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Generalized Symmetrical 3 dB Power Dividers With Complex Termination Impedances

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ABSTRACT The paper introduces a class of two-way, 3 dB narrowband power dividers (combiners), closed on complex termination impedances, that generalizes a number of topologies presented during past years as extensions of the traditional Wilkinson design. Adopting even-odd mode analysis, we demonstrate that, under very broad assumptions, any axially symmetric reactive 3-port can be designed to operate as a 3 dB two-way power divider, by connecting a properly designed isolation impedance across two symmetrically but arbitrarily located additional ports. We show that this isolation element can be evaluated by a single input impedance or admittance CAD simulation or measurement; moreover, an explicit expression is given for the isolation impedance. The theory is shown to lead to the same design as for already presented generalizations of the Wilkinson divider; further validation is provided through both simulated and experimental case studies, and an application of the theory to the design of broadband or multi-band couplers is suggested.

INDEX TERMS Power dividers, Wilkinson, hybrid.

I. INTRODUCTION

Power dividers and combiners are widely adopted in microwave systems, such as power amplifiers. Power dividers provide N -way splitting of the input signal into output ports that are both matched and isolated with each other, granting at the same time input matching. The same features hold for power combiners, where all ports are matched and the N input ports are isolated with each other. The two-way, 3 dB Wilkinson power divider [1] is a classical solution to the necessity to have matched and isolated ports while providing a lossless equal power division on a narrow frequency band. Driven by the requirements of various applications, the conventional Wilkinson design has been generalized to provide arbitrary splitting ratio [2]–[4] and phase relation between the output signals [5]–[7]. Additionally, the drive towards system integration has recently made the design of reduced size dividers increasingly popular [8]–[16]. Several techniques have been proposed to this aim, such as the use of defected ground structures [11] and phase shifted transmission lines [14]. Also, the use of transmission lines shorter than the standard quarter-wavelength length is made possible by generalizing the isolation element

with additional lumped or distributed reactive elements [8], [13], [15], by exploiting reactive loading of the transmission lines [10], [12] or by adopting coupled inductors [16]. At the same time, led by increasingly demanding communication standards, research efforts have also addressed the need of broadband [17]–[21], dual-band [22]–[31] and multi-band power dividers [32]–[34]. To enhance the bandwidth, multi-section topologies [17], [19], lumped element implementations [18] and optimized isolation networks [35] have been successfully exploited. In addition, especially for the application to amplifiers, harmonic suppression capabilities have been introduced in the power divider [36]–[38]. We also remark that the design of two-way power dividers is often restricted to real port impedances, although some papers have addressed the case of arbitrary complex impedances [39]–[41]. Finally, a current research driver on the generalization of the Wilkinson topology, related to its miniaturization, is the need of keeping the two output ports physically well separated, while connecting between them a small-size (lumped or distributed) dissipative element requiring, on the contrary, close proximity of the two output divider arms. This problem has been partially overcome by shifting the dissipative element away from the output ports [42] and by introducing short stubs to connect it to the divider arms [43]. While in [42], [43] the

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overall length of the two arms is still a quarter wavelength, generalizations that allow for shorter arms have also been proposed [8], [9].

The present work generalizes and extends the class of networks that can be adopted as two-way, 3 dB power dividers, matching an arbitrary complex impedance. We demonstrate that, under very broad assumptions (see Section II-C, last paragraph), any lossless 3-port structure with axial symmetry can be exploited to realize a 3 dB narrowband isolating power divider, by connecting a properly designed isolation impedance between two additional ports symmetrically placed in an arbitrary plane orthogonal to the symmetry axis.

We show that the isolation impedance can be directly evaluated, by means of a single simulation or measurement, as the driving point input impedance or admittance between the two aforementioned additional, symmetrically located ports; an explicit expression as a function of the impedance matrix of the resulting 5-port network is also derived.

Concerning input matching, if the structure is chosen arbitrarily, the divider will not be necessarily matched at port 1; however, input matching can be either imposed by design of the 5-port, or obtained by cascading port 1 to a lumped or distributed reactive matching section, without affecting the other properties of the divider, i.e. output matching and isolation.

The proposed theory is a generalization of previous formulations [10]–[16], [18]–[20], [42], [43], whose validity is limited to a specific divider topology, and it enables to exploit arbitrarily complex structures, depending on the targeted application.

