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Miniaturized Planar Monopole UWB Antenna with Integrated RFID/GPS/GSM/WLAN Bands Using Capacitively Loaded Loop Resonator (CLLRs)

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Abstract

A miniaturized multiband planar monopole Ultrawideband (UWB) antenna is presented. The penta-band antenna is comprised of a: 3.1 – 10.6 GHz UWB band, 2.4 WLAN band, 1.8 GHz GSM band, 1.3 GHz GPS and a 0.95 GHz RFID band. The proposed UWB band is realized by using half of a conventional rectangular radiator size while the other half is used to realize the other bands by employing quarter wavelength U and G shaped strips called CLLRs (capacitively loaded loop resonators). The designed penta-band antenna has an overall size of 25 x 30 mm². The measured and simulated results of the fabricated prototype are compared and satisfactory results are achieved.

Index Terms: Microstrip, Ultrawideband, CLLR, quarter-wavelength, RFID, miniaturize, penta-band antenna.

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1. Introduction

UWB systems have gained enormous attention in commercial systems such as indoor and handheld wireless communication systems due to its low output power and high data rate for short ranges. The planar monopole UWB antenna is most attractive among the several UWB antennas due to its physical advantages such as low profile, low cost, and ease of integration with other circuit components, making it more attractive for commercial applications.

Modern wireless communication systems require a single antenna to cover several allocated frequency bands

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to reduce the number of antenna modules, cost and unit size. Several multiband antennas have been proposed in previous literature [1] - [6]. However, most of the proposed multiband antennas do not cover the UWB frequency band. With the commercial success of the UWB system in recent years, it will be of great important to be able to incorporate common and widely used wireless communication bands in the planar monopole UWB antenna. Some techniques have been proposed to introduce additional bands to the UWB antenna. However, this goal has to be achieved without increasing the size of the UWB antenna and without degrading its UWB performance which is a challenge for antenna designers. A few literatures [7] - [9] have reported techniques to achieve this. However, there is still a paucity of methods in achieving this goal since it has not been widely investigated. In [7], a dual band antenna comprising of a 3.1 – 10.6 GHz UWB band and a 2.4 GHz Bluetooth band was introduced. The technique involved attaching a Bluetooth element in a form of an L shaped resonant element at the low UWB mode current point to introduce a second resonance at 2.4 GHz. In [8], two additional arms were attached to the corners of a triangular shaped UWB radiator to realize a dual band. Based on the literature above, it appears quite a challenge to realize multiple bands in addition to the UWB band. However, in [9], by using the technique proposed in [8], a quad-band was achieved comprising of a UWB band, a GPS band, a GSM band and a WLAN band. As noticed, there is a paucity of techniques in achieving a UWB antenna with multiple bands.

In this work, a new approach is used to achieve a penta-band UWB antenna. Here, a UWB antenna with a rectangular monopole is used as the base antenna. The rectangular radiator of the UWB is vertically cut into almost half the size to still maintain a bandwidth from 3.1 – 10.6 GHz, resulting in a miniaturized design. With the space created on the monopole, the other bands are created by attaching U and G shaped resonant strips (CLLRs) ‘hanging’ from a non-resonant horizontal strip attached to the top of the miniaturized rectangular radiator. In [7] - [9], the novelty of their proposed techniques were that the resonant strips can be added to the base structure of an existing UWB antenna to achieve an extra resonant point without affecting the UWB behavior. In the proposed antenna, a new technique is introduced which does not involve the base structure of the UWB antenna and provides a new and easier approach to achieve many extra bands than that suggested in [7] - [9]. Additionally, it also provides a more miniaturized antenna. To the best of our knowledge, the proposed antenna is the only UWB with four extra integrated bands.

2. Antenna Design

The proposed antenna is etched on an FR4 substrate with relative permittivity $\epsilon_r = 4.4$ with a thickness of 1.6 mm. The overall size is 25 x 30 mm². The UWB monopole and the other resonant elements are etched on top of the substrate and the ground plane is etched on the bottom. The design of the antenna begins with a conventional UWB antenna made up of a radiating monopole attached to the microstrip line to achieve a 3.1 – 10.6 GHz UWB band. The proposed antenna is shown in Figure 1.

