


D-Band Material Characterization Using a Balanced-Type Circular Disk Resonator With Waveguide Interfaces and a Modified Full-Wave Modal Analysis

Yuto Kato , Member, IEEE

Abstract—This study presents material characterization in the *D*-band using a balanced-type circular disk resonator (BCDR) with waveguide interfaces. In the developed BCDR, ultrafine and brittle coaxial lines are covered by waveguide interfaces, which alleviates the robustness issues that occur when increasing the measurement frequency of conventional BCDRs with coaxial-line interfaces. The BCDR provides broadband complex permittivity and conductivity measurements of low-loss substrate materials over the entire *D*-band, owing to the mode-selective behavior of the resonator. Moreover, a modified modal analysis is derived to improve the accuracy of determining the permittivity from the measured resonant frequency based on the full-wave circuit analysis. A comparison between the analytical results and those of numerical simulations shows that the proposed analysis provides accurate calculations, even in cases with high-dielectric or thick samples, which typically cause inaccuracies in the conventional analysis. The developed BCDR and modified analysis are experimentally demonstrated by measuring the complex permittivity of three dielectric samples and the conductivity of two copper foil samples in the *D*-band.

Index Terms—Complex permittivity measurements, conductivity measurements, dielectric resonator, millimeter wave, mode-matching analysis.

I. INTRODUCTION

IN THE sixth-generation (6G) wireless communication, millimeter waves above 100 GHz are supposed to be used to realize high-speed and large-capacity communication with performances far exceeding those of 5G [1], [2], [3]. In general, the choice of low-loss substrate materials in the millimeter-wave bands is much more limited than in the microwave bands owing to an increased dielectric loss tangent and reduced conductivity. In particular, the effective conductivity of metallic layers on a dielectric substrate tends to become significantly smaller than the bulk metal value depending on the surface roughness, because the skin depth becomes comparable to the surface

roughness [4], [5]. To efficiently develop advanced low-loss materials and sophisticated implementation processes for lower power consumption in 6G communication, accurate complex permittivity and conductivity measurements at millimeter-wave frequencies above 100 GHz are essential. The accurate evaluation of material parameters above 100 GHz is also important for the reliable design of 6G components, such as antennas, absorbers, and metasurfaces [6], [7].

Resonator methods are typically utilized for the characterization of low-loss materials [8], [9], [10], [11]. However, applying resonator methods to the millimeter-wave bands above 100 GHz has been challenging, owing to the difficulty in machining a tiny resonator. In contrast to conventional resonator methods, which utilize fundamental mode resonances, broadband material-measurement techniques have been proposed to measure the complex permittivity and conductivity of low-loss substrate materials up to over 100 GHz with a single system by utilizing higher-order TM_{0m0} mode resonances of a balanced-type circular disk resonator (BCDR) [12], [13], [14], [15], [16]. The broadband measurement capability of the BCDR can be attributed to the selective excitation of TM_{0m0} modes over a wideband. Selective excitation is realized by the cylindrical symmetry of the resonator and coaxial excitation mechanism.

Conventional BCDRs have coaxial-line interfaces to feed the coaxial TEM mode into the resonator. The maximum measurable frequency of the resonator is determined by the cutoff frequency of the coaxial line. Therefore, finer coaxial lines must be used in the excitation structures of the BCDR to increase the measurement frequency. However, the use of ultrafine and brittle coaxial-line interfaces causes robustness issues. Thus, implementing a BCDR with coaxial-line interfaces is impractical in the 6G frequency bands up to 300 GHz.

This study proposes a BCDR using waveguide interfaces as an excitation mechanism to extend the applicable frequency of the BCDR with a structure that alleviates the robustness issues exist in conventional BCDR structures having coaxial-line interfaces. The waveguide TE_{10} mode transmitted to the waveguide interfaces is converted to the coaxial TEM mode by the coaxial-to-waveguide converters that are implemented in the excitation structures to excite a dielectric sample by

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The author is with the National Metrology Institute of Japan, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology, Tsukuba 305-8563, Japan (e-mail: y-katou@aist.go.jp).

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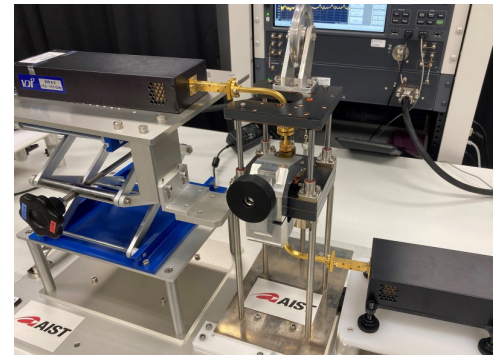
the coaxial mode. A BCDR with WR-6 waveguide interfaces is developed to demonstrate the complex permittivity and conductivity measurements in the D -band (110–170 GHz). The proposed approach is expected to be applied at even higher frequencies, such as the 300-GHz band.

Moreover, an improved modal analysis is introduced for the BCDR to calculate the permittivity from the resonant frequency. In previous studies based on the mode-matching analysis [12], [13], [15], [17], a BCDR has been analyzed based on an approximate model in which the dielectric sample is surrounded by magnetic walls. This approximation was used because the mode-matching analysis is only suitable for simple structures. The conventional analysis can only approximately consider radial radiation through dielectric-sheet samples, and the previous study has reported that the relative permittivity is underestimated especially for high-dielectric materials [15]. This study further clarifies that the errors in the conventional analysis are amplified as the measurement frequency approaches the cutoff frequency of the radial radiation through the dielectric sheets. To address this problem, full-wave circuit modal analysis [18], [19], [20], [21], [22] is applied to analyze an exact and complex structure of the BCDR. In the circuit analysis method, the entire geometry is divided into simpler elements to express the whole structure as a connection of admittance matrices for the elements obtained via the mode-matching analysis. This is a powerful and flexible tool that can provide accurate analysis, even for complex structures with particular symmetries. By applying the circuit analysis, this study formulates, for the first time, a full-wave analysis for the BCDR based on an exact resonator structure, which is indispensable for accurate material measurements with the BCDR method in millimeter-wave bands above 100 GHz.

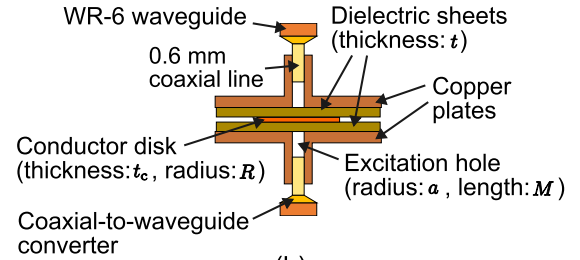
Incidentally, in addition to the BCDR method, the open-resonator method can provide permittivity measurements above 100 GHz [23], [24], [25]. An open resonator measures the complex permittivity tangential to a sheet sample by utilizing higher-order TEM_{00n} modes over a wideband. In contrast, the BCDR method provides measurements of the complex permittivity perpendicular to a sheet sample, as well as the conductivity measurements of a metallic sample. Considering that anisotropic substrate materials require knowledge of both in-plane and perpendicular permittivities, both two methods are essential for material development for 6G communications.

This article is an extended version of [26], and it is expanded by including additional and detailed numerical simulations and experimental measurements for the developed BCDR with waveguide interfaces and by developing the modified analysis of the BCDR based on the full-wave circuit modal analysis.

