

Triple Bands UWB Antenna with Minimum Printed Area for Power Harvesting Applications

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Abstract – In this paper, a triple-band ultra-wideband UWB eight elements monopole antenna array is proposed. This antenna array is designed with the minimum printed area and is prepared for wireless local area network (WLANs) power harvesting applications. It covers the bands of 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz, which makes it suitable for Wi-Fi frequencies to harvest their power. The eight-element antenna array dimensions are 28.5 cm by 15 cm. These dimensions are chosen for the mini-solar cell integration process. Low-cost FR4 material is used as a substrate. The proposed antenna's measured reflection coefficient is compared with its simulated counterpart and is founded in good harmony.

Index Terms – Antenna, monopole, power harvesting, WLAN.

I. INTRODUCTION

In previous research, several antennas are proposed for energy harvesting applications. Wi-Fi technology is commonly used in homes, offices, cafes, etc. 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz are used by the Wi-Fi networks. Upper and lower WLAN frequency bands are extended to (5.725 - 5.825) GHz and (5.15 - 5.35) GHz, respectively [1]. Radio-frequency RF energy can be harvested by A novel broadband CPW-fed fractal [2] and promoted to harvest energy at WiMAX, LTE 2600, Wi-Fi 2.4 GHz, WLAN, ISM, and 5G frequency bands [3, 4], a dual-band rectifier with broad-band 1×4 quasi-Yagi antenna that used in same application of harvesting has printed area of 9814 mm² [5]. In [6] the antenna was increased Front to a Back (F/B) ratio with a printed area of 2471.38 mm², but the DSRMA [7] with a printed area of 4775 mm², and in [8] is 1476 mm². The radiation patterns of omnidirectional antennas have a good performance when three pairs of dipole radiators are located back-to-back [9], also preferable to harvesting RF energy from ambient sources effi-

ciently [10]. Decent RF-to-DC conversion efficiency was achieved between 40%–60% at 0 dBm by a double-sided Printed monopole antenna that has a printed area of 9053 mm² [11]. The energy harvester's main elements are the rectifier array and antenna array. The first was responsible for converting the RF energy to DC and the last was for capturing the RF waves. The energy harvester can be combined with a dual-band microstrip patch antenna and DC voltage measured at the output [12].

The main challenge is to obtain a high-efficiency and miniature-zed antenna array [13]. Table 1 shows a comparison among different proposed antenna structures that were used in RF energy harvesting. According to the equation of Friis transmission, the harvested power can be estimated by [14–16] as

$$\frac{P_r}{P_t} = \left(\frac{\lambda}{4\pi D}\right)^2 G_t G_r, \quad (1)$$

where G_r is the gain of the receiver antenna, G_t is the gain of the transmitter antenna, P_t is the transmitted power, P_r is the received Power, λ is the wavelength of the electromagnetic signal, and D is the distance between the transmitter and receiver antennas. This paper aims to introduce a UWB antenna with a minimum printed area for power harvesting applications without losing the omnidirectional radiation properties. Three designs are introduced and compared with each other. These designs are circular patch monopole antenna, triple UWBs monopole antenna, and triple UWBs monopole antenna with the minimum printed area. Minimum printed area of 1624.56 mm² is obtained based on the current distribution investigation. The proposed antennas are compared with each other for their suitability for power harvesting operation and visibility to be integrated with a solar cell unit. The candidate antenna structure is used to develop an eight elements antenna array. The array dimensions are designed to be

Table 1: Previous power harvesting antennas structures and parameters

| Ref. [5] | | |
|---------------------------------|--|---|
| Printed area (mm ²) | 9814 | |
| Frequency bands (GHz) | 1.8–2.2 GHz | |
| Gain (dBi) | 10.9 dB at 1.85 GHz and 13.3 dB at 2.15 GHz | |
| Directivity (dBi) | Unspecified | |
| 3 dB BW | E-plane | 30.0 deg at 1.85 GHz and 20.0 deg at 2.15 GHz |
| | H-plane | 100.0 deg at 1.85 GHz and 82.0 deg at 2.15 GHz |
| Ref. [6] | | |
| Printed area (mm ²) | 2471.38 | |
| Frequency bands (GHz) | 1.95–2.45 GHz | |
| Gain (dBi) | 8.3 dB at 1.95 GHz and 7.8 dB at 2.45 GHz | |
| Directivity (dBi) | Unspecified | |
| 3 dB BW | E-plane | 65.9 deg at 1.95 GHz and 83.9 deg at 2.45 GHz . |
| | H-plane | 81.5 deg at 1.95 GHz and 75.1 deg at 2.45 GHz. |
| Ref. [7] | | |
| Printed area (mm ²) | 4775 | |
| Frequency bands (GHz) | (0.8–1.05) GHz, (1.6–2.2) GHz, and (2.4–3) GHz | |
| Gain (dBi) | 15.8 dB at 1.6 GHz | |
| Directivity (dBi) | Unspecified | |
| 3 dB BW | E-plane | 110 deg |
| | H-plane | Unspecified |
| Ref. [8] | | |
| Printed area (mm ²) | 1476 | |
| Frequency bands (GHz) | 2.4–2.5 GHz | |
| Gain (dBi) | Unspecified | |
| Directivity (dBi) | Unspecified | |
| 3 dB BW | E-plane | 89.0 deg |
| | H-plane | 98.0 deg |
| Ref. [11] | | |
| Printed area (mm ²) | 9053 | |
| Frequency bands (GHz) | 0.85–5.5 GHz | |
| Gain (dB) | 5.3 dBi | |
| Directivity (dBi) | Unspecified | |
| 3 dB BW | E-plane | 39.0 deg |
| | H-plane | Omni direction |

