

Antenna Modelling Software



- • - • - - • - - • • - • - - • • - - • - • - - •
- **What**
- **How**
- **Programs**
 - ◆ NEC based
 - ◆ Others
- **Program extensions**

Antenna Modelling



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■ Mathematical

- ◆ Chain Home Radar Antennas (WW2)
- ◆ Derived from Maxwell's Equations
- ◆ Proven on large antenna ranges

■ Scale Models

- ◆ $Model_{frequency} = \frac{Full_{size}}{model_{size}} * Full_{size}_{frequency}$
- ◆ $Model_{conductivity} = \frac{full_{size}}{Model_{size}} * full_{size}_{conductivity}$

■ Computer Models

- ◆ NEC (Numerical Electro-magnetic Code) US Navy

Mathematical Modelling



- Original DRAO
(Dominion Radio
Astrophysical Observatory)
Antennas

The main goal of the T-shaped radio telescope at Penticton was to produce a map of radio sources in our galaxy.



The 1,700 cedar posts of the 1.3-kilometre radio telescope.

Source: National Research Council of Canada/Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics/Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory

Scale models



A 10:1 model
Eg 300 MHz antenna
(1m) on a 30m aircraft
Is mainly for initial
pattern measurements.
For impedances the
model scale must be
reduced to 4:1 or 2:1.



Computational Modelling



Codes are based on a full-wave formulation of the Maxwell's equations and associated boundary conditions. Some other codes are based on an asymptotic solution of the Maxwell's equations.

- Finite-Difference Time-Domain method (NEWS, X-NEWS)
- Finite Element Method (FEM, X-FEM)
- High Frequency Structure Simulator (HFSS)
- WirePlate (WIPL)
- FEKO "FEIdberechnung für Körper mit beliebiger Oberfläche"
- **Numerical Electromagnetic Code (NEC)**
- Electromagnetic Surface Patch (ESP)
- NEWAIR (Geometric theory of diffraction, GTD based)

Computational Modelling



- Most codes are based on the Method of Moments (MoM) integral formulation of Maxwell's equations
 - ◆ Most Amateur programs break the model into a number of current driven elements and then combine the effect of the fields EG NEC
 - ◆ There are limits to “free” versions
 - ▶ Wires cannot meet in the middle of a segment
 - ▶ Wire intersection angle limit
 - ▶ Wires must be the same diameter (tapers can be “fudged”)
 - ▶ Wires in close proximity must have their segments matched
 - ▶ Other limits

- - - - -
- Developed by Lawrence Livermore Laboratory in 1981 for the US Navy based on the AMP program contracted in 1970
- Antenna is divided into short segments with linear variation of current and voltage.
- Developed in a number of stages
 - ◆ NEC2 models in free space or over finitely conducting ground. Free (with a command line interface) so used in most NEC programs.
 - ◆ NEC4.2 smaller structures, accurate stepped radius and junctions, improved ground modelling (buried conductors). Requires \$US500 license.

EZNEC



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- Available in a number of variations

- <https://www.eznec.com/>

- - ◆ Demo 20 segments (ARRL version 500) Free
 - ◆ EZNEC 500 segments \$US99
 - ◆ EZNEC+ 2000 segments \$US149
 - ◆ EZNECpro 20,000 segments \$US525
 - ◆ EZNECpro/4 \$US675 (NEC4 engine)

- License must be approved \$US500 for non-commercial use.

AutoEz



- An “add-on” for EZNEC allowing you to “parameterize” the program by using variables to control aspects of the module.
 - ◆ Excel taken to the limit!
 - ◆ Simplified data input
 - ◆ Improved results presentation
 - ◆ Free demo (30 segments or EZNEC limit)
 - ◆ Full version \$US79

4NEC2



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- Free
- Two programs
 - ◆ 4NEC2 (basic NEC 2 engine but supports NEC4)
 - ◆ 4NEC2X (Extended) 3D presentation
- Includes and optimizer and sweeper
- Improved input and output compared to EZNEC

MiniNEC



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- \$US29
- <http://www.blackcatsystems.com/software/mininec-antenna-analysis-modeling-software.html>
- This is an improved version of that released by NTIS based on the NEC2 engine.
- This is a 1991 review of MiniNEC by Roy Lewallen (the author of EZNEC)
 - ◆ <https://www.arrl.org/files/file/Technology/tis/info/pdf/9102018.pdf>

MMANA-GAL



- • - • - - • - - • • - • - - • • - - • - • - • - • -

- Free in basic form
 - ◆ 8192 Segments
 - ◆ Similar to EZNEC
- Pro version available for €139
 - ◆ 45,000 segments
 - ◆ Improved graphics

ASAP



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- Free (NEC2 based)
- <http://raylcross.net/asap/>
- Basic interface to NEC2

So What to use?



Program	Cost	Limit	Note
EZNEC	\$US99	Free versions too restrictive	Most common
AutoEZ	\$US79	optimizer, Same segments as associated EZNEC	Requires EZNEC Improves in/out
4NEC2	Free	Same as NEC engine	Roughly ~= EZNEC+AutoEZ
NEC	Free	2000 segments	No user interfaces
NEC4-2	\$US500	20,000 segments	Use with 4NEC2
MININEC	\$US29	2000 segments?	Also free basic
MMANA-GAL	free	8192 segments	Pro €139
ASAP	Free	2000 segments?	Basic interface

There are many more programs available

An Example



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- **40m vertical with two raised radials**
 - ◆ Vary base between -0 to 20 ft
 - ▶ Special cases, buried radials, slanted radials
 - ◆ Design antenna (resonance, matching)
 - ◆ Determine efficiency
 - ▶ Set all losses =0 and compare to measured with losses
- **Compare input and output of programs**
- **Show issues**

An Example



- • - • - - • - - • • • - • - - • • • - • - • • - - •

■ Compare

- ◆ EzNEC
 - ▶ MMNA-GAL similar
- ◆ AutoEZ
- ◆ 4NEC2
- ◆ NEC
 - ▶ Original command line interface
 - ▶ Inspired the “enhancements”
 - ▶ More basic “enhanced” programs
 - MiniNEC, ASAP

Modelling Steps



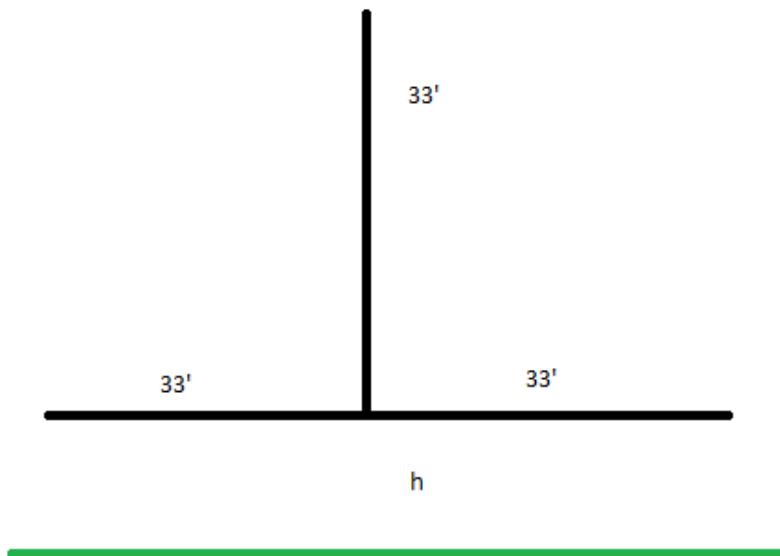
- 1. Sketch the antenna (same for all)**
 - ◆ 4NEC2 has a graphical input
 - 2. Input Model**
 - ◆ Wires, segments, Sources and loads
 - 3. Check for problems**
 - 4. Run**
 - 5. Output results**

■ **Notes:**

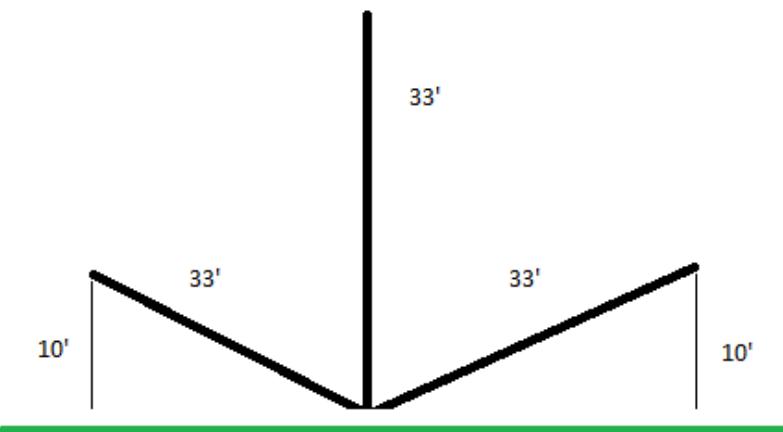
 - ◆ dimensions 33' chosen to demonstrate optimization
 - ◆ Slant to demonstrate model input options