The paper is organized as follows. In Section II, the even-odd modal analysis of an axially symmetric structure with an isolation impedance connected between two arbitrarily but symmetrically located ports is exploited to derive the conditions that separately ensure matching and isolation of the divider output ports. It is shown that these conditions can be simultaneously met if the network is reactive and input-matched, and the isolation impedance is the complex conjugate of the driving-point impedance between the two additional ports, measured when the output ports are terminated by their normalization impedances. The analytic expression of the isolation impedance is given. The proposed theory is verified in Section III, where it is applied to the CAD design of an arbitrarily shaped divider structure, and then demonstrated through the design, fabrication and characterization of a more realistic prototype. Its applicability to design broadband or multi-band power dividers is also discussed. Conclusions are finally drawn in Section IV.

II. ANALYSIS

A reactive, axially symmetric 3-port cannot be simultaneously matched at all ports and have isolated output ports, see [44, Sec. 4.2.1]. In the case of the Wilkinson power divider [1], these conditions can be met by inserting a dissipative element, i.e. a resistor, across the output ports. The traditional $\lambda/4$ Wilkinson topology can be generalized by

connecting a dissipative element of impedance Z_c between two extra, symmetrically placed, ports rather than between the output ports [8], [9], [42], [43]. It should be noted that Z_c is the only dissipative element, while the rest of the structure is lossless, which ensures maximum power transfer between the input and output ports, as required in practical applications.

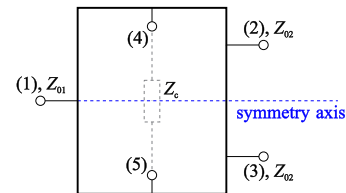


FIGURE 1. Generic axially symmetric 5-port network.

We now demonstrate that any lossless 5-port structure with axial symmetry can be exploited to realize a 3 dB isolating power divider by connecting a dissipative element of impedance Z_c between two symmetrically placed ports. The 5-port under analysis is depicted in Fig. 1. The input is taken at port 1, while ports 2 and 3 are the outputs, which are symmetrical with respect to the highlighted axis. Ports 4 and 5, between which the complex impedance Z_c is connected, are also symmetrical with respect to the same axis. The development of the power divider theory for a 5-port rather than a 3-port gives the designer freedom to place the isolation element in the most convenient position, arbitrarily far away from the output ports. Z_{01} , Z_{02} indicated in Fig. 1 are the termination impedances of the input port and output ports, respectively, and they can be complex in general. We finally remark that the properties derived in the following have general validity, except for some singular or degenerate 5-ports, which are not practically relevant, as mentioned in II-C.

We perform even and odd mode analysis for a generic axially symmetric reactive 5-port, without reference to any specific topology, adopting a Z representation. Let us define first the impedances Z_{EVEN} and Z_{ODD} seen from either of the output ports under even and odd excitation, respectively, as

$$Z_{EVEN} := \frac{V_2^e}{I_2^e} \tag{1}$$

$$Z_{ODD} := \frac{V_2^o}{I_2^o} \tag{2}$$

see Fig. 2(b)–(c). It should be noted that Z_{EVEN} does not depend on the isolation element Z_c , which is not excited, whereas it is affected by the input matching. Conversely, Z_{ODD} is insensitive to input matching, because port 1 is virtually grounded under odd excitation, but does depend on Z_c . It follows that the conditions for matching and isolation of the output ports can be derived separately. No other assumption apart from the axial symmetry of the lossless network is made. The circuit to be analyzed is that of Fig. 2(a).

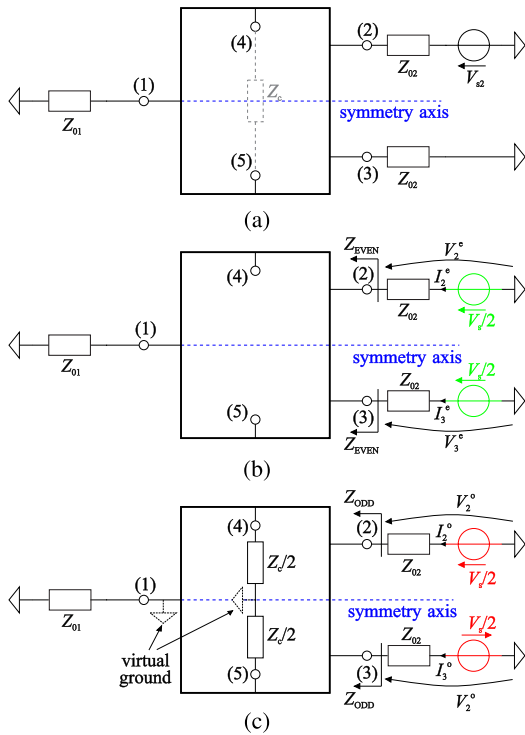


FIGURE 2. Generic axially symmetric 5-port excited at port 2 (a) and corresponding even- (b) and odd-mode (c) equivalent circuits.

