行政院國家科學委員會專題研究計畫　成果報告

具有寬截止頻帶之微波微帶線帶通濾波器設計

計畫類別： 個別型計畫
計畫編號： NSC91-2213-E-009-126-
執行期間： 91 年 08 月 01 日至 92 年 07 月 31 日
執行單位： 國立交通大學電信工程學系

計畫主持人： 郭仁財

報告類型： 精簡報告

處理方式： 本計畫涉及專利或其他智慧財產權，1 年後可公開查詢

中　華　民　國 92 年 8 月 15 日

行政院國家科學委員會專題研究計畫成果報告

具有寬截止頻帶之微波微帶線帶通濾波器設計

A Design of Parallel Coupled Microstrip Lines Filter with a Wide Stopband

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一、中文摘要

在平行耦合微帶線濾波器的設計中，本文採用輸入輸出級過度耦合的技術，以有效消除二倍頻的虛假響應。研究結果顯示過度耦合級的傳輸零點是可調的，另外發現增加濾波器的鏡像阻抗，也可更進一步加強抑制二倍頻虛假響應。根據此研究設計出來的濾波器具有較傳統同類型濾波器更寬的高頻截止頻帶與更對稱的通帶響應。經由實做電路的量測結果證明，這種電路設計相當有效。

關鍵詞：微帶線濾波器，虛假響應

Abstract

In a parallel-coupled microstrip filter, end stages with over-coupling are designed to suppress the unwanted responses at twice the passband frequency ($2f_o$). The inherent transmission zero of an over-coupled input/output stage is shown tunable. It is found that increasing the image impedance of the filter sections can further enhance the suppression. The designed bandpass filters thus have a wide upper stopband and improved passband response symmetry. Measured results of fabricated circuits show that the idea works very well.

Keywords: Microstrip Filter, Spurious response

二、**Introduction**

Parallel-coupled microstrip filters have been widely used in the RF front end of microwave and wireless communication systems for decades. Major advantages of this type of filter include an easy synthesis procedure [1], good repetition and a wide range of filter fractional bandwidth [2].

The traditional design of parallel-coupled microstrip filters suffers from the spurious response at twice the passband frequency ($2f_o$) [2, 3], which causes passband response to be asymmetric, reduces the width of the upper stopband, and could greatly limit their applications. It is resulted from the inequality of $_e$ and $_o$, the even- and odd-mode phase constants, respectively, of the coupled lines for each stage. This problem becomes more severe if a dielectric substrate with relative high permittivity is used, since the two eigen-modes will exhibit a considerable difference in $_e$ and $_o$.

Consequently, the ways to tackle this problem fall into two categories [4]: providing different lengths for the even- and odd-modes, and equalizing the modal phase velocities. In [3, 4], an over-coupled resonator is proposed to extend phase length for the odd-mode to compensate difference in the phase velocities. The structures in [5, 6] use capacitors to extend the traveling path of the odd-mode. The corrugated coupled microstrips in [7] are designed for equalization of the modal phase velocities.

The stepped impedance resonators (SIRs) in [8], the method in [9] and the wiggly-line coupled stage design in [10] are also effective in improving the rejection characteristics of the filter at $2f_o$.

In this paper, two techniques are incorporated into the design of parallel-coupled microstrip filters for suppressing the spurious response at $2f_o$. First, the over-coupling in [4] is used. It is found in this work that applying over-coupling to the end stages, rather than to every coupled stage, is sufficient to improve the filter characteristics in the upper stopband. Then the image impedance is increased to reduce the difference in $_e$ and $_o$ of each coupled stage, so that the suppression of the spurious harmonic can be enhanced. Sections II and III will explain the technical background of these two ideas, and compare the predicted and measured responses. Section IV draws the conclusion.

一、 The Transmission Zero of an Over-Coupled Stage

For a microstrip coupled stage, Fig.1 shows the dependence of $|S_{21}|$ responses on $R = £_{re}/£_{ro}$, the ratio of the effective permittivity of the even-mode to that of the odd-mode. The results can be easily obtained by deriving the Z-parameters of the two-port network, followed by converting to the S-parameters [1]. For the ideal case with $R = 1$, the $|S_{21}|$ response has an inherent transmission zero at $2f_o$. When R is increased, the zero moves to higher frequencies, and vice versa. For practical coupled microstrips, R is greater than unity. The passband responses in the neighborhood of f_o, however, do not change significantly when the value of R is changed, since the derivative of the coupling response is zero at f_o. Therefore when a stage is over-coupled, i.e. the coupling length is longer than $^{a}{}_{g}/4$, the passband response will be almost unchanged, and the inherent zero will move to a frequency lower than $2f_o$. In other words, the effectiveness of increasing the coupling length of a coupled-line stage on the zero is equivalent to that of decreasing R, which is also equivalent to increasing $£_{ro}$ or decreasing $£_{re}$. It implies that from the circuit design point of view, the inherent zero can be tunable, within a certain range, by merely adjusting the length for the over-coupling. Since the position of the zero is close to the band of the spurious responses, it can be used to enhance the filter performance around $2f_o$.

