MINIATURIZED MICROSTRIP DUAL-BAND BANDS-STOP FILTERS USING TRI-SECTION STEPPED-IMPEDANCE RESONATORS

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Abstract—A novel circuit structure of dual-band bandstop filters is proposed in this paper. This structure comprises two shunt-connected tri-section stepped impedance resonators with a transmission line in between. Theoretical analysis and design procedures are described. The derived synthesis equations have two degrees of freedom which provide more design flexibility in filter synthesis. Notably, three advantages of the proposed filter structure lie in the fact of its increased nonuniform impedances, resulting in a compact size, wide range of realizable frequency ratio, and more realizable impedances. Three experimental dual-band bandstop filters with various frequency ratios were fabricated to demonstrate the feasibility of the new filter structure.

1. INTRODUCTION

The dual-band or multi-band RF/Microwave system has become quite popular in recent years because of the need for wireless mobile communications. In a microwave communication system, the bandstop filter is an important component typically adopted in both receivers and transmitters. Dual-band bandstop filters (DBBSFs) are commonly employed in high-power amplifiers and mixers to suppress the doublesideband spectrum to reduce circuit size and cost.

Numerous structures and methods have been proposed for realizing dual-band filters [1–13]. The dual-stopband response can be determined by applying a two-step frequency-variable transformation to the low-pass prototype [1]. Chen et al. [2] integrated two stacked loops into a module for dual-mode dual-band operation.

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Kuo et al. utilized a rigorous approach for designing dual-band bandpass filters in parallel-coupled and vertical-stacked configurations with stepped-impedance resonators [3]. The composite right/lefthanded metamaterial transmission lines were implemented to replace the microstrip lines of conventional bandstop filters, yielding dual stopbands [4]. Cross-coupled filters constructed with split-ring resonators can also obtain two resonant frequencies [5].

Traditionally, open-ended quarter-wavelength stubs are widely used in single-band bandstop filters. Because the impedance of $\lambda/4$ resonators is uniform, they have an electrical length of 90° at only a single frequency, which is not sufficient for dual-band application. Recently, parallel-connected stubs (named dual-behavior resonators) were proposed as composite shunt resonators to support dual-band performance [6–8]. The two-section or tri-section stepped-impedance resonators [9–12] have non-uniform impedances which can support 90° simultaneously at two resonant frequencies, thus they are suitable for dual-band operation and size reduction. However, the design of more compact dual-band filters is an ongoing challenge.

This work proposes tri-section stepped-impedance resonators (TSSIRs) to realize more compact dual-band bandstop filters. Two degrees of freedom exist for determining the dimensions of TSSIRs because of the under-determined feature of synthesis equations. The optimal structure of TSSIRs should comprise a wide middle section and a narrow top section to ensure good dual band operation and compactness. The experimental results agree closely with the simulation results, and a 23.6% size reduction is achieved by comparison with the conventional structures.

2. SYNTHESIS METHOD

2.1. Synthesis Equations

Traditionally, open-ended quarter-wavelength stubs are adopted in designing single-band bandstop filters, as presented in Fig. 1(a), because of their simplicity and ease of synthesis. These quarterwavelength lines have an electrical length of 90° at only a single frequency because their impedance is uniform. Fig. 1(c) shows the configuration of the proposed tri-section stepped-impedance resonator which consists of three characteristic impedances and electrical lengths of $(Z_1, \theta_1), (Z_2, \theta_2), \text{ and } (Z_3, \theta_3)$. Since its impedance is nonuniform, tri-section stepped-impedance resonators can resonate at two different frequencies and be used in dual-band bandstop filter design. Additionally, the complexity of the structure enables the TSSIR to



Figure 1. Configurations of (a) quarter-wavelength stub, (b) twosection stepped-impedance resonator, and (c) proposed tri-section stepped-impedance resonator.



Figure 2. (a) Lumped-element circuit model of the second-order dualband bandstop filter. (b) Simulated responses of Fig. 2(a). (c) Circuit model with all-shunt-connected series LC resonators and a J inverter. (d) Schematic of the proposed dual-band bandstop filter with TSSIRs.

be shorter than the two-section stepped-impedance resonator which is presented in Fig. 1(b).

