

Amalgamation of Slot Antenna and Fractal Antenna for UWB Applications

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Abstract: Antennas were proposed with varied methods of practical and theoretical simulations to achieve ultrawide bandwidth [UWB] for UWB devices. This paper is intended to analyze varieties of proposed slot and fractal antennas and their methods of analysis by available software and their lacunae to combine them to achieve UWB.

Key words: slot antenna, fractal antenna, HFSS, IE3D, CST.

INTRODUCTION

A slot antenna consists of a metal surface, usually a flat plate, with a hole or slot cut out. When the plate is driven as an antenna by a driving frequency, the slot radiates electromagnetic waves in a similar way to a dipole antenna. The shape and size of the slot, as well as the driving frequency, determine the radiation distribution pattern. They are used typically at frequencies between 300 MHz and 24 GHz. Slot antennas are widely used in radar antennas, and these sector antennas are used for cell phone base stations, and are often found in standard desktop microwave sources used for research purposes. Its main advantages are its size, design simplicity, robustness,

and convenient adaptation to mass production using PC board technology.

A fractal antenna is an antenna that uses a fractal, self-similar design to maximize the length, or increase the perimeter of material that can receive or transmit electromagnetic radiation within a given total surface area or volume. Such fractal antennas are also referred to as multilevel and space-filling curves, but the key aspect lies in their repetition of a motif over two or more scales or iterations. For this reason, fractal antennas are very compact, multiband or wideband, and have useful applications in cellular telephone and microwave communications. A fractal

antenna's response differs markedly from traditional antenna designs, in that it is capable of operating with good-to-excellent performance at many different frequencies simultaneously. Normally standard antennas have to be cut for the frequency for which they need be used and thus the standard antennas only work well in that frequency. This makes the fractal antenna an excellent design for wideband and multiband applications. In addition the fractal nature of the antenna shrinks its size, without the use of any components, such as inductors or capacitors.

This paper compares Slot and Fractal antennas proposed by various authors and the simulation method that they have adopted in concluding the results and also their combination to provide UWB.

SLOT ANTENNA

A microstrip antenna composed of parallel dipole resonators of different lengths fed by a rectangular slot cut in the ground plane of a microstrip line is analyzed in [1]. Multifrequency operation of this antenna is demonstrated by using

two different configurations - small dipole to big dipole and vice versa is used. Theoretically obtained values are compared with measured values for frequencies of

5.24 GHz, 6.1 GHz and 7.13 GHz. The selected parameters are the ratio between the longest and shortest pair of dipoles, the air gap between the dipoles, the substrate thickness and the length of the slot, which is done to obtain best performance.

Application - communication, advanced frequency radar or scatter meters. In this paper [1] study of back lobes and effect of one dipole on another are not mentioned and also their designed procedure.

Two parallel slots are incorporated into the rectangular microstrip patch antenna, to get E-shaped microstrip patch antenna in [2] and it is fed by coaxial probe. The upper substrate was chosen with high dielectric constant for compact size and the lower substrate is foam dielectric material to provide ground plane. An air gap was used as the thickness of foam material is fixed, and it helps in optimization for widebandwidth. Parametric study is done to understand -

slot length to control frequency, width to control impedance, length of patch to control lower frequency and length of middle arm of E plane control higher frequency. The bandwidth of 1.482GHz (4.976–6.458GHz) is obtained from simulation in E3D and measured 1.557GHz (5.557–7.134GHz). This paper [2] has not mentioned any designing equations and also the method mentioned for feed is complex for simulation.

Antenna consists of pentagon shaped microstrip slot fed using microstripline and a pentagon stub [3], parametric study on the pentagon slot proved that this dimension gives good impedance matching. The antenna shows resonances at 3.5GHz, 5.4GHz, 7.8GHz and 10.5GHz, which when joins provide the UWB performance, the impedance curve is in the center of the Smith chart which proves good impedance match over a wide range of frequency. The HFSS simulator shows impedance bandwidth of this antenna covers frequencies from 2.65GHz to 11.3GHz. No design equation and shape angles are provided.