Sketch

Horizontal Radials
 $h = -0.5', 0', 1', 10', 20'$



Slanted Radial
(special case 0 to 10')



Input Model (EZNEC)



EZNEC+ v. 6.0

File Edit Options Outputs Setups View Utilities Help

- > Open
- > Save As
- > Ant Notes
- Currents
- Src Dat
- Load Dat
- FF Tab
- NF Tab
- SWR**
- View Ant
- NEC-2D
- FF Plot

40 m vert 2 raised radials

- > File 40m vert 2 raised radials.EZ
- > **Frequency** 7.15 MHz
- > Wavelength 137.562 ft
- > **Wires** 3 Wires, 41 segments
- > **Sources** 1 Source
- > **Loads** 0 Loads
- > **Trans Lines** 0 Transmission Lines
- > **Transformers** 0 Transformers
- > **L Networks** 0 L Networks
- > **Ground Type** Real/High Accuracy
- > **Ground Descrip** 1 Medium (0.005, 13)
- > **Wire Loss** Copper
- > **Units** Feet
- > **Plot Type** 3D
- > Step Size 5 Deg.
- > Ref Level 0 dBi
- > Alt SWR Z0 75 ohms
- > Desc Options

Sources

Source Edit

No.	Specified Pos.	Actual Pos.	Amplitude	Phase	Type
1	Wire # 1 % From E1 0	% From E1 2.5 Seg 1 1	(V, A)	(deg.)	V

A 3D plot showing the physical layout of the antenna. It consists of three wires (labeled 1, 2, and 3) extending from a common ground plane. Wire 1 is a vertical dipole, while wires 2 and 3 are angled radials. The plot includes a coordinate system with red, green, and blue axes labeled X, Y, and Z respectively.

Input Model (AutoEZ)



- Uses Excel tables and variables can be used

Enter fixed values or Excel formulas to define wires.

Open Model File View Ant Auto-Refresh

Save Model As

Wire Insulation
Diel C Thk (in)
1 0.1

Create wires
Stepped Dia
Loop
Radials
Wire Grid

Modify wires
AutoSeg
Move/Copy
Rotate
Scale

AutoEZ version 2.0.24
Last updated 21 Jul 2017
Dan Maguire, AC6LA
<http://ac6la.com/autoez.html>
<mailto:djm2150@yahoo.com>

If marked here do not write to file.
If marked here do not write to file.
(Applies to all Insertion Objects.)

Display with 3 decimals.

End 1			End 2			Diameter	Segs
X (ft)	Y (ft)	Z (ft)	X (ft)	Y (ft)	Z (ft)	(in or #)	(198)
0.000	0.000	10.000	0.000	0.000	10.500	#14	1
0.000	0.000	10.500	0.000	0.000	45.000	#14	65
-33.273	0.000	10.000	0.000	0.000	10.000	#14	66
33.273	0.000	10.000	0.000	0.000	10.000	#14	66

For Information Only (at 7.15 MHz)
Show lengths in ft wl Segs / wl
Wire Length Seg Len (rounded)

W1	0.500	0.500	275
W2	34.500	0.531	259
W3	33.273	0.504	273
W4	33.273	0.504	273

Insert Row(s) Show Excel Ribbon
Delete Row(s)

Show Variables in Notepad

Open Model File View Ant

Clear All Sources Sources (1) Formulas Save Model As Show Variables in Notepad

S1	Wire #	% From E1	Amplitude	Phase	Type
S1	1	0	1	0	V

Input Model (AutoEZ)



Variables can be used

At 7.150 MHz number of segments = 198

Name	Value	Comment
TwoPi :	6.2831853	$2 * \text{PI}()$
WL.5 :	68.7812	$\frac{1}{2} \lambda$
WL.25 :	34.3906	$\frac{1}{4} \lambda$
WL.001 :	0.1376	0.001 λ
WL or W :	137.5624	Feet
Freq or F :	7.150	Test Case Frequency (MHz)
A :	10	height above ground
B :	35	total vertical height
D :	33.27339	radial length
E :	43	end height of sloped radial

Set variables using constants or formulas.
Cells in column C are named as indicated.

Open Model File View Ant Auto-Refresh

Save Model As Create wires

Formulas Optimizer Setup Stepped Dia

Read-Only Variables Loop Radials Wire Grid

Area below may be used as a scratch pad.

Input Model (4NEC2)



- Several editors including a rudimentary graphics editor. Can use Variables and formulae. Inputs EZNEC files.

The screenshot shows the 4nec2 Edit software interface. At the top, there's a menu bar with File, Cell, Rows, Selection, Options, and a toolbar with buttons for Upd, Ins., Del., and others. Below the menu is a tabbed panel with Geometry (selected), Source/Load, Freq./Ground, Others, and Comment. The Geometry tab displays a table of wire segments:

Nr	Type	Tag	Segs	X1	Y1	Z1	X2	Y2	Z2	Radius	comment
2	Wire	2	5	0	0	A+1	0	0	A+B	'016e-3	
3	Wire	3	5	D	0	A	0	0	A	'016e-3	
4	Wire	4	5	-D	0	0	0	0	A	'416e-3	

The Use wire tapering checkbox is unchecked. Below the Geometry tab, there are two more tabs: Symbols and Load(s). The Symbols tab shows variables and equations:

Nr	Symbols and equations	comment
1	B=33	Vert ant length
2	D=33	Radial length
3	A=10	Height Above Ground

The Load(s) tab shows load parameters:

Nr	Type	Tag-nr	First-seg	Last-seg	Cond (S)
1	Wire-cond	1	0	0	Copper
2	Wire-cond	2	0	0	Copper
3	Wire-cond	3	0	0	Copper
4	Wire-cond	4	0	0	Copper

Input Model (NEC)



■ Pure text file

A screenshot of a computer application window titled "Edit NEC input-file". The menu bar includes "File", "Edit", and "Options". A toolbar with icons for "Comment line", "Card", "Comment", "Comnt", "Ins", "Del", and "Print" is visible. The main area shows a text-based NEC input file. The file starts with a comment line "CM 40 m vert 2 raised radials, converted with 4nec2 on 19-Oct-17 9:46". Below this, the card section begins with "CE", followed by parameters: "SY B=33 Vert ant length", "SY D=33 Radial length", and "SY A=10 Height Above Ground". The GW section follows, listing four radial segments with their respective parameters. The GS section shows a ground segment with a length of 0.3048. The GE section has one entry. The LD section lists three radial segments. The GN section has one entry. The EK section is empty. The EX section has one entry. The FR section has one entry. The EN section is empty.

```
CM 40 m vert 2 raised radials, converted with 4nec2 on 19-Oct-17 9:46
CE
SY B=33 Vert ant length
SY D=33 Radial length
SY A=10 Height Above Ground
GW    1      1      0      0      A      0      0      A+1    2.67016e-3
GW    2      5      0      0      A+1    0      0      A+B    2.67016e-3
GW    3      5      D      0      A      0      0      A      2.67016e-3
GW    4      5      -D     0      0      0      0      A      8.9416e-3
GS    0      0      0.3048
GE    1
LD    5      1      0      0      58000000
LD    5      2      0      0      58000000
LD    5      3      0      0      58000000
LD    5      4      0      0      58000000
GN    1
EK
EX    0      1      1      0      1      0      0
FR    0      0      0      0      7.15   0
EN
```

Check for problems

EZNEC



- • - • - - • - - • • - • - - • • - - • - • - - • -
- EZNEC runs a rules check before giving SWR or field data. Yellow is a warning, Red is an rule violation.
 - ◆ Fix Source 1 by adding a short wire
 - ◆ Fix wire 2 by adding more segments (auto-segment)

```
Segmentation Check
File Edit Segmentation
EZNEC+ ver. 6.0
40 m vert 2 raised radials      2017-10-18 10:48:40
----- SEGMENTATION CHECK WARNINGS -----
Source 1: Segment connects to mult wires
Wire 2 segment length too long. L = 33 ft; recommended max. = 16.507 ft.
(conservative max. = 6.8781 ft.)
```

Check for problems

AutoEz

- • - • - - • - - • • - • - - • • - - • - • - - • -



- Uses EZNEC to check

Check for problems

4NEC2



- • - • - - • - - • • - • - - • • - - • - • - • - - •

- Warnings can be cryptic and assume that you know the NEC input file rules

4nec2 X

Errors or warnings found, run 'Segment check'.