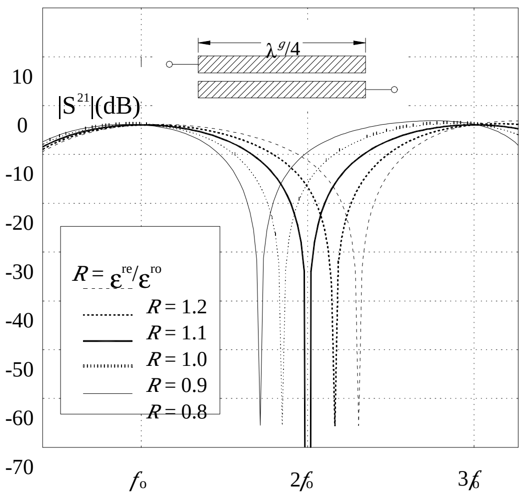


Fig.1. The dependence of $|S_{21}|$ responses on $R = £_{re}/£_{ro}$ for a coupled microstrip stage.

Fig.2 shows the layout of a third-order Chebyshev bandpass filter, of which both the end stages are over-coupled. Fig.3 plots the simulation and measured results for a third- and a fifth-order filters. The detailed passband responses are also plotted in the zoomed windows. The filters are designed by the classical synthesis method [1], followed with adding an extra section to the end stages for over-coupling. The lengths of the extra sections are chosen so that the peak of the spurious response is minimized. The IE3D® [11] is used for the electromagnetic simulations. The simulation results for filters directly synthesized by the traditional method, i.e. without any over-coupling, are also plotted for comparison. The measured peak rejection levels for the filters with proper over-couplings are no more than –30dB. It can be seen that a suppression of at least 20dB to the spurious responses is obtained by using the over-coupled stages.

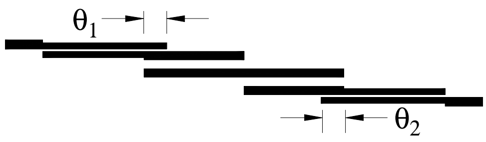
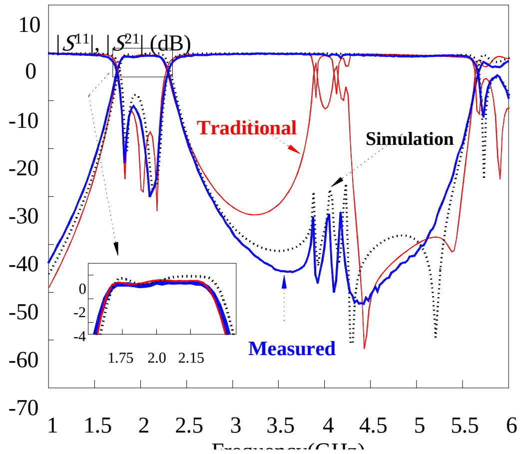
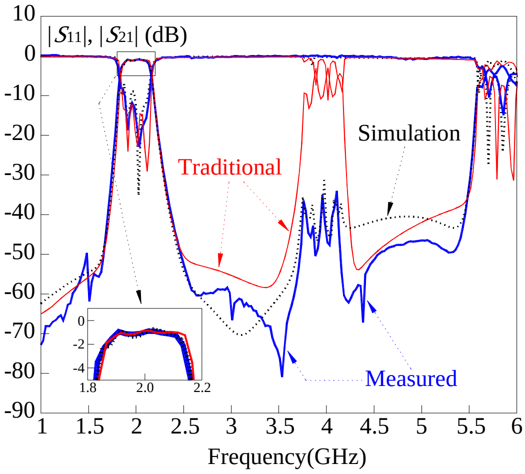


Fig.2. The layout for a third-order filter. Over-couplings are applied to the end stages.

It is noted that the design in Fig.2 is much simpler than that in [4], where over-coupling is applied to every coupled stage. The tuning in our design involves only two over-couplings at the end stages, while that in [4] involves the coupling coefficients of all the coupled stages, which include three-line sections or angled nonuniform coupled lines. The substrates in both works have a similar dielectric constant, but the thickness of our substrate is more than three times that of the counterpart. Nevertheless, the measured suppression to the spurious passband in Fig.3(a) and Fig.3(b) shows a similar level to that of the optimized filter in [4].



(a)



(b)

Fig.3. Simulated and measured responses for Chebyshev bandpass filters. The center frequency f_o = 2 GHz and passband ripple = 0.1dB. The substrate has £$_r$ = 10.2 and thickness h = 1.27mm. (a) Responses of a third-order filter with fractional bandwidth Δ = 20%. The electrical lengths for over-coupling at the end stages are ¯$_1$ = 12.7^o and ¯$_2$ = 17.2^o. (b) Responses of a fifth-order filter with Δ = 15%, ¯$_1$ = 15.1^o and ¯$_2$ = 18.8^o.

