Dual-Band Circularly-Polarized Small Microstrip Antenna

Yujin Tagawa 1#, Takafumi Fujimoto 2

1 Graduate School of Science and Technology, Nagasaki University
1-14 Bunkyo, Nagasaki, 852-8521, Japan, bb50110123@cc.nagasaki-u.ac.jp

2 Graduate School of Engineering, Nagasaki University
1-14 Bunkyo, Nagasaki, 852-8521, Japan, takafumi@nagasaki-u.ac.jp

Abstract

A dual band circularly polarized square microstrip antenna with one pair of L-shaped slits has been proposed. Design procedure of the axial ratio is obtained. The relationships between the geometrical parameters and the bandwidth are discussed.

Keywords: Microstrip antenna Circularly polarized wave Dual band operation GPS

1. Introduction

In Radio frequency identification (RFID) at center frequencies, 900MHz and 2.45GHz, circularly polarized wave is used in Japan. In Global positioning system (GPS), in additional to L1 band (center frequency 1.575GHz), the services at L2 and L5 bands (center frequencies are 1.227GHz and 1.176GHz) are planning in the near future. For these purposes, multi band circularly polarized small antennas are required. Authors have proposed a dual band circularly polarized square microstrip antenna (MSA) [1]. The geometry of the patch conductor is square with one pair of L-shaped slits at each edge. In [1], the design procedure of frequencies giving the minimum axial ratio at dual frequency bands was obtained and the operational principle of the antenna was clarified by the studies of the geometrical parameter.

In this paper, the design procedure of the axial ratio at L1 band and L2 band and the relationships between the geometry of the antenna and the bandwidth are discussed by the simulation.

2. Antenna Design

Figure 1 shows a dual band circularly polarized square MSA. The geometry of the patch conductor is a square with one pair of L-shaped slits at each edge. The dimension of the square patch conductor is $W_T \times W_T$. The width of the T-shaped elements and the width of the L-shaped slits are fixed, $d_w=1.0\, \text{mm}$ and $S_s=0.5\, \text{mm}$. In order to radiate circularly polarized waves at the two frequency bands, the dimension and the location of the L-shaped slits along the $x$-axis are different from those along the $y$-axis. Moreover, the antenna is excited at $x_0$, $y_0$ around the diagonal on the patch conductor by a coaxial feed through the dielectric substrate. The relative dielectric constant and the thickness of the dielectric substrate are $\varepsilon_r=4.7$ and $h=3.2\, \text{mm}$, respectively.

Figure 1: Geometry of a proposed MSA
3. Results and discussion

In the calculations, the simulator software package WIPL-D based on the method of moments [2] is used. Two frequency bands used in this paper is L1band (center frequency is 1.575GHz) and L2band (center frequency is 1.227GHz) in GPS.

3.1 Parametric study on axial ratio

Figures 2 (a) and (b) show the axial ratios for change of the ratios of the T-shaped conductor elements’ width \( d_b \) and \( d_c \) at some ratios of the L-shaped slits’ length \( d_{a1} \) and \( d_{a2} \). The axial ratios at the dual band can be adjusted using \( d_c/d_b \). Moreover, the ratio \( d_c/d_b \) giving the minimum axial ratio can be controlled by adjusting \( d_{a1}/d_{a2} \).

![Axial Ratio vs. \( d_c/d_b \) at L1 and L2 bands](image)

Figure 2: Characteristics of axial ratio for changes of the ratios of the T-shaped conductor elements’ width \( d_b \), \( d_c \) at some \( d_{a1} \), \( d_{a2} \) (\( x_0=1.84\text{mm} \), \( y_0=1.84\text{mm} \), \( d_L=33.7\text{mm} \), \( W_t=37.86\text{mm} \), \( W_r=37.86\text{mm} \))

