

Design and Fabrication of Tri-Stopband Bandstop Filters Using Cascaded and Multi-Armed Methods

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Abstract

In this paper, we proposed a compact C-open-loop ring resonator and its equivalent circuit. The second cascaded bandstop filter (BSF) are designed using this simple C-ring resonator. The double ring BSF consists of two cascaded C-ring resonators, which are placed on the RO4003 substrate, while the other triple BSF structure consists of three cascaded C-ring resonators, which are connected with input and output through microstrip feed lines. The both filters are simulated, optimized and partially realized using MWR simulator and Anritsu E5072A vector network analyzer VNA. In order to reduce the size and to improve the filter characteristics, novel compact filter topologies are designed basing on the previous structures. The proposed multi-band BSFs consist of several open-loop ring resonators placed vertically overlapping (coupled multi-armed ring resonator). Using this idea, the filter topologies with design flexibility, close size and excellent results are reached. The novel compact multi-band BSFs produce several stopband along a frequency range from DC to 9 GHz, in which each separate band exhibits an acceptable and useful bandwidth. Each stopband has regenerated two reflexion zeros, what leads to a good sharpness factors in the transition domains. Good agreement between the experimental results, full-wave simulation has been achieved. Such compact and flexible filters can be successfully used in several microwave and in modern wireless and mobile/satellite communication systems.

1. Introduction

In recent years, the demand for compact microstrip filters is increasing due to the recently expanding microwave and mobile communication systems. So far, a few effective techniques have been successfully developed to miniaturize the filter size and to transform a simple filter structure to multi-band filter without additional components. Nowadays multi-standard wireless communication systems require multi-band operating transceivers. Dual-band and multi-band filters are in demand for these wireless systems. Beside the multi-band operation, low cost, simplicity, small occupied area and performance are desired features for these filters. Over these years, microstrip planar multi-band filters have been widely proposed as an approach solution to solving the

most difficult technical challenges in microwave and wireless communication areas [1]-[3]. In order to increase the number of bands of a structure, they were firstly implemented by the cascaded two filters at different frequencies, with the inherent disadvantage of increased total size [3]. Also they were realized by using a combination of a wide-band bandpass filter and a bandstop filter [4]. However, the size of topology remained a big challenger. Alternatively, other techniques as filter with open stubs are used to regenerate transmission zeros in order to separate the passbands and lead to create several separate bands [3], [5]. Stepped-impedance resonators (SIR) are utilized to realize the dual-stopband characteristics, and reduce size of filters. Stepped impedance resonator (SIR) can adjust the second passband by regulation the impedance ratio and electric lengths of SIRs. By correctly choosing the relevant impedance or strip width ratio, the dual-band topologies employing SIRs can be produced [6]. On the other hand, few researchers have investigated the design of triple-band filters. Boutejdar, et. al., Ren, et. al. and Hejazi, et. al. proposed filter using vertical and horizontal cascaded DGS-Resonators [7]-[11] and hairpin slots [12], [13]. The disadvantages in this works are the complicated used DGS shapes, the undesired coupling between the DGS resonators and the large size of the used filter structures. Quando, et. al. proposed the dual- behavior resonators as good candidate for the design of tri-band filters [14]. Mokhtari, et. al. and Boutejdar et. al. proposed a design methodology to these kind of filters using cross-coupled networks represented by coupling matrix [15]-[18]. However, in both proposed topologies, the disadvantage of large circuit size remains a real challenge. In [15], the coupling of two tri-band dual-behavior resonators DBRs was needed to achieve a second order triple-band filter response with six poles (two poles in each band) and five transmission zeros (single zero between each transmission band and two transmission zeros to the left and to the right of all passbands). This cascaded topology shows an undesired increase in the size of the proposed filter. In [15], six hairpin resonators were needed to achieve a filter with triple-band features with six poles (two in each band) and four transmission zeros (two transmission zeros between each two bands).

