

Influence Of Patches Shape On The Radiation Performance a Microstrip Leaky-Wave Antenna

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ABSTRACT

In this article, we present microstrip leaky wave antennas designed using HFSS software. These microstrip antennas differ in the shape of the patches on the substrate. To this Effect, three shapes have been studied and the analysis of the radiation parameters of these antennas shows that the T-shape patches have low levels of minor's lobes and good the scanning angle in the E- and H-plane compared to the other studied shapes. This study of the influence of the patches shape on the performance of microstrip leaky wave antennas shows the impact on the radiation pattern and directivity of the antenna. Through a comparative study of three patch shapes H, inverted T and L, simulations show that inverted T patches have low the levels of minor's lobes and good the scanning angle in the E and H planes compared to the other shapes studied. However, the L-shape present a better directivity compared to the other shapes.

Keywords: leaky wave antenna, microstrip, HFSS, patches, radiation parameters.

1. Introduction

The remarkable developments in millimeter band technologies, has allowed the design of communication systems of small rigid dimensions and best resolution.

The high frequency circuits, which are used in all spheres of telecommunications that are often heavy and imposing [1].

In addition, patch and slot antennas are widely used in various applications, such as those encountered in space telecommunications, radar, mobile telephony, traffic control [1-4] etc. However, these antennas have very high feed losses contributing to a degradation of performance at these operating frequencies.

To overcome to these problems, microstrip leaky wave antennas are suitable solutions[5-6]. They overcome some problems associated with resonant structures since they provide wider band performance and reliable electronic scanning capabilities.

The radiation angle of these antennas can be scanned by a frequency change technique or by mechanical means [3-12].

Another way to control the scanning of these antennas is to modify the shapes of the patches or slots [13-14]. It is in this perspective that we propose to study the influence of the shape of these patches on the radiation performance of a leaky wave antenna (LWA).

2. Theory approach

Leaky wave antennas are designed to radiate in a specific direction and to scan within a certain angular opening. The scan is limited as a result to the $0 < \theta < 90^\circ$ quadrant. They vary depending on the type of source of use. Figure 1 shows the principle schematic of the scan aperture of a leaky wave antenna.

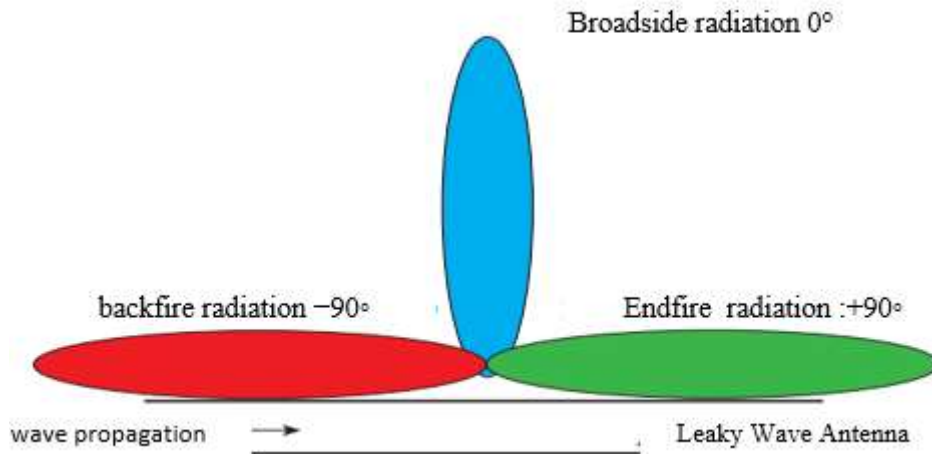


Fig 1. Antenna radiation convention: backfire radiation -90° , Broadside radiation 0° , Endfire radiation $+90^\circ$ [15]

In the case of a periodically charged structure (figure 2) with a spatial periodicity p along the axis (Oz) is the direction of propagation of the guided wave, the configuration of the fields at a point of coordinates (x,y,z) will be the same as that which will exist at the point $(x, y, z+p)$. Moreover, Floquet's theorem [16-18] states that the fields at two homologous points differ only by a complex constant.