A. OUTPUT MATCHING

Due to symmetry, it is sufficient to impose matching at one of the output ports, e.g. port 2. Connecting a voltage source V_{s2} to port 2 and decomposing the excitation into even and odd mode excitations at ports 2 and 3, the matching condition at port 2

$$Z_2 = \frac{V_2}{I_2} = Z_{02}^* \tag{3}$$

can be expanded by superposition as

$$Z_2 = \frac{V_2}{I_2} = \frac{V_2^e + V_2^o}{I_2^e + I_2^o} = \frac{V_{s2}}{I_2^e + I_2^o} - Z_{02} = Z_{02}^* \tag{4}$$

Expressing the even and odd mode impedances defined in (1), (2) in terms of the source voltage

$$Z_{EVEN} = \frac{V_{s2}/2}{I_2^e} - Z_{02} \tag{5}$$

$$Z_{ODD} = \frac{V_{s2}/2}{I_2^o} - Z_{02} \tag{6}$$

and substituting in (4), one obtains:

$$Z_{EVEN}Z_{ODD} + j\Im\{Z_{02}\}(Z_{EVEN} + Z_{ODD}) = |Z_{02}|^2 \tag{7}$$

This output matching condition is here expressed for the first time, as far as our knowledge goes, for a generic 5-port. Equation (7) reduces to $Z_{EVEN}Z_{ODD} = R_{02}^2$ when $Z_{02} = R_{02}$ is real.

B. OUTPUT ISOLATION

The output ports are isolated if $V_3 = 0$ when port 2 is excited ($V_{s2} \neq 0$). By superposition of even and odd excitations we obtain

$$V_3 = V_3^e + V_3^o = Z_{EVEN}I_3^e + Z_{ODD}I_3^o = \frac{V_{s2}}{2}Z_{02} \frac{Z_{EVEN} - Z_{ODD}}{(Z_{EVEN} + Z_{02})(Z_{ODD} + Z_{02})} \tag{8}$$

Since the denominator in (8) is never zero (for passive networks) and the excitation V_{s2} is non-null, condition

$$Z_{EVEN} = Z_{ODD} \tag{9}$$

must hold to have $V_3 = 0$, i.e. the required output ports isolation.

C. ACHIEVING SIMULTANEOUS OUTPUT MATCHING AND ISOLATION

Imposing that conditions (7) and (9) be verified simultaneously leads to a second order equation in Z_{EVEN} (or, equivalently, Z_{ODD}) whose solutions are

$$Z_{EVEN1,2} = \begin{cases} Z_{02}^* & (\text{physical, } \Re\{Z_{EVEN1,2}\} > 0) \\ -Z_{02} & (\text{unphysical, } \Re\{Z_{EVEN1,2}\} < 0) \end{cases} \tag{10}$$

Only

$$Z_{EVEN} = Z_{02}^* \tag{11}$$

is an acceptable solution, since $\Re\{Z_{02}\} > 0$ by assumption. Taking into account (11) and (9) we finally obtain:

$$Z_{EVEN} = Z_{ODD} = Z_{02}^* \tag{12}$$

It follows from (12) that output matching and decoupling, together with complete power transfer (through conjugate matching) between the input and output ports can be readily obtained only if the reactive 5-port is input-matched. In fact, let us consider the circuit of Fig. 3, with excitation at port 1, and ports 2 and 3 terminated on Z_{02} . Since Z_c it is not excited (and has been therefore replaced by an open) the 3-port connecting port 1 with 2 and 3 is reactive. If port 1 is matched, the power delivered to ports 2 and 3 is, by symmetry, half of the available power at port 1, with no reflections; thus, also port 2 and 3 are matched under even excitation when they are closed on Z_{02} , leading to (11). The above mentioned conditions are summarized in Table 1.

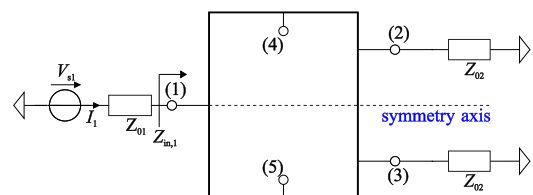


FIGURE 3. Generic axially symmetric 5-port network excited at port 1.

