

2011-8

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Recommended Citation

Bao, X.L. & Ammann, M.J. (2011). Wideband Dual-Frequency Dual-Polarized Dipole-Like Antenna, *IEEE Antennas and Wireless Propagation Letters*, vol. 10, pp. 831-834, 08/2011. doi:10.1109/LAWP.2011.2164609

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Funder: Science Foundation Irealnd

Wideband Dual-Frequency Dual-Polarized Dipole-Like Antenna

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Abstract--- A wideband dual-frequency dual-polarized printed antenna is proposed for LTE, WLAN and UWB systems. The dual-band antenna provides wide impedance bandwidths of 74%, with respect to the centre frequency of 2.725 GHz, and 39% with respect to the centre frequency of 7.15 GHz. An open slot in the ground plane between the feed arms provides an orthogonal path to realize an embedded circularly-polarized band at 2.35GHz with an axial ratio bandwidth of 16%. Dual-band characteristics are achieved by an asymmetrical dipole-like element and the coupling configuration between the T-shaped feed line and the wide ground plane slot.

I. INTRODUCTION

The demand for low-cost antenna solutions is increasing with the continued expansion of the wireless communication industry. In particular, increased consideration is given to printed multiband, multimode and dual-polarized antennas. For the wireless local area network (WLAN), circular-polarization (CP) is often a good choice because of reduced multipath and antenna orientation constraints. Thus, multiband linear and circular polarization performance is required in a single antenna.

In recent decades, microstrip patch, slot, and printed monopole antennas have been introduced to achieve dual-frequency linear polarization performances [1-4]. A stacked T-shaped printed monopole [5] and a CPW-fed planar monopole with slotted radiating element [6] were shown to realize dual-frequency linear performance for WLANs. A dual band printed dipole was reported in 2000 [7] and subsequently an antipodal dipole loaded with split ring resonators gave dual frequency linear performance [8].

A multilayer dual-frequency circular patch antenna was shown to achieve orthogonal CP performance over two bands [9] and a triangular microstrip antenna was proposed [10] to provide two resonant modes realizing a linear performance for GSM and CP in the GPS band; but both bandwidths are less than 10%. A printed antenna was recently introduced achieving CP over a single band with an axial ratio bandwidth (AR) of 23% [11]. This antenna comprised asymmetrical linear elements and a narrow ground plane slit which generates the necessary orthogonal surface currents, in the dipole, feedline and ground plane for CP.

In this paper, a dual frequency printed dipole-like antenna is presented providing wideband circular and linear polarization performance covering LTE (1710-2690 MHz), WLAN (2400-2484 MHz) and UWB band groups 3 and 6 (6.0-8.5 GHz).

Manuscript received 10th June 2011. This work was supported by Science Foundation Ireland under Grant 09/SIRG/11644.

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II. THE GEOMETRY OF THE PROPOSED PRINTED ANTENNA

The antenna geometry shown in Figure 1 comprises a dipole-like structure with tapered arms of unequal length and a wide gap between the feed lines, forming an open-ended slot which cuts into the ground plane. It is fed using a T-shaped microstrip stepped line which couples equally to both slot edges and connects to the feedline of the shorter arm using a via. This acts as a balun for the low frequency mode [11-12]. The 90° phase perturbed orthogonal modes are realized by a combination of the x-directed dipole arm currents and the y-directed currents on the open-ended slot structure. The longer dipole arm and the slot are approximately one quarter of a guided wavelength long at 2.35GHz. The CP mechanism for the antenna is similar to that in [11] where a detailed description can be found.

