

# Antenna Toolbox™ Release Notes



# MATLAB®

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The MathWorks, Inc.  
1 Apple Hill Drive  
Natick, MA 01760-2098

### *Antenna Toolbox™ Release Notes*

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**R2016a**

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# R2021b

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**Version: 5.1**

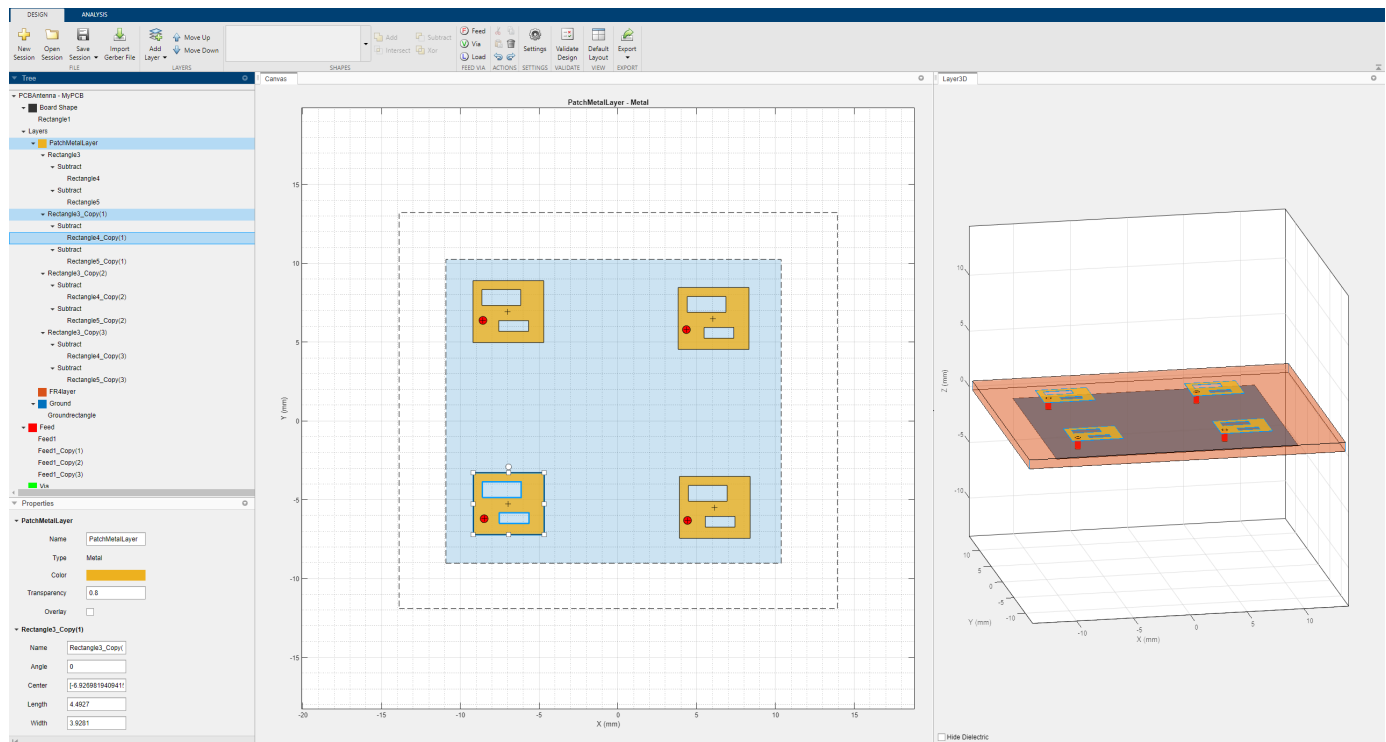
**New Features**

**Compatibility Considerations**

## PCB Antenna Designer App: Design, analyze, and fabricate PCB antennas

Use the **PCB Antenna Designer** app to:

- Create various shapes for the metal layer of a PCB antenna by using Boolean operations on basic shapes.
- Create a custom PCB stack antenna with multiple metal and dielectric layers.
- Add vias and feeds to metal layers.
- Design a PCB antenna using Gerber files
- Analyze the design at the desired frequency.
- Export a design to the workspace or a MATLAB® script.
- Modify the mesh of an antenna using mesh parameters.



### STL Files: Detect bad features in STL file

Use the `stlFileChecker` object to detect and enlist bad features in an STL file, such as nonmanifold edges and vertices, slivers, and duplicate vertices.

### Fast Multipole Method (FMM): Support for electrically large antennas and installed antennas

The FMM solver allows you to capture higher order effects such as diffraction, creeping wave, and traveling wave effects when you analyze installed antenna and radar cross-sections (RCS). In

addition, the solver now has a reduced memory requirement for large meshes. You can also analyze antennas mounted on platforms using the FMM.

## Method of Moments (MoM) Physical Optics (PO): Faster performance for analysis of electrically large structures

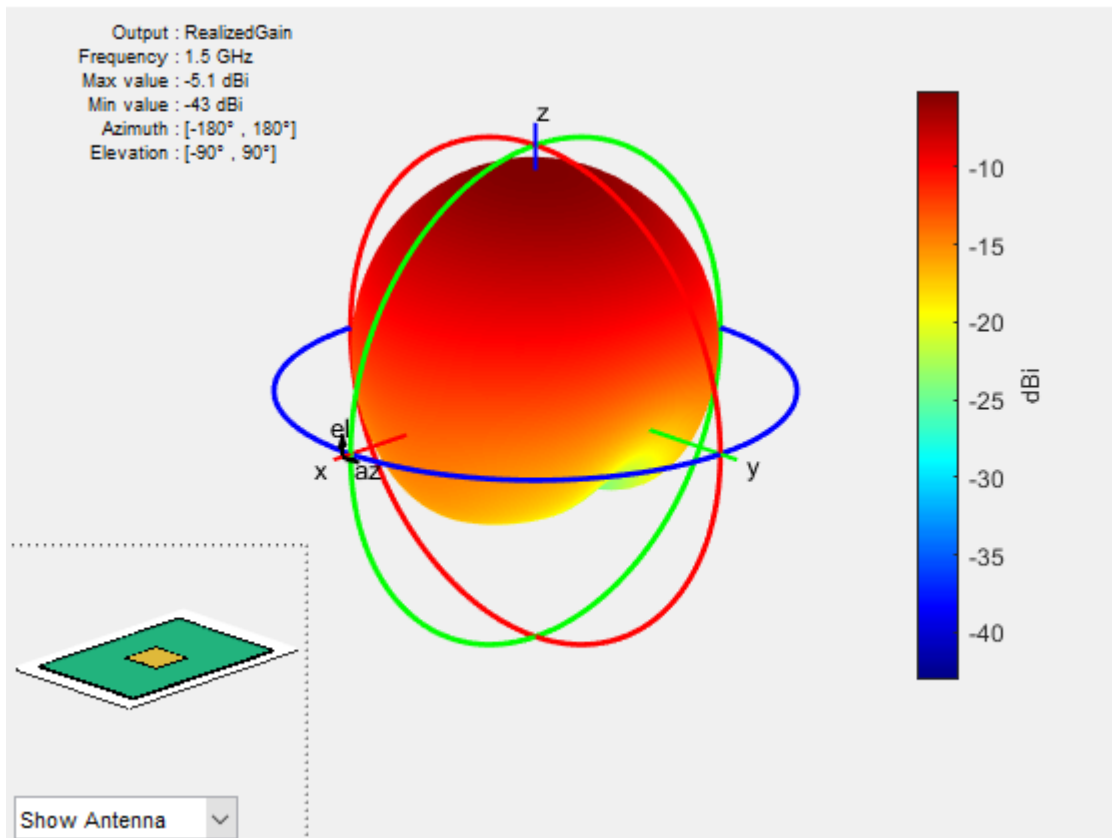
The MoM-PO solver now yields faster performance when you solve and analyze electrically large structures.

## Infinite Arrays: Support for metal-dielectric structures and metal antennas without ground plane

You can now design infinite arrays of metal-dielectric structures. Also, starting in R2021b, you can design infinite arrays of metal antennas without an infinite ground plane.

## Realized Gain: Calculate and visualize realized gain of antennas and arrays

You can now calculate and visualize the realized gain of antennas and arrays with a single or multiple ports using the pattern function.

