Dual-Band Dual-Linear Polarization Reflectarray for mmWaves/5G Applications

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ABSTRACT A dual-band dual-linear polarization reflectarray configuration is developed for future 5G cellular applications. A single layer unit cell including two pairs of miniaturized fractal patches is designed to operate at two distinct frequencies within the Ka-band (27/32 GHz), in a dual-polarization mode. An in-depth analysis of the unit cell behavior is carried out, to demonstrate the total independence between the designed frequency bands and polarizations. The proposed configuration offers a very simply and thin structure, small unit cell sizes, and low losses, while leading to an independent optimization of the phase at each frequency and polarization. A dual-band/dual-polarized reflectarray prototype is designed and tested, thus demonstrating the unit cell flexibility to offer arbitrary beam directions/shapes at each frequency, for both polarizations.

INDEX TERMS Reflectarray, dual-band, dual-polarization, 5G, millimeter waves.

I. INTRODUCTION Currently, the international telecommunication scientific community is focused on the development of the enabling technologies for next generation 5G communication systems. 5G wireless communication networks are expected to meet the growing demand for higher data rates (i.e. 1-10 Gbps), lower network latencies, and better energy efficiency [1]. To address these demands, 5G systems will use millimeter wave (mmw) frequencies, which represent one of the key enabling technologies in the implementation of 5G networks. As a matter of the fact, the unlicensed/underutilized mmw frequency bands provide great amount of available spectrum resources that can support the requirements for high data rate and low latency [1]–[3]. Conversely, mmw technology requires high gain antenna systems [4]–[6] to compensate for the intrinsic higher path loss, mainly due to the atmospheric absorption of electromagnetic waves at higher frequencies. To this end, microstrip reflectarrays could represent a very attractive solution for designing high gain antennas for 5G systems [7], [8]. As well known, microstrip reflectarrays consist of an array of printed radiators illuminated by a feed antenna. Each element in the array is designed to introduce a proper phase delay in the re-radiated field component, giving an overall radiation pattern with a prescribed beam direction and/or shape [7]–[12]. Reflectarrays can provide very high efficiencies, due to the adopted spatial feeding approach [7]. Furthermore, they offer several reconfiguration capabilities, such as beam-steering [7], [13]–[17], multi-beam radiation patterns [7], [13], multi-band functions and/or polarization diversity [19]–[23].

In this paper, the design of a single layer dual-band/dual-polarized reflectarray cell is discussed. The proposed unit cell consists of four miniaturized fractal-based elements printed on a grounded dielectric substrate. The patches are grouped into two pairs, each one operating at two distinct frequencies within the Ka-band (i.e. 27 and 32 GHz). The single pair is composed of two linearly polarized patches, which are rotated 90 degrees with respect to each other, thus realizing the double polarization operation at both frequencies. The reflection phase can be separately adjusted, in correspondence of each frequency/polarization, by independently varying a proper defined scaling factor for each element. The same concept has already been adopted by the authors in [24] to design a dual-band (28/38 GHz) reflectarray unit cell. Furthermore, a preliminary investigation of the proposed cell has been illustrated in [25]. Unlike existing multiband and/or dual polarized reflectarray configurations, the proposed reflectarray cell allows to achieve the following benefits: a simpler and thinner structure (h \( \cong 0.027 \lambda \)) at the upper frequency) with respect to the most multilayer stacked configurations [19, 20]; smaller unit cell sizes at both operating frequencies (\( \cong 0.49\lambda \)).
The proposed dual-band/dual-polarized reflectarray cell is composed by two pairs of miniaturized patches printed on the same substrate layer (Fig. 1). Each pair operates at a specific resonant frequency (i.e. $f_1$ and $f_2$ - see Fig.1(a)). Two linearly polarized elements are assumed, which are rotated each other by 90 degrees, thus offering a dual polarization operation mode (i.e. x/y-polarized - see Fig.1(a)) at both frequencies. The layout of the single patch embedded into the cell is derived from the 1st iteration fixed-length fractal patch (Fig. 1(c)), proposed by the authors in [26], [27]. The element is characterized by a beginning square patch of dimensions $L_{fp} \times L_{fp} (p = 1, 2; x, y$ in Fig. 1(a)). A smaller ($S_{fp} L_{fp} \times S_{fp} L_{fp}$)-square is removed from the center of both resonant sides of the beginning patch. $S_{fp}$ is the fractal-scaling factor that may vary from 0 up to 0.45. The reflection phase tuning is realized by independently varying the fractal scaling factors $S_{fp}$, leaving unchanged the patches size $L_{fp} \times L_{fp}$.

