

Design and Optimization of a High Gain Multiband Patch Antenna for Millimeter Wave Applications

A. Zaidi, A. Baghdad, A. Ballouk, A. Badri

Laboratory of Electronics, Energy, Automatics and Data Processing (EEA&TI), Hassan II University,
Fst Mohammedia-Casablanca, B.P. 146 Mohammedia 20650, Morocco

Article Info

Article history:

Received Dec 12, 2017

Revised Jan 15, 2018

Accepted Aug 20, 2018

Keyword:

Circular patch antenna

DGS structure

Millimeter wave

Multiband antenna

Wideband antenna

ABSTRACT

This paper presents an enhanced Quadri-band microstrip patch antenna, using defective slots in the ground plane, designed to operate in the millimeter wave band, formulated using cavity model and simulated by an EM-simulator, based on finite element method: HFSSv15 (High Frequency Structure Simulator). The proposed antenna incorporates two symmetric patterns of “U” shaped slots with an “I” shaped slot engraved in the middle of the ground plane. The resulting antenna has four frequency bands; the first resonant frequency is located in the Ka band, at about 27GHz, the second at nearly 35GHz, the third at 41GHz and the last one at 51GHz. Those resonant frequencies could be shifted by tuning the slots dimensions introduced in the ground plane of the proposed antenna

Copyright © 2018 Institute of Advanced Engineering and Science.
All rights reserved.

Corresponding Author:

Abir Zaidi,

Department of Electrical Engineering,

Laboratory of Electronics, Energy, Automatics and Data Processing (EEA&TI), Hassan II University,

Fst Mohammedia-Casablanca (B.P. 146 Mohammedia 20650 Morocco).

Email: abir.zaidi.z@gmail.com

1. INTRODUCTION

Moving away from encumbered areas of the spectrum to millimeter wave bands is the new approach used by antenna researchers and designers to manage the congestion of the spectrum in the traditional bands. For its important features such as large bandwidth availability thus: higher transfer rate, very low profile antennas for a given gain, or higher gain for fixed dimensions [1]. Patch antennas are increasingly being employed in the less congested bands, and using optimization techniques, they are capable to stand against the encountered problems in these areas, such as the high atmospheric attenuation, rain fade and free-space path loss, which reduces antenna gain [2].

Microstrip patch antennas are used in many applications and fields due to its various advantages such as low weight and profile [3], mechanical robustness and fluency of manufacture [4]. However, the radiation characteristics of the antenna degrades when we rise frequency up to the millimeter wave band [5], commonly called Extremely High Frequency band (EHF). Extensive research has yielded to experience new techniques to improve patch antennas and make them able to achieve multiple frequency bands. Several works were carried out into this topic; yet, the large majority of the proposed designs are dedicated for VHF (Very High Frequency) and UHF (Ultra High Frequency) applications, such as WIFI (2.4/5.2/5.8 GHz) [6], GPS (1.575 GHz) [7], WLAN [8], WIMAX [9] etc. Therefore, in order to improve spectrum usage in the millimeter wave band (from 30 to 300 GHz), EHF multiband patch antennas are a natural requirement.

Among the most common techniques used to improve the intrinsic antenna performance, there is DGS technique (Defected Ground Structure), widely used nowadays for its propitious advantages of upgrading gain, widening the bandwidth and improving antenna matching [10] [11]. This technique, as its name indicates, refers to geometric patterns engraved as a single or multiple defects in the ground plane of

the antenna [12]. The insertion of those defects improves antenna performance by suppressing the harmonics of higher modes and enhancing radiation characteristics by extending antenna gain directivity and bandwidth [13]. The DGS method is employed as well in designing multiband antennas dedicated for different applications simultaneously, by subtracting several shapes from antenna ground plane [14] [15].

The present work aims to provide a new quadri band circular microstrip patch antenna dedicated to operate in the millimeter wave band, based on a conventional patch antenna, presented in a recent paper. The proposed model is improved using DGS technique in order to reach multiple frequency bands. A parametric study for the slots dimensions and position are carried out in this paper. Also, a comparison between another research and our proposed model is presented.

