

Design of Rectangular Microstrip Patch Antenna for 1.8 GHz Applications

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Abstract: Rectangular microstrip patch antenna (RMPA) is a simple antenna, light, and easily to integrate in the system. This paper discusses RMPA design for working on the frequency of 1.8 GHz by using a FR4 substrate with relative permittivity of 4.4 and thickness of 1.6 mm. The optimal of RMPA is assisted by AWR simulator. Based on measurement result, the designed RMPA has VSWR minimum of 1.03 on 1.84 GHz frequency. It has bandwidth of 43 MHz (1.818 - 1.861 GHz) for VSWR<2. The gain is 4.39 dB.

Keywords: Rectangular, microstrip, patch.

1. Introduction

Rectangular microstrip patch antenna (RMPA) is potentially used any purpose radio as its size is compact and easily integrated to printed board. Microstrip antenna is formed by patch as radiator element, dielectric substrate as isolation to the ground plane and feeding line as depicted in Figure 1. These component developments are in progress to obtain better performances.

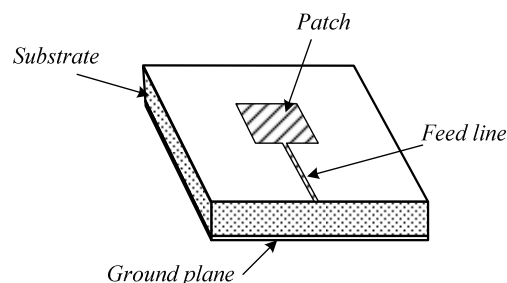


Fig. 1. The RMPA.

Some RMPAs have been designed to work on 2.4 GHz radio (Adrian, 2018; Rambe, A.H., Marlianto, E., Nasruddin M.N., Arnia, 2013). It has also been used for Wireless LAN on 5.21 GHz band (Ahuja, N., Khanna, R., Kaur, 2012). WiMAX applications on frequency band of 8.5 GHz also make use it (Baabdullah, F., Affandi, A., Dobaie, 2016). Recent dual-band long term evolution (LTE) technologies also employ RMPA (Rambe, A.H., Abdillah, 2018). The RMPA demands such as for radio variant is still high (Suherman, 2018). Therefore this paper reports RMPA design for LTE application on frequency band of 1.8 GHz.

2. Antenna Design

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

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

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

$$\Delta L = 0.412h \frac{(\epsilon_{reff} + 0.3) \left(\frac{W}{h} + 0.264 \right)}{(\epsilon_{reff} - 0.258) \left(\frac{W}{h} + 0.8 \right)} \quad (4)$$

$$\epsilon_{reff} = \frac{\epsilon_r + 1}{2} + \frac{\epsilon_r - 1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + 12h/W}} \right) \quad (5)$$

Theoretically, RMPE design can be approximated by using mathematical equations 1-5 (Balanis, 2005):

where c is light speed 3×10^8 m/s, ϵ_r substrate dielectric constant, f_r resonant frequency, h substrate thickness, L_{eff} effective patch length, ΔL additional *patch length*, and ϵ_{reff} effective substrate dielectric constant.

Based on the aforementioned calculations, by using FR4 substrate with relative permittivity of 4.4 and thickness 1.6 mm, design on frequency of 1.8 GHz requires microstrip size with 51 mm width and 39 mm length.

3. Simulation Results

Figure 2 shows the initial voltage standing wave ratio (VSWR) of the designed RMPA based on mathematical calculations.

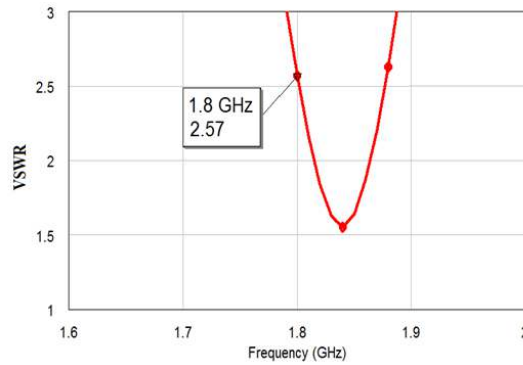


Fig. 2. VSWR simulation result of the first design.