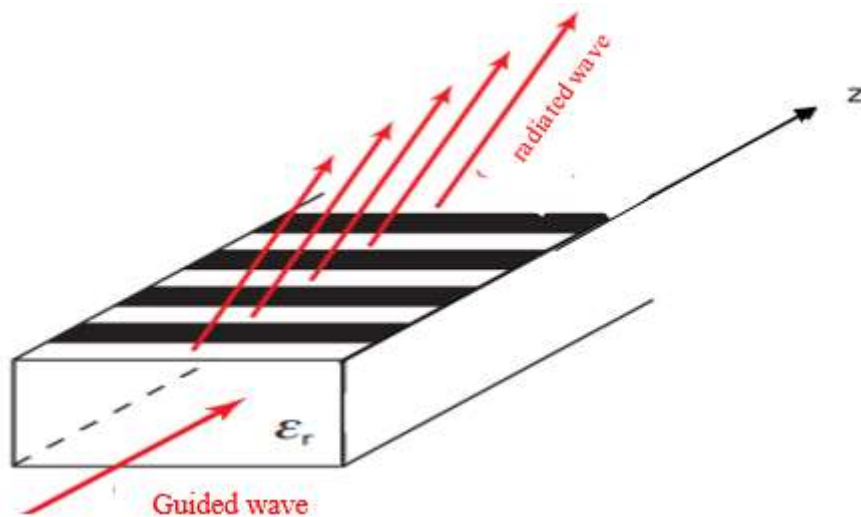


Fig 2. leaky wave antenna [19].

$$E(x, y, z + d) = E(x, y, z)e^{-jk_z z} \quad (1)$$

In this case, the pseudo-periodic field is decomposed into a Fourier series, giving rise to a fundamental term ($n=0$) and spaces harmonics ($n=\pm 1, \pm 2, \dots$) given by :

$$E(x, y, z) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{+\infty} A_n(x, y)e^{-jk_{zn}z} \quad (2)$$

Where

$$A_n(x, y) = \frac{1}{p} \int_0^p E(x, y, z)e^{+jk_{zn}z} dz$$

$$k_{zn} = k_z + \frac{2\pi n}{p}$$

$$= j\alpha_z - \left(\beta_z + \frac{2\pi n}{p} \right)$$

With $\beta_{zn} = \beta_o + \frac{2\pi n}{p}$, the phase constant of the n^{th} harmonic of LWA along (Oz), β_o is the phase constant of the fundamental mode ($n=0$); α_z is the attenuation constant in z direction. The coefficient A_n of the considered space harmonic decreases in general with the rank n of the harmonic and the series converges quickly so as to retain only the fundamental term ($n=0$).

The knowledge of k_{zn} and in particular its real part makes it possible to determine whether we are dealing with a slow or a fast wave. We can define for each space harmonic n, the angle corresponding to the direction of radiation. It is given by the following relation:

$$\sin \theta_n = \frac{\beta_{zn}}{k_o} \quad (3)$$

- Si $|\beta_{zn}| > k_o$, the angle is located in the so-called invisible region there is no radiation;
- Si $|\beta_{zn}| < k_o$, the angle indicates the direction of radiation which varies according to each space harmonic considered.

In practice, to avoid spurious lobes, it is advisable to work with only one fast harmonic; the $n=-1$ mode is then chosen to be radiating mode [9],[18],[20].

The angle θ_{-1} in this case, is given by:

$$\theta_{-1} = \sin^{-1} \left(\frac{\beta_{z-1}}{k_o} \right) \quad (4)$$

$k_o = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda_o}$ is the wave number and λ_o is the length of the wave in free space.

the sign θ_{-1} determines whether the resulting radiation is forward or backward. We can immediately see that the radiation condition is given by the following equation:

$$-1 < \frac{\beta_{zn}}{k_o} < 1 \quad (5)$$

3. antenna design

It is proposed to design microstrip leaky wave antennas, constituted of a dielectric substrate of relative permittivity ϵ_r , width B, thickness a and length L_o . Metallic patches of several shapes of width w, with length b, with a periodicity l following (Oz), are printed on the top face of the substrate, as shown in Figure (3). These antennas are designed for operation at the frequency of 80GHz.

