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摘要：为有效提升60 GHz贴片天线及阵列的辐射带宽，提出利用微机械手段加工天线的低温共烧陶瓷（LTCC）基板。通过微切削方法在特定生瓷层上制作贯通结构，充填可挥发牺牲材料，完成基板叠压、烧结，待牺牲层升华排净后最终构成三维微结构。设计、制备了悬臂梁、围框结构和微管道等工艺样品。对天线设计电性能进行全波分析，并测试了微流道散热特性。实验结果表明：提出的方法成功解决了不同轴系各方向收缩率不一致、空腔塌陷等工艺问题，制作出的悬臂梁与围框尺寸高宽比达4:1，总长为12 mm，总层厚为1.4 mm；内嵌微流道横截面为200 μm×200 μm，长度达25 cm以上；内部光滑，基板表面贴装发热功率密度达2 W/cm²的功率器件时提供40 K以上的冷却能力；基板经过微机械加工后，天线的辐射带宽可从2.7 GHz增加到5.3 GHz，而增益的损失甚微。这些结果显示，用简单、低成本的微机械加工方法可在不显著增加制造成本的情况下有效扩增毫米波贴片天线的辐射带宽，为贴片天线阵中有源发射功率器件的设计和贴片天线的三维高密度集成提供了有效的技术支持。

关键词：陶瓷微机械加工 低温共烧陶瓷基板 毫米波 贴片天线

Micromachining of LTCC Substrate for 60 GHz Patch Antenna

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Abstract: To effectively enhance the radiation bandwidth of 60 GHz patch antennas, a micromachining process for the Low Temperature Co-fired Ceramic (LTCC) substrate was proposed. Specific green tape layers of substrate were micromilled to form perforated structures which were then filled with sacrificial materials. Thereafter, the individual layers were stacked up and sintered to form a three-dimensional (3D) microstructure. The cantilevers, enclosing frame structures and embedded microchannels were fabricated to verify the effectiveness of the process. The electrical properties of the antenna designs were validated by a full-wave analysis, and the effectiveness of the cooling channel was experimentally tested. The experiments show that the proposed process solves problems like the variation of contraction rate in various axes and the collapsing of the embedded cavities. The 3D frame, cantilever and the embedded microfluidic structure are fabricated with a maximum aspect ratio as high as 4:1, and a total thickness of 1.4 mm (14 layers). The cross section size of the microchannel is as large as 200 μm×200 μm and its maximum length is beyond 2.5 cm. With smooth inner walls, the smooth microfluidic flow may provide a cooling effect over 40 K for the integrated power devices with a heating power density of 2 W/cm². The simulated radiation pattern shows a doubled increase of radiation bandwidth from 2.7 GHz to 5.3 GHz and has a little gain loss. These results demonstrate that simple and low-cost micromachining may effectively enhance the radiation bandwidth of patch antennas without additional costs, which is beneficial to the design and implementation of large scale and highly integrated transmitting/receiving arrays with active power devices.

Keywords: Ceramic micromachining Low Temperature Co-fired Ceramic(LTCC) substrate Millimeter wave Patch antenna

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