

Quasi-Static Characteristics of Microstrip on an Anisotropic Sapphire Substrate

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The well-defined and repeatable electrical properties of single-crystal sapphire make it an attractive substrate material for microstrip, but its dielectric anisotropy constitutes an important design complication. This paper describes investigations into the quasi-static characteristics of single microstrip lines on sapphire substrates cut with a specified orientation. To account for anisotropy, a new permittivity parameter $\epsilon_{\text{sub req}}$ is introduced, which is a function of the linewidth to substrate-height ratio W/h . The variation of $\epsilon_{\text{sub req}}$ with W/h is derived by finite-difference methods. Universal curves for microstrip on correctly orientated sapphire are presented, showing 1) $\epsilon_{\text{sub req}}$, 2) the low-frequency limit of effective microstrip permittivity $\epsilon_{\text{sub e0}}$, and 3) the characteristic impedance of the line $Z_{\text{sub 0}}$, all as functions of W/h .

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