a better component could create a high cost to industry and could prevent new technologies from emerging.

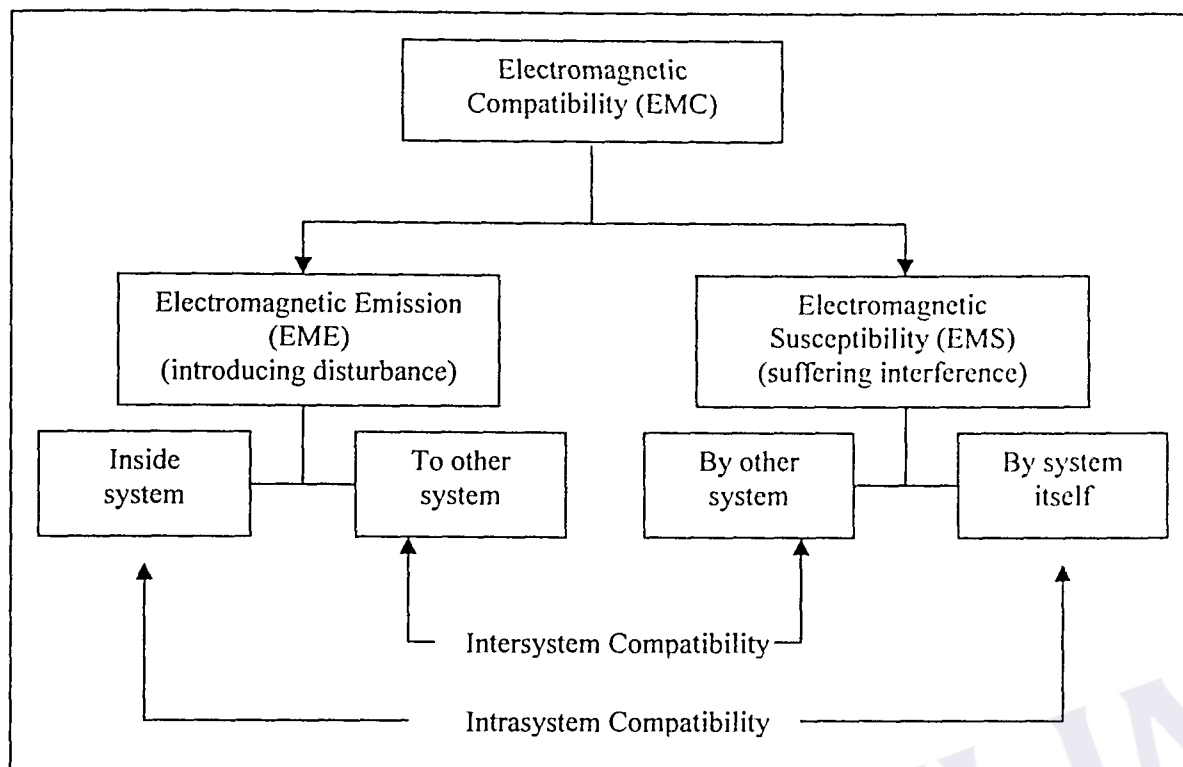


Figure 1.1: Aspects of electromagnetic compatibility [2].

The primary EMC design techniques are inclusive of electromagnetic shielding, circuit filtering, and good ground design including special attenuation to the bonding of grounding elements [3]. Figure 1.2 presents the recommended methodology of a good EMC design for a device or system [4].

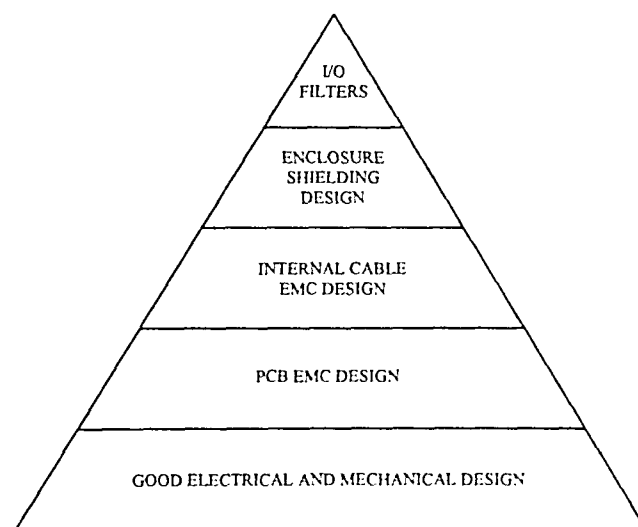


Figure 1.2: Electromagnetic compatibility design pyramid [4].

The foundation of a good EMC design is simply the application of *good electrical and mechanical design* principles. This includes reliability considerations by achieving the design specifications within acceptable tolerances, good packaging and comprehensive testing development.

