Modified H-shaped Microstrip Array Antennas for WiMAX Applications

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Abstract: Modified H-shaped array antennas are proposed to achieve high gain and good impedance matching for WiMAXapplications. Here a 3*2 H-shaped microstrip array antenna is designed. To reduce the return loss and for good impedance matching, the 50 ohm impedance transformer is used. By using H-shaped slot antenna, an air bridge can be avoided in design as well as the complexity of design can be reduced .The 180 degree phase shifters are organised in H-shaped antenna. It gives 7.77 dB gain and 11.97 dB directivity. The return loss of 16 dB and 24 dB can be achieved at 3.3 GHz and 3.7 GHz operating frequencies which are WiMAX frequencies.

Index Terms: Modified H-shaped antenna, WiMAX, 50 ohm impedance transformer, 180 deg phase shifter.

I. Introduction

Microstrip antennas are attractive due to their light weight, conformability and low cost [1-5]. These antennas can be integrated with printed strip-line feed networks and active devices. This is a relatively new area of antenna engineering. The radiation properties of microstrip structures have been known since the mid 1950's. The application of this type of antennas started in early 1970's when conformal antennas were required for missiles.

Microstrip patch antennas have a very high antenna quality factor (Q). It represents the losses associated with the antenna where a large Q leads to narrow bandwidth and low efficiency. Q can be reduced by increasing the thickness of the dielectric substrate. WiMAX stands for Worldwide Interoperability for Microwave Access [6-7]. It was introduced in 2001. IEEE802.16 is the standard of WiMAX [9]. It is an advancement of Wi-Fi technology [9]. And also it covers area larger than Wi-Fi. We can get nearly 1GB speed for fixed users by using current WiMAX technology.

The previous researchers have tried many structures. U slot microstrip array antenna was proposed for WiMAX base station. They have used quarter wave impedance transformer which didn't give desirable impedance matching [1].Y shaped slot and U slot were proposed symmetrically and asymmetrically in order to achieve WiMAX coverage. They were achieved 15 dB of return loss [2]. A reconfigurable microstrip patch array antenna which was achieved by integrating the conventional microstrip antenna with switches. Here patches were movable by helping of RF switch [3].

In pi-shaped slot antenna the substrate thickness was increased to broaden the bandwidths at desired operating frequencies [6].One L-slit and one H-slit were introduced in patch antenna. The antenna size had been reduced by 75% when compared to conventional antenna [7]. A double U slot microstrip antenna was used for mobile WiMAX application. But they were achieved nearly -16dB of return loss only. One of the drawbacks was complicated antenna structure [9].

The proposed H-shaped microstrip array antenna is designed as 3*2 array structure for WiMAX applications. 500hm impedance transformer has been proposed to achieve the good impedance matching. An air bridge could also be avoided by using H-shaped slot in patch antenna. The return loss of the antenna is -16 dB and -24 dB at 3.3 and 3.7GHz. 40% of antenna efficiency has achieved over the design. As well as the result has shown that antenna gain and directivity are 8 dB and 11 dB. The detailed analysis of antenna design and emblematic experimental results are also presented below.

II. Antenna Design

DESIGN OF 3*2 H-SHAPED MICROSTRIP ARRAY ANTENNA

The configuration of proposed antenna is shown in fig. 1(a).It consists of (3*2) antenna array structure. In this figure each two patches are connected parallel. In each patch two H-shaped slots are designed. The distance between two parallel patches is 6.4 mm. While placing another 2*1 patch the distance between two patches is 23.4 mm. In this design, the power is fed at bottom of the design. Then power is scattered over all the patches through strip lines.