In this paper, we present BSF structures using open loop ring resonators and overlapping technique. The First one is a simple BSF employing single C-open-loop resonator. Basing

on this Ring resonator, a double and a triple ring BSFs are designed, simulated and optimized. In order to eliminate the advantages of big size and to improve the characteristics of this topologies, a new compact multi-band microstrip BSFs are proposed using a novel multi-reject band resonator. The idea was, the design of filter topology, which consists of several open-loop ring resonators placed vertically overlapping, and thus to reach filter with design flexibility, close size and satisfactory results. The compact filters are designed, fabricated and measured. The comparison between results shows a reasonable agreement between the measured and simulated responses.

2. Basic cell of the compact C-open-loop BSF

The building block of the proposed BSF is a C-open-loop – BSF employing a single microstrip stepped open loop resonator that is directly connected with the two feed Lines. Its layout is shown in Fig. 1. The high impedance line between the two feed lines has a constant width corresponding to an impedance of 75Ω . The BSF has been designed at a center frequency of around 5.6 GHz, and was simulated and fabricated on a substrate with a relative dielectric constant $\epsilon_r = 3.38$ and a thickness of 0.813 mm. The dimensions of the proposed filter are as follows: $l_1 = 8$ mm, $l_2 = 7.6$ mm, $l_3 = 4.08$ mm, $w = 1.92$ mm, $w_1 = 1$ mm, $g = 1$ mm, $t = 2$ mm. The two feed lines have a characteristic impedance of 50Ω . The Fig. 2 shows the fabricated structure cell (single BSF).

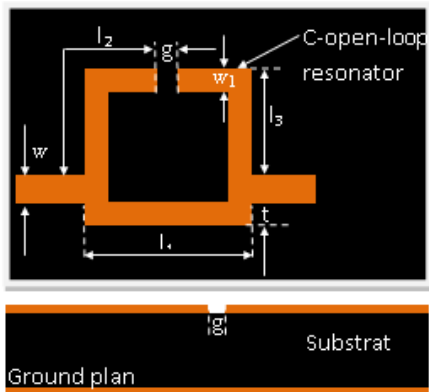


Figure 1. Layout of the C-open-loop single BSF.

The results of EM simulation, equivalent circuit and measurements are all shown in Fig. 3. The equivalent circuit of this C open loop resonator consists of a capacitor corresponds to the gap of the C open ring and an inductance, which presents the microstrip arms of C ring (Fig. 4). Using empirical method, the required dimensions of the ring resonator are chosen. Basing on the scattering responses and the below equations, the values of this intuitive equivalent circuit are calculated. The equivalent circuit presents in Fig. 3 is reduced to the new compact equivalent circuit, as the Fig. 4 shows. The characteristics frequencies can easy extracted from the S-parameters of the ring resonator. The good agreement among them demonstrates the validity of equivalent circuit model for the proposed BSF. As can be seen from the results, the insertion loss from DC to 3 GHz is

less than 0.5 dB, the return loss is less than -22 dB in the pass band. The stopband rejection levels are larger than 20 dB from 4.7 GHz to 6.7 GHz. The proposed filter exhibits sharp cutoff dropping from less than -0.5 dB to almost -44 dB within a range of 1.5 GHz, The size of the proposed BSF is $7 \times 7 \text{ mm}^2$, as Fig. 2. shows.

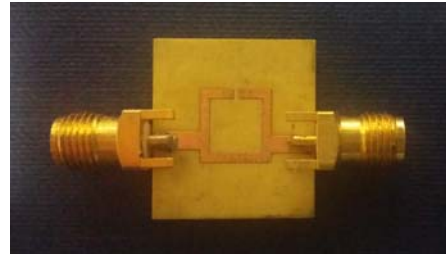


Figure 2. Photograph of fabricated C-open-loop resonator (BSF).