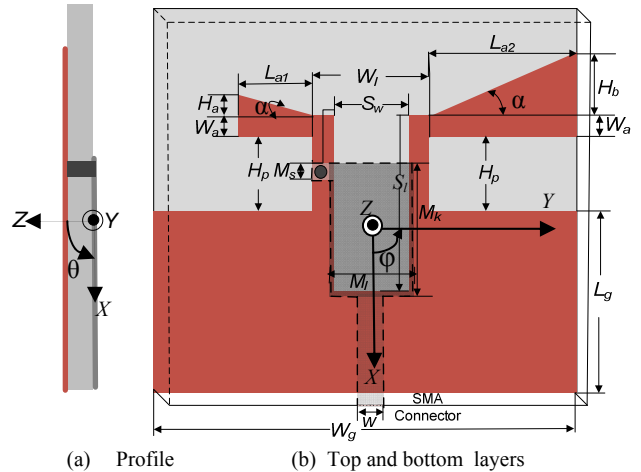


Figure 1. The geometry of the proposed antenna

However, the antenna proposed here differs in the following ways; in order to realize an antenna with a significantly wider impedance bandwidth and provide a second higher frequency band, a wide open-ended slot is used in conjunction with a T-shaped microstrip feed section. This enables good matching for the higher order mode. The tapering on the arms improve the bandwidth, reducing the lower edge frequency, enabling a smaller antenna. The AR bandwidth of the embedded CP band for the recomposed antenna is reduced to 16% compared to 23% in [11]. The surface current distribution for the upper band is shown in Figure 2. Simulations were carried out using the time domain solver of CST MWS. It is seen that the excitation of the upper mode is dependent on the coupling between the T shaped feedline and the wide slot. The length of the stepped

feed section M_k is approximately three quarters of a guided wavelength at 7.5 GHz

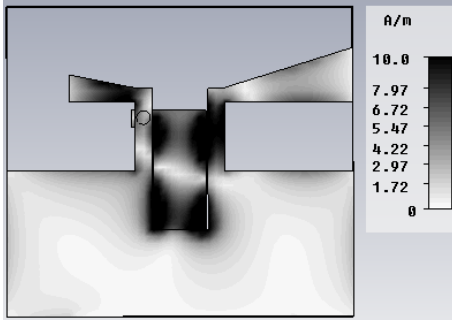


Figure 2. The simulated surface current distribution for 7.5 GHz.

The antenna is fabricated on a Taconic RF35 substrate ($45 \text{ mm} \times 50 \text{ mm} \times 1.57 \text{ mm}$) with $\epsilon_r = 3.5$. The selected parameters are: $L_{a1} = 9.5 \text{ mm}$, $L_{a2} = 18.5 \text{ mm}$, $W_a = 2.0 \text{ mm}$, $W_l = 13.0 \text{ mm}$, $W = 3.0 \text{ mm}$, $S_w = 8.0 \text{ mm}$, $S_l = 20.5 \text{ mm}$, $M_s = 2.5 \text{ mm}$, $M_k = 18.5 \text{ mm}$, $M_l = 7.6 \text{ mm}$, $H_p = 10.0 \text{ mm}$, $H_a = 3.0 \text{ mm}$, $H_b = 5.5 \text{ mm}$, $\alpha = 16^\circ$. The ground plane length L_g is 21 mm. The via radius is 0.65 mm and is located at the coordinate $(-8.8 \text{ mm}, -5.3 \text{ mm})$ in the XoY plane.

III. NUMERICAL AND MEASURED RESULTS

Figure 3 shows the simulated and measured S_{11} . The measured 10 dB impedance bandwidth for the first frequency band is 2.03 GHz (1.71 GHz to 3.74 GHz) corresponding to 74%. The measured 3dB AR bandwidth is approximately 380 MHz (2.16 GHz to 2.54 GHz) providing

