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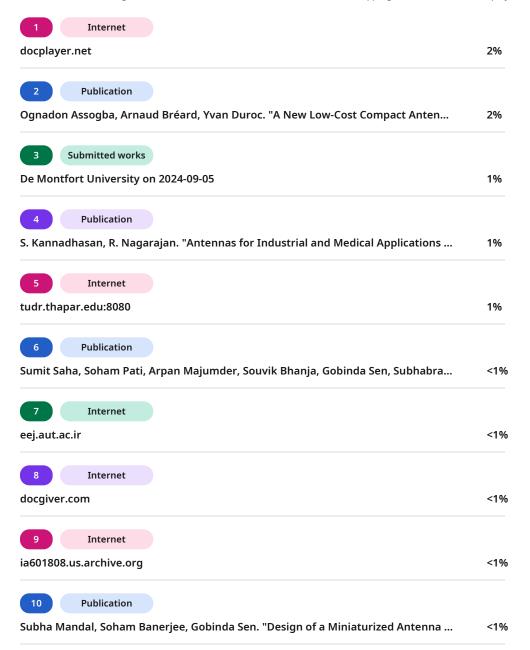
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Antenna on Transparent Substrate for IoT and ISM Band Applications



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Abstract-The presented work follows a transparent and flexible dual band microstrip-fed patch antenna that can function in both Internet of Things (IoT) and Industrial, Scientific and Medical (ISM) Band applications. The radiating parts of the antenna consist of two inverted L-shaped patches with two slots cut on it fed by a microstrip feedline along with a rectangular stub above it while the ground plane is modified to achieve dual-band functionality. The novelty of the presented work is showcased by the use of low-cost and flexible Polyethylene terephthalate (PET) material, a thermoplastic semi-crystalline polymer of the polyester group has been used as the substrate with dielectric constant taken as 3.6 and a thickness of 1.6 mm, to achieve optical transparency. The antenna is capable of resonating within the frequency bands of 3.56 GHz to 6.73 GHz with an impedance bandwidth of 0.26 GHz over frequencies of 3.56 GHz to 3.82 GHz and 1.42 GHz over 5.31 GHz to 6.73 GHz. The proposed design of the antenna is simulated using the Ansys HFSS (High Frequency Structure Simulator) software which runs on finite element method (FEM) technique and then finally fabricated.

 $\label{lem:keywords} \textbf{\textit{Keywords---Transparent}} \quad antenna, \quad dual\text{-\textit{band}}, \quad flexible, \\ Polyethylene \; terephthalate \; (PET), \; defected \; ground \; structure.$

I. Introduction

The modernization of technologies in the 21st century led to engineering marvels in the design and fabrication of antennas which are being used for Internet of Things (IoT) as well as for Industrial, Scientific and Medical (ISM) bands [1]. The evolution of the antennas are taking place rapidly to accelerate the growth of the industries in relation to the frequencies they resonate in, thus procuring the need of suitable communication systems for error-free data transmission [2].

Transparent electronics have gained an immense popularity these days which are implemented seamlessly across various domains of modern scientific and industrial applications due to their easy integration with the existing communication technologies. The construction of a transparent antenna is structured in such way that it cannot be seen or almost slightly prominent when integrated or placed on glass, plastic or other transparent materials. The usage of these antennas are applicable in areas where the function of traditional design antennas are non-workable and where

design factors are considered [3]. Conversely, compared to other conventional antennas, flexible antennas are wellregarded because of their compatible and versatile integration with curved or irregular surfaces, thus finding applications in wide range of substantial communication technologies [4]. Thus the implementation of flexible antenna with transparent substrate finds applications in wide range of wearable technologies because of their almost invisible appearance as well as new aspects of broader features which were previously unimaginable [5]. Transparent electronic systems have seamless discrete implementations of technological systems. So it will be necessary to upgrade the antennas for modern scientific uses as the size of the gadgets decreases, there will be necessities for antennas that can support huge capacities as well as compatible sizes [6]. In this way, transparent antennas can thus introduce novel features in their usages which were deemed impossible before.