Figure 2(a) shows the lumped-element circuit model of the proposed second-order dual-band bandstop filter. For performing two anti-resonance frequencies, the parallel and series association of two

bandstop structures are adopted. The dashed blocks indicate the two resonant circuits when the filter resonates at the first and second center frequencies ω_f and ω_s , respectively. When the series $L_{f1}C_{f1}$ and parallel $L_{f2}C_{f2}$ resonators resonate at ω_f , the input signal is shorted and opened, respectively, to form a stop band. While the series $L_{s1}C_{s1}$ and parallel $L_{s2}C_{s2}$ resonators have very high and low impedances, respectively, they do not affect the input signal. A similar operation proceeds when the resonators of $L_{s1}C_{s1}$ and $L_{s2}C_{s2}$ resonate at ω_s . Therefore, the circuit in Fig. 2(a) operates as a dual-band bandstop filter.

Designing with the frequencies of ω_f and ω_s and the associated bandwidths of Δ_f and Δ_s , the frequency mapping from the low-pass prototype to the bandstop yields the *LC* elements as $L_{i1} = 1/\omega_i g_1 \Delta_i$, $C_{i1} = g_1 \Delta_i / \omega_i$ (for series *LC*) and $L_{i2} = g_2 \Delta_i / \omega_i$, $C_{i2} = 1/\omega_i g_2 \Delta_i$ (for parallel *LC*), where g_i is the element value of the well-known low-pass filter prototype. As an example, Fig. 2(b) plots the simulated responses with dual frequencies of 1.5/3.15 GHz and bandwidths of 70/35%, where $L_{f1} = 5.35$ nH, $C_{f1} = 2.1$ pF, $L_{f2} = 5.25$ nH, $C_{f2} = 2.14$ pF, $L_{s1} = 5.1$ nH, $C_{s1} = 0.5$ pF, $L_{s2} = 1.25$ nH, and $C_{s2} = 2.04$ pF. It can be seen that two transmission zeros appear clearly at 1.5 and 3.15 GHz with more than 90 dB rejection level.

The series-connected parallel LC resonators can be transformed to all-shunt-connected series LC resonators with the aid of the admittance inverter J, as shown in Fig. 2(c). Fig. 2(d) shows the schematic of the proposed dual-band bandstop filter with TSSIRs.

As presented in Fig. 2(d), the input impedance of the tri-section stepped-impedance resonator Z_{TSSIR} can be derived as,

$$Z_{TSSIR} = jZ_3 \frac{\tan\theta_3 - Q(P\cot\theta_1 - Q\tan\theta_2)/(Q + P\cot\theta_1\tan\theta_2)}{1 + Q\tan\theta_3(P\cot\theta_1 - Q\tan\theta_2)/(Q + P\cot\theta_1\tan\theta_2)}, \quad (1)$$

while the resonance condition $Z_{TSSIR} = 0$ can be used to specify the two anti-resonance frequencies ω_f and ω_s . The impedance of the parallel-serial *LC* resonator Z_c in Fig. 2(c) is given by

$$Z_c = \frac{j}{\omega} \frac{\sqrt{L_f L_s} \left(\omega^2 - \omega_f^2\right) \left(\omega^2 - \omega_s^2\right)}{\omega_f \sqrt{C_f L_s} \left(\omega^2 - \omega_s^2\right) + \omega_s \sqrt{C_s L_f} \left(\omega^2 - \omega_f^2\right)}$$
(2)

which does not take into account g_0 . The proposed TSSIR and its equivalent circuit should have the same reactance slope parameter, $x = \omega_i/2 \cdot dX/d\omega|_{\omega_i}$ [15], to ensure the required bandwidths. Thus, the resonant condition $Z_{TSSIR} = 0$ and the reactance slope parameter at the two resonant frequencies can be used to obtain four simultaneous Progress In Electromagnetics Research C, Vol. 10, 2009

equations:

$$\tan \theta_3 = Q \frac{P \cot \theta_1 - Q \tan \theta_2}{Q + P \cot \theta_1 \tan \theta_2}$$
(3a)

$$\tan(r_f\theta_3) = Q \frac{P\cot(r_f\theta_1) - Q\tan(r_f\theta_2)}{Q + P\cot(r_f\theta_1)\tan(r_f\theta_2)}$$
(3b)

$$\frac{0.5Z_3 \sec^2 \theta_3 A}{[Q+P(\tan \theta_2 + Q \tan \theta_3) \cot \theta_1 - Q^2 \tan \theta_2 \tan \theta_3]^2} = \frac{1}{g_1 \Delta_f} \quad (3c)$$

$$\frac{0.5Z_3 r_f \sec^2(r_f \theta_3) B}{\{Q+P[\tan(r_f \theta_2) + Q \tan(r_f \theta_3)] \cot(r_f \theta_1) - Q^2 \tan(r_f \theta_2) \tan(r_f \theta_3)\}^2}$$

