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Design and Performance Analysis of Patch Antenna using Metamaterial

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Abstract

In this paper, a Symmetrical Rectangular Structure has been chosen to construct the metamaterial substrate due to the ability of constructing this shape, this structure produces a better performance compared to the other shapes. The implementation of the metamaterial as the substrate in a rectangular microstrip patch antenna produces high value of return loss. This high value of return loss indicates that only small amount of reflection waves were returned back to the source and most of the power will be radiated from the patch. CST MICROWAVE STUDIO is used to design the metamaterial based rectangular microstrip patch antenna.

Keywords: Rectangular microstrip patch antenna (RMPA), Metamaterial (MTM) Impedance Bandwidth, Return loss.

Introduction

The concept of such antennas though introduced in early 1950's in US by Deschamps & in France by Gutton & Baissinot, it was in 1970's only that with advent of Printed Circuit technology, some serious advancement in this research area had begun [2]. A Microstrip device literally means a sandwich of two parallel conducting layers separated by single thin dielectric substrate. The lower conductor is called

Ground Plane & the upper conductor is a simple resonant Circular/ rectangular Patch. The metallic patch (usually Cu or Au) may take many geometries viz. rectangular, circular, triangular, elliptical, helical, ring etc. The IEEE definition of Antenna [IEEE std. 145-1983] says: Antenna is a means "for radiating or receiving radio waves" [1]. In addition to receiving or transmitting energy, an antenna in an advanced wireless system is usually required to optimize or accentuate the radiation energy in some directions and suppress it in others. Thus antenna is a directional device as well as a probing device.

The field of Antennas is vigorous and dynamic and planar oriented antennas such as Microstrip Patch has attracted significant attention primarily for space borne applications. A microstrip antenna is characterized by its Length, Width, Input impedance, and Gain and radiation patterns. The microstrip antenna consists of conducting patch on a ground plane separated by dielectric substrate. This concept was undeveloped until the revolution in electronic circuit miniaturization and large-scale integration in 1970. After that many authors have described the radiation from the ground plane by a dielectric substrate for different configurations. The early

work of Munson on micro strip antennas for use as a low profile flush mounted antennas on rockets and missiles showed that this was a practical concept for use in many antenna system problems. Various mathematical models were developed for this antenna and its applications were extended to many other fields. The number of papers, articles published in the journals for the last ten years, on these antennas shows the importance gained by them. The micro strip antennas are the present day antenna designer's choice. Low dielectric constant substrates are generally preferred for maximum radiation. The conducting patch can take any shape but rectangular and circular configurations are the most length of the antenna is nearly half wavelength in the dielectric; it is a very critical parameter, which governs the resonant frequency of the antenna. There are no hard and fast rules to find the width of the patch. There are many kinds of materials used to improve the gain of microstrip patch antenna. Among them, Metamaterial [4-6] are found most suitable. Metamaterials have opened an exciting field to realize unexpected physical properties and applications, which are not possible from naturally occurring materials. Conductive or dielectric inclusions in metamaterials can be tailored in shape and size, periodicity, and defects to produce unusual yet exciting properties.

Unusual properties such as, negative permittivity and permeability, negative refraction at the interface of two (RH and LH) media [7]. Metamaterial are artificial structure that can be design to exhibit specific electromagnetic properties that doesn't found in the nature. In Greek "Meta" means "beyond" [1]. These

features in the field of communication, microwave, biomedical and in antenna brings Metamaterial in the lead role, due to it provide change in Electromagnetic properties[2].

Design Specifications

The RMPA parameters are calculated from the following formulas. Desired Parametric Analysis [1][7].

Calculation of Width (W):

$$W = \frac{1}{2f_r \sqrt{\mu_0 \epsilon_0}} \sqrt{\frac{2}{\epsilon_r + 1}} = \frac{C}{2f_r} \sqrt{\frac{2}{\epsilon_r + 1}}$$

Where

C = free space velocity of light,

εr =Dielectric constant of substrate

The effective dielectric constant of the rectangular microstrip patch antenna:

$$\epsilon_{eff} = \frac{\epsilon_r + 1}{2} + \frac{\epsilon_r - 1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + \frac{12h}{w}}} \right)$$

(2)

Actual length of the patch (L):

$$L = L_{eff} - 2\Delta L$$

(3)

Calculation of length extension:

$$\frac{\Delta L}{h} = 0.412 \frac{(\epsilon_{eff} + 0.3) \left(\frac{w}{h} + 0.264 \right)}{(\epsilon_{eff} - 0.259) \left(\frac{w}{h} + 0.8 \right)}$$