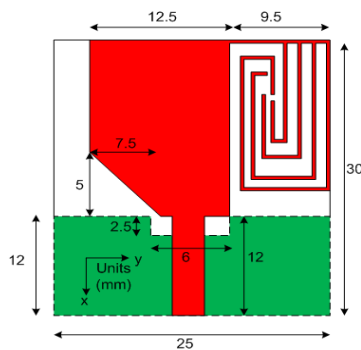


Fig.1. Geometry of the proposed antenna

3. UWB Miniaturization

The evolution of the antenna is shown in Fig. 2. Fig. 2(a) shows a conventional UWB antenna comprising of a rectangular monopole and the microstrip feedline on one side and the ground plane on the other side. In Fig. 2(b), a portion of the radiator is cut without affecting the impedance bandwidth of the UWB antenna, resulting in a miniaturized design. The theory behind this is that, the lower frequency limitation of the UWB antenna is dependent on the longest current path of the monopole radiator. However, we noticed that this path is mainly dependent on the horizontal edge (length) of the radiator and the vertical edge (width) has very little influence on the lower end bandwidth. Therefore, by reducing the size (width) of the radiator, the impedance bandwidth is still maintained, resulting in a miniaturized antenna. This phenomenon can be verified in Fig. 3 showing that the impedance bandwidths of the antennas with and without the cut remain the same.

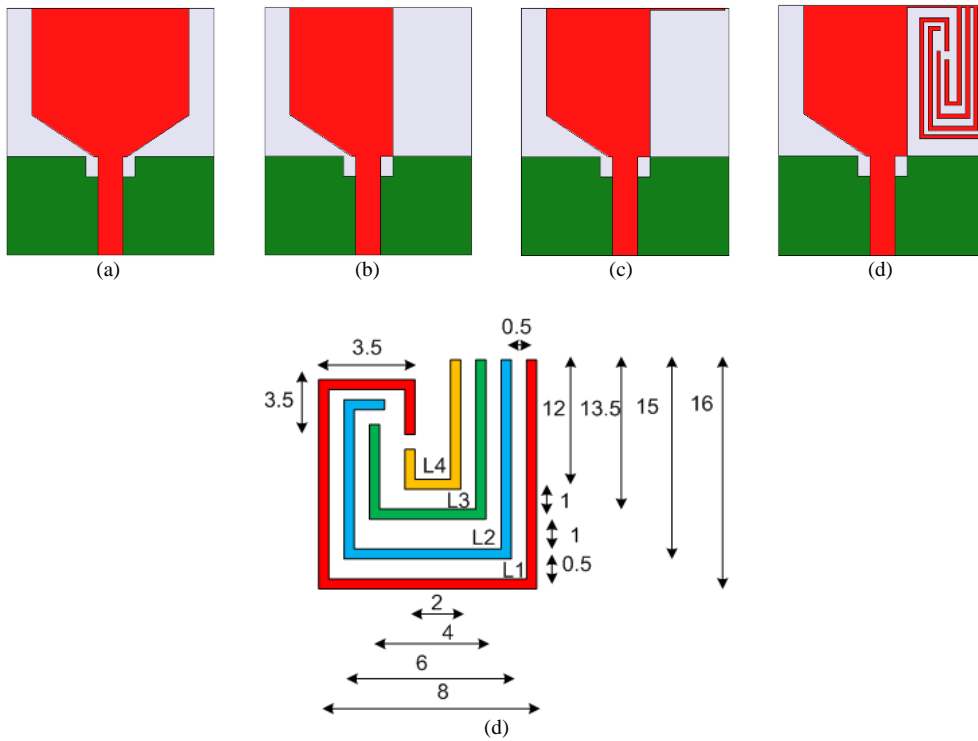


Fig.2. Evolution of the proposed antenna; (a) conventional UWB antenna (b) miniaturized UWB antenna (c) miniaturized UWB with non-resonant horizontal strip (hanger) (d) miniaturized UWB with integrated wlan, gps, gsm, and rfid CLLRs elements (e) geometry of CLLRs (units: mm)