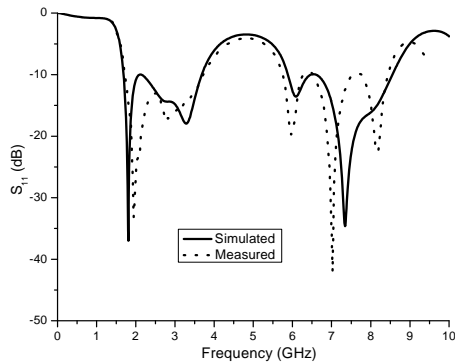


Figure 3. Measured and simulated S_{11}

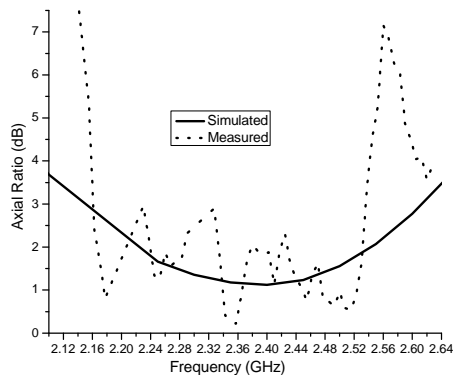


Figure 4. Measured and simulated axial-ratio

CP for the WLAN bands, as shown in Figure 4. For the second band, the impedance bandwidth is approximately 2.8 GHz (5.75 GHz to 8.55 GHz). The antenna is linearly polarized in this band. These bands include LTE (1710 -2690 MHz), WiMAX and the UWB bandgroups 3 and 6 (6.0 -8.5 GHz). Hence, the antenna provides a matched bandwidth of 74% for the first band with an embedded circularly-polarized band (16% AR bandwidth) and a second band of 39% bandwidth with linearly-polarized performance.

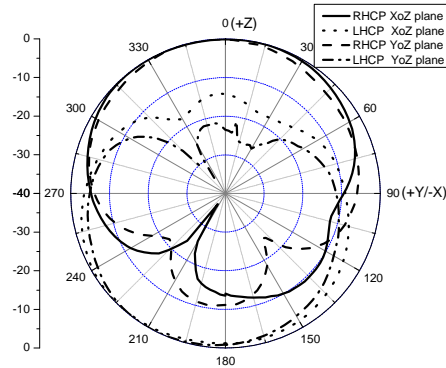
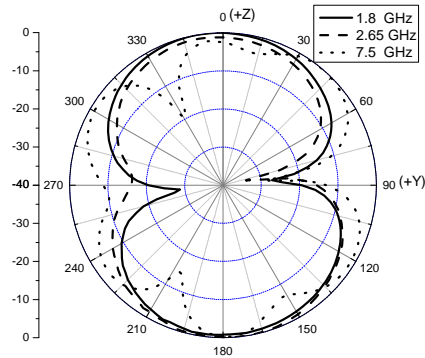
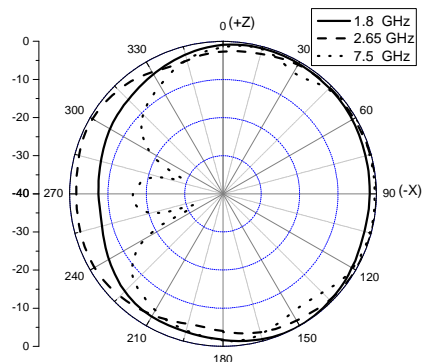


Figure 5. Measured RHCP and LHCP patterns (XoZ and YoZ) at 2.45 GHz.

For the CP band, the measured RHCP and LHCP radiation patterns at 2.45 GHz in the XoZ and YoZ planes are shown in Figure 5 normalised to a peak gain of 2.4 dBi. For the linear



(a) YoZ plane (E_θ)



(b) XoZ plane (E_ϕ)

Figure 6. Measured radiation patterns at 1.8 GHz, 2.65 GHz and 7.5 GHz

polarized band, the radiation patterns in the XoZ plane and YoZ planes were measured at 1.8 GHz, 2.65 GHz, and 7.5 GHz and are shown in Figure 6. The peak gains were found to be 2.5 dBi, 2.4 dBi, and 4.0 dBi, respectively. The efficiency varied across the band from -0.3 dB at 1.8 GHz to -2.5 dB at 8.5 GHz.

IV PARAMETRIC STUDY

A parametric study of key parameters based on CST MWS is given to assist with the design procedure. As the flare angle α of the taper is changed, H_a and H_b are also both varied. As the flare angle α is increased from 0° to 32° , the lower edge frequency decreases from 1.88 GHz to 1.56 GHz as shown in Figure 7. The CP centre frequency is also shifted downwards but the AR degrades with increasing angle α as shown in Figure 8. The use of the wide tapered structure enables antenna miniaturization.