2. ANTENNA DESIGN

Circular microstrip patch antennas are investigated using cavity model: treated as a dielectric cavity, limited by electric conductors from top and bottom and by magnetic boundaries along the perimeter of the antenna [16]. Considering fringing fields, the radius of the circular microstrip patch antenna is computed using the following equation [17]:

$$r_e = r \sqrt{1 + \frac{2h}{\pi r \epsilon_r} \left[\ln \left(\frac{\pi r}{2h} \right) + 1.7726 \right]} \quad (1)$$

In order to achieve useful multiband patch antennas, we started from a basic circular microstrip patch antenna, enhanced using a single DGS placed in the ground plane center. The related work is dedicated to operate in the millimeter wave band, more specifically at 30GHz, made with duroid (tm) substrate [18]. Table 1 presents physical dimensions of the conventional circular microstrip patch antenna of reference work:

Table 1. Physical dimensions of the Regular Patch Antenna

Parameters	Value
Frequency of operation	30 GHz
Relative dielectric constant	2.2
Radius of the patch in mm	1.97
Width of the feed line in mm	0.6
Geometry of the notch in mm ($d \times g$)	0.6×1.2
Substrate dimensions in mm	10×10
Substrate thickness	0.31 mil

In the related work, a single DGS defect is engraved in the center of the ground plane as shown in Figure 1.

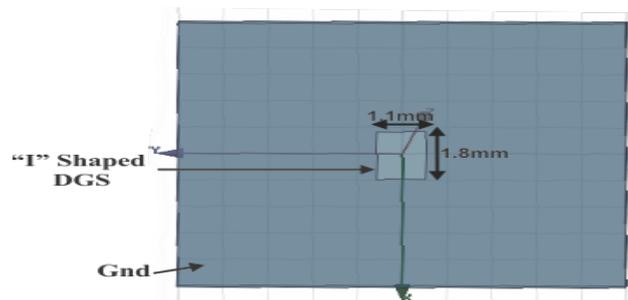


Figure 1. Geometry of the single unit cell DGS

The related work is extended in the present paper, by adding more slots in the ground plane in order to achieve more useful multibands, characterized by wide bandwidths, improved return loss and greater gain, suitable for millimeter wave frequencies. To do so, double "U" shapes are being cut beside the rectangular slot from antenna ground plane. Figure 2 presents an illustration of the proposed model (a) and the geometry of the etched out shapes (b).

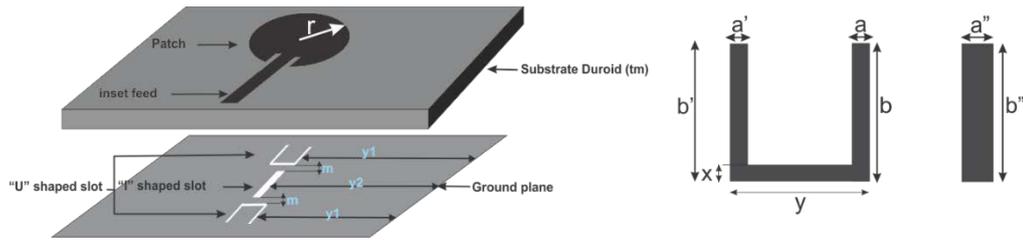


Figure 2. (a) Schematization of the proposed antenna (b) Geometry of the DGS slots

We will maintain the same size and position of the rectangular slot mentioned in the previous work, then we will introduce and vary the position and the dimensions of the double “U” shaped slots, the resulting antenna resonates considerably on different frequencies. A parametric study for the “U” shaped slot dimensions and position is carried out in the following section. Fractional bandwidth of an antenna is computed by the following equation [19]:

$$FBW = \frac{f_2 - f_1}{f_c} \tag{2}$$

Where f_2 is the upper frequency, f_1 is the lower frequency and f_c is the center frequency. Fractional bandwidth of wideband antennas is mainly 20% or more.

3. RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

All simulation results are carried out using ANSOFT software, HFSSv15 “High Frequency Structure Simulator”.

3.1. Related Work

Simulation results of the related work before and after optimization are summarized in Table 2

Table 2. Comparison of Antenna Parameters of the Related Work Before and After Optimization

Parameter	before DGS	After DGS
Resonating Frequency	30 GHz	29.3Ghz
Return loss	-31.24 dB	-44.73 dB
Bandwidth	2 GHz	2 Ghz
Gain	7.77 dB	9.57 dB
VSWR	1.08	1.1

3.2. Proposed Work

Distance between the rectangular slot and “U” shapes is investigated firstly (refer to Figure 2 (a) parameter “m”).

a. Variation of position “m”

Table 3 summarizes the effect of the variation of the “U” slots position, along the x-axis, on the electromagnetic field.

Table 3. E-Field values for different values of m

Value of “m”	E-field value
$m = 0.2\text{mm}$	$1,8034 \times 10^4$
$m = 0.3\text{mm}$	$1,6767 \times 10^4$
$m = 0.4\text{mm}$	$1,4026 \times 10^4$
$m = 0.5\text{mm}$	$1,3375 \times 10^4$
$m = 0.6\text{mm}$	$0,574 \times 10^4$
$m = 0.7\text{mm}$	$1,04 \times 10^4$
$m = 0.8\text{mm}$	$1,42 \times 10^4$

From the obtained results, “U” slots should be placed in the position where the E-field is less intense [20] which means that “m” should be taken equal to 0,6mm. The E-field for the value ($m = 0,6mm$) is shown in the Figure 4:

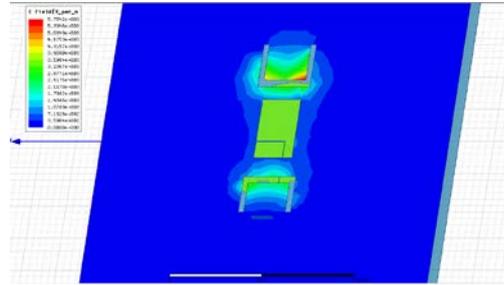


Figure 4. E-field for $m=0,6mm$

b. Variation of parameter “b”:

We will consider changing the length of the “U” slot as shown Figure 2 (b). The following figure present the S_{11} plot for different values of “b”. Table 4 summarizes simulation results obtained from return loss plot from 1mm to 1.5mm:

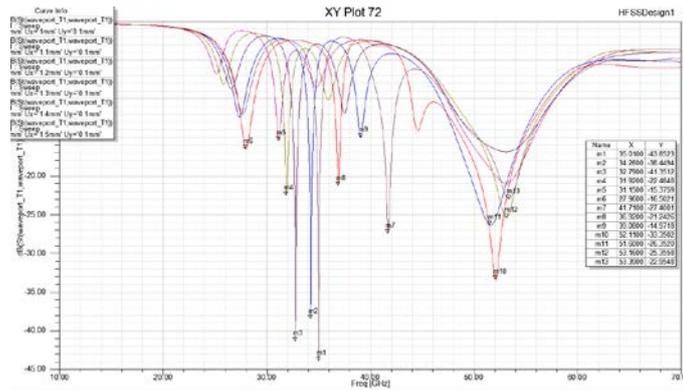


Figure 5. Return loss plot of different values of "b"

Table 4. Simulation Results of Tuning the Parameter “b”

Value of “b”	Operation Frequencies	S_{11}	Bandwidth	Value of “b”	Operation Frequencies	S_{11}	Bandwidth
1 mm	28Ghz	-16,5dB	1,63Ghz	1.3mm	32,8Ghz	-41,3dB	0,85Ghz
	37Ghz	-21,25dB	0,8Ghz		37,5Ghz	-12dB	0,74Ghz
	52Ghz	-33,4dB	13,11Ghz		53,1Ghz	-17dB	10,27Ghz
1.1 mm	27,64Ghz	-12dB	1,03Ghz	1.4 mm	31,9Ghz	-22,5dB	0,82Ghz
	34,85Ghz	-44dB	0,83Ghz		35,9Ghz	-10,15dB	-
	41,7Ghz	-27,5dB	1,84Ghz		53,1Ghz	-25,4dB	9,42Ghz
	53,5Ghz	-23dB	10,4Ghz				
1.2 mm	27,4Ghz	-12,4dB	1,01Ghz	1.5mm	31,17Ghz	-15,4dB	0,72Ghz
	34,3Ghz	-38,4dB	0,78Ghz		53Ghz	-21dB	10,5Ghz
	39Ghz	-15dB	0,95Ghz				
	51,6Ghz	-26,3dB	10Ghz				

