

DESIGN OF A BUTLER MATRIX BEAMFORMING CIRCUIT
AT 28 GHz FOR 5G MOBILE COMMUNICATION

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*Specially dedicated
to my supervisor and family who encouraged
me throughout my journey of
education.*

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ABSTRACT

Mobile communication has become prevalent nowadays. The demand for high speed data and information exchange urge on a better communication services. Furthermore, existing services may not able to satisfy the increasing data volume with increasing number of users. The current technology may suffer from congestion and spectrum shortage issue. Thus, 5G is introduced with new spectrum particularly at higher frequencies. However, at high frequencies, a higher propagation loss is expected. The solution is to have a high gain array antenna with particular beamforming features to compensate the high loss. Thus, this work proposes a Butler Matrix beamforming circuit to feed an array at particular 28 GHz for 5G mobile communication. However, the antenna part will not be in the scope of this work. The beamforming circuit will be design, simulate and optimize using CST software. The components namely the coupler, crossover and phase shifter are designed and analyzed separately before integrated to be one Butler Matrix network circuit. Conventional hybrid coupler is designed to operate at desired 28GHz with 90 degrees phase different and equal power divided between the output ports before it is improved with tee junction structure, which reduce the overall dimension without much sacrificing the performances. The coupler then combined to form a crossover with 0 degrees phase different and good isolation. A delay line which give 45 degrees phase shift is designed and connect the structure to form a Butler Matrix beamforming circuit.

ABSTRAK

Komunikasi mudah alih telah menjadi lazim sekarang ini. Permintaan untuk data berkelajuan tinggi dan pertukaran maklumat menggesa perkhidmatan komunikasi yang lebih baik. Selain itu, perkhidmatan sedia ada mungkin tidak dapat memenuhi peningkatan jumlah data dengan peningkatan bilangan pengguna. Teknologi semasa mungkin mengalami masalah kesesakan dan kekurangan spektrum. Oleh itu, 5G diperkenalkan dengan spektrum baru terutama pada frekuensi yang lebih tinggi. Walau bagaimanapun, pada frekuensi tinggi, jangkaan penyebaran yang lebih tinggi dijangka. Penyelesaiannya adalah untuk mempunyai antena array keuntungan yang tinggi dengan ciri-ciri penyesuaian tertentu untuk mengimbangi kerugian yang tinggi. Oleh itu, kerja ini mencadangkan litar beamforming Butler Matrix untuk memberi makan pada 28 GHz khusus untuk komunikasi mudah alih 5G. Walau bagaimanapun, bahagian antena tidak akan berada dalam skop kerja ini. Litar beamforming akan merancang, mensimulasikan dan mengoptimumkan menggunakan perisian CST. Komponen-komponen seperti coupler, crossover dan shifter fasa direka dan dianalisis secara berasingan sebelum digabungkan menjadi satu litar rangkaian Matriks Butler. Penyambung hibrid konvensional direka untuk beroperasi pada 28GHz yang dikehendaki dengan 90 darjah fasa kuasa yang berbeza dan sama yang dibahagikan antara port keluaran sebelum ia dipertingkatkan dengan struktur simpang tee, yang mengurangkan dimensi keseluruhan tanpa banyak mengorbankan persembahan. Pemasangan itu kemudian digabungkan untuk membentuk crossover dengan 0 darjah fasa berbeza dan pengasingan yang baik. Barisan penangguhan yang memberi pergeseran 45 darjah fasa direka bentuk dan menyambung struktur untuk membentuk litar beamformasi Butler Matrix.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER	TITLE	PAGE
	DECLARATION	ii
	DEDICATION	iii
	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	iv
	ABSTRACT	v
	ABSTRAK	vi
	TABLE OF CONTENTS	vii
	LIST OF TABLES	x
	LIST OF FIGURES	xi
	LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xiii
	LIST OF SYMBOLS	xiv
1	INTRODUCTION	1
	1.1 Background of Study	1
	1.2 Problem Statement	2
	1.3 Objectives of Project	3
	1.4 Scope of Project	3
	1.5 Project Report Outline	4
2	LITERATURE REVIEW	5
	2.1 Introduction	5
	2.2 The principle of Butler matrix	5
	2.3 Butler matrix multi-beam antenna forming principle	8
	2.4 Butler matrix multi-beam antenna direction diagram	11