A rectangular patch with feed line with gap from ground plane on one side of substrate and a truncated ground plane with two slots and H-shaped conductor-backed plane is proposed in [4]. Two slots in the ground plane are adjusted for length and width (parametric study) to get maximum bandwidth which determines upper operating frequency, impedance bandwidth and impedance matching. H shape backed plane conductor position from ground plane determines the band notch characteristics and its bandwidth this determined by its width. The proposed monopole antenna has the frequency band of 3.1 to over 13.9 GHz with a rejection band around 5.1 to 6GHz using HFSS was simulated. Floating H plane and the slot considered is in the middle of ground plane and not on the patch. Generally slot done in radiating patch or ground plane will be complex if it is used in stacked configurations. Some design is for multifrequency applications and some for broadband with band notch characteristics between 5 to 6GHz, maximum bandwidth reported is up to 16GHz. Different

shapes are done in radiating patch like-dipole, U slot and L probe, E shape, half ellipse with T stubs, C slot and many more. In some design, ground plane is modified to get wide band response and that will be incorporated to obtain band notch characteristics. Generally simulation of slot antennas are done either by IE3D, HFSS and CST, else experimental data are collected.

FRACTAL ANTENNA

The base shape of hexagonal fractal and its first and second iterations are used to obtain the proposed antenna [5]. Simulated by using the microwave office (MOM method) with the result of this antenna in broad band range and applied in all frequencies 0.1 GHz–24 GHz. This antenna is designed using ADS 2005 and the fractal is generated by program written in AEL. Feeding types and study of basic, first iteration is not studied.

A 5-iteration, Pythagorean tree is proposed in [6], which is used as the radiation part. The coupling of ground plane near the tree structure and tapering of the feed line can significantly

increase the bandwidth of the proposed antenna. When the antenna is constructed, the curves show that the antenna maintains bandwidth in between 4 to 5 GHz, 6.2 GHz to 6.8 GHz and 7.5 to 8.2 GHz and 8.5 to 10 GHz. This can be approximated as 6.2 to 10 GHz bandwidth because by tuning some variables, it is quite easy to achieve the same. Only approximation is done to show wide bandwidth. In the experiment, bandwidth varies between 4 to 5 GHz twice, 6 odd to 8 odd GHz and from 10 GHz it is below -10 dB. Simulator used is FDTD algorithm and tuning of variables is mentioned but not performed and studied.

The Sierpinski gasket antenna is constructed after 5 iterations and compared with 5 bow-tie antennas of different sizes similar to gasket iteration in [7]. Frequency is varied from 1 to 16 GHz to see the response, 5 bands are obtained in both experiment and simulation. Effect of ground plane, feed gap is not mentioned. For bow-tie VSWR is not mentioned properly and all are measured experimentally and FDTD simulator.

A circular fractal monopole design based on modified Descartes circle theorem (DCT) is presented in [8]. Measured return loss with reference to -15 dB is from 2.65 GHz to over 20 GHz except from 5.4 to 6.5 GHz where it is around -14 dB. Measured and simulated using CST is not tallying completely. No design procedures and why elliptical shape hole for fractal is not specified and if the return loss is considered as -10 dB then the bandwidth obtained will be beyond 20 GHz. Different shapes - Hexagonal, Triangle, Square, Star, Tree with different level of iteration are done to get fractal antenna and the complexity increases with number of iterations with losing of required characteristics for high iteration.

Maximum bandwidth reported is 23.9 GHz and finds main application in multifrequency operation. Generally simulation is done with MWO, FTDT, else experimental data are collected.