In [7], J. Kaur et al proposed a microstrip-fed patch antenna with two inverted radiating patches which are Lshaped and can operate in dual-band frequencies, along with FR-4 epoxy substrate on a defective ground structure. However, the use of flame retardant FR-4 epoxy makes the design unsuitable for wearable applications. Hence in this work, a new design is proposed using a transparent Polyethylene terephthalate (PET) substrate with transparency of 95%. Along with the radiating parts of the antenna which involve the patches additionally a rectangular stub is placed above the patches and two slots of equal dimensions have been cut on the patches. The usage of PET as material for the substrate supported to the transparency and wearable operability of the antenna. The proposed design is shown to resonate in the band of frequencies from 3.56 GHz to 6.73 GHz with return losses less than -10 dB, gain values of 4.41 dBi and 5.71 dBi at 3.68 GHz and 5.88 GHz respectively and an impedance bandwidth of 0.26 GHz from 3.56 GHz to 3.82 GHz and 1.42 GHz from 5.31 GHz to 6.73 GHz with radiation efficiency of 99%. Thus this design can agreeably be used to operate in the IoT and ISM bands thus offering a large bandwidth. The following sections outline the comprehensive layout of the proposed structure and in-depth analysis of the simulated outcomes including reflection coefficient, radiation pattern, gain, VSWR and surface current distribution alongside the fabricated results.



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II. ANTENNA DESIGN

The proposed work comprises a simple monopole antenna which involves two L-shaped radiating patches which are inverted and are fed by a microstrip line of length $(L_1) = 5$ mm. The longer strips connecting the patches to the feedline are of length $(L_2) = 33.5$ mm and of thickness (a) = 2 mm. The arms of both the patches are of length $(L_3) = 11.7$ mm and of width $(W_3) = 23$ mm and are separated by a gap (b) of 2 mm. The PET material used for the substrate used has a dielectric constant (ε) = 3.6, loss tangent = 0.02 [8] and of thickness (H_s) = 1.6 mm. Additionally, a rectangular stub of length (L) = 40mm and of thickness (W) = 3 mm has been added at a gap (g) of 0.1 mm from the patches along with two slots of equal dimensions $(L_p \times W_p) = 6 \times 2 \text{ mm}^2$ have been cut on the patches. The ground has been incorporated into a plus-shaped structure (+) with the dimensions of the longer arm $(L_{s}\,\times\,W_{gl})\,=\,70\,$ x 31 mm^{2} and that of the shorter arm $(W_s \times L_{g1}) = 60 \times 8 \text{ mm}^2$ for improved impedance matching and reduction in unwanted responses.



The length and width of the antenna maybe evaluated out through the usage of the subsequent equations [9]:



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



where μ_0 is permeability in free space, ε_0 is permittivity in free space, f_r is the resonant frequency, ε_r is the relative permittivity of the substrate

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

where L_{eff} is the effective length of the patch which can be expressed as:

$$L_{eff} = \frac{c}{2f_T \sqrt{\varepsilon_{eff}}} \tag{3}$$



where ε_{eff} is effective relative permittivity given as follows:

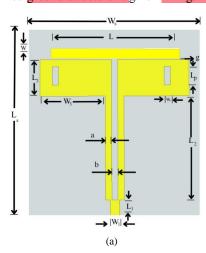
$$\varepsilon_{eff} = \frac{\varepsilon_r + 1}{2} + \frac{\varepsilon_r - 1}{2} \left(1 + \frac{12h}{W} \right)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \tag{4}$$

and *L* is the length extension given as follows:

$$L = 0.412h \frac{(\varepsilon_{eff} + 0.3)(\frac{W}{h} + 0.264)}{(\varepsilon_{eff} - 0.258)(\frac{W}{h} + 0.8)}$$
(5)



The complete geometry of the proposed antenna along with modified ground structure is given in Fig.1 (a)-(b).



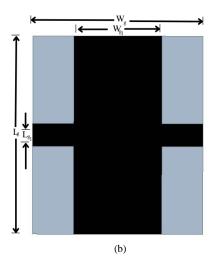


Fig. 1. a) Top view of the proposed antenna b) Back view of the modified ground structure.

The addition of the rectangular stub at the distance of 0.1 mm from the patches have an impacted wideband effect on the design thus giving better gain for the results. It has been also observed that the performance of the antenna is impacted by the cutting of two slots on the patches, thus offering sufficient amount of reflection coefficients for the desired resonating frequencies in the applicable IoT and ISM bands. The defective ground structure of the antenna with the modified design contribute to the reduction of mutual coupling and better surface current control, thus eventually improving the impedance matching, minimizing reflection and ensuring more and efficient power transmission.

The following parameters show in Table I are used in designing the proposed antenna.