In order to obtain better performances, the VSWR should be adjusted to be as close as to 1 on the desired 1.8 GHz. The adjustment is applied to the length of feed line, the width and

the length of substrate and the width of patch. The VSWR as result feed line adjustment is shown in Figure 3.

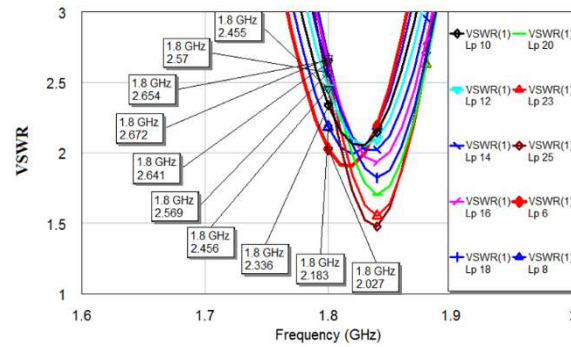


Fig. 3.VSWR graph for feed line adjustment.

Based on feed line adjustment result, for frequency of 1.8 GHz, feed line length 6 mm produces VSWR 2.027. Next is to adjust the length and width of substrate as shown in Figure 4 and Figure 5.

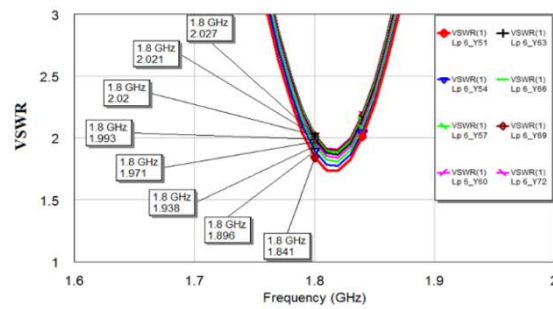


Fig. 4.VSWR graph for substrate length adjustment.

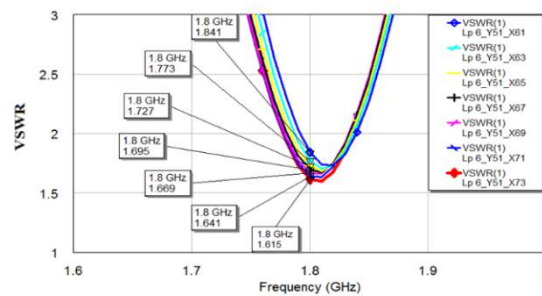


Fig. 5.VSWR graph for substrate width adjustment.

Based on adjustments of the length and width of substrate, the substrate size of 51×73 mm² is able to produce optimal VSWR 1.615. The iteration for width adjustment of the patch is shown in Figure 6.

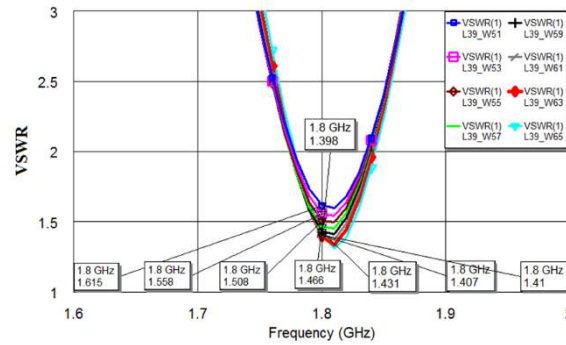


Fig. 6. VSWR graph for patch width adjustment.

By adjusting the width of the patch, the patch size for optimal VSWR is revealed. Figure 6 shows that patch width of 63 mm is able to provide VSWR 1.41. After the iterations on the simulations as shown in Figure 7, the optimal size is obtained.

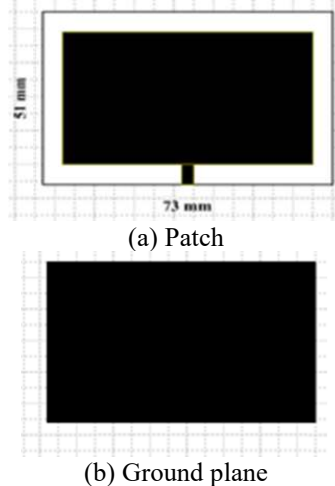


Fig. 7. The optimal RPMA design.