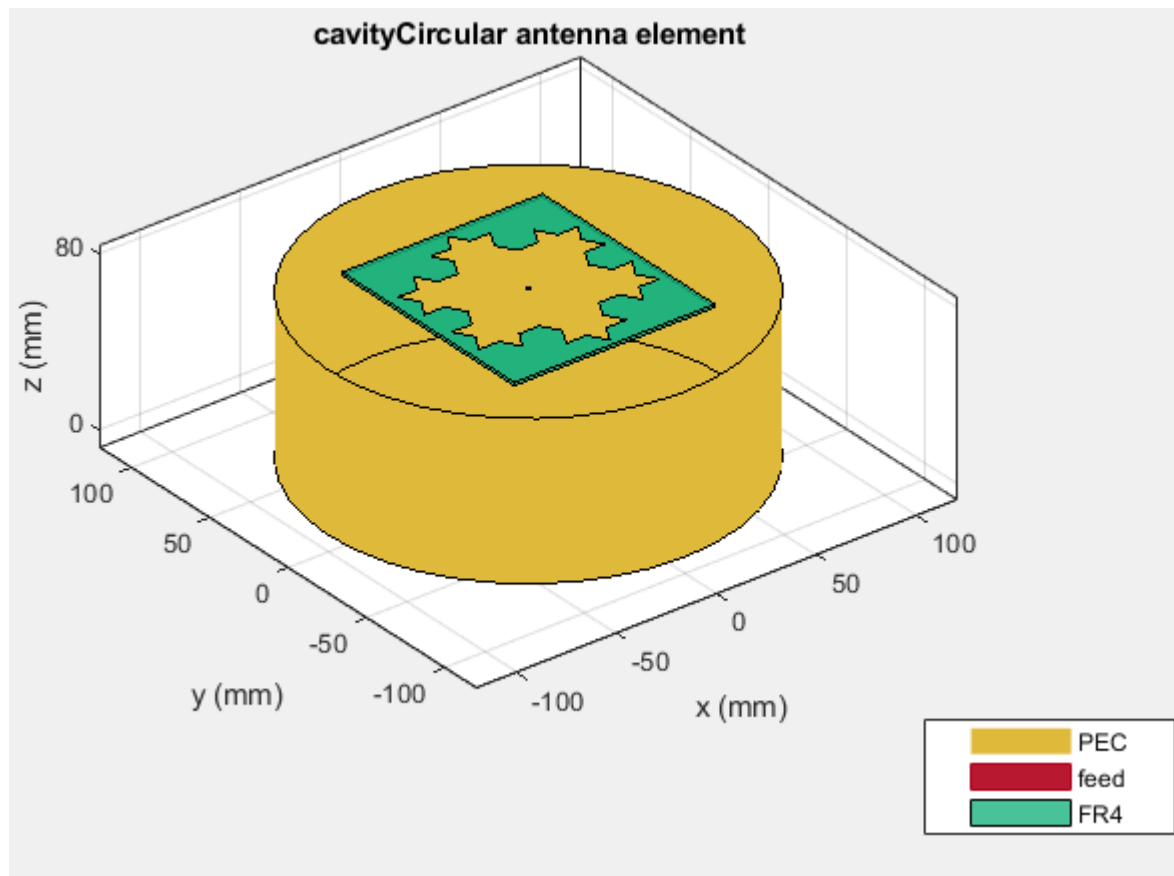


## EHfields enhancements: Support for polarization and calculating fields for spherical coordinate system

EHFields now enables you to calculate the electric and magnetic fields of antennas using a spherical coordinate system. EHFields also now supports horizontal and vertical polarization options.

## Backing Structures Update: Support for metal-dielectric exciters

You can now use metal-dielectric antennas and array structures as exciters for backing structures.



## RF Propagation: Perform ray tracing analysis using SBR method

- The default ray tracing method is now 'sbr' with up to two reflections (instead of 'image' with up to one reflection).
- Minor improvements to ray precision and the number of rays computed.

For more information, see “Choose a Propagation Model” and `propagationModel`.



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## RF Propagation: Import and view propagation paths within indoor scenes

In Site Viewer, you can now import and view standard tessellation language (STL) models or triangulation representations that have Cartesian coordinates by using the `siteviewer` object. The object has these added properties to support Cartesian coordinates.

Property	Description
<code>SceneModel</code>	STL model file or triangulation object
<code>Transparency</code>	Transparency of model
<code>ShowOrigin</code>	Option to show origin
<code>ShowEdges</code>	Option to show edges of model

These functions now support `txsite` and `rxsite` objects that have Cartesian coordinates.

- Display RF propagation rays by using the `raytrace` function.
- Display the line-of-sight (LOS) visibility status between sites by using the `los` function.
- Display the communication link status between sites by using the `link` function.
- Display the radiation patterns for a site by using the `pattern` function.
- Control the visibility of sites by using the `show` and `hide` functions.

When you import a scene using Site Viewer, analysis functions such as `raytrace` and `los` use the scene as the 3-D environment.

## Functionality being removed or changed

### Meshing infrastructure

#### *Behavior change*

Starting in R2021b, you might see a slight variation in antenna analysis results due to an update to the meshing infrastructure.

### Default value of Method name-value argument for propagationModel function is now shooting and bouncing rays method

#### *Behavior change*

Starting in R2021b, when you create a propagation model using the syntax `propagationModel('raytracing')`, MATLAB returns a `RayTracing` model with the `Method` name-value argument value set to `'sbr'` and two reflections (instead of `'image'` and one reflection as in previous releases). To create ray tracing propagation models that use the `image` method, use the syntax `propagationModel('raytracing','Method','image')`. For more information, see “Choose a Propagation Model” and `propagationModel`.

### raytrace, coverage, link, sigstrength, and sinr use shooting and bouncing rays method

#### *Behavior change*

Starting in R2021b, when you use the `raytrace`, `coverage`, `link`, `sigstrength`, or `sinr` function and specify the `propmodel` argument or `PropagationModel` name-value argument as `'raytracing'`, the function uses the shooting and bouncing rays (SBR) method and calculates up to

two reflections. In previous releases, the functions use the image method and calculate up to one reflection.

If you prefer to use the image method instead of the SBR method, create a propagation model by using the `propagationModel` function. Then, use the `raytrace`, `coverage`, `link`, `sigstrength`, or `sinr` function with the propagation model as input. This example shows how to update your code.

```
pm = propagationModel('raytracing','Method','image');  
coverage(txs,pm)
```

For information about the SBR and image methods, see “Choose a Propagation Model”.

### **ReflectionLocations and NumReflections properties of the comm.Ray object have been removed**

#### *Errors*

The `ReflectionLocations` and `NumReflections` properties have been removed from the `comm.Ray` object. To accommodate reflections, use the `Interactions` property to replace the `ReflectionLocations` property and use the `NumInteractions` property to replace the `NumReflections` property.

### **NumReflections property of the raytrace function will be removed**

#### *Still runs*

The `NumReflections` property of the `raytrace` function will be removed in a future release. The `NumReflections` property now applies to only the image ray tracing method. Instead, create a propagation model by using the `propagationModel` function with its `MaxNumReflections` name-value argument. Then, use the `raytrace` function with the propagation model as an input. This example shows the recommended workflow given transmitter site `tx` and receiver site `rx`.

```
pm = propagationModel('raytracing','Method','image','MaxNumReflections',2);  
rays = raytrace(tx,rx,pm);
```

# R2021a

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**Version: 5.0**

**New Features**

**Compatibility Considerations**

## **Fast Multipole Method (FMM): New solver added for Radar Cross Section (RCS) analysis**

The new solver using the fast multipole method (FMM) in the Antenna Toolbox reduces memory requirements and increases speed of operation for analysis of antennas while achieving the same accuracy as the method of moments (MoM). The FMM solver can be used for RCS analysis.

## **Finite Conductivity for Metal Structures: Modify conductivity of metal structure in antennas and arrays**

Use the `metal` object to specify the conductivity and the thickness of metal structures in antennas and arrays.

For example, this code shows how to define a metal in the antenna design using the `Conductivity` and `Thickness` properties of the `metal` object.

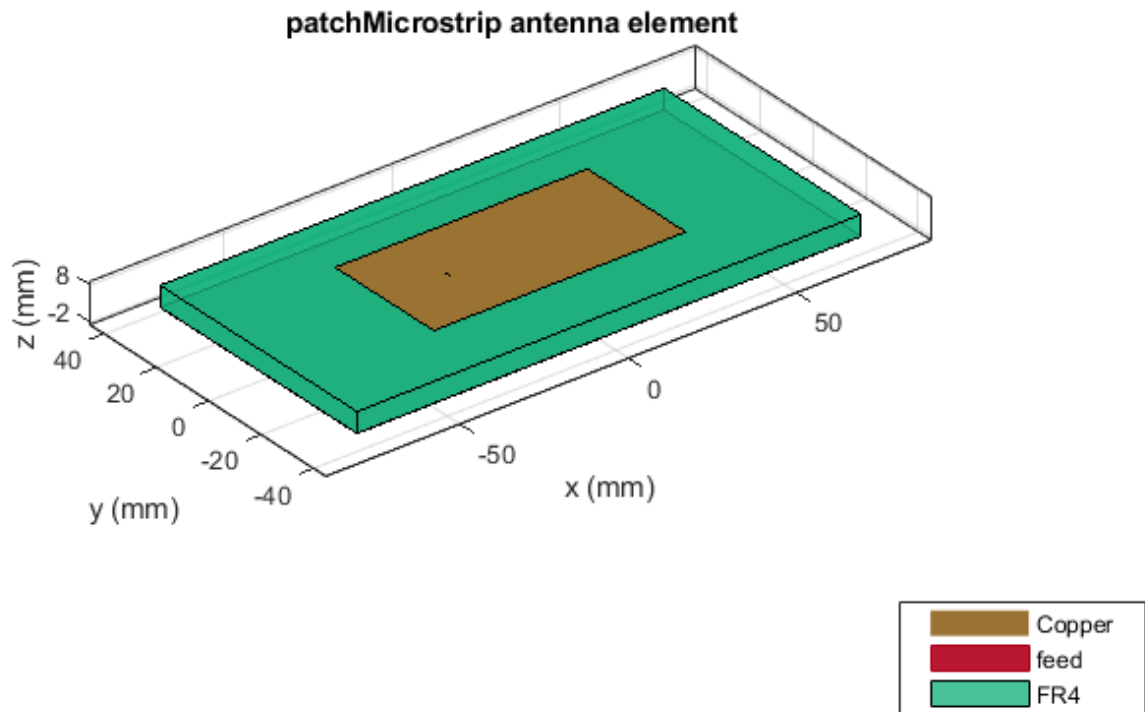
```
m = metal('Copper');  
ant = bicone('Conductor',m)
```

