

TWO DIMENSIONAL PHASED ARRAY
BEAMSTEERING VIA PERIMETER DETUNING OF
COUPLED OSCILLATOR ARRAYS

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Linear arrays of coupled electronic oscillators have been used in experiments designed to control the aperture phase of a one dimensional phased array antenna. The linear phase progressions across the aperture necessary to produce steering of the beam may be induced by merely detuning the end oscillators in the array in an antisymmetric manner. [R. A. York, IEEE Trans., MTT-41, pp.1799-1809][P. Liao and R. A. York, IEEE Trans., MTT-41, pp. 1810-1815] A continuum model of the dynamics of such an array has been developed in which the aperture phase is governed by a second order partial differential equation of diffusion type. Solution of this equation yields considerable insight into the behavior of the array. [R. J. Pogorzelski, P. F. Maccarini, and R. A. York, IEEE AP-S Symposium Digest, Atlanta, GA, June 1998, pp. 462-465.]

The present work concerns extension of the continuum model to two dimensions. The resulting two dimensional diffusion equation is solved via the Laplace transform to yield an analysis of the dynamics of a two dimensional phased array controlled by a two dimensional array of coupled voltage controlled oscillators (VCOs). It is shown that the beam of the array can be steered in two dimensions by appropriate tuning of the oscillators on the perimeter of the array. This represents a considerable simplification of the beam steering electronics in that, for an M by N array, one need only control $2M+2N-4$ oscillators as opposed to the usual MN . Moreover, no phase shifters are required. One need only control the voltages applied to the tuning ports of the perimeter oscillators. A convenient way to do this is to use a computer controlled digital to analog converter board which provides a programmable voltage for each of the oscillators on the perimeter. Computed examples illustrate the dynamic; i.e., time varying, behavior of the far field during the beam steering transient as predicted by the two dimensional continuum model.



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