File Edit Format View Help
40m vert 2 raised radials.nec wavelength=41.93 mtr.

```
Error: Wire 1, seg 1 (tag 1), seg-len (6) differs more than 5 * seg-len (36) for wire 3
Error: Wire 1, seg 1 (tag 1), seg-len (6) differs more than 5 * seg-len (43.33) for wire 2
Error: Wire 2, seg 2 (tag 2), seg-len (43.33) differs more than 5 * seg-len (6) for wire 1
Error: Wire 4, seg 32 (tag 4), seg-len (37.62) differs more than 5 * seg-len (6) for wire 1
```

Check for problems

NEC



- • - • - - • - - • • - • - - • • - - • - • - • - • -

- Limited rules checking
- Limited Help

Run EZNEC



- You can select various outputs e.g. SWR, FF plot
And get tabular data for use in other programs

SWR Sweep Parameters

Frequency Selection

Start Frequency (MHz)

Stop Frequency (MHz)

Frequency Step (MHz)

Read Frequencies From File

File Name

3D Far Field Table

Select whether to organize the data in azimuth or elevation 'slices', and what range of angles in each 'slice' to include in the table.

Organize Data As

- Elevation Slices
 Azimuth Slices

Azimuth Angle Range

Full Range

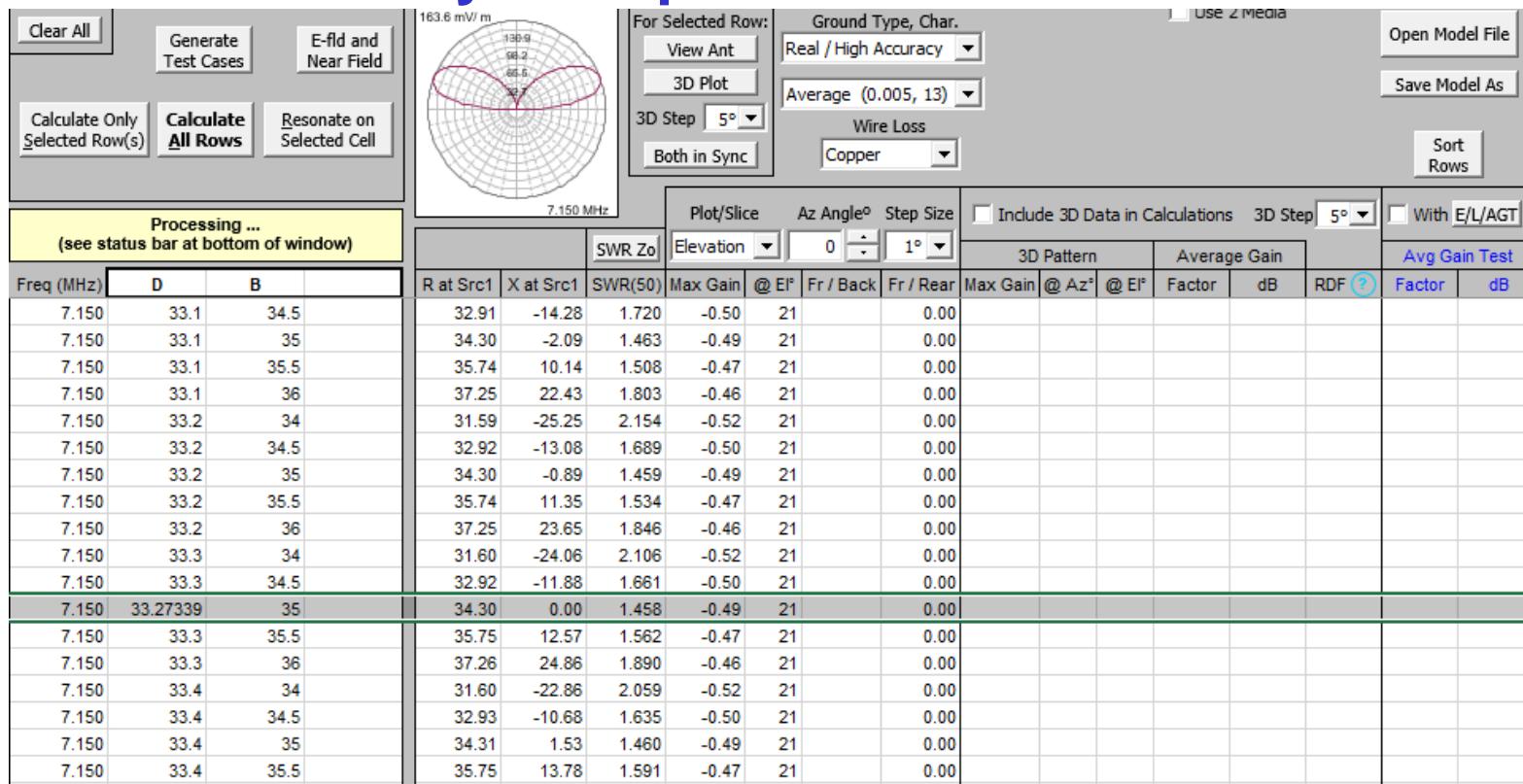
0 355

0 To 355

Run AutoEZ



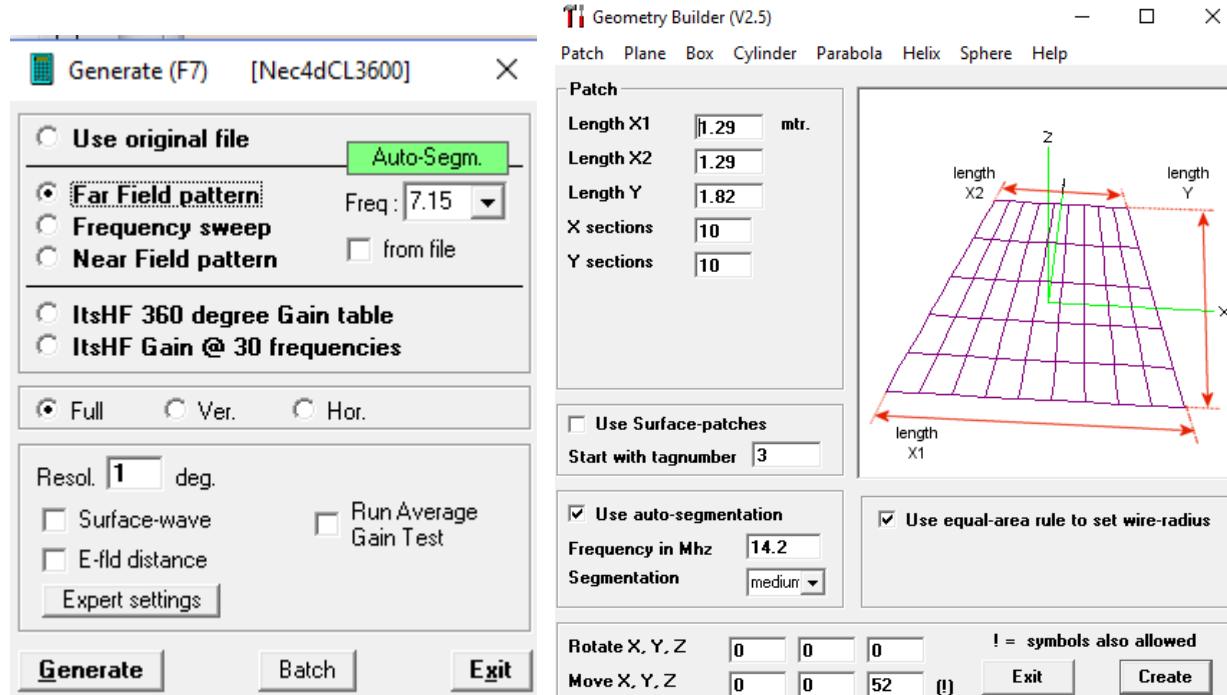
■ Note can vary multiple variables



Run 4NEC2



- A bit confusing as a variety of external programs are called.