Fig. 1(b) Single H-slot microstrip antenna

Fig. 2 H-Slot dimensions

Fig. 1(b) shows the Single patch antenna design. The dimensions for this design is $(26.195 \text{mm (L)} \times 20.1358 \text{mm (W)})$. There are number of feeding techniques are available. But, here inset fed technique is used to get the optimized result. Strip line dimensions are calculated by patch length and width. The dimension is $(11.8 \text{mm} \times 3.1 \text{mm})$. Fig. 2 shows the H-slot dimensions which is 6.6 mm of length and 0.334 mm of width. The following parameters are used in proposed work. Which are,

- Software tool: ADS
- Substrate: FR4
- Dielectric constant, $\mathcal{E}_{\rm r} = 4.2$
- Operating frequency: 3.3 and 3.8 GHz
- Input impedance: 50 Ohm
- Thickness of the substrate: 1.6mm

To calculate the patch dimensions some of the basic formulas are used here. They are, To calculate the width of the patch,

$$W = \frac{1}{2f\sqrt{\varepsilon_0\mu_0}}\sqrt{\frac{2}{\varepsilon_r+1}}$$

To calculate the effective dielectric constant,

$$\mathcal{E}_{reff} = \left(\frac{\varepsilon_{r+1}}{2}\right) + \left[\left(\frac{\varepsilon_{r-1}}{2}\right)\left[1 + 12\frac{h}{W}\right]^{-0.5}\right]$$

To calculate the patch length extension,

$$\Delta L = 0.412h \frac{(\varepsilon_{reff} + 0.3)(\frac{W}{h} + 0.264)}{(\varepsilon_{reff} - 0.258)(\frac{W}{h} + 0.8)}$$

To calculate the patch length,

$$L = \left(\frac{1}{2f\sqrt{\varepsilon_{reff}\sqrt{\varepsilon_0\mu_0}}}\right) - 2\Delta L$$

To calculate the effective length,

$$L_e = L + 2\Delta L$$

The below values are calculated by using this formulas and tabulated as well.

PARAMETERS	VALUES(in mm)
Width, W	26.195
Effective dielectric constant, ε_{reff}	3.82
Effective length, L_{eff}	20.1358
Length extension, δl	0.7386
Length, L	20.1358

Table 1. Patch dimensions

III. Results And Discussion A. LAYOUT STRUCTURE AND ISOMETRIC VIEW





Fig. 4 Layout structure of 3*2 H-shaped microstrip array antenna

Fig. 5 Isometric view of the antenna

The layout structure of the antenna is shown in fig. 4. It is designed by using ADS simulation software. Here the port is connected at the bottom of the stripline. The fig. 5 shows that isometric view of the antenna. In this figure blue colour indicates power is radiated all over the patches.

B. RETURN LOSS AND RADIATION PATTERN



Simulated results of return loss of the proposed antenna is shown in Fig. 6. For the proposed antenna resonant frequencies are 3.25 GHz, 3.5 GHz, 3.7 GHz and their corresponding return losses are -16dB, -10 dB & -24 dB respectively. Simulated 10 dB bandwidths are 195 MHz, 145 MHz & 102 MHz respectively.

The simulated 3-D radiation pattern of the proposed antenna is plotted which is given in Fig. 7 at three different resonating frequencies (3.25 GHz, 3.5 GHz and 3.7 GHz). Radiation pattern is discovered to be almost omnidirectional type.

C . GAIN, DIRECTIVITY AND EFFICIENCY



The measured peak gain and efficiency variation of proposed 3 * 2 H-shaped microstrip array antenna are presented in Fig. 8 and Fig. 9, whereby an efficiency level of nearly 40% are demonstrated within the band of interest. Here, the peak gain of proposed 3 * 2 H-shaped microstrip array antenna at 3.7 GHz is measured to be 9 dBi. The directivity of the antenna is measured to be 11 dB approximately.

D. SMITH CHART



Fig. 10 Smith chart

The fig. 10 shows the smith chart of input impedance. S11 parameter values are perfectly matched with zero impedance line. It clearly explains that the input impedance is good matched. So the antenna design is very apt to get desired results.

IV. Conclusions

This paper presented the simulation of the microstrip patch antenna with double H-slots. From two H-slots on the patch, the three bands are generated and the exact frequencies band for WiMAX would be achieved. The three frequency band 3.25GHz, 3.5GHz and 3.7GHz has been achieved as well as the bandwidth requirements for Wi-MAX standards 195MHz, 145MHz and 102MHz respectively. The re-turn loss for the triple band are -16dB, -10dB and -24dB respectively. The H- shaped microstrip array antenna is designed for increasing the bandwidth and return loss. The gain and efficiency of the antenna are 9dBi and 40%. Therefore, the proposed antenna is well suitable for Wi-MAX applications.

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