Enhanced Gain Microstrip Patch Antenna for Wimax Applications

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Abstract— This paper proposes a rectangular shaped microstrip patch antenna with enhanced gain which is focused to be used for wimax applications.As today there is a growing demand of wimax technology,the objective of this project is to optimize the gain of antenna and thereby study the effects of antenna dimensions Length(L),Width(W) and substrate parmeters ,relative dielectric constant, substrate thickness on its performance.This project introduces a method using double layer with airgap to design antenna operating at 3.6GHz giving high performance in terms of gain and return loss.A microstrp probe feeding technique and moments based IE3D software will be used to design a microstrip patch antenna with enhanced gain.

Keywords— Air Gap, Gain, Microstrip patch antenna, dielectric constant, Return loss, VSWR.

I.   INTRODUCTION

In today's world of wireless communication, recent developments in wireless communication industry continue to derive requirement of small, compatible and affordable microstrip patch antennas. Microstrip patch antennas are popular in wireless communication due to their various advantages such as low profile, light weight, low cost, ease of fabrication and integration [4]. Balanis [9] states that an antenna should be low profile, simple and inexpensive to fabricate and it should be easy to mount on planar and non-planar surfaces .Thus posing advantages in Wimax and antenna applications.However the applications of antenna are limited by its narrow bandwidth ,low efficiency, low gain even these antennas are compact in size.These limitations are due to feeding circuitry to some extent [4]. To cope with these shortcomings many techniques have been developed in recent years by enhancing its low gain and low bandwidth. In order to match the element the simplest matching method involves choosing the feed location where the resonant resistance is equal to feed-line impedance. In most applications, the Microstrip patch antenna is fed using either coaxial probe feed or inset Microstrip line as both are direct contact methods providing high efficiency[4] when the type of patch is to be used for an applications is choosen, the dimensions should be carefully analysed. A small change in any

dimensions can cause a noticeable change in the results eg.frequency,impedance matching, bandwidth,directivity and gain etc.[1]

II.   PATCH ANTENNA DESIGN THEORY AND MODEL

In this work instead of using an expensive low loss materials such as Teflon or ceramic,a simple rectangular patch antenna with standard low cost FR 4 laminate is utilized which also has loss tangent of 0.019 . An air gap between radiating element and ground plane is inserted to obtain a high gain and high efficiency . The air gap reduces both the electric field concentration on the lossy epoxy and the dielectric constant of the radiating plane.This antenna uses microstrip probe feed technique because this feed can be placed at any point in the patch to match with its input impedance. To demonstrate the proposed antenna, a 3.6 Ghz MPA with air gap is designed for wimax applications and is thereby simulated, fabricated and tested . Finally the design is accomplished using a second layer of FR 4 which is coated with a upper film at both sides and a airgap between them.

The design of double layer with air gap MSA has been calculated by using following equation below.

I. $W = c \sqrt{\dfrac{(\epsilon r + 1)}{2}} \; / 2fo$

II. $L = \dfrac{c}{2fo\sqrt{\epsilon r}} - 2\Delta L$

III. $\epsilon e = \dfrac{\epsilon rh1 + \epsilon rh2}{h1 + h2}$

IV. $\Delta L = \dfrac{0.412h[(\epsilon r + 0.300)(W/h + 0.264)]}{(\epsilon r - 0.258)(W/h + 0.8)}$

Where,εr1 is the FR4 dielectric constant, εr2 is the air gap dielectric constant, h1 is the FR4 substrate thickness and h2 is the air gap thickness. Afterwards, the patch width (W) and length (L) have been calculated by considering air gap thickness h.