From the classified results, we can deduce that the antenna resonates at multiples frequencies, and the variation of the length of the “U” slots affects considerably the operation frequency, the return loss and bandwidth of our proposed antenna. The choice of the value of “b” depends mainly on the frequencies of the desired applications.

c. Variation of parameter “a”:

We will consider the value (b=1.1mm) and we will change the value of the parameter “a” (width of the “U” slot). Figure 6 presents the S_{11} plot for different values of “a”. From obtained results presented in Table 5, we can notice that tuning the width of the “U” slots affects considerably return loss; however, it does not have much influence on operation frequency of our antenna. We can also observe that in all cases the antenna presents a high gain in all frequencies especially when we set “a” at 0.14mm. The obtained gain results for frequencies 27.48 GHz, 34.88 GHz, 41GHz, 51.4GHz are respectively 10.46 dB, 13,27 dB, 11,07 dB and 7.65 dB as shown in Figure 8. Also, our proposed antenna is characterized by a large bandwidth located in the V-band (>40 GHz), the calculation of the FBW for different values of “a” and “b” gives a result greater than 20%, which proves that our proposed antenna is a wideband antenna as shown in Figure 7.

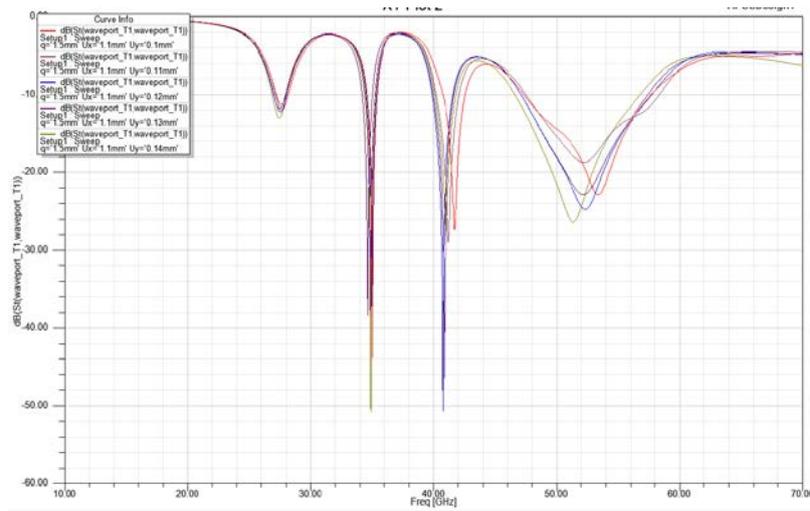


Figure 6. Return loss plot of different values of "a"

Table 5. Simulation Results of Tuning the Parameter “b”

