

# DEVELOPMENT AND SIMULATION OF MICROSTRIP PATCH ANTENNAS FOR 5G WIRELESS CONNECTIVITY

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## ABSTRACT

This study introduces a microstrip patch antenna designed to support 5G communication technology. It operates effectively at central frequencies of 38GHz and 54GHz, offering respective bandwidths of 1.94GHz and 2GHz. The antenna design prioritizes compactness, affordability, and suitability for miniature devices. It consists of an FR4 epoxy substrate, patch, and ground. The substrate boasts a dielectric constant of 3.8, a minimal loss tangent of 0.02, and adheres to a standard thickness of 1.57mm. The substrate measures 6mm x 6.25mm, and the patch's dimensions are 2mm x 2mm, employing the microstrip-line feeding technique. For mobile applications within the millimeter-wave spectrum, including frequencies of 38.6GHz, 47.7GHz, and 54.3GHz, accompanied by bandwidths of 3.5GHz, 2.5GHz, and 1.3GHz, this research also proposes an antenna array comprising four components, spaced at 4mm intervals. The overall antenna size is 6mm x 6.25mm x 0.578mm. The proposed antenna design undergoes rigorous simulation using HFSS software for performance validation.

**Keywords:** 5G, Microstripline, Antenna Array, Taperedline Feeding, HFSS Software.

## I. INTRODUCTION

The surge in wireless and radio communication network advancements has heightened the demand for antenna designs featuring enhanced attributes. These include antenna size, bandwidth, gain, power efficiency, traffic capacity, and data rate. In response to this demand, numerous antenna designs have emerged, aiming to strike a balance between factors such as design efficiency, high gain, minimal power loss, compact size, extensive bandwidth, radiation efficiency exceeding 70%, millimeter wave technology effectively utilizes the spectrum, particularly within the 20-90GHz band, specifically earmarked for 5G applications [2]. The selection of frequencies at 28GHz, 38GHz, and 72GHz, each accompanied by respective

affordability, and achieving high data rates [1-9]. This demand is driven by the distinctive characteristics of 5G technology, characterized by its high data rates, wide bandwidth, and remarkable capacity.

The foundation of the fifth generation (5G) technology is rooted in millimeter wave radio frequencies, which harness the previously untapped spectrum ranging from 3GHz to 300GHz. In fulfilling the requirements of 5G,

bandwidths of 500 MHz, 1 GHz, and 2 GHz, serves the purpose of 5G antenna design, primarily owing to their suitability for low-latency and high-data-rate systems [3]. These frequencies, characterized by their narrow beam width and exceptional

obstacle sensitivity, prove to be well-suited for applications in the realm of cell phones [4].

Numerous substrate materials are available, with FR4 epoxy emerging as the preferred choice for millimeter-wave applications. Its optimal characteristics, characterized by minimal dispersion and low dielectric loss, render it exceptionally well-suited for ultra high frequencies (UHF) [10,11]. FR4 epoxy substrate exhibits advantageous traits such as minimal water absorption, low electric loss, and minimal moisture absorption, making it an ideal selection for a variety of applications [10,11].

In this research, we utilize a substrate featuring a ground layer on one side and a radiator patch on the opposite side, employing metal for both components. The choice of employing the M-line feeding technique is driven by the imperative in mobile communication to achieve a 12dB gain, which can be effectively attained through antenna arrays. Notably, the central frequency for this study is set at 38GHz, falling within the Ka-band spectrum, which spans from 27GHz to 40GHz [11].

Microstrip patch antennas are a favorable choice for various surfaces, thanks to their compact and lightweight design, cost-effectiveness, ease of construction, and small footprint. Employing

antenna arrays enhances both gain and efficiency [12], and the proposed antenna design incorporates an array structure to harness these advantages.

In a prior study cited in reference [3], the researchers utilized a PIFA antenna known for its wider bandwidth to cover the frequencies of 28GHz and 38GHz. In another referenced paper [5], transformer coupling was applied to enable operation at 28GHz and 38GHz. The reported antennas in these studies achieved an efficiency of 83.03% and a gain of 9.05dB.

