A Compact Bow-tie Shaped Wide-band Microstrip Patch Antenna for Future 5G Communication Networks

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Abstract. In this paper, a novel compact bow-tie shaped microstrip patch antenna for wide-band application is presented. The proposed geometry consists of a modified bow-tie structure at the top of the Rogers RT-5880 substrate with a 50 Ω feed-line and 8 x 8 mm² full ground-plane. The diagonal slots inside the geometry have been implemented for exact resonating. The circuit analysis and various parametric analyses of the proposed geometry have been studied. The prototype of the antenna resonates at 27.77 GHz. The antenna has a fractional bandwidth of 6.77% (26.81–28.69 GHz) in simulation and 6.30% (26.89–28.64 GHz) in measurement respectively. The measured linear gain and radiation efficiency of the antenna are 7.00 dBi and 74% respectively. Also, it has a low sidelobe-level and cross-polarization level over the entire space. The proposed wide-band antenna gives good time-domain characteristics as well as provides an acceptable FBR and impedance matching over the resonating band. All the properties suggest that the proposed antenna suits well for 5G communication along with various wireless systems.

Keywords
Bow-tie shape, microstrip patch antenna, 5G communication, millimeter wave

1. Introduction

Due to the mobile wireless technology era, the rapid developments is occurred in mobile communication from 0th Generation to 4th Generation. Recent development in 4G technology has several uses, like machine communication, remote host observing, and video call data. It has many applications but is not able to solve the problem of weak coverage, bad quality, poor connections, and inter-connectivity. To meet the high data rates, mobile communication needs to promote the next generation (5G) [1]. The millimeter band has been used for the 5G mobile communications. Some of the estimated bands suggested for 5G communications are 28 GHz, 33 GHz, and many more [1–2]. To fulfill the required criteria, the microstrip patch antennas are a suitable approach. For practical applications, the size of the antenna and bandwidth is the major concern for antenna designers.

Microstrip patch antenna has many advantages like easy fabrication, low cost, small size, and high efficiency [3, 4]. Furthermore, fractal geometry has been used for antenna size reduction [5]. In [6], the authors presented the Sierpinski fractal-based bow-tie antenna geometry for high directivity and small size. The bow-tie geometry has a symmetric property which helps to improve the radiation pattern. The authors of [7] reported the bow-tie geometry’s application for GPS pipe detection. The 28 GHz millimeter-wave application, designing compact antennas is a challenging issue since reducing the dimensions of the ground plane shortens the current length path thereby resulting in the poor antenna matching at lower frequencies. In this regard, many millimeter-wave wide-band antennae have been reported in the literature [8–17]. Apart from size, the cross-polarization level of the antenna should be as low as possible to reduce the interference for better communication between the devices. Consequently, the antenna gains have to improve to mitigate the effect of the free space path loss at the mm-wave band. For this purpose, the antenna array with beam steering in the desired direction and low sidelobe level (SLL) array can be used [8, 9, 14, 16]. Many critical limitations present in designing wide-band antennas array for smaller mobile terminals in conjunction with good directivity and better impedance bandwidth. The proposed antenna design incorporates the major requisites for meeting the present requirements of a feasible wide-band system.

In this paper, a compact wide-band bow-tie shaped antenna geometry with good radiation pattern for 5G mobile communications has been presented. The resonating frequency of the antenna is 27.75 GHz. The proposed bow-tie antenna has a symmetric structure. The equivalent circuit diagram of the proposed bow-tie antenna is studied, in which the antenna acts as a parallel RLC load and a microstrip line as T/Pi matching network [18, 19]. The various parametric analysis of the geometry has been done by using Computer simulation technology (CST)–Microwave studio suite [20] and circuit analysis is simulated by using Cadence-virtuoso. The simulated and measured radiation pattern, the reflection
Section 4 gives the conclusion.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. Wide-band antenna configuration and circuit analysis have been described in Sec. 2. Section 3 discusses the antenna experimental results, prototype, parametric analysis, E-field distribution, radiation pattern, and time-domain characteristics. Section 4 gives the conclusion.