integrated with a solar cell unit to improve its efficiency and to maintain its transparency as much as possible. Our goal is to harvest the greatest power from the Wi-Fi bands (2.4 to 2.5) GHz and (5.1 to 5.8) GHz [17]. The antenna reflection coefficient is measured and compared with its simulated counterpart. Also, the radiation properties of the proposed antenna array are investigated for their power harvesting application suitability.

Table 1 shows the difficulty to cover the Wi-Fi bands with the minimum printed area and omnidirectional characteristics.

II. MONOPOLE ANTENNA DIFFERENT STRUCTURES, DESIGN, AND SIMULATION

For Wi-Fi RF power harvesting purposes, a three different antenna structures are designed and investigated. The same FR4 substrate with a dielectric constant of 4.4, loss tangent of 0.02, and thickness of 1.6 mm at a frequency of 1 GHz is used for all antennas. The proposed three structures are compared to each other and the most candidate one is used to be integrated with a solar cell unit.

A. Circular disk monopole antenna

Figure 1 shows the printed monopole antenna that is proposed to collect Wi-Fi RF power, efficiently. The radius of radiating patch can be calculated by [18] as

$$R = \left(\frac{3.2 \text{ GHz}}{f_L \times k} \right) - \left(\frac{4 \times P}{9} \right), \quad (2)$$

where P is the gap between the feedline length and ground plane length, K = 1.15 constant, and f_L is lower

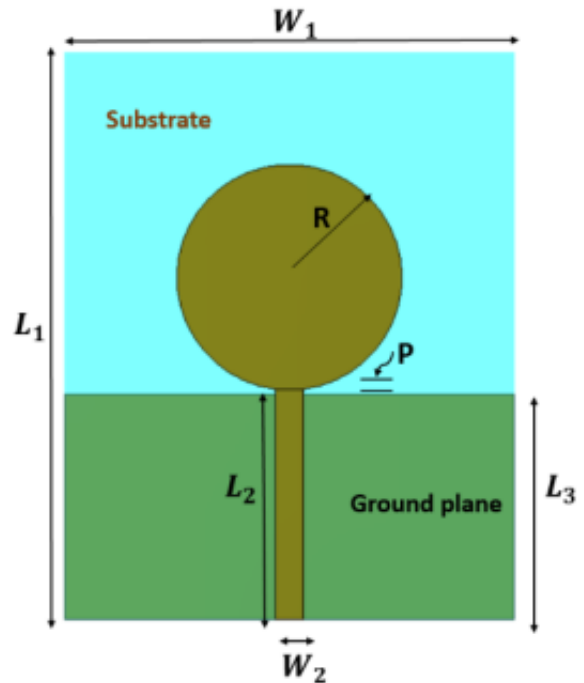


Fig. 1. Circular monopole antenna.

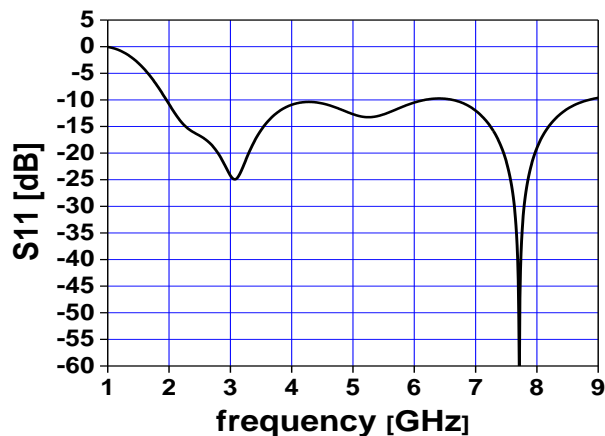


Fig. 2. (a) Circular patch monopole antenna reflection coefficient versus frequency.

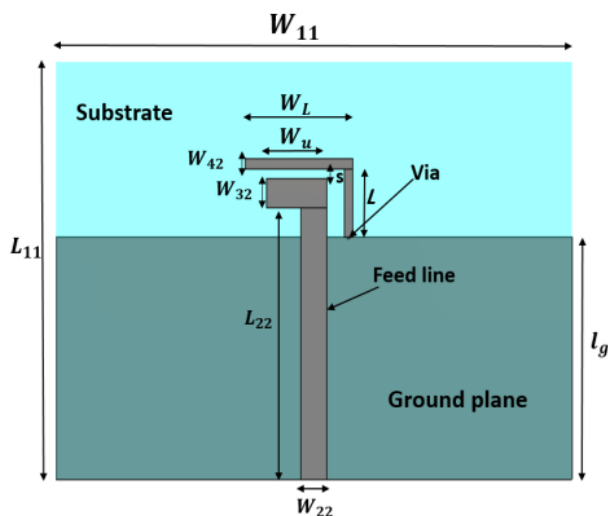


Fig. 2. (b) Circular patch monopole antenna current distribution at 3.1 and 7.7 GHz.

