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Dual Band Notched Orthogonal 4-Element MIMO Antenna With Isolation for UWB Applications

VUTUKURI SARVANI DUTI REKHA¹,², POKKUNURI PARDHASARADHI³, BODDAPATI TARAKA PHANI MADHAV³, (Member, IEEE), AND YALAVARTHI USHA DEVI³
¹Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering, Koneru Lakshmaiah Education Foundation, Vijayawada 522502, India
²Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering, P. V. P. Siddhartha Institute of Technology, Vijayawada 520007, India
³ALRC-Research and Development, Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering, Koneru Lakshmaiah Education Foundation, Vijayawada 522502, India
Corresponding author: Boddapati Taraka Phani Madhav (btpmadhav@kluniversity.in)

ABSTRACT A Novel dual notched 4-element MIMO (Multi-Input-Multi-Output) antenna with gap sleeves and H-slot is proposed and fabricated for UWB (ultra wide-band) applications. The proposed antenna is CPW (Co-Planar Waveguide) fed and consists of four orthogonal elements with good isolation. It has low profile and small dimensions of \(80 \times 80 \times 1.6\text{mm}^3\). The proposed MIMO antenna achieved an impedance bandwidth (S11 < −10dB) from 2.1GHz - 20GHz with notches from 3.3GHz - 4.1GHz and 8.2GHz - 8.6GHz frequency bands. These achieved notches can filter the interference of WiMAX(3.3GHz - 3.7GHz), and military/radar applications band (8.2GHz - 8.6GHz). Mutual coupling among the elements is also below −25dB. The performance parameters of proposed MIMO antenna are relatively good with very low ECC (Envelop Correlation Coefficient) less than 0.02 except at notches and DG (Diversity Gain) nearly 10. Peak gain of 5.8dB is achieved by the proposed antenna and the radiation efficiency is also above 80% except at notches. The computer-generated and experimental results are in accord and therefore, the proposed four element MIMO antenna can be suggested as a suitable aspirant for UWB applications with stop bands for WiMAX and military/radar applications.

INDEX TERMS Co-planar waveguide (CPW) fed, diversity gain (DG), envelop correlation coefficient (ECC), isolation, multi input multi output (MIMO) antenna, mutual coupling, orthogonal elements.

I. INTRODUCTION Ultra wideband (UWB) antennas have become a trend from the past few years because of their low cost, high data rates and large communication capacity. Multipath fading and reliability are the practical limitations of UWB antennas. The convergence of MIMO technology and UWB antenna can overcome these limitations with suppressed multipath effect, enhanced capacity, improved data transmission efficiency and increased communications quality. Various MIMO antennas with improved isolation for UWB applications are presented in [1]–[5]. Many narrowband communication systems operating at WiMAX (3.3-3.8GHz), WLAN (5.15-5.85GHz), and X-band communication satellites (7.99-8.4GHz) frequency bands are in existence and therefore, notch band UWB MIMO antenna is desirable to reject such existing frequency bands in UWB communication system. UWB MIMO antennas with dual and triple band notch characteristics are presented in [6]–[19]. Two element UWB MIMO antenna with notches at WLAN and WiMAX is proposed with coupling less than −15dB [6]. Four element differential pair UWB polarization diversity MIMO antenna is proposed in [7] with dual notch characteristics at WiMAX and WLAN bands. It achieved a good isolation of greater than 40dB in operating band. Single notched band Ultra-wideband MIMO antennas are proposed in [8]–[13] for WiMAX and WLAN frequency bands. Dual notched band UWB MIMO antennas and triple notched band characteristics are proposed in [14]–[16] and [17]–[19] respectively with low mutual coupling. In [4], [20]–[22], authors had proposed MIMO antenna arrays with dual notches for impulse radio UWB wireless applications, EBG structures and F-shaped stubs with better isolation for UWB applications.

In this paper, a dual notch band monopole antenna, 2-element MIMO array antenna with collinear and orthogonal elements and a 4-element orthogonal MIMO antenna
with [23] is proposed with dual notched characteristics at WiMAX and military/radar applications frequency bands. The 4-elements of proposed MIMO antenna are symmetrical and identical. Section-II illustrates the single element design with its geometrical specifications. Two element MIMO antenna configurations and four element orthogonal MIMO antenna configurations with their respective S-parameter characteristics are presented in Section-III. Proposed MIMO antenna characteristics, performance parameters and comparison with recent existing UWB MIMO antennas are discussed in the Section-IV.

