

A Broadband High Gain Planar Vivaldi Antenna for Medical Internet of Things (M-IoT) Healthcare Applications

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Summary

In this paper, a high gain, broadband planar vivaldi antenna (PVA) by utilizing a broadband stripline feed is developed for wireless communication for IoT systems. The suggested antenna is designed by attaching a tapered-slot construction to a typical vivaldi antenna, which improves the antenna's radiation properties. The PVA is constructed on a low-cost FR4 substrate. The dimensions of the patch are $1.886\lambda_0 \times 1.42\lambda_0 \times 0.026\lambda_0$, dielectric constant $\epsilon_r=4.4$, and loss tangent $\delta=0.02$. The width of the feed line is reduced to improve the impedance bandwidth of the antenna. The computed reflection coefficient findings show that the suggested antenna has a 46.2% wider relative bandwidth calculated at a 10 dB return loss. At the resonance frequencies of 6.5 GHz, the studied results show an optimal gain of 5.82 dBi and 85% optimal radiation efficiency at the operable band. The optometric analysis of the proposed structure shows that the proposed antenna can achieve wide enough bandwidth at the desired frequency and hence make the designed antenna appropriate to work in satellite communication and medical internet of things (M-IoT) healthcare applications.

Keywords:

IoT, Medical healthcare, Planar vivaldi antenna, Slot, Broadband, Bandwidth, Radiation efficient, and High gain.

1. Introduction

With the evolution of wireless communication, many applications are developing periodically that are mostly based on microstrip-type structures due to their added advantages [1-3]. One of the most significant parts of the wireless communication system is an antenna used for transmitting or receiving radio signals. Furthermore, various types of antennas have already been developed [4-8]. The most common type of antenna is the planar vivaldi antenna, also referred to as the vivaldi notch antenna or PVA. This type of antenna has a simple feed structure, compact, conformal, easy to fabricate on a circuit board, and can provide broad bandwidth and high gain [9-10]. A planar vivaldi antenna (PVA) consists of a gradually widening slot in a metallic plate printed on the top surface of the substrate [11]. For designing a vivaldi antenna, full-wave simulation software has been used to calculate the antenna's far-field modes and impedance bandwidth [12-15]. The stripline feed

PVA has achieved importance because of its ability to produce large impedance bandwidth (IBW).

The PVA has been considered a microstrip antenna having a coplanar structure with a conical slot imprinted on the top surface of the dielectric substrate. A PVA used a flared strip line etched on the substrate to produce an end-fire radiation pattern from a surface wave. The narrow end of the tapered slot profile is connected to the radial stub. Moreover, the broad end of the tapered slot has been used to capture or radiate the radio waves in the end-fire direction. PVA is able to achieve wide IBW, stable radiation pattern, and high gain characteristics [16-17]. It may take on several geometrical shapes, such as linear taper (LT), exponential taper (ET or vivaldi), constant width taper (CWT), etc. [18]. In the last decade, different structures of compact planar antennas were investigated to enhance the antenna IBW, gain performance, and radiation characteristics [19-26]. However, very few antenna designs have good radiation efficient and compact sizes with a tapered profile and can attain the antenna's optimal key characteristics.

Designing a PVA with stable end-fire radiation patterns, IBW, and high gain remains a big challenge for active researchers. These types of antennas have been used in many applications such as satellite communication, large ships, radio detection & ranging (RADAR), and ultra-wideband (UWB) communication systems [27]. Moreover, the IoT and healthcare applications and their slight variations contain different frequency bands used for satellite communication, Medical Internet of things (M-IoT), cordless telephones, Wi-Fi devices, and weather forecasting [28-31].

Using the high-frequency structure simulator (HFSS. 17.2) program, a broadband PVA is built and constructed in this research. The suggested antenna radiation pattern properties and impedance have been enhanced by etching the feed line just on the upper surface of a dielectric material and ground plane. Moreover, the proposed antenna has a fractional bandwidth of 46.2% with an optimum gain of 5.82 dBi and an excellent radiation efficiency of 85% at the resonant frequency of 6.5 GHz. The designed antenna is used for (M-IoT) systems, satellite communication systems, weather forecasting, radio altimeters, etc.

