

# DESIGN OF PLANAR MICROWAVE SENSOR RESONATOR FOR MATERIAL CHARACTERIZATION

LIM QI JEFF

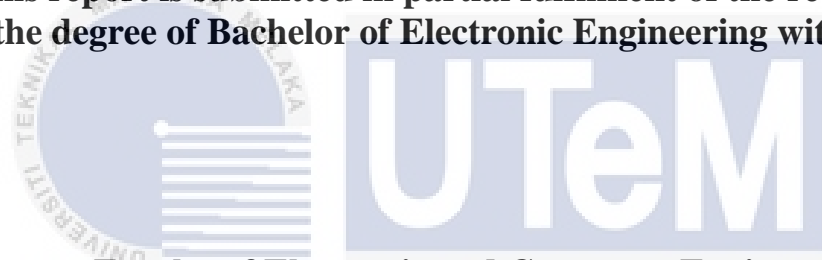


**UNIVERSITI TEKNIKAL MALAYSIA MELAKA**

**DESIGN OF PLANAR MICROWAVE SENSOR RESONATOR  
FOR MATERIAL CHARACTERIZATION**

**LIM QI JEFF**

**This report is submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements  
for the degree of Bachelor of Electronic Engineering with Honours**



**Faculty of Electronic and Computer Engineering  
Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka**

UNIVERSITI TEKNIKAL MALAYSIA MELAKA

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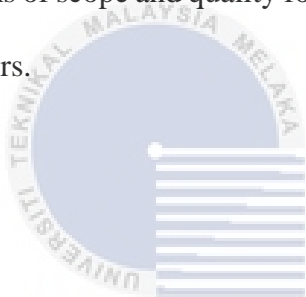
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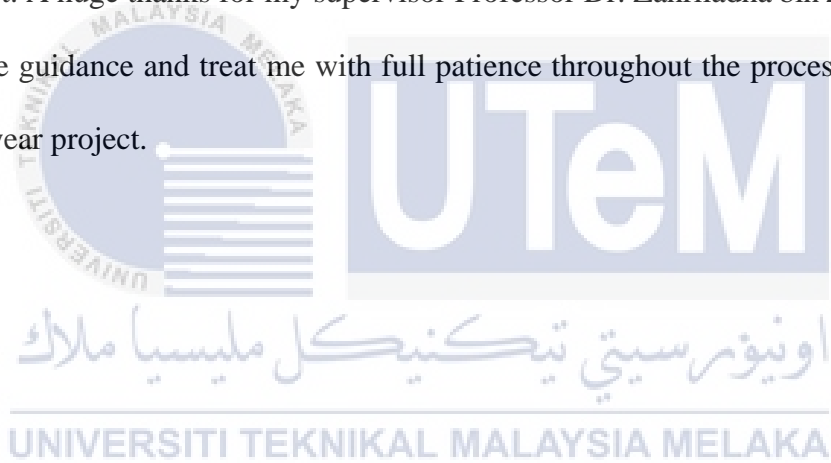
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## DEDICATION

Specially dedicated to my beloved family and friends for supporting me to finish this project. A huge thanks for my supervisor Professor Dr. Zahriladha bin Zakaria giving me the guidance and treat me with full patience throughout the process to finish my final year project.



## ABSTRACT

Nowadays, microwave sensor are gaining popularity in applications of food industry, agriculture and biomedical. Among the potential techniques, microwave resonant technique has been commonly applied in dielectric material characterization measurement. Conventionally, non-planar sensors such as waveguide, dielectric and coaxial resonators which provide high sensitivity and accuracy are being used in the measurement. However, the sensors have drawbacks including bulky in size, high cost manufacturing and consume high volume for detection of the previous sample of material under test (MUT). Hence, planar microwave resonator sensors which are compact in size, low cost and ease of fabrication are invented. However, the planar sensors suffer with low sensitivity and Q-factor value which limits the range for material characterization. As a result, this project designs a planar microwave sensor resonator with the operating frequency between 2GHz and 5GHz via computer simulation technology (CST) software and overcome the weakness of the sensor. The design of the structure resonator based on the mathematical equation and optimization of the parameter value.