II. SINGLE ELEMENT

A monopole antenna with gap sleeve [23] and truncated edges is designed in iteration-1 as given in figure 1(i). The monopole antenna is a micro-strip patch antenna with coplanar waveguide (CPW) feeding. Basic design equations of CPW fed micro-strip patch antenna are used to design the monopole antenna as given in equations (1)-(4).

Effective dielectric constant of CPW can be calculated as:

$$\epsilon_{\text{reff}} = \frac{\epsilon_r + 1}{2} \left\{ \tanh \left[ 0.775 \ln \left( \frac{h}{G} \right) + 1.75 \right] + \frac{kG}{h} \right\} 
\times [0.004 - 0.7k + 0.01 (1 - 0.1\epsilon_r) (0.25 + k)] \tag{1}$$

where,

$$k = \frac{W}{W + 2G} \tag{2}$$

$W =$ width of the centre conductor,

$h =$ thickness of substrate,

$G =$ the gap between signal conductor and the ground.

The analytical expression to compute characteristic impedance of CPW line which is derived from the conformal mapping can be expressed in terms of elliptic function of the 1st kind $K(k)$ (ratio of complete elliptic integral of first kind and its complement) as:

$$Z_{0\text{CPW}} = \frac{20\pi}{\sqrt{\epsilon_{\text{reff}}}} \frac{K'(k)}{K(k)} \tag{3}$$

$$\frac{K'(k)}{K(k)} = \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \frac{\pi}{\ln \left( \frac{1+\sqrt{k'}}{1-\sqrt{k'}} \right)} & \text{if } 0 < k < 0.707 \\ \frac{\pi}{\ln \left( \frac{1+\sqrt{k'}}{1-\sqrt{k'}} \right)} & \text{if } 0.707 < k < 1 \end{array} \right. \tag{4}$$

where, $k' = \sqrt{1-k^2}$ and $K'(k) = K(k')$.

From these equations, the theoretical values obtained are $\epsilon_{\text{reff}} = 2.809$, $Z_{0\text{CPW}} \approx 48$ohms for the design parameters $W = 2\text{mm}$, $h = 1.6\text{mm}$, $G = 0.3\text{mm}$ and $\epsilon_r = 4.4$. It achieved ultra wideband from 2.5GHz to 18.3GHz with a wide bandwidth of 15.8GHz. To obtain dual notched band characteristics, H-slot with dual U-slots is incorporated in the radiating element rectangular patch. The total length of the H-shaped and U-shaped stubs at the central band notched frequency can be calculated using equations (5) and (6).

$$L_s = \frac{\lambda_g}{4} \tag{5}$$

![FIGURE 1. Single element dual notched UWB antenna.]
\[ \lambda_g = \frac{\lambda_o}{\sqrt{\varepsilon_r}} \]  

(6)

where,

- \( \lambda_g \) is guided wavelength
- \( \lambda_o = \frac{c}{f_r} \) is free space wavelength,
- \( f_r \) is center frequency of notch band
- \( c \) is velocity of light
- \( \varepsilon_r \) = dielectric constant

Figure 1(ii) presents the geometrical specifications and design of iteration-2. S11 characteristics of iteration-1 and 2 are illustrated in figure 1(iii) along with measured characteristics of iteration-2. It is fabricated on FR-4 substrate of dielectric-constant 4.4 and dimensions 37 x 40 x 1.6 mm. The proposed single element antenna, iteration-2 achieved a wide bandwidth of 16 GHz from 2.2 GHz to 18.2 GHz with dual notches at 3.6 GHz (WiMAX) and 8.3 GHz (military/radar). The measured results are very close to simulated results, thereby validating the designed single element. Figure 1(iii) gives the geometrical specifications of proposed single element antenna.

III. MIMO ANTENNA

A 2-element collinear MIMO antenna with 2 mm spacing among elements M1 and M2 is given in figure 2(i). It is fabricated on FR-4 substrate of dimensions 37 x 82 x 1.6 mm. The simulated and experimented Scattering parameters are illustrated in Figure 2(ii). As the elements are identical, for simplicity only port 1 (M1) S-parameters S11 and S12 are analyzed. From S11 characteristics of the antenna, it operates from 3.3 GHz to 17.6 GHz with a notch at 8.3 GHz. S12 characteristics give coupling between the 2 elements. It is less than −20 dB in the entire operating band and isolation is very high at 7.6 GHz. The lower operating band is filtered in this MIMO structure.

