Effective parameter definition and physical meaning

Sergei Tretyakov Helsinki University of Technology



Definition of effective material parameters

Permittivity, permeability, chirality parameter, Tellegen parameter, grid impedance, surface impedance, refractive index, wave impedance,...

are **simple models** of electromagnetic response of complex multi-particle systems.



Physically sound (local) material parameters. . .

- ► Are independent of the spatial distribution of fields excited in the material sample
- ▶ Are independent of the geometrical size and shape of the sample
- Satisfy the causality requirement (Kramers-Kronig relations)
- Satisfy the passivity requirement (II law of thermodynamics)

for all linear passive media in thermodynamically equilibrium states.



Difficulties

in effective-parameter description of metamaterials:

- ▶ Period is not very small compared with the wavelength ⇒ Spatial dispersion is not negligible
- Number of layers/inclusions is not very large ⇒ Surface effect is not negligible
- ▶ Particles are resonant ⇒ Spatial dispersion can be significant not only near lattice resonances
- ► Inclusions have both electric and magnetic responses ⇒ Effective permeability is supposed to model both spatial dispersion near lattice (Bragg) resonance and magnetic polarization due to individual inclusions

