



UNIGIT RIGOROUS GRATING SOLVER

VERSION 2.01.03

TUTORIAL



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Introduction

Unigit Version 2.01.01 provides some example stacks which come with the regular installation. After installation, there are the following stack files available in the subfolder “Stacks”:

- **interface_1d.ust:** plain interface between air ($n = 1$) and dielectric ($n = 1.5$),
- **arc_1d.ust:** a plain interface with an anti-reflective coating,
- **dielgrat_1d.ust:** a dielectric grating ($n = 1.5$),
- **algrat_1d.ust:** a metallic grating (Aluminum),
- **PR_BARC_1d.ust:** a photo-resist grating on a Silicon substrate with a bottom anti-reflective coating (BARC),
- **two_layer_1d.ust:** a double layer Chromium grating on a dielectric interface,
- **slope_diel_1d.ust:** a symmetric triangular grating in a dielectric material,
- **slope_diel_1c.ust:** same as previous one but for C-method solver,
- **gradient_1d.ust:** a gradient index grating,
- **rcwa_dsin_1d.ust:** a coated sinusoidal grating with parallel interfaces,
- **ccm_dsin_1d.ust:** same as previous one but for C-method solver,
- **rcwa_double_1d.ust:** a triangular grating with an overcoat that exhibits a sinus profile,
- **ccm_double_1d.ust:** same as previous one but for C-method solver,
- **stack2d_elli.ust:** a 2D grating assembled by a patterned dielectric on Si-substrate,
- **stack2d_arbi.ust:** same as previous but with arbitrary instead of ellipse filling ,
- **stack2d_rect.ust:** same as previous but with patch filling ,
- **composite_2d.ust:** a 2D composite grating.

In the following, it will be briefly explained how to run these examples in order to give some idea about the prospects of Unigit. Additional assistance can be obtained if necessary by means of the context sensitive help by pressing F1 or clicking the “?” button.

Before plunging into the various more advanced examples, the basic functionality of how to run an application will be shown in more detail with some basic example.



1. Basic Examples

1.1. *Plane interface and thin film*

1.1.1. Plane Interface

After starting UNIGIT select the input file **interface_1d.txt** by means of the SELECT button of the STACK group. (The name of the stack file is then shown under ACTIVE STACK FILE.) Check the radio button Theta_i in the LOOP group to run a loop over the angle of incidence (AOI) and insert a start and a stop value as well as a step width (0; 89; 1 – meaning run from 0 through 89 degrees in step of one). Insert a wavelength value in the corresponding field (don't care much – the refraction index is fixed) and insert the truncation order from .. to.. (0; 0). Then verify the output conditions by clicking the EDIT button in the OUTPUT group (Select: Single Files; New File; Efficiency; Output Orders from 0 to 0, Check Reflection). Define the location where to write the result file under SAVE RESULTS IN and start the computation. After the computation is finished, you can view the results by clicking the ADD button in the RESULT FILE(S) group and selecting the corresponding reflection files with the extension *.re and *.rm for TE (s) and TM (p) polarization, correspondingly. The result should look similar to that shown in figure 1. You can easily see the 4% reflection for both polarizations at normal incidence and the Brewster angle at about 56 degrees. Of course you can choose a finer angular grid to find the zero in TM at 56.31 degrees.

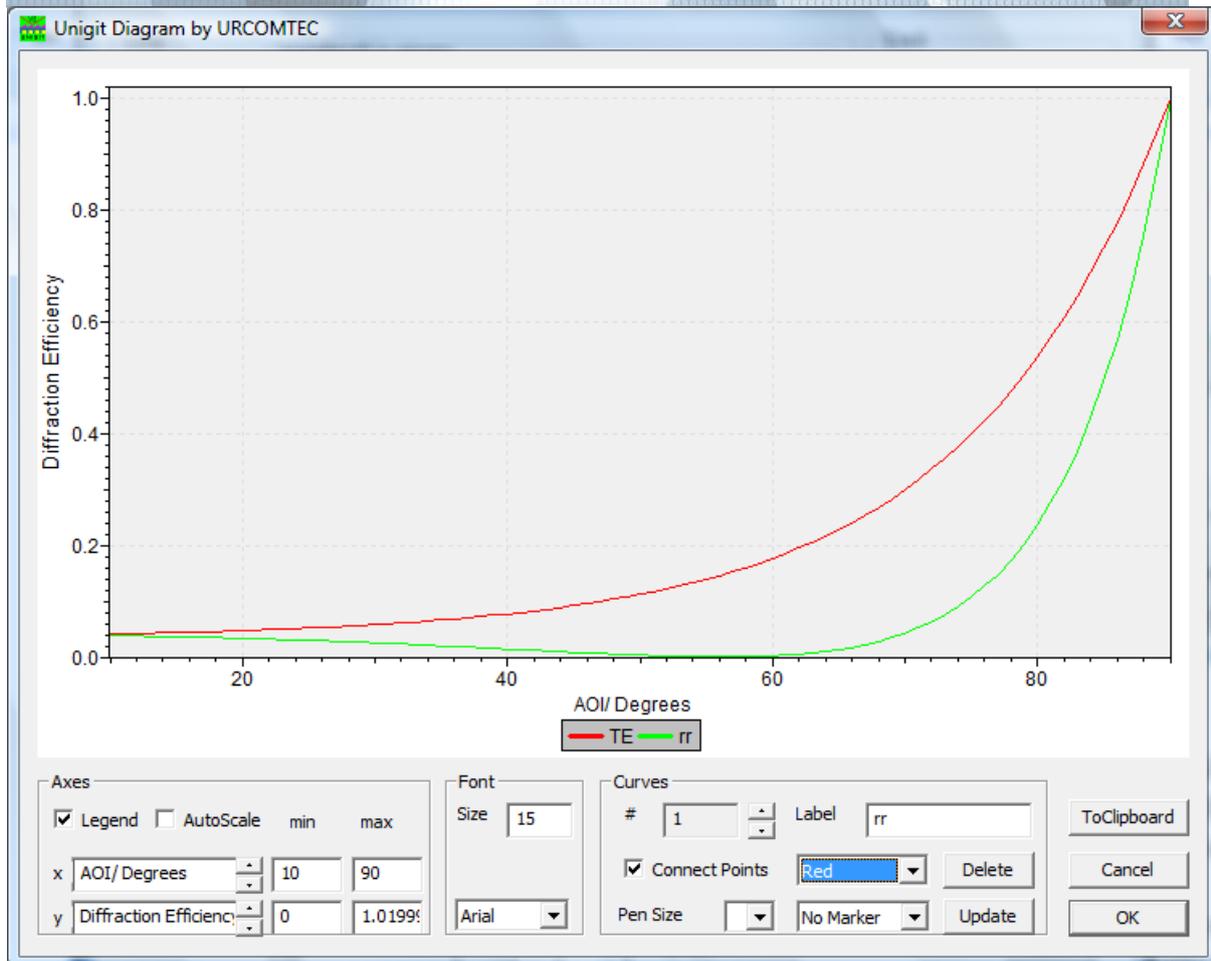


Fig. 1: Reflection vs. AOI from a plain interface ($n = 1.5$) for TE- and TM-polarized light

1.1.2. Anti-Reflective Coating

Select the input file `arc_1d.txt` and check the radio button `Lambda` in the `LOOP` group to run a loop over the wavelength and insert a start and a stop value as well as a step width (0.4; 0.7; 0.02 – meaning run the wavelength from 400 nm through 700 nm in step of 20 nm). Insert a 0 for the AOI and insert the truncation order from .. to.. (0; 0). Then verify the output conditions by clicking the `EDIT` button in the `OUTPUT` group (Select: Single Files; New File; Efficiency; Output Orders from 0 to 0, Check Transmission). Define the location where to write the result file under `SAVE RESULTS IN` and start the computation. After the computation is finished, you can view the results by clicking the `ADD` button in the `RESULT FILE(S)` group and selecting the corresponding transmission files with the extension `.te` and `.tm` for TE (s) and TM (p) polarization, correspondingly. The result should look similar to that shown in figure 2. Obviously, the transmission is 100 % at 500 nm. (The AR layer was optimized for $\lambda = 500$ nm and normal incidence according to $n = \sqrt{n_1 \cdot n_2}$ and $h = \lambda / (4 \cdot n)$.)

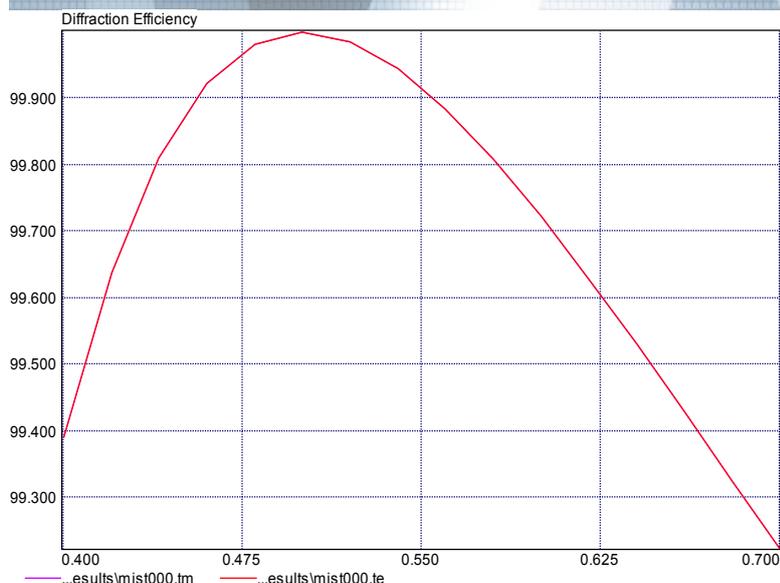


Fig. 2: Transmission vs. wavelength through a plain, AR coated interface

1.2. Basic grating example

The first grating example “dielgrat_1d.ust” is a binary grating made of dielectric material. It is made from non-dispersive material with $n = 1.5$. It has a period of 1 micron, and equal lines/spaces 400 nm in height. For a grating, the convergence strongly depends on the truncation number, i.e., where the modal expansion of the electro-magnetic fields is truncated for the sake of numerical calculation. Therefore, it is recommended to run firstly a convergence test. In the following, the basic work flow is explained.