Figure 3 (a) shows the axial ratios for change of the ratios of the T-shaped conductor elements’ width \( d_b \) and \( d_c \) at \( d_{a1}=d_{a2}=13.3\text{mm} \) (\( d_{a1}/d_{a2}=1.0 \)). As shown in Figure 3(a), the axial ratios have minimum value around \( d_c/d_b=0.88 \) and \( d_c/d_b=0.97 \) at L1band and L2band, respectively. This means that the antenna cannot radiate the circularly polarised wave at the dual bands in the case of \( d_{a1}/d_{a2}=1.0 \). Figure 3(b) shows the axial ratio at \( d_{a1}=13.42 \), \( d_{a2}=13.18\text{mm} \) (\( d_{a1}/d_{a2}=1.018 \)). As shown in Figure 3(b), the axial ratios have minimum value at the same value \( (d_c/d_b=0.956) \) in L1band and L2band. Therefore, the antenna can radiate circularly polarized wave at dual band by adjusting \( d_c/d_b \) and \( d_{a1}/d_{a2} \). In this case, the minimum axial ratios are 0.513dB and 0.723dB and the bandwidth of the axial ratio \( \leq 3\text{dB} \) are 2.6MHz and 1.5MHz at L1band and L2band, respectively.

3.2 Parametric study on band width

Figures 4 (a) and (b) show the intensity of the time averaged electric current at L1band and L2band, respectively. The electric currents flow in the T-shaped elements strongly at the both of L1band and L2band, that is, the T-shaped elements operate as the radiation elements at the dual bands.
(a) $d_{a1}=d_{a2}=13.3\text{mm}$ ($d_{a1}/d_{a2}=1.0$)  \hspace{1cm}  (b) $d_{a1}=13.42\text{mm}, d_{a2}=13.18\text{mm}$ ($d_{a1}/d_{a2}=1.018$)

Figure 3: Characteristics of axial ratio for changes of the ratios of the T-shaped conductor elements’ width $d_b/d_c$ at (a) $d_{a1}/d_{a2}=1.0$ and (b) $d_{a1}/d_{a2}=1.018$  
($x_0=1.84\text{mm}, y_0=1.84\text{mm}, d_L=33.7\text{mm}, W_t=37.86\text{mm}$)

(a) L1band \hspace{1cm} (b)L2band

Figure 4: Time averaged electric current distributions  
($x_0=2.5\text{mm}, y_0=2.5\text{mm}, d_{a1}=12.15, d_{a2}=12.85\text{mm}, d_b=3.49\text{mm}, d_c=3.75\text{mm}, d_L=36\text{mm}, W_t=40\text{mm}$)

Figure 5 shows the bandwidth (axial ratio $\leq 3\text{dB}$) for change of $d_b + d_c$ (the sum of $d_b$ and $d_c$) at L1band and L2band. In order to obtain the relationships between the $d_b + d_c$ and the bandwidth at the dual band, it is required that the frequencies giving the minimum axial ratio are tuned using a small number of geometrical parameters. Therefore, the only L-shaped slits’ length $d_{a1}$, $d_{a2}$ and T-shaped conductor elements’ length $d_c$ are used to tune the frequencies. In the figure 5, the axial ratios at all the sum of $d_b$ and $d_c$ are adjusted less than $1\text{dB}$ by change of $d_b/d_c$ and $d_{a1}/d_{a2}$. As the sum of $d_b$ and $d_c$ is bigger, the sum of the bandwidth at the two frequency bands is wider.

Figures 6(a) and (b) show the axial ratio at $d_b + d_c=7.24\text{mm}$. It is observed that the minimum axial ratios are less than $1.0\text{dB}$ at the L1band and L2band. The bandwidths of the axial ratio $\leq 3\text{dB}$ are $2.0\text{MHz}$ and $3.0\text{MHz}$ at the L1band and the L2band, respectively.

The width of the square patch $W_t$ is equal to $0.21\lambda_{1.575}=0.16\lambda_{1.227}$ ($\lambda_f$:the wavelength at $f$ GHz). The proposed antenna is very small in size.
4. Conclusion

A dual band circularly polarized square MSA with one pair of L-shaped slits has been proposed. A design procedure of the axial ratio was clarified. Axial ratio can be adjusted by the width of the T-shaped conductor elements and the length of the L-shaped slits. As the T-shaped conductors operate as the radiation elements, the bandwidth increases as the width of the T-shaped conductor elements is bigger.

References

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