(4)

Analysis of Rectangular Microstrip Patch Antenna and Metamaterial Structure with Simulated Results

A microstrip patch antenna using metamaterials (fig 1) is designed for the resonant frequency 1.836 GHz. The length of the patch is 35 mm and its width is 46mm. The length of the microstrip line is 33mm which is used for the feeding purpose. For the designing of this antenna we took a both sided copper PCB. On the lower side of PCB copper field acts as the ground for this antenna and the on the upper side of the PCB we designed the patch of giving dimensions. On the other PCB we designed metamaterial structure and the lower portion of this PCB, which acts as a ground plane is removed. After etching we connected both PCB with the help of screw in such a manner so that the both design could overlap on each other. The whole geometry is simulated and realized practically using a dielectric substrate of height 1.6mm and having a dielectric constant 4.4mm. Loss tangent of the material is 0.02. microstrip feeding technique is used for providing the feed to the antenna.

Table1.Rectangular Microstrip Patch Antenna Specifications

parameters	Dimension	Unit
Dielectric constant	4.3	-
Loss tangent (tan)	.02	-
Thickness (h)	1.6	Mm
Operating frequency	1.836	GHz
Length L	35	Mm
Width W	46	Mm
Cut width	6	Mm
Cut depth	10	Mm
Path length	33	Mm

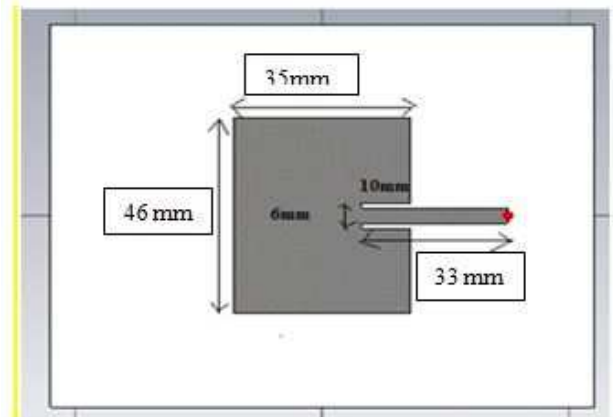


Figure1. Rectangular microstrip patch antenna at 1.836 GHz.

Rectangular microstrip patch antenna (RMPA) is operating at frequency 1.836 GHz.

This design gives the better improvement in impedance bandwidth and reduction in return loss. An antenna's bandwidth specifies the range of frequencies over which its performance does not suffer due to a poor impedance match.

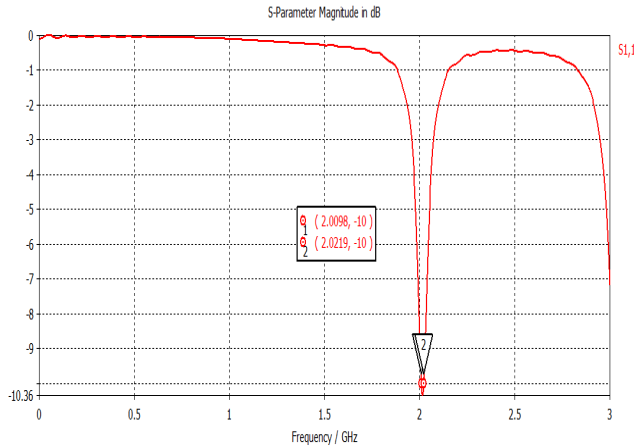


Figure 2. Simulation of return loss and bandwidth of RMPA.

The bandwidth of simple RMPA is 12.1 MHz and Return loss is -10.36 dB.

The Rectangular microstrip patch antenna has 3D Radiation pattern at 1.836 GHz as shown in figure 3.

