

Table of Contents

1	Introduction	1
1.1	Radio astronomy and radio-astronomical instrumentation	2
1.1.1	Radiation processes and radio observations	2
1.1.2	Radio astronomy receivers	5
1.2	Interferometry in astronomy	7
1.2.1	Michelson stellar interferometry	9
1.2.2	The demand for higher resolution: single dish v/s interferometer . . .	9
1.2.3	The uv-plane and visibility	10
1.2.4	Fringes and coherence	11
1.2.5	The van Cittert-Zernike theorem	12
1.2.6	Aperture synthesis	13
1.2.7	ALMA: the eye to look into the hidden universe	13
1.3	Interferometric measurements in radio astronomy: loss of coherence and cor- rection techniques	16
1.3.1	Atmospheric distortion and its wavelength dependence	17
1.3.2	Effects of precipitable water vapour	20
1.3.3	Phase referencing	22
1.3.4	Band to Band calibration	23
1.3.5	Sub-array experiment: self calibration transfer technique	24
1.4	Benefits of allowing ALMA to operate in a dual-frequency observation mode	24
1.4.1	Improvement in phase calibration	25
1.4.2	Enabling the highest resolution for ALMA	26
1.4.3	Observation of transient phenomena	27
1.5	Proposed research	29
1.5.1	Objectives	29
1.5.2	Hypothesis	29
1.5.3	Structure of this thesis work	30
2	Conceptual Design of a Dual-Frequency Receiver for ALMA	31
2.1	Introduction	31
2.2	State of the art of dual-frequency receivers	32
2.3	Why using the Band 6 and 9 of ALMA?	33
2.3.1	Specifications of Band 6 and 9 receivers	35
2.3.2	Analysis of available space to introduce additional hardware	35
2.4	Quasi-Optics and Gaussian beam approximation	36
2.4.1	Gaussian beam theory	37

2.4.2	The paraxial wave equation	37
2.4.3	Gaussian beam propagation	40
2.4.4	Asymptotic behaviour of Gaussian beams	41
2.4.5	Edge Taper	43
2.4.6	Quasioptical design: ABCD matrix formalism	45
2.5	Sensitivity losses and beam distortion	46
2.5.1	Cross-polarization	47
2.5.2	Beam coupling efficiency	49
2.6	Beam combiner assembly and performance analysis	54
2.6.1	Zemax model	54
2.6.2	Cross-polarization analysis	55
2.6.3	Noise temperature analysis	56
2.6.4	Sensitivity analysis	57
2.7	Mechanical design and fabrication	61
2.8	Conclusions	65
3	Design, Construction and Characterization of Frequency Selective Surfaces	66
3.1	Introduction	66
3.2	State of the art on Terahertz technologies	67
3.3	Dichroic filters theory	68
3.3.1	Transmission line theory for dichroics and their spectral properties . .	70
3.3.2	Properties of Dichroic	71
3.3.3	Theoretical analysis of dichroic filters	72
3.3.4	Angular dependence	74
3.3.5	Calculation methods	75
3.4	Proposed configurations	75
3.4.1	Simulated performance for proposed prototypes	78
3.5	Fabrication of proposed prototypes	81
3.6	Transmission characterization	84
3.7	Performance analysis	87
3.7.1	Experimental results for the flower-type configuration	88
3.7.2	Experimental results for single-hole configuration	90
3.7.3	Experimental results for Jerusalem-cross configuration	91
3.8	Conclusions	92
4	Smooth-Walled Antennas for THz Frequency Range: Design and Evaluation	94
4.1	Introduction	94
4.2	Smooth-Walled Spline-Profile Horns	94
4.2.1	The historical development of horn antennas	94
4.2.2	Diagonal-spline and Conical-spline horn designs	96
4.3	Performance Evaluation of Designs	98
4.3.1	Analysis of Far Field Beam Pattern Simulations	98
4.3.2	Example of Application: Integration into ALMA Band-6 Receiver . .	101
4.3.3	Construction	105
4.4	Experimental methodology and Results	107
4.4.1	Theoretical background	107

4.4.2	Planar near-field technique	108
4.4.3	Experimental set-up	110
4.4.4	Beam performance analysis	113
4.5	Conclusions	113
5	Summary and Conclusions	115
5.1	General summary	115
5.1.1	Chapter 2	115
5.1.2	Chapter 3	116
5.1.3	Chapter 4	116
5.2	Future work	116
5.3	Conclusions	117
	Bibliography	117

