

Dr. L. J. Nickisch
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Education

B.S. (Physics)	University of Minnesota (Minneapolis), 1978
M.S. (Physics)	University of Wisconsin (Madison), 1979
Ph.D. (Physics)	University of Wisconsin (Madison), 1984

Areas of Experience

Dr. Nickisch is a Senior Research Scientist and Vice President at NorthWest Research Associates, joining NWRA in 2005 after twenty years at Mission Research Corporation (MRC). Dr. Nickisch heads the NWRA Monterey branch and performs contract research, primarily in the area of electromagnetic wave propagation in the ionosphere. Current and recent efforts include the development of HiCIRF, a software HF channel simulator that includes propagation mode geometry and scintillation effects and generates signal realizations at the antenna element level. He was instrumental in the specification of the coordinate registration component of the Roadmap for a next-generation Over-the-Horizon radar system. He is a co-developer of GPSII, a real-time ionospheric modeling capability that assimilates GPS beacon data as well as a host of other ionospheric diagnostic data. GPSII has been used in investigations of anomalous ionospheric perturbations that occur up to two weeks in advance of major earthquakes.

Dr. Nickisch joined MRC in 1984 after receiving his doctorate in physics. He served as Head of the Radar and Propagation Effects Group of MRC's Communications and Radar Systems Division. He applied his expertise in HF propagation to the areas of OTH radar Coordinate Registration and Spread Doppler Clutter Modeling. Under the CREDO effort, a threefold improvement in OTH radar range registration accuracy was demonstrated by coupling Hamiltonian ray tracing and flexibly parameterized ionosphere models derived from backscatter sounding inversion. CLEM, a model for the prediction and analysis of OTH radar Spread Doppler Clutter, was developed by Dr. Nickisch under Rome Laboratory and DNA sponsorship. CLEM utilizes PDM, a theory for HF small-scale stochastic scatter developed by Dr. Nickisch during his analysis of data from the DNA HF Channel Probe (which measured scintillations of HF signals due to propagation through the structured ionization of the polar region). CLEM has been used in a joint AFRL/DTRA-funded effort performed by MRC to provide a performance prediction model for ROTH-PR, an OTH radar now sited in Puerto Rico that must perform in the naturally disturbed equatorial ionospheric environment. Dr. Nickisch co-originated a unique FDTD computational capability for dispersive plasmas and applied this method to study the limitations of random media propagation theory and the theory for the backscatter cross section of geomagnetic field-aligned ionization irregularities. In an effort called SIFTER, a novel signal processing algorithm for the enhanced detection of very weak targets (invented by Dr. Sergey Fridman) was applied to OTH radar. Rather than applying a CFAR threshold to the radar measurements to detect targets, SIFTER solves the inverse problem of determining what scatterers will reproduce the entire radar measurement. This distribution of scatterers is evolved in time using a smoothing criterion and knowledge of what constitutes target-like motion to enhance weak targets while suppressing clutter. SIFTER has also been adapted to the CODAR SeaSonde, an HF surface wave radar.

Dr. Nickisch received his doctoral degree in theoretical physics from the University of Wisconsin – Madison. His dissertation research regarded the theoretical and numerical solution of the Bethe-Salpeter equation in quantum chromodynamics for bound quark-antiquark states (mesons). He used the meson mass spectrum and leptonic decay widths to study the behavior of the strong nuclear force in the intermediate regime between the Coulomb region (small quark separation) and linear-confinement region (large quark separation). Since 1997 he has been performing both theoretical and computational investigations into the electrodynamic effects of the electromagnetic vacuum fields (the so-called Zero Point Field, or ZPF). He has developed a fully relativistic three-dimensional two-body Lorentz-Dirac equation solver. This he used in numerical simulations of a classical atom immersed in the ZPF to demonstrate the quasi-stability provided to atoms by the ZPF against radiative collapse. With this code he also validated the Cole-Zou result that the radial probability distribution function of the ZPF-immersed classical atom agrees with the quantum

theoretical one. Together with Dr. Jules Mollere, he is the originator of the theory of Connectivity. In this theory the electromagnetic fields (including the ZPF) are treated as space-time distortions in an extension of General Relativity. An important consequence of the theory is that massless charges naturally develop the property of inertia. Connectivity also resolves the quantum theory discrepancy that apparently massive particles undergo speed-of-light zitterbewegung motions, and it furthermore produces particle spin as a ZPF-driven effect.