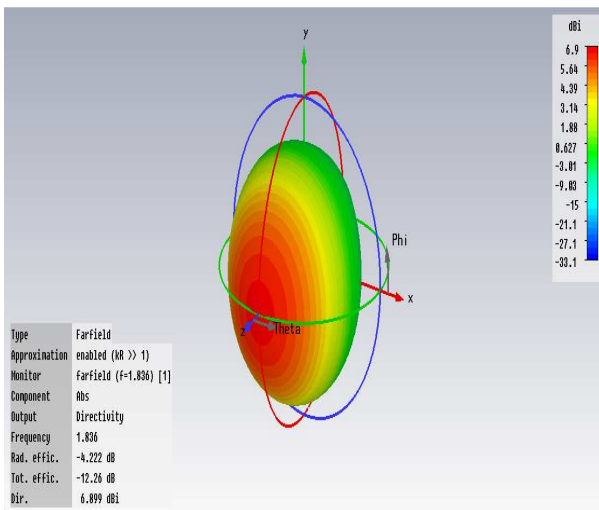


Figure 3. Directivity of simple RMPA is 6.899 dBi

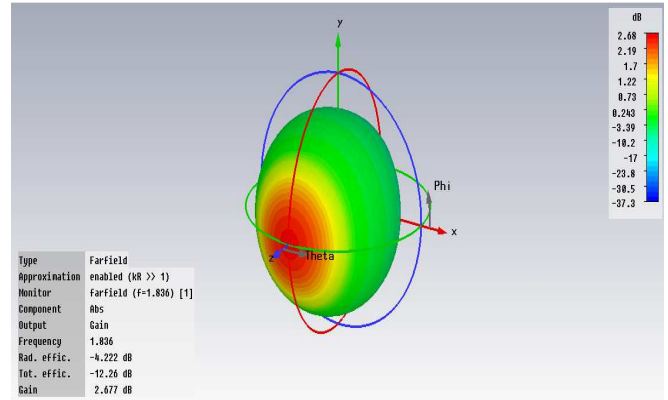


Figure 4. Gain of simple RMPA is 2.677 dB

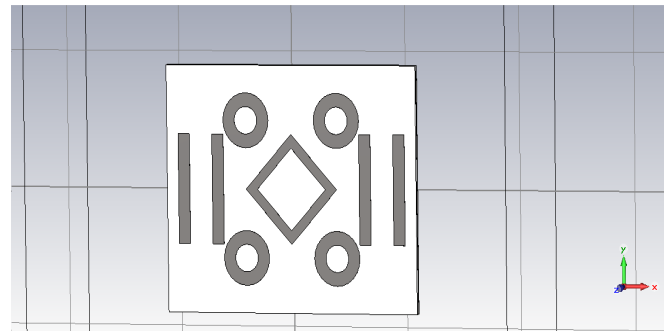


Figure 5. Design of proposed metamaterial structure at the height of 3.2 mm from ground plane.

In this metamaterial design, symmetrically strips and circle are loaded on the patch antenna. These are distributed equally with each other. This design gives the better improvement in impedance bandwidth and reduction in return loss.

Equation used for calculating permittivity and permeability Using NRW approach

$$\mu_r = 2.c (1-V_2) / \omega.d.i(1+V_2)$$

$$\epsilon_r = 2.c (1-V_1) / \omega.d.i(1+V_1)$$

$$V_1 = S_{11} + S_{21}$$

$$V_2 = S_{21} - S_{11}$$

Where

ϵ_r = Permittivity

μ_r = Permeability

C = Speed of light

ω = Frequency in Radian

d = thickness of the substrate

i = imaginary coefficient

V_1 = Voltage Maxima

Frequency [GHz]	Permeability [μ_r]	Re [μ_r]
1.824	-1013.16528397713-2251.3107585928i	-1013.16528
1.827	-1361.47244713851-2041.65660015068i	-1361.47245
1.829	-1600.25010068953-1751.95506249197i	-1600.2501
1.833	-1723.84425994146-1443.7048646286i	-1723.84426
1.836	-1755.6228007935-1159.70768799892i	-1755.6228
1.839	-1726.59804065196-919.269761871643i	-1726.59804
1.842	-1662.92047812992-725.192499367031i	-1662.92048
1.845	-1582.50382960134-572.480709105443i	-1582.50383
1.847	-1496.34810151785-453.854987618998i	-1496.3481

Table 2

V₂=Voltage Minima

For satisfying double negative property, the values of permeability and permittivity should be negative Within the operating frequency range. The obtained values of these two quantities from MS-Excel program are given in Table 2 & 3; Fig. 6 & Fig. 7 shows the graph between permeability & frequency and permittivity & frequency