1.2.1. Preparing the computation

After starting Unigit, the Central Control Board (CCB) occurs. First, it is recommended to load the stack file to work with. This is done by clicking the SELECT button in the Stack group (upper right). In doing so, a Windows file requester occurs as it is shown in figure 3 and one has to select the file type “*.txt” or “*.ust” for searching Unigit stack files. In this example, the dielgrat_1d.ust was selected. As indicated in figure 4, the active stack file appears in the CCB. The solver is detected and activated automatically due to the type of the stack file. Usually, it has only to be changed in case one wants to run a 1D conical rather than 1D classical mount. The selected solver is shown in radio button group “Computation” (middle left of the CCB).

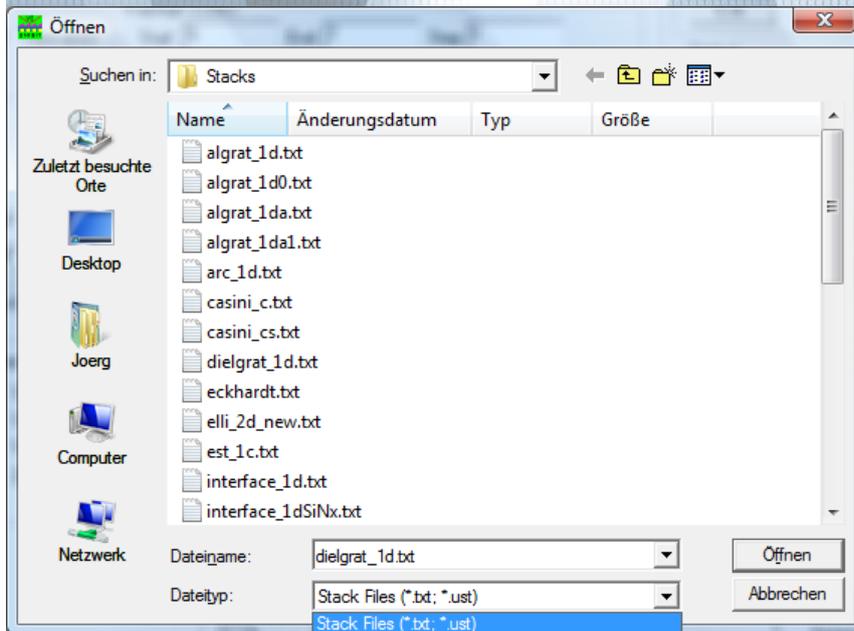


Fig. 3: Selecting the Unigit stack file

As a next step, it is recommended to choose the loop mode and to enter the so-called input data (it is saved to the Unigit input file, usually “UNIGIT_directory\input\input.txt”) such as wavelength, AOI, azimuth (applies for 1D conical or 2D simulations), truncation order and polarization (applies for 1D classical). For this basic example, the following values and settings have to be entered:

- Enter 0.5 microns for the wavelength,
- Enter 0 for the AOI (Theta_i),
- Select the truncation loop by clicking the “Truncation” radio button,
- Enter truncation orders 1, 20 and 1 for start, end and step.

Moreover, one has to choose a location where to save the results file to by means of the edit control field and the selection button “...” at the bottom of the CCB. After having set all these things correctly, the CCB should look like shown below.

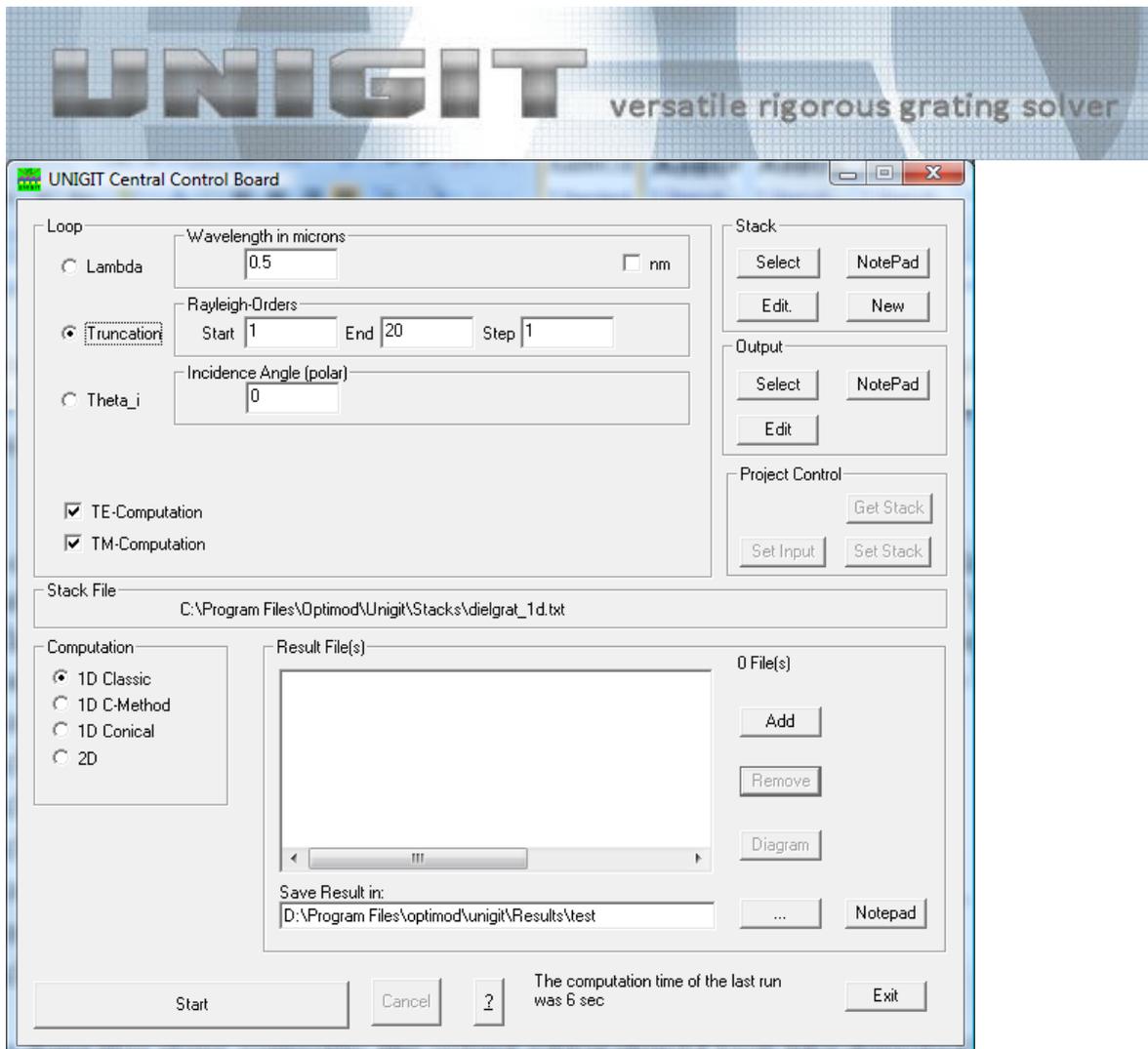


Fig. 4: Unigit Central Control Board with selected stack file

Eventually, one has to specify the flavor of output by means of the output editor tab. It is activated just by clicking the EDIT button in the “Output” group (middle right of the CCB). Regarding the detailed functionality of the output editor it is referred to the corresponding section of the user manual. Related to this example, the following actions have to be done:

- Choose single files in radio button group “Output files” (upper right),
- Check the “Transmission” box in the same group (below),
- Check the radio button “New” in the same group,
- Check the output formats – “Fix” and “8 digits”,
- Choose the option “Efficiency” in the “Output value” group (upper right),
- Choose the output orders 0 through 0 (lower right),
- Check the box “Efficiency in %”.

After having done this steps correctly, the output editor should look like depicted in figure 5.

