

An Improved Version of Exponential Taper Transmission Line Branch Coupler with Inductance Element

¹,Adnan Affandi, ²,Abdullah Dobaie, ³,Yasser Gharbi
^{1,2,3}Electrical and Computer Engineering Department King Abdul Aziz University

Abstract: Novel exponential taper transmission line branch line coupler is presented. The ability of this proposed branch line coupler is demonstrated in this paper. The parameters of this network is calculated and its frequency responses is computed. Simulation design and manufacturing of microwave exponential taper transmission line branch couplers are presented.

Keywords: Exponential Taper; Branch Coupler ; Non-uniform Taper

I. Introduction

Since the branch line couplers either in form of a hybrid or in a cascade are very important networks since they are used in a broadband range of applications such as mixers, data modulators, phase shifters, power combined amplifiers, PIN switches, detectors and patch antennas [8-9]. Microstrip branch line couplers are widely used because they are light weight, economical and readily reproducible by using photo graphic methods. Intensive works and researches had been spent in order to generate novel microstrip non-uniform transmission networks [1-3]. Although considerable amount of works have been devoted in analysing non-uniform transmission, but unfortunately, the exact realization of this non-uniform branch line couplers have not been achieved yet. The non-uniform tapered lines represent a practical and effective solution to impedance matching problems. Normally the reflection coefficients of the tapered lines decrease rapidly with frequency, and are more manageable than those from stepped transforms. Discontinuities do not exist, since the impedance change is continuous. The computer analysis is used as a part of an optimization procedure to obtain locally optimum designs, for both uniform and non-uniform (BLC) with and without resonant radial stubs. The branch coupler circuits in this chapter are simulated using ADS 2011 and fabricated on Roger 4003 substrate with dielectric constant of 3.38.

II. Exponential Taper Transmission Line Branch Coupler

Due to the high degree of symmetry of the BCL see Fig. 1, the even and odd modes concepts can be employed and the superposition theorems can be also used to formulate the scattering matrix of the proposed BLC. The even and odd modes concepts reduce the four port BLC into two port networks which makes the network easier to be analysed. Figure 1b shows the photograph of prototyped of the Exponential taper branch line coupler which fabricated on Roger 4003 substrate with dielectric constant of 3.38 and the thickness = 0.203 mm.

III. Even Mode Analysis

The even mode circuit of Fig. 1 is seen in Fig. 2. Which consists of four-exponential lines of lengths ℓ_1, ℓ_2, ℓ_3 and ℓ_4 and two open-circuited stubs of length ℓ_{1So} and ℓ_{2So} and two inductors L of value 10 pH. By using the even mode circuit of Fig. 2. The overall even mode matrices A_{Te} B_{Te} C_{Te} D_{Te} may be found as:

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_{Te} & B_{Te} \\ C_{Te} & D_{Te} \end{bmatrix} = Me_1 * Me_2 \quad (1)$$

$$\text{where } Me_1 = \begin{bmatrix} A_1 & B_1 \\ C_1 & D_1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} AS_{1e} & BS_{1e} \\ CS_{1e} & DS_{1e} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1.0 & j\omega L \\ 0.0 & 1.0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} A_2 & B_2 \\ C_2 & D_2 \end{bmatrix} \quad (2)$$

$$\text{and } Me_2 = \begin{bmatrix} A_3 & B_3 \\ C_3 & D_3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} AS_{2e} & BS_{2e} \\ CS_{2e} & DS_{2e} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1.0 & j\omega L \\ 0.0 & 1.0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} A_4 & B_4 \\ C_4 & D_4 \end{bmatrix} \quad (3)$$