## **Metal Catalog and Visualization: Choose, customize, and visualize metal using MetalCatalog**

Use the `MetalCatalog` function to:

- Select a metal for the antennas or arrays from the metal catalog.
- Use a custom metal for the antennas or arrays and add it to the metal catalog.
- Visualize antennas or arrays created using different metals from the metal catalog.

For example, this figure shows microstrip patch antenna with copper patch selected from the `MetalCatalog`.

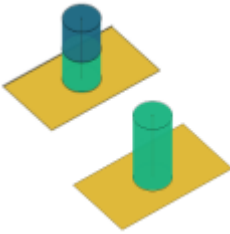



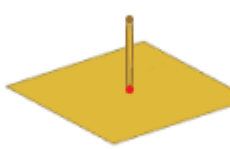



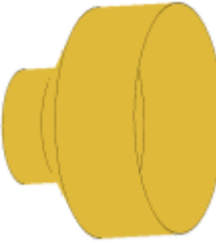


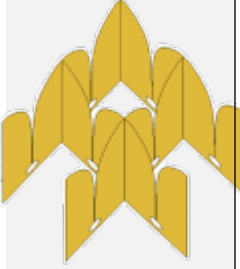
## **Radiation Efficiency Analysis: Plot radiation efficiency to analyze radiation characteristics of antennas**

You can now use the `efficiency` function to calculate and plot the radiation efficiency of antennas to analyze their radiation characteristics.

## **Dielectric Resonators, Dual Reflectors, Potter Horn, Cylindrical Dipole, and More: Design, visualize, and analyze 10 new antennas using parametrized geometry**

This table shows the list of new antenna objects added to the antenna catalog in this release.

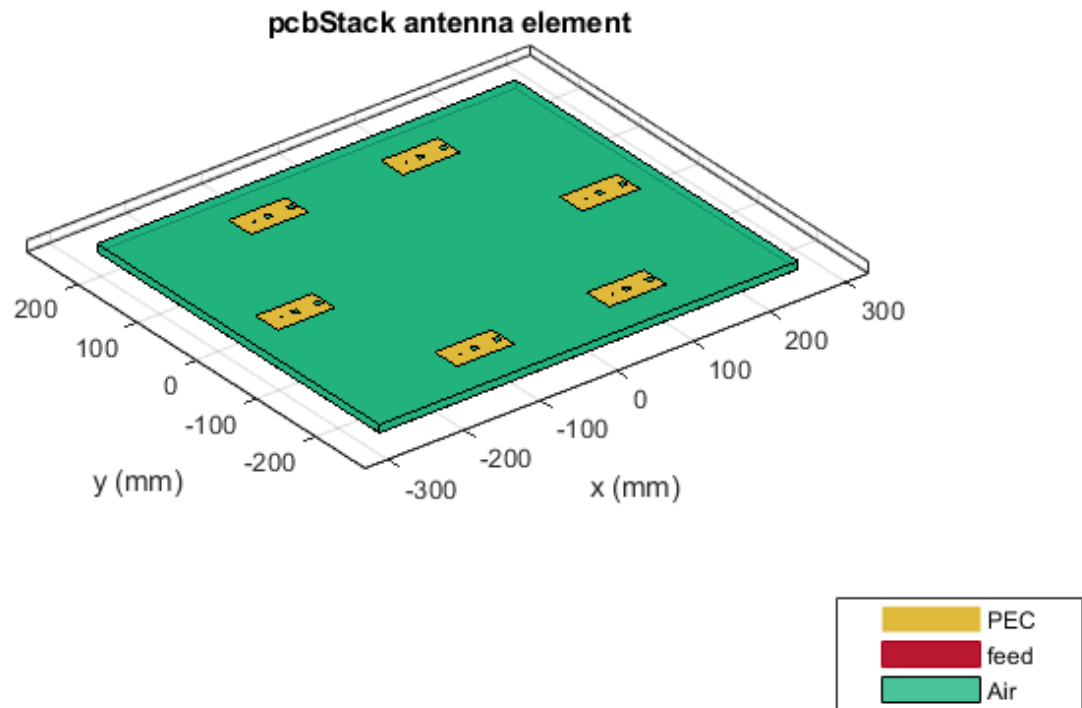
				
<p><b>draRectangular</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creates a rectangular dielectric resonator antenna</li> <li>• Used in satellite and radar systems</li> </ul>	<p><b>draCylindrical</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creates a cylindrical dielectric resonator antenna</li> <li>• Used in medium- and long-range communications due to their ability to handle high power</li> </ul>	<p><b>cassegrainOffset</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creates an offset Cassegrain antenna for high gain and to reduce side lobe level</li> <li>• Used as ground-based antennas in satellite communications</li> </ul>	<p><b>gregorianOffset</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creates an offset Gregorian antenna</li> <li>• Used in radar systems and radio telescopes</li> </ul>	<p><b>monopoleCylindrical</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creates a cylindrical monopole antenna</li> <li>• Used in wireless mobile communication due to its broadband characteristics</li> </ul>

				
<p>dipoleCylindrical</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creates a cylindrical dipole antenna</li> <li>• Used in wireless mobile communications due to its simple design</li> </ul>	<p>hornPotter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creates a Potter horn antenna</li> <li>• Used in satellite communications for frequency reuse</li> </ul>	<p>hornScrimp</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creates a scrimp horn antenna</li> <li>• Used in navigation satellite feeder links due to high aperture efficiency, low cross polarization, and low voltage standing wave ratio (VSWR) over a broad frequency band</li> </ul>	<p>vivaldiOffsetCavity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creates a Vivaldi antenna with an offset cavity</li> <li>• Suitable for ultra-wideband phased arrays used in aviation and aerospace technologies</li> </ul>	<p>eggCrate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creates an array of vivaldi or vivaldiOffsetCavity antenna elements</li> <li>• Suitable for ultra-wideband phased arrays used in radar systems</li> </ul>

## Array Support for pcbStack: Create and analyze array of pcbStack antenna objects

Use the array function to create a pcbStack object that contains an array of the input pcbStack antenna object.

For example, this figure shows the circular array of a pcbStack antenna object.

