

Acoplador híbrido en cuadratura implementado en guía de ondas Gap de medio modo

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La conmutación de haces es una función muy demandada en la banda de ondas milimétricas. El grial sigue siendo encontrar una solución totalmente electrónica capaz de conmutar de forma independiente la amplitud y la fase de cada elemento radiante. Mientras tanto, se exploran soluciones intermedias como son las redes de conformación de haz. Entre algunos ejemplos destacados se pueden nombrar la matriz de Butler o la matriz de Blass, que han sido ampliamente estudiadas y desarrolladas. Estas redes están típicamente compuestas de acopladores híbridos. En este contexto, se presenta un acoplador híbrido de tipo branch-line como elemento básico de una futura novedosa red de conformación de haz que mitigue algunos de los problemas que presentan las redes anteriormente descritas.

Por tanto, esta comunicación que se presentará en mayor detalle y de manera completa en el congreso EuCAP 2023, consta de un acoplador de una sola capa, completamente metálico, de bajas pérdidas e implementado en una guía de onda gap de medio modo. La banda de trabajo del acoplador híbrido en cuadratura oscila entre 29 GHz a 31 GHz. La potencia de salida simulada de -3 dB se alcanza tanto para el puerto directo como para el puerto acoplado. Se obtiene un nivel de -20 dB en el puerto desacoplado. Las dimensiones totales del dispositivo son 10 mm × 10 mm × 14 mm. Este diseño, aunque sencillo, es un bloque útil que podrá integrarse posteriormente en estructuras más complejas, como redes de conformación de haz para agrupaciones de antenas en la banda de ondas milimétricas. .

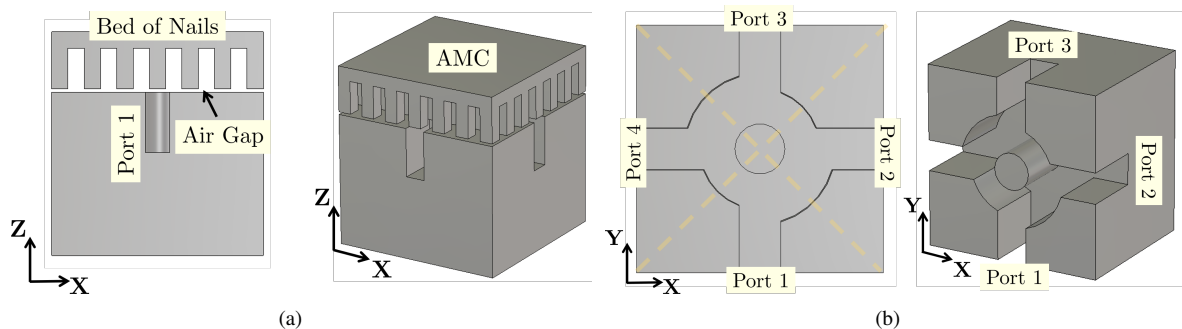


Figura 1. (a) Vistas frontal y lateral del híbrido usando HM-GGW (Half-Mode Groove Gap Waveguide). (b) Vista superior y perspectiva del híbrido sin la cama de pines superior, para una mejor visualización.

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