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Novel N -Band Tunable Resonator Based on N -Order Dual Behavior Resonator and Tunable Capacitors

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A N -band resonator, particularly well suited for reconfigurability, is presented in this paper together with its synthesis. The resonator is based on the association of an N -band Dual-Behavior Resonator and tunable capacitors. Its topology consists of a parallel association of $N + 1$ different bandstop structures, each one composed of a stub terminated by a capacitor. N pass bands, separated from each other by a transmission zero, are then obtained. As each bandstop structure independently controls one transmission zero, the use of variable capacitors allows each of them to be tuned independently and then to reconfigure the resonator in terms of transmission zeros and resonant frequencies. After the presentation of the general synthesis, this principle is validated by the realization of a tri-band resonator in microstrip technology.

Keywords: Filter, passive components and circuits, reconfigurable multi-band resonator.

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I INTRODUCTION

Either at the mobile terminal or at the satellite level, recent and future telecommunications systems need to integrate several frequency bands into a single terminal. In order to minimize its bulk, its weight and its cost, a solution consists in using an N -band radio frequency front-end instead of N single band ones. Moreover, these systems would have to be reconfigurable in order to be able to adapt easily to new uses, standard modifications, user numbers, etc. The importance of passive bandpass filters in these front-ends is at the origin of the research presented in this paper.

Over the last few years, a lot of work has been presented regarding passive multi-band bandpass filters. Most of them concern bi-band filters [1–7], some other ones tri-band [8–11] or quad-band filters [12], [13], and several works also report on more general methods or synthesis allowing the design of multi-band filters [14–18].

In order to increase the flexibility of such filters, some recent works add reconfiguration to these structures [19–22, 24]. These solutions are mainly based on resonators loaded in their center or in their ends with varactor diodes. According to the localization of the

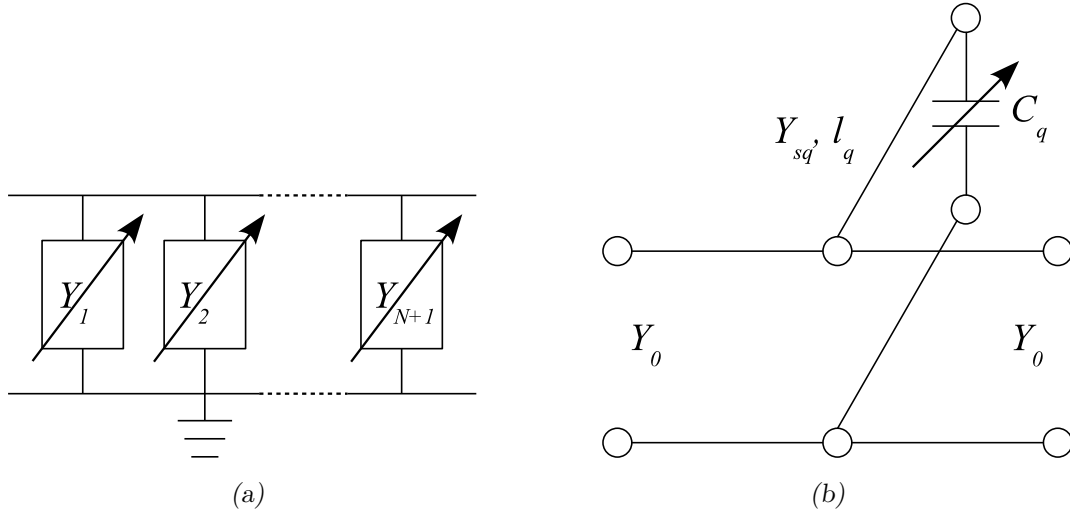


Figure 1: General scheme of an N -band tunable DBR (a) and description of a bandstop structure (b).

diodes and the complexity of the structure, the reconfigurable filters allow the central frequency of only one band to be controlled [19–21], the central frequency of all bands to be simultaneously tuned with constant absolute bandwidths [22], or both the central frequency and the bandwidth of each band to be independently controlled [23, 24].

Nevertheless, the proposed solutions only concern dual-band filters.

This paper proposes a general method to develop an N -band tunable resonator (cf. Fig. 1(a)). It is based on the association of an N -band Dual Behavior Resonator (DBR) and tunable capacitors. In fact, it is a generalization of the works presented in [23] concerning a mono-band tunable DBR resonator. As described in [14], an N -band DBR consists of the parallel association of different $N+1$ bandstop structures. One can then obtain $N+1$ transmission zeros and N resonances by constructive recombinations. We chose this multi-band resonator topology because each bandstop structure controls a transmission zero independently of the N other ones. It is therefore relatively easy to reconfigure the multi-band resonator in term of resonant frequencies by independently modifying the position of each transmission zero. The realization of a tunable multi-band filter (i.e., involving at least two tunable multi-band resonators) will also allow the bandwidth to be easily controlled due to the presence of multiple transmission zeros between two successive pass bands. Note that this resonator can also be considered as a tunable notch resonator with $N+1$ stop bands.

In the case presented here, each bandstop element consists of a stub terminated by a capacitor (cf. Fig. 1(b)). For instance, Fig. 2 gives the electrical response of an ideal 8-band resonator achievable by using 9 bandstop structures. As each of them independently fixes a transmission zero, the use of tunable capacitors allows the independent control of each zero and consequently, the resonator response can be easily modified.

