

Microstrip Antenna for ISM Band (2.4GHz) Applications-A review

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Abstract

The past decade has seen a rapid development of wireless communication systems. This continuous trend is bringing about a wave of new wireless devices placing several demands on the antenna such as size miniaturization, power consumption, simplicity, compatibility with printed-circuit technology, low profile, light weight, lower return loss and good radiation properties. This paper provides a comprehensive review of the research work done in the recent past by various authors on the design and optimization of the planar microstrip antenna operating in ISM band. An exhaustive list of reference has been provided.

Keywords-Microstrip Patch Antenna, ISM Band.

I. INTRODUCTION

ANTENNA is an element used for radiating or receiving electromagnetic wave. Available in numerous different shapes and sizes, they all operate according to the principles of electromagnetics. Many types of portable electronic devices namely cellular phones, GPS receivers, palm electronic devices, pagers, laptop computers need an effective and efficient antenna for communicating wirelessly with other fixed or mobile communication units. Advances in digital and radio electronics have resulted in the production of a new breed of personal communications equipment posing special problems for antenna designers. A wireless local area network (WLAN) links two or more devices using some wireless distribution method and usually provides a connection through an access point to the wider internet. The IEEE standards for wireless local area network comprises of four subsets of Ethernet based protocol standards. A microstrip antenna in its simplest configuration has a radiating patch on one side of a dielectric substrate, and a ground plane on the other side. The patch can assume virtually any shape, but regular shapes are generally used to simplify analysis and performance prediction.

II. MICROWAVE REGION

Microwave spectral region is a form of electromagnetic radiation with wavelength ranging from as long as one meter to as short as one millimeter, or 0.3 GHz and 300 GHz frequencies. This definition includes both UHF and EHF bands. In all cases, microwave includes the whole SHF band (3 to 30 GHz, or 10 to 1 cm) at minimum, with RF engineering restricting the range between 1 and 100 GHz (300 and 3 mm).

Sr. No.	Name of band in microwave	Frequency Range	Application
1	High Frequency(HF)	3 - 30 MHz	Shortwave broadcast, RFID, Marine & mobile Communications
2	Very High Frequency (VHF)	30 - 300 MHz	FM, Television broadcasts and Line of sight communications, Mobile communications, Weather radio
3	Ultra High Frequency (UHF)	300 - 3000 MHz	Television broadcasts, Microwave oven, Microwave-device/communication, Wireless LAN, Bluetooth, ZigBee, GPS
4	Long wave (L)	1 - 2 GHz	Military telemetry, GPS, Mobile phone (GSM), Amateur radio
5	Short wave(S)	2 - 4 GHz	Weather radar, Surface ship radar, Some satellite communication, WLAN
6	C-Band	4 - 8 GHz	Long distance communication

7	X-Band	8 - 12 GHz	Satellite communication, Terrestrial broadcast radar, Space communication, Amateur radio
8	Ku-Band	12 - 18 GHz	Satellite communication
9	K-Band	18 - 27 GHz	Astronomical observation, Automotive radar, Satellite communication, Radar
10	Ka-Band	27 - 40 GHz	Satellite communication
11	V-Band	40 - 75 GHz	Millimeter wave radar research and other kinds of Scientific research
12	W-Band	75-110 GHz	Millimeter wave radar research, Military radar targeting and tracking applications, Satellite communication, Non-military communication
13	Millimeter-Band	110 - 300 GHz	Millimeter scanner, DBS, Direct-energy weapon, Satellite television broadcasting, Amateur radio

Table 1 : Various bands of microwave region

2.1 Importance

- Antenna gain is proportional to the electrical size of the antenna. At higher frequencies, more antenna gain can be obtained for a given physical antenna size, and this has important consequences when implementing microwave systems.[3]
- More bandwidth (directly related to data rate) can be realized at higher frequencies.[2,3]
- Line of sight communication is of prime focusing case of microwave frequency signals as they are not bent by the ionosphere as are lower frequency signals. Satellite and terrestrial communication links with very high capacities are therefore possible, with frequency reuse at minimally distant locations.[2]
- Various molecular, atomic and nuclear resonances occur at microwave frequencies, creating a variety of unique applications in the

areas of basic science, remote sensing, medical diagnostics & treatment and heating methods.[4]

2.2 Microwave Devices

2.2.1 Waveguides:

Any linear hollow metallic structure which confines microwave energy signals by channeling them satisfactorily from one point to another with the aid of multiple reflections between the opposite walls of the structure can be defined as a waveguide.[2,4] Various prevailing waveguides are rectangular waveguides and circular waveguides

2.2.1.1 Rectangular waveguide

Rectangular waveguides are one of the earliest types of transmission lines used to transport microwave signals and used for many applications. Rectangular waveguides can propagate TM and TE modes but not TEM waves since only one conductor is present.[1,2] The TM and TE modes of a rectangular waveguide have cutoff frequencies below which propagation is not possible.