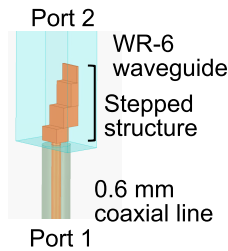
The remainder of this article is organized as follows. The developed BCDR with waveguide interfaces used in this study is described in Section II. The improved modal analysis for the BCDR is introduced in Section III. The proposed modal analysis is numerically verified to clarify its accuracy compared with that of the conventional analysis in Section IV. Complex permittivity and conductivity measurements are demonstrated by using the developed BCDR with waveguide



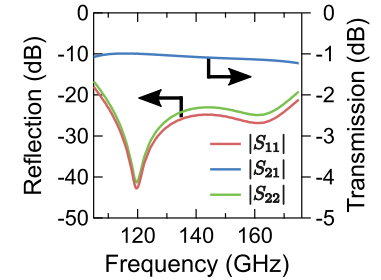
(a)



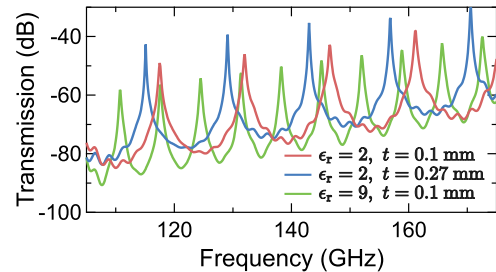
(b)



(c)



(d)



(e)

Fig. 1. (a) Photograph and (b) schematic of the developed BCDR with WR-6 waveguide interfaces. (c) Schematic of the coaxial-to-waveguide converter implemented in the excitation structure. (d) Simulated S-parameters of the excitation structure implemented in the BCDR. (e) Simulated transmissions of the BCDR loaded with the samples.

interfaces and the proposed modal analysis in Section V. Finally, the conclusions are presented in Section VI.

II. BCDR WITH WAVEGUIDE INTERFACES

A photograph and schematic of the developed BCDR for material characterization in the D -band are shown in Fig. 1(a) and (b), respectively. The BCDR has WR-6 waveguide interfaces and is connected to D -band frequency multipliers via bent waveguide lines. As shown in Fig. 1(b), the resonator

comprises a thin circular conductor disk with a thickness $t_c = 0.06$ mm, diameter $2R = 15.0$ mm, and conductivity σ , sandwiched between a pair of dielectric sheet samples, each with a thickness t , relative permittivity ϵ_r , and loss tangent $\tan \delta$ [i.e., the complex relative permittivity of the sample is $\epsilon_r(1 - j \tan \delta)$]. The dielectric sheets are sandwiched between two parallel copper plates. To realize the selective excitation for the TM_{0m0} modes in a wideband up to 170 GHz, the resonator is excited and detected by 0.6-mm coaxial lines through excitation holes, of diameter $2a = 0.80$ mm and length $M = 0.5$ mm, located at the center of the resonator. The inner diameter of the outer conductor and the outer diameter of the center conductor of the coaxial lines are 0.610 and 0.203 mm, respectively. These ultrafine and brittle coaxial lines are covered inside the resonator by the waveguide interfaces, which alleviates the robustness issues. Coaxial-to-waveguide converters are implemented in the excitation structures of the BCDR to convert the waveguide TE_{10} mode to the coaxial TEM mode. The relative permittivity of the dielectric sheet sample at each resonant frequency of the TM_{0m0} modes is determined from the measured resonant frequency by considering the resonance condition of the BCDR with the modal analysis, which is explained in detail in Section III. The loss tangent of the dielectric sheet sample and conductivity of the conductor disk are obtained from the measured unloaded Q -factor.

Fig. 1(c) shows the coaxial-to-waveguide converter. The end of the WR-6 waveguide has a four-stage metallic stepped structure with the center conductor of the coaxial line inserted into it. The stepped structure is optimized for an efficient mode conversion over the entire D -band. Fig. 1(d) shows the simulation results of the S-parameters of the excitation structure calculated from 105 to 175 GHz using a commercial electromagnetic full-wave simulator HFSS.¹ In the simulations, ports 1 and 2 are set at the coaxial line and waveguide end faces, respectively. The lengths of the coaxial line and waveguide from the converter are set to 48 and 20 mm, respectively. As observed in Fig. 1(d), highly efficient coaxial-to-waveguide conversion without reflections is realized over the entire D -band. The reflections for both ports are less than -20 dB and the transmission including the insertion losses of the coaxial line and waveguide is more than -1.2 dB at frequencies from 110 to 170 GHz.

Fig. 1(e) shows the simulated transmissions of the BCDR loaded with dielectric sheet samples and copper disk calculated from 105 to 175 GHz. In the simulations, three sample conditions are considered for the dielectric sheets: 1) relative permittivity $\epsilon_r = 2$ and thickness $t = 0.1$ mm; 2) $\epsilon_r = 2$ and $t = 0.27$ mm; and 3) $\epsilon_r = 9$ and $t = 0.1$ mm. The loss tangent of the dielectric sheets and conductivity of the copper disk are set to $\tan \delta = 0.0004$ and $\sigma = 5.63 \times 10^7$ S/m, respectively. It is noted that the maximum frequency at which the electromagnetic field can be confined in the BCDR is limited by the cutoff frequency for the radial radiation through the dielectric sheets, as determined

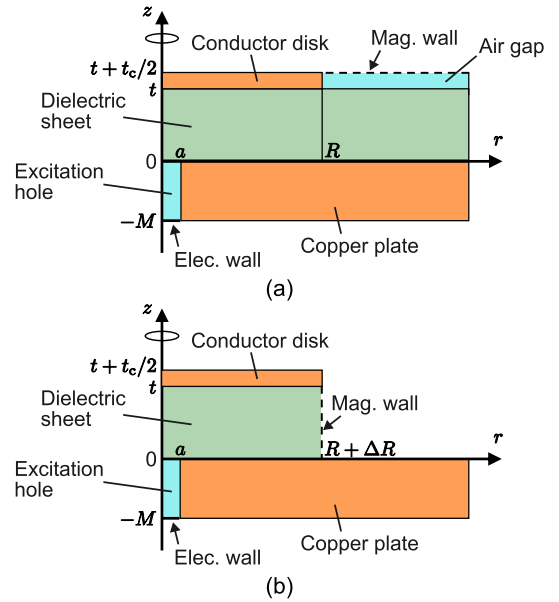


Fig. 2. Schematics of the analysis geometries of the BCDR considered in (a) proposed modal analysis and (b) conventional modal analysis.

by the following equation [15]:

$$f_c^{\text{rad}} = \frac{c}{4(t + t_c/2)\sqrt{\epsilon_r}} \quad (1)$$

where c is the velocity of light in free space. For the three sample conditions, f_c^{rad} are calculated to be 408, 192, and 177 GHz, respectively. These values are higher than 170 GHz, which is the upper limit of the D -band. Considering the computational-cost constraints, the simulations are carried out at 701 points with a coarse resolution of 100 MHz. Fig. 1(e) shows that the selective excitation for the TM_{0m0} modes is realized in the developed BCDR with waveguide interfaces, as in conventional BCDRs with coaxial-line interfaces [12], [13], [14], [15], [16]. In the frequency range from 105 to 175 GHz, $TM_{0,8,0}$ to $TM_{0,11,0}$ modes, $TM_{0,8,0}$ to $TM_{0,12,0}$ modes, and $TM_{0,16,0}$ to $TM_{0,25,0}$ modes are confirmed for sample conditions 1), 2), and 3), respectively.