Figure 3(i) presents a 2-element MIMO antenna with the elements M1 and M2 placed in opposite direction (180°). The illustrated antenna dimensions are 37 x 80 x 1.6 mm, fabricated on FR-4 substrate. S-parameter (port1) characteristics are illustrated in Figure 3(ii). It operates from 2.1 GHz to 18.2 GHz with notches at 3.6 GHz and 8.3 GHz. Isolation between the elements M1 and M2 is above 20 dB.

To further reduce the coupling between MIMO elements, the elements M1 and M2 are placed orthogonal to each other as represented in figure 4(i). The antenna dimension is 40 x 80 x 1.6 mm and is fabricated on FR-4 substrate. S-parameters of the MIMO antenna for port 1 (M1) excitation are illustrated in figure 4(ii). It operates from 2.1 GHz to 16.5 GHz with dual notch at 3.8 GHz and 8.4 GHz and mutual coupling is less than −30 dB from 4 GHz through operating band. Therefore, isolation is increased by placing the elements orthogonal to each other.

A four-element orthogonal MIMO is proposed as presented in figure 5(i) for bandwidth enhancement and better isolation. The MIMO model used splitted ground plane to reduce the coupling among elements in the MIMO array. This has a drawback that the ground reference is not located in the MIMO antenna array and depends on the ground system of the device where the antennas are connected to. Hence, this reduces the reliability of the antenna because its behavior can change between two different devices. To overcome this, the splitted ground planes of 4 elements in MIMO antenna are joined together through 0.2 mm width connection lines to have common ground plane for the proposed MIMO antenna array. The final proposed 4-element MIMO antenna array with connected ground plane is illustrated in figure 5(ii). It is

\[
ECC = \frac{\left| \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{\pi} \left( XPR E_{\theta_1} E_{\phi_2}^* P_0 + E_{\phi_1} E_{\phi_2}^* P_0 \right) d\Omega \right|^2}{\int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{\pi} \left( XPR E_{\theta_1} E_{\phi_1}^* P_0 + E_{\phi_1} E_{\phi_1}^* P_0 \right) d\Omega \times \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{\pi} \left( XPR E_{\theta_2} E_{\phi_2}^* P_0 + E_{\phi_2} E_{\phi_2}^* P_0 \right) d\Omega}
\]

(7)
V. S. D. Rekha et al.: Dual Band Notched Orthogonal 4-Element MIMO Antenna With Isolation for UWB Applications

Fabricated prototype is given in figure 5(iii). The simulated and measured Scattering parameters $S_{11}$, $S_{12}$, $S_{13}$ and $S_{14}$ of proposed antenna for port1 are illustrated in Figure 5(iv). The proposed antenna achieved a wide impedance bandwidth ($S_{11} < -10$dB) of 17.9GHz from 2.1GHz to 20GHz with dual notched characteristics at 3.6GHz and 8.3GHz. The isolation between the elements $(M_1, M_2)$ and $(M_1, M_4)$ is less compared to $(M_1, M_3)$ and $M_2$ and $M_4$ are adjacent to $M_1$. The average isolation of proposed antenna is greater than $-26$dB over the entire operating range. The measured and simulated Scattering parameter characteristics in all cases are in good agreement and therefore, the proposed 4-element orthogonal MIMO antenna can be validated for UWB applications.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

A. SURFACE CURRENT DISTRIBUTION

The surface current distributions of proposed 4-element MIMO antenna are investigated at the notch frequencies 3.6GHz and 8.3GHz and also at 5.8GHz and 10GHz in the operating band. As presented in Figure 6, the net resultant radiation at notch frequencies is very less as the generated opposite currents nullify each other. Figure 7 illustrates the surface current distribution at 10GHz and 5.8GHz with individual ports excitation. It is evident from these figures that coupling among the elements $M_1$, $M_2$, $M_3$ and $M_4$ is very less and hence the proposed 4-element MIMO antenna has superior diversity characteristics.

