

Mutual Coupling Reduction of MIMO Antenna for Satellite Services and Radio Altimeter Applications

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Abstract—Ground irregularities also known as defected ground structures (DGS) is a freshly presented innovatory way in designing of patch antennas to boost up the performance of antenna constraints. This study presents a novel proposal of ground irregularities or defected ground structure is proposed for suppression of mutual coupling effects among 2x1 multiple input multiple output patch array designed on Rogers Duroid 5880. The two adjacent M shape structures surrounding Dumbbell Shaped structure and sandwiched between Dumbbell shape patterns showed the significant level of surface wave suppression up to -42dB while maintaining the gain of 4.7dB and 5.6dBi of directivity. The patch array operates at 4 to 4.3GHz for Fixed and Radio satellite services (FSS) and (RSS) and radio altimeter application systems.

Keywords—Multiple input multiple output (MIMO); mutual coupling; defected ground structures (DGS); fixed satellite services (FSS); radio satellite services (RSS); radio altimeters

I. INTRODUCTION

With the rapid advancement of technology, the communications industry has seen significant growth in order to fulfill the criteria of higher consumer data rate demand. Antenna configuration has seen a very large amount of interest among antenna designers and researchers. In particular, the microstrip patch antenna has been the subject of much research because of its unique offering features as light weight, low fabrication cost and conformal geometry. Antennas offer higher performance and higher compatibility in array topologies, to which microstrip patches adapt well. Multiple Input Multiple Output (MIMO) technology has gained significant attention in the design of state-of-the-art wireless communication schemes due to its ability to increase channel capacity whilst maintaining bandwidth. MIMO antenna systems require very good element isolation in order to avoid mutual coupling of surface waves, but simultaneously necessitate a reduced size for their incorporation into portable, handheld devices. Coupling amongst the patch structures is typically significant in MIMO structures. Mutual coupling between probe elements or patches is an undesirable spectacle that alters the conductance of radiating elements as each patch

element radiates over the air or through ground plane surface currents conduction. Furthermore, in applications such as Imaging Radar System and aircraft radio altimeter applications, coupling phenomena requirements is to be as minimum as possible [1]. In order to control surface waves, Electromagnetic band gap (EBG) structures and Defected ground structures and line resonators have been most common techniques [2]-[5]. Defected ground structures are used to control size of antenna significantly and producing multiband response [6] as their shape aims to control the propagation of waves from ground to radiating element through substrate. Their ability to control electromagnetic suppression just like of Electromagnetic band gap structures gives them edge as their implementation is more easy as compared to others [7], [8]. In [9] more nearly -20dB of isolation among elements is presented. Increasing higher layers of EBG structures causes abnormal response [10]. In [11] dumbbell with spiral rings showed better response in isolation of array with higher efficiency. In this study a novel design of DGS is presented providing up to -42dB of isolation and antenna performance parameters. CST microwave studio 2014 is used for designing the antenna. This paper is presented as under.

Section I covers introduction area. Section II covers single element and array configuration and structure of novel design. Section III covers the discussed results and last conclusion. Ease of Use

II. ANTENNA DESIGN

A. Single Element Design

Rogers Duroid 5880 is taken as substrate with relative permittivity of 2.3 due to its behavior noted in [12]. The patch size is for fundamental frequency of 4.1GHz. Following formulas are used to sum patch dimensions [13].

$$W = \frac{c}{2f_0 \sqrt{\frac{\epsilon_r + 1}{2}}} \quad (1)$$

Where ϵ_r = relative constant and f_0 = functioning frequency

$$L = L(\text{eff}) - 2\Delta L \quad (2)$$

Where

$$L(eff) = \frac{c}{2f_0\sqrt{\epsilon_{(reff)}}} \quad (3)$$

And

$$\epsilon_{(reff)} = \frac{\epsilon r + 1}{2} + \frac{\epsilon r - 1}{4} \left(1 + \frac{12h}{W}\right)^{-1/2} \quad (4)$$

B. Array Design

The array is composed of two identical patches separated by half wavelength distance of 34mm. The overall dimension of array is 7776mm². With and without isolating structure array is shown in Fig. 1. The substrate thickness is taken 2mm and height of both ground plane and patches are kept 0.787mm.

