

Performance of a K-band voltage-controlled Lange coupler using a ferroelectric tunable microstrip configuration

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We report for the first time on the performance of a Au/Ba/sub 0.6/Sr/sub 0.4/TiO/sub 3/(BSTO)/MgO two-layered microstrip voltage-controlled Lange coupler (VCLC) designed for Ku- and K-band frequencies at room temperature. Tight coupling of 3 dB or higher was obtained over a frequency range of 14-19 GHz. At K-band frequencies, the coupling was voltage-controllable using the nonlinear DC electric field dependence of the relative dielectric constant of BSTO ($\epsilon_{\text{BSTO}}/\epsilon_{\text{BSTO}}$). The coupling level was improved from -11.6 to -3.7 dB at 20 GHz with an applied DC electric field of 16 kV/cm. The introduction of the ferroelectric tuning layer enhances the bandwidth of the VCLC in comparison with a Lange coupler with no ferroelectric layer. This work demonstrates another advantageous application for ferroelectric thin films in passive microwave components.

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