The optimal RPMA design is on substrate size of 51x73 mm. The patch size is 63 mm length and 39 mm wide. Feed line size is 3x6 mm.

The VSWR value is almost 1 for centre frequency of 1.8 GHz, increasing to 2 at frequency of 1.75 GHz and 2.32 at frequency of 1.85 GHz.

The return loss on centre frequency is about -15.61 dB, rising to -10 dB in 1.78 GHz and 1.84 GHz. VSWR and return loss are plotted in Figure 8 and Figure 9.

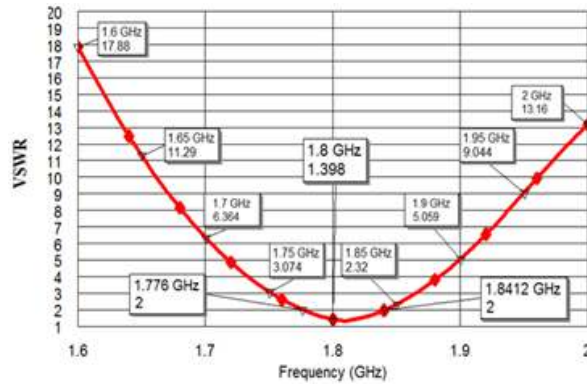


Fig. 8. VSWR simulation of optimal RPMA design.

Based on the obtained parameters as discussed previously, the bandwidth approximation is from 1.776 GHz to 1.8412 GHz, about 65.2 MHz. At the 1.8 GHz frequency, the antenna VSWR of 1.398 and return loss of -15.61 dB.

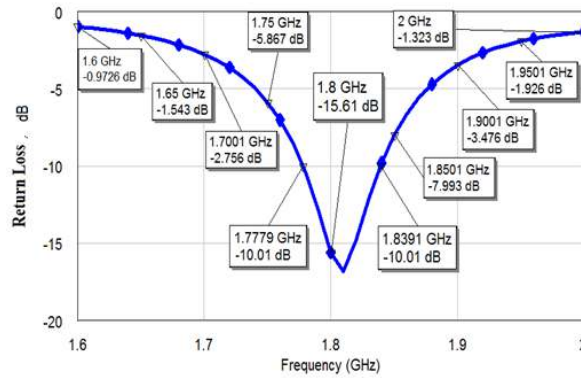


Fig. 9. Return loss simulation of optimal RPMA design.

The antenna radiation pattern is shown in Figure 10, where the maximum radiations are at 0° and 180° where gain of 5.406 dB obtained. Angles of 90° and -90° are the minimum radiation points.

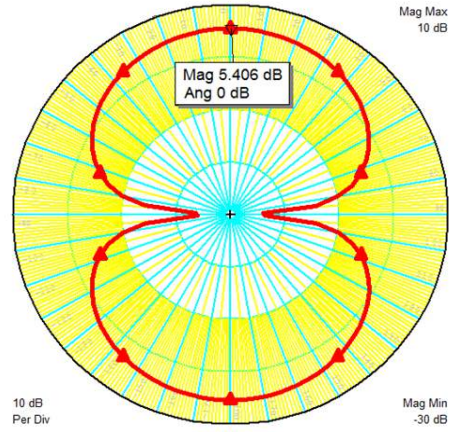


Fig. 10. Radiation pattern simulation of optimal RPMA design.

4. Measurement Results

Fabrication of the optimal designed RPMA based on simulation result is depicted in Figure 11. The fabricated RPMA is then measured by using an Anritsu MT8222A vector network analyser (VNA). The SMA 50Ω connector is employed to connect the antenna and the VNA.



(a) RPMA Patch



(b) RPMA Ground plane
Fig. 11.The fabricated RPMA.

The VSWR and return loss graphs of the fabricated RPMA are shown in Figure 12 ad Figure 13.

