

# Substrate Integrated Waveguide Filtering Slot Antenna for Ka-Band Satellite Communications

Yuanzhi Liu and Mustapha C.E. Yagoub  
School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science  
University of Ottawa  
161, Louis Pasteur, Ottawa, Ontario, K1N6N5  
Canada

**Abstract:** - This paper proposes a substrate integrated waveguide (SIW) filtering slot antenna. Based on four SIW cavity resonators and a slot locating on the last resonator, a filtering antenna was designed, targeting the near 20 GHz satellite communication band. Simulated in the Ansys-HFSS commercial software, it exhibits a -10 dB impedance bandwidth of 1.5 GHz and a flat gain of 5.5 dBi in the operating frequency band. Besides, the filtering antenna has good selectivity at passband edges and features such as compact size, low profile, and low cost, making it suitable for Ka-band satellite ground terminals.

**Key-Words:** - Substrate integrated waveguide, filtering antenna, slot antenna, cavity resonator.

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## 1 Introduction

Due to the rapid development of wireless communications, multifunctional device design has been recognized as a key technology to miniaturize the overall circuit size while improving its performance [1], [2].

Antennas and filters are two different and independent devices in communication systems. A bandpass filter is usually cascaded right after an antenna in RF frond-end systems [3]-[5]. However, these two devices are normally designed separately and then connected. In this case, the overall performance of the system might be degraded in the frequency band(s) of interest since they may not perfectly match.

A filtering antenna, which plays the double role of antenna and bandpass filter in communication systems, was proposed to handle this issue. Besides, such a multifunctional device can miniaturize the system size to some extent. Due to their advantages, plenty of filtering antennas, especially microstrip-based ones [5]-[7], have been presented in recent years. However, even though microstrip topology has various good features, e.g., low cost, ease of fabrication, etc. [9], [10], its considerable loss in high frequencies [16], such as at Ka-band, might significantly degrade the expected device performance. Therefore, microstrip topology is not a very suitable candidate for designing Ka-band filtering antennas.

In this paper, a filtering slot antenna using SIW cavity resonators is proposed. SIW is a widely used technique to design microwave and millimeter-wave (mm-wave) devices and circuits due to their attractive features such as low loss, easy of integration and fabrication, etc. [12]-[15]. More importantly, unlike microstrip lines, SIWs almost do not radiate undesired power in high frequencies [17], which is desired in antenna design.

Simulated in the *Ansys-HFSS* commercial software [18], the proposed filtering antenna presents a passband of 19.7-21.2 GHz with  $|S_{11}| < -10$  dB, a flat gain of 5.5 dBi, and a high efficiency of higher than 85 %. Furthermore, the filtering antenna has high selectivity at passband edges and some other good features such as compact size, low profile, low cost, and ease of fabrication. These good features demonstrate that the proposed filtering antenna is a good candidate for Ka-band satellite ground terminals.

This paper is organized as follows. Section II presents the configuration of the proposed filtering antenna. Then, the performance including  $|S_{11}|$ , radiation patterns, etc., are presented in Section III. The good features of the proposed design are also highlighted in this section. Finally, the conclusions are drawn in Section IV.

## 2 Configuration of the Proposed Filtering Antenna

The design starts with typical SIW cavity resonators,

which has been widely used to design bandpass filters [19]. Fig. 1 shows the configuration of the proposed filtering antenna; printed on the Rogers RT/duriod 6002 laminate (dielectric constant  $\epsilon_r = 2.94$  and loss tangent  $\tan \delta = 0.0012$ ) with a thickness of 0.508 mm, the device has a compact size of  $15 \times 26 \text{ mm}^2$ .

The filtering antenna is constructed with four SIW resonators, which provides filtering characteristics, and a 50  $\Omega$  microstrip line. A slot is located on the last resonator, allowing electromagnetic wave to be radiated, thus making the device working as a radiator/antenna. Furthermore, such a configuration can be directly used as an element to design filtering antenna arrays, which can provide more directed beam, i.e., high gain.

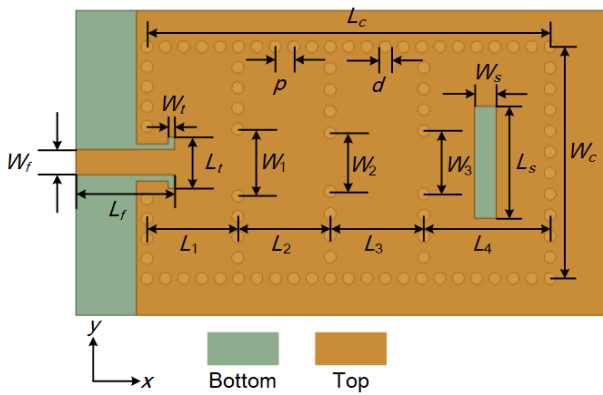


Fig. 1. Configuration of the proposed filtering antenna.