III.   HIGH GAIN MICROSTRIP PATCH ANTENNA DESIGN

As per the geometry of the proposed antenna, the antenna is realized using double sided copper clad laminate sheet. The lower layer of the FR4 substratre acts as the ground plane which is of 100mm *100 mm dimensions ,while the radiating rectangular patch of 37*46 mm is designed at

the upper layer.Feeding point at 10 mm will be fixed at the Floating copper which acts as the feeding network using microstrip probe feeding technique. The air gap is selected as 3.5mm
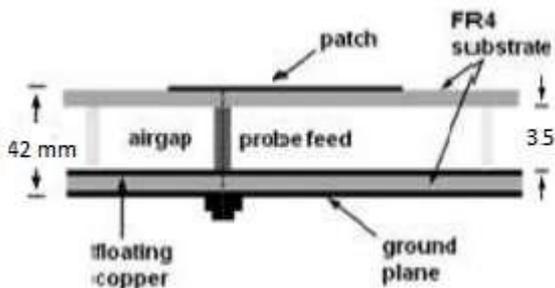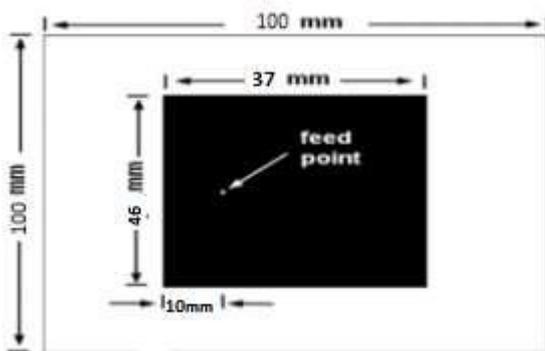

Fig.1: side view of double layer with air gap

Fig.2: Geometry of top view the high gain Rectangular Microstrip patch Antenna

IV. SIMULATION RESULTS AND COMPARISONS

A Antenna Gain

Figure shows the comparison results of gain by introducing different air gap thichness.

TABLE 1

Air gap(mm)	Gain(dB)
2mm	8.9
3mm	9
3.5mm	10.6
4mm	8.3
5mm	5

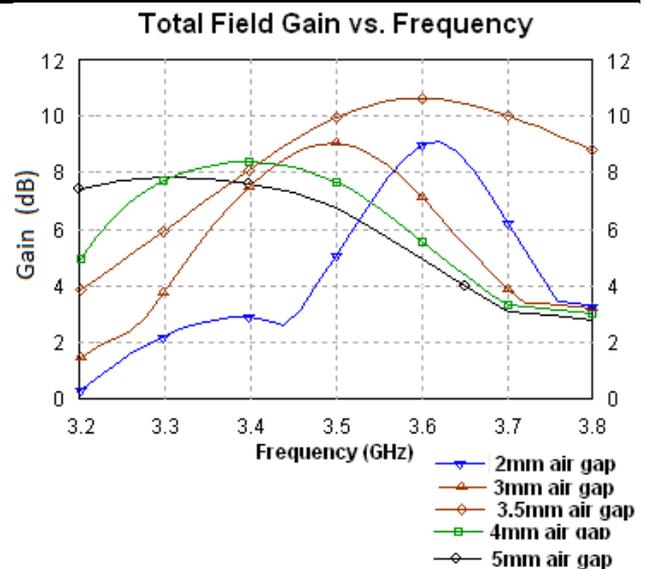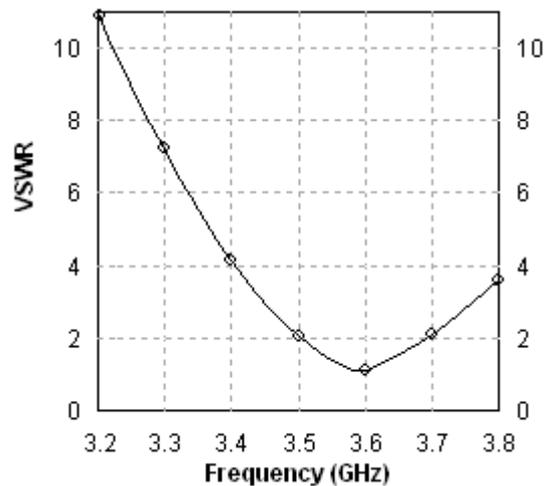The table shows that the proposed antenna is optimized at 3.5mm air gap distance.