## ABSTRAK

Kini, penderia gelombang mikro semakin popular dalam aplikasi industri makanan, pertanian dan bioperubatan. Antara teknik yang berpotensi, teknik resonan gelombang mikro telah biasa digunakan dalam pengukuran pencirian bahan dielektrik. Secara konvensional, penderia bukan satah seperti pandu gelombang, resonator dielektrik dan sepaksi yang memberikan kepekaan dan ketepatan tinggi sedang digunakan dalam pengukuran. Walau bagaimanapun, penderia mempunyai kelemahan termasuk saiz besar, pembuatan kos tinggi dan menggunakan volum tinggi untuk pengesanan sampel bahan dalam ujian (MUT) sebelumnya. Oleh itu, penderia resonator gelombang mikro planar yang bersaiz padat, kos rendah dan kemudahan fabrikasi dicipta. Walau bagaimanapun, penderia planar mengalami kepekaan rendah dan nilai faktor  $Q$  yang mengesahkan julat untuk pencirian bahan. Hasilnya, projek ini mereka bentuk resonator penderia gelombang mikro satah dengan frekuensi operasi antara 2GHz dan 5GHz melalui perisian teknologi simulasi komputer (CST) dan mengatasi kelemahan penderia tersebut. Reka bentuk resonator struktur berdasarkan persamaan matematik dan pengoptimuman nilai parameter.



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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Declaration</b>	
<b>Approval</b>	
<b>Dedication</b>	
<b>Abstract</b>	<b>i</b>
<b>Abstrak</b>	<b>ii</b>
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>Table of Contents</b>	<b>iv</b>
<b>List of Figures</b>	<b>viii</b>
<b>List of Tables</b>	<b>xi</b>
<b>List of Symbols and Abbreviations</b>	<b>xiii</b>
<b>List of Appendices</b>	<b>xv</b>
<b>CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Project Background	1
1.2 Problem Statement	2
1.3 Objectives	3
1.4 Scope of Work	3

1.5	Thesis Outline	4
<b>CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW</b>		<b>5</b>
2.1	Background Study	5
2.2	Theory	7
2.2.1	Microwave Theory and Techniques for Material Characterization	7
2.2.1.1	Non Resonant Methods	8
2.2.1.2	Resonant Methods	9
2.2.2	Fundamental Concepts for Material Characterization	13
2.2.2.1	Resonant Perturbation Theory	13
2.2.2.2	Dielectric Properties	15
2.2.2.3	Dielectric Measuring Technique	16
2.3	Previous Research	22
2.3.1	Bridge multiple split ring resonator (BMSSR)[5]	22
2.3.2	Differential Microwave Resonator Sensor[7]	25
2.3.3	Symmetrical split ring resonator (SSRR)[8]	29
2.3.4	A Modified Microstrip Ring Resonator Sensor with Lumped Element Modeling[6]	35
2.3.5	Dual-mode Split Ring Resonator[3]	38
2.3.6	Comparison of Previous Research	41
<b>CHAPTER 3 METHODOLOGY</b>		<b>44</b>
3.1	Introduction	44

3.2	Flowchart	45
3.3	Microwave Sensor Resonator Design	47
3.4	Mathematical Analysis	48
3.4.1	Microwave resonator patch calculation	48
3.4.2	Transmission line calculation	49
3.4.3	Q-Factor	50
3.4.4	Coupling Gap	51
3.5	Simulation Process	52
3.5.1	Computer Simulation Technology (CST) software	53
3.5.2	CorelDRAW software	53
3.6	Material Specification	54
3.6.1	Rogers RT/duroid 5880	54
3.6.2	SMA-Connector	55
3.7	Fabrication Process	56
3.8	Measurement Process	57
3.9	Vector Network Analyzer (VNA)	58
<b>CHAPTER 4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION</b>		<b>60</b>
4.1	Results of Microwave Resonator Sensor	60
4.1.1	Resonant frequency analysis	61
4.1.1.1	Simulation result and measurement results without Material Under Test (MUT)	61