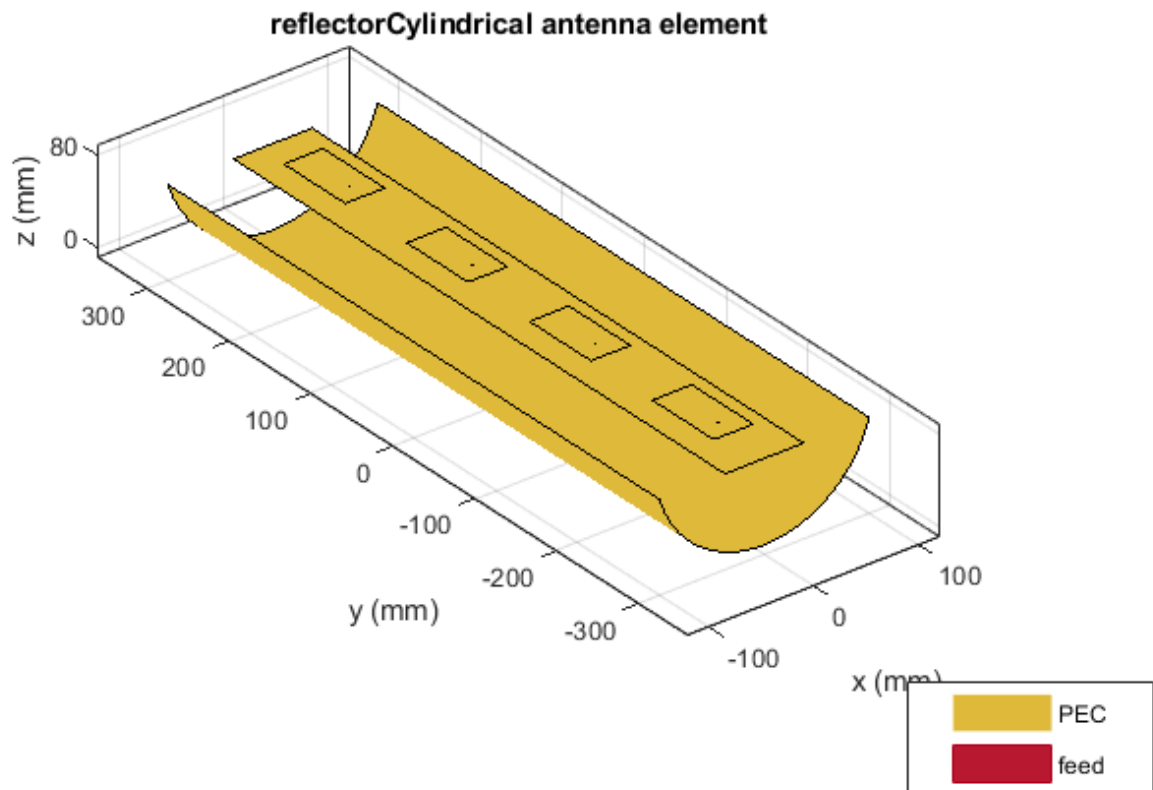


## **Arrays as Exciters for Backing Structures: Use arrays as exciters for cavities and reflectors**

You can now use arrays as exciters for the backing structures like cavities and reflectors to increase directivity and gain of the combined structure.

For example, this figure shows the linear array of microstrip patch antennas used to excite a cylindrical reflector.





### **Pattern Plots: Capability to plot both directivity and gain for lossy antennas**

The pattern function in the Antenna Toolbox now supports both the directivity and the gain plot options for lossy antennas.

### **Wire Solver: Faster performance for analysis of dipole and loop antennas**

Starting this release, using the wire solver will result in faster performance when solving and analyzing dipole and loop antennas.

### **RF Propagation: Perform ray tracing analysis using SBR method**

You can now perform ray tracing analysis using the shooting and bouncing rays (SBR) method. To display propagation paths or coverage maps using the SBR method, create a ray tracing propagation

model using the `propagationModel` function, and then specify the model as an input when you call the `raytrace` or `coverage` function.

For example, this code shows how to display the coverage map for the transmitter site, `tx`, based on the ray tracing propagation model, `pm`, that uses the SBR method.

```
tx = txsite;  
pm = propagationModel('raytracing', 'Method', 'sbr');  
coverage(tx, pm)
```

Propagation models that use the SBR method support up to 10 path reflections and are generally faster than propagation models that use the image method. Ray tracing propagation models that use the SBR method calculate approximate propagation paths, and ray tracing propagation models that use the image method calculate exact propagation paths. For more information about the SBR and image methods, see [Choose a Propagation Model](#).

## Functionality being removed or changed

### **`propagationModel('raytracing-image-method')` returns a `RayTracing` model**

*Behavior change*

Starting in R2021a, when you create a propagation model using the syntax `propagationModel('raytracing-image-method')`, instead of a `RayTracingImageMethod` model, MATLAB returns a `RayTracing` model with a `Method` property value of `'image'`. All functions that accept `RayTracingImageMethod` propagation models also accept `RayTracing` propagation models, so this change does not affect your existing code.

To create ray tracing propagation models that use the image method, instead of the syntax `propagationModel('raytracing-image-method')`, use `propagationModel('raytracing', 'Method', 'image')`. For more information about creating propagation models, see the `propagationModel` function.

# R2020b

---

**Version: 4.3**

**New Features**

## **Import Gerber Files: Import, modify, and analyze Gerber files Antenna Toolbox**

Use the `gerberRead` function to read Gerber files or use the `PCBReader` class to:

- Create a `pcbStack` object.
- Clean up specific metal layers.
- Access objects in different shapes associated with a particular layer.
- Specify the dielectric substrate type.

## **Grid, Cylindrical, and Spherical Reflectors; Bicone, Discone, and More: Design, visualize, and analyze ten new antennas including reflectors using parametrized geometry**

- Use the `reflectorGrid` object to create a reflector made of a grid of parallel wires or bars oriented in one direction. These reflectors can be used as high-gain antennas for point-to-point communications.
- Use the `reflectorCylindrical` object to create parabolic cylindrical reflector antennas. These reflectors are used in designing airborne navigational antennas.
- Use the `reflectorSpherical` object to create a spherical reflector antenna for wide-angle scanning. These antennas are used as multiple beam antennas in satellite communications.
- Use the `biconeStrip` object to create a stripped bicone antenna widely used in emissions testing, field monitoring, and chamber characterization.
- Use the `disconeStrip` object to model a stripped discone antenna. These antennas have low omnidirectional gain and wide to ultra-wide bandwidth and are used in UHF and microwave band applications.
- Use the `rhombic` object to create a rhombus made of parallel wires suspended above the ground to provide high forward gain and wide bandwidth. Rhombic antennas are used in long-distance communications.
- Use the `monopoleRadial` object to create a monopole antenna with the ground plane consisting of a number of radials. These antennas are widely used in cellular communications on account of their omnidirectional characteristics.
- Use the `hornRidge` object to create a horn with ridges on the inside and extending from the center to the sides. The ridges lower the cutoff frequency and increase the bandwidth. Ridged horn antennas are commonly used in electromagnetic interference and compatibility applications for generating electromagnetic fields.
- Use the `hornCorrugated` object to create a corrugated rectangular antenna mostly used in broadcasting. The corrugated horn provides beam symmetry, low side lobe level, and spillover reduction.
- Use the `monopoleCustom` object to create customized radiators on ground planes in a variety of shapes. These antennas are mostly used in airborne and ground-based communication systems.

## **Cartesian Positioning for txsite and rxsite: Perform point-to-point RF propagation analysis using Cartesian coordinate system**

- Use the `CoordinateSystem` and `AntennaPosition` properties of the `txsite` and `rxsite` objects to support Cartesian coordinates in antenna site location.

- 
- Use functions like `sigstrength`, `sinr`, and `pathloss` for point-to-point RF propagation analysis when using Cartesian coordinates to locate antenna sites.

### **Ray Tracing Analysis for Cartesian Coordinates: Import STL files to describe scenarios for ray tracing analysis**

- You can use the `Map` and `propagationModel` parameters of point-to-point RF Propagation functions to support an STL file or a triangulation object. This aids ray tracing analysis in any 3-D map environment.
- New properties of the ray tracing propagation model include `CoordinateSystem`, `SurfaceMaterial`, `SurfaceMaterialPermittivity`, and `SurfaceMaterialConductivity`. You can use these properties to define surface materials for a 3-D map surface.

### **SADEA Optimization Using Command Line Interface: Optimize antennas and arrays by providing access to optimization data**

Use the `optimize` function to optimize antennas and arrays in the command line interface. You can use the SADEA optimizer to optimize antennas and arrays with respect to various analysis parameters and the associated required constraints.

### **Surrogate Optimization in Antenna Designer and Array Designer: Optimize antenna and arrays using surrogate optimizer**

You can now use the surrogate optimizer from Global Optimization Toolbox as an alternative to the SADEA optimizer in the **Antenna Designer** app and the **Antenna Array Designer** app.



# R2020a

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**Version: 4.2**

**New Features**

**Bug Fixes**

## **SADEA Optimization in Antenna Designer and Array Designer: Optimize antennas and arrays using Antenna Toolbox**

Use the **Antenna Designer** App and the **Antenna Array Designer** App to optimize antennas and arrays with respect to various analysis parameters under given constraints.

## **customAntennaStl Object: Import STL file to create a custom 3D antenna**

Use the `customAntennaStl` object to:

- Create a custom 3D antenna object.
- Create a feed for the antenna object using `createFeed` function.
- Select the feeding edge or the feeding contour.
- Run analysis on the antenna object at any desired frequency.

## **Wire Solver: Analyze and solve dipole like antenna catalog elements**

Use the `wireStack` object to create, analyze, and solve a single or multifeed wire antenna.

## **PCB Stack for Arrays: Convert arrays directly to PCB stack**

Use the `pcbStack` object for the conversion of antenna array catalog elements to PCB stack.