cut-off frequency. Considering F_L of 2 GHz, the patch radius is found to be 11.8 mm. The feed line width is calculated using [19] and found to be 3 mm. Other dimensions are optimized using the CST simulator and are found to be $L_1 = 60.4$ mm (substrate length), $W_1 = 48$ mm (Substrate width), $L_2 = 24$ mm (ground plane length), $L_3 = 24.5$ mm (feed line length), $W_2 = 3$ mm (feed line width), and $R = 12$ mm (circular patch radius). This type of monopole antenna suffers from a large occupation area which reaches 525.89 mm^2 at the top and 1152 mm^2 at the bottom. Figure 2 (a) shows the simulated return loss (S_{11}) and it is observed that the bandwidth is extended from 2 GHz to 9 GHz, also current distribution and radiation pattern appear in Figures 2 (b) and (c) at frequencies 3.1 GHz and 7.7 GHz

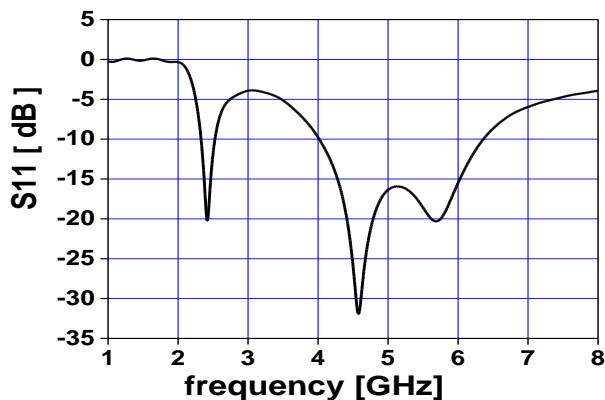


Fig. 2. (c) Circular patch monopole antenna radiation pattern at 3.1 and 7.7 GHz.

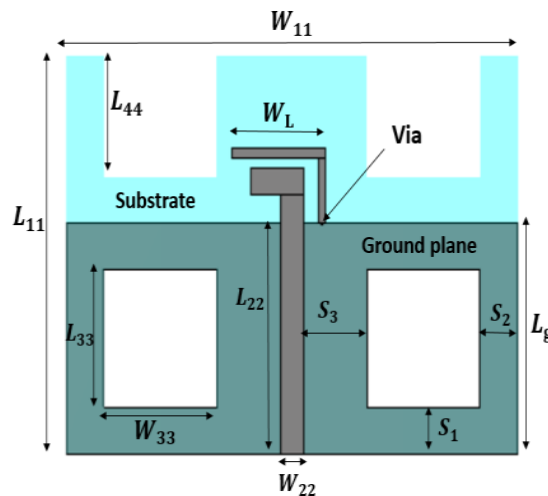


Fig. 3. Triple bands monopole antenna.

B. Triple bands planar monopole antennas

Based on [20], a triple-band monopole antenna with a shorted parasitic inverted $-L$ wire is designed to cover RF frequency bands at 2.4 GHz, 5.2 GHz, and 5.8 GHz, Figure 3. The reflection coefficient is shown in Figure 4 (a), while the current distribution and radiation pattern at resonant frequencies of 2.43 GHz, 4.6 GHz, and 5.7 GHz are shown in Figures 4 (b) and (c). Table 2 shows the dimensions of the proposed antenna in mm, and a radius equal to 0.2 mm.

Table 3 shows the effect of varying the length of the ground plane L_g on the lower (2.4 - 2.5) GHz and the

Table 2: Proposed triple-band antenna geometry

| W_{11} | L_{11} | W_{22} | L_{22} | W_L | W_u | L_g | L | W_{32} | W_{42} | s |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|-------|-------|-------|-----|----------|----------|-----|
| 60 | 43 | 3 | 28 | 12.5 | 7 | 25 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 1 |

Table 3: Different dimensions for L_g and B.W at each dimension $w_L = 12.5$ mm and $w_U = 7$ mm

| L_g | B.W |
|-------|---------------------------------|
| 27 mm | (2.52–2.62) GHz |
| 26 mm | (2.48–2.59) and (4.73–6.64) GHz |
| 25 mm | (2.41–2.55) and (3.84–6.55) GHz |

Table 4: Different dimensions for w_L and B.W at each dimension $L_g = 25$ mm and $w_U = 7$ mm

| w_L | B.W |
|---------|---------------------------------|
| 12.3 mm | (2.45–2.57) and (3.86–6.56) GHz |
| 12.5 mm | (2.42–2.55) and (3.84–6.55) GHz |
| 13 mm | (2.35–2.48) and (3.83–6.53) GHz |

