ECE 344 Microwave Fundamentals

Lecture 08:
Power Dividers and Couplers
Part 1

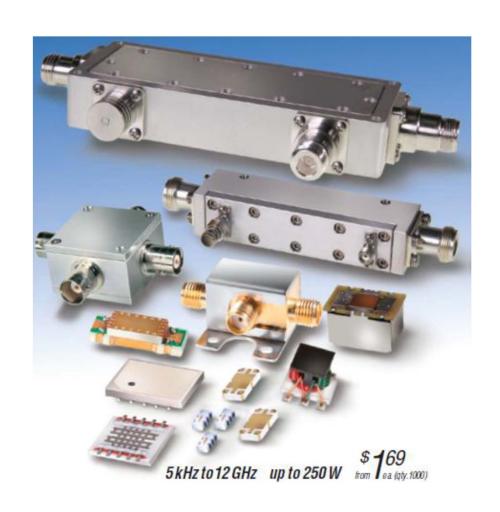
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Microwave Devices



4/30/2018

Microwave Devices



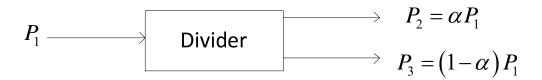
Power Dividers and Couplers

- Power dividers, combiners and directional couplers are passive structures that divide RF input power among several outputs or combine power from several inputs.
- Power Dividers and Combiners
 - ☐ Used to split input power into roughly equal outputs, or vice-versa.
- Directional Couplers
 - ☐ Used to sample a fraction of input power and/or to separate forward and reverse traveling waves.

Power Dividers and Couplers

These are examples of a three-port network.

❖ A power divider is used to split a signal.



❖ A coupler/combiner is used to combine a signal.



- Goal: Distribute power from one input among several outputs, or combine power from several inputs to one output.
- Problems for RF and microwave designs
 - ☐ Impedance match
 - Isolation
 - Phase relationships among signals

Three Port Networks

General 3-port network:

$$\begin{bmatrix} S \end{bmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} S_{11} & S_{12} & S_{13} \\ S_{21} & S_{22} & S_{23} \\ S_{31} & S_{32} & S_{33} \end{pmatrix}$$

Three Port Networks (cont.)

If all three ports are <u>matched</u>, and the device is <u>reciprocal</u> and <u>lossless</u>, we have:

$$\begin{bmatrix} S \end{bmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & S_{12} & S_{13} \\ S_{12} & 0 & S_{23} \\ S_{13} & S_{23} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$
 (The *S* matrix is also unitary.)

(There are three distinct values.)

This is not physically possible!

(see next slide)

Power Dividers and Couplers (cont.)

$$\begin{bmatrix} S \end{bmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & S_{12} & S_{13} \\ S_{12} & 0 & S_{23} \\ S_{13} & S_{23} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Unitary: not physically possible

Lossless \Rightarrow [S] is unitary



$$\Rightarrow |S_{12}|^2 + |S_{13}|^2 = 1$$

$$|S_{12}|^2 + |S_{23}|^2 = 1$$

$$|S_{13}|^2 + |S_{23}|^2 = 1$$



These cannot all be satisfied.

(If only one is nonzero, we cannot satisfy all three.)



$$S_{13}^* S_{23} = 0$$

$$S_{12}^* S_{23} = 0$$

$$S_{12}^* S_{23} = 0$$

 $S_{12}^* S_{13} = 0$

 \Rightarrow At least 2 of S_{13} , S_{12} , S_{23} must be zero.

(If only one is zero (or none is zero), we cannot satisfy all three.)

Unitary Matrix

- It can be done in an easy way:
 - ☐ The dot product of any column of [S] with the conjugate of that column gives unity.
 - ☐ The dot product of any column with the conjugate of a different column gives zero (orthogonal).

Circulators

Now consider a 3-port network that is non-reciprocal, with all ports matched, and is lossless:

$$\Rightarrow [S] = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & S_{12} & S_{13} \\ S_{21} & 0 & S_{23} \\ S_{31} & S_{32} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

(There are six distinct values.)

Lossless
$$\Rightarrow |S_{21}|^2 + |S_{31}|^2 = 1$$

$$|S_{12}|^2 + |S_{32}|^2 = 1$$

$$|S_{13}|^2 + |S_{23}|^2 = 1$$

$$S_{31}^* S_{32} = 0$$

$$S_{21}^* S_{23} = 0$$

$$S_{12}^* S_{13} = 0$$

"Circulator"



These equations will be satisfied if:

1
$$S_{12} = S_{23} = S_{31} = 0$$

 $|S_{21}| = |S_{32}| = |S_{13}| = 1$

or Note that
$$S_{ij} \neq S_{ji}$$
.
$$S_{21} = S_{32} = S_{13} = 0$$

$$|S_{12}| = |S_{23}| = |S_{31}| = 1$$

Circulators (cont.)

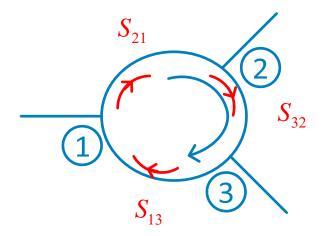
 $[S] = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$

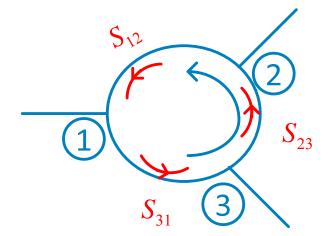
Note: We have assumed here that the phases of all the *S* parameters are zero.