As demonstrated in [26]–[29], the main benefit of fractal geometries is that a greater electrical length can be fitted into a smaller physical area; namely, the fractal metallic patch should be miniaturized in order to obtain the resonance at the desired operating frequency.

The adopted fractal shape (Fig. 1(c)), for example, allows to achieve an appreciable reduction in size (up to 50%) with respect to the standard square patch. As depicted in Fig. 2, illustrating the simulated reflection phase of a 1st iteration fractal patch, printed on a Diclad880 substrate ($\varepsilon_r = 2.24, h = 0.254$mm), an increasingly smaller resonant frequency is obtained by progressively increasing the scaling factor $S$ from 0 up to 0.35, for a fixed value of the patch length.

In particular, the resonance frequency moves from the square patch resonant value of 28 GHz down to 17.5 GHz ($S = 0.35$), which is equivalent to a 37.5% size reduction. This latter behavior demonstrates the high miniaturization capability of the proposed fractal element, which becomes more relevant when a greater value of the scaling factor $S$ is considered (Fig. 2) and/or the fractal construction is progressively reiterated [27]. However, the feasibility of the proposed configuration, especially for reiterated fractal construction, can be guaranteed up to a certain frequency ($\leq 50\pm 55$GHz), which is correlated to the substrate features as well as to the accuracy of the adopted fabrication process [30].
(WRC-19) [31]. Greater frequency ratios ($f_2/f_1$) can be synthesized through the use of the designed dual-band fractal cell [24], by properly choosing the fractal dimensions, $L_{dp}$ and $S_{dp}$. As a matter of the fact, the operating frequency of each pair of patches is inversely proportional to the effective side lengths, $L_{eff} = (1 + S_{dp})L_{dp}$, so the longer the effective fractal side is, the smaller the resonant frequency will be and vice versa. Then, the achievable ($f_2/f_1$)-ratio depends on the following parameters: the maximum $L_{dp}$-values imposed by the unit cell size, $\Delta x \times \Delta y$; the maximum frequency value (i.e. $f_2$) due to the actual feasibility of the fractal-structure (see Section II.A).

In the example presented in this work, a Diclad880 dielectric substrate, having $\varepsilon_r = 2.24$ and $h = 0.254$mm (Fig. 1(b)), is considered. A commercial full-wave code is adopted as analysis tool, imposing the infinite periodic array conditions [32]. A normal incident plane wave is applied. A periodicity equal to $\Delta x = \Delta y = 5.5$ mm is fixed, corresponding to $0.49\lambda$ at 27 GHz and $0.58\lambda$ at 32 GHz.

Taking into account the fractal patch behavior illustrated in Fig. 2 and following the design rules outlined in [26], the desired dual-resonant/dual-polarization unit cell is synthesized, by fixing the patches dimensions (i.e. $L_{dp}$ and $S_{dp}$) to the values reported in Fig. 3. As a matter of the fact, a dual resonant behavior can be observed in the unit cell reflection phase and amplitude (i.e. $\arg(R)$ in Fig. 3(a) and $\text{abs}(R)$ in Fig. 3(b)), computed both in the case of an x-polarized incident wave (see $R_{xx}$) as well as in the case of a y-polarized one (see $R_{yy}$). Furthermore, Fig. 3(c) shows very low cross-polarization levels (i.e. $R_{xy}$) at both frequencies ($\sim -38$dB).