$$= \frac{1}{g_1 \Delta_s} \quad (3d)$$

$$A = P(Q^{2}\theta_{1} + QP\theta_{2} + P\theta_{3}) \cot^{2} \theta_{1} \tan^{2} \theta_{2} + 2QP(1-Q^{2})\theta_{3} \cot \theta_{1} \tan \theta_{2} + QP(Q\theta_{1} + P\theta_{2} + QP\theta_{3}) \cot^{2} \theta_{1} + Q^{2}(P\theta_{1} + Q\theta_{2} + Q^{2}\theta_{3}) \tan^{2} \theta_{2} + Q^{2}(P\theta_{1} + Q\theta_{2} + \theta_{3})$$
(3e)
$$B = P(Q^{2}\theta_{1} + QP\theta_{2} + P\theta_{3}) \cot^{2}(r_{f}\theta_{1}) \tan^{2}(r_{f}\theta_{2}) + 2QP(1-Q^{2})\theta_{3} \cot(r_{f}\theta_{1}) \tan(r_{f}\theta_{2}) + QP(Q\theta_{1} + P\theta_{2} + QP\theta_{3}) \cot^{2}(r_{f}\theta_{1}) + Q^{2}(P\theta_{1} + Q\theta_{2} + Q^{2}\theta_{3}) \tan^{2}(r_{f}\theta_{2}) + Q^{2}(P\theta_{1} + Q\theta_{2} + \theta_{3}),$$
(3f)

where r_f is the frequency ratio ω_s/ω_f , and θ_1 , θ_2 , and θ_3 are all specified at the first resonant frequency ω_f . Notably, only four synthesis equations are available for determining the six design parameters (θ_1 , θ_2 , θ_3 , Z_1 , Z_2 , and Z_3) of the tri-section resonator, therefore, P and Q are chosen as the two degrees of freedom in finding the appropriate solutions. The six design parameters θ_1 , θ_2 , θ_3 , P, Q, and Z_3 can then be determined by solving (3) simultaneously using a simple numerical analysis program.

2.2. Design Curves

A parametric study should be carried out to evaluate the design parameters of the tri-section stepped-impedance resonator as functions of P and Q. If the dual-band filter requires a second-order maximally flat response ($g_1 = 1.4142$), $r_f = 2.1$ (1.5 and 3.15 GHz), $\Delta_f = 70\%$, and $\Delta_s = 35\%$, then the impedance ratios P and Q can be initially set within the range 0.2–6.0 to find solutions. Here, the range of both P and Q is limited to 0.2–6.0 because the highest and lowest characteristic impedances of Z_1 , Z_2 , and Z_3 must be practical (typically, hi- $Z = 120 \Omega$ and low- $Z = 20 \Omega$).

Since the goal of the design is to minimize size, the best solution is obtained with P = 0.4 to 2.4 and Q = 0.2 to 0.7. Fig. 3 depicts the total electrical lengths θ_L of the TSSIR that corresponds to various P and Q, where $\theta_L = \theta_1 + \theta_2 + \theta_3$. As presented in Fig. 3, all the values of θ_L are below 114° when Q < 0.7. If the design includes a two-section stepped-impedance resonator, then the total length of the resonator would be 116.15° under the same criteria [9]. Therefore, the proposed TSSIR has a shorter length than the two-section steppedimpedance resonator. The θ_L decreased as Q decreased, and all of the curves are U-shaped. Notably, the lowest point on the U-shaped



Figure 3. Computed total electrical length θ_L versus impedance ratio P of TSSIR with various Q ($r_f = 2.1, \Delta_f = 70\%$, and $\Delta_s = 35\%$).



Figure 4. (a) Design curves of θ_1 , θ_2 , and θ_3 with respect to r_f . (b) Normalized impedances Z_1 , Z_2 , and Z_3 versus r_f ($\Delta_f = 70\%$, and $\Delta_s = 35\%$).

curve that corresponds to an optimal value of P which has the lowest θ_L . Accordingly, each Q curve has a lowest θ_L that corresponds to an optimum P. The lowest θ_L can be reached at (P,Q) = (2,0.7), (1.8, 0.6), (1.6, 0.5), (1.4, 0.4), (1.25, 0.3), and (1.0, 0.2), as indicated by dots in Fig. 3.