Alignment between the conductor disk and excitation hole is essential for the mode selectivity of the TM_{0m0} modes. To ensure alignment during the experiments, a donut-shaped thin film made of a cyclic olefin polymer (COP) with a thickness of 0.05 mm is used as a shim. The shim is carefully removed from the resonator to avoid moving the disk after ensuring disk alignment. We can find the misalignment from the measured transmission by detecting the resonances of the unwanted modes.

III. MODIFIED FULL-WAVE MODAL ANALYSIS

The analysis geometry of the BCDR considered in this study is shown in Fig. 2(a). Only half of the BCDR needs to be considered, owing to its symmetrical structure; therefore, a magnetic wall is placed on the plane of $z = t + t_c/2$. The air region in $0 \leq r \leq a$ and $-M \leq z \leq 0$, dielectric region in $r \geq 0$ and $0 \leq z \leq t$, and air region in $r \geq R$ and $t \leq z \leq t + t_c/2$ represent the excitation hole, dielectric sheet,

¹Registered trademark.

and air gap, respectively. Here, we assume that the dielectric sheet is sufficiently large, and the dielectric region and upper air region extend infinitely in the radial direction.

The approximate analysis geometry shown in Fig. 2(b) is considered in the conventional mode-matching analysis [12], [13], [15], [17], where the dielectric region is approximated as a cylinder surrounded by a magnetic wall. The radius of the dielectric region is larger than that of the conductor disk by ΔR , owing to the effect of the fringing field at the disk edge. In [15], we proposed an algorithm to estimate ΔR via the mode-matching analysis for a structure that ignored the excitation hole, and the algorithm improved the accuracy of the relative permittivity measurements using the BCDR method. However, the approximate model in Fig. 2(b) neglects the leakage from the dielectric into the air gap. As clarified later via a comparison with the full-wave simulations, this approximation has a non-negligible effect on the measurement results, particularly for measurement frequencies close to f_c^{rad} with high-dielectric or thick samples.

We introduce the full-wave circuit analysis method [18], [19], [20], [21], [22] to rigorously analyze the structure shown in Fig. 2(a) by dividing the entire structure into three simple elements. The circuit segmentation of the structure shown in Fig. 2(a) is shown in Fig. 3(a), and the three elements contained in the circuit network are shown in Fig. 3(b)–(d). In the following, we first compute the admittance matrix of each element using the mode-matching analysis, in which the electromagnetic fields inside the structure are approximated on each surface of the ports using series expansions of basis functions. We then analyze the resonance condition of the entire circuit network by connecting the elements using the obtained admittance matrices.

When computing the admittance matrix, we only need to consider the TM_{0m} modes because they are decoupled from all the TE modes and the TM_{nm} modes ($n \neq 0$), owing to the coaxial cylindrical geometries of the elements (the elements do not have the TEM modes because of their geometries). This fact can be confirmed by calculating the coupling between the basis functions of the port fields and those of the internal fields for each mode.

A. Three-Port Cylindrical Structure (Element A)

Fig. 3(b) shows the three-port cylindrical structure corresponding to element A in Fig. 3(a). The ports are defined as follows: port 1 at $0 \leq r \leq R$ and $z = t$, port 2 at $r = R$ and $0 \leq z \leq t$, and port 3 at $0 \leq r \leq a$ and $z = 0$. An electric wall condition is imposed at $z = 0$ and $a \leq r \leq R$. The structure is filled with the dielectric sheet sample.

The transverse electromagnetic fields at each port of element A can be written as a series expansion of the basis functions as follows:

$$e^I = - \sum_{p=1}^{\infty} \alpha_p^I k_{Rp} J_1(k_{Rp} r) \hat{r} \quad (2)$$

$$h^I = - \sum_{u=1}^{\infty} \beta_u^I k_{Ru} J_1(k_{Ru} r) \hat{\phi} \quad (3)$$

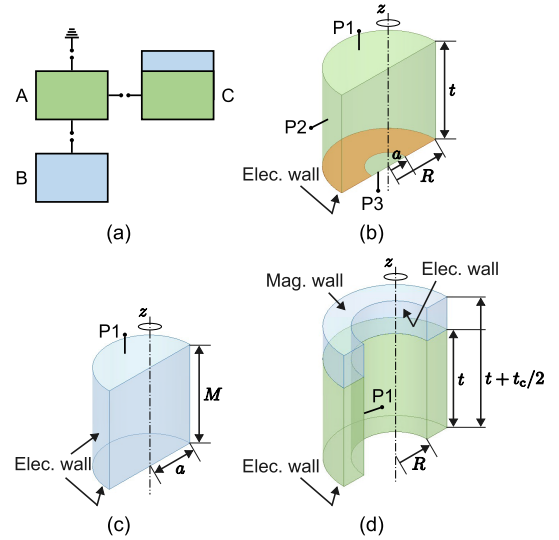


Fig. 3. (a) Circuit segmentation of the BCDR. (b)–(d) Structures and dimensions of the three elements contained in the circuit network. (b) Three-port cylindrical structure (element A). (c) One-port cylindrical structure (element B). (d) One-port ring structure (element C).

$$e^{\text{II}} = \sum_{p=0}^{\infty} \alpha_p^{\text{II}} \cos\left(\frac{p\pi}{t} z\right) \hat{z} \quad (4)$$

$$h^{\text{II}} = \sum_{u=0}^{\infty} \beta_u^{\text{II}} \cos\left(\frac{u\pi}{t} z\right) \hat{\phi} \quad (5)$$

$$e^{\text{III}} = - \sum_{p=1}^{\infty} \alpha_p^{\text{III}} k_{ap} J_1(k_{ap} r) \hat{r} \quad (6)$$

$$h^{\text{III}} = - \sum_{u=1}^{\infty} \beta_u^{\text{III}} k_{au} J_1(k_{au} r) \hat{\phi} \quad (7)$$

where α_p^I , α_p^{II} , and α_p^{III} are the expansion coefficients for the transverse electric fields at ports 1, 2, and 3, respectively, β_u^I , β_u^{II} , and β_u^{III} are the expansion coefficients for the transverse magnetic fields at ports 1, 2, and 3, respectively, \hat{r} , $\hat{\phi}$, and \hat{z} are the unit vectors in the r -, ϕ -, and z -directions, respectively, J_n is the Bessel function of the first kind of order n , and

$$k_{Rn} = \frac{\chi_{0n}}{R}, \quad k_{an} = \frac{\chi_{0n}}{a} \quad (8)$$

where χ_{0n} is the n th zero of J_0 .