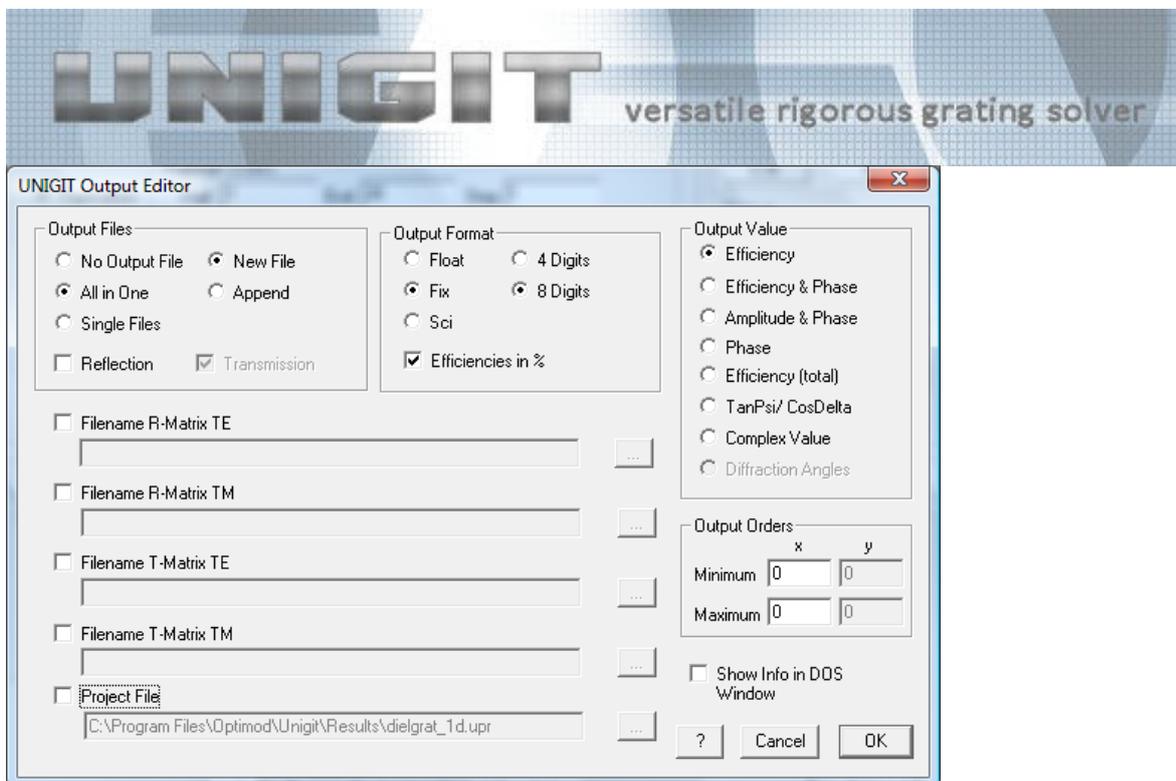


Fig. 5: Unigit Output Control Editor

1.2.2. Running a convergence test

Then, run the computation just by clicking the start button (or Ctr-S hotkey). The results can be retrieved by means of the NOTEPAD button in the “Result files” group (bottom right). It should be similar to those presented in table 1 below.

Truncation	TE	TM	Truncation	TE	TM
1	15.798	24.333	11	20.025	21.411
2	20.421	20.129	12	20.025	21.407
3	20.257	21.623	13	20.026	21.412
4	20.015	21.246	14	20.026	21.41
5	20.031	21.428	15	20.026	21.413
6	20.018	21.361	16	20.026	21.411
7	20.024	21.411	17	20.026	21.414
8	20.022	21.39	18	20.026	21.413
9	20.025	21.41	19	20.027	21.414
10	20.024	21.401	20	20.027	21.413

Table 1: Zero order transmission of a dielectric grating

Depending on the required accuracy, a truncation between 4 and 9 seems to be appropriate.

1.2.3. Running an AOI loop

Now, you are probably interested in the diffractive behavior of this grating. To this end check the radio button Theta_i in the LOOP group and insert (0; 60; 1) and change the grating period to 0.3 microns (use the stack editor). Due to the changed pitch, the convergence is supposed to be better. So, a truncation order of 5 should be sufficient in what follows.



However, you are free to rerun it. Next, check both Transmission and Reflection for the output file and choose output orders minimum = -1 and maximum = 0. In addition, it is recommended to check the “Project file” box and enter a project file name in the output editor. Then run Unigit again.

The reflection and transmission efficiencies are depicted in figures 6 and 7 below. These plots can be simply generated by selecting the corresponding result files and hitting the diagram button as described in the manual (see section 1).

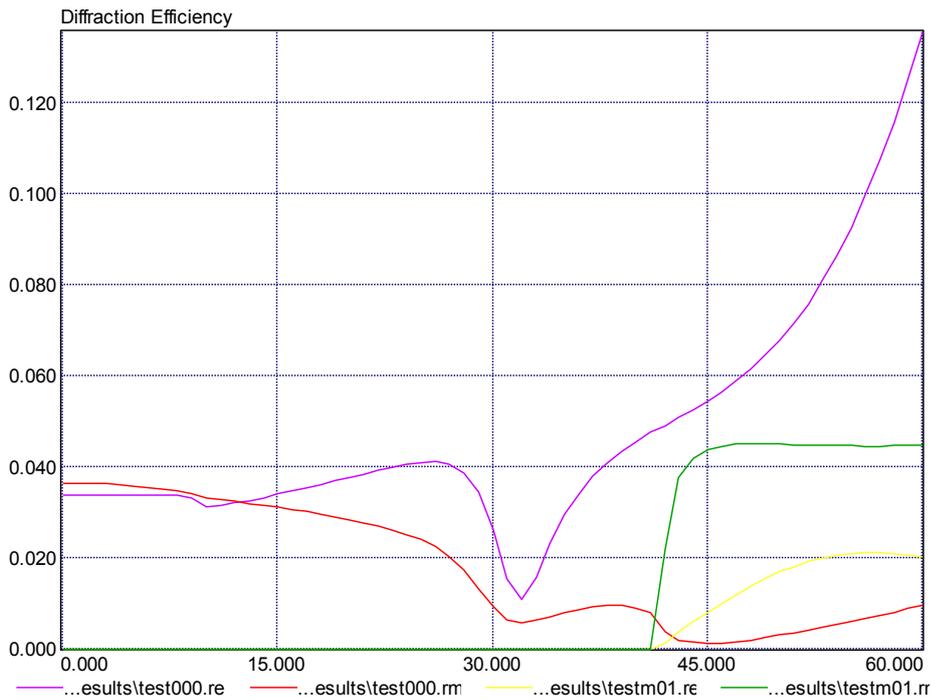


Fig. 6: Reflection efficiencies vs. AOI for the dielgrat_1d example

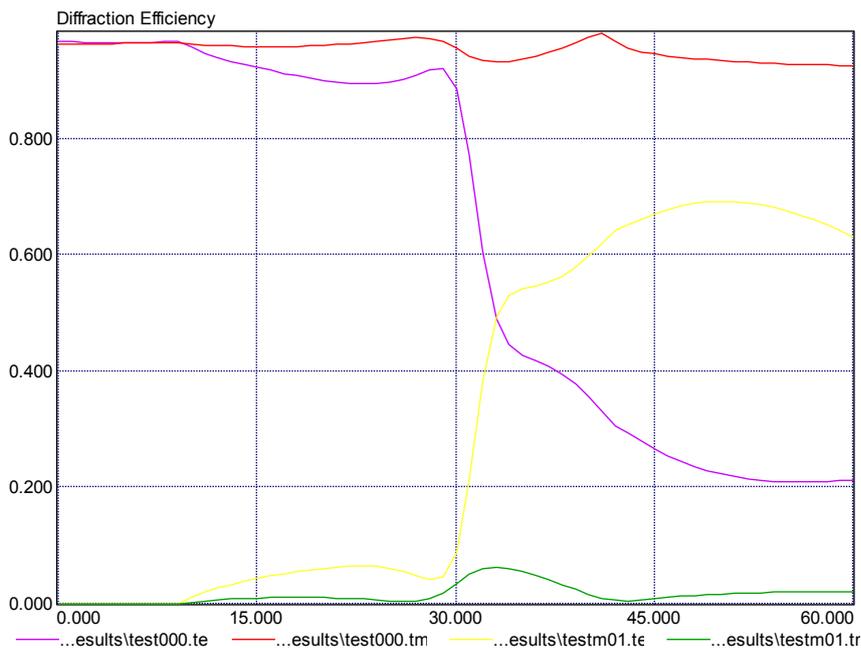


Fig. 7: Transmission efficiencies vs. AOI for the dielgrat_1d example



From the results one can see that:

- the minus first order in reflection occurs at AOI > 41.8 degrees,
- the minus first order in transmission appears at AOI > 9.6 degrees,
- the total energy in all propagation orders (reflection and transmission) is 100 % (energy criterion).

1.2.4. Need to know more ?

Now assume that you are also interested to have a look at the phases, you want to see the ellipsometry parameters or you need to know the diffraction angles. In the further two cases you could rerun Unigit with changed settings of the output editor, in the latter case you even cannot do this. Rerunning this simple example is not a big deal and takes only seconds. However, when it comes to complex 2D gratings, a run can easily last several hours. In order to avoid time consuming reruns, a smarter way was introduced in Unigit in order to retrieve results from an example which has already been run, i.e., the information has already been generated. The only thing what you have to do before the original (first) run of the example, or let it better call project is to specify that and where the project information shall be saved. This is easily in the output editor by means of checking the box “Project File” (bottom) and entering a file name (edit control next to it).

Then, the project file can be load just by selecting a project file (extension *.upr) instead of a stack file (see also section 6 of the Unigit manual). After having selected the before generated project file “dielgrat_1d.upr”, the way how to generate modified results is quite similar to the regular computation mode. One has first to specify the output conditions by means of the output editor and then run the extraction by means of the same button which is used for starting a regular run. A successful extraction is indicated between the CANCEL and EXIT button. The phases for the minus first and zeroth order for reflection and transmission are shown in figures 8 and 9, respectively.