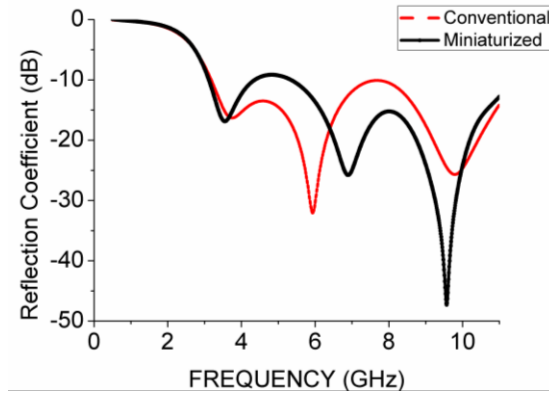


Fig.3. Combined return loss graph of antennas in Fig. 2(a) and Fig. 2(b) (conventional and miniaturized antennas)

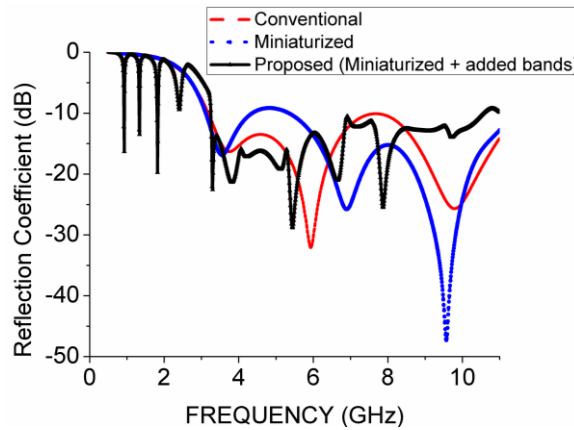


Fig.4. Combined S_{11} graphs of antennas in Figs. 2(a), 2(b) and 2(d) showing the effect of each stage

Table I. Calculated and Optimized Strip Lengths for Various Resonant Frequencies Integrated with the UWB Band

Frequency (GHz)	Total Length (mm)	Initial (calculated)	Final (Optimized)
0.95	L1	48.0	45.0
1.3	L2	35.1	35.0
1.8	L3	25.4	25.0
2.4	L4	19.0	14.5

4. Integrated Multiband Design

The multiband band design is integrated to the miniaturized UWB antenna discussed in section 3. Here, the space created on the radiator, due to the cut, is used to accommodate the multiband resonant elements. To realize the multiband performance, as shown in Fig. 2(d), additional resonant strips (CLLRs) are placed at the space created from the cut. Firstly, a horizontal non-resonant element is attached to the top of the miniaturized

UWB antenna to serve as a “hanger” for the resonant elements as shown in Fig. 2(c). For a desired resonant frequency, the total length of each element is given by $L_{\text{total}} \approx \lambda_g / 4$ where λ_g is given by $\lambda_g \approx \lambda_0 / (\epsilon_r + 1)$. Using these values, the length of each strip can be obtained and further optimized to obtain a desired value. The initial and final values are shown in Table I.

The effect of adding the resonant strips is also shown in Fig. 4.

5. Results and Discussion

The printed antenna is fabricated and then measured with an Agilent N5230A PNA-L and a SATIMO measurement system. The picture of the fabricated prototype is shown in Fig. 5. The simulated and measured reflection coefficients are plotted in Fig. 6. The results show that the proposed antenna can cover the UWB band from 3.1 – 10.6 GHz with four additional distinct bands for $\text{VSWR} \leq 2$ (or $S_{11} \leq 9.5$ dB). The measured results and simulated results agree well. The discrepancy is due to the attached SMA connector and fabrication imperfections, especially with the narrow bands. Additionally, the close proximity of the resonant elements causes a little problem with achieving the exact bandwidth for each resonant point. This is one of the main challenges of the proposed method. Nonetheless, satisfactory results were achieved.