四、Enhancing the Suppression by Increasing the Image Impedance

Suppressing spurious harmonics for parallel-coupled microstrip filters on a substrate with larger £$_r$ is more difficult than those on a substrate with smaller £$_r$, since the eigen-modes will exhibit more deviation in phase velocities, which is the very reason that the spurious response arises. Thus, any technique for reducing the deviation between the modal phase velocities will be helpful in the suppression of unwanted harmonics. It is found that if the image impedance of a coupled stage can be increased, the difference between $_e$ and $_o$ of the coupled lines can be reduced at the same time. For keeping both system reference impedance and the passband response unaltered at the same time, the method in [12] can be invoked to design parallel-coupled filters with an image impedance other than 50Ω. In this paper, the image impedance Z_i of the filter is changed from 50Ω to 80Ω. Fig.4 compares £$_{re}$ and £$_{ro}$ of two pairs of coupled microstrips, of which the dimensions are those for the first stages of the filters shown in Fig.3(a) and Fig.5(a). The relative deviation between £$_{re}$ and £$_{ro}$ for the 50Ω case is reduced from 21.9% to 10.6% for the 80Ω case. The responses for two filters with Z_i = 80Ω are shown in Fig.5(a) and Fig.5(b), of which the specifications are identical to those of Fig.3(a) and Fig.3(b), respectively. The over-coupling is also included in the circuit design. As indicated for both filters, the measured attenuation levels at 2f_o are better than –50 dB. For the particular case studies shown, the suppression is enhanced by 15 dB by increasing the image impedance of the filter. It is to be noted that the passband responses are close to being unchanged.

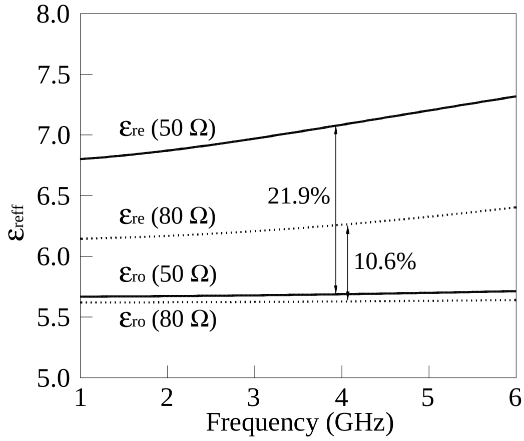
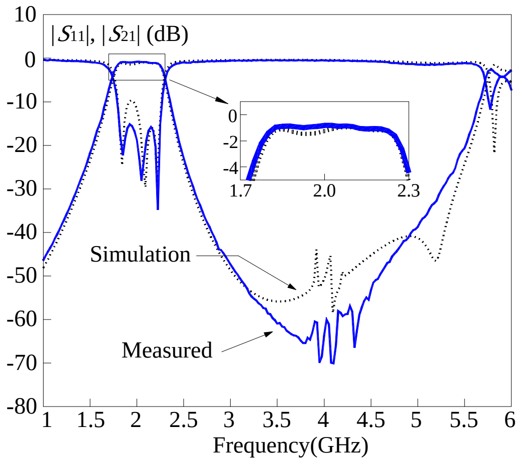
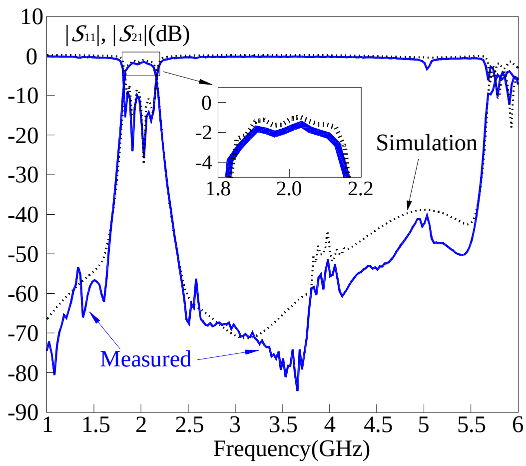


Fig.4. Comparison of ε_{re} and ε_{ro} for two pairs of coupled lines. Z_i = 50Ω: W = 0.590 mm, S = 0.220 mm; Z_i = 80Ω: W = 0.206 mm, S = 0.396 mm.



(a)



(b)

Fig.5. Simulated and measured responses for filters with image impedance Z_i = 80Ω. The design specifications of the filter and the substrate are identical to those in Fig.3. (a) Responses of a third-order filter with Δ = 20%, ¯$_1$ = 12.5^o and ¯$_2$ = 12.9^o. (b) Responses of a fifth-order filter with Δ = 15%, ¯$_1$ = 14.1^o and ¯$_2$ = 15.6^o.

五、Conclusion

This paper shows an effective example of common parallel-coupled microstrip filter design. Suppression of the spurious response is achieved by introducing over-coupling to the end stages and increasing the image impedance of the filter. The over-coupling is applied to the end stages only. A coupled microstrip stage with higher image impedance is shown to have smaller difference in ε_{re} and ε_{ro}, and parallel-coupled microstrip filters with higher image impedances also show an improved rejection at $2f_o$.

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