## **Corrugated Horn, Antipodal Vivaldi, Monocone, Elliptical Patch, Fractal Snowflake and More: Design, visualize, and analyze ten new antennas using parametrized geometry**

- Use the `hornConicalCorrugated` antenna object to model a corrugated horn antenna, where the corrugations are slots or grooves covering the inner surface of the cone.
- Use the `vivaldiAntipodal` object to create an antipodal vivaldi antenna mostly used in wireless communications and radars. This antenna is a type of end fire tapered slot antenna that provides medium gain with less side lobes and wide bandwidth.
- Use the `monocone` object to create a modified monocone that consists of a merged cone and cylinder on a circular ground plane. The modified monocone as a higher bandwidth and finds uses in airborne as well as ground applications.
- Use the `patchMicrostripElliptical` object to create an elliptical shape microstrip patch antennas for uses in applications that require circular polarization.
- Use the `fractalSnowflake` object to create a snowflake fractal antenna.
- Use the `spiralRectangular` object to create a single or dual arm rectangular spiral antenna mostly used in WLAN applications.
- Use the `waveguideRidge` object to create a double ridge waveguide mostly used in ultra-wideband applications like radio astronomy.
- You can now use the `lpda` object to create a tapered log-periodic dipole antenna with a trapezoidal board shape.



---

## **Ray Tracing Propagation Model: New propagation model using ray tracing method of images with material reflection loss**

Use `raytracing-image-method` parameter in `propagationModel` for ray tracing analysis to compute propagation paths and their corresponding path losses, including surface reflections losses.

## **Measurements Data in Site Viewer: Import and visualize measurements data in Site Viewer**

Use the `propagationData` object for importing and visualizing geolocated propagation data such as measurement files, data variables in MATLAB, or the output of `coverage` or `sinr` functions.

## **RF Propagation and Ray Tracing Enhancements: New and updated objects and functions for analysis using ray tracing**

New and updated features enable you to:

- Predict the total received power and generate coverage maps using ray tracing.
- Use the command line to access ray tracing analysis info generated by using the `raytrace` function.
- Include permittivity of building materials (`buildingMaterialPermittivity`) and earth surfaces (`earthSurfacePermittivity`) in path loss calculation of reflected waves.
- Include antenna polarization in path loss calculations.

New features include a `comm.Ray` object, `raypl`, `earthSurfacePermittivity`, `buildingMaterialPermittivity`, and `add` functions.

Updated features include `raytrace`, `coverage`, `sinr`, `sigstrength`, `link`, and `pathloss`.

## **Great Circle Path: geodesic input changed to greatcircle input option**

In `distance` and `angle` functions, the `geodesic` option for the `path` input parameter is changed to `greatcircle` option.



# R2019b

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**Version: 4.1**

**New Features**

## **Physical Optics (PO) and Hybrid MoM: New solvers added for large structure analysis**

Antenna Toolbox now has the Hybrid MOM-PO solver for modeling large structures such as parabolic antennas. The antenna element of the large structure is accurately modelled using the Method of Moments (MoM) solver and the effect of electrically large structure is considered using Physical Optics (PO).

Antenna toolbox also uses the PO solver for radar cross section (RCS) analysis. For more information, see Hybrid MoM-PO Method for Metal Antennas with Large Scatterers and Physical Optics Solver.

## **Radar Cross-Section (RCS) analysis: Generate and visualize RCS of platform, antenna, or array object**

Use the `rsc` function to calculate and plot the monostatic or bistatic RCS of a platform, antenna, or an array.

## **Antenna Array Designer App: Interactively design, analyze, and visualize antenna arrays**

Use the **Antenna Array Designer** app to:

- Show different array configurations and layout defining element spacing.
- Compare different array types and responses.
- Pick array configuration to meet specific peak gain, directivity, desired coverage, pattern, port parameters etc.
- Change the spacing between the elements and see the effect on the performance of the array.
- Visualize the effect of mutual coupling at the port and in the far-field.
- Calculate mutual impedance.
- Control the radiation pattern of the array in a desired direction in space.
- Calculate the scan impedance and the scan pattern for different azimuth and elevation values.
- Observe mutual coupling between elements and minimize it to achieve diversity reception.

## **Buildings Data in Site Viewer: Import and visualize buildings in Site Viewer for point-to-point ray tracing analysis**

Use the `siteviewer` object to import and visualize buildings in Site Viewer. Use the `raytrace` function to visualize point-to-point ray tracing analysis.

## **Cassegrain, Gregorian, Slotted Waveguide, Circular Horn, Quad Custom and More: Design, visualize, and analyze nine new antennas using parametrized geometry**

New antenna objects and enhancements to existing objects aid in design and visualization.

- You can now use the existing `biquad` antenna object to model a double biquad antenna.

- 
- Use the `bicone` antenna object to model a bicone antenna used in applications such as Electronic Support Measurement (ESM), or electromagnetic interference (EMI) testing.
  - Use the `discone` object to model a discone antenna in which one cone is replaced by a disk.
  - Use the `waveguideCircular` to create a hollow tube of uniform cross section that confines electromagnetic waves.
  - Use the `waveguideSlotted` to create a various types of slots on the waveguide like longitudinal, transversal, centered inclined and inclined slots cut into narrow wall.
  - Use the `hornConical` to create a waveguide shaped like a cone to direct radio waves in a beam.
  - Use the `cassegrain` and the `gregorian` objects to create parabolic antennas in which the feed antenna is mounted at or behind the surface of the main parabolic reflector and is aimed at the secondary reflector.
  - Use the `quadCustom` object to create a Yagi-Uda custom array antenna.



# R2019a

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**Version: 4.0**

**New Features**

## Installed Antenna Analysis: Perform analysis of antennas installed on electrically large structures called platforms

Use `installedAntenna` object to integrate the effect of large electrical structures known as platforms on antennas and arrays. Import the `platform` (ship, plane, or car) as an STL file. You can place single or multiple antennas around the platform. Calculate the S-parameters, pattern, charge, and current to see the effect of the platform on the antenna.

## Data from STL Files: Import platform objects from STL files and export antenna geometry to STL files

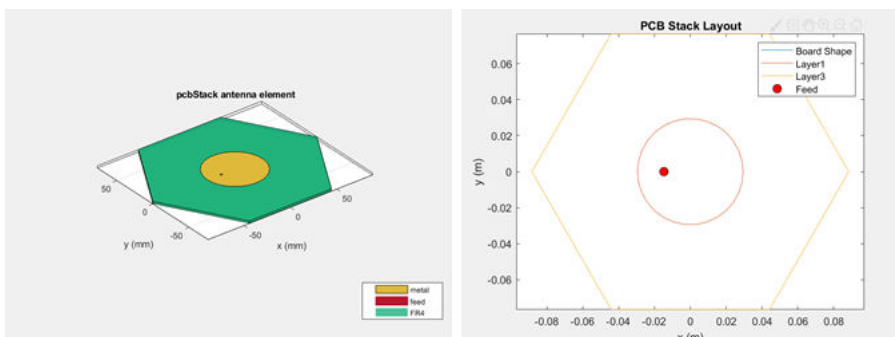
Use `platform` to import STL files as platforms for installed antenna analysis.

Use `stlwrite` to export an antenna or array geometry to an STL file.

## Polygonal Board Shape for PCB Stack: Define printed antennas on polygonal board shape

Create printed antennas on polygonal boards and boards with holes. For example, design a circular microstrip patch on a polygonal board.

```
% Design circular microstrip patch using FR4 substrate.
p = design(patchMicrostripCircular,3e9);
p.Substrate = dielectric('FR4');
c = antenna.Circle;
c.NumPoints = 6;
c.Radius = 3*p.Radius;
figure
show(c)
%% Create polygonal stack
v = getShapeVertices(c);
cp = antenna.Polygon('Vertices',v);
pb = pcbStack(p);
pb.Layers{3} = cp;
pb.BoardShape = cp;
% Visualize geometry
show(pb)
axis equal
% Visualize layout of board, layers, feeds, vias etc.
figure
layout(pb)
```





## Gerber Files for Arrays: Generate Gerber files with multiple feeds for arrays

Create PCB antennas with more than one feed for a multifeed antenna or an array. Use this PCB antenna to create Gerber files for a connector and manufacturing service.

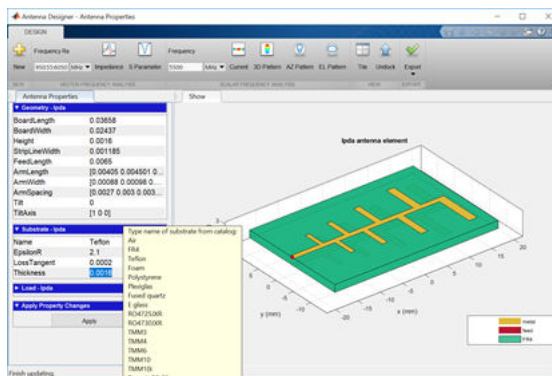
## Improvements in Antenna Designer App: Updates to Antenna Designer app supports backing structure gallery, dielectric catalog, and better export to MATLAB scripts

You can now use the **Antenna Designer** app to:

- Choose backing structures such as a cavity or reflector, for an antenna.



