

# Simulation of Rectangular Shaped RF MEMS Shunt Switch and Comparing its Isolation Performance with Series Switch at DC - 30 GHz

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## Abstract

**Aim:** In this paper, isolation performance of rectangular shaped RF MEMS shunt and series switch is described and simulated at up to 30 GHz using HFSS software. **Materials and Methods:** The isolation performance of rectangular shaped shunt switch (n=25) was compared to the isolation performance of rectangular shaped series switch at a frequency range of upto 30 GHz. Beam was built over the two coplanar waveguides. Samples were calculated using sample computation having a pretest power of 80 % where Alpha, Beta are 0.05 and 0.2 respectively. **Results:** The novel shunt switch has better isolation performance (-36.2488 dB) compared to the series switch (-19.4685 dB). The optimized dimensions for maximum isolation performance were L=360  $\mu\text{m}$ , W=100  $\mu\text{m}$ , T=1  $\mu\text{m}$  for beam. The attained significance of isolation performance is  $1 < 0.001$  ( $p < 0.05$ ). **Conclusion:** The observed results show that novel shunt switch isolation performance is significantly higher than series switch.

**Keywords:** Novel Shunt switch, Series Switch, Isolation Performance, Rectangular Shaped RF MEMS, Coplanar waveguide, Microelectronics.

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## INTRODUCTION

This paper describes the microelectronics based rectangular shaped RF MEMS shunt switch and series switch in which the beam was constructed over the coplanar waveguides at DC-30 GHz using HFSS software to analyse isolation performance. Improvement in microstructures and the performance prevailed by incorporating into devices are the cause for the growth of MEMS structures (Kurmendra, Kurmendra, and Kumar 2020). Due to its compact size, good linearity, low insertion loss, strong isolation, and exceptionally low power consumption, RF MEMS switches are becoming increasingly important in today's society (Rebeiz 2004). Portable wireless and low-power battery-operated devices benefit from MEMS-based switches. MEMS switches have been commercialized successfully as X-Band applications (Sravani and Girija Sravani 2021), 5G Scenario (Ma et al. 2019)), Reconfigurable series-shunt switch based RF MEMS capacitive switch (Angira, Sundaram, and Rangra 2015), Phase shifter (Anitha and Usha Kiran 2018), phased array (Gopalan and Kommuri 2018) applications, low power consumption applications (Chouhan, Agrawal, and Saxena 2018). Rectangular shaped RF MEMS novel shunt switch can be used in the design of dual band antennas (Suman et al. 2021).

In the last 5 years, several research papers of MEMS switches have been published. IEEE Xplore has publications of around 242 and 9570 papers are published directly in Google Scholar. Evolution of Microelectromechanical Systems at a rapid rate makes it difficult for designers to improve design, fabrication of different types of microscale systems and devices (Srikar and Spearing 2003). The excellent performance shows the impedance of the ability of integrating the MEMS switches for antenna applications (Jung et al. 2006). A class of new devices can be provided by RF MEMS and companies that display high frequency performance related to the conventional devices which enables good system compatibilities (Brown 1998).

Our team has extensive knowledge and research experience that has translate into high quality publications (Bhansali et al. 2021; Jayanth et al. 2021; Sudhakar, Ravel, and Perumal 2021; Sathiyamoorthi et al. 2021; Deepanraj et al. 2021; Raju et al. 2021; Arun Prakash et al. 2020; Kamath et al. 2020; Shanmugam et al. 2021; Rajasekaran et al. 2020; Adhinarayanan et al. 2020; Rajesh et al. 2020; Aurtherson et al. 2021). Since low isolation has been an issue for RF MEMS switch performance, tremendous research has been done to reduce the

issue. This work goes through how to choose the right switch to be constructed on the coplanar waveguide to improve the efficiency of the system. Main aim of this work is to provide a detailed comparison of isolation performance of series and novel shunt switch at DC - 30 GHz frequency.