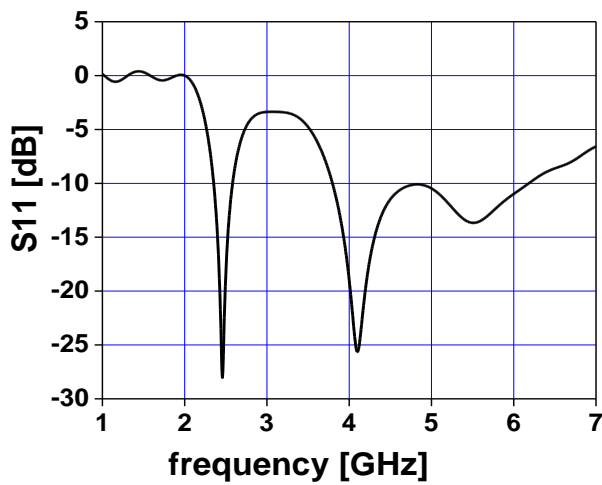


Fig. 4. (a) Triple bands monopole antenna reflection coefficient versus frequency.

higher (5.1-5.8) GHz frequency bands. Tables 4 and 5 show the effect of varying W_u and W_L on the lower and higher frequency bands. Bandwidth of 127 MHz (2.418-2.545) GHz and 2.702 GHz are obtained when L_g , W_L , and W_u are chosen to be 25 mm, 12.5 mm, and 7 mm respectively

C. Triple bands planar monopole antennas rectangular slots

Based on Section II-B, the above elements with $W_L = 12.5$ mm is the main radiator that contributor to the frequency 2.43 GHz and 4.6 GHz and there is a strong cur-

Table 5: Different dimensions for w_U and B.W at each dimension $w_L = 12.5$ mm and $L_g = 25$ mm

| w_u | B.W |
|--------|---------------------------------|
| 6.7 mm | (2.41–2.54) and (3.87–6.66) GHz |
| 7 mm | (2.41–2.55) and (3.84–6.56) GHz |
| 7.5 mm | (2.43–2.56) and (3.82–6.39) GHz |

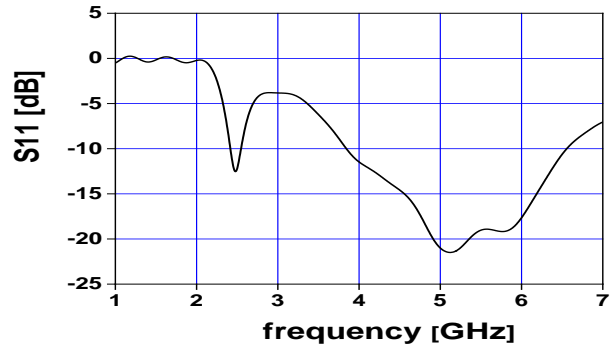


Fig. 4. (b) Triple bands monopole antenna current distribution at (1) 2.43, (2) 4.6, and (3) 5.7 GHz.

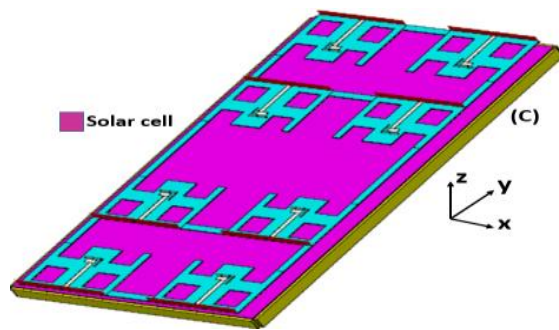
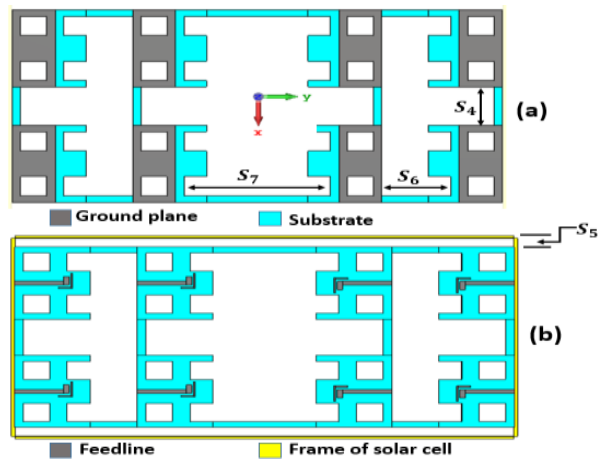


Fig. 4. (c) Triple bands monopole antenna radiation pattern at 2.43, 4.6, and 5.7 GHz, respectively.

rent at the via, but at 5.7 GHz the main radiator is the bottom element with $W_u = 7$ mm, after that we removed the emptied places from the ground plane where there are no currents as shown in (Figure 5).

The resonant frequencies were shifted from (2.43 to 4.1) GHz, (4.6 to 4.1) GHz, and (5.7 to 5.5) GHz. The dimensions of the rectangular slots are $L_{33} = 15$ mm and

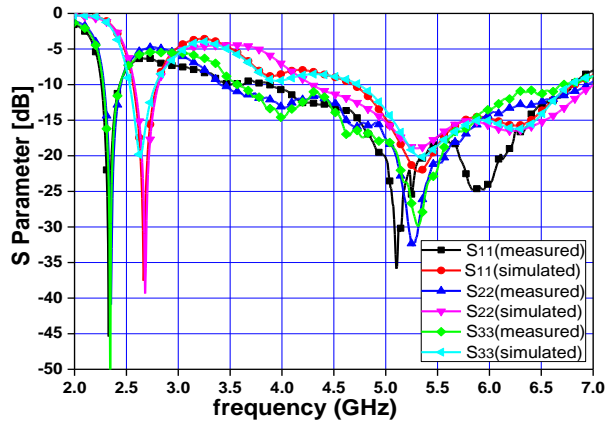


Fig. 5. Triple bands planar monopole antennas with rectangular slots.