The main difficulty here is the initial dimensioning of the structure due to its numerous parameters and the integration of the capacitances. The latter are generally integrated

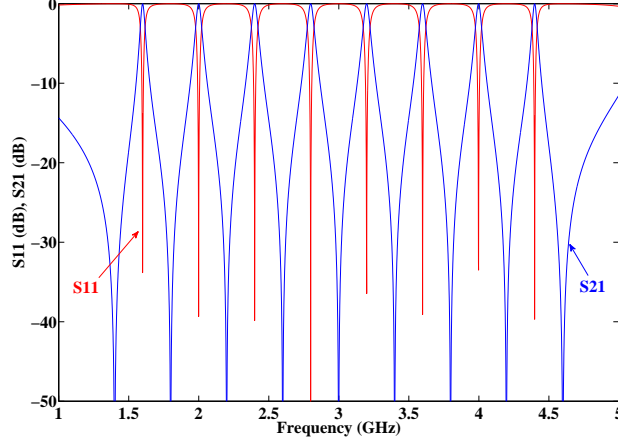


Figure 2: Initial electrical response of an ideal transmission line 8-band tunable resonator.

after a first dimensioning of a passive structure involving a long and difficult optimization work. The general synthesis of an N -band tunable resonator reported here (section II) simplifies this since it takes into account these capacitances from the beginning. Indeed, this synthesis directly gives the parameters of the $N + 1$ bandstop structures, i.e. the length and the impedance of the stubs and the initial value of the capacitors. Section III will demonstrate how one can then easily tune the different bands by varying the values of the capacitors in the case of a tri-band resonator. Section IV will validate the proposed concept with the implementation of this tri-band tunable resonator in microstrip technology. Experimental results are then discussed.

II RESONATOR SYNTHESIS

The general synthesis presented here allows the development of an N -band tunable resonator to be simplified. After introducing the general equations linked to resonances and transmission zeros, the equations system will be solved in the case of bandstop structures consisting of a stub terminated by a capacitor (cf. Fig. 1).

As for a passive N -band DBR [14], the parallel association of $N + 1$ tunable bandstop structures defined by their frequency-dependent admittance $Y_q(f)$ leads to the creation of $N + 1$ transmission zeros defined by:

$$Y_q(f_{zq}) \rightarrow \infty \quad \text{for } q = 1, 2, \dots, N + 1 \quad (1)$$

where f_{zq} are the frequencies of the $N + 1$ transmission zeros. N resonances are then obtained by considering the constructive recombination criteria which follows:

$$\sum_{q=1}^{N+1} Y_q(f_{0p}) = 0 \quad \text{for } p = 1, 2, \dots, N \quad (2)$$

where f_{0p} are the N resonant frequencies initially targeted. The latter could, for instance, be chosen as the mean value of the desired tuning frequency range for each of them.

The difference between the passive and the tunable N -band DBR now appears in the development of (1) and (2). In the tunable case presented here, the bandstop structure is

a stub of characteristic admittance Y_{sq} and frequency-dependent electrical length $\theta_q(f)$ terminated by a capacitor C_q (cf. Fig. 1(b)). The input admittance of a bandstop element is then:

$$Y_q(f) = jY_{sq} \frac{2\pi f C_q + Y_{sq} \tan(\theta_q(f))}{Y_{sq} - 2\pi f C_q \tan(\theta_q(f))}. \quad (3)$$

In (3), the electrical length of a stub, $\theta_q(f)$, is related to its physical length, l_q , by the well-known equation which follows:

$$\theta_q(f) = \frac{2\pi f}{c_0} l_q \quad (4)$$

where c_0 is the speed of light in vacuum.

The expression of the value of each capacitor, C_q ($q = 1, \dots, N + 1$), is obtained by combining (1) and (3):

$$C_q = \frac{Y_{sq}}{2\pi f_{zq} \tan(\theta_q(f_{zq}))}. \quad (5)$$

Then, the introduction of (5) in (3) and the use of the resulting equation with (2) give the characteristic admittance of the N first stubs as follows:

$$y_s = X^{-1} y_{N+1}. \quad (6)$$

y_s is the vector of the characteristic admittances of the N first stubs:

$$y_s = [Y_{s1}, Y_{s2}, \dots, Y_{sN}]^t. \quad (7)$$

X is a N -by- N square matrix. Its elements are defined by:

$$x_{pq} = \frac{f_{0p} + f_{zq} \tan(\theta_q(f_{zq})) \tan(\theta_q(f_{0p}))}{f_{zq} \tan(\theta_q(f_{zq})) - f_{0p} \tan(\theta_q(f_{0p}))} \quad (8)$$

with $p = 1, 2, \dots, N$ and $q = 1, 2, \dots, N$.

The vector y_{N+1} is expressed as:

$$y_{N+1} = -Y_{sN+1} [x_{1,N+1}, x_{2,N+1}, \dots, x_{N,N+1}]^t \quad (9)$$

where the N coefficients $x_{p,N+1}$ are given by (8) with $q = N + 1$.