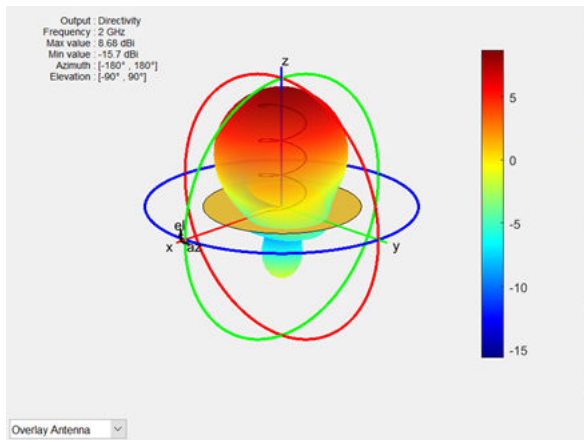
- Auto-fill the dielectric properties by typing the name of the substrate.



- Generate a consolidated MATLAB script that walks you through all the changes made to an antenna using the application.

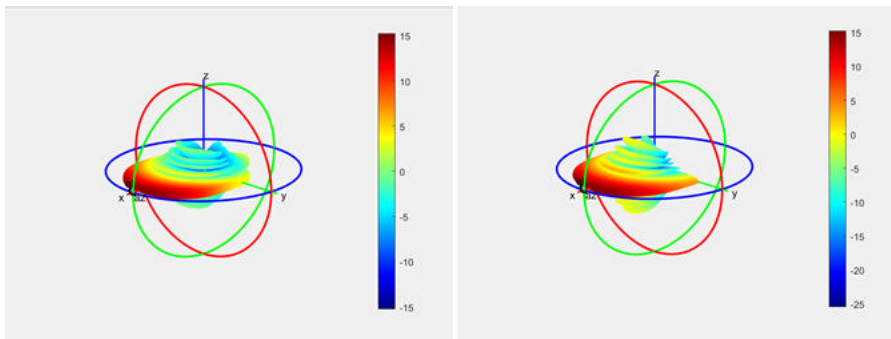
## Improvements in Radiation Pattern Visualization: Plot phase in 3-D; overlay antenna, or array and its pattern on same axes

Use the `pattern` function to visualize an antenna or an array with its corresponding radiation pattern on the same axes. Now, you can also customize the radiation pattern.



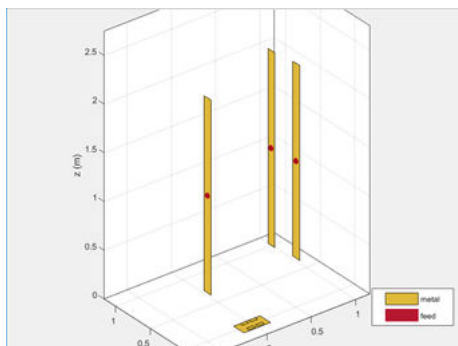
### 3-D Radiation Pattern of Orthogonal Slices: Generation of 3-D radiation pattern from two orthogonal slices

Use the `patternFromSlices` function to reconstruct a 3-D radiation pattern from azimuth and elevation slices.



### Subarrays for Conformal Arrays: Include linear, rectangular, and circular arrays as elements in conformal arrays

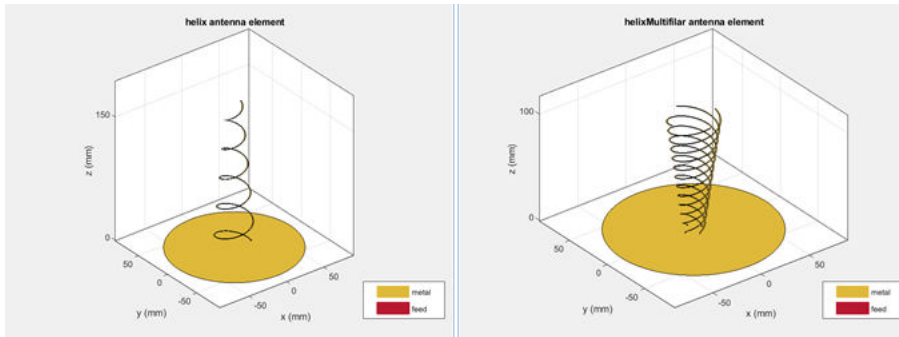
You can now include linear, rectangular, and circular arrays as elements in a `conformalArray` object. You can also modify the conformal array properties, such as `AmplitudeTaper` and `PhaseShift`.



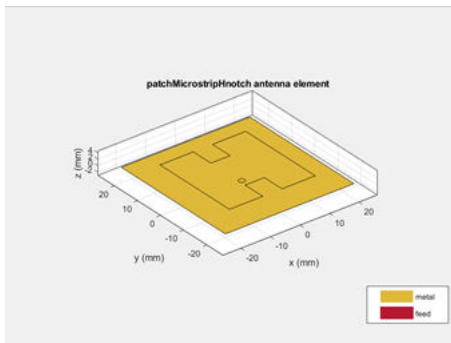
## Conical helix, Crossed Dipole, H-Slot Patch, Sierpinski's Carpet, and Minkowski's Loop: Design, visualize, and analyze five new antennas using parameterized geometry

New antenna objects and enhancements to existing objects aid in design and visualization.

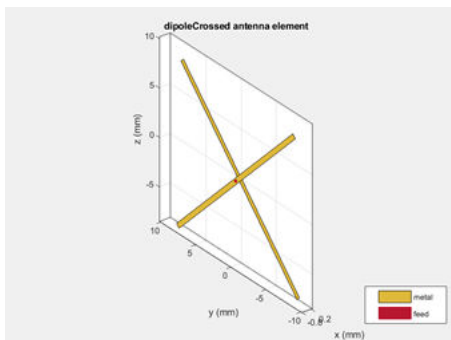
- You can now use the existing `helix` and `helixMultifilar` objects to model helix antennas of increasing or decreasing radius.



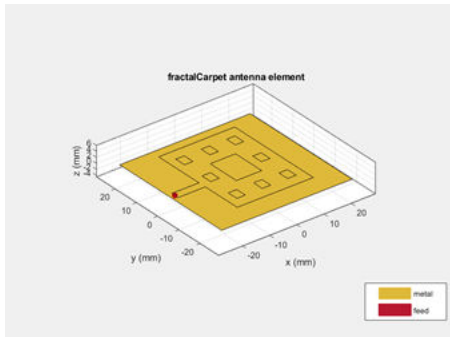
- Use the `patchMicrostripHnotch` object to model a probe-fed H-shaped microstrip patch antenna.



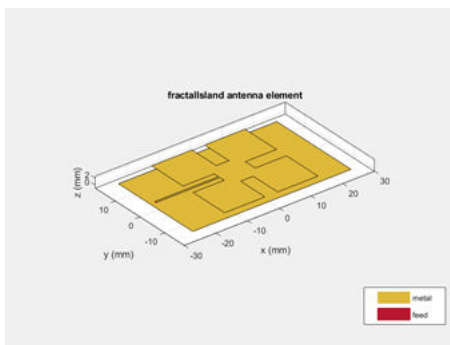
- Use the `dipoleCrossed` object to model a crossed dipole antenna.



- Use the `fractalCarpet` object to model a Sierpinski's carpet fractal.



- Use the `fractalIsland` object to model a Minkowski's loop.



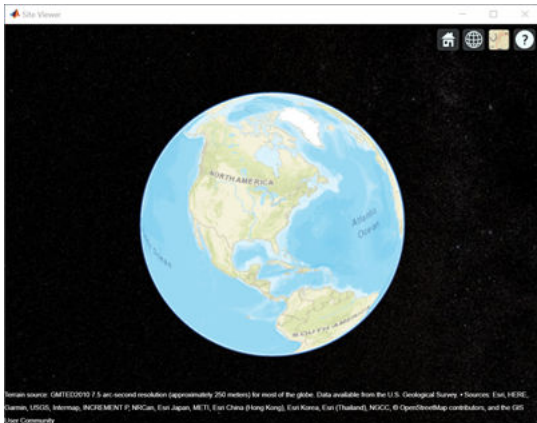
Use the `show` function to view the structures of these antennas.

## Logarithmic Current and Charge Plots: Visualize current and charge distributions on antennas in logarithmic scale

Use the existing current and charge functions to visualize current and charge distributions of antennas in a logarithmic scale.