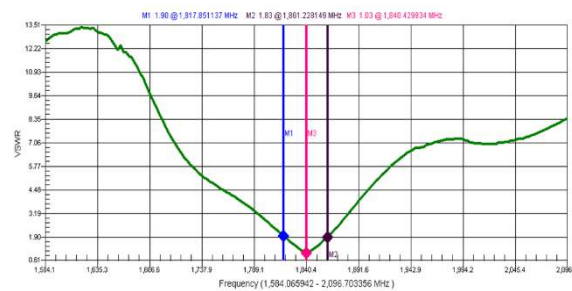


Fig. 12. VSWR measurement.

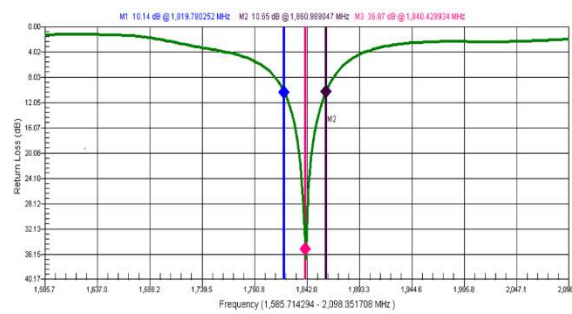


Fig. 13.Return loss measurement.

Based on VSWR measurement on frequency of 1.818 GHz and 1.861 GHz, the values are 1.90 and 1.83. The lowest VSWR down to 1.03 in frequency of 1.84 GHz. The bandwidth achievement for $VSWR \leq 2$ is:

$$bandwidth = \frac{1.861 - 1.818}{1.840} \times 100\%$$

$$= 2.337\% (43 \text{ MHz})$$

While the return losses for frequency of 1.818 MHz and 1.861 MHz are 10.14 dB and -10.65 dB subsequently. The lowest return loss is -36.87 dB for frequency of 1.840 MHz.

The radiation pattern is shown I Figure 14 with maximum gain of 4.39 dB.

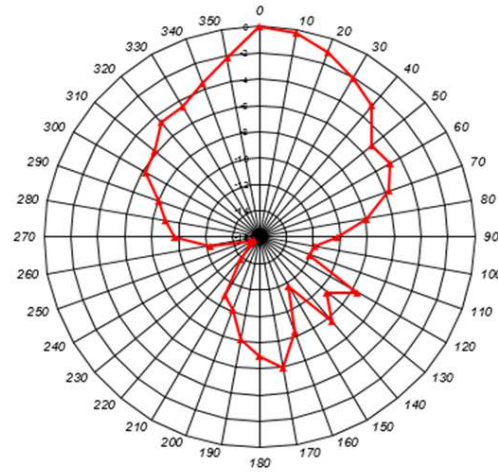


Fig. 14. Radiation pattern measurement.

There are differences between fabricated RMPA measurement result and the simulation. The VSWR comparison is shown in Figure 15.

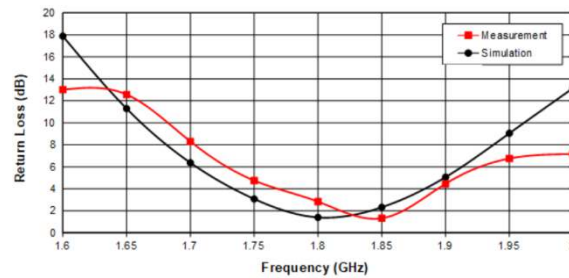


Fig. 15. The simulated and measured VSWR.

From this figure, it can be seen that the differences exist between the two approaches. This is caused by several factors such as connector and connection problem, untidy soldering or other physical accuracy. Even though, generally both simulation and realization give the same pattern.

5. Conclusions

This paper has shown that RMPA is easily designed for 1.8 GHz frequency. RMPA is simple and requires minimum space. The designed 1.8 GHz antenna only needs 51x73 mm FR4 substrate to be implemented; with patch size is 63 mm length and 39 mm wide, and feed line size is 3x6 mm. This simple construction is able to amplify signal with gain of 4.39 and bandwidth of 43 MHz.

Acknowledgements

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