To calculate the Y_{i1} parameters of element A, electric wall conditions are imposed on ports 2 and 3. In this case, the transverse components of the electromagnetic fields inside the structure are given by the following equations:

$$E^{\text{in}} = - \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} A_m \frac{\gamma_{Rm}}{k_{Rm}} J_1(k_{Rm} r) \sinh(\gamma_{Rm} z) \hat{r} \quad (9)$$

$$H^{\text{in}} = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} B_m \frac{j\omega\epsilon_r\epsilon_0}{k_{Rm}} J_1(k_{Rm} r) \cosh(\gamma_{Rm} z) \hat{\phi} \quad (10)$$

where A_m and B_m are the expansion coefficients, ω is the angular frequency, ϵ_0 is the permittivity in free space, and

$$\gamma_{Rm}^2 = k_{Rm}^2 - \epsilon_r k_0^2 \quad (11)$$

where $k_0 = \omega/c$ is the wavenumber in free space. Imposing the boundary condition for the transverse electric field at port 1 yields the following:

$$E^{\text{in}}(z = t) = e^{\text{I}}. \quad (12)$$

We then apply the orthogonality of the Bessel function and obtain

$$A_m = \sum_{p=1}^{\infty} \frac{k_{Rp}^2}{\gamma_{Rp} \sinh(\gamma_{Rp}t)} \delta_{mp} \quad (13)$$

where δ_{mp} denotes the Kronecker delta.

Imposing the boundary condition for the transverse magnetic fields at the ports yields the following:

$$H^{\text{in}}(z = t) = h^{\text{I}} \quad (14)$$

$$H^{\text{in}}(r = R) = h^{\text{II}} \quad (15)$$

$$H^{\text{in}}(z = 0) = h^{\text{III}}. \quad (16)$$

We then apply the orthogonality of the basis functions and obtain the following:

$$\vec{\beta}^{\text{I}} = Y_{11}^{\text{A}} \vec{\alpha}^{\text{I}}, \quad \vec{\beta}^{\text{II}} = Y_{21}^{\text{A}} \vec{\alpha}^{\text{I}}, \quad \vec{\beta}^{\text{III}} = Y_{31}^{\text{A}} \vec{\alpha}^{\text{I}} \quad (17)$$

$$[Y_{11}^{\text{A}}]_{up} = -\frac{j\omega\epsilon_r\epsilon_0}{\gamma_{Rp} \tanh(\gamma_{Rp}t)} \delta_{up} \quad (18)$$

$$[Y_{21}^{\text{A}}]_{up} = \frac{2j\omega\epsilon_r\epsilon_0 J_1(\chi_{0p}) k_{Rp} t}{(\gamma_{Rp}t)^2 + (\pi u)^2} \frac{(-1)^u}{1 + \delta_{0u}} \quad (19)$$

$$[Y_{31}^{\text{A}}]_{up} = \frac{2j\omega\epsilon_r\epsilon_0}{\gamma_{Rp} \sinh(\gamma_{Rp}t)} \frac{J_0(k_{Rp}a)}{a J_1(\chi_{0u})} \frac{k_{Rp}^2}{k_{au} (k_{Rp}^2 - k_{au}^2)}. \quad (20)$$

To calculate the Y_{i2} parameters of element A, electric wall conditions are imposed on ports 1 and 3. In this case, the transverse components of the electromagnetic fields inside the structure are given by the following equations:

$$E^{\text{in}} = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} A_m J_0(k_{tm}r) \cosh(\gamma_{tm}z) \hat{z} \quad (21)$$

$$H^{\text{in}} = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} B_m \frac{j\omega\epsilon_r\epsilon_0}{k_{tm}} J_1(k_{tm}r) \cosh(\gamma_{tm}z) \hat{\phi} \quad (22)$$

where

$$\gamma_{tm} = \frac{j m \pi}{t}, \quad k_{tm}^2 = \epsilon_r k_0^2 + \gamma_{tm}^2. \quad (23)$$

By applying the boundary conditions at the ports and the orthogonality of the basis functions as in the derivation of Y_{i1}^{A} , we obtain the following:

$$\vec{\beta}^{\text{I}} = Y_{12}^{\text{A}} \vec{\alpha}^{\text{II}}, \quad \vec{\beta}^{\text{II}} = Y_{22}^{\text{A}} \vec{\alpha}^{\text{II}}, \quad \vec{\beta}^{\text{III}} = Y_{32}^{\text{A}} \vec{\alpha}^{\text{II}} \quad (24)$$

$$[Y_{12}^{\text{A}}]_{up} = \frac{2j\omega\epsilon_r\epsilon_0 R^2}{R^2 k_{tp}^2 - \chi_{0u}^2} \frac{(-1)^p}{\chi_{0u} J_1(\chi_{0u})} \quad (25)$$

$$[Y_{22}^{\text{A}}]_{up} = \frac{j\omega\epsilon_r\epsilon_0}{k_{tp}} \frac{J_1(k_{tp}R)}{J_0(k_{tp}R)} \delta_{up} \quad (26)$$

$$[Y_{32}^{\text{A}}]_{up} = \frac{2j\omega\epsilon_r\epsilon_0 a^2}{a^2 k_{tp}^2 - \chi_{0u}^2} \frac{J_0(k_{tp}a)}{J_0(k_{tp}R) J_1(\chi_{0u}) \chi_{0u}}. \quad (27)$$

To calculate the Y_{i3} parameters of element A, electric wall conditions are imposed on ports 1 and 2. In this case, the

transverse components of the electromagnetic fields inside the structure are given by the following equations:

$$E^{\text{in}} = -\sum_{m=1}^{\infty} A_m \frac{\gamma_{Rm}}{k_{Rm}} J_1(k_{Rm}r) \sinh[\gamma_{Rm}(z-t)] \hat{r} \quad (28)$$

$$H^{\text{in}} = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} B_m \frac{j\omega\epsilon_r\epsilon_0}{k_{Rm}} J_1(k_{Rm}r) \cosh[\gamma_{Rm}(z-t)] \hat{\phi}. \quad (29)$$

By applying the boundary conditions at the ports and the orthogonality of the basis functions as in the derivation of Y_{i1}^{A} , we obtain the following:

$$\vec{\beta}^{\text{I}} = Y_{13}^{\text{A}} \vec{\alpha}^{\text{III}}, \quad \vec{\beta}^{\text{II}} = Y_{23}^{\text{A}} \vec{\alpha}^{\text{III}}, \quad \vec{\beta}^{\text{III}} = Y_{33}^{\text{A}} \vec{\alpha}^{\text{III}} \quad (30)$$

$$[Y_{13}^{\text{A}}]_{up} = -\frac{2j\omega\epsilon_r\epsilon_0}{\gamma_{Ru} \sinh(\gamma_{Ru}t)} \frac{J_0(k_{Ru}a) J_1(\chi_{0p})}{R^2 [J_1(\chi_{0u})]^2} \frac{\chi_{0p}}{k_{Ru}^2 - k_{ap}^2} \quad (31)$$

$$[Y_{23}^{\text{A}}]_{up} = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{4j\omega\epsilon_r\epsilon_0}{1 + \delta_{0u}} \frac{at}{(\gamma_{Rm}t)^2 + (\pi u)^2} \times \frac{J_0(k_{Rm}a) J_1(\chi_{0p})}{R^2 J_1(\chi_{0m})} \frac{k_{Rm} k_{ap}}{k_{Rm}^2 - k_{ap}^2} \quad (32)$$

$$[Y_{33}^{\text{A}}]_{up} = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{4j\omega\epsilon_r\epsilon_0 \chi_{0p}}{R^2 \chi_{0u} \gamma_{Rm} \tanh(\gamma_{Rm}t)} \frac{J_1(\chi_{0p}) J_0^2(k_{Rm}a)}{J_1(\chi_{0u}) J_1^2(\chi_{0m})} \times \frac{k_{Rm}^2}{(k_{Rm}^2 - k_{au}^2)(k_{Rm}^2 - k_{ap}^2)}. \quad (33)$$