As depicted in Fig. 4, a negligible mutual coupling between the two bands is obtained for both polarizations, assuring an independent phase tuning mechanism for each frequency/polarization, by simply changing the corresponding scaling factors (i.e. $S_{1x}$ for $f_1 = 27$ GHz / x-polarization; $S_{1y}$ for $f_1 = 27$ GHz / y-polarization; $S_{2x}$ for $f_2 = 32$ GHz / x-polarization; $S_{2y}$ for $f_2 = 32$ GHz / y-polarization), within the values ranges reported in Fig. 4.

In order to give a more exhaustive description of the designed dual-band/dual polarized unit cell, Fig. 5 illustrates the variations in phase of the coefficients $R_{xx}$ and $R_{yy}$, at 27 GHz (Fig. 5(a, b)) and 32 GHz (Fig. 5(c, d)), with respect to the scaling factors of the patches polarized in the corresponding directions.

As it can be observed, the phase response at 27 GHz can be completely controlled by the scaling factors $S_{1x}$ and $S_{1y}$, while the phase response at 32 GHz can be independently tuned by varying the scaling factors $S_{2x}$ and $S_{2y}$. As a matter of the fact, a quite constant reflection phase can be observed @ 27 GHz (Fig. 5(a, b)), by changing the scaling factors $S_{2p}$ ($p = x, y$ in Fig. 1(a)) for a fixed $S_{1p}$-value (Fig. 3). Similar considerations can be extrapolated from Fig. 5(c, d) at the frequency $f_2 = 32$ GHz.

Furthermore, Fig. 6 shows the polarizations independence of the cell at both frequencies. As a matter of the fact, a quite constant reflection phase can be observed @ 27 GHz (Fig. 6(a, b)), by changing the scaling factors $S_{1y}$ for a fixed $S_{1x}$-value (Fig. 6(a)) and vice versa (Fig. 6(b)). Similar considerations can be extrapolated from Fig. 6(c, d) at the frequency $f_2 = 32$ GHz.
Finally, Table 2 shows the main structural benefits offered by the proposed cell, with respect to the existing multiband and/or dual polarized reflectarray configurations. In particular, a thinner profile can be observed, compared to the most multilayer stacked configurations [19], [20], while smaller unit cell sizes are achieved with respect to the other single-layer configurations [21], [22].

C. PARAMETRIC ANALYSIS OF THE PROPOSED UNIT CELL

In order to give a more comprehensive characterization of the proposed dual-band/dual-linear polarized unit cell, a parametric analysis of reflection coefficient behavior is performed, by varying the substrate thickness and the incident angle of the impinging plane wave.

Fig. 7 illustrates the unit cell reflection coefficient vs frequency, for different substrate thicknesses. Table 2 shows the dimensions of the synthesized unit cells that are respectively printed on a substrate layer with a thickness-value ranging from 0.254 mm (≈ 0.027λ @ 32GHz) up to 0.508 mm (≈ 0.054λ @ 32GHz). As it is well known, the use of a thicker substrate allows to reduce the reflection losses, that vary from −1.5 dB down to −0.36 dB. Furthermore, smoother phase curves can be achieved, giving improved bandwidth performances. In this regards, it is important to stress how the substrate thicknesses remain very small compared to the multilayer dual-band unit cells proposed in the literature [19], [20]. Furthermore, very low cross-polarization levels (abs(R_{xy}) < −38dB) are obtained at both frequencies, in the case of normal incidence. Similar results are achieved when a y-polarized plane wave is considered as source. However, as it can be guessed from Fig. 7(b), the achievable phase range vs the scaling factors S_{np} becomes smaller when the substrate thickness increases (in the case of the cells considered in Table 2, for example, the phase range results to be equal to 340° for h = 0.254mm, 325° for h = 0.381mm and 305° for h = 0.508mm). For the above reasons, it is essential to find the right tradeoff between unit cell phase ranges, losses and bandwidth, during the synthesis stage of the reflectarray cell.