Run NEC



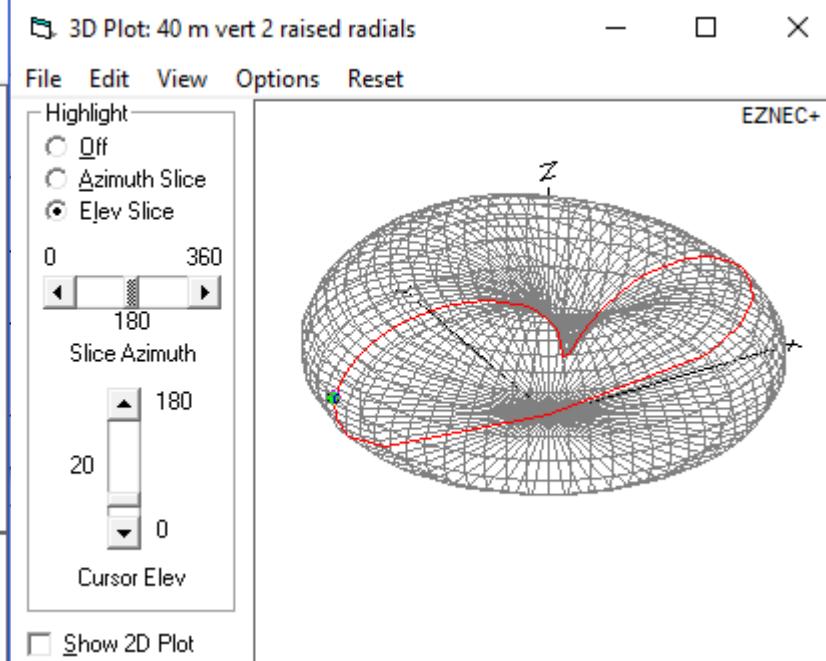
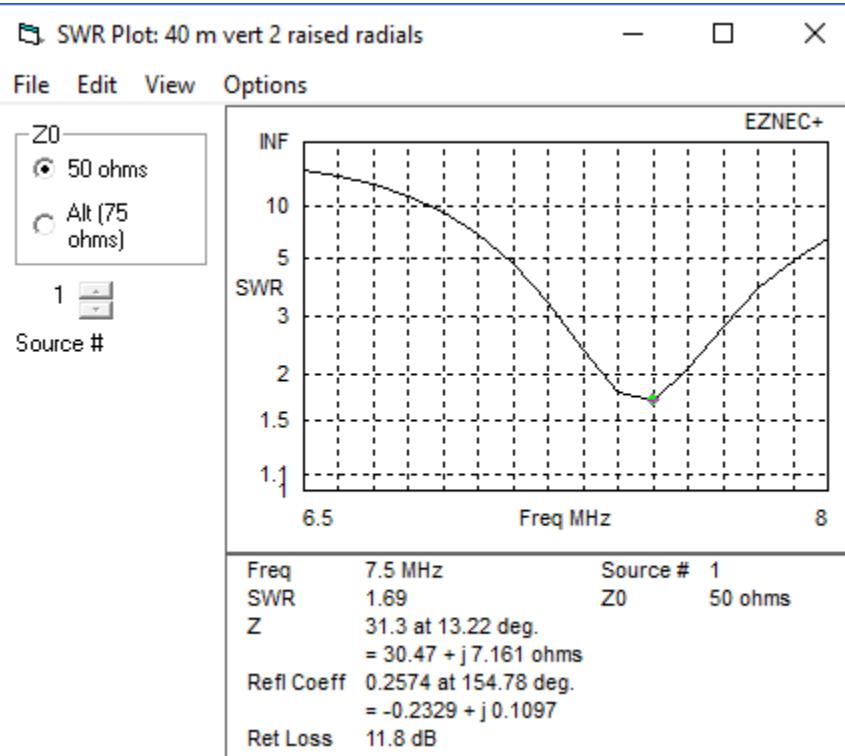
- • - • - - • - - • • - • - - • • - - • - • - • - - •