Value of “a” (b=1.1mm)	Operation Frequencies In GHz	S_{11} in dB	BW in Ghz	Gain In dB	Value of “a” (b=1.1mm)	Operation Fq In GHz	S_{11} in dB	BW in Ghz	Gain In dB
0.09mm	27,76	-13.27	1.57	10.15	0.13 mm	27,44	-11,8	0,97	9.29
	35.44	-33.36	0.80	9.7		34,6	-38,4	0,83	9.86
	41.88	-22.75	1.69	10.45		40,9	-46,3	1,72	10.98
	52	-19.77	10.92	9.47		52,2	-23	10,33	8.44
0.1 mm	27,64	-12	1,03	10.24	0.14 mm	27,48	-13,1	1,18	10.46
	35	-44	0,83	9.32		34,88	-50,78	0,81	13.27
	41,7	-27,5	1.84	10.52		41	-28,15	1,75	11.07
	53,5	-23	10,4	8.55		51,4	-26,4	10,23	7.65
0.11mm	27.6	-11.3	0.83	7.95	0.15 mm	27,32	11,20d	0,76	9.65
	34.83	-38.3	0.84	9.77		34,3	B	0,83	9.75
	41.2	-29	1.9	11.13		40,24	-39	1,61	10.33
	52.28	-18.76	10.89	8.38		53	-29,17	10,81	7.70
0.12 mm	27,5	-12,3dB	1,06	8.70	0.16mm	27,39	-12.47	1.06	9.33
	35	-37,2dB	0,82	9.61		34.42	-27.15	0.92	10.03
	40,7	-50,8dB	1,75	10.85		40.11	-23.24	1.41	10.22
	52,4	-24,8dB	10,66	7.72		51.08	-31.6	10.78	8.90

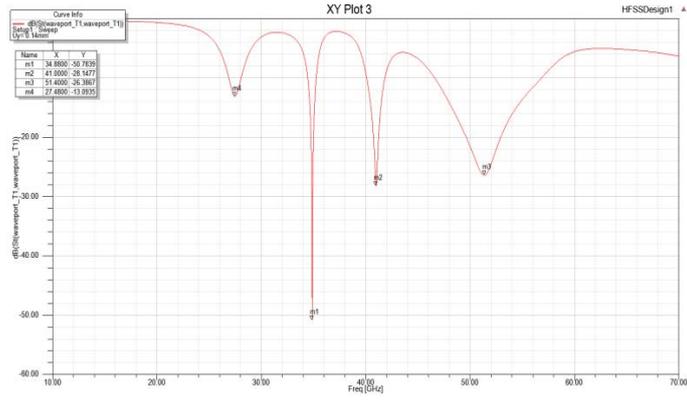


Figure 7. Return loss plot for a=0.14mm

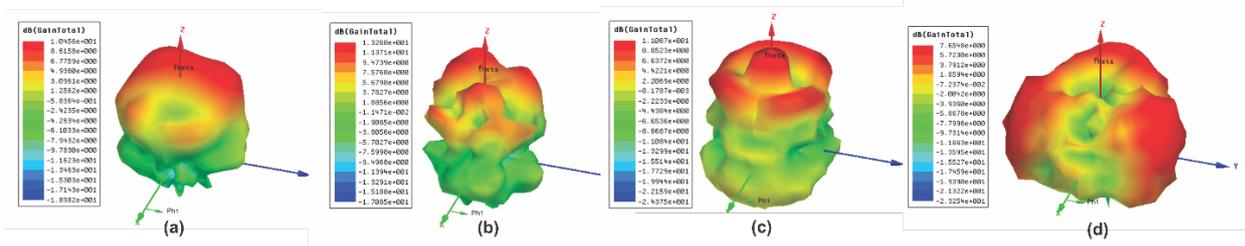


Figure 8. (a)3D gain polar plot at f=27.48 GHz; (b)3D gain polar plot at f=34.88 GHz; (c) 3D gain polar plot at f=41GHz; (d) 3D gain plot at 51.4 GHz

Figure 9 presents input impedance plot for obtained frequencies when (b=1.1mm and a=0.14mm) (a) and VSWR values of proposed antenna when (b=1.1mm and a=0.14mm) (b).