- Theoretical physics including quantum field theory and relativity (33 years experience)
- Computational physics and numerical simulation (30 years experience)
- Electromagnetic propagation in randomly structured ionization (27 years experience)
- Finite-Difference Time Domain (FDTD) propagation in ionization (24 years experience)
- HF communication and signal specification in nuclear environments (27 years experience)
- Over-the-Horizon radar coordinate registration and clutter modeling (22 years experience)
- VHF/UHF radar ionization-induced propagation effects (23 years experience)
- Stochastic Electrodynamics and ZPF-related physics (14 years experience)

Key Professional Accomplishments

- Created an infinitesimal flux tube formulation for accurate focusing computations in Hamiltonian raytracing
- Invented the Phase-Screen/Diffraction Method (PDM) for computing scintillation effects in structured ionization
- Major contributor to the DNA HF Signal Specification for disturbed nuclear environments
- Co-originator a general technique for extending FDTD to dispersive media
- Developed CREDO, an ionospheric inversion and coordinate registration enhancement capability for OTH radar
- Developer of CLEM, a clutter effects model for OTH radar
- Developer of PROPMOD, a merging of DTRA-sanctioned random media propagation algorithms with the WBMOD environment model, for VHF/UHF and higher frequency radar systems
- Originator of Connectivity theory, an electromagnetic extension of General Relativity that explains the origin of inertia

Professional Honors, Memberships

Phi Beta Kappa

Tau beta Pi

Sigma Xi

American Physical Society

American Geophysical Union

URSI, Commission G

Selected publications and reports of Dr. L. J. Nickisch

"HiCIRF: A High-Fidelity HF Channel Simulation," 13th International Ionospheric Effects Symposium, Proceedings, Ed. J. M. Goodman, 2011 (with Gavin St. John, S. V. Fridman and M. A. Hausman).

"Inversion of Backscatter Ionograms and TEC Data for Over-the-Horizon Radar," 13th International Ionospheric Effects Symposium, Proceedings, Ed. J. M. Goodman, 2011 (with S. V. Fridman and M. A. Hausman).

"Multiple phase screen calculation of wide bandwidth propagation," Radio Science, Radio Sci., 44, RS0A09, doi:10.1029/2008RS004054, 2009 (with D. L. Knepp).

"PC-based system for real time reconstruction of the three-dimensional ionosphere using data from diverse sources," Radio Sci., 44, RS3008, doi:10.1029/2008RS004040, 2009 (with S. V. Fridman and M. A. Hausman).

"Practical Applications of Haselgrove's Equations for HF Systems," URSI Radio Science Bulletin, No. 325, June 2008, Invited Paper.

"Traveling Ionospheric Disturbance Mitigation for OTH Radar," Proceedings IEEE Radar 2007 Conference, 2007 (with Mark A. Hausman and Sergey Fridman).

“Mitigation of the Effects of Scintillation on Radar Object Classification,” Final Technical Report, NWRA-BELL-07-R348, AFRL-SN-HS-TR-2007-0020, 15 June 2007 (with Dennis L. Knepp).

“Ionospheric Effects Mitigation for Radar Systems Using GPS Ionospheric Inversion (GPSII),” AFRL Technical Report AFRL-VS-HA-TR-2007-1064, 1 December 2006 (with Sergey V. Fridman, Mark A. Hausman, and James A. Secan).

“Tests of SIFTER for CODAR with Tracker,” with S. V. Fridman and M. A. Hausman, Final Technical Report, NWRA-Bell-06-R338, August 2006.

“SIFTER for CODAR,” with S. V. Fridman and M. A. Hausman, Final Technical Report, NWRA-Bell-06-R322, May 2006.

“TID Mitigation for OTH Radar and High-Fidelity HF Propagation Modeling,” with S. V. Fridman and M. A. Hausman, Final Technical Report, NWRA-BELL-06-R318, March 2006.

“Real-time reconstruction of the three-dimensional ionosphere using data from a network of GPS receivers,” with S. V. Fridman, M. A. Hausman, and Mark Aiello, *Radio Sci.*, 41, RS5S12, doi:10.1029/2005RS003341, 2006.

“Range rate–Doppler correlation for HF propagation in traveling ionospheric disturbance environments,” with M. A. Hausman, and S. V. Fridman, *Radio Sci.*, 41, RS5S39, doi:10.1029/2005RS003358, 2006.

“Review of Experimental Concepts for Studying the Quantum Vacuum Fields,” with E. W. Davis, V. L. Teofilo, B. Haisch, H. E. Puthoff, A. Rueda and D. C. Cole, *Space Technology and Applications International Forum (STAIF 2006)*, p. 1390 (2006).

“OTH Radar Propagation Analysis,” with Mark A. Hausman, Sergey V. Fridman, Kevin Collins, and Mark Aiello, Mission Research Corporation report MRC/MRY-R-119, July 2005.

“Earthquake Remote Precursor Sensing by Inversion of GPS Two-Frequency Beacon Data,” with Sergey V. Fridman, Mark A. Hausman, and Mark Aiello, Mission Research Corporation report MRC/MRY-R-118, May 2005

“A Power Law PSD Model of TEC Structure in the Polar Region,” *Radio Science*, V. 39, No. 1, RS1S12, doi:10.1029/2002RS002818, 2004.