This paper is organized mainly into five sections. The first section focuses on the introduction of the planar vivaldi antenna. The second section contains the design methodology. The third section focuses on the parametric analysis of the proposed antenna structure. Sections fourth and fifth cover the simulation results and conclusion.

2. Design Methodology

The proposed structure of the antenna is shown in Figure 1. The feeding strip line is placed above the substrate and ground plane with relative permittivity $\epsilon_r=4.4$, thickness $h_{sub}=1.2\text{mm}$, and loss tangent $\delta=0.02$. The patch's width (W) and length (L) can be approximated by equations 1 to 5. For an efficient radiation pattern, width W is given by

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

Where c, f_r , ϵ_r represents in free space the speed of light, resonant frequency, and relative permittivity of the substrate, respectively [32]. The fields recognized in the patch are not limited to the dimension of the patch only. However, it slightly extends outside the patch which is called the fringing field ϵ_{reff} [33].

$$\epsilon_{reff} = \frac{\epsilon_r + 1}{2} + \frac{\epsilon_r - 1}{2} \times \left[1 + 12 \frac{h}{w} \right]^{-\frac{1}{2}} \quad (2)$$

$$\frac{\Delta L_{eff}}{h} = 0.412 \times \frac{(\epsilon_{reff} + 0.3) \times (\frac{W}{h} + 0.264)}{(\epsilon_{reff} - 0.258) \times (\frac{W}{h} + 0.8)} \quad (3)$$

The effective length is given by

$$L_{eff} = \left(L + 2\Delta L_{eff} \right) \quad (4)$$

The resonant frequency is expressed as:

$$f_r = \frac{c}{2L_{eff} \sqrt{\epsilon_{eff}}} \quad (5)$$

Divided into the stripline/slotline transitions, the tapering slot, and the diameter of the round hollow stubs, the PVA network model may be classified into substrates characteristics and antenna structure variables. W_{FL} (stripline width) and w_{sl} (slotline length) define the stripline/slotline changeover (slotline width). The opening rate R, along with two points, represents the exponential taper profile $P_1(x_1, y_1)$ and $P_2(x_2, y_2)$ [13].

Where,

$$y = c_1 e^{Rx} + c_2 \quad (6)$$

$$c_1 = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{e^{Rx_2} - e^{Rx_1}}$$

$$c_2 = \frac{y_1 e^{Rx_2} - y_2 e^{Rx_1}}{e^{Rx_2} - e^{Rx_1}}$$

T_{sl} is $(x_2 - x_1)$, and aperture height H is $2(y_2 - y_1) + w_{sl}$ for vivaldi. When the reopening frequency R reaches zero, the exponential taper produces a PVA whose tapering gradient is continuous and given by $s_0 = (y_2 - y_1) / (x_2 - x_1)$. The tapering gradient s changes constantly between s_1 to s_2 for the exponentially taper specified by (6), where s_1 and s_2 are indeed the tapering slopes at $x=x_1$ and $x=x_2$, correspondingly, and $s_1 < s < s_2$ for $R > 0$. The height of the taper flare is determined by $\tan^{-1} s$. The flaring angles, on the other hand, are linked to and specified by the H, T_{sl} , R, and w_{sl} variables. The following are the variables for available for all types of feeding and circular slotline cavity depicted in Fig.1.

The side and top view geometries of the PVA are shown in the accompanying figures. The parametric analysis of the suggested antenna structure is also discussed in the following section.

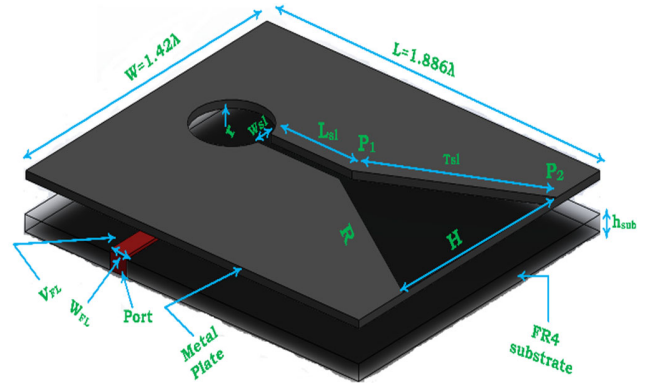


Fig. 1 Geometry of the proposed antenna

3. Parametric Analysis of Proposed Antenna Structure

3.1 Influence of V_{FL}

The PVA is excited by the stripline feed through a slot line transition. The changeover design takes advantage of the broadband properties of a microstrip radial stub that serves as a simulated broadband. Figure 2. illustrates the feedline length variation from 31mm – 33mm. The optimum result of feedline length has been achieved at 32mm.