The E-field distribution of the proposed antenna is shown in Fig. 7. At each distinct resonant frequency, it can be noticed that one CLLR element is resonant. At this frequency, the CLLR element acts like a quarter wave monopole, following the equation in Section 4.

Figure 8 shows the radiation patterns at different frequencies. The E-plane (xoy , $\theta = -90$) and H-plane (yoz , $\phi = 90$) are shown on the left and right columns respectively. It can be noticed that a monopole-like radiation pattern is realized in the E plane and an omni-directional radiation pattern is realized in the H-plane. It can be noticed that both the UWB antenna and the integrated bands achieve very stable radiation patterns especially in the H-plane, but with some discrepancy in the E-plane. This is due to the SMA connector and fabrication imperfections. However, these discrepancies in the E-plane are somewhat common with planar monopole antennas [10], [11].

The group delay is shown in Fig. 9. Group delay is a very important requirement in UWB antennas since it represents the degree of distortion in the pulse signal. The group delay should be almost constant for good pulse transmission. As noticed in Fig. 9. The UWB frequency range maintains quite a stable ripple of about ≤ 1 ns in almost the entire UWB band. The other narrow bands otherwise show highly varying group delays as expected. It is therefore satisfactory to say that, even with the added narrow-bands on the same UWB antenna, the integrity of the UWB antennas-performance isn't distorted.

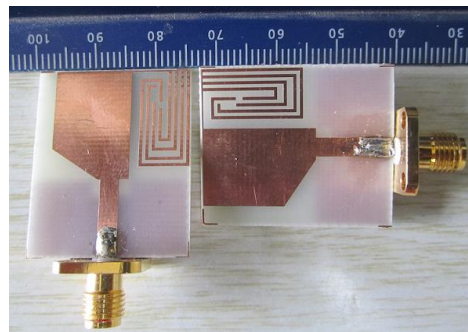


Fig.5. Photograph of the fabricated prototype

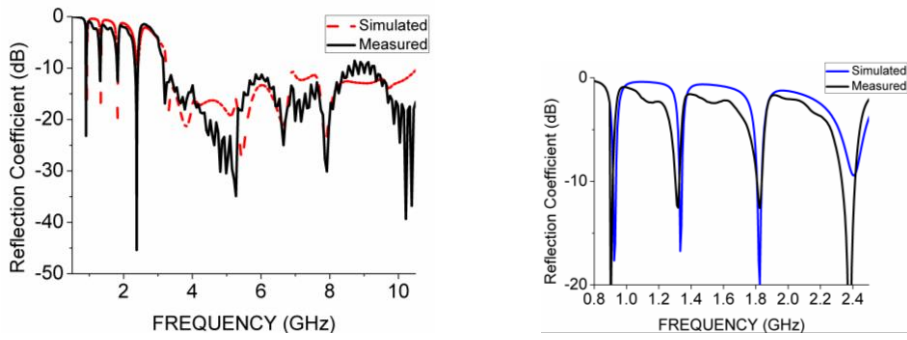


Fig.6. Simulated and measured results of the proposed multiband antenna showing the effectiveness of proposed technique. NB. Diagram on the right shows enlarged picture of the added bands for visibility