Moreover, equation (12) also immediately yields the value of the isolation impedance Z_c . In fact, assume to apply

TABLE 1. Summary of the design equations.

Equation	Equation No.	Imposed Condition
$Z_{EVEN}Z_{ODD} + j \text{Im}\{Z_{02}\}(Z_{EVEN} + Z_{ODD}) = Z_{02} ^2$	(7)	Output matching only
$Z_{EVEN} = Z_{ODD}$	(9)	Output isolation only
$Z_{EVEN} = Z_{ODD} = Z_{02}^*$	(12)	Conjugate matching at all ports, output isolation

a differential excitation between nodes 4 and 5 when the ports 2 and 3 are closed on their reference impedance Z_{02} , and take into account that port 1 is connected to a virtual short due to the odd-mode nature of the excitation. Define Z_{45}^{o*} as the differential impedance seen between ports 4 and 5 under such excitation. Consider the differential (odd-mode) reactive two-port whose input and output ports are between nodes 4-5 and 2-3, respectively. If one assumes that it is output matched, i.e. that $Z_{ODD} = Z_{02}^*$ holds when Z_c is connected across ports 4 and 5, then conjugate matching at the differential port 4-5 must be verified, which implies that the impedance Z_c to be connected across the differential port 4-5 has value

$$Z_c = Z_{45}^{o*}. \tag{13}$$

To the best of our knowledge, this formalization and generalization of the design principle for 3 dB isolating power dividers had never been derived before.

We finally mention two additional, less practically important, restrictions on the reactive 5-port. Firstly, condition (11) can be realized only if Z_{EVEN} has nonzero real part; secondly, condition (13) implies that if Z_{45}^{o*} has zero real part, also Z_c is reactive, in contrast with the already mentioned requirement according to which the divider must be dissipative (thanks to the insertion of the isolation impedance) to allow for the isolation of the output ports [44, Sec. 4.2.1]. Thus, both Z_{EVEN} and Z_{45}^{o*} should have nonzero real part. In practice, reactive 5-ports violating either condition are singular (i.e. do not admit a series or parallel representation, or both) or degenerate (e.g. have internally disconnected ports).

D. EXPRESSING THE ISOLATION ELEMENT

Representing the 5-port by its Z-matrix, one derives the impedance of the isolation element as

$$Z_c = 2 \left[Z_{45} - Z_{44} + \frac{(Z_{24} - Z_{25})^2}{Z_{22} - Z_{23} - Z_{02}^*} \right]. \tag{14}$$

The complex impedance can be realized by RC or RL networks, depending on the sign of the reactance, either in series or in parallel. The choice may be driven by bandwidth considerations as well as the feasibility of the component values, depending on the specific case. Assuming an impedance representation with negative reactance, i.e. capacitive reactive elements, the conversion formulas for a series (R_{ser}, C_{ser}) and a parallel (R_{par}, C_{par}) network are, respectively,

$$\begin{cases} R_{ser} = \Re\{Z_c\} \\ C_{ser} = -1/(\omega_0 \Im\{Z_c\}) \end{cases} \tag{15}$$

$$\begin{cases} R_{par} = 1/\Re\{1/Z_c\} \\ C_{par} = \Im\{1/Z_c\}/\omega_0, \end{cases} \tag{16}$$

where $\omega_0 = 2\pi f_0$. Similar formulae can be found for R and L in case of a positive reactance.

III. VALIDATION OF THE THEORY

A. APPLICATION TO EXISTING DESIGNS

As a first example, the present theory is applied to some structures taken from the literature, which are all particular cases of the proposed approach. The power dividers proposed in [8], [42], [43] are implemented in a CAD environment, where the impedance Z_{45}^o defined in Sec. II is computed and $Z_c = (Z_{45}^o)^*$ is derived hence. In all cases, the method proposed in this paper leads to the same result obtained using the specific formulations from the original works, as summarized in Table 2. Concerning the case in [42], the original paper reports two distinct solutions for the impedance of the isolation element. However, we have shown that the solution should be unique, since it results from imposing a conjugate matching condition. In fact, one of the two solutions in [42] does not allow for exact matching and isolation of the output ports at centerband (see Fig. 3 and 4 in [42]). The solution that we report in Table 2 for comparison is the only one ensuring exact matching and isolation of the output ports.