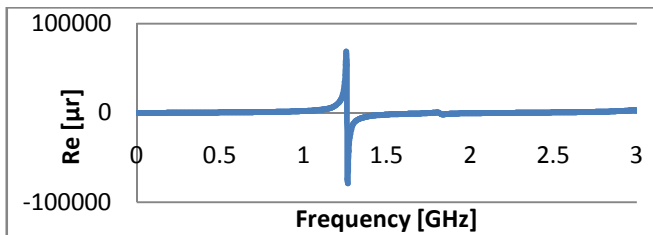


Figure 6: Permeability versus frequency graph

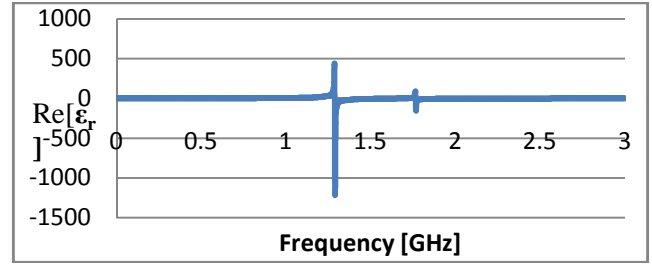


Figure 7: Permittivity versus Frequency Graph

Table 3

Frequency [GHz]	Permittivity [ϵ_r]	Re [ϵ_r]
1.824	-8.61554829317584-2.31888510659417i	-8.615548293
1.827	-8.57574354094187-2.12349757038769i	-8.575743541
1.829	-8.52175400731373-1.89677104477037i	-8.521754007
1.833	-8.44313909522449-1.64705045483765i	-8.443139095
1.836	-8.33275637052589-1.38514979160947i	-8.332756371
1.839	-8.18765627197724-1.12298079096466i	-8.187656272
1.842	-8.00893845710753-0.872003622417211i	-8.008938457
1.845	-7.80118584173573-0.641810608716234i	-7.801185842
1.847	-7.57123059730726-0.439222747096188i	-7.571230597

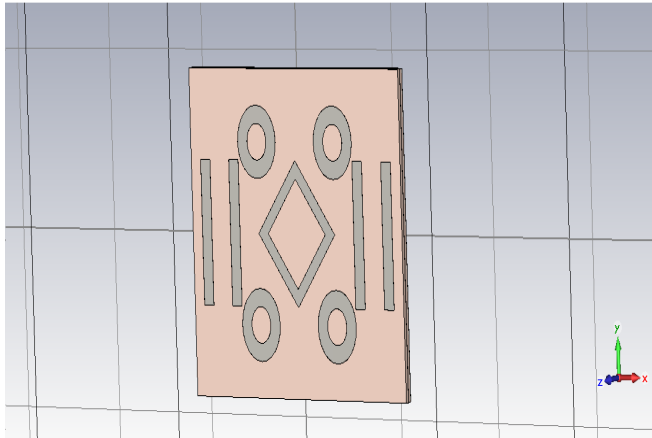


Figure 8. Rectangular microstrip patch antenna with proposed metamaterial structure.

The proposed metamaterial structure reduces the return loss by 17.257dB and increases the bandwidth up to 9MHz

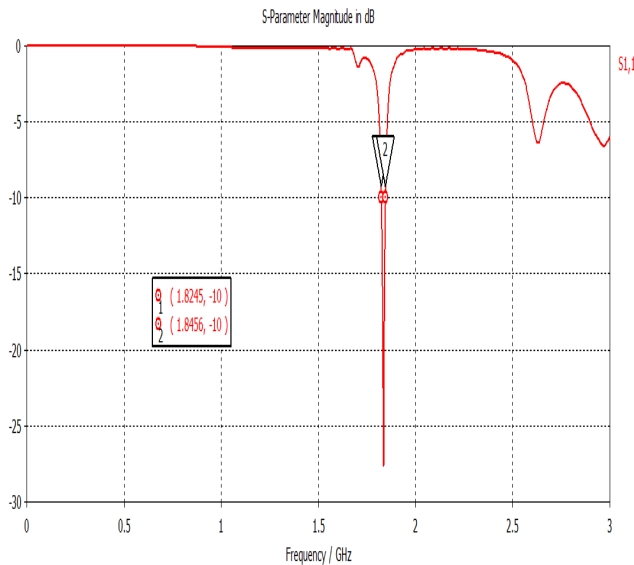


Figure 9. Simulation of Result of proposed structure at operating frequency 1.836GHz.

The Simulated result of proposed structure is showing return loss of -27.617dB and Bandwidth of 21.1MHz. It is clear that the Directivity of proposed antenna is increased in comparison to simple RMPA alone.