Where the ABCD matrices of the first and the second stubs may be represented respectively as:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ C_{1so}/A_{1so} & 1 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ C_{2so}/A_{2so} & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (4)$$

where

$$A_n = \frac{1}{N_n} \left(\cosh(\beta' l_n) + \frac{\delta n l_n \sinh(\beta' l_n)}{2 \beta' l_n} \right)$$

$$B_n = j Z_{0n} N_n \beta' l_n \left(\frac{\sinh(\beta' l_n)}{\beta' l_n} \right)$$

$$C_n = j \frac{1}{Z_{0n}} * \frac{1}{N_n} \beta' l_n \left(\frac{\sinh(\beta' l_n)}{\beta' l_n} \right)$$

$$D_n = N_n \left(\cosh(\beta' l_n) - \frac{\delta n l_n \sinh(\beta' l_n)}{2 \beta' l_n} \right)$$

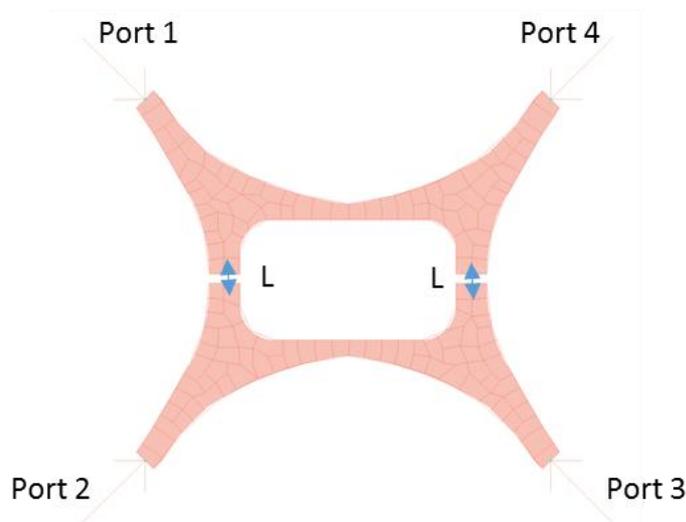


Figure 1a The Exponential taper branch line coupler

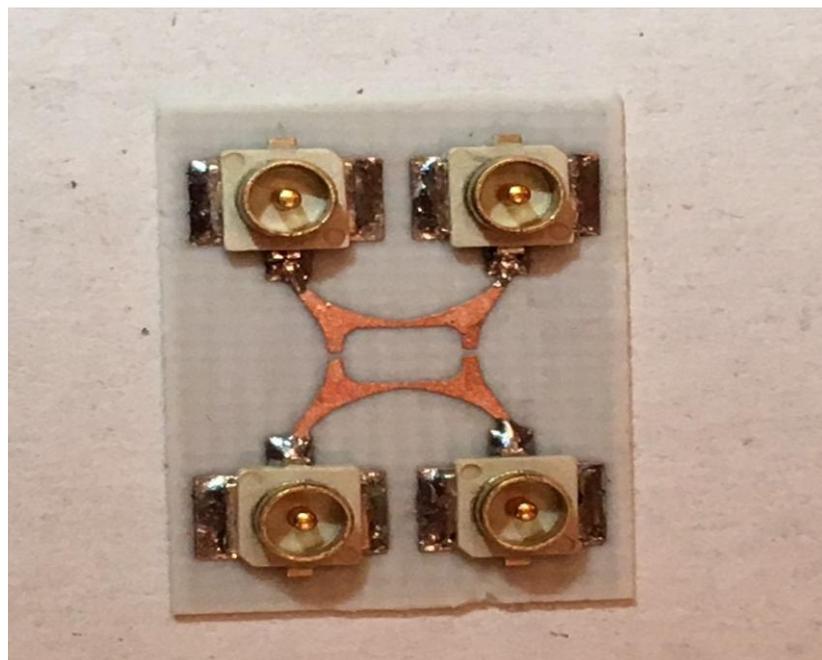


Figure 1b The photograph of the Exponential taper branch line coupler circuit

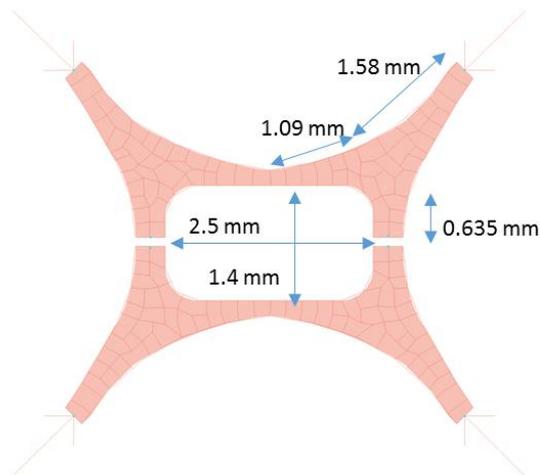


Figure 1c The Exponential taper branch line coupler circuit dimension

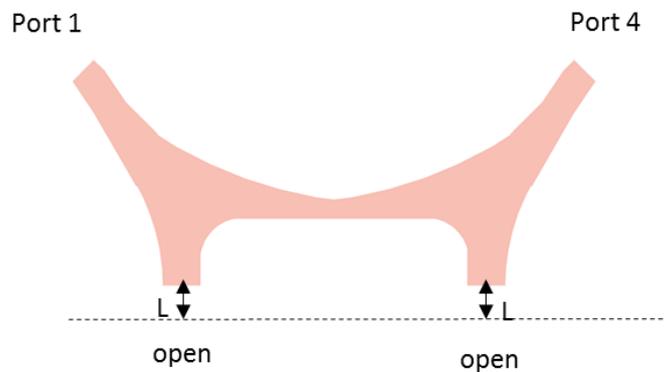


Figure 2 The even mode equivalent circuit of the exponential branch line coupler

where $n = 1, 2, 3$ and 4

Where $\beta l_n = \frac{2\pi l_n}{\lambda}$, $N_n = e^{\delta n l_n / 2}$ where δ is the line taper and $\omega = 2\pi f$