TABLE I. DIMENSIONS OF THE ANTENNA

Parameter	Value (mm)	Parameter	Value (mm)
L_1	5	\mathbf{W}_{p}	2
\mathbf{W}_1	3	L _s	70
L_2	33.5	W _s	60
\mathbf{W}_2	2	H_s	1.6
L_3	11.7	L_{g1}	8
W_3	23	W_{g1}	31
L	40	a	2
W	3	b	2
L _p	6	g	0.1

III. RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

The outcomes of the design of the antenna are analyzed through simulations conducted on Ansys HFSS (High Frequency Structure Simulator) software which employs FEM (Finite Element Method) to assess the impact of the design parameters.



A. Simulated Results

The proposed design is shown to resonate at frequencies around 3.68 GHz and 5.88 GHz offering reflection coefficients of around -17.47 dB and -32.46 dB. Thus this design resonates at dual band frequencies with a common operating impedance bandwidth of 0.26 GHz and 1.42 GHz over a span of 3.56 GHz to 3.82 GHz and 5.31 GHz to 6.73 GHz respectively in the IoT and ISM bands. This result shows an improvement from the standard FR4-epoxy as substrate. The simulated reflection coefficient of the antenna is shown in Fig. 2.

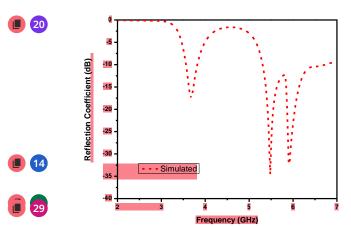


Fig. 2. Reflection coefficient of the proposed design.

The radiation pattern depicts the directional distribution of an antenna's total energy. The angular spread of the radiation is also determined by the E-plane and H-plane radiation patterns, thus making it crucial to judge an antenna with good directivity. Another critical parameter is the gain which shows how efficiently the antenna radiates energy in specific directions in comparison to an ideal reference antenna. The radiation pattern simulated outcome for the E-plane (Phi = 0°) and H-plane (Phi = 90°) at 3.68 GHz and 5.88 GHz are given by the polar plots in the Fig. 3 (a)-(b).

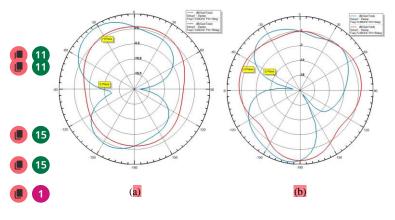


Fig. 3. Radiation pattern of the antenna at (a) 3.68 GHz, and (b) 5.88 GHz.

At the frequencies of 3.68 GHz and 5.88 GHz, the presented antenna provides 4.41dBi and 5.71 dBi as the gain respectively, thus showing the effect of transparent PET material over the conventional FR-4 material being used as substrate for the design. The E-plane and the H-plane

radiation patterns indicate good agreement of the gain with the resonating frequencies.

The degree to which the impedance is matched between the source and the feed point is measured by the Voltage Standing Wave Ratio (VSWR). The VSWR is depicted by Fig. 4 shows the acceptable performance of the design which is less than 2 thus resulting lower directivity of the proposed design.

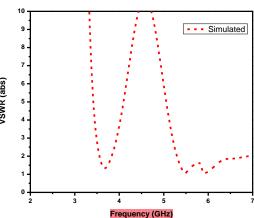


Fig. 4. Simulated VSWR Plot.

Using current distribution on the surface of the patches and the rectangular stub, which refers to the variation of electric current across it, the float of current for a specific resonant frequency can be calculated. Fig. 5 (a)-(b) illustrates the surface current distribution for the two bands of frequencies 3.68 GHz and 5.88 GHz, on the patches and the stub.

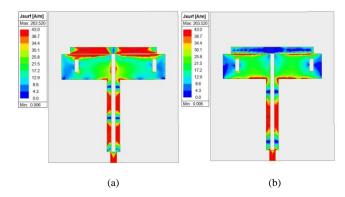


Fig. 5. Surface current distribution of the patch and the stub for a) 3.68 GHz and b) 5.88 GHz.

B. Experimental Verification

The proposed antenna is fabricated with slight optimization in the thickness of the transparent substrate as depicted in Fig.6(a)-(b) and experimental results as obtained from Anritsu MS46122B020 series VNA in an anechoic chamber (in Fig. 8) are verified with the simulated one in Fig.9. However, the measured plot, which represents the performance of the fabricated antenna, shows a slight shift at the resonating frequencies due to manual fabrication inaccuracy. Other parameters such as dimensions of the substrate, patch and the stub, along with the modification of the ground plane into a defective structure to provide efficiency in the results, have been kept intact.