In this synthesis, the physical length of the $N + 1$ stubs and the characteristic admittance of the last one, Y_{sN+1} , are freedom degrees. They can be used to obtain achievable characteristic admittances and values of capacitors according to the technological constraints or to provide different values of the slope parameter even if the latter is not taken into account in the synthesis equations.

III Reconfigurable tri-band resonator

An example of a reconfigurable tri-band resonator in ideal transmission lines is presented in this section. Its development is outlined in two steps: the first one consists of obtaining the length and the impedance of the 4 stubs and the initial value of the 4 associated capacitors using the synthesis presented in the previous section; the second step presents how the variations of the values of the capacitors allow the frequency of the transmission zeros to be independently controlled and so how the three resonant frequencies can be tuned.

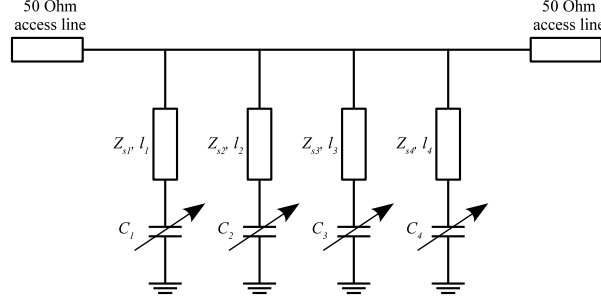


Figure 3: Scheme of a reconfigurable tri-band resonator in an ideal transmission lines configuration.

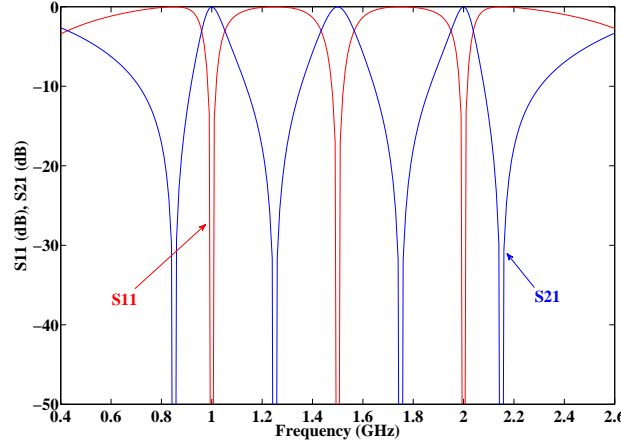


Figure 4: Simulated electrical response of the synthesized tri-band resonator in its initial configuration.

A) Initial configuration

Fig. 3 presents the scheme of a reconfigurable tri-band resonator in an ideal transmission lines configuration. The synthesis presented in section II gives the admittance of the first 3 stubs (Y_{s1} , Y_{s2} and Y_{s3}), and so their impedance (Z_{s1} , Z_{s2} and Z_{s3}), plus the initial value of the 4 capacitors (C_1 , C_2 , C_3 and C_4). The input parameters are the 3 resonant frequencies (f_{01} , f_{02} and f_{03}), the frequency of the 4 transmission zeros (f_{z1} , f_{z2} , f_{z3} and f_{z4}), the impedance of the 4th stub ($Z_{s4} = 1/Y_{s4}$), and the length of all stubs (l_1 , l_2 , l_3 and l_4). According to the technological constraints used in section IV for demonstration, we fixed the impedance Z_{s4} equal to 130Ω and the length of each stub, l_i , equal to $\lambda_{zi}/8$, where $\lambda_{zi} = c_0/f_{zi}$ ($i = 1$ to 4). One should note that the ratio between l_i and λ_{zi} could be different from one stub to another. This choice was made to simplify the demonstration. Fig. 4 shows the simulated electrical response of this resonator and Table 1 summarizes all the input and output parameters of the tri-band synthesis. This response will be referred to as the initial configuration in the next subsection.

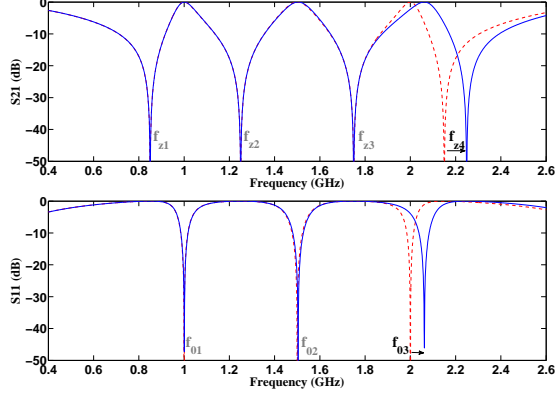
Table 1: Input and output parameters of the synthesis for a reconfigurable tri-band resonator.