B. APPLICATION TO AN ARBITRARILY SHAPED 5-PORT LAYOUT

As a second, simulated case study, we demonstrate the generality of the present approach by applying the theory to an arbitrarily shaped, axially symmetric structure of size $(5.5 \times 3) \text{ cm}^2$, whose layout is shown in Fig. 4(a). Although the selected structure has no equivalent circuit representation, our theory ensures that the problem of finding the isolation impedance has a solution and provides a closed-form expression. The bizarre crocodile-shaped layout has been purposely selected not to target any specific application, but rather to stress the generality of the method. It has been analyzed through electromagnetic simulations adopting ADS Momentum assuming a microstrip FR-4 substrate of 0.8 mm thickness and 4.7 relative dielectric constant; metal and dielectric losses are also considered. The design of the power divider is carried out at the center frequency of 3.5 GHz, assuming a 50Ω reference impedance for all ports. The size and shape of the structure are fixed and such that the circuit is not input matched by design; therefore a stub-line input matching network is added at port 1, as shown in Fig. 4(a). The Z_c impedance value is evaluated from Z_{45}^o by means of a single

TABLE 2. Application of the proposed method to other works in the literature and comparison of the results.

Reference	Design frequency (GHz)	Configuration	This work			Original work			
			Computed			Computed		Used	
			Z_c (Ω)	R (Ω)	C (pF)	R (Ω)	C (pF)	R (Ω)	C (pF)
[43]	1	series	65.99 - j 108.13	65.99	1.47	65.98	1.47	68	1.5
		parallel		243.16	1.07	243.20	1.07	240	1.1
[8]	60	resistor only ^a	50.01 + j 0.01	50.01	-	50	-	50	-
[42]	30	series, $\theta = 65^\circ$	82.14 - j 54.17	82.14	0.098	82.20	0.098	-	-

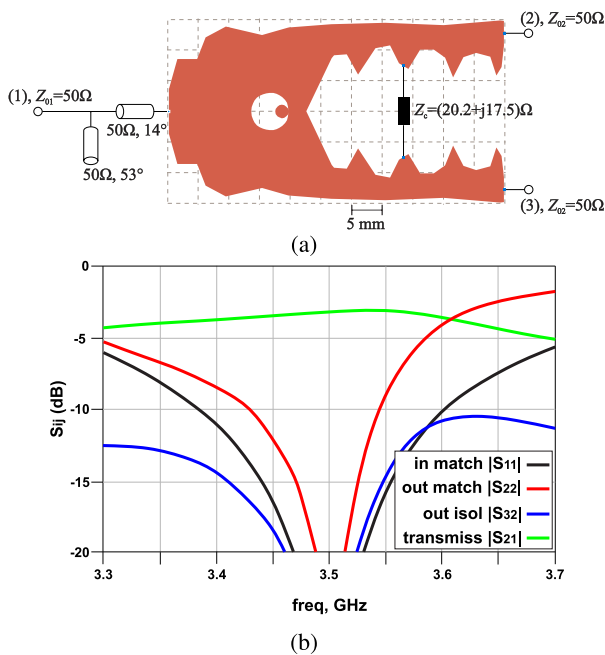


FIGURE 4. Simulation setup for the crocodile-shaped power divider (a). Resulting matching, isolation and transmission (b).

simulation at centerband and results in $(20.2 + j17.5)\Omega$. The simulated scattering parameters of the power divider are shown in Fig. 4(b). They demonstrate that an arbitrarily shaped symmetric structure can be used to realize a 3 dB isolated power divider that is simultaneously matched at all ports. Notice the very good matching and isolation at centerband, obtained despite the presence of losses.

C. DESIGN, FABRICATION AND CHARACTERISATION OF A TRANSMISSION-LINE BASED DIVIDER

The proposed approach is now applied to a transmission-line based divider, whose equivalent circuit, layout and photograph are shown in Fig. 5. The topology is inspired by the conventional Wilkinson design, generalized by removing the constraint on the total length of the arms and embedding a bias network into the combiner itself. This is done by adding in the combiner a series dc blocking capacitor C_{dec} , extra stubs and shunt capacitors C_1 , C_2 and C_3 . A possible application is in