$\begin{bmatrix} S \end{bmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$

Circulators can be made using biased ferrite materials.

Clockwise (LH) circulator

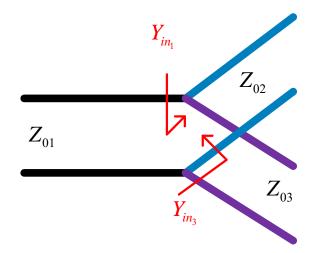




Counter-clockwise (RH) circulator

Power Dividers

T-Junction: lossless divider



$$Y_{in_1} = \frac{1}{Z_{02}} + \frac{1}{Z_{03}}$$

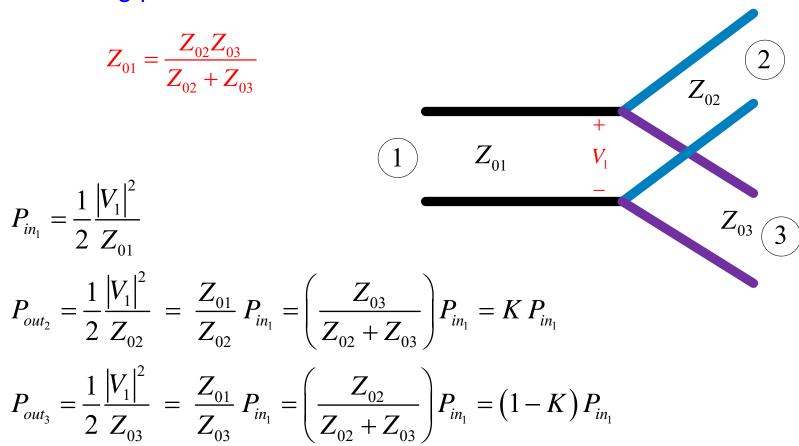
To match:
$$Z_{01} = Z_{02} \parallel Z_{03} = \frac{Z_{02}Z_{03}}{Z_{02} + Z_{03}}$$

Note, however,
$$Y_{in_3} = \frac{1}{Z_{01}} + \frac{1}{Z_{02}} = \frac{Z_{02} + Z_{03}}{Z_{02}Z_{03}} + \frac{1}{Z_{02}} = \frac{Z_{02} + 2Z_{03}}{Z_{02}Z_{03}} = \frac{1}{Z_{03}} \left(\frac{Z_{02} + 2Z_{03}}{Z_{02}} \right)$$

Thus,
$$Y_{in_3} \neq \frac{1}{Z_{03}}$$
 Also, $Y_{in_2} \neq \frac{1}{Z_{02}}$

If we match at port 1, we cannot match at the other ports!

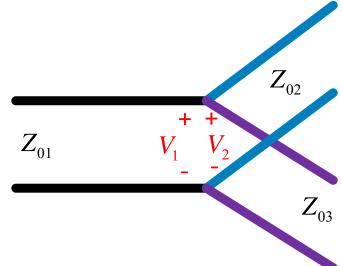
Assuming port 1 matched:



We can design the splitter to control the powers into the two output lines.

Examine the reflection at each port (S_{ii}) :

$$S_{11} = \frac{V_1^- / \sqrt{Z_{01}}}{V_1^+ / \sqrt{Z_{01}}} \bigg|_{a_2 = a_3 = 0} = \frac{V_1^-}{V_1^+} \bigg|_{a_2 = a_3 = 0}$$



$$= \frac{Z_{in1} - Z_{01}}{Z_{in1} + Z_{01}} = \frac{Z_{02} \| Z_{03} - Z_{01}}{Z_{02} \| Z_{03} + Z_{01}} \text{ (zero if port 1 is matched)}$$

$$S_{22} = \frac{V_2^-}{V_2^+} \bigg|_{a_1 = a_3 = 0}$$

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 $= \frac{Z_{01} \| Z_{03} - Z_{02}}{Z_{01} \| Z_{02} + Z_{02}}$

$$S_{33} = \frac{V_3^-}{V_3^+} \bigg|_{a_1 = a_2 = 0}$$

$$= \frac{Z_{01} \| Z_{02} - Z_{03}}{Z_{01} \| Z_{02} + Z_{03}}$$

$$Z_{02} > Z_{01}$$

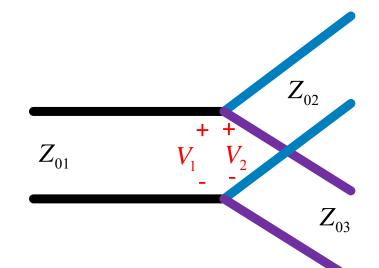
$$Z_{03} > Z_{01}$$

(since the two output lines combine in parallel)

$$\Rightarrow S_{22} \neq 0, \ S_{33} \neq 0$$

Also, we have:

$$S_{21} = \frac{\frac{V_2^-}{\sqrt{Z_{02}}}}{\frac{V_1^+}{\sqrt{Z_{01}}}}\bigg|_{a_2 = a_3 = 0}$$



$$\begin{split} V_1 &= V_1^+ \left(1 + S_{11} \right); \ V_2^- = V_2 = V_1 \\ \Rightarrow S_{21} &= \left(1 + S_{11} \right) \sqrt{\frac{Z_{01}}{Z_{02}}} = S_{12} \end{split}$$