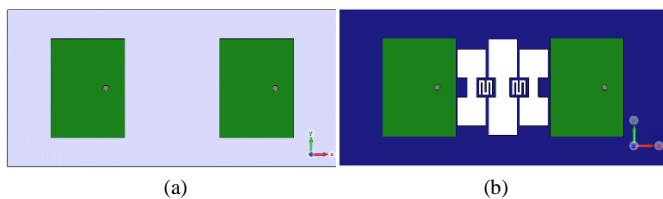


Fig. 1. (a) Conventional antenna (b) Proposed antenna.

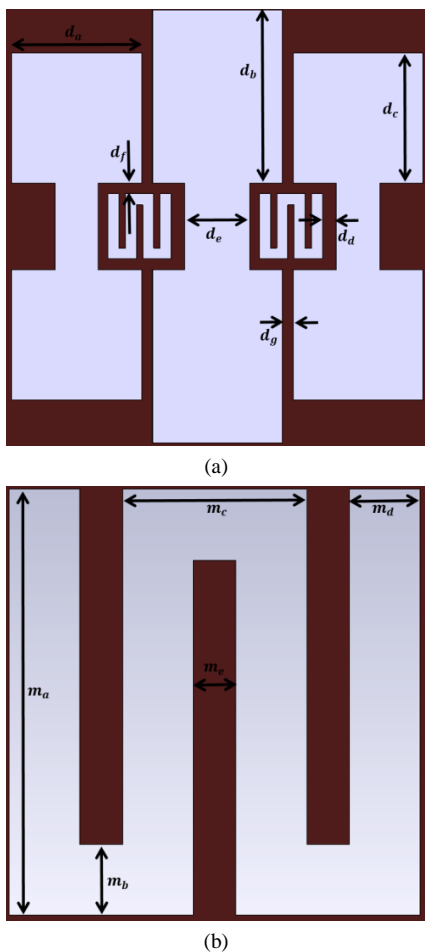


Fig. 2. (a) Whole isolating structures; (b) M Shape isolating structure.

The isolating structure is composed of three dumb bells with two M shaped structures. The central dumb bell is surrounded by M shaped structures followed by smaller dumb bells. The distance between all dumb bells is kept 2.5mm and in that distance M shape is introduced. Both isolating structures are shown in Fig. 2(a) and (b) respectively. The edge to edge distance is kept 20mm and center to center is kept 34.5mm. A 1.9mm whole is also made in ground plane to connect SMA connector inner probe to the patches.

The matching impedance is set to be 50ohm. The overall dimensions of dumb bell and M shaped isolating unit are given in Tables I and II.

TABLE I. DIMENSIONS OF DUMB BELL STRUCTURE

| Parameters | da | db | dc | dd | de | df | dg |
|------------|----|----|----|-------|----|-------|-------|
| Value (mm) | 6 | 8 | 6 | 0.025 | 3 | 0.025 | 0.025 |

TABLE II. DIMENSIONS OF M STRUCTURE

| Parameters | ma | mb | mc | md | me |
|------------|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Value (mm) | 3 | 0.5 | 1.2 | 0.5 | 0.2 |

ma, mb, mc, md, me are the dimensions of M shape isolating structure, whereas da, dc are the dimensions of central dumbbell while db, de are the dimensions of side dumbbells respectively. df, dd, dg are the separating distance among isolating elements. Patterns are introduced in efforts to change the electromagnetic conduction properties of structures. These structures relative to size of wavelength acts usually as block filers for certain number of frequencies and can be considered as LC network. Surface wave's interference reduction was seen with insertion of isolating structure.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The proposed structure as stated was designed in Computer Simulation Technology 2014 version. Performance parameters like return loss, gain, directivity, bandwidth, and VSWR, E and H fields are discussed with and without isolating structure. The detail results comparison are shown in Table III.