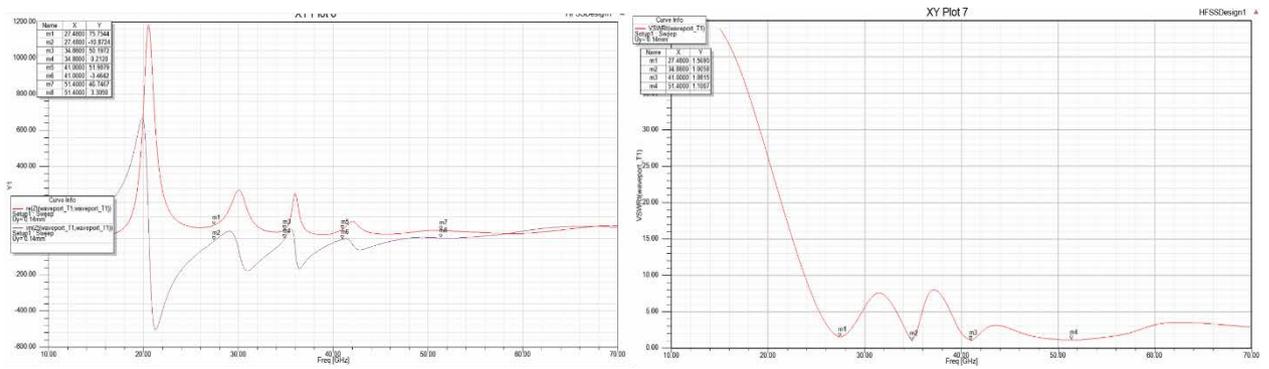


Figure 9. (a) Input impedance of resulting antenna; (b) VSWR plot of resulting antenna

Input impedance and VSWR values of our proposed antenna when we set “b” at 1.1mm end “a” at 0.14mm are listed in Table 6.

Table 6. Input Impedance Results Corresponding to the Dimensions (a=0.11 mm and b=1.1mm)

Frequency	Input impedance values (re)	VSWR
27,48Ghz	75,75 Ω	1.57
34,88Ghz	50,19 Ω	1.006
41 Ghz	51,9 Ω	1.08
51,4Ghz	46,75 Ω	1.101

From input impedance values, we can observe that the proposed antenna is well matched in three frequencies in the EHF band, although poorly matched in the frequency around the Ka band. On other hand, VSWR values proves that antenna is matched to the transmission line and more power is delivered to the antenna.

3.3. Comparison with Another Work

Table 7 presents a comparison between our proposed model and the antenna presented in another research [21]:

Table 7. Comparison between the Proposed Antenna and Another Work

Ref	Operating Frequency	Return loss	Gain	VSWR
Other work [21]	42	-19 dB	5.79 dB	~2
	51.5	-24dB	3.98 dB	~1.1
	60	-19.5dB	5.29 dB	~1.95
Proposed work	27,48	-13,1	10.46	1.57
	34,88	-50,78	13.27	1.006
	41	-28,15	11.07	1.08
	51,4	-26,4	7.65	1.101

NB: VSWR values of reference work [21] are estimated from VSWR vs Frequency plot presented

From summarized results listed in Table 7, we can observe that our antenna supports more frequencies comparing to the other work, including a wideband at 51.4 GHz, also a better return loss and VSWR values. Furthermore, we reached an important gain in all frequencies especially at 34.88 GHz with a value of 13.27 dB.

4. CONCLUSION

The presented paper extends an existing work dedicated for applications in the millimeter wave band. The regular antenna presented in the related work resonates in a single band around 30GHz. Our paper based on the same regular shaped antenna elaborates the design of multiband microstrip patch antenna that operates mainly around the frequencies 27 GHz, 35 GHz, 41 GHz and 51 GHz. The parameters such as gain, return loss, operation frequency, VSWR, input impedance and bandwidth are tuned by changing the position and dimensions of the DGS slots incorporated in the ground plane of the antenna.

The proposed model is well matched, characterized by a wide bandwidth (more than 10 GHz), an enhanced return loss, and a strong gain (more 13dB around 34 GHz). Comparing the presented quadri-band antenna with another existing research dedicated for millimeter wave frequencies, we observed that our antenna presents stronger performance in terms of gain, return loss and VSWR, making this proposed prototype an excellent candidate for future applications in the millimeter wave band.