Similarly,

$$S_{31} = S_{13} = (1 + S_{11}) \sqrt{\frac{Z_{01}}{Z_{03}}} \text{ and } S_{32} = S_{23} = (1 + S_{22}) \sqrt{\frac{Z_{02}}{Z_{03}}}$$

If port 1 is matched:
$$Z_{01} = \frac{Z_{02}Z_{03}}{Z_{02} + Z_{03}}$$

$$\Rightarrow S_{11} = 0 \; ; \quad S_{22} = \frac{Z_{01} \| Z_{03} - Z_{02}}{Z_{01} \| Z_{03} + Z_{02}} \; ; \quad S_{33} = \frac{Z_{01} \| Z_{02} - Z_{03}}{Z_{01} \| Z_{02} + Z_{03}}$$

$$S_{21} = S_{12} = (1 + S_{11}) \sqrt{\frac{Z_{01}}{Z_{02}}} = \sqrt{\frac{Z_{01}}{Z_{02}}} = \sqrt{\frac{Z_{03}}{Z_{02} + Z_{03}}}$$

$$S_{13} = S_{31} = (1 + S_{11}) \sqrt{\frac{Z_{01}}{Z_{03}}} = \sqrt{\frac{Z_{01}}{Z_{03}}} = \sqrt{\frac{Z_{02}}{Z_{02} + Z_{03}}}$$

$$S_{32} = S_{23} = (1 + S_{22}) \sqrt{\frac{Z_{02}}{Z_{03}}} = (1 + S_{22}) \sqrt{\frac{Z_{02}}{Z_{03}}}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} S \end{bmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & S_{21} & S_{31} \\ S_{21} & S_{22} & S_{32} \\ S_{31} & S_{32} & S_{33} \end{pmatrix}$$

Only
$$S_{11} = 0$$



The output ports are not isolated.

Output powers:

$$\frac{P_2}{P_1} = \left| S_{21} \right|^2 = \left(\frac{Z_{03}}{Z_{02} + Z_{03}} \right)$$

$$\frac{P_3}{P_1} = \left| S_{31} \right|^2 = \left(\frac{Z_{02}}{Z_{02} + Z_{03}} \right)$$

Note: P_1 is the input power on port 1.

Hence

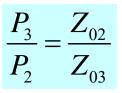
$$\frac{P_3}{P_2} = \frac{Z_{02}}{Z_{03}}$$

Check:
$$P_1 = P_2 + P_3 = \left(\frac{Z_{03}}{Z_{02} + Z_{03}}\right) P_1 + \left(\frac{Z_{02}}{Z_{02} + Z_{03}}\right) P_1 = P_1$$

Summary

$$Z_{01} = \frac{Z_{02}Z_{03}}{Z_{02} + Z_{03}}$$





$$S_{11} = 0 \; ; \quad S_{22} = \frac{Z_{01} \| Z_{03} - Z_{02}}{Z_{01} \| Z_{03} + Z_{02}} \; ; \quad S_{33} = \frac{Z_{01} \| Z_{02} - Z_{03}}{Z_{01} \| Z_{02} + Z_{03}}$$

$$S_{21} = S_{12} = \sqrt{\frac{Z_{03}}{Z_{02} + Z_{03}}}$$

$$S_{13} = S_{31} = \sqrt{\frac{Z_{02}}{Z_{02} + Z_{03}}}$$

$$S_{32} = S_{23} = (1 + S_{22}) \sqrt{\frac{Z_{02}}{Z_{03}}}$$

- The input port is matched, but not the output ports.
- The output ports are not isolated.



Waves reflected from devices on ports 2 and 3 with cause interference with the devices.

Example: Microstrip T-junction power divider

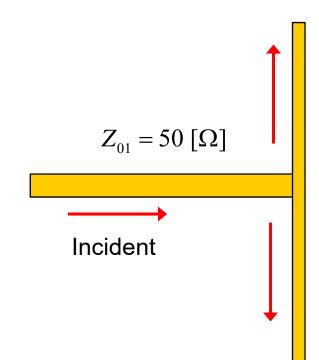
$$S_{11} = 0$$

$$S_{22} = S_{33} = -\frac{1}{2}$$

$$S_{21} = S_{12} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$S_{31} = S_{13} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$S_{32} = S_{23} = \frac{1}{2}$$



$$Z_{02} = 100 \, [\Omega]$$

$$Z_{01} || Z_{02} = Z_{01} || Z_{03} = 50 || 100 = 33.333 [\Omega]$$

$$Z_{03} = 100 [\Omega]$$

The matched power divider also works as a match power combiner

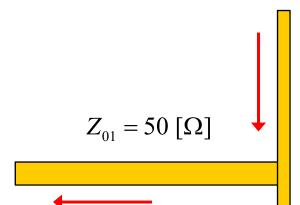
$$S_{11}=0$$

$$S_{22} = S_{33} = -\frac{1}{2}$$

$$S_{21} = S_{12} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$S_{31} = S_{13} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$S_{32} = S_{23} = \frac{1}{2}$$



Incident

$$b_3 = a_3 S_{33} + a_2 S_{32}$$
$$= a_3 (S_{33} + S_{32})$$
$$= 0$$

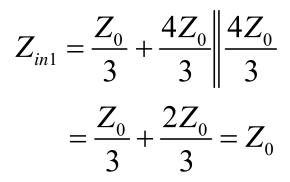
$$Z_{02} = 100 \left[\Omega\right]$$

$$Z_{01} || Z_{02} = Z_{01} || Z_{03} = 50 || 100 = 33.333 [\Omega]$$

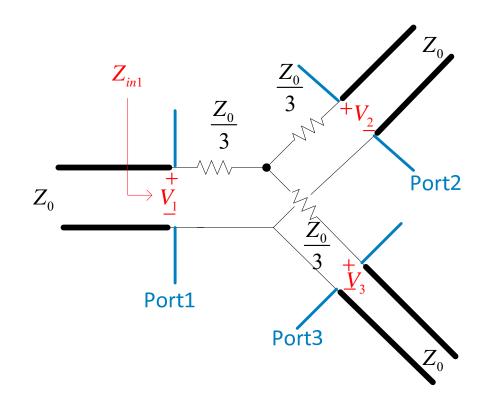
$$Z_{03} = 100 [\Omega]$$

Equal waves are incident from ports 2 and 3.