B. One-Port Cylindrical Structure (Element B)

Fig. 3(c) shows the one-port cylindrical structure corresponding to element B in Fig. 3(a). The port is defined at $0 \leq r \leq a$ and $z = 0$. Electric wall conditions are imposed on the other boundaries of the cylinder. The structure is filled with air. In a similar manner to that used to obtain Y_{i1}^{A} , we obtain Y_{i1} of element B as follows:

$$[Y_{11}^{\text{B}}]_{up} = -\frac{j\omega\epsilon_a\epsilon_0}{\gamma_{ap} \tanh(\gamma_{ap}t)} \delta_{up} \quad (34)$$

where ϵ_a is the relative permittivity of air and

$$\gamma_{ap}^2 = k_{ap}^2 - \epsilon_r k_0^2. \quad (35)$$

C. One-Port Ring Structure (Element C)

Fig. 3(d) shows the one-port ring structure corresponding to element C in Fig. 3(a). The port is defined at $r = R$ and $0 \leq z \leq t$. The structure is filled with the dielectric sample in $0 \leq z \leq t$ and air in $t \leq z \leq t + t_c/2$. Electric wall conditions are imposed on the bottom of the dielectric region ($r \geq R$, $z = 0$) and lateral surface of the air region ($r = R$, $t \leq z \leq t + t_c/2$), and a magnetic wall condition is imposed on the top of the air region ($r \geq R$, $t \leq z \leq t + t_c/2$). The dielectric and air regions are assumed to extend infinitely in the r -direction.

The field components in the dielectric and air regions are given by the following equations:

$$E_z^{(1)} = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} K_0(q_m r) \left[A_m^{(1)} e^{\gamma_m^{(1)} z} + B_m^{(1)} e^{-\gamma_m^{(1)} z} \right] \quad (36)$$

$$E_r^{(1)} = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{\gamma_m^{(1)}}{q_m} K_1(q_m r) \left[A_m^{(1)} e^{\gamma_m^{(1)} z} - B_m^{(1)} e^{-\gamma_m^{(1)} z} \right] \quad (37)$$

$$H_\phi^{(1)} = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} -\frac{j\omega\epsilon_r\epsilon_0}{q_m} K_1(q_m r) \left[A_m^{(1)} e^{\gamma_m^{(1)} z} + B_m^{(1)} e^{-\gamma_m^{(1)} z} \right] \quad (38)$$

$$E_z^{(2)} = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} K_0(q_m r) \left[A_m^{(2)} e^{\gamma_m^{(2)} z} + B_m^{(2)} e^{-\gamma_m^{(2)} z} \right] \quad (39)$$

$$E_r^{(2)} = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{\gamma_m^{(2)}}{q_m} K_1(q_m r) \left[A_m^{(2)} e^{\gamma_m^{(2)} z} - B_m^{(2)} e^{-\gamma_m^{(2)} z} \right] \quad (40)$$

$$H_\phi^{(2)} = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} -\frac{j\omega\epsilon_a\epsilon_0}{q_m} K_1(q_m r) \left[A_m^{(2)} e^{\gamma_m^{(2)} z} + B_m^{(2)} e^{-\gamma_m^{(2)} z} \right] \quad (41)$$

where superscripts (1) and (2) denote the quantities for the dielectric and air regions, respectively, K_n is the modified Bessel function of the second kind of order n , and

$$q_m^2 = -\epsilon_r k_0^2 - \gamma_m^{(1)2} = -\epsilon_a k_0^2 - \gamma_m^{(2)2}. \quad (42)$$

By applying the boundary conditions at $z = 0$, $z = t$, and $z = t + t_c/2$ for E_r and H_ϕ and the orthogonality of the basis functions, we obtain the following:

$$[X] \begin{pmatrix} A_m^{(1)} \\ A_m^{(2)} \end{pmatrix} = 0 \quad (43)$$

$$[X] = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -L_{11} + L_{12} e^{2\gamma_m^{(2)}(t+t_c/2)} \\ 1 & -L_{21} + L_{22} e^{2\gamma_m^{(2)}(t+t_c/2)} \end{pmatrix} \quad (44)$$

$$[L] = \begin{pmatrix} \gamma_m^{(1)} e^{\gamma_m^{(1)} t} & -\gamma_m^{(1)} e^{-\gamma_m^{(1)} t} \\ \epsilon_r \epsilon_0 e^{\gamma_m^{(1)} t} & \epsilon_r \epsilon_0 e^{-\gamma_m^{(1)} t} \end{pmatrix}^{-1} \\ \times \begin{pmatrix} \gamma_m^{(2)} e^{\gamma_m^{(2)} t} & -\gamma_m^{(2)} e^{-\gamma_m^{(2)} t} \\ \epsilon_a \epsilon_0 e^{\gamma_m^{(2)} t} & \epsilon_a \epsilon_0 e^{-\gamma_m^{(2)} t} \end{pmatrix}. \quad (45)$$

The characteristic equation of $\det[X] = 0$ is given from (43) and by substituting (42) into the characteristic equation, $\gamma_m^{(1)}$, $\gamma_m^{(2)}$, and q_m can be obtained. It should be noted that by imposing $q_m^2 > 0$ such that the fields do not diverge at $r \rightarrow \infty$, we can obtain the cutoff frequency for the radial radiation. When the air region is assumed to be filled with the same dielectric with ϵ_r , the cutoff frequency thus obtained agrees with that obtained from the conventional modal analysis of (1).

To calculate Y_{11} of element C, Y_{11}^C , we introduce P_m defined by the following equation. P_m can be readily calculated from (42) and the boundary conditions at $z = 0$, $z = t$, and $z = t + t_c/2$

$$P_m = \frac{1}{A_m^{(1)2}} \left\{ \int_0^t \epsilon_r \epsilon_0 \left[A_m^{(1)} e^{\gamma_m^{(1)} z} + B_m^{(1)} e^{-\gamma_m^{(1)} z} \right]^2 \right. \\ \left. + \int_t^{t+t_c/2} \epsilon_a \epsilon_0 \left[A_m^{(2)} e^{\gamma_m^{(2)} z} + B_m^{(2)} e^{-\gamma_m^{(2)} z} \right]^2 \right\}. \quad (46)$$

The transverse electromagnetic fields at the port can be given by (4) and (5). By applying the boundary conditions at $r = R$

and the orthogonality of the basis functions, we obtain the following:

$$[Y_{11}^C]_{up} = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} -\frac{8j\omega t^3 (-1)^{u+p}}{q_m (1 + \delta_{0u})} \frac{K_1(q_m R)}{P_m K_0(q_m R)} \\ \times \frac{[\epsilon_r \epsilon_0 \gamma_m^{(1)} \sinh(\gamma_m^{(1)} t)]^2}{\left[(\gamma_m^{(1)} t)^2 + (\pi u)^2 \right] \left[(\gamma_m^{(1)} t)^2 + (\pi p)^2 \right]}. \quad (47)$$

D. Connections of the Elements

The connections of the three elements are carried out based on the circuit theory, and the following equations are obtained:

$$\begin{pmatrix} \vec{\beta}^I \\ \vec{\beta}^II \\ \vec{\beta}^III \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} Y_{11}^A & Y_{12}^A & Y_{13}^A \\ Y_{21}^A & Y_{22}^A & Y_{23}^A \\ Y_{31}^A & Y_{32}^A & Y_{33}^A \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \vec{\alpha}^I \\ \vec{\alpha}^II \\ \vec{\alpha}^III \end{pmatrix} \quad (48)$$

$$\vec{\beta}^III = Y_{11}^B \vec{\alpha}^III \quad (49)$$

$$\vec{\beta}^II = Y_{11}^C \vec{\alpha}^II. \quad (50)$$

Then, the admittance and scattering matrices of the entire structure seen from port 2 of element A are derived. Finally, considering that port 2 is short-terminated, a resonance condition is derived to calculate the sample permittivity [18], [20].