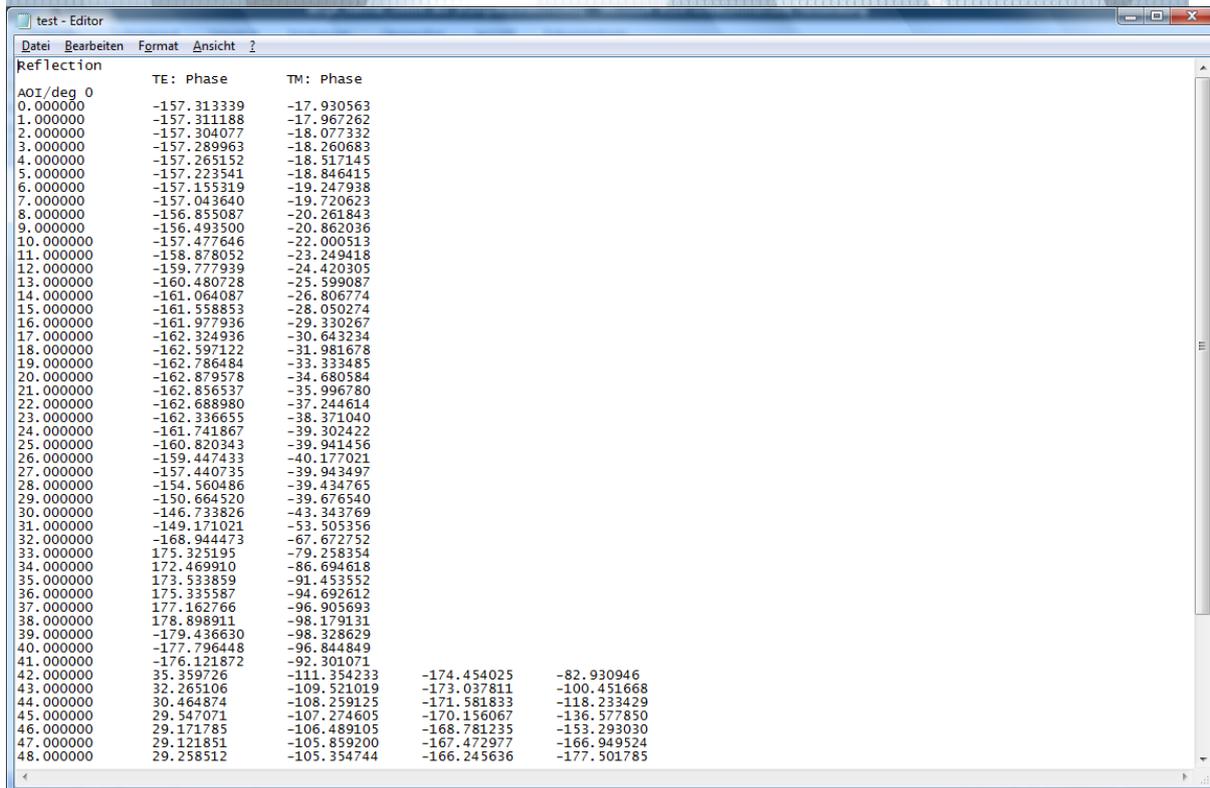


Fig. 8: Notepad output of the phases for 0. and -1. order in reflection

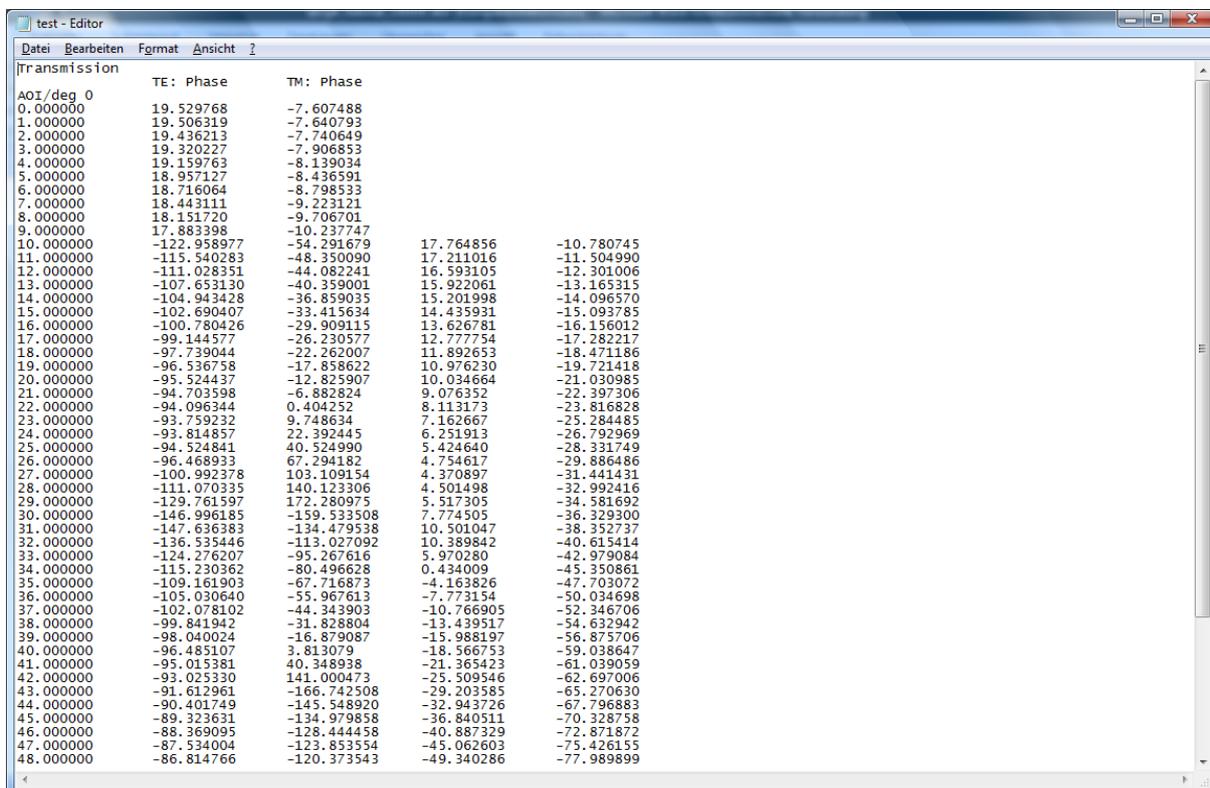


Fig. 9: Notepad output of the phases for 0. and -1. order in transmission

Analogously, tan(psi) and cos(delta) or the diffraction angles can be retrieved.

2. One-dimensional gratings

2.1. *Single Layer Gratings*

One single layer binary grating (dielgrat_1D.ust) was already treated in the previous section. Now, we shall consider a metallic grating. Select the input file **al_grat_1d.txt**. It is made from Aluminum, has a period of 0.5 microns and equal lines/ spaces being 200 nm in height.



Fig. 10: Diffraction efficiencies vs. truncation order of a metallic grating (0. order reflection)

Again, you should first run a convergence test. Check the TRUNCATION button, enter (1;40;1) to specify the truncation loop and 0.7 for the wavelength. Your convergence curves (reflection) should look like those of figure 10. In spite of the improved models implemented in UNIGIT, the TM-convergence (pink curve) for metallic gratings is sometimes worse compared to TE.

The next recommendation is again a loop over the AOI (0;50,1) with a truncation setting of 25. The resulting reflection curves for the 0. and -1. order are shown in figure 11. Clearly, a sharp change in the zeroth orders can be observed when the first orders start to propagate at AOI = 23.57 degrees.

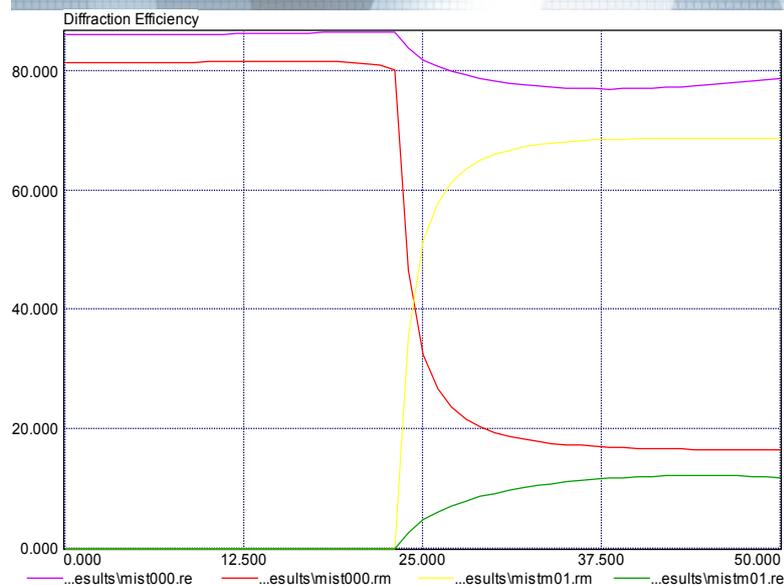


Fig. 11: Reflection efficiencies (0. & 1. order) vs. AOI for a metallic grating

2.2. Simple Multilayer gratings

There are two multi-layer stack files available which come with the installation of version 2.01.01 of Unigit:

- **PR_BARC_1D.ust:** A patterned photo-resist above a BARC layer on a Silicon substrate. The grating period is 0.5 microns. The PR-lines are 300 nm high and have a line width of 250 nm. The 100 nm thick BARC layer is not patterned.

After selecting this stack file and opening the stack editor, the window should look like shown in figure 12.