TABLE I. OPTIMIZED PARAMETERS OF THE FILTERING ANTENNA

Parameter	Value (mm)	Parameter	Value (mm)
$W_f$	1.2300	$L_f$	4.8391
$W_c$	11.3876	$L_c$	19.7558
$W_t$	0.3000	$L_t$	2.5256
$L_1$	4.4494	$L_2$	4.5213
$L_3$	4.6000	$L_4$	6.1851
$W_s$	1.0396	$L_s$	5.5301
$p$	0.8980	$d$	0.5836
$W_1$	3.2784	$W_2$	2.8800
$W_3$	3.1092		

### 3 Performance of the Filtering Antenna

Fig. 2 shows the simulated return loss and realized gain of the filtering antenna, which illustrates its filter-like frequency response. The passband of the filtering antenna is 19.7-21.2 GHz with  $|S_{11}| < -10$  dB and a flat gain of 5.5 dBi. The device also exhibits good selectivity according to the obtained responses.

With the simulated gain and directivity, the efficiency of the filtering antenna was deduced. As

shown in Fig. 3, the filtering antenna has an efficiency higher than 85% in the operating frequency band, mainly due to the low loss feature of the SIW cavity resonators. Out of the operating frequency band, however, the efficiency is remarkably low (lower than 10%), which also demonstrates the filter-like performance of the antenna.

Figs. 4 and 5 show the normalized radiation of the filtering antenna at 20 GHz. The filtering antenna has typical directional radiation characteristics with half power beam width (HPBW) of  $90.8^\circ$  and  $79.0^\circ$  at the  $xoz$  and  $yoZ$  plane, respectively. Besides, the filtering antenna presents low cross polarization levels at the two planes.

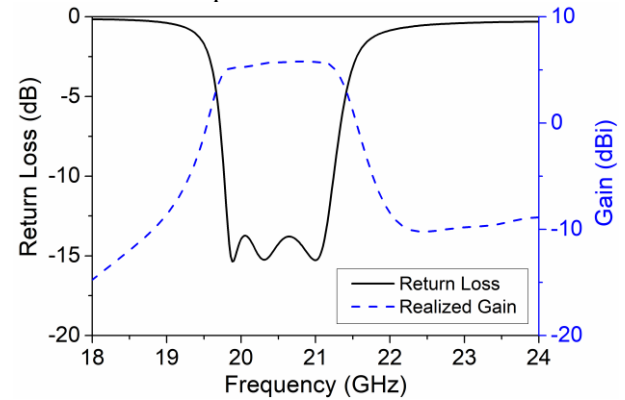


Fig. 2. Simulated return loss and gain of the filtering antenna.

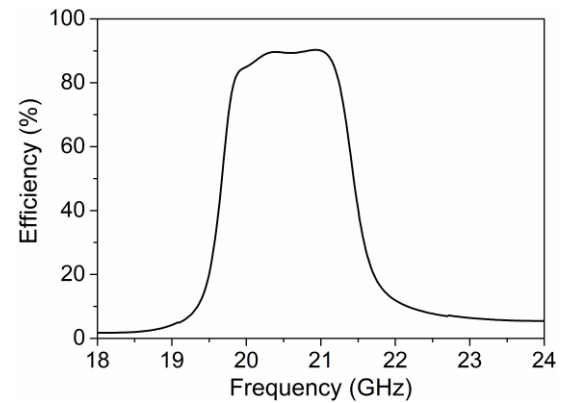


Fig. 3. Simulated efficiency of the filtering antenna.

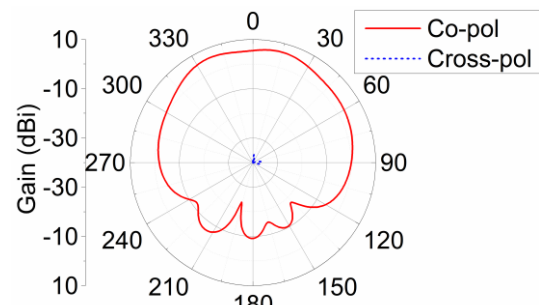


Fig. 4. Simulated radiation pattern of the filtering antenna at  $xoz$  plane.

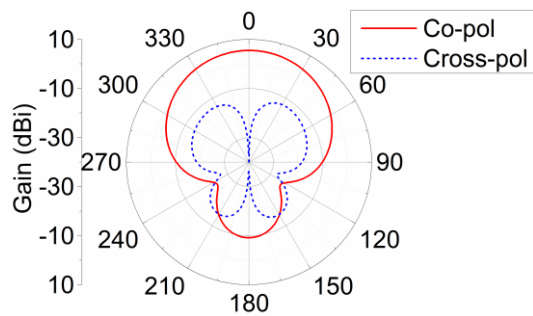


Fig. 5. Simulated radiation pattern of the filtering antenna at  $yoz$  plane.

#### 4 Conclusion

In this paper, an efficient filtering antenna is proposed. Designed for Ka-band communication systems and based on four SIW cavity resonators and waveguide slot configuration, the designed device demonstrates not only filter-like frequency response both for return loss and gain, but also typical directional radiation patterns at the operating frequency band. The high selectivity achieved as well as key features such as compactness, low profile, low cost, and ease of fabrication make the proposed filtering antenna a good candidate for Ka-band satellite ground terminals. Furthermore, the proposed antenna can be directly used as an element to design large filtering antenna arrays.

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## **Contribution of individual authors to the creation of a scientific article (ghostwriting policy)**

**Author Contributions: Please, indicate the role and the contribution of each author:**

Example

Yuanzhi Liu carried out the simulation and the optimization.

Mustapha C.E. supervises this project.

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