Finally, the reflection phase of the synthesized cell is computed by assuming an oblique incident plane wave, for both polarizations. Figs. 8 and 9 show acceptable phase variations under 20° and 30° oblique incidences, as compared to the normal case, both in the principal plane, φ = 0° (Fig. 8), as well as in the (φ = 30°)-plane (Fig. 9). As a matter of the fact, very similar phase curves can be observed, at both operating frequencies and for both polarizations, with a maximum phase error less or equal to 20°. Furthermore, a quite

TABLE 1. Comparison of unit cell sizes and thickness.

| Cell stratification | f_1 [GHz] | f_2 [GHz] | Cell sizes [mm] | Cell thickness [mm] |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Proposed configuration | 27 | 32 | 0.58λ@f_1, 0.027λ@f_2 |
| [19] Multi-layer | 12 | 19.5 | 0.65λ@f_1, 0.25λ@f_2 |
| [20] Multi-layer | 10 | 15 | 0.46λ@f_1, 0.21λ@f_2 |
| [21] Single layer | 8.2 | 13.2 | 0.75λ@f_1, 0.3λ@f_2 |
| [22] Single layer | 10.2 | 22 | 0.63λ@f_1, 0.1λ@f_2 |

TABLE 2. Unit cell sizes for different substrate thicknesses.

| h [mm] | L_{1x}[mm] (S_{1x}) | L_{1y}[mm] (S_{1y}) | L_{2x}[mm] (S_{2x}) | L_{2y}[mm] (S_{2y}) |
|--------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 0.254  | 2.48(0.29)           | 2.48(0.29)           | 2.32(0.23)           | 2.32(0.23)           |
| 0.381  | 2.49(0.28)           | 2.48(0.28)           | 2.31(0.21)           | 2.32(0.21)           |
| 0.508  | 2.44(0.28)           | 2.41(0.28)           | 2.23(0.21)           | 2.24(0.22)           |
good polarizations independence at both frequencies is also demonstrated for the case of an oblique incident plane wave (Figs. 10 and 11). In particular, Figs. 10 and 11 illustrate the unit cell reflection phase behavior out of the principal planes, namely for an incident direction equal to \((\theta_{\text{inc}}, \phi_{\text{inc}}) = (30^\circ, 30^\circ)\). A similar behavior can be observed in the unit cell phase response with respect to those achieved in the case of normal incidence (Figs. 5 and 6), with a maximum phase deviation of about 25°, which can be considered quite acceptable. Finally, Fig. 12 shows the cross polarization level of the cell for different incident angles. In particular, it can be observed that the cross-polarization increases in the \((\phi = 30^\circ)\)-plane, but still remaining considerably lower than \(-23\text{dB}\). Conversely, negligible variations can be observed in the unit cell cross-polarized components, for different values of the incident angle \(\theta_{\text{inc}}\). The above analysis leads to consider the proposed configuration quite independent on the angle of incidence.