List of Tables

1.1	Optical parameters of the ALMA antennas	15
1.2	ALMA frequency bands	18
2.1	ALMA cryostat design specification	34
2.2	Optical train description of ALMA Band 6	37
2.3	Optical train description of ALMA Band 9	38
2.4	Dimension of the SWZ	38
2.5	Reference Values for the Gaussian beam T_e and F_e	44
2.6	Values of diameter for each element forming the beam combiner optical system.	54
2.7	Beam size, required taper and optimal diameter at each reflecting surface	64
3.1	Design specifications for a suitable dichroic filter.	75
3.2	Values of the optimization parameters for each dichroic configuration	76
4.1	Table 1: Design specifications.	98
4.2	Table 2: Profile parameters than define the wall shape for each horn design.	98
4.3	Calculated parameters of the diagonal-spline horn.	101
4.4	Calculated parameters of the conical-spline horn.	101
4.5	Optical train parameters for existing Band-6 receivers.	103

List of Figures

1.1	Atmospheric windows at Chajnantor.	3
1.2	Types of heterodyne receivers	6
1.3	Types of heterodyne receivers	8
1.4	Schematic representation of an interferometric measurement using the Very Large Telescope (VLT).	11
1.5	Relationship between uv-plane and image plane.	14
1.6	Image of ALMA site by night.	15
1.7	Images of the HL-Tau protoplanetary disk (left) and the event horizon of black hole (right).	16
1.8	Schematic of an ALMA antenna.	17
1.9	Atmospheric distortion producing lost of coherence	19
1.10	Schematic illustration of Kolmogorov turbulence model	21
1.11	Temporal dependence of atmospheric fluctuation	22
1.12	Spatial dependence of atmospheric fluctuation	23
1.13	Antennas paired for sub-array experiment	26
1.14	Atmospheric calibration problem.	27
1.15	Contribution functions of the continuum intensity	28
2.1	ALMA cryostat layout	34
2.2	Optical train representation.	35
2.3	Cold optics drawing of Band 6 and 9.	36
2.4	Images of the cryostat.	39
2.5	The Safe Work Zone	40
2.6	Gaussian beam representation.	42
2.7	Transformation of a Gaussian-beam.	46
2.8	General elliptical mirror configuration.	48
2.9	Axially aligned beam mismatch	51
2.10	Tilted beam mismatch	52
2.11	Offset beam mismatch	53
2.12	Proposed System.	55
2.13	Cross polarization distortion calculation	56
2.14	Resulting cascade system for each receiver,	57
2.15	Noise temperature calculation for each receiver band. For this calculation the highest reported noise temperature for each receiver has been used.	58
2.16	Coupling Efficiency Analysis	59
2.17	Tolerance Analysis	60

2.18	Layout of the bands in the ALMA cryostat and mechanical design of the optical system.	62
2.19	Rendering of the beam combiner system once is mounted on the cryostat . .	63
2.20	Constructed beam combiner optical system	64
3.1	Dichroic plate geometry	68
3.2	Applications of dichroic filters	69
3.3	Metallic grids and their equivalent circuits	70
3.4	Angular dependence of the spectral properties of a dichroic.	74
3.5	Proposed configurations for a dichroic filter	76
3.6	Simulated dichroic band-coverage as a function of the plate thickness. . . .	77
3.7	Simulated performance for each configuration at normal beam incidence. . .	79
3.8	Simulated performance for each configuration at non-normal beam incidence.	80
3.9	Constructed JC dichroic configuration.	82
3.10	Constructed SH dichroic configuration.	83
3.11	Constructed FT dichroic configuration viewed from its front and back face. .	84
3.12	Michelson Interferometer	85
3.13	Relation between interferogram and polychromatic light spectrum	86
3.14	Diagram of the experimental setup used for the characterization.	87
3.15	FTS experimental set-up.	88
3.16	Experimental results for FT dichroic	89
3.17	Experimental results for SH dichroic	90
3.18	Implemented super-cell	91
3.19	Experimental results for JC dichroic	92
4.1	The two horns under study	95
4.2	Basic 1-D profile of the smoothed-wall horn antennas.	97
4.3	Simulated radiation beam pattern	99
4.4	Simulated return loss	100
4.5	Optical train description of the ALMA cold optics	102
4.6	Edge taper versus frequency	103
4.7	Simulated far field radiation pattern	104
4.8	Return loss comparison.	105
4.9	Final mechanical design of the horn using the split-block technique.	105
4.10	One of the blocks of the constructed horn.	106
4.11	The propagation regions of an electromagnetic beam	107
4.12	Schematic of the receiver system used to characterize the horn.	109
4.13	Experimental set-up to measure near-field radiation pattern	110
4.14	Experimental results for far field radiation pattern	111
4.15	Comparison between experimental results (dotted lines) and simulations (dashed lines) for far field radiation pattern.	112