

**Context.** This mini-project consolidates your skill with the Smith chart for *lossless* transmission lines, including walking on the chart, reading reflection metrics, and designing single-stub shunt tuners. You will present both chart-based constructions and analytical checks, and validate numerically in MATLAB/Python.

## Learning outcomes

By the end you should be able to:

- Normalize impedances/admittances and place them on the Smith chart (impedance and admittance views).
- Compute and interpret  $\Gamma$ , VSWR, return loss, and input impedance along a lossless line.
- Move on the chart *towards generator / towards load* and track phase rotations.
- Design *short-circuited* single-stub tuners in shunt (two valid solutions).
- Estimate matching bandwidth when physical lengths are fixed and frequency varies.
- Infer a possible unknown load from slotted-line (SWR and minima position) measurements.

## Given & notation

Assume a *lossless* line:

$$Z_0 = 50 \Omega, \quad f_0 = 3 \text{ GHz}, \quad \lambda_0 = 0.1 \text{ m}, \quad \beta_0 = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda_0}.$$

Load:  $Z_L = 30 - j 40 \Omega$ .

## Project tasks (produce all intermediate steps)

### P1. Load placement and basic metrics.

- Normalize  $z_L = Z_L/Z_0$ , **mark the point** on the Smith chart (impedance view). Compute  $\Gamma_L$ ,  $|\Gamma_L|$ ,  $\angle\Gamma_L$  (in degrees), VSWR, and return loss (dB). *Show working and units.*
- (b) Find  $Z_{in}$  at  $l = \lambda_0/8$  *towards the generator*:

### P2. Single-stub shunt match (short-circuited stub).

- Convert the line point at distance  $d$  from the load to **admittance** view:  $y(d)$ . By rotating *towards the generator*, find the two locations  $d_1$  and  $d_2$  (in wavelengths at  $f_0$ ) where  $\Re\{y(d)\} = 1$ . Record the corresponding susceptances  $b_1 = \Im\{y(d_1)\}$  and  $b_2 = \Im\{y(d_2)\}$ . *Show the two intersections on the g = 1 circle.*

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- (b) For each location  $d_i$ , choose a shorted shunt stub with length  $l_{s,i}$  such that

$$y_s = -j \cot(2\pi l_{s,i}) = -j b_i \quad \Rightarrow \quad y_{\text{tot}} = 1 + j0.$$

Report principal solutions  $0 < l_{s,i} < \frac{1}{2}\lambda$  and note periodicity (equivalent  $l_{s,i} \pm \frac{n}{2}\lambda$ ).

- (c) Convert  $d_i$  and  $l_{s,i}$  to millimetres at  $f_0$  using  $\lambda_0 = 100 \text{ mm}$ . List the **two valid designs** as ordered pairs:  $(d_1, l_{s,1})$  and  $(d_2, l_{s,2})$  in both wavelengths and millimetres.

**P3. Bandwidth estimate (RL  $\geq 10 \text{ dB}$ ).** Treat the *physical* distances found at  $f_0$  as fixed in space:

$$d_i^{(\text{mm})} = \text{const}, \quad l_{s,i}^{(\text{mm})} = \text{const}.$$

Sweep frequency  $f$  about  $f_0$ . For each  $f$ , convert those physical lengths to electrical lengths, recompute the input reflection coefficient  $\Gamma_{\text{in}}(f)$  of the matched network, and plot  $|\Gamma_{\text{in}}(f)|$ .

- Report the contiguous frequency range(s) around  $f_0$  where  $|\Gamma_{\text{in}}| \leq 0.316$  (i.e. return loss  $\geq 10 \text{ dB}$ ).
- Quote the **fractional bandwidth (FBW)** in % relative to  $f_0$ :  $\text{FBW} = 100 \times (f_{\text{high}} - f_{\text{low}})/f_0$ .
- Include the MATLAB/Python plot (label axes and units).

**P4. Concept: Series vs shunt stubs (brief note).** Using the Smith chart, explain how a *series* shorted stub design differs:

- Series elements move along *constant-resistance* circles on the *impedance* chart; shunt elements move along *constant-conductance* circles on the *admittance* chart.
- Comment on layout: when and why shunt implementations are typically preferred on RF PCBs/microstrip over series stubs.

**P5. Measurement: Inferring a possible load from slotted-line data.** A slotted line shows SWR = 3 and the *first* voltage minimum occurs at distance  $\ell_{\min} = \lambda/12$  from the load (towards the generator). Using the Smith chart:

- Determine  $|\Gamma| = \frac{S-1}{S+1}$  and the phase of  $\Gamma$  consistent with the given  $\ell_{\min}$ , noting the  $2\pi$  ambiguity.
- Give one consistent normalized load  $z_L$  and the corresponding  $Z_L$  for  $Z_0 = 50 \Omega$ . Clearly state the phase choice you adopted.
- Numerically verify the results.

## What to submit (single ZIP)

- **Report (PDF):** clean Smith chart constructions (annotated), all intermediate values with units, and the bandwidth plot.
- **Code (MATLAB/Python):** a runnable script or live script that reproduces all computed numbers and the  $|\Gamma_{\text{in}}(f)|$  plot.

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## Grading rubric

Item	Marks
P1 Load placement & metrics (correctness, units, clarity)	15
P2 Two shunt-stub designs (chart steps, $d, l_s$ in $\lambda$ and mm)	35
P3 Bandwidth sweep (method, plot quality, FBW % computation)	30
P4 Series vs shunt (concise, technically accurate comparison)	10
P5 Slotted-line inference (consistent solution, reasoning)	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

## Constraints & expectations

- **Clarity:** annotate all Smith chart readings.
- **Units:** report both wavelength fractions and millimetres at  $f_0$ .
- **Verification:** every chart result must be checked by an analytical formula and computation.
- **Assume lossless** lines and stubs unless explicitly stated.
- **Original work:** quote external tools if used (eg: ChatGPT)

## Academic integrity

Discuss concepts freely, but your report, figures, and code must be your own. Cite any external tools or charts used.