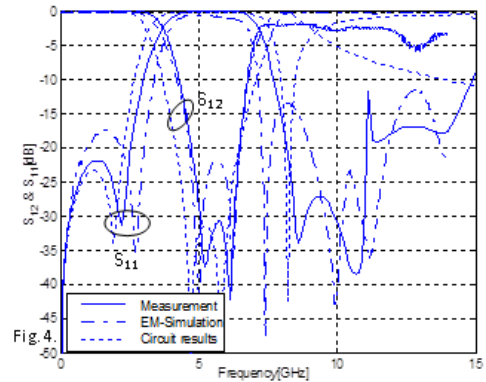
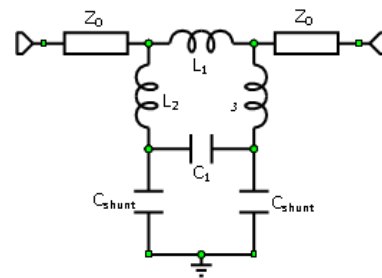


Figure 3. Measured and simulated scattering S-parameter results of C-open-loop resonator (BSF).



$$(L_1, L_2, L_3) \Rightarrow (L)$$

$$(C_1, C_{Shunt}, C_{Shunt}) \Rightarrow (C)$$

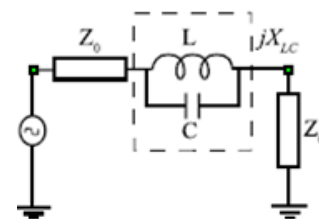


Fig. 4. Equivalent circuit of the C-open-loop resonator .

Z_0 is the input and output impedance, L is the equivalent inductance and C is the equivalent capacitance of the resonator-element. The reactance X_{LC} , which corresponds to the equivalent circuit, is calculated as follows:

$$jX_{LC} = \frac{j\omega L \left(\frac{1}{j\omega C} \right)}{j\omega L + \frac{1}{j\omega C}} = \frac{j\omega L}{1 - \omega^2 LC} \quad (1)$$

$$X_{LC} = \frac{1}{\omega_0 C \left(\frac{\omega_0 - \omega}{\omega} - \frac{\omega}{\omega_0} \right)} \text{mit} = \omega^2 = \frac{1}{LC} \quad (2)$$

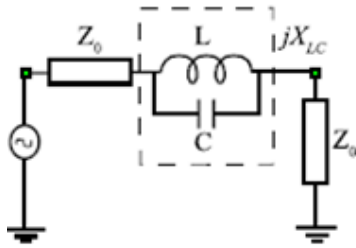


Figure 5. First order Butterworth BSF.

$$L = \frac{g_1 Z_0}{\omega_c} \Rightarrow \omega L = X_L = g_1 Z_0 \frac{\omega}{\omega_c} = g_1 Z_0 \omega' \quad (3)$$

With Z_0 as scaled characteristic impedance of the input and output port and $g_1 = 2$ as a prototype value of the Butterworth low-pass filter first order. In order to extract the values for the equivalent circuit elements of the DGS-resonator [19]-[26]. It is to equal at certain frequency the characteristics of the equivalent circuit of the DGS with that of the prototype low pass filter (Fig. 5). In this case, the frequency will be selected as cutoff frequency f_c .

$$X_{LC} \Big|_{\omega=\omega_c} = X_L \Big|_{\omega'=1} \quad (4)$$

Thus, the parallel capacitance of the equivalent circuit can calculate as following:

$$C = \frac{1}{X_{LC} \left(\frac{\omega_0 - \omega}{\omega} - \frac{\omega}{\omega_0} \right) \omega_0} \Big|_{\omega=\omega_c} = \frac{\omega_c}{g_1 Z_0 (\omega_0^2 - \omega_c^2)} \quad (5)$$

The lumped elements of the parallel resonator are defined as following:

$$C = \frac{5f_c}{\pi Z_0 (f_0^2 - f_c^2)} \text{ pF} \quad (6)$$

$$L = \left[\frac{250}{C(\pi f_0)^2} \right] \text{ nH} \quad (7)$$

For the frequency range $f < f_0$, the DGS-element behaves inductively. The value of the equivalent inductance L_{eq} for this frequency range is calculated as follows,

$$L_{eq} = \frac{L}{\left[1 - \left(\frac{f}{f_0} \right)^2 \right]} \text{ nH} \quad (8)$$