Accordingly, when P > 1 > Q, which is when $Z_1 > Z_3 > Z_2$, the circuit size can be reduced efficiently. Since P > 1 > Q must be satisfied for reducing size, three cases in which (P,Q) = (1.8, 0.6), (1.6, 0.5), and (1.4, 0.4) are studied in Fig. 4 to shows the design curves of the TSSIR versus frequency ratio r_f for filter synthesis. Fig. 4(a) plots the electrical lengths θ_1 , θ_2 , and θ_3 versus r_f . θ_2 monotonically decreases and θ_3 monotonically increases as r_f increases, while θ_1 remains almost constant. They satisfy $\theta_1 > \theta_2 > \theta_3$ for $r_f < 2.15$ and $\theta_1 > \theta_3 > \theta_2$ for $r_f > 2.15$. When r_f is too high or low, θ_2 and θ_3 tend to be close to zero, and so the range of r_f is limited from 1.92 to 2.65, which still covers most of the design objectives. Detailed data show that the small pair (P,Q) = (1.4, 0.4) has the shortest total electrical length in the vicinity of $r_f = 2.1$. Notably, the parameters P and Q can not only be used to reduce size, but also can be used to change impractical impedances into more realizable ones.

Figure 4(b) plots the normalized impedances Z_1 , Z_2 , and Z_3 as functions of r_f , where $Z_1 = P \times Z_3$ and $Z_2 = Q \times Z_3$ are the highest and lowest impedances of TSSIR, respectively. All of the impedances increase as r_f decreases. A larger pair (P,Q) is associated with higher impedance Z_1 , which may cause difficulties because of the practical upper limit on impedance (120 Ω typically). Thus, the total length must be traded off with line impedance to yield an appropriate combination of P and Q. If $r_f = 2.1$ is required, then (P,Q) = (1.4, 0.4) would be a good choice both to shorten the length ($\theta_L = 103.68^\circ$) and to realize impedances ($Z_1 = 109.55 \Omega$,



Figure 5. Total electrical length of proposed TSSIR versus r_f ($\Delta_f = 70\%$, and $\Delta_s = 35\%$).

 $Z_2 = 31.3 \Omega$, and $Z_3 = 78.25 \Omega$). Notably, as indicated in Fig. 4, various combinations of (P, Q) can also support a wide achievable range of r_f . Fig. 5 plots the total electrical length of the proposed TSSIR compared with the conventional parallel-connected $\lambda/4$ stubs and the two-section stepped-impedance resonator. As shown in Fig. 5, the total length of TSSIR is less than in the other cases, and falls as r_f increases.

3. THREE EXAMPLES

The validity of the proposed tri-section stepped-impedance structure was examined experimentally by constructing three second-order maximally flat dual-band bandstop filters with various frequency ratios of 2.1 (1.5/3.15 GHz), 2.417 (2.4/5.8 GHz), and 2.85 (1.5/4.275 GHz). All filters were synthesized and fabricated on FR-4 DG (glass-epoxy double sided) substrates with $\varepsilon_r = 4.3$, tan $\delta = 0.02$, and a thickness of 1.524 mm.

3.1. Filter A $(1.5/3.15 \text{ GHz}, r_f = 2.1)$

The dual center frequencies of the first experimental filter were designed at 1.5 and 3.15 GHz with bandwidths of $\Delta_f = 70\%$ and $\Delta_s = 35\%$, respectively. Solving (3) with $g_1 = 1.4142$, $r_f = 2.1$, P = 1.4, and Q = 0.4 yields the designed parameters of TSSIR: $Z_1 = 109.55 \Omega$, $\theta_1 = 66.39^\circ$, $Z_2 = 31.3 \Omega$, $\theta_2 = 21.37^\circ$, $Z_3 = 78.25 \Omega$, and $\theta_3 = 15.92^\circ$. The design parameters of the simplified admittance inverter between TSSIRs can be calculated using $\theta_4 = n\pi/(r_f + 1)$ and $Z_4 = 1/J |\sin \theta_4|$ [9], yielding $\theta_4 = 58.06^\circ$ and $Z_4 = 58.92 \Omega$. The calculated circuit dimensions and simulated responses of the experimental filter were then obtained using the full-wave EM simulator, IE3D. A network analyzer, HP 8510C, was employed for measurement, and the shortopen-load-through (SOLT) technique was adopted for calibration.