Resistive Power Divider



(The same for Z_{in1} and Z_{in2} .)



 \Rightarrow All ports are matched.

$$S_{11} = S_{22} = S_{33} = 0$$

Resistive Power Divider (cont.)

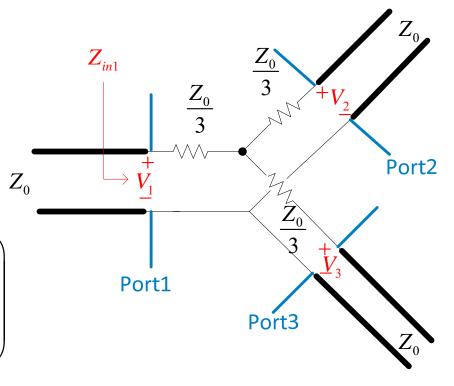
$$S_{21} = \frac{\frac{V_2^-}{\sqrt{Z_0}}}{\frac{V_1^+}{\sqrt{Z_0}}} \bigg|_{a_2 = a_3 = 0}$$

$$V_1 = V_1^+ (1 + S_{11}) = V_1^+$$

$$V_{2}^{-} = V_{2} = V_{1} \left(\frac{\frac{2}{3}Z_{0}}{\frac{Z_{0}}{3} + \frac{2}{3}Z_{0}} \right) \left(\frac{Z_{0}}{\frac{Z_{0}}{3} + Z_{0}} \right)$$

$$=V_1^+\left(\frac{2}{3}\right)\left(\frac{3}{4}\right)=\frac{1}{2}V_1^+$$

$$\Rightarrow S_{21} = \frac{1}{2} = S_{12} = S_{31} = S_{13} = S_{32} = S_{23}$$



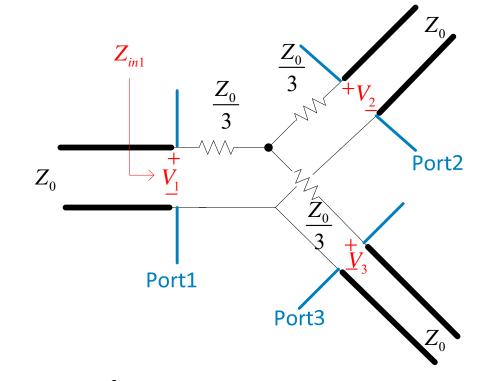
By reciprocity and symmetry

Resistive Power Divider (cont.)

Hence we have

$$[S] = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$P_1 = P_{in} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{|V_1|^2}{Z_0} = \frac{1}{2} |a_1|^2$$



$$P_2 = P_3 = \frac{1}{2} |b_2|^2 = \frac{1}{2} |a_1 S_{21}|^2 = P_1 |S_{21}|^2 = P_1 \left| \frac{1}{2} \right|^2 = \frac{P_{in}}{4}$$

All ports are matched, but $1/2\ P_{in}$ is dissipated by resistors, and the output ports are not isolated.

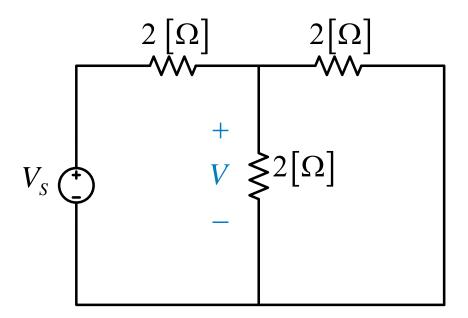
Even-Odd Mode Analysis

(This is needed for analyzing the Wilkinson)

Example: We want to solve for *V*.

We do this using even/odd mode analysis.

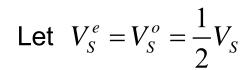
(This works because the circuit itself is symmetric.)

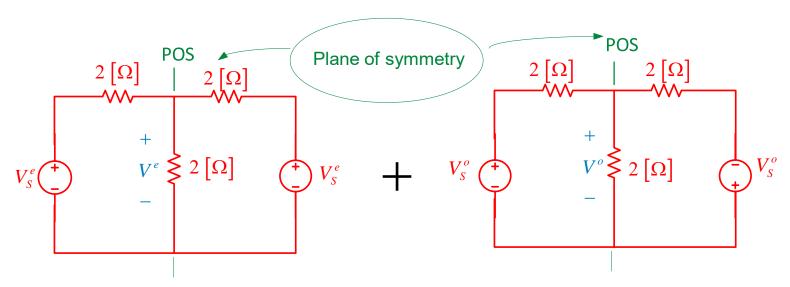


Correct answer:

$$V = V_S \left(\frac{1}{2+1} \right) = \frac{V_S}{3}$$

Even-Odd Mode Analysis



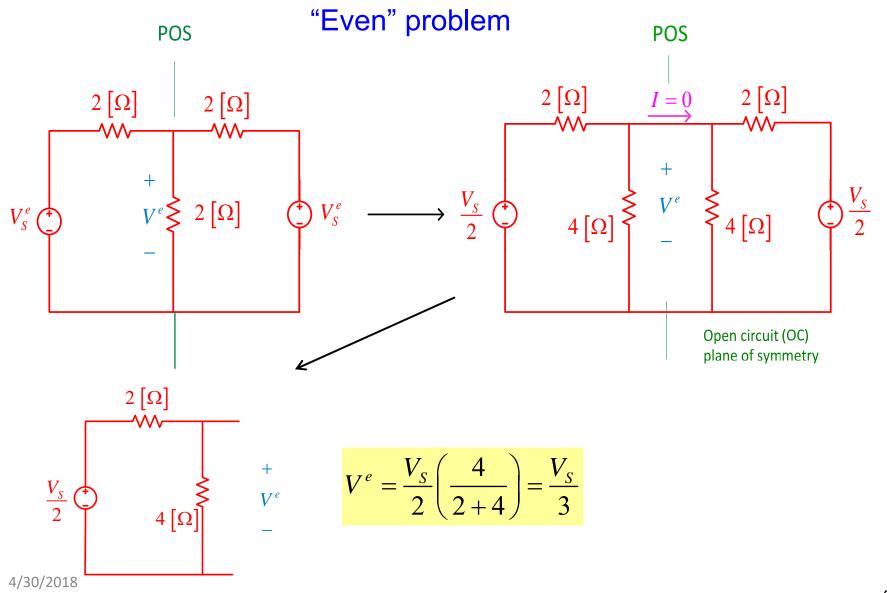


"Even" problem

"Odd" problem

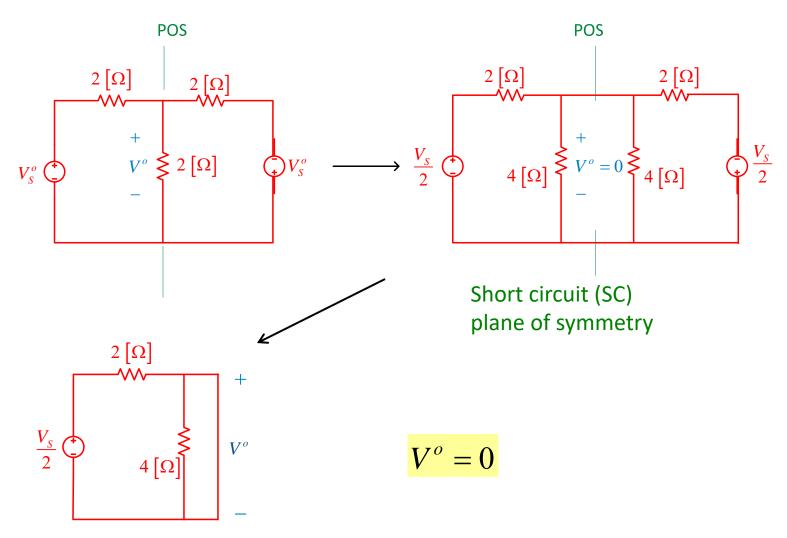
$$V = V^e + V^o$$

Even-Odd Mode Analysis (cont.)



Even-Odd Mode Analysis (cont.)

"Odd" problem



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Even-Odd Mode Analysis (cont.)

By superposition:

$$V = V^e + V^o = \frac{V_S}{3} + 0$$

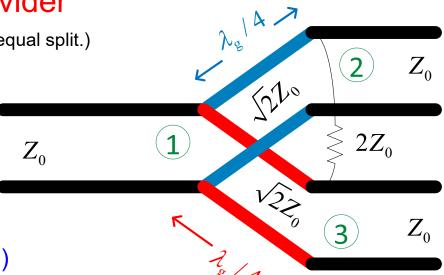
Hence we have

$$V = \frac{V_S}{3}$$

Wilkinson Power Divider

Equal-split (3 dB) power divider

(The Wilkinson can be designed to have an unequal split.)



- All ports matched $(S_{11} = S_{22} = S_{33} = 0)$
- Output ports are isolated $(S_{23} = S_{32} = 0)$

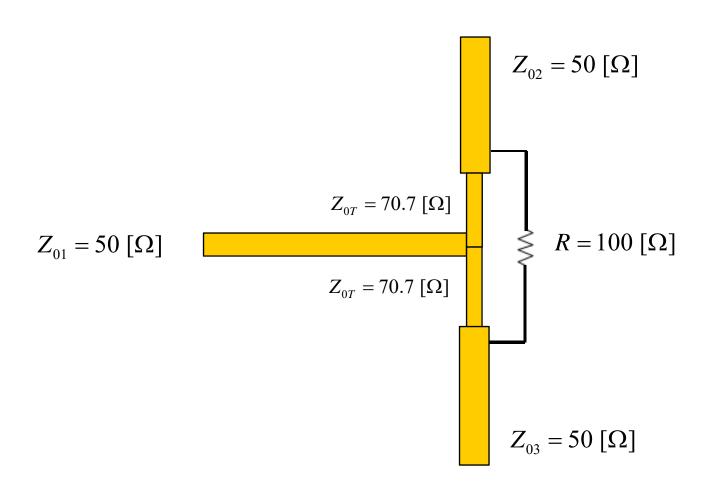
Note: No power is lost in going from port 1 to ports 2 and 3.