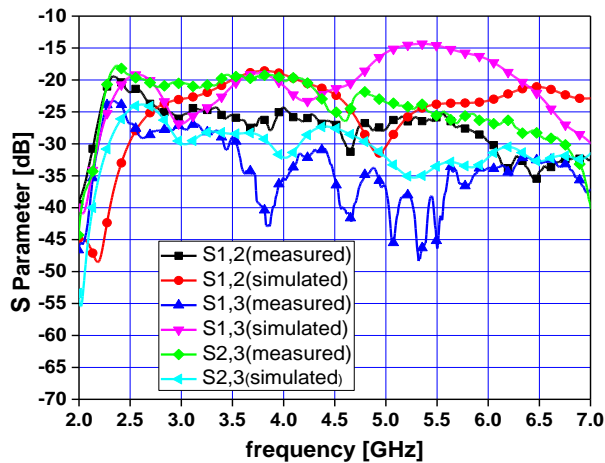


Fig. 6. (a) Triple bands monopole antenna with rectangular slots reflection coefficient versus frequency.

$W_{33}=15$ mm, $L_{44}=13$ mm and spaced by $S_3=10$ mm from the center of the feed line. The rectangular slot is also Separated by $s_1=5$ mm and $s_2=5$ mm from the substrate edges. Figure 6 shows the reflection coefficient, current distribution, and radiation pattern at 2.46, 4.1, and 5.5 GHz.

D. Comparison among the proposed structures

It's observed that the printed area of the triple bands' monopole antenna is less than that of the circular monopole by 3.2% as compared to 30% for the proposed triple bands with rectangular slots. Thus, the antenna turned to mini-transparent and overcome its main problem which is represented in a large area, Table 6.

Referring to Tables 1 and 6, it is observed the proposed triple bands with two slots monopole antenna present the minimum printed area with an almost omnidirectional radiation H-plane pattern.

Table 6: Comparison among proposed structure

| Circular monopole antenna | | |
|--|---|--|
| Printed area (mm ²) | 1677.89 | |
| Frequency bands (GHz) | From 1.96 to 6.15 GHz and 6.64 to 8.83 GHz | |
| Gain (dB) | 2.86 dB at 3.1 GHz and 6.218 dB at 7.7 GHz | |
| Directivity (dB) | 3.4 dB at 3.1 GHz and 6.44 dB at 7.7 GHz | |
| 3 dB BW | E-plane | 98.4 deg at 3.1 GHz and 34.9 deg at 7.7 GHz |
| | H-plane | 216.9 deg at 3.1 GHz and 71.9 deg at 7.7 GHz |
| Triple bands monopole antenna | | |
| Printed area (mm ²) | 1624.56 | |
| Frequency bands (GHz) | From 2.33 to 2.53 and 4.02 to 6.36 | |
| Gain (dB) | 2.32 dB at 2.43 GHz, 3.86 dB at 4.6 GHz, and 3.83 dB at 5.7 GHz | |
| Directivity (dB) | 2.9 dB at 2.43 GHz, 4.05 dB at 4.6 GHz, and 4.156 dB at 5.7 GHz | |
| 3 dB BW | E-plane | 95.1 deg at 2.43 GHz, 125.6 deg at 4.6 GHz, and 146.0 deg at 5.7 GHz |
| | H-plane | 285.8 deg at 2.43 GHz, 56.9 deg at 4.6 GHz, and 47.0 deg at 5.7 GHz |
| Triple bands monopole antenna with rectangular slots | | |
| Printed area (mm ²) | 1174.56 | |
| Frequency bands (GHz) | From 2.35 to 2.58 GHz and 3.79 to 6.14 GHz | |
| Gain (dB) | 0.5 dB at 2.46 GHz, 2.467 dB at 4.1 GHz, and 2.915 dB at 5.5 GHz. | |
| Directivity (dB) | 2.94 dB at 2.46 GHz, 3.9 dB at 4.1 GHz, and 4.167 dB at 5.5 GHz | |
| 3 dB BW | E-plane | 257.3 deg at 2.46 GHz, 124.0 deg at 4.1 GHz, and 50.5 deg at 5.5 GHz |
| | H-plane | 95.2 deg at 2.46 GHz, 80.4 deg at 4.1 GHz, and 56.3 deg at 5.5 GHz |

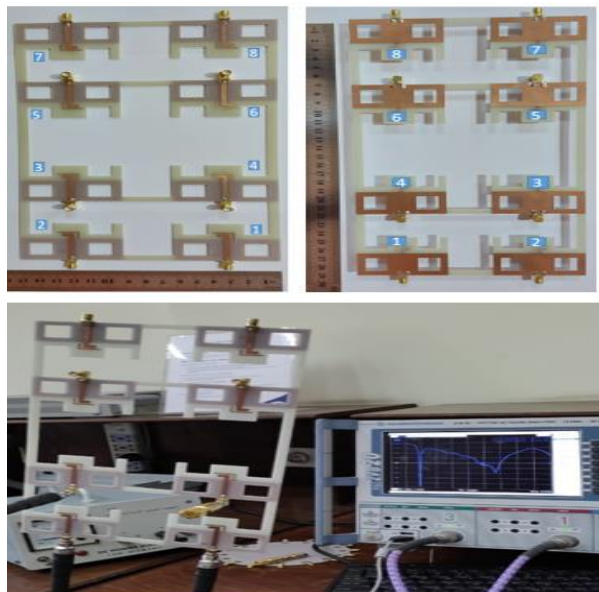


Fig. 6. (b) Triple bands monopole antenna with rectangular slots current distribution at (1) 2.46, (2) 4.1, and (3) 5.5 GHz.