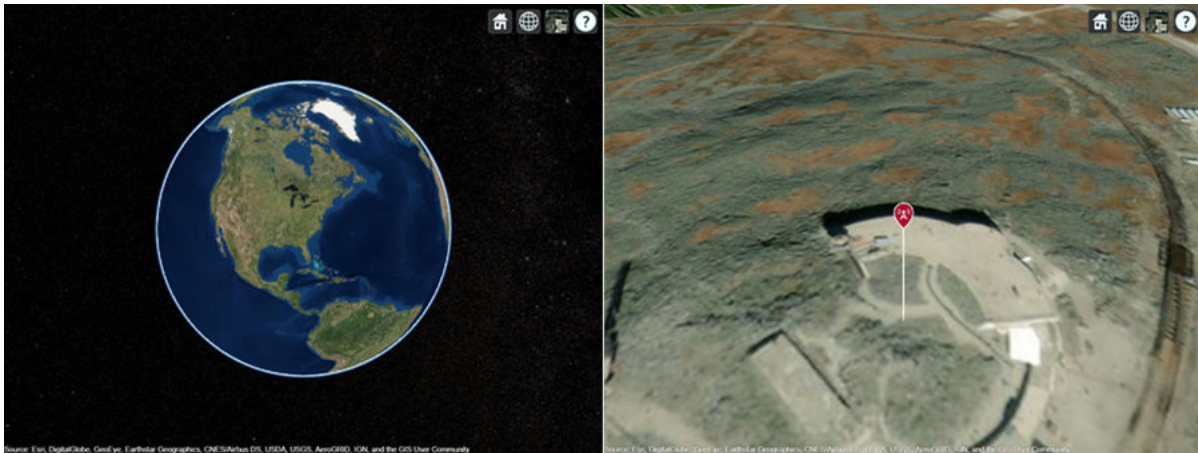
## Site Viewer Command Line Interface: Launch, configure, and close Site Viewer windows from MATLAB command line

Use the `siteviewer` function to launch and configure Site Viewer windows. You can create multiple Site Viewer windows to compare visualizations as well as configure basemaps and terrain information.



## DTED Terrain Data: Import 3-D terrain data files for use in Site Viewer and RF propagation tools

Use the `addCustomTerrain` function to import terrain from DTED files and specify new terrain in Site Viewer.



## TIREM Propagation Model: Visualize path loss computed using TIREM propagation model

help

You can now use the `propagationModel` function to integrate the Terrain Integrated Rough Earth Model™ (TIREM™) in the Site Viewer and visualize the impact on received signal strength.



# R2018b

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**Version: 3.2**

**New Features**

### **3-D Terrain Visualization: Stream global terrain data in Site Viewer and visualize path loss computed using the Longley-Rice propagation model**

You can now visualize terrain features in Site Viewer.

Use the Longley-Rice propagation model in `propagationModel` to visualize the impact of local terrain features on received signal strength.

Use the `elevation` function to calculate the ground elevation at the required site.

Use the `pattern` function to visualize antenna radiation pattern in Site Viewer.

### **Array Design Function: Design an array configuration with appropriate antenna spacings for a given frequency**

You can now use the existing `design` function to create array configurations that operate at a specified frequency.

### **Array Phase Shift Function: Calculate the phase shifts of the array elements to achieve beam scanning in a particular direction**

Use the `phaseShift` function to calculate a set of phase shift values that you can apply to an array operating at a specified frequency.

### **Bifilar and Quadrafilar Helix, Koch Curve Fractal, Sierpinski' s Gasket, Single Arm Archimedean Spiral: Design, visualize, and analyze five additional antennas with parameterized geometry**

The new objects aid in the design and visualization of new antennas:

- Use the `helixMultifilar` object to model a bifilar or quadrafilar helix antenna on a ground plane.
- Use the `dipolehelixMultifilar` object to model a bifilar or quadrafilar helix dipole antenna.
- Use `fractalKoch` object to model a Koch curve fractal antenna in an X-Y plane.
- Use `fractalGasket` object to model a Sierpinski's gasket on the X-Y plane.
- Use the existing `spiralArchimedean` object to model a single arm Archimedean spiral antenna.

Use the `show` function to view the structures of these antennas.

### **Parabolic Reflector: Design, visualize, and analyze an antenna in the presence of a large parabolic reflector element with parameterized geometry**

Use the `reflectorParabolic` object to model a parabolic reflecting backing structure for antenna elements. Parabolic reflectors are large antennas of at least 10 wavelengths in diameter.



# R2018a

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**Version: 3.1**

**New Features**

**Compatibility Considerations**

## **SINR Visualization: Visualize transmitter site signal-to-interference-plus-noise ratio (SINR) on a map**

Use the `sinr` function to measure the signal-to-interference-plus-noise ratio (SINR) of a receiver and display a map visualization. The SINR value is an important measure of receiver quality.

## **Antenna Site Visualization: Visualize line-of-sight path between transmitter/receiver sites and clustering of adjacent sites**

Use the `los` function to plot the line-of-sight visibility between two sites on a map.

## **Meshing Engine for Metal Surfaces: Improved performance for analysis of metal antennas**

The mesh generator, `mesh`, now uses new algorithms for 2-D geometries of metal antennas.

## **Compatibility Considerations**

Resulting meshes can differ from meshes generated in previous releases. For example, meshes generated with default size controls might have fewer elements than before.

## **E-Shaped Patch, Triangular Patch, LPDA, and J-Dipole: Design, visualize, and analyze four additional printed antennas with parameterized geometry**

The new objects aid in the design and visualization of new antennas:

- Use the `patchMicrostripEnotch`, `patchMicrostripTriangular`, and `lpda` objects to create PCB antennas.
- Use the `dipoleJ` object to model a J-pole antenna that finds applications in ham radio.

## **Corner Reflector: Design, visualize, and analyze an antenna in the presence of an additional reflector element with parameterized geometry**

Use the `reflectorCorner` object to create a corner reflecting backing structure for antenna elements. Antennas using corner reflectors are mostly used in radar and wireless communications systems.

# R2017b

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**Version: 3.0**

**New Features**

## **PCB Stack Antenna: Design Custom PCB antennas with arbitrary metal-dielectric layers, solid feed/via models, and advanced meshing control**

Use the `pcbStack` object to build custom multi-layer metal-dielectric PCB antennas. You can use this object for practical antenna designs such as cell phones, RFID, IoT applications.

## **Gerber File Generation from `pcbstack`: Prototype and implement antennas using customizable library of RF connectors and PCB manufacturing services**

Printed Circuit Board (PCB) antennas are described by a set of manufacturing files collectively known as 'Gerber files'.

Use the `PCBWriter` object or the `gerberWrite` function with the `pcbStack` object to generate Gerber files. Optionally, you can choose the RF connector for the PCB board and PCB viewer or manufacturing service.

## **Conversion of 2-D/2.5-D Antenna Elements to `pcbStack`: Design custom printed antennas using available library elements**

Use `pcbStack` to convert antenna library elements for PCB-based custom printed antennas. You can now customize antenna elements by:

- Adding one or more feed points and control the excitation amplitude, phase.
- Defining one or more vias between different layers.

## **Inset-Fed Patch, Circular Patch, Cloverleaf, Circular Reflector, and Circular Cavity: Design, visualize, and analyze three additional antennas and two additional backing structures using parameterized geometry**

The new objects aid in the design and visualization of new antennas:

- Use the `patchMicrostripInsetfed` object to feed a rectangular patch antenna using inset-feed.
- Use the `patchMicrostripCircular` object to model a circular patch antenna.
- Use `cloverleaf` object to model a wideband circularly polarized cloverleaf antenna.
- Use `sectorInvertedAmos` object to model a sector antenna the pattern of which illuminates a sector.
- Use the `cavityCircular` and `reflectorCircular` objects as backing structures for other antenna elements.

Use the `show` function to view the structures of these antennas.

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## **Birdcage Antenna: Design, visualize, and analyze an additional antenna, including the effects of human heads modeled with phantoms**

Use the `birdcage` antenna object to design, analyze, and visualize a birdcage antenna. You can use this antenna to model an MRI coil and study the performance for a loaded and unloaded MRI coil. Use the `show` function to view the structures of these antennas.

## **Visualization Within Dielectric Volume: Inspect charge and current separately in the metal and dielectric layers**

You can now use the `charge` and `current` functions to visualize charge and current separately in metal and dielectric layers.

## **RF Propagation: Visualize transmitter/receiver sites, links, and coverage on map using outdoor and weather-based path loss models**

Use Antenna Toolbox `txsite` and `rxsite` objects to compute and visualize antenna sites and RF propagation on a virtual globe. Computation and Visualization options include:

- Signal strength computation using free-space propagation or your choice of propagation model to include effects due to weather.
- Map-based visualization of sites and signal strength, including links for point-to-point communication and contour maps for area coverage
- High-quality map for visualizations including 3-D virtual globe.



# R2017a

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**Version: 2.2**

**New Features**

## **Plane Wave Excitation: Compute the scattering solution of antennas and arrays when excited by plane waves**

Use the `planeWaveExcitation` object to excite any antenna or array from the library using a plane wave. Plane waves in Antenna Toolbox are specified using a direction vector and a polarization vector.

## **Antenna Designer App: Interactively select and analyze antennas with desired characteristics**

Use the **Antenna Designer** app to interactively explore, design, and analyze antennas in the library. You can also select multiple antennas and compare the analysis of these antennas. Antennas designed using the app can be exported as a variable in the MATLAB workspace, as a live script, or as a function.