“Traveling Ionospheric Disturbance Effects and Modeling for Over-the-Horizon Radar,” with Mark A. Hausman and Sergey V. Fridman, Mission Research Corporation report MRC/MRY-R-117, April 2004.

“SIFTER: Signal inversion for target extraction and registration,” with Sergey V. Fridman, *Radio Science*, V. 39, No. 1, RS1S34, doi:10.1029/2002RS002827, 2004

“SIFTER: Signal Inversion For Target Extraction and Registration – Coherent Processing of IQ Data,” with Sergey V. Fridman and Mark A. Hausman, Final Technical Report for NSWC contract F30602-00-C-0162, MRC/MRY-R-111, July 2003.

“Update on an Electromagnetic Basis for Inertia, Gravitation, the Principle of Equivalence, Spin and Particle Mass Ratios,” with Haisch, Bernard, Alfonso Rueda, and Jules Mollere, <http://www.arxiv.org/abs/gr-qc/0209016>, AIP Conference Proceedings 654, *Space Technology Applications International Forum (STAIF 2003)*, Ed. Mohamed S. El-Genk, pp. 922 - 931, February 2003.

“Connectivity and the Origin of Inertia,” with Jules Mollere, <http://www.arxiv.org/abs/physics/0205086>, 2002 (to be published in *The Search for Unity in Physics: Proceedings of the Fourth Vigier Symposium*, Ed. Richard Amoroso, 2005).

“Generalization of ionospheric tomography on diverse data sources: Reconstruction of the three-dimensional ionosphere from simultaneous vertical ionograms, backscatter ionograms, and total electron content data,” with S. V. Fridman, *Radio Science*, Vol. 36, Number 5, September-October 2001.

“Finite-Difference Time-Domain Tests of Random Media Propagation Theory II: ℓ_o and f_o ,” with P. M. Franke, *Radio Science*, Vol. 36, Number 2, March-April 2001.

“CLEM Predictions for a Puerto Rico ROTH; Model Descriptions and Ionospheric Structure Model Validation,” with Carl Lauer and William Wortman, DSWA Final Technical Report, MRC-R-1562, September 1998.

“Automated Propagation Management and Assessment for Over-the-Horizon Radar -- Final Technical Report,” with Sergey V. Fridman and Mark A. Hausman, AFRL Final Technical Report, MRC/MRY-R-070, August 1998.

“HF cross section of field-aligned irregularities: Finite difference time domain tests of the Born theory formula,” with P. M. Franke, *Radio Science*, Vol. 33, Number 4, July-August 1998.

“Prediction of over-the-horizon radar clutter using the clutter effects model,” with Carl Lauer and William Wortman, *Radio Science*, Vol. 33, Number 4, July-August 1998.

“FDTD Analysis of OTH Radar Propagation Issues,” with P. M. Franke, M. A. Hausman, J. E. Lebaric, T. Barrett, and M. C. Kelley, Air Force Research Laboratory Final Technical Report, AFRL-SN-RS-TR-1998-136, July 1998.

“CREDO: Coordinate Registration Enhancement by Dynamic Optimization -- Final Development and Implementation,” with M. A. Hausman, Rome Laboratory Final Technical Report, RL-TR-96-195, January 1997.

“Finite-Difference Time-Domain Tests of Random Media Propagation Theory,” with P. M. Franke, *Radio Science*, Vol. 31, Number 4, July-August 1996.

“Equatorial OTH Radar Clutter Modeling and Site Selection,” with Carl Lauer, Steven Bottone, and William Wortman, DNA Technical Report, Contract DNA001-93-C-0105, Mission Research Corporation, MRC-R-1494, September 1995.

“A Model of Doppler Spread Ground Clutter for OTH Radar,” with J. T. Reinking, Rome Laboratory Final Report (MRC/MRY-R-038), December 1994.

“Finite-Difference Time-Domain Solution of Maxwell's Equations for the Dispersive Ionosphere,” with P. M. Franke, *IEEE Antennas and Propagation Magazine*, Vol. 34, Number 5, October 1992.

“Non-Uniform Motion and Extended Media Effects on the Mutual Coherence Function: An Analytic Solution for Spaced Frequency, Position, and Time,” *Radio Science*, Vol. 27, Number 1, January-February 1992.

“Focusing in the Stationary Phase Approximation,” *Radio Science*, Vol. 23, Number 2, March-April 1988.

“Relativistic description of quark-antiquark bound states. Spin-independent treatment,” with Alan Gara, Loyal Durand, and Bernice Durand, *Phys. Rev. D*, Vol. 40, no. 3, pp. 843-853, August 1989.

“Salpeter equation in position space: Numerical solution for arbitrary confining potentials,” with Loyal Durand and Bernice Durand, *Phys. Rev. D*, Vol. 30, no. 3, pp. 660-670, August 1984.