Input parameters		
Resonant frequency	Transmission zero frequency	Stub length
$f_{01} = 1.0$ GHz	$f_{z1} = 0.85$ GHz	$l_1 = 44.087$ mm
$f_{02} = 1.5$ GHz	$f_{z2} = 1.25$ GHz	$l_2 = 29.979$ mm
$f_{03} = 2.0$ GHz	$f_{z3} = 1.75$ GHz	$l_3 = 21.414$ mm
	$f_{z4} = 2.15$ GHz	$l_4 = 17.430$ mm
$(N + 1)^{\text{th}}$ stub impedance (admittance)		$Z_{s4} = 130 \Omega$ ($Y_{s4} = 7.69$ mS)
Output parameters		
Stubs impedance (admittance)		Initial capacitor value
$Z_{s1} = 54.82 \Omega$ ($Y_{s1} = 18.24$ mS)		$C_1 = 3.415$ pF
$Z_{s2} = 63.74 \Omega$ ($Y_{s2} = 15.69$ mS)		$C_2 = 1.998$ pF
$Z_{s3} = 87.32 \Omega$ ($Y_{s3} = 11.45$ mS)		$C_3 = 1.042$ pF
		$C_4 = 0.569$ pF

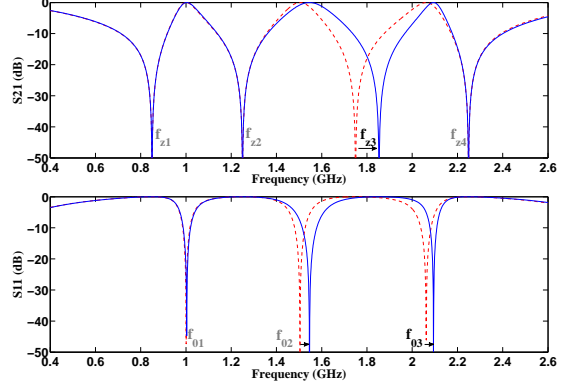
B) Reconfiguration of the tri-band resonator

From this initial configuration, one can change the value of the 4 capacitors in order to control the position of the 4 transmission zeros. Indeed, in the DBR topology, each bandstop structure (i.e. a stub and its associated capacitor here) controls the frequency of a transmission zero independently from the others. So, the variation of the value of a capacitor, C_i , only impacts on the frequency of the i^{th} transmission zero, f_{zi} , and has no influence on the others. Fig. 5 presents the evolution of the tri-band resonator electrical response when the values of the 4 capacitors decrease one by one from their initial value. Thus, Fig. 5(a) shows the moving of f_{z4} from 2.15 to 2.25 GHz when C_4 decreases from 0.569 to 0.506 pF; Fig. 5(b) the moving of f_{z3} from 1.75 to 1.85 GHz when C_3 decreases from 1.042 to 0.896 pF; Fig. 5(c) the moving of f_{z2} from 1.25 to 1.35 GHz when C_2 decreases from 1.998 to 1.638 pF and Fig. 5(d) the moving of f_{z1} from 0.85 to 0.95 GHz when C_1 decreases from 3.415 to 2.527 pF.

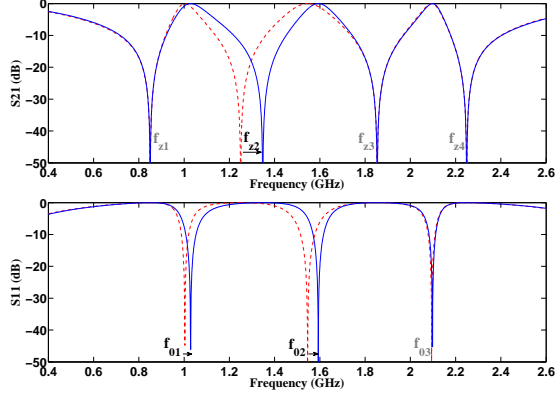
The independence of the transmission zeros offers a lot of possibilities to reconfigure the resonator response and not only the resonant frequencies. For instance, Fig. 6 presents the removing of the second resonance, f_{02} , by bringing f_{z2} and f_{z3} . One can also suppress another resonance, modify the 3 bandwidths, etc.



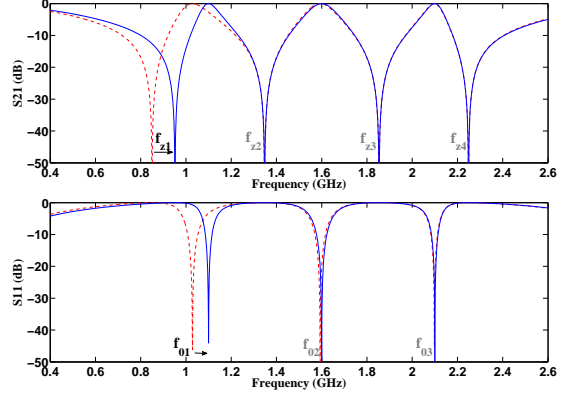
(a) Variation of C_4 from 0.569 pF (red dashed lines) to 0.506 pF (blue solid lines), $C_1 = 3.415$ pF, $C_2 = 1.998$ pF and $C_3 = 1.042$ pF in both cases.



(b) Variation of C_3 from 1.042 pF (red dashed lines) to 0.896 pF (blue solid lines), $C_1 = 3.415$ pF, $C_2 = 1.998$ pF and $C_4 = 0.506$ pF in both cases.



(c) Variation of C_2 from 1.998 pF (red dashed lines) to 1.638 pF (blue solid lines), $C_1 = 3.415$ pF, $C_3 = 0.896$ pF and $C_4 = 0.506$ pF in both cases.



(d) Variation of C_1 from 3.415 pF (red dashed lines) to 2.527 pF (blue solid lines), $C_2 = 1.638$ pF, $C_3 = 0.896$ pF and $C_4 = 0.506$ pF in both cases.

Figure 5: Change of the simulated electrical response of the tri-band resonator depending on the variations of the capacitors.