MERGING THE SLOT ANTENNA AND FRACTAL ANTENNA

A slot antenna having higher bandwidth when combined with a

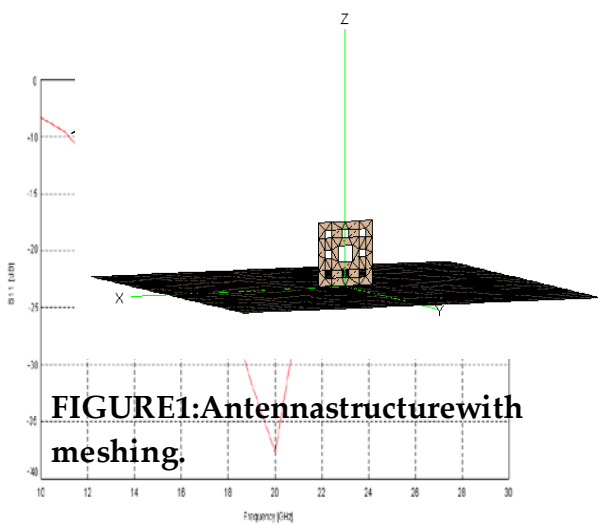
fractal antenna of similar type should result in an antenna with the consolidated bandwidth having UWB characteristics. In this paper, I have considered square patch held parallel to ground plane with 9 slots to implement fractal Sierpinski carpet geometry which is investigated extensively for monopole and dipole antenna configurations [9, 10, 11 and 12], this is done to avoid the effect of substrate in terms of its thickness and affecting the frequency bandwidth. In this approach, one starts with a large square encompassing the entire geometry which is divided at the middle to obtain eight squares of scaled down size of original ($1/4^{\text{th}}$ for first iteration and $1/8^{\text{th}}$ for second iteration) same division is done on each of the copy to obtain multiple iterations, I have considered two iterations for study and simulated it. The lower frequency for square monopole is given by:

$$f_L = \frac{7.2}{L+r} \text{ GHz}$$

Where L = length in cm, $r = \frac{w}{2\pi}$

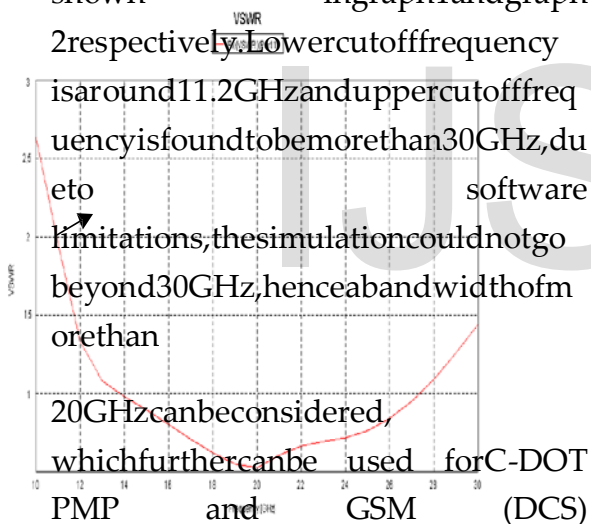
W = width in cm. For L=W=4.5 mm, f_L is found to be 13.8 GHz. The inner one square is of area 1 mm² and eight small squares is of area 0.25 mm², these two areas are cut from main square to obtain Sierpinski carpet as shown in figure

1 FIGURE



GRAPH 1: S11 versus frequency

The simulated result for S11 and VSWR is shown in graph 1 and graph 2 respectively. Lower cutoff frequency



GRAPH 2: VSWR versus frequency
arrow indicates 10.9 GHz

is around 11.2 GHz and upper cutoff frequency is found to be more than 30 GHz, due to software limitations, the simulation could not go beyond 30 GHz, hence a bandwidth of more than 20 GHz can be considered, which further can be used for C-DOT PMP and GSM (DCS)

applications as base antennas. It is clear from the simulation that the slot fractal antenna has wideband behaviour; this has to be checked with practically constructed one. More fractal-slot antenna types like Sierpinski triangle, monopole circular type, Koch curve, Koch loop and Hilbert loop can be considered for wideband applications.

CONCLUSION

UWB operation of slot fractal antenna has been demonstrated with square slot fractal antenna to cover a bandwidth of more than 20 GHz, the S11 and VSWR plot are found satisfactory to herange with good impedance matching. More iteration can be considered to see the performance

of antenna in terms of impedance/VSWR/S11 bandwidth. Such antenna can be realized practically to see its performance. Application of such antenna is limited to base station as the structure is like monopole antenna and can be used in devices where space constraints are not present.

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