The mode numbers for the ports considered in the calculations are truncated to finite values. In Sections IV and V, the mode numbers for ports 1, 2, and 3 of element A are set as $N^I = 300$, $N^II = 50$, and $N^III = 50$, respectively, unless otherwise specified. The mode numbers for the fields inside elements A and C, which correspond to the upper limit of m in (32)–(33) and (47), are set as N^I and N^II , respectively.

IV. NUMERICAL VERIFICATION OF THE MODAL ANALYSIS

To verify the accuracy of the proposed modal analysis compared with that of the conventional one, full-wave electromagnetic simulations are carried out using the HFSS¹ eigenmode solver. In the simulations, similar to those in Section II, three sample conditions are considered for the dielectric sheet: 1) $\epsilon_r = 2$ and $t = 0.1$ mm; 2) $\epsilon_r = 2$ and $t = 0.27$ mm; and 3) $\epsilon_r = 9$ and $t = 0.1$ mm. For the three conditions, the resonant frequencies of the TM_{0m0} modes are calculated in the range from 105 to 175 GHz. Then, the relative permittivity of the dielectric sheet is calculated from each simulated resonant frequency using the proposed and conventional modal analyses to compare with the setting values. To accurately calculate the resonant frequency at a moderate computational cost, both dielectric and conductor losses in the resonator are not considered in the simulations. In addition, considering the symmetrical structure of the BCDR and electromagnetic distributions at resonances, only a portion of the lower half of the resonator with a center angle of 30° is analyzed by setting perfect magnetic conductor (PMC) boundaries, as shown in Fig. 4(a). The dielectric sheet and air gap are terminated by a perfectly matched layer (PML) boundary to consider the radial radiation.

Fig. 4(b)–(d) shows the deviations of the analytically calculated relative permittivity from each setting. The red and

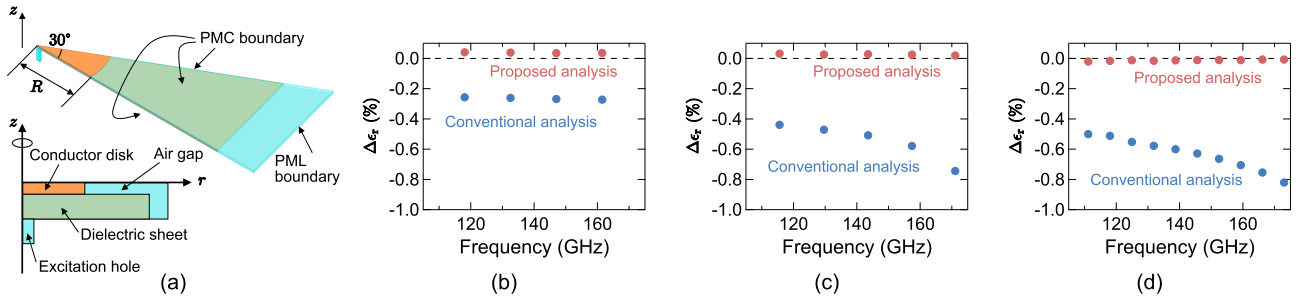


Fig. 4. (a) Configurations of the full-wave simulations for the BCDR. (b)–(d) Deviations of the analytically calculated relative permittivity from each setting value for (b) case with $\epsilon_r = 2$ and $t = 0.1$ mm, (c) case with $\epsilon_r = 2$ and $t = 0.27$ mm, and (d) case with $\epsilon_r = 9$ and $t = 0.1$ mm.

blue markers represent the results obtained from the simulated resonant frequencies by using the proposed and conventional modal analyses, respectively. The results for sample conditions 1), 2), and 3) are shown in Fig. 4(b)–(d), respectively. Fig. 4(b)–(d) shows that the proposed analysis provides highly accurate results for all sample conditions at all resonances with a deviation within $\pm 0.04\%$. However, the results obtained from the conventional analysis are underestimated for all three cases and slightly decrease with the frequency for samples with a large thickness [Fig. 4(c)] or high permittivity [Fig. 4(d)]. This is because the conventional analysis does not consider the effect of radial radiation from the dielectric sheet into the air gap, and the radiation becomes significant as the frequency approaches f_c^{rad} ($f_c^{\text{rad}} = 408, 177,$ and 192 GHz for cases 1), 2), and 3), respectively).

The deviations for the conventional analysis shown in Fig. 4(b)–(d) are replotted against f/f_c^{rad} for the three sample conditions, as shown in Fig. 5. Fig. 5 indicates that the magnitudes of the deviations increase with f/f_c^{rad} among the results with the same ϵ_r . In addition, comparing the results with $\epsilon_r = 2$ and 9 shows that the deviations increase with ϵ_r for the results with similar f/f_c^{rad} . This result can be explained by the fact that the effect of radial radiation into the air gap on the permittivity calculation in the conventional analysis becomes pronounced when the difference between the sample permittivity and the air permittivity (≈ 1) increases. According to (1), we obtain the following:

$$\frac{f}{f_c^{\text{rad}}} = \frac{4(t + t_c/2)}{\lambda_0/\sqrt{\epsilon_r}} = 2g \quad (51)$$

where λ_0 is the wavelength in free space, and g is the “electric length” for the distance between the upper and lower copper plates defined here by $g = (2t + t_c)/(\lambda_0/\sqrt{\epsilon_r})$. Fig. 5 suggests that the relative permittivity error in the conventional analysis owing to the radial radiation is governed by g and ϵ_r .

Incidentally, it would be possible to mitigate the error in the conventional analysis to some extent by performing BCDR measurements without removing the donut-shaped dielectric shim used for disk alignment, because the difference in the permittivity between the sample and the gap is suppressed; however, it has been reported that nonnegligible errors still remain for high-dielectric samples with large permittivity differences from the shim [15]. The proposed analysis based on the rigorous resonator-structure model that considers the radial radiation can provide sufficiently accurate results, even

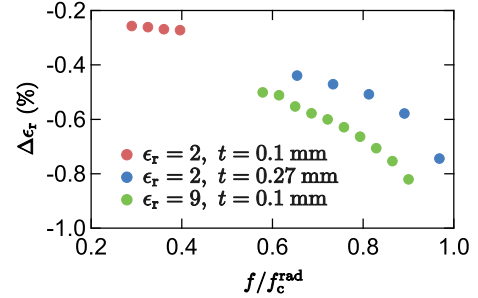


Fig. 5. Deviations of the analytically calculated relative permittivity from each setting value for the conventional analysis plotted against f/f_c^{rad} . Results for the three sample conditions are presented.