IV Experimental validation using varactor diodes on microstrip technology

A) Prototype characteristics and measurements setup

The tri-band resonator synthesized in section III has been realized in microstrip technology on a RO4003 Rogers substrate (dielectric constant: $\epsilon_r = 3.55$, height: $h = 0.508$ mm, dissipation factor: $\tan \delta = 0.0027$) with copper metallization (metal width: $t = 17.5$ μm , conductivity: $\sigma = 5.8 \times 10^7$ S.m $^{-1}$). Varactor diodes are used as variable capacitors. Table 2 summarizes the characteristics of the bandstop structures. The tri-band resonator was simulated and optimized using Agilent ADS software and especially the EM-cosimulation tools allowing an easy integration of the mounted components characteristics (diodes, capacitances) into the simulations. All varactor

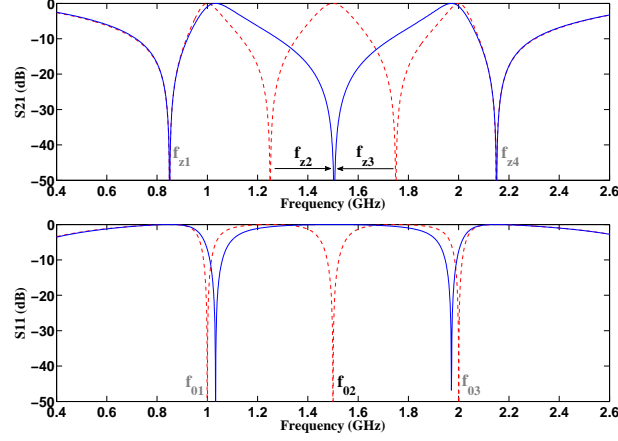


Figure 6: Suppression of the central passband of the tri-band resonator by varying C_2 and C_3 from 1.998 pF and 1.042 pF (red dashed lines) to 1.199 pF and 1.511 pF (blue solid line) respectively ($C_1 = 3.415$ pF and $C_4 = 0.569$ pF in both cases).

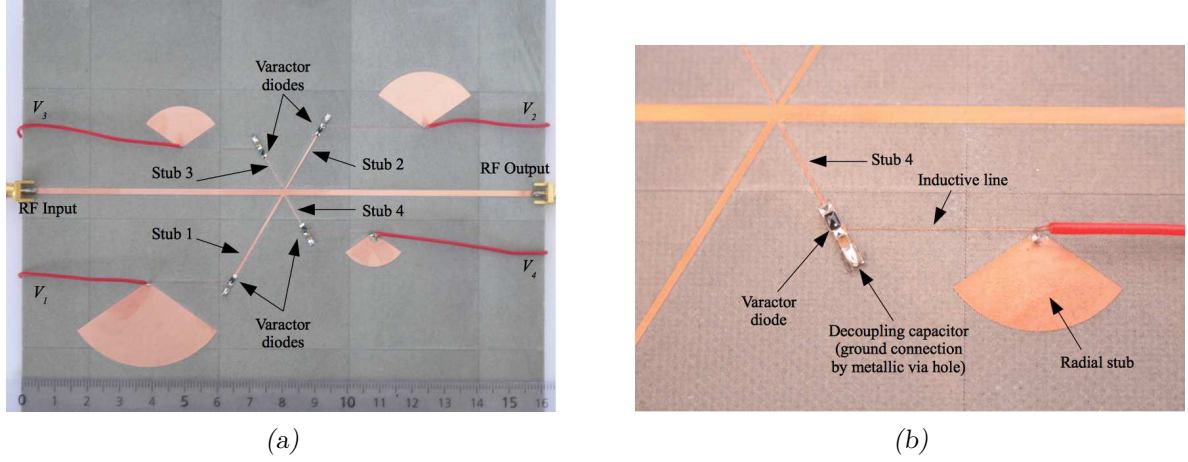


Figure 7: Picture of the manufactured reconfigurable tri-band resonator (Ruler unit: centimeter) (a) and detailed view of the bias circuit of the varactor diode associated with stub 4 (b).

diodes are from the MGV125 family from Aeroflex Metelics, with a 0805-02 CMS packaging. Nevertheless, 3 different models are used (MGV125-20, MGV125-22 and MGV125-26) according to the required range of capacitance values. The fabricated prototype also includes DC bias circuits for the 4 varactor diodes. They are composed of a decoupling capacitance (10 nF) connected to the ground by a metallic via hole, an inductive line and a radial stub. Each bias circuit was designed at the initial frequency of the associated transmission zero. Their dimensions are presented in Table 3. The input and output lines width is 1.8 mm. One should note that these RF input/output lines behaves as a common DC ground for all varactor diodes. DC-block (BLK-18-S+ from Mini-Circuits) are used between the SMA accesses of the circuit and the Vector Network Analyzer ports. The latter is an ENA 5062A from Agilent Technologies. Fig. 7 presents a picture of the manufactured reconfigurable tri-band resonator (a) and a detailed view of a bias circuit of one of the varactor diodes (b).

Table 2: Manufactured reconfigurable tri-band resonator: optimized dimensions of the stubs and diodes used.