4.1.1.2 Simulation and measurement results with Material Under Test (MUT)	61
4.1.2 Q-Factor Analysis	64
4.1.3 Dielectric and tangent loss analysis	64
4.2 Comparison with Commercialized and Existing Sensor	66
<b>CHAPTER 5 CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORKS</b>	<b>69</b>
5.1 Conclusion	69
5.2 Suggestion for Future Work	71
<b>REFERENCES</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>APPENDIX A</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>APPENDIX B</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>APPENDIX C</b>	<b>82</b>



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## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 2. 1: Non-resonant method boundaries condition.	8
Figure 2. 2: A sandwiched cylindrical dielectric sample between two plates.	10
Figure 2. 3: Configuration of surface resistance.	11
Figure 2. 4: Specimen placed at center of resonant cavity.	12
Figure 2. 5: Changes of resonance with and without sampling.	12
Figure 2. 6: Circulating current generates a magnetic field.	15
Figure 2. 7: Coaxial-open end of liquid method.	18
Figure 2. 8: Transmission Line method.	19
Figure 2. 9: Resonant Cavity method.	19
Figure 2. 10: Free space method.	20
Figure 2. 11: Parallel plat (electrode) method.	20
Figure 2. 12: BMSRR sensor model. (a) 3D view and close up bridge structure. (b) Electric field distribution on the sensor.	23
Figure 2. 13: Simulated and measured frequency response of BMSRR sensor.	23
Figure 2. 14: Measured and simulated for common solvents testing.	24
Figure 2. 15: Polynomial graph from known permittivity measurement data.	25
Figure 2. 16: Simulated and measured responses in HFSS.	26
Figure 2. 17: (a) Comparison of the response under power divider. (b) Measurement setup.	27

- Figure 2. 18: Measured resonant amplitude difference between sensing and reference resonators depicting growth profiles of *E. coli* for different glucose concentrations in LB agar with microscope images at constant time intervals. (a) 0% glucose. (b) 2% glucose. (c) 5% glucose. (d) 10% glucose. 28
- Figure 2. 19: Design of SSRR (a) without overlay sample of meat (b) with overlay sample of meat. 29
- Figure 2. 20: Concentration of E-field a) Loose coupling, b) Quasi-linear. 30
- Figure 2. 21: Simulation (a) insertion loss  $S_{21}$ (dB), (b) return loss  $S_{11}$ (dB). 30
- Figure 2. 22: Simulation of overlay thickness: a) loose coupling, b) Quasi linear. 31
- Figure 2. 23: Frequency shift over the range of overlay thickness a) loose coupling, b) Quasi-linear coupling. 32
- Figure 2. 24: The effect of the coupling gap. 32
- Figure 2. 25: Permittivity versus resonant frequency of SSRR sensor. 33
- Figure 2. 26: Prototype SSRR sensor a) without meat sample b) with overlay 34
- Figure 2. 27: Measured  $S_{21}$  (dB) a) Comparison of simulation and measurement b) Resonance frequency with without overlay sample of fresh meat. 34
- Figure 2. 28: Structure prototype (a) conventional sensor, (b) modified sensor, (c) sensor with acrylic holder to hold sample. 36
- Figure 2. 29: Relative dielectric constant,  $\epsilon_r$  (a) peat soil and (b) sand soil with changes in moisture content, m.c. at  $(25 \pm 1)^\circ\text{C}$ . 36
- Figure 2. 30: Comparison predicted versus measured moisture content, m.c. of peat soil and sand soil at  $(25 \pm 1)^\circ\text{C}$ . 37
- Figure 2. 31: Schematic of SRR sensing element. 38
- Figure 2. 32: Electric field distribution of SRR at (a)  $f_1 = 0.552$  GHz and (b)  $f_2 = 1.03$  GHz with identical legend. 39
- Figure 2. 33: (a) Comparison of simulation and measurement response of SRR. (b) Simulation effect of MUT on first and second resonances 39
- Figure 2. 34: (a) Fine resonant frequency shifts from RH change for various samples. (b) Simplistic calibration curve with RH = 0% for permittivity range of 1–80. 40