### III. NUMERICAL VALIDATION OF A DUAL-BAND DUAL-LINEAR POLARIZATION REFLECTARRAY

The proposed dual-band/dual-polarized unit cell is adopted to design two reflectarrays operating within the Ka-band, which is under consideration for 5G. The low mutual coupling between the two designed frequency bands and polarizations, allows to separately synthesize four sets of miniaturized patches (each identified by \(L_{1x}, L_{1y}, L_{2x}\) and \(L_{2y}\) - see Fig.1). A synthesis algorithm, based on the iterative projection method [33], is applied to compute the crucial phase distribution on each of the four elements embedded into the \((n,m)\)-array cells. A set of upper- and lower-bound masks [33] is properly defined, imposing the desired constraints on the patterns radiated at each considered frequency and polarization. The implemented synthesis algorithm returns four sets of phase coefficients \(\phi_{fp}(n,m)\) to be imposed on the \((n,m)\)-reflectarray cells. These last data are finally adopted to select the scaling factors \(S_{fp}(n,m)\) of each of the four elements embedded into the \((n,m)\) reflectarray cells, by using the computed design curves depicted in Fig. 4. To this end, a research routine is defined that fits the desired \(\phi_{fp}(n,m)\) values onto the simulated phase curves, finally returning the corresponding scaling factors \(S_{fp}(n,m)\). More details on the adopted research routine are reported in [13], [33].

In the following sections, two different reflectarray designs are illustrated. The first one (Design #1 - Section A) aims to prove the versatility of the proposed configuration in achieving arbitrary beam directions/shapes at each frequency and polarization. For the sake of simplicity, a normally impinging plane wave is considered as source, thus neglecting the effect of a real feed. The second example (Design #2 - Section B) is a more complex design, including an offset dual-polarized feed. In this case, more details on the antenna parameters/performances (i.e. F/D value, feed position, gain and aperture efficiency, etc.) are discussed.
Fig. 15. Schematic layout of the designed reflectarray prototype.

Fig. 14. Full-wave simulation of the synthesized reflectarray patterns (H-plane, i.e. xz-plane in Fig. 1): (a) x-polarized component at 32 GHz; (b) y-polarized component at 32 GHz.

Fig. 13. Full-wave simulation of the synthesized reflectarray patterns (H-plane, i.e. xz-plane in Fig. 1): (a) x-polarized component at 27 GHz; (b) y-polarized component at 27 GHz.

**A. DESIGN #1**

A 3 x 15 reflectarray prototype illuminated by a normally incident plane wave is synthesized to demonstrate the high versatility of the proposed unit cell in achieving arbitrary and independent beam directions and/or shapes (i.e. multi-beam or cosecant-beam patterns) at each frequency and each polarization. In particular, the coefficients over the reflectarray cells, and therefore the elements’ scaling factors, are synthesized by imposing the following constraints: the x-polarized elements (i.e. \( L_{1x}, S_{1x} \)), working at 27 GHz, are chosen to achieve a dual-beam radiation pattern pointing towards the directions \( \theta_{MB1} = -15^\circ \) and \( \theta_{MB2} = +15^\circ \), in the H-plane (Fig. 13(a)); the y-polarized 27 GHz-elements (i.e. \( L_{1y}, S_{1y} \)), are synthesized to steer the main-lobe towards the direction \( \theta_{MB} = -17.5^\circ \), in the H-plane (Fig. 13(b)); whilst the elements working at 32 GHz are respectively chosen to point the main beam at \( \theta_{MB} = 0^\circ \) (x-polarized elements, i.e. \( L_{2x}, S_{2x} \)) and to radiate a cosecant shaped pattern (y-polarized elements, i.e. \( L_{2y}, S_{2y} \)), in the H-plane (Fig. 14).

The full-wave simulations of the overall reflectarray structure are reported in Figs. 13 and 14. A normally incident plane-wave is considered (x-polarized for the case illustrated in Figs. 13(a) and 14(a); y-polarized for the case depicted in Figs. 13(b) and 14(b)). Quite low cross-polar components can be observed in Figs. 13, 14.

Finally, a very good agreement can be appreciated between the simulated radiation patterns and the imposed synthesis constraints (Figs. 13, 14), showing the effectiveness/versatility of the adopted dual-band/dual-polarized unit cell.

**B. DESIGN #2**

A 15 x 15 reflectarray is designed to independently steer the main lobes at the two different operating frequencies (i.e \( \theta_{MB} = 20^\circ \) at 27 GHz and \( \theta_{MB} = 13^\circ \) at 32 GHz, in the E-plane), for both polarizations.