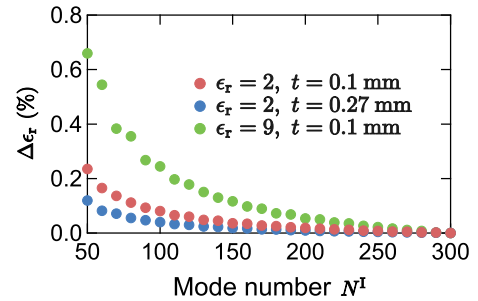


Fig. 6. Convergence of the proposed modal analysis in terms of the mode number N^I used for the circular port with radius R . Deviations of the calculated relative permittivity compared to the case of $N^I = 300$ for the highest order modes at frequencies below 175 GHz are presented for the three sample conditions.

when the frequency is close to f_c^{rad} with high-dielectric or thick samples.

To study the convergence of the proposed analysis on the mode numbers, the dependence of the results on N^I (the mode number on the circular port with radius R) is investigated. Fig. 6 shows the deviations of the results compared to those of the case of $N^I = 300$ for sample conditions 1), 2), and 3). In Fig. 6, the results for the highest-order modes at frequencies below 175 GHz are presented for each sample condition ($\text{TM}_{0,11,0}$, $\text{TM}_{0,12,0}$, and $\text{TM}_{0,25,0}$ modes at 161, 171, and 173 GHz for conditions 1), 2), and 3), respectively). The mode numbers for the other ports are fixed at $N^{\text{II}} = N^{\text{III}} = 50$. As observed in Fig. 6, the results converge sufficiently when N^I increases to 300. Even for the relatively slow convergence case with $\epsilon_r = 9$ [condition 3)], the deviation between the results for $N^I = 250$ and $N^I = 300$ is as small as 0.02%.

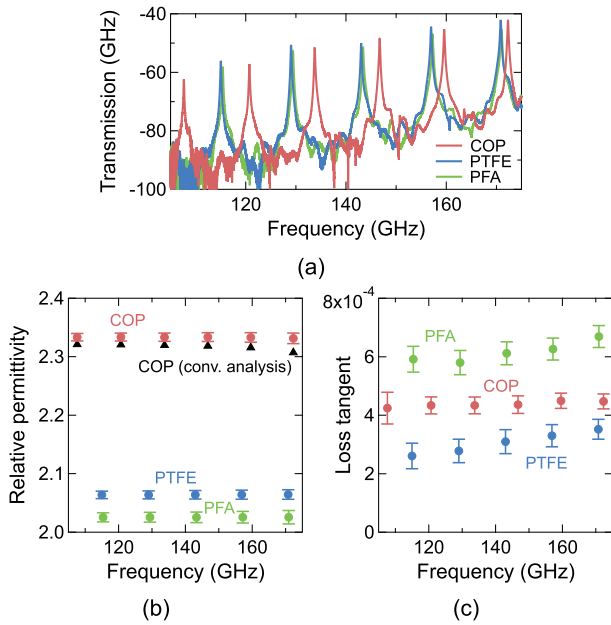


Fig. 7. (a) Measured transmissions of the BCDRs loaded with the three samples. (b) Measured relative permittivity and associated uncertainty. (c) Measured loss tangent and associated uncertainty.

V. EXPERIMENTS

A. Complex Permittivity Measurements in the D-Band

To demonstrate the developed BCDR with waveguide interfaces and the proposed modal analysis, the complex permittivity of COP, polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), and perfluoroalkoxy alkanes (PFA) is measured in the *D*-band. The thickness and associated uncertainty of the dielectric sheet pairs are 0.255 ± 0.002 mm, 0.209 ± 0.003 mm, and 0.257 ± 0.006 mm for the COP, PTFE, and PFA samples, respectively. The difference in the thickness of each sample pair is less than 0.001 mm and is included in the thickness uncertainty. Each sheet sample has a circular shape with a diameter of 50 mm. A copper disk with $t_c = 0.06$ mm and $2R = 15.0$ mm is used in the experiments.

Fig. 7(a) shows the measured transmissions of the BCDRs loaded with the three samples obtained from 105 to 175 GHz using a Keysight vector network analyzer (VNA) N5227B with VDI frequency multipliers N5262BW06. Before the measurements, the through-reflect-line (TRL) calibration is performed on the VNA at the waveguide interfaces of the resonator. As observed in Fig. 7(a), the TM_{0m0} mode resonances are clearly observed for all samples with other resonant modes sufficiently suppressed, as in the simulated transmissions of Fig. 1(e). This indicates that the selective excitation for the TM_{0m0} modes is realized for the developed BCDR with waveguide interfaces, as in conventional BCDRs with coaxial-line interfaces [12], [13], [14], [15], [16].

The relative permittivity calculated from the measured resonant frequency using the proposed modal analysis method is shown in Fig. 7(b). The red, blue, and green circles represent the results for the COP, PTFE, and PFA samples, respectively. It can be observed from Fig. 7(b) that the measured relative permittivity for each sample is nearly

flat over the entire frequency range, which supports the validity of the measurement system and analysis method. For comparison, the relative permittivity calculated from the conventional modal analysis is shown in Fig. 7(b) with black triangle markers for the COP sample. The results are slightly smaller than those from the proposed modal analysis, and they decrease with frequency. This is consistent with the simulation results shown in Fig. 4 and experimentally demonstrates the effectiveness of the proposed modal analysis compared with that of the conventional one.

The loss tangent is obtained from the measured unloaded Q -factor Q_u of each TM_{0m0} mode of the BCDR. Assuming that the effects of the fringing fields at the disk edge and conductor losses in the excitation holes are negligible, which is an appropriate assumption considering the typical measurement uncertainty of the Q -factor (i.e., $\sim 2\%$), the loss tangent is obtained from the following equation [13], [15], [16]:

$$\tan \delta = \frac{1}{Q_u} - \frac{1}{t\sqrt{\pi\mu_0 f_r \sigma}} \quad (52)$$

where μ_0 is the permeability in free space, f_r is the resonant frequency, and σ is the conductivity of the two parallel copper plates and the copper disk of the BCDR. σ is measured beforehand using the two-dielectric resonator method [27] at 10 GHz, and the result is $\sigma = (5.63 \pm 0.18) \times 10^7$ S/m. The measurement results of the loss tangent for the three samples are shown in Fig. 7(c). As observed in Fig. 7(c), the measured loss tangent shows almost flat (COP) or linearly increasing (PTFE, PFA) frequency characteristics in the *D*-band.