Stub	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Diode
1	28.269	0.8	MGV125-26
2	19.327	0.6	MGV125-22
3	11.443	0.2	MGV125-22
4	10.31	0.31	MGV125-20

Table 3: Manufactured reconfigurable tri-band resonator: biasing circuits characteristics.

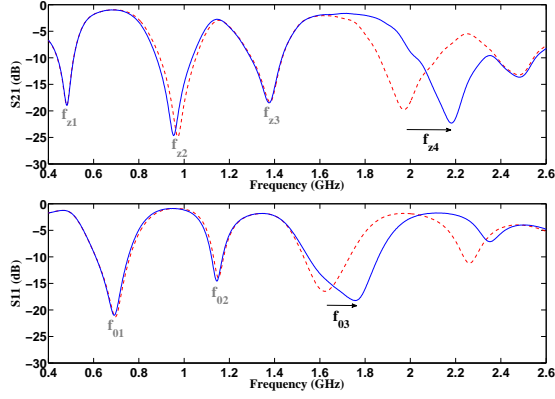
Stub	Inductive line		Radial stub	
	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Radius (mm)	Angle (°)
1	25.1	0.1	26.35	110
2	31.1	0.1	17.5	110
3	23.9	0.1	13	110
4	20.1	0.1	10.5	110

B) Measurements results

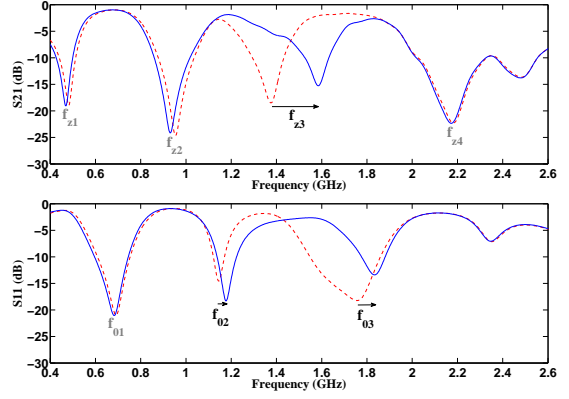
The measurements presented in Fig. 8 show the moving of the 4 transmission zeros due to the variations of the DC bias voltages (V_i , $i = 1, 2, 3$ or 4 , cf. Fig. 7) applied to the 4 diodes. In this example, each DC bias voltage, V_i , increases, so the associated diode capacitor value, C_i , decreases and the frequency of the transmission zero, f_{zi} , moves up. Thus, a variation of V_4 from 5.8 to 8.2 V implies that f_{z4} moves from 1.97 to 2.18 GHz (cf. Fig. 8(a)); a variation of V_3 from 5.2 to 7.3 V implies that f_{z3} moves from 1.38 to 1.59 GHz (cf. Fig. 8(b)); a variation of V_2 from 3.1 to 5.1 V implies that f_{z2} moves from 0.93 to 1.20 GHz (cf. Fig. 8(c)) and a variation of V_1 from 1.5 to 4 V implies that f_{z1} moves from 0.47 to 0.69 GHz (cf. Fig. 8(d)).

Fig. 8 shows a 5th transmission zero between 2.4 and 2.6 GHz. In fact, it is the 1st harmonic of the 1st transmission zero, f_{z1} . Thus, its frequency also varies when the DC voltage V_1 is modified. Its presence implies a 4th resonance between 2.2 and 2.4 GHz more or less stronger depending on its proximity with the 4th transmission zero, f_{z4} .

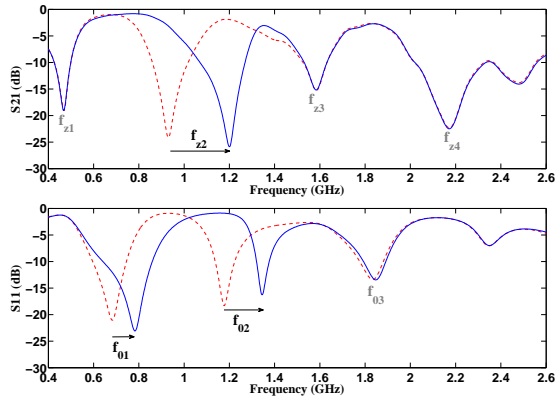
One should also note in Fig. 8 that the increase of some bias voltages can also imply very slight decrease of the frequency of unassociated transmission zeros. For instance in Fig. 8(a), f_{z2} decreases when V_4 , and so f_{z4} , increase. This is due to an insufficient isolation between each varactor diode mainly because RF input/output lines are used as DC common ground. Indeed, a small part of the bias signal of one diode goes to the other diodes and not to the ground through the DC-block as expected. It modifies slightly the bias voltage applied to the other diodes and so the frequency of the other transmission zeros. These latter move down because the undesired bias signal feeds the diodes by their anode, and not by their cathode and so subtracts from the main bias voltage. A better isolation could be obtained adding an inductance in parallel connected to the ground and a capacitance in series close to each varactor diode. This allows all the bias signals not to



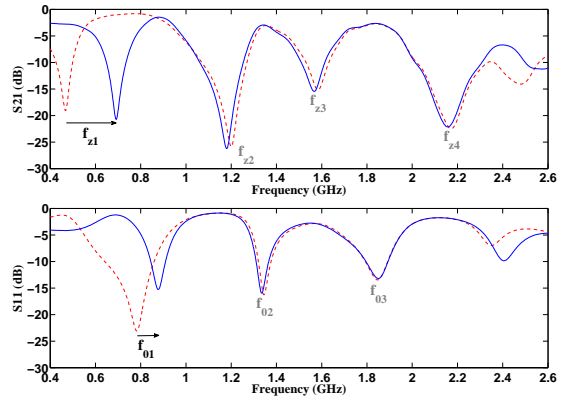
(a) Variation of V_4 from 5.8 V (red dashed lines) to 8.2 V (blue solid lines), $V_1 = 1.5$ V, $V_2 = 3.1$ V and $V_3 = 5.2$ V in both cases.