2.2.1.2 Circular waveguide

A hollow, round metal pipe supports TE and TM waveguide modes. Dominant mode for circular waveguide is TE₁₁ mode. In this waveguide TE₁₀ mode cannot be propagated but TE₀₁ mode can be propagated.[4]

2.2.1.3 Ridge waveguide

The ridge waveguide consists of a rectangular waveguide loaded with conducting ridges on the top and/or bottom walls. This loading tends to lower the cut-off frequency of the dominant mode, leading to increased bandwidth and better impedance characteristics. Ridge waveguides are often used for impedance matching purposes, where the ridge may be tapered along the length of the guide, but the power handling capacity gets decreased.[1]

2.2.1.4 Coplanar waveguide

The coplanar waveguide can be viewed as a slot line with a third conductor centered in the slot region. Due to the presence of the additional conductor, it can support even or odd quasi-TEM modes, depending on the direction of the electric fields in the two slots.[1]

2.2.2 Couplers:

A directional coupler is a passive device which couples part of the transmission power by a known amount out through another port by setting two transmission lines close enough together such that energy passing through one is coupled to the other. There are some different types of waveguide directional couplers.[2]

2.2.2.1 Bethe Hole Coupler

The directional property of all directional couplers is produced through the use of two separate waves or wave components, which add in phase at the coupled port and are canceled at the isolated port. One of the simplest ways of doing this is to couple one waveguide to another through a single small hole in the common broad wall between the two waveguides. Such a coupler is known as a Bethe hole coupler.[2,4]

2.2.2.2 Multi-hole coupler

If the coupler is designed with a series of coupling holes and the extra degrees of freedom can be used to increase this bandwidth such a couplers is called multi-hole coupler.[1]

2.2.2.3 Quadrature Hybrid Coupler

The quadrature hybrid coupler is 3 dB directional coupler with a 90° phase difference in the outputs of the through and coupled arms.[4]

2.2.2.4. Coupled Line Directional Coupler

When two unshielded transmission lines are in close proximity, power can be coupled from one line to the other due to the interaction of the electromagnetic fields. Such lines are referred to as coupled transmission lines with coupled line directional coupler.[1]

2.2.3 Antennas

An antenna is an electrical device that is used to convert electric power into radio waves, and vice versa. Antennas are essential components of all that uses radio system. They are used in systems such as radio broadcasting, broadcast television, two-way radio, communications receivers, radar, cell phones, and satellite communications, as well as other devices such as garage door openers, wireless microphones, Bluetooth-enabled devices, wireless computer networks, baby monitors, and RFID tags on merchandise.[3] Comparison of some different types of antennas are given as in Table 2 below.

Antenna Type/Parameter	Mono pole	Slot	Microstrip Patch	PIFA
Radiation Pattern	Omni-Directional	Roughly omni-directional	Directional	Omni-directional
Gain	High	Moderate	High	Moderate to high

Modeling & Fabrication	Modeling is difficult	Fabrication on PCB can be done	Easier to fabricate and model	Easier fabrication using PCB
Applications	Radio broadcast, Vehicular antenna	Radar, Cell phone base station	Satellite communication, Aircrafts	Internal antennas of mobile phones
Merits	Compact size, Low fabrication cost, Large bandwidth support	Radiation characteristics remains unchanged due to tuning, Design simplicity	Low cost, Low weight, Easy in integration	Small size, Low cost, Reduced backward radiation for minimizing SAR
Problems	Difficult fabrication at higher frequencies (>3 GHz)	Size constraint for mobile handheld devices	No bandpass filtering effect, Surface-area requirement	Narrow bandwidth characteristics

Table 2 : Comparison of various antennas

III. RELATED WORK

The recent development of different techniques in design of antennas enabled a breakthrough in many different area of science and technology. Microstrip patch antenna has gained attraction for wide application in microwave frequencies.