REFERENCES

- [1] S. Rangan, Theodore S. Rappaport, E. Erkip, "Millimeter-Wave Cellular Wireless Networks: Potentials and Challenges", *Proceedings of the IEEE*. 2014; Vol 102(3): 366 - 385
- [2] J. Zhan, J. Wen, L. Sun, X. Shu, "Design of 60 GHz mm-wave Patch Antenna Arrays", Communication Technology (ICCT), IEEE 16th International Conference. Hangzhou, China. 2015
- [3] D. Fistum, D. Mali, M. Ismail, "Bandwidth Enhancement of Rectangular Microstrip Patch Antenna using Defected Ground Structure", *Indonesian Journal of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science*. 2016; Vol 3(2): 428-434
- [4] K. Parashar, "Design and Analysis of I-Slotted Rectangular Microstrip Patch Antenna for Wireless Application", *International Journal of Electrical and Computer Engineering (IJECE)*. 2014; Vol 4(1): 31-36
- [5] R. Mishra, P. Kuchhal, A. Kumar, "Effect of Height of the Substrate and Width of the Patch on the Performance Characteristics of Microstrip Antenna", *International Journal of Electrical and Computer Engineering (IJECE)*. 2015; Vol 5(6): 1441-1445
- [6] Z. Weng, D. Guo, Y. Wu, M. Li, J. Hu, W. Zeng, X. Li, S. Zeng, "A 2.45GHz Microstrip Patch Antenna Evolved For WiFi Application" Evolutionary Computation (CEC), IEEE Congress. Sendai, Japan. 2015
- [7] R. Mittra, R. Yang, M. Itoh, M. Arakawa, "Microstrip patch antenna for GPS applications" Antennas and Propagation Society International Symposium. AP-S. Digest. Ann Arbor, MI, USA. 1993
- [8] T. Jayachitra, V.K Pandey and Anshuman Singh, "Design of Microstrip Patch Antenna for WLAN Applications", *International Journal of Advanced Research in Electrical, Electronics and Instrumentation Engineering*. 2014; Vol 3(3): 17-22

- [9] M. Aneesh, M. Gulman Siddiqui, J.A Ansari, A. Singh, Kamakshi, "Inset Feed Toppled H-Shaped Microstrip Patch Antenna for PCS/WiMAX Application", *Indonesian Journal of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science*. 2016; Vol 1(2): 365 -370
- [10] S. Abirami, S. Bavithra, S. Keerthika and P. Rengalakshmi, "Compact microstrip patch antenna for WLAN application", *SSRG International Journal of Electronics and Communication Engineering (ICRTECIT)*. 2017; special issue: 177-181
- [11] S. Elajoumi, A. Tajmouati, A. Errkik, Am. Sanchez, M. Latrach, "Microstrip Rectangular Monopole Antennas with Defected Ground for UWB Applications", *International Journal of Electrical and Computer Engineering (IJECE)*. 2017; Vol.7(4): 2027-2035
- [12] D. Guha & Yahia M. M. Antar, "Defected Ground Structure for Microstrip Antennas", *Microstrip and Printed antennas*. page: 413.
- [13] S. Sharma, G. Kumar, "A dual Wideband Stair Shape Microstrip Patch Antenna for C & X Band", *International Journal of Electronics and Communication Engineering (IJECE)*. 2016; Vol. 5(4): 1-8
- [14] P. Bhagat, P. Jain, "Triple Band Microstrip Patch Antenna with Dual U Slot For WLAN/WIMAX Applications", *SSRG International Journal of Electronics and Communication Engineering (SSRG-IJECE)*. 2014; Vol. 1(7): 44-49
- [15] Amrutha G M, Reshmi Haridas M, Sreedevi T N, Shibul P, Sumi M, "Dual band microstrip patch antenna and a wide band reject filter using DGS", *SSRG International Journal Electronics and Communication Engineering- (ICET'17)*. 2017; Special Issue: 52-55.
- [16] N.T. Markad, R.D. Kanphade, D.G Wakade, "Design of Cavity Model Microstrip Patch Antenna", *Computer Engineering and Intelligent Systems*. 2015; Vol.6(4)
- [17] K. Guney, N. Sarikaya, "Resonant Frequency Calculation for Circular Microstrip Antennas with a Dielectric cover using Adaptive Network-Based Fuzzy Inference System optimized by various Algorithms", *Progress In Electromagnetics Research, PIER 72*. 2007: 279–306
- [18] A. Zaidi, A. Baghdad, A. Ballouk, A. Badri, "Design and optimization of an inset fed circular microstrip patch antenna using DGS structure for applications in the millimeter wave band". *Wireless Networks and Mobile Communications (WINCOM)*, 2016 International Conference. Fez, Morocco. 2016
- [19] B.-K. Ang and B.-K. Chung, "A wideband E-Shaped microstrip patch antenna for 5-6 Ghz wireless communications" *Progress In Electromagnetics Research, PIER 75*. 2007; 397–407
- [20] I. Tabakh M. Jorio N. El Amrani El Idrissi, "MPA radiation characteristics evolution through a DGS size reduction study", *Wireless Networks and Mobile Communications (WINCOM)*, 2016 International Conference. Fez, Morocco. 2016
- [21] A. H. Jabire, A. Abdu and S. Salisu, "Multiband Millimeter wave T-shaped antenna with optimized patch parameter using Particle Swarm Optimization", *Nigerian Journal of Technology (NIJOTECH)*. Vol. 36, No. 3, July 2017, pp 904-909.