In the research described in paper [13], investigations were conducted at 60GHz frequency using H-slot and E-slot configurations. The results revealed a gain of 5.48 dB and a return loss of -40.99 dB.

The suggested antenna demonstrates impressive characteristics, including a broad bandwidth, efficient radiation, and substantial gain while functioning effectively at both 38GHz and 54GHz frequencies. Additionally, the antenna configuration consists of an array of four elements operating at central frequencies of 38.6 GHz, 47.7 GHz, and 54.8 GHz, with a gain of -12dB.

Table 1 below presents a comparison between the proposed antenna and the relevant prior research.

Table 1: Contrast With Analogous Research.

Reference paper	Patch size(mm)	Bandwidth(GHz)	Resonance Frequency(GHz)	Return loss(dB)	Gain(dB)
[3]	1.3×1.2	3.34, 1.39	28, 38	-43, -18	3.75, 5.06
[15]	1.3×1.83	0.7,0.38	28, 38	-45, -20	0.7, 0.38
This work	1×1	1.94, 2.05	38,54	-15.5, -12	1.94, 2.05

A. ANTENNA DESIGN AND PRINCIPLES

(a) DESIGNING 5G ANTENNAS

has a height of 0.78mm. The substrate dimensions measure 6mm×6.25mm. The proposed microstrip patch antenna utilizes M-line feeding, with the feed

The selected dimensions for the radiating patch ( $L_p \times W_p$ ) are 2mm×2mm. The dimensions for the proposed antenna are

Figure 1 illustrates the substrate dimensions ( $L_s \times W_s$ ) of the microstrip patch antenna. The substrate, composed of FR4 epoxy material with a dielectric constant of 3.8 and a loss tangent of 0.02,

having a width ( $W_f$ ) of 0.2mm and a length ( $L_f$ ) of 2.15mm.

computed using established microstrip patch antenna formulas, as illustrated below.

Here are some key equations [16] and parameters used in the design of microstrip patch antennas:

1. Resonant Frequency ( $f_0$ ): The resonant frequency of a microstrip patch antenna can be calculated using the following equation:

$$f_0 = c/2\sqrt{\epsilon_r} \sqrt{L/(L+2W)}$$

Where:

- $f_0$  is the resonant frequency (in Hertz).
- $c$  is the speed of light in free space (approximately  $3 \times 10^8$  m/s).
- $\epsilon_r$  is the relative permittivity of the substrate material.
- $L$  is the length of the patch (in meters).
- $W$  is the width of the patch (in meters).

2. Effective Dielectric Constant ( $\epsilon_{eff}$ ):

$$\epsilon_{eff} = (\epsilon_r + 1)/2 + (\epsilon_r - 1)/2 (1 + 12h/W)^{-1/2}$$

Where:

- $\epsilon_{eff}$  is the effective dielectric constant.
- $\epsilon_r$  is the relative permittivity of the substrate material.
- $h$  is the height of the substrate (in meters).
- $W$  is the width of the patch (in meters).

3. Patch Length ( $L$ ) for Resonant Frequency: To achieve the desired resonant frequency, you can rearrange the resonant frequency equation to solve for  $L$ :

$$L = c/2\sqrt{\epsilon_r f_0} \sqrt{L/(L+2W)}$$

4. Patch Width ( $W$ ) for Resonant Frequency: Similarly, we can solve for  $W$  to achieve the desired resonant frequency:

$$W = c/2\sqrt{\epsilon_r f_0} \sqrt{L/(L+2W)} - L$$

5. Radiation Pattern and Directivity: The radiation pattern and directivity of the

microstrip patch antenna can be determined using the following equations[17]:

- Directivity ( $D$ ) =  $4\pi/\Omega$
- Radiation Pattern =  $\cos^n(\theta)$ , where  $n$  depends on the type of patch antenna (e.g.,  $n=1$  for a simple patch).

6. Input Impedance ( $Z_{in}$ ): The input impedance of the microstrip patch antenna can be calculated using the following formula:

$$Z_{in} = R_r + jX_r \text{ Where:}$$

- $R_r$  is the real part of the input impedance.
- $X_r$  is the imaginary part of the input impedance.