3. Design of the improved cascaded two rings BSF

In order to widen the reject band of this filter, without changing the center frequency, we propose a cascaded filter which is composed of two identical C-open-loop cells, as shown in Fig. 6. The suggested filter consists of two C-open-loop resonators, which are placed on the top layer and connected together with a 50Ω microstrip line. This double cell BSF has better performance, since it suppresses ripples and has a stop band twice as large as the single loop filter. As the Fig. 7 demonstrated, the investigated double-C BSF has a rejection level better than 20 dB from 4 to 7.2 GHz. The use of the introduced series resonant elements allows a sharp cutoff frequency response and a stopband, which is nearly two times broader than the reject band of simple C-element. The second harmonic is in this case suppressed. The both results are presented with good agreement as can be seen from Figs. 3, 4. The disadvantage of this structure is the limited application. The idea here is find an optimization method for generating multi-band characteristics without using complicated topology.

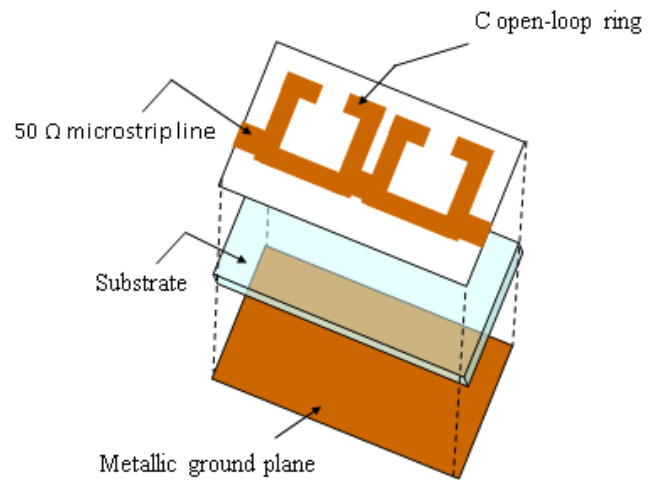


Figure 6. 3D-view of cascaded two rings BSF.

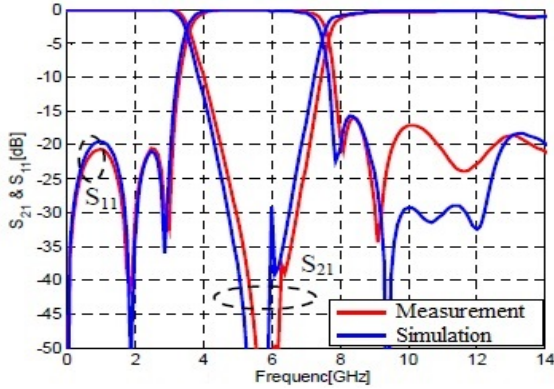


Fig. 7. Measured and simulated scattering S-parameter results of cascaded two rings BSF.

4. Distribution of magnetic field at pass-band and stop-band frequency ranges

The aim of this experiment is to demonstrate, basing on behaviors of surface electric and magnetic energies, the relationship between the EM-simulation results and the field distribution of the proposed open-loop ring BSF. The energy distribution is simulated at two different frequencies in the pass- and stop-band. Fig. 8(a) shows the field distribution in the stop-band region at the frequency of 5.5 GHz. At this frequency, the flux-energy is blocked at the input of the structure. At the same time the magnetic energy is distributed along of the ring-arm while the electric energy is focused near of the gab of ring resonator, which indicated that the structure is in the stopband state, more precisely, the structure undergoes a resonance effect as Fig. 8(a) shows. Around 2 GHz almost the whole RF magnetic energy was transmitted from the input to the output using the under metal arms of the cascaded ring resonators. The bridge-arms are direct connected with the 50Ω-feed lines. A negligible electric energy is appeared between in the gap (no metal), what signified that the filter is in the passband state and the metal strip has inductance behavior Fig. 8(b). Finally, it can be easily extracted that the ring structure corresponds then to a parallel LC-resonator.