In Fig. 7(b) and (c), the associated uncertainties with the coverage factor $k = 2$ are shown as error bars. The uncertainties of the relative permittivity and loss tangent, $U(\epsilon_r)$ and $U(\tan \delta)$, are evaluated by considering the uncertainty propagation for (t, t_c, R, a, M, f_r) and (t, f_r, Q_u, σ) , respectively, on the basis of the sensitivity analysis. The uncertainties of t_c , R , a , and M are estimated to be 0.002, 0.0025, 0.005, and 0.25 mm, respectively, and those of f_r and Q_u are evaluated based on the repeatability of five measurements. In addition, for $U(\epsilon_r)$, the uncertainty associated with the error of the proposed modal analysis is estimated to be 0.05% on the basis of the accuracy (see Fig. 4) and convergence in terms of mode numbers (see Fig. 6) and is included in the combined uncertainty in Fig. 7(b). $U(\epsilon_r)$ is found to be less than 0.5% for the COP and PTFE samples and less than 0.7% for the PFA sample in the entire frequency band. $U(\tan \delta)$ is less than 8% for the COP (except for the first measurement point) and PFA samples and less than 17% for the PTFE sample. The relatively high $U(\tan \delta)$ of 12.8% at the first measurement point of 108 GHz for the COP sample can be attributed to the degraded signal-to-noise ratio for a weak resonant peak [see Fig. 7(a)].

B. Conductivity Measurements in the D-Band

To further demonstrate the developed BCDR with waveguide interfaces, the conductivity of copper foils used as circuit materials is measured. In general, copper foils used for

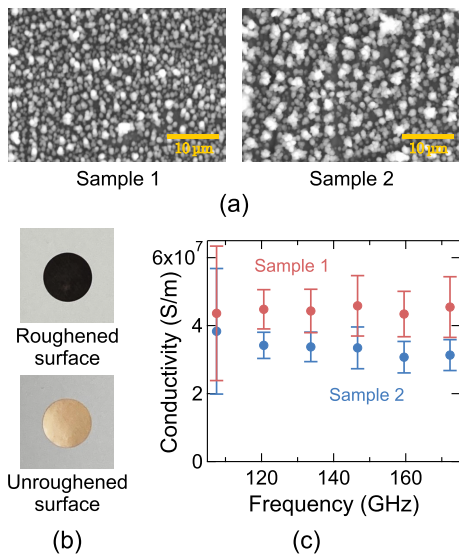


Fig. 8. (a) Scanning electron microscope images of the roughened surfaces of the two copper foil samples. (b) Photographs of the roughened and unroughened surfaces of the copper foil sample (sample 1). (c) Measured conductivity and associated uncertainty.

circuit boards are roughened on one side to strengthen their adhesion with dielectric substrates via the anchor effect [28]. The roughening treatment is performed by plating nodular metallic particles onto a raw copper foil [29], [30]. However, as mentioned in Section I, the surface roughness tends to degrade the conductivity, particularly in the 6G frequency bands where the skin depth is in the submicrometer order [4], [5]. Therefore, it is desirable to develop a copper foil that achieves both high conductivity and strong adhesion by optimizing the composition, size, and shape of roughening particles.

Two copper foils (samples 1 and 2) are prepared for the conductivity measurements in the D -band. Scanning electron microscope images of the roughened surfaces of the two samples are shown in Fig. 8(a). Owing to the differences in particle size and shape, the roughened surfaces of samples 1 and 2 have different surface roughnesses with typical R_{zjis} (ten-point mean roughness) values of 0.4 and 0.7 μm , respectively. The copper foils to be loaded into the BCDR are machined into circular shapes with a diameter of $2R = 15.0$ mm. Photographs of the roughened and unroughened surfaces of the copper foil sample are shown in Fig. 8(b). The thickness of each sample is $t_c = 0.012$ mm. Let σ^{rough} and σ^{unrough} be the conductivities of the roughened and unroughened surfaces of the copper foil sample, respectively. Assuming that σ^{unrough} is equal to the conductivity σ of the copper disk used in Section V-A, σ^{rough} is obtained using the following equation [16]:

$$\sigma^{\text{rough}} = \left[\frac{1}{\sqrt{\sigma}} - 4t\sqrt{\pi\mu_0 f_r} \left(\frac{1}{Q_u} - \frac{1}{Q_u^{\text{rough}}} \right) \right]^{-2} \quad (53)$$

where Q_u^{rough} and Q_u are the Q -factors of the BCDRs loaded with the copper foil sample (one side roughened) and copper disk (both sides unroughened), respectively (the resonant frequencies of the two measurements are almost the same with

the measured differences below 0.2%). The COP sheets with $t = 0.255$ mm used in Section V-A are used again for the conductivity measurements.

Fig. 8(c) shows the measured conductivity of the two copper foil samples. As observed in Fig. 8(c), the conductivity of sample 1 is almost flat over the entire D -band. However, the conductivity of sample 2 is lower than that of sample 1 and slightly decreases with increasing frequency, which reflects the differences in the surface profiles and R_{zjis} values.

In Fig. 8(c), the associated uncertainty with the coverage factor $k = 2$ is shown as error bars. The uncertainty of the conductivity $U(\sigma^{\text{rough}})$ is evaluated by considering the uncertainty propagation for t , f_r , Q_u^{rough} , Q_u , and σ , on the basis of the sensitivity analysis. $U(\sigma^{\text{rough}})$ is found to be in the range of 10%–20% except for the first measurement point. Similar to the case of $U(\tan\delta)$, large $U(\sigma^{\text{rough}})$ values of 48% and 45% for samples 1 and 2, respectively, at the first measurement point originate from the degraded signal-to-noise ratio at the first resonance. $U(\sigma^{\text{rough}})$ would be reduced by strengthening the resonator coupling with a decreased excitation hole length M .

VI. CONCLUSION

In this study, a BCDR using waveguide interfaces for an excitation mechanism has been proposed to extend the applicable frequency of the BCDR with a structure that alleviates the robustness issues exist in conventional BCDR structures having coaxial-line interfaces. To demonstrate this approach, a BCDR with WR-6 waveguide interfaces has been developed. The selective excitation for the TM_{0m0} modes in the developed BCDR has been confirmed both numerically and experimentally, which enables broadband measurement capability of the developed resonator for material characterization over the entire D -band. Moreover, a modified analysis has been proposed for the BCDR based on the full-wave circuit modal analysis, where the entire resonator structure is divided into three simple elements characterized by admittance matrices. Full-wave simulations and experimental measurements have revealed that the proposed analysis is more accurate than the conventional analysis in determining the relative permittivity. The effectiveness of the proposed analysis becomes particularly pronounced for high-dielectric or thick samples, for which the conventional analysis becomes inaccurate owing to the radial radiation through the dielectric sample. To experimentally demonstrate the developed BCDR and proposed modal analysis, the complex permittivity of the COP, PTFE, and PFA samples and the conductivity of the two copper foil samples with different surface roughnesses have been measured in the D -band with uncertainty evaluations. The developed resonator system can contribute to the development of advanced substrate materials for 6G applications. Future research includes the realization of a BCDR with WR-3 waveguide interfaces that is applicable for material characterization up to 300 GHz as well as the extension of the circuit modal analysis to the nonsymmetrical case of the BCDR to investigate the effect of the differences between dielectric sheet pair on the measurements.

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Yuto Kato (Member, IEEE) received the B.S. and M.S. degrees in physics from The University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan, in 2010 and 2012, respectively, and the Ph.D. degree from Osaka University, Toyonaka, Japan, in 2020.

Since 2012, he has been with the National Metrology Institute of Japan, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology, Tsukuba, Japan. His current research interests include material characterizations and electromagnetic metasurfaces at microwave and millimeter-

wave frequencies.

Dr. Kato is an Associate Editor of IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON INSTRUMENTATION AND MEASUREMENT.