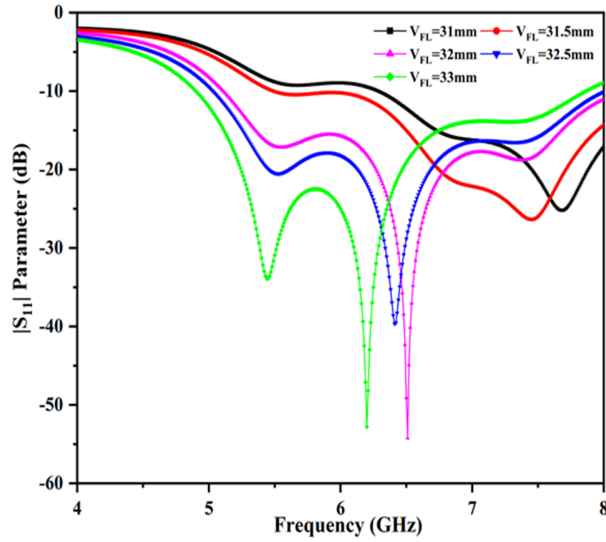


Fig. 2 Influence of parameter of vertical feedline length (V_{FL}) of the proposed antenna

3.2 Influence of W_{FL}

Using the width of the feedline (W_{FL}) as a variable, the best results were obtained at 2.4mm, as shown. Figure 3. Moreover, in order to get improved results, the desired wider band is achieved at 2.4mm. The IBW of the suggested antenna has grown with the adjustment of captured the essence length and width, according to the simulation findings

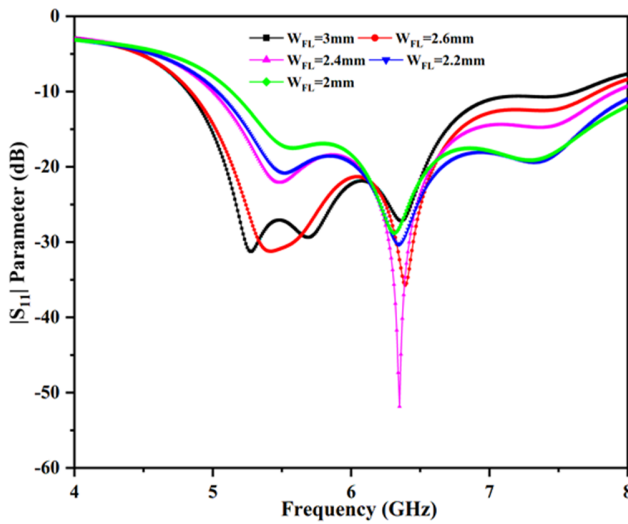


Fig. 3 Influence of parameter of feedline width (W_{FL}) across the operable frequency

3.3 Influence of C_s

The effect of the PVA radial cavity stub (C_s) on antenna performance is analyzed by varying antenna dimensions, i.e., length (L), width (W), and stripline feeding. Fig. 4 gives the results of radial stub variation against frequency. The optimum results are achieved at 10.4mm; the parameterized results have been analyzed and suggested to accomplish the optimum results for the designed antenna geometry.

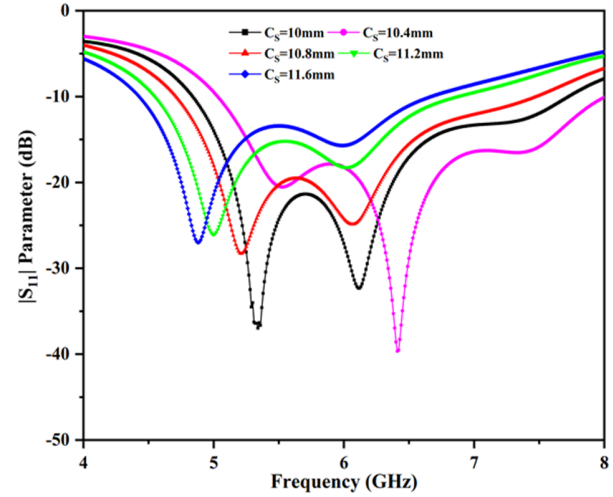


Fig. 4 Influence of parameter of the cavity stub (C_s) across the frequency span

Table 1 shows the dimensions of the proposed antenna with their optimal values. Again for the planned antenna, the width (W), length (L), and thickness (h_{sub}) of the base and patches stay the same.