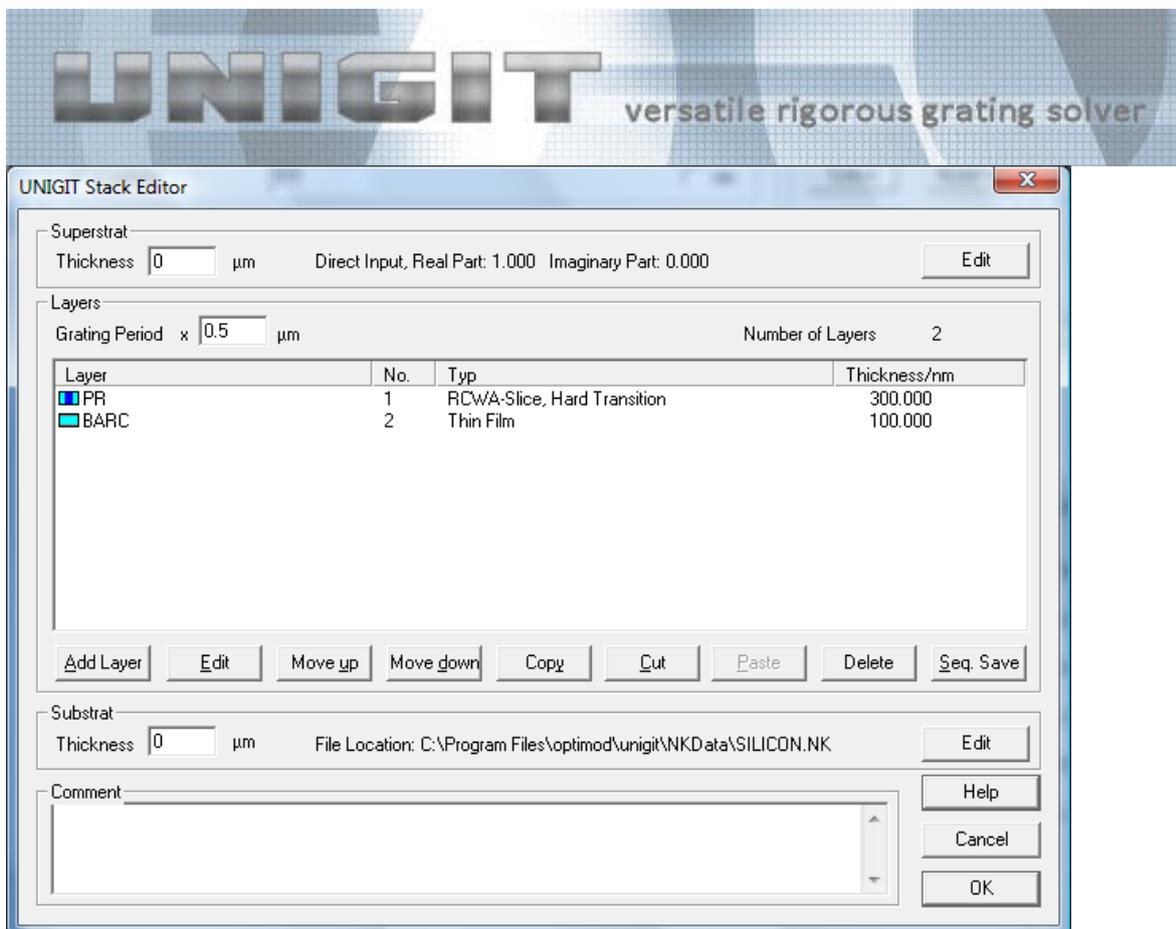


Fig. 12: Unigit stack editor showing the PR_BARC_1D.ust grating stack

Obviously, the stack is assembled by two layers, a RCWA (hard transition) on top of a thin film exactly as been described above.

- Two_layer_1D.ust: A patterned Chromium double layer on a dielectric substrate. The grating pitch is 0.5 microns. The geometry is depicted in figure 13. This example gives a hint how to assemble non-binary gratings from rectangular slices. An automated slicing tool is available in the full version of UNIGIT.

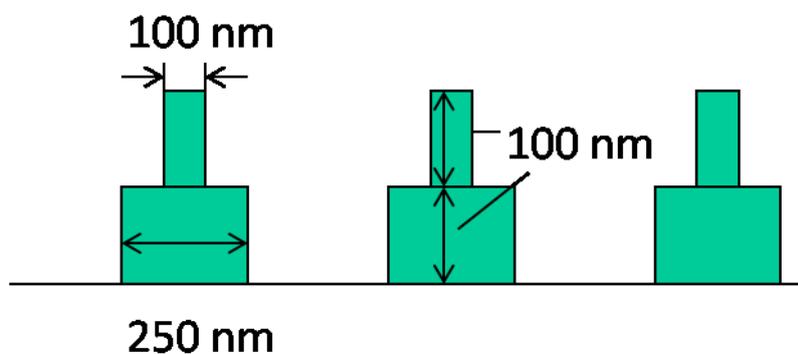


Fig. 13: Schematic cross section of the grating implemented in the file Two_layer_1D.ust.

The associated stack editor is shown in figure 14 below.

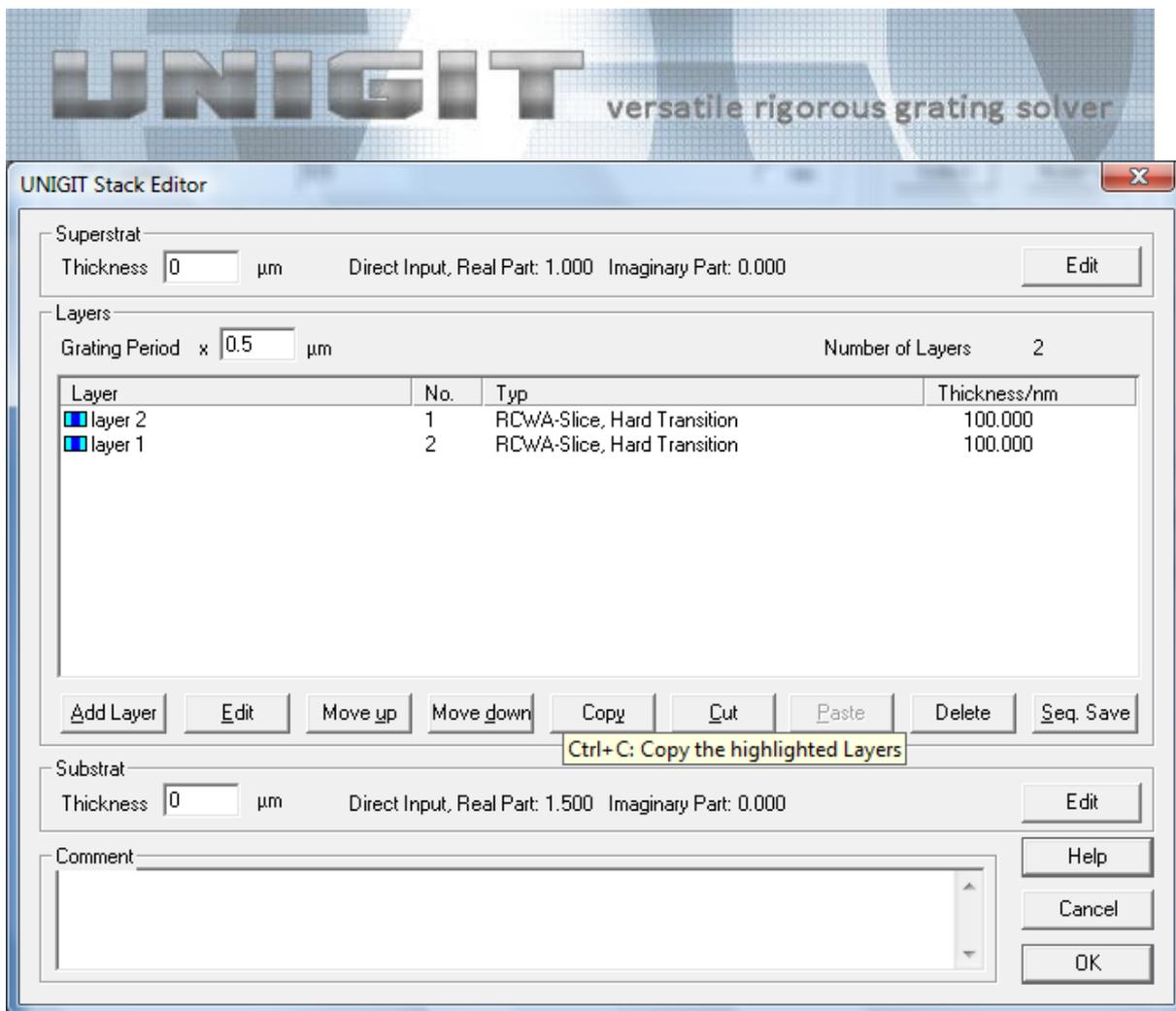


Fig. 14: Unigit stack editor showing the PR_BARC_1D.ust grating stack

2.3. Sloped gratings

Unigit version 2.01.01 offers a few different ways for the simulation of sloped gratings. The term sloped is understood as anything different from binary, e.g., sinusoidal, triangular or trapezoid. Unigit offers two basic methods to input sloped gratings – the composite Fourier and the composite polygon layer. The details of how this layers can be implemented are given in the Unigit manual (see the corresponding sections in the layer editor). During the input of this type of gratings, a slicing routine is run and a stack of RCWA-slices is generated automatically. There is of course also another cumbersome way of building up any interface or layer from scratch which shall be only mentioned for reason of completeness, namely piling up RCWA slices by means of the stack editor.

However, there are alternatives for describing and simulating sloped gratings. The first alternative are the Rayleigh-Fourier polygon and sinusoidal layer. This type of layer can be mixed with RCWA-slices or composite layers to form a multilayer stack. When specifying these types of layers, a special solver routine based on the Rayleigh-Fourier method will be applied during simulation. The drawback of this method is that it is not rigorous and provides only accurate results for shallow profiles.

Another alternative is the C-method solver. This method is based on a rigorous modal algorithm derived from Maxwell's equations. Not only is this algorithm usually much faster than the RCWA, but it also provides much faster convergence and accuracy in many cases.

Both alternatives do not require the profile decomposition in slices resulting in the great speed enhancement.

In the following, one example of a triangular grating shall be considered as a case study. The grating consists of patterned dielectric material with index = 1.5. The profile is shaped as a symmetric triangle as shown in figure 15.