2.4.1	Butler matrix multibeam antenna direction diagram calculation formula	11
2.4.2	Butler matrix multibeam antenna direction diagram characteristics	12
2.5	3dB Directional coupler	14
2.6	Phase Shifter	17
2.6.1	Schiffman phase shifter	17
2.6.2	45° phase shift	18
2.7	Chapter Summary	19
3	METHODOLOGY	25
3.1	Introduction	25
3.2	Design flow char	26
3.3	The theory of each unit of Butler matrix	27
3.3.1	Hybrid Coupler	27
3.3.2	Calculation of width and length for $z_0=50$	29
3.3.3	Calculation of width and length for $z_0=35.35$	29
3.3.4	0dB Crossove	30
3.3.5	45° phase shifter	31
3.4	Size Reduction of Branch-Line Couple	32
3.5	Simulation in CST Microwave	34
3.6	Chapter summary	35
4	RESULTS	36
4.1	Introduction	36
4.2	Simulation of 3dB Branch Line Coupler (BLC)	36
4.2.1	The conventional coupler	37
4.2.2	The Magnitude and Phase difference. of conventional coupler	38
4.2.3	The proposed of reduced size coupler	39

4.2.4	The Magnitude and Phase difference of proposed coupler	40
4.3	Simulation of 0dB crossover	41
4.3.1	The conventional 0dB crossover	41
4.3.2	The Magnitude and Phase difference. of conventional crossover	42
4.3.3	The proposed 0dB crossover	44
4.3.4	The Magnitude and Phase difference. of conventional coupler proposed crossover	45
4.4	Simulation and analysis result of beam-forming network (BFN)	55
4.5	Summary	52
5	CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	53
5.1	Conclusions	53
5.2	Recommendations	54
	REFERENCES	55
	Appendix A	57-58

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE NO.	TITLE	PAGES
2.1	The distribution of 4 x4 butler matrix output phase	7
3.1	The specification of BLC	19
4.1	Conventional coupler vs proposed coupler	21
4.2	Input-output insertion loss (dB) of the Butler matrix at 28 GHz	24
4.3	Input-output phase shift (degrees) of the Butler matrix at 28 GHz	24

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE NO.	TITLE	PAGES
2.1	Butler matrix structure and the corresponding beam direction	6
2.2	Beam switching system diagram	7
2.3	Double beam Butler matrix beam-forming network principle	8
2.4	Butler matrix four beamforming network principle	9
2.5	Butler matrix multibeam lobe shape	14
2.6	Geometry of a branch line coupler	14
2.7	Normalized form of branch coupler circuit	16
2.8	Schiffman phase shifter structure	17
2.9	Layout of phase shifter	18
3.1	Design flow chart	24
3.2	The impedance of BLC	26
3.3	Simulation layout of width and length	27
3.4	Layout of 0 dB crossover	29
3.5	Layout of 45° phase shifter	30
3.6	(a) $\lambda/4$ transmission line (b) T-shaped structure circuit equivalent to (a)	30
4.1	(a)The simulation layout of conventional coupler (b)The parameter of conventional coupler	36

4.2	Simulated S-parameter versus frequency of the conventional coupler: (a) Magnitude (b) Phase difference	37
4.3	(a)The simulation layout of proposed coupler (b)The parameter of proposed coupler	38
4.4	Simulated S-parameter versus frequency of the proposed coupler: (a) Magnitude(b) Phase difference.	39
4.5	(a)The simulation layout of conventional crossover (b)The parameter of conventional crossover	41
4.6	Simulated S-parameter versus frequency of the conventional crossover: (a) Magnitude(b) Phase difference.	42
4.7	(a)The layout of proposed crossover (b)The parameter of proposed crossover	43
4.8	Simulated S-parameter versus frequency of the designed crossover: (a) Magnitude (b) Phase difference.	45
4.9	(a) The simulation layout of conventional BFN (b)The simulation layout of proposed BFN	46
4.10	Simulated return loss of the designed BFN (a) conventional BFN (b) proposed BFN	47
4.11	Simulated insertion loss of the proposed BFN : (a)output ports with respect to input port 1, (b) output ports with respect to input port 2, (c)output ports with respect to input port 3, (d) output ports with respect to input port 4	48

4.12	Simulated phase difference of the designed BFN	49
	(a) output ports with respect to input port 1	
	(b) output ports with respect to input port 2	
	(c) output ports with respect to input port 3	
	(d) output ports with respect to input port 4	

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CST	-	Computer Simulation Technology
BLC		Branch Line Coupler
BFN		Beamforming matrix network

LIST OF SYMBOLS

E	-	Energy
dB		Decibel
Hz		Hertz
GHz		Giga Hert
Mm		Millimetre
RF		Radio Frequency
L		Length
W		Width
Z ₀		Characteristic impedance
Z _p		Load impedance
π		Pi
λ		Free-space wavelength
ϵ_r		Dielectric constant of the substrate
t		Patch thickness

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of study

Future communication system such as 5G mobile communication is moving towards higher frequencies as the higher band may offer greater bandwidth with better speed. However, the system with higher capacity is expected to have higher loss from congestion and overlapping signal. As the mobile users is increasing, 5G must handle more traffic and higher speed. Thus, beamforming technology is believing to help with the new system. The beam can be directed to the desired direction, thus reducing the interference from nearby user. A high directive beam with high gain can be built in integration with massive antenna arrays.