BIOGRAPHIES OF AUTHORS



Abir Zaidi born in Fez, Morocco in July 23, 1991. In 2012 She had got her licence degree in Electronics, Telecommunications and Computer Systems at Fez University of Sciences and Technology, then she had got a Master's degree in Microelectronics, Telecommunication and Industrial Data processing at the same University. She is currently a Ph.D. student in the Laboratory of Electronics, Energy, Automatics and Data Processing (EEA&TI) Hassan II University, Mohammedia-Casablanca, Morocco. Her works studies and interests are focused on the design and the optimization of the performance of single and multiband microstrip patch antennas to operate in the millimeter wave band, under the supervision of Pr. A. Baghdad, Professor in Electrical engineering department at the same University



Abdennaceur Baghdad is a holder of a doctorate in Electronics in 1992 at the University of Lille-France. He is University Professor (PES) at the University Hassan II Mohammedia Casablanca- Morocco (FSTM) where he teaches the electronics, Hyperfrequencies, antenna and telecommunication. He is a member of the laboratory EEA&TI (Electronics, Energy, Automatic and information Processing). The research works of A. Baghdad concerns the communication and Information Technology (Electronics Systems and Telecommunication). He supervises doctoral theses and he is a coauthor of several national and international publications. He was a member of steering committees of three international congresses in the same domain of research.



Abdelhakim Ballouk is a University Professor at the Faculty of Science and Technology Mohammedia - Hassan II University of Casablanca. Member of the Laboratory of Electronics, Energy, Automatics & Information Processing. He obtained his Doctorate from the University of Bordeaux France in 1992, in the field of Automatics. The fields of research are Automatic notably robust controls, predictive commands etc. He is also specialized in Telecommunications notably antenna engineering.



Abdelmajid Badri is a holder of a doctorate in Electronics and Image Processing in 1992 at the University of Poitiers - France. In 1996, he obtained the diploma of the authorization to Manage Researches (Habilitation à Diriger des Recherches: HDR) to the University of Poitiers - France, on the image processing. He is University Professor (PES-C) at the University Hassan II Mohammedia-Casablanca Morocco (FSTM) where he teaches the electronics, the signal processing, image processing and telecommunication. He is a member of the laboratory EEA&TI (Electronics, Energy, Automatic and information Processing) which he managed since 1996. The research works of A. Badri concern the communication and Information Technology (Electronics Systems, Signal/Image Processing and Telecommunication). He is qualified by CNU-France in 61th section: informatics engineering, automatic and signal processing. He managed several doctoral theses. He is a co-author of several national and international publications. He is responsible for several research projects financed by the ministry or by the industrialists. He was member of several committees of programs of international conferences and president of three international congresses in the same domain. He is a member and responsible in several scientific associations in touch with his domain of research.