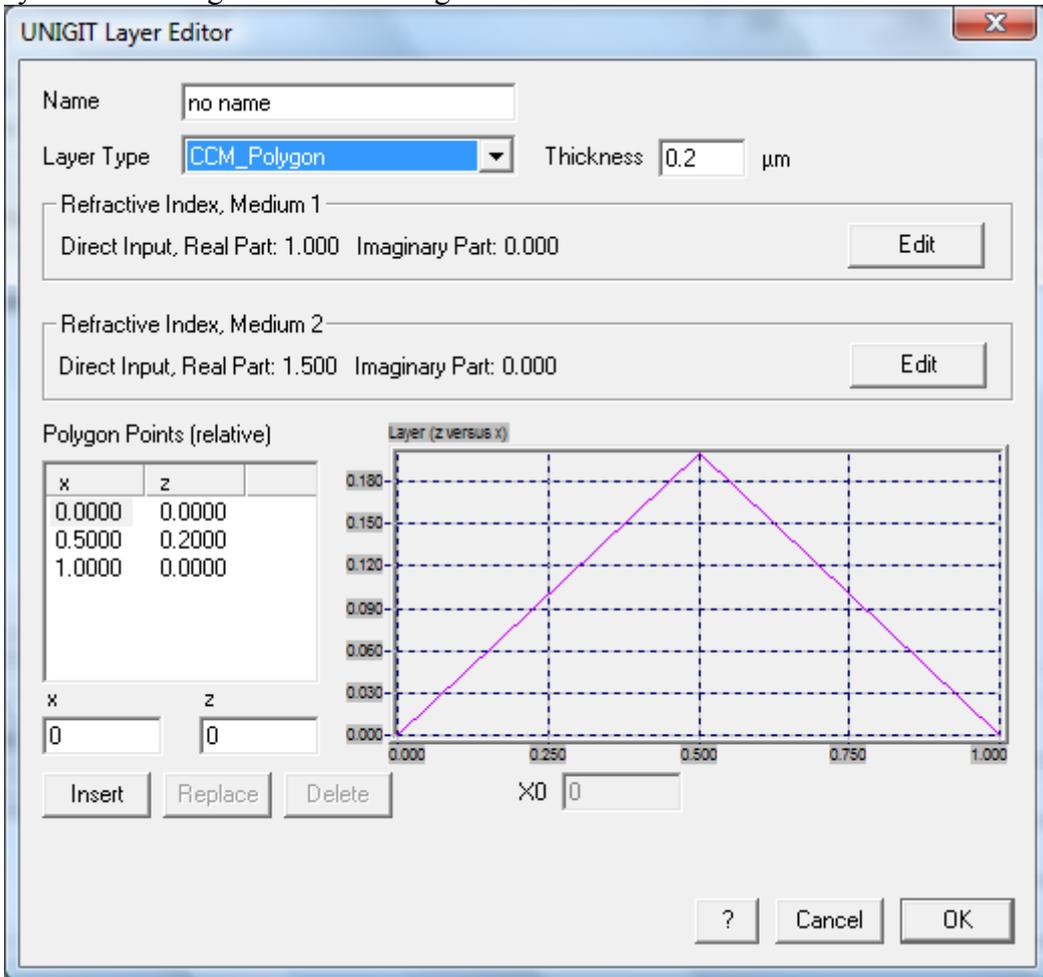


Fig. 15: Unigit layer for implementing a C-method polygon “layer”

The height of the profile is 200 nm and the grating period is 1 micron. The grating is illuminated with green light (550 nm) under oblique incidence (30 degrees). A truncation of ± 20 seems to be more than sufficient for this example.

The grating has been implemented in two different ways:

- As Composite Polygon layer to be run by the RCWA solver (1D Classic)
- As C-method (CM) layer polygon to be run by the C-method solver (1C).

Two files are provided which contain these gratings – slope_diel_1d.ust and slope_diel_1c.ust. The zeroth order transmission efficiencies are shown in the table 2 below.

File	Solver	# of Slices	Transmission TE 0	Transmission TM 0
slope_diel_1c.ust	C-method	N/A	74.97823857	87.31595748



slope_diel_1d.ust	RCWA Slicing	+	10	75.00495505	87.52453837
slope_diel_1d.ust	RCWA Slicing	+	25	74.98385363	87.43482951
slope_diel_1d.ust	RCWA Slicing	+	50	74.98059365	87.42389105

Table 2: Diffraction efficiencies (0. order transmission) for different 1D gratings

Apparently, the results are very similar. Moreover, the RCWA results seem to converge to the C-method results with increasing number of slices giving evidence for the correct implementation of both methods. A similar example could also be run comparing all three methods, i.e., the Rayleigh-Fourier approach beside the C-method and the RCWA solver. However, here one should reduce the profile height to make sure that the RF method still converges. It is left to the user as an exercise.

2.4. Complex Multilayer Stacks

In section 2.2, examples for simple (binary) multilayer stacks have been already presented. In this section, more sophisticated gratings shall be discussed assembled from several layers of different material that are separated by arbitrary rather than straight boundaries such as for example triangle, trapezoidal or sinusoidal interfaces. Basically, these types of gratings can be run either with the RCWA-solver (1D classic) or, in many cases preferably, with the C-method solver (1D C-method). An exception are overhanging and very steep profiles (meaning profiles with slopes close to vertical), although there are workarounds for the former. Here, we provide two examples – a trapezoidal grating that is coated by a layer of uniform thickness everywhere and a triangular grating over coated by a layer with an inverse sinusoidal profile. Grating files are given for RCWA as well as for C-method simulation for both examples.

The first example is shown schematically in figure 16. The thickness of the intermediate layer is constant everywhere rendering the two interfaces parallel. The associated stack files coming with the installation are rcwa_dsin_1d.ust and ccm_dsin_1d.ust.

The second example covers the more general case of non-parallel interfaces. It is shown in figure 17. The grating is triangular and the coating exhibits a trapezoidal profile resulting in non-parallel interfaces. In this way, so-called snowing effects occurring after the coating can be modeled. Of course, a lateral offset can also be invoked (see Unigit v2.01.02 manual). The associated stack files are rcwa_double_1d.ust and ccm_double_1d.ust.

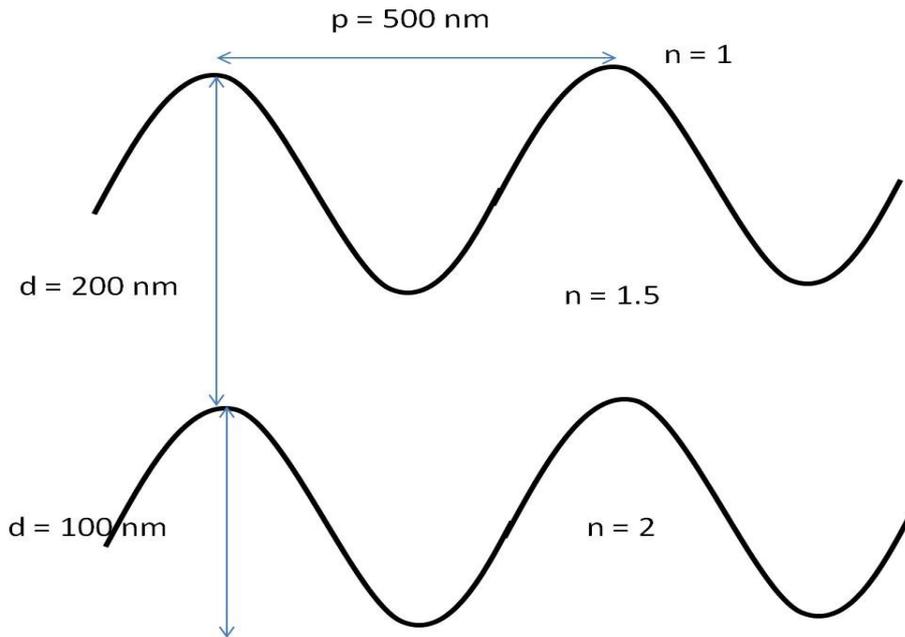


Fig. 16: Parallel Multilayer Grating

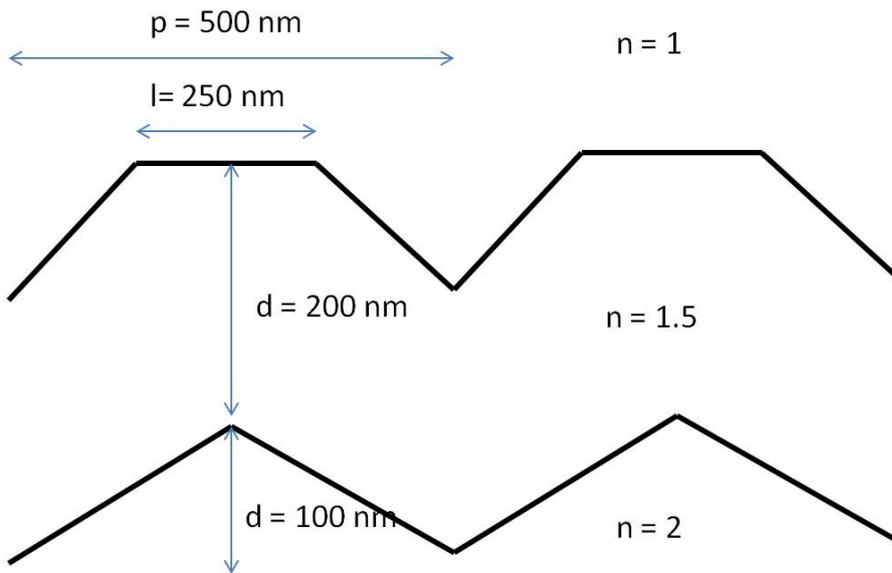


Fig. 17: Nonparallel Multilayer grating

Simulations have been run for both grating types with both solvers. The results for the parallel grating are summarized in