TABLE II.	COMPARISON OF PARAMETERS OF DIFFERENT TRANSPARENT ANTENNAS	
IARIHII	TOMPARISON OF PARAMETERS OF DIFFERENT TRANSPARENT ANTENNAS	

Design	Frequency	Gain (dBi)	Bandwidth (%)	Radiation Efficiency (%)	Substrate Material Used	Transparency (%)
Proposed	3.56– 3.82 GHz, 5.31 – 6.73 GHz	4.41 , 5.71	7.05 , 23.59	99	PET	95
[10]	2.2 – 25 GHz	3.2, 4.3, 3.7, 4.5	-10 dB	75	PDMS	70
[11]	4.9 GHz	5.16	-10 dB	90	Soda lime glass	60
[12]	2.47 GHz, 5.32 GHz	0.64, 1.2	7.15, 2.42	62, 83	Borosilicate glass	80

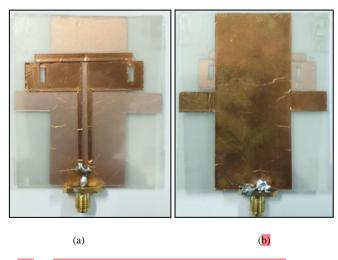


Fig. 6. Proposed antenna design (a) Front view (b) Back view

Despite the difference in the shifts, the resonant frequency in both plots is very close, with only a minimal shift is observed. This demonstrates that the fabricated antenna closely replicates the simulated design, effectively meeting the requirements of the desired frequency bands along with the usage of its applications.

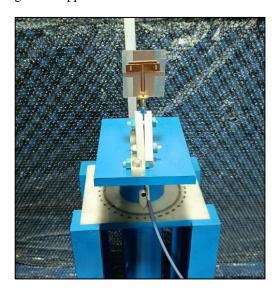


Fig. 7. Frontal view of the antenna attached.

Table II provides a comparative overview of several transparent antennas developed using various substrate materials namely polydimethylsiloxane (PDMS) [49], soda lime glass [34] and borosilicate glass [56], alongside the proposed design. The comparison encompasses key performance parameters such as gain, bandwidth, radiation efficiency, and optical transparency. The results clearly

highlight the superior performance of the proposed antenna, which utilizes PET as a substrate, demonstrating notable improvements across multiple metrics. This underscores the effectiveness and suitability of the PET-based design for advanced transparent antenna applications.

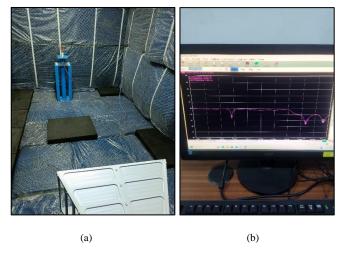


Fig. 8. Experimental setup of the proposed design at a) Anechoic chamber and b) measurement results

The novelty of the fabricated structure is showcased by incorporating PET sheet as substrate along with copper strips for the patch and the ground. This not only enhances the design's transparency but also adds flexibility and wearability. The antenna not only gives a good VSWR reading for the resonant frequencies along with low directivity, but it also boasts a very high radiation efficiency of 99%. These parameters contribute to the high performance attained by the design during its usage.

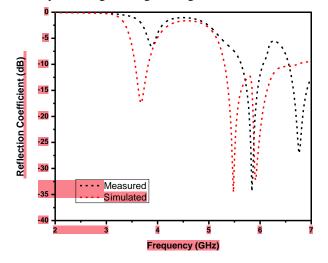


Fig. 9. Simulated and Measured Reflection Coefficient Plot





IV. CONCLUSION







The presented work features the design and proper fabrication of a versatile dual-band microstrip patch antenna with an optically transparent PET substrate on a defected ground structure. The antenna operates between the frequencies of 3.56 GHz and 6.73 GHz with gain of 4.41 dBi and 5.71 dBi at 3.68 GHz and 5.88 GHz, thus making it suitable to work in the IoT and ISM bands and also covering the agreeable amount of bandwidth. The use of PET is characterized by its low-cost production and compactness to achieve optical transparency as well as visual aesthetic of the design. Besides these, PET also offers toughness and high glass transition temperature [13]. Also PET substrate is used for human-body wearable applications due to its low-cost, transparent and flexible features [14]. Furthermore, the material's sustainable nature contributes to its high recyclability and low energy requirements during production, enhancing its environmental friendliness [15]. Nowadays many transparent antennas with various conductive metal materials as conductive layers are being designed and fabricated, leading to new insights into materials and communication engineering [16]. This work can also considered to be another step in exploring the results and effectiveness of transparent antennas using various transparent substrates [17]. Further, more research can be carried out to discover new applications for these type of antennas in the future endeavor.

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