(b) Variation of V_3 from 5.2 V (red dashed lines) to 7.3 V (blue solid lines), $V_1 = 1.5$ V, $V_2 = 3.1$ V and $V_4 = 8.2$ V in both cases.



(c) Variation of V_2 from 3.1 V (red dashed lines) to 5.1 V (blue solid lines), $V_1 = 1.5$ V, $V_3 = 7.3$ V and $V_4 = 8.2$ V in both cases.



(d) Variation of V_1 from 1.5 V (red dashed lines) to 4 V (blue solid lines), $V_2 = 5.1$ V, $V_3 = 7.3$ V and $V_4 = 8.2$ V in both cases.

Figure 8: Change of the measured electrical response of the tri-band resonator depending on the bias voltages.

be mixed but this solution increases design complexity and highly decreases the resonator performance. This is a limitation of the use of diodes in such a case, the bias control signals flowing in the microwave circuit. Nevertheless, this technological default, clearly identified, does not call into question the concept proposed here. Other reconfiguration technologies could be investigated to overcome this problem.

As explained in section III, the independence of the 4 transmission zeros offers a lot of possibilities to reconfigure the tri-band resonator. The tuning of the 3 resonant frequencies is thereby demonstrated in Fig. 8. Between the first measured configuration (Fig. 8(a) – red dashed lines) and the last one (Fig. 8(d) – blue solid lines), the variation of the 4 bias voltages leads to a shifting of f_{01} from 0.69 to 0.88 GHz (27.5 %), of f_{02} from 1.15 to 1.34 GHz (16.5 %) and of f_{03} from 1.63 to 1.85 GHz (13.5 %). Another example is given in Fig. 9. The second passband is easily suppressed by increasing V_2 (from 2.8 to 5.3 V) and decreasing V_3 (from 5.4 to 4.3 V), V_1 and V_4 remaining constant.

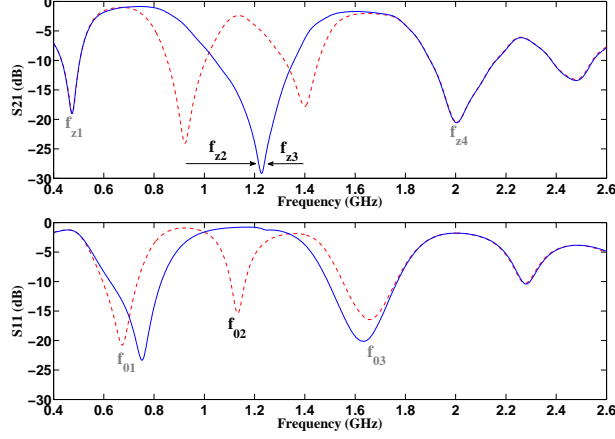


Figure 9: Measured S-parameters of the realized tri-band tunable resonator with suppression of one band (red dashed lines: $V_1 = 1.45$ V, $V_2 = 2.8$ V, $V_3 = 5.4$ V, $V_4 = 6$ V, blue solid lines: $V_1 = 1.45$ V, $V_2 = 5.3$ V, $V_3 = 4.3$ V, $V_4 = 6$ V).

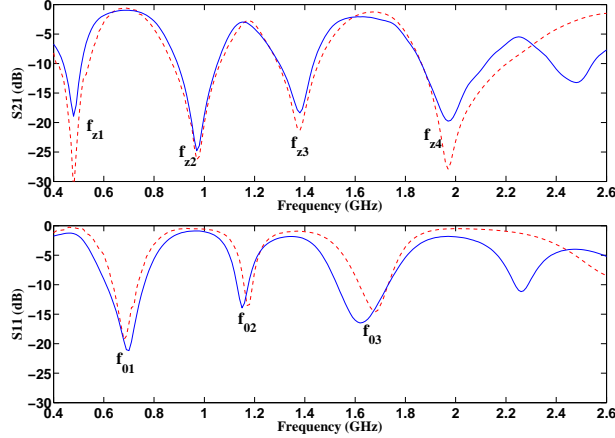


Figure 10: Simulation (red dashed lines) and measured (blue solid lines) S-parameters of the tri-band resonator for $V_1 = 1.5$ V, $V_2 = 3.1$ V, $V_3 = 5.2$ V, $V_4 = 5.8$ V.