Eng Gee Lim, Zhao Wang et.al. have attempted to design a triple band h-slot antenna by using feed line technique.[5]

The bands covered are GSM mobile phone system (0.9 and 1.8 GHz) and ISM band which is used for Bluetooth and wireless local area network bands applications. The CST microwave studio software is used as a tool for simulation.

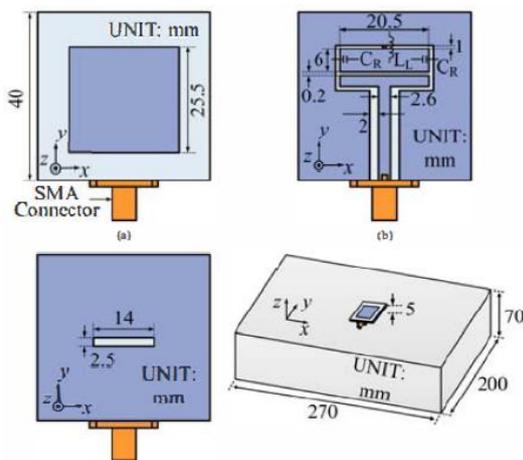


Figure 1: A triple band h-slot antenna[5]

This antenna is an attractive candidate for important applications like mobile phone communication systems, mobile phone jammer application, and so on. The measured 10 dB return loss bandwidth of the antenna ISM bands was 85 MHz (2.4 GHz-2.485 GHz)

Md. Ashikur Rahman, Asif Shaikat, Ibnul Sanjid Iqbal, Asif Hassan have presented the design and analysis of a wideband microstrip patch antenna[6]

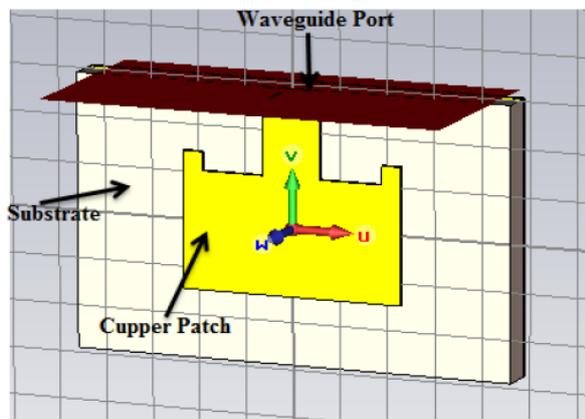


Figure 2: Wideband inset fed Antenna Geometry [6]

for performance in the unlicensed Industrial, Scientific and Medical (ISM) band (2.45 GHz) applications e.g., Radio Frequency Identification Application (RFID) applications. The Flame Retardant-4 (FR-4) material is used as substrate and the size is 29×46. This antenna has a gain of 3.019dB with VSWR of almost 1.3 and HPBW of about 111.3 deg with an ultra-wide bandwidth of about 21.67% with resonant frequency at 2.4 GHz. It is designed and simulated in CST Microwave Studio software.

S.Sreenath Kashyap et.al. designed a simple microstrip patch antenna using different substrate material which enables antenna for ISM Band application.[11]

Ajmal Hussain Shah, Surendran Subramaniam and others proposed a Tri-band G-shaped Microstrip Monopole antenna suitable for the ISM band wireless applications in MIMO environment.[7]

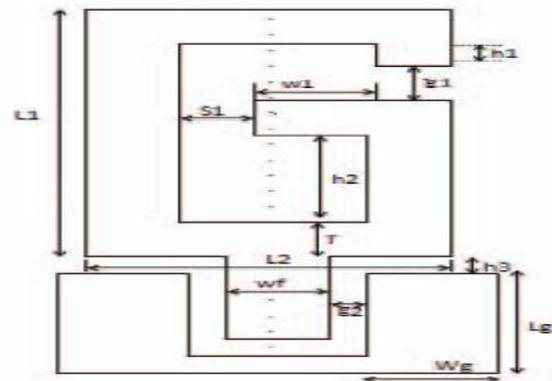


Figure 3: Geometry of the G-shaped Antenna[7]

In this paper, the design and analysis of a novel G-shaped monopole antenna with CPW feed for bandwidth improvement at lower-band frequency range, mid-band frequency range and the upper-band frequency range of the ISM band in MIMO environment is presented. The antenna design parameters are optimized to achieve a bandwidth improvement at 2.4 GHz, 4.2 GHz, and 6.07 GHz as the center frequencies with return loss of -44 db at 2.4 GHz.