2. Wide-band Antenna Configuration

The procedure of radiating antenna design includes the geometry of antenna, feeding techniques, and the matching element is described in this section. The symmetric radiation pattern as well as directive gain from the antenna has been achieved by making symmetric geometry. The step formation of the proposed bow-tie geometry is shown in Fig. 1(a). Initially, the single oval shape which is indicated as 1 is considered and it is shown in Fig. 1(a). The next oval shapes are scaled down by 0.9 to the previous oval shapes and combined with all 6 oval shapes to make single-side geometry. Now, for the symmetry structure take mirror symmetry of the combined oval geometry over the vertical axis. Finally, the proposed bow-tie shaped geometry has been illustrated in Fig. 1(a).

The bow-tie geometry is placed on the top layer of the dielectric substrate Rogers RT-5880 having \( \varepsilon_r = 2.2 \) and tan\( \delta = 0.0009 \), which is shown in Fig. 1(b) [21]. The impedance matching between 50 \( \Omega \) antenna and thequarter wavelength (\( L_q \)) transmission line has been implemented. The top view and side view of the bow-tie antenna is depicted in Fig. 1(b) and (c), respectively. The thickness of the dielectric material is 0.787 mm and copper layers thickness is 0.017 mm. The diagonal slots inside the geometry have been

![Fig. 1](image-url)

**Fig. 1.** (a) Step formation of the proposed bow-tie geometry, (b) Proposed antenna Front-view, (c) Side-view. Dimensions (unit:mm): \( W_S=8.00, L_S=8.00, W_P=3.55, L_P=3.95, W_C=0.04, L_C=1.20, W_q=0.70, L_q=2.69, h_S=0.787, h_I=0.017, W_{SI}=2.42 \).

![Fig. 2](image-url)

**Fig. 2.** (a) Equivalent circuit diagram of antenna (i)-(iv): Antenna as RLC Load, T and Pi network, (b) \( S_{11} \) response, (c) Input impedance response. Parametric value of the components: \( R=50.53 \Omega, L=0.222 \mu H, C=0.147 \mu F, L_1=1.50 \mu H, L_2=1.50 \mu H, C_1=0.042 \mu F, L_1'=0.055 \mu H, L_2'=0.055 \mu H, C_Y=0.308 \mu F \).
etched to resonate the structure at 27.75 GHz. The area of the full ground plane is $8 \times 8 \text{ mm}^2$. The maximum length of the radiating patch is 3.95 mm. The overall size of the patch antenna is $3.55 \times 3.95 \times 0.821 \text{ mm}^3$. The detailed dimensions of the proposed geometry are given in Fig. 1. The formula relating the resonating frequency with side length is [3]:

$$f = \frac{c_0}{2L_P n v_{\text{eff}}}$$  \hspace{1cm} (1)

where $c_0$ is the free space light velocity, $f$ is the resonating frequency of the antenna, $v_{\text{eff}}$ is the effective dielectric constant of the substrate, $L_P$ is the side length of the geometry.

2.1 Circuit Analysis

The lumped equivalent circuit model of the proposed bow-tie antenna is illustrated in Fig. 2. In Fig. 2(a), the $Z_{\text{line}}$ is nothing but T or Pi matching network, and $Z_L$ is antenna as parallel RLC load. The value of the Resistance ($R$), Inductance ($L$) and Capacitance ($C$) can be calculated by the following equations (2–5):

$$C = \frac{W_P L_P \varepsilon_r \varepsilon_{\text{eff}}}{2 h_s},$$  \hspace{1cm} (2)

$$R = \frac{Q}{C \omega^2},$$  \hspace{1cm} (3)

$$L = \frac{1}{C \omega^2},$$  \hspace{1cm} (4)

$$Q = \frac{c_0 v_{\text{eff}}}{\kappa f h_s}.$$  \hspace{1cm} (5)