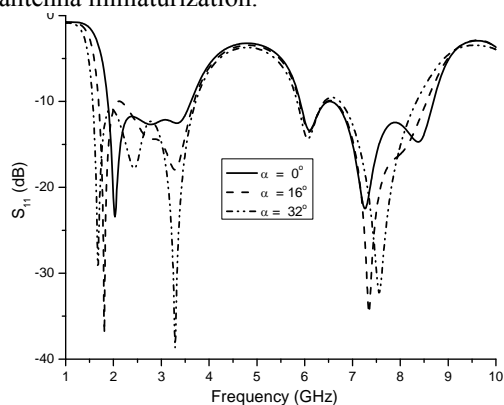


Figure 7. Simulated S_{11} for different flare angle α (with $L_{a1} = 9.5$ mm, $S_w = 8.0$ mm, $S_L = 20.5$ mm)

The effects of the short arm length L_{a1} on the high frequency are shown in Figure 9. It is found the impedance bandwidth of the both bands increase as the length is increased. But for the low frequency band, the CP centre frequency shifts downwards with a degradation in AR as shown in Figure 10

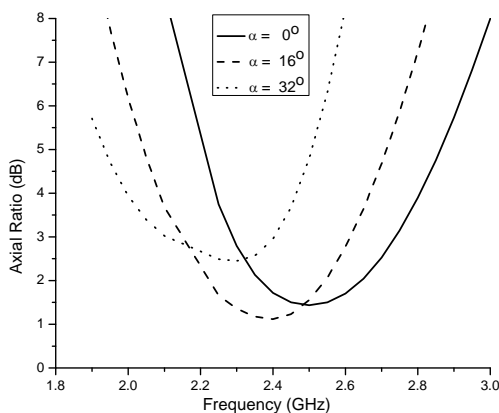


Figure 8. Simulated axial ratio for different flare angle α (with $L_{a1} = 9.5$ mm, $S_w = 8.0$ mm, $S_L = 20.5$ mm)

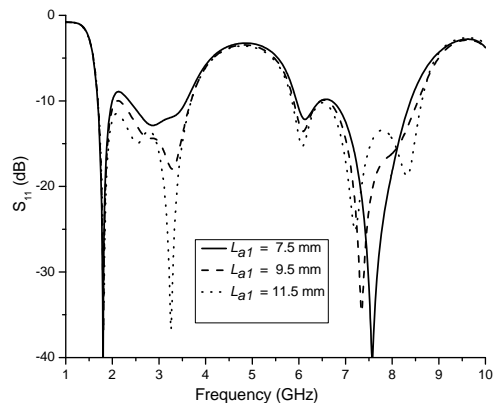


Figure 9. Simulated S_{11} for different L_{a1} (with $\alpha = 16^\circ$, $S_w = 8.0$ mm, $S_L = 20.5$ mm)

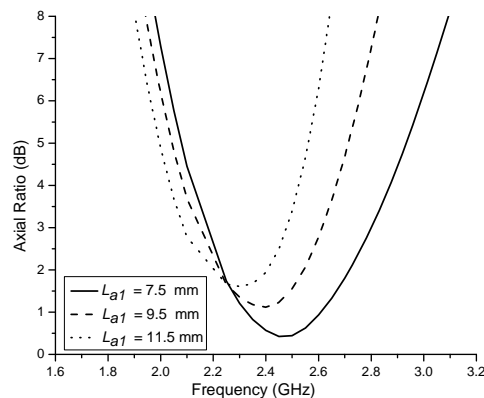


Figure 10. Simulated axial ratio for different L_{a1} (with $\alpha = 16^\circ$, $S_w = 8.0$ mm, $S_L = 20.5$ mm)

The higher frequency mode is heavily dependent on the open-ended slot parameters, S_w and S_L . The frequency ratio f_2/f_1 can be changed from 2.67 to 3.14 as the slot width S_w is increased from 5 to 8 mm as illustrated in Figure 11. The bandwidth for the lower frequency shows weak sensitivity to this parameter. The AR bandwidth will increase slightly as S_w is increased (Figure 12).