C) Measurements analysis

Experimental reflection coefficients and insertion losses at the 3 resonant frequencies of the 5 cases presented in Fig. 8 are summarized in Table 4. The first are always lower than -13 dB. It is quite satisfactory for a reconfigurable multi-band resonator allowing a frequency shift better than 13 % for each resonance. Insertion losses are between 0.9 and 3 dB according to the bandwidth. They are in correlation with the insertion losses estimated by simulation. As an example, Fig. 10 presents a comparison between simulation and measurement for one of the five cases ($V_1 = 1.5$ V, $V_2 = 3.1$ V, $V_3 = 5.2$ V and $V_4 = 5.8$ V in red dashed lines in Fig. 8(a)).

In simulation, a varactor diode model is used with a series resistance of 0.3Ω . The bias circuits are also taken into account. To estimate the losses due to these elements (diodes and biasing circuits), a comparison was made in simulation between an electrical response of the reconfigurable tri-band resonator and a passive DBR tri-band resonator giving a

Table 4: Measured reflection coefficients and insertion loss.

Figure	Resonant frequency (GHz)		Reflection coefficient (dB)	Insertion loss (dB)
8(a) Red dashed lines	f_{01}	0.69	-21.3	0.98
	f_{02}	1.15	-14.0	2.96
	f_{03}	1.62	-16.5	2.08
8(a) Blue solid lines	f_{01}	0.69	-21.0	1.01
	f_{02}	1.15	-14.6	2.77
	f_{03}	1.76	-18.3	2.08
8(b) Blue solid lines	f_{01}	0.68	-21.1	0.99
	f_{02}	1.18	-18.3	1.88
	f_{03}	1.84	-13.4	2.66
8(c) Blue solid lines	f_{01}	0.78	-23.1	0.83
	f_{02}	1.34	-16.3	3.13
	f_{03}	1.85	-13.5	2.73
8(d) Blue solid lines	f_{01}	0.88	-15.3	1.47
	f_{02}	1.34	-16	2.98
	f_{03}	1.85	-13.2	2.69

similar response. This passive resonator was designed using [14] and the same technological properties as the reconfigurable one (substrate, metallization). It has the same transmission zeros frequencies and slightly different resonant frequencies due to different slope parameters. Fig. 11 presents these simulations results. The insertion losses are 0.25 dB for the first resonance, 0.73 dB for the second and 0.62 for the third in the passive case instead of 0.69 dB, 1.15 dB and 1.62 dB respectively in the reconfigurable case. The integration of diodes and biasing circuits leads to an increase in the insertion losses from about 0.5 to 1 dB according to the frequency. We estimate that the insertion of the diodes divides the values of the quality factor by approximately 2. Nevertheless, despite this well-known default of such components, we chose this solution for its simplicity and its low-cost. Others reconfiguration solutions can be used in order to avoid these additional losses.

One should note in Fig. 11 that a transmission zero, called f_{z1h} , appears close to f_{z3} in the passive case. It is the first harmonic of the first transmission zero, f_{z1} . In the passive case [14], each bandstop structure only consists of a stub which presents a first transmission zero at f_{zi} . The first harmonic is then located at $3f_{zi}$. In the tunable case presented here, each bandstop structure is composed of a capacitance and a stub, shorter than in the passive case to keep the same transmission zero frequency. The presence of harmonic is only due to the stub part and as it is shorter the 1st harmonic is higher in frequency.

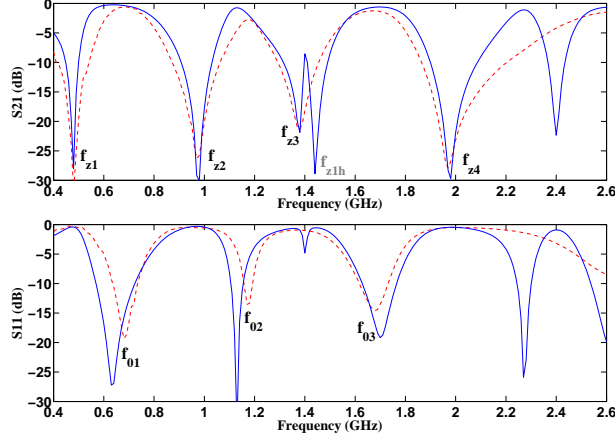


Figure 11: Simulated S-parameters of the reconfigurable tri-band resonator ($V_1 = 1.5$ V, $V_2 = 3.1$ V, $V_3 = 5.2$ V, $V_4 = 5.8$ V – red dashed lines) and a passive tri-band DBR with an equivalent response (blue solid lines).

V Conclusion

A reconfigurable N -band resonator was presented here together with its associated synthesis. The latter allows an initial configuration of the resonator to be easily obtained. The $N + 1$ transmission zeros of the resulting resonator can then be independently tuned and so the electrical response of the resonator can be modified. The concept was validated through the realization of a tri-band resonator in microstrip technology and the use of varactor diodes as tuning elements.

The realization of filters implies the association of two or more reconfigurable N -band resonators. This allows more parameters (bandwidths, rejected bands, etc.) to be controlled. Nevertheless, such a realization can be very difficult particularly when the resonance frequencies are far from one to the others. So, additional investigations have to be done in order to integrate into the synthesis the slope parameter at each resonance and the coupling between resonators. The resulting synthesis will allow to facilitate the development of reconfigurable M -order N -band filters. This would also minimize the influence of tuning on the coupling between resonators and so preserve a larger tuning frequency range.

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