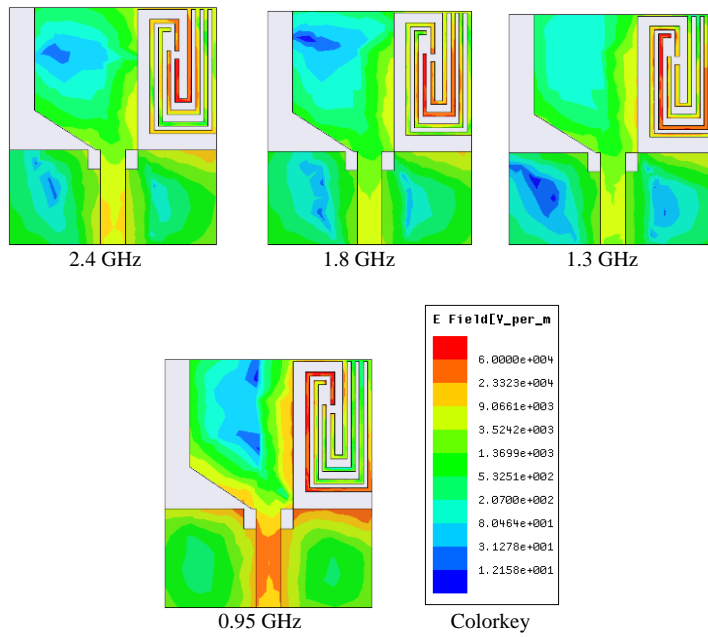


Fig.7. E-field distribution at different resonant points

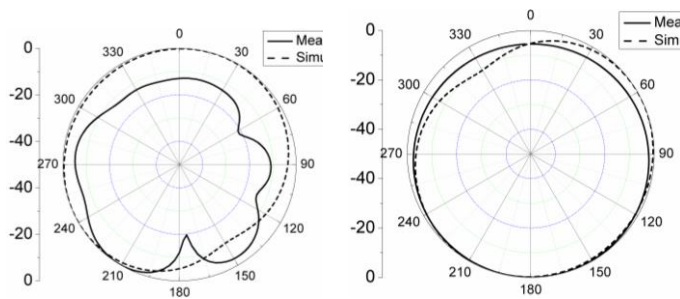


Fig.8. (a): E-(left) and H-(right) plane radiation pattern of the penta-band antenna at 0.95

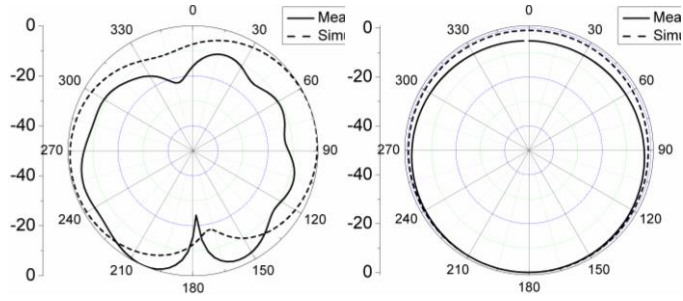


Fig.8. (b): E-(left) and H-(right) plane radiation pattern of the penta-band antenna at 1.3 GHz

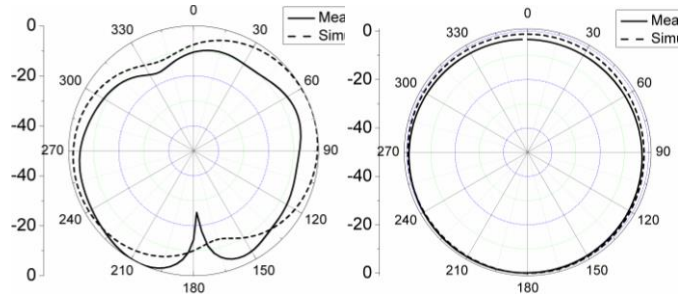


Fig.8. (c): E-(left) and H-(right) plane radiation pattern of the penta-band antenna at 1.8 GHz

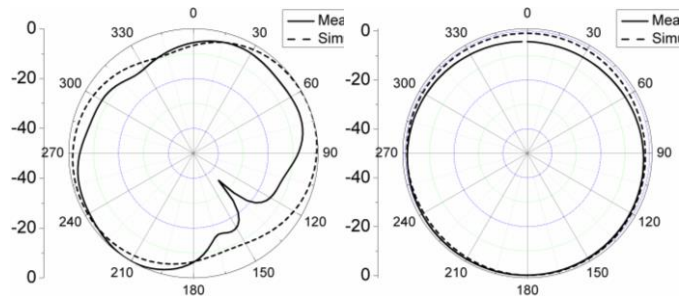


Fig.8. (d): E-(left) and H-(right) plane radiation pattern of the penta-band antenna at 2.5 GHz