single-input power amplifiers with two “parallel” branches, such as combined or Doherty amplifiers, which are often based on a Wilkinson configuration; the additional elements are introduced to embed the gate bias networks of the active devices connected at the divider outputs. The divider is designed on 50Ω at the center frequency of 3.5 GHz and the circuit is fabricated on the same FR-4 substrate considered in Section III-B. The access lines connected to each port have $Z_{\infty 1} = Z_{\infty 6} = 50\Omega$ and their length is selected to ensure a sufficient distance of the input connector from the circuit ($\theta_1 = 90^\circ$) and required physical separation between the output connectors ($\theta_6 = 118^\circ$). The value of the dc blocking capacitor $C_{dec} = 47\text{ nF}$ is large enough not to affect the in-band matching, while the shunt capacitors that terminate the stubs are such as to realize a short circuit termination in band ($C_1 = 15\text{ pF}$) and at progressively lower frequencies ($C_2 = 220\text{ pF}$ and $C_3 = 1\text{ nF}$), thus ensuring for the out-of-band behavior of the bias networks, considering the capacitor parasitics. The parameters related to the divider arms ($Z_{\infty 2}$, $Z_{\infty 3}$, θ_2 , θ_3) and stubs ($Z_{\infty 4}$, $Z_{\infty 5}$, θ_4 , θ_5) are optimised to ensure input matching (S_{11} lower than -15 dB) on 50Ω over a 1 GHz bandwidth around the design frequency. The resulting values are $Z_{\infty 2} = 66\Omega$, $Z_{\infty 3} = 79\Omega$, $\theta_2 = 48^\circ$, $\theta_3 = 33^\circ$, $Z_{\infty 4} = 90\Omega$, $Z_{\infty 5} = 88\Omega$, $\theta_4 = 82^\circ$, $\theta_5 = 14^\circ$. The presence of the stubs loading the dividers arms allows to shorten them below 90° . Note that a simpler structure with similar properties (although less flexibility to achieve the desired bandwidth) could have been obtained by imposing $Z_{\infty 2} = Z_{\infty 3}$ and $Z_{\infty 4} = Z_{\infty 5}$. This choice has purposely not been done here because no analytical solution of the equivalent circuit (such as the one performed in [13], [43]) is required, thus allowing to handle a larger number of design parameters with equal ease. Note that, in this initial process, the additional ports 4 and 5 are left open (i.e. not terminated on any impedance). The two additional ports are then considered, and the isolation impedance is evaluated at centerband through simulation. A final optimization is performed to widen the coupler bandwidth, thus obtaining a 10% bandwidth where the port return loss and isolation are better than -20 dB . The resulting divider, shown in Fig. 5(c), has size $4.0 \times 3.0\text{ cm}^2$.

The design value at centerband of the isolation impedance $Z_c = (Z_{45}^0)^* = (105.01 - j52.97)\Omega$ is implemented by means of a series RC network, see (15). The ideal values have

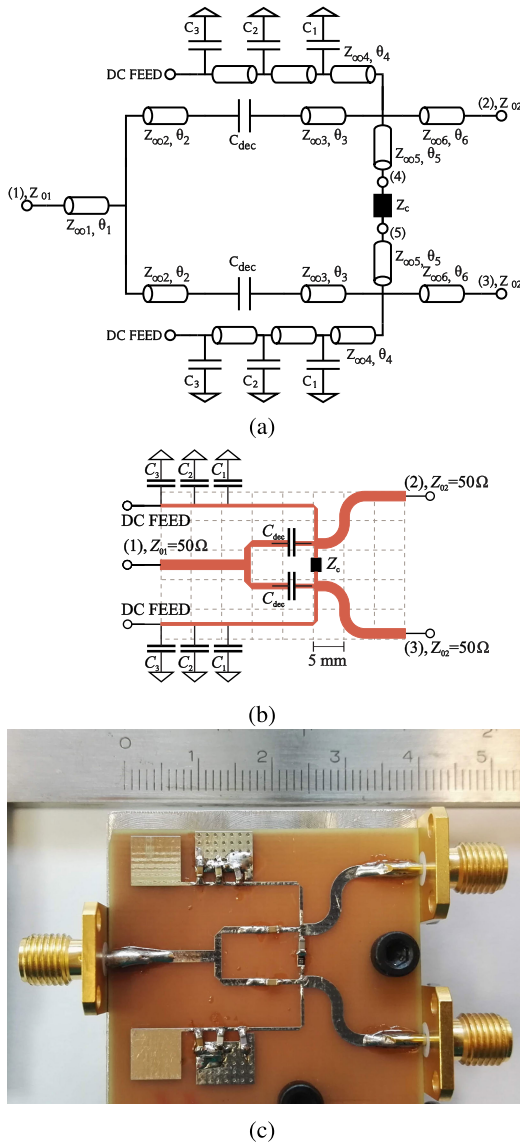


FIGURE 5. Equivalent circuit (a), layout (b) and photograph (c) of the realised demonstrator.

been approximated using SMD components with nominal value $R_{ser} = 105 \Omega$ and $C_{ser} = 1.1$ pF.

