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A Novel Method for Designing Dual-Frequency Slot Patch Antennas with Two Polarizations

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Abstract: This paper presents a new method for designing a dual-frequency patch antenna with circular and linear polarizations. Dual-frequency operations are behaved by etching two narrow slots close to the radiating edges of a rectangular patch. The circular polarization at the lower resonant frequency of the dual-frequency antenna can be achieved by setting a perturbation segment at an appropriate location in the patch element, and placing the feed point on the diagonal axis. Several experimental results of a designed antenna show the good characteristics for circular and linear polarizations at both resonant frequencies.

Key words: dual-frequency; slot patch antennas; linear polarization; circular polarization

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新的双频双极化开槽微带天线的设计方法

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摘 要: 提出了一种同时具有圆极化和线极化的双频新型开槽微带天线的设计方法. 天线双频工作是通过分别在靠近方形微带天线的两个辐射边处各开一个平行的窄槽来实现的. 在较低的谐振频率处圆极化的获得是通过在天线辐射单元上适当地设置摄动元素, 并将馈电点移到辐射单元的对角线上. 一个设计天线的测试结果给出了该天线在两个谐振频率上具有很好的圆极化及线极化的天线性能.

关键词: 双频; 开槽微带天线; 线性极化; 圆极化

In radar and communication systems, dual-frequency operations are often required. Specially, in modern mobile global position system(GPS), it will be desirable that one of two frequencies is the circular polarization. Planar antenna has been investigated for multi-frequency very well since it is advantageous in low cost, low weight and conformability. Early dual-frequency planar antenna is multilayered stacked-patch structure, and the radi-

ating element is used to be circular^[1], annular^[2], rectangular^[3] and triangular patches^[4]. Recently, a dual-frequency antenna is introduced in which the structure is single layer patch with two slots close to the radiating edges, and good performances of simultaneous impedance matching and gain are demonstrated for both resonant frequencies. However, all the conventional investigations are only for the case in which the antenna polarization is

linear, while the dual-frequency antenna with circular polarization has not been touched yet.

In this paper, we present a design method of a dual-frequency antenna with circular and linear polarizations based on the conventional investigation for the dual-frequency linear polarization antenna^[5~7]. Two resonant frequencies are determined by adjusting the size of the patch element and the slot, as well as the location of the slot in the element. The key to obtain a circular polarization for an antenna is to satisfy the condition for exciting circular polarization, i. e. the circular polarization can be excited by setting the perturbation segment Δ_s at an appropriate location in the patch element, and by placing the feed point on the diagonal axis. We have experimentally obtained the circular and the linear polarizations at both lower and upper frequencies, and some experimental results will be demonstrated on the reflection loss at input port and the radiation pattern of the antenna.

1 Configuration of conventional dual-frequency patch antenna

Figure 1 shows a configuration of a conventional dual-frequency antenna with linear polarization. Two resonant frequencies are behaved by etching two slots close and parallel to the radiating edges, and the lower resonant frequency is determined by the outline size of the patch element, while the upper resonant frequency is determined by the size and the position of the two slots in the patch element. Because the slots are closely located to the radiating edges, a minor perturbation of the TM_{10} mode can be expected. As for unperturbed TM_{30} mode, since the slots are located where the current shall be significant, the current will be strongly modified, and a perturbed TM_{30} radiation pattern similar to the TM_{10} mode can be obtained.

Our object in this investigation is to obtain a dual-frequency antenna with both polarizations in which the lower frequency is with a circular polar-

ization and the upper frequency is with a linear polarization. For a square patch antenna with area of S fed by one port, a way to excite a circular polarization is to extend the length of two parallel sub-tends of the patch element in order to set a perturbation segment Δ_s , and place the feeding point on the diagonal axis. When an appropriate perturbation is selected, a circular polarization with a good axial ratio can be obtained.