7. Microstrip Line Width ( $W_m$ ): To feed the microstrip patch antenna with a transmission line, we need to calculate the width of the microstrip line, which can be found using various methods like the transmission line theory.

- Patch width  
 $w = c/f_0 \sqrt{2/\epsilon_r + 1}$  (1)

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

Where  $L_{eff}$  can be calculated by formula as stated below

$$L_{eff} = c/2f_0 \sqrt{S_{reff}} \text{ (3)}$$

$\epsilon_r$  = Dielectric constant of the substrate

$$S_{reff} = \epsilon_r + 1/2 + \epsilon_r - 1/2 \times \sqrt{1 + (12h/w)}$$
 (4)

- $\Delta L = 0.412 \times h \times [(S_{reff} + 0.3) (w/h + 0.26)] / [(S_{reff} + 0.253) (w/h + 0.8)]$  (5)

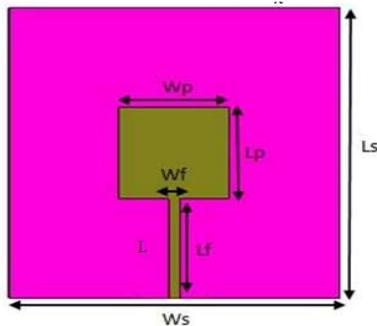


Figure 1: Geometry Of The Antenna For The Envisioned Microstrip Feed

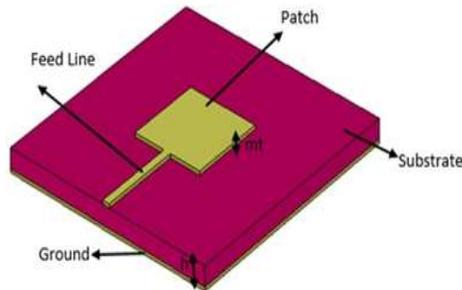


Figure 2: Three-Dimensional Representation Of The Envisioned Microstrip Feed Antenna.

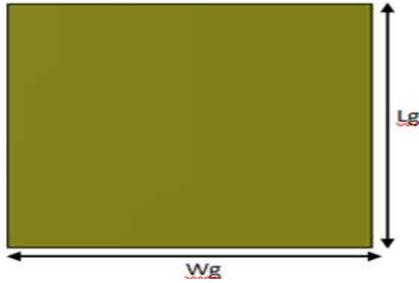


Figure 3: Rear View (Ground Plane) Of The Envisioned Microstrip Feed Antenna.

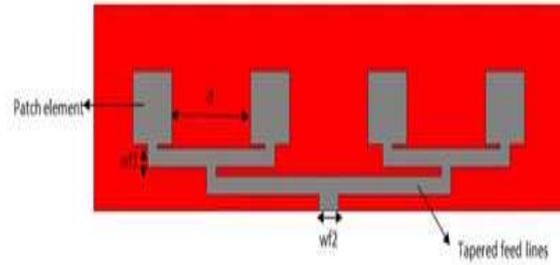


Figure 4: Array Configuration Comprising 1x4 Elements

Table 2: Values Of Parameters For The Proposed 5G Antenna

Antenna Characteristics	Attributes	Measurement in Millimeters
$L_s$	Substrate length	6
$W_s$	Substrate width	6.25
H	Substrate height	0.78
$L_p$	Patch length	2
$W_p$	Patch width	2
$M_t$	Patch height	0.035
$W_f$	Feed line width	0.2
$L_f$	Feed line length	2.15
$W_g$	Ground width	6.25
$L_g$	Ground length	6

Table 3 :Values Of Parameters For The Proposed Antenna Array

Characteristics	Attributes	Measurement in Millimeters
D	The gap between adjacent elements.	4
$W_{f1}$	100 $\Omega$ impedance line width	0.5
$W_{f2}$	100 $\Omega$ impedance line width	1

**(a) DESIGNING A 5G ANTENNA ARRAY**

In this research, it is proposed to utilize a 1x4 element array configuration to achieve a significant 12dB gain suitable for mobile applications. The elements within the array are separated by a distance denoted as "d," measuring 4mm. The array is fed through a tapered line feeding mechanism, and the structure of the 4-element array is visualized in Figure 4.