Generally, the engine that drives today's electronic equipment is located on a printed circuit board (PCB). This engine is comprised of potential interference sources, as well as components and circuits which are sensitive to electromagnetic energy. Therefore, the *PCB EMC design* is the next most important consideration in EMC design. The location of active components, the routing of traces, impedance matching, grounding design, and circuit filtering are driven, in part, by EMC considerations. Certain PCB components may also require shielding.

The internal cables are generally used to connect PCBs or other internal subassemblies. The *internal cable EMC design*, including routing and shielding, is very important to the overall EMC of any given device. After the EMC design of the PCB and internal cables are complete, special attention must be given to the *enclosure shielding design* and the treatment of all apertures, penetrations and cable interfaces. Finally, consideration must be given to *filtering of input and output power and other cables*.

EMC is important for export market to anticipate and tackle problems from the beginning. In terms of product quality, it gives better functionality and customer satisfaction. In order to achieve the requirement, EMC design should be an integral part of any electronic devices or systems. Not all these measures can be implemented due to the space and circuit operation constraint. Since, this research work only concentrated on the radiated EMI, therefore, an EMC design criterion varies mostly in the enclosure shielding design [3], [5], [6]. It requires special attention since it is the last line of defense for controlling radiated EMI and providing sufficient immunity to electromagnetic wave. The shielding enclosure can be achieved by enclosing the circuit with a metallic structure without affecting the operation of the

circuit. This is far more cost effective than the alternative that is attempting to achieve EMC on a finished product.

The research work presented in this thesis is to develop further understanding of the quality of shielding for rectangular metallic enclosures with apertures.

## 1.2 Problem Statement

Recently, new technology particularly entails the use of high speed digital circuits (HSDC), responding to the need for increased processing rates of data. The use of high speed-high edge rate digital circuits, along with the need for low power consumption, have contributed to higher EME from the circuits and increased sensitivity of the circuits or on the other, leading to EMI problems. Although the radiated EMI can be reduced significantly by taking appropriate measures at PCB level, a shielding enclosure still remains necessary and important part of most electronic systems, whereas, in compare with the qualitative design. The biggest advantage is that it can estimate the EMC performance of the product design by its shielding effectiveness (SE) [3], [5], [6]. Thus, it becomes as an effective solution to provide sufficient protection to HSDC.

The integrity of shielding enclosures for HSDC is compromised by slots and apertures for heat dissipation, CD-ROMs, input/output (I/O) cable penetration, plate-covered unused connector ports and among other possibilities. It will results in too much leakage from the shielded equipment or make the equipment susceptible to external radiation. Radiation from slots and apertures in conducting enclosures are a great concern in meeting the EMC standards (eg. CISPR 22) for radiated EMI limits.

As more high-speed electronics find their way into industrial applications, EMI is becoming a bigger issue and will degrade the performance of the shielding enclosures. Since the effects of EMI to the electronics equipment are immense, this research is performed to investigate the effect of apertures penetration to the SE of a metallic enclosure.

There are two fields involved at each point in the enclosure to give the values of SE which are electric shielding effectiveness,  $S_E$  and magnetic shielding effectiveness,  $S_M$ . At present, this research work was only concentrated on the determination of  $S_E$  in the enclosure, since it is difficult to predict the  $S_M$  due to the limitations of the enclosure sizes and instrumentations. In practical design, not all the slots and apertures are located centrally on one face due to the space limitations. Therefore, this research work was concentrated on the aperture located at off-centred positions and investigated at different aspects such as the influence of aperture and enclosure sizes, aperture shapes, aperture positions, number of apertures, and the effects of enclosure contents to ensure an optimum benefit from the metallic packaging for practical use. An improved formulation has been developed to take into consideration the contribution of higher order modes in the enclosure to provide an accurate estimation of SE.

### 1.3 Aim of Research

The aim of this research is to determine the electric shielding effectiveness,  $S_E$  of a metallic enclosure for off-centred apertures by using an analytical formulation and experimental measurements in order to provide simple design rules for designers of shielded enclosures.

## 1.4 Objectives of Research

The primary objectives of this research are:

- i. To develop the analytical model of a metallic enclosure with off-centred apertures.
- ii. To determine the electric shielding effectiveness,  $S_E$  of a metallic enclosure for various aperture sizes, aperture shapes, aperture locations and number of apertures by taking into account the contribution of modes higher than  $TE_{10}$  mode.
- iii. To perform experimental measurements for analytical results comparison.
- iv. To suggest simple design rules for shielded enclosures designers.

## 1.5 Scopes of Research

The research work is an extension to the approaches developed by other researchers [7]. The research is on electromagnetic shielding that is frequently used to reduce the emissions or improve the immunity of electronic equipment. The ability of a shielding enclosure to do this is characterized by its SE. A lot of research works have been carried out to estimate the SE of metallic enclosures with apertures placing centrally in one face of the enclosure [7], [8], [9]. The following scopes have been employed to ensure a well defined problem and meaningful results in order to achieve the target:



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