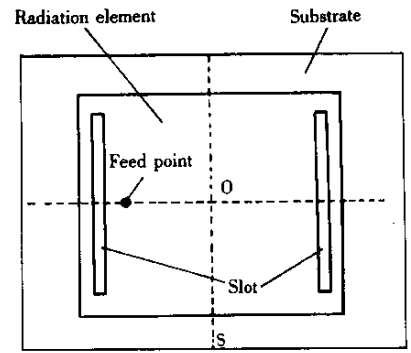


Fig. 1 Configuration of conventional dual-frequency antenna

2 Designing for dual-frequency slot patch antennas with two polarizations

In a conventional investigation for dual-frequency with linear polarization^[5~7], to ensure a good radiation efficiency at both frequencies, the aspect ratio between the two sides of the patch is taken in the range

$$0.7 < \frac{L}{W} < 0.8 \quad (1)$$

and the lower frequency is determined by

$$f_L = \frac{c}{2(W + \Delta W' + \Delta W'') \sqrt{\epsilon_e(L/t, \epsilon_r)}} \quad (2)$$

where c is the velocity of light in free space. ϵ_e is the effective permittivity given by

$$\epsilon_e(x, y) = \frac{y+1}{2} + \frac{y-1}{2} \left(1 + \frac{10}{x} \right)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \quad (3)$$

and

$$\Delta W' = W \left(1.5 \frac{w}{W} - 0.4 \frac{l}{L} \right) \quad (4)$$

$$\Delta W''=g\left(\frac{L}{t},\epsilon_r\right)t$$

(5)

here

$$g(x,y)=\frac{1}{\pi}\frac{x+0.336}{x+0.556}\cdot$$
$$\left[0.28+\frac{y+1}{y}(0.274+\ln(x+2.518))\right]$$

(6)

and the upper frequency is determined by

$$f_{\text{H}}=\frac{c}{2(L-2l+d)\sqrt{\epsilon_r(w/t,\epsilon_r)}}$$

(7)

In above expression, the parameters of W , L , t , w , d , l are referred to Fig. 2, and the ϵ_r is the dielectric constant of the substrate. However in this study, in order to obtain a circular polarization at the lower resonant frequency, the aspect ratio of the outline size of the patch will be changed so that the mentioned formulas above will not be completely satisfied.

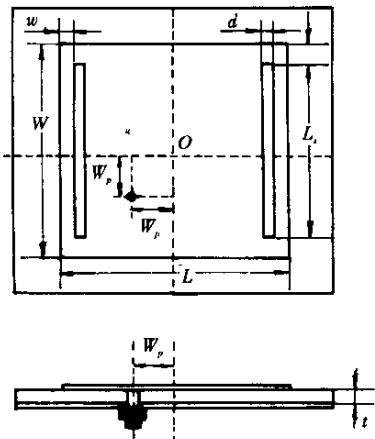


Fig. 2 Configuration of dual-frequency antenna with both polarizations

We present a design method for dual-frequency slot patch antennas with two polarizations as follows

- Step1 Design a square patch antenna with the desirable lower frequency f_{10} by using a conventional method.
- Step2 Etch two slots close and parallel to the radiating edges to behave the dual-frequencies operation by using Eq. (7). However the lower resonant frequency will change, since the two slots modify the current distribution of the

TM₁₀.

- Step3 Adjust the size of the antenna element to obtain the desired lower resonant frequency.
- Step4 Adjust the length and the width of the slots to obtain the desired upper resonant frequency f_{30} .
- Step5 Set perturbation segment and place the feed point on the diagonal axis of the antenna element to obtain the circular polarization at the lower resonant frequency f_{10} .

3 Experimental results and discussion

We experimentally designed a dual-frequency patch antenna with two polarizations. Figure 2 shows the configuration of the antenna, and the specifications are listed in Table 1. In this configuration of the antenna, we extended the L edge of the patch antenna to set the perturbation segment, and placed the feed point on the diagonal axis to achieve the circular polarization.

Table 1 Specifications of a dual-frequency patch antenna with two polarizations

	GPS	VICS
Frequency/GHz	1.575	2.5
Polarization	Circular	Linear
Return loss	−15	−15
Gain	3dBic	5dB _i

Figure 3 shows a measured reflection loss of a designed dual-frequency antenna fed by 50Ω coaxial probe. From this figure, it can be observed that two resonant frequencies are achieved at desired frequencies 1.575 GHz and 2.50 GHz, which will be employed to mobile global position system (GPS) and vehicle information & communication system (VICS), and a good simultaneous impedance matching was obtained for reflection loss values −17dB at 1.575 GHz and −27dB at 2.5 GHz.