TABLE III. PERFORMANCE PARAMETERS

| Parameters | Conventional | Proposed |
|------------------|--------------|----------|
| Return Loss, S11 | -30.25dB | -28.0dB |
| Coupling, S22 | -18.00dB | -42.05dB |
| Gain | 5.18dB | 4.82dB |
| Directivity | 6.15dBi | 6.8dBi |
| VSWR | 1.05 | 1.25 |
| Bandwidth | 180MHz | 200MHz |

The return loss plot or reflection coefficient was slightly decreased in proposed antenna with gain but overall directivity patterns have increased. The return loss of both designs is shown in Fig. 3(a) and isolation enhancement with and without proposed defected ground structure is shown in Fig. 3(b). Isolation enhancement is taken in terms of S12 as only one of the patch elements has been excited. It is clearly visible that up to -28dB of isolation is increased summing up to -42dB which is clearly much more them [14], [15].

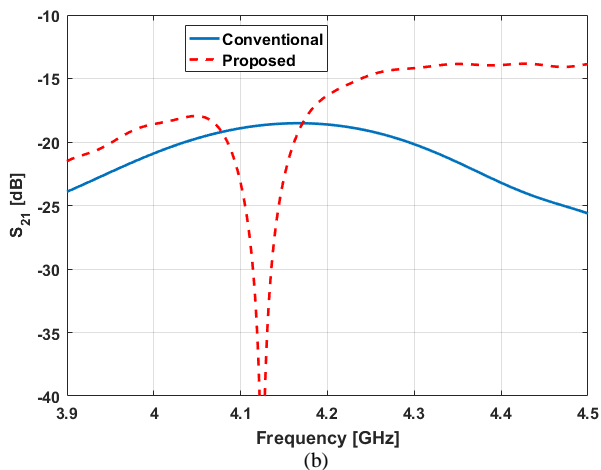
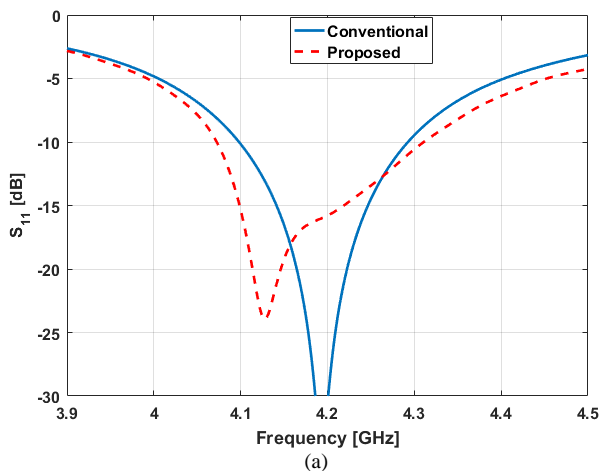


Fig. 3. S parameters of conventional and proposed antenna.

The proposed antenna has shown good bandwidth results with addition of 20MHz. Also antenna has shown satisfactory results and has shown minimum miss match losses.

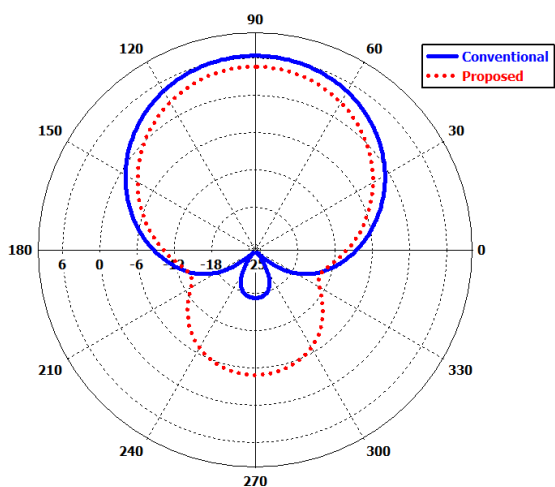


Fig. 4. E field pattern.