## **Lumped RLC Load for Antenna Elements: Modify the resonant frequency using load elements at an arbitrary location on an antenna surface**

You can now use the `lumpedElement` function to modify the resonant frequency of an antenna by adding the load at an arbitrary location.

## **Array Factor Analysis: Compute the array pattern using pattern superposition of individual antennas**

Use `arrayFactor` and `patternMultiply` to calculate the array factor and the full array pattern of an antenna array. `arrayFactor` and `patternMultiply` do not consider the effect of mutual coupling between different elements in an array.

## **PCB Stack Antenna: Describe custom printed antennas on multilayered substrates**

Use the `pcbStack` object to create structures used in the PCB-based design of antennas. Using this object, you can define:

- Multiple metal layers
- Dielectric substrate
- One or more feed points and control excitation amplitude or phase
- Any number of vias between different layers.

## **Custom Planar Array Geometry: Describe a custom array by defining its geometric boundaries**

Use the `customArrayGeometry` function to create an array represented by 2-D custom geometry. Use the `layout` and `show` functions to view the layout and structure of the array.



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## **Custom Ground Plane for Dielectric Structures: Model an infinite ground plane or no ground plane for antennas mounted on substrates**

You can now add infinite ground plane or no ground plane to design and analyze antenna structures with dielectric such as patch, cavity, and reflector.

## **Cycloid Dipole and Blade Dipole: Design, visualize, and analyze two additional antennas using parameterized geometry**

Use the `dipoleCycloid` and `dipoleBlade` antenna objects to design and analyze cycloid dipole and blade dipole antennas, respectively. Use the `show` function to view the structures of these antennas.

## **conformalArray: Build heterogeneous conformal antenna arrays by specifying both balanced and unbalanced antennas**

You can now use the `conformalArray` object to design and analyze heterogeneous conformal arrays using balanced and unbalanced antennas. Use the `layout` and `show` function to view the layout and structures of these arrays.



# R2016b

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**Version: 2.1**

**New Features**

## **MultiLayered Dielectric Substrate: Include multilayered and thick dielectric substrate effects in antennas and antenna arrays**

Use the dielectric function to design and analyze patch, cavity, and reflector antennas or array structures that have multi-layered or thick dielectric substrates.

## **Antenna Design Function: Design the geometric properties of antennas to resonate at a particular frequency**

Use the design function to create an antenna object that operates at a specified frequency.

## **Custom Planar Antenna Geometry: Describe a custom antenna by defining its geometric boundaries**

Use the customAntennaGeometry class to define geometric boundaries for custom antenna shapes. Use the antenna analysis functions to analyze the custom antenna geometry for its port, surface, and field characteristics. You can also use this custom antenna geometry in finite and infinite arrays.

## **Lumped RLC Components for Antenna Elements: Modify resonant frequency using load elements at the antenna feed point**

Use the lumpedElement function to change the electric properties of the antenna. For example, you can increase the antenna bandwidth without changing the dimensions using RLC components.

## **Circular Antenna Array: Position elements of an antenna array on a circle**

Use the antenna elements library to design circularArray. Use the layout function to view the placement of the different antenna elements.

## **Custom Patch Antenna: Create a probe-fed patch antenna with arbitrary shape**

Use Double slot cavity patch on TMM10 substrate example to learn how to create an antenna using customAntennaGeometry. This example also shows you how to manipulate properties of an antenna using lumpedElement and multi-layered dielectric substrates.

## **Dipole Helix, Coplanar Inverted-F, and Coplanar Inverted-L Antennas: Design, visualize, and analyze three additional antennas using parameterized geometry**

Use the dipoleHelix, invertedFcoplanar, and invertedLcoplanar antenna objects to design and analyze helix dipole, coplanar inverted-F, and coplanar inverted-L antennas, respectively. Use the show function to view the structures of these antennas.

# R2016a

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**Version: 2.0**

**New Features**

## **Dielectric Modeling: Account for the effects of the substrate in antennas and finite antenna arrays**

Design and analyze patch, cavity, and reflector antenna or array structures by using dielectric material as substrates. Characterize dielectric substrates using the `dielectric` utility function and the constants and properties listed in `DielectricCatalog`.

## **Import Antenna Arrays as a Planar Mesh: Design antenna arrays with custom planar geometries**

Use the `customArrayMesh` class to design a planar array object. Analyze the custom mesh array for its port, surface, and field characteristics using array analysis functions.

## **Conformal Antenna Arrays: Position the antenna elements of an array at arbitrary position**

Design conformal antenna arrays using any antenna elements from Antenna Toolbox as unit cells. You can also specify an array of any shape and antenna arrangements. Analyze unit cells of the array and extract the embedded pattern using array analysis functions.

## **Multi-Axis Tilt Property for Antennas and Antenna Arrays: Rotate an antenna or an array around any arbitrary axis**

Use the `TiltAxis` property to rotate the antenna and array elements around any arbitrary axis.

## **Polar Plot: Interactively visualize the radiation pattern and perform measurements using `polarpattern`**

Use the `polarpattern` function to plot antenna and array characteristics in polar coordinates. In the polar plot, you can:

- Use markers to enable measurements of the plotted data
- Visualize  $N$ -dB beamwidth
- Change the orientation of the data

## **Custom Pattern and Field: Visualize any arbitrary 3-D radiation pattern data or electric/magnetic field data using `patternCustom` and `fieldsCustom`**

Use the `patternCustom` function to plot and visualize 2-D or 3-D radiation patterns from user specified or lab-measured antenna data recorded in CSV, text, or MAT files.

Use the `fieldsCustom` function to plot and visualize electric or magnetic fields from user specified or lab-measured antenna data recorded in CSV, text, or MAT files.

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## **Radiation Pattern Import/Export: Import and export radiation pattern data using the MSI file format with msiread and msiwrite**

Use the `msiread` function to read data from MSI files that have `.msi` or `.pln` extensions. Use the `msiwrite` function to write data into MSI files that have `.pln` extension.

## **Rectangular Horn and Waveguide Antennas: Design, visualize, and analyze rectangular horn and waveguide antennas with parameterized geometry**

Use the `horn` and `waveguide` antennas class to design and analyze a rectangular horn and waveguide antennas, respectively. To view the structure of horn or waveguide metal antennas, use the `show` function.





# R2015b

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**Version: 1.1**

**New Features**

### **Infinite Array Object: Analyze a library antenna as a unit cell in an infinite array**

Design infinite antenna arrays using antenna elements from Antenna Toolbox as unit cells. Use array analysis functions to analyze unit cells of the array and extract the embedded pattern.

### **Custom Planar Mesh Object: Import an arbitrary 2-D mesh to describe a custom antenna**

Use the `customAntennaMesh` class to design a planar antenna object. Use the antenna analysis functions to analyze the custom mesh antenna for its port, surface, and field characteristics.

### **Infinite Ground Plane Specification: Model an infinite ground plane for antennas connected to the ground**

Analyze and visualize properties of antenna connected to the ground plane, such as patch, monopole, and pifa in the presence of an infinite ground plane.

### **E-H Field Visualization: Inspect the electric and magnetic fields at an arbitrary distance from the antenna**

Use `EHfields` to visualize the electric and magnetic fields of an antenna element in Antenna Toolbox.

### **Biquad Antenna Object: Design, visualize, and analyze biquad antennas with parameterized geometry**

Use the `biquad` antenna class to design and analyze a biquad metal antenna. Use the `show` function to view the structure of the biquad metal antenna.

# R2015a

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**Version: 1.0**

**New Features**

## **Antenna library for rapid design and visualization of metal antennas using parameterized geometry**

Design and analyze the structure of 22 metal antennas including dipoles, monopoles, spirals, and patches. Use the `show` function to view the structure of the metal antennas.

## **Antenna array design using antenna elements**

Use the Antenna Toolbox library of antenna elements to design linear and rectangular antenna arrays. Use the `layout` function to view the placement of the different antenna elements in the array.

## **Port analysis of antennas and antenna arrays**

Analyze the ports of different antennas and antenna arrays using `impedance`, `returnLoss`, and `sparameters` functions.

## **Field analysis of antennas and antenna arrays**

Analyze and visualize the radiation pattern, E-H fields and beamwidth of different antennas and antenna arrays using `pattern`, `EHfields`, `patternAzimuth`, `patternElevation` and `beamwidth` functions.

## **Surface analysis of antennas and antenna arrays**

Determine, visualize and analyze the surface charge and current of different antennas and antenna arrays using `charge`, and `current` functions.

## **Antenna array analysis for the embedded element pattern and the correlation coefficient of the elements of the array**

Determine, analyze, and visualize the embedded element pattern and the correlation coefficient of elements in an array using `pattern`, and `correlation` functions.

## **Infinite ground plane specification for analyzing balanced antennas**

Analyze and visualize balanced antenna properties, such as, dipoles and bowties in the presence of an infinite ground plane.