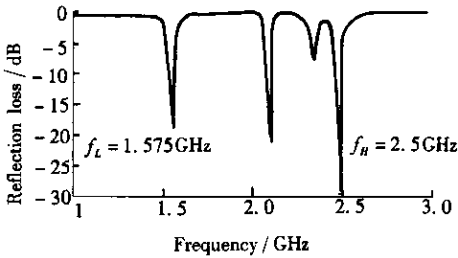


Fig. 3 Frequency characteristics of reflection loss

Figure 4 shows the axial ratio variation with the frequency for this designed antenna. It is seen that the best value of the axial ratio is about 1dB at 1.575 GHz.

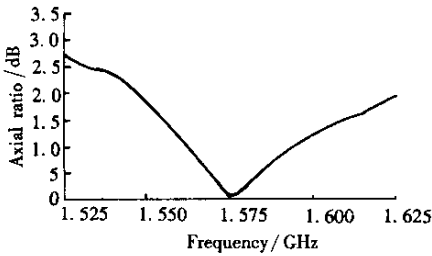


Fig. 4 Frequency characteristics of axial ratio

Figure 5 shows the measured impedance characteristic of the antenna in correspondence with Fig. 3. It demonstrated that a perturbation is set for circular polarization at lower frequency 1.575 GHz.

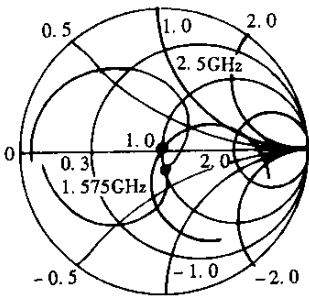


Fig. 5 Frequency characteristics of input impedance

Figure 6 shows the radiation pattern of the circular polarization of the designed antenna at the lower resonant frequency 1.575 GHz. In this figure, we used the unit [dBic] for gain, which can be calculated as follows

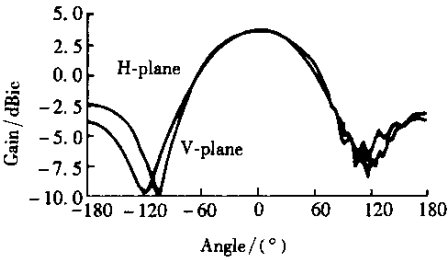


Fig. 6 Radiation pattern of circular polarization

$$G[\text{dBic}] = G_{\text{max}}[\text{dBi}] + 20\log\left[\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\left(1 + \frac{1}{10^{AR/20}}\right)\right]$$
 where, $G_{\text{max}}[\text{dBi}]$ denotes the measured maximum gain in [dBi], AR is the measured axial ratio. A gain of 3.7 [dBic] was found for patch antenna with circular polarization at 1.575 GHz.

Finally, the radiation pattern of the linear polarization at the upper frequency 2.5 GHz is shown in Fig. 7. This is the perturbed TM_{30} mode, however, because the two slots exist in the patch, the shape of the radiation pattern of the perturbed TM_{30} mode becomes similar to that of the TM_{10} mode. A gain of 5 [dBi] was obtained for patch antenna with linear polarization at 2.5 GHz.

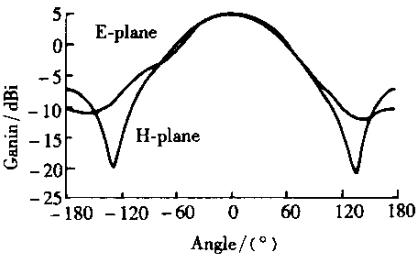


Fig. 7 Radiation pattern of linear polarization

4 Concluding remarks

A novel design method for a dual-frequency patch antenna with both circular and linear polarizations is presented in this paper. Two resonant frequencies are behaved by etching two slots close to the radiating edges in the rectangular patch, and the circular polarization at the lower resonant frequency is achieved by setting a perturbation segment in the patch element, and by placing the feed

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