With the rapid development of electronic technology, the smart antenna is playing an increasingly important role in radar and communication systems. The smart antenna technology not only can improve the communication capability of the system, but also can get a better signal to noise ratio system, smart antenna technology mainly includes: beam switching antenna technology [4] and the technology of adaptive antenna. The complex algorithm in adaptive antenna and signal processing technology to make its

response speed slow. And multi-beam antenna is relatively simple to implement and to make its more accurate used [1-5].

In this work, the focus is on the antenna beam forming circuit network. Power in certain proportion assigned to an output port and produces a constant phase difference between adjacent output port, but from different input ports input, The direction of the antenna under each port input phase is different so that lead to the phase difference is diverse.

There are many types of beamforming circuit network, in general, Radio Frequency Beamforming Networks (RF BFN) can be classified in to two types as quasi-optical and circuit types [3]. In this work, Butler matrix is chosen due to its simplicity.

1.2 Problem statement

5G base stations can support large-scale antenna arrays, and the number of configurable antennas even reach 1024, so that there can be more users. To fully exploit the potential of these large-scale antenna arrays, 5G beamforming is absolutely essential. In the spatial propagation process, the quality of wireless signals will be attenuated. This kind of attenuation, called path-loss, can have a huge impact on the communication system. Especially for millimeter-band 5G communication systems, signal attenuation will up to ten times of dB that cause the system cannot work normally.

In this case, the beamforming technology can effectively combat the path loss and use multiple differently directed beams to completely cover the cell. The beamforming technology effectively superimposes signals by adjusting the phase of each antenna to generate stronger signal gain to overcome path loss, thus providing a powerful guarantee for the transmission quality of 5G wireless signals.

1.3 Project objectives

Due to the Butler matrix its own structure with the advantages such as flexible, easy to fabric, and its great application prospect. This article is based on the application background of the communication system, this paper proposes a Butler Matrix beamforming circuit to feed a 4x4 array at particular 28 GHz for 5G mobile communication using 28 GHz butler, 3 dB directional coupler and 45 degree phase shifter, the bandwidth of the matrix feature is determined by the directional coupler and phase shifter. The cross structure, using of different metal layer of cable can solve this proposed design. Thus, the project objectives are:

- i. To design the Branch Line Coupler circuit at 28 GHz that can adapt to the Butler Matrix for antenna beamforming .
- ii. To simulate and analyze the 4x4 Butler Matrix performance of the designed Branch Line coupler by using of CST studio

1.4 Scope of work

This project contains of four parts. For the first phase, study the concept of beamforming network and butler matrix technique. In order to understand all the basic theory and concept of the related topic of this project, some research were made in beamforming network using design 4x4 Butler Matrix technique and exploring the function of CST studio 2015. All the material that related to the beamforming, butler matrix and other related this project in books, journals and articles have been collected.

Coupler is the main component in Butler Matrix. Thus, the coupler design was given priority at the beginning of the work. The branch line coupler is designed to have

90 degrees phase different at the output ports with equal power divided. The design parameters of transmission line such as width and length are calculated using standard equations. Two couplers then combined to form a cross-over. The phase shifter is also designed before all components are integrated to form a Butler Matrix network. The 4X4 beamforming network circuit are simulated by using CST studio 2015. The transmission coefficient, isolation and phase difference for each port have been analyzed. The results have been compared between the conventional structure and the improved with reduced size structure.

1.5 Project organization

The following is the introductory chapter, the rest of the thesis organized as follow:

Chapter 2 introduce the recent works for the branch line coupler. An overview of the main and recent technologies used in the designing the BLC will be presented. In addition, an extensive literature review about the BLC and theory.

Chapter 3 introduce the project methodology, the design steps, and the calculations of certain parameters and the process of the design will be discussed.

Chapter 4 introduce the steps of the proposed BLC compared with the conventional BLC, the designed BFN compared with the conventional BFN, the simulation results for both design will be presented in this chapter.

Chapter 5 provides a conclusion of the project and suggestion for future works related to this project.

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