The experimental characterization is carried out with an Agilent E8361A PNA, calibrated with a 2-port SOLT procedure. The simulated and measured scattering parameters are compared in Fig. 6, before and after the insertion of the isolation impedance. It can be noted that the power divider is input-matched regardless of the presence of Z_c , as expected. On the contrary, the output ports are neither matched nor decoupled when Z_c is not present (Fig. 6(a)) and they become so when Z_c is inserted (Fig. 6(b)). The $|S_{32}|$ minimum exhibits a slight shift (around 50 MHz) with respect to the design frequency, that is anyway correctly predicted by EM simulations. This shift is probably due to the asymmetry introduced by the physical realization of Z_c . Realizing the desired C_{ser} by means of two $2 C_{ser}$ in series placed on either side of R_{ser} , may

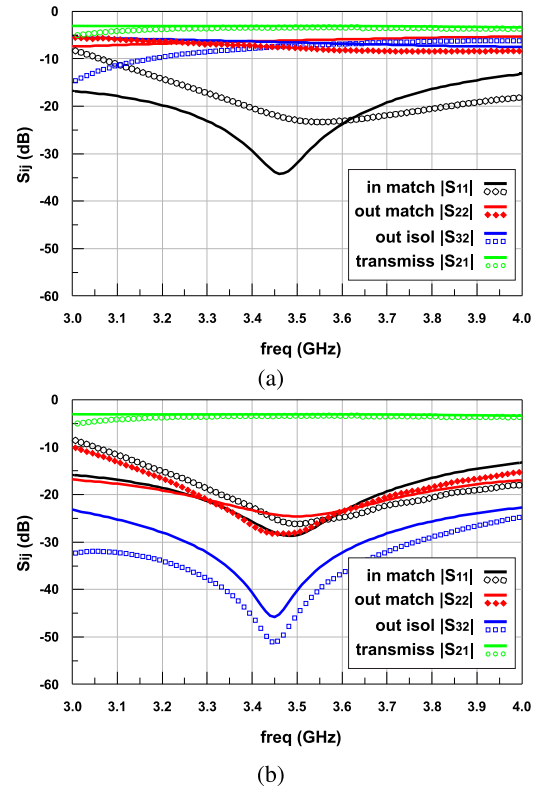


FIGURE 6. Comparison of simulated (solid) and measured (symbols) scattering parameters of the prototype, without (a) and with (b) Z_c .

improve the layout symmetry, thus minimizing this effect. However, the proposed prototype fully validates the theory and achieves matching and isolation better than -20 dB on a bandwidth in excess of 10% around the design frequency.

D. OUTPUT MATCHING TO A COMPLEX IMPEDANCE

As a further demonstration of the validity of the theory, we exploit the prototype design in Section III-C for matching a complex impedance $Z_{O2} \neq 50 \Omega$ that represents the input impedance of two identical active devices fed by the power divider. Consequently, when referring to the scattering parameters, Kurokawa’s definition [45] is assumed. In this case study, we adopt a commercial device, the Cree CGH40006P packaged GaN HEMT. When biased at 28 V drain voltage and 90 mA drain current, and terminated on their power termination, close to 50Ω , this devices exhibit an input impedance at 3.5 GHz estimated to be $Z_G \approx (5 + j12) \Omega$; this is the complex value now assigned to Z_{O2} for the divider design. To design an isolated and matched 3 dB power divider adopting the same 5-port configuration of Section III-C, it is sufficient to estimate the input impedance $Z_{in,1}$ and the differential impedance Z_{45}^0 across ports 4 and 5. These two operations can be carried out in any order, as one does not affect the other. The simulated values are $Z_{in,1} = (19.4 - j78.9) \Omega$ and $Z_{45}^0 = (33.5 - j113.3) \Omega$. Designing an input matching network to transform the input system impedance (50Ω) into $Z_{in,1}^*$ and synthesizing an isolation impedance