	RCWA				CM			
	RE0	RM0	TE0	TM0	RE0	RM0	TE0	TM0
0.5	1.9797E-01	2.8229E-03	6.6188E-01	8.7378E-01	1.9960E-01	2.3919E-03	6.6256E-01	8.7601E-01
0.52	1.9888E-01	1.7398E-03	6.8024E-01	8.8555E-01	2.0047E-01	1.3970E-03	6.8054E-01	8.8743E-01
0.54	1.9419E-01	7.9289E-04	6.9591E-01	9.0026E-01	1.9575E-01	5.6994E-04	6.9605E-01	9.0176E-01
0.56	1.8686E-01	2.3387E-04	7.1300E-01	9.1524E-01	1.8837E-01	1.2258E-04	7.1310E-01	9.1640E-01
0.58	1.8007E-01	1.2138E-05	7.3067E-01	9.2791E-01	1.8152E-01	9.5985E-07	7.3073E-01	9.2882E-01
0.6	1.7573E-01	1.2041E-04	7.3903E-01	9.3333E-01	1.7703E-01	2.0905E-04	7.3916E-01	9.3402E-01

Table 3 and those for the non-parallel grating in Table 4. An order truncation of ± 20 and a wavelength loop (0.5 ... 0.6 μm) was selected for the two examples. Moreover, AOI's of 60



degrees for the parallel and normal incidence for the non-parallel multilayer grating have been chosen. The results are similar although there are visible differences, particularly in TM-polarization. This may mainly be debited to approximation issues in the RCWA. Comparisons with a very accurate integral method implementation always showed very good agreement for the C-method simulations. Furthermore, the C-method clearly outperformed the RCWA for the given examples in terms of computation speed. Due to the large number of slices, the RCWA was about 100 times slower compared to the C-method solver. In addition, there are cases where the RCWA slicing becomes quite complicated when the interfaces between the layers overlap in lateral direction. This may be the case when the distance between the interfaces is smaller than the profile height. In spite of these clear advantages, there are many cases where one has to rely on the RCWA. In conclusion, a careful decision whether to use RCWA- or CM- solver is strongly recommended.

	RCWA				CM			
	REO	RMO	TEO	TMO	REO	RMO	TEO	TMO
0.5	1.9797E-01	2.8229E-03	6.6188E-01	8.7378E-01	1.9960E-01	2.3919E-03	6.6256E-01	8.7601E-01
0.52	1.9888E-01	1.7398E-03	6.8024E-01	8.8555E-01	2.0047E-01	1.3970E-03	6.8054E-01	8.8743E-01
0.54	1.9419E-01	7.9289E-04	6.9591E-01	9.0026E-01	1.9575E-01	5.6994E-04	6.9605E-01	9.0176E-01
0.56	1.8686E-01	2.3387E-04	7.1300E-01	9.1524E-01	1.8837E-01	1.2258E-04	7.1310E-01	9.1640E-01
0.58	1.8007E-01	1.2138E-05	7.3067E-01	9.2791E-01	1.8152E-01	9.5985E-07	7.3073E-01	9.2882E-01
0.6	1.7573E-01	1.2041E-04	7.3903E-01	9.3333E-01	1.7703E-01	2.0905E-04	7.3916E-01	9.3402E-01

Table 3: Zero order efficiencies in TE- and TM-polarisation in reflection (RE, RM) and transmission for the parallel multilayer grating

lambda	RCWA				C-Method			
	REO	RMO	TEO	TMO	REO	RMO	TEO	TMO
0.5	3.6121E-02	2.3741E-02	9.1920E-01	9.5615E-01	3.7467E-02	2.5761E-02	9.2322E-01	9.5483E-01
0.52	3.8851E-02	2.4833E-02	8.8200E-01	9.5919E-01	3.9918E-02	2.6852E-02	8.8921E-01	9.5718E-01
0.54	4.6098E-02	2.5940E-02	8.4468E-01	9.6393E-01	4.6867E-02	2.7911E-02	8.5291E-01	9.6181E-01
0.56	5.5352E-02	2.5999E-02	8.0639E-01	9.6991E-01	5.5904E-02	2.7872E-02	8.1445E-01	9.6784E-01
0.58	6.4025E-02	2.5425E-02	7.7808E-01	9.7395E-01	6.4453E-02	2.7188E-02	7.8502E-01	9.7207E-01
0.6	6.9775E-02	2.4813E-02	7.6528E-01	9.7496E-01	7.0114E-02	2.6471E-02	7.7077E-01	9.7335E-01

Table 4: Zero order efficiencies in TE- and TM-polarization in reflection (RE, RM) and transmission for the non-parallel multilayer grating

2.5. Gradient gratings

Gradient gratings are gratings that rely on a gradual change of the refraction index rather than a stepwise index profile (as given across a common RCWA slice). One can also conceive a gradient grating as a thin film layer with a periodically but gradually changing refraction index. In Unigit, gradient gratings are created and described by means of the soft transition RCWA slice (for details see Unigit manual, section layer editor). It might be of interest to know that a gradient layer may converge to a standard RCWA slice when increasing the number of entrances to infinity but using only a limited number of refraction index values.

A simple example will be discussed in the following. Remember the dielectric grating “dielgrat_1d.ust” of section 1.2. Suppose that you run an AOI loop for a range of $\theta_i = 30$ through 60 degrees. Next, setup a gradient grating with the same geometry and refraction



index as dielgrat_1d. This grating can be found under the name “gradient_1d.ust” in the Unigit stack folder. It consists of 32 equidistant index values, namely 16 in a row with index = 1.5 and 16 with index = 1. So, it resembles closely dielgrat_1d. Therefore, one would expect a similar diffraction behavior. The zeroth order transmission versus AOI is plotted for both cases and both polarizations in figure 18. Apparently, the results are almost the same. The differences arise from the different internal processing of the different layer types. It is left to the user to increase the sampling density of the gradient grating to check whether the diffraction spectrum is converging to that of the binary grating.

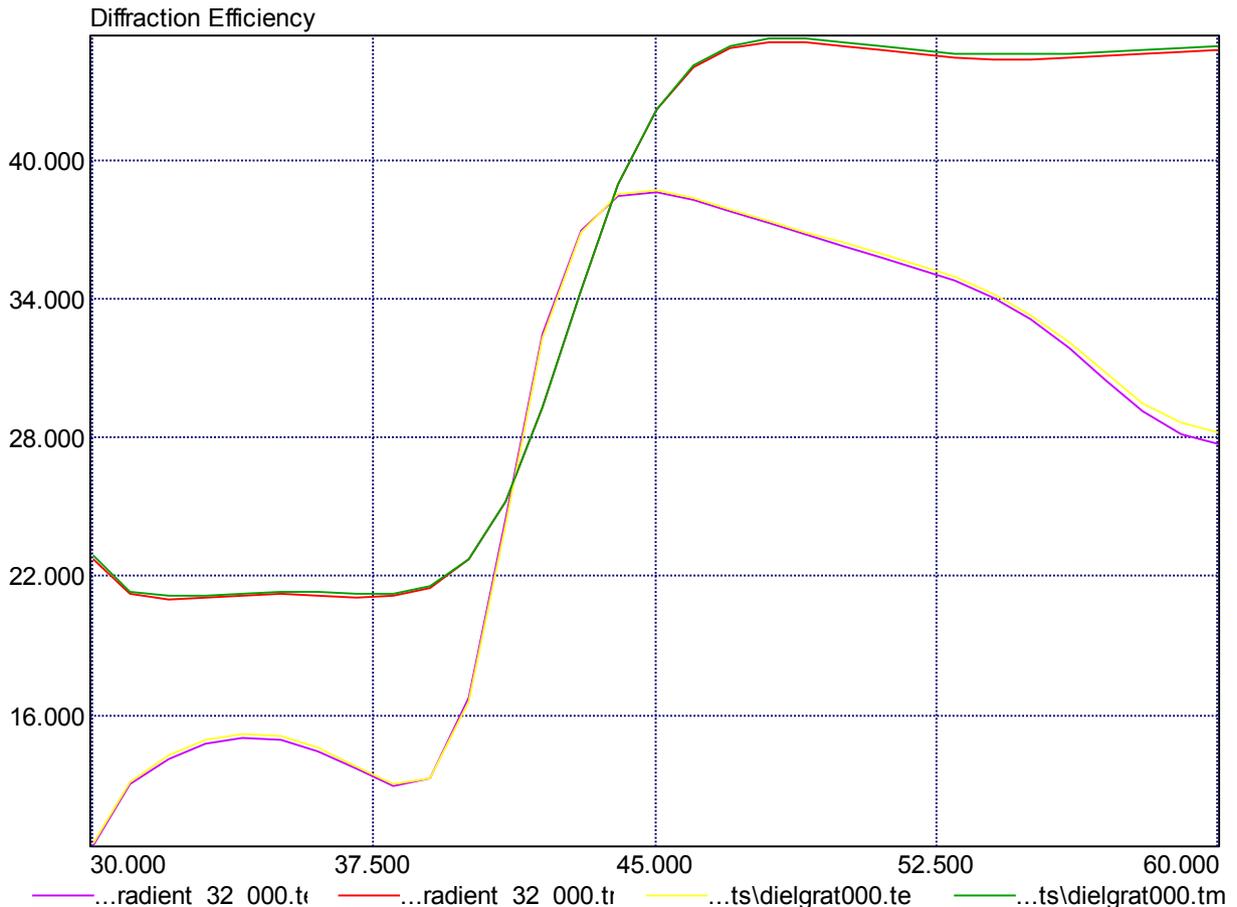


Fig. 18: Comparison of zeroth order transmission for a binary RCWA grating vs. a gradient grating

3. Two-dimensional gratings

3.1. *Grating types*

Again, there are basically three different types of 2D gratings in Unigit (see manual, layer editor 2D), namely the patch fill, the ellipse fill and the arbitrary fill. The two latter options are more general but in a sense less accurate. Here, a sort of equidistant discretization is done which is quite similar to the so-called 1D gradient grating. On the other hand, the patch filling can be considered as a sort of RCWA (hard transition) for 2D. However, it is limited to rectangles only while the other two options enable a variety of 2D cross sections such as ellipses, diamonds and corner rounded rectangles.