- Pure command line operation.
- Limited graphics engine

Output results EZNEC



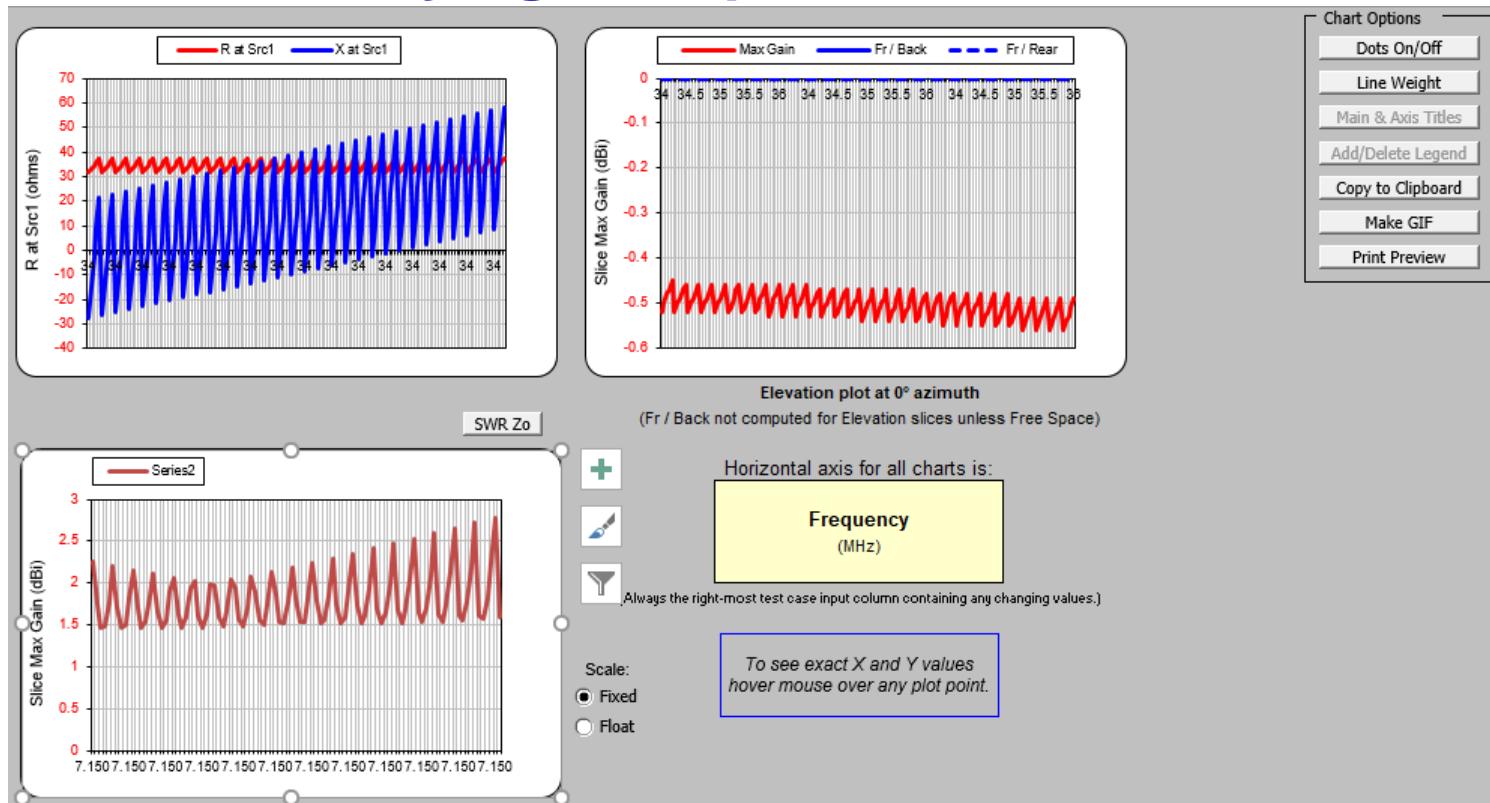
- Can also get tabular data



Output results AutoEZ



- Effect of varying multiple variables can be shown

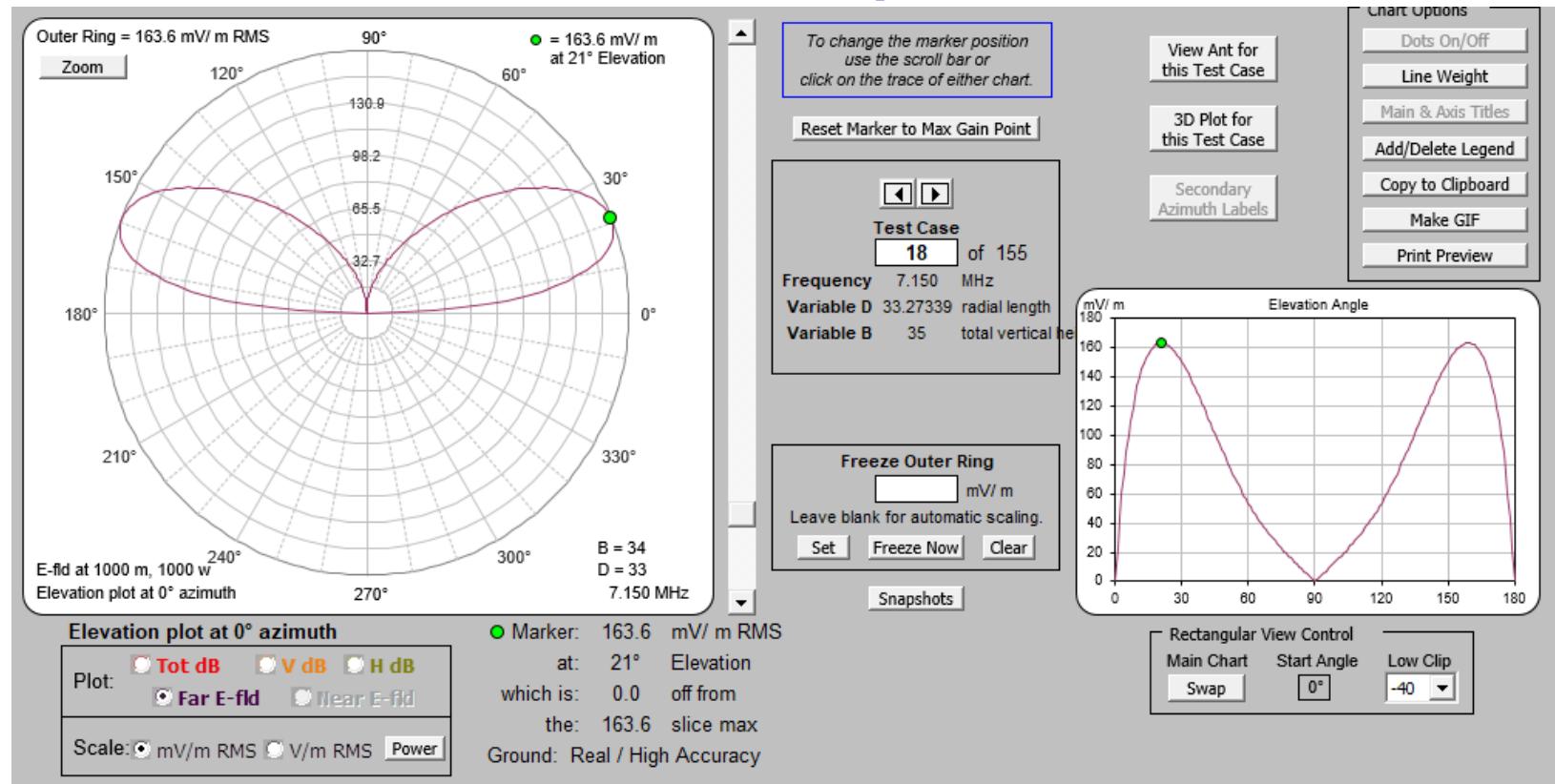


Output results

AutoEZ



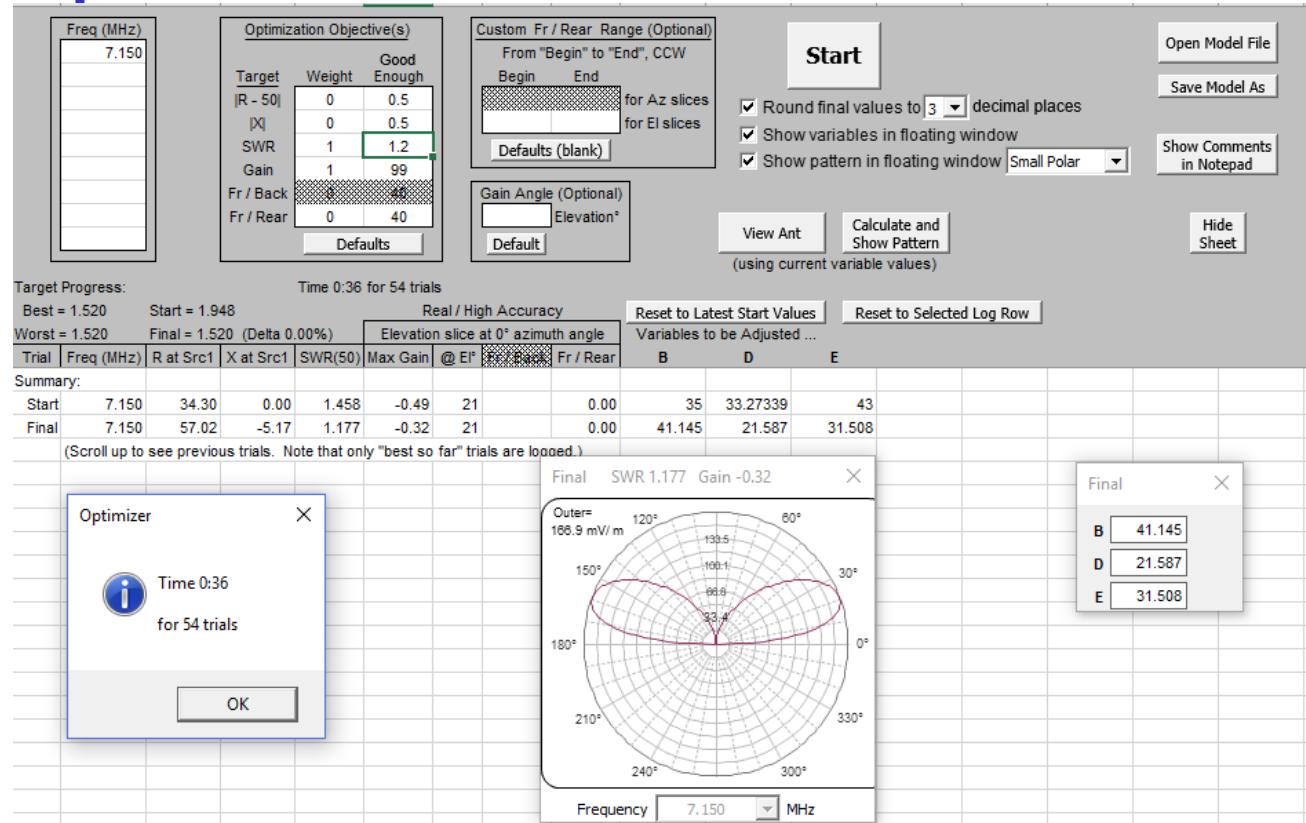
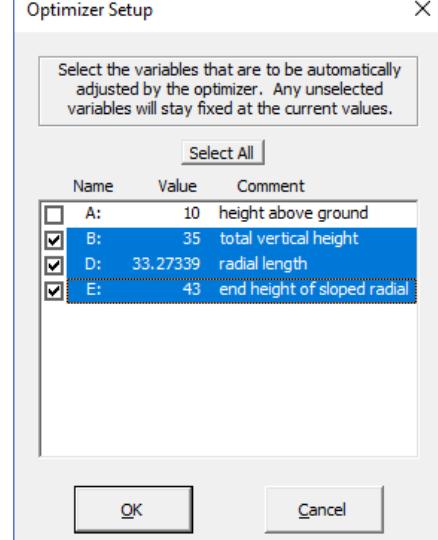
- A number of additional outputs are available



Output results AutoEZ



■ There is an optimizer

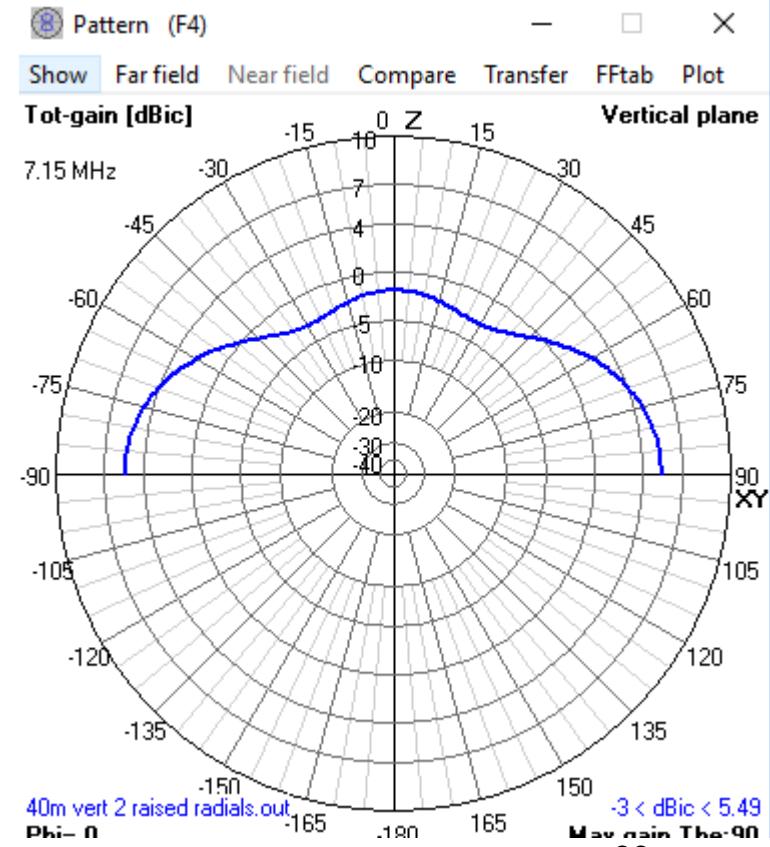
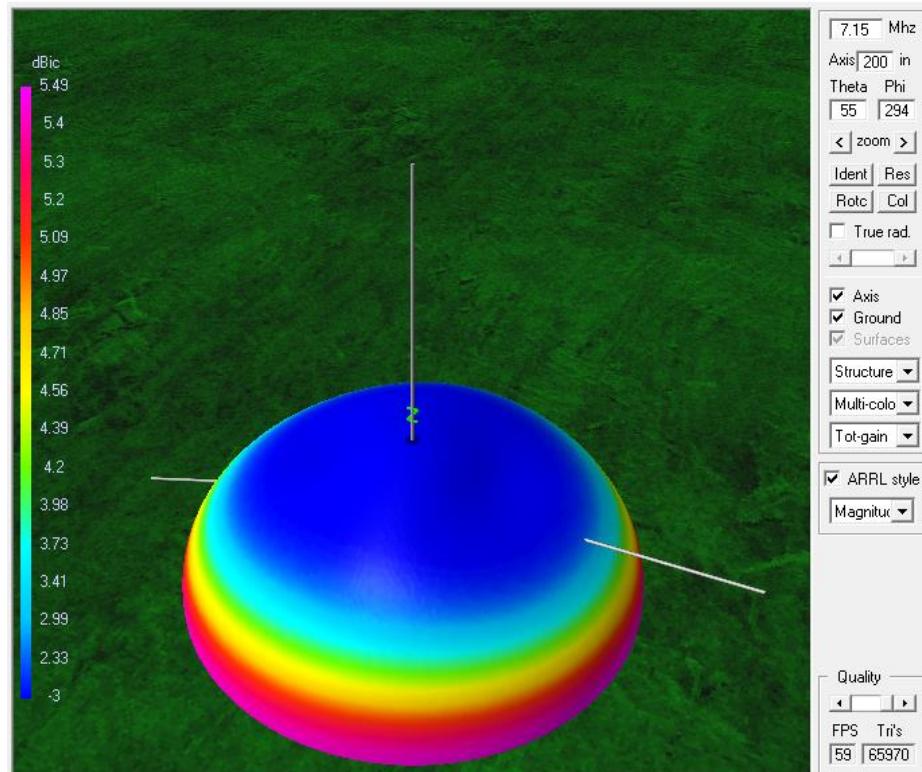