Here $W_P$ is the width of the proposed geometry. $\kappa$ is the constant and $Q$ is the quality factor. The $R$, $L$, and $C$ values are listed in Fig. 2. The load impedance becomes $Z_L = (0.999 + j0.002) \Omega$. The characteristic impedance of the transmission line is approximately $50 \Omega$. The equivalent circuit of the feed line is derived by considering T or Pi networks. The reason for choosing T/Pi equivalent network for the feed line is to keep similar type behavior in the S11 network. The reason for choosing T/Pi equivalent network is derived by considering T or Pi as parallel RLC load. The value of the Resistance ($R$), Inductance ($L$) and Capacitance ($C$) can be calculated by the following equations (2–5):

$$C = \frac{W_P L_P \varepsilon_r \varepsilon_{\text{eff}}}{2 h_s},$$  \hspace{1cm} (2)

$$R = \frac{Q}{C \omega^2},$$  \hspace{1cm} (3)

$$L = \frac{1}{C \omega^2},$$  \hspace{1cm} (4)

$$Q = \frac{c_0 v_{\text{eff}}}{\kappa f h_s}.$$  \hspace{1cm} (5)

Here $W_P$ is the width of the proposed geometry. $\kappa$ is the constant and $Q$ is the quality factor. The $R$, $L$, and $C$ values are listed in Fig. 2. The load impedance becomes $Z_L = (0.999 + j0.002) \Omega$. The characteristic impedance of the transmission line is approximately $50 \Omega$. The equivalent circuit of the feed line is derived by considering T or Pi networks. The reason for choosing T/Pi equivalent network for the feed line is to keep similar type behavior in the S11 parameter between the equivalent circuit and the proposed patch antenna [8].

The complete circuit equivalent models of an antenna having a T/Pi network followed by parallel RLC load are shown in Fig. 2(a)(i–iv). The total impedance of the circuit, while the T matching network is of $Z_{T N/\omega} = (1.009 + j0.0016) \Omega$ and for the Pi matching network is of $Z_{P N/\omega} = (1.007 - j0.0075) \Omega$ at resonating frequency. The component values of T/Pi networks are computed from the Smith Chart. All the equivalent circuit models of the single element have been simulated using Cadence software. The $S_{11}$ parameter of T/Pi networks are shown in Fig. 2(b), which resonates at a frequency of $27.75 \text{ GHz}$ with satisfactory bandwidth and return loss. The reason for getting larger bandwidth in the circuit model is the effect of fringing fields, dielectric material, and ground in the actual antenna are neglected in the model. The input impedance response of the network in the smith chart is illustrated in Fig. 2(c). It can be seen that the curve is passing through the center which indicates pure resistive matching at the resonating frequency.

3. Result and Discussions

The proposed bow-tie antenna is designed and simulated using CST MWS-18 using a finite integration technique (FIT). The proposed element has been fabricated and tested, as well as the simulated and measured results of the antenna have been discussed in this section. All the obtained results satisfy the minimum criteria for the 5G communications.

3.1 Prototype and $S_{11}$

The proposed bow-tie antenna has been fabricated and the prototype is shown in Fig. 3. Figure 4(a) illustrates the $S_{11}$ parameter of the proposed antenna simulated by the CST software and measured by using the vector network analyzer (VNA). The simulated and measured resonating frequency is 27.75 GHz and 27.77 GHz respectively. The $10 \text{ dB}$ impedance bandwidth of the antenna is 1.88 GHz and 1.75 GHz (26.89 - 28.64 GHz) with return losses of $< -10 \text{ dB}$ respectively. The proposed geometry evaluation step effects on the $S_{11}$ parameter has been shown in Fig. 4(b). It can be seen from Fig. 4(b) that the Ant.-1 which is conventional rec. antenna is resonating at 30.00 GHz. The Ant.-2 and Ant.-3 which are left-bow and right-bow respectively resonate at 29.50 GHz with good impedance bandwidth. The Ant.-4 which is proposed geometry without diagonal slots resonates at 28.00 GHz. According to the Fig. 4(b), modification in the geometry causes the frequency to shift to lower value with acceptable $S_{11}$ and impedance bandwidth. Finally, after etching the slots in the geometry, the Ant.–5 which is proposed geometry resonates at 27.75 GHz. On the other hand, the proposed structure implemented on different substrate materials such as Neltec, FR-4 and Rogers RT-6010LM as well as its effect on the $S_{11}$ has been plotted in Fig. 4(c). It can be observed that the proposed bow-tie geometry can be implemented on any substrate material and it gives good $S_{11}$ characteristics as well as sufficient impedance bandwidth.
ários resonates at 27.75 GHz with acceptable results. Furthermore, the resonating frequency and impedance bandwidth of the proposed geometry can be controlled by changing the number of oval shapes in the geometry as well as the reduction scale factor.