## Materials And Methods

This work was carried out in the Nanoelectronics Lab, Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering at Saveetha School of Engineering, Chennai. Two groups are considered. Each dataset consists of 25 samples, which in total gives the total sample size of 50. Clinical analysis was used to analyse the pretest power. Pretest power is determined to be 80% with Alpha and Beta value of 0.05 and 0.2 respectively (Craig 2019).

For 2 groups, 2 preparation methods are done. In group 1, design of microelectronics based rectangular shaped MEMS shunt switch using HFSS software is carried out. In this, the dimensions are; length, width and thickness are 1090  $\mu\text{m}$ , 600  $\mu\text{m}$  and 525  $\mu\text{m}$  respectively. Similarly dimensions of the beam like length, width and thickness are 360  $\mu\text{m}$ , 100  $\mu\text{m}$  and 1  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Similar to group 1, preparation for group 2 is also done. In group 2, design of microelectronics based rectangular shaped MEMS series switch using HFSS software is carried out. In this, the dimensions are; length, width and thickness are 1090  $\mu\text{m}$ , 600  $\mu\text{m}$  and 525  $\mu\text{m}$  respectively. Similarly dimensions of the beam which is placed over the two coplanar waveguides are length= 235  $\mu\text{m}$ , width= 130  $\mu\text{m}$  and thickness=  $\mu\text{m}$ .

The formula used to determine the isolation performance of Rectangular shaped MEMS shunt switch is given in equation 1 (Rebeiz 2004).

$$S_{21} = -20 \log \left| \frac{2}{2 + (j\omega CdZ_0)} \right| \quad (1)$$

Where,

$Z_0$ = Characteristic Impedance

$Cd$ = Down State Capacitance

The large ratio of upstate and downstate capacitance gives the isolation performance of rectangular shaped MEMS novel series switch. Capacitance ratio can be given in equation 2 (Sravani et al. 2020).

$$C_{\text{ratio}} = \frac{\epsilon_r [g_0 + \frac{t_d}{\epsilon_r}]}{t_d} \quad (2)$$

Where,

$g_0$ = Air gap

$t_d$ = Thickness of the oxide layer

$\epsilon_r$ = Dielectric material relative permittivity.

HFSS is a solution for electromagnetic structure for finite elements method (FEM) (Kim, Oh, and An 2012). The full form of HFSS is High frequency structure simulation. HFSS is used to design microelectronics devices, antennas, radio frequency electronic circuit elements containing filters, transmission lines and packaging. The testing procedure measures the RF performance of the proposed shunt switch. Frequency was maintained at about 30 GHz and readings for the isolation performance were taken.

The entire work is carried out in Windows 10 pro, Intel core i3, 7th Gen and HFSS software is used for simulation and verification process. At first, HFSS software should be opened. Dimensions for substrate, Dielectric material, Coplanar waveguide, Anchor, Beam should be given. Also, dimensions for rectangular sheet and airbox should also be given. Then, boundaries and radiation should be assigned. Solution setup and frequency sweep should be added. Finally, validation and design analysis should be done. Thus output can be obtained by selecting S Parameters  $S(1,1)$ ,  $S(2,1)$ .

## Statistical Analysis

The data can be exported in the form of excel from the output. This data should be given to the SPSS software (SPSS Inc 2007). Statistical softwares like HFSS and SPSS are used. HFSS is used for simulation and verification whereas statistical analysis of the data can be done using SPSS. Thickness of substrate and dielectric material are independent of isolation performance whereas length and thickness of beam affects the Isolation performance of the switch.

## Results

Microelectronics based RF MEMS novel shunt switch was successfully implemented and analysed at DC to 30 GHz. The dimensions are given as input for the testing process. The dimensions of the design are given. The rectangular shaped beam was placed over the two coplanar waveguides. Then boundaries and radiation can be assigned. The output from the graph is exported in the form of an excel sheet. These values are given to the SPSS software from which statistical analysis can be done. Maximum isolation can be obtained with the dimensions  $L_b=360 \mu\text{m}$ ,  $W_b=100 \mu\text{m}$ ,  $T_b=1 \mu\text{m}$ .