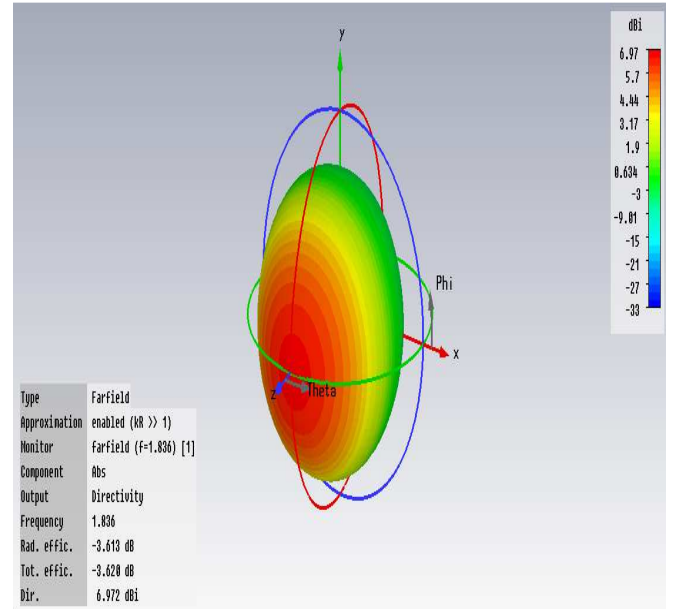


Figure 10. Directivity of RMPA loaded with Metamaterial is 6.972 dBi

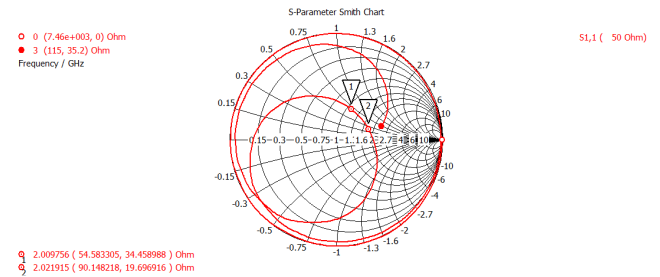


Figure 11. Smith chart of simple Rectangular microstrip patch antenna.

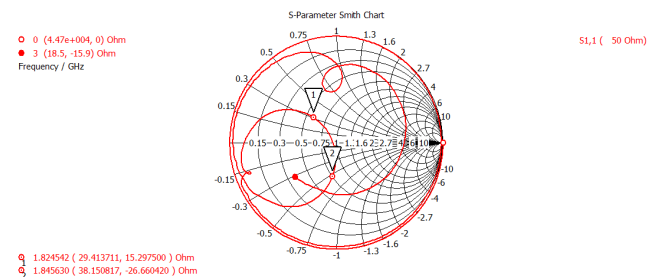


Figure 12. Smith chart of RMPA loaded with metamaterial.

Smith chart of RMPA loaded with metamaterial structure at 1.836GHz. Above Fig. shows the impedance variation in the simulated frequency range and received impedance matching for proposed antenna at characteristic impedance.

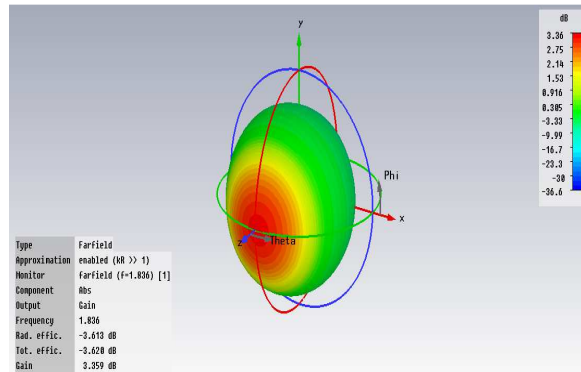


Figure 13. Gain of proposed antenna at 1.836GHz is 3.359dB

Simulation Results

Patch antenna loaded with metamaterial structure is simulated using CST-MWS software. The proposed design in comparison to RMPA alone, the potential parameters of the proposed antenna is increased. The return loss is reduced by 17.257dB and bandwidth is increased by 9MHz. From the Fig.10 & 13 it is clear that the Directivity and Gain of proposed antenna design is increased.

Conclusion

The proposed antenna structure provides the better improvement in the impedance bandwidth and reduction in the return loss at operating frequency. The drawback of patch antenna was less impedance bandwidth. By using the properties of metamaterial, we can easily overcome the drawbacks of RMPA alone. This reduction of return loss indicates that only small amount of reflection waves were returned back to the source and most of the power will be radiated from the patch. The reduction of return loss ultimately improves gain of patch antenna which becomes patch antenna more directive.

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