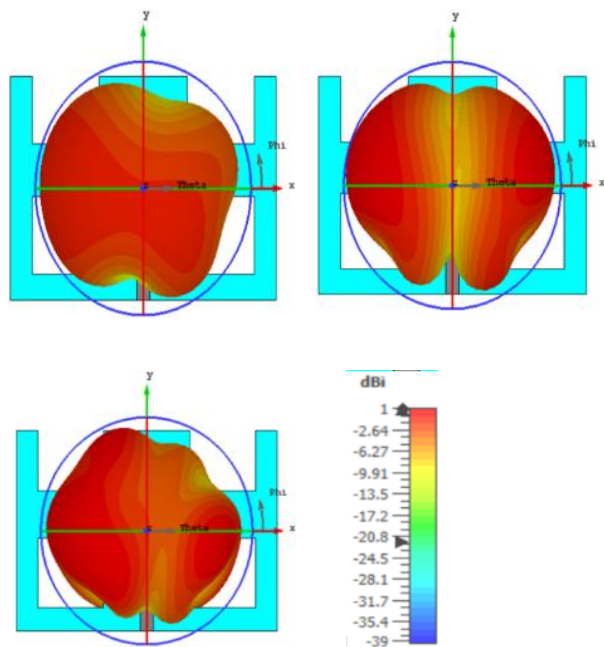


Fig. 6. (c) Triple bands monopole with rectangular slots radiation pattern at 2.46, 4.1, and 5.5 GHz, respectively.

III. PROPOSED EIGHT-ELEMENT ANTENNA

The developed antenna (Section II-C) is used as an element of the 8-element antenna array. The dimensions of the array are set to be $(165 \times 285) \text{ mm}^2$ which is the

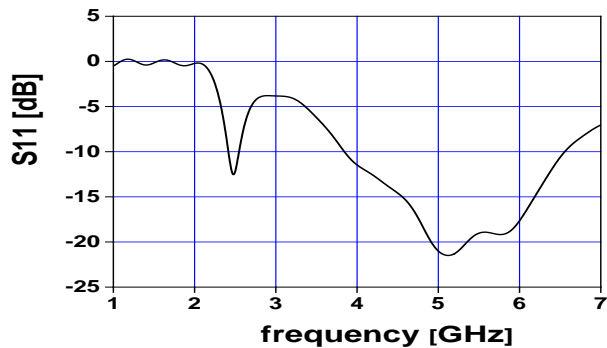


Fig. 7. Triple bands monopole antenna with rectangular slots integrated with the aforementioned mini-solar cell reflection coefficient.

same as the mini-solar cell unit which will be used to test the presence of the mini-solar cell material on antenna performance. The antenna array element is separated by the horizontal distance $S_4=30 \text{ mm}$ and vertical distance $S_6=27 \text{ mm}$. Each four elements group is separated by a vertical distance $S_7=59 \text{ mm}$, and $S_5=7.5 \text{ mm}$, Figure 8.

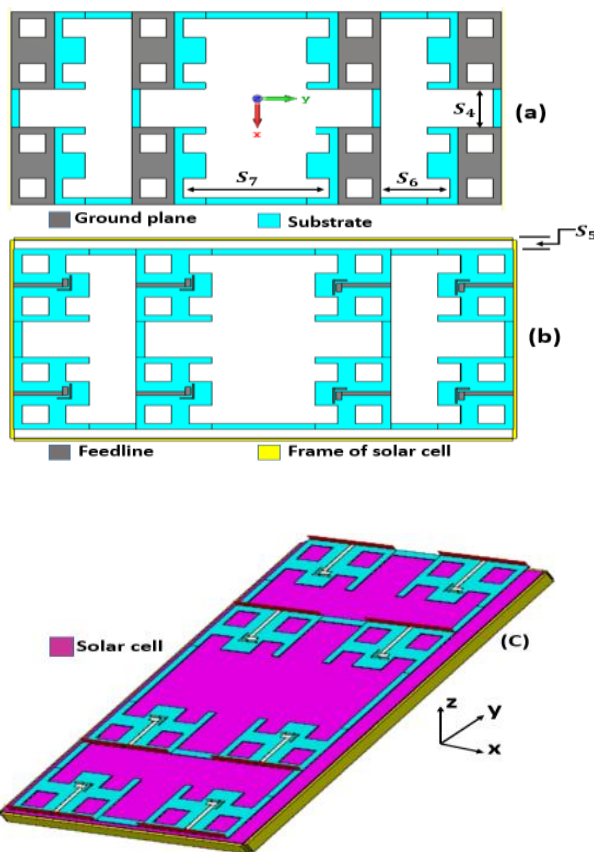


Fig. 8. Structure of proposed antennas: (a) bottom view; (b) top view; (c) antennas with eight-element.

