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Design of Two-Stage UIR and SIR Bandpass Filters with an Elliptic Function-Like Response

Abstract — Two-stage bandpass filters with a sharp transition band are presented. The two stages are cascaded by a direct coupling scheme, as well as a three-line structure. Each half-wave resonator is tapped with a quarter-wave open stub at its center and a transmission zero can be created. The positions of the two zeros can be easily tuned to locate close to the passband, so that an elliptic function-like response can be obtained. Both uniform impedance resonators (UIRs) and stepped impedance resonators (SIRs) are employed in the design. Experimental results show a close agreement with the design.

Index Terms — Elliptic function filters, microstrip circuit, stepped impedance resonator, transmission zero.

I. INTRODUCTION

Filters are essential components in the RF front end of a wireless communication system. Planar filters are usually preferred due to its low cost, good reliability and ease in synthesis and design. A high-performance planar microwave filter is usually required to have a good attenuation level in rejection bands and a sufficiently wide upper stopband. It is particularly favorable that transmission zeros can be easily created and tuned close to the passband, since one of important missions of a filter is to suppress the image frequency near the passband. The creation of transmission zeros in a planar filter can be achieved by establishing proper cross couplings [1-3], tapping input/output resonators [4,5], and employing a zero degree feed scheme [6].

In [7], quarter-wave microstrip resonators are proposed to design a compact and low loss filter with elliptic-type performance. In this filter, two transmission zeros are generated at upper and lower sides of the passband. It is found that strong couplings between feed lines and end resonators are required in the structure, so that a small coupling gap becomes inevitable.

In this study, uniform impedance resonators (UIRs) and stepped impedance resonators (SIRs) are employed to design a bandpass filter with a sharp transition band. The sharp transition band is achieved by locating two transmission zeros close to the passband. The resonators are tapped with an open stub at its center. The length of the stub can be trimmed to control the transmission zero at either the lower or upper side of the passband. A cascade of such two stages, one has a transmission zero at the lower edge of the passband and the other has a zero at the upper edge, forms a bandpass filter with sharp transitions. Both direct coupling and three-line microstrip structures [8] are incorporated into the design.

II. PROPERTIES OF TAPPED \( \lambda/4 \) UIRS AND SIRS

The circuit shown in Fig.1 will have two resonant frequencies due to the open stub. The length and the impedance ratios of the low impedance to the high impedance sections of the SIR are 2 and 0.3, respectively. The IE3D software [9] is used to do the simulation. In Fig.1, the structure is fed with microstrips through small gaps at both ends, and both conductor and dielectric are assumed loss free so that frequencies with peak transmission response can be determined with good accuracy. When the impedance ratio is unity, the resonator becomes a UIR. Both the SIR and UIR without stub are designed to have a resonant frequency at \( f_o = 2.45 \) GHz.

Fig.2 plots \( |S_{21}| \) response of the circuit in Fig.1. A transmission zero \( f_z \) and two transmission poles \( f_o \) and \( f_p \) can be observed. Before the circuit design, it is important to investigate the dependence of these three frequencies on stub length. Fig.3(a) and Fig.3(b) plot the variations of \( f_z, f_o \) and \( f_p \) against the stub length for the UIR and SIR circuits, respectively. The stub length is normalized with...
respect to the corresponding size of a quarter-wave resonator. Some important properties of \( f_z \), \( f_o \) and \( f_p \) are summarized as follows. The fundamental frequency \( f_o \) is fixed at 2.45 GHz and it is independent of the stub length. The transmission zero \( f_z \) can be located either on lower or upper side of the passband, and \( f_p \) always locates between \( f_o \) than \( f_z \). It is interesting to note that when \( l_s/(\lambda/4) = 1.10 \) and 1.045 for the UIR and SIR cases, respectively; the three curves intersect at 2.45GHz, the design frequency.