Figure 6(a) compares the simulated and measured results for the first experimental filter: These results agree closely. The measured two mid-stopband frequencies were 1.495 and 3.11 GHz with corresponding bandwidths of 55% and 27%, respectively. If the conventional parallel-connected quarter-wavelength stubs and the two-section SIR are used with the same design specifications, then the required total electrical lengths are 132.86° and 116.15°, respectively. However, the electrical length of the proposed TSSIR is only 103.68°, and thereby achieves size reductions of 21.96% and 10.74% compared with the aforementioned parallel-connected $\lambda/4$ stubs and two-section SIR, respectively. Fig. 6(b) displays a photograph of the fabricated filter A.



Figure 6. (a) Simulated and measured responses of filter A. (b) Photograph of filter A.



Figure 7. (a) Simulated and measured performances of filter *B*. (b) Photograph of filter *B*. $Z_1 = 119.38 \Omega$, $\theta_1 = 66.98^\circ$, $Z_2 = 47.75 \Omega$, $\theta_2 = 17.67^\circ$, $Z_3 = 119.38 \Omega$, $\theta_3 = 12.6^\circ$, $Z_4 = 51.85 \Omega$, and $\theta_4 = 105.36^\circ$.

3.2. Filter B (2.4/5.8 GHz, $r_f = 2.417$)

The two stop frequencies of filter B were designed at 2.4 GHz and 5.8 GHz bands ($r_f = 2.417$) for a WLAN with bandwidths of 50% and 25%, respectively. Solving (3) with $g_1 = 1.4142$, $r_f = 2.417$, P = 1.0, and Q = 0.4 yields the designed parameters of TSSIR as $Z_1 = 119.38 \Omega$, $\theta_1 = 66.98^\circ$, $Z_2 = 47.75 \Omega$, $\theta_2 = 17.67^\circ$, $Z_3 = 119.38 \Omega$, $\theta_3 = 12.6^\circ$, $Z_4 = 51.85 \Omega$, and $\theta_4 = 105.36^\circ$. Fig. 7(a) shows the comparison of the simulated and measured results of filter B, indicating that both responses have good agreement. The measured two mid-stopband frequencies were 2.35 and 5.58 GHz with corresponding bandwidths of 40.4% and 18%, respectively. If the conventional parallel-connected $\lambda/4$ stubs are used for the same design specifications, the total electrical length requires 127.24°. Moreover, the electric length of the proposed

TSSIR is only 97.25° , which a size reduction 23.6% is achieved. Fig. 7(b) is the photograph of filter *B*.

3.3. Filter C $(1.5/4.275 \text{ GHz}, r_f = 2.85)$

The third filter C was designed at 1.5/4.275 GHz $(r_f = 2.85)$ with bandwidths of 50% and 25%, respectively. The circuit dimensions are $Z_1 = 97.63 \Omega$, $\theta_1 = 76.09^\circ$, $Z_2 = 39.05 \Omega$, $\theta_2 = 5.98^\circ$, $Z_3 = 97.63 \Omega$, $\theta_3 = 10.85^\circ$, $Z_4 = 50.1 \Omega$, and $\theta_4 = 93.51^\circ$. Fig. 8(a) shows the simulated and measured results of filter C. The measured two mid-stopband frequencies were 1.48 and 4.21 GHz with corresponding bandwidths of 41.22% and 17.82%, respectively. Fig. 8(b) is the photograph of filter C. Table 1 lists the performances of the three



Figure 8. (a) Simulated and measured responses of filter C. (b) Photograph of filter C.

Filter		Center Frequency (GHz)	Bandwidth (%)	Rejection Level (dB)	Size Reduction (%)
Α	Design	1.5/3.15	70/35	_	21.96
	Measured	1.495/3.11	55/27	39.8/42	
В	Design	2.4/5.8	50/25	-	23.57
	Measured	2.35/5.58	40.4/18	46/40	
С	Design	1.5/4.275	50/25	_	23.6
	Measured	1.48/4.21	41.22/17.82	50/46	

Table 1. Performances of the three experimental dual-band filters.

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experimental dual-band filters, where the size reduction is compared with the conventional parallel-connected $\lambda/4$ stubs.

4. CONCLUSION

A novel circuit structure of dual-stopband filters is presented in this work. This compact dual-stopband filter has fully controllable center frequencies and bandwidths. The proposed tri-section steppedimpedance resonators allow designers to have more design flexibility in filter synthesis. Three advantages of the compact size, wide range of realizable frequency ratio, and more realizable characteristic impedances can be achieved by choosing a suitable pair (P, Q) in the synthesis formulas. The design procedures are discussed in detail, and the design curves are also provided. Three microstrip dual-band bandstop filters have been successfully designed with reduced sizes up to 23.6% by using the proposed resonators, and measured results match well with the simulated responses.

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