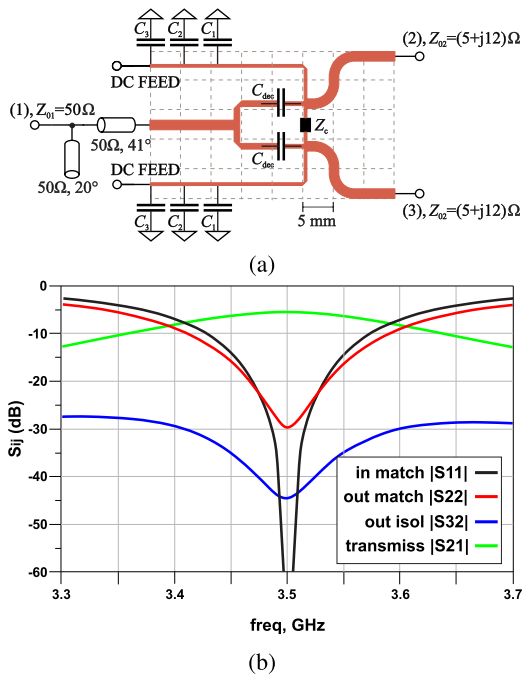


FIGURE 7. Simulation setup for the demonstrator of Section III-C with different port impedance Z_{02} (a). Resulting simulated matching (S_{11} , S_{22}), isolation (S_{32}) and transmission (S_{21}) (b).

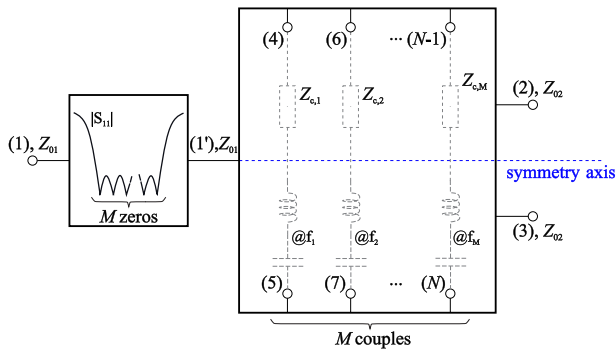


FIGURE 8. Generic axially symmetric N -port network with M couples of additional ports and matched at the input port at M frequencies.

of value $Z_c = (33.5 + j113.3) \Omega$ to be inserted across ports 4 and 5, automatically ensures that the output ports will be matched and isolated when connected to the input ports of the selected FET. This has been successfully verified in simulation. The resulting circuit is shown in Fig. 7(a) and the corresponding simulated scattering parameters (using as normalization impedances $Z_{01} = 50 \Omega$ and $Z_{02} = Z_G$) are presented in Fig. 7(b). Notice that the simulated input matching is ideal, due to the external input matching section, while the simulated output matching and isolation, though very good at centerband, are affected by the circuit losses.

E. EXTENSION TO MULTI-BAND STRUCTURES

Finally, we mention the possibility to extend the proposed theory to the case of multi-band dividers. Referring to Fig. 8, where a generic axially symmetric N -port is considered, it is

possible to realize a M -band power divider by considering M couples of additional ports (4-5, 6-7, ..., $(N - 1)$ - N), where $N = 3 + 2M$, and connecting across each a distinct isolation element $Z_{c,m}$ in series to an ideal series resonator at f_m , which decouples it at all other frequencies, thus making the design of each $Z_{c,m}$ independent of all others. For the theory to be applicable, input matching must also be ensured at each frequency. This can be done by a matching section (e.g. Chebyshev or Butterworth, not necessarily symmetric) of appropriate order, having M zeros at the desired frequencies.

IV. CONCLUSION

We have demonstrated that an arbitrary (non-singular and non-degenerate) axially symmetric reactive structure can be designed to operate as a 3 dB two-way narrowband power divider, thus extending the possible divider topologies beyond the traditional Wilkinson or its generalizations. Matching and isolation of the output ports are achieved by connecting a proper isolation impedance Z_c between two symmetrically but arbitrarily located additional ports, provided that input matching is also imposed either by design of the reactive structure or by cascading a matching section to its input port. The proposed theory provides a design approach for the isolation impedance with no constraints on the specific topology adopted. A closed-form expression is given for Z_c in terms of the 5-port parameters; moreover, Z_c can be also obtained directly by means of a single input impedance simulation or measurement. The theory is validated by applying it to a few case studies, including some of the structures that have been previously presented in the literature, the CAD design through electromagnetic simulation of a divider having arbitrarily shaped symmetric layout, and a more realistic transmission-line divider design on 50Ω terminations including the bias networks of the transistors to be connected to the output ports. The divider is realized in hybrid microstrip form; the measured scattering parameters resulting from its characterization confirm the correctness of the approach. As a last example, the same divider was re-designed (with a different isolation impedance and an additional input matching section) on a complex output termination simulating the input impedance of a power transistor; the simulated divider scattering parameters show that the approach is also effective in dealing with complex terminations. Finally, an extension of the theory to the design of broadband or multi-band power dividers is suggested.

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