$$\left|S_{21}\right|^2 = \left|S_{31}\right|^2 = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$[S] = \frac{-j}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Obviously not unitary

Example: Microstrip Wilkinson power divider



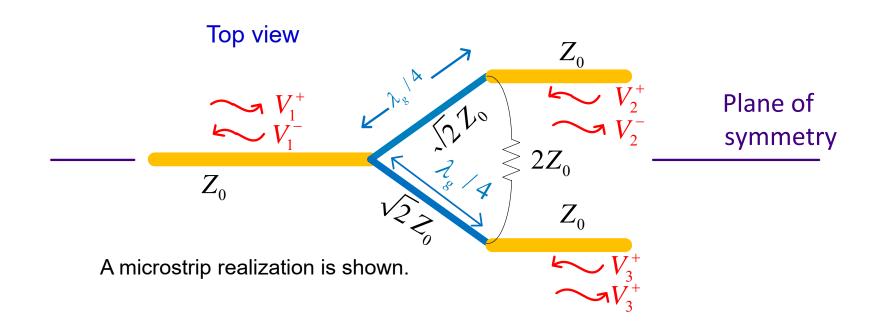
Even and odd analysis is used to analyze the structure when port 2 is excited.

$$\Rightarrow$$
 To determine S_{22}, S_{32}

 Only even analysis is needed to analyze the structure when port 1 is excited.

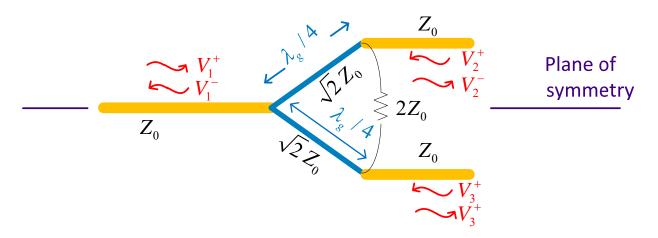
$$\Rightarrow$$
 To determine S_{11}, S_{21}

The other components can be found by using symmetry and reciprocity.



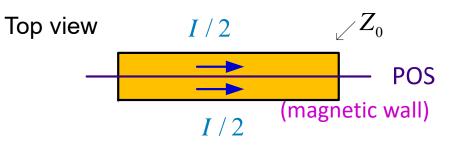
Split structure along plane of symmetry (POS)

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Even \Rightarrow voltage even about POS \Rightarrow place OC along POS Odd \Rightarrow voltage odd about POS \Rightarrow place SC along POS
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How do you split a transmission line? (This is needed for the even case.)

Voltage is the same for each half of line (V) Current is halved for each half of line (I/2)

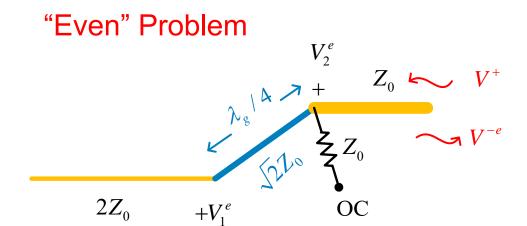


 Z_0 microstrip line

$$\Rightarrow Z_0^h = \frac{V}{I/2} = 2Z_0$$

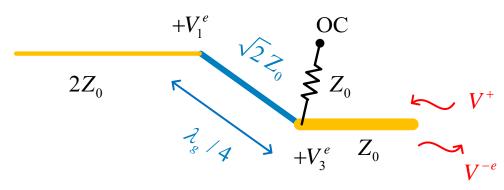
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For each half



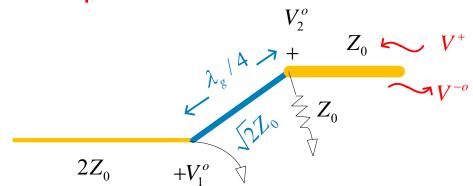
Note: The $2Z_0$ resistor has been split into two Z_0 resistors in series.

Ports 2 and 3 are excited in phase.



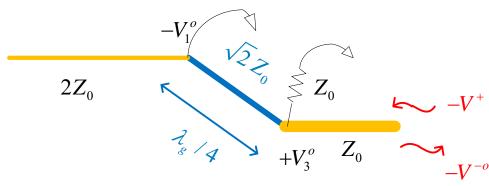
Note: $V_3^e = V_2^e$

"Odd" problem



Note: The $2Z_0$ resistor has been split into two Z_0 resistors in series.

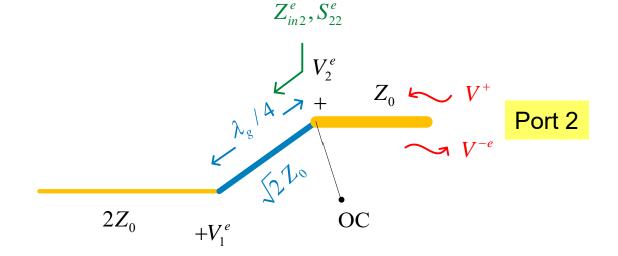
Ports 2 and 3 are excited 180° out of phase.