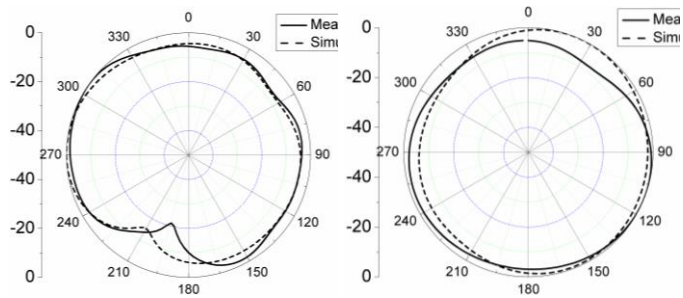


Fig.8. (e): E-(left) and H-(right) plane radiation pattern of the penta-band antenna at 6 GHz

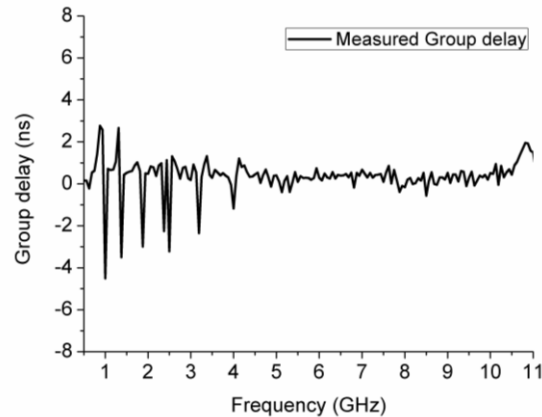


Fig.9. Measured group delay of proposed antenna

6. Conclusions

A planar monopole UWB antenna with integrated narrow communication frequency bands is presented. The UWB frequency band in the proposed penta-band antenna was satisfied by using about half of the conventional radiator size, with affecting its performance, thereby creating extra space to implement the narrow band technique for achieving a penta-band antenna with the same size. The narrow bands were achieved by using quarter wavelength folded CLLRs “hanged” from a non-resonant horizontal strip attached to the top of the miniaturized rectangular radiator. The measured results show that the proposed antenna has been designed for 3.1 – 10.6 GHz UWB band, 2.4 GHz WLAN band, 1.8 GHz GSM band, 1.3 GHz GPS band and 0.95 GHz RFID band, resulting in a miniaturized multiband antenna. The proposed antenna provides a new technique in achieving a multiband UWB antenna and is suitable for portable handheld and/or indoor wireless communication systems. Further research will be focused on introducing circular polarization into the GPS band.

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Authors' Profiles



Mubarak Sani Ellis was born in Accra, Ghana. He received his B.S degree in Telecommunication Engineering at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana, and his M.S degree in Microwave and Photonics Engineering in Chalmers University of Technology, Gothenburg, Sweden. He received his PhD in recognition to his contribution in the field of Planar Monopole Ultrawideband Antenna design in University of Electronic Science and Technology, Chengdu-China. His research interests include planar monopole ultrawideband antennas, circularly polarized planar antennas, printed wideband antennas, slot antennas and unidirectional antennas. He is currently a Lecturer in the department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (Telecommunication) at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology.



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In the area of information dissemination in Vehicular Networks he together with his research team have developed a Minimum Spanning Tree clustering algorithm which substantially reduces the traffic overhead as far as information sharing in vehicles is concerned. His research interest is also in the application of computer modelling in emergency situations where he together with his team are developing an emergency call routing algorithm for disaster management in which they are proposing an algorithm which gives priority to distressed calls from emergency situations and as a result reducing the response time. In the area of wireless communication, he has worked on the development of circularly polarized slot antennas for multiband

applications. Together with other collaborators he has worked on the possibility of using the orbital angular momentum of the EM wave for information transmission. The preliminary results have shown this to be possible and this has the potential of dealing with the problem of bandwidth limitation in the wireless band. He has published several research articles in peer refereed journals and conferences. He has also served on the Technical Planning Committee (TPC) of several reputable international conferences.

He serves as reviewer for reputable international journals in the field of telecommunication engineering. He is an active member of the Institution of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) as well as the Ghana Institution of Engineers (GhIE).

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