Table 1: Geometric parameter

<i>PVA Parameters</i>	<i>PVA Variables</i>	<i>Optimized Values (mm)</i>
Vertical feedline length	V_{FL}	32
Feedline width	W_{FL}	2.4
Cavity stub	C_s	10.4
Slotline width	W_{sl}	3
Slotline length	L_{sl}	9.75
Taper aperture	H	25.5
Taper slotline	T_{sl}	47
Substrate thickness	h_{sub}	1.2

4. Results and Analysis

4.1 Return loss, S_{11}

The Ansys HFSS 17.2 was used to create the simulated results. According to the simulation findings, the comparative bandwidth for minimal return losses of 10 dB, 15 dB, and 20 dB is 46.2%, 40.60%, and 19.08%, respectively. Furthermore, at the resonance frequency of 6.5 GHz, the maximum return loss is 46.3 dB. The fractional BW of 46.2% has been attained at 10 dB path loss, as shown in Fig. 5. Furthermore, at the resonant frequency of 6.5 GHz, the maximum gain of 5.82 dBi is reached. The surface current field at 4.18 GHz with no phase shift is simulated at the surface in Figure 6, which exhibits the top distribution of PVA and a 3-dimensional (3D) pattern.

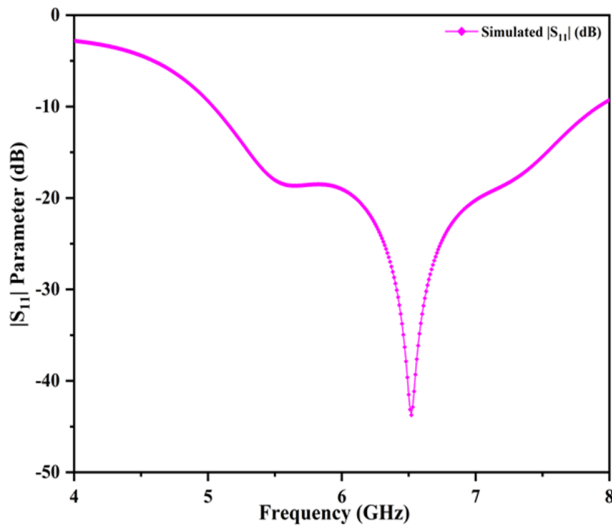
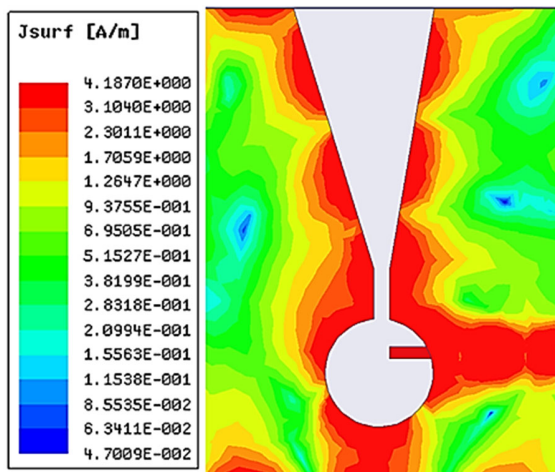
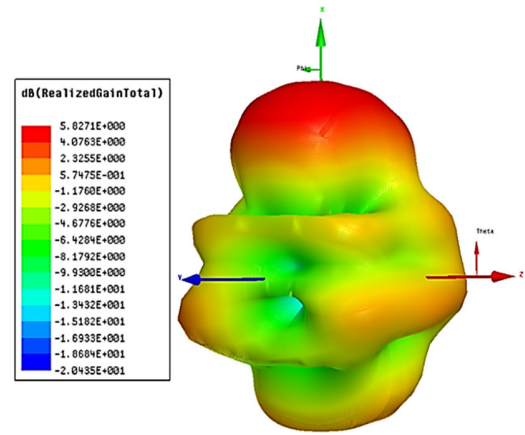


Fig. 5 Variation of return loss with the frequency of the proposed slot antenna



(a)



(b)

Fig. 6 (a) J_{surface} current distribution, and (b) 3D pattern of proposed PVA

4.2 Peak realized gain, efficiency, and radiation pattern

The proposed structure's peak realized gain and efficiency are presented in Figure 7. From Figure, the peak realized gain has occurred at 5.82 dBi. Moreover, 85% efficiency is observed across the operating frequency, as shown in Figure 7.