3.2 Parametric Analysis

The experiment has been carried out by performing the parametric analysis of the proposed geometries. These analyses have been done by observing the $S_{11}$ parameter, gain, and radiation efficiency, which are the important parameters to design any practical antenna. Fig. 5(a) shows the variation in the $W_q$ from 0.4 mm to 1.0 mm, there is a drastic effect on the resonating frequency. The perfect resonating has been obtained for $W_q$=0.7 mm. The diagonal slots width and length variations have been done and it is shown in Fig. 5(b) and (c) respectively. It can be seen that the value of $W_c=0.20$ mm and $L_c=1.2$ mm the exact resonating has been achieved.

3.3 Axial Ratio and E-field Distribution

The circularly polarized left-bow and right-bow antennas CP gain as well as axial ratio characteristics have been simulated and plotted in Fig. 7(a). The left-bow structure has a LHCP gain of 4.92 dBic and the same for the right-bow antenna as both antennae are identical. The axial ratio of both antennas is 1.24 dB and CP bandwidth is 3.37 GHz. The simulated left-bow and right-bow antennas radiation pattern in the different xz-plane and yz-plane has been illustrated in Fig. 7(b) and (c) respectively. It can be seen from the Fig. 7(b) that the left-bow has a higher left magnitude than the right magnitude. Similarly, the radiation pattern of the
right-bow antenna is depicted in Fig. 7(c). The electric field (E-field) distribution in the proposed wide-band antennas has been simulated and illustrated in Fig. 8.

The E-field distribution in the left-bow structure is depicted in Fig. 8(a) and it can be observed that the E-field vectors are rotated in a clockwise direction which ensures the left circularly polarized element. Similarly, for the right-bow structure, the E-field distribution is illustrated in Fig. 8(b) and it can be seen that the E-field vectors are rotated in a counterclockwise direction which ensures the right circularly polarized element. The E-field radiated in the proposed wide-band bow-tie antenna is nearly linear polarized with its E-field vectors along the antenna’s long axis as shown in Fig. 8(c). Therefore the proposed bow-tie shaped geometry is linearly polarized which is the superposition of left and right circular polarization.

3.4 Radiation Pattern and Linear Gain

The antenna measurement setup in an anechoic chamber is given in Fig. 9(a). The farfield radiation pattern [22] of the antennas for phi = 0° and 90° cuts are measured inside an anechoic chamber. The Antenna Under Test (AUT) has been aligned with a Standard Horn Antenna (Tx) and placed on top of the rotating table at a reasonable distance away from Tx. The measurements are taken at a step of 5° from 0° to 360° for xz-plane and yz-plane conditions. The simulated and measured radiation pattern of the proposed structure in xz-plane and yz-plane have been illustrated in Fig. 9(b) and (c) respectively. It can be seen from the Fig. 9(b) and (c) that the measured sidelobe-level is −11.00 dB and −10.20 dB. Moreover, the measured Half-Power BeamWidth (HPBW) is 80° and 75° and it is indicated with shades respectively. The cross-polarization level is more than −20 dB over the entire
The measured value of the linear gain is 7 dBi measured by gain transformation method in the chamber [22]. The linear gain of the proposed antenna is shown in Fig. 10(a). The linear gain of the proposed wide-band antenna geometry has been depicted in Fig. 10(b). This endorses the good antenna characteristics as well as stability of the far-field pattern of the mm-wave antenna. The performance of the fabricated prototype is 74% (considering the reflection, conduction, and dielectric losses [3]). The performance of the fabricated prototype is almost the same and similar to the simulated structure. This endorses the good antenna characteristics as well as stability of the far-field pattern of the mm-wave antenna. The comparison of the simulated and measured linear gain of the proposed wide-band antenna geometry has been depicted in Fig. 10(a). The linear gain of the proposed antenna is measured by gain transformation method in the chamber [22]. The measured value of the linear gain is 7.00 dBi over the resonating band. The simulated and measured front-to-back ratio (FBR) of the proposed antenna is shown in Fig. 10(b). For the left-bow and right-bow structures, the simulated FBR varies from 16 to 21 dB over the band. It is a magnitude ratio of the main lobe to the back lobe, the measured FBR value of proposed bow-tie antenna varies from 13 to 17 dB over the resonating band. The proposed directional antenna has a higher FBR which helps to overcome the signal interference and increases the range as well as the performance of the antennas. The FBR value of more than 15 dB has been obtained for the proposed bow-tie antenna. The simulated 3D radiation pattern of the proposed geometry is depicted in Fig. 10(c).