Table 7: Gain, directivity, and efficiency at 2.44 GHz

| At 2.44 GHz | | | |
|-------------|---------|---------|--------------|
| Ant. No. | G (dBi) | D (dBi) | Efficiency % |
| 1 | 4.660 | 5.316 | 85.99 |
| 2 | 5.569 | 6.285 | 84.79 |
| 3 | 5.052 | 5.629 | 87.55 |
| 4 | 4.702 | 5.336 | 86.42 |
| 5 | 4.659 | 5.317 | 85.95 |
| 6 | 5.569 | 6.286 | 84.79 |
| 7 | 5.053 | 5.632 | 87.52 |
| 8 | 4.702 | 5.336 | 86.42 |

The solar cell material is considered to be glass with $\epsilon_r=3.9$ and $\tan\delta=0.0054$. An aluminum metal frame is also considered.

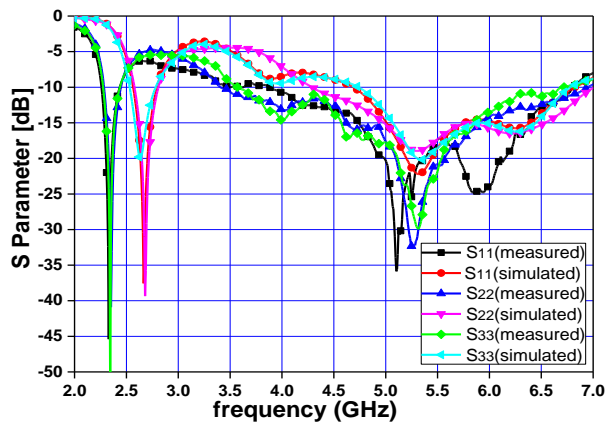


Fig. 9. Simulated and measured reflection coefficient of the proposed array.

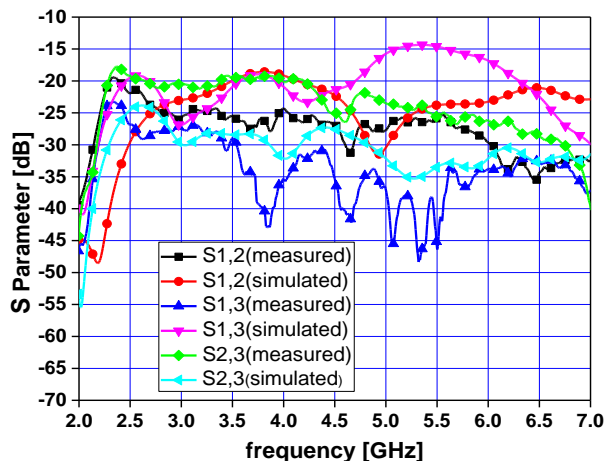


Fig. 10. Simulated and measured coupling of proposed antenna array.

Table 8: Gain, directivity, and efficiency at 5.44 GHz

| At 5.44 GHz | | | |
|-------------|---------|---------|--------------|
| Ant. No. | G (dBi) | D (dBi) | Efficiency % |
| 1 | 5.719 | 6.334 | 86.80 |
| 2 | 7.047 | 7.737 | 85.30 |
| 3 | 6.388 | 7.054 | 85.80 |
| 4 | 6.353 | 7.093 | 84.34 |
| 5 | 5.727 | 6.342 | 86.80 |
| 6 | 7.045 | 7.736 | 85.30 |
| 7 | 6.379 | 7.045 | 85.79 |
| 8 | 6.354 | 7.093 | 84.34 |

Figure 7 shows a bandwidth that extends from 2.35 GHz to 2.58 GHz and from 3.79 GHz to 6.14 GHz is achieved when the antenna is integrated with the aforementioned mini-solar cell. The simulated and measured reflection and coupling coefficients are shown in Figures 9 and 10, respectively.

The simulated bandwidth extends from 2.35 GHz to 2.58 GHz and 3.79 GHz to 6.14 GHz as compared with the measured counterpart which extends from 2.26 GHz to 2.42 GHz. and from .4.18 GHz to 6.8GHz. A minimum isolation of -20 dB is obtained over the operating frequency lower and higher bands.

R&S ZVB 20 Vector Network Analyzer is used to measure the reflection coefficient of the proposed antenna array elements, Figure 11. The radiation pattern of the proposed antenna array when integrated with the solar cell unit is investigated shown in Figure 12

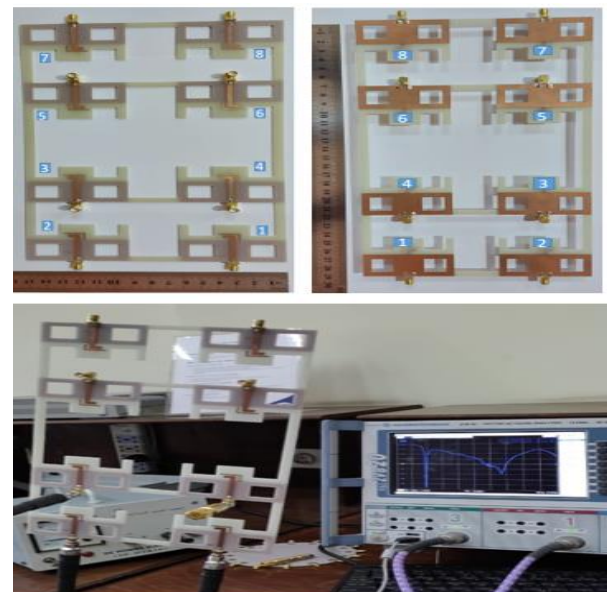


Fig. 11. Fabricated antenna array elements with VNA.