In this example of the tutorial, a simple 2D grating shall be considered which enables to compare all three grating types directly for the same geometry. The grating consists of a 100 nm thick dielectric layer on top of a Silicon substrate. Rectangular holes with $CD_x = 250$ nm and $CD_y = 375$ nm are etched into the dielectric.

This geometry has been implemented differently in three Unigit layer stacks:

- Stack2d_elli.ust - with ellipse fill option,
- Stack2d_rect.ust - with patch fill option,
- Stack2d_arbi.ust - with arbitrary (gradient) filling.

The grating was illuminated normally with a plane wave having 800 nm wavelength. The truncation order was set to 6 meaning that $2*6+1$ orders in both directions resulting in a still quite moderate total number of 169 have been maintained during computation. This is justified because of the low contrast material and the pitch over wavelength ratio > 1 . The Table 5 below shows the resulting zeroth order reflection for TE- and TM-polarization. Apparently, all values are quite close to each other. The maximum deviation is about 0.2%. This can be further reduced by increasing the sampling density of the ellipse and arbitrary filling layers. One example is also included in the table. Here, the discretization of the ellipse fill was increased from 512×512 to 2048×2048 (highlighted in green color). Evidently, the results are now much closer than before.

Grating file/ Discretization	Zero Order TE Reflection/%	Zero Order TM Reflection/%
Stack2d_elli.ust 512 x 512	24.19229348	24.68655616
Stack2d_elli.ust 2048 x 2048	24.15039565	24.64946358
Stack2d_arbi.ust	24.13369369	24.63391415



Stack2d_rect.ust	24.13640498	24.63724637
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Table 5: Reflection efficiencies (0. Order) for 3 different 2D grating realizations

3.2. Speed up

Another exciting new feature of Unigit version 1.02.04 upwards is the smart order management which permits speed up factor of 10 and higher. It should be pointed out, however, that the speed up should be very carefully used. The best way to always be on the safe side is to verify the speed up factor by means of an extended convergence analysis, i.e., not only to vary the order but also the speed up factor during convergence runs and compare the results to those obtained with highest order and speed factor 1.

Here, the speed up factor was set to 7.84 and the previous 2D example was repeated. The results are shown in Table 6 below. The patch fill example w/o speed up is added for reference (highlighted in green).

Grating file/ Discretization	Speed up	Zero Order TE Reflection/%	Zero Order TM Reflection/%
Stack2d_rect.ust	1	24.13640498	24.63724637
Stack2d_elli.ust 2048 x 2048	7.84	24.13003663	24.64187327
Stack2d_arbi.ust	7.84	24.11269207	24.62607999
Stack2d_rect.ust	7.84	24.11603230	24.62961443

Table 6: Reflection efficiencies (0. Order) for the example in table 3 with 2D speed up

The results are still very close. The maximum deviation within the results is still below 0.1% for TE and even below 0.05% for TM-case. The computation time could be reduced from about 20 seconds to about 2..3 seconds for the patch and arbitrary fill grating confirming the predicted speed up factor.

4. Composite 2D Gratings

In Unigit, the third dimension of 2D gratings can be implemented quite similarly as for 1D gratings in two different ways. First, the brute force but sometimes cumbersome way is to build the stack up from individual layers by means of the stack editor. Both the copy, cut and paste features as well as the work with sequences (pre-manufactured sub stacks) may greatly facilitate this approach. However, Unigit offers also a more elegant way that can be accessed through the CONE_3D option in the layer editor. When activating this layer type, the input window as shown in figure 19 comes up.

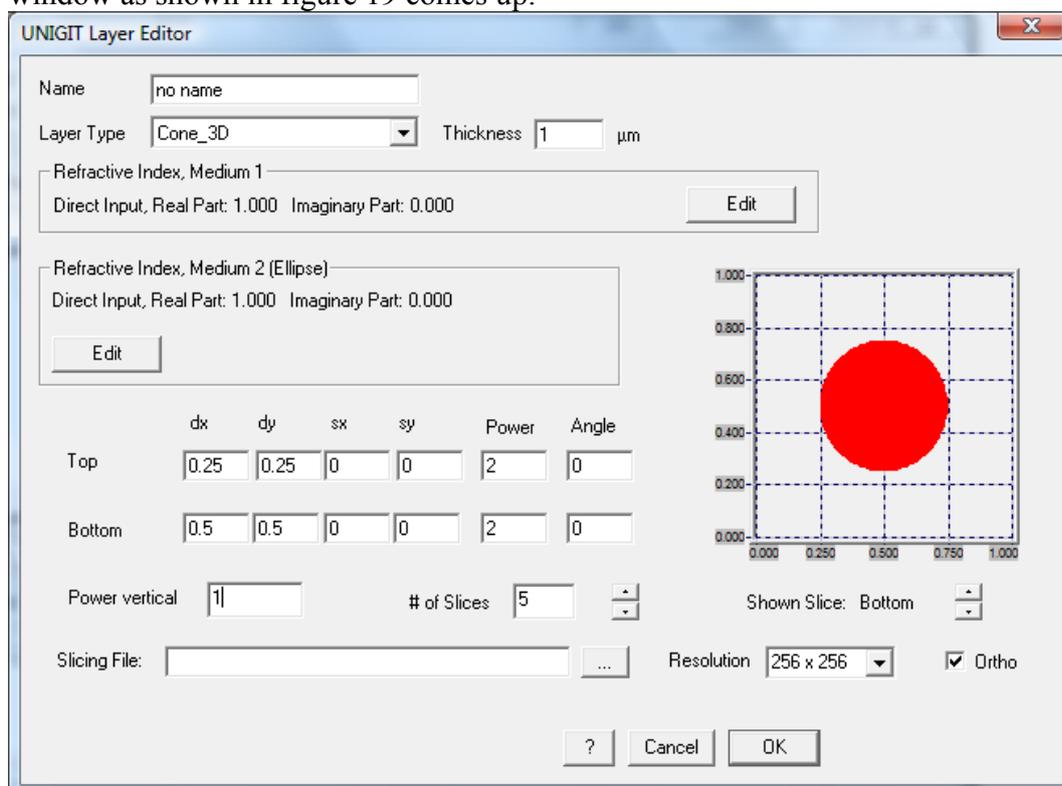


Fig. 19: Layer editor for a 2D-composite layer

Here, the user can define the top and the bottom cross section shape of his grating pattern just like the same way as he is used to with the ellipse filling feature. But as opposed to it, now he defines a real 3D body. The vertical shape of this body is defined by the vertical power. Here, the 1 results in a straight line while a value >1 gives a convex and a value <1 results in a concave shape, respectively. Furthermore, the user can define the number of slices. Actually, an equidistant slicing routine takes care to automatically translate the compact 3D description in something digestible for the RCWA solver. Finally, the user can sweep up and down through the 3D body by means of the “Show Slice” option. Here, the cross section shape of the activated slice number is plotted. The figure 20 below shows such a sequence of cross sections for the body defined above.

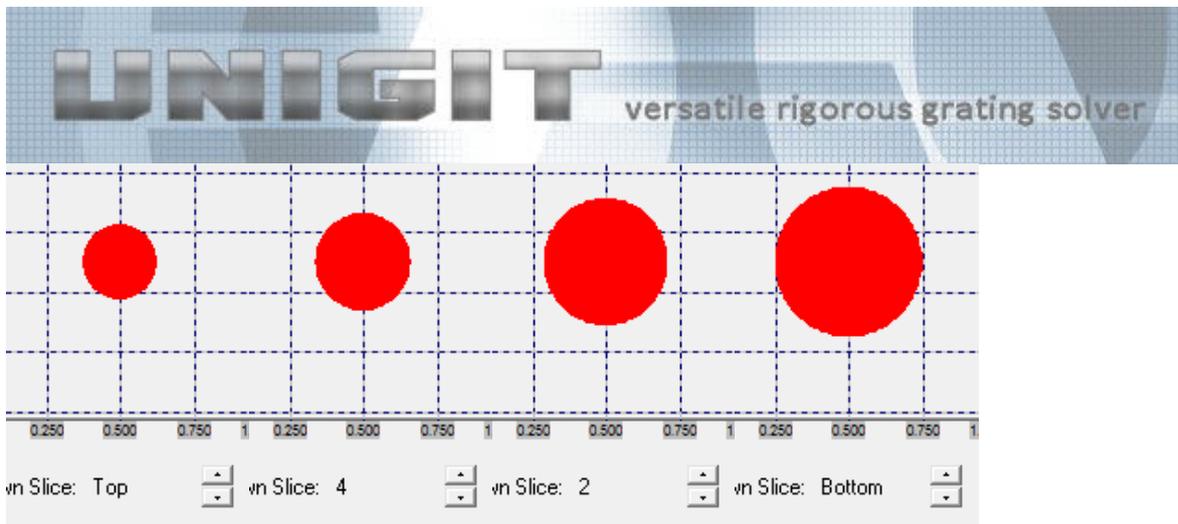


Fig. 20: Sequence of cross section when sweeping through a 2D composite layer

5. Acronyms

AOI	-	Angle of Incidence
AR	-	Anti Reflective
BARC	-	Bottom Anti Reflective Coating
CCB	-	Central Control Board
CD	-	Critical Dimension
CM	-	Coordinate Transformation Method (a.k.a. C-method)
PR	-	Photo resist
RCWA	-	Rigorous Coupled Wave Approach
RF	-	Rayleigh-Fourier (Method)
TE	-	Transverse Electric
TM	-	Transverse Magnetic
1D	-	one-dimensional
2D	-	two-dimensional
3D	-	three-dimensional