Figure 2. 35: Modified surface plot calibration curve considering $\Delta f_{1-Fine}$ .	41
Figure 3. 1: Process flow of sensor.	45
Figure 3. 2: Validation using Vector Network Analyzer (VNA).	47
Figure 3. 3: The design microwave resonator sensor	47
Figure 3. 4: Q-factor measurement for $S_{21}$ .	51
Figure 3. 5: Flowchart of software development.	52
Figure 3. 6: Designation in CST.	53
Figure 3. 7: Printed Circuit Board (PCB) - Rogers RT/duroid 5880.	55
Figure 3. 8: Example of SMA-Connector.	56
Figure 3. 9: Process flow of fabrication.	57
Figure 3. 10: Measurement setup.	58
Figure 3. 11: Material Under Test (MUT).	58
Figure 3. 12: Process flow of VNA.	59
Figure 3. 13: Transmission coefficients.	59
Figure 4. 1: Comparison between the simulation result and the measurement result without MUT.	61
Figure 4. 2: Comparison between the simulation result and the measurement result with MUT.	62
Figure 4. 3: Polynomial curve fitting of permittivity, $\epsilon_r$ .	65
Figure 4. 4: Third order polynomial curve fitting of Loss Tangent, $\tan \delta$ .	66



## LIST OF TABLES

Table 2. 1: Comparison for each material characterization method	20
Table 2. 2: Comparison of measured and simulated data.	23
Table 2. 3: Comparison of simulated and measured real part permittivity.	24
Table 2. 4: Comparison between the measured results and the HFSS simulated results.	26
Table 2. 5: Measured growth phase and rate of bacteria culture for different concentrations of glucose in LB agar.	27
Table 2. 6: Comparison between loose and Quasi-linear coupling in term of Q-factor, S11, and S21.	31
Table 2. 7: Comparison between loose and Quasi-linear coupling gap.	31
Table 2. 8: Before and after optimization for loose coupling scheme.	33
Table 2. 9: Before and after optimization for loose coupling scheme.	33
Table 2. 10: Comparison of the previous research.	41
Table 3. 1: Parameters of the design sensor resonator.	48
Table 4. 1: Comparison between the simulation result and the measurement result.	63
Table 4. 2: Comparison between the permittivity value based on the reference and the measurement.	65
Table 4. 3: Comparison between the tangent value based on the reference and the measurement.	66
Table 4. 4: Comparison with previous sensor.	67

Table 4. 5: Comparison of price with commercialized sensor in the market.

68



## LIST OF SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

MUT :	Material Under Test
CST :	Computer Simulation Technology
VNA :	Vector Network Analyzer
PCB :	Printed Circuit Board
PM :	Perturbation Method
TM :	Transverse Magnetic
TE :	Transverse Electric
VC :	Empty Cavity
VS :	Specimen Volume
GHz :	Giga Hertz
MHz :	Mega Hertz
Hz :	Hertz
HFSS :	High Frequency Structure Simulator
WHC :	Water Holding Capacity
CSRR :	Complementary Split Ring Resonator
SSRR :	Symmetrical Split Ring Resonator
BMSSR:	Bridge Multiple Split Ring Resonator
DGS :	Defected Ground Structure
SMA :	Sub Miniature version A
EM :	Electromagnetic
UV :	Ultraviolet
DUT :	Device Under Test
SUT :	System Under Test
GUI :	Graphical User Interface
IoT :	Internet of Things
RM :	Ringgit Malaysi

$S_{21}(\text{dB})$ :	Insertion Loss
$S_{11}(\text{dB})$ :	Return Loss
$\mu_0$ :	Permeability
$BW$ :	Bandwidth
$f_c$ :	Resonant Frequency without Sample
$f_s$ :	Resonant Frequency with Sample
$Q$ :	Quality Factor
$f_r$ :	Resonance Frequency
$\Delta f_r$ :	Resonance Frequency Shifting
$\Delta\mu$ :	Permeability Changes
$\Delta\varepsilon$ :	Permittivity Changes
$V$ :	Perturbed Volume
$E_0, H_0$ :	Field Distribution without Perturbation
$E_1, H_1$ :	Field Distribution with Perturbation
$\varepsilon_r$ :	Dielectric Constant
$\varepsilon_r'$ :	Actual Permittivity
$\varepsilon_r''$ :	Imaginary Part of Permittivity
$\mu\text{m}$ :	Micrometer
$\text{mm}$ :	Millimeter
$f_o$ :	Operating Frequency
$\varepsilon_{eff}$ :	Effective Permittivity
$c$ :	Speed of Light
$W$ :	Width of Transmission Line
$L$ :	Length of Transmission Line
$h$ :	Height of Substrate in Datasheet
$\lambda_g$ :	Wavelength of Coupling Gap
$L_s$ :	Length of Substrate
$W_s$ :	Width of Substrate

## LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A: ROGER RT/DUROID 5880.....	90
Appendix B: ROGER DUROID RO4350B.....	93
Appendix C: FR-4.....	96



# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION



### 1.1 Project Background

Microwave resonator sensor are one of the most widely used groups of people and have been extensively used for the material characterization in the field of agriculture, medications and industrial. Material characterization is playing an important role in investigating the properties of the material, which can be characterized depending on the sensitivity of a microwave sensor resonator.

This project is aimed to design a sensor with high precision, high sensitivity and narrow band frequency. The advantages of this sensor which are low cost, more accurate, high sensitivity, compact size, ease of handling, and environmentally friendly make this type of microwave resonator sensor can compete with the previous research studies.

In order to validate the performance of the proposed sensor, different types of materials with a known dielectric constant will be tested. This microwave resonator sensor aiming of high Q-factor  $> 100$  value with a better performance. This propose sensor will be extracting with mathematical analysis for determining the specifications parameter of designing the sensor. Then, it will simulate through the computer simulation technology (CST) software.

Therefore, this proposed sensor is ease handling of fabrication process and low-cost project with greater accuracy and sensitivity which make this microwave resonator sensor specials than others. The material used for the substrate prototype sensor is low cost and environmentally friendly. By comparing the S-parameter of simulation and vector network analyzer (VNA) measurement, the sensor will validate through the 50 SMA-Connector port at the microwave resonator sensor transmission line.

## 1.2 Problem Statement



In order to popularize the usage of microwave sensor resonator, the sensors need to have low manufacturing cost and simple design structure. In addition, the sensors also need to be small in size to bring more convenient to the users.

Non-planar microwave resonator sensor is basically passing high sensitive detection and precise measurement. However, drawbacks such as high manufacturing cost, complex design structure, and bulky size do exist.[1][4] If non-planar microwave resonator sensor is applied in industrial applications, it will be a waste of money due to the high cost, difficulty in mass production due to the complex design structure and space consuming because of the uncontrollable large size of it.[1][2]

Definitely, planar microwave resonator structure has become the alternative method in sensor developing to produce a sensor which are compact, low cost, and easy to integrate with other electronic components.[1][3][4] However, this structure suffers from poor quality factor and low sensitivity,[3] which restrict the usage in

industrial application of monitoring quality and safety of food, pharmaceutical and etc. Therefore, in this project, a planar microwave sensor resonator with high sensitivity and accurate measurement is designed in the material characterization. By applying a narrow bandwidth of insertion loss, high quality factor can be produced and hence the limitations of conventional planar microwave resonator sensor can be solved.

### 1.3 Objectives

This project's main goal is to design a resonator sensor with high quality factor for the material characterization. The specific objective of the project has been stated as below:

- To design a planar microwave sensor resonator.
- To fabricate the sensor designed on a printed circuit board.
- To validate and analyze the sensor designed.

### 1.4 Scope of Work

The prototype of the microwave sensor is produced by using microstrip planar transmission line technique which are compact in size, ease of fabrication, low cost and easy handling. The propose sensor will be operate at 3.5 GHz in ranges from 2 GHz to 5 GHz. Computer Simulation Technology (CST) software will be used to design and simulate the planar microwave sensor resonator. The sensor designed is more focus on solid material characterization. The base area of the prototype made should be within 6cm × 6cm. The prototype will be fabricated by using RT 5880, and then validated through experimental measurement via Vector Network Analyzer