The reflecting surface is illuminated by a dual-polarization horn (e.g. A-Info, LB-SJ-180400, 18-40 GHz Dual Polarization Horn Antenna) which is placed in the E-plane (i.e. the yz-plane in Fig. 15), at a distance of 135 mm from the reflecting surface, with an offset angle of about 20° (F/D ≈ 1.2).

The horn is characterized by a 15 dB-gain, with an average 3dB-beamwidth value respectively equal to 34°, at 27GHz, and to 30°, at 32GHz. The four fractal elements, embedded into each unit cell, are properly synthesized to compensate for the phase delay in the paths from the feed, as well as to introduce a proper phase contribution able to meet the imposed synthesis constraints [13], [32]. Figs. 16 and 17 show the computed radiation patterns of the synthesized antenna (continuous lines), in the E-plane (i.e. yz-plane in Fig. 15). It is possible to observe how a proper choice of the four sets of miniaturized patches allows to focalize the patterns along the desired directions at each considered frequency and polarization. Furthermore, very low cross-polarization levels can be observed in the same figures (dashed lines).

To highlight the effectiveness of the proposed reflectarray in achieving a well-defined set of focalized beams, Figs. 16 and 17 show the comparison with the uncompensated patterns (dotted lines), namely the patterns that would be radiated by an array of 15 x 15 identical cells, illuminated by the same feed. As it is well known, this array could not be able to compensate for the phase delay in the paths from the feed, thus being unable to focus the beam along the desired directions, as compared to the synthesized reflectarray.

Fig. 18 illustrates the gain patterns vs frequency, computed respectively along \( \theta_{MB} = 20^\circ \), in the case of the 27 GHz-radiation pattern, and along \( \theta_{MB} = 13^\circ \), in the case of the 32GHz-radiation pattern.

A greater gain peak value (≈ 25.7dB) can be observed for the 32GHz-pattern (i.e. the gain difference between the two operating frequencies is about 2.8 dB), mainly due to the greater electrical size and the lower spillover,
characterizing the antenna aperture at the higher operating frequency (32 GHz). Furthermore, the simulated gain patterns show a 1dB gain bandwidth approximately equal to 2.4% at both operating frequencies.

The antenna efficiency, obtained as the ratio between the computed gain and the maximum directivity ($D = 4\pi A/\lambda^2$), A being the area of the reflectarray surface, is relatively small. As a matter of fact, the small size of the reflecting surface, in conjunction with the large feed beam-width, causes very high spillover losses, giving an aperture efficiency equal to the following values: 29% (at 27 GHz) and 38% (at 32 GHz). Anyway, it is important to stress how the reflectarray prototype is designed for the unique purpose of demonstrating the effectiveness of the proposed configuration in offering an independent control of antenna radiation features, at both considered frequencies and polarizations. For this reason, the other antenna performances (i.e. efficiency, bandwidth, etc.) are not properly optimized at this stage.

IV. EXPERIMENTAL VALIDATION OF THE UNIT CELL

In order to give a preliminary experimental validation of the proposed dual-band/dual-polarized unit cell, a small array prototype is realized and tested in the Microwave Laboratory of the University of Calabria (Fig. 19). The array is printed on a Diclad880 substrate, having $\varepsilon_r = 2.24$ and $h = 0.254\text{mm}$. A periodicity equal to 5.5 mm is fixed in both directions. The patches embedded in each unit cell are characterized by the following dimensions: $L_1x = L_1y = 2.485\text{mm}$ – $S_1x = S_1y = 0.31$, $L_2x = L_2y = 2.32\text{mm}$ – $S_2x = S_2y = 0.25$, giving a minimum distance between two adjacent patches equal to 0.3 mm. The cell operates in a dual band mode in correspondence of about 28 GHz and 33 GHz, in both x and y polarizations.