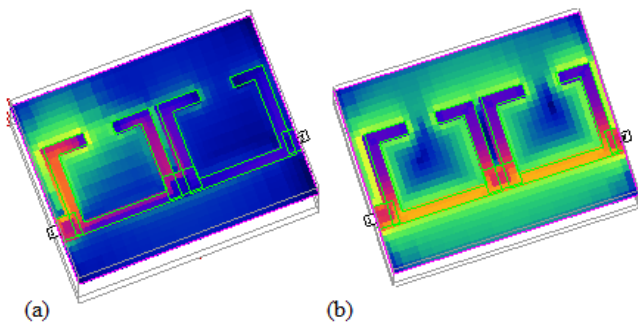


Figure 8. EM field distribution. (a) $f = 5.5$ GHz, (b) $f = 2$ GHz.

5. Design of the improved cascaded three rings BSF

This new cascaded BSF is proposed with the aim to sharpen the transition from the stopband to passband and try to make appear the harmonic signals thus several stop bands. As shown in Fig. 9, the filter consist of three cascaded mixed coupled C-ring-resonators, in which the first and the third are connected with the 50Ω feed lines. The three resonators are located on the top layer and direct connected each other. The three microstrip resonators are identical. The filter was simulated for a Rogers RO4003 substrate with a relative dielectric constant of $\epsilon_r = 3.38$ and a thickness of $h = 0.813$ mm. The BSF was designed to have center frequency at $f_0 = 3.5$ GHz and a cutoff frequency of $f_c = 2.4$ GHz. The simulation results of the BSF are shown in Fig. 10. The simulated insertion loss and return loss as well as the other stopbands are not satisfactory as shown the Fig. 10. Thus, in order to reduce the filter size and to improve the multiband characteristics of this BSF, another new topology with other layout procedure will be used.

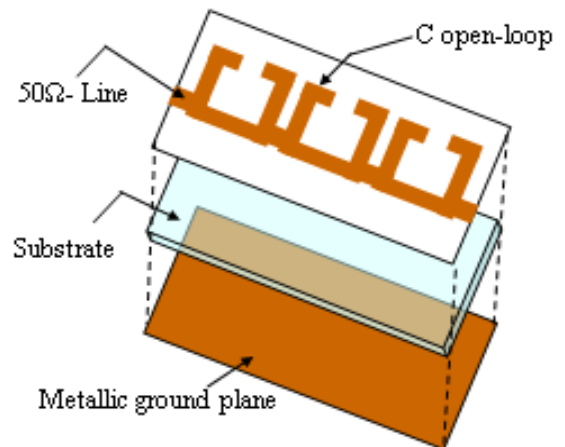


Figure 9. 3D-view of cascaded triple rings BSF.

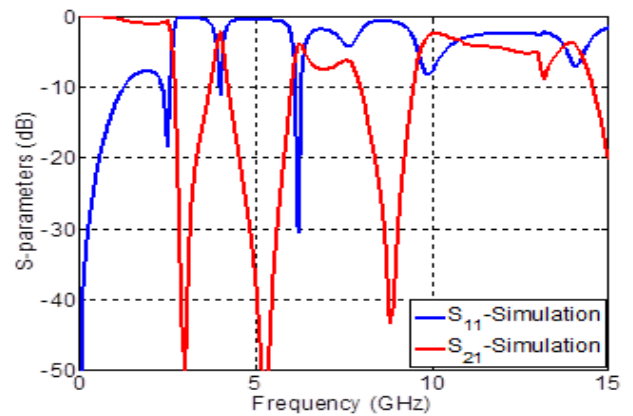


Figure 10. Measured and simulated scattering S-parameter results of cascaded triple rings BSF.

6. Design of Dual-band BSF using double-armed open loop resonator

In order to improve the features of the proposed BSF and thus the creation of dual band along the frequency domain, a new topology is proposed, in which the C ring resonators are vertically placed on the top of layer of the substrate. As the Figs. 11 and 12 show, the used resonators are etched on the top layer and placed behind each other in vertical direction (vertically overlapping).

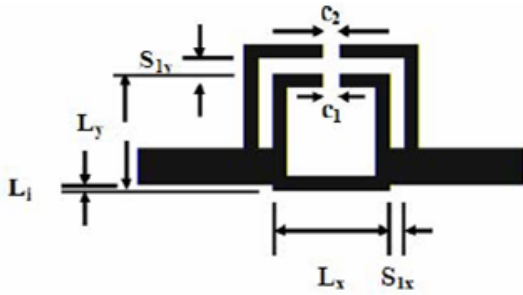


Figure 11. Layout of the improved double rings BSF (Sample I).