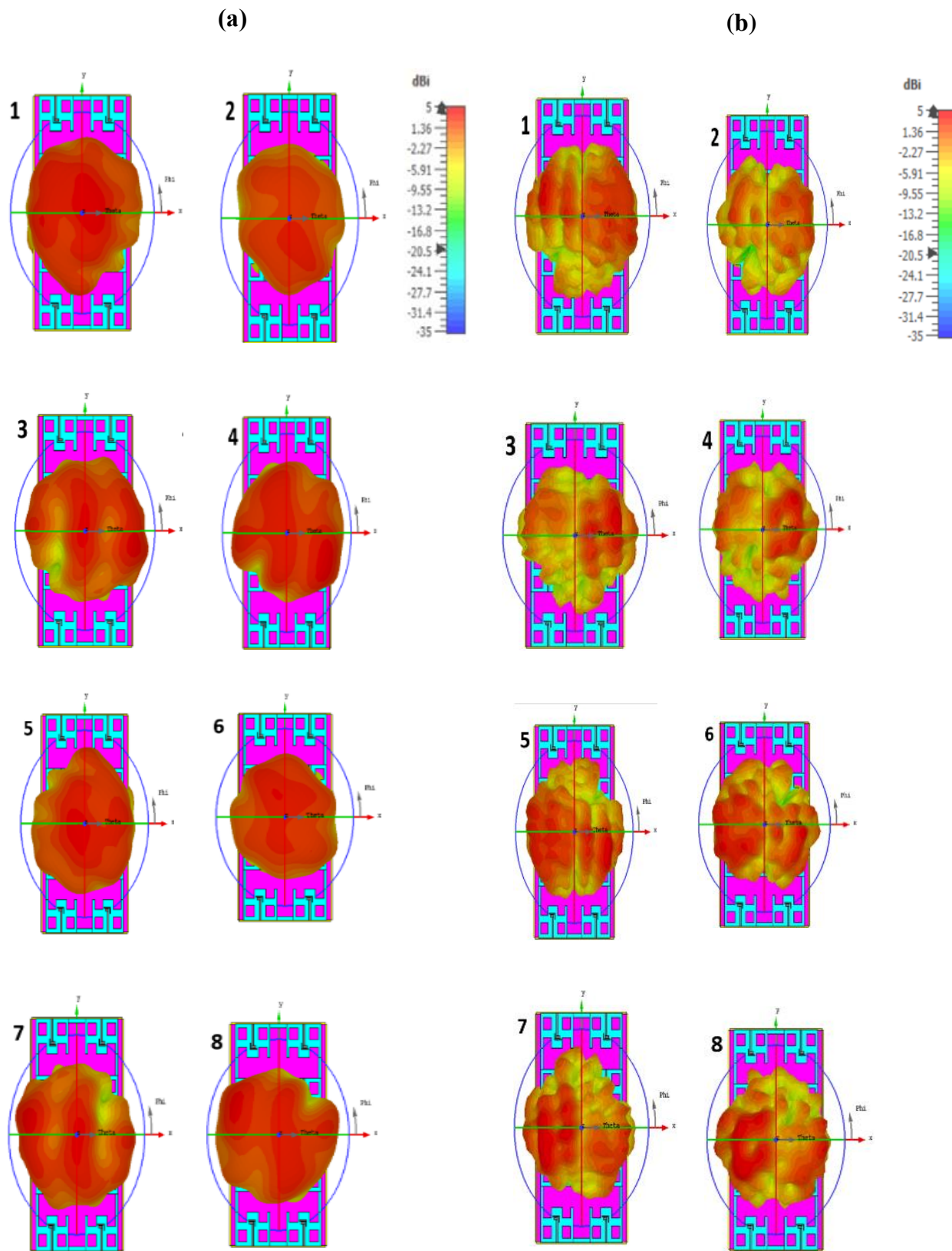


Fig. 12. (a) Radiation pattern at 2.44 GHz.

Fig. 12. (b) Radiation pattern at 5.44 GHz.

at resonance frequencies of 2.44 GHz and 5.44 GHz. Tables 7 and 8 show the gain, directivity, and efficiency of each antenna element at 2.44 GHz and 5.44 GHz, respectively.

IV. CONCLUSION

This paper presented a transparent 8- elements antenna array that is ready to be merged with solar cell units. It is designed to be operated at the Wi fi bands of 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz. Two frequency bands of 2.4 GHz to 2.5 GHz and 5.1 GHz to 5.8 GHz with acceptable reflection coefficients below -10 dB are obtained. Good agreement between experimental and simulated results is obtained. This antenna array is intended for collecting the largest amount of power from several wireless communication bands by using eight antenna elements with suitable parameters in terms of Gain and radiation pattern.

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