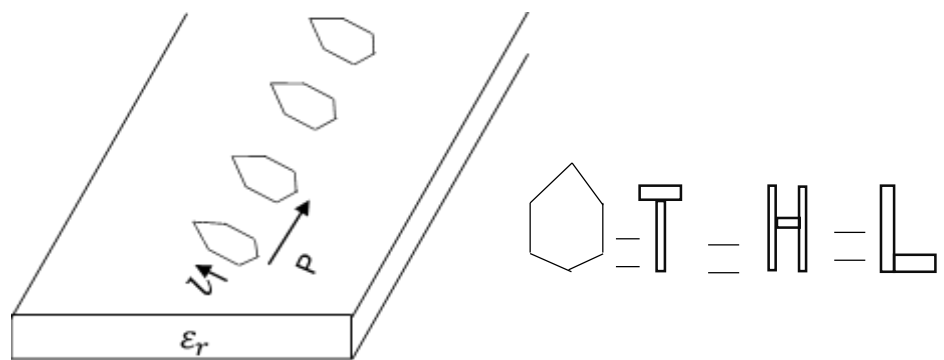


Fig 3. Leaky-wave antenna with patches of any shape

The antenna dimensions calculated from formulas [20],[21] (6), (7) and (8) at the operating frequency of 80 GHz are recorded in Table 1.

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\lambda_o}{\beta/k_o + 1} \leq l \leq \frac{\lambda_o}{\beta/k_o - 1} & \text{if } \beta/k_o > 3 \\ \frac{\lambda_o}{\beta/k_o + 1} \leq l \leq \frac{2\lambda_o}{\beta/k_o + 1} & \text{if } \beta/k_o < 3 \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

$$0,2\lambda_o \leq l \leq 0,4\lambda_o \quad (7)$$

$$b < \frac{\lambda_0}{(\epsilon_{eff} - 1)^2} \tag{8}$$

Table 1: Dimensions of the antenna structure

Désignation	w	d	l	p	B	ϵ_r
Dimensions	0.27mm	1mm	3mm	2.5mm	30mm	2.46

4. Analysis of antenna performance as a function of patch shape

Using the software (HFSS), we have simulated this antenna with H, T and L shaped patches. Let's analyze the results obtained on the radiation characteristics of the antenna.

a. Radiation patterns

Figure 4 present the H-plane radiation pattern plotted for different shapes of the patches at the operating frequency. We note a weak shift of the the scanning angle θ°_{-1} to the right.

T-shaped patches have a lower levels of minor's lobes compared to other patch shapes in this plane.

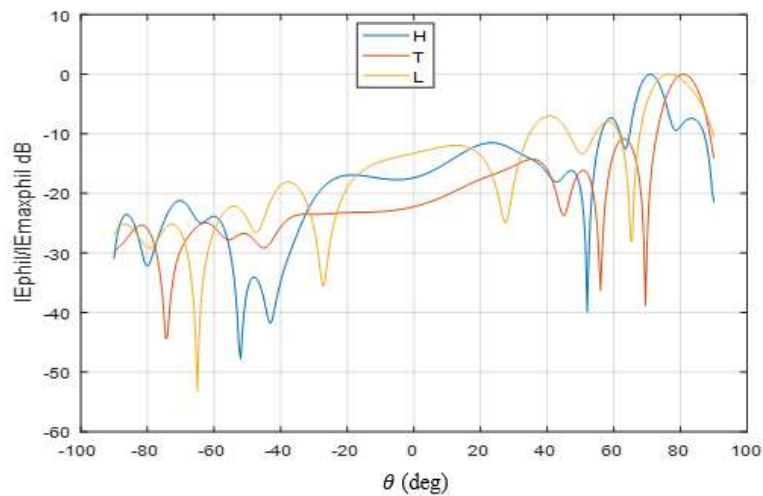


Fig 4. H-plane radiation pattern for LWA, $p=2,5\text{mm}$, $F=80\text{GHz}$, $b=0,8\lambda_0$, $\epsilon_r = 2,46$, $N=11$, $w=0,338\lambda_0$, $B=8\lambda_0$

Figure 5 shows the radiation patterns in the E-plane of the antenna, for different shapes of the metal patches at the operating frequency. We note enough displacement of the main beam θ°_{-1} . Thus, the shape of the patches influences the beamwidth. We also note a remarkable asymmetry of the levels of minor's lobes lower on the left of the scanning angle than on the right of the scanning angle.