$$\delta n = \ln \frac{Z_{Ln}}{Z_{0n}}, \quad \beta' l_n = \sqrt{\left(\frac{\delta n l_n}{2}\right)^2 - (\beta l_n)^2}$$

Where Z_{0n} , Z_{Ln} , λ and l_n are the input, output impedances, wavelength and the length of the n th branch coupler line.

$$A_{nso} = \frac{1}{N_{nso}} \left(\cosh(\beta l_{nso}) + \frac{\delta l_{nso}}{2} \frac{\sinh(\beta l_{nso})}{\beta l_{nso}} \right)$$

and where

$$C_{nso} = j \frac{1}{Z_{nso}} * \frac{1}{N_{nso}} \beta l_{nso} \left(\frac{\sinh(\beta l_{nso})}{\beta l_{nso}} \right)$$

Where $nso = 1, 2$ and o is for open circuit and s is for stub. The even mode reflection and transmission coefficients are expressed as :

$$\rho_e = \frac{Z_{LA}T_e + B_{Te} - Z_L Z_S C_{Te} - Z_S D_{Te}}{Z_{LA}T_e + B_{Te} + Z_L Z_S C_{Te} + Z_S D_{Te}} \quad (5)$$

$$\tau_e = \frac{2\sqrt{Z_S Z_L}}{Z_{LA}T_e + B_{Te} + Z_L Z_S C_{Te} + Z_S D_{Te}} \quad (6)$$

IV. Odd Mode Analysis

The odd mode circuit of Fig. 1 is shown in Fig. 3. Which consists of four-exponential lines of lengths ℓ_1 , ℓ_2 , ℓ_3 and ℓ_4 and two short-circuited stubs of length ℓ_{1s0} and ℓ_{2s0} and two inductors L of value 10 pH. The overall odd mode A_{To} B_{To} C_{To} D_{To} matrices may be found as:

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_{To} & B_{To} \\ C_{To} & D_{To} \end{bmatrix} = M_{o1} * M_{o2} \quad (7)$$