Comparative analysis of isolation performance of microelectronics based rectangular shaped RF MEMS shunt switch and microelectronics based rectangular shaped RF MEMS series switch at DC 30 GHz are tabulated in Table 1. Isolation performance of the rectangular shaped MEMS shunt switch (-25.2370 dB) is better than the isolation performance of rectangular shaped MEMS series switch (-10.3180 dB). Table 2 depicts the group statistics of both the groups with their mean (34.0495), standard deviation (7.32057 & 6.90227) and standard error mean (.95306 & .89860). Table 3 shows the statistical analysis of both the groups with its p value (<0.001), mean difference (16.21826) and standard error difference(1.30988). Descriptive statistics of both the groups is represented in Table 4 with its n value (50), minimum and maximum values (10.30 & 55.01), mean (25.9404) and standard deviation (10.79368)

Fig. 1. (a) and (b) depicts the top view and side view of the rectangular shaped MEMS switch. Fig. 2. shows the graph for the isolation performance of the rectangular shaped shunt switch which was obtained using origin software. Fig. 3. Shows the graph for the isolation performance of a rectangular shaped series switch which was obtained using origin software. Fig. 4. Shows the graph of comparison of isolation performance of rectangular shaped shunt and series switches. It can be observed that the shunt switch has more isolation in comparison to that of the series switch. From Fig. 5. It can be seen that the mean isolation of the shunt switch is better than the series switch. It has p-value <0.001 and error bar 95 % with proper prediction.

## Discussion

Isolation performance of rectangular shaped MEMS shunt and series switch using HFSS at 30GHz is simulated and analysed. Based on different findings, it can be observed that isolation performance of the shunt switch is better than the series switch. This data is stored in an excel sheet for further verification using SPSS software.

This paper describes the simulation and comparison of isolation performance of novel shunt switch and series switch at 30 GHz. The article that supports this work is (Shanthi, Srinivasa Rao, and Girija Sravani 2020) in which higher isolation of -42.11 dB is provided. (Ravirala et al. 2018) has similar higher isolation performance in which isolation of -61 dB is provided (Ravirala et al. 2018) The other article that opposes the present work is (Cho et al. 2005) with isolation of around -20.7 dB. Isolation of -28.4 dB was obtained by (Narayana et al. 2017). These findings shows that many studies gave evidence to support that shunt switch has isolation performance better than series switch. The proposed work has an isolation performance of -25.2370 dB which is better than many of the existing works.

The air gap is one of the elements that affects the isolation performance and actuation voltage of the shunt switch in this work. If the air gap increases, then the isolation decreases. Different techniques like multi-bridge tuning, capacitive series- shunt design and DC- contact series- shunt switches can be used in future work to improve the isolation and reduce the pull-in voltage.

## Conclusion

This article examines and enhances the isolation performance of novel shunt switch and series switch at 30 GHz. It can be seen that the isolation performance of the shunt switch (-25.2370 dB) is significantly better than that of the series switch. It is appropriate for high frequency applications.

## DECLARATION

### Conflict of interests

No conflict of interest in this manuscript.

### Author Contributions

Author VSN was involved in design, Simulation, data collection, data analysis, and manuscript writing. Author AG was involved in conceptualization, data validation and critical review of manuscript.

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## TABLES AND FIGURES

**Table 1.** Comparison of isolation performance of rectangular shaped MEMS novel shunt and series switches with  $L_b=360\ \mu\text{m}$ ,  $W_b=100\ \mu\text{m}$ ,  $T_b=1\ \mu\text{m}$  at up to 30 GHz.