Note:
$$V_1^o = 0$$
, $V_3^o = -V_2^o$

Even Problem

Port 2 excitation



$$Z_{in2}^{e} = \frac{\left(\sqrt{2} Z_{0}\right)^{2}}{2Z_{0}} = Z_{0}$$

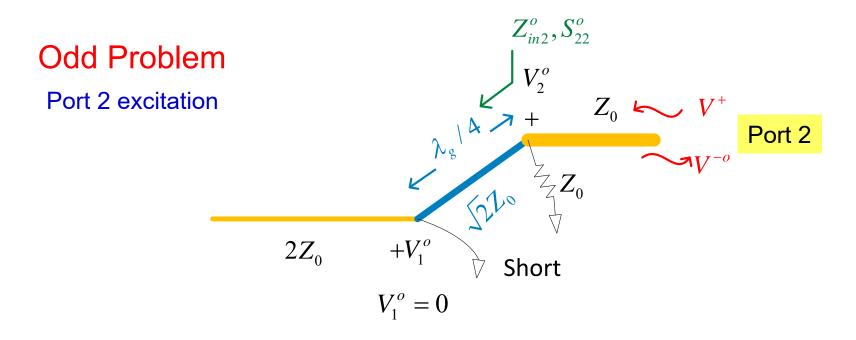
$$\Rightarrow S_{22}^{e} = \frac{Z_{in2}^{e} - Z_{0}}{Z_{in2}^{e} + Z_{0}} = 0$$

Recall:

$$Z_{in} = \frac{Z_T^2}{Z_L}$$

(quarter-wave transformer)

Also, by symmetry, $S_{33}^e = 0$



$$Z_{in2}^{o} = \infty || Z_{0} = Z_{0}$$

$$\Rightarrow S_{22}^{o} = \frac{Z_{in2}^{o} - Z_{0}}{Z_{in2}^{o} + Z_{0}} = 0$$

Also, by symmetry, $S_{33}^o = 0$

We add the results from the even and odd cases together:

$$S_{22} = \frac{V_2^-}{V_2^+} \bigg|_{a_1 = a_3 = 0} \quad S_{22} = \frac{V^{-e} + V^{-o}}{V^+ + V^+} = \frac{V^{-e} + V^{-o}}{2V^+} = \frac{1}{2} \left(S_{22}^e + S_{22}^o \right) = \frac{1}{2} \left(0 + 0 \right) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \quad S_{33} = 0 \quad \text{(by symmetry)}$$

$$S_{32} = \frac{V_3^-}{V_2^+} \bigg|_{a_1 = a_3 = 0} \qquad S_{32} = \frac{V^{-e} - V^{-o}}{V^+ + V^+} = \frac{V^{-e} - V^{-o}}{2V^+} = \frac{1}{2} \left(S_{22}^e - S_{22}^o \right) = \frac{1}{2} \left(0 - 0 \right) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow S_{23} = 0 \text{ (by reciprocity)}$$

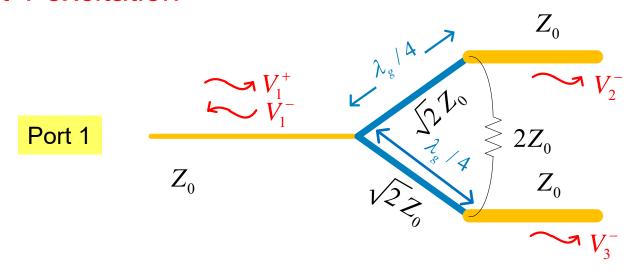
Note: Since all ports have the same Z_0 , we ignore the normalizing factor $\sqrt{Z_0}$ in the S parameter definition.

In summary, for port 2 excitation, we have:

$$S_{22} = 0$$

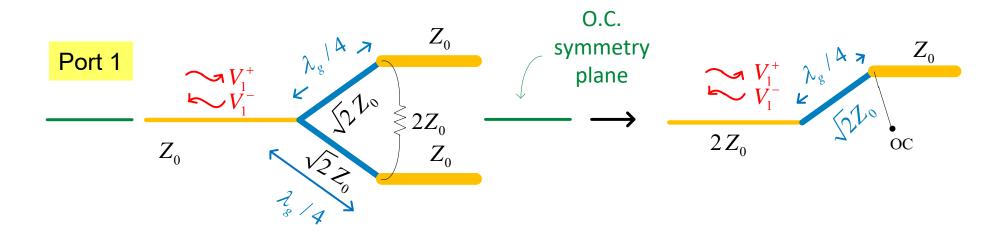
 $S_{33} = 0$
 $S_{32} = S_{23} = 0$

Port 1 excitation



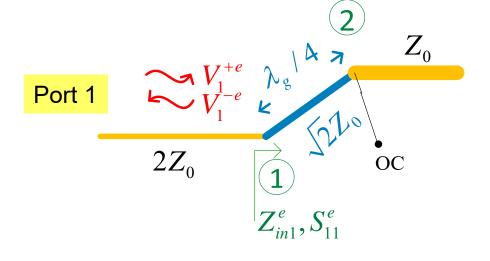
When port 1 is excited, the response, by symmetry, is even. (Hence, the total fields are the same as the even fields.)