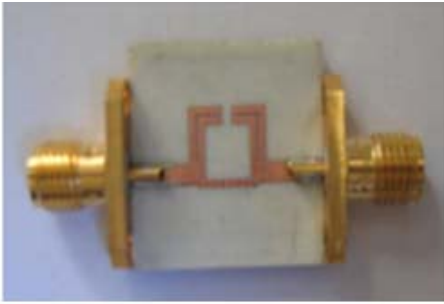


Figure 12. Photograph of the fabricated BSF (Sample I).

The idea of multi-armed open loop resonator is believed to be valid for more than double pair of arms, with the aim to regenerate several stopbands (Fig. 13). Hence, triple armed structure, shown in Fig. 14, was investigated to validate its generalization. Unfortunately, increasing of resonator number leads to design complication and uncontrolled coupling of the topology arms and thus the features of periodicity can be broken. The proposed double ring BSF is designed, simulated, optimized and fabricated on RO4003c substrate. The fabricated filter is shown in Fig. 12. The dimensions of this structure are chosen, basing on the simple C-open-loop ring resonator and the empirical method. All dimensions are tabulated in Table I. Fig. 13 shows the filter responses that were measured on an Anritsu E5072A vector network analyzer VNA, versus simulated response. The fabricated filter exhibits a very good response in terms of the reject-band. The filter also has a reflexion zeros near to the stopband edges at 3.7 GHz and 7.2 GHz, which lead to a high sharpness factor in transition domains. Also, the return loss within the stopbands is less than 1 dB. The shift in frequency between the measured and simulated responses is

believed to be due to the fabrication tolerance at our facilities.

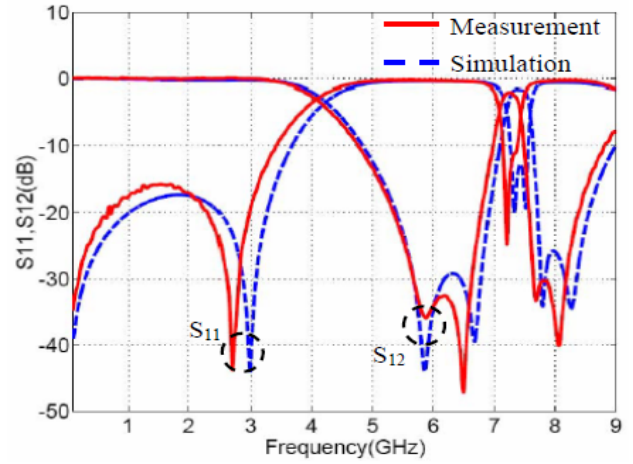


Figure 13. Measured and simulated scattering S-parameter results of double rings BSF (Sample I).

Table 1. Dimensions of proposed BSF.

Dim	mm	Sample I	Sample II
L_x		6.00	6.00
L_y		6.00	6.00
L_i		0.30	0.30
c_1		0.90	0.90
S_{1x}		0.20	0.20
S_{1y}		0.20	0.80
c_2		1.00	1.00
S_{2x}			0.25
S_{2y}			1.10
c_3			1.20

7. Generalization of the multi-arms technique

In order to verify this idea by structure with more resonator numbers, a triple ring BSF is designed, simulated, optimized and fabricated on the similar substrate. The design and the fabricated filters are show in Figs. 14 and 15. The filter dimensions are presented in Table I. The filter consists of tree open-loop ring resonators, which are etched on the substrate and vertically overlapped and connected to each other through 50Ω microstrip feed. Fig. 16 shows the comparison between the simulated and measured results. Through optimizing the dimensions of the three ring-resonators and choosing the suitable separation distances, enhanced rejection level, wide stopband and multiband features have been achieved. Additionally, the size of the proposed filter is very compact without using any shunt stub or defected ground structure cells.