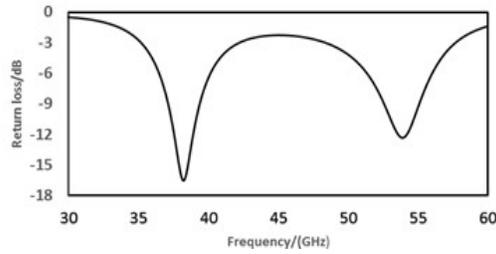
**2. FINDINGS AND DISCOURSE**

**(a)Plot of Return Loss:**

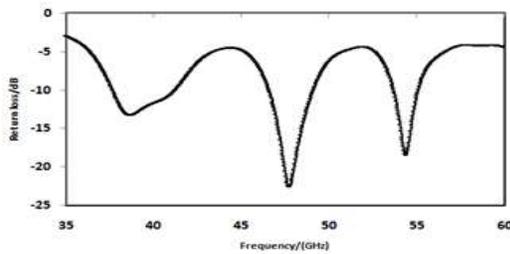
The S-Parameter chart depicts the relationship between input and output ports. Return loss is specifically represented by S(1,1). In the case where S(1,1) is at 0dB, it indicates that all power is reflected. For proper antenna operation, S(1,1) should be less than -10dB, as anything lower than this value would result in the transfer of 3dB of total power to the antenna while losing 7dB as reflected power.

In the context of the proposed antenna, at 38GHz and 54GHz, the return loss is observed to be -15.5dB and -12dB, respectively, as illustrated in Figure 5(a) for the 5G antenna. Similarly, for the relevant frequencies of 38.6GHz, 47.7GHz, and 54GHz, the return loss is -13.6dB, -22.5dB, and -18dB, as shown in Figure 5

(b) for the 5G antenna array.



(a)



(b)

Figure 5: Return Loss (A) For The 5G Antenna And (B) For The 5G Antenna Array.

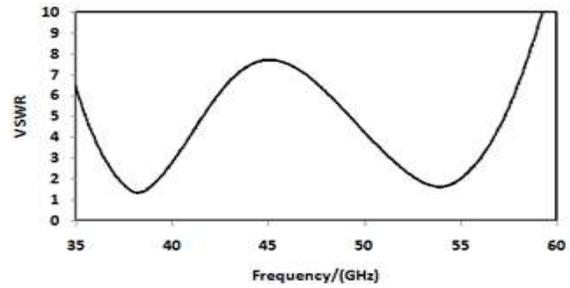
Table 4: Return Loss Of Proposed Model

Antenna	5G Antenna		5G Antenna array		
	38	54	38	47.7	54
Frequency of Resonance (GHz)	38	54	38	47.7	54
Return Loss S(1,1) in Decibels (dB)	-15.5	12	-13.5	-22.5	-18

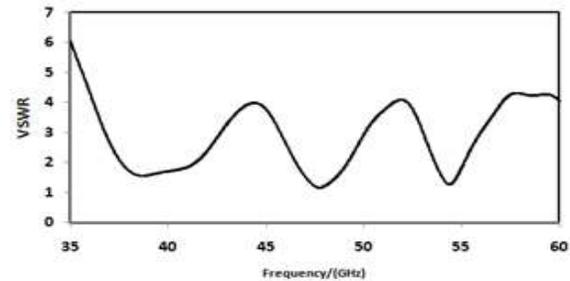
(b) VSWR:

VSWR, or Voltage Standing Wave Ratio, offers detailed insights into an antenna's power reflection characteristics. It's essential for VSWR values to be real and positive numbers. Enhanced antenna performance is achieved with lower VSWR values.

For the proposed antenna, the VSWR values at 38GHz and 54GHz are 1.3dB and 1.64dB, respectively, as depicted in Figure 6(a) for the 5G Antenna. In the case of the 5G Antenna array, the VSWR values are 1.55dB, 1.16dB, and 1.2dB for 38.6GHz, 47.7GHz, and 54GHz, respectively, as shown in Figure 6(b).



(a)



(b)

Figure 6: VSWR (A) For The 5G Antenna And (B) For The 5G Antenna Array.