S. No.	SWITCH	FREQUENCY (GHz)	ON STATE RETURN LOSS(dB)	ON STATE INSERTION LOSS(dB)	OFF STATE ISOLATION(dB)
1.	Shunt	10	-21.1214	-0.1135	-36.2488
		20	-15.1867	-0.2554	-29.6459
		30	-11.8045	-0.4699	-25.2370
2.	Series	10	-40.1670	-0.0592	-19.4685
		20	-33.6729	-0.0976	-13.5769
		30	-30.1059	-0.1430	-10.3180

**Table 2.** Representation of group statistics for both sample groups, mean (34.0495), standard deviation (7.32057 & 6.90227) and standard error mean (.95306 & .89860) at up to 30 GHz

GROUP	N	MEAN	STD. DEVIATION	STD. ERROR
SHUNT	25	34.0495	7.32057	.95306

<b>SERIES</b>	25	17.8312	6.90227	.89860
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**Table 3.** Representation of statistical analysis of independent sample tests for both the sample groups. p value (0.001), mean difference (16.21826) and standard error difference (1.30988) at up to 30 GHz.

<b>ISOLATION</b>		<b>ONE-SIDED P</b>	<b>TWO-SIDED P</b>	<b>MEAN DIFFERENCE</b>	<b>STD. ERROR DIFFERENCE</b>
	<b>Equal variances assumed</b>	<0.001	<0.001	16.21826	1.30988
	<b>Equal variances not assumed</b>	<0.001	<0.001	16.21826	1.30988

**Table 4.** Representation of descriptive statistics for both the sample groups. n value (50), minimum and maximum values (10.30 & 55.01), mean (25.9404) and standard deviation (10.79368)

<b>PARAMETER</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>MINIMUM</b>	<b>MAXIMUM</b>	<b>MEAN</b>	<b>STD. DEVIATION</b>
<b>ISOLATION</b>	50	10.30	55.01	25.9404	10.79368