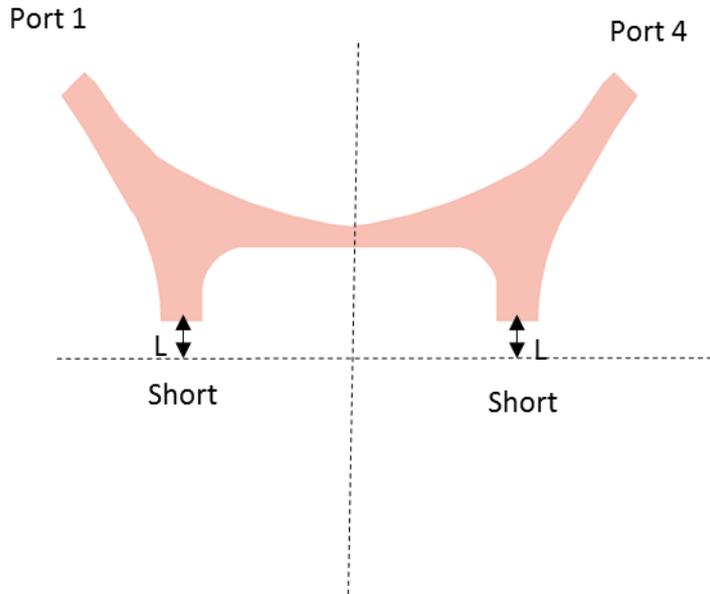


Figure 3 The odd mode equivalent circuit of the exponential branch line coupler

$$\text{where } M_{o1} = \begin{bmatrix} A_1 & B_1 \\ C_1 & D_1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} A_{S1o} & B_{S1o} \\ C_{S1o} & D_{S1o} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1.0 & j\omega L \\ 0.0 & 1.0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} A_2 & B_2 \\ C_2 & D_2 \end{bmatrix} \quad (8),$$

$$\text{and } M_{o2} = \begin{bmatrix} A_3 & B_3 \\ C_3 & D_3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} A_{S2o} & B_{S2o} \\ C_{S2o} & D_{S2o} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1.0 & j\omega L \\ 0.0 & 1.0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} A_4 & B_4 \\ C_4 & D_4 \end{bmatrix} \quad (9)$$

Where the ABCD matrices of the first and the second stubs may be represented respectively as:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ D_{1ss}/B_{1ss} & 1 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ D_{2ss}/B_{2ss} & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (10)$$

where

$$A_n = \frac{1}{N_n} \left(\cosh(\beta' \ell_n) + \frac{\delta n \ell_n \sinh(\beta' \ell_n)}{2 \beta' \ell_n} \right) \quad B_n = jZ_{0n} N_n \beta' \ell_n \left(\frac{\sinh(\beta' \ell_n)}{\beta' \ell_n} \right)$$

$$C_n = j \frac{1}{Z_{0n}} * \frac{1}{N_n} \beta' \ell_n \left(\frac{\sinh(\beta' \ell_n)}{\beta' \ell_n} \right) \quad D_n = N_n \left(\cosh(\beta' \ell_n) - \frac{\delta n \ell_n \sinh(\beta' \ell_n)}{2 \beta' \ell_n} \right)$$

Where $n = 1, 2, 3$ and 4

$$\text{Where } \beta \ell_n = \frac{2\pi \ell_n}{\lambda}, \quad N_n = e^{\delta n \ell_n / 2} \quad \text{where } \delta \text{ is the line taper}$$

$$\delta_n = \ln \frac{Z_{Ln}}{Z_{0n}}, \quad \beta' \ell_n = \sqrt{\left(\frac{\delta n \ell_n}{2} \right)^2 - (\beta \ell_n)^2}$$

Where Z_{0n} , Z_{Ln} , λ and ℓ_n are the input, output impedances, wavelength and the length of the nth branch coupler line.

$$B_{nss} = jZ_{nss} N_{nss} \beta' \ell_{nss} \left(\frac{\sinh(\beta' \ell_{nss})}{\beta' \ell_{nss}} \right)$$

And where

$$D_{nss} = N_{nss} \left(\cosh(\beta' \ell_{nss}) - \frac{\delta \ell_{nss} \sinh(\beta' \ell_{nss})}{2 \beta' \ell_{nss}} \right)$$

Where $nss = 1, 2$ and s is for short circuit and s is for stub. while ss for the short - circuited ETL stubs .