Table5 :VSWR Of Proposed Model

Antenna	5G Antenna		5G Antenna array		
	38	54	38.6	47.7	54
Frequency of Resonance (GHz)	38	54	38.6	47.7	54
VSWR	1.3	1.64	1.55	1.16	1.2

Table 6 presents the key parameters of the proposed antenna, encompassing operating frequencies, return loss, directivity, gain, bandwidth, and efficiency.

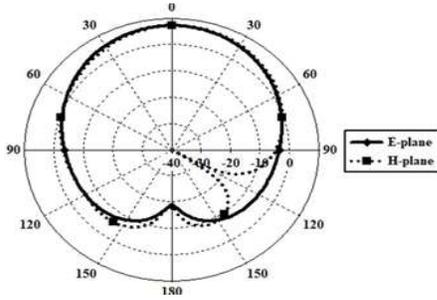
Table6 :Parameters Characterizing The Proposed Model

Antenna	Frequency of Resonance (GHz)	Return Loss in Decibels (dB)	Directivity in decibels isotropic (dBi)	Gain in Decibels (dB)	Frequency Bandwidth (GHz)	Efficiency Percentage (%)
5G Antenna	38	-15.5	7.2	6.9	1.94	93.5
	54	-12	8.2	7.4	2	82.7
5G Antenna Array	38.6	-13.6	12.12	12.1	3.5	99.5
	47.7	-22.5	11.6	11.6	2.5	99.3
	54	-18	12.4	12.1	1.3	93

3. PLOTS OF GAIN:

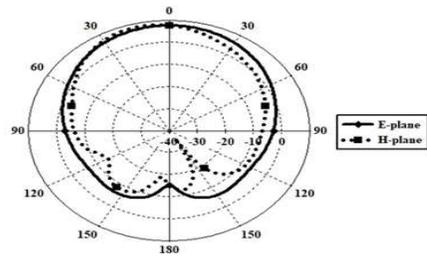
5G ANTENNA

Figure 7 displays the Gain Plots for the microstrip patch antenna.



(a)

Figure 7(A): Gain At A Frequency Of 38 Ghz



(b)

Figure 7(B): Gain At A Frequency Of 54 Ghz

A. 5G ANTENNA ARRAY

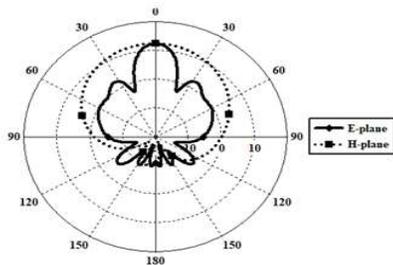


Figure 7(C): Gain At A Frequency Of 38.8 Ghz

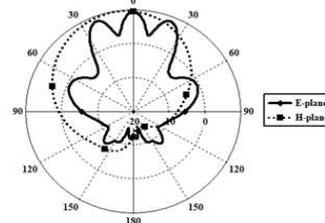


Figure 7(D): Gain At A Frequency Of 47.7 Ghz.

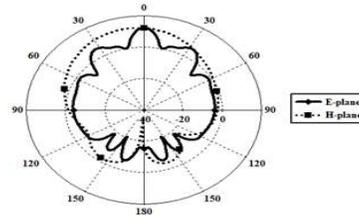


Figure 7(E): Gain At A Frequency Of 54 Ghz.

DISTRIBUTION OF SURFACE CURRENT:

5G ANTENNA

Figure 8(a) and Figure 8(b) illustrate the surface current distribution for the microstrip patch antenna employed in 5G applications.

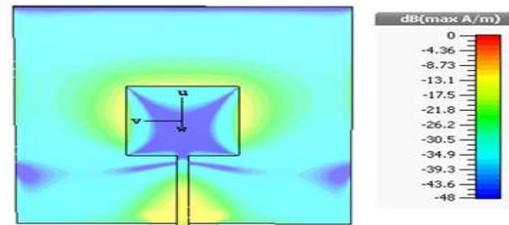


Figure 8(A): Current Distribution At A Frequency Of 38 Ghz.