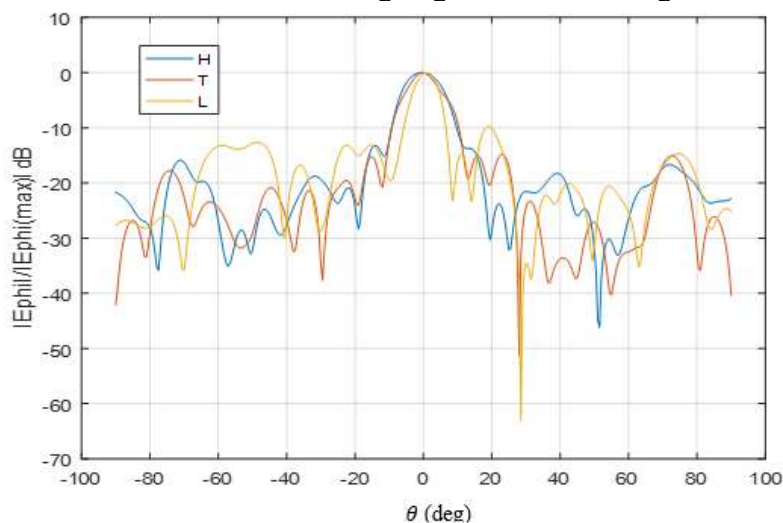


Fig 5. E-plane radiation pattern for LWA, $p=2,5\text{mm}$, $F=80\text{GHz}$, $b=0,8\lambda_0$, $\epsilon_r = 2,46$, $N=11$, $w=0,338\lambda_0$, $B=8\lambda_0$

b. Directivity

In figure 6 we have plotted the variation of the directivity as a function of frequency. We can see that the shape of the patches has a considerable influence on the directivity. At the operating frequency, the L-shaped patches have a good directivity and its value is 14.02dB.

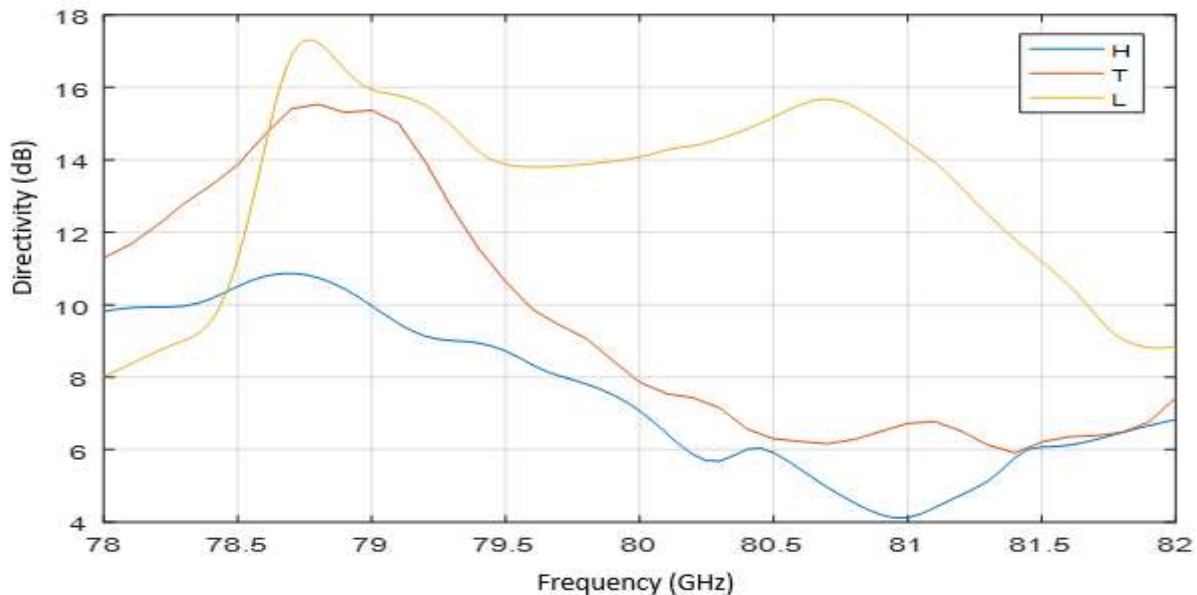


Fig 6. Leaky-wave antenna directivity with H, inverted T and L shaped patches L ; $p=2,5\text{mm}$, $F=80\text{GHz}$, $b=0,8\lambda_0$, $\epsilon_r = 2,46$, $N=11$, $w=0,338\lambda_0$, $B=8\lambda_0$

CONCLUSION

The study of the influence of the patches shape on the performance of microstrip leaky wave antennas has shown the impact on the radiation pattern and directivity of the antenna. Through a comparative study of three patch shapes H, inverted T and L, simulations show that inverted T patches have low the levels of minor's lobes and good the scanning angle in the E and H planes compared to the other shapes studied. However, the L-shape present a better directivity compared to the other shapes.

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