Output results 4NEC2



- There are tabular and graphics outputs

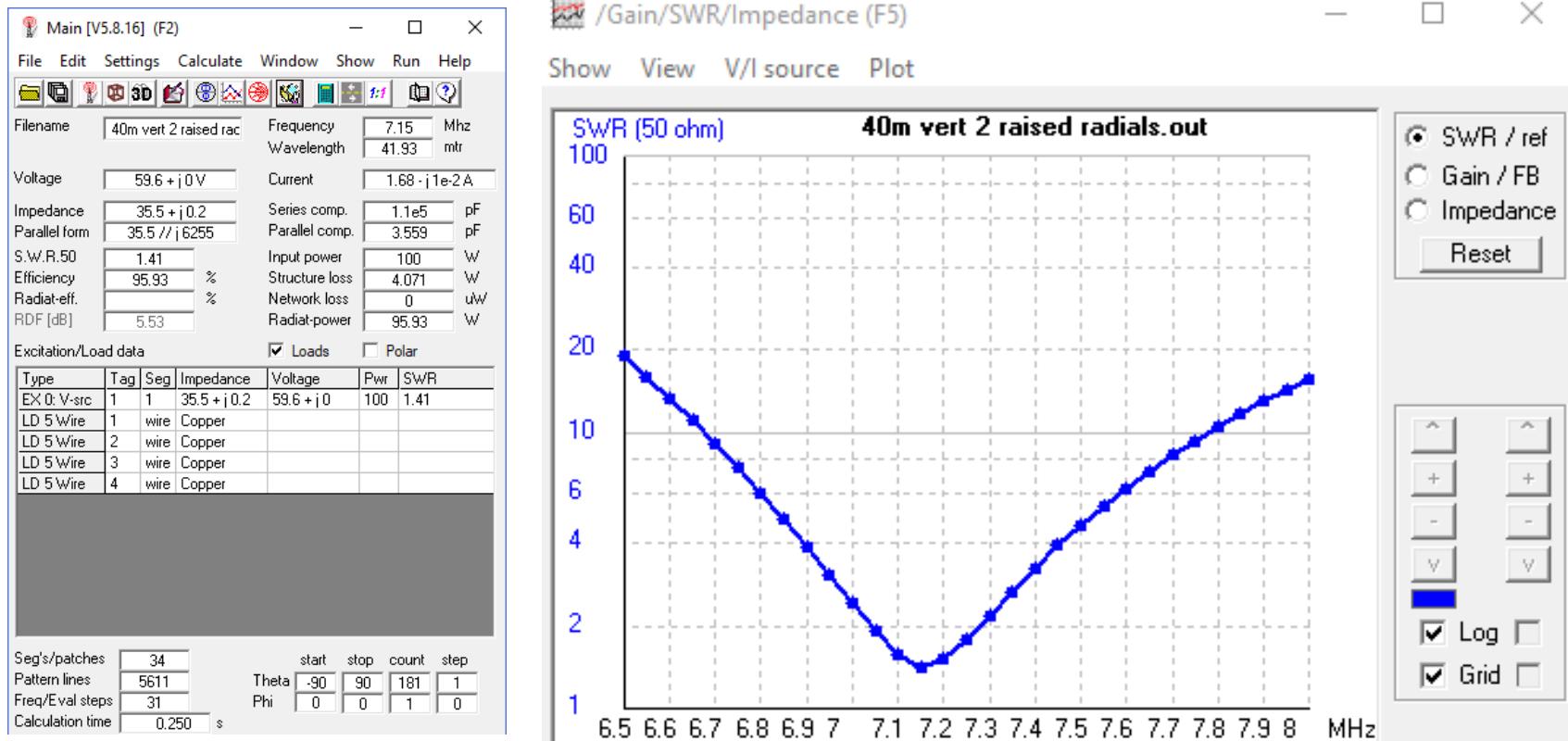
3D Viewer (F9) [40m vert 2 raised radials.out]



Output results 4NEC2



- There are tabular and graphics outputs



Output results 4NEC2



- There is a multivariable optimizer

The screenshot shows the 4NEC2 software interface. At the top left is a status bar with "Optimizer: Ready...". The main window has several tabs: "Settings", "Function", "Option", "Variables", and "Calculated results".

Settings Tab:

- Function:** Optimizer
- Variables:** B=34.189, D=34.079, A=10
- Weighting factors (FOM) in %:** SWR 100, Gain 0, F/B 0, F/R 0, R-in 0, X-in 100, Eff. 0
- Variables Selected:** B, D
- Calculated results:** Shows a table of runs from 3-7 to 5-2 with columns: Run, SWR, Gain, F/B, F/R, R-in, X-in, Eff., Res. %, Step %.
- Variable Sensitivity:** Shows a table of runs from 1-1 to 5-1 with columns: Run, B, D.
- Variable Values:** Shows a table of runs from 3-7 to 5-2 with columns: Run, B, D.

Output results NEC



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- Mainly tabular
- Limited Graphics

Comments

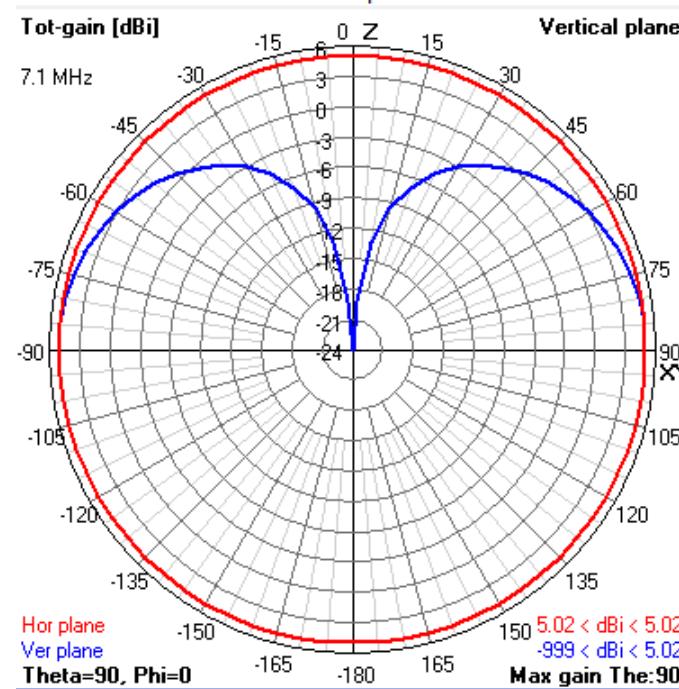
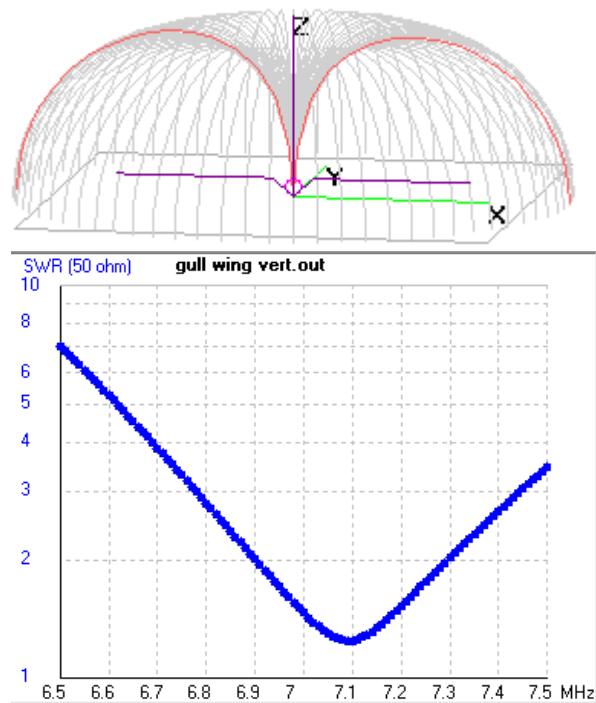