B. RADIATION PATTERNS

Figure 8 and 9 present the simulation and experimental results of two dimensional radiation-patterns in polar coordinates of the proposed MIMO antenna in xy, yz and zx planes at 10GHz and 5.8GHz frequencies respectively. The proposed antenna radiates along the antenna plane i.e. is xy plane. Therefore, Gain-Phi is co-polarization and Gain-Theta is cross-polarization. At 10 GHz in xy plane...
there are two main beams in end-fire direction radiating maximum at 45° and 135°. The steadiness of simulated and experimental results validates the correctness of design. The radiation-patterns are more directional in nature and the variation among co-polarization and cross-polarization is in minimum acceptable range.

Simulated and measured gain characteristics of the proposed MIMO antenna with port1 (M_1) excitation are
Illustrated in Figure 10. Gain is less at lower frequencies and increases with increase in the frequency. However, it can be observed that gain decreases sharply at notch frequencies. A peak gain of 5.8dB is achieved in UWB range. Hence, the projected 4-element MIMO antenna with dual notch exhibits good notched band characteristics. Figure 11 gives simulated and measured radiation efficiency characteristics for port1 (M1) excitation. The typical efficiency of proposed MIMO antenna is above 80% except at notch frequencies. Efficiency of proposed antenna falls below 70% at notch frequencies.

**C. MIMO PERFORMANCE PARAMETERS**

1) **ENVELOP CORRELATION COEFFICIENT (ECC)**

Diversity among the elements of proposed 4-element MIMO antenna is represented in-terms of correlation coefficient in Figure 12. ECC of MIMO antenna with port1 and port2 can be measured from radiation patterns as given in equation (7), as show at the bottom of the 3rd page. For any MIMO antenna ECC should be below 0.5 to exhibit fine diversity. From figure 12, it can be observed that both simulated and experimental ECC values are less than 0.02 in the entire UWB range excluding at notches. At notch frequencies, ECC is not more than 0.05. Therefore, the projected MIMO antenna exhibits fine diversity with low ECC values.

2) **DIVERSITY GAIN**

Diversity gain is a performance metric of MIMO antenna, defined with the equation (8):

\[
DG = 10\sqrt{1 - ECC^2}
\]

Figure 13 illustrates the simulated and experimental diversity gain of proposed MIMO antenna among the elements.
(M₁_M₂), (M₁_M₃) and (M₁_M₄). For all the elements, DG is greater than 9.99 and fluctuations are more at notch frequencies. The proposed MIMO antenna exhibits good DG characteristics.
3) TOTAL ACTIVE REFLECTION COEFFICIENT (TARC)
TARC curves give the effective operating bandwidth of MIMO antenna system. For a two port network, the expression to calculate TARC from the obtained S-parameters is given as in equation (9),

$$\Gamma_a = \sqrt{\frac{\left(|S_{11} + S_{12}e^{j\theta}|^2 + |S_{21} + S_{22}e^{j\theta}|^2\right)}{2}}$$ (9)

where, $\theta$ is the input feeding phase.

4) CHANNEL CAPACITY LOSS (CCL)
Channel capacity of MIMO system can be characterized by CCL parameter. To have good diversity performance for MIMO antenna, CCL value is desired to be smaller than 0.4bps/Hz. Figure 14 illustrates TARC characteristics and CCL of the proposed 4-element MIMO antenna. It is observed from figure 14 that CCL is less than 0.4bps/Hz in the entire operating band except at notches and TARC value is also less than $-10\,\text{dB}$ in the operating band except at notches.

5) GROUP DELAY
Group delay is a time domain characteristics of MIMO antenna. Figure 15 presents the variations in group delay of four elements $M_1, M_2, M_3$ and $M_4$ over ultra wide-band.
range. Group delay (1,1) gives delay from port1 to port 1, Group delay (1, 2) denotes the delay from port1 to port 2 and similarly Group delay (1, 3), Group delay (1, 4). As the element in the proposed MIMO antenna are identical and symmetrical, Group delay (1, 2) and Group delay (1, 4) are almost similar as observed in Figure 14. The variations in Group delay (1, 3) are high at lower frequencies. The overall group delay values are less than 1.5 ns for proposed MIMO antenna.

6) COMPARISON
Antenna performance parameters of the proposed UWB MIMO antenna are compared with recent existing antenna models in Table 1.