**FIGURES**

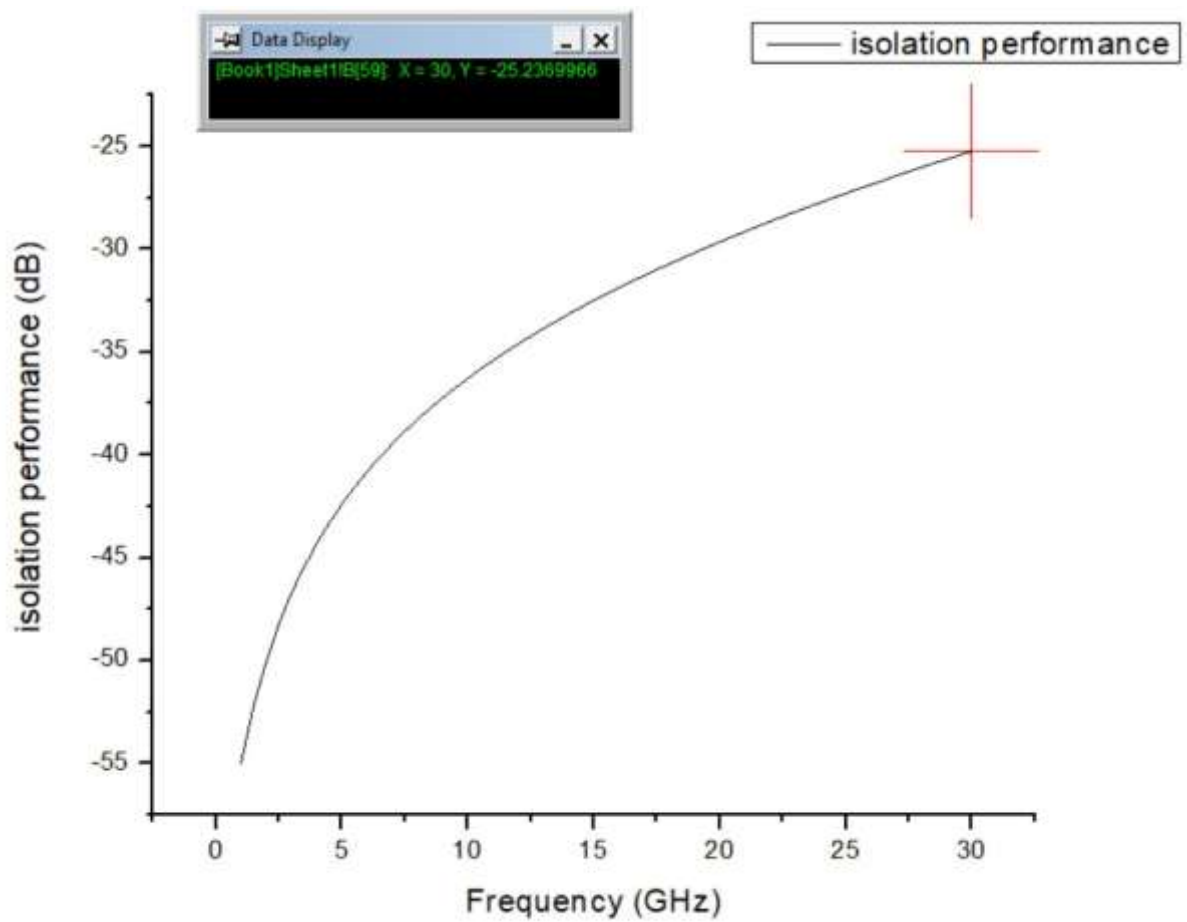


(a)

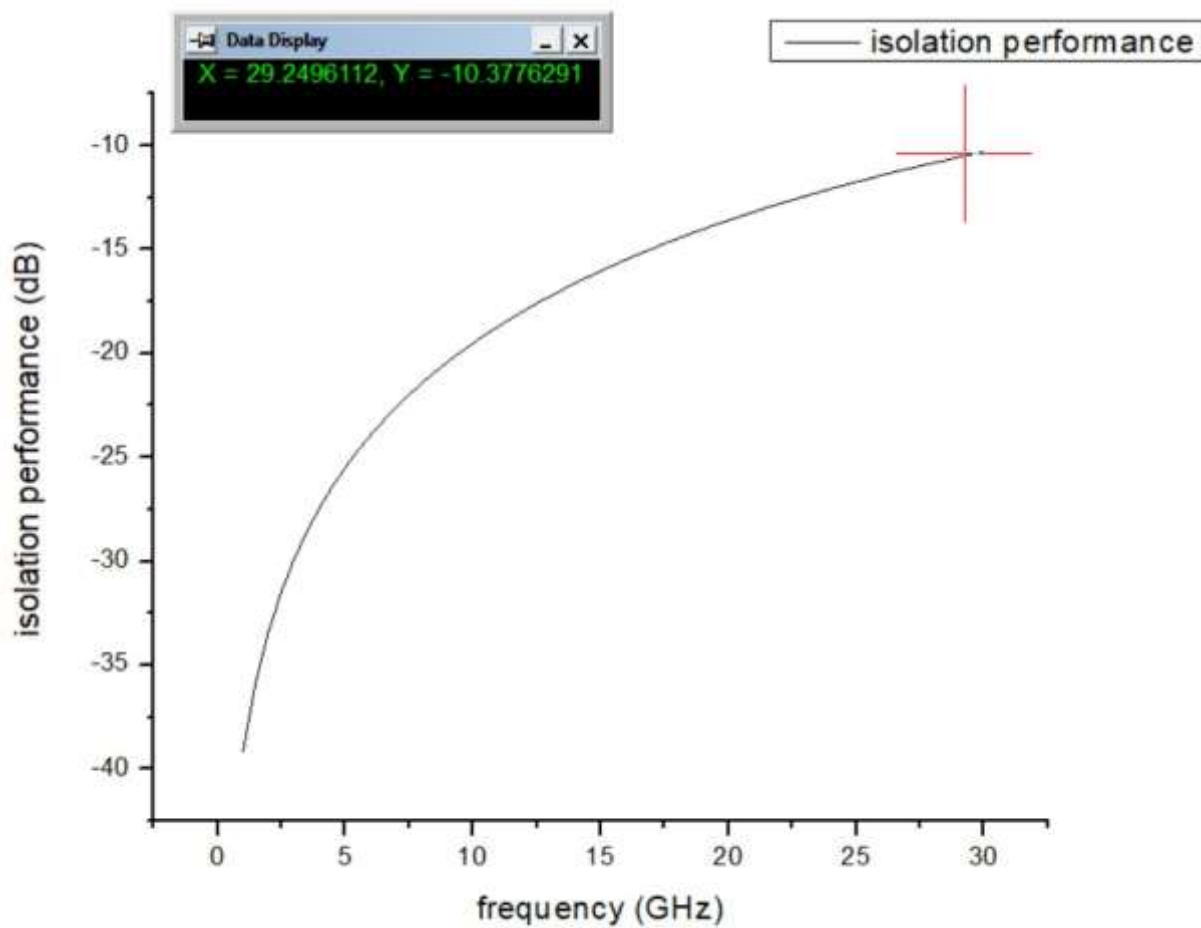


(b)