- - - - -
- **NEC is an old mainly text based program which has resulted in many “improvements”**
- **EZNEC is most familiar to Amateurs and AutoEZ adds useful features.**
- **4NEC2 has all of the features of EZNEC+ AutoEZ and can use EZNEC files but the work flow is not easy to follow. The 3D graphics are nice and a graphics editor may help some people.**
- **ALL programs require an understanding of the limitations of NEC especially NEC2.**

Special Case “Gull Wing” Radials



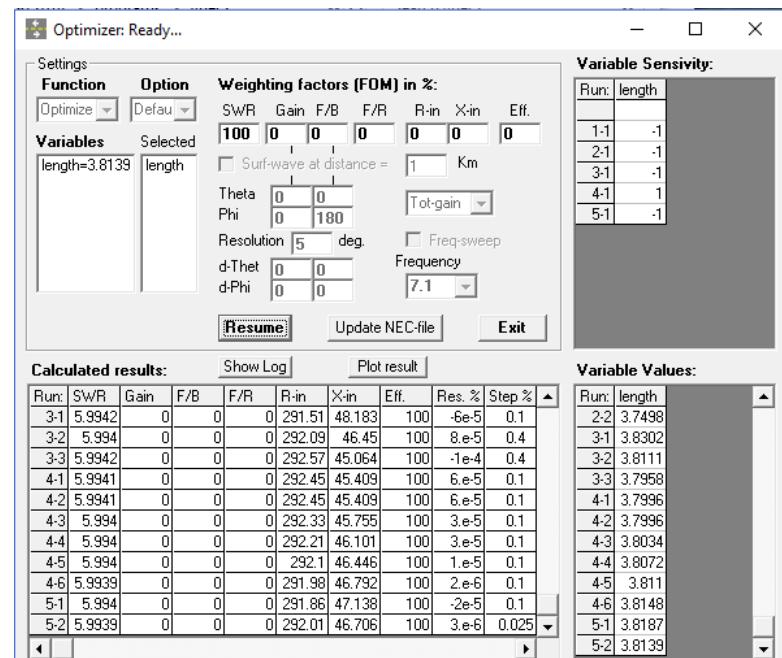
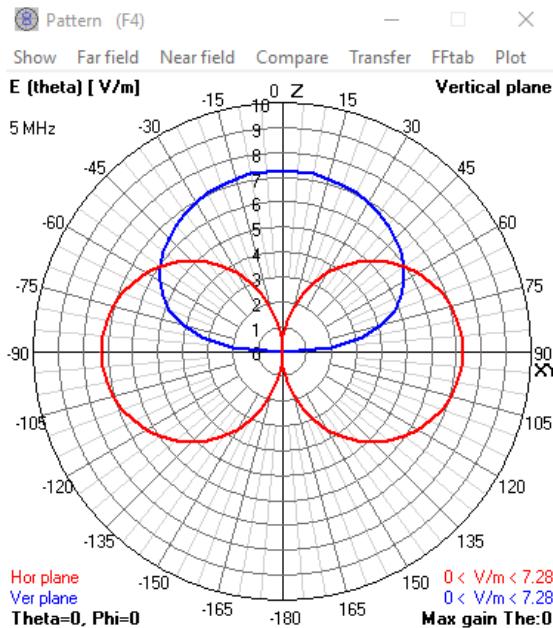
- NEC2 has problems with wires that intersect at an acute angle. NEC4 can handle this.



Special Case Buried Wires



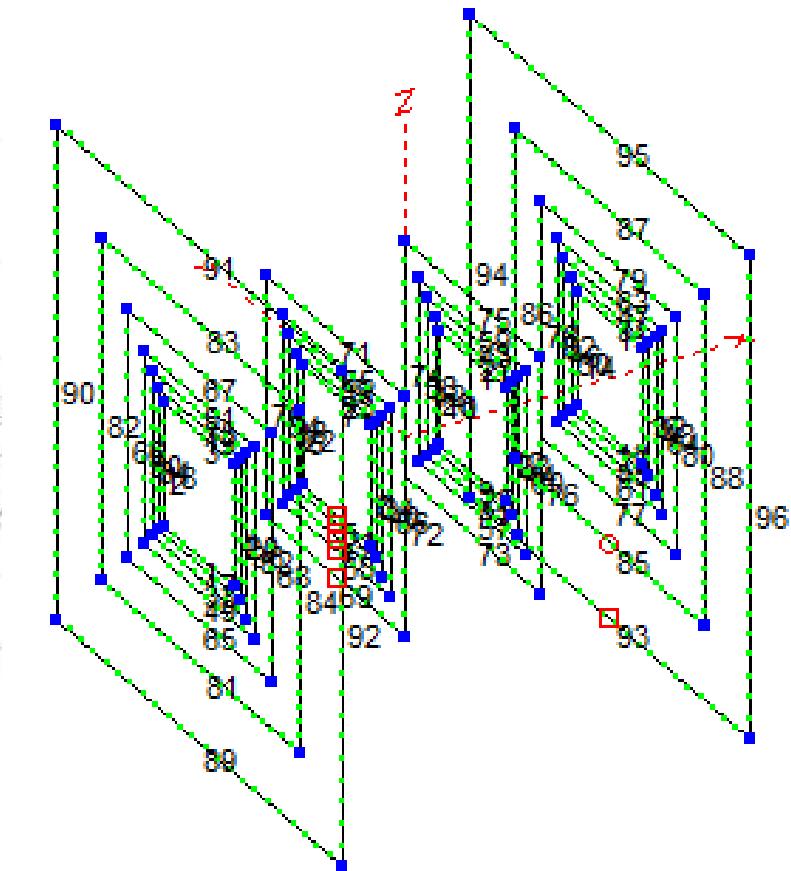
- NEC 2 will not calculate wires in the ground but using the NEC 4 engine the length of a buried dipole can be modelled and optimised.