3.5 Time Domain Characteristics

The time-domain characteristics of the proposed bow-tie antenna have been carried out to understand the group delay, phase response, and isolation characteristics of the antenna. The experiment has been done by fixing the same antenna at a distance of 30 mm in the CST MWS environment as illustrated in Fig. 11. The time-domain analysis has been simulated for two conditions: Side-by-Side (SS) condition and Face-to-Face (FF) condition. The antenna arrangement for both conditions has been depicted in Fig. 11(a) and (b), respectively and both antenna work as transceivers. The ratio of the negative rate of change of the phase transfer function with respect to frequency is defined as group delay and it can be calculated mathematically using following equation [24]:

\[
\tau_g(\omega) = \frac{-d\phi(f)}{2\pi df}
\]

where \(\phi\) is the received signal phase response. The group delay as well as phase response both are related to the gain response of the antenna. Furthermore, non-linear phases as well as pulse distortion has been received in the far-field which is due to the more than 1 n sec variation in the group delay. The group delay vs frequency analysis of the proposed antenna is shown in Fig. 12(a). It can be seen from the Fig. 12(a), that the group delay variation in SS condition is less than 0.40 n sec, while in FF condition it is less than 0.48 n sec over the resonating band. The transfer function of the antenna is indicated as:

\[
H(\omega) = j\frac{2\pi c_0 D S_{21}(\omega) e^{j\omega g}}{\omega}
\]

where \(D\) is the antennas distance [25]. The isolation between the two ports identifies the ratio of power incident on one port and the power delivered to another port when it is terminated by a matched load. Also, it gives the coupling parameter between the two ports. A large value of isolation promises uncorrelated transmission of electric signals on both ports.
The isolation characteristics ($S_{21}$) of the proposed geometry have been simulated and it is shown in Fig. 12(a). For both conditions, the proposed geometry provides sufficient isolation which is more than $-25$ dB over the resonating band. The phase response of the proposed antenna has been illustrated in Fig. 12(b). The proposed geometry gives the linear phase variation in SS and FF conditions, which indicates good time-domain characteristics of the proposed antenna. Furthermore, the linear phase variations for FF and SS conditions indicates the nonappearance of any out of phase element in the received signal. The input impedance of the proposed antenna has been shown in the Fig. 12(c). It is observed that the antenna has a high input impedance at 28.60 GHz, which indicates that the current flow has been interrupted there. The real part of the impedance is almost constant 50 $\Omega$ over the resonating band. Finally, the performance of the proposed 28 GHz millimeter wave wide-band antenna is compared with some other recently reported mm-wave antennas in Tab. 1. It can be observed that the proposed bow-tie antenna outperformed in terms of size, gain, and bandwidth. The proposed antenna is suitable for the future 5G communication systems.

### 4. Conclusion

A small and high directivity bow-tie antenna is presented for 5G communication. The bow-tie geometry is designed on Rogers RT-5880 substrate which resonates at the millimeter-wave frequency. The lumped equivalent circuit with T/Pi matching network is resonating at the same frequency. A maximum directivity of 8.08 dBi is achieved at 27.77 GHz with a stable radiation pattern. The compact size structure has a low sidelobe-level and cross-polarization level in both the xz-plane and yz-plane. Also, it has a measured radiation efficiency of 74%. The proposed geometry provides good time-domain characteristics as well as sufficient FBR and proper impedance matching over the resonating band. The single element has satisfied the minimum criteria for the 5G communication network. The gain can be further improved by incorporating more number of radiating elements in the structure.

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