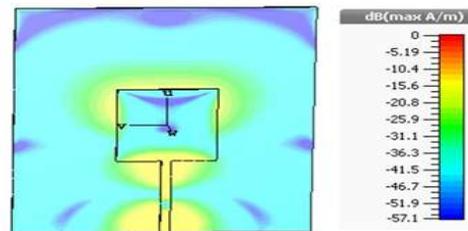


Figure 8(B): Current Distribution At A Frequency Of 54 Ghz.

5G ANTENNA ARRAY



Figure 8(C): Current Distribution At A Frequency Of 38.6 Ghz.

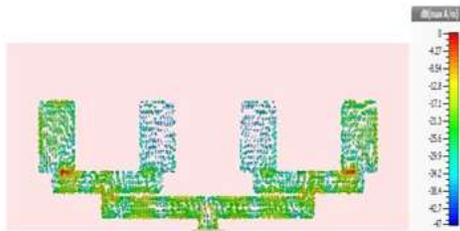


Figure 8(D): Current Distribution At A Frequency Of 47.7 Ghz.



Figure 8(E): Current Distribution At A Frequency Of 54 Ghz.

Three-Dimensional Plots:

A. 5G ANTENNA

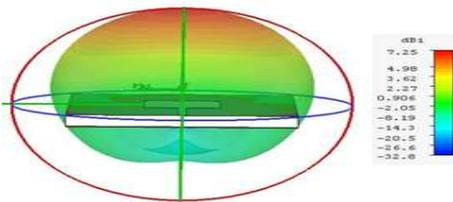


Figure 9(A): Three-Dimensional Pattern At A Frequency Of 38 Ghz.

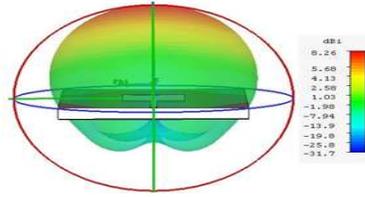


Figure 9(B): Three-Dimensional Pattern At A Frequency Of 54 Ghz.

B. 5G ANTENNA ARRAY

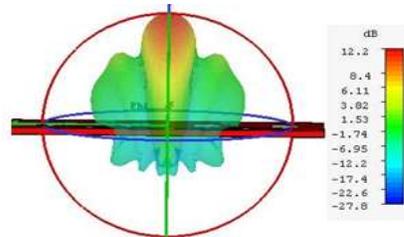


Figure 9(C): Three-Dimensional Pattern At A Frequency Of 38.6 Ghz.

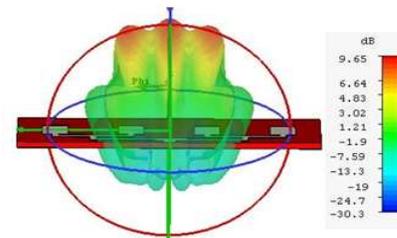


Figure 9(D): Three-Dimensional Pattern At A Frequency Of 47.7 Ghz.

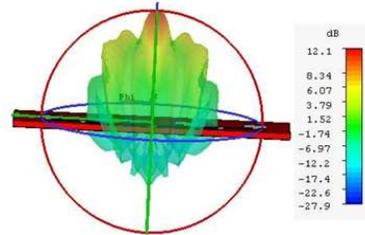


Figure 9(E): Three-Dimensional Pattern At A Frequency Of 54 Ghz.

4. CONCLUSION

In this study, both a basic microstrip patch antenna and a 4-element array configuration have been employed in the context of 5G wireless

communication. The microstrip patch antenna provides dual-band reception, while the array extends this capability to three frequency bands, all vital for 5G communication. The microstrip patch antenna covers frequencies at 38GHz and 54GHz, whereas the array spans 38.6GHz, 47.7GHz, and 54GHz. Comparatively, the microstrip patch antenna yields a gain of 6.9dB at 38GHz and 7.4dB at 54GHz. The 4-element linear array, on the other hand, exhibits a gain of 12.2dB at 38.6GHz, 11.6dB at 47.7GHz, and 12.1dB at 54GHz, demonstrating the array's capacity to achieve notably higher gain. As depicted in Table 6, this antenna configuration excels in terms of gain, bandwidth, radiation efficiency, and directivity, positioning it as an excellent choice for 5G communication applications.

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