The odd mode reflection and transmission coefficients are expressed as :

$$\rho_o = \frac{ZLAT_o + BT_o - ZLZSCTo - ZSDTo}{ZLAT_o + BT_o + ZLZSCTo + ZSDTo} \quad (11)$$

$$\tau_o = \frac{2\sqrt{ZSZL}}{ZLAT_o + BT_o + ZLZSCTo + ZSDTo} \quad (12)$$

The elements of the four-port scattering matrix, S_{ij} are related to the two-port scattering matrices as follows:

$$S_{11} = \frac{\rho_e + \rho_o}{2} \quad (13)$$

$$S_{21} = \frac{\tau_e + \tau_o}{2} \quad (14)$$

$$S_{31} = \frac{\rho_e - \rho_o}{2} \quad (15)$$

$$S_{41} = \frac{\tau_e - \tau_o}{2} \quad (16)$$

Fig. 4 show the frequency response of the experimental and simulation of the proposed exponential taper branch line coupler which was fabricated on Roger 4003 substrate of dielectric constant $\epsilon_r = 3.38$ and thickness of 0.203 mm. It is clear of the plot that this proposed branch coupler provides 15 GHz bandwidth for -20dB taken as a reference for the return loss S_{11} and more than 40 GHz bandwidth for isolation S_{31} and S_{21} . While the insertion loss of 0.5 dB for S_{41} were observed over the same bandwidth 15, GHz. Full agreement between the theoretical and experimental works have been successfully achieved.

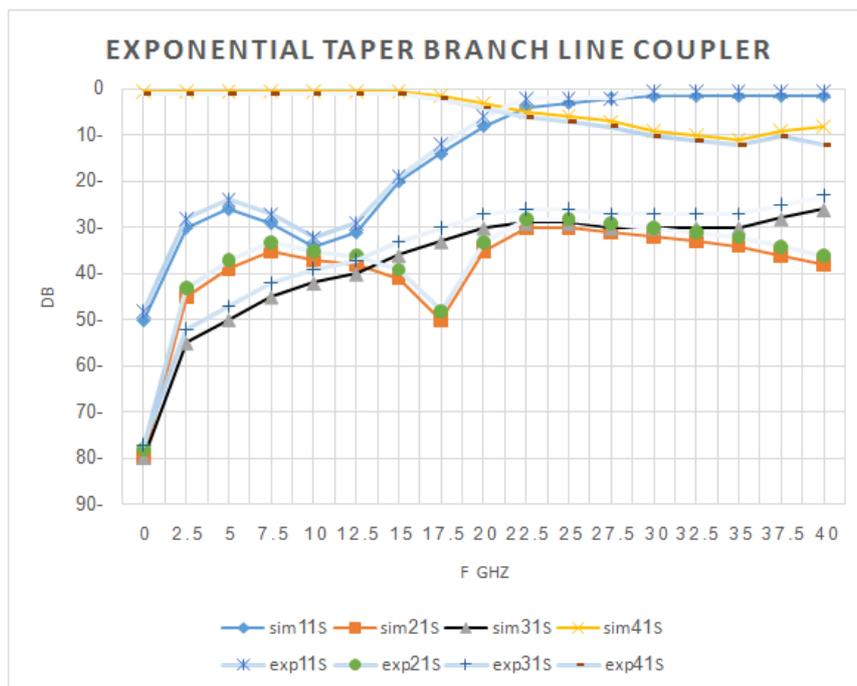


Figure 4. Experimental and simulation frequency response of exponential branch line coupler

V. Conclusion

The proposed four port exponential branch line coupler reveals that ultra-broad band operation has been achieved, therefore this proposed branch line coupler can find several application in microstrip field..

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