Fig.3: Simulated antenna gain versus the airgap thickness graph

B Voltage Standing Wave Ratio

VSWR is the way to see how much the system is matched .It is the ratio between the maximum voltage and minimum volatage in transmission line.For the best value of antenna ,it should be equal to 1.In this optimized structure structure the VSWR is between 1 and 2
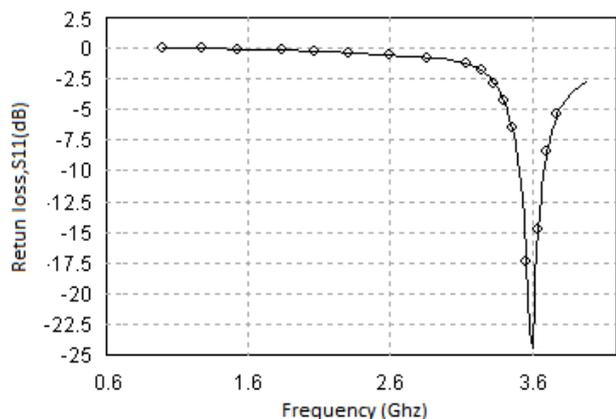

C Return loss

Return loss is the measurement from which we can judge how much amount of power is reflected back by the antenna. Return loss value for the proposed antenna is -24 dB .

(a)

(b)

(c)

Fig3 (a) Return loss result at 3.6Ghz resonating freq.(b)Efficency versus Frequency.(c) 3D Radiation Pattern of standard microstrip rectangular patch antenna

V. CONCLUSION

The microstrip patch anenna is widely used antenna design and has a big potential in Wimax communication system.This paper has successfully designed Rectangular patch antenna operating at 3.6 Ghz. Here we have increased the performance of the antenna by improving certain essential parameters such as VSWR, Gain, and Return loss and tried to overcome some if its disadvantages of low gain by introducing a3.5mm air gap.. The optimised structure provides a maximum gain of 10.5 dBi, R.L < - 9.5dB,efficiency of more than 90% and VSWR between 1 and 2. Gain and efficiency can be further improved by using array antenna.
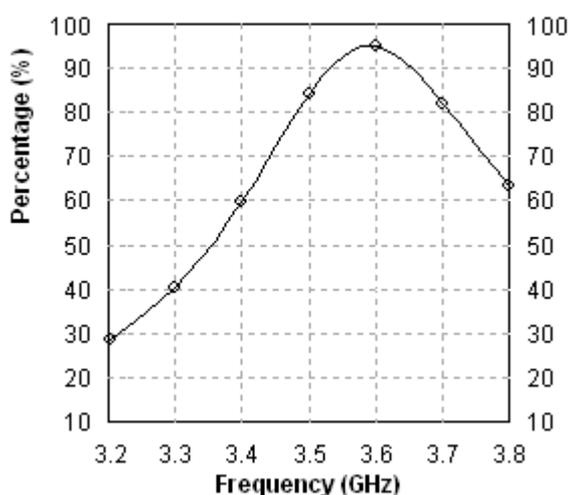.

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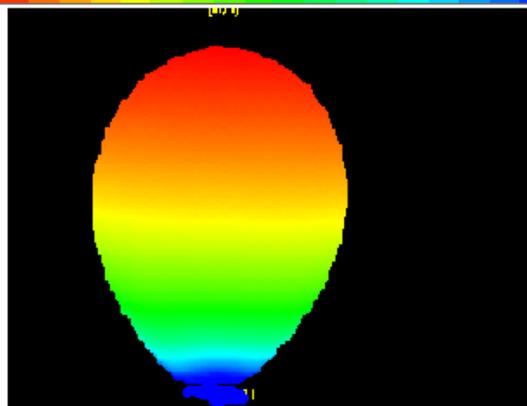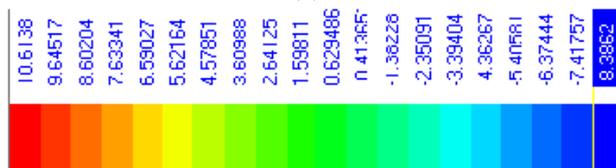[8] 8 S. C. Gupta, Ajay Singh "Review and Survey of Broadband Microstrip Patch Antennas" International

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