Very recently Dr. Vedvyas Dwivedi, Y.P.Costa & team designed an antenna using metamaterial. An S shape structured metamaterial antenna for 2.4GHz is designed which enhances potential application in wireless communication.[10]

Swati Singh, Rajesh Kumar Gangwar and Sweta Agarwal have proposed a T shaped dualband microstrip antenna fed by coaxial feed for wearable applications in the ISM band (2.4-2.5GHz,5.7-5.8GHz).[8]

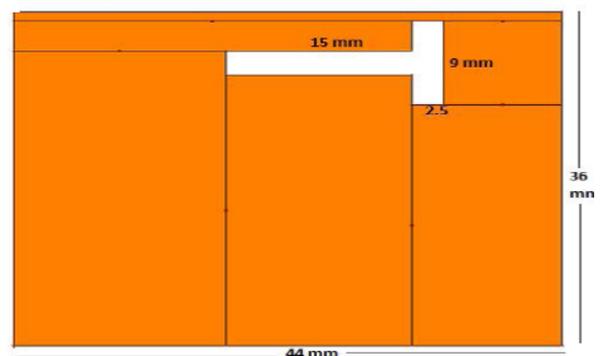


Figure 4: Geometry of the T-shaped dualband antenna[8]

This antenna provides dual band performance.As for the wearable applications, felt is used as the

substrate to make sure the antenna can bend following human body. The overall size of the proposed antenna is 44mm*36mm*3mm. Different parameters like Return loss, Voltage Standing Wave Ratio(VSWR), Impedance, Directivity and Gain are measured and discussed using Zealand IE3D simulation software. The simulated return loss is -25.2db at 2.46GHz.

Ahmed Al-Shaheen has proposed a new patch antenna as a hexagonal patch which operates in the Industrial Scientific Medical (ISM) frequency band at 2.45 GHz.[9]

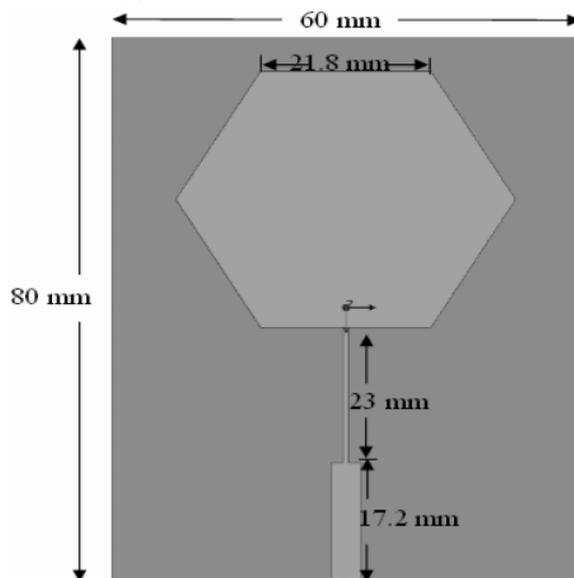


Figure 5:Geometry of the hexagonal line fed antenna[9]

The proposed antenna is verified using two different numerical techniques which are Finite Element Method FEM and Method of Moment MoM, the compression results showed good agreement. When human body is presented near the antenna the antenna performance such as S11 and bandwidth are affected, but the result depicted that the new antenna has negligible effect compared to that of the rectangular patch antenna. The simulated return loss is found to be -16.8 db in air whereas near a human body it got negligibly reduced to -15 db.

IV. CONCLUSION

Antenna has gained prime importance in the field of communication, security, material testing, and sensing application. New types of electronic and photonic structures are needed for efficient communication.

Table1 represents the various bands of EM spectrum along with its application. This paper reviewed a selection of state-of-the-art microstrip patch antennas operating in ISM band of varying types, shapes and feeds. The design aspect such as

dimension will play a significant role in determining resonant frequency. Despite of obstacles the potential for new valuable application is driving towards research in communication through ISM Band in 2.4 GHz.

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