A Complicated Case VE7SCC Quad

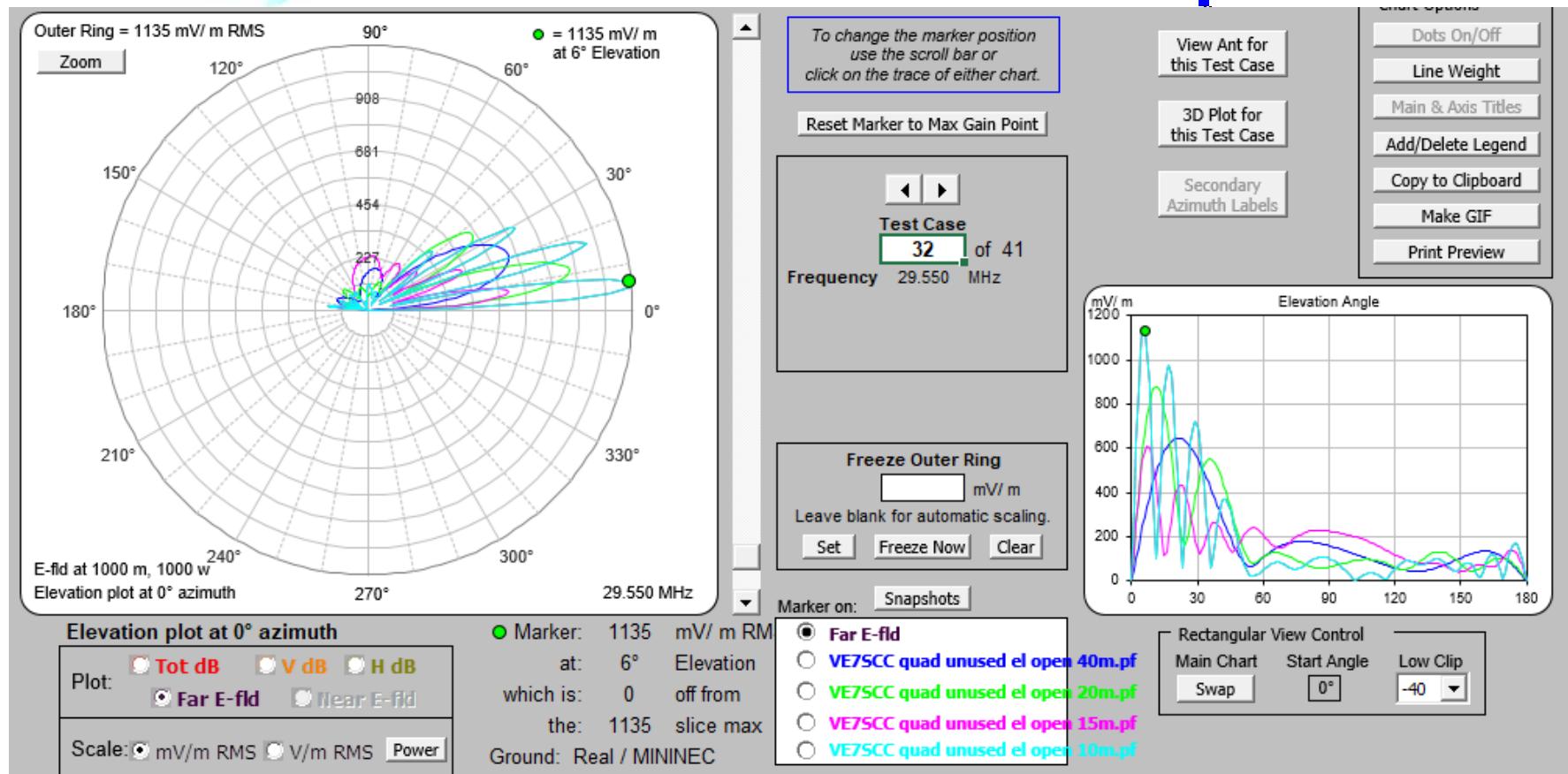


- 2 el on 30 and 40m
- 4 el on 20, 17, 15, 12, 10
- Models interaction of elements which is complicated.
- Can add coax matching sections
- Can model antenna switching
- Easy to generate model

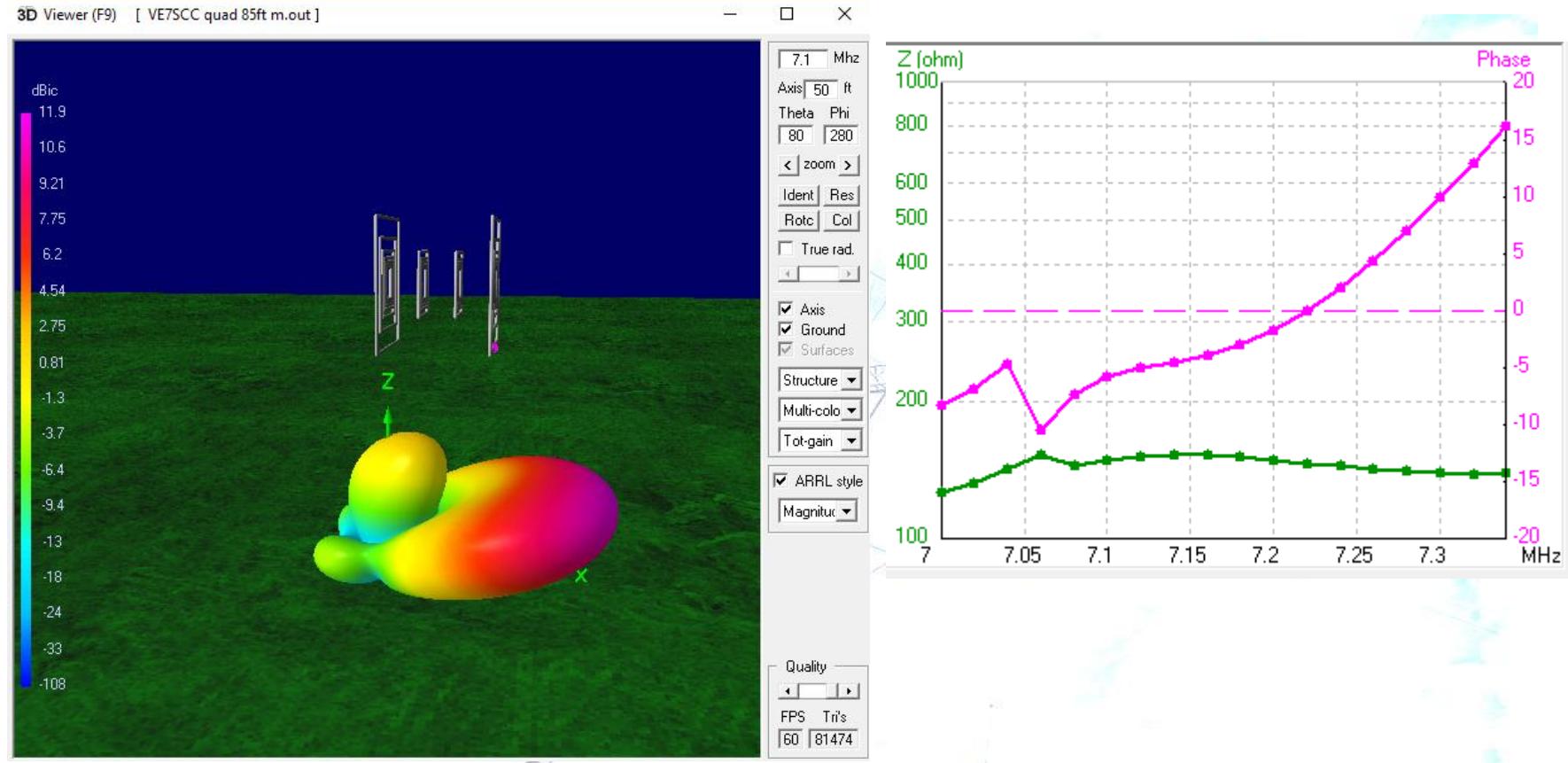


A Complicated Case

VE7SCC Quad



A Complicated Case VE7SCC Quad

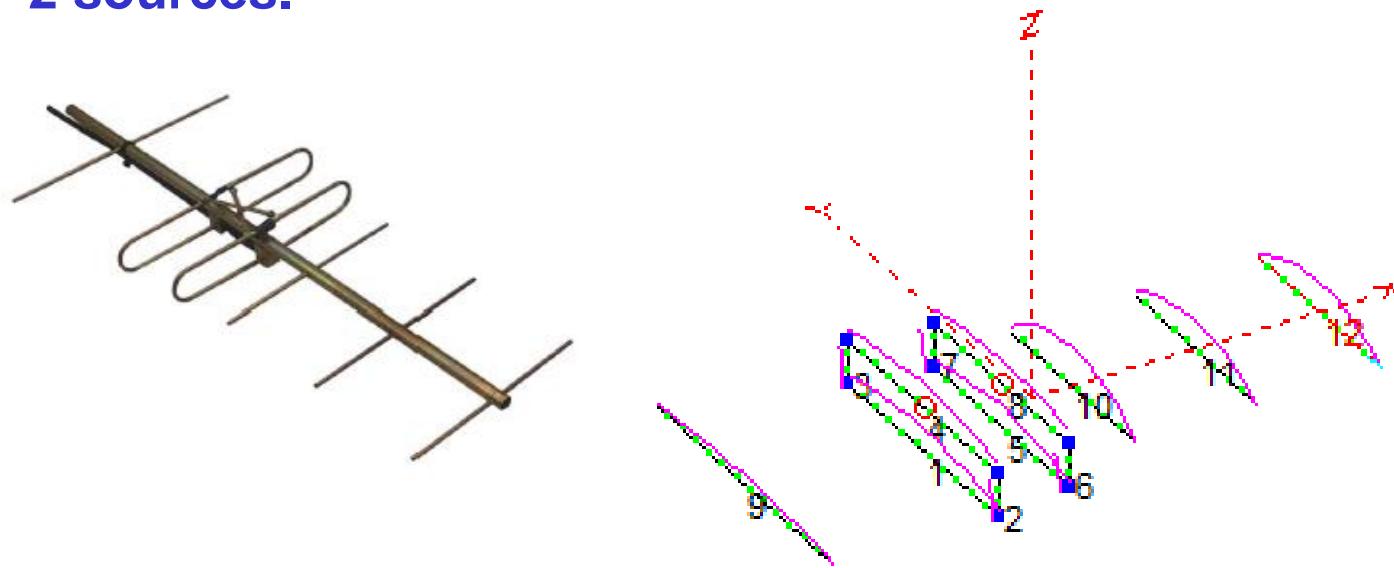


Sinclair 440 Beam



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- John White showed this as part of his Yagi presentation
- NEC 4 should be used to model the cross-overs which are too close for NEC2 but NEC2 works by using the equivalent 2 sources.



A NEC4 Case Sinclair 440 Beam



- The matching appears to be dependant upon the interaction of the folded dipoles as otherwise $1/4\lambda$ 125ohm coax would be required. This curve was confirmed with an AIM600 but with better SWR.