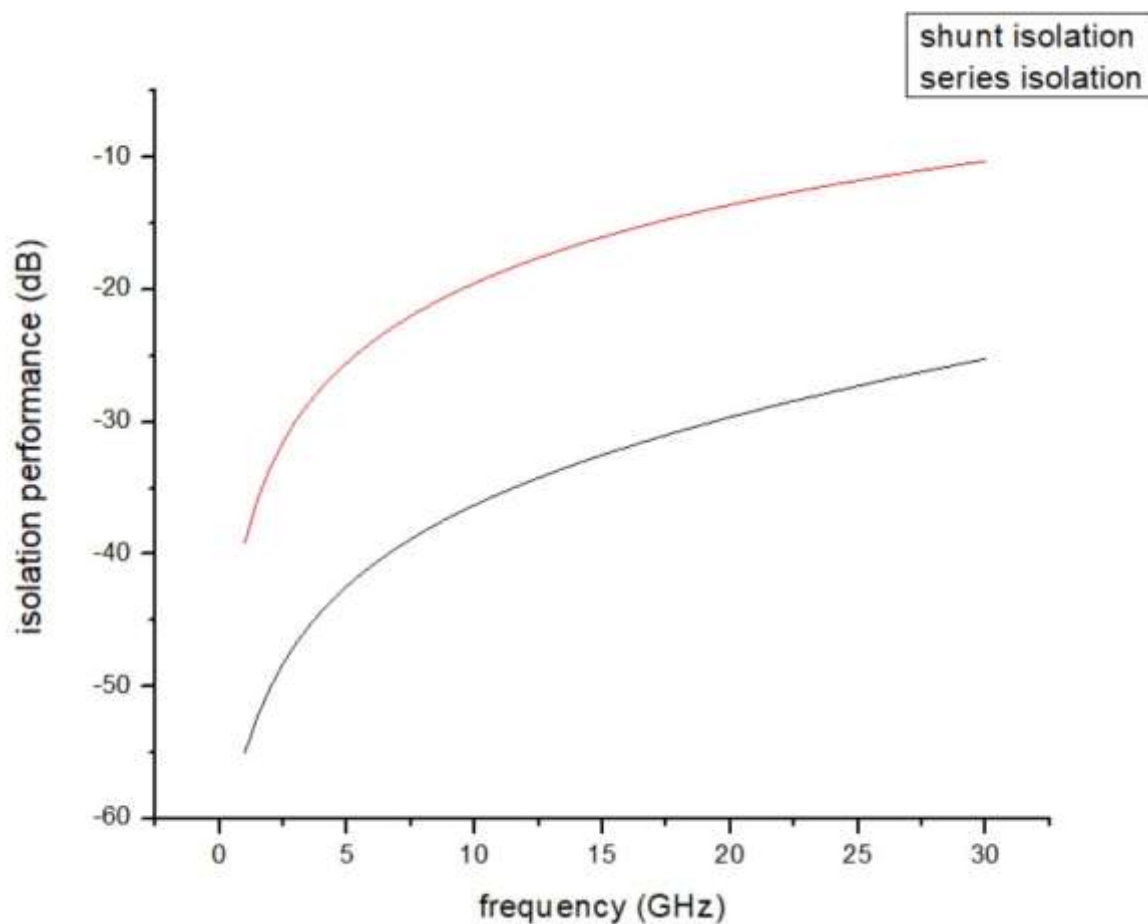
**Fig. 1.** Design of RF MEMS switch using HFSS (a) Top view and (b) side view ( X-axis : Width of feedline and substrate, Y-axis: Length of the substrate and Z-axis: Thickness of the substrate).