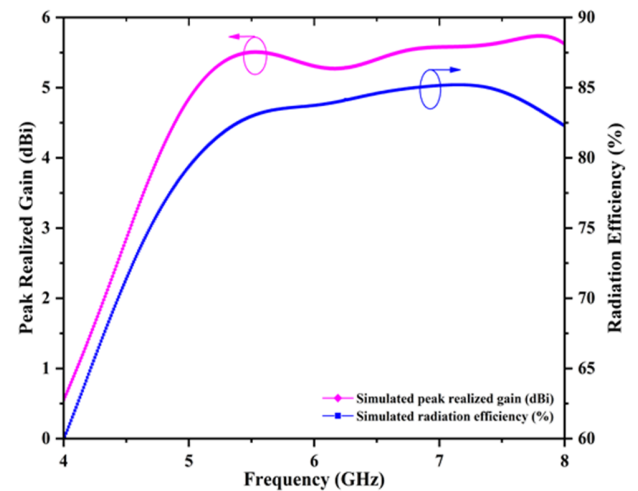


Fig. 7 Simulated peak realized gain and radiation efficiency over an operable frequency span

Figure 8 shows the 2-dimensional (2D) radiation pattern plots in both azimuth and elevation planes. The suggested antenna gain at the resonance frequency of 6.5 GHz is 5.82 dBi, as shown in the diagram. The antenna beam is going in the direction of 90° , as one would anticipate from an endfire antenna. In another sector, the antenna radiates almost evenly.

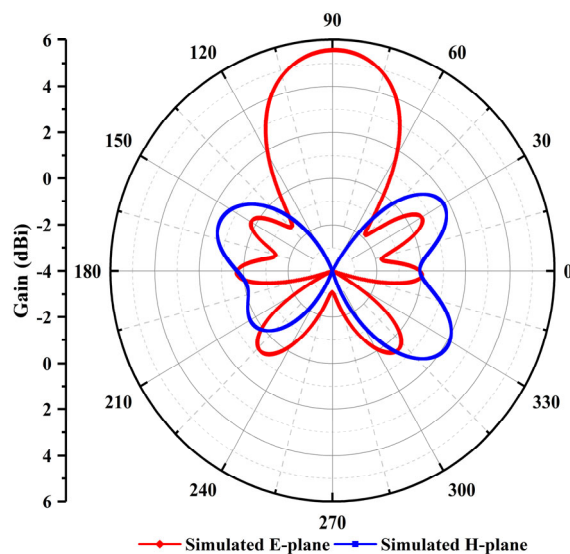


Fig. 8 The isotropic radiation pattern of proposed antenna

5. Conclusion

The authors proposed and constructed a planar vivaldi antenna (PVA) in this study. The antenna's planned structure comprises the substrate, patch, ground plane, and feed line. At a resonant frequency of 6.5 GHz, an efficient feed strategy, microstrip line feeding, does have an increased fractional bandwidth of 46.2% and an optimal gain of 5.82 dBi. Using the modeling program Ansys HFSS 17.2, the parametric and simulation data were examined and confirmed. The optimal outcomes of the s-parameter, yield, and economy have been effectively reached based on the analysis and discussion offered in the study. It has been concluded that the designed antenna is suitable for medical internet of things (M-IoT) healthcare systems and satellite communication applications. This work may be further extendable by utilizing the efficient Wilkinson power divider.

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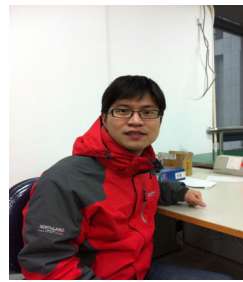
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