Two identical transmitting and receiving standard horn antennas (operating within the $[26.5 \div 40]$ GHz frequency band), are adopted to detect the field reflected by the array along the broadside direction in the far-field region [9], for both polarizations. The reflection phase curve of the cell is...
FIGURE 20. Measured phase curves vs frequency for different polarizations.

FIGURE 21. Photograph of the dual-band/dual-polarized reflectarray prototype.

FIGURE 22. Simulated 3D patterns for Y-polarization at $f_1 = 28.7$ GHz.

FIGURE 23. Simulated patterns for Y-polarization at $f_1 = 32.8$ GHz.

FIGURE 24. Measured and simulated radiation patterns for X-polarization at (a) $f_1 = 28.7$ GHz; (b) $f_2 = 32.8$ GHz.

measured within the frequency range 26.5–36 GHz (Fig. 20). A full phase variation around both operating frequencies, for both polarizations, can be observed.

A small frequency shift can be identified between the two different polarizations, mainly due to the manufacturing errors tolerance related to the adopted printed circuit board (PCB) milling process [34], as well as to possible misalignments between the prototype and the horn antennas system. Anyway, the effects due to the above errors can be reduced by adopting a more precise fabrication process, as that described in [30], [35]. In conclusion, it can be stated that the experimental results confirm the dual band/dual-polarized behavior of the proposed configuration.

V. DESIGN AND TEST OF DUAL-BAND DUAL-LINEAR POLARIZATION REFLECTARRAY

In order to test the ability of the proposed cell in producing independent beams at two different frequencies and polarizations, a $15 \times 15$ reflectarray prototype (Fig. 21) is designed and experimentally tested. Figures 22 and 23 show the 3D plot of the synthesized patterns in $u$-$v$ coordinates, where $u = \sin \theta \cos \phi$ and $v = \sin \theta \sin \phi$. In order to avoid the feed blockage effects in measurements, the main beam deviation is performed along the H-plane (i.e. the $xz$-plane in Fig. 15, namely $\phi = 0^\circ$), normal to the plane containing the feed (i.e. $yz$-plane in Fig. 15). As depicted in Figs. 22 and 23, the antenna is designed to point its main beams along the direction equal to $15^\circ$, in the H-plane, at the first frequency $f_1 = 28.7$ GHz (see the co-polar pattern in Fig. 22), and along the direction equal to $30^\circ$ at the second frequency $f_2 = 32.8$ GHz (see the co-polar pattern in Fig. 23). The aforementioned synthesis constraints are imposed for both X and Y polarization components. Very low cross-polar components can be appreciated at both frequencies, for all directions of observation (Figs. 22-23).

In order to prove the effectiveness of the proposed design, a far-field facility is adopted to test the antenna. In Figs. 24 and 25, the measured co-polar patterns are successfully compared to the simulated results. A very small shift in the main beam positions and some higher side lobes can be observed. These latter are mainly due to possible manufacturing errors and misalignments in the adopted measurement system. The measured cross-polar components are also
reported in the same figures, showing very lower intensity levels (about −30dB) with respect to the co-polar field.

In conclusion, the achieved experimental results provide a satisfactory preliminary validation of the proposed configuration, which can be considered very promising for dual-band dual-polarization applications.

VI. CONCLUSION

A novel dual-polarized reflectarray cell has been introduced to cover two different frequency bands centered at 27 and 32 GHz. The proposed configuration provides very small cell sizes and a very thin single layer structure. A thoroughly parametric analysis of the unit cell has been performed, demonstrating the independence between the designed frequency bands and polarizations. The proposed compact cell has been successful adopted to demonstrate reflectarrays capabilities in achieving arbitrary beam directions/shapes, under the dual-band/dual-polarization operation mode. A successful experimental validation of the proposed configuration has been performed and discussed. Due to its versatility, the proposed dual-band/dual-polarized reflectarray cell is strongly appealing for future 5G applications.

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