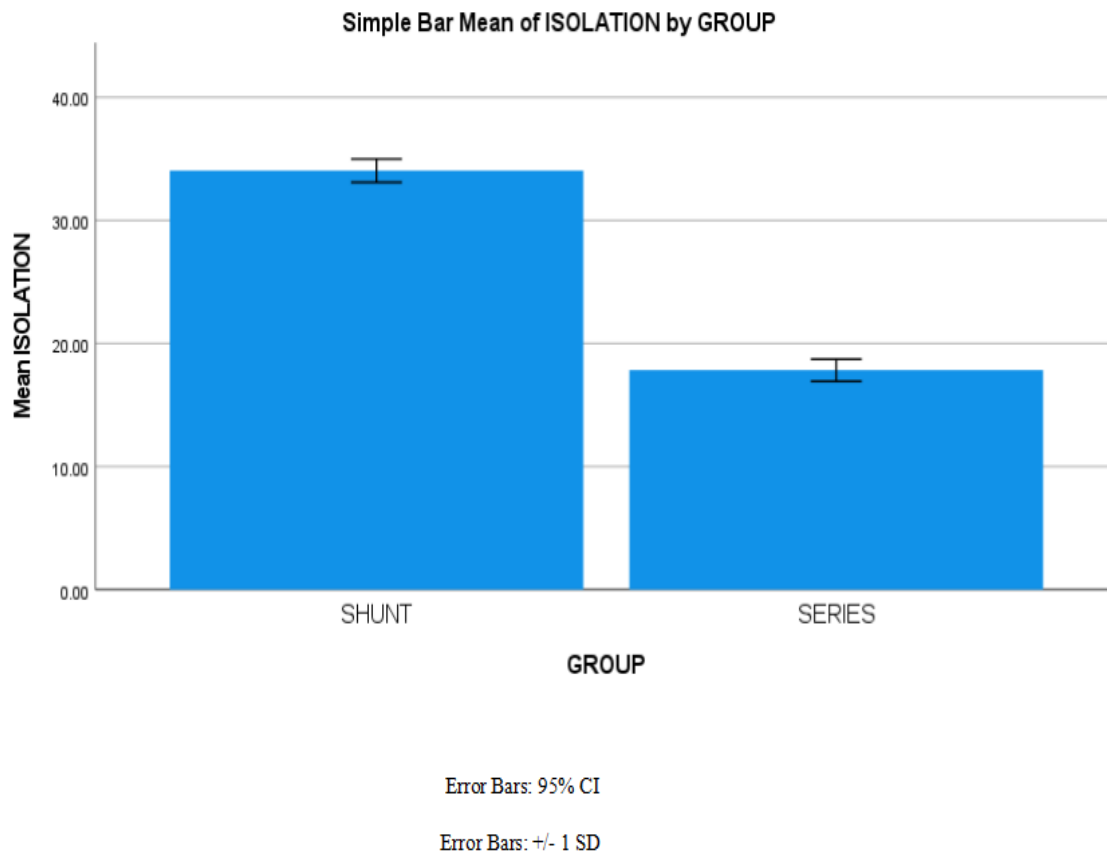
**Fig. 2.** Isolation performance (-25.2369 dB) of rectangular shaped MEMS shunt switch at up to 30 GHz.



**Fig. 3.** Isolation performance (-10.3776) of rectangular shaped MEMS series switch at upto 30 GHz



**Fig. 4.** Comparison of isolation performance of rectangular shaped MEMS shunt switch (-25.2369 dB) with rectangular shaped MEMS series switch (-10.3776) at upto 30 GHz



**Fig. 5.** A comparison of isolation performance of rectangular shaped RF MEMS shunt switch and series switch (shunt switch has higher isolation compared to series switch). Bar graph for comparison of both the groups (X axis) & isolation (Y axis) with error bar (95 % CI) and mean accuracy detection (+/- 1SD).