![Fig. 1. Structure of two quarter-wave SIRs with a tapped stub.](image)

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III. THE FILTER DESIGN

The design method for the investigated circuit is as follows. For a bandpass filter with sharp transitions at passband edges, two transmission zeros are required. The intuitive way is to cascade two two-pole filters in Fig.1. In the design, first locate two zeros on both sides of the passband, tune the resonator size if necessary, and then adjust the couplings in the structure. Since the transmission zeros have been determined by the stub length, their frequencies are unchanged during the cascading of the two stages. This can greatly save time in synthesizing the filter response.

IV. UIR FILTER RESPONSES

Consider a two-stage UIR filter with coupling structure A in Fig.4. According to our experience, the contribution from \( f_p \) to the coupling coefficients in the filter is negligible. Thus, the synthesis of passband response can be approximated by three coefficients \( K_{01} \), \( K_{12} \) and \( K_{23} \) determined at \( f_o \) of the main resonators. For a Butterworth response with a bandwidth \( \Delta = 10\% \), \( K_{01} = K_{23} = 0.30 \) and \( K_{12} = 0.11 \). If a coupling angle of 60° is used, the gap sizes are found to be 0.25 mm and 1.2 mm, for a substrate with \( \varepsilon_r = 10.2 \) and thickness 1.27 mm. It is found that the resonator tapped with longer stub has to be cut down by 6%, and the other one increased by 4%. Fig.5(a) shows the simulation and measured results for the filter. The zeros are located at 2.3 and 2.6 GHz. The measured insertion loss at the center frequency is 1.5dB.

The filter can also be implemented by structure B in Fig.4. It is found that the size of either resonator has not to be trimmed during the synthesis. This greatly saves effort in design such a filter. Fig.5(b) plots the simulation and measured responses, which possess very sharp transition bands.

![Fig. 3. Dependence of the transmission zero \( f_z \) and pole frequencies, \( f_o \) and \( f_p \), on normalized stub length. (a) UIR circuit. (b) SIR circuit.](image)
Fig. 4. Two coupling structures for $\lambda/4$ UIRs tapped with an open stub.

Fig. 5. Simulation and measured responses of the filters with (a) structure A and (b) structure B in Fig.4.

Fig. 6. Two coupling structures for two quarter-wavelength SIRs with tapped open stubs.

Fig. 7. Responses of the filter structure A in Fig.6. (a) Detailed passband responses. (b) Responses in a broad band.
V. SIR Filter Responses

The responses in Fig. 5 present spurious responses at twice the design frequency. It degrades the attenuation level of the filter in upper rejection band. Therefore, we design the filters with SIRs. The two possible coupling structures are shown in Fig. 6. In structure A, the coupling between resonators is performed by central coupled lines. Fig. 7(a) shows the simulation and measured responses from 2 to 3 GHz, and Fig. 7(b) shows those from 1 to 12 GHz. The insertion loss at the center passband is 2.6 dB. The filter has an attenuation level better than 40 dB before the unwanted response goes up at 10.5 GHz.

Fig. 8(a) plots simulation and measured responses from 2 to 3 GHz and Fig. 8(b) shows those from 1 to 10 GHz for the SIR filter with coupling structure B in Fig. 6. The passband insertion loss is 1.7 dB at the design frequency. The spurious response goes up at 8 GHz, and before this frequency the attenuation level is about 30 dB.

VI. Conclusion

A simple design for bandpass filters with a sharp transition is presented. The building blocks of the filters are quarter-wavelength uniform impedance resonators (UIRs) and stepped impedance resonators (SIRs) with a tapped open stub. Both direct coupling scheme and a three-line structure are used to realize the cascade of two coupled stages. Transmission zeros are created on both sides of the passband. The UIR design presents good $|S_{11}|$ responses as well as good insertion loss in the passband, while the SIR design possesses a wide upper rejection band with a good attenuation level. All the presented filters show a sharp transition band.

REFERENCES


Fig. 8. Simulation and measured responses of filter structure B in Fig. 6. (a) Detailed responses. (b) Responses in a broad band.