Even Problem



Even Problem

Port 1 excitation



$$Z_{in1}^{e} = \frac{\left(\sqrt{2}Z_{0}\right)^{2}}{Z_{0}} = 2Z_{0}$$

$$S_{11}^{e} = \frac{Z_{in1}^{e} - 2Z_{0}}{Z_{in1}^{e} + 2Z_{0}} = 0$$

Hence

$$S_{11}=0$$

$$S_{11} = \frac{V_1^-}{V_1^+} \bigg|_{a_2 = a_3 = 0} = \frac{V_1^{-e}}{V_1^{+e}} \bigg|_{a_3 = 0} = S_{11}^e = 0$$

Even Problem

Port 1 excitation

Port 1
$$V_1^+$$
 $V_2^ V_1^ V_2^ V_1^ V_2^ V_2^ V_1^ V_2^ V_2^-$

$$V_1 = V_1^+ (1 + S_{11}) = V_1^+$$

 $V_2 = V_2^- + V_2^+$

Along $\lambda_g/4$ wave transformer:

 $\Gamma = \frac{Z_0 - \sqrt{2}Z_0}{Z_0 + \sqrt{2}Z_0} = \frac{1 - \sqrt{2}}{1 + \sqrt{2}}$

$$V(z) = V_0^+ e^{-j\beta z} \left(1 + \Gamma e^{+j2\beta z} \right)$$

z = distance from port 2

$$\Rightarrow S_{21} = \frac{V_2^-}{V_1^+} = \frac{V_2}{V_1} = -j\frac{(1+\Gamma)}{(1-\Gamma)} = -j\frac{2}{2\sqrt{2}}$$

$$\Rightarrow S_{21} = \frac{-j}{\sqrt{2}} = S_{12}$$

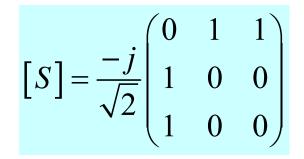
$$\Rightarrow S_{21} = \frac{-j}{\sqrt{2}} = S_{12}$$

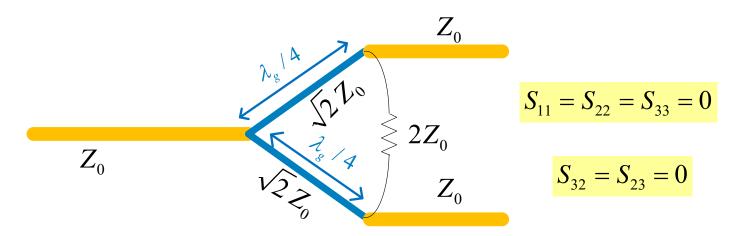
(reciprocal)

For the other components:

By symmetry:
$$S_{31} = S_{21} = \frac{-j}{\sqrt{2}}$$

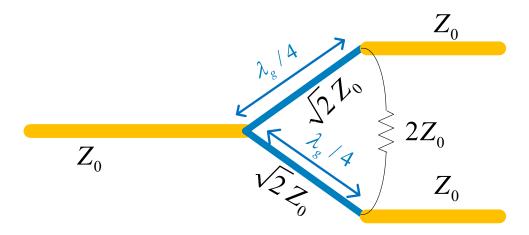
By reciprocity:
$$S_{13} = S_{31} = \frac{-j}{\sqrt{2}}$$





All three ports are matched, and the output ports are isolated.

$$[S] = \frac{-j}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$



$$S_{21} = S_{31} = \frac{-j}{\sqrt{2}}$$

$$S_{12} = S_{13} = \frac{-j}{\sqrt{2}}$$

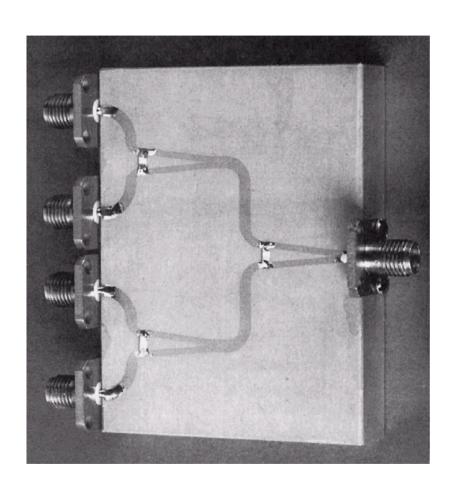
- When a wave is incident from port 1, half of the total incident power gets transmitted to each output port (no loss of power).
- When a wave is incident from port 2 or port 3, half of the power gets transmitted to port 1 and half gets absorbed by the resistor, but nothing gets through to the other output port.

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Figure 7.15 of Pozar

Photograph of a four-way corporate power divider network using three microstrip Wilkinson power dividers. Note the isolation chip resistors.

Courtesy of M.D. Abouzahra, MIT Lincoln Laboratory.



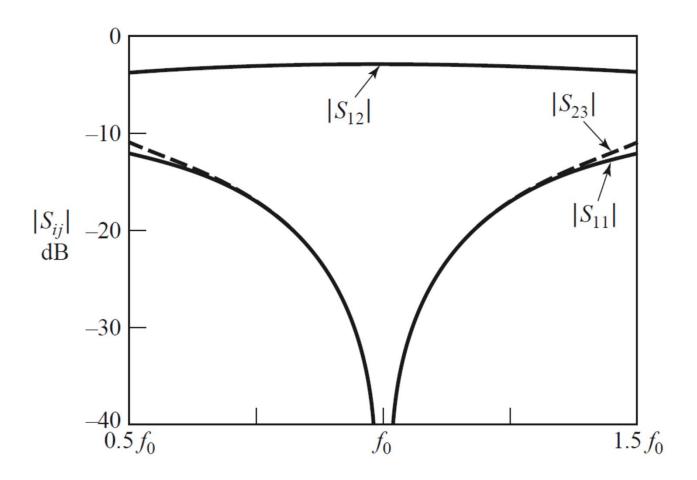


Figure 7.12 of Pozar

Frequency response of an equal-split Wilkinson power divider. Port 1 is the input port; ports 2 and 3 are the output ports.