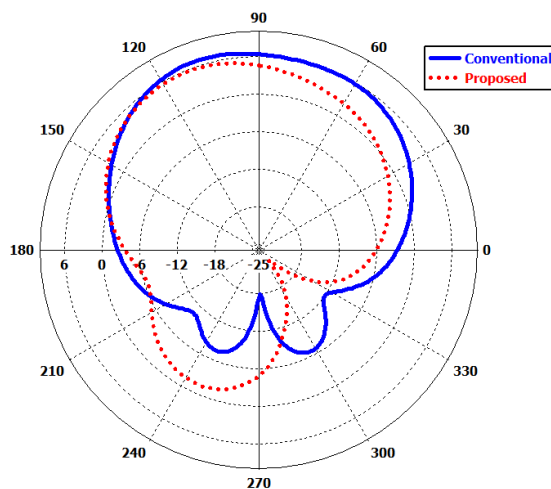


Fig. 5. H field pattern.

The standardized Gain pattern in E and H planes of conventional and proposed structures is shown in Fig. 4 and 5 respectively. The H plane patterns have been tilted a little bit because of the proposed structure and so the direction of current of excited patch is perpendicular to the passive patch.

From figures it is cleared that existence of DGS have not altered radiation patterns. Only the patterns are marginally propped since as of asymmetry in the plane from which it is evident that not only proposed structure successfully blocked the surface waves but also mends the patterns.

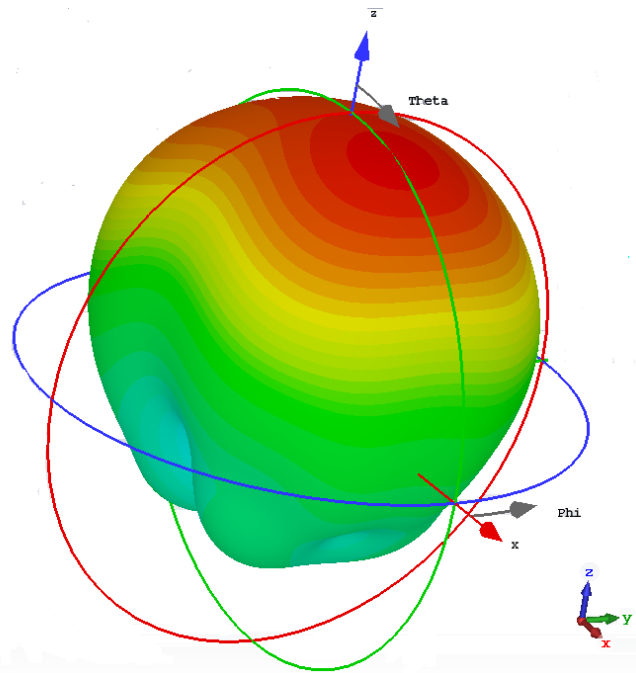


Fig. 6. 3D view of far field.

Fig. 6 shows the 3D directivity view of proposed antenna. The proposed antenna shows high directivity results of 6.8dBi with main lobe direction of 16 degrees.

IV. CONCLUSION

A fresh DGS design is presented in this study to improve isolation enhancement between MIMO antennas. A very simple structure is designed comprising of two shapes M and Dumb bells using Computer simulation technology software. By insertion of proposed patterns reduction of mutual coupling was achieved up to more than 20dB and was reduced to sum of -42dB also improving 20MHz of bandwidth. The antenna showed good performance parameters results such as gain, directivity, miss match losses with minor alteration in radiation patterns. The isolated embedded structure antenna can be used for satellite services and for radio altimeter applications.

V. FUTURE WORK

The proposed antenna work in future can be extended for circular polarized antennas that are suitable for avionics, aerospace and satellite applications. Also this work can be extended to enhance isolation among MIMO elements by increasing DGS elements.

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