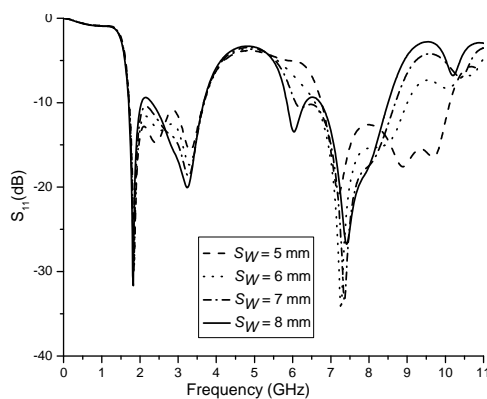


Figure 11. Simulated S_{11} for different S_w (with $\alpha = 16^\circ$, $L_{a1} = 9.5$ mm, $S_L = 20.5$ mm)

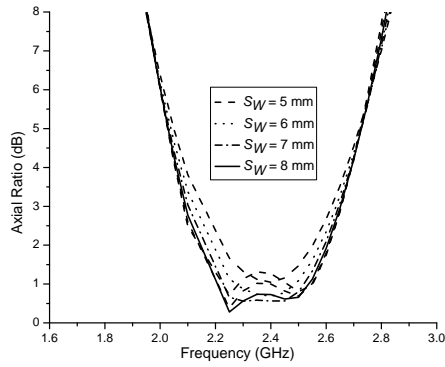


Figure 12. The simulated S_{11} for different S_W (with $\alpha = 16^\circ$, $L_{al} = 9.5$ mm, $S_L = 20.5$ mm)

Figure 13 shows the S_{11} sensitivity to the length of the open-ended slot S_L . The upper edge frequency for the first frequency band is shifted upwards and the AR bandwidth is decreased as the slot length S_L is decreased. Figure 14 illustrates the AR curves for variation in S_L . It should also be noted that the S_{11} and AR are dependent on ground plane dimensions.

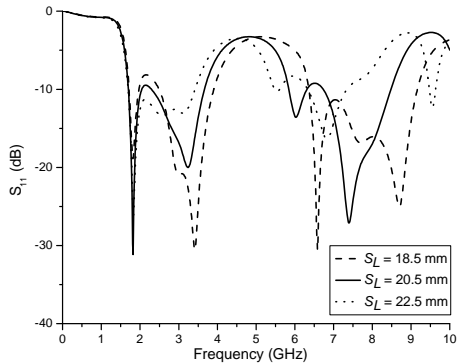


Figure 13. The simulated S_{11} for different S_L (with $\alpha = 16^\circ$, $L_{al} = 9.5$ mm, $S_W = 8.0$ mm)

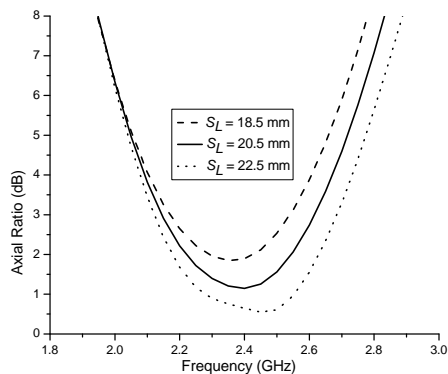


Figure 14. The simulated axial ratio for the different S_L (with $\alpha = 16^\circ$, $L_{al} = 9.5$ mm, $S_W = 8.0$ mm)

V. CONCLUSION

A dual-frequency printed antenna providing wideband circular and linear polarization is proposed. The impedance bandwidths are 74% and 39% for the first and second bands. A 16% embedded CP band is realized within the first band. Gains achieved are appropriate for multimode wireless communications systems in the LTE, WLAN and UWB spectra.

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