V. CONCLUSION
A novel and compact 4-element MIMO antenna is proposed here for UWB applications. Dual notched band is achieved by incorporating H and U-slots in monopole antenna with gap sleeves. The projected MIMO antenna is fabricated on FR-4 substrate of dimensions $80 \times 80 \times 1.6 \text{mm}^3$. Simulated and experimental results are investigated at different center frequencies and notch frequencies. Antenna performance parameters like $S_{11}$ characteristics, surface current distribution, far-field radiation characteristics, ECC, DG, group delay are discussed. The proposed MIMO antenna achieved an impedance bandwidth ($S_{11} <-10 \text{dB}$) from 2.1GHz - 20GHz with notches from 3.3GHz - 4.1GHz and 8.2GHz - 8.6GHz frequency bands. These achieved notches can filter the interference of WiMAX (3.3GHz - 3.7GHz), and military/radar applications band (8.2GHz - 8.6GHz). Mutual coupling among the elements is also below $-25 \text{dB}$. A peak gain of 5.8dB is observed in the operating band and antenna radiation efficiency is greater than 80% except at notches. The proposed MIMO antenna has superior isolation, low ECC ($<0.02$) and fine diversity properties. The investigated results of the proposed antenna validate that it obtains wider impedance bandwidth with dual notches, directional radiation patterns and stable gain. Hence, proposed 4-element MIMO antenna is recommended as a good aspirant for UWB applications with notches at WiMAX and military/radar applications.

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VUTUKURI SARVANI DUTI REKHA is currently pursuing the Ph.D. degree in MIMO antennas with the Koneru Lakshmaiah Education Foundation. She is working as an Assistant Professor with the P. V. P. Siddhartha Institute of Technology, Vijayawada. Her areas of research include antennas for UWB applications.

POKKUNURI PARIDHASARDHI was born in Andhra Pradesh, India, in 1978. He received the bachelor’s, master’s, and Ph.D. degrees from Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur, India, in 1998, 2000, and 2012, respectively. From June 2000 to January 2012, he worked as a Lecturer with the Hindu College, Machilipatnam. From January 2012 to February 2014, he worked as an Associate Professor with the Sri Vasavi Institute of Engineering and Technology, Nandamuru. Since 2014, he has been working as a Professor of electronics and communication engineering with the Koneru Lakshmaiah Education Foundation. He has published more than 48 papers in international journals and conferences. His research interests include antennas, and liquid crystals and their applications. He is a Life Member of the IACSTI, IAENG, UACEE, and IIRIC. He is an editorial board member of a number of indexed journals. He is a Reviewer for several international journals, including Elsevier, and Taylor and Francis, and served as a Reviewer, session chair, co-chair, and an advisory committee member of a number of international conferences.

BODDAPATI TARAKA PHANI MADHAV (Member, IEEE) was born in Andhra Pradesh, India, in 1981. He received the B.Sc., M.Sc., M.B.A., and M.Tech. degrees from Nagpur University, Guntur, India, in 2001, 2003, 2007, and 2009, respectively, and the Ph.D. degree in antennas from the Koneru Lakshmaiah Education Foundation (KLEF). He has guided two Ph.D. scholars for an award, two Ph.D. scholars submitted thesis, and six scholars pursuing the Ph.D. degree. He is currently working as a Professor and the Associate Dean of the KLEF. He has published more than 452 papers in international, national journals, and conferences. His Scopus and SCI publications of 292 have an h-Index of 31 and total citations are more than 3089. He has authored 15 books and holds three patents. His research interests include antennas, liquid crystals applications, and wireless communications. He is a Life Member of the ISTE, IACSTI, IARCAST, IAENG, and UACEE, and a Fellow of the IAEME. He received several awards such as an Outstanding Reviewer from Elsevier, and the Best Researcher and a Distinguished Researcher from the KLEF. He received the Best Teacher Award from the KLEF, from 2011 to 2019, the Excellent Citation Award from the IJIES, and an Outstanding Faculty from Venus International. He is an editorial board member of 36 journals. He is a Reviewer for several international journals, including the IEEE, Elsevier, Springer, Wiley, and Taylor and Francis, and served as a Reviewer for several international conferences.

YALAVARTHI USHA DEVI received the B.Tech. degree in electronics and communication engineering from the ANU, in 2008, and the M.Tech. degree in embedded systems from JNTUK, in 2012. She is currently working as an Assistant Professor with the Koneru Lakshmaiah Education Foundation (KLEF), India. Her research interests include the Internet of Things (IoT), connected vehicles, RF and microwave, and embedded systems.