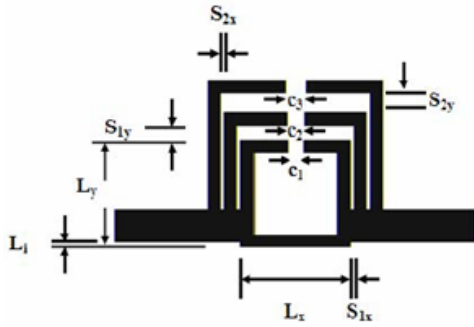


Fig.14. Physical layout of proposed triple rings BSF (Sample II).

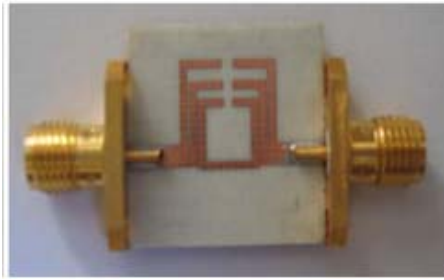


Figure15. Photograph of the fabricated BSF (Sample II).

The proposed filter has the potential of applying to RF/microwave integrated circuits. The total area of the filter is $(0.368\lambda_g \times 0.245\lambda_g)$, where $\lambda_g = 75$ mm. The calculated value of roll-off rate using the below equation amounts approximately $\xi_{sup} = 85$ dB/GHz.

$$\xi_{sup} = \frac{\alpha_{max} - \alpha_{min}}{f_0 - f_c} \quad (9)$$

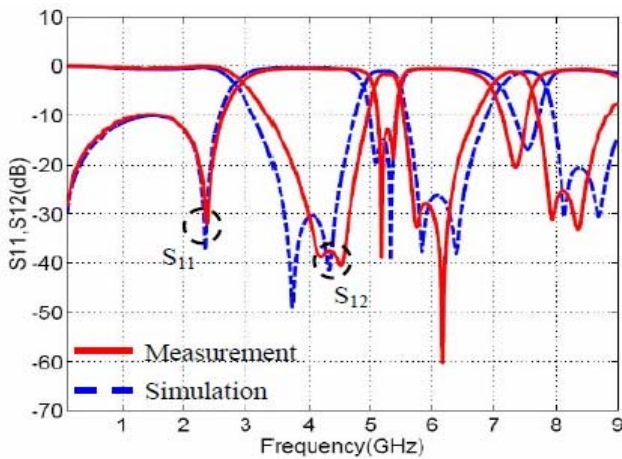


Figure 16. Measured and simulated scattering S-parameter results of triple rings-BSF (Sample II).

Table 2 gives a performance comparison between some reported BSFs and this work in terms of 3-dB cutoff frequency f_{c-inf} , resonance frequency f_0 , BW, selectivity and circuit size. The presented BSF shows good performances such as wide stopband, sharpness and compact size.

Table 2. Comparison with some reported BSFs.

Filter Topology	f_{c-inf} (GHz)	f_0 (GHz)	BW (MHz)	ξ_{sup} (dB/GHz)	Size (mm ²)
[1]	0.720	0.725	20	570	33×16
[2]	3.4	3.5	500	45	50×70
[5]	2.1	2.5	900	85	140×30
[7]	5.1	5.5	500	29	25×15
[26]	2.38	2.426	300	566.7	20×15
Proposed filter	2.8	4	1600	85	15×15

8. Conclusions

In this paper, the design and implementation of a compact cascaded BSFs with a multi-band features, using double and triple identical C-open-loop-resonators has been presented. On the other hand an extracted new multi-band BSFs with separate stopband and sharp transition domains are designed and optimized and fabricated. The both novel multi-band filters consist of consist of several open-loop ring resonators placed vertically overlapping. Employing this technique, very compact filter topologies with design flexibility and excellent results are achieved. The size of the proposed multi-band filter using vertically overlapping method decreases 45% compared to the previous BSF using cascaded C-ring resonators. Furthermore, the filter achieves acceptable and separate multiple frequency bands. In order to show the validity of the approach, used method, the two filters were simulated, optimized and fabricated. The measurements show good consistency with the simulations. The slight discrepancy between both results can be attributed to unexpected tolerance errors in fabrication and manual welding inaccuracies. Such topologies can be easily integrated with RF systems which require a very compact and multi-band filter.

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